

191

GAA

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IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

SPRING EDITION, 1983

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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 26 No. 1  
JANUARY/MARCH, 1983

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## CONTENTS

Top Ten Stars of 1982 .....	4
"I'm putting my money on Cork" - by Noel Horgan	9
Spotlight on our Top Ten Men - by Liam Foley	13
'83 Hurling Preview - and some other thoughts - by Eamonn Young	17
Camogie Comment - by Agnes Hourigan	23
The Year of the 'Keepers - by Eamonn O'Sullivan	24
All-Star selection system - an analysis by Jay Drennan	27
The Handball Scene - by Sean Clerkin	29
The Mackey Story - book review - by Tommy McQuaid	31
On The Spot - Family Quiz - by Frank Coogan	34
Ask us another? Questions from our readers	37
Connacht Comment - by Chris Murray	41
Ulster Spotlight - by Gerry Nichols	43
Junior Desk - Edited by Jack Mahon	45
Colour Cut-Out Star	49

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

# LOST WEEK-ENDS!

**I**N his report to the Galway Convention a few weeks ago, Secretary Frank Burke, referred to the numbers of footballers and hurlers making the week-end trips to New York. He expressed the belief that teams top heavy with importees do nothing for competition in New York, and then at home the absence of these players from important League matches becomes an unbearable burden on their team-mates.

We agree with Secretary Burke on both counts. It is difficult to see how the games will be promoted in America by this policy. Far better to put the money and the effort in this field on youth. The prestige of intercounty and club games is hit when teams turn out short a key player or two because of the traffic to New York. Team mentors also have a duty to spectators — the people who pay to keep the games going — to field their strongest sides at all time.

There is another vital and worrying angle to the trips that has been completely overlooked. The New York enterprise may well encourage some budding entrepreneur in this country to launch a Kerry Packer-like promotion for hurling and football at home. The Packer promotion brought leading cricketers to Australia to play there professionally over a series of games at selected venues.

There might be an opening for such a promotion in Ireland. A series of hurling and football games involving top names and played under floodlights at Dalymount Park, Tolka Park, Milltown or Lansdowne Road with competition sure to be keen, would prove very popular with followers.

If "old school tie" cricketers could be seduced by Mammon why not Gaelic games players?

If a promoter could encourage telecasts with RTE TV at a fee, the matches would take on an even greater appeal nationwide and would also prove an ideal advertising medium.

Fanciful? Not really. Who would have said ten years ago that top class players would take the transatlantic plane every week-end for matches in New York.

This is the accepted practice nowadays. Indications are that the exodus will be even greater throughout the up-coming season.

The programme of games under lights and independent of the G.A.A. could be played without upsetting the inter-county and club games here.

There would always be the possibility that teams here would be deprived of key players because of injuries sustained in the unofficial tests. However, that is a possibility that exists as far as the New York matches are concerned.

The G.A.A. would doubtless frown on any series of matches in Ireland outside of their control. But the success of the New York promotion is bound to be taken up at home in time by money-making business men, if only on a trial basis.

The New York games have flagged a warning to the G.A.A., and one that may not yet be readily appreciated at Headquarters, of the inherent dangers for hurling and football at home, in the American promotions.

It is time for the G.A.A. to look long and hard at the overall development of the American weekend trips and to decide what steps are needed to guard against the possibilities of any outside agency exploiting the home scene for purely financial reasons. There is little point in closing the stable door when the horse has bolted.

# LAURELS GO TO KILKENNY'S DICK

## GAELIC SPORT TOP TEN STARS OF 1982



**JIM MCKERR**  
Armagh

**A** NEAR clean sweep for Kilkenny in hurling, and Jim McKerr out in style grabbing the principle football glory from the stars of Kerry and Offaly . . . these are the main features of the GAELIC SPORT TOP TEN awards for 1982.

Dick O'Hara wins the No. 1 rating in hurling, and Kilkenny's consistency that did so much to earn them the elusive National League and All-Ireland titles double is reflected by the fact that all but two of the final top ten places are filled by Noresiders.

O'Hara wins the award in the code for the first time. He finished with a cushion of just 22 points over Galway's scoregetter supreme, P.J. Molloy. McKerr also joins the ranks of the winners for the first time, but



**DICK O'HARA**  
Kilkenny

unlike O'Hara, the Armagh footballer is more or less "out on his own" with no fewer than 41 points to spare over the runner-up, Jack O'Shea.

McKerr took over on top in the football chart in September. He still held on to the leading role in November-December, despite the fact that he did not win a place in the Top Ten review in that particular issue. However, the Lurgan defender turned in some good showings in the exciting pre-Christmas run that earned Armagh a top of the table position in the National League, and as a result, he returns to the latest table, although down the field at No. 6.

The Armagh man did not head a chart in any issue over the campaign.



**PADDY PRENDERGAST**  
Kilkenny



**MATT CONNOR**  
Offaly



**JOHN GALVIN**  
Waterford

# O'HARA AND ARMAGH'S JIM MCKERR



**P. J. MOLLOY**  
Galway

His highest placing was a No. 2 in February-March on 30 points. He had his best points haul in October on 34, but still, surprisingly enough, finished well down the table at seventh place.

McKerr is the first over-all winner from Ulster since Colm McAlarney (Down) in 1978.

O'Hara did not take over the leading role in hurling until as late as the last issue. The Kilkenny defender just comes into the final table in ninth place, but his 24 points bag enabled him to withstand the challenge of Molloy.

O'Hara had his heaviest bag of the campaign at 40 points in the last issue. Like the football winner, the Kilkenny man did not head a Top Ten chart in any issue.



**CHRISTY HEFFERNAN**  
Kilkenny

Molloy, who has 19 points to spare over the third placed Brian Cody, was setting the pace up until October, but Galway's All-Ireland semi-final loss to Kilkenny, hit at his chances of winning the No. 1 spot.

Still it says much for the high standard and consistent play of Molloy that he has finished in such a high position in the Top Ten review.

## LONE ULSTERMAN

The only other non-Kilkenny hurler in the panel is John Galvin, who comes into the rankings at the end of the field at No. 10.

Back to football — and McKerr is the only Ulster man in the season's Top Ten. All four provinces are represented in the list, with Kerry



**JACK O'SHEA**  
Kerry

taking the lion's share with four players.

The highest points tally achieved by any footballer in any issue over the year was 48, earned by Pádraig Dunne for his great display of high-fielding and invaluable work in Offaly's shock win over Kerry in the All-Ireland final.

Noel Skehan, whose brilliance in goal made him such a glittering star of the hurling final, earned the highest points total by any hurler in the past year at 48. That was following Kilkenny's win over Cork in the Liam McCarthy Cup tie.

A total of 39 hurlers were honoured in the review over the year, drawn from eleven counties, including the somewhat unlikely one

● TO PAGE 7



**JOHN O'KEEFE**  
Kerry



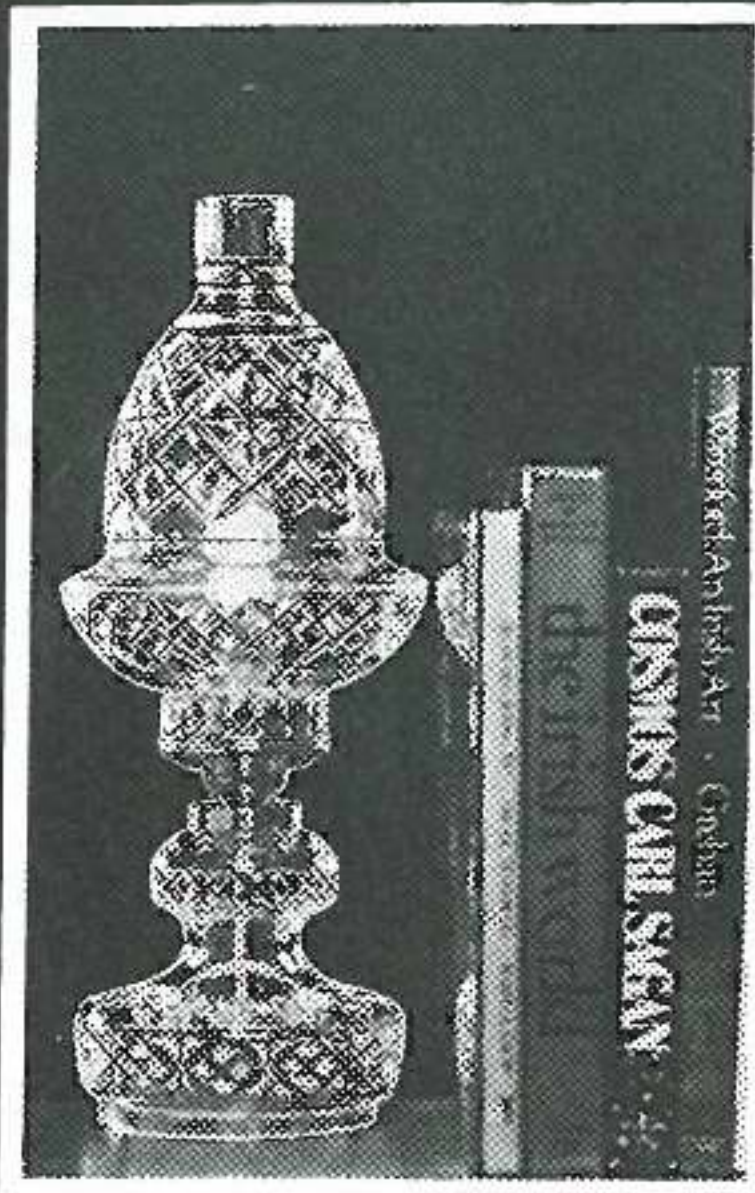
**SEAMUS McHUGH**  
Galway



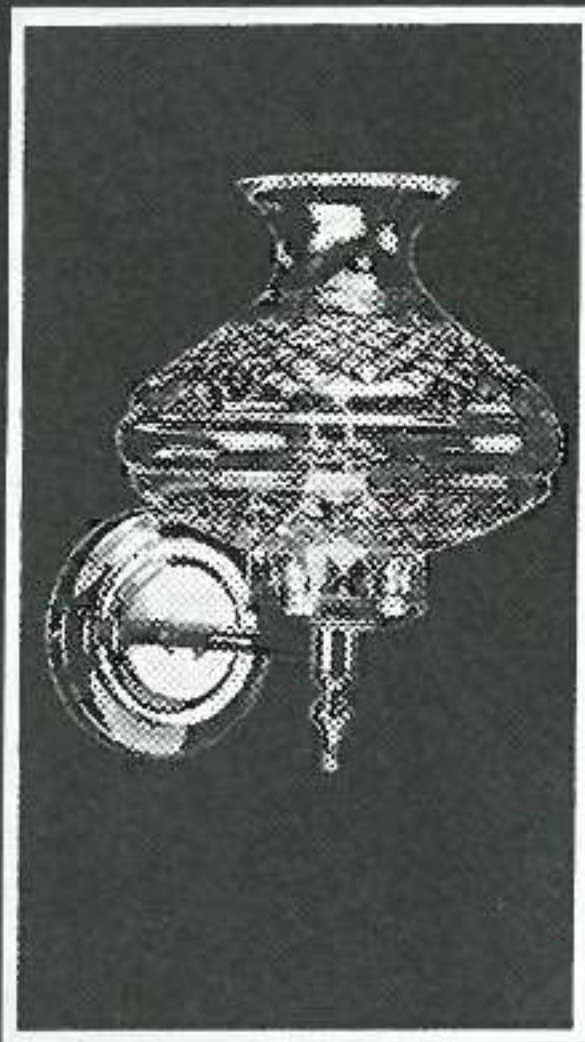
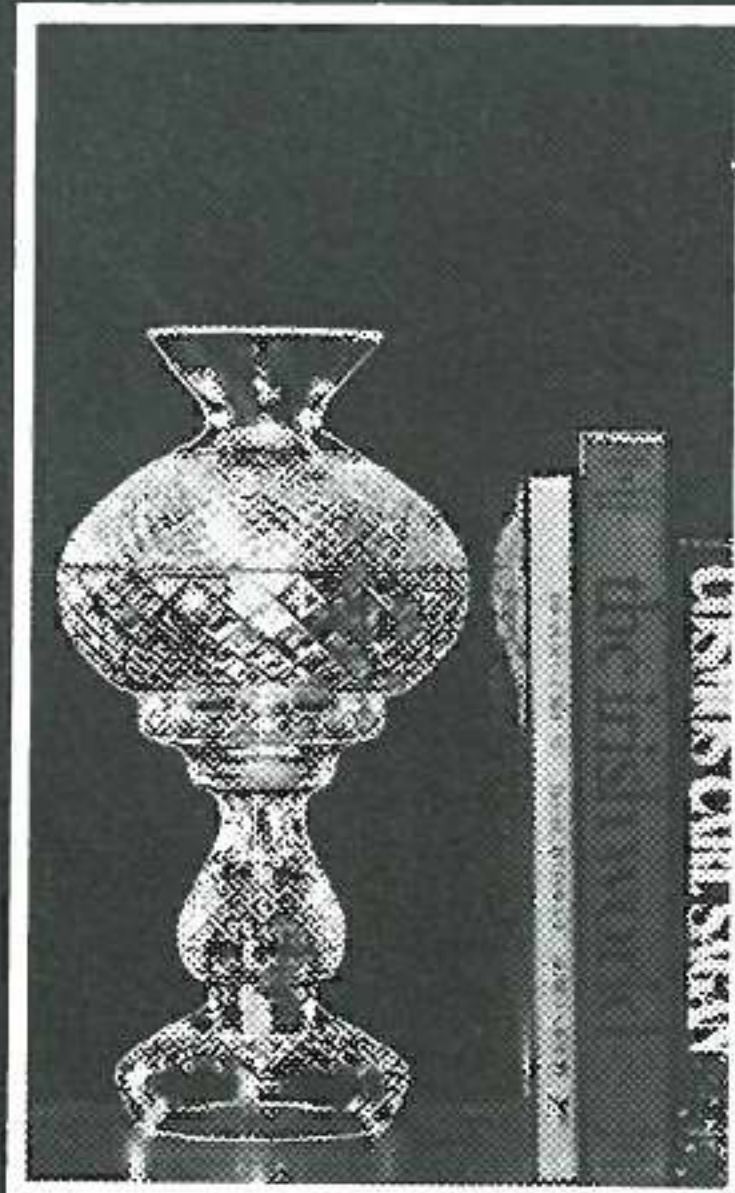
**KEVIN KEHILY**  
Cork

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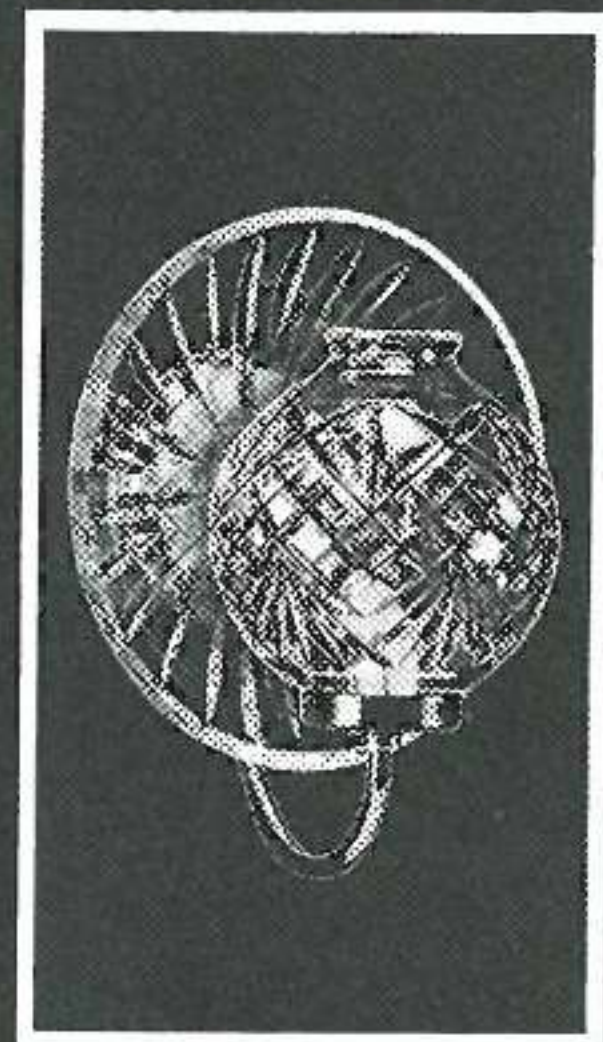
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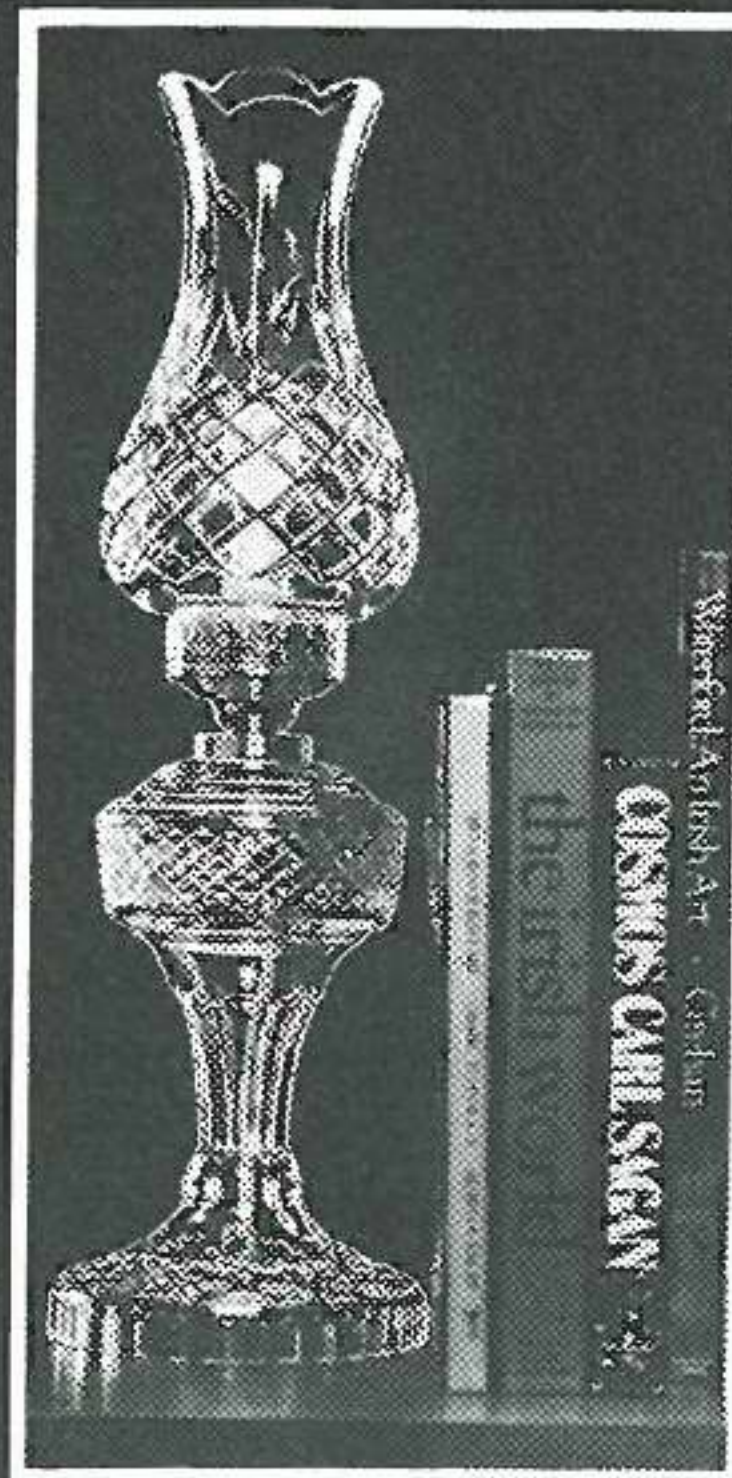
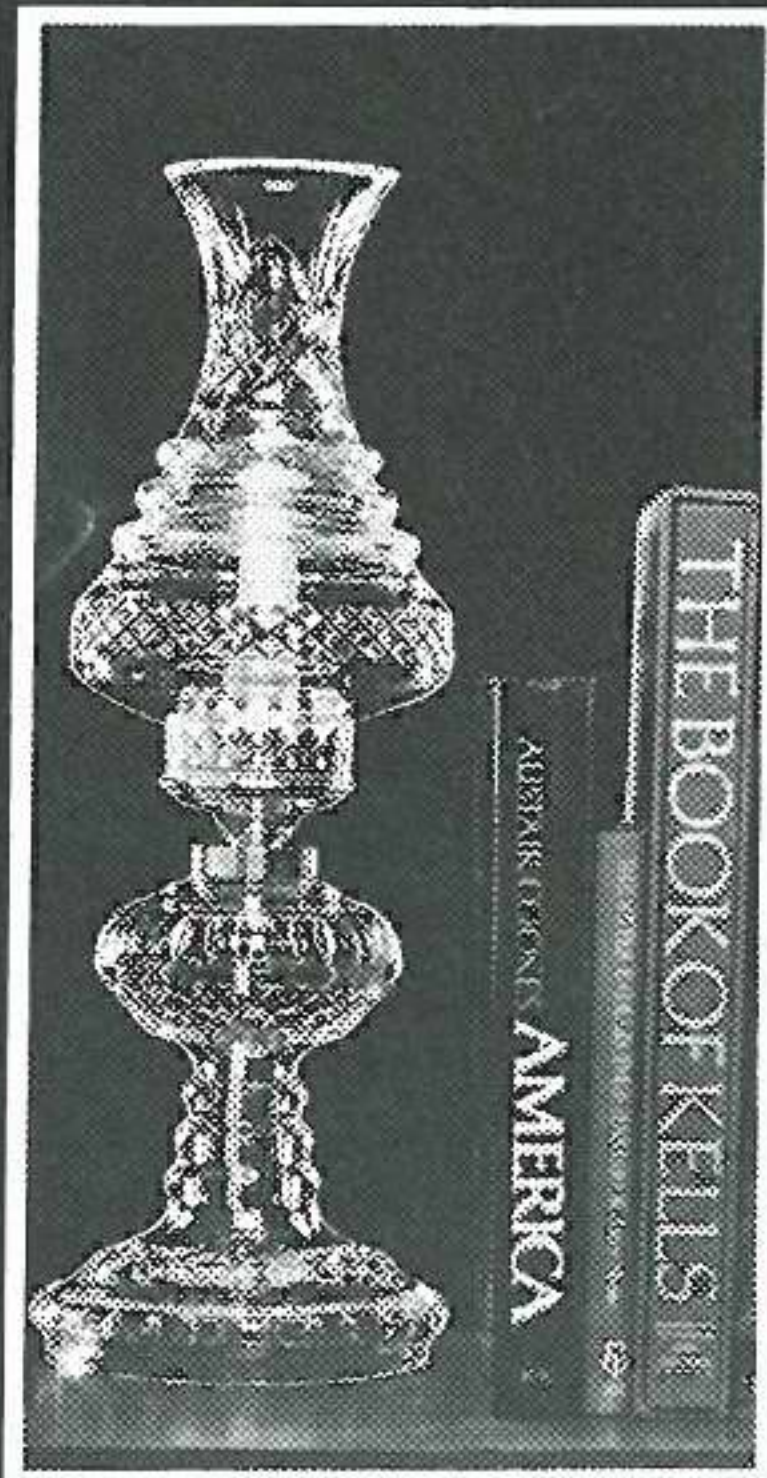


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# THE TOP TEN FINAL PLACINGS FOR 1982

## HURLING

- 157 Dick O'Hara (Kilkenny)
- 135 P.J. Molloy (Galway)
- 116 Brian Cody (Kilkenny)
- 114 Paddy Prendergast (Kilkenny)
- 99 Frank Cummins (Kilkenny)
- 88 Noel Skehan (Kilkenny)
- 79 Christy Heffernan (Kilkenny)
- 64 John Henderson (Kilkenny)
- 63 Billy Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny)
- 56 John Galvin (Waterford)

## FOOTBALL

- 150 Jim McKerr (Armagh)
- 109 Jack O'Shea (Kerry)
- 108 Tommy Doyle (Kerry)
- 79 Pdraig Dunne (Offaly)
- 69 John O'Keeffe (Kerry)
- 64 Christy Ryan (Cork)
- 64 Liam Connor (Offaly)
- 63 Seamus McHugh (Galway)
- 62 Kevin Kehily (Cork)
- 56 Matt Connor (Offaly)
- 56 Sean Walsh (Kerry)

### • FROM PAGE 5

in this code of Mayo. Kilkenny set the pace in this regard with eleven hurlers honoured.

In football, 44 players found favour from seventeen counties, representing all four provinces. Kerry, as National League title-winners and runners-up for the Sam Maguire Cup, not unexpectedly set the pace with ten players. Offaly come next with 8 footballers.

The final football chart of the campaign and published in this issue sees only two players increase their standings — Jim McKerr and Christy Ryan. The top spot goes to brilliant young Armagh forward, John Corvan who displayed such an exciting scoring line in the pre-Christmas League programme.

Corvan collects 38 points — two more than another exciting young man of football, John Cleary, an All-Ireland minor football medalist with Cork in 1981, and one of their heroes in earning joint League Division I leadership with Armagh at the winter-break.

The hurling chart is headed by a newcomer as well — John Conran, who did wonderful work in the defence for Wexford as they celebrated Christmas on top of the League Division I chart on their own.

Conran finished with two points in hand over Paddy Prendergast, who is one of four hurlers to improve their over-all placings in this issue. The others are John Galvin, P.J. Molloy and Dick O'Hara.

Finally, only Jim McKerr, in football, and P.J. Molloy in hurling,



★ SEAN WALSH, KERRY

provide links with the final charts of the year, and our initial tables in 1982. The Armagh footballer was runner-up in the first chart of the year, and Molloy filled the same position in hurling.

## THIS ISSUE'S RATINGS

### FOOTBALL

- 38 J. Corvan (Armagh)..... 38
- 36 J. Cleary (Cork)..... 36
- 34 L. Tompkins (Kildare) ..... 34
- 33 C. O'Rourke (Meath) ..... 33
- 31 C. Ryan (Cork) ..... 64
- 30 J. McKerr (Armagh) ..... 150
- 28 H. Keegan (Roscommon) ..... 28
- 27 R. Fahy (Westmeath) ..... 27
- 26 P. O'Rourke (Down)..... 26
- 25 Johnny McDonnell (Louth)..... 25

### HURLING

- 38 J. Conran (Wexford) ..... 38
- 36 P. Prendergast (Kilkenny) ..... 114
- 34 P. Kelly (Limerick)..... 34
- 32 M. Jacob (Wexford)..... 32
- 31 L. Fennelly (Kilkenny) ..... 31
- 30 J. Galvin (Waterford)..... 56
- 28 P.J. Molloy (Galway)..... 135
- 25 T. Nolan (Kerry)..... 25
- 24 D. O'Hara (Kilkenny)..... 157
- 23 J. Buckley (Cork)..... 23

## 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)
- 1981 144 pts. G. Coughlan (Offaly)

### 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)
- 1981 103 pts.: O. Liston (Kerry)

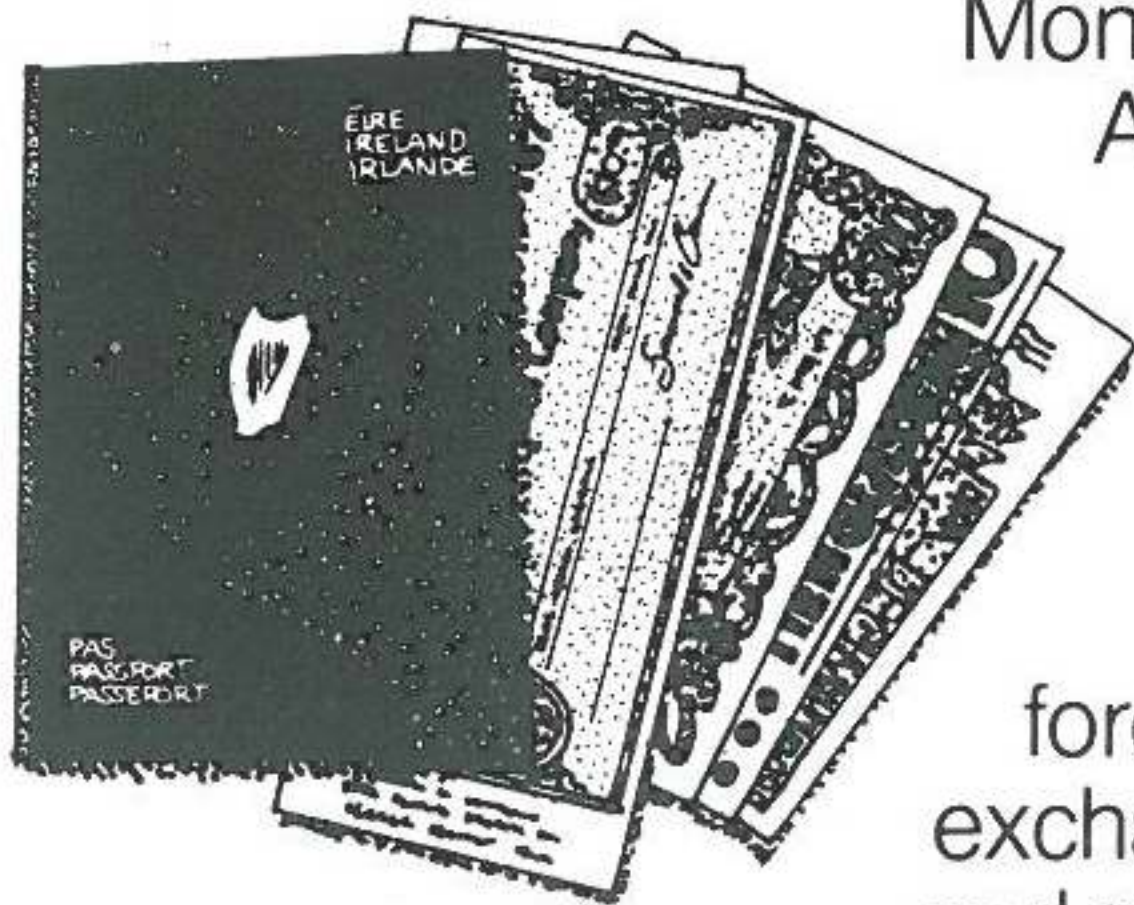
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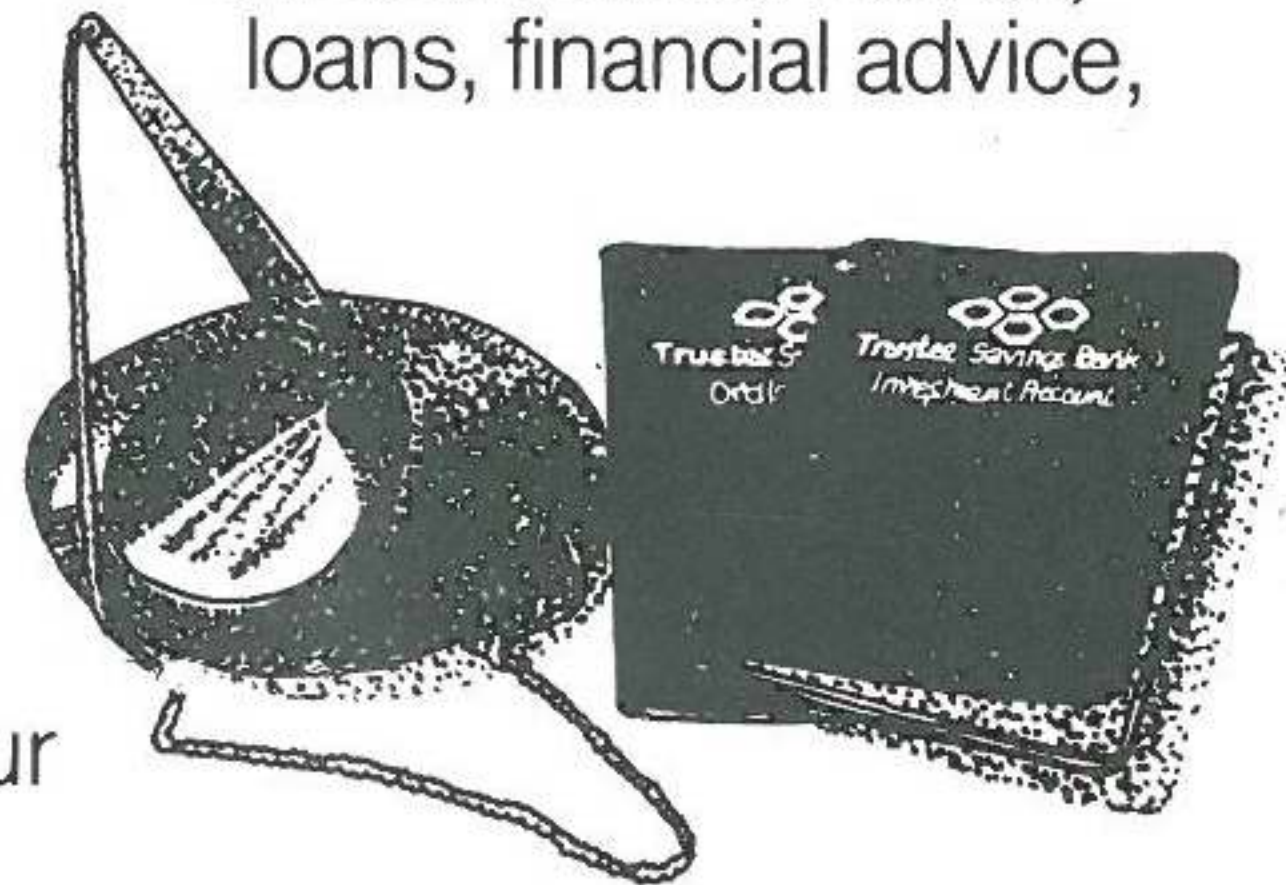
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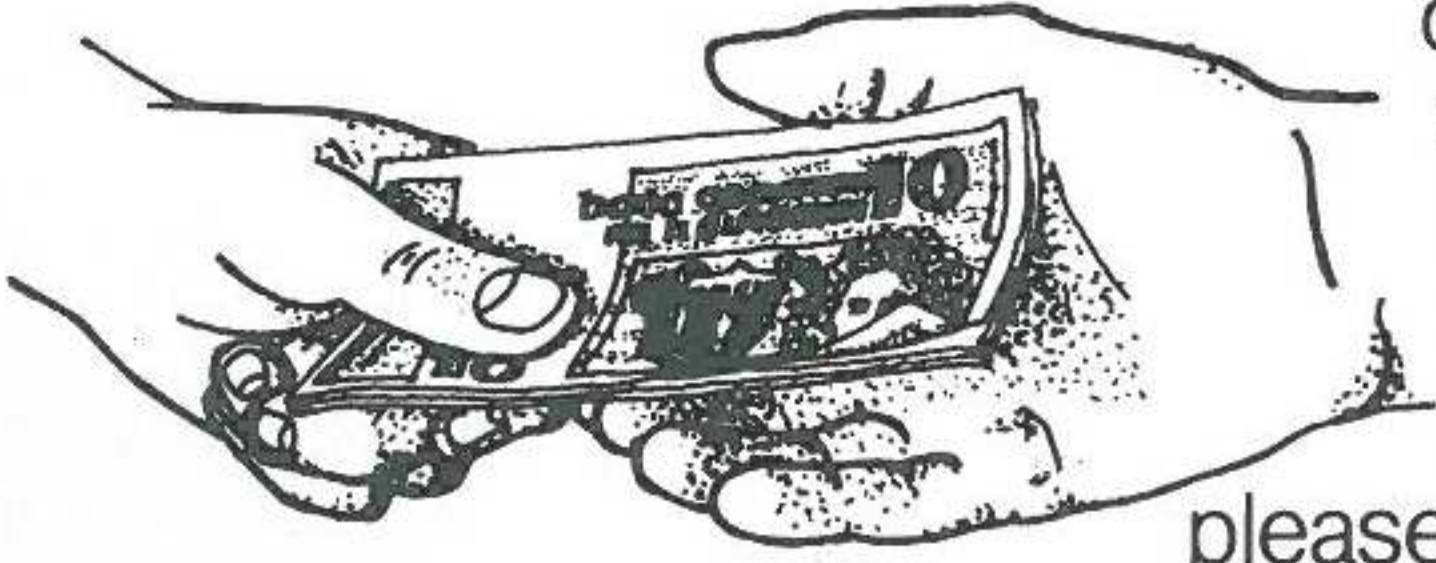
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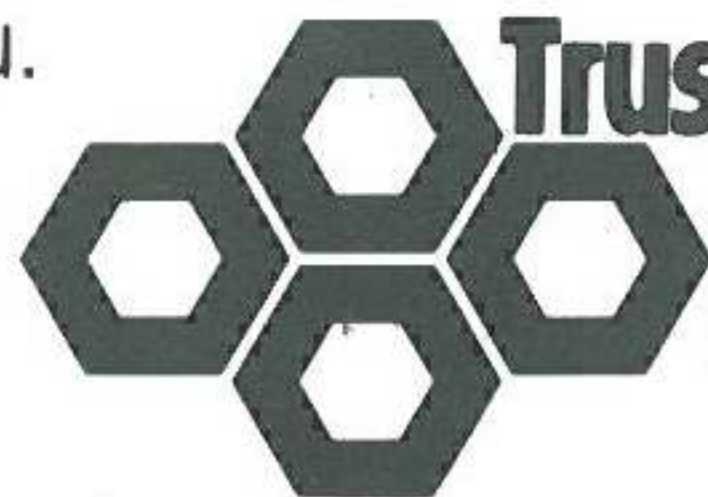
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NOEL HORGAN peeps into his magic notebook for 1983 and predicts the "Sam Maguire" will be leaning towards Kerry, Offaly and Galway.

**"BUT I'M  
PUTTING  
MY MONEY  
ON CORK"**

PADRAIG  
DUNNE,  
OFFALY



**H**AD Kerry conquered Offaly last September they would be hotly fancied to make it six-in-a-row this year but Seamus Darby's late winner completely altered the complexion of the football world, shattering the aura of invincibility which surrounded the Kerry men and making the '83 championship look more like a race than a procession for the first time since 1978 when the Kingdom began their monopoly.

Of course, the majority of the thirty-two starters will be merely out for the run, as it were, with little chance of being first past the post but there are a few counties now that must feel they have a genuine hope of gaining All-Ireland glory.

What of Kerry themselves? Will they be back as they defiantly predicted after the final defeat, or are we likely to see the beginning of the break-up of one of the finest combinations in the history of Gaelic football?

Such renowned Kerry observers as Frank King and Jackie Lyne have recently stressed the enormity of the task facing the Kingdom this year and, while Kerry men invariably tend to play down their potential, it is easy to understand how some of their more seasoned performers might find motivation difficult with the sequence broken now and the chance of creating history gone.

**Additionally, it seems as if Kerry are not rich in reserve talent and the form of most of the 'trialists' in the pre-Christmas league games left a lot to be desired. Only the foolhardy, however, would regard Kerry's demise as inevitable this year.**

Morale within the county is low at the moment but be under no illusions that the Kerry men will have raised their spirits and regrouped their forces come the summer and, if they are likely to be slightly more vulnerable than before, one will hardly get a long price on them from

the bookies. They will definitely have Eoin Liston and Jack O'Shea in their ranks and one could almost build a winning team around these two great players alone.

## CORK OPTIMISM

For all that, football fans in Cork are eagerly looking forward to the Munster championship, reasonably optimistic that their favourites can take provincial honours for the first time since 1974. Cork have dominated at Under-21 level in Munster for the last four years but this has not been adequately reflected in the premier grade because of Kerry's greatness.

It was evident last year, however, that Cork are gradually bridging the

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● **FROM PAGE NINE**

gap — they drew with Kerry in both the league and Munster finals — and the Leesiders have been further encouraged since Offaly proved on All-Ireland day that the Kerry men are mere mortals after all.

Offaly, of course, are the champions and they came to the top the hard way so they are well drilled in the workings of the football world. Defeated by Dublin in the '79 Leinster decider, Offaly bounced back the following year to make the All-Ireland semi-final where Kerry proved superior.

In '81 Offaly fell to the Kingdom at the final hurdle but made amends by dethroning the Kerry men last year. Such qualities of courage and resilience have to be respected and admired.

Offaly are, indeed, a mature and balanced bunch and having fought so vigorously for the All-Ireland crown they will not abdicate easily.

Many people believe that Galway were unfortunate to fail to Offaly in last year's semi-final and, while the westerners were disappointed, they were not discouraged as few teams manage to succeed at the first attempt in the All-Ireland series. Even the great Galway three-in-a-row team of the mid-sixties did not surge straight to the top and a Gerry Davey goal helped Dublin to a two-point win over the youthful Tribesmen in the 1963 final.

**ULSTER HOPES**

Armagh will probably spearhead the Ulster challenge again but Fermanagh may be stronger for the experience gained in last season's provincial decider while Donegal's All-Ireland Under-21 triumph cannot be ignored. It will be a surprise, however, if the eventual Ulster champions manage to make a major impact in the All-Ireland arena this year.

A northern county has not qualified for the final since 1977 and one has to go back as far as 1968, when Down were successful, for the last time that the Sam Maguire Cup went to Ulster.

A sad feature of the football

championship in recent times has been the decline of several one-time strongholds such as Cavan and Louth. Even sadder is the fact that there is little hope of a dramatic improvement in the fortunes of the weaker counties.

The All-Ireland 'set' has become very exclusive over the past twenty years and only seven counties — Kerry, Dublin, Offaly, Meath, Down, Galway and Cork — have been honoured with 'Sam's' presence in that period. And even Meath and Down have slipped considerably since the 'sixties.

It seems, therefore, as if the adage that success breeds success is most apt when applied to the current football world. The longer a county lingers in the doldrums, the harder it becomes to return to the top.

If, for instance, Louth were to win the All-Ireland in the morning, every juvenile in the county would be kicking a football for the rest of the year. With no local heroes to emulate, however, youngsters are not so keen and consequently firm foundations for the future are not being laid.

The Dubs were thrashed in last year's Leinster final and are struggling to find a formula similar to that which brought them so much glory in the 'seventies. Should Brian Mullins manage to recapture some of his old sparkle, however, Dublin could conceivably be a force this season.

Roscommon have slipped since running Kerry close in the 1980 final, Mayo and Kildare can show promise but are inconsistent and so for me the pick of the outsiders in '83 must be Laois. They made things very hot for Offaly in recent championship outings and clearly, with a little more benevolence from Lady Luck, they possess the potential to make a significant breakthrough.

However, the experienced punter will hardly look beyond either Offaly, Kerry, Galway or Cork when wagering on this year's All-Ireland race and there are no marks for guessing that I, as a Corkman, am putting my money on my home county.

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SPOTLIGHT ON

# OUR TOP TEN MEN

**A**N unlikely alliance of Kilkenny and Armagh is provided by GAELIC SPORT Top Ten award winners of 1982, Dick O'Hara and Jim McKerr. Or is it?

True, we have yet to see Kilkenny and Armagh linked as All-Ireland senior champions in any year in their respective codes, but one of the best features of our awards is that team title wins are not essential planks in shaping the eventual winners.

Admittedly, title wins can do much to further a player's cause. That point is emphasised by O'Hara's triumph, which comes at the end of a wonderful campaign for Kilkenny that saw the Noresiders record that rare double of the National League and All-Ireland championship.

But as against that, Armagh did not appear in a national final last year, let alone win a title, but that still did not prevent Jim McKerr from "walking away" almost with the football award. Consistency over the year in victory and defeat was the hall-mark of the Armagh full-back's play, and that is what has paid off in the end with the GAELIC SPORT Top Ten award.

Consistency, too, was the chief feature of O'Hara's play. He had more opportunities to turn on the style in major games than the Northerner, thanks to Kilkenny's great year, but while those title wins

helped to put O'Hara more firmly into the national spotlight than McKerr, it was still this ability to deliver the goods regularly from the beginning of the year to the end that paid the final dividend.

So, the Kilkenny-Armagh alliance is not all that surprising. Rather is it an indication of the unique aspect of our scheme. While other promotions may place a powerful emphasis on form in the concluding rounds of the

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By **LIAM FOLEY**

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championships, thereby concentrating merely on one or two games, like the All-Ireland finals, when selecting the stars of the year, the GAELIC SPORT promotion mirrors performances all through the year. As a result, we present without doubt the fairest method of all when it comes to singling out the outstanding players in any year under review.

Thus, while Kerry may have taken the League title, and Offaly the Sam Maguire Cup for football's principal awards, neither county still capped achievements by providing the GAELIC SPORT Top Ten award winner.

It says much, then, for the qualities of Jim McKerr that he stamped his personality on the past year in the

face of strong opposition from Kerry and Offaly men to such good effect that he finally emerged as our top man. Similarly, with O'Hara, who had to compete at the highest possible level against his team-mates, never mind hurlers from other counties.

The contrasting fortunes of sport are strikingly mirrored by the careers of Dick O'Hara and Jim McKerr. Each has built up a deserved reputation as a defender of the highest class in his own game, but while the Kilkenny man has won All-Ireland medals over four levels of competition, the Ulster footballer has still to get among the national awards in his code.

McKerr played Colleges' football with famed St. Patrick's in Armagh city, and represented the county at minor. He had four years service with the county under-21 side . . . an indication that of the extra special talents that have made him such a bright star of top-grade football since he first pulled on the Armagh senior shirt against Westmeath in a National League Division III tie at Mullingar in 1976.

## BEST FOOTBALL

The Clan na nGael club footballer from Lurgan has played all his career

● TO PAGE 15

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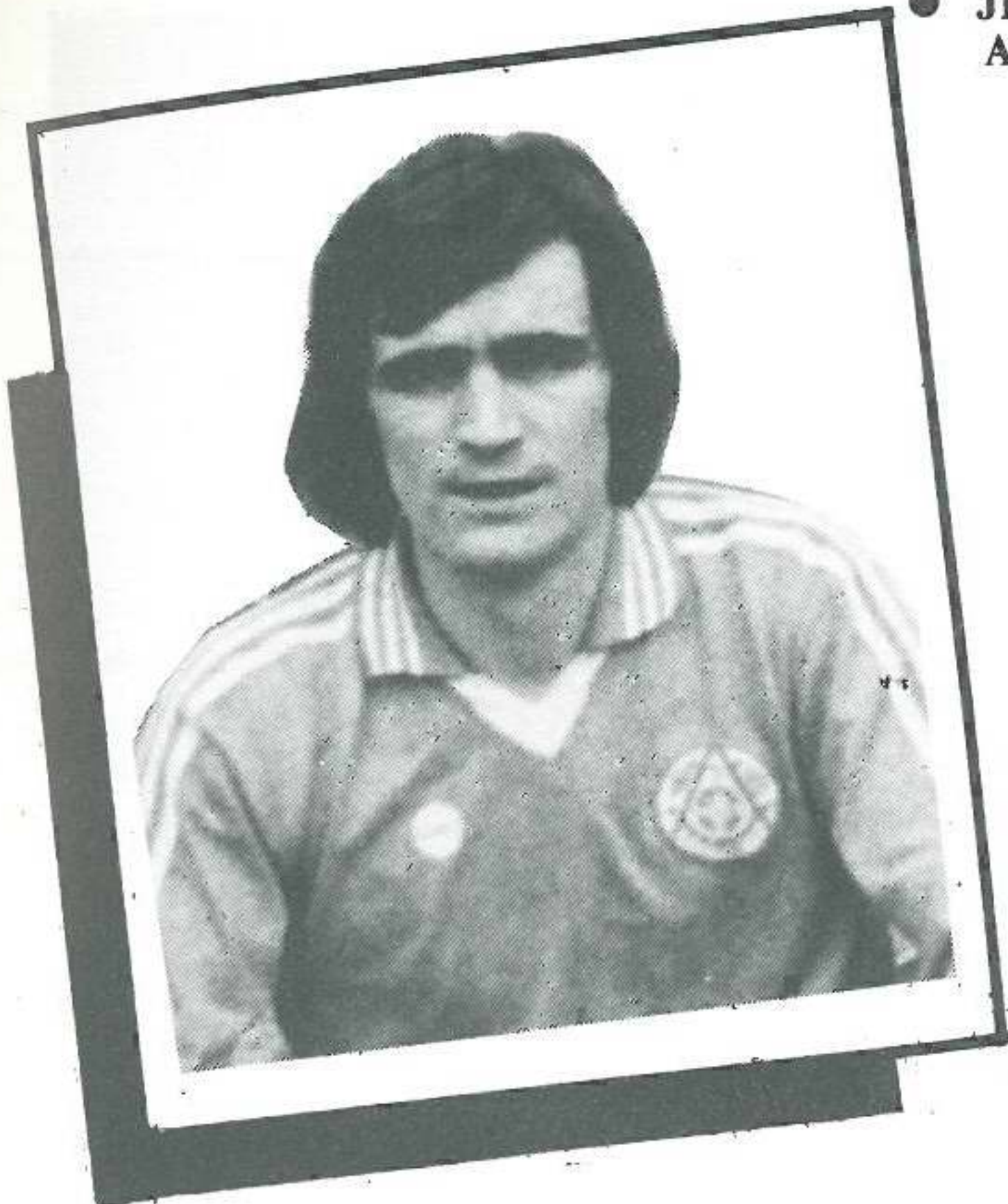


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● JIM McKERR  
ARMAGH



● DICK O'HARA  
KILKENNY

● FROM PAGE 13

as a defender with Armagh. He was one of the bright company of stars who illuminated the scene by bringing Armagh in out of the cold in 1977 with a first Ulster senior final win in 24 years, and the following September appeared in his only Sam Maguire Cup game so far, only for Dublin to devastate the Northern hopes.

McKerr, who is 26, played some of the best football of his career last year. He had some outstanding games, including a high powered role in Armagh's win over Fermanagh last July that earned the gifted full-back his third Ulster senior medal — the second was gained in 1980.

In one surprising respect McKerr can take his place alongside O'Hara as an All-Ireland HURLING medalist. He helped Armagh to the national under-16 championship in 1973. He has also won Armagh and Ulster senior championship medals with Clan na nGael, but those were, of course, gained in the "big ball" code.

McKerr is a cool, dependable defender, with the maturity and shrewdness necessary to ensure that he will be a powerful driving force as Armagh bid to follow on

encouraging performances in the opening rounds of the 1982-83 National League with a worthwhile bid for glory later this year.

O'Hara, who was 26 last New Year's Day, has enjoyed remarkable success in a short enough spell that now sees him firmly established as one of the best corner backs in the land. He won an All-Ireland Vocational Schools' medal as a progressive pivot in the Kilkenny team that beat North Tipperary in the 1975 final. Later that year he won his second national minor medal.

The Thomastown club man collected a brace of All-Ireland under-21 medals before going in as a substitute to help Kilkenny to their "coming of age" All-Ireland senior championship when they beat Galway for the 1979 championship.

**FIVE STAR**

One of my brightest memories of 1982 is of O'Hara's display in the Leinster senior final against Offaly at Croke Park. The left full-back highlighted his progressive work all through with a superb second half display that made him a brilliant and so effective star for the Noresiders as they dethroned the Midlanders. The win gave O'Hara his third Leinster

senior medal, and he followed on with a further five-star showing as Cork were crushed by the high powered Kilkenny machine in the Liam McCarthy Cup tie.

O'Hara, who is a farmer, is a difficult man to outwit. He is a tireless worker, and as we saw last year, he also has the ability to "lift" his team with his wholehearted hurling and his sorties up field.

The Kilkenny man was also in the team that brought the National League title to the county last April, and he now needs only a Railway Cup medal to complete the set.

One of the main reasons why football and hurling continue to keep ahead of their competitors in this country is that the games year in year out produce personality-plus performers... players with the ability to stamp their individual personalities on any game and set the pulse racing with their mastery and flair.

Jim McKerr and Dick O'Hara are two of the leading lights in this regard. They are also proudly maintaining the tradition for excellence, sportsmanship and consistent performance that has been the hallmarks of the GAELIC SPORT Top Ten awards.

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**"IT COULD BE ANOTHER CORK v. KILKENNY FINAL BUT LET'S GET SOMETHING ELSE SORTED OUT FIRST"**

**I'd like to draw attention to the unfairness of the All-Ireland Championship**

By EAMONN YOUNG

WHEN I bought ten-year tickets in the new stand at Thurles a few years ago, John Quirke who hurled for Cork over 14 years, winning four All-Irelands in a row, was delighted.

"We'll be there in '84", he grinned. "If the Lord spares us and surely it will be Cork for the centenary".

Since then the idea has been the cause of never-ending joy as we tossed it out to every Tipperaryman we met at the matches. Cork and Offaly in Thurles for the centenary final! The idea drives many a man mad.

But seriously Tipp have been working hard at the hurling team of theirs over the last few years and under Mick Frawley's dedicated chairmanship I see them making one whale of an effort to be there in togs in '84. They have had no great success and Len Gaynor was obviously quite disappointed with the side that played Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in the League.

I thought it was the makings of a good side but Tipp men are not easily impressed by their own, an attitude both practical and analytical I suppose.

Meanwhile this year Tipp play Clare, the team that might have been. Will we ever know what happens them? They're great on their day and will beat anyone but why do they fall apart on other important hours.

There were half a dozen Tipperarymen discussing the Munster championship in a Thurles pub this time twelve months.

"Cork will be there", said one. "They have the men and a few subs".

"Limerick must be good this year", said another while the merits of Waterford were enumerated enthusiastically by the Clonmel man.

"I think Clare are the best of the lot" said one, brightly, "and this year they'll be better".

The old man in the corner sat with his head down. He had a lot of hurling experience.

"What do you think Jack?" one asked. "What do you think of Clare?"

Slowly he raised his head pushed the hat back over weary eyes and said "They're all right in the winter", he said, "but when Clare hear the cuckoo they're finished". Claremen don't believe it and soon we'll see, for the cuckoo's wandering voice will

soon echo over the Burren.

Clare play Tipp in the Munster championship and it's anybody's game. What matters is the bunch that survives and surely the team that meets Waterford in the semi-final will be good. With all that motivation and frustration converted into training and spirited effort, the winners must be very competent.

Then Waterford, who have hurled fairly well, so far in the League, will play very hard, not only to beat Clare or Tipp but to get another crack generally at the championship and particularly at Cork, whom they owe something, after last year's disaster in Thurles.

I see Waterford at a disadvantage for there's nothing like a championship game to tune a side up and I see it quite likely we'll have Tipp in the Munster final.

On the other half, Cork play Limerick by Shannonside. The men in red will miss Martin O'Doherty and Ray Cummins but Sean O'Gorman and perhaps Eamonn O'Donoghue will fill in. Whatever happens Cork will field a pretty

• TO PAGE 19



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● FROM PAGE 17

sound side that so far has not thrown up a top-class man in the vital position of centre-forward and surely the man who plays there on a real championship side has to be above the ordinary.

Cork have played men in this position who have been excellent in other parts of the field but the "twenty-one" demands such powers in skill, in mind and in restless energy, all opposed by this great hurler called the centre back, that it's no wonder we don't see very many good ones at centre-forward.

It's no accident that Mick Mackey and Christy Ring played much of their hurling there earning thereby their merited fame as the best.

Limerick are in the process of picking themselves off the ground after a disappointing '82 championship and just now it's impossible to estimate their merits keenly, a fact that applies to the lot at this time of year. Enough to say that at home they'll be a real danger to Cork and may win it. If they do they'll probably win the Munster championship. Just now however Cork appear to be slight favourites.

So let's take a Cork-Tipp Munster final with the semi-final against Galway who, as always, will suffer from lack of matches and will probably go down unless their opponents are Cork against whom, as always, they'll play with an élan that seems reserved for the tilt at the red jersey.

In Leinster, Laois or Dublin may fool us all and that would cause me no real dismay but, to be pragmatic, we must stick to Wexford, Offaly or Kilkenny. The champions, who won so deservedly, surprised even their own last year and will probably not dominate so readily again though Ned Cotter of Blackrock told me that on a visit to the Kilkenny training camp a short time before the All-Ireland that Pat Henderson told him he couldn't see that Kilkenny side beaten. They must be favourites to get out of Leinster though every Offaly man will tell you the opposite.

Hard to blame them after last year. So an All-Ireland final between

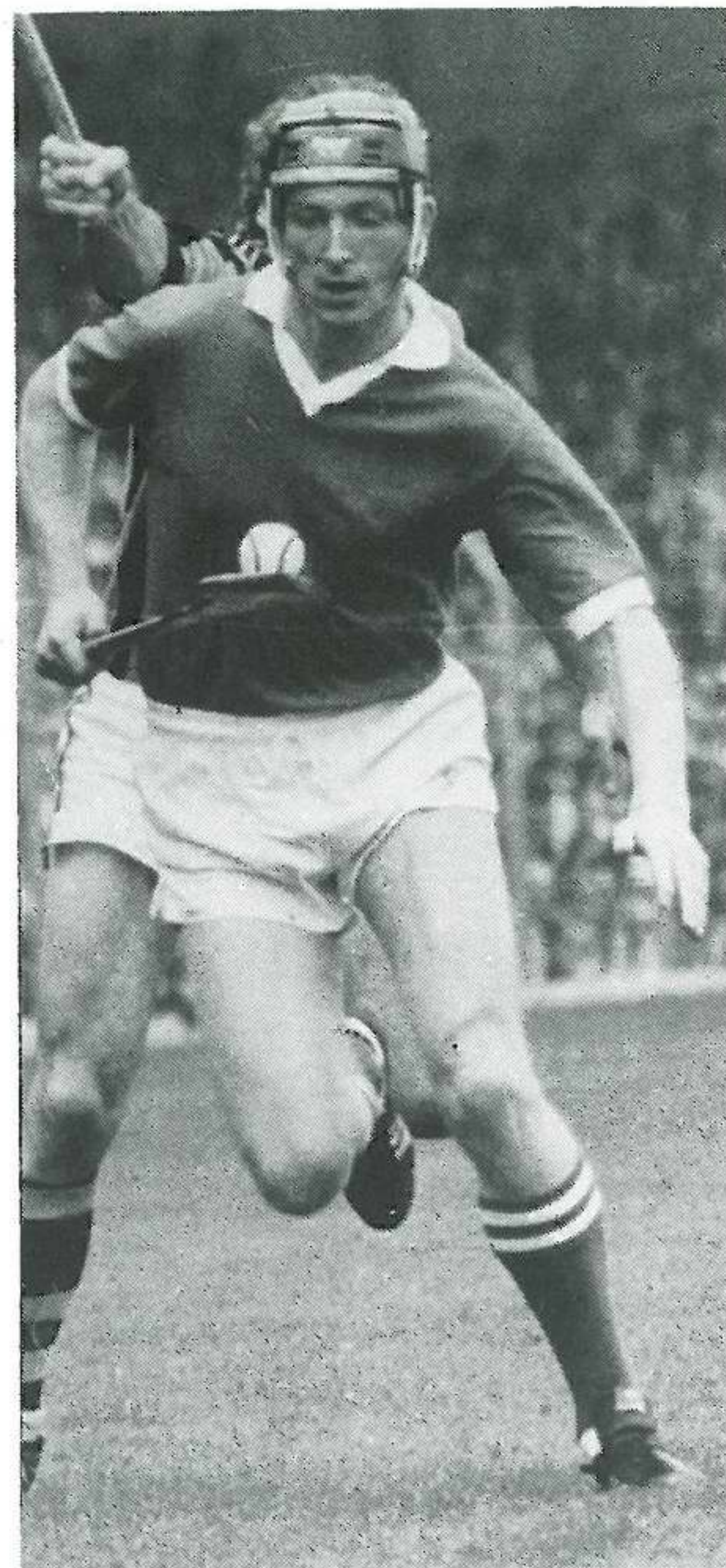
Galway and Kilkenny or Offaly and Cork, or Wexford and Clare. It's all quite possible though my pick is Cork, Galway (automatic) and Kilkenny for the last three with Cork and the Black and Amber fighting out the repeat, this time with a different result.

I'd like to draw attention to the long-standing unfairness of the All-Ireland hurling championship. Competition should be designed so that every competitor will have an even chance, yet that is not so in hurling for while one side, emerging from its provincial championship in mid-July, can look forward to a vital test in mid-August the other successful team has a seven weeks wait for the final. This happened to Cork last year and while I am not offering it as an excuse for defeat, for as already said Kilkenny were great on the day, the lack of that semi-final was no help.

After Cork had cast helpless Waterford aside in that debacle of a Munster final last year we awaited the Offaly-Kilkenny game of the following Sunday. Kilkenny, emerging luckily, went off to train hard for Galway knowing they had to show a significant improvement. The game tuned them up for the final and Cork were left lamenting.

Cork after their Waterford game relied on a challenge match with Wexford and it was a fairly pallid affair. So the Association did not provide equal chance in vital competition. Worse, we have been looking at that for 50 years. There is a solution, perhaps not completely satisfactory but certainly a lot better than we have just now.

I debated this with a very experienced player who is now a prominent person attached to a county hurling side. He developed an idea I had and this is the result. Start an annual competition in which the side that gets a bye into the All-Ireland final will play the defeated finalist in the other province (Leinster or Munster). This game would be a qualifier for a final that would be held in London in the last Sunday in September, a week after the football final. The opponents being the defeated All-Ireland semi-finalists.

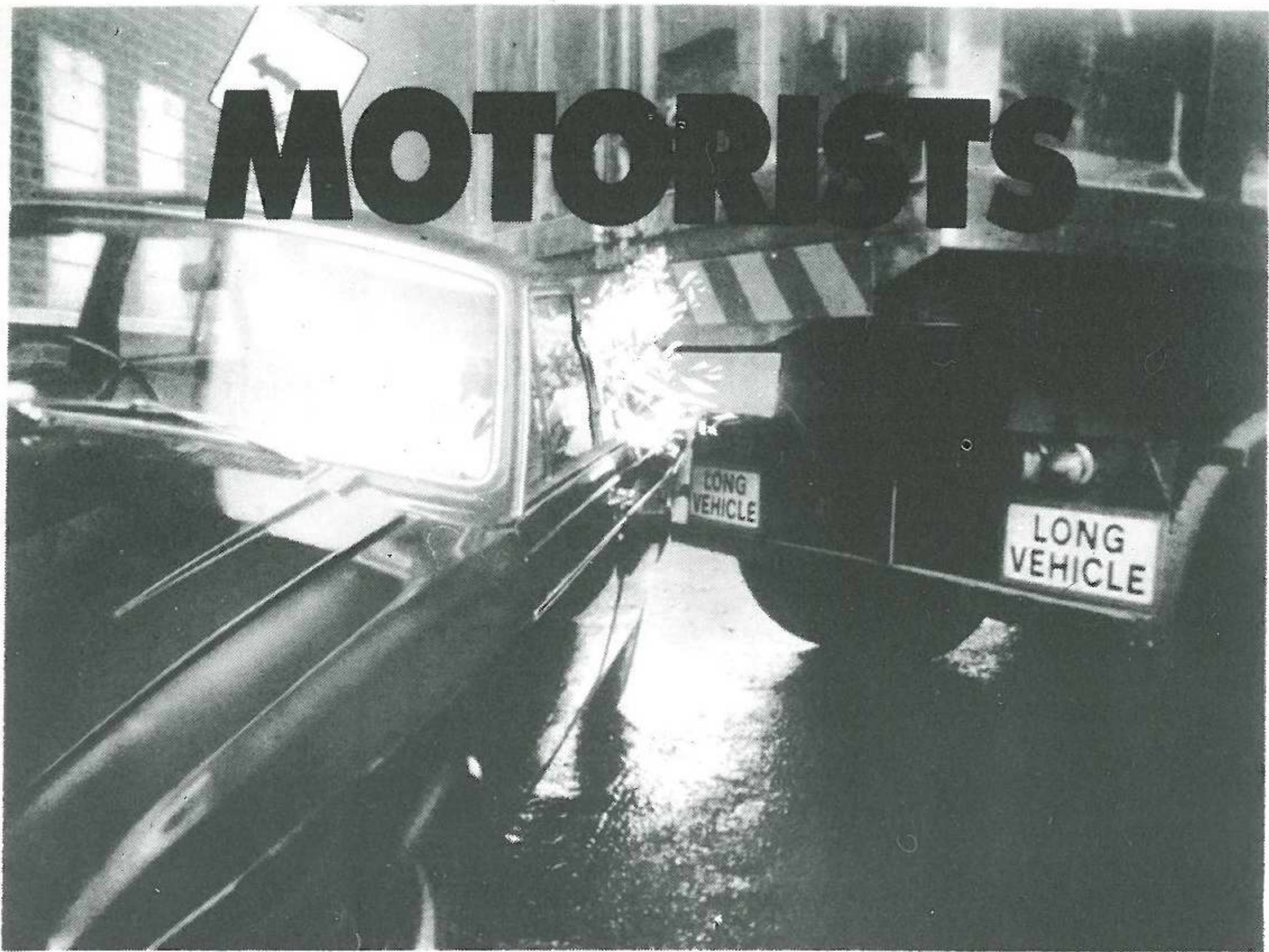


● PAT HORGAN  
CORK

Looking at last year's championship, the idea would work itself out thus: Cork would play Offaly in mid-August on the Sunday following the Galway/Kilkenny game. Let's say, just to be contrary, that Offaly won. The Leinster side would look forward to a game with Galway in London at the end of September, where there would be respectable trophies and a good weekend.

Now the advantages: firstly Offaly, knowing before the Leinster final that there would be another game, would have some consolation for their unlucky defeat in the Leinster final. They would get down to

● TO PAGE 21



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*Flashback to that scorching Summers day last July at Thurles, venue for the '82 Munster final. Our picture shows Ray Cummins, Cork, trying to outwit Waterford's John Galvin.*



● FROM PAGE 19

training in the good weather for the game with Cork, probably in Tullamore in mid-August.

Cork would have been delighted with the game and there would be real point to their training for the final. Galway on being beaten by Kilkenny would have the London game to look to and that would keep them together for another month. The qualifying game, in this case between Cork and Offaly would raise enough money to

fund the London visit, where the exiles would be delighted with a first class hurling game which they have been denied in recent years.

To repeat, the crowning asset would have been the extra game for Cork, that broke up the seven weeks wait.

This year the Leinster champions will be at a disadvantage. Why should they remain so when we can solve the question so easily and remove a sporting injustice that has dogged us for years? This year the Leinster

champions, instead of facing a seven weeks wait, would have a hard game in mid-August against a good Munster side.

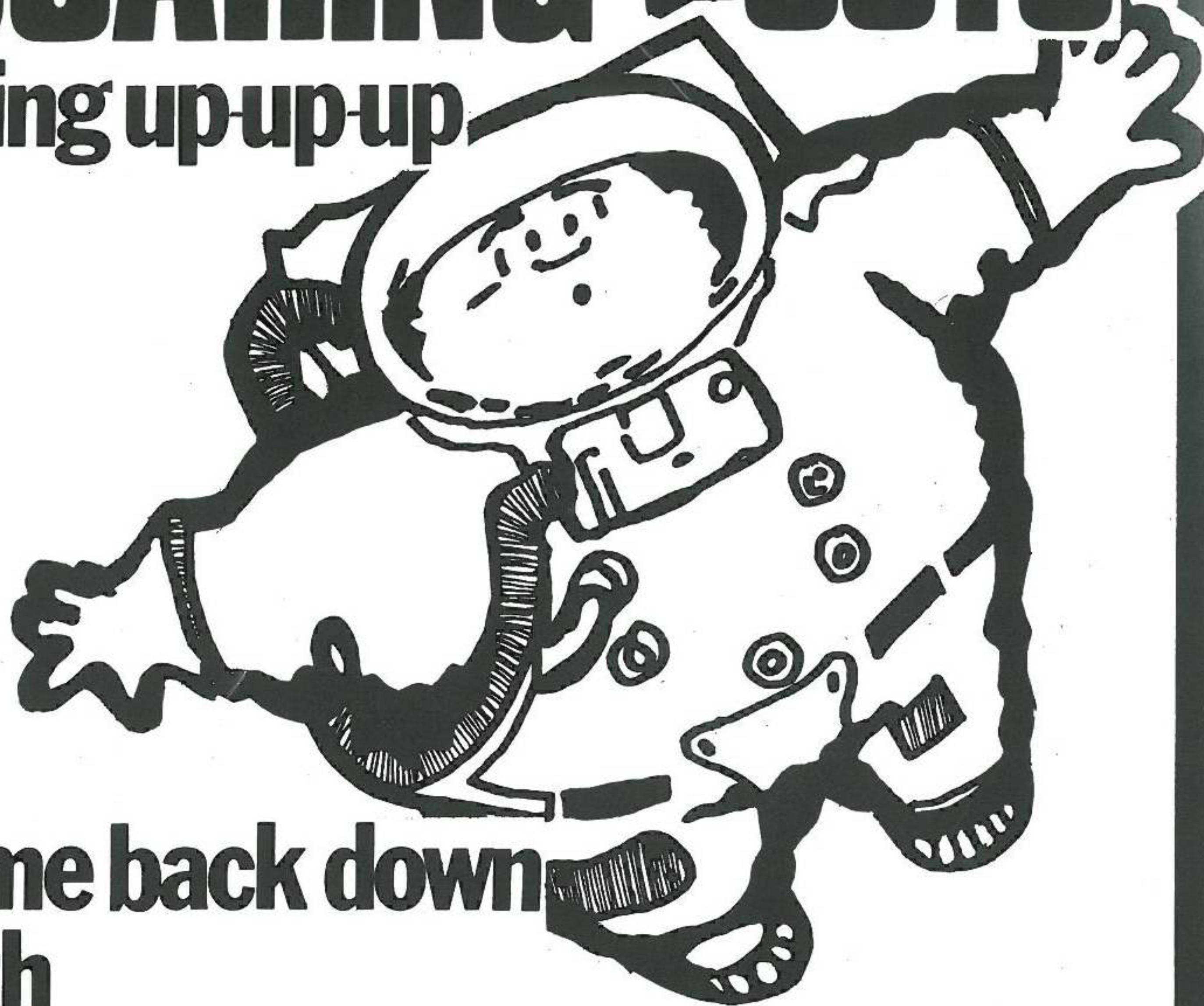
So there it is: Cork and Kilkenny have as good a chance as any of getting to the final of '83 but there are at least six more urgent hard-working sides that could replace them. Don't forget about the idea that provides us with an extra "semi-final".

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# CAMOGIE COMMENT

By  
**AGNES  
HOURIGAN**

**T**HE inauguration of the Junior National League three years ago has been one of the most important promotions in recent years. No less than twenty-seven counties participated in 1982.

Up to 1979 many counties only got one inter-county game, as half the counties in each province got knocked out in the first round of the championship.

The timing of the competition has also contributed to the success of the venture as the teams and administrators inside the counties have to put their affairs in order to meet the financial costs which are the one burden in the competition.

The standard in the Junior counties has risen considerably. The success of Louth in last season's All-Ireland Junior Final is positive proof of this. The wee county worked hard in their junior league games for the past three years and attribute their first All-Ireland victory, after fifty years of trying, to the experience and competition they gained in the Junior League.

Cavan, the previous year's League winners, also had the pleasure of bringing home their first National Camogie title.

Gradam Tailte, another innovation in 1982, is to be continued in 1983. The aims of this competition

are to implement a 32 county awards scheme for players, to promote Camogaíocht, to attract greater publicity at National and local levels and to raise finances for Ard Chomhairle.

The competition will be run on the same lines as last season when the thirty-two counties each elected a representative from their first panel of players to go forward to select the All-Ireland star.

Josie McClements from Antrim became the first winner and was presented with a Queen Tailte Statuette, sponsored by O'Neills International Sports.

Cospóir Camogie Day held last October was also highly successful. Most counties organised a programme which involved all members of the Clubs and their families and many past members also. It is hoped to continue this project in 1983 also.

The Camogie Calendar has now become so crowded, there are not enough Sundays to fit in all the competitions.

The new season on the playing fields starts on February 5 with the Junior and Senior National Leagues, the first two Ard Choiste Competitions. The Senior Open Draw Championship begins in June, the Junior and the Willwood Tailteann Minor Championship played out in the provinces at first, have the semi-finals played in July with the Minor Final scheduled for mid-August. The Junior final is played in conjunction with the Senior on September 25.

October is filled up with the Gael Linn Interprovincials, Junior and senior, and the All-Ireland Club semi-finals and Final.

The high standard at County Conventions is a remarkable feature of the past few months.

The Wexford Secretary, Dorothy Walsh, stresses the importance of well-run clubs and in a searching questionnaire must have given the delegates plenty to think about. She also emphasises the importance of promotion in Primary and Post Primary Schools.

Galway, who figured in this season's closing stages of the Junior and Minor All-Ireland Finals, were narrowly beaten in both. The County Secretary, Brid Uí Bhruadair, calls for more commitment and dedication to the training sessions.

Cavan, who have joint secretaries, Philomena Garvan and Brenda Lynch, are, according to the Secretaries report, in a very happy position with progress on all fronts. They won the Ulster Minor title but went down to Galway. Bawnboy Vocational won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools Final and St. Aidan's, Cootehill, won the Ulster First Year's Competition. Templeport won the silver medals in the All-Ireland Community Games competition.

In the Tipperary report, Shiela Delaney, is concerned about the standard at Senior level but with so much talent at Junior and under-age levels this will soon come right.

## 1982 Title Winners

### CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior: Cork.  
Junior: Louth.  
Minor: Dublin.

### LEAGUES

Senior: Kilkenny.  
Junior: Dublin.

### INTERPROVINCIALS

Senior: Munster.  
Junior: Leinster.

### CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Buffers Alley, Wexford.

### THIRD LEVEL

Ashbourne Cup: U.C.D..  
Purcell Cup: St. Mary's, Belfast.  
League: U.C.C.  
Freshers: U.C.G.

### COMBINED COLLEGES POST-PRIMARY

Senior: Corn Sceilg — Shannon  
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Junior: Corn Gobnait — Maryfield,  
Dublin.



## 1982 THE YEAR OF THE 'KEEPERS

# SKEHAN AND FURLONG ENHANCED A MEMORABLE SEASON

BY EAMON O'SULLIVAN

**N**OEL Skehan and Martin Furlong have accomplished so much in such lengthy careers in the top-flight of hurling and football that it is hard to credit that they continue to make history. Yet, that is the case with their selection as the Texaco award winners in Gaelic Games, as this is the first time that two goalkeepers have been nominated in the same season.

Indeed, the men who over the years have manned the last line of defence have not enjoyed many honours in the Texaco field. Until Skehan and Furlong joined the ranks of award winners, Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny), in hurling in 1967, and Billy Morgan (Cork), in football in 1973, were the only men in this most demanding of positions who found favour with the selectors.

That Skehan and Furlong have defied tradition on the double is more than a just reward for the quality of the play they produced in 1982. It is a tribute to the dedication, drive and determination that enables both to compete successfully in the highest grade at an age when most sports enthusiasts are content to fill a spectator role.

Skehan was 37 early in December,

and Furlong celebrated his 36th birthday a few days before he collected his third All-Ireland senior football medal after that memorable Offaly win over Kerry last September.

But, there was nothing tired or jaded about their play last year. Instead, they showed the youngsters a thing or two about goalkeeping at its best as they made immense contributions to the Kilkenny and Offaly triumphs.

Skehan was one of Kilkenny's most consistent performer's in the march to that rare double last year of the National League and All-Ireland championship. He brought off many telling saves over the campaign before setting the seal on the year with his work in the Liam McCarthy Cup final win over Cork's much vaunted outfit.

The long-serving Bennetsbridge club man had one of his best games ever in the All-Ireland final. He displayed the wide range of goalkeeping skills — alertness, coolness, daring, courage, dependability, and all honed to perfection — in a five-star show that saw him thwart Cork time and again of valuable scores with great saves.

Furlong may not have been as

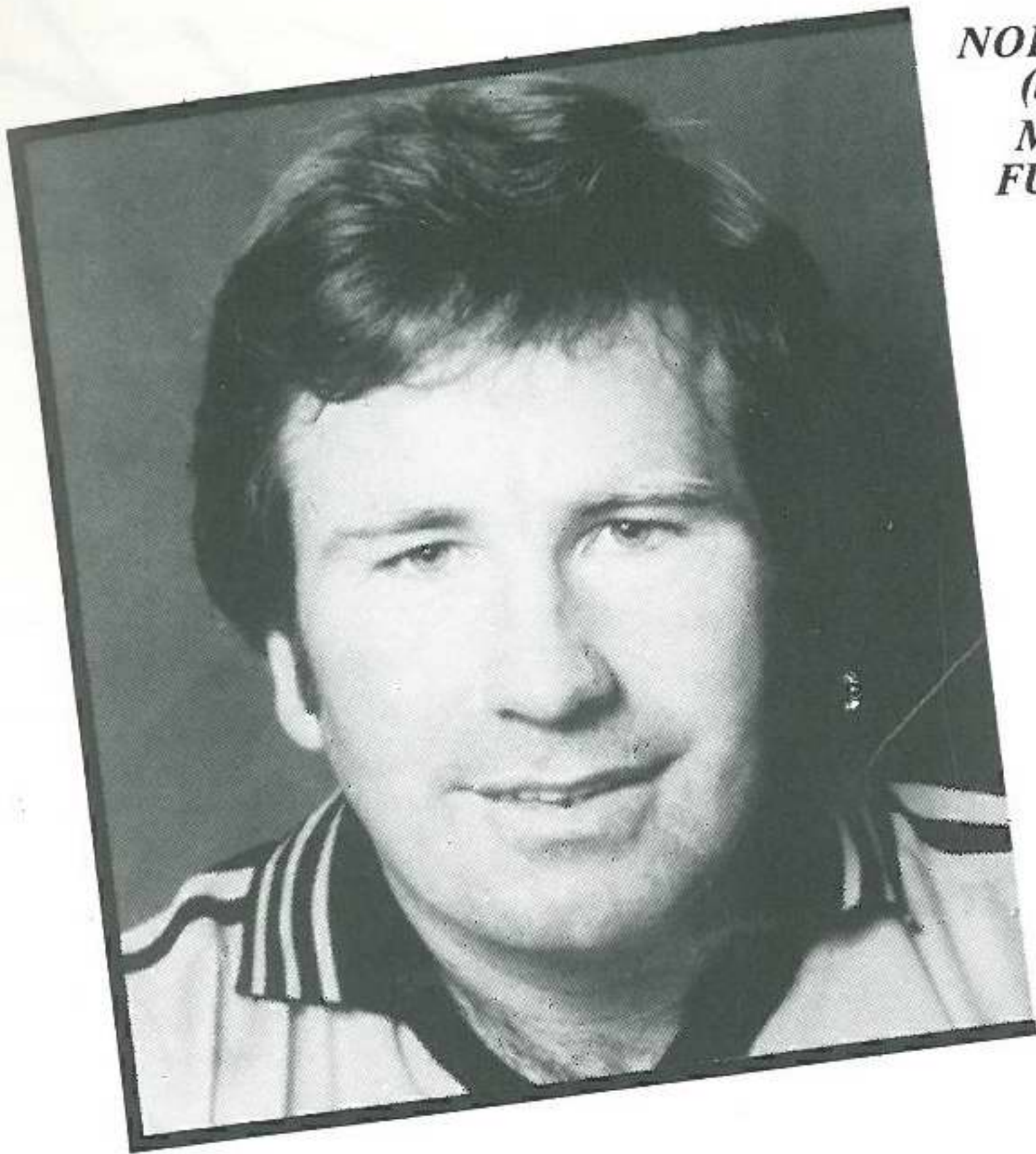
consistently to the forefront over the past year as Skehan because of Offaly's lack of title success in the National League. But, he still had a very good year, climaxed by a mighty showing in the downing of Kerry.

Only for the Tullamore club man's goalkeeping expertise that last, gasp Seamus Darby goal might have been in vain for Offaly. It was Furlong, more than any other single player, who kept the Leinster men in the hunt when he dived to the right to save a well-struck Michael Sheehy penalty kick in the eighteenth minute of the second half. Had Sheehy goaled Kerry would have went four points clear, and that surely would have been the end of the trail for Offaly.

As it was, the Furlong save gave Offaly new heart, new encouragement, and enabled them to gather their forces for the thrust that reached such a memorable conclusion with Seamus Darby's title winning goal.

### A PENALTY

So, as in the hurling final, the goalkeeper's contribution in football was a major one in shaping the winning effort . . . all the more so because Furlong did more than save the penalty, he gave a cool,



**NOEL SKEHAN**  
(left) and  
**MARTIN**  
**FURLONG**



authorative show all round.

The careers of Noel Skehan and Martin Furlong have much in common. They enjoyed All-Ireland glory in the 'Sixties at minor, had both to wait until the 'Seventies for the top honour, and now link the 'Eighties with another glory era.

The Kilkenny man was in goal when the county's minors won the 1962 All-Ireland championship, and he actually was called up to the county senior side soon after that, but then had to walk in the shadow of the legendary Ollie Walsh for a long period. Indeed, he won no fewer than three All-Ireland medals as Walsh's substitute — 1967, 1969, 1971.

Meantime, Furlong emulated the Skehan feat at minor in 1964 when he brought off a classic save in the closing stages of the All-Ireland final to ensure victory over Cork for the county's only title so far in this grade of football. Furlong was called up to the country senior team in a National League tie in 1965, and over the years his reliability between the posts has made him one of the real goalkeeping giants.

Furlong beat Skehan to the punch as far as playing in an All-Ireland senior title winning squad is concerned. He was one of the gifted

company of footballers who brought the Sam Maguire Cup to the Faithful County for the first time in 1971.

Skehan got his big chance at All-Ireland final senior level in 1972. Not only that, he had the distinction of captaining Kilkenny in their Liam McCarthy Cup tie against Cork . . . and it was a double joy day for the goalkeeper as the Noresiders took the crown. A few weeks after the Kilkenny win, Offaly made it a double for Leinster by retaining the football title, with Furlong once more to the fore in goal.

Kilkenny and Offaly had contrasting fortunes after that. The Noresiders won All-Ireland titles in 1974, 1975 and 1979, while Offaly failed to add a national title to their list in the same period. Then, came 1982 and that great double yet again for the Eastern province by Kilkenny hurlers and Offaly in the All-Ireland senior championships.

All through the 'Seventies, and in the opening years of the 'Eighties, Noel Skehan and Martin Furlong continued to turn on the style in game after game. So much so, in fact, that Skehan is now one of the most honoured All Stars of them all, with six awards between 1972 and 1982.

Furlong gained trophies in 1981

and 1982 to add to his earlier All Star of 1972.

### **LEAGUE MEDAL**

The win over Cork last September earned Skehan his eighth All-Ireland senior medal — five won on the actual field of play and three as a substitute, although in none of those particular finals did the great goalkeeping ace appear in action.

Furlong captained Leinster to their last Railway Cup football final win, surprisingly as far back now as 1974. He has still to win a National League medal, unlike Skehan, whose medal triumph of last Spring was his second for that competition.

Time must now be running out playing-wise for Noel Skehan and Martin Furlong. Yet, happily the end of the inter-county road still is a long way off for both, as the great goalkeepers showed that they are playing as well as ever and enjoying their games greatly through their performances last year. More than that, both have said they have no intention yet of retiring.

And, that is good news for those of us who enjoy high standards, sportsmanship and dedication displayed in such rich measure for so long by those excellent ambassadors for the games, Noel Skehan and Martin Furlong.

# UK Carpet Importer goes to the wall

By Bill Lyon - Economics Correspondent.

THE EFFECTS OF THE RECESSION on the home furnishings business abroad were brought home rather forcefully yesterday with the announcement of the collapse of one of Britain's longest-standing carpet importers. The effects on Irish exporters and rumours are circulating that some big Irish exporters are being caught by the collapse. It's no sound

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**JAY DRENNAN**  
*discusses All-Star Awards selection system. Too much emphasis on too few games is unfair. Entire playing season should be taken into account.*



**T**HE old Sports-star bandwagon is becoming more battered every week and month that passes through over-use. Everyone wants to jump on it as a means of transport to instant advantage in publicity terms.

It is a form of sponsorship (if it deserves that description at all, in many cases) where the top is creamed off the work of many and the genuine support of some few commercial firms by someone who arrives on the scene with an overnight idea for a Man-of-the-Match or Star-of-the-Week award.

By its very nature such a splash item gets a short, sharp burst of publicity and public interest. It is sad and unfair to see one-day-wonders beaming all over the sports pages of the newspapers as they present their special awards while nothing is said of the firm which gave a donation to field development, or juvenile hurleys or the new jerseys for the club in question.

Gaelic Sport does not need to blush about this question of awards. It is nearly twenty years now since the magazine began its system of identifying the Hurler and Footballer of the Year through year-long monitoring of the form of the best players, month by month.

### SEVERE STORM

Most other ideas along these lines have come and many have gone. Some have proved unsatisfactory in concept or in detail of administration. Even the most glamorous and publicised of all, the All-Stars (once from the Carroll Stable and, in recent years, from the yard of the Bank of Ireland) ran into a severe storm this year as a culmination of a few years of minor dissatisfaction.

You will remember the incident(s) which brought many sheepish reactions from the organisers — some counties were very put out by the numbers of their stars which were selected. Some even complained at the people nominated from their county. Galway, in particular, nearly hit the roof when they realised how they had been closed out of the football team. Hard things were said; favouritism was more than hinted; it was thrown about like confetti.

The wonder of it all was that the All-Stars went on for so long without a storm of this kind. Perhaps it is a fact that manners were better in former years. In any case you cannot please all the people all the time, and only fools try.

Mention of the Gaelic Sport stars and the All-Stars in the same

breath is prompted by the fact that we have always recognised the impossibility of selecting a team of stars without running into the greatest difficulties. The best of the year in both codes was chosen as a realistic and achievable objective.

### EASY TO FORGET

It was not, however, considered that such selection should be done on the basis of one or two meetings at the end (or any other time) of the playing year. Memory is unreliable; incidents may take on value which they did not, in fact, have. It is a long time from February and March to the end of autumn or the beginning of winter; too easy to forget, or to get the value of performances over the years out of perspective — especially when the shadow of the recent All-Ireland final is bearing heavily on the consciousness.

It is argued in support of the one-sitting selection of stars of the year or the team of stars, that there is no comparison between the events in which the championship winners figured and those in which the ordinary run-of-the-mill sides played in March, May or October.

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Ability to star in the big games should be thought of as of the essence of star quality. It should be allowed to confer on a player a certain advantage over others whose stage was less broad and spotlight more dim.

But, in fact, the monthly grading system such as GAELIC SPORT pioneered, does give that kind of extra weight to the big game successes. For haven't they the stage to themselves in the months of August and September with a very fair chance of dominating in July and October also. In that time the lesser lights who shone in the League or in the early unsuccessful championship rounds did not even flicker.

**KEY MONTHS**

Such a dominance of the points in those key months, appears to me to give enough advantage to the players who made the biggest championship impact. It also allows the men who did not have the benefit of glamour treatment to earn their points in the low season, during which they have traditionally shone. Furthermore, surely the fact that their efforts are treated seriously gives them an incentive to give of their best in surroundings that sometimes make little contribution to the excitement of the occasion.

Would it be possible to make a broad estimate of players in action so as to evaluate a monthly team of All-Stars, accumulating throughout the year. I think not: for even if it were

possible to get such a large team of assessors about to all the games, there would be the continuing problem of standards. How to compare one man's view of one player with another man's view of another and decide how much credence to give to superlatives in the mouths of different judges?

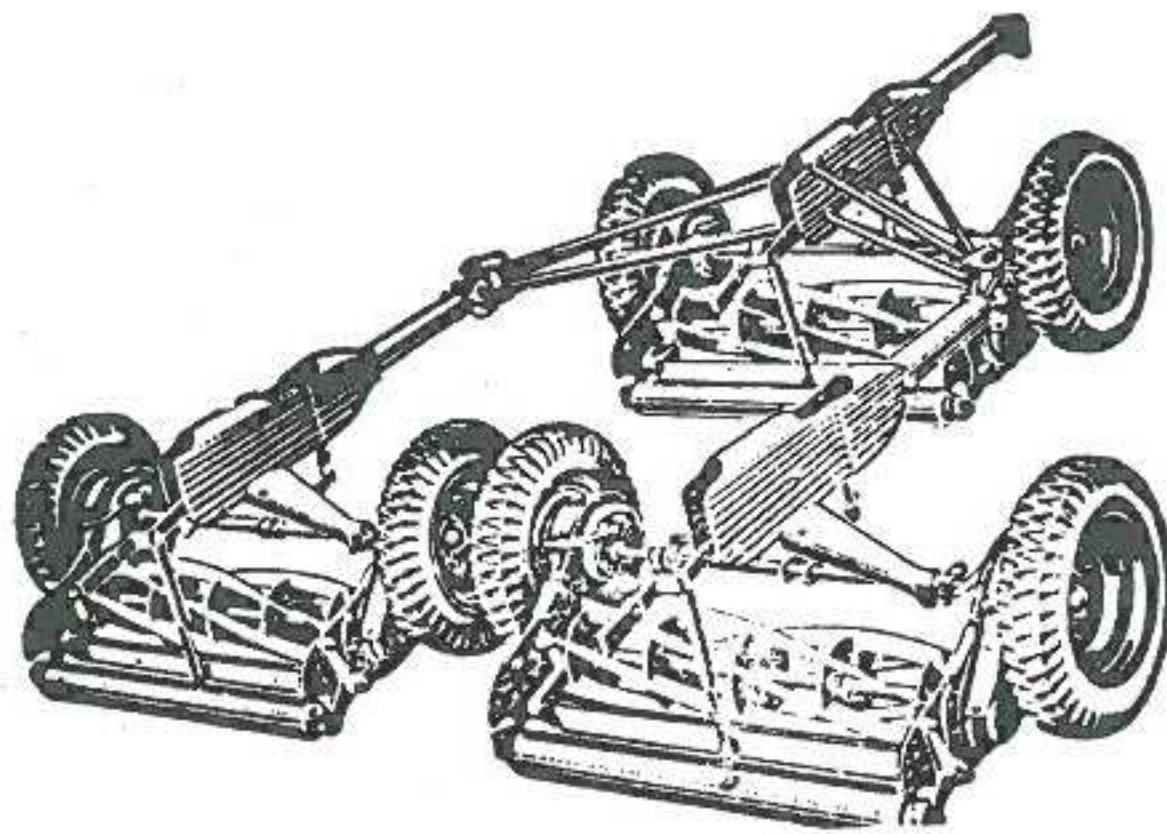
For this reason, we have always been of the view that the All-Stars cannot be selected in such a way as to give satisfaction to all. If such a team is required it must be received in that spirit. It had been forgotten as an idea with the demise of the Irish teams which were once a high point of the year — and never agreed with, of course. It was revived to accommodate the All-Stars' trips to the United States.

But the major focus should be on the individual star — on merit over the whole year.

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**FIXTURES  
1983**

**SENIOR AND MINOR  
FOOTBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- May 22nd: Derry v. Cavan  
(Ballinascreen)
- May 29th: Fermanagh v. Down  
(Irvinestown)
- June 5th: Monaghan v. Antrim  
(Castleblaney)
- June 12th: Donegal v. Armagh  
(Ballybofey)
- June 19th: Tyrone v. Cavan or  
Derry (Cavan or  
Dungannon)
- June 26th: **SEMI-FINAL A**  
Armagh or Donegal  
v. Monaghan or  
Antrim
- July 3rd: **SEMI-FINAL B**  
Derry or Cavan or  
Tyrone v.  
Fermanagh or Down
- July 24th: **FINAL**

# IRISH YOUTHS DID US PROUD IN UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIPS

By SEAN CLERKIN

**HANDBALL** was again reflected as a most important element of the G.A.A. when a number of our young players flew out to Fort Lauderdale in Florida at the end of last year to participate in the USHA Junior Championships. They were continuing a trend that was set in 1981 when a juvenile team travelled to the States for the first time and young Michael Walsh from Kilkenny returned home with the under 15 title.

Little did any of us surmise that we could add to such distinction this year, not alone to ever contemplate the thoughts of bringing two titles home.

Well, the records now boldly proclaim that Walsh repeated his previous success by winning out in the under 17 grade, while young Eamon O'Neill from Limerick retained the under 15 crown for Ireland.

Not alone that, but we also supplied the beaten finalists in John Duggan and Frank Kavanagh for the under 17 and 15 grades respectively.

**Without ado, we salute this young quartet, on bringing such athletic distinction to the nation both by their winning exploits and their superb decorum on and off the court.**

They have added to the evolving and impressive image of handball — there are few sports in this country that can send young players away to compete on an International basis and come home with the spoils.

These games were played in the broiling temperature of 80°C where participants were called upon to play three matches a day.

The superb coaching and training which our boys had received at

home geared them to take these hurdles in their stride.

## RIB INJURY

Their motivation momentum was always at a high, even to such an extent that John Duggan, played his last three games against doctors orders, having received a recurrence of severe rib injury.

To have reached the final under such circumstances was commendable and the fact that he was unable to complete the game against Walsh was no reflection of his undoubted ability.

**Ger Coughlan did us proud in the under 19 division and proved that we can hold our own at this higher age level.**

With the experience and confidence required by our players in the younger age group divisions it is predictable that we can make this title our own in the years ahead.

Egir Jensen, who carried Meath hopes in the under 19 event did not let the side down.

Like Walsh and Kavanagh, who had been sponsored by their county boards, Jensen justified the confidence placed in him, and demonstrated once again that he has the potential to scale the highest limit in handball.

The interest in our international starlets was mirrored by Tommy O'Brien (Kilkenny), Gerry Baker (Westmeath), Jim Duggan (Clare), father of John and Brother B. C. Ó Murchú (Dublin) all of whom travelled with the team.

And it was certainly fitting that Brother Ó Murchú should be manager of the side on such a wonderful occasion.

In Fort Lauderdale, he had a major role in psychologically preparing the young players for the big tests and in

assessing the qualities of their respective opponents.

## HISTORIC WINS

On a broader basis, however, he was representing the legion of administrators in this country who could claim a direct share in Ireland's historic victories. They are the people who have involved themselves in the promotion of the game for youth and by virtue of their initiative and hard work have put it on a plane that is destined to catapult handball into the arena of major sports.

In that context also it was nice to meet Pat Kirby when he came back to compete in the RTE Top Ace Competition recently, for it was he and Joey Maher who played the biggest roles in promoting the merits of international competition.

Both went to the States for a number of years, reached the top at the game and then came back to give of their services both willingly and voluntarily.

In latter years Kirby returned to the States and he is now based in Tucson, Arizona.

In relation to the amazing feats of our young players, it would be remiss not to mention the impact of the RTE Top Ace series. It has given handball a new lease of life and has provided a promotional platform for young players, particularly in the last few years when the leading players from the States participated in it.

The latest competition was again an outstanding success and besides Kirby, such well-known players as Naty Alvarads, Larry Bookman and John Sabs, thrilled us with their techniques, agility and sportsmanship.

**The young players will, no doubt look and learn from them. Thus far our young players have done us proud and they deserve our congratulations.**



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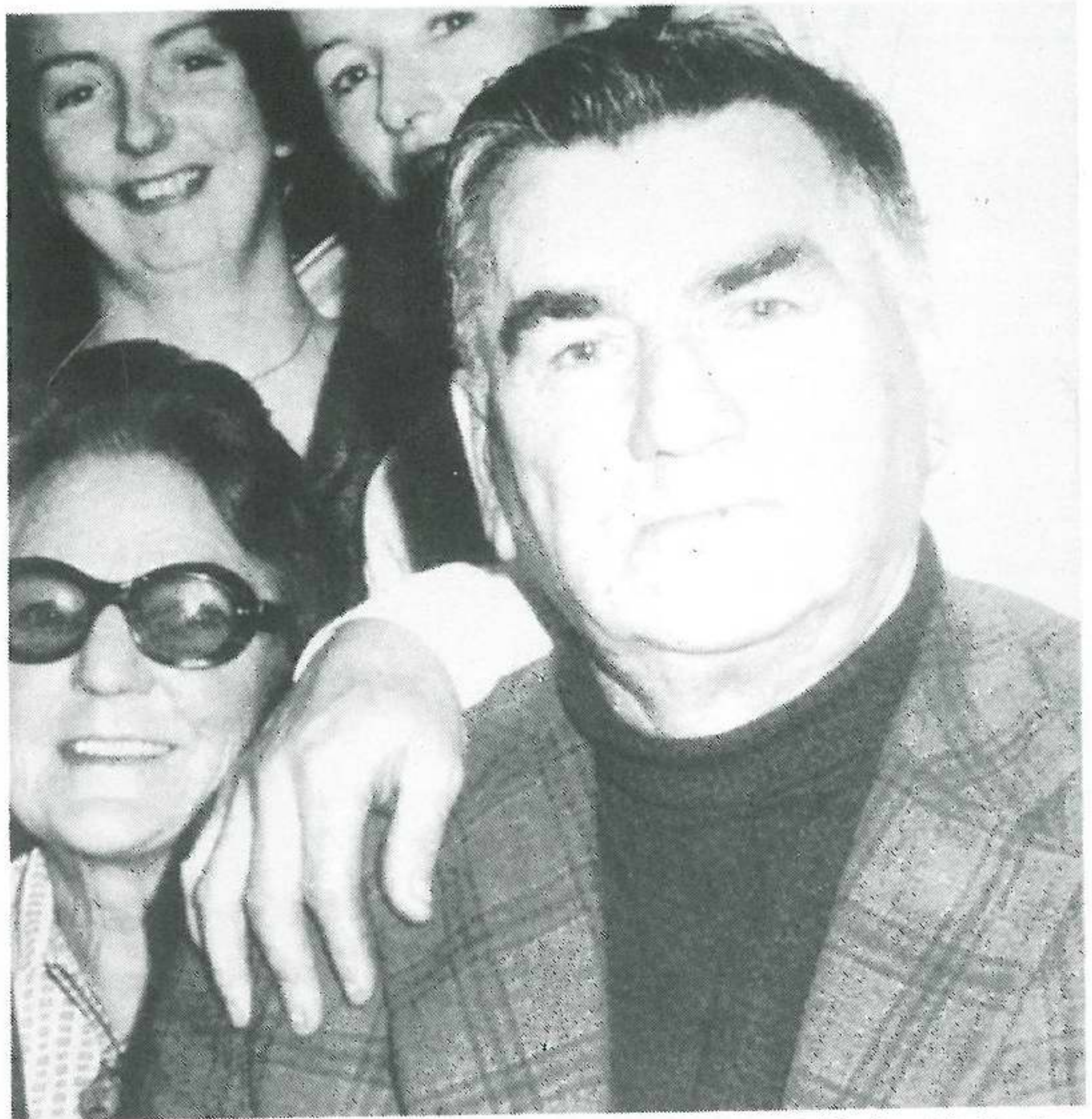


# A BOOK WORTHY OF THE MAN

“VERY few will disagree with the statement that Mick Mackey was the most colourful hurler the game has known and many will go so far as to say that he was the greatest man ever to wield a camán. But all will agree that he was one of the really notable figures in a game that has produced many superb sportsmen”.

That is how Seamus O’Ceallaigh and Sean Murphy commence their mammoth work, *The Mackey Story*, a 272 page illustrated book, published by the Limerick G.A.A. Publications Committee.

The authors, however, do not concern themselves solely with the hurling career of Mick Mackey, who died last September. Instead, they present the complete record of the amazing contribution of the Mackey family to Limerick, in particular, and hurling in general, over the entire history of the G.A.A. The activities of three generations of the family are brought vividly to life in interesting and readable terms.



MICK MACKEY pictured at the last function he attended before his death.

Michael Mackey was captain of the first Castleconnell hurling team in 1885; his first cousin, Anthony, presided at the meeting to form a County Board in Limerick.

Michael’s sons all figured in G.A.A. affairs. The most prominent was John, better known by his nickname, “Tyler”, who won two Munster championships with Limerick.

Two of “Tylers” sons, Mick and John, were the grand figures of the great Limerick team of the ‘Thirties — winning between them, six All-Ireland, eleven National League, ten Munster championships, thirty hurling and ten football County Championships, plus seventeen Railway Cup appearances with Munster.

This book, then, is in effect the

record of hurling and of the G.A.A. in Limerick. The authors record that in 1897 Limerick had two County Boards, and they also ink in the background to what was in effect Limerick’s non-involvement in the first All-Ireland championship of 1887.

Briefly, Castleconnell were selected by one County Board to represent Limerick, but Murroe, who supported the other County Board, disputed Castleconnell’s right to play.

The Central Council, on appeal, ordered both teams to play-off on the Friday before the Sunday of the first round game, with the winners to represent Limerick against Kilkenny.

Murroe did not put in an appearance for that game, but when Castleconnell boarded the train for

● TO PAGE 33

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**The Limerick team winners of the 1934 All Ireland Senior Hurling title.**

**Front Row (L. to R.): Mick Hickey, Mickey Condon, Dan Flanagan, Peter Browne (trainer).  
 Centre Row: Mick Neville, Denny Lanigan, Mickey Cross, John Mackey, Bob McConkey, Mick Kennedy, Jimmy Close, Dave Clohessy, Liam Scanlon.  
 Back Row: Dave Conway, Jack Keane, Paddy Mackey, Pat O'Reilly, Mick Ryan, Jim Roche, Jackie O'Connell, Paddy Scanlon, Anthony Mackey, Garrett Howard, Timmy Ryan, Pat Ryan, Tommy McCarthy, Willie Hannon, Ned Cregan, Christy O'Brien, Mick Mackey, Paddy Clohessy and W.P. Clifford.**

● FROM PAGE 31

Dublin the next day, they found that the Murroe team was also travelling. The Central Council met again in Dublin on the Saturday, and decided once more that the Limerick teams should play-off. Murroe refused and also refused to accede to a request that the teams should combine to meet the Noresiders. As a result, Kilkenny received a walk-over.

The book records the difficult days for the infant G.A.A., and reveals that, while Mick Mackey's solo runs became famous, it was his father, "Tyler", who originated this spectacular gambit.

Mackey is quoted about Limerick's meeting with Kilkenny in 1933 in the National League final.

"My first introduction to really big hurling and although beaten that day, we won the next five National League titles in a row and my brother, John, helped Limerick to six League

successes — the only hurler then to win six National League medals".

Mick won All-Ireland senior medals in 1934, 1936 and 1940. He captained the 1936 and 1940 sides, the only Limerick native to lead two Liam McCarthy Cup winning teams.

After retiring from inter-county hurling, he joined the ranks of the "Knights of the Whistle", trained the Limerick team that won the 1955 Munster senior championship and was for years the county's representative on the Munster Council. His career, then, encompassed every aspect of G.A.A. endeavour — player, referee, team trainer and administrator.

One of the best features of the book is the pictorial content. There are many rare photographs, including a number from the Mackey family album. Team pictures of Ahane and

Limerick selections help to provide an interesting dimension to the career of Mick Mackey, in particular, up to the time that he won a Bank of Ireland All Star of the past award in 1980.

There is also a poignant feature on the funeral of this legendary Limerick man.

You don't have to be a Limerick man to enjoy *The Mackey Story*. Anyone with even only a passing interest in the great game of hurling, and some of the men who made the game great, will be the loser by failing to buy and read this excellent production.

*The Mackey Story* by Seamus O'Ceallaigh and Sean Murphy. Published by Limerick G.A.A. Publications Committee. Hard-back £7.95, plus 65p postage. Available from Seamus O'Ceallaigh, "San Mairéad", Ballinacurra, Limerick.

# ON THE SPOT ...

**T**HE Quiz continues to prove one of the most popular features in **Gaelic Sport**. Hardly surprising, in a way, as most of us like to believe that we are very knowledgeable in the affairs of Gaelic Games, and welcome an opportunity to see just how we measure up through a series of questions.

We have given the Quiz a new look in this issue. There are three main sections ranging in terms of difficulty from two markers, through four marks up to six markers.

And, to round off the Quiz we have a new departure in a **JACKPOT** question.

We have retained, however, our points scale for the Quiz. Again, judging by letters from readers, this is a welcome angle to the quiz, and one that helps to provide a worth-while and appealing competitive edge.

The points scale also, of course, provides the best possible barometer as to how **YOU** really measure up when it comes to what's what, and who's who in Gaelic Games.

The Quiz covers a wide range of events, starting modestly enough with some simple questions on comparatively recent events in football and hurling, and going on to some not so recent happenings, and past personalities.

Over-all the Quiz adds up to an interesting exercise, and one that will provide not only enjoyment but information as well.

So, with pens at the ready let's make a start on a simple enough note with our questions of the value of:

## TWO MARKS

1. Who scored the goal that sent five spinning from the record books in 1982? .....

2. A goalkeeper with the All Stars flair six times over? .....

3. Under-21 footballers who made history for their county last October? .....

4. P.J. Molloy scored a last gasp goal that won a major Cup in hurling in the spring of last year? Name the trophy in question. ....

5. Why had Fermanagh extra special cause for All Star celebration last December? .....

6. All-Ireland minor hurling champions of 1982? .....

7. Where was the Connacht senior football final played in the past year? .....

8. A national title winning captain on the double in 1982? .....

9. What county won the Leinster under-21 football title last year? ...

10. Offaly's captain in the Leinster senior football final win over Dublin last August. . . Martin Furlong, Richie Connor or Tomas Connor? .

Help yourself to a bonus of five points if all ten questions are answered correctly, Maximum points possible, then, 25.

**Your Score:** .....

After that not too difficult a start to get the quiz swinging along nicely, our next group of questions may prove much more difficult for many readers. At any rate, they are certainly not quite as straightforward as our opening section. These are:

## FOUR MARKS

1. What county won the All-Ireland senior football title in 1973? .....

2. Denis 'Ogie' Moran led Kerry to the All-Ireland senior football championship in what year? .....

3. In what year did Tipperary last win the All-Ireland senior hurling title? .....

4. Who captained Kilkenny in their "coming of age" All-Ireland senior hurling championship in 1979 — Noel Skehan, Ger Henderson or Ger Fennelly? .....

5. In what year did Down last win the Ulster senior football championship? .....

6. A Connacht school has won the greatest number of All-Ireland senior Colleges' football championships. Name the school in the leading position .....

7. This county from North Leinster made history by winning the All-Ireland camogie junior championship last September for a first title in any grade. What county made that break-through? .....

8. This Wexford native won a Railway Cup medal in hurling last St. Patrick's Day, and gave a fine performance as well in the final. Who is he? .....

9. Connacht have not won the Railway Cup in football in ten, fourteen, or fifteen years. Your selection? .....

10. Who are the players pictured here? .....



Had you to take a longer spell in getting the answers to these questions than in our initial batch? Well, for the extra effort, collect a ten points bonus if you've managed to get all the

questions right in this series of four-markers. Thus, it is possible to boost the return by 50 marks. Incidentally, as regards No. 10, each player identified correctly is worth two points. So, if you get one out of two you can gain just two points.

Your Return: .....

### SIX MARKS

1. The All-Ireland club senior championships were officially launched in 1971. Name the initial winners in hurling? A club . . . they came from Tipperary .....
2. In what year did Liam Mulvihill take over as Director-General of the G.A.A.? .....
3. When did Down first bring the Sam Maguire Cup over the Border?
4. Dublin were once the specialists of the All-Ireland senior camogie championship. They have won no fewer than 25 titles, but their last win was as far back as the 'Sixties. Can you give the year of that last title win? .....
5. The All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1937 was played outside of Croke Park because of construction work on the Cusack Stand. Name the venue for that particular game? ...
6. Cavan won the only All-Ireland senior football final played outside Croke Park. They beat Kerry at the Polo Grounds in 1947 in New York. Who captained Cavan? .....
7. Longford have won only one Leinster senior football title. What was the year of their historic breakthrough? .....
8. Who are the hurlers pictured here, and what is the common link they share? .....



No marks on offer at all for No. 8 unless the entire question is answered correctly, 48 points, plus a bonus of 20 for a "full house", and if you achieved that then you certainly are in line to set any future quiz for GAELIC SPORT. Maximum points possible: 68.

Your Score: .....

Now, a really difficult end to the quiz. A 50 points.

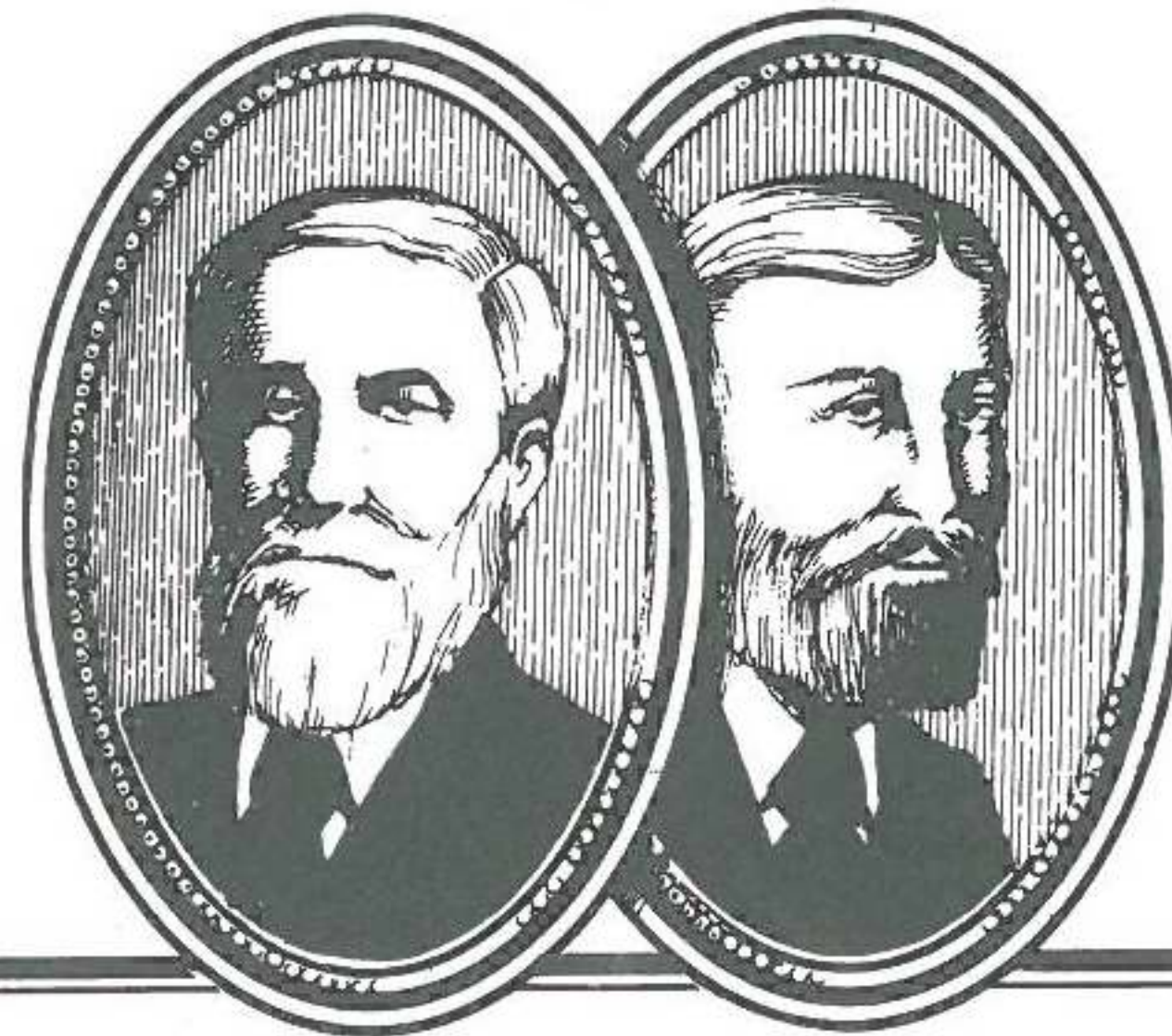
Who were in goals in the All-Ireland senior hurling and football,

title winning teams of 1949 in football, Meath's first-ever title, and Waterford's first hurling final win a year earlier? .....

No marks unless both sections are answered correctly.

Total marks on offer in the quiz; 193. If you scored 180-plus you should have my job! 160 to 180 qualifies for an excellent rating. 130 to 160 is very good. Below that? Well, keep abreast of events in 1983 by buying GAELIC SPORT.

• ANSWERS PAGE 36



## THE BISCUIT BROTHERS STARTED MORE THAN A BAKERY!

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## QUIZ ANSWERS?

• FROM PAGE 35

### TWO MARKS

1. Seamus Darby, whose late, late goal for Offaly in the All-Ireland senior football final sensationally sent the record of five titles in succession crashing from Kerry's grip. 2. Noel Skehan, the brilliant Kilkenny net-minder, who won his sixth All Star trophy last December. 3. Donegal's under-21 footballers beat Roscommon at Carrick-on-Shannon in October to win the county's first All-Ireland inter-county title in any grade. 4. P.J. Molloy scored the last second goal that gave Connacht a dramatic two points win over Leinster in the Railway Cup hurling final at Tullamore last St. Patrick's Day. 5. Peter McGinnity became the first Fermanagh man to win an All Star when he stepped up for his trophy last

## QUIZ ANSWERS?

December in Dublin. 6. Tipperary, who beat Galway in the minor hurling final. 7. Tuam Stadium, where Galway beat Mayo. 8. Brian Cody, who led Kilkenny to their National League and All-Ireland senior championship title wins. 9. Laois, who lost to Donegal in the All-Ireland semi-final at Longford. 10. Martin Furlong.

### FOUR MARKS

1. Cork, who beat Galway in the decider. 2. 1978. 3. 1971, when they beat Kilkenny in the final. 4. Ger Fennelly. 5. 1981 — they beat Armagh, the defending champions, in the final. 6. St. Jarlath's. 7. Louth, who beat Cork in the final. 8. Dave Synott, who was in goal as a Mayo hurler in the Connacht team that beat Leinster in the Tullamore decider. 9. Connacht have not won the Railway

## QUIZ ANSWERS?

Cup since 1969 — almost fourteen years ago. 10. Liam Connor (Offaly) and Jim Greene (Waterford).

### SIX MARKS

1. Roscrea won the first hurling title. 2. 1979. 3. 1960, when they beat Kerry in the final. 4. Dublin have not won the All-Ireland senior camogie title since 1966. 5. Killarney. 6. The late John Joe O'Reilly. 7. 1968. 8. Tom Cashman (Cork) and Frank Cummins (Kilkenny) both of whom play club hurling with Blackrock.

### JACKPOT

Kevin Smyth was in goal for Meath when they beat Cavan to take the Sam Maguire Cup for the first time in 1949. Jim Ware guarded the Waterford net in 1948 when they beat Dublin to join the ranks of All-Ireland senior hurling champions.

# GAA Reporting by Paddy Downey in THE IRISH TIMES



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

# THE IRISH TIMES



**S**CARCELY a week passes that we do not receive a number of queries at GAELIC SPORT by letter and telephone from readers. In the main we are called on to settle bets, but a growing number of readers are now writing in for general information, and we also find that schoolchildren are looking more and more for help with projects about the G.A.A.

We welcome this interest shown by our readers, and it is a tribute to the standing of GAELIC SPORT. We would welcome your queries on all matters relating to Gaelic Games... the players, the personalities, the trophies, the referees, the playing rules. In fact any matter that is of particular interest to YOU personally.

We would prefer if readers would provide their full names and addresses for publication. However, if you do not wish to have your name and address published in full, we will respect your wishes.

So, GAELIC SPORT, the magazine that has pioneered so much in Gaelic Games literature down through the years, and continues to set the pace, launches another new dimension. We are providing the platform for readers' news, views and queries... now it is up to YOU our readers to play your part.

Our opening query in this issue is typical of so many we receive... "a cry from the heart" to settle a bet.

"I am anxious for you to help settle a bet. I have a small wager with a friend

that the half-back line in the Louth team that won the 1957 All-Ireland senior football title was as follows: Patsy Coleman, Peadar Smyth and Jim "Red" Meehan" — *J. J. Burke, Drogheda, Co. Louth.*

*You have two out of three, J. J., which is probably not good enough. "Red" Meehan was in the Louth team all right, but played at left-full back. Patsy Coleman was right-half back, Peadar Smyth centre-half back, and left-half back was the very versatile Stephen White, who also played as a midfielder and a forward in his time with Louth. EDITOR.*

As a long time admirer of the late Christy Ring, I have a lot of material about him. I know, for example, that he was the first to win eight All-Ireland senior medals, but I can't find out when he won his first medal. Can you help? — *Bernadette O'Sullivan, Midleton, Co. Cork.*

*Ring was a member of a gifted company of hurlers who won four All-Ireland senior hurling medals in succession in 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944. That ranks as the only run of four All-Ireland senior hurling titles in succession by ANY county. Ring went on to win further All-Ireland senior medals in 1946, 1952, 1953 and 1954. He appeared in his last All-Ireland senior final in 1956, when Wexford beat Cork. EDITOR.*

My dad and an uncle never stop disagreeing about the date of a famous Leinster football final that saw my native Offaly score six goals and lost to Meath. Dad says it was 1968, and my uncle says it was 1971. Who is right? — *Peter Donnegan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.*

*The game, Peter, was probably the one in which Offaly scored five goals, not six, plus twelve points, but lost to Meath. That high scoring final was played in 1970, so both your dad and uncle are both off target. The actual scoreline for that game was Meath 2-22; Offaly 5-12 — a winning margin of a single point by Meath after 41 scores! EDITOR.*

### NON-NATIVES

As a keen follower of hurling in Dublin, I'm fed up with the poor displays of the county senior team.

It is time to do away with this plan of picking only Dublin born hurlers for the team. There are not enough good ones around. Let's play some country-born hurlers and give the team some backbone. Otherwise, I can't see Dublin ever being a force in hurling. — *Sean Mulcahy, Raheny, Dublin 5.*

*Many hurling followers will agree with your sentiments, Sean, but is the position really as bad as you say? True, Dublin have not been making an impact at senior, but they are planning for the future with a new manager in Jimmy Boggan, and in time should build up a team. Look at Offaly. They have only a small selection, yet they have emerged as a real power of late — and there was a time when Dublin could beat Offaly handily.*

*The trouble about including non-natives is that such players are under pressure to join their native counties when they start capturing the headlines, and as a result, Dublin could be left without key men starting the championship. Such a position happened time and again in the past when non-natives were eligible for selection by Dublin. EDITOR.*

I have the job of looking after a playing pitch for my club. I would like to know the exact dimension of a G.A.A. Ground as laid down in the official guide. I am not enclosing my name and address for obvious reasons. *Groundsman, Co. Fermanagh.*

*Anything to help you get your pitch markings bang on. Rule 142 of the Official Guide says:*

*"The field of play shall not be less than 128 mts. or more than 146 mts. long, and not less than 77 mts. or more than 91 mts. wide." — EDITOR.*

### ENGLISH CUP

What's all this talk about playing the 1984 All-Ireland senior hurling final in Thurles. I can't understand this decision. After all, Croke Park is the national stadium, and all major games should be played there, including National League finals. Imagine the English Cup final being played at Birmingham or Old Trafford instead of at Wembley — *John J. Connolly, Navan, Co. Meath.*

*Why bring the English Cup final into*

● TO PAGE 39

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

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● FROM PAGE 37

*your argument. That has no relevance. . . . we should not be concerned with aping what happens across the water, but follow a plan of campaign that is best for the G.A.A.*

*The 1984 final will be played in Thurles . . . that's fact not talk. Whether the move, as part of the Centenary Year celebrations, is a good one, only time will show. But in general we go along with your suggestion that Croke Park should be the venue for all major games. As you so rightly put it the ground is the National Stadium.*  
EDITOR.

*There is a £10 bet depending on this letter, so don't let me down, and answer as quickly as you can. I say that Matt Connor and Tomás Connor, of the Offaly senior football team are brothers. My friend, with whom I have the bet, says they are only cousins. I want you to act as referee — Tom McEligott, Tralee, Co. Kerry.*

*Well, as "referee" I must whistle for your friend. Richie Connor, who captained Offaly to the Sam Maguire Cup win last year, is a brother of Matt. Tomás Connor and full back Liam Connor are brothers, and they are also cousins of Richie and Matt. So, I'm afraid you lost the £10, Tom!*  
EDITOR.

*I am doing a project at school, and would like your help about the Cup for the All-Ireland senior hurling final. Can you tell me the name of the Cup, and the winners the first year? — Sean Healy, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.*

*The trophy for the All-Ireland senior hurling final winners is the Liam McCarthy Cup. It was presented for the championship by Liam McCarthy, who was born in London of Irish parents, and who became treasurer of the first London County Board of the G.A.A. back in 1895. The Cup was first presented for the 1921 final, which was not played until 1923, and resulted in a Limerick win over Dublin by 18 points.*  
EDITOR.

*I'm swotting up for SCOR Question-Time. Help me out by letting me know the longest serving President in the G.A.A.'s all-time parade. — James McGuinness, Dungloe, Co.*

*Donegal.*

*Whatever about the all time parade, the man who served the longest period as President of the G.A.A. was James Nolan, of Kilkenny, who held the position from 1901 to 1921. For some*

*years past, there has been a rule limiting the President's term of office to three years.*

*Incidentally, Kilkenny's magnificent headquarters, Nowlan Park, commemorates James Nolan.*



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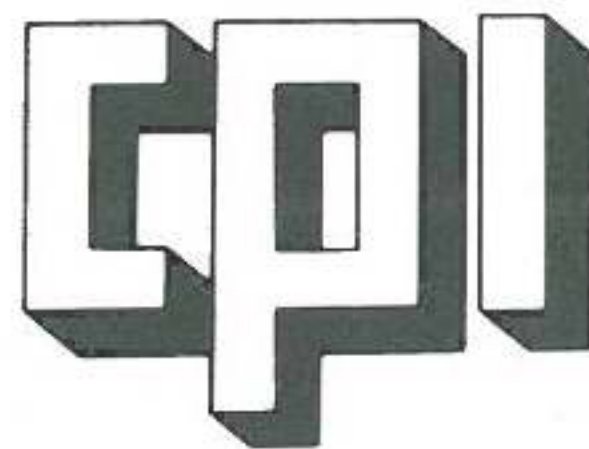
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# COMMENTARY

By  
CHRIS  
MURRAY

“GET out there and really make the country sit up by turning on the style in a big way”. That is my advice to the footballers and hurlers of Connacht as the new inter-county season picks up momentum.

It is advice that comes from the hurt that is still there following the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors snub last season. All right, that is old hat now, but the disappointment, the hurt still lingers on and on, and this is still a timely opportunity to articulate the feelings with the build-up for the 1983 awards already underway. Or has the build-up actually started?

After all, on the evidence of last year's selections, it would appear that after the All-Ireland finals, one can forget about everything else when it comes to picking the All-Stars.

I will be surprised if this issue of Gaelic Sport does not underscore the point. P. J. Molloy was up among the principal contenders for the Top Ten awards in hurling, and understandably so.

He had a great year. I recall his match-winning goal for Connacht virtually on time in the Railway Cup Final against Leinster at Tullamore, and it seems to me that he was one of the best forwards in the game all year when it came to chalking up the goals and points.

That record has been recognised by GAELIC SPORT under the Top Ten awards promotion, and while I must wait this issue to find out just exactly how highly Molloy appears in the final table, he is sure to be in a prominent position.

But did the performances that were so carefully monitored by GAELIC SPORT throughout 1982 count for

much with the All-Stars selection? Did they heck! Makes one wonder, then, just what exactly a player has to do to qualify for a place, other than win an All-Ireland senior medal.

Football, too, was a big “let-down” for Westerners. There are those who maintain that the Connacht final was a poor game and that as a result the decider did not advance the cause of any Westerner winning an All-Star.

The final was a one-sided one, but that fact should not be allowed to cloud Galway's performance. They gave one of the best team displays in the 1983 championship in that game, excelling in forward play that was creative, fluent and topped off by finishing of a high standard.

Galway may not have matched that high standard in the All-Ireland semi-final, but they still turned in a good showing, and even the most ardent Offaly enthusiasts will concede that Galway had not the best of luck when losing out by a single point.

That great effort against the Midlanders was given added status when Seamus Darby cracked home his golden goal to give Offaly their dramatic All-Ireland final win over Kerry.

**Twelve Galway footballers were later nominated for the Bank of Ireland All Stars squad. Twelve! Who could have seriously thought when the nominations appeared that the Connacht champions would eventually be left out in the cold?**

Those nominated included the youthful Tomas Tierney, who created such a splendid impression at centre half back. GAELIC SPORT brought him into the October listings for his display against Offaly on 35

points, making him the leading Galway man of the game.

Then, there was Brian Talty, who did splendid work in midfield in the Connacht final and again against Offaly. Barry Brennan, of the scoring excellence, and cultured left half back Seamus McHugh were others very much in the vanguard of Galway supporters' hopes as they awaited the publication of the team.

But, alas, it was a case of no joy for Galway or Connacht.

I don't go along with those who say that the selectors had an anti-Connacht bias. But I do say that matches like the Railway Cup, the spring games in the League and ALL the Championships ties should be considered by the All Stars selectors, even if this means having a few meetings in the early part of the year to monitor progress.

Or, alternatively, confine selections to the All-Ireland finals, and the men who impressed most in those games. Either system would be much fairer than the apparent “hit and miss” affair that results in teams drawn in the main from the finalists with a few outsiders “thrown-in” to give a mix.

But let's get back to 1983 and to my plea for the players to get out there and really turn on the style. Let's concentrate on getting back among the titles . . . and then the selectors will have to sit up and take notice.

So, I repeat, “go to it you Western footballers and hurlers”. The Westerners are skilled, dedicated and well-schooled. With a bit of luck at all, they can hit back from the All Stars snub of 1982 to provide many bright moments for supporters in the year ahead — and, perhaps pick up a title on two on the way.

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# ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

**I**T has often been said in recent years that football has lost much of the old glamour, but for followers here in the North this has not been the case as far as the Provincial Senior Championship has been concerned. The "Ulster" has taken on a new appeal in fact over the past fifteen to twenty years, and is now the most wide open championship in any province.

The title has been shared around in recent years as never before, and one of the best features of all is the glorious uncertainty surrounding the chase each year. No longer can any follower take a stand with any degree of certainty with any county for the title starting the championship. That is the case again this season, and I doubt if you would get any supporter here to come out boldly and nominate any of the starters for the 1983 title as champions in waiting without any qualifying "ifs" or "buts".

The up-coming test is not only the most open in years, but one that looks like providing the best fare for a long time as well.

What a great first round game, for instance, we are promised when Donegal and Armagh renew rivalry at Ballybofey in early June! By then, Derry will have met Cavan, and Fermanagh will have entertained Down in the series.

But the Donegal-Armagh tie is the most intriguing of the early games. It revives memories of last May when these counties provided a thrilling first round clash at the same venue, with Mickey McDonald earning Armagh an on-the-post win by a point when he superbly flighted a sideline kick from the 130 metre line over the bar just on time. Armagh went on to regain the Ulster title, and later in the year seven of the Donegal squad brought the All-Ireland under-

21 title to the North West for the first time.

**I saw old men with tears in their eyes at Carrick-on-Shannon after the under-21 football final win over Roscommon last October. One said to me "I thought I would never see the day that Donegal won an All-Ireland title".**

Emotional times, certainly. But time marches on and a county cannot live alone on past glories. For Donegal the honeymoon of that day in the County Leitrim town is almost over, as Armagh prepare to bring their Ulster crown to Ballybofey.

The Orchard County have been showing up well in the 1982-83 National League, and whatever about their future fortunes in that competition, they will be in no way inhibited by last year's close call at Ballybofey, and will approach the hurdle in assured fashion.

---

By  
**GERRY NICHOLS**

---

It should be a magical day at Ballybofey early in June when Donegal and Armagh renew rivalry, and a cracker of a game: the winners to go on to take the Ulster title? I would not be too sure about that, but the squad that comes out on top in Ballybofey will certainly rank as favourites for the run-in.

Down are in the other section of the draw, with Fermanagh, Derry and one-time title specialists Cavan. It is hard to know what has happened to Cavan football.

**A generation, almost, of youngsters in the county have grown up without having had the experience of seeing the Breffni County win an Ulster title . . . the last success was back in 1969.**

It would be good to see Cavan back as a force to be reckoned with. They had an appeal and glamour of their

own, and the Northern championship would be that much more competitive with Cavan providing a serious challenge. But I doubt somehow if they will cut much of a dash this year.

Fermanagh, who brought such a fresh wind of change to the scene last year by reaching their first Northern final in 37 years, have Down as visitors in their first round tie. A tough tie. While Tyrone, Monaghan, Cavan and Antrim will hardly agree, I am convinced that the winners of the Donegal-Armagh and Fermanagh-Down ties will prove the eventual Ulster finalists of 1983.

\* \* \*

Talking of Fermanagh, and I hope that the county will not have too long a wait until a footballer from there joins Peter McGinnity in the All Stars list. If ever an honour was overdue it was the tall Fermanagh midfielder's award last December.

McGinnity was one of the most consistent midfielders in the country right through the 'Seventies, but his performances still went unrewarded by the All Stars selectors. I was confident, however, that after he had captained Ulster to the 1980 Railway Cup title win he was assured of an award.

But as usual, performances in the All-Ireland final clouded the minds of the selectors, and McGinnity failed to earn a place. After that I had written off his chances, but then came that good run by Fermanagh last year, and at last a well-deserved recognition for McGinnity.

The fact that such a good player as the Fermanagh man could play such consistent high grade football for so long, and still fail to find favour with the All Stars selectors over a long period, suggests to me that the time has come to revise the selection process.

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# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**O**UR Cut-Out this month is Down's outstanding full-back Paddy Kennedy who follows in the best tradition of Leo Murphy. It is time for a top-class Down team to be moving down in search of the major titles again. Armagh have become the big power in Northern football in the past six years. I wouldn't be surprised to see Down take over the mantle.

## THE MAILBAG

This month's Mailbag is going to be very small as I'm holding over letters from Michael Quigley, Gerry Pender, Kieran Rosney, Nuala Redmond, Tim Murphy (please send on your subscriptions etc. in future to the office in Dublin and not to me Tim), Sean Coleman, and quite a fantastic letter from Cork's Tom Morrison, most of which I hope to produce in the next issue. I'm only going to use three letters in this month's column.

**G. O'Connell, 41 Berkeley Rd., Hillingdon, Middlesex,** wants to complain that he never received copies of "The Milltown G.A.A. Story" from Jim Carney or the "Limerick G.A.A. Yearbook" from Sean Murphy.

• *I have sent a copy of your letter to both Jim and Sean and feel you'll get the books now. There must have been some mix-up. J.M.*

**Pat Griffin, Sec. London Co. Board, 114, Burnley Rd., Dollis Hill, London NW 10,** wants me to include the following in Junior Desk. I would appeal to all readers to give Pat every help and I wish the London Co.

Board every success with the venture. I'm Chairman of the Galway Co. Board Centenary Committee myself and we are doing our best to encourage all clubs in Galway to do something towards preparing a club history for 1984. My own club Dunmore MacHales have done a great job and the author, who hopes to launch the history next August, is Michael Leydon, brother of Seamus and a man who has done great research work in compiling what I expect to be a masterpiece. (More details later):

"The London Co. Board are hoping to compile a history of the London G.A.A. in time for the Centenary of the association in 1984. I appeal on behalf of the Board to anybody who has any material appertaining to the G.A.A. in London to photocopy it and send it to me, (address as above). Any expenses incurred in the process will be refunded. I am particularly interested in any material relating to the pre-1930 period."

**Michael Allen, 38, Walnut Rise, Courtlands, Dublin 9. —**

"Dear Jack, As a regular reader of GAELIC SPORT over the years, I must congratulate you on Junior Desk. Your column provides youngsters with a platform to speak their minds on various G.A.A. matters and I am sure it is the most widely read column in any of the G.A.A. publications.

"This is my first time to write to you and I do so because in June next

GAELIC SPORT will celebrate its 25th year in publication, long before I was even born and I think the G.A.A. are indebted to Tommy McQuaid who has managed to keep the publication going even in these days of recession.

"I further would like to suggest that the G.A.A. should show their gratitude to Mr. McQuaid in this Jubilee Year of Gaelic Sport by naming him as the recipient of the Pdraig Puirseal Memorial Award for 1983. Would you agree with me? Keep up the good work Jack."

• *It is past time that the G.A.A. gave due honour to Tommy McQuaid. Certainly he deserves the Padhraic Puirseal Memorial Award. He has kept GAELIC SPORT going despite many reverses with very little official help. But Michael, don't expect too much from the G.A.A. Didn't they launch a rival monthly magazine to compete with GAELIC SPORT just a few short years ago. Still they may surprise us all. J.M.*

As always at this time of year I review as many G.A.A. Yearbooks as I receive. The G.A.A. Diary this year with its Fixture insert plus wallet is very appealing. For details on the G.A.A. Diary write to Páirc an Chrócaigh.

## REVIEWS OF YEARBOOKS

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Is cinnte go mbainfí páistí óga taitheamh as an scéilín seo agus as na léaráidí bríomhara a rinne Paybo dó.

*Tá na leabhair seo agus tuilleadh eile nach iad  
le ceannach díreach ón  
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An Stuaara, Ard-Oifig an Phoist,  
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nó ó dhíoltóirí leabhar.*

## • FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Ireland semi-final v Offaly. This 100 page Annual is one of Galway's best to date. Nice to see a young student midfielder Alan Rowe writing of St. Jarlath's 9th Hogan Cup success.

Very well printed on quality paper, the high points are the interviews with John Dunne and John Connolly by John Flatley and Michael Glynn, and John McIntyre's article on the role of a newspaperman who happens also to be a player (John is a *Connacht Tribune* reporter and a Tipperary hurler).

Price: £2.50 includes postage from Jarlath Cloonan, P.R.O., Galway Co. Board, G.A.A., Dominick St., Galway.

**Kerry G.A.A. Yearbook 1983** — once again edited by Michael Lyne of Valentia has gone back again to its days of misprints of a few years ago. Otherwise it has its usual quota of top class writers, way ahead of the ordinary Yearbook, a very colourful cover and is big and bulky and sells for £2.50 (not incl. postage).

I liked Eamon Horan's profile of Eddie Walsh. It made you want to meet the man. As usual I liked the contributions of Owen McCrohan, Eamon Young and former goal-keeper Eamonn Fitzgerald. The latter's profile of Pat Casey of Spa is first class stuff and pays due tribute to the great club player who never lets his side down yet never made it for the county. It is the Pat Caseys of the G.A.A. who make the organisation thrive. We have men like Pat Casey in Galway too.

I think of Tom Small of Annaghdown, well over 30 nearer to 40 when he won his first county medal in '82. Eugene McGee once again told us how lucky Offaly were to beat Galway but then wrote "he had no doubt that Offaly were further ahead in real terms of Galway than one point."

You could have fooled everyone but yourself Eugene. I remember when the final whistle of that game sounded how relieved all of the Offaly mentors including Eugene were to hear it. But you cannot criticise Eugene no matter how many coats he wears!





● Our Contributor, Jack Mahon, photographed with six "Galway Advertiser" G.A.A. Sports Star award winners for 1982. Front (from left): Tommy Coen (Hurling), Frank Broderick (Football), Seamus McHugh (Football). Back (from left): Steve Mahon (Hurling), Val Daly (Football), Jack Mahon and Peter Casserly (Hurling).

He still cannot see that being a team-manager of a top county team and an All Star selector are in conflict.

You can read Eugene, also a fine tribute to the greatest team-manager of them all, Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan tre Gaeilge.

Copies from Michael Lyne, Editor, B.A., Valentia, Co. Kerry.

Cork '83, the official G.A.A. Cork Co. Board publication is the best produced of the Yearbooks to date. It has a fabulous cover and at £1.50 without postage is the cheapest to date. Of smaller page size than the others it has 124 pages and covers all aspects of Cork's wide G.A.A. life.

Editor Tommy McQuaid of GAELIC SPORT shows all the expertise he has annexed in 25 years of G.A.A. publishing. Frank Murphy is forthright as is his wont in

condemnation of the open draw.

I liked John Joe Brosnan's tribute to Duhallow's Denis A. O. Sullivan who created the shock of the year when beating All-Ireland S.F. club champions Nemo Rangers before succumbing to the Barrs and the lethal goal-scoring ability of one Jimmy Barry Murphy who despite playing badly in the All-Ireland S.H. Final yet contributed to win Cork S.H. and S.F. medals once again as well as captaining Cork to Munster S.H.C. success (what a man is Jimmy).

The *piece de resistance* of the book is Con Murphy's tribute to his former team-mate Fr. Con Cottrell.

There should be a McNamee Award for the best single contribution in any yearbook. This one would be in my short list.

Siamsa Cois Laoi gets good coverage, pictorial and otherwise. The full page phot of Rita Coolidge is cool as young fans would describe it. The article "Roman Journey" describing the visit of the successful Cork 1981 minor All-Ireland footballers during 1982 to the Eternal City.

Eamonn O h-Argain, a member of that team writes about this great idea of An t-Athair Donnachadha Mac Carthaigh. This is a brilliant idea and will be an enduring memory with those lucky to be involved.

I liked too the tribute to Fr. Bob, Weeshie's priest brother who starred for Beara in his youth and Eamonn Young's tribute to the late Jim Reagan, one of Cork's greatest ever hurlers.

● OVERLEAF



● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Price: £2.50 from Runaí, Pairc Uí Chaoimh, Cork. (Includes postage).

I received the **Down G.A.A. Yearbook** for review but gave it on loan to a friend who wanted to read Paddy O'Donoghoe's article on "The G.A.A. and Politics". I will review the Annual in depth in the next issue of GAELIC SPORT. As usual it is a very good production and readers who want a copy can have one by sending on £3.00 (incl. postage) to James Gallagher, 4, St. Anne's Tce., Mayobridge, Newry, Co. Down.

**Roscommon Sporting Records 1871-1982** by Colm Hannelly retails at £5.00 and is a must for all Roscommon sportslovers. This is purely statistical but most comprehensive, covering all sports with pride of place going to Roscommon's G.A.A. achievements as well as the local Roscommon

G.A.A. records. Every county should have a book like this. But then every county hasn't a Colm Hannelly. Colm is a great Gael and I wish his book every success. Copies from Colm Hannelly, 1, Crescent View, Riverside Estate, Galway.

**MACKEY MAGIC**

**The Mackey Story** by Seamus O Ceallaigh and Sean Murphy is published very quickly after the death of the great Limerick hurler. Probably a bit too rushed. Still let me not be catty. It is opportune that a book on Mick Mackey be published now.

And it took some work from the co-authors to have it out so soon. The only thing I missed in the book is an interview with the man himself. Mick was a great character. It is well nigh impossible to recall in print what he

meant to sports lovers everywhere. He had that magic that could move you as you listened to the young Michael O'Hehir convey the Mackey mystique.

I used to love those Limerick hurlers and they often seemed to be unlucky to lose thrillers. Get this book if you want the Mackey Magic recalled in print. There are some lovely tributes in verse none better than that smashing tribute in the Tipperary Star.

Price £6.50 (incl. postage) from Sean Murphy, Lower Park, Limerick. (This book should be in the home of every hurling lover.)

**Meath Co. Final Programme** — This year it was Mattie Gilenan. The programme is a 76 page book and is the best county final programme I have ever seen. I love Meath's idea of taking a star from the past to be the guest of honour on county final day. This year it was Mattie Gilenan. The editor is Thomas J. Staunton and he and his programme Committee deserve credit.

That is all for this issue. Next issue I will include all the Mailbag letters and Tom Morrison's first class one plus a few more reviews. Until then if you want to write on any G.A.A. topic write to:

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

Jack Mahon.

**COMHAIRLE NA MUMHAN**

C. L. G.

**Munster Senior Championships**

**1983**

**IOMÁINT**

- 29th May — 1st. Rd. Clár v. Tiobraid Árann, at Limerick.
- 12th June — Semi-Final — Corcaigh v. Luimneach, at Limerick.
- 19th June — Semi-Final — Portlairge v. Clár nó Tiobraid Árann, at Thurles or Pairc Uí Chaoimh.
- 3rd July — Cluiche Ceannais.

**PEIL**

- 12th June — 1st. Rd. Clár v. Portlairge, at Limerick.
- 29th May — 1st. Rd. — Tiobraid Árann v. Luimneach, at Limerick.
- 19th June — Joe McGrath Cup Final,  
Clár nó Portlairge v. Tiobraid Árann nó Luimneach.
- 26th June — Semi-Final — Ciarraí v. Tiobraid Árann nó Luimneach.
- 26th June — Semi-Final — Corcaigh v. Clár nó Portlairge.
- 17th July — Cluiche Ceannais.

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## PADDY KENNEDY

Who was the only Ulster man to win a Bank of Ireland All-Star award in 1981, is 24 on March 18. Paddy stands 6ft. 1in., and weighs 13st. and plays club football with Glenn John Martins.

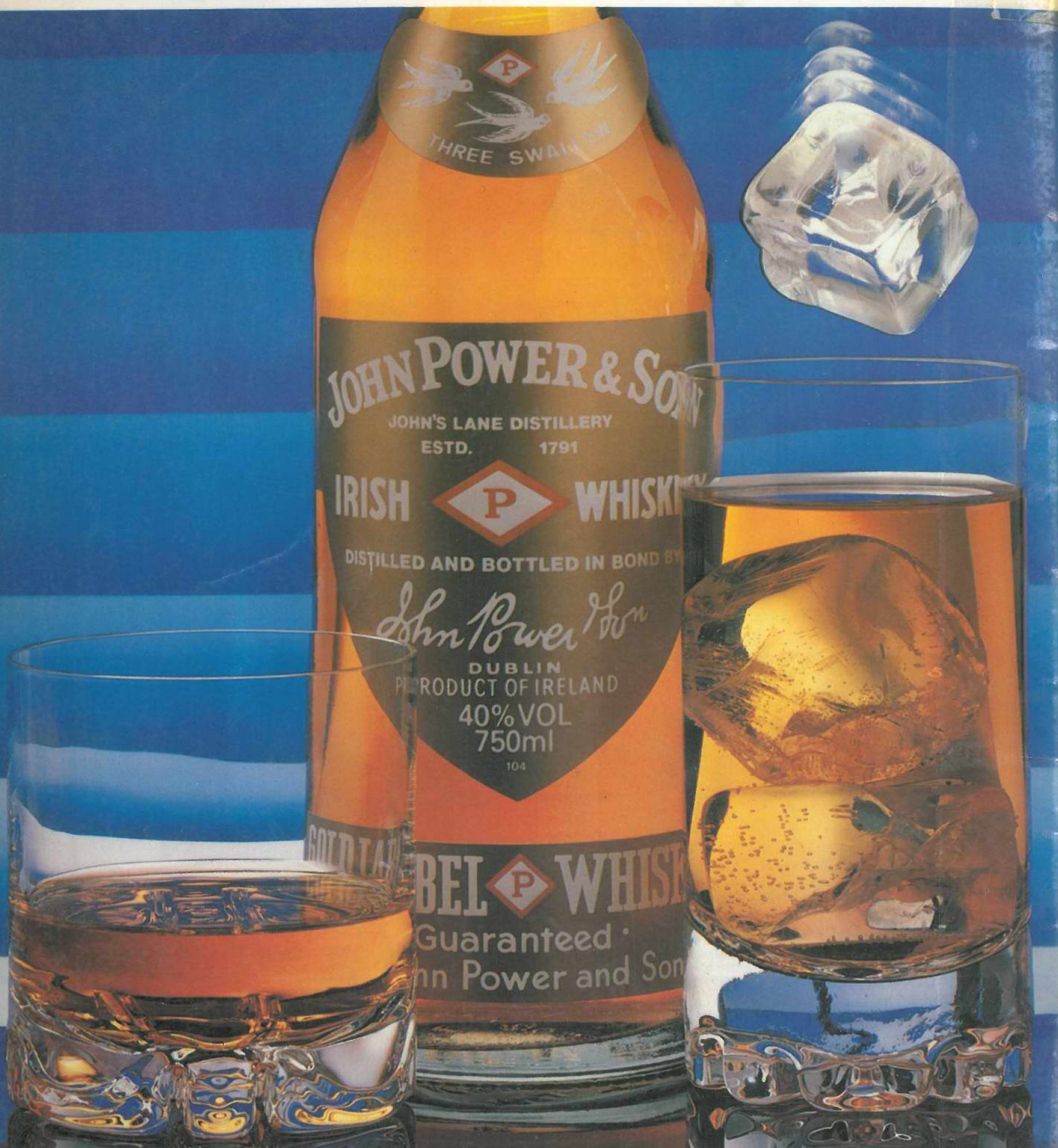
### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

Paddy has played with the Down senior team in a variety of positions. He made his senior inter-county debut at right half forward against Derry in a Dr. McKenna Cup tie in 1978, but it was as a cultured and stylish full back that he helped the Mourne County to their last Ulster senior title in 1981, and it was in that position that he won his only All-Star award.

The Glenn club man has been appearing at midfield with Down in the current National League.

Paddy had a very successful innings in under-age football. He was a midfielder with a gifted Down squad that took the 1977 All-Ireland minor title, and some two years later collected another national medal at midfield with the county — that one at under-21.

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