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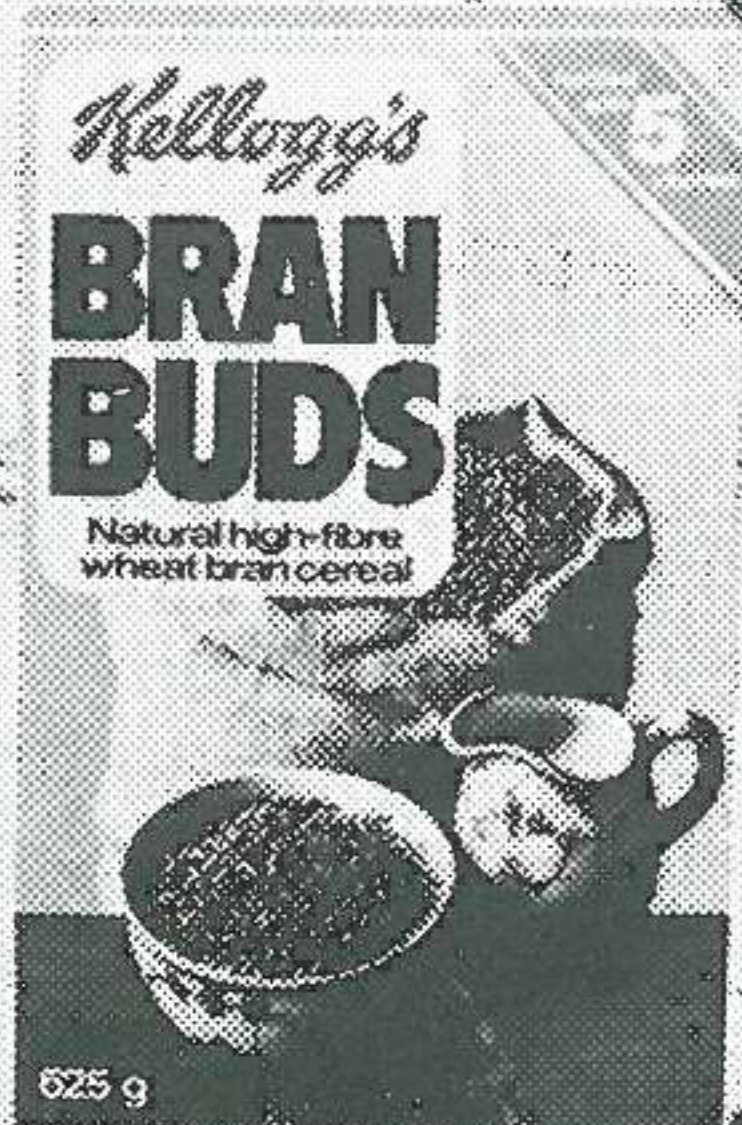
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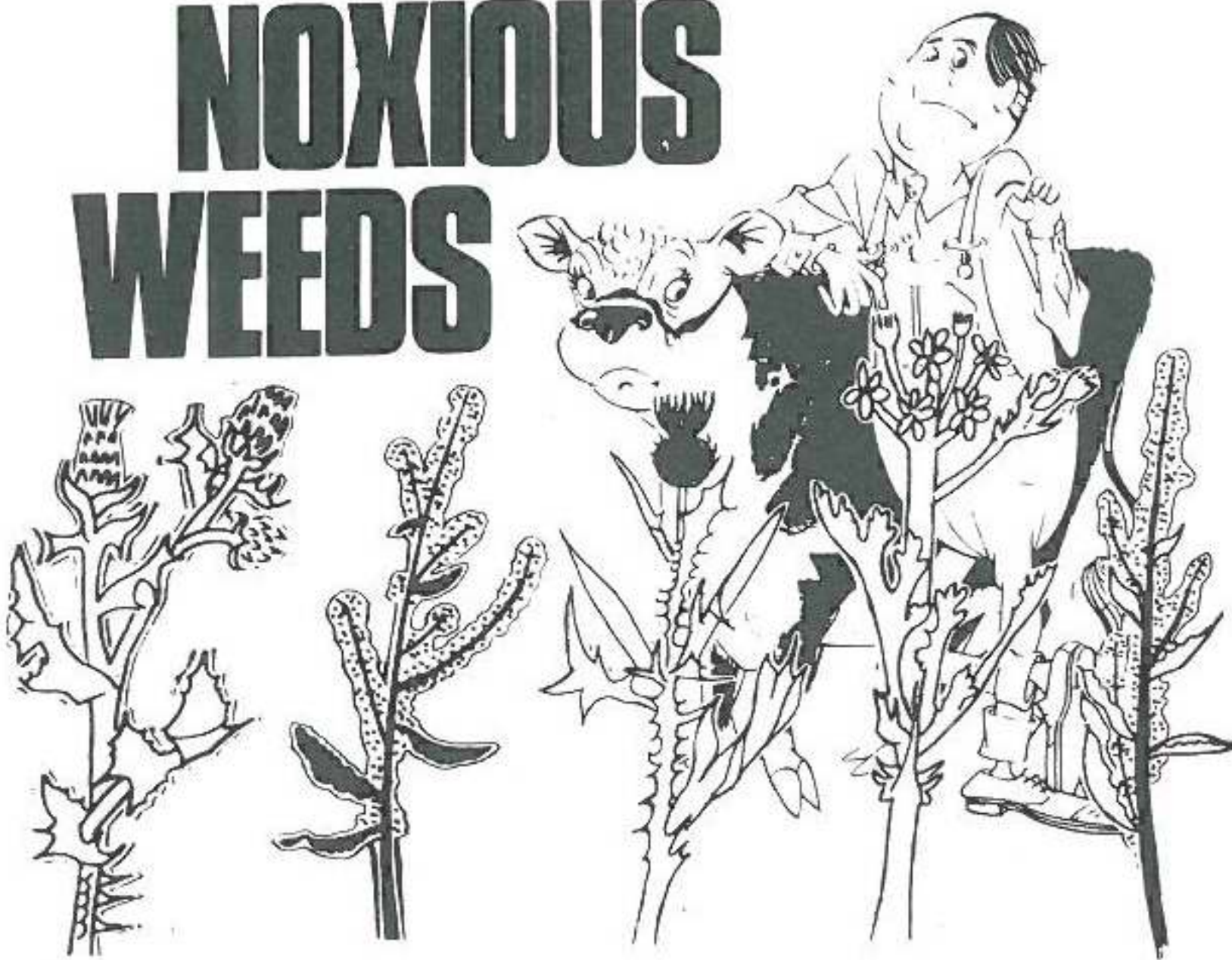
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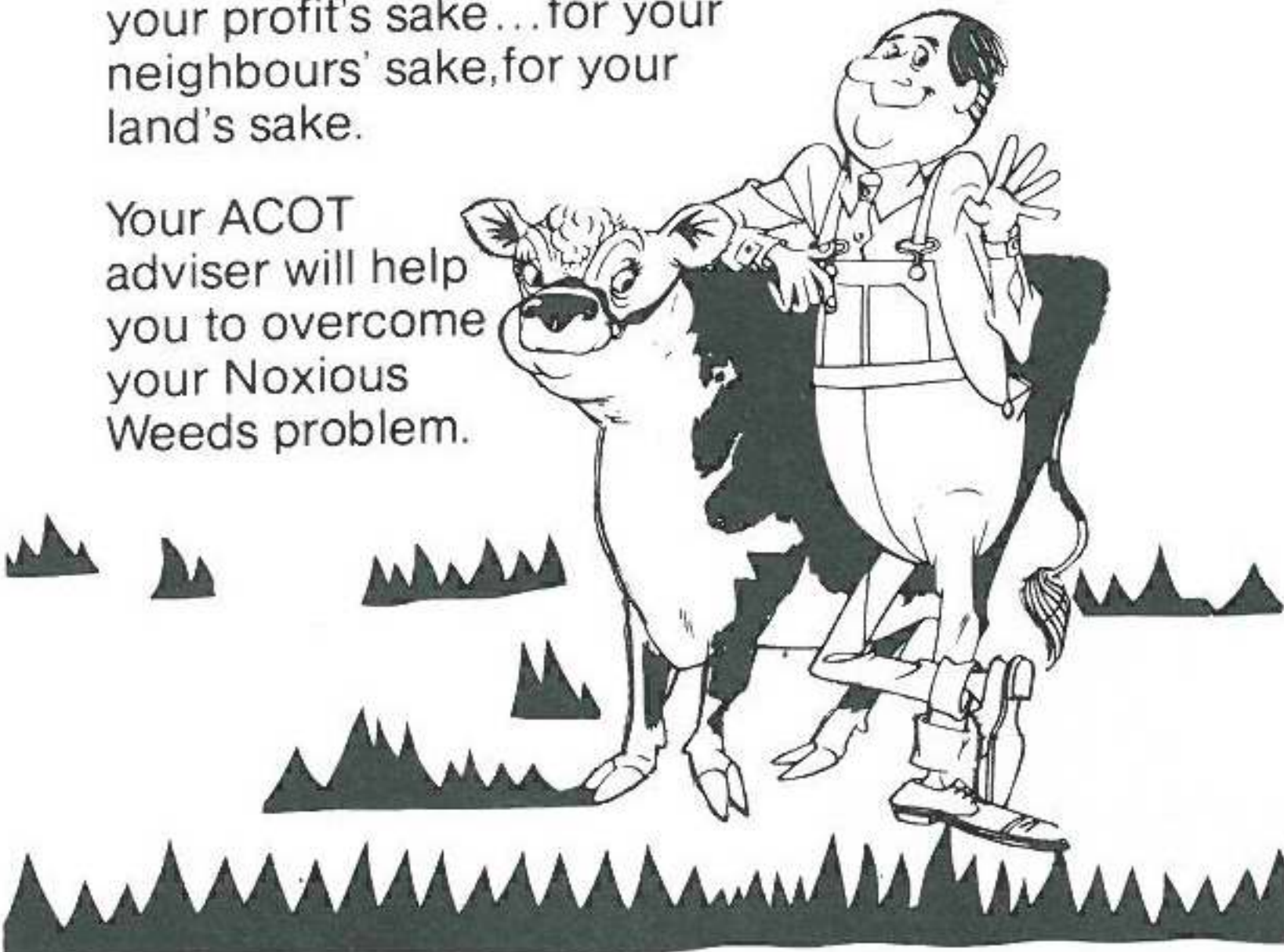
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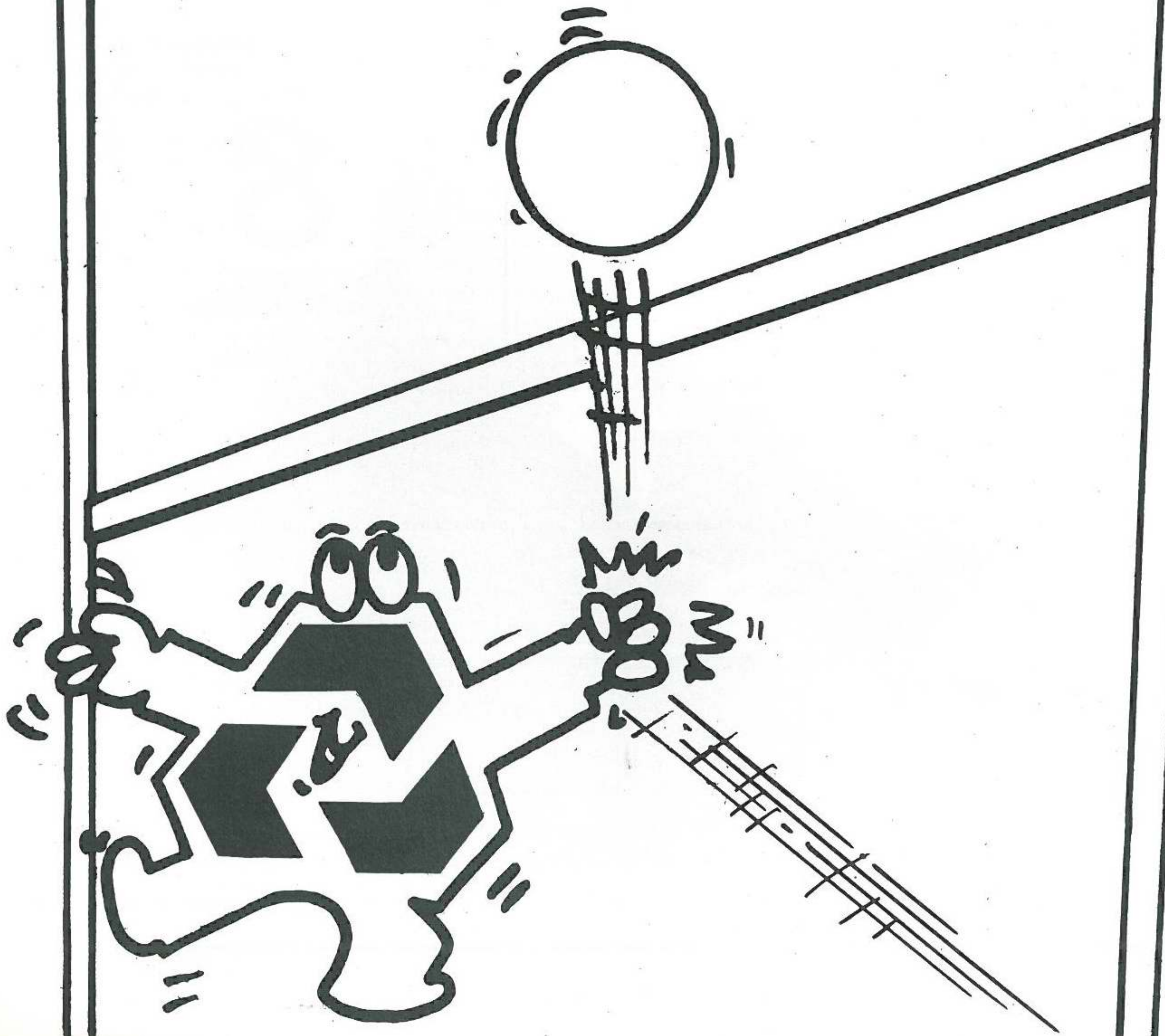
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BOOST FOR HURLING

IS hurling poised for a major break-through outside of the game's strongholds? That is the big question on the eve of the All-Ireland senior and minor finals.

Offaly have given the game a new impetus by qualifying for a first decider. But that achievement is only one aspect — admittedly, the chief one — in a year in which hurling has produced many top-class games, and the talking points needed to accelerate development generally.

Clare's first-ever Munster minor final win; the splendour of the Galway-Clare All-Ireland under-18 semi-final, and the brave bid of Laois at senior against Offaly in a Leinster semi-final, are some of the pointers to the fact that the ancient game is thriving.

Offaly and Galway minors have the ability to give a further boost to the struggling counties. Already, they have shown what can be achieved with perseverance and dedication in the face of repeated disappointments.

Offaly have also consolidated their position in the top rank at senior. In retaining the Leinster crown they won for the first time last year, they proved that their historic success was no fluke.

They will, like Galway a year ago, carry the sentiment of most of the nation. With the experience gained over the past twelve months they are sure to celebrate this debut with a spirited display.

What of Galway? They deserve great credit for the way they came back from a disappointing League run, and an unimpressive show when drawing their All-Ireland semi-final, to oust Limerick in the replay and so get to this final defence of the title they won so superbly last September.

Like Offaly, they are very worthy finalists.

Kilkenny minors carry the banner for the traditional success-laden counties. They are sure to prove equal to the occasion; just as the Galway minors can be depended on to make a brave bid for the county's first ever championship in this grade.

A unique senior final, and the possibility of history being made as well at minor. Yes, hurling is more alive, more interesting than ever.

COVER PHOTO — Our front cover features the All-Ireland senior finalists, Offaly and Galway.

Offaly: from left, back row: Paddy Kirwan, Pat Fleury, Joachim Kelly, Pat Delaney, Liam Currans, Eugene Coughlan, Damien Martin, Aidan Fogarty.

Front row: Tom Donoghue, Mark Corrigan, Brendan Bermingham, Pdraig Horan, Ger Coughlan, Pat Carroll, Johnny Flaherty.

Galway: from left, back row: Michael Connolly, Niall McInerney, Noel Lane, Brendan Lynskey, Michael Conneely, Iggy Clarke, Steve Mahon.

Front row: Bernie Forde, Jimmy Cooney, Sean Silke, Seamus Coen, Sylvie Linnane, P. J. Molloy, Joe Connolly, Finbarr Gantley.

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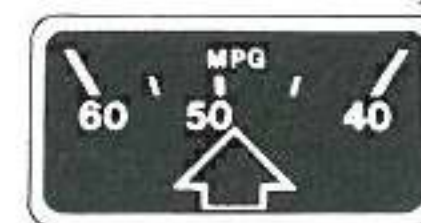


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FINAL PREVIEW

MATURE OFFALY SET FOR GLORY

Says SEAN O'BRIEN

NOT since Waterford took their first title in 1948 has a new name been inscribed on the Liam McCarthy Cup, but Offaly, that exciting and skilled company of history-makers, may set that right on their debut in an All-Ireland senior hurling final.

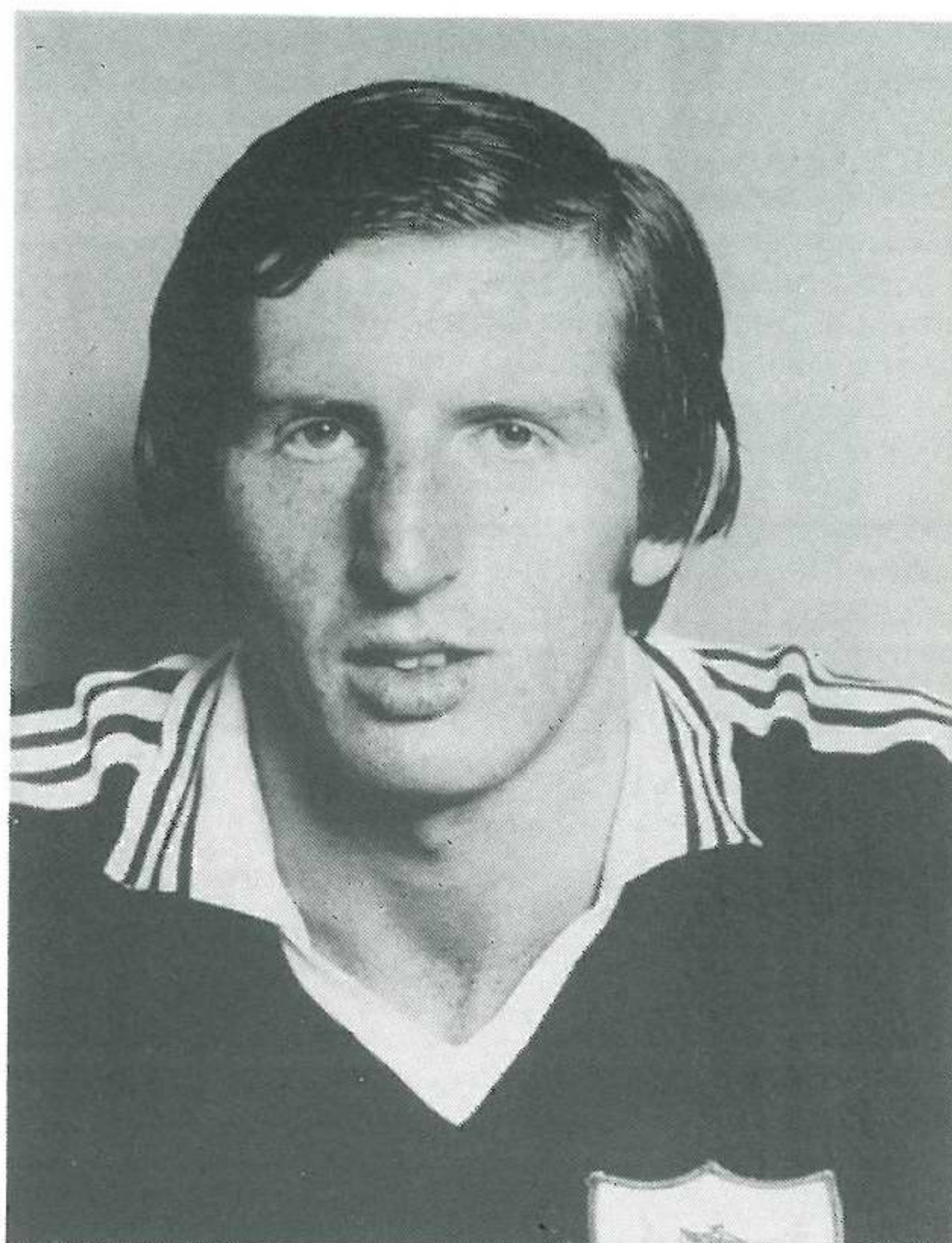
I would have been happier about the Midlanders' chances had the All-Ireland semi-final not gone to a second meeting. The replay gives Galway an extra game; an additional match that will prove more valuable at this juncture than weeks of serious training, and as a result enhances the All-Ireland champions' prospects of retaining the title they won in such memorable fashion a year ago.

But, even though the Offaly task now appears that much more daunting, I still believe they have an excellent chance.

Look at their credentials! They made a tremendous bid against Galway in last year's All-Ireland semi-final, even though lacking in any type of experience at that stage. After that defeat, they had the spirit and the class to battle all the way to the National League final, and although they lost that game to Cork, defeat was still no disgrace.

Then, came the wins over Laois and a much fancied Wexford team

**BERNIE
FORDE
GALWAY**



for a successful defence of the Leinster crown. That is a splendid record over a long period by any possible standard.

Even more important, however, in my book, is the fact that in the Leinster campaign, in particular, Offaly showed the confidence of champions. They backed up their ever improving skills and their growing maturity with the cool, unflurried type of hurling that was missing from their make-up in the past.

The confidence, in short, laced to all round ability, could pay a handsome dividend in the final. Certainly, there are solid grounds for believing that Offaly will not be affected by the big occasion . . . that they will not "freeze" and fail to fulfil their potential.

And that potential is such that they have the ability to do what so few teams have achieved in modern times . . . win a final at the first attempt. They are as good a

combination to represent Leinster as any we have seen in a long time.

Damien Martin, on his recall against Wexford after a year's absence from the big-time, showed all the qualities that rightly earned him a proud reputation for so long among the goalkeeping giants.

Pat Delaney is a superb general at centre half. He "reads" a game to good effect, is cool under pressure, and has the added ability to send over points from long range frees. With Ger Coughlan and Pat Fleury also doing much to ensure an unyielding barrier to goal, it is hard to see the Leinster champions giving much away at the back.

Liam Currams, that bright young dual star from Kilcormac, who is the youngest member of the side, has proved in my book one of the big successes of the Offaly team this

• TO PAGE 9

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† U.K. Department of Energy (1700cc version).

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● FROM PAGE 7

season. He has settled in well, and his partnership with All Star Joachim Kelly in the middle of the park is one that is bound to make life pretty difficult for the opposing combination.

Johnny Flaherty may be one of the oldest men in the team. But when it comes to poaching match-winning goals, the Kinnity club man, who is 35, is by no way slow about going forward.

At the other end of the scale, Mark Corrigan, at 21 is a dashing young wing forward with genuine talent. A club-mate of Flaherty's, he can unsettle the best of rearguards.

Add in the work rate of such as Pdraig Horan, a wily full forward and top-class captain with a good scoring record, and All Star Pat Carroll, and Offaly will combine well to ensure plenty of pressure on the Galway back division.

TEAM-WORK

Talking of combination — Offaly have built up a high degree of teamwork over the past eighteen months or so, with a generally unchanged combination.

These, then, are some of the reasons why I am looking forward with a fair degree of confidence to one of the best performances we have yet seen from the Midlanders. The nature of the day, and the fact that at last such glory is within grasp, will, I believe, bring about an extra response from the Offaly men.

But will all this be good enough to prevent Galway from completing the Liam McCarthy Cup double?

I think the Connacht men's confidence must be helped by the happenings in the All-Ireland semi-final. Had they sneaked victory over Limerick's 14-man outfit in the first meeting — and they might well have done just that near the end of that game — the success would have been rated something of a hollow one.

As it was, the result was not a very encouraging one for Galway, who did not play nearly as well as many expected. But they had the character to come striding back from that unsettling experience to come out on top in the replay.

Defence is their strongest suit. Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke are very crafty half backs, who could do much to cut down on Offaly's scoring chances, while Niall McInerney and Jimmy Cooney further back are others who may "turn on" red lights to the Leinster attack.

Michael Connolly and Steve Mahon have proven their ability in the middle of the park.

I am less enthusiastic, however, about the attack. Offaly players and supporters will need no reminder of the skills of such as Noel Lane, Bernie Forde and P. J. Molloy, who were among the scores in the defeat of their county in last year's semi-final.

But I still think that it is here that Galway will need to put their best foot forward if they are to retain their title. The memory of many

bad wides in the early rounds of the championship by the Galway attacks still haunts me.

John Connolly's recall to the Galway team proved a tremendous success. Not only did big John acquit himself handsomely in the replayed semi-final game, but more important, his very presence proved to be an inspiration to all his colleagues and none benefitted more than brother, Joe.

The fact that they are champions and in line to make their own special brand of history with the first double is bound to give an extra edge to Galway's hurling.

So, over-all, despite my reservations about their attack, I am convinced they can play their part in making this a final to rival the great ones of the past.

Where will the honours rest at the end? Much as I feel that extra game will benefit Galway, and much as I admire their many excellent assets, I think it must be agreed that Offaly are a far more matured side than when they gave Galway such a great run in last year's semi-final. That's why I believe they will have the edge this time.



● Michael Conneally (Galway) brushes aside a strong Limerick attack in the recent hurling semi-final game.

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Tyler Top Ten

JOE McKENNA HEADS THE HURLING LIST

JOE McKenna and Pat Fitzgerald take the chief honours in the latest TYLER TOP TEN review, which covers the main championship games played from May 31 to and including the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final at the beginning of August.

McKenna had a memorable Munster championship. He highlighted the campaign with a power-packed display against Clare in the provincial final at Thurles, where he set the seal on his showing by scoring three vital goals, plus a like number of points.

The big Limerick full forward may not have been as prominent in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway, but he still helped himself to a valuable brace of points in that brave battle against the odds by the Shannonsiders.

So, for his generally very telling performances over the championship as a whole, the Shinrone native powers to the top of the hurling chart with a dividend of 44 points. This is McKenna's debut in the tables this year.

Limerick also gains the runners-up position in the code. Liam O'Donoghue caught the eye with his effective hurling in defence in the South, and was one of the team's leading performers in the semi-final draw against Galway. He, too, as a result, comes into the review for the first time this year with a strong collection of 40 points.

Offaly's march to their first All-Ireland senior hurling final is reflected by the appearances in the

table of Pat Delaney and Ger Coughlan, who, in fact are also hurlers to improve their placings over-all.

Delaney takes over on top of the chart for the year as a whole with 95 points; Coughlan is on third place with 80 points.

Pat Fitzgerald strikes another blow for Offaly, but this time in football. He clinched the leading place with his tremendous contribution to his team's Leinster final win over Laois.

Fitzgerald started effectively at right half forward, and was later moved back to left half back, where he turned on the style to prove a real giant in the successful defence of the Leinster crown. The Offaly man collects 42 points, and in making his entry into the table this year, beats John McCartan by two points.

McCartan banged in two goals as Down beat Armagh for the Ulster senior title, and collects 40 points as a result. Then, Offaly return to the limelight through Charlie Conroy, whose defensive cover against Laois throughout the Leinster final was a bright feature of the game.

Football, unlike, hurling, is composed of players who are all debutants this season in the review.

The top three in each code up to

and including the current edition are:

Hurling: 95 points: P. Delaney (Offaly). 94: J. Horgan (Cork). 80: G. Coughlan (Offaly).

Football: 74 points: B. Talty (Galway). 62: D. Earley (Roscommon). 51: E. Liston (Kerry).

The latest Charts are:

HURLING

44	J. McKenna (Limerick)	44
40	L. O'Donoghue (Limerick)	40
37	S. Linnane (Galway)	37
30	P. Delaney (Offaly)	95
28	G. Coughlan (Offaly)	80
26	S. Stack (Clare)	56
25	J. Condrón (Wexford)	25
24	M. Conneely (Galway)	24
23	S. Durack (Clare)	53
22	D. Donnelly (Antrim)	22

FOOTBALL

42	P. Fitzgerald (Offaly)	42
40	John McCartan (Down)	40
38	C. Conroy (Offaly)	38
37	A. Egan (Mayo)	37
36	W.J. Padden (Mayo)	36
34	M. Sheehy (Kerry)	34
33	P. Lynch (Kerry)	33
32	P. Kennedy (Down)	32
32	C. Browne (Laois)	32
30	J. Costello (Laois)	30




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By TERRY McGRATH

LIAM O'DONOGHUE

Limerick's ace in the pack

HURLING has produced its quota of men over the years who proved their worth in attack and defence. One of the best of this company must be Liam O'Donoghue, who once put up an amazing scoring tally in a juvenile match, won an All-Ireland senior medal as a forward, and is now firmly established as one of the best wing backs in the land.

O'Donoghue was only 21 when his sharp incisive play at right half forward made him one of the brightest stars of the Limerick side that wiped away many years of disappointments for followers by beating Kilkenny in 1973 for the county's only All-Ireland senior title of the post Mick Mackey era. He played many subsequent games in attack with the county, but later took over a defensive role, and was at No. 5 when the Shannonsiders' lost the 1979-'80 season's League final in a replay.

But it was back to the attack for Limerick's Munster final against the same opposition last year at Thurles. Then, in a very telling switch in the first half, O'Donoghue was moved back to right half back. It was one of a number of match-winning moves by Limerick.

The dashing Mungret club man proceeded to turn in a dazzling display. He did much to mould the half back line into a type of unit that proved a major stumbling block to Cork and prove the inspiration for an effort that earned Limerick the title.

This year, too, his clever and purposeful play in the half back line has been one of the outstanding features of the senior championship. O'Donoghue has, indeed, been a vital plank in the Limerick set-up.

Whether as a forward or a defender, this dashing hurler has given one hundred per cent effort, laced by a mastery of the skills of the ancient game. He is an exciting and inspiring campaigner, too, as he goes about his work in determined style.

Like so many more in the game, Liam O'Donoghue made his mark in under-age competitions. It was in a juvenile championship game with Mungret that he helped himself to a superb 6-4, a tremendous scoring exercise by a player at any grade. He played minor and under-21 with Limerick, and also wore the Limerick C.B.S. colours in Colleges competitions.

O'Donoghue stepped into the senior inter-county grade for a National League game against Tipperary in 1973, and he has never really looked back in the meantime. He won his first provincial senior medal that year, and has been a county regular since.



● Beardless Liam O'Donoghue (above) has starred both in defence and attack for Limerick since his senior debut in 1973.

O'Donoghue was a full forward in Limerick's loss to Kilkenny in the 1974 final, and had successfully negotiated the difficult step from a position of a top-class attacker to that of an equally leading defender when the Shannonsiders again reached the concluding round of the championship last year.

The 5ft. 7ins., 28-year-old Limerick man has given a further emphasis to this ability to prove a master of attacking play as well as defensive brilliance by collecting Railway Cup medals in both roles — as a forward in 1976, and at left half back when Joe McKenna led Munster to victory at Ennis last St. Patrick's Day.

The only medal of national importance now missing from his collection is a National League souvenir. And the nearest he came to that was last year when Limerick lost that League final replay to Cork.

This year Liam O'Donoghue has been one of the Munster county's most effective units. While others may have captured extra special headlines, the Mungret club man has still been in there doing an excellent job from first to last in game after game. Limerick owe much to him for their return to the glory trail after that disappointing League campaign.

Is Liam O'Donoghue more effective as a forward than a back? Some will argue that point to telling effect; others that he is best employed in defence. For my own part, I regard Liam as one of the best utility men around . . . the rare breed of hurler who can snap into a match-winning action no matter what the occasion demands. In short, an excellent man to have in any side . . . that is the versatile hurler from the Shannonside.

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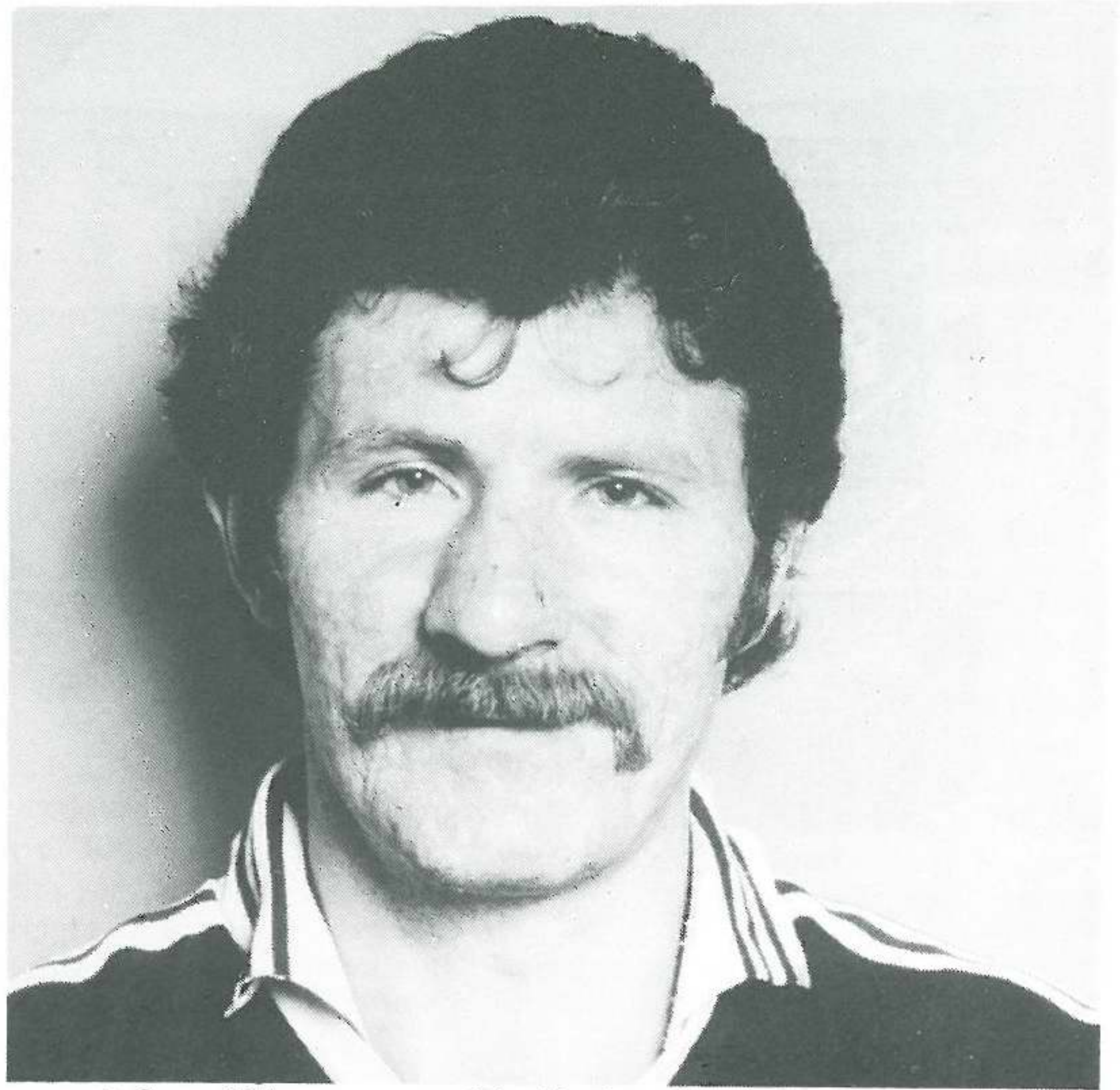
By PAUL McNAMEE

SEAN Silke, the Galway captain in this year's senior hurling championship, must rank as one of the most consistent defenders of modern times. It is hard to credit that it is over six years since he helped to usher in the most successful era yet for the county with a major title win, but in that period, the Meelick-Eyrecourt man has been delivering the goods at centre half with a regularity that has marked him out as a dominant personality of the second half of the 'Seventies, and the early 'Eighties.

Good positional sense, reliability and a long clearance are among the features of his talents that have brightened the scene for so long, and helped him to make a tremendous contribution to one of the most colourful events in recent times — the Galway win in last year's All-Ireland final.

Silke was the lone survivor in the game of a half back line that captured the attention of the nation at the time as Galway marched in 1975 to their only National League title in 30 years. Joe McDonagh, Silke and Iggy Clarke fused their then budding skills so superbly that they formed a half back line of sheer splendour and did much to set the scene for the League final win over Tipperary.

Many will argue that the Galway half back line of that time was one of the best ever. It is a debatable point, but certainly McDonagh,



● Sean Silke . . . one of hurling's great centre-half backs.

Silke and Clarke marshalled their skills to such good effect that the line proved one of more than ordinary ability.

The high hopes raised by that break-through of championship glory for Galway were not realised in 1975, as the Westerners, after a superb semi-final win over Cork, lost the summit game to Kilkenny. There were to be other disappointments before Galway, and Sean Silke finally reaped the ultimate reward last year. The tall centre half back also proved a real giant for Galway in the break-through against Limerick.

As is so often the case after a long barren spell, that win put the final flourish to a unique year for Sean Silke and Galway. Earlier, he was prominent in a rare win for Connacht in the Railway Cup final. It was a goal by Silke from a "70" in the first half that set the West up for victory over Munster and their only title in 34 years.

Sean Silke, however, was early enough among some of the game's top honours. Students of the game would have noted the budding skills that were to make him such a major star at senior as he collected Fitzgibbon Cup medals for the Universities' Championship with Maynooth in 1973 and 1974.

Not surprisingly after his part in the League win of 1975, he was honoured by the All Stars that season, and he returned to the All Stars team last year, again at centre half back.

Silke, who was Hurling Officer in Connacht for two years, won medals in his school days with Garbally College in hurling, and with his club at junior and intermediate. He has more than lived up to the promise he displayed with Garbally and Maynooth, and his excellence, sportmanship and consistency over the years as a senior put Sean Silke who is 30, among the company of the brightest stars of recent decades.



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QUIZ TIME

ON THE SPOT . . .

BY TOMMY McQUAID

OUR popular quiz has something of a "new look" in this edition. There are four separate sections, and in each the spotlight is on personalities and events in All-Ireland hurling finals.

Once more points are awarded for each question to give that added competitive edge to the quiz.

The maximum total of points possible is 135. If you add up 120 points or more you really know your hurling final facts and figures. A score of 100 to 120 points is first-rate, and from 75 to 100 is very good.

The quiz gets off with a fairly straight forward group. Here, there is merely a "true or false" answer to each question. The guide to the way the points may be collected in the other groups is provided at the start of each exercise.

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Antrim have contested at least one All-Ireland senior hurling final?
2. Joe Connolly, who led Galway to last year's memorable final win, also captained his club, Castlegar, when they won the All-Ireland senior club title earlier in 1980?
3. Joe McKenna, whose goal scoring feats captured so many headlines in the run-in to this year's final, did not score when Limerick went under to Galway last September?
4. Only the late Christy Ring captained three Liam McCarthy Cup winning teams?
5. Tony Doran was at full forward when Wexford last won the All-Ireland senior title in 1968?
6. Damien Martin, who made a come-back to inter-county fare in the Leinster senior final in July, ranks as Offaly's first Carrolls All Star in either code?

Five points for each question answered correctly, and a bonus of five points for an all correct card, making 35 points possible in this section. Mark in your score here

MATCH THE GOALKEEPER

Five goalkeepers are listed here, plus five highlights or special features from All-Ireland senior hurling finals.

The object is to match the goalkeeper to the appropriate episode.

For example, Martin Coleman (Cork) would go in as the goalkeeper to match the clue: Christy Keogh foiled by a great save in the 1977 final.

Coming up to the end of that game, Coleman saved the day for Cork by stopping superbly a Keogh blockbuster and the Leesiders retained their crown.

Get the idea? Well, our five goalkeepers are Art Foley (Wexford), Seamus Horgan (Limerick), Tony Reddan (Tipperary), Paddy Barry (Cork) and Noel Skehan (Kilkenny).

Match the appropriate goalkeeper from that list against the correct clue listed below:

1. This goalkeeper captained the team that won the first All-Ireland final over 80 minutes
2. Won his first All-Ireland senior medal on the field of play in his first final outing, and also captained the side
3. A memorable save that deprived Christy Ring of a ninth All-Ireland senior medal.
4. The Galway connection in a three-in-a-row of All-Ireland senior titles
5. A great save from Mick Crotty (Kilkenny) six minutes into the second half by this goalkeeper proved a decisive moment in a rare enough final win by his county.

Five points for each question correctly answered, and a five points bonus for a "full house." Your Return

MINOR TIDINGS

In this section the emphasis is exclusively on minor affairs in hurling, with all the questions relating to comparatively recent games.

1. In what year was the All-Ireland minor hurling title last won by a Leinster county?
2. An All-Ireland minor medalist of recent years was in action in the provincial senior championship during the summer, having earlier won a National League medal. Who is he?

● TO PAGE 19

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● FROM PAGE 17

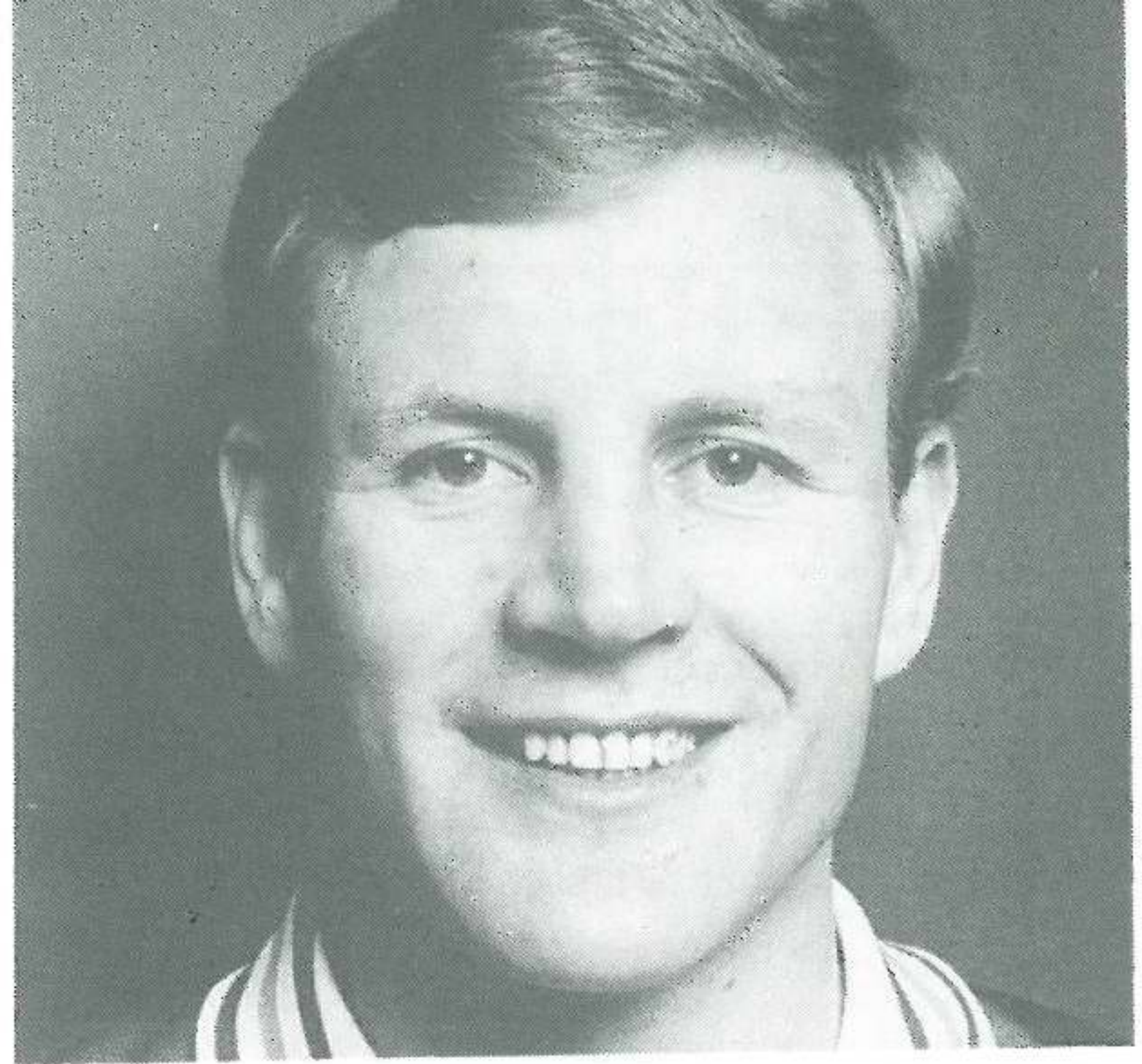
3. Hardly any need to say that Clare won their first Munster minor title in July. But what was their winning margin over Tipperary?.....

4. Name last year's minor finalists at All-Ireland level?.....

5. What trophy is awarded to the All-Ireland champions in this grade?.....

6. One of the following hurlers has not played in a winning All-Ireland minor hurling final team — Tom Cashman (Cork), John Fleming (Wexford) or Martin Quigley (Wexford). Who is the odd hurler out?.....

Once more 35 points on offer. That's five points a question, plus a five points bonus if all are answered correctly. **How do you measure up here?**.....



PROFILE

Here the exercise is to complete a brief profile of the player pictured here. He is one of the current stars of the senior inter-county ranks.

- 1. Who is this personality?.....
- 2. He won an All Star award last year. In what position was he honoured?.....
- 3. What club does he assist?.....

4. He played in a recent Railway Cup final winning team. Was the year of the success 1977, 1979 or 1980?....

5. Was he in action in the Railway Cup final at Ennis last St. Patrick's Day?.....

6. Has he won any other national medals as a senior outside of that Railway Cup success?.....

Five points for each part of the profile answered correctly and a bonus of five for a 100% record. Total marks possible, then, are 35. **Your Record.**.....

ANSWERS

(Answers printed in reverse to avoid distraction)

1. Joachim Kelly (Offaly). 2. He won his only All Star award at mid-field. 3. Luskagh. 4. He was centre half forward in the side that beat Connacht for the 1979 title. 5. Yes. He played at midfield. 6. No.

PROFILE

1978 and 1979 titles. 3. Two points — 3-13 to 3-11. 4. Tipperary and Wexford. The Munster county won by 2-15 to 1-10. 5. "The Irish Press Cup", first presented in 1949, when Tipperary were the winners. 6. John Fleming. Cashman and Quigley won hurling medals in 1974 and 1968 respectively.

1. 1977, when Kilkenny beat Cork in a replay. 2. Ger Cunningham, who was in goal when Cork won the

1. Paddy Barry (Cork). He led the county to their 1970 win over

MINOR TIDINGS

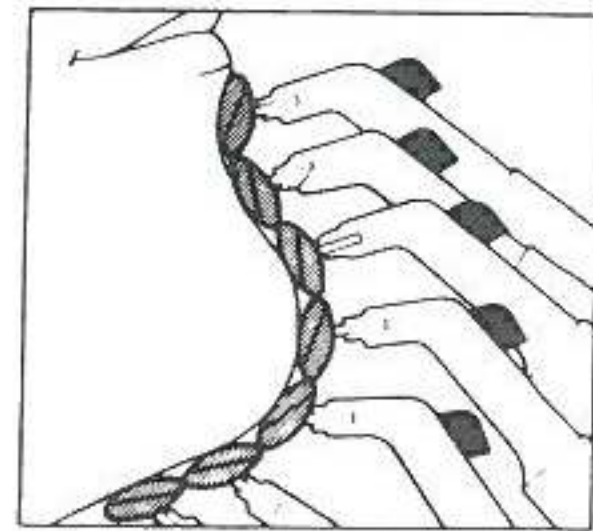
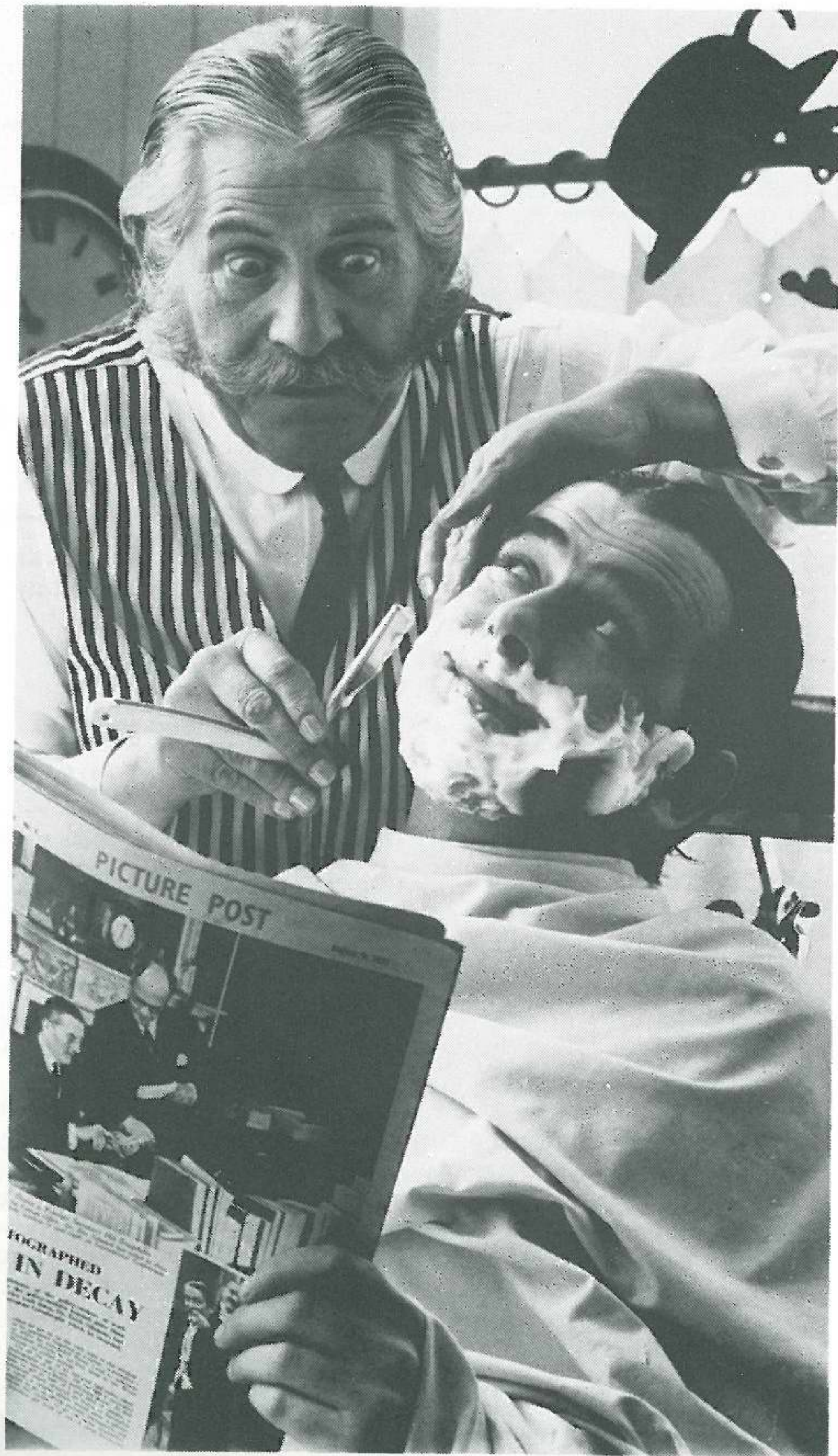
Wexford. 2. Noel Shehan (Kilkenny). After a long spell as deputy to Ollie Walsh, he made his final debut in 1972 and led the county to success over Cork. 3. Art Foley (Wexford). He made a great save from Ring three minutes from time to clinch the 1956 final win for Wexford over Cork. Ring was in line for his ninth medal in that tie, his last final appearance. 4. Tony Reddan (Tipperary). He was born in Galway and helped Tipperary to their 1949, 1950 and 1951 titles. 5. Seamus Horgan (Limerick). His decisive save came in the 1973 All-Ireland senior final. Limerick's only title since 1940.

MATCH THE GOALKEEPER

1. True. Antrim lost to Cork by 0-4 to 5-16 in 1943 in their only senior hurling final appearance. 2. False. Joe Connolly's brother, Michael, captained Castlegar to the 1980 triumph. 3. False. Joe McKenna scored 1-1 in that game. 4. True. The Liam McCarthy Cup was first presented for the 1921 final, played in 1923, and Ring captained Cork to their 1946, 1953 and 1954 wins. 5. False. Doran was centre half forward. 6. True. Damien Martin was chosen in goal in the 1971 hurling team, the first Carrolls All Star team in either code, and he was Offaly's only representative in the side.

TRUE OR FALSE

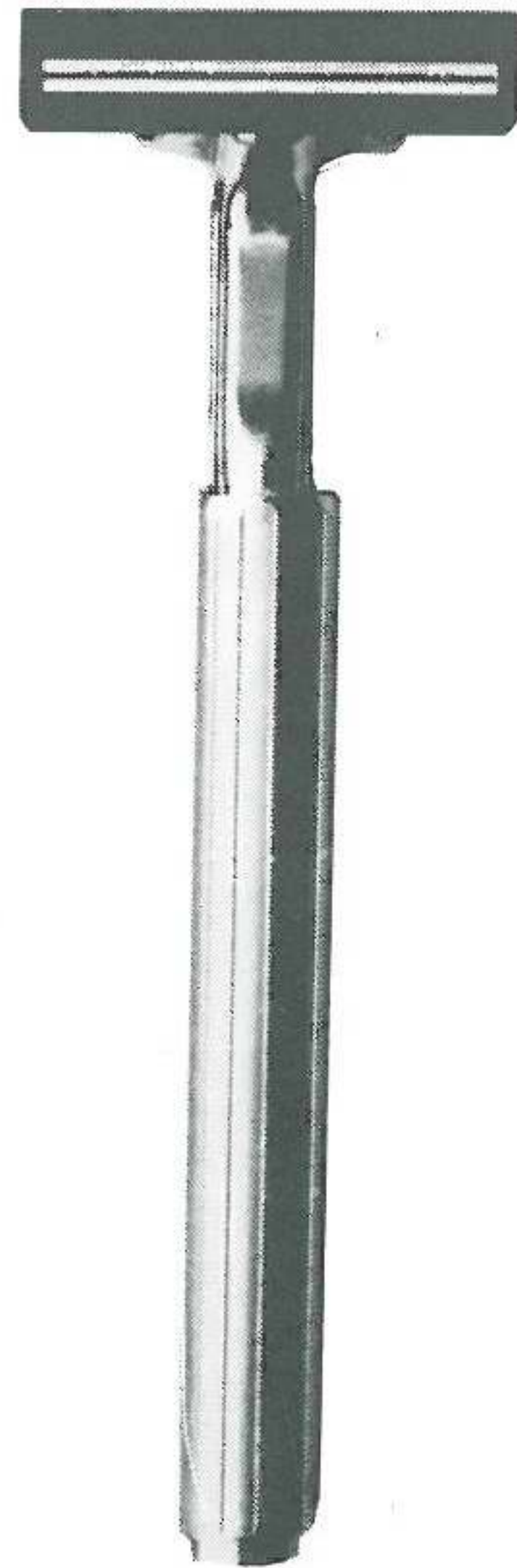
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EAMONN YOUNG RUNS THE RULE OVER THE OFFALY TEAM

A *Fistful of pure gold?*

FORTY-FIVE years ago in New Ross I watched, through schoolboy eyes, the men of Uíbh Fháilí hurl against Wexford. A lot of water has run down the Barrow and the Shannon since then and to tell the truth I didn't ever give serious thought to a hurling All-Ireland with the midland county in it. Yet here they are in '81 with the scalps of Wexford and Kilkenny on their belts in successive years, not worried about anybody and ready to crash through the curtains of history.

How good are Uíbh Fháilí? In February I thought them a side that could be very useful this year if they could get out of Leinster. Candidly just then I didn't fancy their chances knowing that Kilkenny were chewing at the restraining leather. In the May League final I thought Cork just a shade better and went home convinced that Uí Fháilí's days in the sun were over. When Wexford beat Kilkenny it was only natural to suggest that the Dorans, Mick Jacob, George O'Connor, Ned Buggy, Martin Quigley and the rest would power their way to Páirc an Chrócaigh in September. But back come Offaly and the blinding hour last July saw them ahead two points at the end.

FAIRY TALE

Damien Martin has settled back very comfortably in the Offaly goal which he handed over to Christy King for the League. "If they win, and I'm confident enough", says his wife Josephine. "It will be like a fairy tale".

Tom O'Donoghue played at midfield for Galway and is now moved from right half back where he played in the League to right full back to-day. A steady player, he has settled down in the corner job where anticipation and concentration are more important than running ability. Eugene Coughlan the full back is a very resolute hurler who has plenty of experience of the dovetailing done by the strong Pat Fleury at left corner.

Aidan Fogarty is one of the three who did not play against Cork in the League final as he was not available at the time.

VITAL SPOT

A powerful hurler is this red-haired man Pat Delaney at centre back. He has the good anticipation necessary to any man who plays well in that vital spot; his skill is quite satisfactory and his personal defence good. In addition his ability to drive a long ball off the ground or the hand as well as his steadiness on the frees make him an Offaly lynch-pin.

Ger Coughlan the slightly built left half back is a daring player who relies on delightful anticipation and a keen clear brain that executes his hurling decisions with the clarity of a first-class performer.

In the middle of the field Joachim Kelly, stylish, strong and very dependable teams up with Liam Currans an athletic dual-player who shows no signs of the demands made by the football game. Currans has played a lot of both but perhaps

he's more of a hurler and he certainly looks very happy buzzing around the wide spaces of the hurling centre-field.

Paucic Horan the captain is a very important leader of the forward line for his power and determined play inspire the remainder, who with the exception of John Flaherty have played beside him regularly since the upward and successful campaign of this spirited side. Horan makes play for active Pat Kirwan and stylish Pat Carroll while Johnny Flaherty is always wide awake for the off chance.

Brendan Bermingham has the restless foraging appetite of the competent centre-forward and the small lively Mark Corrigan who surprisingly enough didn't score from the left wing in the Leinster final won't need much scope before he does so to-day.

Dermot Healy has coached an enthusiastic side, well aware of their own capabilities and limitations. The important thing is that they have gone all the way to the final. First day in the big game hasn't always been a happy one for the emergent team and I remember that great Down football side looked green enough when they first appeared in Croke Park over twenty years ago. When they returned in the following year they were superb.

The midland side has been wrestling with the best over the last few years and it is natural that the stands and the roars of Páirc an Chrócaigh have no terrors for them.

Overall this is a competent Uíbh Fháilí team and will not be beaten except by a first-class outfit.

"There's only a pocket of hurling in Offaly", a man once said to me with lag-mheas in his voice. To-day we may find in that pocket a fistful of pure gold".

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BY NOEL HORGAN

HURLING IS IN A HEALTHY POSITION



Tony Doran — Star of '68 win

THE huge levelling off in standards has brought a welcome freshness to hurling in recent years and fans can look forward to another novel pairing in September's All-Ireland final. Last year was the first time since 1955 that neither Cork, Tipperary nor Kilkenny were involved in the national decider and this year the Big Three failed even to make the provincial finals.

One would have to delve deeply into the pages of history to discover when last that occurred. Traditionalists will say that the relative decline of the top hurling strongholds is a poor reflection on the current standards but that is hardly a fair judgment.

Galway and Limerick produced a good All-Ireland final in 1980 while former outcasts like Offaly and Laois have shown commendable ability in their rise to hurling's upper echelons. Additionally, Cork, Tipp and Kilkenny have not exactly been banished into hurling's limbo and each fought bravely before falling by the wayside this year.

Overall, therefore, today's hurling world is more interesting and competitive than ever before and the many top-class contests in this season's championship are adequate testimony to the healthy state of the

game. It should be a memorable All-Ireland decider this year.

OUTSTANDING DUELS

Looking back at the finals over the past twenty years, there were indeed some outstanding duels, 1967, for instance, produced a final which Kilkenny-folk will forever savour.

Tipperary, tops in the early 'sixties, were the Noresiders bogey team at the time so much so that the cynics suggested that the mere sight of the Blue and Gold was sufficient to unsettle the Kilkenny players of that era, with goalkeeper Ollie Walsh coming in for a regular slating in this regard.

Few gave Kilkenny a chance of defeating a star-studded though ageing Tipp squad but the Noresiders silenced the critics with a

rousing, courageous display which carried the day. And the hero of the hour for the winners was the bould Ollie, whose string of super-saves under intense pressure proved inspirational. Kilkenny's victory deprived John Doyle, playing his last game for Tipp that day, of a record ninth All-Ireland medal.

The following year Tipp returned and looked odds-on to succeed when effortlessly cruising to a massive interval lead over Wexford. The Slaneysiders staged a remarkable rally after the break however, with Tony Doran and Jack Berry ripping the Tipp rearguard apart and a Dan Quigley-guided defence curbing Tipp's forward thrusts. It was a great Wexford win although Tipperary provided the man of the match in Mick Roche who produced a classical pivotal performance.

Another dramatic recovery was made in 1972 when Kilkenny, looking a beaten team well into the second half, produced a magnificent closing rally which shocked a cocky Cork squad. Eddie Keher, Liam O'Brien and Frank Cummins were

• TO PAGE 25

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A.I.B. AWARDS AN ADDED SPUR TO ALL CLUBS

Clubs continue to benefit from participation in the now well established A.I.B.-G.A.A. Club of the Year Award Scheme.

Trophies and Development Grants totalling £13,000 were presented to 29 clubs earlier in the year. Now, a further 72 clubs have been selected for special Certificates of Merit in recognition of attaining a high level of marks in their appropriate categories in the 1980 promotion.

The framed Certificates help to give an important added dimension to the promotion, and must also act as an added spur to the clubs to redouble their efforts for even greater recognition in the 1981 Allied Irish Banks-G.A.A. Club of the Year scheme.

The following are the clubs selected for the Certificates of Merit:

Antrim: St. Paul's; Ardoyne Kickhams. **Armagh:** Armagh Harps; Armagh Cuchulainn's.

Cavan: Kingscourt Stars; Cavan Gaels. **Carlow:** Naomh Eoin; Eire Og. **Clare:** Wolfe Tones; Parteen; Eire Og.

Cork: Ballinora; Bishopstown; Carrigaline; Aghada; Inniscartha; Shamrocks; Fermoy; St. Finbarr's; Blackrock.

Donegal: Sean MacCumhaill's; Glenfin; Aodh Rua. **Down:** Wolfe Tones; Silverbridge Harps.

Dublin: Craobh Ciarain; Erin's

Isle; St. Vincent's; An Caislean-Walkinstown; St. Maur's; St. Brendan's; O'Connell School; Kilmacud Crokes; Ballyboden St. Enda's; Thomas Davis; Round Tower.

Kerry: Austin Stacks; Killarney Legion. **Kildare:** Clane; St. Mary's, Leixlip. **Kilkenny:** Lisdowney.

Laois: Portlaoise. **Limerick:** Mungret; Cloughan; Bruff. **Longford:** Sairseal Liagain. **Louth:** Clanna-Gael.

Mayo: Ballyhaunis; Ballycastle; Swinford; Castlebar Mitchels; Ballaghaderreen; Deel Rovers; Lahardane McHales.

Meath: Rathkenny.

Offaly: Clara. **Roscommon:** Castlerea; St. Kevin's. **Sligo:** Tubbercurry.

Tipperary: Moycarkey-Borris; Roscrea; Templederry; Loughmore-Castleiney; Arravale Rovers.

Tyrone: St. Colmcille's; Killyclogher St. Mary's.

Waterford: Tallow; Cnoc Sion; C.L.G. Michael Mac Craith, Tramore.

HURLING

By Noel Horgan

• FROM PAGE 23

leading lights for Kilkenny that day while Ray Cummins was Cork's top player, grabbing three goals, the last hat-trick to be scored in an All-Ireland final.

Wexford led Cork by eight points after ten minutes of the '76 final but the Leesiders had all but wiped out the lead by half-time. A ding-dong struggle ensued afterwards until Cork, with a hitherto subdued Jimmy Barry-Murphy notching a string of fine points, inched to safety in the closing minutes of a classic confrontation.

Midfielder Pat Moylan had his finest game for Cork that day while Denis Coughlan hurled with typical polish at left-wing back. Mick Jacob and Tony Doran were outstanding for Wexford.

BRILLIANT SAVE

The following year the teams met again and, as Martin Doherty subdued Doran and Gerald McCarthy outplayed Jacob, Cork always looked in command. The over-casual Rebels did not transfer their superiority to the scoresheet, however, and but for a brilliant save by Martin Coleman from a Christy Kehoe rasper in the dying minutes, Wexford might have stolen the title.

Magical moments these but just a few of many in the more recent All-Ireland hurling finals.

Only time will tell what is in store in this year's decider but I am confident that there will be pleasant memories to file away after September 6.

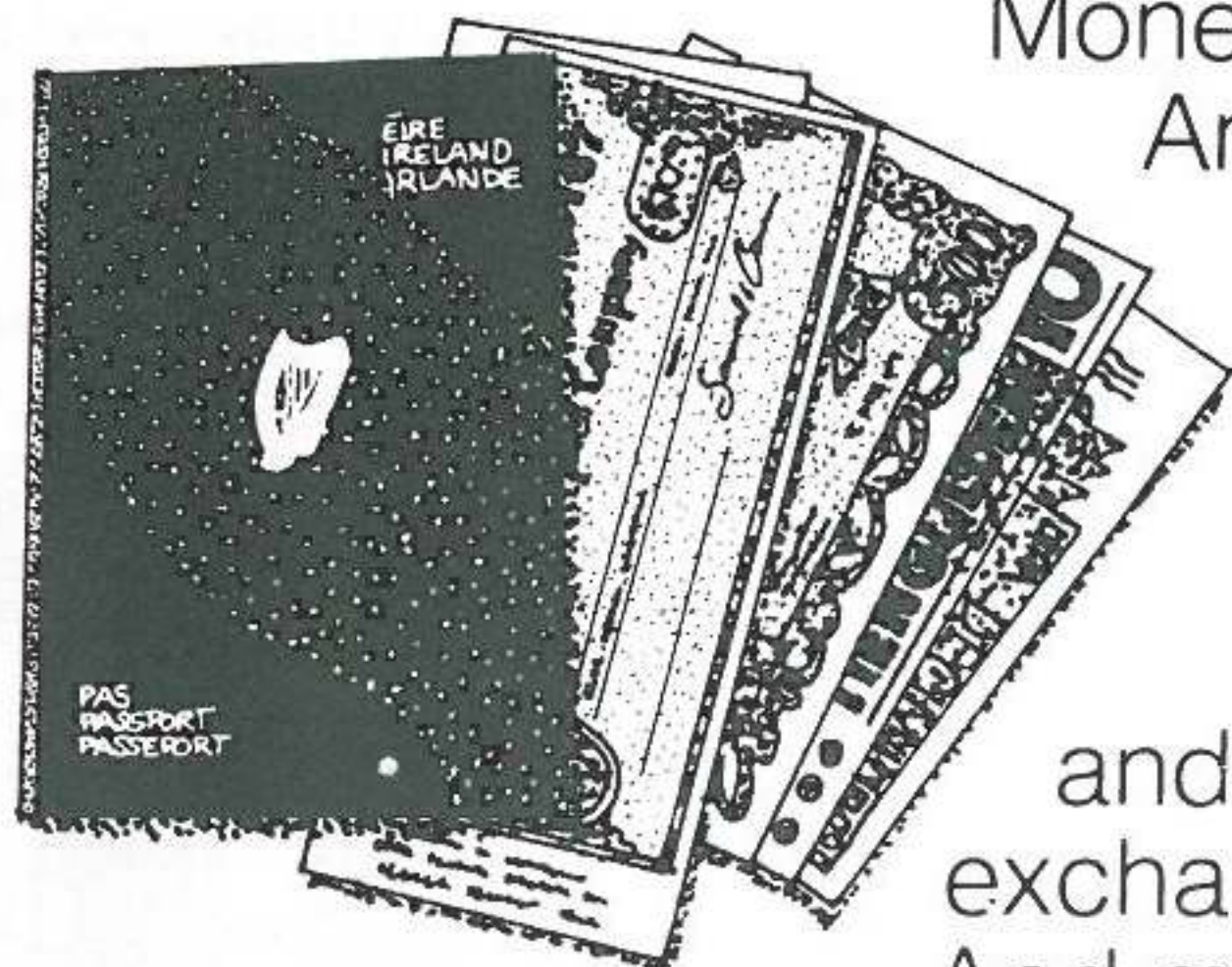
Here's hoping we will have another top-quality contest which will convince the doubters that hurling is as strong as ever and is still the greatest field game in the world, despite the temporary demise of the acknowledged aristocrats in the code.

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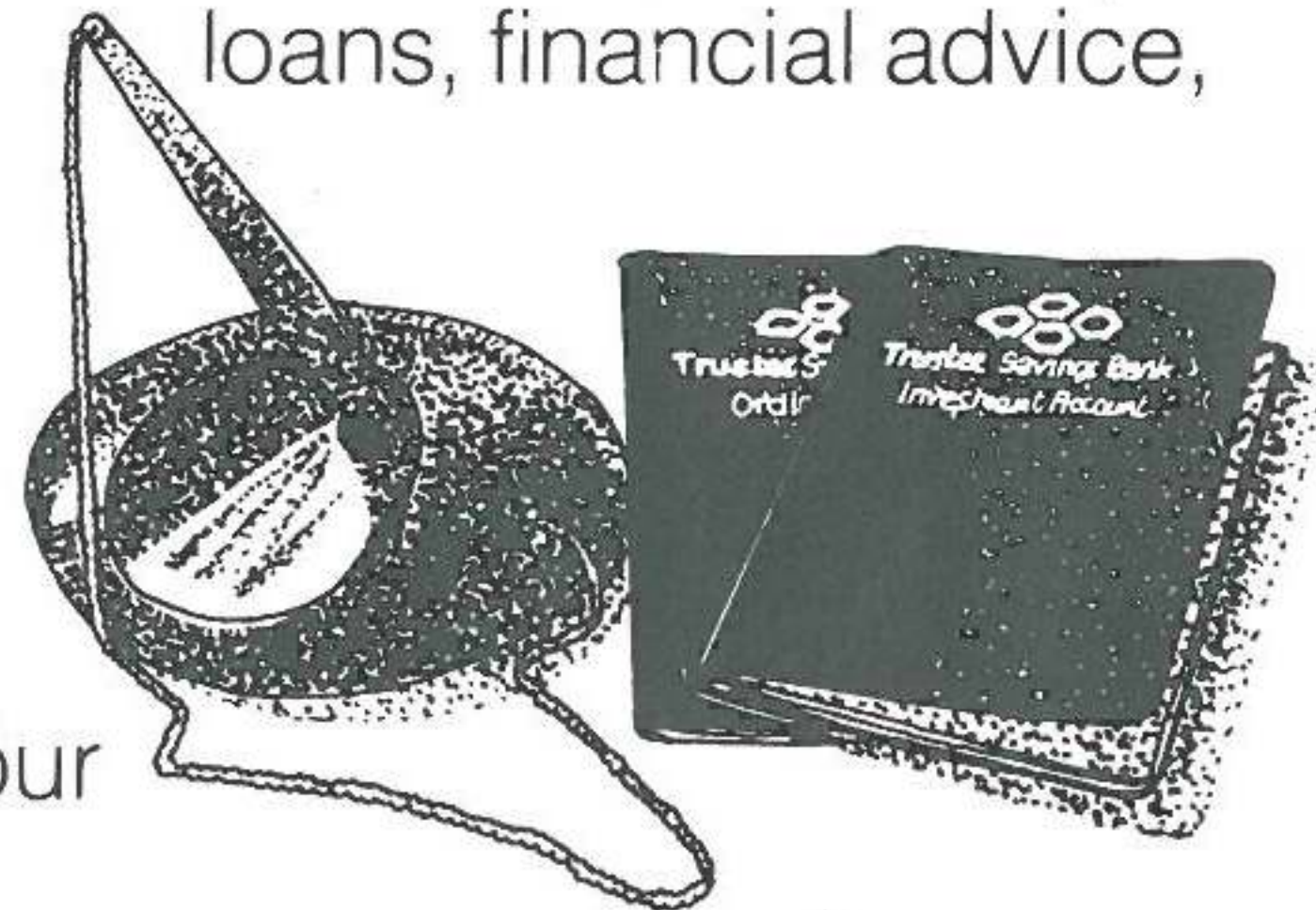


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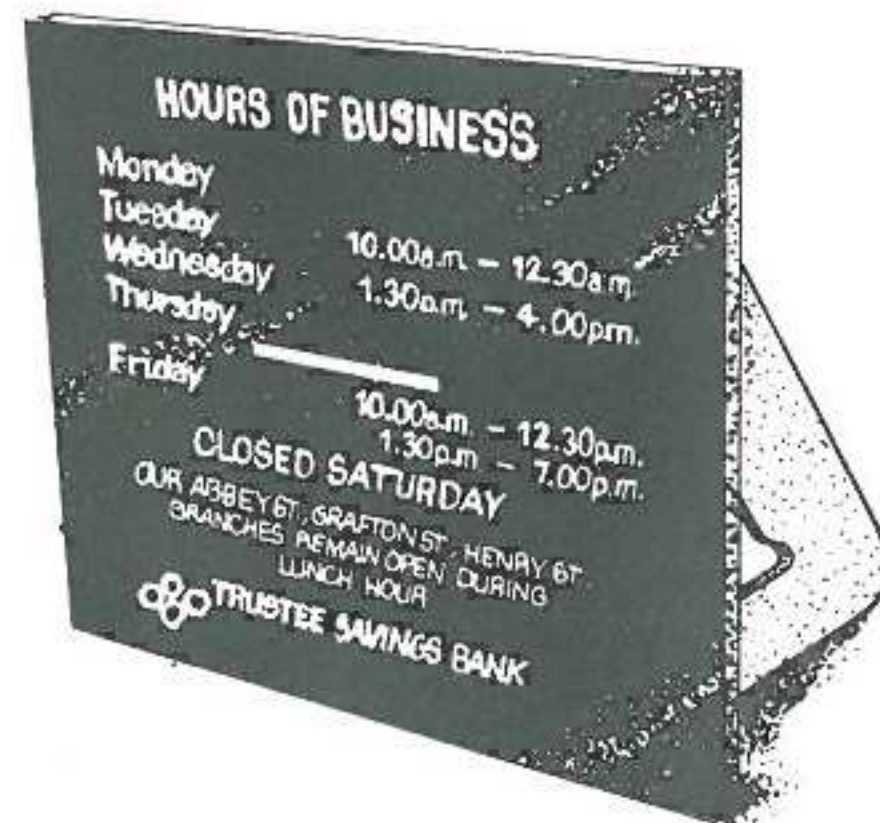
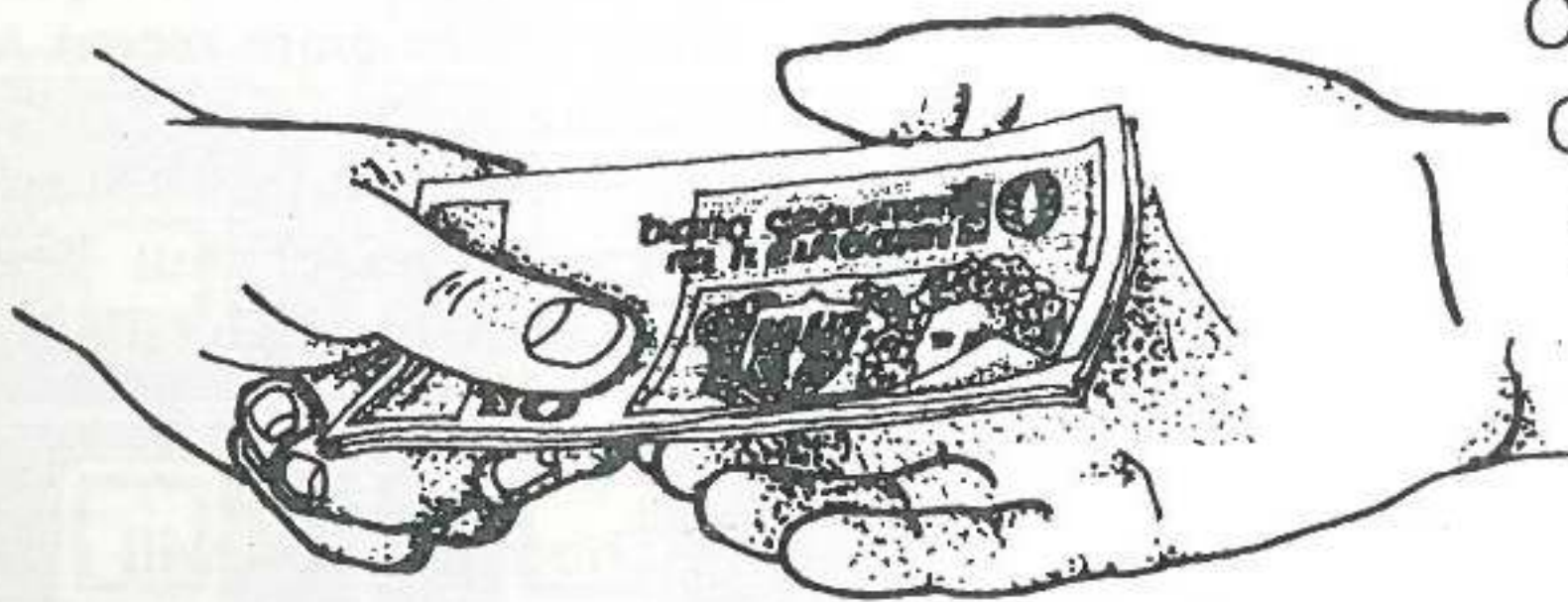
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A LIVELY, SKILFUL, POLISHED, VETERAN

BY EAMONN YOUNG

OLD age hath yet his honour and his toil.
Death closes all, yet something e'er the end,
Some work of noble note may yet be done,
Not unbecoming men who strove with gods . . ."

The words placed on the lips of Ulysses may seem a little off when discussing any of those splendid athletes who thrill us to-day and yet when one glances again, how suitable.

There is thirty five year old Tony Doran, splendid 36 year old Billy Morgan, striker Eamonn Cregan again at 35, Galway's John Connolly at 33, Kilkenny's Frank Cummins at 32 and a dozen more around the country. Nearer home, if one will award that name to Páirc an Chrócaigh to-day there are Damien Martin and Johnny Flaherty of the Uí Fháilí side each on the 34 mark.

Johnny Flaherty is a builder with a difference. He does his own business but in addition works on the site and this strong man alert in brain as in body, keeps himself in perfect trim. He has spent periods in the United States and has managed to return to the hurling maelstrom without losing his fire or his ability to stay up there with the best.

In the Wexford game he was as hard to mind as a fistful of fleas at a cross-roads. He scored two good points, had two goal-shots blocked in the last quarter by the crisp goalie Nolan and in the first after leaping high for a Joachim Kelly shot he caught out the defence by palming a fast one to the net. In addition Wexfordmen will point to Flaherty's presence near the goal as the reason why the cul baire let in Pat Kirwan's long shot and altogether the folk from that good county in the south east would have been a lot happier had Johnny Flaherty gone off on a reconnaissance for building sites that Sunday.

Should we be surprised that some players maintain good form into the thirties. So many have. John Quirk of Cork won four successive All-Irelands to end a fourteen year span in the Cork jersey. Nicky Rackard, Jim Keaveney, Mick O'Connell, Mick O'Dwyer, Neally Duggan, Francis Loughnane, Lowry Meagher, Theo English, Mick Higgins, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson,



● Offaly's Johnny Flaherty in action.

Sean Purcell, Charlie Mac Mahon, Tom and John Joe O'Reilly, Sean O'Neill, Jim Mac Donnell, and John Dunne are only a few of the fine players who remained very valuable to their sides long after the thirty watermark was passed while Mick Mackey who hurled for Limerick from '32 to '47 and Christy Ring who wore the red jersey for about 23 years, only serve to emphasise the point simply because they were so good and so durable.

The age frontier is being pushed back steadily to-day in the case of men and women who keep an eye on their health and who don't really want to make a million before they're forty. Improved medicine, quicker healing of injury, far more knowledge on the selection of good food and in both the attainment and maintenance of good physical form, all place within the compass of to-day's athlete a longer and more successful playing span. Only the fool will waste the best years of his life eating up the goggle box, tearing his heart out to make money or getting sloshed when the green valleys, the stony hillsides and the sunshine of the playing fields are there to brighten up a youth that won't last forever.

It is because of that capacity for bending the body to the will of the mind for their own enjoyment, and also for ours, that I look with such warmth on a lively, skillful and polished veteran like Johnnie Flaherty in this year's final.

Long may his like hold up the torch, and for us he might well say as does the poet who opened this piece, with

*"Though much is taken, much abides,
And though we are not now the strength
Which in the old days moved earth and heaven,
That which we are, we are,
One equal temper of heroic hearts
Made weak by time and fate but strong in will,
To seek, to strive, to find and not to yield"*



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EXCITING SCHEME TO CLEAR DEBT

BY LIAM MURPHY

SINCE the early days of the G.A.A. Cork has made a striking impact on every aspect of the Association but up to 1976 did not have a Stadium worthy of staging major games. The Old Park had for generations served the people well but it had become outdated, lacking in accommodation and facilities, and for several years efforts were made to rectify the position.

Land was purchased in the western suburbs but local objections and planning problems ruled out the building of the longed for Stadium. Discussion then opened with the Cork Corporation culminating in an agreement to lease the Cork Athletic Grounds and in April 1974 work commenced on the building of the longed for Stadium — Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

The dream that officials and supporters had longed for were fully realised on Sunday June 6th 1976 with the opening of the magnificent Stadium. On that historic day in the history of Cork G.A.A. the advertisement on the back page of the programme read — “Help Development Fund — £500,000 urgently needed.”

But, five years on in spite of all the help and several major games that drew huge attendances Bank interest rates and inflation have pushed that figure to almost twice that amount.

The current amount outstanding is £952,000 and interest payments for 1980 amounted to £171,000, which is almost £500 per day.

The Fund Raising Committee of Cork County Board consisting of Paddy O'Driscoll, Board Chairman: Derry Gowan, Vice-Chairman: Frank Murphy, County Secretary: Donal O'Sullivan, Chairman of the Munster Council and Chairman of the Grounds Committee: Con Murphy, former G.A.A. President: Derry Maher, Treasurer County Board: Tim Nyhan, P.R.O. County Board: and Jerry Horgan, Inter Firm Board President gave the green light to an imaginative and exciting Fund Raising Scheme to clear the debt.

So determined were this



● JIM FORBES, Director of Pairc Ui Chaoimh Loan Scheme.

Committee to make the scheme a success that they appointed Jim Forbes, a prominent Crosshaven G.A.A. Official and Referee, who is also a Treasurer of the South East Divisional Board, as Full Time Director.

The object of the Scheme is to raise 7,500 units of £100 per unit. Each year for the next 15 years 1/15th of the total number of units subscribed to a maximum of 500 units will be drawn to participate in an Annual Draw for £30,000 in Prizes with a top prize of £20,000: 2nd. Prize £2,000: 3rd. Prize £1,000: 4th. Prize £1,000 and 12 prizes of £500 each.

Additionally each of the units drawn to go into the draw for the prize fund will be refunded to the investor.

Each subscriber will be officially acknowledged and a Certificate of Membership will be issued covering the terms of the issue. The Scheme is open to everyone and it is hoped to organise a full country wide canvass as well as contacting Irish people in England and America.

This Scheme deserves to be a success because the Stadium stands as an everlasting monument to perhaps the Association's greatest administrator, Pádraig Ó Caoimh, and also provided Cork with a Stadium which is a source of joy and pleasure to all Cork people.

Full particulars about the scheme are available from James F. Forbes, Director, Pairc Ui Chaoimh Loan Scheme, Pairc Ui Chaoimh, Marina, Cork.

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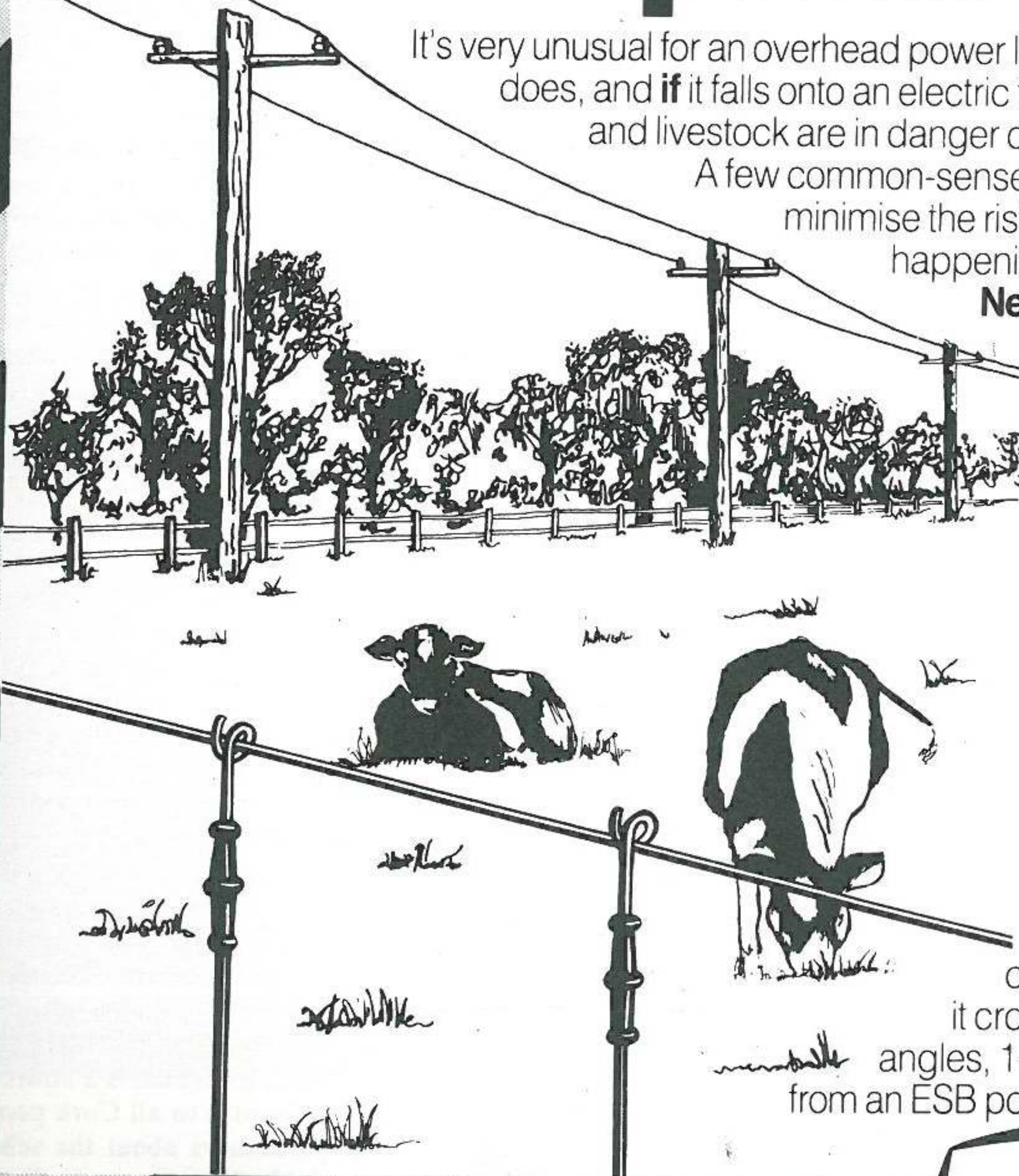
It's very unusual for an overhead power line to break. But **if** one does, and **if** it falls onto an electric fence, then humans and livestock are in danger of injury or even death. A few common-sense precautions can minimise the risk of an accident happening on your farm:

Never attach an electric fence to an ESB pole. It must have its own supports.

Don't run an electric fence parallel and very close to a power line.

If your electric fence must run parallel with the power line, set it off 6 metres (20 feet) to one side of the line. If the electric fence must cross the route of a power line, run it on its own supports so

it crosses the line at right angles, 1-2 metres (3-6 feet) out from an ESB pole.



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OFFALY ARE A BETTER TEAM THAN LAST YEAR

Says Jay Drennan

JULY 13, 1980 was the great day which Offaly had so long awaited and often feared would never come. They won their first Leinster senior hurling championship at the expense of Kilkenny. Before the game there was a feeling abroad in Offaly hurling circles that they might just make it on this occasion, but it was not a widespread belief as witnessed by the many supporters who did not make the journey to Croke Park and who have been kicking themselves since.

During the game itself, Offaly were the better team, with the higher work rate, superior motivation, skill that matched even the Kilkenny men who opposed them. That they did not win by a wider margin was because of their lack of the ruthlessness that would have gone from point to point to emphasise their superiority unashamedly.

This year it was July 12 that mattered. A day as eventful and as memorable as that of a year before because it brought victory over Wexford to retain the crown with which they were crowned in 1980. That was of greater importance to them, for it meant that this was no mere flash in the pan. Now there could be no doubt that they were the best in Leinster.

Once more there was a strong feeling that they could retain the championship, but because it was Wexford and because they had bitten the dust heavily in the final of the National Hurling League against

Cork, there must have been many a niggling doubt in Offaly heads.

On the day Offaly dispelled any fears from their minds with a brisk and effective opening, putting themselves a couple of goals clear. But with the release of tension the tendency was to relax too much. Before they knew where they were Offaly had lost the initiative, given a psychological boost to Wexford and wasted their initial mastery. It was, perhaps, a natural enough thing to expect. Nevertheless, it must not happen again if Offaly are to make a strong effort in the All-Ireland final.

CHAMPIONS ROLE

It was more because of over-confidence and being carried away

with their own success that they relax now. It never was like that: they always had to struggle gamely to the end to try to stay respectably in the game; now, their champion ability to surge into the lead puts them in a strange, uncomfortable position. And, of course, they feel an insidious temptation to ease off from their earnest, all-action, eighty-minutes-to-the-hour style of play as something tells them they should be playing sophisticated, polished and patterned hurling to suit their role as champions.

It was this weakness against Wexford that nearly caused their undoing. It means Offaly have not yet become accustomed to the idea that

• OVERLEAF



• George O'Connor (Wexford) in possession as Aidan Fogarty moves in to cover off for Offaly.



● FROM PAGE 31

they are Leinster champions by right, and that their hurling is the standard to be aimed at now by all, not some long admired Kilkenny sorcery that would fit badly on men from Banagher, Kinnitty, Coolderry, Birr or Shinrone.

The succession of events which followed their initial Leinster win had an unsettling effect, I suppose. Naturally, the delight at the provincial title diverted attention from the All-Ireland semi-final to follow. Galway had a considerable advantage because of the difficulty for Offaly of knuckling down to new hurdles. Until then they had never thought of All-Ireland semi-finals; it was like a new world with new and disturbing challenges.

They lost to Galway and they may have felt that they lost substantially and that the game proved that, while they might have become Leinster champions, they were not yet capable of the All-Ireland. One way or other — whether by lack of conviction or concentration — Offaly did play a rather scattered game in the All-Ireland semi-final. This year it may be accepted that they will have looked beyond the Leinster championships and got the All-Ireland series into focus, though one wonders if they would not have benefitted from a semi-final tie.

League hurling followed under the unusual conditions of having to travel to every game at the home venues of their opponents. Their performances were nothing less than outstanding — resourceful, polished and never-say-die. Their confidence grew apace as they saw the big names bow before them or struggle for equality on their own grounds. The spirit built by travelling together up and down the country added cement to the skills and the confidence.

THE LOTTERY

Progress to the League final was assured after carelessness had to be brushed aside during an encounter with ambitious Laois. Alas, the final against Cork was oeset by misfortunes, as the weather made a

lottery of the game. Cork won the lottery when Offaly decided to play against the wind and had a winning score registered against them well before half-time.

Offaly played plenty of hurling in that defeat to convince the doubting they were in the top grade. But, as far as they were concerned, no doubt they felt they had thrown away all the advantages they had so far gained. Laois again bothered them in the championship, but they did summon a little of the mastery proper to champions to finally thrust them aside.

The doubts were clear at times against Wexford in periods of relaxation that allowed their opponents to get back at them. But, on the whole, it will surely mean they will approach the All-Ireland final in readiness: unafraid of any opposition; with the nightmare of the NHL final pushed well behind them; and with notions of grandeur forgotten and replaced by earnest Offaly hurling from first whistle to last.

Essentially it is in that way that Offaly are better this year than they were last year. They will be better attuned to the big occasion, though it has to be admitted that the All-Ireland final is a horse of another different colour. This improved composure has, naturally, enabled them to play their hurling with fewer inhibitions. Their striking was noticeably better this year; the accuracy and range from which their forwards would score; the general fieldcraft of the team as a whole.

INCREASING CONVICTION

In personnel the difference between 1980 and 1981 shows the increasing conviction of the team management that this is pretty near to the right blend for the best performance. The same six forwards won this year's Leinster title with some positional changes; the same half-back line; the same goalie — now Damien Martin is back.

Lack of time and opportunity forced M. Kennedy (recently ordained and new serving in Co. Waterford) to give way with the versatile Eugene Coughlan slotting in splendidly. T. Donoghue holds the position occupied last year by P. Moloughney; and Liam Currams — a footballer last summer — forced his way in during the league season and couldn't be got rid of since. With the constant Joachim Kelly he now forms a partnership that assures Offaly of, at least, a fair portion of possession.

In the process, Brendan Keeshan, who was midfield in winning the Leinster championship of 1980 and corner back during the League and who is always tidy and resourceful and a fine hurler, appears to be feeling the penalty of the versatile.

If you can remember the days of the 1969 summer when Offaly dazzled us all in beating Wexford and later in pushing Kilkenny to the ultimate point, it will interest you to see that Damien Martin and Johnny Flaherty are still there.

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HURLING'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Compiled by FRANK COOGAN

1887	TIPPERARY (J. Stapleton, capt.)	1919	CORK (J. Kennedy)	1956	WEXFORD (J. English)
1888	Unfinished due to the U.S. "invasion".	1920	DUBLIN (R. Mockler)	1957	KILKENNY (K. M. Kenny)
1889	DUBLIN (E. O'Shea)	1921	LIMERICK (R. McConkey)	1958	TIPPERARY (A. Wall)
1890	CORK (D. Lane)	1922	KILKENNY (W. Dunphy)	1959	WATERFORD (F. Walsh)
1891	KERRY (J. Mahony)	1923	GALWAY (M. Kenny)	1960	WEXFORD (N. O'Donnell)
1892	CORK (W. O'Callaghan)	1924	DUBLIN (P. Aylward)	1961	TIPPERARY (M. Hassett)
1893	CORK (J. Murphy)	1925	TIPPERARY (J. Leahy)	1962	TIPPERARY (J. Doyle)
1894	CORK (S. Hayes)	1926	CORK (S. O. Murphy)	1963	KILKENNY (S. Cleere)
1895	TIPPERARY (M. Maher)	1927	DUBLIN (M. Gill)	1964	TIPPERARY (M. Murphy)
1896	TIPPERARY (M. Maher)	1928	CORK (S. O. Murphy)	1965	TIPPERARY (J. Doyle)
1897	LIMERICK (D. Grimes)	1929	CORK (D. B. Murphy)	1966	CORK (G. McCarthy)
1898	TIPPERARY (M. Maher)	1930	TIPPERARY (J. J. Callanan)	1967	KILKENNY (J. Treacy)
1899	TIPPERARY (J. Condon)	1931	CORK (E. Coughlan)	1968	WEXFORD (D. Quigley)
1900	TIPPERARY (E. Hayes)	1932	KILKENNY (J. Walsh)	1969	KILKENNY (E. Keher)
1901	LONDON (J. Coughlan)	1933	KILKENNY (N. Doyle)	1970	CORK (P. Barry)
1902	CORK (J. Kelleher)	1934	LIMERICK (T. Ryan)	1971	TIPPERARY (T. O'Connor)
1903	CORK (S. O'Riordan)	1935	KILKENNY (L. Meagher)	1972	KILKENNY (N. Skehan)
1904	KILKENNY (G. Doheny)	1936	LIMERICK (M. Mackey)	1973	LIMERICK (E. Grimes)
1905	KILKENNY (D. Stapleton)	1937	TIPPERARY (J. Lanigan)	1974	KILKENNY (N. Orr)
1906	TIPPERARY (T. Semple)	1938	DUBLIN (M. Daniels)	1975	KILKENNY (W. Fitzpatrick)
1907	KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh).	1939	KILKENNY (J. Walsh)	1976	CORK (R. Cummins)
1908	TIPPERARY (T. Semple)	1940	LIMERICK (M. Mackey)	1977	CORK (M. O'Doherty)
1909	KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh)	1941	CORK (C. Buckley)	1978	CORK (C. McCarthy)
1910	WEXFORD (R. Doyle)	1942	CORK (J. Lynch)	1979	KILKENNY (G. Fennelly)
1911	KILKENNY (S. Walton)	1943	CORK (M. Kennefick)	1980	GALWAY (Joe Connolly)
1912	KILKENNY (S. Walton)	1944	CORK (S. Condon)		
1913	KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh)	1945	TIPPERARY (J. Maher)		
1914	CLARE (A. Power)	1946	CORK (C. Ring)		
1915	LAOIS (J. Finlay)	1947	KILKENNY (D. Kennedy)		
1916	TIPPERARY (J. Leahy)	1948	WATERFORD (J. Ware)		
1917	DUBLIN (J. Ryan)	1949	TIPPERARY (P. Stakelum).		
1918	LIMERICK (W. Hough)	1950	TIPPERARY (S. Kenny)		
		1951	TIPPERARY (J. Finn)		
		1952	CORK (P. Barry)		
		1953	CORK (C. Ring)		
		1954	CORK (C. Ring)		
		1955	WEXFORD (N. O'Donnell)		

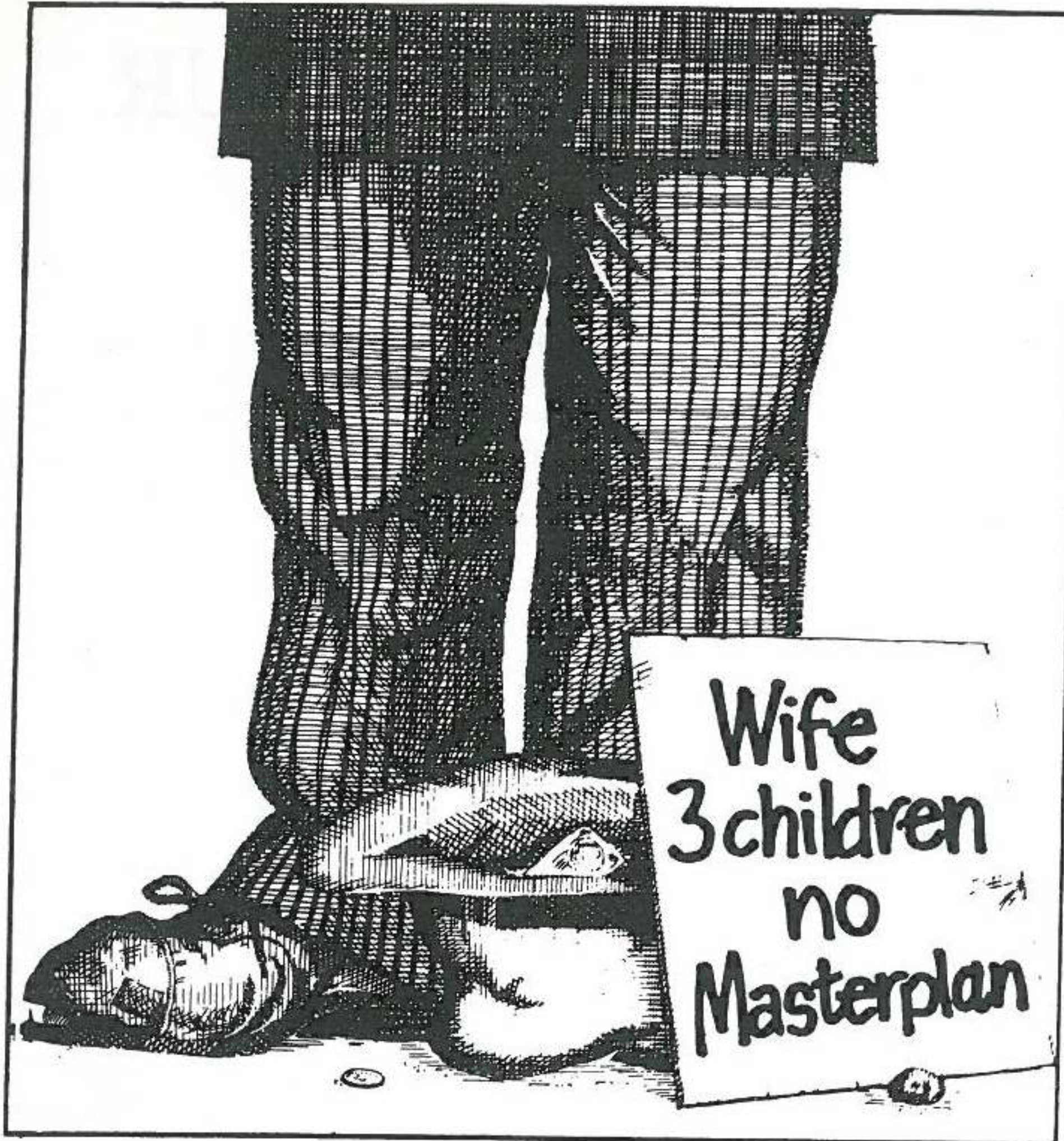
SUMMARY OF WINS

24 titles: Cork. 22: Tipperary. 21: Kilkenny. 7: Limerick. 6: Dublin. 5: Wexford. 2: Galway, Waterford. 1 each: Clare, Kerry, Laois, London.

• OVERLEAF

U.S. Invasion

Quoting Maurice Davin "the Gaelic Athletic Association is now an established fact and it has reached a point at which it can be developed into an institution most beneficial to the country." "Games and pastimes peculiar to our race should be made a prelude to an exhibition of our industries at an international Celtic Festival, say every five years." The Association's first President led the U.S. "Invasion" with a party of fifty of Ireland's outstanding athletes, which included the cream of the country's hurling talent. Consequently, there was no All-Ireland Championship contest in 1888.



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MINOR CHAMPIONS

1928	CORK
1929	WATERFORD
1930	TIPPERARY
1931	KILKENNY
1932	TIPPERARY
1933	TIPPERARY
1934	TIPPERARY
1935	KILKENNY
1936	KILKENNY
1937	CORK
1938	CORK
1939	CORK
1940	LIMERICK
1941	CORK
1942-44:	SUSPENDED
1945	DUBLIN
1946	DUBLIN
1947	TIPPERARY
1948	WATERFORD
1949	TIPPERARY
1950	KILKENNY
1951	CORK
1952	TIPPERARY
1953	TIPPERARY
1954	DUBLIN
1955	TIPPERARY
1956	TIPPERARY
1957	TIPPERARY
1958	LIMERICK
1959	TIPPERARY
1960	KILKENNY
1961	KILKENNY
1962	KILKENNY
1963	WEXFORD
1964	CORK
1965	DUBLIN
1966	WEXFORD
1967	CORK
1968	WEXFORD
1969	CORK
1970	CORK
1971	CORK
1972	KILKENNY
1973	KILKENNY
1974	CORK
1975	KILKENNY
1976	TIPPERARY
1977	KILKENNY
1978	CORK
1979	CORK
1980	TIPPERARY

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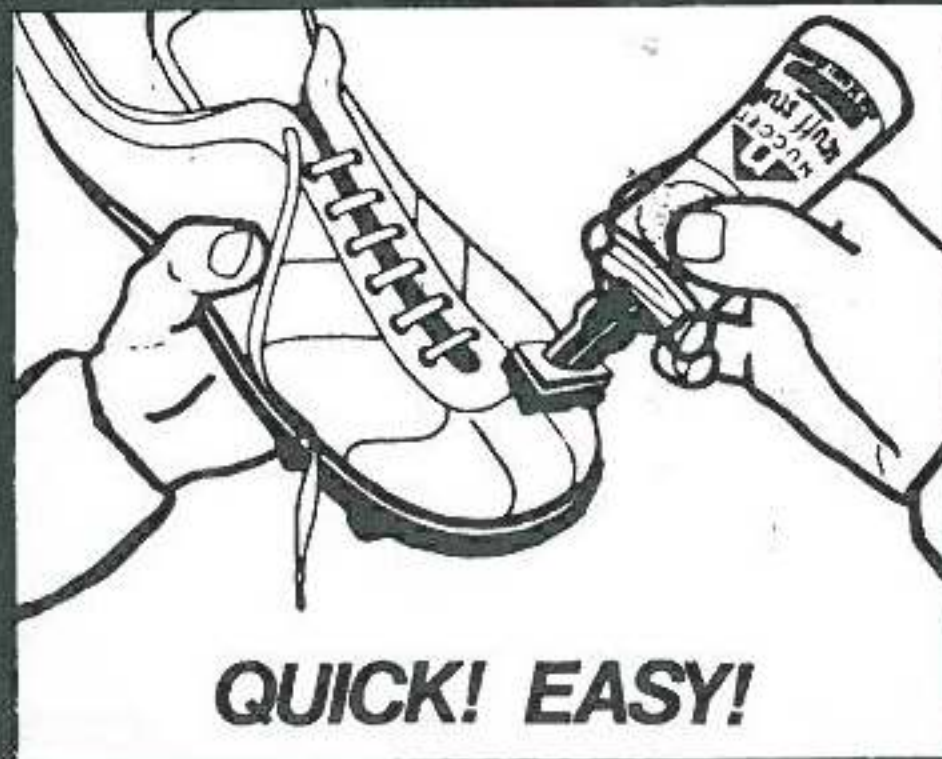


Paul Mongor, Director of John Tyler & Sons, Ltd., (Sponsors of Tyler Top Ten in "Gaelic Sport" Magazine), pictured with a blue Marlin, which he caught recently in Madeira, Portugal.

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PAUL Mongor, a keen sportsman and avid fisherman, landed the first Blue Marlin of the season in Madeira, Portugal, on July 16th., 1981; this magnificent specimen, weighing 847 lbs. and measuring 16¼ ft. long, was caught by him on an 130 Class rod reel and line.

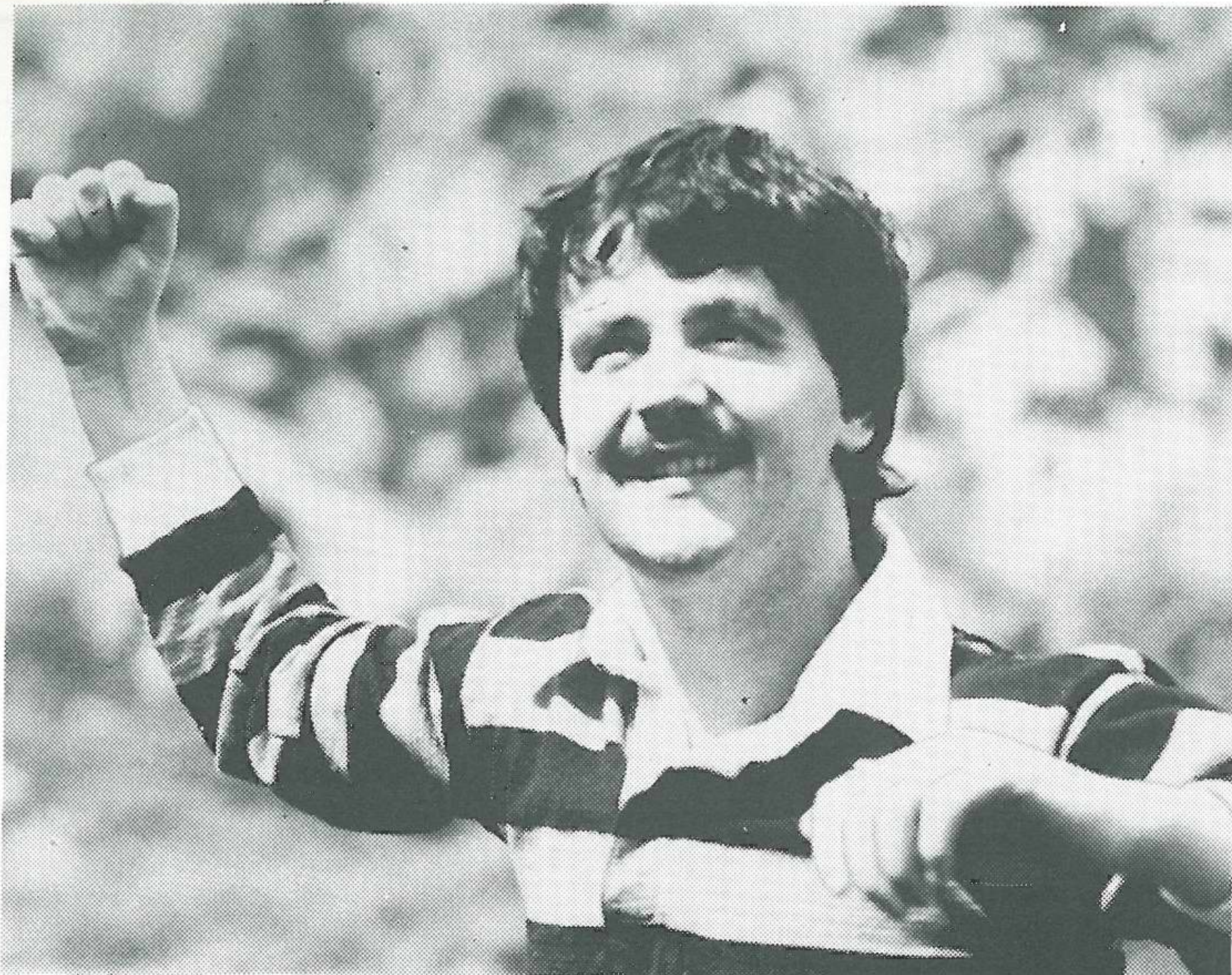
Madeira is the home of Mr. Mongor's wife, and she is Captain of the Portugese Fishing Team.

Mr. Mongor, seven years ago, also had the honour of landing the first salmon of the year on the River Liffey in Dublin.

Tylers, apart from being sponsors of the Tylers Top Ten in "Gaelic Sport", also sponsor the European Sea Fishing Championships — which are held annually in different venues, and this year were held in Cobh (nine visiting countries took part in the event). This is the fifth year running of the European Sea Fishing Championships and Mr. Mongor is looking forward to many more years of this particular event.

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Report on Ulster Hurling by Sean McGettigan

OFFALY SET THE EXAMPLE

WEAKER hurling counties got a big boost and new hope with Offaly reaching this years All Ireland Final for the first time.

A few years back not too many people could have visualised this break through, or that the once greats of Leinster, Kilkenny and Wexford would have their monopolies shattered by such a lowly county as Offaly.

This break through, has been obtained with help from outside, and its hard to assume that if Offaly had been relying on their own resources of coaching and management they would have made the grade.

This set up must give the weaker counties food for thought and also those people interested in the development of hurling, that it takes the specialist to produce the system that gets to the top.

Outside help from the experts is the answer that can produce the correct skills and more important impart them, but at the same time the recipients must be prepared to accept the advice given and put that advice into practice. Far too often I find that advice is given to players as to what is correct and what they

should do, but it just slips into one ear and out the other.

Back in 1943 Antrim reached the All Ireland Final for the first and only time after beating Galway and Kilkenny, but both these wins were at home in Corrigan Park in Belfast.

Sadly when they met Cork in Croke Park in the Final they failed badly and were beaten by a big margin.

But this was a great Cork side and proved it later on. However Cork came to Corrigan Park some weeks after the final to play Antrim in a challenge game and again Cork came out on top but Antrim did much better.

Looking back to that final many maintain, if Antrim had someone like the late great Jimmy Barry to coach them for the Final they would have done better but as it was there was no one with the experience and knowledge in the county to prepare the team properly. In fact looking back quite a number of mistakes were made that an expert would have avoided.

But that was almost forty years ago and progress has been made in many ways but not in the context of proper coaching.

However everything wasn't lost in defeat for out of it Antrim gained a great ground in Casement Park.

After the game it was realised that one thing missing in the county was a top hurling pitch, so a committee was formed and the result: Casement Park was produced, as one of the finest grounds in the country and was opened ten years later. Since that date more grounds have developed in the county but even so Antrim has never again reached an All Ireland Senior final although they won the Intermediate and the Div B championships.

For the past couple of years the minors have been playing in the Leinster Minor championships and while they did not win the title they have handed out a few shocks with one of their victims being Kilkenny.

In the club area Ballycastle reached the Club Final against Castlegar and while beaten put up a super performance.

OUTSIDE COACH

This side was the product of the Feile Na Gael team that won the Antrim title and nearly all of the youngsters who played on that young team are now starring on this senior side.

I'm convinced that if Ballycastle had been able to get Justin McCarthy from Cork or some other hurler of his calibre to come and coach the side for at least three weeks before that game Ballycastle would have won.

Hurling in Ulster falls into three grades and is played in all the counties. On the bottom rung are counties Tyrone, Fermanagh, Donegal and Monaghan, the next grade is played in counties Armagh and Down while the top grade hurling is in Antrim but Antrim hurling is still a long way below the quality of the top counties.

But one must admire the work being done by dedicated people in all the Ulster counties to get the game moving.

Down won the All Ireland Junior title in 1964 with a side drawn from a small area in the Ards in the north of the county. There are only three clubs here and the game was introduced in the twenties by a Kilkenny teacher who came north to a school in that part of Down.

Since then the game has been played. With little football being played there hurling is the predominant sport. A big fillip to the game came when these three Down clubs entered the Antrim Leagues. Without this extra fillip I believe the game would have found it hard to survive in such a small area.

In other parts of Down the game is now played thanks to the drive

● OVERLEAF

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Foilsíodh *Foclóir Tíreolaíochta* i 1972. Is eagrán nua méadaithe é seo, téarmaí breise ann ar a n-áirítear téarmaí pleanála agus téarmaí seandálaíochta. 269 leathanach, idir Gaeilge-Béarla agus Béarla-Gaeilge.

Iníon An Tincéara Rua — Caitlín Uí Thallamhain £0.80

Cuireadh an méid sin suime san úrscéal spéisiúil seo do dhéagóirí mar gheall ar Ceate, iníon tincéara, agus a capall ó foilsíodh é i 1976 gurbh éigean dúinn an t-athcló seo a chur ar fáil.

An tOllamh agus An Luchóg — Tomás O'Toole/Pauline Cummins £1.20

Sa leabhar álainn seo do pháistí tá cur síos ar ollamh léannta a thug fuath do luchóg a chuir fúithí ina theach. Ach níor mhair an fuath, agus roimh deireadh an scéil tá siad tar éis éirí an-mhór le chéile. Ach caithfidh sibh an leabhar a léamh daoibh féin le fáil amach conas a tharla sé sin! Tá pictiúir ghleoite sa leabhar — cuirfidh siad páistí faoi dhraíocht (8-12 bhliain).

An Dall agus Dramaí Eile £0.80

Trí dhráma eile ó **Mhicheál Mac Carthaigh** don aos óg — *An Dall, Cúirt an Mheán Lae* agus *An Fidléar*.

Fornocht do Chonac — Eoghan Ó Tuairisc £1.50

Faighimid léargas sa dráma seo ar choinsias ealaíontóra agus ar choinsias an Stáit nua ina mhairimid. Bhuaigh an dráma seo Duais Chuimhneacháin an Phiarsaigh sa bhliain 1979.

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

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**
and energy of Corkman Gerry Sheehan who is a teacher in Kilkeel. Hurling has a long tradition in Antrim. It was played down the centuries by the people of the Glens and Ballycastle — very much akin to Shinty — as there were close ties with Scotland all down the centuries.

NEW OASIS

From the early years of the G.A.A. Antrim was the forefront Hurling County in the north and from the beginning of the century the game was very prominent in Belfast due to the many southern officials that worked at that time in the city.

Strangely in the South West part of the county the game never got a foothold except around Randals-town near the shores of Lough Neagh.

However if we cross the Bann at Toomebridge and take the road through the Sperrins to Dungiven you will find a new oasis of hurling in a strong football area.

The development of the game is due to the super work of Kilkenny man Liam Himfey who is a teacher in Dungiven.

This year a Dungiven Minor team is playing in the Antrim minor Hurling league for the first time and already have caused a few sensations with big wins.

Armagh has also a long tradition in the hurling field in mainly two areas, Armagh City and Keady and centered around the Christian Brothers Schools in each area. This great tradition is now being carried on by men like Jimmy Carlisle, the Kirk Brothers in Armagh and Patsy Nugent in Keady and the family of that great Ulster Secretary Gerry Arthurs now retired.

Although the standard of the Antrim hurling is that much above the other Ulster counties its still a long way behind the class of the elite counties due to the fact that the players still lack finesse in the basic skills.

So as I see it the only way that

improvement can be gained is by having an outsider brought in to coach hurling in the county.

Years ago it was hoped to appoint a full time hurling coach in the county but this never came to anything. I do think that a move should be made in this direction.

A hurling coaching course in the county is of little importance. It has little lasting influence due to a variety of reasons but principally because there is no proper follow up to see that the people who attend the course are assigned to impart to others what they have learned.

A couple of years ago a hurling coaching course was held and certificates awarded, but I have yet to see the benefit. No effort was made to see that these coaches would be allocated to the various clubs or to see that courses were held in their own clubs. To me it was a wasted effort, time, money and energy.

So, its imperative to appoint a hurling coach to Antrim for a start and if succesful it could be extended to the other counties. I do not believe that finance is the stumbling block. This could be got over.

In the first place the inter pro hurling game that Ulster is engaged in should be scrapped and the two thousand pounds allocated to pay a coach. The Central body should pay a part, along with the Ulster Council, and the Antrim County Board and the Clubs

Another idea mooted has been that a number of young Southern hurlers could be brought to Antrim for six or seven weeks during the Summer. These lads, University students or teachers, could be allocated to the clubs throughout the county.

Their role would be to coach the youngsters and all others in the Club. Of course these people would have to be paid as many young go abroad to work, but if the will should be there I see no problem of getting the money through the clubs in the county. Each club could be allocated an amount to pay and there is no reason why this could not

be raised by a special function.

However a proper plan would have to be drawn up and placed in the hands of a few people who would see that it is carried out.

Coaching in the past had proved

beneficial as has been seen when Brother Ennis now the Antrim Football Manager coached the Antrim Vocational Team to win the All Ireland. Brother Ennis is from the south.



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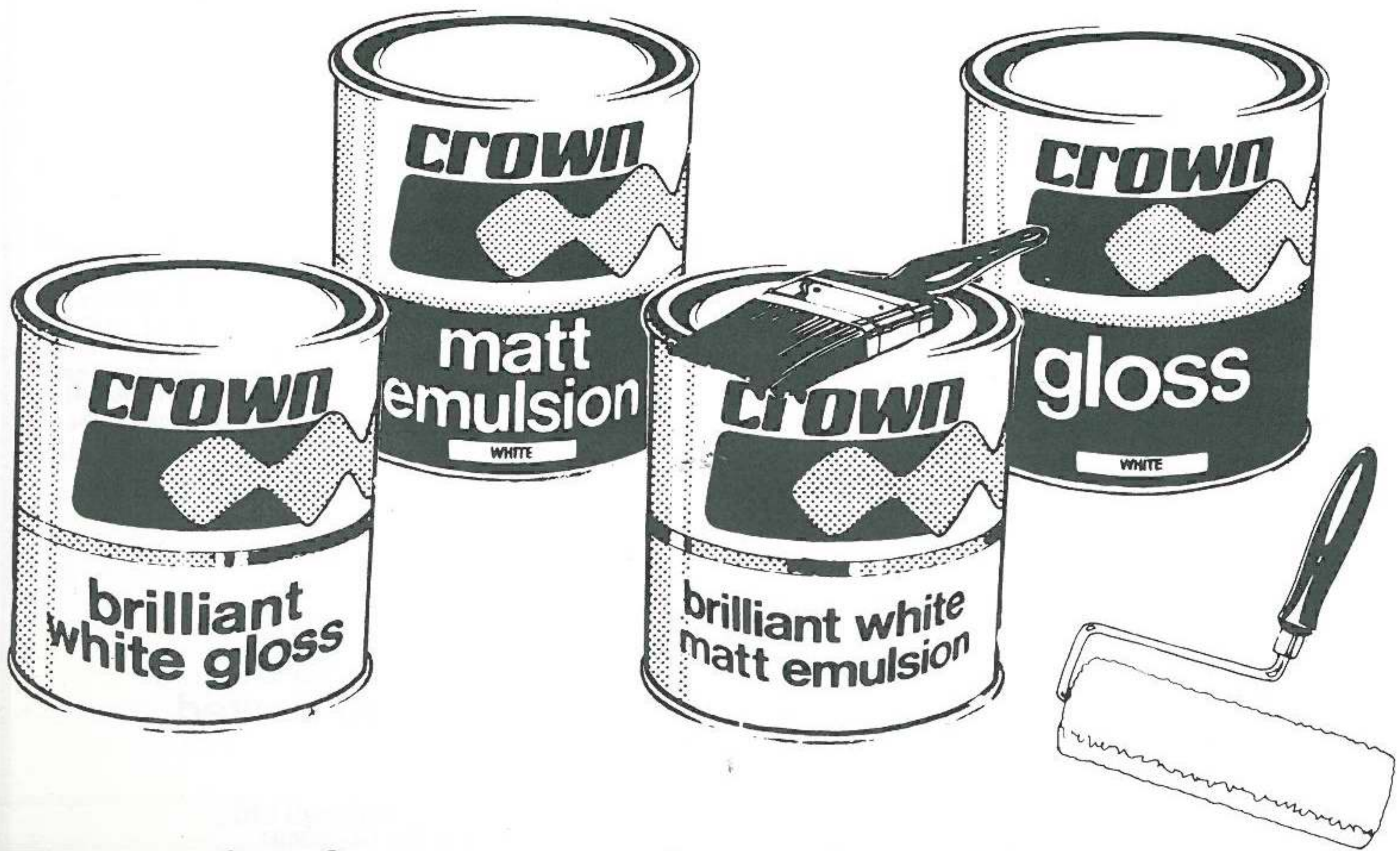
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HANDBALLERS SHINE IN U.S.

By SEAN CLERKIN



TONY RYAN

THE highlight of Irish Handball in recent months was the impressive performances of our players in the USHA Championships which were held at the end of June in a massive handball complex with the unusual name of Charley's Club, Palatine, Chicago.

It is nearly superfluous to state that our hearts surged with pride once more with the performances of Pat Kirby.

The former Clare and Tuamgraney star not only retained the title he won in the Masters Grade last season but for good measure he took the doubles title as well.

His success in the latter with Fred Munch as a partner was especially praiseworthy in so far as it was the first time ever that the double had been achieved.

The pity of it all was that Kirby in possibly the greatest triumphs of his career, should be wearing the singlet of Arizona where he now lives.

CONSIDERABLE BOOST

However, the standard of the game in this country was given a considerable boost with the winning exploits of the players who formed the official Irish team.

Mick Aherne, who plays out of the Fitzgerald Jones Club in Tralee struck a distinctive blow for us by winning out in the Consolation Singles Championship.

Tony Ryan went to the semi-final of the under 23 event. Indeed, it is generally considered that, but for a

twist of bad luck, Ryan could have at least, won a place in the final.

In his semi-final tie against Jonathan Kendler of Lake Forest, he won the first game by eight aces and at different points in the second was winning 18-12 and 20-17.

He had the winning of the set at his mercy when he completely mis-hit what would have been the winning shot with Kendler lying prostrate on the floor.

With that let off the Forest Lake player recovered his composure to win the game by the narrowest of margins and he went on to win the tie-breaker.

OUTSTANDING PROSPECTS

It is consoling to realise that Ryan is still eligible for this grade in 1982 and 1983, when he must have outstanding prospects of outright victory.

Mick Aherne's performance ranks with the best by any Irishman in the open championships since our players started to compete in them.

No Irish player had ever previously won the consolation singles and while it is insignificant in terms of status relative to the open competition, it did give us a good idea of our general standard of play.

Aherne did so well that he would be quite justified in concentrating exclusively on the 40 x 20 game for the future.

The USHA Championships proved to be a most productive exercise for our girl handballers who were capably led by President Ann Barnes and P.R.O. Bridin Uí Mhaolagáin.

Majella Myther from Ceolgreany had the distinction of returning home with the Gold medal in the Consolation Singles Championship, which she won at the expense of her club-mate Sue Carey from the Na Fianna Club in Dublin.

NEW HEIGHTS

It was obviously a great trip for all concerned and proved beyond doubt that the standard of the 40 x 20 handball game in this country is reaching new heights.

Our next excursion into USHA Championships relates to the Juvenile events at the end of the year and it has already been decided that Ireland will be represented with a team under the Managership of Kilkennyman Tom O'Brien.

With the concentration on Juvenile promotion in this country over the past decade we can look forward with confidence to performances on a par with the adult players.

On a general basis, the picture emerges that Irish Handball is in quite a healthy state, and this evolves from the far reaching decisions of the Central Council down the years in providing coaching courses at all levels of the organisation.

HARD WORK

Much of the credit must also accrue to Pat Kirby who worked so hard during his half dozen years with us in improving the standards of the game.

In the context of any statement earlier in this feature about Kirby winning his masters titles in the

• TO PAGE 47

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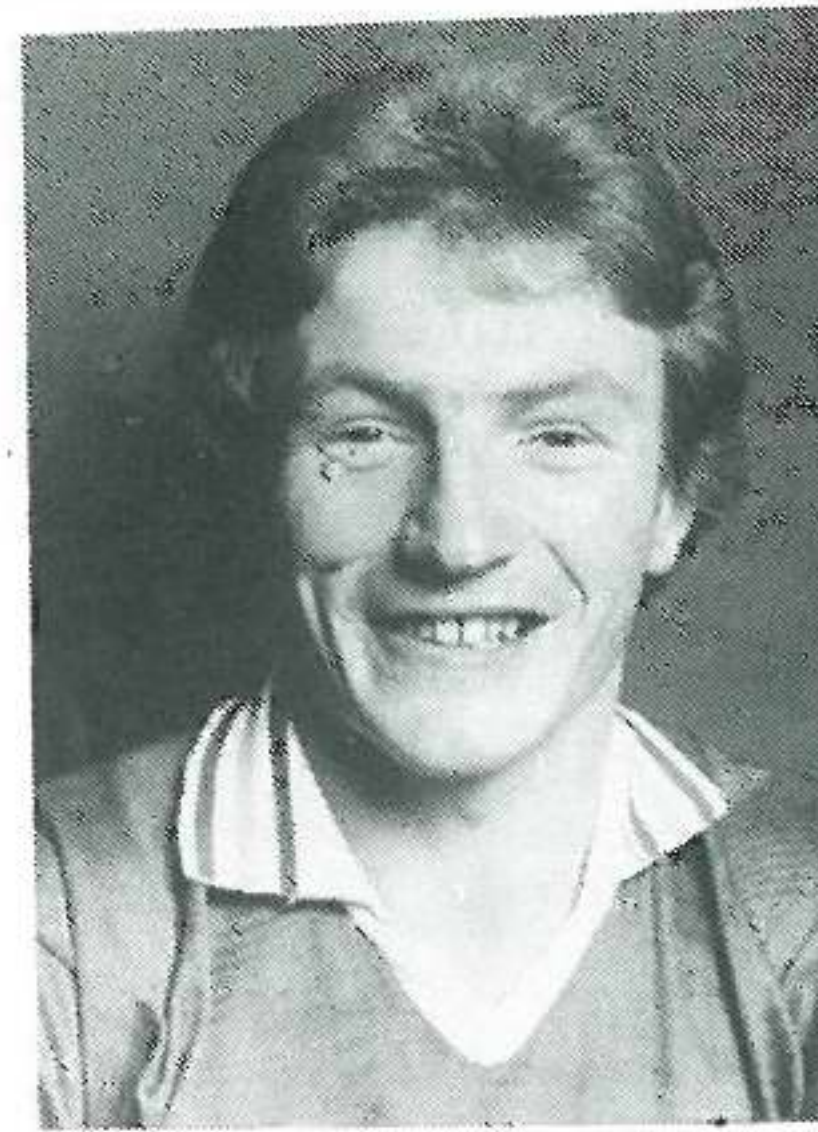
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THIS OFFALY TEAM

VERY FRIENDLY BUNCH OF CHAPS



● PAT
CARROLL

THE quality which most impresses about the Offaly hurlers is the remarkable spirit of loyalty and supportiveness which they exude. It was borne in on me most clearly during the past winter and spring when encountering them on the hurling league circuit. (You will recall that they were forced to play all their league games away from home in that competition because of an unresolved fracas at Tulla in 1980 when they played Clare.)

BY
—
JIM
—
BENNETT

Most of the winter season past they travelled about the country in jovial mood in their bus, accompanied by two or three or more other bus loads or relatives, supporters, camp followers and adherents of the Offaly hurling cause. At their away venue players, followers and relatives were indistinguishable (except as to male and female) as they mixed and chatted and clearly evidenced the closely-knit unit that had developed.

No one, perhaps, illustrated better the quality of team loyalty and real interest in the welfare of Offaly hurling than the man who had been for many years synonymous with the county's name — Damien Martin. Looking fit and young and keen as mustard he was known everywhere, of course, and played the part of an ambassador with sincerity and enthusiasm.

It took some time for most local hurling supporters at each succeeding venue to realise that

Damien, in fact, was no longer the goalie. They had doubtless asked after his form and fitness and whether he was saving them as well as ever before they remembered that he was only in the subs.

Substitute he may have been but Martin was as strong a bulwark in support of Offaly morale as a reserve as he had been as a player. It was at the end of the previous year's campaign that he had told the selectors that it was about time he gave way to the very promising No.2 'keeper who had been waiting for some time and who should be getting his chance to prove himself.

FIT AND READY

Martin pointed out that he would not let them down by opting out, but promised to be always ready, fit and practised just in case young King received an injury or in case the continuous pressures of Offaly's position throughout the League and maintaining the tag of the up-and-

coming side, Leinster champions and aiming at the All-Ireland, affected the youngster.

When speaking to him soon after the turn of the year, Damien was convinced that he would not be required again by the Offaly selectors, unless in an emergency — such as an injury during a game. King had been doing very well; Martin could so easily have been tempted to take it easy, relax and let the edge go blunt so that the losing of condition retired him in any case.

The League final was reached and the game was lost in circumstances which did not prove to anyone how much inferior to Cork Offaly were on the day — wind and weather threw the balance out of plumb and the day was decided in the first quarter blitz by Cork with the wind.

In all of this planned exchange of 'keepers, no doubt the one man who did not quite get the best of it was the trialist, who must have felt that his great and famous predecessor was standing by ready to come back again in glory when the young heir failed. Actually, Martin helped King in every possible way and encouraged him, but, by the nature of things, his presence in the subs. must have been an added pressure.

An occasional fumble, a half mistake, a rare blunder betrayed the young keeper as not quite in the Martin mould as yet. In confidence

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G.A.A.

ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

6th September, 1981

SENIOR — 3.15 p.m.

UIBH FHÁILÍ v GAILLIMH/LUIMNEACH

MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

CILL CHAINNIGH v GAILLIMH

All Stands reserved and tickets have been distributed through the various units of the Association :: General Admission: £2.00

ENTRANCES

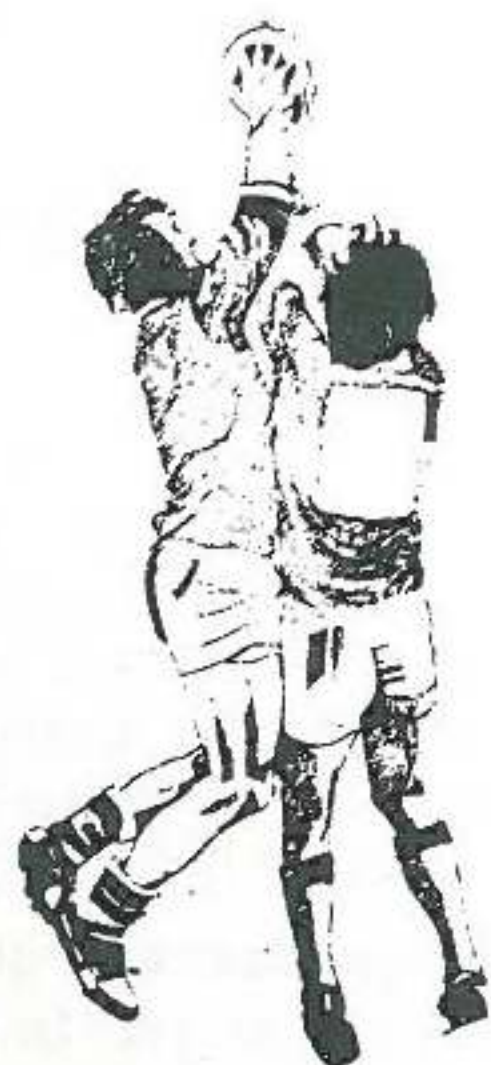
To Hogan Stand and Nally Stand—via Jones' Road.

To Canal End Terraces—via lane off Russell Street Bridge.

To Hill 16 Terraces—via St. Joseph's Avenue off Clonliffe Road.

To Cusack Stand (Upper and Lower Decks)—via Belvedere Lane off St. James' Avenue.

GAA Reporting
by Paddy Downey in
THE IRISH TIMES



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

THE IRISH TIMES

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he could not compare, and — more important — in the feeling of complete reassurance which Martin has given to every Offaly team in which he has played as long as I can remember him playing for them. So, his return — reluctantly undertaken — became an impressive psychological boost to the team.

FINAL DISAPPOINTMENT

After the disappointment of the League final, there were jitters here and there as the championship began. They had to be eliminated, so Martin had to come back to give the boost of barn-door certainty behind the defence, so that it, in turn, could throw aside anxieties and play with abandon.

Thus the “retired” star will be found once again between the uprights and, to his own great surprise, playing in the game which was the subject of all his dreams and within reach of the McCarthy Cup. It is a remarkable completion of the circle of experience for Damien now enjoys his first All-Ireland final

appearance while his first ever championship match with the Offaly seniors was in 1969 against Wexford in the Leinster semi-final, a game that was the first great step into the arena of major hurling achievement.

Damien Martin himself must have been very conscious of the plight of the aspiring young goalie sitting it out on the bench awaiting a chance to show his wares, for Andy Gallagher stood between the Offaly sticks and kept Damien waiting for five or more years.

Starting off with Presentation Brothers, Birr, in National School and Secondary School competitions, Damien also played with the St. Rynagh's underage-teams. In 1964 he played both minor and under-21 for Offaly and also won his way on the St. Rynagh's senior team. The rapid progress continued when he got his first game for Offaly seniors in a League game that same winter against Wicklow, standing in for the injured Andy Gallagher.

By the way, Wicklow won that game (although they failed to score a goal against the debutant) — a far cry from to-day's situation.

The next game, however, did not come for two more years — a League game against Kilkenny. The long wait was well worth while when Martin got an All-Star Award in the first year of those selections. It would be a wonderful (and largely unexpected) crown on a brilliant career if Offaly win on the first Sunday of September.

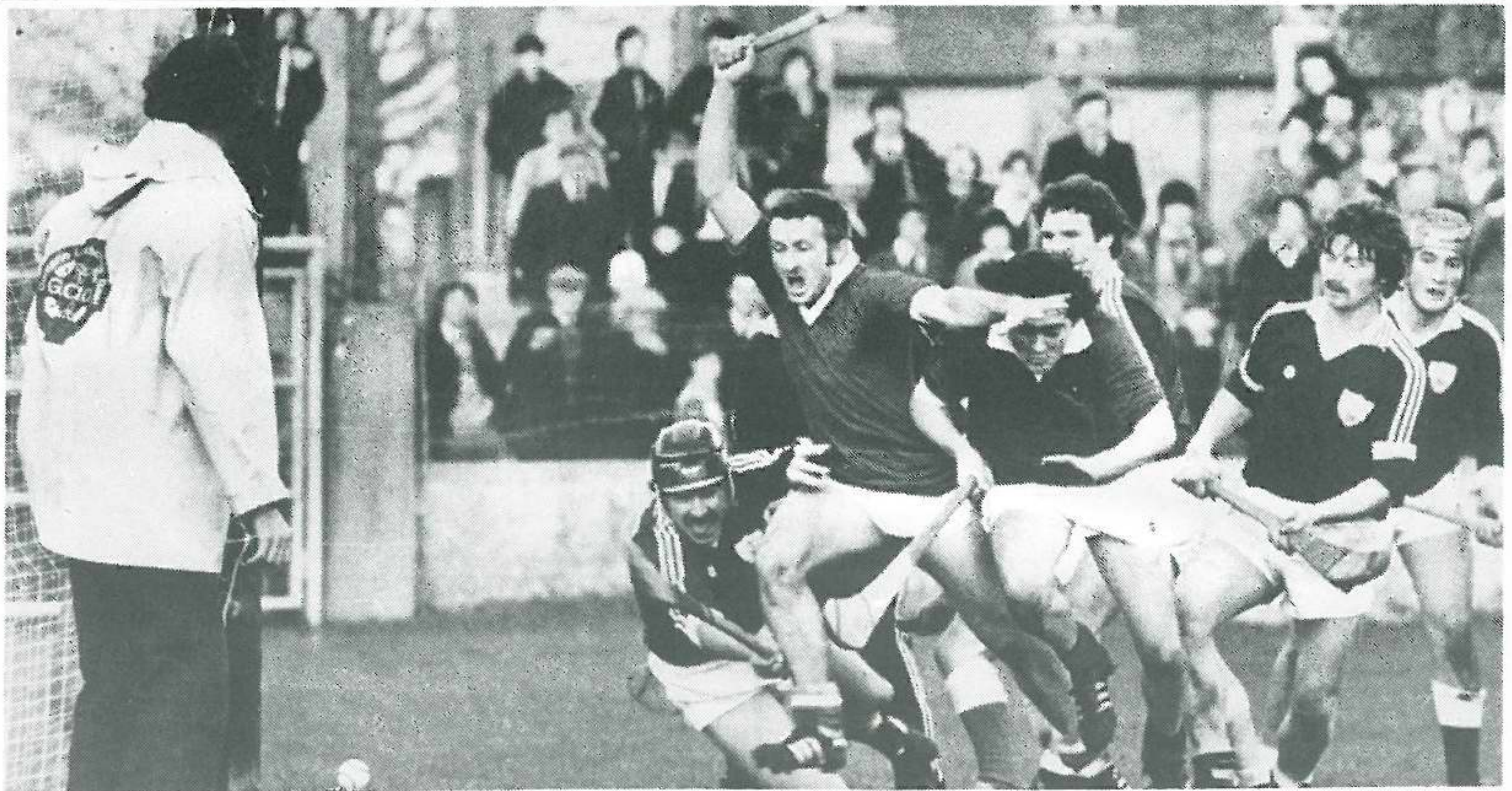
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HANDBALL

colours of Arizona, I have respectfully stated that his departure last year was a disaster for Irish Handball and that every incentive should have been provided to keep him here.

By the same token I now believe that he should be brought back to this country for a couple of months every year to conduct coaching courses and to display the skills that have established him as one of the best handballers in the world.

Under such a scheme we could surge forward towards becoming the top handballing nation in the world.



Pat Moylan (foreground centre) scoring a vital goal for Cork in the N.H.L. game against Galway at Ballinasloe, November 23, 1980. This action picture, taken by Denis Minihane of the Cork Examiner won the Mac Namee Award for the best published G.A.A. picture of the 1980 season. Well done Denis!

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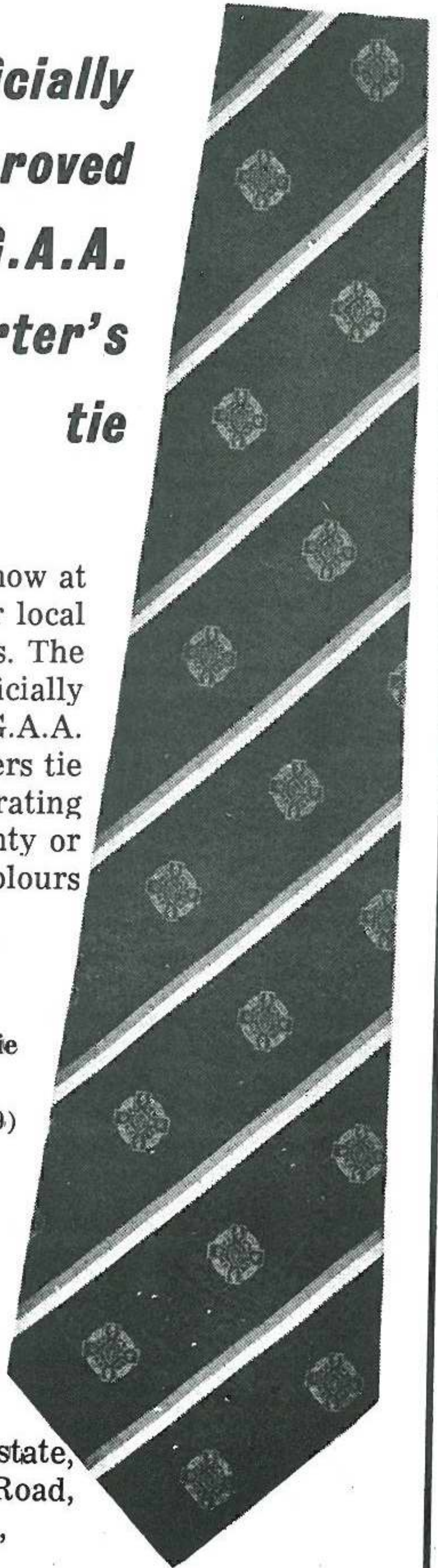
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JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON



THIS is the great time of year — the time of the All-Ireland semi-finals. The time when we have a "Sunday Game" on "telly" every week. Hurling this year is great isn't it? And football so poor by comparison. With everybody it seems hunting in packs. Playing the wings seems to be now a lost art almost. There is much confusion about the handpass. I wish it were outlawed entirely and the fisted pass substituted instead. It seems only logical.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Waterford's Mossie Walsh. It is great to have a player from the Decies so honoured. It is a great G.A.A. county. I spent a week recently in Ballyguiry just outside Dungarvan. This was Brickey Rangers country. While there I visited the club premises of Abbeyside Ballinacourty and received a copy of their club history from the man who compiled it — Séamus Ó Braonáin. It won this year's club history award in the McNamee Awards. Readers can get this club history by sending on a P.O. for £3.50 to S. Ó Braonáin, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. It is a first class production full of photos detailing in chronological order the achievements of the club over the years since 1928. All G.A.A. clubs intending to publish a club history for 1984 should get a copy immediately.

JOE CONWAY

While in Dungarvan I visited Joe Conway my fellow Galwegian, now

team manager of Waterford, who is living just outside Dungarvan. Joe is a totally committed football man and was thrilled that Waterford had won the Joe McGrath Cup just prior to our meeting. He will leave no stone unturned in his efforts to bring Waterford to the forefront in football. He has a great club record himself winning S.F.C. medals in Dublin (U.C.D.), Galway (Mountbellew), Waterford (Ardmore) and a runner's-up award in Cork. I wish you luck Joe. That's a big digression from Mossie Power. Waterford hurlers under Joe McGrath really made a great comeback this year and should be a great force again in '82. So congrats Mossie.

1981

Talking of Waterford 1981 is the year of the return of Clare again. And what can one say of Laois (both H. and F.) and Offaly (in both codes also). And Joe McKenna who dominated the Munster S.H.C. And Billy Morgan who played in his 16th successive Munster S.F.C. final. And Kerry who won their 7th Munster S.F.C. on the trot. And Mayo who shocked Galway and bring the green and red back to Croke Park on semi-final day after 12 years wait. And Down back again too under Joe Lennon. It has been an exciting year so far if one could forget the poor football which has become "sick" with stoppages of a technical as well as the pull and drag nature.

FÉILE NA nGAEL

I attended my first Féile na nGael in Galway this year and it was a

marvellous experience. The Parade through the streets of Galway made me proud to be a member of the G.A.A. I saw the finals sitting beside Pat Stakelum the former great Tipperary centre-half-back. The Div. 1 final was won by St. Pats of Kilkenny coached by Brian Coady who beat Wolfe Tones of Shannon coached by Ger Loughnane. Nice to see present day stars so involved.

SCORE

The current issue of Down's G.A.A. Magazine — Score — has a somewhat new look. It is great value for 20p and it is nice to see it coming out so regularly. The Editorial Committee deserve great credit.

THE MAILBAG

John Rowe Junior, Clogh, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

"It's great to see the weaker counties doing well in Gaelic Games. Laois were in hard luck v. Offaly in the Leinster Semi-Final. Wexford deserve to do well this year. Kilkenny will be back next year. 1962 was the last time Kilkenny didn't reach a Leinster Final but we won the All-Ireland in '63. Let's hope 1982 will be a repeat.

My favourite players are Billy Fitzpatrick of The Fenians, Johnstown, and Mick Brennan of Erin's Own, Castlecomer. Kilkenny have young players coming up in Ciaran Brennan, Johnny Brennan

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 49

and Kevin Fennelly, a goalie who will succeed Noel Skehan.

The All-Irelands are very open. Kerry are still there but they can't go on forever. It's great to see the hand-passed goal abolished. Now we are seeing real football not basketball.

I was at the Leinster semi-finals and got stuck in the queue outside the Hogan Stand. I got in at 2.15, the time the game was supposed to start, but to my amazement it had started five minutes too early and the score was 2-3 to 0-1 at 2.15. *This is not good enough.* My predictions for '81 are: All-Ireland S.H. Final: Wexford will beat Limerick. All-Ireland S.F. Final: Armagh will beat Kerry.

● *I'm afraid you are wrong in both predictions (J.M.).*

● *That's a good letter John. You win a Kilkenny Bob-Cap. You are right it is not good enough to have a game start too early or as is most often the case too late. I'd love to see the handpass gone altogether and the punched pass the norm. But it is beginning to come around to that because the handpass is so hard to define (J.M.).*

Martin Riordan, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway, wants a cut-out of the Offaly S.F. Team of 1971. He is aged 16 and loves reading *Gaelic Sport*.

Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Rd., Bath. BA1 6JG, England, is delighted that the *Irish Weekly Examiner* has reverted back to its original title "*Cork Weekly Examiner*". He compliments the *Cork Examiner* for their wonderful serialisation of Val Dorgan's book on Christy Ring which included some of the finest G.A.A. action shots ever shown. Dermot has the following programmes for swopping: All-Ireland Finals — 1957 (H), '60 (H), '61 (H), '62 (F), '64 (H & F), '65 (H & F), '66 (F), '67 (F), '67 (H), '68 (F), '71 (F) and '72 (F) draw and replay.

Dermot of course wants a swop.

So any reader interested in improving his/her collection is asked to write to Dermot at the address above. Dermot complains about having sent the three programmes of the All-Ireland Down won to a prominent Down official and never received an acknowledgement. He offered them as prizes to young readers of the Down Magazine "*Score*."

● *I often receive similar complaints from readers regarding requests for Co. Yearbooks etc. In many ways we in the G.A.A. are unprofessional and downright discourteous. (J.M.).*

Francis Lawlor, aged 10, 74 Castle Timon Rd., Coolock, Dublin 5. "I want anything to do with Gaelic Football".

● *Write to the G.A.A. Shop, Croke Park, Dublin 3, and ask for their price list. Also write to Lorcán Ó Ruairc, Coisde na n-Óg, Croke Park, Dublin 3, and ask for a Youth Pack. (J.M.).*

Michael Quigley, aged 13, 39 Glenard Crescent, Salthill, Galway — has as his favourite player Cork's John Fenton and thinks it a great pity that John Connolly has retired from inter-county hurling. "Good luck in Junior Desk. I am a boarder in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam and we won the Connacht Juvenile title in Duggan Park, Ballinasloe this year".

Luke O'Neill, 8 St. Aidan's Terrace, Duncairn Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow, — writes looking for posters, leaflets which may be of benefit to the 5th Wicklow Sea Scouts who are off to a German Jamboree this year and intend bringing information on their cultural background.

● *Luke, hope you get the stuff on time. (J.M.).*

Joseph McElligott, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry was at the opening of the Listowel Sports Field and really enjoyed visiting the Sam Melbourne Exhibition. Joseph also feels there should be a "B"

competition in football for the weaker counties. He would like to see more competitions in the magazine *Gaelic Sport*.

● *Over to you Editor, Tommy McQuaid. (J.M.).*

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow — who sent me on a big collection of the sports pages of the Wicklow and Wexford Provincial newspapers tells me he was at the Munster S.H. Final — "What a marvellous game of hurling. Tremendous scoring display by Joe McKenna. Liam O'Donoghue is a great ball striker. Great displays too from Leonard Enright and Jimmy Carroll. Clare's stars were Barry Smith, Ger Loughnane, Sean Hehir and John Callinan. The Clare team will come again.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

"Thurles on Munster Final Day is something special. '*The Sunday Game*' got off to a great start this year with three great hurling games. I was at Croke Park for the two Leinster S.H. semi-finals on June 21st. They were two exciting games. Great displays from Tony Doran, Mick Jacob, John Fleming, Liam Bennett, Ger Fennelly, Mark Corrigan, Pat Carroll, Aidan Fogarty, P. J. Cuddy and Mick Walsh. It was very hard luck on Laois. Offaly's winning point by Pat Kirwan from a long range free was outstanding.

"I was impressed with the displays of Wicklow, Westmeath and Wexford in the Leinster S.F.C."

● *As always Gerry — a great letter. This time you win a Wexford G.A.A. Mug. (J.M.).*

Patrick Dunphy, aged 10, 60 Castletimon Road, Coolock, Dublin 5 — like Francis Lawlor wants colouring charts and posters, also some stickers.

● *Same advice as for Francis. (J.M.).*

Conor O'Riordan, Coolalta, Carrigadrohid, Co. Cork — says his favourite hurling stars are Pat McLoughney, John Horgan and Dermot McCurtain in hurling and his top footballers are Denis Allen, Eoin Liston and Matt Connor. Conor would like photos of the Cork All-Ireland teams '76-'78.

• *Can any reader help Conor. (J.M.).*

Martin Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath — is depressed at the standard of football he saw in the Westmeath v Offaly and Dublin v Wicklow Leinster S.F.C. games and at the unsporting behaviour of some players in the first game and the bottle throwing of some Dublin "followers" at the second — "I appeal to players to stop ruining our great national game of football which when played by two sporting teams can be so superb.

"Finally may I extend my best wishes to the brilliant Carmelite Moate star Michael Lynam who is ill in hospital. I hope he gives us many more sporting thrills in the future".

• *Footballers of Ireland please listen to the cry of a young Westmeath boy who speaks for all of us. (J.M.).*

"South Kerry Gael" (name and address enclosed). "I enjoy reading your views on Galway football as presented by Maol Muire Tynan in the **Sunday Press**. She is a good writer. Recently there was an excellent profile on Frank Burke in the same newspaper. It's not often nowadays that journalism of this kind moves me but this one did.

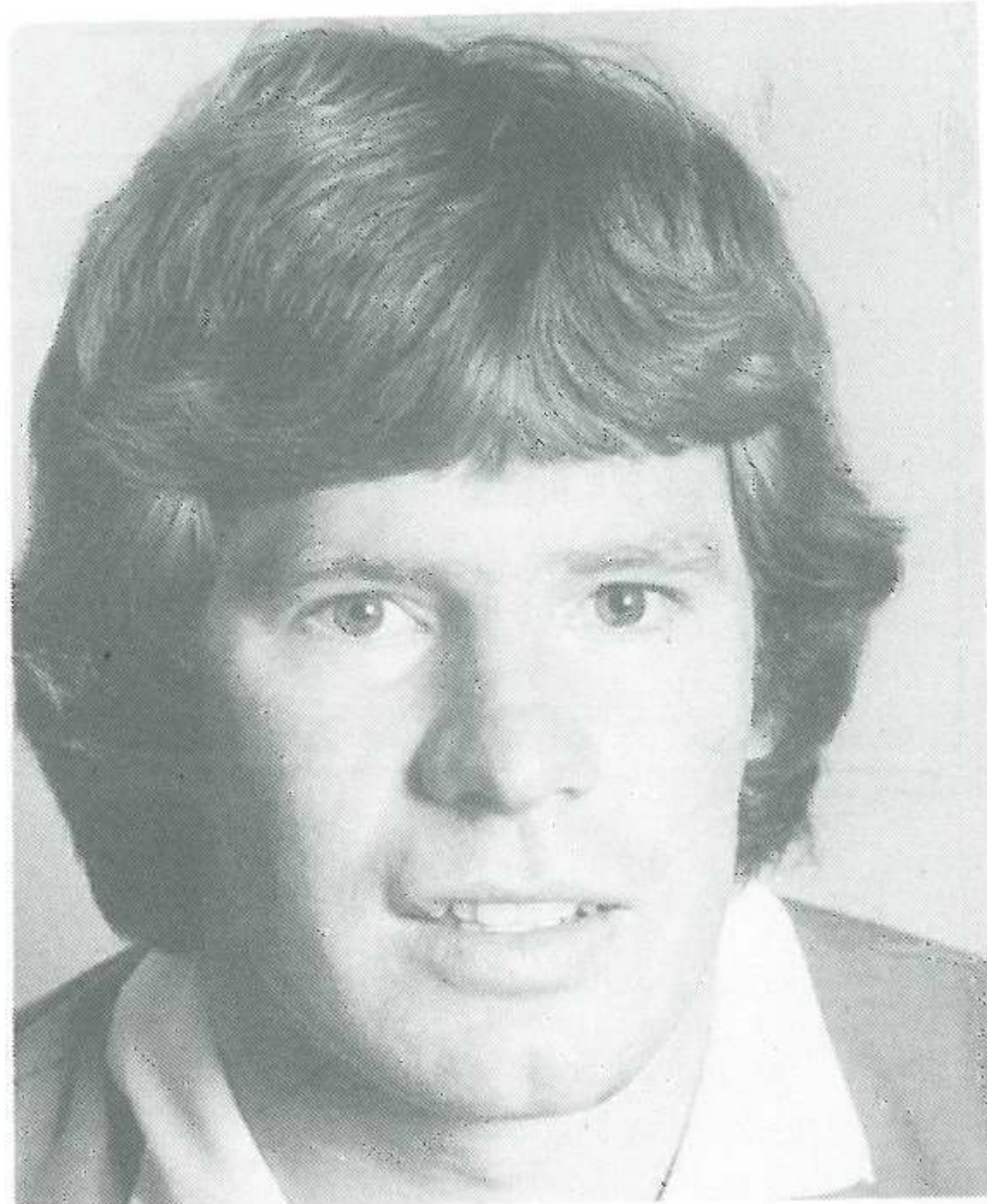
I hope ye keep the Galway team together because the game badly needs good sides coming through. On the day of the League Final, I felt convinced that we had seen the future All-Ireland champions. Possibly, ye need a few players like Stephen Joyce. For a small man, he's a right good one. The defeat by Mayo does not have to be the end of the road".

• *Thanks. I hope so too. We were*

★

**CORK
HURLING
STAR
DERMOT
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... A
**FAVOURITE
OF
CONOR
O'RIORDAN**



very disappointed to lose to Mayo but the latter have a team of vast potential. (J.M.).

Patrick Gavin, Moate, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, wants a copy of "Cavan's Football Story".

• *Write to Fr. Dan Galloghy, St. Patricks College, Cavan. (J.M.).*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway — tells me he is now on the Gort Minor hurling team and has been doing a lot of umpiring at games. "I must be one of the youngest umpires in Ireland". Norman was thrilled that Sean Silke, the Galway hurler, attended a training session of the club and passed on some hints regarding training etc. "It was great to listen to him".

• *Norman you win a Galway Bob-Cap. (J.M.).*

M. J. Gorman, 230 Lanhedge Lane, Edmonton, London N18 2TJ — is looking for photos of the Galway All-Ireland teams of '25, '34, '48, '56, '64-'66 incl.

• *Can any reader help with an old*

copy of a Galway G.A.A. Yearbook. (J.M.).

Des Brennan, 4 Bibsworth Ave., Moseley, Birmingham, West Midlands, B13 0BA, England writing looking for the Connacht S.F. Final Programme is very disappointed with Galway's exit from the S.F.C. after their convincing League form. "Maybe they got too much publicity after they beat Armagh, Kerry and Roscommon. The hurling so far in the 1980's has been great. It is great to see new teams on top.

"I hate the dreaded handpass in football. After all the emphasis should be on kicking. I have sent off every year for the G.A.A. Annual in Galway (Galway Yearbook) and never even received a reply".

• *The latter happens often. It is a great pity. Please let me know which ones you want and I may be able to get them for you. I hope Pat Spillane reads you about your hate for the dreaded handpass. I wish it was banned and Pat and every other footballer would have to get on without it. (J.M.).*

Finally I had letters from two great

• **OVERLEAF**

● FROM PAGE 51

Gaels in connection with Junior Desk: (1) Tom Ryall of Kilkenny who hopes to bring out "The Kilkenny G.A.A. Story" for 1984 still loves Gaelic Sport and hopes that the fact that it has now begun to appear irregularly does not near the end of the magazine.

● *It's hard to get ads. now Tom but Gaelic Sport will live on as long as it gets the support it has got in the past. (J.M.).*

(2) Sean Mac Loingsigh of Derry sent me on some programmes for which I am very thankful. He is full of praise for Junior Desk and thinks it is a great platform for young G.A.A. people with ideas and "the thinking to express their views on the G.A.A." He is an avid reader of the column, keeping a finger on the pulse of the Association as expressed through the eyes of the young. He suggests a Provincial Roundup in Gaelic Sport every month.

● *Thanks Sean for your kind comments and for the fine collection of programmes. (J.M.).*

And now that's the end of the "Mailbag" for another month. Get writing about the Semi-Finals. Tell me who you thought was the star of each game. Tell me if any star lives near you. Write about the Sunday Game, just anything to:—

Jack Mahon,
Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.

Don't forget I will give plenty of prizes next month again.

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and say
ah for
Avonmore





Mossy Walsh (Waterford)

Age: 27
Height: 6ft.
Weight: 11st. 7lb.
Club: Ballyduff-Upper
Position: Midfield
Senior Inter-County
Debut: 1975

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Mossy became only the second hurler from Waterford to win an All Star award when he was honoured at midfield in last year's selection.

He played minor and under-21 with the county, and since graduating to the senior ranks, he has been one of the team's most consistent performers, and has appeared in attack as well as at midfield.

Mossy has been a regular with Munster in recent years, but had to wait until the historic game at Ennis last March for his first Railway Cup medal, which he won as a forward.



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