

175 GAA

GAELIC SPORT

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IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY
SEPTEMBER 1980 FORTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)



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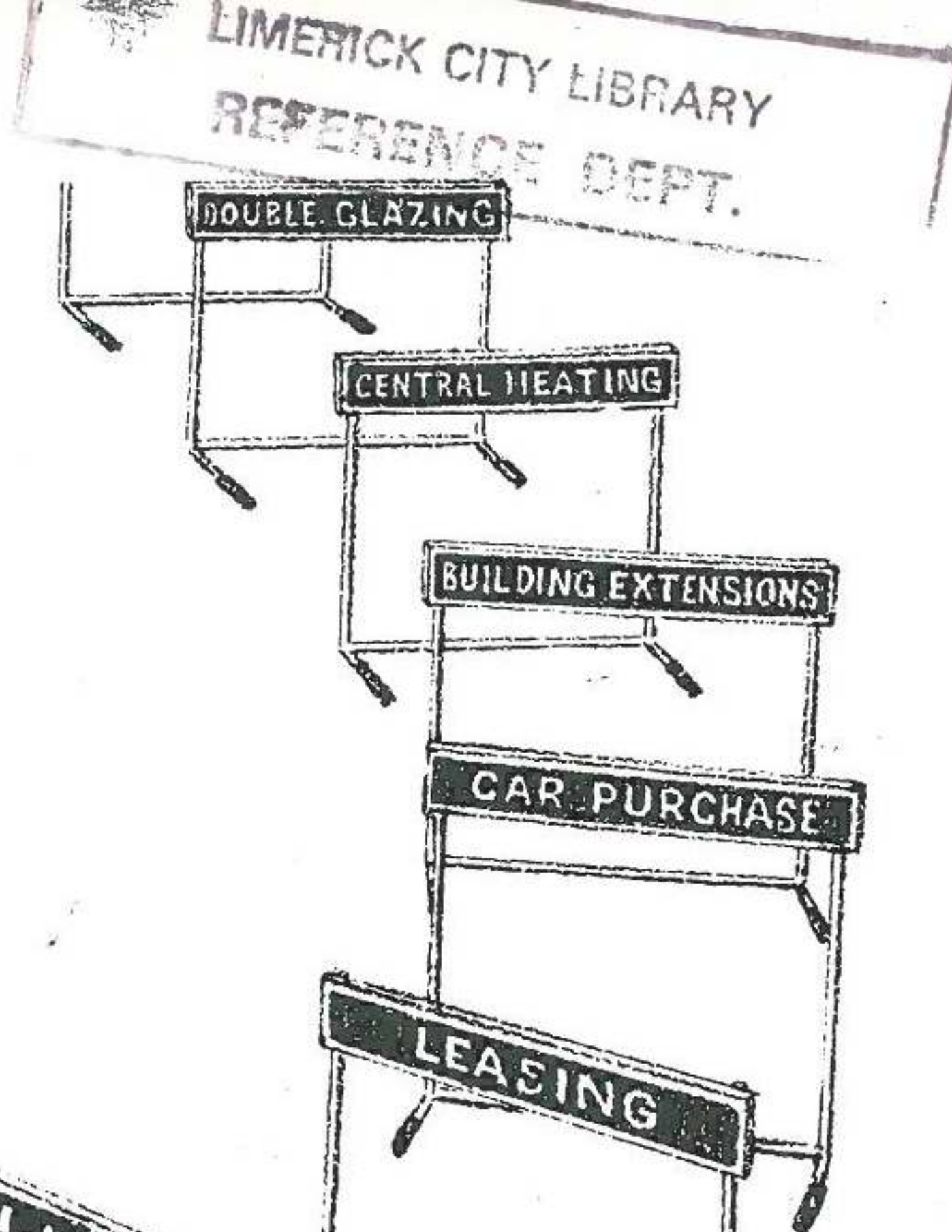
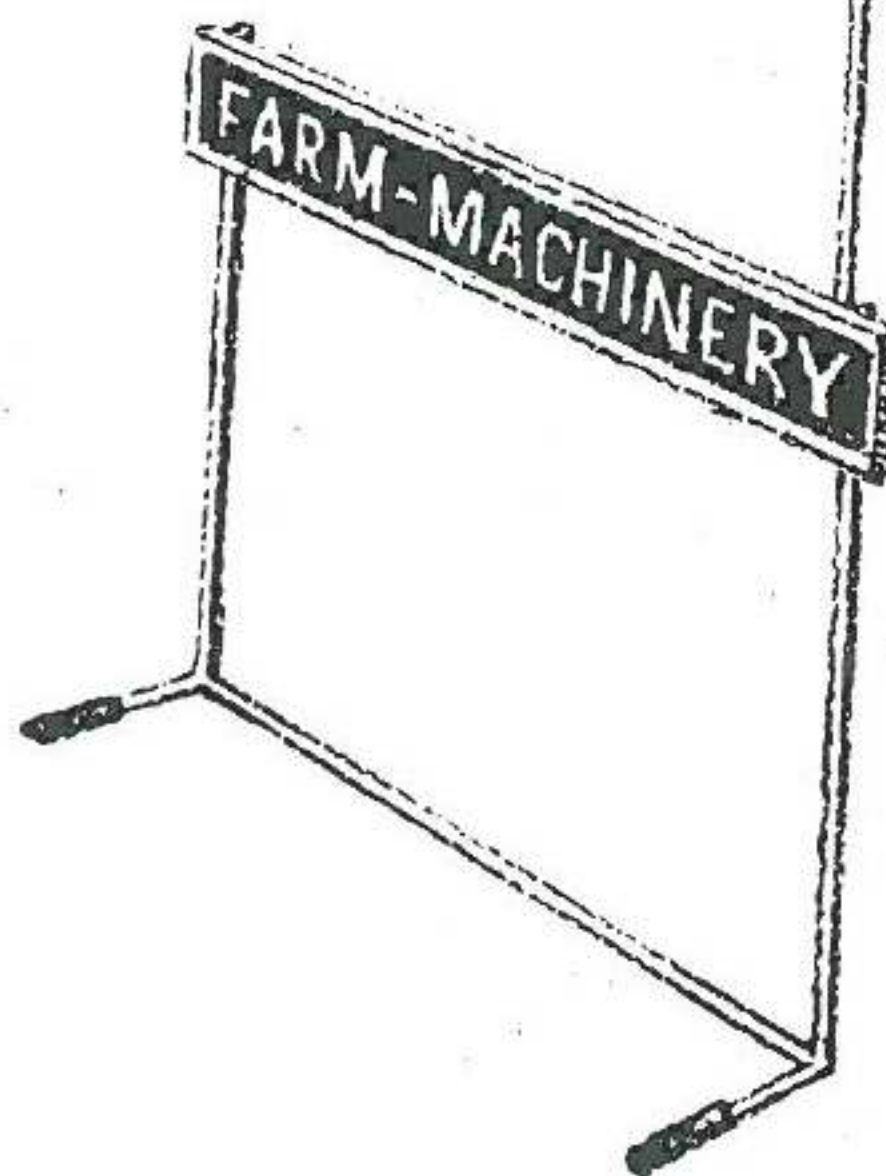
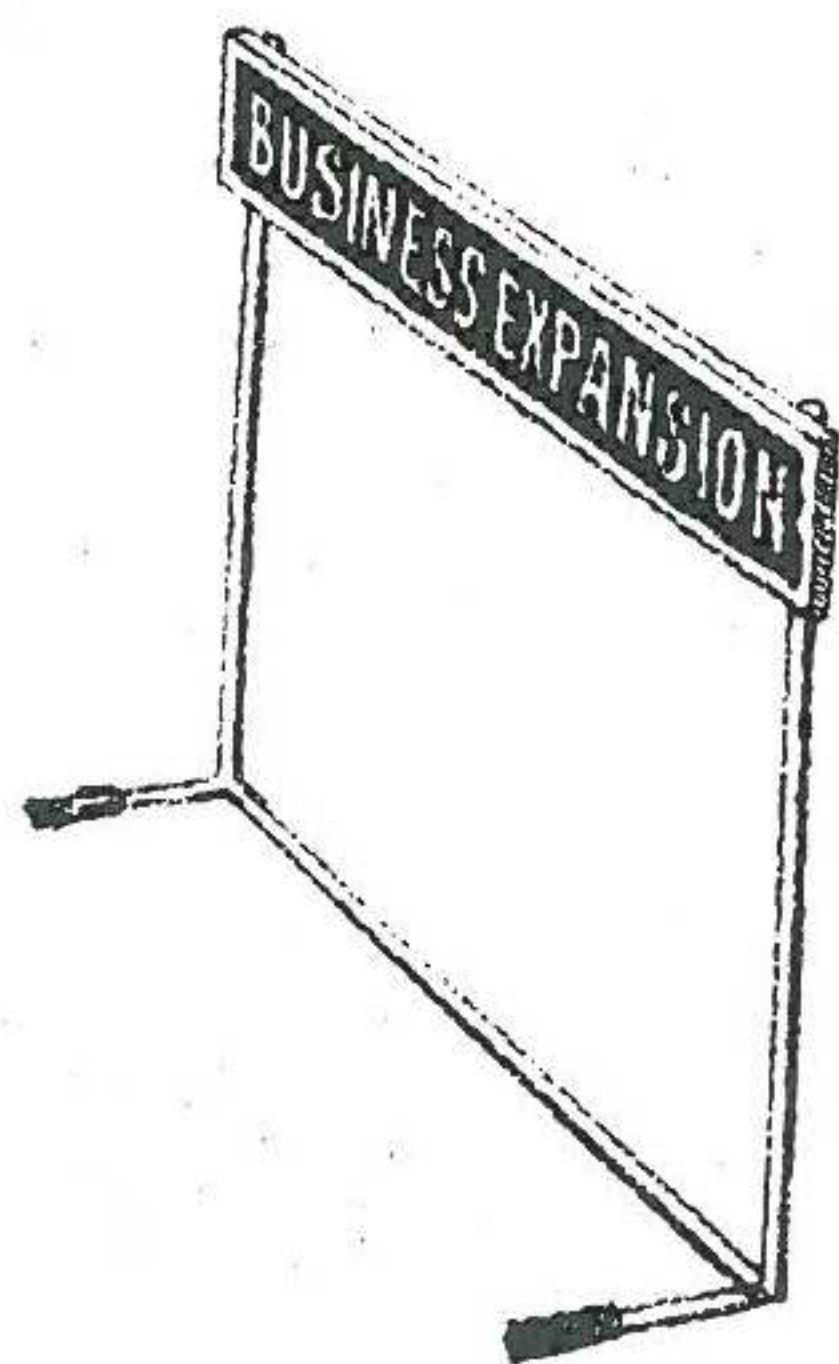
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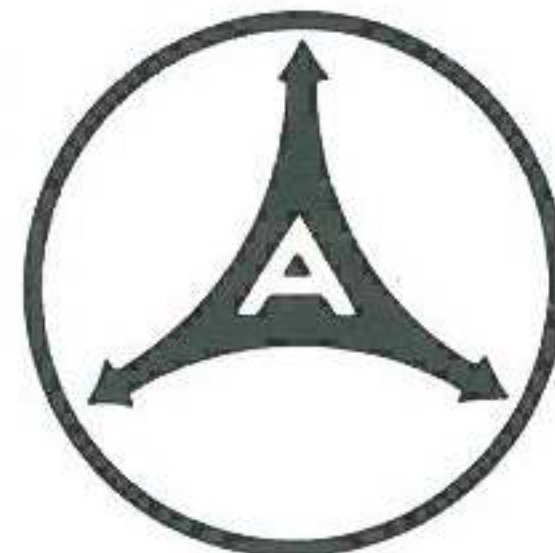
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ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

7th September, 1980

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MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

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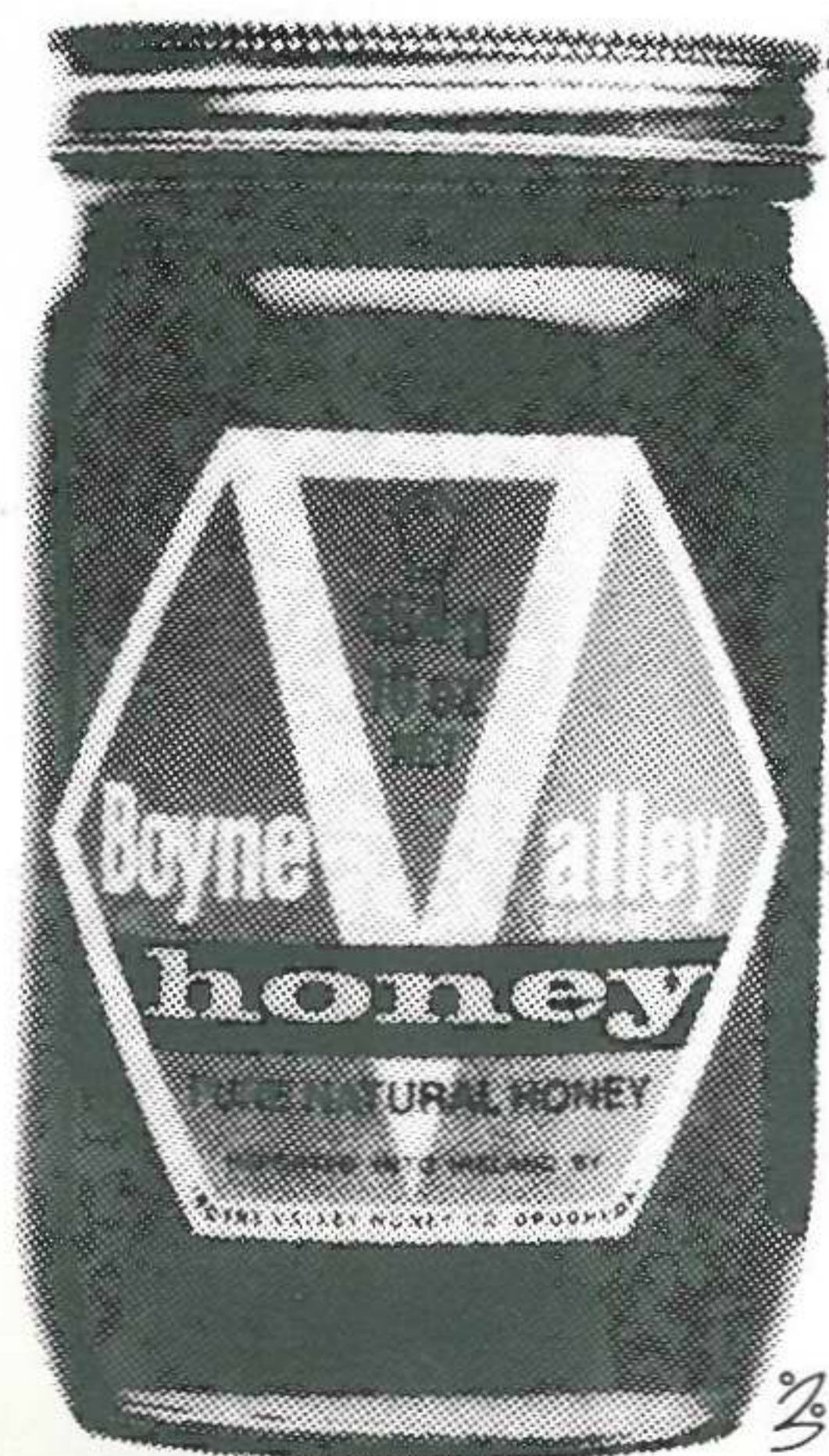
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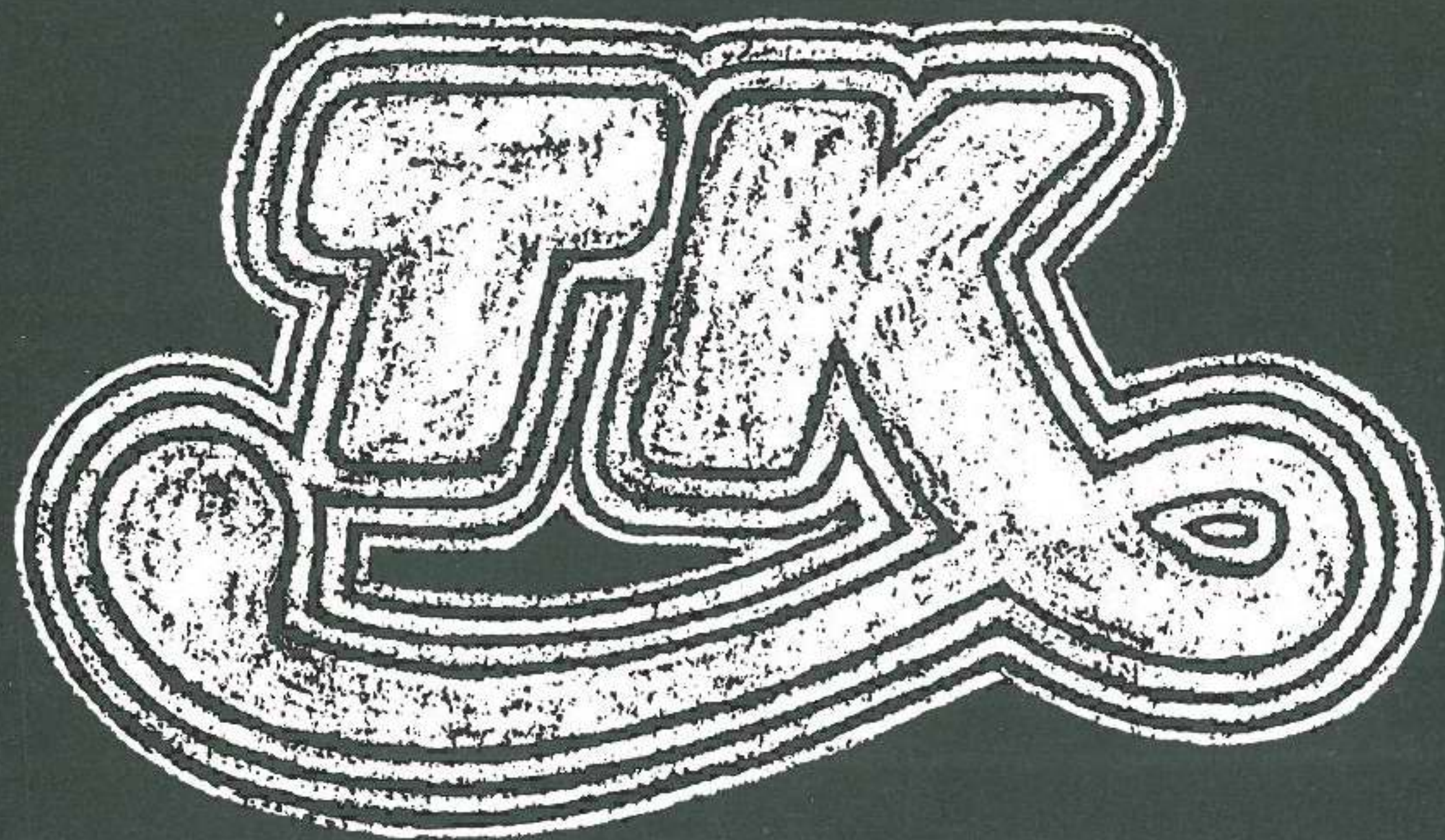
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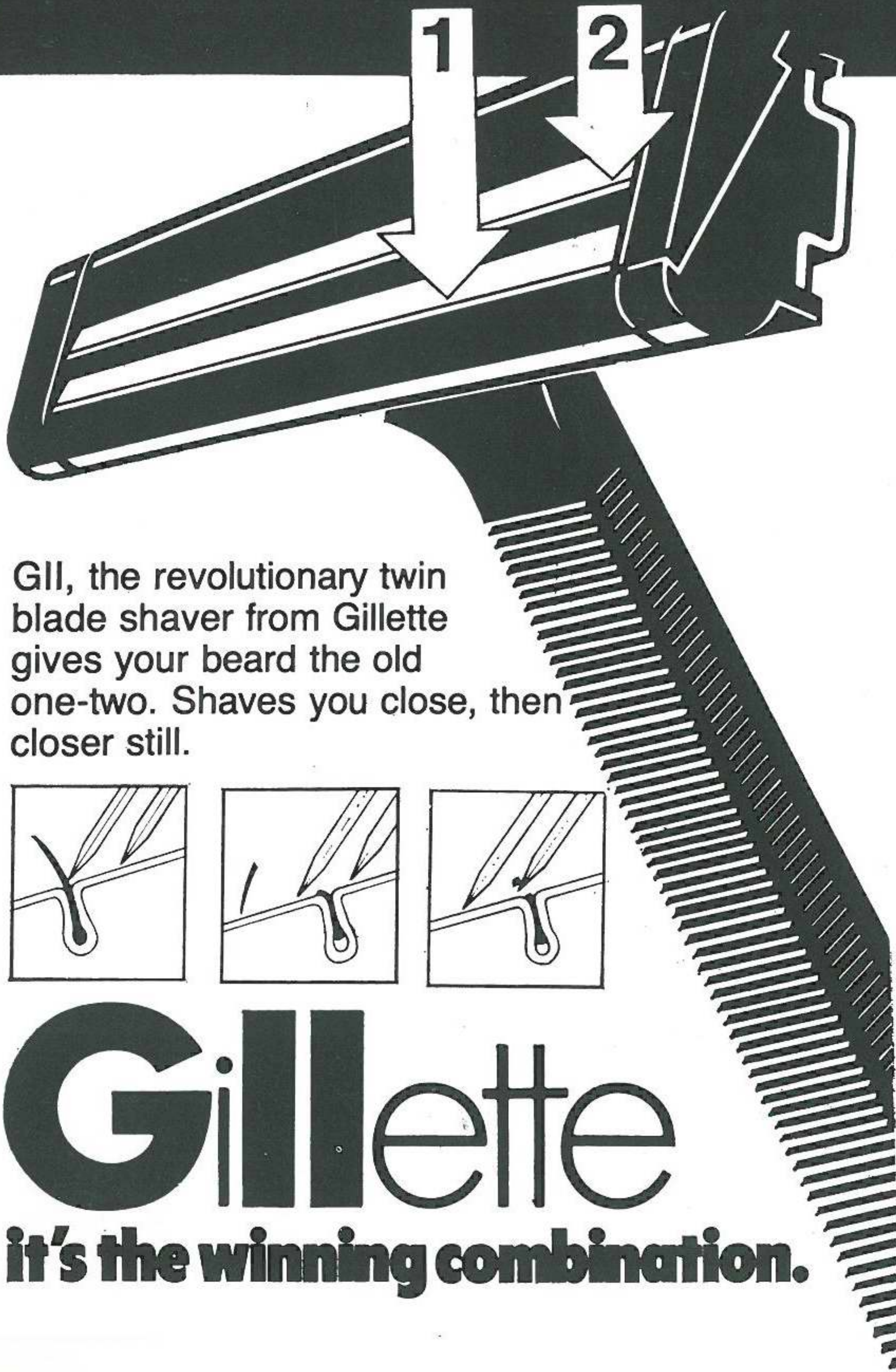
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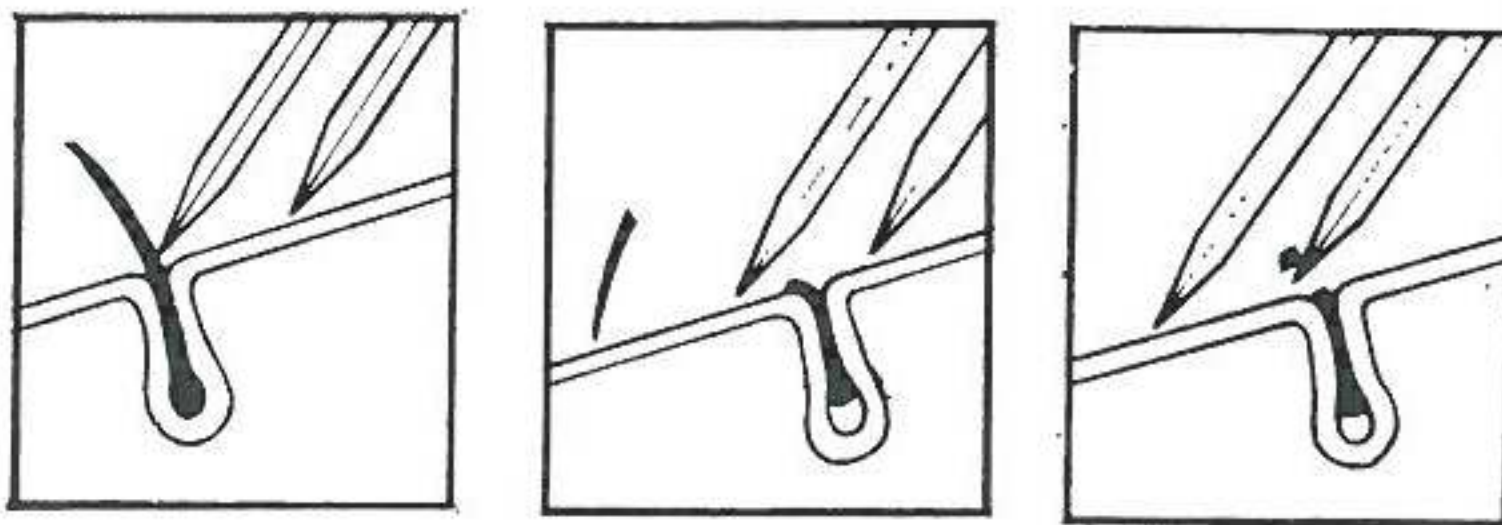
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 23 No. 9 September 1980

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IN a year in which hurling has provided some of the best moments in Irish sport, it is appropriate that the All-Ireland senior final comes up with this rare pairing of Limerick and Galway.

Doubtless, the traditionalists will bemoan the absence of such as Kilkenny, Cork or even former title specialists Tipperary. But variety is the spice of sport, and Limerick and Galway are well equipped to bring to their first final meeting in well over half a century the magic to ensure that the game carves out its own niche in the annals of hurling's big day.

It is also refreshing that no matter what the outcome, this is a final that is destined to ensure that enthusiasts in the successful county will have more than the usual cause for celebration.

Take Limerick. They may be steeped in hurling lore, with stories of great hurlers and great title winning teams of the past to sustain them.

Past glories, however, need the stimulus of modern-day successes, and Limerick have won only one All-Ireland senior title since the early 'Forties. That one in 1973 is already far enough back to mean that many by the Shannonside are hoping to see their county in All-Ireland title winning form for the first time.

Galway are the great survivors of hurling. It is a tribute to the dedication of generations of enthusiasts that, despite the fact that Galway have not won the All-Ireland senior title since the 1923 series, they have kept plugging away, and contributed greatly as well to the game's history.

Nor will the defeats from Kilkenny in 1975 and again last year in the concluding round, dampen Galway's enthusiasm, or their determination to end the long sequence out of the honours.

Indeed, for once in a rare while Galway come to headquarters with a richness in hurling glory. Remember their win, as Connacht, last St. Patrick's Day over Munster for a first Railway Cup title in 33 years? Then, some of their squad helped Castlegar to take the All-Ireland club title last June.

Can Galway set the seal on those achievements by capturing the greatest prize of all? Will Limerick take excellent compensation for their defeat in a replay in the League final earlier this year?

These are only some of the questions that surround this novel final, and give it an appeal and a character all its own.

Limerick and Galway are capable of enriching the background with a game to remember. Good luck to both of them!

COVER PHOTO

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

LIMERICK: Back row (from left): Joe McKenna, Mossie Carroll, Willie Fitzmaurice, Tommy Quaid, Leonard Enright, Dom Punch, Paudie Fitzmaurice, Eamonn Cregan. Front row (from left): Ollie O'Connor, Dave Punch, Donal Murray, Sean Foley (Captain), Jimmy Carroll, John Flanagan and Liam O'Donoghue.

GALWAY: Back row (from left): Noel Lane, Frank Burke, Niall McInerney, Michael Conneely, Michael Connolly, Iggy Clarke, John Connolly and Sean Silke. Front row (from left): P. J. Molloy, Sylvie Linnane, Pascal Ryan, Seamus Coen, Joe Connolly (Captain), Bernie Forde and Jimmy Cooney.

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Top Ten

OFFALY MEN SPARKLE IN BOTH CATEGORIES

A GAMES packed period from July 13 to August 3 inclusive which, among other happenings, saw the end of the Cork and Dublin dominance of provincial senior titles in hurling and football, and the historic break-through by Offaly hurlers, resulted in extra keen competition for places in the latest TYLER TOP TEN charts.

Offaly's memorable win over Kilkenny in the Leinster hurling final will rank as one of the best success stories of the year. And, Johnny Flaherty, who scored two vital goals, Pat Delaney, solid at centre half back, and Pdraig Horan, a splendid captain and accurate full forward, were among the stars for the Midlanders.

All were to the fore again when Offaly made a spirited debut in the All-Ireland senior championship in their gallant failure to Galway and their achievements are reflected in the hurling chart.

One hurler, however, who provided particularly stiff opposition to an Offaly take-over on top was Liam O'Donoghue. After about twenty five minutes of the Munster final at Thurles, Limerick brought the Mungret club man back from the attack to right half back, and with a superb display of progressive hurling, O'Donoghue exercised a decisive influence in snapping the Cork bid for a sixth successive title.

However, Flaherty's golden goals in the Leinster final, his good work-rate as well, and a fine showing against Galway, plus two valuable points in that match, edge the Kinnitty club man to the top spot this month on 36 points. This gives him 61 points over-all, as he made his debut this season in the July issue on 25 points.

O'Donoghue also wins his spurs for the second time this season in gaining the runners-up spot on 35 points. He was included in the June chart with 34 vital points.

Although Denis Coughlan fails to win a place this month, he still remains hurling's over-all leader on 124 points, but changes in the following places see Ollie O'Connor (Limerick) and Iggy Clarke (Galway) come into the reckoning at a vital stage of the campaign.

Matt Connor, who has been capturing so many scoring headlines for Offaly in football, and whom we inadvertently referred to as Murt Connor in the August review, strengthens his grip on the top spot in football in the cumulative points League.

A brilliant display by the Walsh Island club man, particularly in the second half, was a major factor in enabling Offaly to end the Dublin chase for a seventh Leinster title in a row, and earns him 34 very valuable points. This tally pushes Connor's record up to 123 points.

But the Offaly sharpshooter is still pipped for the premier spot by Armagh half back Joey Donnelly. He had a particularly noteworthy game in the Ulster final, his cool, progressive work from first to final whistle proving one of the best factors in enabling his team to overcome a first-rate Tyrone side.

So, it is Donnelly ahead this month on 36 points, and it is also his first appearance of the campaign.

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

Hurling: 124 points: D. Coughlan (Cork). 100: O. O'Connor (Limerick). 96: I. Clarke (Galway).

Football: 123 points: M. Connor (Offaly). 80: K. Kehilly (Cork). 69: D. Allen (Cork).

This month's charts:

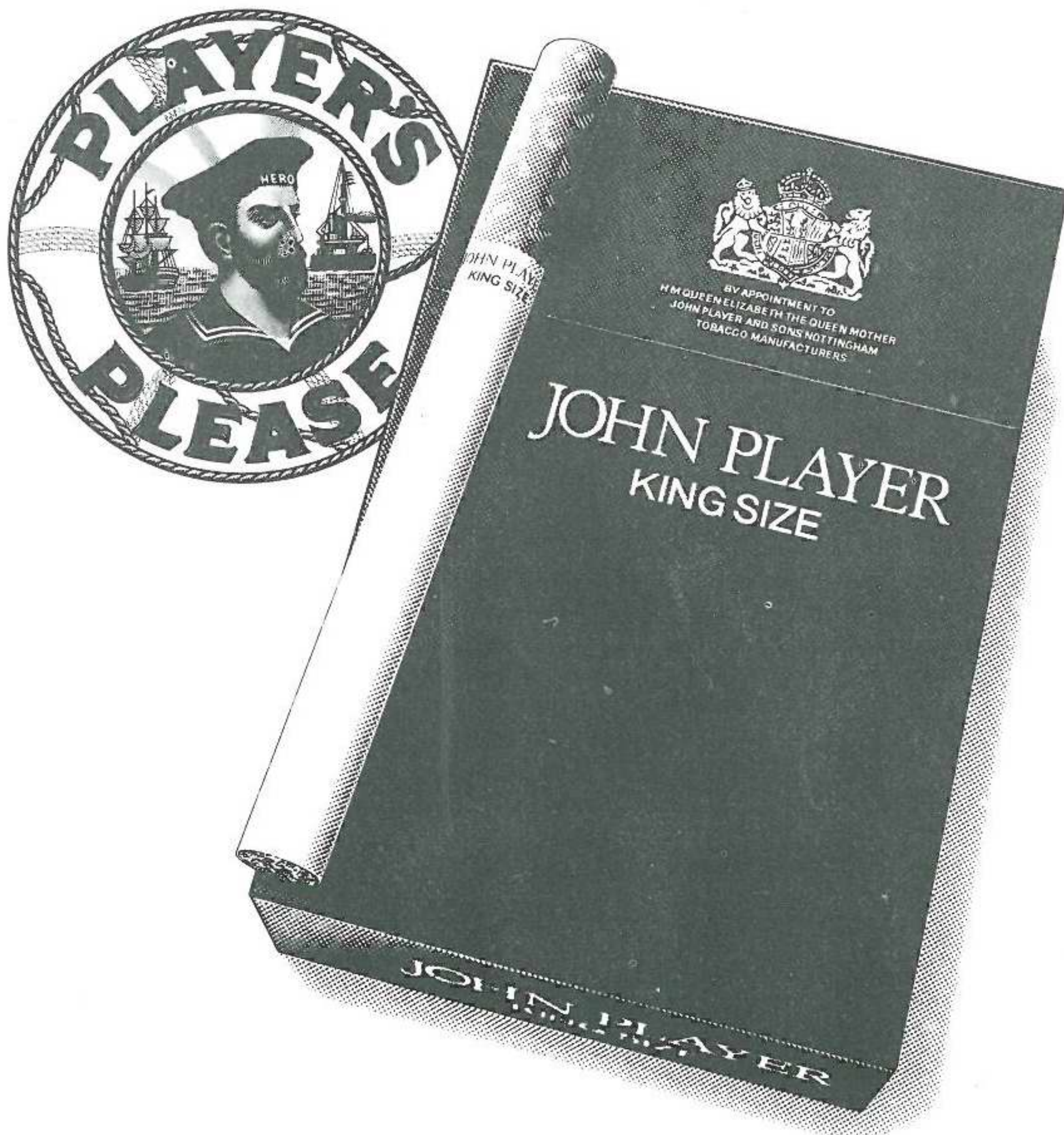
HURLING

36	J. Flaherty (Offaly)	61
35	L. O'Donoghue (Limerick)	69
34	P. Delaney (Offaly)	60
32	O. O'Connor (Limerick) .	100
30	Joe Connolly (Galway) ..	62
29	P. Fitzmaurice (Limerick)	29
28	P. Horan (Offaly)	28
26	S. Silke (Galway)	62
24	I. Clarke (Galway)	96
24	T. Crowley (Cork)	24

FOOTBALL

36	J. Donnelly (Armagh) . . .	36
34	M. Connor (Offaly)	123
34	T. McManus (Roscommon)	56
33	S. Hayden (Roscommon)	33
30	J. Smyth (Armagh)	53
28	J. Mooney (Offaly)	28
26	G. Connellan (Roscommon)	26
25	M. Furlong (Offaly)	25
24	D. O'Hagan (Tyrone) . . .	24
23	M. Kennedy (Dublin) . . .	23

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SUMMING UP THE FINAL

Galway to capture title after fifty-seven years



• The opposing captains - Sean Foley of Limerick (above) and Joe Connolly (Galway).

ONE man does not make a team, but at the same time, few will dispute the fact that the injury to Iggy Clarke that caused him to retire during the semi-final win over Offaly is a major blow to Galway's hopes of gaining that long-awaited All-Ireland senior hurling final break-through against Limerick.

Clarke is more than a half back of superb ability. He has this year been producing probably the best hurling of his career, and at his peak, he would have ranked as a hurler to whom many would have looked to prove the inspiration for a winning effort by the Connacht squad.

On the other hand, let's not overlook the exciting way that Galway battled back bravely and with great heart after the loss of their brilliant left half back. While many another team would have wilted under that handicap, the Railway Cup champions came back superbly, and it is to their credit as well that another set-back, the sending off in the second half of Sylvie Linnane, did not prevent them from eventually booking this second successive final appearance.

If ever the great character of this Galway team was seen at its best, then, it was surely in the All-Ireland semi-final. And, that character is an asset that could do much now to turn the key in the door to a first final win since the 1923 championship, when Galway beat Limerick in the decider.

It is ironic, too, that Galway, despite their lack of All-Ireland success, go into this match as much the more experienced side. True,

BY TONY KEEGAN

Limerick have survivors from their 1973 All-Ireland senior title winning XV, men of the calibre of Eamonn Cregan, Sean Foley, Liam O'Donoghue and Joe McKenna, and any one of whom on form this season, could emerge as the man to take a grip on the exchanges and steer a winning course.

Nevertheless, there is a wealth of big match know-how in the Galway team. Nearly half of the squad played in the 1975 All-Ireland senior final against Kilkenny, and most of the present outfit were on duty at this stage a year ago, when the Noresiders once more ended the Galway dreams of glory.

Then, there is the added bonus that Galway line out in for them the unusual role of Railway Cup holders. The win over Munster on St. Patrick's Day for a first

interprovincial title in thirty three years, and only the second in all, may now be a long way back, but it is a clear indication that this Galway team has progressed along the right lines since the loss last year to Kilkenny.

More than that, the first ever interprovincial medal win for every member of that side is bound to give the Western hurlers greater confidence in their own ability. The success, after all, has shown that they are capable of winning top awards against the best that the South has to offer.

All things considered, then, I believe that Galway, despite the injury to Iggy Clarke, are exceptionally well armed for this latest bid for the game's Blue Riband.

But will Galway still have enough going for them to spike Limerick's ambitions? Make no mistake, the new Munster champions are a splendid side, sound from goal out, packing experience and ability in all departments, and also boasting a belief in themselves that could add up to a match-winning show.

I give Limerick full marks for taking revenge in the Munster final for their earlier defeat by Cork in the

• TO PAGE 11



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



on the right pitch

● FROM PAGE 9
replay of the National League final
some months earlier.

There are those who now say that
the Leesiders were over the top, and
that that takes from the merit of the
Limerick achievement.

I can't go along with this line of
thought. Cork's long spell of
dominance in the South took its toll,
but their team was still a strong and
capable one, and not many sides
would have handled the Leesiders
with quite the same authority and
poise that Limerick displayed when
they regained the Southern crown
after a six year interval.

What impressed me most about
Limerick in that game was their
defence. Leonard Enright is proving
an outstanding successor at full back
to the great Pat Hartigan — and
there can be no finer tribute than
that. His flankers, Donal Murray
and Dom Punch, are blending in
excellent support.

The half back division, in which
pivot Mossie Carroll with his
progressive hurling has particularly
impressed me, is also sure to prove
a major stumbling block to the
Galway raiding division.

Munster's champions can also
exercise plenty of pressure on the
Galway defence. Eamonn Cregan
may now be one of the
longest-serving campaigners in the
game, but his expert touches, shrewd
play and accurate finishing stamp
him as a hurler who could have the
alarm bells ringing in the Western
camp.

I have been much taken as well by
Ollie O'Connor, one of the younger
members of the side. He is a skilled
hurler, who works tirelessly
throughout every match, and to
excellent effect, and he also knows
where the goals are.

In Joe McKenna, Limerick have
probably the best goal-getter in
modern-day hurling. His flair,
ability and drive are other qualities
that mark out the County Offaly
native as a difficult forward to
subdue, and McKenna will have to



● *Bernie Forde*
(Galway) who
scored a vital goal
against Offaly in
the All-Ireland
Semi-Final.



be closely and consistently watched
if he is not to exercise a decisive
influence on this final.

This trio can expect good support
from their colleagues in attack, as
well as from their midfielders. So, it
all adds up to a squad that
undoubtedly has what it takes to
make eight All-Ireland senior
hurling titles for Limerick a very
distinct possibility.

Having said that, I must also
concede that I still have a leaning to
Galway, despite the injury to Iggy
Clarke.

It seems to me from the All-
Ireland semi-final victory that
Galway now have one of the most
basic ingredients necessary for
success at top level — belief in

themselves. The way they handled
their set-backs against the history-
making men of Offaly convinces me
of that.

Sean Silke can be a commanding
general at centre half back, with his
powerful hurling, reliability and
lengthy and well directed clearances.

Jimmy Cooney in the left corner is
another who could help to smooth
the way for Galway. He will have his
hands full, admittedly, in marking
O'Connor, but the Sarsfields club
man is a tenacious and determined
campaigner, and he is unlikely to
give much away.

The Westerners have flexibility in
formation at midfield. Steve Mahon,
a member of last year's All-Ireland

● TO PAGE 12

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● FROM PAGE 11

final side, got through an amount of excellent work when called into midfield from the substitutes bench in the first half against Offaly.

Michael Connolly, Paschal Ryan, and John Connolly, whom we saw drop back from the attack to help out in the middle of the park on occasions against Offaly, are others who one way or another could do much to ensure that Galway put their best foot forward in the centre.

John Connolly, of course, can be a wonderful inspiration to the Connacht side. He has given distinguished service to Galway over the years and if only for his sake, thousands in the county and far outside of its bounds as well, would like to cheer on a Connacht win.

John is a tremendous rallying force, a hurler of tremendous class, and a man who can find the net as well in expert fashion. One has only to recall his two golden goals against Offaly.

He must rank as one of the West's trump cards. Noel Lane, Bernie Forde, who were both among the goals in the semi-final, and the delightful striking and accurate P. J. Molloy are also there up front to probe for weaknesses in the Limerick rearguard, and to ensure that the price of success for the South will be vigilance all the way through.

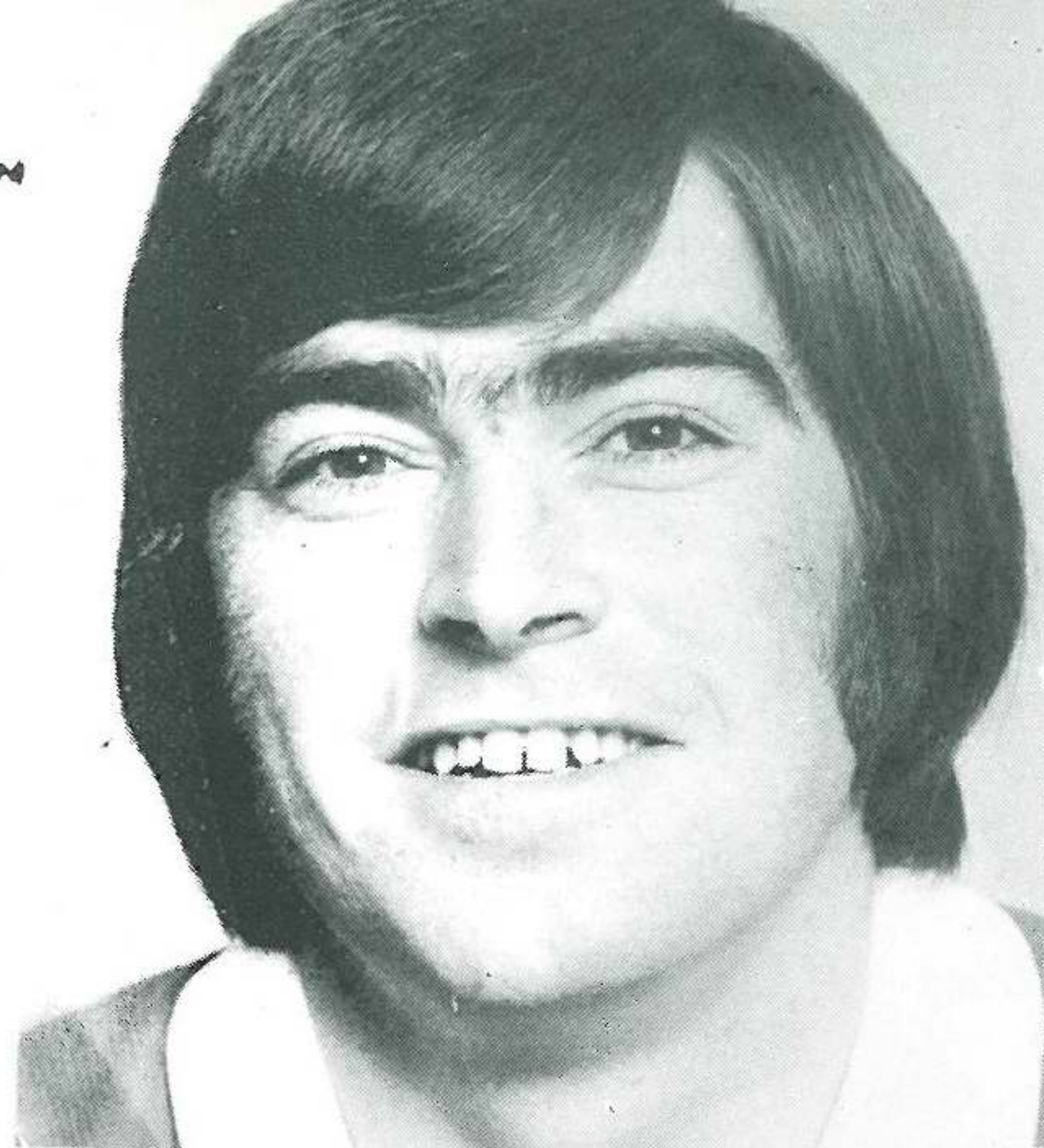
I think we are in for a great final, with many passages of top class hurling, some superb individual performances, excellent scores and a tight battle all the way, with the issue in doubt until the final whistle.

But I will take my stand with Galway. I feel they have the maturity and the confidence necessary to back up their proven skills. They can point to a good all round team understanding, and the telling individual touches of men like Silke, Mahon, the Connolly brothers, Lane and Molloy.

I fancy that these assets will fuse together sufficiently well this time to ensure that Galway have cause for celebration for the first time in over half a century.

A year to remember in hurling

by JAY DRENNAN



● *Joe McKenna Limerick's goal grabbing full forward who will be hoping to add to his All-Ireland senior hurling medal of 1973.*

THIS was a year to remember in hurling. It will go down in the record books as the year in which all the apparently outstanding teams were eliminated from the championship. After the provincial championships and the preliminary game involving the "B" champions, we had Limerick, Galway and Offaly left — no others.

Few would have forecast such an eventuality and there is a school of thought that says it is not good for the game that the great traditional exponents are all out of contention — that it means there is a kind of debasing of the coinage of hurling in 1980.

There is, happily, another school of thought also, which says that the defeat of the star-names is a tonic for all, of course, but that it could not have come about without a considerable improvement in the standard of hurling in the secondary counties who have taken over the field.

Even if there is a falling off in the present standard of such as Cork and Kilkenny, or if they have become blasé or careless of their position, their defeat could not have been brought about by such as Offaly and Limerick unless those counties had raised their standards very significantly.

That, surely, must be a good thing

and, apart from the hope and expectation that it will mean a broadening in the list of first-class counties, it assures us of an All-Ireland that will not suffer from having one or both contestants below the true All-Ireland standard.

According to that train of thinking, hurling will not suffer in the short term (1980) by having a disappointing All-Ireland series or one lacking in credibility: nor will it suffer in the long term, since the improvement of the secondary hurling powers indicates an improvement all round — the top counties forced to yield this year will be back another day.

Indeed, it may be a blessing to them, too, for success has spoiled them a little and they have the idea that they have a divine right to be always the stars of the hurling game. A sharp reminder such as they received this year must, also, have a salutary effect on the top counties, opening

their eyes to the fact that they cannot remain on top unless they work at it and keep up the standard of their play.

Kilkenny, in particular, with all the marvellous talent they have had growing up to them in recent years, needed a reminder that they were not making the best of themselves. A few soft All-Irelands — last year's, in particular — had clearly given them delusions about themselves. Even if they realised they weren't as good as good Kilkenny teams should be, they felt they had some kind of special faculty that enabled them to win when they really applied the pressure.

Such dangerous delusions and the sense of self-satisfaction which they beget are the main dangers to the supremacy of any of the star-teams. From time to time they all suffer from them, but seldom are all the principal teams stricken at once.

Cork and Kilkenny, especially, we must acknowledge as having fallen away slightly. Kilkenny suffered probably because they did not take the League seriously at any stage for

● TO PAGE 55

Johnny Giles

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SPORTS

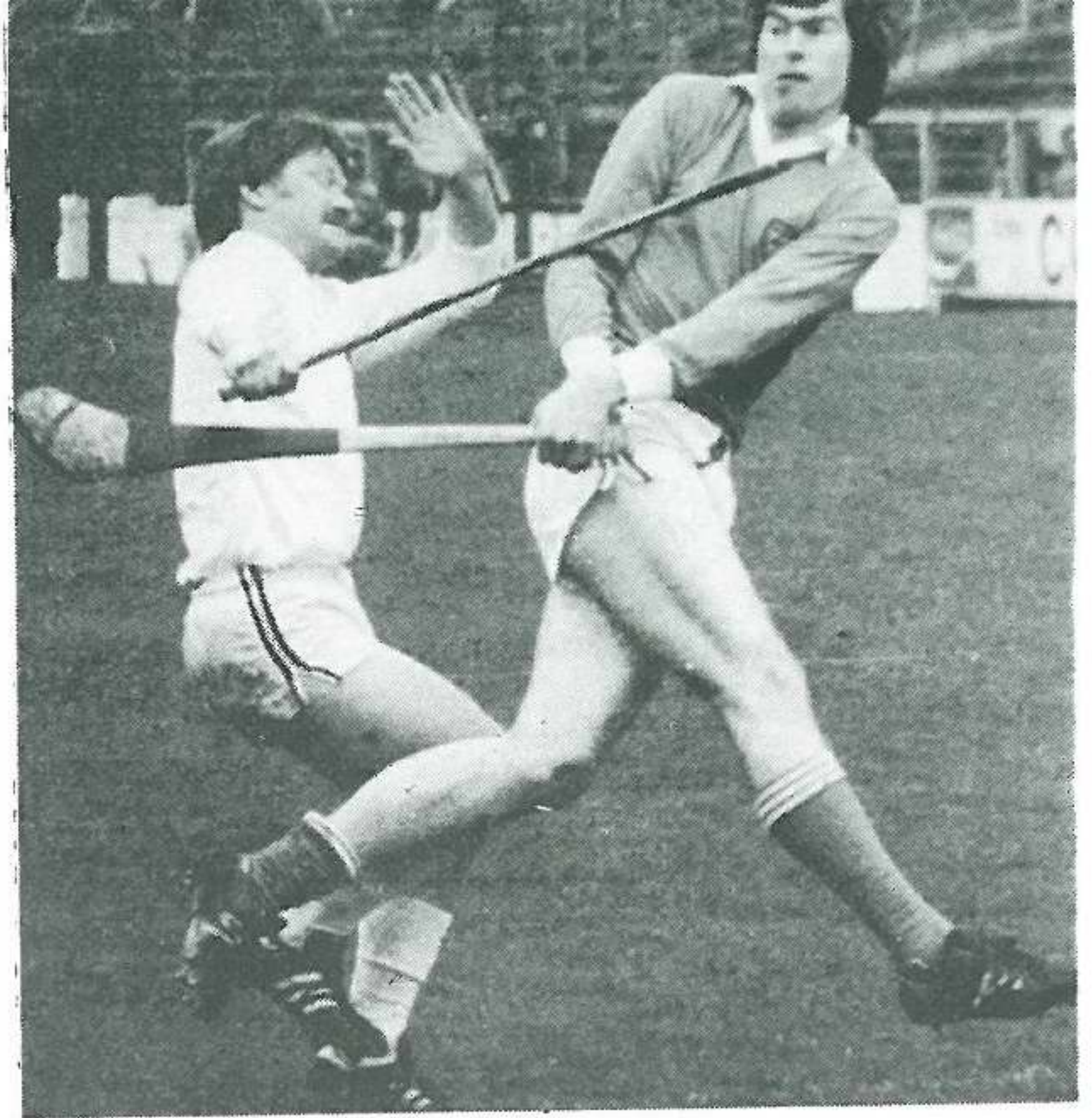
THE NAME OF THE GAME IS VALUE

JOE MCKENNA, OFFALY'S GIFT TO LIMERICK

By Eamonn Young

SEAMUS Ó RIAIN of Tipp and recently president of the G.A.A. has a real love of hurling and the men who play it. I remember the grey winter day in Thurles when after a torrid hour in the League between Cork and Tipp he came to the Cork dressing-room. An angry crowd was howling outside and the faces inside the doors were grim. A few bland words to the troubled stewards, a short conversation with Cork selector Jack Barrett and out strode the pair followed by the players, looking neither right nor left, ignoring hostility. The steady calm called down tranquility from the leaden skies and the sporting spirit of old Tipp hurlers evoked by O Riain spread wings of peace.

Seamus Ryan must have great joy to-day when he sees Joe McKenna playing (against teams other than Tipp) for it is to the Dunkerrin teacher, who guided the boyhood steps of the lad from Shinrone in Offaly that Joe McKenna attributes his early training in the incomparable iománaíocht. What an effect the primary teacher has on the youth of our country. Times are changing and in the last twenty years this little country has turned over so many new leaves, blotted and otherwise, that the forties are a bygone age and the twenties, when the idealistic national teacher flourished, are pre-history. To-day when the overwhelming percentage of young primary teachers are women, I hope that our girls, revelling in their freedom, will not forget the heritage handed on to them in games and nationality by their predecessors, so many of whom became



● *Joe McKenna of Limerick representing his province Munster in the 1980 Railway Cup Final sends the sliothar goalwards despite the close attentions of Sylvie Linnane of Galway representing Connacht. As Sylvie escaped with a two week suspension following his sending-off in the Offaly-Galway semi final it looks like they will be keeping a close watch on each other in the All-Ireland Final also.*

pathfinders in the G.A.A.

After graduation from Seamus Ryan's school young Joe McKenna, a disciple in the See of Killaloe, naturally gravitated to the big college in Ennis that calls for philosophical guidance from St. Flannan. He played some football, but wisely concentrated on the game of his childhood, and soon had his trial with Offaly minors and made the grade. Wing-forward and in the centre of that line were his usual places both with Flannan's and Offaly and altogether he grew up in a hurling atmosphere as sophisticated as any in the country.

It was on leaving school that the important change was made for leaving the hurling home of South Offaly and North Tipp he moved to Limerick and Joe Grimes interested the tall nineteen year old in the hurling of South Liberties where since he has combined in manly and skilful effort with Joe's brother Eamonn, Pat Hartigan and their comrades. Three years later came the vital step when he was asked to play for Limerick, who badly needed a strong fast skilful full forward. What a joy when, in his very first year with the green-shirted outfit, they waltzed right through to the All-Ireland and in a cyphoon of tearaway, but skilful, striking overwhelmed Kilkenny in the final. That was a tremendous year for the 22-year old and it fixed his sights for the rest of his playing life. In the following year the Noresiders hauled one back for themselves and then came Cork's fine side that broke more hearts on the field and on the line than any

● TO PAGE 17



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

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★★★★★★

GRIMES LEADS THE CHAMPS OF 1973

● *Led by Eamonn Grimes, Limerick parade before the All-Ireland Final of 1973 when the county won the title after a lapse of thirty three years by defeating Kilkenny 1.21 to 1.14.*



★★★★★★

● FROM PAGE 15

sportsman cares to count. These were the days of sadness for Joe McKenna and his pals but now they're come again and spear-headed by the man from Shinrone the scores are being chalked up.

Three years ago Joe and Miriam King were married in Limerick where he runs his own business in the engineering and industrial areas. Their little boy Frank has filled up a home already blest with the great things of this life and now the player devotes all the time he can spare to that vital part of his existence, hurling.

He's very happy that Offaly have fought their way out of Leinster at last and pays credit not only to the lads themselves, who have geared their young hearts and minds to the advice and guidance of the older men, but to the great supporters of the midland county who accepted almost perennial defeat with the hardihood and resilience that puts many of the strong counties' supporters to shame. Joe's trouble quite naturally will start if Offaly, as he hopes, overcome Galway. "Then they'll have to wait for another year" he said quietly.

The tall forward doesn't smoke, takes an odd drink, trains just now as often as five nights a week and likes it. Tim Crowe and Noel Drumgoole ensure that the Limerick side retain their enthusiastic freshness and speed. Joe maintains that to-day a man has to be even fitter and faster than he was ten years ago because more

people are training harder. "The dedication and earnestness of many players to-day reminds every man who wants to play well that only careful and consistent training will have him in shape.

Full forward is a fine place he thinks and a man who is in good form and plays intelligently can do a fierce lot of damage there. He likes to play a roving game and is happy to change places with the centre-forward John Flanagan, a farmer, strong in both acres and heart, who helps to open the gates that leave Limerick's fighting foragers and scheming scorers through for crashing goal-shots.

It was in that League final drawn game at Cork, when the 'Bomber' Carroll struck a fast hard ball from twenty-five yards to the Cork goal. Firmly Tim Murphy the Cork cúl báire flattened his stick in the flight of the sliotar and it bounced back. Like a dark greyhound in came the tall man in the green jersey, swung a smart whipping ciotóg shot and there it was, clung into the back of the net with all Limerick howling and we fellows grinding our teeth.

"Cripes, he walks like a king, doesn't he?" shouted the Limerick man as he nudged me with his elbow. Without any real enthusiasm I had to admit he did as I watched this man from Shinrone, six feet four, thirteen stone seven and twenty-nine years old stride erect to a triumphant dressing-room. That man McKenna could do a lot of damage in this All-Ireland.



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Early Among This Nation's Builders



• Fifteen Galway hurlers representing Connacht Bridged a thirty three year gap to win their second Railway Cup when they defeated Munster 1.05 to 0.07 on last St. Patrick's Day.

IT'S BEEN A HARD ROAD

By Jim Bennett

NOT many teams come from nowhere and sweep straight to stardom in a single straight course. Dublin footballers could be instanced, of course, and some others from time to time, but the general principle holds. The most promising outfits start with bright, burnished hopes, yet have to bow the knee, often to teams which, by all appearances, would not have stood a chance with them.

Why? Hard to define in a moment, but it must be all part of nature's laws to curb pride and arrogance and that insufferable pomposity which engulfs many who have sped to the top in their fields without a worthwhile disappointment or a deflation of their egos.

Can you not imagine the numbers of sickening characters you would have walking about the place thinking they were a little less than angels? The body blow of defeat when least expected is nature's built-

in device for dealing with such, building their characters at the same time as it humbles their pride.

In hurling and football it is now almost a truism that you need to suffer a few of those "slings" of fortune before you have the credentials necessary for challenging strongly, never mind winning.

Galway have taken the requisite number of knocks since they first came to the fore with this present team (give or take a few

modifications in the meantime) in 1975. At once they won the League championship, knocked Cork out at All-Ireland semi-final stage and proceeded to walk around in a cloud of fairy-tales expecting the All-Ireland almost as of right.

Not a bit of it! Nor the next year, or the next . . . nor in another All-Ireland final when they reached it! By the end of their string of disappointments Galway have had all the presumption knocked out of them, you can be sure. That being the case, they may be said to be very serious challengers, indeed, for the title.

By this time they will have realised all the over-optimistic attitudes one

● OVERLEAF

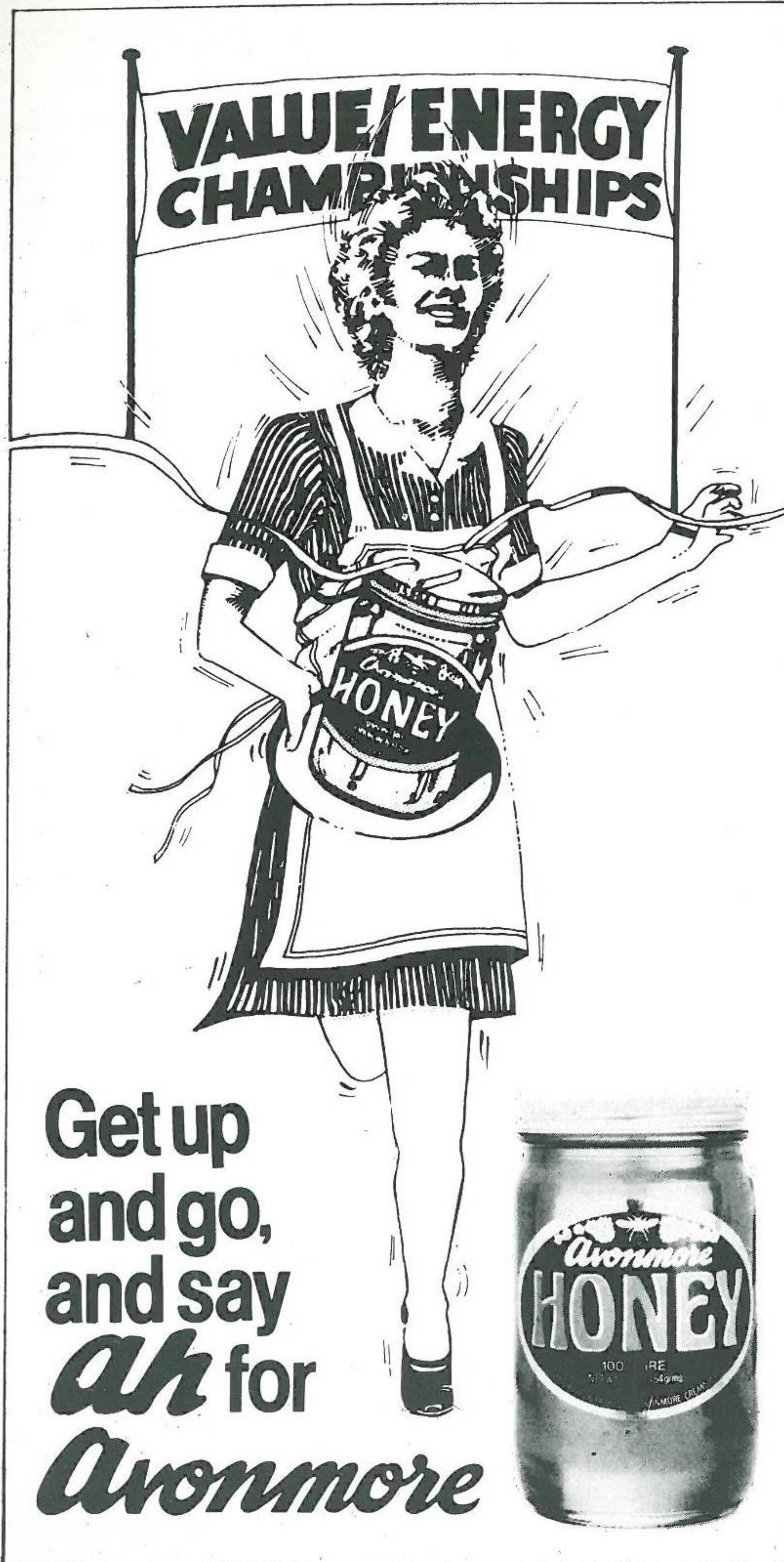
can have in such circumstances as they now find themselves must be avoided. They will have realised, too, that victories in tough games are not fashioned in dream-like sequences of brilliance that the opposition cannot contain, but in "one damn thing after another" — the basics applied basically and with perseverance until the opponents crack.

Now Galway know all the mistakes (or nearly all of them) that any team can make on the way to the Cup. Once they did not wither away after the initial disappointments it was clear that they were not "softies" of no resolution. That they have persevered without relaxing since 1974-5 shows they have the qualities of character needed.

Naturally, there is a physical and psychological limit beyond which one may not be expected to overcome disappointment. Galway must be near that limit now. In brief, this year could be a "now or never" situation.

The parallel between Galway and Roscommon in football is not without its significances. And, in the case of Roscommon, it may be said without much fear of contradiction that it was out of their disappointments and experience that they were able to prove themselves comfortably the best in Connacht and were able to survive the Armagh threat in the All-Ireland semi-final.

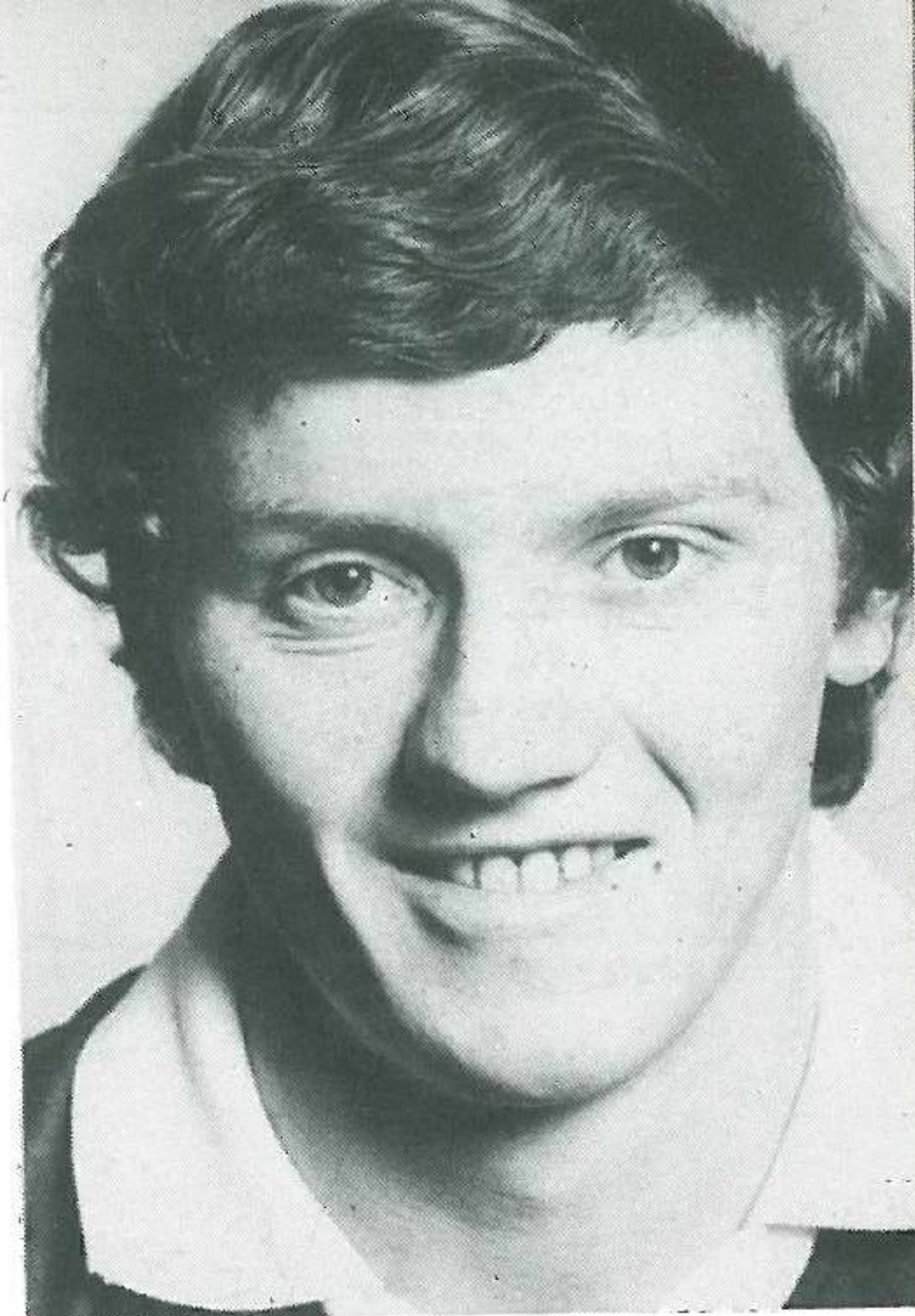
Experience has taught many a lesson to the Galway men. It has caused many of them to become much more confident players, polished their skills, and given them a sense of self-reliance. Most of all, however, it will make them go harder, longer and farther when they play Limerick in pursuit of that elusive victory, for they know they might not be here again.



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

Iggy Clarke dealt a cruel blow

BY NOEL HORGAN



● *Iggy Clarke a great loss to Galway.*

HE looked a player apart in the first half of the Galway-Offaly semi-final. While others struggled to cope with the greasy, underfoot conditions, he patrolled the Galway defensive area with such elegance and composure that we wondered if he had some gripping device fitted to his boots which enabled him to achieve perfect balance.

His covering was excellent and his perfectly-timed and seemingly, unrushed bursts to the wings won him repeated possession.

Then came the one-handed and unerring lift which brought the ball to the safety of the hand, the deft turn which sent bemused opponents slithering in all directions on a treacherous turf and the lengthy delivery from either his left or right side which repeatedly swung the play in Galway's favour.

One such delivery led to the only goal of the first-half scored by John Connolly, while another, struck on the run from inside the Galway half, drew gasps of admiration from friend and foe alike as it sailed majestically between the Offaly posts.

Yes, Iggy Clarke, Galway's brilliant wing-back, was producing a

semi-final performance stamped with typical class. But then with three minutes remaining in the first half, tragedy struck the gifted Loughrea-based curate.

Snapping the ball up with customary efficiency as he faced the Galway goal, he evaded a tackle superbly but, in turning, was caught badly by another and came crashing heavily to the ground.

A broken collar-bone was diagnosed and so the man whose subtle skills had shone like a beacon throughout a rugged first-half was forced to depart from the scene on a stretcher.

The injury is almost certain to prevent Iggy Clarke's involvement in the All-Ireland final. And what a tragedy it will be if Iggy, the polished player who has played an inspirational role in Galway's re-emergence as a hurling force, should miss what could prove to be the westerners greatest day of glory.

Arguably, Galway's most accomplished hurler, he has firmly established himself as one of the finest exponents of half-back play in modern times.

All-Star awards, All-Ireland under-21, National League and

Railway Cup medals have come his way but his main ambition is, and always has been, an All-Ireland senior success with his native county.

How cruel it will be, therefore, if fate ordains that Iggy can play no part as Galway enter this All-Ireland final with their best chance of success since the county took their one and only hurling title in 1923.

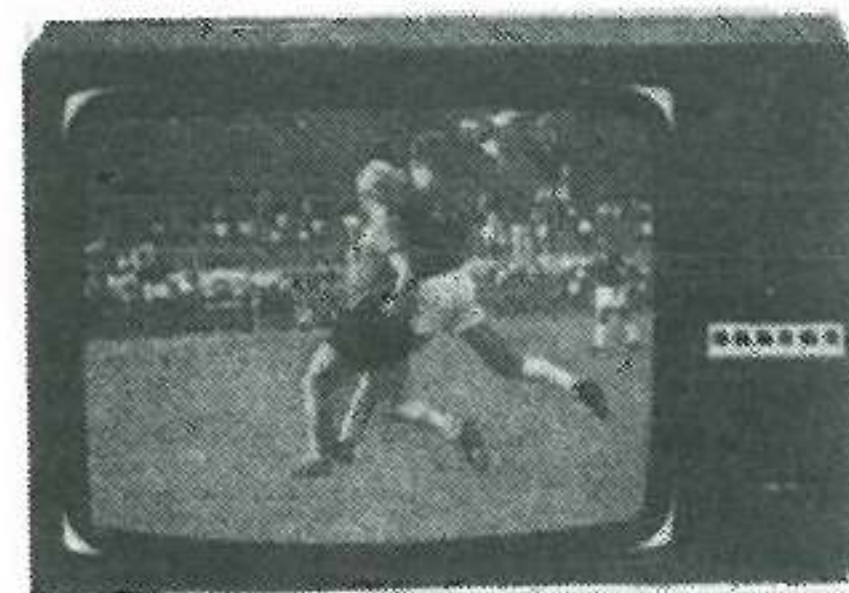
Needless to say, Iggy's loss to Galway would be incalculable in this final. His loss itself, however, would be even more severe when one recalls that the vast skills which he parades so effortlessly would be a fitting adornment to the All-Ireland occasion.

Hurling purists everywhere would welcome his inclusion in the decider at any stage.

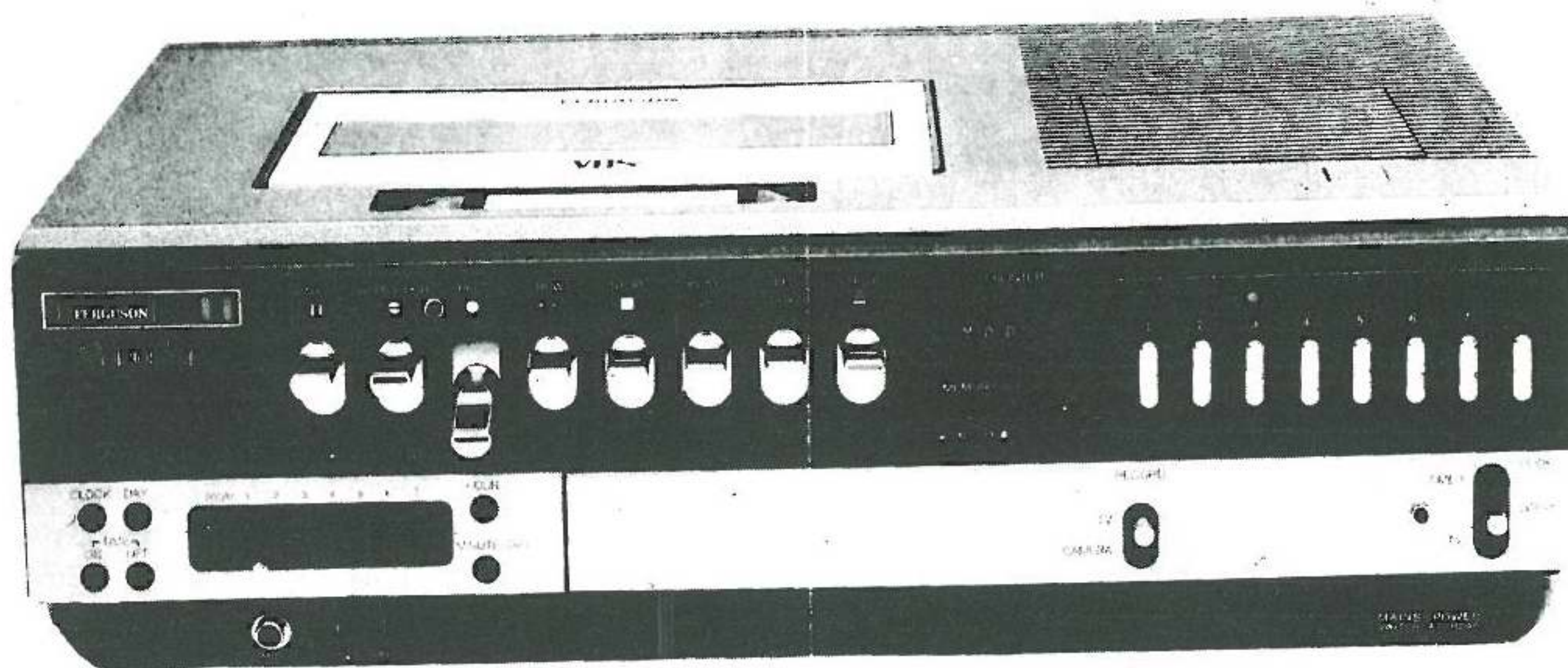
Even if he fails to make it, however, it can be said with safety that Iggy's contribution to Galway's hurling resurgence, a contribution highlighted by his superb display before his premature departure against Offaly, has been such that no preview or after-match analysis of the final will be complete without reference to the talented cleric.



VIDEO



VIDEO



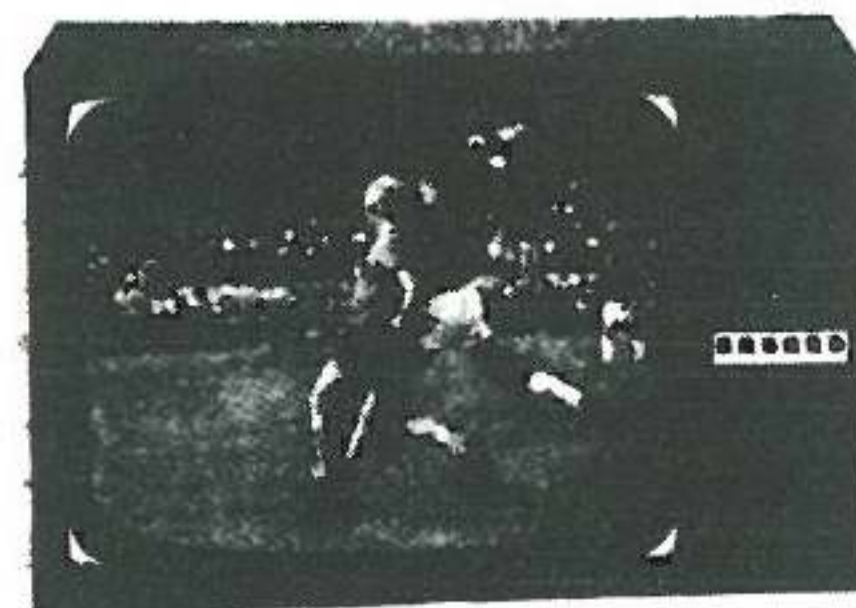
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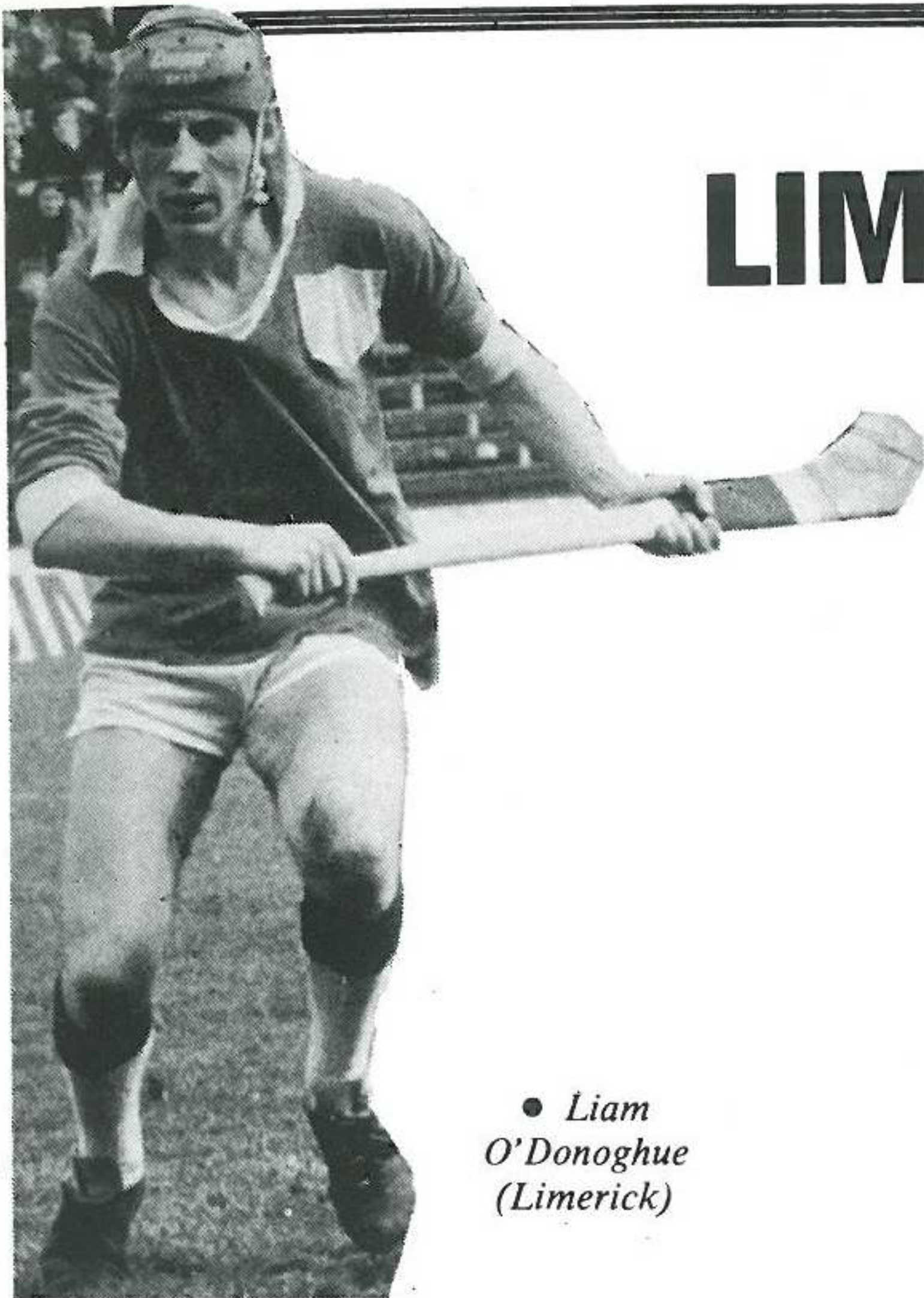
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• *Liam
O'Donoghue
(Limerick)*

LIMERICK FANCIED!

A strange experience for the men in green

BY NOEL HORGAN

IT must be a strange and somewhat uneasy experience for the Limerick hurlers to be burdened with the tag of favourites in their first All-Ireland appearance since 1974 against opponents who will be contesting their third national decider in six years.

But Limerick's impressive form in the league and their hard-earned victory over Cork in the Munster final, combined with the normally unpredictable form of the Galwaymen, has convinced the bookmakers that Limerick are most likely to take this year's title.

It can be safely said, though, that this Limerick-Galway confrontation constitutes the most open All-Ireland final in many years.

Nevertheless, the huge determination and will-to-win which Limerick portrayed against Cork make the Munster champions' bid for glory worthy of special respect. Traditionally, Limerick play an open, attractive brand of hurling which Cork almost invariably manage to

master.

In the Munster final, however, Limerick forsook the frills to produce a close, hard-hitting display which knocked the cocky Corkmen completely out of their stride. The result was that the Shannon-men scored their first championship success over Cork since 1971 and their first Munster final victory over the Rebels in forty years.

With the Cork bogey finally laid to rest, Limerick can be expected to return to their more natural type of game against Galway, a move which seems to guarantee plenty of free-flowing hurling in the 1980 decider.

Not that one expects any slackness from the Limerick defenders whose stern resistance was chiefly responsible for terminating Cork's five-year reign as kingpins in the southern province.

The tight-marking Limerick rearguard is a formidable unit and players like Dom Punch, Leonard Enright, Don Murray, Sean Foley

and the versatile and ultra-consistent Liam O'Donoghue should prove as tenacious as ever against the Tribesmen.

Behind them, Tommy Quaid rarely makes a goalkeeping error and his lengthy pucks-out were of great benefit to Limerick in the Munster final.

The potentially brilliant Mossie Carroll is not having one of his best seasons in the pivotal position but he is overdue a 'blinder' at this stage. There could hardly be a more fitting arena for the Garryspillane clubman to display his immense skills to the hurling world than at Croke Park on final day.

In other departments Limerick are equally well-served. Jimmy Carroll added to his rapidly growing reputation in the Cork game with a most impressive display against no less a figure than Tom Cashman and his midfield partnership with the steady Dave Punch is one that will not be easily mastered.

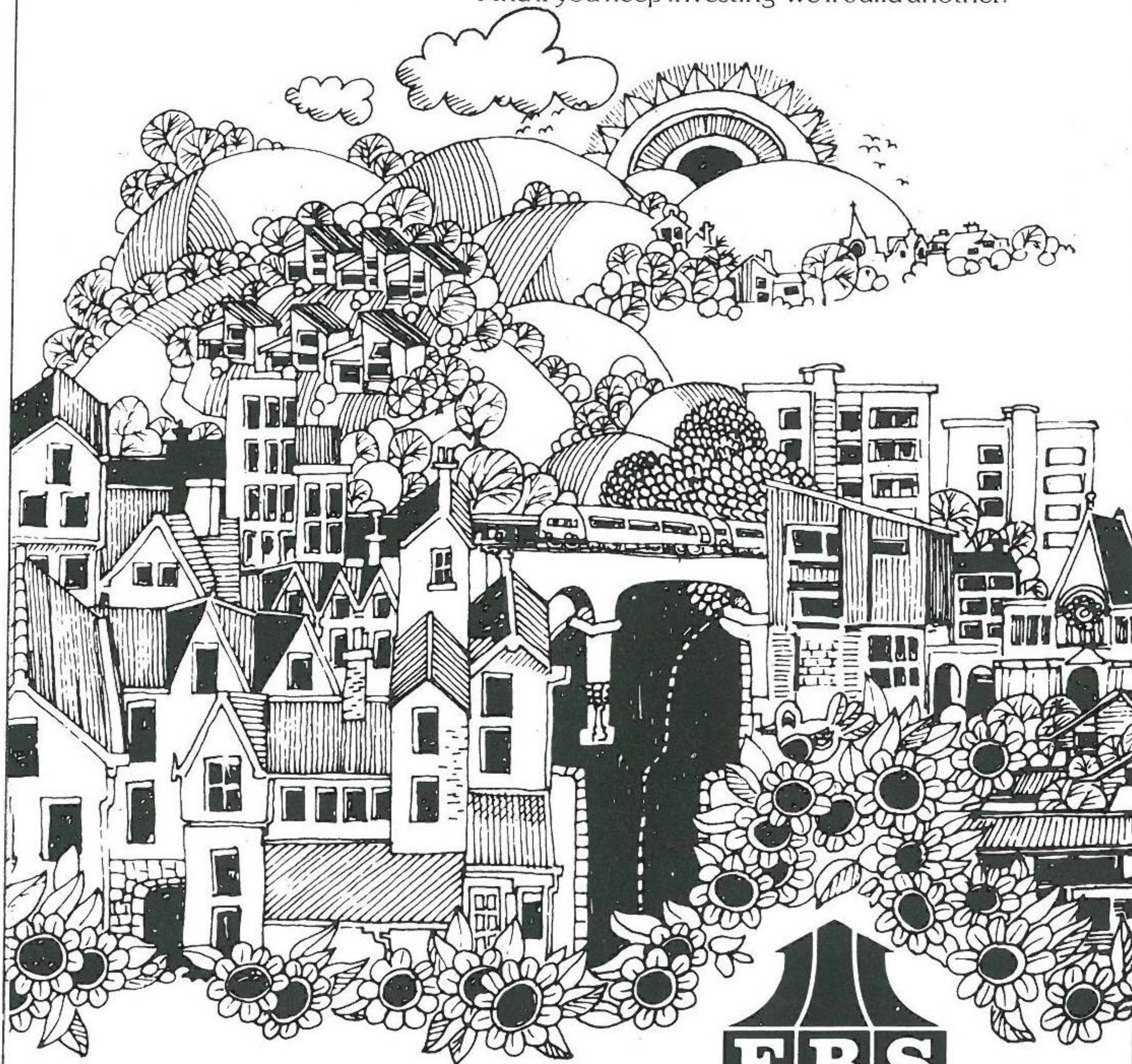
• TO PAGE 25

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● FROM PAGE 23

But it is the Limerick attack which, I feel, holds the key to success in this final. And much will depend on big full-forward, Joe McKenna, if Limerick are to settle into a match-winning rhythm up front.

For instance, in the replayed league final, which Cork won by the highly flattering margin of three goals, Joe McKenna was superb and Limerick notched some great scores. In the Munster final, however, Joe had a subdued game by his standards and consequently the Limerick forward division seemed limited enough in attacking ideas.

Apart from their two goals which stemmed principally from drastic defensive errors by the Corkmen, the Limerick forwards managed only three points from play in that match. The remaining scores came from Eamonn Cregan's frees and from long-range efforts by the outfield players.

Limerick's half-forwards, Paudie Fitzmaurice, John Flanagan, and Willie Fitzmaurice are not a free-scoring trio and their main task against Galway will be to keep the ball flowing through to the inside men.

Here the evergreen Eamonn Cregan remains a lethal opportunist but is less lively than of yore, while roving Ollie O'Connor is a great man to win possession but seems to do his best work outside the danger area of the goalmouth.

Joe McKenna at his best, however, possesses all the qualities required to prise open the most tightly-knit rearguard. And if he plays to form in this final then he should provide his fellow forwards with the inspiration to click into top gear.

If Galway can curb McKenna, they will be in with a great chance of achieving their first All-Ireland success since 1923. But if Joe McKenna performs to the peak of his powers, I will be most surprised if the Liam McCarthy Cup is not bound for Limerick at the end of the day.

From rags to riches

By Noel Horgan



● Leonard
Enright
(Limerick)

IT has been a rags to riches story for Limerick's full-back Leonard Enright. The Patrickswell clubman has, in little over six months, emerged as a household name and is hotly fancied to fill the No. 3 slot with the All-Stars at the end of the season.

Hard to believe, therefore, in view of his sudden climb from relative obscurity to national prominence, that Leonard Enright's link with the Limerick senior team stretches back to the early part of the 'seventies.

When Limerick returned to hurling's upper echelons after a lengthy spell in the doldrums by taking the National League title of 1971, listed as reserve goalkeeper on the Shannonside squad was none other than Leonard Enright.

Since then the versatile Len has seen service at different stages in defence, midfield and attack on the Limerick team. Throughout the 'seventies, however, he was unable to establish himself as a regular on the side.

Instead, he began to try his hand at other sports and achieved prominence in such wide-ranging activities as rugby, soccer and athletics to mention but a few. For the more cynical, he represented the typical jack-of-all-trades but master of none.

It was with some scepticism that those outside Limerick viewed the 29-year-old Enright's call-up to the county colours at the start of the season. His somewhat dubious credentials hardly encouraged one to believe that he could fill the huge void left by the premature departure of the legendary Pat Hartigan.

When Leonard performed with competence in the earlier rounds of the league, his critics remained unconvinced, suggesting that his shortcoming would be exposed

when summer arrived and ground conditions became more suitable for the 'true' hurler.

Enright's supreme test arrived as Limerick qualified to meet Cork in the League Final and he was pitted against the great Ray Cummins at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

Leonard performed to such effect in that match that Cummins was forced to move to corner-forward before creating an impact and he remained in that position for the replay while Leonard Enright ruled at the edge of the square.

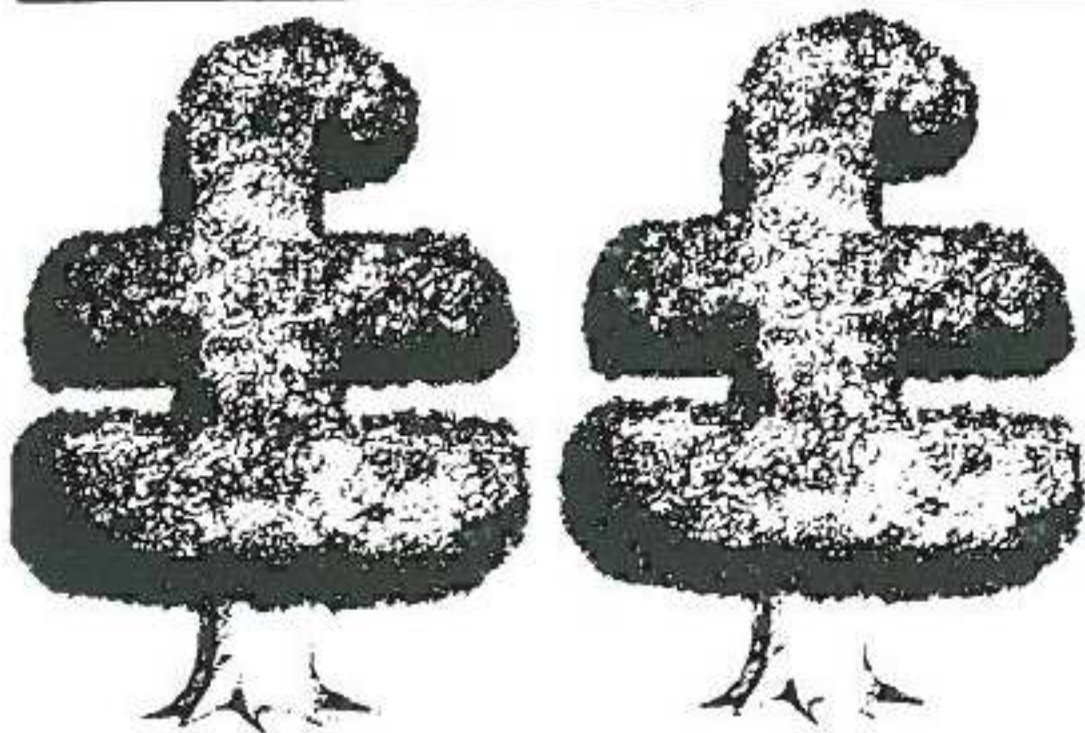
By the end of those two classic finals, eventually won by Cork, the name of Leonard Enright had soared to prominence in hurling circles. When the championship followed, he maintained his good form standing rock-like in front of the Limerick goal, controlling in his solid if unspectacular fashion.

Supreme fitness, strength and tenacity moulded into a sturdy, compact frame are the weapons which make Leonard Enright such a formidable opponent.

A good display against Galway would surely guarantee him an All-Star award, an honour which would make him the second Limerick player and only the fourth overall to be selected at full-back with the All-Stars.

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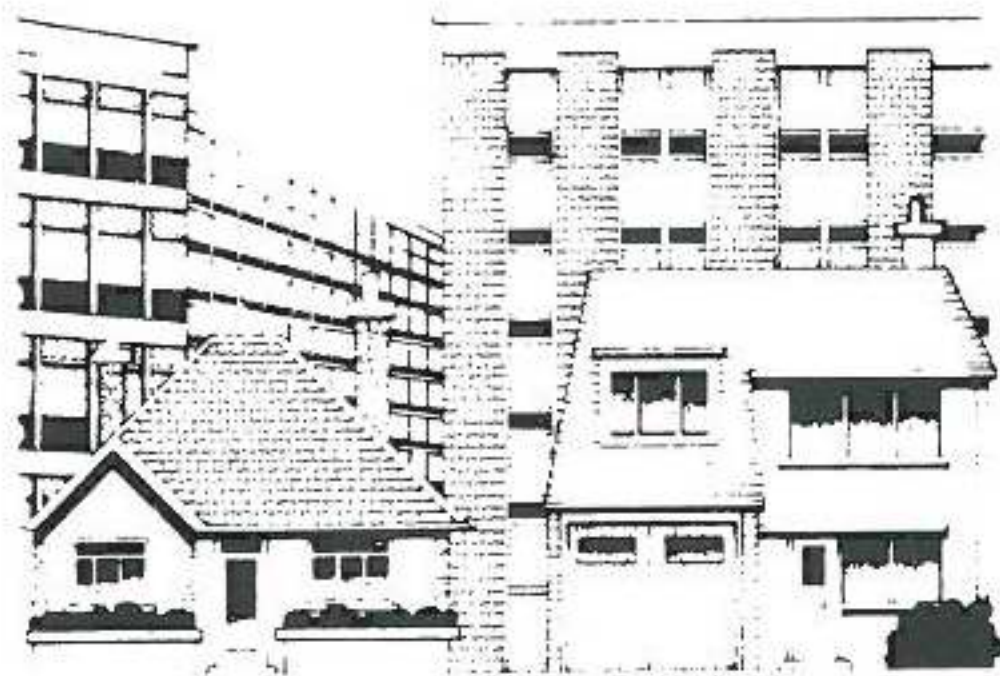
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THE CONNOLLY CLAN



● *Joe Connolly of Galway who at twenty-four is the youngest of the Connolly brothers who have made a great impact on Galway hurling.*

3 trump cards (all aces) from Castlegar

BY FRANK COOGAN

IT is hardly necessary at this stage to stress that the Connolly family, of Castlegar, will have more than the usual cause for celebration if Galway emerge as the country's hurling king-pins from their novel show-down with Limerick.

The splendid contributions by John, Joe and Michael Connolly to the win over Offaly last month are still too vividly etched in the memory of most to make it necessary to point out the obvious here — that three brothers from Castlegar are among the Galway trump cards.

But there is a lesser known side to the achievements this year of the Connolly brothers on the national scene in hurling. Twice already, a member of the family has stepped up to receive the coveted prize for the winners as captain of a major national title winning squad.

Joe, who is at twenty-four the youngest of the brothers, set the trend at Croke Park last St. Patrick's Day. Not many in the attendance at that match had ever watched Connacht win the Railway Cup in

hurling. However, a first-class combination, cleverly led by Joe at centre half forward, finally set that right by beating Munster in a low scoring game for the West's only title since 1947.

That was, then, a famous first for every member of the Connacht team, a high point in Western hurling lore, and for the Connolly family there was the added bonus in that long-serving John also had a big say in shaping the triumph at midfield.

Then, early in June, the Castlegar club, one of the oldest in Connacht, had their most celebrated win yet. They travelled to Navan to meet Ballycastle, of Antrim, in the All-Ireland senior club final, and scored a merited 1-11 to 1-8 win to bring the trophy over the Shannon for the first time.

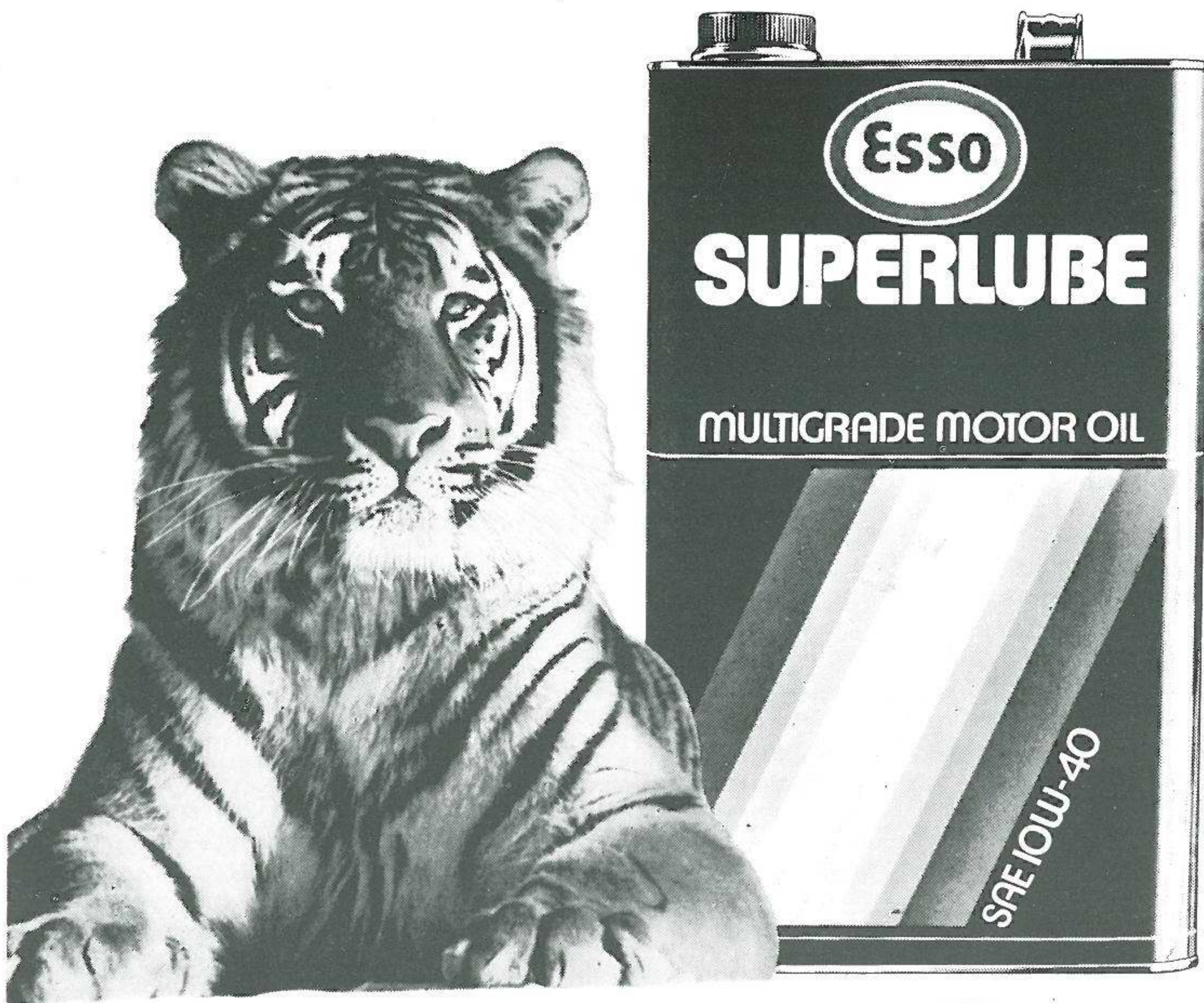
Once more, the Connollys were prominently to the fore. John, Joe and Michael were among five brothers, in fact, in the successful outfit, and it was appropriate in view of the family's great

● TO PAGE 29

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● FROM PAGE 27

contribution to Castlegar and Galway hurling that Michael also led the team from the full forward spot.

What price now a rare treble as far as winning team captains are concerned at national level for the Connolly family? That would certainly be a remarkable achievement, and one that would frank in a special way the Connolly success story in hurling.

Joe will be hoping at any rate for better fortune than was enjoyed by John in the 1975 summit. Earlier that year John, who is at thirty two the veteran of the Galway team, led the county to the National League title. His bid for a rare double, however, was spiked by Kilkenny in the Liam McCarthy Cup game.

Irrespective of the outcome of this latest All-Ireland final, John Connolly's place among the bright stars of hurling is assured. Since winning promotion to the Galway senior team in 1968, he has stamped his class all over the hurling field.

Whether it has been in the half back line, at midfield, or in the attack, John Connolly has illuminated hurling with the quality of his play, his dedication and sportsmanship. His two national medal wins this year also mean that the big one, the All-Ireland senior souvenir, is now the only top award missing from his collection.

Joe is a comparative newcomer to senior inter-county hurling in comparison to his older brother. It was as recently as 1977 that he stepped up to the premier county side in a match against Dublin.

In the meantime, however, he has matured into a hurler of tremendous ability, a hard worker and clever campaigner, and a man who this year has also been displaying an exciting line in knocking in the goals and points.

Joe was in the side beaten by Kilkenny at this stage last year, and the experience gained from that outing is bound to prove invaluable in his bid to become the first from



● John Connolly - Galway stalwart since 1968.

Connacht in well over a half a century to step up for hurling's Blue Riband.

Michael is twenty seven. He, too, can pull his weight in excellent fashion, and is a first-rate hurler to have in any side.



● MICHAEL CONNOLLY... last but by no means least.

He has tons of experience as well. He graduated from the minor and under-21 ranks, and his appearances with the county senior side include an outing as a substitute against Kilkenny in the 1975 Liam McCarthy Cup game.

So, Michael, like his brothers, is no stranger to the tensions of All-Ireland final day.

It is not every afternoon that three brothers win All-Ireland senior medals in one game; it will be unique in the Western context in hurling if the Connolly brothers earn this distinction.

Whether or not their efforts are crowned with success, one thing is already beyond dispute, John, Joe and Michael Connolly are sure to play their parts in making the Galway challenge one to warm the hearts of their supporters.

A Limerick rock that's harder than the name

THEY'VE picked Eamonn to play in the League." That was the news in the Cregan household seventeen years ago. The lad had shown with his club and with the county minor team that he knew hurling but he was only eighteen. Better let it wait a bit they thought. I suppose they were right.

They knew enough about hurling in that house anyway. The father Ned, one of five brothers playing in the Newcastlewest side, stood at right corner back for Limerick in three All-Irelands. They lost the first to Kilkenny in '33 a day which prompted Mick Mackey to say to Raymond Smith "This was one of the best teams I played against our defence was magnificent and no praise is too high for the work of Ned Cregan, Paddy Clohessy and Garrett Howard . . ."

In '34 Ned Cregan won his All-Ireland against Dublin and '35 saw Lory Meagher and the Kilkenny men again slip away by a point. In May '36 this powerful Limerick side toured America and on return Ned Cregan who was one age with the century called it a day. He joined the army in '38, served as a captain in Limerick and the family regret is that the great warrior didn't live to see his county's seven point win over Kilkenny in '73.

So from the start Eamonn Cregan and his brother Mick an army commandant who played for his

county and trained the side later on, had plenty sound advice and when nineteen year old Eamonn went on the field as a sub against Dublin in November '64 he was well on the way to becoming a sophisticated player. Those were the days of Tipp supremacy and that year a great Premier side left Wexford trailing by twelve points in the final.

In the following year when Tipp came down to start another championship road at Limerick's expense in Cork I was on the line

By
Eamonn Young

listening to Johnny Lanigan laughingly say "One of these days we'll have a full team" and we all knew that they would beat Limerick anyhow. It was early on and a high ball came down to right full John Doyle and his man at the Blackrock end. They both pulled in the air and the sliotar broke back about ten yards behind John. There was nobody else around and it looked as if the lean Tipp back would slap it away in his usual sound fashion. Then the man beside me, Doney Donovan, shouted at the top of his voice as he dug me in the ribs "Look at Cregan" A green jersey flashed

before my eyes twenty five yards away; unbelievably it swooped on the ball yards before either of the struggling players, tapped it slightly, and then his fast ciotog ground shot from twenty yards on the side skimmed right to the back of the net. That was the signal for Limerick to go wild and the start of a magnificent 3-5 for Eamonn Cregan that day when he personally closed a great chapter in Tipp and national hurling. His annihilation of Tipp won the All-Ireland for Cork that year but that's another story.

'71 was a good year for Limerick for they won both League and Oireachtas and on that rainy day in Cill Airne were heading for another Munster championship crown. That was the day when, towards the end Babs Keating was struck on the head and blood poured from a three inch gash over his left eyebrow. The twenty-one yard free was placed and Doney Nealon ran on with a towel to attend to Babs. I was about twenty yards away just at the goal. I saw Doney bend down and, rising, wipe Keating's face with the towel. The powerful man from Ardfinnan then brushed the blood out of his eyes surged forward raised the sliotar and crashed it to the back of the net. Though Frank Murphy the ref didn't agree I think Doney replaced the wet sliothar with a hard new ball. When I reminded Eamonn Cregan of the incident, pointing to the

bigger, implies

shining honesty of that simple, Tipperaryman Doney Nealon, Cregan laughed "I'd do the same myself for Limerick if I got half the chance."

Seventy three was the great year when after a dreary 33 years the men in green brought back the MacCarthy Cup to Limerick and if the side went down in the following year it was after a fine battle with the Noresiders. Then came the great Cork three-in-a-row side and Limerick as well as the rest had to take a back seat until this year when two tumultuous League finals showed them that the Blood and Bandage was vulnerable. In Thurles recently Sean Foley, Leonard Enright, Ollie O'Connor and the rest proved that fire eats away the best timber.

Eamonn Cregan auctioneer and insurance broker lives in Castletroy and his wife Anne Crowley (pints of good Cork blood there) and his four children attractively named Garry, Ciara, Niamh and Caoimhe. At thirty-five he feels the glow of hurling enthusiasm as warm as ever and thinks only of the first Sunday in September.

"I hate losing" he says "We lost enough. This one we must win. It's a sound team and I knew that in the League because these fellows didn't give a damn about Cork or anyone else. That Munster final win was a tremendous team effort. There

were no stars and the fast ground hurling suits us. That kind of game puts fierce pressure on the other team and then they are bound to make mistakes. If we can pounce on their mistakes we win. That's what we did to Cork. We were very sharp after Tim Crowe's training. He also has responsibility for the backs while Noel Drumgoole takes the forwards. We talk a lot about hurling and as everybody knows talk demands thought. I know that this is a great year for the outsider and the rise of Offaly has set the place alight. Galway have earned an All-Ireland but so have we, and we're going to Dublin next month to bring home that cup. We know that only a repeat of that fierce effort we made against

Cork will be enough. But we aim to produce that effort".

Eamonn Cregan can trace the name back to two brothers who left the county of Clare in 1774 for the greener pastures of the Golden Vale. But the name, associated with Crehan, retains much of the original habitat for 'Croigán' or 'Creagán' is a little rock and it also means a bruise. Anyone who has seen Eamonn Cregan or his brother Mick set themselves steady on the ground and hit fair with hip and shoulder knows that there's a lot of the grey Burren rock in the stuff that makes up the Cregan's of to-day.

That's the way we like our hurling men.



• Eamonn Cregan of Limerick . . . "I hate losing. We lost enough".

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GOOD TASTE THAT MAKES GOOD SENSE.

GOLDEN GIRL

By Agnes Hourigan



THE creation of the position of a full time Development Officer should prove to be the decision of most consequence taken by An Cumann Camógaíochta promoting the development of all aspects of the Association.

The choice of Miss Jo Golden, who has acted as Árd Runaí of the Association for the past five years, as the first full-time Officer, was both wise and logical, in view of how ably Miss Golden had filled her role as a voluntary officer.

The Annual Reports to Congress have shown Jo Golden as a progressive officer with a great love of the Gaelic ideals and the preservation of Irish Games and Culture. Many of the proposals put forward by her have been adopted and have proved very successful.

While the Association was contemplating this momentous step the announcement from the Department of Education's Minister of State, Mr. Jim Tunney, that aid was forthcoming to enable Amateur Associations to appoint full time officers was most welcome news.

Jo Golden is a native of Kilkenny where she received her Primary Education at the Presentation Convent. She transferred to Colaiste Mhuire and distinguished herself by winning scholarships to University and to the Royal Irish Academy of

Music. She chose the University course and graduated from University College, Dublin, with a Bachelor of Arts. She joined the staff of Scoil Caitriona, Dublin, as a Mathematics teacher. Miss Golden also gained a Dipolma in Computer Fundamentals and System Analysis from Dublin University.

A fluent Irish speaker, Jo is also interested in other sports, Art, literature and music and is a talented tin-whistle player. She is a much travelled young lady and as well as her love of Irish culture she has a keen interest in other cultures.

A county player for her native Kilkenny and a brilliant goalie for University College, Dublin, during her student days, she has won Ashbourne Cup medals, All-Ireland Club championship medals with St. Pauls Kilkenny and captained the Leinster Team to victory in the Gael Linn Cup.

Jo retired from Inter-county competition on being appointed Árd Runaí in 1975 but has been responsible in the meantime for making many proposals which have streamlined the competitions. Her interest in publicising the affairs of the Association was first apparent when she and some of her colleagues at U.C.D., published a quarterly magazine 'Camogie'. This quarterly later became the Camogie Annual

and was edited by Miss Golden when she was P.R.O. before she was elected Árd Runaí.

The Association, now in its 76th year, has had many dedicated and hard working officers down the years. These people have come from the four corners of Ireland and have given generously of their time, energy and expertise to promote the game and preserve the Gaelic ideals, culture and traditions. It is impossible to dwell for very long on the growth of Camogie without associating the name of Sean O'Duffy with all that has been done. Despite his advanced years, Sean is now in his 93rd year, he is still as keen on the advancement, image and on the preservation of the Gaelic Ideals as he was more than twenty years ago. So this new appointment must please the heart of our longest and most esteemed member.

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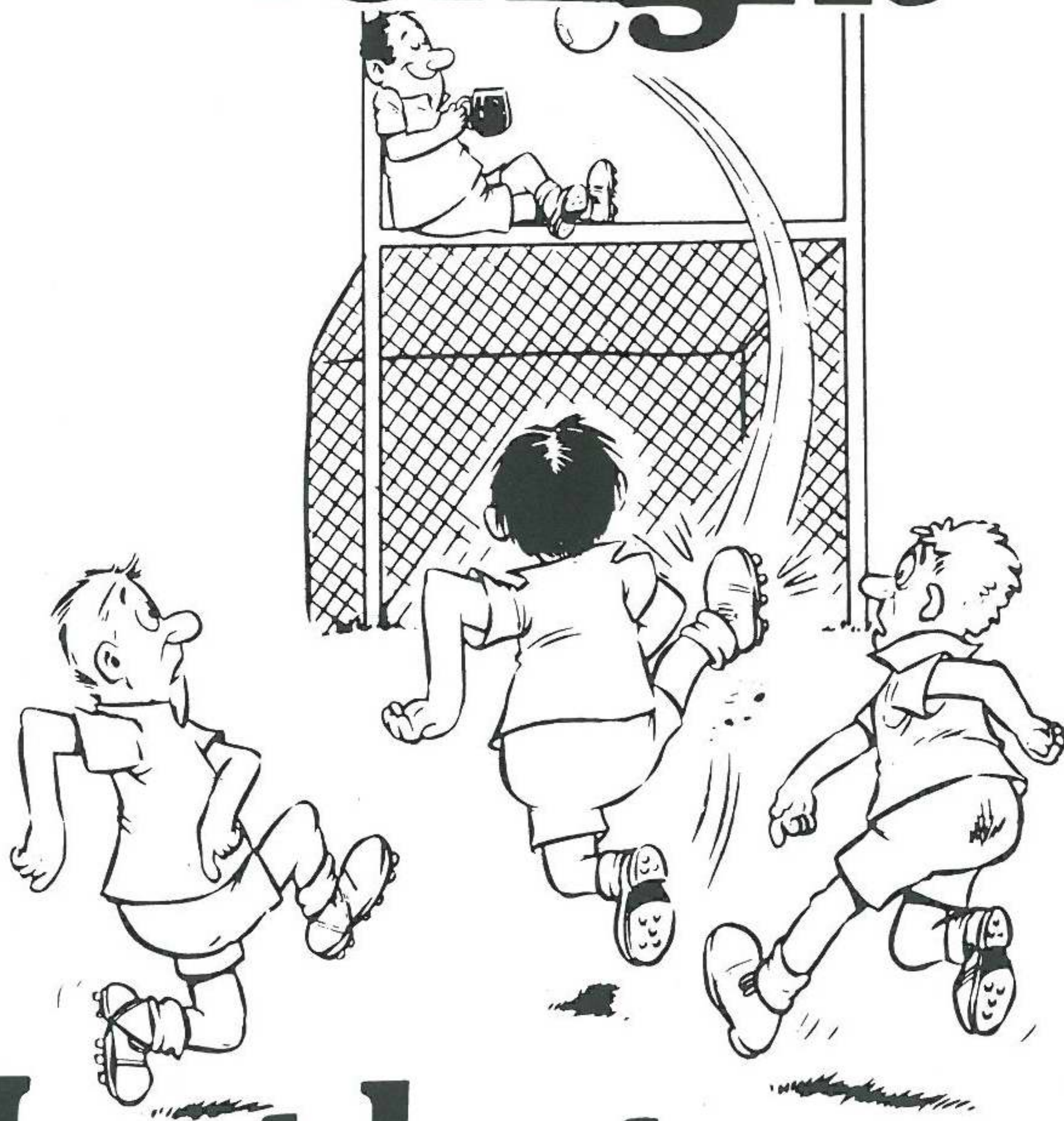
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Niall of the easy, sure, unhurried style

By Séamus Ó Braonáin

IN a hurried world, where both footballers and hurlers seem to think that speed will more than substitute for skill, it is pleasant to see that Niall McInerney's approach to the game of hurling remains unhurried and unflustered.

There has always been an undertone in general opinion that whispered that McInerney was too slow, that a really nippy and busy corner-forward would give him a regular roasting. Mind you it has been a whispered opinion, because you cannot speak out loudly about a player who continues his way through years of playing at the same, easy pace and still keeps figuring every day in any man's list of the best players on the Galway team.

No man is absolutely proof against error and Niall has been caught a time or two, of course. It was then you could sense the undertone waiting to be let loose, the more brash and loud-mouthed ones could be heard on those rare occasions voicing their views. They were soon proved wrong again by another prolonged spell of cool, apparently casual dominance of the right corner by the Clare-born, Galway-adopted stylist.

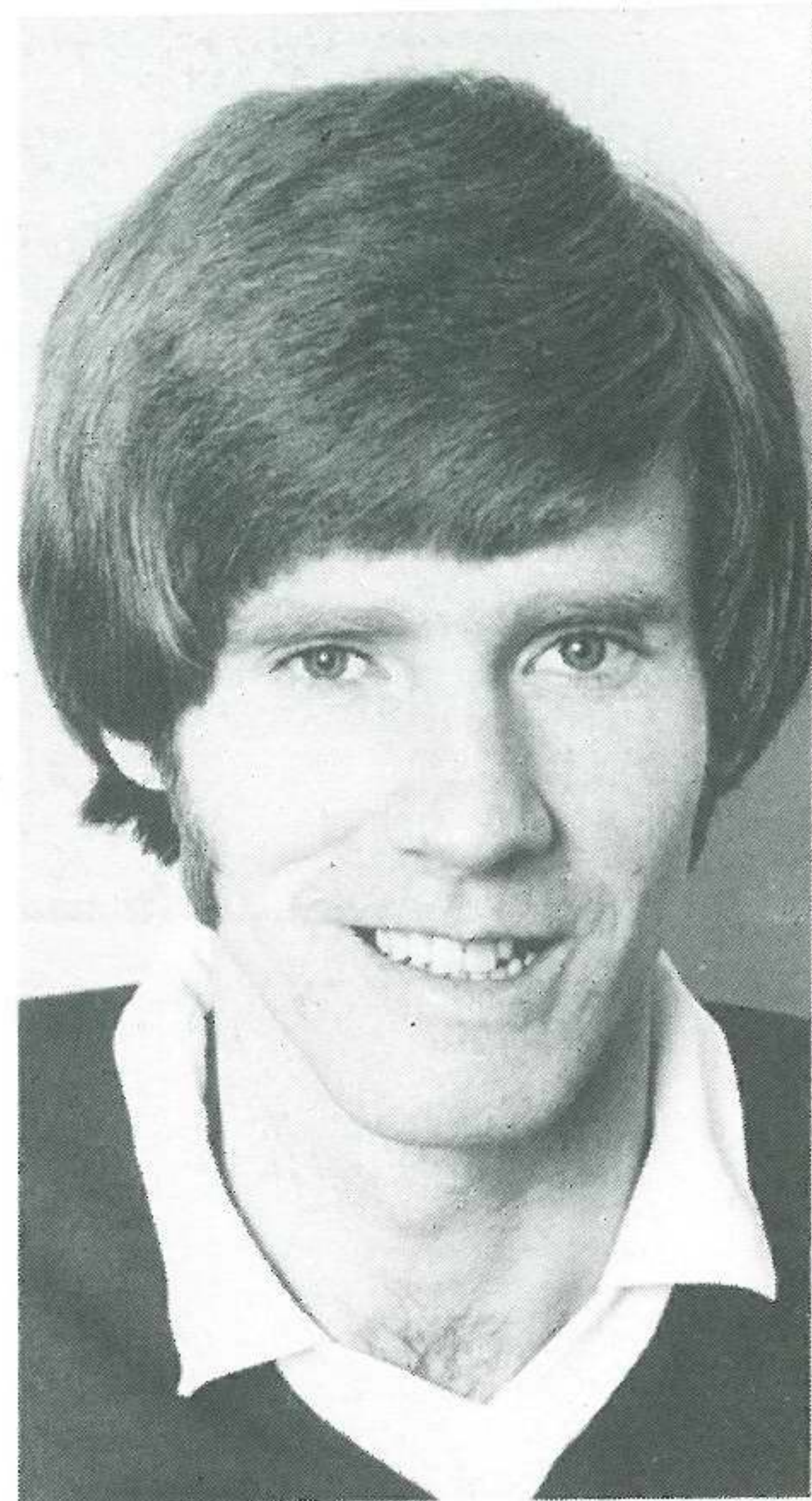
It is not a question of fast or slow at all, but a question of the man's natural way of doing things — the rhythm which governs his life. He

would not suit a rushed form of hurling, not only because he has the long-legged build of an easy-going strider, but because it is altogether contrary to the natural course of his thinking.

Rather than cutting it fine by wandering far away from duty during the course of a game, as so many ebullient players who do things of great note in places where they shouldn't have been in the first place, McInerney plots it all with care.

Instinct and intelligence combine to note the position of the opponent, the man with the ball and the likely trajectory of the ball towards his opposite number. All calculations taken into account, Niall moves off into the direction of the answer that suggests itself, and ninety-nine times out of a hundred, calculating accurately and arriving at the right spot at the right time to casually flick the ball away or intercept and clear with ease and style.

Style is difficult to understand anyway when it comes to the business of defining what exactly it is. In the case of most players it has no particular manifestation more than another. There are many who are caught up in the same rush and tumble, eagerly trying all they are worth, without even giving themselves time to think about what



● *Niall McInerney (Galway)*

they are doing and, perhaps, saving themselves half the trouble and effort.

Because they do not, they have nothing about their play that manifests their particular qualities and characteristics, or the kind of fellow they are — no style. Those who do apply their own peculiar rhythm and personality to the game project also an individual approach and an individual way of doing things. If style means anything it means that.

Long legged striders give an impression of slowness that is not altogether true. If it were they would be given the run-around regularly. McInerney was never really as slow or casual as he looked. And, in any case, he was always applying good

● OVERLEAF

AN GÚM

Síle ar Scoil

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

Síle agus a Madra Beag

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

An Capaillín Cróga

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

Pedro An Gaucho Beag

Léiríonn an tsraith seo "Tíortha agus Níosanna" an éagsúlacht iontach atá ar fáil sa domhan seo. (San Airgintín atáimid an turas seo le Pedro an gaucho! Cén rud é gaucho? Faigh amach duit féin! (Aoisghrúpa 7-11) Praghas 60p

An Táin

Ceann de mhórscéalta 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 Éadaoin Praghas 70p

Gráinne agus Peadar

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

Katia An Cailín Ungárach

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

Máirin An Rinceoir Beag Bailé

Má tá aithne agat ar chailín óg a dhéanann bailé seo an leabhar di. Is cinnte go spreagfaidh sé go leor cailíní óga agus a dtuismitheoirí chun spéis a chur san ealaín seo. Gilbert Delahaye agus Marcel Marlier a scríobh agus a mhaisigh. Siobhán Denman a d'aistrigh do pháistí 8-12 bliana. Praghas 50p

Dubh agus Breac: Scéal Dhá Chat

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

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

● FROM PAGE 35

common sense to the job of corner back play realising that positioning judiciously will enable you to cut off a player even though you never stand beside him.

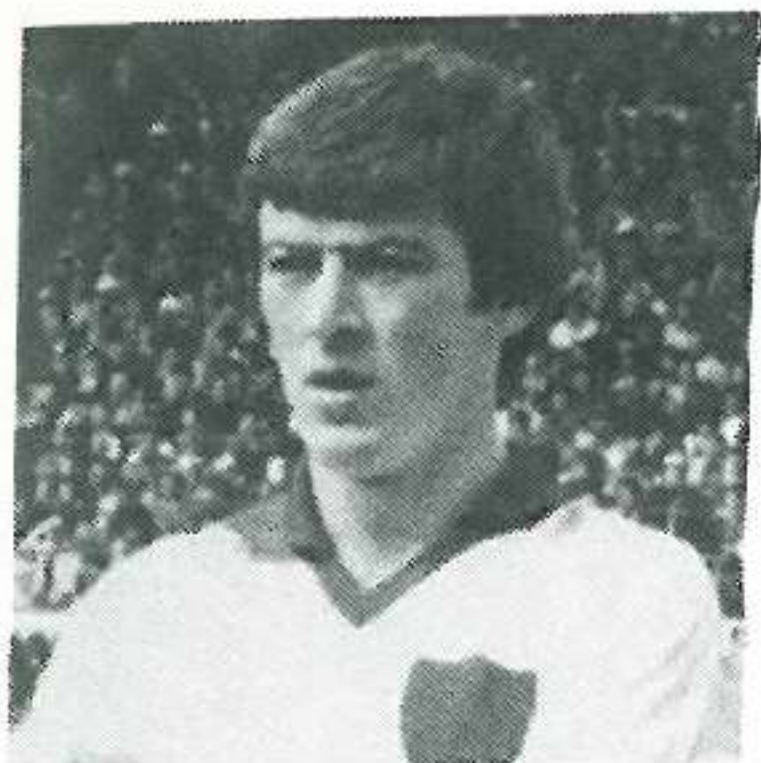
Niall always favoured positioning well inside his man on the good principle that while he stood there no ball was going to pass him on the way out to the corner forward positioned wider and deeper than he.

So much for past tense and doubt. This year the situation which appeared to be settling over the Galway full-back position since the coming of Conor Hayes has been thrown into doubt with the absence of that most promising young fellow on working-holiday. His likely absence for the duration of the championship left the old trouble-spot the very same way it was before Conor was discovered.

McInerney was converted. Many were of the opinion on any occasion in the past when the idea was mooted that he would not make the grade in the central position. It was never really tested adequately or proven. Already by this stage of the championship season it may be said with confidence that McInerney has travelled very well and has lost nothing of his soundness in the transfer.

Indeed, in the naturally tighter position in front of the goal, McInerney has been able to make good use of a quality of his game which may not have been appreciated — quickness in the close exchanges — blocking and parrying and giving no time to settle on the ball.

All the changes have been taken in his stride by Niall and it must now be an unusual and unexpected thing for such an established player to find everyone watching the outcome of the clash between himself and Joe McKenna because of their lack of certainty that McInerney has mastered the central position. It makes for a tit-bit within the feast of the hurling Galway and Limerick will be expected to serve.



BY
JIM BENNETT

Fearless 'keeper

IN thirty years of Limerick hurling the name of Quaid has never been far from the forefront. When Limerick began to emerge from an anonymous patch through much of the 1940s and early 1950s the names of the twins Jim and Jack Quaid were prominent in the company of the team that won the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship in Oct. 1954 and that which dazzled in 1955 winning the Munster SH title before bowing to mighty Wexford.

It was an unsuccessful patch when viewed statistically from a distance of 25 years, but it was exciting and spectacular while it lasted. Seamus and Liam Ryan of Cappamore, Dermot Kelly (Claughaun), Tommy Casey (Ahane), Vivian Cobbe (St. Patrick's), Ralph Prendergast (Claughaun) and the 1954 Junior captain Mickey Carmody (Knockaney) spring easily to mind.

To-day, of course, it is the sons of the hurlers of that generation who are taking the field and the present Limerick goalie, Tommy Quaid (Feoghanagh) is the son of Jack. Already he has assured himself a place in Limerick's hurling story with the consistency and coolness of his goalkeeping in the four years or so that he has had charge of the net.

That might be a statement of no great importance in some other counties, but, in Limerick, where they always prided themselves on their goalies, it is quite a mouthful. Spoiled they may be by goalies like peerless Paddy Scanlan, of Ahane; Tom Shinney, of Fedamore; Mick Murphy (Young Irelands) in the 1920s whose absence on the day Limerick last played Galway in an All-Ireland final was thought to be the deciding issue; Jackie Ryan (Castleconnell) of "Tyler" Mackey's team; and John Reidy (Ballingarry) of the first All-Ireland winning side. But they seldom had cause to reproach the present with ghosts from the past.

Paddy Colloppy (St. Patrick's) made a fine job of his responsibilities in the 1940s though close enough for constant comparison with Scanlan. Paddy Cunneen (St. Patrick's) in the 1950s was another fine 'keeper whose successor Jim Hogan (Adare, later Claughaun) earned a wonderful reputation over 15 years of amazing consistency behind teams that seldom enough won their matches.

Fittingly, Hogan saw the dawn of the new era when he guarded the Limerick net for the League victory of 1971, though the years had caught

up with him and he had dropped down to the subs, with Seamus Horgan (Tournafilla) between the posts on All-Ireland day, 1973.

Tommy Quaid looked a very young minor and a small Under-21 when he first began to draw attention to himself in the Limerick colours. He looked a terribly vulnerable little fellow in white when tossed in to seek his fortune with the seniors in 1976.

One thing was immediately obvious — he knew no fear and his nerves were rock-steady. It was no fairy tale: he had a few bad bounces and unlucky breaks right at the beginning, but the way he put them behind him, brushed them from his memory, and got on with the game was a revelation. The goalkeeping temperament manifesting itself.

It was gradually, and after both courage and temperament had shown themselves, that we could also see he had the eagle-eye, the lightning reflexes, the speed of movement and the concentration. Somehow, the little fellow in white didn't seem so small any more. Forwards agree that there is no part of the goal you can aim at with certainty: Quaid can dive and leap where necessary — when he hasn't been able to anticipate the stroke and narrow the angle.

One save of his from a surprise kicked effort by Pat Horgan just after the interval in the Munster final may have had an absolutely crucial effect on the result. Many people watching and many playing did not realise that Horgan's harmless-looking kick would have dipped in under the bar for a shattering goal but for Quaid's flying leap and stretched hurley that just flicked it up over the bar.

One other thing has earned Tommy something of a reputation — his goal pucks. He can launch the most enormous drives deep into the opponents' half. They are an attacking weapon in themselves.

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THE ROOTS OF HANDBALL

By
Seán
Clerkin

SINCE the G.A.A. was founded nearly one hundred years ago it has shown phenomenal development in its every sphere.

As the tree grew so did its branches, hence I find it opportune in this particular issue to grasp at one of those outshoots on which the handball destiny hangs and examine its expansion with relation to the main body.

Perhaps the handball branch could be more precisely termed a graft, for while the G.A.A. as an Association was first founded in 1884, it did not, in fact, herald the birth of handball but merely set out to bring it under its wing.

The fact of the matter is that handball is as old as time itself and was brought into this country by the Celts.

It is problematical whether the method of playing it altered considerably down the years and since the Annals of Ireland do not indicate that it was played in an alley in earlier times, it is likely that it was practised on an open court with the ball being tossed from hand to hand by two players.

In the Tailteann Games of old it occupied a most important position when the heroes of inhabited Europe travelled thousands of miles to vie for the distinction of champion.

However, when we forget ancient history and recapitulate a little on the affairs of handball as they stood in this country even a century ago, we read of the feats of such

exponents as William Baggs, David Browning and John Lawlor. In those days, the emphasis was on professionalism with the side stake between players and supporters a major issue.

As a result, the game as a means for country-wide development required changes, for though the few top players who added to it as a spectacle were possibly on a par or better than those of the present day, the handball message had not been relayed to the young men in town or country, who required it as a healthy and exhilarating exercise.

Come 1844 and Most Rev. Dr. Croke in his wisdom, and, the full realisation that the promotion of handball was a necessity for the revitalisation of the New Ireland, made emphatic reference to the game, when he wrote on December 19th, accepting the patronage of the newly established Gaelic Athletic Association. That was the start of a new era.

Between then and 1924, the game as played under the new rules, drafted by the G.A.A. made commendable progress and various championships were completed satisfactorily. In that period, too, internationalism also made its appearance, with the often spoken games between John Lawlor and Phil Casey, the American champion who had built his own court at Brooklyn.

It was in 1924, however, that the

real influence of the G.A.A. had its effect, when for the first time it was decided to establish handball on a regular championship basis.

A handball council was formed and John Lawlor, elected to the office of President, became the vital link between the old and the new.

And what of handball since then?

Well, I think it is hardly necessary for me to elaborate, for it is obvious, even to the casual observer that the game has made great strides. It has steadily been developed at central council, provincial, county and club levels and a wide range of competitions is available for players of all grades.

The Garda and Army Authorities have long since recognised the benefit of handball to their men while, in recent years, there has been a dramatic development of handball at school and university levels.

In latter years, particularly, courts have been springing up through the country at regular intervals and the era has now dawned where covered and floodlit facilities are the accepted norm.

Every year, the pace increases, the competitive element becomes keener while the advent of internationalism and the achievements of Pat Kirby and Joey Maher have put handball on a special plane in the context of the G.A.A.

To-day, the game is extensively played throughout the country and for that happy state of affairs, the G.A.A. must take its share of the credit.

GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ

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The remarkable prowess of Limerick athletes

By Seamus O'Ceallaigh

WITH Limerick regaining the hurling headlines on the day following the opening of the 1980 Olympics it is interesting to recall the remarkable prowess of the Athletes from Sarsfields County in the years when athletics in Ireland were under G.A.A. control.

They won the incredible total of one hundred and thirty-two gold medals, spread over thirty-five All-Ireland Athletic Championship meetings held between 1885 and 1922.

On two occasions — 1902 and 1907, they each won a grand total of nine titles. In 1890 Dr. J. C. Daly of Dromin collected four gold medals in the weight events, and set an Irish record into the bargain in one of them. Three years later, Paddy McNamara of Limerick City, picked up another four gold souvenirs, winning two sprints and two jumping titles.

The quality of performance by Limerick athletes during those years is best illustrated by their mighty feat in winning the extraordinary total of six Olympic gold medals, easily a record for an Irish county or maybe a similar area of like population anywhere.

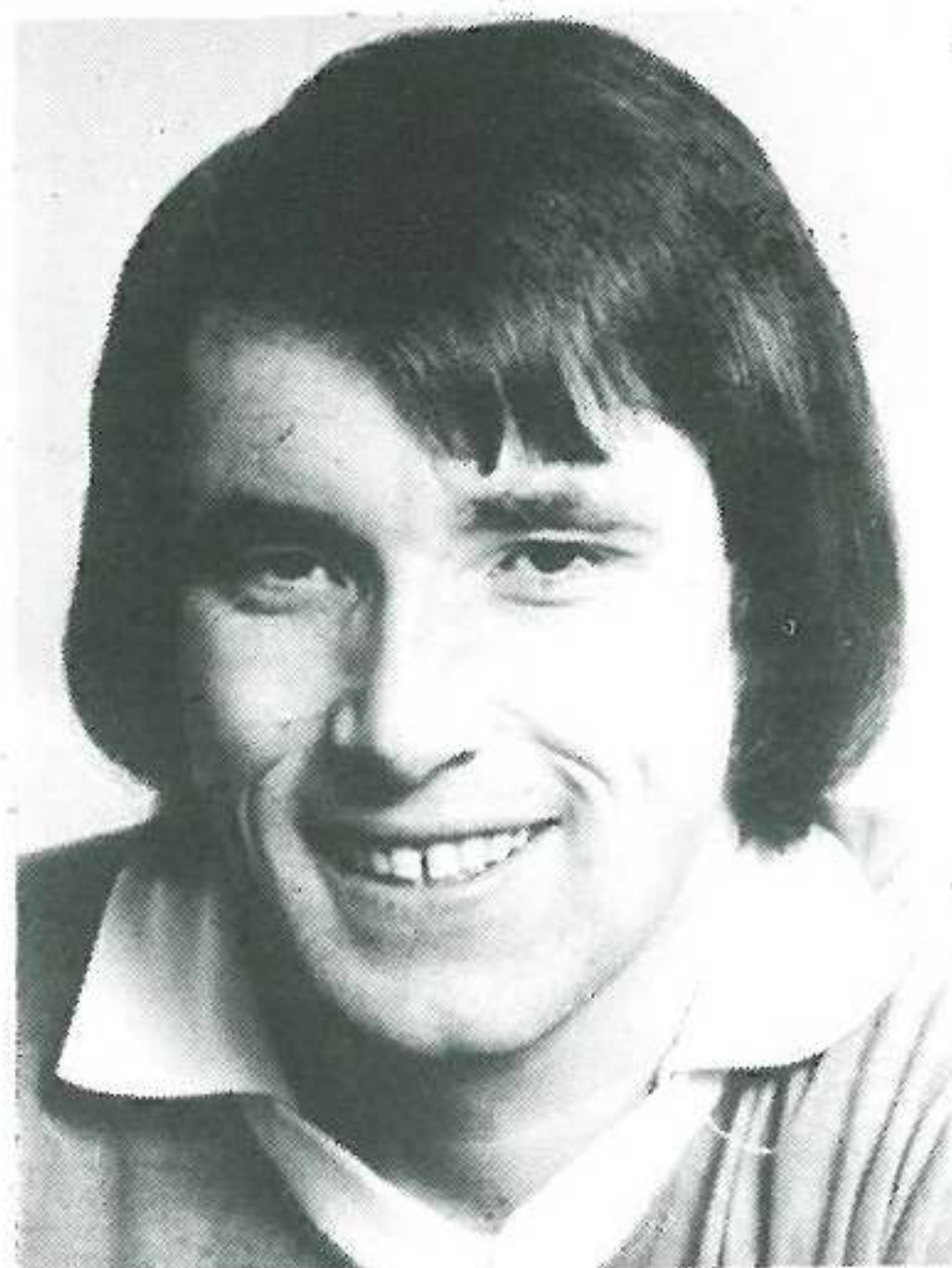
John J. Flanagan, of Kilmallock, won gold in each of three Olympics, all with the 16 lbs. Hammer. Con Leehy of Cregane won a gold and silver at Athens in 1906 — the former in the High Jump, the latter as runner-up to Peter O'Connor of Waterford, in the Hop, Step and Jump. In 1908, at London, Tim Ahearne of Athea won the Hop, Step and Jump and in 1920, at

Antwerp, Paddy Ryan of Pallasgreen took over the Flanagan mantle when he won with the 16 lbs. Hammer.

To further emphasise the athletic mastery of those early G.A.A. days we call into evidence a really amazing total of world records to the credit of Limerickmen.

John Flanagan made his first Hammer record in 1896 and in seven stages between then and 1909 he carried it from 147 feet to 184 ft. 4 ins., to be bettered by Paddy Ryan, who set a figure of 189 ft. 6½ ins. in 1913.

John Flanagan set his world record at Slinging the 56 lbs with Follow at 36 ft 9½ ins. in 1901 and six years later he had brought it to 38 ft 8 ins.



● Sean Foley who captained Limerick to their Munster Final victory over Cork.

Jim Fahey of Galbally beat the world in 1923 with his 40 ft. 3 ins. in the Three Standing Jumps; Dan Ahearne of Athea did likewise in 1910 in the Two Hops and Jump at 51 ft. 7 ins., and the following year he excelled the old world record of 50 ft. 10½ ins. made by Dan Shanahan of Kilfinane, in the running Hop, Step and Jump, when he cleared 50 ft. 11 ins.

Willie Real of Pallasgreen made four world records with the weights: 1885, Putting 42 lbs 28 ft 0½ ins., 1888, Putting 56 lbs 23 ft. 9½ ins., 25½ lbs. with Follow 36 ft 8½ ins., and 1889 — Putting 28 lbs. 35 ft. 1 in.

John O'Grady of Caherconlish was the last of the Limerick world beaters, when he excelled three of Real's performances: 1920, Putting 56 lbs. 25 ft. 5 ins., 1923, Putting 42 lbs. 30 ft. 1 in. and 1924, Putting 28 lbs. 39 ft. 9½ ins.

The first Limerickman to win in Athletics under G.A.A. laws was Frank B. Dinneen of Ballylanders, who collected the 100 yards flat and running High Jump first places at the big Sports meeting in Blarney on 3rd May 1885. He was afterwards the only man to hold the two top positions in the G.A.A. — President and General Secretary, and in 1908 he bought the City and Suburban Sports Grounds, Jones Road, Dublin, which he sold to the G.A.A. five years later to become Croke Park.

Another first for Limerick was the winning of the inaugural All-Ireland Senior Football Championship in

● TO PAGE 43

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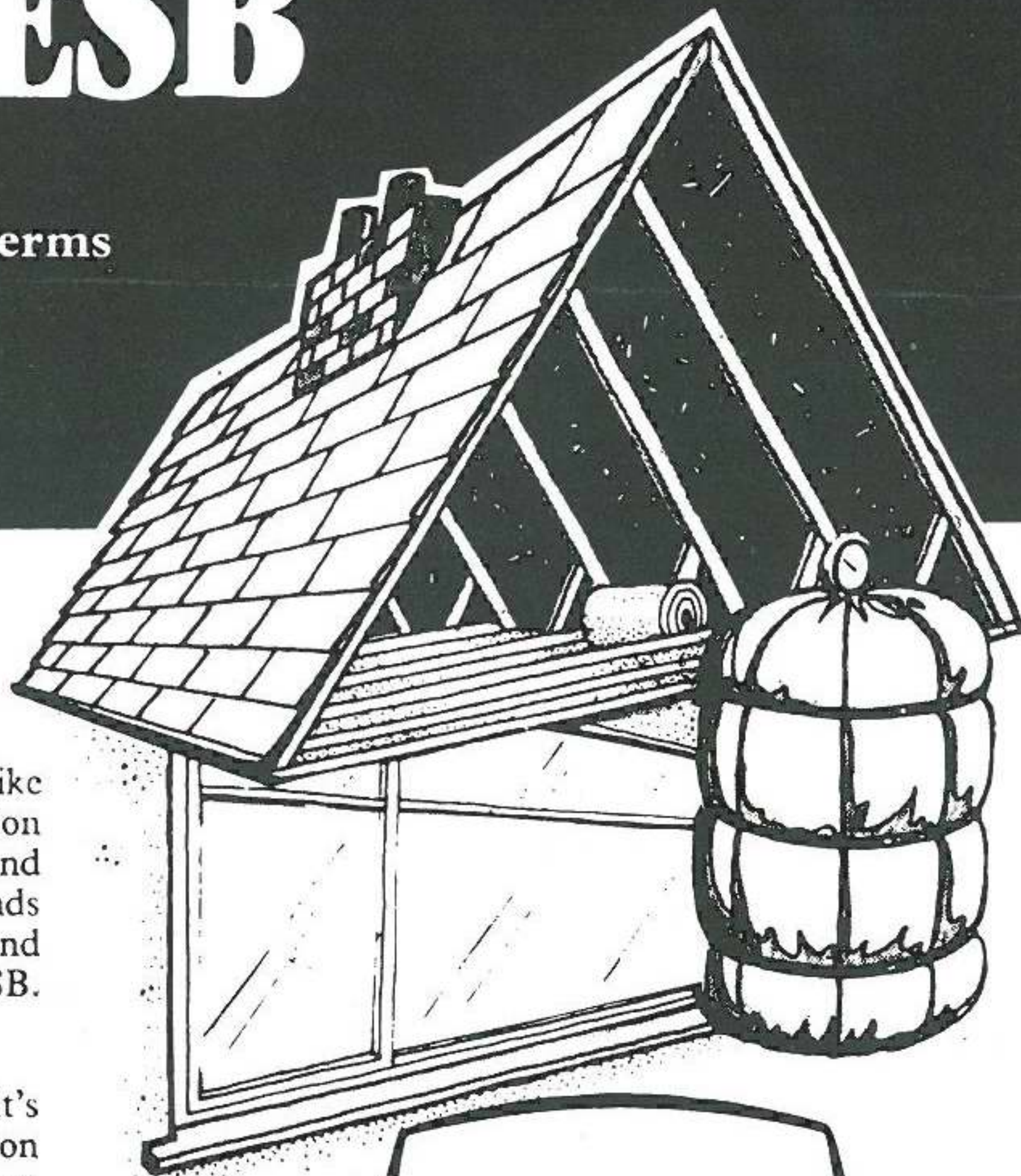
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● FROM PAGE 41

1887, a feat which they repeated in 1896.

The first All-Ireland Senior Hurling honours were secured in 1897, with subsequent successes recorded in 1918, 1921, 1934, 1936, 1940 and 1973. The county made a National Hurling League record in the 'thirties, when they won the title for five successive seasons. Such is the background to the coming bid for 1980 All-Ireland senior hurling honours.

There are five sets of brothers on the present Limerick selection.

Fathers Paudie and Willie Fitzmaurice are both priests of the Limerick Diocese. Paudie, who teaches in St. Munchin's College, was a member of the first team from St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, to win the Fitzgibbon Cup. Their father, the late Liam Fitzmaurice N.T., was Vice-Chairman of the West Limerick Board of the G.A.A. from 1947 to 1957, when he became Chairman, a position he held for a dozen years. He was also Vice-Chairman of the County Board from 1960 to 1966.

David and Dominic Punch are members of the County Champion Club, Patrickswell. Both helped Limerick in Minor and Under 21 ranks before gaining their place on the senior side. Their father, the late Dom Punch was a founder member of the Patrickswell club and its Treasurer for over quarter of a century.

Sean and Pa Foley are two of four brothers who are members of Patrickswell's champion side. They are sons of John Foley, who helped Limerick to Oireachtas fame during the great Mackey era. Sean captained the team in the recent great Munster final win over Cork.

Eamonn and Mike Grimes are two of five brothers who regularly play on the South Liberties Senior hurling side. Their late father was a great hurling enthusiast and Eamonn captained the Limerick side to All-Ireland success in 1973.

Mossy and Brian Carroll are both members of the Garryspillane club



● *Bernie Hartigan . . . great hurler and weightsman combined.*

and learned the finer points of their play at that great nursery of Gaeldom, Presentation De La Salle, Hospital. They have played Minor and Under 21 in Limerick colours.

Five members of the present side figured in the All-Ireland finals on 1973 and 1974. They are — Eamonn Grimes, Eamonn Cregan, Sean Foley, Liam O'Donoghue and Joe McKenna. In addition, Paudie Fitzmaurice and Paddy Kelly came on as substitutes in the 1974 decider.

Eamonn Cregan, long serving member of the Limerick side, is son of Ned Cregan, who helped Limerick win the Jubilee All-Ireland Senior Hurling title in 1934, whilst

star goalie, Tommie Quaid had his father, Jack, and uncle, Jim, who are twins, as members of the Limerick side that won the 1954 All-Ireland Junior Football title and the Munster Senior Hurling Championship the following year.

Noel Drumgoole, who played for Ireland in 1956 and 1959 is Limerick Team Manager, and the other selectors are Tony O'Brien, who captained the Limerick team that won the National Hurling League in 1971; J. P. Ryan, Vincent Byrnes and Jimmy Horgan. The well known athlete, Tim Crowe, is team Trainer and Dr. R. O'Flaherty is the Medical Adviser.

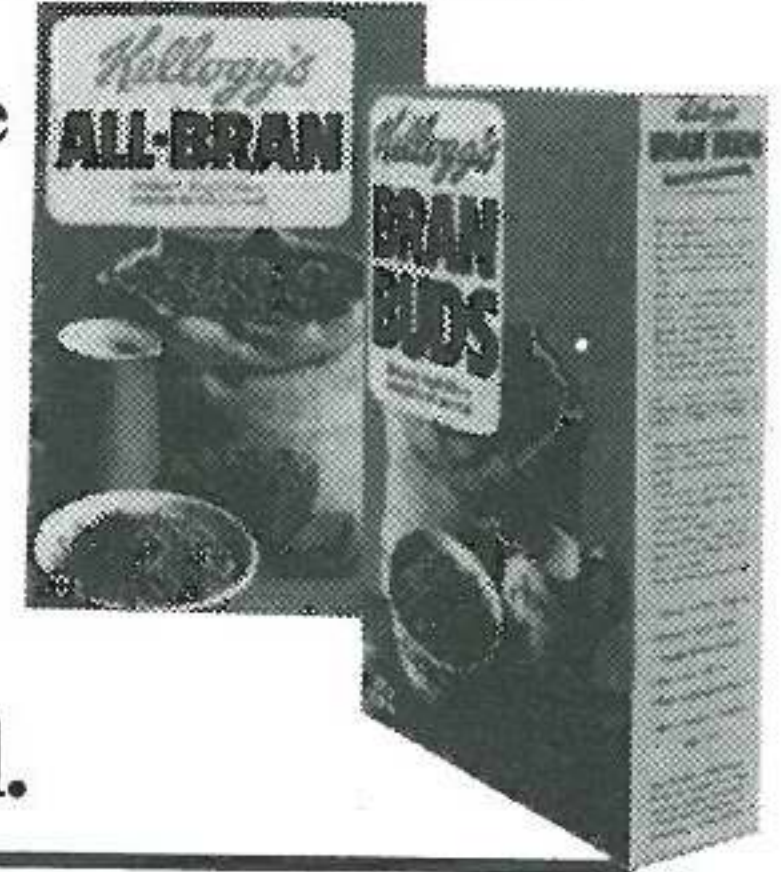
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The roots of hurling are sunk deep in Galway soil

By
Seamus
O'Ceallaigh

MANY who know their hurling will tell you that the caman game goes deeper in Galway than in most other counties. They will stress that the roots of the game are sunk in the misty past, and bring into evidence from old records the story of a match played in the Shannon Valley away back in 1773 between Galway and Tipperary for which the prize was a thousand guineas — a princely ransom then.

Further evidence is found in the fact that Pat Larkin of Killimor wrote the first book of rules ever produced for the modern hurling game, several years before the G.A.A. itself was formed.

Galway even had the first hand in the establishment of the G.A.A. When Michael Cusack made his initial move towards forming the Association it was in consultation with a group of Galway men favourable to the project, and on 15th August 1884 these met at Loughrea and waited on the great Bishop Duggan of Clonfert with the request that he act as Patron.

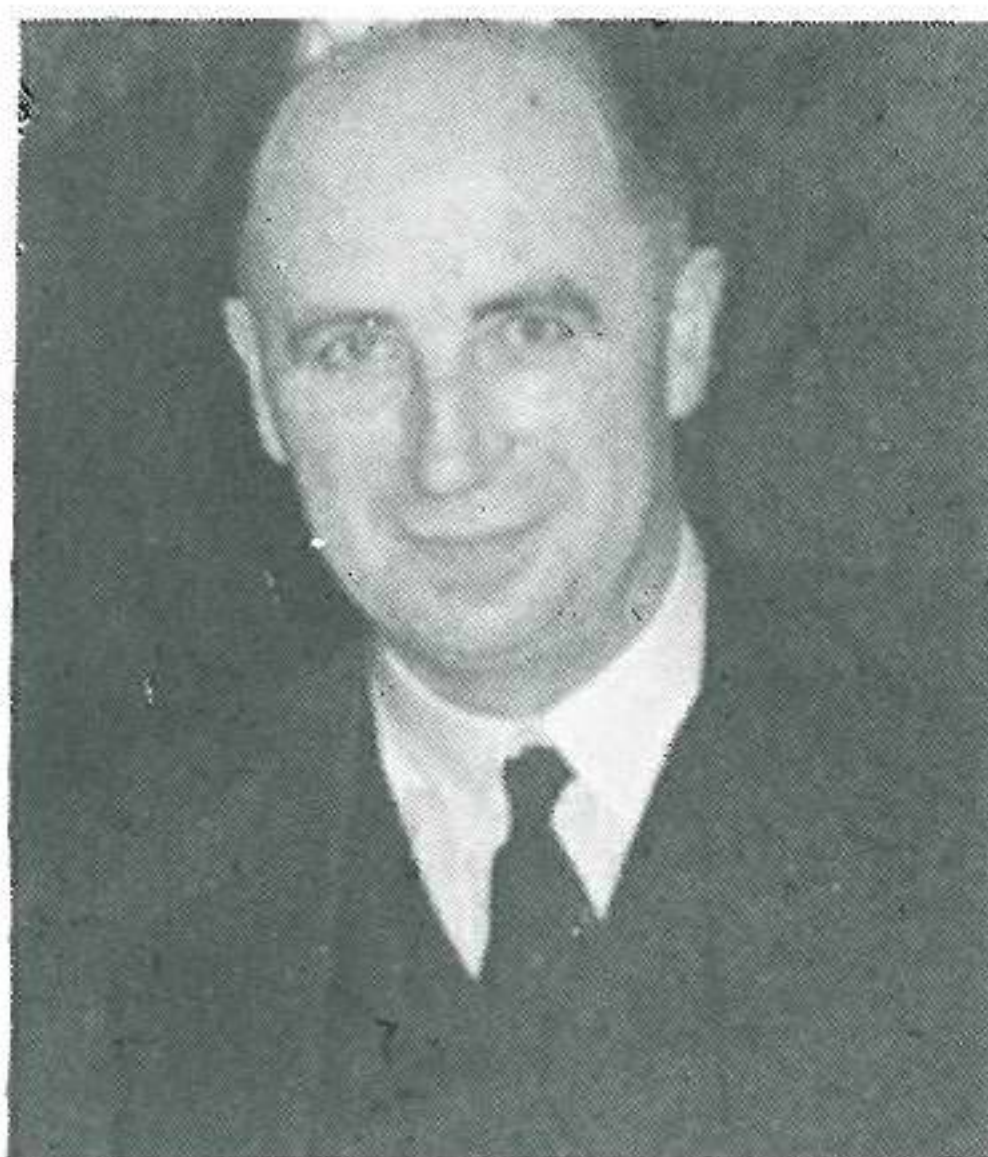
Dr. Duggan received then warmly and gave his blessing and wholehearted encouragement to the idea but recommended as Patron Archbishop Croke of Cashel "a young vigorous and energetic Gael" who would prove an active asset rather than a figurehead, as he could only hope to be, due to advancing years.

Michael Cusack took the good advice thus given and on 1st November that same year the

G.A.A. was founded in Thurles and the name of Dr. Croke became inseparably linked with it.

It was only in the correct order of things that Galway and Tipperary should contest the first All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final, which was, fittingly enough, played at Birr, Co. Offaly — the date 1st April 1888 — the Premier County men winning 1-1 to nil, but only after a terrific struggle.

That has been the story of Galway hurling all down the years — near misses, but ever back, season in, season out, to fight the issue with one or other of the great hurling counties — and they have met them all, forming a not inglorious part of the annual struggle for national supremacy. Indeed, it can be truly said that they came year after year with renewed vigour and the hope that springs eternal.



● *Mick King of Galway.*

They had great players in Galway all down the years and to the present day, and it is one of the tragedies of the provincial system that men of such calibre should be denied an honour that others lucky enough to live in some of the regularly successful counties have gained with a lot less effort and commitment.

Pat Madden of Meelick captained the team which represented Galway in the first memorable battle for the hurling Blue Riband.

I saw Galway in hurling action for the first time on what was an unforgettable day for them — 14th September 1924, the occasion of the long delayed 1923 All-Ireland Final, in which they created a top class surprise when beating Limerick, 7-3 to 4-5.

Naturally the players in that final were Galway heroes all. They lined out — J. Mahony, J. Power, T. Fleming, E. Gilmartin, M. Derivan, M. Kenny, who captained the side, J. Morris, S. Garvey, I. Harney, M. Gill, M. King, L. McGrath, R. Morrissey, B. Gibbs, A. Kelly.

That great success aroused tremendous hurling enthusiasm by the Corrib and this very soon brought to the forefront a man whom many good judges maintain to the present day was the best hurler ever produced in the West. He was undoubtedly the master figure of the late 'twenties and early 'thirties and his hurling deeds aroused as much interest in his time as did Mick

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 45

Mackey and Christy Ring in later decades.

At the outset let me explain that he was not the "M. King" that figured in the 1923 Final. That honour belonged to his first cousin,

Martin King, who also played with a Galway City Club.

We were halfway into the decade when Mick King hit the sporting headlines. He was the outstanding figure on the Ireland teams in the Tailteann Games of 1928 and 1932,

and he gave a notable display on the Galway side beaten by Cork in the 1928 All-Ireland Final.

He missed the following year's final because of injury and we find this nice tribute to him from that doyen of Gaelic writers — P. D. Mehigan of Cork.

"King's brilliant hurling career was nipped in the bud before the fullness of his prime when he took that shattering accidental knee crash at Croke Park. He tried to play on like some hero of a Spartan saga, until taken off to spend a year in hospital. At Tailteann and Railway Cup, King was the Cuchulain of the side and his endless work for the games of the Gael in Connacht has to some extent compensated for his physical injury now happily repaired".

Another great admirer of the Galway star was one of the game's finest defenders, Phil Purcell of Tipperary, who was a colleague on the Tailteann team of 1932, but more often an opponent in All-Ireland championship, National League and Railway Cup encounters. Phil has left on record this appreciation of him.

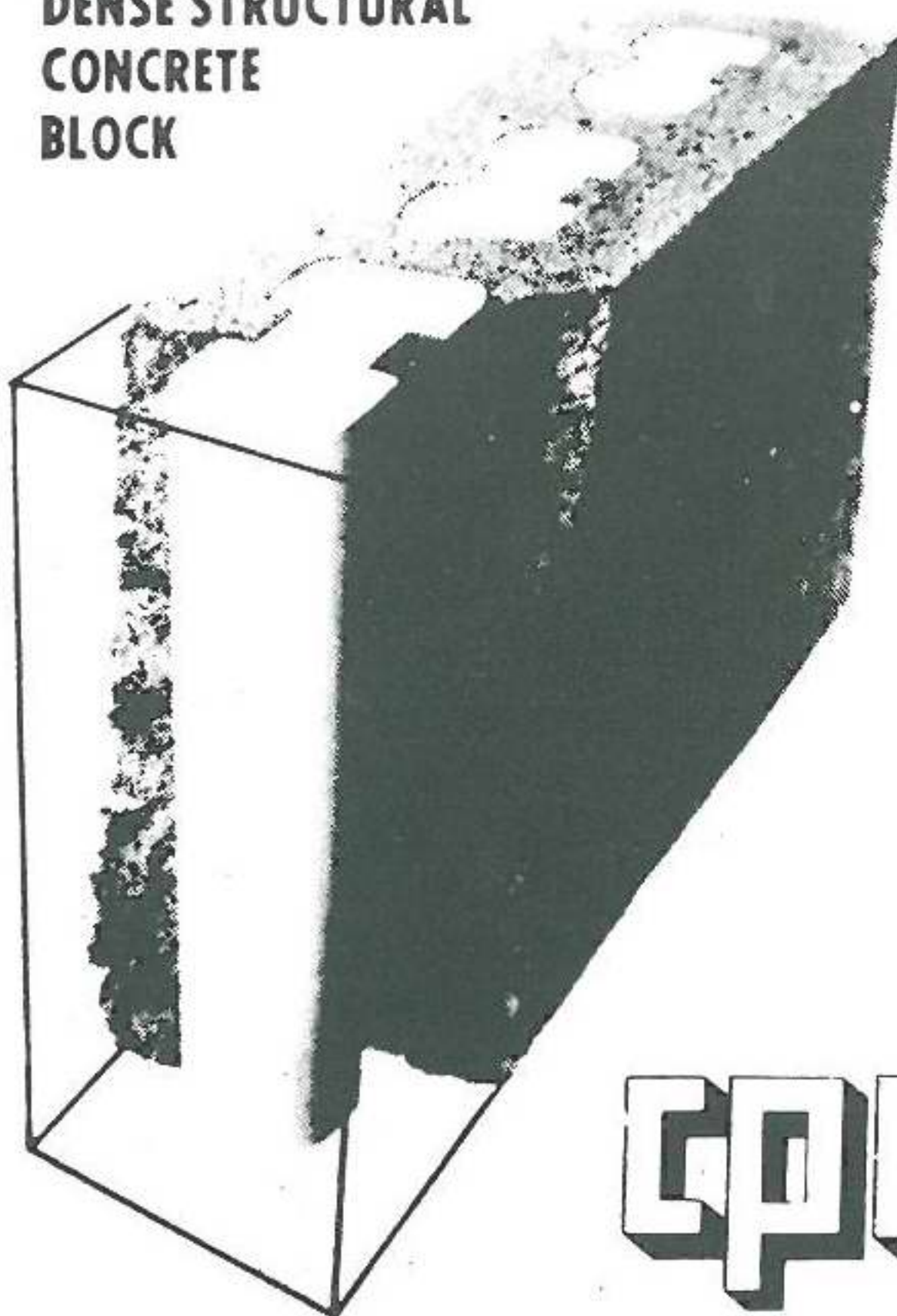
"Mick King was a brilliant hurler, a treat to watch and the stark terror of every defence in the country. Hold Mick King and we are right was the slogan of all Galway's opponents when he was in action. The stick-craft, speed and accuracy of the man had to be seen to be believed, and, despite his wonderful physique he never in his life even attempted to pull a wrong stroke. He was as honest a sportsman as he was outstanding as a hurler — What more can anyone say about any player."

Mick King learned the finer points of his hurling at the Patrician Brothers School in Galway, and with them he showed the first blossoming of the hurling career that was later to mark him as the greatest centre half forward of his time — and he proved his prowess against some of the greatest defenders in the game.

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to full fruition in his day, and he never played in junior ranks, for he got his place on the then prominent Galway City side — the Thomas Ashe's direct from school ranks.

Tall, he stood 6ft. 2ins., and light, he only weighed a little over eleven stone in his heyday, he was a founder member of the Liam Mellows club when the Thomas Ashe side went into oblivion, but he never won a Galway County Championship medal — his only reward in the local scene for many years of truly outstanding service were a few West Galway divisional trophies.

His finest hour was undoubtedly at Croke Park on the occasion of the 1928 Tailteann Games. Pitted against America in the International Final he scored three goals and four points of the winning Irish tally. He had as colleagues on that memorable occasion some of the greatest hurlers that ever adorned the caman scene. They were Tommy Daly in goal, Jim "Bulider" Walsh,

Sean Og Murphy, John Joe Kinnane, Mick Gill, Jim Regan, Garret Howard, Mick Derivan, Phil Cahill, Matty Power, Eudie Coughlan, Ned Tobin, Martin Kennedy and Tull Considine.

I think that he had only one great triumph in the Galway colours — the winning of the 1932 National Hurling League honours, and it was achieved against a Tipperary team the bulk of whose members had figured in the winning of the 1930 All-Ireland title.

Played at Portumna it was one of the really great League deciders, a rousing game in which the lead changed hands almost as often as the flying minutes, and Mick King clinched a master display with the winning goal, fit to rank with the greatest ever scored, in the last second of that thrill packed hour. He was festooned with four Tipperary defenders as he made that final glory bid, how he evaded them no one could tell, but the green flag heralded his success, and a great

Galway victory.

His greatest disappointment came later that year — in the All-Ireland semi final against Clare, played at Limerick. He put up another unmatched performance in the opening half of that encounter, and Galway were leading by the proverbial cricket score by half time. However, a terrible change came over the game after the interval and a Banner County fifteen that was Tull Considine inspired won one of the most remarkable games of all time, 9-4 to 4-14.

Mick, himself, only once played in an All-Ireland Championship final, but he saw all the great teams of many years in action and it was his considered opinion that the Dublin All-Ireland winning side of 1927 was the best of them all.

Mick King died in April 1961 at a relatively early age, and so passed from the Gaelic stage one of the finest figures that ever adorned it.
■ Next month Pat Stakelum of Tipperary.



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Both teams impressed on way to the final

LIMERICK, who are in line for their first All-Ireland senior hurling title since winning their seventh in 1973, and Galway, appearing in their third national decider in six seasons, have both much to recommend them for their first meeting at this stage of the championship since the 1923 summit.

In that game, which was not played until September 1924, one of the best Galway teams ever, a combination that included such legendary figures as Mick Gill, Ignatius Harney, Martin King, Leonard McGrath and Dick Morrissey, brought the title to the West for the only time with a convincing 7-3 to 4-5 victory.

Limerick are representing Munster for the first time since 1974. That year — as was the case again this season — they had a bye to the final, in which they lost to Kilkenny.

Limerick started their latest campaign with a home game against Clare. It was a match in which their forwards, superbly prompted by scorer-in-chief Eamonn Cregan, showed their scoring capabilities in exciting fashion as the home side swept to a convincing 3-13 to 2-9 success.

That win earned Limerick a place in the final at Thurles against a Cork side that was chasing a record sixth Munster title on the trot, and started firm favourites after their National League final replay triumph over the

*By
Frank
Coogan*



• *Sean Silke, on the halfback line for Galway.*

Shannonsiders some weeks previous.

But Limerick, with one of their best performances in a long time, turned the tables, on their opponents. Their defence must get much of the credit for the 2-14 to 2-10 win, Limerick's 15th Munster senior title.

The turning point in Limerick's favour was probably the transfer of Liam O'Donoghue back from the attack to the half back line after about 25 minutes play. He not only did much to stabilise the challengers' back division, but also helped the defence to prove a great framework for launching scoring raids by the Shannonside attack.

The midfielders and the forwards also contributed splendidly to the win, with Joe McKenna and that man Cregan yet again doing much to orchestrate matters in these areas

with their polished, thoughtful and efficient hurling.

Galway, beaten by Kilkenny at this stage last year, had a very comfortable win in their championship debut of 1980 over the All-Ireland "B" champions Kildare. With Joe Connolly, their dashing captain, who lined out at left full forward, treating every scoring opportunity in the mood of a miser—he helped himself to 3-5 — the Connacht side powered to a resounding 16 points success—5-15 to 1-11.

Galway showed great character and competitive spirit when beating the new glamour team of hurling, history-making Offaly, in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park last month.

The loss of Iggy Clarke, who had been having a wonderful year, with a

• OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 49

shoulder injury just before the interval was a tremendous blow to the westerners. but it did not dampen their enthusiasm or their determination as they came storming back after the restart to eventually go five points clear.

Ollie has the rare distinction as well of having played minor for his club side at only ten years of age!

Clare will have cause for celebration if Galway win as Niall McInerney, who has been appearing at full back of late, is a native of Sixmilebridge, and a former Banner county senior hurler.

He joined the Galway county senior team as pivot in 1974 against Kildare in a championship quarter-final, won a National League medal the following season, and he appeared in the last two All-Ireland

final outings by the Western county.

McInerney, who is thirty, and learned his hurling at Ennis C.B.S., assists Liam Mellows club in Galway, and was in the Railway Cup title winning side earlier this year.

Liam O'Donoghue was right half forward in the 1973 team that brought the Liam McCarthy Cup to Limerick. He had only made his first appearance with the senior team a short time before that, but had worn the county jersey at minor and under 21. A member of the Mungret club, he is 27, won a Railway Cup medal four years ago, and collected his third provincial senior souvenir in July against Cork.

P. J. Molloy, an accurate forward from Athenry, helped Galway to their first All-Ireland under-21 title in 1972 in hurling. A former county minor, he was 28 last April, and is another link with the last National League title winning XV. A delightful striker, he has also been honoured by the All Stars selectors.

Mossy Carroll, the Limerick centre half back, hurls on the local front with Garryspillane. He won his first Munster senior medal last July at twenty-five years of age.

Jimmy Cooney, of the Sarsfields club, was at No. 4 when Connacht made the rare break-through in Railway Cup fare earlier in the year. He played in last year's All-Ireland senior final against Kilkenny, and has won junior and intermediate medals with his club.

Jimmy is twenty-four.

Then, Galway suffered another set-back when, after 17 minutes of the second half Sylvie Linnane was ordered to the line. It is to their credit that they once again stuck resolutely to the job of work on hands, and in the end withstood an Offaly rally to book their place in the final on a 4-9 to 3-10 scoreline.

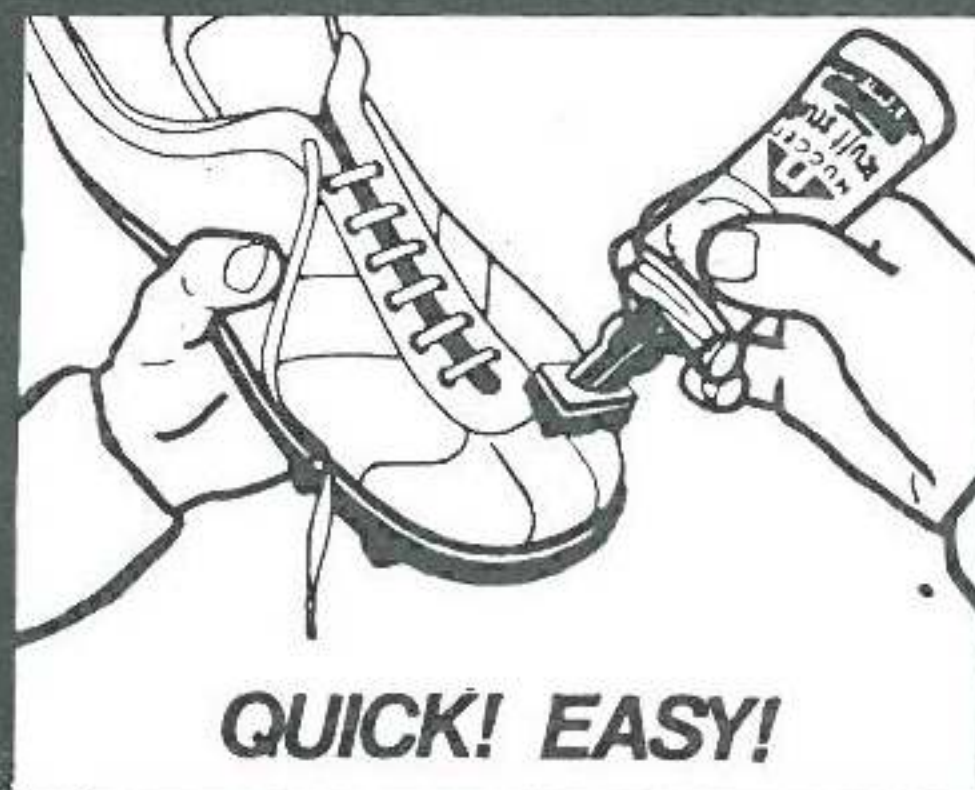
Steve Mahon, who went in at mid-field as a first-half substitute, Jimmy Cooney at left full back, Sean Silke, Iggy Clarke during his limited appearance, and Joe Connolly and John Connolly were particularly bright stars for Galway.

So, the stage is set for what has the

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makings of a keen and thrilling game of top grade hurling, and to further add to the back-drop of this rare occasion, let's take a brief look here at the careers of some of the men who will be in the spotlight.

Joe Connolly is in line to captain his second national senior title winning team of the year. On St. Patrick's Day he led Connacht to their first Railway Cup hurling final win in thirty-three years.

A member of the Castlegar club that won the All-Ireland senior title in June, Joe is at twenty four the youngest of the three Connolly brothers in the Galway county side. A former St. Mary's College hurler, he has been in the senior inter-county ranks since 1977. He played in last year's show-down against Kilkenny.

Sean Foley will be hoping for better fortune than in 1974 when he was also Limerick's captain in their All-Ireland final bid against Kilkenny. He was born in Islington, London, and starred in under-age games, as well as winning an All-Ireland Colleges' medal with Limerick C.B.S. in 1966.

Sean, who is 30, was left half back when Limerick won their only All-Ireland senior hurling title of the post-Mick Mackey era in 1973. He has collected every major medal in the game, and has played in attack and at midfield as well as in defence in a senior inter-county career stretching back to 1969. He is a Patrickswell club member.

Sean Silke was centre half back in the Connacht team that took the Railway Cup last March. A National League medalist in 1975, he is 29, a Carrolls All Star five years ago, and plays with Meelick-Eyecourt club.

Eamonn Cregan was centre half back when Limerick last won the All-Ireland senior title. But in all the earlier games in the series in 1973 he played in attack.

One of the greatest sharpshooters in modern-day hurling, he won an All-Ireland Colleges' senior medal with Limerick C.B.S. in 1964, and stepped up to the senior inter-county ranks that year.

Cregan has won every possible medal at senior level, is now thirty-four, has collected a couple of Carrolls All Stars awards, and is a member of the Cloughaun club.

John Connolly has been in the senior inter-county ranks since 1968, and the All-Ireland senior medal is now the only major award missing from his collection. Galway's captain when they won the 1975 National League, he has represented the county in all grades of hurling

and football.

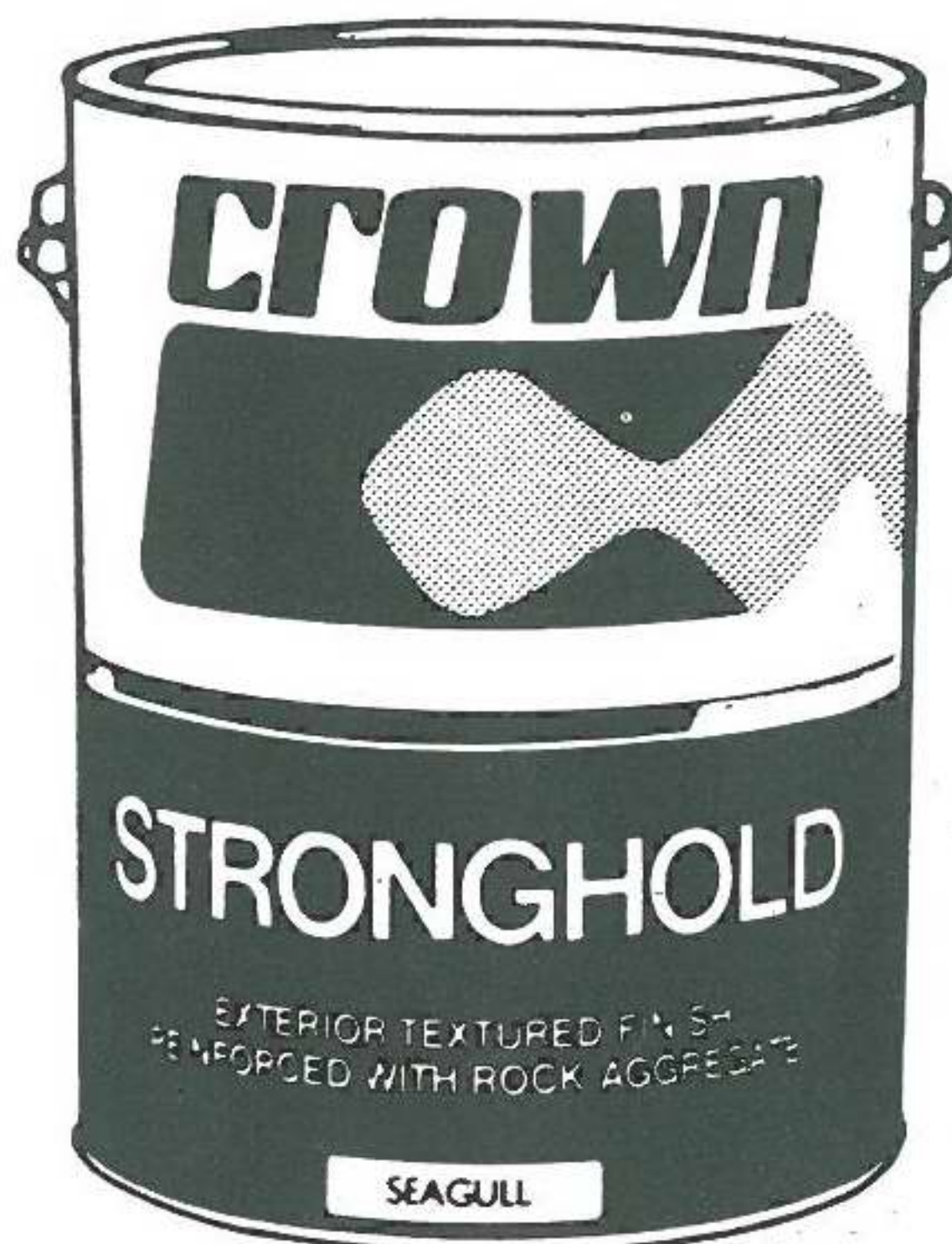
This Castlegar club man, Galway's first ever All Star in 1971, is at thirty-two the veteran of the Western outfit.

Ollie O'Connor, one of the bright young chance-snappers in the game is twenty-one. A member of the Ballybrown club side, he won his first Munster senior medal last month, and was away with the touring party on the All Stars tour last October.

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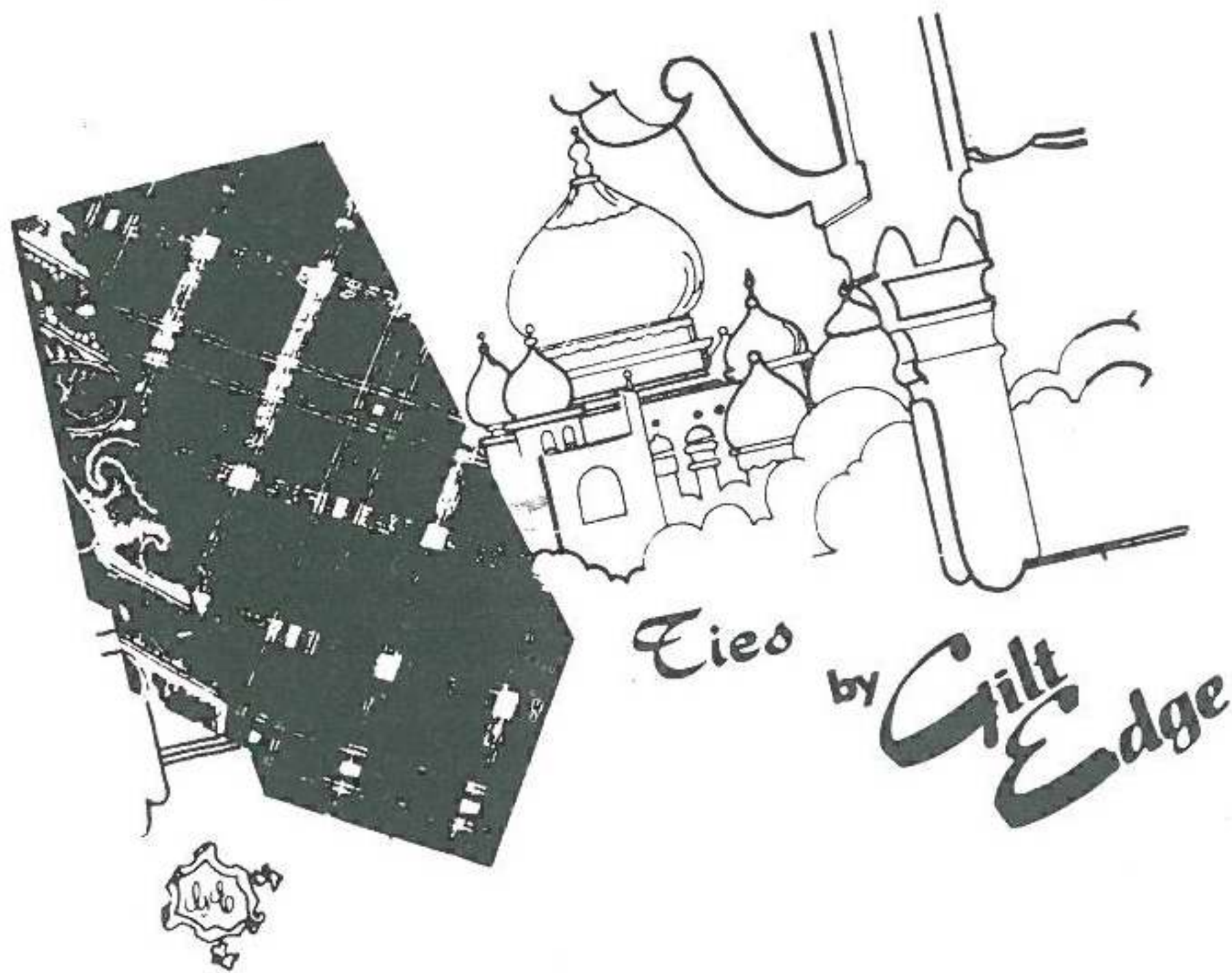
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OLLIE O'CONNOR

A pen-picture by Seán O'Brien



IT was the decline of Frankie Nolan, that excellent servant of Limerick hurling who earned an All-Ireland medal in 1973 and could always be relied on for a workmanlike performance, that first opened a door to Ollie O'Connor, the new pin-up of the Limerick team. He might have waited quite a while for his chance — or his style of play might not have convinced selectors that he would reproduce his nippy, cheeky, ball manoeuvring in the inter-county sphere.

However, the youngster, who was only just out of minor age, proved that his style of play and his record of drawing out defenders and worming his way in through them did, in fact, transfer from club to county.

Even at that Limerick's selectors were quite cautious about the fleet-footed youngster and played him sparingly. Some thought, in fact, that they had failed to see the potential of the lad and were quick to say so. In retrospect it would appear they were right to spare him too much exposure in heavy League grounds and to introduce him for his first championship in 1979.

He was already well known by then, however, and it will be recalled that much of the talk about the likely outcome of the 1979 Munster final centred round the question of whether Ollie would leave John Horgan for dead, or whether the great Cork warhorse would answer the bugle and put the young fellow in his place.

That was unfair, naturally, and when Ollie was beaten for most of the game by the experienced

Corkman, many prophets of gloom shook their heads and said "I told you so".

This year Ollie has been making amends and no defence has proved comfortable under his probings. Cork rested John Horgan after the drawn League final and confronted O'Connor with Johnny Crowley and, later, Brian Murphy. To an extent those who were quickest on the Bandwagon to rocket the young Limerickman among the stars, were now to the forefront in denying him any good qualities. Just because the final had been lost after a thrilling and often-brilliant game and because O'Connor had not delivered their outrageously exaggerated forecasts.

The Clare game in the Munster semi-final was a stern test, then, for Ollie had now gained enough experience to produce the goods with some degree of consistency in hard tests as well as easy ones. The way O'Connor set about forging a solid role for himself in that Clare game displayed a good deal of thought and resolution beforehand. Moving freely outfield and across goal as open space demanded O'Connor gave Johnny McMahon a terrible time.

His skill on the ball stood up to the pressure, for he fumbled nothing and was quick and accurate and incisive in his gathering, passing and shooting. It should also be said that his movements created loads of space for Joe McKenna and some interesting options for the other Limerick forwards.

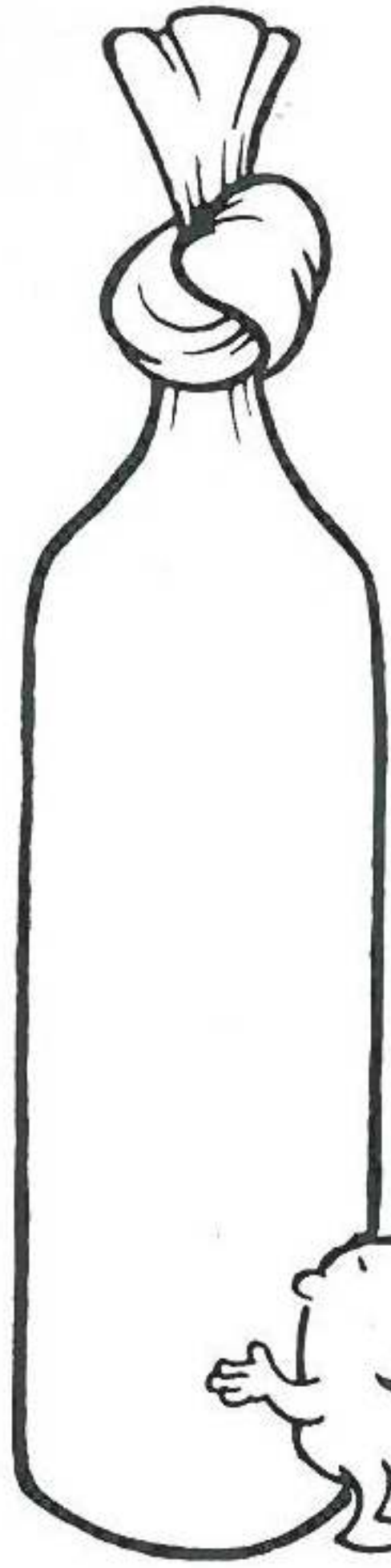
That is fine when possession is

flowing fairly freely in Limerick's favour. What if it begins to dry-up or is coming under pressure to players who are tight-marked? O'Connor is not so exciting, of course, but the Munster final, with a well-prepared John Horgan again in opposition, proves that Ollie will no longer be closed out of a game.

Chasing and worrying when the ball did not come handily to him, hooking and blocking defenders' clearances and running eagerly to give support to harassed colleagues in need of someone to pass to. That adds up to a useful contribution even when things are not flowing for the team. And, of course, those who are diligent in their application to their duties may expect a bonus in their paypacket every now and again.

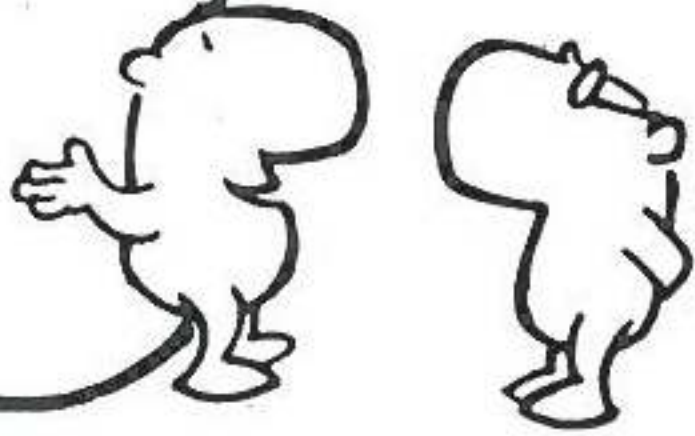
Such a bonus was the loose ball that fell from the crash of Martin Doherty into John Horgan. The measure of the all-round improvements of Ollie O'Connor in the harder, game-winning qualities is seen in the manner in which he collected that loose one and made sure it hit the back of the net.

When you consider that O'Connor (Vincent — but Ollie to nearly everyone now!) is only twenty one it is easily seen why he needed a little time to settle in to a consistent groove. He did not have the background of experience in inter-county fare that some others had. At the moment he is a student of the N.I.H.E. at Limerick and obviously has no problems with fitness. At his present stage of development an All-Ireland and Croke Park should not present him with any problems.



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LIMERICK-MUNSTER CHAMPIONS 1980



● *The Limerick team that captured the Munster title for the first time since 1974 by defeating Cork 2-14 to 2-10 in the Final. They are back row (from left): Joe McKenna, Mossie Carroll, Willie Fitzmaurice, Tommy Quaid, Leonard Enright, Dom Punch, Paudie Fitzmaurice, Eamonn Cregan. Front row (from left): Ollie O'Connor, Dave Punch, Donal Murray, Sean Foley (Captain), Jimmy Carroll, John Flanagan and Liam O'Donoghue.*

● FROM PAGE 13
a couple of years back. To them it was sufficient that they were All-Ireland champions or next door to it and they felt a gentle canter was better than over-straining a side that had many veteran parts.

In doing this Kilkenny did, very likely, extend the careers of some players by a year or so, but when they were caught with several other seasoned men reaching the brow of the hill together, they hadn't enough serious competition under the belts of their up-and-coming players. It has caused some comment that half a dozen or more fine young prospects, proven through minor and under-21 campaigns, did not really do any better than fill places in the senior side.

They did not do better than that

— as they had been expected to do — because they really were being put under severe pressure for the first time when coming into the big championship games. Against that Ger Henderson, say, was earning his spurs in the hard League campaigns of a few years ago and was no risk when it came to championship games.

In case that seems like a theory of universal application, it should be said that Cork probably strained their veterans just a bit too much in going all out for the League this year. Having pushed men like Coughlan, Horgan, Cummins and one or two others to high physical standards to subdue Galway and, especially, Limerick in two torrid matches, they were just a bit tired and ragged when the Munster

championship demanded two more peaks from them — against Tipperary (successful) and Limerick (unsuccessful).

Yes, the big teams struck a shallow valley of form in 1980 when overcome by their challengers. But, the challengers were improved well beyond recent years. So it is hard to justify any thesis that would say there is a distinct and discernible falling off in the quality of the teams in this year's All-Ireland series.

Of course, Limerick and Offaly are less experienced in this rarified atmosphere, but who will say that Galway have not been here often enough and, more to the point, beaten the best in a way that allowed no excuses. The only qualification

● TO PAGE 56

● FROM PAGE 55
 one can place on Galway's claim to be an outstanding hurling team is that they have proved too inconsistent to sustain such a claim. This year may see them dismiss such a doubt from their pedigree.

As to Limerick and Offaly, their only limitation would appear to stem from the manner of their arrival at the All-Ireland stage. Both were primed and geared to the overcoming of more favoured opposition in their provincial finals.

The displays which they gave in beating Cork and Kilkenny were, first of all, rooted in the disruption of their opponents' game. Hurlers somewhat below the highest standard of skill and accomplishment can do this if only they are willing to work with fierce application and complete unwillingness to quit.

Naturally, it would never do if you were totally negative. Offaly and Limerick had to graft good positive hurling qualities on also in order that they were able to construct their own victories out of the demolished games of their opponents: Offaly's quickness and sharp shooting against sluggish Kilkenny defence: Limerick's Cregan, maximising his chances, and Ollie O'Connor jiggling in and out for some good scores.

What must not be forgotten is that all the great teams — of this generation or any other — had first to stop losing before they could begin winning. And it was only when winning that they were seen to be the great teams they were.

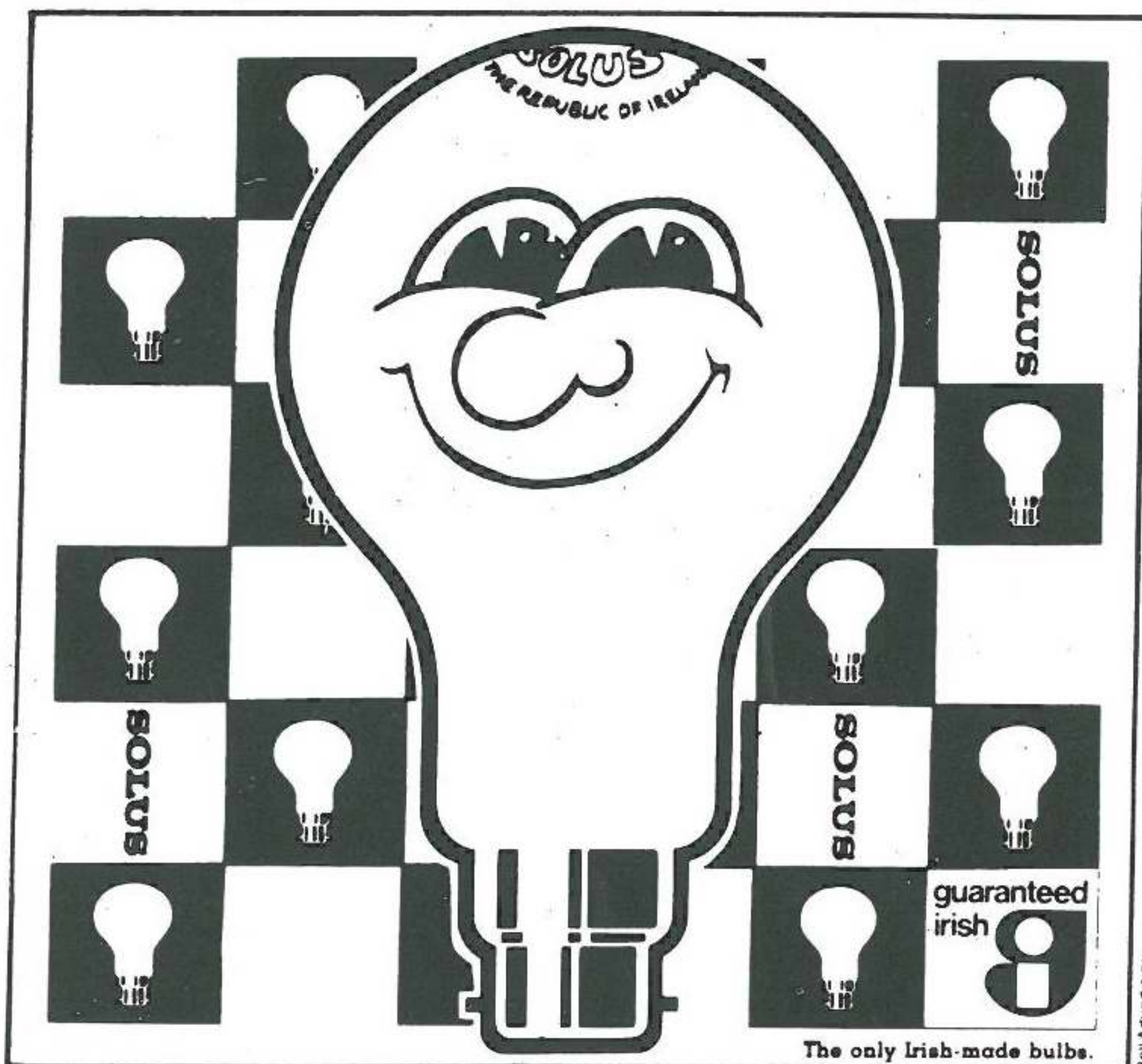
Of the three only Galway, or Limerick can win out, and that team step up several stages of hurling form, confidence and style because they will be free to give full rein to their skills and abilities, part of which is all we have seen until now.

Offaly, surely, have achieved enough in their Leinster triumph and narrow semi-final defeat by Galway, to stay at a higher level of achievement than ever before now that they are among the first-class counties.

Cork and Kilkenny have only had their pride hurt, and that will ensure there will be gnashing of teeth during the next year's championship, aiming to regain top ranking.

My conclusion must be that we have more top counties than ever because of the revolution of summer 1980. What if they are, just now, a fraction below the best of Kilkenny, Cork or the Wexford of some years back. That's a seasonal thing and the next movement might mean a high peak of standard in more counties than for years past

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JUNIOR DESK



By
JACK
MAHON

ALL-IRELAND Hurling Final time again. It seems such a short time since last year's final. It's great to have your own county involved again. Excitement is at fever pitch already in Galway preparing for the tilt with Limerick. The win over Offaly wasn't decisive and the Galway fans were a wee bit disappointed that Offaly came so close. But Galway hadn't won an All-Ireland semi-final between 1953 and 1975. Since then Galway have won two more. So times have changed for Galway. Whenever Galway are in a final I always expect them to win. That's county loyalty I suppose. But after five Senior All-Ireland defeats in the 70's you will understand if our confidence is a wee bit dented. Still I expect Galway to win. I hope both Iggy Clarke and Sylvie Linnane are both available and that both teams are free of injuries. May we have two great finals. I love All-Ireland weekend. Usually I travel to Dublin on the Friday before the game. And enjoy every second of the weekend.

OFFALY

Let us all take our hats off to Offaly hurlers. Their success in Leinster has opened the door wide for all aspiring counties. They have shown that where there is a will there is a way. And that the spirit of one man with a great love for the game like Br. Denis of Birr can move mountains. There are many men like Br. Denis in Ireland. I think of two brothers named Kirk from Armagh and their co-helper Jim Carlisle and know that these great men will get a renewal from Offaly's success. They will now know that darkness isn't

always at the end of the tunnel. Offaly's success over Kilkenny and their magnificence against Galway is the greatest breath of fresh air to hit the G.A.A. for years and years. Limerick's defeat of Cork in the Munster Final (their first since 1940) was another great achievement. But this has been Offaly's year and I hope Offaly hurlers stay at the top where they belong for years to come.

BOOKLETS

Some information on G.A.A. booklets received.

Templederry My Home — Price £1.50 a souvenir booklet produced on the occasion of the opening of the Fr. Kenyon Community Centre. This is the story of a hurling parish in Tipperary with many quotes and stories of Fr. John Kenyon. Get it from the Templederry Development Committee, Co. Tipperary or James Gleeson, same address.

Royal County — Summer Edition 1980 (A Meath G.A.A. Booklet) Costs £1. Edited by John Lynch, this is the first number in what is hoped will be a four per annum production. Something like *Down's Score* or Cork's *Clash* or Limerick's *Treaty Gael*. I say a hearty Céad Míle Fáilte to this new link in the G.A.A. communications chain. I love the little snippets in the book. I get a belt myself for not including the *Meath Chronicle* in my list of top Provincial papers in G.A.A. coverage in an article I wrote for "An Reiteoir". Some years ago while a member of the G.A.A.'s Communications Committee I did a survey on this over a four week's Mid-Summer period. The *Meath Chronicle* didn't stand out then quite the same way as

the *Anglo Celt*, *The Connacht Tribune* or *The Limerick Leader* did in the space and importance it gave to Gaelic Games. I'm happy to learn that the position has changed and that the *Meath Chronicle* now gives great G.A.A. coverage, something that can now also be applied to *The Leitrim Observer*. Next time I'm in Easons I'll buy a copy.

Price £1 from Francis Duffy, Hillview, Navan, Co. Meath.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Dublin's David Hickey. What a great competitor he is. Way back in 1974 it was he who inspired the great wins over Cork and Galway. And in the game v Offaly this year he was still out there trying for all his worth, almost succeeding in winning a record 7th successive Leinster medal. Last time David Hickey was chosen as Cut-Out here, Junior Desk was five years old and to commemorate the occasion editor Tommy McQuaid told me that David was the choice and then proceeded to give it to myself. Now we are over 10 years old and belatedly we say well done to David and indeed all the Dubs.

BITS AND PIECES

I'm holding over letters from Joe Hanlon (in praise of Offaly hurlers), James Gleeson (information on the Templederry booklet reviewed earlier) and a lovely letter from Philip Stoy all the way from Devon with a copy of the programme for the official opening of the Wolfe Tone G.A.A. Grounds in Bellaghy Co. Derry in 1973. Philip who is a

● OVERLEAF

● FROM OVERLEAF

great fan of Junior Desk has a nice offer for readers. Get next months' issue.

Have you seen the G.A.A. Youth Packs costing a mere 50p each on sale in the G.A.A. Shop in Croke Park? The hurling or football one, whichever one you want, is a great buy. If you go to any one of the finals be sure to get one. The crest in each kit would cost you more than 50p if you were to buy it singly elsewhere.

I've already mentioned the G.A.A. shop. Be sure to visit it on All-Ireland Day. On the occasion of the Galway v Offaly game my second youngest son Karl bought a Galway Carrigaline mug for himself. And what's more it is not being used as an ornament either but the most popular one for the tea every day. Another great buy is Raymond Smith's Book of Hurling at the reduced price of 20p (great value).

Coiste na n-Óg in Croke Park are actively involved at the moment in the production of a G.A.A. Youth Annual. It is hoped to have it ready in time for the All-Ireland Football Final certainly in good time for Christmas.

Mailbag

Edward Synott, Kilbride, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny wants Cut-Outs of Joe Hennessy, Mick Crotty, Nicky Brennan, Frank Cummins and Matt Ruth. He is also interested in getting "The Greats of Gaelic Games" by Owen McCann and "The Football Immortals".

● Owen McCann's book retailing at £3 is in the shops and is tremendous. Every G.A.A. fan should have a copy (J.M.)

Liam Jones, Whitegate, Co. Clare who won one of our biggest prizes in 1971 (a trip to Dublin with Patrick O'Sullivan of Kinsale for the All-Ireland S.F. Final Galway v Offaly and meeting with Mick O'Connell,

Ray Cummins, Sean O Siocháin, Pat Fanning at a special dinner cum cabaret the night before) is still very keen on the G.A.A. and a great fan still of Junior Desk.

● How the years fly. Was it nine years ago? Where is Patrick O'Sullivan now? (J.M.)

John Rowe Junior, Clough, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny with some help from his dad selects this best Kilkenny team:—

Ollie Walsh; Fan Larkin; Pa Dillon; Jim Treacy; Seamus Cleere; Pat Henderson; Martin Coogan; Paddy Moran; Frank Cummins; Sean Clohessy; Pat Delaney; Liam O'Brien; Mick Brennan; Billy Dwyer; Eddie Keher.

John reads Gaelic Sport every month.

● That's a great team John. You win a Kilkenny Bob-cap (J.M.)

Brendan Woulfe, Aged 15, 11 Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5, wins the top letter prize this month.

"It has been three years since I last wrote to Junior Desk. I, however, decided that it was about time to write again after my sickening experience on Sunday 6th July on the route to Navan. I arrived at Busáras at 1.00 to get a bus to Navan to watch the Dubs play Meath. There was a bus queue the length of O'Connell Street. Naturally I took my place and waited for a bus. But after a half an hour no bus arrived. Then out of the blue an Inspector came out and said that ten full bus loads had already left. No one believed him because people had been there one hour waiting for a bus.

Then, instead of queueing at the bus to get on, the inspector said that tickets were available at the ticket office and nowhere else. So everyone dashed in and straight to the ticket office. Hundreds of people trying to push their way into one small ticket office. My brother Sheamus refused to queue up so we waited for awhile to see what would happen. But as things turned out there was no such thing as a queue,

more like a cattle market. After awhile we made our way to the bus to see could we pay there. We were just chancing our arms, to our surprise and delight, we got on and the conductor had a ticket machine. Then I realised that there was hundreds of people back there killing themselves trying to get on the bus when all they had to do was walk on.

I didn't write this letter to slag C.I.E., but to ask why the G.A.A. have to depend on C.I.E. for the transport of supporters to matches? I don't see why they can't run private buses for supporters to the matches. I do hope you will publish my letter in full as it is about time something was done. I am safe in saying that I'm not alone as far as this whole matter is concerned."

● Great letter Brendan. I sympathise with you, and the frustration you endured and I'm delighted you wrote in about it. But isn't this something that the Dublin G.A.A. should organise for its own supporters? How about the Dublin Supporters Club? C.I.E. always give us a good service from Galway except for that awful time last year when the train drivers wouldn't work for the All-Ireland S.H. final (J.M.).

Anne Walshe, 6, St. Stephens Park, Castleisland, Co. Kerry, is thrilled with Limerick's success over Cork and wishes them the best of luck in the All-Ireland Final.

● Isn't Ollie O'Connor a great little player? Limerick were marvellous in the Munster Final. (J.M.)

Sheila Helen Harnett, Kilconlea Upper, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, is full of praise for John Egan of Kerry and for Billy Morgan, Eoin Liston and Ger Power. "The Leinster Hurling Final was a thriller. Great to have new stars like Paddy Kirwan and Padraic Horan. I wish a speedy recovery to Brian Mullins the best midfielder in the game."

● Nice to have new teams, new faces, new stars. (J.M.)

Breda Doyle, Ballymorris, Aghrim, Co. Wicklow is yet another girl to write this month. She is a great

JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

admirer of the Dubs and likes the young players like Jim Ronayne, P. J. Buckley, Andy Roche, and Ciarán Duff. Breda was glad to see Kevin Moran back playing Gaelic v Meath. She wants a cut-out of Bobby Doyle.

Sean Hickey, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork epitomises the great loyalty and generosity of the Cork supporters.

"Once again Kerry beat us. They were brilliant. Their three goals seemed to come out of nowhere — sheer class. Tom Creedon was the only Cork player to take a shot at goal. So keep trying Cork and we will break the Kerry voodoo yet. Once the Munster Final is over we are all behind Kerry. This year more than ever. And if they win the Final we will greet them in Mallow Station with the Sam Maguire as always. Their football is brilliant, classy, clean and determined. But I still will have nothing to do with them on Munster Final Day v Cork."

● *Great letter Sean. You win a Cork not a Kerry G.A.A tie (J.M.).*

Martin Carley, No. 1 Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath thinks the Sunday Game on R.T.E. is great. His favourite players are John Fenton, Dermot MacCurtain and Ollie O'Connor. "Ollie is a brilliant hurler. Castlepollard are doing well in the U-14 H and F."

● *Keep it up Martin. Ollie is a new hurling star who will be mentioned often in Junior Desk in the future.(J.M.).*

Eileen Murphy, Railway View, Rathmore, Co. Kerry is in raptures about Offaly's success over Kilkenny in "the match of the year". She feels occasions like this are all too few. She feels Kerry will make it three-in-a-row if complacency doesn't set in.

● *We agree Eileen. (J.M.).*

● *Offaly's win shows that persistence, dedication, determination and loyalty will eventually be rewarded (J.M.).*

Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20, Fairfield Rd., Bath, England B.A.I.



● *The President of the G.A.A. Pdraig Mac Floinn pictured with Martin Fahy, captain of the Pearses Hurling Club, Ballymackward who were runners-up in Div. III of Feile na nGael in Pearse Stadium, Galway. Also in the photo are the other team members and officials plus Sean Egan, Director/General Manager Coca-Cola, Tuam and Mr. Aubrey Higgins, Chairman of the Galway Feile Committee.*

6J.G., hope's to be able to engage in a good swap of Annuals with Denis Sweeney of Donegal. Dermot tells me the Leinster S.H. final programme is now a collector's item and the same applies to the Galway v Offaly All-Ireland Semi-Final programme. Dermot tells me that neither the Down magazine Score or its Cork counterpart Clash had the courtesy to reply to recent letters from him.

● *Not good enough Down or Cork. Dermot is a great G.A.A. worker. It would be terrible to deflate his bubbling enthusiasm by nor acknowledging his letters (J.M.).*

Des Brennan, 4, Bobsworth Ave., Moseley, Birmingham B130 B4 England, in a lovely letter recalling holidays spent in the West of Ireland in his youth was thrilled with the Connacht Final Programme this year "It is real value for money, full of information, facts and figures. I hope the Connacht Programme Committee will continue to adopt the present size of the programme. It is very practical and easy to keep. Some of the programmes printed by the G.A.A. in the late 60's and early 70's were so bulky that you would fear even looking at them in case you'd crease the corners. One other thing:—Now that Croke Park have stopped publishing the Our Games Annuals they should try to replace it

with a substitute Annual, such an annual to contain all records and interesting features of the previous year. The point I'm trying to make is when I want to relate to a result say in 1973 then I go to the 1974 Our Games Annual and get it with ease. This won't be possible from now on".

● *Very good points Des. Hope you have success in getting both the Galway G.A.A. Annual and Owen McCann's "Greats of Gaelic Games". There should be something to replace the Our Games like a bumper Christmas edition of GAELIC SPORT. There is a G.A.A. Youth Annual coming out soon. You'll like it. (J.M.)*

That ends the Mailbag for another month. Write in and tell me what you think of the hurling finals, anything about yourself, your photo in black and white, if you want a Pen Pal, just anything. Prizes as usual for the best letters.

Write to:—

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

Hope you enjoy the Finals.

Jack Mahon

Results Summary

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Hurling: Quarter-Finals: July 20: Croke Park: Galway 5-15; Kildare 1-11. Semi-Final: August 3: Croke Park: Galway 4-9; Offaly 3-10.

Minor Hurling: Semi-Final: August 3: Croke Park: Galway 1-15; Wexford 0-18. DRAW.

Special Minor Hurling: Semi-Final: August 2: Abbeydorney: Kerry 2-10; Carlow 2-4.

Under-16 Hurling: Semi-Finals: July 26: Ballyhaunis: Derry 6-13; Mayo 1-1. Portlaoise: Meath 3-5; Kerry 4-0.

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CONNACHT

Senior Football: Final: July 13: Roscommon: Roscommon 3-13; Mayo 0-8.

Under-21 Football: July 20: Ballinrobe: Mayo 3-13; Sligo 4-2. Roscommon: Galway 2-19; Roscommon 2-7.

Minor Football Final: July 13: Roscommon; Mayo 3-8; Roscommon 2-9.

LEINSTER

Senior Football; Final: July 27: Croke Park: Offaly 1-10; Dublin 1-8.

Senior Hurling: Final: July 13: Croke Park: Offaly 3-17; Kilkenny 5-10.

Under-21 Football: Final: July 20: Croke Park: Dublin 2-7; Kildare 1-10. DRAW. August 3: Newbridge: Dublin 0-10; Kildare 0-8. REPLAY.

Under-21 Hurling: Final: July 27: Carlow: Kilkenny 2-14; Wexford 2-9.

Minor Football: Final: July 27: Croke Park: Meath 1-12; Kildare 1-9.

Minor Hurling: Final: July 13: Croke Park: Wexford 1-10; Dublin 2-6.

MUNSTER

Senior Hurling: Final: July 20: Thurles: Limerick 2-14; Cork 2-10.

Under-21 Football: July 16: Askeaton: Limerick 2-5; Kerry 1-7. Semi-Finals: July 25: Clonmel: Clare 1-7; Tipperary 0-5. July 30: Buttevant: Cork 3-16; Limerick 0-5.

Minor Hurling: Final: July 20: Thurles: Tipperary 1-17; Limerick 1-4.

ULSTER

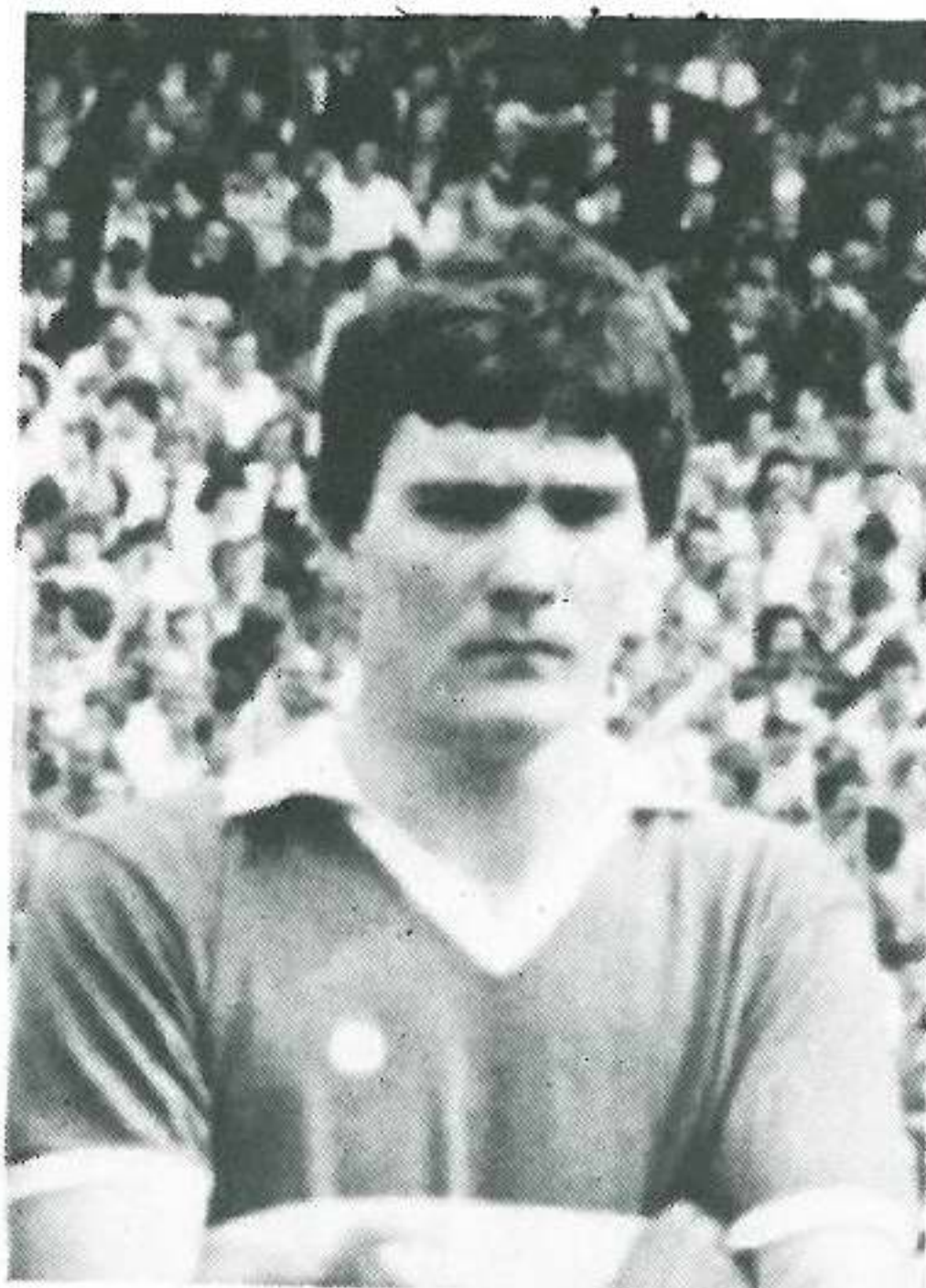
Senior Football: Final: July 20: Clones: Armagh 4-10; Tyrone 4-7.

Under-21 Football: Final: July 27: Lurgan: Tyrone 4-4; Down 2-5.

Minor Football: Final: July 20: Clones: Derry 3-14; Armagh 1-2.

WALSH CUP SENIOR HURLING

FINAL: July 16: Portlaoise: Laois 2-12; Carlow 2-10.



• Matt Connor of Offaly who scored 1.07 in his sides defeat of Dublin in the Leinster Football Final.

CAMOGIE

ALL-IRELAND OPEN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

July 13: Russell Park, Dublin: Dublin 1-5; Tipperary 0-5; July 20: Kilkenny: Kilkenny 4-10; Galway 1-6. July 27; Swatragh: Limerick 5-8; Derry 1-1.

HANDBALL

ALL-IRELAND COCA-COLA SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

SINGLES: July 13: New Ross: Tony Ryan (Tipperary) bt P. Lee (Wicklow). John Kirby (Clare) bt R. Lyng (Wexford). T. Morrissey (Tipperary) bt S. Buggy (Wexford).

Tuamgraney: M. Walsh (Roscommon) bt P. McGarry (Limerick).

Croke Park: Packie Ryan (Dublin) bt G. Scully (Dublin). T. O'Rourke (Kildare) bt P. Reilly (Kilkenny). Dan Kirby (Clare) bt O. Harrold (Kilkenny).

July 26 Clonmel: Dan Kirby (Clare) bt T. Morrissey (Tipperary). T. O'Rourke (Kildare) bt Pat Kirby (Clare).

July 27: Croke Park: John Kirby (Clare) bt M. Walsh (Roscommon). Packie Ryan (Dublin) bt Tony Ryan (Tipperary).

DOUBLES: July 20: Mullingar: A. Greene and P. Hughes (Kilkenny) bt P. McGee and M. Sweeney (Mayo). T. O'Rourke and C. Winders (Kildare) bt M. Walsh and P. Clarke (Roscommon).

Clonmel: R. Lyng and S. Buggy (Wexford) bt J. Bennis and P. McGarry (Limerick). P. Reilly and O. Harrold (Kilkenny) bt John and Dan Kirby (Clare).

August 2: Semi-Final: Talbot's Inch: O. Harrold and P. Reilly (Kilkenny) bt A. Green and P. Hughes (Kilkenny).



David Hickey (Dublin)

Age: 28
Height: 6ft.
Weight: 13st. 7 lb.
Club: St. Margaret's
Position: Left half forward
Senior Inter-County Debut: 1969.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

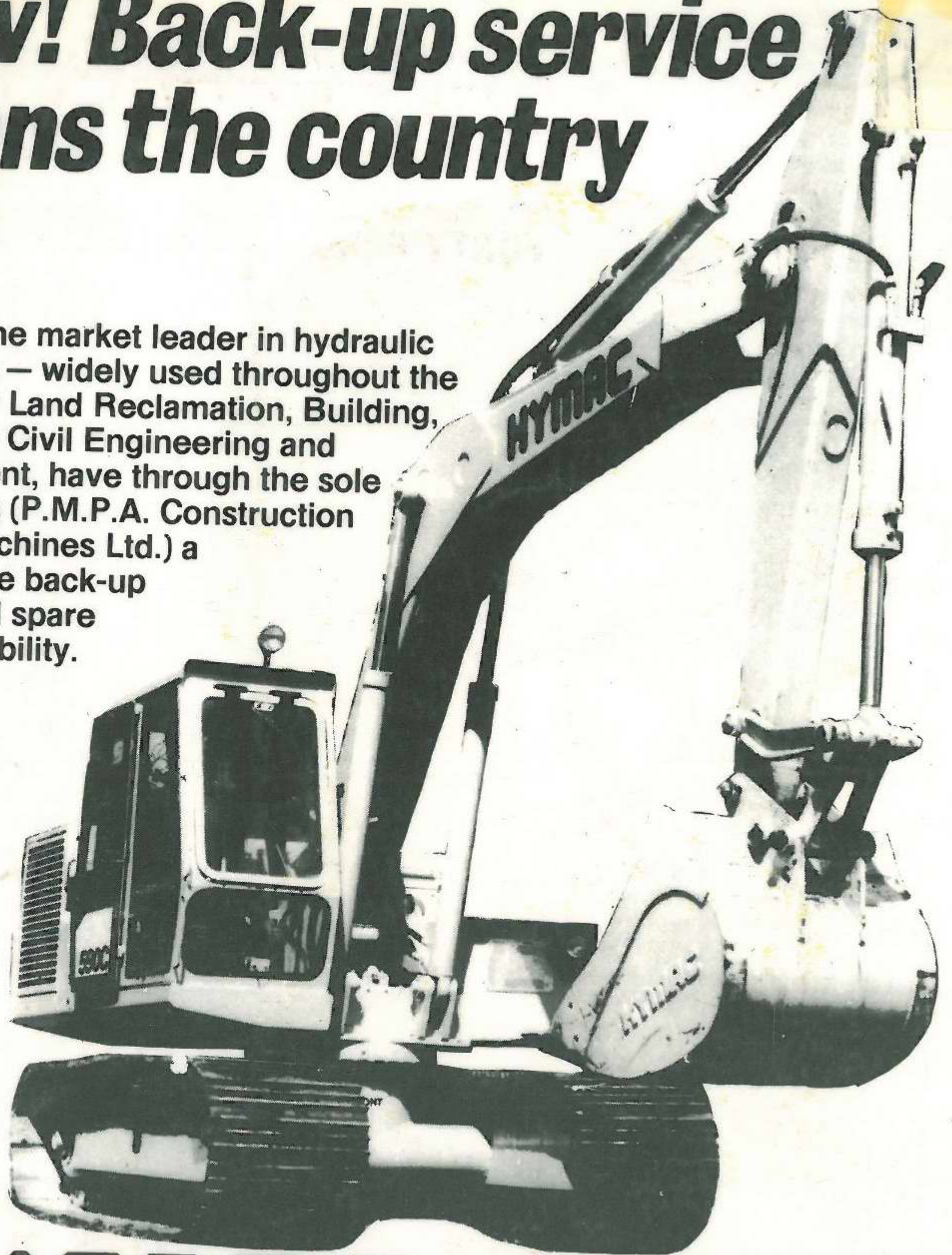
One of the heroes of the golden era of Dublin senior football, David played minor and under-21 with the county, and was still in his teens when first called up to the senior XV.

His skilled touches made him an invaluable link in the set-up that brought that treble of All-Ireland senior titles (1974, 1976 and 1977) to the capital, and he also won National League medals in 1976 and 1978.

A former Raheny club player, David appeared with Leinster in the Railway Cup, but an interprovincial souvenir was one of the few major medals to elude him.

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