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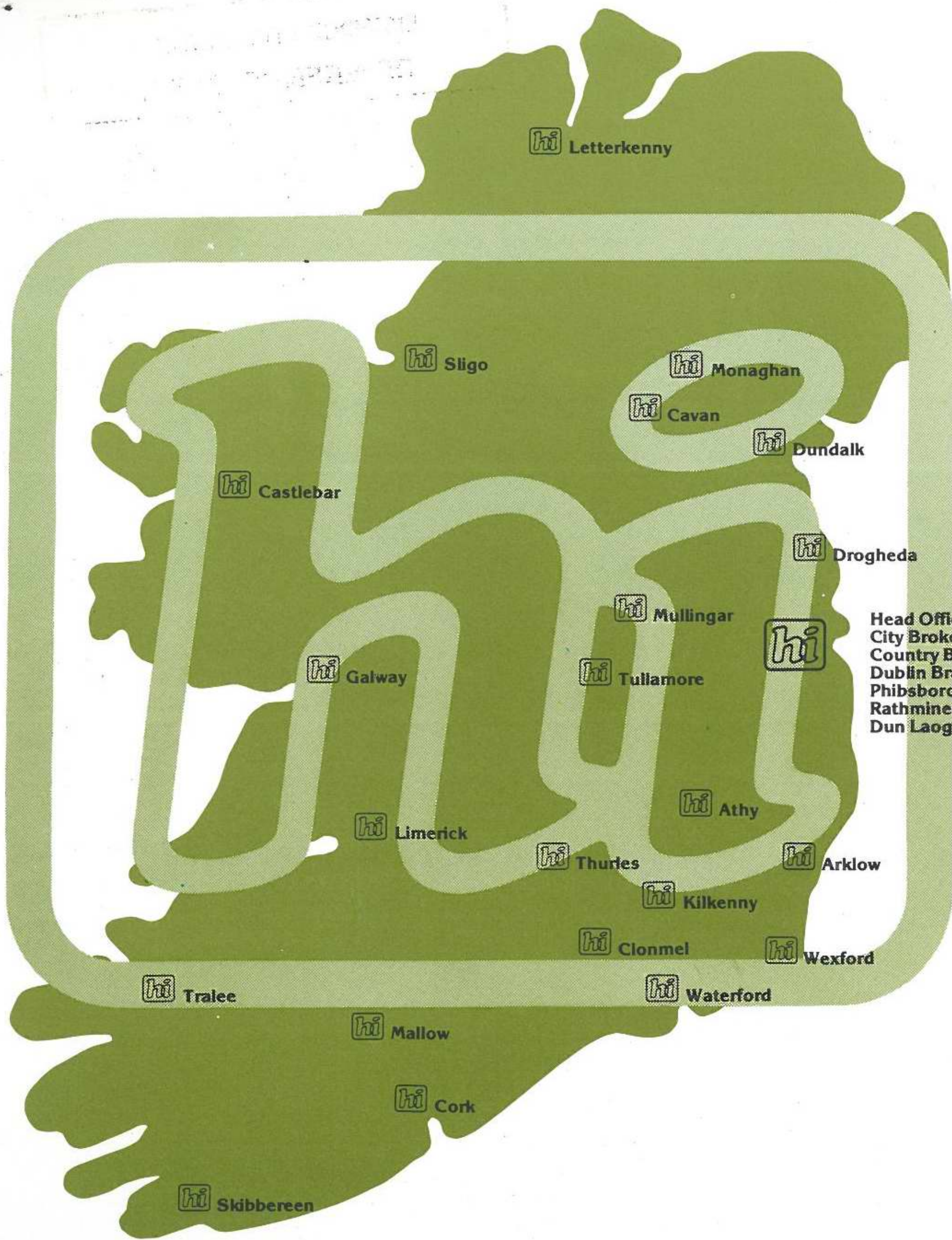
FOOTBALL
FINAL
SPECIAL

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

OCTOBER 1981

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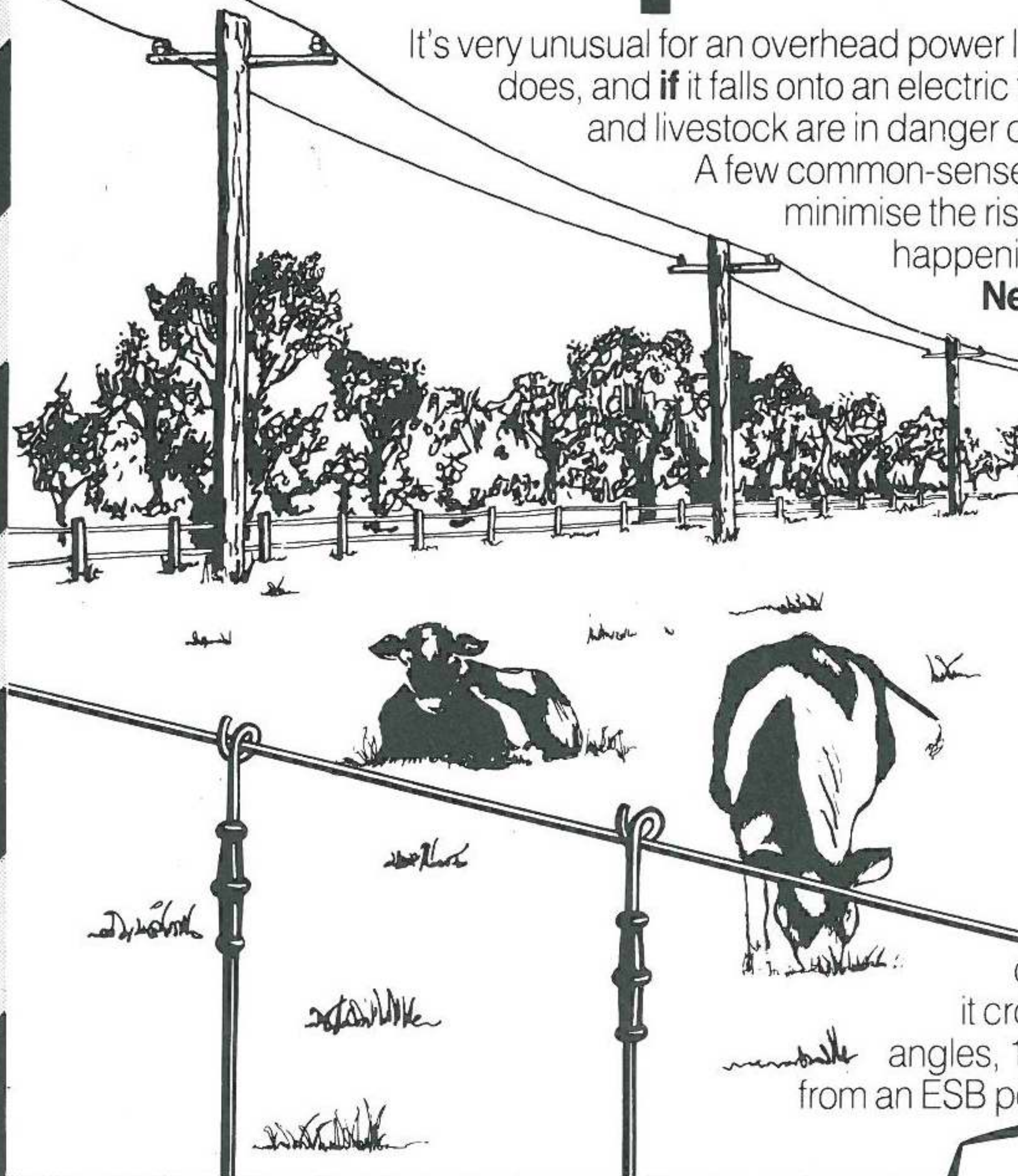
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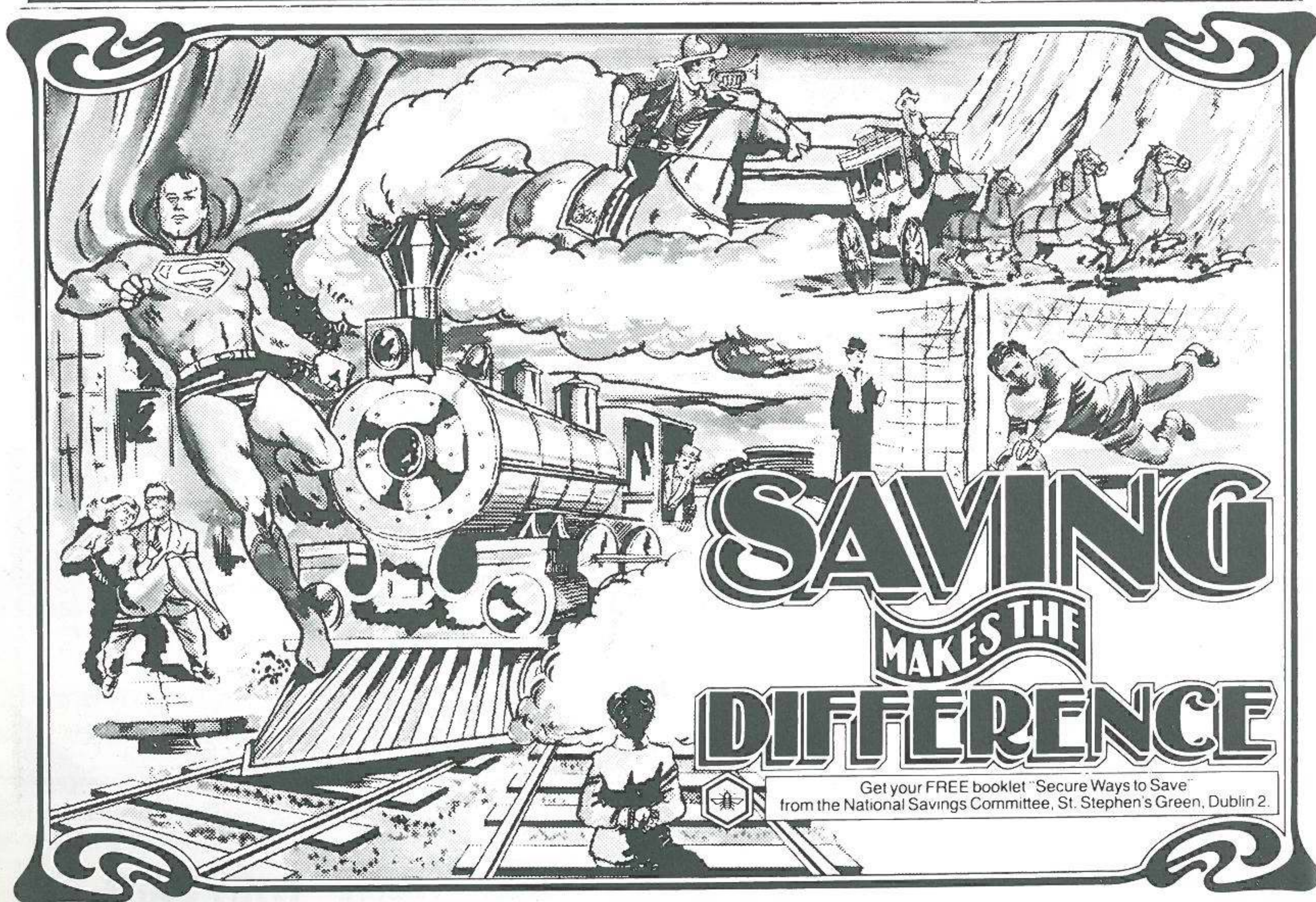
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TIME FOR REAPPRAISAL

IT is a long time since football needed a top-class All-Ireland senior final to anything like the same degree that the game requires such a boost this season. Kerry and Offaly line out against a backdrop of moderate games that has many loudly despairing about the future of the code.

The outlook is hardly as bleak as some critics predict. But there can be no doubt that football is going through a rough time. The unattractive fare that has been the hallmark of the race for the All-Ireland title has done nothing to win admirers for the game, and if there is not a marked improvement soon, the drawing power of Gaelic football will undoubtedly suffer.

If Kerry and Offaly shake the game out of the doldrums with a cracker this will prove an oasis in a sea of mediocrity. It is to be hoped that the finalists of 1981 will prove equal to the challenge.

That would be the best possible public relations exercise for the game, and would give much encouragement for the future.

But one way or another, it does appear that it would be a progressive move after the final to initiate a radical reappraisal of football, in the light of the experiences of the current senior championship to try and find out just exactly where the game is going.

As for the final, Offaly must be wondering if their journey is really necessary. Although they have qualified on merit, their feat has been lost in a chorus of cries of "Kerry are certain of another All-Ireland."

Hardly fair this to the Leinster champions! Kerry, with so many successes behind them, must be the form team, but Offaly do not deserve to be dismissed so readily as they have by so many.

They are no overnight success. They have been building up strength steadily in recent years, and if they have yet to produce football as spectacular as we have seen from Kerry from time to time or to prove their ability as title winning material, their team is still a formidable one.

So, Offaly are worthy finalists. Good luck to them! Good luck as well to the Kerry men, who have put so much into the game over the years and provided some golden moments as well since the present team emerged around 1975!

May the better team win.

COVER PHOTO - The All-Ireland senior football finalists, Kerry and Offaly are featured on this month's cover.

Offaly: Sean Lowry, Gerry Carroll, Matt Connor, Liam Connor, Tomas Connor, Liam Currams, Pat Dunne. Front row: Pat Fitzgerald, Mick Fitzgerald, Tom Fitzgerald, Martin Furlong, Richie Connor, Brendan Lowry, Aidan O'Halloran, Charlie Conroy.

Kerry: Back row, from left: Jack O'Shea, Pat Spillane, John O'Keefe, Eoin Liston, Charlie Nelligan, Paudie Lynch, Ger Power, Sean Walsh. Front row: Mick Spillane, Michael Sheehy, Paud O'Shea, Tom Doyle, Jimmy Deenihan, John Egan, Denis Ogie Moran.

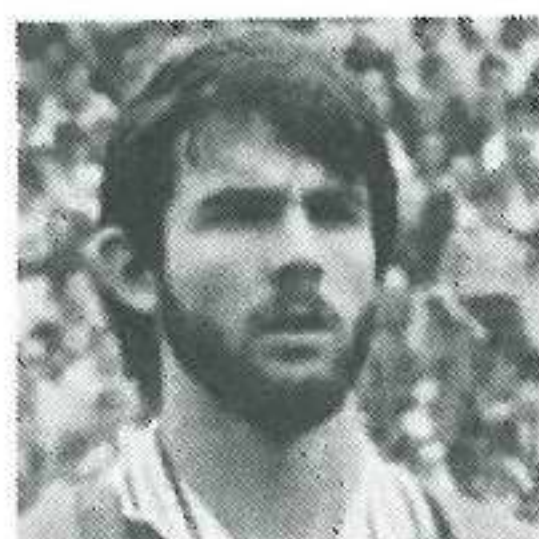


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on the right pitch

**FIVE
OF
THE
BEST**



Liam Currams



Eoin Liston



Matt Connor



Pat Spillane



Charlie Conroy

OFFALY'S UPHILL TASK

IF Offaly are not affected by all the talk about Kerry as the warmest favourites in years for an All-Ireland senior football final and if they turn scoring opportunities to much better account than against Down, then the Leinster champions could make much of the running in the Sam Maguire Cup game.

Even so, it must still, realistically, be Kerry for the four-in-a-row. There will be disagreement as to whether or not the present outfit is entitled to rank as the Master side of all time, but what cannot be disputed is that this Kerry side is one of the best to grace the football stage in many years.

O.K. Mayo were disappointing in their semi-final against the All-Ireland champions. Don't forget, however, that Kerry played vintage football in that game; football of a standard and with a confidence that enabled them to outclass the Connacht team. It was cool, clinical stuff, and an exhibition that put the laboured performance against Cork in the Munster final in the shade.

Offaly, then, have without question a real Everest to climb. At the same time, supporters of the challengers can take comfort from the fact that there is plenty of potential in the Leinster line-up.

There are the obvious skills and the expert finishing of Matt Connor, who had such a great game against Kerry in last year's semi-final. Then,

there is the hard grafting at centre half forward of Gerry Carroll, and the lively wing play of Thomas Fitzpatrick.

Offaly have another major encouraging factor in the fact that **Tomas Connor is playing so well this season.** If the slick-moving Kerry attack is to be contained at all, it is necessary for the Leinster midfield to ease the way for their backs by making a strong presence in the vital

**BY
TERRY McGRATH**

midfield area.

That looms now as a distinct possibility, especially with Connor rising to such eye-catching heights at present, and prompting the Midland challenge.

Offaly showed marked improvement in defence against Down in the earlier rounds. Pat Fitzgerald, Richie Connor and Liam Currams have the ability to present a strong outfield barrier at half back.

The other sectors of the defence are all capably filled as well. So, over-all, this is a good Offaly team, one that has improved steadily in recent months, and would be strongly fancied against any side

other than Kerry.

It is well to remember as well that the Kingdom started good favourites a year ago against Roscommon, but still had to work all the way for a three points win with much the same outfit as is likely to line-up against the Midlanders.

Sport is not so cut and dried, fortunately, that the favourites always come romping home in front. Offaly hurlers proved that point.

Nevertheless, one still cannot ignore the fact that the Kerry men have all been through the final stage so often and so successfully. Experience, know-how, the ability to turn on the class on the big occasion are other factors that could have Kerry firing again on all cylinders.

Moreover, from goal out, they have the players to provide the inspiration for success. It may be such as Paudie O'Shea, or Jimmy Deenihan at the back, Jack O'Shea around midfield, tireless Pat Spillane, one of the game's great competitors, superb target man Eoin Liston, or quiet goal-getter John Egan . . . each, or any of the other members of the squad for that matter, has that gift for taking a decisive grip on a match, and steering a winning course.

The win over Mayo left little doubt either that the Kerry men are, despite their long term on top, as

• TO PAGE 9

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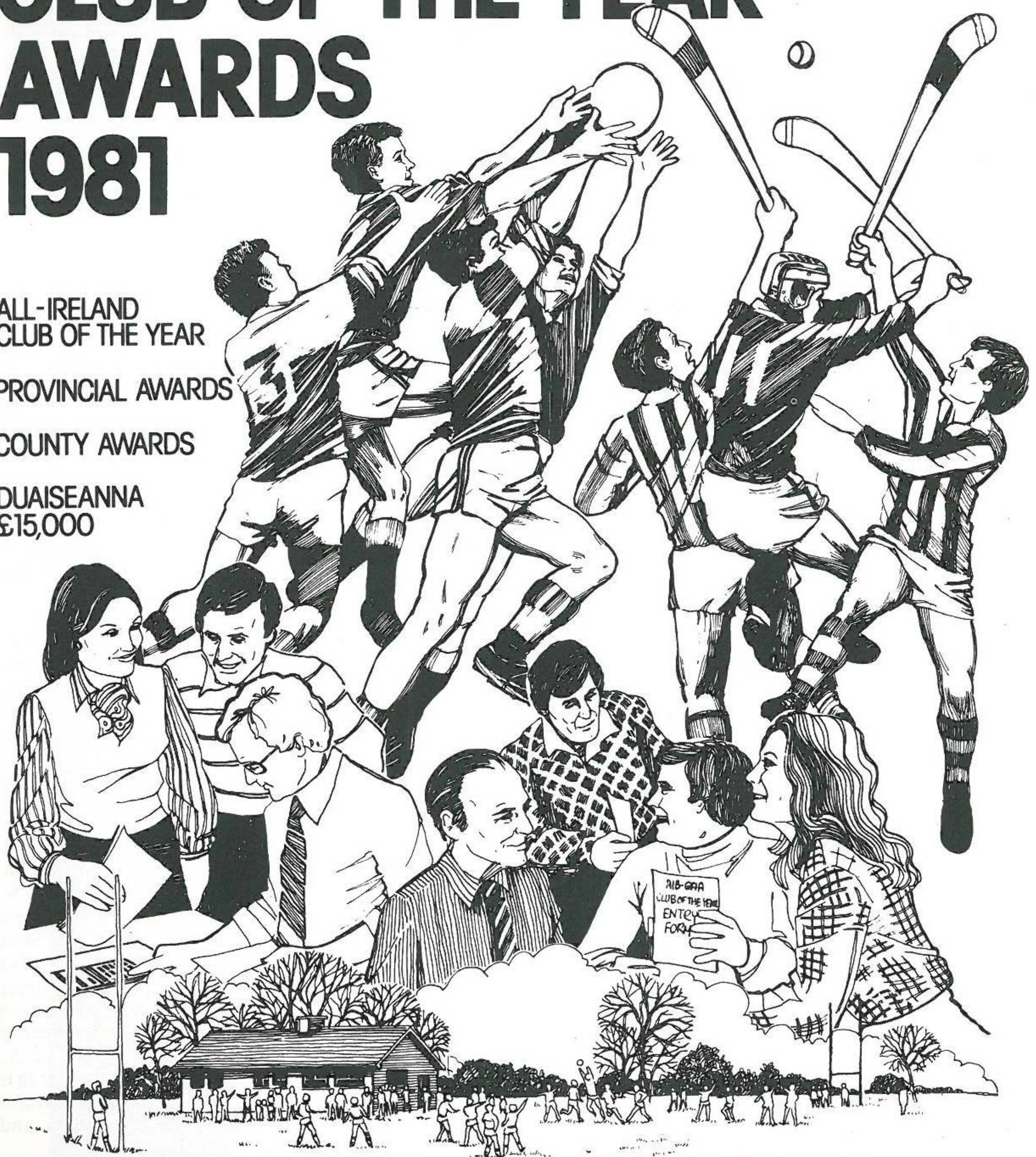
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● FROM PAGE 7

keen as ever for another All-Ireland crown. Many would argue that after the way they took the Connacht champions apart, and with the ambitious Australian tour looming ahead, the Southerners are extra keen to win this one.

It all adds up to an outsize battle for Offaly. I would like to see them come out on top — not because I am a Midlander, or that I have anything against Kerry. Simply, because such a result would give the old game of football a tremendous boost just when it is needed.

But there is little room for sentiment in sport. Kerry must be the form team.

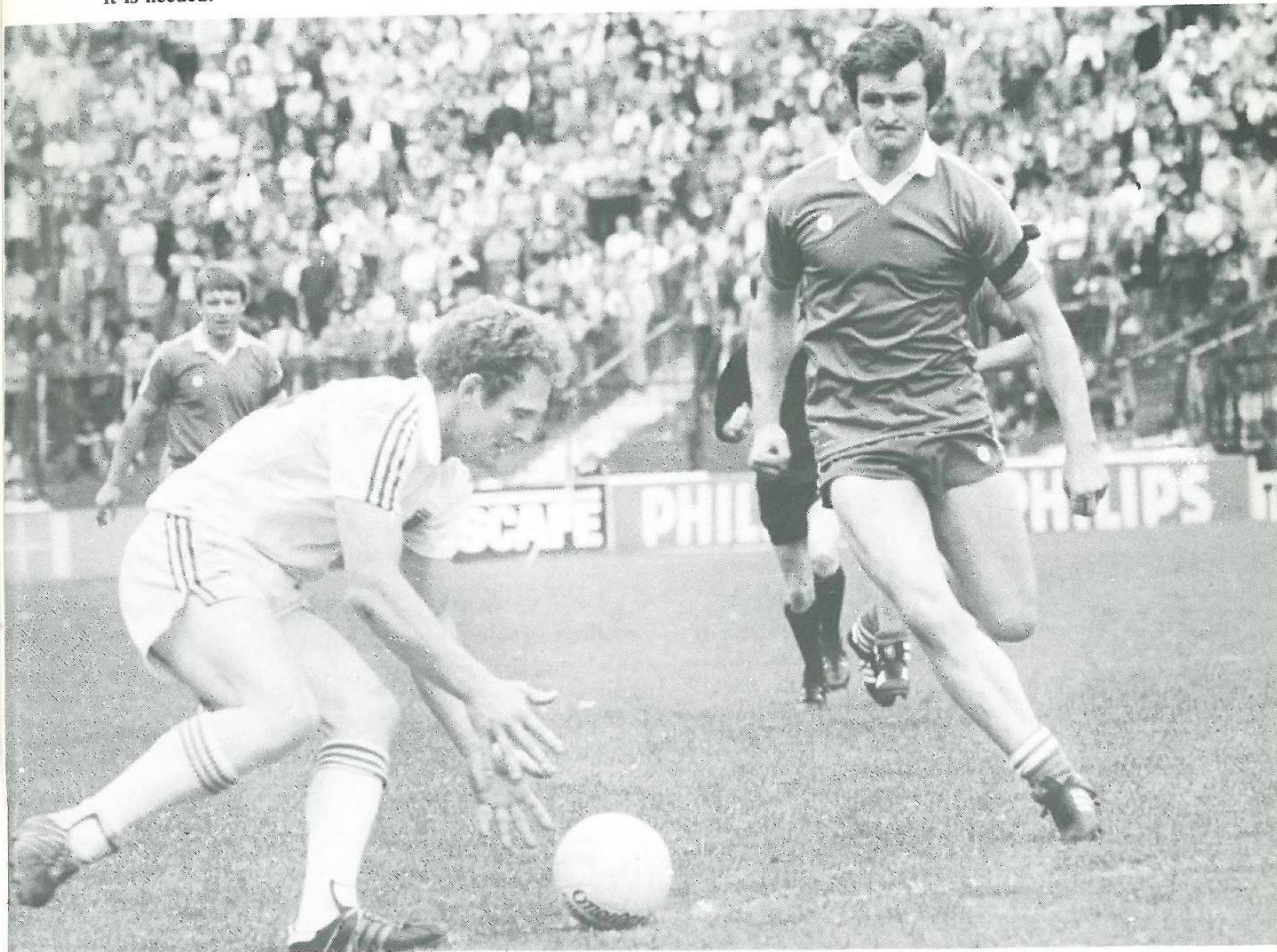
Their football against Mayo was what wins the game's top honours. They have match-winners in every sector throughout the field, and above all, the crafty campaigners from the Kingdom have shown time and again that they are capable of delivering the goods at this level of competition.

Offaly, with their last All-Ireland final appearance in the grade as far back as 1972 (and it was a replay success against Kerry too) have only

a handful of men with experience at this stage. They have to prove themselves as a team at this juncture.

I can't see them doing that at the expense of a Kerry team really determined to make it four All-Ireland championships in a row, and visiting Australia as one of football's "immortal" squads. Defeat, after what has already been achieved, would be a terrible anti-climax for Kerry.

They may not have it as easy as the know-alls suggest, but all the same, it must be Kerry to justify their favouritism.



Pictured above, on right is Kerry's long serving and versatile Paudie Lynch. Offaly will, no doubt, find the bold Paudie a major obstacle to their title aspirations. The Beaufort clubman has won every honour in the game during his distinguished career.

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Tyler Top Ten

"BOMBER" ON TARGET

A TAKE-OVER on top of the football ratings for the season so far by Eoin Liston, but no change in the principal positions in hurling. These are the main features to emerge from the latest happenings covered by the Tyler Top Ten review, which takes in a comparatively short period this month from August 9 to August 30 inclusive.

Liston was in third place over-all in football in the August/September issue on 51 points. But the tall full forward had a splendid game in Kerry's decisive All-Ireland semi-final win over Mayo. His work-rate, clever distribution and accuracy around goal all contributed to a performance that earned him a top of the chart rating in this issue on 30 points.

That boosts the Kerry forward's tally over-all to 81, and makes him the new leader in football from the start of the year up to and including this issue. He has a seven points advantage over the former leader, Brian Talty (Galway).

Liston's display against Mayo, however, impressive though it was, still only edged the Southerner home by a single point in this month's table over Tomás Connor. The Offaly man had a tremendous game in the success against Down, and makes his entry this year on 29

points.

Another Offaly footballer in the spotlight is Charlie Conroy, whose wholehearted play in defence against the Ulster champions has brought him into third place in the over-all ratings. The left full back collects 27 points this month to race up the chart to 65 points, and pass out Dermot Earley (Roscommon), who had been in second position, in the last edition.

Michael Sheehy is also making a stern challenge. The sharp-shooter from Tralee had a big say in the win over Mayo, and gains 28 points to bring his total to 62 and a joint fourth rating with Earley.

In hurling, there has been a virtual take-over by the Connolly brothers on top of the latest review. Joe, after his pulse raising show in the Galway replay win over Limerick — he scored 2-7 — leads the way on 30 points.

Michael, who did so much to fashion Galway's win in the replay after his transfer to centre half, takes the runner-up spot on 28 points.

Niall McInerney breaks the Connolly dominance by taking third place, but then comes John Connolly, who had such a fine come-back against Limerick.

The top three in each code up to and including this edition are:

FOOTBALL: 81 points: E. Liston

(Kerry). 74: B. Talty (Galway). 65: C. Conroy (Offaly).

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

This month's charts are:

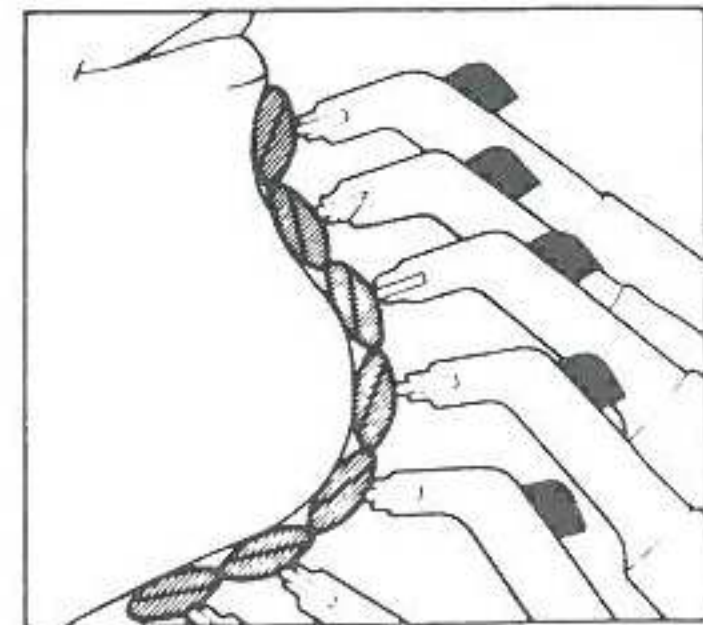
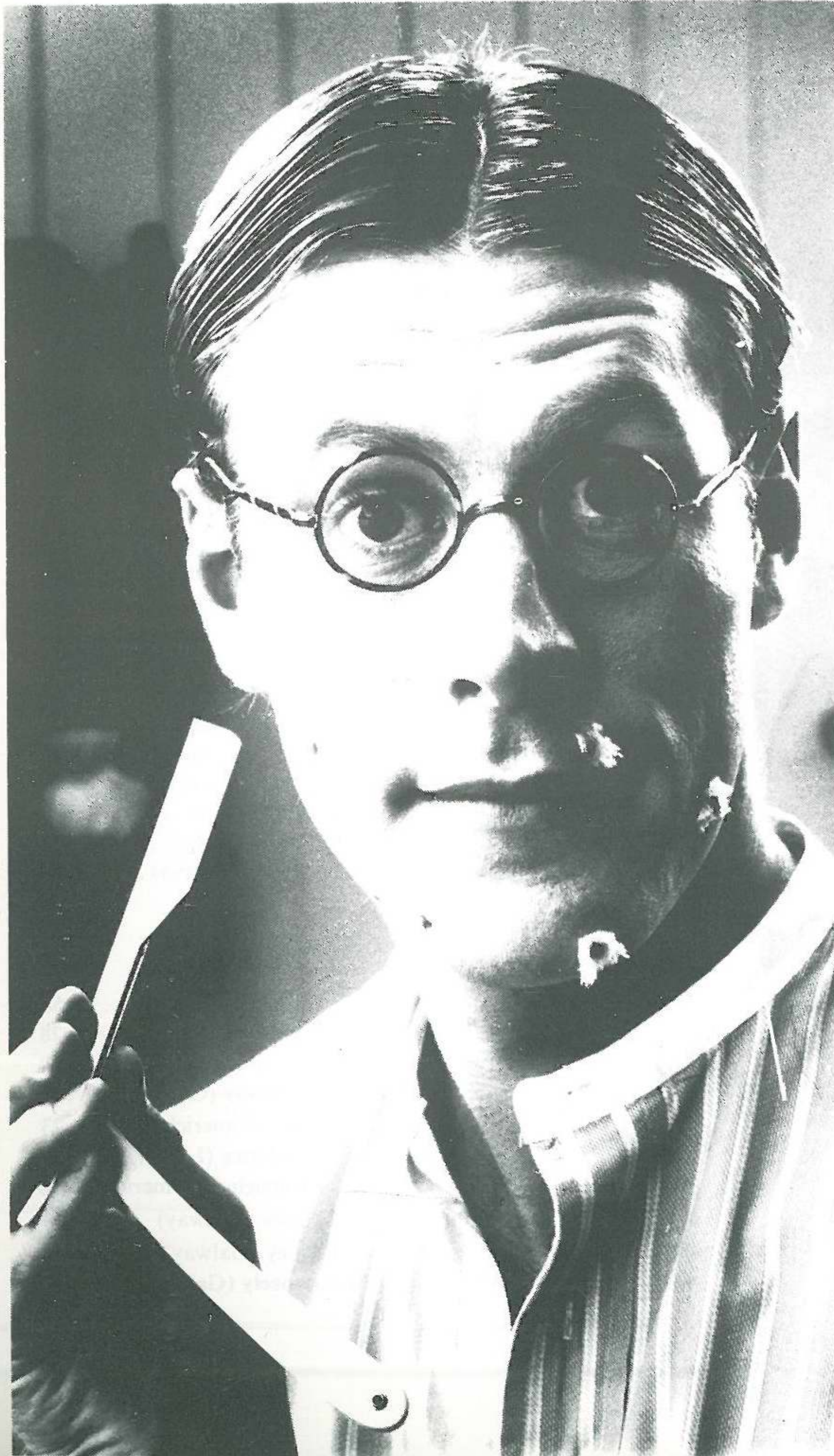
FOOTBALL

30	E. Liston (Kerry)	81
29	T. Connor (Offaly)	29
28	M. Sheehy (Kerry)	62
27	C. Conroy (Offaly)	65
26	S. Walsh (Kerry)	26
25	L. Currans (Offaly)	25
24	P. Kennedy (Down)	56
23	P. Dunne (Offaly)	23
23	F. Hasson (Antrim)	23
22	W. J. Padden (Mayo)	58

HURLING

30	Joe Connolly (Galway)	58
28	M. Connolly (Galway)	28
27	N. McInerney (Galway)	27
25	John Connolly (Galway)	25
23	J. Carroll (Limerick)	23
22	P. Fitzmaurice (Limerick)	22
20	L. O'Donoghue (Limerick)	60
20	S. Linnane (Galway)	57
20	J. Cooney (Galway)	20
20	M. Conneely (Galway)	20

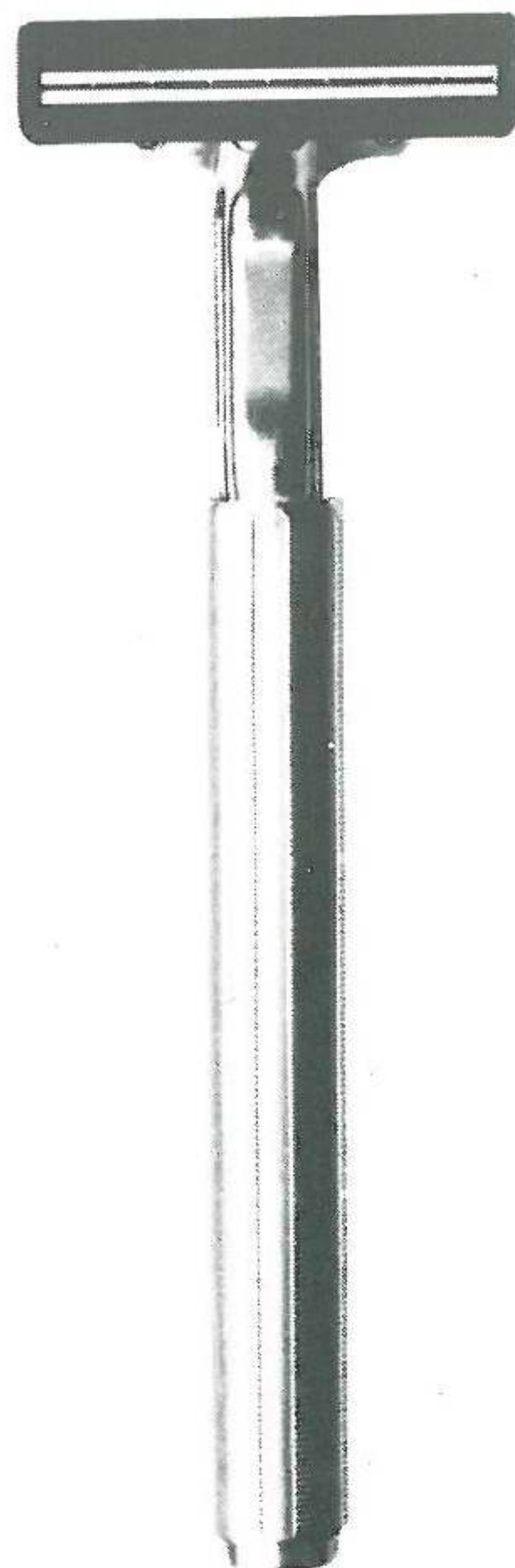
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DREAM OF STRONG COUNTIES — FOUR TITLES IN A ROW

BY EAMONN YOUNG



Bank of Ireland G.A.A. Allstar 1979
Sean Walsh (Kerry) — Centre half-
forward.

EVERY facet of human endeavour has its moment of glory. For us, sportsmen, the targets have always been clear: The four-minute mile, climbing Everest, the ten-second hundred metres, seven feet in the high jump and thirty in the broad. All but one has been realised.

Four All-Irelands in a row has been the dream of all the strong counties. I still remember dainty Gus Kennedy of New Ross sitting on his kitchen table laughing about the great days of 1915-18 when Wexford footballers, strode the national scene. The mighty men of the Kingdom led by Con Brosnan, John Joe Sheehy, Bob Stack, Paul Russell and the rest took over from the Lily Whites to outspeed and out-kick the best from '29-'32.

The hurlers of Cork after 10 years of teeth-grinding frustration brought home the McCarthy Cup in '41 and threatened to hold on to it for good. That was when John Quirke, Din Joe Buckley, Ringey, Jim Young and the others almost regarded Cork as their club team and Jack Lynch won a truly remarkable six medals in a row.

Several good sides have won three finals and failed at the fourth jump the most recent being that tremendous Tipp hurling side that Cork beat in '52 when Ringey, Willie

John Daly, John Lyons and company went on fire to preserve the record their friends made in the previous decade.

Galway footballers led by Mattie MacDonagh, Jack Mahon, John Geraghty and comrades nearly took the four in the sixties and that splendid Kerry selection of the late thirties appeared in five successive finals losing one by only a point in a replay.

PART OF LIFE

I have always been fascinated by winning. Participation is necessary, it is essential not only to competition but to the round development of character. Losing is a necessary and desirable part of life and the man or woman who can't take it with a shrug and a smile has never grown up.

'If you can meet with triumphs and disaster

And treat those two imposters just the same

But winning is beautiful — wonderful not because an egotistical superiority is presented but because every man (and woman) who works hard and honestly with a self-disciplined intelligence is entitled to taste victory and relish the flavour all the more in memory of the defeats that form the rungs of his ladder to glory.

So I think Kerry will win four-in-a row. I want them to win it; I'm

convinced they deserve it. If Offaly stop them I'll applaud the new champions and so I'm sure will the Kerry men (after the wounds are healed). But just now, for me, there's only one team, the champions, the winners who are only a thousand feet from the top of Everest.

Tadhg Crowley, that big boned schoolteacher reared in the shadow of the old Franciscan monastery of Ardfert only wanted a nod to start him talking about that important part of his life, football and Cumann Luth-Chleas Gael. The enthusiastic, articulate ex-runai of the Kingdom, played for Arravale Rovers in Tipp., in Kilkee, as well as the town of Kells where he trod in the pedagogic footsteps of the great Colm Cille, before returning to the fastnesses of the south-west where he togged out with Ardfert and Austin Stacks.

Tadhg, who pulled on the Kerry junior jersey in '45 now holds the vital secretaryship of Munster and is currently **viewing with temperate and clinical approval the progress of son Michael the Kerry minor who stands at full back, all seventy three and a half inches of him for the Stacks.**

"You ask me what is the secret of

● TO PAGE 15



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

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● FROM PAGE 13

Kerry's present success' said Tadhg. 'First let me say how happy we all are to have such a good bunch of boys. We've had our bad years too, you know, and we now want this good team to win what they deserve'.

THE SECRET

'Their secret is an open one really. We were lucky enough to produce a crop of young players in the seventies who were strong enough and sufficiently skilful to make the transition from minor to senior at an early age. The under-21 competition gave many of them that extra confidence necessary to class and so these good young plants grew, quickly in what, I suppose is a fertile nursery.

'Then we got a great break at midfield. Along came Jack O'Shea and Sean Walsh, two young men of good physique with plenty basic football and a real ability to take the ball high in the air. They are able to give a good supply to lethal forwards.

'Next the advent of Eoin Liston meant a lot to us. We already had those skilful forwards but Eoin added a vital advantage for in him we got a target man to whom the outfield players could send a long through-ball up the centre. This direct play is a vital variation on the short game and this versatility makes the side more formidable in that their style is not very predictable. The fact that Eoin is able to get the ball high or low given a reasonable chance and that he knows what to do with it, improves the team's performance a lot'.

'Now as for keeping their edge bright and sharp' continued Tadhg Crowley, 'there's no secret there either. Their early wins might be expected to dull their appetite but you must remember that five, John O'Keeffe, Ogie Moran, Jim Deenihan and two Spillanes are P.E. men who have accepted intelligently as part of their

profession the hard work and training necessary to success.

THE YOUNG LADS

This dedication has rubbed off on the rest and as a Munster Council officer I take a personal satisfaction in the help that Ger Power, Mike Sheehy, Sean Walsh, and John Egan gave in coaching the young lads. Then other players maintain this standard of dedication and as you know, Micko Dwyer, himself a fine player, earnest in his own training, does the rest.

NEW PEAK

'Have these lads scaled a new peak in Gaelic Football? The '37-'41 team was a great side. Five successive All-Irelands with one lost by a point on a replay demand a great team. Defenders like Danno Keffe, Bill Myers, Joe Keohane, Tim Healy, Bill Casey and Eddie Walsh were very good. Paddy Kennedy, Sean Brosnan at midfield were as good as you'll find and the forwards Johnny Walsh, Gega Connors, Paddy

Bawn, Murt Kelly, Charlie Sullivan and Gauxy Gorman were very skilful and strong enough for anything.

This team probably had more physique than the present lads and of course they played a different game. They probably could play today's style better than the present boys could play theirs, for they excelled in the catch, accurate kick and the fast one-two handpass. Some would say that the earlier backs were slow.

I don't think so. Bill Casey the centre back was the fastest in the sprints and even a flier like Frankie Byrne of Meath had terrible difficulty with Eddie Walsh of Knocknagoshel. The important conclusion for me is that our boys of to-day have indeed raised the present type of football to a new and attractive height. And I'm very proud that they're Kerry men!

The strong hand-clasp the lean smiling face and the swing of the big shoulders as he strode away brought to an end a talk any sportsman would like to re-open.



Jack O'Shea (Kerry) seen here in action against Mayo in the recent semi-final.

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HANDBALL'S NEW FACES

BY SEAN CLERKIN

HANDBALL continued to unfold many exciting tales in the last couple of months. Players in the ballcourts reached for new horizons and dedicated officials who spend themselves in the interest of the game continued to devise new schemes and improve old ones in the cause of progress.

Their combined efforts continue to uplift the game, which happily finds itself in a continuous state of evolution.

In that context it is only inevitable that a number of deficiencies are beginning to appear in the subsidiary structures and these will be coming under scrutiny in the months ahead.

In the competitive sphere, for instance, it is generally conceded that remedial action is badly needed to, at least, partly reverse the position where players are involved at National level for the full round of the twelve months.

NATIONAL TESTS

Besides, the obvious drain on the players stamina there is the additional factor that with the growth of National competitions there has been a relative slackening of enthusiasm at club and county levels.

When I spoke to Council President, Caimin Jones on the matter recently, he did not conceal his concern with this multiplicity of competitions saga.

In fact, he had just formed a special committee to perform an in depth examination of the problem.

Former President Tom Walsh would head the committee and in

order to give it as broad a base as possible, well known players like Micky Walsh, Tom Quish, Greg Sheridan and Seamus Buggy would be requested to help in unravelling the apparently never ending string of competitions.

At the expense, maybe, of appearing heretical, might I suggest to them, that they spend a little time on the structure of the Coca Cola Singles and Doubles Championships.

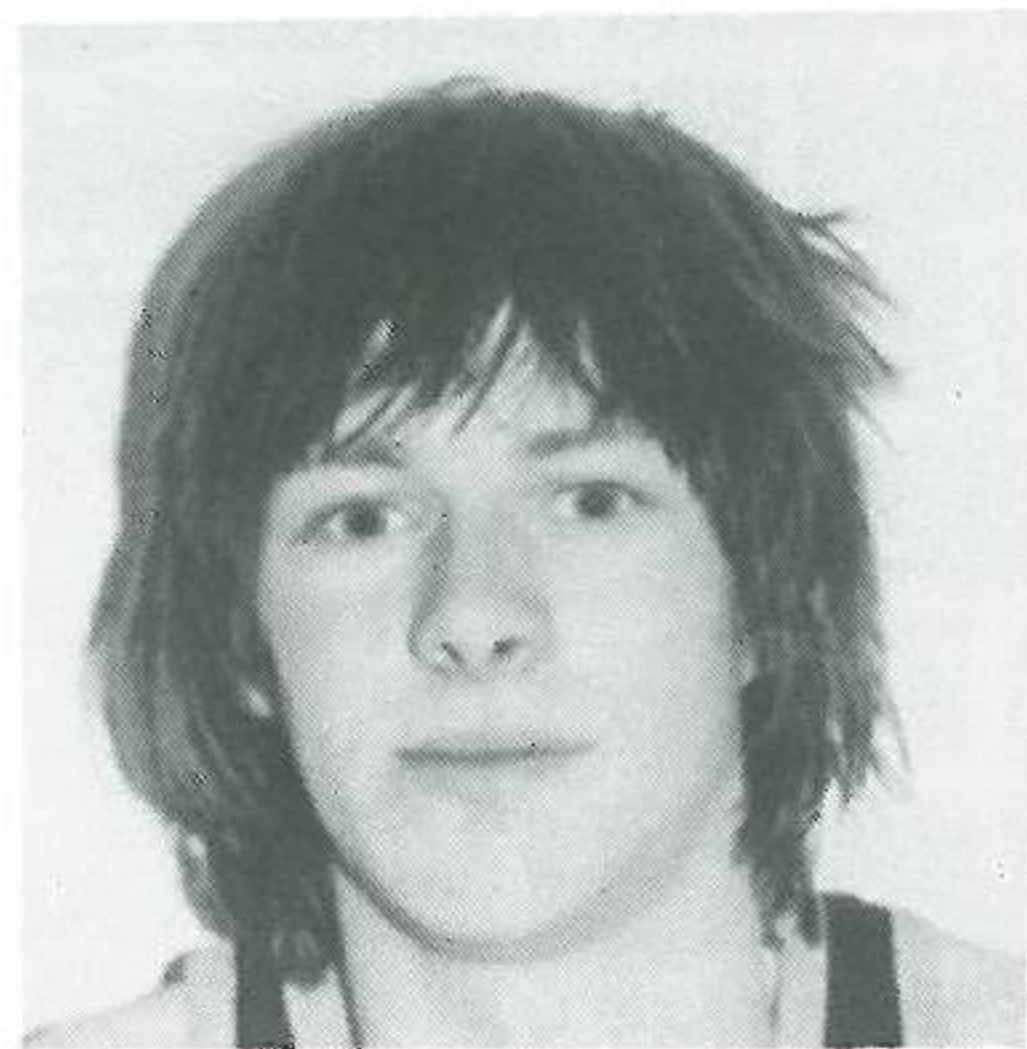
These are the Premier competitions in the Irish Game. Prior to the mid seventies they were operated strictly on an inter-county basis, whereby, the eventual county representatives won the right to wear the county singlets by winning what always proved to be prestigious and hard fought county championships.

BETTER IMAGE

Then it was decided, that these competitions, now benefitting from generous sponsorship would present a better image, by coming under the banner of the open draw and after a long period of trial what are the results?

I would say negative in many respects. With options open to all the top players in any particular county to participate directly in the

BILLY
BOURKE,
KILKENNY



open draw, there is not the same fervour attached to premier competitions at club and county levels.

There has also been a drastic diminution in the status of Provincial Councils.

I may have provided a share of fodder to my hurling and football colleagues who speak so vociferously against the Open Draw.

On a more positive note, it has been heartening to see the emergence of a number of new faces during the All-Ireland campaign.

GOOD MEASURE

Tom O'Rourke, the Kildare handball cum softball star reached the finals of both singles competitions and for good measure joined up with Pius Winders in the final of the Senior Handball Doubles. And what a transformation took place in the Coca Cola Senior Doubles.

The Limerick Brothers Tom and John Quish (who were not too impressive in winning out in Junior ranks last year) casting reputations aside as they fought their way to the final where they tried conclusions with Anthony Greene and Peadar Hughes of Kilkenny.

By the same token, they were little fancied at the start of the championship, yet, in the semi final dismissed such established campaigners as Richie Lyng and Seamus Buggy. Tony Ryan from Ballypatrick in Tipperary needs no introduction. Suffice it to say that he is one of our greatest prospects. Kilkenny starlet Billy Bourke had an unenviable task in attempting to

• TO PAGE 25

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GAME MUST BE PROMOTED AT PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL

BY the time this article appears in print the All-Ireland Finals will be won and lost. At the time of going to press, Cork, the holders and Kilkenny have qualified for the Senior Final, Antrim and Clare are in the Junior decider while Antrim and Galway are the Willwood Tailteann Minor All-Ireland finalists.

Since the inauguration of the senior championship in 1932 only five counties have succeeded in winning the Senior title and the coveted Seán O'Duffy Cup. The early years were dominated by Dublin and Cork, Antrim came into the honours list in 1945.

Dublin dominated for almost the next twenty years. Then Colleges Competitions within the Provinces raised the standard in those counties who were participating in the early sixties.

Wexford made a break through and won the title in 1968 to write a new name on the Cup. Kilkenny came on the scene in 1970 but did not win out the competition until 1974 and have been a force since.

IN SCHOOLS

The Junior All-Ireland Competition which got under way in 1968 also pinpointed the worth of promoting the games in the schools.

Down, Derry, Galway, Clare and Limerick as well as Dublin and Cork took the titles. In these counties schools and underage competitions were well organised.

The gap between the senior and junior standard is very wide and despite yearly coaching courses and coaching coaches now available in almost every county these junior All-Ireland winners, while they have improved and are improving, have not reached the upper grade.

Aware of the struggle that the junior counties have to match the senior standard when they are upgraded after winning an All-Ireland title Congress of 1979 voted to start a junior National League. This is beginning to make a difference and Armagh who won the inaugural Junior League have been doing well in the Northern Counties while the beaten finalists, Kildare won the Leinster Championship this year for the first time since 1969.

Louth and Cavan reached the Junior National League this season. A very young Cavan team just pipped the wee county girls, who had a very successful League campaign having won all their games and played a draw in the final.

SENIOR LEAGUE

Antrim and Clare may thank the Senior National League for their successful season. Many of their junior players have been gaining experience in the Senior League without losing status.

But counties who do not promote amongst the underage players or make a start at Primary School level will always be in trouble to find suitable replacements. It is apparent that some counties, who graduate to senior status, do not have the same players available the following year. Many players are holding on from year to year hoping to win an All-

Ireland medal and when they have achieved their ambition decide to retire.

Other players, as soon as they have children cannot always manage to train and get to the games so they are also lost to the team.

START YOUNG

But the promoters can plan for these risks by starting with the very young, by teaching the skills of the game at an early age and try get as much match practice as possible to help the players to gain experience.

Up to this year only counties who did not have a team in the Senior National League were allowed to participate in the Junior League. It will be interesting to see whether the senior counties will dominate in the new Junior League. If this happens there may be a case for making two divisions but that would give rise to very long journeys thus making it very expensive for the counties. The Junior counties may surprise the Senior counties and solve that problem.

GAEL LINN

Another guide to the improvement in the junior standard is the Junior Gael-Linn Interprovincial. In these games players from Wicklow, Carlow, Louth and Offaly Clare, Tipperary, Roscommon, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Tyrone have shown great skill.

These Interprovincial games, with the All-Ireland Club Championship, will be the interest over the next few months, during which time the Junior National League will start again.

A LOOK AT THE CHALLENGERS . . .

OFFALY ARE A GOOD . . . But Are They Good Enough

ASKS PAUL McNAMEE

OFFALY are a good team. Whether or not they have improved sufficiently to turn their five points defeat by Kerry in last year's All-Ireland semi-final into a victory this time is a matter of conjecture, but they have advanced steadily along the road to the top. So much so, that I make them a better all round side than when they last challenged the Kingdom in the championship.

They have a blend of youth, experience and class, and are good competitors. These are vital features in the make-up of any team with designs on getting to the top, and they could be exploited to good effect against the Southerners.

It can be argued that Offaly spluttered, rather than freewheeled, their way to the final. Granted, they had to work unexpectedly hard to dispose of the challenge of Wexford in the Leinster semi-final.

But Wexford are an improving team, and Offaly still had a comfortable five points in hand at the finish. That came after an equally deserved five points win over Westmeath at Mullingar in the opening round.

Then, there was the Leinster final, in which Offaly struggled for much of the opening half before taking charge against a lively Laois combination. Remember again, that Laois are an up-and-coming team,

and they proved it by rocking the champions with a goal after nine minutes and another in the 19th minute of the opening half.

It is a measure of Offaly's class that they were able to take those setbacks in their stride and move into gear in the second period for a thoroughly deserved three points win. Don't overlook the fact, either, that the Leinster final produced some of the best football in this drab campaign.

The All-Ireland semi-final with Down has been too easily dismissed. It was certainly a poor game, but one wonders if Kerry would have handled the the Ulster challenge more authoratively than Offaly did?

Many will maintain the All-Ireland champions would have won more convincingly. But the fact remains that Offaly did well over the match as a whole.

Over the championship as a whole so far, they have handled all the ups and downs in a manner that showed they are a team gaining all the time in temperament and self-assurance. At no time when matters were not going their way did Offaly panic. At no time did they appear content to settle for second best.

The Leinster champions are unlikely to play second fiddle either to Kerry in the fielding stakes. Their footballers are all secure in the air, with, of course, Tomas Connor in a



● Action from the Laois-Offaly Leinster Final shows dual star Liam Currams (on right) in typical determined style which makes him such an asset to his county.

TEAM

ugh?

place all his own in this regard.

His aerial feats against Down must have made even Kerry folk, schooled in this tradition of the game, green with envy. It was as spectacular a display as seen at headquarters in years, and the Walsh Island man is obviously a midfielder who could prove a real hero for his side.

Connor's talents look to have come to full bloom, and he stands out as one player with the ability to tip the balance Offaly's way.

But there are others. What about the high qualities of Martin Furlong in goal, the expert leadership and telling pivotal play of team captain Richie Connor, or the attacking skills and scoring flair of Pat Fitzgerald on the right wing?

Three golden nuggets there in a good defence.

Others who might put a shine on the Offaly bid? Obviously, Matt Connor looms as one.

He is a very gifted footballer, both in general play and in his free-taking. He had some uncharacteristic wides against Down, but in recent years he has more than amply demonstrated that he is a free-taker who will punish every close-in — and some from far out as well — free-kick presented by Kerry to the maximum effect.

The challengers have greater teamwork and general power, I believe over their attack as a whole than a year ago. While O'Connor grabs the lion's share of the scoring,



● OFFALY STAR MATT CONNOR

the Lowry brothers, Sean and Brendan, Gerry Carroll, Tom Fitzgerald and Aidan O'Halloran blend in excellent support. Each will have to be closely watched.

These, then, are some of the reasons why I maintain that Offaly are a much improved side than that against Kerry in the 1980 semi-final.

A team that has the skills, the knowledge of what Croke Park is

like on big-match days, and the temperament to face calmly and assuredly the rigours of an All-Ireland senior football final engagement.

Good enough, though, to beat Kerry? We will just have to wait and see, but amidst all this talk of the Munster men as "certs," I expect Offaly to be in there making a tremendous bid for another famous victory.

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GOOD TASTE THAT MAKES GOOD SENSE.

ON THE SPOT . . .

BY TOMMY McQUAID

ON THE SPOT . . ., our ever popular quiz, follows something of the new format adopted for the Hurling Final edition. Once again the emphasis is on All-Ireland final personalities and achievements, but this time, of course, with football in the spotlight.

Points are again awarded for each question, and the maximum total possible is 125. A score of 100 or more shows that you are an expert on events in the period under review. Sixty five to 100 points merits a very good rating, and from 70 to 85 points is good.

The points on offer are given at the end of each chapter.

As in our new style presentation in the last issue, the Quiz opens with a "True or False" chapter of six questions. All you have to do here is to answer "True" or "False" to each question . . . but perhaps it may not be as simple as it appears at first glance!

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Kerry, as you doubtless know, are in line for four All-Ireland senior football titles in succession in the latest final. They were the first county to win four All-Ireland senior football titles in a row?
2. Offaly have the distinction of recording the last All-Ireland senior football final replay win by any county over Kerry?
3. Pat Spillane led U.C., Cork to

an All-Ireland senior football title in the 'Seventies?

4. John O'Keeffe, who is the longest serving member of the Kerry team, has played in five All-Ireland senior football final winning teams?

5. Martin Furlong was Offaly's captain when they last won the Sam Maguire Cup for the All-Ireland senior championship?

6. Sean Lowry, now in the Offaly attack, was centre half back when the county last came out on top in the All-Ireland senior football campaign?

Five points for each question answered correctly. Collect a five points bonus if all six are answered correctly. So, 35 points may be won in this section. YOUR SCORE

MATCH THE KERRYMEN

Now, a section devoted exclusively to Kerry. Six Kerry footballers are listed below, and six separate clubs. The object is to match the Kerry footballer to the appropriate clue.

For example, Michael O'Sullivan would go in as the player to match the clue: Captain of the 1975 All-Ireland senior title winning side.

Our six Kerry men are: Michael Sheehy, Vincent O'Connor, Tom Doyle, Denis 'Ogie' Moran, Ger Power and Jimmy Deenihan.

From that list, match the appropriate player against the correct clue listed below:

1. A versatile footballer who led

Kerry back to the top for the first plank in the current four in a row titles bid?

2. This accomplished Kerryman hit 2-4 against Cork in the 1979 Munster final at Killarney?

3. When Kerry won their Silver Jubilee title (25th) this young footballer went into the final as a substitute?

4. Kerry scored only one goal in their last All-Ireland senior final outing. Who was the player on the goal standard?

5. Full forward against Roscommon a year ago?

6. An All-Ireland senior medalist and county captain, who went in as substitute against Offaly in the 1980 semi-final?

Once more, five points on offer for each correct answer, plus a five points bonus. Yet again, then, 35 points can be added on to your score here. HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

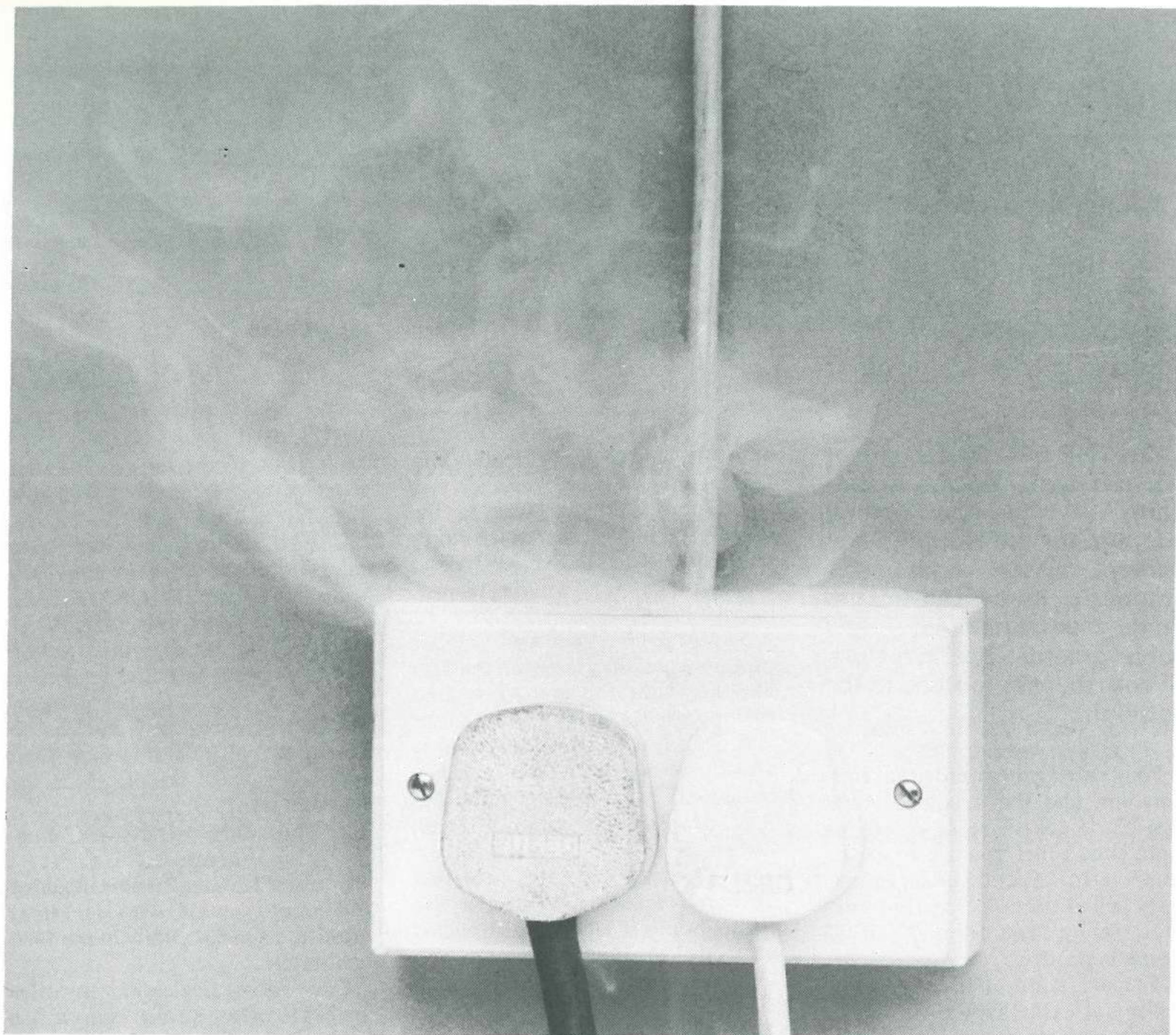
With the All-Ireland champions, their challengers come into their own in this section. Again, the pattern follows the lines of that in our special section on Kerry. But here, of course, the object is to:

MATCH THE OFFALYMEN

Six separate clues and six Offaly men. The personalities from the Midland county are:

Matt Connor, Brendan Lowry, Paddy McCormack, Padraig

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● FROM PAGE 23

Dunne, Aidan O'halloran and Eugene Mulligan.

From that list, match the appropriate player against the correct clue listed below:

1. An All-Ireland Colleges' senior medalist with a school from outside of Offaly?
2. Top scorer for the Leinster champions in their Leinster senior final win over Laois?
3. The only Walsh Island club player in the panel of six?
4. The youngest member of the side that beat Down in the All-Ireland senior semi-final?
5. A history-maker with Offaly in the early 'Seventies, who is now again prominently to the forefront, but this time in a communications' role?
6. An All Star in the early days of the promotion?

Five points on offer for each correct answer, plus another bonus

of five points. Yet again your scoring returns can be improved by 35 points by "going through this card".
YOUR RETURN

To complete **On the Spot** . . . we have a brief

PROFILE

Pictured here is a footballer likely to be in action in the All-Ireland final. Can you complete a brief profile of the player?

1. Who is this personality?
2. He captained his county in their 1979 All-Ireland final win at senior. Name the Leinster opposition his team defeated in that championship?
3. What club does he assist?
4. He has won medals for the All-



Ireland senior championship, League and Railway Cup, plus at least one All Star? True or false?

Five points for each question answered correctly. But no bonus. So, to finish on 20 points.

ANSWERS

(Answers printed in reverse to avoid distraction)

1. Tim Kennelly. 2. Dublin, Ireland final. 3. Listowel Emmets. 4. True. He has four All-Ireland senior medals, three for the Railway Cup, and was honoured by the All Stars in 1979 and 1980.

PROFILE

title in 1976. 2. Brendan Lowry, who scored 1-5 against Laois. 3. Matt Connor. 4. Padraig Dunne, who is Offaly to their only All-Ireland senior football title wins of 1971 and 1972, and who is now the county's P.R.O. 6. Paddy McCormack, full back in the 1972 Carrolls team.

1. Aidan O'Halloran, who won an All-Ireland Colleges' senior football medal with Carmelite College, Moate, when they took their first

MATCH THE OFFALYMEN

1. Denis 'Ogie' Moran. 2. Ger Power. 3. Vincent O'Connor. 4. Michael Sheehy. 5. Tom Doyle. 6. Jimmy Deenihan.

MATCH THE KERRYMEN

1. False. Wexford recorded the first such run of four in a row in 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918. 2. True. Their last final win in 1972 was in a replay against Kerry. 3. Pat Spillane captained the Thomond College, Limerick, team that won the 1978 All-Ireland club title. 4. True. 5. False. Tony McTague led the Midlanders to the 1972 triumph. 6. True.

TRUE OR FALSE

HANDBALL

● FROM PAGE 17

retain the six All-Ireland championships he won last year at minor level.

BY WAYSIDE

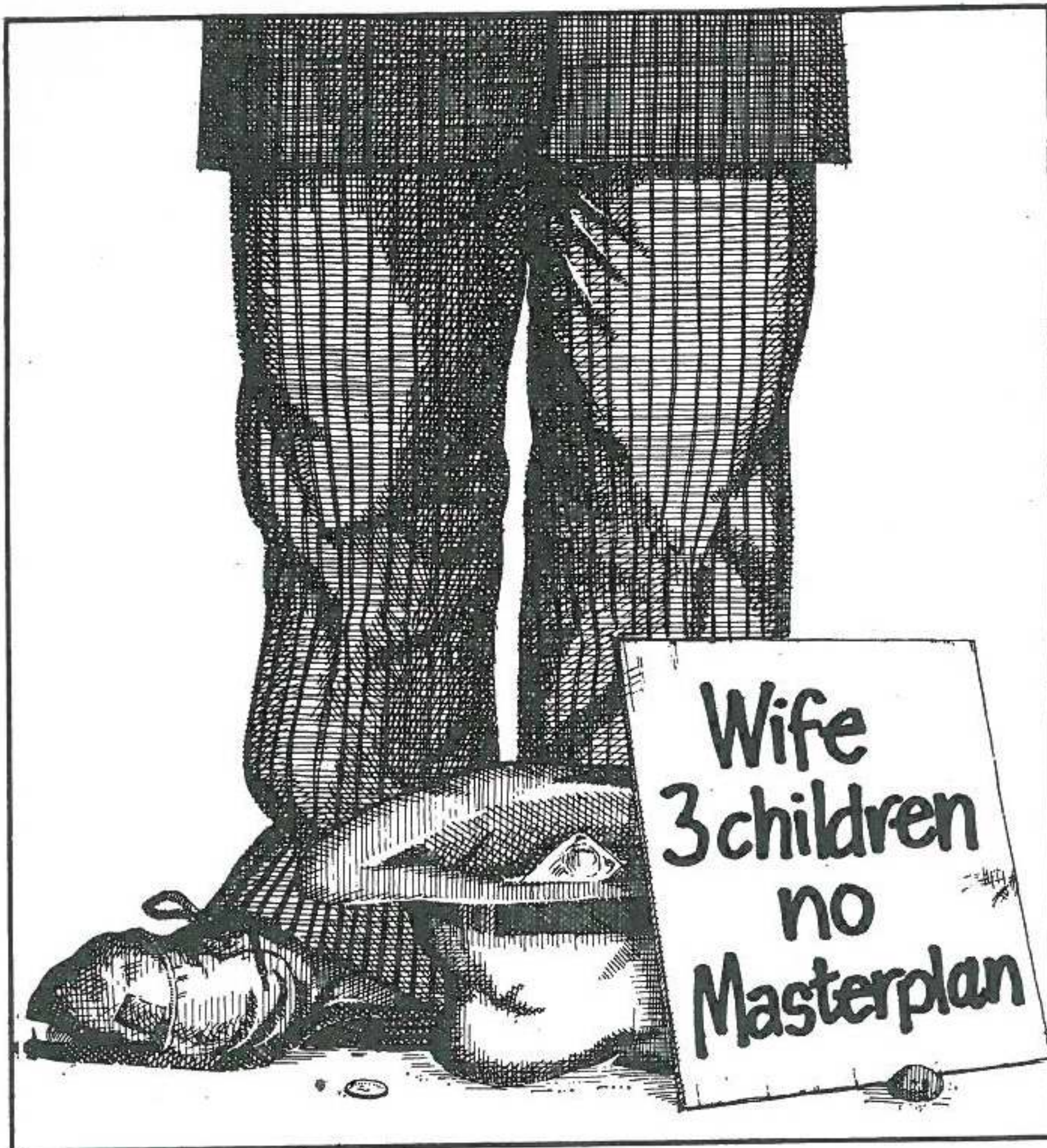
It was no reflection whatever on his superior ability that he fell by the wayside in the Minor Softball Doubles Championship.

He is moulded in the form of some of our greatest champions and with careful handling and coaching must surely reach the top rung of the handball ladder.

In time he could well be joined by such as Paul Russell (Limerick), Peadar McCann (Sligo), Christy McGovern and Egin Jensen (Meath).

It is nice to be able to conclude by extending the hand of congratulations to Cavan representatives Lewis Gilmore and Brendan Moore who won the Masters Doubles 60 X 30 championship.

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KERRY did not spring from the womb of the Kingdom ready made and perfect as a footballing force. It may seem now, as we wonder and probably never will know the limits to which this present team could go when fully extended, that they have been as good as this since 1975.

That was the year they surprised Dublin, the championship holders, with a team that stole up on tip-toe to confound all but Munster followers of the game. It was a young team, a vital and eager group of players who would gladly put their heads where their boots should be, if called on to do so for Kerry.

Remember the part played by the now almost forgotten Pat McCarthy at midfield, a role picked up a couple of years later by two young men who were winning the minor All-Ireland on the day of the 1975 senior triumph - Jack O'Shea and Sean Walsh. The defence had no flies on it, even at that stage, but the attack lacked the cutting edge, the variety of approaches, the sharpness in finish and the ability to split open defences in a hundred different ways which has been the essence of the team's development since then.

The heart or fulcrum of the defence has remained the same all through - John O'Keeffe at full-back and Tim Kennelly at centre half-back. Paudie O'Shea has always added fire and fierce competitiveness to the right flank; Paud Lynch has given a classic touch at wing or corner; Jim Deenihan has furrowed his brow in concentration; good men of highest calibre have filled the other spaces in friendly rivalry.

But the attack, for some time, never took the same kind of shape. The bone structure, for instance, was never firmly set for the centre

CAN ALWAYS SWITCH EOIN

Says Jay Drennan

and full forward positions varied a lot. Ogie Moran often did a splendid imitation of a centre-forward, but somehow he was always thought of as a temporary filler. One wonders yet to-day whether Kerry still think of Ogie as a man to hold the position until a real-live centre-forward appears.

It was the outriders — Spillane, Egan, Sheehy and Power — who were the fast and glamorous raiders from the flanks. Attacks were built with speed and precision as the hand-pass was perfected more and more.

But Dublin's supreme effort of 1976 and their wonderful semi-final victory of 1977 showed there was still something missing from the Kerry team. They had by now identified what it was: an easily-found, highly-receptive full-forward who could be found without the ultimate in precision; who could play enough football in his own right to distribute the ball about; get on the end of moves constructed by the other forwards to finish them; strong and willing and a worry in any goalmouth; and, well and good, if he could also range outfield at will so much the better.

It was into that situation that Eoin Liston came — massive, hirsute, promising but to some a trifle awkward. Perhaps he would have turned out to be an awkward and not very successful trialist in other teams, but in this Kerry side of 1978 he was the golden key that enabled them to unlock any opposing defence.

Awkwardness is often related to shyness and exposition to 50,000 or 70,000 crowds. It is amazing what a nicely placed ball dropping into one's hands, running in unmarked towards goal, and hung up in the

rigging, can do for the awkwardness of a newcomer. Jack O'Shea could put them on a handkerchief for him; and Power, Sheehy, Spillane and Doyle (another attempt to correct

the centre-forward focus) could flip passes from one to the other until Owen was left free at the end of the dazzling move.

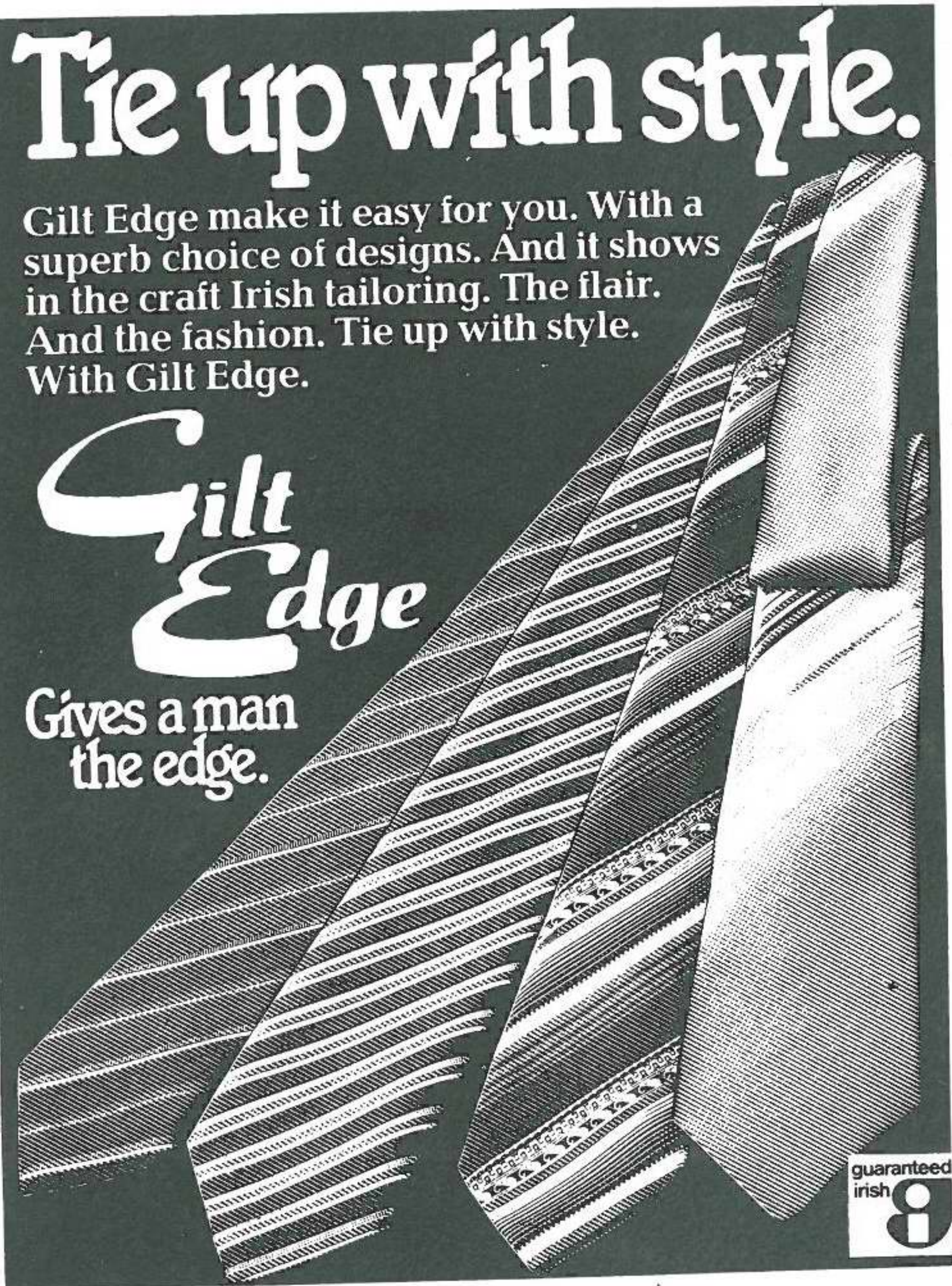
● TO PAGE 40

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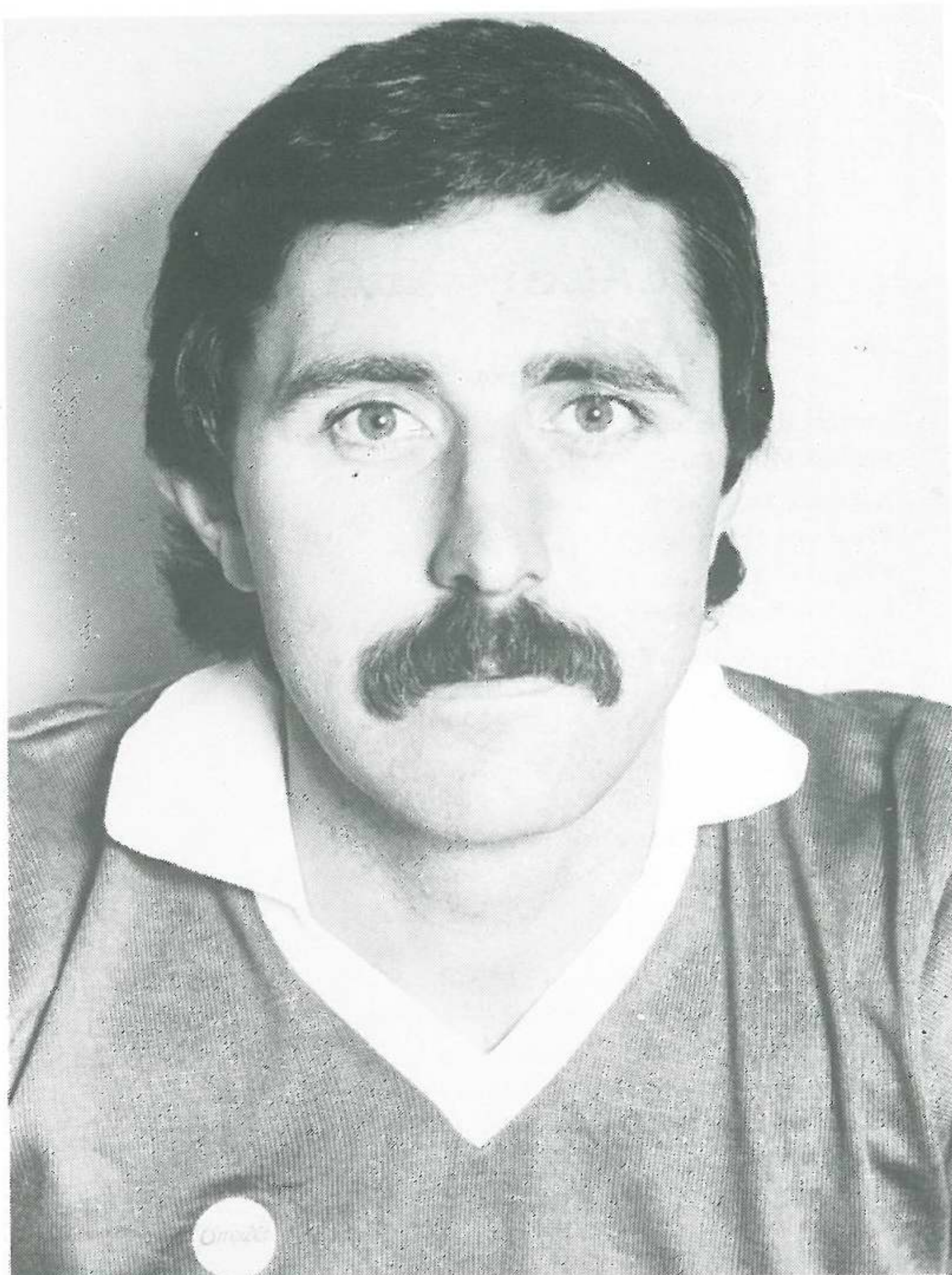
BY SEAN O'BRIEN

AS Offaly get set to try to forge a successful link with the heady days of the opening years of the 'Seventies, two men who appreciate better than most what is needed for success at this level are Martin Furlong and Sean Lowry. More than that, they return to Croke Park with a distinction not given to many in football history — that of playing in a winning side against Kerry in an All-Ireland senior final replay.

Indeed, there is an interesting enough parallel with that Offaly achievement and the position in which the county finds itself at present . . . a parallel that should give considerable comfort to the Midlanders.

Offaly won their first All-Ireland senior championship in 1971, but for all that, they still started rank outsiders for the 1972 decider against Kerry. They made all the running in that match, which ended in a draw, and with luck might have won.

Nevertheless, Offaly still had few supporters outside of their own county for the replay, but they



● Bank of Ireland All-Star 1979 Sean Lowry (Offaly) — Full forward.

provided the best possible answer to the critics by defying the loss through injuries of two of their key men, forward Johnny Cooney and half back Eugene Mulligan, in the first half to hand out a fully merited nine points win — 1-19 to 0-13.

Sean Lowry and Martin Furlong contributed to those glory days. At that time, though, Lowry was a centre half back, and his high-fielding, intelligent play and non-stop effort made him the outstanding figure for Offaly in the drawn match.

Lowry had another fine game in the replay, while Furlong was being

hailed after that win as one of the greatest goalkeepers in the game. He made a noteworthy contribution to the success, which included some telling saves, particularly a number in the tension filled opening half.

After watching Furlong do much to keep Offaly in the All-Ireland hunt with a great penalty save from Brendan McGovern, of Down in the semi-final, and Lowry get among the scores, it is hard to credit that nine long years have passed since this pair sparkled in those last final show-downs with Kerry.

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● FROM PAGE 29

The long-serving goalkeeper remains a mighty bulwark in the Offaly defensive screen. As for Lowry, if he has traded the task of foiling attacks for the contrasting one of scheming for scores, he had made the transition in excellent fashion, and like Furlong is showing the younger players around him a thing or two.

Football has a history dotted with outstanding goalkeepers, but few in any era enjoyed a tenure in the top-flight over as long a period as Martin Furlong can already point to with Offaly. He was still in his teens when he took over the No. 1 jersey with the senior county side in a League tie in 1965, and he has been more or less an ever present since.

That is a tremendous tribute to his superb qualities. After all, a goalkeeper has to have something extra special going for him to command the confidence of county selectors over such a long period of activity.

But then, Furlong has all the natural attributes needed in a goalkeeper — agility, instant reflexes, coolness, judgement and a deliberate clearance. And, he continues to make the best possible use of them.

He has walked in history over the years as well. The latest save in an All-Ireland game reminds me that it was the Tullamore star who ensured Offaly of their only All-Ireland minor football title by bringing in a great save in the closing minutes of their meeting with Cork in 1974.

He was there again doing his bit when Offaly finally put their name on the Sam Maguire Cup for the first time with a team, superbly led by Willie Bryan, that beat Galway in the rain in 1971. Then, came that last medal win a year later against Kerry.

Offaly have not had any success in the meantime at national level, but

Furlong did win a Railway Cup medal in 1974 when he led Leinster to their last title. The latest Leinster final win means that he has now six provincial medals.

Sean Lowry is a very useful footballer to have in any side. He can turn on the style either in defence or attack, as was shown in last year's campaign.

The 29-year-old Ferbane club man was full forward in the ending of the Dubs long reign in Leinster in last year's provincial senior final, but when Offaly tackled Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final, Lowry was back again in a defensive role at full-back.

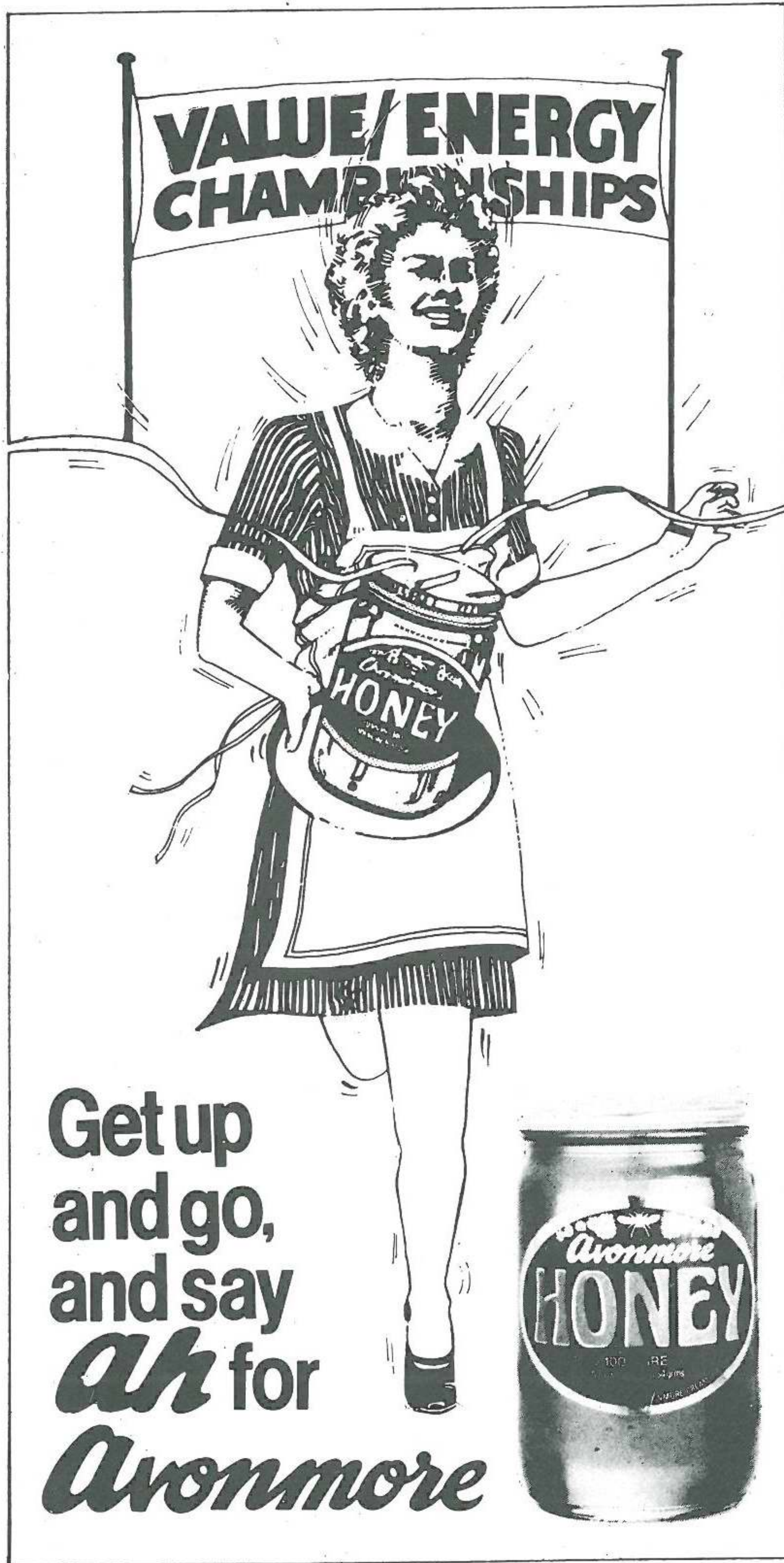
Like Martin Furlong, the versatile Lowry has served the county well and long. After those high-point meetings with Kerry in 1972, which marked his debut at that stage of the premier knock-out test, he collected a Leinster under-21 medal at centre half back in 1973.

It was as a pivot as well that Lowry had a big say in Leinster's last Railway Cup final win. He won his second major national award when honoured by the Bank of Ireland All Stars in 1979 — that award at full forward, and his only one so far.

Lowry has been playing regularly in the attack with Offaly this season, and he has made some telling touches to the successful defence of the provincial title, and to this return by the county to the top game of the year.

A strong, determined footballer, Sean Lowry, who also holds three Offaly senior medals, has the know-how, the experience and the drive and enthusiasm to add to his well-honed skills to present the Kerry backs with some demanding problems.

It is often said that football is a young man's game, but Martin Furlong, the oldest man in the Offaly team, and Sean Lowry, who comes second in the age "stakes" to the goalkeeper in the Midland panel, may be the footballers to give the lie to that well-worn cliché against Kerry.



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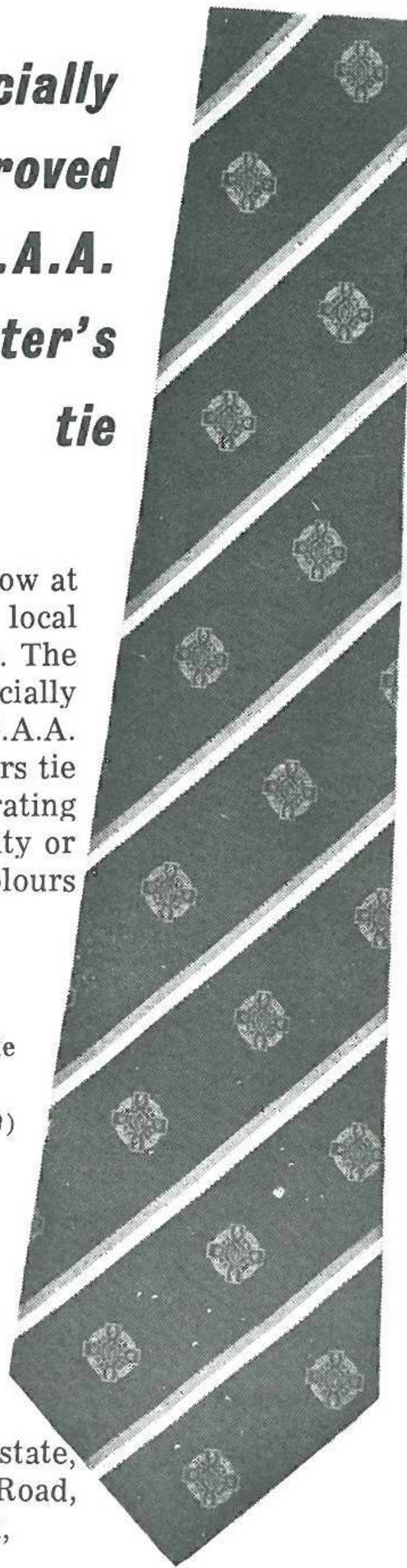
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CORK MINORS CAN MAKE IT SEVEN UP

BY
NOEL
HORGAN

ONE of the finest exhibitions of attacking football ever seen at Croke Park was provided in 1967 when a brilliant Cork minor team, captained by Donal Aherne from Glanworth, demolished a luckless Laois squad in the All-Ireland final.

Fans who ventured to headquarters early on that September afternoon had ample reason to feel satisfied as a Cork fifteen, which included future seniors Kevin Kehilly, Seamus Looney, Denis Long, Donal Hunt, Jimmy Barrett, Ted O'Brien and Ned Kirby, produced an hour of copy-book football which compensated more than adequately for the one-sided nature of the contest.

With Aherne and Long dominating at midfield Cork dictated matters territorially and the forward sextet, brilliantly led by Hunt and also including Barrett, Kirby, O'Brien, Kilshannig's Jerry Horgan and Dan Morley from Cullen, revelled in the generous outfield supply to reveal a rich repertoire of individual and combined skills.

The fabulous feats of the Leeside forwards enthralled and a particularly vivid memory for me was provided by diminutive wing-man Horgan when he ran at full speed to a dead ball and, without checking his stride, deftly chipped it into his hands. It was a touch of subtle skill — rare then and ever rarer now — and it drew a warm and deserved response from an appreciative audience.

Victory that day brought the Tom Markham trophy to Cork for the second time and the Rebels have added four titles to their tally since then. but the 1967 Cork side is still

regarded as the greatest ever to represent the county in the minor grade.

SIMILAR SPARKLE

Optimists in Cork, however, are quietly confident that the current crop of Leeside minors will produce similar sparkle in this year's decider. They showed clearly in the semi-final against Roscommon that, like the '67 side, they are offence-orientated and they have the power to support that approach.

Tony Leahy of St. Finbarrs and Tom Mannix from the Dr. Croke club in Doneraile form a physically strong and skilful midfield pairing which will not be easily outplayed, and the slick forward division, that scored five goals against Roscommon, will surely run up a good score if given possession.

Certainly it's difficult to imagine will-o'-the-wisp attackers like Ballyvourney's Peadar Healy, Na Piarsaig's Tony O'Sullivan and Castlehaven's John Cleary being held in check for a full hour. Incidentally, Cleary had the rare distinction of playing in the Cork county senior final of 1979 against St. Finbarrs at the tender age of 16.

Eoin O'Mahony, an industrious centre-forward from Clonakilty, Peter Fitzgerald from St. Michaels, a proficient point-pincher and son of well-known senior star of the 'fifties, Niall Fitzgerald, and Middleton's Colm O'Neill, who bagged a hat-trick of goals in the semi-final, complete a sextet that are devastating when in full flow.

Reservations have been expressed regarding the strength of the Cork defenders but it is possible that their

suspect play against Roscommon was caused by lengthy spells of inactivity. Complacency is bound to set in when a situation seems under control and players like Mallow's Pat Buckley, John Murphy from Monkstown and team captain Vivian Hedderman of St. Nicholas are unlikely to be found wanting under pressure.

It is the slick, cohesive set of forwards, however, that Cork fans will be expecting to signpost the way to victory in this final. In a way this Cork squad reminds me of that magical Brazilian soccer team which won the World Cup in 1970.

BEST METHOD

Such a comparison may appear far-fetched, likely to turn the head of an impressionable teenager and hinder his subsequent development but I make it with the emphasis on attitude rather than ability. The attitude, of course, being that the best method of defence is attack and that it is better to win by scoring a lot than by conceding a little.

Such an approach suggests that the 1981 minor final is likely to be a free-scoring affair, filled with open, attractive forward movements. And for Cork fans, with a nostalgic streak in their make-up, memories of 1967 may well be revived in this match.

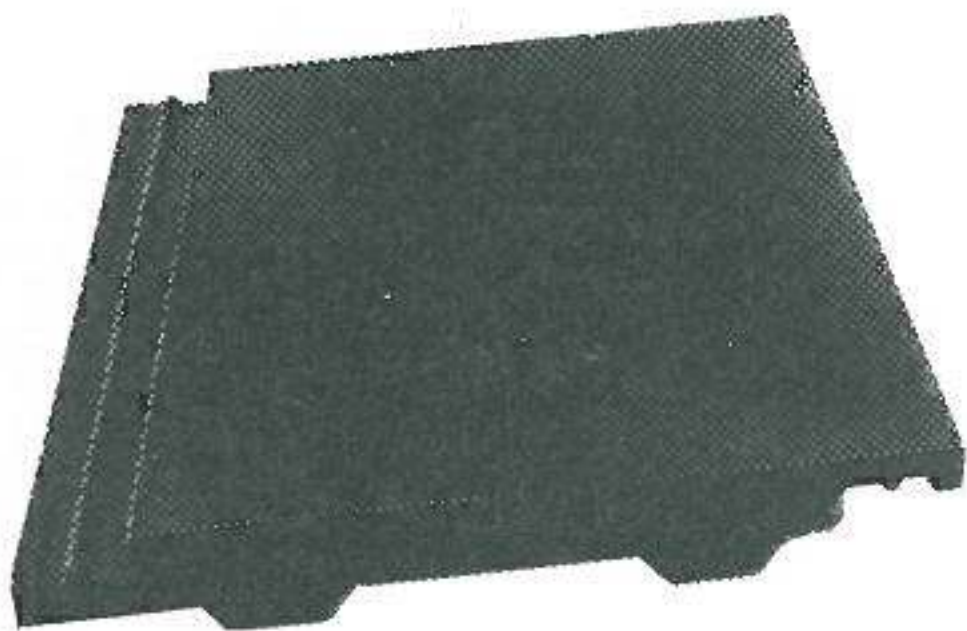
In any event, the Leesiders, with Tony Leahy, Peadar Healy, Pat Buckley, Tony O'Sullivan and John Cleary remaining from the team which failed narrowly to eventual champions, Kerry, last year, will be fancied to win their seventh minor title on September 20.

Mick O'Dwyer's men will not

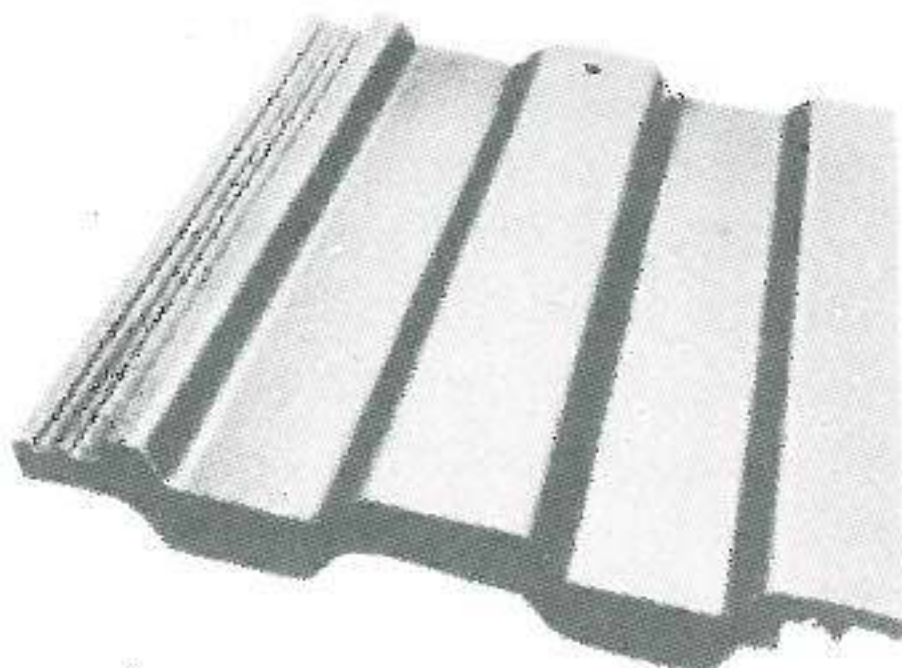


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MICHEÁL O'Rourke, the tall, urbane Tralee teacher has been one of my favourite Kerry men since I was a youth. Always there was this kindly interest, this eloquent persuasiveness, and a gentle consistent firmness that was over the years elucidated with ease and conviction at every G.A.A. council from Kerry to Congress.

It was with pleasant anticipation I sought his opinion and with, I think, equal pleasure, he gave it.

The daily papers said Miceál (or Micheál! which is it?) writing on Kerry's easy victory over Mayo and the manner of the win were unanimous in their praise of the Kerry display and as much as told Down and Offaly that they needn't concern themselves as to which of them won the second semi-final as Kerry had only to trot on to Croke Park and take the final game. The four-in-a row was just waiting to be accepted and the Sam Maguire Cup might have been heard muttering 'Was it necessary to bring me all the way up here? How tiring and how predictable! The Dubs were partly right when they coined their slogan 'Kerry for the holidays and Sam for Dublin'.

Maybe the journey is a bit too long and tiring for Sam but he has no one to blame only the members of the present Kerry Team which is composed of some of the finest players ever to come out of the Kingdom. Remember ten of the team that beat Mayo this year defeated Dublin in '75. These are John O'Keeffe, Jim Deenihan, Paud O'Shea, Tim Kennelly, Ger Power,

be caught napping

BY
EAMONN
YOUNG

Paud Lynch, Denis Moran, John Egan, Mick Sheehy and Pat Spillane.

The experience gained over the years to '79 when they played Dublin in the All Ireland Championships five years in succession brought out the best in them and enabled them to bring the art of combined efforts to a very high degree particularly in the forward section. The arrival of the 'Bomber' Liston, of goalie Charlie Nelligan and the midfielders Jack O'Shea and Sean Walsh made sure that it was an unbeatable combination.

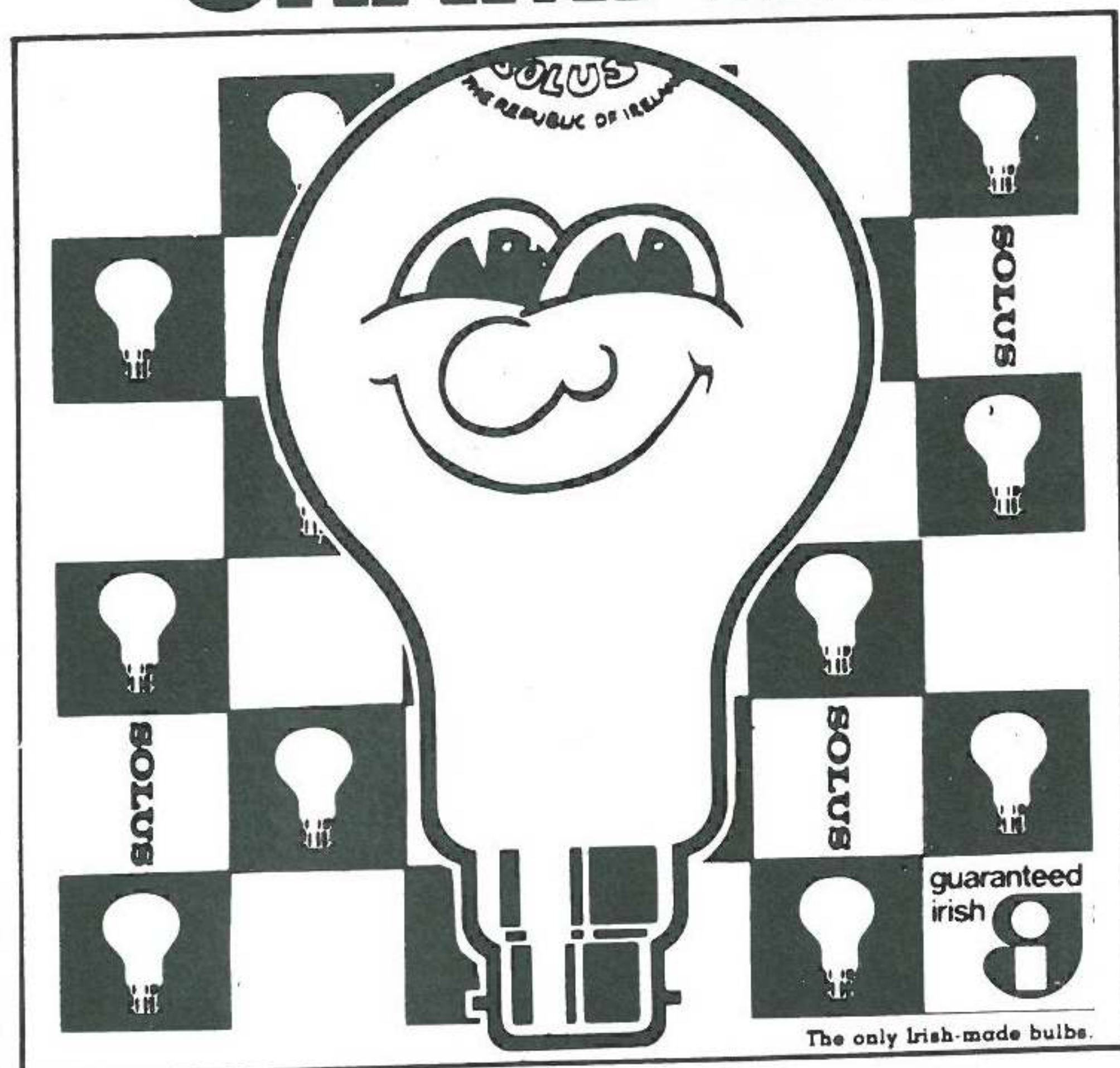
'Also their dedication to intense training and fitness, under Mick Dwyer made sure that the danger of being caught napping was a remote one. Kerry can also thank Cork's great teams for help because the Munster final has always been regarded as the highest jump to be cleared on the way to the final'.

'Success breeds success and this year the desire to win four-in-a row and do as well as our '29-'32 side is a great incentive'.

ILLEGAL PASS

Another attitude of the present side is its easy adaptability, its capacity for change in tactics thus making it difficult for the opposition to anticipate its movements. The problems posed by its illegal pass, noticeable in the Munster Final did not exist in the Mayo game and should pose no problem in the final. The team is very efficient, it makes football look easy and especially those movements that result in scores. The performances of past Kerry teams may not be as highly rated as those of the 75-81 era, whose combination has given such joy and satisfaction to so many. We may not see their likes again.

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ALL STAR TIME AGAIN

BY JOE CULLEN

THE ever-changing and non-stop nature of the Gaelic Games season is emphasised by the fact that although the All-Ireland senior football final dominates discussions nowadays, many followers are nonetheless still looking forward keenly to other events in the post-decider era. Like, for instance, the probable composition of the Bank of Ireland All Stars football team.

It is always interesting and enjoyable trying to anticipate the moves of selectors at any level, but especially when a national side is in question. As regards the Bank of Ireland All Stars squad, however, it is somewhat a premature exercise to try now and decide on the 1981 selection, as the Kerry-Offaly game will have a major say in the composition of the team.

As such it must have the strongest bearing of any match, or series of games, in shaping the All Stars team. That is going to be the case again this time, surely, with Kerry going so well once more and Offaly by far the outstanding team other than the Munster side. The final, too, may well prove that Offaly, and not Kerry, are the team of 1981!

Both counties have already strong candidates for All Stars awards. Remember Tomas Connor's majestic display of high fielding in the All-Ireland semi-final? He had a very good game earlier as well against Laois, and his chances of returning to an All-Stars squad after an interval of three years must be rated very good at this juncture.

Pat Spillane, who collected his fifth trophy last year, is another parading impressive credentials. Then, what of Eoin Liston, surely the best full forward in the game today?

Matt Connor has been scoring so freely again this year that the Offaly man is undoubtedly pushing his claims to retain his place in the attack.

Paudie Lynch, Kerry's so dependable left full back, Pat Fitzgerald and Charlie Conroy, two of the most effective units in the Offaly rearguard, must also have strong support.

Although Down will not remember the present season with a great deal of relish, despite their climb back to the top in the North, Paddy Kennedy still won many new admirers with his mastery of the full back role.

The high fielding Willie Joe Padden, one of the few Mayo stars in the crash to Kerry, is another footballer who springs readily to mind for consideration.

Certainly, there are many challengers for the All Stars awards, even before the All-Ireland final adds to the list, as it is inevitably bound to. So, one way and another, it will be no easy task in narrowing down the field to the final XV.

GARDA TOURNAMENT

THE Guinness Garda GAA Club football tournament, which was launched in 1977, continues to go from success to success. New ground, in fact, has been broken this season with the participation for the first time of a London club, John Mitchels.

The idea for the tournament came from the Garda GAA club, which is composed of members of the force based in Dublin. From the beginning it has been sponsored by Guinness.

The tournament has the full support of the Garda authorities, who recognise it as a means of reinforcing the traditionally strong links between the GAA and the Garda Siochana.

Sixteen teams started off on the trail of the 1981 title. The history-makers from across the channel, John Mitchels, were founded in 1961 in the south-west of London. They wear the Cavan colours, one of the founders having been a Cavanman.

Many of the players come from Connemara, but the club has a large following from County Mayo. The chairman is Tom Conneely, from Clifden.

The Garda GAA Club was, naturally enough, in the field. This club was formed in 1923. General

Eoin O'Duffy formed the Coiste Siamsa whose aim was "not the production of champion athletes, but to ensure that the Garda as a body should contain a high proportion of men who can hold their own with an average athlete in every form of sport".

Kilmacud Crokes, who competed in the tournament for the first time in 1979, won the Garda event last year, and lined out again in defence of their title.

This is one of Dublin's newer clubs, having been founded in 1959 and initially catered for juveniles.

Nemo Rangers, of Cork, who won the first Garda tournament, also entered.

The line-up was competed by the following clubs:

Ballintubber and Knockmore, from Mayo; St. Mary's, Sligo; Eire Og, Carlow; Gneeveguilla, Kerry; Kilrush Shamrocks, Clare; Fr. Griffin's, Galway; Navan O'Mahony's and Walterstown, of Meath; Civil Service, Dublin; St. Joseph's, Laois, and Cooley Kickhams, of Louth.

The quality of the entry is an indication of the high place that the Guinness Garda GAA Club tournament holds in the calendar today.

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

THE All Ireland came on top of us awfully fast. I always regard the Football Final Weekend as the end of the Summer. And here it is upon us. It wasn't a bad Summer. May and June weren't good. In fact some G.A.A. pitches were flooded during those months.

It was a great year for hurling. Football took a further nosedive so much pulling and dragging. When will we see a team coached to go for the ball? The whole business of marking a man has gone out of hand.

Players are coached to stick to their opponent and not let him move an inch. I saw this brought to a ridiculous level at the second semi-final between Offal and Down. As the players went into position before the senior game, I saw Down centre half back shadow his opponent Gerry Carroll even before the National Anthem was played.

I just picked out this duo. I'm certain I saw this. It is too ridiculous for further comment. And I'm quite sure they were not the only pair at this farcical business. In the Minor game between Derry and Dublin it was just as bad. In fact I read where Alan Larkin the Dublin team manager called one of his charges to the sideline to give him an instruction only to find his Derry opponent in attendance. Could anything be more ludicrous.?

TOMÁS CONNOR

There is nothing nicer in football than to see a good display of catching or fielding. With so much

close marking nowadays and so much punching of the ball away from opponents, so much tip-tap possession football or chessboard football as perfected by Kerry, it isn't often we get a great display of this traditional skill which was so much part of the game in the past.

Shades of Paddy Kennedy, Henry Kenny, Tommy Murphy, Mick O'Connell, Jim McKeever, Frank Evers, Jack Quinn, Willie Bryan . .

But the marvellous display of Tomás Connor at midfield for Offaly v Down reminded me of days of yore. And I must mention the great duel between the same Tomás and John Costelloe of Laois in the Leinster Final when they both contested every fetch without any punching or hacking or pulling or dragging.

And one shouldn't forget Willie Nally's great fielding for Mayo v Galway or that of Willie Joe Padden's for Mayo v Sligo and Kerry. Add on there the names of Declan Barron, Brian Talty and the marvellous Kerry pair Jack O'Shea and Sean Walsh. I look forward to the duel at midfield in the final.

LEONARD ENRIGHT

Our cut-out this month is Limerick's Leonard Enright, a tremendous hurling full-back, whose loss to his county in the replay of the All-Ireland semi-final this year was insurmountable. For the past two years Leonard has really proved a Godsend to a county which had to suffer the loss of the greatest full-back in the game at the time due to an unfortunate injury, namely Pat Hartigan. In that short time Enright

has become the game's greatest full-back. It is hard to don the mantle of one of the greats and wear it so well so soon.

I didn't get any of the Muster Final programmes. Perhaps some reader or the producers might send me a copy and I will be delighted to comment on same. By and large provincial final programmes have now surpassed that for All-Ireland semi-finals but the best of all are still the All-Ireland Final programmes which will, I understand, be on sale in the competing counties once again a few days before the game. Be sure to get one

DERMOT McCARTHY

Just before I started to write this, who should call on me but regular scribe from Bath in England, Dermot McCarthy, his Donegal born wife from Arranmore Rose and son Ciarán. He was just after reading the hurling final issue of *Gaelic Sport* and was quick to point out that he now had communication from the Down Co. Board regarding the programmes he sent them. It seems that Down intend to publish an official G.A.A. Yearbook this year and these programmes will be offered as prizes in some competition therein.

MAILBAG

This time it is skimpy enough. So start writing again. Tell me what you thought of the Finals, of your own Co. Finals, anything connected with Gaelic Games.

Joseph Woods, 157 The Oaks, Newbridge, Co. Kildare is anxious to find out all details regarding the G.A.A. Brain of Ireland organised in conjunction with Féile na nGael in Galway this year. He also paid tribute to both Galway and Limerick for the thrilling hurling replay.

● *The winner of the G.A.A. Brain of Ireland was Gerry Corbett of Tiaquinn, Athenry. Unfortunately there were few entries from outside Co. Galway. Michael Ó Muircheartaigh was Quizmaster and the questions were compiled by Christy Fitzgerald, Frank Burke N.T. and myself. I hope it becomes a feature of future Féile's. (J.M.).*

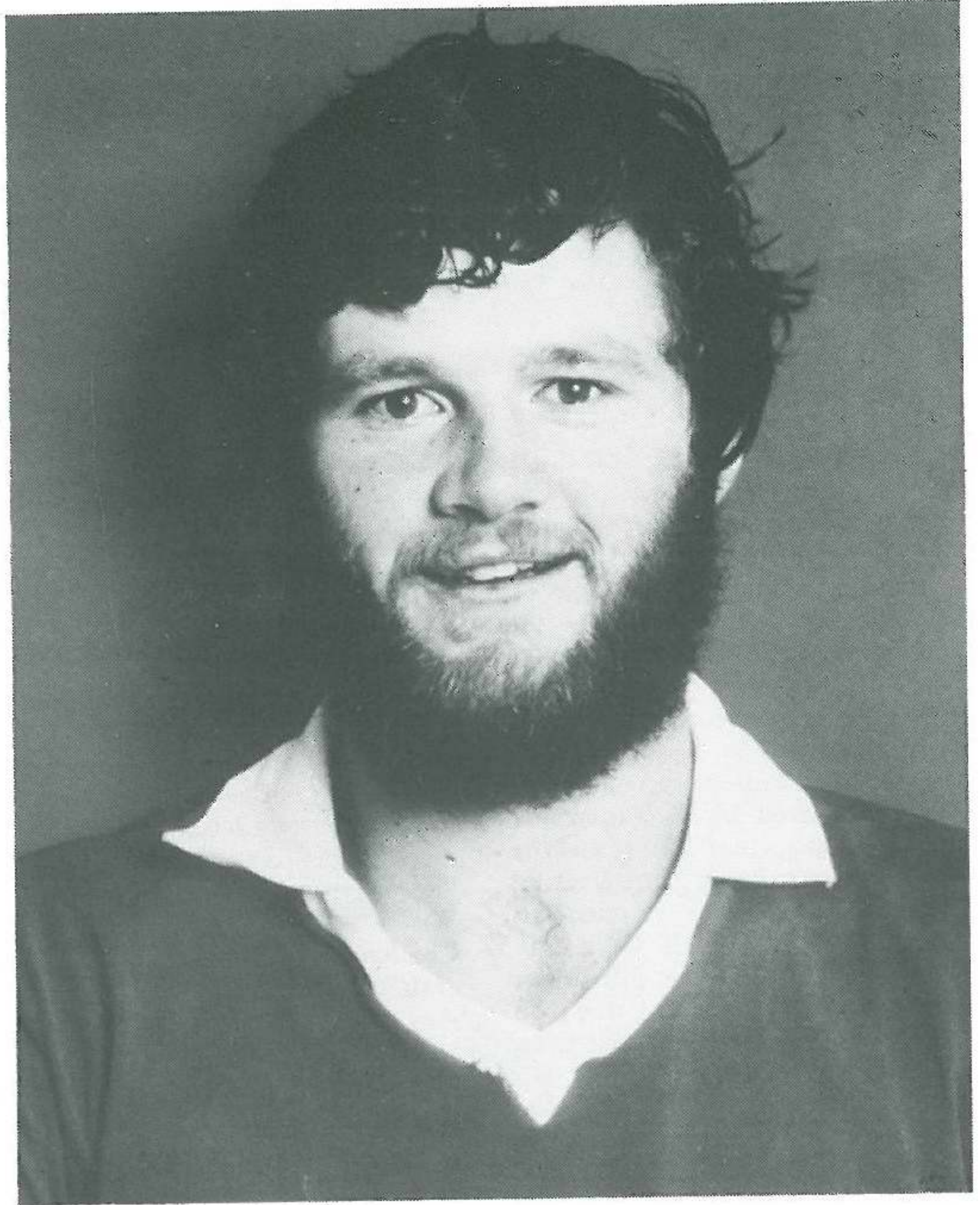
Gearóid McCarthy, Age 12, Rooskey, Coronea, Skibbereen, Co. Cork is an ardent Cork fan and has seen the last three Munster Finals. His favourite players are John Evans, Denis Allen, Declan Barron and Finny Mahoney. "It was good to see the handpassed scores go as goalkeepers had no chance of saving them. It is also good to see so many new teams re-emerged in both hurling and football namely Sligo, Mayo and Laois, in football and in hurling Laois and Clare. Finally, I'd favour a close season from Dec. 1st to Mid February for hurling and for football from Dec. 1st to Feb. 1st."

● *Gearóid you win a Cork G.A.A. scarf which you can wear for next year's Munster Final and for the N.L. campaigns. (J.M.).*

Eileen Murphy, Railway View, Rathmore, Co. Kerry. "This could be termed the year of surprises — Sligo beating Roscommon, Mayo beating Galway, Clare beating Cork etc. I was at the Munster F. Final which was very disappointing.

The wind, I suppose, was a big factor in spoiling the game but both the foul handpass and the personal fouling stopped the flow of the game. I think referees are concentrating too much on the handpass and forgetting other aspects of the game. Too many personal fouls go unnoticed now. The personal foul is the game's greatest ill.

I thought the Cork players were very unfair to Eoin Liston after the incident in which Billy Morgan was injured. It was plain to see it was accidental. Afterwards it affected his game".



● *Eoin Liston (Kerry) has a staunch defender in Eileen Murphy from Rathmore.*

● *Fine letter as usual Eileen. You win a Kerry G.A.A. scarf and wear it at the final. I thought the Cork players were unfair to Eoin too judging it on "telly" but you'd need to be out on the field with all those players to make a real judgement. Possibly the extent of Billy's injury made the Cork players hot under the collar. Eoin Liston is not a dirty player. In fact he is very sporting. (J.M.).*

Conal MacNiocaill, 18, Grattan Park, Salthill, Galway is 12 years old and writes for the first time. "It was great to see Galway come back and win the N.F.L. but I was disappointed to see them lose to Mayo in the Connacht Semi-Final".

● *So was I Conal. Welcome to Junior Desk. Write again. (J.M.).*

Our final letter this month is from Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway who is just back from the U.S.A. where he visited Boston and New York covering seven States in all. He played some hurling in Boston and saw Galway beat Cork in the same city. Visiting Washington D.C. was another highlight.

● *I bet you were delighted to get back home too Norman. (J.M.).*

That's the end of this very short "Mailbag". So get out your pens now and write on just anything relating to the G.A.A. to:—

Jack Mahon,
Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
80 Upper Drumcondra Rd.,
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WHY YOU SHOULD SAVE REGULARLY

BY R. G. BARRY

CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL SAVINGS COMMITTEE

IT is easy to save once you start. You can open an account in a Post Office Saving Bank with as little as 50p. You should then try to save regularly, no matter how large or small the amount. Once you begin, you will be surprised at how quickly your savings mount up.

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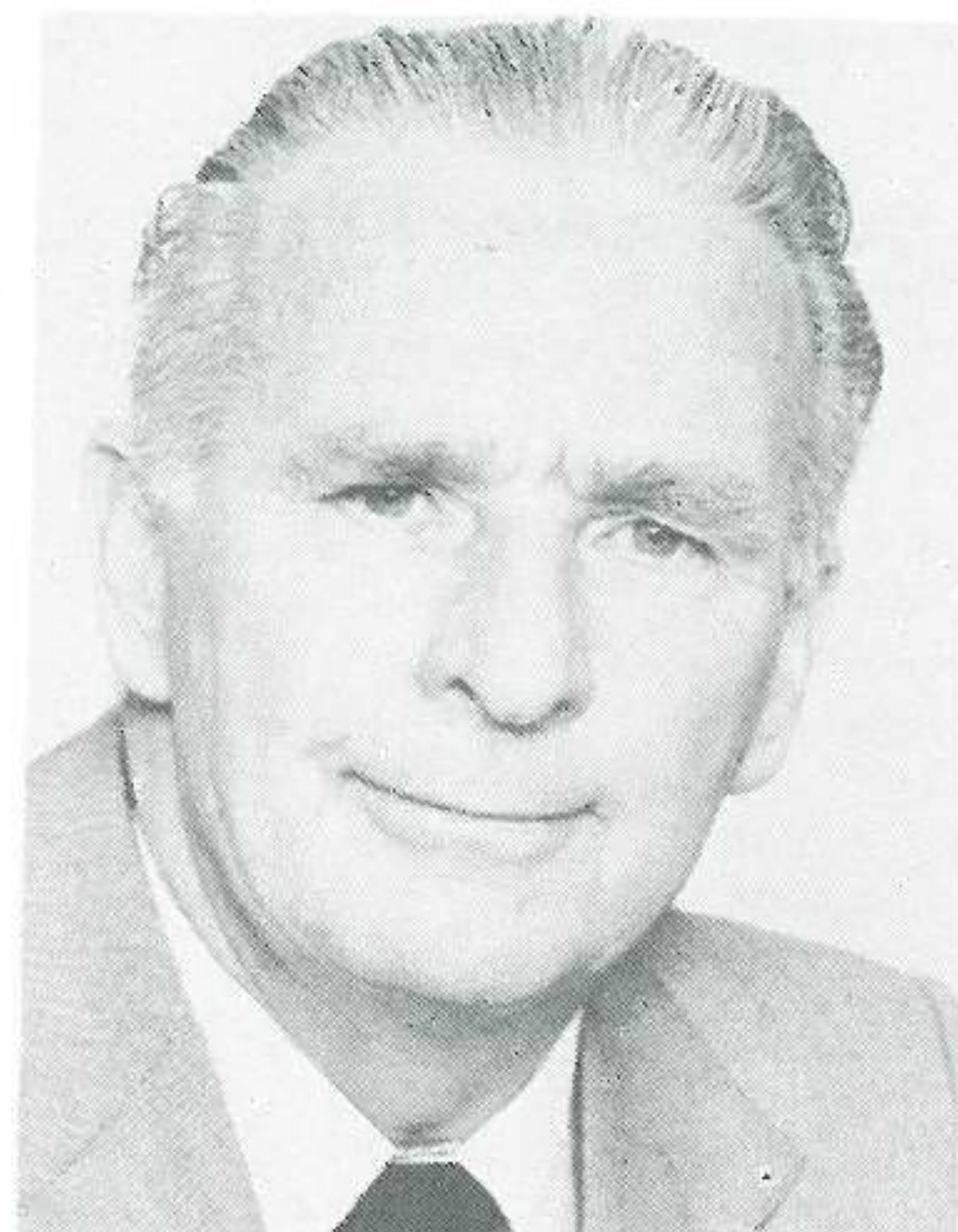
1981 marks the Silver Jubilee of the National Savings Committee. It

is fair to say that the promotion of saving now is as important to the nation and the individual as at any time over the last 25 years.

The National Savings Committee is a voluntary body with a small full time staff. Its aim is to promote the idea of saving in general. The N.S.C. organises group savings schemes in schools and places of work.

The Committee also produces a number of free advisory booklets on money matters. Titles include: "Secure Ways to Save", "Spending Wisely", "Family Budgeting", "The Challenge of Retirement", "Money-craft", "School Leavers' Guide". Any of these may be obtained by writing to the National Savings Committee, at 72, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

The personal saver has a wide



choice of where to deposit his or her money.

No matter which savings scheme you use, it is important to try and save something. You will certainly feel the benefit of this in the medium term. You will also be making a contribution to the future prosperity of the nation. An immediate return to good old fashioned thrift may be just what we all need to see us through the difficult economic times ahead.

• FROM PAGE 27

BOMBER LISTON

A few moves like that and it was remarkable how seldom the initial awkwardness could be noticed. The rest of the story is well-known. Three goals in the All-Ireland of 1978 could not be forgotten — he was "The Bomber" overnight.

The extra dimension he gave Kerry's attacks allowed them the continual element of surprise — now playing a long ball direct to catch the defence sleeping; now the fast low ball and the lay-off to in-coming supporters; now the intricate, fancy build up, with Pat Spillane most likely at the heart of it, that destroys the half-backs uncovered as they are by fearful full-backs who were skinned last time they came forward. And if there is something clogging the works of the Kerry team and the moves are not flowing, or the mid-field cannot get the ball clear, you can always switch Eoin out to midfield where his great strength, height and long arms will grab a couple and break the log-jam.



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Leonard Enright (Limerick)

Age: 30
Height: 5ft. 11ins.
Weight: 13st.
Club: Patrickswell.
Position: Full Back.
Senior Inter-County
Debut: 1971.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Leonard won his first All Star award last year when chosen at full back after his splendid contribution to Limerick's Munster senior title win, and their brave bid in the All-Ireland final.

He is now firmly established as one of the best full backs in the game, yet when Limerick last won the National League in 1971 he was substitute goalkeeper!

Leonard collected his second Munster medal last July, and has got among the souvenirs with his club in the county senior championship. He is a versatile sportsman, who has also made his mark in a number of other games.

The Irish the Irish prefer.

