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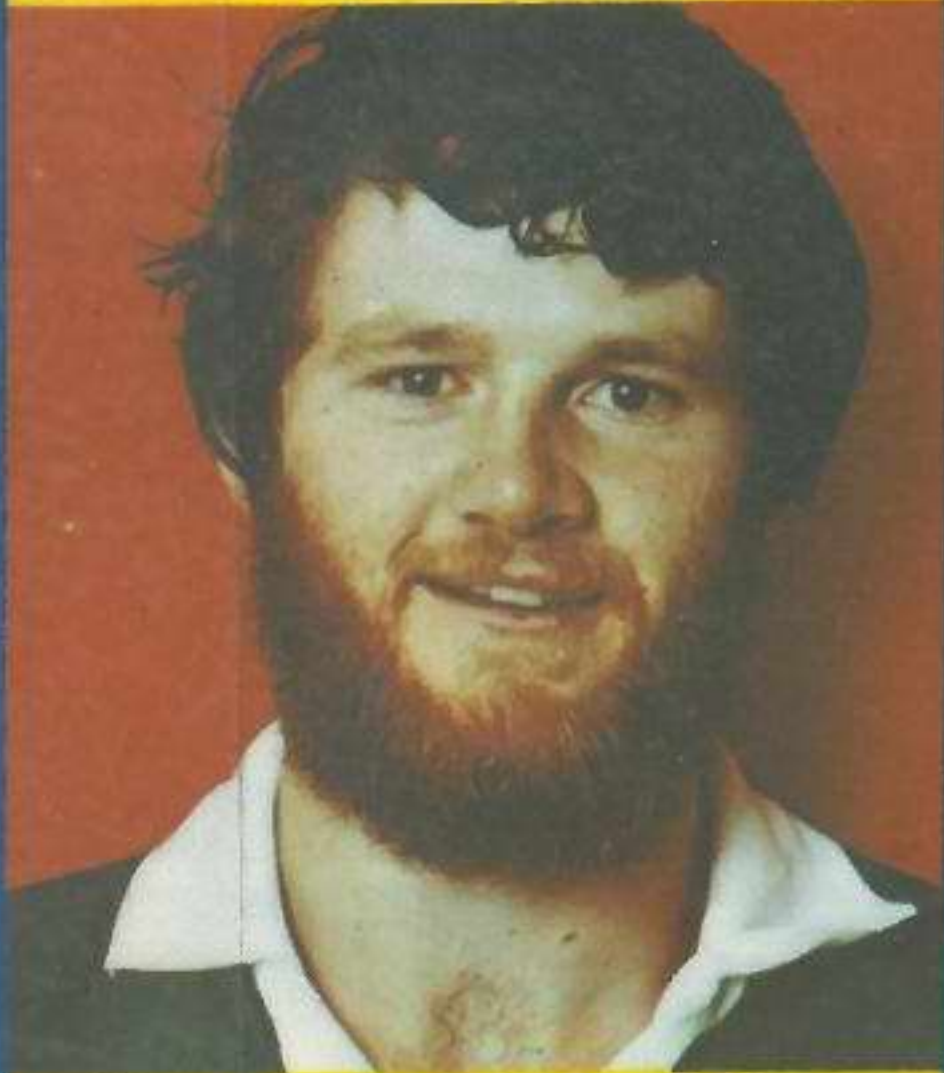
THE CHOICE OF THE STARS

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

JANUARY, 1982

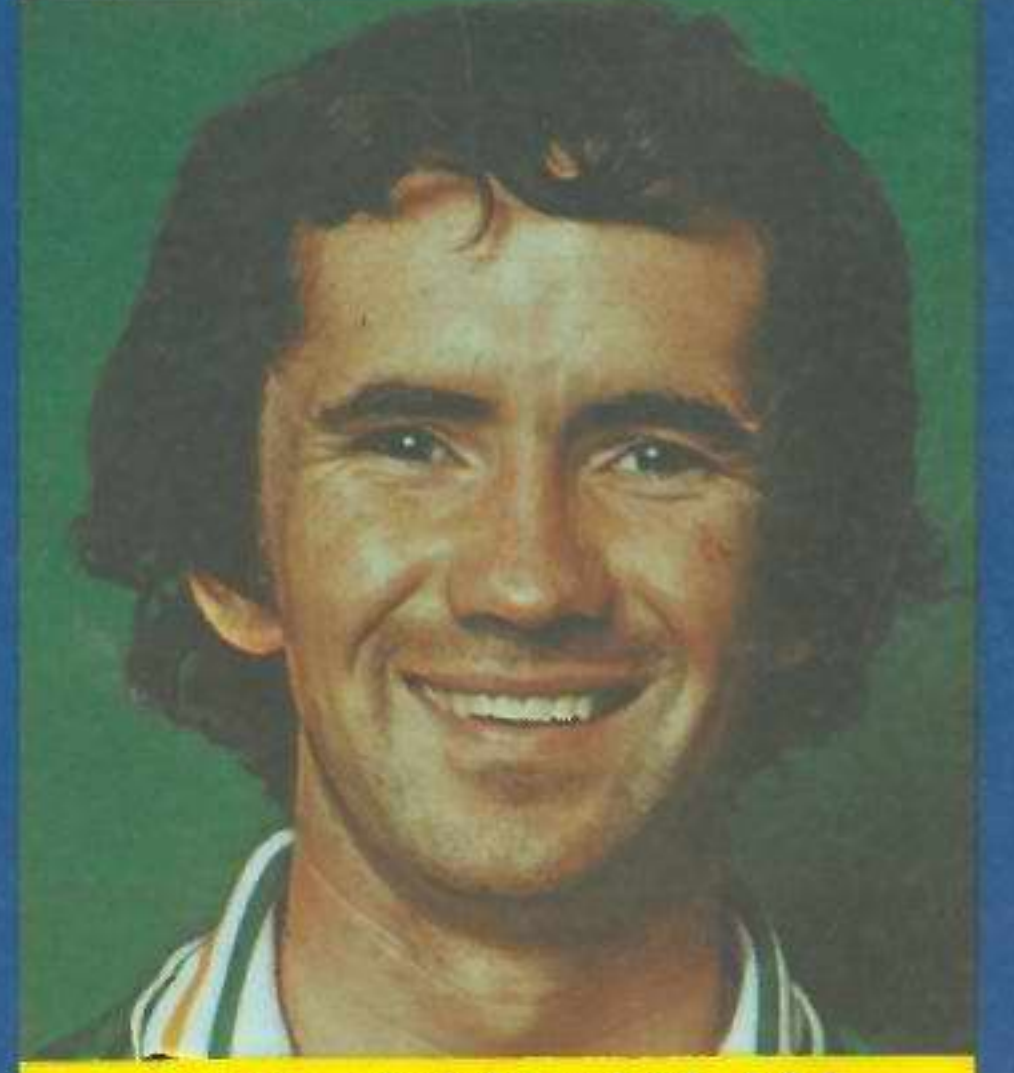
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FOOTBALL

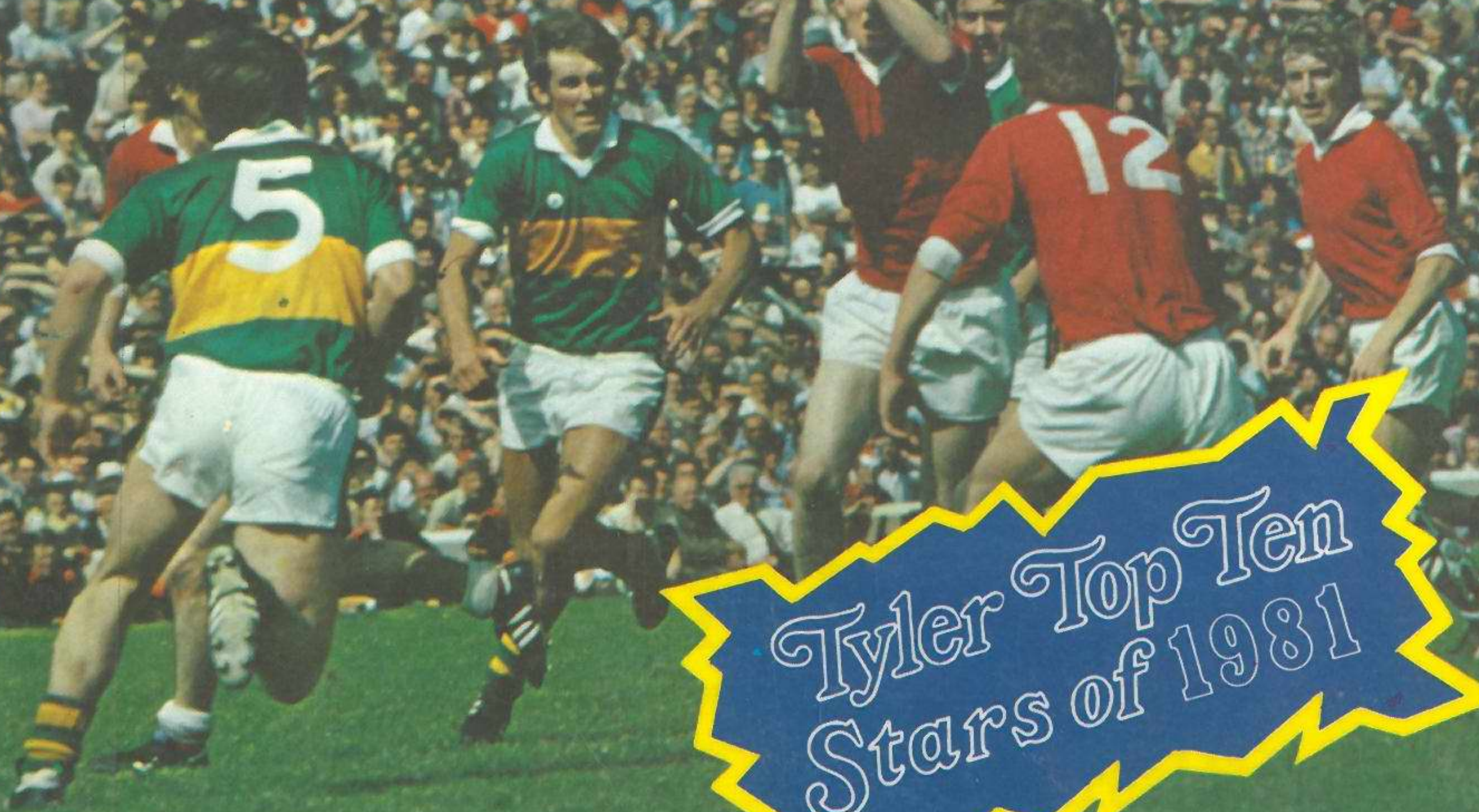


EOIN LISTON

HURLING



GER COUGHLAN



Tyler Top Ten Stars of 1981

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WINTER KILLS SKILL

THE G.A.A. continues to be rigidly bound by tradition. A case in point is the playing period for the National Leagues, which are about to get under way again after the short Christmas break.

Season after season the majority of the games in the Leagues are played in the most uninviting weather conditions when skilled play must take second place to muddy pitches.

Little wonder, then, that footballers and hurlers are fighting a losing battle in trying to produce constructive play. Or that the standards, especially in football, are as low as is the case at present.

It is ironic as well that most of the teams who cram so many fixtures into winter competitions are idle during the best months of the year. That is another unsatisfactory aspect of a fixtures plan that leaves counties beaten in the opening rounds of the championships kicking their heels idly until the Leagues start in October.

This is one area where a break with tradition is long overdue. What is badly needed is a new look season for the Leagues, with games starting in February and running through to October.

This would ensure that all matches were played in much better weather conditions. That would help the Leagues to realise their true potential as vehicles for promoting the national games. And, goodness knows, football especially needs all the help the game can get in this regard.

It will be argued that this plan would result in games in the Leagues and the championships overlapping each summer. So, what?

Other sporting organisations can run League and knock-out competitions concurrently. What they can do should not be beyond the G.A.A.

OUR TOP MEN

It is with great pleasure that we salute Ger Coughlan and Eoin Liston, our cover personalities this month, who have emerged as the GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN award winners for 1981.

This magazine is privileged to be associated with Messrs John Tyler and Sons in this promotion, which underlines in a tangible way our appreciation of the efforts of the players.

Ger Coughlan and Eoin Liston are very worthy winners. They were two of the most consistent players in the past year, and they also set high standards with their quality play and sportsmanship.

We congratulate them. We say "Well Done" also to the players whose performances over the past year ensured that the campaign for the GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN awards proved such an exciting one.

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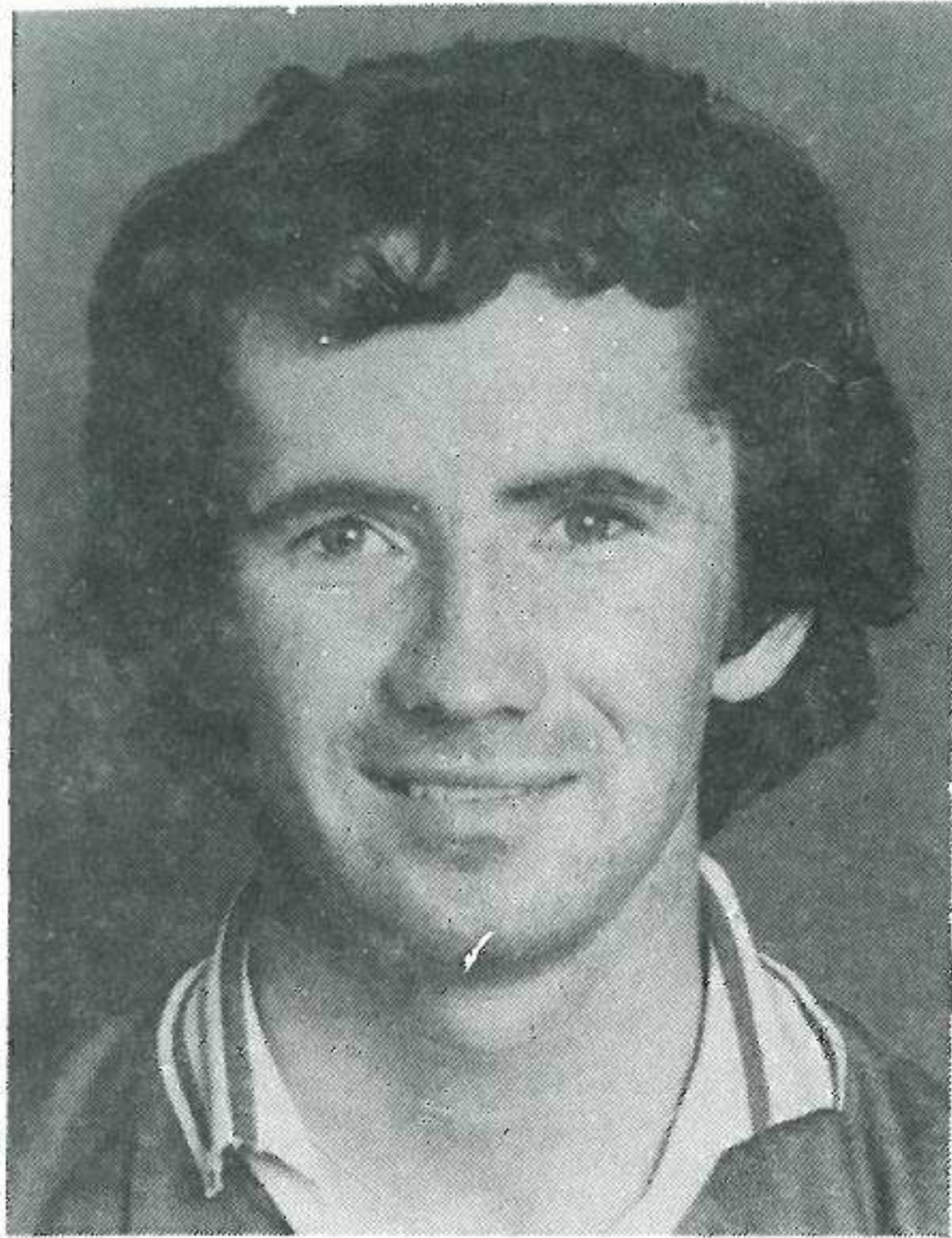
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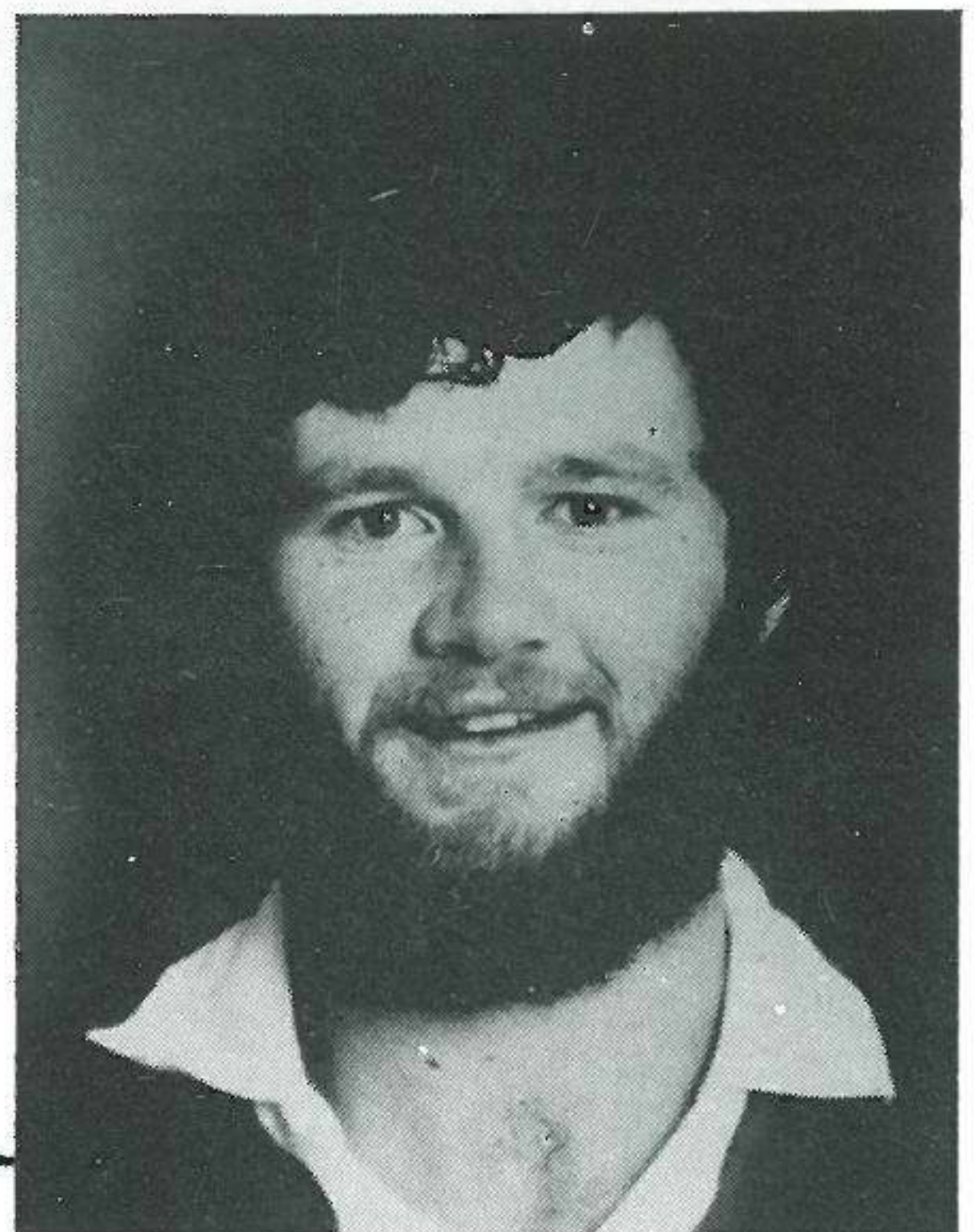
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Tyler Top Ten Stars of 1981

GER COUGHLAN
(Offaly)

EOIN LISTON
(Kerry)



GER JUST PIPPED COUNTY COLLEAGUE

IT is history on the double in the 1981 GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN awards, with Eoin Liston bringing the football award to Munster for the first time ever, and Ger Coughlan striking a blow for Leinster in hurling as the initial winner from the East in the five years history of these now prestigious awards.

Liston takes a moderate enough seventh ranking in the last of the charts this month on 22 points, but that haul is still good enough to keep him clear of the field, despite a late and impressive burst by that great-hearted Offaly defender, Charlie Conroy. The Kerry full forward winds up the series with 103 points, just five clear of Conroy.

Liston took over on top in the football table in the October edition, and held on to that spot in the November-December issue, even though he failed in that particular chart to gain a place in the Top Ten.

In contrast Ger Coughlan just gained the top placing as the final points were added up. He was in second place in the November-

December issue, seven points adrift of his team-mate, Pat Delaney, but a sparkling performance in the win over Cork in the concluding Offaly match of the year, ensured him of a sufficient tally of points to finish an impressive enough winner.

He is as far down as sixth in the current ratings, on 28 points, but that haul boosted his record over all to 144 points — and earns him the TYLER TOP TEN award with 21 points in hand over Pat Delaney.

Liston was very early among the points. He collected 21 in February and March, and that good start was to stand him in good stead in view of Kerry's elimination from the League in the semi-final, and their absence from the home scene in October on their Australian tour.

The tall Kerry full forward headed the October chart on 30 points — the only time that he took the top position in any Top Ten review during the past year. That was also one of his two highest returns. He also collected 30 points in April-May, but still finished well down

that particular chart.

After missing out in November and December, the Beale man did enough in his appearances against Dublin and Mayo in the 1981-82 National League to gain a sufficient number of points to withstand a late and brave thrust by Charlie Conroy, who was not even in the top three starting the final run-in.

But Conroy gave very workman-like displays in defence for Offaly as they kept their unbeaten League record on the rails with wins over Roscommon and Galway, and as a result he takes the first place in any review in the period with a handsome enough 33 points. He beat another of Offaly's defensive stars, Richie Connor, by two points in this month's tables, and comfortably passed out Brian Talty (Galway) and Pat Fitzgerald, another Offaly back-man for the runners-up spot.

Conroy had his most successful time among the points in the

● TO PAGE 7

smoothy!

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August-September issue on 38 points, but still finished in third place in a run-down headed by Pat Fitzgerald.

The unlucky footballer of the Top Ten review must undoubtedly be Brian Talty. He made such a fine contribution to Galway's National League title win that he held the No. 1 placing over-all on 74 points until August-September. By then, however, his career had been interrupted by an injury that was to keep him out of the game for the rest of the year.

In view of his great start, it does not seem unreasonable to suggest that but for his injury, the ace Western midfielder would have been a strong challenger for the TYLER TOP TEN award.

Now, however, after holding down the second spot for the year as a whole starting the final review, Talty has been passed out not only by Charlie Conroy, but by his county-mate, Stephen Kinneavy, who takes third place by collecting 24 points this month. He finishes the year with 92 points over-all.

SEVENTH PLACE

Coughlan, like Liston, figured in the first Top Ten ratings of February-March finishing in seventh place in hurling on 22 points. He found favour again in June-July and August-September



TOP TEN FINAL PLACINGS

FOOTBALL

- 103 Eoin Liston (Kerry)
- 98 Charlie Conroy (Offaly)
- 92 Stephen Kinneavy (Galway)
- 74 Brian Talty (Galway)
- 69 Pat Fitzgerald (Offaly)
- 65 A. Egan (Mayo)
- 66 Paudie Lynch (Kerry)
- 62 Dermot Earley (Roscommon)
- 62 Michael Sheehy (Kerry)
- 59 Richie Connor (Offaly)

HURLING

- 144 Ger Coughlan (Offaly)
- 123 Pat Delaney (Offaly)
- 94 John Horgan (Cork)
- 84 Sylvie Linnane (Galway)
- 67 Seamus Durack (Clare)
- 66 Brian Murphy (Cork)
- 62 Jim Greene (Waterford)
- 61 Pat McGrath (Waterford)
- 60 Liam O'Donoghue (Limerick)
- 58 Joe Connolly (Galway)



before reaching his zenith in the returns by heading the hurling table of November-December with 36 points — his only time to take the No. 1 position in any ratings. Previous to that his best position was fifth in June-July, and again in August-September.

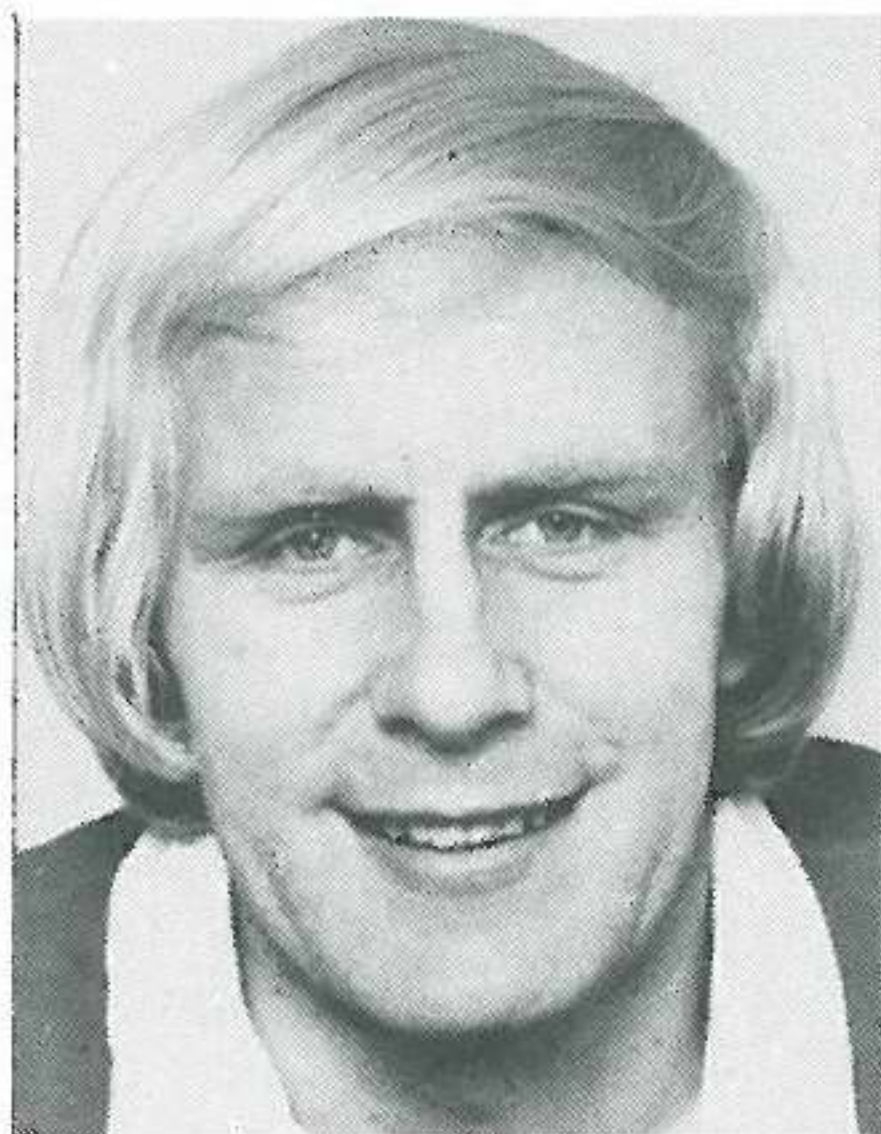
Coughlan also has the distinction of being the only hurler or footballer to earn a place over five separate ratings during the 1981 record. That feat underlines the hallmark of the GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN awards, as consistency over the year as a whole, rather than an emphasis on one or two games, is the keynote to success.

TOUGH LUCK!

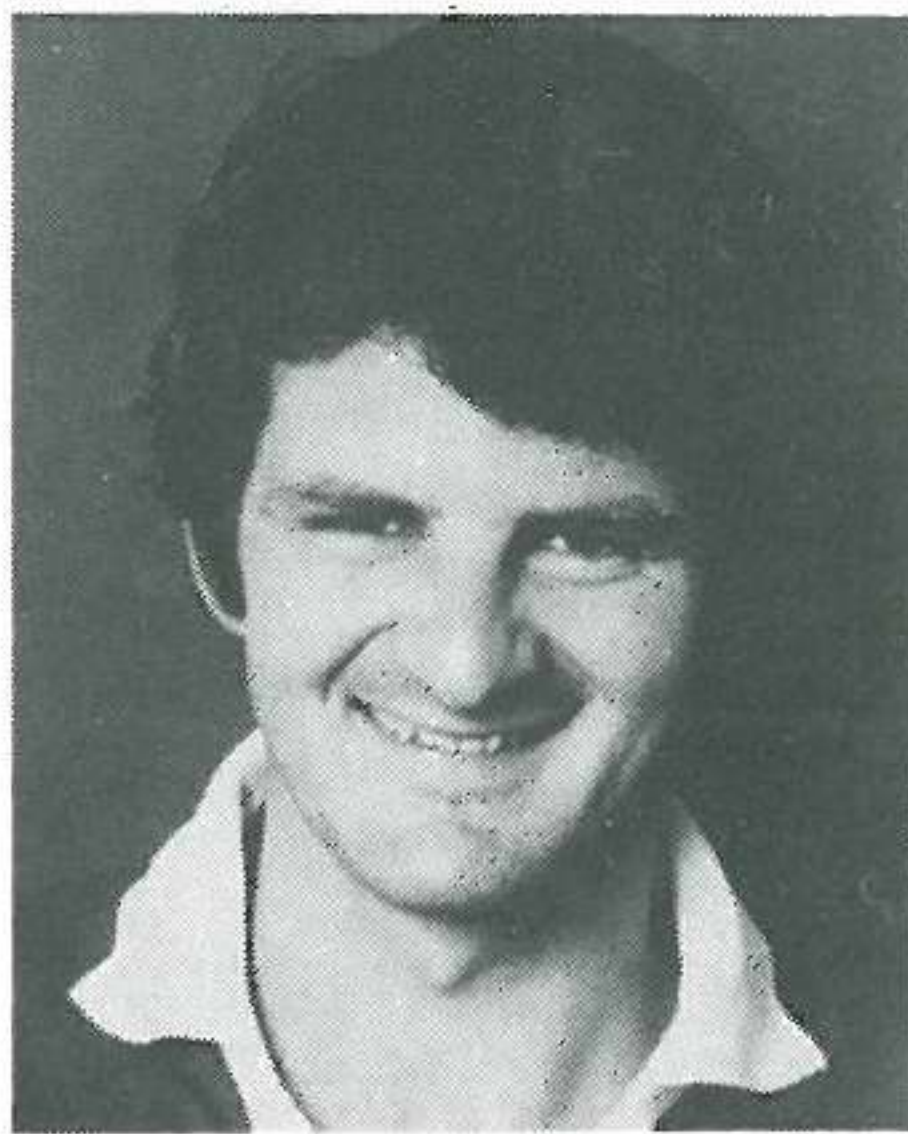
Tough luck on Pat Delaney in losing out on the award at the finishing burst. He made his entry in April-May on 32 points, and in June-July the Offaly half back went a point better on 33 — his heaviest bag of the season.

Leading the way for Munster is another of the early in the year stars — John Horgan. He collected his 94 points in the opening half of the year, and had his last appearance in any table in June-July.

A total of 48 hurlers were



JOHN HORGAN (Cork)



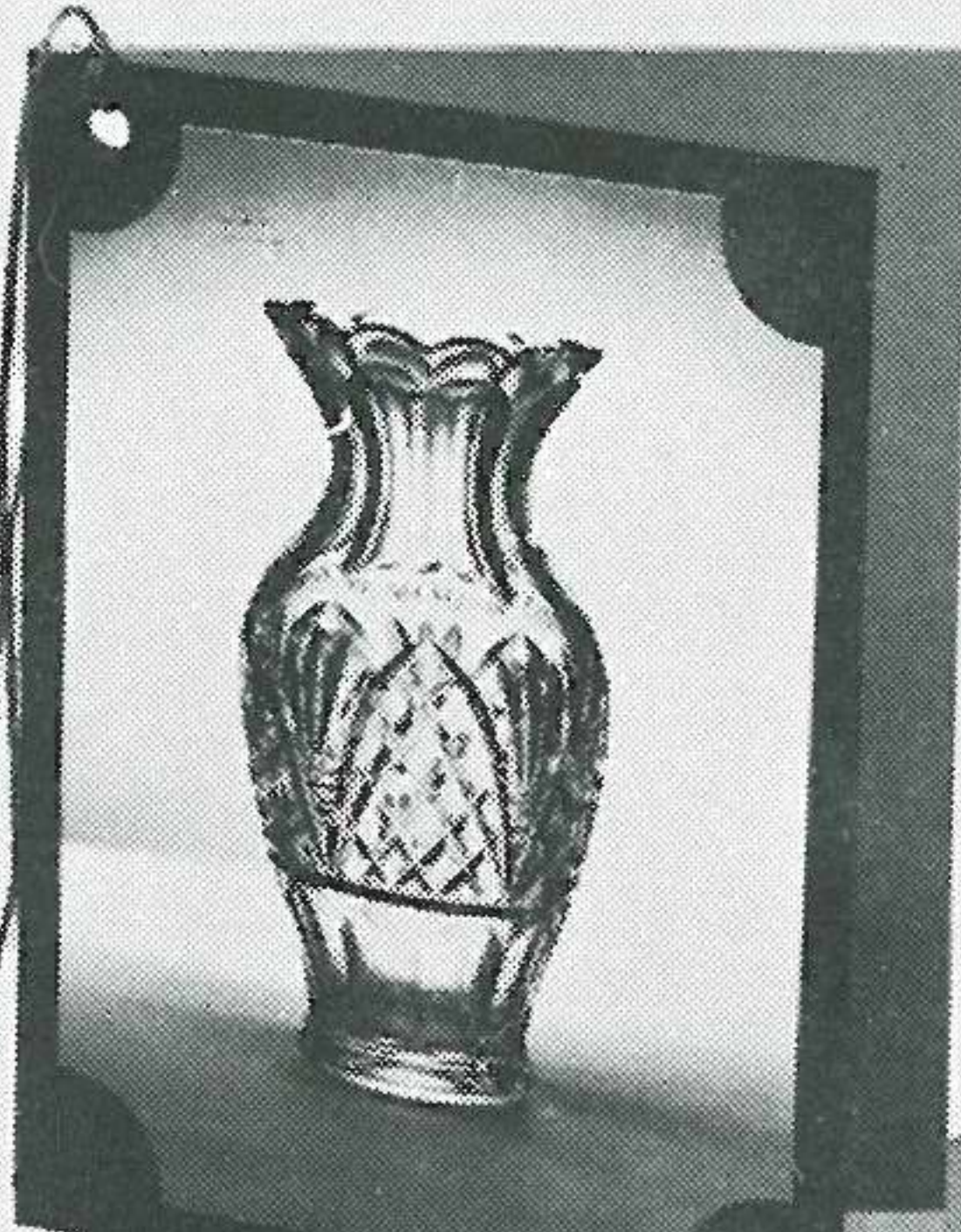
PAUDIE LYNCH (Kerry)



SEAMUS DURACK (Clare)

Present day.

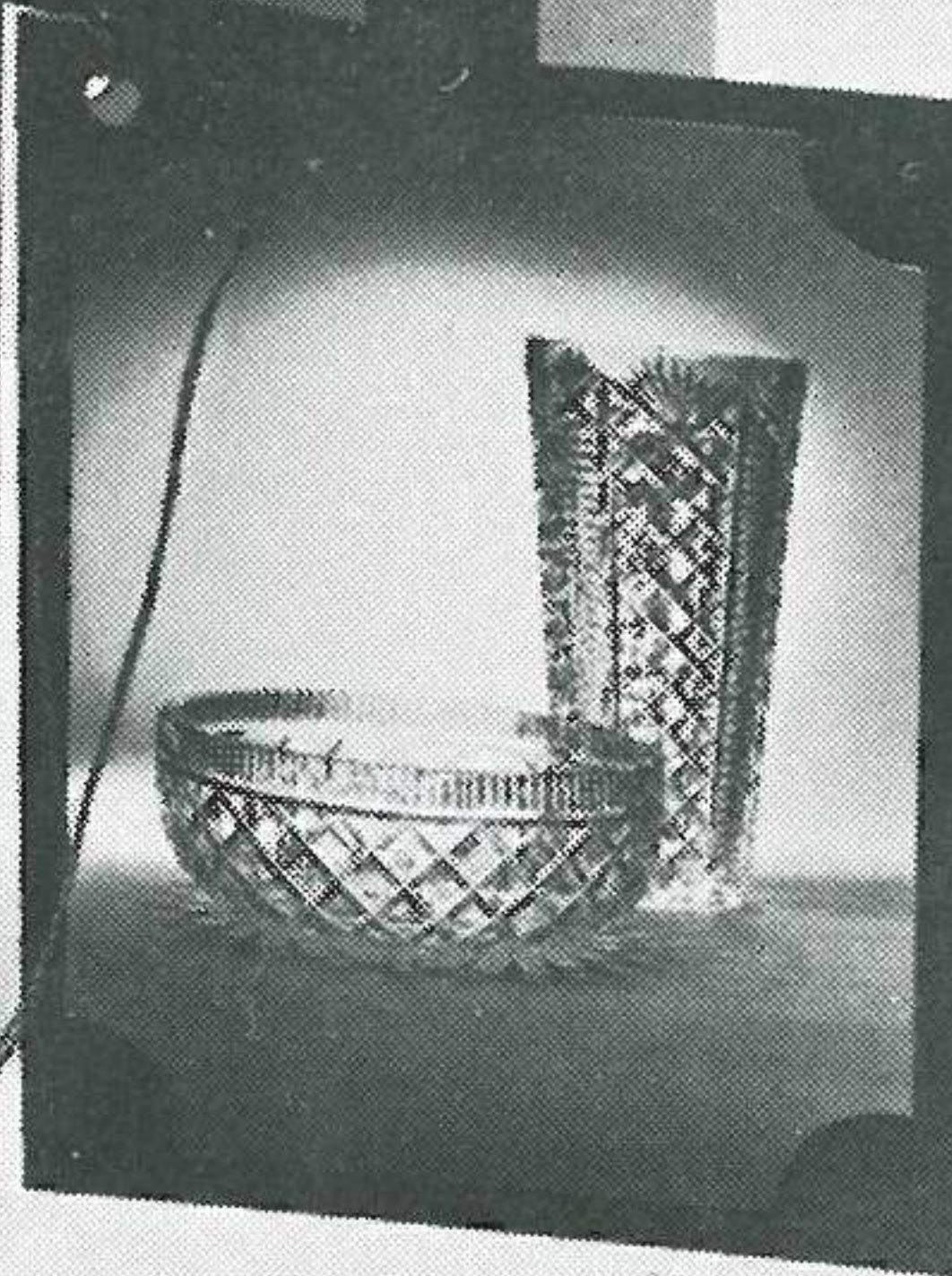
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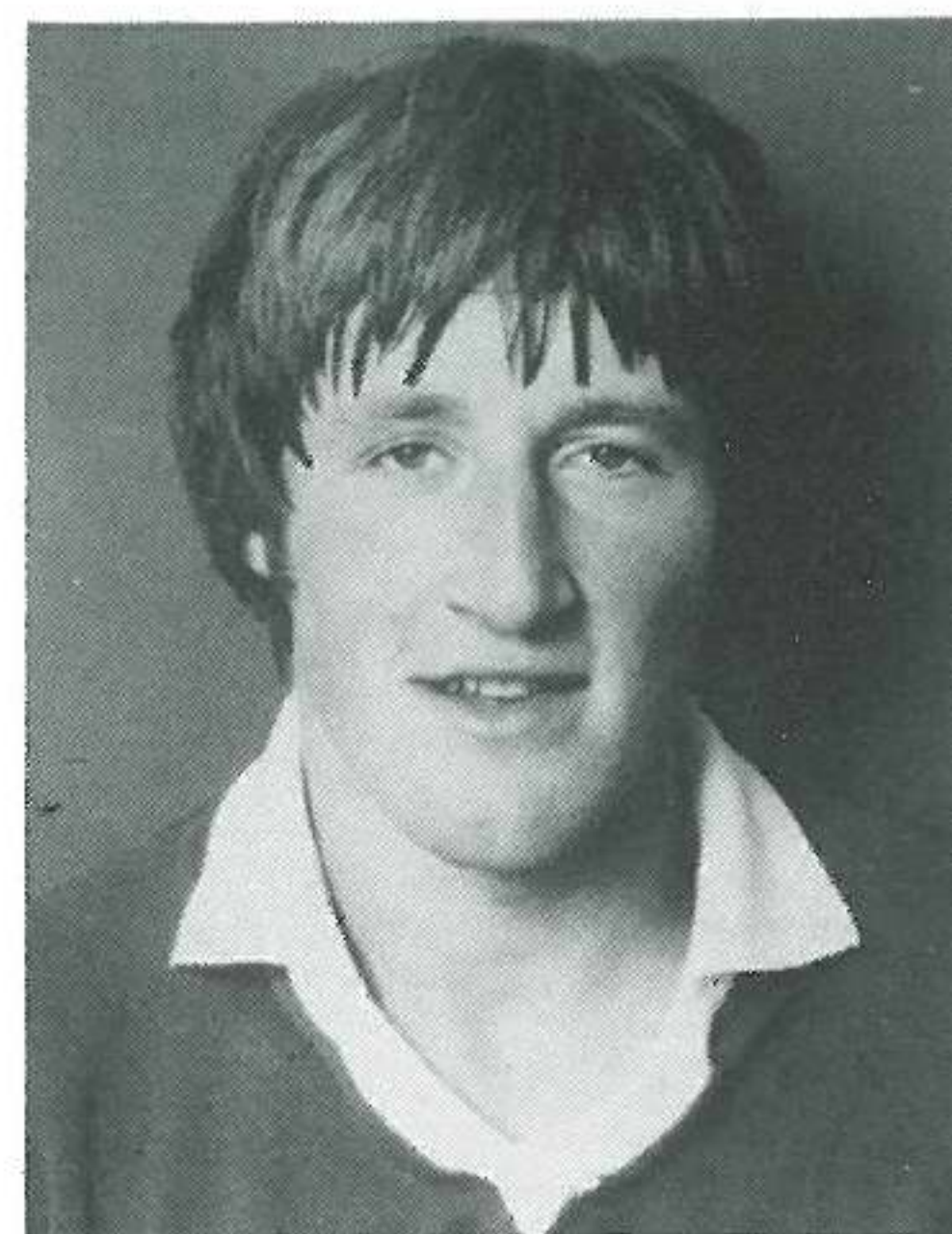
THIS MONTH'S RATINGS

HURLING

36	J. Greene (Waterford) ...	62
34	T. Stapleton (Tipperary) .	34
32	D. McCurtain (Cork)	32
30	P. Fox (Tipperary)	30
29	J. Galvin (Waterford) ...	29
28	G. Coughlan (Offaly)	144
27	A. Fogarty (Offaly).....	27
26	T. Cashman (Cork).....	26
24	S. Durack (Clare)	67
22	J. Fleming (Wexford)....	46

FOOTBALL

33	C. Conroy (Offaly)	98
31	R. Connor (Offaly)	59
29	A. McCaul (Dublin)	29
27	J. O'Shea (Kerry)	53
26	J. McKerr (Armagh)	26
24	S. Kinneavy (Galway) ...	92
22	E. Liston (Kerry)	103
22	B. Kelly (Derry)	22
22	P. O'Toole (Wicklow)	22
21	M. McHugh (Donegal) ...	45



PAT SPILLANE . . . the popular Kerryman would have figured much higher in the Top Ten '81 ratings but for his unfortunate injury, incurred in training for the '81 All-Ireland Final.

• FROM PAGE 7

honoured over the year from twelve counties.

Galway lead the way comfortably as regards the number of hurlers honoured over the year, with nine of their squad having earned places. Sharing the runners-up position in this regard with six hurlers apiece chosen are Cork and Offaly.

In football, 51 players found favour. Kerry, not surprisingly, set the pace, with nine footballers in the returns. Offaly come next with seven of their players having been honoured.

As for the final ratings of the campaign, Charlie Conroy's performances against Roscommon and Galway, as recorded earlier, earned him the top listing in the concluding football table.

Jim Greene did much to spark Waterford to their pre-Christmas wins over Laois and Galway to greet the start of the second part of the National League with the perfect record from four games. As a result, he gains the principal placing in hurling on 36 points. This is his second appearance in the tables, his debut having been in June-July.

FAIREST METHOD

The latest GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN ratings once more emphasise that the real strong point of this scheme is that *consistency* over the year, rather than brilliance in one or two games, is the basis on which the awards are compiled.

This makes these awards unique, and this point has been favourably commented on time and again by leading officials, players and past players. Indeed, no less a personality than the former great Kilkenny hurler, Eddie Keher, is on record as saying that the GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN awards is the fairest method of all when it comes to singling out the outstanding players in the year under review.

At the recent Bank of Ireland All Stars banquet many expressed the view that the All-Ireland finals exercise too great an influence on the selection of the All Star teams. Under our promotion, however, players like Jim Greene (Waterford), Martin McHugh (Donegal) and Seamus Durack (Clare) figure high in our ratings, even though their teams may not have carried off any of the major honours of 1981.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ PREVIOUS WINNERS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HURLING

*1977	38 pts.:	G. Loughnane (Clare)
1978	141 pts.:	S. Durack (Clare)
1979	145 pts.:	John Connolly (Galway)
1980	179 pts.:	S. Silke (Galway)

FOOTBALL

*1977	39 pts.:	P. O'Neill (Dublin)
1978	157 pts.:	C. McAlarney (Down)
1979	145 pts.:	D. Earley (Roscommon)
1980	161 pts.:	M. Connor (Offaly)

*That year the point markings were on a scale of from one to ten only.



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PAT DUNNE SPOTLIGHTS TOP TEN MEN

THE LONG . . . and the short

WHEN the GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN awards were introduced in 1977 who could have been so bold as to forecast that the first Leinster hurler to collect a trophy would be an Offaly man? Or that Kerry, with a tradition in football virtually as old as the All-Ireland championship, would have to wait until 1981 for their first representative among the band of winners?

Yet such is the case on the double as Ger Coughlan and Eoin Liston emerge as the GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN award winners of 1981. It is an unusual double by any standard . . . a double that unites the new in terms of Offaly's climb to the top in the All-Ireland senior hurling championship for the first time, and the old, represented by Kerry as they reinforce their unique role in football with a fourth national championship in a row.

Both teams had many stars over the past year. Indeed, a strong point of each side was their strength and class in all sectors. So, it says much for the qualities of Ger Coughlan and Eoin Liston that they stamped their personalities on the past year in the face of such strong opposition to such good effect that they finally emerged as our top men.

Their careers provide about as sharp a contrast as the one mirrored by the difference presented in the success stories of Kerry in football and Offaly in hurling at All-Ireland level. Liston we have known as one of the giants of his code for some years; Coughlan has, it is fair to say, really only come to the national forefront in the past couple of seasons.

Liston has been a key figure around whom much of the Kerry glory run of modern times has been moulded. Time and again since his first full season in senior championship play in 1978, he has with his excellent fielding, deft

distribution, and above all his ability to knock the ball into the back of the net, proved a destroyer of defences.

THREE GOALS

Remember his glittering role in setting Kerry up for the four-in-a-row sequence with a memorable show as the Kingdom 'relieved Dublin of the title in the 1978 summit? It was Liston who ended any Dublin ambitions of a comeback as they trailed by two points at the break, when he beat Paddy Cullen after only 90 seconds from the re-start. The tall Beale club man went on to grab two more goals and finish the day with a splendid 3-2 — he had well and truly arrived as a full forward of exceptional ability.

Liston has proven one of the most celebrated of Kerry's gifted company of celebrated footballers in the meantime. He has regularly turned on the style for county and province, and a year later he again shone, without getting among the goals, however, as Kerry brought in another All-Ireland final win over Dublin.

An operation for appendicitis kept him out of the 1980 final with Roscommon, but the bearded full forward did much to shape the latest Sam Maguire Cup triumph against Offaly.

Liston won an All-Ireland medal at midfield as partner to Jack O'Shea in the 1977 under-21 team, and he got among the Railway Cup medals last March. The past year, in fact, was one of his best in the premier grade, when his mastery of the full forward role, and his skills in general made him such a consistent star that he has carved out this unique niche for himself among Kerry men as far as the GAELIC SPORT-TYLER TOP TEN awards are concerned.

Ger Coughlan is one of the smallest men in big-time hurling at

● TO PAGE 12



TOP TEN STAR EOIN LISTON soars like an eagle while Cork's Kevin Kehily holds a watching brief.

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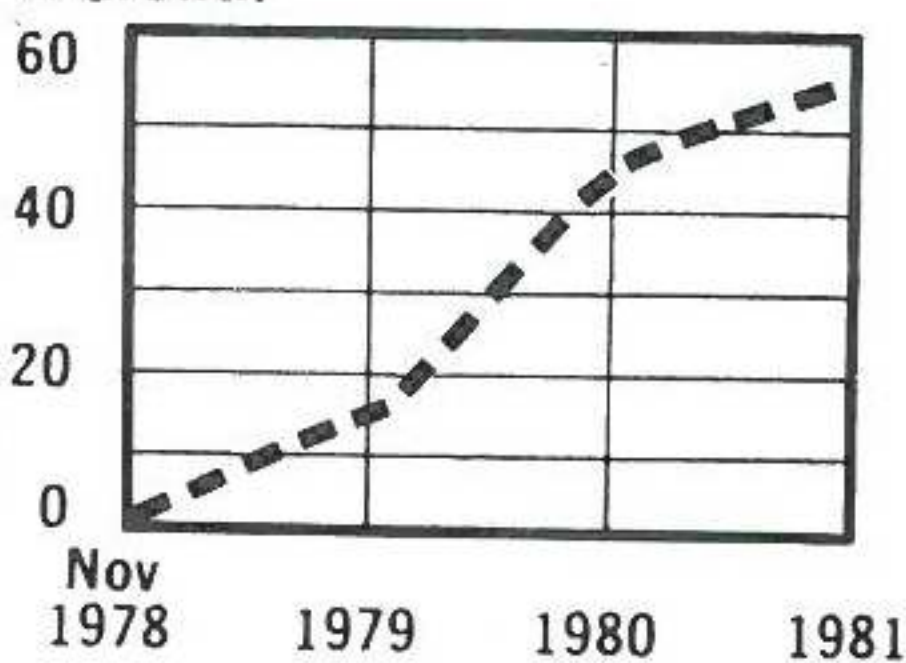
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● FROM PAGE 11

5ft. 7 ins., but like Liston he walked tall during 1981. His hurling was that of the assured artist — cool, efficient, consistent. He had some fine games in the past year, but hardly any better than the All-Ireland senior final win over Galway.

Some say that Galway should never have been caught by Offaly in that game, after they had led by seven points four minutes into the second half. Perhaps. But the other side of the coin is the Offaly persistence. They kept plugging away all through the game, and in this regard. Ger Coughlan was a real giant.

He did not put a foot wrong in an inspiring display, and his part in setting the scene for the dramatic late win was immense, and made him a glittering hero in a team of heroes.

NO MERE FLASH IN THE PAN

A member of the Kinnity club, Ger has walked in history in big time hurling. He was at left half back when Offaly made the breakthrough by beating Kilkenny for their first Leinster senior title in 1980. A year later his sterling qualities were again in evidence in the No. 7 jersey as Offaly proved that their win of 1980 was no mere flash in the pan by retaining the Eastern crown with a victory over Wexford.

He played for Leinster in last year's unsuccessful Railway Cup final bid against Munster at Ennis, and was in the Offaly side that lost to Cork in the National League final at Thurles in the Spring. Ironical, in a way, to think that it was his performance in another League game with Cork — that one a winning show at Páirc Uí Chaoimh — that ensured him of the Tyler Top Ten award. At 24, then, Ger Coughlan, who holds a Fitzgibbon Cup (Universities' Championship) medal and two Offaly senior souvenirs, has plenty of big-match experience.

CORK '82-A VINTAGE PUBLICATION



Our picture shows the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Peter Barry and Editor, Tommy McQuaid, at Leinster House, when the Minister was presented with a souvenir copy of the Cork G.A.A. County Board's official publication "Cork '82".

THERE was a lesson to be learned by Cork hurlers this season, that success in the National League militates against rather than enhances progress in the championship". That is how Jim O'Sullivan, of the "Cork Examiner" starts his interesting contribution in **CORK '82**, the official publication of the Cork County Board G.A.A., and which retails at the extraordinary low price of £1.

This excellently produced book, which runs to 116 pages, and is set off in a very attractive full colour cover provides a comprehensive review of the past year by the Leaside.

Eamonn Young in an article entitled "Let's Look To The Future" says there are plenty of young men playing hurling in Cork, and goes on to list 40 players from goalkeeper out. "Surely we can pick a good Cork side for next year (1982)" he writes. With a reservoir of talent like that spotlighted by Young, the outlook must be bright for Cork hurling.

At a time when there is so much talk about the poor standard of football, more than Cork folk will be especially interested in "Three Ways to Restore Football Glory", by Frank Murphy, the Cork County Board Secretary.

The Christy Ring Hurling School, details of which are given by Liam Lynch, is another contribution that will have appeal far outside of Cork.

John Joe Brosnan reveals that in Duhallow all the major games were video-taped by the Board, and that the films would provide entertainment on many a winter's night as well as documenting an invaluable record of the year's activities.

Cork have not been prominent in the senior football championship for some years, but the successes of Cork at minor and under-21 in the All-Ireland championships in 1981 must augur well for a climb back to the top at senior level.

An t-Ath. Donncha Mac Carthaigh, M.S.C., gives an interesting insight into the minors success. Preparations began with a

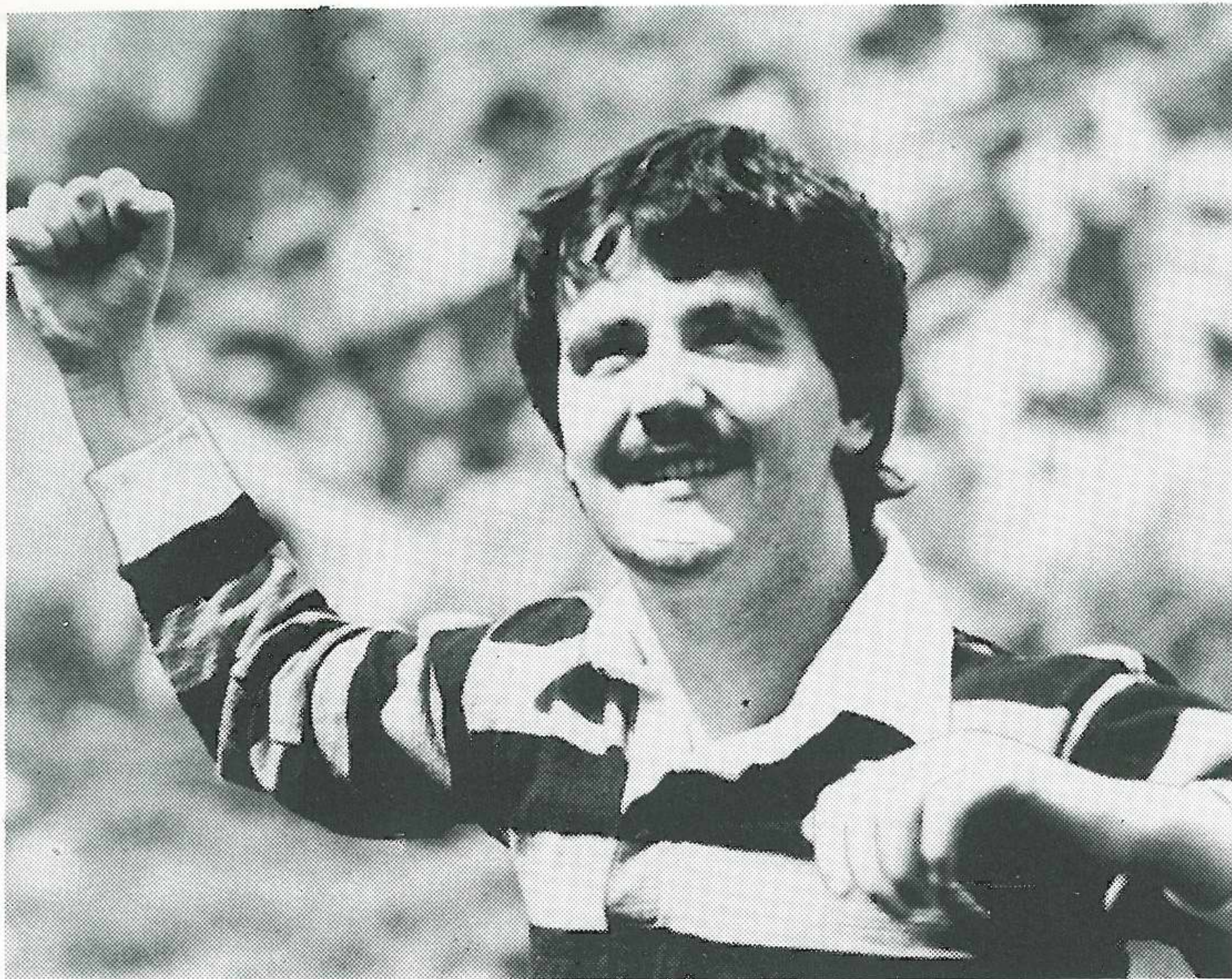
panel of players in February, and over three hundred minors were considered.

Those who have experience of searching for All-Ireland final tickets, will enjoy John Joe Brosnan's piece on good stories about the elusive ticket.

All the various divisions in Cork are covered in the book, and there are reviews as well of the major title wins on the home scene in football and hurling, with Noel Horgan etching in the background to the county senior championship wins of Nemo Rangers and St. Finbarr's.

A Gaelic Crossword, a Quiz plus excellent photographs all contribute to a publication that must rank as one of the best ever yearbooks. It should not be missed! Editor **Tommy McQuaid**, who also designed the cover, has undoubtedly achieved another outstanding success.

Cork '82 — official G.A.A. Cork Co. Board Yearbook available from Secretary, Cork Co. Board, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork, Price £1.00 (plus 60p postage).



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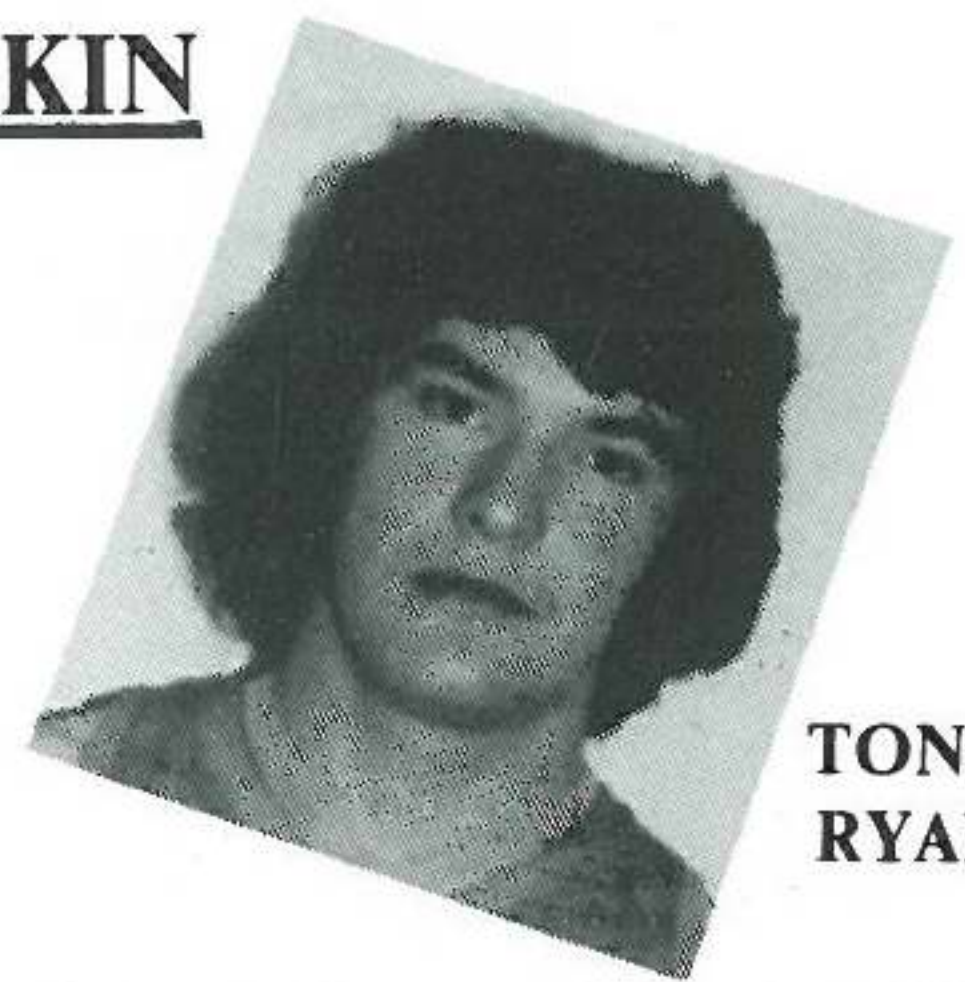
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IRISH YOUNGSTER HUMBLES YANKS IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD



TONY
RYAN

HANDBALLERS up and down the country are still celebrating the great win by young Michael Walsh in the under 15 division of the USHA Championships in Tucson, Arizona at the end of last month.

It was by far, the greatest boost, the juvenile game in this country has ever received and it should have many beneficial asides.

In one instance it reflects the magnificent work done by administrators and coaches for the young players and in another it is a true indication of the high standards attained by them.

More than anything else it highlights the grim determination of young Walsh in taking on and beating the cream of American talent on their own playing patch.

Now that the barrier has been breached, we can expect many more notable wins from our young players on the American circuit in the years ahead.

The focus of attention during 1982 will be on the many starlets who have been appearing on the horizon and some of whom have been scaling the ladder of success.

Can Tony Ryan, who won the Senior Singles Title in the 40 x 20 grade last year contain the pressure that such an achievement generates and retain it.

Billy Bourke may dispute the bone with him, while such as John Fleming and Pat Cleary (Wexford) will be standing in the wings to pounce on the mistakes of the favourites.

MOST PROMISING

And some maintain that the Clare player Ger Coughlan is the most promising of them all.

In the traditional 60 x 30 grade the young players are also ready to dethrone the reigning champions and again the mind boggles with names such as Francis McCann and Michael Porter (Sligo) Pakie Mullins (Tipperary) and Meathmen Michael McGovern and Anthony McConnell.

With the great Louth veteran Joey Maher on the come back trail, Pat Murphy of Wexford fully recovered from the injury that side-lined him for a couple of seasons, and famed Kerry veterans Willie and Tom Kerins still as keen to maintain their status as Kingpins of the Masters Grade, the season ahead offers some luscious pickings.

It has been ushered in by the RTE Top Ace Tournaments which are now firmly established on the handball calendar and have played a leading role in the widespread promotion of handball.

Last year's innovation of inviting four of the superstars of American Handball was an outstanding success and it was a prudent decision to follow the same course this year.

When the games are relayed on our screens in a few weeks time, there will be an emphasis by the home players in studying the skills and techniques of the visitors. They might be putting some of them to good use in the USHA championships later in the season.

Caimin Jones, the President of the Irish Handball Council is looking forward to another season in the position.

With the Centenary Celebrations of the G.A.A. in 1984 in mind, Jones is setting as his main objective this year the establishment of handball as an integral part of the parent body. He sees his objective relevant in the context that 80 p.c. of G.A.A. Clubs possess their own playing fields and that this percentage will be greatly increased by 1984.

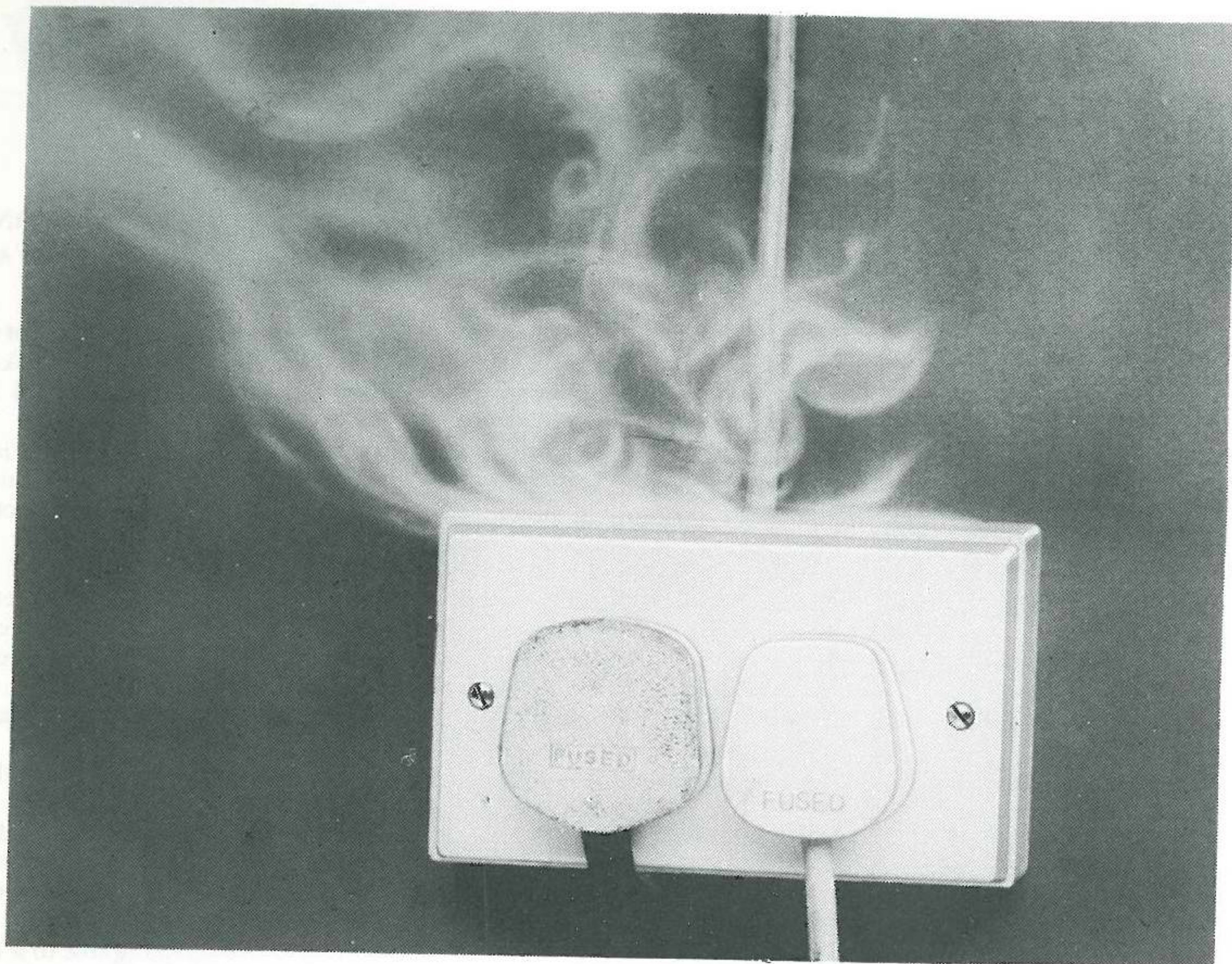
Jones reflects on the fact that, while many of the major units are involved in providing indoor recreational facilities for their members, in many instances they omit handball courts.

This can be attributable to a lack of handball knowledge or absence of tradition, a small financial return on investment or merely the fact that handball is not seen as an important part of the G.A.A.

By the same token, he is loathe to place the blame for these omissions on G.A.A. officials, but, rather, indicts the handball county boards and provincial councils.

Jones would like to see the establishment of development sub-committees by Provincial Councils with the aims of stimulating and encouraging handball court construction.

The natural evolution from this, is that come 1983, all counties would be represented in the All-Ireland Championships. The President's plans are, indeed, ambitious and, if implemented would make 1982 a most productive year for handball.



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MOUNT SION'S VICTORY CAN SOW SEEDS FOR WATERFORD HURLING RESURGENCE

BY
JAY
DRENNAN

THE Club championship is with us again, splashing through the winter puddles towards the provincial finals, with the All-Ireland play-offs to be dealt with as the weather permits after Christmas. It is a curious competition fully in accord with its curious siting in the part of the year that is not acceptable for any other purpose.

There are many reasons to question the value of the Club Championship, not least of them the unsatisfactory time of the year in which it takes place. But, that could be rendered an ineffective argument by saying simply that the weather problems could be solved by switching the Club championship to the better part of the year.

The essence of this argument may not really come to pass, because what it says — though in different words and with a different future in view — is that the Club championship should take the place of the county one in GAA priorities. Or the League would have to be seriously reconsidered.

But these things are not possible in the degree and the amount required. There is still nothing to rival the inter-county championship in the summer months. There is no inclination from the counties that they would wish to do away with the League as it stands — though they might wish to amend it in some relatively minor ways.

The Club championship, besides, places an undue emphasis on the champion clubs of each county. These clubs are, of course, of high standard and fully deserving of notice. But, they are not the county, and despite being champions of the county they do not stand for the county except in very rare instances when there is some special cause for rallying behind county champions. In other circumstances it is more likely that a certain enmity, a begrudging note, is sounded by the rest of the county.

You do not think so? Then you have not observed that the hardest of battles and the greatest of rivalries exist between those closest together;

neighbouring parishes or clubs; ones in the same locality; in the same region or division; even within the same county. It is hard for locals to put away all their hang-ups of local rivalry and step out in totally committed support of their oldest and toughest enemies.

There is something, however, in the county structure which has a unifying effect. Most other sports who do not have the benefits conferred by inter-county style competitions wish that they could or that such a competitive structure were suitable to their games. They are not, by and large, but even in one like athletics — that are connected with cross-country running — the enthusiasm which is built up in the national championships for the county teams gives a dimension which is never experienced on the basis of club competition.

LOYAL COLLEAGUES

The unifying quality of inter-county play allows those who would be seen dead before cooperating with one another in any other way, a channel in which they can play for and with one another like the deepest of friends and the most loyal of colleagues.

The county structure also gives the benefit of a vehicle through which many different people can help the running of the Association. Clubs are generally so concerned with the problems that arise in their own clubs that their primary concern is to ensure that every good man they have should pull his weight to the maximum... rather than waste his time with the county organisation.

In general the strongest role which the club has for the broader good of the games and the furtherance of the Association in every area is that of full commitment to all its activities at county level. There is plenty of room for more improvement and reason to spend time on it for all clubs who do not win the county

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Obair bhaile dúinne a n'obair bhaile a dhéanamh torthúil.

Iáthair na huaire tá sprioc ag na daltaí seo le baint amach. Ach nuair atá na scrúdaithe críochnaithe acu agus iad réidh le aghaidh a thabhairt ar an saol mór, ar bhfiú an staidéar agus an obair ar fad? An mbeidh deis acu an t-eolas agus a gcumas a chur chun tairbhe? Go tráthúil, féadfaidh Údarás na Gaeltachta an deis sin a sholáthair agus imhsaoil a chruthú ina mbeidh siad in ann páirt fhiúntach a ghlacadh i saol tráchtála agus sóisialta na Gaeltachta.

Tri na Gaeltachtaí i nDún na nGall, Maigh Eo, Gaillimh, Giarraí, Corcaigh, Port Láirge agus an Mhí a chur go hionsaitheach i láthair tionsclóiri sa mbaile agus thar lear, tá ag éirí le Údarás na Gaeltachta fostaíocht a chur ar fáil sna blianta atá

romhainn - agus ciallaíonn fostaíocht - ní hamháin sli-bheatha - ach pobal beo agus cultúr beo.

Trí na obair bhaile a dhéanamh, d'éirigh leis an Údarás deiseanna a aithint, conarthaí a phlé ag na leibhéil ab'airde agus griosaithe fiúntacha a thairiscint do na tionscail chearta. An toradh ar sin ná réidh-ghluaiseacht i dtreo sprioc an Údarás - lan-fhostaíocht sna ceantair Ghlaetachta, le fostaíocht lanaimseartha do 4,560 duine bainte amach cheana féin.

Mar sin nuair a chuireann daltaí na Gaeltachta a gcóip-leabhair agus a bpinn i leataobh don oíche, tig leo codladh go sámh. Tá daoine eile i mbun a n-obair bhaile.

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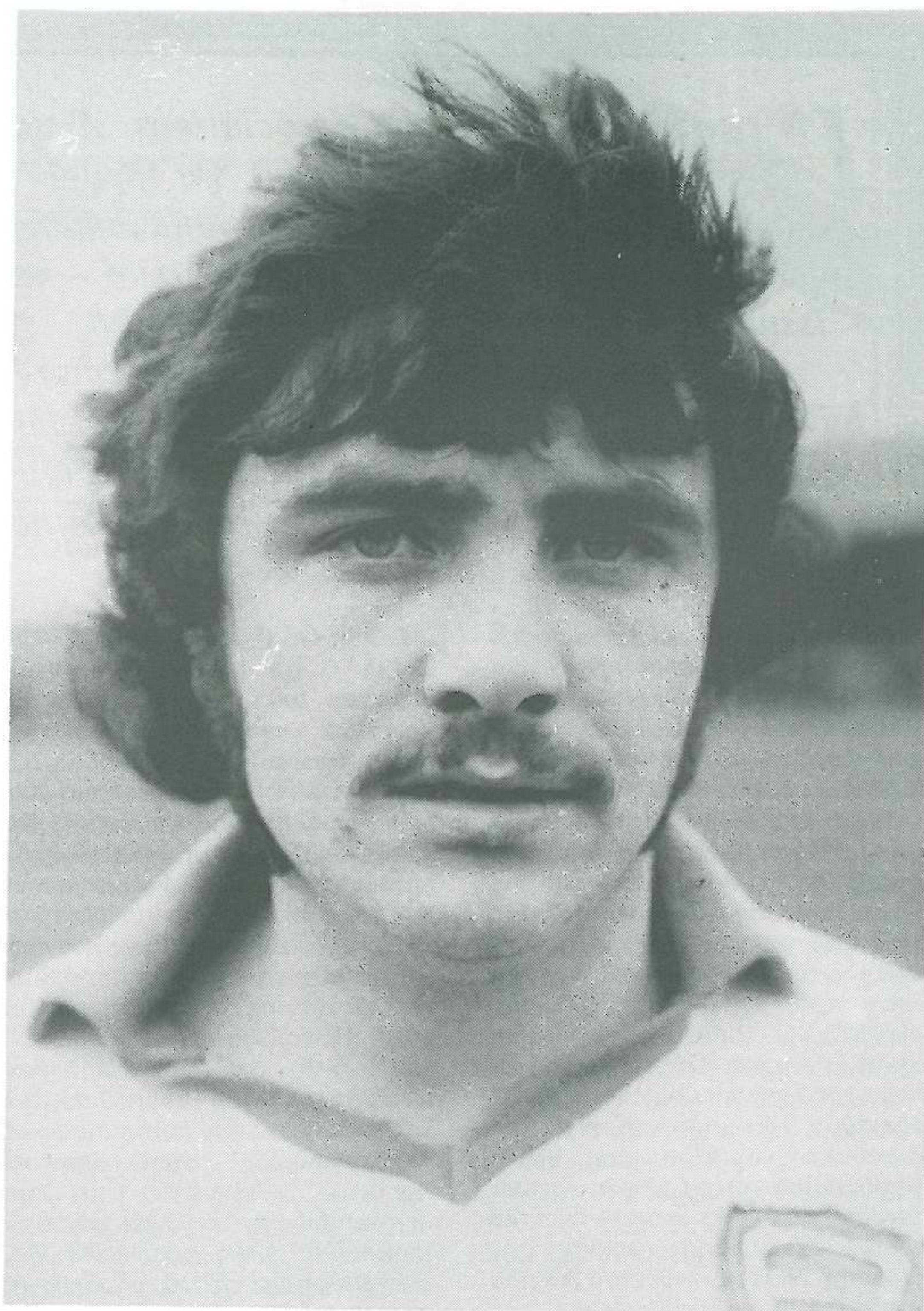
senior title. And for the title winners, surely they serve the greatest good when they apply themselves to the leadership of the rest of the county in the inter-county side.

There is not much doubt but that a good champion club can galvanise the county team, passing on to other players the spirit which has made them champions; contributing expertise to the team management, coaching, tactical approach. Most of all, perhaps, they have the role to lead in the moral sense — enthusiasm, confidence and refusal to admit being second to anyone.

Occasionally it is possible that clubs may fulfil this function through the club championship. Certainly it has been strongly suggested that the efforts of Castlegar in carrying Galway's name high in the All-Ireland Club event had more than a little to do with the emergence of that county as All-Ireland champions inter-county in Sept. 1980.

Again one is on firm ground this year, for it is strongly felt everywhere in Munster that Mount Sion are not only going for the Club Championship because they are Mount Sion and think they have always been a great club and should properly be enrolled among the official Club champions, but also they are striving to win it in order to further feed the flames which they have been lighting in the county team.

However, it is hard to deny that for the generality of counties, the successes of their club champions has had little to do with the success of the county team. In indirect ways, like the case of Armagh who were unable to field a county team at all while their champions were in the All-Irelands regularly, it has had effect by making the realisation of the vacuum more clear to other parts of the county. Perhaps such indirect influences could become important, but it is not clear that they are more than chance reactions to situations



● **JIM GREENE, Mount Sion and Waterford full-forward. Jim and his county colleagues are flying high in the current league campaign and many shrewd judges opine the view that the Decies will be there or thereabouts come Munster final time.**

which should have been logical springboards for improvement.

From the practical point of view of games organisation, and the down-to-earth grouse of the run of the mill member who says that it is the good players that get all the games — even when they do not want them — while he gets only a handful a year, the Club

championship only causes further problems. The inter-county men are the key to success in every club, so they have to carry the burdens at another level and for the duration of another “pressure” competition. And, of course, while the inter-club goes on there are obstructions to the continuance of normal club fare within the counties concerned.

IN two short months the Associations Annual Congress will be upon us. Bearing that in mind, we thought it both relevant and important, to obtain the views of some leading G.A.A. official, appertaining to some of the controversial – and not so controversial – issues facing the G.A.A. as we enter 1982.

In view of the fact that some of the more contentious topics have a greater bearing on our Northern brethren, we invited Sean Mac Loingsigh, Secretary of the Derry County Board for his comments. The following are his replies to the questions posed by Editor, Tommy McQuaid.

Editor: Is the G.A.A. doing enough to promote the games among the youth? If not, what suggestions have you as means that would accelerate the development of hurling and football among the youth?

Sean: No there is not enough being done for the youth, nor is there enough being done by the youth. As I say later, the skills awards must be encouraged in every school in every county. The youth must be encouraged to identify with the players and the Association, Óg Spórt is a good start, Jack Mahon has a good column, but these are not enough. Television programmes devoted to youth are vital. Better presentation of our games. Picture cards, scrap books, better use of the school library, more coaching visits from top players, these are a few, the list in fact is endless.

Editor: On a general theme, do you feel the G.A.A. is devoting too much attention to issues such as the “political” one that has been causing such discussion at Conventions, the erection of Ceannarus and the provision of bars at club centres, and not enough to the promotion of the games, which are the cornerstones of the Association?

Sean: I think you have got this question the wrong way around. The G.A.A. is being forced to spend too much time on the “political” question by the antics of a few publicity seeking individuals. I know that in the conventions of 1980, and '81 there was no “political” discussion at our convention nor are there any such motions for discussion in '82. Our convention is typical of the vast majority of others and outside of the

desire of the Association to have the full use of the Crossmaglen grounds and the freedom to play games there with interference from no one, there has been no political discussion at Congress, with the exception of last year when a delegate sought to push that controversial motion into a full discussion in the face of strong opposition from the floor. No one wanted to discuss a motion which criticised the Association for doing something it had never been guilty of. The only other discussion that I am aware of centres around a well known publicity seeking character who seems to be never out of the media trying to provoke “political” discussion. Perhaps it is time someone said clearly that the Association is not interested in petty people, with petty talk, about one petty word.



A Special Choice

Vincent considered many different career options before he discovered that Christ had something special in mind for him. Today he is a member of the Augustinians Order and is a newly ordained priest beginning work on the Mission fields in Equador.

Enquiries to:
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"But above all I want to see a just and lasting peace in our country"

The erection of Ceannarus is vital and now near completion so discussion is essential. Anyone who visits Croke Park and sees for themselves the conditions under which the staff are forced to work and run one of the biggest organisations in the country will recognise the need for Ceannarus, and raising the money to pay for it is very necessary discussion. I feel there is a need for the bars at centres. Being a Pioneer I recognise the need to control expansion in this direction, but I will not deny anyone the right to use drink in moderation and I feel that under the control of responsible officials the Bars can be of benefit in seeking moderate use of drink. There is no question of the games being neglected just look at last Congress and over the two days count the small amount of time

spent on any of the three subjects above.

Editor: Is football suffering because of the Fixtures schedule? Counties have a surfeit of League games from October to March, and many then play only one in the Championship during the long summer period. Is there a case, then for running off the Leagues in conjunction with the championships on separate dates in a season from February to October?

Sean: I could never agree that the fixture schedule is the cause of the football problem. The period October to March is almost half of the year and most counties play no more than seven games. But your question sees only one side of the G.A.A. The county side, where does the club and club Championship fit into a league and Championship

going in conjunction during the summer. Just look at Ulster, we run the McKenna Cup in early spring along with the Under 21 Championship and each year, for some time now, the final stages have had to be postponed until the teams are out of the senior Championship, even to late summer or early Autumn. It is also unfair to players who look to the Sam Maguire as their goal, that for some this goal should be clouded by a National league game against opposition already out of the Championship and nothing more to lose than to show their opponents that they are the better team.

No, use the league for what it was intended, stop attaching so much importance to league games and

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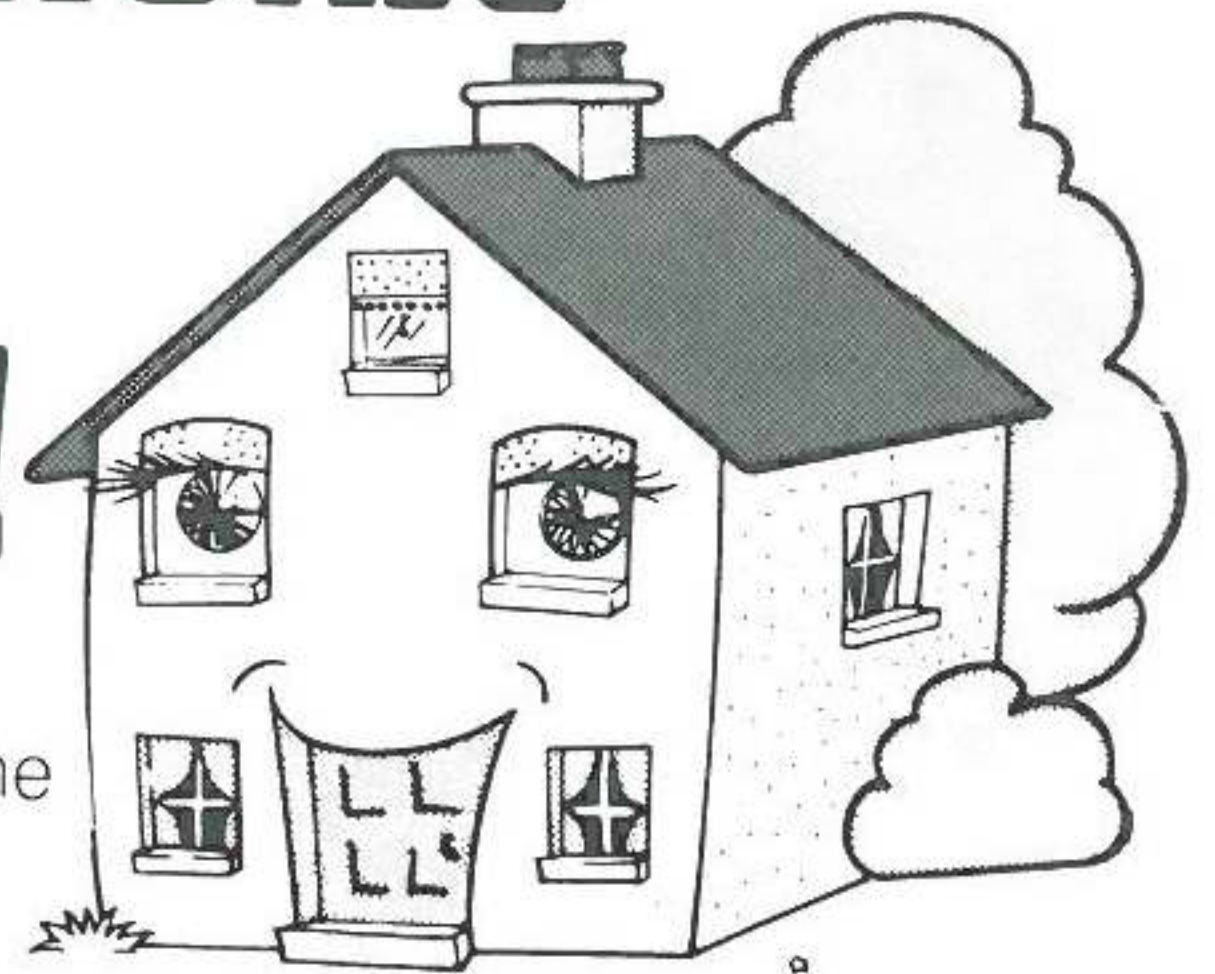
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1981 WAS THE END OF AN ERA FOR CAMOGIE

ONE feature of the 1981 Competitions was the fall of champions. Cork lost all three All-Ireland titles and in turn their County Champions Killeagh lost their All-Ireland Club Crown. Armagh were also out of the honours list in the Junior National League while Kilkenny lost the Senior National League but gained the All-Ireland Crown later in the season.

In Post Primary sector the senior and junior titles were taken from North Presentation, Cork and Maryfield College.

University College Dublin were the only holders to retain a competition at All-Ireland level when they won the Ashbourne Cup and made history for themselves by

winning the C.C.I.A. League for the first time afterwards.

Now let us look at the New Champions Kilkenny, after a lucky break in the All-Ireland Final, managed to draw level with the reigning champions Cork and went on to regain the Sean O'Duffy Cup in the replay.

Liz Neary, who played a captain's part in the drawn game, and who has been a consistently brilliant and sporting player for a decade, for the Noresiders was named the 1981 B & I Player of the Year.

Clare came back into the limelight. Having won out in Munster, they just pipped Kildare in the All-Ireland semi-final and went on to conquer Antrim in the Final after a brilliant game by both teams.

Claire Jones, Clare's star winger in all their matches was named the 1981 A.I.B. Junior Sport Star.

Galway, the 1981 Minor Champions, were a fine young team all through the season. Having won out in Connacht they defeated Dublin decisively but it took everything they could give to conquer an equally good Antrim team in the final at Tynagh.

In fact many neutral spectators on the day would have wished for a draw to a splendid under 16 Final.

DUBLIN TOPS

Dublin regained the Senior League after many great games, the most exciting of which was the final between the Metropolitans and then All-Ireland Champions Cork. However just three weeks later, the Dubliners failed to reproduce the same form and were eliminated from the championship by the Corkonians.

The Junior League in which fifteen counties participated was keenly contested. Kildare, Louth and Cavan were the lone winners. Louth defeated Kildare narrowly. Cavan and Louth played a draw in the final but Cavan took the

honours and the Bourke Cup narrowly on the replay.

Buffers Alley, Wexford made it third time lucky again when they regained the All-Ireland Club Title.

Champions in 1979, they lost to Killeagh in 1980 but dethroned the champions to get back on top.

Leinster defeated Munster to regain the Gael-Linn Cup and Connacht just took the Shield from Munster by a single point.

Another Cork School, St. Patrick's came to the fore and qualified for both Senior and Junior All-Ireland finals.

ONE POINT

They won the senior title and Corn Sceilg after they defeated Assumption School, Walkinstown by one point. Dublin gained some consolation, however when another school St. John of God, Kilmore took Corn Gobnait and the Junior title from St. Patrick's the following week.

The Third Junior National League has commenced and as a result of a motion passed at Congress twenty-six counties will participate.

The Junior counties which add up to sixteen began the competition at the beginning of November. They are divided into three zones. Holders Cavan, Tyrone, Armagh, Louth and Kildare seem to be the strong teams to date. In early March, the Junior teams of the senior counties, who are divided into two zones, will play out for one final place and the junior counties will gain the second final place.

1981 was the end of an era for Camogie. It saw the passing of Seán O'Duffy to his reward. If his place in heaven was to be chosen for his dedication to Camogie, Seán's place would be high indeed. He was a hard worker, a true Gael and a slave to the advancement of An Cumann Camogaiochta. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

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START SAVING NOW FOR THAT DREAM HOLIDAY

BY STUART CULLITON

WITH winter snow, sleet, rain and cold with us since November last, it certainly is proving to be a long winter. Why not cheer yourself up by thinking ahead to summer, to warmer days and holidays. But better still, why not do something positive now and ensure you have that summer holiday you deserve to banish the winter blues.

Why not begin saving now to make that holiday a reality. A little saved every week will ensure that you can afford that well deserved break away from the job or housework for a couple of weeks.

Saving should be a regular activity. The National Savings Committee promote many different savings schemes all designed to help you save. All are outlined in their popular booklet "Saving For Your Holidays" which is available from the National Savings Committee at 21 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Telephone No. 01-766305.

Among the Schemes outlined are:

Group Saving:

By far the easiest way of saving for your holiday is by joining a group saving scheme at work. An amount agreed by you is deducted from pay each pay day so you hardly notice you are saving. The money is deposited in a special account in the Post Office Savings Bank or one of the Trustee Savings Banks. Your money may be withdrawn on short notice when you need it to pay for your holiday.

School Saving:

School Savings Schemes help children to manage money wisely. They acquire the savings habit easily when it is practised in a group atmosphere and they quickly learn

how to plan their savings for worthwhile reasons like educational tours, sports equipment and holidays.

Post Office Savings Bank

For those whose firms do not operate a group scheme the Post Office Savings Bank is an excellent way of saving for a holiday. This is an extremely popular savings method in Ireland and one in four of the population holds an active Post Office account.

Trustee Savings Banks:

There are Trustee Savings Banks in counties Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Monaghan, and Waterford which offer a wide range of family banking services.

Voucher Saving For Irish Holidays:

Saving — and paying — for Irish holidays has been made easy for people in Ireland through Discover Ireland Holiday Voucher Scheme which has been introduced by Bord Failte.

Vouchers in denominations of £5, £10, £20, £50 and £100, are sold through Bord Failte offices and the main tourist offices of Regional Tourism Organisations throughout the country.

Index-Linked National Instalment Saving:

For those who are planning a holiday three years hence then the above scheme is well worth considering. Perhaps you have always wanted to take an ocean cruise or visit a relative overseas. This scheme will help you finance that dream trip.

Prize Bonds For The Holiday Of A Lifetime:

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exotic holidays now on offer to all parts of the world. Many of these would be beyond the means of the average saver.

One way, however, of making holiday dreams come true is by winning the £100,000 top prize in the Monthly Prize Bonds Draw. Think of the Holiday you could plan with that sort of money to back you up! Each month there are other prizes too, like the second prize of £50,000, a couple of £25,000's and hundreds of others from £5,000 to £100.

These are just a few of the ways of helping you. Why not find out about them all by sending away for your booklet now. Happy Holiday!

A G.A.A.

"WHO'S WHO"

An Coiste Cumarsaide is working on the compilation of a G.A.A. Who's Who as one of a series of Centenary publications and requests that each Runáí Chontae put the publication of the book on the agenda for a Coiste Chontae meeting or the Comhdhail Chontae and that one official be given the task of forwarding the material to Páirc an Chrócaigh. It is intended that the biographies in the book should include officials and players who have achieved distinction both within their native county and beyond.

An Coiste requests that the biographical notes be forwarded to Páirc an Chrócaigh as quickly as possible to enable early publication.



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“CLASH OF THE ASH”

ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR RAYMOND SMITH, STORYTELLER SUPREME

GALWAY'S memorable All-Ireland senior championship win of 1980, and Offaly's exhilarating break-through in the Liam McCarthy Cup game last September are vividly recalled in a special new edition of *The Clash of the Ash* by Raymond Smith, which has just been published.

This is an up-dated version of the first edition of *The Clash of the Ash*, which was published some ten years ago. The author has written close on 30,000 new words for this well-produced book, and he recalls most of the high points of recent years in the opening chapters.

The bids by Clare and Wexford against Cork's three-in-a-row team in the 1976-78 championships, the All-Ireland final win of Kilkenny in 1979, and those magic moments in hurling as Galway and Offaly thrilled the nation with their long-awaited triumphs, all come alive again as Smith provides many interesting and unusual insights into the games.

The greatest hurler of them all, Christy Ring, who died in March 1979, is commemorated in word and pictures.

The main highlights of the 'Thirties and of the subsequent decades are dealt with and great hurlers and great teams come into focus in what is an excellent history of the great, national game.

One of the book's most valuable features is a comprehensive records section at the end, covering all the finals in all the Championship grades, as well as the interprovincial, League and provincial tests.

The book is a splendid

production, and set-off by a very attractive full colour cover designed by Noel Hayes. There are many fine photographs, teams and individuals, with some in colour. The 296 publication retails at £4.90, including VAT, and is worth every penny. It should be on the

bookshelf of every hurling enthusiast.

THE CLASH OF THE ASH. By Raymond Smith. Price £4.90 including V.A.T. Available through Newsagents and Booksellers, or from Eason & Son, Dublin, and branches.

BOON FOR DECORATORS

THE latest product from Crown Paints, Crown Silk Vinyl Emulsion, was introduced to contractors and house builders at a reception and demonstration in the Company's new Cork branch premises on Pouladuff Road recently, by the President of the Construction Industry Federation, Mrs. Mirette Corboy.

Mrs. Corboy said she was very pleased to launch a new guaranteed Irish product on the market during her term of office as President of Ireland's second largest industry, particularly a product associated with the industry from a company with a long standing reputation for quality and reliability.

"I believe," she said, "that Crown Silk Vinyl Emulsion will quickly become established as a market leader. It is specially made for interior decorative use and is the ideal paint for kitchens and bathrooms because it will stand up to washing and the effects of condensation and steam."

Managing Director of the

Walpamur Company (Ireland) Limited, Mr. George Campbell, said that his company was honoured that Mrs. Corboy could give so much of her valuable time to introduce the latest paint bearing the Crown brand.

Mr. Campbell said that Crown Silk Vinyl Emulsion had been specially formulated for the needs of professional users looking for a highly durable water-based wall finish.

The new Crown product is available initially in white, magnolia and cream in 5 litre sizes.

Following the introduction of new Crown Silk Vinyl Emulsion there was a demonstration by the distributors of the well-known Wagner paint-spraying equipment using Crown Smooth Stronghold exterior wall paint.

The Walpamur Company also manufactures in Ireland the other widely used paints in the Crown range, including Undercoat, Matt Emulsion, Gloss and their highly successful Crown Covermatt Emulsion.

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concentrate on bringing in new players, working out new tactics, and improving the team for the Championship.

There is perhaps a case for bringing the start of the league forward to late August with the two All Ireland finalists being left out until after the final.

Editor: What steps do you feel are needed to improve football standards?

Sean: Not being a coach I do not know if my views would count for much, but I do feel that we must do

more to promote the skills awards with the youngsters, and build them up for the game of tomorrow. For to-day we will have to start by removing the negative play from the game, spoiling tactics are too prevalent. A better standard of refereeing is vital and it must be made an advantage for a player to get possession first and then be allowed to use the ball without hearing that dreaded shout from the opposition bench "foul him there". This may mean the re-introduction of the "personal foul" rule in some form and if this is to come back then the

suspension for being sent off for such an offence must be for the duration of the game and no more, unless the foul is serious.

Editor: The past year was a good one for hurling. Can the G.A.A. take any steps to build on the new interest to help promote the game in Ulster, Connacht and parts of Leinster?

Sean: Yes at long last hurling has come back into its own and I feel that there is a lot that can be done for us here in Ulster. I only wish that somehow the entire panel of a leading hurling county could be sent to one of our counties for a week and that they could be then split up into areas centred around our secondary schools and that all the boys from these areas be involved in hurling skills training for the full week. I feel one week this way would do more than years of our present system, if we even have one.

Editor: Are players generally giving the necessary commitment to Gaelic Games? There have been reports of players in some counties declining to turn out with their county teams. Is it time, then, to secure a firm commitment from such players to give first allegiance to Gaelic Games at all time, and if this is not forthcoming to exclude them from club competitions?

Sean: The commitment to Gaelic Games was of course the big worry in the days prior to the ban removal, it is not as bad as most people feared nor is it as good as was promised. However those days are gone and I feel it unfair to the vast majority of players who are totally dedicated to the game that they should be "lumped" in with the few who drift in and out as the mood takes them. It is unfair to clubs or counties who spend money training players for an important game and then one or two of the panel play some other physically demanding game the day before. I know it has had to be laid down that any county player who plays a game on the day prior to a county game, that this player be dropped from the team and this generally works. I feel players should make a choice and stick to one or the other.

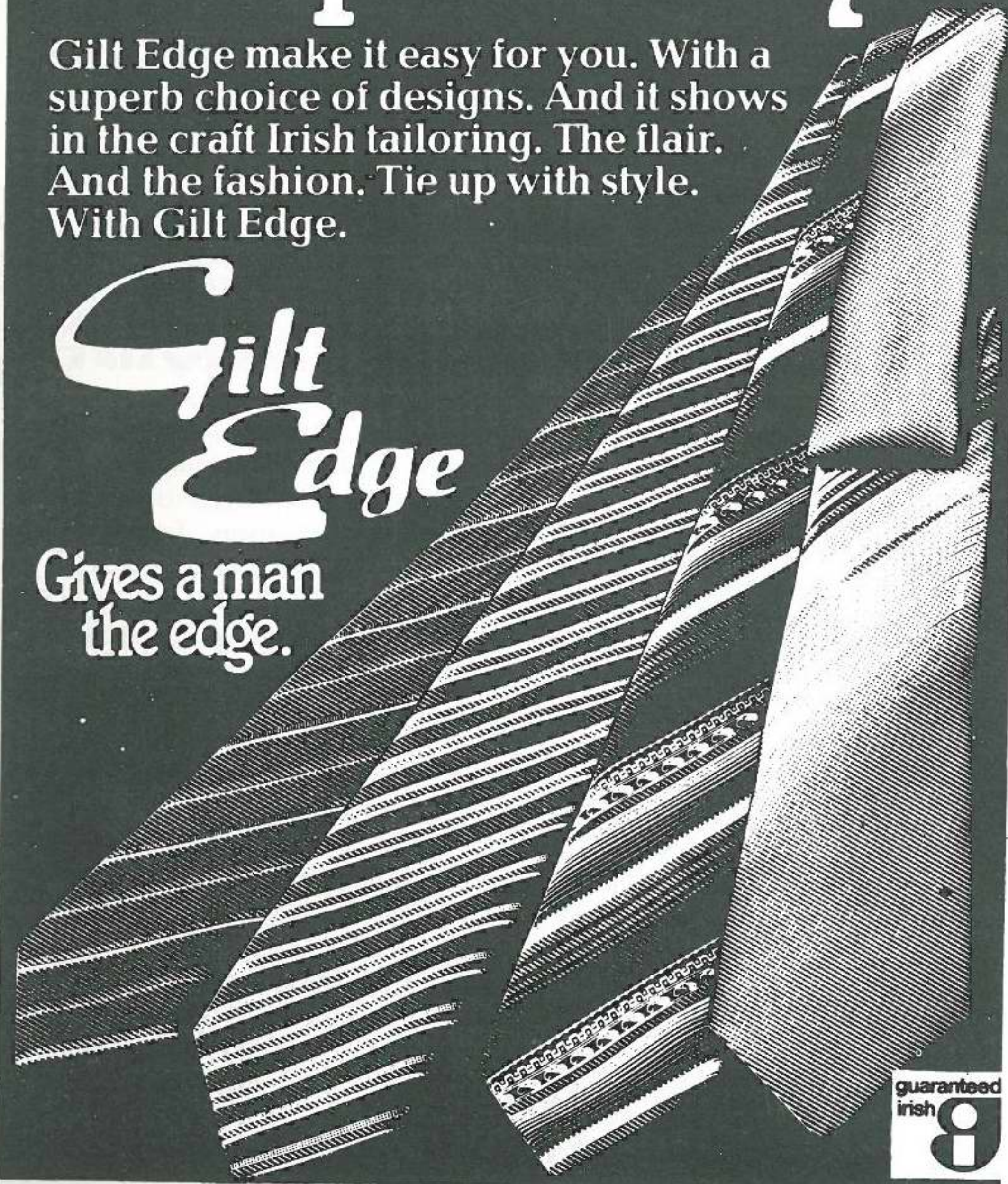
Editor: We now have a Players' —

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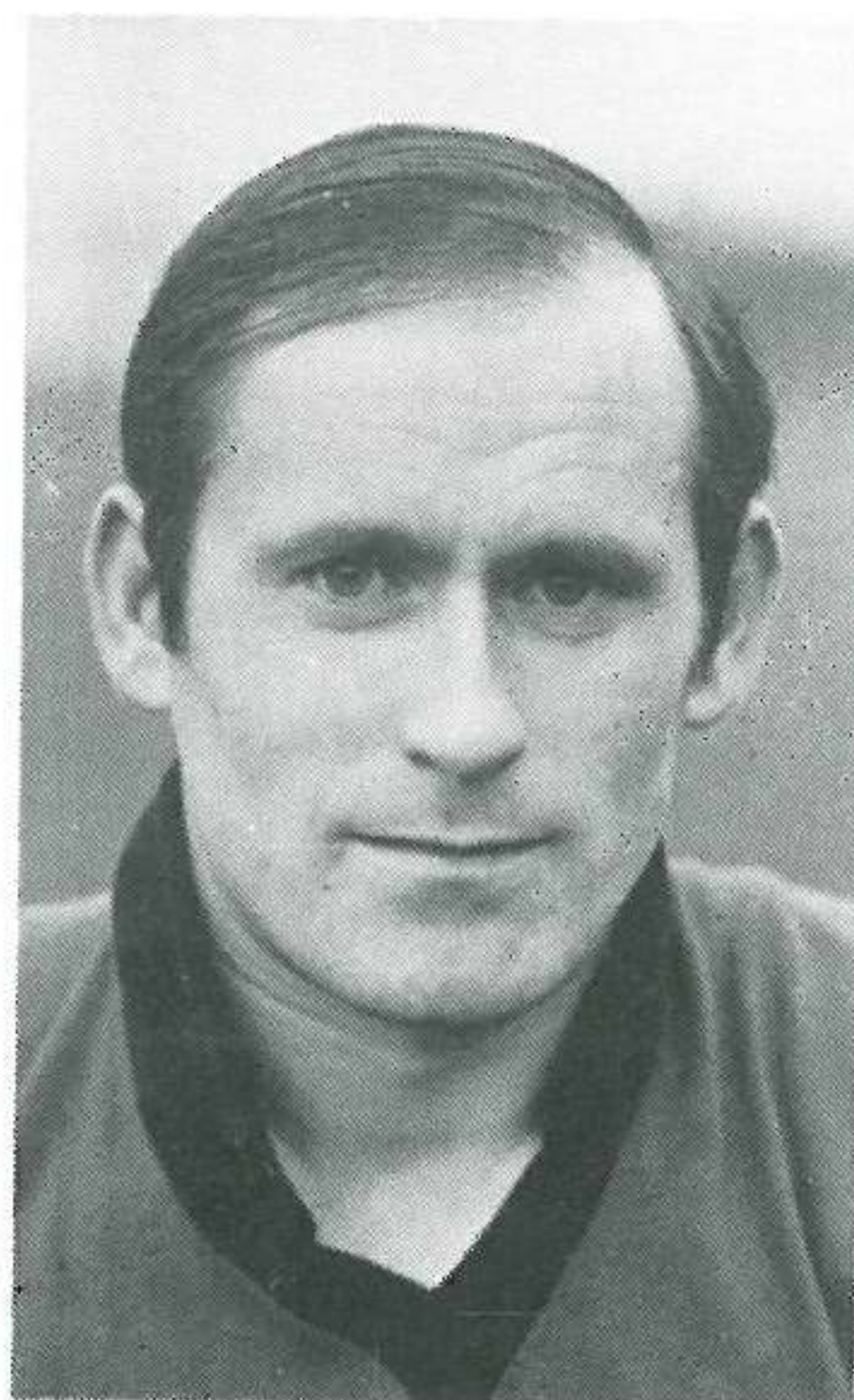


Association. No doubt a good move. But do you feel that the players themselves are putting enough back into the games, either through coaching, acting as mentors to under-age teams, or in general at club level as officials?

Sean: I would not like to criticise any person for taking a decision to opt in or out when their playing days are over. The way things are going



Brian McEniff
DONEGAL



Sean O'Neill
DOWN

we will soon have to provide nappies in county colours if our inter county competitions get much younger. It is not uncommon for a player's career to start as early as ten and then remember that over the next quarter of a century he will be involved in needle games, one, two or even more nights training per week for most of the year, and who could then blame such a person for taking a well deserved rest. But as well, the best players do not make the best administrators or coaches and those

that do always come to the forefront. Think of Jim McKeever, Sean O'Neill, Brian McEniff in Ulster and I am sure I do not have to name the Dublin or Kerry men.

Editor: The handpass has been widely blamed as the reason for the poor standard of football in the past year. But would you agree that coaching techniques may also have contributed to the position? For example, is there too much of an emphasis on physical fitness to the

● TO PAGE 34

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● *THE CORK TEAM* which retained the National League at Thurles last May. Front row, left to right – Sean O’Leary, Dermot McCurtain, Tom Cashman, Donal O’Grady (capt.), Brian Murphy, Pdraig Crowley, Pat Moylan, John Fenton. Back row, left to right – Tim Crowley, Pat Horgan, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Ger Cunningham, John Horgan, Eamonn O’Donoghue, Niall Kennefick.

IS CORK’S HIGH RATING FOR ‘82 CHAMPIONSHIP JUSTIFIED?

ASKS NOEL HORGAN

THE bookmakers — those versatile and astute judges of form — have installed the Cork hurlers as the ante-post favourites for the 1982 All-Ireland title. At first glance, this appears to be a rash decision as Cork’s championship displays have shown a definite decline since 1978, the year the Leesiders completed the three-in-a-row.

In ’79, for instance, Cork slumped to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, the following year they failed to take provincial honours for the first time since 1974 when

succumbing to Limerick in the southern decider, and last season the red-jerseyed brigade fell at their initial hurdle in Munster to Clare, a county that had not scored a championship victory over Cork for 26 years.

Admittedly, Cork captured the last two league titles and are well in the hunt for honours again this season but it has become glaringly obvious in recent years that the league, a competition which many counties use merely to regroup their forces, does not provide an accurate guide to the real strength of a team.

The championship, with every team primed to its peak, is the big test and, indeed, success in the league often tends to be more of a hindrance than a help as it fills younger players with unwarranted confidence and false security, leaving them vulnerable when facing more formidable opposition in the major competition.

Why then are the Leesiders so highly rated in the current hurling world?

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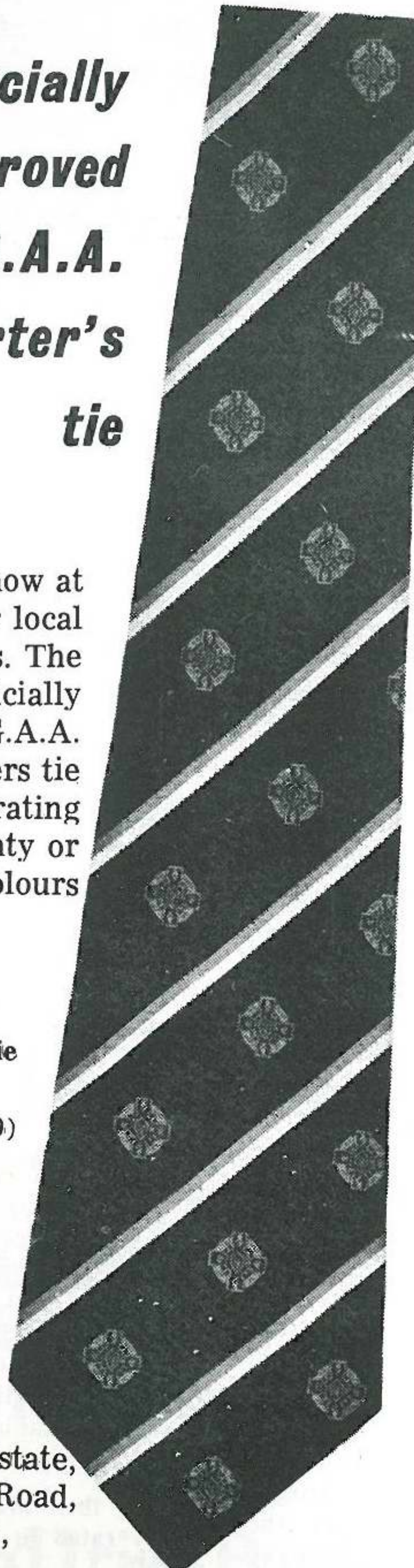
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The reason is that the enormous respect which Cork commanded during the glory days of the mid-seventies has never really faded. Granted, Cork have lost several great players since then, notably Gerald and Charlie McCarthy, Martin Doherty and Denis Coughlan, and these are not likely to be replaced overnight. But the nucleus of the 'seventies side remains and Cork is still rich in player power.

Most observers regard Cork's return to the top as inevitable once the mentors manage to blend successfully the immense talent at their disposal. With such shrewd tacticians as Justin McCarthy, who contributed so much to Clare's progress in the past, and Gerald McCarthy at the helm, it is felt that the pieces may fall into place for Cork this season.

Already the selectors have displayed a keen sense of adventure in the league, emphasising in the process that their main aim is to mould the strongest panel together for a major assault on the championship. Who could have foreseen, for instance, that stylish Tom Cashman, a former All-Star midfielder and wing-back in last season's campaign, would be called upon to do duty at corner-forward this year? Yet Tom has filled the No. 15 jersey with distinction in the majority of Cork's league outings to date.

Pat Horgan, a stop-gap centre forward for the past two seasons and an All-Star winner in that position, has been switched to wing-back where he has produced some sterling displays. John Crowley, a leading pivot in the 'seventies, has been slotted in at full-back in an effort to solve a problem that has existed since Martin Doherty's departure to the States, former forward John Allen is producing encouraging form at centre-back while Francis Collins, Bertie Og Murphy, Christy Ryan, Tim Deasy, and Diarmuid

O'Flynn, were others on trial in the pre-Christmas league games.

Such an eagerness to experiment indicates how Cork's mentors intend to explore all avenues in a determined bid to find the formula for All-Ireland success this year.

A player who has yet to line out in the league but who should play a key role in Cork's quest for the Liam McCarthy is the great Ray Cummins. Probaby the most inspiring Cork forward since Christy Ring, Cummins last wore the red jersey in the 1980 Munster final when he suffered the ignominy of being substituted as Cork slumped to Limerick. Critics inevitably suggested that the Blackrock man was over the top then, conveniently disregarding the fact that Cummins was working in America and was unable to prepare properly for that match.

Ironically, those same critics had — just a few weeks earlier — lauded Cummins for a top-quality performance as Cork conquered arch rivals Tipperary in the provincial semi-final at Thurles. Ray was due to line out against Clare last season but a severe bout of 'flu prevented his return.

Without wishing to detract from Clare's merited triumph, many observers contend that Cummins' absence was the decisive factor that day. Certainly his brilliant form with Blackrock in the county championship made it clear that he still has a lot to offer at inter-county level, especially as the Rebels have failed to fill his familiar role as a leader in attack.

At 33, Ray can hardly be regarded as a "has been" when one considers that Tony Doran, that other great full-forward of the seventies, continues to perform effectively in the top flight and the Wexford-man is Cummins' senior by three years.

YOUNGER PROSPECTS

What of the younger prospects in the Rebel County at the moment?

Padraig Crowley played his first season as a senior last year and enjoyed a creditable campaign in the league which he capped with a splendid display in the final against Offaly when he shot five fine points from play. In the championship, however, the Bandonian, possibly surprised by the speed and intensity of the exchanges in championship fare, never settled and made little impression before being replaced in the Clare game. Still, that experience will surely stand Padraig in good stead as he attempts to become a first team regular this season.

Christy Coughlan captained Cork's minors to All-Ireland success in 1979 and showed that he has diligently developed his skills since then, producing an outstanding performance with Na Piarsaig in the county championship match against title-winners, St. Finbarrs, last year. He will be challenging strongly for a post in Cork's half-back line this season.

And what of Christy's clubmate, Tony O'Sullivan, the talented teenager who had the rare distinction of winning All-Ireland minor and Under-21 football medals in 1981? He, too, shared in Cork's minor hurling triumph in '79 and is regarded in Leeside land as a most exciting prospect in hurling.

Indeed, Tony O'Sullivan has already sampled senior inter-county fare, lining out against Galway in a league game last November when he performed creditably on All-Star defender Jimmy Cooney.

Add in other 'hopefuls' like John Blake, Niall Kennefick, Kevin Hennessy and Denis Mulcahy and proven performers such as Ger Cunningham, Der McCurtain, Brian Murphy, Tim Crowley, Eamonn O'Donoghue, John Fenton and Jimmy Barry-Murphy and the reason for regarding Cork's future prospects with optimism becomes obvious. In any case, only the most unwise would dismiss lightly the opinion of the bookies.

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exclusion of the skills of the game?

Sean: I feel the handpass has been made the scapegoat for many of the problems of the football game, and whilst it may over a period have

encouraged players to use it as the easy way out rather than the more accurate fisted pass or toe pass and reduced these aspects of the game, it cannot be blamed for the poor fielding, inaccurate kicking and lack of cohesive play.

I do not think there is too much emphasis on physical fitness as I feel this is a vital part of a player's ability, but it must not be used as the only method of training. The basic skills are neglected with too much emphasis placed on the theoretic game rather than the actual.

Editor: A shortage of scoring forwards is another feature of the modern game. Time was when nearly every county has at least one sharpshooter but there are few such exciting finishers in the game today. Any views on the reasons for this position?

Sean: The modern game is far too negative, the emergence of any good individual player, is first of all snuffed out at squad sessions, and then on the field of play is "marked" from the start as the man to "take out".

Editor: What are your views on referees and refereeing standards? Are referees generally as fully conversant with the rules as they should be? Would you agree that there tends to be too much of an emphasis on interpreting the rules rather than enforcing them as in the rule book?

Sean: There is little doubt that the standard of refereeing has slipped over the years, with the result that there is little respect for referees from either players or supporters. Nowadays there are few referees who are not fully conversant with the rules, indeed they have opportunities that did not exist for referees some years back, T.V. and now Video along with the increase in Media reporting has resulted in every rule being fully explained and highlighted, and I must agree with you that interpretation and theory have replaced common sense.

Editor: Your own personal hopes for the G.A.A. coming up to Centenary Year?

Sean: Well I want to see Derry one of the best run counties in Ireland, and in contention for the Sam Maguire. I hope for a major breakthrough in hurling for our county and for Ulster. I want to see '84 as a great year for Ireland and the G.A.A. But above all I want to see a just and lasting peace in our country.

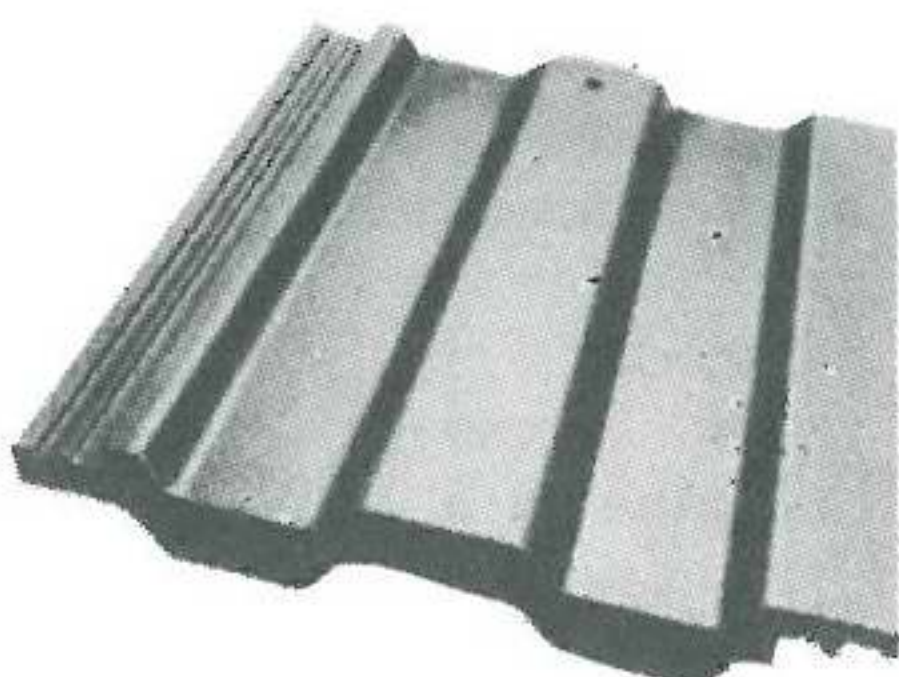


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LOOKING BACK OVER 1981, ANTHONY COGAN RECKONS THAT,
BETWIXT AND BETWEEN . . .

IT WASN'T A BAD YEAR A' TALL

IT will be remembered as the year of Offaly's first ever All-Ireland senior hurling final win, and rightly so, as the Faithful County's historic win was undoubtedly the major highlight of 1981. Even Galway supporters, now that the pangs of disappointment following the loss to Offaly in the senior final have faded somewhat, will concede the point.

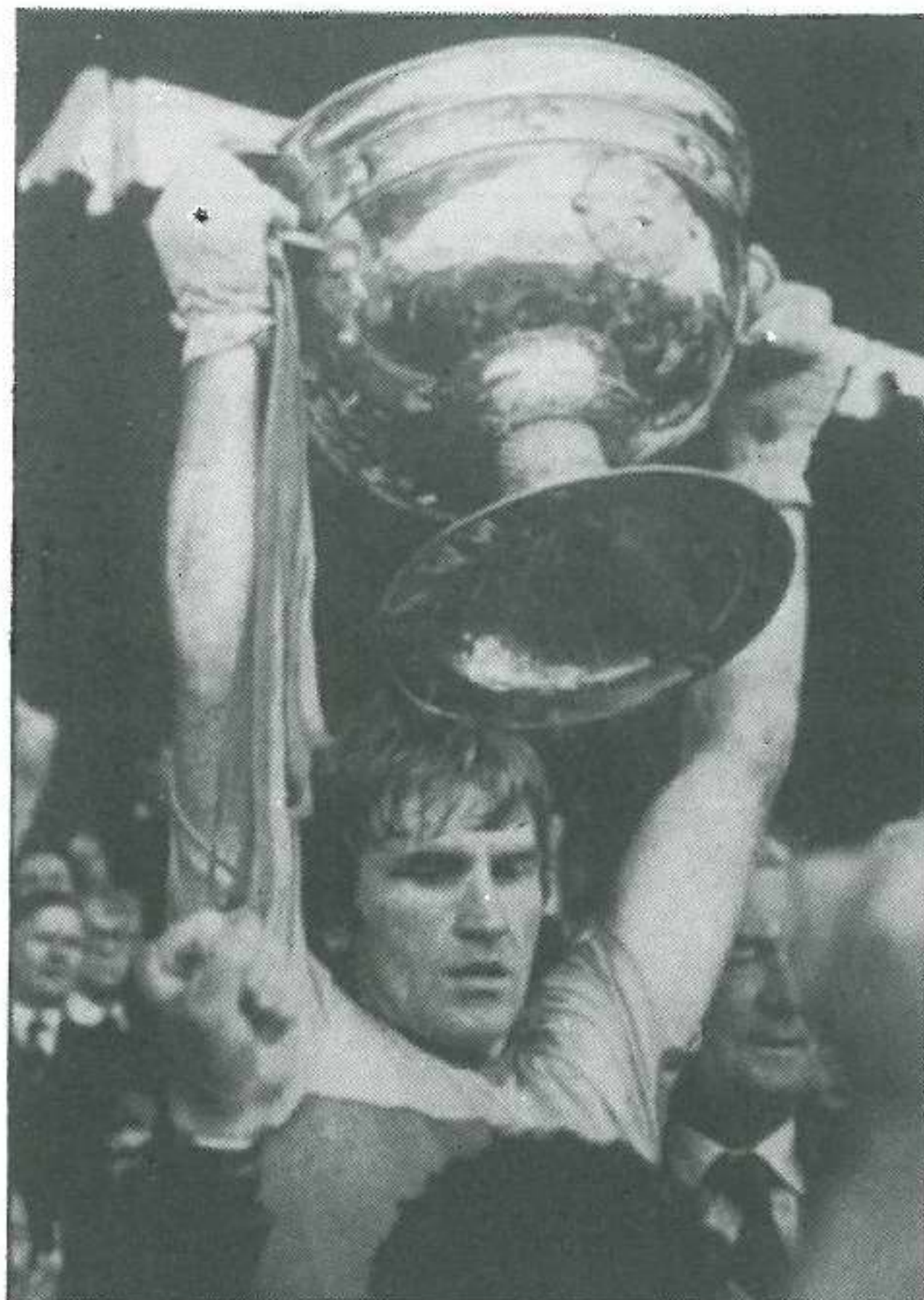
But the past year had many other highlights. Kerry's fourth All-Ireland senior football title win in a row; Cork's victory over Offaly in the National Hurling League final, and Galway's shock, but merited success against Kerry on the way to the Football League crown were among the other bright features.

In the other grades, too, there were moments to remember. Down Clare way, for instance, they will recall time and again the achievement of the young hurlers of 1981 in bringing the Munster minor championship to the county for the first time ever.

However, it is to Offaly that the chief honours must undoubtedly go. Their achievement in making their first All-Ireland senior hurling final appearance a winning one was what fairy-tales are made of. Only it was no fairy-tale at Croke Park last September, but a brilliant reality as a company of never-say-die hurlers from the Midlands refused to accept defeat, even when it was staring them in the face as they trailed by seven points early in the second half, and in the end were amply rewarded for their persistence.

It was a final, too, that had some

• *Kerry's Jimmy Deenihan defiantly holds aloft the "Sam Maguire" after the Kingdom's victory over Offaly last September.*



excellent moments. Galway folk will recall — and loudly bemoan, no doubt — their team's many misses during the game. As against that, there was much for the non native of either county to rejoice in the excellent display all through by Ger Coughlan in the Offaly back division, a couple of great saves from Damien Martin in the Leinster team's goal, Pat Delaney's powerful play in defence, and the late finishing burst by Johnny Flaherty.

The point he scored shortly before he grabbed the match winning goal, was one of the best of the year as the Kinnity club man won possession,

juggled the ball on his hurley, and then sent the sliother unerringly over the bar to leave his team trailing by only two points.

Then, there was that Flaherty goal and the colour and excitement at the final whistle. Yes, it was Offaly's year in Gaelic Games in 1981!

That says a lot, considering that Kerry brought up the first four in a row sequence in football in the lifetime of so many at Croke Park as the Kingdom beat Offaly in the All-Ireland final.

It was not a great year for

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● FROM PAGE 35

football. There were too many sub-standard games, too many uneven contests. But this still cannot take from the merit in Kerry's feat in remaining unbeaten in the championship over four seasons in succession.

Some of the cynics argue that Kerry are kings only because the general standard in the country is at a very low ebb. Indeed, many a Kerry man will say that his county has not received anything like the praise due for maintaining the unbeaten sequence over such a long period.

Standards generally have fallen, but certainly not in Kerry. Their current team is one of the best the county has produced . . . a squad schooled to perfection in their own special brand of match-winning play. Moreover, this is a combination that would have probably made it four All-Ireland titles in succession in any era.

Charlie Nelligan, Jimmy Deenihan, Jack O'Shea, Eoin



● **MINOR CAPTAIN:** *Vivian Hedderman - and cup - after Cork's victory over Kerry in the Munster final at Killarney.*

Liston, John Egan . . . names to respect and footballers who can walk tall with the best of them. The

same is true for the other members of the side.

Then, do not forget, either, that Kerry had to go into the final without Pat Spillane, one of their most efficient units, who was on the injured list, and that Michael Sheehy, whose scoring exploits have meant so much to the Kingdom, played although badly hampered by an injury.

No, this is a great Kerry team, a team of exceptional ability. And, yes, Kerry have not received anything like the praise they deserved for their four-in-a-row sequence.

Unluckiest team of 1981? Surely Limerick hurlers, who came back from the "dead" against Tipperary in the Munster championship to earn a replay and victory and go on from there to retain the Munster title.

But after that things turned sour for Limerick, and Dame Fortune did not smile too kindly on them in the All-Ireland championship as they went out to Galway in the semi-final replay.

Still, despite the defeat we shall remember Limerick in a special way from 1981 through the goal scoring exploits of big Joe McKenna, that Offaly-born hurler who has made such an impact at full forward in latter times. He was undoubtedly one of the best stars of 1981.

Cork's win over Offaly in the National Hurling League looked like heralding a great championship run for the Leesiders, but they fell by the wayside in Munster to Clare, who, not for the first time, failed to fulfil their potential.

Yet, hurlers like Sean Stack, Seamus Durack and Ger Loughnane contributed to the generally exciting campaign that made 1981 such a great year for hurling.

So betwixt and between 1981, while generally regarded as a poor year for football — and good for hurling — "wasn't a bad year a'tall" as the fella sez!



**Lucht Déanta
na
MBRIOSCAÍ.**

BY SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH

SPOTLIGHT ON THE FAITHFUL COUNTY

WITH Offaly proud All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions for the first time ever. This is an ideal time to spotlight some highlights in the county's history.

There was a side bet of a thousand guineas — a royal ransom then — on the first recorded hurling game. It was played at Banagher in September 1733, where over two thousand spectators gathered to see Tipperary beat Galway.

Shinrone were the first club to affiliate to the then infant G.A.A. This they did in 1886.

Offaly had the proud distinction of providing the venue for the first All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final. The contestants were Galway and Tipperary and the game was played at Birr on Easter Sunday, 1st April 1888, with a local man Patrick White as referee. The latter was also the first Secretary of Offaly County Board, G.A.A.

Four Offaly men participated in the G.A.A. "Invasion" of America

in 1888. They were: P. Meleady, Birr; J. Cordial, Kinnety; J. Dunne, Rahen and J. Nolan, Dunkerrin. Rev. J. Conconnon, C.C., Rahen, travelled with the "invaders" as chaplain.

Patrick J. Grimes of Kinnity, a founder member of the G.A.A. in New York, won fifteen hurling championships medals with the Offaly team in that city, and fielded with New York at the 1924 Tailteann games. He was also closely associated with the famed old Celtic Park in New York.

The Offaly team that won the Junior Hurling "All-Ireland" in 1923 was one of the best ever to take this title. Hopes of senior honours, however, were dashed when ten of that team emigrated to the United States, where they helped the New York Offaly club win the American Senior Hurling Championship on five occasions between 1925 and 1931.

Jimmy Flaherty won a record eleven Offaly Senior Championship medals with Tullamore — six in hurling and five in football. Later he had the honour of officiating as referee at five All-Ireland Senior finals.

Long serving Mick Casey, who first lined out for his native Offaly in 1946, captained the side ten years later, and kicked ten points against Meath in that year's Leinster Championships.

Tony McTague scored fourteen points of Offaly's 0-16, against Mayo, in the drawn National

Football League Semi-Final of 1972.

County Colours: Green, White and Gold.

All-Ireland titles won: Senior Football, 1971, 1972; Junior Hurling, 1923, 1929; Minor Football, 1964; Senior Hurling, 1981.

Leinster titles won: Senior Hurling, 1980, 1981; Senior Football, 1960, 1961, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1980, 1981.

Junior Hurling, 1915, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1929, 1938, 1953.

Junior Football, 1935, 1972.

Under-21 Hurling, 1978.

Under-21 Football, 1971, 1973.

Minor Football, 1947, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965.

Offaly men who have won All-Ireland Senior Football Championship medals:

Two each, M. Furlong, M. Ryan, P. McCormack, E. Mulligan, N. Clavin, M. Heavey, W. Bryan, J. Cooney, K. Kilmurray, A. McTague, S. Evans, P. Fenning, J. Smith, M. O'Connor. 1971, 1972 one each, M. O'Rourke, K. Claffay, J. Gunning 1971, L. Coughlan, S. Lowry, S. Darby, M. Wright, 1972.

Offaly men who have played in an All-Ireland senior hurling final winning team:

D. Martin, T. Donoghue, Eugene Coughlan, P. Fleury, A. Fogarty, P. Delaney, Ger Coughlan, J. Kelly, L. Currams, P. Kirwan, B. Birmingham, M. Corrigan, P. Carroll, P. Horan, J. Flaherty, B. Keeshan, D. Owens.

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

FIRST things first. Our Colour Cut-Out this month is Armagh Midfielder Colm McKinstry.

Since Armagh came to the forefront of Ulster football in 1977 one of their top stalwarts has been tall midfielder Colm McKinstry. I saw him play in Armagh's Athletic Grounds v. Galway before Christmas. It was a great game of football — the best I saw in 1981 — and Colm had to give best on that occasion to Galway's "never-say-die" Billy Joyce.

But Colm seldom has to give best to any midfielder in Ireland, and in honouring Colm we honour this Armagh team which has not reaped the reward it deserves. We wish them well in 1982!

Last month's Junior Desk was all "Mailbag". This month's issue of the Desk is devoted to another annual pastime of ours. I have a few New Year wishes to make.

1. Gaelic football to improve, hopefully.

2. The new Ceannarus building to reach its potential.

3. Some team to beat Kerry in the S.F.C., preferably Galway, though I fancy Cork will do the needful.

4. The return to full hurling power of Tipperary (not at Galway's expense!).

5. That Pat Spillane will recover from injury, and return to his old brilliance.

I know that it is a mixed bag, but these are a few thoughts as we enter

1982.

One of the services I try to provide at this time of year is a review of the G.A.A. publications scene. So, here goes:

Down G.A.A. Yearbook '81. — Price £1.50.

Down's first Yearbook is a mammoth and magnificent production. Its colour cover is superb. The Diary of the Year is very readable, and full of photos with text. In all it runs 11 pages and is a credit to Paddy McEvoy.

Feargal McCormack's interview with Liam Austin is excellent. So is Dan McCartan's with Maurice Hayes, and, I really liked the tribute to Bobby Langan by T. P. Murphy.

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● FROM PAGE 39

The late Bobby was Down G.A.A. to the hilt. This is a gem of a Yearbook.

Congrats Down, you always do things well.

Copies may be had from P. J. McGee, 2 Elm Grove Park, Newcastle, Co. Down.

Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook '82. — Price £1.50.

Tipperary have been producing G.A.A. Yearbooks since they became the in thing, and as regular as a clock, I receive one for review each Christmas.

This 100 page Annual, edited by John O'Grady, like its predecessors, concentrates on the club scene in Tipperary; itches for a return to the top in senior hurling, and carries a good mix of old and new, many team photos, and covers all aspects of the G.A.A. scene in Tipperary.

The Committee will forgive me if I suggest that they should change the format completely in the coming

issues. Down's approach was refreshingly new.

Copies may be had from John O'Grady, Pinehurst, Cloongoul, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Donegal G.A.A. Yearbook 1981. — Price £1.30.

Fr. Sean Gallagher, Falcarragh, the Editor, deserves credit for another fine Annual. His interview with Brian McEniff is excellent, though frankly I cannot agree with the latter's approach to winning.

All of us footballers are competitive enough to always want to win. We differ in the means we allow ourselves to achieve that end. As a county footballer I cannot tolerate a player trying to upset an opponent by talking at him or annoying him. And, there is nothing so reprehensible as a team manager who would encourage this. Cop yourself on, Brian.

That off my chest, once again I liked Fr. Sean's rather offbeat Diary, Donegal's achievements in G.A.A. history by Pegi Lase (the latter is a great presentation), the lovely tribute to the late Sandy Harper, the tributes to Ardara in text and pictures. Possibly not as good as Down Annual, but very close.

Copies from Fr. Sean Gallagher, Falcarragh, Co. Donegal.

Dublin '82. — Price £1.00.

A giveaway. This is one of our publications, so we must not over-praise it! The lay-out in a word is superb, and the colour cover magnificent. I like the interview with Keving Moran, the article by Liz Howard; also the articles by Fr. Joe Kennedy, called "On The Buses", and Pauline Heuston (Supporters' Club). This is great value.

Dublin '82 is available from Gaelic Sport Publications, 80, Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. (Postage 60p.)

Cork '82, costing £1.00 is also great value. The cover is even better than that of Dublin '82. Every now and then in an Annual you get the

really superb article. The best article I have seen in any Yearbook this year comes from the pen of Cork's able County Secretary Frank Murphy in which he suggests three ways to restore Gaelic football to its former glory of the 'seventies. Read it.

Cork '82 is available from Runaí, Pairc Uí Chaoimh, Cork.

My thanks also to Eddie Keher for sending me on the monthly newsletter of his club, Rower-Inistioge, called "The New Nightingale". This is a club newsletter with a difference, costing 20p, and selling 500 almost every month. This club deserves great credit for a magnificent effort.

So much for the books, keep writing, and a Very Happy New Year.

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

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Gaelic Sport



Colm McKinstry (Armagh)

Age: 32
Height: 6ft. 3ins.
Weight: 13st
Club: Clan na Gael
Position: Midfield
Senior Inter-County
Debut: 1968

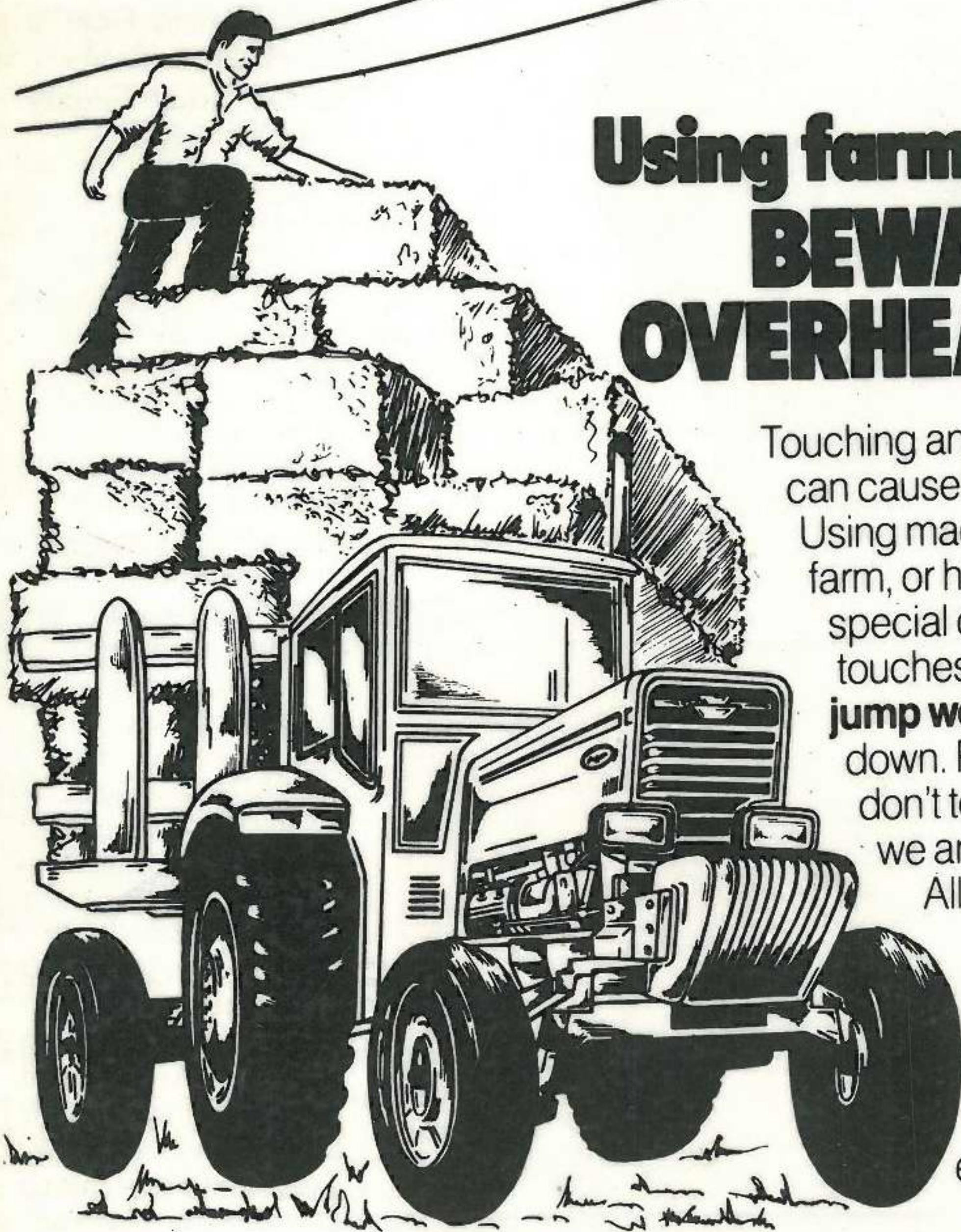
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Colm did much at midfield to bring the Ulster senior football title back to Armagh in 1977 after an interval of 24 years, and was also in the side beaten by Dublin in the All-Ireland final that year.

A secure fielder and progressive worker, he collected a second Northern senior medal in 1980, and that season also won his only All Star award. He has also played for Ulster.

Colm, who has given great service to Armagh over the years, is a former county and under-21 minor. He holds nine Armagh and three Ulster senior club medals, and was in the Lurgan side that lost to U.C.D. in a replay for the 1974 All-Ireland club title.

**CAUTION-
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