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GAA

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IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE SINCE 1958

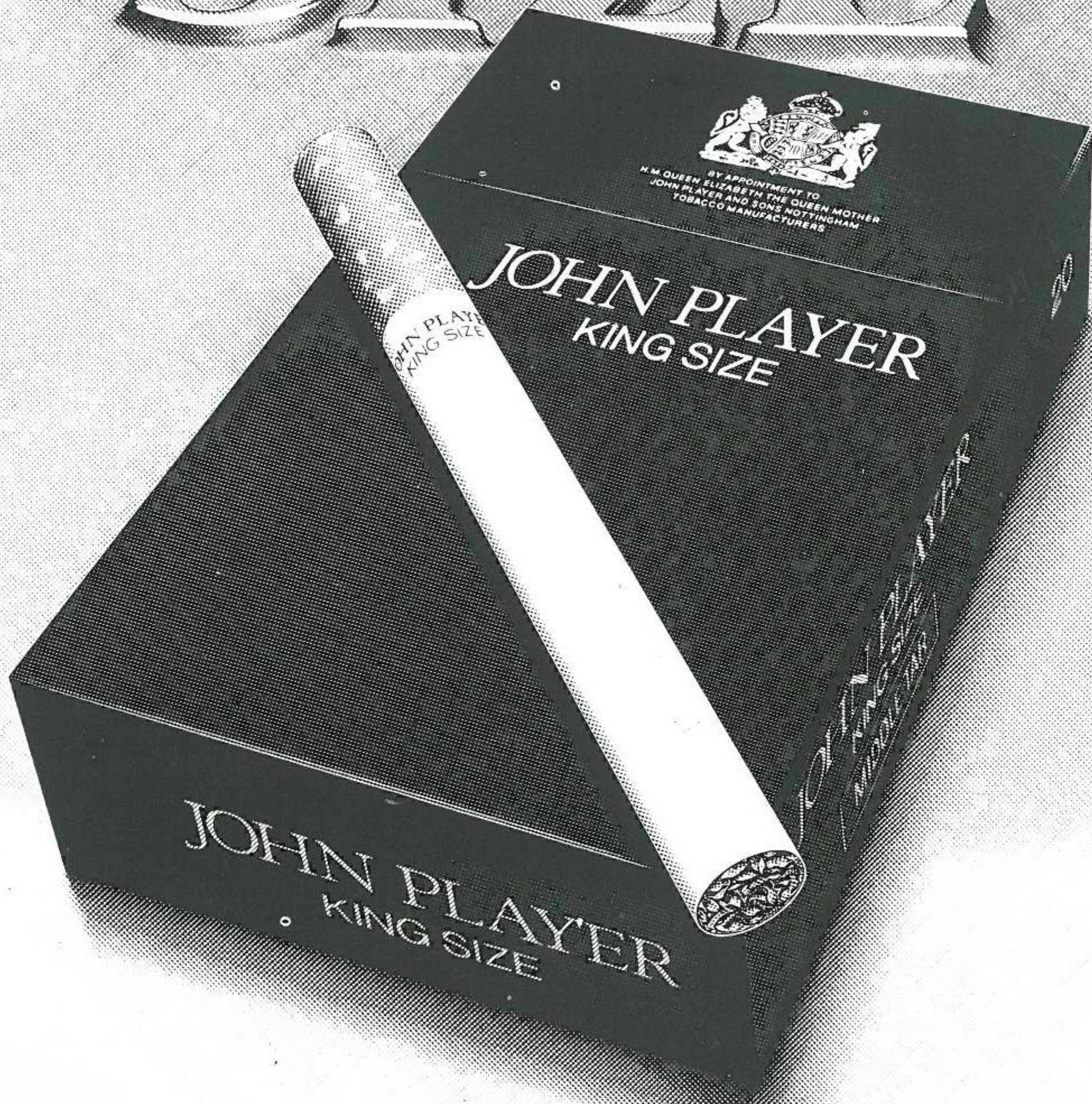
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## COVER PHOTO

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

**OFFALY:** Back row (left to right): Pat Fleury, captain, Joachim Kelly, Eugene Coughlan, Tom Conneely, Pat Delaney, Joe Dooley, Pdraig Horan, Aidan Fogarty. Front row: Danny Owens, Pat Cleary, Pat Carroll, Ger Coughlan, Jim Troy, Mark Corrigan and Paddy Corrigan.

**GALWAY:** Back row (left to right): Peter Finnerty, Steve Mahon, Noel Lane, Brendan Lyskey, Tony Keady, Tony Kilkenny, Conor Hayes. Front Row: P.J. Molloy, Bernie Forde, Michael Connolly, captain, Peter Murphy, Sylvie Linnane, Anthony Cunningham, Joe Cooney and Seamus Coen.

# GAELIC SPORT

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Vol. 28 No. 3. August-September, 1985.



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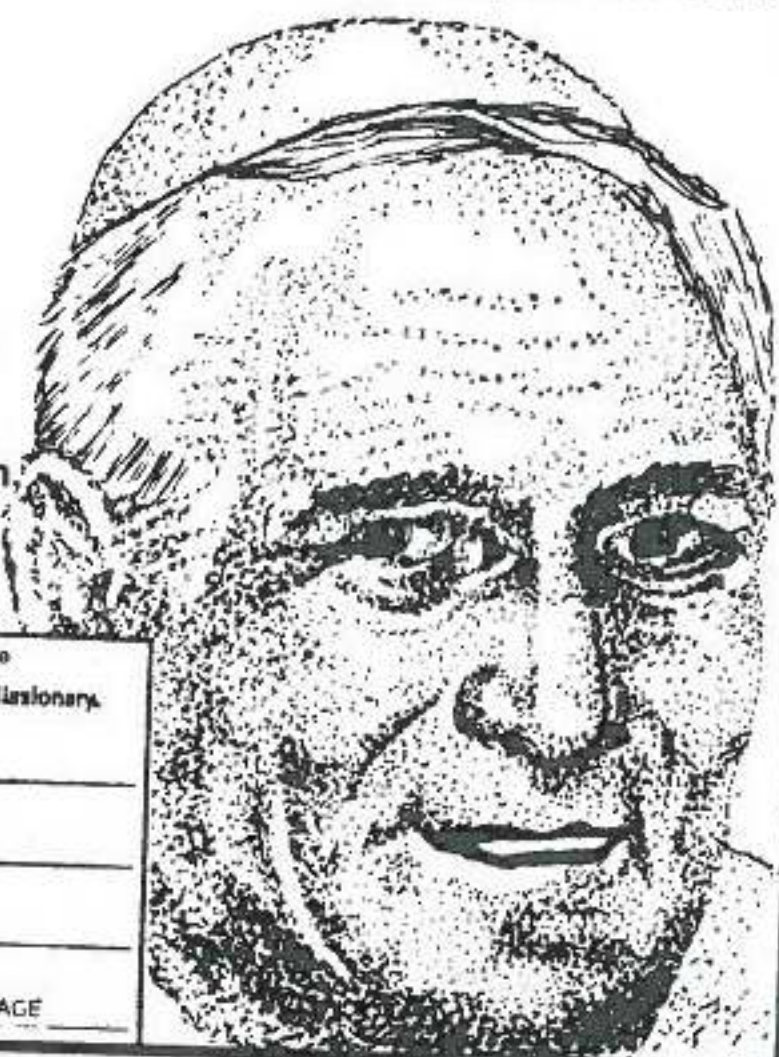
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i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

1st September, 1985

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# QUESTIONS . . . QUESTIONS . . .

**H**AVE Galway scaled the Everest of their hurling ambitions for 1985 after the sensational but so merited win over Cork? Are Offaly a better team than when they lost at this stage to the Leesiders last year? Will the return of hurling's top match of the season to Croke Park prove a worth-while advantage to the Leinster champions, who have given some grand displays at the venue in the current series?

These are only some of the many intriguing questions in the build-up to the show-down between Offaly, who have firmly shaken off their image as one of the 'babes' of hurling, and Galway, of the lonely standard in Connacht, for the McCarthy Cup, a build-up that is enhanced by the fact that this is only the second final between these counties.

It may seem strange to talk of a county having scaled the Everest of their hurling year before stepping onto the Croke Park turf to contest the All-Ireland final. But in Galway's case one must remember that they reached a superb pinnacle when exceeding most expectations with their elimination of Cork in the semi-final.

There are those who will say that the win was really Galway's All Ireland. After all, it is always a major feat to beat Cork in the championship, a win almost as good as a national title.

Those who incline to this viewpoint will also quickly point to Galway's wins over Cork in the All Ireland semi-finals of 1975 and 1979.

The 1975 win came after Galway had regained the National League title following an interval of 24 years, and the prospects of a first All Ireland title since 1923 looked particularly bright. But Kilkenny spiked the

Galway ambitions in the 1975 McCarthy Cup tie.

In 1979 Cork were unbeaten in twelve championship games and hot-footing it for a record-equalling four All-Ireland senior titles in succession when they were dumped out of the title race by a grand Galway side.

Surely, Galway could not fail to score a famous All Ireland final win after that? No, Kilkenny once again spoiled the glory hopes.

Galway are back in a somewhat similar position as in 1975 and 1979. Very few outside of the county — and possibly within Galway's boundaries as well — really expected them to end Cork's ambitions last month, but they did just that with flair and class.

The question now is, will they improve on their 1975 and 1979 performances and so take a revenge for their All-Ireland final loss to Offaly four years ago?

As for Offaly, they appear to have put the demoralising set-back that was their All Ireland senior final defeat by Cork at Semple Stadium a year ago firmly behind them.

They can point to a whopping 19 points win over Cork in the National League at Birr last November. Granted, the League is not a good guide to the championship, but that win did help to underline that Offaly were on the right track again.

The Midlanders also showed great character in their latest Leinster semi-final against Kilkenny in June, when they bounced back bravely from intimidating arrears of nine points seven minutes into the second half to earn a draw. They defied the outsiders role that many had consigned them to for the replay to win well, and followed on with run-away victories over Laois and Antrim.

More than that, the Offaly hurlers

have been playing with a skill, composure and belief in themselves this season. They also know Croke Park so well now that the venue should help the Midlanders to deliver the goods.

Offaly, then, look superbly equipped to take on the sternest of challenges that Galway can mount. They have the encouragement as well of two championship wins over Galway as against a solitary and narrow defeat in 1980 in the only senior clashes of the counties.

Have Offaly made up enough ground over the past year to make it another famous win over Galway? Or have Galway what it takes this time to follow up a semi-final win over Cork with only the county's third All Ireland crown?

Questions...questions. But then questions are an inevitable feature of discussions of up-coming big games, and help to whet the appetite for the occasion.

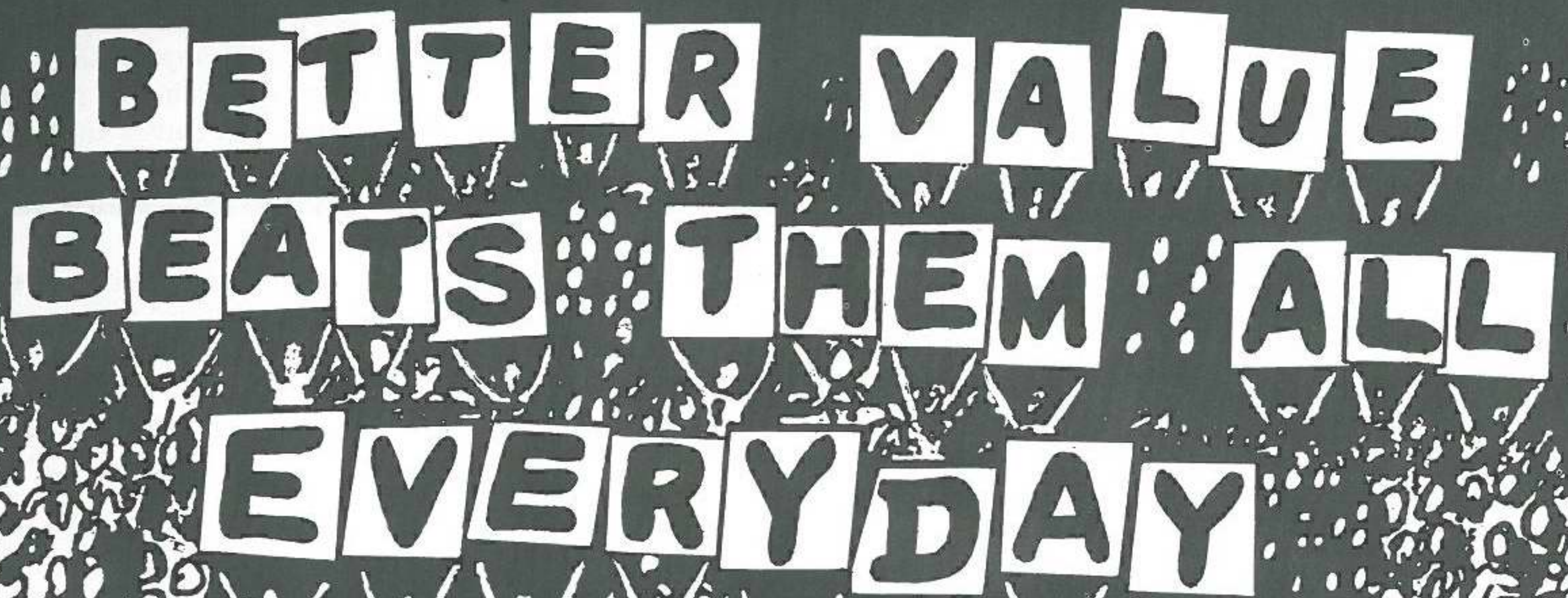
We will leave it to the hurlers themselves to provide the answers to the points we have raised. Instead, we will content ourselves by reflecting the hopes of followers the country over and further afield that Galway and Offaly will provide an exhilarating encounter.

Both teams are liberally sprinkled with the hurlers of class, know-how and dedication to do just that. If that happens, the game will be the winner irrespective of whether the McCarthy Cup travels to Offaly or Galway.

*Tommy McQuaid*

EDITOR





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# ALL IRELAND PREVIEW

## REMEMBERING '75 AND '79 I MUST GO FOR OFFALY

BY MICHAEL DUNPHY

IT may be somewhat unfair to Galway to suggest that the onus rests squarely on them to ensure that the All-Ireland senior hurling final is a sporting highlight of the year and not a non-event. After all, it takes two teams to make any game.

Nevertheless, it is not stretching the truth to say that many enthusiasts outside of the Connacht county feel that the final will stand or fall as a showpiece on the performance of the Galway men.

Offaly are probably playing their best-ever hurling this year. After their performances in Leinster and their big win over Antrim, coupled with the fact that they have been finding Croke Park a happy hunting ground of late, most followers are

convinced that the Midlanders will motor along like a well-oiled machine.

But will Galway find the sparkle that shocked Cork? That's the rub.

It would be easy to answer 'Yes' to that question and rush to Galway's side as a result for the final. After all, only the other week Cork had retained their Munster crown.

All that has, of course, changed as a result of Galway's heroics. So, the natural order of things one would imagine would be that Galway would take over the mantle of favourites for the final.

This is not the case. Offaly are now the popular choice, and Galway folk must as a result be wondering what their new look side has to do to win universal support.

I must be numbered among those who support Offaly. I find it hard to overlook Galway's failures to capitalise on semi-final wins over Cork in 1975 and 1979 in All-Ireland finals. They had more experienced teams in those years, but still found the final mountain too steep to climb.

I'm not so sure that the present team will put their game together as well against Offaly as in the semi-final. That may be a little unfair to the Westerners, but it is an honestly held belief. I will believe that Galway will again scale the semi-final heights when I see them deliver the goods once more.

I feel, too, that Offaly have more top-class hurlers in vital positions throughout the field than their opponents. Better served as regards

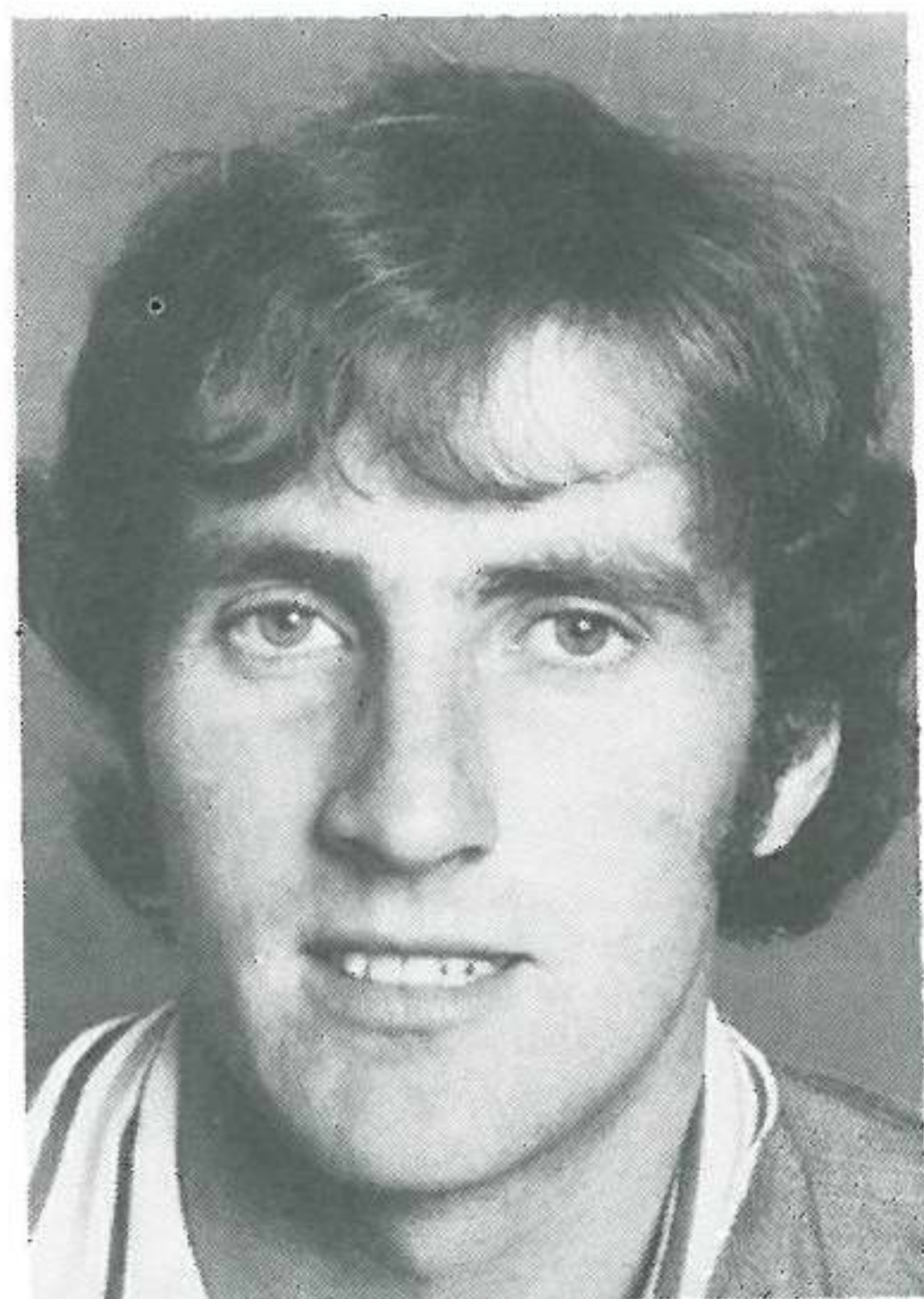
men with the ability to take a grip of the exchanges and steer a winning course.

### NO WALK-OVER

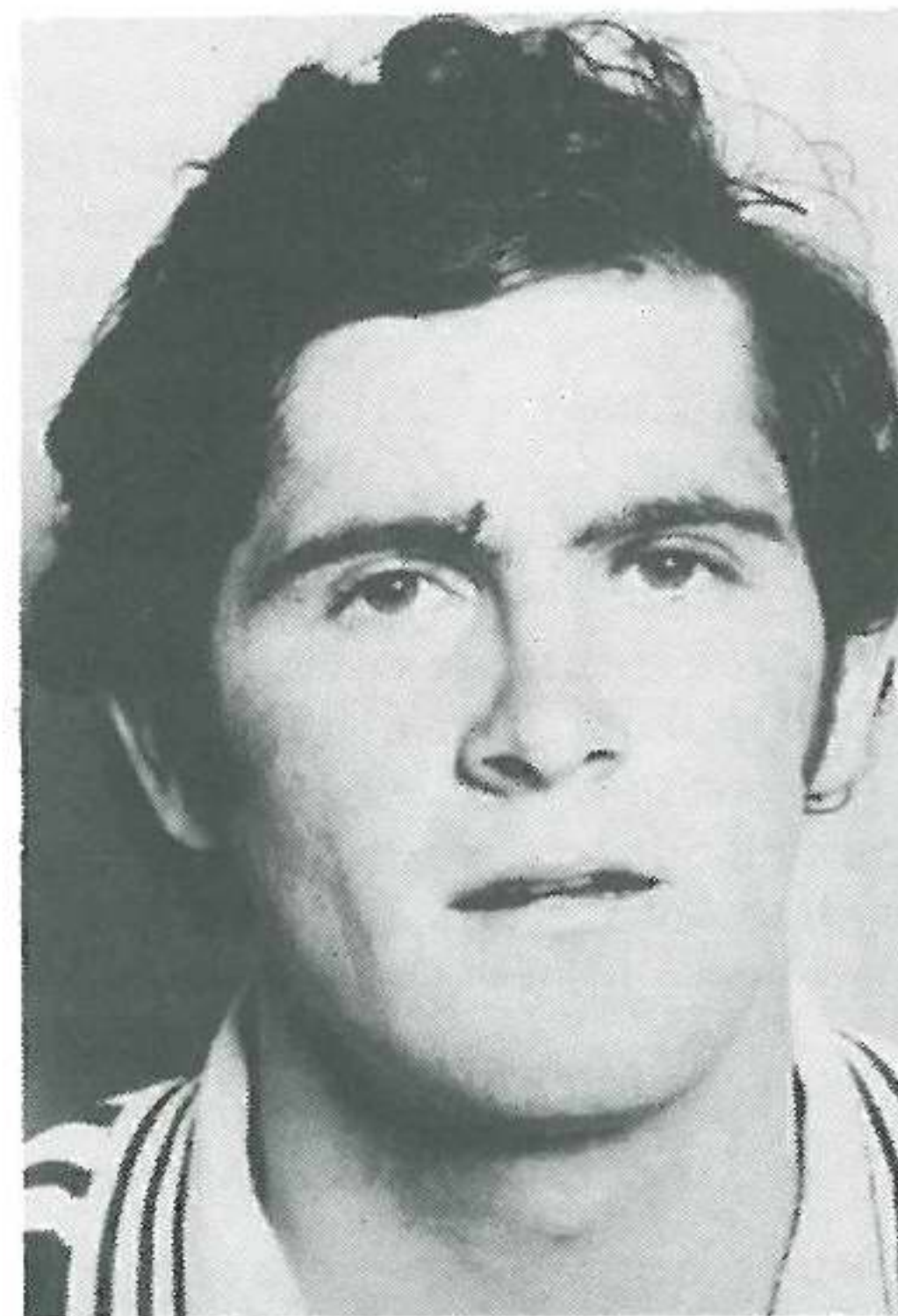
But before I become the target for brickbats from Galway supporters, let me quickly put on record that I cannot see this game being a walk-over for the Leinster champions. They are going to have to pull out all the stops if they are to live up to that favourites rating.

Galway's defence is particularly sound. The experience of Conor Hayes, Sylvie Linnane and Seamus Coen blended in like a delightful symphony with the youthful

•TO PAGE 9



**EUGENE COUGHLAN**  
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**STEVE MAHON**  
...key role at midfield



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exuberance of Peter Finnerty, Tony Keady and Tony Kilkenny against Cork. It was a delight to see how that area put a tight rein on a Cork attack, admittedly handicapped by the absence for much of the match of the creative skills of Jimmy Barry-Murphy.

But can the backs do the trick again. The Corrigan brothers, Paddy and Mark, of the free-scoring flair, and crafty Pat Carroll, so adept at scoring long range points, are just the trio to tell us how good the Galway half back line really is.

Inside, with newcomer to All-Ireland final glory, Pat Cleary, showing a good line in the scoring area, Pdraig Horan, orchestrating matters as well as ever at full, and Joe Dooley, having regained all his sparkle of last season, the Leinster champions are capable of putting plenty of pressure as well on the Galway full line.

Then, there is the Offaly defence. **There is no better centre half in my book in hurling just now than Pat Delaney, a man whose mastery of the pivotal role, and whose accuracy from long range frees that adds up to vital scores makes him one of the greatest inspirations in the land.**

Eugene Coughlan has settled into the full back spot in great style. He is one of the most difficult men to outwit, a hurler who has tamed the best around, and is entitled to rank as the top man in the post.

Tom Conneely is proving one of the successes of the side in his new role at right half back, where his attacking style of play is paying handsome dividends.

### WORTHY SUCCESSOR

The other defenders are also pulling their weight in top-class style, and Jim Troy is proving a very



worthy successor in goal to the great Damien Martin. An Offaly defence, then, with what it takes to face up in confident mood to any attack.

I'm not overlooking Galway's scoring barrage against Cork. Any attack that hits 4-12 in an All-Ireland semi-final against strong and proven opposition must command respect.

I bow to no one, either, in my admiration of the high quality play of Noel Lane, whose full forward showing against the Munster team was superb. If he is allowed the same freedom of movement, the Midlanders will have it all to do.

Indeed, the semi-final was a good advertisement for old campaigners with Lane, Bernie Forde and P.J. Molloy, all All-Ireland senior winners in 1980, showing the younger members a thing or two as they led the charge to goal.

They used their craft intelligently and so ensured that Cork's defence was torn apart as rarely before in a major game.

I thought, too, that Brendan Lynskey had an excellent game at centre half forward, and is a hurler quite capable of giving the great Delaney many worrying moments.

Even so, I doubt if the attack has the necessary strength and scoring power over-all to make it "big" against the tight and unyielding Offaly rearguard.

If Michael Connolly and Steve Mahon hit it off at midfield, Galway's attack could turn the key to success.

Mahon had a fine game in the semi-final, but Connolly was somewhat more subdued than usual. However, he knows from the past, just what the capabilities of the Connacht men are, and the All-Ireland final, and his role as captain at that stage, could help bring out the very best in Connolly.

Midfield is the one sector in the Offaly line-up I am not over enthusiastic about. Individually Joachim Kelly and Danny Owens, who both appeared in the 1981 final win, are hurlers of genuine class, and they have tons of experience on their side as well.

But, somehow, they did not hit it off quite as well as other sectors of the team in the testing Leinster campaign. Nevertheless, I would not be quick to write off this pair's chances of at least earning an even break in this sector.

**There is one other factor hovering over this game that cannot be ignored — Offaly's never-say-die spirit. They proved that by coming from arrears of nine points against Kilkenny in the first meeting in the Leinster semi-final to earn a draw.**

That was a great come-back, and one that indicates that Offaly will not be in the least unnerved or upset in the event of a poor start in the final, or should they be dogged — let's hope not — by an early injury problem.

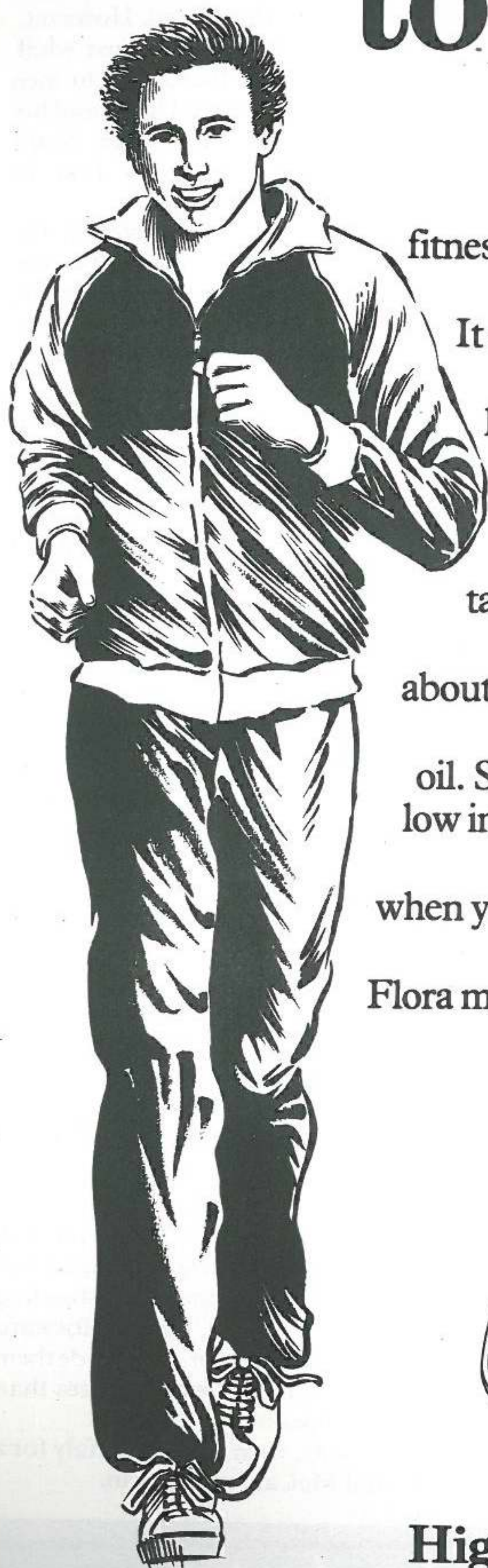
Weighing it all up, then, it seems to me that while Galway must have a sound chance, Offaly have the men in the vital positions, the character needed for success at this level, and above all the inspirational qualities of Pat Delaney, the sharpshooting Corrigan brothers, and the forward leadership of Horan, to provide them with more match-winning aces than their opponents.

My vote, then, goes to Offaly for a second McCarthy Cup win.

*Offaly's never-say-die spirit a key factor*



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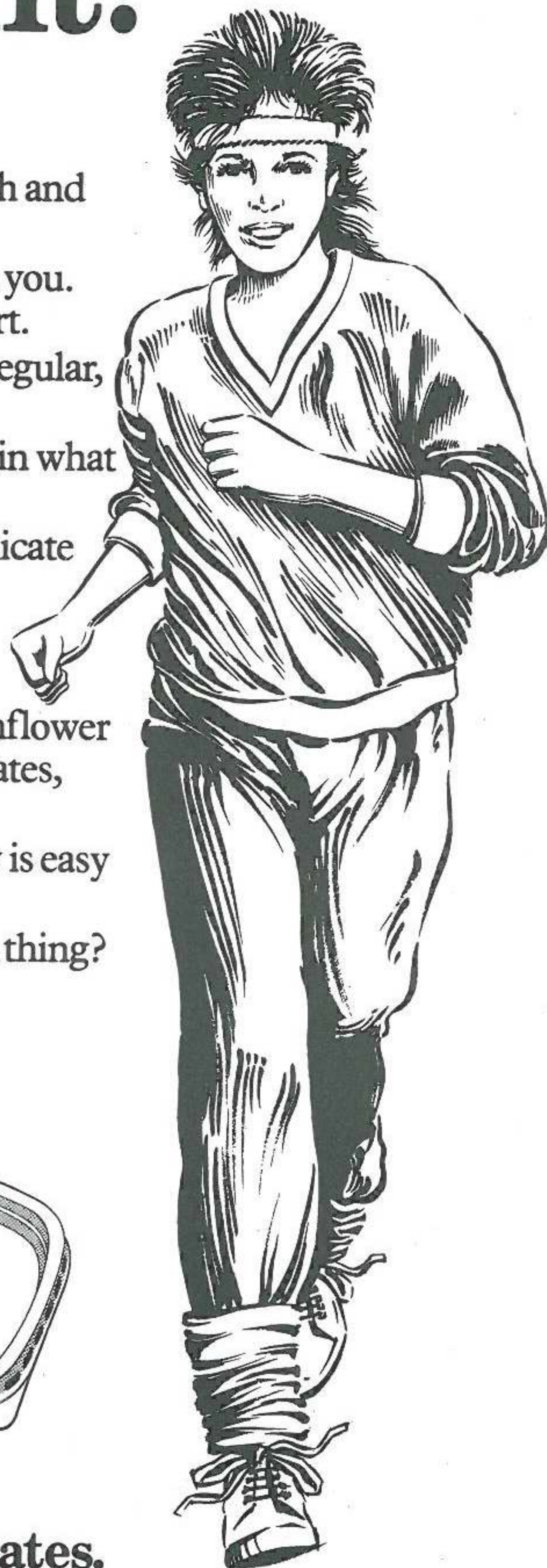
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# A BETTER ALL ROUND SIDE THAN LAST YEAR

Says PAUDGE McNAMEE

**I** WATCHED Offaly in every one of their championship games so far this year, and I am convinced that they are a better all round side entering this latest All-Ireland senior hurling final than when they flopped so badly to Cork just a year ago.

For a start, the Leinster champions have a wider spread of scoring power. Paddy Corrigan, who was not in the original selection at Thurles last season, gives the Leinster attack what every team needs with designs of getting to the top — a free-taker with the ability to put away most opportunities.

Paddy has more than proven his worth in this regard this season. I rate the young Kinnitty man as the best prospect as a free-taker to arrive in the game in some time. He is also very mature, and has proven this in the current championship with his cool approach to frees in tight situations and under tension in a tense atmosphere. Recall, for example, the way that he equalised for Offaly from a free a minute from time against Kilkenny in the drawn Leinster semi-final, and you will fully appreciate the truth of my comment that he is not unnerved by the big occasion or test.

Corrigan's talents are not confined to free-taking. He has scored some excellent points from play in the championship, and he has the vision and the limitless energy to cover plenty of ground to good effect and exercise plenty of pressure on the opposing defence.

But Paddy is by no means Offaly's only efficient marksman. He was outshone in the scoring stakes in the Leinster final by his brother, Mark, who seems to be bringing his talents to

full bloom just now. There has been much to admire in the polished work of the older Corrigan and his accuracy has also been of a quality that suggests he will not let many chances go begging in the final.

Then there is Paddy Cleary, who has come into the side since the last All-Ireland final. This corner forward is playing club hurling with Kilmacud Crokes and won a Dublin senior championship medal in July. He has shown a real flair for snatching vital goals and has brought a new dynamism to the full forward line.

Here Padraig Horan remains a potent force. Maybe not as powerful as when he led Offaly to their only All-Ireland senior final win in 1981, the St.

Rynagh's club hurler remains, nonetheless, the type of score-taking full forward who must be constantly watched.

**Add on the special talent that Pat Carroll has for rifling over long range points, and it is obvious that the Offaly attack is no one man outfit, and backs up the skills that are there with the type of finishing that produces the scores for victory.**

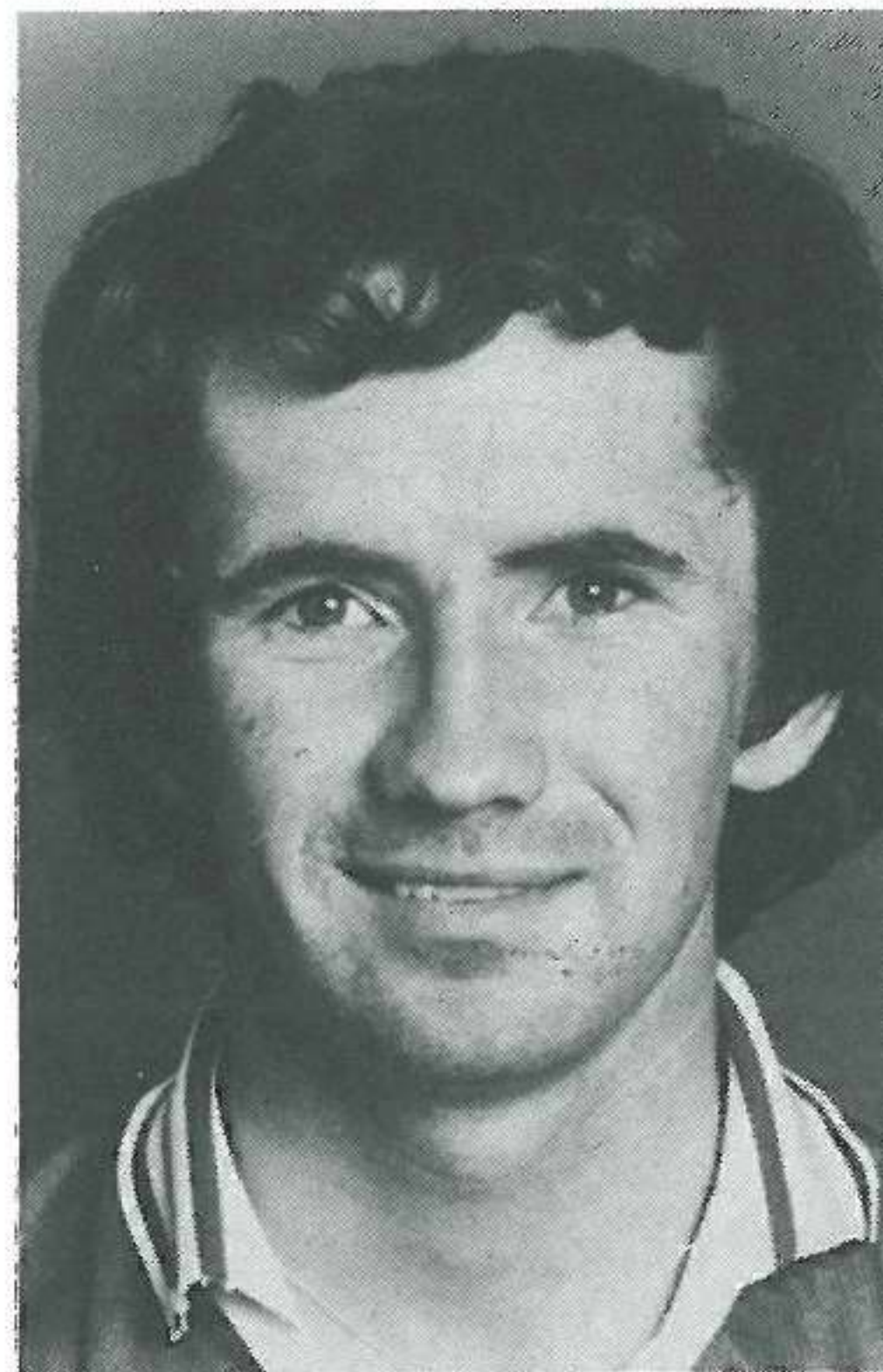
What about the Offaly defence? The arrival of Tom Conneely at right half back has worked wonders. The now London-based hurler, who was at midfield last year, has settled into the No. 5 spot like a veteran, and has brought a flair and steadiness that now gives Offaly a half back line of what I would describe in the currency of the times as sheer "magic".

## OVER STATEMENT

An over-statement? Well, what about Pat Delaney at centre half back? We have known from past experience that the 6ft. plus Kinnitty club man is second to none in the position, but this year has been playing some of the best hurling of his career.

Delaney has been a rock on which many attacks have perished this summer, and his lengthy clearances, and that uncanny ability to drill over points from long range make him one of the most valued members in the Offaly team. If any one man can win this final on his own, then that hurler is Pat Delaney.

**Ger Coughlan is in great form as well on the left flank of the line. The full backs give little away, and Jim Troy is proving as dependable in goal as the**



**GER COUGHLAN**  
*... in great form*

● TO PAGE 13





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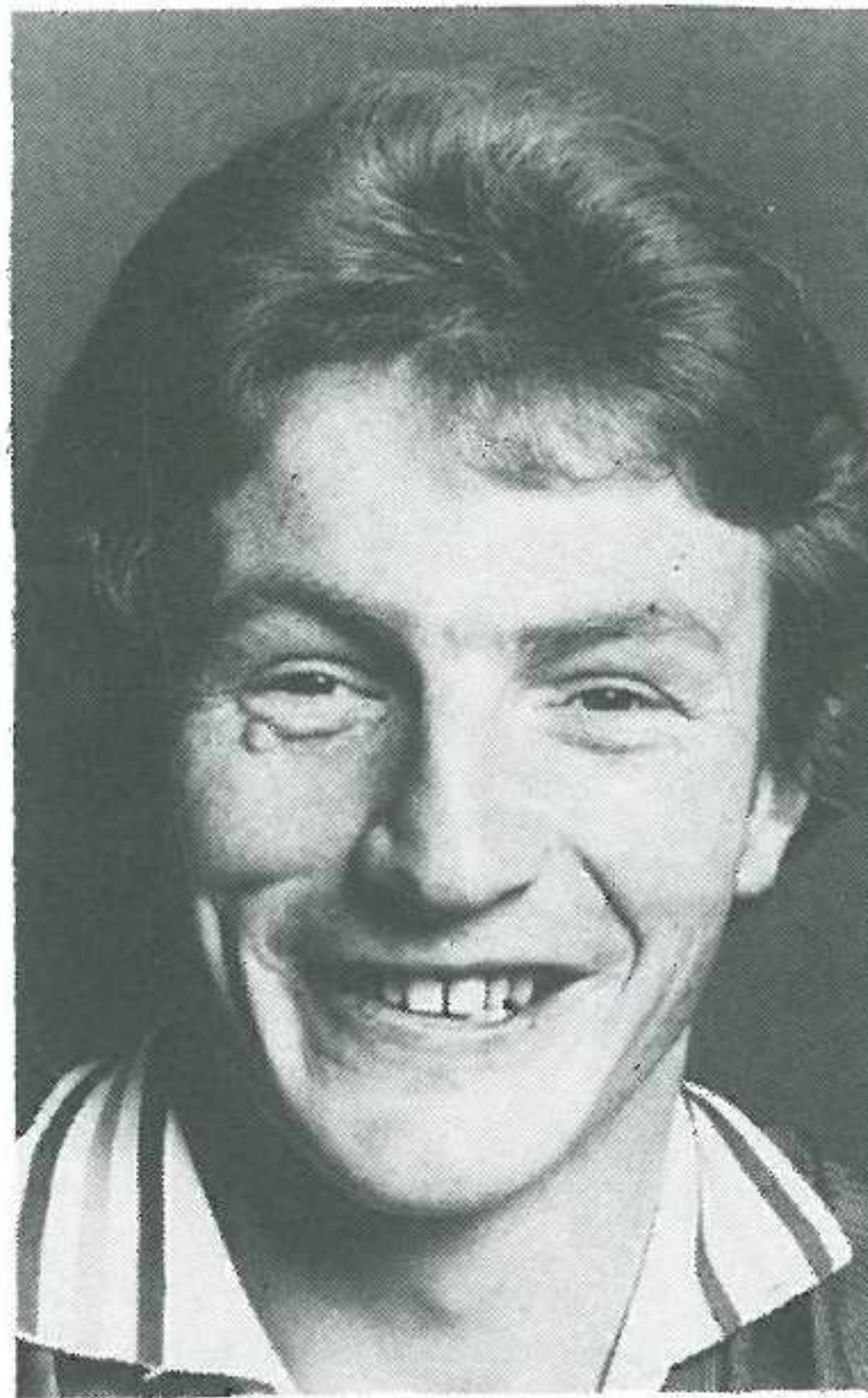
man he replaced, Damien Martin. One could hardly get higher praise than that!

My only real doubts about Offaly centre at midfield. Joachim Kelly, a hurler of tremendous experience, and Danny Owens, who has also established a permanent position in the team since the Thurles summit, are both players of real ability. Indeed, Kelly is a survivor from the last All-Ireland senior title win, and appreciates better than most what is needed at this level.

Owens, who went in as a substitute in the 1981 final, works solidly and is well up to the standard of the top men in the role. Yet, somehow this pair have just not hit it off as successfully as I had expected. There has been a certain unevenness about the midfield at times, and this could prove very costly against Galway, who have on hand two of the true giants of the position in Michael Connolly and Steve Mahon.

Still, we know that Kelly and

Owens are capable of turning on the style, and if they hit it off to a degree that we have not yet seen, Galway could be in trouble in an area where so



**PAT CARROLL**

*... a special talent*

many expect them to do well.

In looking at the Offaly team one must also mention the wealth of experience the side possesses. More than half of the side shared in the win over Galway in the 1981 final, and Joe Dooley, Tom Conneely and Paddy Corrigan must profit from their outing at Thurles a year back.

It seems to me, then, that Offaly will not be upset by nerves, or haunted by the memories of the debacle that was the Centenary final.

There is a maturity now about their hurling that was not there a year ago. The fact, too, that they take the field as favourites should increase their determination to win.

The substitutes panel is strong and it seems to me that if Offaly are ever to impose their authority — as we know they are capable of doing — on a Hurling Final then this is the year to do it. I've great respect for Galway, but just a little more this time for the men from the Faithful County, and I believe that if they display the form we saw in the earlier rounds, then, this will be their year.

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# “THEY WON’T BE THE LEAST BIT OVERWHELMED”

**N**OW we know once again that lack of competition within a province is not necessarily a barrier to All-Ireland senior hurling championship glory. While many were sounding off indignantly all over the place about a situation that sent Galway into the title race for the first time at the semi-final stage, the Connacht county were working away quietly but effectively in preparing for the challenge ahead.

The Westerners prepared so well that they made all the knowing ones look very foolish after the win over Cork. There was a flair and above all a togetherness about Galway in that game that suggested the match was their third or fourth in the campaign rather than their 1985 championship debut. Not only that, Galway were going as strongly at the end of the 70 minutes, despite the gruelling conditions of a continuous downpour and a slippery pitch, as they were in the early stages.

The Connacht men were, if anything, sharper than their opponents and displayed a real hunger for success. Late in the game I thought they would be caught, especially after they had lost a chance from a free to go four points clear with time running out.

But fair play to Galway. They took that set-back in their stride as well, and eventually Bernie Forde with a

nice touch of poise and accuracy hit the “insurance” point from play late in the match.

**How good are Galway? That is the big question now.**

Some will say that they caught Cork “off guard”, that the defending champions did not really know what to expect, and were not as mentally tuned up for the challenge as they would have been had the opposition been provided by a tried and tested team like Offaly.

There is probably an element of truth in that. One must also concede as well that the late withdrawal of Jimmy Barry-Murphy with an injury had an unsettling effect on the Southerners.

Nevertheless, any doubts that Cork may have had about the magnitude of their task must have been ended by half-time when they trailed by a point.

It was clear, then, from the brand of hurling that the challengers produced that the Southerners would have to pull out all the stops during the second half if they were to hold on to the McCarthy Cup.

All credit to Cork. They went about their task in the second period with the spirit of champions and as I have said already I thought they were going to save the day late in the game.

But in the end they just could not wear down the spirited opposition.

## HALF BACK GIANTS

All of which says much for the quality of this Galway team. All that Cork had to offer was faced up to with an exuberance and an “up and at ’em” approach that I have not found so refreshing in any hurling side since Offaly marched to their only All-Ireland senior hurling title in 1981.

Almost without us appreciating what was happening, a blend of youth and experience has been honed into a combination of title winning proportions. From goal out to left full forward, and even among the substitutes, the men are there to ensure that Galway will not be easily knocked off the glory road.

One could immediately praise many other aspects of the side, but it would be unfair, indeed, foolish, to not rush immediately now to the half back line of Peter Finnerty, Tony Keady and Tony Kilkenny, a trio of young men who won All-Ireland under-21 medals just two years ago.

**If ever three young men reached the age of maturity in any game Finnerty, Keady and Kilkenny did just that against Cork. Those who were so loud in dismissing the Galway challenge before the semi-final told us that the**

● TO PAGE 17

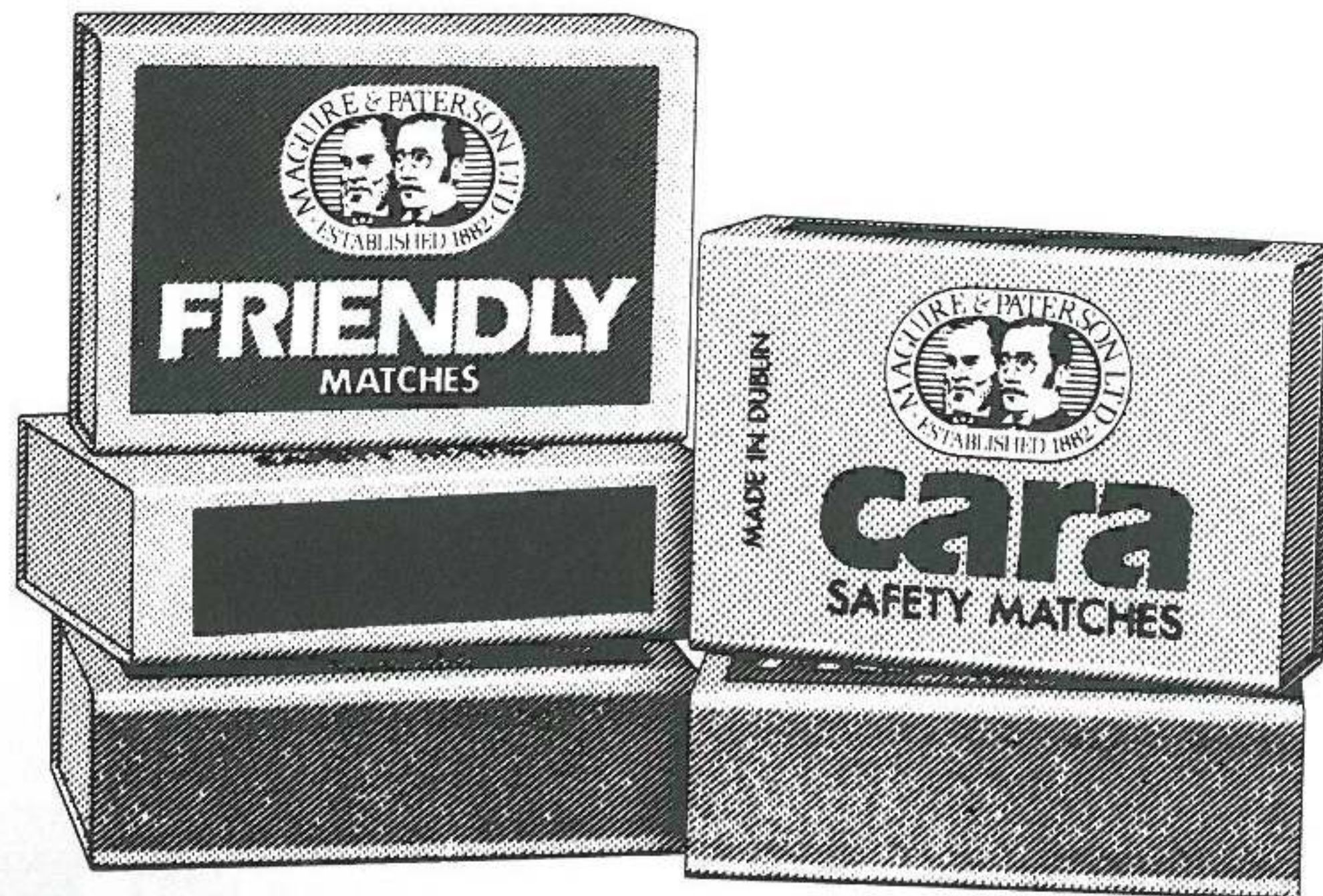


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●FROM PAGE 15

half back line was much too experimental, lacked the know-how and the ability to do a good job in such a vital area against such a crafty attack as Cork's.

But, my goodness, what giants the half back line proved! I thought that Finnerty was the real hero, not only of the sector, but the Galway team over-all, but in saying that I must also concede that the three half backs really excelled from first to final whistle.

It is a long time, in fact, since a single line played such a major role in shaping an important victory as the Galway half back division against Cork. Finnerty, Keady and Kilkenny are bound to profit greatly from that experience, and I look forward with relish to their performances in the final.

But the half backs were by no means Galway's only heroes. I thought that Noel Lane, one of the more experienced members of the side, had his best-ever game at Croke Park.

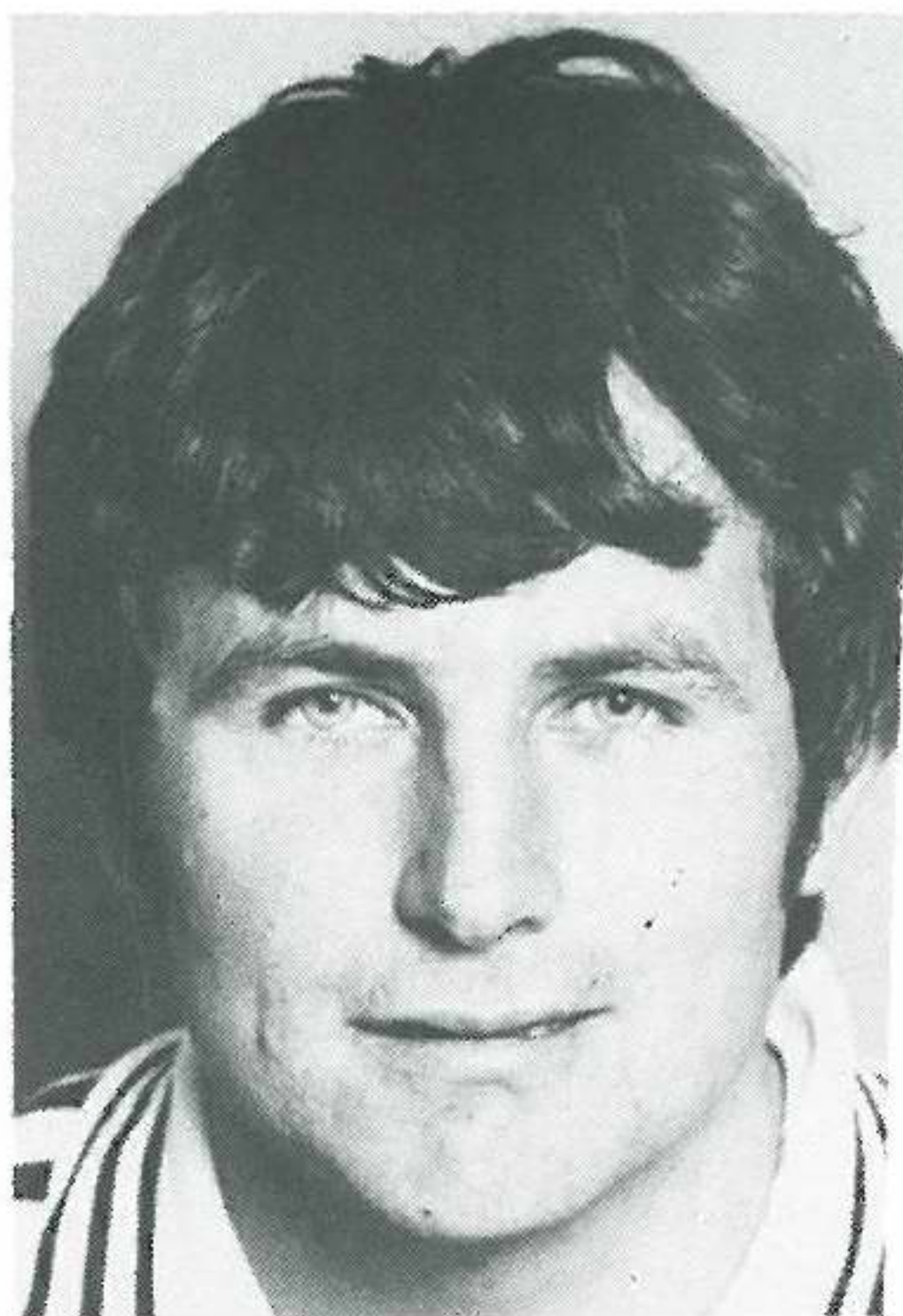
The Ballindereen club man really took on the Cork defence with a confidence and assurance that just had to bring rewards. Time and again he bored holes in the champions' rearguard, and Lane, an All-Ireland senior medalist in 1980, also took his scores with the coolness of a champion.

## A HIGHLIGHT

A repeat of that form will make this twice honoured All Star a real thorn in the Offaly defence. His duel, in fact, with Eugene Coughlan, who has made such a reputation at full back, could well prove one of the real highlights of the final... a duel that may well prove one of the decisive factors in the game.

Bernie Forde, another long-serving campaigner, showed that he continues to have plenty to offer with his incisive forays at right full forward, and he, too, also knows where the goals are.

P.J. Molloy, who has returned to



●P.J. MOLLOY

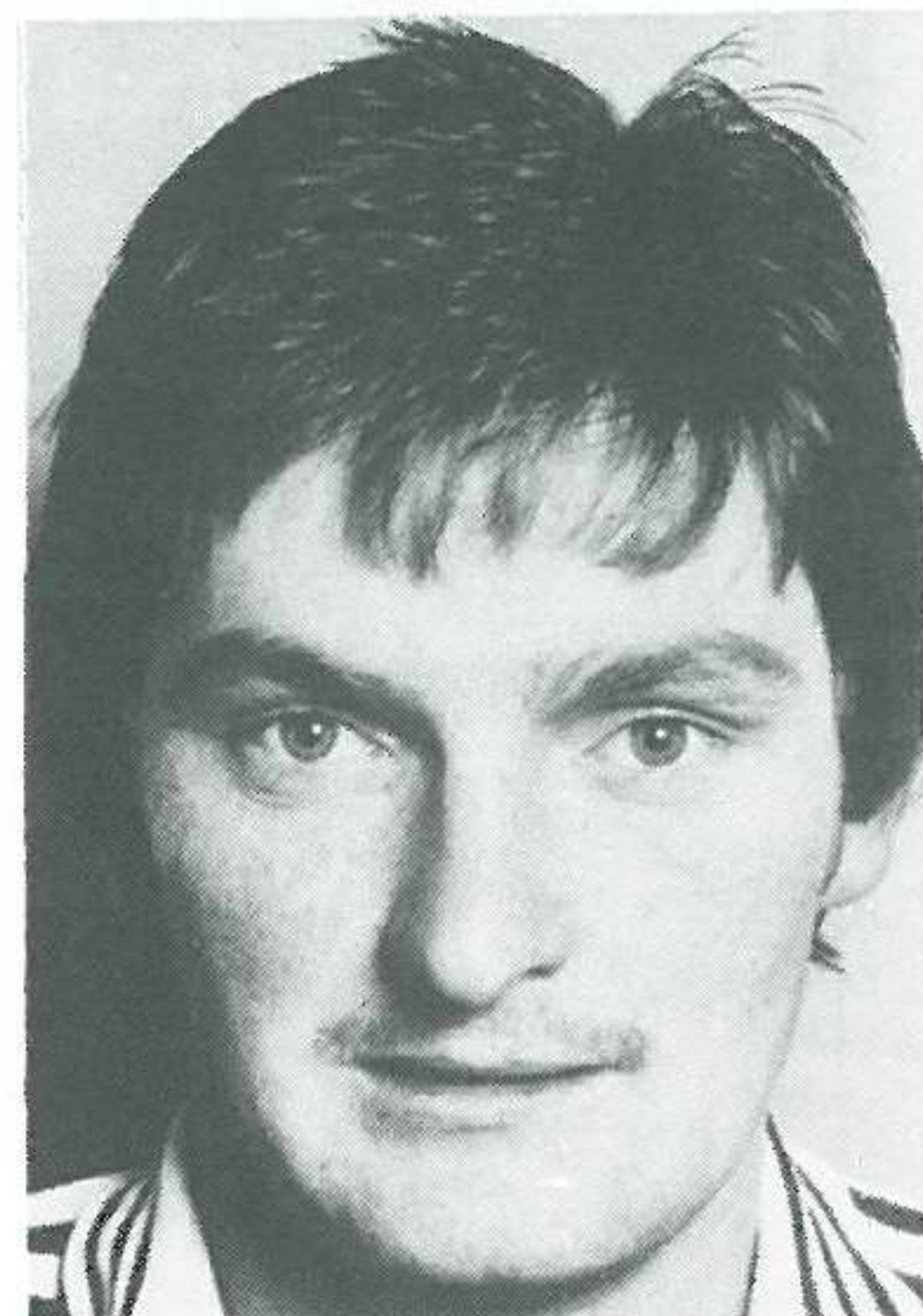
favour with Galway again after a spell out of favour, is a real veteran of the side, but his worth as a free-taker, not to mention his clever general play, marks him out as a vital and valuable unit in the side's make-up.

**Michael Connolly and Steve Mahon, both All-Ireland senior medalists, blend in a tremendous vein of top-class experience at midfield. Both showed up really well against Cork, and Galway need have no fears in this area.**

In defence, the full back line of Seamus Coen, Conor Hayes and Sylvie Linnane is another crafty unit. All three played well in the semi-final, providing comparatively new goalkeeper, Peter Murphy with excellent cover.

As for Murphy, he, too, came through the semi-final with flying colours, despite the fact that Cork scored five goals, and will not let the side down.

I was also impressed by the hurling of Joe Cooney and Anthony Cunningham, All-Ireland minor medalists in 1983, who formed the left flank of the Galway attack. And the men they brought in as subs during the match, Michael McGrath, and John Murphy, left little doubt while on the field that they are very handy men to have in reserve.



●NOEL LANE

And, all of this brings me back to my original question: How good are Galway? Very good, I say, and capable of better things against Offaly.

Of course, the Connacht men have now lost the advantage they had starting the Cork game. This time the opposition are well aware of the capabilities of the Galway team, and of the strengths of the side and they have had plenty of time to plan their strategy accordingly.

At the same time, one can also say that Galway will be a better side in the final than against Cork. They will have eliminated any self doubts they may have had starting that game, and take the field with a confidence and assurance that was not there to the same degree in the semi-final.

Nor will Galway be in the least bit overwhelmed at meeting their neighbours. They have played Offaly too often for that.

My feeling, then, is that Galway are superbly placed now to make it a case of third time lucky against the Faithful County. It will be remembered that after beating Offaly narrowly in the 1980 semi-final they lost to the Leinster county in the final the next year and to their neighbours at Thurles in the Centenary semi-final.



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## FINAL SHOULD BE A CRACKER

**H**AVING had the good fortune to have been at the Munster and Leinster hurling finals last July, I am looking forward with keen anticipation to the meeting of Cork and Wexford in the All-Ireland minor hurling decider. There is something special about a showdown between the Rebel and Model counties in a national final in any grade of hurling, and I am also convinced from what I saw at Páirc Uí Chaoimh and Croke Park in the provincial deciders that this game should prove well worth all the efforts required to get to headquarters early.

Cork have been experiencing a surprisingly lean spell at under-18 hurling. I was amazed on checking through the records to find that not since Ger Cunningham, this season's senior county captain, was turning on the style in the grade in the late 'seventies has the trophy gone to the Leaside. Cunningham won his second successive All-Ireland medal in 1979 at minor and Cork have not appeared in the concluding round in the meantime.

Wexford are even longer out of the rankings. We have to go back to 1968 for their last success, but the Leinster county did contest their last final a little more recently than Cork — 1980.

**I make Cork favourites. I'm not taking one whit from the merits of Wexford's march through Leinster and their final win over Kilkenny in particular, but I thought the Munster minor hurling decider between Cork and Tipperary at Páirc Uí Chaoimh was one of the best games of hurling I have watched this year in any grade.**

Mark Foley at full forward looked a hurler of tremendous promise. He

won a Fitzgibbon Cup (Universities' senior championship) medal with U.C.C. early in the year, and that says much for his potential.

Foley had a superb game against Tipperary. He was industrious, and turned the key in the door to some vital points for his team-mates. He also helped himself to five vital excellent points.

This gifted young Timoleague man will obviously have to be closely and consistently watched by the Wexford defenders.

Barry Harte, another from Timoleague, and John Fitzgibbon may also do much to have the Cork attack motoring sweetly.

The Munster champions have plenty to recommend them elsewhere. Their defence, with Christy Connery, Maurice Hazlewood and Cathal Casey commanding figures, is dependable, and midfield is good.

Cork followed up their 1-13 to 1-8 win in the South with a workmanlike showing when seeing off Galway's gallant crew in the semi-final. Despite their impressive credentials, however, they will definitely not have matters all their own way in the last round.

### BACK DIVISION

Wexford displayed many fine qualities in their 0-12 to 0-8 win over a good Kilkenny outfit in the Leinster final. They hurled with plenty of determination, spirit and plenty of skill.

I thought that the Slaneysiders had missed the boat when they turned over at the interval with a lead of just five points after having had the aid of a stiffish breeze. But they stuck resolutely to the task, and in the end

finished good winners.

Full marks must go to the back division. All the defenders played superbly, but I was very much taken by the work of Vincent Reddy, first at left full, and later when moved out to centre half.

He is a very accomplished young man and should prove a major stumbling block to the Southern attack.

Larry O'Gorman at right full and Paul Nolan in goal are others whom I look to play prominent roles in the efforts to tame the lively Munster scoring division.

Phil Callaghan did many good things in the middle of the park, but I am not so sure that the forwards generally will fit the bill.

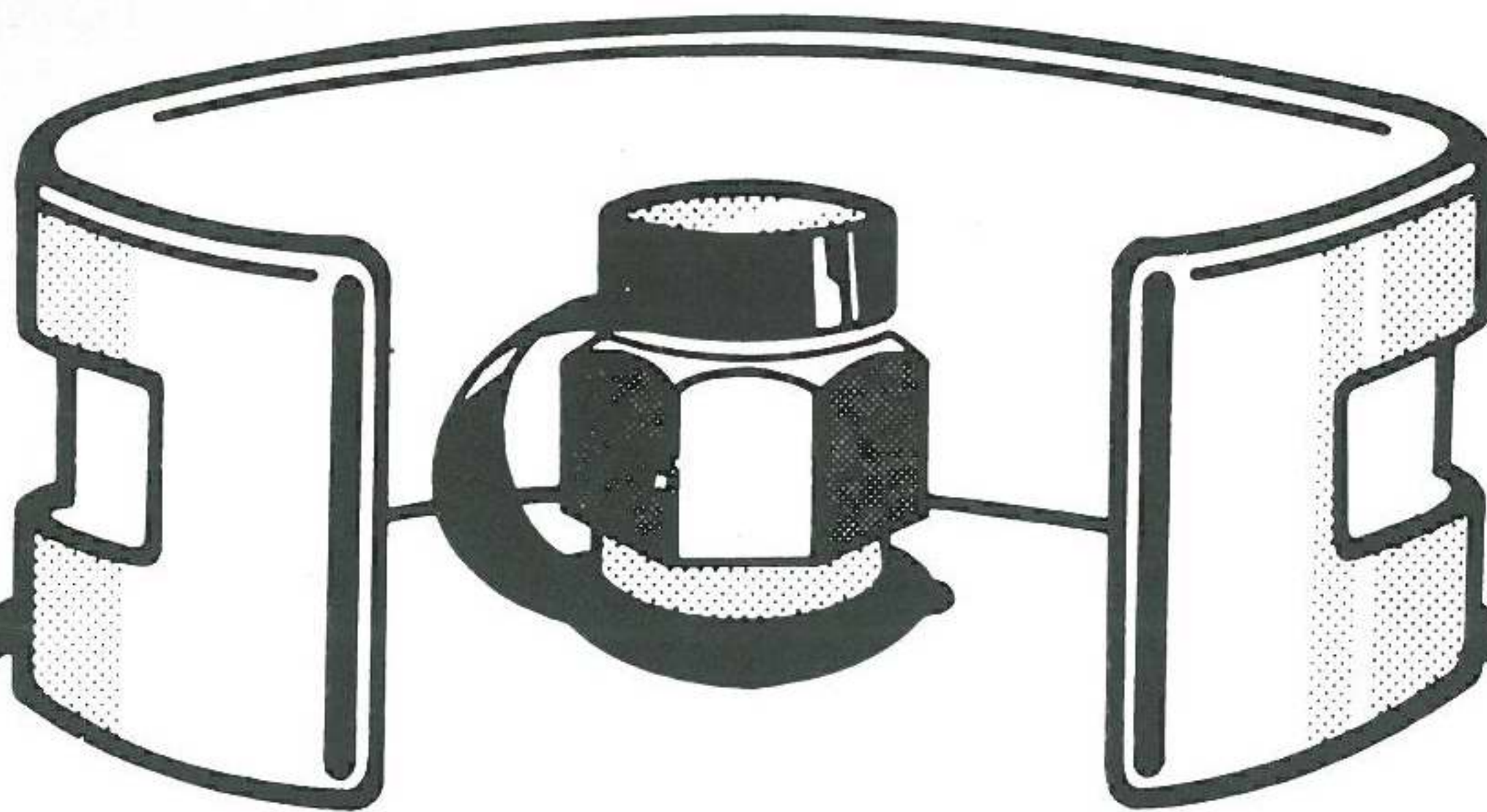
**Wexford have an excellent freetaker in Vincent Murphy, who popped over five against Kilkenny. He showed in that game as well, that he can take his chances from play, by notching a brace of points to bring his total over-all to seven.**

Weigh in the fact that half back Ger Cush contributed two points to the Wexford tally, and the over-all impression is that the team will need a greater spread of scoring power up front to win the day.

Since I saw Wexford in action they have, of course, another win to their credit — that one at the expense of the Ulster champions. No doubt that game will have helped to bring the side on a lot as well.

But the more I ponder on events in the two provincial finals, the more I feel that Cork have the edge in the attack. Scores win games, and in my view the Munster champions will prove more adept than the Wexford finishers in scheming goals and points.





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## SPOTLIGHT ON OFFALY'S CORRIGAN BROTHERS



• PADDY



• MARK

### FOLLOWING FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

*By Ted Bushnell*

**S**UDDENLY it has all "come good" for Paddy Corrigan. After walking for a time in the shadow of his older brother, Mark, he is now his own man; a hurler whose skilled touches and dazzling brilliance as a score taker marks him out as one of the most exciting young campaigners in the game today.

Last year when Offaly lined up against Cork at Semple Stadium in the Centenary Year final Paddy was only a substitute. As supporters of the Midlanders look to the side to gain revenge for that defeat the younger Corrigan is the forward above all others who carries the hopes for the match-winning scores.

Paddy's lethal finishing has been one of the best features of the championship so far. He has put up some very impressive individual match returns, and a number of the points he has scored in the title series have a touch of sheer class.

It was also the man in the No. 10 jersey who scored the late equaliser for Offaly against Kilkenny to bring the Leinster semi-final late in June to a second meeting, and that is a score that may now prove one of the most trend-shaping in the annals of the knock-out test this season.

Paddy and brother Mark, who also knows how to turn scoring chances into points and goals with style, give Offaly tremendous dash, power and accuracy on the wings of their attack. All this, after sharply contrasting fortunes for the pair in last year's provincial and All-Ireland championships.

Paddy was in the team that took

the field against Wexford in the Centenary season Leinster final, and during the course of his outing he tacked over three vital points. However, Mark, who had been omitted from the side for that game, was called up from the substitutes and took over from brother, Paddy.

Mark retained his place for the All-Ireland semi-final, with Paddy among the substitutes, and after Galway were beaten — a game in which the younger of the brothers went in as a substitute — the selectors decided to maintain the status quo again with regard to the brothers. In other words, Mark was handed the No. 10 jersey and Paddy was in the reserves for the Thurles summit.

**During the final, however, Paddy was again called into action, and it is true to say that he has not really looked back after that. He finished the year as Offaly's top scorer for all competitions, and he has maintained his status as the county's principal marksman for all games this season.**

#### ALL-IRELAND LINK

Mark is two years older than Paddy. He is one of the links with the team that achieved the "impossible dream" by beating Galway in 1981 to bring the McCarthy Cup to the Faithful County for the only time so far.

He wore the No. 12 jersey against the Connacht men, and although he did not contribute to the scoring returns, he still had a big say in shaping history with a cultured display of fast, fluent and purposeful

hurling. This was acknowledged later in the year with selection at left half forward in the Bank of Ireland team for 1981 — his only All Star award.

The first Leinster senior title was won in 1980 at the expense of Kilkenny, and Mark had a capital game in that decider at Croke Park, contributing four vital points. He played at right half forward, but was on the left wing of the attack when Offaly retained the provincial crown a year later.

Mark Corrigan played in a Leinster senior hurling final winning team for the fourth time in July, including that limited appearance of 1984, when he substituted for brother Paddy. He outshone Paddy in the scoring last July, heading the Offaly returns with 1-5.

The Corrigan brothers have been playing in local competitions as team-mates since their early 'teens. They have also shared in county success, including senior championship level with Kinnitty.

Paddy and Mark are also maintaining a great family tradition as their late father played with Offaly.

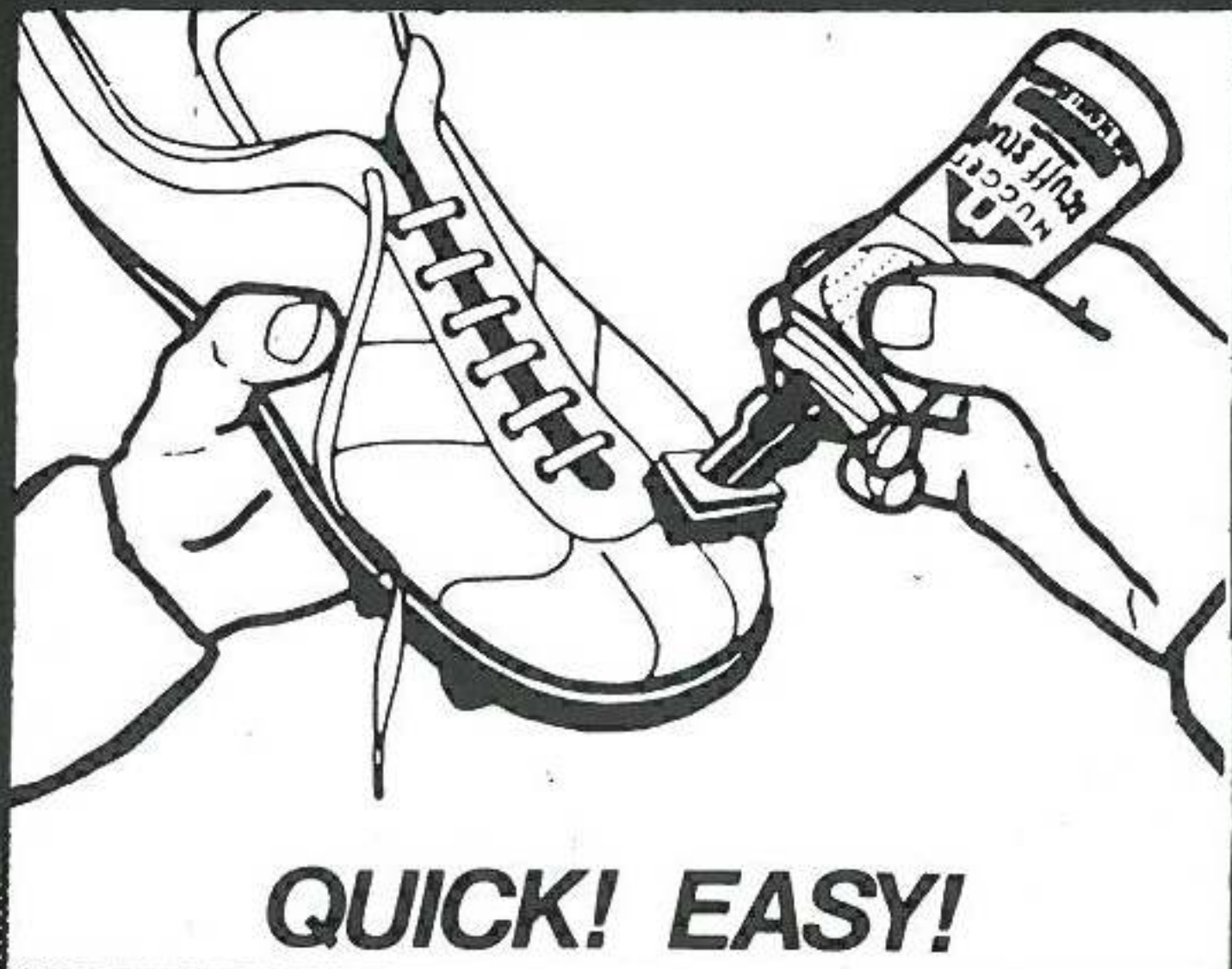
This season both are really "on song". With their incisive play, and above all their razor-sharp finishing the brothers could prove the men to turn the key in the door to what would rank as Offaly's greatest triumph ever — that historic win of 1980 not withstanding. Certainly, with this pair in their attack, and both now playing really well, and packing the experience needed for this level, Offaly are particularly well armed up front for their mission of revenge.



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# LANE, FORDE AND MOLLOY;

## Galway's Wily Trio

BY JIM DOYLE

**Y**OU can't beat experience. While most people were singing the praises of half backs Finnerty, Keady and Kilkenny after Galway's shock win over Cork, I was rubbing my hands in glee as I savoured the displays of Noel Lane, Bernie Forde and P. J. Molloy.

Don't get me wrong. I was not in the least envious of the young lions' day of glory. They deserved all the praise they received for their performances, but as an old-stager myself I was still greatly cheered by the play of Lane, Forde and Molloy. It was nice to see this trio showing the young men a thing or two.

What a game Lane had. I've watched him in many matches since he first joined the Galway senior team in 1978, but I don't think I ever

saw him play better than in the semi-final.

Everything he did had the touch of class. He split open the Cork defence time and time again, set up chances for his team-mates and took scores well himself. One of the best full forward displays in years.

Molloy continues to be an outstanding marksman. Granted, he squandered a vital free late in the game, a free from which a point would have put Galway four clear, but as against that he hit some wonderful points earlier 'on, and finished the day with five to his credit. No mean feat that.

As for Forde he has lost little of that exciting technique for grabbing goals — a technique that was early in evidence in the 1980 final win over Limerick when he kicked home a goal inside three minutes. His points scoring is pretty good, too. If you want proof of that, well what about the late point from play, expertly taken in the trying conditions, that put Galway four points clear almost on time?

I'm really not surprised that this trio did so much to shape the win over Cork, as they have been among the best performers in hurling for some years.

Molloy is by far the more experienced of the trio. He was right full forward in the Galway team beaten by Cork in the 1970 All-Ireland minor hurling final. Two years later he helped Galway to their first under-21 national championship.

Over the years the Athenry hurler has been adding up the goals and points for Galway like no player from the county before. He played in losing finals in 1975 and 1979 before winning the game's top award in 1980, and he has had a great innings in the Railway Cup, winning three medals.

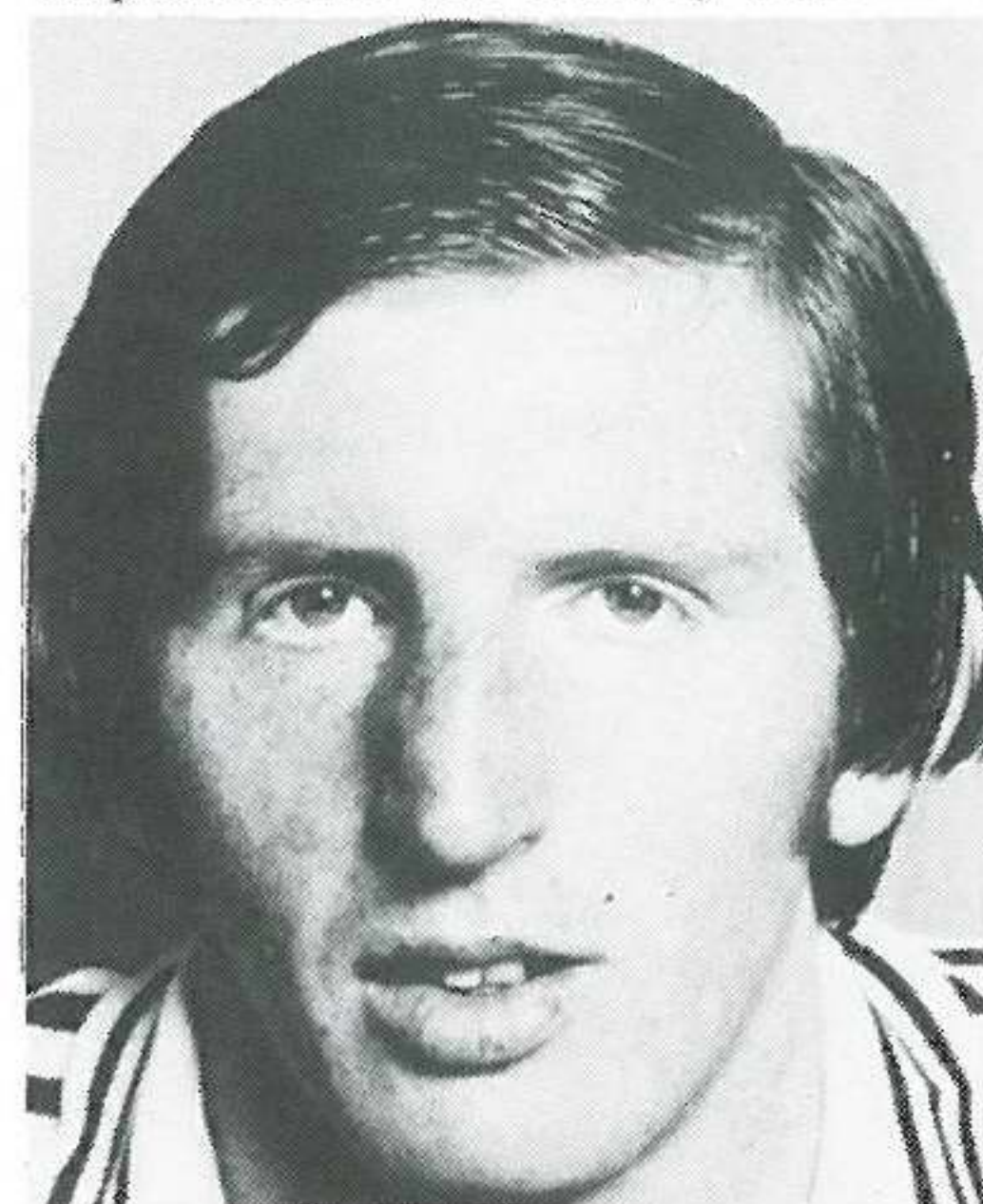
### LEFT FULL

Lane was left full forward when Galway made that long-awaited break-through in 1980 by taking their first All-Ireland senior hurling crown since the 'Twenties.

This Ballindereen club man has

been a lively raider over the years and has hit some vital scores. Like Molloy, he has had a very successful time in interprovincial hurling, and collected three medals.

Forde is the youngest of this trio of seasoned hurlers who did so much to prompt the attack into match-winning gear last time out. He showed much of the sparkle that was to distinguish his career as a right full forward when he held down the No. 13 position in the Galway team that



**BERNIE FORDE**

*...exciting technique*

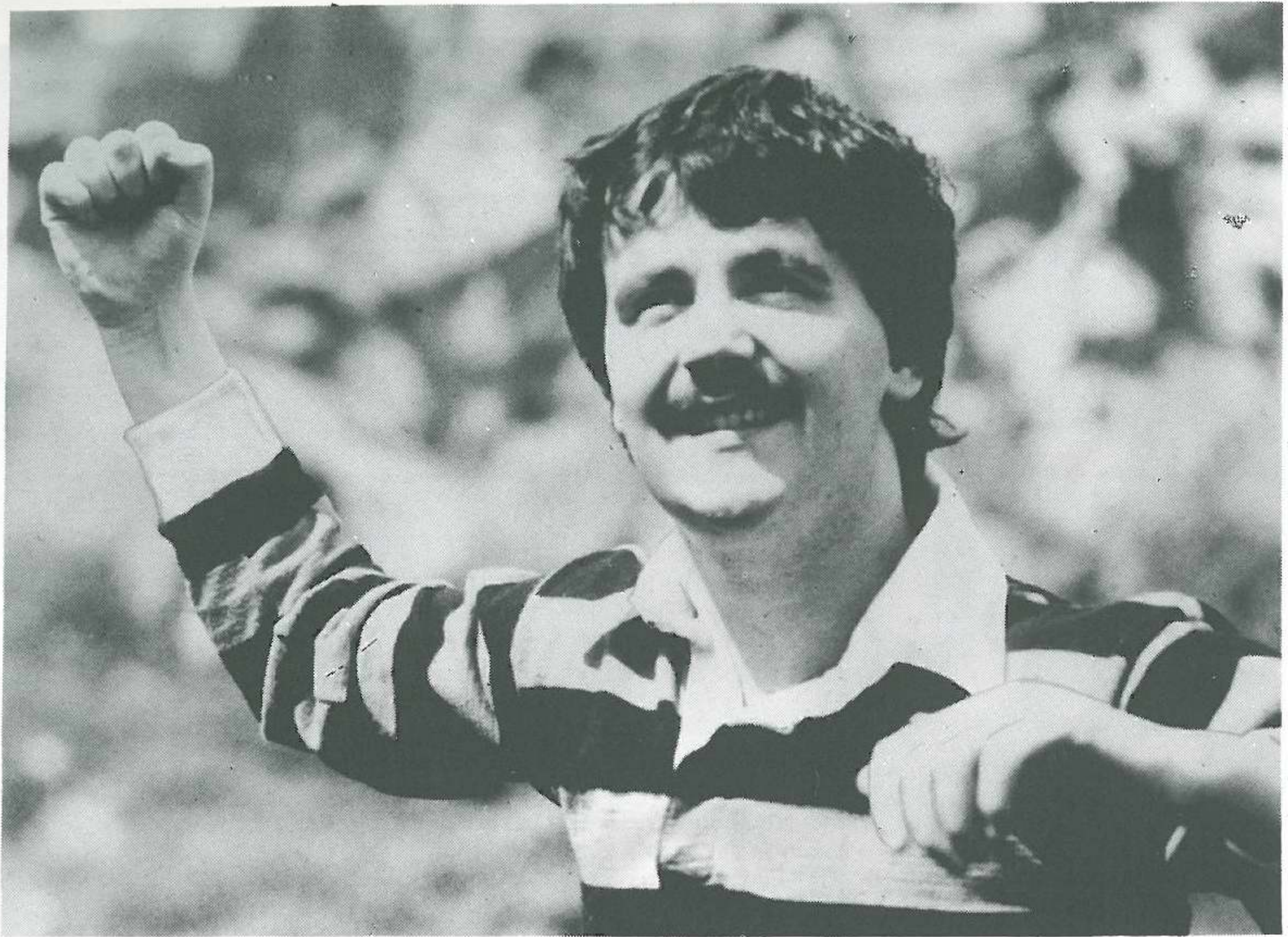
won the 1978 All-Ireland under-21 title, a team that included Conor Hayes and Steve Mahon.

Forde has two Railway Cup medals, and was honoured by the Bank of Ireland selectors at right full forward — where else? — after the McCarthy Cup win of 1980.

Lane, Molloy and Forde were all in Galway's attack when they lost at this stage to Offaly in 1981. On their work rate and their skills in the last game, this wily trio could do more than any others to set the Connacht county on course for a revenge win.

If that happens, I, for one, will be very happy. As I have said it is nice to see seasoned campaigners showing the young fellows a thing or two. And, another medal win would be only a just reward to Molloy, Lane and Forde, who have soldiered so well in the shadows of many frustrations before walking again in the sunlight of All-Ireland glory after the shock that was the win over Cork.





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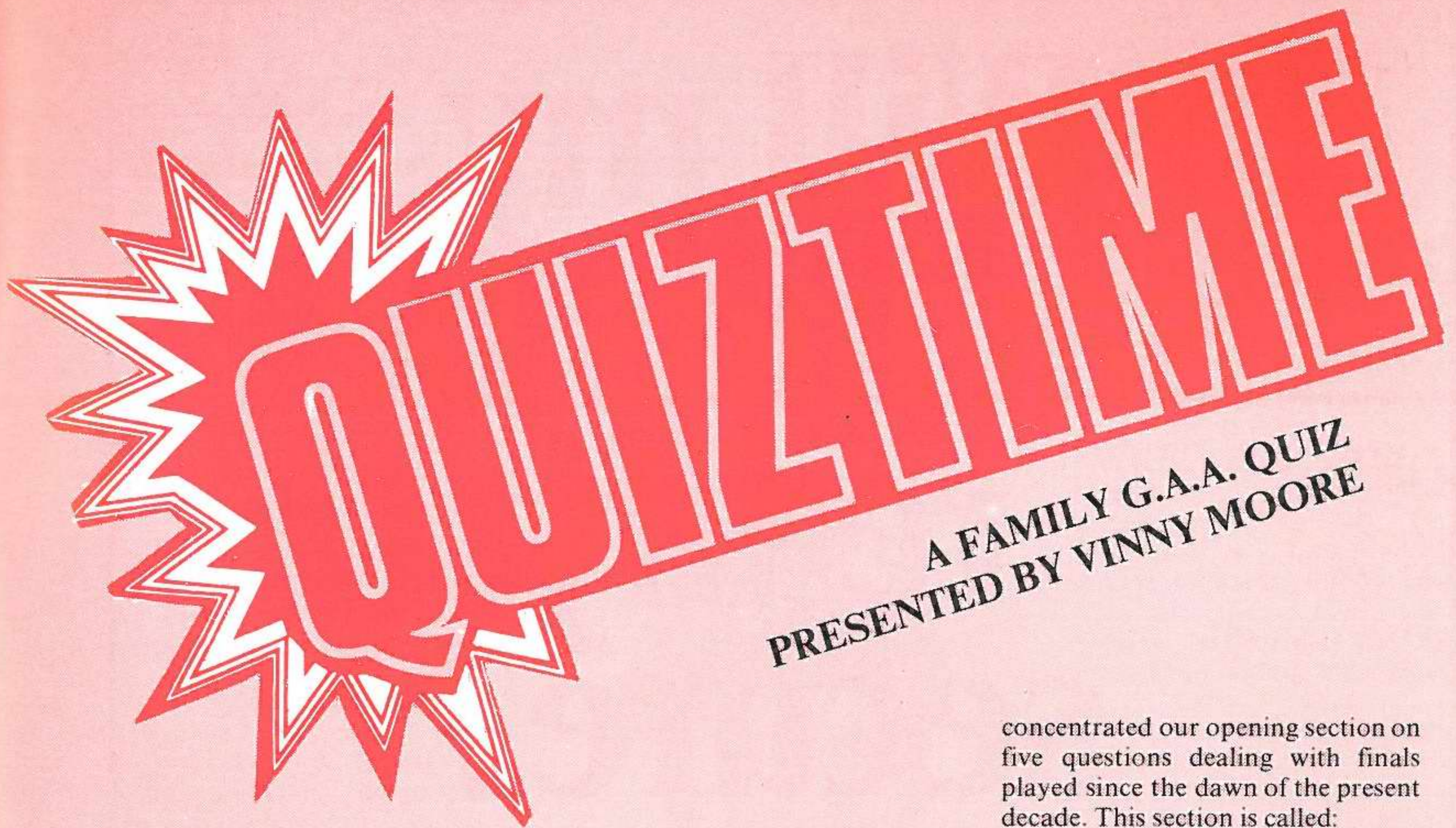
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# QUIZTIME

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

**I**T'S back to Croke Park after the success that was the Centenary Year All-Ireland senior hurling final. Full marks to those who made the Thurles showpiece such a worthy promotion of the 100 birthday celebrations, but it is still good to get back to headquarters for the game of the year as far as the ancient code is concerned.

There is a special glamour and appeal, I maintain at any rate, of Croke Park on All-Ireland senior hurling final day, and I am looking forward to experiencing the colour and the excitement again after the two year break.

I'm not going to nominate a winner of the senior final. You will read the points for and against the finalists elsewhere in this issue.

But I am glad that the Editor has allowed me to bring back Quiztime, which has been such a popular feature of our Hurling Final Edition for some years — at least judging by readers' letters.

However, to introduce a note of variety, I have decided to base the Quiz not chiefly on the 1985 final, but

more on events of the past, and on some of the personalities who thrilled and delighted us in deciders gone by. After all, we have plenty of topical matters on the first final of the G.A.A.'s second century in *Gaelic Sport* this month, without continuing on the same theme in the Quiz.

The exercise is divided into four separate sections, and as in the past, points are allocated to give that little extra competitive element. Many readers welcome this aspect of the Quiz, but at the same time, I feel it is well worth emphasising the point that the overall aim of the feature is to provide enjoyment, possibly some information, and should not be taken all that seriously.

If you finish up with a good score, so much the better. If, on the other hand, you finish well down the field on the points scale, then do not worry. At least you will have learned something along the way, and I hope will also feel that the effort was well worthwhile on that score alone.

That's enough from me, and over now to the purpose of the feature. To get off on a nice easy pace I have

concentrated our opening section on five questions dealing with finals played since the dawn of the present decade. This section is called:

## THE 'EIGHTIES

1. Galway ushered in this decade with a rare All-Ireland senior hurling final win in 1980. They beat Limerick in the final, but was their winning margin two, three or four points?

.....  
2. Who captained Galway to the McCarthy Cup win of '80? .....

.....  
3. Who was Cork's team leader in their unsuccessful 1982 final against Kilkenny? .....

4. Offaly were beaten, of course, in the Semple Stadium final last year. Can you remember the Midlanders' captain in that game? .....

.....  
5. How many goals were shared by Cork and Offaly at Thurles?

.....  
Five points a question on offer here, and to help you on the road to a bright start, a bonus of five points for an all correct card. This section then is worth 30 points overall.

YOUR SCORE: .....

• TO PAGE 27



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# QUIZTIME

● FROM PAGE 25

After that not too exacting start — or was it? — a somewhat more demanding series of five questions which I titled:

## GENERAL VIEW

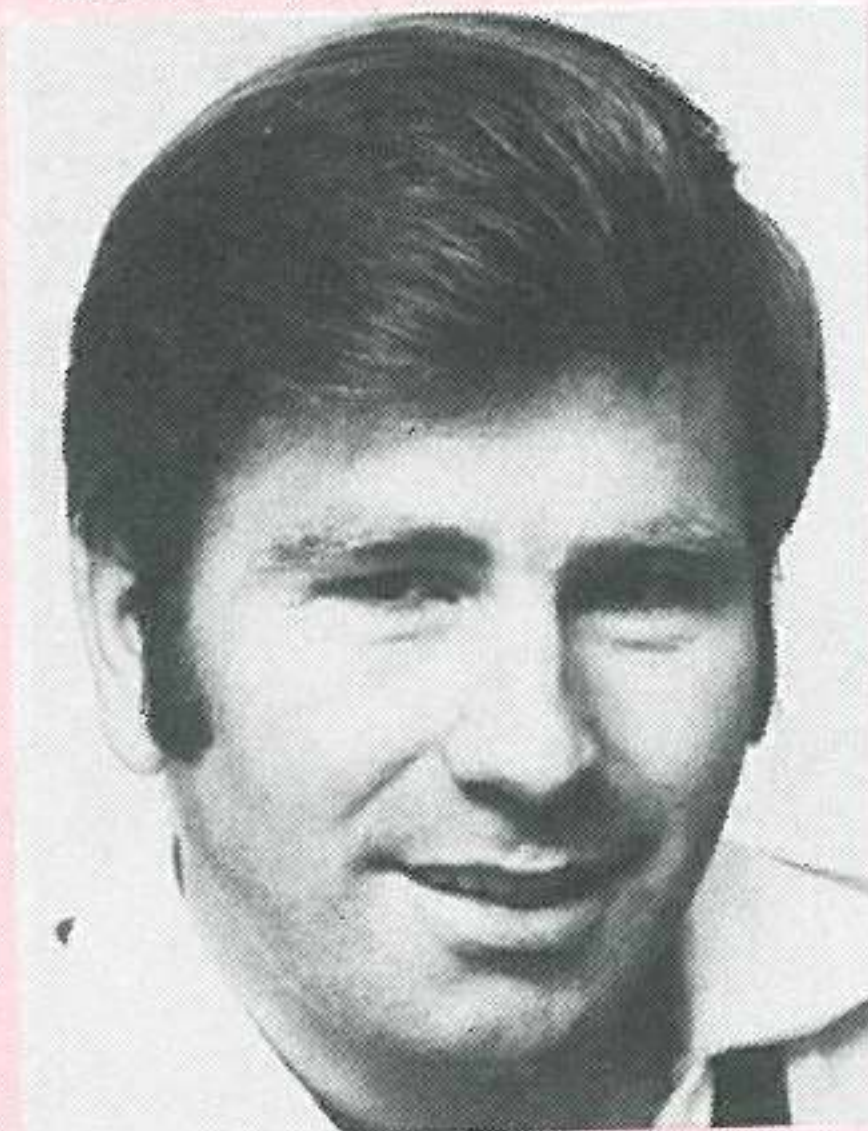
1. What county, other than Cork, last brought the McCarthy Cup to Munster, and what was the year of that title win as well? .....
2. Kilkenny were champions in 1975. Who captained the Noresiders that season? .....
3. A question now for the real "experts". How many Leinster counties have inscribed their name on the McCarthy Cup? .....
4. Waterford won their last All-Ireland senior hurling title in 1959. Name the year in which the county last appeared in the concluding round of the premier knock-out competition .....
5. And to round off this section a teaser for those with long memories. Mick Daniels led what county to the All-Ireland senior crown of 1938? .....

The points rating is increased to seven here, and as in our first section a five points bonus if each of the questions is answered correctly. So, at seven points a question, plus that bonus, this could leave your score improved by a whopping 40 points. YOUR SCORE .....

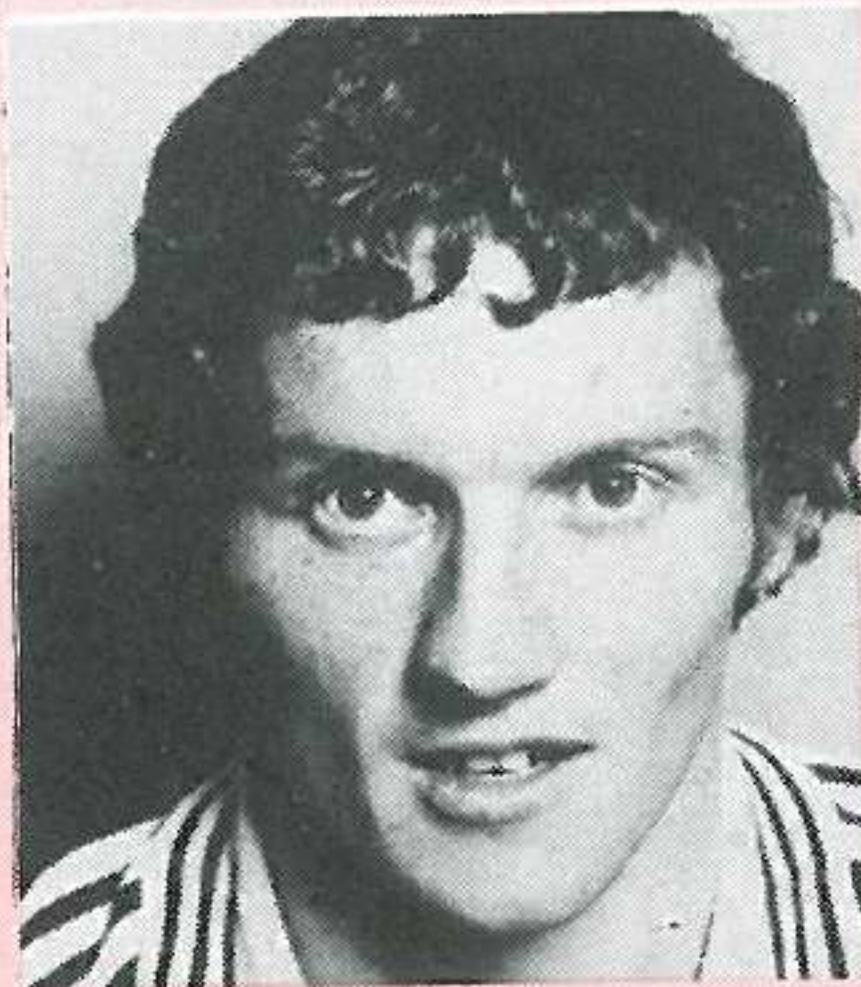
No quiz would be complete without a picture section. I have learned from experience that this is one of the most popular features of

the Quiz, and who are we to disappoint the readers? So, over now to our:

## PICTURE SECTION



1. This personality will not be engaged in the hurling final. But he appreciates better than most what is needed to win an All-Ireland title as he appeared in quite a few deciders. Who is he? .....
2. How many senior All-Ireland medals did our personality win during his career? .....
3. Name his club side .....



4. Another star of the past is

featured in the second part of this section. Who is he? .....

5. Our personality won an All-Ireland senior medal on the field of play. True or false? .....
6. And, finally, name his club team? .....

Six questions each carrying a points tag of five, and once more a five points bonus if full marks are achieved. Thus 35 points on offer. YOUR RECORD .....

To finish our Quiz, ten short, snappy questions covering a variety of topics at random. This is really a;

## WIDE SELECTION

1. How many times have Galway won the senior hurling title? .....
  2. What county took the All-Ireland minor hurling title last year? .....
  3. Name the Centenary Year All-Ireland junior hurling champions? .....
  4. Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) and Tom Neville (Wexford) were rival captains in a McCarthy Cup tie of the 'Sixties. Can you give the exact year of the final in question? .....
  5. Tipperary have not won the All-Ireland senior title since 1971. Who was in goal for the Premier County in the final? .....
  6. Name the 1984 All-Ireland "B" championship winners .....
  7. This hurler scored ten classic points in the 1976 final at senior level. Who is he? .....
  8. How many times have Wexford won the McCarthy Cup? .....
  9. What was unusual about the 1937 All-Ireland senior hurling final? .....
  10. To round off our question-and-answer exercise, a brief "look-in" for referees. Name the referees for the 1983 and 1984 senior finals. Both must be named correctly to earn any marks at all for this particular question.
- Five points once again for each question answered correctly, and to finish in a generous mood a bonus of 20 points if an all correct card is returned here. So, 70 points possible. HOW DID YOU FARE? .....

ANSWERS ON PAGE 33



GALWAY



S. Coen



P. Finnerty



P.J. Molloy



B. Forde



M. Connolly



P. Murphy



C. Hayes



T. Keady



B. Lynskey



N. Lane

Gaillimh



S. Linnane



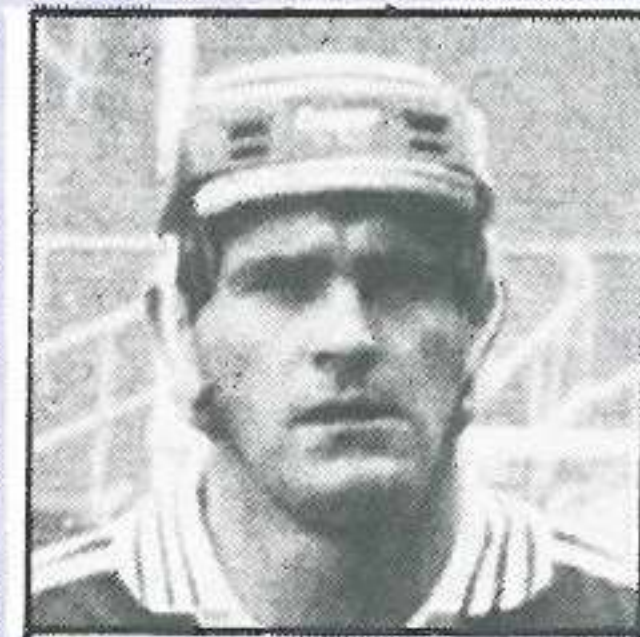
T. Kilkenny



J. Cooney



A. Cunningham



S. Mahon



# OFFALY



J. Troy



E. Coughlan



P. Delaney



P. Carroll



P. Horan

# Uibh Failí



P. Fleury



G. Coughlan



M. Corrigan



J. Dooley



A. Fogarty



T. Conneely



D. Owens



P. Corrigan



P. Cleary

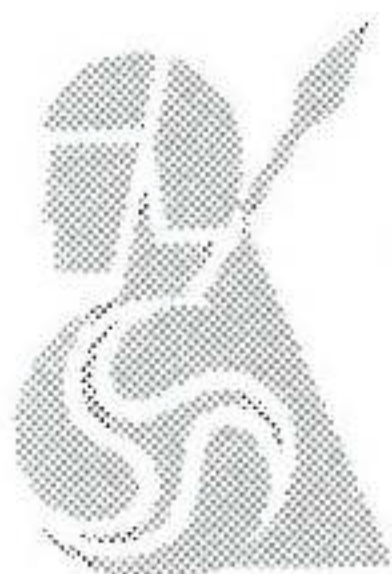


J. Kelly





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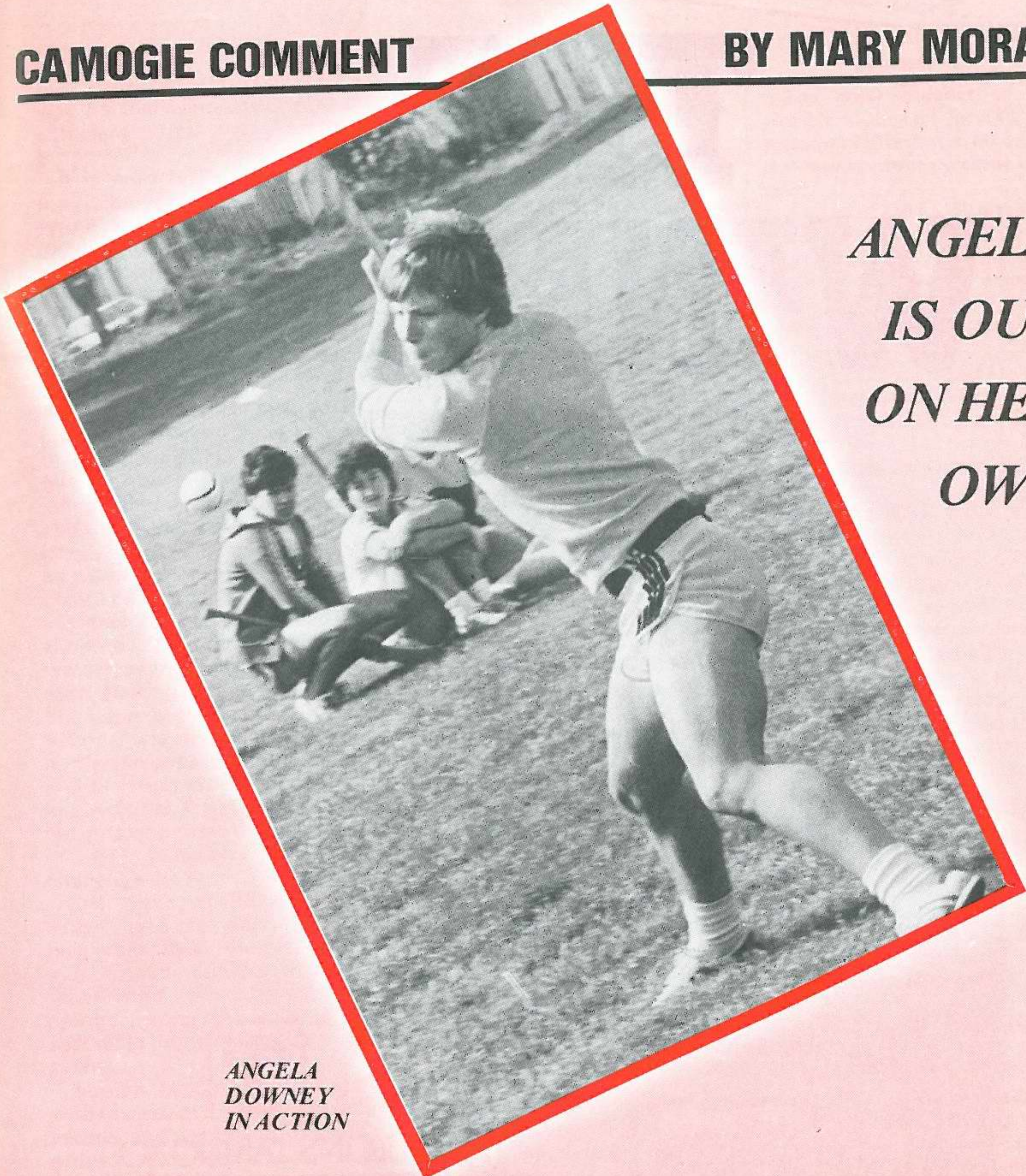


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*ANGELA  
IS OUT  
ON HER  
OWN*

*ANGELA  
DOWNEY  
IN ACTION*

**T**HE wide gulf in standard between the winner, Angela Downey and the remainder of the competitors must raise questions for the future of Gradam Tailte. Angela drew widespread acclaim with her performance in Drumcondra in 1984. But she improved on that showing

reaching a staggering 64 points out of a possible 70.

The other entrants came nowhere near her standard. From early in the day it was obvious that she was on course to retain her title. So great was the difference that the competitive element surrounded the minor placings

only.

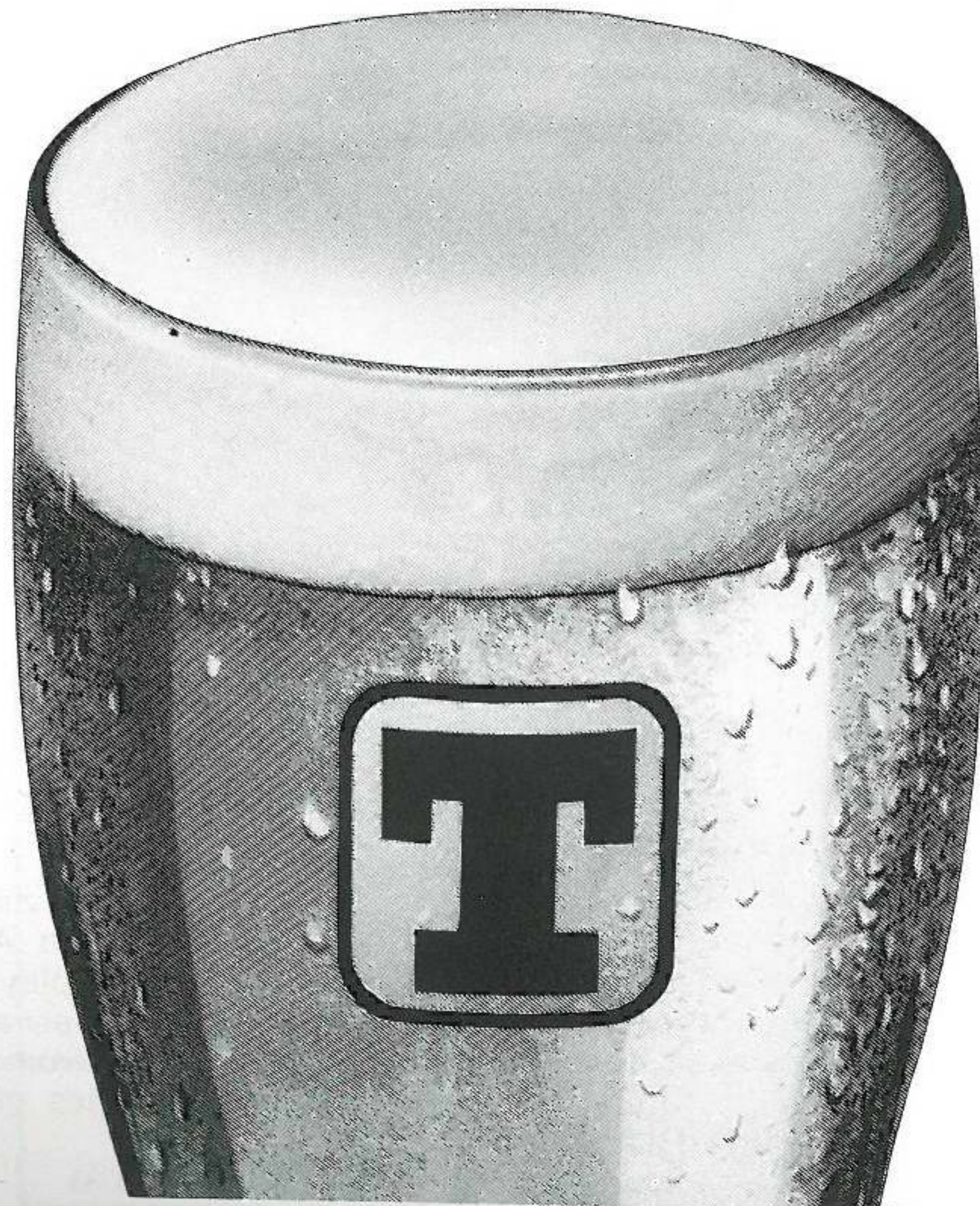
The question must be asked is the difference between Angela and all other camogie players so marked? Is it that the best are not coming through from the counties? Are counties gearing

• TO PAGE 33



# THE WINNING PINT.

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**TENNENT'S**  
Famous Lager...Fair Price!



● FROM PAGE 31

their own competition in such a way that their winners do not have sufficient time to prepare properly?

It is hard to believe that our inter-county players do not have the necessary pride in themselves or their county to put in the required effort. I feel that the answer lies with the organisation of county competitions. If these were attractively run, the players would be motivated to give it their best.

At the finish of this year's contest in Kilkenny, there was talk of eliminating the winner from future Gradam Tailte events or handicapping players of top class ability. Neither course would be desirable. Why should someone be penalised because the others do not come up to standard?

**A camogie player's career is a short one. The competition must remain open to all comers with each starting at the same level. The future of the competition lies with players and county boards coming to grips with the situation and planning local competitions in good time. It will then be up to the girls who come through to put in the necessary effort to challenge the best.**

Spectators in Kilkenny saw Angela take maximum points in basketball, 100 metres sprint, indoor and outdoor obstacle races and camogie scoring competitions. She finished second in the remaining camogie events.

Noreen McCuskar (Donegal) strided clear of the field in the 800 metres and Jo Holden (Dublin) proved her endurance and stamina in the gym tests. Galway's Deirdre Costello scored ten points in the camogie skills and the long puck was won by Catherine Daly of Tyrone. Three players finished in a tie for second place, Deirdre Costello, Jo Holden and Wicklow's Kay Barry.

As the inter-county season draws to a close, the majority of

the honours have gone to the established counties. With the Leagues and Provincial Championships complete, no new force has emerged.

Over the years, making a break through in camogie has always proved difficult. Junior counties have promised now and then but faded away from the limelight. The same names are repeated time and again on the list of winners.

Kildare came close this season. They won their way to the National Junior League final and the Leinster Junior final but failed to take either. Clare juniors were another side out of luck.

Of the semi-finalists in the All-Ireland junior and minor championship this year, six — Galway, Limerick and Dublin in the junior and Down, Galway and Cork in the minor — are previous winners of the title. Armagh won out in Ulster. They have come this far before but the ultimate honours have to date eluded them. Wexford were surprise winners of the Leinster Minor Championship but were unable to make further progress.

One of the main reasons why other counties are not making progress is the neglect of skill training. Once a player masters the skills of the game, she can perform at a much higher level. The performance of Liz Neary and Bridie McGarry in the National Senior League replay underlines the value of the highly skilled player.

The county with the greatest store of young talent at the moment must surely be Galway. The youngsters of Mullagh were most impressive at Feile na nGael. Add the players of All-Ireland Colleges Champions, St. Raphaels, Loughrea and the minor and junior county squads. The result is the raw material necessary to win an All-Ireland senior title. The proper guidance and coaching can get them there.

QUIZ ANSWERS

● FROM PAGE 27

The total number of points possible in the Quiz overall: 175. If you score 150 or better, take a bow as that would prove excellent in every sense.

A score of 130 to 150 is really very good as well, and readers who reach that standard have genuine cause for celebration. 100 to 130 is good, and below that — well, do not worry too much, there is always next year!

THE 'EIGHTIES

- 1. Three points: 2-15 to 3-9. 2. Joe Connolly. 3. Jimmy Barry-Murphy. 4. Pat Fleury. 5. Four goals: Cork scored three, and Offaly one.

GENERAL REVIEW

- 1. Limerick in 1973. 2. Billy Fitzpatrick. 3. Four: Kilkenny, Dublin, Wexford and Offaly. Laois won the 1915 All-Ireland title, but the McCarthy Cup was not awarded to the championship winners until the 1921 championship. 4. 1963, when Waterford lost a high scoring final to Kilkenny. 5. Dublin, and that 1938 win now ranks as the county's last All-Ireland senior title in the code.

PICTURE SECTION

- 1. Noel Skehan (Kilkenny). 2. Six on the actual field of play, and three as a substitute making a total of nine in all. 3. Bennetsbridge. 4. Iggy Clarke (Galway). 5. False. An injury kept him out of Galway's 1980 title winning team. 6. Loughrea.

WIDE SELECTION

- 1. Twice: 1923 and 1980. 2. Limerick, who beat Kilkenny in a replay at Semple Stadium. 3. Kilkenny, who beat Galway in the final. 4. 1965. 5. Peter O'Sullivan. 6. Westmeath, who beat London in the final proper. 7. Pat Moylan (Cork) against Wexford. 8. Four times: 1955, 1956, 1960 and 1968. 9. That game was played at Killarney as Croke Park was not available because of construction work on the Cusack Stand. 10. Neil Duggan (Limerick) 1983 and Pascal Long (Kilkenny) in 1984.



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# HURLING'S ROLL OF HONOUR

Compiled by FRANK COOGAN

- |      |  |      |                           |      |                           |
|------|--|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 1887 | TIPPERARY (J. Stapleton, capt.)        | 1919 | CORK (J. Kennedy)         | 1957 | KILKENNY (M. Kenny)       |
| 1888 | Unfinished due to the U.S. "invasion." | 1920 | DUBLIN (R. Mockler)       | 1958 | TIPPERARY (A. Wall)       |
| 1889 | DUBLIN (E. O'Shea)                     | 1921 | LIMERICK (R. McConkey)    | 1959 | WATERFORD (F. Walsh)      |
| 1890 | CORK (D. Lane)                         | 1922 | KILKENNY (W. Dúnphy)      | 1960 | WEXFORD (N. O'Donnell)    |
| 1891 | KERRY (J. Mahony)                      | 1923 | GALWAY (M. Kenny)         | 1961 | TIPPERARY (M. Hassett)    |
| 1892 | CORK (W. O'Callaghan)                  | 1924 | DUBLIN (P. Aylward)       | 1962 | TIPPERARY (J. Doyle)      |
| 1893 | CORK (J. Murphy)                       | 1925 | TIPPERARY (J. Leahy)      | 1963 | KILKENNY (S. Cleere)      |
| 1894 | CORK (S. Hayes)                        | 1926 | CORK (S. O. Murphy)       | 1964 | TIPPERARY (M. Murphy)     |
| 1895 | TIPPERARY (M. Maher)                   | 1927 | DUBLIN (M. Gill)          | 1965 | TIPPERARY (J. Doyle)      |
| 1896 | TIPPERARY (M. Maher)                   | 1928 | CORK (S. O. Murphy)       | 1966 | CORK (G. McCarthy)        |
| 1897 | LIMERICK (D. Grimes)                   | 1929 | CORK (D.B. Murphy)        | 1967 | KILKENNY (J. Treacy)      |
| 1898 | TIPPERARY (M. Maher)                   | 1930 | TIPPERARY (J.J. Callanan) | 1968 | WEXFORD (D. Quigley)      |
| 1899 | TIPPERARY (J. Condon)                  | 1931 | CORK (E. Coughlan)        | 1969 | KILKENNY (E. Keher)       |
| 1900 | TIPPERARY (E. Hayes)                   | 1932 | KILKENNY (J. Walsh)       | 1970 | CORK (P. Barry)           |
| 1901 | LONDON (J. Coughlan)                   | 1933 | KILKENNY (N. Doyle)       | 1971 | TIPPERARY (T. O'Connor)   |
| 1902 | CORK (J. Kelleher)                     | 1934 | LIMERICK (T. Ryan)        | 1972 | KILKENNY (N. Skehan)      |
| 1903 | CORK (S. O'Riordan)                    | 1935 | KILKENNY (L. Meagher)     | 1973 | LIMERICK (E. Grimes)      |
| 1904 | KILKENNY (G. Doheny)                   | 1936 | LIMERICK (M. Mackey)      | 1974 | KILKENNY (N. Orr)         |
| 1905 | KILKENNY (D. Stapleton)                | 1937 | TIPPERARY (J. Lanigan)    | 1975 | KILKENNY (W. Fitzpatrick) |
| 1906 | TIPPERARY (T. Semple)                  | 1938 | DUBLIN (M. Daniels)       | 1976 | CORK (R. Cummins)         |
| 1907 | KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh).            | 1939 | KILKENNY (J. Walsh)       | 1977 | CORK (M. O'Doherty)       |
| 1908 | TIPPERARY (T. Semple)                  | 1940 | LIMERICK (M. Mackey)      | 1978 | CORK (C. McCarthy)        |
| 1909 | KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh).            | 1941 | CORK (C. Buckley)         | 1979 | KILKENNY (G. Fennelly)    |
| 1910 | WEXFORD (R. Doyle)                     | 1942 | CORK (J. Lynch)           | 1980 | GALWAY (Joe Connolly)     |
| 1911 | KILKENNY (S. Walton)                   | 1943 | CORK (M. Kennefick)       | 1981 | OFFALY (P. Horan)         |
| 1912 | KILKENNY (S. Walton)                   | 1944 | CORK (S. Condon)          | 1982 | KILKENNY (B. Cody)        |
| 1913 | KILKENNY (D. "Drug" Walsh)             | 1945 | TIPPERARY (J. Maher)      | 1983 | KILKENNY (L. Fennelly)    |
| 1914 | CLARE (A. Power)                       | 1946 | CORK (C. Ring)            | 1984 | CORK (J. Fenton)          |
| 1915 | LAOIS (J. Finlay)                      | 1947 | KILKENNY (D. Kennedy)     |      |                           |
| 1916 | TIPPERARY (J. Leahy)                   | 1948 | WATERFORD (J. Ware)       |      |                           |
| 1917 | DUBLIN (J. Ryan)                       | 1949 | TIPPERARY (P. Stakelum)   |      |                           |
| 1918 | LIMERICK (W. Hough)                    | 1950 | TIPPERARY (S. Kenny)      |      |                           |
|      |  | 1951 | TIPPERARY (J. Finn)       |      |                           |
|      |  | 1952 | CORK (P. Barry)           |      |                           |
|      |  | 1953 | CORK (C. Ring)            |      |                           |
|      |  | 1954 | CORK (C. Ring)            |      |                           |
|      |  | 1955 | WEXFORD (N. O'Donnell)    |      |                           |
|      |  | 1956 | WEXFORD (J. English)      |      |                           |

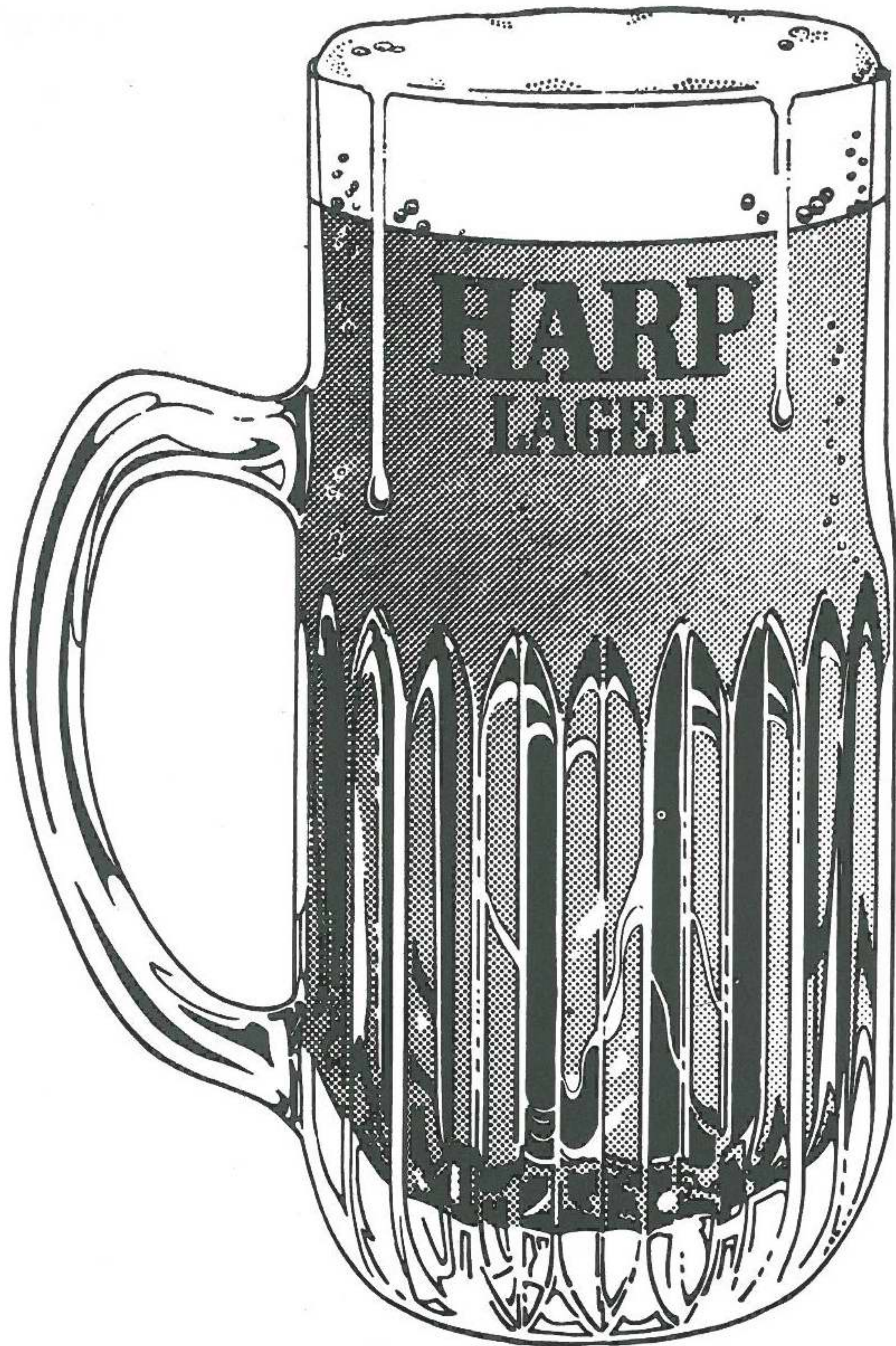
## SUMMARY OF WINS

25 titles: Cork. 23; Kilkenny. 22; Tipperary. 7; Limerick. 6; Dublin. 5; Wexford. 2; Galway, Waterford. 1 each; Clare, Kerry, Laois, London, Offaly.

### U.S. Invasion

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





# HARP

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HANDBALL

# DUGGAN REVELS IN THE TUCSON HEAT

By SEAN CLERKIN

**T**HE success of Clare's John Duggan in the U.S.H.A. under-23 Championship at Tucson in June must be signalled as one of the most significant achievements in the context of Irish Handball.

We had lauded his efforts in winning the under-19 title in Cincinnati last December, and, while confident that he would turn in a good show in the higher age group, we realistically did not expect an outright victory.

Perhaps, we were looking in the direction of Kilkenny's Billy Burke, who had more experience than Duggan and, indeed, seemed to have regained the form that stamped him as the best minor player the country had ever produced. Now we know that the depth of Duggan's vast potential may not yet be fully exploited. **He just revelled in the white heat of the American competition.**

In the final Duggan had a comparatively easy win against John Bike from New York, who had been installed as the number one seed in the series. He had retained the full power of his vast handball repertoire for the big show-down and thrilled the Irish supporters with the quality of his skill and the degree of his superior sportsmanship.

It is interesting to note that the closest match Duggan had in the series came from local Tucson player Peter Padaditch who beat Duggan in the opening game and brought him to 11-7 in the tie-breaker.

The connection here of course, is that Padaditch had been coached by Pat Kirby, whose techniques had also played a major role in moulding the handballing career of Duggan back in Clare some years ago.

We were disappointed that Pat Kirby failed to win the Master's Title for the sixth time in a row, though an injured heel had militated against his chances from an early stage in the series.

**It must again go on record what an ideal host Pat was for the Irish Party.** He was ever at the ready to help them, either with sound advice on the standard of the opposition, or in organising their leisure time outside the handball courts.

A special word is also due to the enthusiasm shown by our lady players, Liz Nichol and Sue Carey, who flew out to Tucson at their own expense and turned in creditable performances. Their most successful achievement was in reaching the semi-final of the doubles championship.

But the major glory belongs to Duggan and indirectly to the many administrators through the country who have brought the juvenile game to fruition in the last few years.

Besides the hard work of attracting the young people to the game, and providing adequate competition for them, they have also seen fit to equip themselves, with the latest coaching techniques of the game.

In this regard the Coaching Council, under the chairmanship of Sean Lee, must accept a share of the

kudos, in providing productive and interesting coaching courses, as a result of which we find at least one individual in every county fully equipped to impart the skills of the game.

Now the sights of Irish players are set on the next World Championships, which will be held at Kelowna, British Columbia between May 6th and 10th 1986. The Championship will be played at the Four Seasons Club, where a total of 17 indoor courts will be available. There is also the added attraction that they are sited in a beautiful tourist area, located in the Okanagan Valley and in close proximity to Vancouver.

Anybody, with intentions of travelling to this event should phone Joe Lynch at 786910 and he will supply full details.

On the home front, activity is at a feverish pitch as players, fresh from their conquests in the 40x20 code and the handball championships vie for honours in the Coca-Cola and All-Ireland Softball Championships.

It is predictable that Kildareman Tom O'Rourke should be hitting the headlines once again. This time it is in the old code of handball, where, in recent times he won the Senior Handball Singles Title and thus, became the fifth person in the history of the game to win the senior singles championships in both the softball and handball codes.

The Quish Brothers, Tom and John were also to the fore in taking the Senior Handball Doubles Title, while Martin Hennigan again displayed his ability in the 40 x 20 code by lifting the title at the expense of Kilkennyman Billy Burke.

The emergence of Ulster players in the subsidiary grades has been an encouraging factor and an indicator that the barriers of standards between Ulster players and those from the other provinces are being bridged.


**The general handball picture at the present time mirrors a successful image. The international dimension, improving standards and increased development pinpoints yet again the important role of handball in the G.A.A.**



**This is a close-up of a Fox's Glacier Mint.**



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By  
**SEAMUS  
O'NEILL**

**W**HAT a year of high hopes and disappointments for supporters of Gaelic Games in Clare! Most followers outside of the county will readily recall that the senior hurlers drew with Tipperary, and then lost the replay in the first round of the Munster championship, but what about the ups-and-downs of Clare in some other grades of the knock-out tests?

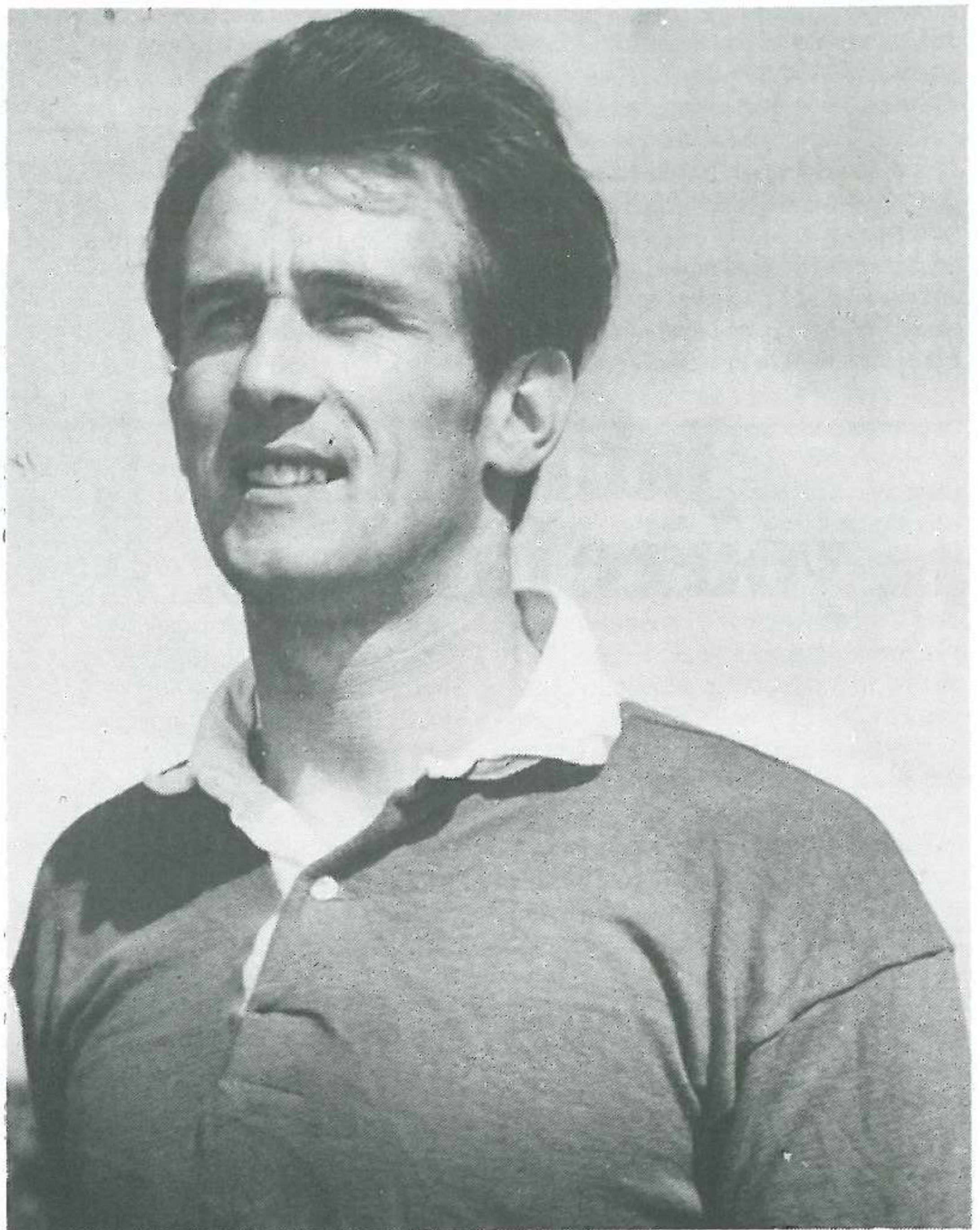
Take under-21 football. A victory over Kerry in any grade of championship football is a major achievement, and when the Clare under-21 side shocked the Kingdom in a first round provincial tie early in the season many confidently looked forward to a rare Munster crown. Clare had only a point to spare over Kerry, but they still turned in a most encouraging performance.

The high hopes of an outright title win were not realised as the specialists of the championship in the South, Cork, scored a comfortable win over the young men from the Banner county in the final at Tralee.

The story was somewhat similar in under-21 hurling. Clare did exceptionally well to beat Cork by a point in the Munster semi-final and looked to have a real chance of a breakthrough when they lined out in the next round against Tipperary — despite having to play that game at Semple Stadium in Thurles.

Clare played their part all right in providing a thriller, but at the end of it all disappointment yet again as the home side won through by two points.

Yes, frustrating times, and another season without a Munster championship in any grade. However, there is still a positive side, as the events at under-21 clearly indicate that Clare has solid foundations on which to build for the future in both codes.



*JUSTIN McCARTHY . . . his outspoken comments after the recent Munster Hurling Final caused a furore in the Tipp. camp.*

One of the stars of the hurling team was Tommy Guilfoyle, who has already senior inter-county experience, and is a sharpshooting forward. Val Donnellan, another lively raider, and defenders John Russell and Pat Tuohy are others from the team who will no doubt help to enliven the senior inter-county hurling scene for Clare in the years ahead.

As for football, the job here continues to be a really uphill one for the counties walking for so long in the South in the shadows of Kerry and Cork. But the old order could be changing, nonetheless.

Tipperary set a bright standard by

beating Cork in the 1984 minor final at Killarney, and the Clare under-21 win over Kerry this year must rank as another encouraging factor for the lesser lights.

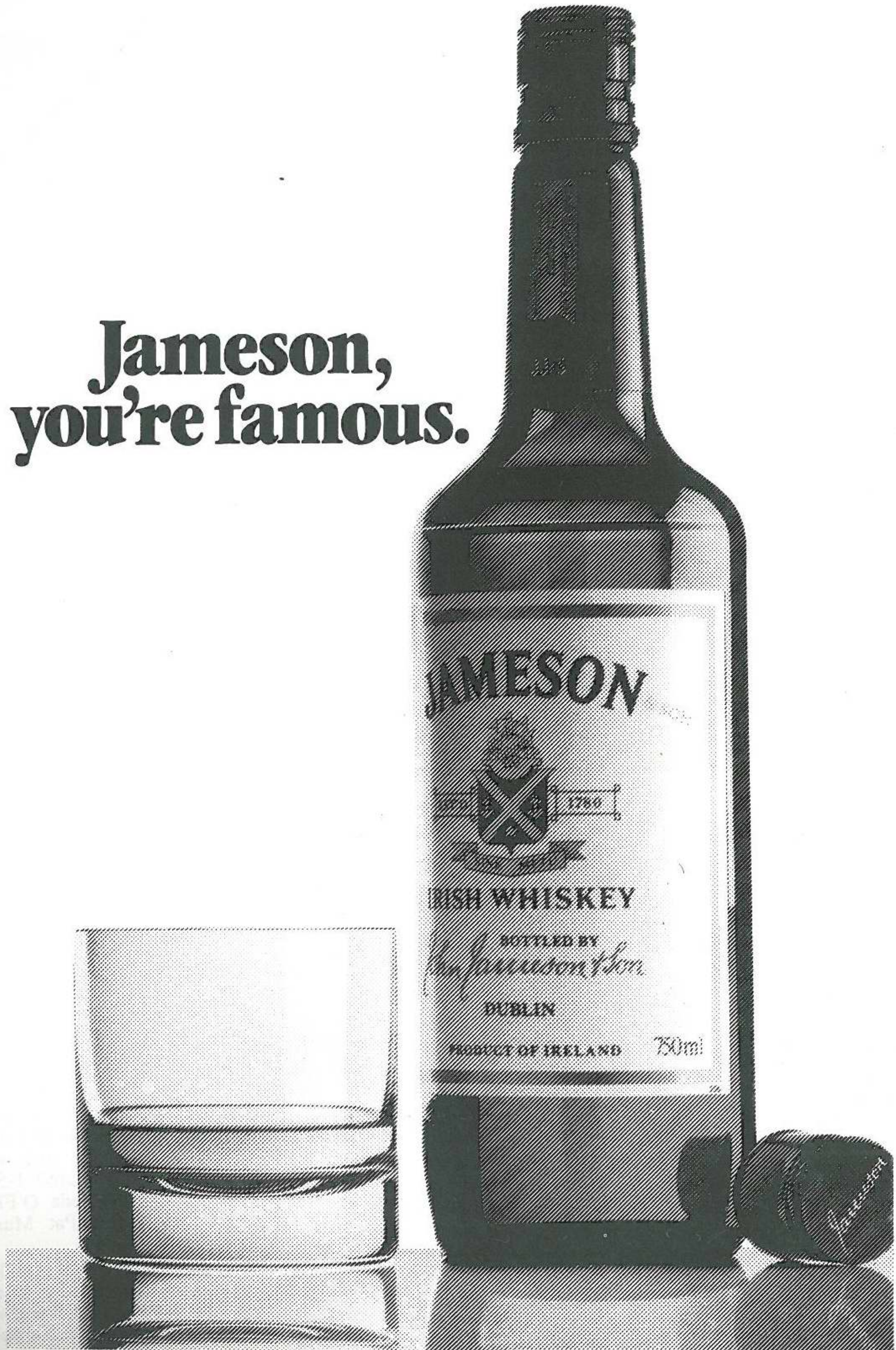
Meantime, I shall be keeping a close eye on the fortunes of the Banner County under-21 footballers in general, and on such as Paul McInerney, who scored 1-5 in the provincial final, Enda O'Flaherty, Paul Hickey and Pat Murray in particular.

Justin McCarthy, the Cork senior hurling trainer, stirred up something of a hornet's nest after the Munster final when, in an interview published

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**Jameson,  
you're famous.**





● FROM PAGE 39

in the Cork Examiner, he made some strong comments about the Tipperary team and past selections from the Premier County.

I am not competent to look back on past Tipperary title winning teams — all but the 1971 All-Ireland final win were before my time — but I must admit that I thought some Tipperary hurlers were somewhat physical in their approach at Pairc Uí Chaoimh.

Nothing is to be gained in labouring the point now at this late stage. Happily, the episode appears to have turned out as something of a storm in a tea cup, and we can look forward to continued good relations between Cork and Tipperary.

**As for Tipperary, I wonder when will we again see them back in the role of Munster champions in senior hurling. Like Cork in football, they continue to produce top-class under-age teams, but somehow the successes are not "paying off" at senior level.**

I don't know what the reason is, but it would be nice to see Tipperary back as a title winning power.

Hurling is the loser when a former power slips down the ladder, just as is the case in modern football with such former powers Louth, Cavan and Wexford no longer up to even provincial title winning standards.

The second successive Munster senior final defeat from Cork is bound to be a bitter pill for Tipperary to swallow, but I hope that it will lead to officials and hurlers redoubling their efforts over the coming months in a bid to make 1986 the Premier County's year.

Generally speaking, the 1985 Tipperary senior team is a young one, and there is plenty of potential there, with promising hurlers as well on the fringe of the selection among the substitutes. The experience gained from the 1985 campaign is bound to prove very beneficial.

You can't keep a good man down! Michael Sheehy is the latest from Kerry to join the ranks of players who have defied that old sporting maxim that they "never come back."

The Austin Stacks clubman missed last year's All-Ireland final because of an ankle injury, and his football

was later curtailed greatly as a result. During the Summer, however, Sheehy showed no ill effects of the injury as he displayed his old scoring flair when collecting yet another Munster senior medal.

I was delighted to see Mikey in fine form at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in the Munster final — the first game I saw him play in some time. I have not the slightest hesitation in rating him the greatest scoring forward of my time from Kerry and one of the best ever in the land.

A big development scheme is under way at Fitzgerald Stadium in Killarney. Extension to existing stands, a new all weather playing pitch and improvements to the dressingrooms feature the general improvement which will cost £250,000. This is welcome news and the progressive approach that will do much to keep Gaelic Games firmly ahead of their competitors.

Munster, of course, is superbly served as far as top class grounds are concerned, but it is still good to see that officials are not resting on their laurels.

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# LEINSTER



## LIMELIGHTS

**T**HE St. Vincent's club in Dublin needs no introduction to followers of Gaelic Games in general. The Northside club has a record second to none in the capital, and many players have also worn the county colours with distinction in football and hurling.

Two names that immediately spring to mind are legendary Kevin Heffernan, who master-minded the modern success story of the Dubs in senior football, and this year's county senior captain, Brian Mullins.

Vincent's are moving "home". The club has been based for some years in Raheny, where Páirc Naomh Uinseann was opened in 1963. The excellent facilities there, including a fine club house, helped to enhance and enrich the status and record of the Vins.

Now a switch is being made to the Marino-Donnycarney area, an area that many regard as the club's true home. Rev. Bro. Fitzgerald, co-founder of the club back in 1931, recently turned the first sod on the site of the new club rooms and grounds at Marino. In time a modern complex will emerge and enable St. Vincent's to continue to play an outstanding role in the advancement of Gaelic

By **PAUL FAY**

# FIRST U.21 TITLE FOR ROYAL COUNTY

Games not only in Dublin but nationwide.

Although Dublin had no direct interest in the Leinster senior hurling final, a club man from the county still won a provincial medal.

Pat Cleary, the Offaly No. 13, plays hurling in the capital with Kilmacud Crokes. He hit one of the team's two goals as O'Tooles were beaten in the final at Croke Park to earn Kilmacud their fourth county senior crown.

Incidentally, one must salute the Dublin County Board for once again this year playing up their county senior football and hurling championships early in the year.

Ballymun Kickhams won the senior football title as far back as early May, and the hurling decider was played in mid July. Other County Boards could profitably take a leaf out of Dublin's book, as the championships drag out over too

long a period in many counties.

Kickhams and Kilmacud will now go on to represent Dublin in the Leinster championships.

I hear that when Leixlip and Newbridge Sarsfields met in a Kildare county senior football championship first round game at Clane the attendance was one of the biggest ever at a match at that stage of the local championship.

The big draw, of course, was Jack

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## HEFFERNAN AND SAINT VINCENTS ARE GOING HOME . . .

*Dublin supremo, Kevin Heffernan and his St. Vincent's clubmates will soon be back "home". The famed Dublin club have for many years been based at Raheny but their roots stem from Marino and they are now going back there. No doubt, "Heffo" would love to celebrate the occasion by having "Sam" accompany him to Marino.*





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• FROM PAGE 43

O'Shea, that mighty midfield ace from Kerry, who made his championship debut with Leixlip, and celebrated with a first-class game, as well as a vital point. Leixlip won by a point.

Hard to credit that when Meath beat Kildare in the Leinster under-21 football final, the win gave the Royal County their first provincial crown in a championship that has now been in existence since 1964!



**PAT CRITCHLEY**

*... a first for Laois*

But if Meath had a long wait for that breakthrough, it was well worthwhile. Brendan Flynn was the real star of a good victory with 2-3, and John Kavanagh at midfield, and full-back cum-midfielder Robert O'Malley were others to do much to forge out the unique success.

### DUAL PLAYER

When one talks of dual-players one immediately thinks of Corkmen. But Pat Critchley, who led Laois in their Leinster senior hurling championship campaign during the summer, has made his mark in both codes.

Indeed, the midfielder from Portlaoise won an All-Ireland medal as a footballer. That will surprise many, I know.

Pat was centre half forward in the Portlaoise team that had a big win over Roscommon's Clanna Gael in the 1983 All-Ireland club senior football final. He also played with Laois in football.

As well as being a member of the only side to bring the All-Ireland club

title to County Laois, Pat helped to make history as well during the summer when he won the B&I Line Personality of the Month award for June. Believe it or not, he became the first hurler or footballer from the O'Moore County to earn such an honour.

Could there now be a Bank of Ireland All Star award in the offing for the physical education trainer from Laois? No player from the county has so far been chosen on an All-Stars side.

The success story of Tommy O'Rourke (Kildare) in handball continues unabated.

He has this year added the All-Ireland senior handball singles championship to a proud record of successes that include last year's World title. The latest win was his first in this particular All-Ireland championship.

So, if Kildare have not been finding rich pickings in football of late, at least success is the name of the game in handball.

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# CONNACHT



## COMMENT

**T**HE end of an era... that's what the Connacht senior football final of 1985 will be chiefly remembered for, and not so much for Mayo's shock win over Roscommon at Roscommon. In saying that I am in no way taking from the Mayo victory, but in years to come the game will still be recalled as the one that rang down the curtain on the careers of Dermot Earley and Pat Lindsay.

Both decided to bow out of inter-county competitions after that loss by Roscommon, and the so sad aspect of their departures was not so much that they came on a losing note, but that both failed to win the game's top honour... the All-Ireland senior medal. Sport can be so cruel, because both men proved exceptional servants to the game.

Earley had a remarkably long career. I remember him as a minor and senior in the same year back in 1966, and regularly after that over the years he delighted with his polished football, dedication to the game, and above all his sporting qualities.

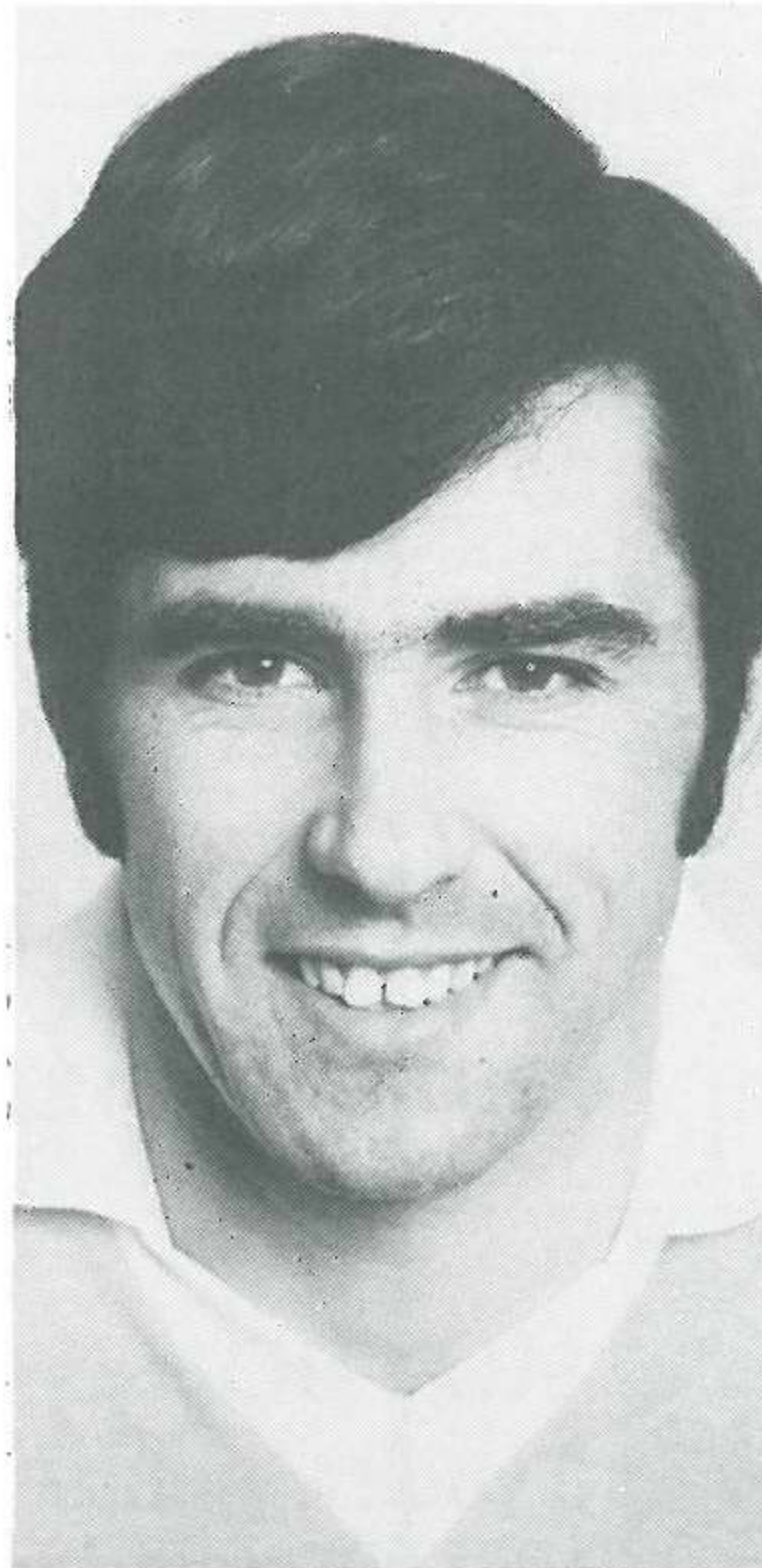
Lindsay was not as long in senior inter-county football, having taken his place in the top grade for the first time in 1970. But, like Earley, Pat adorned football with his sportsmanship and consistent service and play, in defence.

**The powerful full back was a mighty bulwark in that position as he led Roscommon to their only National**

**League title win, over Cork in 1979. Earley was also a member of that side, as a midfielder.**

Dermot won an All-Ireland under-21 in 1966, and two Railway Cup souvenirs. Pat did not get among the interprovincial medals.

However, it is not for the medals



DERMOT EARLEY

# ROSCOMMON

## STARS CALL

### IT A DAY

By TOM HORAN

won, or the fact that each failed to capture gold at senior championship level nationally, that Dermot Earley and Pat Lindsay will be remembered. But for all that they contributed to the game.

Football has been enriched by their playing careers, and they both carry the best wishes of all, not only in Connacht, but throughout the country, as they put away their boots — at least as far as inter-county competitions are concerned.

What a bright change in fortune for Mayo. Just when many were despairing of success, the county not only won the Connacht senior football championship, but collected provincial titles as well at minor and under-21.

A great treble, and one that augurs really well for the future of the big ball game in the county.

And, of course, we have seen the emergence this season of Dermot Flanagan as one of the new personality-plus players of football. He was rated "man-of-the-match" by many for the Connacht senior final win over Roscommon.

Dermot is superbly maintaining a family tradition. His father, Sean, led Mayo to their last All-Ireland senior football title wins of 1950 and 1951, and is generally regarded as one of the greatest and most cultured left full

• TO PAGE 49





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breathless!

# Siúicre Éireann

—ERIN FOODS

na  
comhlachtaí  
atá  
ag cabhrú le  
forbairt  
an náisiúin



**"BOTH MEN PROVED EXCEPTIONAL SERVANTS TO THE GAME"**

● FROM PAGE 47

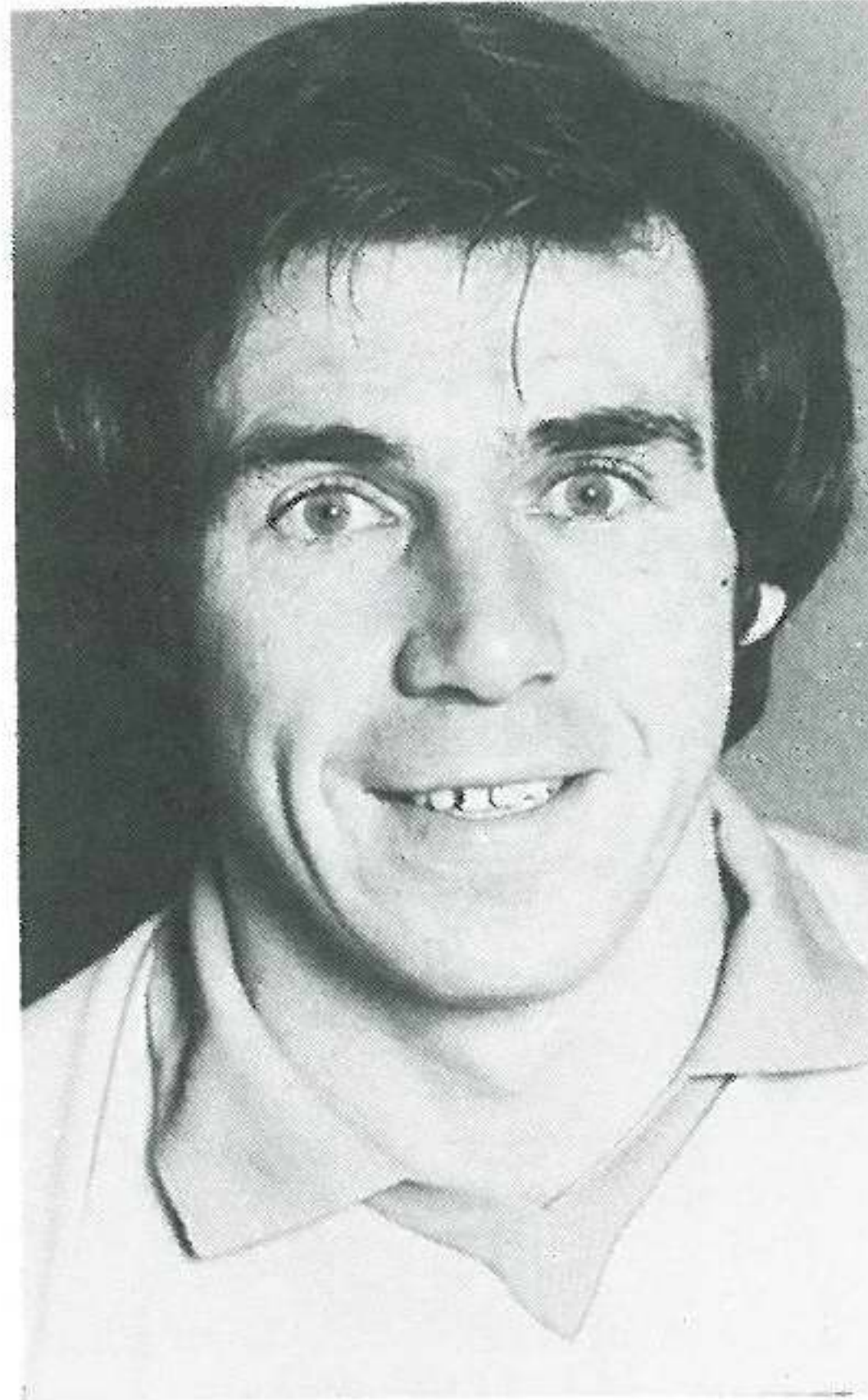
backs of all time.

It is not all doom and gloom in Roscommon after the Connacht senior final defeat. Hurling would appear to be on the up and up there.

In the Connacht minor hurling final, Roscommon gave Galway a right good run, and young men like Hubie Connolly, Francis Flynn, goalkeeper Paul Hoare, Brian Geraghty and Simon Coyle may soon have the county a force in the higher grades.

Certainly, it is encouraging to learn of the ancient game continuing to hold a place in the sporting allegiance among the youth in what we term the non-hurling strongholds.

Unusual to say the least...that must be the reaction to a score-line in one of the Connacht minor football championship games this past summer.



PAT LINDSAY

Sligo met Mayo at Castlebar in a provincial semi-final and scored five goals, but still lost. Not only that, the Sligo boys failed to raise a single white flag! That exclusive all goals tally must surely rank as a record of some sort.

Over to the statisticians!

Billy Joyce, who played much top-class football with Galway seniors over the years, has been prominent in a new role this season. He managed the county junior team that had qualified for the All-Ireland final at the time of writing.

A case of another past player putting something back into the game.

Chairman of the Galway County Football Board is a man well known to readers of GAEILIC SPORT, none other than JUNIOR DESK Editor, Jack Mahon. And, Jack is also a former county senior player.

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## MINOR FINALISTS — WEXFORD & CORK



*Pictured above is the Wexford Minor team that defeated Kilkenny in the Leinster Hurling final at Croke Park on July 21st, on a score of 0-12 to 0-8. The Slaney youngsters journeyed to Armagh on August 4th to meet, and beat, Down by a convincing 7-16 to 2-2.*



*Pictured above is the Cork Minor team that defeated Galway in the All Ireland semi-final game at Croke Park on August 4th last – the score: Cork 3-9, Galway 3-2. The Leesiders won the Munster Crown at the expense of Tipperary by 1-13 to 1-8 at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on July 7th.*





## CLARE STRIKES A BLOW FOR THE WOMEN OF ARANMORE ISLAND

**G**AELIC Games' image as male orientated sports continue to take a knock. Lady P.E. Teachers are becoming more and more involved in football and hurling, and some members of the fair sex are also engaged in training teams.

Another blow for the ladies has been struck in Donegal, where the County Board recently promoted a coaching course for minor coaches, and 37 people, representing 18 clubs, completed the four-day session.

One was Clare Giblin, a teacher on Aranmore Island, off the Donegal coast, and she became the first person from an island community in Donegal to complete such a test. Clare is also the only woman so far to receive a coaching course award in Donegal.

The odds must be that she is the first lady from an island community anywhere off our coast to earn a coaching award.

Well done, Clare! Let's hope that we will soon see Aranmore men challenging for positions in the Donegal senior team, and perhaps a competitive inter-county tie on the island in the near future.

### ALL STAR BACK AT GAELIC

Remember Gerry McElhinney, the bright young forward with the Derry senior football team in the 'Seventies? Just in case you have forgotten, he helped the North-West county to win the Ulster senior football champion-

ships of 1975 and 1976, and won his only All-Star award at right half-forward in the 1975 Carrolls line-up.

Later, Gerry turned to Soccer and soon made his mark as a professional across channel. He is now 29, a Plymouth Argyle player, and he has worn the Six Counties jersey as well.

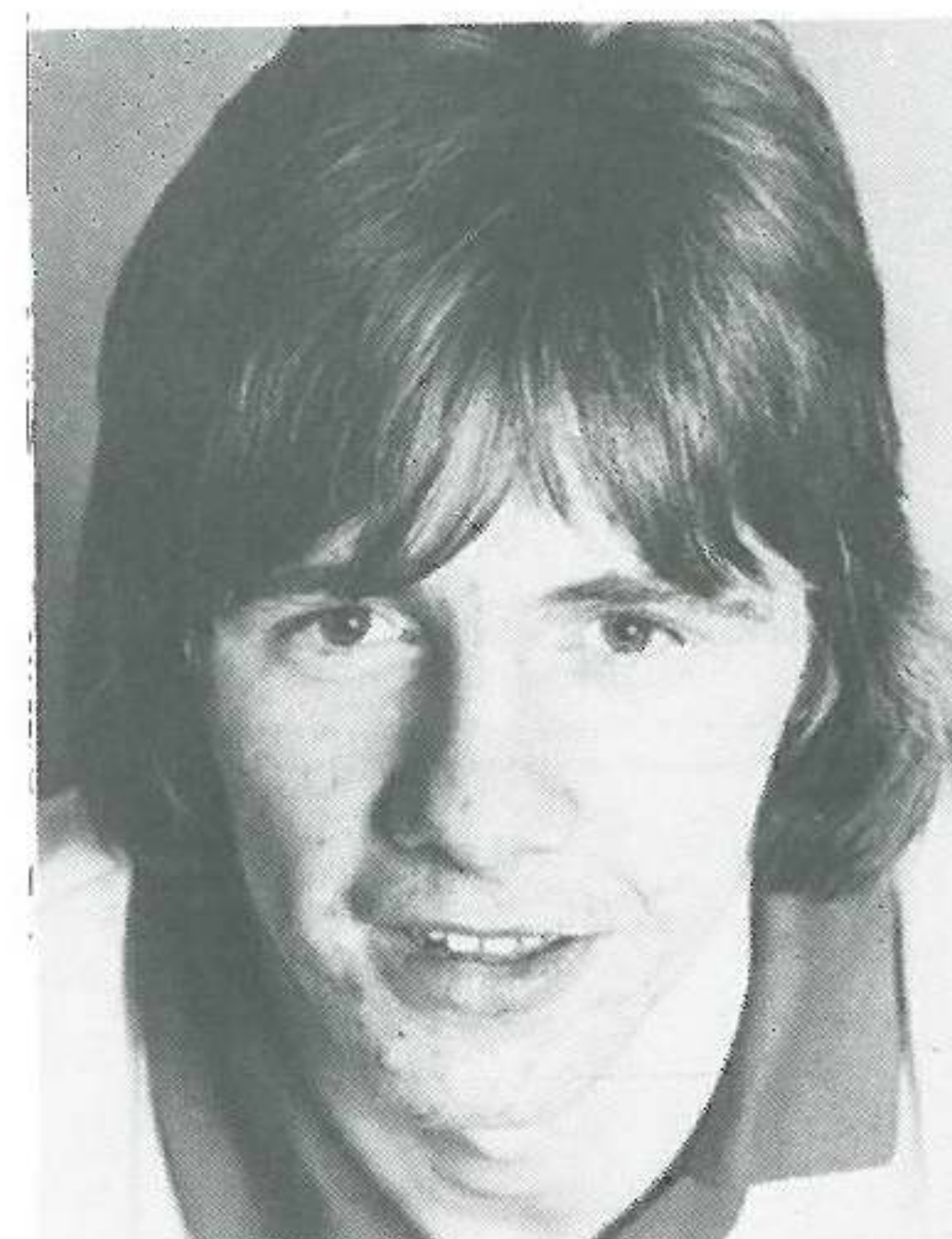
But the Derry native has not completely severed his connections with the handling code. Formerly with the Banagher club in Derry, he transferred to the Gortin club in Tyrone about four years ago, and what a lucky change of fortune that has now proven for the club.

McElhinney assists Gortin during his summer holidays, and some weeks ago he hit the last minute winner against Derrylaughan that put the club into the Tyrone senior football championship semi-finals for the first time in 40 years.

Incidentally, the successful defence by Derry of the 1976 Ulster title marks the last time that any county retained that senior crown. One wonders if this regular change of champions is proving a factor in inhibiting Ulster team's prospects in the All-Ireland series proper.

It would be nice to see a team from the North contesting two semi-finals in succession, as that would enable the side in question to benefit from the Croke Park experience of the previous year.

Monaghan gained much valuable headquarters experience from their appearances there in the run to the



**GERRY McELHINNEY**  
... Former Derry star

Centenary Cup final, and the final itself. They also played two games at Croke Park in the League before climaxing the campaign there with their historic win over Armagh.

That experience of playing at Croke Park must have greatly helped in shaping the breakthrough in the League.

### BIG WEEKEND

Eugene "Nudie" Hughes, Monaghan's only All Star award winner so far, had a big weekend in mid-July. He was married to Geraldine Hamill on the Friday before the Ulster senior football final, and then, of course, turned out

•TO PAGE 52



● FROM PAGE 51

against Derry in the showpiece game of the Northern year at Clones. And, "Nudie" proved one of the stars of the Monaghan win as well over Derry.

Hughes won his All-Star award in 1979 when he was named at right full-back. Earlier that year Monaghan regained the Ulster senior championship after a break of 41 years. He plays club football with Castleblayney Faughs, and has won Railway Cup medals with Ulster as a back and a forward.

Eugene and Geraldine have the good wishes of all G.A.A. supporters for the future.

### ALL-IRELAND FOR DONEGAL

Donegal is not a county that we readily associate with All-Ireland football final wins, but St. Conal's Hospital, Letterkenny, is setting a fine headline for the county in this regard.

St. Conal's beat St. Loman's,

Palmerstown, at Croke Park by 2-9 to 1-7 in the All-Ireland Psychiatric Hospitals League (Division II) final to take the title for the third time.

### AND FOR CAVAN

Cavan may not be enjoying much success in football but the county's handballers are keeping the flag flying proudly. Pat Hand and Patsy Donagh did an excellent job in this regard when they outscored Anthony Greene and Michael Reade, of Kilkenny, to record a surprise but well merited win in the All-Ireland junior hardball doubles final. This was the first such win by a Cavan combination — or an Ulster pairing for that matter — since 1976. Let's hope that this will prove the forerunner of further successes for Northern combinations in the months ahead.

### THE DUBLIN CONNECTION

The month of July proved a very successful one for Bernard Brady. He contributed five points and also had a

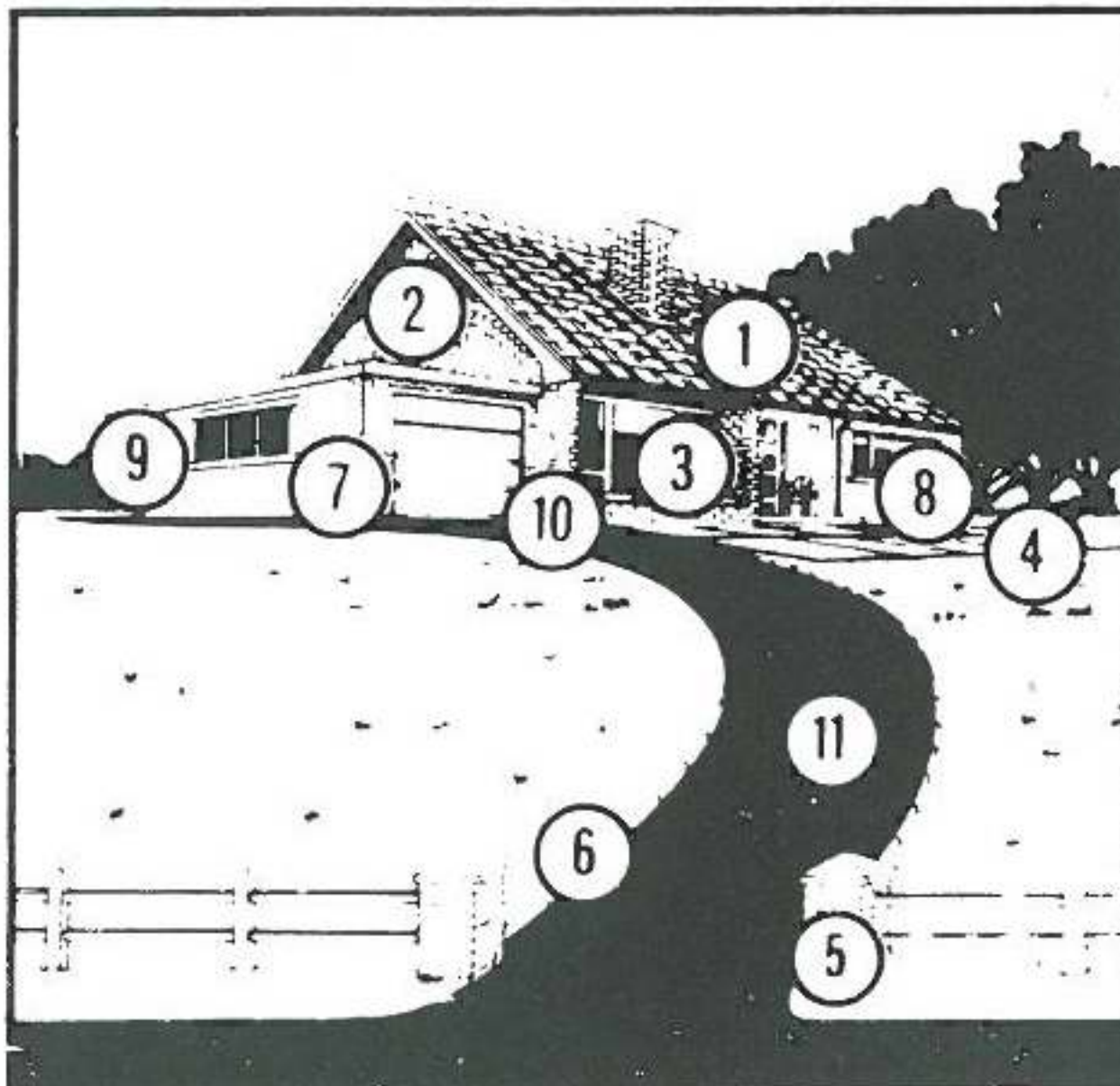


EUGENE "NUDIE" HUGHES

fine game as he helped Parnells, of Dublin, to win the St. Vincent de Paul Cup in senior football for the first time by beating Scoil Uí Conail in a thriller at Croke Park. Later in the month he was in the Monaghan attack when the Anglo-Celt Cup was regained at the expense of Derry in the Ulster senior final.

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**81 FINAL REMEMBERED**

It seems appropriate at this time to cast our minds back to Sunday, 6th September, 1981.

A gloriously sunny day saw 71,384 spectators enthralled by Galway's display of clean, crisp hurling that had taken them to 0-14 against Offaly's 1-4. The time, 4.04 p.m. 39 minutes of play had come and gone and Galway were playing like champions.



At this point Offaly's dual star, Liam Currams, turned to colleague, Pat Kirwan and said "Come on, Pat, just keep going, what harm if we are beaten."

What followed is history. Galway went on to shoot 14 wides and gallant Offaly kept chipping away at the



Corribmen's seemingly unassailable lead.

Five minutes of play remained when a Johnny Flaherty "special" rocked the back netting and put his

team into a one point lead. Two further points, by Danny Owens and Padraig Horan and the "Liam McCarthy" was on it's way to the Faithful County for the first time.

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# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**A**LL of a sudden it is All-Ireland time again. This is the hurling final issue and I tend to get a wee bit sad that the *end* of the summer is *almost* here. Back we all go to school again. Students and teachers. Being a schoolteacher, there has never been a year, since I went to the National School in Ballinlass, just 2 miles outside Dunmore in North Galway, at the age of 4, that I have not had to go back to school in September. Usually the last day of the summer holidays is Hurling Final Day. So it is again this year.

## **John Fenton**

Our Cut-Out this month is that superb stylist John Fenton from Midleton, a man who has at last come into his own as a hurler. For years, before Midleton made their mark on Cork club hurling Fenton was taken off the field almost as often as he

played for Cork. His confidence must have been shattered. It was so strange to us outsiders. How we would have loved to have him in our squad. His method of free-taking and cutting is in the classical mould. I love his ground hurling. Cork at last have come to appreciate his truly unique striking skills. I always remember the first day I saw him. It was in a N.H.L. game v. Galway in Ballinasloe and I knew I was watching a star.

## **1985 Quizbook No. 3**

I have brought out a 1985 edition of my *Gaelic Games Quizbook 3* and it will sell at £1.95, same as the Centenary edition and will be on sale for the All-Ireland finals. It will be up-to-date in its statistical questions and will have about 100 questions relating to 1985.

## **G.A.A. Shop**

When you are in Dublin for the All-

Ireland Finals be sure to visit the G.A.A. Shop. The shop has a wealth of G.A.A. material on sale. Ideal presents for someone keen on the G.A.A. Plenty of G.A.A. books from all the provinces and all sorts of paraphernalia so useful to G.A.A. club members. So as I said, pay the shop a visit and spend a few bob on this book or that knick-knack.

## **Communications Work Group**

The President of the G.A.A., Dr. Mickey Loftus has nominated me onto a Communications Work Group and my co-members are Padraic Ó Fainín, Chairman, Gerry Slevin, Paddy Flanagan and Paraic Duffy with Padhraic Ó Coighligh as Rúnaí.

## **Programme Collector's Club**

The last time I was on a Communications Committee I had the pleasure



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**Pope John Paul II** addressing a group of religious in Mexico.

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of proposing that a Programme Collector's Club be set up in Croke Park. It was an idea floated by Junior Desk readers, notably Eoghan Corry (now with the Sunday Tribune who has long since forgotten me in Junior Desk!) and Dermot McCarthy our old friend from Bath. But Eoghan it was who suggested it and we cannot take that away from him. That club is still in existence. We will have a look at how it is going and how, if possible, it can be improved. Any suggestions?

Since becoming Chairman of the Galway F. Board last January, I'm more confined to Galway affairs than before. It means seeing much more of Galway football, all facets and grades of same and much less of the whole G.A.A. scene elsewhere. So I have had to depend on the "box" and on radio and here I must say they have both served me well. Michael Ó Hehir is as good as ever on radio. And that exuberant Kerryman, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh *never* misses a beat. The radio coverage is both comprehensive and efficient. I'm sorry to see less use being made of Mick Dunne on "telly". His Saturday G.A.A. Stadium was always knowledgeable and interesting. Mick is one of the greatest authorities on the G.A.A. in the country. More use should be made of his expertise.

#### The Sunday Game

The Sunday Game is also very good. Much more comprehensive this year than before. Nice to see Jim Carney back on the programme again, if only in a more minor role. Michael Lyster runs a very good show, *never* fluffs a line and carries the whole show through with ease and confidence. I'm glad to see some new faces on the "box" for analysis.

Both Eamonn Cregan and Enda Colleran are now very competent but I'm getting tired of the same faces and would love to have a guest analyst every night for a change. We have a multitude of good talkers and experts such as: Seán O'Neill, Eddie Keher, John O'Keeffe, Mickey O'Sullivan, Colm McAlarney, Seanie O'Leary,

Charlie McCarthy and I'd love to have Jimmy Barry Murphy on anytime. How about a referee now and again like Frank Murphy, or one of the top journalists like retired Independent man, Donal Carroll or that wise old G.A.A. sage, Paddy Downey. **A wee bit of variety please.** It's the spice of life.

#### Donal Carroll

Recently Donal Carroll of the Irish Independent retired after many years as a G.A.A. reporter with that group of newspapers. I first met Donal in 1956 when he came to our Galway camp before that year's All-Ireland Football final between Galway and Cork. He was compiling pen-pictures of the Galway team, then a regular pre-All Ireland feature in both the Irish Independent and Irish Press. I found him a grand gentleman and subsequently grew to know him well. He was always so obliging and so kind. I wish him many years of happy

retirement.

Slowly but surely the pens which have regaled us so much over the years are running dry. When I think of the halcyon days with John D. Hickey, Donal Carroll, Con Kenealy in the Indo and Pádraig Puirseál, Mick Dunne and Peadar O'Brien in the Press. P.D. Mehigan as Pato wrote for the Times before Paddy Downey left the Sunday Review and before Sean Kilfeather joined him there. I like Sean Kilfeather's Fifth Column. Eugene McGee is compulsive reading even if over-sharp at times. Eoghan Corry's portraits of players are excellent. Tom O'Riordan covers a game very accurately. Not forgetting the Cork Examiner's Jim O'Sullivan and Michael Ellard, Martin Brehony (S. Press), Raymond Smith (Sunday Indo), P.J. McKeefry (Irish News) and of course, Tony McGee. **The G.A.A. owes them all a debt of**

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●FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

**gratitude.** Paddy Downey is still the daddy of them all and Donal Keenan is making a great start in Donal Carroll's position. After Downey, my favourite is Tom O'Riordan but I read and enjoy them all. Some other time I'll come back to this topic and also the huge debt the G.A.A. owes the Provincial Press.

**The Mailbag**

**Tony Maher, 20 Pairc Mhuire, Tullow, Co. Carlow,** writes: "I was wondering if you or any of your readers ever noticed that the 1967 All-Ireland hurling final programme Kilkenny/Tipperary has not got any date on the cover.

The 1984 hurling semi-final Galway/Offaly programme has no information on the cover at all.

The 1984 Ulster Championship semi-final programme Armagh/Monaghan in Breffni Pk, Cavan, is dated Sunday, 27th June, '84. The 27th June '84 fell on a *Wednesday*, not Sunday.

**Paul Murray, Hodson Bay, Athlone,** says: "I think the two best footballers at the moment are Jack O'Shea and Barney Rock. My favourite players are Tommy Conroy and Joe Dooley. I have every All-Ireland F. Final programme from 1958 to 1984, except 1965, '70, '71 and '72 (draw). At Christmas I got a football signed by the Kerry team".

*(Paul, that is a fine collection and I hope you can complete it. J.M.)*

**Tony Furlong, Bridgetown, Co. Wexford** sent on a big list of his wants and swaps which I haven't space for. I'll just include his All-Ireland Final wants:

F: 1960, '61, '63, '66 and '70.

H: 1957, '58, '61, '62, '63, '64, '71 and '75. *(Any takers as Tony has a good swap list too! J.M.)*

**Seamus Ryan, 6 Orchardton, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14,** has another huge list of swaps and wants. So I'll do likewise with his for All-Ireland finals only: Wants: H. 1962 and '61. F. 1970 and '69. *(All you programme collectors please note that Seamus also has some great swaps. J.M.)*

**Michael Meaney, Galborca, Littleton, Thurles, Co. Tipperary** wants hurling and football photos from the Galway newspapers. He is building his own G.A.A. Museum and wants photos from 1960-'85. *(Can any Galway reader help? Michael you should start buying The Connacht Tribune and the Tuam Herald and your photos will build up. J.M.)*

**Gerry Pender,** our old friend from Wicklow sent me on his usual batch of sports pages from the Wicklow People. *(Thanks, Gerry. I travelled to Co. Wicklow one Sunday in April this year in the company of Owen McCann, author of "The Greats of Gaelic*

*Games". Lovely county. It was my first time in Glendalough. J.M.)*

**Aidan Grennan, Killina, Rahan, Co. Offaly,** has some swaps for Galway Centenary H & F Final programmes and a Connacht Final one prior to 1974 (save the '72 one). *(Any takers? J.M.)*

**Conal McDevitt, Moatville, Navan, Co. Meath,** wants a copy of the 1984 N.F.L. programme between Kerry and Galway in Limerick.

Our final letter is from old friend **Tim Murphy, Shamrock Bridge, Rathmore, Co. Kerry,** who wants a quiz in Gaelic Sport. He poses the question: "In what Final did 4 players play at midfield, all 4 with the same christian name?" Surnames please? Or else the year? Tip — its a provincial final, Tim has in mind. Please send on answer to me here in Gaelic Sport at address below.

**Matt Connor**

I promised to interview Matt Connor for the next issue. I hope to keep that promise. Meantime, I'll bring out the 1985 edition of *Quizbook 3*. Write to me about the All-Ireland, about yourself, about "The Sunday Game" — about anything to:

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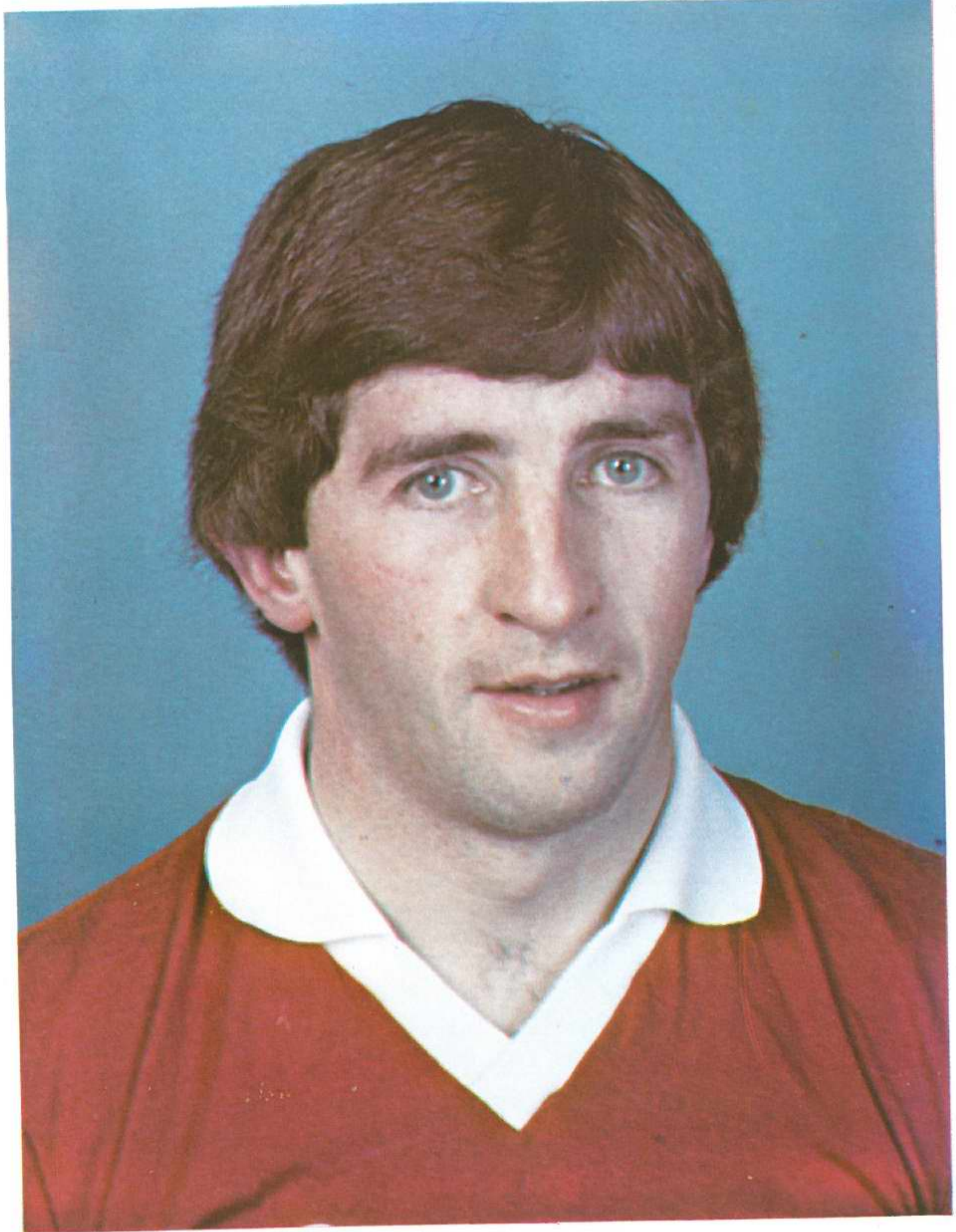
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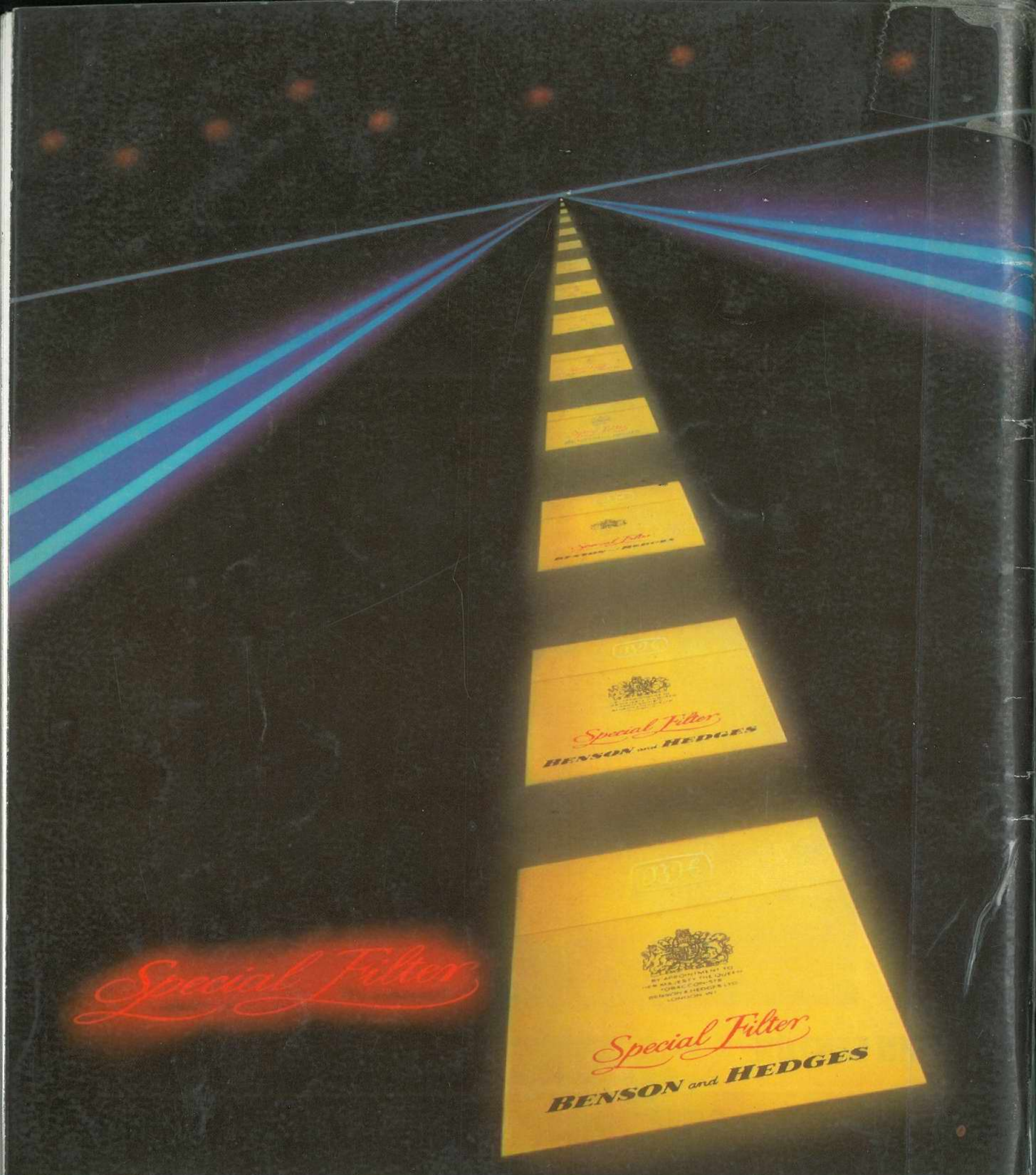
## JOHN FENTON Cork

**A**FTER proving the captain of the Centenary Year by leading Munster to the Railway Cup, and Cork to the Centenary Cup and Munster and All-Ireland senior

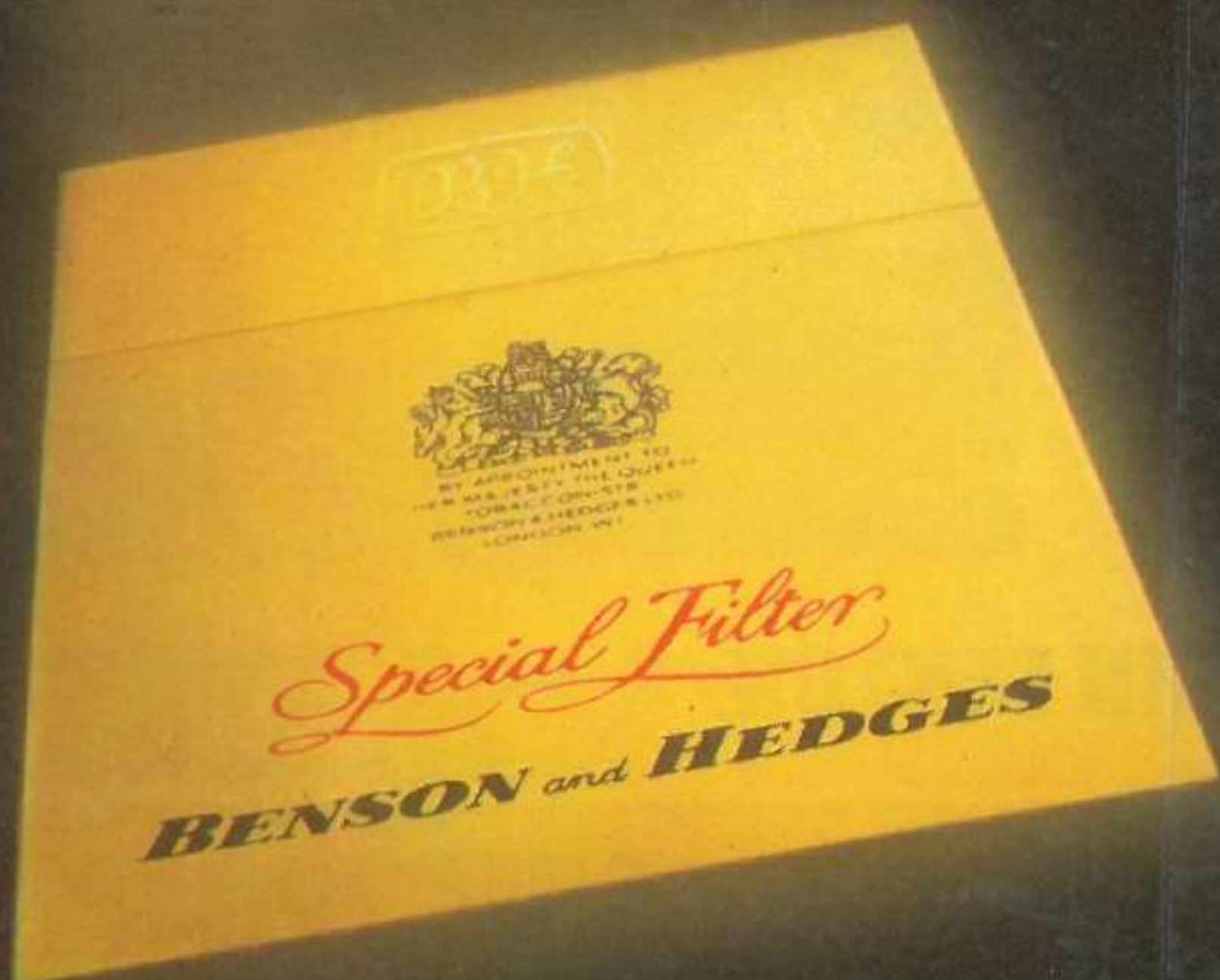
hurling championships, John is in excellent form again this season. His tenure as county captain has ended, but skilled touches in midfield and a high standard of marksmanship have resulted in the Middleton club man exercising a decisive influence on Cork's successful championship run so far. Fenton will be 30 in December. An All-Ireland under-21 medalist in 1976,

he played in a successful McCarthy Cup side for the first time last year to add the game's top award to National League medals for 1980 and 1981. Later came the Texaco trophy as Hurler of 1984 and a second Bank of Ireland All Star award. Fenton, who stands 5 ft. 10 ins., has already, this season won his third Railway Cup medal, and a fifth Munster senior medal as a player.





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