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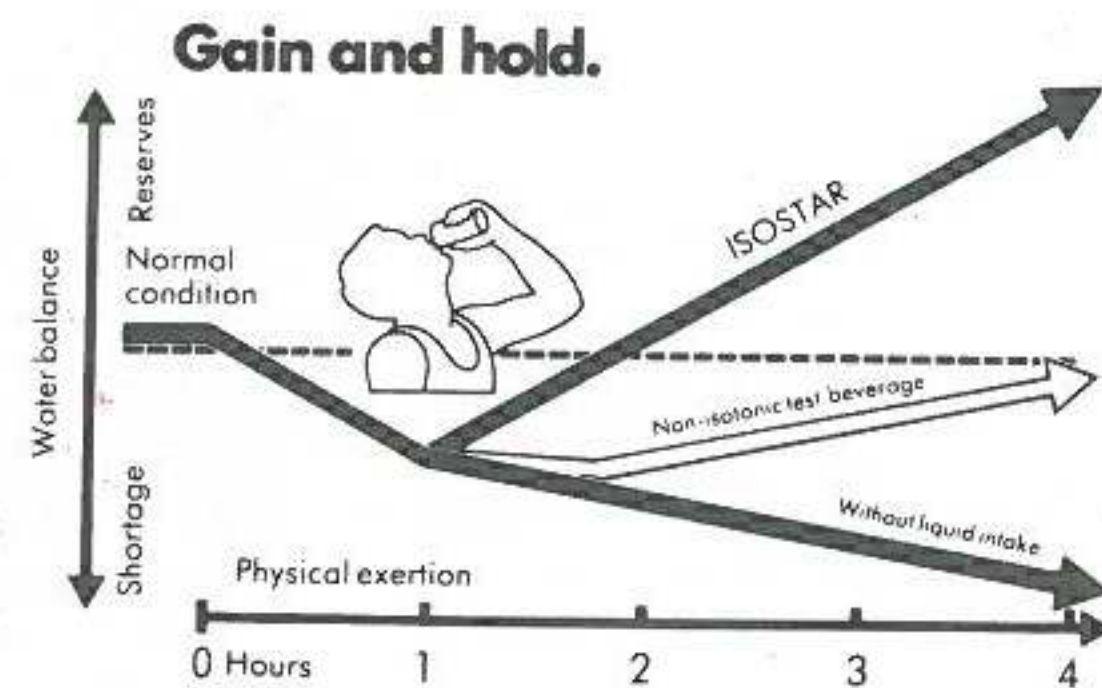
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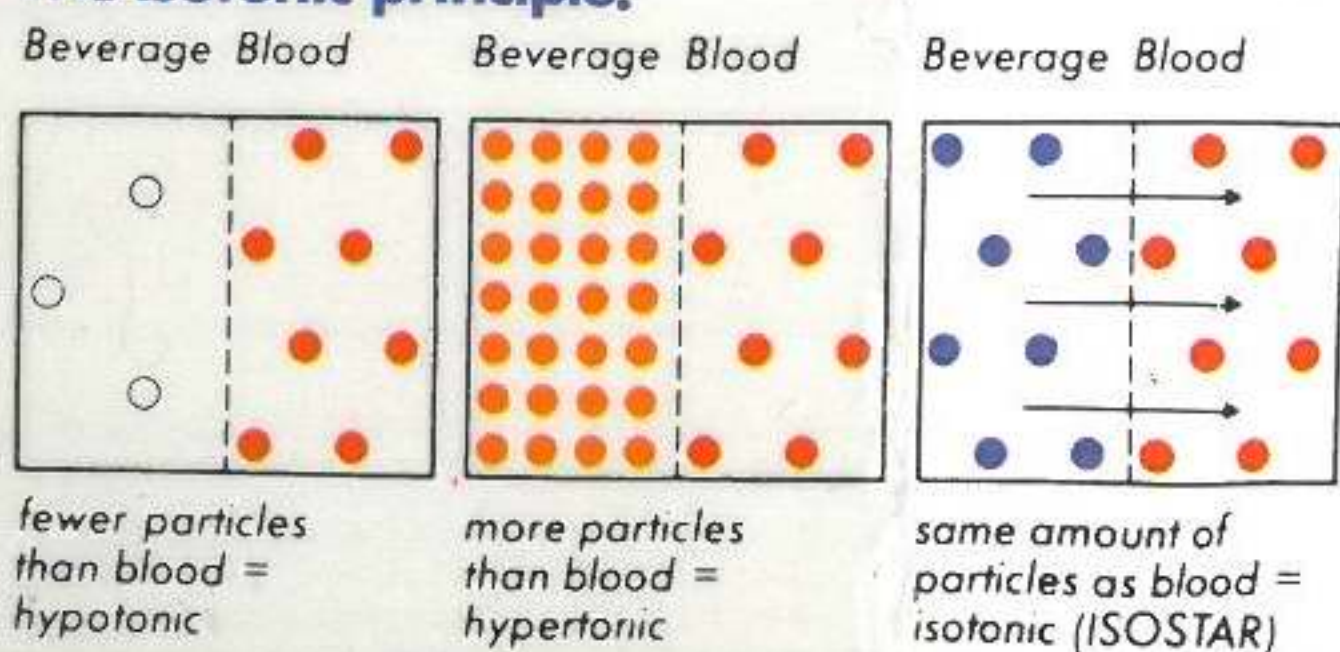
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COVER PHOTO

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

GALWAY: Back Row (left to right): Steve Mahon, Michael Connolly, Tony Keady, John Commins, Peter Finnerty, Brendan Lynskey, Conor Hayes and Peter Murphy. Front Row (left to right): Joe Cooney, Seamus Coen, Michael McGrath, Noel Lane, Martin Naughton, Gerry McInerney and Sylvie Linnane.

CORK: Back Row (left to right): Tomás Mulcahy, Denis Walsh, John Crowley, John Fitzgibbon, Kevin Hennessy, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Ger Cunningham, Jim Cashman. Front Row (left to right): Tony O'Sullivan, Pat Hartnett, Tom Cashman, Dermot McCurtain, John Hodgins, Denis Mulcahy and John Fenton.

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NOVEL FINAL PAIRING SHOULD PROVE WORTHY OF THE OCCASION

THE old order has not quite returned to hurling. The Cork-Galway final is novel, as this will be the first clash of these counties in a decider in 33 years. As such, the game adds another chapter to a decade that has been notable for change in hurling at All-Ireland final level.

But if the pairing is rare at this stage, Cork have been regular campaigners in McCarthy Cup ties over the years, and have by far the most successful record of any county. Galway have only two titles, but in recent times they have become regular visitors to headquarters on the first Sunday of September with four appearances since 1979.

It is good to see these counties back on final duty. The fact that they vie for the 1986 title encourages optimism about the position of the game in two counties with long traditions of support for hurling.

This is not to say that one regrets the failures of such as Offaly and Clare — particularly the Banner County — to win through. An appearance by Clare in the final would have been something to savour, and would have added another dimension to the 'Eighties.

This is the decade that saw Offaly emerge from a position of "also rans" to twice lift the McCarthy Cup, and Galway take their first championship in over half a century.

The dreams entertained by Offaly and Clare were not realised. Instead it is two counties that have experienced the contrasting fortunes of sport in finals in this decade who compete for the title of champions of Ireland.

There is a great deal of pride at stake

for both finalists — but especially for the Leesiders.

Followers in the Munster county will hardly need reminding that their favourites shipped a four points defeat from Galway in a cracking semi-final last year.

That ranks as but one chapter in a frustrating story for Cork in recent times. They lost the finals of 1982 and 1983 to Kilkenny, but got back into title winning form at Offaly's expense in the Centenary decider at Thurles.

Only one national championship, then, for Cork from their last four seasons in succession as Munster's standard-bearers. And, we have to go back as far as 1978 for the last time that a Leesider raised the McCarthy Cup in triumph at Croke Park.

It rankles as well with Munster enthusiasts that a province that once took celebrations on All-Ireland senior final day almost for granted, has earned just that solitary championship of '84 in this decade.

As for Galway, this is a chance to compensate for the defeats in the finals of 1981 and last year. They did not fulfil the expectations raised by their success over Limerick at the start of the decade, but have remained one of the top sides in the country.

Few gave them any real chance against Kilkenny in the semi-final, especially after the Noresiders Ford League title win and subsequent good form in Leinster. But Galway took that challenge in their stride.

Cork, too, can be said to have had only one really serious game on the way to the final. However, they showed when beating a much under-

rated Clare side in the Munster final that they have again a combination to be reckoned with.

Admittedly, there were some shortcomings obvious in their armour — especially in defence. We know from experience, however, that Leeside combinations, schooled to perfection in a distinctive style, have a habit of stepping up on past form in an All-Ireland final. This is sure to be the case in this latest decider.

Similarly, we can expect an extra special effort from Galway. The West opened the year by regaining the Railway Cup, but lost the League final to Kilkenny. Another final defeat would be a major setback — particularly after their achievement in knocking out the Noresiders last month.

Galway will not have any inferiority complex facing Cork. After all they earlier ousted powerful Leeside teams in the 1975 and 1979 semi-finals, and the memory of that great win in last year's semi-final is still fresh enough to greatly encourage the Westerners.

Two counties, then, with plenty to prove in this game, and rich in hurlers of class to provide a showpiece worthy of the occasion, and of hurling.

Cork and Galway have proved their right to strive for the 1986 championship. We wish them well.

Jimmy McQuaid

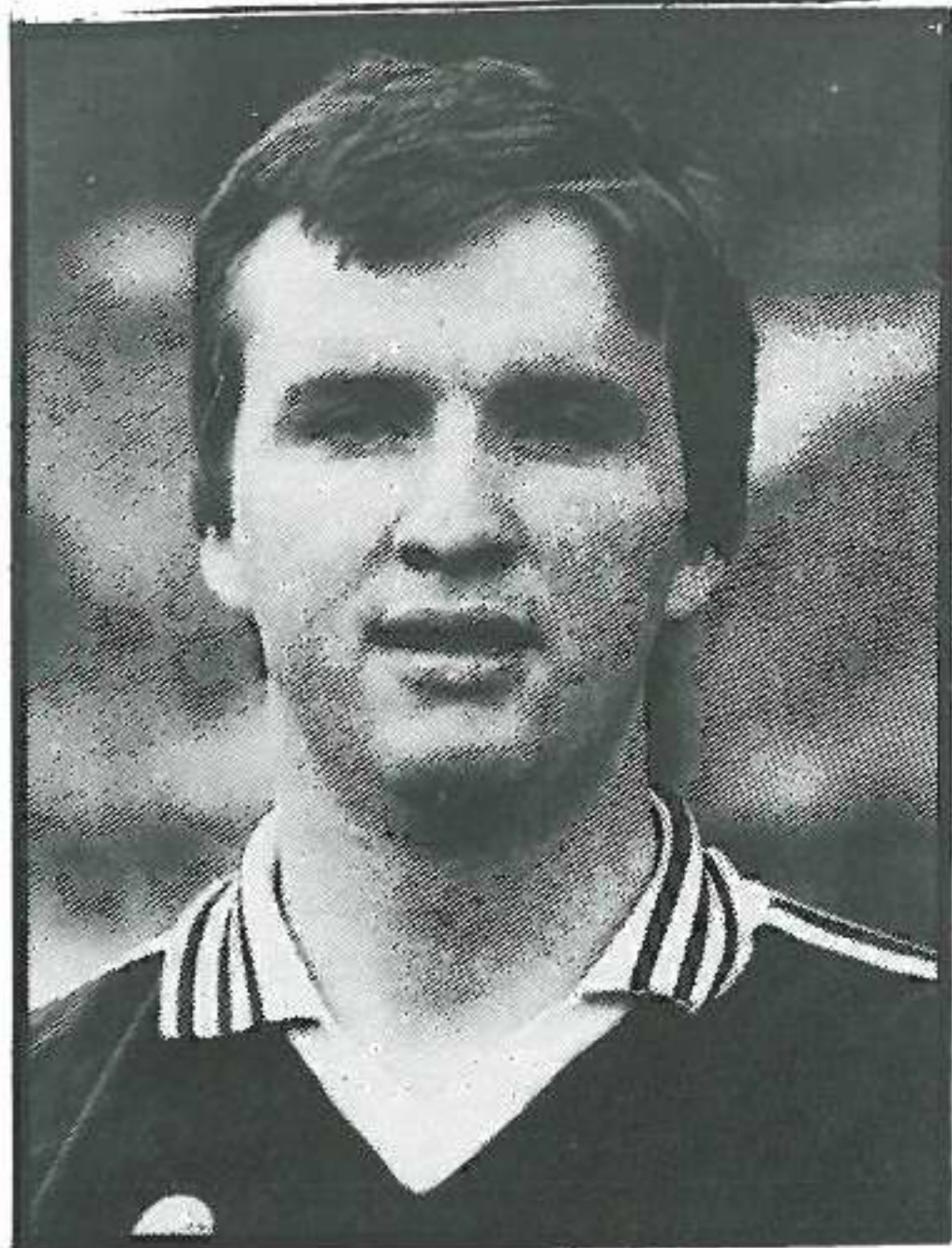
EDITOR

All-Ireland Hurling Final 1986

BY CORMAC BUTTERLY

CORK FORWARDS CAN TIP THE BALANCE IN A CLOSE AND ENTERTAINING FINAL

IT WOULD be easy to rush to the side of Galway for the McCarthy Cup. Cork cannot point to anything as dramatic as the Westerners' performance-of-the-year in knocking out the red-hot All-Ireland title favourites Kilkenny in early August, and the Munster champions also go into this game under the shadow of



•TONY O'SULLIVAN
... likely to cause problems for Galway.

last year's shock defeat from Galway in the penultimate round.

Moreover, Cork do not appear to have as much going for them as when they shipped that surprise defeat from Galway that cost them their All-Ireland title last season. Their biggest test so far was against Clare in the

Munster final, and although they had the cushion of six points at the end at Killarney, their performance was not over impressive.

In saying that the Munster final was Cork's most demanding challenge yet, I am in no way belittling Antrim's gallant effort in the semi-final. The Northerners did Ulster proud in that game, but we must not forget that the Munster champions were short their immaculate midfielder John Fenton in the semi-final, or that they started even stronger favourites than did Kilkenny at Thurles.

If Cork had to work harder than most expected, they still won well in the end, and I have a hunch that the surprise Antrim gave them in the semi-final will prove just what was needed to jolt the men from the Leaside into the right frame of mind for the big match.

At the same time, one must not forget that Cork were twice beaten by Kilkenny in the Ford League earlier this year, and that the Noreside team beaten by Galway was a much more settled and certainly more assured team than that which had those successes in the spring over Cork.

Galway have also one of the most experienced teams in the land, and they will be fiercely determined to make amends for the defeats by Offaly in their last two final outings of 1981 and last September.

But, while I am quick to acknowledge all these important factors I am still a little reluctant to take a stand with Galway. One of the reasons for this is that Cork in a final are invariably a much more powerful force than in a semi-final. That's why I am prepared to see the Rebels turn in their best display of the year.



•BRENDAN LYNSKEY . . .
knows how to create openings.

Cork will also, unlike Kilkenny, be forewarned as to the possibility of behind the scene tactics by Galway. The Westerners surprised more than the Noresiders by their tactical strategy in the semi-final, and their moves paid a handsome dividend.

It remains to be seen, however, if any unusual moves to be employed



Jimmy Barry Murphy in action against Clare in this year's Munster Final. Cork will be hoping to exploit his canny play in the final.

by the Connacht side will meet with the same success in the final. Certainly, Cork can be depended on to be on their toes and ready to cope with any out of the ordinary tactics that their opponents may produce on the big day.

ALL-IRELAND CROWN

There are those who say that the Southerners have not the hurlers in all departments that any side with designs on taking an All-Ireland crown needs to achieve that aim, but I just cannot subscribe to that viewpoint.

Look at the back division. The department came in for much critical comment after the win over Clare, and the sector was in disarray at times. Similarly, Antrim put up a very noteworthy score in the semi-final.

However, there are no more shrewd hurlers or officials than by the Banks of the Lee, and I have little doubt that many valuable lessons will have been learned from the provincial final.

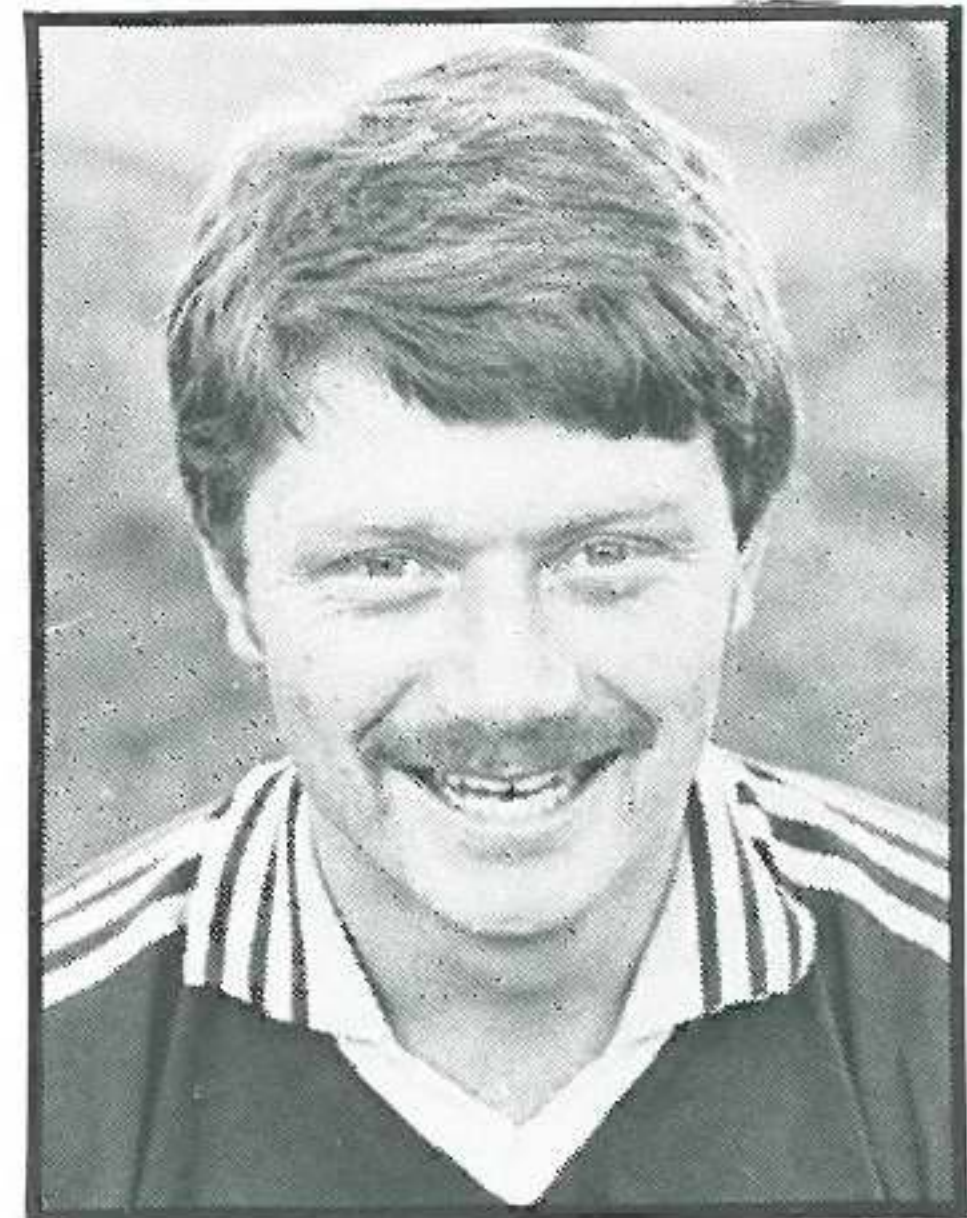
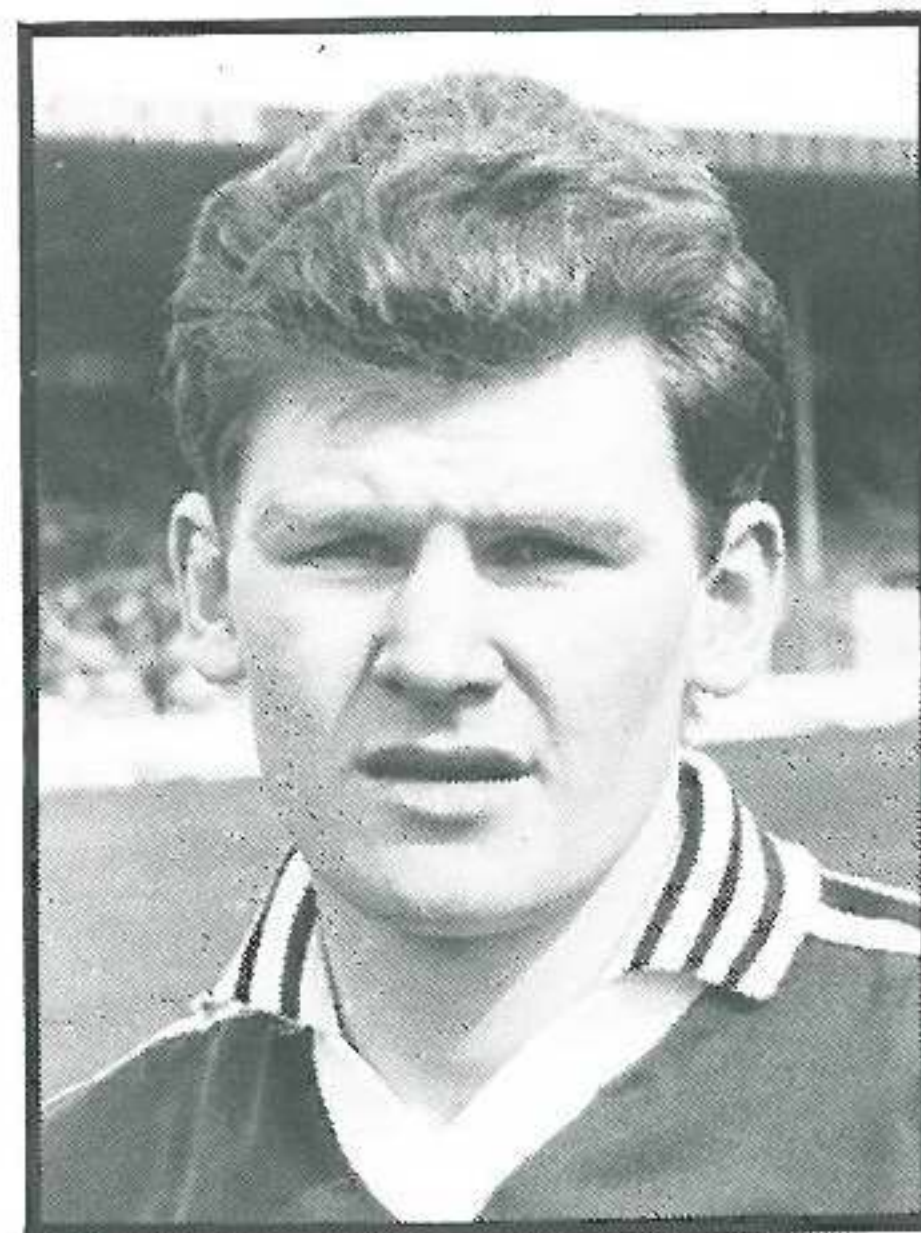
The hurlers are also there in Cork to enable the Munster champions to build up a tight defensive screen.

Ger Cunningham needs no praise from me as a goalkeeper, while Tom Cashman, who is this season's captain, and Dermot McCurtain are tremendous workers in the half back line; men capable of blunting the opposing attack and sending their own forwards into fast-moving action.

No matter what tactics Galway employ up front, whether they be the more orthodox line-up or the two-man full forward line employed in the semi-final, I think the Cork backs will do a much better job than Kilkenny's.

In saying this I am being in no way unkind to the Galway finishers. Young Joe Cooney has emerged as one of the best match-winners in the game today, and his two goal salvo, plus the great part he played in setting up his team's two other goals leaves no doubt that he will have to be kept on a tight rein if Cork are to win.

Then, there is Noel Lane, who set Galway on the road to glory at Semple Stadium with a palmed goal in 13 minutes. Cork will not need



Galway defenders Peter Finnerty (left) and Sylvie Linnane won't be easily outwitted by the Cork forwards.

reminding of the part he played in the then All-Ireland champions' downfall last year, and the man who leads Galway this season has certainly lost none of his sparkle.

Brendan Lynskey and Anthony Cunningham are also capable of causing hearts to miss a beat down by the Rebel County. When in possession they know how to create openings and make the most of scoring chances as well.

It is going to take skill and non-stop vigilance by the Cork backs to contain this forward division. But I still believe they will measure up to this daunting task — unless the Southerners are swamped in midfield.

That seems unlikely. No doubt John Fenton will have fully recovered from the bout of 'flu that kept him out of the Antrim game, and his return is bound to benefit Cork.

Fenton, who led the county to the Centenary Year All-Ireland title, is one of the real artists of hurling in a demanding area, and he is doubly invaluable to the side for his accuracy from frees.

Pat Hartnett, who also missed the Antrim game, is very accomplished, works hard and effectively. If he is back to partner Fenton, I can see this pair making a tremendous effort to gain the upper hand. If not Cork still have the mobility of formation to field a strong combination.

●OVERLEAF

●FROM PREVIOUS PAGE.

That brings me to the Galway defence and the Cork scoring division. The Westerners have much going for them in defence.

Conor Hayes remains one of the best full-backs around, and with such as Sylvie Linnane and Peter Finnerty among those blending in solid support, the men from Connacht will not be easily outwitted in defence.

Nevertheless, I have a hunch that the Galway backs will have the more demanding task in the final.

Tony O'Sullivan seems to be right back to the sparkle that made him one of the most discussed young forwards in hurling a few seasons back. He is likely to cause the Galway backs plenty of problems.

The Southerners also appear to have a "find" in last year's minor, John Fitzgibbon, who hit a goal on his championship debut in the white heat of a Munster final, and had a goal disallowed.

While the Connacht backs are keeping a close watch on this pair, the canny play of Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Kevin Hennessy's deft touches might be exploited to the best possible potential by Cork.

Yet, should Galway come out battling strongly in midfield, their backs may do the rest. Steve Mahon, a powerful unit for the Western team, and an experienced campaigner, has a lot going for him. It remains to be seen who will eventually line up alongside him, but whether it is Pierce Pigott, or Tony Kilkenny, Galway are sure to make a strong impact in the area.

So, there you have it — an intriguing pairing featuring the enthusiastic and confident Galway men buoyed up by their against-the-odds win over Kilkenny, and a Cork outfit still somewhat uncertain about their true potential, especially at the back.

Who will come out on top? I am convinced that my assertion that Cork will raise their game on past showings will be realised. In fact, I am looking to a more eager, determined and better all round performance from the Leaside combination than in past outings this season.

Cork in such a mood will take beating. I am a little uneasy, I will admit, about the ability of the backs to measure up to the Galway forward power.

But Cork men are past masters when it comes to plotting All-Ireland final wins. They know what they must do to beat this resurgent Galway team; they know that they must be ready for unexpected ploys,

and quick to act to counter such moves.

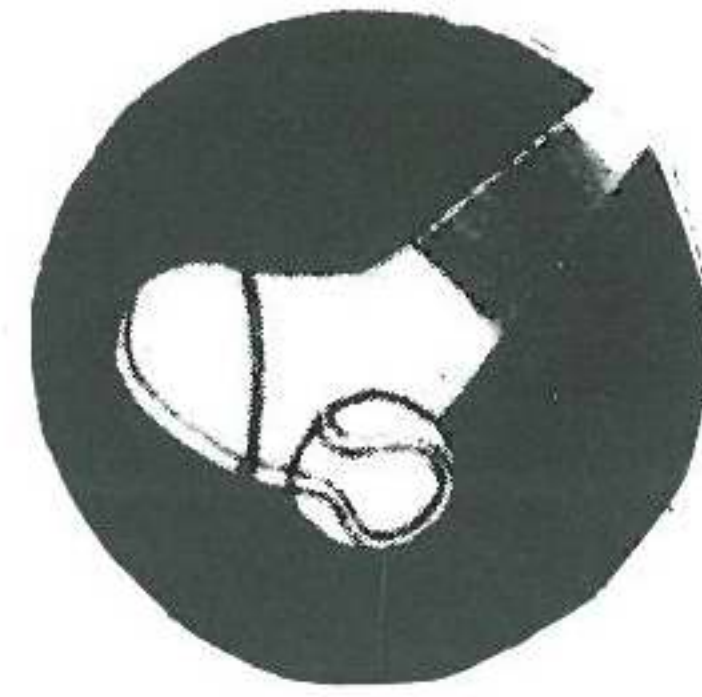
I feel, however, that Cork are better equipped than most to combat such situations, and knowing the capabilities of the Barry-Murphy powered attack, I feel the Munster forwards will reap the greater reward in a close and entertaining final.

It's Cork, then, to make amends for last season's shock set-back from Galway by regaining the title.

LOOKS LIKE



TASTE TELLS



THE GOLDEN DAYS

OF MUNSTER HURLING

I was raised in the belief that the province of Munster was the Mecca of the hurling world. Colourful tales of courage, strength and skill from past battles for supremacy in the southern province regularly fell on my ears as a youngster, leaving me firmly convinced that there was nothing to match the thoroughbred Munster hurler and no fixture on the GAA calendar was as attractive as the Munster hurling final.

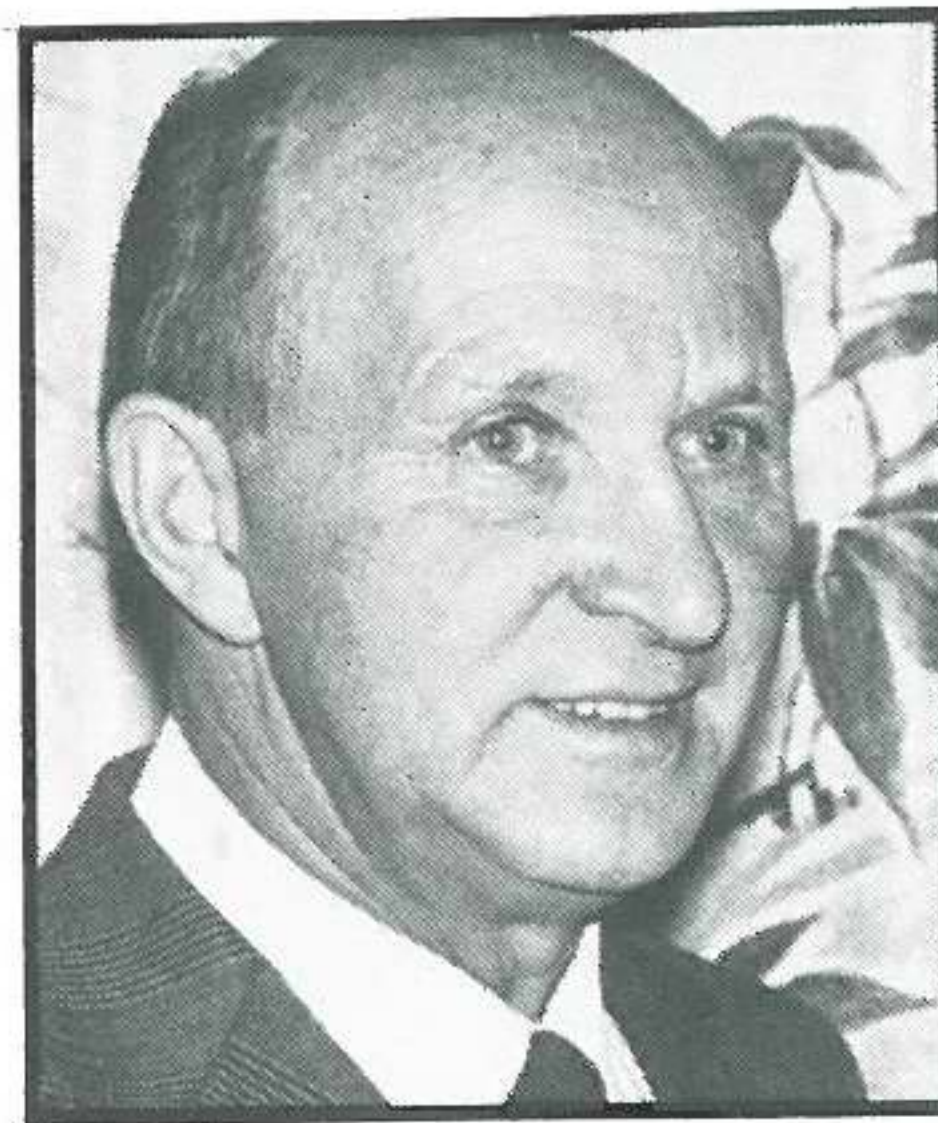
The hurling history books did nothing to contradict the recollections of my elders. Cork's Ring and Limerick's Mackey emerged as legendary figures while Tipperary's John Doyle, by equalling Ring's record of eight All-Ireland senior medals won on the field of play, was another to carve a special niche for himself in the annals of the GAA. And Cork and Tipp led the way on the All-Ireland roll of honour when my interest in hurling became seriously developed at the start of the 'sixties.

LEAN PATCH

At that time my native county Cork were going through a lean patch but Tipp and Waterford both had great teams and after they had battled for the provincial crown the winners, invariably, were installed as favourites for the All-Ireland. More often than not they delivered the goods but even when they faltered we,

in Munster, felt that over-confidence and their demanding efforts in landing the provincial title had left them less than perfectly primed on final day.

Their opponents, after all, would we agreed have been much fresher



• *The legendary Ring.*

having had a far easier passage to the decider from Leinster where only Kilkenny and Wexford were genuine contenders for the honours. At that time, too, the league was a much coveted prize to be chased almost as vigorously as the championship unlike today when most counties tend to field depleted and experimental teams in the earlier rounds of the secondary competition.

Consequently, there was much more consistency in the divisional

results and the league provided a far greater guide as to the likely winners. Munster teams, in those days, had an impressive record in the league. Tipperary won the league and championship double in '61, '64 and '65 while Cork achieved a similar feat in 1966. Waterford won the league in '63 and subsequently captured the Munster championship but were shocked by Kilkenny on All-Ireland final day. Similarly Tipp in '60 and '68 and Cork in '69 and '72 won both the league and the provincial crown only to fall to the Leinster champions in the national decider.

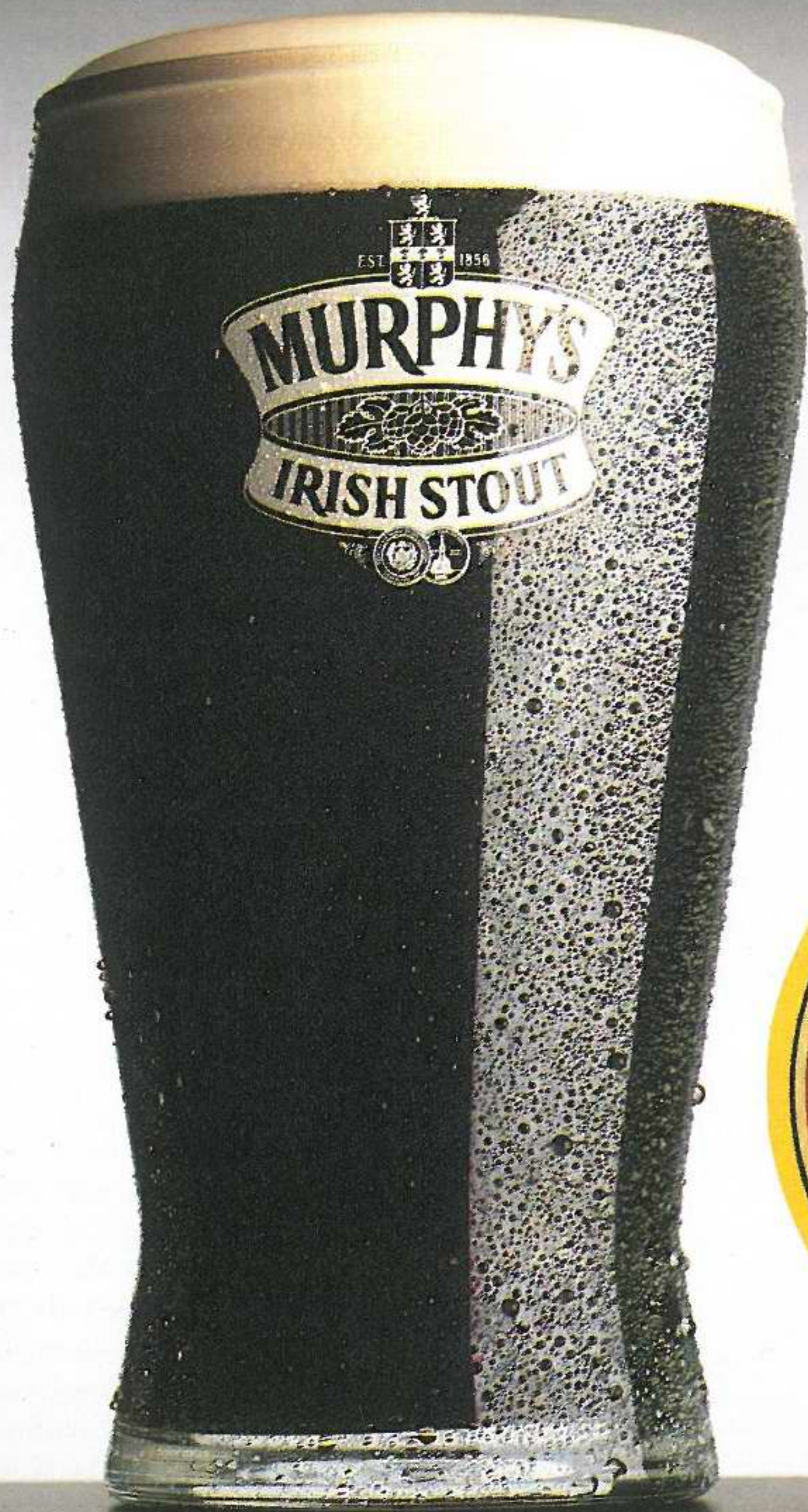
It would be difficult to convince hurling followers in the south that their champions in those years were not the best in the land. They feel that Waterford in '63, Tipp in '60 and '68 and Cork in '69 and '72 had displayed sufficient consistency throughout the season to merit the No. 1 tag and had merely been caught on the hop at the last championship hurdle. And they will argue that neither Wexford in '60 and '68 or Kilkenny in '63, '69 and '72 would have won the national crown had they been forced to operate in the competitive Munster arena.

EMERGENCE

My own belief in the superiority of Munster hurling remained perhaps naively steadfast until the beginning of the 'eighties. Then the emergence of Offaly and, to a lesser extent, Laois

• TO PAGE 9

Tradition in the making.



CORK



MUNSTER CHAMPIONS 1986

●FROM PAGE 7

as senior championship contenders served to make the Leinster journey every bit as competitive as its Munster counterpart. Both roads to the All-Ireland final seemed equally difficult now.

This season, in fact, Cork appear to have had a much less hazardous passage to the decider than their opponents. Despite being trounced by Kilkenny in the league semi-final Cork were expected to take their fifth consecutive provincial title principally because the quality of the opposition looked decidedly dubious, with the Leesiders Munster's sole representatives at the league's penultimate stage. Cork duly obliged but they failed to impress, scoring a facile win over a

grossly inadequate Waterford side before being severely stretched by what at best could be described as a determined Clare team in the Munster final.

Such was the indifferent quality of the fare in Munster this year that many observers concluded that Cork were merely the best of a bad lot. Kilkenny survived a formidable Wexford challenge before accounting for All-Ireland champions Offaly with reasonable ease in the Leinster final.

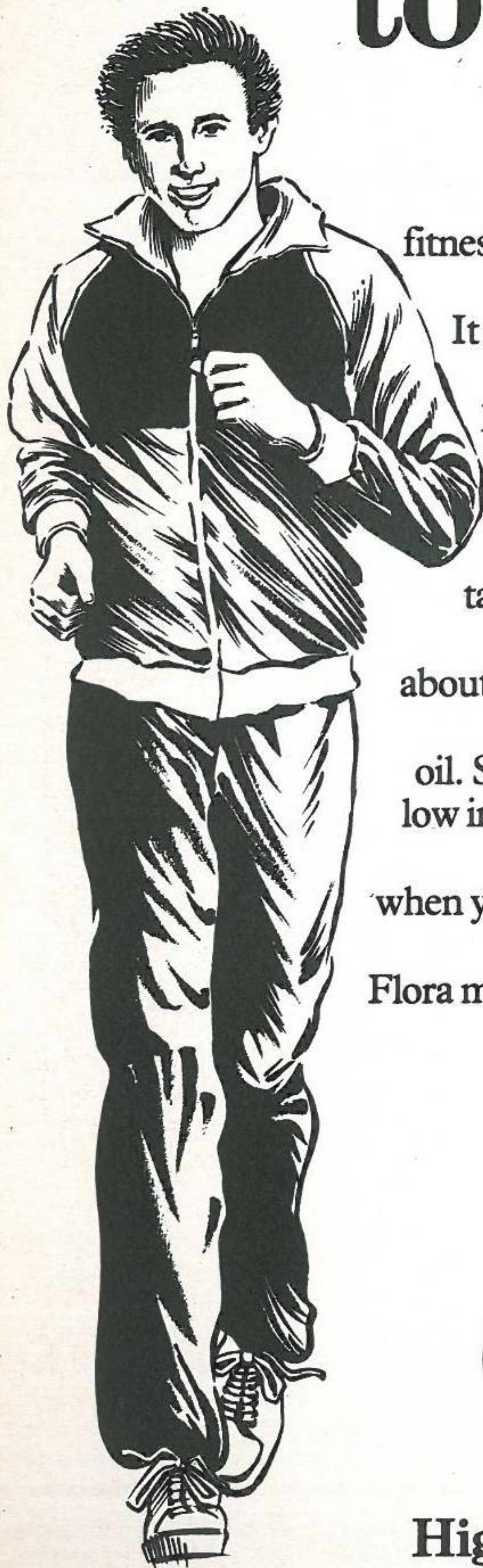
Offaly's effort may not have been as weak as the final scoreline indicated, however, and there were suggestions that if the teams had swapped goalkeepers the outcome could have been different in that game. That side of the draw was further enhanced with Galway's involvement.

FORMIDABLE

The general standard of the teams outside of Munster this year, therefore, makes it clear that Cork's opposition on the first Sunday in September will be far more formidable than that which they have encountered previously this season. Gone are the days when Munster teams automatically started favourites in the senior final and Cork, indeed, will be outsiders in this All-Ireland decider.

The Rebels will be attempting to restore Munster's reputation which with only one All-Ireland title coming to the province since 1978, has taken an uncharacteristic drubbing recently. The legacy handed down by their illustrious predecessors may well provide the Munster champions with the spur to rise to the occasion. Certainly, Munster hurling pride seems very much on the line in this final.

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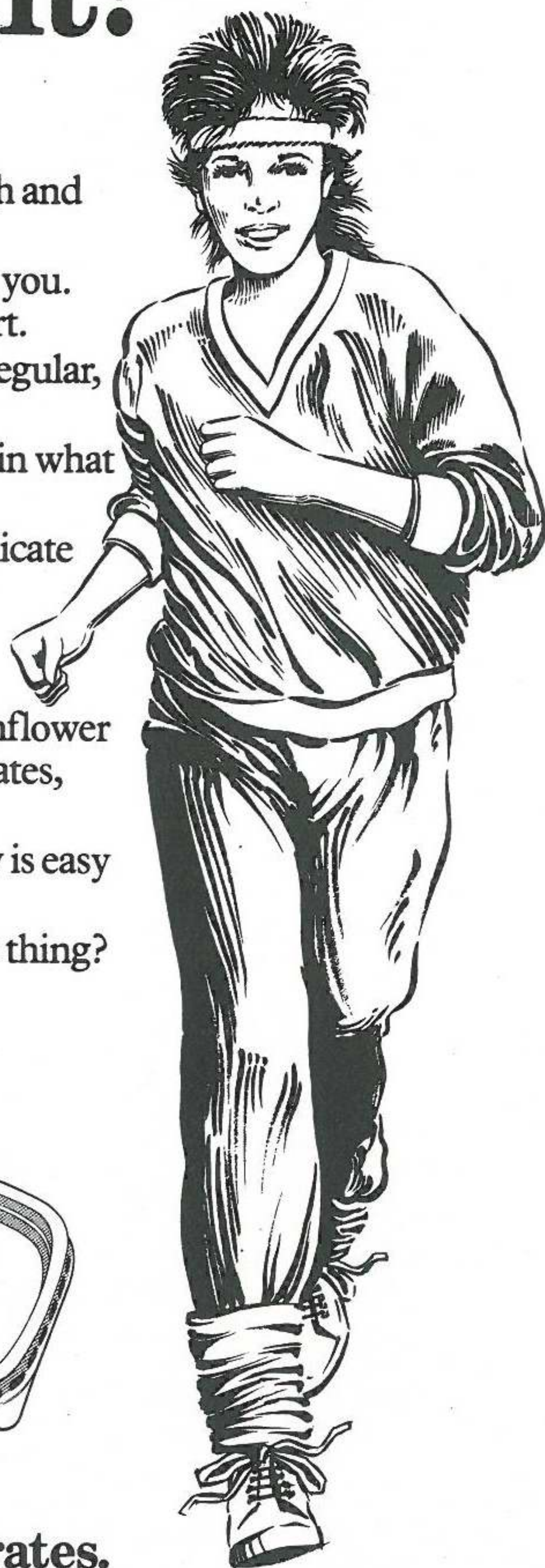
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THEY HAVE THE CONFIDENT APPROACH TO CONQUER THE MIGHT OF THE REBEL COUNTY

GALWAY are hungry for success, and in no mood to accept second best again. That is the eve of the All-Ireland senior hurling final message that indicates the men from the sport's stronghold on the West coast will be very hard to beat in the latest McCarthy Cup tie.

Almost six years have passed since the trophy was last won; years during which Galway have had more than their fair share of disappointments in major finals. Now that the opportunity has arrived to redress the balance the Maroon brigade are determined not to allow the chance of glory to slip away.

**BY
KEVIN DOYLE**

The hunger was satisfied somewhat with the against the odds win over Kilkenny at Thurles. That was particularly welcome after a wait of 33 years for a championship success at the expense of Kilkenny. However, the breakthrough will count for little in the end if Cork are not mastered in the big one.

More than that, what better way to win an All-Ireland title than to beat such renowned championship battlers as Kilkenny and Cork on the way. If Galway do it, the title will prove the sweetest of all time.

Galway's performance in running Kilkenny ragged was the best I have seen from a team from the county in my years following the sport. The unexpected tactics they employed worked like a treat, but the moves would still not have come off if the Connacht team had not the hurlers with the skills and the talents to take on the Kilkenny men.

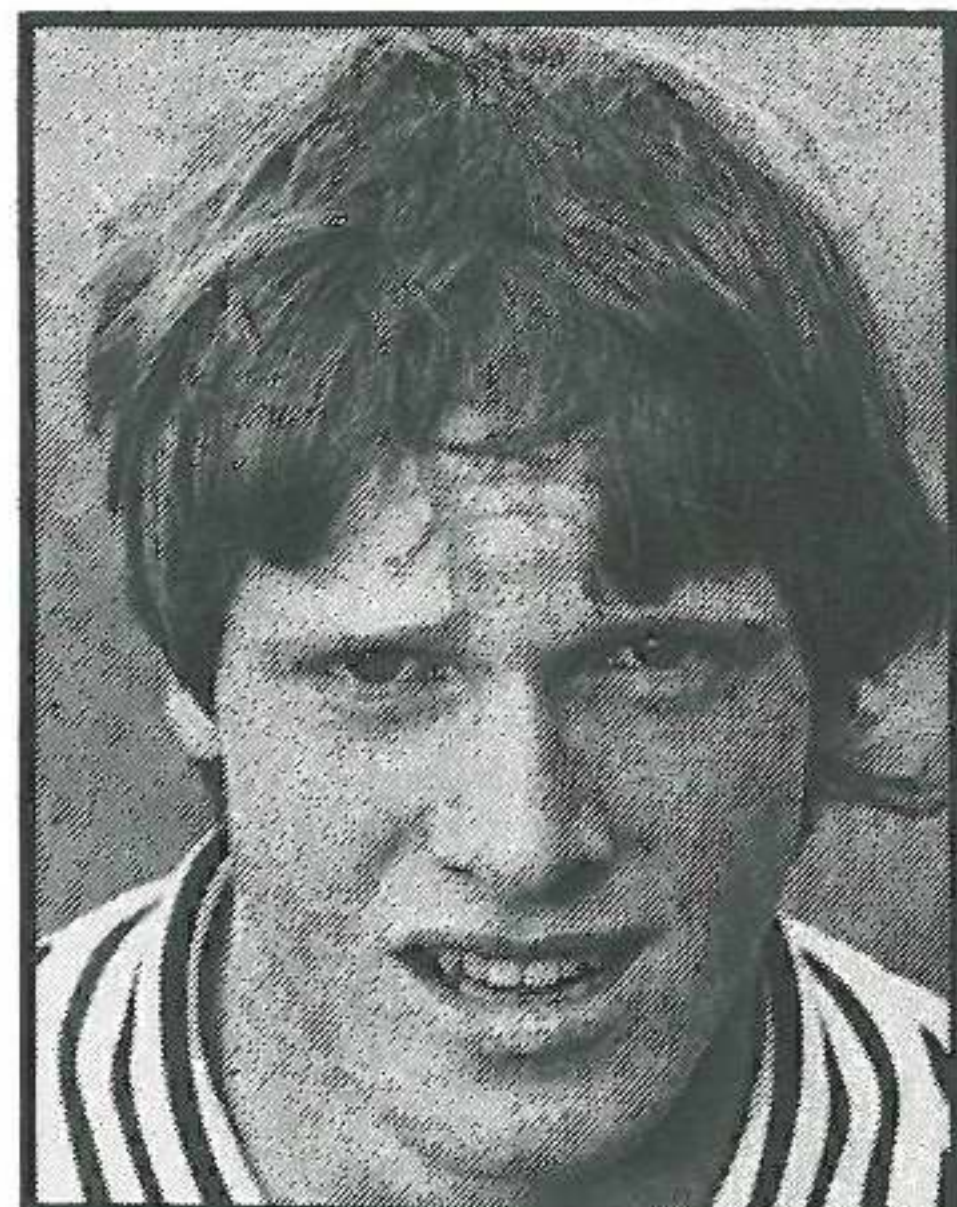
Since that semi-final triumph, I have heard many say that this is the greatest Galway team of all time. An exaggerated opinion that, surely, but at the same time one must admit that the champion competitors of hurling in the West have moulded just now a combination of more than ordinary ability.

Look at the team any way you will, and one has to be impressed. Galway teams have never been short on heart and determination. This one does not fail that test either, but the squad also has class and technique in abundance. Sharpness in attack, strength in midfield and dependability in defence are other vital assets.

Nor does this team depend on one or two brilliant hurlers to provide the match-winning touches. Match-winners are to be found all over the field.

Joe Cooney dazzled like a jewel at Semple Stadium. His display was probably the best one-man show this year in the code, featured by two goals, and he is bound to prove a problem for the opposing backs.

Then, there is wily captain Noel Lane, who did much to end the Cork ambitions just over a year ago in another upset. The current Galway skipper is playing as shrewdly as ever, and his ability to pop up for scores makes him one of the most valued members of the division.



● **JOE COONEY . . . dazzling performance in the semi-final.**

Anthony Cunningham, the All-Ireland minor title winning captain of three years ago, is another who can be depended on to punish any slackness by the opposing defenders.

MIDFIELD STRENGTH

It can happen that midfield is overshadowed in hurling because of lengthy striking by the defenders on

● **TO PAGE 13**



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GALWAY: ALL-IRELAND FINALISTS 1986



●FROM PAGE 11

both sides, but it must be very encouraging for Galway that they have flexibility around midfield . . . the men with the skills to alternate around centre field, and to ensure a strong impact in the area.

Whether it is Steve Mahon and Tony Kilkenny, Mahon and Pearse Pigott, or even Tony Keady backing up in the centre, Galway are not going to be easily bested in this area.

We shall just have to wait and see what combination or combinations for that matter that Galway will employ in this sector, but one thing is for sure the Westerners have certainly much to encourage them as they await the summit.

One can also speak highly of the defensive qualities of the Galway backs. Conor Hayes, who lined out at No. 2 in the last game, is one of the strongest defensive bulwarks in the

game. Sylvie Linnane who started at full back against Kilkenny, is another tremendous asset.

Gerry McInerney had a magnificent senior championship debut at left half back, and has emerged as an exciting personality. The other members of the back division all played their parts superbly as well in the semi-final, and John Commins, a somewhat controversial choice in goal, rose to the challenge in fine style.

Galway have much going for them in the experience department as well. They have a solid framework of hurlers who need no lessons in what is required at All-Ireland final level, and let's not forget the quality of their substitutes.

Wily P. J. Molloy, for example, went into the semi-final late in the game, and showed his special

qualities as a score-getter by helping himself to a point.

There is a determination and a will to win in the side as well, and having reached the concluding round against the odds, I am prepared to see Galway turn on an even better show than at Semple Stadium.

I doubt, either, if the fact that Cork had not nearly as impressive a march to the final will lull the Westerners into a sense of complacency. They know only too well that Cork in a final are invariably a powerful force to be reckoned with.

Nevertheless, I believe that Galway are on the right track. They look to have the maturity — even with so many young hurlers in their side — and the confident approach to back up their skills and strength in all sectors to add another stirring chapter to the county's history with a McCarthy Cup win to savour.

PROFILE:

TOM CASHMAN

A

GREAT MAN TO HAVE ON YOUR SIDE

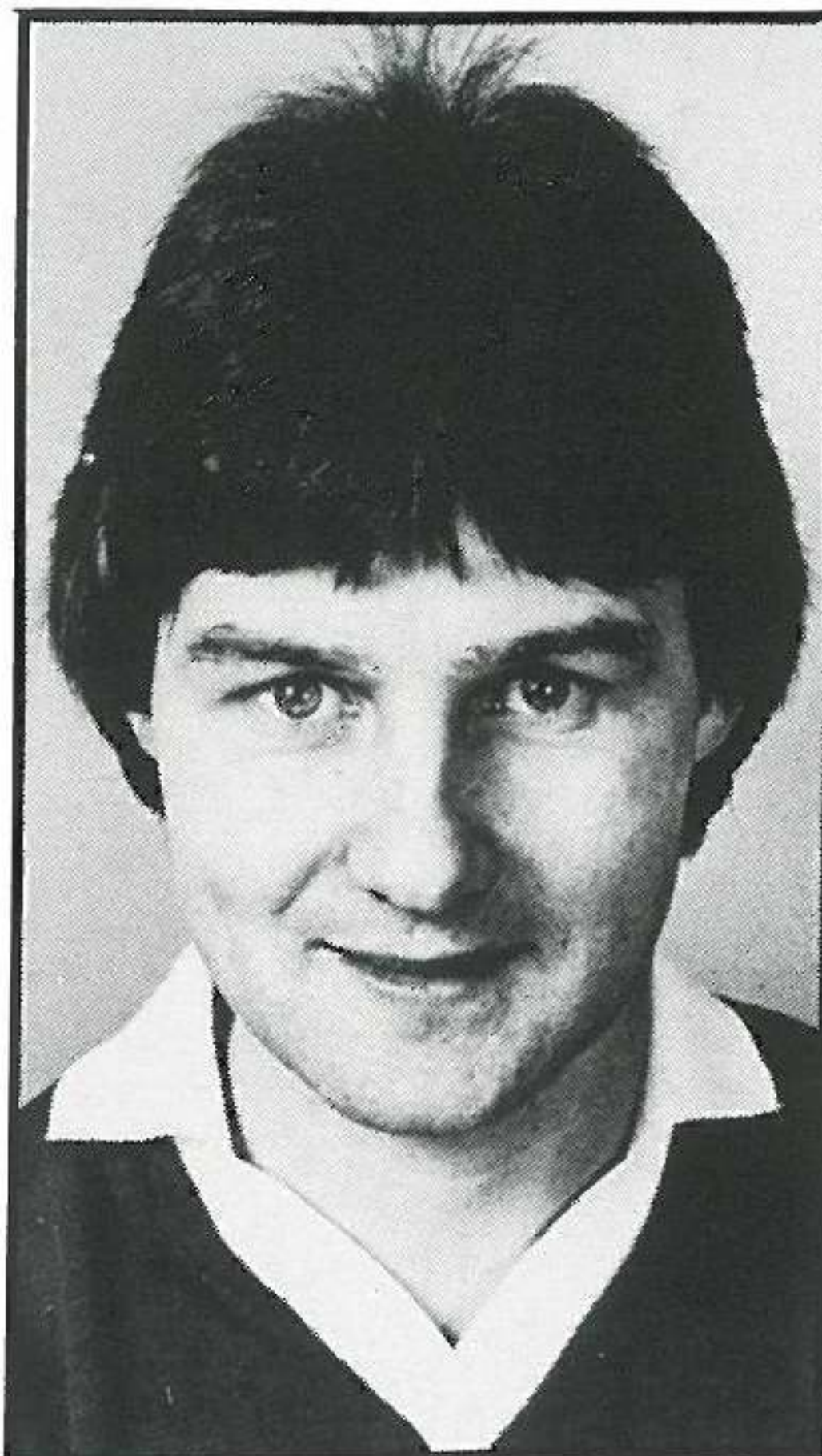
BY MICHAEL ANDREWS

TOM Cashman is hoping to become the first Blackrock hurler to lead Cork to an All-Ireland senior hurling championship since Ray Cummins in 1976. He is well equipped for the role as, after ten years in the senior inter-county grade, he is not only a hurler of proven class, but a man with the craft and leadership qualities that go to make up a successful team captain.

He has demonstrated this latter facet of his skills as a hurler in the current campaign. In Cork's most serious test on the way to the final, the Munster final at Killarney, the captain from Blackrock was a stylish and effective leader who did much to blunt the Banner scoring edge, and open the door to the finishing by the Cork forwards that eventually made it five provincial titles in a row for the champions from the Lee.

Mention of the recent win over Clare brings to mind the fact that Tom Cashman gave one of what I regard as his best-ever displays in the Cork colours when helping to thwart high Banner County hopes in the 1978 provincial decider.

Although the game was a closely contested affair with just two points between the teams at the end the match was still not a memorable one. But it had one outstanding feature — a masterly display from Tom Cashman at centre field. He gave a real tour-de-force when winning his second provincial medal, and his performance was without doubt one of the best individual showings of that or any other championship series.



“Cashman has the right to walk with the giants of hurling . . .”

Versatility has been a feature of Cashman's hurling. He has played in the top grade in different roles, but whether he has been called on to man a midfield berth, or any of the three berths in the half back line, he has delivered the goods in game after game. A great man, in fact, to have in any side, and that is another reason why he has so much to recommend him as a team leader.

Tom is, of course, superbly maintaining a great family tradition. His father, Mick, was an outstanding goalkeeper with Cork. He did not win an All-Ireland senior medal with the county, but still gave great service, and had a wonderful innings as well with Munster in the Railway Cup. Indeed, he holds a record medals tally for a goalkeeper of six between 1957 and 1963, and he also had the distinction of captaining the South to one interprovincial title — that of 1957.

So, Mick has blazed the way to son Tom in the area of a successful national title-winning captain, as well as in general hurling terms.

My first memories of Tom Cashman go back to the minor championships of the opening years of the 'Seventies. I recall his brilliance as a pivot in the 1974 team that beat Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final. Later that year he collected a minor football medal as well, playing in the final win over Mayo at left half back.

PROMISE FULFILLED

It was clear that here was a young sportsman who would repay watching in the future. Cashman has more than fulfilled that promise in the ancient game to which he has devoted practically all of his attentions since his days in under-age competitions.

In fact, it has been success after success for Tom Cashman since he first wore the Cork senior colours in 1976. He was not in the All-Ireland squad that year, but had little time to wait for the game's top award. That came in a wonderful All-Ireland final

against Wexford in 1977, when he displayed surprising maturity for one so young at right midfield.

A second All-Ireland senior medal was gained in 1978, and Cashman was on duty again in Cork's only McCarthy Cup triumph in the meantime. That was in the Centenary final at Thurles against Offaly.

Now just 29 — his birthday was on August 28 — Cashman can also look back on a brilliant career outside of senior championship hurling as well. He has had many excellent games with Munster and helped the province to lift the Railway Cup in 1978, 1981 and 1985.

Cashman was in the half back line in Cork's last two National League title winning teams, 1980 and 1981, and has been honoured three times by the All Stars selectors.

~~~~~

**TOM CASHMAN:**

**"One of the most  
skilful hurlers  
Cork has produced  
in any decade."**

~~~~~

As if all that was not enough he has savoured the delights of victory in club games, not only in Cork, but nationally as well with Blackrock.

All in all a proud record, but one well deserving of the talents of one of the most wholehearted and skilful hurlers Cork has produced in any decade.

A place in Cork's proud list of All-Ireland senior hurling title winning captains would now set the seal on all that Tom Cashman has achieved in the game so far, and also be but a just reward for the efforts he has put in for hurling. But even if this ultimate honour eluded him this month, there will only be the personal disappointment, for defeat for Cork will still not lessen in any way, Cashman's right to walk with the giants of hurling from the Leaside or any other county for that matter.

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NOEL LANE

“A hurler of class who is ready to stamp his personality on this final in a big way”.

IT is said that “lightning does not strike twice”. Galway folk hope that this will not prove the case when Noel Lane leads his side into action against Cork in this novel showdown for hurling’s top prize.

The six-foot full forward was the man who did most to end Cork ambitions in a semi-final last year at Croke Park. He brightened the gloom of a dismal rainy August day with the brilliance of his play as he turned on a vintage show. So well did he take the Cork defence apart that he finished with 1-2.

Galway supporters are now looking for a repeat performance from their captain. He faces a daunting task, but if ever a hurler was well geared to measure up to the challenge it is the tall man from

Ballindereen.

He is very much on his game again this year. That was plain for all to see in the Ford League and more particularly in the sinking of the Kilkenny ship that so many felt was unsinkable this year.

It was Lane who palmed Galway’s first goal after 13 minutes, and made so many of us sit up and take notice in the belief that perhaps this was not going to prove a “cake-walk” after all for the Noresiders. He combined superbly with Joe Cooney in manufacturing that goal, and right throughout the game he was a constant thorn in the Kilkenny defence.

The captain orchestrated matters superbly in the attack, and provided both the leadership and deft touches

that enabled the Western attacking force bore so many holes in the opposing defence. One of Noel Lane’s best displays in the Galway jersey, I would safely say.

Certainly there were no signs that time is catching up with the man in the No. 15 jersey — he was 31 at the end of last year. The spring was still there in his step, and the craft he has gained over some eight years in the top grade means that he is now probably a more effective forward than at any time in his senior inter-county career.

The Galway skipper will be appearing in his fifth All-Ireland senior final. He was only a little over a year in the premier grade when he held down the full forward berth in the team beaten by Kilkenny in 1979.

A year later, however, there was no

**BY
PETER KEENAN**

stopping Galway and Lane. The Westerners reached the concluding round again, and displayed purpose and drive as they saw off Limerick to take the Liam McCarthy Cup for the first time in over half a century. Every member of the Galway team played his part well in that success, but Lane, in the No. 15 jersey, had an especially good match, and helped himself to three valuable points.

RAILWAY CUP

That stands as the highpoint in the

career of this dashing and whole-hearted forward. He has had other great days, however, especially in the Railway Cup, and he is, in fact, one of the giants of the interprovincial championship.

Last March at Ballinasloe Lane demonstrated yet again his ability to take on a defence and master it superbly by cracking home 2-1 in a majestic display as Connacht beat Munster. He won his fourth Railway Cup medal in that match — the others were in 1980, 1982 and 1983 — and is now one of only two from the province to play in four title winning teams in the code. The other is P.J. Molloy, who may yet have a part to play in this month's final, in view of his introduction against Kilkenny, and the fact that on his limited appearance he showed up well, and scored a point.

That last interprovincial medal must have helped a little to compensate for the disappointment

of Galway's defeat in last year's All-Ireland final by Offaly. The success also showed that the Western county was recovering well from the trauma of the loss to their neighbours a year ago.

It would be nice to say that I then saw signs of a turn of events that would lead to Galway's bid for the 1986 title. Nice, but dishonest on my part to put forward that viewpoint.

However, the Railway Cup win early in the year does help to indicate that Galway were on the right track well before the race for "McCarthy" began. There was a hiccup in the loss to Kilkenny in the Ford League final at Thurles in May, but that memory has been well and truly erased by the sheer brilliance of the All-Ireland semi-final win at the same venue just three months later.

Galway are motoring well, and a good deal of the credit is due to Noel Lane. Many of us were inclined at the time to dismiss the quarter-final win

over Kerry at Ennis of no consequence, and as a result did not pay too much attention to the accuracy displayed by Lane as he scored 3-4.

But now in hindsight it is easy to say that the signs were there at the Banner County capital that Galway — and Noel Lane — were in no mood to accept second best in 1986. Only time will show now if the Ballindereen man climbs the steps of the Hogan Stand on the first Sunday of September, but whatever about that aspect, I am convinced that Noel Lane will stamp his personality on this final in a big way.

He is the man who could provide the necessary spark to ensure that Galway produce the type of form that is bound to be necessary to chalk up what would rank as the county's most famous win of all time. It is also the type of challenge that I feel a hurler of Noel Lane's calibre and sporting qualities will relish.

Go West, young man, go West!

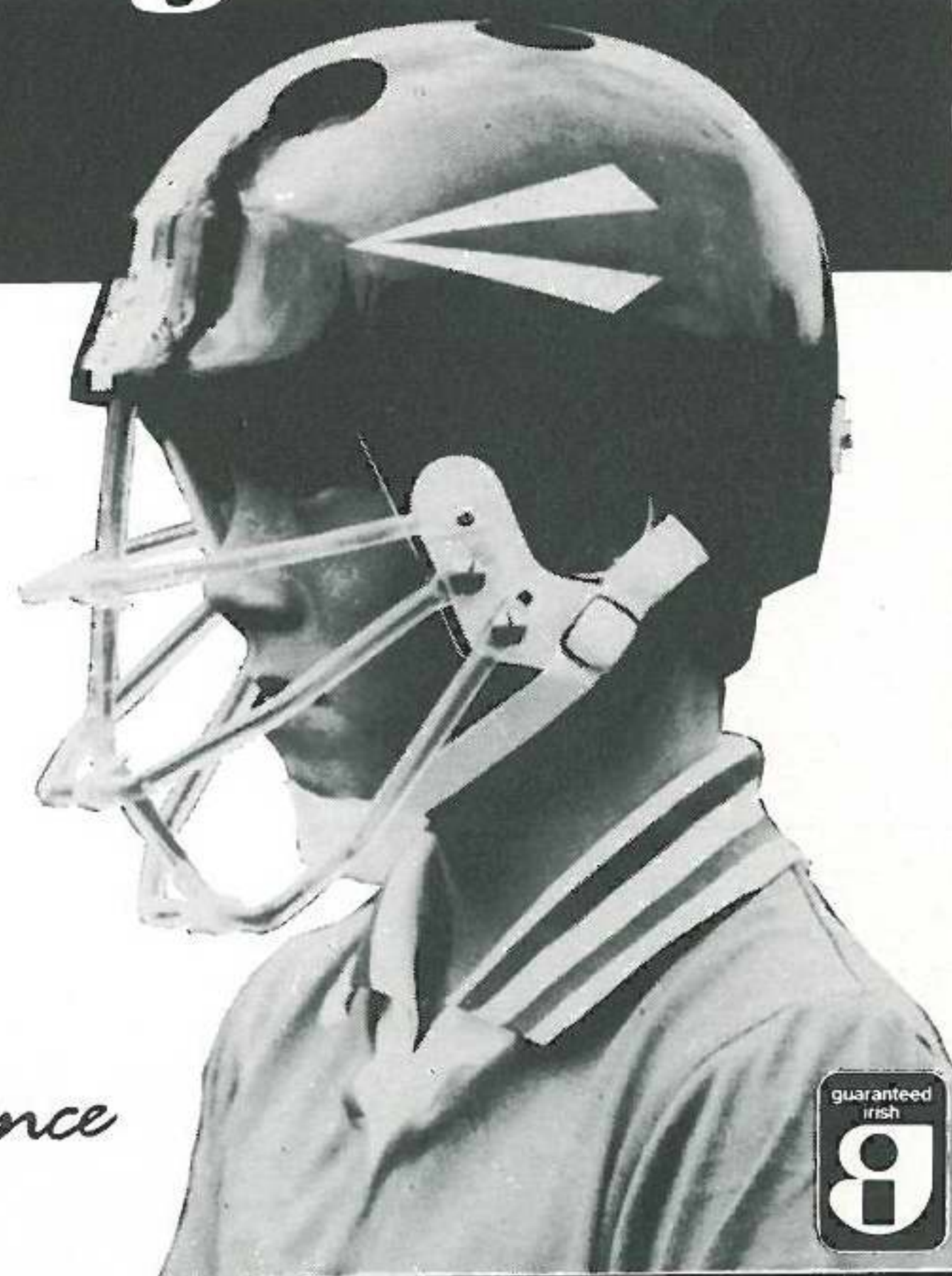


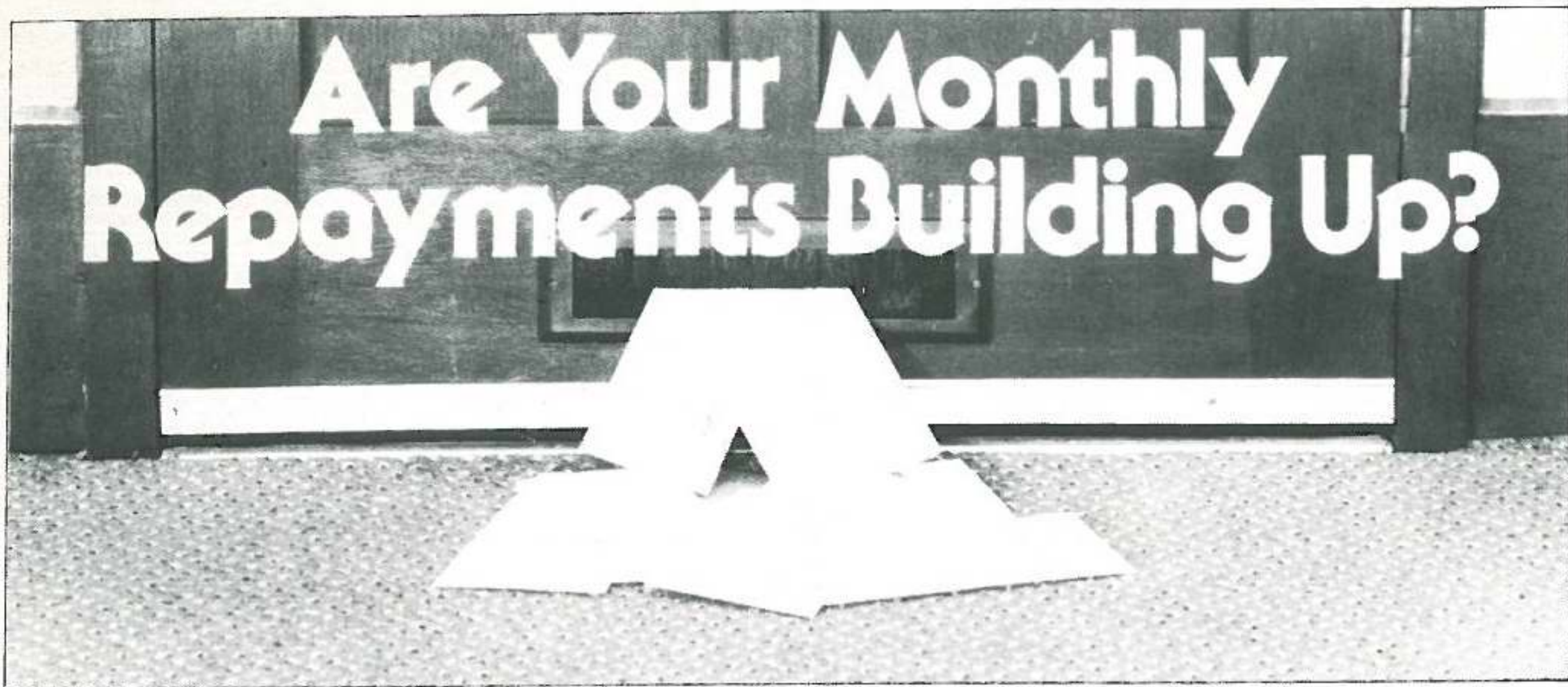
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Spouse's Forename(s)	Date of Birth	Exact Occupation	1st Mortgage £ £
Married/Single/Widowed/Separated/Divorced	Delete as appropriate	Employer's Name	2nd Mortgage £ £
Present address:		Address	HP/Bank £ £
.....		Time with this employer years months	Loans £ £
.....		Spouse's Exact Occupation	Other Credit £ £
.....		Property Freehold Leasehold Estimated Value £	Purpose for which loan is required
.....		Date purchased Price paid £
.....		Signature of Applicant
Time at this address years months		Monthly Income gross Self £ Spouse	Date

★

“THIS IS
ANOTHER
ALL-
IRELAND
WITH
CORK
IN THERE
TO WIN”

★

THE Munster Final in Cill Airne was a very exciting game. Afterwards, I met a Corkman who had been hurling since he was a child and who held that fine cup up in the Hogan Stand on a day that was joy to us all.

“I have seen Clare play all their games recently,” he said “and while I admire them and hope they’ll soon win an All-Ireland they won’t do it with that team unless there’s a great improvement. They’re fairly good but not good enough.”

This sobered my enthusiasm for Cork a little and it was inevitable that we would all take a close look at our own men who performed reasonably well that day against Clare.

How good is this Cork side? After the semi-final against Antrim I spoke with an experienced Cork player who naturally enough doesn’t want to be identified.

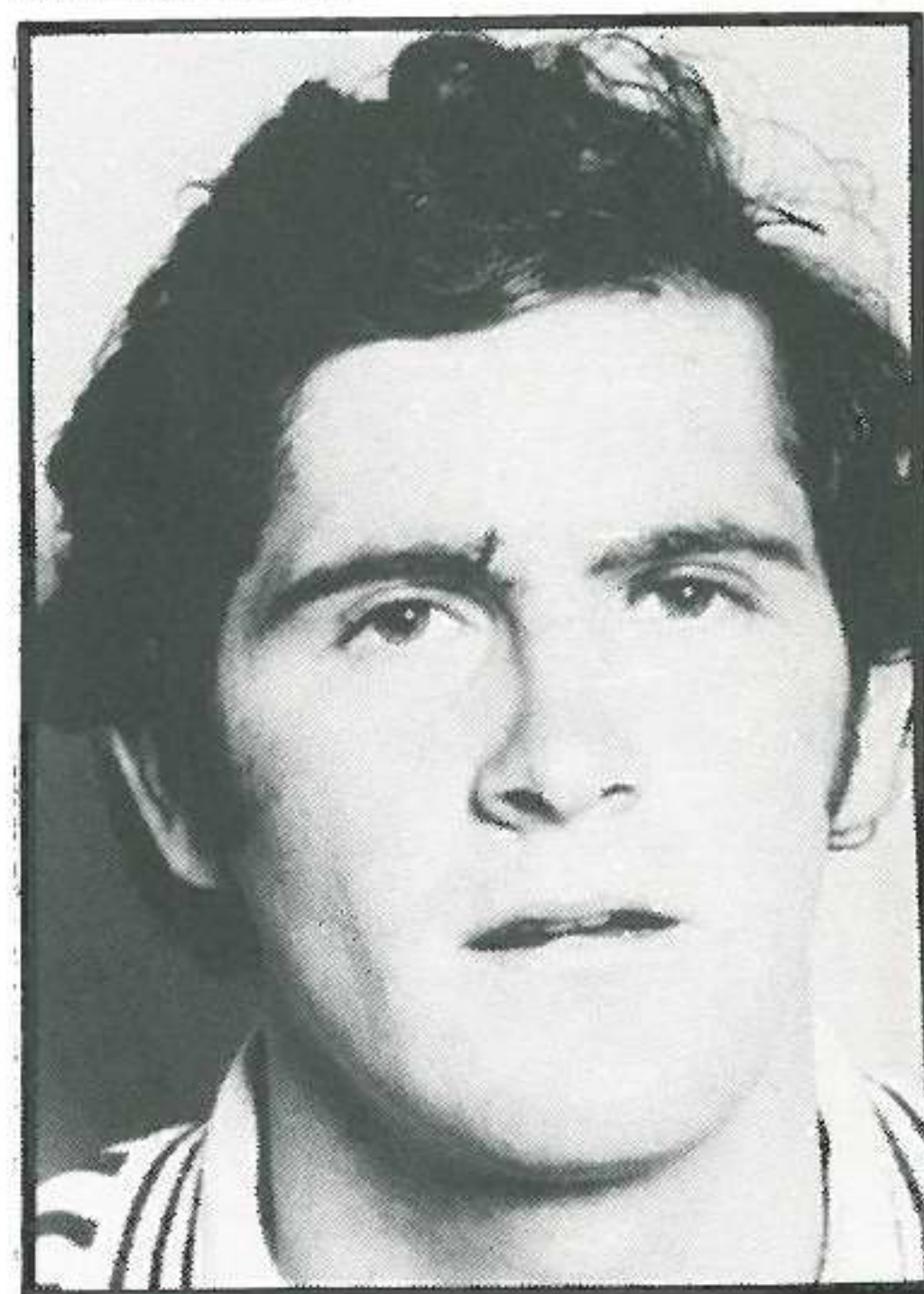
“Antrim were quite good” he said “and I hope the day will soon come when they’ll win an All-Ireland. They gave us plenty to do at times and struck some very fine scores. However a few of us were not at all good and we’ll have to be better in the final. To tell you the truth I could never see us beat at any time in the Antrim game. We all know now that Galway are flying but we’re not going up to be beaten”.

Pat Hartnett is a great loss to Cork and we can only hope that John Fenton’s illness won’t reduce his form, for while a man will recover from sickness well enough to put up a good show in his job, getting back to a standard of mental and physical athleticism high enough to beat a class opponent who has not been sick for twelve months, perhaps, is far more difficult.

Cork have trained well and there is just as much urgency in this prepara-

tion as if they were playing Kilkenny. Why not? We have a score to settle with the west and the memories of last year’s defeat by Galway in the semi-final are very fresh — raw in fact.

Cork must play well at centre field to hold Steve Mahon and Tony Kilkenny. In addition we simply must hurl with power, speed and skill to break even with that good Galway half backline of Peter Finnerty, Tony Keady and Ger McInerney all of whom had a terrific hour against Kilkenny. The game will probably be decided here.



● Steve Mahon
... Cork must play well at centre-field to contain him.

On the way out of the stadium in Thurles a month ago after we had watched what we thought was the best team in the land neatly parcelled up and sent to the cleaners. I wondered very seriously how Cork, whose five point win over Antrim had just come over the air would get along with Galway in the final. I asked an old Tipp hurler, who told me with a

● TO PAGE 21

HOW GOOD IS THIS CORK SIDE?

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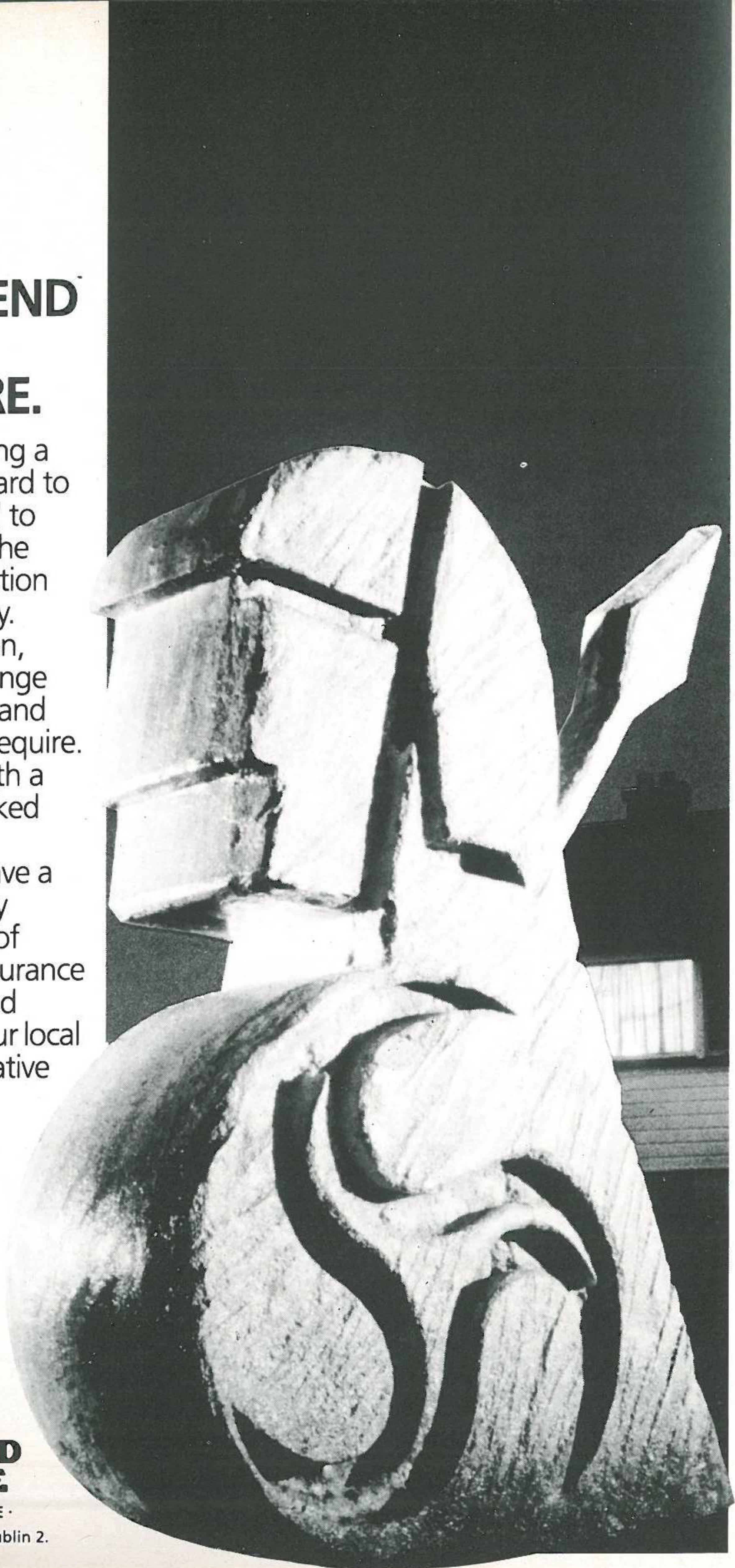
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●FROM PAGE 19

broad grin "If those Galway fellas wore Black and Amber today I wouldn't give Cork much chance in the final."

The unorthodox placing of the Galway team seemed to help, for it left wide open spaces expected by the Westerners who had plans to use them while Kilkenny were consequently a little behind in thinking. But those Galway plans would have been useless if they had not been able to get a good supply of the ball.

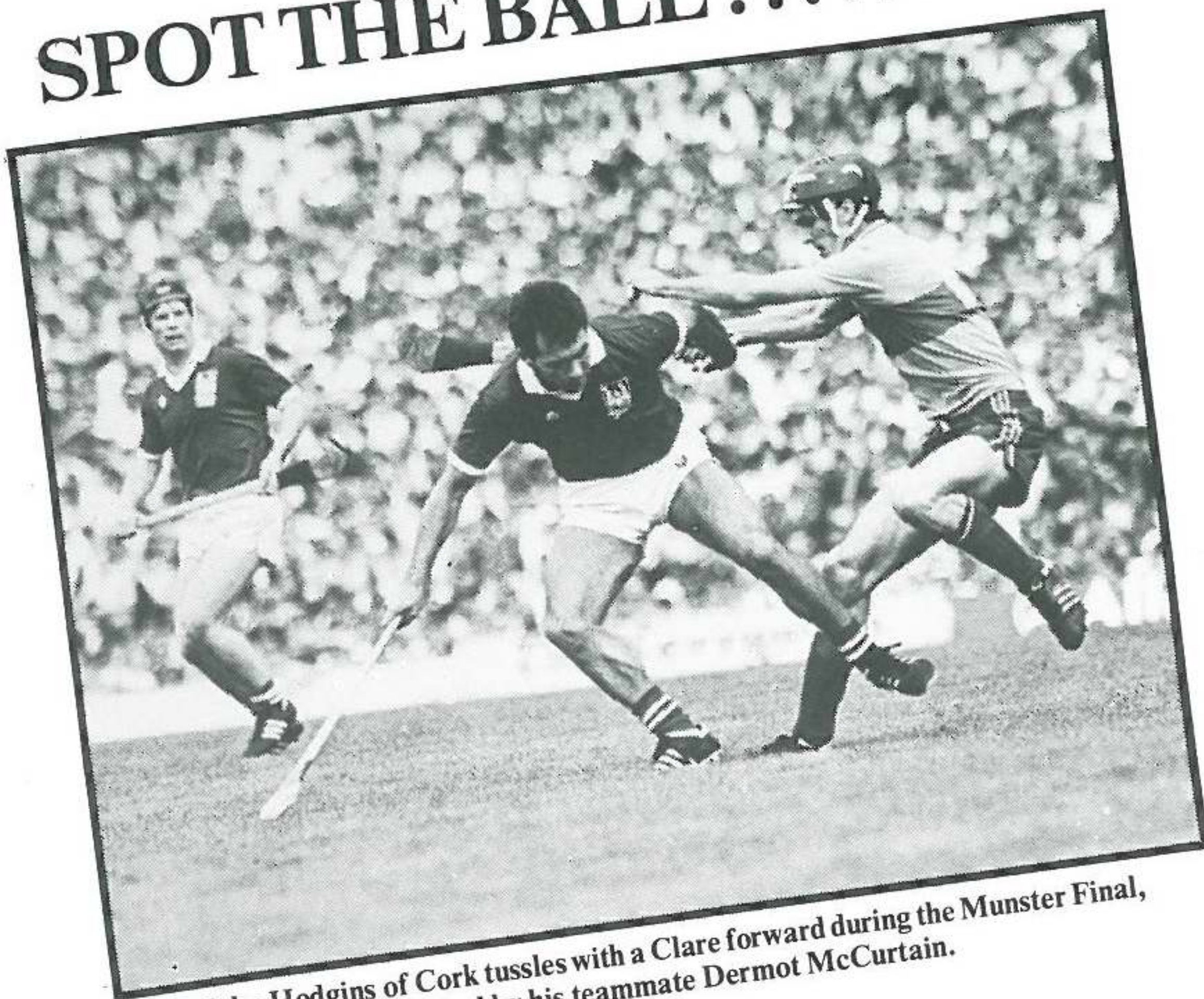
This is where the match was won. This Galway side was very well trained. They moved very fast to the ball and as a result had that split second which is all the good player wants to deliver it sensibly. Many times I saw Galway players swing that sliotar across to the other wing to where a comrade expected it. It was clear to me that this combined play had been practised diligently for it was performed with precision and without delay. But all the practice

**"We may expect
a bunch in maroon
that will run hard,
hurl with skill
and think fast".**

and all the training would have been of little use if the men were not fast, strong and clever enough to carry out the plan. When fifteen good men come together and are well trained physically they will be difficult opponents. When in addition, they are well coached and presented with sound plans they will, if they are intelligent, play a very good game. That seems to be what Galway did against Kilkenny.

They are good men, they are well trained, they are very hungry and they are quick and smart. What more does any county want? Four weeks have passed since that day in Thurles and surely there's no reason to suggest that Galway cannot play

SPOT THE BALL.....



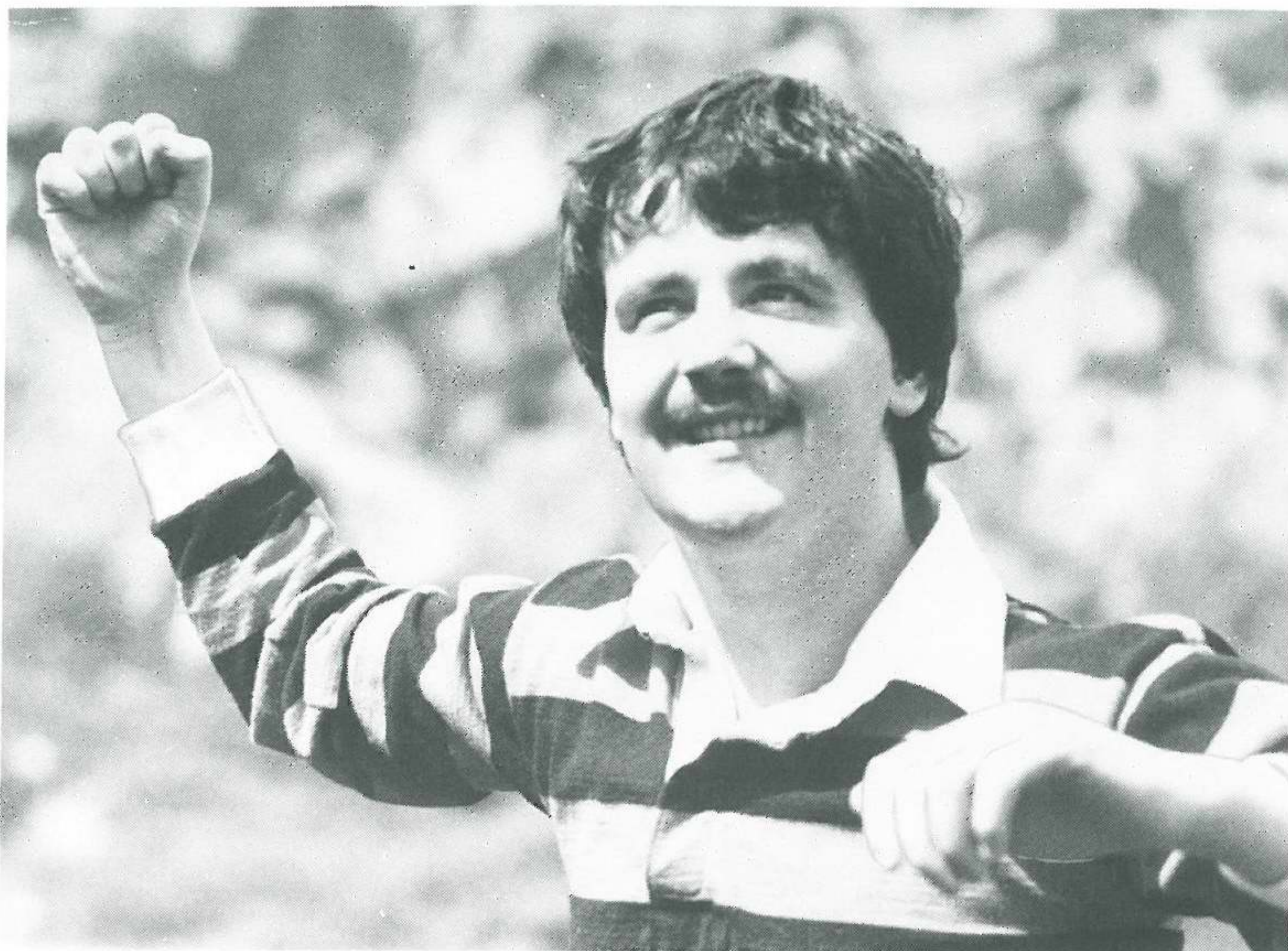
●John Hodgins of Cork tussles with a Clare forward during the Munster Final, watched by his teammate Dermot McCurtain.

just as well again. I hear that having trained very hard, they eased off well in advance of the Thurles game and certainly they looked very fresh, alert and full of running. Surely we can expect the same again, and as there is a dramatic advance in fitness when the already fit man continues diligent but careful training we may expect a bunch in maroon that will run hard, hurl with skill and think fast.

In the Munster final this year there were five changes from the side that went down to Galway last year by 4-12 to 5-5. John Fenton got two penalty goals and two points from frees. Kevin Hennessy got 2-1, Ciaran Kingston a goal and two more men, who are missing, Tim Crowley and Denis Walsh had a point each. This year we have John Hodgins instead of John Black, Denis Walsh the back, in place of Pat Horgan, Jim Cashman taking over from Denis Walsh the forward, Jimmy Barry-Murphy in place of Tim Crowley (who sad to say retired) and John Fitzgibbon for Ciaran Kingston. As

all these men of last year, except Tim Crowley, are hurling hard we must take it that this side of '86 is better than the team that failed last year when Jimmy Barry-Murphy had cracked ribs and came on only at the end.

Have no doubt that Croke Park will present a real challenge to Cork today for thirty-one counties will be cheering for Galway, an affection these good men from the west deserve. But there's no column on the scoreboard for cheering and the support for his opponent always raises the heart of the real competitor. The louder they cheer for Galway the more we'll hurl and one of my greatest memories of Croke Park is the positively heroic hurling of a bunch of no-hopers who faced up to the Black and Amber under Gerald MacCarthy's captaincy twenty years ago and brought the MacCarthy Cup home. We have as much hurling, speed and brains as Galway. There's only one place to prove it.



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HANDBALL

BY
SEAN
CLERKIN

IRISH LADIES LEAD THE WAY

IRELAND'S handballers did exceptionally well in the recent World Championships at Kellowna and returned home with no less than five titles.

In addition our foreign handball ambassador Pat Kirby, covered himself in glory by winning the Masters singles and doubles titles.

We can be particularly proud of our lady handballers, Sue Carey and Liz Hall, who annexed two titles.

There is still a gap to be bridged in the male adult sphere, though Michael Walsh (Kilkenny) and the Wexford combination of John Fleming and Pat Cleary were far from disgraced.

Louth veteran Joey Maher did well to take the Golden Masters Doubles title with Mel Browne, while our young players again covered themselves in glory.

Peter McAuley of Louth is a player above average and is destined for great things, while Frank Kavanagh from Westmeath turned in a series of magnificent performances, when winning the Under 19 title.

Young Joe Ryan from Arklow,

who competed in the Under 13 grade, issued fair warning that he is going to be a threat to the best in the near future.

However, the achievements of our lady players, Sue Carey and Liz Hall could be classed as the most meritorious and should usher in a new era for this code of handball.

On her way to success in the World Singles Championship, Sue Carey had a tremendous win over Liz Hall in the semi-final, but really reached for the stars when beating the Canadian girl Karen Bedard in the final.

In this contest, Carey was slow to settle down and appeared to be sizing up her opponent, who won the first game 21-13.

Once into her stride, she never faltered and proceeded to win the second game and the tie-breaker in decisive fashion.

Carey then joined up with Hall and they put the icing on the cake by taking the doubles title as well. Our new World Champion, who resides in Leixlip, played her earlier handball in the Green St. area.

She plays with the Eoghan Ruadh Club, having played with Na Fianna for a number of seasons and received her earlier tuition from Christy Clarke, who was one of the best coaches in the game, before his premature death some years back.

Sue played much of her handball in the Green St. court which also produced long standing National champion, Mavis O'Toole.

The latter, incidentally, was also to the fore in the games at Kellowna.

Liz Hall belongs to a unique handballing family from the village of Oldtown in North County Dublin.

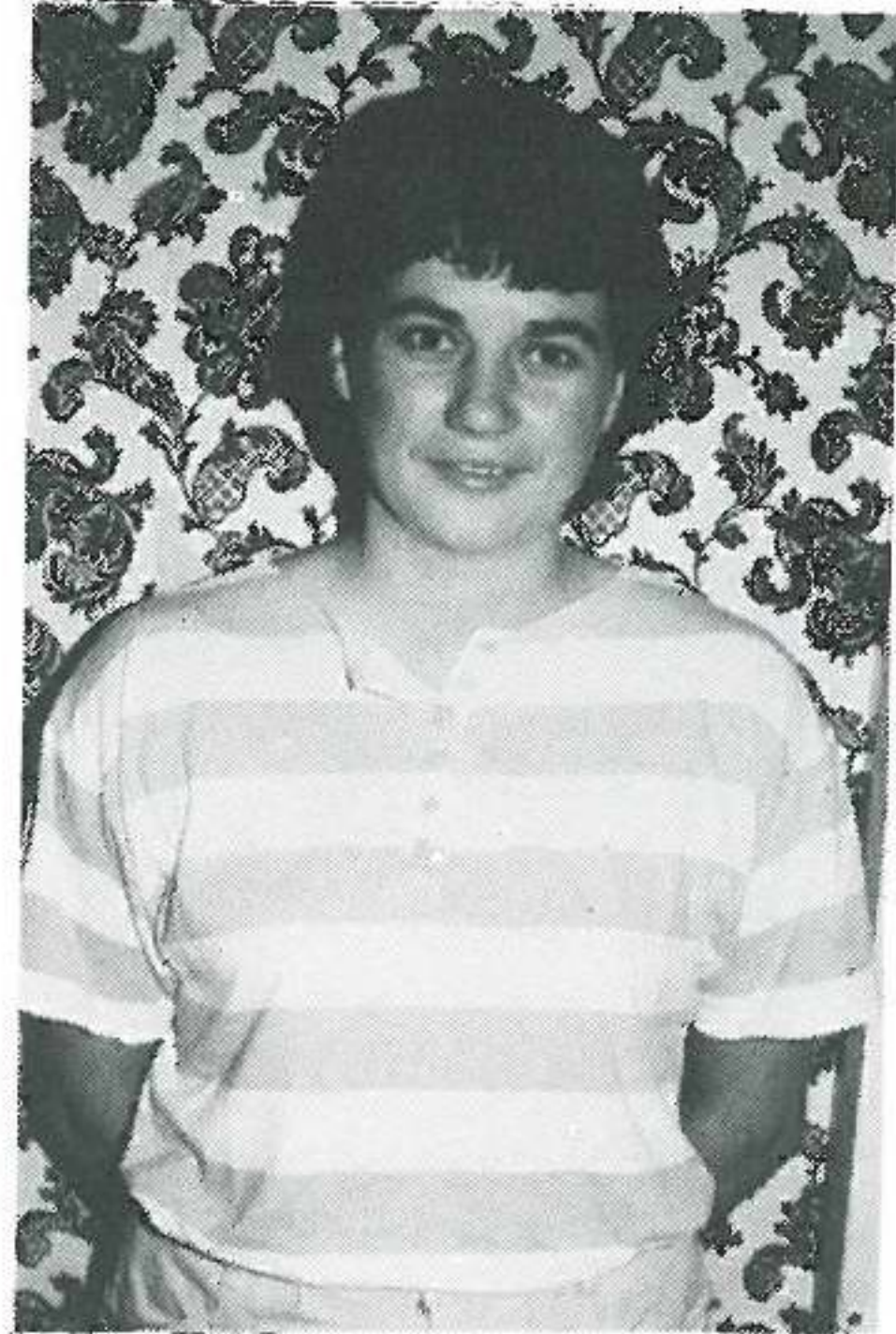
She and her sister Geraldine have been to the fore in all grades of handball over the past decade. Brother Pat is also one of the leading players in the country and has a number of All-Ireland titles to his credit.

In this context it is only proper to mention that the Oldtown Club has a special place in the history of handball.

The administrators of this club had the foresight, under the direction of

former president of the Irish Handball Council, Rev. E. Neville, to build the first 40 x 20 court in this country back in 1963.

This was a watershed in the development of the game in Ireland, for, in the intervening years the American style game has mushroomed and now commands widespread support throughout the country.



•SUE CAREY... World Singles
Champion.

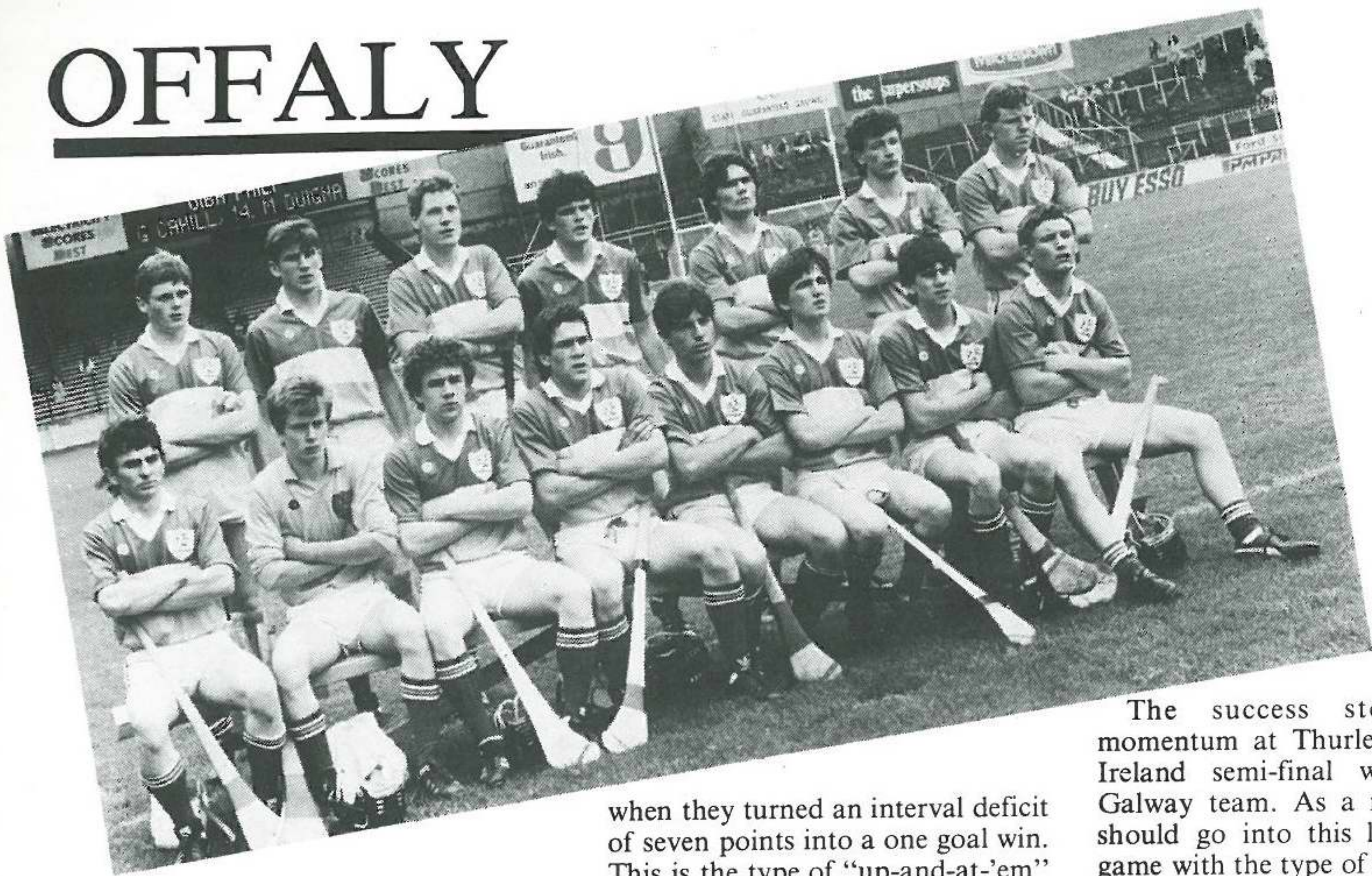
The performance of the Irish players in Kellowna is proof of that.

It would be inappropriate to conclude without reference again to Pat Kirby, who, in recent times has been inducted into the Handball Hall of Fame in the U.S.A. It is a singular honour for Kirby and the first time for an Irishman to receive the award.

He joins nineteen other personalities, who have received it, since the scheme was initiated. These include Joe Platak, reckoned to be one of the greatest and a singles champion of America between 1935 and 1941 and again in 1943, Vic Hershkowitz, the father and son pairing of Sam and Paul Haber and Jimmy Jacobs, who won six titles.

Though based in Tucson, Kirby is continuing to give Irish handball a wonderful boost and I am hopeful that, when Irish sportsmen are being rewarded at the end of the year for their feats during 1986, the name of Pat Kirby, will not be overlooked.

OFFALY



TA MIN

B
VING
FO

HATS of to Offaly! Having brought a fresh wind of change to senior hurling in recent years they are doing the same in the minor grade, and I will be in my place early at Croke Park to watch their All-Ireland under-18 final debut in the code in the clash with Cork.

The Munster boys will doubtless start favourites, if for no other reason than tradition is very much on their side. Generally, in a situation featuring newcomers against a county with a renowned championship reputation I, too, would be strongly on the side of the boys from an area with a proven track record at this level.

I am not so eager this time, however, to talk enthusiastically and loudly about a second title on the trot for Cork.

Don't get me wrong. I have the utmost respect for the Leaside team. I did not see their Munster final replay win over Tipperary, but I was at Killarney for the drawn match, and was much impressed by the Cork teenagers.

There was much to admire about their skills and class. They also, apparently, displayed great determination and heart in the replay

when they turned an interval deficit of seven points into a one goal win. This is the type of "up-and-at-'em" approach that wins major titles.

Yet, while giving due recognition to the power of the Munster champions, I am still convinced they have a real job of work on hand. I base that conclusion on a number of factors, starting with a game at Portlaoise as far back as April.

I was one of those at O'Moore Park who saw tradition swept aside in exhilarating fashion as Birr Community School powered to a first All-Ireland Colleges' senior final win in a showdown with one of Cork's famed nurseries of hurling — North Monastery.

It was clear that day that the standard of under-age hurling in the Faithful County is very high at present, and the point has been reinforced by the march of the Offaly minor team that included a good sprinkling of the Birr-title winning team to a first Leinster championship.

Admittedly, the Offaly squad had a somewhat uncertain start when they were held to a draw by Kilkenny, but they made no mistake in the replay. I next saw them in the Leinster final, and one had to be impressed by their poise and flair in a 4-7 to 1-5 win over Wexford.

The success story gained momentum at Thurles in the All-Ireland semi-final with a good Galway team. As a result, Offaly should go into this latest historic game with the type of confidence in their own ability that can prove the springboard for a victory effort.

INSPIRATIONAL FIGURE

Offaly have all round strength and power, as well as great heart and tons of ability. They also have the personality — plus players throughout the field who are capable of taking a grip on the exchanges and steering the way to a winning course.

Michael Hogan, of Birr, who is centre half and captain, is just such a hurler. His dependability and attacking style mark him out as an inspirational figure, a young man who is both a mighty bulwark in defence, and capable of initiating many attacking moves for his own forwards.

Ray Mannion (St. Rynagh's) at full back and Declan Sherlock (Birr) in the full line are others who could do much to ensure that Cork find the way through to goal a rocky one.

Offaly have much going for them as well in attack. Declan Pilkington (Birr), Michael Duignan (St. Rynagh's) in the full line, and David Regan (Birr) at half forward, are finishers who are capable of causing the Cork defence all kinds of problems.

I doubt if the Leinster champions

"OFFALY AND CORK PROMISE ONE OF THE

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CORK

will give much away at centre-field either. No doubt Damien Geoghegan (Birr) and Alan Kelly (St. Rynagh's) will hold down the link between defence and attack in the final, and both have given their supporters much hope for the future with the high quality of their play so far.

Offaly's prospects, then, of having a new name inscribed on the trophy for the first time since Galway won their only All-Ireland in 1983 must be rated very bright indeed.

All the plus marks, however, are by no means on the one side. For example, I feel that Cork's hopes have been considerably boosted by the fact that they had to go to a second game with Tipperary.

That extra match is bound to benefit the Southerners. Competitive match play is the best form of training, and the game could prove a real blessing in disguise now in view of the somewhat uncompetitive semi-final with Antrim.

In addition, the Munster hurlers are — as always — well schooled in the craft of the game, move with poise and purpose, and the team also packs plenty of scoring power.

Indeed, this is where Cork might have a vital edge. Full forward Dan O'Connell (Kilbrittan) has scored at least one goal a game so far, and obviously looms as a real threat to the Offaly defence. John Corcoran (Erin's Own) and Ronan Sheehan

(Mallow) in the half line are others whose deft touches, creative play and finishing skills could have the Munster champions' forward division ticking sweetly.

SCORING MIDFIELDER

Cork are workmanlike in defence, where Pat Kenneally (Newcestown) at centre half, Damien Irwin (Killeagh), full back, and left half Colman Quirke (Midleton) will surely be in the vanguard in providing the motivation and steadying influence necessary to build up a formidable barrier to the Leinster scoring unit.

Michael Mullins (Na Piarasigh) has been a scoring midfielder for Cork, and John O'Mahony (Ballymartle), his partner, has also caught the eye over the run to the final.

A good all-round Cork team, then, but is the side still strong enough to prevent the enthusiastic, well-tested and ever-improving Offaly boys from striking the best note yet in a memorable year for under-age hurling in the county?

I must admit that I am sorely tempted to side with Offaly. The memory of the win over North Monastery by Birr is still fresh, and the minor side has built on that breakthrough by taking the challenges presented in fine style.

But, invariably, there is something special about any Cork team in any grade in a national final at Croke Park. That's why I believe we will see the standard-bearers of the South produce their best display of the campaign so far.

I think, too, that Tipperary were a stronger team than any that Offaly met on the road to headquarters. Cork had to come twice from behind against the Tipp boys — first to earn a draw with a goal two minutes from time — and then that gallant fight back in the replay. That says much for the character of their hurlers.

Then, as I said earlier, I have a hunch that the Southern team has the greater spread of all round scoring power.

So, much as my heart goes for Offaly, I feel the more prudent forecast is to look to the Cork forwards to do a better job in outgunning the opposing defence, and so keep the trophy in the county for another year in what I have little doubt will prove one of the greatest and most competitive minor finals in years.

Cork are in line for their 16th title. They won their first in the initial final of 1928.

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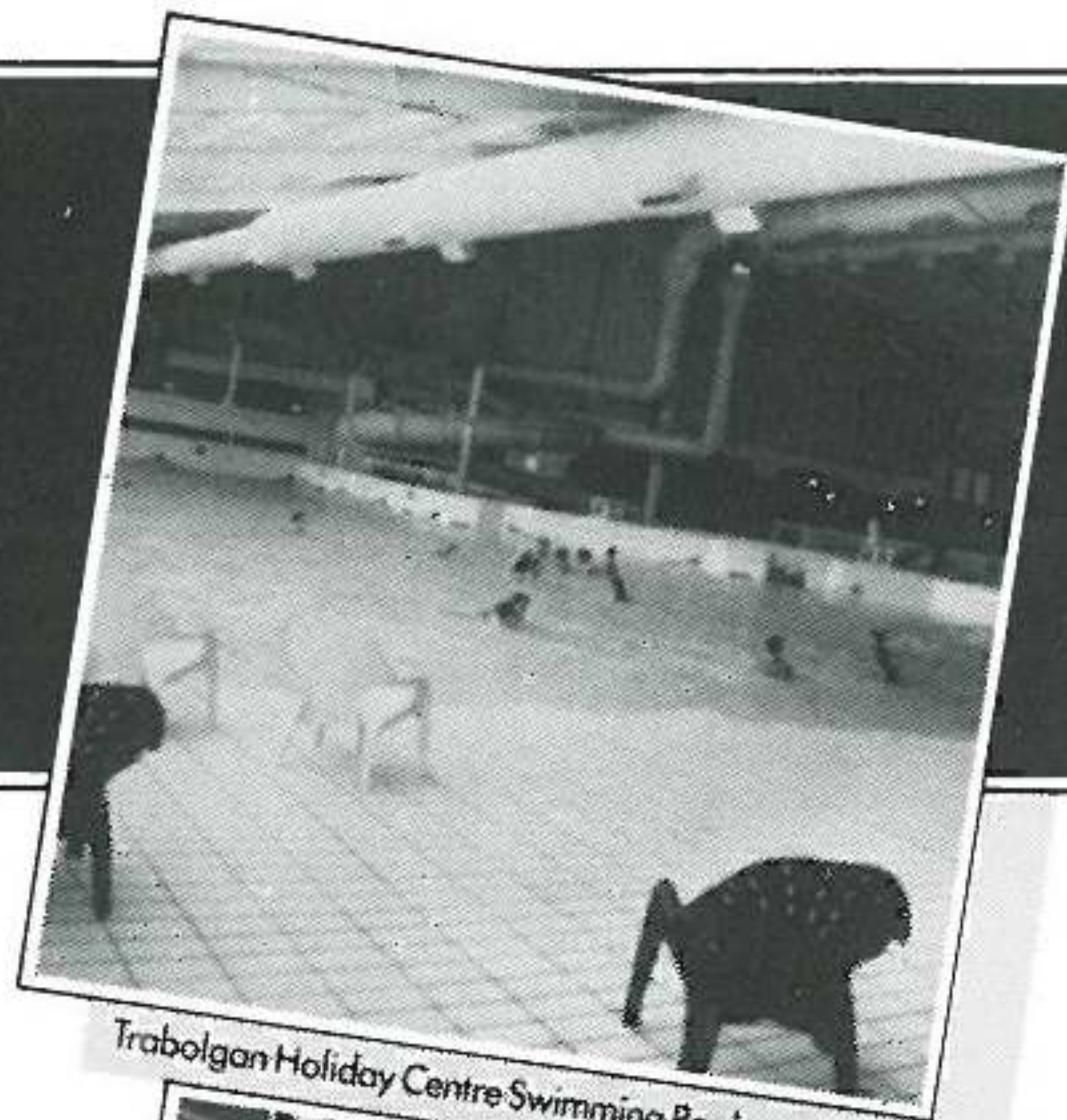
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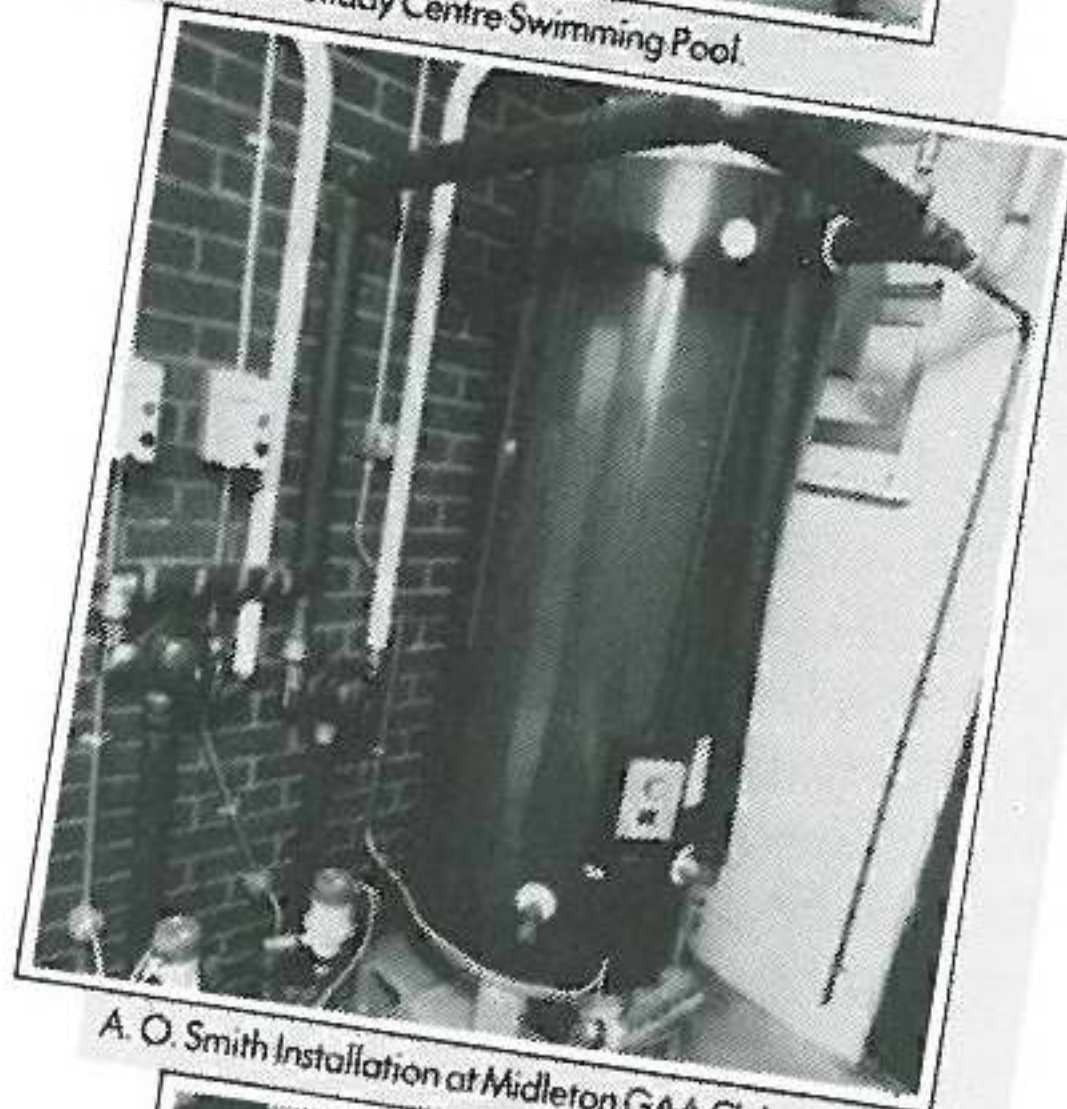
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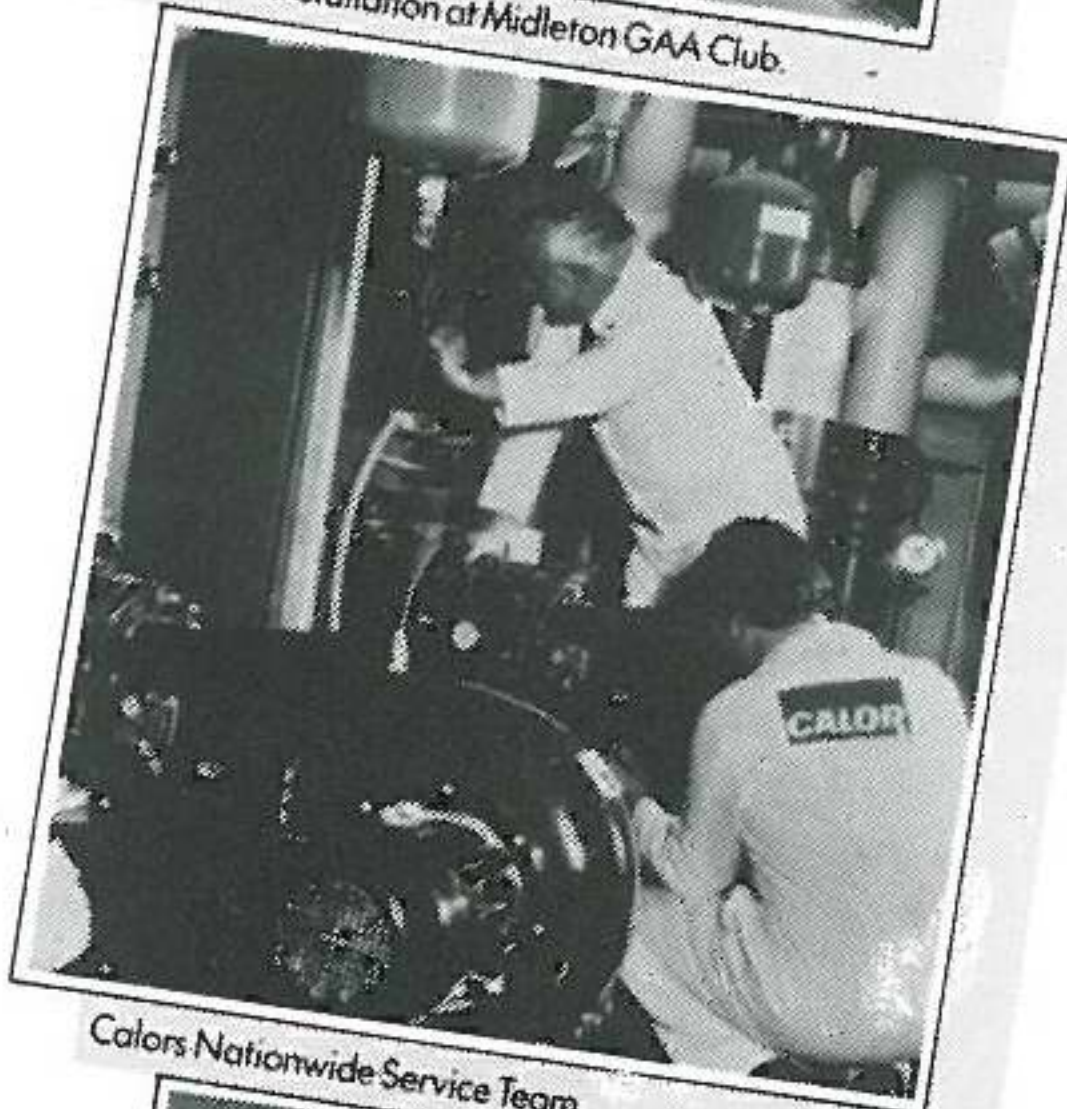
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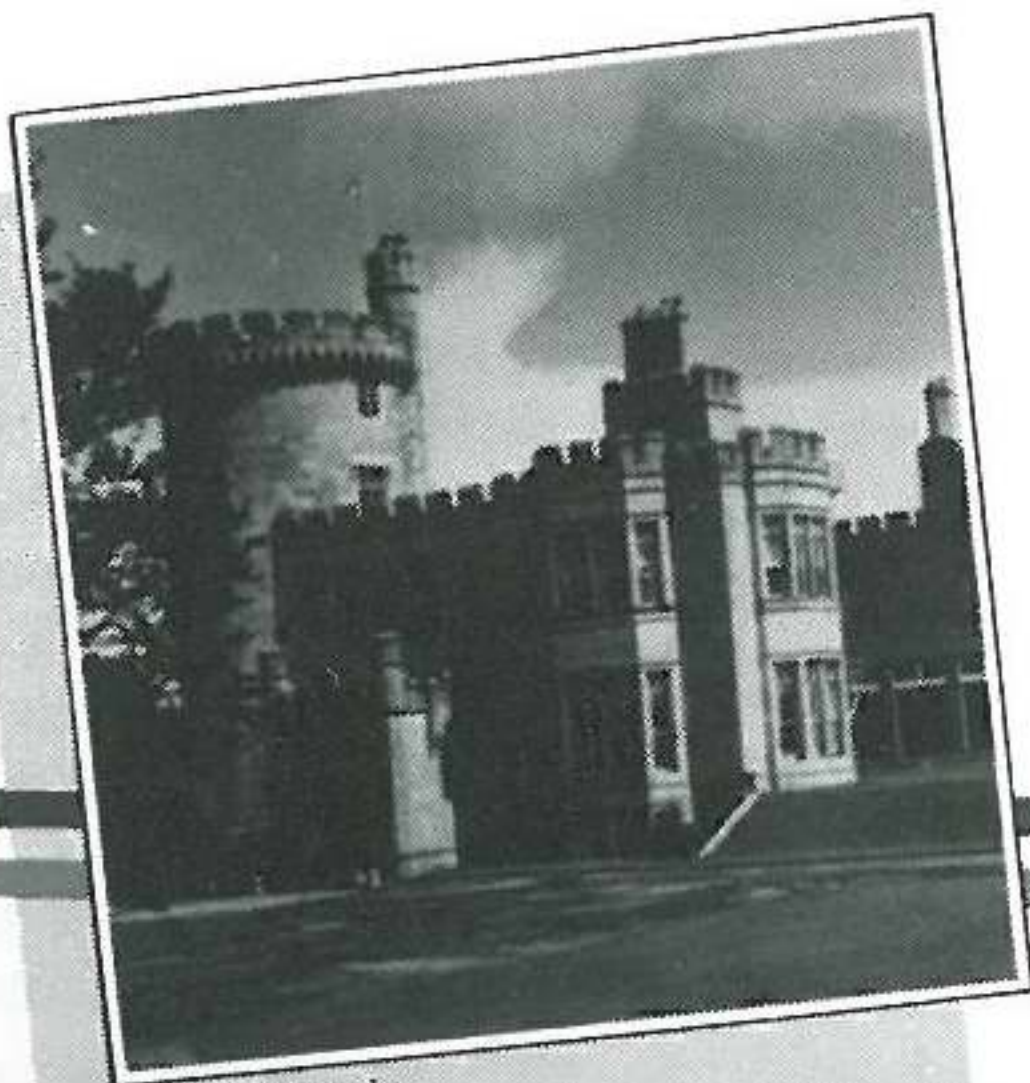
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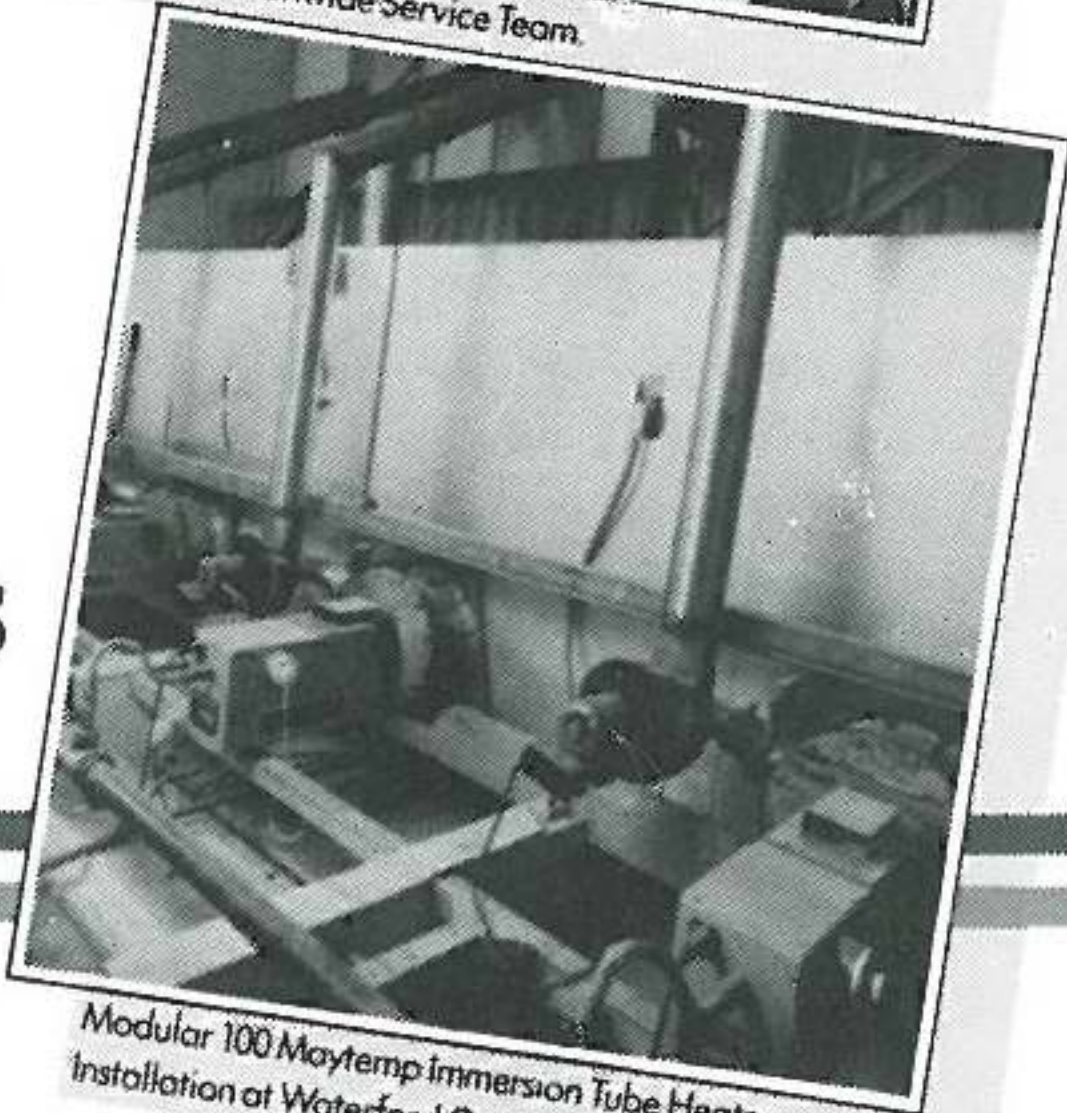
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QUIZTIME

By VINNY MOORE

THE march of time is evident in a striking way as the second senior and minor championships campaign of the G.A.A's second century advances towards a climax. It seems like only yesterday that we were revelling in the glory of Galway's long-awaited breakthrough in 1980 as they won their first All-Ireland in over half a century, yet here we are now almost six finals on, and awaiting further chapters in the never ending story of hurling's championship saga.

We will just have to wait and see what the 1986 games have in store for us. But to while away the time, why not join me in a look back at some of the events that make up the history of the senior and minor championships?

I'm not going too far back — I am not anxious to give away my age! Seriously, though, I believe that if I confine the QUIZTIME to comparatively recent events, younger readers will have a chance of joining in with genuine hopes of compiling the points.

Not that scoring points is very important in a friendly exercise like this. The real aim is enjoyment, and if a little new knowledge is gained here and there along the way so much the better.

At the same time, I know from the comments of readers, that our points

system at the end of each section is welcomed by many as a useful barometer as to how they stand in matters relating to Gaelic Games.

One final point, you may be a little taken aback by the fact that I have not made any reference at all to the 1986 finals. The reason is that you will find plenty of material on the games elsewhere in this issue, and some of the answers might also have been prominently displayed in the reviews had I posed some questions relating to the games.

Right, let's get the pencils out and begin with our first group of questions which I call:

RECENT FINALS

1. Galway won the 1980 All-Ireland senior final. But what county took the minor crown that year?
2. Kilkenny came "of age" in terms of All-Ireland senior titles by beating Galway in 1979. Who led the Noresiders to their 21st championship?
3. What was Offaly's winning margin in last year's final win over Galway — two points, three points or five points?
4. How many goals were scored in the last Liam McCarthy Cup tie — three, four or five?
5. Kilkenny brought the last All-Ireland minor hurling title to Leinster. What was the year of that triumph? It may help you to know the win was at the expense of a Galway team that had knocked out novel semi-finalists in Clare
6. Who refereed last year's senior final?
7. Name the goalkeepers in the

- senior final teams of 1980?
8. Pat Fleury captained Offaly in the Centenary Year final at senior. True or false?
9. Cork won the under-18 title last year. Who were runners-up?
-
10. Has any hurler been presented more than once with the Liam McCarthy Cup over the past ten years — from 1976?

Five points for each correct answer, plus a bonus of five for No. 7 if both goalkeepers are named correctly. Ink in five points if you get just one of the players in question correct in that section.

Total marks on offer: 55 points. **YOUR SCORE**

Now, let's see how much you know about the trophies to be competed for on the first Sunday of September '86. This is a short exercise of only five questions, but some may still find the session a little tricky.

THE CUPS

1. Most followers know that the senior final winners receive the Liam McCarthy Cup, and that Limerick were the first winners. But in what year was the trophy first brought to Leinster?
2. The trophy awarded to the minor champions has a somewhat shorter history, having been first awarded in 1949. What is the name of this Cup?
3. Who were the first winners of the minor trophy — Cork, Tipperary or Kilkenny?
4. Cork alone have won the Liam McCarthy Cup four years in succession. When did the Munster county establish that record?
-
5. It is almost eight years since the minor and senior trophies were won



on the same day by one county. Name the county that achieved that last double?

Five points on offer once again for each correct answer. No bonus question in this section, but you may help yourself to five additional points if all the questions are answered correctly.

So, this section could boost your score by 30 points.

YOUR RETURN

PICTURE SECTION

None of the hurlers in our team photograph on this page will be engaged in the All-Ireland senior final. But most played in the concluding round in the past.

1. This team selection is from what county?

2. The player fourth from left in the front row captained his county in a comparatively recent All-Ireland senior final. Who is he?

3. Who is the goalkeeper?

4. Who is the hurler with the helmet in the back row?

5. In what year did this particular county last win their provincial senior hurling championship?

A total of 30 points again possible here — five for each correct answer

and a bonus of five points for a 100% record. **YOUR TALLY**

To round off the QUIZTIME, a ten question review covering a wide variety of topics, but all based on All-Ireland senior or minor hurling finals.

GENERAL REVIEW

1. Cork have won more All-Ireland senior hurling titles than any other county. What is their tally of wins?

2. Where was the 1937 All-Ireland senior final played?

3. Munster was not represented in last year's senior final. Before that game when was the last season in which the South had not a direct involvement in the senior decider?

4. When did Tipperary win their last All-Ireland senior crown?

5. A new name went on the minor hurling roll of honour in this decade. Name the county that achieved the breakthrough?

6. A bonus question: Since 1970 there have been only two instances of goalkeepers leading their counties to final wins. Name the goalkeepers who captained successful teams in that period. There is no necessity to give the years

7. Have Dublin won an All-Ireland title in minor hurling?

8. Antrim have appeared in an All-Ireland senior final. True or false?

9. Who guarded the net for Limerick in their 1973 final win?

10. A difficult one this to finish on: This hurler scored 3-1 in a minor final, and went on to win five senior All-Ireland medals, and captained his county on his last winning appearance in the big game. One of the greatest score-getters of modern times. Who is he?

I will award ten points as a bonus for a correct answer to this last section. With a five points bonus on offer at No. 6, our final section could result in a glittering end to the Quiz with a bag of 65 points. All the other questions are five pointers.

YOUR BAG

HOW DID YOU MEASURE UP

The maximum points on offer in QUIZTIME total 180. Any reader who reaches that total should have my job in compiling a quiz!

160 points or more must be rated excellent. 120 to 160 earns a very good rating. 100 to 120: Good.

(Answers on page 48)

ISOSTAR

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DWANS have begun marketing a revolutionary new international sports drink on the Irish market called "Isostar". The result of extensive research and trials throughout the world, this new 'isotonic' drink, developed by Wander Ltd. — a leading Swiss manufacturer of nutritional products for sportspeople — meets a long felt need by athletes for a rapid-acting thirst-quencher.

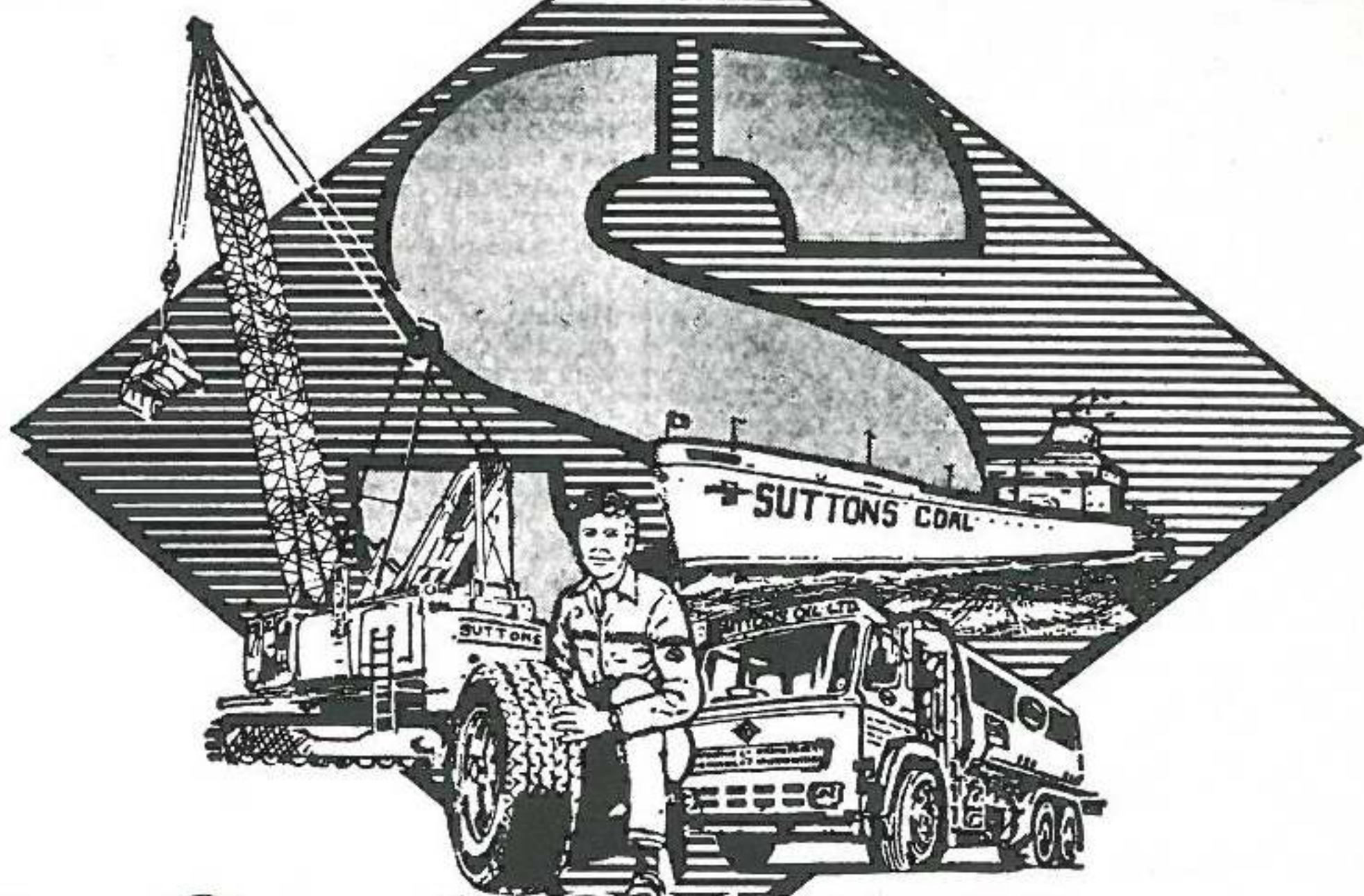
The importance of this development can be clearly seen when it is remembered that during their performance, athletes lose on average 0.7 to 1 litre of body fluid per hour through perspiration. Unless this loss is rapidly replenished body temperature rises, thirst increases and performance declines dramatically. Therefore, Isostar, with the same concentration of dissolved substances as blood (such a composition is called isotonic) can be absorbed by the body more quickly than any other liquid and overcomes this problem of slow fluid assimilation.

The launch of Isostar marks the beginning of a new era in sports nutrition in Ireland. It provides a solution to a real need felt by sports people here for a natural isotonic drink that would restore fluid, mineral salts and quench thirst faster than conventional drinks. Isostar represents that solution and with much greater awareness today about the importance of dietary habits and their correlation to performance in sport, this isotonic drink — containing no artificial colourings, flavourings or additives — will undoubtedly prove popular with sports people in Ireland.

Barney Rock (right) Dublin, All-Star and All-Ireland medal winner, is an Isostar convert and believes it should become an essential part of every sportsman's and woman's training programme.



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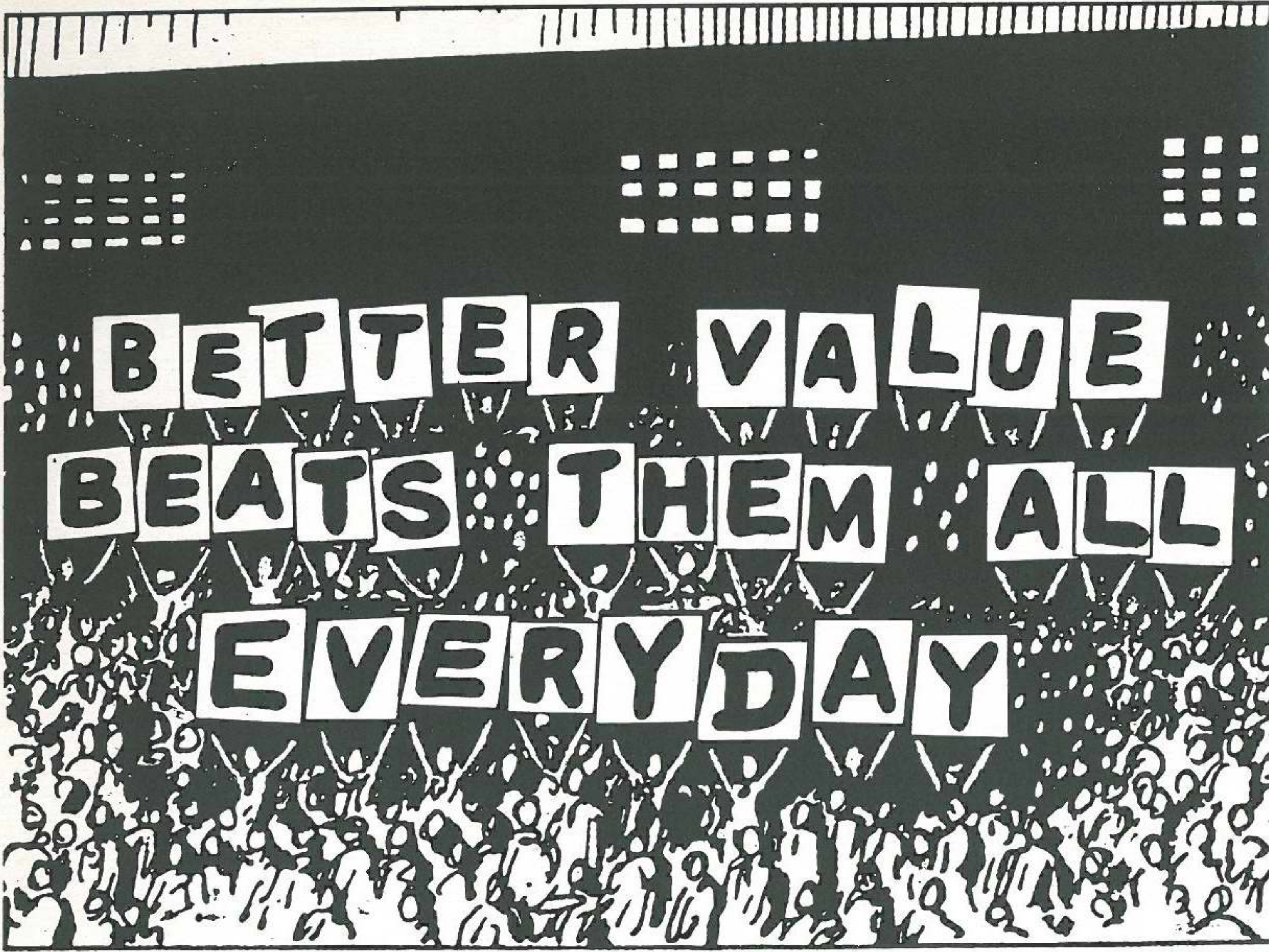
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CAMOGIE

KILDARE LILYWHITES TAKE LEINSTER CROWN

BY MARY MORAN

IT was refreshing to see the provincial junior championships throw up new faces. Perhaps the Leinster competition provided the most pleasing development with the novel pairing of Kildare and Carlow meeting in the final.

Backboned by nine players from the Myshall Club, the Carlow girls made little of the fact that it was their first championship final and ran their more fancied opponents to a single goal.

But Kildare, who are enjoying their best season ever, were not to be outdone. Coached by Limerick hurler, Pat Herbert, the Lilywhites added the Leinster crown to the National Junior League. Twenty years ago, Miriam Malone fielded at midfield for the Leinster senior team in the Gael-Linn. After sterling service over the years, it is great to see Miriam collect top prizes with her native county.

Roscommon bridged an eleven year gap to wrench the Connacht Junior title from Galway's grasp. Galway had, of course, to find a completely new side this season as the entire 1985 panel were upgraded following their All-Ireland victory. The strong running Patricia Finneran, K. Naughton, M. Byrne and Teresa Finneran were the architects of a sweet victory.

A young Clare side taught an inexperienced Cork twelve a few lessons in the game in a one-sided Munster decider. Whether this Clare side goes all the way or not, much will be heard of Maura McNicholas, Noleen Quinn, Catherine O'Loughlin and Pauline O'Brien.

Several counties fancied their chances in the Ulster campaign. However, not many envisaged a Derry v Tyrone final. The Derry side, powered by that fine centreback, Sarah Ann Quinn, lifted their third provincial title.

GRADAM TAILTE

Angela Downey confirmed that she is still the number one all-round athlete in camogie circles by recording a hat-trick of Gradam Tailte titles. On this occasion, she did not escape from the pack. Hotly pursued by the Roscommon contender, Patricia Finneran, Angela had to pull out the stops to win by four points.

Seventeen year old Deirdre Costello improved on her 1985 performance by eleven points to fill the third spot. Cork forward, Linda Mellerick was two points behind in fourth place.

The Feile na nGael in Clare was as enjoyable as ever. The only complaint I have with the weekend is that even with the best planning it is only possible to view a sample of the action.

Undoubtedly, the best game I witnessed was a Division One semi-final between Mullagh (Galway) and

Ballycallan (Kilkenny). These youngsters served up wondering fare and had the crowd cheering wildly. Rounds of applause were won by a diminutive, all action goalkeeper, Sinead Millea in the Ballycallan goal. Incidentally, her Dad, Joe was top-of-the-right for Kilkenny in the 1969 All-Ireland final.

FEILE SKILLS

A tall athletic looking player from St. Maur's Club in Rush, Michelle Cameron won the Feile Skills Competition with something to spare. Some distance behind in second place was Fiona O'Driscoll from Ballymacoda in East Cork. Clare Lynch from Davitt's Club in Galway held her nerve in a tie-breaker to claim third position.

The Commission which was established by the President on the instructions of Congress has commenced its work. Views and recommendations are being sought from clubs, county boards, sub-committees and individuals within the Association. In addition the opinions of other sporting bodies and similar organisations are being invited. Should any reader wish to make a contribution, it would be most welcome.



Edel Murphy, U.C.D. and Dublin, racing away from Anne Reddy, Rathnure and Wexford, in the final of the Mary Cahill Memorial Sevens. The home club, Rathnure became the first holders of the new annual trophy.



OFFALY lost more than their Leinster and All-Ireland senior hurling titles when they went down to Kilkenny in the provincial final in July. They reached the end of a wonderful era with the subsequent retirements of Damien Martin and Pdraig Horan.



•DAMIEN MARTIN

It was a pity that both men went out on a losing note, but that cannot take one whit from their superb records of service to the game and to Offaly.

Martin and Horan had unusually lengthy careers in the tricolour jersey, and it was entirely fitting that both were there when Offaly made their greatest breakthrough by winning the All-Ireland senior crown in 1981. They were then both in the autumn of their careers, and for

Hurling owes much to Damien Martin and Pdraig Horan as Offaly reach end of wonderful era.

BY PAUL FAY

Horan there was the double joy of leading the Midlanders to that historic win.

Martin was among the substitutes when the title was regained last year, but Horan was in there on the field of play, pulling his weight in real style. Indeed, he provided one of the best moments of the final win over Galway with a classic point three minutes from time for the score that really clinched the second McCarthy Cup win.

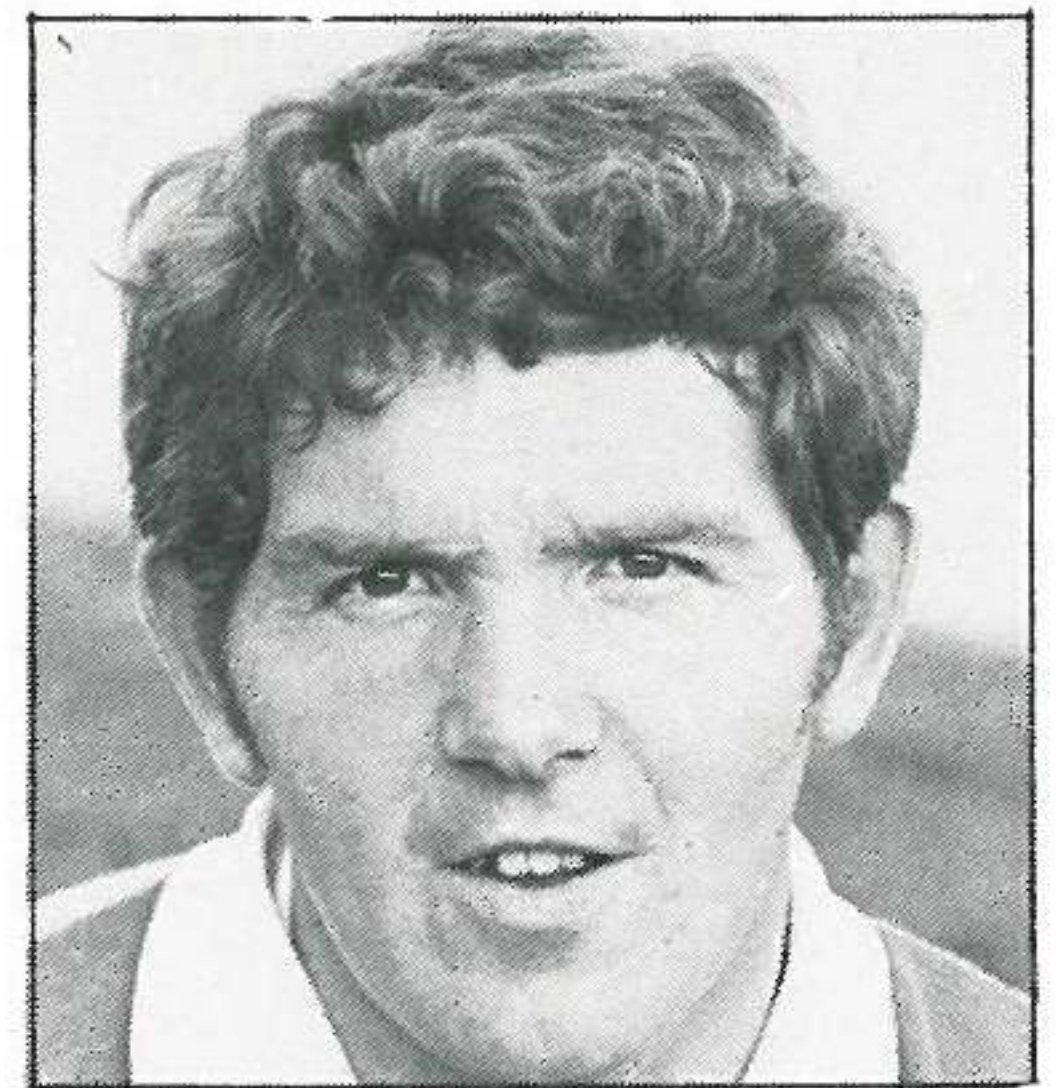
As a goalkeeper Damien Martin walked in no man's shadow. He was exceptional, and brought off a legion of great saves in a longer stint than most enjoy in such a demanding position. He had been out of the Offaly side for a lengthy spell when he stepped back to man the gap as deputy for his brilliant successor, Jim Troy, who was unable to line-out against Kilkenny because of a hand injury.

Horan ranks as a member of an elite group who "made it good" in defence and attack. Many will not remember, or have forgotten, that in his early days in top-class hurling the St. Rynagh's club man played as a back.

Not only that he held down the No. 3 spot in three Railway Cup final winning teams in the 'Seventies. Then, came his latter day success as a forward. He was an outstanding figure, and a great rallying force.

This has been something of a bitter-sweet year for Horan. Before

he decided to bow out of inter-county senior hurling he played a big part as team trainer in the historic first All-Ireland Colleges' senior hurling championship by Birr Community School last April.



•PADRAIG HORAN

Hurling owes much to Damien Martin and Pdraig Horan. Well done lads, and thanks for all the enjoyment you gave so many for so long over the years.

ONLY SCORER

Forwards generally appear to have lost the scoring touch in football, but one young man who is doing much to improve the position is Brendan Flynn. He is assured of a special place in the championship scoring statistics for this year thanks to an unusual feat with his county's under-21 team.

Flynn rattled over a majestic 1-11 for Meath against Offaly at Mullingar in a provincial semi-final,

Kevin O'Brien . . . Football's bright new star from Wicklow

but his tour-de-force was not enough to prevent his side from losing by a point. Apart from the merit of the Meath man's return, which was chalked up from play and free kicks, he had the somewhat surprising distinction of being the only member of his team to score in that game.

Brendan, of course, also played senior championship football with the Royal County this year.

KILKENNY AGAIN

It is impossible to keep Kilkenny out of the limelight. After their National League and Leinster championship double in senior hurling, their handballers have been getting in on the act.

Billy Bourke, who had a great record of successes as a juvenile and junior, won his first All-Ireland senior hardball crown recently. He is the first from the Noreside to win this particular crown since the glory days of the legendary J.J. Gilmartin in the

'Forties.

In hurling, Liam Fennelly's three goals against Offaly in the Leinster final ended another long famine for the county. As far as I can make out the full forward is the only hurler from any county to bag three goals in a decider since another Kilkenny great, Pat Delaney, found his way through three times against Offaly in 1969.

Liam is, of course, one of four brothers who have won provincial medals with Kilkenny in July, and all of whom have All-Ireland souvenirs over the various grades from minor to senior.

CONTRASTING FORTUNES

Kevin O'Brien, football's bright new star from Wicklow, must surely now appreciate the contrasting fortunes of sport.

He was one of the chief architects of Wicklow's shock win over Ford League champions Laois in the

Leinster senior championship. Then he and his colleagues experienced the other side of the coin as Meath knocked out the Garden County in the provincial semi-final at Newbridge.

The following day, Kevin was in Dublin to accept the B & I Line G.A.A. Personality of the Month award — one of the youngest to be honoured. He also became the first from Wicklow to win such a trophy.

Later in the month, Kevin was on duty for Baltinglass, the Wicklow senior football champions of 1985, when they shipped a shock defeat from Wicklow St. Patrick's by a point in the county senior championship.

The ups-and-downs of sport . . . yes that was the opening months of the season for O'Brien, who won a Railway Cup medal on St. Patrick's Day, and is undoubtedly a young forward destined to write many headlines in the years to come.

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CREGAN'S CREDENTIALS ARE CERTAINLY FIRST RATE . . . BUT CAN THE FORMER SHARPSHOOTER BRING MUNSTER TITLE TO SHANNONSSIDE?

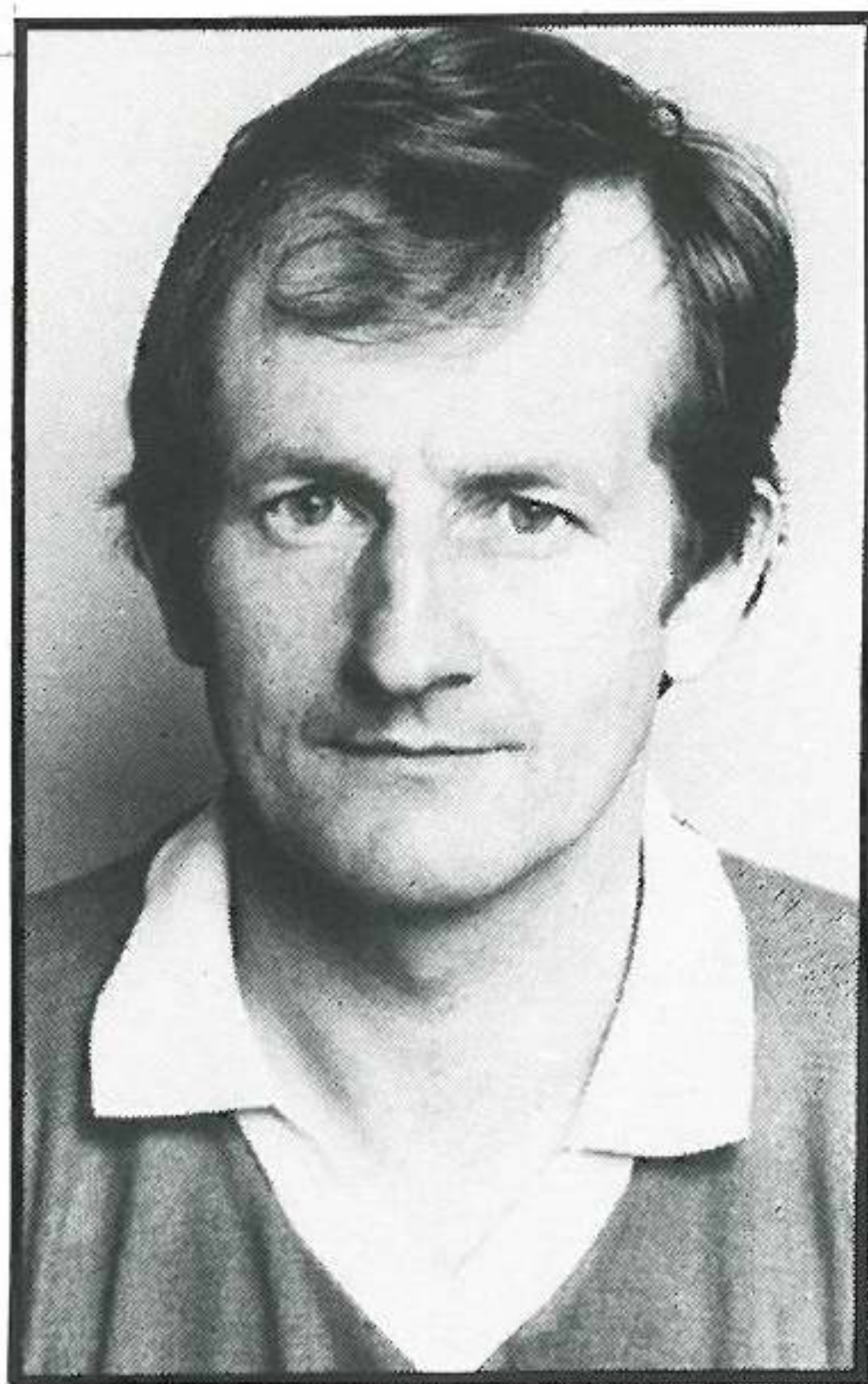
EAMONN Cregan, who has taken over the hot seat as Limerick's manager in senior hurling, has a lot going for him in his onerous new position. Probably best known nationally these days as a TV panellist on RTE's The Sunday Game, he had a distinguished career as a hurler, and he is not a newcomer either to the role of team manager.

Cregan was both a sharpshooting forward and a superb centre half back in Limerick's last year of glory in the McCarthy Cup in 1973. His goal-getting feats did much to earn the Shannonsiders' a place in the final against Kilkenny, but for that game he was moved back to centre half back.

The unexpected switch proved a big success as the Claughaun club man proved a decisive influence in blue-printing victory for Limerick's solitary All-Ireland championship at senior since 1940. The win also earned Eamonn his second national medal, as he captained Limerick C.B.S. to the Colleges' senior hurling championship of 1964.

Cregan, who won every top national medal in the sport, had stints as team manager with Clare seniors and Limerick under-21 hurlers in the recent past, and those experiences are bound to prove

invaluable in his latest job. Weigh in that expert knowledge as a hurler both as a forward and a back, and Cregan's credentials are certainly first-rate.



● *Eamonn Cregan, Limerick's new manager in senior hurling.*

Limerick's progress under his guidance will be closely watched. One can only hope that he will get the county back again soon into major title winning form, as the entire Southern

BY SEAMUS O'NEILL

scene has lost some of its old sparkle due to Cork's monopoly of the title.

Fair play to Cork! They deserve all they have won, but their run of five championships in a row, completed in July, is just a little monotonous for those of us who are not from Cork. The Munster campaign badly needs the stimulus of new faces and new champions.

Will Limerick be the county to make the change a reality? We shall await the answer of that question with keen anticipation.

TIME FOR RE-THINK

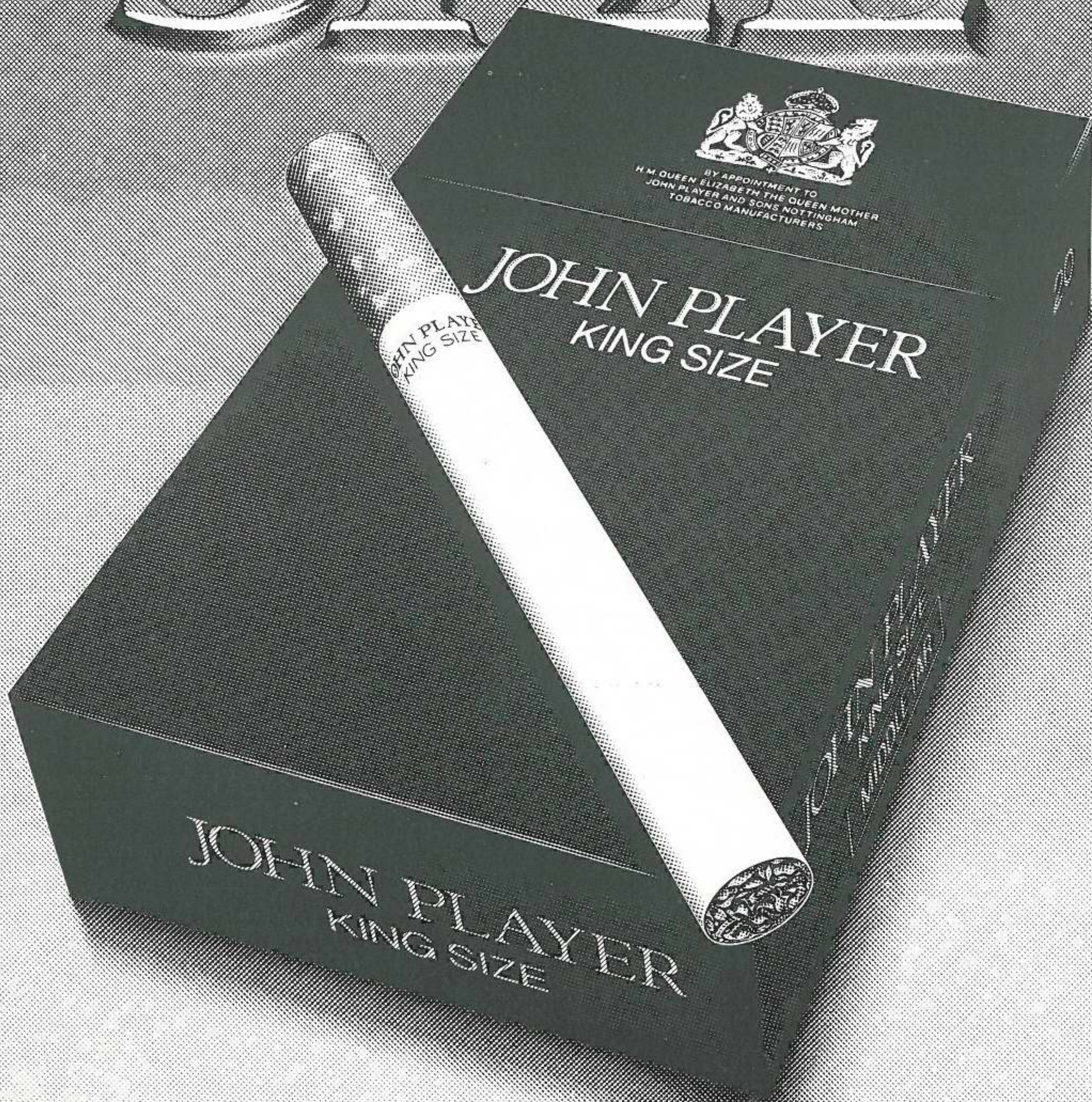
Has the time come for a radical re-think regarding the system that gives the All-Ireland "B" hurling champions a quarter-final place in the McCarthy Cup chase?

That must be a burning question following Kerry's 30 points drubbing from Galway at Ennis in this season's quarter-final.

Few could seriously have expected that the Kerry men would oust the Westerners, who have some of the most experienced campaigners in hurling. But there did appear grounds for anticipating a brave bid by the Kingdom after a good run when winning the "B" crown. Alas, it was not to be, and Kerry managed to score only 1-3.

■ TO PAGE 37

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●Kerry's Tom Spillane . . . his display against Cork in the Munster final will undoubtedly rank as one of the top individual performances of the year.

●FROM PAGE 35

The ancient game has made solid progress in Kerry, where it has a long tradition. It is good to know that so many are giving such support to hurling in the one Munster county without a provincial senior team.

But a crushing defeat like that inflicted by Galway will not help the game in Kerry. The match was also a costly exercise as well, all the more so in these days when money is so scarce for many worthwhile projects in Gaelic Games.

It is not easy to suggest a system to cater for counties like Kerry in senior hurling championship play. The arrangement of having the "B" champions enter a quarter-final tie looks sound on paper, but is obviously not working out.

Now would seem to be the time for another look at the position, and it might be more advisable in the long

run to confine activities for teams in the "B" grade to just that until there is more tangible evidence that such counties have progressed to a standard that will ensure a worthwhile challenge in the premier grade.

A TREBLE

The Quish brothers, Tom and John, of Limerick, must rank as the most successful doubles partnership in handball. Softball or hardball, 60 x 30 court, or the smaller American 40 x 20 court game, it seems to be all the same to the brothers from Hospital . . . they continue to capture the titles.

The gifted Limerick brothers have had their setbacks, of course. Last year, for instance, their bid for a treble of All-Ireland senior softball titles faltered at the final hurdle. They have come back superbly in the meantime, both on the American

court size and in the traditional game.

In the spring they won the 40 x 20 national junior title to qualify for senior status in this code. Then, later in the year they made it a treble of All-Ireland senior hardball championships.

Let's not forget either that the Quish brothers took the World 60 x 30 crown when the tests were held in Dublin.

Yes, John and Tom know what is needed for success at the top, and are adept at turning on the success formula.

GREAT DRAWS

The Munster senior hurling and football finals continue to prove great draws. The two games this year attracted a combined attendance of 73,893 — a wonderful tribute this to the popularity of Gaelic Games.

And talking of finals, Tom Spillane's display for Kerry in their successful defence of the provincial title at Killarney in July will undoubtedly rank as one of the top individual performances of the year.

This was a majestic showing from the youngest of the Spillane brothers. He excelled in all the arts of the game — positional sense, fielding and distribution.

I doubt if there will be a better showing this year than Tom's at centre half back against Cork. It was the best I have seen in a Southern decider in a long time.

TOUGH ON CLARE

It must have been heartbreaking for Clare supporters as they journeyed home from Killarney after the Munster final loss to Cork. Defeat at that stage of the championship is unfortunately becoming a way of life, and the last Munster final win in 1932 recedes further into the dim mists of time.

But I say cheer up, Clare. Victory alone may be concrete, but there is much hope for the future in the gallant loss to the Rebels. There is plenty of material on which to build in the present side, and with perseverance, success will come.

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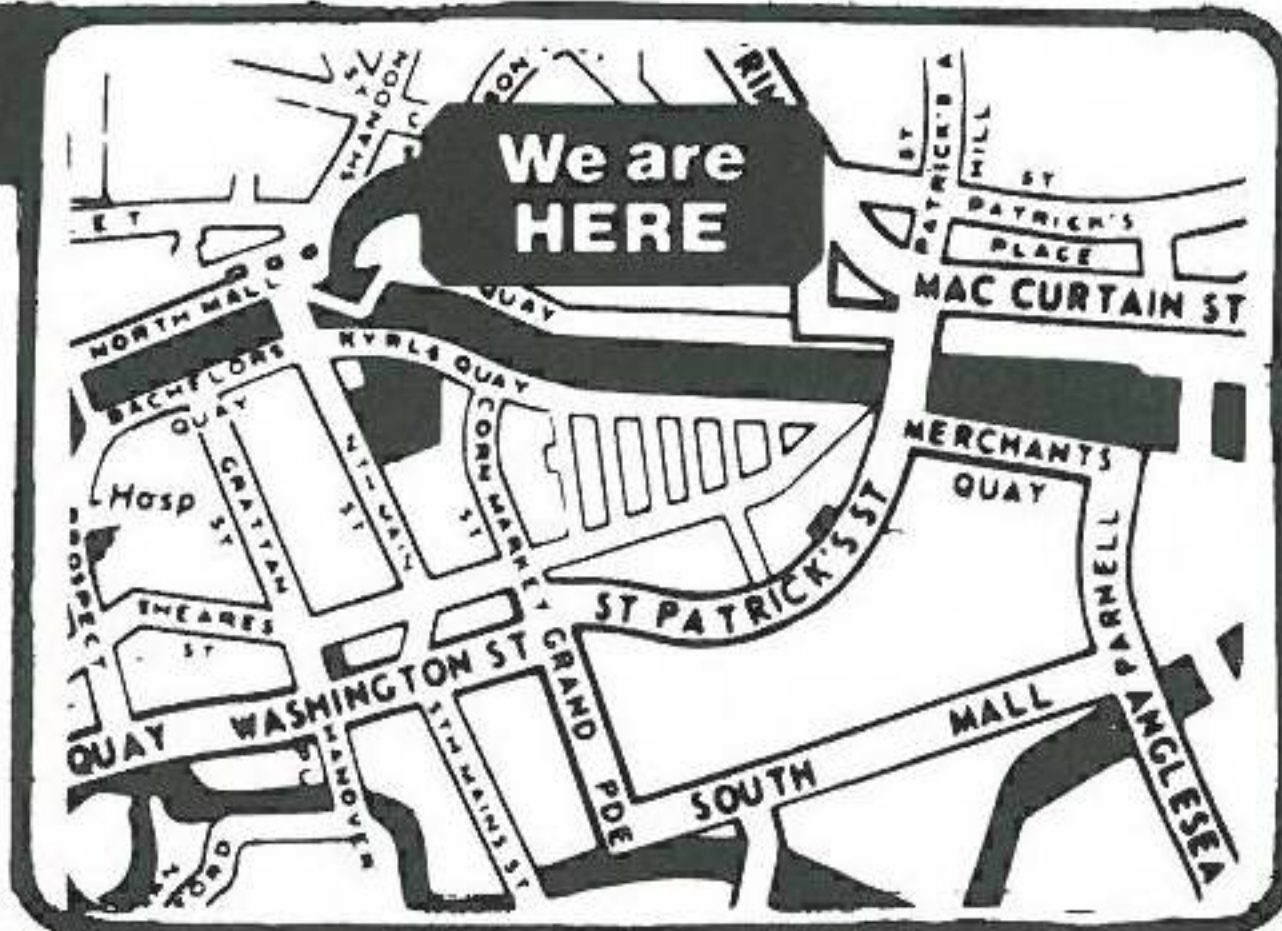
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COMMENT

VENUES made news in more ways than one in the West in recent times — or more especially in Galway. We had the request for the use of Pearse Stadium for a European Cup soccer match in October, and then the selection of Semple Stadium, rather than Croke Park as most had anticipated, as the setting for Galway's All-Ireland semi-final with Ford Hurling League champions Kilkenny.

I am not going to delve here into the case for and against the playing of soccer games at Gaelic Grounds, except to make two salient points.

One: The G.A.A. has a long-standing policy in this regard, and there is little point in anyone looking for a change of direction virtually on the eve of a particular soccer fixture.

Two: Would the more progressive move for the soccer legislators in all areas not be concerted efforts to bring up their own facilities to the standard required to cater for European games?

As for the decision to give Thurles the "nod" as venue for the Galway-Kilkenny semi-final over Croke Park — that is water under the bridge now. Even so, it is still not too late to call for a regular policy for All-Ireland semi-finals so that counties will know

where they stand right from the start of the year.



***LIAM O'NEILL**

... still in charge of the Mayo footballers.

No one will convince me that All-Ireland semi-finals in hurling and football should be played anywhere but at Croke Park. That is the most central and most natural venue in most cases. Certainly, it is the venue that the majority of followers nowadays are most used to travelling to for national games.

I appreciate that in the case of this year's hurling semi-finals, the playing of both games at headquarters on the same day would have created

problems with regard to the minor semi-finals. However, I still maintain it would have made sounder sense to have put both senior ties on the same bill in Dublin, and made alternative arrangements for the under-18 ties.

INTERESTING LINK

When Galway and Tyrone met the other week in the first of the season's All-Ireland senior football semi-finals, there was an interesting link with their only other encounter in the premier competition. That was in 1956 when Tyrone won the Ulster championship for the first time, and lost on their Croke Park debut to a Galway team that went on to take the title.

That Western outfit included Jack Mahon, who is now so well known as a writer on Gaelic Games and also as a legislator. Jack is, of course, Editor of our popular JUNIOR DESK, and he is at present the Chairman of the Galway Football Board.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

These are days when Centenaries are in the spotlight in Mayo, with Garrymore and Ballina Stephenites two clubs to the forefront in this regard.

● TO PAGE 41

Kevin Malone looks to the West

VENUES IN THE NEWS IN GALWAY

G.A.A.

ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

7th September, 1986

SENIOR — 3.15 p.m.

GAILLIMH v CORCAIGH

MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

CORCAIGH v UIBH FHÁILÍ

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● FROM PAGE 39

Garrymore recently held special celebrations to mark their Golden Jubilee Year. Founded in 1936, the club can look back with pride on impressive achievements both on and off the playing fields.

A centre-piece of the playing feats was the winning of the Connacht senior football championship in 1981. In other areas, the club can point to their own playing pitch, and to a community centre with all facilities.

Garrymore took their first Mayo county senior football title in 1974, and that was the start of a wonderful era. Three senior crowns in succession were captured, and Garrymore pushed their record of county championships to six overall with their latest triumph in 1982.

Garrymore contested the All-Ireland club final of 1982, when they lost to Nemo Rangers, of Cork.

Stephenites have a much longer history — the club is 100 years old this year. Their celebrations have been marked by an authoritative history, *The Goal of Victory* by Terry Reilly.

But hopes of having the Mayo trophy for the county senior football championship at the end of the

Centenary Year will not be realised. Ballina won the county crown last year, but went out early in the 1986 campaign to Crossmolina, who had three points to spare at the final whistle.

SAME TEAM

Still on Mayo affairs, and the county senior footballers will be guided in their up-coming bid to regain lost glory in the new season's Ford League by last season's management team. This is composed of Liam O'Neill, manager, Brian McDonald, Seamus Gallagher and Billy Fitzpatrick.

Mayo won Division II of the Ford League last season, and so will be back again with the big boys in next season's test.

NO JOY

Leitrim will not look back with much joy on the Connacht senior football championship, but I hope that those people who keep tabs on scoring feats will still not overlook what I consider an excellent feat in this regard by a Leitrim man.

Michael Martin was in excellent scoring form as his county went down to Galway in a provincial semi-final at Pearse Stadium. Twice in that game he faced up to the task of taking

penalty kicks, and exacted the maximum reward for each. Martin also scored three points, and his return of 2-3 from that single championship appearance must rank as one of the best accomplishments of its kind in the knock-out chase this year.

SAD LOSSES

The G.A.A. in Connacht suffered a sad double loss with the deaths within days of each other of Padraig 'Pa' Burke, of Galway, and Michael O'Callaghan, of Roscommon.

"Pa" Burke died while attending the Connacht senior football final at Roscommon. A member of the Annaghdown club, he was a long serving secretary of the Galway football board.

Michael O'Callaghan, who died after a short illness, was Roscommon County Board Chairman for some thirteen years. Editor of the *Roscommon Herald*, he also served with distinction on other local and national organisations.

The G.A.A. not only in Connacht, but nationally is the poorer for the passing of 'Pa' Burke and Michael O'Callaghan. They were wonderful servants of the Association.

We extend sincere sympathy to their families.



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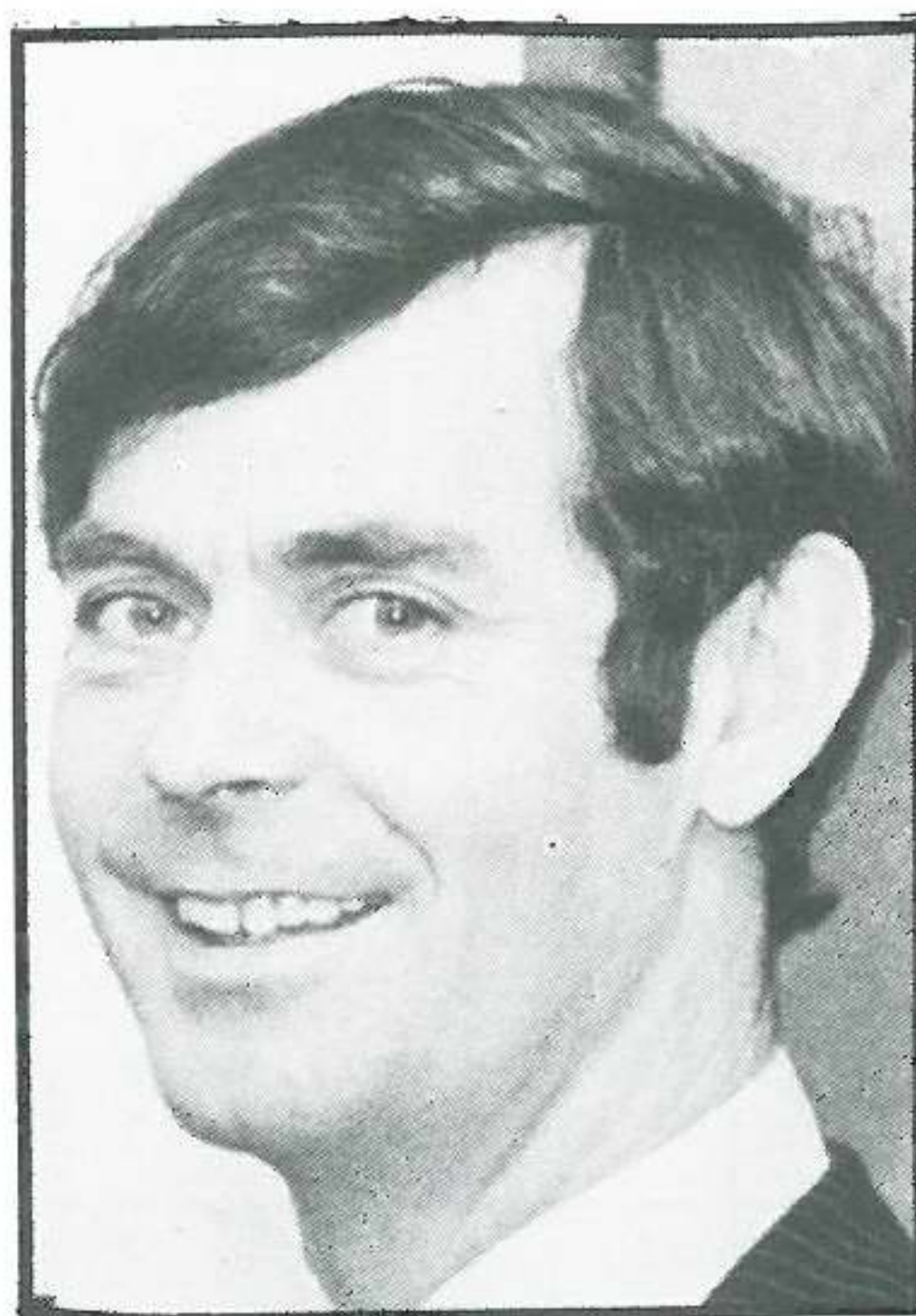
CONAGHAN TAKES OVER IN DONEGAL HOT SEAT

A CHANGE of team manager is common enough these days in other sports, and the move is not exactly unknown in Gaelic Games. Indeed, Donegal, who went out in the first round of the Ulster senior football championship in May, have decided on a new team boss — Tom Conaghan. He takes over from Brian McEniff, and will serve for a three year term.

McEniff guided Donegal to their 1983 Ulster senior championship win, and he was also the manager behind the Railway Cup final successes of Ulster in 1983 and 1984. His three year term in Donegal's hot seat ended with the county's elimination from this year's Northern series.

Brian decided to seek re-election to the post. He had one challenger, Conaghan, of Donegal Town. The clubs of the county had a vote in the selection, as did the County Executive. In the end, Conaghan was the one who found favour, and he will now be striving to get Donegal back into a position to challenge realistically for national honours.

Conaghan was the team-manager of the under-21 side that beat Roscommon at Carrick-on-Shannon in 1982 to bring the first All-Ireland inter-



● **BRIAN McENIFF . . . under his guidance Donegal provided their followers with many memorable moments.**

county title to Donegal. He has also had success in the position with Donegal Town, and was their manager in their county senior title winning teams of 1982 and 1984.

Last year Donegal opened their Ford League programme by drawing with Mayo, but eventually failed to win promotion from Division II. Ironically, Mayo headed the Divisional table, and Dublin came second, a point clear of Donegal. Mayo and the Dubs were promoted.

Conaghan has a difficult assignment, judging by Donegal's indifferent form in the senior grade in the first half of the year, and the dismal showing of the county's under-21 squad in the Ulster final against Derry recently. Donegal lost that game by a whopping thirteen points.

On the other hand, Donegal teams have captured two All-Ireland Vocational Schools' titles in recent years, and last summer the county took the Ulster minor crown. So, there is promising talent on the way up.

It will be interesting, then, to watch Donegal's progress. Their return to

● **TO PAGE 45**

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●FROM PAGE 43

the top as a power in the North would be welcome, as the more teams we have contesting realistically for the leading titles the better and the healthier the game in general.

Here it is appropriate to pay tribute to Brian McEniff for his great work for Donegal football. Both as a player and team manager he served the county really well, and under his guidance in the hot seat, Donegal provided many memorable moments for their followers, even if national honours passed them by. So, thanks for all the efforts, Brian.

ALL-IRELAND FOR DOWN

Although the top All-Ireland finals have still to come, Down has already had cause to celebrate a recent national success. Here, however, I am singling out not a team success, but an individual one.

Jimmy Stewart, of the Aghaderg G.F.C. and Ballyvarley Hurling club, was chosen as the Ciba-Geigy Clubman of the Year. Well done, Jimmy!

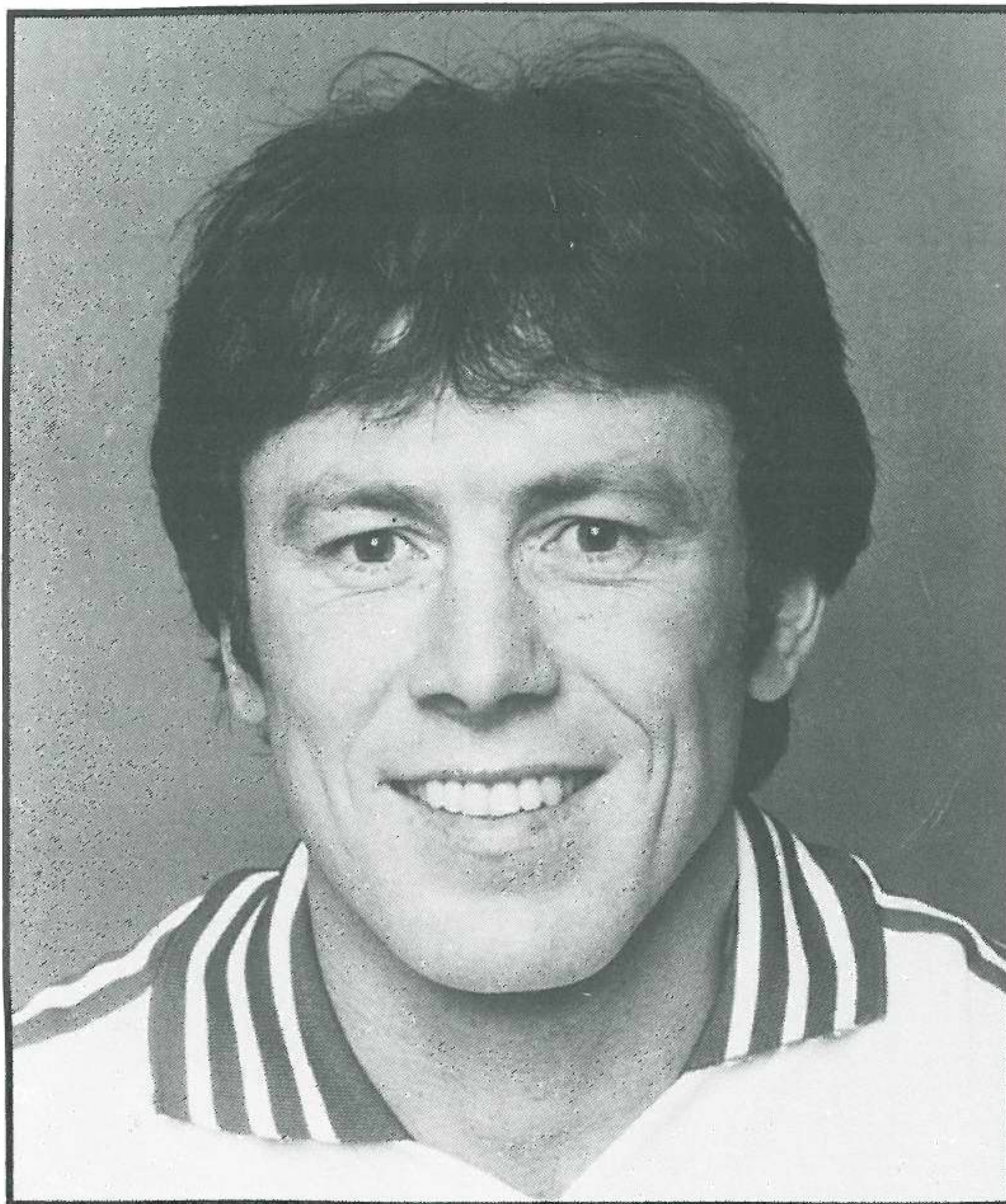
HURLING BREAK-THROUGH

There are those who would have us believe that hurling is losing its grip — even in the game's strongholds. Don't tell that to a company of young men from Derry, who have made a wonderful break-through in the ancient game, and carved out history as well.

Derry's under-21 hurlers surprised many by drawing the Ulster final with Down at Ballycran in Down. Then, they went one better at Lavey in the replay, where Gerald McGillion and Noel McGovern in defence, and Seamus O'Neill and the Downey brothers in attack, did much to blueprint a 3-9 to 1-2 win, and Derry's first provincial crown in the grade.

It was also the county's first provincial championship in hurling since the early days of the century, and a just reward for those dedicated officials who have been working tirelessly in promoting the ancient game.

Another indication of the improving standards in Derry is that their minors gave Antrim a great run



●EUGENE McKENNA . . . one of Tyrone's outstanding footballers for many years.

in the Ulster final. Indeed, but for some rank bad finishing they might well have won instead of finishing two points adrift.

Yes, exciting days in hurling in Derry.

MONAGHAN, TOO

Still on hurling in an area where we more readily think of football rather than the stick game — Monaghan. Their county senior final was played recently, and ended in a successful defence of the title by Clontibret at the expense of Monaghan Harps.

Tyrone's rags-to-riches story in senior football championship fare this year has earned Eugene McKenna a place apart in the county's rankings. He is now the only

Tyrone man to captain two provincial senior title winning teams.

Eugene, who plays his club football with Augher, captained Tyrone to the Centenary Year title, having earlier that season led Ulster to the Railway Cup.

He has been one of Tyrone's outstanding footballers for some years. I remember Eugene as an incisive centre half forward in the minor side, captained by his brother, Dessie, that beat Kildare for the 1973 All-Ireland title.

As far as I can recall he has been playing senior since 1974, and although Kevin McCabe was the newspaper men's "Man of the Match" for the Ulster final, I made Eugene McKenna the top player on the day.

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

IT IS a dimly wet day as I pen these notes. It is raining cats and dogs. Another day of torrential rain. Let's hope that by the time this reaches print the rain will have stopped. But it has been a bad Summer.

CUT-OUT

Our cut-out for this issue is Kilkenny's stylish half-back Joe Hennessy. A man of steel. For years his bouncy style has spurred on the black and amber. He follows in the great tradition of Kilkenny half-backs like Seamus Cleere and Martin Coogan. These players always seem to be able to create space and to have enough time to clear. Hallmark of the truly great.

COLM O'ROURKE

Tribute must be paid to Meath's Colm O'Rourke who had the patience, endurance and desire to stay the course in the face of terrible adversity to win his **FIRST** Leinster Medal.

No man ever deserved one more. There is no more loyal county in Ireland to Gaelic football than the Royal County. Despite many near-miss reverses since 1970 they have soldiered on losing agonisingly to Dublin a number of times and before that to Offaly. But they kept at it. None more than Colm, despite cruel injury and successive operations to correct his damaged leg. When all came good Colm was one of the architects of a memorable success. Well done.

END OF OFFALY

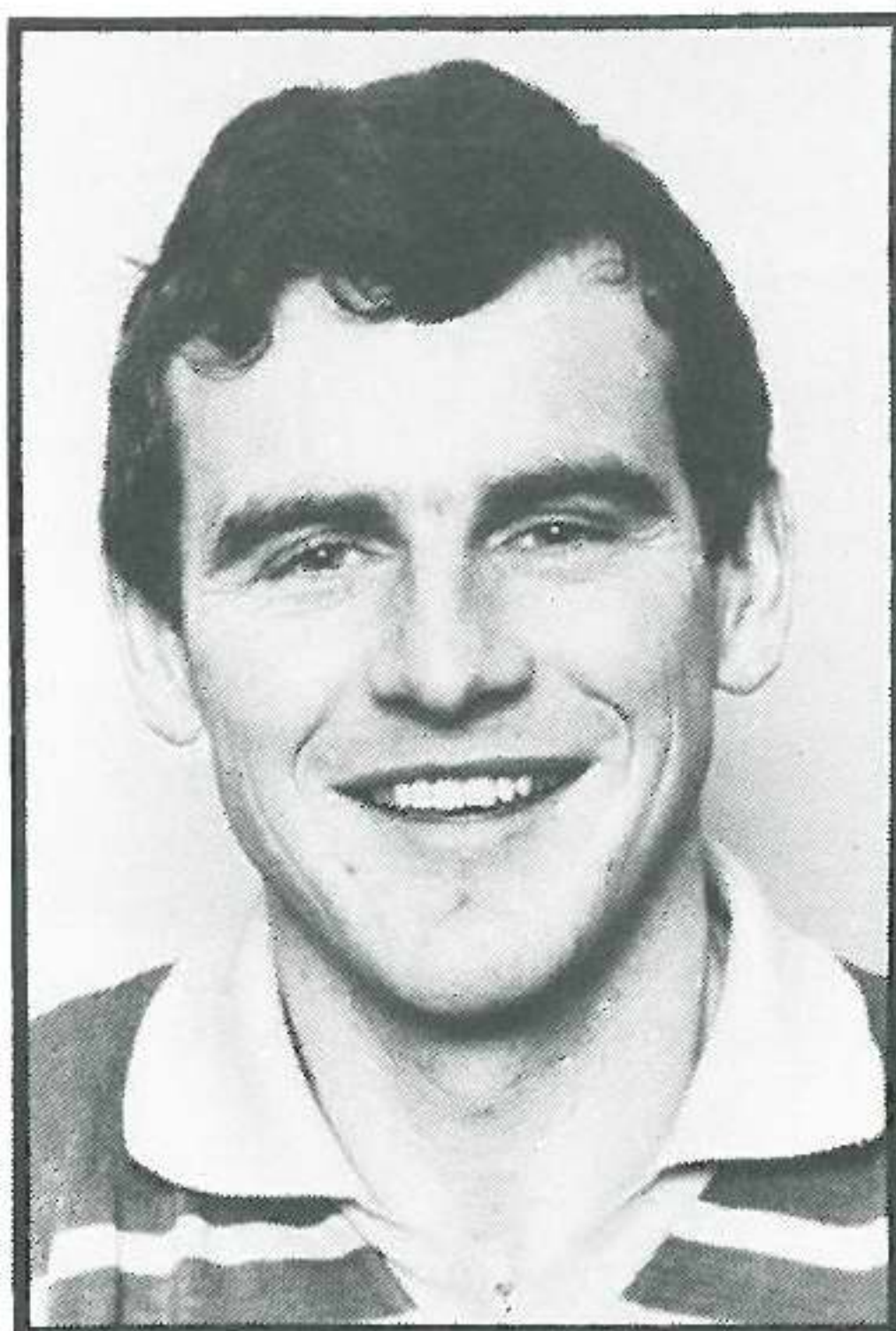
And Offaly surrendered their Leinster and All Ireland Hurling titles to Kilkenny. But not without a fight. As always Wexford put up a typically marvellous fight before

battles every year with Kilkenny, Tipperary, Galway, Cork and Offaly in latter times. But it is against Kilkenny they have really shone over the years, and they did so again this year and their day is not too far off. One man I'm sorry to see gone from the scene is that prince of hurling Tony Doran.

PROVINCIAL FINAL PROGRAMMES

One of the aspects of provincial finals I look forward to most is the souvenir programmes produced for these occasions. Having launched the idea myself here in Connacht way back in 1971 it gives me great satisfaction to see the continuous high standard of the productions. Pride of place this year goes to the Munster S.F. Final one — a masterpiece, commemorating as it did the 50 years history of Fitzgerald Stadium. The S.H. final programme produced by Fr. Seamus Gardiner was very good too. As usual, Paddy Flanagan's Leinster Final productions were in his best style. I always love the statistical sections in the Ulster programme (others please note). But the Connacht Final programme is not what it used to be. There were too many mistakes and little or no statistics. It will need a little bit of input from a Committee as Christy Loftus (Mayo) seems to be the only one working at it now. A committee like the Munster Final one is necessary.

Finally we here had a tough time of



● **COLM O'ROURKE**
... no man ever deserved a Leinster medal more.

surrendering to Kilkenny. I have great regard for Wexford, they have a swashbuckling style that endears them to friend and foe. Over the years in hurling since they returned as a force in the late 40's and early 50's they have been involved in titanic

it in Connacht recently, we lost Roscommon's Michael O'Callaghan, the Galway Football Board Secretary Pa Burke and Dunmore MacHale Stalwart Mickey Walsh. All three were superb G.A.A. men. Men you cannot replace. I walked in the guard of honour for all three and felt privileged to do so. Go ndeanaidh Dia Trocaire ortha.

BOOK REVIEWS

Everything they do in Killarney is well done. I remember the marvellous club history of the Legion club. Now comes the history of the other club in Killarney — the Dr. Crokes.

The Dr. Crokes Gaelic Century is a superb book. It was launched in June by Sean O'Siochain who chose the occasion to say a few strong words about G.A.A. men in Kerry and elsewhere who were promoting a professional image for elite players. He denounced this type of promotion being mouthed by a few privileged people and so do I. I notice they always stop short of saying they want to be paid. It is a voluntary organisation, boys, and nobody is forcing you to play with whips!

Anyhow the Crokes history is great stuff and you'll see Munster Co. Chairman Michael O'Connor running right through it. He must have been one of its greatest clubmen, and I don't mean that he is promoting himself. If this man isn't the first G.A.A. president from Kerry then I'm a Dutchman. It abounds with legendary men like Dick Fitzgerald, Paul Russell, Billy Myers, Teddy O'Connor, Dan Kavanagh, Tadhg Lyne, Donie O'Sullivan, Tom Long, Eamonn Fitzgerald (the latter two had a big hand in the production), not to mention the legendary Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan who trained Kerry for 9 All Ireland S.F. finals and

won 8 (Mick O'Dwyer has still to equal that having trained Kerry to 9 finals winning 7). This is one of the best club histories I have seen. Big, well printed, great photos old and new, excellently laid out, every club in Ireland should have a copy and all schools would do well to have it in their libraries, in two words *get it*. Price £7.50 includes postage. Remember it is a massive 250 page book (big page size) and copies can be had from:

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THE MAILBAG

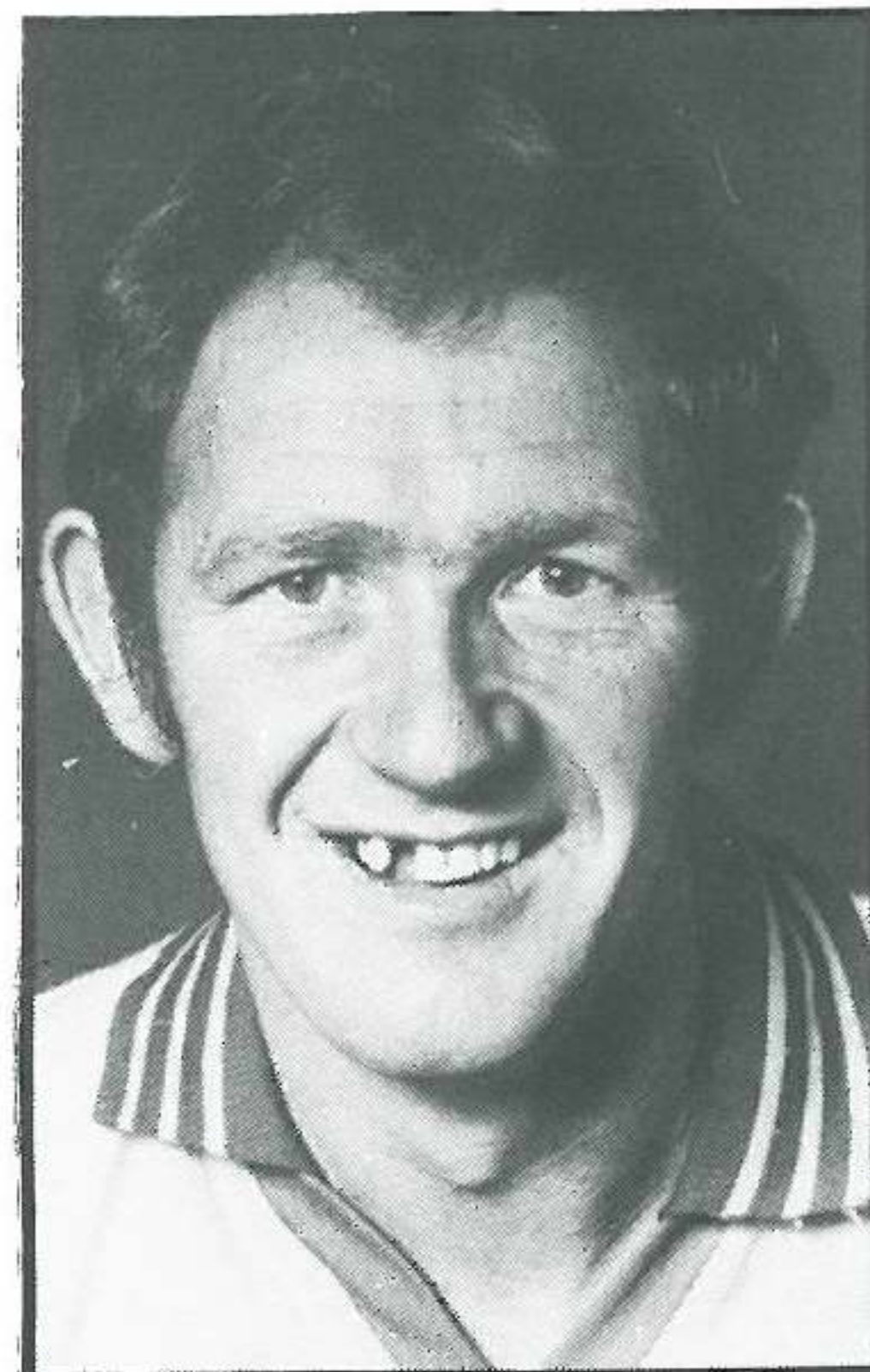
Patrick Cadogan, Lake, Cape Clear, Skibbereen, Co. Cork is looking for Connacht Final programmes from 1971-76 inclusive.

Gerry Corbett, Ard Aoibhinn, Athenry, Co. Galway wants the following programmes: 1954 Galway V Mayo S.F.C.; 1954 Galway V Sligo S.F.C. (Connacht Final); 1957 Galway V Tyrone N.F.L.; 1958 Galway V Leitrim S.F.C. (Connacht Final); 1963 Galway V Leitrim S.F.C. (Connacht Final); 1960 Galway V Kerry S.F.C. (All Ireland semi-final); 1955 Galway V Roscommon S.F.C.; 1966 Galway V Roscommon S.F.C.; 1972 Galway V Roscommon S.F.C. (Draw); 1966 Galway V Leitrim S.F.C.

Aidan Grennan, Killina, Rahan, Co. Offaly, writes Dear Jack, I hope you are keeping well. You may be able to trace a couple of old issues of Gaelic Sport magazine which I would really love to get. These are Sept. 1961 when Offaly contested their 1st Senior Football Final, and also an issue sometime in the early 1970s, when you had a letter to "Junior Desk" from the late Pat Carroll, who died recently. A friend recently told me he

remembers this letter to Junior Desk even though he couldn't say exactly when it was. If I could get either issues, I would be willing to pay the asking price. However, if this is not possible I would like to get a photocopy of Pat Carroll's letter, no matter what topic it was on. I know you will help on this matter if you can. Please reply anytime you can.

Aidan, I'll have to look through my



●TONY DORAN
... a prince of hurling.

scrapbooks to find the late Pat Carroll's letter and I'm privileged to hear that Pat wrote to us. When we locate it we will reprint the letter as well as sending you a copy. Perhaps the editor may be able to dig up the Sept. '61 issue. J.M.

John Maher, Church Rd., Bunclody, Co. Wexford wants to know how to join the Dublin Fan Club.

The Dublin Supporters Club is what you are after. But how about following Meath this year John! J.M.

JUNIOR DESK ★

Patrick Vehent, 117 Cote de Beule, 78540 Maule is a programme collector and wants details of the programmes for the international series between Ireland and the Australian rules team in Australia this coming Autumn.

OTHER LETTERS

Paul Murray, Hodson Bay, Athlone thinks there should be a quiz in Gaelic Sport and feels there should be a special league in F. & H. for the weaker counties "Counties like Kilkenny in football must get very discouraged."

Nuala Redmond, Flat 5, 76 Lr. Drumcondra Rd., Dublin 9 is so proud of Laois's N.F.L. title win, "Isn't it great to see Tom "Curly" Prendergast back again?"

Yes it is. J.M.

Kieran Rosney, 181 Grotto View, The Balteries, Athlone thinks the All-Stars selectors do a very poor job in their selections.

Tony Maher, 20 Pairc Mhuire, Tullow, Co. Carlow sent me on a Carlow S.H. Final programme and was glad to see Brendan Lynskey and Silvie Linnane getting All Star

JUNIOR DESK ★

awards. My thanks too to Gerry Pender our old friend from Wicklow for all the copies of the Wicklow People he sent me at the time of the games versus Laois and Meath.

My final letter this month comes from an old opponent from Kerry **Tomas O'Luining (Tom Long) from Ballydowney, Killarney** who sent me on for review the History of the Dr. Crokes G.A.A. club in Killarney reviewed earlier. It was a pleasure to meet Tom, his brother Tim and hosts of great Kerry men like Teddy O'Connor, the Bawn for the first time (Paddy Bawn Brosnan to the uninitiated) Jackie Lyne, Pat Spillane, Jack O'Shea, Domo Lyne (son of Tadhgie), Ger Lynch and that greatest of all Kerry supporters Mick Moran of Limerick (cousin of Ogie) in Killarney at the Munster F. Final v Cork. So much happened on that weekend that I intend to devote a special article to it in the Christmas issue. Which reminds me I still have to do that interview with Matt Connor of Offaly. Finally that Down v Galway 1968 All Ireland semi-final programme kindly given by Michael Anderson goes to the reader who sends on the names of the captains of

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the Down and Galway teams of that day. Entries to be in at address at end of column before Oct. 1st.

**PARTEEN CENTENARY
1885-1985**

Another club history published 1985 (Sept.) came to hand recently. Copies costing £5 (including postage) can be had from **Donal O'Rian, Tuairin na Molt, Ballykeelrun, Parteen, Co. Clare.**

There was also a fine souvenir programme of the official opening of the Peadar Earley memorial park in Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon on 18th May this year. Copies of this can be had by sending on £1.50 (incl postage) to **Sean Brennan, Sec., Michael Glavey G.A.A. Club, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon.** The Earley brothers Dermot and Paul have fine contributions in it. That's it for this month. Please keep writing to me at,

**Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
139A Lower Drumcondra Rd.,
Dublin 9.**

Note the new address and I'll write about the Munster Football Final again, I promise.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

● FROM
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**ANSWERS
RECENT FINALS**

1. Tipperary, who beat Wexford in the final. 2. Ger Fennelly. 3. Two points. 4. Three goals. The result was 2-11 to 1-12 for Offaly. 5. 1981. 6. George Ryan (Tipperary). 7. Michael Conneely (Galway) and Tommy Quaid (Limerick). 8. True. 9. Wexford. 10. No.

THE CUPS

1. 1922. Kilkenny beat Tipperary in that season's final, which was not played until 1923. 2. The Irish Press

Cup. 3. Tipperary, who beat Kilkenny. 4. 1941-44 inclusive. 5. Cork, who beat Kilkenny in minor and senior in 1978.

PICTURE SECTION

1. Limerick. 2. Sean Foley, who led Limerick in their 1980 final against Galway. 3. Tommy Quaid. 4. Eamonn Cregan. 5. 1981, when they were later beaten by Galway in an All-Ireland semi-final replay.

GENERAL REVIEW

1. Cork won their 25th title in

Centenary Year. 2. Killarney, as Croke Park was not available as the Cusack stand was then in the course of construction. 3. The 1981 summit between Offaly and Galway. 4. 1971. 5. Galway, champions for the only time in 1983. 6. Paddy Barry (Cork), 1970, and Noel Skehan (Kilkenny), 1972. 7. Yes, Dublin won the championship four times, the last success in 1965. 8. True. They were beaten by Cork in 1943. 9. Seamus Horgan. 10. Charlie McCarthy, who scored 3-1 against Laois at minor in 1964, and was captain of Cork's winning side in 1978.

GAELIC SPORT



JOE HENNESSY **Kilkenny**

AFTER ten years as a senior inter-county hurler, Joe continues to be one of Kilkenny's brightest stars. He had a superb game at right half back in the Ford League final win

over Galway in May, and sparkled again as Offaly were beaten in the recent Leinster final.

A product of Kilkenny C.B.S., he won All-Ireland medals at minor and under-21, and has had a successful time at senior. His record with the county includes, in addition to this year's triumphs, three All-Ireland

medals, and a League souvenir for 1982.

Joe, who was 30 in January, and stands just under 6ft., has also four Bank of Ireland All Star awards, and a Railway Cup Medal. He has won All-Ireland club medals with James Stephens as a forward and a half-back.



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