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GAA

GAELIC SPORT



IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

SIXTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)

ALL-IRELAND FINAL, 1983



GO FOR TASTE...



POWER'S GOLD LABEL

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COVER PHOTO: Our front cover features the All-Ireland Senior Football Finalists of 1983, Dublin and Galway.

DUBLIN: Leinster Champions: Back row (left to right): Tommy Conroy, Barney Rock, Gerry Hargan, Joe McNally, John O'Leary, Anton O'Toole, Mick Holden, John Caffrey, Ciaran Duff. Front row (left to right): Brian Mullins, P. J. Buckley, Tommy Drumm (Captain), Pat Canavan, Ray Hazley, and Jim Ronayne.

GALWAY: Connacht Champions: Back row (left to right): Mattie Coleman, Brian O'Donnell, Richie Lee, Pdraic Coyne, Stephen Kinneavy, Patsy Kelly, Brian Talty, Gay McManus. Front row (left to right): Val Daly, Peter Lee, Pat O'Neill, Tom Naughton (Captain), Stephen Joyce, Johnny Hughes and Seamus McHugh.

GAELIC SPORT

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Vol. 26 No. 4. 1983 All-Ireland Football Special.

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ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

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AN OCCASION TO BE SAVOURED

IT is good to see the Dubs back in an All-Ireland Senior Football Final. In saying this we are in no way belittling Cork, who did so well in taking the boys in blue to a semi-final replay, or any of the other counties beaten in that particular half of the draw. Nor are we overlooking Galway, who make a welcome return to the big day after too long an absence.

Rather, we are simply acknowledging the special place of the Dubs in football folklore. The men from the Liffeside have their fiercely loyal supporters and also their detractors, but whatever side of the fence followers sit on, all must unite on one point. The Dubs bring a magic and a glamour uniquely their own to Croke Park on big match-days.

There is an atmosphere and colour that has no parallel in any branch of Irish sport when the Dubs take the field in front of a Hill 16 packed with their supporters. It is an occasion to be savoured and enjoyed; one that renews pride in the sport of Gaelic football and the G.A.A. itself.

The latest heirs to this proud Dublin tradition are walking tall and creating their own legends. They are bringing followers trooping to their games with the same enthusiasm and in the same numbers as the men who delighted and thrilled so many in the past decade. The men of 1983 have made Gaelic football a major talking point in the nation's capital and surrounding areas once more, and given a new impetus to the game among the youth.

The Galway men have not as yet matched the Dubliners as a colourful and crowd-pulling squad. But who is there to say that they will not set that right on final day?

The Westerners are also playing against a glorious backdrop. Many will argue that the first truly great football team of the modern era, the one squad that blended teamwork, individual skills and personality-plus players into a team that excelled on the precision football the followers delight in, was the Galway team of the 'Sixties.

That might be too strong a claim to make. Nevertheless, it must be said that Galway had a truly outstanding team in that time.

The Galway men proved it by coming back from a final defeat by Dublin in 1963 to take the All-Ireland senior title over the next three years in succession.

And, for those reared on a diet of Dublin and Kerry greatness in recent years, it does no harm at all to emphasise the point that football was very much alive and well in the 'Sixties. We had many brilliant players in that decade, many great teams, including the trend-setting Down side that brought the Sam Maguire Cup across the Border for the first time in 1960.

So, a team had to be good to win an All-Ireland title in any year, and something above the ordinary to remain unbeaten as Galway did in the national championship over three seasons in succession.

That's the yardstick that the Galway three-in-a-row team must be measured against. The marker that unerringly puts the side into the ratings as one of the great sides of football.

It would have been expecting much from Galway to have produced another team to match the 'Sixties combination in the meantime. After all, even the Dubs in their hey-day failed to take three championships in succession.

But what is difficult to comprehend is that Galway have not won the championship since 1966. Three times they have reached the final and three times they have travelled home second best.

A title win for Galway is, then, overdue. They did not look the part of champions when beating Donegal, but football is not a cut-and-dried affair, and Galway can, and no doubt, will improve.

After all, it was not all that long ago that Dublin were being written off as a championship hope, yet here they are just one step away from a title they last held in 1977.

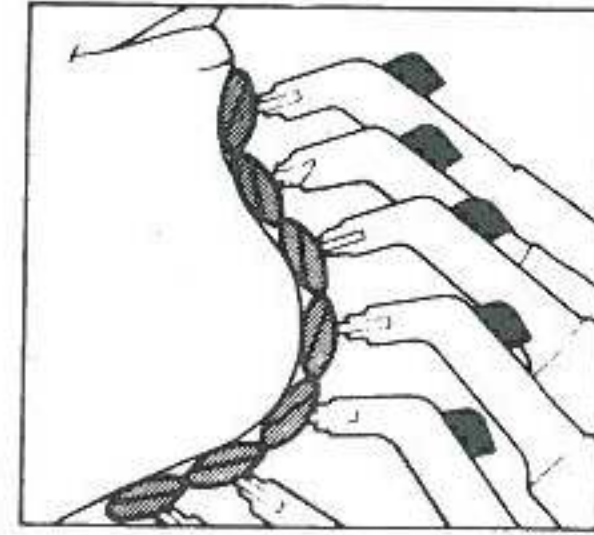
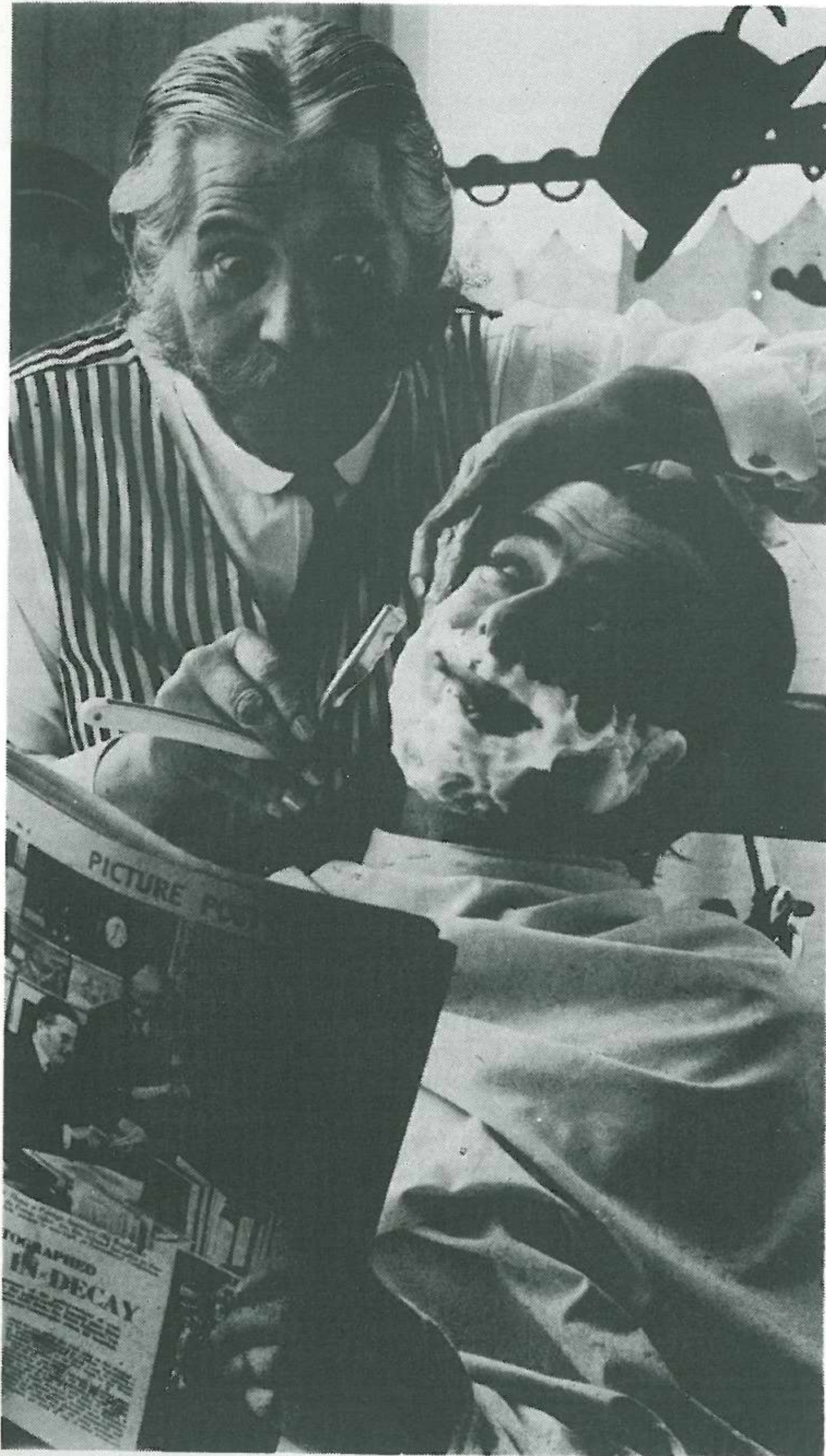
This then is a final with two teams striving to turn dreams of former exciting days into a reality. It is a match that could also surprise many by the closeness of the scoring. Let's hope that this will prove the case and that whatever the outcome, the onlookers both at Croke Park and at home thanks to the TV cameras will be the real winners.

Good luck to both sides!

Tommy McQuaid

EDITOR

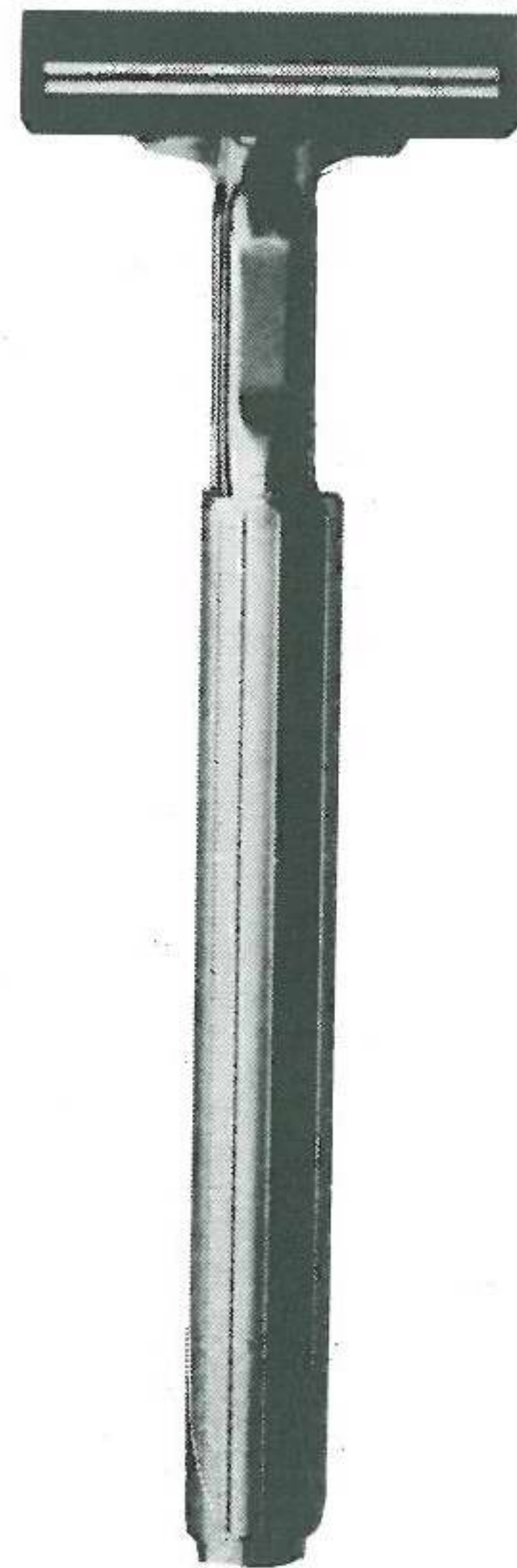
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**UNLESS GALWAY SHOW TREMENDOUS
IMPROVEMENT ON PREVIOUS FORM**

"sam maguire" is Liffey-side Bound

BY DONAL O'CONNELL

GALWAY have a real uphill battle against Dublin in the All-Ireland senior football final. That is the only logical conclusion one can come to on the evidence of the performances of both teams in qualifying for this shot at the Sam Maguire Cup.

The Connacht champions' display in their semi-final win over Donegal was just not title winning standard. One can laud them for the way that they kept working away, much in the same manner as Offaly in last year's All-Ireland final win over Kerry, and also for the fact that they overcame the handicap of lining out without Barry Brennan, one of their best forwards, who was on the injured list.

Galway deserve credit on both scores. At the same time, one cannot lose sight of the fact either that a Donegal team that was to all extents sampling the Croke Park experience for the first time caused the Connacht champions so much trouble. In the end, it was Donegal's failure to press home their advantage, especially when they went four points clear early in the second half, rather than any brilliance on Galway's part that proved the key factor in sending the Westerners through.

That one point win also came after a not so inspiring campaign by Galway when retaining their Connacht title.

Contrast that with Dublin's record. The line out helped no end by not one, but two replays.

The two matches against Meath in Leinster did much to set Dublin up for their subsequent charge to the

provincial title and the big win over Offaly that no one had expected. Some of the gilt of the Leinster campaign was lost as Dublin found it so unexpectedly hard to contain Cork at Croke Park, with Barney Rock's late goal just ensuring a replay for the Dubs on the post.

However, as was the case in Leinster the second game with Cork could prove the foundations for a



**BRIAN
TALTY**
GALWAY



**GERRY
HARGAN**
DUBLIN

title winning display by the Easterners. There can be little doubt that the extra game in the semi-final will help to bring Dublin on a ton, all the more so as the success was at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

Now, the Dubs are back on their favourite pitch and bouyed up as well by a win that quite a few felt was beyond them in Cork.

As against this, I think it is fair to assume that Galway will improve on their semi-final showing against Donegal. The extra training is bound to bring the team on a lot, and I believe that the fact that this is a great

chance to scale the heights will also mean that the Galway men will play up to their fullest possible potential.

Then, the return of Brennan should bring added power to the Galway attack. This is the area where improvement is needed most if the Westerners are to have any chance of victory.

Players like Val Daly, who hit the goal that finally snuffed out the Donegal hopes late in the second half of the semi-final, Gay McManus, Stephen Joyce and, of course, Brennan are quire capable of putting plenty of pressure on the Dublin back division.

But look what the Easterners have going for them here! There is John O'Leary guarding his goal in a manner this year that must have him ahead of the field in the race for the All Star award in the position.

There is the half back line of Pat Canavan, playing outstanding football on the right wing, and a young man with a great future, Tommy Drumm, the ideal pivot, and adventuresome and dependable P.J. Buckley. This is a line that is going to make the road to goal for the Galway forwards a very difficult one, indeed, and if they break through O'Leary is always there to put his up his great barrier in goal.

Dublin's forwards will cause their own problems for the Connacht backs. Come-back star Anton O'Toole is blending in craft with his creative play, as well as his ability to pop up for the vital scores.

● TO PAGE 9



THE FUN IS BACK!

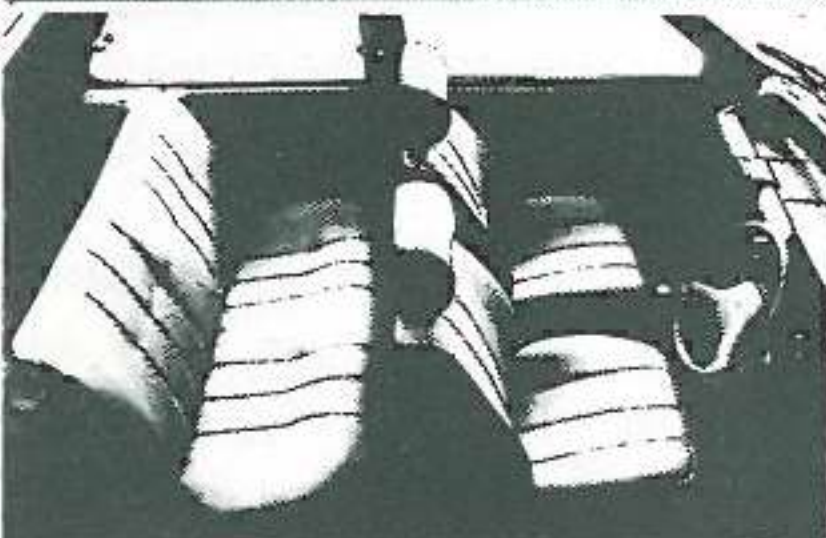
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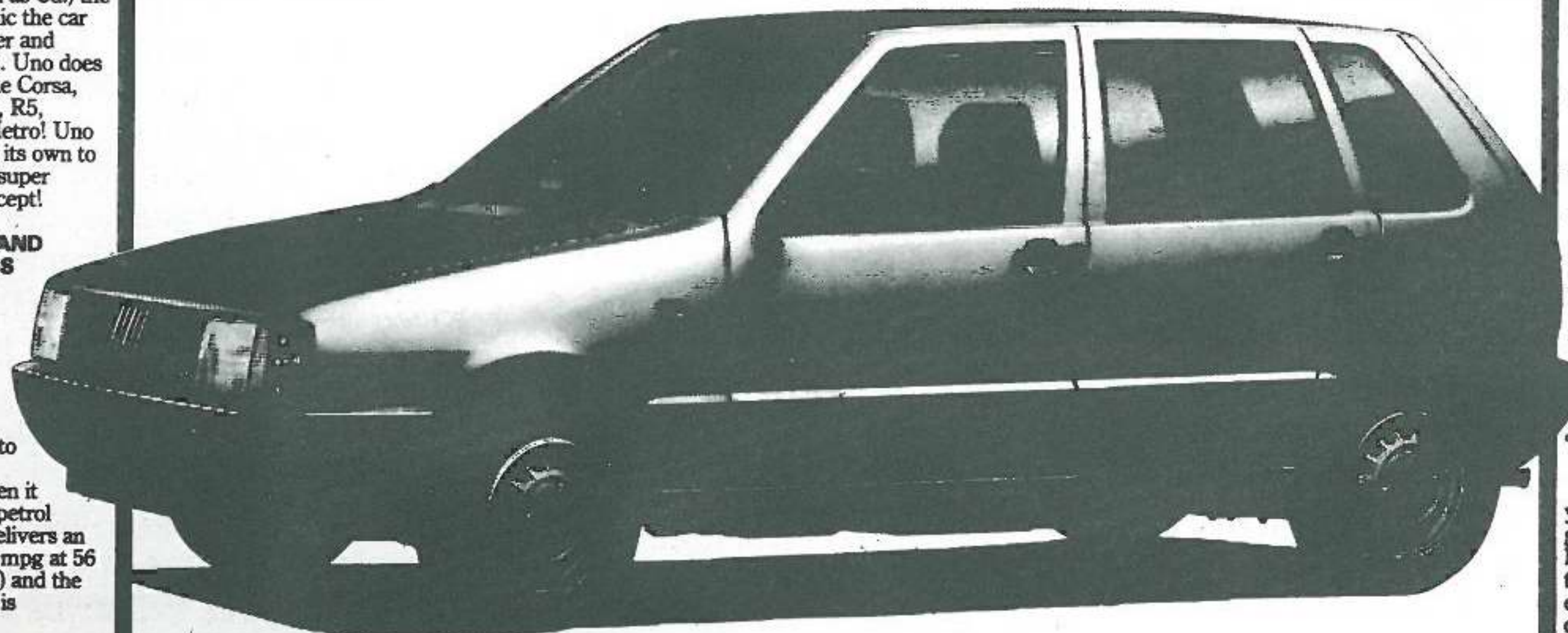
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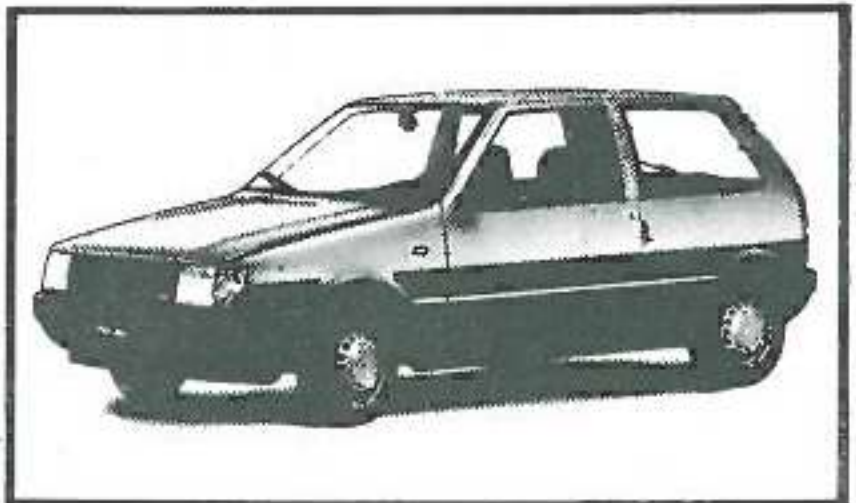
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**TOMMY
CONROY**
DUBLIN



**MATTIE
COLEMAN**
GALWAY

ALL IRELAND PREVIEW



**BARNEY
ROCK**
DUBLIN



**RICHIE
LEE**
GALWAY

● FROM PAGE 7

Barney Rock is one of the best young scoregetters in the game. He has a real flair for arriving on the scene from nowhere to grab a crucial goal. He did it against Meath, and perhaps more importantly — certainly more dramatic — when saving the day for Dublin in the Croke Park semi-final.

Rock was well contained that afternoon by the man of the match, Jimmy Kerrigan, but it says much for his temperament that he still had the grit to stick with it, and so was ready to take the golden chance when it came.

Joe McNally, last year's All-Ireland minor title winning team goalkeeper, is proving a real "find" as a forward, and Tommy Conroy, another teenager, has the makings of a top-class centre half forward.

Galway supporters will readily rush to the side of their defence, and with considerable justification. Seamus McHugh, Matty Coleman and Stephen Kinneavy are capable of binding the rearguard into a strong, forceful division that will not be easily outwitted. But I venture to suggest that these backs have not so far met forwards quite to enterprising or so fiercely committed to victory in the championship as the Dublin attacking force.

I go further and say that it is going to take a real five-star showing from the Galway rearguard if the Dubs attackers are to be kept on scoring rations.

What of midfield? Galway did not exactly stride the scene here against

Donegal, although they did have the better of the exchanges.

However, Brian Talty is a player here capable of big things, and has plenty of experience. Richie Lee is also a progressive worker and I feel that this pair could do well for the Connacht men.

However, Dublin still have a vital general in the area in Brian Mullins. He may not be the Mullins of old, but he is still an outstanding player to have in any side, a footballer who reads a game cleverly, and who is also doing much to lead Dublin expertly from this vital area.

Mullins must be a trump card for the Dubs, but he is not the only one. The champions could play another ace here to match their third midfield selection of John Caffrey that worked so well in the Leinster final.

Jim Ronayne is a bustling footballer who can do many good things in the middle of the field, and Dublin have a number of other options and permutations available if by chance they are finding the going

tough in centre field.

So, the odds look good for Dublin. They have had six games on the way to the final, and these have given them plenty of opportunities to discover their weaknesses and strength, and to build up the teamwork and flair that is so necessary in the make-up of any side with designs on getting right to the top.

Galway have not had anything like the same opportunities to mould their side. Had Donegal played up to their potential when losing out in the semi-final, I would have been happier about the Westerners' chances, but as it was the Northerners did not reveal anything like the form that made them such an exciting force in an Ulster series, yet Galway still only got home by a point.

I believe for all that, Galway will make a brave effort. I am convinced as well that the fact that they have had two close games at Croke Park in the senior championship — let's not forget that most of this side played in last year's semi-final when Offaly only won by a point — will stand them in good stead.

But even considering all these points, I find it hard to see anything other than a Dublin win. They have the benefit of a hard campaign behind them, the right temperament, a nice sprinkling of youth and experience, and above all they are back again on their favourite Croke Park pitch.

All of which, as far as I am concerned, points to a Dublin win, with the forwards blazing the way with inventive football and accurate finishing.



**CIARAN
DUFF**
DUBLIN



**JOHNNY
HUGHES**
GALWAY

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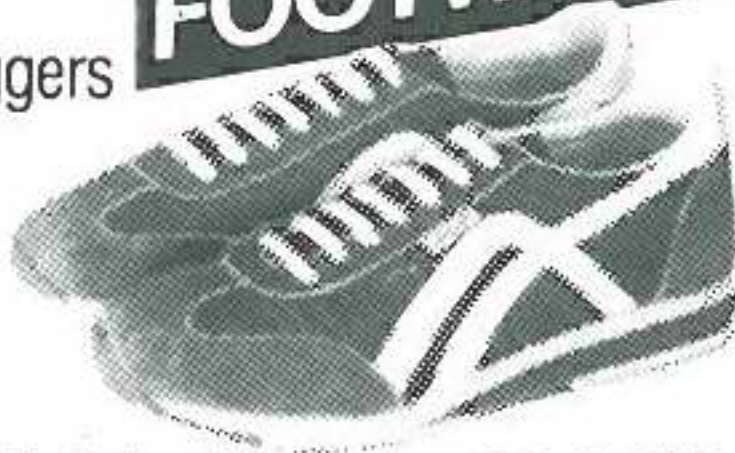
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GALWAY PLUS BARRY BRENNAN

**... NOW THAT'S
A DIFFERENT
BALL GAME**

|||
**SAYS
MYLES THORTON**

IT is hard to credit that Galway, with such a proud tradition in football, has not won the All-Ireland senior title since as far back as 1966. That was the last year in a glorious period for the game in the Corrib county as Galway took the Sam Maguire Cup for the third successive year — the only such treble by a Connacht county.

Galway had some truly great footballers at that time — men like Mattie McDonagh, who became the only Connacht player to win four All-Ireland senior medals, and is now, of course, the current county team manager, Enda Colleran, Noel Tierney, Seamus Leydon, Liam Sammon and Sean Cleary.

Those men, and their colleagues, provided their own special brand of tradition in the Galway story, and while it would have been expecting a lot of the county to have produced another three-in-a-row side soon

after the 'Sixties, it is still surprising that no combination has arrived from there of title winning ability.

In fact, Galway have a most unenviable record in Sam Maguire Cup games in the meantime, as they have sipped at the bitter cup of defeat in as many as three deciders since the great days of the 'Sixties. They lost in 1971, 1973 and 1974, and in all three, it is true to say, they were the popular selection.

Well, the boot is on the other foot this time. Galway's lack-lustre performance when scraping home by a single point against Donegal did not win them many friends as a title winning side.

But that will hardly worry the Galway men as they prepare for what will be a new experience for every member of the side, in that all will be appearing in a decider for the first time.

The win over Donegal was, in a way, characteristic of Galway's championship campaign this year. They have failed so far to really impress in any match, but are still finalists.

Their programme, in fact, got off to a very indifferent start against little fancied Leitrim at Carrick-on-Shannon. The plucky home side extended the defending champions all the way, and it was only a brace of points in the concluding minutes by Barry Brennan that got Galway home by 1-8 to 1-6.

The Connacht final at Castlebar was one of the best in years, and once again Galway had to strive earnestly and doggedly for their win.

The teams were level at the break (1-6 each), but Mayo had squandered some good chances in that period. It was still everything to play for early in the second half with the scores tied at 1-8 each, but then Galway made what was to prove the match-winning move.

Barry Brennan was moved from centre forward to midfield, and he steadied up a sector where Mayo looked like forging out a title winning edge. Galway came more into the picture, and although they could not afford to leave anything to chance

they eventually came out on top by 1-13 to 1-10.

BEST GAME

While the switch of Brennan was a key factor in the success, Galway still owed much for their win to Stephen Kinneavy, who had one of his best-ever games in the county jersey. Pat O'Neill and Seamus McHugh, in the defence, and Stephen Joycé and Val Daly in attack were others who filled key roles.

Then, it was "1974 all over again," as Galway met Donegal for the second time in an All-Ireland semi-final. The 1974 game drew a crowd of 33,782, and this year's meeting of the sides, despite having to compete with blanket television coverage of the World Athletics championships — and the chance which was realised of a gold medal win for Eamonn Coughlan — and the Carrolls Golf championship, still attracted an attendance of 28,507. Galway won the first clash by 3-13 to 1-14.

Val Daly was the man who grabbed the game for Galway, and just after he cracked home the match-winning goal in the 62nd minute, I could not help recalling a title winning score engineered by the Mountbellew footballer as a schoolboy in an All-Ireland final — and against Ulster opposition.

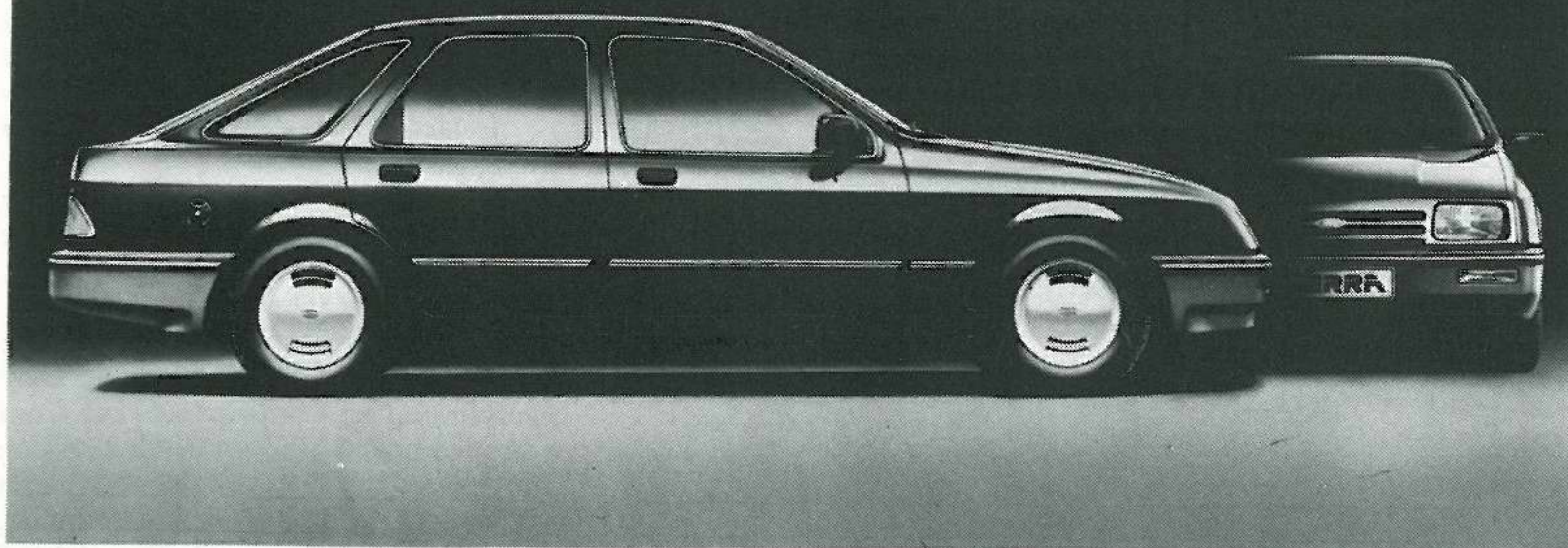
Daly was centre half back for Carmelite College, Moate, in the 1980 Colleges' final against St. Patrick's Maghera, at Croke Park. The scores were level as the game moved to the final whistle, when Daly went off on a brilliant solo run from deep inside his own defence. As he powered his way some 50 yards upfield, Daly was eventually fouled, and Moate's captain, Jimmy Bradley, sent the resultant free over the bar for the winning score.

Daly's goal against Donegal was Galway's life-saver, and even though the Northerners did not throw in the towel after that, Galway were firmly on their way and won by 1-12 to 1-11.

Daly was Galway's outstanding player in that win. He also shared joint leadership in their scoring

● TO PAGE 13

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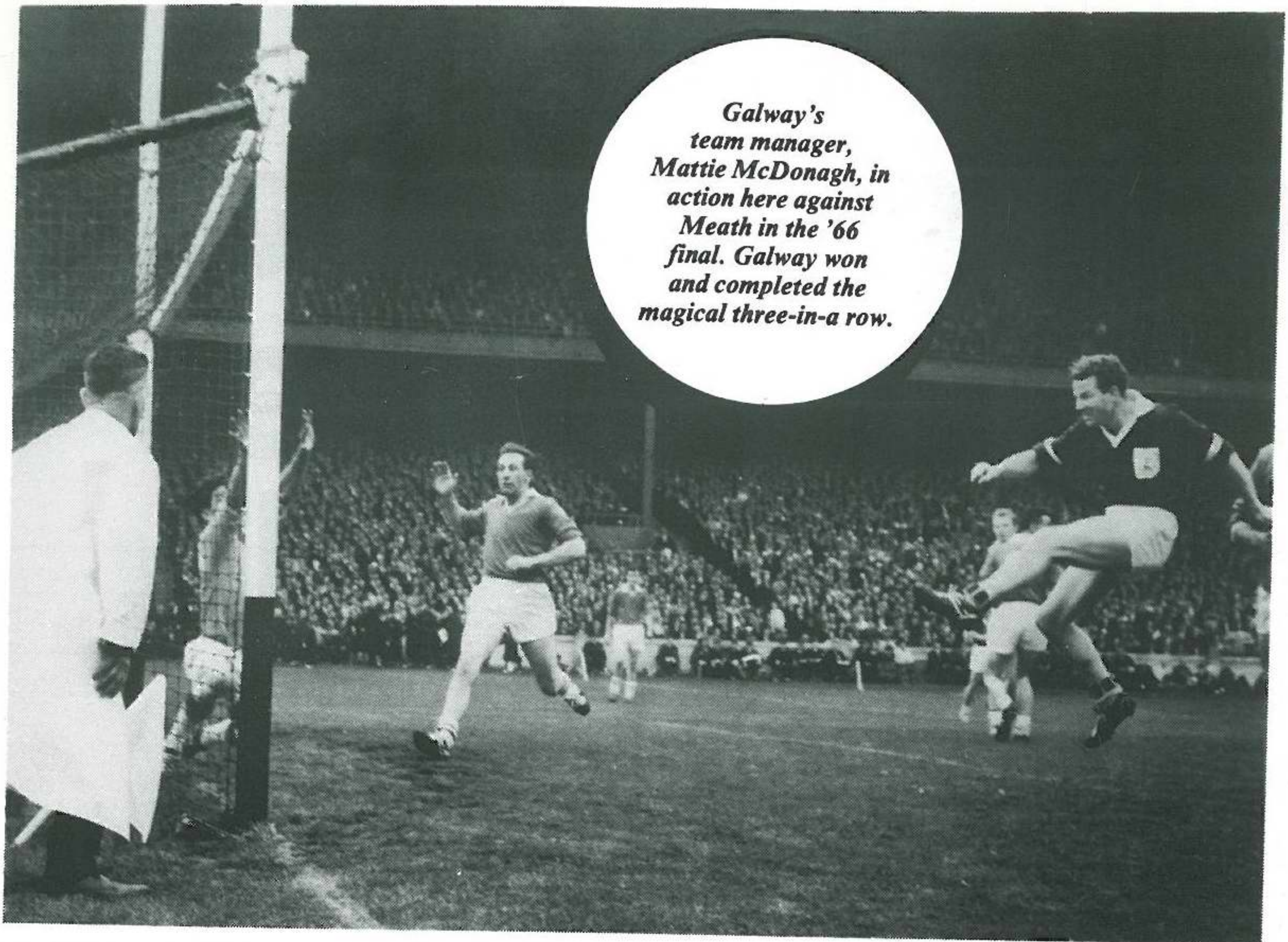


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*Galway's
team manager,
Mattie McDonagh, in
action here against
Meath in the '66
final. Galway won
and completed the
magical three-in-a row.*

● **FROM PAGE 11**

returns with 1-1 with Stephen Joyce, who pointed three frees and scored another point from play.

The Mountbellew footballer, who has settled in at centre half forward with Galway after a spell at midfield, was at 21, the youngest member of the team that lined out against Donegal. At the other end of the age scale is Johnny Hughes, 32, and the oldest player in the semi-final team.

Hughes, another Mountbellew club man, collected his fifth Connacht senior medal last summer, and was twice chosen by the All-Stars selectors — 1974 and 1976.

ALL-IRELAND

Brian Talty, of Parnells, Dublin, is a Galway footballer with considerable All-Ireland final experience, though not at senior inter-county level. He was in goal for the St. Jarlath's, Tuam, side that lost

the 1973 All-Ireland colleges' senior football final, but had better fortune a year later as a forward when he wore the No. 12 jersey in the outfit that beat Franciscan College, Gormanston to take revenge for the 1973 final defeat.

Four years on, Talty was at midfield in a Thomond College, Limerick outfit, captained by Pat Spillane, that beat St. John's, Belfast, for the All-Ireland club senior championship. And, when Galway won their last national title in 1980 by beating Roscommon in the National League decider, Talty did much to fashion the win with his play in midfield.

Padraig Coyne, the Galway goalkeeper, has had his glory days as well at All-Ireland level — minor with Galway in 1976, when he was only 16, and Colleges' with St. Colman's, Claremorris, the following spring. He played at full-back with that team.

There are other All-Ireland medalists in various grades in the

Galway panel, and all in all, the team is rich in big-match experience, a factor that must help the Westerners' prospects.

Let's not forget, either, that Galway beat Donegal without Barry Brennan, and that Brian Talty, Tom Naughton, and Tomas Tierney, who went in as a substitute, were not fully fit.

So, in all the circumstances they did well to win the game at all. The injured players have had plenty of time to recover full fitness, and the extra spell of training is also sure to benefit the squad over-all.

The result should be a much improved performance from Galway on their semi-final showing. That does not seem at all unreasonable to be a plus-factor for Galway, and one that may well enable them to cause many who so glibly dismissed their Sam Maguire Cup hopes after the win over Donegal to "eat their words."

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WHAT MORE CAN ONE SAY ABOUT THIS DUBLIN TEAM

DEFEAT!

*They don't know the
meaning of the word*

By LIAM
DONOVAN

ANTON O'TOOLE

Recalling the Synge St. man to full forward proved yet again the genius of "Heffo", remembering Jimmy Keaveney's recall back in '74.

THE year of the great escapes — that is the story of Dublin's appearance in their first All-Ireland senior football final in four years. And, if you don't accept that, then, don't talk to a Meath man or a Cork supporter!

The Dubs were let off the hook not once, but twice by Meath, and then

there was that late, late Barney Rock goal that turned apparent defeat in the All-Ireland semi-final against Cork at Croke Park into a lucky draw, and opened the door to victory at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

The Dublin "escape story" started right at the beginning of the championship. They had Meath at home at Croke Park, always a great advantage to Dublin teams, were presented with two gift goals by their opponents, but still had to rely on a last second point from a free by Ciaran Duff for a division of the spoils at 2-8 each.

The replay, again at Croke Park, saw Dublin gain a somewhat fortunate goal yet again in the first half, and that score helped them to a comfortable 2-6 to 0-4 half-time lead. But Meath stormed back wonderfully on the turn-over, and in a nail-biting second half, they eventually equalised with a splendid point in lost time by J.J. McCormack, who had gone into the game as a substitute.

In extra time, Dublin had the edge, and a grand goal by Barney Rock, his second of the game, proved crucial. Nevertheless, the Dubs still only won by two points — 3-9 to 0-16 — and one can only speculate what would have happened had they not scored their lucky opening goal. Yes, another escape for the Dubs no matter what way you look at things.

The semi-final with Louth at Croke Park was a most disappointing affair. But with the experienced hands in the Dublin side, Tommy Drumm, Brian Mullins and Anton O'Toole showing the way cleverly, the boys in blue pulled away for a 1-12 to 0-3 win that did nothing though to encourage optimism in their ability to dethrone champions Offaly in the Leinster final.

However, Dublin had an ace in the pack for that game, which drew a crowd of 36,912 to headquarters. The ace was the now well-known third midfield ploy of John Caffrey.

The move worked like a charm and fuelled a performance that was not only the best by the Dubs in the series

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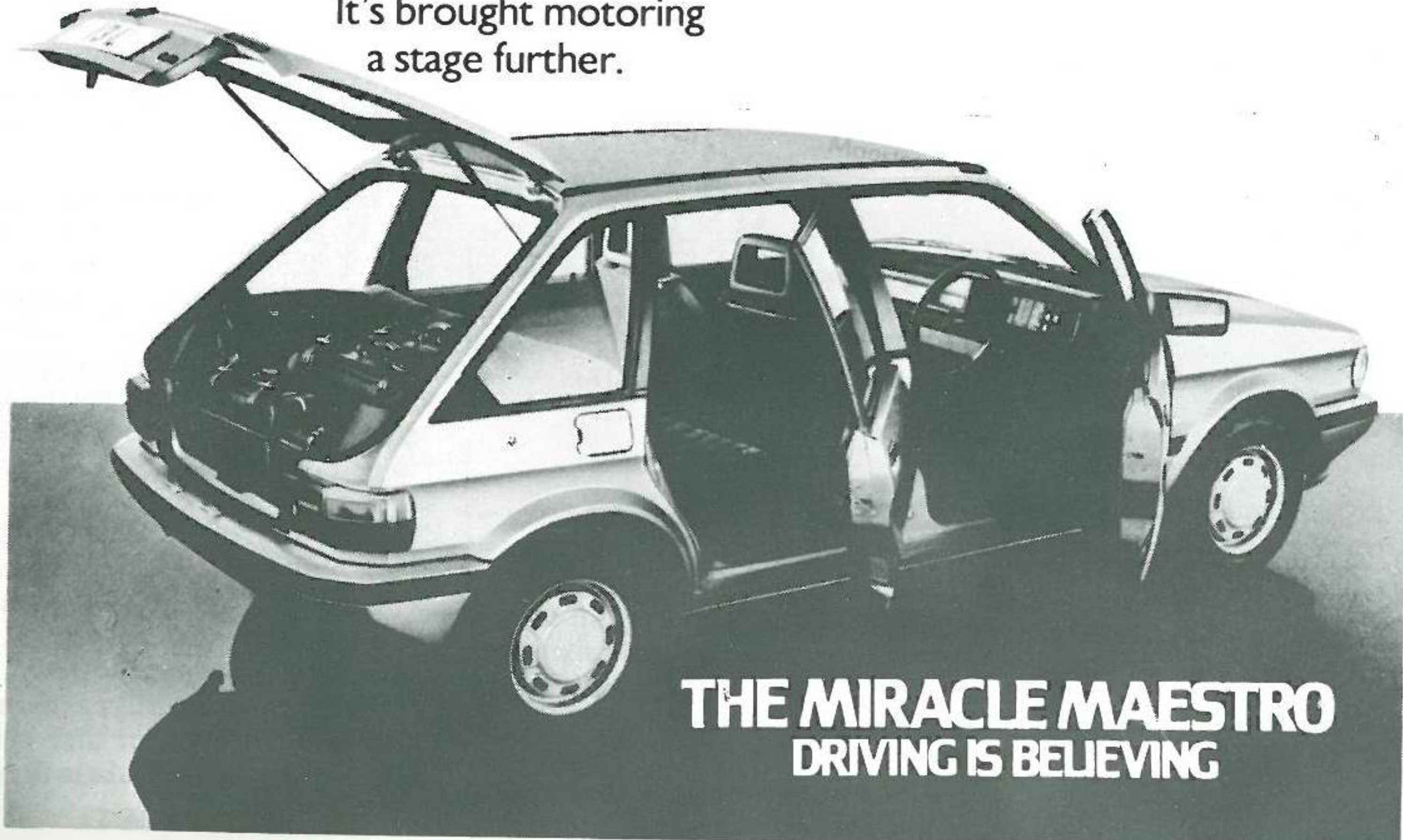
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THE MIRACLE MAESTRO
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● FROM PAGE 15

until then, but one that raised visions for the first time of the Sam Maguire Cup returning to the capital — particularly with Kerry already out of the hunt at that stage.

MANY STARS

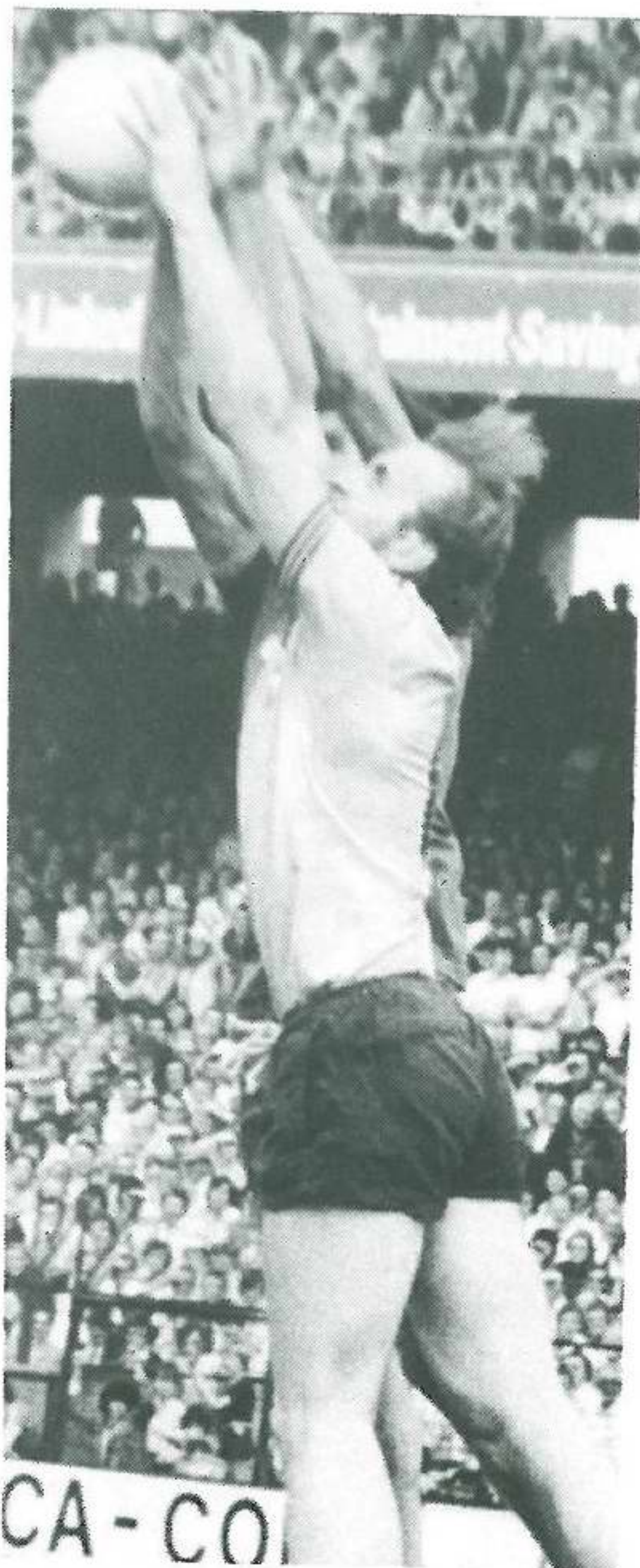
Dublin had many stars in the downing of the champions by 2-13 to 1-11 in a game that yielded a penalty kick to each side, and not a score from either. Tommy Drumm played a real captain's part with his excellent reading of the game from centre half back. Ray Hazley at No. 4 and John O'Leary in goal were other defensive giants, and last year's All-Ireland minor title winning goalkeeper turned forward John McNally, who scored 1-2, and Caffrey and Rock were others to do much to keep the Dublin effort firmly on the rails.

Nothing fortunate about that win, then, but what a close call for the confident Dublin supporters against Cork. Many in fact were beginning to get ready for the exits convinced that the cause was a lost one, as Cork, despite the fact that they had allowed the initiative to slip away somewhat in the final fifteen minutes or so, still looked sure to hold out as they led by three points with time almost up.

Cork, however, should surely have appreciated better than most in view of their last gasp win over Kerry in the Munster final, that a match is not won or lost until the final whistle.

So, it was at Croke Park as Barney Rock nipped in for a golden goal to tie the game at 2-11 each. That was really the great, great escape for Dublin, but one still had to admit that they deserved the second chance because of the way they just refused to accept defeat.

In the closing stages the Dubs, with half backs Pat Canavan and Drumm, midfielder Brian Mullins, and Anton O'Toole and Duff keeping hopes alive with their tireless and shrewd touches, worked as if their very lives depended on the outcome, and if the vital goal was very late in arriving, it was still a merited dividend for that fierce determination that is the hallmark of the present Dublin side.



● BRIAN MULLINS

The sheer courage and grit of the St. Vincent's man permeates the entire Dublin team.

Many felt that Dublin's chance went "South" in more ways than one when it was decided to fix the replay for Pairc Ui Chaoimh. The line taken by a big number of supporters was "when they could not beat Cork at Croke Park there was 'no way' they would win in Cork."

However, while this Dublin team may have had more than a generous share of good fortune in the run-in to the final, one thing the team has not lacked is the determination to face up to any challenge. That was the case at Pairc Ui Chaoimh, and the Dubs measured up to the task much better than many — including some of their most ardent followers had expected

— to do the job to return to the All-Ireland final scene.

THE SURVIVORS

Dublin have five survivors from the side that lost to Kerry at this stage four years ago — Mick Holden, Tommy Drumm, Brian Mullins, Anton O'Toole and Jim Roynane, who went in as substitute. Fran Ryer, by the way, was left half back in that game.

Drumm, Mullins, O'Toole and Ryder all won All-Ireland senior medals in the successful 'Seventies.

McNally, from St. Anne's, is the youngest member of the side at 18, and unlike some one time forward stars who later made it "big" as goalkeepers — Billy Morgan, formerly of Cork, is a classic example — he has travelled the reverse trail. In goal when Dublin beat Kerry in last year's under-18 final, Joe was called into the senior team for the first time as goalkeeper in a National League game with Armagh last March.

The teenager deputised in that game for the injured O'Leary, and featured a wonderful display by saving a penalty kick. However, it was as a forward that he returned to the senior team, and he has shown a decided flair himself in outwitting goalkeepers.

John O'Leary (O'Dwyers) was goalkeeper in Dublin's All-Ireland minor football title winning team of 1979, when his colleagues included Barney Rock, then, as now, a real score-getter. He plays with Ballymun-Kickhams. Ciaran Duff (Fingallians) also won an All-Ireland Minor medal that year.

Tommy Conroy, of St. Vincent's is only 19, and a Leinster minor medalist in 1981. He has settled in well at centre half forward.

A nice blend of youth and experience in the Dublin side, a team, too, that is maturing and developing steadily, and backs up these assets with probably the most important quality of all — sheer will to win. Yes, Dublin have a lot going for them as they attempt to put their name on "Sam" again after a break of six years.

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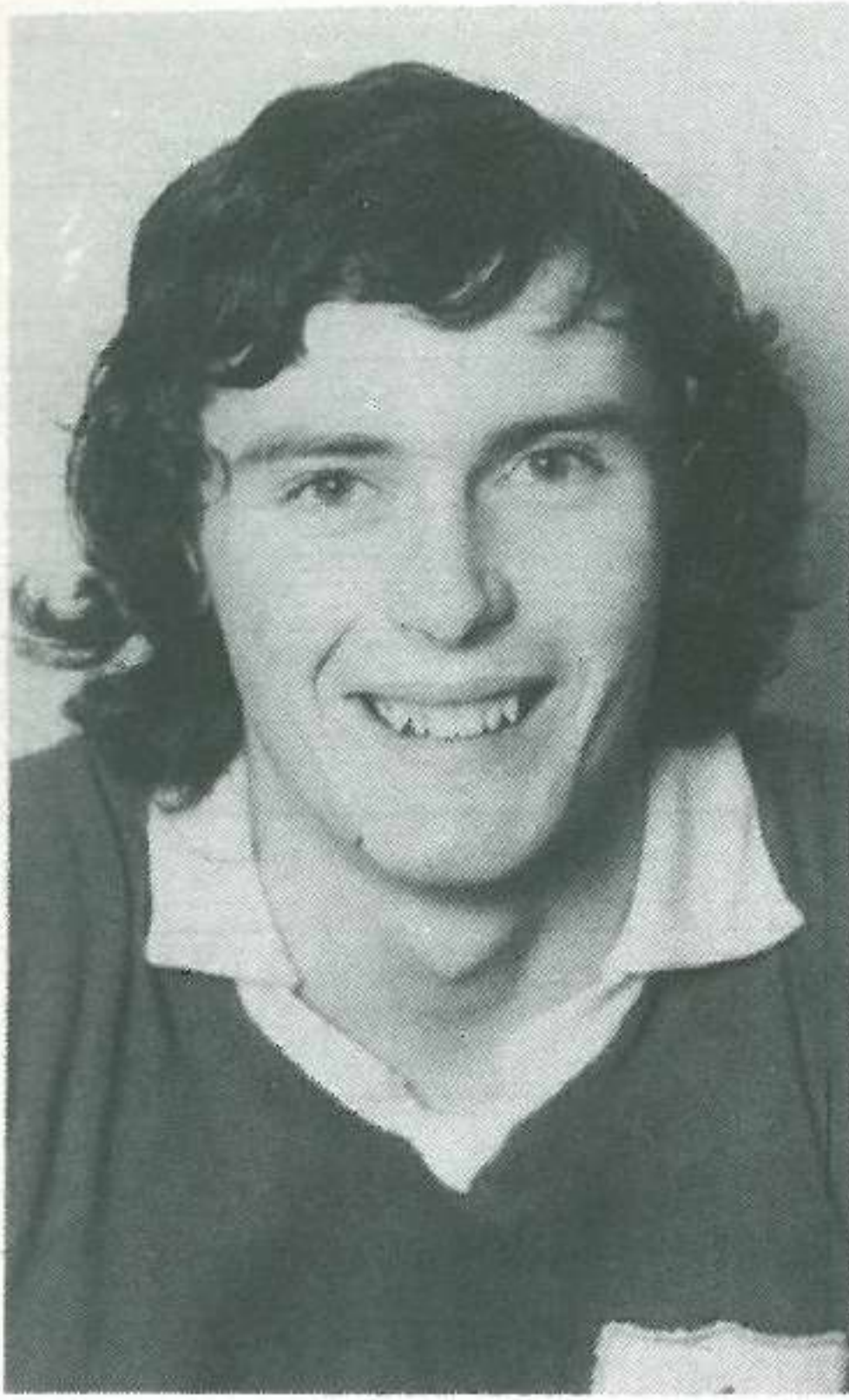
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**WILL GALWAY
STAR'S
FRUSTRATING
TEN YEAR CAREER
BE FINALLY
CROWNED WITH
THAT ELUSIVE
ALL-IRELAND
MEDAL?**



**By
NOEL HORGAN**

WHEN Tom Naughton first emerged on the All-Ireland scene as a lively, creative full-forward, few could have foreseen then that ten years later the Annaghdown clubman would still be chasing that elusive and cherished All-Ireland medal. On August 12, 1973 Tom made an exciting Croke Park debut in the senior grade when he played an inspirational role as Galway forged to a shock two-point semi-final win over a three-in-a-row seeking Offaly squad.

A glittering career looked likely for Tom as Galway, at the time, had moulded a formidable fifteen with players like Jack Cosgrove, Tommy Joe Gilmore, Liam O'Neill, Jimmy Duggan, Brendan Colleran and Liam Sammon providing invaluable encouragement and guidance to the youthful Naughton, Morgan Hughes, Joe Waldron, Michael Rooney and the rest.

Having contested the '71 decider, Galway appeared to be in with every chance of success as they possessed more big-time experience than their '73 opponents, Cork, who were sampling All-Ireland final fare for the first time since 1967, when they failed to Meath.

In that exhilarating decider, however, Galway were forced to succumb to a victory-starved and attack-conscious Cork squad, spearheaded by such brilliant performers as Ray Cummins, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Declan Barron, Billy Morgan, Frank Cogan, Jimmy Barrett and Kevin Jer O'Sullivan.

Undaunted Galway were back for the final the following year when, with Tom Naughton at right wing forward, they faced a resurgent Dublin but the Tribesmen were thwarted again with a Paddy Cullen save from a second-half Liam Sammon penalty proving crucial that day. Ironically, Dublin's previous Sam Maguire success was likewise achieved at Galway's expense in 1963.

Galway's fortunes slumped dramatically as Roscommon

emerged as the dominant force in Connacht during the late 'seventies with the Tribesmen grabbing their only other title of the decade in '76 before failing yet again to the Dubs in the All-Ireland semi-final.

As the seasons slipped steadily by, therefore, it seemed as if Tom Naughton would be forced to finish his career without attaining football's premier prize. Fresh hope arose, however, as Galway exploded on the national scene again with a League win in 1981 and their progress was maintained as they qualified for last year's All-Ireland semi-final when most observers agreed that it was principally lack of experience that cost them success against the eventual champions, Offaly.

They bounced back this year, however, and despite a severe bout of second-half inaccuracy, Galway illustrated their rapidly-growing maturity by sticking steadfastly to their task, remaining composed and confident to eventually overhaul a spirited Donegal squad in a tense semi-final. Injury had prevented Tom Naughton from doing duty in the provincial decider and it was clear that he had not regained peak fitness for the Donegal game.

Tom, normally eager to be involved in all the forward action — remained rigidly within the confines of the right corner forward slot that day and he made little impact as Donegal's Des Newton employed his pace and judgement to do some tremendous covering. Still, Tom Naughton on the few occasions that he did win possession, showed flashes of his true form, placing Gay McManus for the opening score of the match in the sixth minute and working hard to win a free which Val Daly converted shortly before the break.

Naughton has proved in the past that he has the potential to be a match-winner and Galway's opponents in the final would do well to ignore Tom's sub-standard display against Donegal.

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scoring returns with six points, four from frees.

When one considers that Cork scored just 0-11 in that one point win, Allen's contribution becomes all that more impressive. One must say, too, that right through the successful run he was a regular score-getter with the side.

ELUSIVE MEDAL

However, despite these successes, the one big medal in the province continued to prove elusive for Dinny Allen. But he, appropriately enough, did much himself to eventually bring about the long hoped for change of fortune last July in the Munster final.

It was a "one-two" involving the Nemo Rangers club player and John Cleary that led to Cleary's opening goal for Cork in the 13th minute against Kerry at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. Allen continued to torment the defending champions' defence as Cork worked away with great

By
TOM COUGHLAN

I AM sure that if you asked a random selection of Gaelic Games followers from outside of Cork to immediately name a footballer from the Leaside, many would reply: "Dinny Allen." Understandably so, because all the years that Cork toiled in Kerry's shadow this Nemo Rangers man has been producing play of a standard that has ensured few will question his right to be numbered among the leading forwards of the past ten years.

When really on his game, Allen is a joy to behold, with his fast incisive football, that expert sense of position that has time and again ensured that he is in the right place at the right time to capitalise on a scoring chance, and his speed. In short, he time and again makes forward play look easy.

One has only to look at the quick and comfortable way that Allen has fitted in from time to time with Kerry forwards to fully appreciate this fact. It is true to say that during their unbroken spell as Munster champions from 1975 until last July, the Kingdom brought snappy and punchy forward play to a new peak, yet for all that Allen was still able to

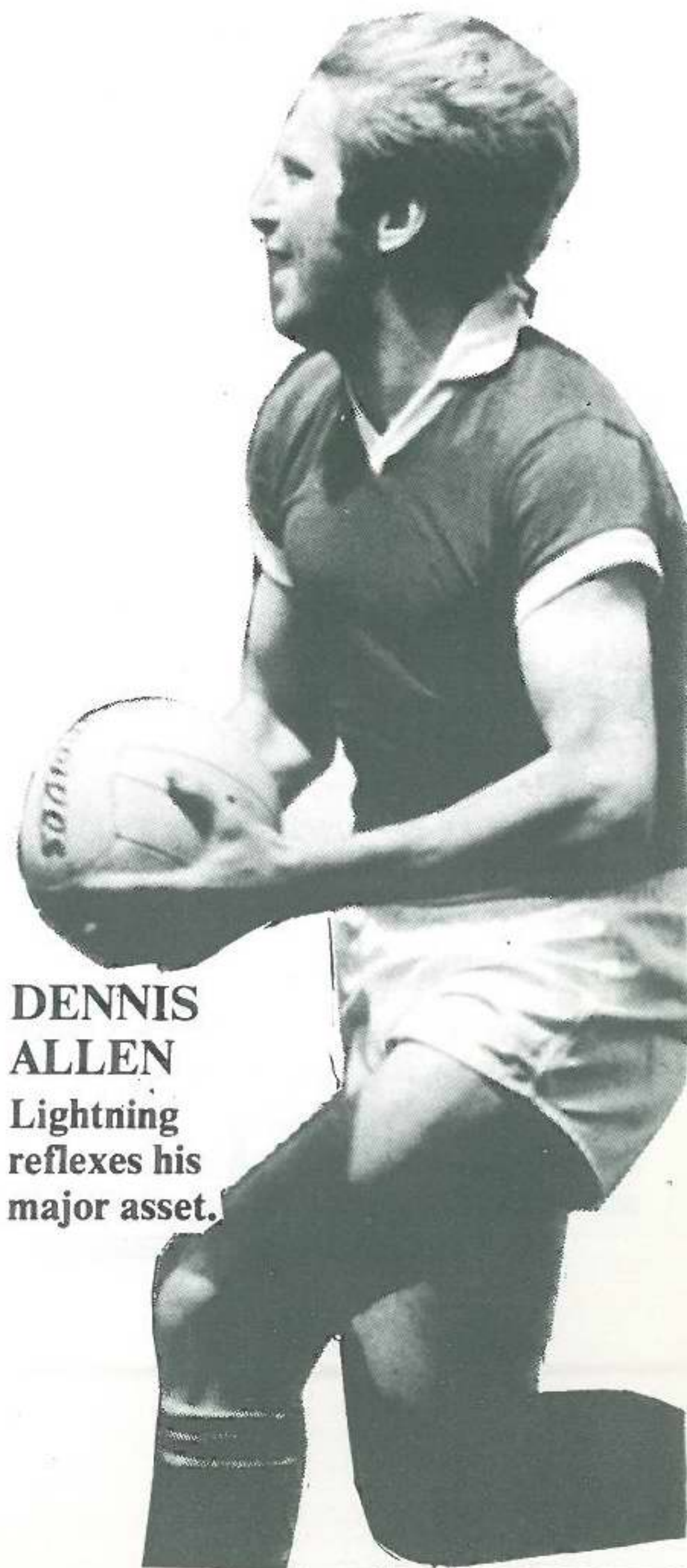
step into the general pattern and contribute handsomely to the overall scheme when helping Munster in the Railway Cup.

The Cork man has won three inter-provincial medals, no mean feat that in a spell when Kerry men were challengingly strongly for places in the interprovincial side. The manner in which he blended in superbly in the attack says much for his extra special skills.

Allen has also displayed tremendous perserverance. He experienced the heart-break of defeat after defeat for years in the game that matters in the South, but still maintained his enthusiasm for the game and the motivation to ensure that his own high standard of play did not drop as a result. Of course, there were rewards from time to time.

Those three interprovincial medals were encouraging factors. So, too, was a rare day of joy for Cork as they beat their next door neighbours at Pairc Ui Chaoimh in the National League final of 1980. Allen was not only a great centre half forward, cool, clever and inspirational with his shrewd play, but he also led the

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IN

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● FROM PAGE 22

enthusiasm and no little skill to eventually "steal" the title from Kerry's grasp with Tadhg Murphy's last ditch goal.

Allen's attacking qualities were very much in evidence in the win that after so many years of frustrating defeats finally earned him a place among the Munster senior football championship medal winners. A just reward for his long service and loyalty, and all the more pleasing that when it came, Denis Allen proved a bright star of the winning show.

In the two games with Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final and replay (what about his two excellent goals in the drawn match?), the Cork forward showed yet again that when it comes to talking about top-class players from the Leaside — or any other part of the country for that matter — Allen must be a leading contender in any rankings list.

So far that most prized possession of them all, the Celtic Cross for the All-Ireland senior football championship, has not come Allen's way. It would be a pity if he is to eventually bow out of the game without the top honour, but even if that is to prove the case, the Cork man will not lose any stature as a result.

It must be said, too, that he has had a measure of success at national level with his club. When Nemo Rangers beat Scotstown, of Monaghan, in a snowstorm at Croke Park in March 1979, Allen was one of those who lifted the gloom with his play at centre half forward.

He exercised his considerable talents to good effect at full forward as his club regained the championship last year at the expense of Garrymore, Mayo. Nemo Rangers had a run-away win, and the man who did most to engineer the success was Denis Allen.

The final, indeed, was a personal triumph for Dinny. He tormented and teased the Western rearguard, and after only twenty minutes he had his club firmly on the road to success by scoring himself a wonderful 2-3. Yes, a forward in the regal class is Allen.

1984 could be a BIG year for Donegal if . . .

A WINNING sequence has to end sometime, but it was still most disappointing for Northerners that Donegal failed to put the golden finish to a memorable year for Ulster by failing to reach their first All-Ireland senior football final. The loss to Galway tends to cloud over the good days of the first half of the year . . . the days that brought the Railway Cup to the North, gave us the first all-Ulster National League final in nearly a quarter of a century, and put Loughgiel Shamrocks, of Antrim, in a place of their own as the province's first-ever All-Ireland club senior hurling champions.

Had Donegal climaxed all that by earning the province a direct interest in an All-Ireland senior football final for the first time since as far back as 1968, then this would undoubtedly have been a year apart for Northerners.

What made the North-West team's defeat by Galway all the more frustrating was that the semi-final was a game that they could, and indeed, should have won. Even though Donegal did not play up to the potential that made them such an exciting and attractive side for most of the Ulster championship they still had a final place dangling firmly before them when they led Galway by four points early in the second half.

But they let the chance slip away, not so much through any brilliance, or indeed, noteworthy work of any kind from Galway, but rather to their own failure to press home the advantage. Maybe it was a lack of big match experience at headquarters, maybe a sense of a false security, but

whatever the reason Donegal just could not raise their game at the moment when this was needed most, and paid the penalty.

It did not help, of course, that some players of whom much was expected, did not come up to general expectations, or that the team at no stage, other than for about ten minutes coming up to the end of the first half, failed to blend into the fast, incisive and confident unit that had displayed an air of "we will just not be beaten" in the North.

In short, Donegal struggled for too much of the way to find their rhythm, and as a result a moderate enough Galway team with a great deal of heart kept plugging away and eventually struck gold.

There is little to be gained now in arguing about what switches or changes Donegal should have made — other than the ones they carried out — in an effort to stem the semi-final tide. That is all water under the bridge at this juncture.

The more progressive move is to look at the plus factors, and to see how these can be capitalised on to set the scene for success in the future. The obvious one is Croke Park experience.

Say what you like, but this is a vital factor in the make-up of any side. Very few teams have come to town and won a major game at headquarters on their first outing there.

Donegal now have that experience. The fact that they went so close to victory with a team that boasted only a tiny minority with All-Ireland semi-final know-how there

must be a big factor in the re-building plans.

SOLID FRAMEWORK

Then, there is youth. Six of the team beaten by Galway won All-Ireland under-21 medals last year, while another of that gifted young history-making team, Matt Gallagher, who is only 20, would almost certainly have been in action against the Connacht champions but for an operation for appendicitis. That's a very solid framework, while the panel of substitutes also included a number of under-21 medalists

So, in almost a year Donegal have built up a panel of young men who thanks to the under-21 title win and the good run at senior level, have acquired invaluable top class experience in the shortest possible time.

These young lions, furthermore, are very gifted campaigners. Martin McHugh, for example, is without doubt the most exciting sharpshooter to emerge in the North — indeed, I would go further and say the entire country — in a long time. He is a footballer, whose accuracy from free-kicks and from play is such that he can in time make as big an impact in the scoring line as such as Michael Sheehy (Kerry), Matt Connor (Offaly) or Paddy Doherty (Down). That's saying a lot. McHugh was right half forward in the under-21 team.

At the other end of the field, Tommy McDermott, who was again eligible for the under-21 grade this year, is a defender who has what it takes, I am convinced, to become one

● TO PAGE 25

A few encouraging words from Texaco.

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Putting our energy into Ireland's future.



● *The Donegal team that put up such a gritty performance against Galway in the '83 All-Ireland semi-final. Back row, from left: Martin Griffin, Michael Carr, Paul McGettigan, Seamus Bonner, Noel McCole, Brendan Dunleavy, Anthony Molloy, Des Newton, Kieran Keaney. Front row, from left: Charlie Mulgrew, Joyce McMullan, Michael Lafferty, captain, Tommy McDermott, Donal Reid, Martin McHugh.*

● FROM PAGE 23

of the giants of rearguard action in the years ahead.

The young Ballyshannon man, who was centre half back in last year's national championship winning side, is a reliable fielder, with good positional sense. He clears his lines intelligently and works tirelessly and progressively all through every match.

Joyce McMullan, another of last year's medalists, who was eligible again this year at under-21 may not have set the Croke Park scene alight, but anyone who watched him in the under-21 grade, or as a senior will readily concede that this live-wire half forward from the Four Masters club in Donegal Town has the potential to make a tremendous impact in the years ahead as an incisive and clever raider.

BEHIND THEM

The other under-21 men are also gifted players and can play their parts as well in ensuring that Donegal put the disappointment of the All-Ireland semi-final defeat behind

them.

As for the more experienced men in the squad, footballers like Michael Carr, Michael Lafferty, Brendan Dunleavy in defence, and Seamus Bonner and Kieran Keaney in attack, still have plenty to offer.

It is good as well to learn that Brian McEniff, who did so much to bring Donegal so far, is to remain on as team-manager.

Donegal's immediate aim now must be to win promotion from Division III of the National League in the up-coming campaign. The sooner they get back among the top counties — and Division II play in the League would be a vital step in this direction — the better for the county overall.

Another point that must be kept firmly to the forefront. Even though the championship campaign this year proved that Donegal have a senior team of great potential, the Ulster championship is still not there merely "for the taking" next season.

Down, smarting still from the way they were dumped out of the race by

Fermanagh, have the men with the experience and the class to re-emerge as a potent force in the months ahead. All the more so, as they have the added incentive of striving to retain the League title.

It may be as well that Derry, with their provincial title winning teams at minor and under-21 to fuel the senior hopes, will be up there with the best of them in the top grade next year. Nor can one readily dismiss the hopes of such as Armagh, despite their unfilled promise of recent years, Tyrone or Monaghan.

No, the Ulster title will not be easily won in the Centenary Year. But Donegal are well on the road, and if they profit from the obvious lessons to be learned from this season, build on these through the National League, get promotion to Division II, and also, of course, gain that "rub of the green" that is so important in the games that matter, 1984 could eventually prove what many felt this year was destined to be for Donegal — a real triumphant one at All-Ireland senior level.

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THE G.A.A. exists mainly on two games — Hurling and Football. This is a basic fact. Should anything happen these, then there is little doubt the Association would die.

Some people think such a thing could not happen, but its possible, unless everyone is vigilant to see that both games are played properly and within the rules.

Young people will not want to play games where discipline is lax, where there is grave danger of getting seriously injured when the rules are not properly applied.

Football and hurling are sports and must be played as such, and the win at all costs, now so prevelant, must be eradicated.

People try to blame the rules, but no way will I agree with this sentiment. The rules in my book are fine.

So where does the blame lie? I will tell you.

- (1) With the players.
- (2) With the sideline mentors.
- (3) With the referees.

Let's take the players first. Some appear to believe that anything goes as long as they can get away with it. So to control these players who are destroying our games, strong action must be taken on all sides, especially by officialdom.

Secondly we have the sideline mentors. The men who want to win the game at all costs. For the good of the game these men will have to be made realise that there are rules to be observed and that they must be seen to be observed. This can be done quite easily by officials in each county or officials at higher levels who run the various competitions.

But over the years I find that officials at county or higher levels rarely bother to interest themselves in trying to bring these offenders to task.

If the games are to be cleaned up

INSTRUCTIONS STRICTLY ENFORCED

OR NEW RULES VITAL

club or county mentors who encourage or even condone dangerous or ruthless tactics in their anxiety to win at all costs must be chastised in the strongest possible way.

The third partner in the triangle are referees. They have a very serious duty to perform, but at times they are either too lax or not strict enough in the application of the rules.

Fortunately President Paddy Buggy is fully aware of the prevailing situation and he is determined that the rules are applied as they should be — without compromise.

By SEAN McGETTIGAN

Last November the President instructed the Administration Committee to call the top refs together and instruct them to apply strictly the personal foul rule. The rule where players who pull and haul will get one warning and the next time they infringe will be sent to the line.

This was a very hurried exercise and was not got over to the referees properly so consequently some applied the instruction while others did not.

At the same time the officials and players did not get time to fully digest what the instruction really meant, so that it took many unawares. Generally the ruling was not applied and the referees who did apply it were castigated from all sectors — by the press, team officials and players. Soon the instruction became a thing of the past.

Regretfully the Administration Committee did nothing to see that the instruction was rigidly carried out. Originally the plan was that observers be sent to games to see that the new ruling was implemented by the referees, but I have yet to see where any reports were sent back to headquarters. Let me state here and

now.

The President was let down by all sides, by the Committee and by the referees themselves.

But Paddy Buggy is not easily

• TO PAGE 28

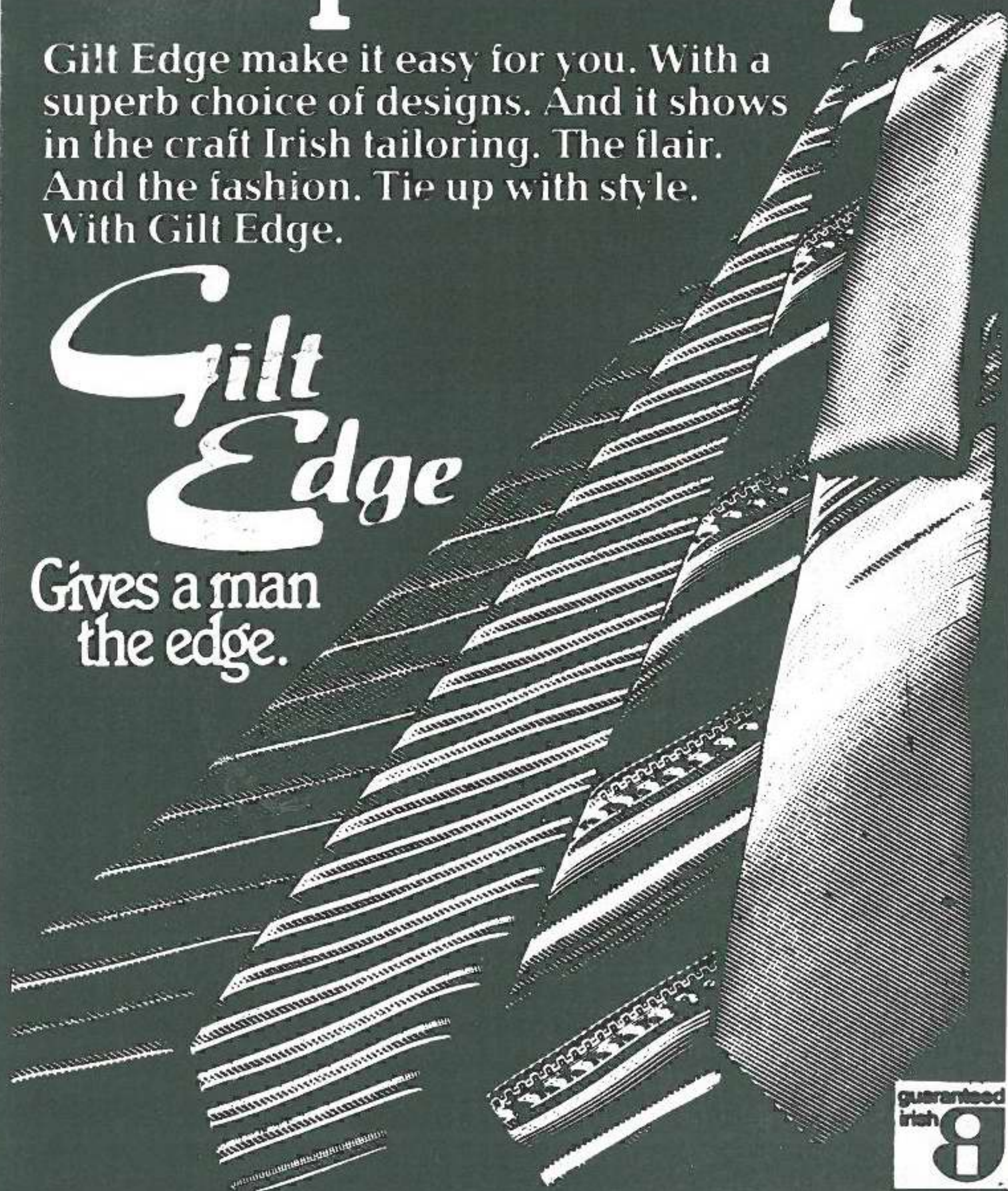


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● FROM PAGE 27

foiled in his aim to see that the games are played strictly within the rules. He personally summoned all senior referees to a conference on July 30th last, along with a number of advisers and issued the blunt statement: **The new instructions must be applied!**

The rules to be applied are: The personal foul one; the four-step one, rough and dangerous play in both football and hurling must be eliminated. Tripping, hauling, jersey-pulling must be dealt with severely — No if and buts.

The President also stressed that there must be uniformity throughout the entire Association, in the implementation of the rulings.

Dr. Mick Loftus was at that meeting and he told those present that there are now more serious injuries occurring in our games than at any time in the past.

Hugh McPoland, Antrim County Chairman and Ulster Referee Chairman, who over ten years worked hard to set refereeing standards on a pedestal, had a few

words of advice. He told the men present — the top referees in the country — that they were the cause of existing poor refereeing standards because they do not apply the rules properly. "Junior referees see you on TV and they follow your example." Players see you on TV let this and that go so they follow the same pattern," said Hugh. "Only by strict discipline will you get players to respect you," concluded the Antrim man.

I recently spoke to John Gough the Antrim ref and one man who states openly that he applies the new instruction. He refereed this year's Ulster Final at Clones, and his authority on the game was very evident. There was no pulling and hauling, simply because it was not going to be tolerated by him. Players and sideline mentors realised this and so we had a free flowing game, indeed the best Ulster Final for many a year.

"The President is fully intent in having the rules applied properly" John Gough told me. John made another very interesting comment. "No club, county or province should

have any say in the appointing of a referee for a game, that should be the work of the Referees Board, which I would like to see at work in every county, province and at Central Council level. In my opinion no one should have the right to say who will control any game and I told the meeting that." John would like to see the "Sin Bin" in operation in our games whereby a player, for a minor infringement, like jersey-pulling, could be sidelined for the duration of the game.

I remember this particular motion being before Congress on a few occasions, unsuccessfully, I might add. Now I consider it would muster sufficient support if presented in the future.

Anyway we can now look forward to better games with stricter refereeing and less destructive and dangerous play. The President is set on getting this accomplished. Indeed so serious is he on this issue, that he took time off from his birthday celebrations to personally preside at the recent meeting.



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TOMMY DRUMM

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BY
SEAN
CULLEN

THE quiet man of football . . . that's my ranking of Tommy Drumm. The Dublin captain of this season has been in the senior inter-county grade since 1976, has played sound game after sound game since then, but somehow he has failed to capture the limelight to anything like the same degree as many of his colleagues of the great 'Seventies period, or for that matter to the same extent as a number of his team-mates of the present side.

I find this very hard to understand. Granted, there is nothing showy about the Whitehall-Colmcille club man's football, but for the life of me I fail to see how his dependability and the amount of hard work he gets through every match seems to be lost on many in their eagerness to laud to the skies more flashy performances.

A case in point, I contend was the Leinster final win over Offaly. Dublin's ploy of playing John Caffrey as a third midfielder was rightly sized on as a match-winning feature, and the scoring techniques of John McNally and Barney Rock also won much praise. No fault there either.

But it seemed to me at the time that Drumm just did not receive anything

like the measure of praise he deserved for his contribution to the game. He was a true commander-in-chief, as he marshalled his forces by deed and example with his enterprising football at centre half back.

I thought, in fact, his showing was as good a display as I have seen from any player in the position in a long time, but somehow Drumm just did not earn a rating in the Dublin individual table of merit as high as I expected.

It is unlikely, though, that the Dubs skipper, who was 28 last March, is in the least upset by such happenings. He is the epitome of the sportsman supreme as he goes about his game with a thoroughness not matched by many of his contemporaries. He is a team-man, a footballer who works at all times for the good of the side, and is in no way selfish, or a player chasing after his own individual glory.

In short, it would be hard to find a better example of the complete footballer — the man who combines individual brilliance, work-rate and drive with the ability to team-up at all times with his colleagues for the common good — than Tommy Drumm.

I think it is true to say as well that Drumm has been playing some of the best football of his career this season. The captaincy seems to be bringing out the best in him, and there is an authority and a poise about his football that has him striding out confidently in my book towards another All Star award.

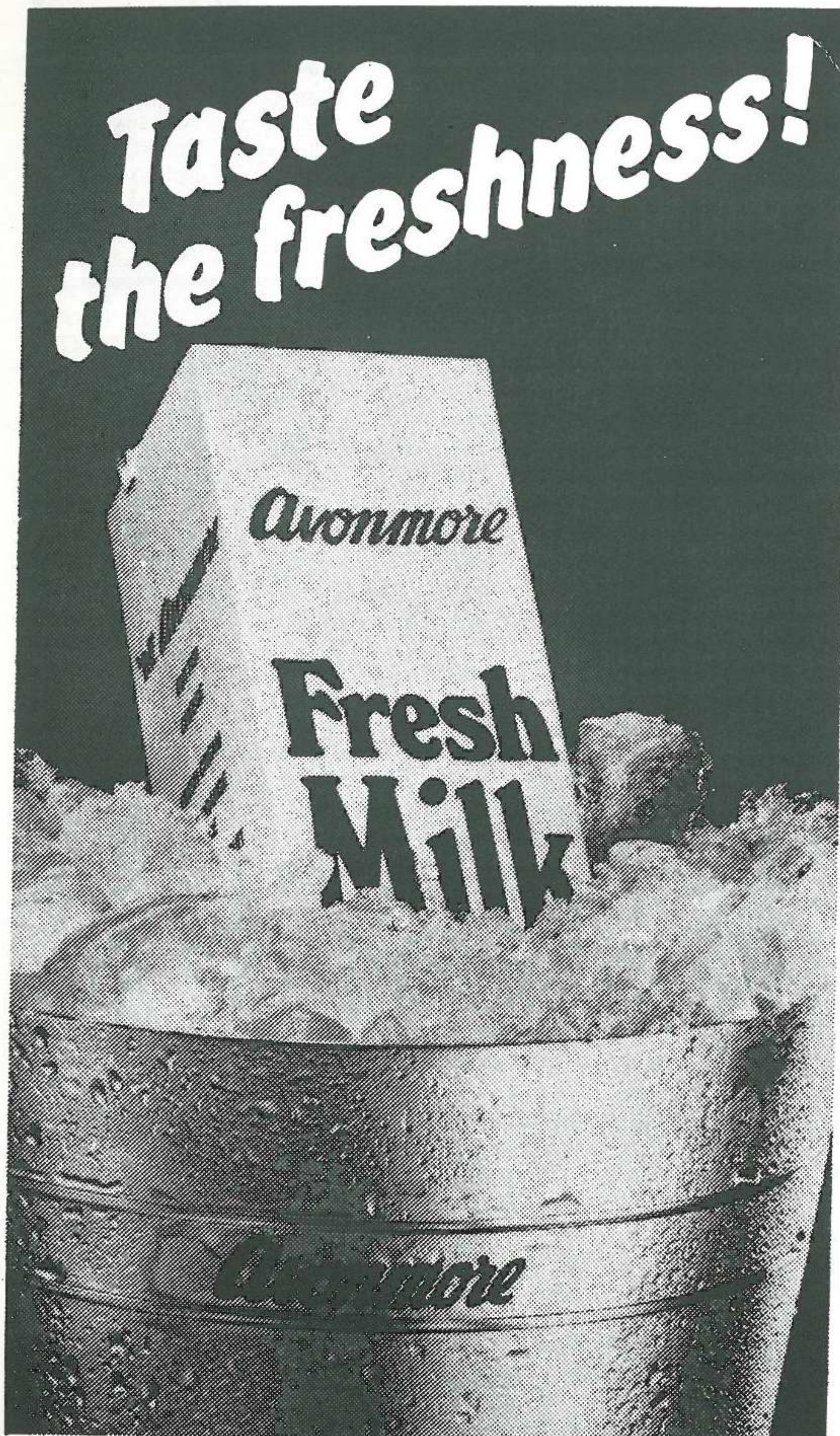
Another award? Yes, and I am sure it will come as a surprise to many when I say that this bright football talent from the North side of Dublin has already found favour with the selectors three times.

TAKEN ABACK

I must admit that I was a little taken aback myself when I checked the records. I would have said that Drumm had at the most only one award, so I am much relieved now that my judgment of the Dubliner's qualities' has been shared by the men who picked the All Stars selections.

Drumm was not in at the start in the heady days that was Dublin football in the past decade. The county had won the Sam Maguire Cup in 1974 after an interval of nine years, and lost it again before the half back found favour in championship play as a senior for the first time in 1976. The game was against Laois, and Drumm was chosen at left half back.

● OVERLEAF



● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Tommy lost no time in finding his feet, and provided many telling touches in the half back line as he blended in perfectly in the general scheme that paid such a handsome dividend for Dublin with wins over Kerry in 1976 and Armagh in 1977 for the county's last two All-Ireland senior football championships. Drumm, in fact, was a vital cog in that powerful Dublin "machine."

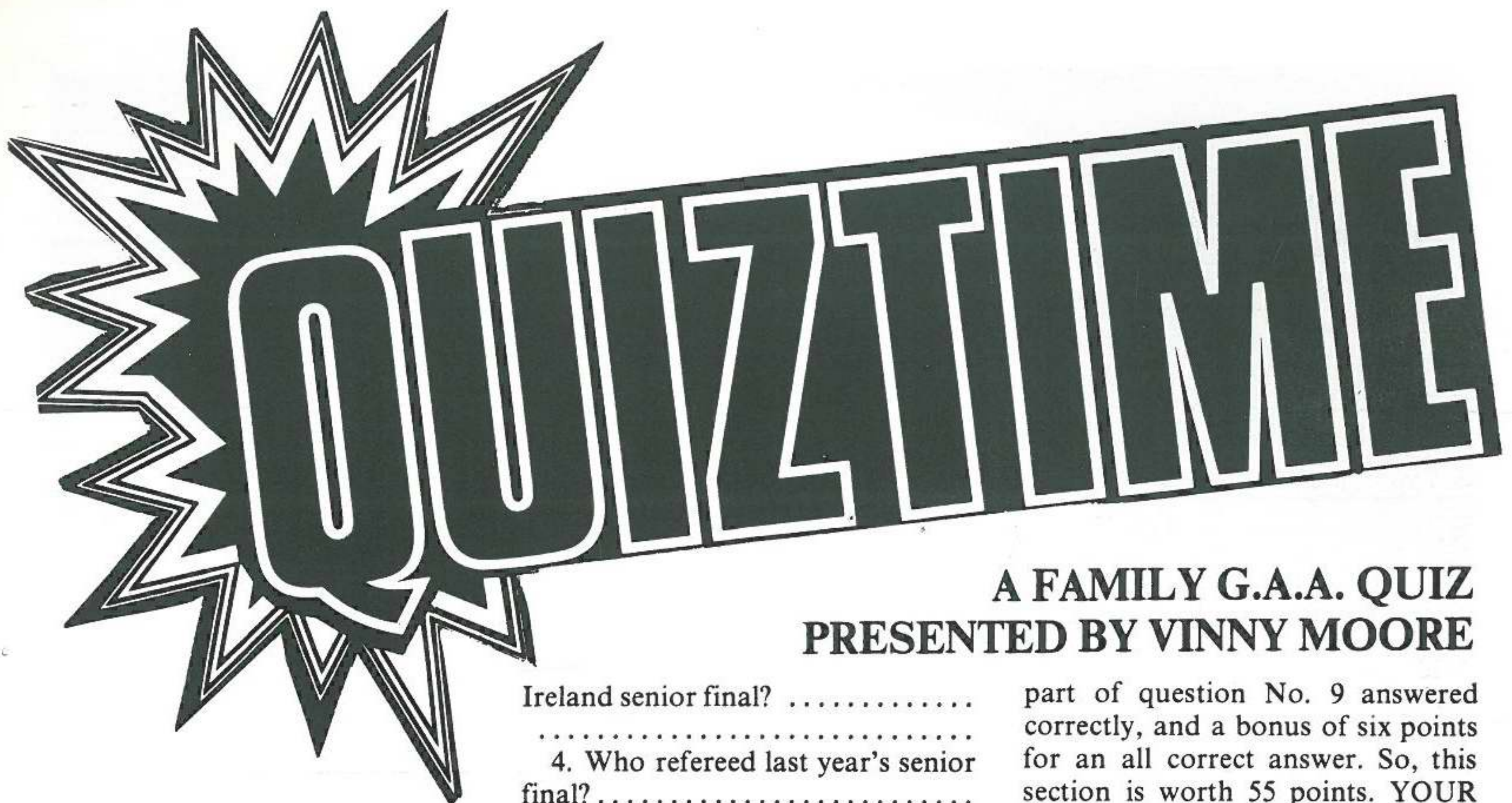
Even when Dublin slipped back somewhat in 1978 and 1979, years in which they lost All-Ireland finals in succession to Kerry, Tommy Drumm still continued to shine. So much so, that he followed his debut among the All Stars in 1977 at right half back by retaining that position in 1978 and 1979. He was one of the most consistent selections in the All Stars teams at that period.

The Dubliner has also appeared with Leinster, but during his years in the senior grade, the Eastern province has hit a real valley period in the competition, and one has to go back as far as 1974 for the last title win.

Drumm played under-21 football with Dublin, and won a Leinster medal in that grade in 1975. He also played with Trinity in the Sigerson Cup, the Universities championship.

In the past couple of years the All-Ireland medalist of the 'Seventies has been a vital unit in the Dublin rebuilding plans. His commitment, his experience and above all his leadership enabled him to act as a steadying influence in the back division as Dublin picked up the pieces again after losing their place on top of the Leinster chart in 1980.

Dublin owe much to many for the come-back that made them such an exciting force again in football in this year's senior championship. But when one sits down and looks deeply into the successful come-back, and probes all aspects of the revival, I say without fear of contradiction that the quiet man of the team and of football, Tommy Drumm was a tremendous influence in chartering the way to better times.



QUIZTIME

A FAMILY G.A.A. QUIZ PRESENTED BY VINNY MOORE

YET another big day in football is all but with us again, and as we await with keen anticipation the minor and senior finals, let us try and get into the mood of the great occasion by reviving memories of some past events in our latest Quiz.

ON THE SPOT . . . has four sections in this issue, and we follow our traditional custom of awarding points for each question. Unlike some of our past quiz features, however, the current one is devoted exclusively to footballers or happenings in the game. There is a special section on minor affairs, as we hold that the under-18 men have prominent roles in the make-up of the finals programme, and deserve as much publicity as possible as a result.

But, for a start we range over some recent, and not quite so recent events in a miscellany that we call:

GENERAL REVIEW

1. Galway last won the All-Ireland senior football title in 1966. How many finals have they appeared in since then?
2. When was Connacht last represented in the concluding round?
3. What was the last year in which Kerry were not engaged in an All-

- Ireland senior final?
4. Who refereed last year's senior final?
5. Cork landed a goal in only 2½ minutes in their last final win in 1973. Who was the player on the target — Declan Barron, Ray Cummins or Jimmy Barry-Murphy.
6. Dublin were beaten in their last final outing in 1979. Name their captain that year?
7. Tommy Drumm, the Dublin captain this season, played in the 1974 All-Ireland title winning team. True or false?
8. Who scored Cork's sensational last gasp winning goal against Kerry in the Munster final last July?
9. List the clubs of the following personalities — Mattie Coleman (Galway), Martin McHugh (Donegal), Barney Rock (Dublin) and Denis Allen (Cork)
10. What was Galway's biggest winning margin in any game in the 1983 championship at senior football so far?

Each question, except No. 9, is worth five points. One point for each

part of question No. 9 answered correctly, and a bonus of six points for an all correct answer. So, this section is worth 55 points. **YOUR SCORE**.....

SCORING GIANTS

Six personalities are listed here — Michael Sheehy (Kerry), Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin), Matt Connor (Offaly), Seamus Leydon (Galway), Ray Cummins (Cork), and Barney Rock (Dublin).

The object is to match the personality to the appropriate clue.

Jimmy Keaveney, for instance, might go to match: This player set a new record for an individual scoring return in an All-Ireland senior football final. Or perhaps, Michael Sheehy, another forward who has broken many records is the man we are looking for here.

Who is your choice? Ink in your selection after Question No. 3.

1. This footballer scored 0-8 to head the returns as his county won the Sam Maguire Cup for only the second time in their history?.....
2. One of our six personalities holds the record for the highest score for a full senior football championship campaign at a superb 46 points (5-31) in four games. Who is the player in question?
3. This player set a new record for

● TO PAGE 33




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QUIZTIME

• FROM PAGE 31

an individual scoring return in an All-Ireland senior football final at 2-6 Who is he?

4. A leading marksman, not once, but twice, in minor football campaigns in the 'Seventies

5. A goal from play, a second from a penalty, three points from frees, and three from play made up an exciting sharpshooting display by this footballer in a comparatively recent final. Name the man in the scoring limelight

6. This footballer grabbed a splendid 2-3 in an All-Ireland senior football final, but still finished on the losing side.

Five points for each question answered correctly, and a bonus of five for "going through the card." Therefore, it is possible to boost YOUR record by 35 points from this section. HOW DID YOU FARE?

The minors tend to be overshadowed year in year out on All-Ireland final days, which is a pity because the under-18 players frequently provide the best fare of the season, and they are also of course the men who rank as tomorrow's seniors. GAEILIC SPORT has always tried to give the minors their place in the spotlight, and ON THE SPOT ... mirrors this policy with a special section on

THE MINORS

1. Derry will be appearing in their second, or third All Ireland final

since 1980?

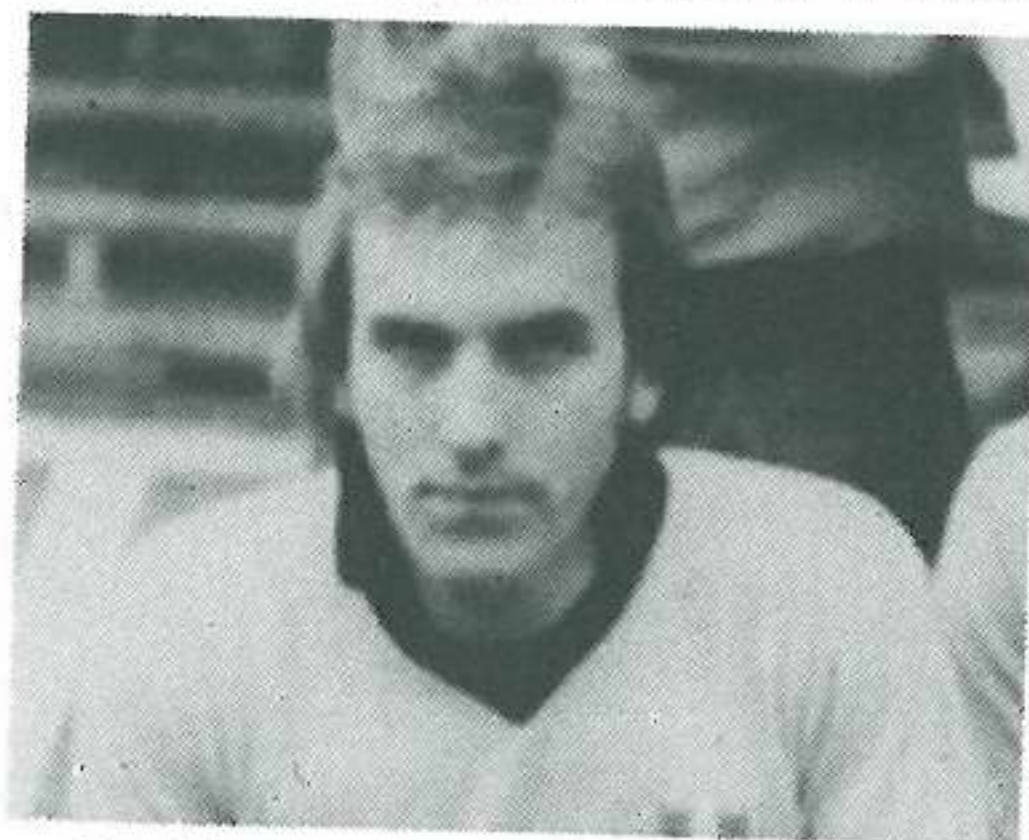
2. When did Derry last win the title?

3. What trophy is awarded to the winners of the All-Ireland minor football final?

4. Cork were victorious in their last appearance in the final. What year was that success recorded?

5. Kildare, who won the Leinster title in July, have still to appear in the final. True or false?

6. An All-Ireland minor medalist of very recent times as a goalkeeper won a provincial senior medal this year as a forward. Who is the footballer concerned?



7. The player pictured here as a senior won an All-Ireland medal in his minor days. True or false?

8. Who were runners-up for last year's title?

9. How many years have passed since an Ulster team took the national championship?

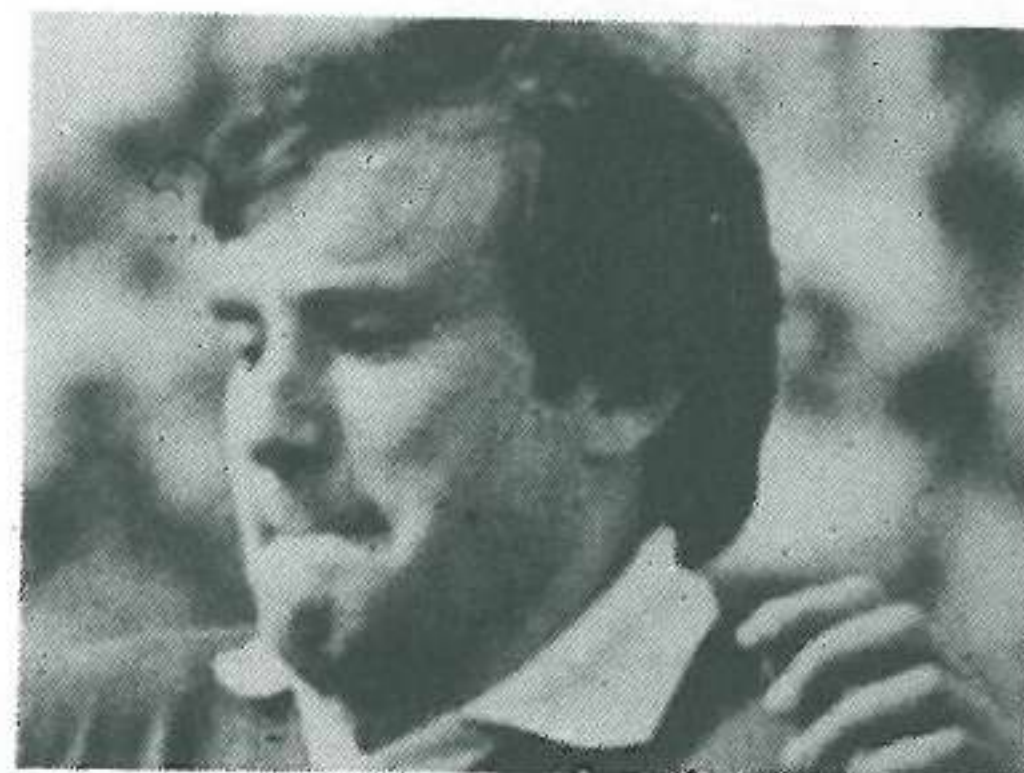
10. Dublin won the title last year. But who captained the Dubs to that

success — Liam O'Rourke, Joe McNally or Tony Delaney?

Five points a question on offer, and a bonus of ten for a 100 per cent return, making this section worth a whopping 60 points. YOUR RECORD

Finally, we come to a section that appears to be particularly popular with readers, judging by letters received. This is our brief profile on a player, which we call:

CAREER FILE



1. Who is the personality pictured here?

2. What club does he assist?

3. What is his general position with his county team?

4. Has he won a Railway Cup medal?

5. Our personality has still to appear in a Sam Maguire Cup game? True or false?

6. Has the player in question been honoured by the All Stars selectors?

Total number of points on offer here: 35. Five points for each correct answer and a bonus of 5 points. HOW DID YOU MEASURE UP?

TELL-TALE TABLE

Total number of points on offer; 185. Help yourself to an EXCELLENT rating for 160-plus. Very good for 140-plus and good for 100-plus.

• ANSWERS — PAGE 43

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JACKIE MULVANY TAKES A LOOK AT CORK MINORS

YES! IT COULD BE THEIR DAY

BRENDAN Searls will be making his second All-Ireland final appearance in just over four months when he lines out at centre-half-back for Cork's bid to repeat their achievement of 1981 in a minor football decider. Then, the Rebel County beat Derry, again their opponents in the concluding round this season, to take their seventh crown.

The polished pivot from St. Finbarr's had an outstanding game as he led Colaiste Christ Ri, Turner's Cross, from midfield to a 3-6 to 2-5 win over a much vaunted St. Jarlath's, Tuam, outfit, for a first National Colleges' senior championship in thirteen years.

Searls had earlier in the series shone at centre half, and such was his consistently high standard of football throughout the championship that many who follow Colleges' games closely made him the top player of the season. That says much for Searls' football, because the Colleges' programme was noteworthy last season for the number of players who captured the attention regularly with football above the ordinary.

The All-Ireland Colleges' title winning captain has maintained the

standard with the county's under-18 team. His link up with Michael Slocum, also of St. Finbarr's, and who captains the team at right half, and Johnny Moynihan (Canovee) proved the basis of the Munster champions' 0-14 to 2-7 victory over a gallant Kildare side last time out.

Cork's run-in to the final was unusual in that they had not their traditional Munster decider clash with the old adversary, Kerry. But they did not get there without a show-down against the Kingdom.

The clash came right in the opening round, and Cork served notice that they were a team to watch by recording a very workmanlike 1-13 to 1-7 victory. A free-scoring win followed over Clare (3-14 to 0-5), and then the Munster championship was regained at Pairc Ui Chaoimh, where Tipperary were knocked out on a scoreline of 1-11 to 1-5.

Cork appear to be strongest in defence. They did concede a big enough tally to Kildare, their heaviest against, of the campaign, but taking the campaign over-all, the Southerners look well equipped to face up with quite confidence to what is undoubtedly a strong Derry attack.

The half back power is a mighty bulwark here for Cork, while Terry Minehane (O'Donovan Rossa), at full back, leads the inside line very intelligently. It seems unlikely that this division will be easily unsettled or caught flat-footed by the fast and combination-minded Derry forwards.

Admittedly, the defence was breached twice for goals by Kildare but the Munster boys should learn some valuable lessons from that experience... lessons like the need to be constantly on the alert.

OTHER AREAS

The Munster representatives could put a strong foot forward in other areas as well. Brendan Stack (Doneraile) and Barry Coffey (Bishopstown) are mobile and very dependable fielders, who use the ball to good effect. They formed a good midfield against Kildare, and that was a factor that enabled the team to keep in the hunt after the All Whites

had come back from a two points deficit at the interval, to go two points clear within six minutes of the restart.

It was around that period that we also saw the character of the Cork side. The Southerners just refused to panic, continued to play clever football, and eventually turned the game around their way once more.

The attack was probably least impressive in the last game than in any of the matches in the run-in. That was the only tie, indeed, in which Cork failed to get through for at least one goal.

This would suggest that the Southerners are not quite as lethal up front as Derry, but I have my doubts. The forwards may not be as spectacular as their Northern counterparts, but they are no less capable for all that.

Michael McCarthy (O'Donovan Rossa), the No. 10, scored some exciting points in the semi-final. Here is a forward who knows what scoring is all about, and if given much scope by the Ulster backs, he could — as in the win over Kildare — prove the man to confidently loft over the scores to win the day.

Teddy McCarthy (Glanmire) at centre half forward, and non-stop trier and very accomplished left half forward David Kennedy, of Douglas were others who impressed me greatly in the Kildare game.

As this trio are well supported by their colleagues in the forward department, I believe that there is sufficient fire-power in the division to put plenty of pressure on the Derry backs.

Cork, then, have the dependability in defence, the skills in midfield, and the creativity and finishing power up front to deservedly fancy their chances of regaining the Tom Markham Cup, the prize for the winners of the All-Ireland minor championships. Another point in their favour is that Cork teams have an unusually good record at this level of competition.

Derry teams in all grades, have not enjoyed much success in modern times at headquarters, but in contrast, Cork

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM PAGE 35**
 have lost only twice in eight appearances in finals since 1967 in this grade.

One may say that past records do not count for much in the under-18 ranks, but it would be folly to lightly dismiss the fact. Northern teams especially appear unable to produce their best form on big match days at Croke Park.

BEST FORM

For that reason, I am wary of

Derry's chances of beating Cork, even allowing for the talent in their side. Even in the semi-final win over Galway, the Northern boys gave their followers some very anxious moments before booking their place in the final.

Cork may lack the flamboyance of the Derry boys, but they will offset this by their cool, determined approach to the game. I believe, too, that they can be depended on to produce their best form, whereas I am not prepared to say that about

Derry.

That's a factor that inclines me to the belief that Cork have an outstanding chance. Another is the good all round balance in the side. Yes, it could be Cork's day . . . and title No. 8 since they won their first in 1961.

The last Cork-Derry final in 1981, by the way, showed Cork forwards up in very favourable light with a return of 4-9. The Northerners hit 2-7.

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GAY McMANUS COULD BE GALWAY'S ACE IN THE HOLE

BY NIALL PURCELL

GALWAY have come in for much adverse criticism — and understandably so — for kicking many wides in the All-Ireland semi-final win over Donegal. But anyone who may be tempted to make light of the Connacht champions' hopes of the Sam Maguire Cup as a result would do well to remember that the attack is still not without scoring power.

Val Daly may have captured the limelight in this direction with his match-winning goal against the Ulster men, but in Gay McManus Galway have a lively young man who has been consistently popping in the scores since he made an early entry into big-time football back in 1976 when he was then only 18.

As Galway work at improving their plack-kicking technique — and the return of Barry Brennan, who missed the Donegal match because of an injury could be a help in this regard — McManus might still emerge as the forward to fill this particular bill. He has had a good schooling on the way up, knows what is needed, and although he will be playing in his first All-Ireland senior final, the crafty full forward is unlikely to be unsettled by the experience.

Gay is not a complete stranger to the atmosphere. Back in 1976, his qualities as a creative and accurate full forward came to full flower as a minor when he did much to show the way for Galway to the All-Ireland title.

The boys from the West beat Cork in the final, and the bulk of their scores on the way to the title were rattled home by Gay McManus.

It was soon after that medal win that McManus was called up by Galway senior team, and this one-time Colleges' footballer with St. Colman's, Claremorris, has been a regular in the attack since then.

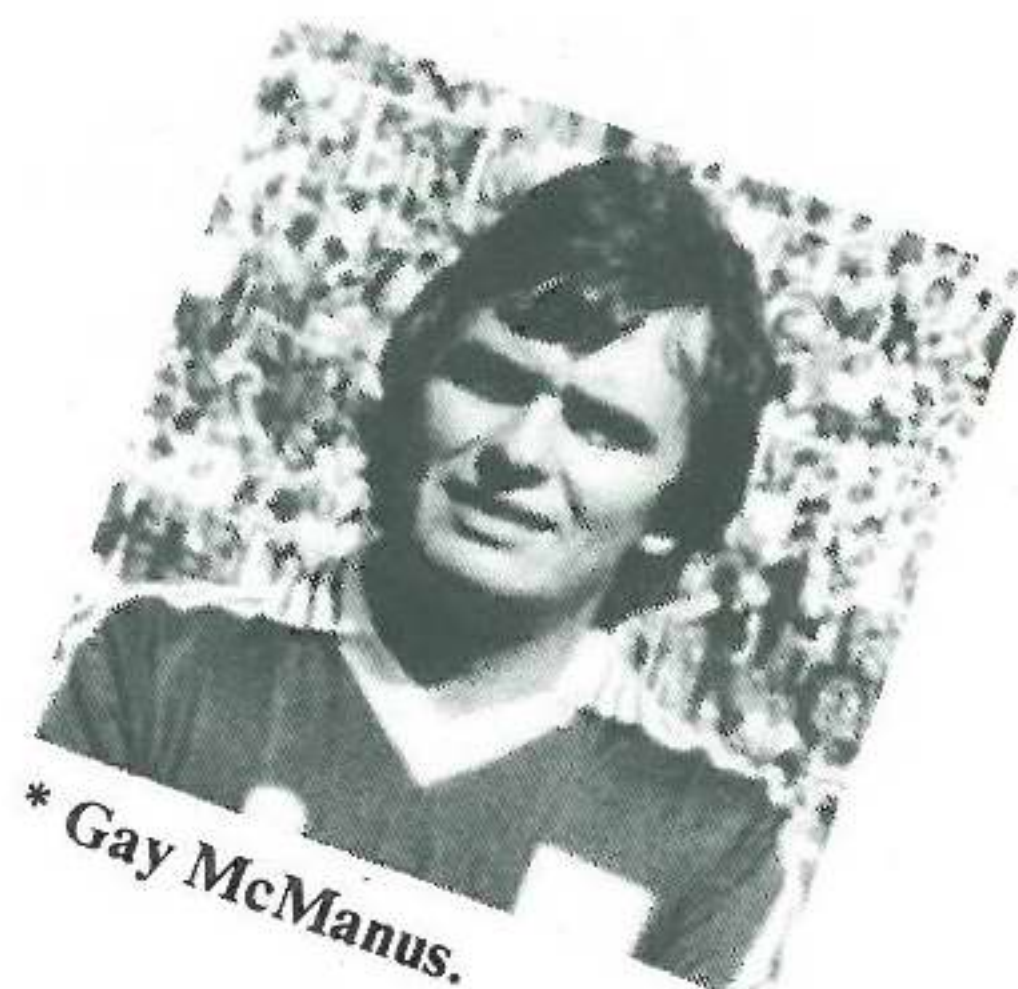
Anyone who has followed Universities' championship football will also hardly need reminding that McManus was one of the leading players in the early years of the 'Eighties, U.C. Galway regained the Sigerson Cup at Bellaghy, Co. Derry, in 1980 after an amazingly long break of 17 years and a star at centre half forward was the Milltown native, who also contributed three vital points to the final win over U.C.D.

MATCH-WINNER

Even better was to come the following year as the Galway students defended the trophy. McManus was leading scorer in his team's march to the final against Dublin University at Maynooth, and he capped all that had gone before with a match-winning show at centre half forward.

He had an outstanding game, picking off frees with tremendous accuracy, and he finished the day with six golden points. Galway won by 1-12 to 0-6.

The Galway full forward, then, has had his success at national level, but if those came early enough in his career, he had a much longer and more frustrating wait for provincial awards. In his first few years in the county team, Roscommon were the dominant power in the Connacht championship, but that all changed



in 1982, and as luck would have it, McManus had extra cause for celebration when Galway beat Mayo in the provincial final.

Not only did the victory earn him a first senior provincial medal, but he also captained Galway in that game. The previous autumn, Gay won his first Galway county senior medal with Milltown.

McManus has been taking something of a back-seat in the scoring exploits by Galway in the current championship, but even so, he is still pulling his weight well in the attack with his deft touches and creative play, and he remains one of the West's chief hopes.

The attack has been the least impressive department of the Galway team. The defence looks quite capable of measuring up to the demands of the final, and the Westerners have capable mifielders, but the forwards will have to step up on the form that we saw in the somewhat fortunate win over Donegal.

However, one cannot ignore the fact that each of the Western attackers is accomplished enough in his own right, and quite capable of rising to the occasion. Not only that, Gay McManus, cute, with a keen eye for an opening, capable of setting up chances himself, and a place-kicker with a generally good record over his senior career as a whole, might well emerge as the man to get the division operating on all cylinders on the day when Galway will need just such a show from the forwards if the Cup is to be brought home after 17 long and frustrating years.



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DUBLIN TO HOST WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TO MARK CENTENARY YEAR

BY SEAN CLERKIN

THE staging of another World Championship in this country is the main topic of conversation amongst handballers at the present time.

It will form the axis of handball's contribution to the G.A.A. Centenary celebrations and is likely to take place about the middle of next year.

So relevant are these championships in the context of the Irish Handball Council, that when Joe Lynch was appointed manager of the Irish Handball Team to compete in Houston last June, he was requested to fly out a few days in advance to survey the position as regards trans-Atlantic participation in a World Series.

Joe's brief, at the time, was to stop off at Winnipeg in Canada and to open discussions with Don Brownell, concerning that country's participation. Joe has not revealed his hand, as yet, but as one of those with a deep insight of the man, I would vouch that not alone did he do just that, but that many other doors were opened by him as well.

An interesting prospect about this proposed series is that it is likely to be a twin event, incorporating both the 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 courts.

The 1970 championships were solely confined to the big court, but, in the intervening years, the American style game has acquired immeasurable prominence in this country.

Now, we have players who have confidently taken their places in the 40 x 20 court with the best players in the world. Wexford hurler-cum-

handballer, John Fleming, who was our standard bearer in this year's U.S.H.A. Championships, is just one example. He played an outstanding game against the No. 8 seed, Mike Gardner of Kansas City, and though eventually beaten had the distinction of winning the first game.

Our National Champion at the 40 x 20 code, Tony Ryan, would also look forward with relish to a world series. He has been the standard bearer of the code in this country, since Pat Kirby returned to Tucson, not to mention the fact that he has been a regular competitor in the U.S.H.A. Under-23 series.

By the same token, many of the visiting players would be anxious to participate in the 60 x 30 series, if one is to judge by the enthusiasm they show in the Top Ace Competitions.

Foremost amongst these would be Naty Alvarado from Juarez in Mexico, who retained his U.S.H.A. singles championship this year, with a thrilling victory over Fred Lewis in the final.

He has also monopolised the U.S.H.A. Doubles Championship, where he has successfully teamed up with Vern Roberts for the past three seasons.

The latter would also be a very welcome visitor for a world series, as would the aforementioned Lewis, John Sabo from New Jersey and, of course, Pat Kirby, who won the U.S.H.A. Masters Championships for the fourth successive time this year.

During the last decade there has been a steady upsurge in the

promotion of handball to a number of European countries, particularly where U.S. Forces are based.

Australia is also a strong outpost for the game and, like 1970, would send a number of representatives to compete, in the proposed 1984 series.

I would also be hopeful that the coming World Championship would incorporate a section for women.

The Distaff Branch of the sport has never attained the popularity envisaged by its founders, though our representatives have regularly competed, though not with much success, in the U.S.H.A. Championships.

A few years ago a very interesting international game was staged in a 60 x 30 court in Dublin between long standing champion Mavis O'Toole and Rosemary Belini from New York. Despite the fact that she had never previously played in the big court the New York girl scored a dramatic victory.

A silver cup donated by the family of the late Larry Roe was awarded for the game with the intention of having it as a perpetual trophy for regular international games. Perhaps, that idea could be revived for the world series.

World Handball Championship 1984 will indeed be yet another historic milestone for the game in Ireland. In addition, it will be one of the highlights of the G.A.A. Centenary celebrations, projecting in a most favourable light the international aspect of the Association.

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ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL SHOULD BE A THRILLER

THE fifty-second All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final is scheduled for Croke Park on September 25. The contestants are old rivals Cork and Dublin.

Dublin, who won twenty-five titles in the first thirty-five years of the championship, have not won the cup for the past seventeen years, while Cork have captured the O'Duffy Cup seven times since 1970.

The metropolitans possess a remarkable record — they won the cup eighteen times out of nineteen between 1948 and 1966, only missing out in 1956. Since 1966 the Liffesiders have appeared in four finals. In 1967 they played a draw with Antrim, a game which has been acclaimed as the best final ever played, they lost the replay 3-9 to 4-2 and then went into decline for the next decade. They reappeared in 1976 in an All-Leinster final, with the advent of the open draw, against Kilkenny.

Kilkenny won by a point after a

very exciting game. The Dubliners next returned to Croke Park in 1978 and a day they would like to forget, they lost 6-4 to 1-2 to Cork. Last year they met Cork again and after a very close game they lost by a point from a free scored in the dying minutes.

Practically all of the current Dublin team have been on the winning senior league teams of 1979, '81 and are current League Champions.

In fact the Dublin Junior team are also league champions, a title they retained from 1982 and they also play Cork in the Junior Final on September 25.

The question is often asked "What has happened to Dublin?" It is my own belief that Dublin has not changed. Actually, apart from one section, the Post Primary Schools, who were so strong in the 'thirties and 'forties, there is more camogie in Dublin now than ever before.

The number of clubs is increasing all the time and the success of the under-age teams in recent years has been very promising. Féile na nGael titles went to Woodville in '79 and '80 and to Marino in '81 and '82. Dublin won the minor All-Ireland title last year but lost narrowly to Cork this season.

The Dublin Board has 41 affiliated clubs and run twenty-four competitions. In addition Post Primary Schools and the Primary Schools Committees run separate competitions.

It is generally accepted that the setting up of the Provincial Schools Councils in the early 'sixties and the All-Ireland Schools Council in the late sixties has made all the difference.

Great Wexford and Kilkenny teams, who went on to win senior All-Ireland titles were fostered in the schools.

The pattern was similar in the Junior Championship. Down, Derry, Galway, Clare, Limerick and Louth, as well as Dublin and Cork,

have all written their names on the New Ireland Cup, the Junior All-Ireland Trophy and the schools participation has been strong in all these counties.

So it is not that Dublin has gone down but through increased participation the other counties have come up.

Cork have been the most successful in the last thirteen years. Their greatest achievement in one year was in 1980 when the county won five All-Ireland titles. The O'Duffy Cup (Senior), New Ireland Cup (Junior) Corn Tailte (Minors), Corn Sceilg was won by North Presentation (All-Ireland Schools Cup) and Killeagh, the county champions won the Club Championship title.

In that year of glory they broke their own record (1973) when they won the two titles senior and junior.

Looking back over the records, they were in six senior finals from 1970-1975 — and they won four-in-a-row, '70, '71, '72, and '73. In the last thirteen years the Leesiders have qualified for ten finals and have won seven. It is easy to see how their senior standard is maintained when their performance in the minor championships is reviewed. This competition was inaugurated in 1974 and the Corkonians have dominated the scene, winning six titles out of the ten played and were runners-up in the inaugural year. Many of these minors are now established senior players, Catherine Landers, Martha Kearney, Ann Delaney, Claire Cronin, the 1983 Gradam Tailte winner, Sandy Fitzgibbon, Geraldine McCarthy are all minor All-Ireland medal holders.

So it will be an All-Cork-Dublin-day in the All-Ireland finals at Croke Park on the 25th of September. While Cork senior and junior sides have contested the deciders several times in the same year, it is the first time that the same counties will contest both finals.

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THE IRISH TIMES

BOOK REVIEW

By Don Sullivan

JACK Mahon's sense of timing could hardly be better. He launched his latest book, "Action Replay" almost on the eve of Galway's achievement in reaching the All-Ireland senior football final — and that can't be bad for sales!

Not that the book needs any of the field assistance from Galway or any other team to make it a winner. It is just that in its own right, as the one-time Galway and Connacht footballer traces his life-long association with the G.A.A.

In this brief review it is not possible to do full justice to Jack Mahon's "Action Replay." What should be stressed, though, is that while the emphasis is chiefly on happenings with a Western slant, this is not simply a book for readers from Connacht. No matter what part of the country you come from you will find much to interest you.

Many of the excellent photographs in the publication are from Jack Mahon's own personal scrapbook, and these give tremendous appeal to the publication.

Jack Mahon has such a well-deserved reputation as a writer by



Pictured at the recent reception to launch "Action Replay" (from left): Galway star of the '60's, John Donnellan, Author, Jack Mahon and Liam Mulvihill, G.A.A. Director General.

now that it is hardly necessary to recommend this book to Gaelic Games enthusiasts. Most will know already that anything the Galway man attempts, he brings to a conclusion with class and style. This is the case with "Action Replay."

It is a great introduction to the G.A.A. Centenary Year, and the best

tribute to the book is surely to say that there will be few, if any better, to mark the up-coming event in the annals of the organisation.

"Action Replay" by Jack Mahon is published by the author at 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway, and costs £3.95, plus postage, if writing direct to the author.

QUIZ ANSWERS ??? QUIZ ANSWERS ??? QUIZ

• FROM PAGE 33

GENERAL REVIEW

1. Three. They lost to Offaly in 1971, Cork in 1973, and Dublin in 1974. 2. 1980, when Roscommon lost to Kerry. 3. 1977, when Dublin beat Armagh. 4. P.J. McGrath (Mayo). 5. Jimmy Barry-Murphy. 6. Tony Hanahoe. 7. False. Drumm made his final debut in 1976. 8. Tadhg Murphy. 9. Coleman (Monivea), McHugh (Kilcar), Rock (Ballymun-Kickhams), Allen (Nemo Rangers). 10. Three points in the Connacht final against Mayo — 1-13 to 1-10.

SCORING GIANTS

1. Ray Cummins in 1973 as Cork beat Galway. 2. Matt Connor in 1980. 3. Jimmy Keaveney in 1977. Michael Sheehy equalled the record in 1979. 4. Barney Rock, who was Dublin's top scorer in 1978 and 1979 in the minor championship. 5. Michael Sheehy in Kerry's win over Dublin in 1979. 6. Seamus Leydon for Galway in their unsuccessful bid against Offaly in 1971.

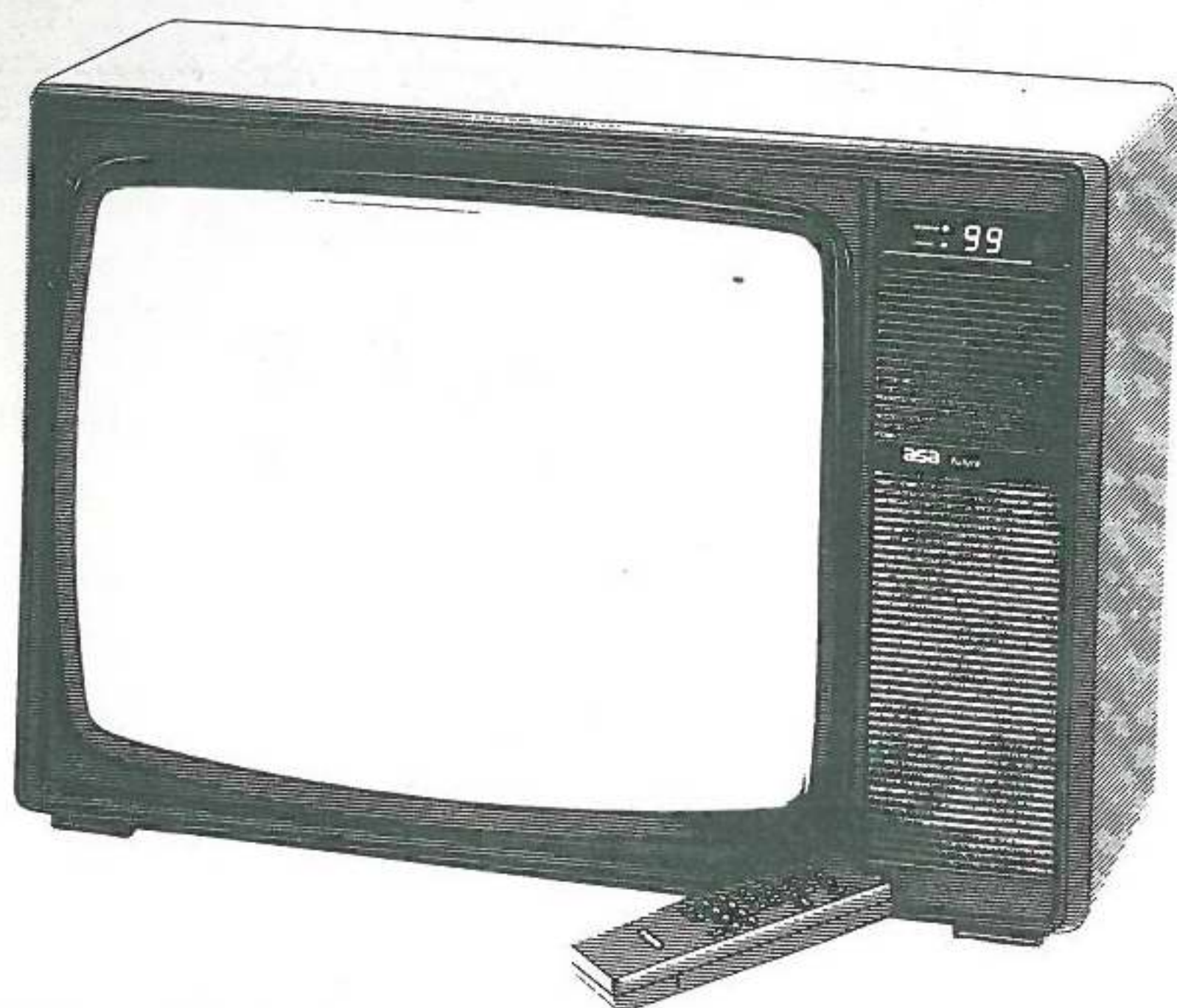
THE MINORS

1. Third. 2. 1965. 3. The Tom Markham Cup. 4. 1981, when they

beat Derry. 5. False. They lost the 1973 final to Tyrone. 6. Joe McNally, Dublin's goalkeeper in last year's final win over Kerry, and who not only appeared in attack but scored a goal in the Leinster senior final win over Offaly. 7. Player pictured is Brian Mullins, who did not win a minor medal. So, the right answer is: False. 8. Kerry. 9. Almost six — Down beat Meath for the 1977 title. 10. Liam O'Rourke.

CAREER FILE

1. Christy Ryan (Cork). 2. St. Finbarr's. 3. Centre half back. 4. Yes, in 1982, but as a forward. 5. True. 6. No.



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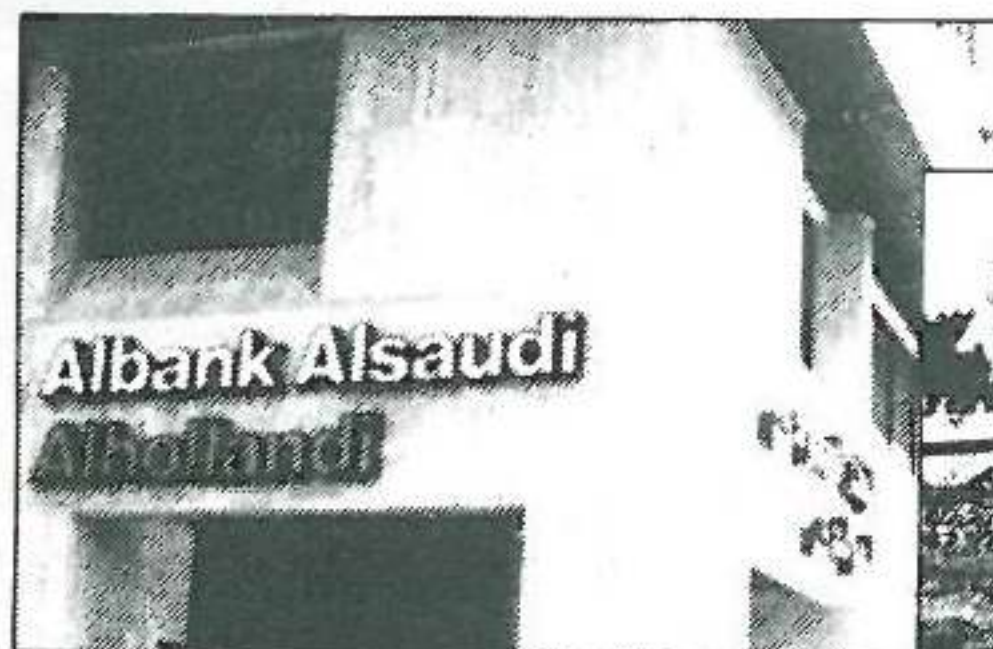
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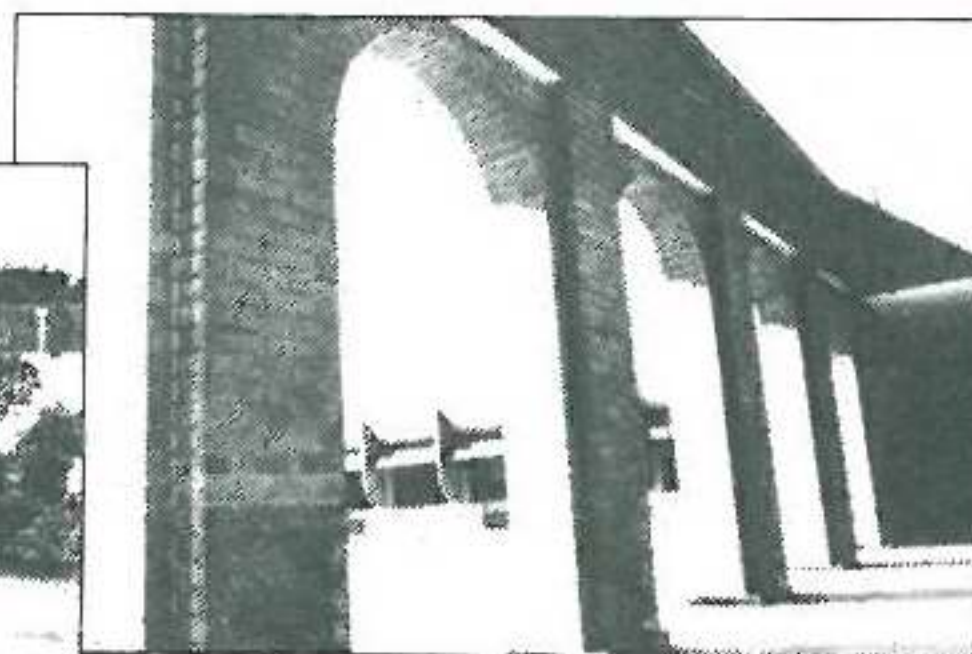
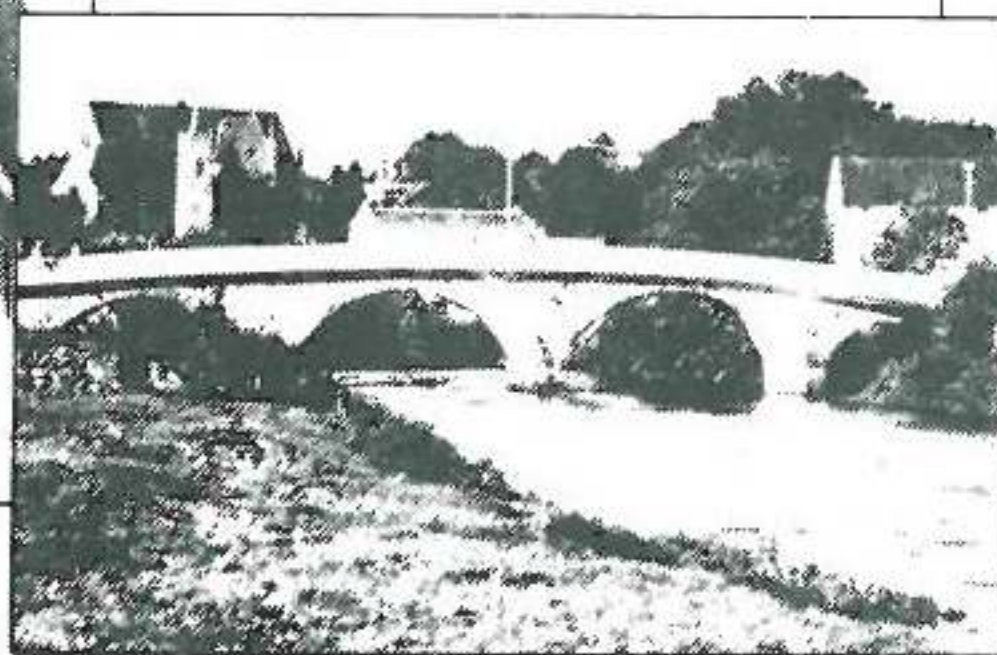
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A BRILLIANT TEAM

But they must play all-out for
the entire hour to attain victory

DERRY minor footballers will have to tighten up in defence if they are to bring home the All-Ireland championship. That is the big lesson to be learned from their close call against Galway in the semi-final.

Derry won that game by only two points, but such was the quality of their forward play, the excellence of their points scoring and their general superiority over-all that they should have had a much more decisive victory. As it was they were rocked by a goal just on half time, and two more in the second half, and in the end their 0-16 to 3-5 win lost some of its polish.

Perhaps Derry relaxed. At one stage in the second half they led by six points and looked winners all over, but whatever the reason, the Ulster champions will need to work on their defensive screen in their build up to the final, and also display intense concentration all through the actual game if the title is to be brought to the county for the first time in 18 years.

Even though Derry failed to score a goal in the championship for the first time in the campaign, their forward division looked the most gifted in the minor grade in years. Some of the points scoring was of a standard that we do not associate with Northern teams especially in any grade.

The attack combined well, and if the forwards failed to turn some

sparkling movements into goals, the over-all performance was still first-rate, and the division undoubtedly has what it takes to swing the issue Derry's way.

Tony McKiernan (Bellaghey) is a bright talent at left full forward — fast, incisive and very accurate. He has helped himself to a majestic 3-21 (30 points) in the championship so far, and is obviously a young man who will have to be closely and consistently watched by the opposing rearguard.

Damien Cassidy, also of Bellaghy, is another outstanding worker. He uses the ball well, is creative in his general play, and also knows how to exploit scoring chances himself — a fact that has made him the leading goal scorer with five to his credit.

Dermot McNicholl (Glenmullin), who captains the team from the half forward line, is one footballer who will not be in the least unnerved by the big occasion. He will be appearing at this stage of the championship for the third time, and that is a distinction that not many can point to in under-18 football.

But McNicholl has more than final experience to recommend him. He is a live-wire forward and first-class team leader, and ranks in my book as one of Derry's trump cards.

McKiernan, Cassidy and McNicholl are a powerful trio, in fact, and must be fancied to do much

to prompt and lead the Derry scoring division into match-winning form.

MIDFIELD POWER

The Ulster champions can also point to midfield power. Ciaran Barton (Newbridge) and Peter Young (Moneymore), are strong, determined and well versed in all points of the game. They are sure to set a very demanding pace for the opposition.

Will Derry be caught out again at the back? That must be the big question. Personally, I doubt it. Remember, the backs did not give a great deal away in the run-in to the semi-final, and the earlier games as well as the match with Galway proved that there is tons of individual talent in the division.

Brian Kealy (Dungiven) at centre half, Paul Bradley (Faughanvale) at full, and Patrick O'Donnell (Banagher) at No. 2 are a trio of alert defenders who can, I believe, do much to ensure that the Derry backs over-all will not be caught out quite as badly at times as in the clash with Galway.

There is another aspect, however, that cannot be overlooked. Derry teams, in all grades, have not a good record at Croke Park in major games. Time and again we have seen exceptional squads from the county fail to fulfill match-winning potential at headquarters. Moreover, another

● TO PAGE 47

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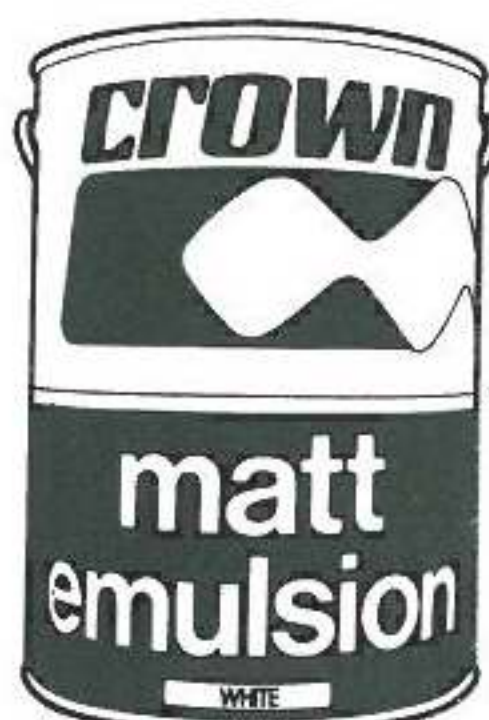
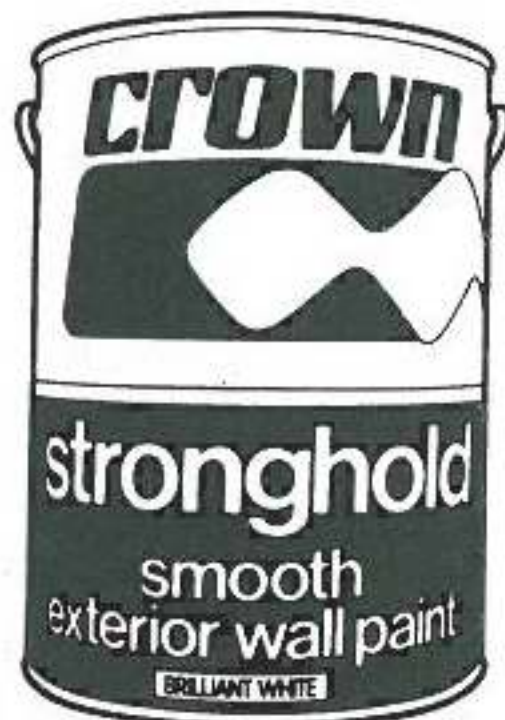
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● FROM PAGE 45

failing in the past — and one that was evident again in the recent semi-final — with Derry teams has been a tendency to rest or relax after building up a good lead.

These are facets that Derry will need to look to and work on if they are to have any hope at all of bringing up the first leg of what could be a major under-age double — the under-21 footballers are into the All-Ireland semi-final.

It may well be, in fact, that the close call Derry had in the end against Galway after looking poised at one stage for the most decisive of wins, will now prove a blessing in disguise. Any complacency that may have developed as a result of the high scoring and generally comfortable march to Croke Park will surely have been swept away by the semi-final performance.

So, can Derry win? I think so. The potential is undoubtedly there for success — outstanding players in all departments, and above all an attack that is capable of snapping into score-getting action.

But the Derry boys will need to deliver the goods from first to final whistle.

They must play all-out for the entire hour, continue to hunt for scores even should they forge out a commanding lead at any stage, and the backs must also be vigilant all through.

That is not such a tall order to expect from a team of many talents, and in an All-Ireland final when the prize is so great. In the belief that the Derry boys will fill the bill in all aspects, I take them to give Ulster plenty to cheer about by collecting only their second All-Ireland minor championship.

This is Derry's third appearance in the final since 1980. They lost that year with a team captained by Damien Barton, brother of current midfielder, Ciaran, to Kerry, and the following year went under to Cork.

The solitary title so far was gained at the expense of Kerry. That ranks as one of only two All-Ireland

championships gained by the county. The other was in 1968, when Derry beat Offaly in the under-21 decider.

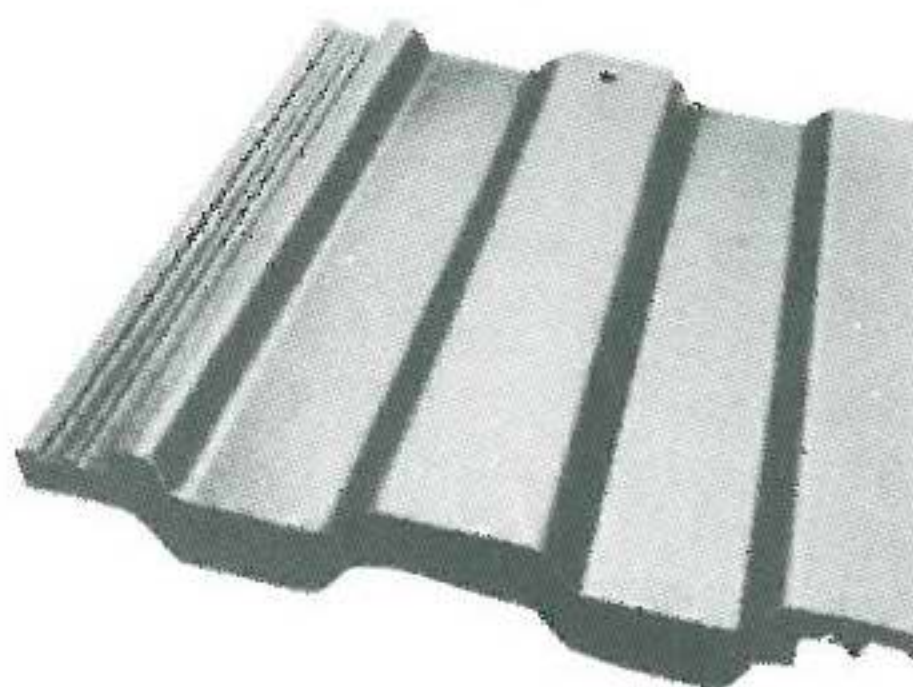


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By
**JACK
MAHON**

IT has been a very exciting Summer for me. Launching my book *Action Replay* both at home here in Galway and in Dublin was the high point. The Galway launching was done by the Árd Stiúthóir of C.L.C.G. Liam Uasal Ó Maoil-mhichil and in his talk he gave special mention to *Junior Desk* and the great forum this is for young G.A.A. fans. In my book I pay my own tribute to "Junior Desk" and write of the satisfaction it has given me.

Every Sunday I was on the move. Here in Connacht I saw every game and boy how Leitrim have improved. The best individual display I have seen this year has been given by Mickey Quinn at midfield for Leitrim v Galway last June. Here is a man who deserves a Cut-out. I hope the All Star selectors saw his second half display of catching.

I saw Mayo in all their games and Liam O'Neill is making a good job of them. Introducing a settled approach. In Mayo there is usually a huge turnover of players. Dermot Flanagan, son of Seán, has many of the mannerisms of his father and seems as determined to be as good as him.

But the real spark came in the Connacht final with the introduction of Kevin McStay. I don't know whether it was his short crew cut or his willowy elasticity but his supreme confidence put fear in every Galwayman's belly and his two points from play brought the greatest Mayo cheers for years.

All the time Galway were getting through. Scraping home v Leitrim

when Barry Brennan saved us with a late flourish. A wee bit better v Mayo when Brian O'Donnell continued his good form, Val Daly and Stephen Joyce scored some great points, Stephen Kinneavy played a blinder and again Barry Brennan proved a lifesaver, when moved to midfield.

ULSTER FINAL

I travelled to the Ulster Final and enjoyed it immensely. Donegal have introduced something fresh and exciting to the football scene. This is a new power in football and Cavan are on the way back too. The huge crowd created a marvellous atmosphere for the game. That amazing backdrop is unique to Clones. The souvenir programme were sold out early. Gate receipts reached a record £74,000 compared to the previous record of £34,000. That gives you an idea of the crowd. As always Seamus McCluskey was an excellent M.C. He is so easy on the ear, talks always at the right time and really conducts the whole show.

I liked the displays of Tommy McDermott, whose father Jackie was an opponent of mine back in 1955.

Michael Carr the star of the game, Des Newton, Anthony Molloy, Joyce McMullan in particular and Martin McHugh and for Cavan you'll be hearing a lot about Derek McDonnell, their new full-forward, and substitute midfielder Stephen King.

After the game I enjoyed meeting so many former stars like Sean and Kevin O'Neill, Con Short, the Ulster Council historian, Vincie McAviney

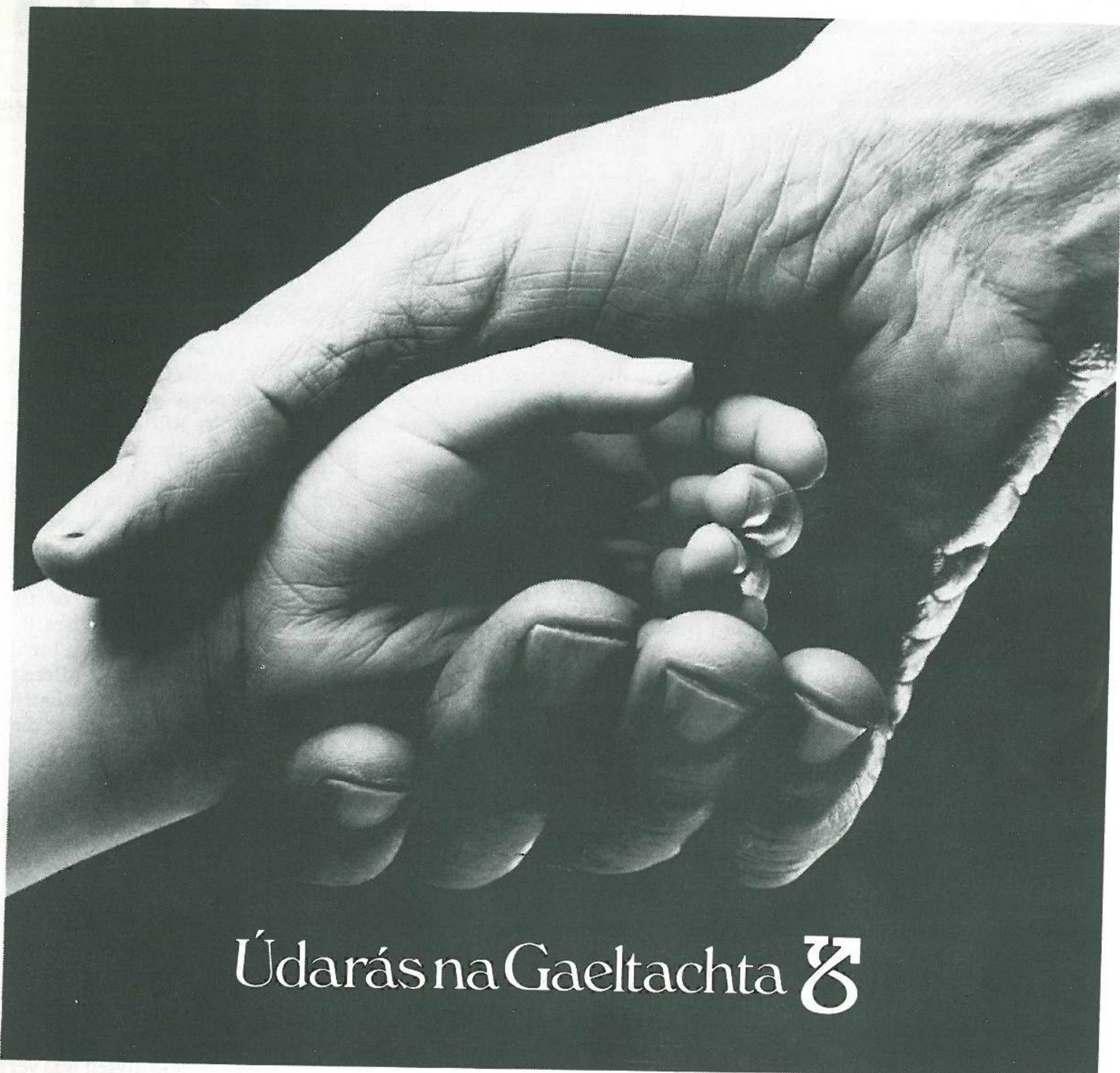
of Ballybay, Paddy O'Hara. Michael Ó Muircheartaigh wasn't working that day but he still drove up and parked miles out the winding roads from Clones. So after partaking of Sean O'Neill's sumptuous picnic with many others from the boot of his car as we reviewed the game we left the amiable Kerryman to his car. This perhaps was my highlight of the whole Summer and epitomises the spirit of the G.A.A. Breaking bread together and us all from different counties than the two immediately involved. The G.A.A. will never die.

PAURIC MCSHEA

A big Donegal contingent came to see the Connacht Final. I gave a lift to Galway to Pauric McShea who was holidaying there. He had broken his collar bone the previous day in training with the county team of which he is now assistant manager to Brian McEniff. His wife and family had preceded him to Galway. On the journey from the game the banter between Pauric, Pat Donnellan, Bobby McGann and myself was very good and the analysis was very critical indeed. Pauric enjoyed the journey. It was just another example of the friendships that exist within the G.A.A. rivalries.

The game with Donegal is recent enough. We were lucky to win in the end though we shot too many wides and played badly. But it is great to be in another Final without playing really well to date. I had great sympathy for Donegal. They had a massive support despite numerous

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● FROM PAGE 49

counter-attractions. But they will come to Croke Park a stronger and better team next time.

I think it is past time that the G.A.A. stopped live television of All-Ireland semi-finals. Slowly but surely the occasions are being deprived of crowd atmosphere and this slide should be stopped in 1984.

I never supported the idea and feel the excellent *Sunday Game* T.V. programme would be enhanced by such a decision and that said programme would do justice to the occasions. This is something that Terry Reilly, Editor of the *Western People* in Mayo feels very strongly about. I'll be raising it again.

I don't feel as strongly about the staging of All-Ireland semi-finals outside Croke Park. But I do feel that we should think of this in these recessionary times. The Cork and Galway All-Ireland S.H. semi-final could have been played in Ennis or Limerick. And Dublin shouldn't have *all* their championship games at home in Croke Park. Meath must be regretting now not playing the replay of their game in Navan. All I'm saying is that supporters should get more consideration in the future venues for All-Ireland semi-finals.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Kevin Kehily. For years and years he, like Dinny Allen, kept the flag flying v Kerry. Often frustrated, sometimes dejected they always resurfaced and eventually success came in 1983. It was a long time to wait. For such perseverance Kevin gets out Cut-Out this month.

THE MAILBAG

Of necessity this months Mailbag must be brief. So I'll cut the letters shorter than usual. Keep writing in though with your views on the Finals, on "The Sunday Game" on yourselves, whom you admire most

and anything you'd like to see in Junior Desk. If you have any ideas for Centenary Year let me have them.

Karl Reddy, 11, Drumcliffe Rd., Cabra West, Dublin 7, is a minor footballer and hurler with Scoil Uí Chonail. He wants a book on coaching and on the rules of Gaelic Football and Hurling.

● *Can any reader help. J.M.)*

Damien Kenny, 14, Villan Anna, Carnagh, Kiltoom, Athlone, Co. Roscommon. loved "Action Reply" which he bought while on holidays in Galway. Damien and his father are ardent Roscommon fans.

J.P. MacNama, Felton Rd., Boyle, Co. Roscommon wants all championship results in all grades hurling and football for 1964, 65 and 67.

● *Old annuals of those years should help J.M.)*

Sean Hickey, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork hopes Junior Desk is going as strong as ever.

● *Yes it is J.M.*

● Seán McCartan, Doraor, Beragh, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, writes as follows: As an admirer of Gaelic Football I would like to offer a few of my own opinions on Ulster Football at present. The Province is usually made out to be the weakest footballing province but I find these suggestions totally untrue. Whereas the other provinces have two or three main teams, anyone of nine Ulster teams is in with a chance at the start of the championship season. Also, the National League Final was contested by two Ulster teams which again proves that the province has got the best footballing counties.

I would like to take this opportunity to criticise the B.B.C. and U.T.V. for their failure to cover Gaelic football and the R.T.E. for their failure to cover Ulster football. Instead of the latter covering so many games from Leinster and Munster, why not give Ulster and Connacht their fair share as well.

● *Fair play to you, Sean. Donegal were worthy representatives of Ulster football and I'm sure they'll be back in Croke Park in '84. J.M.*

Keiran Rosney Jnr, 181, Grotto View, The Batteries, Athlone tells of his first visit to Croke Park with this Dad to see the Leinster H. Final and of having the Sam Maguire Cup in his home, courtesy of Mick Fitzgerald.

Mary Grealy, Ballintubber, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway was thrilled with Stephen Joyce's goal in the Connacht Final. She will be 15 in September.

My thanks to Norman Rochford of Gort and Tim Murphy of Rathmore for their comments on "Action Replay".

The final letter is from an old friend Patrick Lee, 24, Crossdened Row, Keady, Co. Armagh, who sent me on the souvenir programme of the official opening of the local field which was opened on Sunday 10th July. It is called the Derryoose Souvenir brochure and copies costing £1.50 (incl. postage) can be had from the above address. It has 124 pages and is a real history of the area. I got two other souvenir official park opening booklets recently.

1. Shannon Park, Tarbert, (Co. Kerry) Official Opening Programme on June 5th. Price £1 (not incl. postage) 48 pages. I loved Frank Lavery's "Those Were The Days" copies from Seán Ó hÉalithe, Chairman, Tarbert G.A.A. Club, Tarbert, Co. Kerry.
2. Official opening of Western Gaelic G.A.A. Park, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon on July 31st. Seventy-two pages, cost £1 not including postage from Seamus Ó Nualláin, Ballinagere, Co. Roscommon.

● *Thats it for another month. See you at the final, write to me at:*

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

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We must be going bananas sending tropical drinks to Trinidad!

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Smilk is a flavoured milk drink developed in Ireland by an Bord Baine especially for export markets.

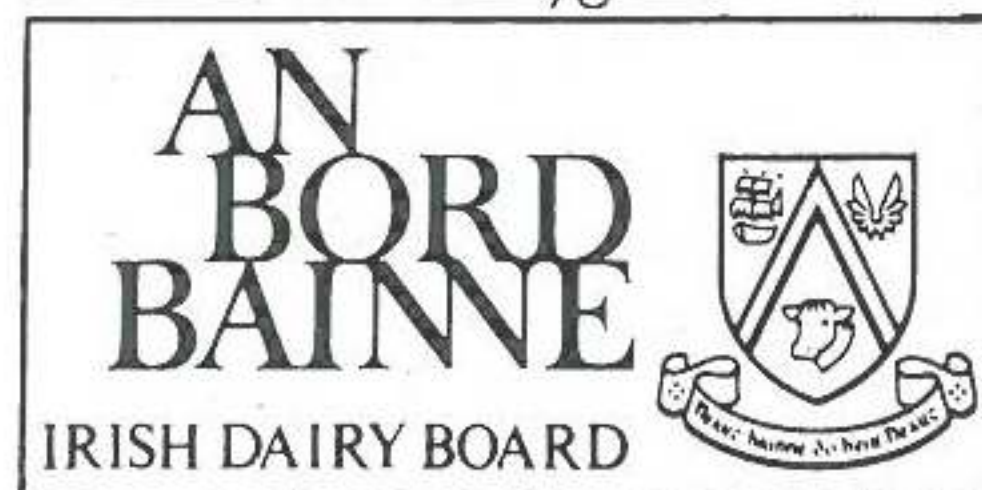
"Even here in the West Indies," says Natasha "we know of Ireland's reputation as the

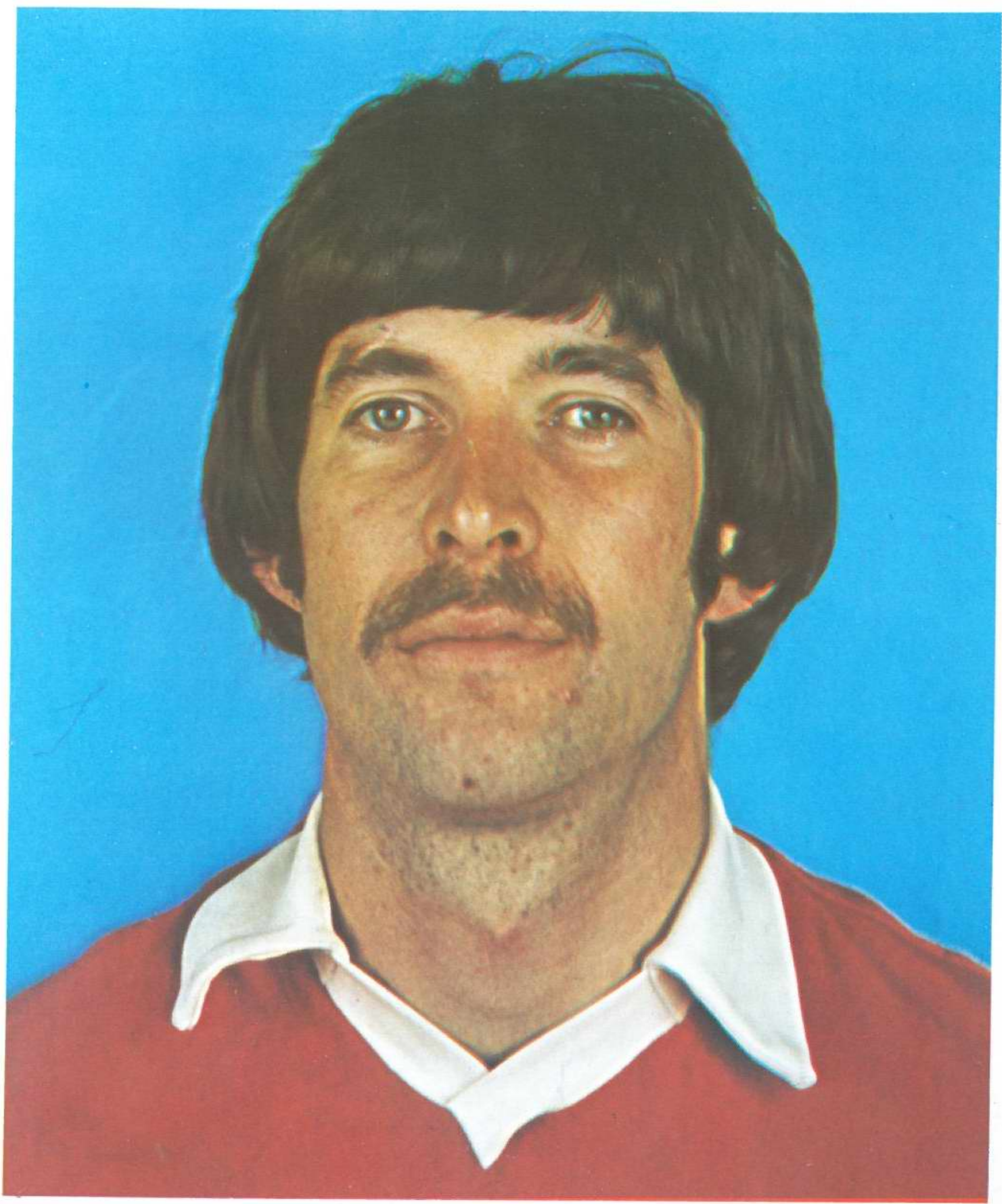
world's richest dairyland. So it comes as no surprise to me that Smilk has become a firm favourite in Trinidad."

Ireland also exports butter, cheese, frozen cream and yoghurt, and powdered milk to Trinidad - all under the Kerrygold brandname.

So Natasha and her friends at school share one thing in common with millions of people in more than 80 countries around the world: a preference for the finest dairy products Ireland has to offer.

It represents a tribute to the skill and care of Irish dairy farmers and to the strict quality control of Irish Creameries that so many people like Natasha feel at home with Kerrygold.





KEVIN KEHILY

Cork

Kevin linked two eras when he played a big part in bringing the Munster senior football title back to Cork in July after a break of nine years. He went in as a substitute during the 1974 final win for his first

provincial senior medal, and he was the only survivor from that side in the last success over Kerry.

Now 33, this long serving full back made his senior debut with Cork in 1973, but missed the All-Ireland triumph the following year as he was studying as a physical education teacher at Strawberry Hill, London.

An All-Ireland medalist at minor (1967) and under 21 (1970), the Cork man plays club football with Newcestown, and is one of three brothers to wear the county jersey in the code.

Kevin has three Railway Cup medals, a Nationalist League souvenir and he also found favour with the All Star selectors twice.

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