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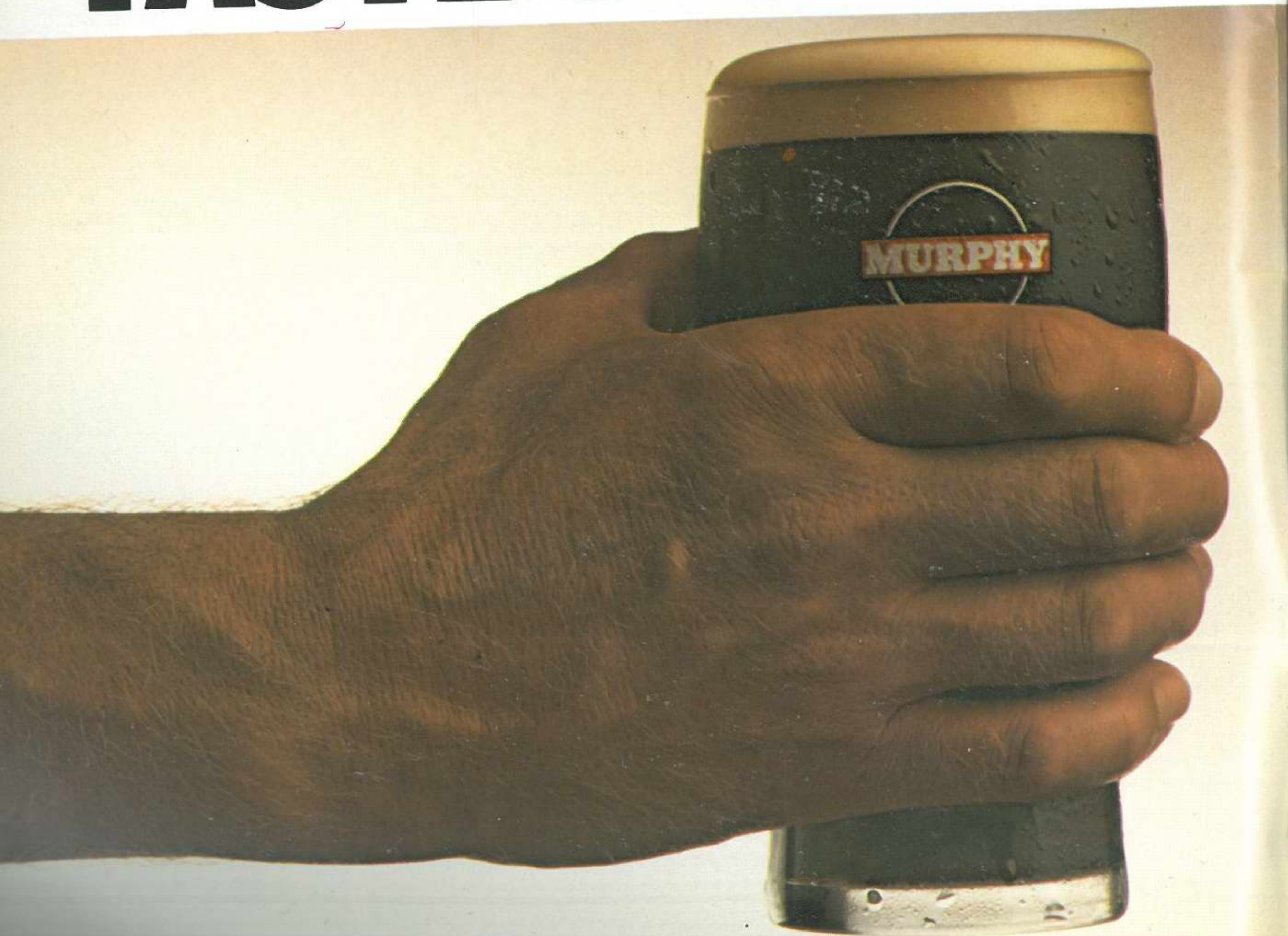
IRELAND'S LEADING GAAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE SINCE 1958

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1984.

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COVER PHOTO

Our front cover features the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Finalists, Offaly and Cork.

OFFALY: Leinster Champions, back row (left to right): Pat Fleury, Joachim Kelly, Pat Delaney, Eugene Coughlan, Joe Dooley, Liam Carroll, Aidan Fogarty. Front row: Paddy Corrigan, Tim Conneely, Brendan Bermingham, Damien Martin, Pat Carroll, Ger Coughlan, Declan Fogarty, Padraig Horan.

CORK: Munster Champions, back row (left to right): D. Mulcahy, J. Barry-Murphy, T. Crowley, K. Hennessy, G. Cunningham, P. Horgan, J. Crowley, D. O'Grady. Front row: (left to right): T. Mulcahy, D. McCurtain, T. Cashman, J. Fenton, J. Hodgins, P. Hartnett and S. O'Leary.

GAELIC SPORT

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WELL DONE, TIPPERARY!

THE games are the G.A.A. This is a point we have hammered home time and again when it appeared to us that too much attention was being paid to periphery events, and not enough to the actual games of hurling and football.

But as far as Thurles '84 is concerned it would be entirely remiss to ignore the background of the unique promotion and concentrate exclusively, as is our usual practice in All-Ireland finals Editorials, on the actual showpiece match. Granted, the hurlers will again be the most important participants on the first Sunday of September; without them everything else would count for naught.

Nevertheless, due credit must be given to the Gaels of Tipperary for their wonderful efforts in enabling the G.A.A. to return to its roots for what most will accept is the real centre-piece of the Centenary Year celebrations. It would have been easy for followers in and around the birthplace of the G.A.A to have become disillusioned by the criticism of the original decision to allocate the 1984 All-Ireland minor and senior hurling finals to Semple Stadium.

No sooner had the 1981 Congress at Killarney passed a motion to mark the Centenary Year with the hurling finals at Thurles than many were vocal in describing the decision as one fashioned not out of commonsense, but simply of sentiment. So much so, in fact, that efforts were made to have the games brought back to Croke Park, but those moves floundered at the 1982 Congress in Kilkenny.

During that spell, Tipperary enthusiasts did not waver in the belief in their own ability to successfully face up to the challenges of the Centenary finals. They tackled all hurdles in a resolute manner and with the type of professional and go-getting approach that Ireland so badly needs today in so many spheres to bring the country safely through these long recessionary days we have been experiencing.

The "knockers" are still with us, however. They argue that the acid test has still to come for the Thurles folk. A fair point.

The other side of the coin, however, is that there could not be a brighter pointer for a successful day on September 2 than the Munster finals in July. Those games drew an attendance of 50,000-plus to Semple Stadium, and that bumper crowd ensured that the occasion was the best possible rehearsal for hurling's greatest day of the year.

Tipperary's organisers came through with flying colours. The general arrangements in and around the town, the smooth manner in which the crowd was catered for, and the efficient way the programme was carried through indicated clearly that the men behind the scenes had planned well. With that successful promotion behind them, and also to encourage them, there is no reason to believe that the Tipperary officials will do other than rise to the occasion again on Liam McCarthy Cup Sunday.

So, we salute the Gaels of Tipperary on all they have achieved so far. We wish them well in the build-up to the great day, and it is our earnest hope that they will have the necessary co-operation from all who travel to Thurles to ensure that the promotion proves what it can be — a never to be forgotten highlight in the entire annals of the G.A.A.

And so we come to the hurlers, the men to whom the day in the long term will really belong. Semple Stadium is merely the setting — admittedly a unique one in the modern context — for yet another chapter in an annual story that never fails to grip the imagination of Irishmen and women.

Many regret that Tipperary will not be there in a key role on the field of play. However, the county can take great heart for the future from the gallant Munster final failure to Cork.

Teams do not need any incentive for victory in an All-Ireland final, but it seems safe to predict that the unique nature of this particular game will ensure an extra special response from the hurlers of Cork and Offaly.

All the factors, then, are there to ensure that Thurles in '84 proves an event to be savoured, with a game of the quality and sportsmanship to not only enhance the day, but also hurling's proud status as the greatest field game of them all.

We have little doubt that the hurlers will not be found wanting.

Tommy McQuaid

EDITOR



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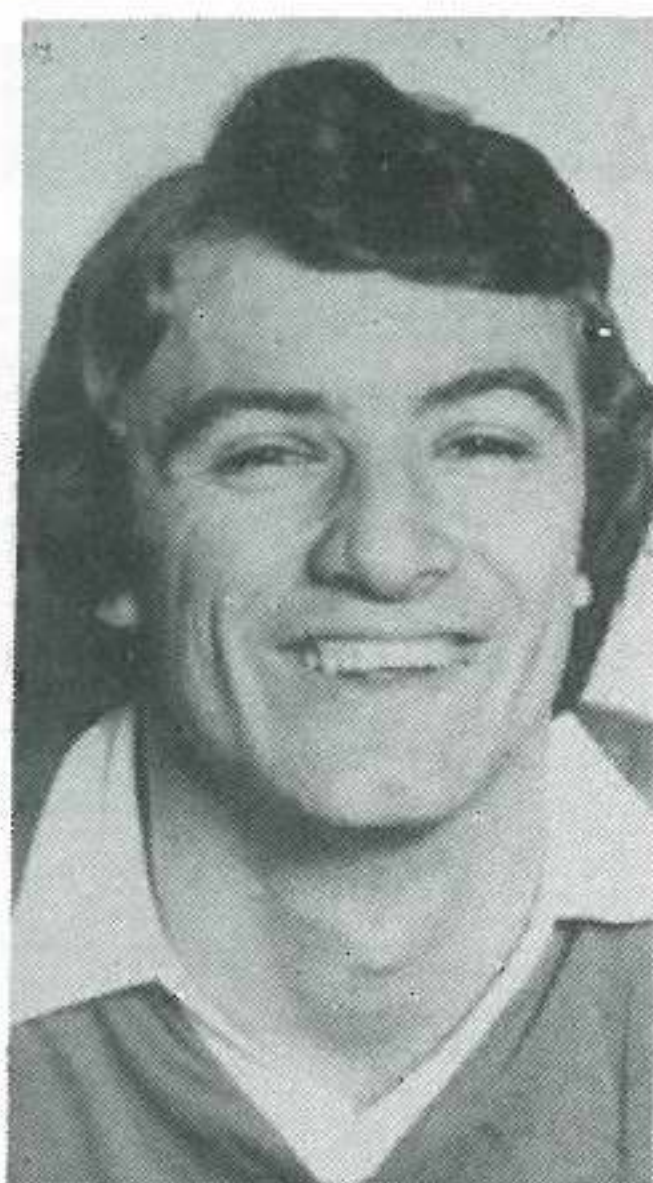
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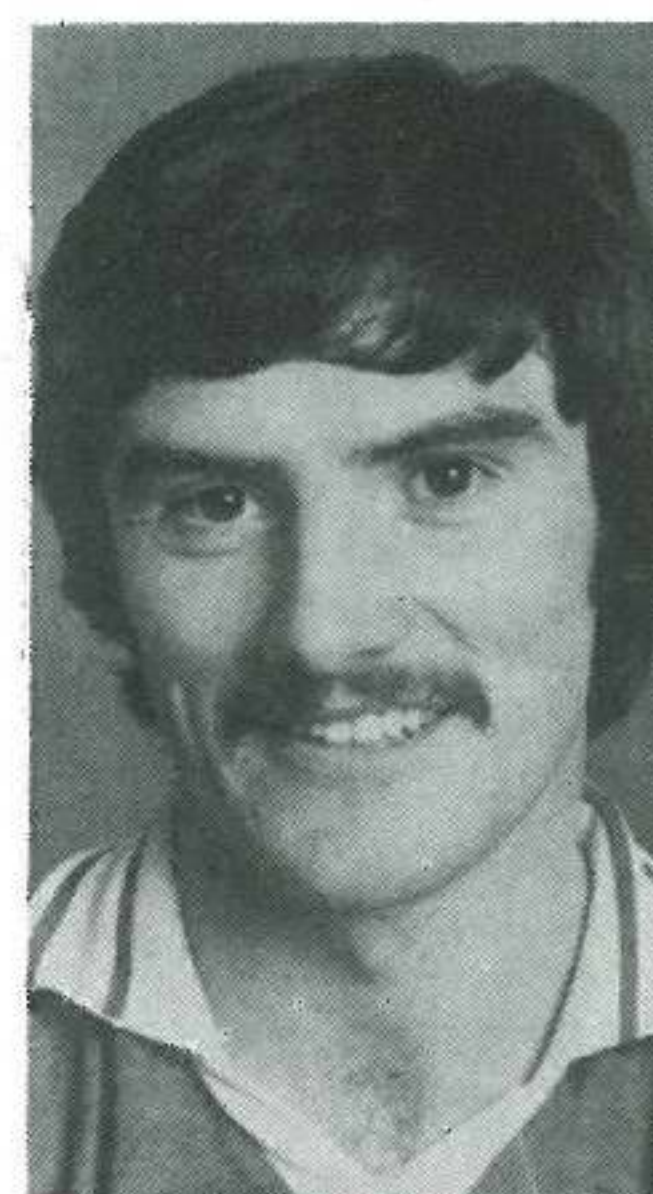


J. Barry Murphy
Cork.

CENTENARY YEAR

100

HURLING FINAL



Aidan Fogarty
Offaly

IT would be stretching the truth to say that Munster hurling pride is very much on the line in the first-ever All-Ireland senior championship final between Cork and Offaly. After all, Munster won the Railway Cup on Centenary Sunday in March, Limerick took the National League title, and Cork are Centenary Cup champions.

In short, the South has won every major national senior hurling title so far in this year of celebration — and you can't do any better than that!

But the championship is the big one, the real yardstick of hurling power and might in any year, and even hard-bitten Southern followers, never slow to loudly advertise the merits of Munster hurling, will readily agree that the province's reputation has taken an uncharacteristic drubbing in All-Ireland finals in recent years.

Not since Cork completed the final leg of a hat-trick of All-Ireland senior championships in 1978 has the South celebrated a Liam McCarthy Cup win, and followers in the province just got used to their team taking second best in the Blue Riband series. Even more worrying is the fact that events in this decade especially have also decreed that the days of Munster teams automatically starting favourites in senior finals are also gone.

This is brought into focus yet again by the unique pairing for the Semple Stadium encounter. Cork should be

outright favourites.

Their record is second to none, with 24 All-Ireland titles "on the clock" already, whereas Offaly are appearing in only their second final.

A long tradition that has helped to mould players to possess the "winners by right" mentality almost,

**CORK
FORWARD
POWER
COULD
DECIDE
ISSUE**

**SAYS
LIAM O'NEILL**

and a sprinkling of All-Ireland senior medalists in their squad are other vital plus factors for the Cork men.

But will these assets, plus the expertise that Cork hurlers invariably parade on the playing fields, no matter what the grade, be enough to ensure a famous win?

Offaly are no mere lambs going to the slaughter. They may have taken a long time to have arrived in the top-

bracket, but having arrived, they are doing an excellent job in maintaining their new status.

The Offaly march to their first final since they made a winning debut in 1981 could hardly have been more authoritative. Granted, they struggled at times against Dublin in the opening round and were perhaps a trifle fortunate to have finished a goal clear at the end, but there was spirit, method, powerful hurling, teamwork and fierce resolve to win in their 1-15 to 2-11 Leinster final triumph over fancied Wexford.

That was a good advertisement for Eastern standards, and also for Offaly, as they turned on a blistering pace, never faltered, displayed sound tactics, all round balance and flair when it came to taking the scoring opportunities.

Nor can one argue with the merit of the Leinster champions' performance when overwhelming Galway in the Thurles dress rehearsal last month. They looked the part in that game, as they hurled with coolness and a maturity that enabled them to go about their task with an exactness that paid a handsome dividend with a 14 points win that was much more comprehensive than many had anticipated.

Offaly's march to the final, then, has been steady and authoritative, and one that must give their hurlers the necessary confidence in their own ability to bring out the very best in

●TO PAGE 7

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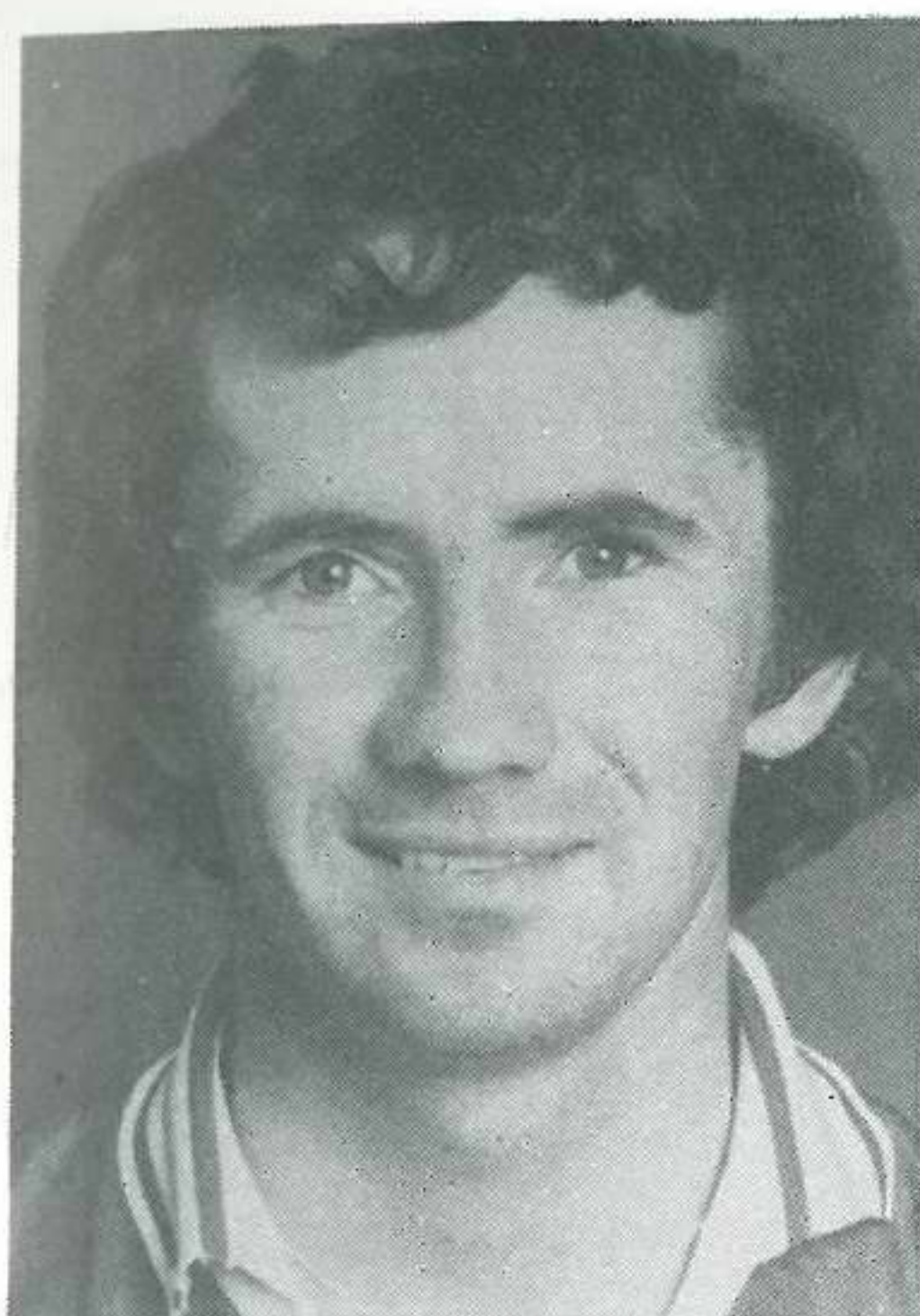
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★ A TRIO OF OFFALY STARS ★



●Ger Coughlan

●FROM PAGE 5

them on the big day.

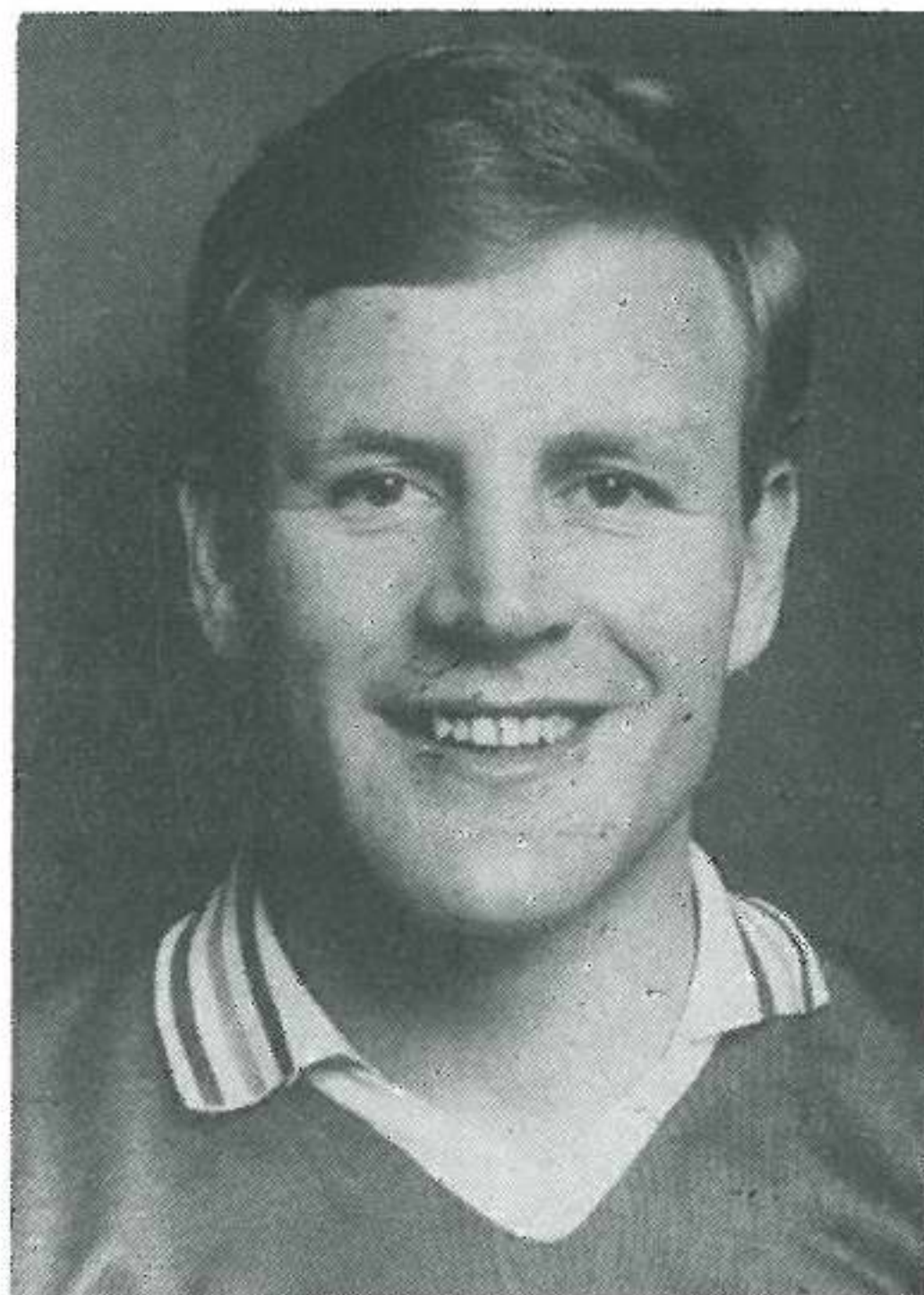
Offaly look to have a find up front in Joe Dooley, who won his first Leinster senior medal in July. The 20-year-old Seir Kiernan forward is elusive, clever, with good positional sense, and an eye for an opening, as well as a good finishing shot.

Granted, he had some bad misses against Galway, especially, but as against that he still finished the day's leading marksman with 2-3, and that is a tribute to his potential, all the more so as he was appearing in his first All-Ireland senior semi-final. The corner forward will have to be closely and constantly watched by the Cork defenders.

Padraig Horan, who led the Midlanders into history and that first All-Ireland senior title in 1981, also showed a nice touch in the scoring stakes against Galway, ending up with 2-2.

The St. Rynagh's club man played a cool, methodical type of game in the semi-final, and one that provided another pointer to his ability to cause the Cork backs plenty of problems.

The elegance of Joachim Kelly at

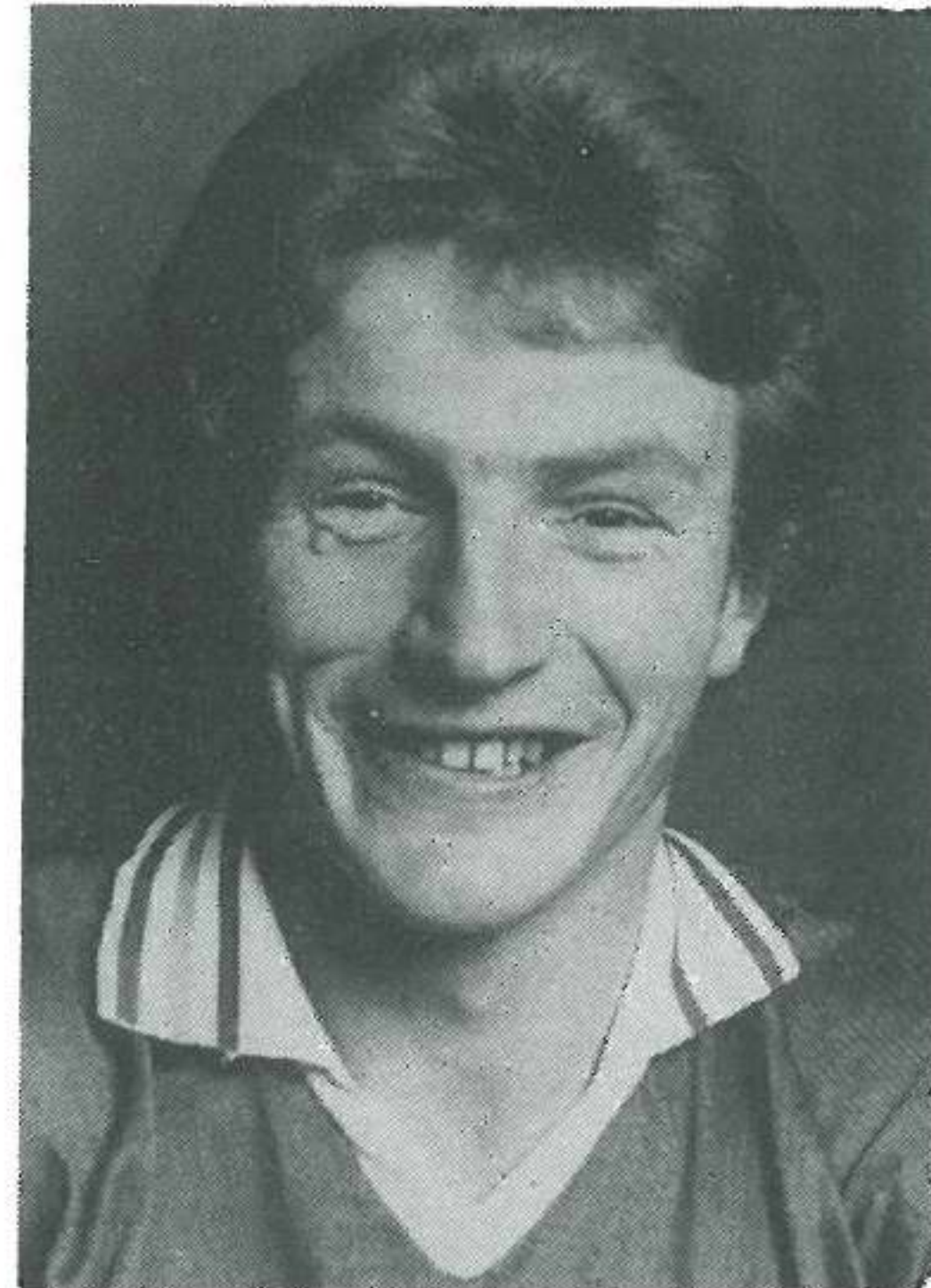


●Joachim Kelly

midfield at Thurles was one of the best features of the victory. We know Kelly of old as a hurler of the highest quality, but this All-Ireland senior medal winner of 1981 really sparkled against the Connacht men, and he — and indeed his partner, Tom Conneely — looms as a serious threat as well to the Munster champions' ambitions.

Offaly are also well served in defence. Damien Martin may be one of the longest serving goalkeepers in the game, but he remains an outstanding man in the "gap". Team captain Pat Fleury, Aidan Fogarty and long-striking Pat Delaney, who can be so good at turning frees from far out into inspiring points, blend in plenty of solid support at the back and the division is unlikely to give much away.

Offaly, then, have plenty to recommend them from goal out to left full-forward, and good men in the substitutes as well. I can't see them being in anyway overawed by tackling Cork, or upset by the big occasion. I believe they will do themselves proud, and really put it up to the Munster champions.



●Pat Carroll

What of Cork? I can't go along with those who argue that they were decidedly lucky to have made it three Southern titles on the trot at the expense of Tipperary on their last visit to Semple Stadium in July.

Tipperary had their chances, but did not capitalise on all of them. Cork made the most of what opportunities came their way, and that's why they, and not Tipperary, are in this unique decider.

Let's give the Leesiders full marks as well for refusing to accept defeat. They were four points adrift with six minutes only remaining, but they did not throw in the towel. Instead, they redoubled their efforts, grabbed the equalising goal, made the additional spurt that was called for, and got their reward with the scores that clinched the title on the post.

That's the spirit that has made Cork hurling great, and that is also the spirit Offaly will have to contend with in the final.

I don't want to be unkind to Antrim, but I think even they will agree that we must ignore Cork's big win over the Northerners in the semi-

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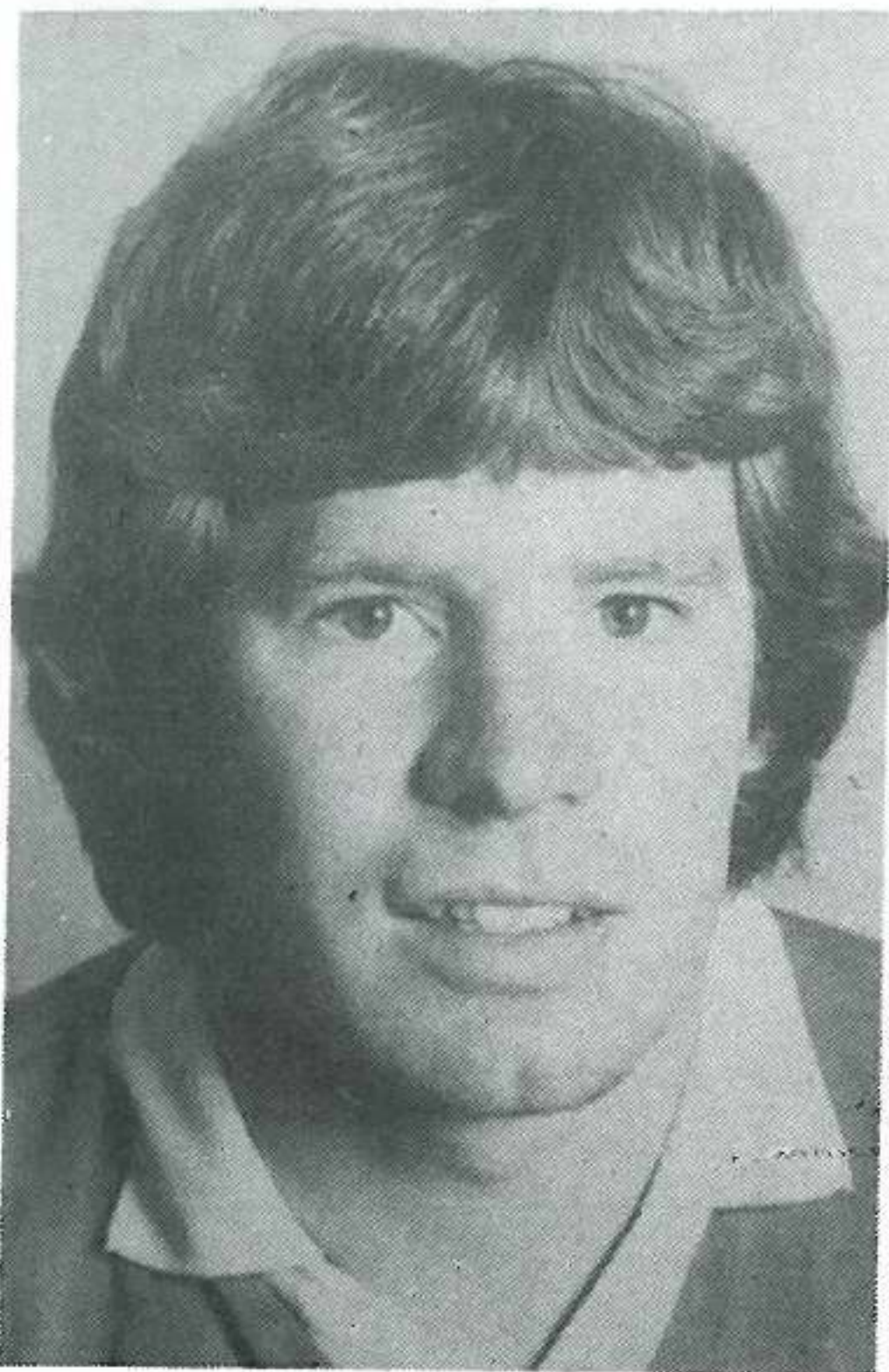
"The elegance of Joachim Kelly at midfield"

When cool
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is the order
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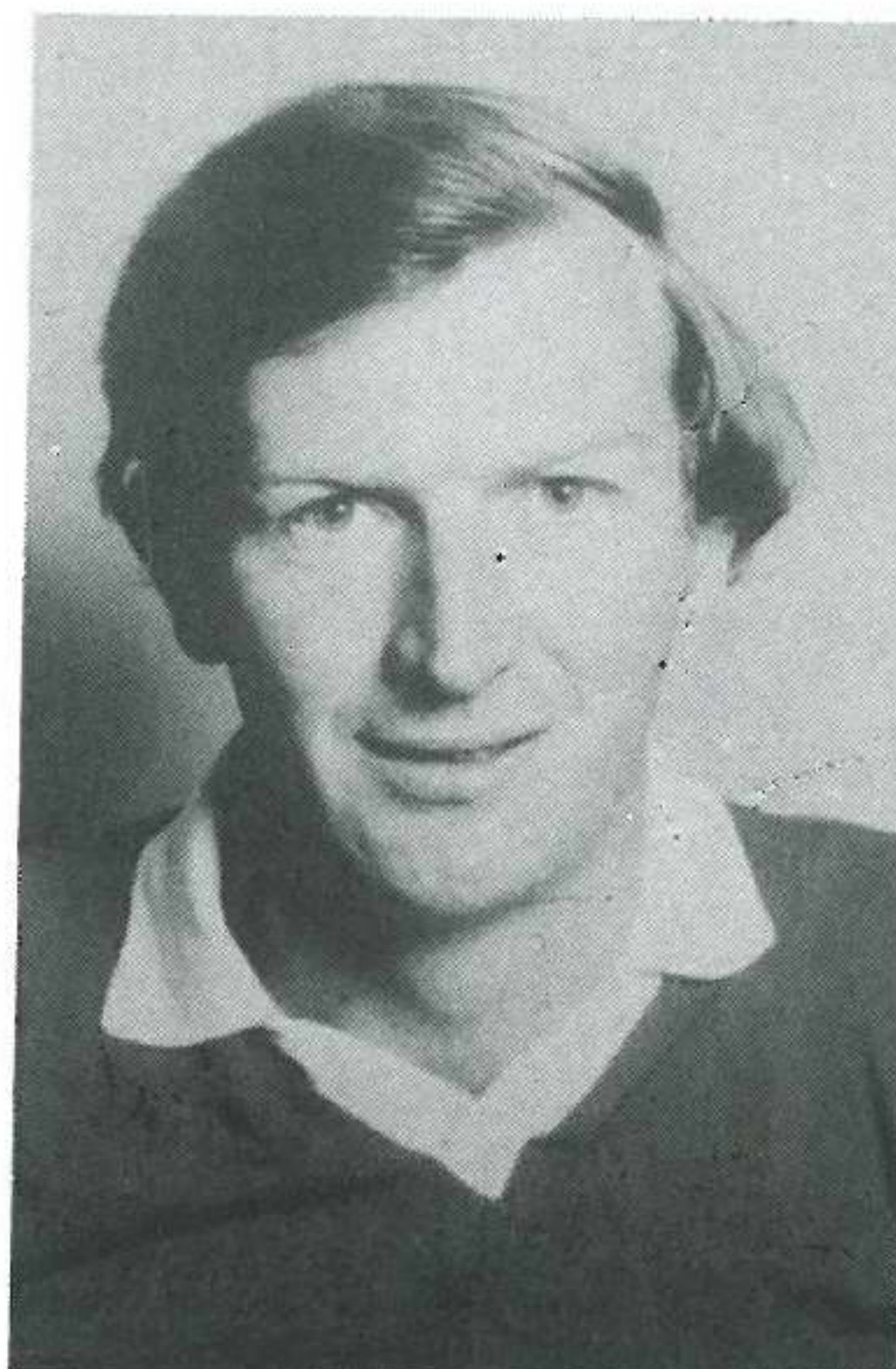


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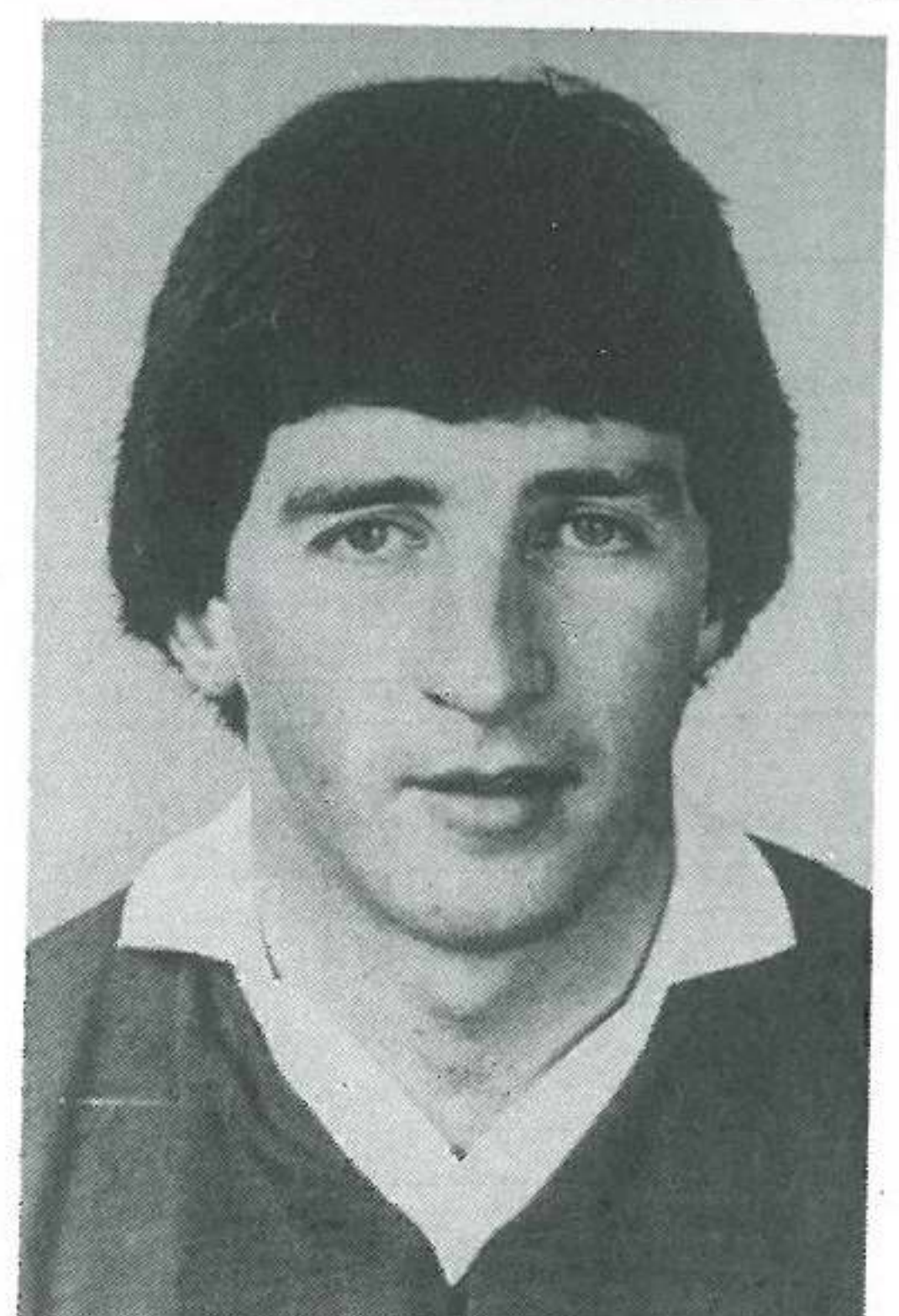
★ A TRIO OF CORK STARS ★



●Dermot McCurtain



●Tim Crowley



●John Fenton

●FROM PAGE 7

final and rely exclusively on the Munster events when trying to evaluate the Leesiders' prospects.

In the Munster decider we saw, not for the first time, just what a fine midfielder John Fenton is, and how deadly accurate he can be from frees. Pat Harnett has emerged as the ideal partner to the Cork skipper.

Jimmy Barry-Murphy can be a match-winner at full-forward, but at the same time, it is safe to say that Eugene Coughlan is unlikely to be upset by the task of having to face up to the St. Finbarr's club star.

Sean O'Leary, who grabbed the match-winning goal against Tipperary, did not play in the All-Ireland semi-final because of an injury, but is likely to be back in the attack. His capacity for popping up regularly for vital match-winning goals, even after a long enough career in the big-time, marks him as a hurler whom Offaly cannot allow much room to operate.

SHORT RATIONS

Cork's back division is first-class. Ger Cunningham can be expected to keep a sound goal. Tom Cashman and Dermot McCurtain are stylish wing backs, with hurling ability and know-how to burn, and they may do much to ensure that the inside Offaly forwards are on short rations.

Let's not overlook Cork's successive defeats by Kilkenny in the finals of 1982 and 1983. No side needs an added spur in an All-Ireland final, but those setbacks rankle down by the banks of the Lee, and another loss would be something in the nature of a disaster.

Accordingly, we can anticipate an extra special effort from the men of Cork. They just cannot afford to allow this title to pass them by.

This is the reason why I am convinced we will see the best of Cork in this game; a team playing well above anything the county has produced in any game this year so far.

I believe that Cork will need to

strike this standard if they are to beat Offaly, who can play their part as well in making it a game to remember.

However, despite the scoring ability of Dooley and Horan I am not so sure that the Midlanders have as much to recommend them up front as Cork.

The Offaly backs are not going to bend easily. Still, the Reds have such gifted and experienced men up front, like Barry-Murphy, O'Leary, Kevin Hennessy, Tim Crowley, and possibly young Tony O'Sullivan, who played in the 1982 final, and scored the equalising goal in the Munster final, that they have the strength in depth to ensure a lethal finishing force.

Because of this, I think Cork's attack will do a better job of outwitting the opposing defence than their opponents will achieve against their markers. It is, then, a case of "third time lucky" for the men from Cork, in my book, and the Liam McCarthy Cup to join the other trophies and make it a year to remember for Munster.

"Ger Cunningham will keep a sound goal"



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DAMIEN MARTIN



After 15 years Offaly's custodian is still one of the best in the business

A SPAN of fifteen years plus is a long, long one, but for many the passage of that time has still not dimmed the memory of a tour-de-force that was Damien Martin's performance in the 1969 Leinster senior hurling final. A display that to this day ranks as one of the golden moments in hurling folklore.

Offaly were bidding for their first Leinster final appearance in senior hurling when they faced up to Wexford on a June day in 1969. They were outsiders, but they pulled off one of the greatest upsets in years with a 5-10 to 3-11 win. And, a hero among heroes in downing the then All-Ireland champions was Damien Martin.

The St. Rynagh's club man turned on the style as he defied the Wexford attack time and time again as he established himself as a headline-maker nationally. Offaly lost the final to Kilkenny, but Damien Martin had "arrived", and now all these years on he is a man who could exercise a decisive influence in the Centenary Year final.

The Offaly keeper is at 37 still a most dependable net-minder. His courage is unquestioned, he is alert and agile as ever, able to block well, and knows how to make the most of his clearances. His utter dependability in goal as well must be very comforting to his defenders, and his flair for the incredible from time to time can lift the team generally and spur the Offaly men on to great heights.

His contribution to the historic win over Galway in 1981 that ensured a new name on the Liam McCarthy

Cup was immense. The final was 22 minutes old and the newcomers from the Midlands looked to be fighting a losing battle when John Connolly powered a thunderbolt to the Offaly net.

But, cat-like, there was Damien Martin to bring off a classic save, and encourage his side. Had Connolly

BY LIAM DEEVY

scored, Offaly's cause might well have been lost, considering that they were trailing the Westerners rather badly at that stage.

Nor was that the end of the Martin role in shaping history. In the second half he pulled off another great save, that one from Noel Lane, and another breath-taking achievement that kept Offaly very much in the title hunt.

One way and another, then, Damien Martin wrote his name in big letters on the historic triumph that was the 1981 All-Ireland senior final.

The St. Rynagh's club man has had a long innings in the top grade, having joined the Offaly side in 1964. He had earlier played schools hurling with Birr Presentation National School, and under-age competition with his club. He won a county junior hurling medal in 1963, and played minor and under-21 with Offaly.

The agile goalkeeper had his greatest success, however, until then, in 1980, when he was prominent as Offaly took the Leinster championship for the first time. He

was there when the provincial crown was retained the following July, and then came the crowning point of his career so far with the Liam McCarthy Cup win over Galway.

Martin collected his third Leinster senior medal last July, and showed then and later against Galway that he remains a keeper of outstanding ability.

Martin has now won Offaly senior medals with St. Rynagh's, and his span in the position over the top grade is brought into focus by the fact that he was on duty with the club in the first official Leinster final in 1971, won by the Offaly champions, and also when the Midlanders lost to Loughgiel Shamrocks, of Antrim, in the 1983 All-Ireland decider.

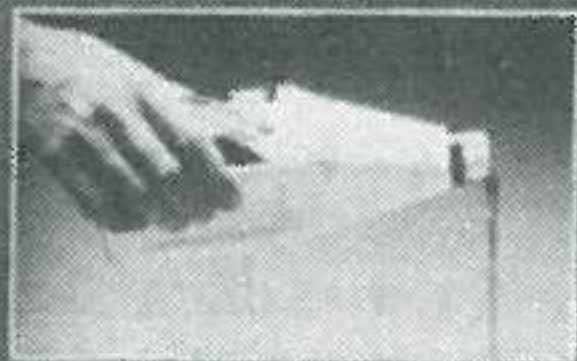
Like his counter-part in football, the long-serving Martin Furlong, Damien Martin is showing the younger members a thing or two when it comes to putting up a solid barrier in goal.

He is in a position that demands the greatest possible concentration, and it says much for the skills and ability of the man, not to mention his tremendous dedication that he continues to scale such brilliant heights in the post.

With Damien Martin looking after matters, then, the Leinster champions can have no worries about goalkeeping problems. And that must be an encouraging factor — a very encouraging one in fact — for all the outfield Offaly hurlers and supporters in general as they impatiently await this latest showdown with Cork.




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SEAN O'LEARY ... a name that brings to mind one quality ... COURAGE

By **NOEL HORGAN**

IT was 1972 when Sean O'Leary first exploded on the senior inter-county hurling scene and, after fashioning a glittering career in which he won all of the games' major honours and emerged as one of the game's truly great forwards, he enters this Centenary Year All-Ireland final as the longest serving member of the Cork squad.

A notable achievement in itself this but what makes it all the more remarkable in O'Leary's case is that he has had to overcome enormous adversity to remain in top flight.

In 1977, Sean O'Leary was at the peak of his powers and formed with Ray Cummins and Charlie McCarthy, one of the best balanced and most lethal full-forward lines in the history of the game. Cummins was the creative attacking genius, McCarthy the opportunist, capable



•SEANIE LEARY ... One of the games truly great forwards.

of capitalising on the half-chance, while O'Leary possessed the individual flair which enabled him to snatch many inspirational scores and the trio were principally responsible for Cork's golden era in the mid-seventies.

When Cork faced Wexford in the '77 final they were hoping for another power-packed performance from the McCarthy-Cummins-O'Leary partnership to signpost the path to victory. O'Leary, in particular, was looking forward to the final because the previous year he had carried a knee injury into the final and had been unable to make his usual outstanding contribution to the Leesiders triumph over the Slaney men.

After hobbling through the opening 35 minutes he managed to score a fine point but was compelled to retire at the interval.

Naturally, he was eager to atone the following year but when he received a broken nose in the pre-match puck-around, it looked as if he might, yet again, be denied his rightful share of the glory. Seanie was determined not to miss out this time, however, and after receiving treatment as Cork paraded with 14 men, he took his place in the left corner and played excellently — grabbing Cork's only goal and generally mastering Wexford veteran Teddy O'Connor, who had performed so well the previous year.

It was indeed a proud day for the gallant O'Leary but unfortunately further and greater misfortune was to follow. On entering hospital to have his nose repaired, it was discovered that the Youghalman had an ailment which required the removal of a kidney. Most people suspected that

•TO PAGE 15

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●Friendly Rivals
Limerick's Pat Hartigan
gives Cork's Seanie O'Leary
a swig from the magic bottle
during the course of the 1980
National Hurling League
Final.

●FROM PAGE 13

this meant the pre-mature termination of his illustrious hurling career. But Seanie had other ideas and his immense courage and love for hurling prevailed and he was back in '78 to take part in Cork's All-Ireland win over Kilkenny which completed the three-in-a-row.

Seanie has made many telling contributions to Cork's fortunes since then, most notably in the 1982 Munster final when he scored four goals against Waterford and in last year's All-Ireland decider against Kilkenny when, introduced as a substitute, he shot the goal that revived Cork's sagging spirits and prompted a late but narrowly foiled Leaside bid for victory.

It is fair to say, however that O'Leary has never quite managed to recapture the magic and sparkle that enabled him to torment defenders prior to his illness. He developed weight problems, lost much of his familiar pace and power and was no longer guaranteed inclusion in

Cork's first fifteen. But Seanie never contemplated retiring — he just loved to play the game and was happy to present his services to the county team whenever required.

Various sets of Cork selectors reckoned that O'Leary's craft and experience were assets which the Cork panel could not afford to be without. Ample proof that this judgement was astute was provided in this season's provincial campaign.

When Cork were reeling under the power of Limerick's first half play in the semi-final, they badly needed a goal to stay in the hunt and it was O'Leary who delivered the goods, pouncing to score in the 29th minute after a close-in free by John Fenton had been saved. That goal kept Cork's ship afloat before the break and laid the foundation for their commendable, if fortuitous, recovery afterwards.

O'Leary's opportunism was to prove even more crucial in that magnificent Munster final with Tipperary. With the teams tied as the game drew to a close and excitement

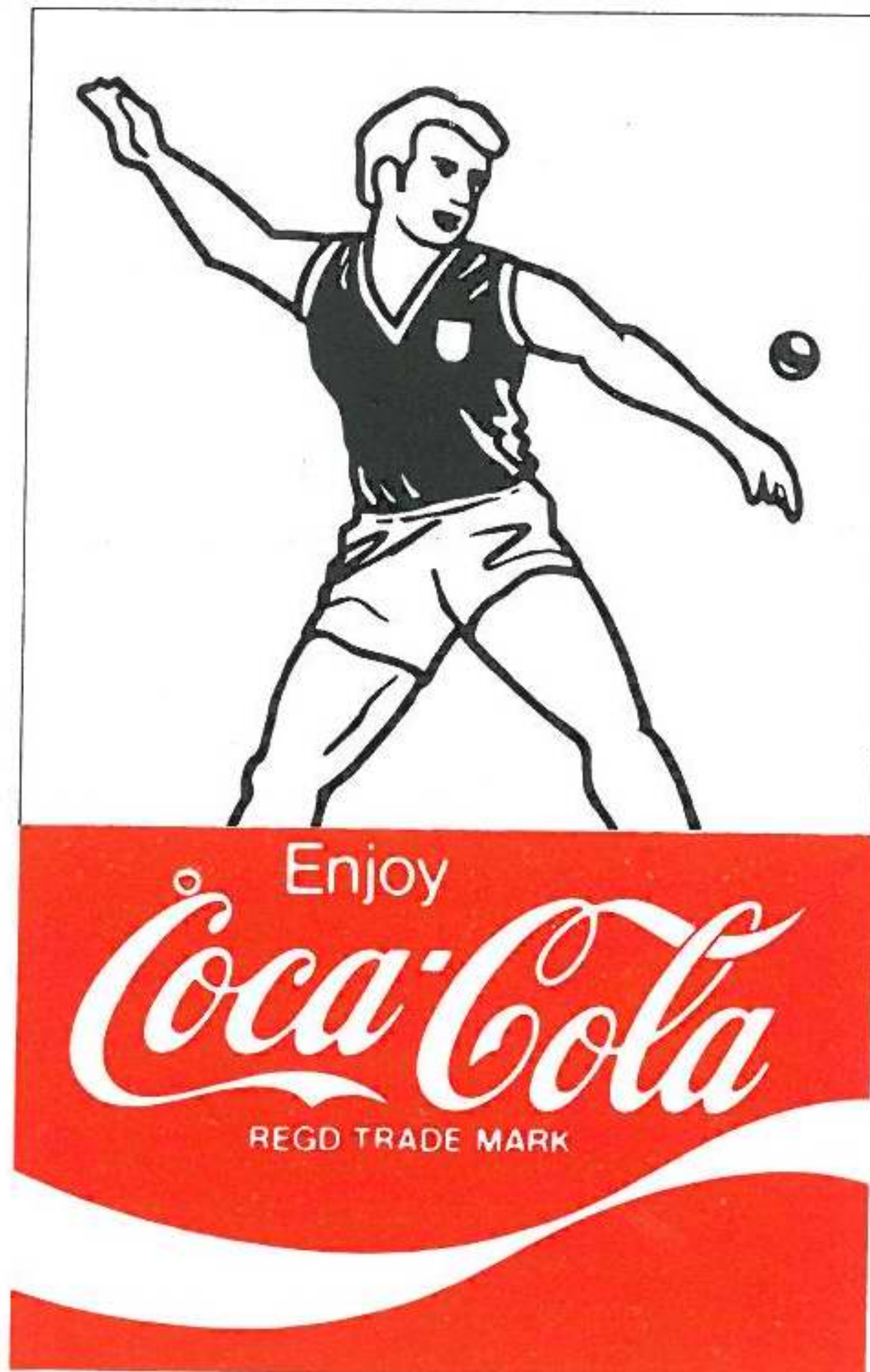
at fever pitch, Cork substitute, Tony O'Sullivan sent a delivery goalwards which seemed destined to drop on top of the Tipperary net, but goalkeeper John Sheedy, prevented the ball from going over the bar and it ran loose to the bold Seanie who shot home the decisive goal.

A less seasoned performer might have stood back to admire O'Sullivan's effort but Seanie is around too long to indulge in such a luxury and his vigilance was richly rewarded. O'Leary's winner, viewed alongside Michael Doyle's flopped opportunity just a few seconds earlier, highlights the decisive factor in that classic Cork-Tipp confrontation — big-time experience.

So Seanie O'Leary is now set to make his seventh All-Ireland final appearance as the senior citizen of the Cork team and will be hoping to win his fourth Celtic Cross in the premier grade. For dedication, perseverance and sheer courage, there is no hurler more worthy of a winners' medal in the Centenary Year than the 32 year old Youghal stalwart.

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*John Fenton
has cause to remember 1984...
Railway Cup and Centenary Cup.
Can he lead Cork to victory
at Thurles?*

BY PHIL SMITH

CORK are finding their Silver Jubilee All-Ireland senior hurling championship a most elusive jackpot. Since winning their 24th crown in 1978 by completing a run of three championships in succession, they have twice failed in the concluding round — 1982 and last year when Kilkenny proved their conquerors each season.

That's a disappointing record that the men from the Leaside are quietly confident of finally pushing into the shade with a "third time lucky" win. Little wonder, because Cork have shown plenty of character and no lack of ability in the current campaign.

Admittedly, there are those who argue that they were very fortunate to have retained their Munster senior title against a lively Tipperary outfit at Thurles in July. But I will argue that Cork displayed the character and the true competitive spirit that all teams must possess if the game's top honours are to be won.

The defending provincial champions were four points in arrears with less than five minutes to play, and up to then had been battling a strong rearguard action for much of the game. But in typical Cork style they just refused to concede defeat, and when substitute Tony O'Sullivan equalised some four minutes from the final whistle, they knuckled down to

the task with renewed vigour and found the openings for the match winning scores.

That was an acid test for Cork. They may have spluttered at times, but they still showed that they have All-Ireland title winning material by sticking to the job on hand right until the final whistle. The hard game could also pay a further dividend as it is bound to have proven invaluable in the build-up for the All-Ireland final.

Remember, Cork had run-away wins over Waterford in 1982 and 1983 in the Munster finals, and those comfortable successes were of no real help to the side for the supreme clashes with Kilkenny.

Talking of bonus points, the All-Ireland final outings of the last two years gave Cork a tremendous depth now in experience. That was evident again in their recent semi-final win over the gallant men of Antrim, who tried bravely on their return to the last four in the title race, but found the Leasiders understandably too wily.

Sean O'Leary, who grabbed the match-winning goal for Cork, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and our Colour Cut-Out personality, Tom Cashman, all help to emphasise the tremendous know-how and craft in the Southern side. All are proud links with the golden era that was the three All-Ireland championships in succession in the 'Seventies.

Even the younger members of the side have been "through the mill."

Ger Cunningham guarded the Cork net in the last two senior finals. He was only 23 at the end of August, but since capturing an All-Ireland minor medal in 1978 he has been one of the leading goalkeepers in the game.

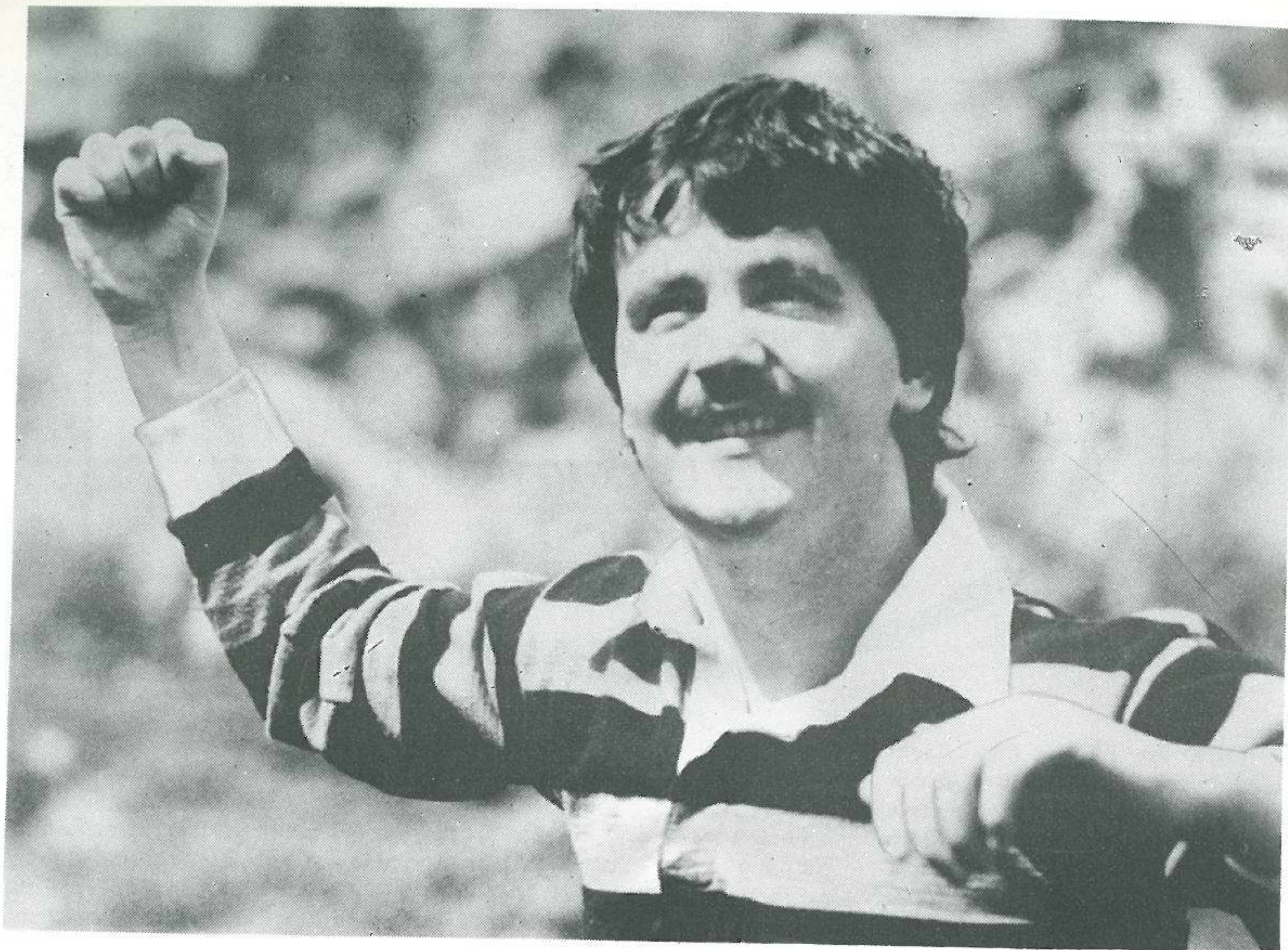
The St. Finbarr's club man has had his bright moments to balance against the disappointments of the last two unsuccessful championship final outings, including a Railway Cup medal last March and a Centenary Cup trophy this season.

Kevin Hennessy, of Midleton, gained a measure of compensation for the disappointment of his All-Ireland senior final debut in that unsuccessful 1982 clash with Kilkenny, when he went in as a substitute, by scoring the winning point a week later as Cork beat Galway in the All-Ireland under-21 final.

Hennessy has played with Cork in all grades at under-age level, and will be bidding for a third major trophy this season, having shone in the Railway Cup win by Munster and the Centenary Cup triumph by the Leasiders. The Midleton man is 23.

Tony O'Sullivan, who scored the equalising goal in the Munster final

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Munster Final action ... Tomas Mulcahy (in possession) epitomises the grit and determination of the Cork hurlers, as he drives forward past a Tipp defender. Tim Crowley (left background) anxiously keeps an eye on proceedings.

●FROM PAGE 17

last July, was a leading marksman for Cork in the 1982 championship when he was only 19. He was not in the 1983 All-Ireland final team, but he has been showing a nice line this season, and has also made his mark as a footballer, both with the under-21 team (he won a Munster medal in July in the grade) and with the senior team. Obviously, the Na Piarsaigh club man is an accomplished performer with plenty to offer.

John Fenton and Pat Horgan were substitutes in the last Cork team to win the Liam McCarthy Cup in 1978, but they did not go into the actual final against Kilkenny.

Both have come a long way in the meantime, and could prove very important units in the up-coming title bid.

Fenton, in fact, has more cause than most to remember the Centenary Year. After all, he led Munster to the Railway Cup and Cork to the Centenary trophy, and that is a proud double by any standard.

Look at it any way you like then, and Cork have a lot to recommend them — experience, youth, tradition and above all a fierce commitment that will ensure they will strive might and main from first to final whistle.

No Munster team has brought the

McCarthy Cup South since the last Cork win. Southerners regard the province as the home of the game, and Cork as probably the greatest apostles of the game. They will argue, too, that these factors, and the skills in the Cork team point to a long awaited 25th title for the men from the Rebel County — and such enthusiasts could be right!

Cork won their first championship in 1890, and they opened their current championship programme with a 3-15 to 2-13 win in Limerick over National Hurling League champions, Limerick. If one takes in the Centenary Cup competition, Cork are now unbeaten in seven competitive games since April.

Cómhlucht Siúicre

- ERIN FOODS

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ag cabhrú le

forbairt

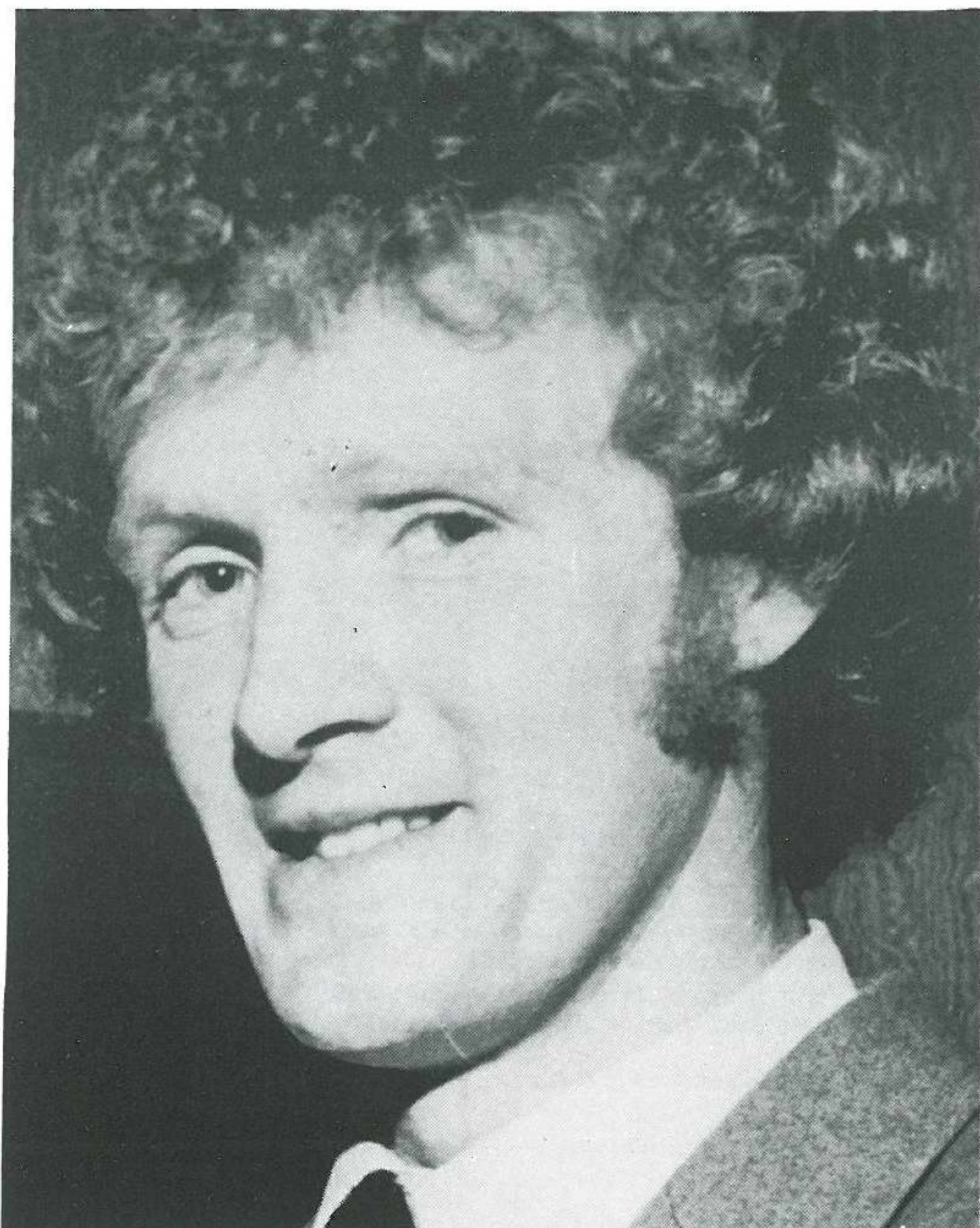
an náisiúin

PAT DELANEY



... THE OFFALY
MAN MUST
NOW SURELY
RANK AS NO. 1
PIVOT IN
THE GAME

Says _____
DES BYRNE



ONE of the most exciting sights in hurling in my view is to watch a defender face up to the challenge of a long range free, and then effortlessly and with precision send the sliothar winging over the bar for a breath-taking point. Such are the moments in any game that "lift" a team, inspire hurlers to greater efforts, and demoralise the opposition.

Pat Delaney, to whom many in Offaly will be looking to prove an inspiration at Semple Stadium, is a master in this match-winning art. Time and again since the county's emergence as one of the leading powers in the game he has coloured matches with this capacity for finding the target from long range frees.

One has only to look back now to Offaly's famous All-Ireland senior final debut against Galway in 1981 to illustrate the point in the best possible manner. It was the Kinnitty man who helped to steady jagged nerves in the opening tension-filled minutes as he faced up to the challenge of a 70 yards free after only 45 minutes, and coolly slotted the ball over the bar to open the final debutant's scoring return.

Less than six minutes later it was Delaney again showing the way for the newcomers in taking scores. Another long range free, and a further golden point from the team's centre half, for Offaly's second score of the day.

Before the game had run its course Delaney had notched five points to finish Offaly's leading marksman in

the final, and he backed up that excellent finishing with a thoroughly efficient showing in general play that made him one of the key men in shaping that first All-Ireland title win.

Delaney must surely now rank as the number one pivot in the game. He is a powerful exponent of the position, a man who knits the defence into a tight, disciplined unit with his quality play, and who has the vision to set his forwards moving sweetly into attack with his sound, well-directed clearances.

The Offaly defender took over the job of centre half back about five years ago. But he had made his mark with Offaly long before that having

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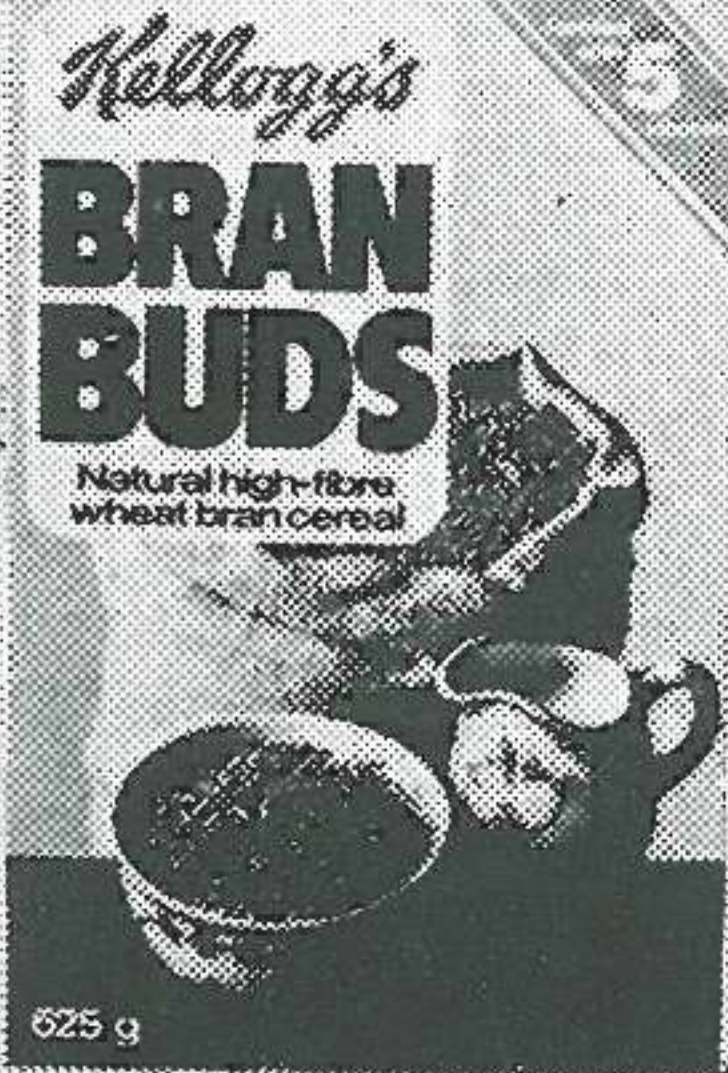
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OFFALY - 1981 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS



●From left, back row: Paddy Kirwan, Pat Fleury, Joachim Kelly, Pat Delaney, Liam Currams, Eugene Coughlan, Damien Martin, Aidan Fogarty. Front row: Tom Donoghue, Mark Corrigan, Brendan Bermingham, Padraig Horan, Ger Coughlan, Pat Carroll, Johnny Flaherty.

●FROM PAGE 21

first won his spurs with the senior team in a National League tie about ten years ago.

Like so many more in the game, the six-foot plus Midlander came up through the ranks, winning underage medals within the county from under-12 up to under-21. He first made his mark at midfield, and then through one of those quirks of sport he started a new career because of an injury to one of his club-mates.

During the Offaly senior hurling final replay of 1979, the Kinnitty club's regular centre half was forced to retire injured, and Delaney was moved back to the No. 6 spot. He took to his new role instantly, and has not looked back in the meantime.

Delaney has been a solid bulwark in all of Offaly's successes in the present decade. He won his third Leinster senior medal last July to add to that gold of September 1981. His generalship and polished play in that

memorable year for Offaly hurling brought a further reward for the county centre half back when he was named Texaco hurler of the year... a just reward to a man who did more than his share in bringing the Liam McCarthy Cup to the Faithful county.

Delaney has also turned on his skill to good effect with Leinster in the Railway Cup, but the province has not won the trophy during his term in the side.

Surprisingly enough, in view of all his achievements in the game so far, Pat Delaney has still to find favour with the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors. However, irrespective of the outcome of the unique Thurles show-down, he has already made a very strong claim to set this position right come the end of the Centenary Year.

The Offaly centre half back, who was 28 in May, has helped Kinnitty to senior championship successes within the county. His outstanding

play at centre half will always stand out as a beacon when this great era of Offaly hurling — the era that has already resulted in a gifted company of hurlers realising so many long held dreams — is recalled by the firesides of the Midland county in the years to come.

It seems to me, in fact, Delaney typifies so much that is Offaly hurling of the 'Eighties — wholehearted endeavour, plenty of skill, and the will to challenge the "world" (hurling-wise) and show just who is master. Delaney has taken all the challenges in his stride, overcome them, and now takes his place at Semple Stadium with the maturity, the experience and the skills honed to the perfection of the master.

If one man can stamp his personality above all others on this eagerly awaited first-ever meeting of the giants of hurling and the exciting newcomers in the titles parade, then that hurler is without question the tall Pat Delaney.

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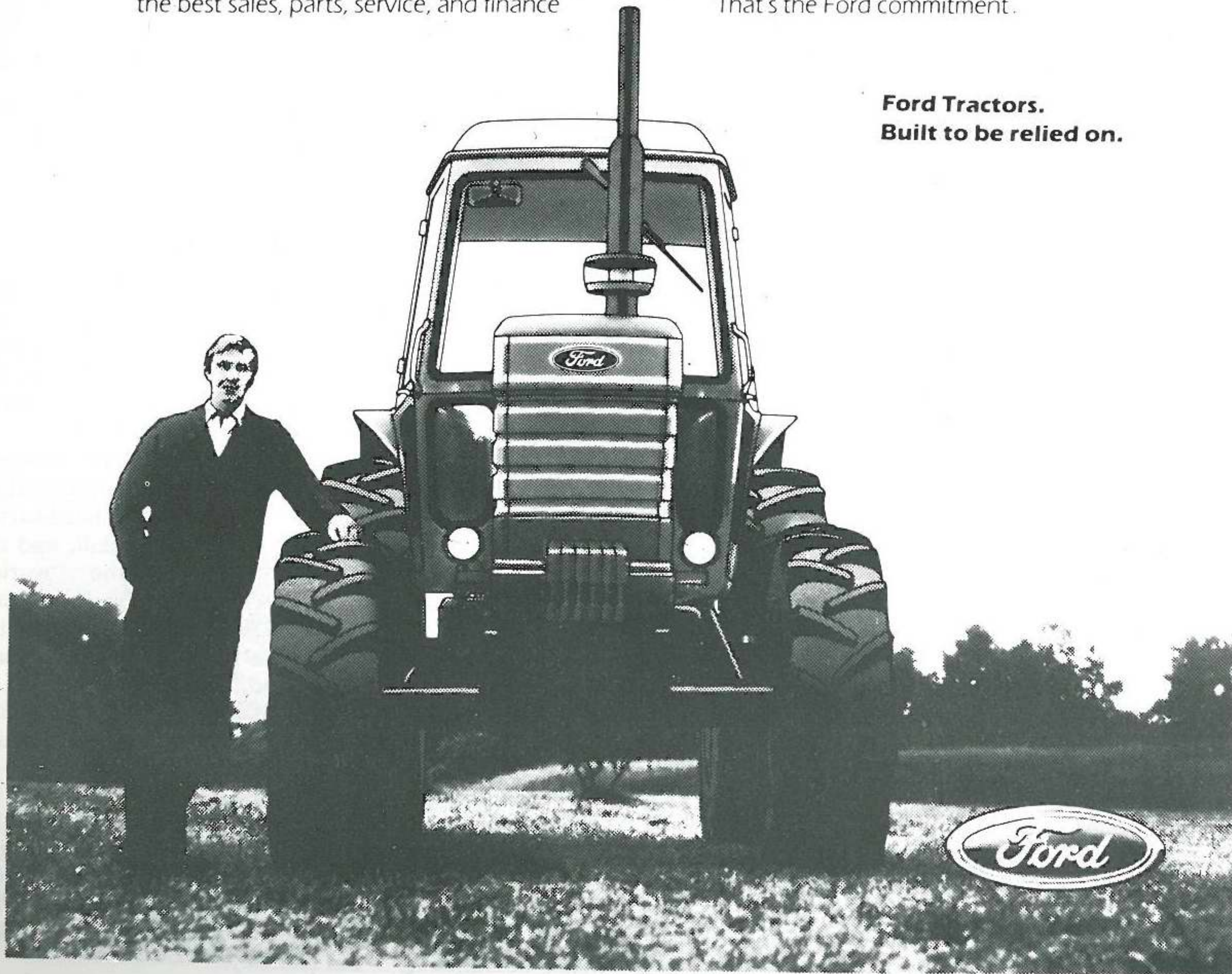
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AS I SAID TO THE GOOD
OFFALYMAN IN THE G.A.A.
HALL IN TULLAMORE, WE
HOPE THAT OUR OPPONENTS
WON'T DISAPPOINT THE CROWD

WE ONLY HOPE THEY'LL SHOW UP!

says modest EAMONN YOUNG

"WHAT has this Cork hurling team that the others didn't have?" asked Tommy McQuaid in a vain effort to insult me. The answer is brief and simple: hunger.

Three of the present side — John Crowley, Sean O Leary and Jimmy Barry Murphy — have already won three All Irelands. Three more — Tom Cashman, Dermot MacCurtain and Tim Crowley — have won two, and nine have no All-Ireland senior medal.

The six medallists have whipped their way through five championships since their last All Ireland win. You can imagine just how they feel. The nine have all played a lot of hurling in good company. They know they're as good as the next and are aware that only the hop of a ball divides the victor from the vanquished. They're after that medal. Necessity knows no law.

Our hunger isn't that bad, but it's bad enough.

Ger Cunningham is in the goal for his third successive All-Ireland. Pat Horgan, John Crowley, Dermot MacCurtain, Tom Cashman, Tim Crowley, Barry Murphy are the others who have twice recently watched other hands hold the Corkman, MacCarthy's Cup, on All Ireland day. Five more, Donal O'Grady, John Fenton, Kevin Hennessy, Tomás Mulcahy and Seanie Leary are in their second successive final with nothing to show for it.

Denis Mulcahy, John Hodgins and Pat Hartnett are in their first. A moment to look into the hearts of these men will reveal a rather intense desire to end the years of failure.

Remember how that grand bunch of Tipperary hurlers almost beat us in Thurles not so long ago — the hungry

hurler is a hard man to stop.

But hurling plays a great part in success and here we have no reason to believe we're any worse than the rest. We beat two good sides in Limerick and Tipp, showing reasonable ball-playing ability along the way.

Our forwards scored well and our backs defended with flair, tenacity and skill. The centre of the field is sound for John Fenton strikes with fluid accuracy and new man, Pat Hartnett, showed in Thurles, when the butterflies had flown away, that he's as good a hurler on the big day as he is in the Cork championship — and that's pretty good.

Our half back line of John Crowley in the centre, stern and strong with lightning striker, Cashman, on one side and spirited ball-playing, MacCurtain, on the other is very efficient and I'm fully confident the young men, Tomás Mulcahy and Kevin Hennessy, both playing in their second final, will add confidence to their undoubted hurling ability to assist the others to get the scores.

Altogether this is a reasonably good Cork side. They will be fit and the men on the line know as much about hurling as the next. We'll put up a good show and unless the other fellows do likewise we're home and dry.

"We are the masters". God be with you Paddy Grace for you were a fine hurler, a genuine sportsman and grand company, but you made many a statement for effect, such as: "How can we beat that Cork team? Sure they're miles better than us."

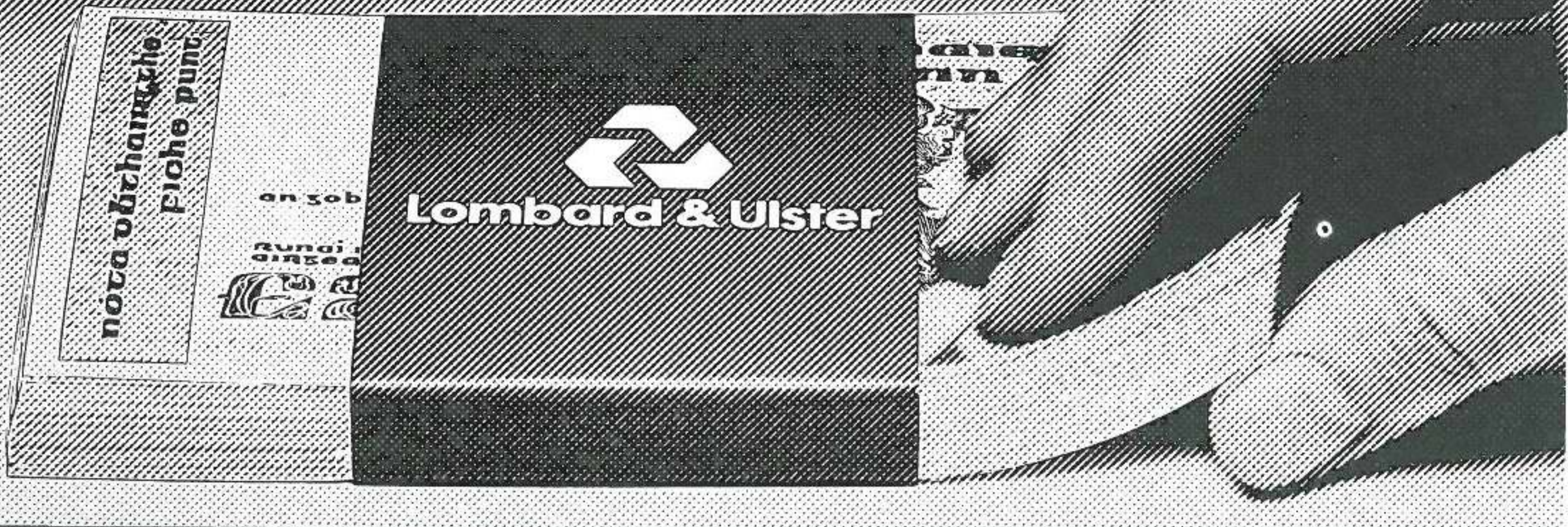
When Paddy made his famous 'masters' statement after a deserved win over Cork in '82 there, no doubt, was relief in his good heart and he meant it for that day only.

Of course, for the innocent journalists listening to him the statement was ex-cathedra and for all time.

The fact that Cork have more All-Ireland championships in hurling (not to mind the football) and that Kilkenny never won four-in-a-row

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●MUNSTER CHAMPIONS, CORK... *Rebel County fans will be hoping their idols can add the Liam McCarthy Cup to the Centenary Trophy.*

●FROM PAGE 25

was ignored. We must admit, the Grace policy was sound.

DISAPPOINTMENT

The reason the good man, who has left us, comes to mind is because so many are saying "Ah, ye'll win it now Kilkenny are out of it". In truth, the only real disappointment in this All Ireland is the fact that Kilkenny aren't there.

No disrespect to gallant Offaly, who may win it and more luck to them if they're better than us, but we've been, for the last two years, looking forward to the Thurles All-Ireland between the Black and Amber and the Blood and Bandage.

"Get those tickets in Thurles" said the Cork four-in-a-row man, John Quirke, to me "and in '84 we'll go up the night before for the Kilkenny game and we'll have some fun slagging the Tipperary men" (who always had John's affection). John fell out along the way, for God called him, and now, so have Kilkenny.

Though the sorrow in each case is far from equal.

I would be happier to see our Noreside rivals there, so in their absence we'll simply have to beat teams that soldiered through the fight that was too hot for Kilkenny. And before I pass on let me say that the best thing in the world for hurling just now would be an All-Ireland for Westmeath, Wexford, Offaly, Galway or Antrim.

TWENTY FIFTH

The reality is however that we're after our twenty-fifth and let all who can, catch up.

Will we be third time lucky at Thurles? The question arises mainly because Cork have gone down to good Kilkenny sides in the last two finals. But, while Lady Luck is a grand little woman to have by your side, she has never been a great friend of the red jersey, as the number of times we lost by a point in the All-Ireland final will testify.

We didn't have any real luck against Limerick or Tipp this year: those other good lads simply made mistakes and at the wrong time. I've yet to hear of a side that rejects an

own-goal or a high ball slapped down to a good forward.

To win this All-Ireland we'll take any luck that's going but we'd like to announce that Dr. Michael Murphy, the Bishop of Cork, who, of course wore the red jersey himself, isn't attending our matches to stimulate Divine intercession. As Gah Ahern said fifty five years ago when Canon Eddie Fitzgerald blessed the team before they played Tipperary, "To tell you the truth, I'd rather beat 'em fair".

We're all set for Thurles and a momentous All-Ireland.

We've won the Centenary Cup and we're after the big one. We know that this team of ours isn't the greatest of all time but it doesn't have to be. All we want is to have a side that's one point better than the others around just now. We don't mind who gets there: As I said to that good Offalyman, Stevie, in the G.A.A. hall in Tullamore when he talked about Offaly recently, we in Cork hope that our opponents won't disappoint the crowd.

We hope they'll show up.

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PADDY GRACE



Tremendous loss to both Kilkenny and the Gaelic Athletic Association

THE G.A.A. suffered a tremendous loss through the death in July of Paddy Grace. As a hurler and later as a legislator, he gave a lifetime of unselfish service to his native Kilkenny and also to the G.A.A. in general, and he was still actively involved in the affairs of the organisation right up to his final illness.

Paddy Grace was one of the great characters of Gaelic Games, a colourful and courteous personality, who enjoyed the greatest of respect throughout the country. At his death he was still Kilkenny County Board secretary, and the longest-serving in that position in the country.

As a hurler he had a very successful career. He was one of those who played in what is known in hurling folklore as the "Thunder and Lightning All-Ireland Final," that of 1939 between Kilkenny and Cork.

World War II was officially declared on that September day as followers made their way to Croke Park. Early in the second half Kilkenny led by 2-5 to 2-2 when the lightning came as thunder rumbled heavily and the rain came down in torrents. The final lost nothing in the storm; if anything the match was played at an even greater speed.

The backs were the architects of a 2-7 to 3-3 win for Kilkenny and Paddy

Grace was outstanding at right full.

Then, there was his second All-Ireland senior medal win in 1947, in a classic, and one of Kilkenny's famous one point victories over Cork.

Time was almost up when Terry Leahy equalised for Kilkenny. The puck out was won by Grace, who made ground before parting to Leahy, who coolly shot the last gasp winning point.

Paddy Grace had a successful career as a youth, winning medals with Kilkenny C.B.S. and Eire Óg. Later he made the grade in a big way as a senior, and had much success in the county championships with Carrickshock and Dicksboro. He helped Carrickshock to win a record four senior championships in a row from 1940 to 1943. In addition to his All-Ireland senior medals, he also helped Leinster to their 1941 Railway Cup title win. Two years earlier he won

the first of his three All-Ireland senior medals.

Originally from Bennettsbridge, Grace had an unbroken term as Kilkenny County Board secretary from 1948 until his death at 67. He will always be remembered as a great hurler, a great administrator, and a kindly man who gave much of his time and energies without counting the cost in fashioning the proud position that the G.A.A. enjoys today. The organisation owes much to the late Mr. Grace.

Under his County Board secretaryship, Kilkenny won the Liam McCarthy Cup for the All-Ireland senior championship ten times.

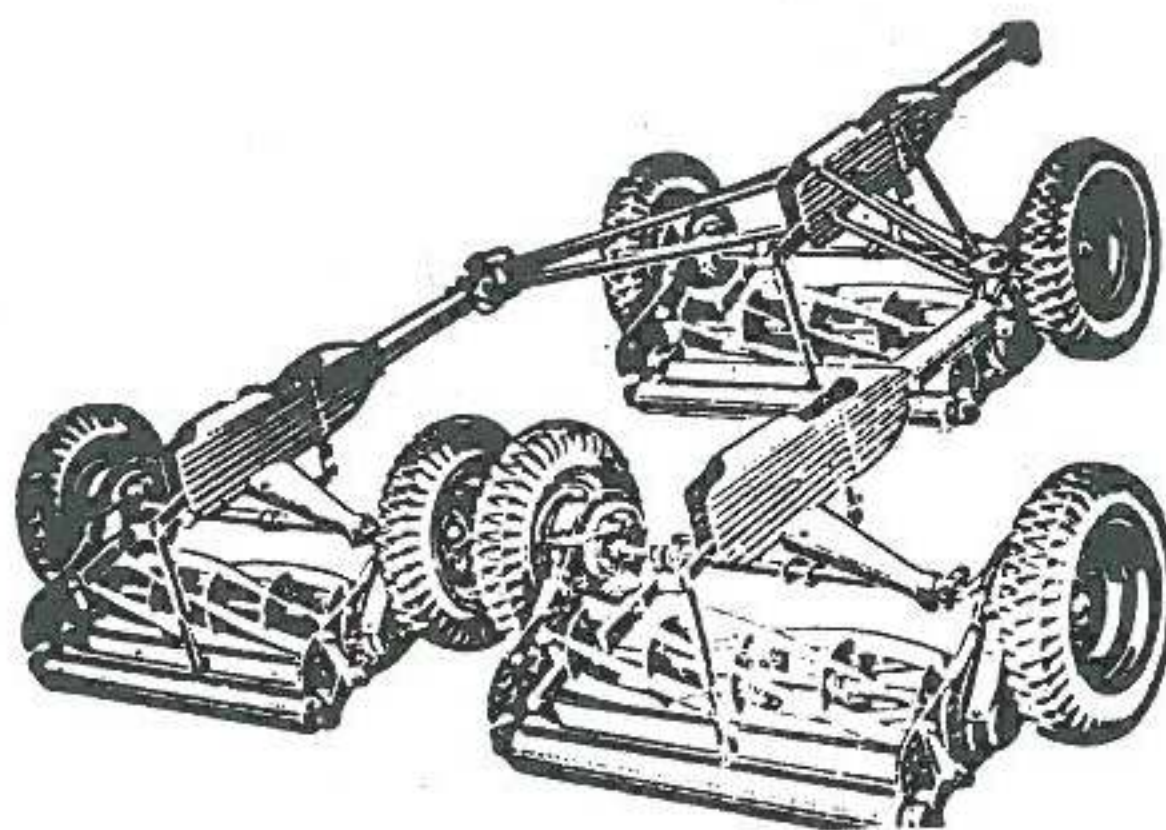
Ar dheis lamh De go raibh an h-anam.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his widow, Maureen, and to his sons and daughters.

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ANGELA DOWNEY

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Mary Moran pays tribute to one of the best forwards ever seen

ANGELA
DOWNEY

THE 1984 All-Ireland Final will be a unique occasion. As the participating teams take the pitch, the players will run smack into the view of television cameras. For many years, the Camogie Association has sought to have the senior final televised. The word at the moment is that the game will be shown live and, in addition, the Centenary Sunday Game will cover the highlights.

It is widely accepted that the upsurge of interest in certain sports is largely due to television coverage. Now it is our turn to display what we have to offer. A high standard of presentation will be necessary by the officials planning the details of the event. The players involved can do a major selling job for their sport by giving a skilful exhibition of camogie.

This exposure of our game will bring camogie before those who are unfamiliar with it. The late transmission will place the game in the critical eye of the sport-following public who are accustomed to viewing entertainment of high

quality. The ball is certainly in the court of the Camogie Association — they will gain considerably if they play it to their advantage.

Thousands of girls play camogie matches. This trend is equally true of other games played by girls. What a boost the attendance at our finals would receive if our players travelled from far and near to support and enjoy the showpiece of the season.

We need to convince the sport-going public that camogie has much to offer, both as a spectacle and an entertainment. There must be a large volume of people in the Dublin area who like to go somewhere on a Sunday afternoon. To these we say, why not come along to Croke Park on September 9 and view our finals from a comfortable seat and enjoy the excitement and thrills.

At the time of writing six counties remain in the race for the Open Draw Championship. Galway, Louth, Antrim, Clare and Kilkenny have retired to the sidelines to await another year. A look into the crystal

ball could reveal whether Dublin's long-awaited breakthrough is at hand. Cork stand a chance of the elusive championship and league double. Wexford hope to bridge the gap back to 1975. The remaining contenders, Limerick, Tipperary and Down, dream of a historic first title.

SUPERSTAR

The tag superstar is widely used in sport. The achievements and praises of the likes of Barry McGuigan, Eamon Coughlan, Mary McKenna and Sean Kelly fill many columns of the sports pages and magazines. Camogie has a superstar whose performances are on a par with the best. In the past two months alone, Angela Downey has shown what a superb competitive athlete she is.

In Gradam Tailte, the Kilkenny girl took on the best that camogie had to offer. On the athletic track, the basketball court, in the gym and on the playing fields, she pitted her skill,

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●FROM PAGE 31

endurance, ball control, speed, co-ordination and agility against the pick of the country and ran out the easiest of winners. Five first places and a grand total of fifty two points was her answer. The remaining competitors stood in admiration.

Angela delighted the attendance at the St. Paul's Sevens with a dozen goals of the highest quality. In the championship showdown with Dublin, she alone prevented a Kilkenny whitewash. As her team-

mates around her failed to rise to the occasion, she took on Dublin almost single-handed. Each time she gained possession of the ball, Dublin hearts raced and Kilkenny's hopes rose. She finished with a personal tally of 4-3, an outstanding score considering how little support she received.

Winner of four All-Ireland senior medals, a B & I Award, Gael-Linn and Club Championship trophies, Angela's name is already entered in the annals of the game as one of the best forwards ever seen. Unlike many

whose names are written beside hers, Angela has always been an individual performer. She tends to go for her own scores, so often with telling effect. She made headlines as a diminutive youngster with Callan in colleges competition. Throughout her career she has remained the focus of attention. The high standards set for herself in those early years have been maintained and improved upon.

Angela Downey, camogie superstar, we salute you.

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QUIZ TIME

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

IT is hard to credit that the unique game that is the Centenary Year All-Ireland senior hurling final is almost with us! When first mooted for Thurles some years ago, it appeared as if the match was light years away, but time has a habit of passing by very quickly, indeed.

At any rate, what must surely rank as the real centre piece of the Centenary Year celebrations is now the next big event in the G.A.A. calendar. We wish all down in Thurles associated with the unique promotion, and the hurlers engaged, both at minor and senior level, every success.

As part of the build-up, our Quiz feature, ON THE SPOT... helps to mirror the extra special day with sections based on a Thurles theme, and on happenings over various decades in the long history of the All-Ireland senior hurling championships.

And, to round matters right up to date, the Quiz concludes with a Centenary Review, a section covering some of the events in the 1984 programme.

As always points are allocated for each question, just to give that competitive edge that we know, from

experience, GAELIC SPORT readers greatly appreciate.

So, without any further ado, let's get the Quiz "on the road" now with our first section that emphasises that Thurles connection, and which we call:

THURLES SCENE

1. What was the actual date of the foundation of the G.A.A. at Hayes' Hotel, Thurles in 1884?
2. Thurles represented Tipperary in the first All-Ireland senior hurling final. That was the 1887 decider, and the Tipperary side won. Name the defeated finalists (the county name is quite acceptable here)
3. On the last two years, other than this season, that Cork won a Munster title at Thurles in recent times they went on each time to take the All-Ireland crown. True or false?
4. The winners of the big game at Semple Stadium will be presented with the Liam McCarthy Cup. In what year did Tipperary last inscribe their name on the trophy plinth?
5. How many goals were scored in the Munster senior hurling final last July?
6. What is the name of a prominent Tipperary club based in Thurles,

- and one that provided many hurlers to the county team over the years, including the legendary Jimmy Doyle?
7. Thurles was the venue for the 1981 National Hurling League final. Name the two counties engaged in that game

Five points for each question answered correctly in this particular section. So, 40 points may be gained here. **Your Return**

In this particular section we look back at some of the high points in the history of hurling in senior championship play in a ten questions parade we call:

DECADES OF HIGHLIGHTS

1. The 'Thirties were dominated by three gripping finals featuring Cork and Kilkenny for the All-Ireland crown of a particular single season. In what year did those great rivals have to go to three meetings before one claimed the McCarthy Cup?
2. Cork created a record in the 'Forties that still stands to this day. What is this particular record?
3. The 'Forties also saw the last appearance by an Ulster team in an All-Ireland senior hurling

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QUIZTIME

●FROM PAGE 33

final. Can you recall the year that Antrim gave the North that last glimpse at glory in a decider?

4. The 'Fifties belonged to the Rackard brothers and the gallant men of Wexford, who brought new glamour and colour to the game. How many All-Ireland senior titles were won by Wexford in that decade?
5. What was unusual about the 1955 senior final?
6. Christy Ring won a record eight All-Ireland senior medals during the 'Fifties. In what year did he achieve that record?
7. Eddie Keher captained Kilkenny to an All-Ireland senior title win in the 'Sixties. What was the year of his triumph?
8. Galway contested two All-Ireland senior finals in the 'Seventies. Name just one of the two years they competed for the McCarthy Cup to collect full points
9. The 'Eighties have been years of change. Galway won their first title since the 1923 championship by beating Limerick for the 1980 title. How many points had they to spare in that game?
10. Offaly made a McCarthy Cup winning debut in 1981, beating Galway. The Westerners scored 0-15, but what did Offaly record?

Five points for each question answered correctly. We will add on a ten points bonus for an all correct card, with the result that this section could improve the points rating by

60. How did you fare?
 Now we come to our special section based on photographs of some leading personalities of recent times. We call this chapter appropriately enough:

PICTURE SPECIAL



1. Who is the personality pictured above?
2. He was full forward in three of his county's All-Ireland senior championship winning teams of the 'Seventies. To collect any points at least two of the winning years must be given in your answer. So, can you list two of the three years?
3. Our picture personality played club competitions within his native county with what side?



4. Who is the hurling personality pictured above?
5. What position did he fill when his team won the National League title in 1977 after a long interval?
6. Finally, list the club of this particular personality?

Five points on offer for each question, and a five points bonus for six correct answers, making a total of 35 points. **Your score**

Our last section deals completely with the Centenary Year events in hurling, not necessarily in the senior grade:

CENTENARY REVIEW

1. Name the Centenary Year champions in minor hurling in Ulster?
2. What county won the Munster junior hurling championship?
3. How many points had Offaly to spare over Dublin in the Leinster senior semi-final?
4. Cork beat Laois, of course, in the Ford Centenary Cup Final in hurling. But can you name the counties beaten by Cork and Laois in the semi-finals?
5. Name the winner of the All-Ireland Colleges' senior hurling championship?
6. How far did Tipperary minor hurlers advance in the championship campaign this year?
7. Westmeath won the All-Ireland "B" hurling championship. What county lost to the Lake County in the "Home" final?
8. Who scored Cork's winning goal in the Munster senior final at Thurles?
9. Pat Fleury captained Offaly to the Leinster title during the summer. Name his club side?
10. When Galway beat Westmeath in the All-Ireland quarter-final in July, what was the position in which P.J. Molloy, for so long their top marksman, lined up in for the throw-in?

That's a ten question series to test your general knowledge of a varied series of events during this special year. Five points once more for each correct answer and a ten points bonus if you "go through the card". Thus, it is possible to collect 60 points. **Your tally**

ANSWERS: PAGE 48

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LEINSTER CHAMPIONS ARE WORTHY CONTENDERS FOR CENTENARY TITLE

FAITHFUL COUNTY MEN DESERVE THE HIGHEST PRAISE

SAYS FRANK COOGAN

THE toast of this Centenary All-Ireland senior hurling finals edition must be Offaly! At the start of the season not many would have forecast that the Midlanders would be bidding at Semple Stadium for probably the most coveted All-Ireland championship of them all, yet here they are, and they are in the game as well with an outstanding chance.

Offaly deserve full marks for their achievement. They have not nearly as deep a pool of talent player-wise as some of the strong-holds of the game, notably Kilkenny and Wexford, in their own province, but for all that, Offaly are now the top team, provincial title wins reckoning in Leinster with three crowns since 1980.

And, to think that starting 1980, Offaly had not won a single Leinster championship in the top grade of hurling. Their's is surely a "rags to riches" story, and if they succeed in regaining the Liam McCarthy Cup, then they will be well entitled to rank as the team of the early years of the 'Eighties.

Offaly first smashed through the Leinster senior championship barrier on a July afternoon in 1980 at Croke Park. Pdraig Horan, with six golden points, Johnny Flaherty, who grabbed two goals, Pat Carroll, Joachim Kelly, Pat Delaney and Damien Martin were among the heroes of a well-drilled side that

finally laid the Kilkenny bogey by winning 3-17 (26 points) to 5-10 (25 points) to take the provincial crown for the first time ever.

Offaly had arrived as a hurling power. They gave further evidence of that in the All-Ireland semi-final when they put up a great showing when losing by just two points to Galway, who went on to take the All-Ireland title.

It is interesting that Damien Martin, Pat Fleury, Aidan Fogarty, Pat Delaney, Joachim Kelly, Mark Corrigan, Pat Carroll and Pdraig Horan all filled the same positions that day as they are likely to hold down in the Thurles summit. Admittedly, Joachim Kelly was at right midfield, rather than his current No. 9 spot, but he was a midfielder then as now.

The big question after those heady performances by Offaly was: Can they build on the displays to retain their Leinster title in 1981?

Offaly did not waste much time in supplying the answer. They had a close call against Laois in the first round, winning a high scoring game by a point — 3-20 to 6-10 and then franked their title win of the previous year by retaining their Leinster crown with a 3-12 to 2-13 victory over Wexford.

That was an historic win as well, in that the success earned Offaly a place in an All-Ireland senior hurling final for the first time.

Galway renewed rivalry with Offaly in the Liam McCarthy Cup tie, and were expected to retain the title they had won the previous year. After all, no team had made a successful debut in a final since the concluding years of the last century.

NEW CHAPTER

Offaly looked doomed for defeat when they trailed by six points at the break. And, they might have been further adrift had not Damien Martin brought off a great save from Johnny Connolly in the 22nd minute.

As Galway went further ahead early in the second half, the game looked like petering out, but then Offaly started a come-back that was exhilarating and reached an amazing climax when Johnny Flaherty palmed home a goal three minutes from time that ensured a memorable 2-12 to 0-15 win — and a new chapter in the annals of hurling as the title went to the Faithful County for the first time.

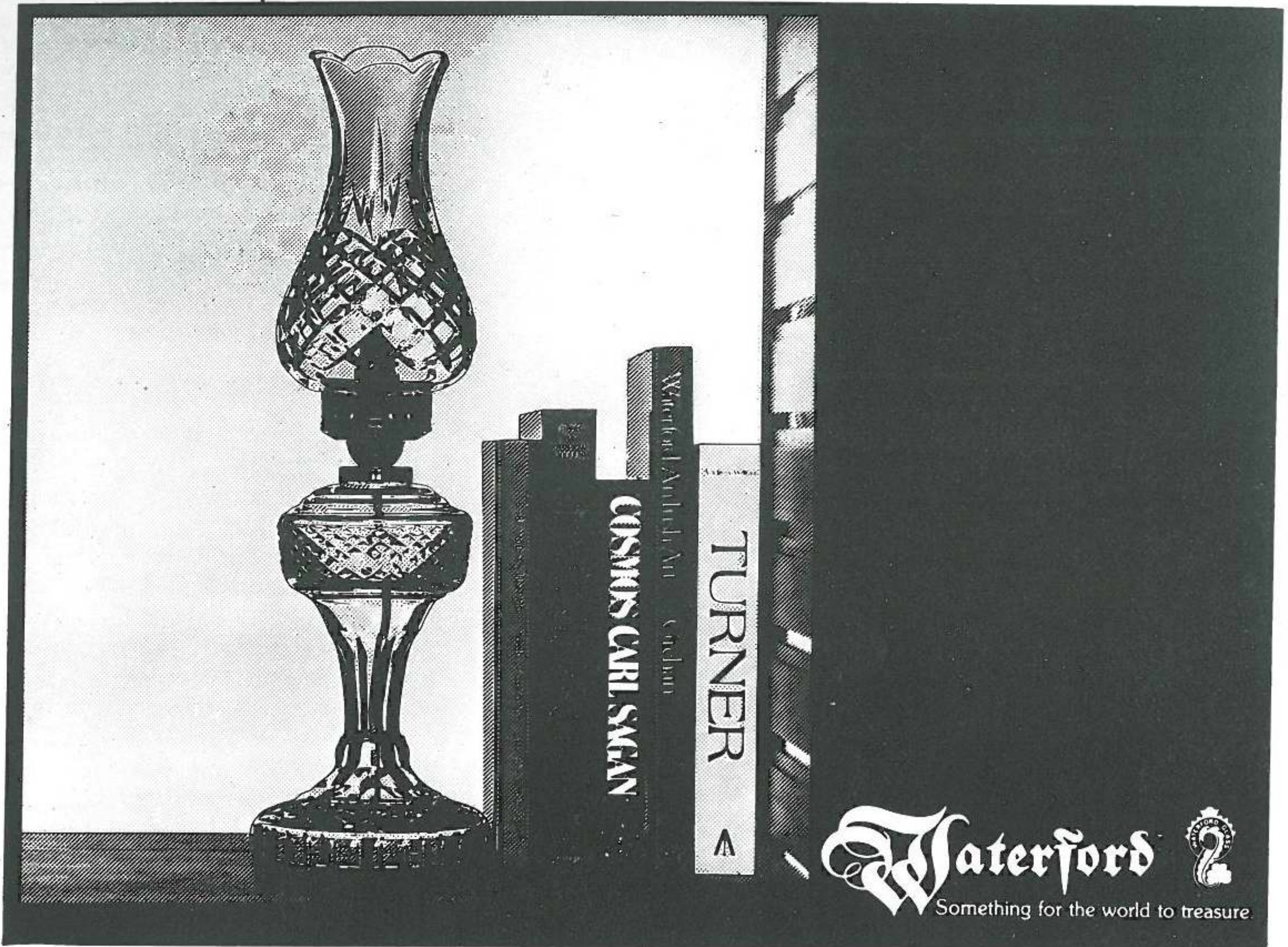
That Offaly team included 11 hurlers who have been prominent in the current campaign — Damien Martin, Eugene Coughlan, Pat Fleury, Aidan Fogarty, Pat Delaney, Ger Coughlan, Joachim Kelly, Mark Corrigan, Pat Carroll, Pdraig Horan, and Brendan Bermingham.

Offaly did not look the part of Semple Stadium contenders when they edged home against Dublin at Croke Park back in June. They led 2-11 to 0-8 with 17 minutes remaining, and they were hit by a great Dublin rally. However, the Midlanders held out, and even though they did not add to their scoring returns they finished ahead by 2-12 to 1-12.

GRITTY

Then, came a very gritty performance as they surprised many with a 1-15 to 2-11 win over Wexford for their third provincial title in five years, and an upset win in view of the splendour of the Slaney-siders

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●FROM PAGE 37

sparkling victory over defending provincial and All-Ireland champions Kilkenny.

Next stop on the road to the final was Thurles, and Offaly put on a very workmanlike and authoritative showing in forging out the most convincing of wins over Galway 4-15 to 1-10.

Joe Dooley has emerged as a bright new star of the Offaly side. Only 20, he is a nippy forward and has contributed 2-5 to the scoring returns. He had his first championship outing of the season in the Leinster final.

At the other end of the time-scale is Damien Martin, now the longest serving member of the side, and who was in goal when Offaly made a rare Leinster senior final appearance in 1969, losing out to Kilkenny. He plays club hurling with St. Rynagh's.

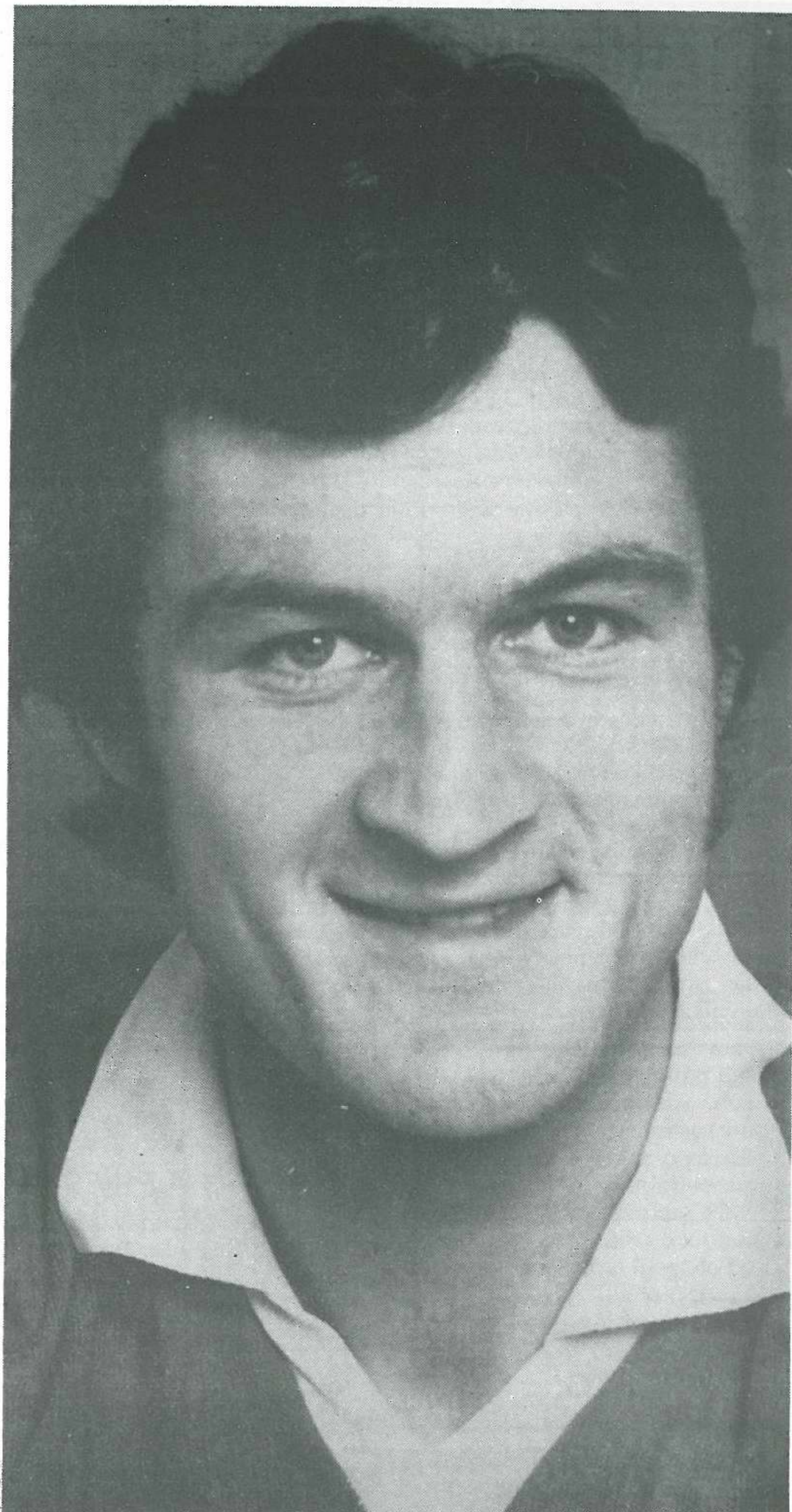
Pádraig Horan was 31 when he led Offaly to their historic All-Ireland senior title win. He had earlier distinguished himself as well as a defender, and won three Railway Cup medals in the No. 3 jersey between 1973 and 1975.

Horan has played in every grade of hurling with Offaly, and played for Ireland in the hurling-shinty international against Scotland a few years back.

There was an unusual family twist to Offaly's All-Ireland semi-final with Galway. The county's leading scorer going into that game was Paddy Corrigan, 22, but he lost his place in the side to his older brother Mark. However, during the game, Paddy was sent in as a substitute, and may well find a place in the final side. Indeed, the Corrigan brothers could both be on duty with Offaly.

Mark won a Bank of Ireland All Stars trophy as left-half forward in the 1981 team. That selection also included Ger Coughlan, left half back, Liam Currams, midfield, Pat Carroll, right full forward, and John Flaherty, left full forward, of Offaly's great 1981 All-Ireland winning team.

How many Offaly hurlers will take their places among the All-Stars this season?



●PAT FLEURY, OFFALY CAPTAIN

PAT HARTNETT

— a star of the future

says **NOEL HORGAN**



APPARENTLY playing well within themselves and picking off their points with aplomb, Cork looked the more accomplished outfit during the first half of their titanic Munster final tussle with Tipperary on July 15 but glaring defensive errors which led to Tipperary goals at vital stages kept the Premier county in contention in this period.

A goal from Nicky English on the stroke of half-time left Tipperary trailing by a mere two points and gave them an enormous psychological boost. It was obvious that the Tipp-men would come out fighting and raise their play on the restart even against the stiff breeze.

Cork fans were confident — on the basis of their team's courageous display against Limerick — that the Rebels would be prepared for Tipp's expected second half fire and would gradually re-assert their authority as the game aged. It was not to be however and most of the Cork players — majestic before the break — were knocked completely out of their stride by the sheer grit and determination of the win-hungry Tipp men.

With Cork reeling, Tipp began to dominate and, with a little more experience and polish in attack, might have floored the Munster champions by the three-quarter stage. As it was, the challengers hit the front through a Liam Maher point after 49 minutes and Cork were in dire trouble.

SAGGING SPIRITS

The Leesiders badly needed a hero to raise their sagging spirits at that point and, naturally, one looked to one of the more seasoned members of the team to provide the inspiration for a recovery. Instead, however, it was Cork's youngest player, Pat Hartnett, who kept the flag flying by thundering into the game at midfield to hurl defiance at the rampant Tipp men.

He brought Cork level with a splendid 53rd minute point and, when the Rebels later fell four points behind and looked beaten, Hartnett continued to resist. He held his head up while those of his colleagues drooped and eventually some of the Corkmen responded, notably

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Tomas Mulcahy and substitute Tony O'Sullivan in attack and Denis Mulcahy when moved from the right corner to full-back.

And when Tipp's concentration lapsed during the pressure-filled run-in, Cork's craft and experience enabled them to punish their opponents as the Leesiders grabbed a remarkable two goals and two points in the last five minutes.

Pat Hartnett, fittingly, played a major part in Cork's late scoring burst. He won the free which John Fenton pointed to bring Cork within striking distance at 3-14 to 2-14 and it was a rasping drive from Hartnett which led to

PAT HURLED DEFIANCE AT THE RAMPANT TIPP MEN

Tony O'Sullivan's equaliser after Tipp's keeper John Sheedy had done well to save the initial goalscoring effort.

Then came Sean O'Leary's match-winning goal and another pointed free from Fenton to seal Cork's success but nobody doubted that Pat Hartnett had done most to turn the tide in the Leesiders' favour. What made Pat's late contribution even more commendable was the fact that he had been bettered by Tipp's Ralph Callaghan up to the three-quarter stage.

A Munster final debutante, Pat Hartnett might have been expected to be somewhat demoralised when he failed to settle early. His cool temperament, immense confidence and character proved invaluable, however, as he took the game by the scruff of the neck when Cork's need was greatest. In the process Pat showed that he is destined to become a major star and proved that his impressive championship debut against Limerick was no flash-in-the-pan.

Pitted against the equally effective Jimmy Carroll in that game, Pat worked tirelessly to keep Cork's ship afloat when it looked likely to be submerged in the first half and when the champions — aided by two gift goals — gained an advantage in the last 15 minutes, Hartnett moved from midfield to right-wing to eclipse Paddy Kelly, the Shannonsiders' main hope of penetration at that stage.

Pat Hartnett was a star minor and under 21 player with Cork but failed to gain national recognition in those ranks because of Cork's lack of success at under-age level in recent years. Cork have not won an All-Ireland minor title since 1979 and this disturbing fact suggests that the southern capital is not rich in up and coming talent — in stark contrast to Tipperary — and makes Pat Hartnett's

emergence as an outstanding prospect all the more significant.

He, probably more than any other player at the moment, epitomises Cork's future hope and clearly he will play a key role in their bid to remain at the forefront of the hurling world for the remainder of the 'eighties. His broad shoulders, one suspects, are more than capable of carrying the burden.

Already Pat Hartnett has made an indelible impression on the hurling scene and should John Fenton be the one to lift the McCarthy Cup on the first Sunday in September, the Cork captain will be fully aware that the deeds of his Midleton colleague played a major part in making the moment possible.

Prior to the Munster triumph, incidentally, Pat Hartnett's main honours were county, senior and under 21 medals and a Munster club trophy won with Midleton last year. Victory at Thurles would be a dream-ending to a glorious year for the Midleton youth.

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KIRBY THE MASTER

Clareman should be given due recognition for his efforts in boosting Irish handball in U.S.A.

We have all walked tall this season with a spring of pride in our step from the confident yet unspoiled manner in which G.A.A. people at all levels have arranged the celebrations for this Centenary year.

The value of our games, and the kindred attachment of an idealistic approach towards our cultural development has been the keynote of a wonderful occasion.

In the context of my brief, it is nice to be able to say that handball now stands four square in relation to hurling and football.

The comprehensive motto of the all-embracing G.A.A. club is the ideal of promoting all games as stipulated in the official guide.

Thereby, the handball court has become the mecca in many G.A.A. clubs and those late for conversion have now come to realise that they are the losers.

This is a far cry indeed from the unhappy days when handball was squealing for protection under the G.A.A. banner — until there was a realisation on all sides that unity was strength. The handballers emerged from their self-imposed isolation and became active members of the G.A.A. and there was reciprocation from the parent body.

Full marks to the Handball officials who gave the Centenary year a wonderful opening boost by organising special championships.

To say they were a success is a gross understatement of fact. They generated a widespread interest throughout the country and competition was razor-keen as one excellent game was followed by an

even better one.

The fruits of victory were sweet — participation in the World Championships — and in the U.S.H.A. Championships in Baltimore U.S.A.

The emergence of new champions is always a healthy sign for any sport — thus we hailed the victories of Martin Hennigan of Mayo, in the 40 × 20 code and Tom O'Rourke from Kildare, in the 60×30 code. They had reached a sign-post that is guiding them to further horizons of success.

With John Fleming of Wexford, they participated with distinction in the U.S.H.A. Championships and while ultimate victory was not their lot, the signs that Irish players can now match their American counterparts in the smaller court were evident.

This theory was further vindicated in the World Championships and in the R.T.E. Top Ace Championships, where our home players were much to the fore.

While Mayo's Hennigan fully deserves the Kudos that has been showered on him this season, it would be unfair to let the opportunity slip without according due credit to John Fleming, who was overshadowed to some degree by the new champion.

It will be recollected that Fleming, a prominent member of the Wexford hurling team, left his caman aside to concentrate on handball.

From a handballer's viewpoint it was a wise decision. He may be standing in the shadow of Hennigan, somewhat, but John's big break-

HANDBALL

SAYS SEAN CLERKIN

trough would appear to be imminent.

But Fleming still continues to hit the headlines as a doubles player.

In partnership with Pat Cleary, he won the Doubles Championship for the third time in a row and they also performed creditably in the World Championships.

At a later date I hope to be able to extol the qualities that are raising Kildare's O'Rourke to the highest position in the 60×30 code and also the Quish brothers from Limerick, who took the World Doubles 60×30 Championships with comparative ease.

Inevitably, I end with a tribute once again to the great Pat Kirby from Clare, who, in recent months has added further to the many honours he has annexed down the years.

Back in May he had the distinction of winning both the Singles and Doubles Championships in the Masters Series of the 40×20 code.

It will be recalled that he won the doubles title in partnership with Matt Purcell of Kildare, who, let it be emphasised, played a major part in the victory.

Then, it was on to the U.S.H.A. Championships in Baltimore, where, against all the odds he won the Masters Singles title for the fifth year in succession.

Though based in Tucson, Kirby is certainly continuing to give Irish Handball a wonderful boost and, I am hopeful, that when Irish sportsmen are being rewarded at the end of the year for their feats during 1984, the name of Pat Kirby will not be overlooked.

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

It has been a great Summer for the G.A.A. Centenary Year. First we had the National Leagues with Kerry (F) and Limerick (H) victorious. Then the Centenary Cups with the Open Draw exciting much interest. Some counties had a token approach but the eventual winners Meath(F) over Monaghan and Cork(H) in a landslide over Laois were part of a great double final occasion at Croke Park. Laois(H) and Monaghan(F) were revelations of these special tournaments. Laois upset Galway in the semi-final after it seemed they had shot their bolt. Monaghan beat Mayo in Ballina and in "Nudie" Hughes had a player of high quality.

Laois disappointed badly against Cork but against Kilkenny in the Leinster S.H.C. at Carlow the following Sunday they showed great courage and really went at Kilkenny. As a once-off arrangement this was a great success. But there is no room for such competitions in the already much overloaded G.A.A. calendar. The same goes for the All-Ireland Junior championships which attract no interest and serve little purpose.

MY SUMMER MEANDERINGS

My Summer meanderings brought me to the Connacht S.F.C. games between Galway and Roscommon and the other semi-final Mayo v Leitrim. Much was expected of Leitrim but they went out like a damp squib. Mayo turned on the fire none more so than big Tom Byrne, all 6'4" of him. You will hear and see much more of Tom.

I next went to the Munster S.F. final in Killarney. There it was no better. It is easy to laze around there after every final. One met an All-Ireland footballer every yard of the road almost. Kerry is football territory. **Kerry is football.** Cork threatened at the start but faded badly.

The Connacht S.F. final was a much closer contest and Galway were a trifle lucky to win, scoring two unintended goals, one quite an easy shot and seeing what many thought a perfectly fair goal disallowed on Mayo. Still Galway were all over Mayo in the last 10 minutes and I suppose that is the time to be on top.

I saw Galway defeat Westmeath in Birr in the All-Ireland S.H. quarter-final. Three Westmeath players to impress me were full-back Tommy Doyle, left back Ger Jackson and right half forward David Kilcoyne, who scored 2 capital goals. Westmeath are on the up and up.

One disquieting aspect of this game was the absence of ceremonial of any kind. No band, no national anthem. It might just as well have been a junior club game. There was a programme however.

It is such a long time since I wrote *Junior Desk* that I long for "*Gaelic Sport*" to be a monthly magazine once again. It's one of my greatest wishes for Centenary Year.

THE SUNDAY GAME

The Sunday Game is still very popular and their series of Golden Oldie All-Irelands to celebrate the Centenary were very interesting. Michael Lyster is becoming very

much at home on the box and is a good successor to Jim Carney. He may not have the passion of Jim but he never fluffs a line and brings the show along smoothly, getting on well with the two resident analysts, Enda Colleran and Eamon Cregan. I think both are very good but I'd like to see a few new faces once in a while.

Their man of the match idea, too, is a winner. R.T.E. has certainly played its part in the G.A.A.'s Centenary Year and the coming of the Australians will be an added boost to the G.A.A. and the *Sunday Game*.

JOHN FALLON

Sometimes it is so nice to see someone who started writing to *Junior Desk* making it in some sphere or another. Quite a number of my earlier scribes became county footballers. Some became journalists. I remember Eugene McGloin telling me his first time in print was in my column in the old "*Gaelic Weekly*". Eoghan Corry (*Sunday Tribune*) started his writing here (Eoghan if you're reading me there is a London reader who sent on cash for the book on Kildare G.A.A. which he never received. So I'm sure you'll take care of him).

The latest recruit to journalism who started writing here is John Fallon (*Connacht Tribune*). John is a very useful hurler and footballer and I wish him luck in his journalistic career.

CUT-OUT

The Colour Cut-Out for this month is Tom Cashman, the Cork
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hurler. Son of Mick also of Cork fame, I always link Tom Cashman with Dermot MacCurtain, two of the finest hurlers to spring alive together in the Cork jersey. Both are supreme sportsmen and great sticksmen. Great wrists. I remember Tom Cashman having his greatest ever game in a Munster final v. Clare at Thurles. Clare did everything but win that day. The main reason they didn't win was Tom Cashman.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

1. **Kilkenny — The G.A.A. Story 1884-1984** by Tom Ryall.

Tom Ryall has been researching this mammoth history of the G.A.A. in Kilkenny for 10 years. It is a monument to one of the finest G.A.A. men I know. Kilkenny are blest to have had a historian like him. Beautifully bound, full of team photos, marvellously compiled with statistics galore this is a book for all lovers of hurling and must already be in the home of every Kilkennyman. Get it before it is sold out.

(Cost £11.50 includes postage from Tom Ryall, Michaelschurch, Ballycallan, Kilkenny, or in any Kilkenny bookshop or in Dublin at the Eblana Bookshop, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin).

It has 420 pages in all so it is good value at that price.

2. **Kanturk Juvenile Hurling and Football Club 1974-84.**

(The first publication undertaken by a juvenile club I'm told). Price £2.50 from Francis Kennelly, Watergate Street, Kanturk, Co. Cork).

3. **A History of the G.A.A. in Killarney** by Pat Coen.

This is the history of Willie Joyce's club which has been one of the most dominant of Galway's football clubs for the past decade. A well produced book worth getting.

(Price £4.50 includes postage

from Pat Coen N.T., Killarney, Co. Galway).

4. **Famous All-Irelands** edited by Pat Courtney

This is a series of reports from the files of the *Irish Independent* of All-Ireland finals both football and hurling, 26 in all. The choice is a good one. This type of book is not my cup of tea but is a nice presentation with some good photos especially from latter years.

(Price £2.95 not incl. postage from Canavaun Books, 108, Sundrive Road, Dublin 12.)

5. **Roscommon Town G.A.A.-1889 A History 1983** by Michael Cassidy



The legendary Christy Ring holding the Liam McCarthy trophy following Cork's '46 triumph over Kilkenny.

This is a fine history of the G.A.A. in Roscommon Town. Hard-bound and well printed, clubs interested in compiling a club history should get a copy.

(Price £5.00 does not include postage from Michael Cassidy, - The Walk, Roscommon).

MY THIRD QUIZ BOOK

My *third* Gaelic Games Quizbook — the Centenary Year edition is on the way. Naturally enough it will be

fairly historical but it will have many photos and a whole set of personality quizzes such as "The Christy Ring Quiz" etc. I'll tell you more about it next issue.

PROGRAMME COLLECTORS CLUB

I know the fee is now £8.00 but for the host of excellent programmes you are going to get this year it is well worth it. All the programmes I have seen so far are excellent.

Seán Ó Laoire deserves credit for the Croke Park productions so far this year. The Railway Cup edition was fabulous.

The provincial final programmes which I have seen so far from Ulster, Connacht and Munster are tremendous. Let us hope the standard is maintained until the Australian Rules Trip is over. And the visit of the Aussies is an exciting venture and should do a lot for the game of Gaelic football, especially the skill of fetching which has become almost a lost art.

WICKLOW PROGRAMMES

Finally before we get to "The Mailbag" I received two excellent programmes from old friend Jimmy Dunne of Wicklow for Wicklow's Centenary Cup games played at home. They are very good and good value for £1.51 incl. postage from Jimmy Dunne, 2 Upper Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. All you programme lovers are urged to get them.

Jimmy and Wicklow deserve credit for putting in that little bit of extra effort for the Centenary Competitions.

I met old correspondent Patrick Lee of Keady who visited my home during the Summer and got a whole host of programmes he needed. Nice to meet you Patrick.

THE MAILBAG

Thomas White, Ardcahan, Dunmanway, Co. Cork (aged 10):

"The front cover photo in the Spring edition wasn't John Evans. I think it is Jimmy Kerrigan. My father remembers you playing football".

(Thanks Thomas for the correction. J.M.)

Nuala Redmond, Redcastle, Mount-rath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois:

"I was at the Centenary finals. Laois didn't do themselves justice. John Taylor is a splendid hurler.

The *Sunday Game* is marvellous. I love the games from the archives. The players of today are every bit as good as those of yesteryear."

(The camerawork was not as good then Nuala. J.M.)

Tony Jordan, Gortnagoyme, Dunmore, Co. Galway:

"I loved the Connacht final programme."

(It sold well. Some 6500 were sold. But 22,000 of the Munster S.H.C. final were sold. Great selling. J.M.)

Odran Mulholland, 24, Drumalare Park, Newry, Co. Down:

is an avid collector

(You should join the Programme Collector's Club in Croke Park. J.M.)

Finbarr Ryan, Latagh, Attymon, Athenry, Co. Galway:

is looking for Connacht final programmes from 1971 to 1983.

Charles Heywood, 1 Blagdon Place, Bath, Avon, England.

pays this tribute in verse to Christy Ring —

Christy Ring — God rest him!

A legend of our time,
On the Gaelic fields of Erin
Bestowed his skills sublime . . .

Unrivalled with the camán,
Unchallenged for the crown
He nobly won as Champion
In battles of renown . . .

From the '30's to the '60's
He paved his way to fame,
His camán twinkling like the
stars

In the forefront of each game . . .

Like Cuchulainn, and the Red
Branch Knights,

He vanquished friend and foe,
In the art of hurling on the green,

Fair land, where Shamrocks
grow . . .

A tribute to our hero —
The pride of Cloyne and Cork,
The maestro of Glen Rovers,
And the idol of New York . . .

May the crossed-camáns and
sliothar

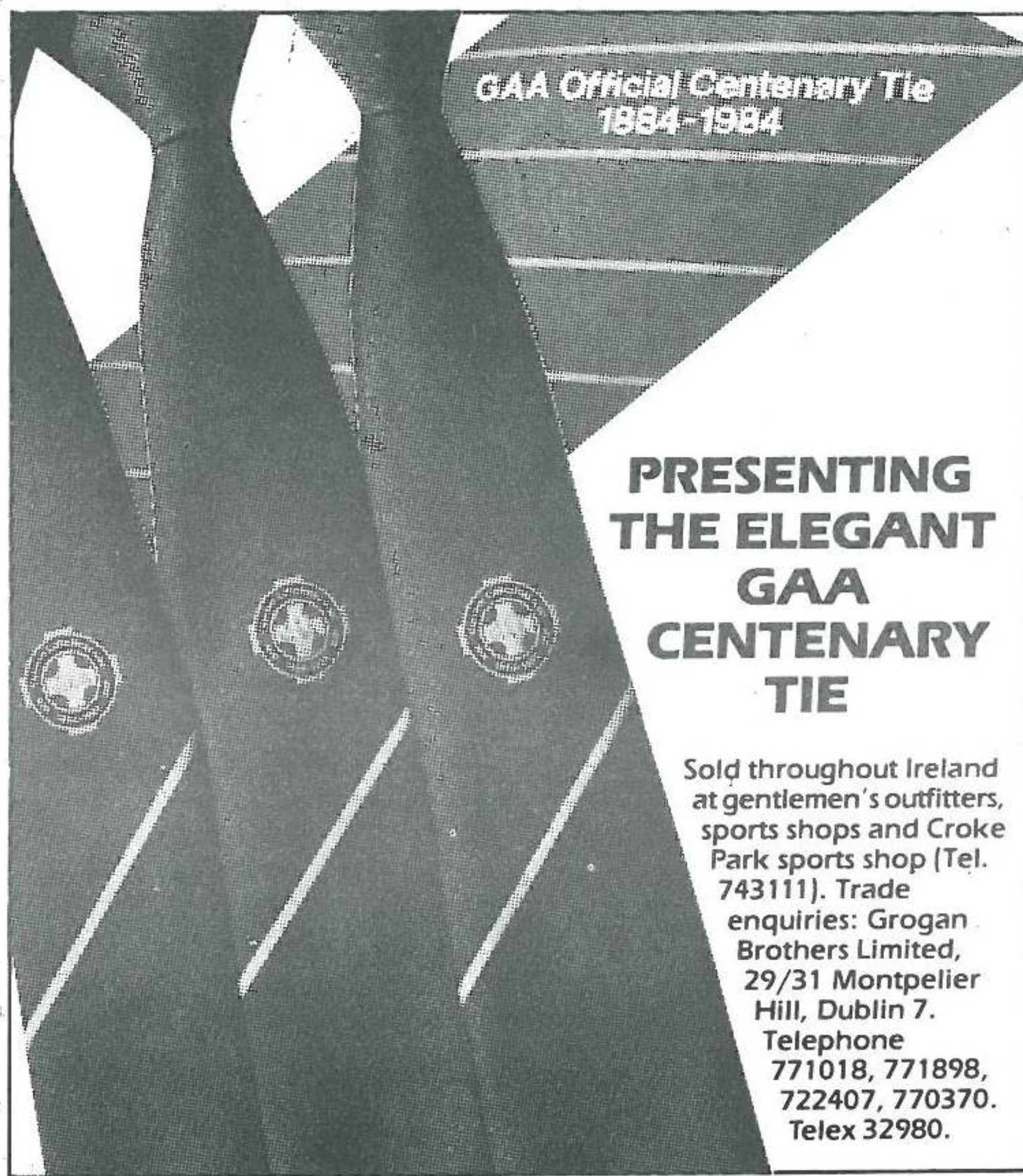
The emblem of "Our Boys",
Forever with the Green Flag wave
'Neath sunlit Irish skies.

T. Murphy, our old friend from Rathmore, Co. Cork, wants a Donegal G.A.A. programme, especially one of their S.F.C. win in Ulster v Armagh, Monaghan or Cavan a year ago.

Paul Murray, Hodson Bay, Athlone (aged 9):

writing about my book *Action Replay*

●OVERLEAF



OFFICIAL GAA CENTENARY TIE.

ALSO AVAILABLE

*Club, School and Company Ties
Club and School striped scarves
Lambswool Pullovers with personal emblem*

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liked best the section dealing with the 1978 Connacht S.F. final between Galway and Roscommon which the latter won 2-7 to 0-9. "I hope you will write more books".

(As I have already written another Quizbook is on the way Paul. J.M.)

Finally, a long letter from my most loyal correspondent:
Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Road, Bath, England BA1 6JG ...

who sent me on programmes of the London v Galway S.F.C. and London v Westmeath S.H.C. games (thanks J.M.):

"Congratulations on "Action Replay". It's a gem. I enjoyed Chapter IV best. Personal recollections, such as your own of Connacht finals, make the most

interesting reading. I will treasure the book.

"Gaelic Games in Leinster" which I received from Paddy Flanagan is another excellent publication and a "must" for any G.A.A. follower's library.

I have received several yearbooks, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Clare, Galway, Kilkenny, Dublin, Roscommon and Down. Of those I've seen the Clare one is probably the best closely followed by Tipperary, Limerick and Down. Sadly there was no Westmeath Yearbook this year.

The publication which gave me most enjoyment is the "Gaelsport" G.A.A. Youth Annual for 1984 which a good friend sent to me. It is far superior to any soccer annual available here in Britain.

I have already received some 1984 programmes. I am pleased to see a marked improvement in this years progs. Liam O'Donnchu and his

committee are to be complimented on the excellent programmes produced for the N.H.L. semi-finals and final. I was particularly impressed by the use of colour in the two programmes and in other programmes I have received such as the Railway Cup and club football championship finals. I hope this trend continues throughout 1984".

That's it from Junior Desk until Football Final time. Keep writing on any topic. It's time we gave a few prizes out again.

In the next issue I'll review the recent issue of Owen McCann's latest volume of "The Greats of Gaelic Games". I'm noticing too the rise to football fame of the Bonnar family from Doochary - Declan and Co. who used to write regularly to this column. Please write on any topic to Junior Desk, Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Slán.

ANSWERS

●FROM PAGE 35

HOW DO YOU RATE

Now to see how YOU measure on the points scale. The total number of points on offer: 195. An excellent rating for a return of 160 plus. Very good for 125 to 160. Good for 100 to 125. Now for the tell tale total: **Your over-all score:**

THURLES SCENE

1. All Saints Day, November 1, 1884. 2. Meelick, of Galway, were the defeated finalists, but Galway will suffice for a correct answer. 3. False. Cork beat Limerick at Thurles in 1979 and their bid for four titles in a row was ended by Galway in the

semi-final. Cork had a big win over Waterford in 1982 at the Tipperary venue, but were shocked by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final. 4. 1971. 5. Seven goals — Cork 4-15; Tipperary 3-14. 6. Thurles Sarsfields. 7. Cork and Offaly, and the Munster side won by 3-11 to 2-8.

DECADES OF HIGHLIGHTS

1. 1931, and Cork were eventual champions. 2. They won four All-Ireland senior hurling titles in succession from 1941 to 1944 inclusive. 3. 1943, and that was Antrim's solitary appearance in a hurling final at senior level. 4. Two: 1955 and 1956. 5. The game was between Wexford and Galway and was the first in 31 seasons in which Munster was not represented. 6. 1954, when Cork beat Wexford. 7. 1969. 8. Galway appeared in the finals of 1975 and 1979, and lost each time to Kilkenny. 9. Three points — 2-15 to 3-9. 10. Offaly recorded 2-12.

PICTURE SPECIAL

1. Kieran Purcell (Kilkenny). 2. The 1972, 1974 and 1975 All-Ireland championship winning teams. 3. Windgap, but he was playing with Young Irelands in Dublin when he won his 1975 medal. 4. Noel Casey (Clare). 5. He was full forward in the team that beat Kilkenny in 1977 for the county's first title since 1945, and he held the No. 11 position when the title was retained in 1978. 5. Sixmilebridge.

CENTENARY REVIEW

1. Down, who beat Antrim in the final. 2. Cork, conquerors of Tipperary in the final. 3. Three points — 2-11 to 1-11. 4. Cork beat Offaly and Laois outscored Galway. 5. St. Finbarr's Farranferris, Cork. 6. Tipperary lost to Limerick in the Munster minor final. 7. Kerry, beaten by a goal. 8. Sean O'Leary. 9. Kinnitty. 10. Molloy was among the substitutes at the start, but went into the game.



TOM CASHMAN **Cork**

An All-Ireland minor medalist in 1974 in both hurling and football, Tom is walking in a great tradition. His father, Mick, is a former Cork and Munster goalkeeping ace in

hurling.

Tom has been concentrating on hurling since he had an early call up to the senior inter-county ranks in 1976. He is a versatile hurler, and has starred at midfield and in the half back line.

It was at midfield that he won his two All-Ireland senior medals (1977 and 1978) and he played there on his

only appearance in a Railway Cup final winning Munster team (1981).

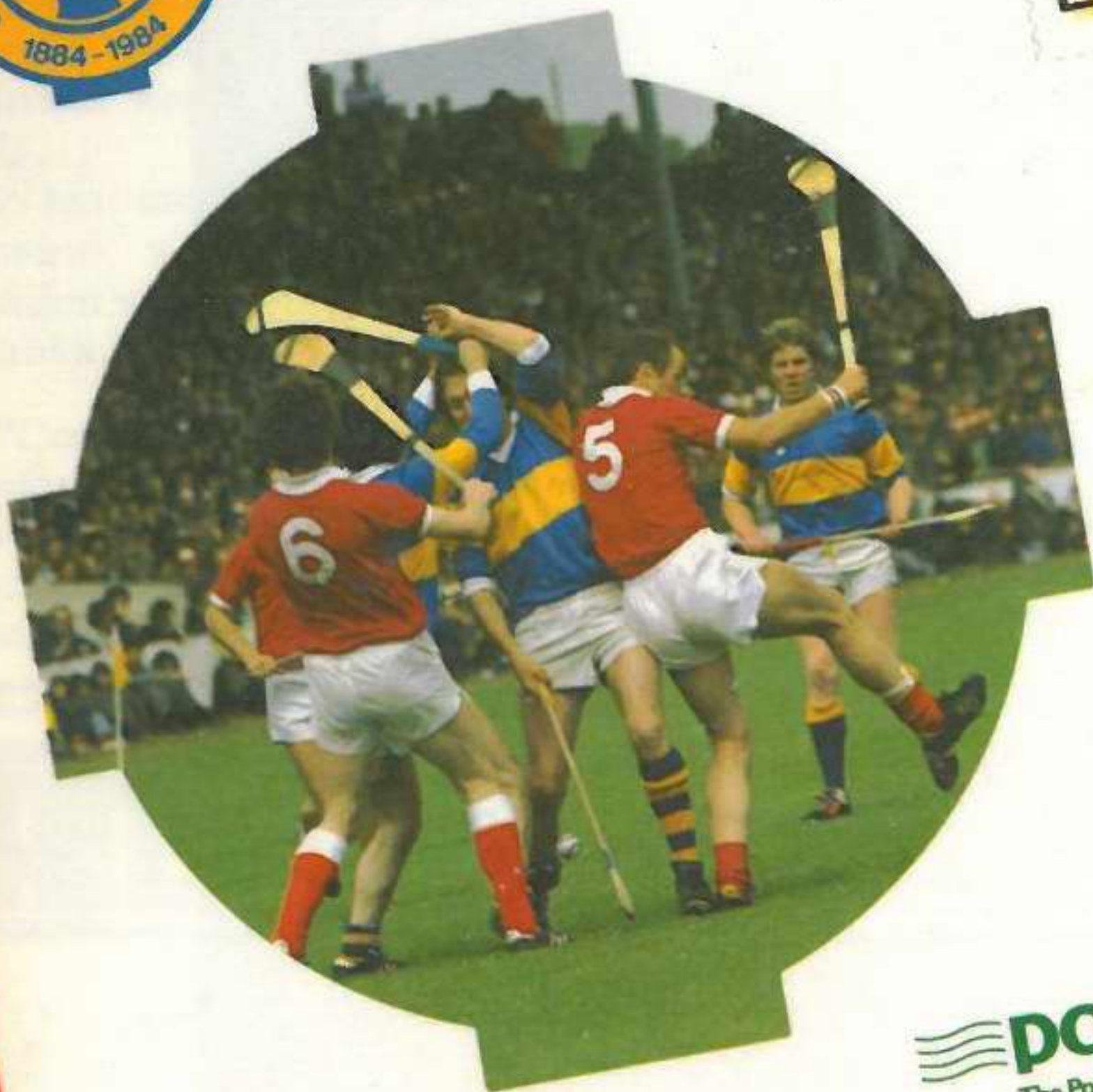
This Blackrock club man was 27 at the end of August, and he is 5ft. 8ins. tall. He has won three Bank of Ireland All Stars trophies and has enjoyed much success as well with his club.

The record in this regard includes an All-Ireland senior medal in 1978 at midfield.

SOUVENIR COVER



Comóradh an Chéid



ÉIRE CLÚDACH CHÉAD LAE



One hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association 1884-1984

The two stamps illustrated above will be issued by An Post on Thursday 23rd August 1984 to commemorate the Centenary of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

To mark this special occasion, An Post, are also issuing a pictorial souvenir cover, featuring the two stamps cancelled with the Centenary crest postmark. The stamps and commemorative cover can be obtained by completing the order form below and forwarding remittance to the Controller, Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Dublin 1 or by calling to the Philatelic Sales Office, G.P.O. Arcade, Dublin 1.

THE CONTROLLER, PHILATELIC BUREAU, G.P.O. DUBLIN 1

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