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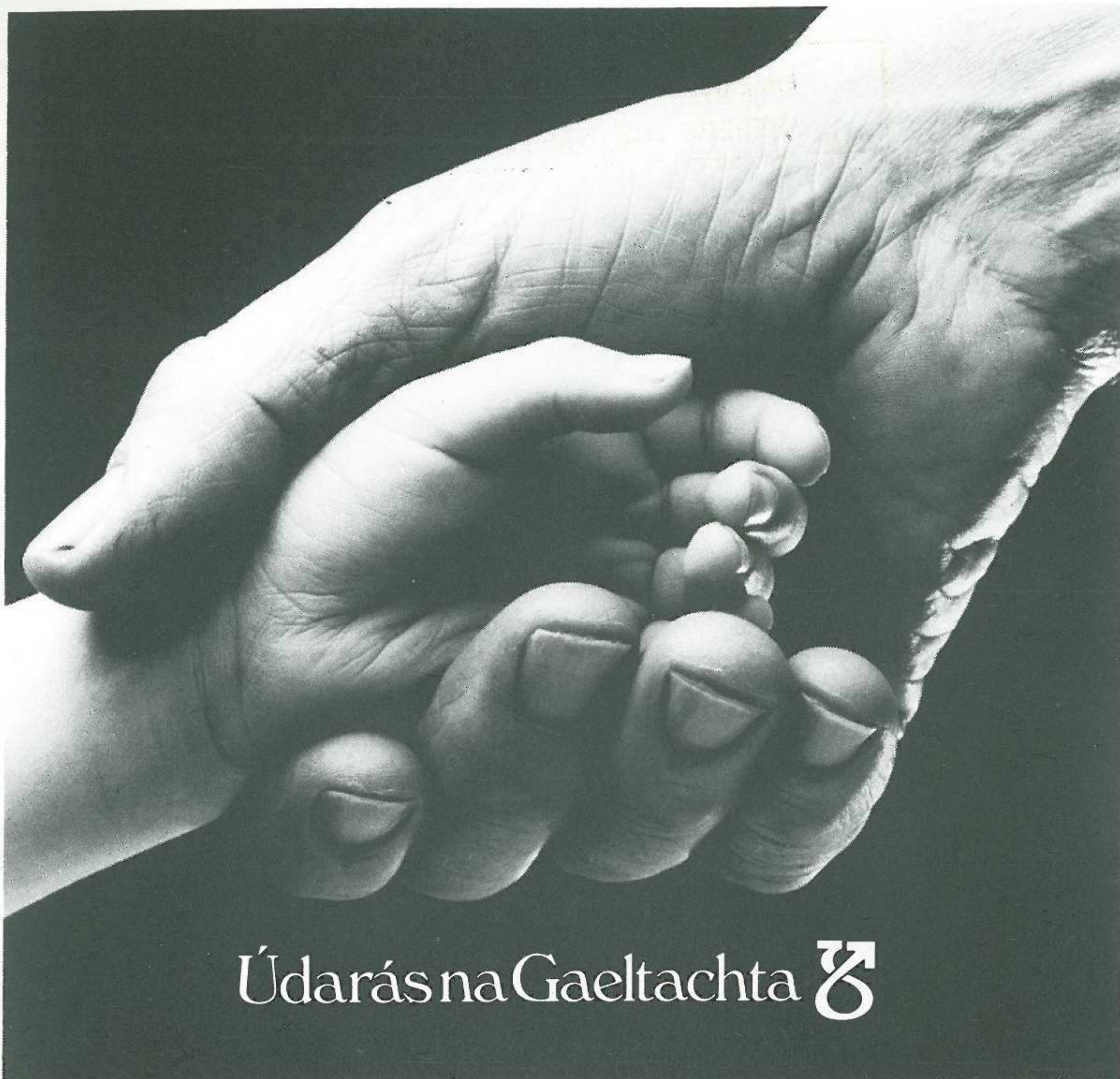
IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1983

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COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover features the dramatic moments at the end of the 1983 All-Ireland Football Final with captain Tommy Drumm proudly holding aloft the Sam Maguire trophy, surrounded by jubilant team colleagues and well-wishers.

GAELIC SPORT

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Vol. 26 No. 5. November-December, 1983.

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END OF AN ERA — DAWN OF AN ERA

IN JUST a matter of weeks the G.A.A. will usher in celebrations to mark the Centenary Year of the organisation. Rightly so, because apart altogether from the fact that a 100th birthday in the life of an organisation is something special, the G.A.A. can look back with pride on the progress made since the foundation at Thurles in 1884.

Few will seriously dispute the fact that the G.A.A. is by far the most important sporting organisation in the country, or that the movement touches the lives of the vast majority of Irishmen and women, day in, day out.

The Association has always had its critics — what organisation has not? — But it is true to say that the games of football and hurling have brightened the lives of generations of natives of this island, and provided the type of healthy character-building exercises for youth, that are invaluable in moulding responsible adulthood.

In purely commercial terms the G.A.A. has helped the economy of the country through the provision of impressive stadiums in all provinces. The work on the construction of the grounds provided valuable employment, often at a time when it was needed most.

The Association is also providing its own members with a wide range of games from Juvenile up to senior grades, and in more recent times has extended activities to include the now popular and so successful SCOR and SCOR na nOg, the adult and juvenile talent competitions, that enliven the winter months for so many.

But, despite all the G.A.A. has accomplished, it would still be wrong to ignore the debit side of the picture. And, there is a debit side, dominated without doubt by the poor position of hurling as a nation-wide sport.

Granted, the game is now being played in every county in the land, but the general standard is so low that only a handful of county teams can seriously entertain any hope of challenging for the major titles. That's a sad commentary entering the Centenary Year.

The amazing decline of Tipperary as a hurling power, and the failure of Wexford to maintain the standard that made them such great crowd-pullers in the 'Fifties and 'Sixties are other factors that have greatly militated against the progress of the game.

Hurling's poor health has also come about despite many drives by the G.A.A. to advance the

cause of the sport outside of the strongholds. It is not easy to suggest moves now needed to improve matters, but what can be said is that the time has come for vision, imagination and above all perseverance, in facing up to this, the greatest challenge facing the G.A.A. today.

Football is in a much healthier position than hurling, but here, as well, there can be no grounds for complacency. Too many counties still have no chance of challenging seriously for the major titles, and that must be a cause for concern — and here one could add the G.A.A. continues to fall down in providing common interpretation for referees of the playing rules, with the result that football is not achieving anything like its true potential as a spectator sport.

Surely it should be possible to draw up a definitive chart on the playing rules in simple language, and to instruct referees to enforce the rules to the letter, and so obviate referees introducing their own individual interpretations on such regulations.

Serious thought will also have to be given to improving the general standard of the game. New coaching techniques may be called for. The appointment of a full time national coach for football and indeed a similar appointment in hurling are other suggestions worthy of serious consideration.

Football and hurling are central to the entire structure of the G.A.A. If the games are unable to compete in the future for playing support, and support at the turnstiles — in the face of the ever increasing competition from television, especially now with satellite TV just around the corner, — the G.A.A. will not thrive successfully.

Yes, there will be much to celebrate during the Centenary Year, but also much, for officials, to ponder over as they brace themselves to face up to the future.

Irish people owe a debt to the Gaelic Athletic Association for its wonderful achievements since its birth on that historic day in Thurles in 1884. Our wish is that the Association continues to thrive and prosper in the years ahead.

Tommy McQuaid

EDITOR



TOMMY McQUAID

TONY HANAHOE TALKS TO TOMMY McQUAID A

“THE DUBLIN TEAM LEFT PHYSICALLY TRAINED A TO CONTEST THE GAME OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND

Editor: The normal reaction of one closely associated with the victorious team of an All-Ireland Championship is one of elation. What are your feelings following on Dublin's recent success, in view of the media outcry at the Dubs over-physical approach to the game?

Tony Hanahoe: My strongest feeling, following on the 1983 final, is one of sympathy for a comparatively young team who started out from very humble beginnings at the commencement of the Championship campaign, steadily worked their way forward — improving with every outing — and in the end find themselves subjected to such a total lack of appreciation and respect on having won the All-Ireland title. In particular the lack of objectivity and impartiality on the part of a number of so-called experienced newspaper and other media men, is sad in the extreme. The problem with a number of these gentlemen of the Press is, firstly, their near-total failure to understand the game and secondly their obsession for sensational detail, presumably to bolster sales of their particular journal. It is a complete fabrication to say the present All-Ireland champions are over-physical or to suggest that their title wasn't

won by sheer hard work and honest endeavour.

Editor: Do you think the '83 Final was a shambles?

Tony H: No. I most definitely do not. The abiding memory for me will be the brilliant display of the twelve Dublin players in withstanding Galway's second half onslaught. Their performance was nothing short of heroic. One must also emphasise that having been reduced to twelve men, Dublin did not elect to retreat and merely defend. They attacked at every opportunity and were unlucky not to have scored two more goals in the second period. With the exception of one incident, the second half was trouble free and brimful of all that is good in Gaelic football. Which only begs the question — why did most commentators choose to ignore this segment of the game?

Editor: Were Dublin totally to blame for the incident-laden '83 Final?

Tony H: The Dublin team left their dressing room physically trained and mentally prepared to contest the game to the highest order of both sportsmanship and Gaelic football standards — and here I would emphasise that Dublin were the more inexperienced team taking

the field. I can only surmise as to what Galway's pre-match tactics were, but having watched the game and listened to some of the post-match comments emanating from the Galway camp, I'm disappointed with the lack of integrity as voiced in relation to the events of the day. In contrast, some of the more experienced of the Galway panel, at the reception on the day following the match, were much more forthcoming and honest in their comments on the happenings of the day.

Editor: Speaking from your dual experience as player and team manager, are players mentally drilled to go out on the field in an aggressive frame of mind?

Tony H: In any game — be it an All-Ireland Final or an ordinary club game on the Inishowen Peninsula — players are “pepped up” talkatively speaking, to perform well. In the old days it was referred to as the “spirit talk” given both before the game and at half-time. Ridiculous suggestions are now circulating in connection with Dublin's so-called Kamikaze tactics and ultra special training. The most hilarious being that Dublin are too well trained; inane criticism for being successful,

“THE ABIDING MEMORY FOR ME WILL BE THE

ABOUT THE '83 FINAL AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

THEIR DRESSING ROOM AND MENTALLY PREPARED TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL FOOTBALL STANDARDS”



TONY HANAHOE

one could suggest. I can not recall similar remarks being directed at the very successful and highly trained Kerry team of recent years. Neither can I recall Dublin being criticised in the same vein during the lean years of '79 to '82.

Editor: Bearing in mind that G.A.A. players are amateurs, in the purest sense of the word, who play the games solely for the sheer enjoyment they derive from doing so, would you say they are subjected to undue and unfair pressures?

Tony H: Without re-hashing the events of the '83 All-Ireland, the majority of critics have never experienced the pressures placed on players today. Whilst, in some respects, the pressures are no greater than they were twenty years ago, the advent of T.V. has greatly magnified the situation. The amateur sportsman of today is now placed in a position where he is expected to perform to professional standards. Failure to respond to such standards can result in an onslaught of harsh criticism, insults and a total lack of compassion for the predicament of the individuals concerned. Incidentally referees may easily fall into the same category, as they too are expected to perform to the same

standards as their professional brethren in other sports.

Editor: Are you of the opinion that there is an anti-Dublin lobby in G.A.A. circles and at media level?

Tony H: Having listened to and read most post match comments and in the light of events relating to subsequent enquiries arising from the Final, I can only answer the question in the affirmative. It is pretty disillusioning, from Dublin's point of view, to have worked and trained so hard, to discover at the end of the day, success only results in rancour and resentment from a number of quarters. I must stress my comments in this regard do not extend to all counties, there being some notable exceptions.

Editor: Why do you think this prejudice or ill-feeling exists?

Tony H: Quite a lot of it emanates from old fashioned tribalism which one would have hoped we had all been freed from in this day and age. Personally, I have no objections to fair criticism or fair competition, provided there is some element of objectivity in one's argument. However, post match comments by the media in some cases bordered on total hysteria, were completely

unjustified and bereft of any element of objectivity or impartiality.

Editor: Have you any comments on John Gough's handling of the game?

Tony H: I think some of the decisions he was faced with, left him in a very invidious position. Possibly there is now a case for the introduction of professional or semi-professional referees. My previous remarks to an earlier question in relation to amateur standards and professional standards bears repeating in this context. Perhaps some of the revenue collected by the G.A.A. could be utilised in a pilot scheme to train a panel of professional or semi-professional referees.

Editor: Do you think a county has the right to veto a referee?

Tony H: I am not totally au fait with the present system of referee selection for individual games. However, I do think that both counties, in a championship game, should be confronted with a short list of referees and in the event of failure to agree on a candidate both should have a right to at least one objection. - Arbitration mediators could adjudicate in the event of total disagreement.

HEROIC DISPLAY OF DUBLIN'S TWELVE MEN”



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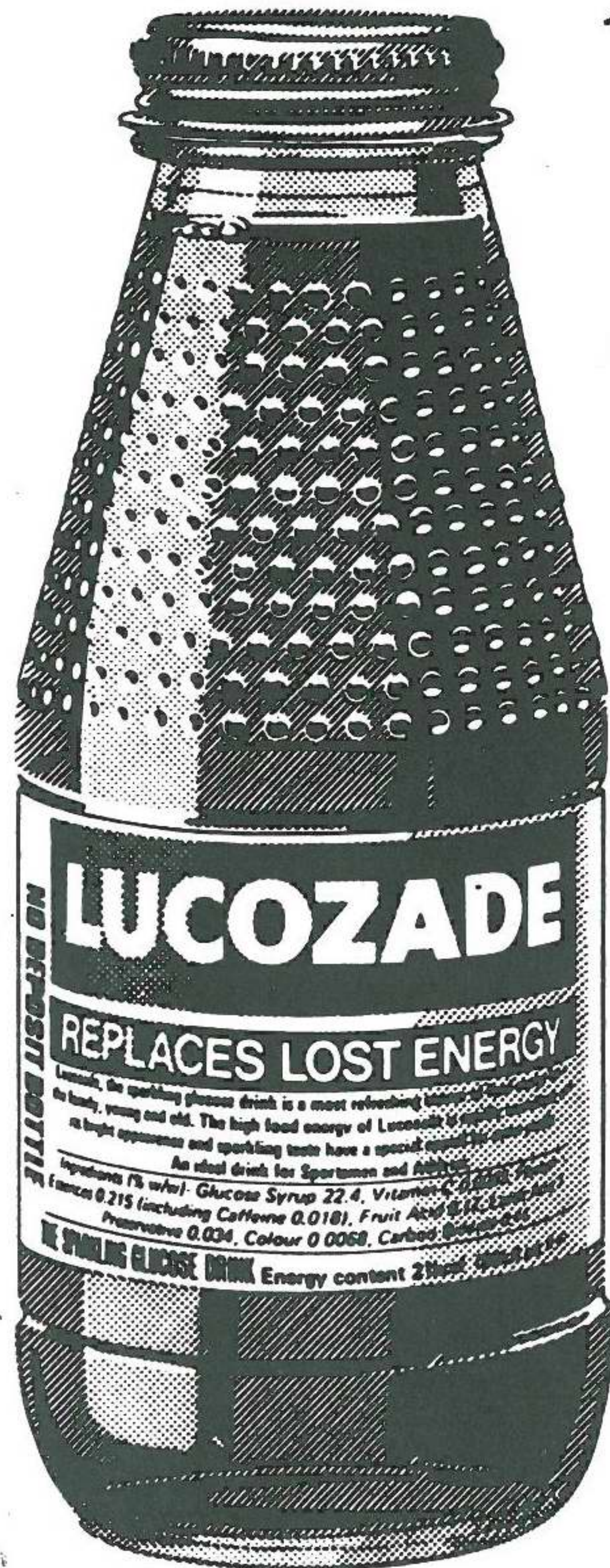
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Joe McNally

The young Dubliner's second half final performance, when he literally took on the Galway defence single-handed, must be recorded as one of the highlights of 1983.

●FROM PAGE 7

was not to be, and the reasons and the views that have been put forward and argued about in recent months for the unsatisfactory final have, by now, become wearisome.

The sad part, too, is that many have allowed the unpleasing aspects of the Croke Park final cloud some very pleasing and unusual factors. What, for instance, about Dublin's achievement in winning out despite being reduced to twelve men, and also handicapped by having to face a gale force wind for the entire second half?

That was a vintage achievement and without precedent but unfortunately, many of the critics of the game, and of Dublin in particular, have tended to "playdown" this record breaking performance.

Then, those whose tongues have been wagging non-stop, and others whose typewriters have been rattling on and on about the unsavoury factors, also appear to have conveniently overlooked the sheer brilliance of the football we saw from men like Pat Canavan, and Joe McNally, John Caffrey and P. J.

Buckley as they kept plugging away to keep the pulse of Dublin football beating firmly despite all the difficulties, and which finally paid off so handsomely. Yes, if there was much to forget in the '83 final game, there was also much to remember.

And, the fact that Dublin were good enough in all the circumstances, to set the seal on a great campaign by taking the Sam Maguire Cup despite all the troubled waters they ran into on final day, must stamp the concluding chapter in the story as one of the top performances ever by any side in an All-Ireland final.

I am not trying to condone anything unsavoury that happened in the All-Ireland final, but rather attempting to point out that the game still had some very good points . . . points that far too many have overlooked or ignored for reasons best known to themselves.

When Dublin were fighting with their backs to the wall with only twelve men, the old magic was there for all to experience. It is difficult to be definitive about this.

Dublin had some great teams in the 'Fifties and the 'Sixties, when the emphasis was on all local players, unlike in past eras, but it was not until the men of the 'Seventies started to sweep all before them, that Dublin really captured the imagination and the affection of all Liffesiders.

Even at this early stage of the proceedings, I would say that the 1983 team has won a special place in the hearts of Dubliners. The old pride in the players, the pride in the blue jersey was very much in evidence throughout the campaign, especially after the replay win over Meath. I believe that this will grow, as Dublin strive to build on the latest Sam Maguire Cup win for further glory.

THE FUTURE

What now, has the future in store for Dublin in football? It is a little too early yet to say, but those who now maintain that the Dubs are capable of dominating the championship for the next few years may not be too far off the mark.

Admittedly, long serving campaigners like Anton O'Toole, Brian Mullins and Tommy Drumm had much to do in the "second" coming of the Dubs. Full marks to them for that. But even the old stagers will readily concede that the young men of the team, from goalkeeper John O'Leary out to Joe McNally in the attack, were mighty oaks in the success story. In short, Dublin have a rich pool of young, and now very experienced, campaigners from which to build and perfect a team for further titles in the years ahead.

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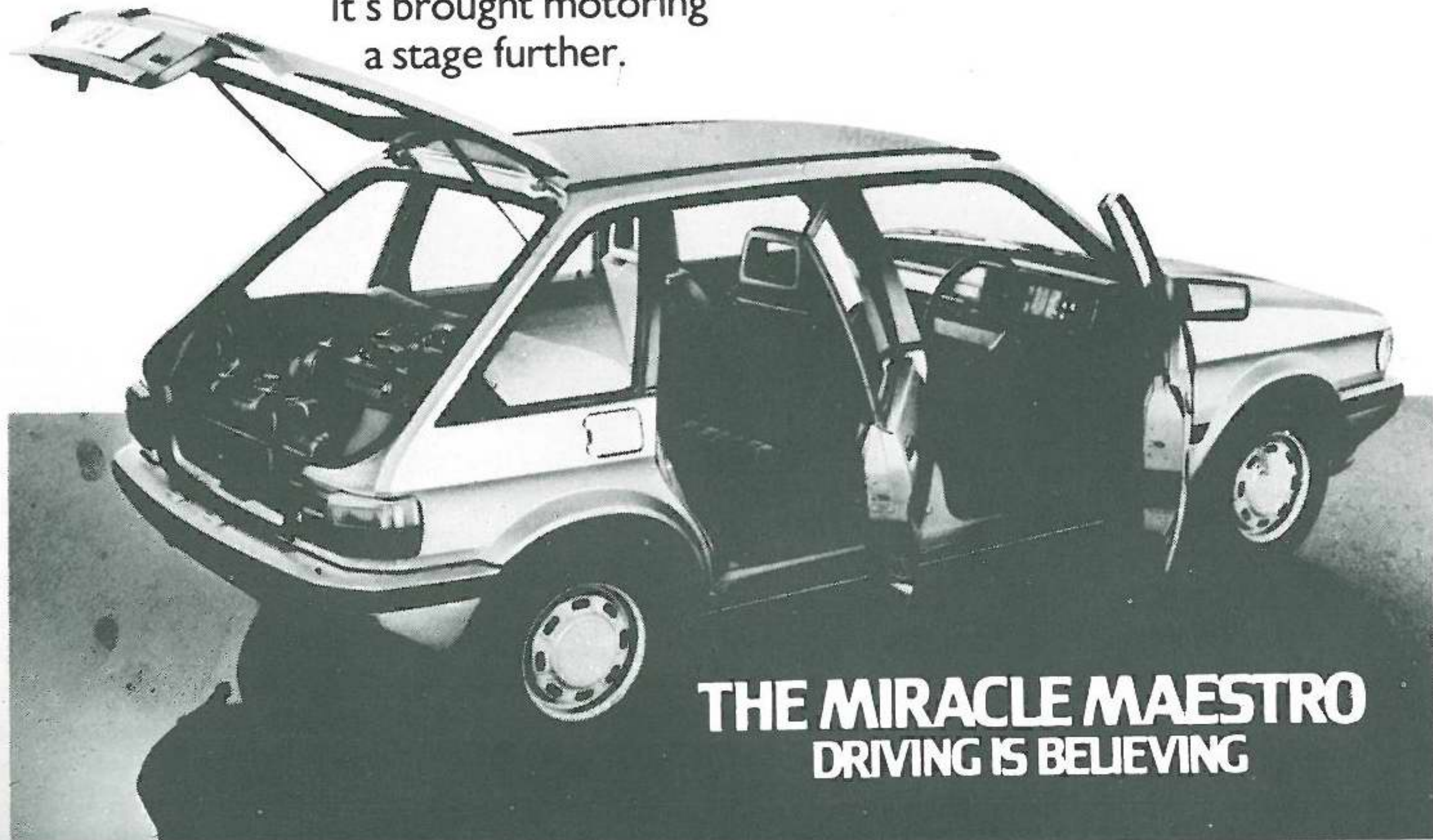
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"Galway are not bad sports"

SAYS JACK MAHON

"But this defeat will haunt our football souls for years to come"

OUT playing golf I was in Oughtherard, on the wildest, and at times, wettest day I ever remember playing golf. When Tommy McQuaid, the editor of *Gaelic Sport* rang leaving the following message "Write about the All-Ireland Football Final and say what you thought of the whole affair." He asked about seven questions in connection with the occasion. My first reaction when I got the message was to say No. And in a sense I'm about to do just that. But I'm delighted to get the chance to say something about the game of football generally and some aspects pertaining to the Dublin v Galway game.

First of all the weather conditions on All-Ireland Final Day were dreadful. At 10 a.m. on the morning of the game, together with Frank Burke, the Galway Co. Secretary, I had arranged to meet Liam Nolan of R.T.E., who was going to do a video of the game. We met out near the Bull Wall, near the entrance to the Royal Dublin Golf Club. He had already interviewed Kevin Heffernan in his home earlier that morning. All this was just a build-up for the game. I haven't seen the video yet so I don't know how much of the interview was used. But I do remember, the very windy conditions and the little hair I have was very much blowing in the wind. Out in Oughtherard today (October 15) the weather conditions were terrible — gale-force winds and many heavy showers. Well Croke

Park on All-Ireland day was almost as bad. These conditions certainly helped in some way to create the shambles of a final we saw. It was much the same on the occasion of the Roscommon v Kerry final of 1980. And to think of the marvellous summer we had — all those long sunny days. So my first suggestion is that **All-Ireland Finals should be played in August.** Apart from a better chance of good weather there would be less delay between semi-finals and finals.

I'm not going to start blaming Dublin for what happened. You all saw what happened and any Galwayman is on a hiding to nothing pointing fingers at Dublin. Dublin's style of football has been almost precisely the same in their entire championship campaign this year. You all saw it. So I won't insult your intelligence by giving my view on it.

But I do think there is far too much psyching players up before games. And I'm applying this criticism to G.A.A. games generally at all levels.

The Louth official who brought this thing into focus a year ago is on the ball. I have observed this change in trend. It is something that has come into pre-game talks in the past five years or so. The language of these pep-talks has disimproved too and it is not unusual to have these psyching-up sessions spiced with expletive. If players and officials throughout the country are to be honest then they know exactly what I'm writing about. And the advent of

the team-manager cult is not accidental to this over-emphasis on psyche.

The media are not blameless in their over-cultivation of the managerial cult. They see nobody but team-managers, seek them out all the time, photograph them ad nauseam and give a backseat generally to the players.

The players themselves are not blameless either and like the media are too quick to blame managers for their loss of form and for defeats and on the other hand place too much dependence on the manager. All this over dependence creates a lack of imagination and spontaneity in players. We have begun to lose our flair. Too few players tend to stand out as leaders or characters nowadays.

So my second suggestion is to de-emphasise the managerial cult and I suggest the G.A.A. should investigate the over-emphasis on psyche at all levels. Too many teams are racing onto G.A.A. fields like warriors prepared for battle.

I'm not going to say anything about the punishment meted out but I do think the G.A.A. should define what suspension of a team-manager or player means. What they can or cannot do while suspended.

Brian Mullins coming onto the field, with messages, after being sent off was a new departure in cynicism and gamesmanship, one could even call it

●TO PAGE 13



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●FROM PAGE 11

intimidation. I hope we never see this type of thing again.

I have my own views about Galway's goal. Our goalkeeper Padhraic Coyne should not have kicked out the ball in the circumstances for a variety of reasons. And even if that goal hurt me, as a Galwayman, quite severely and won the game for Dublin, I had to admire the opportunism and great football skill of Barney Rock in taking that chance. So few players would have done so in the circumstances. Perhaps Mickey Sheehy or Sean O'Neill or Seamus Leydon or Dinny Allen or Mickey Finneran or Colm O'Rourke or Martin McHugh. I doubt if we could depend on any Galwaymen to avail of such a gift chance with the possible exception of Stephen Joyce.

Barney Rock is a superb footballer and his skill has shone out like a beacon on this Dublin team all year.

There is no one who has a greater admiration for the R.T.E. television programme "The Sunday Game" or its presenter Jim Carney than myself. This programme has gone from strength to strength, year to year, and this reflects great credit on Carney who has found his true *metier* in this slot and its editor, Maurice Reidy. The repeat on RTE 2 on Monday has become as good as the original programme and gives more scope for analysis and talking points. But surely, as in the case of determining the scope of suspensions, the G.A.A., who annually draw up a television coverage agreement with R.T.E., should also issue guidelines to R.T.E. such as the following:

(a) No player to be interviewed while togged out unless clad in his own county colours. The whole jersey swopping cult has become so trendy that the traditional handshake after major games is usually accompanied by a jersey swop. This is due to the influence of sponsorship and the ready availability of free gear to successful teams. I'm not against players getting "goodies" like this but the whole thing has tended to

make the county jersey of less value generally. It's a matter that requires attention. There was very little jersey swopping after the All-Ireland final but if the game had not been as bad-blooded, this modern custom might have prevailed.

I hate to see a winning team mount the victory podium clad in the colours of the opposition. It is insulting, thoughtless and vulgar.

(b) No players sent off should be interviewed after the game. We should not be lionising players who have been removed from the field for misconduct.

Finally there a few other points relating to the All-Ireland final I wish to write about:

(i) How many noticed the disagreement between the two umpires at the Railway end for two Galway wides? Vital decisions both.

(ii) I'm not going to lambast the referee John Gough. He allowed too much to go unpunished at the start, in the interests of letting the game flow. I, like Tom Brown (*Evening Press*), have never favoured this kind of refereeing—the style introduced by Paddy Collins of Westmeath. It looked good for a time but it is a style which tends to wash the growing ills of Gaelic football under a heavy carpet and only helped to create the shambles of an All-Ireland we had this year. But you must admire John Gough for having the courage to send a man to the line on his own. Most referees tend to avoid the issue and usually send two off together or even-up at the earliest opportunity. I did notice that no Dublin players shook hands with the referee after the game, something verified afterwards. Now surely a team should not *En Bloc* hold a referee responsible for punishments meted out for misconduct of its members. **Win or lose players should always thank the referee.**

(iii) Down here in Galway we are still sick with ourselves for not winning. Never again will we be

presented with an easier opportunity. Advantage in numbers and aided by a gale-force wind. It is a defeat that will haunt our football souls for years to come. And we admire the courage of Dublin's second-half twelve no end. Theirs was a massive achievement soured only by their first half aggression. Ours was a dejected party returning home to Galway. But the reception we received from the Galway supporters the night after the game was unbelievable. It gave all of us *hope* to return once again and redeem Galway's football pride.

I was worried leaving Croke Park and meeting old friends outside the Hogan Stand. It was so hard to be gracious to Dubliners. Our team bus got the vulgar two fingers sign from practically every Dubliner in sight. One friend said to me "Ye have become a county of moaners. Bad losers." I thought a lot of that one. I thought of 1971 and Offaly's early aggression. I thought of '74 and Dublin's invasion of the pitch before the end (we had the same even worse this year). I thought of Johnny Mooney last year. I thought of the first half v Dublin in '76 when we got 25 frees out of 35 awarded.

Yes, we have moaned about unsavoury scenes or incidents in the past. And we will continue to do so.

But I don't remember any sour grapes in '73 or '59 or '68 or last year or many times in the past. When Mayo beat us in Castlebar in '81 after we won the N.F.L. it was a huge disappointment but there were no excuses. Sligo can vouch for this in '75. Roscommon too.

Galway aren't bad sports. We have lost much more than we have won. Our sporting name in football has always been high.

At times some of our players have not been angelic but by and large opposing counties can vouch for the sporting name of Galway as a football county.

Having such a name is a far greater honour than the winning of All-Irelands.

A few encouraging words from Texaco.

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A FAMILY G.A.A. QUIZ

QUIZTIME

PRESENTED BY P.J. LYONS

THAT was the year that was 1983! Yes, almost before we have realised it, it is that time of the year to look back on happenings in hurling and football over the season, and recall the joys and disappointments, relive the memorable moments, and remember sadly the not so happy events, depending on the fortunes of our teams, both at inter-county and club levels.

It was an exciting enough year, with football capturing most of the bright moments, despite the disappointing ending to the championship that was the Dublin-Galway clash for the Sam Maguire Cup.

Well, what can you recall off hand of the events of 1983? Do you remember, for instance, what county won the All-Ireland minor camogie title, or where the Croke Cup for the national Colleges' senior hurling championship went? Those are a couple of questions that may well cause many some moments of thought — we all are very pre-occupied with the senior events, but there was much to enjoy in the lower grades as well; games that are inclined to be overlooked by far too many who claim to be ardent supporters of the G.A.A.

Quiztime will help to show just how expert you are on the events of the past year. We touch on all aspects of Gaelic Games,

handball and camogie, as well as hurling and football, club fare and Colleges' games in addition to happenings at senior inter-county level.

The quiz has three separate sections, two of ten questions each, and the concluding exercise which is over twelve questions. Once more we have devised a points scheme to see how YOU measure up.

What better way to start an end-of-the-year-review than by recalling the winners, or some of them, in the leading competitions. We bring into the spotlight here, not so much the All-Ireland senior provincial and national champions, but rather such tests as the Dr. McKenna Cup, the Sigerson Cup, the All-Ireland Colleges' and the O'Byrne Cup.

So, can you earn yourself full marks in the review with which we throw in the ball.

WHO WON WHAT?

1. Most followers can readily rattle off the provincial and All-Ireland senior champions of 1983. Well, what of other grades? Who, for instance, won the All-Ireland minor camogie championship?

2. The Dr. McKenna Cup is an all-Ulster knock-out senior football competition. What county took the trophy last May by beating Down in the final?

3. History was made in the All-Ireland club championships with

teams winning the titles for the first time. Who triumphed in hurling, and what side brought home the football crown in triumph?

4. The Sigerson Cup is the Universities' senior football championships and the last series was played in Dublin last February. Queen's, Belfast, and U.C. Galway contested the final. What side won that game?

5. Name the All-Ireland Colleges' senior hurling champions of 1983?

6. Only one of the principal All-Ireland hurling titles went South in the past year. Who won that championship and in what grade?

7. The O'Byrne Cup is a senior football knock-out competition confined to Leinster. Who won the trophy last May?

8. Who came out on top in Connacht in minor football and under-21 football?

9. Connacht lost the Railway Cup football semi-final at an away venue last February. Who were their opponents in that game?

10. Last, but by no means least, the Connacht Colleges' senior football championship. A name storied in the championship took that title. Can you name the College in question?

Each question carries a total of five points, and we will allow an additional ten points bonus if all ten questions are answered correctly. So, 60 points may be won here. **YOUR SCORE**

Now, let's see what you can remember of some of the achievements of some of the men

●TO PAGE 17



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QUIZ TIME

●FROM PAGE 15

who were in the news in 1983 in this series of questions titles simply:

PERSONALITIES

1. Down won an all-Ulster National Football League final last April. Can you remember who captained the Mourne county to that success?

2. Hardly any need to say that Liam Fennelly was the man who stepped up to receive the Liam McCarthy Cup after the All-Ireland senior hurling final win. But who skippered Kilkenny to the League title triumph?

3. Cork ended Kerry's long reign in the Munster senior football championship with one of the latest of title winning goals on record. Who grabbed the last gasp goal for the Cork men? ...

4. Pictured here are two personalities who won provincial senior medals in the past year. Who are they, and what are their club sides?



5. How many goals did Barney Rock score in the senior football championship — four, five, six or seven?

6. Noel Skehan, of course, won his ninth All-Ireland senior medal last September. But how many times has he PLAYED in All-Ireland senior final winning teams?

7. This sharpshooting forward won a Railway Cup medal on his debut in an interprovincial final

last St. Patrick's Day, was a star of his county side as the provincial title was regained after a break of nine years, and was also a Bank of Ireland replacement last April. He was dogged with injury problems during the year, and plays club football with Kilcar. Who is he?

8. What have the following personalities all in common from 1983 — Marion McCarthy (Cork), Don Kelly (Derry), John Cummins (Galway)?

9. Who refereed the Leinster senior football final?

10. This forward was the outstanding scoring expert in the National Hurling League, and finished with six points in the final against Kilkenny. Who is he? ...

Once more we award five points to each question answered correctly, and add on another bonus of ten if you go through the card. POSSIBLE SCORE 60. YOUR SCORE

This final section of QUIZ-TIME brings into focus some happenings, other than games, that featured the G.A.A. world in the past year, as well as a few personalities in a section we call:

RECOLLECTIONS

1. Where was the Annual Congress of the G.A.A. held last March?

2. The Dublin-Cork All-Ireland senior football semi-final replay was, of course, played at Pairc Ui Chaoimh at the end of August. But was that the first All-Ireland semi-final tie at the new Cork stadium?

3. What was the venue for the All-Ireland club senior hurling final replay?

4. And, can you recall where the Railway Cup finals in hurling and football were played last St. Patrick's Day?

5. Now for some personalities. This handballer completed a rare enough double of All-Ireland senior championships by winning the 40 x 20 and Coca Cola singles crowns in the past year. He is a gifted young handballer from Tipperary, it may help you to know. Who is he?

6. Who was in goal for the Dublin camogie team beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland senior camogie final — Yvonne Redmond, Edel Murphy or Ann Redmond?

7. How many games did the All Stars touring teams play in each code during the 1983 visit to the U.S.

8. One of the following hurlers was top scorer in the 1983 All-Ireland senior hurling championship... Bertie Og Murphy (Cork), Billy Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny) or Jimmy Barry-Murphy (Cork). Your selection?

9. Who refereed the All-Ireland senior hurling final?

10. Where was the National Hurling League final played last spring?

11. Galway won the Connacht senior football final, beating Mayo in the decider. Where was that game played?

12. Let's end on a personality note. Who was in goal for Donegal in their Ulster final win over Cavan at Clones?

The final section carries a total of 70 points — five for each question answered correctly and ten points bonus if the overall return is a 100 per cent record. YOUR RECORD

HOW DO YOU RATE

Total marks possible: 190. 170-plus — you really have an expert knowledge of happenings in 1983! 150 to 170 — Very good, indeed. 120 to 150 — Good.

●ANSWERS PAGE 29

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THE handball kudos, this issue, goes to Tony Ryan, the young exponent from Ballypatrick in Tipperary, who has attained the distinction of winning both the Senior Singles Titles in the respective 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 grades.

That is a distinction not achieved by any player since the heady days of Pat Kirby, and it is equally true to say that it could not, in any way, tinted his plished, yet modest exponent than Ryan.

He stands as a great example to the legion of young players who hope to emulate him.

Success and adulation have not, in any way, tainted his sporting personality and his consciousness to realise his mistakes will probably stamp him, in the course of history, as the best player of this era.

The past year has been an exceptionally busy one for the Tipperary player.

In fact it was one continuous round of activity that saw him partake in the National League the R.T.E. Top Ace event, the 40 x 20 and Coca Cola championships, the U.S.H.A. events and various open and club competitions.

In that twelve month period he has displayed the hallmarks by which the Fianna of old had established themselves.

Purity of heart, strength of limb and action according to words befit the young handball lion from Tipperary.

On the Saturday night prior to the Hurling All-Ireland Final, when the Coca Cola Singles Final was down for decision, it was providential that Ryan was in Croke Park at all. Earlier in the week, he was grievously injured in an accident at home and the signs were that he would not be able to take his place in the Final.

That he did so was a vindication of the "mind over matter" theory, for he took the court with a badly grazed shoulder. However, once there, he proceeded to give an exhibition in the many arts and

TONY RYAN

The Tipperary man is a master of his craft

BY SEÁN CLERKIN

crafts of handball.

There was his thundering butt to the front wall, repeated so often during the course of the game that his opponent, Ollie Harold from Kilkenny, could only eye with an admiring gaze, so clearly did it roll out from the bottom brick.

It must be recorded that this was an enthralling final, matching the best games we have seen in recent years.

Harold, who was the holder of the title, relinquished it, only after he had strained every sinew and called upon every particle of skill in his considerable repertoire to avoid defeat.

In the process, he demonstrated the real characteristics of a great champion, the steel nerve that is required when the tide of success is ebbing and, eventually, the decorum of a true sportsman in gracefully accepting defeat.

Harold, has been equally as good a champion as his many illustrious countymen, who are inscribed, before him, on the victory roll call.

An equally significant achievement this season was the victory of Limerick's Tom and John Quish, in the Coca Cola Double championship. They beat the compact Clare combination of John and Dan Kirby in the final and thus bridged a gap of three years since 1980, when they took all the Junior Titles between them, with the exception of the Handball Singles event.

Victory for the Quishs was achieved with meticulous calculation.

They opened with a flourish and had the Kirbys on the run for the first set which they won by six aces. Then, when the Claremen took control in the second set and the Limerick players found the tide of play ebbing against them, they made a calculated decision not to expend too much energy in retrieving the situation.

The ploy was an outstanding success for they emerged for the deciding set reasonably fresh and with a deep resolve not to return to their native Hospital in Limerick without the title.

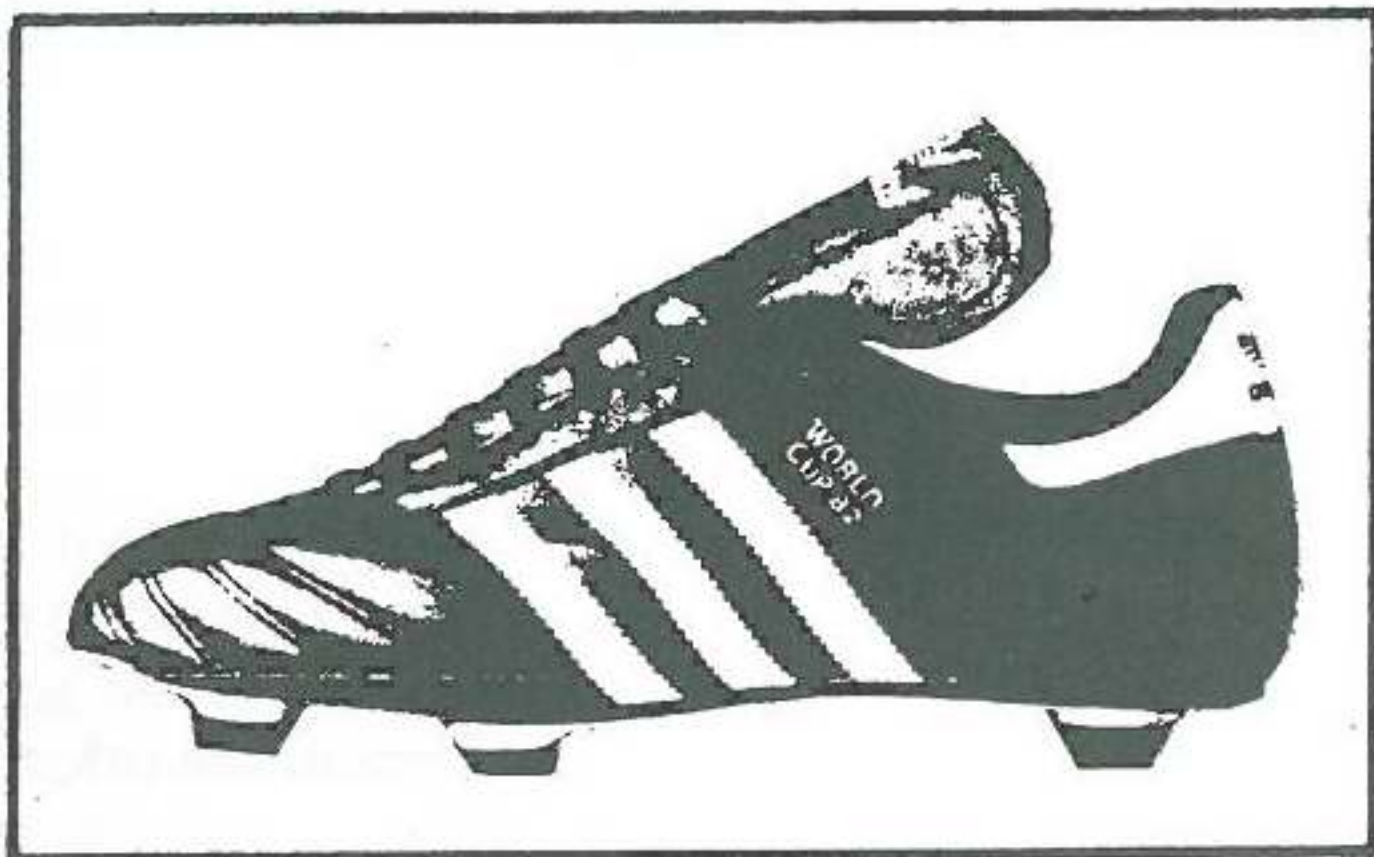
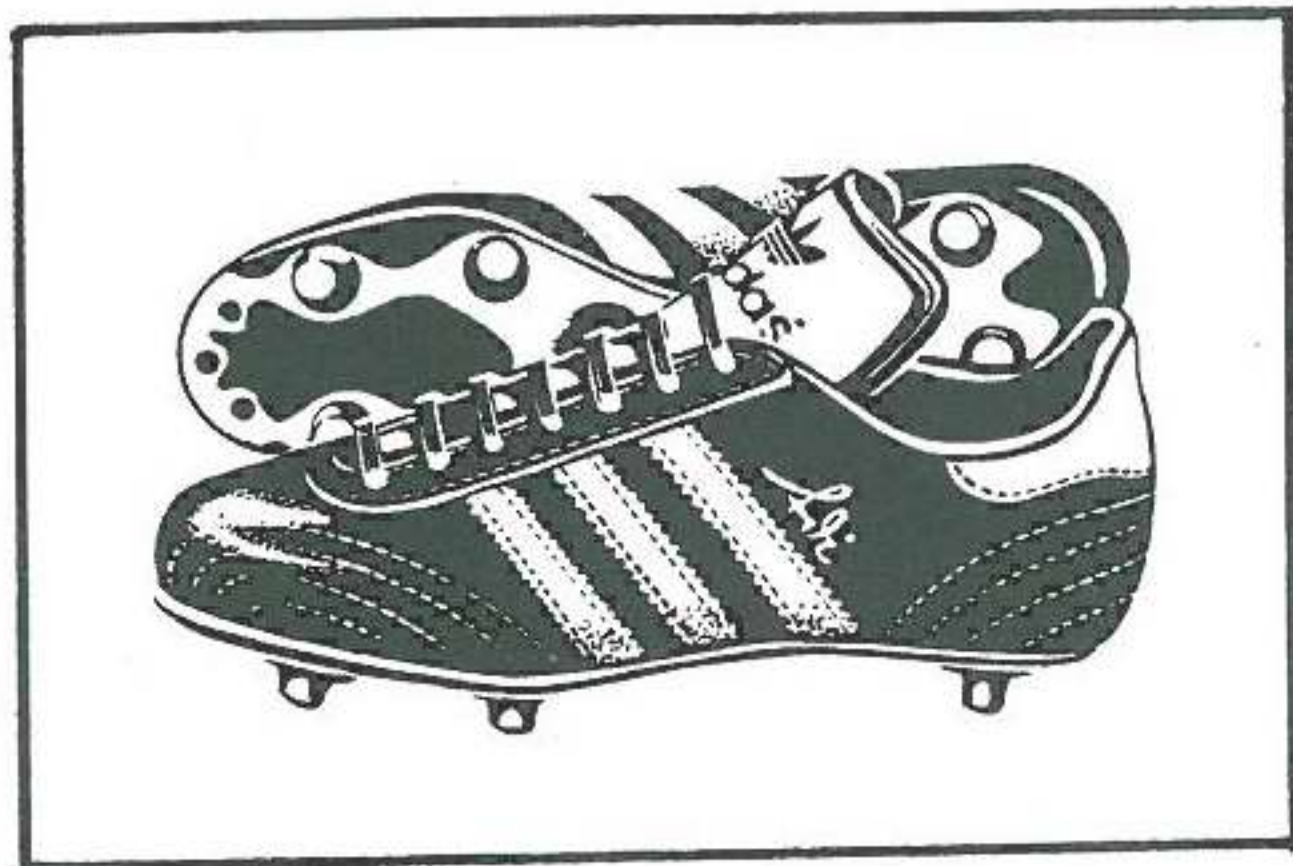
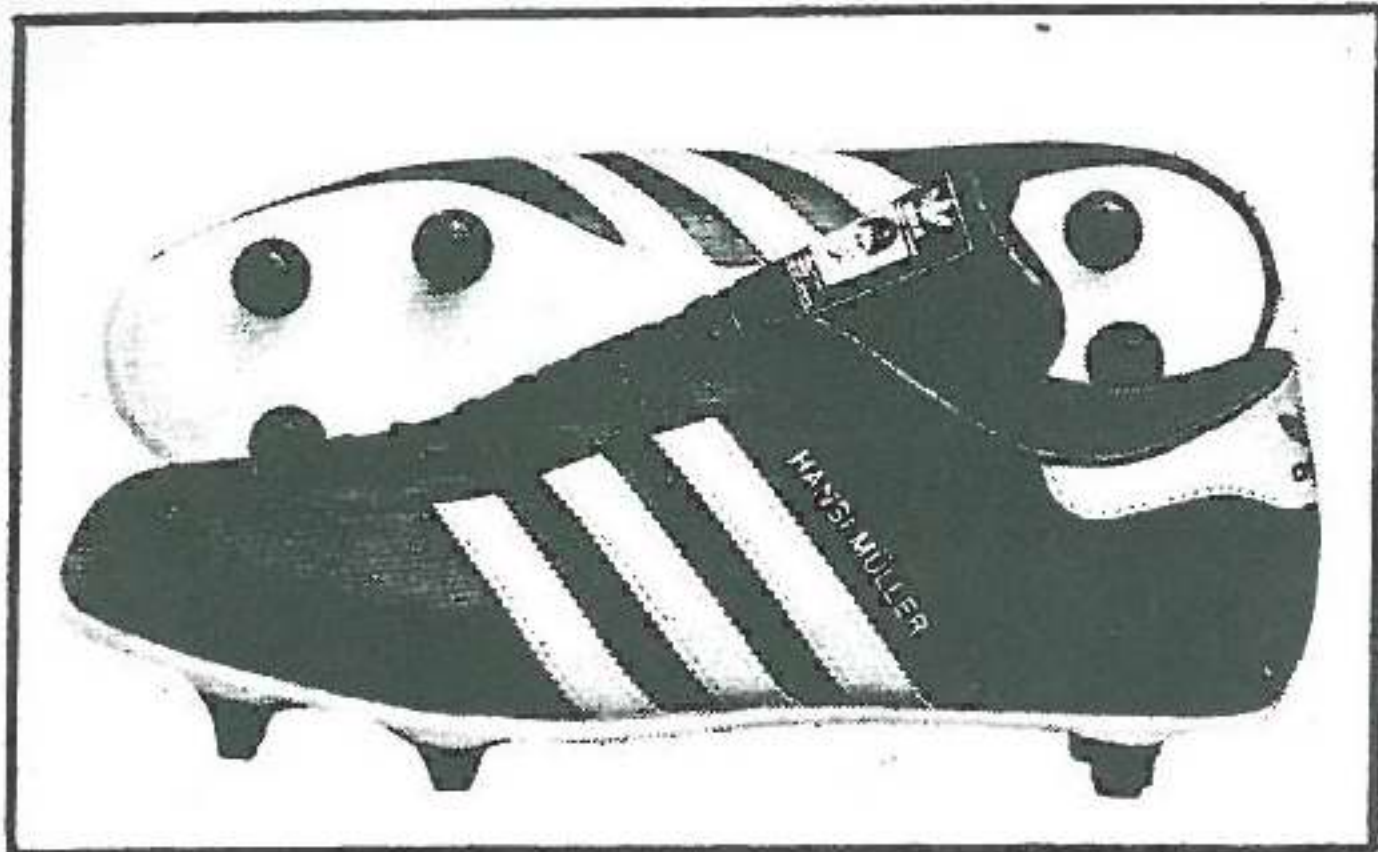
While Tom may be the better known of the two, it must be recorded that John was the architect of this great win.

After soaking up the many offensives directed against him in the opening games he turned on the style in the third with a series of pin-point butting and powerhouse tossing that took the Kirbys completely by surprise.

On the part of the famed duo from Tuamgraney, it must be said that they fought to the last ace in an effort to augment the title they last won in 1978.

Success for the Quish Brothers has been well received in all parts of the country since they are also recognised for the contribution they make to the promotion of Juvenile handball. Their latest victory will provide a stimulus for all young players to emulate their feats.

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"THE TWELVE APOSTLES COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER" SAID THE MAN

THE DUBLIN
TWELVE GAVE
A PERFORMANCE
THE LIKES OF
WHICH I HAVE NOT
SEEN IN
MANY A YEAR

BY MYLES THORNTON

AND, then there were twelve! Twelve good men and true, who displayed a fierce resolve, a refusal to accept second best, as well as football of the highest standard as they faced up to the challenge of fourteen Galway men, took the test in their stride and with a wholehearted effort that was heart-warming to watch won the All-Ireland senior final in a manner that has not been bettered by any team with a full quota of players in past deciders.

Why has this pulse-raising feature of the Dublin win been so readily dismissed by so many in all the



ANTON O'TOOLE . . . The "Blue Panther" of the glorious 'Seventies can still show his young colleagues a thing or two.

talk about the 1983 game? Granted, the unsporting tactics, the dismissals, were tailor-made to grab the headlines and fill columns in the newspapers. One can understand this; one can even sympathise with the journalists, who have a job of work to do, even if one disagreed with much that was written, and also found a lot far too one-sided to be objective.

In saying this, I am in no way attempting to "play down" or condone what happened on All-Ireland senior final day. I was, at times during the match,

●OVERLEAF



THE GLORIOUS TWELVE

●FROM OVERLEAF

ashamed of my long and loyal association with Gaelic Games, all the more so because the game was the most important fixture of the year in Irish sport. I make no apologies for giving the All-Ireland final this status, despite what some would have us believe in other codes.

But having said all that I still cannot understand why the dazzle that was the football of the twelve man Dublin crew in the second half and against the elements as well as the numerically stronger Galway team seems to have caught so many on the blind side.

Words like envy, spite, prejudice spring to mind but I dismiss them with the contempt that all true mature sportsmen should.

The Dublin twelve gave a performance the likes of which I have not seen in many a year, and I have been watching Gaelic Games at all levels Sunday in, Sunday out for more years than I care to admit now. This was no negative show from the Dubs. The men left to carry the banner went about their task with a refreshing abandon that saw them produce their best football of the championship — and I include the All-Ireland semi-final replay win at Paire Uí Chaoimh when I say this.

This was football as it should be played, with every man concentrating on his job, and probably calling

on inner resources of will power and skill in an effort to compensate for the loss of two players. One would have expected that Dublin would have spluttered and finally petered out tamely after being reduced to twelve; indeed no one would really have criticised the men left to uphold the cause had that proven the case.

Instead, we saw football of the best possible standard, and Galway, even with the advantage of having two extra men, and playing with the assistance of a wind of such vigour to be worth at least 6 points, were just not able to penetrate the Alamo-like defence of the Dubs. Davy Crockett would have been proud of them.

HISTORY-MAKERS

It is not altogether unusual to see teams reduced to 14 men, and playing against a full complement, winning out in major matches. There were a number of such instances in the past year. But I cannot recall, off hand, any match, certainly at All-Ireland level, in which a side with the handicap of playing with two men less than their opponents triumphed before the Dubliners wrote their own special brand of history on September 18, 1983.

“The Magnificent Dozen” we shall be calling the twelve from the Liffeside in years to come when the unsavoury aspects of the 1983 final are forgotten. And, magnificent they were.

The loss of Brian Mullins must have been a terrible blow psychologically, as the towering midfielder was central to all that Dublin accomplished in the championship up to that juncture. When the big man was sent to the line, Dublin's chances of the Cup it seemed would recede with him every step of the way to the dug-out.

The sending off of Ray Hazley later in the half may not have been quite as shattering a blow, but it was still a severe one nonetheless on two counts. For a start, Hazley had settled in well at left full back over the season, and was having a good game up to his dismissal, with the result that his departure was bound to have an unsettling effect on the Dublin backs. On the other hand, the departure of Hazley, even if accompanied by Tomas Tierney, looked another “weight” in encouraging the Galway men to still greater effort, especially with the wind advantage to come after the change of ends.

Galway had everything to play for after the interval, Dublin looked to be on a hiding to nothing. But it was the Dubliners who came out and took the game by the scruff of the neck.

They played as if they had all the aces, as if they knew that, handicapped or not, this was still their game to win, and they were not going to allow glory to pass them by.

The result was that we saw the Dubliners play football that was fast, constructive, imaginative and with a fervour that brooked no argument, but delighted their supporters. Galway just had no answer.

And, when at times it looked as if they might turn the game their way, especially after Stephen Joyce's goal fifteen minutes into the second half, Dublin always had the man for the moment.

Pat Canavan was just such a man. Time and again he was the rock on which Galway attacks floundered; time and again he raised the heart-beat of the Dublin team with the sheer majesty of his play. This was an All-Ireland senior final debut to savour for both player and followers of the Dubs as well as neutrals.

Then, there was John Caffrey, a forward with the reserves of stamina, not to mention skill, to pop up repeatedly around midfield and well away from his usual position as a right full forward. His contribution was also immense.

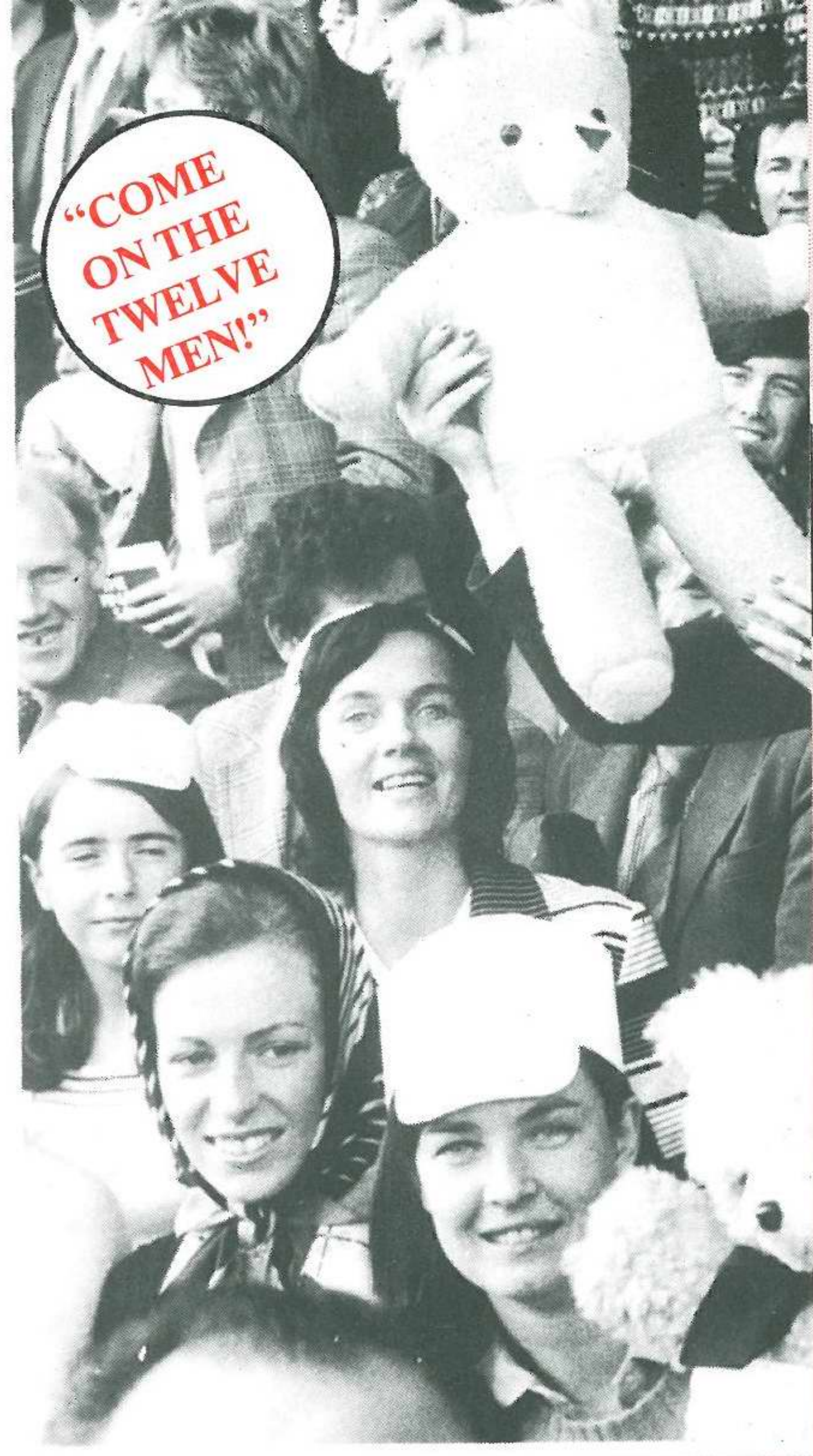
FICKLE FANS

Gerry Hargan, a footballer who knew the fickleness and the carping criticisms of fans earlier in the season, Tommy Drumm, the perfect general and captain as he directed operations from his vantage point at centre half back, Anton O'Toole, the "old" warrior of yesteryear who came back to show the "young lions" a thing or two in attack, and Joe McNally, one of the new breed of young heroes who time and again caused the Galway backs all sorts of problems, were others who wove special strands in the colourful and solid pattern that was the gold strike of the mighty twelve.

These are the factors, despite all the criticism of the final, that did so much to redeem the game for me, and make the match, in the end, well worth the admission money.

Think of that effort of the magnificent twelve, think of the many excellent things they accomplished during the second half, of the quality of their football and let it be said as well, of the sportsmanship they exhibited, and you will get much to ease away the sour taste of the earlier unhappy episodes.

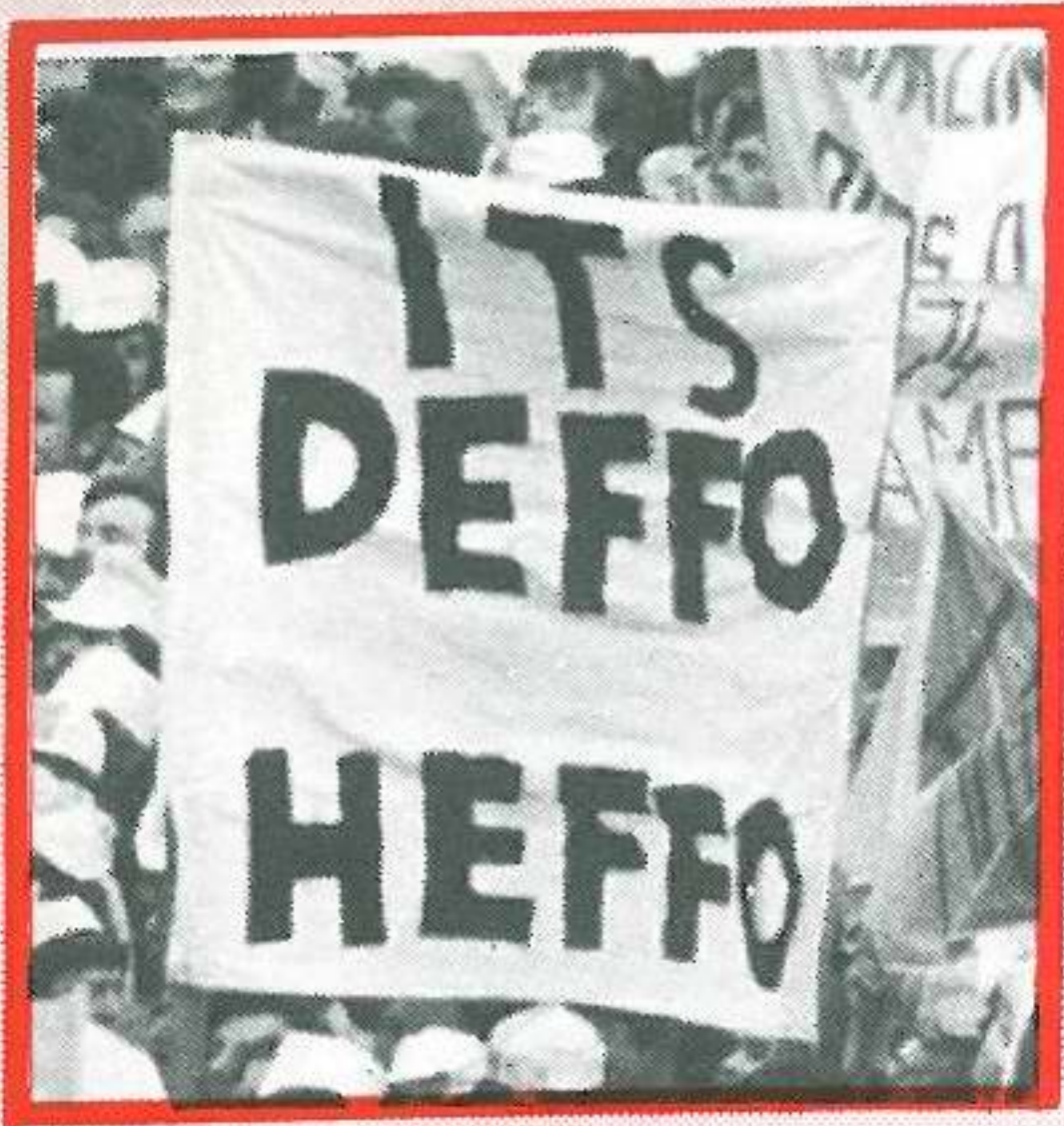
Yes, it was a great feat by the Dubs of the twelve men to win by two points. And, if that point has still



not sunk in, in view of all that has happened in the Council chamber after the final, I am prepared to say: Let time take its course, and time and cool heads in critical, rather than one-sided analysis, of the final, will eventually come up with the conclusion that the Dubs twelve deserve tremendous credit for their exhibition of football and grit, grit of the true John Wayne standard, as they defied all the odds to scale the greatest of peaks by beating Galway's 14-man band.

Coming away from Croke Park after this historic and eventful game I overheard a Dubs supporter remark to his companions "the twelve apostles couldn't have improved on that performance".

I don't think they could!



**HIS TACTICS, SHREWDNESS, VISION AND
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HEFFO, THE MIRACLE

BY
JOHN
DOWNES

DO you believe in miracles?

I must admit that I have to be numbered among the sceptics when it comes to this particular field, but if ever a person qualified for the description "Miracle Worker" in sport then I say without fear of contradiction that person is Kevin Heffernan. He worked the oracle, not once, but twice, with Dublin footballers in modern times, and that is something that few can boast of in the history of Gaelic games.

Miracle number one?

Well, cast your memory back to a Mayday in 1974. I was one of a big crowd at Croke Park that afternoon to see Kerry and Roscommon replay their National Football League final. On the same bill was a Leinster senior football championship first round game between Dublin, then at a very low ebb in the

game, and Wexford, a match that was regarded as an irritant by many at headquarters, something to be dismissed as a non-event.

Dublin won handily enough as it transpired, and it would be nice to say now that I was convinced the seeds of greatness were sown in that game. Nice, but dishonest to make such a claim. I must freely admit that I went solidly along with the majority by there and then dismissing the Metropolitans as any threat at all in Leinster to the reigning provincial champions, Offaly.

The mistake we all made at that time — at least those of us who so readily wrote-off Dublin as a force — was that we conveniently overlooked the Kevin Heffernan factor.

Understandably enough, I suggest, as Dublin had been campaigning in Division II of the National League in 1973-74, and were also beaten in the Divisional final by Kildare at Croke Park on the

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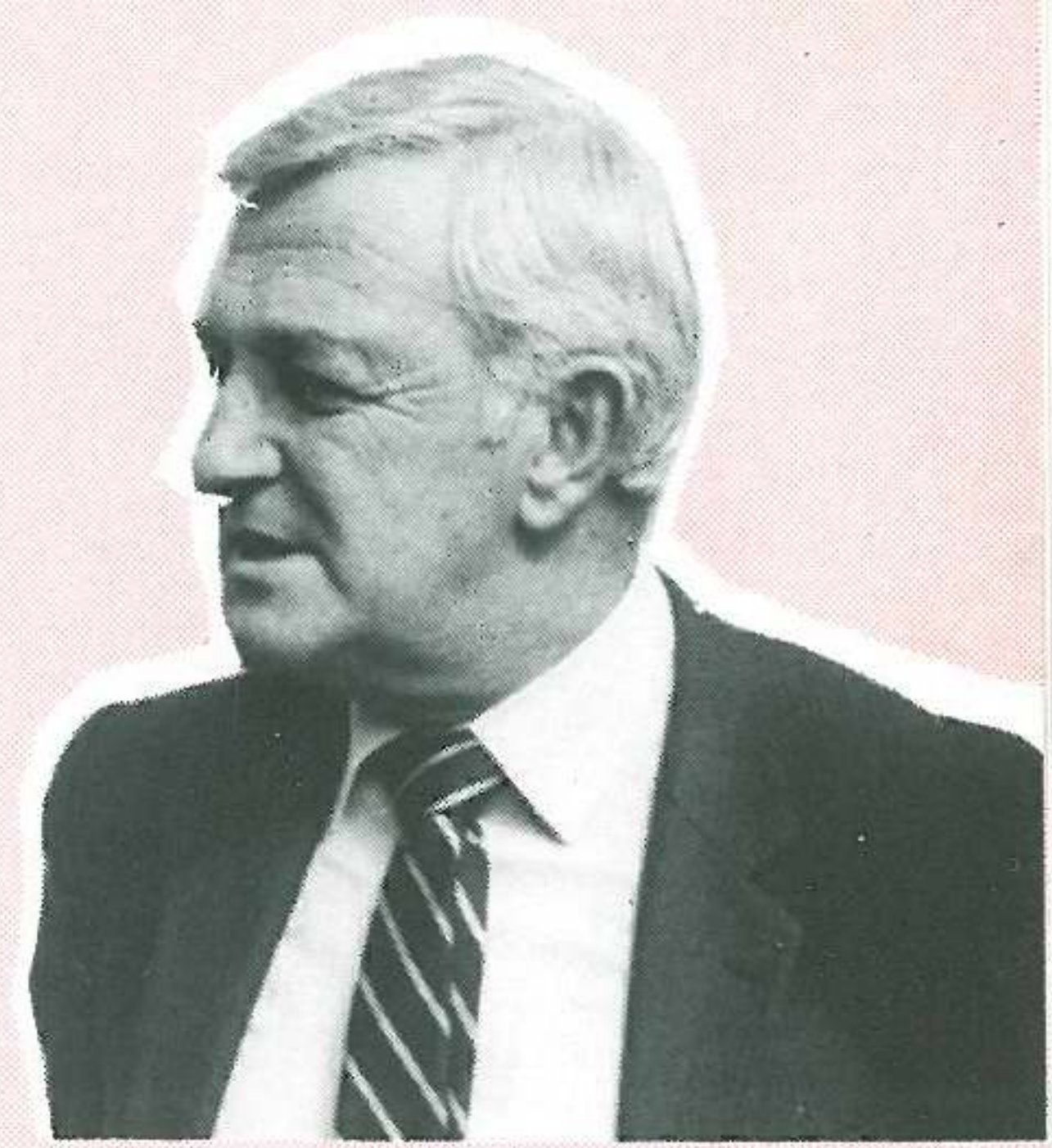
ACLE WORKER

same day that Cork beat Limerick at Limerick in the first Hurling League final televised live. Just imagine now, Dublin playing a Division II League game on the same day as a televised G.A.A. match. It is almost unbelievable.

But back to 1974, and, just a week after the win over Wexford we had an indication of the depth of vision of Kevin Heffernan, plus his ability to motivate players. He influenced Jimmy Keaveney, who had watched the first round game from Hill '16 and was then almost two years in inter-county retirement, to return to the Dublin attack for the second round tie against Louth at Navan.

The shrewdness of Heffernan paid off as Keaveney made a successful return, and Dublin took another step on the comeback trail with a good win. After that, the side never looked back, and all the hard-work, training and dedication, reaped a golden reward on the fourth Sunday of September as

KEVIN
HEFFERNAN ▶



Dublin, led by full-back Sean Doherty, beat Galway to regain the Sam Maguire Cup after a break of nine years.

Dublin's training, the steady build-up to the right peak for each match, the shrewd tactical moves and the great encouragement he provided in his preparation of the team, and on match days, were all factors that enabled Kevin Heffernan to emerge as a true leader in that glory campaign.

Tommy McQuaid put it very succinctly soon after Dublin's final win over Galway — and very appropriately now in the terms of my talk about miracle-worker — when he wrote that Heffernan's achievement could “only have been exceeded by the

•TO PAGE 27

arine

gs to eat.



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●FROM PAGE 25

feat of Moses leading yer men out of Egypt — and consider who Moses had helping him!”

GREAT TEACHER

While it is what happens on the actual field of play on the day that counts in the end, the off-the-field activities of Kevin Heffernan were of immense value. No one can dispute that.

The strange aspect about all this in the context of 1983 is that, while history is supposed to be a great teacher, most of us failed to grasp the lessons from the past, or if we did, we tended to ignore them at a time earlier this year when they would have served us best. That is my reason, at any rate, for saying here that I had to be included among those who gave Dublin little hope of a good run in the Championship, let alone of a title win in Leinster.

It was 1974 all over again at the start of the last Championship series. The background “props” were much as they were nine year earlier, if most of the cast had changed. We had Dublin unimpressive in a draw against Armagh at Croke Park in their concluding round of the National League, and with that game the end of their hopes of a place in the knock-out stages. We had Offaly striding the scene yet again as Leinster champions, only this time they had the added status of All-Ireland king-pins.

Then, as in 1974, we had Kevin Heffernan still there as Dublin team-manager, still moulding an emerging team together, and providing the standard of leadership and tactical play that made him such a master of the position of team manager in the 'Seventies.

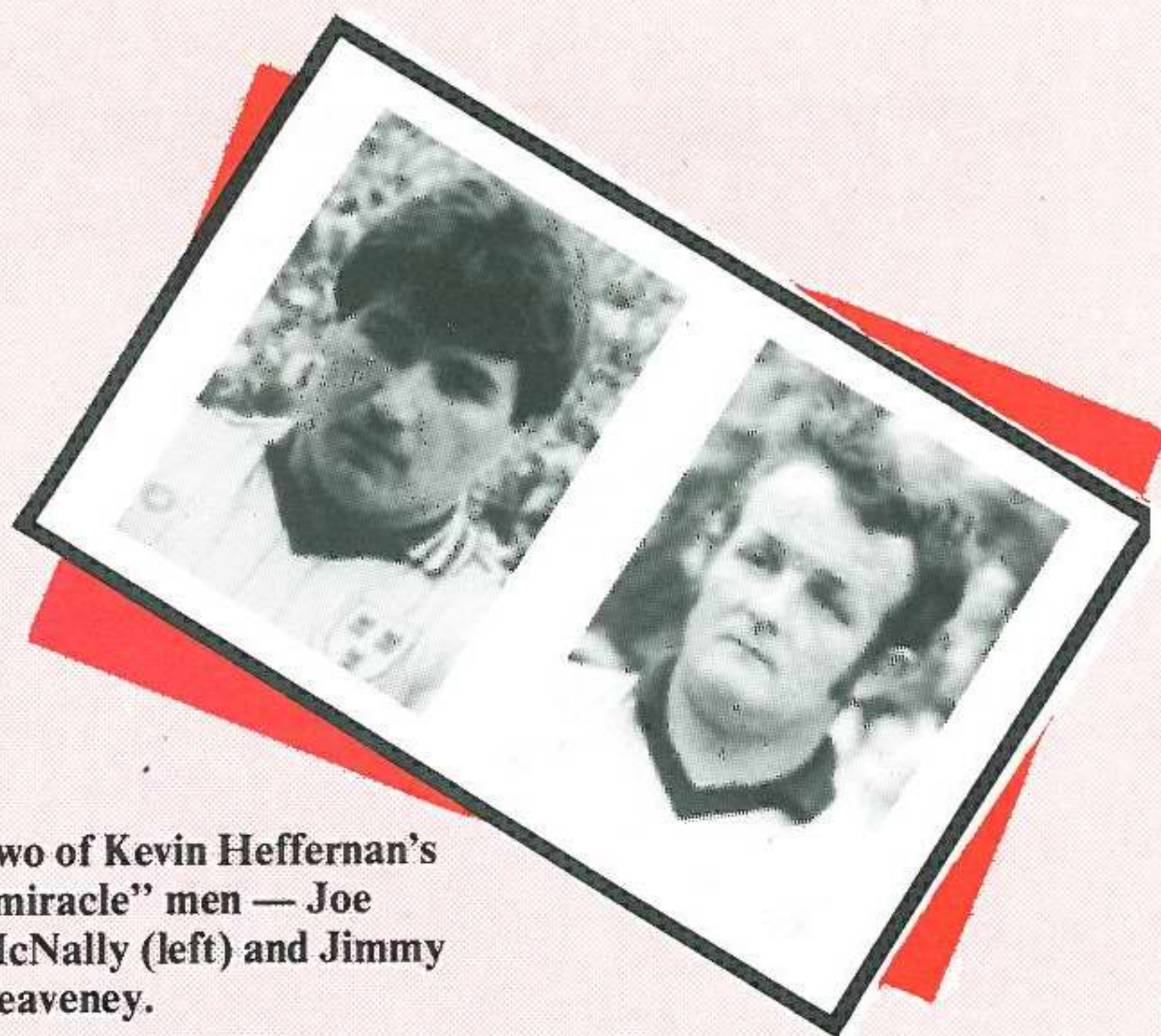
Looking back now with hindsight, it is pertinent to ask bluntly: How could we all have been so blind not to have had some inkling of what fate had in store for us in the '83 championship?

Really, when you think of it in the cold light of these early winter days, we should all have been perceptive enough to have anticipated, as the Championship got under way, that Heffernan was poised to work Miracle No. 2.

NO HOPERS

Even after Dublin beat Meath in extra time at Croke Park, however, most of us were unbelievers. A Leinster title was an impossible dream for the Dubliners, let alone the Sam Maguire Cup.

Now we know better. Heffernan's role in bringing Dublin back from the position of no-hopers at the start of the year to All-Ireland champions was just as mighty a job of work as he accomplished in 1974. It was, furthermore, a repeat performance that put the



Two of Kevin Heffernan's "miracle" men — Joe McNally (left) and Jimmy Keaveney.

Dubliners in a class of his own as a team manager.

He pulled off a master stroke in 1974 when he influenced the comeback of Jimmy Keaveney, a move that few could have anticipated. Then, what happened this year?

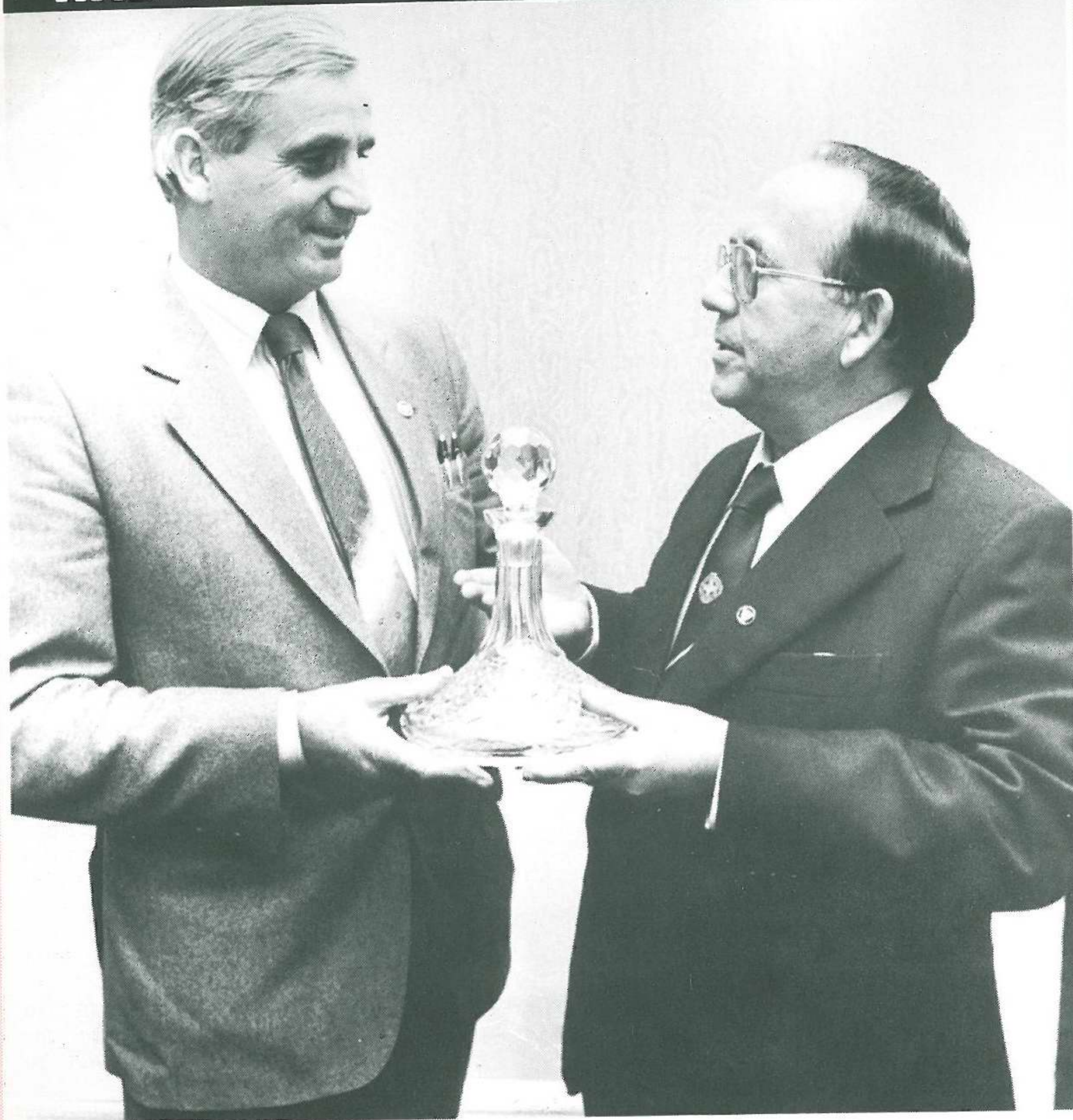
Most of us were caught on the hop when Heffernan and company decided to include last year's All-Ireland minor goalkeeper, Joe McNally, in attack. Even some of us who were aware that the Tallaght man played outfield with his club regarded that as a move born of desperation. Instead, McNally proved one of Dublin's major factors in the climb back to the top.

Another was the third midfield ploy, which, while perhaps nothing new, still caught an unsuspecting public off guard in the Leinster final, and was the key to opening the door to the dethroning of Offaly. After that, we never knew what to expect from Heffernan in the tactical field, and talk about his likely moves was almost as widely discussed as the performances of the players on the field.

Yes, a man with deep vision, a real thinker about the game, that is Kevin Heffernan. As a team-manager he also has consistently shown the faith in his judgement to put his tactics to the test in the games that matter, and to allow the results to vindicate them or not.

I don't think, then, it is too fullsome a term to say that Kevin Heffernan has been the Miracle Worker of Dublin football. He has achieved more than most in a lifetime in the sport by masterminding two of the greatest comeback stories in the annals of the game. And, somehow with the Centenary Year final just around the corner, I don't think, that Kevin Heffernan's contribution to the annals of football has run its full course. Not by a long chalk!

HALL OF FAME AWARD FOR OUR EDITOR



The PADRAIG PUIRSÉAL Hall of Fame Award — the highest honour bestowed by the Gaelic Athletic Association to those adjudged to have done most to further the aims and ideals of the Association in the field of communications was, this year, awarded to GAELIC SPORT Editor, Tommy McQuaid. The presentation took place at a special dinner function in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on October 26th last. In making the presentation, the President of the G.A.A. was generous in his praise of the magnificent job done by both the Editor and the magazine's contributors over the past twenty-five years and hoped GAELIC SPORT would continue to thrive in the years ahead. The award consisted of a specially inscribed, exquisitely cut set of Waterford Crystal consisting of decanter and six wine glasses. Our picture shows President Buggy making the presentation to Tommy.

QUIZ ANSWERS ? ? ? QUIZ ANSWERS ? ? ? QUIZ

●FROM PAGE 17

WHO WON WHAT?

1. Cork, who beat Dublin by 3-3 to 2-3 in the final. 2. Monaghan, who won the final at Newry by 0-9 to 0-4. 3. Loughgiel Shamrocks, of Antrim, in hurling, and Portlaoise. 4. U.C. Galway won by 2-8 to 2-5. 5. St. Flannan's, Ennis, who beat Kilkenny C.B.S. by 0-16 to 2-4. 6. The Junior hurling championship won by Cork, who beat Galway in the final by 3-14 to 2-15. 7. Meath, conquerors of Longford at Longford by 1-11 to 1-9. 8. Galway won the minor title, and Mayo the under-21 crown. 9. Leinster. 10. St. Jarlath's, Tuam, who were later beaten by Coláiste Christí, Cork, in the All-Ireland final.

PERSONALITIES

1. Mark Turley. 2. Liam Fennelly led Kilkenny to the League title as well as to the All-Ireland championship. 3. Tadhg Murphy. 4. Brian Talty, of Parnells, in Dublin, and Donal O'Grady, of St. Finbarr's, in Cork. 5. Barney Rock hit six goals in the Dublin winning run. 6. Noel Skehan played in winning finals in 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1982 and 1983 so the correct answer is six. 7. Martin McHugh, of Donegal. 8. They all played in goal in All-Ireland title winning teams — Marion McCarthy, in senior camogie, and Kelly and Cummins in minor football and hurling respectively. 9. Paddy Collins (Westmeath). 10. Paddy Kelly, of Limerick.

RECOLLECTIONS

1. The 1983 Congress was held at Leisureland Centre, Galway. 2. The Dublin-Cork game was the first football All-Ireland semi-final at Pairc Ui Chaoimh, but Wexford and Galway played an

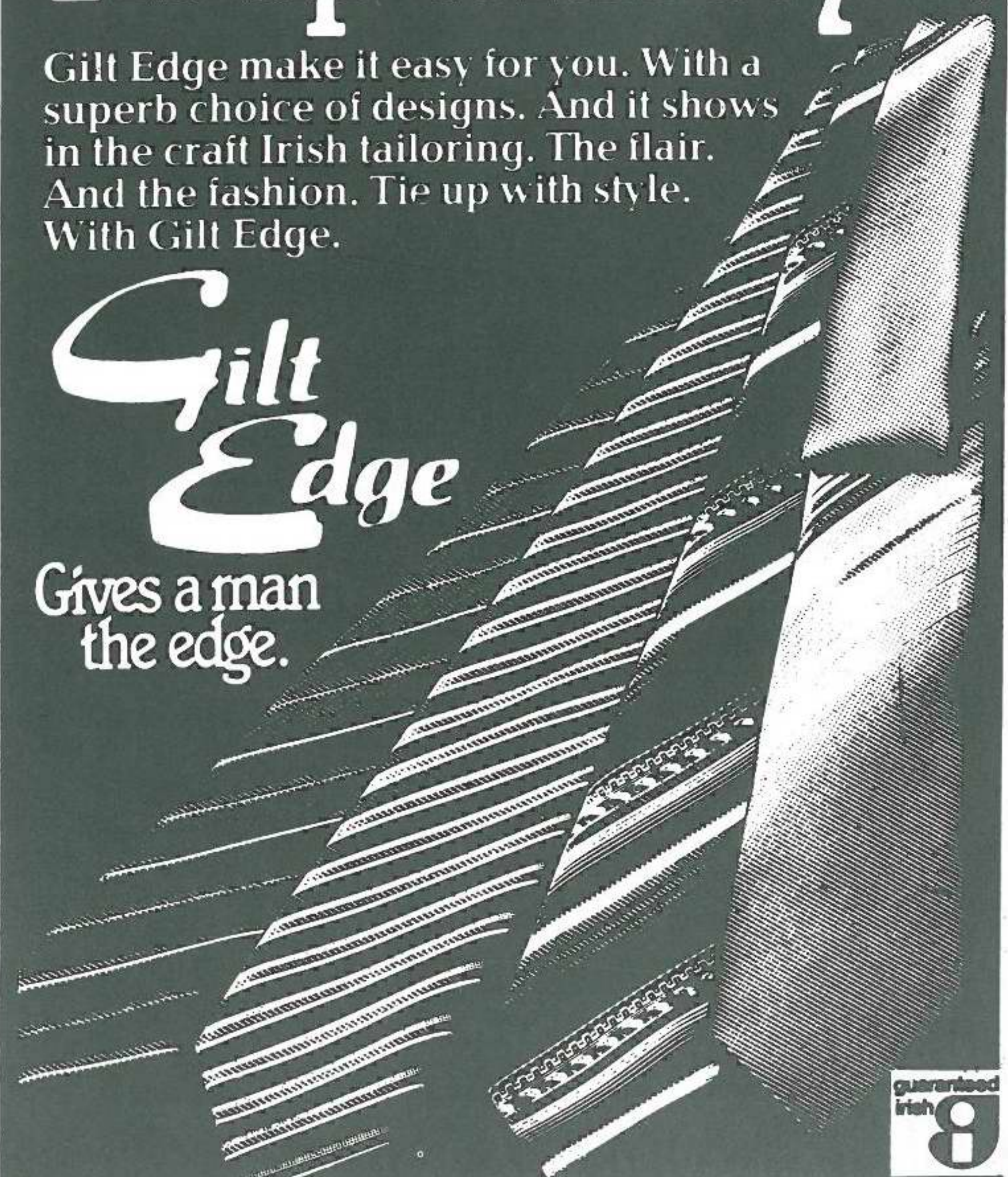
All-Ireland hurling semi-final draw and replay at the venue in 1976. 3. Casement Park, Belfast. 4. Breffni Park, Cavan. 5. Tony Ryan (Tipperary). 6. Yvonne Redmond. 7. Each side played two matches; one at New York,

and the other at San Francisco. 8. Bertie Óg Murphy, who scored 1-25 (28 points) in five games. 9. Neil Duggan (Limerick). 10. Thurles. 11. Castlebar. 12. Noel McCole, of St. Eunan's, Letterkenny.

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"THE 1983 HURLING DECIDER WILL BE RECALLED AS THE FINAL OF THE BIG WIND" SAYS NOEL HORGAN AND ASKS ...

"How good are Kilkenny?"

IF THE 1939 All-Ireland hurling decider in which Kilkenny defeated Cork is remembered today as the 'thunder and lightning final,' then this year's showpiece involving the same counties could, conceivably, in years to come be recalled as the final of the big wind. Rarely, if ever, in the past have the elements had such a major influence on the proceedings on final day.

The weather spoiled the game as a spectacle, largely transforming what promised to be a classical encounter between two perfectly primed combatants into a hit-and-hope type of affair.

Kilkenny won simply because they hit, not more often — as Cork's greater tally of wides will testify — but with less prodigality than their opponents on a day which generally favoured defenders. The wind clearly hindered the judgement and control of the forwards as is evidenced by the fact that Billy Fitzpatrick was the sole attacker on view to enhance his reputation.

The purist was greatly disappointed that conditions prevented the teams from playing to the peak of their powers and, in truth, it was difficult to gauge the real merit of either side. With two All-Ireland and two League titles to their credit during the last two years, however, Cork folk can hardly dispute Kilkenny's claim to be the nation's leading hurling team.

But just how good is this Kilkenny squad?

In this match they showed that at the very least they are a workman-like combination, possessing rare

qualities of composure, resilience and adaptability.

Things did not go well for the champions in the first half. The scores were not coming often enough and Cork — with Jimmy Barry Murphy spraying intelligent passes to create openings for his colleagues — managed to remain well within striking distance. Liam Fennelly's 28 minute goal relieved the pressure to some degree but, considering the ferocity of the gale, Kilkenny's six-point interval lead was far from insurmountable.

Still, Kilkenny showed no signs of panic in their play in the opening period but, astutely analysing the position at the break, they realised that they needed to strike swiftly and sharply on the restart in order to lay firm foundations for a successful resistance to Cork's anticipated second-half onslaught. And they achieved this aim, rocking the unsuspecting Leesiders with an early Richie Power goal.

Having gained the badly needed breathing space, Kilkenny proceeded then to produce a magnificent defensive display, adapting to the situation by employing that ageless midfielder Frank Cummins as a second centre-back alongside the already dominant Ger Henderson.

Kilkenny looked likely to hold out fairly comfortably until Sean O'Leary grabbed a dubious 65th minute Cork goal — Kevin Hennessy seemed to be inside the small square before Pat Horgan's long range free arrived — which produced a cliff-hanging climax but the champions stood firm in the closing stages to win

by two points.

When Wexford opened up a sizeable gap in the Leinster semi-final Kilkenny, likewise, remained unruffled then, confident that if they kept plugging away, everything would eventually come right. And so it did.

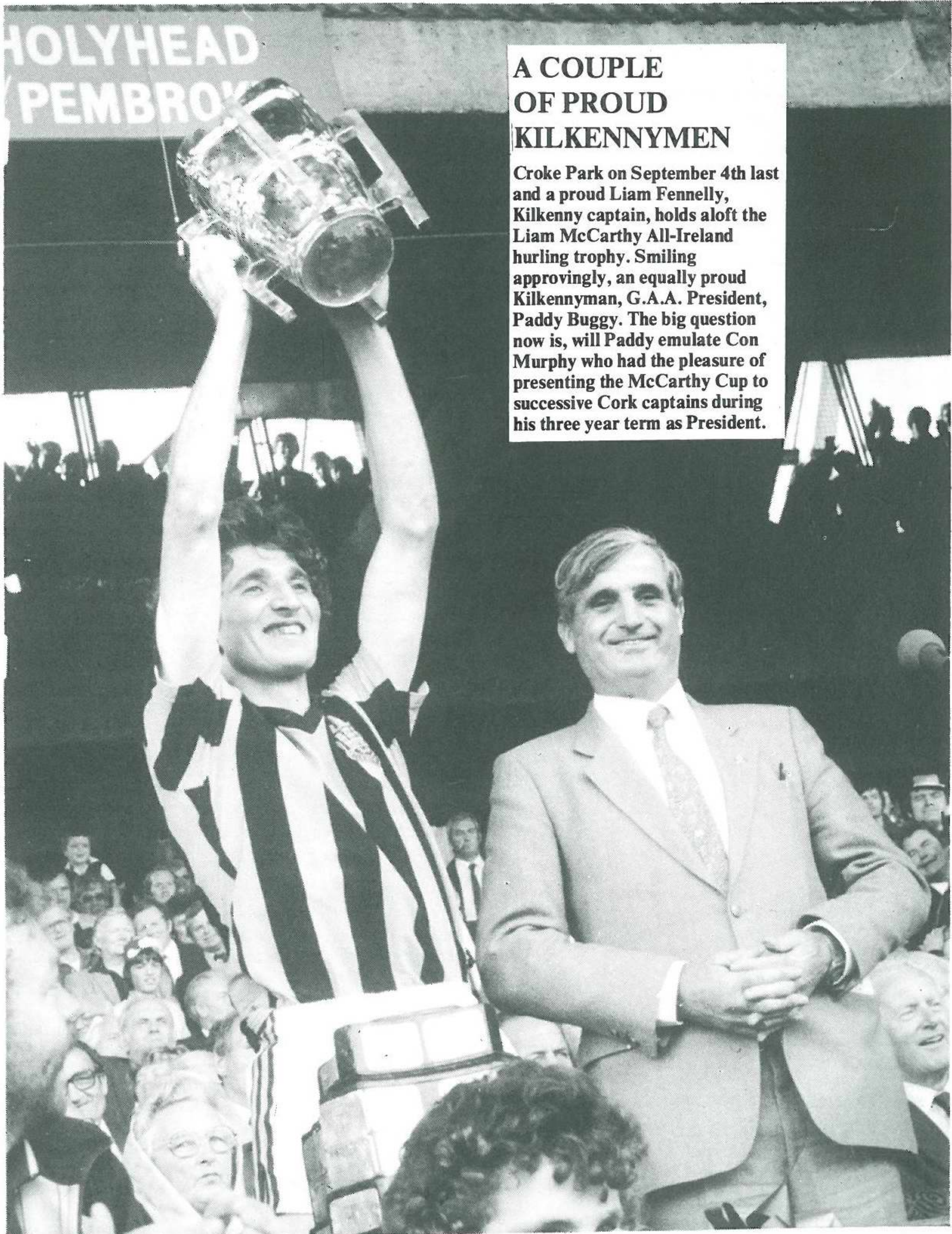
Another admirable feature in the play of this Kilkenny fifteen is the manner in which they are able to pinpoint the strengths and exploit the weaknesses of the opposition.

In last year's Munster final Ray Cummins inspired the Cork attack to produce a scintillating exhibition against Waterford and clearly he would have to be subdued if the Cork forwards were not to ignite again in the All-Ireland. Kilkenny duly dealt with the problem by putting the shackles on Cork's half-forward line as Nicky Brennan, Ger Henderson and Paddy Prendergast scaled herculean heights which limited the supply to Cork's inside men.

Jimmy Barry-Murphy was regarded as the main threat to Kilkenny's ambitions this year but, similarly, he was eclipsed by the deep play of Frank Cummins, the sheer brilliance of half-backs, Joe Hennessy and Ger Henderson and the tight covering of corner men John Henderson and Dick O'Hara.

Brian Cody is a strong independent hurler but it is fair to say that his task against Cork wizards, Cummins and Barry-Murphy, in the last two finals was made so much easier by the sterling support he received from his colleagues. It is this

● TO PAGE 33



**A COUPLE
OF PROUD
KILKENNYMEN**

Croke Park on September 4th last and a proud Liam Fennelly, Kilkenny captain, holds aloft the Liam McCarthy All-Ireland hurling trophy. Smiling approvingly, an equally proud Kilkennyman, G.A.A. President, Paddy Buggy. The big question now is, will Paddy emulate Con Murphy who had the pleasure of presenting the McCarthy Cup to successive Cork captains during his three year term as President.

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN C.L.G. Clár na gCluichí 1984

PEIL SINSIR & MIONUIR

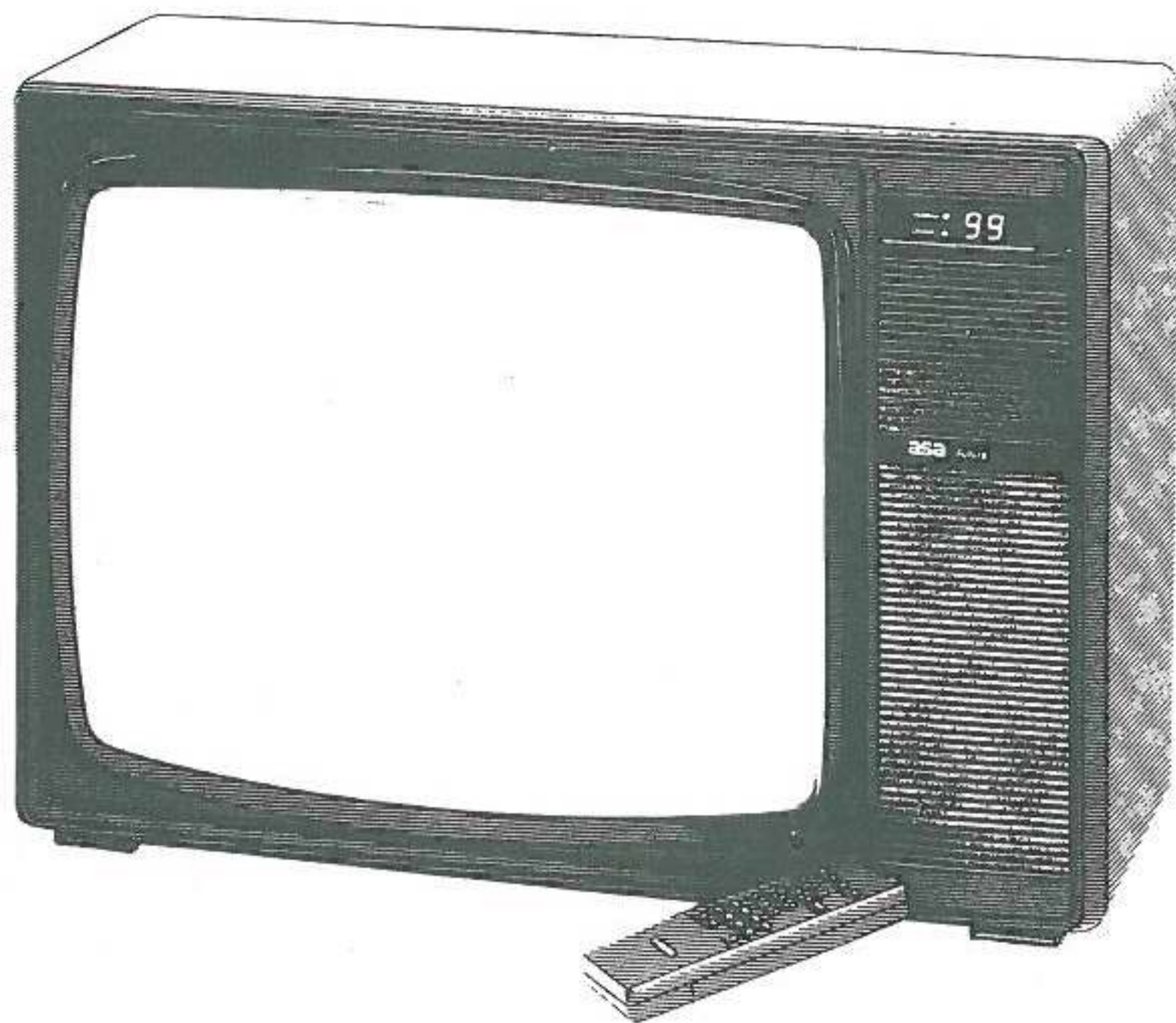
1. Iarmhí v An Mhí
2. Iarmhí nó An Mhí v Lú
3. Ceatharloch vLaois
4. Ceatharloch nó Laois v Cill Dara
5. Cill Mantáin v Longphort
6. Cill Mantáin no Longphort v Uibh Failí
7. Áth Cliath v Loch Garman
- 8a. Iarmhí v Ceatharloch nó Laois nó Cill Dara
- 8b. An Mhí v Ceatharloch nó Laois nó Cill Dara
- 8c. Lú v Ceatharloch nó Laois nó Cill Dara
- 9a. Cill Mantáin v Áth Cliath nó Loch Garman
- 9b. Longphort v Áth Cliath nó Loch Garman
- 9c. Uibh Failí v Áth Cliath nó Loch Garman
Craobh: 8 v 9

IOMÁIN SINSIR

1. Cill Chainnigh v Laois
2. Loch Garman v Cill Chainnigh nó Laois
3. Uibh Failí v Áth Cliath
Craobh: 2 v 3

DATA IONAD

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|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 13.5. 1984 | Muilleann Cerr |
| 3.6.1984 | Muilleann Cerr nó An Uaimh |
| 13.5. 84 | Ceatharloch |
| 3.6.84 | Ceatharloch nó Portlaoise |
| 20.5.1984 | Eachdhruim |
| 10.6.1984 | Eachdhruim nó Longphort |
| 10.6.1984 | Páirc an Chrócaigh |
| 24.6.1984 | Tulach Mhór |
| 24.6.1984 | Páirc and Chrócaigh |
| 24.6.1984 | Páirc an Chrócaigh |
| 1.7.1984 | Droichead Nua nó Ceatharloch |
| 1.7.1984 | Muilleann Cerr nó
Páirc an Chrócaigh |
| 1.7.1984 | Portlaoise nó Páirc an Chrócaigh |
| 22.7.1984 | Páirc an Chrócaigh |
| 27.5.1984 | Ceatharloch |
| 17.6.1984 | Páirc an Chrócaigh |
| 17.6.1984 | Páirc an Chrócaigh |
| 8.7.1984 | Páirc an Chrócaigh |



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KILKENNY — 1983 ALL-IRELAND HURLING 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.

●FROM PAGE 30

eagerness and ability to work for each other that has principally enabled Kilkenny to remain ahead of the pack for the past two years.

Fitzpatrick was the star in attack this year but Harry Ryan was very much involved in both Kilkenny goals to which Liam Fennelly and Power put the finishing touches while both Ger Fennelly and Christy Heffernan, the top forwards in the '82 decider, also worked industriously at different stages. Add in the steady midfield play of Kieran Brennan and the completely dependable goal-keeping of Noel Skehan and it becomes obvious that this was again a fine team victory, based mainly on composure, craft and ultra-keen commitment.

Kilkenny's superior balance was, perhaps, most vividly reflected by the performance of Billy Fitzpatrick. Before the final the respective full-forwards, Heffernan and Barry-

Murphy, were expected to play vital roles in attack. Both failed to do so but whereas Cork inevitably had none to don Barry-Murphy's mantle, Kilkenny, in the skilful Fitzpatrick, most definitely had a deputy attacking leader.

Comparisons between this Kilkenny side and the illustrious Noreside squad of the early seventies are inevitable at this stage but while defensively the current squad is as formidable as any to emerge from the Marble city, I feel that forwards like Eddie Keher and Mick Brennan provided the former outfit with the type of attacking flair that separates the great from the very good teams.

Still, Keher, Brennan, Crotty, Delaney and the rest were playing together for a long time before they attained their almost flawless fluency and perhaps the present Kilkenny attack, arguably endowed with more commitment than class at the

moment has yet to reach the peak of its powers.

Cork were naturally most disappointed after their second successive final failure, especially as they could have captured the laurels had they not wasted so many chances from frees. Spirit is low within the Rebel county at the moment but I would venture to suggest that it was even lower this time last season, following the dismal failure of Cork's hotly-fancied fifteen.

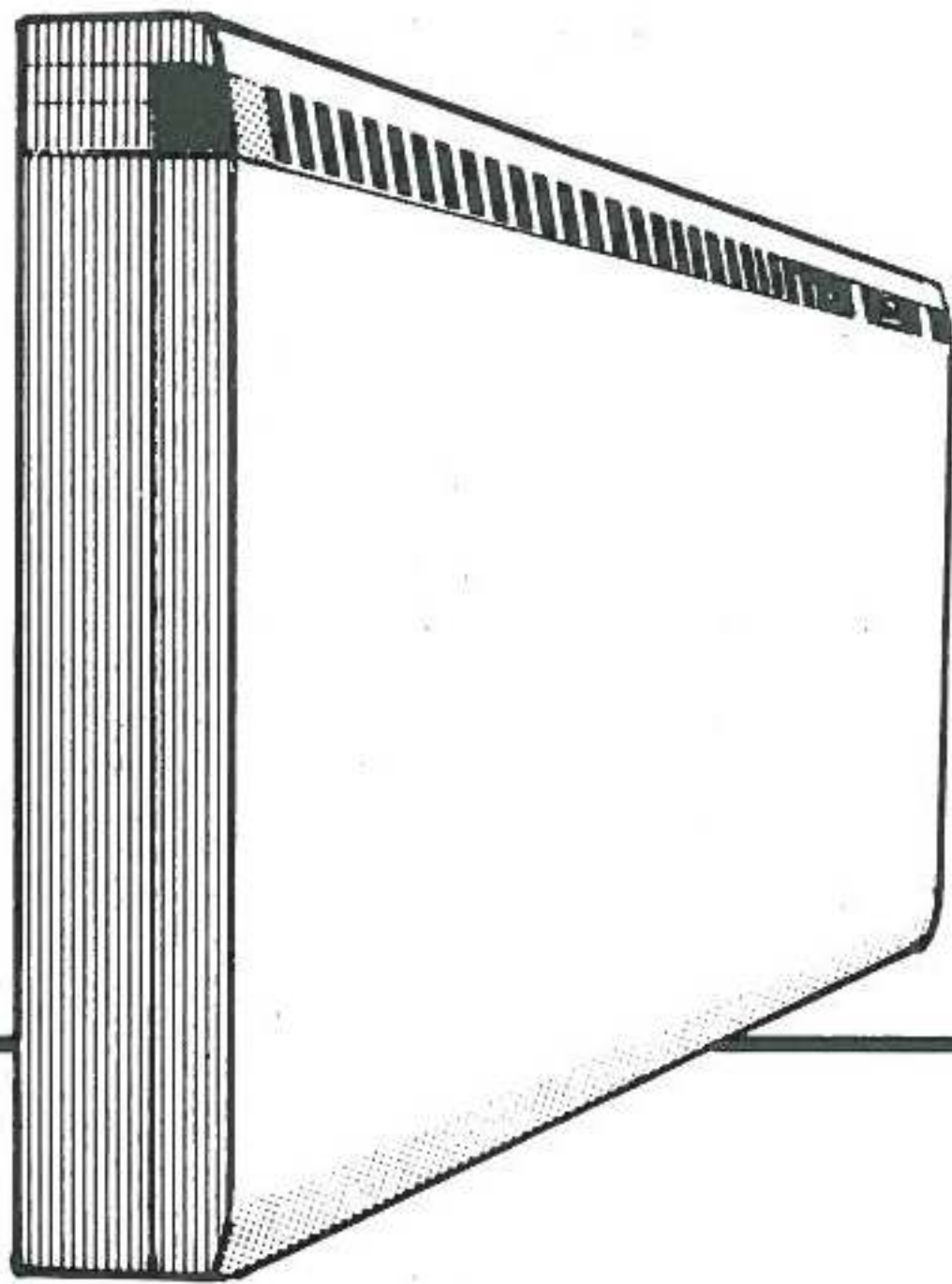
It is a safe bet that, come the '84 championship, Cork's dented morale will again be sufficiently repaired to enable the Rebels to mount a formidable challenge for All-Ireland honours. And if, as is quite likely, Cork and Kilkenny will make it to the Centenary final at Thurles, maybe then the purists will be treated to the classic which the elements so disappointingly denied us this year.

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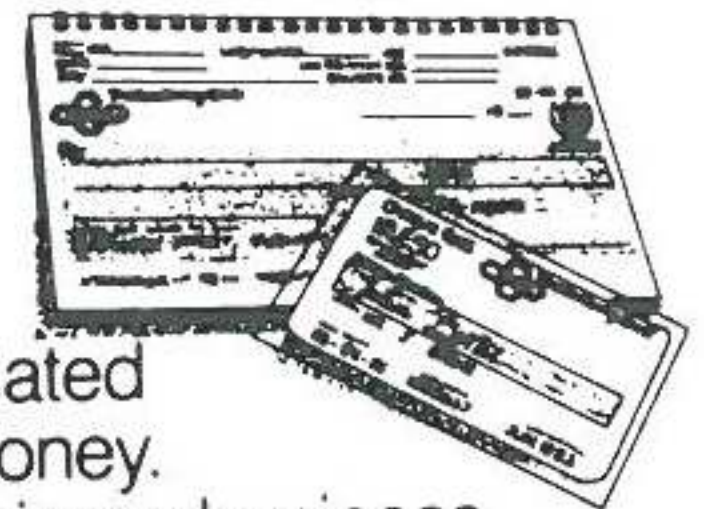


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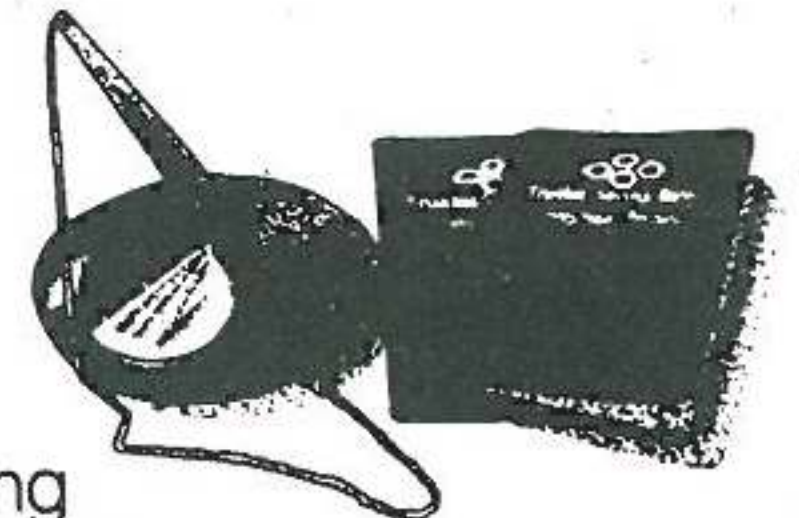


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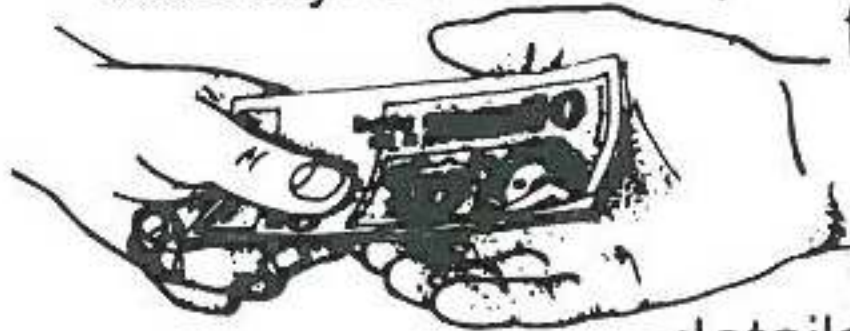


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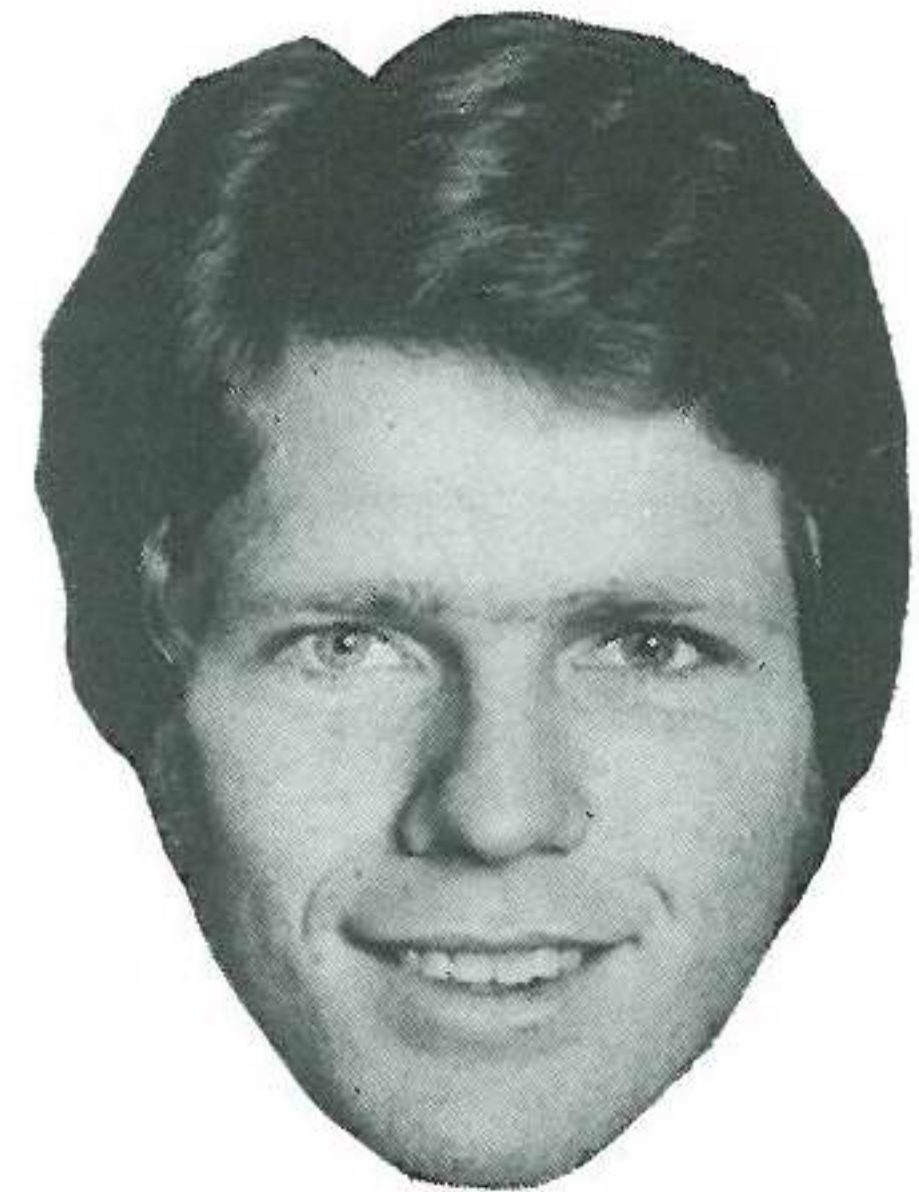
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●PAT CANAVAN
COMPLETE PLAYER

A HALF-BACK
LINE OF
CLASS AND NEAR
INVINCIBILITY

BY PETER DUNPHY



●TOMMY DRUMM
LED BY EXAMPLE

THERE are differing opinions as to the areas where the foundations of the Dublin championship win were laid, but for my money, the men who made the greatest contribution overall were the half backs in general, and Tommy Drumm, in particular.

One must give full credit to the backroom boys for their foresight and faith. That faith saw them stick by players at a time when popular opinion in the early stages of the Championship cried out for changes.

Credit must also be given to Brian Mullins for his tremendous work over most of the games. The scoring technique of Barney Rock, and the successful come-back of Anton O'Toole were other invaluable factors.

Nevertheless, I would argue strongly that but for the sheer quality of the half-backs, particularly in the latter stages of the championship, Dublin would not now be celebrating their coming of age All-Ireland senior football title.

Drumm was the pivot around whom everything revolved successfully at the back. He was in there from first to last, pulling his weight in exemplary fashion, as he generalised matters superbly with his quiet but so effective football, and his non-stop effort.

QUITE MAN

Tommy was dubbed the quiet man of football in the last issue of GAELIC SPORT, and that is a very fitting title. Here is a player who does not make a fuss on the playing field, but plays the game as it should be played and in a way that ensures he is of the maximum benefit possible to his team in game after game.

Drumm had an advantage over half-back colleagues Pat Canavan and P.J. Buckley in that he had been through it all before at All-Ireland final level as a senior when he took the field against Galway. Every game, however, is a new challenge, and the Whitehall Colmcille club man came through the last big test in his usual cool, authoritative way.

This year as well, Drumm filled the added role of team captain. Such a position may not be all that demanding in so far as dictating and implementing policy and tactics are concerned, but the responsibility must still add to the pressures on a player — especially as his team advances steadily towards the ultimate goal.

Drumm did not show any signs of the extra pressures. Throughout the title race he led by example; cool, brainy, alert and active. He was the master craftsman of rearguard action, whose artistry and ability, in blunting the edge of the score-getters and also in turning defence into attack, proved a major weapon in the Dublin armoury.

In short, the 28 year-old Civil Engineer orchestrated matters with his pace, know-how, quick-thinking and always so intelligent play, and proved really to the letter just what the position at the back he filled implies — the pivot of the entire rearguard.

Thinking back now over the games in the Championship I don't think Drumm could have won his third All-Ireland senior medal, or joined the ranks of winning team captains in better fashion than he did this year.

●TO PAGE 37

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HALF-BACKS OF CLASS

•FROM PAGE 35

COMPLETE PLAYER

Pat Canavan I rate as the most improved player in the Dublin team. Hard to credit now that he was not in the side that played a draw with Meath in the opening round, but after regaining his place for the replay, his football matured with every game until he looked the complete footballer as he illuminated the disappointing clash with Galway with the sheer brilliance of his performance.

The right half back played exceptionally well from the opening whistle, but he really came into his own in the second half when his team was down to twelve men. Canavan saved Dublin time and again with his sense of position, his willingness to run himself into the ground in the interests of the team, and his intelligent clearances.

The Dublin Trustee Savings Bank Executive who was only 23 a few weeks before the final, was the defender more than any other who proved the big stumbling block to the Galway forwards as they strove to make up lost ground in the tension-laden closing stages. It is doubtful if Dublin would have survived to lift the Cup had Canavan not been so majestically on his game when it mattered most.

After a somewhat in-and-out spell with the senior team, Canavan, who captained the minor team from full-back in the unsuccessful All-Ireland final bid against Mayo in 1978, is here to stay. He has a tremendous future ahead of him, and I have not the slightest hesitation here and now in making him my right half back of the year in football.

If Pat Canavan outshone his colleagues in the half back line in the All-Ireland final, Drumm, as I have already said, and the man who completed the division, P.J. Buckley, played their roles as well. The No. 7 completed a great match-winning trio with many telling touches and play that was always constructive and never less than wholehearted all through.

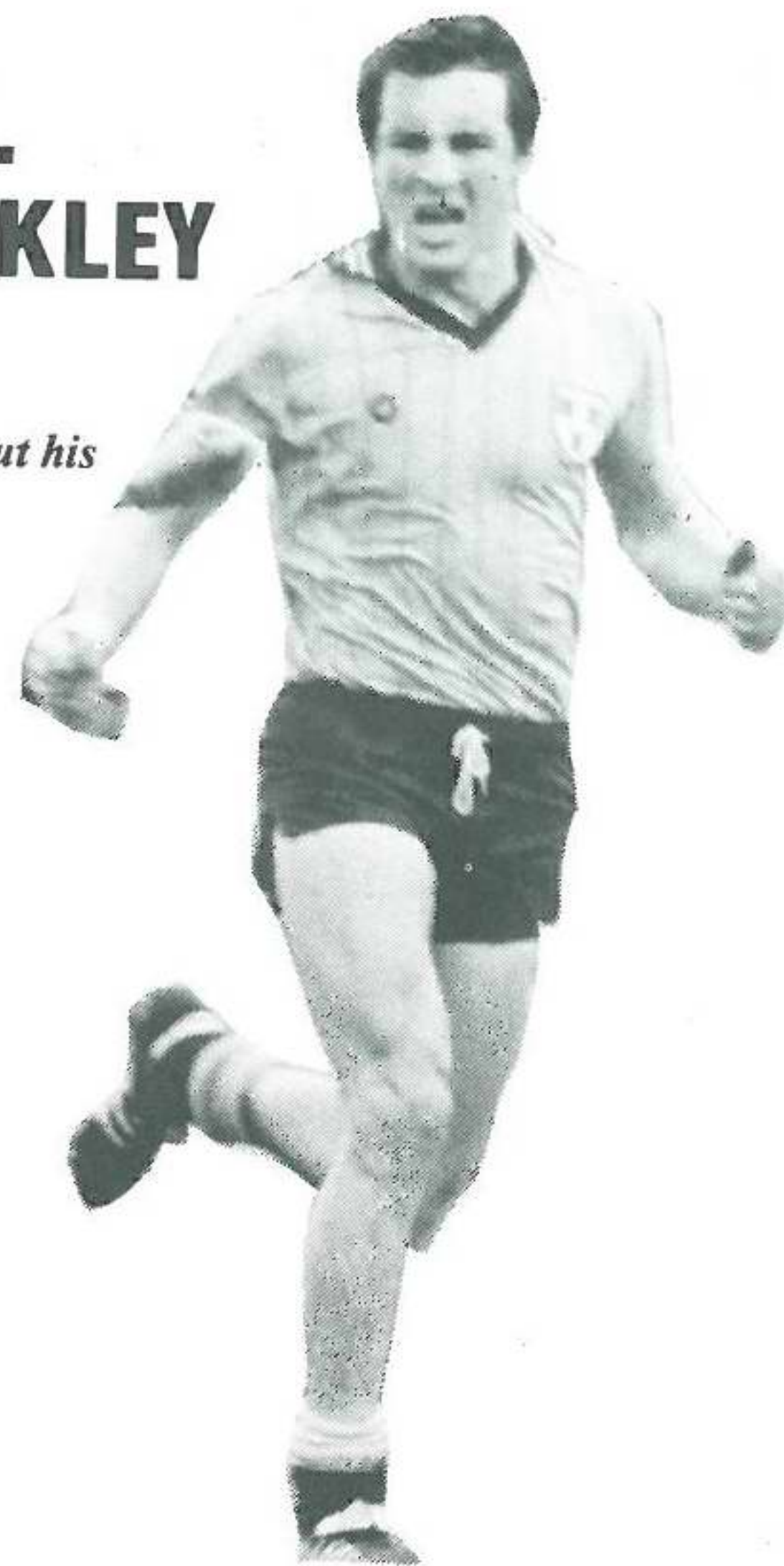
Buckley is a footballer who somehow seems to have failed to capture much of the limelight when Dubliners discuss the merits of their side. This is surprising, because if you think back over past games, and recall happenings, the wing back from Erin's Isle emerged as one player who was in there working hard all the time.

BACK UNIT

Buckley goes about his task with an exactness that ensures he is a difficult defender to outwit, and he

★ P. J. BUCKLEY

P.J. goes about his task with an exactness that ensures he is a difficult defender to outwit but he can adopt an attacking role when it is feasible



also rarely gives his followers much to worry about. This 27 year-old Civil Servant can adopt an attacking role when it is feasible, and he has been known as well to put his name on the scoring sheet.

Buckley first appeared in an All-Ireland final back in 1975 when he was in the Dublin team that lost to Kerry at under-21 at Tipperary Town.

Individually, Pat Canavan, Tommy Drumm and P.J. Buckley had their own special moments during the year. Collectively, they quickly blended into a half back unit of class, industry and near invincibility.

That is why Dublin swept all before them. There were other factors, of course, as I have pointed out. After all, any team must be strong in all sectors to win an All-Ireland title, and must also have players with the touches of individual brilliance to turn a match around, but over and above everything else a powerful half back line is one of the best basis for a thrust to glory.

Dublin may not have had that at the start of the campaign, but they developed that unit as the year progressed, and by the time that one of the giants of that department, Tommy Drumm, stepped up on the Hogan Stand to receive the Sam Maguire Cup, the half back line was as good as we have seen in any county team in a long spell.

**THEY'LL ALL BE AFTER THE DUBS IN '84 BECAUSE THE
HACKLES ON THE NECK**

BUT TAKING "SAM" FROM THE CAP

IN this hour of trial for Dublin everybody is asking what they will be like next year. Will they be any good at all? Will they get out of Leinster? Will they take public criticism to heart? Will? .. Will? ..

The human spirit is very buoyant and I have seen a thousand players over the years shrug off the greatest disappointments one can meet after months of training. Resilience is the brightest star in the sportsman's galaxy and I, for one, don't see the All-Ireland champions on the floor.

Let's forget about suspensions and try to estimate their chances next year by looking as closely as we can at their merit, the only sure basis for success.

"For examples of courage, determination and an irrepressible desire to win, football instructors need look no further than yesterday's Leinster Championship quarter final re-play between Dublin and Meath at Croke Park. After 100 minutes of the closest highly-contested fare of the current campaign Dublin qualified to meet Louth in the semi-final by a mere two points."

"In brilliant sunshine, with temperatures reaching a high of 77 degrees, the two teams engaged in the most competitive and physically demanding form of football. The crowd of 24,383 roared its approval all through the afternoon when even the least activity sapped the energy of all but the fittest."

"When the euphoria of this victory dies down the Dublin camp will realise that their performance will have to improve if they are to account for Louth and then entertain the All-Ireland champions Offaly, for with all the aces in their hand at half-time, when going in with an eight point lead, they allowed battling Meath overpower them for the next 35 minutes and were fortunate not to be overhauled."

Donal Keenan in the *Independent* wrote that on the evening of July 3 when after extra time Dublin finished 3-9 to Meath's 0-16. Barney Rock had 2-3, two from the dead ball, Ciaran Duff three points, one

from a free. Brian Jordan had the other goal and there was one point from each of Pat Canavan, John Kearns and Anton O'Toole.

Before that, the teams had drawn at 2-8 each and a fortnight after, Dublin played very badly in beating Louth, though 1-12 to 0-3 is decisive enough for anyone. Another fortnight elapsed before the big one. The game most of us thought Dublin wouldn't win, but in Croke Park at the end of July a confident Offaly bit the dust at 2-13 to 1-11. So there were Kevin Heffernan's men in the All-Ireland series with five hard matches under their belts and no illusions either about themselves or their opponents.

Three weeks after the Offaly game Dublin drew with Cork in Croke Park at 2-11 each when Anton

BY EAMONN YOUNG

O'Toole got one goal and Barney Rock receiving from Ray Hazley got the other in the last minute to beat the clock and save the side. In Cork a week later Dublin were simply too strong and tough for a Cork side that went down 4-15 to 2-10. The final showed a score of 1-10 to 1-8 for Galway.

What does all this add up to?

Dublin played six games, drawing two, and showing in the final that 12 could beat 14. The side showed audacity, self-confidence, good football and good sideline leadership and a daring fitness, both of mind and body. Such a team is very hard to beat.

Of course the question is what they'll do next year.

I am deliberately avoiding a reference to organisational discipline except that I must ask what effect the suspensions will have on Dublin?

I can only present my own reaction which would be to get out there next year with increased ardour to show the world what a team we have. This is not written in any critical sense of anybody and is not in

MAIN EFFECT OF THE DUBLIN ROAR WILL BE TO RAISE NECKS OF ALL CULCHIES

CAPITAL IS GOING TO BE A TOUGH JOB

support of anybody either. It simply portrays what I hope is the sportsman's natural reaction to a challenging set-back.

I feel that if the men behind the Dublin side stimulate their charges to work hard for next year's championship we'll see a formidable Dublin side once again, for with that playing population, warmed by public support and guided with the psychological skill of the men on the line, a county cannot but field a capable side.

Now let's look at the rest.

Donegal were very good on the day against Galway when the Northern side went down by a point. Still it wasn't a very entertaining game, a fact which doesn't always portray merit correctly, of course. The doubt one must cast over Tir Connail is the poor display of Galway in the final, when every county that played the champions bewailed afresh its own defeat saying they would have won the cup had they got past Dublin.

Kerry were just a little unlucky against Cork in that Tadhg Murphy's great last-minute goal came from a defensive error and then hit the upright on the way in. Kerry will probably be back but that doesn't mean they'll beat Cork in Killarney next July. Cork will be fairly good and I can see them working with renewed enthusiasm and for this game, the winners of which should be good in the semi final.

Offaly will as always be fairly good. They have all the good players and as the Leinster championship gives the strong teams a few pipe-openers before they meet the top class we can expect they'll be in good trim before they meet Dublin — assuming they both survive earlier rounds. The same can be said of Meath. After all they had enough chances to beat the Metropolitans and they'll be the first to suggest that the improvement made by Tony Hanohoe's bunch would have been paralleled by Meath had they come through.

So there's Cork, Kerry, Galway, Mayo, Donegal,

Cavan, Armagh, and Down, Offaly, Meath, Kildare and Louth.

Let's see how these get along in the League and I suggest they'll all be trying, for not one of them can be satisfied with its role in the '83 championship, so new men will be looking for places.



Inny, miny, miny, moe
'84, where will "Sam" go?

Trainers, selectors, players, they'll all be after the Dubs for make no mistake about it, good as this metropolitan win is for the game, the main effect of the Dublin roar is to rise the hackles on the necks of the Culchies from Fair Head in Antrim to Mizen Head in Cork.

Still I'm convinced that if the "Twenty Men from Dublin Town" react with the bright, affirmative, audacious attitude I've seen in Dublinmen since my young soldiering days, taking "Sam" out of the Capital, in 1984, is going to be a tough job.

BOOK REVIEW

GAELSPÓRT

A Champion Production

GAELSPÓRT, the official G.A.A. Annual has just gone on sale throughout the country and we confidently predict that readers will vote this edition the most exciting and most lavishly produced to date.

Congratulations to Pat Daly, G.A.A. Development Officer, Owen Corry and Peter O'Hehir, the men responsible for producing the Annual. The trio's team work have put together 96 pages of top class reading material that provides the ideal Christmas gift for both young and old and more especially for those who have relatives overseas.

Included in the Annual are 16 pages devoted exclusively to a look-back over the past 100 years in the Association's history and is a compendium of G.A.A. facts and figures, ranging from G.A.A. tours to the U.S.A. — great moments in Gaelic history with special reference to the Thunder and Lightning final of '39 — the magic of Barry Murphy, a hilarious folk tale by John B. Keane entitled Shakespeare, the Kerry Connection — Martin McHugh, Donegal's Dangerman — a special Quiz entitled "Do you know your Game?" plus many other exciting puzzles and word games to be enjoyed by all the family.

There is a special section devoted to Kilkenny's Double Double — apertaining to the All-Ireland Hurling Champions feat of capturing both league and championship titles in '82 and '83. Special coverage, too, for the Magnificent Twelve — relating to the fabulous performance of Dublin's twelve men and their heroic victory in this year's Football Final and, talking of Dublin, there is a special feature on Barney Rock.

Loughgiel Shamrock's of Antrim, who this year became the first Ulster team to win the All-Ireland Hurling Club Championship merit an

exclusive article and in addition there is a most interesting feature entitled Cross Talk, in which John Summers, Joe McDonagh, Mick Jacob and Paudie O'Shea answer some very

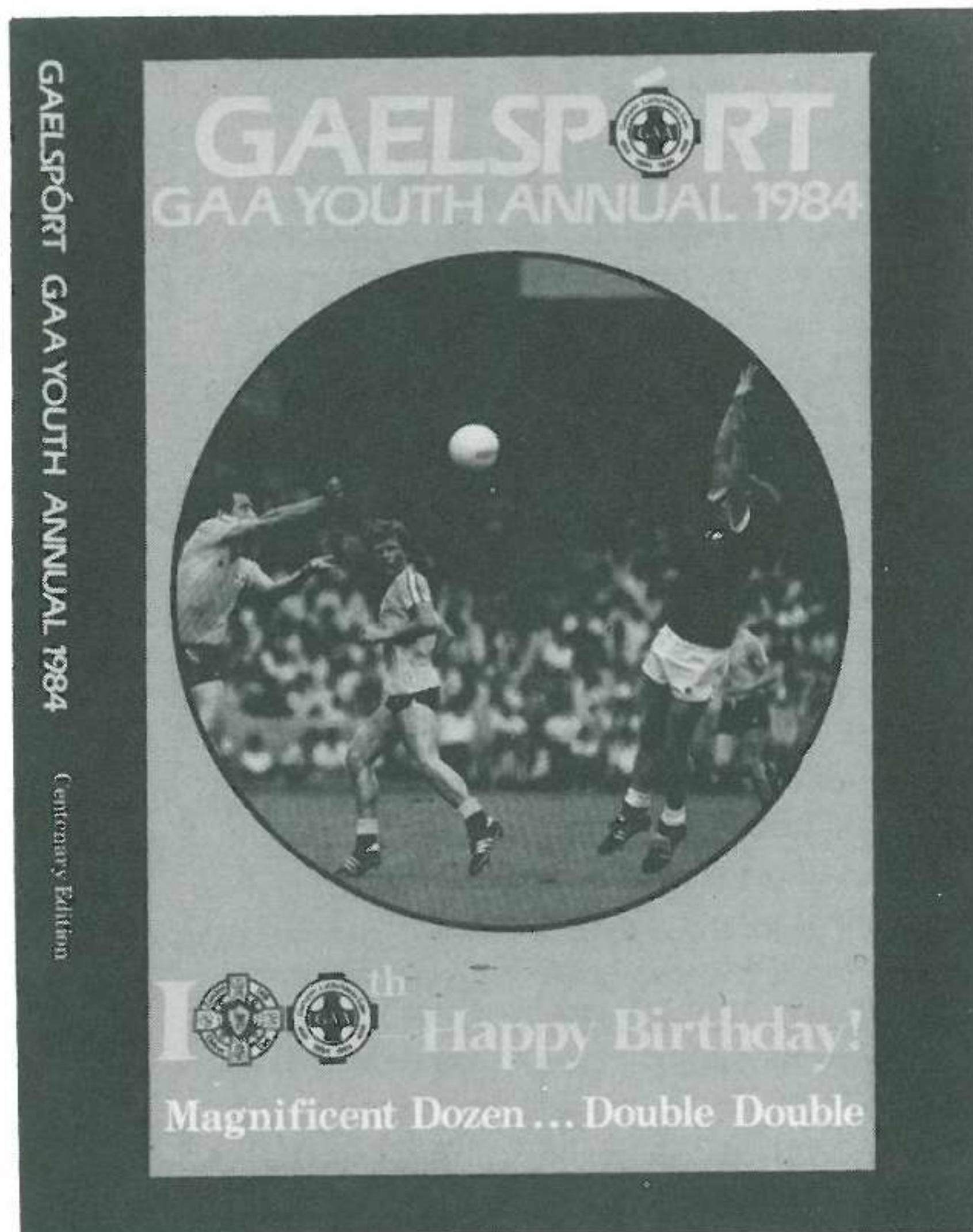
BY BILL KIELY

interesting questions. One in particular takes the writer's fancy and it is "What is your pet G.A.A. gripe?"

No doubt Gaelspórt is going to be a sell out and at a cost of £3.95 must be the bargain of the year. If you have any difficulty in obtaining the Annual at your local newsagents you can obtain it direct from Pat Daly, G.A.A. Development Officer, Croke Park, enclosing a postal order or cheque for £4.95 (postage £1).

GAELSPÓRT

GAA YOUTH ANNUAL



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RECORD YEAR FOR LEESIDERS

1983 HAS been another great year for Camogie achievements in Cork. They repeated their 1980 record of winning all the National Championships. In the senior they defeated Dublin to take the title for the fourteenth time. In the Junior they also were victorious over Dublin. and the luckless metropolitans also fell to the Leesiders in the minor grade.

Marion McCarthy the goalie who was last year's B & I Camogie Star of the Year, won her eighth All-Ireland senior medal, a record for Cork. Marion Sweeney gained her seventh medal while Claire Cronin, who had earlier in the season, won the Gradam Tailte Award, for her performance and achievements in the All-Ireland Camogie All Star Competition for which all thirty-two counties entered, won her fourth premier medal.

What a disappointment for Dublin who were the winners victims in all three competitions — and by such very small margins.

The Juniors lost by one point, the Seniors went down by two points and the Minors trailed by one goal at the final whistle in the respective games.

CONSOLATION

But Dublin must console themselves with having won the Senior and Junior National Leagues.

A pleasing and encouraging feature of the All-Ireland finals was the increased attendance. Perhaps the fine day drew a larger crowd but personally I feel that the increased publicity given to the final by the media had a big bearing on the increased attendance.

The excitement in both Senior and Junior games was fantastic and the sportsmanship of the players was commented upon by many, both in

the press and in the attendance.

The Buffers Alley Club, Monomolin, Wexford, are in the news again. For the sixth year in a row they qualified for the All-Ireland Club Championship Final.

The Wexford club won the Cup

Mary's Kilkerrin — Glenamaddy (Galway) are a new force.

They won the Galway Championship for the first time after thirteen years of trying. They went on to take the Connacht title and surprised Croagh-Kilfinny (Limerick), the favourites, in the All-Ireland semi-final. Buffers Alley defeated Swatragh (Derry).

GOOD NEWS

The Dublin Board is back in full swing. The game is spreading both in the metropolis and throughout the county. Almost every week there is a new juvenile club registering since the season began.

This is a busy time, also, for the schools at second level and for the third level colleges.

The Ashbourne Cup is due to be hosted by Queens University, Belfast and Carysfort College, the runners-up in the Purcell Cup last season, are down to host the latter competition this year.

WELCOME

News of a County Board in Longford for the first time in a number of years is very welcome. All twelve Leinster Counties are now affiliated.

The Junior National League has proved most beneficial to the weaker counties as is evident in the improved standard in Roscommon, Offaly, Carlow, Wicklow, Meath and above all in Westmeath, who reached the Junior League final and did very well in that game against Dublin.

Convention time for many counties is not far off now. Finance is still a great problem for most counties as travelling has got so expensive but advance planning should help to cope with the rising costs.



MARION McCARTHY
EIGHT ALL-IRELAND MEDALS

four times in the last five years and are now champions three years in succession. This year they have equalled St. Paul's (Kilkenny) three-in-a-row run of victories from 1968-70.

Their opponents in the final St.

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Joe McNulty
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scene and
wonders . . .

*WILL THE
CENTENARY
FINAL BE
WORTHY OF
OCCASION*



JIMMY BARRY-MURPHY
Cork star scored The Goal of the Year.

NOT a good year for hurling. That must be the summary of 1983 as far as the ancient game is concerned. The momentum that ushered in the present decade with Galway's long awaited breakthrough in the All-Ireland senior final, was added to by Offaly's historic McCarthy Cup win in 1981, and helped along by some good games in 1982 was not really maintained in the past season.

We had another disappointing Munster senior final as Waterford failed to Cork rather badly for the second successive year. A moderate Cork-Galway semi-final was relieved only by a peach of a goal from Jimmy Barry-Murphy in the 58th minute, and it did not help to add to the atmosphere and the colour of final day when the second lowest attendance in 25 years — 58,381 — turned up for the Kilkenny title defence against Cork. The game was interesting enough, without really

having the drama and the excitement of great games of the past, despite a strong rally by the Cork men.

Kilkenny had earlier beaten Offaly in a keen rather than memorable Leinster senior final at Croke Park, so that there was not much to enthuse over as far as thrilling matches were concerned.

At the same time, one cannot dismiss 1983 as an uneventful year for hurling. The season had some bright points, one of the best being the achievement of Loughiel Shamrocks in the All-Ireland club senior championship.

There were broad smiles on Ulster faces at Croke Park as the men from Antrim exceeded most expectations by playing a draw with St. Rynagh's, Offaly, in the final at Croke Park in April. The shrewd judges from the deep South winked knowingly as they credited Loughiel for a brave effort but with an air of authority dismissed

the Northerners' chances of a title win at the second attempt.

Even the fact that the replay was fixed for Casement Park in Belfast, did not unruffle those experts as they confidently awaited confirmation of the Offaly win. But it was not to be, as the men from across the Border scaled heights never before attained by a club side from there, with a win that was much more clear-cut than the winning margin of one goal would suggest.

Niall Patterson, goalkeeper and captain, Paddy Carey Junior and Brendan Laverty in attack, Michael O'Connell in midfield and P.J. Mullen at full back were some of the names on the lips of many as Loughiel accomplished the impossible. If only for that history-making feat alone, 1983 would have been worthwhile in hurling.

●TO PAGE 45

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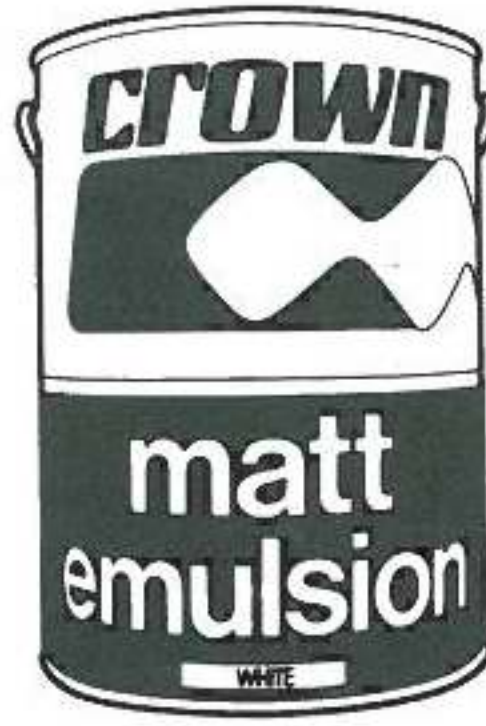
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●FROM PAGE 43

There were other encouraging factors. Many of us saw Dublin win a Leinster minor hurling final for the first time, as Niall Quinn, an elegant and unflurried forward from the Robert Emmetts club, orchestrated a marvellous show as the Dubs beat Wexford by 5-14 to 4-12 at Croke Park. Quinn contributed 3-5, with his third goal some five minutes from time proving a magnificent effort.

LONG TIME

The win gave Dublin their first Leinster title in the grade since 1965, a long time, and one can only hope that the success will help to advance the game by the Liffeside, despite the team's defeat in the final.

The All-Ireland minor final was another boost for hurling. Galway did better than many expected by beating Dublin, and Andy Cunningham, the full forward from St. Thomas, Peterswell, took his place in the history-books as the hurler who led Galway to their first All-Ireland championship in the grade.

The captain had a good game, and I will also recall from the 0-10 to 0-7 win the solid play for Galway of Gerry McInerney, whose showing at left half back was a joy to watch, and of Joe Cooney in the half forward line.

It was a good year for the West, in fact. The provincial hurlers upset the form-book by retaining the Railway Cup for the first time. Their final against Leinster at the unlikely setting of Cavan's Breffni Park was, like other subsequent senior matches, not one to raise the pulse, but Steve Mahon in centrefield, and Joe McDonagh in the half back line, did provide many worthwhile memories with their excellent work in a low scoring 0-10 to 1-5 win. A rare moment of history that.

Then, back to the championship, and after the minors' special feat, the country's under-21 hurlers regained the All-Ireland championship to make it a year to remember for Galway in hurling.

I said earlier that the All-Ireland senior final was not a great game, but

it would be unfair to Billy Fitzpatrick and Joe Hennessy to dismiss the match in such summary fashion.

I have been watching Fitzpatrick since his minor days, and I doubt if he ever played a better game than in the McCarthy Cup tie.

The corner forward was majestic in everything he attempted; he just could not put a foot wrong as he strode the scene around the opposing goal areas like a Field Marshal, and he added the true golden gloss to his accomplishment with ten great points.

If Fitzpatrick was the Commander-in-Chief in attack, the same could be said of Hennessy in defence. He was unbeatable, and it was probably just as well for Kilkenny that the James Stephens club man struck such a purple patch.

He was in great form all through, but really proved the rock on which the Cork attack floundered as the Munster champions came back from seven points arrears and apparently beaten all ends up with just fifteen minutes remaining to get within two points of Kilkenny at the final whistle.

POOR OUTLOOK

But these highpoints I have singled out, still cannot cloud the fact that it was generally a disappointing year for hurling. The glamour, the appeal, the talking points that had made hurling alive and well from Malin Head to Mizen Head in 1980 and 1981 especially was missing. No doubt, it was wonderful to be a Kilkenny man in a year in which the county completed the big double of League and Championship in the one season for the second successive occasion. And, Cork supporters had their moments to savour on the way to the final.

But for those of us with no affiliations with either team there was an emptiness about the hurling year the like has not been the case in a long time. That would be bad enough, but even more depressing I feel is that the outlook for the game is not so bright as we enter Centenary Year.

Already the talk is of another Kilkenny-Cork final at Thurles. With

all due respects to both counties, I say that if things turn out that way, then all the fears about the Tipperary venue being unable to cope with the crowd will prove groundless.

We need new faces and new teams to really create spectator interest. It is nice to see the traditional pairings in the final from time to time, but after the two lack-lustre games provided by these traditional rivals in 1982 and 1983, I doubt if many would travel South to look at a third encounter. Unless, of course, something extraordinary happens early in the New Year, and I honestly don't see much evidence of that.

Offaly have gone back. Galway are not the force they were, but their under-age successes this year suggest they have the material to get to the top again in a few years time. Then, there is Wexford, the one county that over the years proved in a class of their own when it came to packing in neutral supporters.

Wexford have been living on past glories for too long now. It would be nice to see them back challenging realistically for the game's top honours... that would help to enliven the scene no end. But performances in the new season's League, coming after the disappointing Leinster championship run, hardly augur well for a national title bid by the Slaneysiders in 1984.

The Munster championship has long since lost its glamour. Some would say this began with the decline of Tipperary, but whatever the reason, I no longer have the old "pull" to go South for matches there anymore.

The past year has not been a good one for Southern teams, and it would be a brave man who would forecast that the scene in Munster will be humming sweetly on a par with the good old days come the Summer of 1984.

I always regarded myself as something of an optimist, but the more I look at the senior inter-county hurling scene, the more pessimistic I become about the hurling championship next year proving worthy of the Centenary Year.

I hope I am proved wrong.

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

THE introduction this time is going to very brief. I have written about the All-Ireland S.F. Final elsewhere. Our Cut-Out this month is John Caffrey, the young Na Fianna club-man, with the roving commission. His powerful play as a third mid-fielder proved one of Dublin's trump cards in the Final.

TOM CREEDON R.I.P.

I was away on holidays when Tom Creedon of Cork died. He was a great footballer. One of the old school. The first time I saw him play was in '76 v Kerry (draw and replay) and I loved his catching and long kicking off ground or hand. Our sympathy is tendered to his wife and family on his tragic death. Go ndéanaidh Dia trócaire ar a anam.

STRABANE

One occasion I enjoyed during the Summer was being afforded the honour of officially opening a G.A.A. Club House for ex-players and referees in Strabane (Co. Tyrone). This clubhouse is the brainchild of Sean McGoldrick, whom I met on a referee's tour of the U.S.A. a few years back. At the official opening were Seamus Darby of Offaly, Brian McEniff and Martin McHugh of Donegal, Jody O'Neill of Tyrone among others. It was a grand occasion and I cherish the presentations I received on the occasion. At the Strabane Clubhouse opening Brian McEniff predicted that Donegal would meet Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final and hoped his team would win. That was June. It was good predicting. I will say again this is the best Donegal team I have

seen. They were very impressive in winning the Ulster Final.

THE MAILBAG

KIERAN ROSNEY, 181, GROTTO VIEW, THE BATTERIES, ATHLONE writes of the shambles of an All-Ireland S.F. Final, condemning the Dublin approach. "The joke of the year must be the comments on the great sportsman Brian Mullins is. What about his carry on against Kildare in 1978 and Offaly in 1979? If Kerry were there and Dublin tried those tactics I doubt if Brian Mullins would be able to come back on to direct operations." (*Elsewhere I've commented on those incursions into the field by Mullins after he had been sent off. J.M.*)

MICHAEL HEAGNEY, 16, KINNIGILLION ROAD, COOKSTOWN, CO. TYRONE would like to see *Gaelic Sport* coming out monthly again and would like to see it on sale at games. "8 men in the middle of the field for the All-Ireland helped to cause trouble." (*Thanks Michael for your long letter and hope you enjoyed my book "Action Replay". J.M.*)

TIM MURPHY, our old friend from Rathmore writes as follows — I fancy Dublin to beat Galway" (this before the Final). And in a letter afterwards paid tribute to the Dublin backs in the second half. "Dublin did not go out to play football. At the start Galway played great football."

He recommends— (1) The handpass be banned, (2) The shoulder charge be brought back. (*I agree Tim with 1 and 2. J.M.*)

THOMAS PURCELL, 48, THE GREEN, CLARA, CO. OFFALY wants the following programmes: 1980 Leinster S.H. Final. 1970 and 1972 All-Ireland S.F. Final. HIS SWAPS ARE: Offaly v Laois S.H.C. 1982, Offaly v Laois S.F.C. 1982, Longford v Carlow S.F.C. 1983, Leinster S.H. and S.F. Finals 1982, Official Opening Clara 1980, Ballycommon '82 and St. Rynaghs '83.

(*Thomas sent on a much more complete list. Programme collectors are asked to get in touch with him. J.M.*)

It is a long time since I heard from **PAUL MAHER, CLASHAGAD, DUNKERRIN, BIRR, CO. OFFALY**. Actually Paul I called in to the village of Dunkerrin en route from Dublin to Limerick last May but hadn't the time to call to your house after enquiring where you lived. Paul writing of the All-Ireland Hurling Final said "Wasn't it ironic that the two men who held all the headlines the previous week had very poor games by their own standards i.e. J.B. Murphy and C. Heffernan." Paul feels "media pressure" also told on Niall Quinn in the minor final. "Jim Carney is making a great job of 'The Sunday Game'. I feel there should be a special 'Sunday Game' on the nights of the N.L. finals. Galway didn't deserve to win the Football



Final. In the end you'd nearly say Galway didn't want to win. Why did Galway persist on the high ball? Jim Ronayne was very lucky to be left on the field after a series of dirty fouls. Tomas Tierney was a big loss to Galway. The only thing I can say of Kevin Heffernan's after match comments is "enough said".

(Fine letter Paul. I cannot agree more with you re. Kevin Heffernan's pitiful remarks. They insulted the intelligence of all who saw the game. But Galway were pathetic in the second half and it is time now to forget all the details of that rotten game, especially the start of it. You win a copy of "Action Replay" J.M.)

VINCENT COLLINS, 1301, WASHINGTON AVENUE, NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 11040, U.S.A. is a fine G.A.A. fan and wants copies of the programmes of the Munster S.H. finals of 1951 and '52. His father played minor for Cork in both these years.

(Can anyone help? J.M.)

SEAMUS RYAN, 6, ORCHARDTON, RATHFARNHAM, DUBLIN 14 wants the following programmes: S.H. Finals of '49, '50 and '51, '62, '63, '67, and '73. and the Munster S.H. Final of 1980. He has the following SWAPS— S.F. Finals of 1938 (draw and replay), '61, '64. N.F.L. Final of 1966. and The Munster S.H. Finals of '73 and '76.

(Now there are interesting possibilities there. J.M.)

CLIODHNA NI CHINNEIDE, CAISLEAN OIR, 1, BOTHAR CHNOC CHEARMALL, ROEBUCK, BAILE ATHA CLIATH 14 — wants copies of the *Gaelic Sport* Hurling and Football final issues of 1982. "I love Junior Desk and the magazine".

(Tommy McQuaid, can you help here? J.M.)

Old friend DENIS SWEENEY, MEENAGUISH, LETTERBARROW P.O., CO. DONEGAL wants the following programmes — All-Ireland S.F. Finals of '57, '54 and '52 (draw and replay) 1951 and '50. All-



● LATE TOM CREEDON IN ACTION

Ireland S.H. Finals of '59 (replay) '58, '52, '41 and '50.

(Perhaps you'll get one or two. J.M.)

AIDAN LENEHAN, KILTORMER, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY lists his favourites as — Val Daly, Dermot Earley, Matt Connor in Football and Ollie Kilkenny and J.B. Murphy in Hurling. "I have been getting *Gaelic*

Sport since 1982 and thought this years' Connacht Final the best for years."

(You win a copy of "Action Replay" J.M.)

MICHAEL ANDERSON, ANDALUCIA, FEDERNAGH, POYNTZPASS, NEWRY, CO.

OVERLEAF

JUNIOR DESK ★

JUNIOR DESK ★

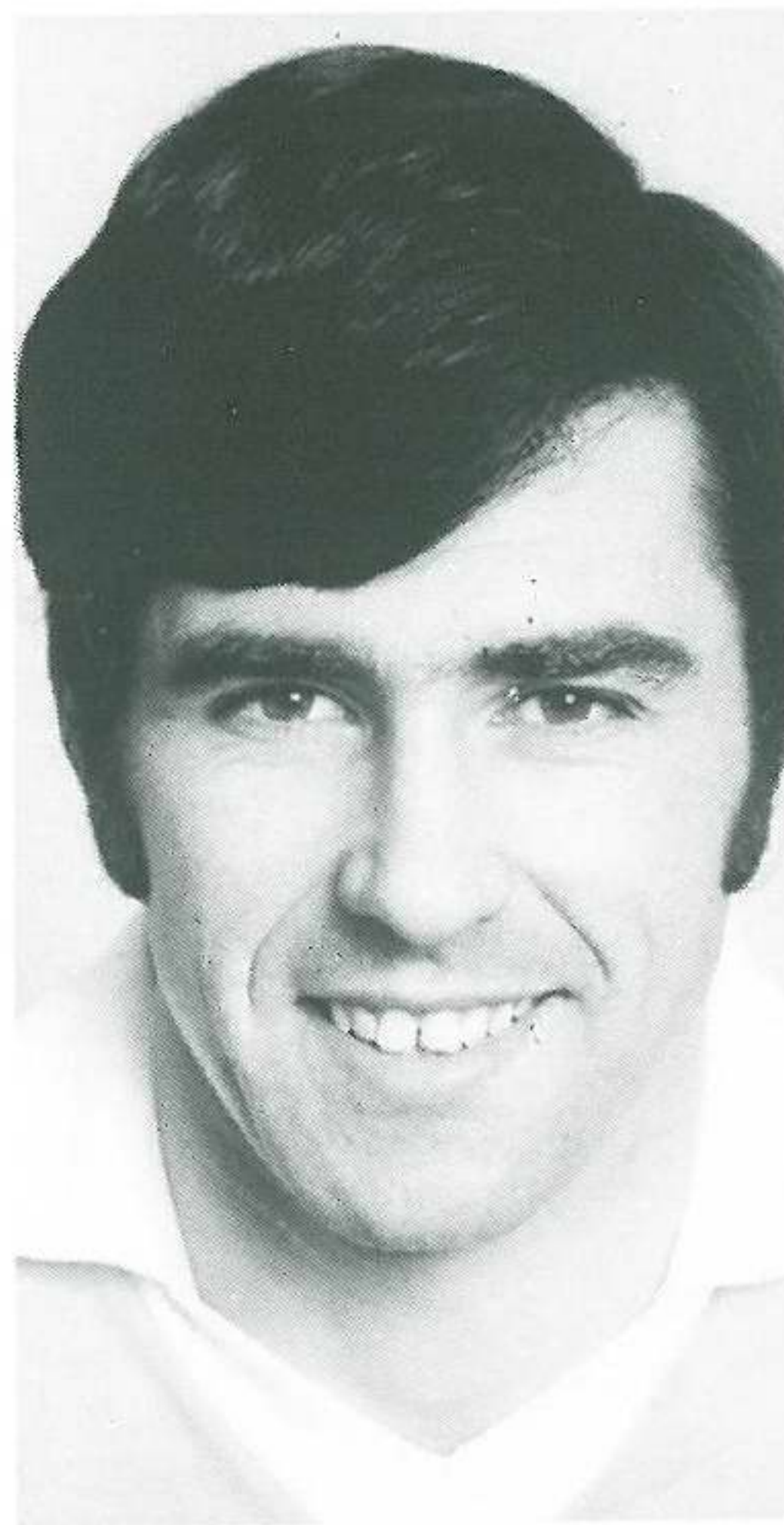
JUNIOR DESK

●FROM PAGE 47

DOWN in a long letter wants the following programmes: All-Ireland S.F. Final replay of 1946 and the 1960 All-Ireland Semi-Final (F) game between Down and Offaly. He also wants the following S.F. Final programmes — '58, '57, '54, '53, '52, and any previous one and all S.H. Final programmes prior to 1960.

(I'm sure your request will not go unanswered. J.M.)

It's all programme hunting this month really. The next letter is from AIDAN GRENNAN, KILLINA, RAHAN, CO. OFFALY. He agrees with Patrick Lee from Keady re the distribution of match programmes and park opening publications. He thinks Croke Park should organise all the left-over programmes from games. "Some of the publications on the occasion of park openings are superb. Many of the clubs concerned do a great job in historical research. I now have a programme collection of around 230. It is an interesting hobby. More could be done to make it better. If anyone wants to swap with me please write. My collection only goes back to 1965.



●DERMOT EARLEY

The Roscommon man is one of Aidan Lenehan's favourites.

(Aidan your letter is superb. You win a copy of "Action Replay". I agree with your ideas re programmes left over. I have plenty of the Galway S.F.C. Final programme of '83 left over. Just enclose a stamp, any of the collectors, and you will get at least 2 copies. Did you get Michael Leydon's history of the Dunmore MacHales. It is superb. J.M.)

KERRY O'SHEA, 61, ST. BRENDAN'S PARK, TRALEE, CO. KERRY has the following programmes to swap: All-Ireland S.F. Finals of '79, '80, '82 and wants in return '68, '70, '73 and '78 S.F. Final programmes.

DES DUNNE, KILLINA, RAHAN, CO. OFFALY — is another avid programme collector having over 300. He has only 2 Connacht S.F. Final programmes (1980 & '81).

(Can any reader help Kerry and Des? Des tells me he was taught by Ritchie Lee's brother Michael. J.M.)

Two final letters (1) from NORMAN ROCHFORD of THE SQUARE, GORT, CO. GALWAY who was thrilled to get second in the Kelloggs Young Referee of the Year competition. (2) Another letter from KIERAN ROSNEY Jnr. telling me of his first visit to Croke Park with his Dad. "I look forward to the day I play for Offaly". With that sentiment we award you a copy of "Action Replay" and hope you realise your ambition. Kieran wants Sam Melbourne's address:

(Perhaps the editor will oblige with Sam's address. J.M.)

And that's it for this time. Keep writing to me at:

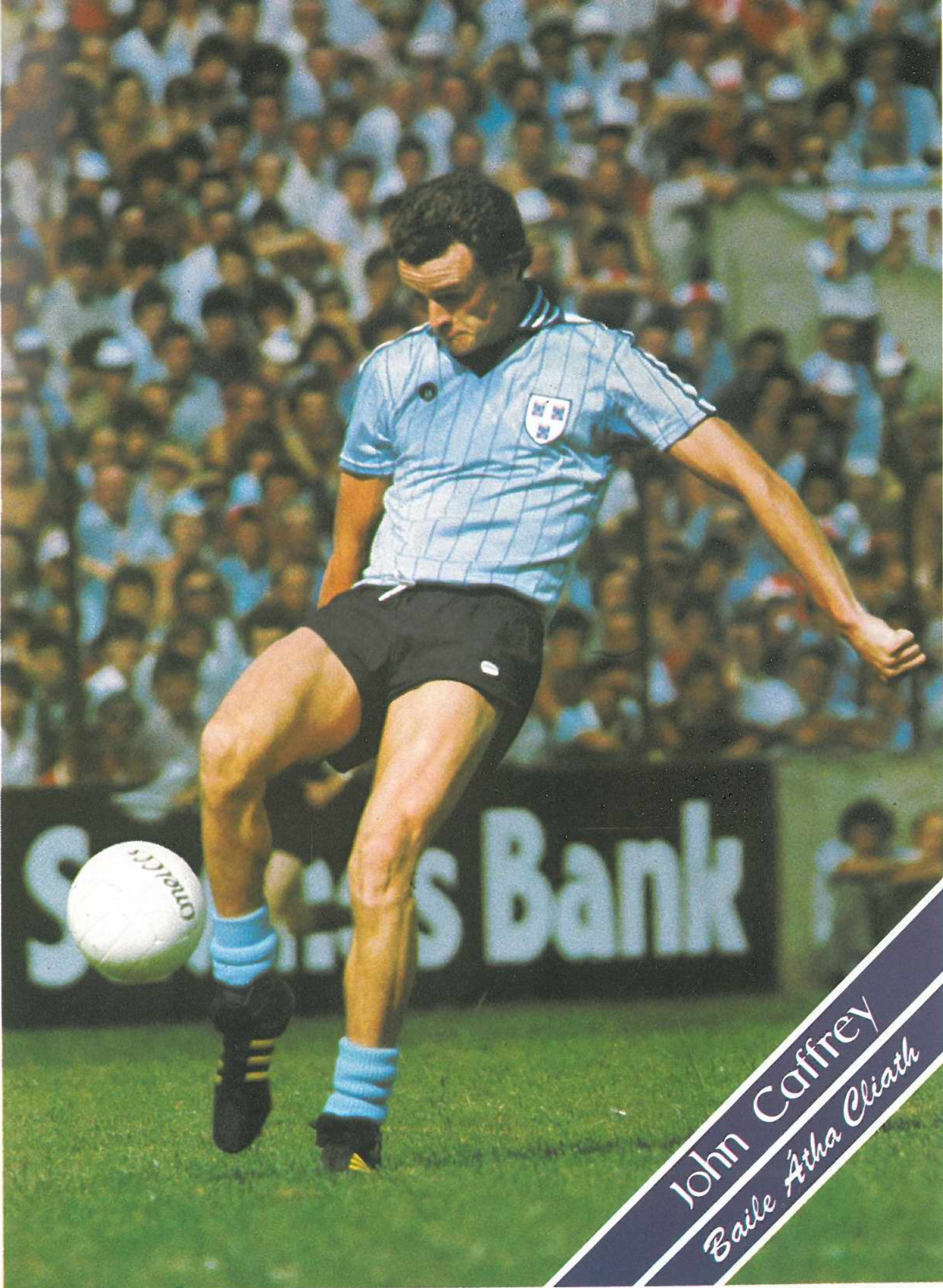
**JUNIOR DESK,
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Late Note: I will review Michael Leydon's history of the Dunmore MacHales in the next issue. It costs £5 and is a great book. Very well produced. More anon, J.M.

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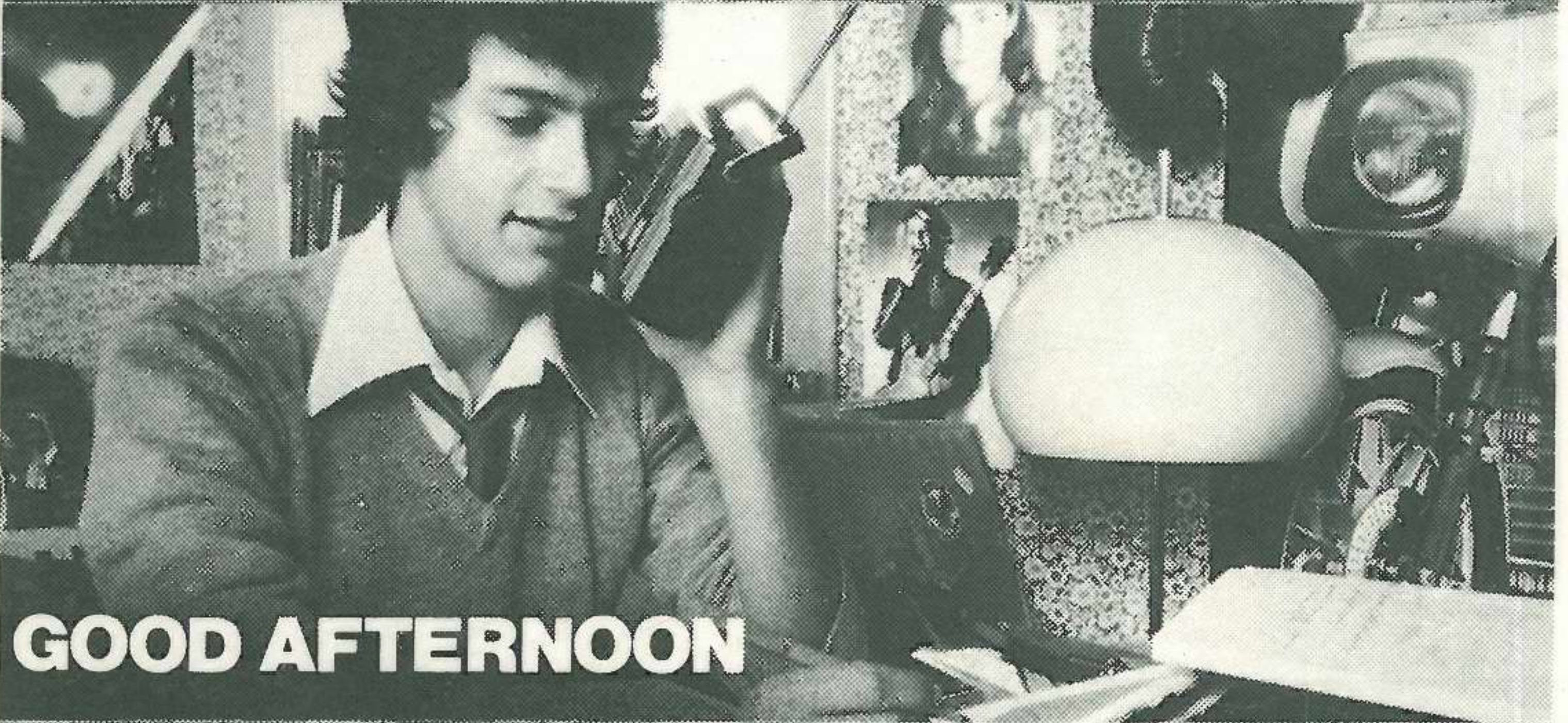


JOHN was 26 just over a month after winning his first All-Ireland senior medal against Galway. He attended St. Vincent's C.B.S., Glasnevin, plays club football with Na Fianna and stands over 6 ft.

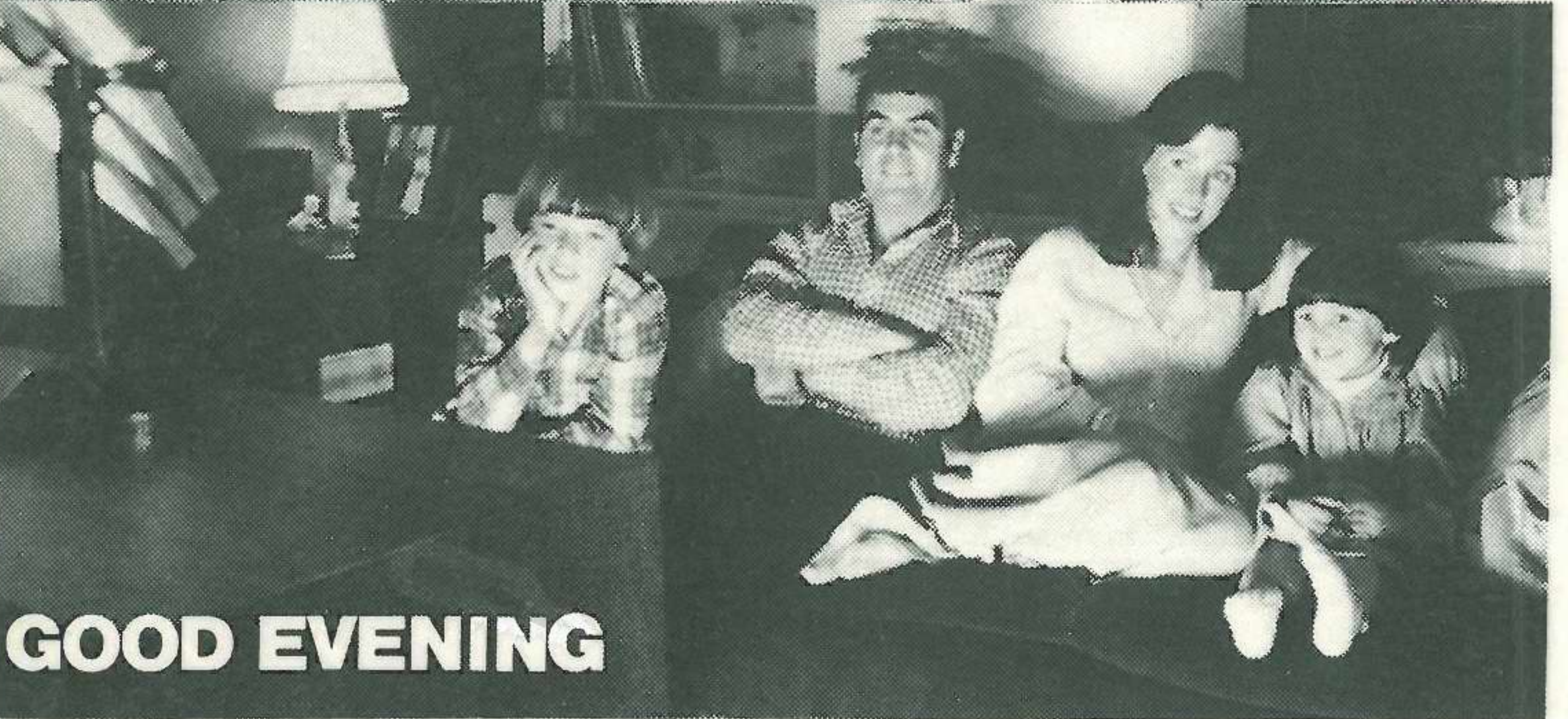
After graduating from the juvenile and under-age ranks, in which he won under-16, minor and under-21 football medals, the now brilliant right full forward collected two Sigerson Cup awards with U.C.D., and was at midfield in his club's last Dublin senior championship winning side of 1979. Now a secondary teacher, John played under-21 football with Dublin, and made his senior inter-county debut in 1979. He won his first Leinster senior medal last July.



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GOOD AFTERNOON



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