

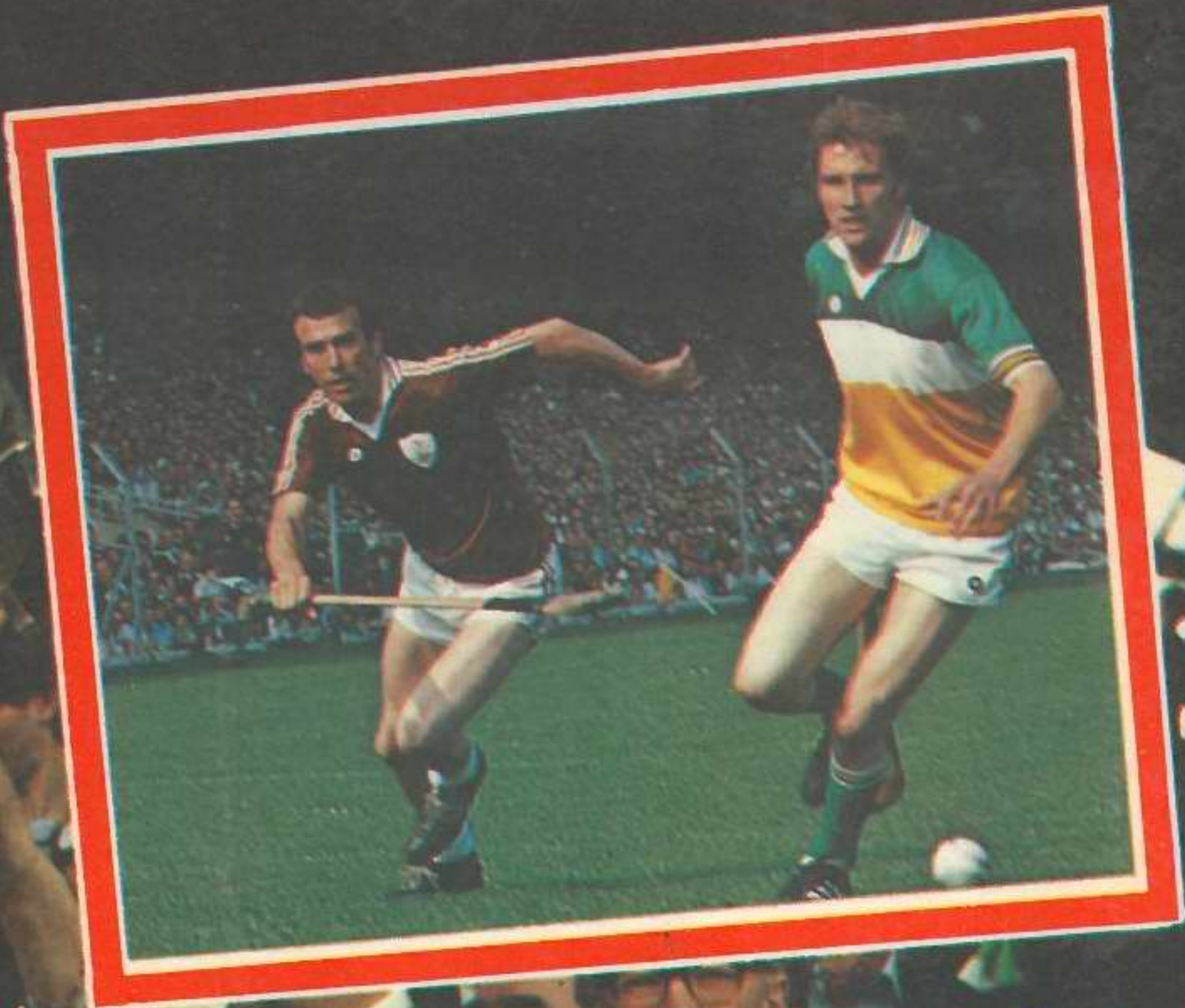
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Pell (Mionúir agus Sinsir)

1. Lú v Ceatharloch
2. Uibh Fáilí v 1
3. Iarmhí v Cill Mantáin
4. Laois v 3
5. An Mhí v Longphort
6. Áth Cliath v 5
7. Cill Dara v Cill Choinnigh
8. Loch Garman v 7
9. 2 v 4
10. 6 v 8

Craobh: 9 v 10

Iomáint Sinsir

1. Loch Garman v Uibh Fáilí
2. Laois v 1
3. Áth Cliath v Iarmhí
4. Cill Choinnigh v 3

Craobh: 2 v 4

Iomáint Mionúir

1. An Dún v Iarmhí
2. Laois v Cill Choinnigh
3. Áth Cliath v Loch Garman
4. Uibh Fáilí v Aontruim
5. 1 v 2
6. 3 v 4

Craobh: 5 v 6

Fé 21 Bl. Pell

1. An Mhí v Laois
2. 1. v Áth Cliath
3. Lú v Loch Garman
4. 3 v Ceatharloch
5. Uibh Fáilí v Cill Mantáin
6. 5 v Cill Dara
7. Iarmhí v Cill Choinnigh
8. 7 v Longphort
9. 2 v 4
10. 6 v 8

Craobh: 9 v 10

Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint

1. Uibh Fáilí v Buath Speis
2. Áth Cliath v 1
3. Loch Garman v Cill Choinnigh
4. Laois v 3

Craobh: 2 v 4

Iomáint Mionúir Spéis

Le socrú

Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint Spéis

1. Cill Mantáin v An Mhí
2. 1 v Ceatharloch
3. Iarmhí v Cill Dara

Craobh: 2 v 3

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SUCCESS STORY

THE G.A.A. can feel reasonably pleased with the progress made in the past year. There were disquieting features, especially with regard to football, but over-all, the games and the Association remain firmly placed to maintain their dominance in Irish life.

It is ironical that football, for so long the main plank in the Association's spectacular advance, provides the greatest area of disquiet. Lack lustre games, a poor standard generally, and the handpass controversy all robbed football of some of the glamour and appeal that for so long kept the game by far the country's greatest crowd-puller.

In such an atmosphere, it was hardly surprising that the final drew the lowest attendance in 29 years.

Some argue that Kerry's dominance of the All-Ireland title has not been good for the game. That is hardly fair to Kerry, who have set a splendid headline in maintaining a very high standard over a long period. If other counties have failed to improve their own standards in the same period — as has been the case — Kerry can hardly be faulted for that!

The reason is more deep-rooted. The players are there in as great numbers as ever; coaches were never more numerous or efficient and facilities are better than ever for players and coaches.

Why, then, is there not a solid core of counties presenting worth-while challenges each year for the top titles. Why have so many giants like Cavan, Mayo, Louth, Meath and Down slipped badly down the ladder of strength?

These are the questions that progressive thinkers in the G.A.A. must attempt to answer quickly. Questions that must also prompt action to turn the key in the door to remedy the position and ensure that more counties than is the case now can enter the major tests with genuine hopes of challenging for the titles.

It is a time for vision and for hard work. So, let's have imaginative plans to ensure that football is given a worthwhile lift in 1982, and on into the future.

What a sharp contrast is provided by hurling! For so long the ailing wing of the G.A.A., the ancient game sees out the old year in a stronger position nation-wide than has possibly ever been the case. Hurling was the real success story of 1981, with Offaly gilding the development by virtue of their All-Ireland final breakthrough.

Improvements to grounds, plans for development work at a number of centres, and the approaching completion of the Ceannarus at Croke Park are other facets in the progress of the G.A.A. in 1981.

Let's hope that 1982 will be even better all round!

COVER PHOTO: 1981 will long be remembered as the year the Faithful County made the big break through in Hurling. Offaly's historic achievement in lifting the LIAM McCARTHY for the first time in the County's history, not alone brought justifiable pride to the Midlanders, but more important, has proved, that through sheer dedication and hard work, the road to the top is open to all counties who genuinely nurture the will-to-win.

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Tyler Top Ten

Delaney and Liston set the pace

PAT Delaney still holding on to the premier position over-all in hurling, but facing a very stern challenge from Offaly team-mate Ger Coughlan, and no change in the top two placings in football. These are the outstanding features as the race for the GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN awards for 1981 near a climax.

The latest charts cover the period from September 7 until October 25, and bring into consideration the All-Ireland finals and the early games of the National Leagues.

Pat Delaney, one of the stars of Offaly's All-Ireland senior hurling final win, gains fourth place in a hurling table in which players from the Midlanders' set the pace impressively. The 28 points he collects, however, boosts his total for the year so far to 123 and that puts him seven points clear of nearest rival, Ger Coughlan.

The brilliant left half back was in third position over-all starting our last issue. But his power-packed play in the Liam McCarthy Cup game has earned him some impressive promotion, and also put him into a very challenging position as the chase enters the final straight.

Coughlan leads the current chart on 36 points, and now has 116 points in all. He has taken over in second place from John Horgan (Cork), who has 94 points and does not

figure among the Top Ten in the current issue. This is Coughlan's first time to head a Top Ten table in any edition this year.

He earns that distinction with three points to spare over his nearest challenger, Johnny Flaherty, who makes his debut of the year on 33 points. Flaherty was, of course, the man who hit Offaly's late match-winning goal against Galway.

In football, Eoin Liston has failed to improve on the 81 points marker that had him setting the pace in the October edition. But even so, he still is well placed to bring the award to Kerry.

Brian Talty remains in second place, but the Galway midfielder, who made such a fine contribution to the National League title win, will be out of football for some weeks yet, so he now is destined to bow out on 74 points.

Making a late challenge in third place just now is Pat Fitzgerald, who headed the August-September review on 42 points. A further tally of 27 points for a sixth place rating in this latest review boosts his total to 69.

Another to improve his record in this issue is Paudie Lynch, who had a superb game as Kerry made it four All-Ireland senior titles in succession by beating Offaly. His quality work at left back puts the Beaufort club man top of the chart on 33

points, and improved his rating over-all to 66 points.

The top three, then, in each code starting this issue are:

Hurling: 123 points: Pat Delaney (Offaly). 116: Ger Coughlan (Offaly). 94: John Horgan (Cork).

Football: 81 points: Eoin Liston (Kerry). 74: Brian Talty (Galway). 69: Pat Fitzgerald (Offaly).

The latest charts are:

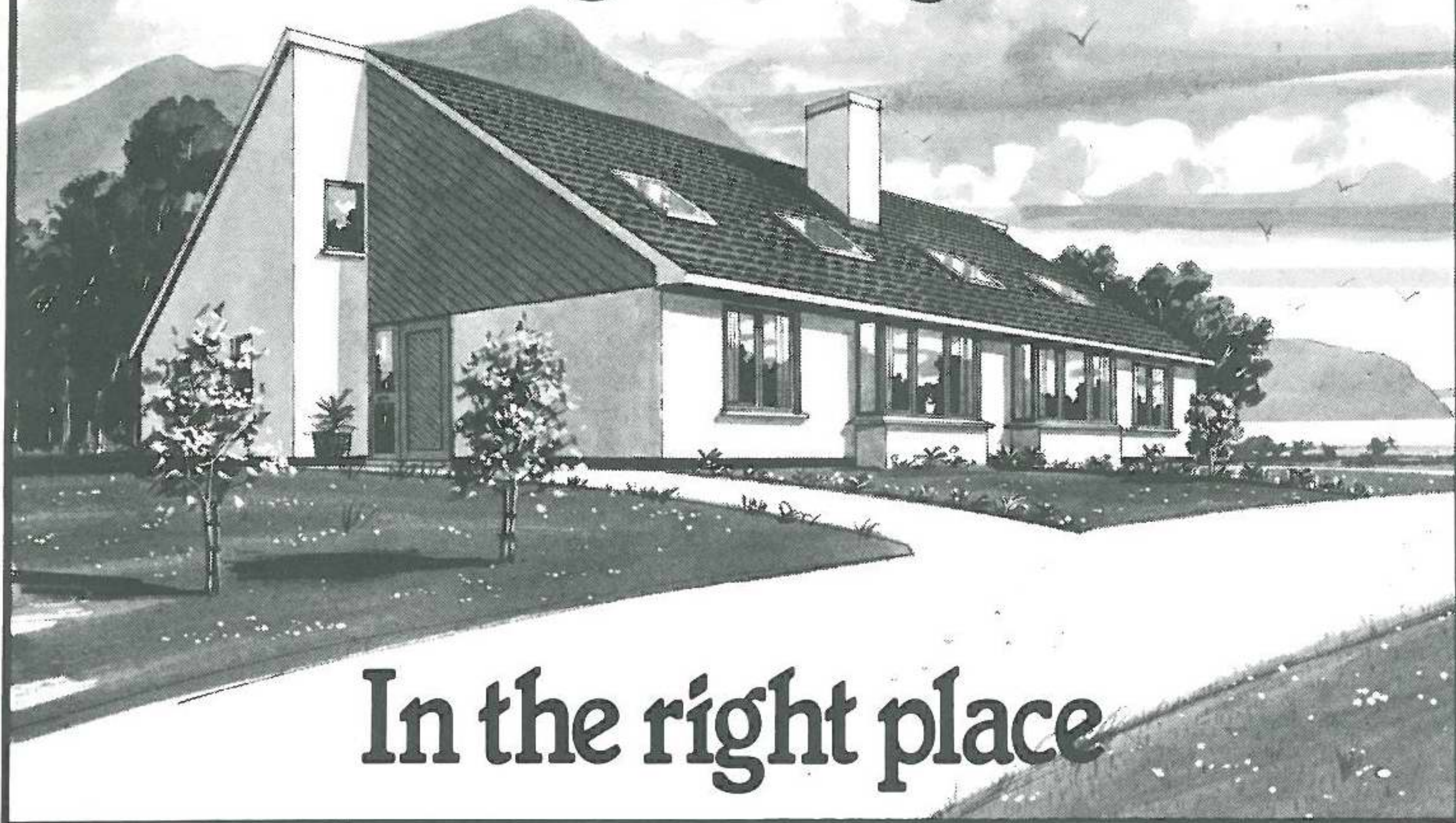
HURLING

36	Ger Coughlan (Offaly) ..	116
33	J. Flaherty (Offaly)	33
31	P. Carroll (Offaly)	31
28	P. Delaney (Offaly)	123
27	S. Linnane (Galway)	84
27	P. McGrath (Waterford)	61
26	P. Horan (Offaly)	26
25	J. Cooney (Galway)	45
24	J. Russell (Wexford)	24
22	M. Carroll (Tipperary) ..	22

FOOTBALL

33	P. Lynch (Kerry)	66
31	P. O'Shea (Kerry)	31
30	T. Kennelly (Kerry)	30
29	M. Furlong (Offaly)	29
28	R. Connor (Offaly)	28
27	P. Fitzgerald (Offaly) ...	69
26	P. Baker (Wicklow)	26
26	J. O'Shea (Kerry)	26
24	S. Kinneavy (Galway) ...	68
24	M. McHugh (Donegal) ..	24

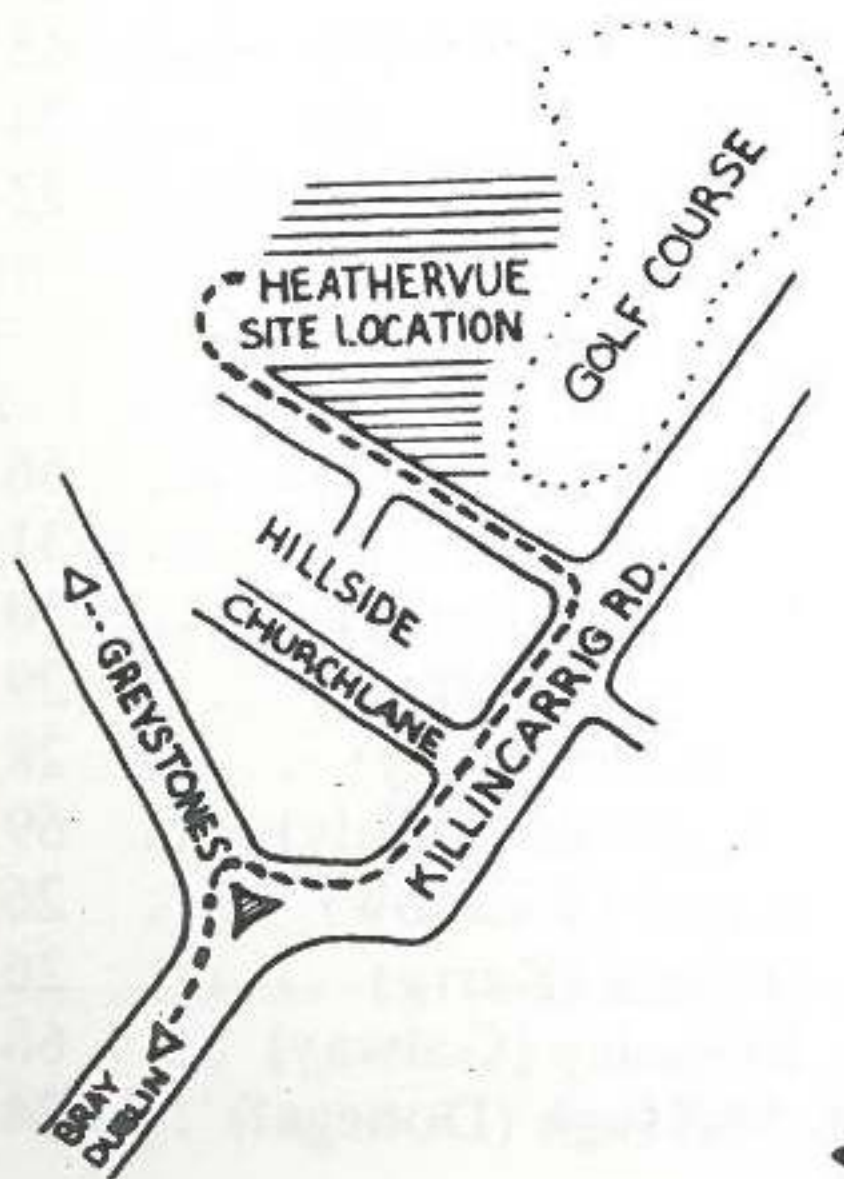
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KERRY'S SKILL

FOUR-IN-A-ROW

KERRY'S fourth All-Ireland championship in a row didn't set the heather blazing. In Dublin or Cork or any of the other counties where Kerry men have been received in welcome by a tolerant populace there was little evidence of the tempestuous satisfaction usually expressed by all exiles at their home-county's win. In Kerry itself the joy, while very obvious, did not crack any thermometer.

The comparative apathy puzzled some and upset many others. They wondered at the reason. But surely one doesn't have to stay awake at night working it out.

When I was young, Glen Rovers hurling club won a Cork county hurling championship. There was nothing remarkable about it except they hadn't been long playing senior and it was their first county. Blackpool their own area went on fire. In the following year the Glen won it again and for good measure took three in a row.

Joy overflowed in Blackpool and in the rest of the county men began to grind their teeth. But when the Glen took the fourth and the . . . and the fifth . . . and the sixth . . . and the seventh cup in a row good men began to contemplate suicide while even the keen supporters began to see faults that had not up to then been obvious, feeling that the cup was theirs by right anyway.

When the Glen won their eighth in a row in '41 elderly men stopped going to hurling matches and mothers began to make novenas for the Rockies and Barrs.

Cork at that time produced about thirty good hurlers (many of them from the Glen). They appeared in seven All-Ireland finals in nine years winning five. They won four in a row between '41 and '44.

"I AM JUST UNHAPPY" — SAYS EAMONN YOUNG

Good sides these were, and eight of the men won the four, while four of them played in all seven finals.

It was an era of great honour for Cork and for the players but the enthusiasm seen in Blackpool in '34 or in Patrick Street in '41 wasn't reflected in the great win of '46. We all began to get accustomed to the idea of winning and complained when we didn't. As for the rest of the country, they were down on their knees praying for arsonists to burn Cork ash.

ON TOP

There is nothing more natural than that we should feel to-day as then. In hard competition we all

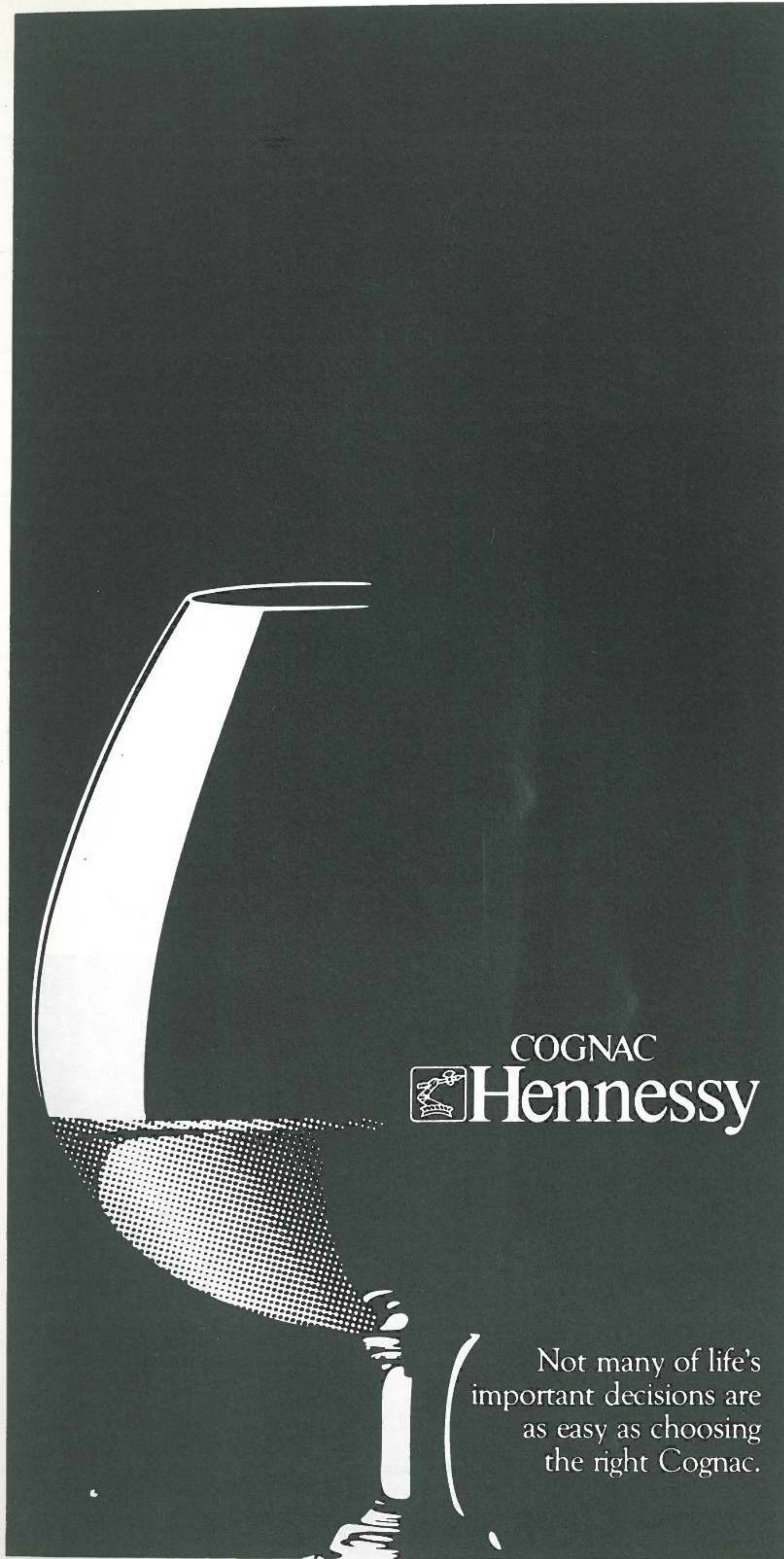
honour the winner and then set about immediately to plan his downfall. If he stays on top it is because he is pretty good or pretty lucky or just better than the rest.

To-day people outside of Kerry are completely fed up with Kingdom triumphs. They have been reaching for Sam since '75 and that's seven championships. They have given fine displays and drawn thousands to admire their skill, speed and strength. But all that is not enough for champions must always have the good sense to be beaten before the fans get tired of them.

● OVERLEAF

Tom Doyle about to set Kerry attacking against Offaly in the '81 Football Final.





● FROM PAGE 9

Needless to mention the player himself as well as the man who trains and supports him, will break his heart laughing at this suggestion for all competitors know that defeat is around the corner anyway and that good teams must win as much as they can as long as they are around. It isn't easy to string a champion side together and it must win its quota before it follows the rest into the shadows. So I find the lack of enthusiasm through the country for Kerry football just now very natural.

As for me I'm just plain jealous and very unhappy. Nightly I pray that many of those decent lads in the Green and Gold will go home and look after their wives and children or their ageing parents and become deeply involved in the social affairs of their communities where they could do great work for society.

Please God my prayers will soon affect their stony competitive hearts and they'll see the futile transience of all this foolish football.

RAISE HACKLES

Did Kerry win because the rest of us are not much good? That's an argument one can make very readily over a cup of coffee or a pint and it will raise the hackles on any son of the Kingdom but one has to be more factual when writing. Down weren't able for Offaly who weren't given a chance by the mature judges. In fact they did fairly well because that county breeds great hard men as well as footballers and they saw that close marking slows down the best. Mayo had a poor second half against Kerry and I felt they had come too soon. Galway might have done better. Cork had too many changes late in the summer and the forward line wasn't mature. In 35 minutes we could score only two points in Cill Airne.

One came from a dead ball and we had a following wind. One could argue that just now there aren't any great football teams in 31 counties, and to win All-Irelands one has only

● TO PAGE 11

● FROM PAGE 10

to be better than the rest even if you're not great.

But poor opposition does not necessarily make the champion poor, so we must look at Kerry. Is this a good Kingdom side? As we all know there are very many experienced football judges in Kerry and they speak well of the side. Michael O Ruairc and Tadhg Crowley's words of praise I have already quoted in an earlier column.

John Dowling who played some great games for the Kingdom in the centre of the field and who is heart and soul in his club Strand Road, stood in the busy Tralee street describing to me performances by the present players in practice. Joe Keohane who played a lot and saw a lot says this is a fine team; Doney O Sullivan another man of honourable and sophisticated career analyses the side clinically and says they won't be beaten unless the opposition is capable and intelligent and dedicated.

The standard of training is high and Micko Dwyer, who has the confidence of the players, is himself very experienced. In addition he has the champion mentality: get out there and win; no excuses. The level of competition in Kerry club football is of good standard and during the summer I saw that the approach to the fifty-fifty ball was vigorously honest and the fetching affirmative and sound.

Men went to take that ball from the air and did not generally rely on a comrade to send it ten yards out into the open.

We have a lot of players who are good men off the ball: we're searching for a few more who are good on it.

Lastly to estimate the merit of the present Kerry side one must depend on ones own critical judgement and examine the capacity of these men to perform the skill of Gaelic football with manliness and power.

One could start anywhere and if I take a few names any reader could select a few more to argue the case

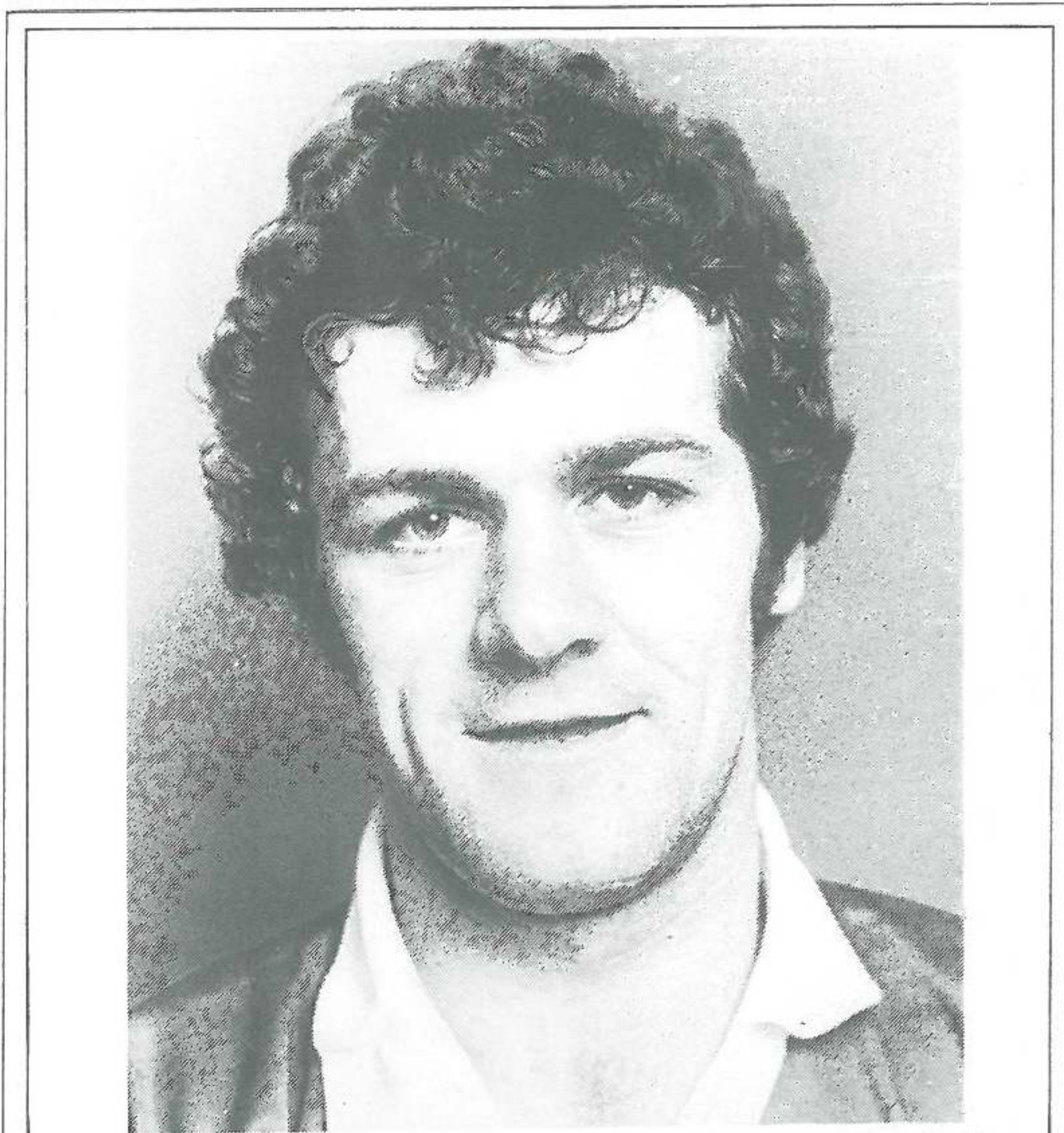
with equal validity. Look at the way Sean Walsh goes for a high one; see the restless energy and kicking of Jacko Shea, the determined power of Paud O'Shea, the bounding raids of John Egan, the controlled dash of Ger Power, or the skilled cunning of Ogie Moran. And all these combine well with their equally talented comrades moulded, caressed and rebuked by Micko Dwyer... trained, owned and ridden by him to successive victories. Yes, I'm satisfied this is a good side and would win All-Irelands in company better than Ireland has produced in '81.

GOOD COMPETITOR

So what about next year? People say the five-in-a-row is a pipe-dream. It never has been done and never will — I wonder if Roger Bannister and Edmund Hillary

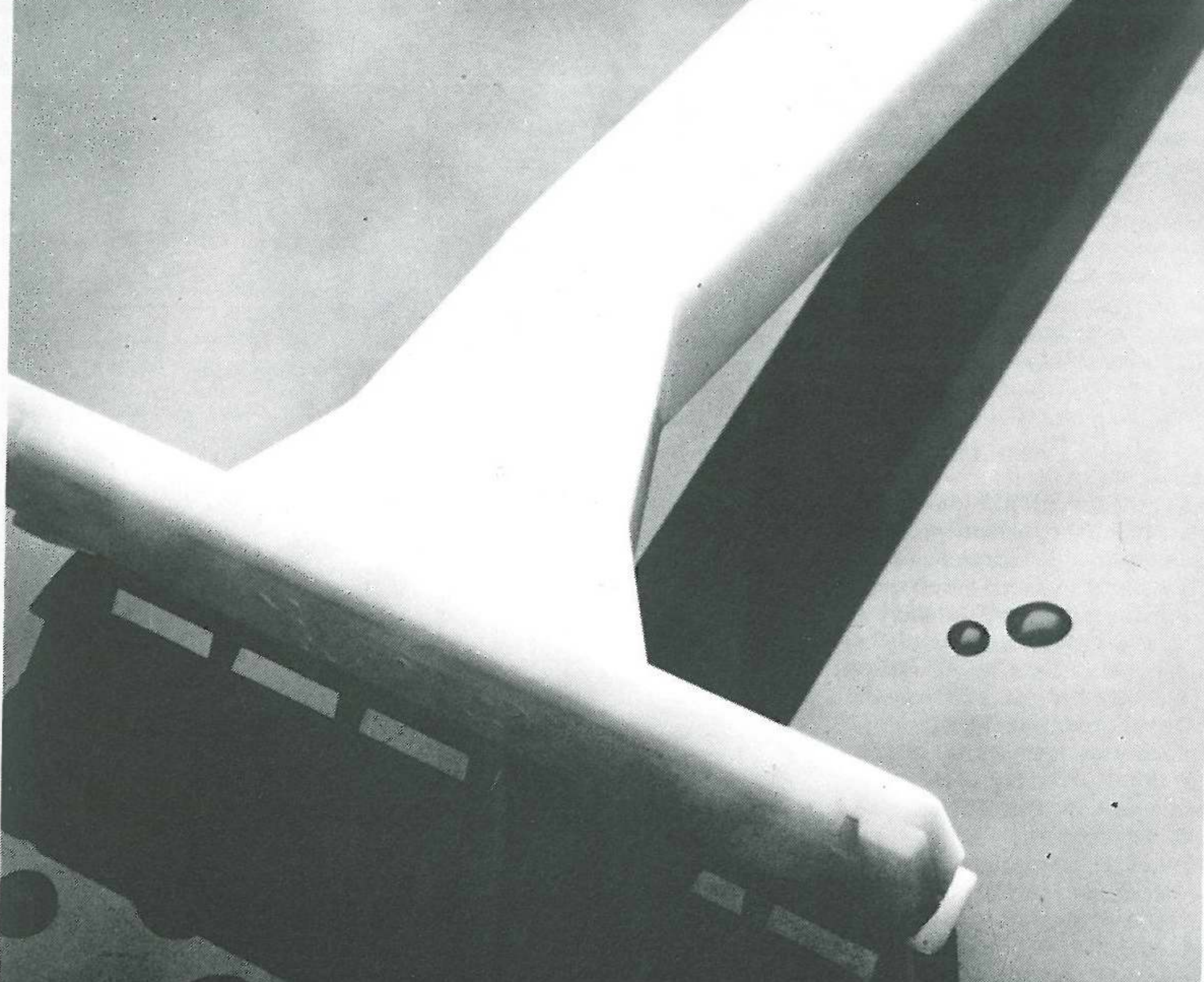
would laugh at that? I'm afraid so. Napoleon, another good competitor said that the difficult takes time, the impossible a little longer. And what's impossible about five in a row? Surely all they've got to do is beat the rest of us again and God knows whatever about gentle tolerant souls like Frank King or Murt Galvin, I don't think Napoleon would regard that as impossible.

No, the country must face up to the fact that the Kingdom has twenty fine players of fair merit backed by the experienced trainer, supported by a county where public prestige follows football and the stones in the road know a Green and Gold jersey. In '82 I see this Kerry side playing well in the first round of the championship. Then comes Pairc Ui Chaoimh and if they get out of that the best of luck to them.



● Kerry's Jack O'Shea (above) whose consistently outstanding displays throughout 1981 have earned the popular Cahirciveen man a second All-Star award.

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● *The Down team that regained the Ulster Senior Football Championship in July last, after an interval of three years. The Mournemen put up a brave show against Offaly in the All-Ireland Semi-Final, and although the Northerners are not setting the world on fire in the current League campaign, shrewd judges maintain the team has the potential to be a major force in the '82 Championship.*

THE Ulster Senior football championship of 1981 was a competition that few people will look back on with any pride, for the standard of football produced was pathetic, in fact many commentators have remarked that the standard was the lowest for years.

I attended many of the games, and each match was a long procession of fouls, of haulings and pullings, and a continuous sound of the referee's whistle.

These games turned out a bore, and the only thing that kept interest alive for me was the closeness of the scoring. One certain thing — if the standard is not improved very quickly spectators will fall away as no one will want to pay the high admission prices and be served up with lack lustre football.

So its imperative that a new look must be taken at the rules governing football and action taken to raise the standard.

I watched this year's Ulster Colleges Final at Casement Park between St. Colmans, Newry and St. Patricks, Maghera and was very disappointed with the standard produced which was a display of negative football with continuous pulling and hauling by both teams.

This was a marked contrast from last years final between the Abbey

POOR YEAR FOR ULSTER FOOTBALL

By
**SEAN
McGETTIGAN**

CBS, Newry and St. Paticks, Maghera when both sides produced a super display of bright open football with scarcely a foul during the hour.

In the Minor grades this year the same dreary displays as the senior were produced, pulling and hauling were the main priorities of these teams and little open football played. The only bright spot of this

minor campaign was the second half display of the Derry minors against Down in the Semi Final when they produced bright open football and the Down minors added to the enjoyment for they also forgot about fouling and played good football.

NEGATIVE APPROACH

Many people have been disappointed at the results of the special rules Congress when it was expected the recommendations produced by the Sub Committee would be adopted, but instead there was a very negative approach and

● TO PAGE 15



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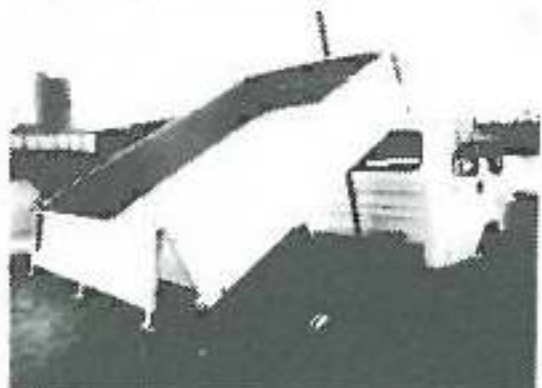
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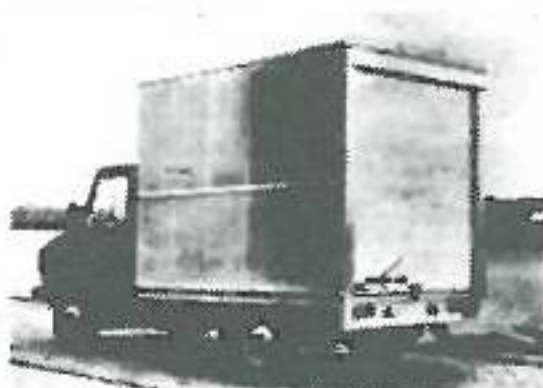
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only a few suggestions were adopted that have little effect on the game.

The only changes made were that a score must be made by the foot unless the ball is in flight, and that the handpass should be done properly. If anyone feels that kicking a point, only, makes any difference on the game then they have another thought coming for since this change was introduced it has made no difference.

I am convinced that the hand pass should have been abolished and the fisted pass introduced so that everything would be clear cut, and there would be no doubt.

Of course the biggest blunder of the Special Congress was not to restore the Personal Foul Rule. This rule when previously in operation had a curbing effect on players and helped in a great way for the game to flow.

There is no doubt this rule should have been restored, it would help the game and the ambition of every person should be to have rules that makes the game flow without stoppages.

MAIN CAUSES

Now the vital question is: What is the next move to improve the standard of football?

Firstly let's look at the main causes of the present poor football, and I consider that they could be named as follows:—

Mentors, Referees, Rules, Players.

In introducing the mentors as one cause many will be surprised, but I contend it lies within their hands to improve the game if they want. But they don't worry about standards their one ambition is to win.

The personal foul should be further punished by moving the ball forward nearer the opposition goals by 40 metres. This would almost assure a score and would curb the people who foul. It would change the cry from **Foul, Him;** to the **"Don't Foul Him"**.

I'm totally mesmerised that nothing has been done to

standardise refereeing, as every referee seems to have his own interpretation of the rules and gets little help to get a common interpretation.

What is required is a proper referees structure from County to province and province to Central body.

PLAYERS ROLE

Players can play a very big part in helping the game. They can stop fouling and make the game flow. To help players get to know the rules, the rules should be made easily available and should be issued in sheet form and given out to the

players.

In fact I think that the playing rules should be redrafted and condensed into say nine or ten rules and put in simple language.

More attention should be paid to the schools and College players with special attention to instruct them in the playing rules. I dare say that few of these young players ever had a look at the football playing rules.

Management Committee must have another think on the subject and set up another Sub Committee to improve the rules.

The findings of this Committee should be adopted by the Management Committee and applied to the game.

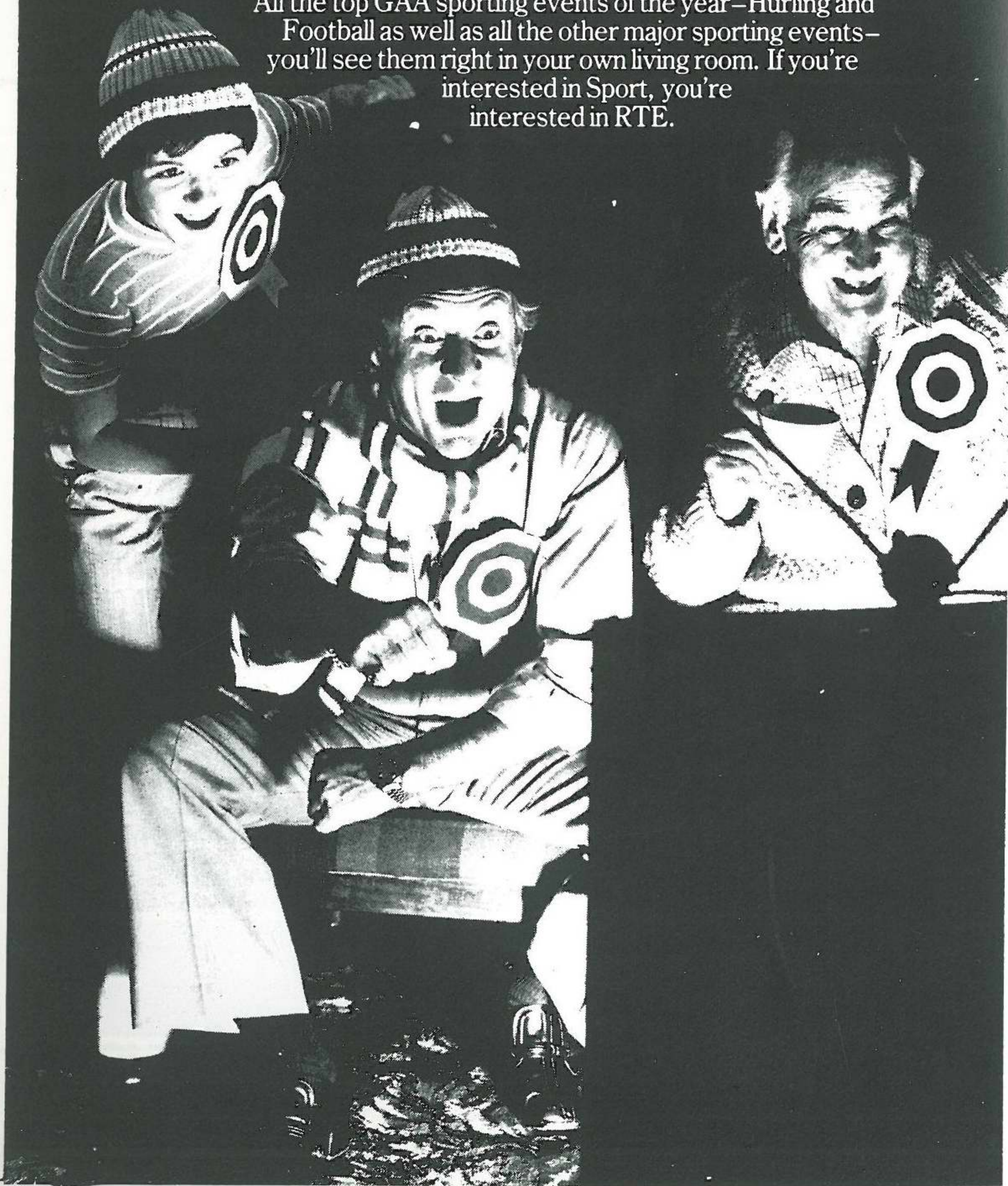


● PADDY KENNEDY (Down) . . . the only Ulsterman honoured with selection in the 1981 All-Star football team.

RTE

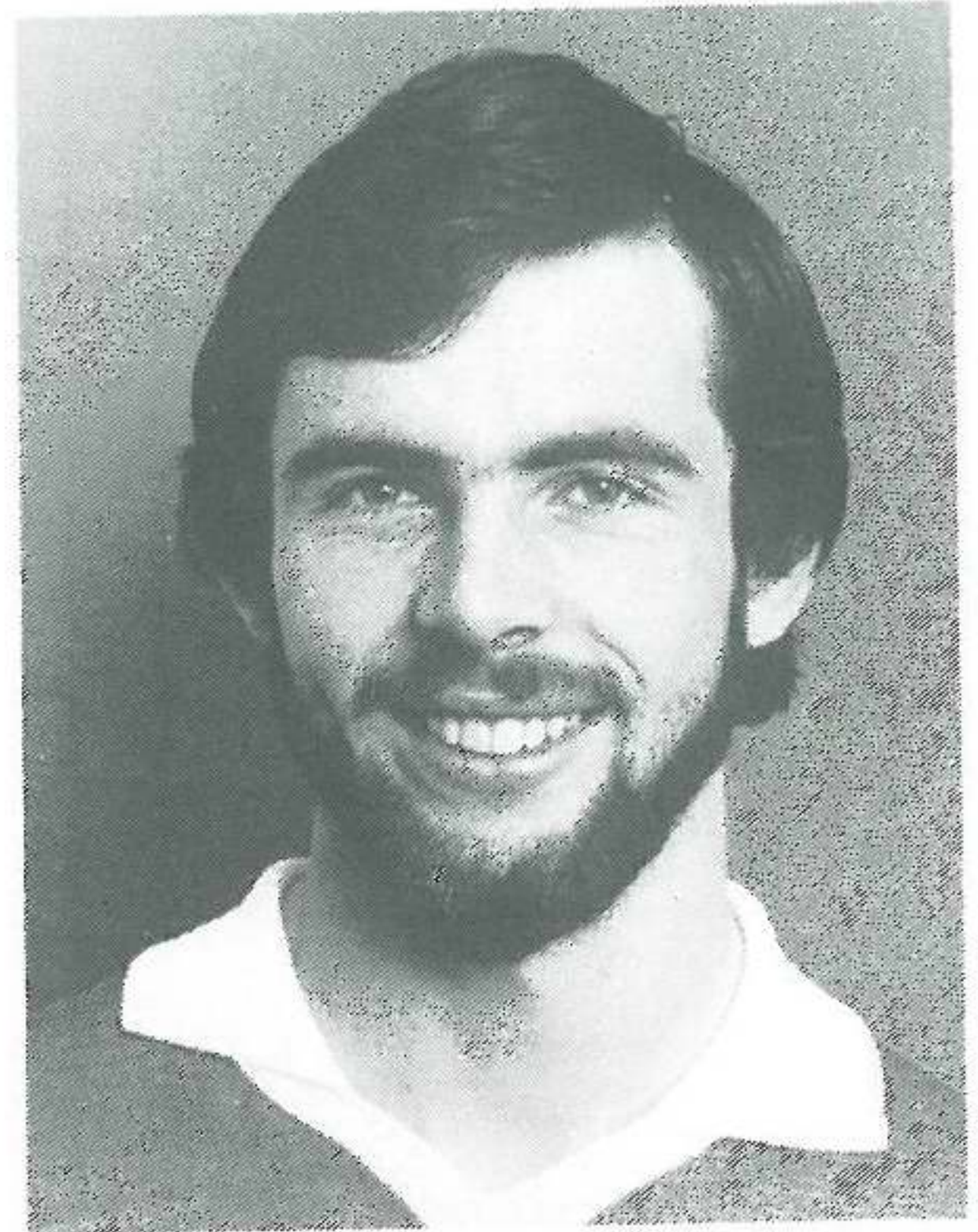
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BE ASSURED, OFFALY'S VICTORY WAS NO FLUKE

• *Liam
Currams . . .
Offaly's dual
star.*



THE victory of Offaly in the 1981 All-Ireland astonished many people, not least of all Galway followers of the hurling code. But it delighted many, even of those it astonished, for it brought a new ray of light into the normally regulated atmosphere of the championship.

It is good to see the honours go around — as the hurlers from the strong counties say when they have been caught on the hop by one of the tiddlers in the pool. Privately, of course, they are seething with frustration and cursing the upstarts who had made them look fools. But the mask must be worn.

In spite of what they think in their hearts such an outcome as the victory of Offaly is good for hurling, so long as we do not have too many new counties breaking through to the championship while the great traditional powers of the game languish as also rans. That could only mean a decline in standards generally.

Indeed, there were those who suggested that it was such a decline overall which allowed Offaly to achieve their heroic victory. That is not true, I think. Certainly there is no evidence to suggest that there has been any sudden and dramatic falling off in the quality of hurling generally.

**“A HURLING
UPSURGE”
SAYS JAY
DRENNAN**

We believe, of course, that there is a depreciation of hurling overall and a narrowing of the range and a dilution of the wealth of the skills of the game. But that is a prolonged process whose progression is not visible to the human eye and which can be observed only after a lapse of decades and through the fallible guidance of memory and, perhaps, imagination.

HURLING FORTUNES

But, just now — as opposed to last year or the year before — there is no essential difference. If there were fluctuations of form that is no more than any year brings. And no one could say that Galway, the outgoing champions, were at a low ebb in their hurling fortunes.

Even if there was any truth in the theory of a general falling off,

wouldn't that be a compliment to Offaly rather than a slur on their name — that they alone of all the counties had improved their hurling when all about them were losing their's?

Yes, of course, there was a streak of good fortune attached to Offaly's win in 1981, but was there ever a team that made its first great mark among its “betters” which did not enjoy the right kind of fortune.

And let us hear no talk of retrogression. No talk of the manner of their defeat by Galway in Round 1 of the National Hurling League at Birr. They took a drubbing, sure, but when the chips were down and fame and glory were the spur, Offaly did the needful. Galway did not.

As to what the Offaly triumph means, there are many aspects in which the signs of it might be observed. Previous examples of new breakthrough champions are rare things in hurling. You could not call Galway first-timers in 1980, nor even achievers of a breakthrough, really.

Apart from the fact that they had won a championship previously, however far back, the current team had already made its particular breakthrough, was acknowledged as one of the very best, and had been

• TO PAGE 19

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● FROM PAGE 17

ringing the bell for five years before breaking the door down.

So you would have to go back to 1948 to find breakthrough first-time champions when Waterford won their first. As it happens Waterford were knocked out in the first round of the following year's championship in Munster and that particular team (then in the veteran stage for the most part) did not subsequently make the kind of impression that was expected of it. It was the next generation of hurlers which succeeded them that brought forth all the wonderful hurling of the 1950s and 1960s.

If any parallels are to be seen between their example and that of the recent Galway success it is that there need not necessarily be any weeping and gnashing of teeth at the idea of defeat soon after the peaks of victory. It may even be an unavoidable reaction combined with the natural desire to play more earnestly which all the other teams display towards them.

HURLING UPSURGE

But, whatever is in store for Offaly — and, by the way, with their age level they should be in no danger of going over the hill in a hurry — there will be an upsurge in hurling interest in the county. Generations of youngsters are certain to want to give hurling a try now because of the extraordinary scenes they witnessed on the occasion of the All-Ireland win. And of those who find that they have some ability at the game many more will persevere and devote themselves to it.

In other words, there will be no going back. No matter what, Offaly cannot ever again lose themselves in the unrecognised mass of secondary counties. They must bear themselves henceforth as an All-Ireland winning county. Falling off in standards by them would from now on be called evidence of weakening in the stronger counties.

There is a well-observed reaction

● DAMIEN MARTIN, Offaly's long-serving goalkeeper, who finally struck Gold when making a wonderful contribution to his county's memorable All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final win over Galway last September. Damien's colleague on the left of our picture is Tom O'Donoghue.



in several counties near the top group who have spent much of their time in the company of Offaly in recent years: Laois, Waterford, Dublin, even Carlow. They have been talking about their possible prospects of following in the footsteps traced by Offaly.

There is a fresh breeze blowing that might blow away many cobwebs that festoon the records of the powerful counties. It would be very likely so, were it not for the fact that the reaction to Offaly so soon after Galway has been a rumbling in the bowels of the hurling world, with counties like Tipperary and Kilkenny making strong statements about their intentions of getting back to the top and ones like Limerick vowing to make it next time, or Clare hoping to do what they were astonished to see Offaly doing.

LESS CONFINED

All round the win of Offaly has

opened up the windows and made hurling a much less confined place. It has not guaranteed much to Offaly themselves in the future; and it has not guaranteed much to traditionalists. But it has given hope everywhere and proved, too, I think that those who work hard enough and want to succeed badly enough will reach their goal.

Footnote: As if to show that whatever little favours of fate fell in Offaly's path last summer were but a chance and temporary event, consider the absolutely brutal draw which they got for next year — playing almost every team that matters in Leinster, then a semi-final and afterwards the final — if they are still surviving.

It makes it desperately hard to retain the title; but, on the other hand, if there is any better way of showing how good they are than by winning out through this draw, I do not know of it.

COVER STORY



● **JOHNNY FLAHERTY**, right, who scored Offaly's match-winning goal, moves in to challenge Michael Conneely (Galway) in the '81 Hurling Final.

HURLING is ready to square up successfully to the challenge to be faced during the rest of the 'Eighties — that is the message that has come over clearest of all from the inter-county season that is now passing into history.

Offaly provided the best possible advertisement for the game's future by accomplishing a feat no other county has achieved in this century — a winning debut in an All-Ireland senior championship final. That was the high point, a performance coming swiftly on Galway's memorable win in the final the previous September which has got the present Decade off to the kind of start in the game that few, if any, could have envisaged as Kilkenny struck another blow for the traditionalists by beating Galway in the 1979 national championship decider.

But Offaly's win was not the only bright pointer in the code. Remember the fine displays by Laois in last season's National League, and again when running Offaly so close in the Leinster semi-final in June? Then, there was Clare's long-awaited first-ever Munster championship in minor hurling.

Waterford, another county that has not enjoyed much success in the code over the years, played their part with a good run in the 1980-'81 League, and they have given rise to hopes of bright things to come in the current League as the campaign advanced towards a climax in the New Year.

So, hurling is alive and well in all grades, and the outlook must be brighter than has been the case in years.

Pride of place in the success story must undoubtedly go to Offaly. They provided the best possible answer to their knockers . . . the people who said

OFFALY'S WIN A VICTORY FOR HURLING

By PAT DUNNE

after last year's loss to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, and again following the League final defeat by Cork last May that the Midlanders were a mere flash in the pan.

Flash in the pan, how are you? In beating Laois in the Leinster semi-final, then seeing off Wexford in the provincial final, and then in finally staging a tremendous second half rally against the Westerners in the All-Ireland final to snatch a dramatic but merited late win, Offaly proved that they had not only arrived as a hurling power, but were as good as any to take the Liam McCarthy Cup in years.

As good as any in years? Well, take a close look at the Offaly break-through against Galway.

They had to face up not only to the unnerving task of coping with the tensions and strains of appearing before their biggest audience ever, but also to overcome that challenge against a team steeled in All-Ireland final experience, and sharpened up as well from an extra game in the run-in as a result of the draw and replay with Limerick.

EVEREST AWAY

Daunting enough tasks those. Then, Offaly had another hill to

climb as Galway took control of the All-Ireland final in the first half and were in no way flattered by their comfortable cushion of six points at the end of the first half. Victory at that stage appeared an Everest away for Offaly in the opinion of many, and few could really have blamed the Midlanders had they wilted in the face of the task that faced them as they lined up for the second half.

That was when Offaly really showed their greatness. As the knockers became more vocal, the history-makers stuck doggedly to their task, and with courage, skill, ability and a refreshing get up and go approach, they gradually pulled themselves back into the game.

Three minutes from time it all became worthwhile as Johnny Flaherty got through for one of the most crucial goals in the history of hurling, a goal that put Offaly into the dramatic one point lead and ensured that the 1981 All-Ireland final would prove something special in the annals of hurling.

Danny Owens and Pdraig Horan added on points without reply to gild the victory, but it was the Flaherty goal that ensured that a new name was about to go on the Liam McCarthy Cup.

That come-back against all the odds and in conditions which were more favourable for their opponents because of their great pull in experience stamped this. Offaly win as one of the best by any team in a long time.

Granted, it was not a great final. Agreed, too, that Galway did not help their cause by shooting many wides — they had 14 in their disastrous second half alone. But it would be churlish to parade these factors brazenly in the face of that great character and heart that kept Offaly plugging away until the door finally opened.

Offaly has also more than character and great heart going for them. What about Ger Coughlan, one of the smallest men on the field at 5ft. 7ins.?

He was a giant in his contributions. First at left half back, and later at right full, he went about his work with poise and assurance, and his reliability and non-stop effort had much to do in setting the scene for the winning rally.

Then, there was Pat Delaney, who put over five splendid and so vital points, and really blossomed when moving out to the right wing of the half line in the second half. Here was another whose polished play honed the come-back path.

Damien Martin, with two majestic saves, and Eugene Coughlan also helped nobly in ensuring that the defence proved the best possible framework from which to charter the way forward.

Offaly took some time to find their feet in midfield, but as the game wore on dual-star Liam Currams and Joachim Kelly began to come more into the picture to help turn the tide in their team's favour.

LONG SERVING

Johnny Flaherty must always be signalled out in attack for his

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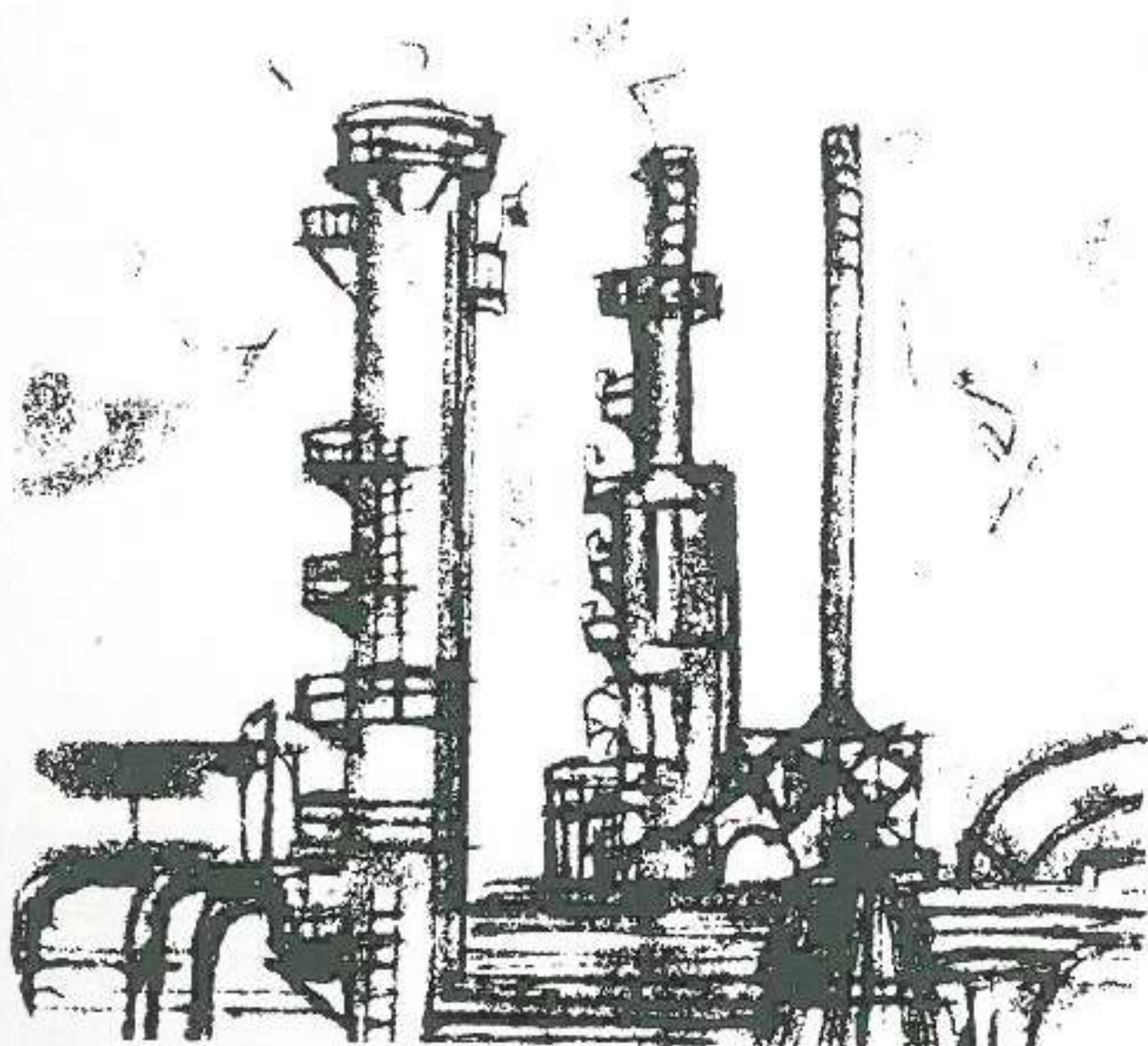
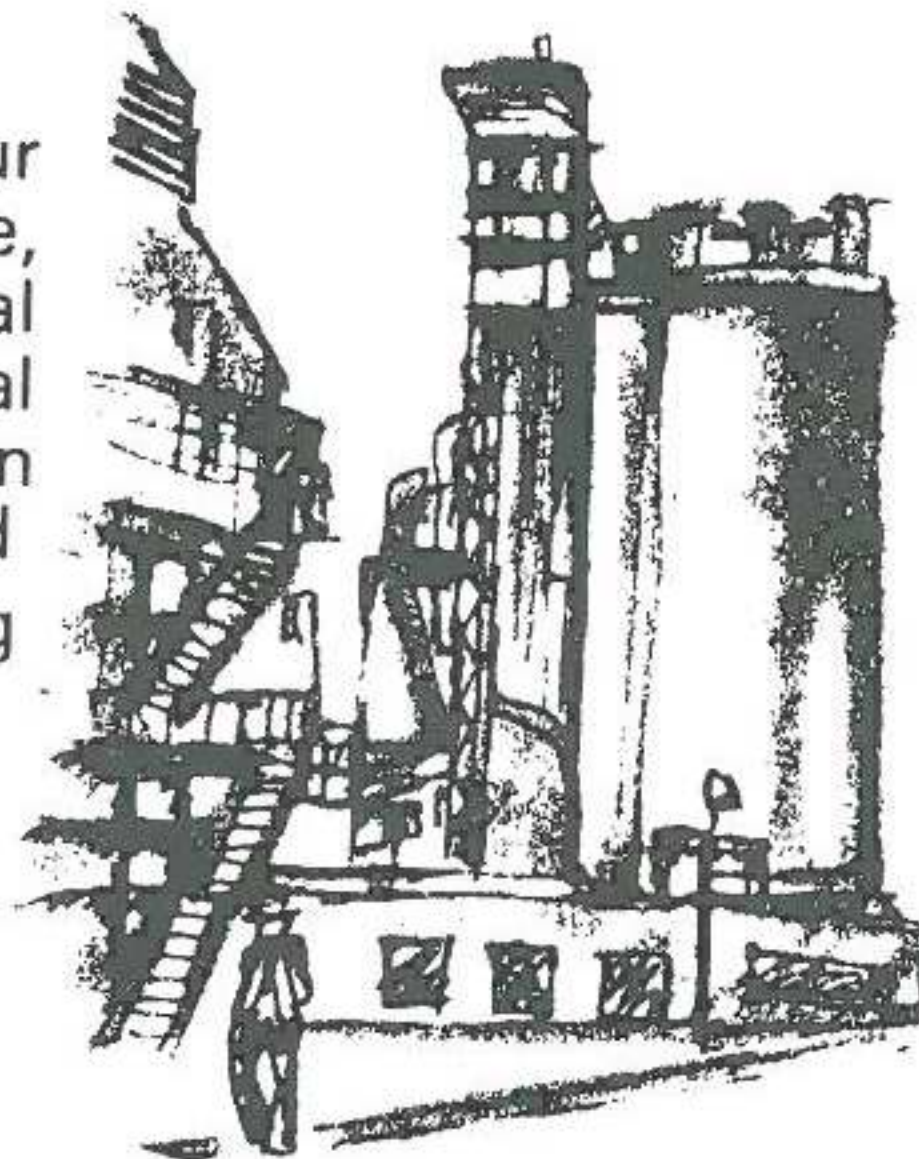
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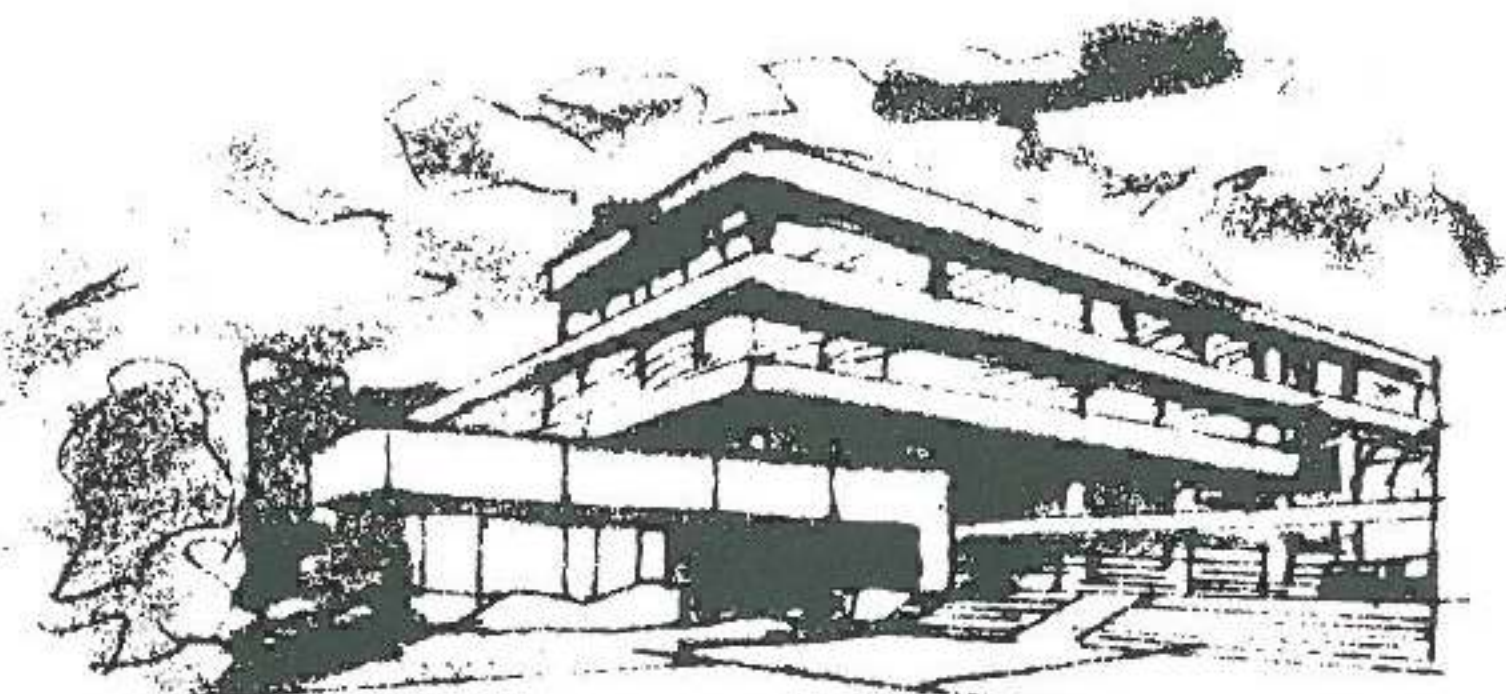


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MOVES TO OFFSET WINTER INACTIVITY

By AGNES HOURIGAN

NOW that the All-Ireland Championships are completed attention turns to other events.

The Junior National League Commands pre-Christmas attention. There are five zones.

A. Westmeath, Roscommon, Cavan, Donegal and Tyrone.

B. Armagh, Louth, Monaghan, Meath and Kildare.

C. Carlow, Offaly, Waterford, Laois and Wicklow.

D. Cork, Clare, Tipperary, Wexford and Limerick.

E. Galway, Antrim, Down, Dublin, Kilkenny and Derry.

The Senior League will have two Zones this season and are as Zones D and E of the Junior.

It is planned to complete the Junior Counties Zones A, B, C and put the winner into a three way play-off with the Zones D and E which are the Junior Teams of the Senior Counties.

WINTER ACTIVITY

In all, twenty-six counties will take part in the Junior League and eleven in the Senior League.

Another winter activity which should be an asset to counties which are inactive in the Winter, is planned. For a number of years the senior clubs in Munster have played a Provincial Championship. Leinster passed a motion at their Convention last February to inaugurate a similar competition and plans are already advanced to get the participants known.

The C.C.I.A. are at present preparing for the Colleges Competitions and the League which is Zoned North, East, South/West, will be starting in November when the Freshers Competition will also be played.

BIGGEST PROBLEM

Already the Four Provincial Schools Councils have had their Annual General Meetings and the competitions have started.

The biggest problem facing all units in the Association is the cost of travelling. It has risen sharply since the petrol crisis. A second headache is the cost of sticks and balls.

Congratulations to Kilkenny on bringing the Seán O Duffy Cup and the All-Ireland Senior Title back to the Noreside for the fourth time in nine years.

The Kilkenny success story began with the rise of the Schools Competitions and the success of Presentation Convent Kilkenny, who were the first All-Ireland Senior Champions and Mercy Convent Callan. More than half that Champion side has brought all the honour to their native County as well as two National League titles.

CLARE STAR

In addition to the County's success, the St. Pauls Club have won the All-Ireland Club title more often than any other Club — four times as

compared with two for St. Patricks (Tipperary) and two for Austin Stacks (Dublin).

Well done to Clare also. They regained the New Ireland Junior Cup which they first won in 1974 and congratulations to their young star Claire Jones who won the A.I.B. Junior Sport Award for 1981.

Where the Titles Went

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Senior: Kilkenny.
Junior: Clare.
Minor: Galway.

NATIONAL LEAGUES

Senior: Dublin.
Junior: Cavan.

INTERPROVINCIAL

Senior: Leinster.
Junior: Connacht.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Senior: Buffer's Alley, Wexford.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Senior: Dublin.

UNIVERSITIES'

Ashbourne Cup: U.C.D., Dublin.
Ashbourne Shield: Queen's, Belfast.
Purcell Cup: N.I.H.E., Limerick.
League Final: U.C.D., Dublin.

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A NEW dimension was recently added to Irish Handball when it was decided to send three young players to the U.S.H.A. Junior Championships in Tuscon, Arizona at the end of December.

This is the first time that the American Handball Body has held championships at this level and the decision of the Irish Council to become involved from the outset speaks volumes for the foresight of administrators in this country.

Needless to say the prospect of competing at international level captured the imagination of our young players, consequently, the trials to determine our three representatives attracted big entries, and, in turn some outstanding handball. In the final analysis, it fell to Clare to supply two players in Ger Coughlan and John Duggan with the other spot falling to Kilkenny's Michael Walsh.

Without further elaboration the hand of congratulations go to the Clare Handball Board in nurturing two brilliant players of the calibre of Coughlan and Duggan.

CLARE REVIVAL

Not so long ago handball in the county was stagnant, until a group of enthusiastic handball administrators banded together and set about the task of expanding the game through the county. The Clare County Council, thanks to an imaginative manager and staff backed the venture with handsome financial assistance and soon the expansion became a conflagration through the banner county.

Now, Clare stands as an example for, and the envy of every other county through the country where the promotion of handball is a priority.

And to Ennis C.B.S. where the

BY SEAN CLERKIN

initiative had a dynamic launching pad falls the honour of sending out the Singlets in Tucson.

UNDER 19

The under 19 representative Ger Coughlan, who stands over 6ft. had given prior warning of his real potential on numerous occasions.

He has won many titles through the years and last year nearly caused a sensation by reaching the finals of the under 22 trials.

His great opponent has always been the Kilkenny handball prodigy, Billy Bourke. They have clashed in successive All-Ireland Finals with the laurels in each instance going to Bourke. Their clash in 1980 was a memorable one.

It was a game where skill, guts, courage and determination were at a premium and it is reckoned by those lucky enough to have seen it, to have been the top handball match of 1980.

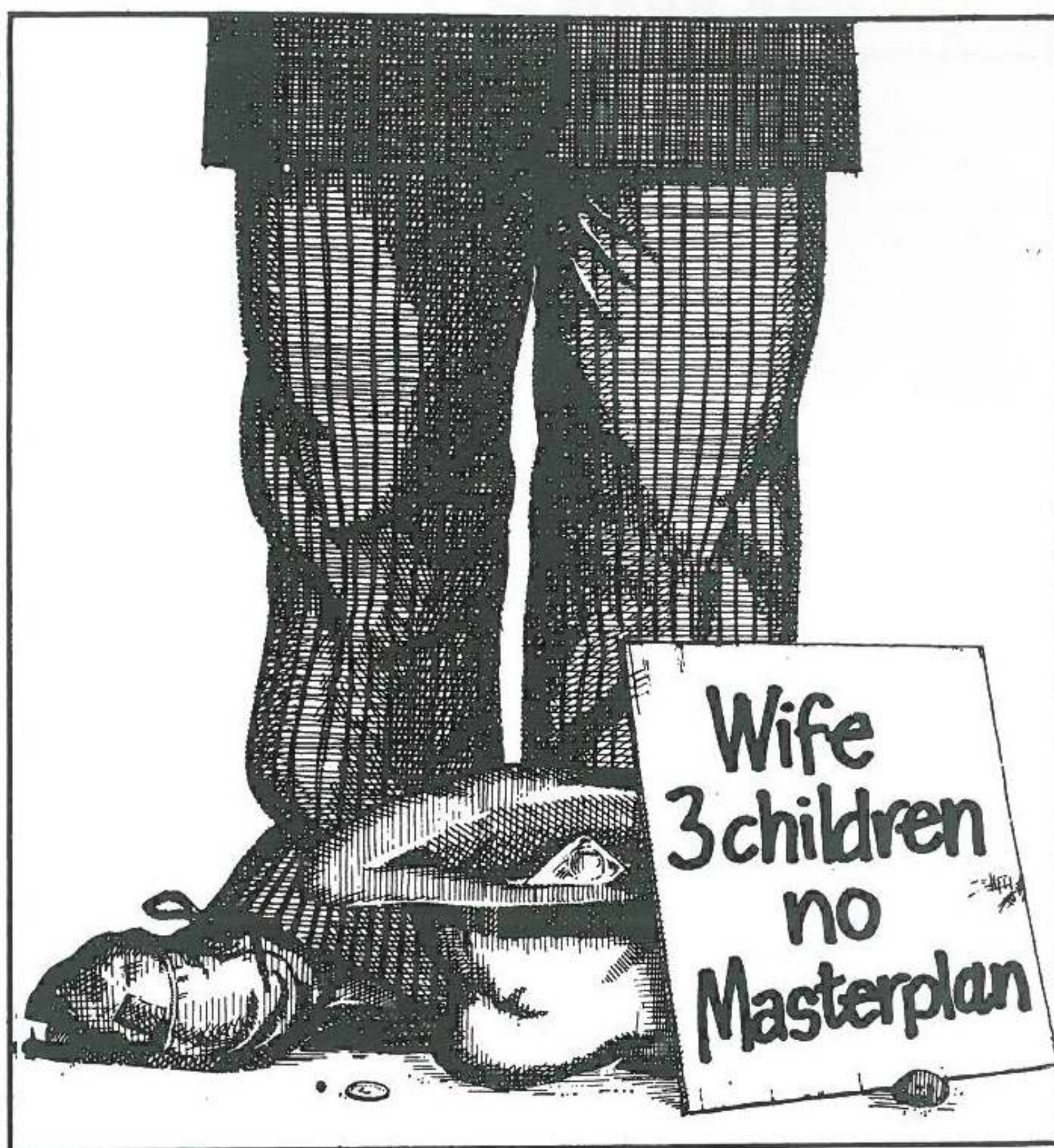
Eventually Coughlan conceded victory on the scores 17-21: 21-17: and 11-21, but both players were treated to a standing ovation by a packed gallery at they left the court.

Bourke has made a magnificent contribution to standards at juvenile level. He will however travel to the U.S. tests partly at his own expense and with assistance of sponsorship in Kilkenny.

I believe that besides the great victories he has achieved, the Kilkennyman may have provided a moral for the future that specialisation in one code of handball is a necessity.

While Bourke, won his 40 × 20 titles earlier in the year he was engaged during the last two months in mopping up his 60 × 30 titles.

● TO PAGE 35



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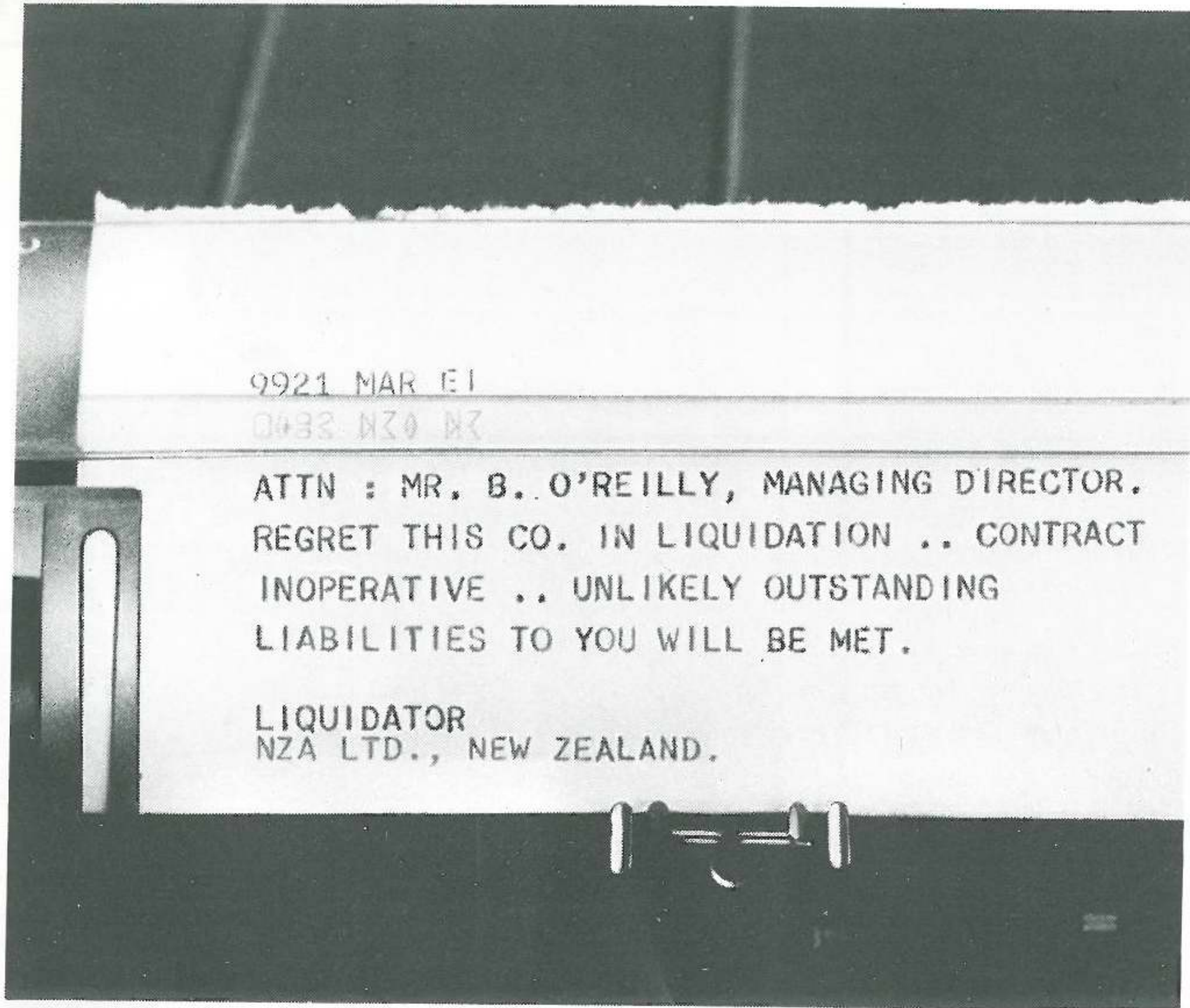
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QUIZ TIME

ON THE SPOT...

BY TOMMY McQUAID

THAT was the year that was 1981... a year in which hurling thrived as rarely before, and football's image took something of a hammering. Still, the big ball game had its encouraging moments, too, like the refreshing drawn All-Ireland under-21 final at Ennis in October, the polished and well contested Leinster final between Offaly and Laois, and in more recent times the Offaly-Dublin clash in the League among the best features.

Who were the stars of the past year? Where did the top titles, and the championships in the other grades go to? What was the last defeat by Kerry in a major game?

These are relevant questions now as at this time of the year nostalgia takes its strong winter grip, as enthusiasts look back on the past campaign and relive memories, some good, some not so good. Our quiz, ON THE SPOT..., reflects the mood with a series of questions dealing exclusively with happenings in 1981.

See how good your memory is, and how quickly you can recall the events that we spotlight in a brief look back on the Gaelic Games scene of 1981.

There are four separate sections, starting with the:

BIG GAMES

1. Kerry's last defeat in a major semi-final was at Ennis last April when they lost to what county?
2. How many goals did Kerry score in that game?
3. What county lost to Derry in

the Ulster minor football final?

4. Cork, of course, beat Derry in the All-Ireland minor football final. How many goals did the Southerners notch in that game, three, four or five?

5. Name the captains in the 1981 All-Ireland senior hurling final?

6. Offaly called in two substitutes during that game. Name just one of their subs?

7. Where was the Connacht senior football final played?

8. Who captained Mayo to their Western football senior title win?

9. Who won the toss in the All-Ireland senior hurling final?

10. What team opened the scoring in the football final?

Let's award five points for each question answered correctly here, and a bonus of ten for a Full House. So, this section is worth 60 marks. YOUR RETURN

A chance now to give the ladies a look in as a result of this short five question section on:

CAMOGIE EVENTS

1. Dublin beat Cork in the National Senior League final last June. True or false?

2. Angela Downey, who was such a brilliant score-getting star for Kilkenny in the All-Ireland senior championship win, plays club fare with St. Paul's, U.C.D. or Carrickshock? Your club choice?

3. Clare won their second or third All-Ireland Junior title in 1981?..

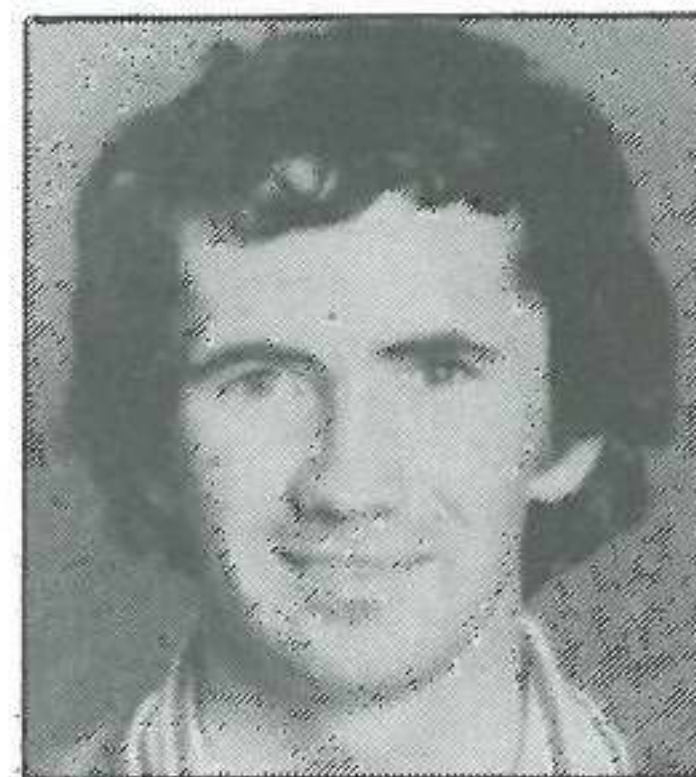
4. What county lost the junior final to Clare?

5. The 1981 senior final replay win over Cork earned Kilkenny their second, third or fourth All-Ireland crown. Again, your choice as to the title wins?

Once more five marks for each correct answer, making 25 marks in all available here. YOUR SCORE

Now a chance to put two players in:

PICTURE FOCUS



The players pictured here each got among the All-Ireland senior medals

● TO PAGE 29

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● FROM PAGE 27

in the past campaign. Who are they, what are their clubs, and what positions did they fill in their team selections in the national finals.

There are three sections to each question per player, so help yourself to five marks for each correct answer, and 30 marks for an all correct return. HOW DID YOU DO?

Finally, a review devoted exclusively to the players, the men who captured most of the headlines in the past year. Here are ten questions with the spotlight on the:

PLAYING STARS

1. Who was in goal for Dublin and brought off a great save near the end in the Leinster football championship win over Wicklow at Newbridge?
2. How many goals did Joe McKenna score in Limerick's win

over Clare in the Munster senior hurling final?

3. Tom Prendergast scored a goal from a penalty against Offaly for Laois in the Leinster senior football final. True or false?
4. Who captained Wexford in their unsuccessful Leinster senior hurling final bid against Offaly?
5. Who was Galway's full forward in the drawn All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final against Limerick?
6. Jack O'Shea scored one of the best goals of the year in senior football late in Kerry's All-Ireland final win over Offaly. Was that his only score of the game?
7. Mike Sheehy was Kerry's top marksman in the final. Did he notch 1-2, 0-5 or 0-6?
8. What had Tommy McGovern, Colm McKinstry, Michael Laffey and John Costello in common last July?

9. Who was at full forward for Laois in the Leinster final against Offaly footballers?

10. Frank Burke was one of two substitutes called in by Galway during the All-Ireland senior hurling final. Who was the other?

With five marks once more the quota for each correct answer, and a ten points bonus for going right through the card, this final section can end the quiz on a real flourish with another 60 marks haul. YOUR FINAL RETURNS

THE FINAL SHOW-DOWN

Time now to add up the marks and see how you fared in the final show-down. The total marks possible add up to 175. An excellent rating must be the verdict for 155 plus. Very good, indeed, for 135 to 155. And, you can feel quite pleased if you score 110 to 135.

ANSWERS

(Answers printed in reverse to avoid distraction)

1. John O'Leary. 2. McKenna scored 3-3 against Clare. 3. True. 4. Martin Quigley. 5. Finbarr Gantley. 6. The goal was O'Shea's only score of the game — but what a score! 7. 0-5. 8. Tommy McGovern, of Down, Colm McKinstry, of Armagh, Michael Laffey, of Sligo, and John Costelloe, of Laois, all captained their counties in provincial senior finals. 9. Eamonn Whelan. 10. Pascal Ryan.

PLAYING STARS

1. Ger Coughlan, Kinnity, left half back. 2. Denis Moran, Beale, centre half forward.

PICTURE FOCUS

1. True. Dublin won in Dublin by 1-7 to 1-4. 2. St. Paul's. 3. Clare's second title. They won their only other one in 1974. 4. Antrim, who were beaten by 3-2 to 0-7. 5. Fourth. They have won the title in 1974, 1976, 1977 and 1981.

CAMOGIE EVENTS

1. Galway, who beat Kerry in the National League semi-final. 2. Kerry did not score a goal. It was a game that did not yield a goal at all: Galway 0-10; Kerry 0-8. 3. Armagh, who were beaten by 0-11 to 1-2. 4. Four goals: Cork 4-9; Derry 2-7. 5. Padraig Horan (Offaly) and Sean Silke (Galway). 6. Their two substitutes were Brendan Keshan and Danny Owens. 7. Castlebar. 8. Martin Carney, the former Donegal and Ulster footballer. 9. Offaly. 10. Offaly, with a Matt Connor point in three minutes.

ANSWERS BIG GAMES



● Liam O'Donoghue, Limerick's brilliant half-back, a worthy winner of his first All Star award. Liam's outstanding display against Galway in the '81 drawn All Ireland semi-final was one of the highlights of the hurling season.

AN GÚM

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Leabhar gleoite é seo ina bhfuil cur síos ar eachtraí éisc bhig Tibí agus ar na contúirtí ar tháinig sé slán astu. Lándaite. Do pháiste 8-10 mbliana.

Longa: Vincent Segrelles £1.20

Stair na longa ón gcurachán scaobtha go dtí an fomhuireán núicléach. Téacs suimiúil agus léaráidí thar barr.

Ealaíontóirí agus Cumadóirí Cáiliúla: £1.20

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Iníon An Tincéara Rua: Caitlín Uí Thallamháin 80p

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.

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Machnamh Seanmhná: £1.00

Eagrán nua a d'ullmhaigh Pádraig Ua Maoileoin den seanleabhar cáiliúil le Peig Sayers.

An Banphrionsa a d'Imíodh ar Fán: £1.00

Scéal fantaiseach suite sna meánaoiseanna ó Lemniscaat, Rotterdam. Siobhán Denman a rinne an leagan Gaeilge do pháistí 7-11.

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 fúithi 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).

*Tá na leabhair seo agus tuilleadh eile nach iad
le ceannach díreach ó*

*Oifig Dhíolta Foilseachán Rialtais,
An Stuara, Ard-Oifig an Phoist,
Baile Átha Cliath, 1.
nó ó dhíoltóirí leabhar.*

WHO CAN STOP KERRY ?

IS there any county likely to prevent Kerry from achieving an unprecedented five All-Ireland titles on the trot in 1982? The seasoned Kerry men are still a relatively young bunch with John O'Keeffe the team's veteran at 31 and their motivation seems to increase rather than diminish as they heap success upon success.

In terms of talent and experience they tower over all opponents and the Kingdom will surely be the warmest of favourites to retain the Sam Maguire Cup again when the championship begins next summer.

Critics will say that Kerry's moderate form in September's All-Ireland final was an indication of the impending decline of the great team but the truth is that Kerry, though below their best, were seldom seriously threatened by Offaly and always looked likely to win once they settled after conceding two early points.

It must be remembered also that similar comments were expressed when Kerry conquered Roscommon in a dour decider in 1980 but the champions were at their peak again

as they scornfully dismissed all challengers on their path to this year's final.

What many observers conveniently tend to overlook when prematurely predicting Kerry's demise is the fact that the Kingdom were badly hit by injuries before each of the last three finals. In 1979, for instance, dashing wing-forward Ger Power was forced to cry off as Kerry comprehensively conquered the fading Dubs and the following year they were even more severely affected when appendicitis struck Eoin Liston a few days before the final and Power retired with a recurring hamstring injury at half-time.

A TRIBUTE

This year Kerry received what was probably the unkindest cut of all when they were forced to field without the great Pat Spillane. Yet the manner in which they triumphed over adversity to convincingly achieve the four-in-a-row was indeed a tribute to the huge strength-in-depth of the squad, arguably the greatest combination in the history of Gaelic football.

Realistically, there seems to be nothing to stop Kerry from going all the way again next year and it is not inconceivable that they should add a few more titles to their tally after that. When Kerry finally fail, however, many contend that it will be their southern rivals, Cork, who will emerge as the villains of the piece.

Cork fans, eternal optimists that they are, are quietly confident that their favourites may be in with a chance of lowering Kerry's colours in next year's Munster final which will be played at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

Kerry will be hotly fancied to win but Leesiders base their optimism on the fact that Cork footballers have in the past proved most dangerous when least was expected of them.

A brief recollection of some of Cork's more recent victories over the Kingdom substantiates that view considerably. Back in 1966 an unrated Cork outfit, captained by dual player Gerry O'Sullivan, travelled to Killarney to meet a good Kerry squad which had been playing second fiddle to the great Galway three-in-a-row team for the previous two seasons.

Cork had not won in Munster since 1957 and there seemed to be no bright cloud on the horizon as Kerry confidently controlled the first-half proceedings with Mick O'Connell shining in the centre.

THRILL PACKED

Cork made a master move on the restart, however, by switching big Con O'Sullivan to midfield and he turned the tide with a superb display of high fielding. Goals by Johnny Carroll and Gene McCarthy enabled Cork to produce a shock victory in a thrill-packed second half.

In 1971 at the 'Park' Cork caused an even greater upset when trouncing a Kerry team on the trail of three-in-a-row of All-Ireland titles in a game that was memorable for the enormous contribution made by Denis Coughlan when introduced as a substitute centre-forward in the opening quarter.

And what Corkman will forget the provincial final in '73 when the Rebels blitzed league champions Kerry with a sparkling attacking display which produced first half goals from Jimmy Barrett (2), Declan Barron, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Billy Field. Such memories have managed to provide victory-starved Cork fans with some solace during Kerry's current reign in Munster which stretches back to 1975. They also ensure that Cork can never be underestimated in a Munster final.

A more concrete cause for hope for the future of Cork football,



● DENIS ALLEN (Cork)

however, has been fashioned by the feats of the Leesiders at under-age level in recent times. Cork won the All-Ireland minor title this year and the county has contested the last three All-Ireland under-21 finals.

A PAR

The minors display in winning the county's seventh crown in September's final against Derry was particularly encouraging and many rate that team on a par with the brilliant '67 side that took the title to Cork for the second time and introduced outstanding future seniors in Seamus Looney, Kevin Kehilly, Denis Long, Donal Hunt, Jimmy Barrett, Ted O'Brien and Ned Kirby.

Certainly, the enterprising play of the Leaside forward division this year was a delight to watch, while the lethal finishing of hat-trick hero Colm O'Neill from Midleton would have done justice to a Gerd Muller of a Jimmy Greaves. For his outstanding contribution to the county's success Colm O'Neill was a worthy recipient of Jurys Cork Sport Star of the Month award for September.

Tall, talented Tony Leahy of St. Finbarrs also stood out against Derry, adopting a Jack O'Shea type

● TO PAGE 40

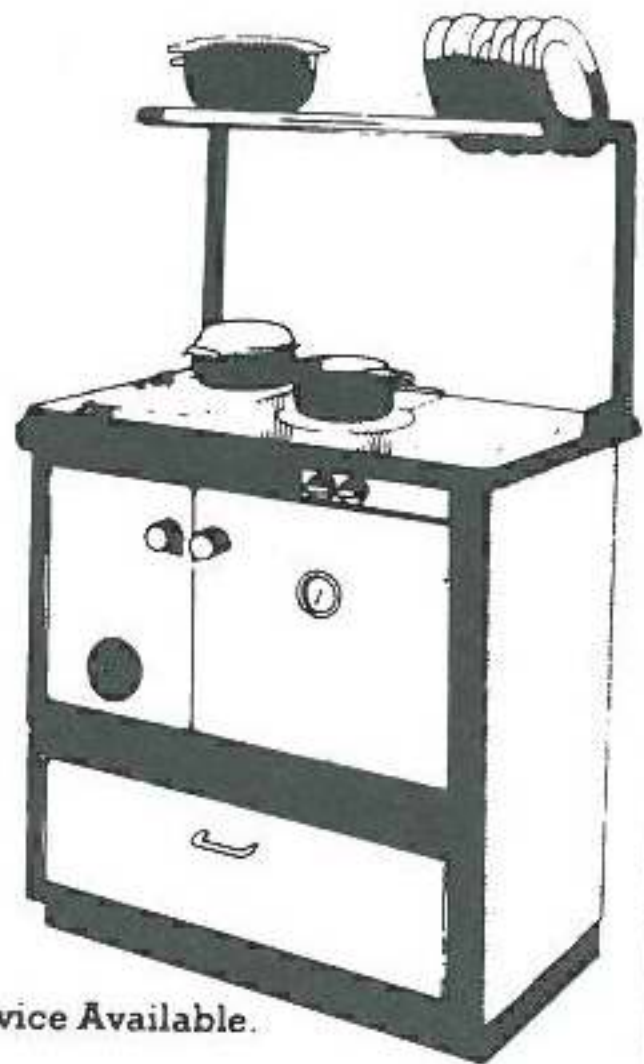
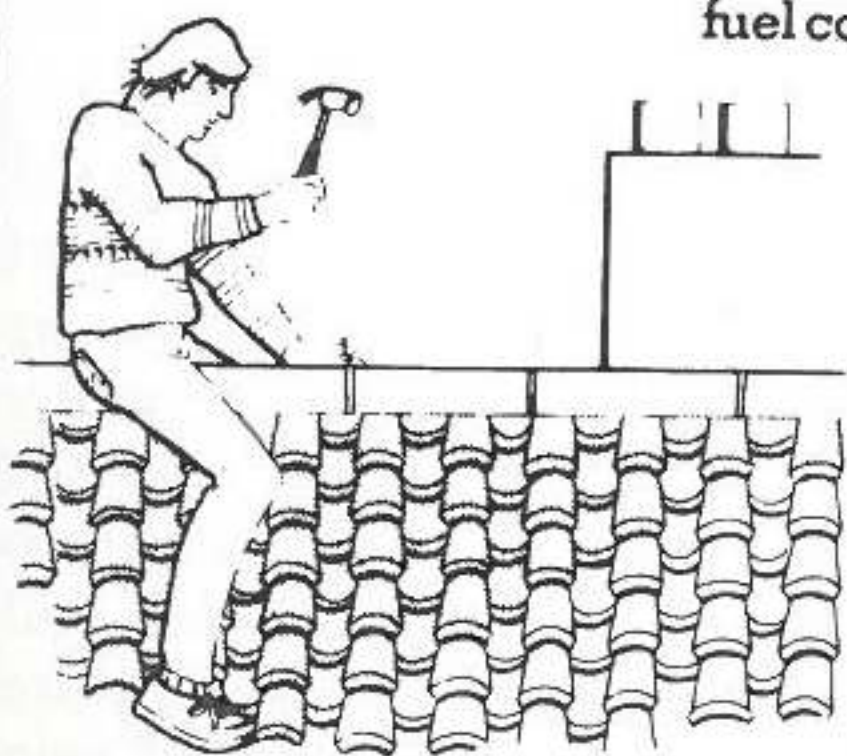
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CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

By Frank Hickey

WELL Boys and Girls, lads and lassies of all ages it seems that Holly, Ivy and Turkey Time is here again. All over the country Christmas lights are being switched on and fortunate fathers are struggling to fit Christmas trees into the boot of their cars in preparation for its decoration at home for that most wonderful of all days in the Calendar, Christmas Day.

Not to take away from the glory of the feast but people's thoughts humanly do turn to ideas for Christmas presents for the family, new outfits to wear and even a new Bic Razor to shave with on Christmas Day. Father will already have purchased a new pair of Farah slacks and Gilt Edge tie and both parents will be slipping into their own and fitting on the kids new Tylers footwear soon. The Turkey will be in the oven and the Waterford Cream Liqueur will be put on the table to finish off a grand Christmas dinner.

RIGHT IDEA

Someone may have wisely chosen a bottle of Jameson 15 year whiskey as a present for the family and that can be retained to later in the day by those of age. Down in Cork or even over in Mayo the bottle of whiskey may be "Paddy" or even "Gold Label". As long as its Irish people will have got the whiskey idea right.

Then of course there is Telefis Eireann who present us with wonderful programmes on sport throughout the year. Christmas Day viewing is usually spectacular and one could sit all day without once wanting to change to other networks.

Let's not forget about Christmas Day reading and the selection of books advertised by An Gum in this issue of Gaelic Sport is absolutely ideal.

"DUBLIN '82" A WINNER

DUBLIN '82 is the official yearbook of the Dublin County Board, but followers from the provinces will still find much of interest in this excellently produced and colourful publication.

Admittedly, the Dublin scene is covered very fully, with reports from all the regions, and news as well of a big new development plan, costing £260,000 for Parnell Park, on the city's North side.

But there are also many articles with a national appeal. For instance, here is a question to illustrate the point: How did Kevin Moran's signing up for Manchester United come about?

The answer is to be found in a revealing interview Tommy McQuaid, Editor of the Yearbook, had with the former Dubs star, and now Manchester United and international soccer player.

Kevin also reveals that the winning of the All-Ireland title in 1976 was the high spot of his sporting career to date, and has some interesting comments, or observations, on Kevin Heffernan and Manchester United's Dave Sexton.

Sean Óg Ó Ceallachain records in the course of a contribution that "I feel Gaelic football has taken a turn for the worse... we have returned to the kick and rush."

Michael O'Hehir recalls the stars of four decades, and Liz Howard tells us that the Nally Stand is an interesting place to observe things from. Indeed, she says that it should be compulsory for selectors and team managers to sit there. They would learn a lot she says.

"In just ten years, Feile na nGael has become a household word throughout the whole of Ireland.

Well over 100,000 boys under-14 years of age, have participated in Feile either at club or All-Ireland level. Feile na nGael has produced its hurling stars".

These are some of the remarks from a very informative contribution by Pdraig Guthrie, National Secretary of Feile na nGael.

Mick Dunne, of R.T.E. Sport, says that football "this year has been good to hurling". He has a lot more worth-while comments to make in a feature titled "Don't Blame the Handpass".

Obviously, then, there is much of interest for the non-Dubliner. But one does not have to be a native of the county, either, to enjoy most of the other contributions. Owen McCann will test your wits with a Quiz, there is an excellent Crossword, and Denis O'Neill profiles a referee who has officiated at over 2,000 games!

St. Vincent's 50th anniversary is not forgotten, while camogie and handball are among the other features of DUBLIN '82.

The Yearbook is lavishly illustrated, and is set-off by a striking full colour cover. It is a production of GAELIC SPORT publications, and must rank as the best yet in an annual series that has set a superb headline over the years.

At £1 for 124 pages this publication adds up to amazing value in these days of high inflation. Editor Tommy McQuaid has excelled himself here.

DUBLIN '82. Official Publication of G.A.A. Dublin County Board. Production by Gaelic Sport Publications, 80, Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Price £1. (Postage 50p extra).

COVER STORY

● FROM
PAGE 21

match-winning goal . . . the type of score that will ensure his name is linked for ever with one of the most historic moments in history.

And, how fitting that two of the longest serving members of the side, Flaherty and Damien Martin, were so prominent in the win.

But, the attack, in general, did well, and Pat Carroll and team captain Padraig Horan were probably the spearheads of the chase for scores as the revival gained momentum. Indeed, it

was a great goal from Carroll, who was set up by Flaherty, in the twelfth minute of the game that gave Offaly an injection at a time when they badly needed a morale booster.

These, then, are just some of the reasons in favour of rating the Offaly side as one that is as good as any to lift the All-Ireland crown in years. There were others, including the preparation of the side by team trainers Andy Gallagher and Dermot Healy.

If one reflects, too, on events in hurling over 1980 and the early part of 1981, the Offaly strength is shown up in even better light.

They were only narrowly beaten by Galway in the All-

Ireland semi-final last year. Then, they were good enough to qualify for their first National League final last May, and although beaten by Cork, that was still a tribute to Offaly's consistency that they advanced so far.

NEW LIFE

That set back did not dampen their enthusiasm, as they so superbly showed in the championship. Yes, this Offaly team can take its place alongside the great sides of modern times.

Moreover, in bringing this fresh wind of change to the hurling scene, the Midlanders have breathed new life into hurling. The game is more alive, more competitive than ever.

It might be too much to expect another county to soon emulate Offaly's feat in making an All-

CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEL—COMHAIRLE ULADH

Gaelic Athletic Association
—Ulster Council

FIXTURES

1982

SENIOR AND MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 16—	Tyrone v. Monaghan (Dungannon)
May 23—	Cavan v. Antrim (Cavan)
May 30—	Donegal v. Armagh (Ballybofey)
June 6—	Fermanagh v. Derry (Irvinestown)
June 13—	If Down v. Monaghan (Castleblayney) If Down v. Tyrone (Newry)
June 20—	SEMI-FINAL "A" Antrim or Cavan v. Armagh or Donegal
June 27—	SEMI-FINAL "B" Derry or Fermanagh v. Monaghan/ Tyrone or Down
July 18—	FINAL



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Ireland senior final winning debut. But what about a return to the honours by such as Waterford, Clare, or even Dublin or Laois?

A year or two ago that might have appeared a pipe-dream. But Offaly have given us all great hope for the future as regards the prospects of the 'Eighties proving the decade for the counties with few All-Ireland senior titles to make their impact in the honours list. Nothing could be more encouraging for the future advancement of the ancient game!

HANDBALL

● FROM PAGE 25

Coughlan was in strict training for the trials.

The results vindicate any point about specialisation.

John Duggan, the other Clare player has the handball world at his feet.

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He carries a wide range of defensive and offensive skills and backs these with an iron temperament for the big occasion.

He had a wonderful season to date, highlighted by his outright win in the under 16 singles code against John Doyle of Kilkenny.

Though in the final analysis, it could be Kilkenny's Michael Walsh, our representative in the under 15 section, who will bring home the trophies. He won his section of the

trials with such ease, that only two players succeeded in stretching him beyond ten aces in any game.

CLASS APART

In truth, he is in a class apart and is obviously destined to follow in the footsteps of the many outstanding young players of the present day.

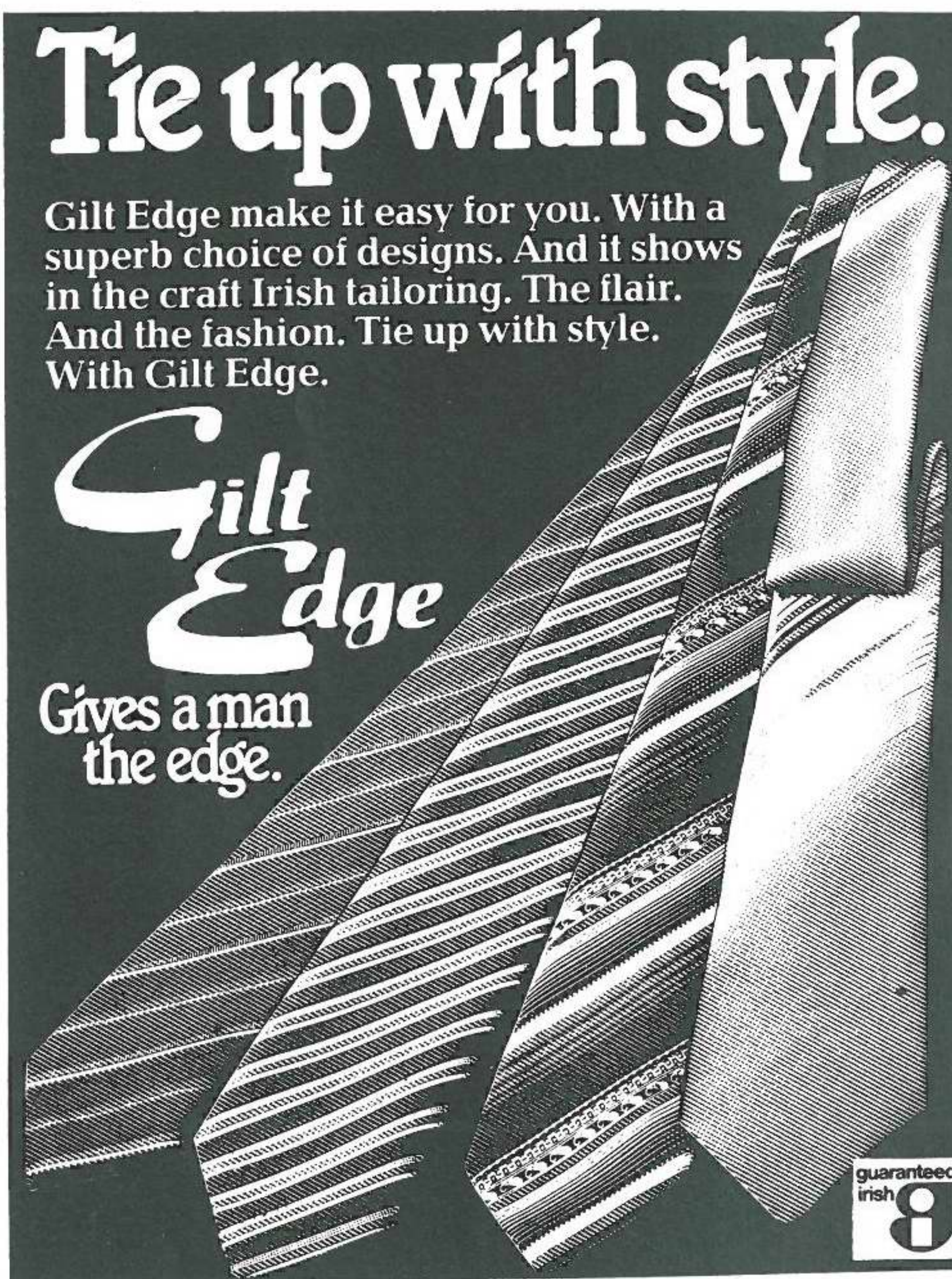
The players will leave Ireland on approximately December 20th under the managership of Leinster Secretary Tommy O'Brien, and, as a result, will be away for Christmas.

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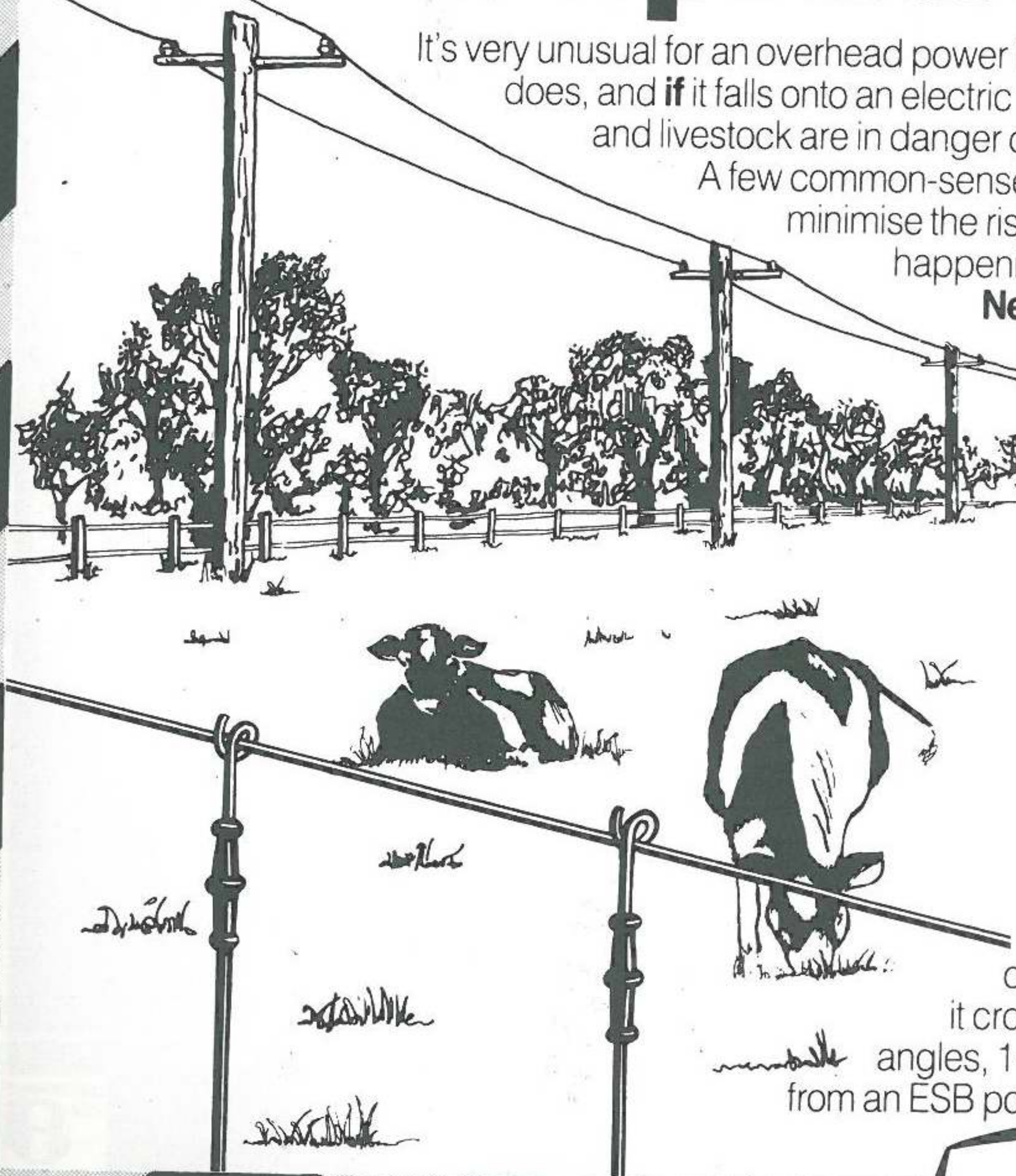
Don't run an electric fence parallel and very close to a power line.

If your electric fence must run parallel with the power line, set it off 6 metres (20 feet) to one side of the line.

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it crosses the line at right

angles, 1-2 metres (3-6 feet) out from an ESB pole.



ESB

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

OUR Colour Cut-Out in this edition just had to be an Offaly hurler, and who better for the honour than Joachim Kelly? He was one of the team's outstanding workers in the win over Galway, when his tireless play in the middle of the field had a big influence on the outcome.

Joachim is a splendid hurler, who uses his great skills to good effect in every match. He has been most prominent in the game in recent times, and he still has much to offer in the future. So, congratulations, and well done, Joachim!

This month is all your own column. So it is over to you readers. Keep writing and there will be more prizes.

Eileen Murphy, Railway View, Rathmore, Co. Kerry — "Kerry's four-in-a-row was a tremendous achievement in this day and age. Pat Spillane's sixth consecutive All-Star is ample tribute to his great worth. I thought the media did not make enough of Kerry's victory which fell a bit flat as a result. Next year I expect Galway, Dublin, Offaly and Cork to be the main threat to Kerry."

● *(Eileen you cannot dictate to the media. They report as they see it. I think Kerry made a huge mistake in criticising the media. As you say Pat Spillane deserves all the awards he gets. You win a Dublin G.A.A. Yearbook. J.M.)*

Oliver Burns, 5, Grattan St., Lurgan, Co. Armagh has sent me on a copy of the Armagh S.F. Final programme played on October 11th.

It is a very fine production. The final was played in Pairc na nGael in Ballymacnab and the programme was produced by the Armagh Co. Development Committee under Chairman Pat McMahon. This 48 page production will certainly challenge Westmeath, who as usual published two superb county final programmes again this year, and others for the McNamee Award. For the sake of programme collectors Oliver could you let me have details as to where a copy of same can be procured. Thanks again.

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow has sent me on copies of Wicklow and Wexford Provincial Papers. The Wicklow People is really giving top coverage to G.A.A. games. The Wexford Echo also gives great G.A.A. coverage. Thanks Gerry for the papers. It is nice to be kept in touch with the local papers in other counties. We get great G.A.A. coverage in the Provincial papers here in the West too.

Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal. "Where can I get a copy of the club history of the St. Vincent's G.A.A. Club?"

● *Write to Jimmy Keaveney, 54, Beechpark, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin. (J.M.)*

Ray Roche, 1314, Town Park, Athy, Co. Kildare (Aged 9) "I was very sorry to see the handpass removed. I thought it helped to speed up the game. I think Pat Spillane is a great player."

● *So do I re-Pat Spillane. But the handpass hasn't gone has it? (J.M.)*

John Rowe, Clogh, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny would have picked the following All-Star hurling team:—

D. Martin; P. Fitzmaurice; L. Enright; J. Cooney; S. Linnane; S. Stack; G. Coughlan; S. Mahon; J. Fenton; B. Fitzpatrick; G. O'Connor; M. Corrigan; P. Carroll; J. McKenna; J. Flaherty.

This year's All-Ireland minor final was one of the best displays I ever saw. I enclose a copy of the programme for this year's Kilkenny Co. S.H. Semi-Final. I enjoy Junior Desk and think Gaelic Sport is a great magazine.

● *Nice to see a programme produced for senior semi-finals too. A step in the right direction. (J.M.)*

Mary McNamee, 2269, Hampen Place, Bronx.10468, New York wants to know where she can get a Kerry G.A.A. scarf.

● *Write to G.A.A. Shop, Croke Park, Dublin 3 and send a cheque for eight dollars which would include postage (J.M.)*

Michael Quigley, St. Jarlath's Tuam, Co. Galway thinks it was a great year for hurling with some shocks like Clare beating Cork, Offaly beating Galway etc. "Clare really opened up the game of hurling when beating Cork and it was Big Joe McKenna who beat them in the Munster Final. I love the way Eamonn Cregan stands when taking a free. Same with Liam O'Donoghue. And the way Leo Enright grabs the ball out of the air. For Clare, Seamus Durack and Ger Loughnane were great."

Michael then goes on to pay tribute to Galway's replay win over Limerick and John Connolly's play in that game. He then writes of the All-Ireland hurling final scene with Galway losing both All-Irelands. "It

● TO PAGE 39



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If you drink, let a non-drinker do the driving.

That way you're in no danger of losing your licence. Not to mention your life.

National Road Safety Association, Carrisbrook House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.



● FROM PAGE 37

was a great achievement for Offaly to win playing in their first All-Ireland but Galway will be back."

● *Hopefully Michael. They gave a good beating to Offaly in the N.H.L. Me, I thought Sylvie Linnane Galway's best player in 1981. You win a Galway Bob-Cap. (J.M.).*

Tim Murphy, Shamrock Bridge, Rathmore, Co. Cork is still sending me on clues as to the youngest players to win All-Ireland medals. "Each player's Christian name has three letters and the surname five. Another clue, one player from Munster and the other from Connacht. Tim also thinks it is unfair to bring Kerry or Cork to play All-Ireland finals in Dublin. He feels they should be played in all four provinces like in the old days. He feels the players in All-Ireland finals should be paid also.

● *Can't agree Tim regarding payment or playing All-Ireland Senior finals outside Croke Park. (J.M.).*

"**Antrim Hurling Gael**" (name and address enclosed). I have had to cut a few references in the following letter as being too critical of Antrim officials and of teachers who attend hurling coaches. Otherwise I think it is a fine letter in reply to an article by Sean McGettigan, the G.A.A. scribe from Belfast. I met the writer of the letter at a G.A.A. conference recently and he is really sincere in his views. He should have named the two men he wants to see involved in Antrim hurling:

"Having read the most interesting article about the state of hurling in Ulster I feel that I must answer a few of the points raised in the article. With regards to players not having the finesse or the basic skills, this is absolute rubbish, our trouble is that the players do not put their heart and soul into playing for the county. Playing against these players week in and out I see them performing these skills quite well. My only wish is that they would play for Antrim in the same way as they play for their clubs. As far as hurling coaching is concerned this is of the utmost importance, but unlike the previous courses great care must be taken in the selection of all personnel who attend these courses. Give the places to the people who are genuinely

involved in the promotion of hurling.

In the appointment of a full-time hurling coach for Antrim — inside the county there are two of the best coaches ever. Their record speaks for itself, one All-Ireland B final, the first Antrim team to reach a Leinster final, and only for downright stupidity an All-Ireland U-21 title.

As one who has served under these two men I am in amazement as to why they are no longer associated with our county team. I am told from reliable sources, that the reasons being were that they placed too many demands on both players and officials."

● *I don't know who you are referring to but I would suggest you give the full-time hurling coach a chance to prove himself. (J.M.).*

"**Mayo Football Fanatic,**" Westport, Co. Mayo.

"As a devoted Gaelic Fan, I would like to give my opinion on the Hurling and Football finals.

The attendances at the Hurling final was 71,384. Just shows what two new teams can do for the game. It was a terrific final. I must pay tribute to Galway fans for welcoming home their heroes in such fashion.

In the football final the attendance was 61,489. Maybe if Kerry's hold on "Sam" was broken, the attendance would be up next year; maybe this present Galway team will do to Kerry next year what they did in the National League.

It was a good final. Football and Hurling final week-ends are always something special. Nice to hear Michael O'Hehir saying the Americans, the British, Belgians, the Dutch and of course the Australians were watching our games live. I really enjoyed this year's championships, especially the Galway v Limerick Hurling replay. Hope my letter is printed in **Junior Desk**."

Tony Jordan, Gortnagoynne, Dunmore, Co. Galway, is looking for some G.A.A. programmes and books. "I have just started keeping scrapbooks with reports of games etc."

● *Tony keep up the scrapbooks. I*

suggest that you write to the Programme Collectors Club in Croke Park, Dublin 3, asking for details and that you join the club. I hope you play for the Dunmore MacHales in time. You win a Galway Bob-Cap. (J.M.).

John and Declan McNerney, Clarehill, Clarecastle, Co. Clare, think that P.J. Molloy is very underrated. "Sylvie Linnane and Niall McNerney had great years. Offaly deserve congratulations and full marks to them for not allowing the McCarthy Cup around the lounge bar scene. Kerry deserve credit for the four-in-a-row. Paudie O'Shea and young P. Dunne of Offaly had great games. Our All-Star Hurling team would be:

D. Martin; L. O'Donoghue; L. Enright; J. Cooney; S. Linnane; S. Stack; P. Delaney; G. Henderson; J. Kelly; J. Callinan; M. Cuddy; P.J. Molloy; P. Carroll; J. McKenna; J. Flaherty.

Club refereeing in Clare is very poor. We think referees should be graded."

● *I'd be all for a grading system. To organise it effectively would be the problem. You win two Clare Bob-Caps. (J.M.).*

Kieran Rosney, 181, Battery Heights, Athlone, Co. Westmeath wants tapes of the 1971 and 1972 All-Ireland S.F. Finals. Kiernan is from Kilcormac, Co. Offaly and won medals with Kilcormac during his schooldays.

"Our hurlers did us proud in the All-Ireland final and it was great to be there when the McCarthy Cup came to Offaly for the first time."

● *Must have been Kiernan. We were downhearted in Galway but we gave our team a rousing welcome home too. You win an Offaly Bob-Cap. Kiernan wants tapes on the '72 draw and replay. (J.M.).*

Trevor, Aged 15, 78, Skehard Rd., Blackrock, Cork has just discovered Junior Desk and intends to buy Gaelic Sport every month from now on. "I play with the Blackrock U-15 hurling team and we are doing very well in the league. The All-Ireland S.H. final on T.V. was great." Trevor would like a copy of the programme of that game.

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 39

● *Trevor, please send your full name in future. (J.M.).*

And that's it for another issue.
Keep writing to:
JUNIOR DESK,
GAELIC SPORT,
80, UPPER DRUMCONDRA RD.,
DUBLIN 9.



● *Terry Ward, Concrete Products of Ireland Sales Manager, presents a cheque to Sean Walsh (Kerry) for the All-Ireland Champions Australian Tour Fund. Also pictured (from left) are: Ger Power, Jimmy Deenihan, Mick O'Dwyer, Gene Dowling, Area Representative, C.P.I., Jack O'Shea and Murt Galvin.*

WHO CAN STOP KERRY?

● FROM PAGE 31

of role at midfield, dropping back regularly to cover in defence and finding time as well to set several attacks in motion.

Castlehaven's Niall Cahalane, Skibbereen's Anthony Davis, Clonakilty's Eoin O'Mahony, Na Piarsaig's Tony O'Sullivan and St. Michael's Peter Fitzgerald, son of the former senior player Niall, were others to show immense promise while Niall O'Connor from Knocknagree, Martin Connolly of Drimoleague, Castlehaven's Michael Burns and Nemo's Ephie Fitzgerald have emerged as outstanding prospects with Cork's Under-21 squad.

Cork fielded a youthful side against Kerry at senior level this year and final debutants like Mick Maloney, who had a good game on Pat Spillane, Sean Hayes and Finny O'Mahony will have benefitted enormously from that experience.

All of which emphasises the fact that Cork are diligently and astutely sowing the seeds for a return to the top in the premier grade in the eighties and they must be regarded as a threat to Kerry's hopes of creating history in 1982.

Such is Kerry's current power, however, that one is inclined to view any plans to terminate their reign as being geared principally towards long term success.

KERRY will remember 1981 in a special way, thanks to their rare feat in winning four All-Ireland senior football titles in succession, and their subsequent tour of Australia.

They received a major boost to the tour fund when Concrete Products of Ireland, through their well-known and popular Sales Manager, Mr. Terry Ward, presented the fund-raising committee with a cheque to help defray the costs. The brilliant Kerry midfielder, Sean Walsh, who won his fourth All-Ireland senior medal last September and was a member of the tour fund committee, accepted the cheque on behalf of the Kerry footballers.

Terry was delighted to be the one to present the cheque on the Company's behalf and also from a personal view-point as he is a passionate follower of both hurling and football. Terry, in presenting the cheque, went on to say that it was fitting that his company, who enjoyed the support of so many of the Kerry people who are involved in the building industry from building contractors right through to the private individuals building their own homes, should associate themselves in this practical way with this ambitious tour.

This present Kerry team are carrying on a tradition which in Kerry it is believed is their God-given right to keep the Sam Maguire. The success which this present Kerry team have enjoyed has a very simple explanation as witnessed by me.

It can be explained as follows — firstly, a fierce determination, secondly total commitment, thirdly tremendous team spirit and last, but by no means least, a totally committed trainer in Mick O'Dwyer. To the touring party I would like to say that it is fitting reward for the hard work you have put into the perfecting of the game we all love and for the many hours of sheer pleasure you have given countless thousands of followers of our national game.

We hope that the people of Australia will equally appreciate the football skills of this Kerry team who, we know, will be the finest sporting ambassadors any country could wish to be represented by.

The Kerry manager and trainer Mick O'Dwyer, on behalf of the Kingdom panel expressed his thanks to Terry Ward for his kind remarks and to Concrete Products of Ireland for their generosity.



Joachim Kelly (Offaly)

Age: 25
Height: 6ft.
Weight: 13st. 4lb.
Club: Lusnagh
Position: Midfield
Senior Inter-County
Debut: 1976

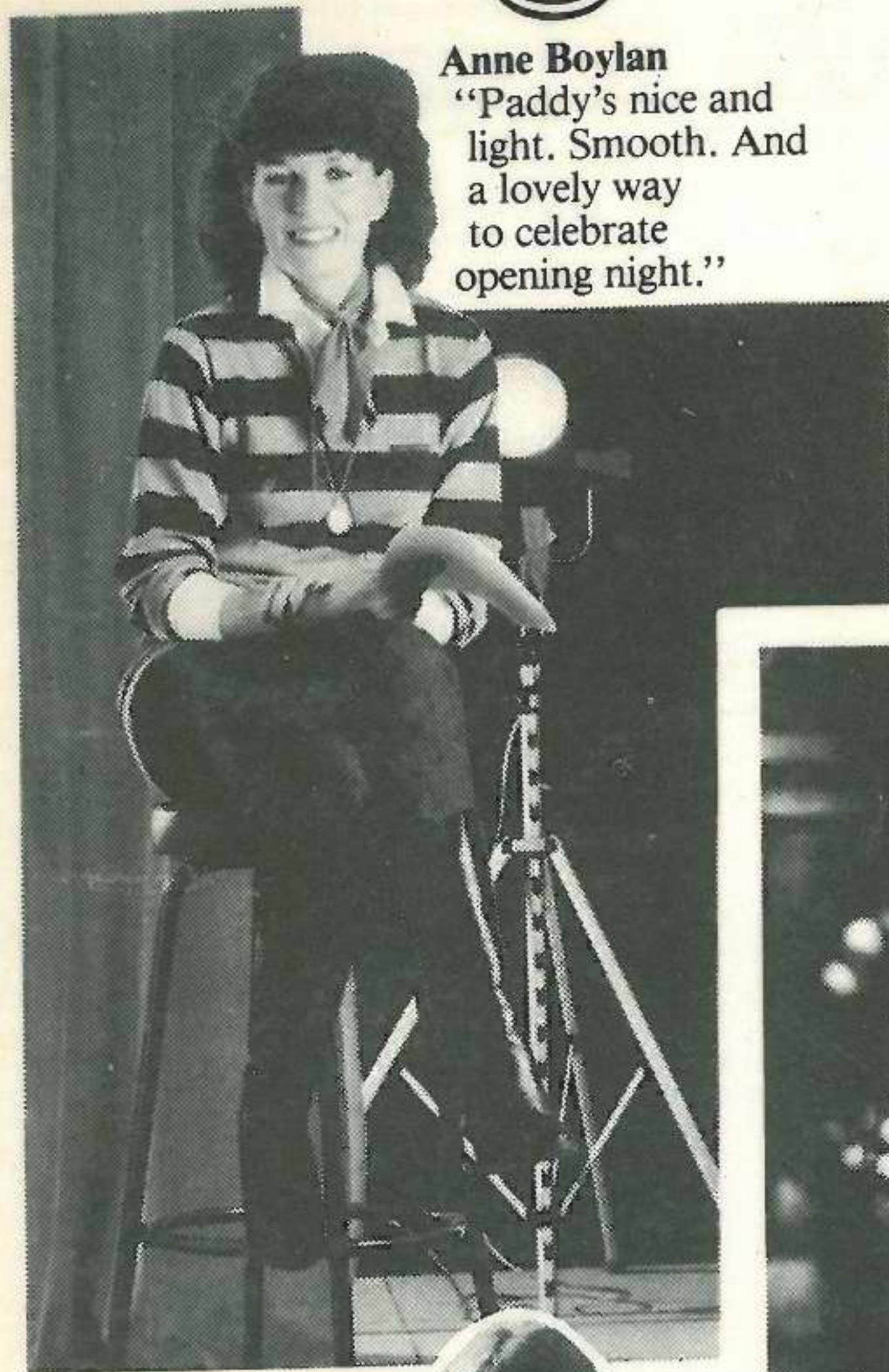
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Joachim has been one of the brightest stars of the Offaly success story in senior hurling. He helped the county to their National League Division "B" title win in 1977, and was in the Leinster team that last won the Railway Cup two years later.

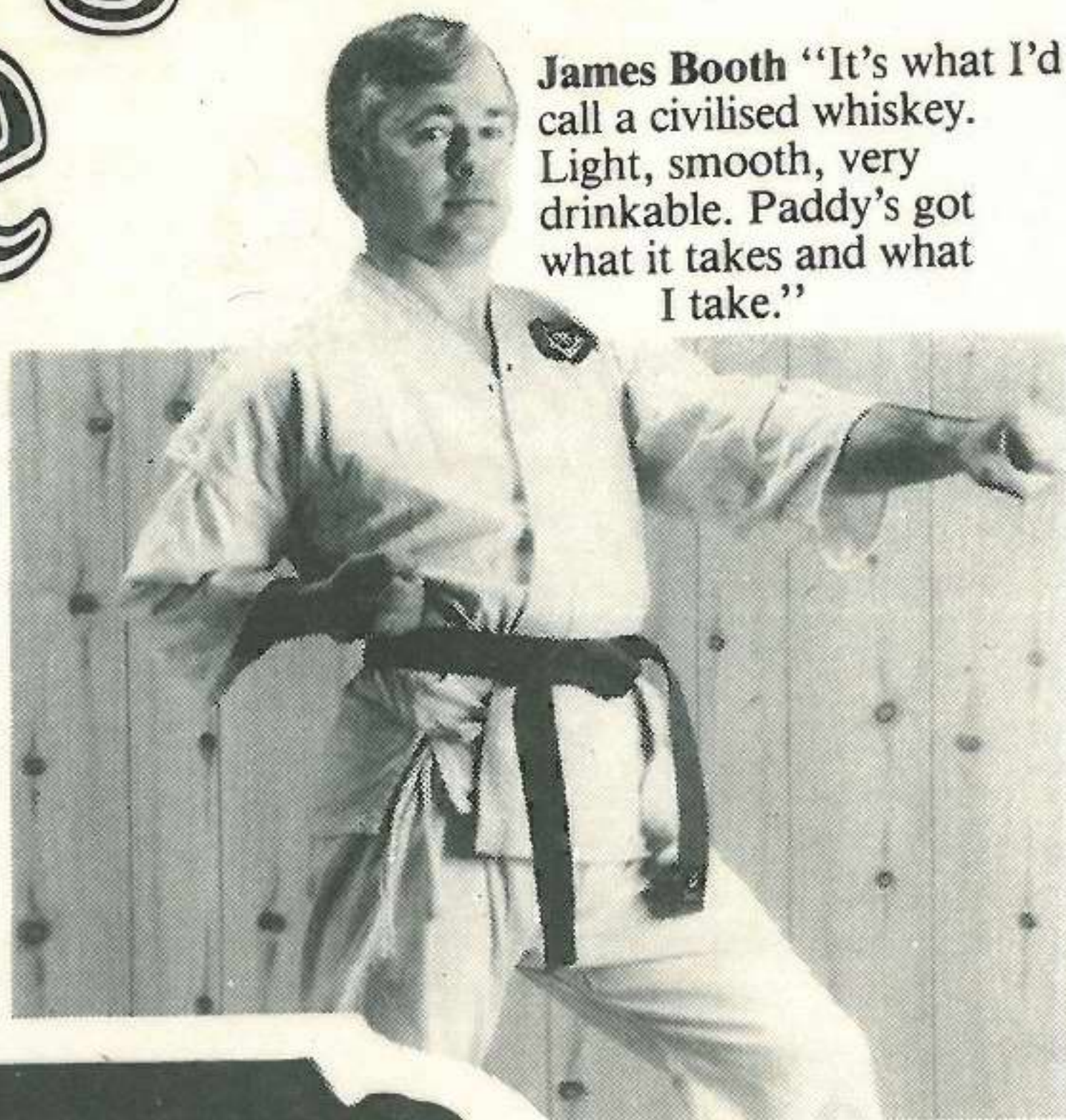
He was one of that talented company who brought the provincial title to the county for the first time last year, and some months afterwards, he was honoured by the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors.

Joachim, who is a Garda, had a vital influence with his midfield work on Offaly's memorable All-Ireland senior final win, and he also has a county senior medal.

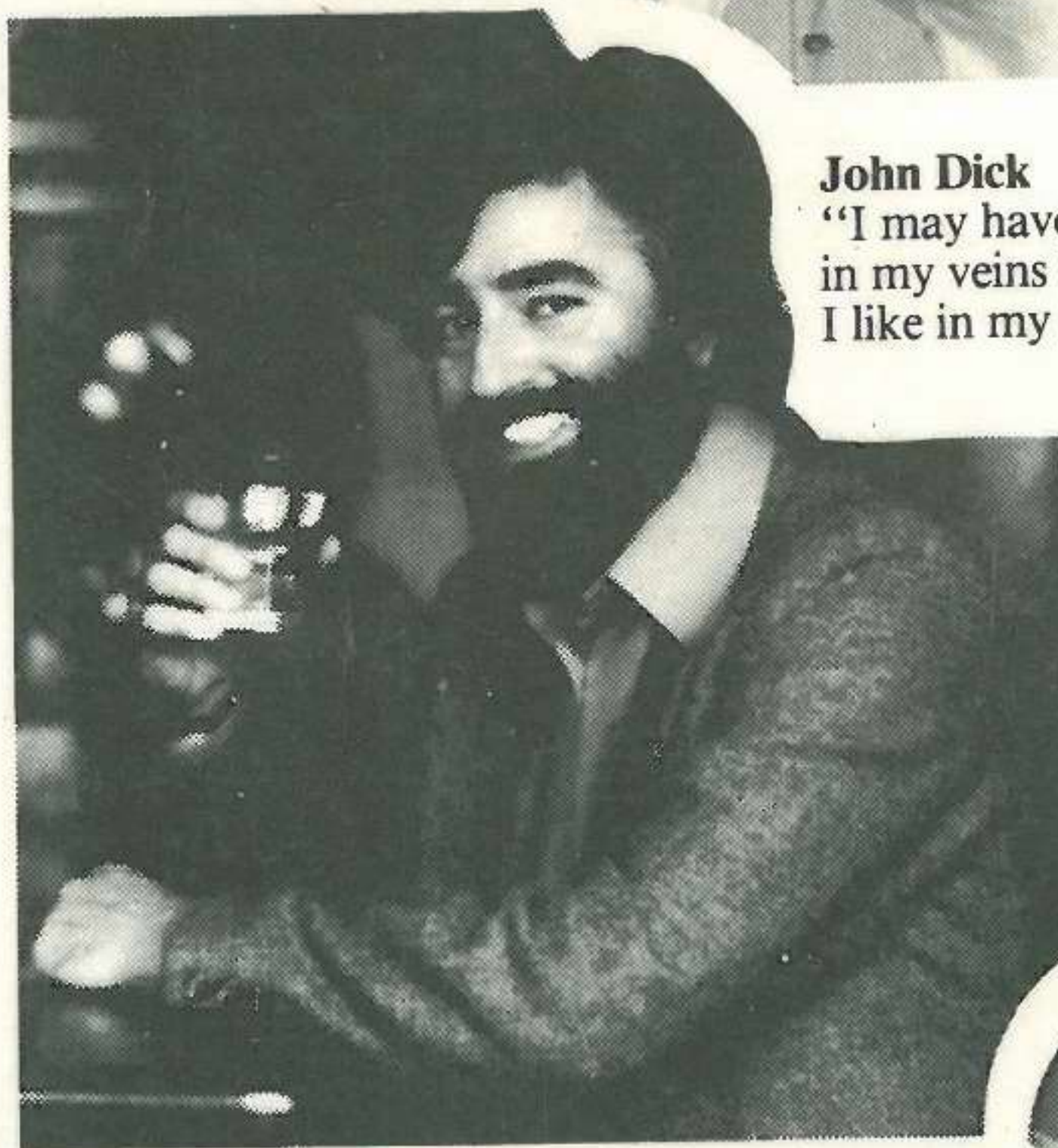
Join the light brigade



Anne Boylan
"Paddy's nice and light. Smooth. And a lovely way to celebrate opening night."

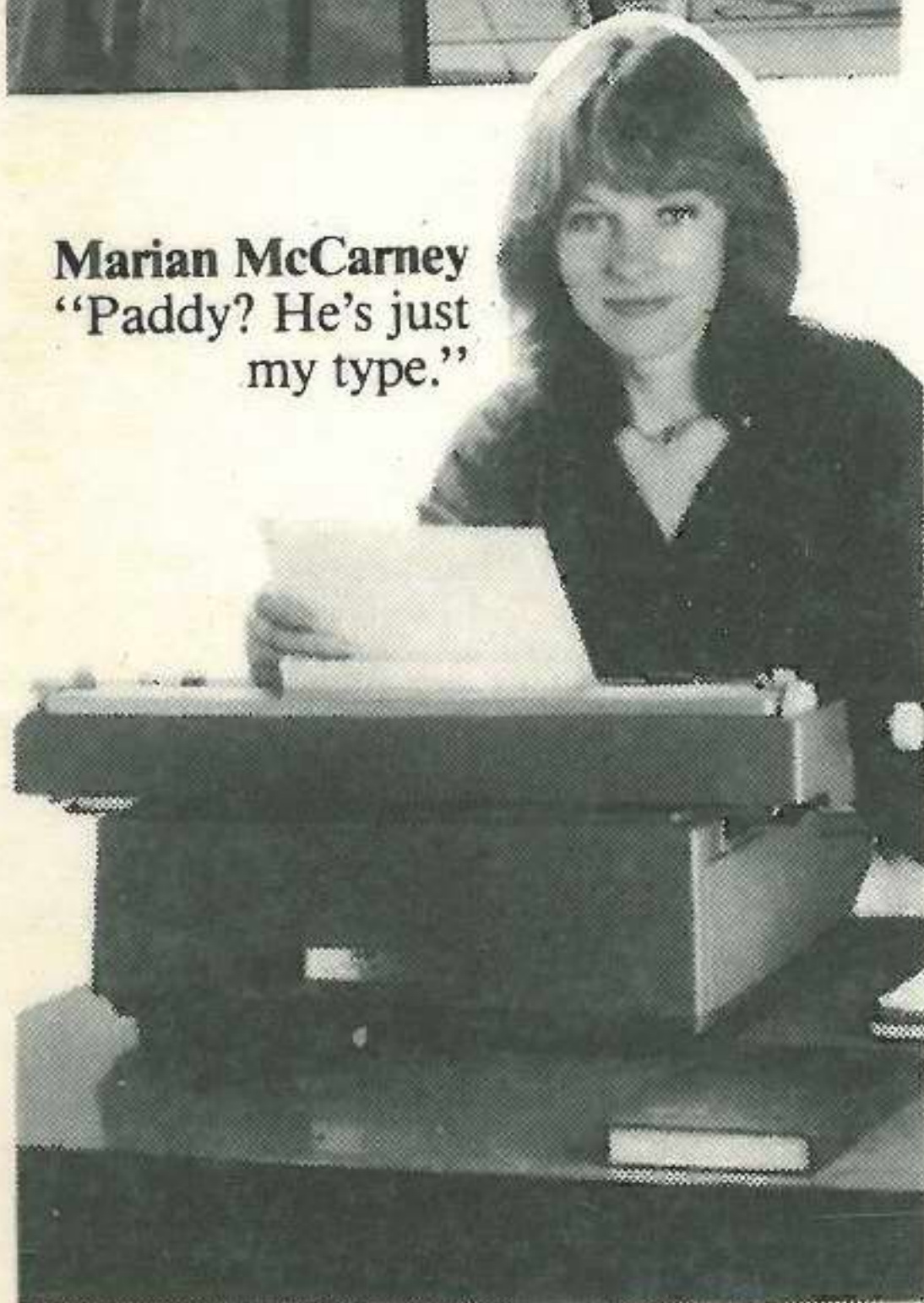


James Booth "It's what I'd call a civilised whiskey. Light, smooth, very drinkable. Paddy's got what it takes and what I take."



John Dick
"I may have Scots blood in my veins but it's Paddy I like in my glass."

Marian McCarney
"Paddy? He's just my type."



Switch to
Paddy
And see the light.

