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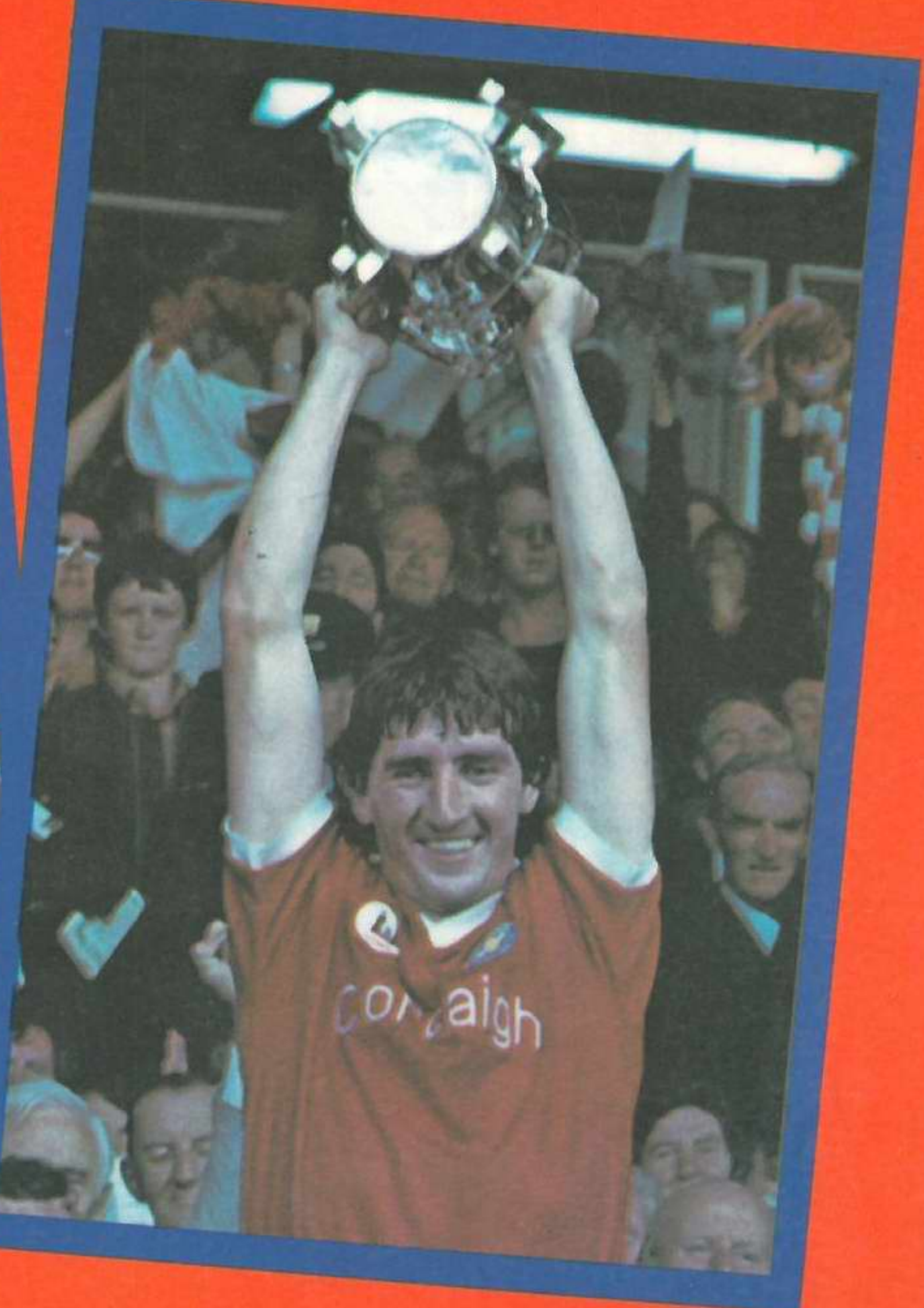
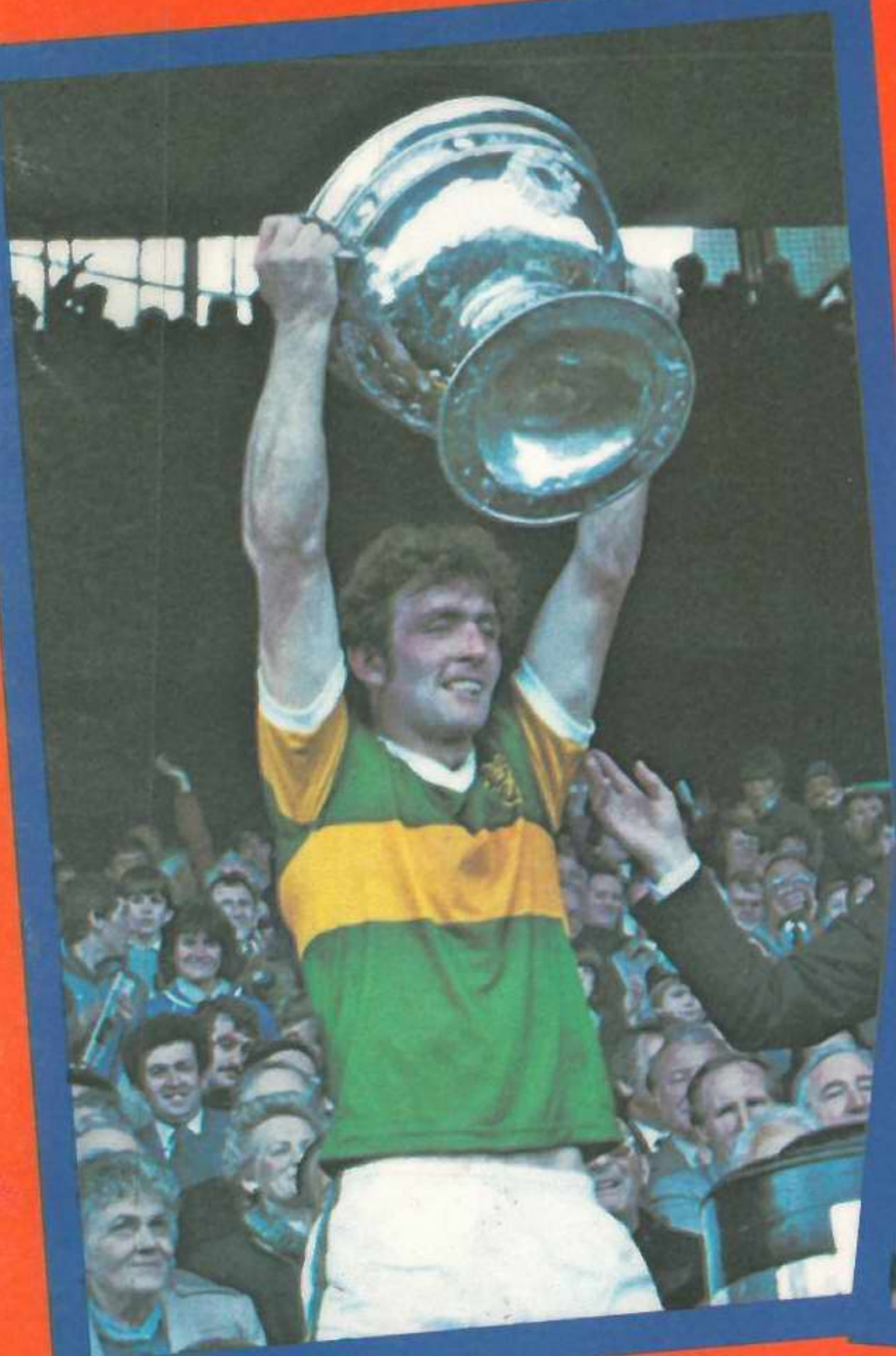
# GAELIC SPORT

THE CHOICE OF THE STARS

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE SINCE 1958

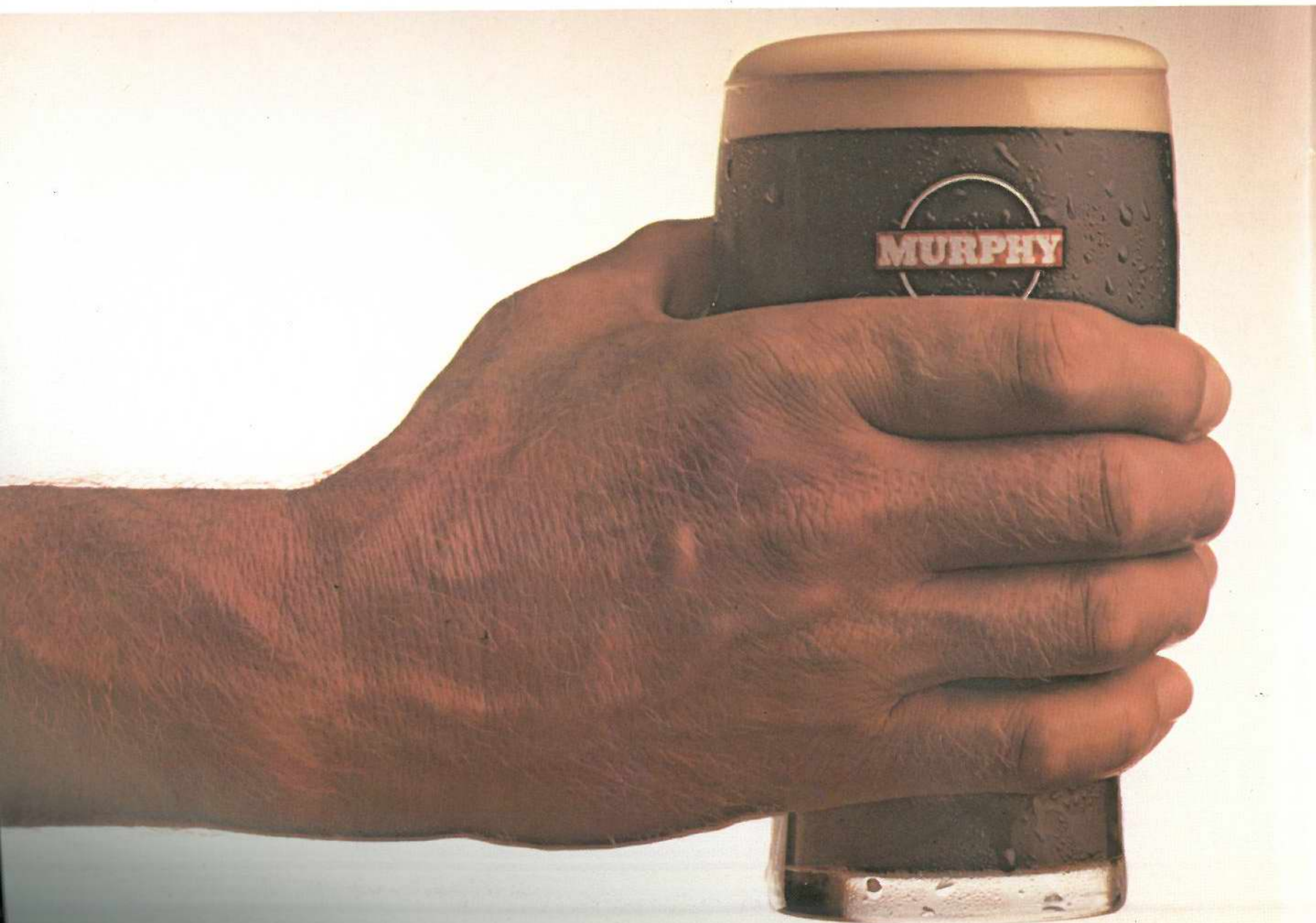
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1984

SIXTY PENCE (TAX INCL.)



*Centenary Year was a memorable one for Munster*

**YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO PLAY IN THE  
MATCH TO  
TASTE VICTORY**



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## COVER PHOTO

**O**UR front cover features the two winning captains, John Fenton of Cork and Ambrose O'Donovan of Kerry, holding the Liam McCarthy and Sam Maguire cups aloft in triumph following their tremendous victories in September.

# GAELIC SPORT

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Vol. 27 No. 5

November-December, 1984.



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# CENTURY OF PROGRESS

AS the curtain comes down on a memorable Centenary Year for the Association, one could highlight many outstanding events that took place during the past twelve months — the Centenary Exhibition in Dublin, the All-Ireland hurling finals at Semple Stadium, the arrival of the Australians, the number of publications from various counties, the Siompoisian An Chéid at U.C.C. early in October.

As these events, and others, came one after the other with such rapidity, one had not time to absorb or appreciate the amount of hard work and effort that went into each event. Now, in these dark days of Winter, when the armchair by the fireside is much more inviting than the football and hurling in muddy and cold, damp conditions, it is possible to reflect more rationally on the past twelve months.

Few of those present in Thurles in 1884 could really have envisaged the mighty movement they were setting in motion. Today, 100 years on, the G.A.A. has developed from being a purely sports oriented body — as originally chartered by the founders — to an organisation that, it is true to say, reaches into every nook and cranny of Irish life. It is difficult, in fact, to see a distinguishing line between the G.A.A. and Irish life, and Irish people.

The changes that have come about in the past century are many. Take, for example, communications.

Up to the late 'Forties, and even into the early 'Fifties, coverage in the daily papers was conspicuous by its nearly total absence. When such coverage took place, there appeared to be a condescending air in the presentation, and most of the contributors wrote under pseudonyms such as Mick O, Pat O, Taobh-Line, Referee or Onlooker.

Similarly in the world of commerce. Up to even more recent times, the Irish business world was oblivious to the G.A.A., and its role in the community.

The past year has served to underline the transformation that has come about in these fields.

The weeks leading up to All-Ireland finals now see blanket coverage of the games and the personalities, leading up to special supplements running up to 10 pages. There is saturation coverage as well on radio and TV.

As for the business aspect — sponsors are now queuing up to be seen to be associated with the G.A.A. through various forms of sponsorship.

These remarks are not intended to be a criticism of the media or of Irish business in general. Rather do they prove the simple fact that it has dawned on those in the media and commerce the importance of the G.A.A., and of its role in everyday Irish life.

As for the G.A.A. itself — the organisation cannot afford to rest on its laurels as the Centenary Year draws to a close. It should make every effort to cultivate and encourage — one hesitates to use the word manipulate — this vast reservoir of goodwill to consolidate and make even stronger the powerful body our Association has become.

One must always and ever be looking ahead, and in this ever changing world — from which Ireland is not immune — the G.A.A. must be ever alert to keep in step with opposing elements that can infiltrate — and contaminate — the Irish way of life, especially among the youth.

For make no mistake — the future of the G.A.A. depends on the youngsters of today. They will be the leaders of tomorrow, and one cannot over emphasise the importance of making our games, our culture, our language, indeed the values that were enshrined in the original charter in 1884 at Hayes Hotel, Thurles, even more attractive to Irish youth.

Ar Aghaid Leis An Obair!

*Tommy McQuaid*

**EDITOR**

# 1984 WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE



BY  
JOHN

## CORK — ALL IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS

**W**HAT a memorable year the Centenary season has proven for the South! Cork back on top of the tree in the All-Ireland senior hurling championship, and Kerry in a familiar role as proud holders of the Sam Maguire Cup.

Add in Munster's win in the Railway Cup hurling final last March, National League titles for Limerick hurlers and Kerry footballers, and Cork's victory in the Centenary final in hurling, and followers from Munster have certainly much to look back with delight on from 1984.

Cork's win over Offaly at Semple Stadium was particularly sweet. Not simply because the Leesiders beat Offaly, but that the success — and in the year that it was — helped greatly to soften the blow of the disappointments and heartbreak of the successive All-Ireland final defeats from Kilkenny in 1982 and 1983. Another loss would have brought the darkest cloud in years over Cork hurling.

The Cork hurlers, then, took on an extra challenge when they faced up to

the Leinster champions. It is not stretching the truth to say that the game was one they just had to win.

As we know now, they not only proved equal to the occasion, but had the most convincing of victories. Inspired by John Crowley at centre half back, Cork really took that game by the "scruff of the neck."

Admittedly, they were well held by a tenacious Offaly team in the opening half, and only led by a single point at the break. But they took control right from the start of the second half, and 1-6 in the opening eleven minutes without reply from Offaly set the Munster men firmly on course for their 25th title and first since 1978.

Power backed hurling, teamwork, individual performances and top class finishing, we saw all that and more from Cork as they marched to the most convincing of wins — 3-16 to 1-12. It was a disappointing game especially in view of the unique setting and the unique nature of the occasion.

Even so, there were many highlights. What about John

Crowley's performance? He gave what must rank as one of the best individual displays in a hurling final in a long time, and the Bishopstown club man's defensive play at its best was not only a joy to watch, but proved a major plank in fashioning the Cork success.

Then, there was the goal-getting techniques of Seanie O'Leary. Many before the game claimed that he had his best days long behind him, and that as a result he would not prove much of a threat to the Offaly back division.

The Youghal man silenced those critics in the best possible way. He showed what corner forward play is all about, and set the seal on the lesson by notching 2-1.

John Fenton proved a great captain, and scored seven valuable points as well, and Tony O'Sullivan sparkled in attack as he collected his second All-Ireland medal in a week. The previous Sunday he helped Cork to win the national under-21 football championship.

Yes, a great finale to a year that established Cork without doubt as hurling's top team of the season.

# YEAR EVERYTHING WENT SOUTH



## KERRY — ALL IRELAND FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

What can one say of Kerry? Well, for a start, when did a Kerry team start in an outsiders' role in any All-Ireland senior football final to quite the same degree as their talented company of campaigners did in the showdown with defending champions Dublin? To read some of the papers one thought that Kerry, for all their proven championship flair for finding the right answers on the big day, were wasting their time in coming to Dublin to throw down the gauntlet to the Dubs.

### **What a ridiculous approach to a Kerry outing in an All-Ireland final!**

If experiences over the years have proven anything, it is that the Kingdom are the team they all have to beat in the showpiece game, irrespective of whether Kerry are in the position of champions or challengers to defending champions.

So, it was in the Centenary Year final. Kerry just could not be contained. It was as if, like Cork, they were determined to make amends for previous disappointments — in their case the late defeats from Offaly in

the 1982 football final, and from Cork in last year's Munster decider.

And, what a day for Pat Spillane to prove beyond question that the great really do "come back." His display was sheer magic, and some of the points he scored in that game were as good as any seen in any match at any venue in any era.

His brother, Tom at centre half back, Eoin Liston in attack, and Jack O'Shea, with the type of thoughtful, deliberate game that caught many by surprise, but still was very effective, were others who had Kerry flying from first to final whistle, and All-Ireland champions long before the game ended.

Kerry undoubtedly were well worth their win. Indeed, they took the title in more decisive fashion than the scoreline of 0-14 to 1-6 would suggest. It was a victory for players who had the utter confidence in their own ability, and the belief to get out there and turn on the skills of which they knew themselves they were capable of.

It was the pay-off for progressive football, for sheer commitment, and for dedication over a long period. It was as good a win by any Kerry team in chalking up what now ranks as a tally of 28 All-Ireland senior championships.

Yes, Kerry played their part in writing the concluding chapter to a memorable year for the South. What's more, on the evidence of what we saw in the latest championship, the counties with designs on knocking Cork and Kerry from their thrones in 1985 have outside tasks on their hands.

It is always a dangerous practice to look too far ahead. There are too many imponderables . . . too much can happen from a loss of form by key players to injury problems to take a firm stand with any side for a title months away.

Nevertheless, I still maintain that it is not being unduly bold in sticking out one's neck at this juncture and forecasting another double for Cork and Kerry in 1985!

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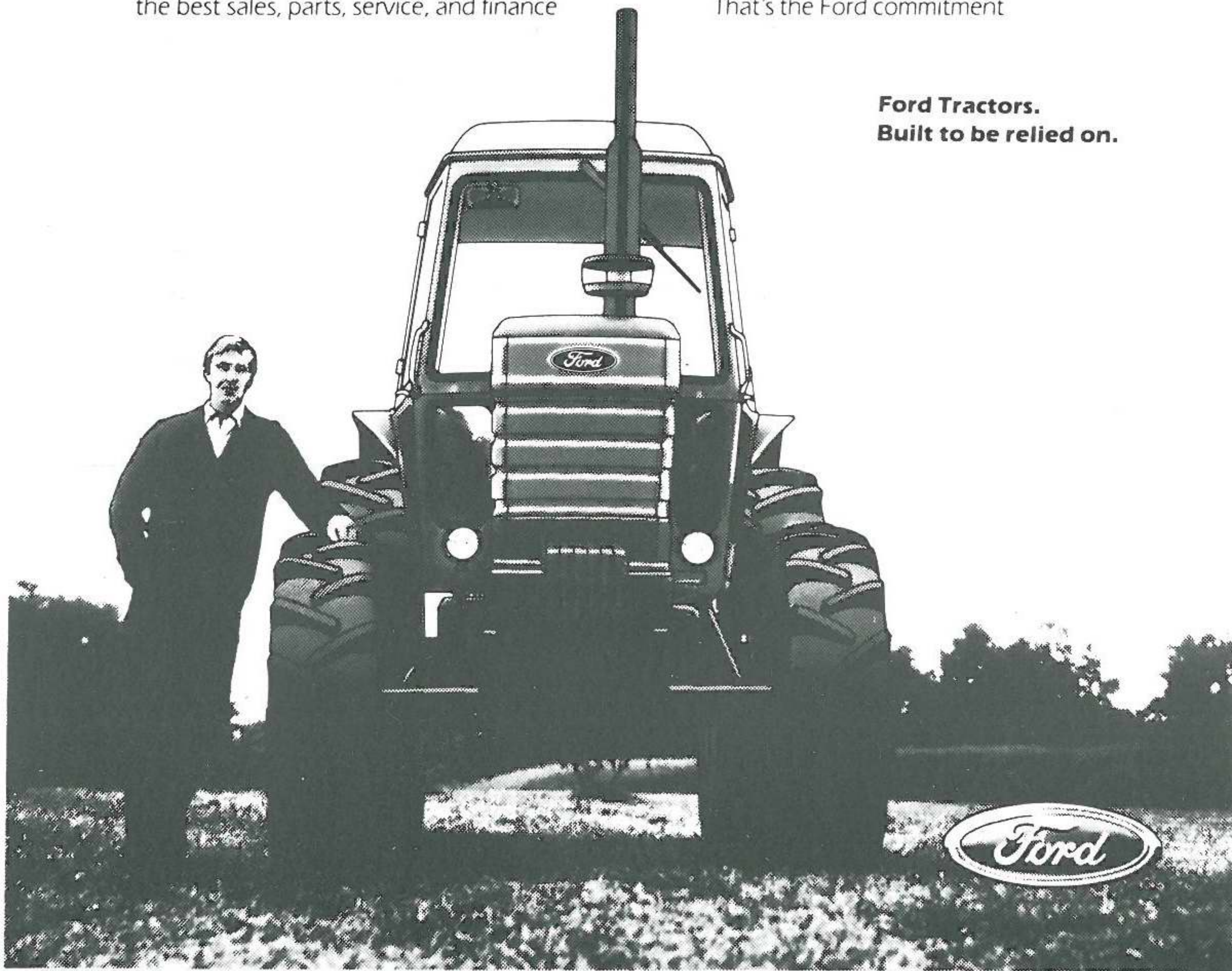
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## PRESIDENT PADDY

# THIS SON OF KILKENNY WILL ALWAYS WALK TALL

•BY TOMMY McQUAID

THE G.A.A. has been fortunate over the years in its choice of President. Remarkably, each man seemed to be suited to his own time. Each, also, made his own unique contribution to the advancement of the Association during his term of office.

One cannot comment on the majority of these men on any personal terms. At the same time it is easy to reflect on just a few at random.

Dan O'Rourke (Roscommon) was President during the era that saw the All-Ireland senior football final played in New York in 1947.

Seamus O Riain (Tipperary) held the Chief Executive's post when the first tangible links were forged in a meaningful way with Australia, through the arrival of the Rules football team in this country in 1967. He, too, initiated "Lá na gClub".

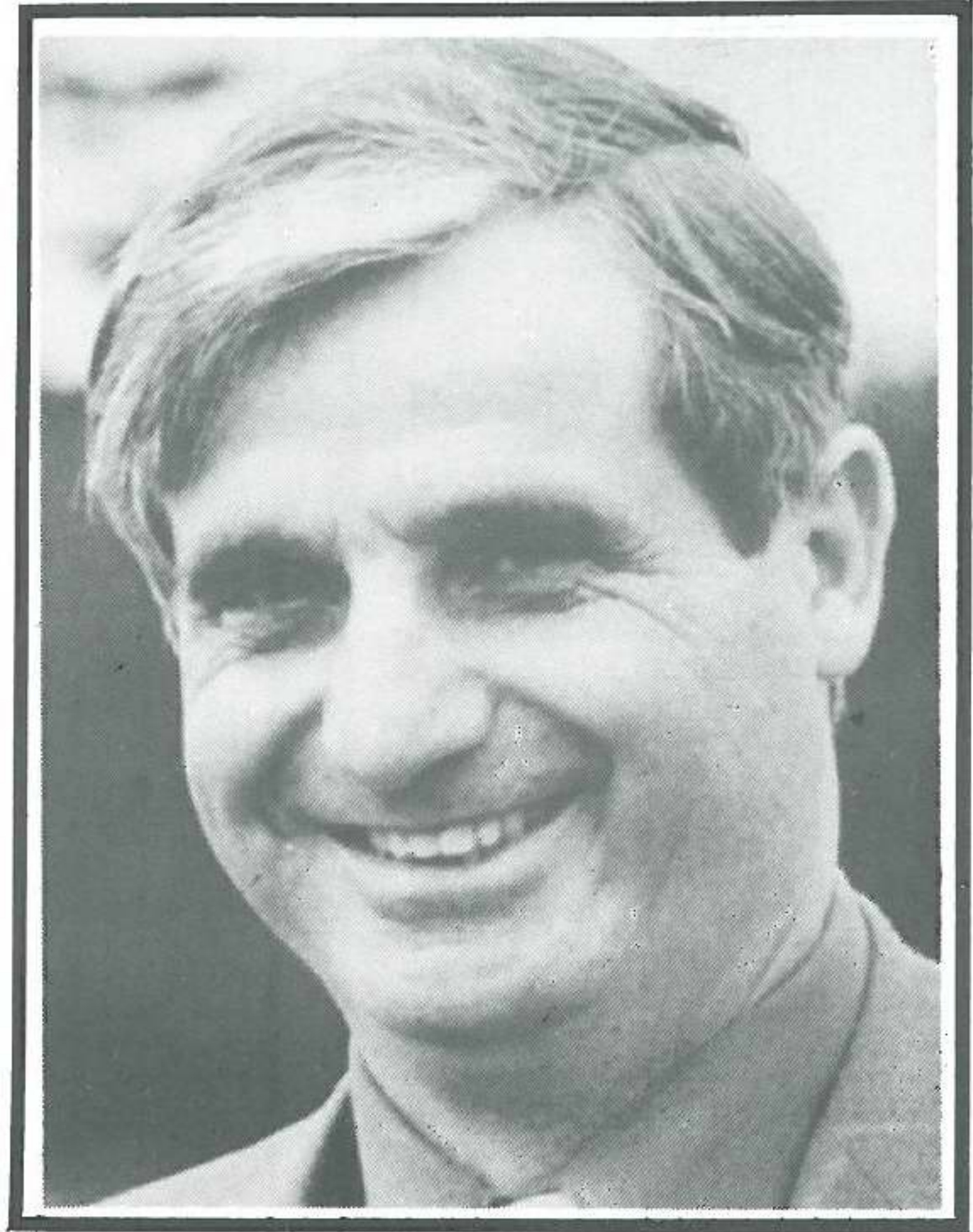
Pat Fanning (Waterford) was President from 1970 to 1973, a really momentous period in G.A.A. history. During that period, the All Stars promotions were launched, and the 66-year-old Rule 27, prohibiting members of the G.A.A. from playing, attending or promoting Rugby, Soccer, Hockey and Cricket, was removed from the Official Guide at the 1971 Congress in Belfast.

One could continue in this vein, but suffice now to say that the records of the Presidents over the years speak for themselves, and that each leader, in his own way, enriched the Association, and helped to build up the movement into the great Organisation that it is today.

Next Easter, the Presidency of Pádraig Ó Bogaigh expires, and the curtain will then come down on what has been one of the most successful reigns in the history of the G.A.A.

**Paddy Buggy — to use the understatement — is a remarkable man. Someone once said: "Great is the man who can walk or sup with Kings, and yet not lose the common touch." This son of Slieverue is just such a man.**

Anyone who came in contact with Paddy during his term of office — and this must surely include every



PADDY BUGGY

member of the Association — will be witness to the dignity that he brought to the Presidency, and yet, at one and the same time, he always remained the one man.

The writer was fortunate to have been present at many of the functions at which Paddy presided, and whether the occasion was the State Banquet at Dublin Castle, or the opening of a new park at Kilbarrack in the Dublin suburbs, Paddy was Paddy. No airs and graces, no humbug — no artificiality, no hypocrisy.

A hurler of no mean repute in his day — he won an All-Ireland senior medal in 1957 — it would have been a fitting climax to his Presidency had he emulated the feat of Con Murphy in 1976-78 by presenting the Liam McCarthy Cup to his native Kilkenny for the third successive year in September last.

Ironically, it was his near neighbours, Wexford, who nipped that treble in the bud.

**In this day and age when our country is being torn apart by sectional interests, with more and more striving for a bigger and bigger share of the national cake for selfish reasons, Paddy Buggy's unselfish and devoted approach to the term of President was even further enhanced when we read recently in a daily paper that since taking up office he has not cost the taxpayer one single penny.**

This, despite the fact that his work as President has taken him to the U.S. on three or four visits, to Australia, across the channel, and countless functions and gatherings up and down the country week in, week

•TO PAGE 8



**I**RISH Life Building Society recently hosted a lunch for the Dublin Minor Football Team, winners of the All-Ireland Title and pictured from left to right are: — Des Byrne, General Manager, Irish Life Building Society, Paul Clarke, Captain, Dublin Minor Team, Don Cotter, Chairman, Dublin County Board, Leslie Andrews, Vice-Chairman, Irish Life Building Society.

●FROM PAGE 7

out.

The fact that Paddy devoted such a vast amount of time to the responsibilities of his position as President, and still clocked in the full compliment of hours over the same period in his employment as a Local Authority Officer with Kilkenny County Council, is an indication of the sterling qualities of the man.

More than that, it is a headline to the rest of us . . . this

least, his great sense of humour?

The fund of goodwill that Paddy has won for the G.A.A. during his Presidency is incalculable.

This writer is proud to have been associated with Paddy during his term as President — never once did he refuse a request to contribute an article to this magazine — even when his time was at a premium.

One can glean an insight into his courteous nature by one generous gesture. On the eve of the All-Ireland

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**“THE FUND OF GOODWILL THAT PADDY  
 BUGGY HAS WON FOR THE G.A.A. DURING  
 HIS PRESIDENCY IS INCALCULABLE”**  
 ~~~~~

is the type of dedication that Ireland needs if the country is to emerge successfully from the current recession.

When the history of the great Presidents of the G.A.A. comes to be written in 2084 A.D., it is conceivable that Paddy Buggy will not be recalled for any extraordinary happening during his Presidency. But what an awful oversight that would be by the historians-to-be. How does one measure sincerity, dedication, humility, conscientiousness, and last but by no means

football final — surely the busiest time in any President’s year — he could still find the time to sit down and write a letter of sympathy to the writer on suffering a family bereavement.

There have been great Presidents in the past, and we have no doubt that, equally, there will be great Presidents in the years ahead. Even so, this son of Kilkenny will always walk tall.

A credit to Kilkenny, to the G.A.A., and to his country.

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## A PROFILE

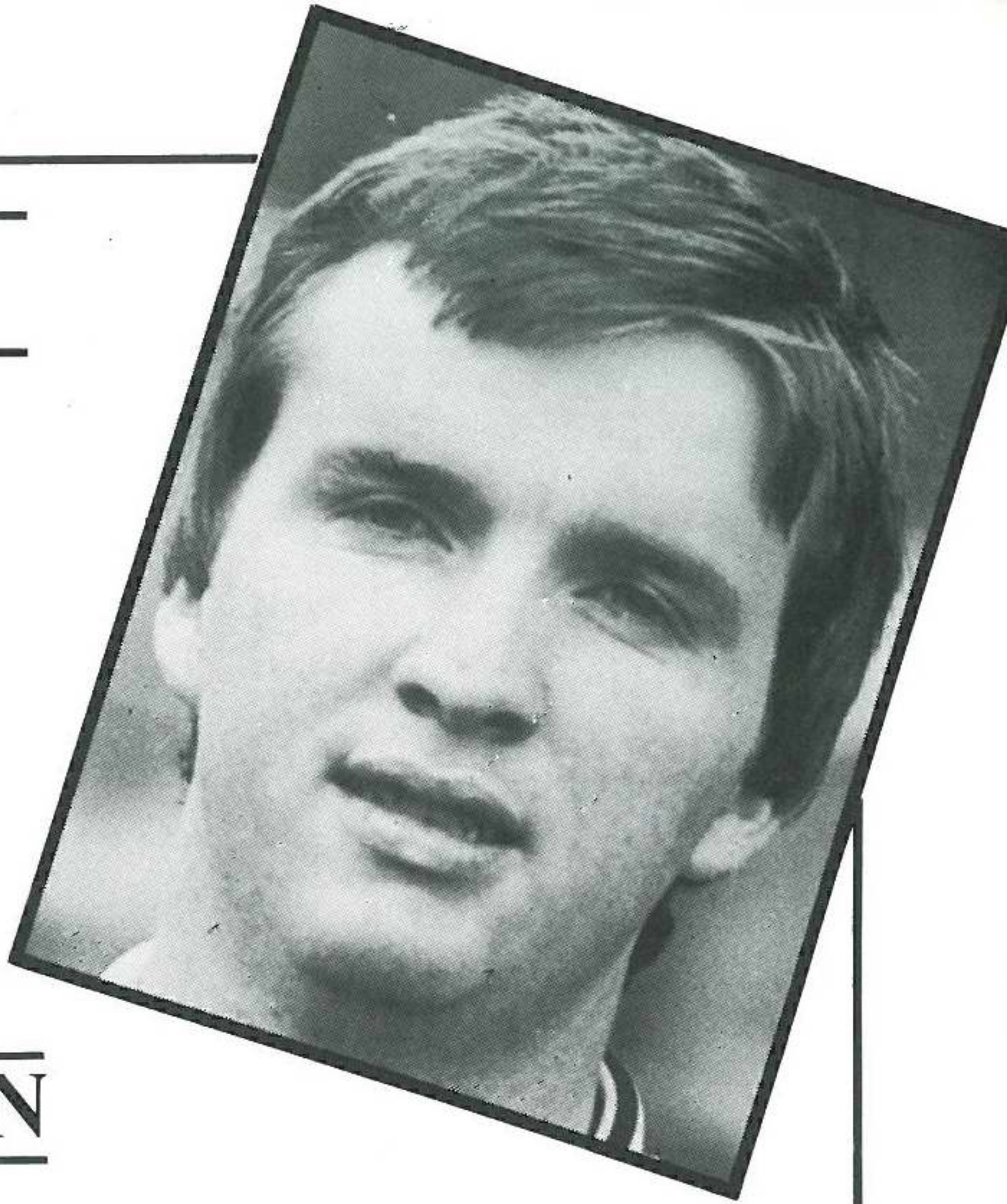
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### A SPARKLING TONY O'SULLIVAN FINALLY SILENCES 'THE KNOCKERS'

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### BY NOEL HORGAN

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**T**ONY O'SULLIVAN was a very relieved young man at the end of the '84 All-Ireland hurling decider in Thurles. His sparkling display against Offaly had finally silenced the knockers who for two years had unfairly insisted that he lacked the strength and steel to survive at the highest level in the hurling world.

It is fair to say that one of the more regrettable traits of the Irish character, arguably more pronounced in Cork folk, is an eagerness to pull down our own, especially those who have achieved or seem destined to achieve the pinnacle of proficiency in any particular field.

Several of the Cork team which so convincingly captured last September's Centenary All-Ireland final had sufficient cause to substantiate this comment. Following Cork's failures to Kilkenny in '82 and '83, for instance, Jimmy Barry-Murphy — as captain of the team — bore the brunt of the fans' anger, despite the fact that his immense qualities of skill and leadership were instrumental in getting the Rebels to those finals in the first place.

John Crowley, defensive hero of this year's All-Ireland win, was castigated by many as a spent force when, out of position, he received a roasting from Billy Fitzpatrick in the '83 decider.

Sean O'Leary, whose goal-grabbing feats were invaluable on the rocky road to ultimate honours this season, has had his inclusion on the Cork panel frequently questioned since he developed weight problems following an illness in 1977, while John Fenton's struggle to establish himself on Cork's first fifteen — due as much to selectorial insanity than his own shortcomings — made him a much-maligned figure for several years.

We had little doubt but that the aforementioned quartet possessed sufficient maturity to ignore the cynics and that they would eventually set the record straight. We feared, however, for Tony O'Sullivan.

He was, after all, an impressionable 19 year-old when condemned and could be forgiven if, subconsciously at least, he believed that the charges levelled against him bore some degree of truth. Tony O'Sullivan's 'crime' occurred in the '82 All-Ireland final.

Cork came to Croke Park that year, having captured provincial honours with unprecedented ease and were hot favourites to take the Liam McCarthy Cup and Tony O'Sullivan, brilliant in the Munster campaign, was expected to play a leading role in attack.

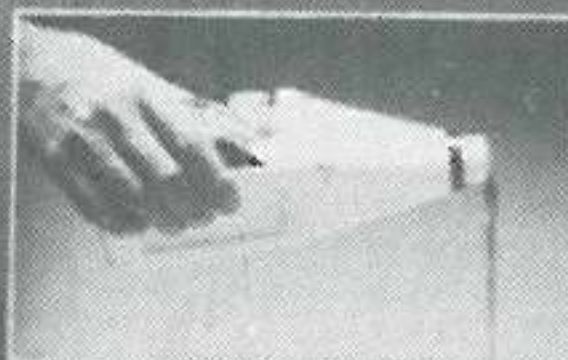
His sporting world came crashing down around him, however, as Cork failed dismally to Kilkenny and Tony was comprehensively mastered by the vastly experienced defender Paddy Prendergast. Looking around for scapegoats afterwards the less discerning Cork fans found in Tony O'Sullivan an easy target. Yet Cork's and Tony's collapse in that final was easy enough to explain.

With Limerick surprised by Waterford in the provincial semi-final Cork had marched through Munster at the expense of below average opposition. Consequently the smoothness of their passage to the All-Ireland was deceptive and left them with a false feeling of invincibility when they faced the wily Kilkenny men.

When Kilkenny successfully resisted Cork's early efforts to stamp their authority on the proceedings, the Leesiders,

●TO PAGE 11

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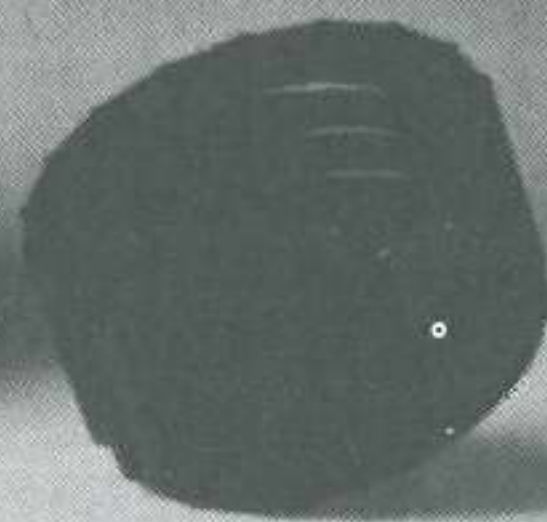
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Tony O'Sullivan in action during the '84 All-Ireland final. Tony rose to the occasion magnificently and adorned the final with his subtle skills.

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●FROM PAGE 9

psychologically unequipped to cope, lost ground rapidly as the game progressed. All-Ireland neophyte Tony O'Sullivan was predictably less prepared than most when things began to go wrong. And receiving a knock and having a point rather dubiously disallowed in the early stages, his confidence slumped, his immaturity became glaringly exposed and he was unable to make an impact afterwards.

Tony received a chastening lesson that day but there was every reason to suspect that he would benefit from it. Even against suspect opposition his total of 26 points amassed over three games in his first Munster campaign suggested that he was a forward of exceptional potential. The knockers were not prepared to make allowances for Tony's inexperience, however, and they prematurely dismissed him.

Illness hindered Tony's development in 1983 and so the memory of his '82 failure not only lingered but became enlarged with time. Eyebrows were raised, therefore, when he made the panel for this year's Munster final, but Tony more than justified his inclusion as, introduced late in the Tipp game, he grabbed the equalising goal and played a part in Sean O'Leary's match-winning score.

His contribution then was not sufficient to earn him a complete pardon and, while conceding that he was a handy player to have on the bench, the critics suggested that he would be unable to pay his way over a full game.

Tony O'Sullivan was under enormous pressure therefore when picked on the Cork team for the Centenary

final. It was, after all, his first full championship outing with Cork since the '82 decider but, having waited so long to wipe his slate clean, Tony was determined not to let the chance slip.

**It is history now that Tony O'Sullivan rose to the challenge magnificently and adorned the All-Ireland final with his subtle skills. Displaying uncanny ability to find freedom, against Offaly's normally tenacious wing-back Aidan Fogarty, Tony picked off six points from play to earn the R.T.E. 'Man of the Match' award. His elusiveness and accuracy that day was, to my mind, reminiscent of former Tipp great Jimmy Doyle in his prime.**

By the end of the match, Tony had well and truly buried the spectre of '82 and with his reputation redeemed he is entitled to relax and can now face the future with renewed confidence.

Tony O'Sullivan first came to prominence when, at 16, he won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal in 1979. All-Ireland minor and Under 21 football medals followed in 1981, an Under 21 hurling honour in '82 but 1984 has proved to be his most rewarding year to date. Indeed, besides a senior hurling medal, Tony captured another Under 21 football trophy last September.

Incidentally, Cork's historic win over Offaly earned Tony O'Sullivan the distinction of being the first member of Na Piarsaigh club to win All-Ireland senior honours on the field of play, although Donal 'Fox' Sheehan captured a Celtic Cross as a substitute in 1966. Another Na Piarsaigh star Roger Touhy played on the unsuccessful 1969 team at Croke Park.

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**BETTER VALUE**

# THIS IS NO GREAT KERRY TEAM

## GULF BETWEEN KERRY AND THE REST IS NOT AS WIDE AS MANY SUGGEST

BY FRANK COOGAN

I ALWAYS believed, without being conceited about it, that I was a good judge of football. Now, I am not so sure. The reason is all the talk I have heard since the All-Ireland final about this "great Kerry team".

I did not think Kerry were anywhere near greatness against the Dubs. Indeed, the outstanding impression that I brought away from Croke Park after the All-Ireland final was that Kerry were moderate enough, and that the gulf separating the 1984 finalists and the rest of the counties was not nearly as wide as so many maintained.

Kerry deserved their win, of that there can be no doubt. Nevertheless, I thought their overall performance was moderate enough.

I have not forgotten Pat Spillane and his game of a lifetime. Nor am I overlooking the brilliance of his brother Tom, who in my opinion has not received nearly enough praise for his contribution to the win. I thought he was quite superb at centre half. Not so spectacular as his brother, but none the less effective for that. Ambrose O'Donovan did well on his All-Ireland senior debut and with the added burden of the captaincy.

But after that, what had we got? For a start, Kerry lacked the all round power, flair and pace of the four-in-a-row teams, and they had a few weak links that should have been exploited by Dublin.

Then it seems to be overlooked in the chorus about the Kerry greatness that the team failed to score a goal in the final. That is a poor reflection on a county famed for forwards schooled to perfection in their own match-

winning brand of play. Some points that one would have been expected to have been effortlessly chalked up by the Southerners were missed in untypical Kerry fashion.

In this regard, Eoin Liston shot only three points, while newcomer John Kennedy led the returns for Kerry with just five points, a number from frees.

**Not then, a vintage showing from the Munster attack, if one takes away the dazzle of Pat Spillane.**

A little probing like this then makes one appreciate just a little

better why Kerry, for all their possession, did not win by at least ten points, rather than five.

Don't get me wrong. Kerry were the masters. From early in the match I just could not see them being beaten by a Dublin team that was but a pale shadow of former days, but the fact that, as I have commented on above, they did not win more handsomely gives credence to my view that this is by no means a great team.

### PAR EXCELLENCE

At the same time one must hand it



**The dazzling Pat Spillane in action. Pat had the game of a lifetime in this year's All-Ireland Final and was credited by most observers with the man of the match award.**

to Kerry, and the men behind the team, particularly that team manager and trainer par excellence, Mick O'Dwyer. They must have wondered just what was going on in the football world coming up to the final in view of the solid support for Dublin.

Many in Gaelic Games, and some of the more famed at that, just did not appear to give Kerry a chance at all. That was a mistake. Whatever I have written about Kerry above cannot cloud the fact that the Kingdom must never be dismissed in any final in any grade of football.

Against that background, the Kerry mentors, not for the first time, laid their plans well. I would suggest that O'Dwyer outfoxed Kevin Heffernan, the man who has done so much for Dublin football, deserves the greatest possible credit for his contribution, and whom many before the game felt would play the trump cards in the final.

Kerry put the much vaunted Dublin half forward line in a tight grip. This sector, from which much was expected, just could not exercise a dominant influence.

Then, there was midfield. Despite the presence of Jack O'Shea, universally regarded as the greatest man in the area, there was strong pre-final support for the Dubs in this area.

Yet, while O'Shea had on the face of it a somewhat ordinary game for him, Kerry still had the better of the battle in the area. I say O'Shea's performance on the face was ordinary.

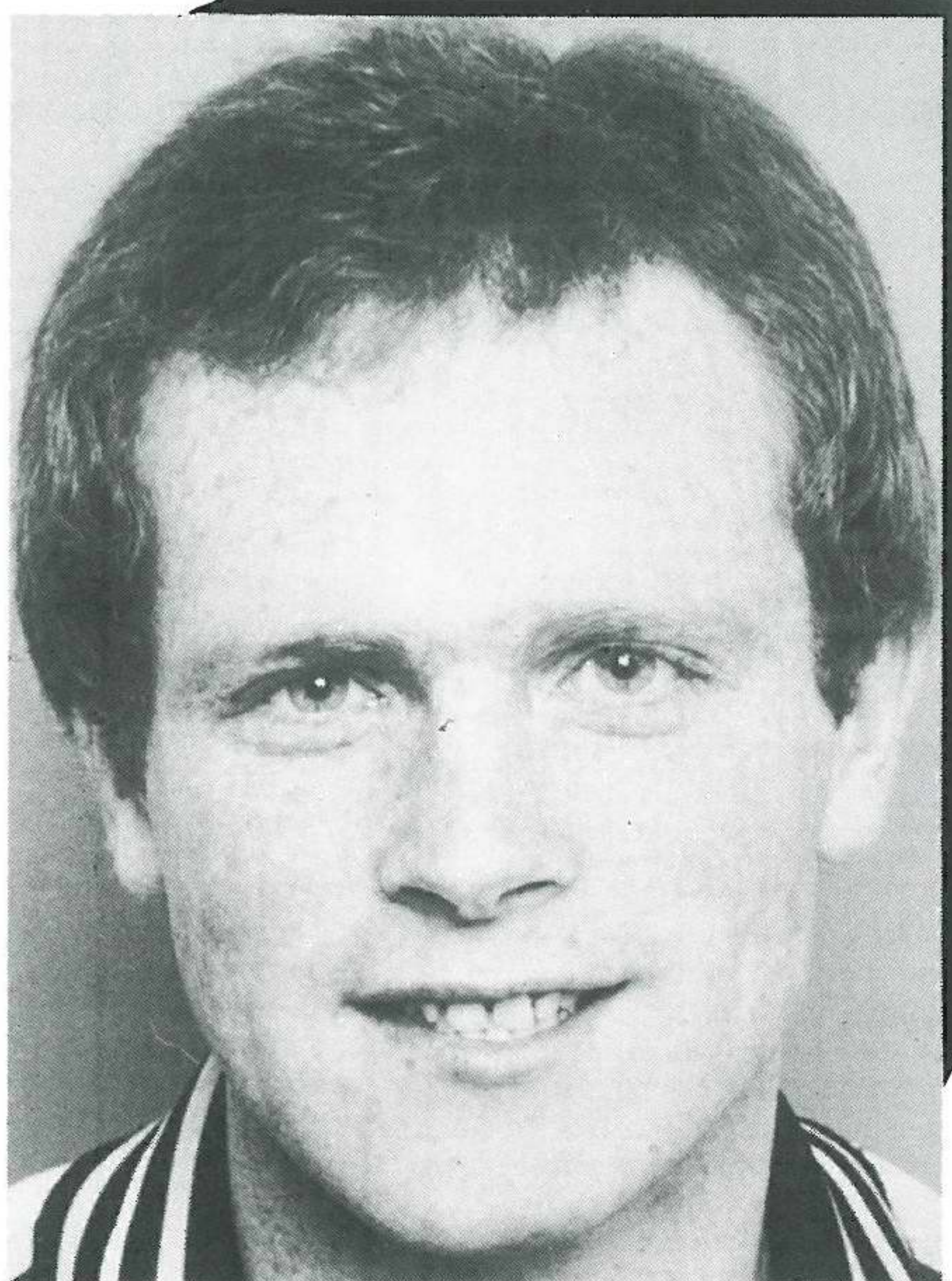
Certainly, he did not display the spectacular play that marked earlier performances, and he did not quite work out in defence and in attack with the same flair and eye-catching form as he is famed for.

For all that, the Cahirciveen player still got through much valued work around midfield.

He spent a lot of time in his own area, pressuring the Dubs midfielders, clearing up for his team and initiating attacks with some excellent fielding. I wonder did Kerry catch out Dublin here in this regard?

Before the game we heard so much

Dublin  
sharp-  
shooter,  
Barney  
Rock,  
scorer of  
the only  
goal in  
the All-  
Ireland  
Final.  
Even this  
failed to  
raise the  
flagging  
spirits of  
the Dubs  
for long.



about tactics, and about the Dublin third midfield ploy. The loss of John Caffrey was probably a blow to the defending champions in this regard, but I doubt if on the day his presence would have made any real difference.

It would appear, then, that the men behind the scenes, led by O'Dwyer did their homework well, and they, rather than Dublin adopted the positive and up-and-at-them approach in the fairest possible sense that paid off in a winning display.

**No review of the final would be complete without asking another very pertinent question: What went wrong with Dublin?**

I said earlier that they were but a pale shadow of the team we all expected. That is no exaggeration. I cannot recall a Dublin team, certainly since the 'Seventies, that played with such a lack of spirit, and commitment.

I don't wish to be too hard on players, who are, after all only amateurs, and can have an off-day like the rest of us, but I don't think that many will disagree with me when I say that the Dubs appeared to accept defeat as inevitable from early in the match.

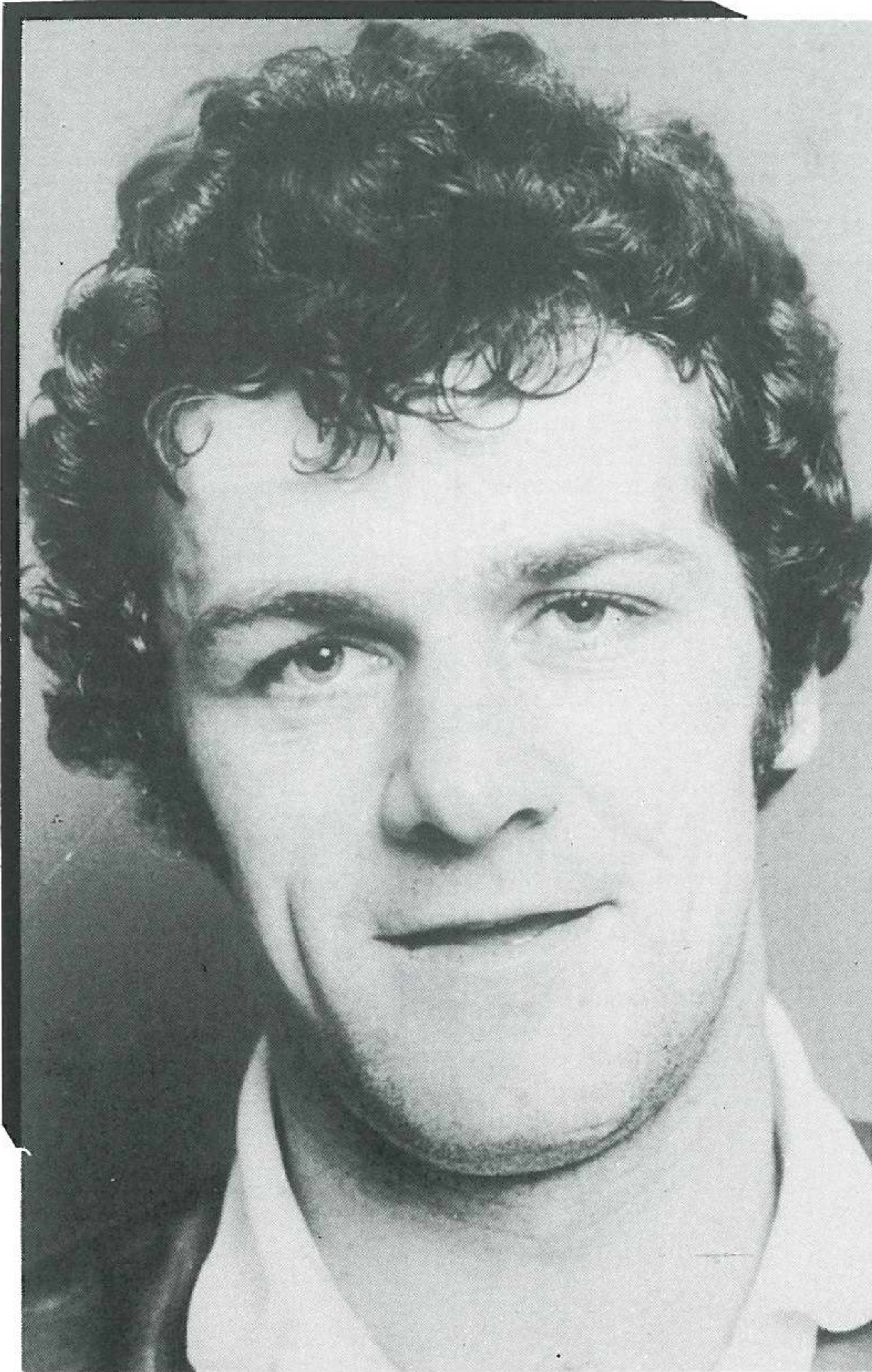
### BRIEF SPELL

One quality above all others that Dublin teams have possessed in abundance in modern times has been a fierce will to win. Teams from the Liffeside usually go out not only to win, but to win as decisively as possible.

**But that spirit was conspicuous by its absence for most of the final.**

Even Barney Rock's goal eight minutes into the second half failed to really rouse the team. That cut Kerry's lead to three points and gave Dublin plenty of time to mount a





**JACK O'SHEA** — An ordinary game, but did his positional play in the final fool the Dubs?

really serious challenge, the type of challenge we all expected from the start.

They did raise their game for a while, but when the scores failed to come, and Kerry eventually pulled away again with an Ogie Moran point seven minutes later, Dublin were down and out in boxing parlance.

I don't know if Dublin were over

trained. I am not an expert on that subject.

However, I heard reports that they had a competitive game against the minor team the day before the final. If that was the case, then I am amazed.

I know that it has been the custom for Dublin to train on the day before a game. That arrangement has

worked well so far. At the same time, it seems to me that after a long, hard campaign, like Dublin had, and a strenuous training schedule, the last thing the team needed was a training session 24 hours before the game.

When I was going to school and swotting for examinations, the last thing I thought about on the day before the day of reckoning was to spend the time going over old ground. Rather, I looked for a day off; in my time it was a day at the pictures. In that way I approached the examinations in a fresher frame of mind.

I would suggest that this is equally true in sport. The more I look at training for all sports, the more I am coming around to the view that too much attention is being devoted to the actual physical side of affairs, and not enough to skills.

I'm not saying that this was the case with Dublin. But I wonder would they have looked such a tired team as they did, had they had a free day before the final . . . that is if they actually had the strenuous session which I am led to believe they had.

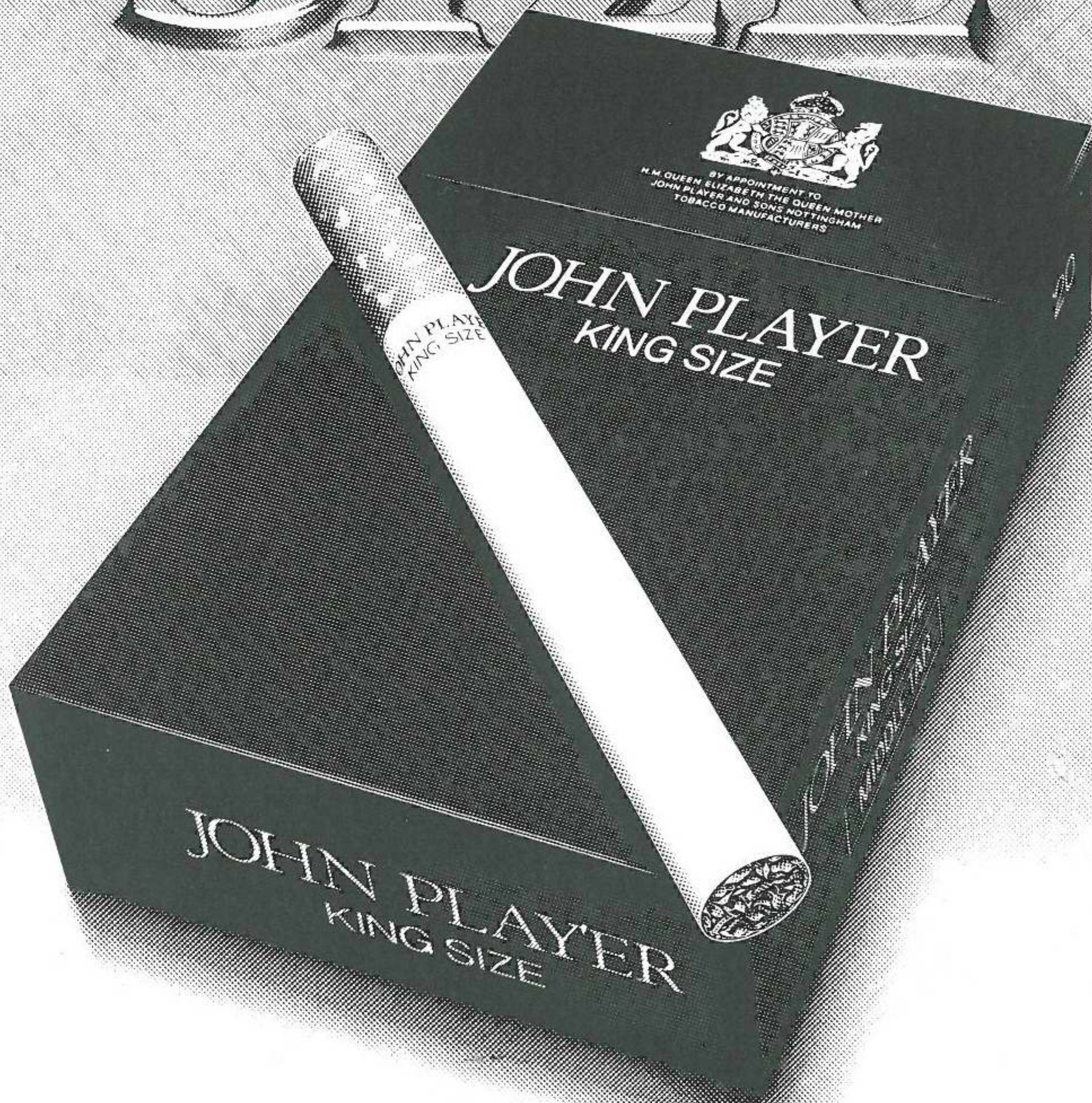
I suppose we will never know the answer why Dublin flopped in much the same way as Ulster teams on making their Croke Park debut. It would seem that the tensions got to them more so than to Kerry, which was surprising in view of the wealth of experience in the side.

The sparkle and dash were missing . . . only to return a week later as Dublin played a refreshing brand of football against Meath in a challenge at Kilbarrack at the opening of a new pitch.

There was a big difference, of course, between the occasions. At the same time, the sparkle we saw at Kilbarrack was what we expected from Dublin on All-Ireland final day. Had they produced that and Kerry still won by five points or so, then I would possibly have agreed with those who now say this is a great Kerry team.

But Dublin's poor form, Kerry's failure to score a goal, and weaknesses here and there suggest to me that the Kingdom are not a great squad.

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# “A PLAYER OF POWER, GRIT, DETERMINATION AND A VERY SOLID INDEPENDENT SPIRIT”

BY TIM HORGAN



**T**HERE were many proud Cork men in Thurles after the Centenary senior hurling final, but one of the proudest of them all must surely have been Johnny Crowley.

The final was Johnny Crowley's game. When everything else is forgotten about the match in years to come, the Bishopstown man's centre half back display will shine like a beacon, and will be remembered as one of the great individual showings of all time.

The six footer was the towering giant of Semple Stadium. He commanded the scene like a general in charge of his troops and from his post at centre halfback led by example as he chartered the downfall of the Offaly challenge with hurling that was authoritative and inspiring.

Offaly tried three separate hurlers in a bid to counter the Crowley effectiveness, but all to no avail. The Cork man just could not be contained; it was his day and he was not going to be denied. Small wonder that the final whistle brought an added bonus for the Cork defender when he was selected for the Man of the Match award.

**Johnny Crowley, then, is not likely to forget the Centenary Hurling final in a hurry. But there was another reason why he must have gained a great deal of satisfaction from that showing.**

Prior to the final, the centre half back had his critics. There were those who felt that he was not the player of former years, and many who campaigned Offaly's cause for victory in the build-up to the decider argued that the Leinster champions could make a vital breakthrough in the heart of the Southern defence.

Such critics also recalled the way that Crowley, chosen at centre half back, but who lined out at left full, caught a tarter in Billy Fitzpatrick, of Kilkenny, in the 1983 final.

What was so surprising about pre-final criticism of Johnny Crowley was that he was back to form in the championship. He had a particularly good game in the dramatic Munster final win over Tipperary.

There was really no reason, then, in the days leading up to the final at Semple Stadium to believe that Johnny Crowley would let the side down. So, perhaps the supporters of Offaly were clutching at straws and trying to seize on intangibles in their efforts to justify what was for many surprisingly strong support for the Leinster champions.

Whatever about that, Johnny Crowley was the winner — by a mile.

I was pleased to see him do so well, particularly after the 1983 final, because over the years he has given great service to Cork. The strong defender is one of the most experienced campaigners in the game, in fact, having arrived on the senior team in time to play a big part in the three-in-a-row run of All-Ireland titles by the Leesiders in that golden spell from 1976 to 1978 inclusive.

**Few who saw any of his many games in those successful seasons — he was at centre half back in each All-Ireland senior final win — or in subsequent matches could, if they were any judges of hurlers and hurling at all, have entertained any qualms about Crowley's ability to fit the bill against Offaly.**

Admittedly, no one could have

been prepared for his power-plus showing at Thurles, but I for one never doubted coming up to the Thurles game that Crowley would more than keep his end up.

I have watched him regularly in the big-time since he stepped into the county senior side for the first time in 1975, and his great determination, solid work in close exchanges, good general play and all out effort were factors that I recalled as the latest McCarthy Cup tie advanced towards the big show-down. They were also assets that convinced me that Crowley would play his part in ensuring that the Southerners gave very little away at the back against the Eastern standard-bearers.

Crowley was one of the brightest of the young men in under-age hurling in 1974. He has a wonderful year as well, winning an All-Ireland Colleges' senior hurling medal with St. Finbarr's, Farrenferris, and national minor medals in hurling and football the following September.

**Soon after his first McCarthy Cup triumph he won another All-Ireland medal the same year at under-21, and in 1980 was in the Cork side that beat Offaly for the National League title.**

Plenty of success, then, for Johnny Crowley, who picked up another major award for his All-Ireland final display when honoured for the first time in the B+I Awards in October.

All the medals and trophies are tangible evidence of the excellence of Johnny Crowley as a hurler. The awards, however, are still dwarfed by the exciting way in which the centre half took a decisive grip on the Cork-Offaly game and proved the man for the big occasion.

**JOHNNY CROWLEY**

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# CORK INTER-COUNTY FOOTBALL

## "CORKONIANS NOT HAPPY WITH THE STANDARD"

BY EAMON YOUNG

**W**E in Cork are never satisfied. They say that you should never ask a man where he's from because if he's from Cork he'll tell you and if he's not, it's not fair to ask him. We say an awful lot more about ourselves and much of it isn't complimentary and God knows we have earned as much criticism as praise but the combination of both, is part of the training in rounded personality.

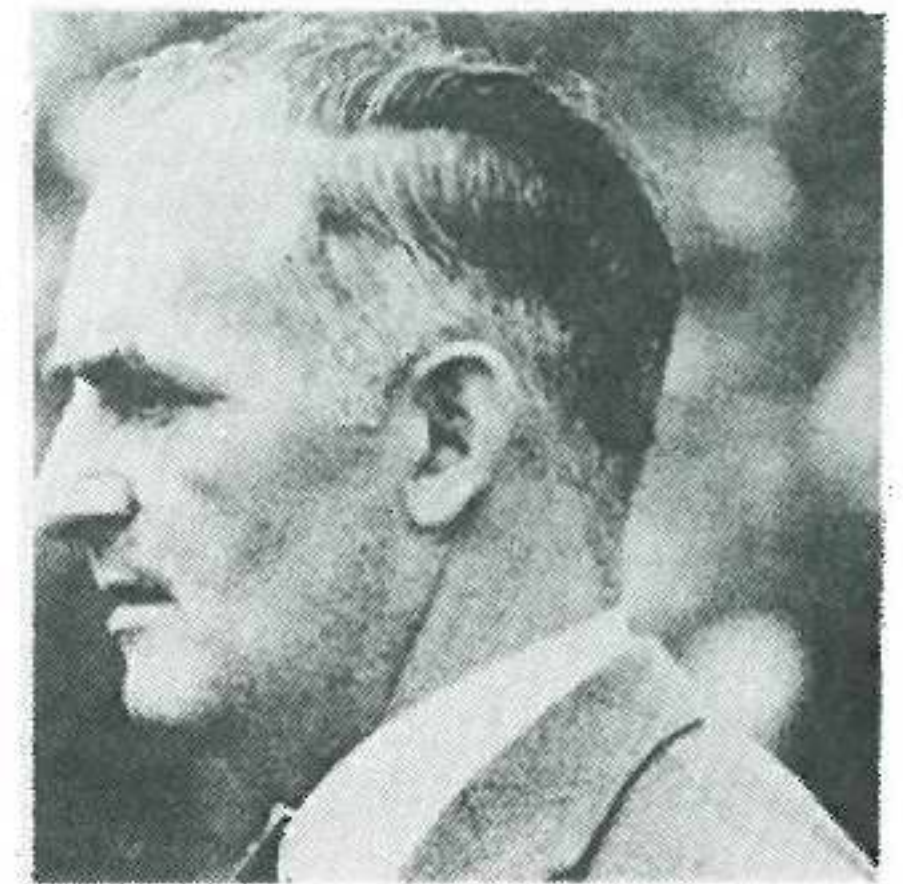
One thing sure, we're not happy about the standard of football played in Cork and the list of inter-county successes at All-Ireland level gives little joy. When I was a lad we had two football All-Irelands at senior level and my father, who was lucky enough to be part of one, urged us constantly to train at the game and he helped us a lot in coaching, insisting that we would practise with the weak foot and telling us that there was nothing to Gaelic football except kicking the ball over the bar from forty yards. The solo run had come in that time, over fifty years ago, and we used to call it the "Paul Doyle" because the great Kildare forward had used it well. In fact it probably was started by John Joe Lavin of Sligo or John P. Murphy of Cavan both of whom were fine players in the twenties and early thirties. But we trained in the skills of football and, looking back, my only regret is that we didn't, as lads, train harder and take my father's advice about kicking more often over the bar.

In Cork over the last twenty years young players have been coached a lot by teachers, lay and cleric, club coaches and parents. They have played thousands of matches and I stand in admiration of the good men who have given long hours on the field and in the meeting-room to the organisation of our games for the sake of the community. As a result of this terrific dedication on the part of adults and also because we have a fair playing population of healthy young men we have been able to win All-Irelands in minor and under-21 football. The result is that at twenty-two we have a golden harvest of efficient young men who can play football as well as anybody.

Why, then, don't we win the Sam Maguire Cup more often? Why is our miserable total of four senior All-Irelands in one hundred years, smirking at us and causing our most loyal followers to break out in a rash of exasperation, or worse, a fit of mocking and derision?

\*\*\*

Doney O'Donovan, trainer of the successful '73 side. Cork need someone with the same grit and determination Doney showed if they are to break their All-Ireland "Hoodoo".



\*\*\*

There are a few good reasons.

The first is Kerry. I take off my hat to the Kingdom. I have always done so, since the days I had the pleasure of knowing some splendid footballers like Gega Connor, Paddy Kennedy, Bill Dillon, Murt Kelly, Bill Casey, Teddy O'Connor, Jacky Lyne, Joe Keohane, the Landers brothers Tim and John Joe, Tim O'Donnell and many more. It was a pleasure to know them and to see them play. Since then I have been watching their successors treat that game with a sophisticated delicacy, fortified by honest power until they have made me proud so often I was a son of Munster. Down the decades the football skill and power of Paud Sheehy, Jim Brosnan, John Cronin, Mick O'Connell, Pat Griffin, Mick O'Dwyer, Doney O'Sullivan, John Culloty, Tom Ashe, Paddy Bawn Brosnan, Tom Long... where do you stop? The only thing I have against the Green and Gold (and it's a serious indictment) is they've beaten us too often. So that's the first reason we don't win All-Irelands. If we could shift a slice of southwestern coast north past the Islands of Aran we'd have two Connemaras in one, and in Cork we'd be happy. Until that happens we must however look for another solution.

The dual commitment in Cork is no help to our players, and by that I don't mean to examine the careers of the top-class dual players who have won glory for themselves in the red jersey. I am thinking of the lesser known lads whose ability is also halted by an effort to play both games. Some time ago I was giving a junior football team (that is very dear to me) a help in coaching. They were, as all village teams are, also in the hurling competition and of course the same men were playing both. We stopped the football practice to allow concentration on hurling and I'm sure my affection for that splendid game is well known. Anyway, when the hurling match was over the boys returned, after about three weeks, to the interrupted practice of the football skills. The fall-back was immediately obvious. The fetching wasn't as firm. The kicking wasn't as precise and the handling generally had become sloppy. It took several nights to get back to the reasonable standard they had already attained. There is so much to perfect in the

●TO PAGE 21



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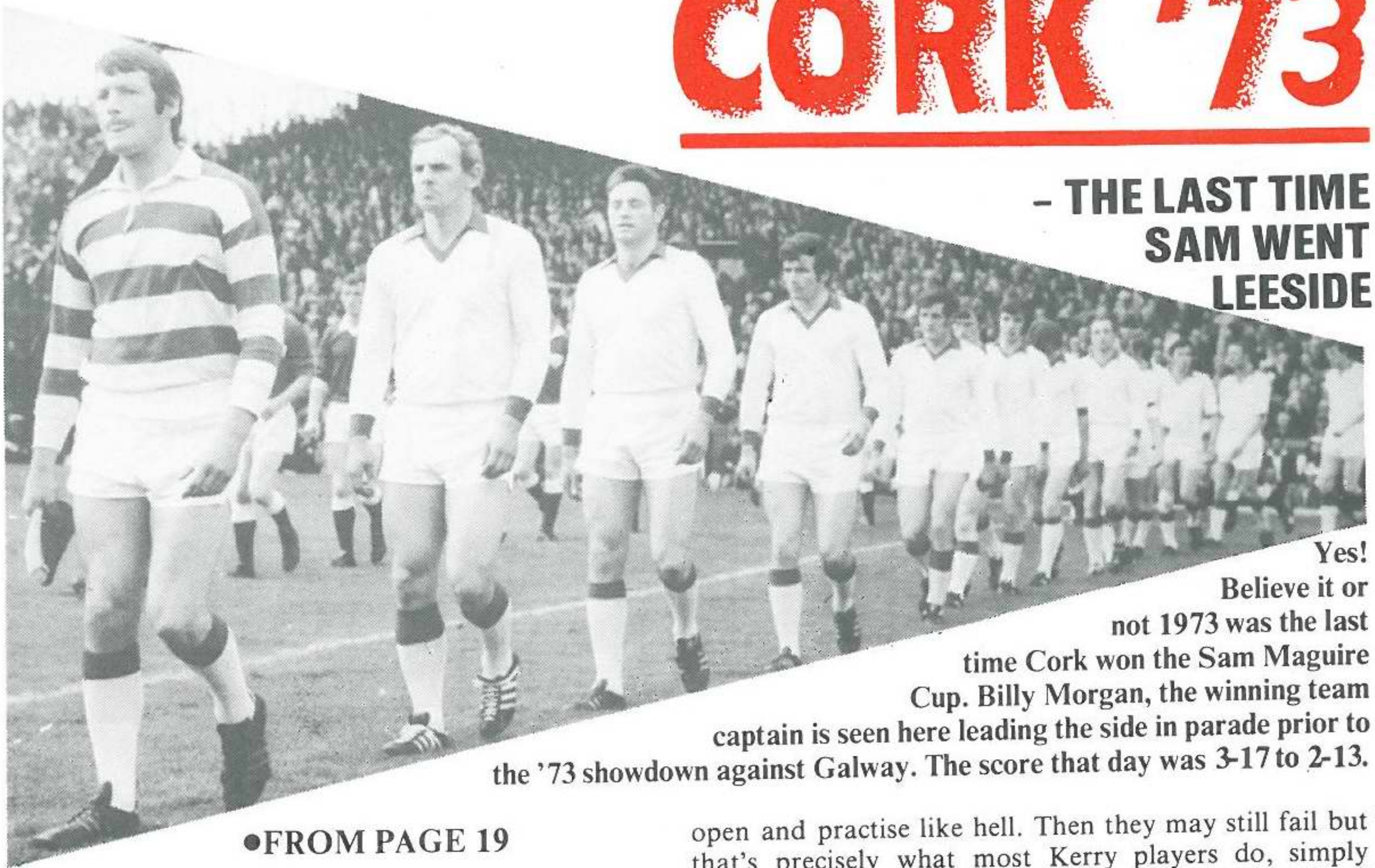


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# CORK '73

- THE LAST TIME  
SAM WENT  
LEESIDE



Yes!  
Believe it or  
not 1973 was the last  
time Cork won the Sam Maguire  
Cup. Billy Morgan, the winning team  
captain is seen here leading the side in parade prior to  
the '73 showdown against Galway. The score that day was 3-17 to 2-13.

## ●FROM PAGE 19

games that concentration on one is the surest way to good performance. In Cork we simply don't do that, and if you were a club selector you would also try to use your young men in both games.

Because we have won so little in the football at inter-county senior level the respect the people have for the Cork football side isn't great and the clubs will not bend over backwards to allow their players to train with the county side. That also is natural and is contrasted with the Kingdom scene where a small boy's ambition is to play with Kerry and that anticipated glory is shared by his parents. There's a story about a Kerry woman whose son had just been ordained a priest. The Bishop came over and congratulated her sincerely. Gently she thanked him and then added sadly.

"But my lord, he'll never walk behind the Artane Band, out on Croke Park in the Green and Gold". When we in Cork are as proud of our footballers we too will win more. But the snag is, we must win in the first place. That's not easy.

Education never ceases and it's only when we're old we realise that anything we ever learned is only pushing the door of education ajar. And I'm not talking about book-learning. When I was eighteen I thought my father hadn't a spark of sense; by the time I was twenty-one I was amazed to find out what he had learned in three years. Our footballers must realise that at twenty-one they have only begun to learn about this game having served a hasty but genuine apprenticeship under the eyes of good adults. Our young men must keep their mouths shut, their eyes and ears

open and practise like hell. Then they may still fail but that's precisely what most Kerry players do, simply because if they don't there's always another man to take their place and remember that good players are like the city bus: there will be another along in a minute.

Look at John Kennedy and Ambrose O'Donovan. What a success they have been this year. I know a few men from Gníomh na gCoileach who raised their heads higher when Ambrose O'Donovan brought that cup home to Sliabh Luachra. These young players have joined Mike Sheehy, Jack O'Shea, Ogie Moran and the Spillanes, Mick, Tom and Pat all of whom, like their comrades, have been playing careful and learned football since they were ten. And look at them, they're still learning. At twenty-one they were only on their way.

Look at some of the great Cork hurlers. Jack Lynch, John Quirke, Charlie and Gerald MacCarthy were all good at twenty-one but they were twice as good at twenty-seven after years of coaching, winning and losing. Christy Ring was just another player at twenty-one. At twenty-eight he was Ringey.

So we in Cork must train and practice the skills. We must concentrate on one game and remember especially that while some of the best ball players in the world are playing soccer that the game is not suitable preparation for winning matches in Gaelic football.

If in Cork we can pour shining streams of dedication, leadership, ability, public support and shrewdness into the mould perhaps the article that emerges eventually will resemble the shape of a big silver cup they called after a West Corkman named Maguire.

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So we look on the time and energy we devote to the Sports Star Awards as a real investment in the Ireland of tomorrow.

And that's encouraging for us too.



**TEXACO**

Putting our energy into Ireland's future.



# SEARCH FOR THE ELUSIVE TICKET

By JOHN JOE BROSNAN

**T**HERE are so many good stories told about All-Ireland tickets, especially when the fever is on people around the month of September each year, that I am sure a book could be written on the subject.

One of my own favourite stories concerns the All-Ireland final between Kerry and Down in 1960. The Cork minors were playing the same day and there were a few Millstreet players on the team. A man living not too far from Millstreet searched the country for a ticket — the seating accommodation at Croke Park was far more limited then — and eventually got one from a friend in another county.

It was his first ticket — his first trip to Croke Park as well — and he was very proud of it. But disaster befell him at the entrance to the stand. The man at the turnstile was calling out: "Tear your tickets", and my friend tore up his ticket in small pieces and threw it away.

When I met him on the stand just before the start of the senior final he was in a state of agitation. He had been kept outside all during the minor final and was let in eventually on the condition that he would leave if anybody else claimed the seat. Fortunately for him, the number of his seat was indelibly printed on his mind — otherwise his day would have been a complete disaster.

On another occasion I travelled to Dublin on the Saturday with two tickets in my pocket — one for a friend whom I was to meet on Sunday morning. But there was a message that he was unable to travel and I looked around for somebody from home without a ticket. Those I met were fixed up, so I decided to give it to the first deserving case I came across.

I shared a table with an honest looking man in a restaurant in O'Connell Street, and after some consideration offered him the ticket. He was so flabbergasted that I had a job to convince him that it was genuine. When the transfer eventually took place, he asked me whether I would wait for him while he sent a phone message to his wife at home in East Cork.

"We haven't a phone at home," he said, "but a neighbour has one about a quarter of a mile away and it won't take him long to carry the news".

He had never been in Dublin before, and as our tickets were side by side we walked out together. It was early when we got on the upper deck of the Cusack Stand, and there weren't too many there. I noticed him taking great stock of his surroundings.

"How many people will be up here when they're all in?" he asked.

"I'm not sure", I said, "but I suppose there will be at least ten thousand people".

He looked around him nervously again. "Do you think 'tis well buttressed underneath?" he asked.

I assured him that it was, but I knew by now that the poor man was terrified. He was probably thinking that he would never see his wife or family again, and cursing the luck that ordained that we should meet.

My own first ticket to Croke Park was in 1956. I had been there a few times before and got an almighty crushing, especially under the Cusack Stand at the 1954 final between Cork and Wexford. Tickets were almost impossible to get in those days, as the Hogan Stand was a very select place seating only 800 dignitaries, and there was no seating under the Cusack.

The thought of looking for a ticket did not enter my head until the Thursday before the game, when on the advice of my friends I rang Con Murphy, who had taken over the county secretaryship from the late Seán Óg.

Con was as helpful as always, but hadn't a ticket left. He pointed out that as a divisional secretary I would have

got one if I had applied sooner. "There's only one hope left", he said. "My uncle, Sean McCarthy, is suffering from a cold and hasn't made up his mind about going. If he decides to stay at home I'll post you his ticket tomorrow."

And on Saturday morning to my great delight, the ticket arrived.

I didn't know the entrances to Croke Park very well at the time and went out early. I found myself on the Long Stand, behind the Railway goal, and took my seat.

Between the minor and senior finals, when that section of the stand was full, a man came along our row looking for his seat. He looked accusingly at several people but couldn't locate the imposter and left to get a steward. As he returned in the company of the steward I said to myself: "Now we're going to see who had the audacity to take this man's seat".

When the steward fixed his attention on me and asked me to produce my ticket I felt quite happy about it. But as I searched my pockets for the precious bit of paper and failed to find it my embarrassment grew. The attention of all those in the vicinity was on me.

"You haven't got a ticket", the steward said. "This man has a ticket for this seat. How did you manage to get into the stand?"

"I can assure you that I have a ticket, and it is for this seat", I said. "I checked the number carefully".

Then to my great relief, I found it — tucked into my top pocket, where I rarely keep things. I handed it to the steward.

He looked at it, looked back at me and looked at the ticket again. "Excuse me, sir" he said. "Do you know where this ticket is for?"

I shrugged my shoulders.

"This ticket", he said, "is in the row in the Hogan Stand reserved for ex-Presidents of the Association. I'll escort you there".

And so, for one glorious afternoon, I sat between Dan O'Rourke of Roscommon and Hugh Byrne of Wicklow and savoured the delightful experience of being an ex-President of the G.A.A.

IS Pat Spillane's comeback to top-class football the greatest success story of them all in this regard in Gaelic Games? I have been asking myself that question time and again since delighting in the Templenoe clubman's exhilarating performance for Kerry in the All-Ireland senior football final.

It would probably be impossible to give a definitive answer one way or another to my original question. But I cannot recall any comeback to match Spillane's in all the years I have been following football and hurling, and if there is a better one, then I would like to hear of it.

What a great hearted personality Pat Spillane really is! Many in his position would have thrown in the towel when his career was interrupted by a serious knee injury in the early part of this decade. Many having enjoyed so much success as Spillane had before his injury with every major medal and award to his credit, would have said:

**"I have had a good innings, and even though this knee injury has ended things earlier than I had hoped, what harm."**

But not Spillane. The end of the road stared him in the face when he severed the ligaments in his left knee in 1981. "They," the know-alls, said he would never play again. But the

## IS PAT SPILLANES COME

# AFTER THE SERIOUS INJURY THAT PAT SU MANY IN HIS POSITIO HAVE THROWN IN TH

BY JOHN D

dashing forward refused to accept the easy way out.

He had a complicated operation in an Oxford hospital, and then following successful surgery, started the long, painstaking haul back to the top. There was evidence early in the year that he was winning the battle, but few could still, I suggest, even in Kerry, have been prepared for such a triumphant comeback as was the left half forward's display in the showdown with Dublin.

Spillane's performance would have been outstanding for a player

who had not gone through the agony, the worry, the hard slog that he had endured for so long. But it was truly exceptional in view of all that the Kerry man had to endure earlier.

The P.E. teacher, who will be 29 in December, was all over the place. He proved a real thorn in the Dublin defence, and his points scoring was memorable. A performance that he will surely recall time and again with delight in the future, and one that also must have made all the hard work and pain that went before well worthwhile in the end.

*Congratulations to the All-Ireland Champions*



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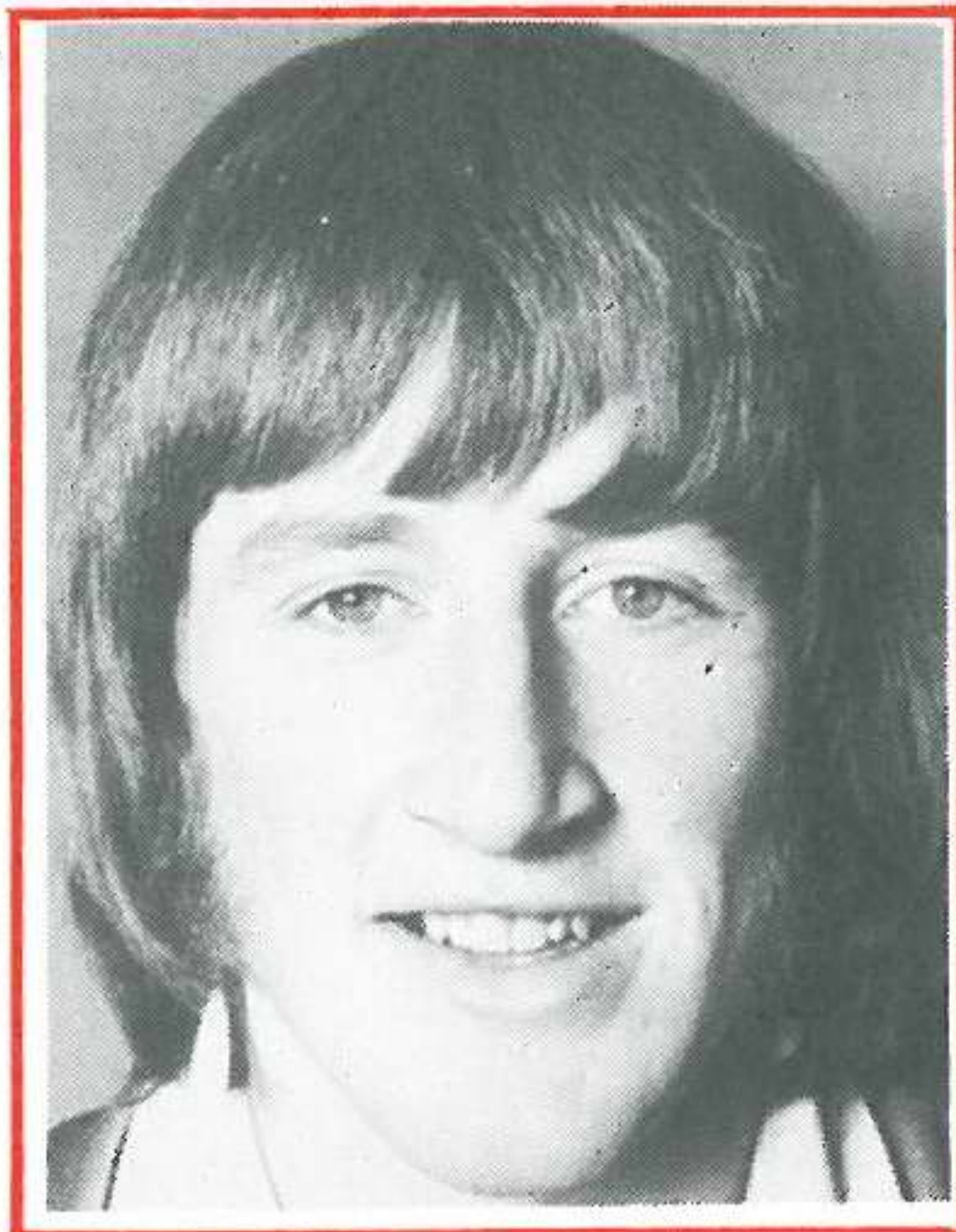
# BACK THE BEST EVER?

## S KNEE FFERED N WOULD E TOWEL

**OWNES**

The latest medal earned Pat his sixth All-Ireland senior souvenir since he first arrived on the national scene with the Kerry side that shocked Dublin in the 1975 All-Ireland final. He was a Kerry minor at only 16, and he has been playing football almost continually since then except for the period that his career was brought to a temporary halt through his injury.

However, Pat's sparkle, the fairytale ending to his great fight back to full fitness and his excellent scoring against Dublin, still could not take



from his families tremendous record in the championship. His brother, Tom, was one of the Kingdom's outstanding players at centre half, and Mick also played his part superbly at left full back in the downing of the Dubs.

A great treble for a great sporting family. The Spillane brothers mother is sister of the legendary Kerry footballer, Jackie Lyne.

Tom, whose selection at centre half back came in for criticism during the campaign, showed maturity well

beyond his twenty-two years with his mastery in the demanding pivotal role to put his mark on his first All-Ireland senior medal win in champion style. He has only been in the senior inter-county ranks for a little over two years.

Mick has had a much longer time in the Kerry senior colours. He showed many of the high qualities that helped to make Dublin's cause a forlorn one last September as he manned the No. 4 spot superbly in Kerry's win over Dublin in 1978, Dublin again in 1979 and at centre half back in the 1981 win over Offaly.

He was not in the team that won the 1980 final.

But the 1984 final was the Spillane families game. Pat may have captured the lion's share of the glory, and understandably so in all the circumstances. However, Tom and Mick also had good cause to feel delighted with their performances, and Kerry was indeed fortunate to have had the services of such a famous sporting family.

So, in saluting the Spillane brothers in general, and Pat in particular, I end as I began by asking the same question:

Is Pat Spillane's comeback to top class football this year the greatest success story in Gaelic Games in this regard! If you have any challengers, let's hear from you!

# garine



**SEAN NYHAN**

puts the  
spotlight

on

# JIMMY THE GREAT!

**J**IMMY Barry-Murphy ended his twelfth campaign in senior inter-county competitions as he began his career in the top rank — with an All-Ireland medal. Since he rocketed on the scene as a 19-year-old and took only 2½ minutes in his All-Ireland senior football final debut in 1973 to score a goal, the St. Finbarr's club player has been more or less an ever-present in the sporting limelight.

In the early days it was as a dual performer that he won the plaudits and collected the top awards. His exploits of late have been confined to the hurling game, but they have been no less exciting or unnewsworthy for all that.

Barry-Murphy was the craftiest campaigner of them all when Cork and Offaly met at Thurles for the Centenary Year All-Ireland senior hurling crown. No other player in the Semple Stadium clash matched his national senior finals know-how.

The full forward had not a particularly spectacular game. Nor did he contribute to the scoring returns. Nevertheless Barry-Murphy still played a big part in fashioning the victory with telling touches, progressive general play and good positional sense that enabled him to keep the Offaly defence occupied and

create chances for his team-mates.

The "Barrs" man, in fact, had a hand in two of Cork's goals. It was from a superb Barry-Murphy flick that Seanie O'Leary scored the Leesider's only goal of the first half, 26 minutes into the game. Then when Damien Martin in the Offaly goal blocked a Barry-Murphy shot after 13 minutes of the second half, Kevin Hennessy was in to pop home the team's second goal of the game.

**Pretty good going for a man whom many said had a poor game in the Thurles summit.**

Throughout the earlier rounds of the series, Barry-Murphy was very prominent. He scored 1-2 in a fine display as Cork ended the hopes of the then comparatively newly crowned National League champions Limerick at Limerick, and the Leesiders owed much to him for their dramatic late victory over Tipperary at Semple Stadium in the Munster final. He grabbed two grand goals during the game, and always proved a real threat as well to the home defence.

One way and another then the tall No. 14 stamped his personality in a big way on what will rank as one of Cork's most noteworthy wins yet in senior hurling, and a success that did



much to sweep away the disappointments of the defeats from Kilkenny in the 1982 and 1983 All-Ireland finals.

Later in the year he put the final flourish to the season when he showed many nice touches and picked up a brace of points as well as he played his part in bringing the Cork senior hurling title back to St. Finbarr's after a year's break following a comprehensive final win over Ballyhea, whose only title win was as far back as 1896.

Jimmy Barry-Murphy, who was 30 in August, has packed a lot of football and hurling at all levels into his distinguished career with club and county.

**I first recall marking him down as a young man to watch after he had played superbly and scored 2-1 in Cork's win in the 1972 All-Ireland minor football final over a Tyrone side that included at midfield a young player who, like Barry-Murphy, was to capture much of the limelight in Centenary Year as things turned out — Frank McGuigan.**

I must admit, though, that I did not expect to see Barry-Murphy win an All-Ireland senior medal so soon after that under-18 breakthrough. He did it in style against Galway in the 1973 final in football, and must surely have established something of a unique double by scoring 2-1 in that game — exactly the same scoreline as in his minor medal win!

Cork football appeared to be ready to “come of age” after the 1973 win over Galway. That team, with Billy Morgan superb in goal, Brian Murphy dependable in defence, Denis Coughlan and Denis Long hard-working in midfield, and Barry-Murphy and Jimmy Barrett supreme in attack, was as good as any that has won the Sam Maguire Cup, and looked capable of retaining the trophy.

However, Dublin ended Cork’s hopes of a double in the 1974 All-Ireland semi-final, and as every Corkman knows to his cost the championship has proven a most elusive jackpot in football since then.

Not so in hurling. Barry-Murphy joined the ranks of the dual-medalists in 1976 when Cork beat Wexford in a memorable match to start a great run of three All-Ireland senior championships on the trot. Jimmy played in every one of the final winning teams.

Galway ended the glory run in 1979, and there were further disappointments in the early years of the ‘Eighties. Defeats by Kilkenny in 1982 and 1983 hung like a dark cloud over Cork hurling, and there were many to be heard talking about the death-knell of the ancient game by the Leeside as they strongly paraded the claims of Offaly for the Centenary showdown.

But as we all know now, the Cork hurlers themselves were having none of that, and they silenced their critics in the best way possible not only by regaining the Liam McCarthy Cup but winning the trophy in the most convincing manner possible. The success gave Jimmy Barry-Murphy his fifth All-Ireland senior medal — one in football and four in the ancient game.

The Cork hurling full forward, who has been taking a rest from inter-county competitions during the League, has been so closely allied to hurling for some time that it is hard to credit that he has won four Railway Cup medals in football!

**Not only that, he featured his medals wins between 1975 and 1978 with a goal scoring exercise that we will probably not see equalled for a long, long time to come. The game was the 1975 final at Croke Park, and Barry-Murphy showed his expertise at outgunning goalkeepers by finding his way through to the Ulster net four times!**

Surprisingly enough, though, Barry-Murphy has not enjoyed nearly as much success in hurling, and has still to win a Railway Cup medal in the code — the only major award to elude him in his career.

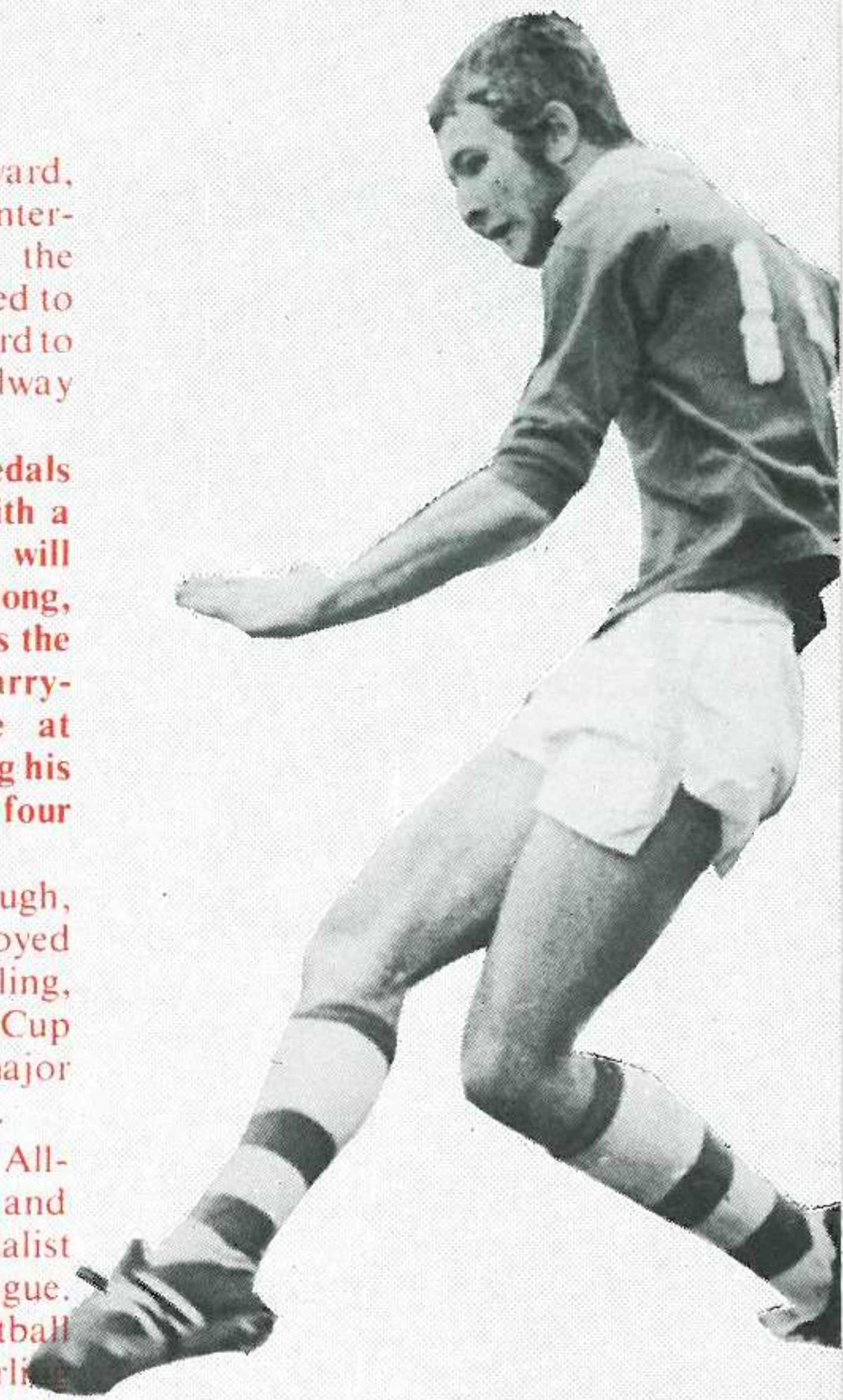
On the other hand, he has won All-Ireland club medals in hurling and football, and also is a dual medalist with Cork in the National League. More than that, in winning a football medal against Kerry and a hurling medal against Limerick in a replay in 1980 he earned ranking as the only man to win medals in each code in the same year.

Add to this All Stars awards in football and hurling, and the accomplished two games expert from the Barrs has much to show for his hurling and football.

Barry-Murphy, who was a half forward in the three-in-a-row title winning squads of the ‘Seventies, has been devoting his attention exclusively to the hurling game for some time. Small wonder, in view of the demands on his services as a dual player both at county and club level.

Since settling in at full forward with the county side in hurling his play has also matured and developed. He is an exciting leader, the type of inspiring figure with the delicate touches and never-say-die spirit that does so much to lift a team when the going gets tough.

Over the past year as well, Jimmy Barry-Murphy was in there all the time playing his part in the best possible fashion. Remember the



Centenary Cup competition? He had a big say in the success story that ended with John Fenton climbing the Hogan Stand steps to receive the magnificent Waterford Glass trophy.

Then came the championship season, and the steady, purposeful play, laced by vital scores, that made Barry-Murphy so much a part of the glory road. As I said earlier, perhaps he was not as spectacular as in past campaigns, but his imprint on Cork’s success story in 1984 was still immense by any standards.

I only hope that we will be seeing plenty of Jimmy Barry-Murphy in the coming year. At 30 he must now be in the winter of his career, but he still has much to offer to club and county, and the ancient game of hurling needs personalities like the full forward from St. Finbarr’s.

His place as a Gaelic Games “Giant” is assured — but I am greedy. I would like to see more of the delicate touches and clever hurling of Jimmy Barry-Murphy in the post Centenary season.

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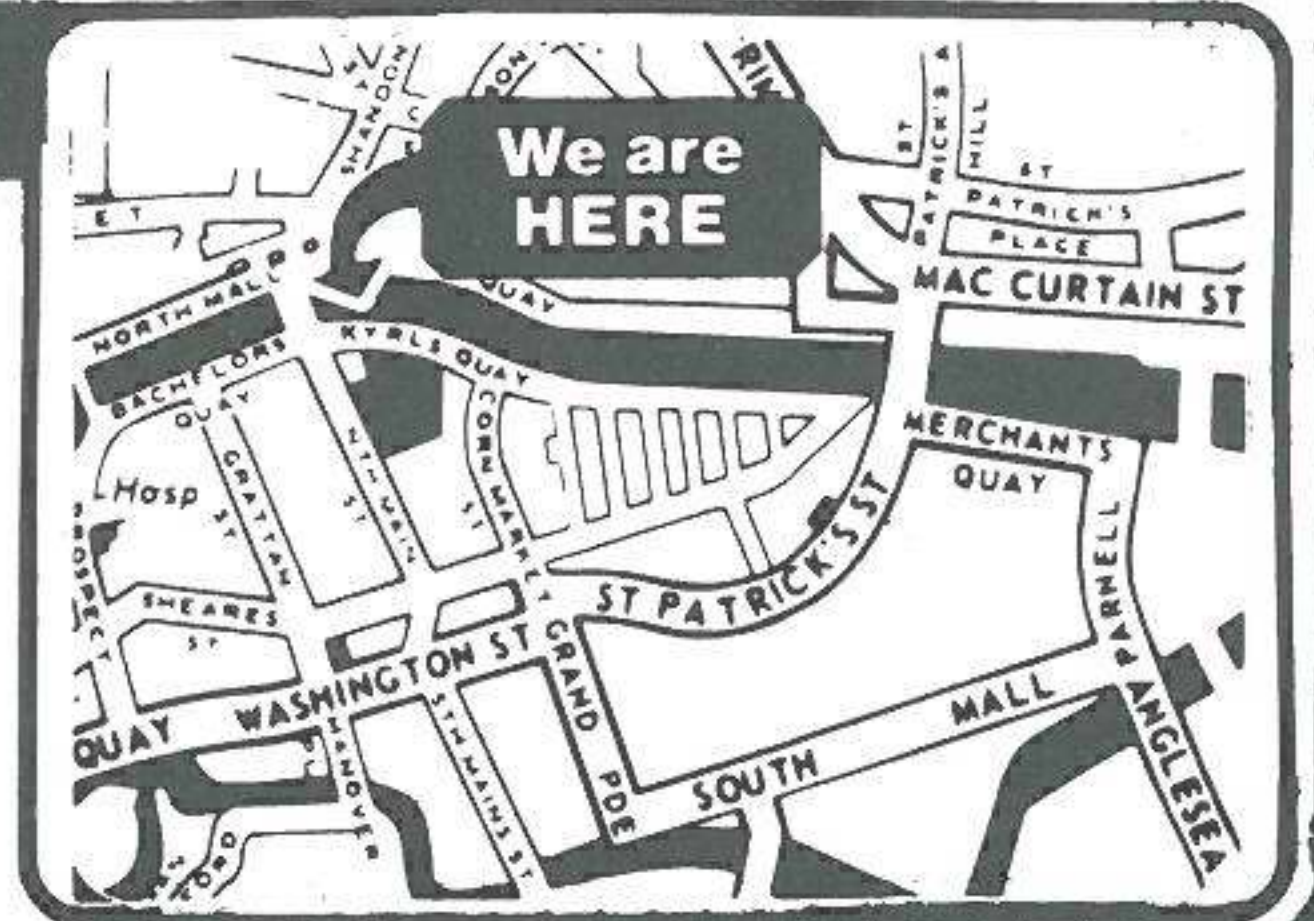
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Early Among The Nation's Builders

# TOM O'ROURKE

## - THE OUTSTANDING

### PLAYER OF '84

BY SEAN  
CLERKIN

**T**OM O'Rourke, the 28 year-old handballer from the village of Ballymore-Eustace in Co. Kildare stands aside as the outstanding player of 1984. He reflected the game through a mirror that demonstrated the skills and techniques of handball, the stamina and fitness required to reach the top and the superior sportsmanship that bands handballers into a fraternity.

The year had only dawned, the handball council, ever alert to stamp it's imprimatur on the Centenary celebrations, had signalled the start of a special championship to mark the occasion and we sampled the first handball helping of vintage O'Rourke.

This was just the precursor to the feast that has been so meticulously prepared and served by the great exponent from Kildare over the past twelve months.

Victory in that championship provided him with his passport to the World Championships where he annexed the singles title. An interesting point about this win is that he was the first Irishman to win it for his own country.

When Joey Maher won it in 1967 he was lining out in the Canadian colours, while Pat Kirby was representing the U.S.A. when he won it in 1970.

Then it was on to Semple Stadium on the eve of the Hurling Final and certainly those of us who were sardine packed into the gallery of the magnificently appointed new court, will never forget the atmosphere that was generated by the occasions.

Tony Ryan, that wonderful champion and sportsman from Ballypatrick in County Tipperary, was putting his title on the line and O'Rourke had a point to prove.

Before he took the court that night his thoughts obviously meandered back to 1979 when he won this same Coca Cola title for Kildare for the first time.

Then, there was the heartbreak of successive bouts of injury which seemed intent on disrupting his career. But dogged determination, the advice of his manager Paddy Monaghan and the encouragement

of his wife Jacintha all contrived to re-direct him on the road to stardom.

It seemed that the entire population of Ballymore-Eustace must have been in Thurles on that Saturday night. They may have had an intuitive sense that O'Rourke was about to take the title for the second time. They were right, for their hero produced a supercharged performance of quality handball that matched the works of the great masters.

Now he has his own proud spot in the Hall of Fame.

The Doubles Coca Cola Championship also produced many noteworthy games and the very significant factor of the Quish Brothers, Tom and John in retaining the title they took for the first time in 1983.

Indeed, it is interesting to record that this was the first time for a senior doubles partnership to win the title in successive years since 1964, when the fabled Kerry duo of Jimmy O'Brien and Paddy Downey were winning the last of their famous "five in a row."

Like O'Rourke the Quish's were successful in the World Championships and never faltered in a long campaign that was difficult and time consuming.

They have surely given handball in Limerick a wonderful uplift and their achievements have established Hospital as one of the leading clubs in the country.

The limelight in such a review of notable achievements must also be shared by Martin Hennigan from Mayo. He won out in the senior division of the 40 x 20 code from the Wexford hurler-cum-handballer, John Flemming, who had

compensation in the doubles code when partnering Pat Cleary to a third successive victory. Then, one cannot forget the stunning performances of Kilkenny minor Michael Walsh, who, not alone made his mark in the under-age division but figured prominently in the Coca Cola championship as well.

On the international front the evergreen Pat Kirby continued to assert the Irish challenge against the cream of the world and, in the process, notched up the singles and doubles championships in the Masters of the 40 x 20 code and, for good measure, won the U.S.H.A. Masters Singles title in Baltimore for the fifth year in succession.

As this Centenary Year of the G.A.A. slips into oblivion, handballers must be happy that they played a leading role in making it a success. They are hopeful that the sense of unison — now obvious between them and their counterparts on the hurling, football and camogie fields will be to the benefit of the G.A.A. and Handball Organisations.

My own wish is that G.A.A. clubs will make the provision of handball facilities a priority in their development plans, and that local handball units will co-operate in bringing such plans to finality. I would like to see a concentrated effort made in Dublin to popularise and develop the game. This would require a joint initiative by the Dublin G.A.A. and Handball Boards, the Central Handball Council and the Management Committee of the G.A.A.

At some stage the Dublin Handball situation must be tackled and in the wake of a successful Centenary Year, the time is now opportune.

# QUIZTIME

PRESENTED BY  
VINNY MOORE

IT does not appear all that too long ago that the first faint whisperings were to be heard about the "approaching Centenary Year for the G.A.A." But when such stirrings in the early days were heard, 1984 and Centenary celebrations appeared too far off to start contemplating events.

However, as those of us who have long since passed our maturity realise only too well, time can be a cruel taskmaster. Now, the Centenary Year is already a memory. Admittedly, a bright memory, and those of us who have had the privilege of following events up and down the country will be able to recall exciting moments over the year as we look back in the future on the year that was 1984 in the Gaelic Games sphere.

The fact that we have reached the end of the Centenary Year, and with it another full year in Gaelic Sport, influenced me to base this particular Quiztime on events over the past campaign. There are three separate sections in the Quiz, and all the questions in each deal with events or topics or happenings during the actual G.A.A. Centenary Year.

As is our practice, I have continued with the points system. Details of the points on offer are given at the end of each chapter or exercise.

This points scoring system is not to be taken too seriously. I know from your letters that you, the readers, enjoy this part of the Quiz. But not for the first time I say: Don't take the markings too seriously. The system is only there to add to the competitive element.

The most important aspect overall is to enjoy the QUIZTIME, and perhaps, learn something new. The old winter months after all, are the time for looking back and recalling the events of the past... in this case happenings that gave us so much enjoyment in Gaelic Games during Centenary Year.

O.K.? Right, let's get the QUIZTIME under way with our first series of 12 questions. We call this particular exercise:

## THE CHAMPIONS

1. This team made a successful defence of a major national senior trophy on the day that the Centenary Year was ushered in officially at Ennis. Name the successful team. It should help you to know that the final was played at a Clare venue? .....

2. Brian Burke was a high fielding and exciting midfielder in a minor football team that ended a long spell out of the rankings by winning a provincial title at a home venue of the opposing team early in July. Again, name the successful team .....

3. Kerry won the National Football League title last April, beating Galway in the final at Limerick. Who captained the Kingdom in that game? .....

This footballer was the talk of the nation last summer following a high

scoring exhibition — all his scores came from play — as his team regained a provincial senior football crown after 11 years. Who is he? ...

5. One of the following young men led Dublin to the All-Ireland minor football title last September — Paul Clarke, at centrefield, John Power at centre half back, or Conor Crowley at left full forward. Your Choice as the man who stepped up to receive the Tom Markham Cup after the final win over Tipperary? .....

6. Nemo Rangers, of Cork, were one of the champion sides of the Centenary Year. What title nationally was won by the Leesiders in the past year? .....

7. What schools won the All-Ireland College's senior titles in football and hurling last May? Help yourself to a five points bonus if you name both champions correctly ...

8. One for the real enthusiast here. The Dr. McKenna Cup is an all-Ulster competition confined to Ulster counties. What county won the Centenary Year competition? ..

9. Who captained Meath in the Centenary Cup football final win over Monaghan? .....

10. The handballers had also Centenary Championships in the past year. One of the following won the singles title — Tony Ryan (Tipperary), Tommy O'Rourke (Kildare) or Dick Lyng (Wexford). Your selection? .....

11. Cork made camogie history last June by beating Dublin in the National Senior League final in Cork. What was unique or historic about that win? .....



12. Who won the Connacht under-21 football title last season?  
 .....

Five points on offer for each question, other than No. 7, which carries that bonus rating. Accordingly this section could get the keen expert off to a blistering start with 65 points.

Your Score .....

Our next series of questions centre on two personalities, pictured here, who scored important goals in major games in the past year. We call this chapter simply:



### THE GOAL SCORERS

1. Who is the personality pictured top left?.....  
 .....

2. He scored 1-1 when helping his county to a major final win in the early part of the year in a unique competition. Name the particular final.....  
 .....

3. Our personality also scored a goal in what was regarded as the high point of the Centenary Year on the playing fields. True or false?.....  
 .....

4. The subject of this part of the Quiz won a Railway Cup medal in Centenary Year. True or false? ....  
 .....

5. Who is the personality pictured top right? .....

6. He recorded one of the best individual returns in an All-Ireland senior final in 1984. Did he score 2-2, 1-5 or 1-3?.....  
 .....

7. Our personality won a county senior championship medal in the past season. True or false? .....

8. He had an exciting start to the championship campaign in the goal stakes. In the first round game our subject got 2-4. Now for the difficult part, and absolutely no help from this end: What county was on the receiving end of that barrage? .....

Once more each question carries five points. However, for a "full house" — that is all questions answered correctly — we are prepared to give a bonus of ten marks. This section, then, could boost your return by 50 points. *How did you fare?* .....

Now we present a somewhat different series of questions to the normal run. What we are looking for here is the missing link.

For example, Munster hurlers won the Railway Cup last March. Our question, then, could be something like this:

Munster hurlers won ..... last March. YOU must fill in the missing words. Get the idea?

### THE MISSING LINK

1. The "Irish Press" Cup now rests by the .....

2. Seven brothers helped ..... to an All-Ireland title win in Centenary Year.

3. .... was the top scoring forward with Galway as they retained the Connacht senior football championship.

4. Full back in Kerry's opening game in the past year's championship against Tipperary, ..... did not play in any of the subsequent matches.

5. Cork, Mayo, Dublin and ..... won provincial under-21 titles in football last season.

6. Who is the footballer missing from this particular company, and why? The footballers are Tommy Drumm, Eugene McKenna and Ambrose O'Donovan .....

7. A man who captained successful teams in interprovincial, provincial and national hurling competitions.

Our missing link here is .....

8. Clones, Croke Park and Killarney were linked with .....

..... on provincial finals scene in football last year.

9. Paddy Buggy, Tommy O'Brien and ..... were busy and successful leaders over the broad spectrum of Gaelic Games in the G.A.A.'s big year.

10. A late, late goal from .....

..... was one of the bright features of the championship scene last June, and ended the dreams of a particular county for a major titles treble to mark Centenary Year.

Five points on offer again for each question. And, as in the earlier exercises, we are prepared to allow a points bonus for an all correct return — this one a whopping 15 points. This section could end the QUIZ on a great note for the keen enthusiast then with 65 points on offer. HOW DID YOU FARE? .....

### THE RATINGS ON POINTS SCALE

Now to see just how expert YOU are on happenings over the past year in Gaelic Games generally. Our three separate sections add up to 180 points on the ratings scale.

160 points plus is Really Excellent. You have been reading Gaelic Sport and keeping a close eye on all events if you get around that mark.

130 to 160 is worthy of a **Very Good Rating**. 100 to 130 is **Good**. Under that? Well not to worry, there is always next year!

●ANSWERS PAGE 33

# GAELSPÓRT

## A Superb Annual

**T**HE official G.A.A. youth annual, *Gaelsport*, is in the shops and looks likely to be a complete sell-out once again. Packed brimful with colour action photos, this years annual must rank as one of the best yet.

Congratulations to G.A.A. Development Officer, Pat Daly, and his colleagues Owen Corry and Peter O'Hehir who were the men behind the scenes responsible for producing this magnificent edition. Many hours of hard work and effort by this trio has resulted in a 94 page full colour production and provides an ideal Christmas gift for both young and old.

The annual includes a six page *Gaelspórt* "Fact Finder" which is a compilation of facts and figures of G.A.A. happenings over the past 100 years, this in itself was a mammoth undertaking and is a must for all G.A.A. followers.

There are features on such greats as Pat Spillane, Pat Hartnett, Bomber Liston, Pat Delaney, Frank McGuigan, Tony Doran, Colm O'Rourke, Tommy Quaid, Brian Mullins and many more. There is an article entitled "Kerry on Tour", 4 testing Quiz's and a 'tongue in cheek' look at some of the playing strips worn by teams around the turn of the century.

'A Century of Highlights' lists the highlights of the association, year by year, since it's inception in 1884 to the present day.

There is a look ahead to the second century of the G.A.A., a tribute to the minor hurlers of Kilkenny and Limerick who put on a magnificent display of hurling in both the drawn All-Ireland final and in the replay.

A profile on an up and coming

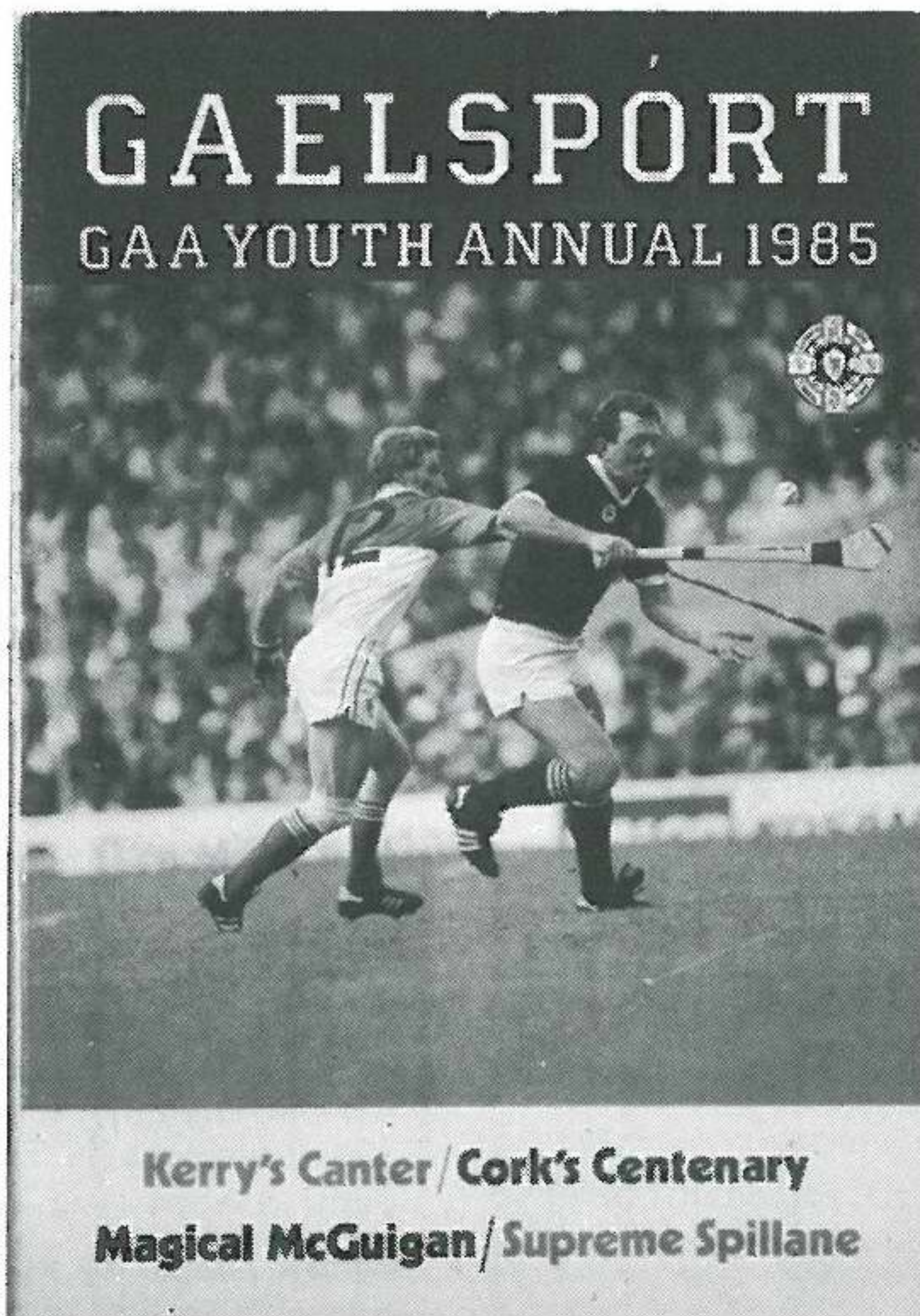
Kerry star by the name of Kieron O'Shea, is also featured. Certain to follow in the footsteps of his more illustrious father, Jack, Kieron has already begun learning the skills of

Gaelic football and will, no doubt, be under the scrutiny of the Kerry mentors for many years to come — for Kieron is only 3 years of age!

These are but a sample of the many features in this years bumper edition and at a cost of only £3.95 is bound to be a complete sell-out. Annuals may also be obtained direct from Pat Daly, Development Officer, Croke Park. Simply enclose a postal order or cheque for £4.95 (incl. £1 P&P).

# GAELSPÓRT

## GAA YOUTH ANNUAL



*Gaelspórt '85. . . another bumper edition, featuring 94 pages, is now available in most bookshops. See Kerry on tour - A Century of Highlights - Test your knowledge in the many Quiz's - What the players togged out in in years gone by - A six page 'Fact-Finder'.*

*These and much much more in this years action packed edition. It is the ideal Christmas gift.*

## ANSWERS THE CHAMPIONS

1. Ulster retained the Railway Cup in football by beating Connacht in the final — 1-12 to 1-7. 2. Brian Burke was at midfield for Tipperary as they beat Kerry in Killarney in the Munster minor football final for a first title since 1955. 3. Jack O'Shea. 4. Frank McGuigan, who scored 0-11 in Tyrone's Ulster final win over Armagh. 5. Paul Clarke, of Whitehall Colmcille's, who played at left midfield in the final win over Tipperary. 6. All-Ireland club senior football championship. 7. St. Jarlath's, Tuam, in football, and St. Finbarr's, Farranferris, in hurling. 8. Tyrone. 9. Joe Cassells. 10. Tommy O'Rourke (Kildare), who beat Tony Ryan in the final. 11. Cork's win was their first in a National Senior camogie League final. 12. Mayo, who beat Galway by 2-7 to 2-4 in the final.

## THE GOAL SCORERS

1. Kevin Hennessy, of Cork. 2. The Centenary Cup hurling final win over Laois. 3. True. He scored that goal against Offaly in the All-Ireland senior hurling final at Thurles. 4. True. He was at right full forward in the Munster team that beat Leinster in the final at Ennis. 5. Barney Rock, of Dublin. 6. 1-5. 7. False. 8. Wexford, who were beaten at Croke Park in June.

## THE MISSING LINK

1. Shannonside. The trophy is awarded to the winners of the All-Ireland minor hurling championship, and Limerick beat Kilkenny in a final replay. 2. Ballyhale Shamrocks, of Kilkenny. 3. Stephen Joyce. 4.

John O'Keefe. 5. Down. 6. The three footballers named all captained provincial senior title winning teams. Missing, then, is the Galway captain, Seamus McHugh. 7. John Fenton, who led Munster to the Railway Cup, Cork to the Centenary Cup and Munster and All-Ireland titles. 8. Pearse Stadium, Galway. Like the other towns listed of course, a venue for a provincial final. 9. Mary Fennelly, who is President of the Camogie Association. Paddy Buggy and Tommy O'Brien are holders of the corresponding office in the G.A.A. and Handball. 10. Tony Doran, whose late goal for Wexford knocked Kilkenny out in the Leinster senior semi-final and off the trail of a treble of All-Ireland hurling championships in the grade.

**J**ACK Mahon has done it again! The Galway man now well known for his **JUNIOR DESK** column in **GAELIC SPORT** has added yet another excellent publication to his already extensive range of books.

This is Jack Mahon's Gaelic Games Quiz Book 3, a well-produced 88 page publication, that contains a wide range of Questions and Answers.

The book is nicely devised in that there are separate quiz features. These range from the Christy Ring Quiz, the Mick Mackey Quiz, the Michael O'Hehir Quiz through to the Eddie Keher section. There are general sections as well, and each quiz varies in length from 15 separate questions to six or nine.

The quiz book is packed with photographs. For these alone, the publication is well worthwhile. Understandably, the pictures are related to questions in each quiz section, but I feel sure many will buy the book for the photographs alone. There is an excellent one of the late Mick Mackey clipping a hedge, and one of the Pupil and the Master — a full page photograph showing Jimmy Barry-Murphy with Christy Ring, who has since, of course, passed to his reward.

And, many memories will be revived by a photograph of the Cavan and Meath teams taken during the parade before the start of the 1952 All-Ireland final.

Jack Mahon has been served well by his printers, the **CONNACHT TRIBUNE LTD.**, who have done an excellent job. The book is set off in an attractive cover, with photographs front and back from the Centenary Year All-Ireland finals.

Highly recommended.

**JACK MAHON'S GAELIC GAMES QUIZ BOOK 3.**  
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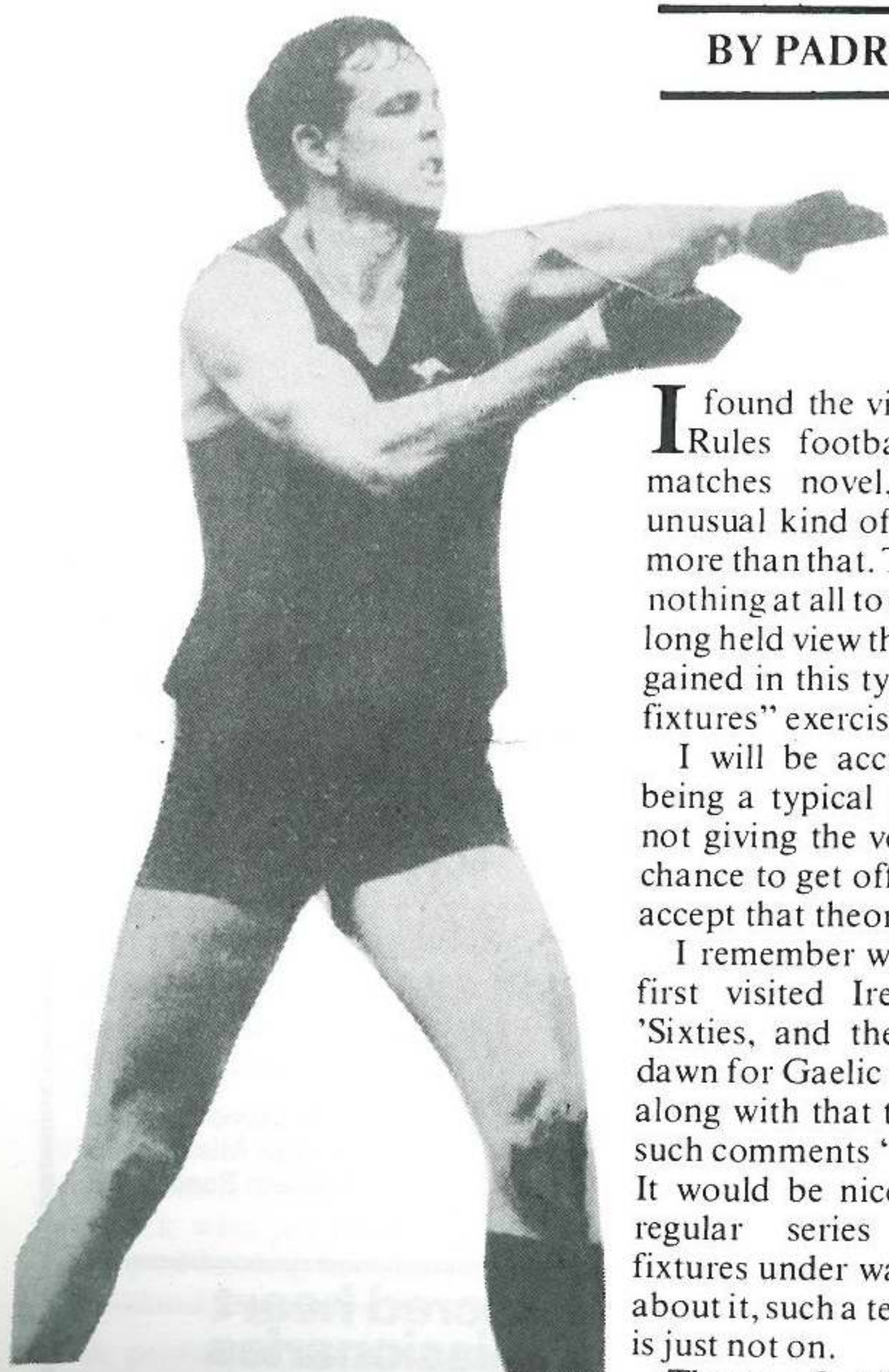
# NO FUTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

## CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON IMPROVING GAELIC FOOTBALL

---

BY PADRAIG GIBSON

---



I found the visit of the Australian Rules footballers and the test matches novel, interesting in an unusual kind of way — but nothing more than that. The latest venture did nothing at all to cause me to revise my long held view that there is little to be gained in this type of “international fixtures” exercise.

I will be accused right away of being a typical Irish “knocker”; of not giving the venture a worthwhile chance to get off the ground. I can’t accept that theory.

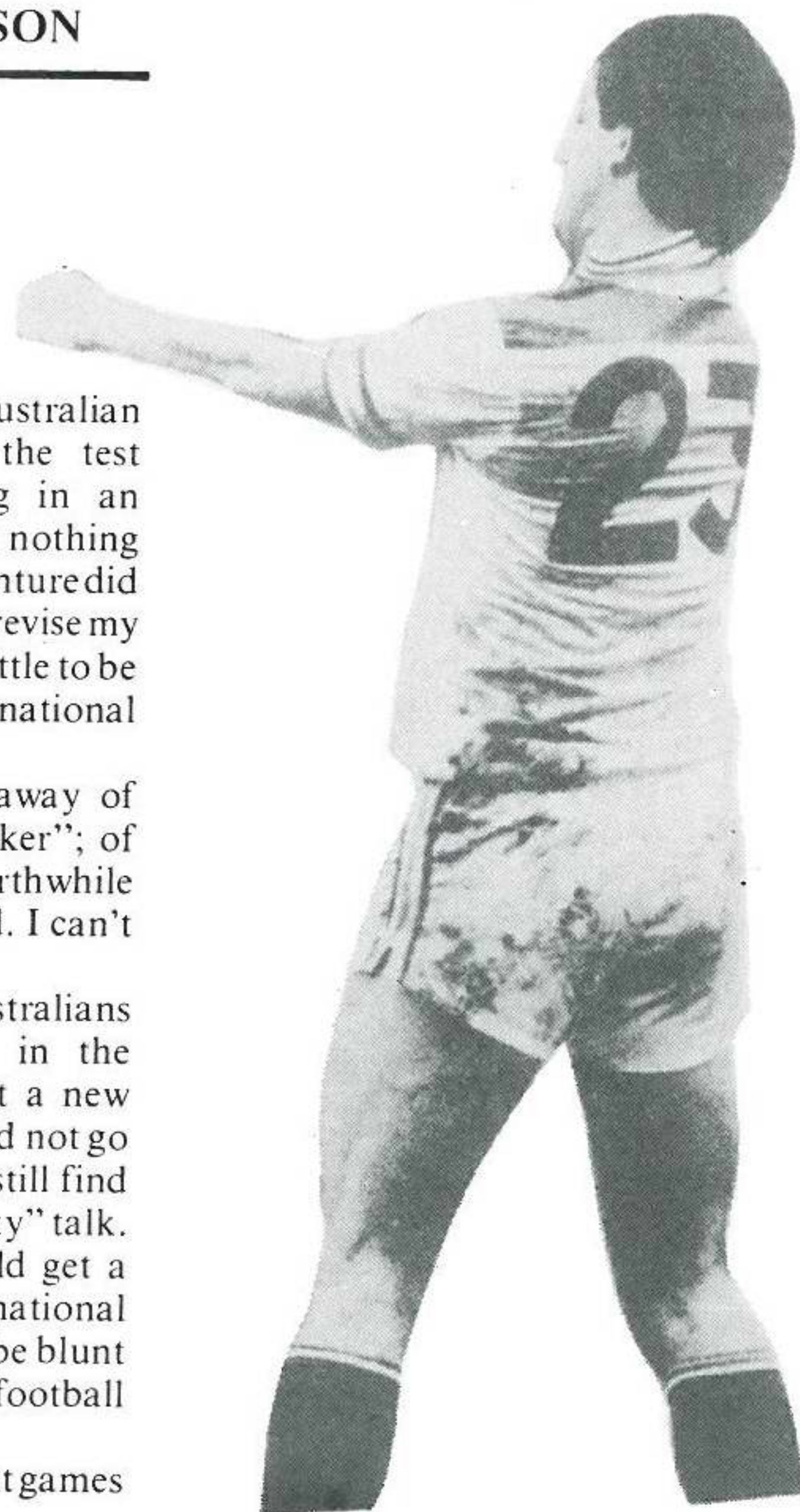
I remember when the Australians first visited Ireland back in the 'Sixties, and the talk about a new dawn for Gaelic Games. I did not go along with that then, and I still find such comments “pie in the sky” talk. It would be nice if we could get a regular series of international fixtures under way but let’s be blunt about it, such a test in Gaelic football is just not on.

The mere fact that the recent games

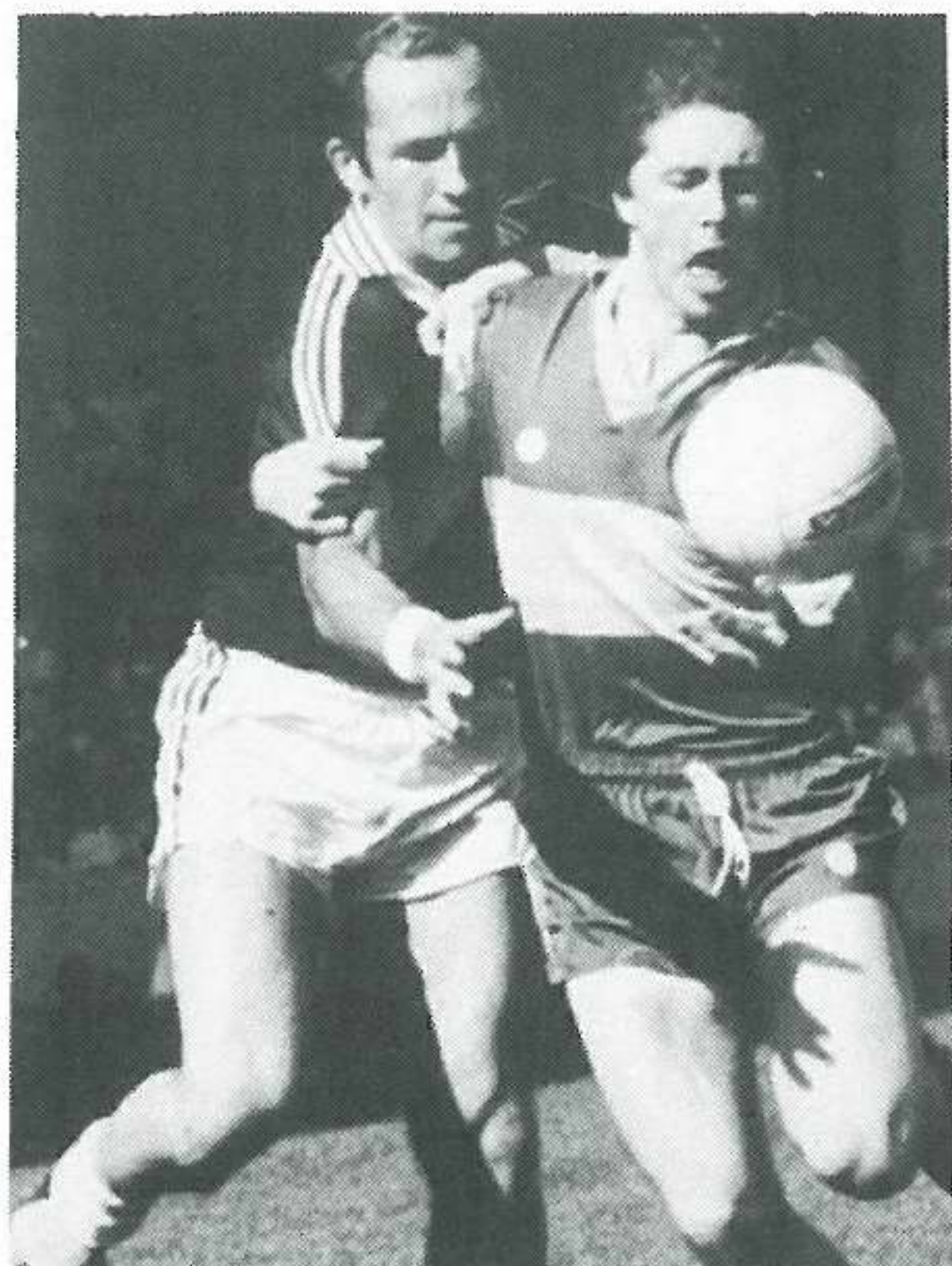
were under compromise rules is an admission of this fact. So why bother?

We have our own game of Gaelic football, and I think we should try and improve that, make the sport more spectacular, and improve the standards so that more counties will share in the title wins, rather than trying to manufacture a new game. After all, if we in the G.A.A. want another game, there are many well established ones around, from Rugby to Soccer, cricket to hockey, basketball to tennis. Let’s take up one of those games.

Or better still, let’s concentrate more strongly on trying to ensure that Gaelic football reaches its full potential. It is a sad commentary on the position of the game today that at



## CONTRASTING STYLES!



These two pictures adequately demonstrate the difference between what is termed a tackle in Australian Rules Football and a tackle in our own Gaelic Football. This was a major stumbling block in the recent test matches. Some of the Australian tackling was, to put it mildly, very crude, particularly in the first Test at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



the start of the Centenary Year the majority of fans predicted an All-Ireland final between Kerry and Dublin — and they were proved right.

**It is an even greater indictment of the state of the game today that a Connacht county has not won the Sam Maguire Cup since 1966, and Ulster's last All-Ireland championship was gained in 1968. Even more depressing is the fact that there has been no evidence in recent times that the West or the North is likely to get back into the rankings in the immediate future.**

Surely, then, we should be striving with all our might — and not being deflected into other areas — in trying to get Connacht and Ulster back as provinces with genuine title-winning contenders?

The game, generally, is not the spectacle it could or should be. I am not going to go into a review of changes needed in the playing rules or in the approaches by the players and referees. That will do for another day.

But what I am saying is that these are other aspects that must come in for a searching examination. All right, the G.A.A. has been working in this area to try and improve matters

over the years, and will no doubt continue to do so. But my point is that we should get our house in order first, before starting to look further afield.

I think, for example, that it was a crazy arrangement whereby most of October was “out” for National Football League games because of the Australian visit, and that the “close season” was then followed by matches throughout November and into early December.

Our footballers have been finding it difficult to produce top class fare on firm pitches, and they just have no chance then of delivering the goods in mid winter on muddy pitches and in cold damp conditions. Not only that, I for one, and I am sure most readers will agree with me, have no interest in going along to such games.

We would be much better, then, devoting our time to the promotion of the game of Gaelic football, to playing matches at the best time of the year, and to improving presentation of the game, than trying to create a new international sport. For that is what the latest venture really is. It is just not promoting Gaelic football.

**What about the need for international competition for our**

**players? Many argue that this is the most telling point of all in favour of the new compromise rules game with the Australians. My answer is simple enough: The international angle is overplayed.**

It would be nice as I have said if we had proper internationals in Gaelic games. But the footballers themselves are realistic enough to realise that there is no such outlet. That has been the case for years, indeed since the launching of the G.A.A., but that fact has not hampered the development of the organisation.

Rugby and Soccer have their international outlets, but even the most blinkered supporter of the games will still concede that Gaelic football is by far the most widely played sport in this country, and also the greatest crowd-packer. In short, despite the lack of international competition — and maybe even because of it — Gaelic Football has prospered. The game has a strong following player-wise and spectator-wise in every pocket of the country — and that is more than can be said of the other two main outdoor sports.

Granted, as I have already

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stressed, the standard in most areas leaves much to be desired. But the same can probably be said, I would imagine, of the other codes.

No, our footballers do not need international competition to keep on playing Gaelic football. What they do need, however, is better facilities all round, and a more attractive vehicle to display their talents.

They also need a more streamlined calendar, a better combination of

club and inter-county games, and above all a close season during the winter months, with more matches on summer evenings, in order to give of their best and ensure that they play their parts in helping Gaelic football to realise its potential.

Good luck to the Australian Rules footballers. They were welcome visitors to our shores, and I hope they will come again. If we can devise an international system of games over compromise rules in the future then

that is ok by me.

But only, I maintain, after we have brought our own special and distinctive game of Gaelic football to the peak it should long ago have reached — a peak whereby most of the counties starting out for the major titles would do so with real chances of going all the way, and whereby the present unsatisfactory system that has the League and All-Ireland titles the preserves of an elite few would be a thing of the past.

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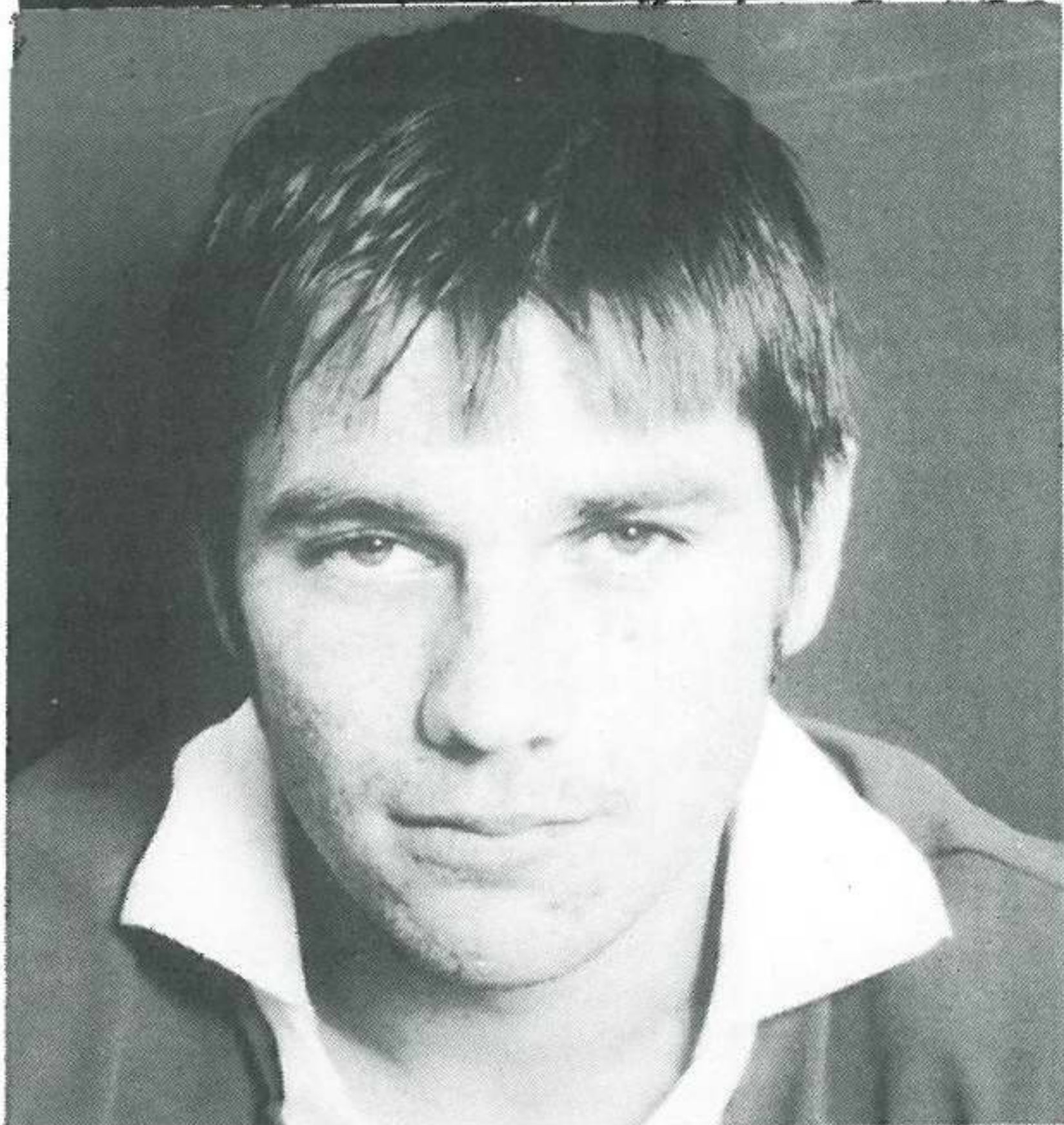
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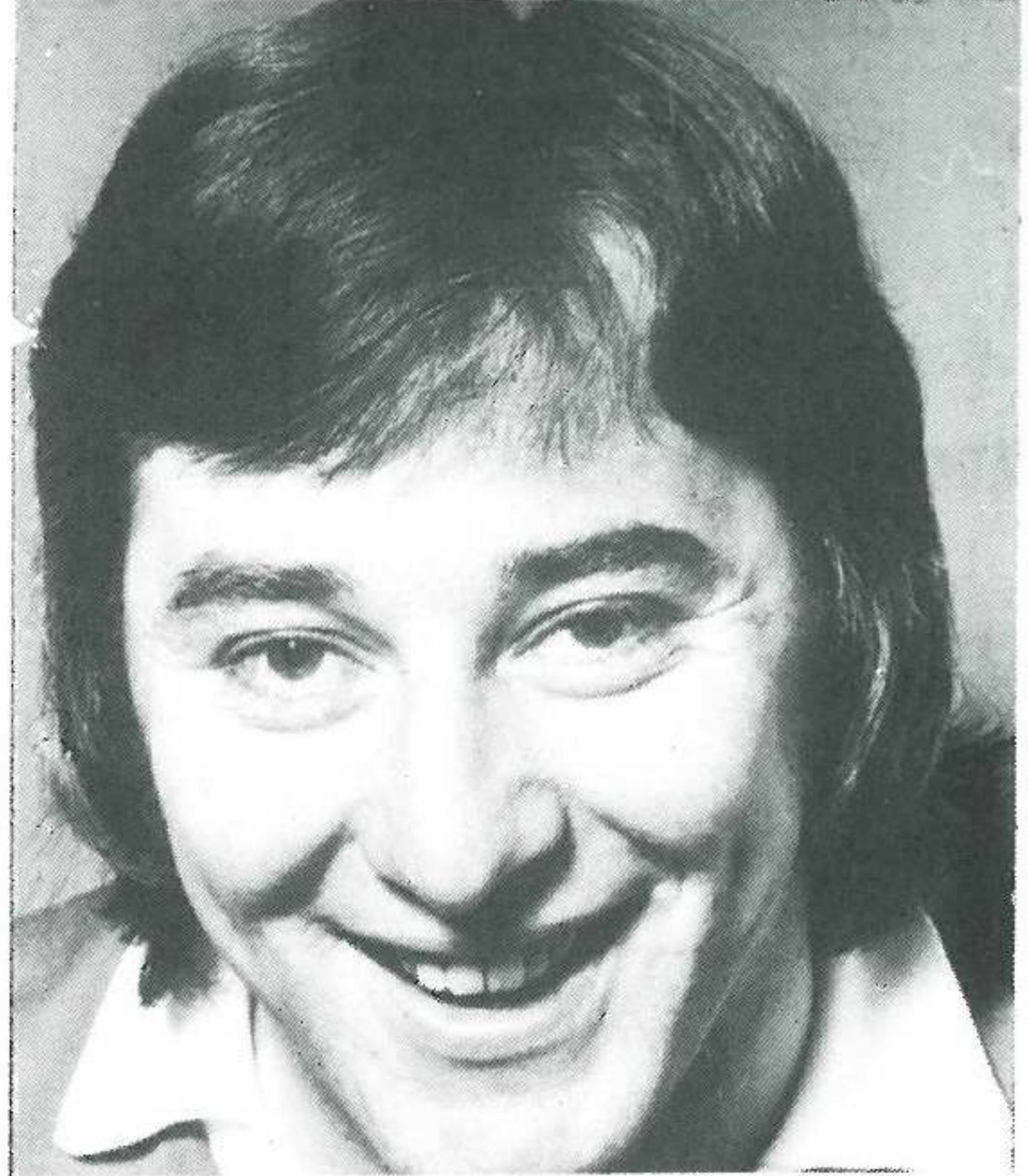
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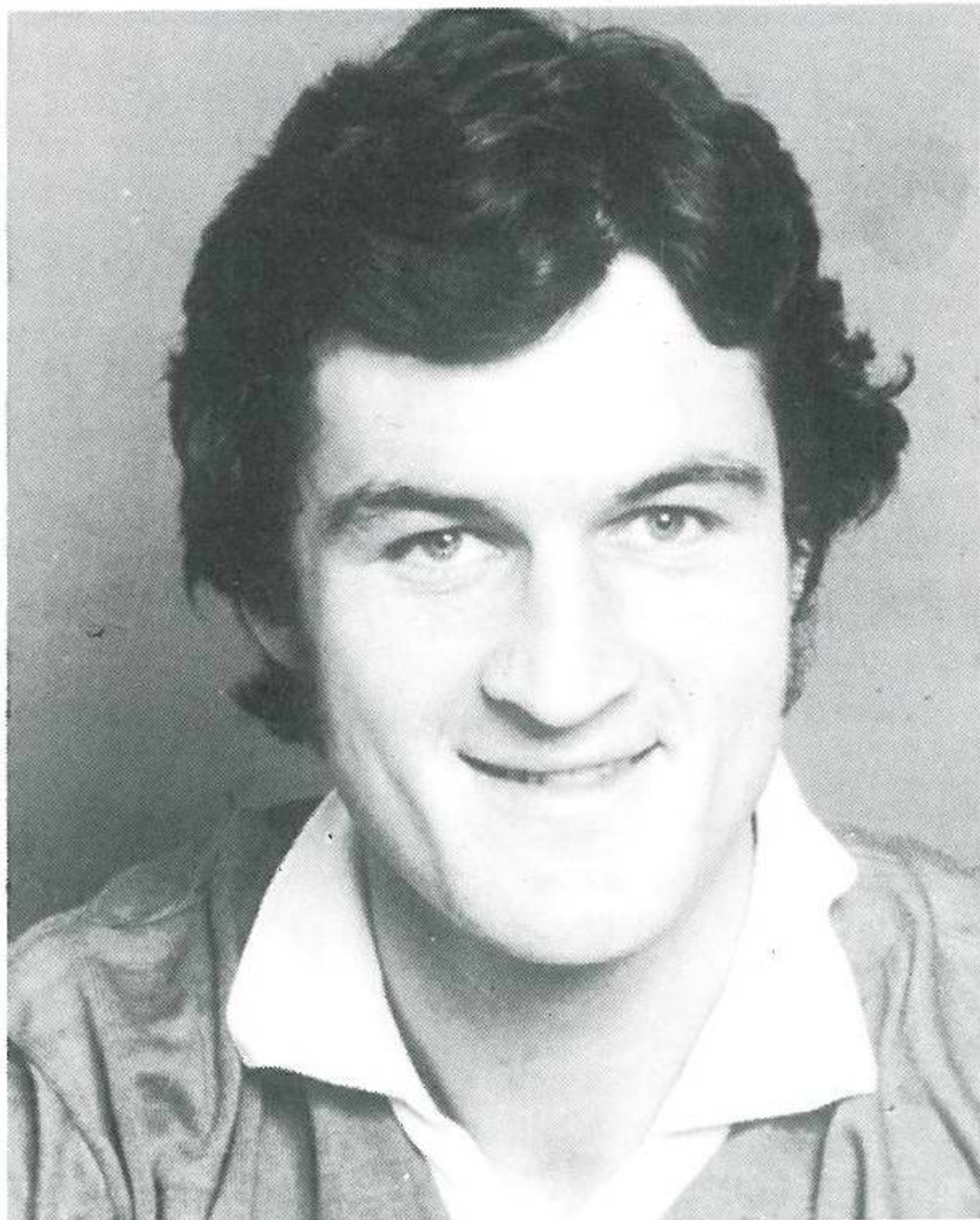
# QUARTET OF '84 STARS



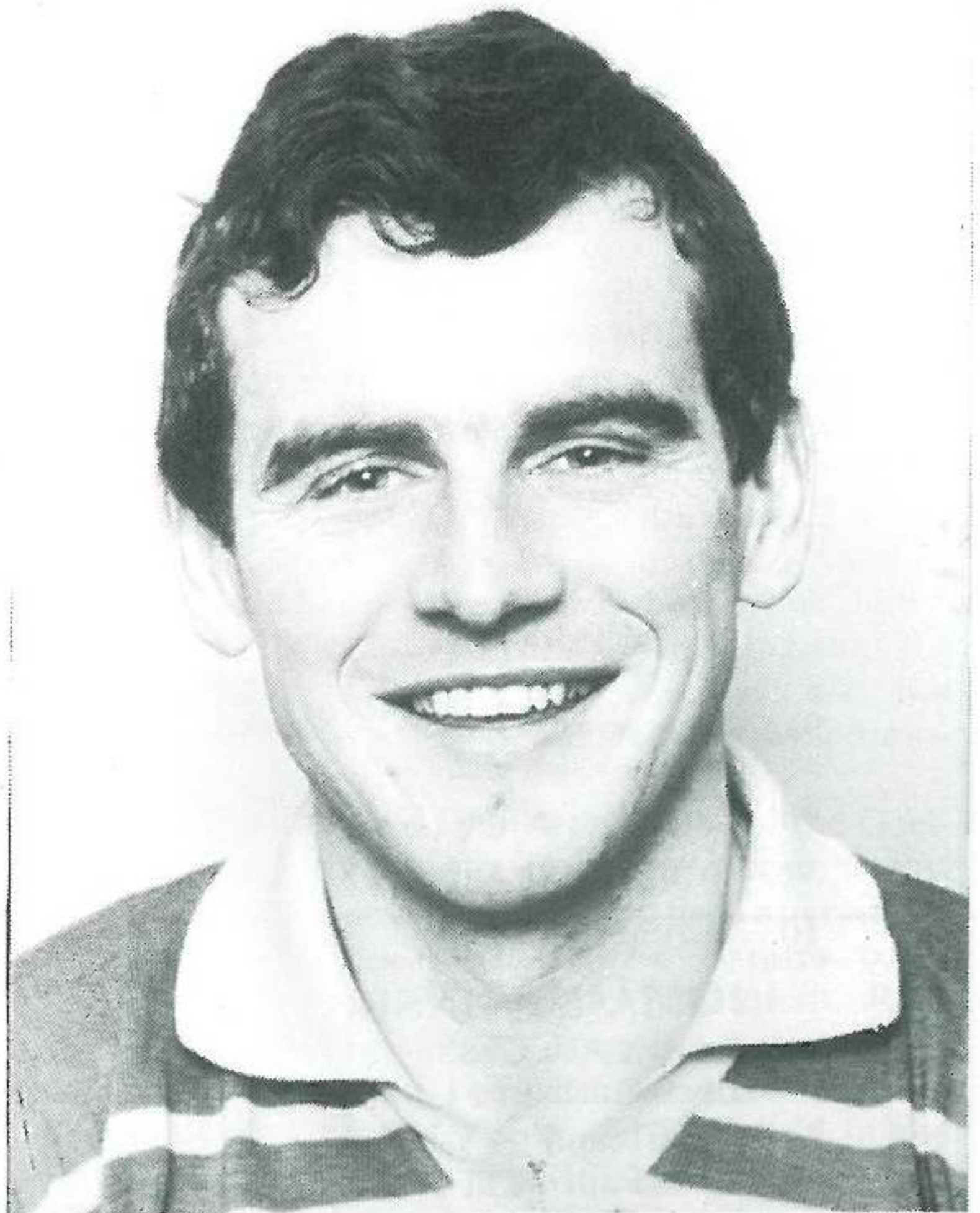
Paudie O'Shea, Kerry



Seán O'Leary, Cork



Pat Fleury, Offaly

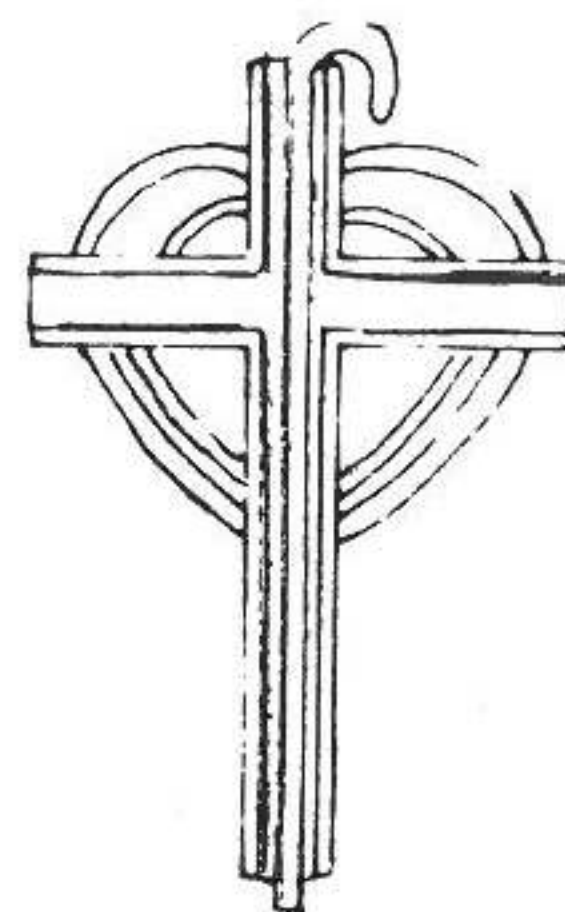


Colm O'Rourke, Meath.

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### PEIL SINSIR

1. Ceatharloch v Iarmhí
2. Ceatharloch nó Iarmhí v Laois
3. Cill Dara v Cill Mantáin
4. An Mhí v Cill Dara nó Cill Mantáin
5. Longphort v Loch Garman
6. Longphort nó Loch Garman v Áth Cliath
7. Uibh Fáilí v Lú
- 8a. Ceatharloch v Cill Dara nó Cill Mantáin nó An Mhí
- 8b. Iarmhí v Cill Dara nó Cill Mantáin nó An Mhí
- 8c. Laois v Cill Dara nó Cill Mantáin nó An Mhí
- 9a. Longphort v Uibh Fáilí nó An Lú
- 9b. Loch Garman v Uibh Fáilí nó An Lú
- 9c. Áth Cliath v Uibh Fáilí nó An Lú
10. Craobh: 8 v 9

### IOMÁINT SINSIR

1. Laois v Áth Cliath
2. Loch Garman v Laois nó Áth Cliath
3. Cill Chainnigh v Iarmhí
4. Uibh Fáilí v Cill Chainnigh nó Iarmhí
5. Craobh 2 v 4

### DATA IONAD

- 19/5/1985 Ceatharloch  
 9/6/1985 Ceatharloch nó Muileann Cerr  
 19/5/1985 Droichead Nua  
 2/6/1985 An Uaimh  
 26/5/1985 Longphort  
 16/6/1985 Longphort nó Loch Garman  
 16/6/1985 Tulach Mhór  
 30/6/1985 Portlaoise nó Áth Í nó  
 Droichead Nua  
 30/6/1985 Tulach Mhór  
 30/6/1985 Ceatharloch nó Áth Í nó  
 Páirc an Chrócaigh  
 7/7/1985 Muileann Cerr nó Páirc an  
 Chrócaigh  
 7/7/1985 Páirc an Chrócaigh  
 7/7/1985 Tulach Mhór nó An Uaimh  
 28/7/1985 Páirc an Chrócaigh
- 2/6/1985 Tulach Mhór  
 23/6/1985 Páirc an Chrócaigh  
 2/6/1985 Tulach Mhór  
 23/6/1985 Páirc an Chrócaigh  
 14/7/1985 Páirc an Chrócaigh



## **PLAYERS WILL LOOK BACK ON '84 WITH SATISFACTION**

**M**ANY players will look back on 1984 with a great deal of satisfaction. The year was one to remember for U.C.D., Maryfield College, St. Raphaels, Dublin Senior and the Cork Junior and Minor teams among others.

Last February Germaine Noonan led U.C.D. to their fifth successive Ashbourne Cup success and scored three goals in an exciting final against Queens in Belfast. Flying to and fro across the Atlantic, she kept in touch with Dublin's progress in the championship campaign. From the right back position, she scored a long range goal in the final which had a settling influence on the Dublin team.

Ann Colgan joined the list of illustrious names who have captained Dublin to victory in the All-Ireland senior championship. The Buttevant girl is in the company of former stars like Sophie Brack, Una O'Connor, Eileen Duffy, Gerry Hughes and Kathleen Ryder.

Injury and illness kept Edel Murphy on the sideline at times during the season. But she made her presence felt when she was on the field and played a big part in Dublin's victory. Una Crowley, Mary Mernagh and Barbara Redmond also made substantial contributions to that success.

If I was to name a Player of the Year, my vote would go to Yvonne Redmond. Yvonne set and maintained a very high standard in all her matches. While other players stepped in and out of the limelight, Yvonne continued to give

performances of high quality in the Dublin goal.

The League Final belonged to Cathy Landers who gave a powerful exhibition of centre-back play. Cathy made a huge contribution to Killeagh who regained the Cork and Munster club titles.

Two great individual goals marked the Munster colleges final. Their scorer, Irene O'Leary led a new Cork junior team through Munster and on to eventual honours at Croke Park. Others on that Cork side to catch the eye were Patricia Fitzgibbon, Una O'Connor, Paula Goggins, Mary Currid and Linda Mellerick.

Carmel O'Byrne played a key role in Maryfield's Leinster and All-Ireland double. She toured America with the school team and returned to collect an All-Ireland senior medal. Deirdre Costello also made a great impact on the colleges scene. Scoring 3-6 she played more than a captain's part with St. Raphaels in the junior final.

Cork minors added to their wonderful record in this grade. The current squad contains skilful players whose names will become well-known in the future. These include Colette O'Mahony, Evelyn Healy, Niamh Coughlan, Jean Paula Kent and Paula Carey.

Angela Downey captured Gradam Tailte in such style that her opponents looked on in appreciation. She played a lone hand in the championship with Kilkenny. Had she received support on the day, it is anybody's guess who would have finished up as champions.



**Dublin Senior Camogie Team Captain, Ann Colgan, with the O'Duffy Cup.**

There were stars on losing sides also. Tina Fitzhenry's displays for Wexford in the championship were first class. Mary Sheedy (Tipperary), Olive Scorr (Cavan), Lorna O'Flaherty (Shannon) and Anne Ryan (Galway) had their moments.

The strong counties continue to dominate the camogie scene. The All-Ireland championships and National League were shared between Dublin and Cork. It is disturbing that the junior graded counties are not making a better showing in the junior grade.

Much of the glamour of the Gael-Linn inter-provincial series is lost because players are tired after a hard season when these fixtures come around. Munster Chairman, Rose Malone, has suggested playing the entire competitions together at a central venue. A date early in the season when the pitches lend themselves to good camogie would prove more attractive.

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*100 blian agus guímíd*

*gach rath sna blianta*

*atá romhain*

# POWER PACKED MUNSTER FINAL DISPLAY WON TIPP. MANY PLAUDITS, BUT . . .

## WAS IT ANOTHER FLASH IN THE PAN?

ASKS NOEL HORGAN

A last minute goal from Liam Maher earned Tipperary a single point success over Clare in their Munster championship clash this year. It was the significant win for Tipp in that it secured their place in the Munster final for the first time since 1973 but few gave them a real chance of dethroning Cork in the provincial decider at Thurles.

That game proceeded along predictable lines for most of the first half with Cork looking easily the more accomplished outfit, picking off their points with aplomb and apparently playing well within themselves.

Some glaring defensive errors allowed the homesters to remain in contention, however, and Tipp received a huge psychological boost when Nicky English goaled on the stroke of half-time to reduce the deficit to a mere two points.

**In the second half Tipperary produced a power-packed performance which knocked the hitherto majestic Corkmen completely off their stride. The men from the Premier County seemed set to succeed when they led by four points with just five minutes remaining.**

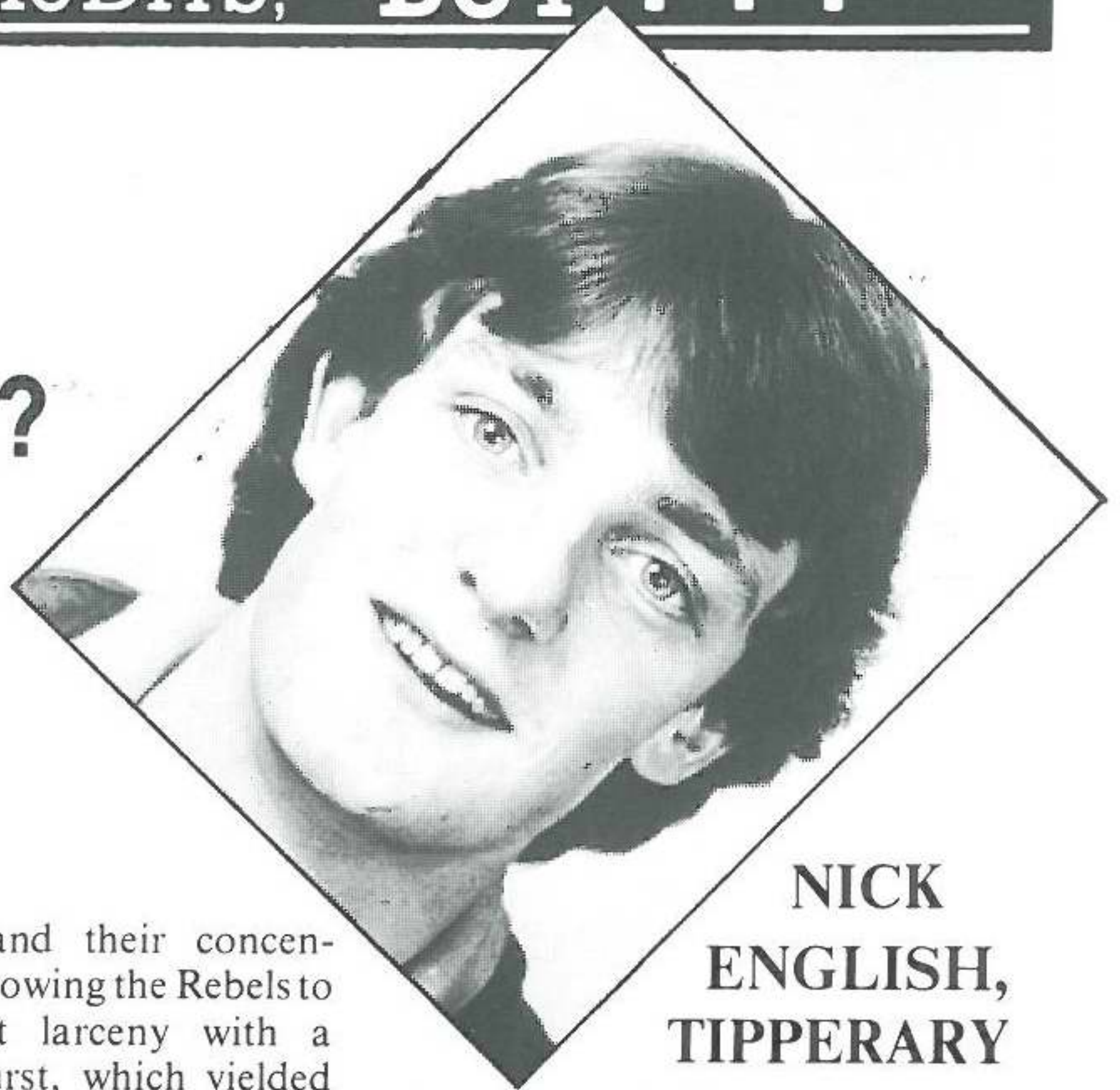
Their big-time inexperience surfaced in the tension-packed

closing stages and their concentration lapsed, allowing the Rebels to commit daylight larceny with a dramatic late burst, which yielded two goals and two points. It was a heart-breaking defeat for the success-starved Tipp-men but their gutsy display earned them as many plaudits as their conquerors at the finish and when the dust settled, despair gave way to hope in the Tipp camp, especially after Cork captured All-Ireland honours in such an emphatic fashion.

This optimistic attitude remains as Tipperary folk view 1985 as the year when a championship breakthrough can be achieved for the first time since 1971. Clare, for their part, face the New Year in a far less confident frame of mind.

Unless the Bannermen make a major impact in the National League, they will enter the fray as rank outsiders when they again tackle Tipperary in the '85 Munster semi-final. Yet, one is reluctant to accept that such a sizeable gap in standards has developed between the teams that were separated by just one puck of the ball in the early summer.

Is there really cause for the completely contrasting moods that exist in the Clare and Tipp camps at



**NICK  
ENGLISH,  
TIPPERARY**

the moment? Tipperary's display against Cork this year was encouraging but one swallow does not make a summer and Tipp have flattered to deceive in the past.

In 1979, for instance, Tipp scaled the heights to run reigning All-Ireland champions Cork to a point but they failed to sustain this form afterwards and plunged to the depths of mediocrity again. Only time will tell if Tipp's effort against the Leesiders this year was another flash-in-the-pan.

**With most counties fielding makeshift line-outs and the majority of the divisional games played in adverse conditions, the National League has developed into something resembling a lottery in recent years and we are unlikely to discover if Tipp possess genuine potential before next year's championship.**

Clare should qualify for the quarter final from Division Two but competing against inadequate opposition must hinder their development and they will look to the

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**TIPPERARY** — considered by many to be unlucky losers to Cork in the '84 Munster Final. Will '85 see Tipp. make a long awaited breakthrough in Munster?

league's concluding stages mainly to hone their edge for the championship. Their real worth, therefore, seems set to remain disguised until the Munster semi-final.

Tipperary have enjoyed considerable success at underage level in recent years which further convinces the fans that a major breakthrough is just around the corner. Clare, for their part, have been boosted by the recent appointment of former Limerick great Eamonn Cregan as coach and, if he can impart even a

modicum of his immense qualities as a player of skill, grit, craft and commitment to his new charges, the Banner men's prospects must soar.

The future of both Tipp and Clare, therefore, is riddled with imponderables. Prudence prompts us to reserve judgement on Tipp's high rating and Clare's more modest standing in the current hurling ladder until after their Munster championship confrontation in 1985.

**Suffice it to say that we will not be too surprised should there again be precious little between them at the end of that match.**

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## FIXTURES 1985

SENIOR AND MINOR  
FOOTBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

- May 19th: Donegal v Down,  
(Ballybofey)
- May 26th: Cavan v Antrim  
(Cavan)
- June 2nd: Derry v Tyrone  
(Ballinascreen)
- June 9th: Armagh v Fermanagh  
(Armagh)
- June 16th: Monaghan v Donegal  
or Down  
(Castleblayney or  
Newry)
- June 23rd: First semi-final —  
Cavan/Antrim v  
Derry/Tyrone
- June 30th: Second semi-final  
Armagh/Fermanagh  
v Donegal/Down or  
Monaghan.  
**Final on July 21.**

# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**C**ENTENARY YEAR is still with us. Since I wrote last we have had the Centenary All-Irelands and in hindsight both were disappointing. The build-up to the Thurles event was enormous. I travelled to the Tipperary venue on the Friday night and had a weekend I will never forget. The atmosphere in Thurles was marvellous. I stayed out in Holycross and spent Saturday meandering round Thurles. First I enjoyed visiting the marvellous exhibition of G.A.A. memorabilia mounted by William Corbett N.T., an old friend, and his friendly and energetic Committee. I could write a whole article on that visit.

## THE THURLES MUSEUM

It abounded in G.A.A. riches — Mickey "Rattler" Byrne's record 14 Tipperary S.H. medals from 1944-65 era — the Caps worn by the Tubberhoora-Boherlahan men of 1896 — the jersey worn by Mick Hogan of Grangemockler when he was gunned down on Bloody Sunday 1920. The jersey in question was green stamped on a white background with Tipperary written in gold letters on the white. Then you had Paddy Flanagan's set of scrapbooks kept since 1958 and his full case of programmes. Paddy himself was there to protect his treasures. He is a great Thurles Sarsfield's man.

Jimmy Doyle's collection of 126 medals was the most impressive on show and I had the pleasure of meeting his son Walter, a lovely young lad who is a student in

Vocational School, Thurles. The marvellous collection of 25 All-Ireland handball medals of J.J. Gilmartin was on show too. The following day outside Hayes's Hotel I met Peadar McGee, the Newport, Co. Mayo handballer who bids fair to better even J.J.'s record. You had the medal collections of Len Gaynor, Michael Maher, Noel O'Dwyer, Liam Devanney, John O'Donoghue, John Maher and of course John Doyle's eight All-Ireland medals, and the imposing collection won by the Leahy brothers of Boherlahan and a very imposing golden hurley presented to the Cork player after the marathon All-Ireland series of 1931. And how could one omit Tommy Doyle's medals. I met some lovely people in this museum, old friends like music-man Connie Lynch, Jimmy Duggan, the Tipp goalkeeper in 1975, a group from Tullaroan, Mary Fennelly the Camogie President among them.

Later that evening I went to the official reception for the launching of the new video on hurling skills, sponsored by Greenvale Animal Feeds. There was a host of Tipperary hurling personalities present, men like Mickey Byrne, Tommy Doyle, Flor Coffey, Liam Devanney... who worked with the Irish Sugar Co. (of which Greenvale is a subsidiary). M.C. for the occasion was Joe Conway, the man who won the Dublin and Galway S.F.C. medals in the 60's and a man who has done so much for football in Waterford and Munster. After that reception I just savoured the atmosphere of the streets of Thurles, visited the

Stadium, met some *Junior Desk* friends from Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone, people like John Byrne, *Irish Echo*, New York. You met a G.A.A. personality every inch of the road almost. The rest is memory now. Meeting Johnny Creedon of Cork after the hurling final is a story I'll keep for again.

## DUNMANWAY

Later on that month I was a guest of the Dunmanway G.A.A. club at the unveiling of a very suitable memorial to Sam Maguire in his native Mallabraga. I really enjoyed this weekend as guest of the Gildea family. Hearing the rich West Cork accent of Johnny Hurley as he recited on the Saturday night; attending Mass and Service in the Church of Ireland, St. Mary's; presenting the medals to the U-12's of Sam Maguires and Clonakilty after a penalty shoot-out; admiring the skill of John Evans with the Doheny West Cork Selection who played a fine bunch of London Exiles led by London Secretary Pat Griffin. Unfortunately I had to leave on the long journey home immediately after the unveiling of the plaque but not without visiting Sam Maguire's old home — a spot not unlike Carron on the Burren where Cusack lived, though not as barren of course but oh so rural and peaceful.

Circumstances ordained that I travelled from Belfast to the All-Ireland Football Final. Dublin weren't in the race at all as I had fully expected. It was strange how many writers favoured Dublin. Kerry

●TO PAGE 45

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●FROM PAGE 43

beat them to a frazzle and should have won by far more. Pat Spillane was magnificent. But fair play to Dublin they never gave up and were in the game right to the end unlike Offaly in the Hurling final who faded away as the second half progressed. Dublin's wearing of tracksuits for the marchround and team photo was yet another example of their thumbs up attitude to the G.A.A. and to G.A.A. tradition. But Kerry answered them as only Kerry can by ignoring their whims and beating them at home. Dublin might have worn their tracksuits in bed for all Kerry cared! But the G.A.A. must exercise its authority and issue directives on what *is* and *is not* allowable in future. International rugby and soccer teams follow a certain code in this and there would be an outrage if teams didn't strip for team photos on final occasions and major international events. I know that tracksuits are necessary if there are big delays before the throw-in on the marchround but there should have been some consultation on this beforehand.

QUIZBOOK NO. 3

I had the President of the G.A.A. Paddy Buggy, launch my Quizbook No. 3 before the Football final here in Galway. He brought the Sam Maguire Cup with him to the event. Imagine we haven't had it in the West since Enda Colleran brought it here for the 3rd year in a row in 1966. There are 17 year old lads and older in Galway who never saw the Sam Maguire Cup in Galway. Perhaps new team manager Cyril Dunne will effect a change.

Our Cut-Out this month is Noel Lane of Ballinderrin, Co. Galway. I think he is a great athlete. Under Cyril Farrell, I expect to see Galway hurling on the rise again and Noel Lane will be one of the men in the van of that rise. Here in Galway two old clubs Castlegar (Hurling) and Tuam Stars (Football) are champions in

Centenary Year. So perhaps Galway will spring back in both codes. At the time of writing the Aussie Rules Footballers have just arrived. Let us hope that they put some gizz or spirit or old-time-style back into Gaelic football because it is becoming too stereotyped in a most boring type of possession game, hopefully.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Gaelic Games Quizbook No. 3 (Centenary Year Edition)* Certainly I'm not going to start boosting this one! It's in the shops since the All-Ireland Football Final. It is also in the G.A.A. shop in Croke Park. This one is more historical than the other two, has more questions, much more photos. If you have any difficulty in getting one write to me with a P.O. for £2.25 (covers postage) at 29, Oaklands, Salthill, Galway. Its difficult to write about your own book!

*The G.A.A. in Co. Monaghan... A History by Séamus McCluskey*, that great Gael and teacher from Emyvale, a man of many parts and a tremendous historian. The clarity of the early photos is excellent i.e. Monaghan Harps 1922-23, Monaghan Ulster Champions 1927 and 1929. This 260 page book is a comprehensive history of the G.A.A. in Monaghan. Other counties doing a similar exercise would do well to buy a copy. There should be one in every Monaghan home. Copies from Séamus McCluskey, N.T., Emyvale, Co. Monaghan. Price £8 (incl. postage). Actual retail price is £6.95.

*The Clonduff Story 1887-1984, the History of the Co. Down G.A.A. Club*, which produced Kevin Mussen and Patsy O'Hagan is a massive hardbound 500 page club publication. P.D. Kearns the author deserves great credit for his painstaking work. Like the History of the Dunmore McHales, the Rockies, Tullaroan, the best of the most recently produce to reach my hands, this is one to get. It is the best bound G.A.A. book of its kind I have seen. Price £8 or £7 sterling (including

postage) from Jerry Quinn, 50, Spelga Park, Hilltown, Newry, Co. Down.

[Thanks Jerry for going to such trouble to get it for me on All-Ireland Day (Football) in Croke Park and for the subsequent letter J.M.]

*The Story of the G.A.A. in Liverpool* (32 pages including photos) produced by the John Mitchells G.F.C. in Liverpool. Price 80p including postage from T. Walsh, "Fáilte", 69 Milton Ave., Liverpool L14 6TE, England. The above is a very compact little booklet written in diary style with a number of illustrations.

*Peter Murphy's Super Quiz Book*, Price £1.98 is in all the shops, has over 1500 questions and should be ideal for Scór na nÓg and the Senior Scór competitions ahead.

*Souvenir Programme of Official Opening of Ballygarvan's Liam McCarthy G.A.A. Park on 22/4/'84*. Cost 60p including postage from Bernadette Murphy, P.R.O., Ballygarvan G.A.A. Club, Ballygarvan, Co. Cork.

*Souvenir Programme of Official Opening of Aghaderg and Ballyvarley G.A.A. Field on June 10th 1984*. Price 60p including postage from Michael Anderson, Andalucca, Fedenagh, Pontyzpass, Newry Co. Down.

*Souvenir Programme Of Official Opening of Athletic Grounds, Armagh, of 20/5/'84*. A nice colourful booklet that is worth having. Cost £1.26 from Joseph Canning, Steeple Hill, Mountnorrin, Co. Mayo.

*Souvenir Programme for Welcome Home Week Ballina August 11th-19th 1984*. Price 50p from Terry Reilly, Western People, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

*Souvenir Programme for Roscommon Centenary Co. Finals 1984 (9/9/'84)*. A first class production. Price £1.30 from Tony Conboy, G.A.A. Boyle, Co. Roscommon. And thats enough of books and programmes for this month.

THE MAILBAG

I'm offering a few prizes this ●TO PAGE 47

The clash of the ash  
 The click of the camera  
 The scribble of the pen  
 The hum of the press  
 The memory of the  
 match

*For 100 years of  
 hurling finals*

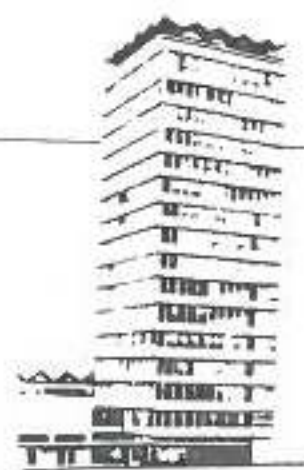
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●FROM PAGE 45

month. So here goes.

*Kieran Gormley, Aged 15, Deryadd, Lurgan, Co. Armagh* "Why are the losers always completely ignored after All-Ireland finals on the T.V. programme "The Sunday Game". No mention of Cork hurlers last year or Dublin footballers this year. Couldn't a few of the losers be interviewed also"?

[*Good idea Kieran. I hope Maurice Reidy and Michael Lyster are reading this. You win a SPECIAL G.A.A. CENTENARY TEESHIRT. J.M.*]

*John P. Murphy, South Circular Road, Dublin* asks have any players since 1950 played in all four Provincial S.F. Finals.

[*No John definitely not. That would have been a good Quizbook question if it were true. A referee perhaps may fit most of the bill but you're talking of players J.M.*]

*Patrick Lee, 24, Crossdened Row, Keady, Co. Armagh.* "Gerard Gormley from Antrim who used to write to Junior Desk died a few weeks ago. I called up to visit his wife. She was glad we called and she gave me all of Gerard's complete collection of books and programmes which came to 571. His favourites were Park Openings and Co. Finals. Gerard was buried in St. Johnstone, Co. Donegal".

[*I'm sorry to hear of Gerard's passing and the sympathy of Junior Desk goes to his wife. I'm glad his great collection is saved. I'm glad you were able to get my Quizbook No. 1 for Vincent Halpin in Dublin J.M.*]

*Owen McCann, 56, Arelea Road, Artane, Dublin 5.* The same Owen who has written so many editions of that wonderful statistical book "Greats of Gaelic Games" "Your Quizbook No. 3 is excellent. Nicely printed and presented and full of good interesting question".

[*Thanks Owen - I hope it has now reached all the outlets throughout the country J.M.*]

*Tony Jordan, Gortnagoyne,*

*Dunmore, Co. Galway* wants copies of this year's Centenary Provincial Final programmes. He wishes Cyril Dunne the best with Galway footballers.

[*Tony, write to Croke Park, Dublin 3 for details of the Programme Collectors' Club. I wish Cyril good luck too. J.M.*]

*Dermot McCarthy, our true-blue friend from Bath in England* writes about the fantastic response he got to

his swaps/wants list in Junior Desk. He praises highly the 1984 Co. Roscommon Co. Finals Souvenir programme mentioned earlier in the review section. He also praises the Co. S.F. final programmes for 1984 of Louth, Wicklow and Sligo.

[*I got the Kerry S.H. and S.F. ones - very good too. J.M.*]

Regarding G.A.A. Centenary

●TO PAGE 48

**GAA Official Centenary Tie 1884-1984**

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## JUNIOR DESK



## JUNIOR DESK



## JUNIOR DESK

## ●FROM PAGE 47

Supplements, I thought the *Irish Times* one excellent. "*Midland Tribune*" good too and *The Nationalist* (Clonmel) excellent. Any others coming up?

[As always Dermot you're on the ball. "*Western People*" supplement coming in November. You win a **SPECIAL G.A.A. NECKTIE, J.M.**]

Kerry O'Shea, 1 St. Brendan's Park, Tralee, Co. Kerry is collecting programmes for 3 years now and has a total of 154. He even has the 1957 N.F.L. final in which I captained Galway to success over Kerry. (Jack Mangan, our regular captain was injured).

## SWAPS

All-Ireland F. Finals '72 (Replay), '73, '79, '81 (2 Copies), '83 (3 Copies), All-Ireland H. Finals 1983 (2 Copies)

Kerry Year Books '81, and '82.

## WANTS

All-Ireland F. Finals '55, '56, '57, '58, '62-'70, '72 draw and '80.

All-Ireland H. Finals 1954-'63, '66, '67, '71, '73, '75, '79, '80.

[Space didn't allow me to get all your lists in. Next time confine the list to semi-finals and let me know how you got on. You win a **SPECIAL G.A.A. CENTENARY TEESHIRT, J.M.**]

T. Murphy, Shamrock-Bridge, Rathmore, Co. Kerry another old friend, hopes *Gaelic Sport* comes out monthly from now on.

[Don't we all J.M.].

He rightly feels this is Munster's year and so it is. "But All-Ireland finals should have been staged in Thurles. This letter was written before both finals and Tim predicted that Jimmy Crowley's record hit of '78 would ring true.

"Cork by the Lee

The Rose of Tralee

With the Boys of Fairhill"

[How right you were Tim. Both Cork and Kerry won magnificently J.M.].

John Martin O'Sullivan, Middle Barrow, Ardfert, Co. Kerry, sent in

this list of wants and swaps.

All-Ireland H. finals — 1968, '69, '70.

All-Ireland F. finals — 1971, '70, '69, '67 and before except '62.

## SWAPS

All-Ireland H. finals — '73.

All-Ireland F. Semi-finals — 1975 (Kerry v Sligo), 1977 replay and 1984 Galway v Kerry.

[I've had to confine your list. In future would programme collectors sending on lists write on one side of the page only please J.M.].

Alan Aherne, age 11, 44, Pinewood, Est., Wexford first got *Gaelic Sport* last spring and likes *Junior Desk*. He wants it out every month too. Alan is a keen programme collector and wants this year's Connacht and Ulster S.F. final programmes. "I play football and hurling with the Sarsfields and Frythe Harriers U-12's. This year we won the County Premier U-12 Football title by beating Horsewood in the final. I scored 7-7 in 7 games. I want Tony Walsh as a cut-out and please publish my letter".

[This is the **Prize Letter** this month Alan and you win a Centenary Tee Shirt and a **SPECIAL G.A.A. NECKTIE**. Keep writing and scoring J.M.]

Leo Kenny, of Drumshanbo has sent me on the following historical masterpiece.

In the first All-Ireland Championships held in 1887 Galway were drawn against Wexford in Hurling and Football. A week before the matches were due to take place on 24th July, 1887 the following letter from J.B. O'Reilly, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the GAA Central Executive and addressed to the President of Wexford GAA Board appeared in "Sport" newspaper.

Gaelic Athletic Association,  
40 Lower Ormond Quay,  
Dublin

17th July,

In reply to enquiry from President Wexford G.A.A.

Dear Sir, — I am just after hearing that the Galway men will not turn up

at Elm Park, Merrion on Sunday 24th instant. They would send up a hurling club, but will not send a football team, as they don't encourage football kicking. So now what are we to do? I suppose Wexford will have to get a bye in football and Galway in Hurling. I am extremely sorry we can't have the match though. Write by return of post.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

J.B. O'Reilly.

The sequel to the letter was that Castlebridge the Wexford football champions were so anxious for a game that they travelled to Dublin and played Galway (Meelick) in hurling.

Result: Galway 2-8 Wexford 1-0.

[That piece speaks for itself J.M.].

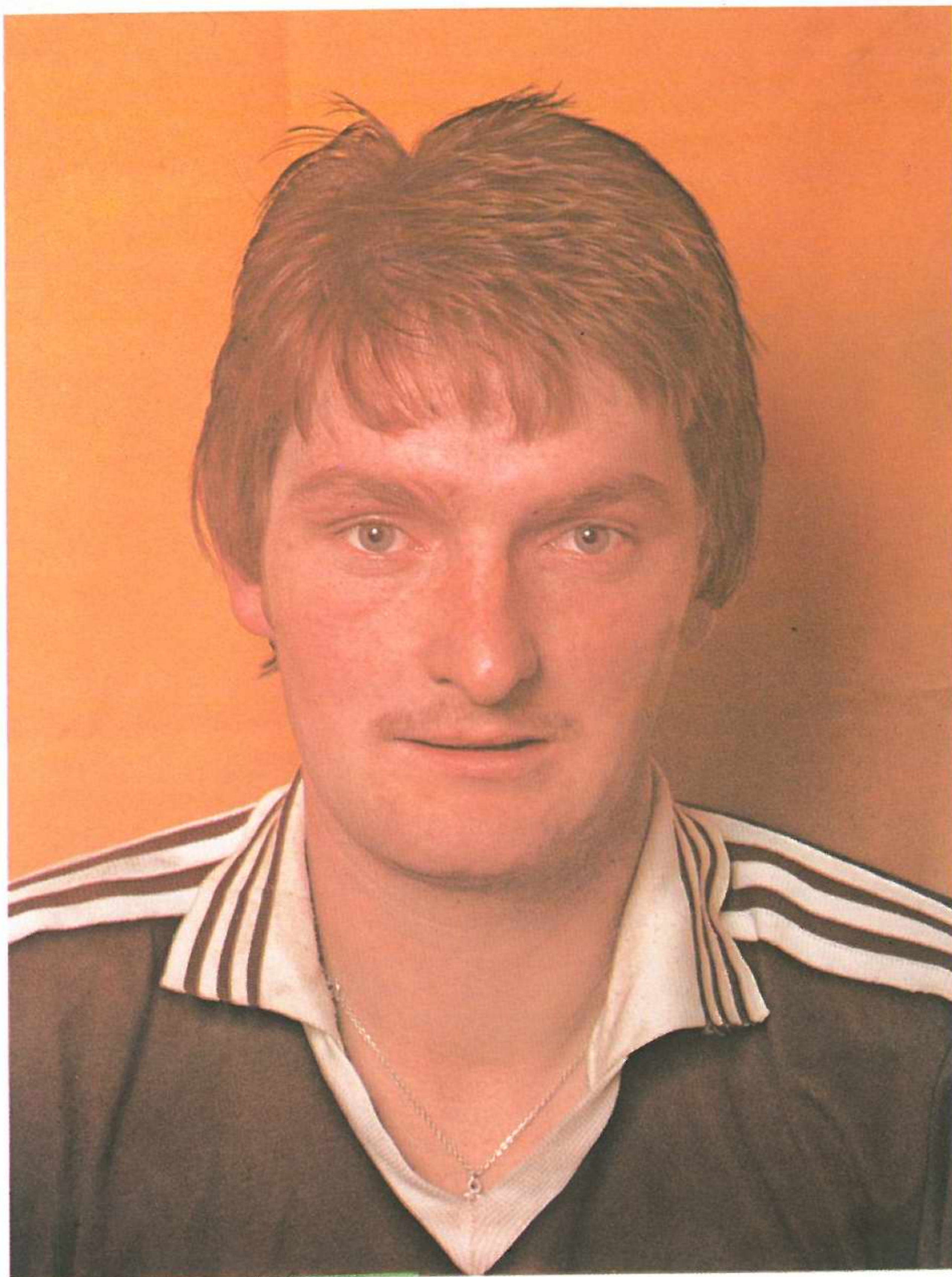
So much then for "The Mailbag" this time. Please keep on writing on any topic — the visit of the Aussies, the N.L.'s, the All Stars, the Railway Cups, the end of Centenary Year, anything you like. This is still the great forum to aid the voice of the youth of the G.A.A. and indeed any voice. Write to me at:

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It is available from **Bertram Ltd., GSA, 1 Woodbine Close, Raheny, Dublin 5.**



## NOEL LANE Galway

It was only in the 1983 selection that Noel was honoured for the first time by the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors when he was chosen at left half-forward in the hurling side.

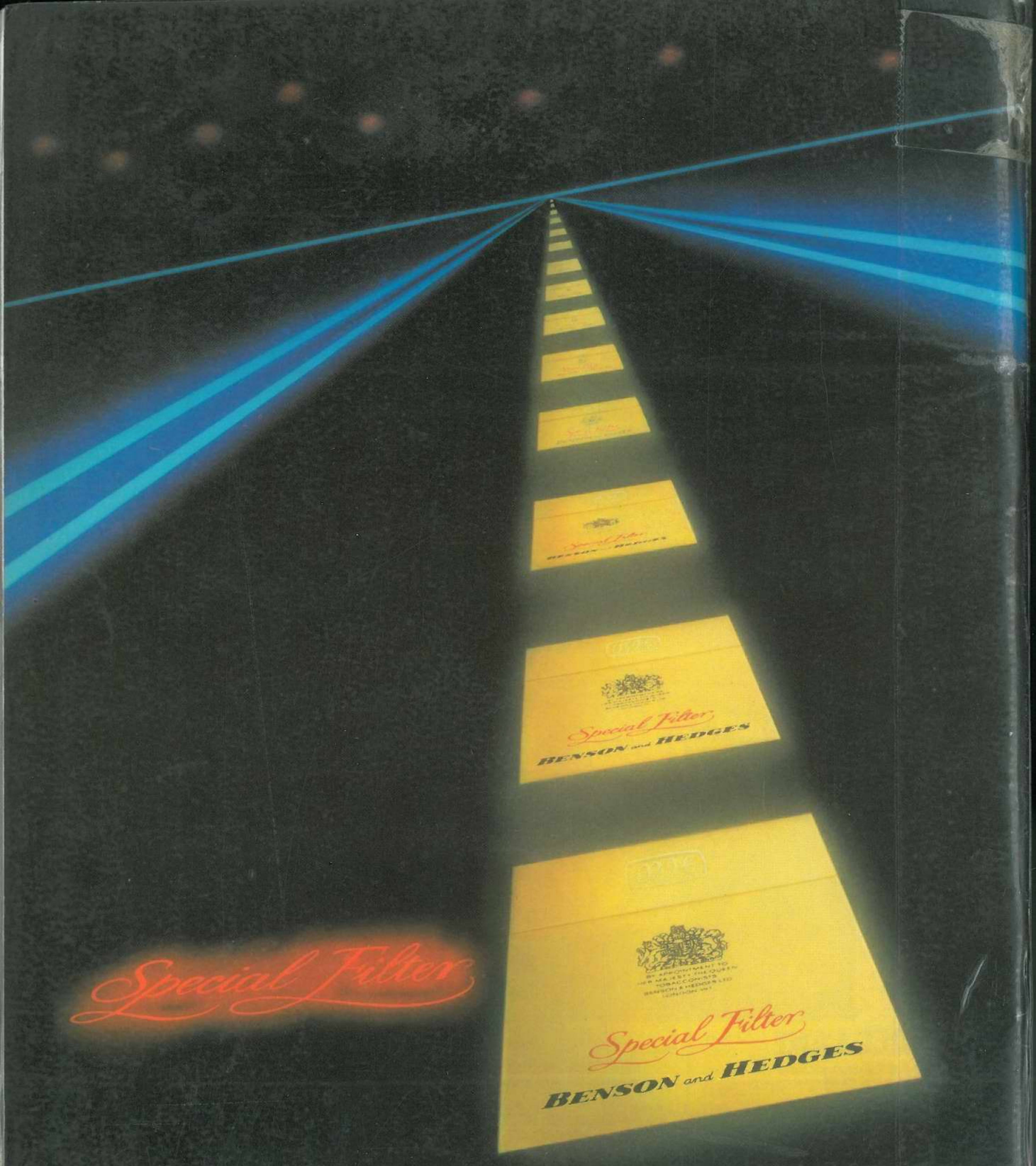
One would have thought he

would have found favour earlier, as he has been one of the most efficient forwards in the senior ranks since winning his place on the Galway premier side in 1978.

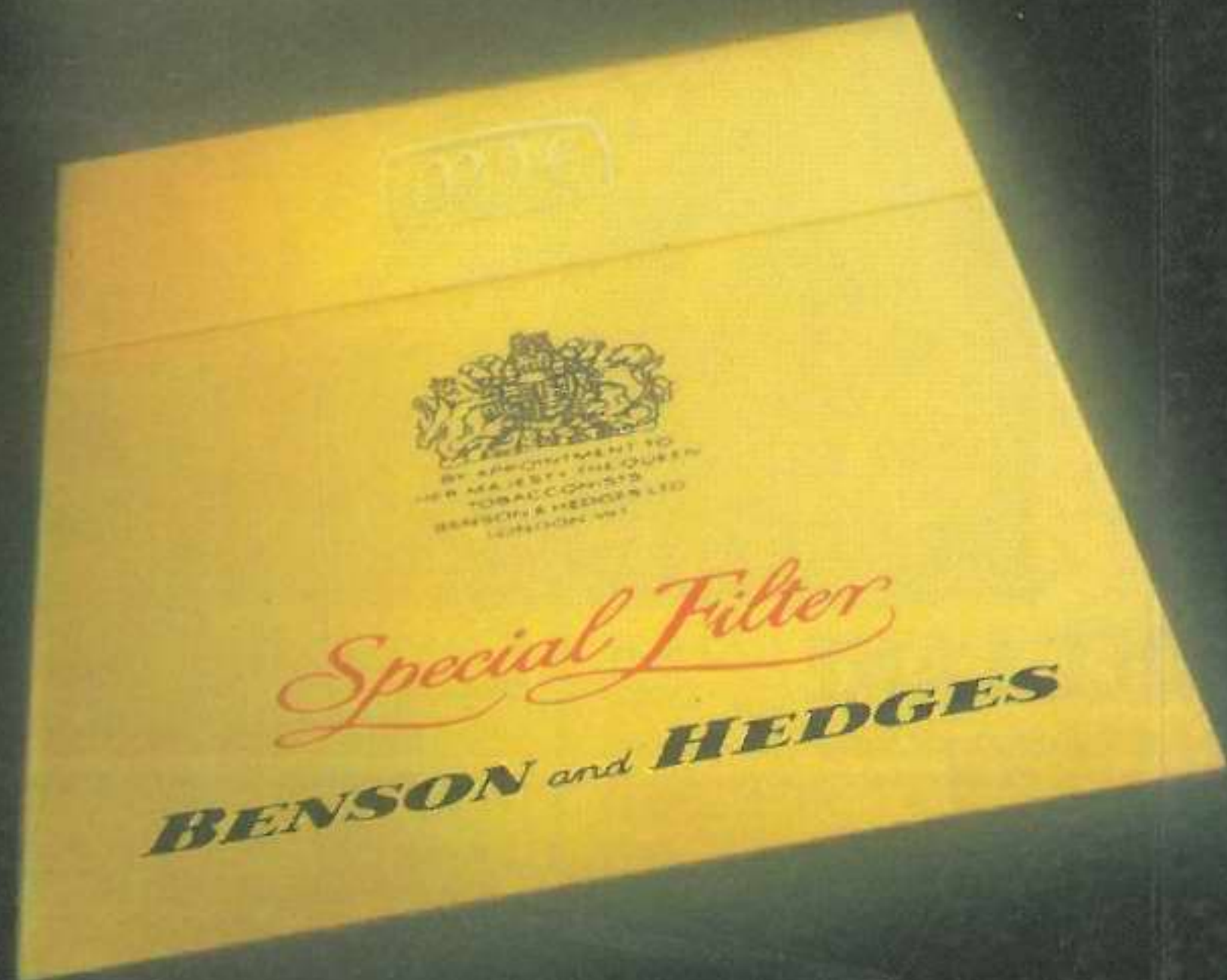
The Ballinderren club man was one of that great company of hurlers who brought the All-Ireland senior title back to Galway in 1980 after an absence of 56 years,

and he has also made a great contribution to Connacht's most glorious era ever in the Railway Cup in this decade.

The West has won three titles (1980, 1982 and 1983) and Noel shared in all the triumphs. The near 6ft. tall forward, who was in the Galway team beaten in the 1981 final, is 29.



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