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ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

4th September, 1983

SENIOR — 3.15 p.m.

CORCAIGH v CILL CHAINNIGH

MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

Tiobraid Árann nó Gaillimh v Áth Cliath

All Stands reserved and tickets have been distributed through the various units of the Association :: General Admission £3.00

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

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

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Cork's pride at stake

THERE is an appeal all its own to an All-Ireland senior hurling final between Kilkenny, of the classical touches, and Cork, schooled to perfection in a distinctive style. A long and storied background to meetings of the counties for the top prize, and the mastery of the hurling art the team's generally exhibit, are some of the reasons why a Kilkenny-Cork clash is the one that most look to in anticipation of a classic.

The latest decider, however, is somewhat more special than usual. Kilkenny's unexpectedly easy romp to the title when they met in last year's All-Ireland final has ensured this.

Were Kilkenny really eleven points the better team a year ago? Did the men from the Leaside strike an "off-day"? These are just some of the questions that have been argued over repeatedly in the past year, and more often than not, county loyalties helped colour the answers.

Cork's pride was badly dented last September. Defeat would have been unpalatable enough at a time when confidence was sky-high following a huge Munster final win over Waterford, but the disdain almost with which the men from the Noreside plotted the crushing road to the title was difficult to take.

That set-back still smarts very much in the Southern stronghold. Honour will not be served until this dismal chapter in the county's history is avenged. Now that the opportunity to do just that has quickly presented itself, all Cork looks confidently to the hurlers to give added weight to suggestions that they struck an "off day" last season.

Kilkenny will have something to say about that. Few there give any credence to suggestions that their win a year ago was due to anything other than the majesty of the team, or that the side was not worthy of every single point of their winning margin.

The champions can back up that claim with a great record in the meantime. The successful defences of the National League and Leinster titles this year would appear to suggest that the county has got together a combination that could prove one of the best-ever.

Last year's final, then, weighs heavily on the latest contest, and is sure to see the hurlers put in that extra effort — on both sides.

Can Kilkenny silence their critics about the true merit of the 22nd title win? Will Cork compensate for the depression of a year ago by taking revenge?

Ah, the questions, the arguments, the cut-and-thrust, the skills of the hurlers, the tradition of both teams. These are the ingredients that make this final so appealing.

COVER PHOTO: Our front cover features the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Finalists, Cork and Kilkenny.

CORK: Munster Champions. Back row (left to right): Donal O'Grady, John Buckley, Pat Horgan, Kevin Hennessy, Ger Cunningham, Eamonn O'Donoghue, Tim Crowley, Brian Murphy, John Crowley. Front row (left to right): Tomás Mulcahy, Jimmy-Barry-Murphy (Capt.), Tom Cashman, Bertie Óg Murphy, Dermot McCurtain and John Fenton.

KILKENNY: Leinster Champions. Back row (left to right): Dick O'Hara, Brian Cody, Ritchie Power, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Frank Cummins, Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson. Front row (left to right): Joe Hennessy, Harry Ryan, Ger Fennelly, Noel Skehan, Liam Fennelly (Capt.), Kieran Brennan and Ger Henderson.

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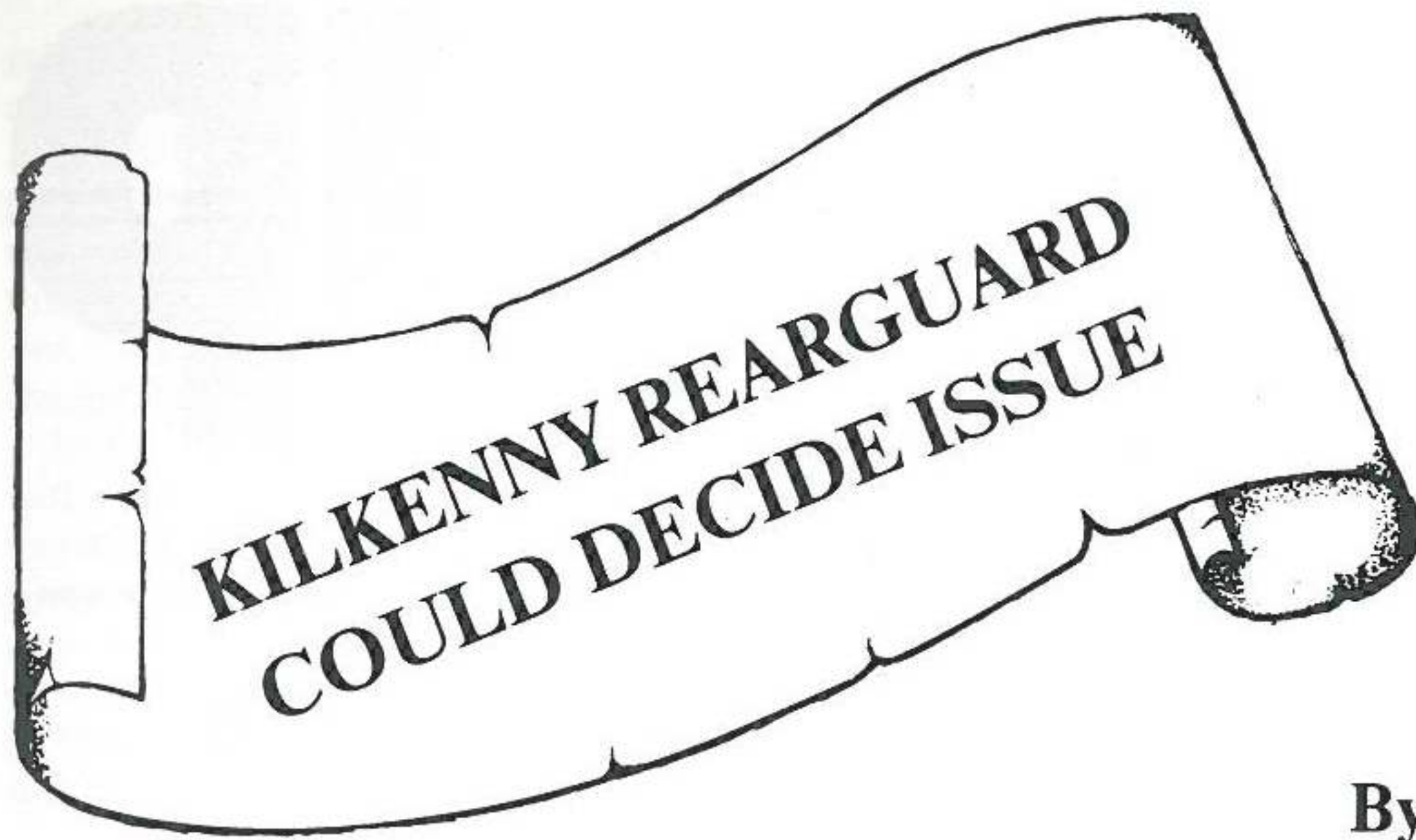
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By Mick Fitzgerald

I AM prepared to see Cork make up much of their eleven points leeway from last year's crash to Kilkenny when these great rivals renew their All-Ireland senior hurling final rivalry. More than that, I confidently look to the Munster champions' to come out bristling with energy, determination and skill and so play their part in ensuring this time a match brimful of good hurling, exciting exchanges and with interest maintained keenly to the final whistle.

Nevertheless, I am not so sure that the challengers will still prove capable of taking over from the confident Kilkenny men as the top hurling team of the year.

Cork have improved over the past twelve months. They are a better balanced side all round, I feel, and possess as well the competitive spirit and collective technique that could prove the recipe for a Silver Jubilee All-Ireland.

But, while the Munster men have been getting their act together since tasting the bitter pill of defeat last September, Kilkenny have not been standing still either. I submit that the evidence is there to indicate they are a more potent force than when they took the title so convincingly for the 22nd time.

They did well to follow on by making a successful defence of the League crown. That success story

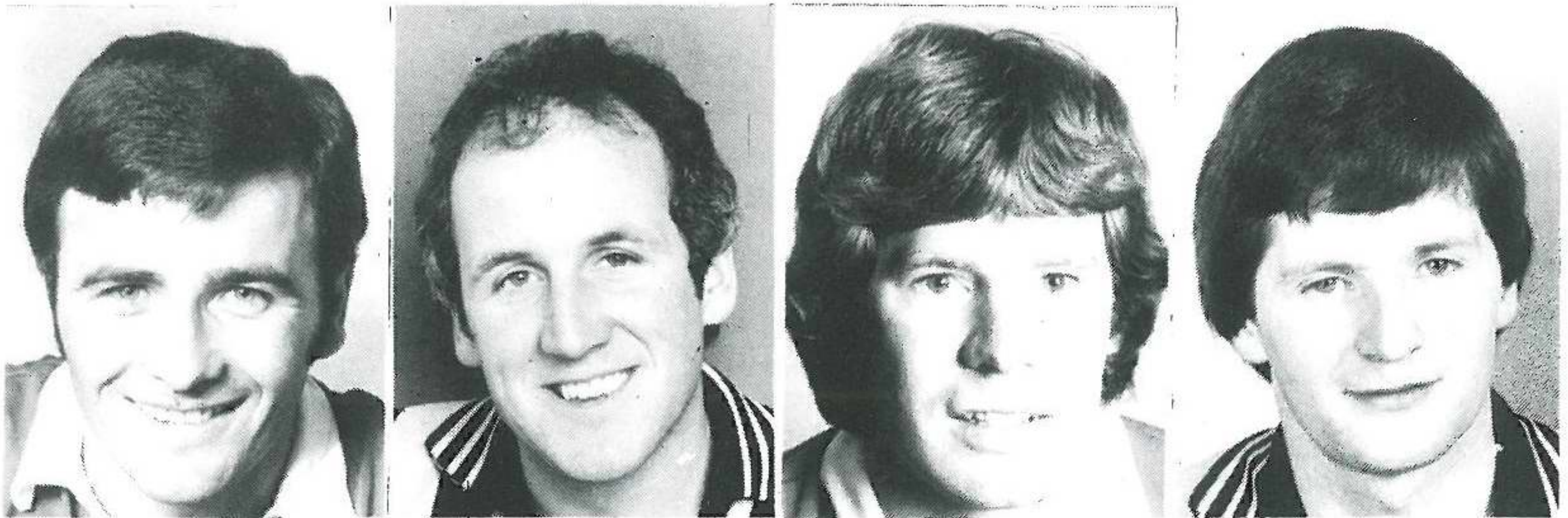
shows that Kilkenny are in no mood to step down from their top of the hurling chart status.

Some argue that a demanding League programme is a handicap for a successful assault on the All-Ireland. I disagree.

Any series of wins help to build up confidence and morale, perfect teamwork, and generally build up a panel of tried and trusted top-class players.

When the League victory march is also a sequel to an All-Ireland winning campaign of power and majesty as Kilkenny's was last year, then it is obvious that things are

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BRIAN MURPHY
Cork

PADDY PRENDERGAST
Kilkenny

DERMOT MacCURTAIN
Cork

RITCHIE POWER
Kilkenny

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **A QUARTET OF STARS** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WE'RE UP FOR THE MATCH



● FROM PAGE 5

going really well for the side concerned.

But, what you may ask, of the fact that Kilkenny spluttered along at times in the Leinster championship this summer? A fair question, and one I suggest that contains the key to the greatness of this Noreside outfit.

In the opening half of their game with Wexford, the holders looked anything but double champions. They were sluggish, and uncertain, and the Slaneysiders had a real chance in that period to take the game by the scruff of the neck, and send the holders packing.

BOUNCED BACK

That Wexford lost their chance is, I submit, the reason why Kilkenny are true champions. They had the capacity to take an unnerving situation that saw them trail by seven points after having played very poorly, and act on it so well that they bounced back to dazzle their tormentors with a blinding display of hurling brilliance in the opening ten minutes of the second period to ensure a comfortable win in the end.

Then, against Offaly, Kilkenny showed the maturity to patiently go about their game with coolness and bide their time until Christy Heffernan finally struck his hammer blow with that great second half goal. No, the passing year has not taken its toll on Kilkenny, but rather honed and perfected their squad even more.

Cork can point to the fact that they have accomplished all that has been asked of them. Their Munster final win over Waterford had a more workmanlike and real air about it than the corresponding run-away triumph a year earlier, and they also showed nice touches when ending the Galway dream in the semi-final.

I've a hunch as well that this chance of revenge will bring out the best in the Cork men, and result in a performance far above anything we have seen from them in the championship this season. So, they are not only capable, but should really put it up to the champions, and ensure a final that will do much to

SPOT THE HANDS ???



● We'll know the answer to that one at approximately 4.25 p.m. on 4th September next. Will they be the hands of Jimmy Barry Murphy or Liam Fennelly? To be on the safe side let's just say it will be one or the other. Unless, of course, the game ends in a draw!

compensate for the poor value of a year ago.

It is unlikely that Cork will be caught napping in defence. The expert goalkeeping of Ger Cunningham, the dependability of Brian Murphy in the full line, and power at half back, where John Crowley could be a dominant force, are important factors.

But Kilkenny can be masters of efficient forward play at its devastating best. The enterprise and shrewd touches and combined hurling of Liam Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, final newcomer Harry Ryan, not to mention the goal-king himself, Christy Heffernan, could see the division sparking.

I don't think there will be much in it either way in midfield. Frank Cummins continues to show that hurling is far from being a young man's game, and he and Ger Fennelly hit it off against Offaly in a way that

must encourage optimism on the banks of the Nore.

CORK FORWARDS

At the same time, long-striding Tim Crowley and John Fenton have much in their favour, and Cork have a number of options as well, including the playing of Cashman in the area, should they have any worries in the middle of the park.

What about the Southern attack? I think the forwards can cut a real dash, with Jimmy Barry-Murphy, the shrewd general, prompting, encouraging, foraging for chances, striving to create opportunities for his team-mates, as well as proving more than capable of snatching up the chances himself.

Barry-Murphy must be a big threat to Kilkenny, but Eamonn O'Donoghue, Tomás Mulcahy Kevin Hennessy are others up front who will not have to be given a moment's freedom if the Cork scoring division is to be contained.

Few will seriously dispute, however, that in Brian Cody, the champions have a man who will not be upset by the task of having to face up to the Cork captain, and who is also a full back well equipped in hurling skills and experience to prove the type of stumbling block that could result in much of the sting being withdrawn from the Southern forward division.

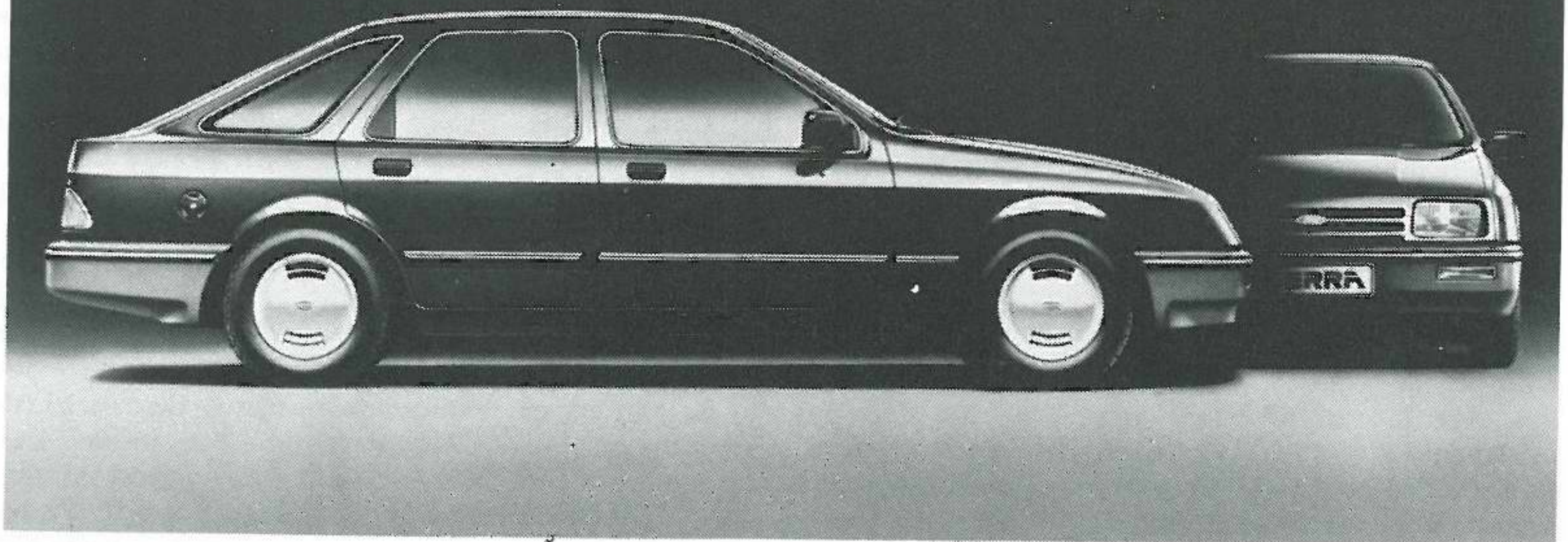
Nor is Cody likely to be lacking in gilt-edged support elsewhere.

Noel Skehan, it is hardly necessary to stress, is not going to be readily beaten in goal, and should Ger Henderson scale the heights that made him the man of the match in the Leinster final, the inside Cork forwards could be on short rations.

Dick O'Hara and Paddy Prendergast give the champions a left flank of incalculable value, and overall, I just cannot see the Kilkenny rearguard giving much away.

It is here that I feel the game will be won and lost. The champions back division can, I believe, do a good job in shackling the opposing attack, and Heffernan, Fitzpatrick and Liam Fennelly can do the rest to keep the McCarthy Cup in the Marble city.

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CHAMPIONS HUNGER FOR MORE SUCCESS

I WOULD not be prepared to mortgage the house on a Kilkenny win in the hurling final — I am too long in the tooth to blindly believe in a certainty in sport — but I must frankly admit nonetheless that I will be surprised if the champions fail to hold on to their All-Ireland senior crown. They are better equipped in my book for a winning show than any Noneside team since the end of the Eddie Keher era in the second half of the 'Seventies.

Granted, the McCarthy Cup holders spluttered at times in their wins over Wexford and Offaly. At different spells in those matches they looked pretty ordinary, but they also demonstrated that they have what it takes to shake off the mantle of mediocrity, pick up the pieces, and snap into the gear that separates the champions from the also rans.

When on song in their exhilarating second-half comeback against Wexford — they trailed by nine points coming up to the break and had struggled for most of the opening half — and then again after Christy Heffernan took his match-winning goal against Offaly in the second half, the champions left us in no doubt of their capabilities. The hunger for success was still there, and is in no way diminished by the glorious run that has resulted in two League titles in succession for the county for the first time, and last year's memorable All-Ireland final success.

I am convinced that the Kilkenny we saw in the latter stages of those games is the Kilkenny we will see in the decider, and that is one of the main reasons why I say they are better geared now for a final than for some years.

There are other telling factors, I feel. Experience is an obvious one.

All, but Harry Ryan, of the team that beat Offaly, helped to shape last year's big win over Cork. Some of the side are also among the most seasoned campaigners of hurling's big day in the game at present, so that overall, Kilkenny will be in no way affected by the big occasion.

I believe, too, that unlike in the earlier games we will see Kilkenny at their best from the first whistle, and right through the match.

There is nothing like an All-Ireland final for bringing out the best in players, especially when they have been through the mill before.

The one possible danger to Kilkenny in this regard is their long wait for the final. A break of nearly two months between games is hardly the best preparation, but they are such shrewd operators in Kilkenny, know their hurling so well and also what is needed to have a title chasing team at peak fitness, that I feel confident the McCarthy Cup holders will overcome this obstacle.

TRUMP CARD

They also should come out firing on all cylinders in attack. Christy Heffernan, that tall full-forward with the golden goals touch, must obviously rank as a trump card here.

There is certainly no one in the final to compare with the Glenmore club man. He is at 26 a dynamic exponent of the match-winning technique of outgunning goalkeepers, and must be closely and consistently watched.

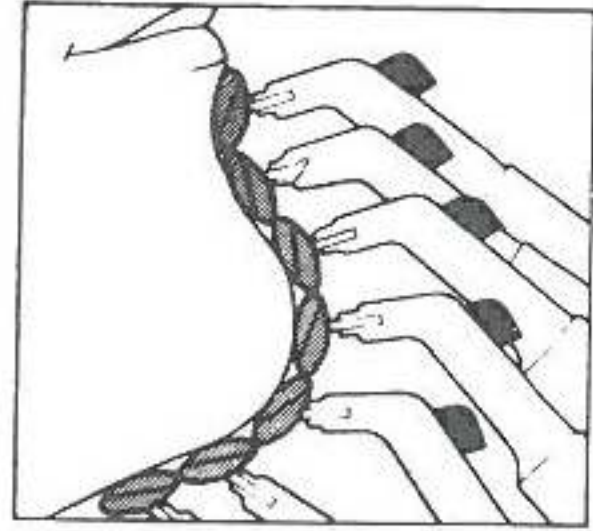
Even if Heffernan is kept on a tight rein for a long spell, he is still capable

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NOEL SKÉHAN
Bidding for record-breaking ninth All-Ireland medal.

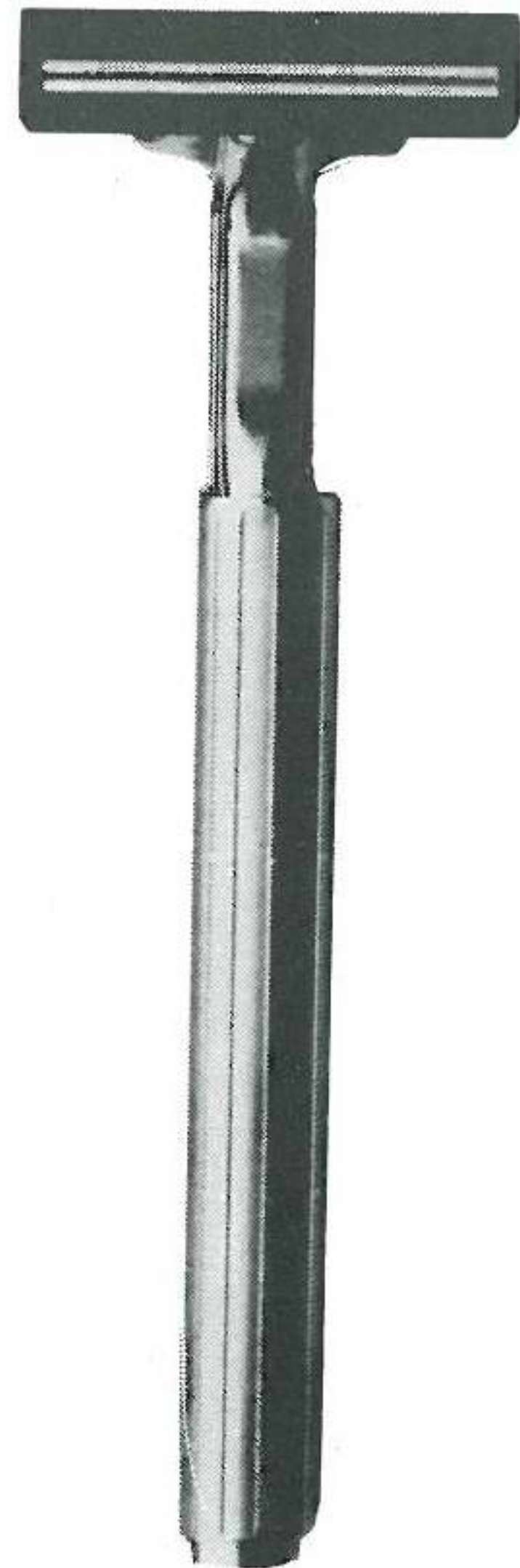
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● FROM PAGE 9

of prizing loose for a flash of genius to turn a match around and set his team on the high road to victory. Offaly will reflect ruefully on this as they look back on Heffernan's wonderful goal in the second half of the Leinster final after he had been contained for so long.

That goal, after 51 minutes, was the touch of the master, as Heffernan, quick as lightning, pulled first time on a pass from Liam Fennelly to give Damien Martin no chance in the challengers goal.

If one man can win this final single-handed it is Christy Heffernan. However, it is in Kilkenny's favour that they do not have to rely on any single hurler — even in attack.

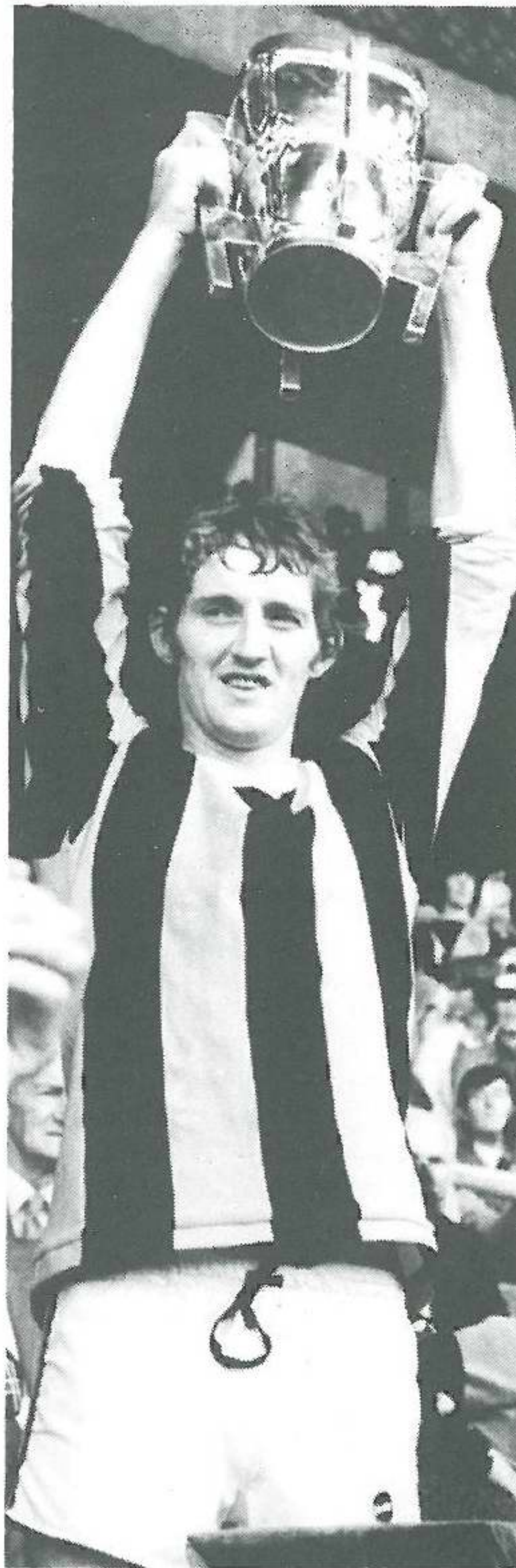
I thought Harry Ryan had an excellent game in attack in the Leinster senior final. He got through an amount of valuable work, scored three vital points, and appeared to be just the type of incisive raider who could have a major part to play in the McCarthy Cup tie.

Billy Fitzpatrick will punish any frees with the mood of a miser, and with the other forwards also clever, lively and sharp in their shooting, the champions forward division has much going for it.

What of the rearguard? Well, Ger Henderson has played many great games for Kilkenny, but few to equal his showing against Offaly. He was the pivot supremely in control of his task, and that quality effort, as well as what we know of the Fenians club man from past experience, marks him out as a hurler who is sure to do much to mould the defence again into the disciplined unit that gives little away easily.

IN GOAL

With Noel Skehan keeping as brilliant a goal as ever, and also another man who can exercise a decisive influence, Dick O'Hara, sound as a bell at left-full, and John Henderson, dependable and imaginative at right full, Kilkenny are well placed to face up to any attack, no matter how talented, with confidence. There was a big all round



GER FENNELLY holding aloft the Liam McCarthy Cup after Kilkenny's 21st winning title in 1979.

improvement by the backs against Offaly, who did not get through for a goal, on the semi-final showing against Wexford, who bagged three goals.

The Kilkenny credit marks do not end there, either. Frank Cummins may be one of the "grand old men" in hurling now (I say that in the nicest possible sense) as he has something like fourteen campaigns of regular

play with the side behind him, but there is nothing tired or lack-lustre about his play in a demanding outfield spot.

He remains more than a match for the best midfielders around with his consistently high standard play, and I mark him down as one of those most likely to conduct the Kilkenny efforts for another victory song.

Ger Fennelly, who led the county to their 21st All-Ireland title four years ago, partnered the Blackrock (Cork) man in the centre in the Leinster final. He really blossomed there in the second half, and such is the potential of this pair that they could be the ones to play a victory duet.

Don't forget, either, that Kilkenny have Joe Hennessy, a hurler who has cut a dash both in defence and at midfield, to help out in the centre if needed.

Weigh in teamwork, temperament for the big occasion, and the confidence that comes from winning titles, and you have some of the other reasons why I say that Kilkenny are now better balanced all round and more accomplished than when they lifted their 22nd crown last September.

They are entitled to start favourites. But realists that they are Kilkenny men will not allow that to go to their heads, and they will approach this assignment with the type of sensible outlook that recognises that no match is won or lost until the final whistle.

Moreover, they will be the first to admit that the job ahead of them is a testing one, a task that will need all their resourcefulness, traditional craft, clever combined play, finishing technique and all stamped by those touches of individual brilliance that mean so much in tight exchanges, if the title is to be kept in Kilkenny.

Nevertheless, I believe that Kilkenny have the power, the know-how and the men in the vital positions to take a grip on the final, stamp their dominance on the game, and in the end do enough to ensure a triumphant return to the Noneside with the county's first successful defence of the Liam McCarthy Cup since 1975.

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LEESIDERS ANXIOUS TO ATONE FOR LAST YEAR'S HUMILIATION

THE All-Ireland senior hurling final scenario could hardly be better for Cork. The memory of last year's surprisingly tame exit by what at the time was a highly regarded team is still very fresh, and still as hard as ever to adequately explain away, but all will be forgiven and forgotten should Jimmy Barry-Murphy's crew see off the Kilkenny men this time.

It is the ideal chance, then, to compensate for a low in the Cork championship story that was as shattering and complete as it was unexpected. And, while no Cork outfit needs an added incentive for an All-Ireland final, the in-built "challenge" to the side in this game must prove a mighty spur.

Last year's crushing 11 points setback also leaves no illusions about the size of the task facing the latest contenders for a place in the sun. Kilkenny were worth every point of the 1982 win, and their form in the meantime has been such as to put Cork's very much in the shade.

On the other hand, one must give credit to the Munster champions for the way they have come-back, both from the All-Ireland final defeat of last September, and the loss of key players. Martin O'Doherty and Ray Cummins are no longer playing senior hurling, and Tony O'Sullivan, who was the sharpshooter supreme in 1983, had much of his championship play curtailed this year because of an illness.

So, let's not under-rate the Cork achievement in returning to the final scene. Remember, too, that on the way to the successful defence of the Munster title they beat Limerick, admittedly, in a replay — and Limerick gave Kilkenny some

anxious moments in the League final earlier this year.

A CONVICTION

It seems to me that there is a conviction and a verve about the Southernners' hurling this season that was not quite as prominent a year ago; characteristics that will be badly needed if the Cup is to be prized away from the cool, confident Kilkenny men.

The forwards, as in last season's run-in, have again shown their skill in taking scores. However, while I bow to no one in my admiration for raiders with the scoring flair — a vital ingredient for success — I must say that I have been most taken this year by the Cork backs.

There is a doggedness about the division that could prove the ideal foil to the stylish Kilkenny men. In saying this I don't wish to convey the impression that the Cork backs are lacking in style or skill — very few Cork hurlers can be accused of that. Rather, I am trying to underline the point that the defenders have a tenacious approach to their job that ensures an attack is not given much room to initiate score-getting moves.

FIRE-POWER

Donal O'Grady, who was in the substitutes panel for last year's final, is proving a giant at full back. Dermot McCurtain and Tom Cashman, as experienced as they come, and also as gifted, are other corner-stones in building up the defensive screen I have talked about, and is also absolutely necessary to have any hope of success against a division with such an even spread of scoring power as the Kilkenny attack.

As for the Cork fire-power, many of us went overboard in our rating of the finishing edge when rushing headlong to the side of the Southernners' a year ago — and paid the penalty with red faces after the final!

That experience urges extreme caution now, but caution or not, there are some pointers for the final from Cork up front that just cannot be readily played down.

One is Jimmy Barry-Murphy. Here is the complete team-leader, a hurler who has time and time again illuminated the scene with his match-winning array of skills, and who is this season probably proving much more effective than at any time in his illustrious career.

If there is one hurler who can ensure immense pressure on the champions' defence, create unease and concern every time he gains possession, and at the same time "lift" Cork, then that man is the Munster title-holders captain from St. Finbarr's.

Eamonn O'Donoghue at 32 is one of the oldest members of the side, but he is not less a live-wire unit for all that.

Right throughout his career the Blackrock club man, who went in as a substitute for the final wins of 1976 and 1978, but has yet to play in a full winning decider, has had a real penchant for grabbing heart-lifting goals in the games that matter.

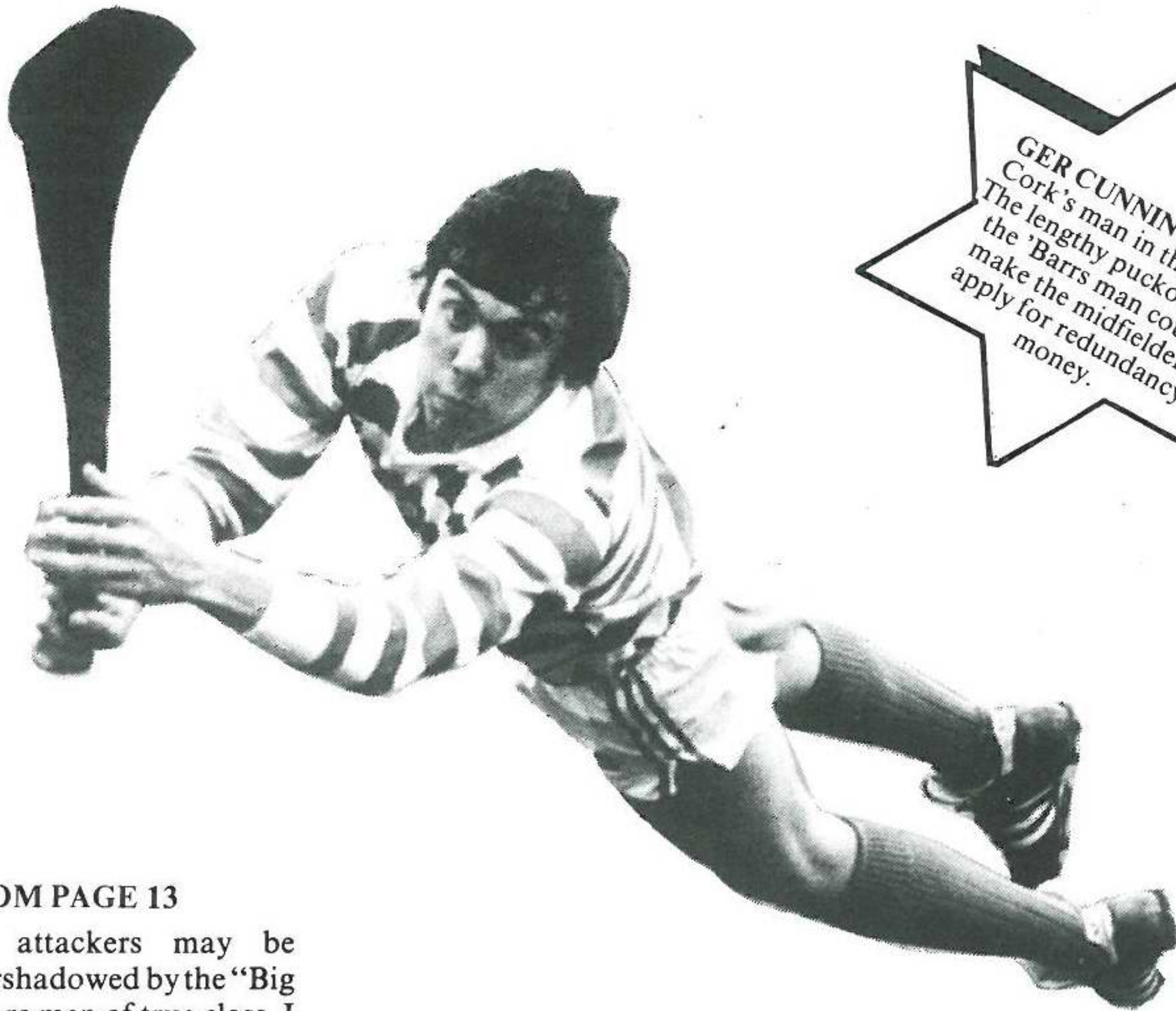
This is an aspect of his excellent general play that O'Donoghue has maintained this year, and the corner forward is quite capable of shaking loose from any Kilkenny cover, and finding his way through to the back of the net once again.

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**IT'S THE OIL THAT
WINNERS KEEP UNDER
THEIR BONNETS.**

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GER CUNNINGHAM
Cork's man in the gap.
The lengthy puckouts of
the 'Barrs' man could
make the midfielders
apply for redundancy
money.

● FROM PAGE 13

The other attackers may be somewhat overshadowed by the "Big Two," but all are men of true class. I have a particular regard for Kevin Hennessy and Bertie Og Murphy, who move well, work cleverly, combine to good effect, and are adept at taking their scores, either from play or frees, as well as making openings for their colleagues.

Kilkenny's backs will have to ensure a tight, disciplined screen before their goal through close marking, steadiness, and also not make the mistake of conceding close-in-frees, if the challengers raiders are to be thwarted this time of a title-winning return.

I don't think somehow that midfield will have a real bearing on the outcome. I say this because Noel Skehan and Ger Cunningham are such long hitters, and both rearguards also have men capable of getting plenty of distance into their clearances. All of which could mean that while midfielders are unlikely to be redundant they may not be over prominent.

On the other hand, Kilkenny folk will hardly need reminding that when

Cork last beat their side at this stage, Tim Crowley was the man who delivered the goods for the Munster team.

That was after he had been moved from the half forward line, where he started out, to midfield in the second half of the 1978 decider. With the switch, the Newcestown man went to town to blue-print a winning show, which he decorated with a peach of a solo point.

Crowley remains a hurler with the ability to blaze an impressive trail, while John Fenton can also get into the thick of things, and emerge to either end an attack, or to get his forward line moving more sweetly. Yes, if midfield is to have any say on the destination of the 1983 title, then Cork can have few fears about their representation in the area.

STRONG POINTS

So, there it is, a Cork team with many strong points, and I would say a maturity and a sense of what is

needed if success is to be the reward this time.

But are Cork good enough to take revenge for last year? The champions' great run of late entitles them to a favourite's role, and there can be little doubt either that it will take a tremendous effort from Cork if they are to grab the glory.

I believe, however, that if the Cork men express themselves fully and produce the hurling of which they are capable — and there must be sober grounds for anticipating that they will do just that — they have the blend of experience, all-round balance, skills and quota of potential match-winners necessary to wipe out the memories of last year's debacle by handing the Kilkenny men their walking papers this time.

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By NOEL HORGAN



Brian Cody.

IT is fair to say that few players have ever had as chequered a career in the top flight as Kilkenny's Brian Cody. Since emerging on the inter-county scene as a tall, talented teenager in the early 'seventies, Brian has endured all the agony — his absence during the 1979 triumph was a bitter disappointment — and savoured all the ecstasy — captaining his country to All-Ireland glory last year was a tremendous honour — that the hurling world can dish out.

Brian is fully aware of the fickleness of the fans and realises that a player is only as good as his last performance. It all began for him in 1972 when he captained the Kilkenny minors to an All-Ireland success. Possessing all the necessary attributes, it seemed merely a matter of time before he would line out at senior level with the Noresiders. His graduation to the premier grade, however, came much sooner than even Cody himself might have hoped.

When Kilkenny qualified for the '73 decider the team was plagued with injuries, with such legendary figures as Eddie Keher, Jim Treacy and Kieran Purcell unable to line out and so the selectors picked the 19-year-old Cody to do duty at left wing-back. His immaturity was glaringly obvious, however, and he did not play well. Kilkenny succumbed to a rampant Limerick fifteen that day and Brian Cody suffered his first major set back.

The experience did not, immediately at any rate, adversely affect him and he was back in Croke Park in '75 as

Kilkenny retained their All-Ireland crown with a resounding win over Galway, having similarly thrashed Limerick the previous year when Cody was on the substitutes bench.

The future, indeed, looked rosy for Brian Cody then as he was firmly established on a Kilkenny selection which many rated as the finest ever to emerge from the Marble City. Things turned sour for Cody again, however, as — possibly affected by too much success too soon — he appeared to lose his edge and appetite for the fray and he fell out of favour.

FULL-FORWARD

Injury, too, hindered his efforts to regain his true form and many felt that the promising inter-county career of Brian Cody had been prematurely terminated. In 1978, however, the selectors — unable to find a place for Cody in a strong defence and with a problem at full-forward — decided to entrust the James Stephens clubman with the No. 14 shirt.

When he shone in his new role in the All-Ireland semi-final win over Galway it looked as if the dark clouds had finally lifted on Brian Cody's career.

That illusion was shattered in the final when Cody, a natural defender, was easily mastered by the great Martin Doherty as Kilkenny fell to a Cork team that was completing the three-in-a-row.

The following year Kilkenny, without Cody, defeated Galway in the decider and it looked this time as

if Brian Cody's inter-county flame was definitely extinguished. Most players would have despaired at that stage but Brian Cody showed that he was made of sterner stuff and he refused to accept what many observers regarded as inevitable.

His persistence paid off when his defensive talents returned almost as quickly as they had deserted him. And he was probably the proudest man in Ireland when he mounted the rostrum in Croke Park last year to receive the Liam McCarthy Cup following Kilkenny's fabulous win over a hotly fancied Cork fifteen.

Injury prevented him from contributing to Kilkenny's league win this year but, on recovering, he was immediately restored at full-back for the Leinster championship. And it seems now as if the dark days are well behind the 29-year-old Brian Cody.

He will be sternly tested, however, in this final when he pits his wits against Jimmy Barry Murphy. When they last clashed in the '75 All-Ireland Under-21 final at Dungarvan which Kilkenny won, the Cork wizard clearly had the edge on the day.

Cody will be keen to reverse matters this time and should he succeed he will have removed much of the sting from the Cork challenge. But even if he again has to give best to Barry-Murphy and Kilkenny fail to capture the laurels, none will dare to suggest that Brian Cody is a spent force.

The Kilkenny stalwart has long since proved that resilience is one of his greatest assets.

VISION PLAN

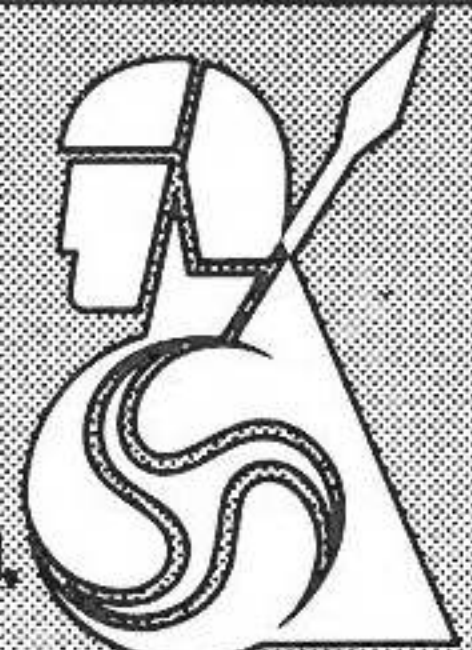


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JIMMY BARRY MURPHY

A DECADE OF SUCCESS

By SEAN COLLINS

HOW time flies! It seems like only yesterday Barry-Murphy set Cork on the high road to their 1973 All-Ireland senior football final win over Galway with a goal in just over two minutes, yet here he is ten years on not only leading the senior hurlers in a national final, but also showing scant regard for the passage of time.

Scant regard? Well, the St. Finbarr's club hurler is now a veteran of four All-Ireland senior finals in the code, is festooned with major honours from both hurling and football, and long since regarded as one of the greatest dual players of them all. And against that backdrop he still has been turning on some of the best hurling of his career in this season's championship.

It may well be that the fact that he has been concentrating exclusively on the hurling game for some time that has much to do with his sunshine play in what must be regarded as the autumn of his career. Few players can keep up a particularly high standard in both games at the same time, especially in their late 'twenties.

But whatever, the reason, Barry-Murphy is one of the leading lights of hurling just now. I doubt if Cork would be where they are today without the inspirational play of their captain, who will be hoping for a belated birthday present in the shape of the McCarthy Cup. The gifted forward was 29 in the middle of August.

Barry-Murphy has been exercising his considerable repertoire of skills — hurling artistry, speed of thought and action, distribution, non-stop effort and sharp finishing — to an exciting degree. That has evoked a ready response from his colleagues, and this in turn has had much to do in whipping the team into one with genuine title-winning potential.

Now at full forward after a lengthy sojourn in the side as a half forward, the Barrs artist is proving the part. His assurance, mobility and deft touches, as well as leadership mark him out as a hurler with the ability to successfully uphold the match-winning qualities that Ray Cummins exercised in the No. 14 jersey for Cork. There could hardly be higher praise than that!

At the same time, it must be admitted that Barry-Murphy walks in no one's shadow. He is an original in his own right, one of those rare talents who power on the scene, and also walk right throughout their careers in greatness.

There have been many examples of this greatness down the years, many highlights in a senior career that began in football, not hurling, in 1973 when he was just out of the minor ranks. But one of the most memorable must be the St. Patrick's week-end of 1975, when Barry-Murphy showed his paces as a match-winner in hurling and football in a manner seldom, if ever equalled.

LETHAL TOUCH

On succeeding days the incisive raider won an All-Ireland senior club medal with St. Finbarr's and a Railway Cup award with Munster footballers. He dazzled in both finals, with his expertise, first as a hurler, then as a footballer, shining through like a beacon on a dark night. And, to cap it all, Barry-Murphy displayed a lethal touch in front of goal.

He grabbed 1-4 as the Barrs beat The Fenians, Kilkenny, in the hurling game, and put himself into the record books in Railway Cup football scoring by cracking home four golden goals against Ulster. We will never see the likes of that golden double again!

Looking back, too, on Cork's run of three All-Ireland senior hurling titles in succession from 1976 to 1978 inclusive, I recall a great goal by Barry-Murphy, one that as far as I am concerned was the best scored by a Leesider in that mighty hat-trick of titles.

Barry-Murphy was a vital cog as a half forward in the Cork machine in that winning sequence. He played in all three Munster finals, and in the three national deciders as well, and he had some excellent matches in the unbeaten run as well.

But it is a goal from the dual star of that time that sticks out most of all about his contributions. It came in the 1977 Munster final at Thurles against Clare and was a score that turned the game completely Cork's way. The Banner County were leading by six points at that stage 16 minutes into the final, and they were also motoring well.

A Ray Cummins goal and a pointed free by Pat McDonnell, the Cork centre-half put the champions right back in contention. Then, up popped Barry-Murphy.

He gained possession and crashed in a superb goal that put the champions in front, and they were never headed after that. Cork went on to win very comfortably.

DUAL ELITE

Barry-Murphy, of course, took his place among the dual-star elite —

● OVERLEAF

• FROM PAGE 19

that select band of winners of All-Ireland senior inter-county medals in hurling and football — during that spell of Cork dominance in the caman game. But was he the greatest of them all?

That must remain a matter of opinion. What can be said, though, is that the two-game hero from the Barrs displayed the credentials for that ranking in that he had an aptitude and a flair in both games matched by very few of his peers.

Success, as I have said already, was also a constant companion. Barry-Murphy sparkled in the Cork attack as the "old enemy" Kerry were beaten at Pairc Ui Chaoimh in 1980 for the National League title. Some weeks later he helped to beat Limerick in a replay for the hurling counterpart and that was the first — and still only — League medals double in the same year by any player.

In other areas, too, the games showered their choicest awards on the likeable hurler from the banks of the Lee — or perhaps it is more

correct to say that Barry-Murphy himself made the glory all possible with his uncanny ability to quickly adapt himself to the technique of either game.


All Stars awards in hurling and football, Cork county senior championship medals in both codes and All-Ireland senior club medals in hurling and football with the 'Barrs, four Railway Cup medals in succession in football . . . yes, it has been a pretty remarkable ten years for Jimmy Barry-Murphy in the big-time.

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RIDICULOUS SITUATION IN FIXTURE PLANNING

IT NEVER ceases to amaze me that the G.A.A. continues to fail to come to grips with the very basic policy of running off their inter-county programme in a way to help enthusiasts to see the majority of matches, and in the best possible conditions each year.

For a long, long time now we have had to endure the practice of playing most of the games in the National Leagues at a time of the year when spectators and players have to compete with all that is bad in the Irish weather. There were signs last season that followers are no longer prepared to go out in the cold, wind and rain, especially at grounds lacking in covered accommodation, no matter how appealing League ties may appear on paper.

Contrast that with the month of July, one of the best in the year for playing hurling and football. This year we had not only the now customary position of the vast majority of players kicking their heels idly as far as inter-county competition was concerned, but some truly crazy developments in other areas.

We had the clash on the same day of the Leinster and Munster senior hurling finals, two of the top attractions of the G.A.A. year, we are told. A week later the Connacht and Munster football finals, and a Leinster football semi-final were all played on the same day.

Then, after all that hyper-activity and irritating clashes, came not one, but two Sundays in succession with but a single senior championship game each afternoon. Talk about imbalance! Or about failing to

exploit and market excellent products, as football and hurling undoubtedly are, to the best possible advantage at the box-office.

I know that money should not be the be-all and end-all of an amateur organisation like the G.A.A. I appreciate, too, that many — and very unfairly, too — accuse the Association of being far too money-conscious as it is.

But we cannot run away from the fact the G.A.A. needs a hefty cash

**BY
FERGUS GRIMES**

flow if the games, grounds and competitions are to be financed in the style to ensure that hurling and football compete successfully in the future with the ever growing challenges from other sports — not to mention increasing competition from televised sport.

The programme of matches last July that saw Gaelic Games **COMPETE** with Gaelic Games for support is certainly not the type of marketing and packaging of a programmes schedule designed to boost the coffers.

TALKED ABOUT

All may not be lost yet, however. Something worth-while may emerge from the happenings of last July. If the events proved anything conclusively it is that the Munster Hurling Final is no longer a major draw in Gaelic Games.

Only 20,816 followers bothered to turn up at Limerick for the Cork-Waterford game. That was down by

close on a whopping 15,000 on the attendance at the Leinster decider the same day, and also a few hundred below the crowd at the Dublin-Louth football semi-final a week later.

I have always held that a lot of nonsense was talked about the Munster hurling final. To listen to some, the match was the G.A.A. high-point of the year, more important, indeed, than the All-Ireland final itself.

We have also had to endure much waffle about “the heart-beat of the G.A.A.,” “Irish life-style at its best,” “poetry in hurling,” and “always a great game, something not to be missed.” Then, of course, there were those other hoary-old catch-crys that we could not have an open-draw in hurling as this would do away with the Munster final.

Well, maybe, the Munster hurling final merited some or all of those compliments at one time, but I have my doubts. What is beyond dispute at this stage is that the magic has long since gone, that the game is no longer pulling in supporters from the South, let alone those from other provinces.

Croke Park on Leinster final day is the place to be for the hurling thrills, skills, excitement and close games in provincial finals. The Eastern final has taken over in front — if indeed it ever really trailed the Munster decider, other than in the imaginations of some Southerners.

In saying this I am not gloating in any way, but rather in the hope that events in 1983 will lead to a badly needed and radical re-think in Gaelic Games circles generally.

● TO PAGE 23

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"Croke Park on Leinster hurling final day is the place to be" says Fergus Grimes. Our picture, from the '83 Kilkenny v Offaly final encounter, captures the tension of the big occasion.



● FROM PAGE 21

We want the championship games spread more sensibly over the summer months in future than was the case this season. This would do much to exploit the championships as vehicles to keep football and hurling firmly ahead of their competitors.

Hand in hand with this, we need an end to winter games. An old cry, I admit, but one that is becoming more and more of a necessity, I submit.

I can't for the life of me see why we cannot do away with the present arrangement of starting the Leagues in October and finishing them in April, in favour of a plan or schedule of games from February to October each year.

This would be a break with tradition, but so what? The system we have now may have been ideal when the National Leagues were introduced in the 'Twenties, but we are living in a completely different age now.

It is completely ridiculous that so

many counties must "waste" the best months of the year without competitive play because of defeats in the early stages of the championships. Down, beaten by Fermanagh, Leitrim, who gave Galway such a fright in Connacht, Wexford and Wicklow, who provided two interest-packed football ties in Leinster. . . these are among the counties who have been inactive in the best months of the year.

Then, like the others, they will be called on to cram a series of four to five League ties into a short spell before Christmas, and possibly have to compete then with bad weather conditions.

If we had the Leagues running through the summer in conjunction with the championships, this would end the present anomaly.

I think, too, the time is ripe to launch a "B" All-Ireland Championship in football.

At best followers in Leitrim,

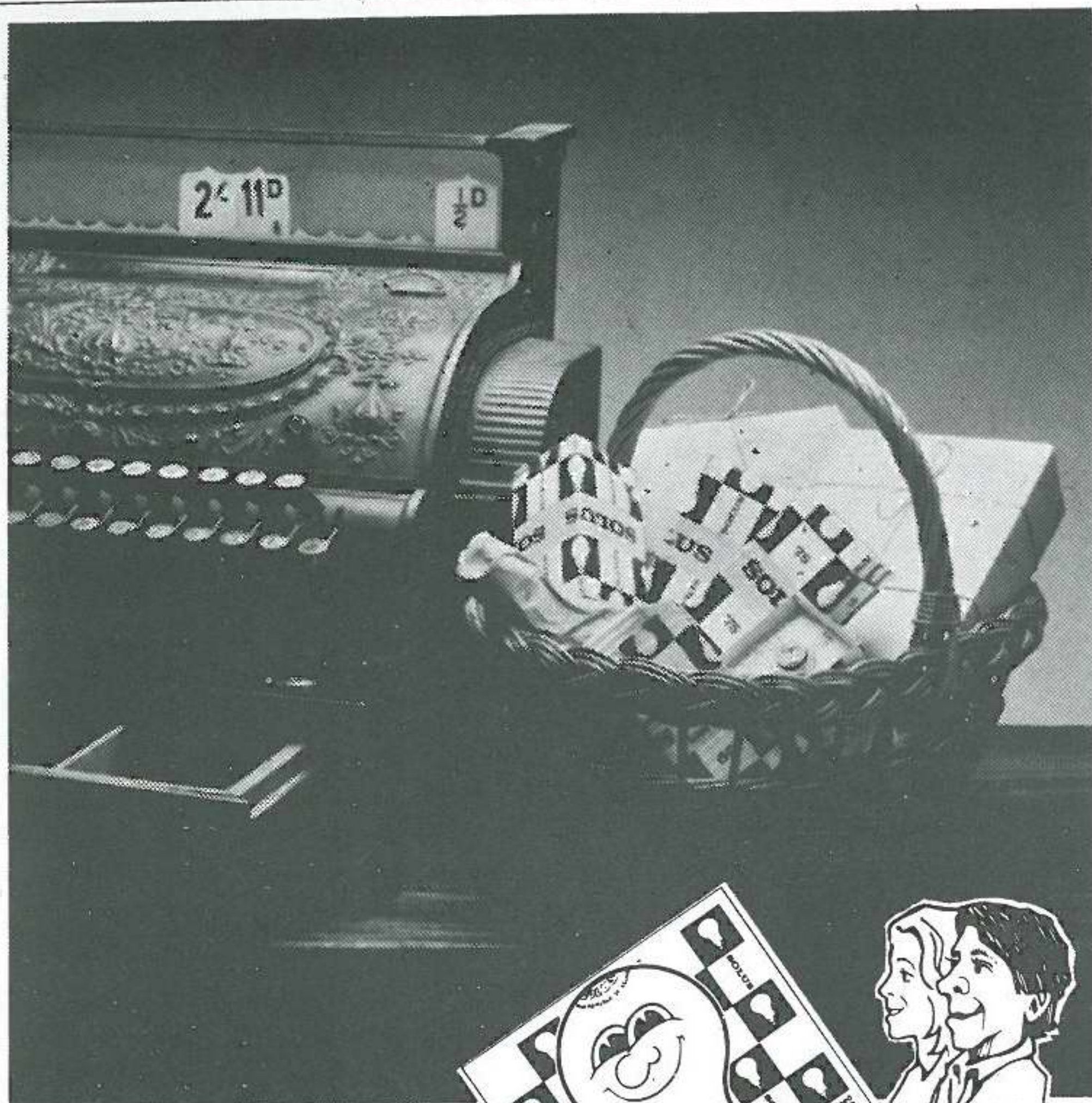
Waterford, Carlow, Antrim and the like can look forward to only one big-day in the code each year as far as championship play is concerned. The wonder is that, despite the lack of success, so many followers in such counties are prepared to rally to the cause on championship day.

Give such dedicated enthusiasts, and the players in the under-developed counties a break. They deserve it.

By all means let the counties compete at senior, but then give the weaker counties, beaten in the opening rounds of the provincial championships, the option of going on to play for the "B" All-Ireland crown. That would inject a fresh, new and welcome incentive to the football scene.

After all, the "B" championship in hurling has been reasonably successful, and there is no reason to believe that a similar test in football, on the lines I have advocated, would not prove a worthwhile venture in the long term.

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OPTIMISM was rampant in Cork before last year's All-Ireland hurling final. The Leesiders had surged through Munster with unprecedented ease, producing a scintillating exhibition of forward power and looking the team of all the talents against a Waterford outfit which, though it was not fully realised then but was proved again in the Munster final last July, was grossly inadequate.

Kilkenny, on the other hand, had limped to a lucky Leinster final win over Offaly and had qualified for the national decider with an unspectacular, if efficient, victory over a disorganised Galway squad. Most Corkfolk were confident that the Noresiders lacked the balance and power to prevent the Rebels from taking their first All-Ireland since 1978 and their 25th title overall.

The more discerning Cork observer, however, was not so presumptuous. He realised that Kilkenny should never be underestimated in an All-Ireland final and that they had a wealth of experienced performers in their ranks.

Cork entered the fray with no less than half of their much vaunted forward division doing duty in the final for the first time and they were pitted against a Kilkenny rearguard in which all, bar Dick O'Hara, had previously sampled the ultimate hurling glory.

There could be no disputing that experience counts for a lot on the big day. Despite the best efforts of the Cork mentors to play down their potential, the unrealistic attitude that prevailed throughout the country, inevitably, if subconsciously, permeated to the players.

Thus, when the Kilkenny defence with Noel Skehan and Paddy Prendergast inspirational, stood firm during a

MAN WHO TORMENTED CORK IN THE 1982 FINAL

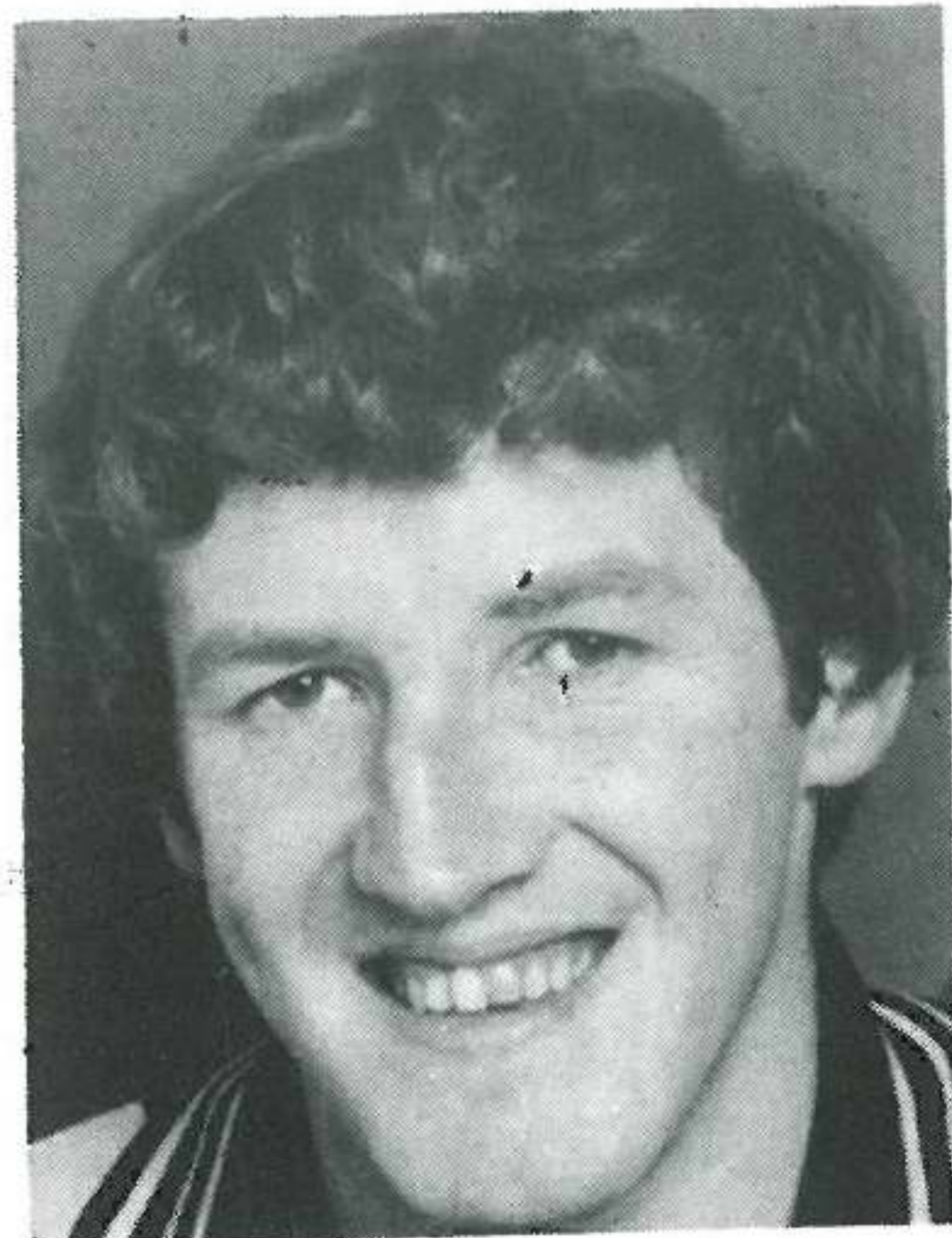
ST YEAR WAS NO FLASH IN THE PAN

tension-packed opening quarter and the forwards picked off the scores to open up a gap afterwards, the Corkmen were not psychologically equipped to cope.

Seasoned campaigners like Cummins, Henderson, Cody, Brennan, Fennelly and Fitzpatrick duly played key roles in Kilkenny's success but possibly the chief architect of Cork's demise was a player who, rather ironically, was taking part in his first final. His name, of course, was Christy Heffernan from Glenmore.

Before the game Cork people had not regarded Heffernan as a major threat to their hopes. After all, Martin Doherty had returned from America for the Munster championship, emerging reasonably unscathed from that campaign, and there was every reason to hope that the great Glen Rovers man would recover the form which had made him the leading full-back in the land during Cork's three-in-a-row successes of the mid-'seventies.

Heffernan, with his ungainly stance, looked a most unlikely hero



• Christy Heffernan

and when Martin Doherty lorded matters at the edge of the Cork square for the first 20 minutes, it seemed as if this confrontation, at least, would develop as expected. But

then Heffernan outfetched Doherty for a high ball, parted with precision and deceptive speed to a colleague and, for the first time, concern

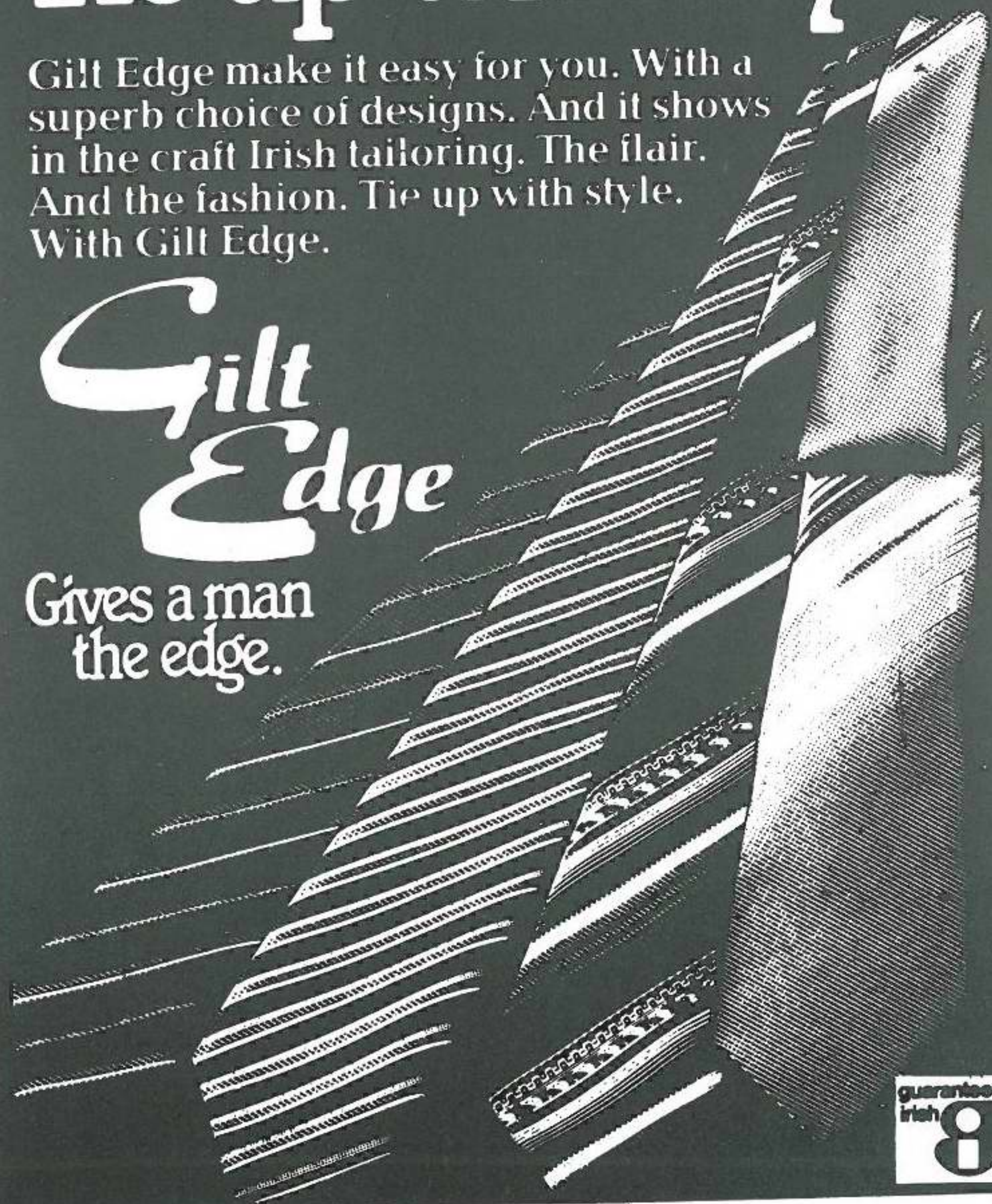
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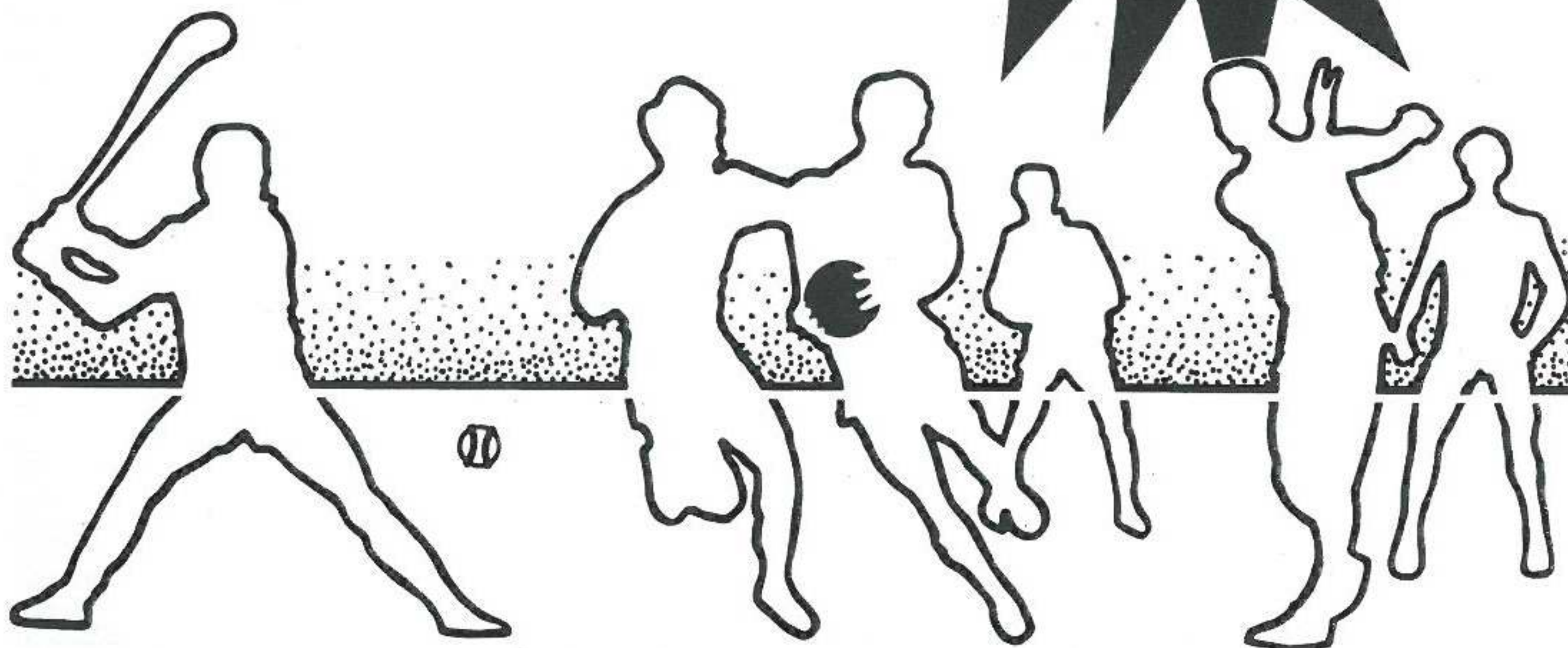
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QUIZ TIME

ON THE SPOT . . .

BY VINNY MOORE

IN the build-up to any big game, arguments among followers are inevitable when it comes to discussing the achievements of current and former players, scorelines, dates of title wins, and the like. This is again proving the case as the latest show-down for the Liam McCarthy Cup for the All-Ireland senior hurling championship approaches.

ON THE SPOT . . ., the quiz that has built up a loyal and large following over the years, brings some of the talking points to the fore in a series of questions that concentrate on some of the personalities of modern times, and also some of the principal happenings in hurling.

There are four separate sections in the question-and-answer exercise, and as usual, we award points for each section. This is not with the aim of "separating the men from the boys," but rather to provide a little friendly competitive bite to an exercise that is not to be taken too seriously.

If YOU finish with a good score — then good for you! If you finish well down the field, please do not be downhearted. It is all in good fun, and even with a poor score you will at least learn something new!

So, let's get underway, with a ten question section that deals in the main with some of the hurlers who have been in action or concerned with All-Ireland finals since around 1970. We call this group of questions:

PERSONALITIES

1. Who refereed last year's All-Ireland senior hurling final?
2. Kilkenny "came of age" when

they beat Galway in 1979 for their 21st. All-Ireland senior championship. Who led the Noresiders to that success?

3. Who was the last man to bring the Liam McCarthy Cup in triumph to Munster following an All-Ireland final win?

4. Hardly any need to say that Pdraig Horan was Offaly's captain in their historic All-Ireland senior title win of 1981. But can you say who headed the Offaly scoring returns in that game — Horan, Johnny Flaherty, Pat Delaney or Mark Corrigan?

5. How many goals did Christy Heffernan score in last year's senior championship decider?

6. Galway had a rare title win in 1980 when they beat Limerick. Bernie Forde was their top scorer. Did he chalk up 0-6, 1-5, 1-7 or 2-2?



7. This personality went in as a substitute in two All-Ireland senior

hurling final wins in the 'Seventies, but has yet to play from the start in a winning championship decider. He was in goal-getting form, however, with his county in the current championship. Who is he?

8. Name the respective centre half backs in the memorable All-Ireland senior final provided by Cork and Wexford in 1976?

9. List the clubs of the following personalities — Cork's Pat Moylan, Wexford's Christy Kehoe, Kilkenny's Paddy Prendergast, and Galway's P.J. Molloy.

10. Who is the odd man out here, and why — Noel Skehan, Martin O'Doherty, Joe Connolly, Tony O'Sullivan and Ambrose Fogarty?

Five points for each question answered correctly, and a bonus of five for getting all ten questions correct. TOTAL MARKS POSSIBLE: 55. YOUR SCORE

SCORING GIANTS

Six personalities are listed here — Eddie O'Brien (Cork), Eddie Keher (Kilkenny), Richie Bennis (Limerick), Pay Moylan (Cork), Billy Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny) and Tony Doran (Wexford).

The object is to match the personality to the appropriate clue. Eddie Keher, for instance, might go to match: The last man to score three goals in an All-Ireland senior hurling final.

Keher was undoubtedly an outstanding scoring ace, but then, the other hurlers listed also have left their

• TO PAGE 29

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QUIZ TIME

• FROM PAGE 27

imprints in the goals and points review. So, who is your choice.

1. This hurler hit ten golden points as his county returned to the All-Ireland senior hurling title winning list after a break of six years

2. Our personality played in three finals in the 'Seventies, scored at least one goal in each game, but failed to win an All-Ireland medal in that decade

3. The last hurler to score three goals in an All-Ireland senior hurling final

4. This personality has put up some splendid scoring barrages, appeared in five Liam McCarthy Cup ties, scored in all, but has not headed the top scoring review in an All-Ireland final

5. The 1971 All-Ireland senior final was marked by a record making return on the individual front of 2-11. Who was the man so impressively on the target?

6. Another to hit ten goals in a final in the 'Seventies. His return was early in that decade, and it was his county's first outing in a decider in a lengthy period

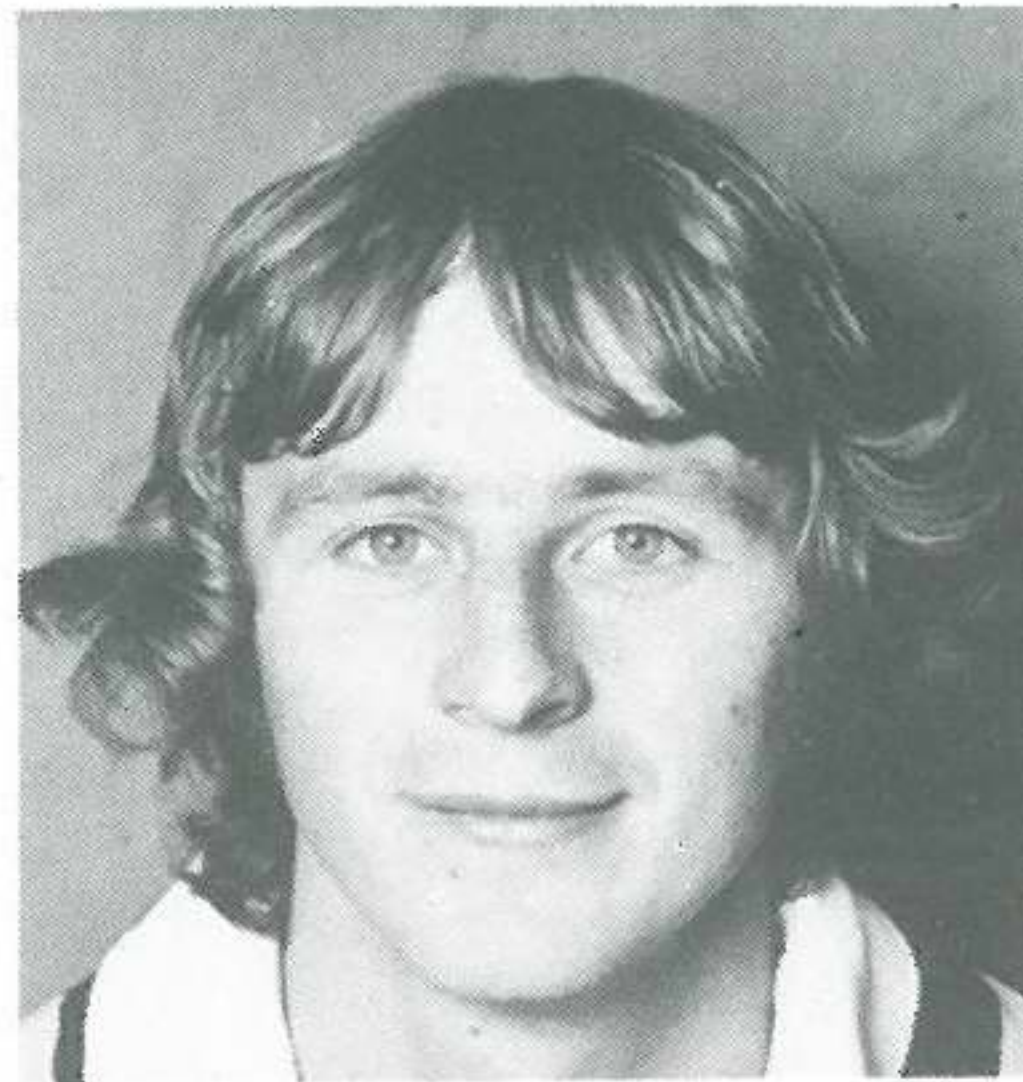
Five points once more for each correct answer making a total of 30 points. But help yourself to a five points bonus if you come up with all the answers. Total marks possible: 35. YOUR SCORE

CAREER FILE

Now for a brief file on the career of a leading player, pictured here. What we want is the name of the personality, and some details of his

playing career for a brief capsule of his record in Gaelic Games.

1. Who is this personality?



2. What club does he assist?

3. Did he win an All-Ireland medal as a minor?

4. How many years approximately has he been in senior inter-county competition?

5. What is his general position? ..

6. Has he won a National League medal?

This section could add to your points total by 35 points — five for each question correctly answered, and a five points bonus for an "all correct" card. HOW DID YOU MEASURE UP?

The seniors command the spotlight in a big way on All-Ireland finals day. But the minors year in and year out play their part by contributing to the atmosphere through the curtain-raiser. So, let's give the minors their place in the sun — and rightly so — in this concluding section of ON THE SPOT.

THE MINORS

1. Any idea in what year the first All-Ireland minor final was played.

Was it 1910, 1928, 1929, 1934, or 1936?

2. Who were runners-up for the under-18 minor hurling title last year?

3. Dublin will be making a rare appearance in the concluding round this month. When was the county last represented in a national minor hurling final?

4. Noel Skehan won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal. True or false?

5. Galway have yet to win the minor hurling title. True or false? ..

6. What county knocked out Antrim in this year's chase for the All-Ireland under-18 hurling crown?

7. Tom Cashman won an All-Ireland minor FOOTBALL medal with Cork... True or false?

8. What trophy is awarded to the winners of the minor hurling final? ..

Let's end the quiz on a generous note by making this particular section worth 50 points. Five for each correct answer, and our top bonus of the session at ten points. YOUR SCORE

TELL-TALE SCALE

Now for the tell-tale scale... the points return that will help to show just how expert you are on happenings in Gaelic Games, and in finals in particular. The total points on offer in our quiz: 175.

How do you measure up? 140 points or more. Take a bow, for an excellent return! 120 points to 140 — VERY GOOD. 100 to 120 points: Good. Below that? Dare I suggest: Keep reading GAELIC SPORT!

• ANSWERS ON PAGE 30

GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ

QUIZ ANSWERS ? ? ? QUIZ ANSWERS ? ? ? QUIZ

• FROM PAGE 29

PERSONALITIES

1. Noel O'Donoghue (Dublin), who was handling his second final. 2. Ger Fennelly. 3. Charlie McCarthy, who led Cork to their third All-Ireland senior hurling title in succession in 1978. 4. Pat Delaney headed the Offaly scoring returns with 0-5. 5. Christy Heffernan scored 2-2 as Kilkenny beat Cork. 6. 1-5. 7. Eamonn O'Donoghue, who went in as a substitute for Cork in the 1976 and 1978 All-Ireland final wins, and was a hero for the county in this year's Munster final in July, when he bagged two goals in the big win over Waterford. 8. John Crowley (Cork) and Mick Jacob (Wexford). 9. Blackrock (Pat Moylan), Raparees

(Christy Kehoe), Clara (Paddy Prendergast) and Athenry (P.J. Molloy). 10. Tony O'Sullivan. He is the only player in the group without an All-Ireland senior hurling medal.

SCORING GIANTS

1. Pat Moylan, who scored 0-10 as Cork beat Waterford in 1976. 2. Tony Doran, who notched 2-0 in 1970, 1-0 in 1976 and 1-0 in 1977, all in games that Wexford lost each year to Cork. 3. Eddie O'Brien, who bagged 3-1 as Cork won the 1970 title, but was still beaten for the position of top marksman in that game by his teammate, Charlie McCarthy, with 1-4. 4. Billy Fitzpatrick, who appeared with Kilkenny in the finals of 1974, 1975, when he captained the team, 1978, 1979 and 1982. 5. Eddie Keher. 6. Richie Bennis scored 0-10 as

Limerick beat Kilkenny in 1973 in the first All-Ireland final appearance by the county in 33 years.

CAREER FILE

1. Joe Hennessy (Kilkenny). 2. James Stephens. 3. Yes. He was right half back in the team that beat Galway in the 1973 final. 4. Seven years. 5. Midfield. 6. Yes, he helped Kilkenny to their League title win of 1982.

THE MINORS

1. 1928, when Cork beat Dublin in a final replay. 2. Galway, beaten by Tipperary. 3. 1965, when they beat Limerick, for a fourth title. 4. True. Skehan was in goal in Kilkenny's 1962 title winning side. 5. True. 6. Wexford (Antrim compete in Leinster). 7. True. He won that medal in 1974. 8. The "Irish Press" Cup.



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CHRISTY HEFFERNAN

• FROM PAGE 25

creased the brows of the Cork fans.

They quickly dismissed Christy's effort, however, as being an isolated incident. The peerless Martin Doherty, caught unawares they felt, would ensure that it would not occur again.

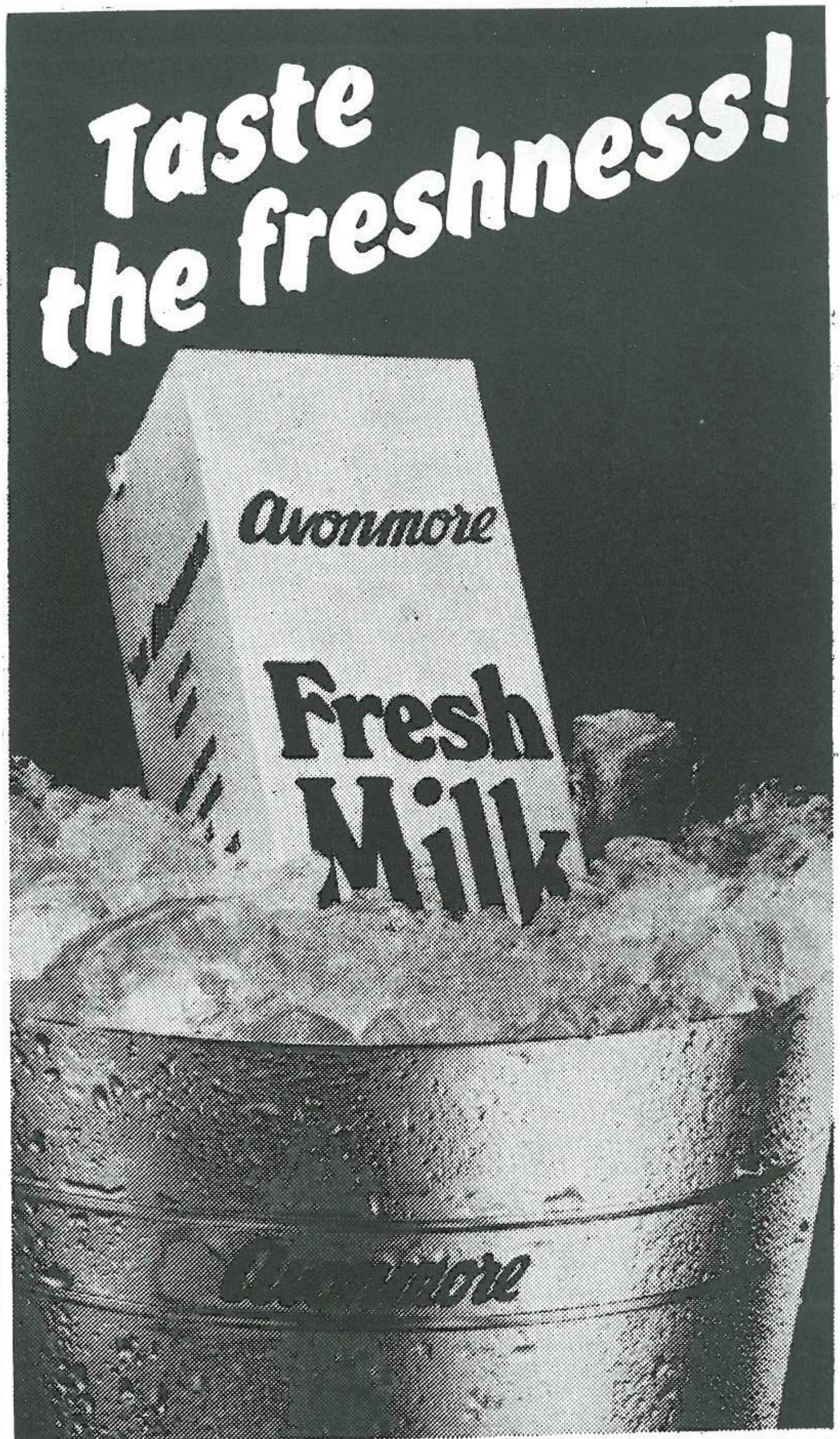
But it did happen again, again and again and by half-time Cork were ten points in arrears with Hiffernan grabbing two vital goals shortly before the break.

In the second half Christy continued to torment the Cork defence making and taking scores at will and inspiring his fellow-forwards in the process. Cork mentors had scarcely anticipated such a development and their shock was reflected by the fact that they persisted with the shattered O'Doherty at full-back until the bitter end. At the finish the name of Christy Heffernan was on everybody's lips although some pessimists still doubted his ability.

Several players, notably Kilkenny's Tom Murphy in '63, Wexford's Jack Berry in '68, Cork's Colm Sheehan in '66 and Pat Moylan in '76 and Galway's Michael Connelly in '80 had scaled the heights of brilliance on All-Ireland day, heights they seldom attained afterwards. The cynics suggested that Christy Heffernan would, likewise, be unable to maintain the high standard he had set in the '82 final.

It became glaringly apparent during Kilkenny's triumphant march to National League and provincial honours this year that Heffernan's form was not a flash in the pan and that, when forced to field without him, the forwards failed to function with their customary fluency.

Few now dispute that Christy Heffernan is one of the finest full-forwards of modern times. A minor misdemeanour, when he was clearly more sinned against than sinning, in the Leinster semi-final against Wexford, led to his dismissal and eliminated Christy from the ranks of All-Star contenders this year.



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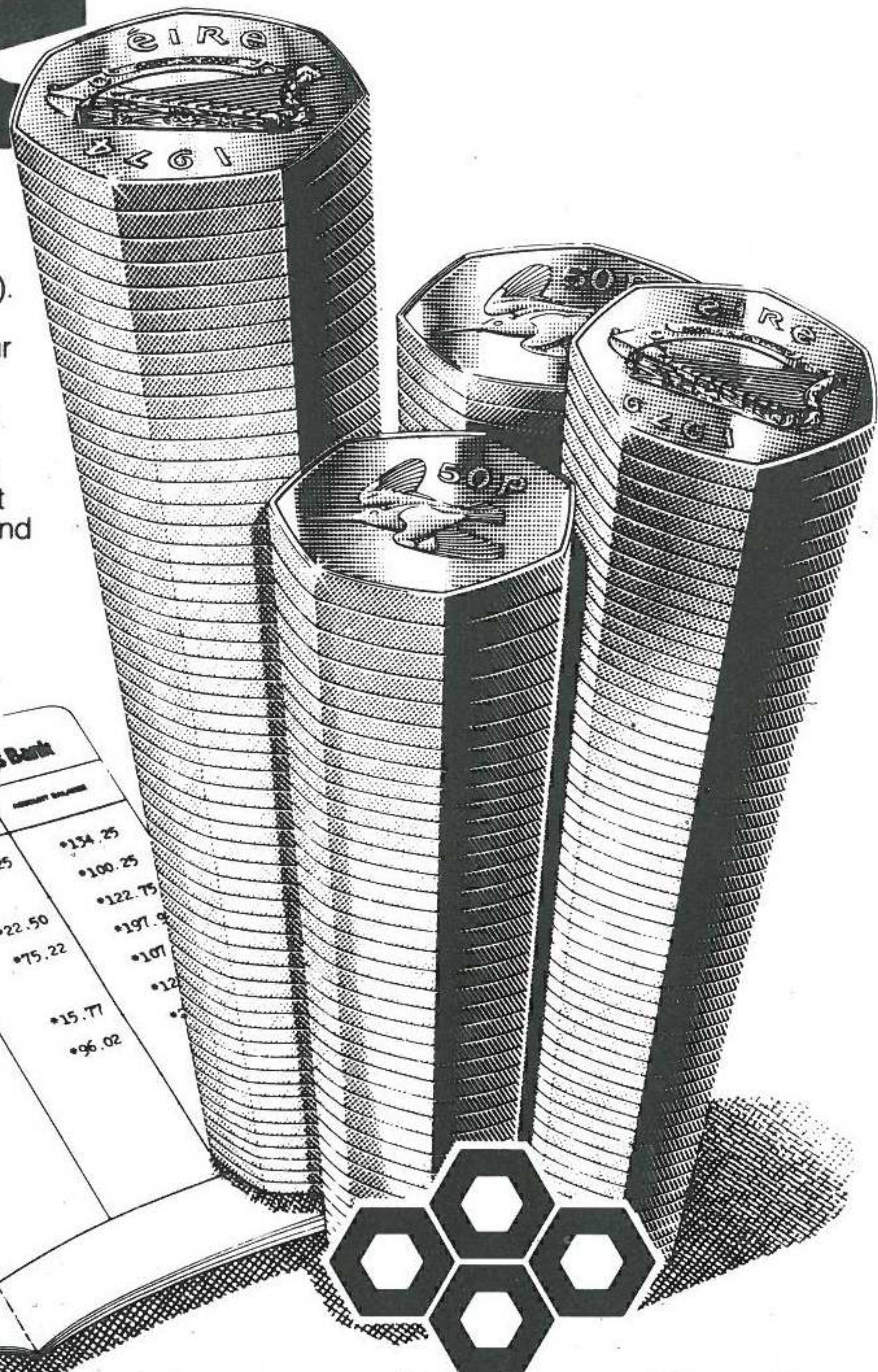
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29 JUN	187111F111 CASH		*197.90	*555.15	
05 JUL	189111F111 CASH		*107.00	*662.15	
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HURLING'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Compiled by FRANK COOGAN

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1887 | TIPPERARY (J. Stapleton, capt.) | 1919 | CORK (J. Kennedy) | 1957 | KILKENNY (M. Kenny) |
| 1888 | Unfinished due to the U.S. "invasion." | 1920 | DUBLIN (R. Mockler) | 1958 | TIPPERARY (A. Wall) |
| 1889 | DUBLIN (E. O'Shea) | 1921 | LIMERICK (R. McConkey) | 1959 | WATERFORD (F. Walsh) |
| 1890 | CORK (D. Lane) | 1922 | KILKENNY (W. Dunphy) | 1960 | WEXFORD (N. O'Donnell) |
| 1891 | KERRY (J. Mahony) | 1923 | GALWAY (M. Kenny) | 1961 | TIPPERARY (M. Hassett) |
| 1892 | CORK (W. O'Callaghan) | 1924 | DUBLIN (P. Aylward) | 1962 | TIPPERARY (J. Doyle) |
| 1893 | CORK (J. Murphy) | 1925 | TIPPERARY (J. Leahy) | 1963 | KILKENNY (S. Cleere) |
| 1894 | CORK (S. Hayes) | 1926 | CORK (S. O. Murphy) | 1964 | TIPPERARY (M. Murphy) |
| 1895 | TIPPERARY (M. Maher) | 1927 | DUBLIN (M. Gill) | 1965 | TIPPERARY (J. Doyle) |
| 1896 | TIPPERARY (M. Maher) | 1928 | CORK (S. O. Murphy) | 1966 | CORK (G. McCarthy) |
| 1897 | LIMERICK (D. Grimes) | 1929 | CORK (D.B. Murphy) | 1967 | KILKENNY (J. Treacy) |
| 1898 | TIPPERARY (M. Maher) | 1930 | TIPPERARY (J.J. Callanan) | 1968 | WEXFORD (D. Quigley) |
| 1899 | TIPPERARY (J. Condon) | 1931 | CORK (E. Coughlan) | 1969 | KILKENNY (E. Keher) |
| 1900 | TIPPERARY (E. Hayes) | 1932 | KILKENNY (J. Walsh) | 1970 | CORK (P. Barry) |
| 1901 | LONDON (J. Coughlan) | 1933 | KILKENNY (N. Doyle) | 1971 | TIPPERARY (T. O'Connor) |
| 1902 | CORK (J. Kelleher) | 1934 | LIMERICK (T. Ryan) | 1972 | KILKENNY (N. Skehan) |
| 1903 | CORK (S. O'Riordan) | 1935 | KILKENNY (L. Meagher) | 1973 | LIMERICK (E. Grimes) |
| 1904 | KILKENNY (G. Doheny) | 1936 | LIMERICK (M. Mackey) | 1974 | KILKENNY (N. Orr) |
| 1905 | KILKENNY (D. Stapleton) | 1937 | TIPPERARY (J. Lanigan) | 1975 | KILKENNY (W. Fitzpatrick) |
| 1906 | TIPPERARY (T. Semple) | 1938 | DUBLIN (M. Daniels) | 1976 | CORK (R. Cummins) |
| 1907 | KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh). | 1939 | KILKENNY (J. Walsh) | 1977 | CORK (M. O'Doherty) |
| 1908 | TIPPERARY (T. Semple) | 1940 | LIMERICK (M. Mackey) | 1978 | CORK (C. McCarthy) |
| 1909 | KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh). | 1941 | CORK (C. Buckley) | 1979 | KILKENNY (G. Fennelly) |
| 1910 | WEXFORD (R. Doyle) | 1942 | CORK (J. Lynch) | 1980 | GALWAY (Joe Connolly) |
| 1911 | KILKENNY (S. Walton) | 1943 | CORK (M. Kennefick) | 1981 | OFFALY (P. Horan) |
| 1912 | KILKENNY (S. Walton) | 1944 | CORK (S. Condon) | 1982 | KILKENNY (B. Cody) |
| 1913 | KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh) | 1945 | TIPPERARY (J. Maher) | | |
| 1914 | CLARE (A. Power) | 1946 | CORK (C. Ring) | | |
| 1915 | LAOIS (J. Finlay) | 1947 | KILKENNY (D. Kennedy) | | |
| 1916 | TIPPERARY (J. Leahy) | 1948 | WATERFORD (J. Ware) | | |
| 1917 | DUBLIN (J. Ryan) | 1949 | TIPPERARY (P. Stakelum) | | |
| 1918 | LIMERICK (W. Hough) | 1950 | TIPPERARY (S. Kenny) | | |
| | | 1951 | TIPPERARY (J. Finn) | | |
| | | 1952 | CORK (P. Barry) | | |
| | | 1953 | CORK (C. Ring) | | |
| | | 1954 | CORK (C. Ring) | | |
| | | 1955 | WEXFORD (N. O'Donnell) | | |
| | | 1956 | WEXFORD (J. English) | | |

SUMMARY OF WINS

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

U.S. Invasion

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

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"RED" KEN'S £300,000 BOOST FOR LONDON IRISH

BY SEAN CLERKIN

IT could be classified as predictable that the handball kudos for recent months should go to the great Clare veteran, Pat Kirby.

Now resident in Tucson, the Clareman lined out in the U.S.H.A. Masters Championships and created yet another record by winning the title for the fourth year in succession.

In the final Pat accounted for his own clubmate, Niall Manning, who also had the distinction of bringing the game to a tie-breaker.

This was, indeed, the first occasion, since Kirby set out on his winning four-in-a-row stint, that he failed to win in straight sets.

The Clareman stands out as a shining example of dedication and effort in the context of the game, and I still hold the belief that he should be brought back to this country every year for the purpose of relaying his undoubted expertise to our established players. It has been proved conclusively in recent years that our adult players are not on a par with their counterparts in the U.S.A.

Senior Champion, Tony Ryan, who has competed regularly in these U.S.H.A. Championships, fell at the quarter finals hurdle in the under-23 division. The fact that he only failed by two aces in one game and a solitary ace in the other, may be a reflector that a coaching stint with Kirby would be an invaluable aid to his progress.

The same type of remarks could be addressed to the Wexford hurler-cum-handballer, John Fleming who was competing in the Open Division.

John scored a resounding win in his opening game against Jim Hutchins from Wyoming and followed this with a conclusive win

over Frank Barboa of California.

Pitted against No. 8 seed, Mike Gardner of Kansas City, he was not considered to have even an outside chance in the third round. His play however, was a revelation.

Winning the first set 21-12 John also played brilliantly in the second but just failed to contain the sheer brilliance of Gardner, who also won the tie-breaker. A period of expert tuition under the eye of an expert like Kirby would obviously work wonders for Fleming.

It should not be construed that these remarks are an indictment of our players who are going out to compete in international competitions.



JOHN FLEMING
Would benefit from Pat Kirby's expert tuition.

On the contrary, since the widespread introduction of the 40x20 courts our standards have improved immeasurably.

It just seems logical to suggest that a coach of the calibre of Kirby could help our top players to reach their full potential.

On the home front a welcome innovation in recent times was the participation of London in the All-Ireland 40 x 20 Championships and let it be said they brought a new impetus to the game.

Not alone was the immaculate attire of the Londoners a subject for favourable comment, but equally so, was their high standard of play.

They matched the Irish players in many of the games and, indeed, recorded a notable success in the Novice class through the efforts of Sean O'Mahony and Michael Collins. They did not win out in the final analysis, but they certainly gave encouragement for a much wider London participation in the future.

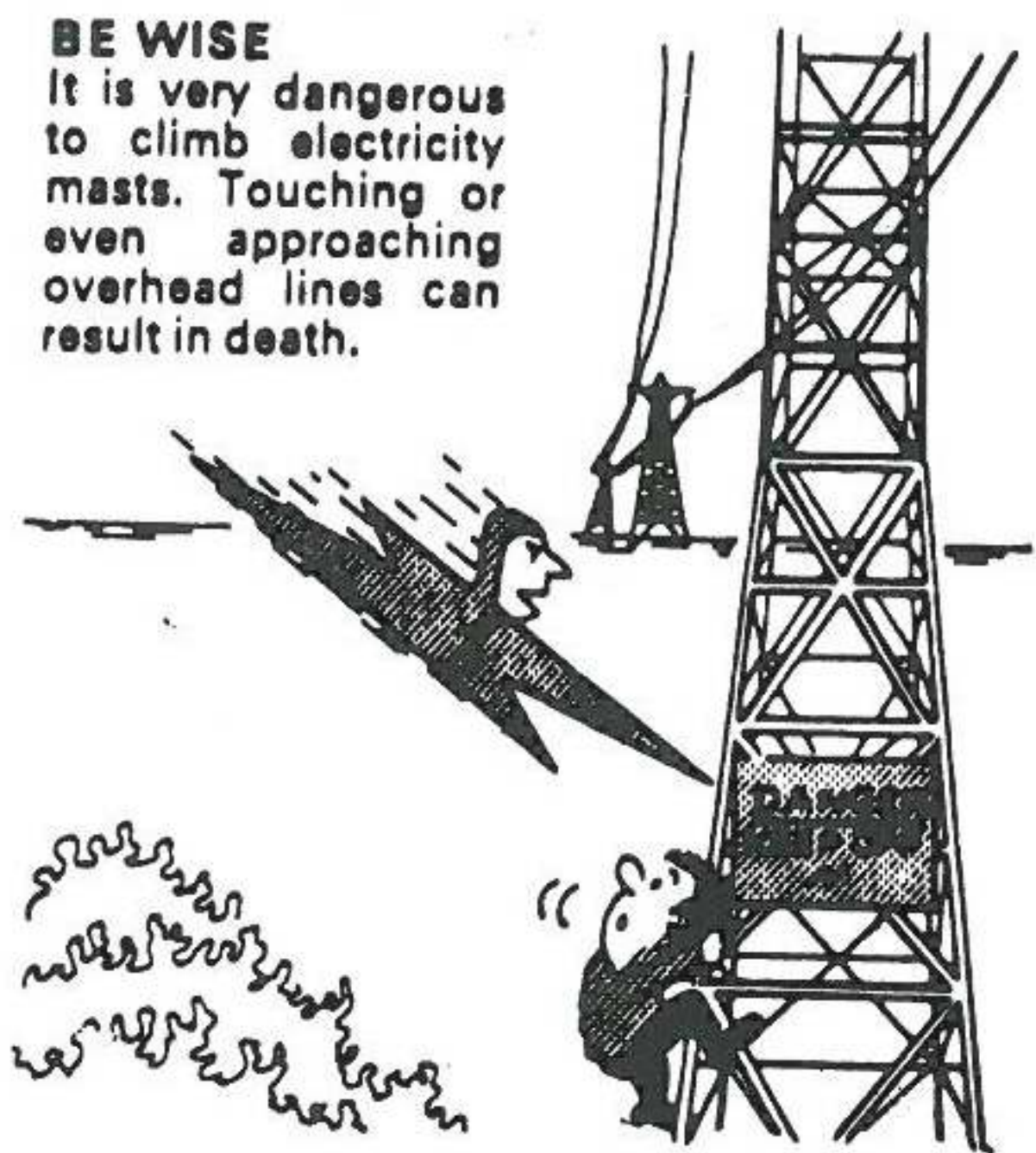
The London based players at the present time can perfect their skills at the David Lloyd Slazenger complex but further good news is that the famous political figure "Red" Ken Livingstone has been instrumental in acquiring a grant of £300,000 from the Greater London Council, to build an Irish Cultural Centre in the city.

The centre will provide two 40x20 courts, together with a host of other social and cultural facilities for the 16 different groups in the city who have decided to work together in the provision of the complex.

It is a commendable venture on their part, and handball will benefit from it in a big way.

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CAMOGIE COMMENT

By
**AGNES
HOURIGAN**

THE most successful event undertaken by An Cumann Camógaíochta in recent years has been An Gradam Táiite. This competition, to find the Camogie star of the year was inaugurated in 1982 and is open to the players who participate in the senior county panel.

The aims of the competition are to give greater recognition to the county stars, to promote the game through the publicity and to increase the finances of the Association.

All thirty-two counties entered again this year and the competition took on a new significance with the involvement of P.M.P.A. as sponsors.

Many well-known players represented their counties at St. Patrick's College. The highlight of the day-long entertainment was the closeness of Cork's right winger, Claire Cronin, and Kilkenny's star forward, Angela Downey, going into the last competition of the day.

The destiny of the beautiful Gradam Tailte Trophy, also sponsored by P.M.P.A., was wide open as each contestant got the opportunity to score as much as possible from six placed balls along the thirty yard line.

P.M.P.A. ENSURE SUCCESS OF AN GRADAM TÁILTE

In the goal for Claire, who was in group one, was Kathleen Tonks and this great Wexford goalie only conceded one goal to Claire while Marion McCarthy, the Cork star goalie, foiled Angela on all six attempts.

So Claire Cronin, the winner of All-Ireland medals at Senior, Minor and Schools level, received the trophy from Joe Moore, Managing Director of P.M.P.A. and in her own victory paid a wonderful tribute to her gallant runner-up, Angela Downey, of whom she said "the greatest camogie player in Ireland."

The other big event of the season so far has been Féile na nGael, again held in Dublin.

For the first time, forty-eight under-14 teams participated and also, for the first time, there were three divisions. The week-end was most enjoyable and Dublin's plan of playing all the games, after the first round, at the Phoenix Park Grounds, where the Camogie Board has four pitches, was most successful. Twenty-two games were played, without a hitch, between 2.30 and 6.30.

The success of Connacht teams in the Competitions speaks highly for the standard of the game in the West. Sarsfields (Galway) played St. Dominics (Roscommon) in the Final. The Galway champions made history by taking the title west for the first time.

Division three was won by Parke (Mayo), who defeated Spa, (Kerry) in the final. Caslean (Dublin) were the winners of Division two.

Another pleasing feature of Féile was the wonderful parade through O'Connell St., to the open-air Mass at Croke Park.

The defeated finalists of Division one, St. Dominics, got the prize for

the best dressed team and well deserved it. They even had their camogie sticks painted in their club colours of purple and white!

At time of writing the Senior Championship (Open Draw) quarter finals have been decided.

GREAT RIVALS

Into the semi-finals go All-Ireland champions Cork, who defeated Clare, against Wexford, who eliminated last seasons Junior Champions, Louth, while All-Ireland runners-up, Dublin, who knocked out their great rivals Kilkenny and Down oppose Tipperary, who defeated Galway and Limerick, although the underdogs on both occasions.

The Provincial Champions at both Junior and Wilwood Tailteann Minor are decided and the semi-final pairings are:

Junior:

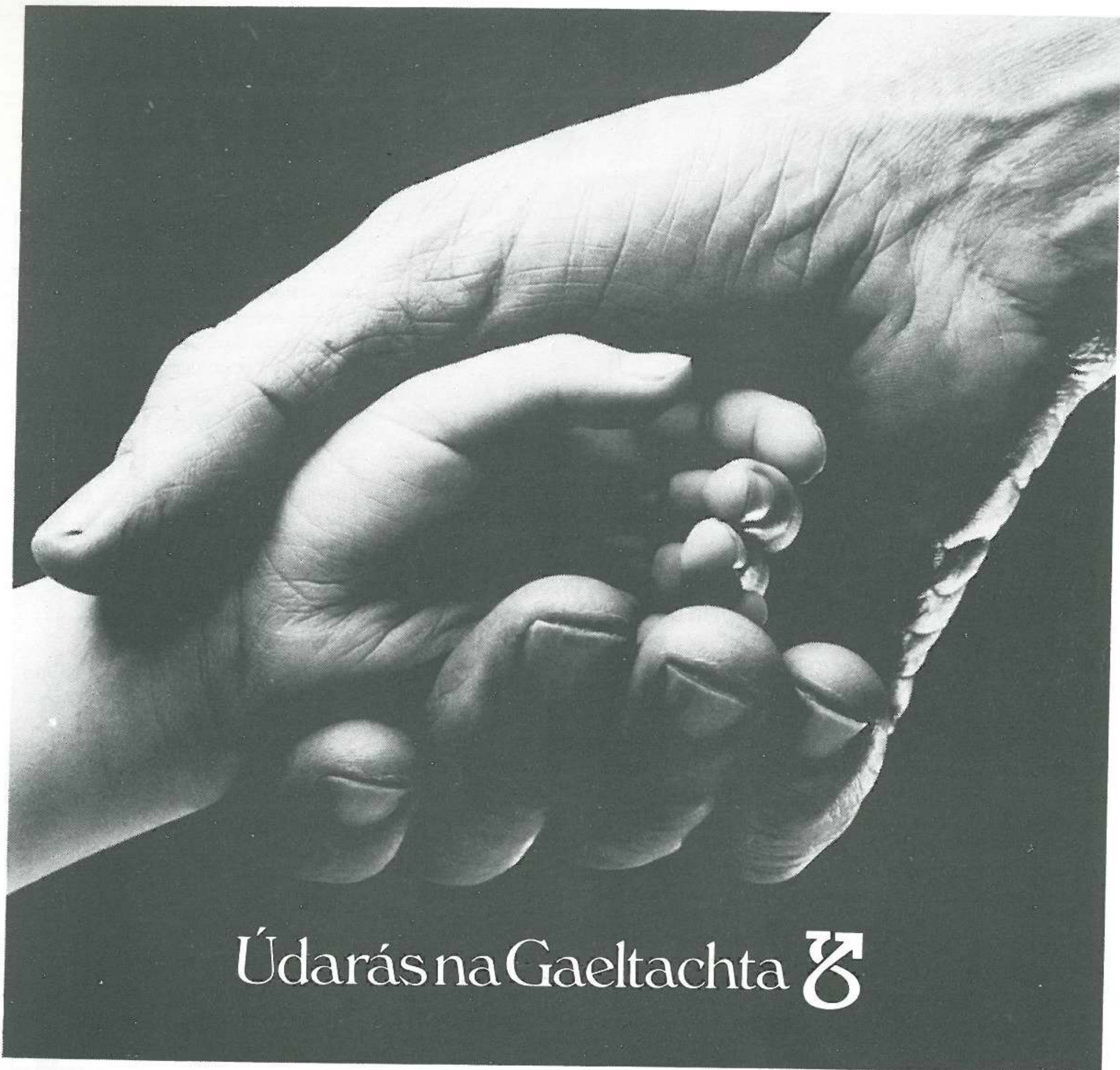
Dublin v Down
Cork v Galway

Minor:

Dublin (Holders) v Derry
Cork v Galway

The National Coaching Course held during the summer was again very successful. It attracted interested prospective coaches from the whole country.

Available at Gormanston College, under the direction of National Coach, Mary Moran, was Mary's new coaching book, which illustrates as many as ninety-two ways of improving skills. Also distributed was the new coaching chart, which, illustrates the main skills, the grip, the stroke and the lift, in detail. It should be a great help to schoolteachers who are just starting the game.



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RECORD ENTRY FOR SEVEN-A-SIDE HURLING TOURNAMENT



Louis Marie, Sales Manager, Dairyland Ltd., (sponsors) presents the Yoplait Trophy to the Midleton team at the 1982 Yoplait All-Ireland Hurling Sevens.

IN 1983, for the first time in its history the Yoplait/Kilmacud Crokes All Ireland Hurling Seven-a-Side Tournament will have 48 teams, representing each of Ireland's 32 counties. This is a major achievement for an event which only started ten years ago.

The competition was started in 1973 to cater for the huge numbers of hurling fans who travel to Dublin on the weekend of the All Ireland Final. It was the first time that an inter-club seven-a-side tournament had been suggested.

In the first year, twenty-eight teams from the counties of Wexford, Tipperary and Kilkenny entered. The high competitive standard of the games, the enthusiasm of the crowds and the overall success of the event convinced the organisers that it should be an annual event.

In the following years the clubs needed no invitation to take part. Entries flooded in and special rules were drawn up in consultation with Croke Park to cover this new type of hurling competition. Interest from Croke Park resulted in the event being recognised as the Official All-Ireland Hurling Seven-a-Side competition, organised by Kilmacud Crokes and sponsored by Yoplait.

Wexford and Tipperary clubs dominated the competition for the first seven years, with winners of the calibre of Buffers Alley and Rathnure from Wexford, and Roscrea and Borrisoleigh of Tipperary taking the trophy. This monopoly made clubs from other counties even more eager for victory and in 1980, Kinnitty from Offaly were the first to break the hold on the Yoplait Cup. Midleton of Cork followed on with two wins in succession.

Who will win this year is anybody's guess. There has been a record number of entries and for the first time a separate competition for the weaker clubs will be run in

conjunction with the main sevens. As always, the organising committee are grateful to St. Benildus and Blackrock College for making the playing fields so readily available.

For 1984, the GAA Centenary year, the sponsors and organising committee are planning a special International Seven-a-Side Competition with teams from Australia, America and, of course, Ireland, already lined up to play.

The encouragement and financial support of the sponsors, Waterford Co-Op has been a great help to the Committee in bringing the event to its present prominent position in hurling.

YOPLAIT ALL IRELAND HURLING SEVENS, PREVIOUS WINNERS

1973	Buffers Alley	(Wexford)
1974	Rathnure	(Wexford)
1975	Rathnure	(Wexford)
1976	Borrisoleigh	(Tipperary)
1977	Cloughbawn	(Wexford)
1978	Borrisoleigh	(Tipperary)
1979	Roscrea	(Tipperary)
1980	Kinnitty	(Offaly)
1981	Midleton	(Cork)
1982	Midleton	(Cork)

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DUBLIN'S MINOR HURLERS ARE A CLASSY COMBINATION



DUBLIN MINOR HURLING TEAM, '83 LEINSTER CHAMPIONS. Back row (left to right): Bobby Collins, Dessie Byrne, Shay Cullen, Shane Salton, Des Foley, Eamonn Clancy, Niall Quinn. Front row (left to right): John Paul Byrne, Mark Hayes, Paul Confrey, Seán Younge, John Murphy (captain), Niall O'Carroll, Tomás O Riordán and Paul Williams.

IS it realistic to look to the hurling starlets of Dublin to follow their rare Leinster title triumph with another major injection for the game in the county by winning the All-Ireland minor final? The answer must be a resounding: 'YES'!

In saying that I am in no way belittling the quality of the opposition, or making the mistake of under-estimating the job of work that the young Dubs have on their hands. Instead, I am emphasizing that years of ceaseless efforts by enthusiasts in the face of countless disappointments, have at last paid off in a combination that is as good as any to qualify for an under-18 decider.

Too bold a statement? By no means, because these new heroes from the Liffeside displayed many attractive qualities in a run in the East

that at the start of the championship must for many, even the most ardent supporters, have had something of the look of a "mission impossible" assignment.

After all, it would be hard to get a more difficult opening test than a clash with title specialists Kilkenny. But far from adopting a "we have not a chance" policy, the Dubliners knuckled down to the task with

By SEAN FEENEY

enthusiasm, and showed grit and tons of ability in bringing in a 1-12 to 2-3 win at Athy.

The only disappointing aspect about that performance which resulted in one of the surprises of championship play in any grade this year, was the little publicity the

Dublin win received.

No doubt that was the reason why so many were not prepared for the team's showing in the Leinster final. Even allowing for the fact that in the semi-final the side gave a further indication of the potential there in a 4-10 to 0-5 win over Westmeath.

Wexford were the popular choice for the final. But the match-winning talents in the Metropolitan side surfaced to ensure a dazzling exhibition as Niall Quinn, an elegant and unflurried right full forward, orchestrated a marvellous and fluent-moving show in a cracking game for a thoroughly deserved 5-14 to 4-12 victory. That was the most exciting and most encouraging showing by a Dublin hurling team in any grade in very many years.

● TO PAGE 43

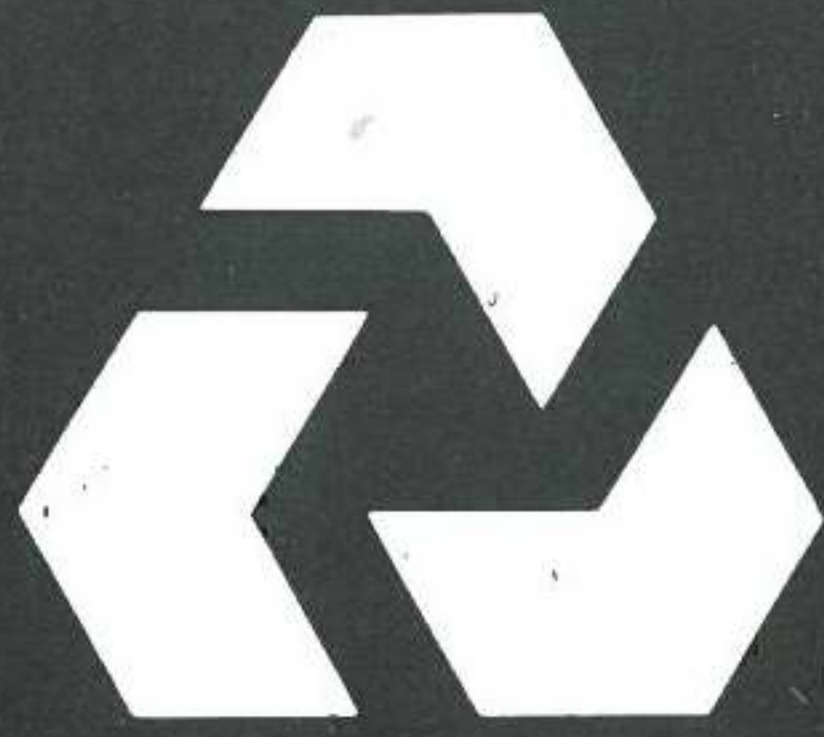


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DUBLIN'S MINOR HURLERS

• FROM PAGE 41

The final was undoubtedly Quinn's. He was a dazzling star, cool, purposeful and so accurate in his shooting that he finished with a superb tally of 3-5. His third goal, scored about five minutes from time, and powered radar-like to the net from the right wing, was a beauty, and for good measure he followed on with two excellent points to put Dublin firmly in control coming up to the final whistle.

That was the best one-man show I have seen in a minor hurling game in a long time. A performance that brought new interest and appeal to the minor grade, and will ensure that many who otherwise would not have made the effort, will get to Croke Park in time for the curtain-raiser on final day.

Quinn, who has been touring Australia with the Dublin Colleges' football squad for games against Australian selections in Rules football, is son of former Tipperary ace Billy Quinn. However, even though he stamped his personality so glitteringly on the Leinster final, it would be wrong to dismiss Dublin as a one-man outfit.

They are far from being that. In every other department they have match-winners, men with the ability to stamp their own personalities on any game, and these trump cards are moulded into a combination that has

all round balance, pace, skill and above all finishing power.

Quinn, from Robert Emmetts Club, has taken over as top scorer following his tour-de-force against Wexford. However, Shane Dalton, full forward from St. Vincent's, also has a good record when it comes to popping home the goals and points. He has been on the target in every game and starts the final with 2-11 from three ties.

Paul Confrey (St. Vincents) and Barry Collins (Crumlin) are others in the attack who could do much to help snap the division into match-winning gear.

Dublin are particularly well represented in midfield. Des Foley, son of former dual star Des, the first man to win Railway Cup medals in both codes, and another St. Vincent's club man, and Erin's Isle's Paul Williams, who has the ability to efficiently turn frees into scores, are an accomplished duo. They will set a powerful pace in the centre.

Some may put a question-mark over the Dublin backs because they conceded 4-12 in the provincial final. However, while that's a hefty enough against record, the Metropolitans still have much going for them in defence.

John Murphy (Crumlin), who captains the team from centre half, is a defender of genuine ability, and also very accurate in his free-taking.

Dessie Byrne (Good Counsel) at right half back, and J.P. Byrne

(Cuala) in the full back line are others who could do much to spearhead the type of stubborn rearguard action to ensure a rocky road to the Dublin goal.

Yes, this is a first-rate Dublin team and I am looking now for an even better display in the final than in the Leinster title win. After all that success is bound to give the Dubliners that added confidence and assurance to express themselves more fully and produce the type of authoritative hurling which will be necessary for success. In short the Dubs are unlikely to be easily hustled into making costly mistakes, or unsettled should they be hit by an early goal.

So, I repeat what I said at the start: It will not be easy, but in this company of gifted young hurlers Dublin have a squad quite capable of bringing the trophy to the capital for the first time since as far back as 1965 — the last year the county won an All-Ireland hurling title in any grade.

Dublin have not appeared in a national minor final in the meantime. The win over Wexford was the first in a Leinster minor final since 1965, and the county's tenth provincial crown since winning the first Leinster decider in 1928.

In view of Niall Quinn's high scoring achievement against Wexford, it is interesting to note that the best return by a Dublin team in a minor All-Ireland hurling final was the 3-14 that earned them their first title in 1945 in the game with Tipperary.

Finally, a brief summary of the title winning years for Dublin. They were: 1945, 1946, 1954 and 1965.

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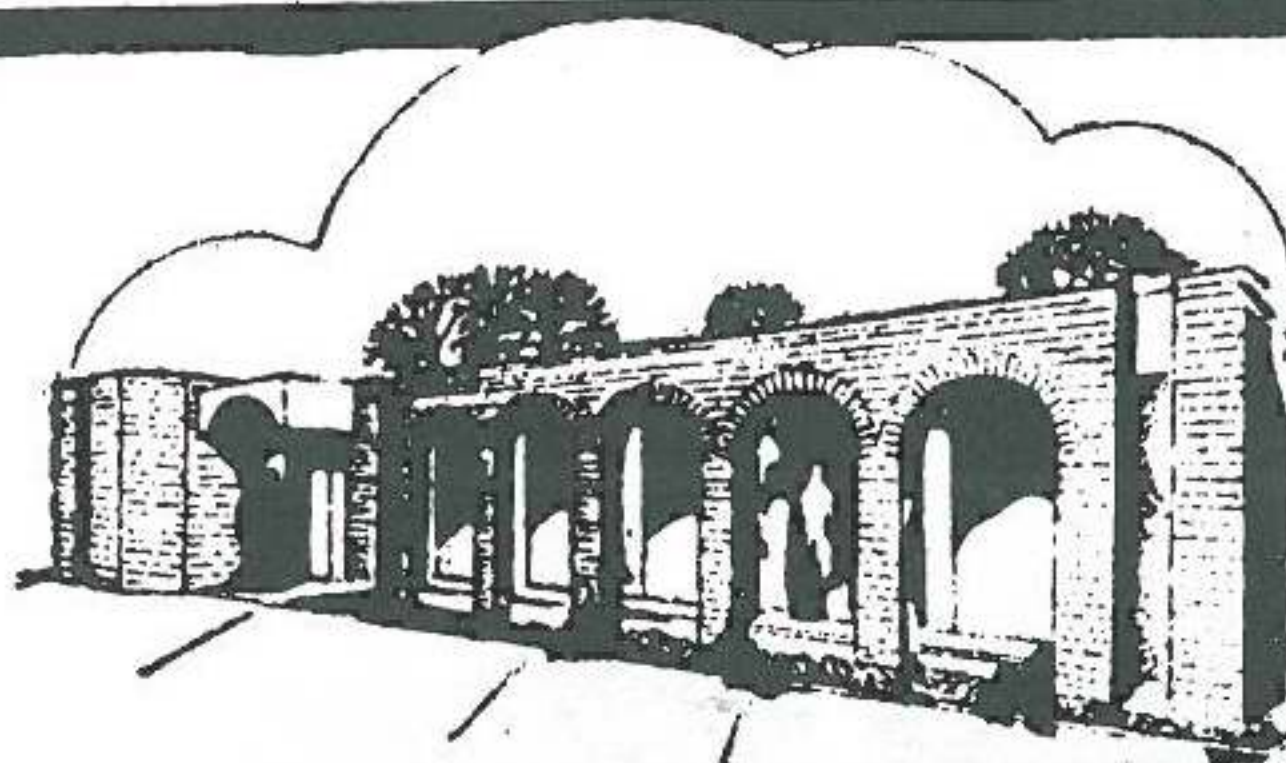
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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

ALL-IRELAND S.H. Final is with us again. The Summer almost gone. Cork bringing off the Munster double. I saw the Munster S.H. Final. Jimmy Barry-Murphy was magnificent. So cool. This was one of his greatest hurling displays. The Connacht S.F. Final was a great one too — the best for years. One of the greatest displays that day was given by Mayo's Tom Kearney. He is no stylist but he has a very big heart.

THE SUNDAY GAME

Isn't the *Sunday Game* great? Jim Carney is making a great job of it. He has got great games but his enthusiasm for the G.A.A. bursts through. The Monday evening presentation is not a complete rehash of Sunday. Dinny Allen's interview on the night of the Munster S.F. final win over Kerry was superb. Here was emotion, unbounded joy and he expressed it so well. After playing in 10 finals (he played in '72 as well) he was winning his first medal.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Kilkenny's Frank Cummins. No man on the present Kilkenny team has given greater service to the black and amber. His game in last year's final was superb. For a man so big and strong he is very mobile. Frank plays his club hurling in Cork with the Rockies.

NEW BOOKS AND PROGRAMMES

Westmeath Yearbook '83 (Price £2 does not include postage from Gerry

Whelan, Editor, c/o Westmeath Examiner, 19 Dominick St., Mullingar).

In these days of recession when a few G.A.A. Yearbooks have died it is good to see Westmeath keep up the standard of their production with a colourful, bulky, varied and extremely interesting publication. It has 160 pages in all and goes outside its county confines to include articles from Jimmy Magee who picks his best ever football team, Seosamh MacDonnchadha as Gaillimh and Eugene Magee of Offaly and Longford. I liked the tribute to Dessie Dolan of Athlone the "trainer supreme".

Camogie Coaching Book II "The Coach in Action" by Mary Moran. What struck me most about Mary Moran's letter was her modesty in requesting a review. Mary's book is a **must** for all Camogie coaches and it is nice to see someone like Mary put so much work into the book. There are 94 skill exercises listed with suitably simple diagrams to illustrate them. The last section under the general heading "Combining Skills" is possibly the best part of the book. Every school playing Camogie should get copies of this book which costs £2.35 incl. postage from Mary Moran, "Uisneach", 16, Firgrove Gardens, Bishopstown, Cork City.

(Thanks for the Camogie Records 1932-'82 Mary, another great compilation.)

My Own Book — "Action Replay". Further to my announcement last issue of the publication of my own

centenary publication. It was launched on Monday, July 11th by the printers Connacht Tribune Ltd. at their premises — the Monday before this year's Connacht Final. There are five chapters in the book. 1. The Dunmore Mac Hales; 2. Come On Ye Boys In Blue (St. Jarlath's College, Tuam); 3. My Favourite Colours Are Maroon And White; 4. The Connacht Final (the longest chapter and no doubt the most appealing); 5. This Is The G.A.A. (A series of anecdotes, stories, happenings which depict the G.A.A. for me).

It has 180 pages and lots of pictures. In the next issue I'll tell you more about it. It costs £3.95 without postage. Copies from 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway.

THE MAILBAG

Nuala Redmond, Redcastle Mountrath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

"Since my letter appeared in *Gaelic Sport* I have received practically all the 1980 editions from Laurence Edge from Co. Down and Philip Shy of Devon. Both were very generous. It's great to have the Mailbag to communicate with other G.A.A. fans everywhere. Laois took Dublin far too lightly in the S.H.C. Great to see Tipperary make the hurling comeback even though they were beaten by Waterford. 1983 could be Galway Footballer's glory year."

● *Let us hope you are right. J.M.*
Brian Costello (aged 10),

● TO PAGE 47

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● FROM PAGE 45

Rothermon, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

"I was on my holidays in Kerry last year. One day I went to Ger Power's Sports Shop. I got a poster of the Kerry team and Ger autographed it for me. Then I met Mickey Sheehy. I was talking to him for a while and he also signed it. I met Tim Kennelly in Listowel and he also signed it. I am a great Roscommon fan and was at the 1980 and '82 Football Finals. My favourite players are Matt Connor, Tony McManus, Dermot Earley, Mikey Sheehy and Martin Furlong. I was very disappointed when Roscommon lost to Mayo. I hope Offaly win the All-Ireland again. I love *Gaelic Sport*, especially *Junior Desk*. I have every issue of *Gaelic Sport* since 1958. My uncle gave them to me. The Silver Jubilee issue was great.

"I am a defender on the school team."

● *For that fine letter Brian you win a G.A.A. Centenary Tee-shirt. J.M.*

Patrick Lee, Crossdened Row, Keady, Co. Armagh.

"I got one of the Drumreilly Park opening souvenir programmes. Plenty of reading in it. I would like to see the P.R.O.'s of the clubs who open new pitches send you in copies of their booklets so that we the collectors could get a chance of purchasing them. There was a misprint in the *Gaelic Sport* about the *Our Games Annuals*. I am looking for 1959, '61, '62, '64, '65, '66 and '69. I have the rest. I wrote to Laurence Edge who had the magazines for sale in *Gaelic Sport*. I got 11 *Gaelic Sports* which I had not got. The 25th anniversary issue of *Gaelic Sport* was very good."

● *Very good idea regarding the commemorative souvenir Park opening booklets. J.M.*

Kieran Rosney, 181 Grotto View, The Batteries, Athlone.

"I want the following programmes and I will pay for them:

"1971 Offaly v Cork S.F. Semi-

Final; 1971 Offaly v Galway S.F. Final; 1969 Offaly v Kerry S.F. Final; 1973 Offaly v Galway S.F. Semi-Final; 1972 Offaly v Kerry S.F. Final Replay; 1981 Offaly v Wexford Leinster S.H. Final; 1972 Offaly v Roscommon S.F. Semi-Final; Offaly G.A.A. Yearbook 1983.

"Wasn't it nice to see the great Offaly hurler from the past, Bill Cordial, talking to Brendan O'Reilly on R.T.E. I must write about my hurling club in Athlone the next time. I didn't agree with the best football team for the past 25 years. I wish a speedy recovery to Liam Currams."

Tony Maher, 20 Páirc Mhuire, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

"I am looking for the following All-Ireland programmes: Football — 1963; Hurling — 1960, '61, '63, '64. I have the following to swop and would swop same on a two to one or three to one basis for any of the above. I am also looking for Dublin Yearbook '83, Kilkenny '82 and Offaly '83. 1970 Hurling Final Cork v Wexford; 1972 Connacht Final, Mayo v Roscommon; 1974 Football Final, Dublin v Galway; 1975 Hurling Final, Kilkenny v Galway; 1975 Football Final, Dublin v Kerry (2 copies); 1976 Hurling Final, Cork v Wexford; 1976 Football Final, Dublin v Kerry; 1976 Carlow Football Final; 1976 Kilkenny Hurling Final; 1977 Connacht Final Roscommon v Galway; 1976 Dublin Yearbook; 1977 Wicklow Football Final; 1977 Munster Hurling Final, Cork v Clare; 1977 N.H.L., Tipperary v Clare; 1977 Football Final, Dublin v Armagh; 1977 Hurling Final, Cork v Wexford; 1978 Football Semi-Final, Kerry v Roscommon; 1979 Football Final, Dublin v Kerry; 1979 Hurling Final, Kilkenny v Galway; 1980 Football Final, Kerry v Roscommon; 1981 Football Final, Kerry v Offaly; 1981 Hurling Final, Galway v Offaly (2 copies); 1980 Kilkenny Hurling Final; 1981 N.H.L. Tipperary v Wexford, Tipperary v Waterford,

Tipperary v Clare; 1981 N.H.L. Play-Off, Wexford v Galway.

● *That is a great list of swops. J.M.*

Tim Murphy, Shamrock Bridge, Rathmore, Co. Kerry — is one of our most faithful readers. He sent me on some old programmes and cuttings.

"First of all may I wish you well with your book in July. Tom Morrison has a great collection of programmes. He writes for the *Cork Evening Echo*."

Eddy O'Brian, 15 Fairlawn Park, Finglas, Dublin 11.

"I enjoy *Junior Desk* and look forward to your new book. I want the Tipperary Yearbook '83. I wrote to Tommy Barrett but got no reply."

● *Write to Tommy again. It isn't his style not to reply. J.M.*

Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal — another old faithful writes.

"Thanks for the '53 and '55 H. Final programmes and the '55 F. Final one. I still want the following: Football — 1957, '54, '52, '51, '50; Hurling — 1959 (replay), '58, '52 '51 and '50."

Peter Carley, 1 Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath — writes hoping *Gaelic Sport* becomes a monthly again soon.

"It is very sad that our two great games cannot support one monthly magazine."

● *I couldn't agree more. J.M.*

Padraig J. Duke, Caldra, Elphin, Co. Roscommon.

"I may be able to help Aidan Grennan, Ballina, Ballycumber, Co. Offaly but I want the following Connacht F. Final programmes: 1971 (replay) and '73."

● *Can you swop Aidan? J.M.*

James Joseph Boyle, The Bungalow, Curraghfed, Cooneen, Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone is actually from Fermanagh and wants the following Connacht Final Programmes: 1972, '73, '80 and '82.

● *Can any reader help? J.M.*

● OVERLEAF

JUNIOR DESK ★

JUNIOR DESK ★

JUNIOR DESK

● FROM OVERLEAF

Paddy McEvoy, 8 Clinton Park, Downpatrick, Co. Down makes the same point as Patrick Lee even more forcefully.

"I am delighted to hear that you are writing a book for the Centenary. Please let me know when it will be ready so that I may purchase a copy. The special 25th Anniversary production of *Gaelic Sport* is an excellent publication. Could you help me in another matter? Recently a number of new grounds have been opened but it is very difficult to know who to write to in relation to souvenir programmes. I have in mind the following: Dr. Mannix Sportsfield (Charleville); Clontibret and Corduff (Co. Monaghan); Kilcock, Moylagh (Co. Meath); Timahoe, (Co. Laois); Castleisland, (Co. Kerry); Ballyconnell (Co. Cavan); Drumreilly (Leitrim); Oram (Co. Roscommon); Cappawhite (Co. Tipperary) and Feakle (Co. Clare).

"It is a great pity that these souvenir programmes cannot be made more widely available. Would you have contacts in any of these places? Also could you tell me who to write to for a copy of the Kilkenny Yearbook. Finally have you details of any yearbooks other than those which you received in *Gaelic Sport*."

● *I thought the 25th anniversary issue excellent too. Tommy McQuaid deserves all our thanks for keeping the magazine going so long. Keep it up Tommy. J.M.*

Kieran Rosney (Senior), 181 Grotto View, The Batteries, Athlone — pays tribute to his first cousin Aidan Rosney R.I.P. who died so suddenly in March. Aidan was an outstanding under age hurler for Birr, Offaly, and Presentation College, Birr "He would have made a great Offaly hurler". Kieran writes about the sad occasion attended by the Offaly officials and players and of the lovely oration at the graveside given by Fr. Mick Kennedy.

● *Ar dheis De go raibh a anam. J.M.*
Frank Keane, 56 Booth Road,

Clondalkin, Co. Dublin — is a great Kilkenny hurling fan and thinks the present team will emulate the team of 1969-'75. He points out I made Noel Skehan out to be 38 in the October issue. "In fact Noel was born on Dec. 7th., 1945 and is only 37."

● *Sorry about that Noel. J.M.*

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow — a real true-blue, feels a hurling game should always precede a football game in Winter such as Railway Cup Final Day. Hurling is his favourite game. He feels that N.H.L. set-up should be changed. "It is too easy for Div. 1B team to get to the Semi-finals. The teams that go down one year always seem to come up again a year later. This is no good for the weaker counties."

● *The N.L. format has been revised since you wrote Gerry. I agree with you about hurling games never being allowed to take place after football game on a mucky field. J.M.*

Mary Greaney, Ballintubber, Cumber, Tuam, Co. Galway — tells me her favourite footballer is Brian Mullins of Dublin. She would like to see Galway win the Football Final in '83. "My three brothers play for the National School team".

● *Mary comes from a great football parish - Corofin. You are welcome to Junior Desk. Keep writing. J.M.*

Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Road, Bath, England BA1 6JG — was delighted with the response to his recent letters to Junior Desk listing his wants and swaps. "I was delighted to get the 1954 All-Ireland H. Final programme. Many thanks to 'Junior Desk' through which I've acquired some excellent programmes and made many friends through the years."

● *We could get no nicer tribute Dermot. J.M.*

I am very grateful to **Tom Ryall, Michaelschurch, Ballycallan, Co. Kilkenny**, for providing me with the most up-to-date statistical information on the famous Fennelly

family of Ballyhale Shamrocks for my book "Action Replay".

● *Readers who have difficulty in getting information on Kilkenny should write to Tom. He is a mine of information on Kilkenny G.A.A. J.M.*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway — another very faithful reader of Junior Desk deserves our congratulations on winning the Connacht section of the Kelloggs Young Referee of the Future.

Kieran O'Connell, (aged 15), 129 Stiles Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3 — in a long letter pays tribute to Matt Connor and Joe McKenna and is glad The Sunday Game is back but would like to see Seam Og O Ceallachain involved again. Kieran went to the Leinster S.H. semi-final and makes three points re same:

1. Not enough official programmes sellers available and plenty of bogus programmes sellers available.
2. Dublin did well v Offaly.
3. Wexford v Kilkenny game great apart from two incidents. "I'd love to see Wexford win an All-Ireland again. They haven't won one since 1968". Kieran read and enjoyed Mick O'Connell's book "A Kerry Footballer".

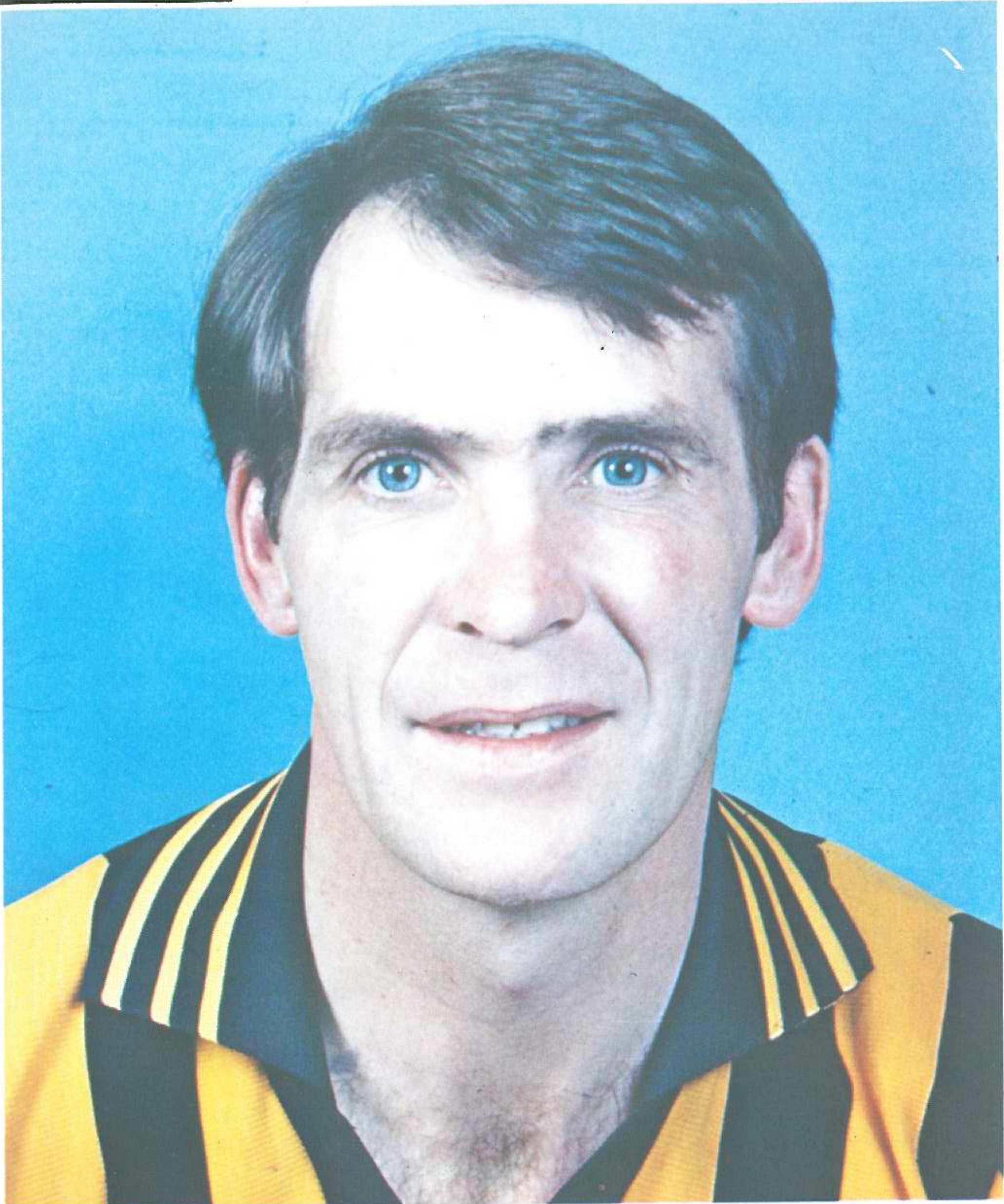
● *Kieran you win a G.A.A. Centenary Tee Shirt. J.M.*

Mary Greaney, Ballintubber, Cumber, Tuma, Co. Galway — likes Junior Desk, is 14 years old and loves games. She pays tribute to the Tuam Vocation School Senior team which reached the All-Ireland Voc. Schools S. Final and to their trainer Brendan Doherty.

● *Good girl Mary, keep up your interest. I notice this is your second letter this month. You win a G.A.A. Centenary Tee-shirt. J.M.*

That is all for the Mailbag for another month. As this is All-Ireland S.H. final issue please write on any topic to me.

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



FRANK CUMMINS
Kilkenny

Frank's record over the years could justly entitle the Kilkenny hurler to be named "Mr. Consistency". 36 in November, he is six foot tall, weighs 13½ stone, and plays club hurling with Blackrock, Cork.

One of the truly great midfield artists, Frank played football and

hurling with Belcamp College, Dublin and also represented Kilkenny at minor hurling. He stepped into the county senior side in an Oireachtas Cup tie in 1966, and won his first All-Ireland senior medal in 1969.

The Knocktopher-born hurler is now in line to join a select company of hurlers who have played in seven All-Ireland senior final winning

teams. He holds six Railway Cup medals, and last year had the distinction of winning his third All-Star award — just ten years after collecting his second.

Frank has given great service to Blackrock, and as well as winning Cork county senior medals, he helped the Leaside club to three All-Ireland senior hurling titles between 1972 and 1979.

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