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i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

21st September, 1980

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MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

## CIARRAÍ v DOIRE

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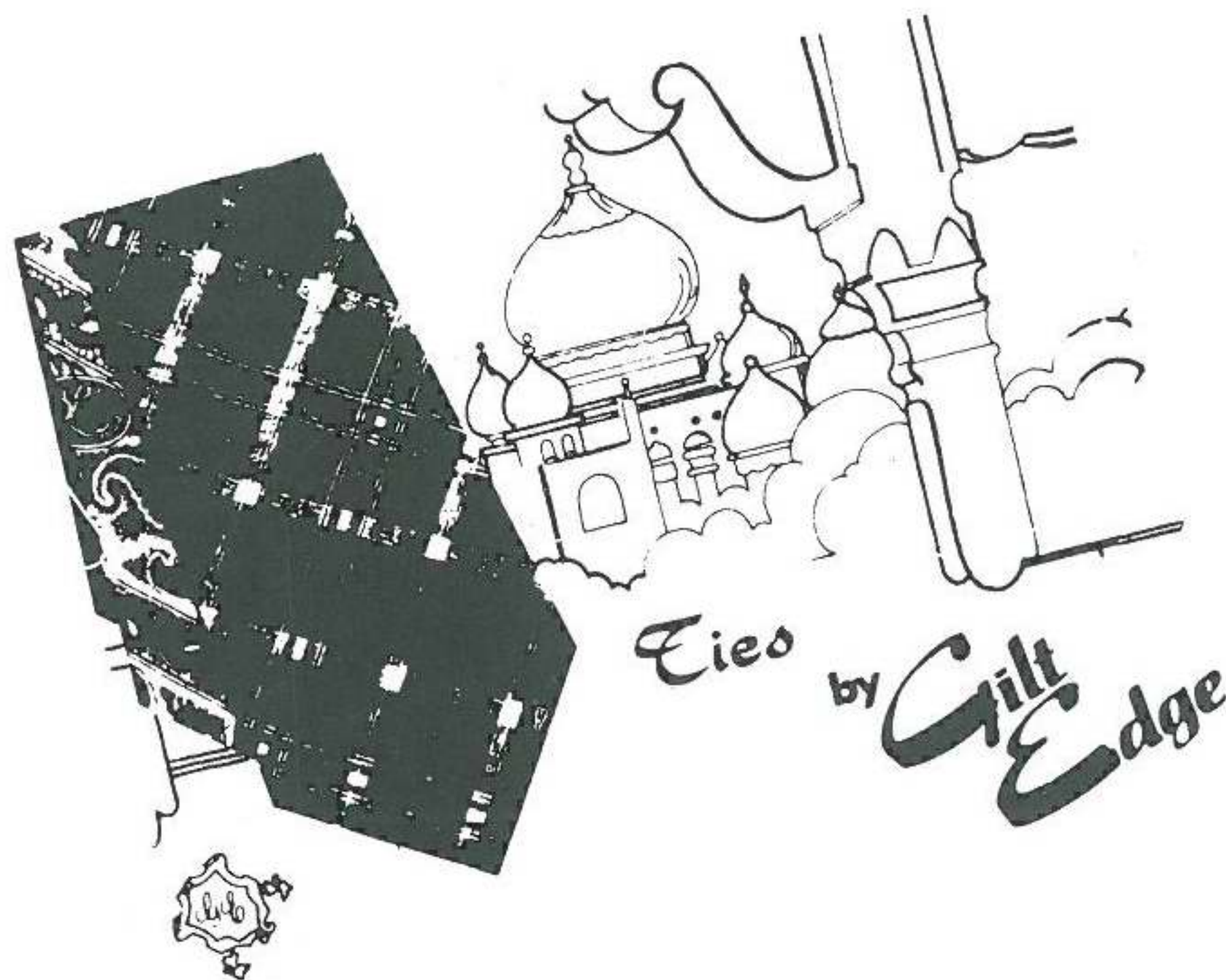
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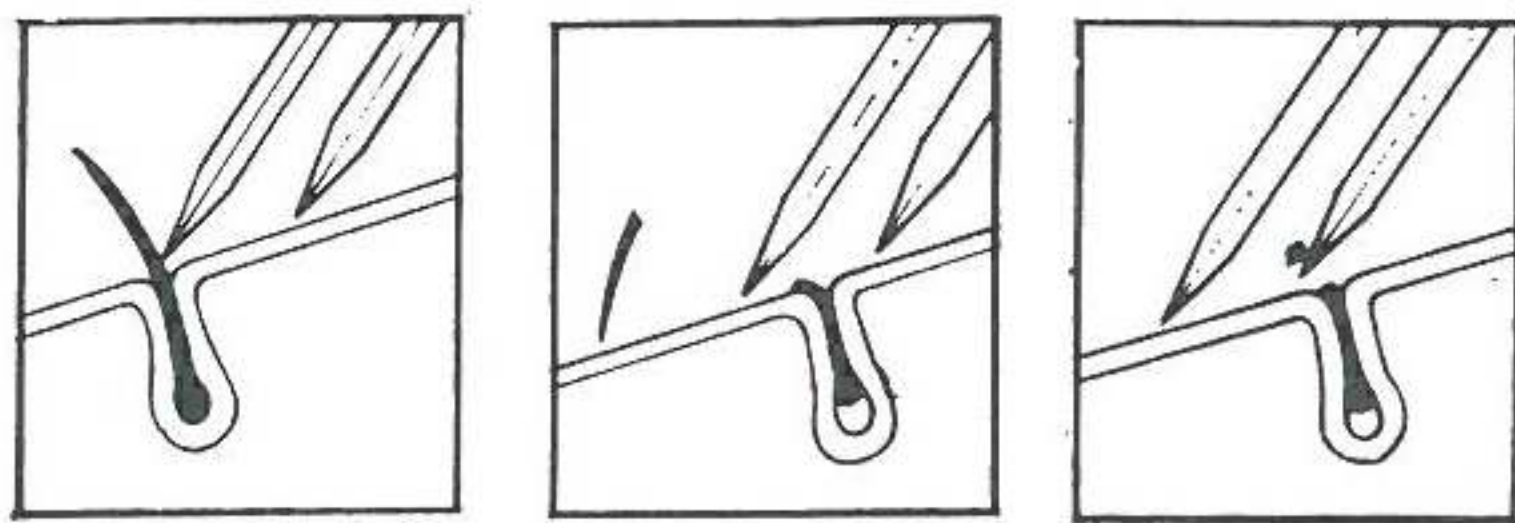


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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 23 No. 10 October 1980

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE West will really be awake as never before if Roscommon emulate Galway's feat in hurling and return home with the All-Ireland senior football championship.

Galway's win over Limerick was more than a triumph for skills, experience and class on the day. It was a triumph for the way that countless officials and hurlers kept the game alive and virile in the county over the years without enjoying the boost to morale and effort of even one national senior championship win.

The Galway break-through is also the best possible headline for Roscommon. True, they are not attempting to bridge nearly as lengthy a gap in the winners' rankings as that spanned by Galway in landing their first Liam McCarthy Cup win since the 1923 series.

But it is thirty-six years since the Sam Maguire Cup was last brought home in triumph to Roscommon. That is a long, long time . . . a period in which generations of Roscommon supporters have grown up, and have still to savour the delight of cheering their heroes to the ultimate success in the top football game of the year.

Will 1980 prove as big a turning point, then, for Roscommon as the year has proven for Galway in hurling? Many would say that the Roscommon assignment is much more difficult than the one successfully negotiated by Galway.

Before the hurling final, however, there were also many who were very vocal in dismissing the Galway hopes — and we all know just how silly the Westerners made such forecasts appear.

Roscommon bear a striking resemblance in make-up to the Galway hurlers. They have been around for some time, having won the Connacht title for the last four years.

They beat Kerry in the League in recent times, and they have built up strength and understanding over the long period.

At the same time, it must be admitted that Kerry have one of their best ever squads. The fact that they are in line for the first treble of All-Ireland senior titles by any county since the great Galway side of the 'Sixties is the best possible indication of the high standard of the Southern squad.

Kerry also appear as sharp as ever. Perhaps they had some anxious moments against Offaly in the semi-final, but they still came through with the style of champions.

The fact that the entire country, outside Kerry, will be willing a Roscommon win is unlikely to cut much ice with the champions. They can be depended on to go about their game in their usual efficient way.

Here, then, is another contest to whet the interest. If it provides as exciting and fast moving fare as the hurling game, then the game of football, the G.A.A. and supporters will be the winners — irrespective of whether the Sam Maguire Cup stays in Kerry or makes a rare visit to Roscommon.

**O**UR front cover this month features the All-Ireland Football Finalists — Kerry and Roscommon.

**KERRY:** Back row, from left: Jack O'Shea, Tim Kennelly, Eoin Liston, Ger O'Keeffe, Charlie Nelligan, Mick Spillane, John O'Keeffe, Pat Spillane. Front row, from left: Denis 'Ogie' Moran, Paud O'Shea, Mike Sheehy, Sean Walsh, Ger Power (captain), Tom Doyle, John Egan.

**ROSCOMMON:** Back row, from left: Harry Keegan, Aidan Dooley, Pat Lindsay, Seamus Hayden, Gerry Fitzmaurice, Dermot Earley, Eamonn McManus, Gerry Connellan. Front row, from left: Tony McManus, John O'Gara, Michael Finneran, Danny Murray (captain), Gay Sheerin, Tom Donnellan, John O'Connor.

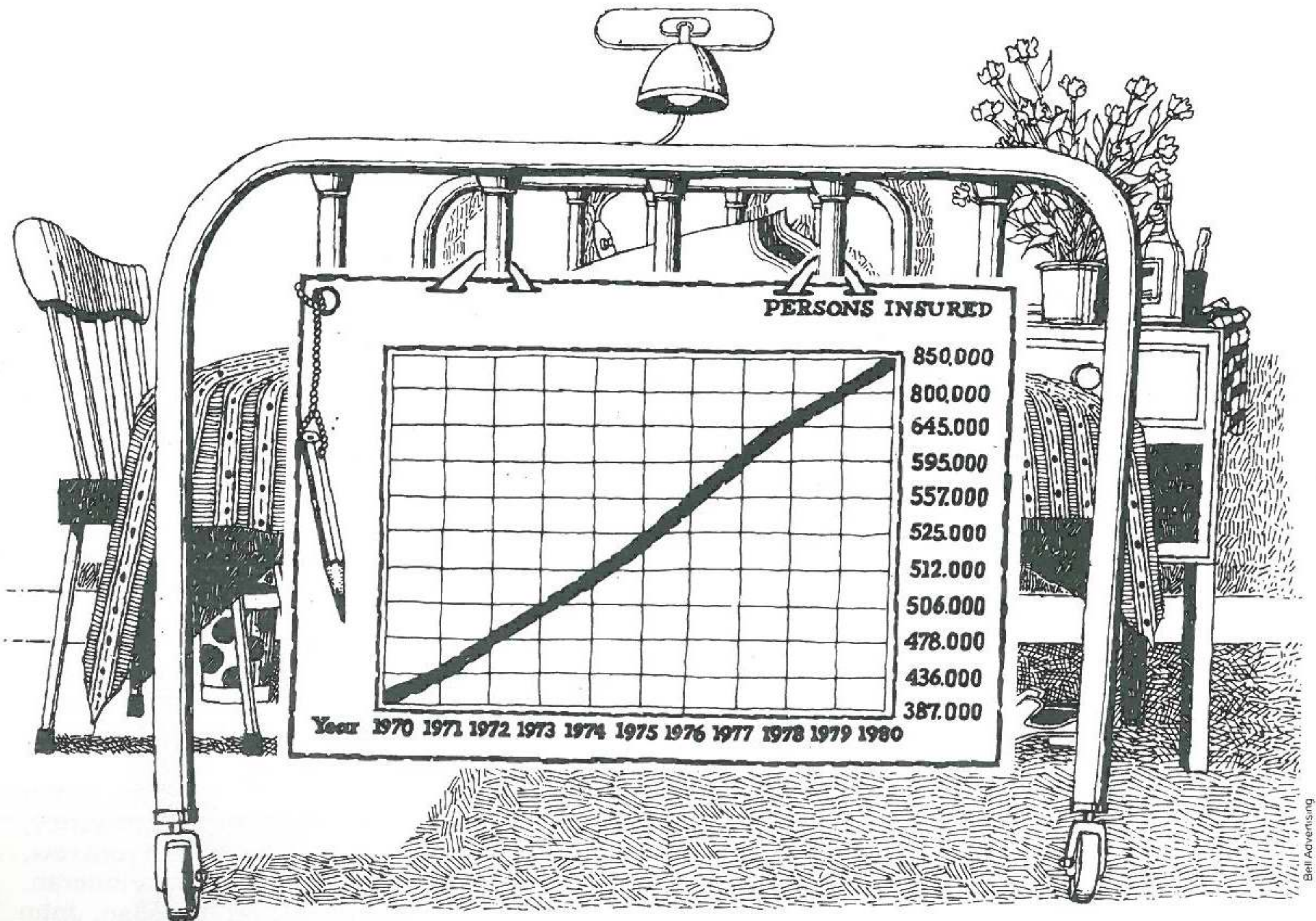


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# Tyler

## Galway hurlers fill

# Top Ten

## top five places

**G**ALWAY'S memorable and rare break-through in senior hurling is naturally reflected very strongly in the code's chart in the latest TYLER TOP TEN charts, which cover the period from August 10 to September 7 inclusive, and thus take into account the two football semi-finals, and the hurling decider.

Galway did not appear to have a weak link in their win over Limerick for the All-Ireland hurling crown. The success added up to a first rate team performance, but at the same time, the victory effort was topped off by some eye-catching and important individual displays.

Michael Conneely's goalkeeping was the best seen in a final in years, and a key factor in shaping the win. The solid, dependable play of Niall McInerney at full back, and the mighty bulwark that was Sean Silke were other factors that did so much to close down the shutters on the Limerick attacking force.

Then, Galway had forwards who could take their chances. None more so than Bernie Forde, who gave his team a dream start with that cleverly taken kicked goal after only three minutes. More than that, the Ardrahan club man followed up his goal with clever hurling that put the Limerick defence under plenty of pressure, and popped over five valuable points for good measure.

Noel Lane, in the other corner, was another Galway finisher who showed the Munster senior champions the way in the scoring line, with a smooth display and accurate shooting.

Plenty of challengers there, then,

for the top of the chart rating this month in hurling.

However, the distinction goes to Forde. His cleverly taken goal so early on did a great deal to steady Galway, and because he followed up that splendid start with incisive and consistent forward play at its best, plus excellent finishing, Forde goes to the top of the table with 48 points. This is his first time to appear in the review this year.

Conneely comes a close second on 46 points, and he, too, is making his initial appearance of the season.

Noel Lane, who appeared in the April-May review on 26 points, collects 44 to bring his total for the year so far to 70.

Sean Silke makes some rapid promotion up the chart. Although in fourth spot on 42 points, he jumps up to 104 points over-all, and takes fourth place in the ratings for the year so far.

In football, Matt Connor (Offaly) is in third spot this month, but still pushes his cumulative total to 151 points, and looks now very strongly placed for the top position over-all for 1980.

The leading trio in each code from the start of the year up to and including the latest review are:

**Hurling:** 126 points E. Cregan (Limerick). 124: D. Coughlan (Cork). 107: L. O'Donoghue (Limerick).

**Football:** 151 points: M. Connor (Offaly). 80: E. Liston (Kerry). 80: K. Kehilly (Cork).

This month's charts are:

## HURLING

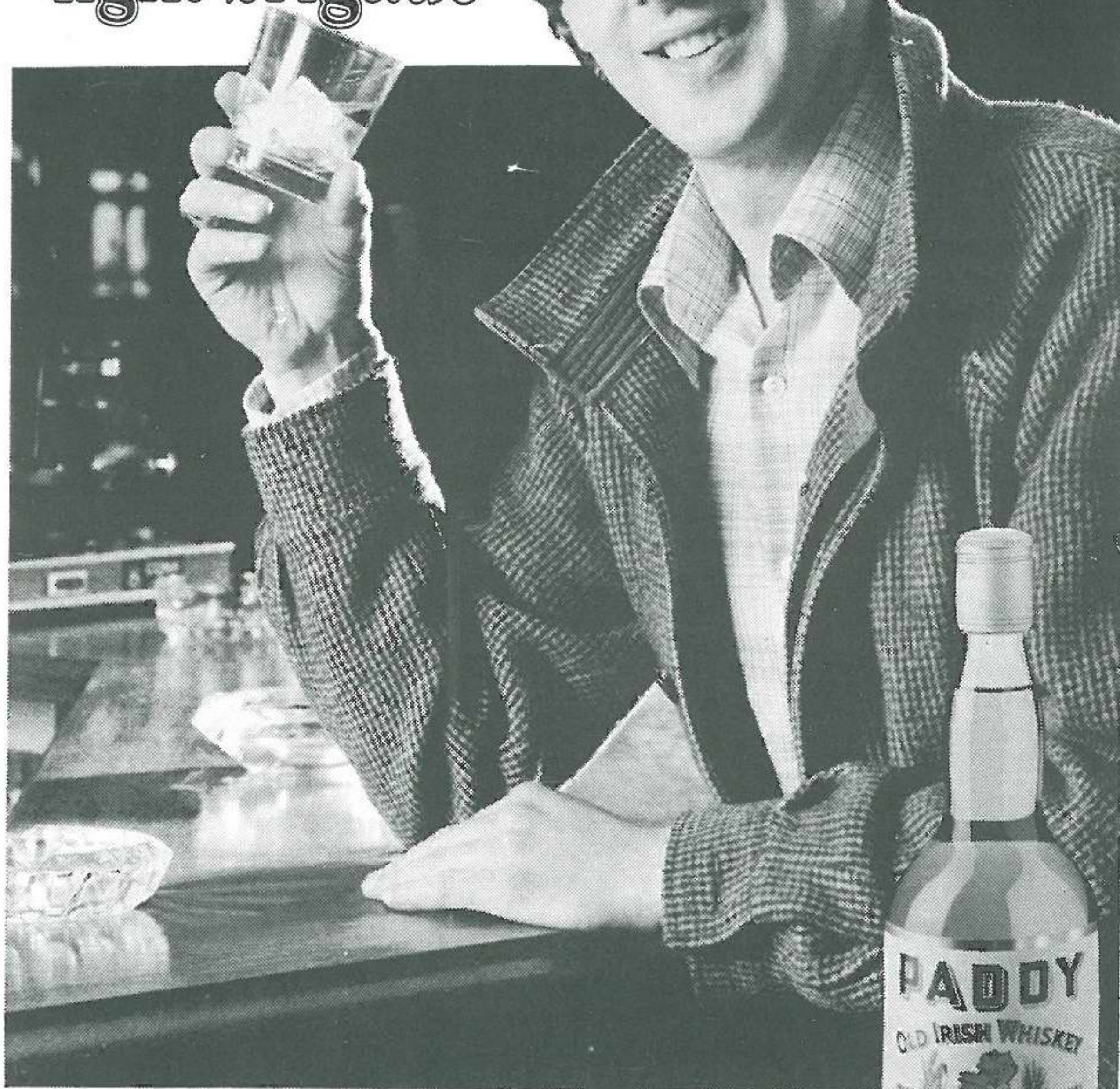
48	B. Forde (Galway)	48
46	M. Conneely (Galway)	46
44	N. Lane (Galway)	70
42	S. Silke (Galway)	104
42	J. Cooney (Galway)	42
38	L. O'Donoghue (Limerick)	107
36	N. McInerney (Galway)	36
32	E. Cregan (Limerick)	126
30	Joe Connolly (Galway)	92
28	S. Foley (Limerick)	28

## FOOTBALL

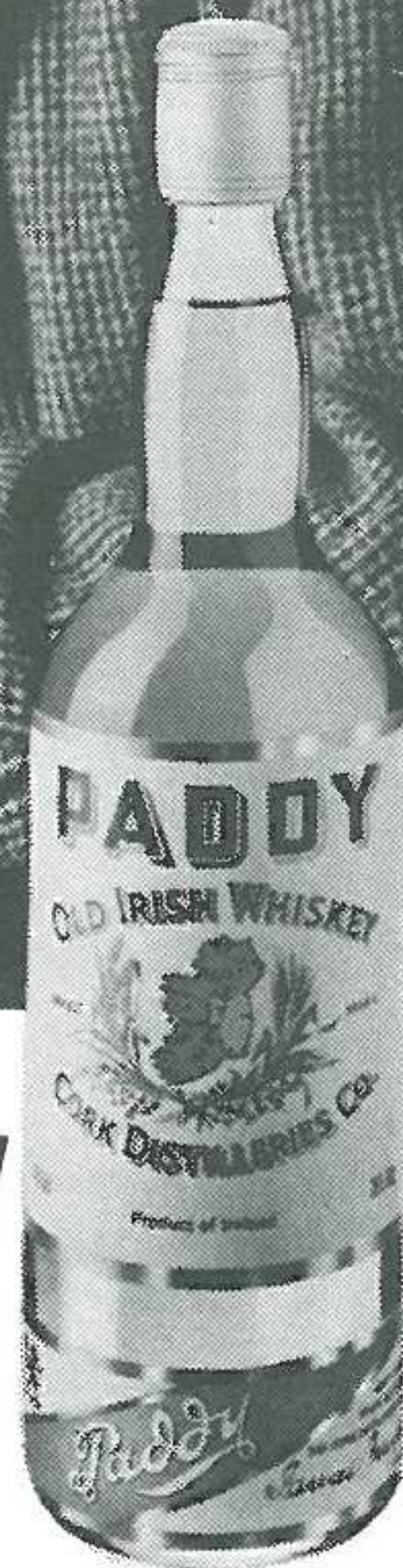
33	J. Egan (Kerry)	69
30	P. Spillane (Kerry)	58
28	M. Connor (Offaly)	151
27	D. Murray (Roscommon)	27
26	E. Liston (Kerry)	80
24	M. Finneran (Roscommon)	24
23	B. Hughes (Armagh)	23
22	M. McDermott (Roscommon)	22
20	J. O'Shea (Kerry)	20
18	C. McKinstry (Armagh)	44



He joined the  
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● Kerry's Ger Power keeps his sights firmly on the unseen ball in the semi-final meeting with Offaly.



# IT MUST BE KERRY!

By TONY KEEGAN

**I**T must be Kerry for that rare treble of All-Ireland senior football championships. In saying this I am not being at all dismissive of Roscommon's challenge, or dazzled by the achievements of the Southern footballers in recent years. Kerry, it is true, need no new superlatives. They have achieved it all, and with flair and aplomb as well.

But on occasions against Offaly in the semi-final they looked just as prone to making mistakes as mere mortals like the rest of us. Furthermore, if ever a game proved the folly of writing off any team in a match it was that Kerry-Offaly meeting.

The Leinster champions made a very brave fight of it. Few would surely have been bold enough before the semi-final to predict that Offaly would hit four goals, and still lose.

Yet, with an attack that can boast of only one forward with the ability to get consistently among goals and points, the Leinster champions breached the Kerry last line of defence four times. That must be a

worry to the All-Ireland title holders.

It is also a major reason why one cannot be dismissive of the Western challenge.

Roscommon, too, can point to plenty of the type of experience that any team needs with designs on an All-Ireland title. True, they are appearing in a first national championship final in the sense that

none of this side played at this stage of the series in the past.

But, don't forget that most of these footballers have enjoyed big-time success against Kerry in recent years. Notably in a National League quarter final last year, and in a first Cennarus Tournament decider earlier. Still others helped Roscommon to an All-Ireland under-21 final win over Kerry.

That know-how should help to compensate greatly for the way that Roscommon trail Kerry so badly in senior final experience. It should give the Roscommon footballers, in short, a confidence boost to have them in an assured frame of mind.

I am prepared to argue as well that

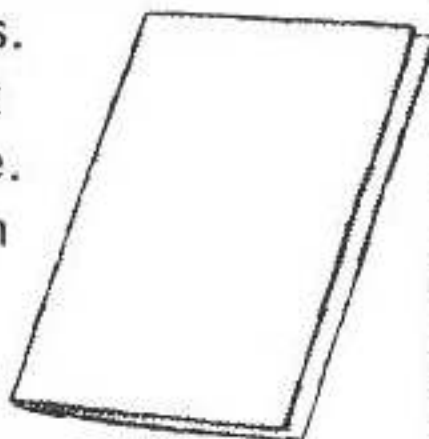
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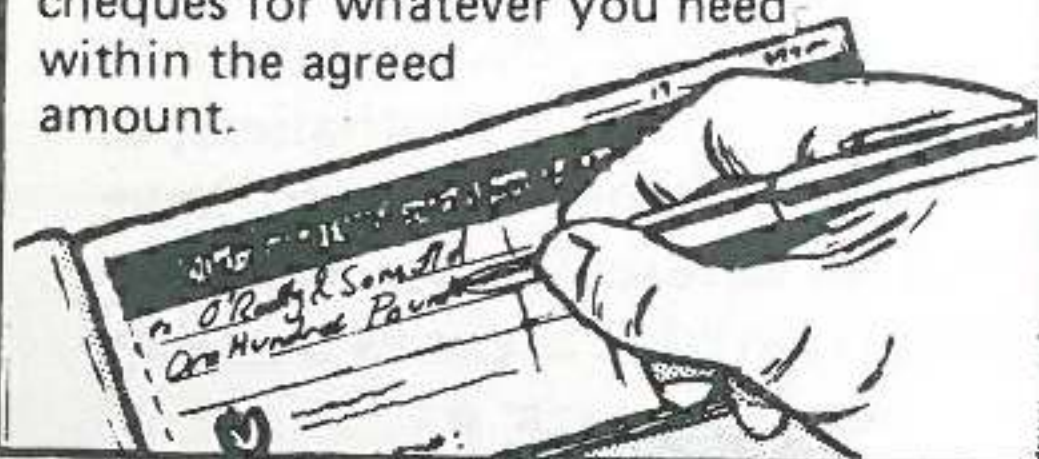
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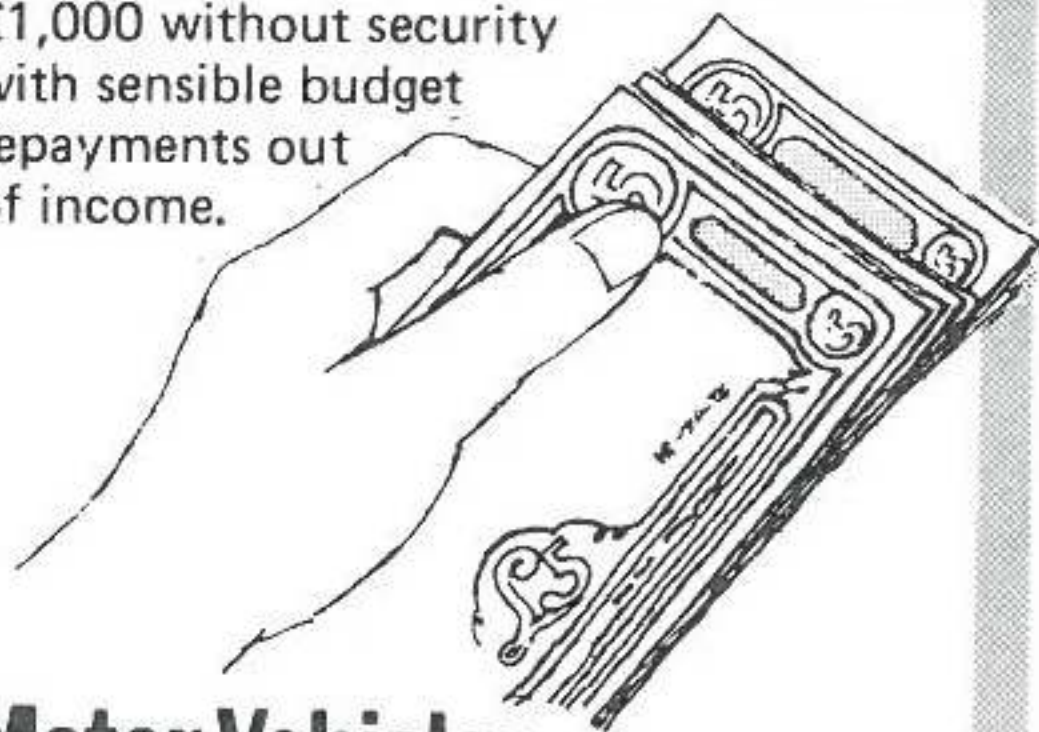
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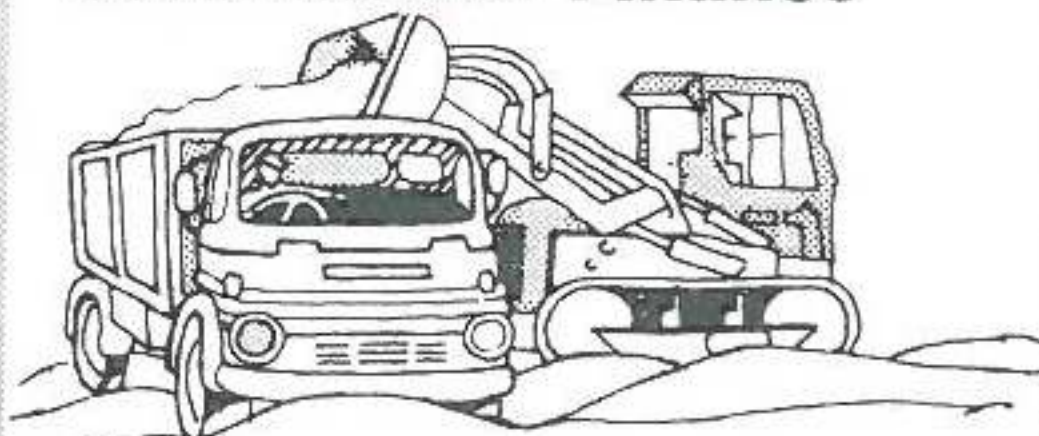


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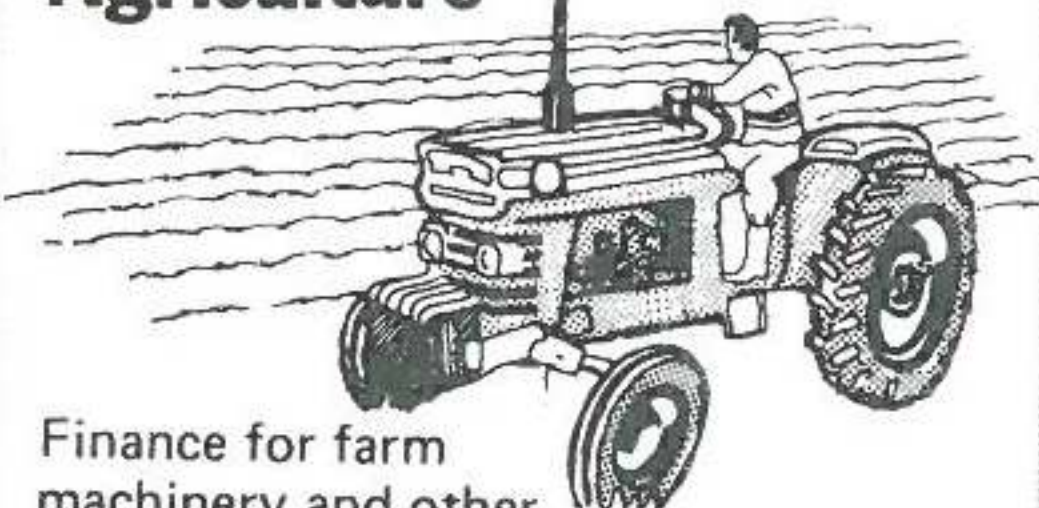


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● FROM PAGE 7

Roscommon are better equipped all round than Offaly.

Their four years on top in the West has given them a high degree of teamwork, and they showed the right temperament and spirit when coming back almost "from the dead" to beat Armagh. They have footballers all over the field who could shine as match-winners. Hardly any need to sing here the praises of Dermot Earley.

On his day he can be one of the most efficient units in the team, and with that long awaited All-Ireland senior medal now at last within his grasp, I am prepared to see Earley turn in a star show.

At the back, I don't believe there is a better attacking wing back in the game just now than Roscommon's captain Danny Murray.

He is an ideal skipper . . . a footballer with the ability to lift his team with those exciting sallies up field and a defender who, at the same time, never gives his supporters a moment's worry, such is the high quality of his defensive work.

Any county team that also has on hands two quality midfielders in addition to Earley like Seamus Hayden and Martin McDermott is rich indeed.

The attack will also present the type of pressure on all fronts that Kerry did not experience in the last game.

John O'Gara is a strong forceful footballer who could do much to create openings for his colleagues. Tony McManus is a very gifted full forward, and Michael Finneran is close to the same standard in the scoring line as Matt Connor — and that's saying a lot.

So, if all these many Roscommon units fuse together to the best possible effect, if the Western champions produce the teamwork of which they are capable, and if they enjoy the slice of luck that every team needs to win a final, we could have a novel experience of seeing a rare All-Ireland senior final victory.

I am not, then, as I have already said, making the mistake of



● *John O'Gara (Roscommon) blasts the ball goalwards in the semi-final meeting with Armagh. A point resulted but it could easily have been a goal.*

dismissing Roscommon. But, equally, it must be said that Kerry are out on their own when the chips are down in an All-Ireland final.

Perhaps their long innings on top — it is almost five years since the present team more or less hit the scene with that upset win over the Dubs in 1975 — is beginning to take its toll on some of their players. However, I don't believe that Kerry, for all that, plus the Offaly four goal barrage, are yet creaking badly.

Indeed, they have a degree of teamwork that we have not seen from many teams in recent years. They have brilliant campaigners in all sectors.

One or two forwards may be "shut out" by a defence in a match, but others pop up to step into the match-winning role. Eoin Liston, John Egan, Michael Sheehy, tireless Pat Spillane, Tom Doyle, or team captain Ger Power — any one could emerge as a Kerry saviour.

Together these attackers con-

stitute the most lethal attack we have seen in years — and that, for my money, includes the famed Dubs of the 'Seventies.

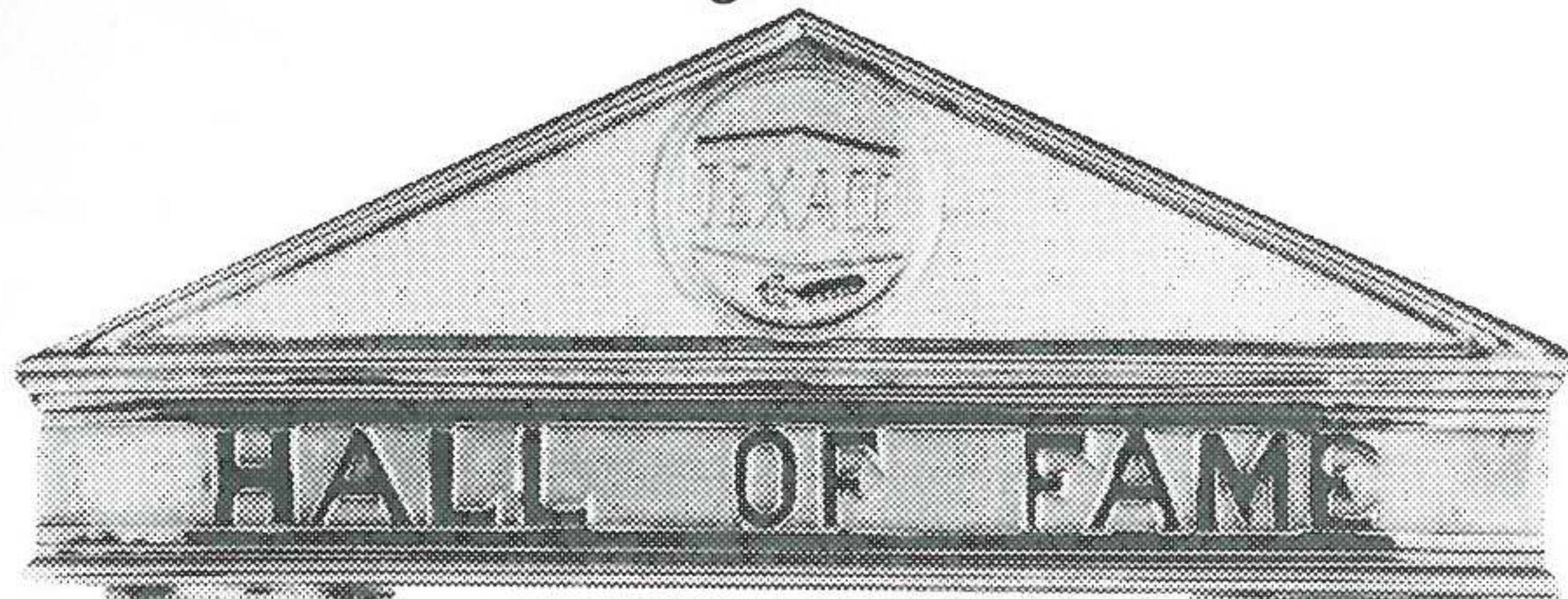
There is much to admire in defence. The utter dependability of Charlie Nelligan, who could not be faulted for any of the shots that beat him in the semi-final; the attacking style and reliability of Paud O'Shea, the solid if unspectacular work of Tim Kennelly at centre half.

At midfield, Jack O'Shea, Sean Walsh and Vincent O'Connor are an accomplished trio who ensure strength in depth for Kerry in this vital area.

Weighing it all up then, it does appear that while Roscommon have the men and the necessary experience to make a bold bid for the crown, Kerry's precision play, their sheer belief in themselves, and their eagerness to keep on winning will be good enough to keep the Sam Maguire Cup in the Kingdom for another year.



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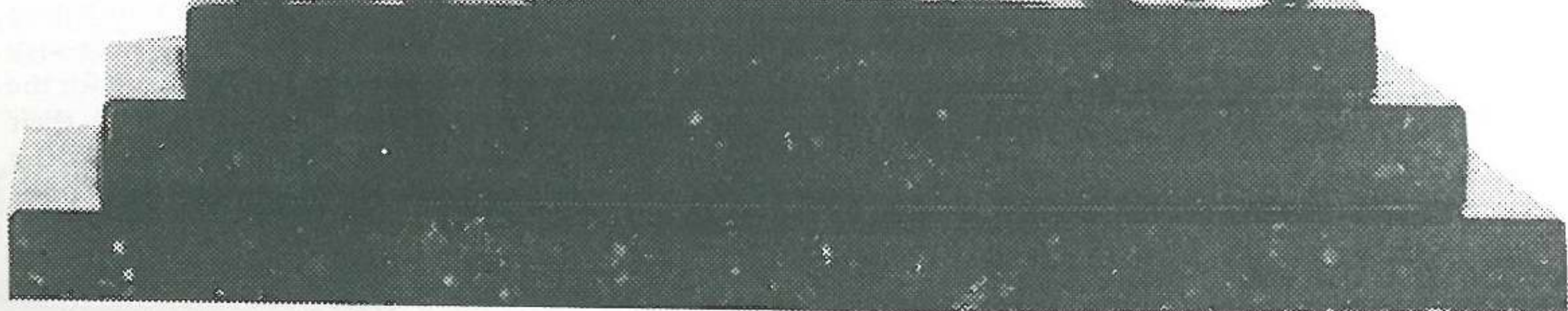


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# A full-back out of the old mould

By SEÁN O'BRIEN

FULL-BACKS used to be born, not made . . . or, in the famous case of Paddy Bawn Brosnan, quarried. Admittedly, Bawn had to soldier in other parts as far distant as left half-forward (when first Roscommon and Kerry met in the All-Ireland final). But that was only because one born with prior claim to the position was already installed. And where else could you think of putting Joe Keohane?

Nowadays, it is hard to know what to do about the full-back position, and there are good players in the position earning their keep who would be told to go and do some running out the field in the old days. What do you make of a fine, strapping youngster with stamina and speed retiring from centre-field in his prime to take over at full-back. Like bringing turf into the bog.

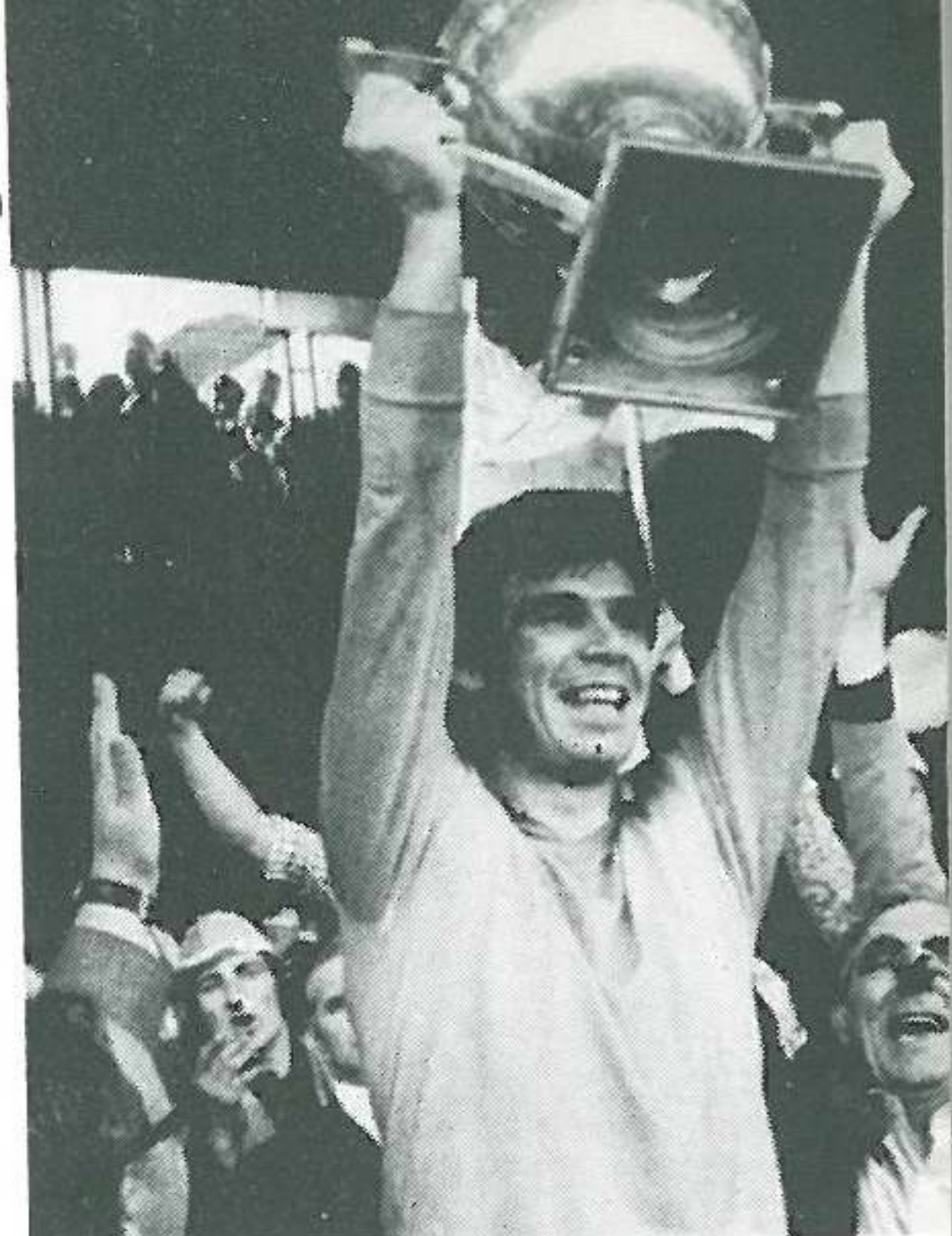
Yes, I know, Jack Quinn walked backwards to No. 3 while still at his peak in midfield, but I think he was a little caught for centre-field fitness at the time. And in the golden days of football Paddy O'Brien gave up the outfield and went to full-back. He was the worst example of all and a source of dire distress to all members of the Full-back Club, because he seemed indecently short and neat and tidy and rather smaller than his real volume because he did not flaunt it. On the whole you would

think he couldn't take care of himself in the heat of the kitchen.

Despite all the contrary examples, it could be sustained that there was a place in any team for a full-back type. An amount of awkwardness was not prohibitive; lack of speed could be easily compensated for; manoeuvrability was not of the essence. But since the rule changes what can you do with the lad who comes along with these natural disabilities? Tell him there is no place in a Gaelic football team for him any more? That he had better go down to the nearest Rugby Club where they will "bung him in the pack".

It could not be said of Pat Lindsay the Roscommon full-back, that he could never have made it unless there was an old-fashioned full-back position for him to play in, for he was as often in the middle of the field as in the backs in his schooldays. All the same, when he goes up and pulls one from the clouds and comes thundering out of the goalmouth, you can recognise instantly shades of old dinosaurs like Keohane, Eddie Boyle, Ned Roche, Gunner Brady (another who shuttled), "Doc" Callaghan, Weeshie Murphy, Mick Connaire, Tom Dunleavy . . .

Not much of that left any more, so Lindsay has had to do a lot of work



● Roscommon full-back Pat Lindsay with the National League Cup following his side's defeat of Cork in the 1979 decider.

to keep moving in tune with the changing game over the spell of fifteen years he has spent in the Roscommon jersey. It is a fair tribute to his earnestness that he has adapted. But he must have been helped by being an outfield player as well as a full-back in his young days.

From 1966 to 1968 Pat played three years in the Roscommon minor team overlapping with Dermot Earley in the first of those years, and alternating between full-back and midfield positions. He played under-21 in 1970 and 1971 but, as in minor, he always seemed to fall in with teams which had no luck in gaining successes.

It was not until his club, St. Faithleach's won the County League in 1970 that Pat got any tangible memorial of his years of efforts. It was in November of that year that he first played for the county seniors, starting with a game at left corner-back against Kerry in the National Football League. He has not looked back.

At 6ft. in height, turning the scales at 13½ stones, Lindsay is built more in the mould of the old fashioned full-back than in the general purpose pattern of the modern No. 3. Of

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● FROM PAGE 11

course he played much of his football before the change of rule that introduced the hand pass and set in motion the trends that have brought to-day's game. Therefore, he was a fine fetcher in the goalmouth, with either a dry ball or

wet and an heroic figure as he broke away and cleared far upfield.

It must have been quite a problem for Lindsay to adjust to the greater freedom of movement in the game, where attackers will seldom make a frontal assault any more, but will endeavour to draw the backs and find

spaces between and behind. An illustration of the difficulties a large, raw-boned, slightly slow and bulky man can have with the modern style of play was very evident in the first half on the semi-final against Armagh.

Armagh created large spaces in front of their full-forward so that players from all over the field were able to serve him with long balls into that space to which he could race out and collect to the discomfiture of the Roscommon full-back. Pat Lindsay was struggling terribly all through that half as the full-forward switched the ball around and brought others into dangerous scoring action.

The adjustments which Pat made in order to keep the full-forward within some kind of command did, at least, keep him from boring in for his own scores. And when the first-half had been survived rather uncomfortably it was a revelation to watch Lindsay turn, in the second half, to taking the forwards on at their own game, moving in a much wider ambit and contesting possession with no little success.

One of the intriguing aspects of this All-Ireland final between Kerry and Roscommon must be the clash of the massive Liston of Kerry and the powerful Lindsay of Roscommon. It is not unlikely that Lindsay would cancel out Liston as a "target man" in the goal area.

Such an eventuality could cut down the variety in Kerry's options; that, in turn, would mean an increase in the chance of containing Kerry's other options.

The leaner early years have been well compensated for in Lindsay's case, having now amassed five Connacht S.F. medals and added a League runners-up medal in 1974 before capturing a League winners' medal in 1979 — when he also captained the team. An All-Star award in 1977 rounded things off well, but they would all be swapped, I'm sure, for one All-Ireland senior medal. No man will try harder to bring home that honour than Pat Lindsay.

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THE busy fella playing half the field seemed to be in a different class and I didn't like it. That was my reaction when I stumbled on an army game in Dungarvan many years ago. The sun shone but half the players on the field were already dazzled by a balding burly chap who seemed to be about sixteen stone and tore through everything in the middle of the field with speed and power. My team was to meet the winners which was the true reason for my dismay. The chap was Brendan Lynch and I was glad at not having to meet him until later but more about that in a minute.

Lynch, the last time I met him was a superintendent in Tralee, wasn't

slightly when Paddy Kennedy, after the game said "What harm, we tried hard". On the following day I was getting the bus back to my army unit and bought a paper. Eagerly I opened the page to see what "Green Flag" the leading sports writer had said about Munster and more important about me. "Most of the Munster forwards wouldn't break eggs" he wrote "and their efforts to elude such clever backs as Carlos, Flanagan, Prendergast and LYNCH were pitiable in the extreme". I closed the paper before anyone else saw it and talked to the man beside me about how to train performing fleas.

Young Billy Jackson of the tanned,

bend the rules?

Jimmy Murray the Roscommon centre-forward of the forties was the brains of a very good side. Smaller than most forty yards men Jimmy had a head of wavy red hair over a smiling florid countenance. I remember how happy I was to meet him long ago in Ashford Castle, Cong during my honeymoon. It was about the best welcome we could get and to me all Connacht was in his handshake. On the field he was very calm, very crafty, able to turn on a sixpence (let's say fivepence) and his continual probing, foraging, dummyming were the smart man's prelude to decisive action. I often talk of him as the type where brains, power and skill tear to shreds the suggestion that the forty yards man has to be tall.

His brother Phelim on the wing was a class player as indeed was Donal Keenan and a few more. Once a team was playing this Roscommon side in a final and the preparation was intense. This other team did a detailed match-analysis on the Wednesday before the game. In the presence of the selectors and the full panel, the trainer discussed each Roscommon player in turn: Goalie Hoare, Bill Jackson, Doc Callaghan, Jock Casserley, Brendan Lynch, Bill Carlos, Colm Boland . . . each man got the most careful treatment his strengths and weaknesses being aired by several contributors in a sophisticated and earnest gathering. Then they came to the right winger, Phelim Murray.

"Ah, don't mind him" said the voice, bright young and blunt".

"My old grannie would mark him" Well what could anyone say?

Better to move on. "Right" says the trainer "Jimmy Murray . . ." and they went on to take a look at Frank Kinlough, Jack MacQuillan and the rest. The talk ended.

On the following Sunday Roscommon played a great game

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## *"My old grannie would mark him"*

sixteen stone, but very strong, fast and determined. He was a born half back, aggressive but fair, speedy and straight-thinking, something like Red Collier of Meath. A very direct player, he wasted no time but came through hard and let it away with power. Remembering this style as played by Kerry's Sean Murphy, I think it's the best way to do the wing back job with an odd solo thrown in.

One February day we played Connacht in Loughrea and at left wing my task was Brendan Lynch. Knowing that even when fit I was in for trouble I trained long and carefully. On the day I did a little better than expected (both by myself and John Joe Sheehy). We all played very hard but Connacht with Paddy Prendergast, Sean Flanagan, Bill Carlos and Brendan Lynch in the backline weren't giving anything away.

Fed up at defeat I was consoled

chiselled face always reminded me of Geronimo without a feather. The countenance was set, carved and aquiline on which concentration had stamped a sternness that revealed on the field and indeed off it, the man whose path to his object is the shortest one. Bill was a fine basketball player as well as a footballer and he became a sergeant-major in Athlone who left no doubt about his intentions in the military arena. As the fine song has it:

"Eye as keen as sparrow-hawk or like a lobster on a stalk

No nudge or wink or smile or talk, escapes the sergeant major"

His style of football was also powerful and direct. There was little canny covering. Jackson's way to beat his man was to get to the ball first and that was that. When his man did get possession the Roscommon man punished him every possible way under the rules . . . and what good player won't try to



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● *The Roscommon and Kerry (left) teams parading before the 1944 Final. Roscommon won the title by 1.09 to 2.04*

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won it fair, and guess who was one of the best men on the field — a chap named Phelim Murray. The game was over; the cup was being handed to Jimmy Murray over in the stand. One good player couldn't look at it all and, head bent, in the grief that accompanies only a defeat in the final, he stumbled over to the dressing-room gate, slouched up, along the concrete cavern, pushed open the door of the dressing-room and slumped on the seat beside a comrade, who had made the refuge just before him. Heads bowed in utter sorrow the young men sat hunched, silent . . . six months of hard trying . . . we're beaten . . . A footfall outside the door; so in came another good young player. That day this man had the job of minding Phelim Murray. The smaller of the seated pair raised his head, looked the third man in the eye and then intoned with the mourning note of the funeral bell.

"You know, aul' stock, your grandmother must have been a great bloody footballer".

Gerry O'Malley once told me that

he was very fond of hurling. It was after a game in Cork where he played half the field. There was no stopping a man of his natural ability, blinding enthusiasm and powerful heart. You would know straight away he didn't come from one of the strong hurling counties for he had the bad habits the good man on a poor team always develops. But he was a formidable player who would undoubtedly have been a national name in hurling had his parents seen the advantages of moving to Cork at the right time. But O'Malley certainly carved his own niche in the football. In fact the metaphor is scarcely suitable for one can hardly imagine this playing extrovert confined to any hollow cut in a wall. Pedestal, would be a more fitting word, for in this champion player there were the attributes, physical, mental and emotional too that go to make the real man. O'Malley had natural power (an item, incidental-

ly, beloved above all by Christy Ring); he had ball control and a great fetch. Add to that a blinding determination to go through all opposition and you have a man who is easiest stopped by a sledge-hammer. O'Malley played with good men but how unlucky for him and for Roscommon that he didn't have around him, fourteen like the men led by Jimmy Murray. Still he had what was more important than any medals: the flooding affection of the man on the terraces for the true and talented performer. I couldn't do more in conclusion than hope that somewhere in Roscommon there's a teenager this Autumn nearly as good as Gerry O'Malley.

In fact even this fine western side of today would welcome, I think, any of the players who have stirred my memories. Perhaps just now, we're seeing their successors. Who knows . . . ? who knows . . . ?




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# MINOR TITLE TO GO NORTH

By TERRY McGRATH

**D**ERRY, who are enjoying a first-rate season in scholboys' football, may put a glittering finish to the campaign when they bid against Kerry at Croke Park in the curtain-raiser for a first All-Ireland minor championship since 1965. That win, in the debut by the Ulster county in the concluding round, was achieved at the expense of Kerry.

Derry have already won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' title this year — their second success nationally in a row in the series. St. Patrick's, Maghera, also carried the county's banner proudly in the All-Ireland Colleges' Senior Championship, in which hopes were only pipped on the post by a late point by a strong Carmelite College, Moate, side in the concluding round in a grand game at Croke Park in April.

A number of the footballers who were in action with the Derry teams in those games will be on duty in this first final meeting of these counties since 1965, and their experience will prove a vital asset for the Ulster champions.

Nevertheless, Derry, who are contesting their first final since 1969, face a demanding task. Admittedly, Kerry did not look anything out of the ordinary when beating Meath in a disappointing semi-final by 3-5 to 0-10, but a Kingdom side invariably takes beating in an All-Ireland decider in any grade.

In addition, the Munster champions have capable players throughout the field. Some, in fact, were in the side that failed narrowly at this stage last year to a gifted Dublin outfit.

A tight defence is another important factor in favour of Kerry, who looked very keen competitors in their wins over Cork for a 26th Munster title, and again when eliminating Meath. So, one way and another, the Kingdom have solid grounds for optimism about their chances of ending a longish spell out of the winners' list — they have not brought home the trophy since 1975.

The Munster champions' rear-guard, with right full Davey Keane (Kerins O'Rahillys), one of the links with last year's final, left-full Michael Counihan (Austin Stacks) and right half James O'Sullivan (Dingle) marshalling matters in expert fashion, looked the best part of the team against the Leinster side.

There is pace, skill and dependability in this department, and the Derry forwards will have to be extra sharp if they are to get the scores for a winning show.

The Kerry raiders are also a lively lot. They may be a little prone to over-elaboration, but they still combine well, and I have been particularly taken by the work of Tom Spillane (Templenoe), brother of Pat and Michael, and who also

played in last year's minor final, Michael McAuliffe (Spa) and Joe Shannon (Laune Rangers).

It is a tribute to the Kerry forwards, in fact, that they outscored Meath, despite the fact that their team laboured for much of the way at midfield in that game.

Any unevenness, however, in the centre of the park against Derry might prove very costly, as the Northerners have plenty going for them up front.

But the Munster champions did improve matters at midfield with some telling moves during the interval in the semi-final, and there can be little doubt that on that evidence they have the talent to make a worth-while impact in what is likely to prove a vital area.

As for Derry, I thought they looked distinct All-Ireland title winning material when I saw them power impressively to a run-away 18 points win over Armagh for a first Ulster title in ten years.

They did not impress to quite the same extent in their semi-final win, but as against that, there was still plenty of merit and much to admire as well in the way that they handled the challenge of a strong Mayo combination.

A well-taken goal by Liam McElhinney nine minutes into the second half gave Derry a decisive grip on the exchanges, and they were never headed after that as they forged out a narrow but deserved one goal victory — 1-11 to 0-11.

Derry's match winning weapon could be their attack. All the forwards are clever and efficient, and the division over-all is well drilled and smart-moving.

Brian McErlean (Newbridge), one of the stars of the Vocational Schools' All-Ireland title win, has been showing a nice line in the scoring stakes for Derry.

He is a smart mover, and could provide the leadership and guile to enable a lively division, which includes Liam McElhinney (Dungiven), a member of the St. Patrick's, Maghera, All-Ireland final side, and

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# Unselfish play his hallmark

By NOEL HORGAN

**T**OM Doyle scarcely made contact with the ball for the first-quarter of the Kerry-Offaly semi-final. As the Kerry forwards, Spillane, Egan, Power and Sheehy, weaved patterns of magic on the wings, combining with Eoin Liston when near goal, Doyle at centre-forward was by-passed for lengthy spells.

For most players, struggling to settle quickly and rid themselves of early "butterflies", such inactivity would be demoralising. But it was not a new experience for Tom Doyle and he was not unduly perturbed.

Tom knew that when the scorching sallies of the wing-men began to take their toll and the power and pace slackened slightly he would be called in as a link-man to sustain the momentum of Kerry's forward thrusts.

And so it was. Gradually Tom, alternating between midfield and full-forward following Sean Walsh's departure, became more involved, running smoothly into positions to receive passes and shortening the journey goalwards for the wing-men.

Such was the speed of his distribution that the fluency of Kerry's combined raids was increased rather than diminished by his involvement. Indeed, at the only stage of the game when Kerry seemed likely to forfeit the initiative, it was the industrious Tom Doyle who did most to restore the Kingdom's composure.

Offaly, full of fire, were trailing by two points with four minutes to the break and Kerry had clearly lost their early edge. But then Tom

Doyle scored a snappy point, won a free almost immediately which Mike Sheehy converted and Kerry recovered their rhythm to lead by two goals at half-time.

For all Offaly's determination, Kerry's superiority was never really threatened afterwards. Yet in spite of his commendable contribution Tom Doyle was one of the least-hailed Kerry-men after the match.

It is Tom's unobtrusive diligence as a link-man which causes many to repeatedly underestimate his worth. The Annascaul man, aware of his role in Kerry's forward machine, never indulges in unnecessary frills and tends to receive and part with the ball with such precision and speed that his involvement in Kerry's quick-silver movements often goes unnoticed.

But the men who matter, the ever

shrewd Kerry mentors fully appreciate his value in the team effort which is why twenty-four year-old Tom has become a regular on a star-studded side that can afford to leave such top-class players as Paud Lynch, Jim Deenihan and Vincent O'Connor on the reserve bench.

Tom's more illustrious forward colleagues are also aware that his unselfish play is vital to the fluency of the attack. They know that his unspectacular efficiency has paved the way for many superb scores in the past.

One suspects that Ger Power may have tried to repay Doyle for services rendered when he presented the Annascaul man with a gift goal-scoring chance late in the Offaly game. Power, displaying deft soccer-like skills, split the Offaly defence in the last minute and seemed set to score a great goal.

The Austin Stacks man, however, stroked the ball instead towards the in-running Doyle who, quite untypically fluffed the chance. The incident suggested that Ger wished Tom Doyle to have a greater share in the scoring spotlight.

Informed students of the game would readily concur that Tom is worthy of more recognition. They would also agree that he will put in his customary committed performance against Roscommon when he makes his second All-Ireland appearance, having missed out in 1978 through injury. His hard-grafting role will be as important to Kerry's three-in-a-row bid as the more flamboyant efforts of Spillane, Egan, Sheehy and the rest.



● Tom Doyle of Kerry - worthy of more recognition.

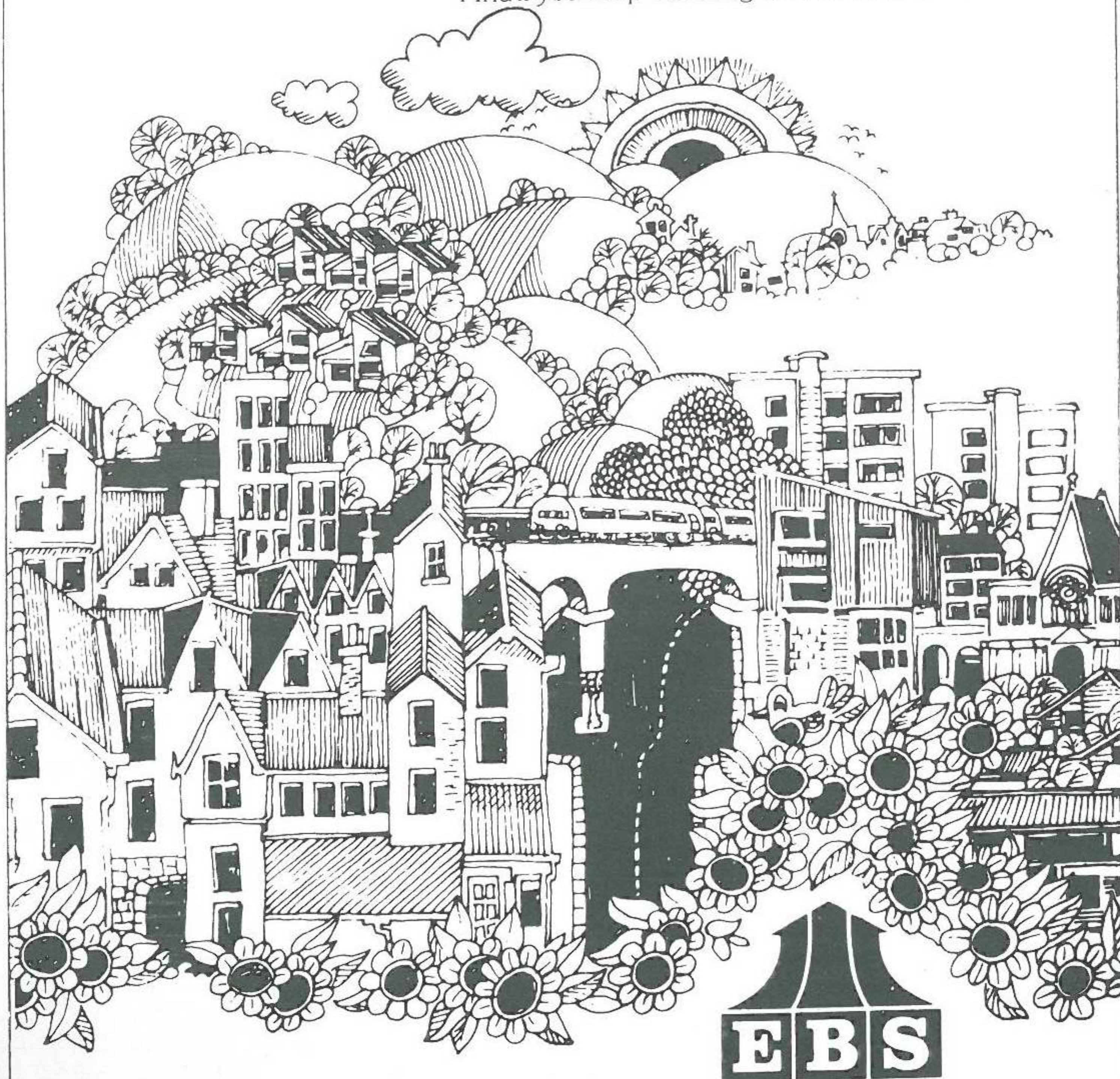


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# Glorious years for Tipperary

By  
Seamus  
O'Braonain

**M**OST of the big stars, the men who made their impact on the games of hurling or football, were around for quite a time in the county jersey. In their time, it is necessary that their county should have some success, for it is seldom, indeed, that players who give their best for poor counties capture the public imagination.

Tipperary had been in the doldrums in hurling after the 1945 All-Ireland win turned out to be the last burst of many of the post-War veterans. Cork had taken the reins again in Munster; then Waterford muscled in and went on to an All-Ireland in 1948. It began to seem to Tipperary folk that a famine was upon them.

No danger! There was a string of fine minor teams from the time of resumption of minor competition; Thurles C.B.S. was in the peak of fertility as a producer of hurlers. It was only a matter of time.

Most Tipperary authorities will assure you that quite suddenly there was an outburst of hurling activity of unprecedented sharpness and brilliance in the Golden Triangle from Boherlahan to Borrisoleigh and back to Holycross, taking in Thurles town and the Sarsfield within its boundaries. Rivalry and keenness were remarkable, forcing hurling interest to fanaticism among supporters of the teams, and forcing skill to virtuosity in the players.

Holycross emerged first as champions — that was 1948 and a little before the full impact of the hurling renaissance was felt. Pat Stakelum and John Doyle suddenly became names that were heard in

places well beyond the Mid-Tipperary Division and well beyond the county bounds.

Success in the League of 1948-49 was some indication of things to come, but you could lay no real store by such a victory when many teams were well off peak form. It was the championship of 1949 that showed what had happened to Tipperary hurling. And Pat Stakelum was centre-field when the first game of an Homeric sequence between Tipperary and Cork was played at Limerick in the opening round of the championship of 1949.

It was a draw, of course, and, in retrospect, one wonders whatever would have happened if it hadn't been. There would have been no replay and no extra-time; and what would we do without the myths that have grown up around those games — the churns of water; the shots that would have been goals if only the referee had allowed them to be taken; and the shots that were goals if only the referee had seen them. On such odd things do great historical events turn and a rivalry and excitement which lasts to this day was started with that first drawn game.

It is mentioned now because it is not possible to talk of Pat Stakelum

except as part of all that period of tremendous Cork-Tipperary activity, even the great burst into the limelight of Wexford. Certainly it was in other games and against other opposition that Pat Stakelum became a figure of dominance in defensive hurling, a hurler of class in anticipation of play and in striking of the ball, who seemed to seal off the road to the Tipperary goal for years.

In fact, of course, Stakelum did not have a long career, for he was only 21 when he captained the Tipperary side to their eventual All-Ireland triumph in 1949 and he was only about 28 when he made room for Tony Wall. When you remember that Tipperary came out of Munster only three times during Stakelum's time (the three-in-a-row All-Ireland years of 1949, 1950, 1951) you might say that he did comparatively little hurling by comparison with, say, John Doyle, Christy Ring, or even such a one as John Keane whose career was twice as long.

That would be your mistake and it is where the record can tell only part of the tale. Tipperary won the three from 1949 to 1951, but the intensity with which the others were contested is something hard to convey to-day. The build up was intense. Tipperary could not relax from one summer to the next and so they devoted themselves all the more fervently to the National League, in which they

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earned themselves the name of specialists in that era.

Six N.H.L. wins between 1948-49 and 1956-57 and losing finalists twice. In other words a continuous period of high pressure hurling during the whole time Stakelum played with Tipperary. In that time his name was a household word, as the saying goes. Little boys in school yards all over the county vied with one another to be "Pat Stakelum" just as keenly as others wanted to be "Christy Ring" or "Nick Rackard".

Again, when you look back, it is scarcely as an individual that Stakelum emerges from the mists of memory, but as a member of a line that evolved into one of the finest half-back lines of all time. And that brings us back to 1949 and to Limerick, and the water-churns and the hot sun... for it was in that game that Sean Kenny came into the Tipperary team in place of Phil Shanahan; and with Shanahan's return, Stakelum went back to centre half-back the position for which he is remembered. It makes for useless speculation to wonder whether he would have continued on at midfield if Tipperary did not have the wealth of talent for that position which they had. Perhaps, indeed, like another Tipperary man — Mick Roche — it was the all round polish of their hurling gained by cente-field experience that made them both such commanding figures at centre back.

Later (1950) Jimmy Finn came on at right half and so the Finn-Stakelum-Tommy Doyle line came into being. It was remarkable for its resilience, adaptability and hurling skill. No doubt Stakelum owed something to those wingers of his, sure hurlers, speedy and keen tacklers who were, more than nine times out of ten, well able to take care of anything an opposing winger might throw at them. So when the need arose, Stakelum's cover-tackling was renowned, mostly because he wasn't weary from covering his wingers all day.

Having heard a lot about





● The 1950 Tipperary team that defeated Kilkenny 1-9 to 1-8 in the All-Ireland Final. They are, back row (from left): J. Ryan, S. Bannon, J. Doyle, T. Reddan, J. Finn, P. Purcell (Co. Sec.), "Sonny" Maher, T. Brennan, M. Ryan, Tommy Ryan. Middle row (from left): P. Kenny, D. Ryan, P. Stakelum, M. Byrne, T. Doyle, E. Ryan, J. Everard. Front row (from left): Phippie Kenny, S. Kenny (capt.), J. Kennedy.

Stakelum's prowess before I ever saw him play, and then seeing him first in his ordinary clothes, it was rather a shock, for the imagination had created a picture of a big, raw-boned, Tipperary man who destroyed opponents by the sheer power of his play.

The young man pointed out to me as he went about his business as sales representative for Dwans, the mineral water people, was quite small, rather vulnerable in view of the company he was expected to keep on the hurling fields of that time.

On the field, however, you could see how compact he was — both in the sense of balance and in the sense of strength. The two gained from one another. Quick on his feet and decisive in his movements, Pat was a difficult man to shift from a course of action; far bigger men found that out.

Out against the play Stakelum's strength was his great certainty on the ground ball which he could whip away on either wing. Covering back to collect balls his gift was the elasticity of steely wrists that projected balls enormous distances into attack.

Curiously, Pat Stakelum suffered a move back to midfield at one stage of his career and Tipperary people say that it was because there was a theory that he just could not manage Joe Hartnett who was often at centre-forward for Cork in those days. Hartnett was a quick sender of the ball, whisking in on to the inside men first-time. Perhaps Stakelum found him hard to "read"

and too quick to intercept. In any case, it was not long before Tipperary selectors saw where best their bread was buttered and Pat returned to the position in which he handled with distinction Christy Ring, Ned Wheeler, Mickey Kenny, Jimmy Smith, Dermot Kelly, Des Dillon, Mick Flannelly, John Kiely, and the other centre-forwards of the day.

## SPECTACULAR CAREER

By TONY KEEGAN

**P**AT STAKELUM was one of the giants of Tipperary hurling at a time when the County was a powerful force at the game. He captained the 1949 team as right half back to the All-Ireland Senior title. Tipperary retained the Championship in 1950 and 1951. By then, Stakelum was the centre half-back and his quality play in that position was a key factor in their successes. He was also a regular with Munster in the Railway Cup between 1950 and 1956 and enjoyed remarkable successes as well. After leading the South to the 1950 title for his first Railway Cup medal, at right half-back, he took over as centre half. There he won further Inter-provincial medals in 1951, 1952 and 1953 and collected his last such award in 1955 at right half-back.

Pat Stakelum, who also got among others, County Championship medals with Holycross, retired from inter county hurling in 1957.

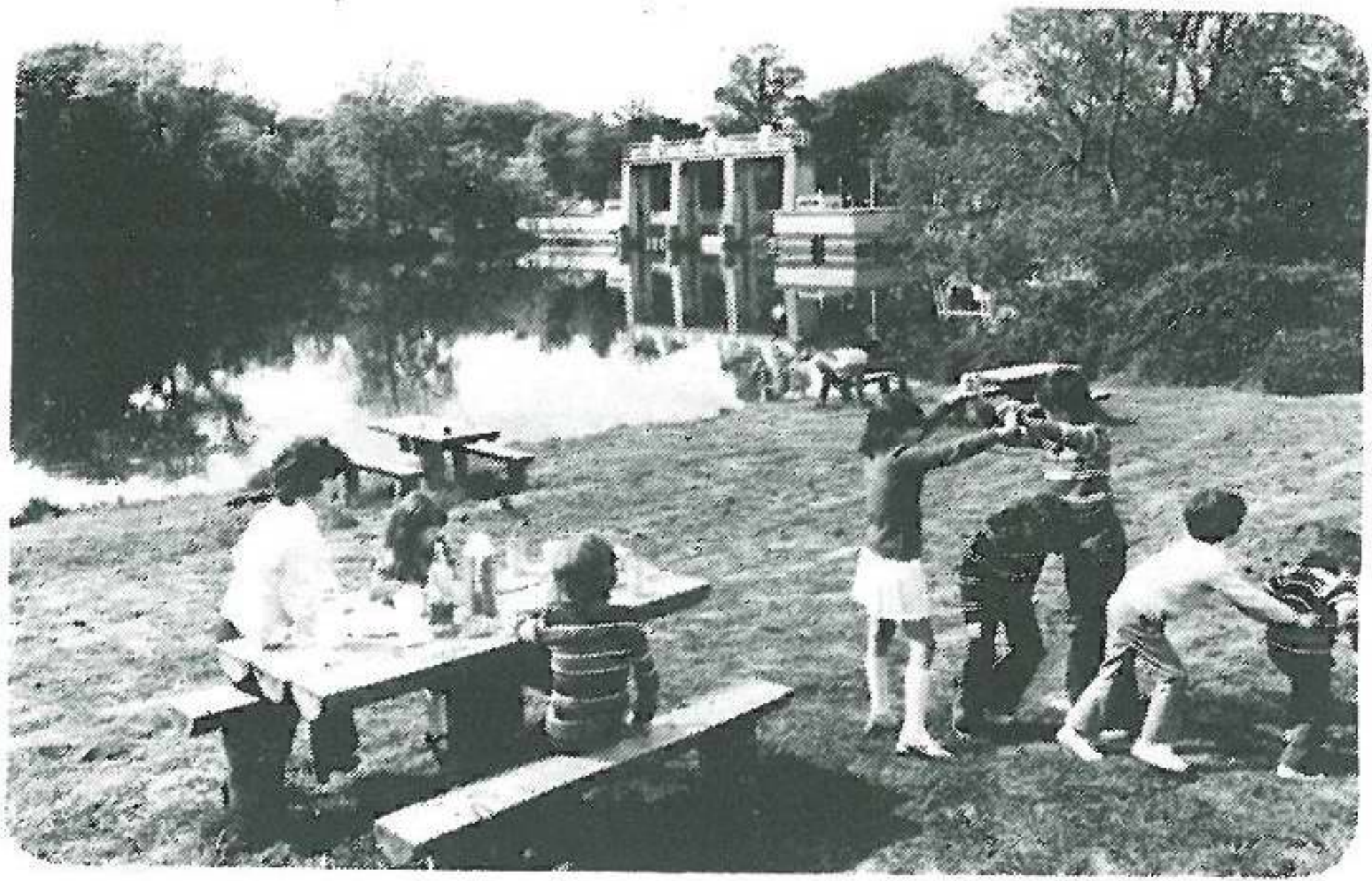


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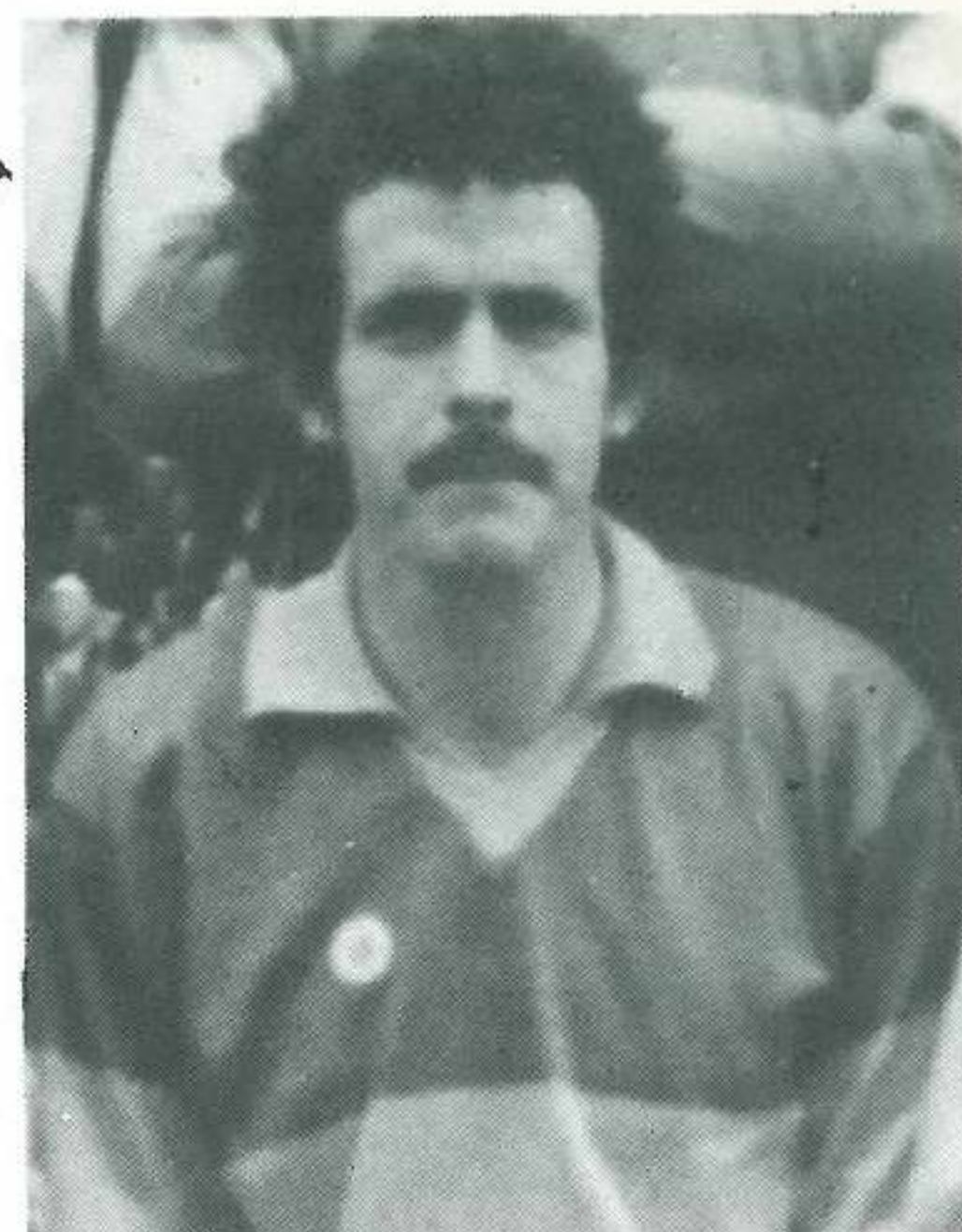


Sailing on Poulaphuca Lake.



# Danny plays a captain's part

By NOEL HORGAN



• *Danny Murray (Roscommon)*

**I**F a football captain's task is to lead by example, then Danny Murray played a captain's part in Roscommon's semi-final success over Armagh.

Pitted against Paddy Moriarty, Armagh's most renowned performer, Danny had his problems in the first half as Roscommon disappointed. But when the Westerners rallied after the break, he was an inspiring figure at left wing-back mastering Moriarty with style.

Producing impressive form as an attacking defender Danny put immense pressure on the Armagh rearguard with his darting sorties upfield. And when tension was at its zenith and the game hung precariously in the balance, he capped a sterling display with a magnificent point which did much to steer Roscommon on course for victory.

The score came in the 63rd minute and brought Roscommon level shortly after a soft Armagh goal had temporarily stymied their revival. The Connacht men, encouraged by the pace, determination and power which their captain portrayed when racing forward to score, were never to surrender the initiative again as they coasted to a six-point success in the closing minutes.

At the finish few wondered why twenty-four-year-old Danny Murray had been chosen by his team

mates to captain Roscommon, a fact which makes him unique among All-Ireland football skippers.

Normally the captaincy of a county team goes to a member of the champion club in the county. It is the traditional system which over the years has produced many fine leaders but has been abused on occasions.

Take a case where a strong club by-passes several members of its established inter-county men to appoint a first-season player as captain in the hope that the role will boost the newcomer's prospects of permanency and ensure extra representatives at county level for the club. I can recall instances of such appointments but that's another story.

On the odd occasion in the past when county champions failed to gain representation on the county team, the captaincy problem was solved in either of two ways.

Some counties appointed the longest-serving member of the team as captain while others preferred to present the defeated championship finalists with the task of providing a leader.

Roscommon have departed from both traditional methods, however, by letting the players themselves select the most suitable captain. It is a system calculated to mould a strong bond between the players thereby increasing the team spirit.

The emergence of Danny Murray as captain seems to confirm its success for Roscommon and other counties might do well to copy them.

Danny has played a major part in Roscommon's surge to prominence and has established himself as one of the most exciting wing-backs in the game. He gained a Bank of Ireland All-Star award last year when he had a great season, highlighted by a super display against Cork in the league final. That was the day the current Roscommon squad achieved their sole national success to date.

A similar performance from Danny would be a tremendous boost to the Westerners as they chase even greater glory in the All-Ireland final. His duel with Ger Power, a former wing-back similar in attacking style to Danny Murray, should be one of the highlights of the game with both players well equipped with speed, control and cuteness.

It will be Danny's stiffest test but Roscommon folk are confident that he can emerge with flying colours though he may be forced to restrict his upfield advances.

Whatever happens, Danny Murray, who initially sampled inter-county football as a minor with Longford, will not be lacking in courage and he will be a worthy recipient of the Sam Maguire Cup, should Roscommon shock the holders.





★  
*Roscommon half-forward John O'Connor scoring a point in this year's semi-final with Armagh.*  
 ★

THE novel meeting of Kerry and Roscommon for the Sam Maguire Cup is by no means unique. Indeed, the last appearance by Roscommon in an All-Ireland senior football final was a losing one against Kerry in 1962.

The Southerners won by 1-12 to 1-6 in a match that carved out its own special brand of history. It was Kerry's 20th title, which then put them ahead of all other counties in the All-Ireland senior title winners list in both codes, and their captain, Sean Og Sheehy became the first son of a successful All-Ireland captain to follow in his father's footsteps in that regard of leading national title winning sides.

Kerry took an early and decisive grip on the exchanges. The match

was only a minute old when Gerry McMahon, the Kingdom's right full forward, was through for a goal.

They added on five points before Roscommon opened their tally with a penalty goal after twenty minutes. Kerry kept in control of the situation after the restart, and forged out a most convincing victory.

Their team included Mick O'Dwyer at left half back, Mick O'Connell in midfield, Tom Long at full forward, the late Paudie Sheehy at left full. Three Sheehy brothers, in fact, helped Kerry to that win, as Niall was at full back.

But back to the unique angle. And, Roscommon return to Croke Park with an historic achievement to their credit. They won their fourth

# NOVEL FINA

BY TERRY

Connacht title in succession last July, not a record for the province admittedly, but the first such sequence by Roscommon.

And, Kerry probably broke new ground as well in Munster. They had a bye to the provincial final this year, so they could emerge All-Ireland champions again after only three games.

Roscommon opened their provincial title defence with a run-away 9-19 to 1-10 win at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon, over London. Michael Finneran with 3-3, and Tony McManus with 3-2, led the scoring spree.

Galway provided the next challenge to the Connacht champions. But with John O'Gara in fine form at midfield, Gerry Connellan and Danny Murray in defence, and Tony McManus in attack very much to the fore, Roscommon proved equal to the occasion on a 1-14 to 0-10 scoreline. The game was played at Tuam.

Mayo journeyed to Dr. Hyde Park to meet the champions in the concluding game of the Western year. The attendance was 17,880, but truth to tell enthusiasts got little to enthuse over.

Dermot Earley and Seamus Hayden provided the home attack with a good supply of the ball, and Tony McManus, Michael Finneran and John O'Connor and company combined so well and took their chances in such fine fashion that



# AL PAIRING

## McGRATH

Roscommon strolled comfortably enough to their first four-in-a-row of Connacht senior titles. The 3-13 to 0-8 win also earned them their 16th crown.

Roscommon renewed rivalry in the All-Ireland semi-final with Armagh, the county that beat them in a replay in 1977 for a place in the decider. The Westerners' cause looked hopeless when they trailed by five points at the interval, as they were outplayed by a lively Northern outfit in that opening period.

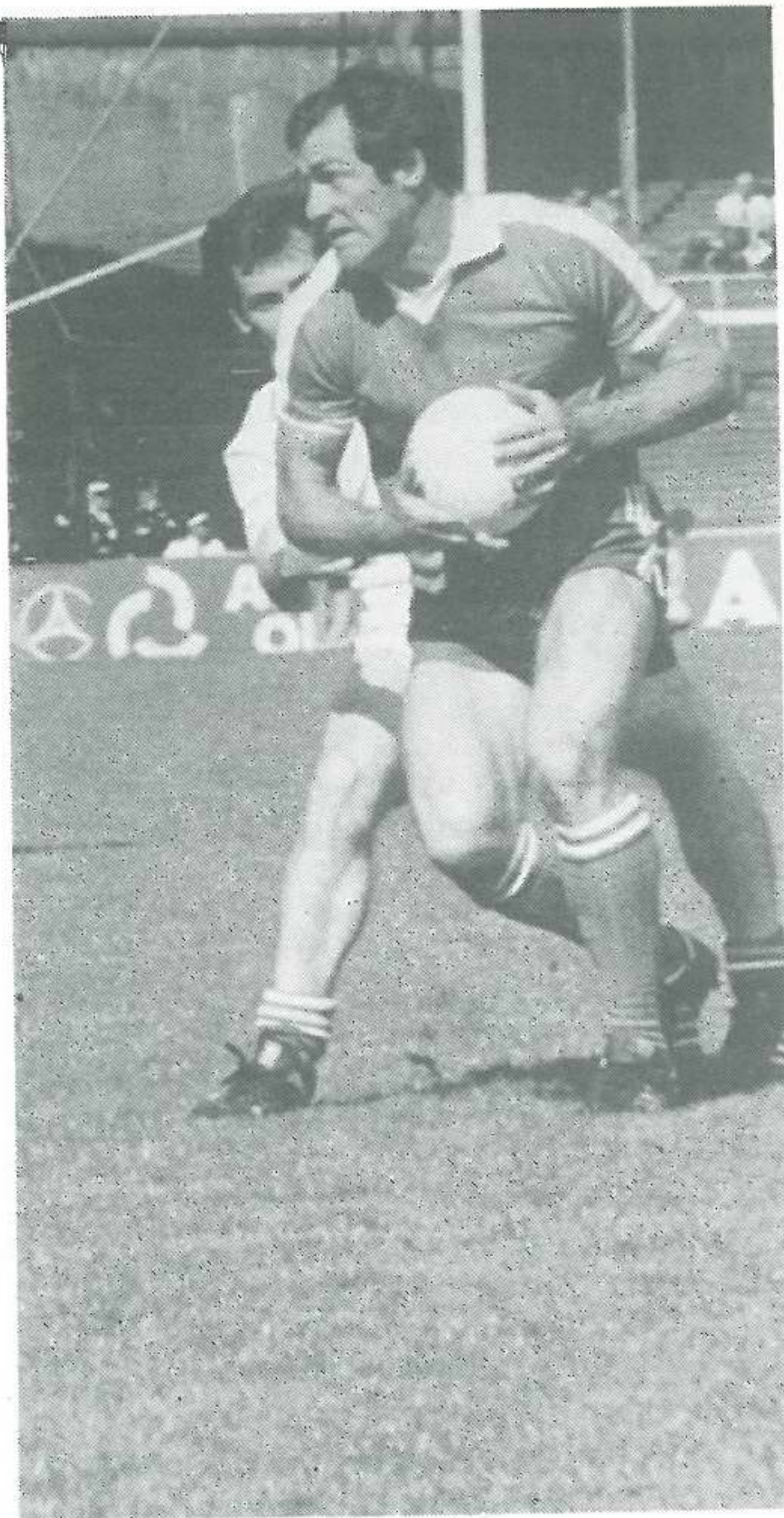
But Roscommon struck resolutely to their task, and fifteen minutes into the second half they were on level terms following a Tony McManus goal. Spurred on by that score, the Connacht champions kept up the pressure to finally win the day rather handsomely in the end by 2-20 to 3-11.

The introduction of Martin McDermott early in the second half to midfield had a big say in turning the scales Roscommon's way. Danny Murray, Michael Finneran, who scored a noteworthy 1-8, and John O'Connor were others to stand out for Roscommon, as they turned apparent defeat into a first final appearance in 18 years.

Kerry chasing their first treble of All-Ireland senior titles since the 'Forties, looked to have a very stiff opener against Cork at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. The Leesiders went into that game buoyed up by a



*Tim Kennelly of Kerry in possession against Offaly in the second semi-final.*



memorable win over their traditional rivals in the National League final at the same venue in April.

However, Kerry took their revenge in the most authoritative manner possible. In ideal conditions before an attendance of 43,360 they took complete control all over the field, and a final that promised so much proved an anti-climax.

With cool, confident and precision football, Kerry marched to a half-time lead of 1-8 to 0-5. Even the loss of Jack O'Shea with an injury six minutes into the second half, did not unduly upset their rhythm, and with their forwards in particular hitting a great day, Kerry made it six Munster titles in a row and fifty-nine in all with a 3-13 to 0-12 win.

The All-Ireland semi-final with Offaly produced a feast of goals. The Leinster champions surprised many with their spirited bid but one felt that Kerry had the ability to hit back from each Offaly score, and all round their performance in a 4-15 to 4-10 win was a first-rate one. Once more, their attack looked particularly impressive as every member put his name on the score sheet.

A short, snappy and impressive run-in, then, for Kerry. Will it prove the prelude to the presentation of the Sam Maguire Cup to Ger Power or Danny Murray?

Murray is in line to become only the second Roscommon man to captain his county to an All-Ireland senior crown. Although two titles

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## ■ FROM PAGE 27

have been won by Roscommon, they were led to those 1943 and 1944 successes by Jimmy Murray.

This is Murray's first season to skipper the county team. He plays club football with St. Faithleach's, but started his inter-county career with Longford as a minor. Murray, who has played in attack with Roscommon, was one of the heroes at left half back in the win over Cork last year for the county's only National League title so far.

Danny, one of the best attacking half backs in modern football, was honoured by the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors in 1979, and won his fourth Connacht senior medal in July. He is twenty-four.

Ger Power, who plays club football with Austin Stacks, is one of the most accomplished members of that exclusive company of players who have won All-Ireland medals as a back and a forward.

It was as a forward that he played his part in Kerry's win over Roscommon in a replay in the 1974 National League final, but the All-Ireland senior final of 1975 saw him shine at left back as a young Kerry side dethroned Dublin.

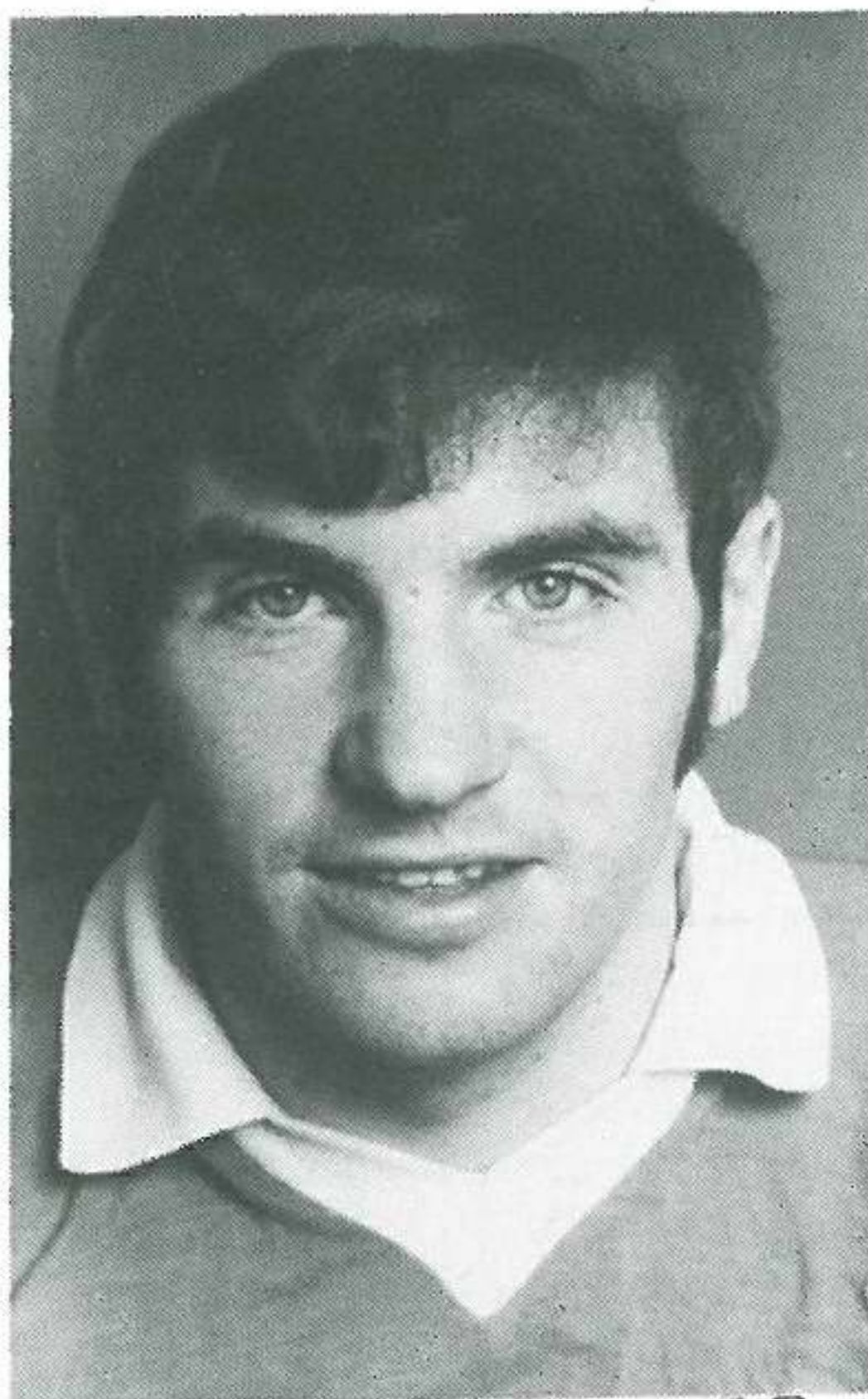
In more recent times, however, Power, who is twenty-eight, has been a key figure in Kerry's sweeping and so successful attacking movements. He has won every honour in the game, with the exception of that of leading the county to a Sam Maguire Cup triumph. Power, who has also collected Railway Cup medals with Munster as a back and forward, is in line for his third All-Ireland senior souvenir. An injury kept him out of last year's final win.

Harry Keegan, whose career has been interrupted by an injury, had his first appearance with the county senior team against, wait for it, Kilkenny in a National League tie back in 1972. He was the youngest member of the Roscommon team that won the 1972 provincial senior

title, and now at twenty-nine, he has five Connacht medals to his credit.

A member of the Castlerea St. Kevin's club, he failed a late fitness test for the team that brought the National League title to the county some eighteen months ago, but was honoured by the Carroll All Stars selectors in 1978.

Charlie Nelligan has been such a prominent figure in football for so long that it is somewhat hard to



● *John Egan (Kerry)*

credit he is only twenty-three. He had a long innings in the under-21 grade, winning three All-Ireland medals between 1975 and 1977.

One of the most accomplished goalkeepers the game has seen, Nelligan plays club fare with Desmonds, and is chasing his third All-Ireland senior souvenir. He was in the team that last brought the National League crown to Kerry in 1977.

Michael Finneran, who is proving one of the most exciting young chance-snappers in football just now, is twenty-one and has graduated from the minor inter-county ranks.

An interesting point about his senior call-up is that it came in 1977 after he had assisted Roscommon at

minor in a curtain-raiser. Finneran, who won his third Connacht senior medal in July, plays with Western Gaels in local competitions.

Tom Doyle is a member of the Annascaul club, and is twenty-four. He took over for the injured Ger Power in last year's All-Ireland senior final — his first medal in the premier grade. But he helped Kerry to their 1975 and 1977 under-21 national title wins.

Doyle won his first Munster senior medal in the 1978 summit, and he played in the last two successful Southern final outings by Kerry.

John O'Gara may well add to the list of New York-born All-Ireland senior medalists, who include Mick Higgins, of Cavan (1947, 1948 and 1952) and Jim Crowley, of Dublin (1958).

O'Gara, a member of the Roscommon Gaels club, was born in the famed American city, but has been living in Ireland since an early age. He played Colleges' fare with Summerhill College, Sligo, and has represented Roscommon in senior in a number of positions, including midfield and the attack.

It was at centre-half forward that he won his National League medal last year, and he played in each of Roscommon's record-making four winning Connacht finals in a row. He is twenty-eight.

John Egan scored the last gasp goal that gave Kerry a dramatic draw in the 1974 National League final with Roscommon. The Kingdom won the replay — Egan's first of two medals in the points competition.

This Sneem club man, one of the best goal-getters in the game, is twenty-seven. He was a member of Kerry's All-Ireland under-21 title winning XV of 1973, and has been prominent with the county in each of the three Sam Maguire Cup wins since then.

Egan, who had a superb game in the win over Offaly, has collected three Railway Cup souvenirs, and was honoured by the All Stars selectors in 1975, 1977 and 1978.



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# Three-in-a-row for crafty Kerry

By  
EAMONN  
YOUNG

WHEN the Green and Gold run on to Páirc an Chrócaigh on September 21st we're going to see a good team. Of that I have no doubt. That night we may be calling it a great side. Seventy flying minutes will help us all to decide.

That Offaly game, which must be our yardstick was a remarkable encounter with thirty-three scores, eight of them goals, in seventy minutes. Four of the goals were thrown into the net and three shots were palmed over the bar. At least two open goals were missed in addition to three scorable frees. Two men got all of one side's scores, one with an unusual 2-9. Everybody ran like mad, generally no one marked up and all the crowd loved it.

I don't like the style that has evolved in the last few years and feel that the game as a spectacle has fallen as a result of Congress's failure to restore the ball-playing imbalance created by the outlawing of the third-man tackle and the blind eye turned on ball-throwing. The game in the last few years has not been versatile enough, hasn't shown us in reasonable proportion the great variety of football skills but as the game is now played the players of both Offaly and Kerry deserve a real pat on the back for putting up such a stimulating entertainment. Skill, speed, fitness in general . . . these boys could play football well no matter how Congress twisted the rules. This game could be another fine one.

Opinions on Kerry range from the pallid to the ecstatic depending on the age and affiliation of the speaker. The soundest is as usual via the media. To take the Kingdom's weaknesses first I am just now wondering if injury will affect them in any way. Ger Power, Mike Sheehy, Ogie Moran, Tom Doyle, and perhaps a few more have been hurt or in hospital in the last twelve months. Many of the injuries have fortunately been slight and no player escapes over seasons of hard graft but one must not forget that most of this panel has trained over the last six years with an intensity that has strained mind and body. No Kerryman should complain: the results have been worth it.

The remarkable 4-10 scored by Offaly must raise a question. How solid are the Kerry backs? Just imagine that after scoring 4-15 you win only by five points. If an hour before that game one knew that Ua Failghe would score 4-10 would anyone fail to put money on them? It is clear that in 1980 marking is not as careful as it was in '70.

To-day the game has not speeded up for the ball usually moves slower, but the players have. So they run hard, going forward and many don't worry about their own places or their own men any more. A forty yard point by a defender often blinds the selectors' eyes to the scores his opponent gets at the other end and an estimate of a defender's performance is not now always linked to his opponent's scores. Here I think is Kerry's main weakness; they run hard with the ball, keep possession as long as possible and the primary object of each man is to get the ball to his comrade by lawful means. Backs solo, hand-pass and generally over-play the ball. Obviously this makes for error and scores by the other side. I'm convinced that after one month's defensive indoctrination no team would score 4-10 on Kerry. The need to score more at the far side wouldn't then arise.

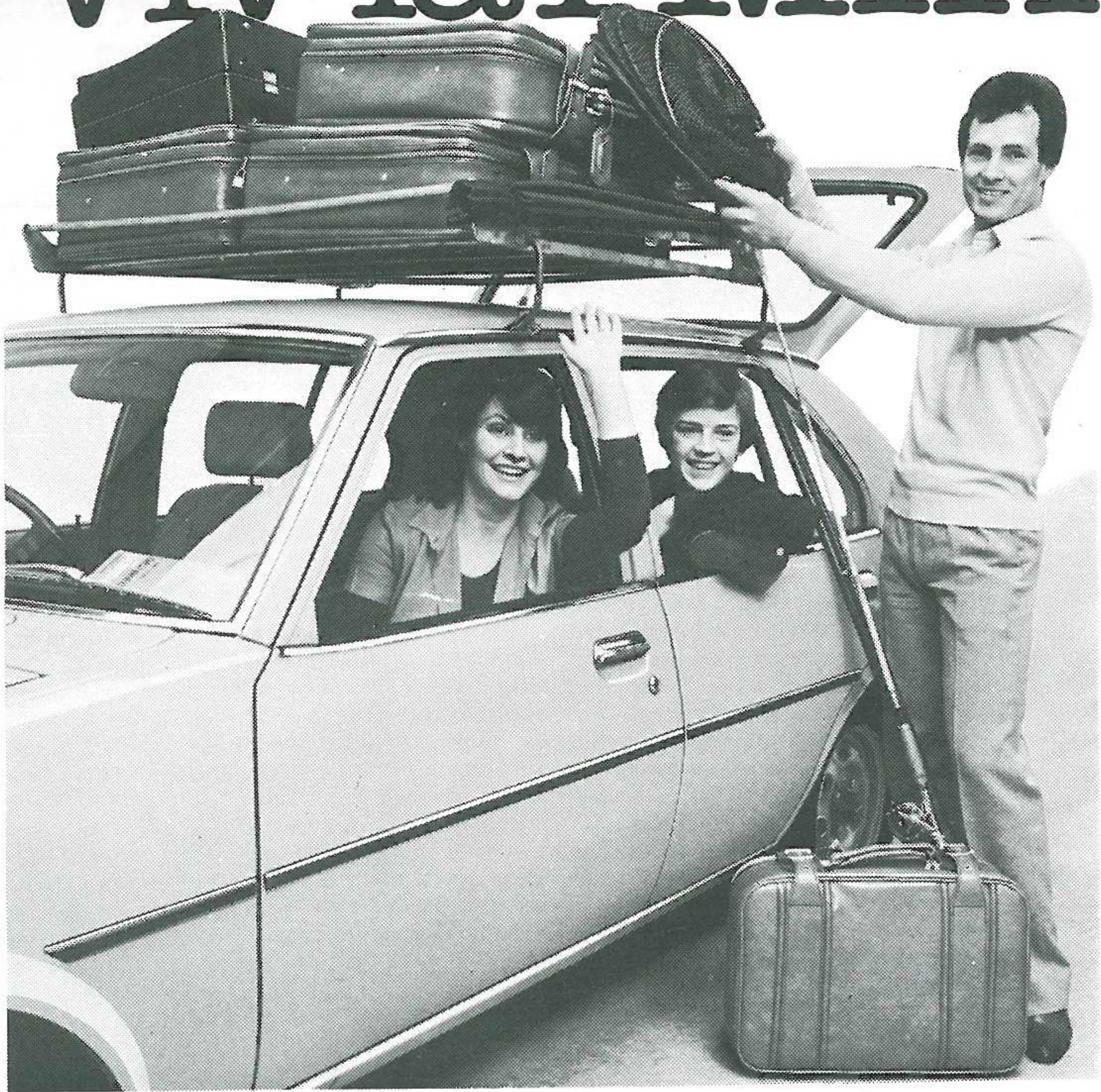
To-day while some players fetch splendidly the standard in that skill has generally dropped. The reason is quite clear. Once there were not so many footballs available for practice and from twelve years on, the lads had to jump high for possession or else get pneumonia watching the same fellows get the ball. Fetching is a skill that demands a gathering of the body (remember the high-jumpers in Moscow) a powerful launch from the right spot on the ground and a pair of sky-stretched arms. These are far more important than the few inches which separate the tall from the smaller man.

A few days ago a friend protested that a certain body could not play centre-field because he was too small at 5-10½. Does anybody remember Paddy Smith of Cavan who beat all round him at centre-field. Paddy was 5-6. Athlete Dick O'Rafferty leaped 6 feet 4 ins.; He stood 5-7½. When our young lads practise to-day there is generally no need to leap for a ball to get it off the other fellow for there usually are plenty footballs around. This improves ball control but reduces fetching ability, and the boys of yesterday are the men of to-day. I, along with most, didn't realise how far back we had gone in fetching until I saw the Australians play Kerry in Cork last year. The knees of the man from Down Under were usually at the shoulders of his opponent when he grasped the high ball. Several of the present Kingdom side are fine in the air but the standard generally isn't great. It could be if that were needed to win. For the moment they can win without this traditional hall-mark of Kingdom football.

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But why are Kerry so good? Why are they winning? The question is easy to answer.

In Mick O'Dwyer they have a hard dedicated man who believes in not losing. A champion player himself whose people before him played hard football this man has given spirited leadership in consistent and sophisticated effort. The fact that the trainer is already a champion is itself a wonderful help. Men trained by a John Treacy or Eamon Coghlan are more likely to win than lads of similar ability coached by a lesser athlete. There are many stories of O'Dwyer's training and they almost all cast a light on earnestness and dedication.

Next there is the age of this Kerry side. They are generally about the right age for top-grade football especially as they have played — and won — a lot. A player's durability usually is connected with the intensity of his career but despite this these fellows generally have a few more years in all of them depending on the maintenance of enthusiasm.

They are good footballers. My criticism of to-day's football style has often been misinterpreted as running down the players. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Players will play according to the rules laid down and will bend them to their own advantage, an aim enthusiastically supported by trainers and selectors. Sport is wonderful but winning is often essential. The fact that Kerry throw the ball around, toss it into the net or over the bar, over-playing quite often doesn't mean that they couldn't play any other style if that were necessary. The fact is, that as the game is now played they are (up to now) the best around. They have real ball-playing skill; they run hard and have the speed to carry the ball which often they prefer to kick. What harm: they're getting the scores.

Another slice of good luck they have going for them is in the size of the panel. There's nothing surer to get a man training at his game than the mental picture of another chap looking over his shoulder hoping for a place. I don't forget the bubbling enthusiasm of Ger O'Keeffe in Mick O'Dwyer's house last year as he talked of getting his place back or the earnestness of Ogie Moran working at quick recovery from a hernia operation or the regret of Ger Power (who like Ogie had helped so manfully with coaching Tipp young fellows for the Munster Council) at not being able to travel one Saturday because he didn't want to miss a Mick O'Dwyer training session in Killarney. Remember how long Sean Walsh was sub. How glad most counties would be to have Jim Deenihan, Paud Lynch, Jackie Walsh, Mickey O'Sullivan, Paud O'Mahony, Dermot O'Donoghue, John Mulvihill, Barry Walsh, Ger O'Driscoll and Brendan O'Sullivan as subs.

Kerry's final strength lies in the fact that in the country just now there is no great team. To win an All-Ireland a side does not have to be great though many are. The task is to beat the best around and just now there is nothing like the Galway three-in-a-row side or the Down team led by Paddy Doherty, the MacCartans, Leo Murphy, Joe



● Pat Spillane of Kerry (left) who scored 2.2 in his team's 4.15 to 4.10 defeat of Offaly in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Lennon, and Sean O'Neill. Perhaps Roscommon, Offaly, Armagh and Cork are about to break through but so far there is no established champion side to beat as there was six years ago when the modern Dubs made their kill.

I couldn't finish in a better way than to quote the opinion of a champion player, analytical coach and a perennial enthusiast for the game, Doney O'Sullivan of Killarney. "Our players are trained to sprint fast, to carry the ball well and they're better at the hand-passing than Dublin at their best. They are intelligent and dedicated to this job of winning. Only a very well-trained determined and crafty side will beat them. They're right to exploit the rules every way they can to win. Good luck to Roscommon if they can do it but honestly I don't think so. We're happy to have a side as good as the Kerry men of 1980".

So three in a row for Kerry or a day of delirium for Ros Comáin. Throw it in and thank the Lord for another All-Ireland.



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# Golden days and a pair of titles

BY  
SEAMUS  
O'CEALLAIGH



I HAD some very old connections with Roscommon. My mother, God rest her, was a farmer's daughter from Cloondahara, near Castlerea, and I spent many a pleasant holiday there, in days that cannot come again. The neighbours gathered in almost nightly, and the games of the Gael, both hurling and football, were often the subject of animated discussion.

I was often reminded of the fact that Castlerea was one of the earliest clubs to affiliate to the G.A.A., along with Athleague, Boyle, Creeve, Elphin, Kilbride, Roscommon Town, Strokestown and Tissara.

When a County Board was formed in 1888, Jasper Tully of Boyle, Editor of the "Roscommon Herald" was elected Chairman, although he was in Derry Jail at the time, the victim of a Coercion Court sentence. Johnny Rabbitte of Roscommon was appointed Secretary.

When a Connacht Council was established in 1902 only three counties were involved — Galway, Mayo and Roscommon, and the first Secretary was a Roscommon man — Frank Dorr.

In 1905 Roscommon won its first Connacht crown in Senior Football, and the following year made history by winning the Provincial Senior hurling title — the only occasion it was wrested from Galway all down the years. That season also, Derry and Roscommon, representing their respective provinces, met in a Railway Cup Finals at Ennis, with the Munstermen winning, 2-10 to 2-2.

Elphin William O'Briens were first winners of the Roscommon County Senior Football Championship, and it was this club that piloted the county to their 1905 success.

Roscommon were Connacht Champions again in 1912 and 1915, and in the former success one of the outstanding figures was Andy Madden — one of four Kilbride brothers, along with the Hessions and Matt Hevery. For high catching

and long kicking Andy had no equal in his time.

In the 1915 Connacht triumphs Tom Shevlin was the big figure. He was a nippy forward then but later gave great service in the full back berth. His was a long reign, for he played on the Ireland team against America in both the 1924 and 1928 Tailteann Games and was on the Connacht team when the Railway Cups were revived in 1927.

Other Roscommon stars of the 'twenties included "Coffey" Brennan, Tim Quigley, Dan Hague and Stephen Keigher.

The coming of the Christian Brothers to Roscommon brought a new impetus to things Gaelic, with both hurling and football put very much into the forefront.

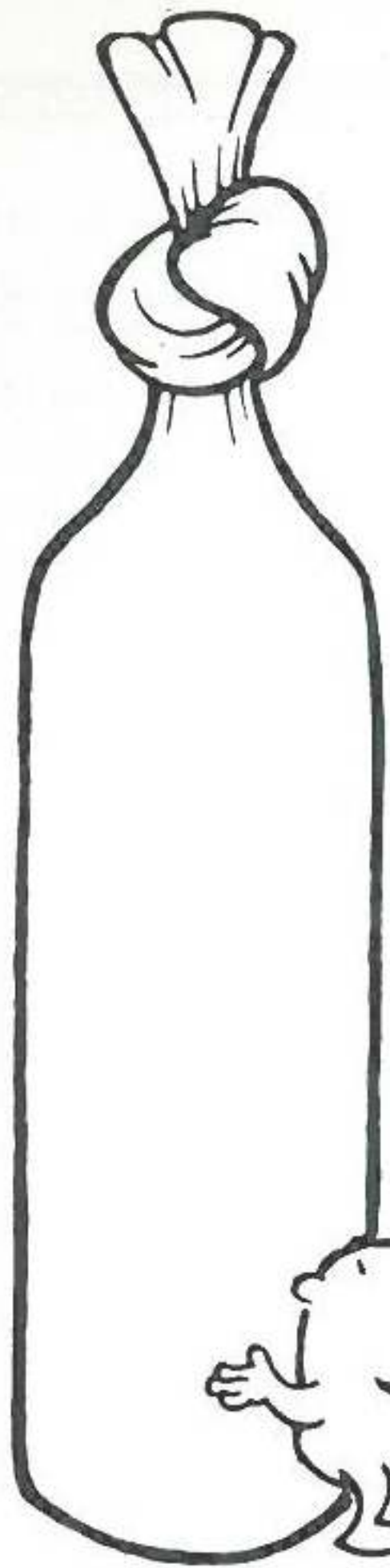
The County Board, spearheaded by men of the calibre of Dan O'Rourke, later G.A.A. President and J. J. Fahey gave active support, and the fruits were evident when minor All-Ireland honours were secured in 1939.

Roscommon Junior Footballers won the Connacht title in 1939, the same season Limerick Juniors won out in Munster. On the Shannonside fifteen were noted hurlers in Mick and John Mackey, Jacky Power and Tommy Cooke, and they journeyed to Galway on 27th August 1939, where Roscommon beat them, 2-9 to 2-4, in the All-Ireland Semi Final. That was my first acquaintance with some of the great figures that a few years later were to gain such renown when winning for Roscommon the All-Ireland Senior Football titles of 1943 and 1944.

A short time later, Roscommon were visitors to Glin, where they played Limerick in a National Football League game, and it proved a very interesting occasion, in view of the subsequent progress of the men from the sheepraising county, who were to win All-Ireland Junior Football honours in 1940, and the minor crown again in 1941, as a prelude to the winning of the Connacht Senior Football title two

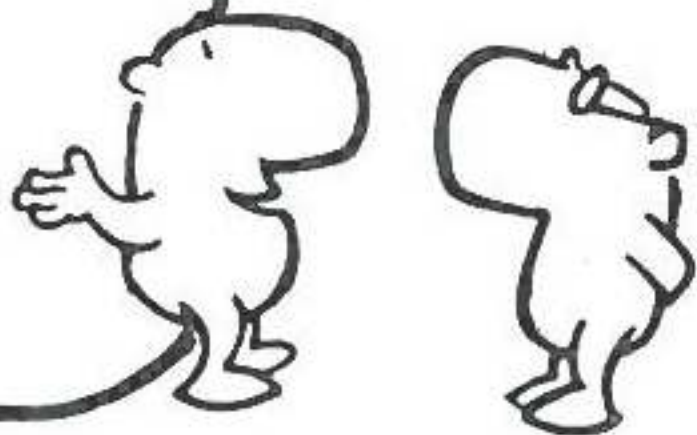
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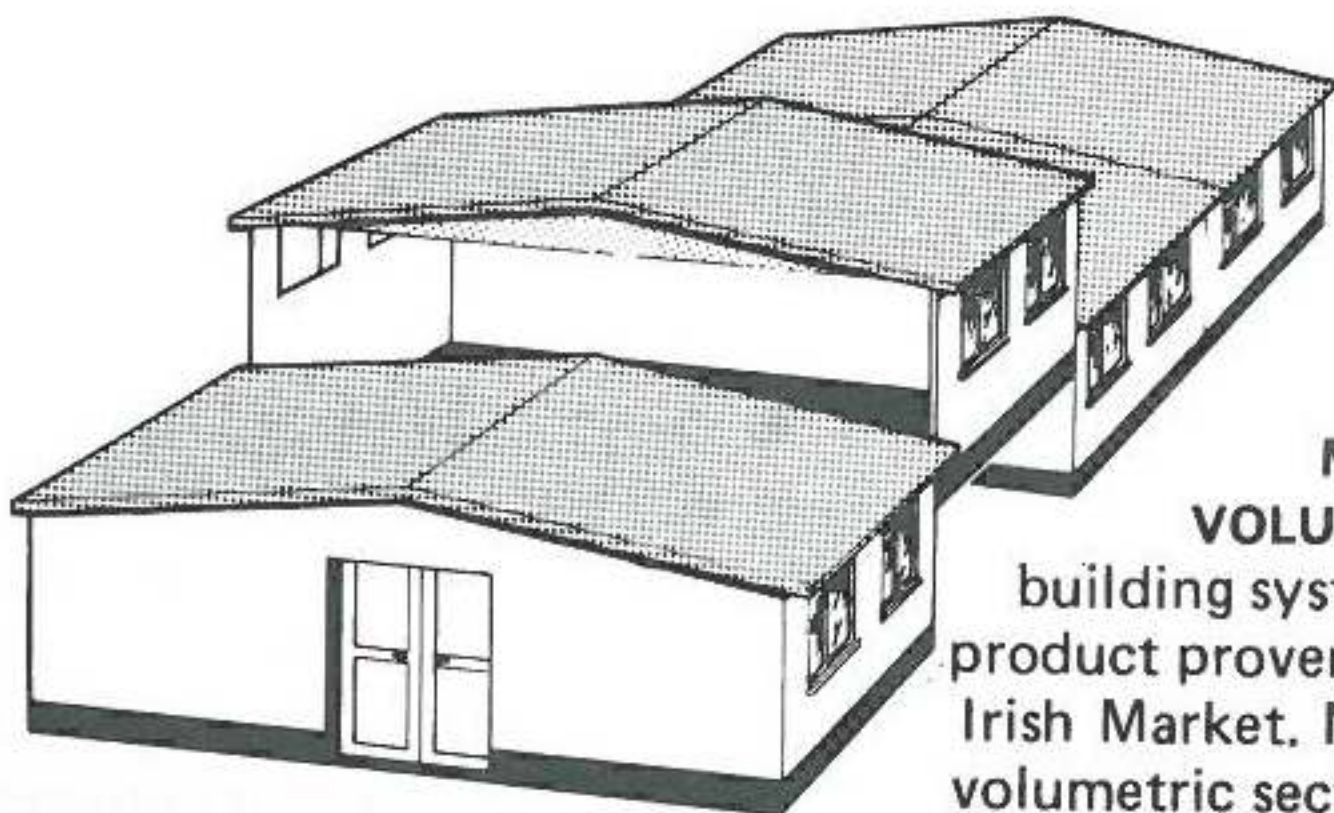


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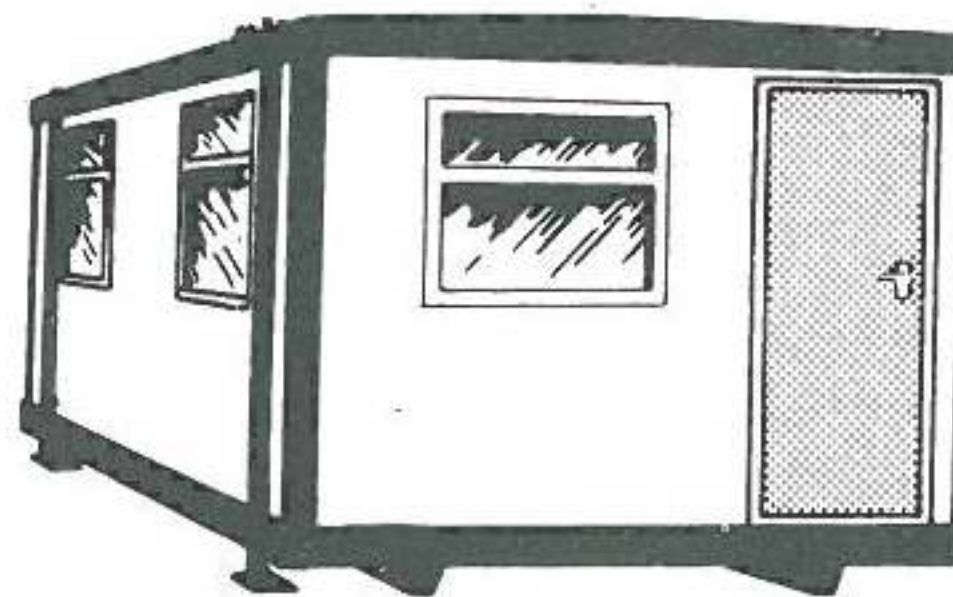
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● ROSCOMMON 1943-'44:  
 Back row—O. Hoare, J. Murray (capt.), P. Murray, J. McQuillan, F. Glynn, L. Cummins, F. Kinlough, L. Gilmartin.  
 Front—J. P. ('Doc') O'Callaghan, B. Lynch, D. Keenan, D. MacDermott, W. Jackson, W. Carlos, E. Boland.

★

● FROM PAGE 35

years later — for he first time since 1915.

Then followed the golden days and a grand pair of All-Ireland successes — the first against Cavan, who were beaten on a replay, 2-7 to 2-2, and then, that most satisfying of all wins, when the men from the "Kingdom" were encountered and overcome, 1-9 to 2-4. That was a remarkable occasion at Croke Park — a best ever to then crowd of 79,245, despite war time transport restrictions that included no special trains or motor cars.

In winning the only two finals in which they had played to that time, Roscommon equalled the long standing Limerick record, which was later surpassed by Down, who won all three All-Ireland finals for which they qualified.

The players who figured in those two great Roscommon wins were the toast of the County for many a long day, and almost all of them shared in the glory of the double triumph.

The Captain in both finals was Jamesy Murray, one of a family of six footballing brothers, all of whom played with St. Patrick's of Knockcroghery, winning county honours in both hurling and football. Jamesy helped to win Junior All-Ireland honours in 1940, and he figured with Connacht in

Railway Cup competition from 1941 to 1946.

Also participating in the two All-Ireland senior wins was his brother, Phelim, the holder of All-Ireland medals at College, Minor, Junior and Senior levels, who also won Dublin Senior Football Championship honours with U.C.D. in 1943.

Dr. Donal Keenan, whom we were to get to know a lot better in more recent times as G.A.A. President, was regarded as the best place kicker

in Ireland in his day, and he proved it, by kicking off his famous left leg with deadly accuracy five points each in both finals, that were to make such history for his county.

A man that impressed me a lot at the time, was "Big Bill" Carlos. I saw him first play that great day at Glin against Limerick. He must have been very young at the time. The winner of All-Ireland College medals in both codes, he won two

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# The mystical power of threes and sevens

By JIM BENNETT

**I**T is a poor lot that need any special sort of motivation to prod them towards their first All-Ireland. And, the next year, there is a certain pride that drives them to prove they were worthy champions the first year by taking the crown a second time. But, by the time you come to the third attempt, the special factor in their motivation usually reduces itself to a kind of numbers' game.

There is a mystique attached to things that go in threes — luckily for such as Mick O'Dwyer whose task it is to drive the Kerry men — and, indeed, to things that go in sevens, if Kerry should reach 1984 unbeaten. (On the evidence of the last couple of years there is nothing in the least outrageous in suggesting that they might well be unbeaten by that distant date.)

However, I am not at all satisfied that there is any special kind of efficacy in such purely mystical or intellectual "carrots". Maybe there are some who like the tidiness of three championships neatly stacked away in the records in some history book. Maybe there are others who like to string together a succession of wins in order to be able to boast that they were winners longer and more often than such-and-such a team in the distant past.

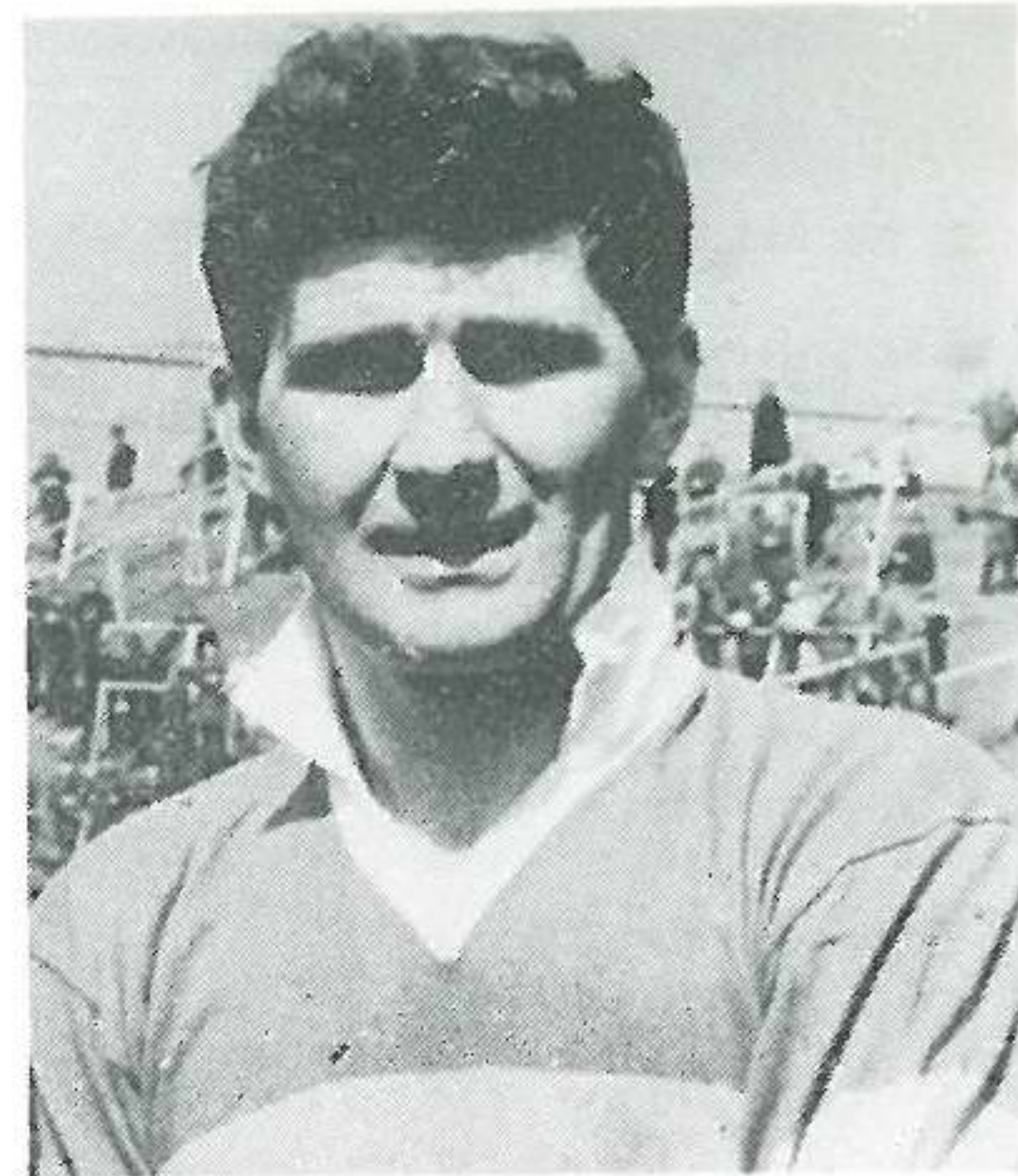
Mostly, however, I believe that the business of keeping on winning has less to do with such mathematical concepts than with the "gut pride" that will not allow men who have proved themselves champions to yield that position of distinction, with all the honour and glory and adulation that goes with it. It has taken pride in themselves to get to where they are; it is going to take one helluva lot to force them to give up that position of honour.

In any case, by tradition, Kerry like it on top of the pile; they are always uneasy and liverish and like a bagful of cats when some other county has the Sam Maguire Cup. So there is a continuous natural compulsion to keep it where it is.

And this, I think, would be a constant feature of Kerry, so that two wins, or three, or four, or more would not alter their attitude. They do not become blasé about such a thing as the All-Ireland. The only limitation that could apply to them is the fact that players become weary and their bodies are no longer able to follow the dictates of their hearts.

That must come one day for this Kerry team as for all others, but there are a number of reasons why one cannot see it lurking just around the corner. The most important of these is surely the defeat in the final of the National Football League this Spring — and by Cork, of all people. That must have kicked all the complacency out of this Kerry team and set their minds on the third-in-a-row as the only acceptable way of proving that they were not just another team.

The result of that set-back could be seen very plainly in the Munster final when they gained a very adequate compensation for the humiliation of the League final. Their win over Offaly in the All-



• Kerry trainer Mick O'Dwyer.

Ireland semi-final showed they were in rare form for that game too, though they did relax now and again and had a big score poached by Matt Connor — with a little help from his friends.

The challenge of Roscommon has been noted at first-hand several times in recent years and Kerry will be too clever to underestimate the danger they could present. For Roscommon have been there or thereabouts ever since they captured the League title, coming up and losing semi-finals in the last three years, yet learning something every time and reaching towards a peak of fitness, strength and stamina. This unremitting effort gives Roscommon a base rather similar to that of Kerry. If any county can match the fitness and strength of Kerry it will be Roscommon.

It also stands to the credit of the Western champions that they have a record against Kerry down the years that is very hard to beat. Their National League win in 1979 was such as to give them courage when their many disappointments could have got them down. Even if they lost by 3-11 to 0-8 in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1978, they made some amends when beating Kerry in the Under-21 final a few weeks later. And the most recent clash, in last winter's league at the quarter-final stage, was so closely contested and so often appeared to be going Roscommon's way that they will have no cause for

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sharpshooting full forward Terence McGuckin (Ballinderry), a brother of senior stars Mickey and Adrian, to find match-winning holes in the Kingdom rearguard.

Derry have tremendous potential as well in midfield. Damien Barton

(Newbridge) their captain, led the Vocational Schools team to the title, and his partner Danny O'Kane (Glenullin) was equally impressive at midfield with Maghera. They are likely to set a hot pace for the Kingdom pair.

The Ulster champions are

unlikely to give much away at the back either. They are well disciplined, cover off well, and the backs support each other to good effect.

Here, too, there is a blend of experience, provided by such as cool, competent full back Martin O'Brien (Loup), an All-Ireland Vocational Schools medalist this season, Martin Tully (Ballerin), at left full, and a link with St. Pat's, right full Barney McNabb, (Magherafelt), another Vocational Schools hero. I cannot see the Munster finishers finding it easy, then, to break through for scores.

But are Derry good enough to make it All-Ireland title No. 2? I think so, providing they produce the football of which they are capable from first to final whistle, and not in fits and starts.

I thought the Northern boys were inclined to take matters a little too casual at times against Mayo, particularly when in front. That could prove very costly against Kerry, who are such renowned and doughty championship battlers, and have time and again proven in many a match in all grades and competitions that they are never beaten until the final whistle.

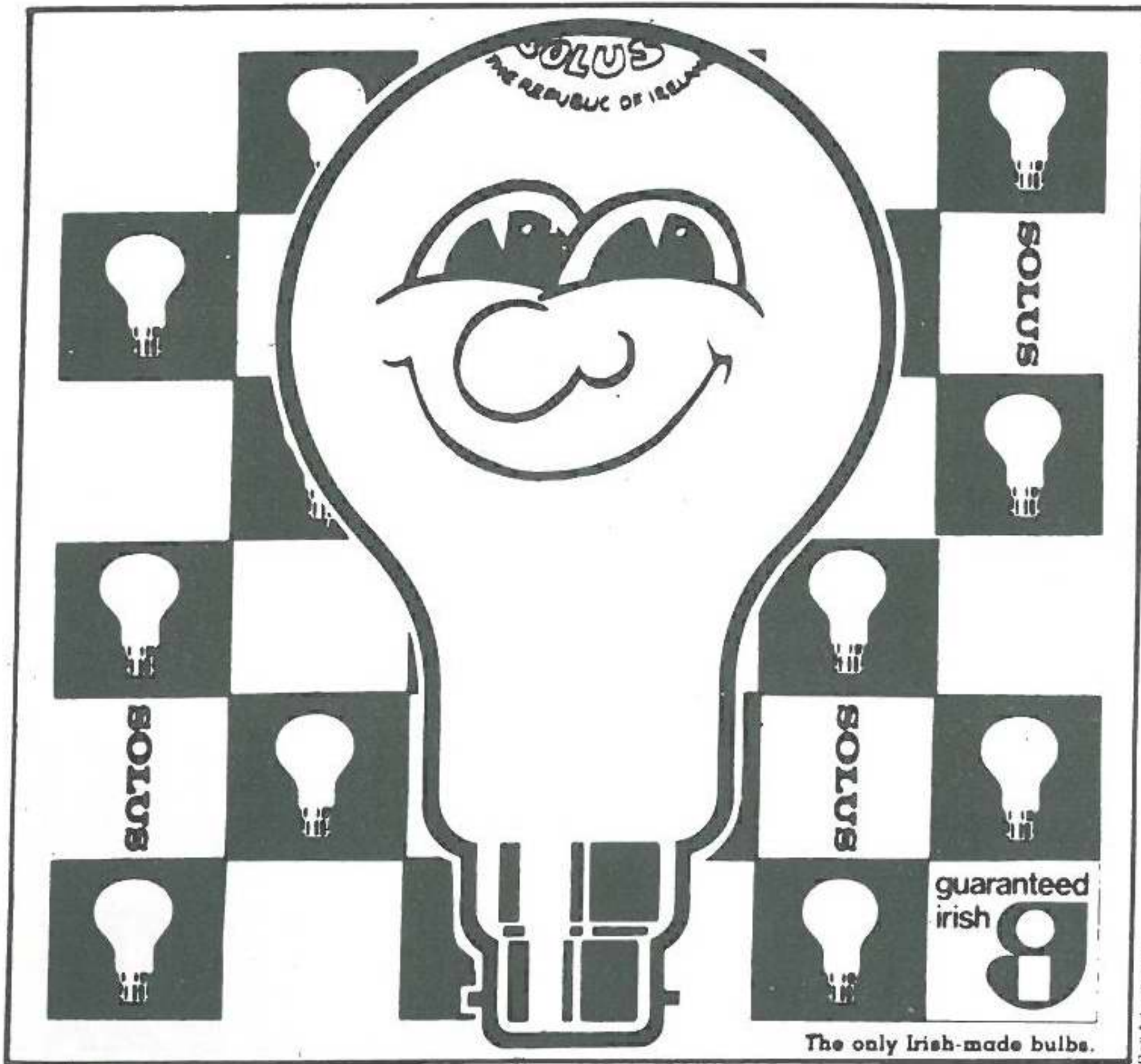
However, in the belief that Derry will top off their many strong points and individual skills with ceaseless effort from first to final whistle, I look to them to go one better than their last All-Ireland final appearance at minor in 1969 when they lost to Cork.

The winners are awarded the Tom Markham Cup, which commemorates Mr. Tom Markham, a Dublin Gael, and was first presented for the 1940 final. Louth were the initial winners.

Tyrone brought the trophy across the Border for the first time in 1947, and Down scored the North's last final win in 1977.

Kerry share leadership in the winners' list with Dublin on eight titles. The Southerners were first champions in 1931, and they beat Northern opposition — Tyrone, in their last glory day of 1975.

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# Formidable forward power

By NOEL HORGAN

MANY words have been penned regarding the power of Kerry's attacking sextet and it is true that they are a devastating unit when they are in full flight. But Roscommon's forward division, while lacking the overall balance of the Kerry men, are also well equipped in the art of scoring.

If Kerry's defensive slackness, which was fully exploited by a Matt Connor-inspired Offaly attack in the semi-final, persists for the decider, then the Kingdom will be sternly punished.

In Tony McManus, John O'Connor and Mick Finneran, Roscommon possess three forwards of the highest calibre and each man is capable of inspirational feats.

McManus at full-forward never gives up trying. Although the ball did not run kindly for him in the first half of the Armagh game, his appetite for work was not satiated and he produced a stong performance afterwards, encouraging his colleagues by his exhortations and deeds. Tony's never-say-die attitude will pose problems for Kerry's elegant full-back, John O'Keeffe.

John O'Connor is enjoying a tremendous season and was superb

in the Connacht final. His penchant for grabbing long-range scores, a rarity these days, makes him an invaluable asset.

Michael Finneran, however, is Roscommon's most prolific scorer and stands second behind Matt Connor of Offaly in the



● Michael Finneran, Roscommon's most prolific forward.

national scoring charts. An ace free-taker he bagged a handsome tally of 1-8 against Armagh with seven of the minor scores coming from placed balls.

Michael "made" another goal for Tony McManus when he prised open the Armagh defence with a deft dummy and presented Tony with the easiest of goal-scoring chances.

Yes, there is no doubting that Tony McManus, John O'Connor and Michael Finneran are a top-class trio, who if given sufficient freedom, could inspire Roscommon to a shock success over the champions.

Add in players like John O'Gara, Eamonn McManus, Tony Dooley and Martin Dolphin and the depth of Roscommon's forward power becomes apparent.

Former Roscommon star Gerry O'Malley has suggested that if Matt Connor could expose weaknesses in Kerry's rearguard almost single-handedly, then the combined efforts of the McManus brothers, O'Connor, Finneran and the rest will make an even greater impression.

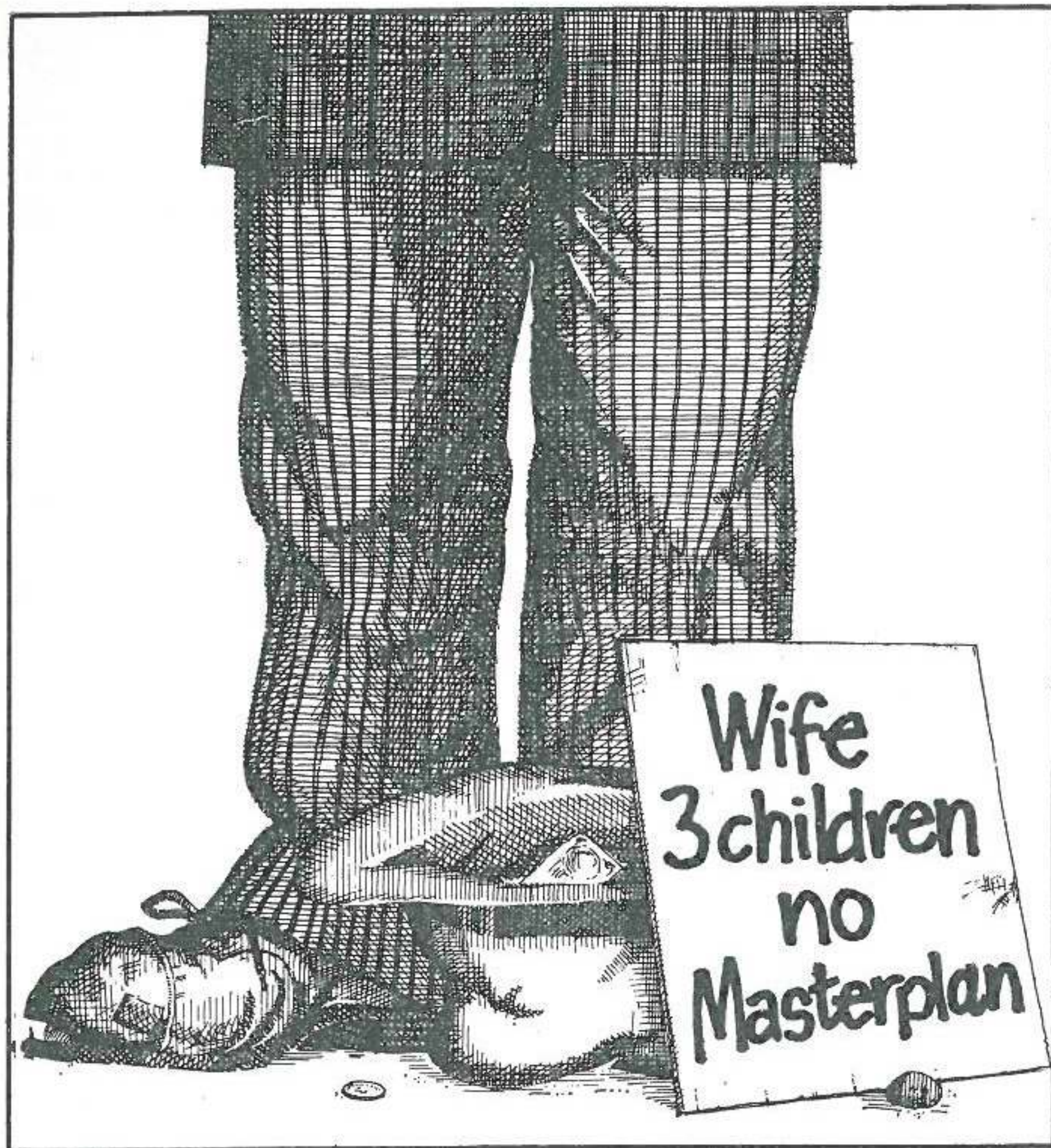
Certainly, the 1980 Kerry-Roscommon All-Ireland final seems destined to be a high-scoring affair.

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minor All-Ireland titles as well as the two Senior ones with Roscommon. Maybe his greatest achievement was in 1941, when he captained his county to All-Ireland Minor Football success, and also shone as a dynamic defender in the Connacht Senior Football decider. He was a great favourite with the fans, and many rated him a marvel for his years.

At the opposite end of the scale was the renowned "Doc" O'Callaghan, the veteran full back, who was to the fore in College ranks as far back as 1930. He was actually picked for his county whilst still a student at Summerhill College, and quickly gained a reputation as a safe handler of every type of ball, and who was never known to concede a close-in free. He was in later years a very popular referee, and an active member of the Connacht Council.

Frankie Kinlough, a versatile attacker and born opportunist, was a man of many parts. He first came to notice with St. Jarlath's of Tuam, and later played for Connacht Colleges. His first senior assignment was with neighbouring Offaly in 1940; in 1942 his club football was with Sean McDermotts of Dublin, and he was with Castleisland of Kerry, when he won the All-Irelands of 1943 and 1944 with his native Roscommon. His club was U.C.D. from 1945 to 1947, during which period he won two Sigerson Cups, as well as the Connacht Championships of 1946 and 1947 with Roscommon.

Another man who played with many clubs was Eamonn Boland, whom I remember for his high fielding and safe pair of hands, besides winning County Championship honours with his native Tarmon, he also played with Kiltoom in Roscommon, St. Margarets, Dublin; Donaghmore, Meath and Lees of Cork.

Liam Gilmartin was a powerful cut of a man, and one of the best we saw at midfield in his time; and then there was Jack Casserly, who was

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# CAMOGIE COMMENTS —

By Agnes Hourigan

**T**HE 1980 All-Ireland Camogie Finals certainly had a new look, with the Limerick Seniors and Tyrone Juniors contesting their first Finals in these grades, and Cork having reached both Finals for the fifth time.

For the first time since the introduction of the Open Draw in the Senior Championship in 1973 two Munster teams met lending to the game a certain Munster Final atmosphere.

On first sight, Cork appeared to have the teams of all the talent and experience, and the background and tradition as a support going into the Finals. The Rebel County was appearing in its twentieth Senior Final and was seeking its twelfth title. The Cork girls had been in seven Finals since 1970 and had taken the O'Duffy Cup home to the Lee on five occasions since then. Ten members of the present team had won Senior medals and their brilliant forward, Pat Moloney, was the recipient of the B & I-G.A.A. award in 1978.

En route to the Final the southern County defeated Antrim, the reigning champions, and Dublin, the 1979 National League winners, so they had certainly proved their worth. This team is a good blend of experience and youth, with the younger girls having served their apprenticeship in Junior and Minor ranks.

Indeed the young Corkonians have already built up quite a tradition of their own. The Juniors have reached six Finals since this competition began in 1968 and this was their third final in a row, having defeated Galway in the semi-final. Their only victory was in 1973 which might seem to be rather strange in view of the success of their Minor and schools' teams.

Cork has contested every Minor Final, except one, since the inauguration of this competition in

1974, and has lost only to Down. North Presentation won the Senior Colleges' Championship in 1980 and there have been many other successful schools' sides over the years. Perhaps the Juniors are caught between having their best join the Seniors while the Minors might be considered to be a bit young at under-sixteen to come into the Junior side. As the Minor team has already won this year's Finals, the Juniors were very anxious to ensure the second step of a Minor, Junior and Senior treble.

Limerick and Tyrone were just as anxious to prevent that feat.

Over the years Limerick has been quietly building up at schools' and Juvenile level, has been very successful in Féile na nGael and has had the Kilfinnane and Hospital schools in the Colleges' Finals of 1979 and '80 respectively. The strength of its clubs may be measured by the fact that Croagh/Kilfinny and Ballyagran have taken All-Ireland Club titles in recent years, while Ahane contested several semi-finals and finals.

Limerick was a Junior County until 1977 when it reached its first All-Ireland Final and won it, and subsequently moved into Senior competition. The captain on that historic day, Carrie Clancy, was chosen as the Junior Player of the Year, afterwards captained Munster and led her now Senior team to the 1978 and 1979 National League Finals. Now retired from playing, Carrie trains the present team and has seen her charges account for Derry, Down, and current League Champions Kilkenny. It must be an indication of the balancing of standards when a county so recently competing at Junior level reached the senior final.

Further proof of this is the fact that Tyrone, hitherto unknown at this level of competition, found itself travelling to Páirc an Chrócaigh for

the first time. These girls have been the surprise packet of the year. Ulster folk were delighted to see a county which has been working so hard in the promotion of the game take a long-awaited Ulster title. This was indeed a meritorious achievement as the Tyrone girls had to overcome, among others, the first winners of the new National Junior League, Armagh. They then took on and defeated the Leinster Champions, Louth, another surprise team. Only once before, in 1936, did Louth emerge from Leinster to be beaten by Cork in the Final. At that time there was Senior competition only.

Tyrone joined Down, Derry and Armagh as the fourth Ulster team to reach a Junior Final since 1970, while Antrim reached two Senior Finals. It is a tribute to the dedication of the Ulster people that, despite the difficulties which they encounter, they succeed in maintaining a standard as high as that of our other counties.

A closely contested senior game ended in a draw. Cork's Mary O'Leary scored 2-4 of her sides 2-7. The standard of play was very high and a draw was a just result. Pauline McCarthy starred for Limerick and Ann O'Sullivan scored the vital Limerick goal that brought the sides level.

The Junior title was won by Cork who defeated a gallant Tyrone, 4-4 to 1-4.

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noted for his great catch and kick.

In the less colourful 'fifties it would be hard to forget Gerry O'Malley, who played for Connacht in both hurling and football, and in one great season won three Connacht Championship medals — Senior Football, Junior Hurling and Four County Hurling. He played in both the Fitzgibbon and Sigerson Cups with U.C.G., and, in 1961, he was chosen as Footballer of the Year

by the Association of Gaelic Sports Journalists.

Others of that period I remember with relish are Pat English, Bert Lynch and Frank Kelly, but my contacts with Roscommon were fading by then, and visits to the County had ceased with the passing of Cloondahara and the last of the happy company that so often gathered there in days gone alas beyond recall.

## ROSCOMMON COUNTY CHAMPIONS

### SENIOR HURLING

Roscommon Gaels (17) 1902, 1903, 1904, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1931, 1938, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970.

Athleague (13) 1909, 1910, 1916, 1929, 1936, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1952, 1955, 1957, 1975, 1978.

Tremane (10) 1956, 1959, 1960, 1963, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1979.

Four Roads (9) 1945, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1954, 1958, 1962, 1971, 1977.

Tisara (3) 1905, 1906, 1907.

Elphin (2) 1925, 1937.

One each—

18th Battalion 1927.

Ballygar 1930.

St. Coman's 1951.

St. Patrick's 1967.

### SENIOR FOOTBALL

Elphin (14) 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1931, 1932, 1937, 1950, 1951, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957.

Roscommon Town (10) 1912, 1913, 1930, 1936, 1938, 1962, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1978.

Strokestown (7) 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1926, 1928, 1933.

St. Patrick's (6) 1942, 1943, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1949.

Clan na nGael (6) 1961, 1966, 1970, 1976, 1977, 1979.

Kilbride (5) 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1914.

Tarmon (5) 1935, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1947.

St. Brigid's (5) 1953, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1969.

Castlerea (4) 1967, 1968, 1971, 1973.

Donamon (3) 1919, 1920, 1925.

Tulsk (2) 1923, 1924.

Fuerty (2) 1929, 1934.

St. Coman's (2) 1944, 1952.

One each—

18th Battalion — 1927.

United Stars — 1960.

Shannon Gaels — 1964.

St. Faithleach's — 1965.

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throwing in the sponge before the contest begins in the 1980 All-Ireland final.

There is in these things a kind of cyclical movement, when the pendulum moves back and forth, and it is very possible that Roscommon's theory is right: that they have now passed Kerry, as they were on the upswing and Kerry were on the down-swing; that they are still improving and that they have not yet come into their real form but will do so in this final and, more particularly, after their victory in it which will release all the fountains of football in them.

If Roscommon can overcome a tendency, which is almost a disease, to allow their attention to wander during games, so that spells of great power and brilliance alternate with periods of somnolence, they will be a very dangerous threat. And if ever they are to be able to give their total concentration to a game it will surely be in this All-Ireland final — the biggest they have ever played by many a mile.

Another cause for hope among Roscommon followers must be the manner in which Kerry's midfield has been in the wars recently. Jack O'Shea has been on the easy list most of the summer and only just made the semi-final. He was quite good in that game, but not at his best. Any recurrence of his ankle trouble would be a heavy burden for Kerry. He will be under pressure to produce his very best form, for Sean Walsh's knock in the semi-final will surely cause him to be a little hesitant and nervous in those fifty-fifty situations.

Roscommon would not take it amiss if fortune threw them some little bonus by way of ill-luck for Kerry in the midfield placings. They have a perfectly adequate centre-field themselves, but one likely to gain supremacy only against an off-colour Kerry pair.

In other sectors, Roscommon must be studying carefully the way Offaly ventilated the rear of the Kerry defence. They have been

doing well in the inside line themselves this summer, where Tony McManus has developed a target-mentality something along the lines of Eoin Liston and where the corner men have developed their

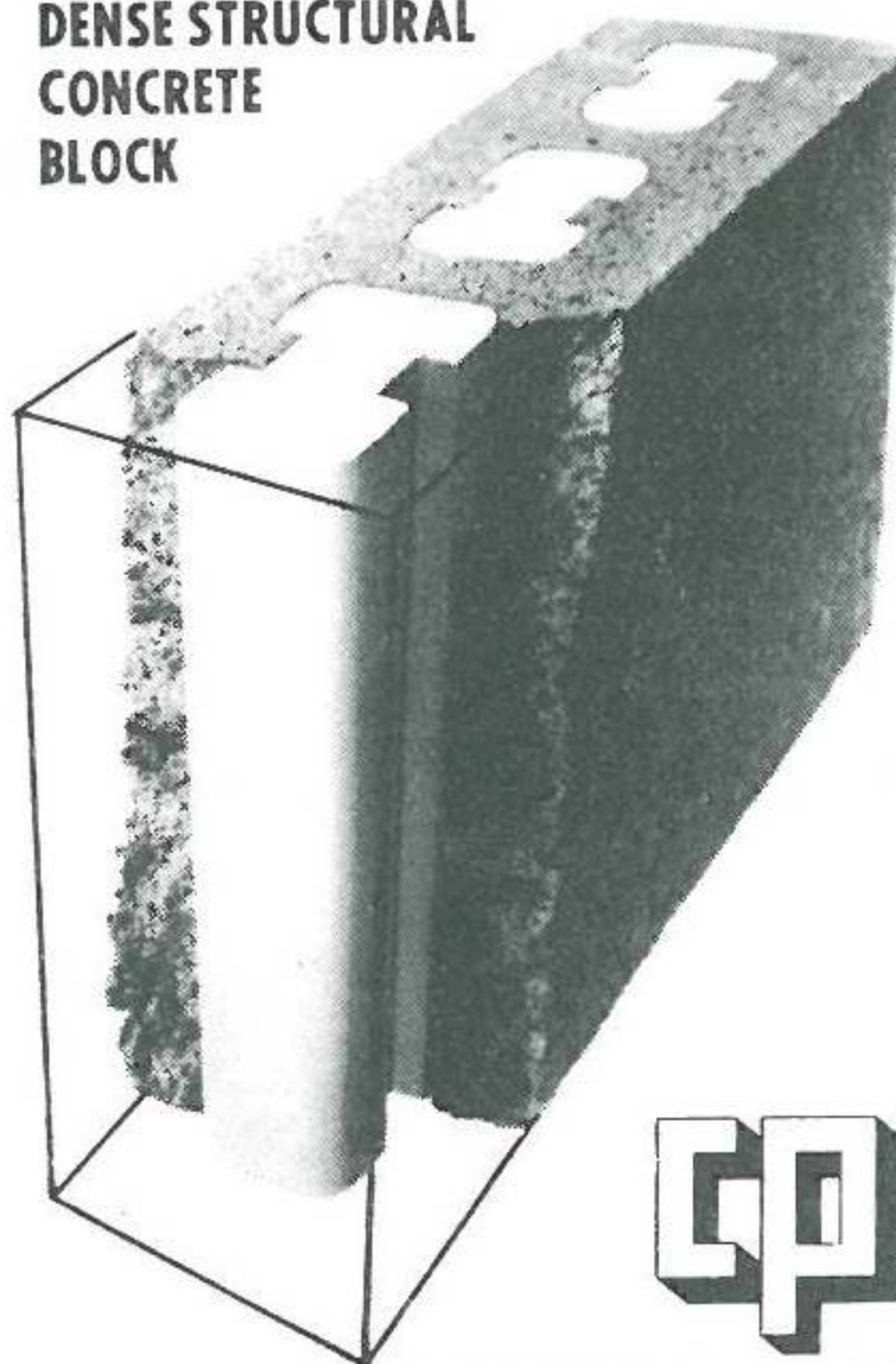
speed and opportunism in snapping up broken or passed balls.

Mind you, if Roscommon cannot exercise a lot of pressure on Kerry in those two zones (and they are

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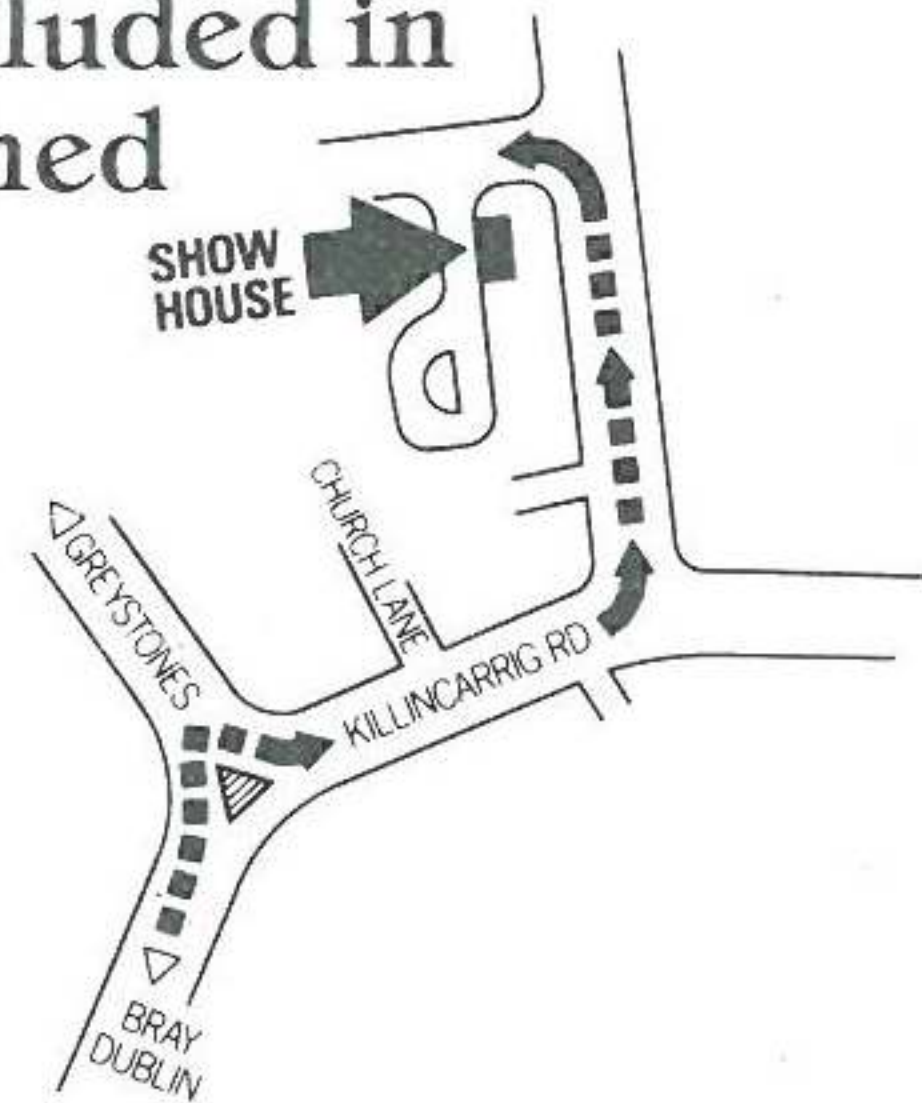


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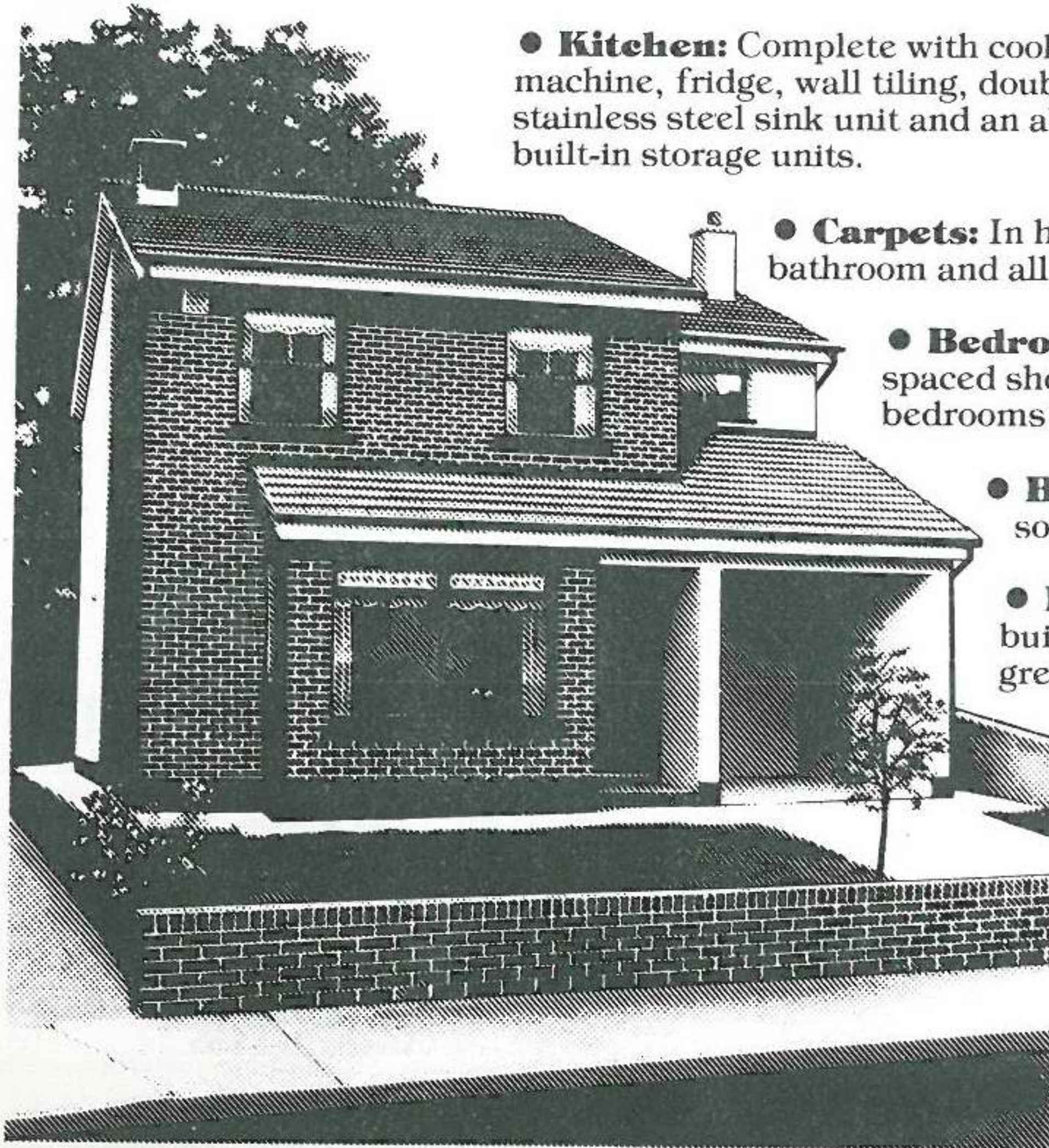
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# HANDBALL TRADITION IN ROSCOMMON AND KERRY

By SEAN CLERKIN

**I**N keeping with the aura of excitement that surrounds the clash of Roscommon and Kerry in the football final I consider it appropriate to link handball activities with the occasion and travel down memory lane in pursuit of notable achievements by players from these counties.

With handball tradition quite strong in both counties one can highlight great players in every decade, though, for this occasion, my spotlight will dwell on Paddy Perry of Roscommon and Kerry's renowned combination of Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien.

Perry is first into focus, simply because he is the most senior of the three, having completed his stint on the competitive front before the other two had started. He was born in Boyle in 1909 and showed a distinctive skill for handball from an early age though, unlike to-day, when a multiplicity of under-age competitions are in vogue, he had to wait until he was twenty to test his skill at All-Ireland level.

That was in 1929, when he won both the junior softball singles and doubles titles and thereby Perry gave the signal of his real potential. That was in the form of eight successive senior softball singles titles won between 1930 and 1937, with doubles titles in 1932 and 1933 together with a Tailteann Games in 1932 and a solitary hardball title in 1936.

Perry reigned supreme until the emergence of the great John Joe Gilmartin of Kilkenny fame and indeed, some of their clashes are rated as classics.

Their first major confrontation was at Clogh in 1937 when Perry, now the supreme master and holder of senior singles title for an

unprecedented seven successive years put his title on the line against the undoubted skill of Gilmartin.

It was a memorable game as the Kilkennyman threw every segment of his repertoire against the champion. Though beaten by three games to two it was obvious that Gilmartin was now a powerful challenge to Perry, as was evidenced the following year when he dethroned the champion at Nenagh by three games to one. Still, eight senior titles on the trot is some record and indeed, it may never be equalled.

When we revert to Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien of Kingdom fame our assessment must be that of the greatest all-round doubles pair of all time. Collectively they amassed the impressive total of thirty-three All-Ireland titles which included ten doubles crowns, three hardball and seven softball.

Both are products of the Fitzgerald Jones Club in Tralee and when one realises that this famous town did not possess a ballcourt until the late forties, the significance of their achievement becomes all the more apparent.

Jimmy O'Brien was the first to start on the championship trail and he has the distinction of becoming the first holder of the All-Ireland Minor Softball Singles Title in 1949. Thereafter Jimmy was drafted straight into the senior grade where he had the distinction of winning three doubles titles in partnership with Joe Hassett.

Downey who made his way into senior ranks by winning two junior titles in 1951 also had the distinction of partnering Hassett to victory in an All-Ireland Final.

This was in 1953 when O'Brien was not available and it is interesting

to note that they beat great Wexford rivals John Doyle and John Ryan despite losing the first three games.

At that stage, Hassett retired and thus commenced one of the most famous and successful partnerships in the history of handball.

Downey and O'Brien became masters in the eyes of opposition in search of glory.

They added one title to the next with lightning rapidity while

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## DEVOTED TO THE VIEWS OF OUR YOUNGER READERS

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**A**LL-IRELAND football final. Didn't Kerry look unbeatable at times v Offaly? And what a natural footballer supreme is Matt Connor — surely an All Star this year? And what a footballer too is Mickey Finneran of Roscommon? It all adds up to an exciting All-Ireland Day. Will Derry minors do the trick? Will Kerry make it a double and bring off the 3-in-a-row? Or will it be Roscommon's year? These are all the unanswered questions now.

**EUGENE HUGHES**

Our Cut-Out this month is Monaghan's Eugene Hughes. When all around him caved in against Kerry in last year's All-Ireland semi-final, the lionhearted Eugene Hughes threw caution to the winds and went at the Kerry men with their own game. He wasn't overawed by the occasion or the opposition. This year again in the S.F.C. game v Down at Newry I saw him inspire his team mates in the second half. A great inspiration is Eugene Hughes.

**YOUTH ANNUAL**

The G.A.A.'s first ever Youth Annual will, it is hoped, be ready for the Football Final. I look forward to its appearance and will review it in the November issue. It's past time that we had one to compete with the imported ones.

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## MAILBAG

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**Eileen O'Shea, Charleville, Co. Cork** "I think the Sunday Game is very good. Keep up the good work Liz Howard, Enda Colleran, Sean Óg and Mick Dunne. Gaelic Stadium should be extended during the peak G.A.A. months. The All-

Ireland S.H. Final should be held in Thurles. My favourite players are Ray Cummins (H.) and Denis Allen (F.)"

• *Are you listening Fred Cogley? (J.M.)*

**Oliver and Jarlath Kerr, The Bungalow, Carrickmore, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.**

"My cousin and I are both writing this letter. Our favourite team is St. Colmcille's, Carrickmore. We won the Tyrone S.F.C. three times in a row '77-'79 and the S.H. Cup in '79. Our daddies remember when you were on the Galway team. We were at Clones for the Armagh v Tyrone game. My cousin is on holidays at our house for two months"

• *I'm beginning to feel old! Oliver and Jarlath win a Tyrone G.A.A. scarf each. Keep writing. (J.M.)*

**Damian, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.**

"I have been a fan of the Dubs for the past six years. Although they lost to Offaly I reckon they are still a good team. The young stars are blending well with the more experienced players. Barney Rock is a great placekicker. Fran Ryder is my favourite player on the team. He deserves an All Star this year. Tony Hanahoe is greatly missed on the field of play. I wish Brian Mullins a speedy recovery. Finally my thanks to all the Dubs for the great enjoyment they gave us over the past six years. I was thrilled to be one of their many fans on Hill 16. They remain for me and for all the Dublin fans the "Super Dubs"

• *Nice tribute Damian. Send on your surname next time and stay supporting Dublin on the Hill (J.M.)*

**Michael Rowsome, 2 Sheehan's Tce., Newcastle West, Co. Limerick** "Junior Desk is great. I was at the Munster S.H. final and it was a great

match. Jimmy Carroll was my Man of the Match. He outplayed Tom Cashman. Tommy Quaid was great in goals. He is the best goalkeeper in Ireland. Olly O'Connor is a very promising player. My favourites are those mentioned and Leonard Enright."

• *You win a Limerick G.A.A. Bob Cap (J.M.)*

**Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway** "I have been on the U-16 Gort football team and was vice-captain of the Gort Féile na nGael team in July. Please have a Cut-Out of Michael O'Hehir. I have counted the Cut-Outs since they started and the count is 12 Galway and Cork, 10 Kilkenny, 9 Kerry, 8 Tipperary, Offaly and Dublin, 7 Wexford, 5 Roscommon and Derry, 4 Limerick, 3 Meath, Mayo, Clare, Donegal, and Laois, 2 Sligo, Down, Antrim, Longford, Waterford, Kildare, Armagh, 1 Cavan, Tyrone, Leitrim and Fermanagh.

Carlow and Westmeath have never got a Cut-Out. Finally I was disgusted at the way Armagh and Roscommon supporters booed every time a free was being taken at the All-Ireland semi-final. One other idea. Why don't you have a Gaelic Sport Reader of the Year Quiz at the end of the year based on the year's issues of the magazine? Tony Keegan could organise it I'm sure.

• *Norman you're full of ideas. You win a Galway G.A.A. scarf and perhaps Tony will do just that in the December issue (J.M.)*

**Tim Murphy, Shamrock Bridge, Rathmore, Co. Kerry.**

"It's great to see other counties coming to the top this year. As Paddy Leahy used to say 'It's all for

• **OVERLEAF**



### ● FROM OVERLEAF

the good of the game'. Roscommon are entitled to an All-Ireland this year. But I can't see anyone toppling the green and gold. They have a few great men and one of these is John Egan. He is so cool. Please ask other readers the following. Who were the two youngest Footballers ever to win All-Ireland senior medals for their native counties?"

● *Perhaps readers would send in their answers here. (J.M.)*

**Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20, Fairfield Rd., Bath, England BA16JG.**

"I enclose a photo of Frank Bellew who has done monumental work for the G.A.A. here in Britain. He is a Past President of the Provincial Council of Britain and is currently Chairman of the Gloucestershire Co. Board and is also the Prov. Council's representative on the Central Council."

**Joe Hanlon, Cruith, Croghan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.**

"I would like to congratulate Offaly on the brilliant win over Kilkenny in the Leinster Final. It was a great team performance. Special praise to Paddy Kirwan for some fabulous points. He is a man of the future. I want a Cut-Out of him. Isn't it great to see the weaker counties winning for a change?"

● *It sure is Joe. Offaly's win was the greatest breath of life the G.A.A. has got since Carlow and Longford won Leinster titles or since Down, Derry and Donegal won in Ulster. For it gives hope to all other counties. You win an Offaly G.A.A. Bobcap (J.M.)*

**Pat Treacy, Carrig Mór, Church Rd., Ballybunion, Co. Kerry.**

"Mick Spillane's display was fabulous in the Munster Final. Eoin Liston too had sweet revenge over Kevin Kehilly. We won the North Kerry minor title last Friday night against Ballylongford. It attracted a great crowd. I am real sorry Fr. Iggy Clarke cannot play in the hurling final. The 1984 S.H. Final should be staged in Croke Park. Great to see Offaly hurlers do so well. I was disappointed to see Kerry's Under-21 team beaten by Limerick but in a few year's time Limerick footballers should be a force."

● *How about a photo of Mick Spillane or Eoin Liston or both specially for Pat. I won a North Kerry M.F.C. medal myself with Tarbert once but that's a long story! (J.M.)*

**Edward Synnott, Kilbride, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny.**

"Refereeing has been disastrous lately. It is hard on the losing team when the final whistle sounds before full time has elapsed as happened Offaly this year. Seamus Aldridge did a fine job in the Armagh v Roscommon game."

● *So did Paddy Collins in the other semi-final (J.M.)*



● *Eoin Liston of Kerry included specially for Pat Treacy.*

**Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal,** wants the following issues of Gaelic Sport and will buy them; 1972 — June and November, 1968 — August and October, 1967 — April, 1965 — July and August, 1964 — March, Sept., Oct., and Nov. Denis says he wrote several times to Mr. Brendan Furlong, c/o The Echo, Enniscorthy but got no reply.

● *Over to you Brendan Furlong. (J.M.)*

That's all from the Mailbag this month. Keep writing on any topic — the All-Irelands, the state of football, referees, Pen-pals, the new Youth Annual to:

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

## A.I.B. Club of the Year

**D**ETAILS were announced recently of the 1980 Club of the Year Awards sponsored by Allied Irish Banks. Mr. Jerry McAuliffe, General Manager of Allied Irish Banks, speaking at a reception at the Bank Centre, attended by Paddy McFlynn, President of the G.A.A., and Liam Mulvihill, Director General told us the good news that the Prize Fund had been increased from £7,000 to £13,000.

The Scheme was launched in June 1979 by the G.A.A. Central Development Committee and the Bank and it is aimed at highlighting the importance of the Club, as the pivotal unit of the G.A.A.

The Entry Form, which is available from all branches of AIB or from Croke Park, is designed to cover all aspects of Club activities, including the provision of facilities and the degree of efficiency with which day-to-day affairs are handled and recorded.

The closing date for entries is the 31st December 1980. The results for the Free Draw will be announced in February 1981. Adjudication will take place in January-February 1981 and the results will be announced in March 1981. Every Club taking part will be notified of its marks and a Certificate of Merit will be awarded to entries reaching a designated level. The Scheme is devised in order to give the small Club an equal opportunity to compete with its larger counterpart for the premier award of a valuable trophy and a development grant of £2,500.

The Assessors for the Award are: Mr. Con Murphy, Mr. Hugh Byrne, Dr. Donal Keenan, Mr. Pat Fanning, Mr. Alf Murray, Mr. Seamus O'Riain, Mr. Tom Moriarty, AIB and Mr. Eddie Keher, AIB.

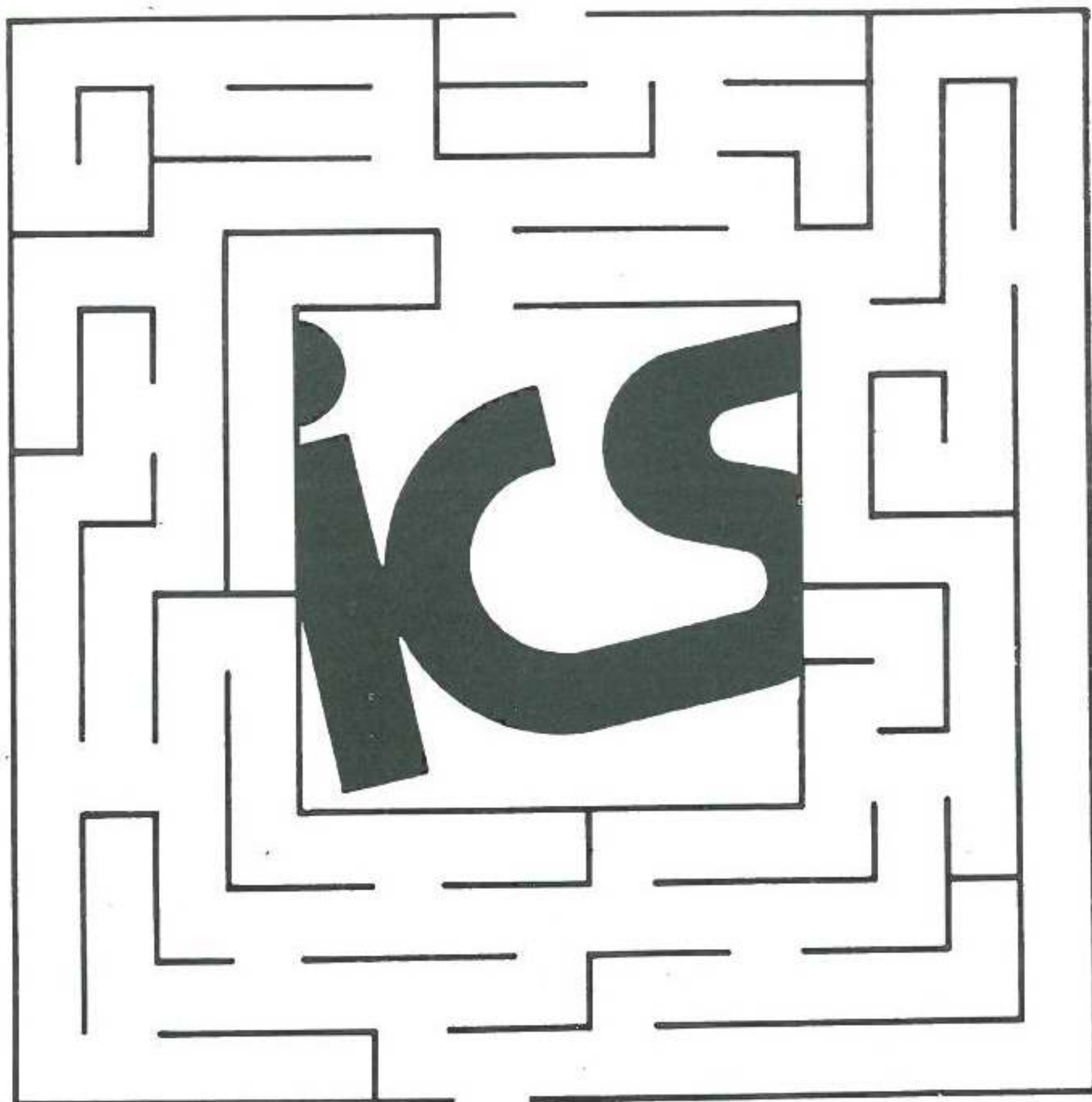


● FROM PAGE 45

depending on a below-par opposition at centre-field) they will have their work cut out for them in the rest of the field, for the highly trained and skilled Kerry men can

read one another's minds in those slicing passing moves of their's. If they get them going as usual it is hard to see how they will be beaten, for no team yet has been able to stand against those attacks.

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## READERS' COMPETITION RESULTS

**W**ELL done, GAELIC SPORT readers! We thought we had set a difficult enough quiz in the August issue, but the majority of the many readers who entered were right on the mark with correct answers for all five questions posed.

That was one of the interesting facts that we learned on going through the entries after we had opened the first all correct coupon. And, that came from:

Martin Seery, Kilcummin, Coonacool, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.

Starting with the current edition, Martin will receive a free copy of GAELIC SPORT each month for twelve issues.

The quiz dealt with events at All-Ireland semi-final level in 1979. The questions set in that HAVE A GO feature, together now with the correct answers, are:

1. Who refereed the Kerry-Monaghan senior football game - Paddy Collins (Westmeath) or Tommy Moran (Leitrim). Answer: Paddy Collins (Westmeath).
2. John Connolly scored four, five or six points in Galway's sensational hurling win over Cork. Your choice? Answer: Five points.
3. This footballer went in as a substitute during a senior semi-final, and scored his team's solitary goal. His name, please? Answer: Michael Finneran (Roscommon).
4. Name the All-Ireland minor hurling semi-finalists? Answer. Cork and Galway.
5. Pat Lindsay captained Roscommon in their unsuccessful bid against the Dubs. True or false? Answer: True.



# Results Summary

## ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Hurling: Final: September 7: Galway 2-15; Limerick 3-9.

Minor Hurling: Final: September 7: Tipperary 2-15; Wexford 1-10.

Senior Football: Semi-Finals: August 10: Roscommon 2-20; Armagh 3-11. August 24: Kerry 4-15; Offaly 4-10.

Minor Football: Preliminary Rounds: August 10: Macroom: New York 1-6; London 1-4. Quarter-Final: August 17: Killarney: Kerry 5-19; New York 2-5.

Semi-finals: August 10: Croke Park: Derry 1-11; Mayo 0-11. August 24: Kerry 3-5; Meath 0-10.

Special Minor Hurling: Semi-Final: August 16; Roscommon: Derry 1-4; Roscommon 0-6.

Under-16 Special Hurling: Final: August 10: Croke Park: Meath 4-8; Derry 1-7.

Under-21 Hurling: August 17: Semi-Finals: Ennis: Tipperary 3-11; Galway 2-12. Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-13; Antrim 1-11.

## PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Connacht: Under-21 Football Final: August 15: Castlebar: Mayo 4-11; Galway 1-5.

Munster: Under-21 Hurling Final: August 6: Fermoy: Tipperary 4-11; Cork 2-9.

Under-21 Football Final: August 13: Bruff: Cork 3-15; Clare 0-4.

## DR. McKENNA CUP SENIOR FOOTBALL

Final: August 17: Clones: Monaghan, the holders, 1-8; Cavan 0-7.

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Division II Final: August 31: Coventry: Wexford 7-17; Warwickshire 1-7.

## HANDBALL

### Coca-Cola Championships

Doubles: Semi-Final: August 10: Croke Park: T. O'Rourke and C Winders (Kildare) bt R. Lyng and S.

Buggy (Wexford).

Singles: Semi-Final: August 10: Croke Park: John Kirby (Clare) bt. Dan Kirby (Clare). August 24: Croke Park: P. Ryan (Dublin) bt. T. O'Rourke (Kildare).

All-Ireland Senior Softball Singles Final: September 6 Croke Park: P. Ryan (Dublin) beat John Kirby (Clare).

## ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Hardball Doubles Semi-Final: August 10; Cappagh: P. McGarry and J. Bennis (Limerick) bt G. Sheridan and K. Finnegan (Cavan). August 17: Castlebar C. and P. Winders (Kildare) bt C. Quinn and T. Derrig (Mayo).

Senior Hardball Singles Semi-Finals: August 17: Kingscourt: P. McGarry (Limerick) bt G. Sheridan (Cavan). August 23: Croke Park: C. Winders (Kildare) bt C. Quinn (Mayo).

## CAMOGIE

### ALL-IRELAND C'SHIPS

Senior Semi-Finals: August 17: Blackrock, Cork: Cork 5-8; Dublin 3-4. Ballyagran: Limerick 4-3; Kilkenny 2-6.

Junior Semi-Finals: August 10: Castlegar: Cork 5-8; Galway 1-2. Tyrone: Tyrone 2-7; Louth 2-1.

Minor Final: August 31: Crosskeys, Cavan: Cork 5-5; Cavan 0-2.

## LEINSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-Finals: August 24: Blanchardstown, Dublin: Dublin 8-9; Louth 2-4. Monamolin, Wexford: Kilkenny 1-11; Wexford 1-2.

### ● FROM PAGE 47

Downey also succeeded in winning six senior singles titles.

Both had their own individual techniques but the real secret of their success was a perfect understanding of each other's play.

With Perry, they can well be termed legends in their own times. The game of handball is indebted to them and sportsmen in Roscommon and Kerry will forever sing their praises. Their contribution makes a colourful backdrop on the exciting stage of All-Ireland Football time.

## AN GÚM

### Siar trí na Portaigh

Leabhar deas taitneamhach le C. N. O Ceallacháin ina bhfuil cur síos ar gach gné (beagnach) de na portaigh—na saghsanna éagsúla, mar a d'fhás siad, iarsmaí stairiúla a fuarthas fúthu agus iontu, an leas a bhaintear astu, agus mar a dhéantar talamh fóna de na hathphortaigh. Pictiúir shuimiúla, cuid acu lán-daite. **Praghas £1.00**

### An Seansaighdiúir.

Eagrán nua de bhailiúchán scéalta beaga tochtmhara Shéamus Uí Néill atá sa leabhar seo. Sa bhliain 1945 a cuireadh cló orthu an chéad uair. Is mó cor curtha de ag saol ó shin, fós féin níl duine in Éirinn nach n-aimseoidh gnéithe áirithe dá óige féin sa leabhar seo, teaspach b'fhéidir nó b'fhéidir scáfair-eacht. Faighimid léargas i mbunáite na scéalta seo ar an bhfadhb shiceolaíoch a bhíonn ag an-chuid daoine go háirithe daoine óga — nuair nach dtugtar an t-aitheantas nó an gean is cuí dóibh. **Praghas £1.00**

### Tíreolaíocht Iarbhunscoile I.

Aistriúchán ar *Postprimary Geography I* le W. F. McCarthy. Oiriúnach don chúrsa meán-teistiméarachta. Léaráidí agus graif lán-daite. **Praghas £2.20**

### Slógadh.

Téacs le Gabriel Rosenstock agus grianghraif le Bill Doyle a léiríonn gnéithe de **Slógadh** — mórfhéile bhliantúil na n-óg — éagsúlacht, fuinneamh, greann agus cumas. **Praghas 80p**

### An Táin.

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

*Le ceannach díreach ó Oifig Dhíolta Foilseachán Rialtais An Stuaara Árd-Oifig an Phoist Baile Átha Cliath, 1 nó ó dhíoltóirí leabhar.*





# Eugene Hughes

(Monaghan)

Age: 24.  
Height: 5ft. 9ins.  
Weight: 12st. 7lb.  
Club: Castleblayney  
Faughs  
Position: Right full  
back.  
Senior Inter-County  
Debut: 1974.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Eugene's powerful football was one of the most telling factors in Monaghan's march to a rare double last year of the Ulster senior championship — their first provincial crown in 41 years — and the Ceannarus tournament.

It could not have surprised anyone when he was later honoured by the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors.

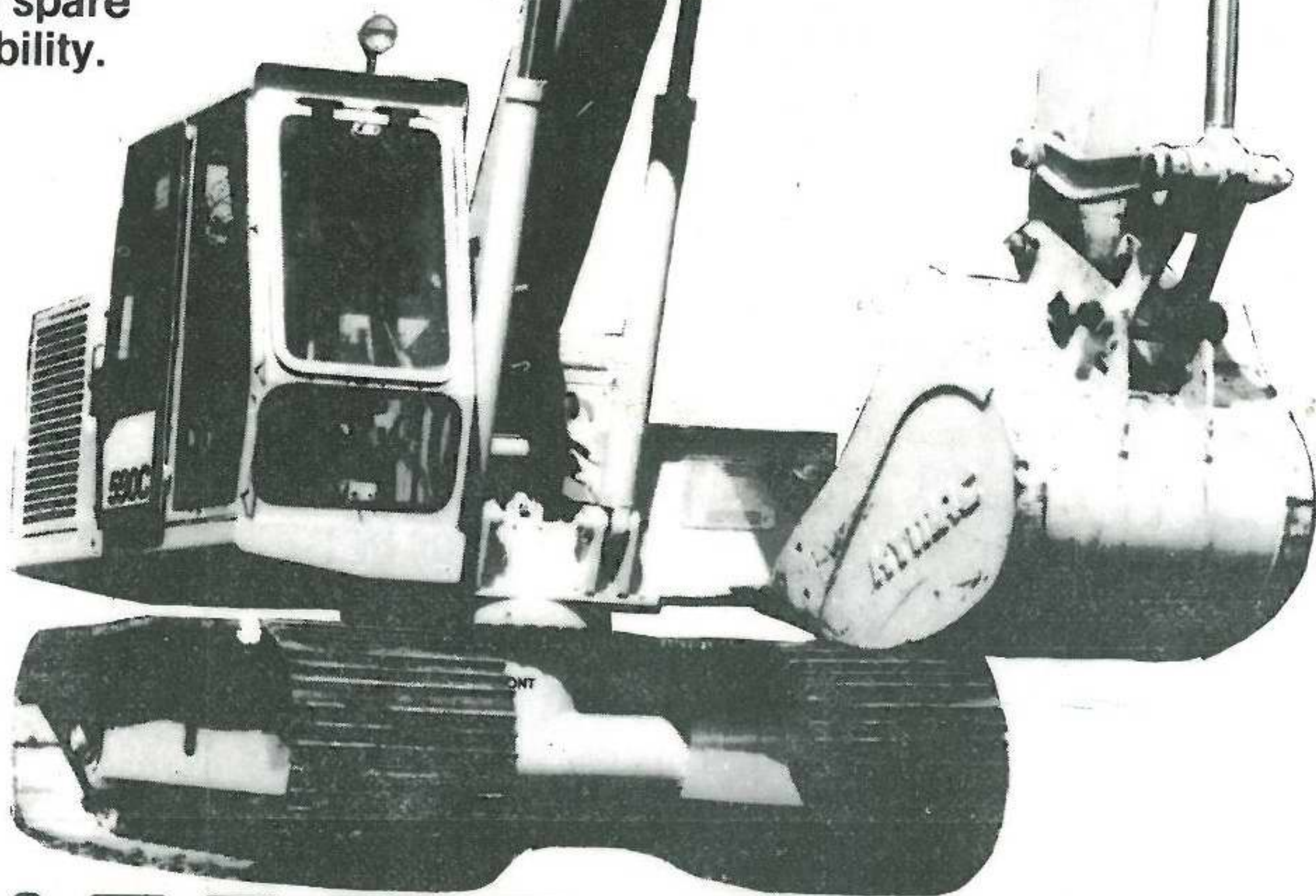
He played minor and under-21 with Monaghan, and was still a minor when he had his first outing with the county senior team.

Eugene was right full back when Ulster retained the Railway Cup last March, his first interprovincial medal, and he has also won county senior medals in football and hurling.



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