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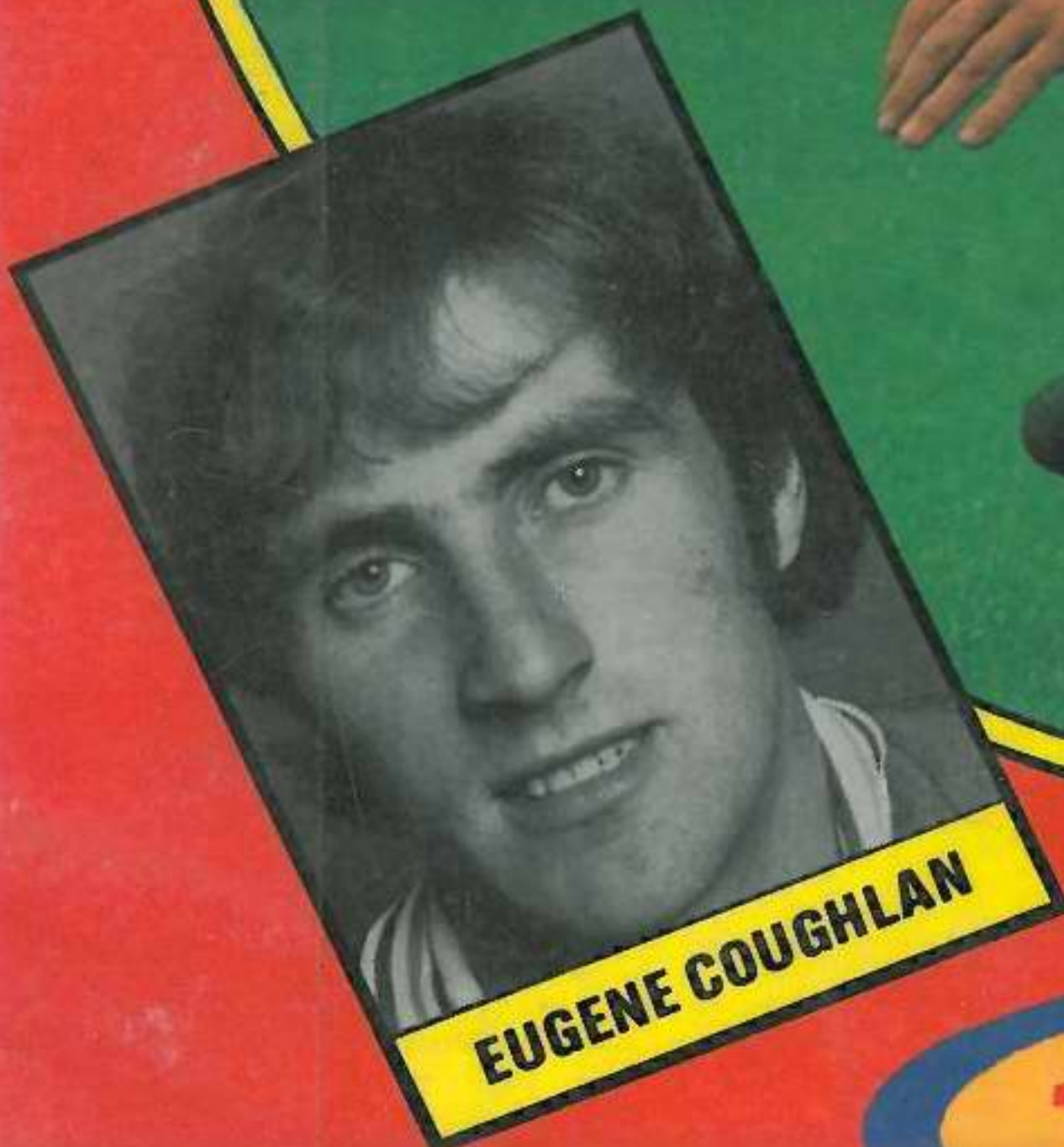
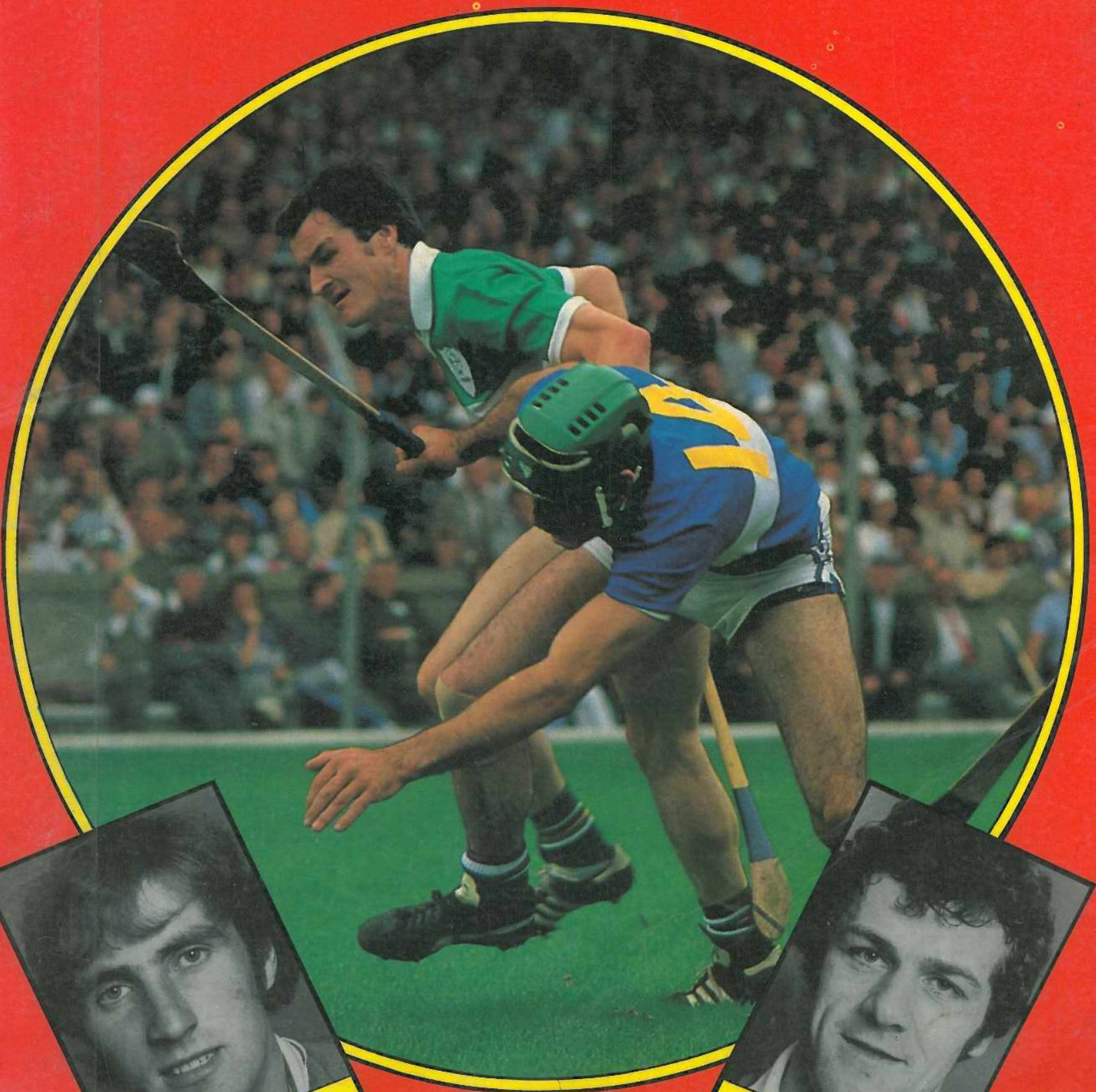
GAELIC SPORT

THE CHOICE OF THE STARS

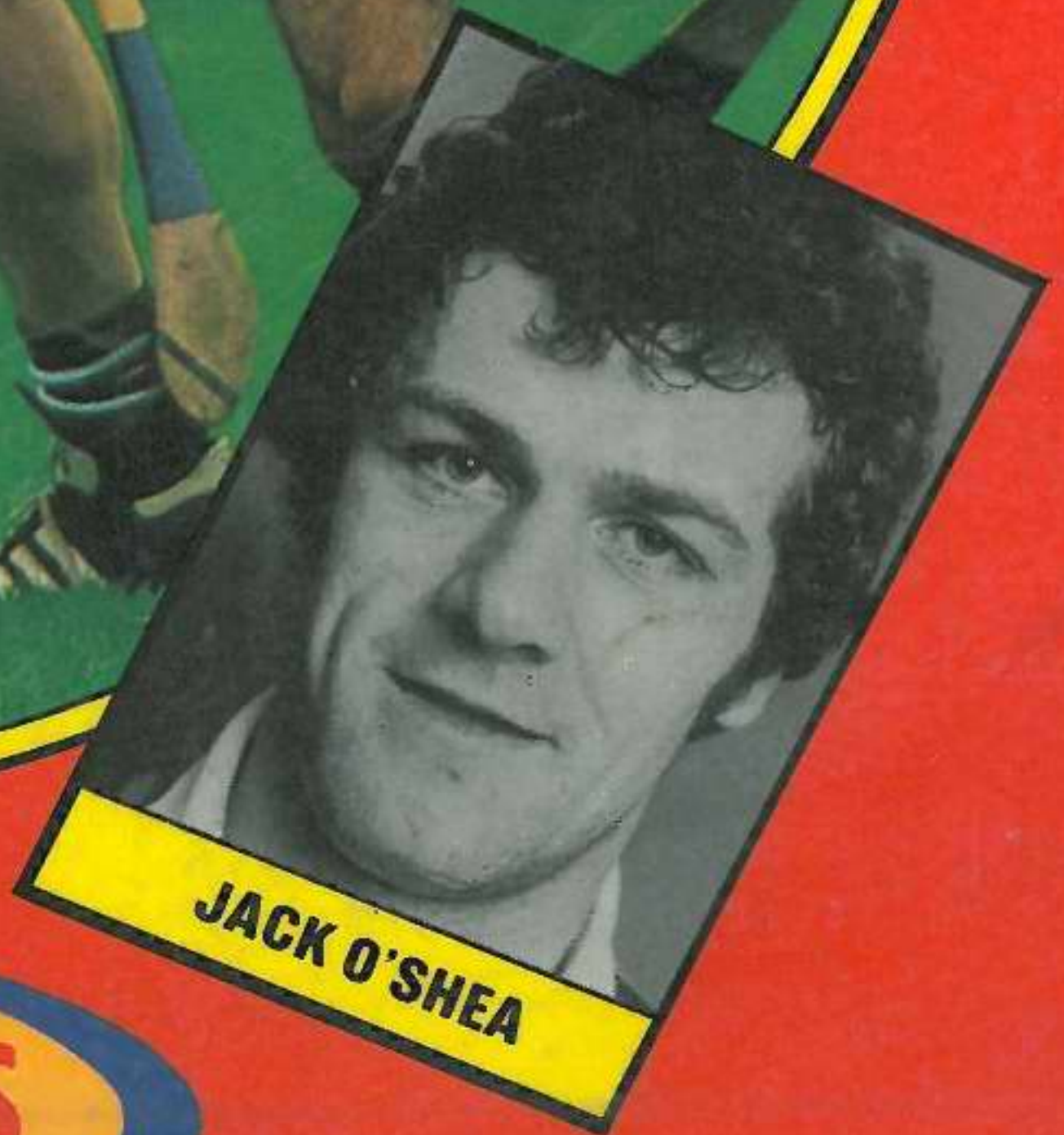
IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE SINCE 1958

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CONTENTS

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REFERENCE DEPT

Editorial Comment	by Tommy McQuaid	3
— No time for complacency		
Dublin and Kerry	by Noel Horgan	5
— Why have they reigned supreme for so long?		
The Young Lions	by Paul Costello	8
— Up-and-coming young men		
Australian Tour	by Michael Murray	10
— Should give players added incentive		
Handball	by Sean Clerkin	13
— Young players rise to occasion		
Connacht Comment	by Kevin Malone	15
— Setting new standards for Mayo		
Texaco Award Winners 1985	by John Roberts	17
Camogie	by Mary Moran	21
— Wallace is new development officer		
Convention comments		22
— Monaghan Chairman expresses concern		
Sponsorship	by Fintan Grant	24
— "Let's get on with it before other sports take all"		
Quiztime	by Vinny Moore	27
Leinster Limelights	by Paul Fay	28
— How the mighty have fallen		
Northern Spotlight	by Padraig O'Baoighill	33
— Antrim's young hurlers		
Munster Medley	by Seamus O'Neill	38
— Tipperary's Tony Wall		
The Hard Stuff	by Eamonn Young	40
Junior Desk	edited by Jack Mahon	42
Nicholas English, Tipperary — Our Cut-Out Star of the Month		45

COVER PHOTO

On our front cover this issue we feature the Texaco G.A.A. Award Winners for 1985; Eugene Coughlan (Offaly) and Jack O'Shea (Kerry), and we spotlight these worthy winners in greater depth on page 17. The action picture is from the '85 Leinster Senior Hurling final, featuring Offaly and Laois, and the men tussling for possession are Pat Fleury (Offaly) and P.J. Cuddy (Laois).

GAELIC SPORT

80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Phone: 374311.

Vol. 29 No. 1

Spring Edition, 1986

IN 1839
WHEN THE DUBLIN
& DUN LAOGHAIRE
RAILWAY FIRST CAME INTO
SERVICE, JACOB'S WERE
MAKING IN-ROADS IN
IRELAND.

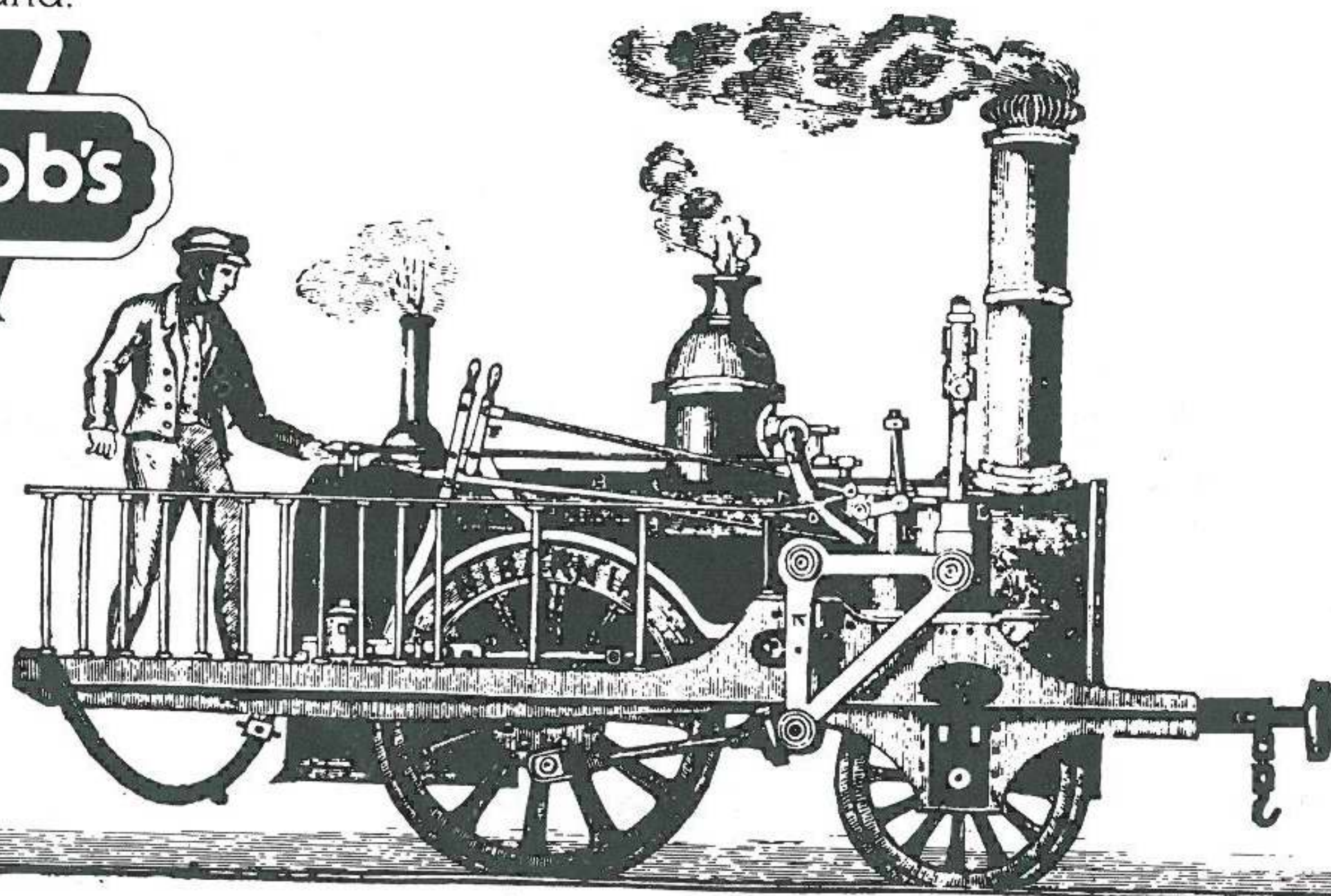
When William and Robert Jacob inherited a family business in 1839, they put their good name on the line.

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NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY

A blue-print that could turn the key in the door to a very bright future for Gaelic Games in the larger urban areas of Leinster and in Dublin in particular. That is our immediate reaction to a comprehensive report just published by a special committee of the Leinster Council dealing with Gaelic Games at under-age level in the Eastern province.

The report could hardly be more timely. More leisure time will be available in the future than ever was the case in the past, and this will be matched by increased support for many so-called "minority sports" through increasing exposure on television. As a result, Gaelic Games will have to compete as never before for recruits among the youth.

It is to the credit of the Leinster Council officers that they not only recognised the growing trend some years back, but took practical steps to meet the challenges. As a result of that initiative, and an extensive three years study, the Council has now a document that can prove the platform on which to build the way to further exciting times ahead for football and hurling in the East.

Understandably enough, the report, which has over 100 recommendations, devotes special attention to Dublin. Apart from the huge population imbalance between the capital and the rest of the country, and the problems that this creates, Dublin has its difficulties as well in both football and hurling.

Even though the county has been one of the greatest crowd-pullers in inter-county football since the early 'Seventies, the game still needs to be strengthened in many areas.

Gates are small enough at most club matches even the county senior final. There are some large centres in the county with populations greater than some counties, but these are still not homes of strong

and viable senior clubs with teams up to county title winning standard. A sad state of affairs that, and one that is undoubtedly not helping the advancement of Gaelic Games in the capital county.

Then, there is the state of hurling. Despite the huge population in the county, Dublin is one of the weaker counties in the game. Granted the county is back again in Division I of the League this season, but that must be viewed against the background of the last Leinster title win as far back as 1961.

The recommendations in the report include Area Development Councils to look after the larger towns, while Dublin, Tallaght and Dun Laoghaire are singled out as target areas. Leagues and non-competitive matches among the different age groups up to 16 years are also proposed.

These suggestions make much sense. There is much merit as well in a call to have coaching structures in each county to bring together the different officers of the GAA under a Development Officer to end the confused situation that exists at present.

One of the most dramatic recommendations is that the GAA should introduce some variations on its inter-county structure to enable as many teams as possible to play in the new, fast-developing urban areas.

Here it is relevant to ask has the time arrived to allow Dublin to field two senior football teams in the championship and league?

Some will argue that such a move would dilute Dublin's strength at senior inter-county level, and point as support for that argument that the county has, for all the glory of recent times, still won only one All-Ireland crown in the present decade.

Yet, while it is an undeniable fact that numbers alone do not necessarily make for strong teams, we still feel there is a strong case now for

two Dublin senior football sides. Despite the black spots, football is on a firm footing in many areas of Dublin, and the players of the required standard are there to field two separate selections.

Such a move would also help to further the cause of the game by the Liffeside. Players would have extra opportunities of earning county team honours, and that would prove a worthwhile incentive for the footballers to give that little extra. In addition, the rivalry that would develop could have a spin off in stimulating interest at club level generally throughout the county.

Certainly, this is an option well worth taking a serious look at.

As for the report itself in general terms, the document is one of the most important to be published in Gaelic Games in years. The members of the committee identified the problems clearly, and then suggested in concise terms the remedies required to improve matters.

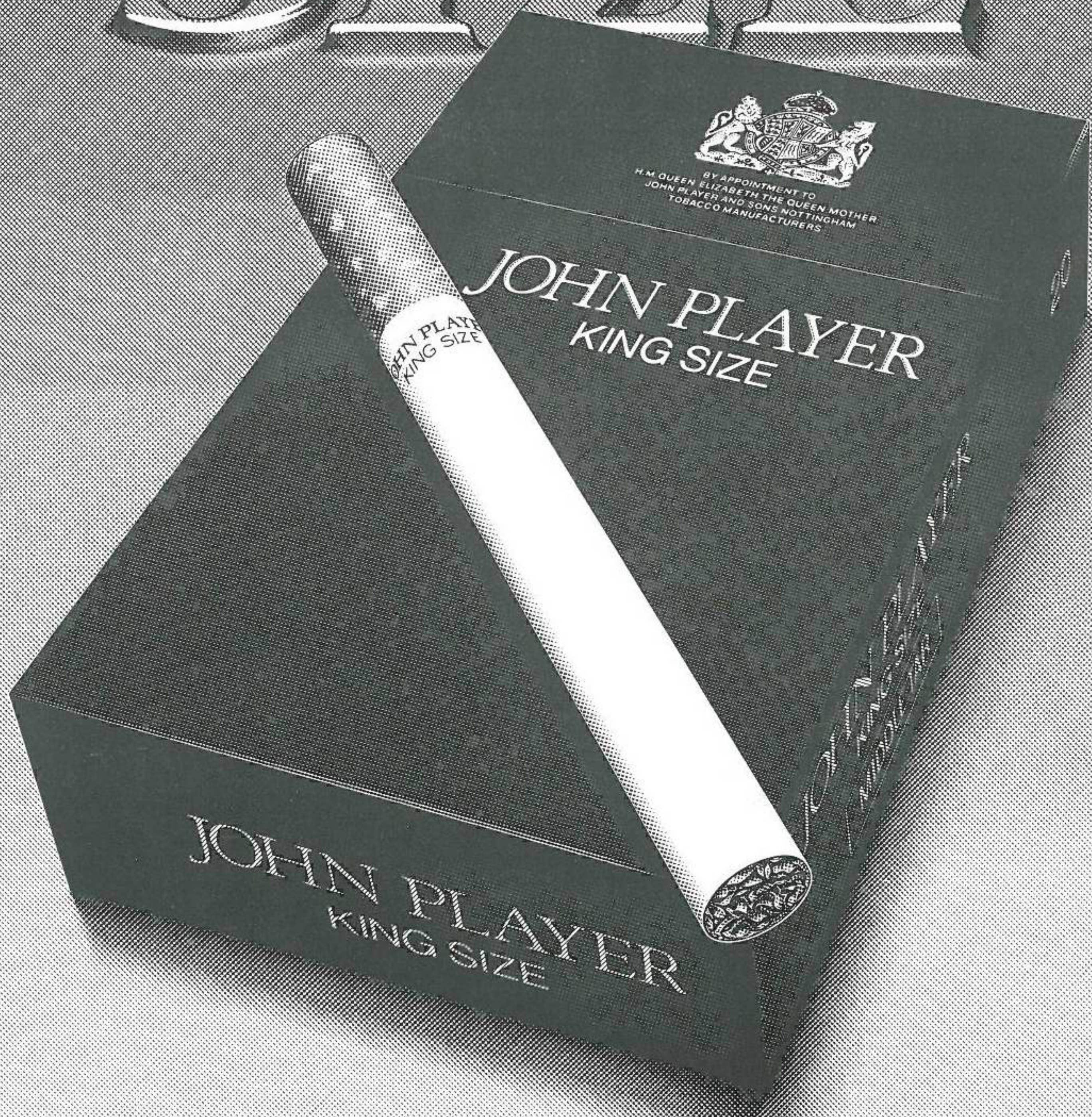
It is hoped that the industry and imagination of the committee members, and their vision, will be matched with the type of action that will ensure that Gaelic Games continue to keep ahead of their competitors. This is not a time for complacency. Football and hurling may still be the most popular sports in the land, and the best supported, but that is no reason for officials to stand still.

The Leinster Council has shown the way. Let's take up the challenge with the same vigour and enthusiasm as displayed by the men who set the G.A.A. on the road to greatness at Thurles over a century ago!

Jimmy McQuaid

EDITOR

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DUBLIN AND KERRY . . .

WHY HAVE THEY REIGNED SUPREME FOR SO LONG?

ASKS NOEL HORGAN

NEVER before have two counties dominated the Gaelic football world to the extent that Kerry and Dublin have done since 1974. Apart from the 1982 final when Seamus Darby's late goal for Offaly thwarted the Kingdom's bid for a record five titles on the trot, Kerry and Dublin have taken every All-Ireland crown in this period, with the Munster men achieving seven wins and the Metropolitans four.

In all, they have been paired together in six national deciders since 1975 and only Cork, thanks to Tadgh Murphy's last minute goal in the Munster final of '83, and Offaly in '80, '81 and '82, have managed to fashion wins over Kerry and Dublin respectively in the provincial championships.

Few pundits will look beyond either Kerry or Dublin when wagering on the '86 championship race. Yet one must ask what the reason is for the unprecedented run of success achieved by the big two in recent times.

Some will naively suggest that both counties were fortunate to have a squad of exceptionally talented players at their disposal but surely that is too simplistic an answer. For a start, Dublin managed to produce two outstanding combinations during the last 12 years and one is reluctant to accept that, following the break-up of their all-conquering side of the mid-'seventies, Dublin, by chance, discovered another batch of players with more natural ability than those of the other counties bar Kerry.

And Dublin were hardly more talented individually in 1974 than

the Cork team that they shocked in the All-Ireland semi-final. Yet that Cork squad, boasting such gifted performers as Ray Cummins, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Declan Barron, Billy Morgan and Kevin Jer O'Sullivan, to mention but a few, failed to add to their All-Ireland success of '73 whereas the Dubs remained a force for the remainder of the decade.

Most of the Kerry players have been operating together for almost ten years and it could be said that it is their natural gifts which have made Kerry practically invincible in



Tom Spillane . . . firmly established as one of the leading central defenders in the game.

this period. But the youthful Kerry squad which sprang to prominence in '75 was moulded without the Kingdom having achieved any great success at minor level in the preceding years.

How, then, did those Kerry men blossom into such outstanding senior performers? The reason for the early dominance of Kerry and Dublin is easy enough to understand. The Dubs surged to the top in '74 because of a greater thoroughness and discipline in training, a greater emphasis on team work and a more professional approach generally which set new standards in Gaelic football.

Kerry quickly followed suit to match and eventually master Dublin but the remaining counties were very slow to adapt and were left well behind. Gradually, some of the other counties got the message and increased their effort, appointing managers to manage and prepare the teams with similar diligence and sophistication. Nevertheless, Kerry and Dublin have still managed to remain ahead of the pack in recent times.

To my mind, the reason for their continued dominance is that they possessed trump cards in Mick O'Dwyer and Kevin Heffernan respectively, men whose immense vision, perception and tactical acumen have swung many a match from the sideline.

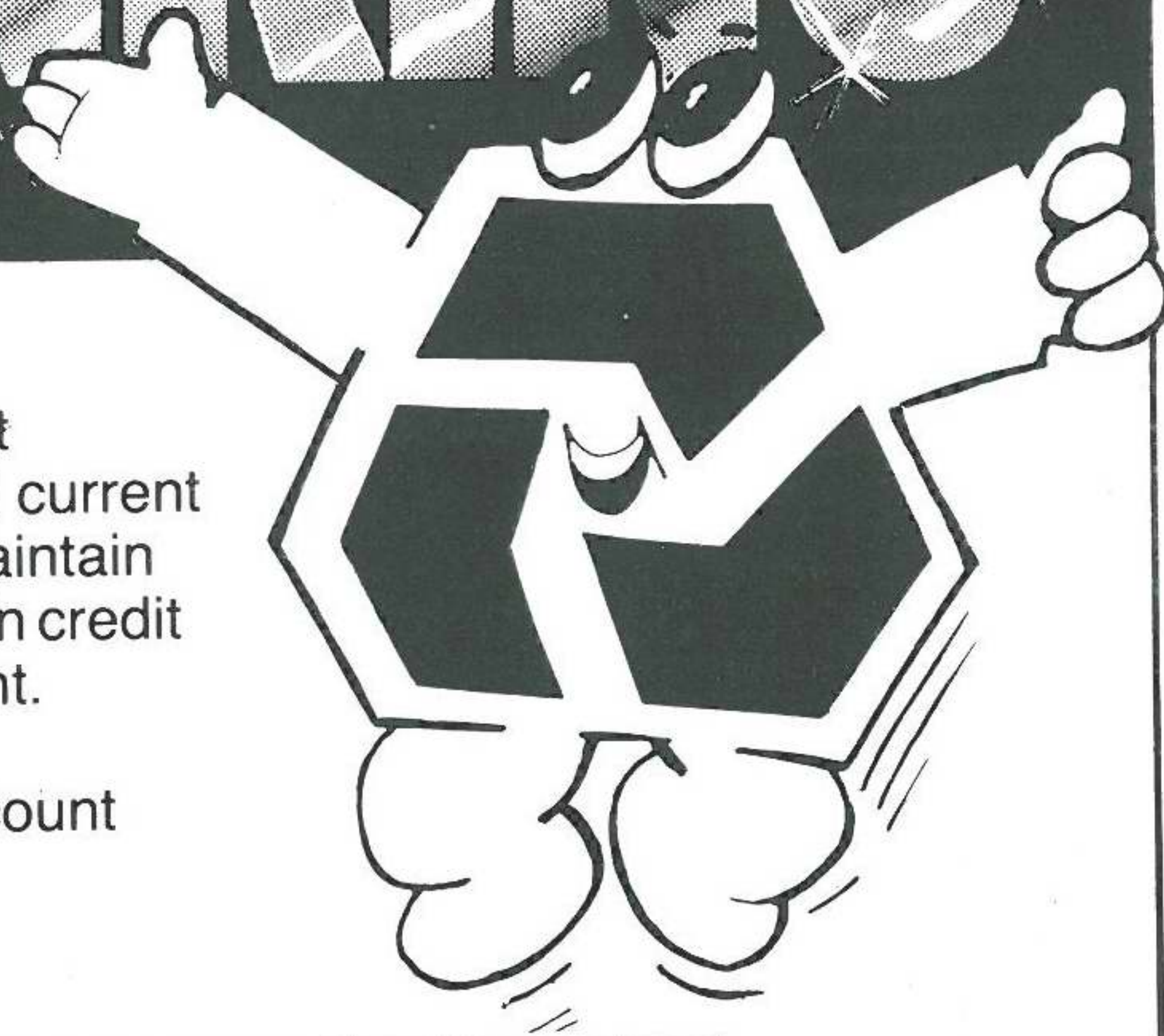
In the 1982 Munster final, for instance, Cork earned a creditable draw with Kerry at Pairc Uí Chaoimh and appeared to be in with

• TO PAGE 7

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FROM PAGE 5

a good chance of toppling the Kingdom in the replay. But Mick O'Dwyer made a master move in introducing teenager Tom Spillane at centre-forward for the second joust and his mobility posed numerous problems for Cork Pivot Christy Ryan, who had excelled in the drawn match, and that move inspired an easy Kerry victory.

In the '83 All-Ireland semi-final Cork outplayed Dublin for lengthy spells but were denied victory by a late equalising goal from Barney Rock. Jimmy Kerrigan was an inspirational figure at left wing back in that match so Kevin Heffernan devised a simple trap to diminish the Nemo Rangers player's influence on the proceedings in the replay at Pairc Uí Chaoimh.

Barney Rock, selected to play at right wing forward, lined out, in fact, in the right corner which prompted the Cork mentors to move Kerrigan back to police Rock from an unfamiliar left full-back position. The result was that Kerrigan was virtually a spectator as Dublin proceeded to channel their main offensive raids up the opposite wing in the first half when they laid the foundations for a comprehensive triumph.

And what of Heffernan's ploy in using John Caffrey as a third midfielder which caught the unsuspecting All-Ireland champions, Offaly off-guard in the '83 Leinster final. Some will argue that the man at the helm can only do so much and needs the basic raw material to carry through his tactics. But it is the manner in which this raw material is moulded which separates the great from the very good football supremo.

Many promising players failed to realise their full potential in the top flight because they lacked the guidance, encouragement and self-confidence which the likes of O'Dwyer and Heffernan could so readily supply.

Joe McNally was a minor goalkeeper with Dublin in '82. Under Heffernan's hand, however, he

emerged as a star forward in Dublin's senior success of '83. Kerry's Tom Spillane failed to fulfil his promise at centre-forward after the '82 Munster final and many queried Mick O'Dwyer's decision to transfer the Templeogue man to the pivotal post for the championship campaign. Inevitably, the move worked like a charm and Spillane is today firmly established as one of the leading central defenders in the game.

Ger Power, Tommy Doyle, Sean Walsh, Jimmy Keaveney and Anton O'Toole are just some of the other players who have derived huge benefit from the shrewd manoeuvrings of Micko and Heffo. It is my belief that the contribution made by O'Dwyer and Heffernan to their counties' success will not be fully appreciated until they have departed the scene.

TO PAGE 37

LOOKS LIKE



TASTE TELLS

'THE YOUNG LIONS'

By PAUL COSTELLO

THE future of Gaelic Games is in safe hands. That is very clear from the unusually large number of gifted young footballers and hurlers who have been displaying skill, maturity and class to the best possible effect in competitive senior play in recent times.

Dermot McNicholl, who was the GAELIC SPORT Cut-Out personality in the last issue, is one of the brightest of the "Young Lions". The Derry footballer's credentials made such interesting reading in our last edition that there is no need to go over familiar ground here. I will content myself, then, by saying that the dashing young Glenullin club man, who will not celebrate his 21st birthday until near the end of this year, will repay watching closely not only this season, but for a long time to come.

Then, there is **Padraig Brogan**, who scored what I regard as the goal of the year in 1985 for football and hurling. It came in the second half at the Dublin-Mayo All-Ireland senior semi-final football replay in Croke Park.

A good Mayo movement put Brogan in possession, and he went on a short run before rifling home a memorable goal. A score to savour time and again, and will live long after the memories of the Mayo defeat have faded.

I first marked down Brogan as a senior inter-county star of the future when I saw him sparkle at midfield for the St. Jarlath's, Tuam, side that won the 1982 All-Ireland Colleges' senior football title. He was also in

the Tuam side that lost the Hogan Cup to Colaiste Christ Ri, Cork, in the decider a year later.

Brogan has more than lived up to the potential of his Colleges' days. An All-Ireland under-21 medalist in 1983, the towering Knockmore club man went in as a substitute for Mayo in the Connacht senior final last July, and it will be remembered that his introduction from the substitutes bench ten minutes into the second half did much to earn Mayo their unexpected All-Ireland semi-final draw with Dublin.

Brogan is helping to give the lie to those who say there are no sound

high fielders in the game today. He is a difficult man to mark, has shown that he can take his chances, and he is bound to prove a mighty force for Mayo as they bid to make 1986 an even more memorable year than the one that has just passed into history.

Paul Earley is a little older than both McNicholl and Brogan, but he is still a bright young ace. He is also maintaining a proud tradition as his brother, Dermot, gave tremendous service to Roscommon and Connacht over such a lengthy period before bowing out of inter-county football last July.

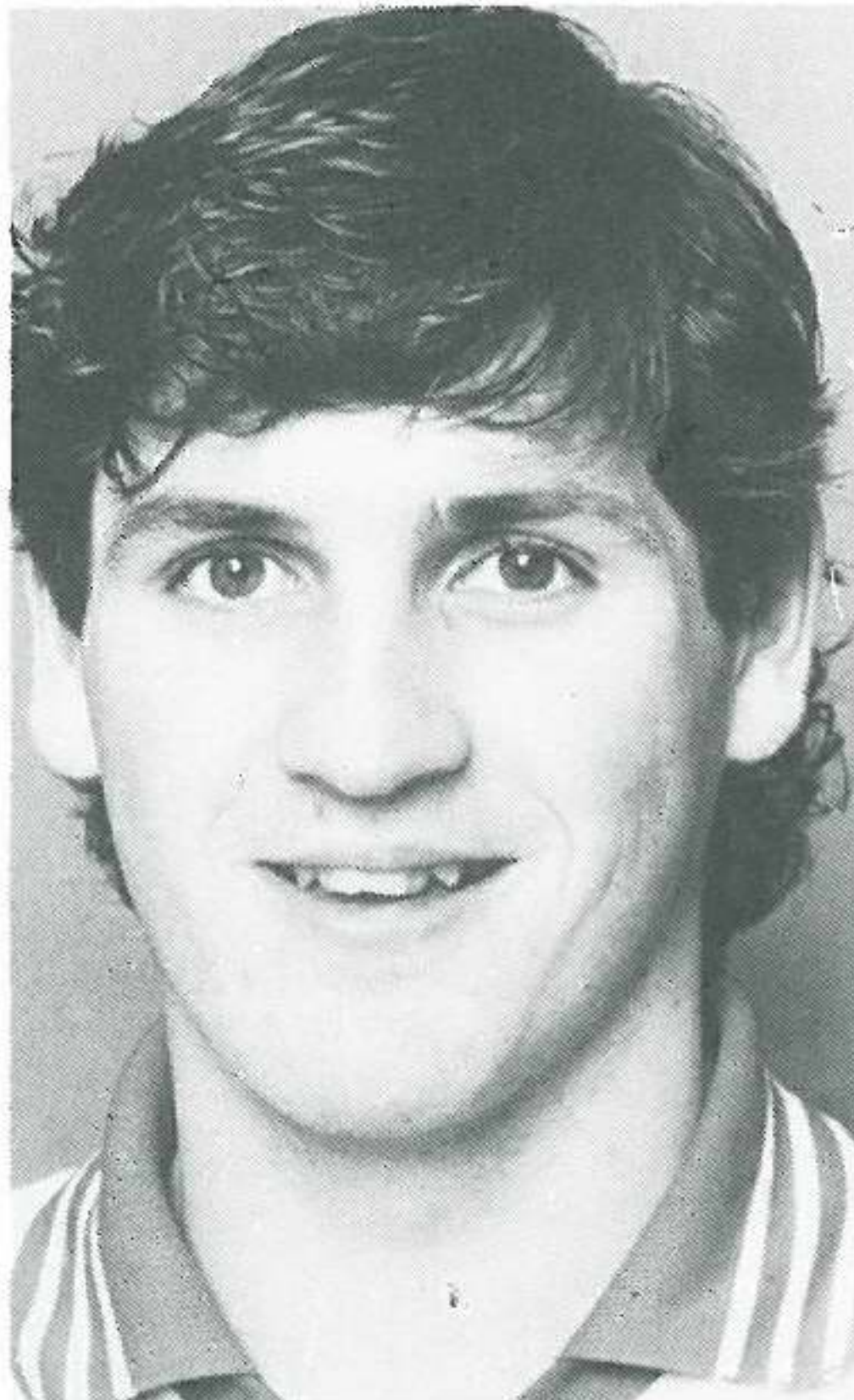
Paul was in the Roscommon team that lost to Donegal in the 1982 All-Ireland under-21 final.

Subsequently he spent some time in Australia trying his hand at the Rules Game. Since returning home at the end of 1984, he has settled in well with the Roscommon senior team, and he has brought an exciting new dimension to the side with his clever, purposeful full forward play.

A strong, determined campaigner, Paul is now well established as one of the game's top attackers, a forward who is destined to present plenty of problems for the game's ace defenders, and a man who may well provide the touch of inspiration that could turn the key in the door to a bright season for Roscommon.

REAL HERO

One of the highpoints of the past year in hurling was the majestic play of Galway's three half backs, and of **Peter Finnerty** in particular, in the



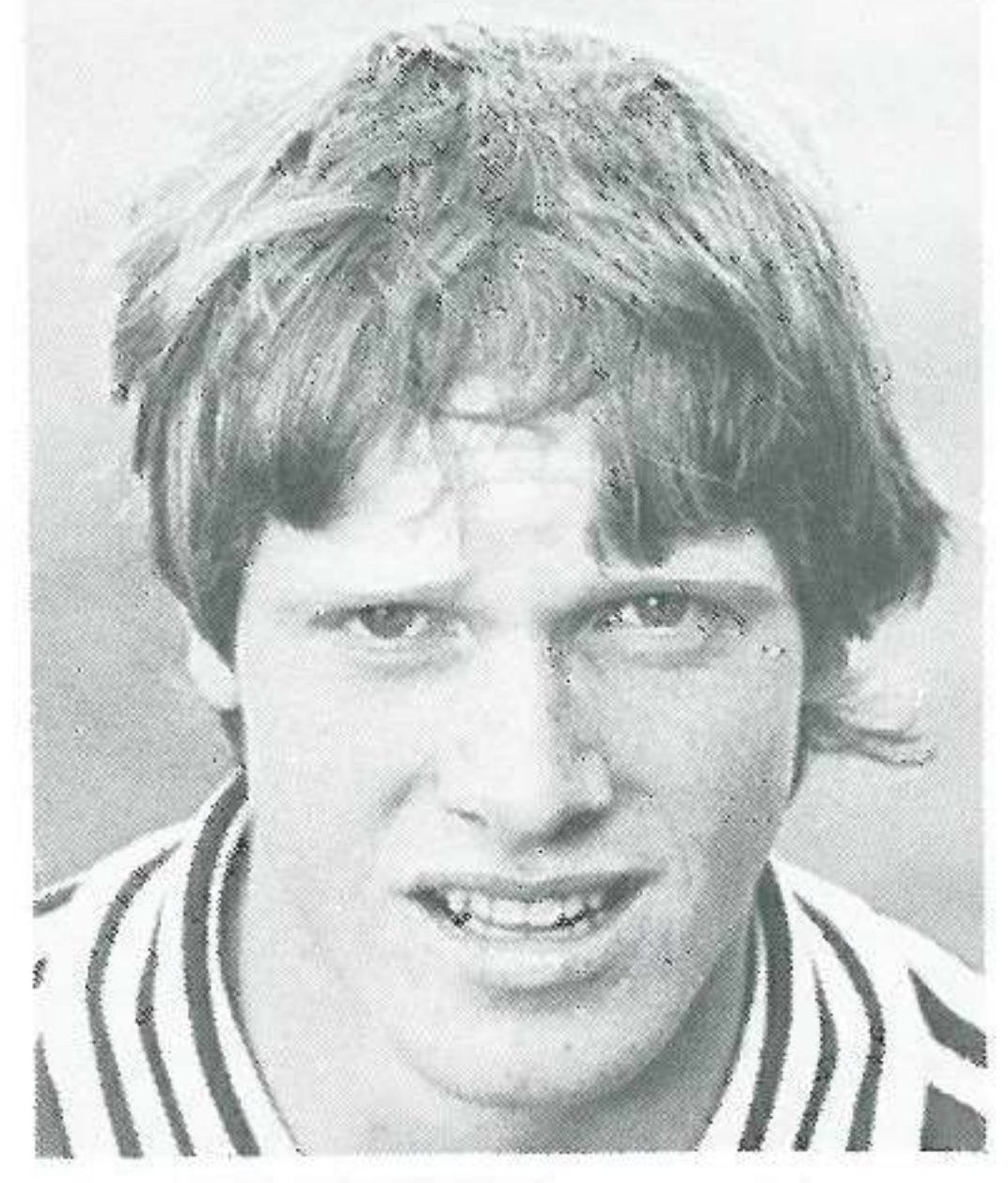
DERMOT McNICHOLL... dashing young Glenullin clubman.



PETER FINNERTY . . . majestic play in 1985.



PAUL EARLEY . . . exciting new dimension to the Roscommon side.



JOE COONEY . . . surprising maturity for one so young.

shock All-Ireland semi-final win over Cork last August.

I made Finnerty the real hero of that sparkling Galway performance. Everything he did had the stamp of the master, and looking back now over the months that have passed and recalling the quality of his showing in terrible weather conditions, I find it hard to appreciate that he was still eligible at the time for the under-21 grade. Indeed, a week after the Cork game, the young man from Mullagh was at full back for the Connacht county in their unsuccessful All-Ireland under-21 bid against Tipperary at Tullamore.

Galway did not just pluck Finnerty from "nowhere" for that All-Ireland semi-final. He had given plenty of notice earlier of his great promise, and especially so when holding down the No. 5 berth in the side that last brought the All-Ireland under-21 crown to the county in 1983.

This young Garda is a strong, self-assured hurler, and is one of the reasons why Galway are looking forward with quiet confidence to going one better next September than in the 1985 All-Ireland senior final when Offaly ended hopes of a Liam McCarthy Cup celebration.

One cannot pass Galway either

without mentioning **Joe Cooney**, who at less than six months after his 20th birthday when he filled the left half forward spot in the Western side was the youngest hurler who lined-up in the All-Ireland senior final.

A member of the Sarsfields club, he showed surprising maturity and poise for one so young and on his All-Ireland senior final debut, and with that experience behind him at such an early stage of his career he is bound to go on to greater things. Joe won an All-Ireland minor medal in 1983, and played regularly with the senior side over the past year.

Michael Scully stamped his personality more prominently than most on the under-21 hurling championship last year with his sharpshooting and captaincy of the Tipperary team that won the All-Ireland crown.

Michael showed flair and accuracy in game after game with the side, and impressed as well in general play. He has since made his mark with the Tipperary senior team in the National league and may well prove the man to bring some badly needed finishing power to the attack for 1986.

THE MINORS

The minor championships also provided much to enthuse over for

the future. In hurling, I particularly recall the finishing powers of Mark Foley (Cork) and Vincent Murphy (Wexford). Their counties reached the All-Ireland final, with Cork taking the honours.

Michael Fitzmaurice led Mayo by example from midfield to the All-Ireland football crown, and John Cummins in goal and full back Enda Gilvarry were others in the side who impressed me.

Ger O Regan, who won an All-Ireland Colleges' senior football medal in the spring with Colaiste Chríost Rí, and was Cork's left half forward against Mayo in the under-18 decider, is another from this grade whom I will be keeping an eye on.

Luke Gavigan, won his second successive All-Ireland Vocational Schools medal with Donegal in football early last year, and helped the county to lift the Ulster minor championship. The full forward in those teenage teams has since appeared with Donegal in the senior grade — admittedly in non-competitive games — and is another who looks destined to get to the top eventually.

No shortage, then, of up-and-coming young men to keep football and hurling booming into the 1990's. After all, I have only really scratched the surface in my review!

THE month long tour of Australia in October by an Ireland football selection should, in theory at least, result in improved standards in the concluding rounds of the Ford National League and right through the championship campaign. Footballers have a tremendous added incentive to pull out something extra special with their county teams in their bids to impress the Ireland team managers, Kevin Heffernan and Liam Sammon.

Performances over the next six months or so will doubtless do much to shape the composition of the Ireland squad, and it seems reasonable to assume that appearances in the All-Ireland semi-finals and the final will not exercise nearly the same influence on the selection as, say, in the Bank of Ireland All Stars teams.



● **KEVIN HEFFERNAN**
... Ireland team manager.

The tourists will depart these shores only a couple of weeks after the All-Ireland final, and while nothing has been stated so far with regard to the date of the selection of the squad, the need for players to make arrangements for the tour would suggest that the selection would be virtually finalised before the Sam Maguire Cup tie.

Be that as it may, the footballers who eventually earn the right to carry the Ireland banner "down under" will face a test of stamina as

AUSTRALIAN TOUR SHOULD GIVE PLAYERS ADDED INCENTIVE

SAYS

MICHAEL MURRAY

well as of skill and expertise in the new compromise game. They will play six matches, including three internationals, and travel many miles while in Australia.

Physical endurance will be a key factor in the make-up of each of the selected players. Here I am thinking not only of the demands that will be made on the players in terms of matches in strange surroundings, but also of the type of opposition they are likely to encounter on the field of play.

Let's not put a tooth in it. Some of the physical efforts and the aggression we saw from the Australians on their Irish visit in 1984, especially in the game at Pairc Ui Chaoimh, did little to enhance any sport. Things improved after that, but it must still be admitted that we did see some tackling that was to say the least bruising.

I am not saying that we Irish are saints in our own game. However, it is a fact that Australian Rules football is a much more physical sport than Gaelic football, and this is bound to be reflected in the Australian approach to the compromise game.

One must not overlook either the fact that this time the Rules footballers will be playing before their own supporters, and the Australian public will be desperately keen — and rightly so — for

their standard bearers to claim the honours.

In emphasising these points, I do not wish to suggest that the Australians will adopt anything other than a sporting approach. They will also be as anxious as the Irish to strive all the way in creating the best possible image for the new series — something that will be badly needed if the new international link-up is to have a future.

No, my aim is to hammer home the need for physical strength as a strong plank in the Irish squad.

Height is another basic requirement. Some of the Australian Rules footballers are huge by our standards, and while we have not many of the 6ft. 6ins. variety in Gaelic football, we still have a good quota of tall players. And tall players will be needed if the Ireland team is to compete successfully with the home stars in the air.

So, strength and height, backed up naturally by football skills and the ability to adapt, are vital requirements in my view in the selection of the squad.

NEW GAME

There would be little point in deciding that the most successful team over the next six months or so should be the one to supply the majority of the players to the international squad. That would have a great deal of merit if the Test series was in Gaelic football, and Ireland was matching like with like as a result.

This will not be the case in the new game. Footballers standing under six foot, and of a light build are stars of our own code, and are playing vital roles in shaping successes through their individual brilliance and flair for blending into the general pattern of clever, combined football. Such campaigners regularly challenge each year for places in the best national team of every season's programme.

However, they are among the type of footballers who could be found wanting in Australia simply on the grounds of physique. The team

managers, then, must not concentrate on the successful counties of recent times, like Kerry, Dublin, Monaghan and Mayo, for candidates. They must cast their nets over a wider field.

Heffernan and Sammon are too shrewd operators to be caught out on this score. They will appreciate better than most the need to keep an extra keen eye on the men in the less fashionable counties, and we will probably as a result see some not so well known names in the final squad . . . unknown that is to the not so keen students of the game.

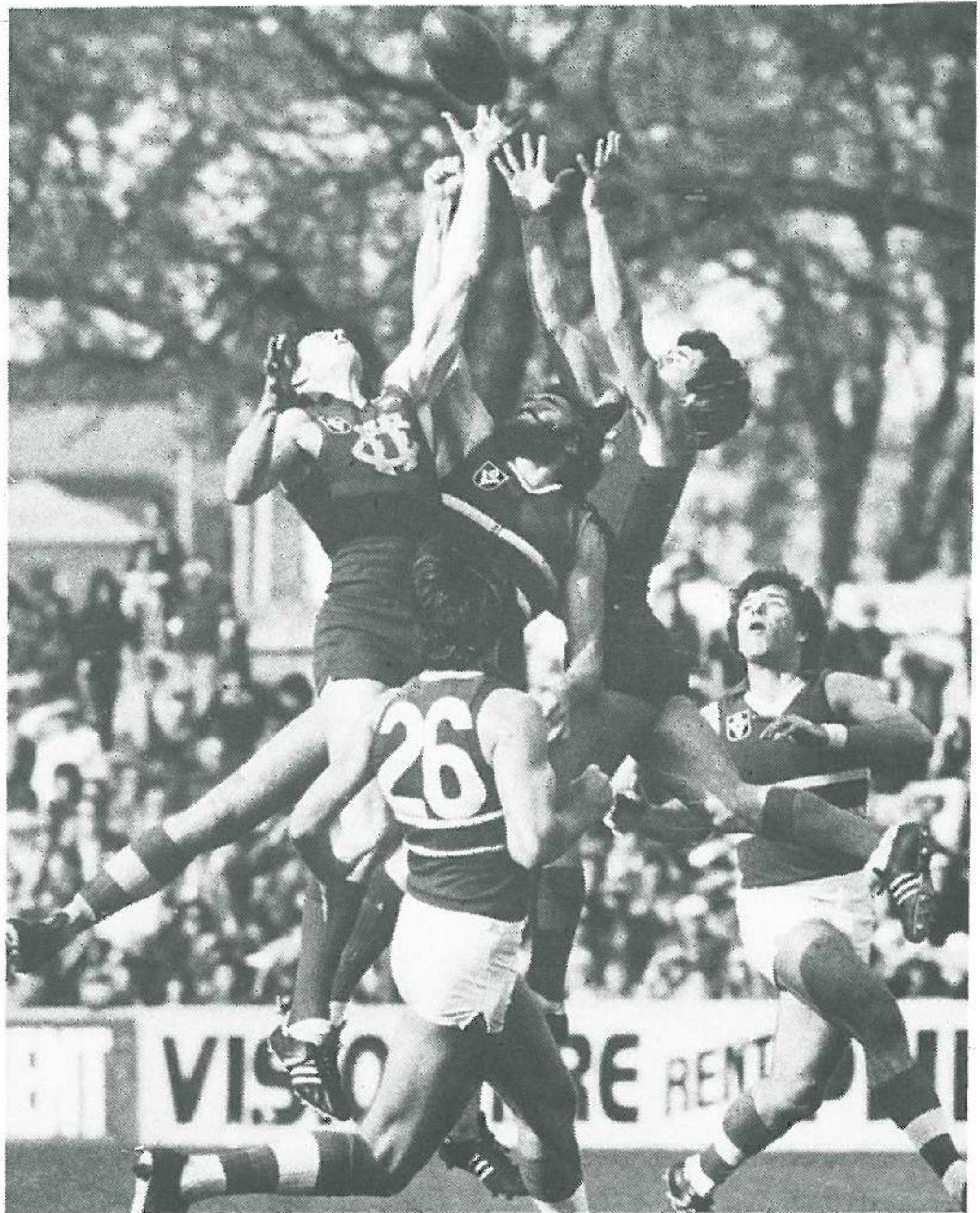
The selectors of the Centenary Year Ireland team, it will be remembered, caught many followers off guard with some of their selections, but they were fully vindicated in the end.

My football is not confined to games at Croke Park. I see many ties outside of headquarters each year, and I pride myself on trying to take in as many counties in action annually as I can. Over the past few years I have watched most of the county teams, with the exception of Kilkenny footballers, and I have little doubt that there are enough strong candidates in the game to provide genuine challenges to the giants of Kerry, Dublin and the like for Ireland team places.

Having monitored the situation carefully and regularly since the Centenary Year games in the knowledge that the 1986 Tour was definitely on, I am convinced that the type of strong, physical and tall squad I believe is necessary for success in Australia can be got together.

With the race for places now hotting up in earnest, I for one, will get an added edge to my spectating at matches in the coming months as I try to note the various contenders for Ireland jerseys.

As for the Test series itself, I must



• **HIGH-FLYING AUSSIES! . . . tall players will be needed if the Ireland team is to compete successfully with the home stars in the air.**

confess that I have my doubts if this promotion has a future. However, that is something for another day — a day after the Australian visit becomes a memory for all on the tour. At this juncture I say there is nothing to be gained at all in “knocking” the efforts of those who are trying to get something new and very ambitious successfully off the ground. At least they are trying to give us something different and novel, and full marks to them for effort.

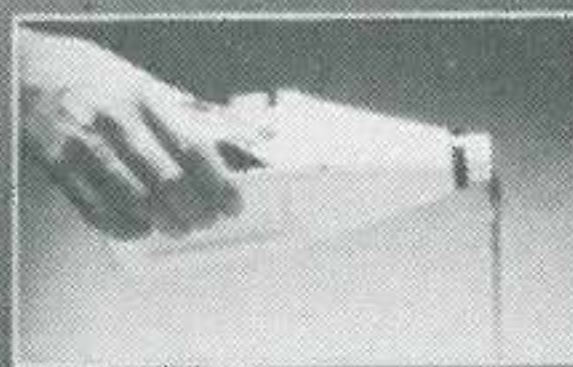
Meantime, we will keep a close look at the proceedings, and maybe the Editor will invite me back later in the year to select the Ireland team I

feel should go to Australia.

The touring party will depart in the opening days of October, and have a warm-up game in Perth on October 7. The first international will be played in Perth on October 11. Melbourne will host the second international on October 17 or 18, and the final match of the Test series will be at Adelaide a week later.

I am delighted to learn that the G.A.A. people in Australia will not be overlooked during the tour. The visiting team will meet an Australian selection in Adelaide in Gaelic football on October 13 and that match will create its own special niche in G.A.A. history.


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BY
SEAN
CLERKIN

Young handballers rise to the occasion in U.S.H.A. Championship

OUR young handballers, as expected, rose to the occasion magnificently in the U.S.H.A. Junior Championships at Fountain Valley, California, at the end of December, and through the efforts of Michael Walsh from Kilkenny and Walter O'Connor of Meath, returned home with the respective Under 19 and Under 17 titles.

The odd man out was Séamus Ward from Westmeath, who was beaten in the quarter-final of the Under 15 championship.

It was also a significant feat for Jimmy Heffernan, the manager of the team, who had trained the squad prior to departure.

The past year has certainly been a unique one for Walsh, who won the All-Ireland Coca-Cola Singles and Doubles Championships and, in fact was the youngest ever player to achieve such distinctions. He is also the holder of the All-Ireland 40 x 20 Junior Singles Championship.

Young O'Connor's current status is best reflected by the fact that he is the All-Ireland Junior Singles 40 x 20 champion and, with Tom Sheridan as partner, is doubles champion in the minor grades of the 40 x 20, hardball and 60 x 30 codes.

He is possibly the best ambidextrous player in the country and packs many of the shots, which are so important in the American style game.

There are many who contend that even with Walsh's presence, O'Connor could likely be the successor to the Senior Single champion, Martin Hennigan from Mayo.

Handball is very much a lively issue on the international sports scene these times and with those two

junior titles safely tucked away, the sights of handballers are now set on the World Championships at Kelowna next May.

Located in the beautiful Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada, this promises to be a very exciting series.

It is being held in conjunction with the 1986 World Exposition, which runs in Vancouver from May 2nd to October 13th.

The games will be played at the Four Seasons Racquet Club and the Courtplex.

These are two of the best sports facilities in all of Canada, located within walking distance of each other.

They are comprised of 16 indoor handball courts, 3 outdoor handball courts, 6 squash courts and eight tennis courts, four of which are indoor.

With these type of facilities it is not surprising to find many Irish players, with intentions of making the trip.

Meantime, Ireland's representatives in a number of the events have already been determined.

It is hardly surprising to find the aforementioned Michael "Duxie" Walsh as our representative in the Open Championship.

This was yet another distinction he achieved, prior to his departure for the U.S.H.A. Junior Championships in December.

Quite frankly, though, his appearance in this event does not entuse me, for, I believe that he is, as yet, too inexperienced to throw into the cauldron of World Superstars.

I would much prefer to see him operating in the Under 23 event, though, at this stage, it is unlikely that an adjustment will be made.

Jimmy Fitzgerald from Kerry will be our representative in the Masters Division. He won out from a section that included such distinguished players as Dan Kirby from Clare and Peadar McGee from Mayo, Séamus Buggy and Richie Lyng (Wexford) and Paddy Walsh (Sligo). Also back in international contention is the fabled Joey Maher from Louth.

Now, in the over 50 age bracket he travels as our representative in the Golden Masters Division. This revives memories of the halcyon days of the sixties when Maher was the King of Irish handball, winning titles at both the softball and hardball codes, before spending a number of years in Canada, where he achieved fluency at the 40 x 20 code and won every title on offer.

In winning this trip, Maher had a terrific tilt with Willie Kerins, the great Kerry veteran. Indeed, it is somewhat a pity, after his wonderful achievements in the older age groups over the last decade that Kerins is missing the trip and that is far from being a reflection on Maher's great success.

It is encouraging that Ladies Handball will be represented in Kelowna in May.

In recent trials the two places on offer were won by Elizabeth Hall from Oldtown and Sue Carey from the Eoghan Ruadha Club.

These World Championships are generating quite an amount of interest and anybody interested in travelling should contact Joe Lynch, Croke Park, Dublin 3.



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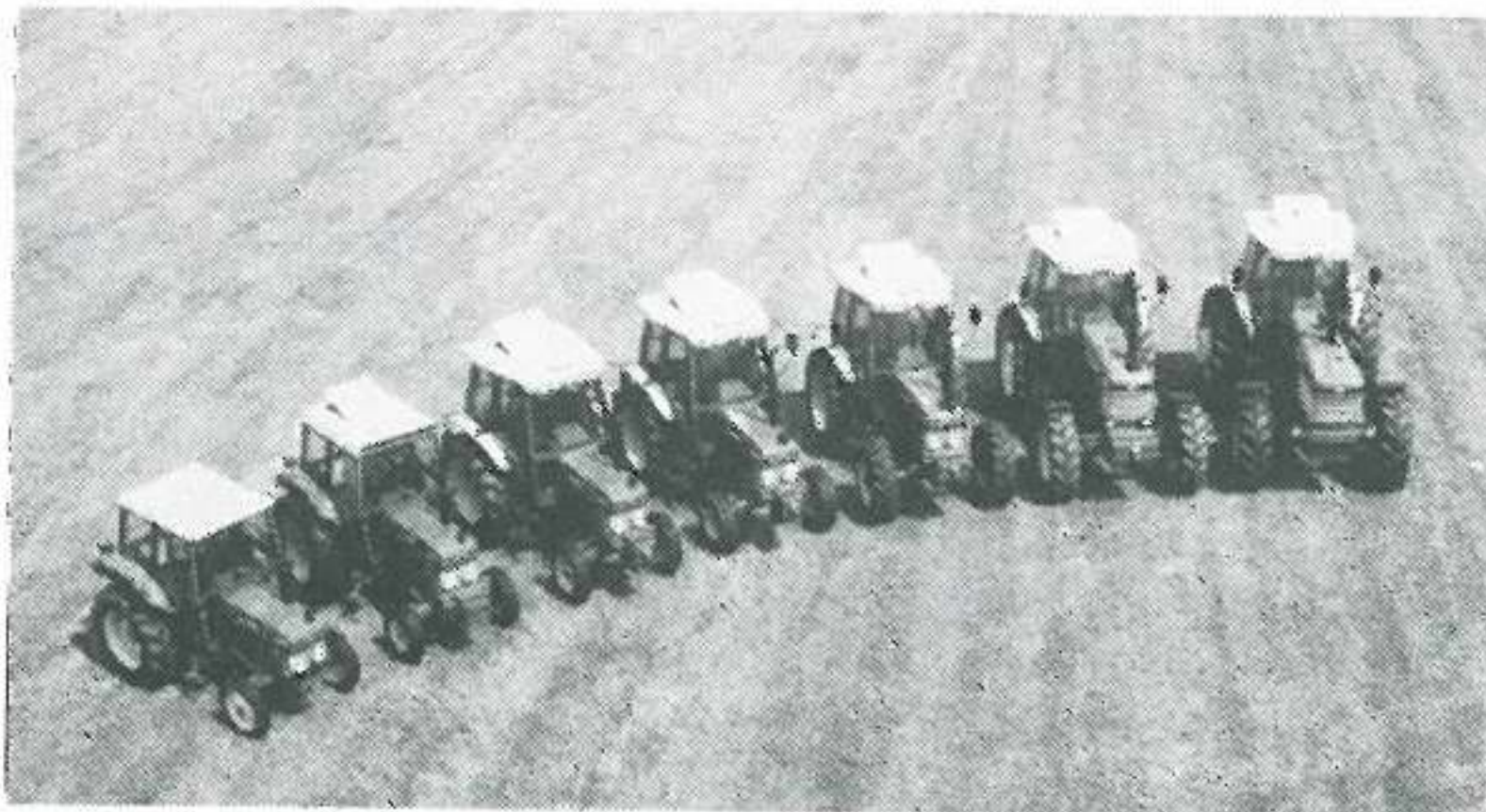
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CONNACHT



COMMENT

By KEVIN MALONE

SEPTEMBER next will mark the Golden Jubilee anniversary of a famous first in senior inter-county football — the day that Mayo joined the ranks of All-Ireland senior championship winners.

The year 1936, in fact, was one of the most eventful ever in the annals of football in the West. A Connacht team, powered by such giants as Paddy Moclair, Jackie Carney, Henry Kenny, George Ormsby of Mayo, Brendan Nestor, Mick Connaire and Bobby Beggs of Galway, beat Ulster in the final at Croke Park to bring the Railway Cup to the province for only the second time.

Then, in September, Mayo, skippered by Seamus O'Malley, of Claremorris, at centre half back, swept Laois aside by 4-11 to 0-5 at Croke Park to win the county's first All-Ireland senior football crown. A real hero for the Westerners in a team of many heroes was their right full forward, Josie Munnely of Castlebar, who contributed an impressive 2-3 to his credit.

Paddy Moclair, one of the most famed names in football, wore the No. 14 shirt, and scored 0-5.

Mayo football was at a tremendous peak at that time. So much so that during the period 1933-34 to 1938-39 inclusive the county won a record six National Football League titles in succession — a

SETTING NEW STANDARDS FOR MAYO . . .



•Willie Joe Padden •Kevin McStay •Dermot Flanagan

. . . 1985 BANK OF IRELAND ALL-STARS

record that not only still stands today, but is unlikely now ever to be equalled let alone improved on.

Munnely, the top scoring hero of the 1936 team, was back again in the All-Ireland limelight 21 years on, but in the junior grade. He once more wore the No.13 jersey as he played against Cork at Croke Park in the national "Home" decider, and he had his team off to a great start with a majestic point from some 35 yards.

Mayo won that game comfortably enough, and travelled to Birmingham for the final proper against Warwickshire. They were given a good run by the Exiles, but came out on top by two points, and Munnely spanned nearly a quarter of a century in terms of All-Ireland medal wins.

The victorious junior team of 1957, incidentally, was captained by the man who is now President of the G.A.A., Mick Loftus, who played at full forward.

All these facts, and many more, came vividly to life for me on reading "THE GREEN ABOVE THE RED", a compilation of Mayo's greatest football triumph, by Terry Reilly and Ivan Neill, which is now on the bookstands.

A second edition of the publication was printed earlier this year, and one can readily understand the

demand as this is a splendid history of Mayo's football triumphs.

All grades are covered at inter-county level, and the Colleges' are not overlooked either. An aspect that appeals especially to me is the listing of all the finals teams for that record making run in the League, as well as the scorers in the finals. G.A.A. records are much too scanty on the League finals teams in football and hurling.

SOLDIERED WELL

The book is well illustrated throughout, and there is a full colour photograph on the back of the Mayo team that drew with Dublin in the All-Ireland senior semi-final.

A welcome summary of title wins by the Mayo teams, as well as club histories add tremendously to the appeal of the publication.

Terry Reilly and Ivan Neill have soldiered well in capturing in words and photographs the story of Mayo football down the years, and have provided not only an invaluable history, but one that should prove an inspiration to the young men of today who are the heirs to the county's tradition.

Mayo had regained Division I National League status at the time we went to press, and were showing all the indications of living up to the

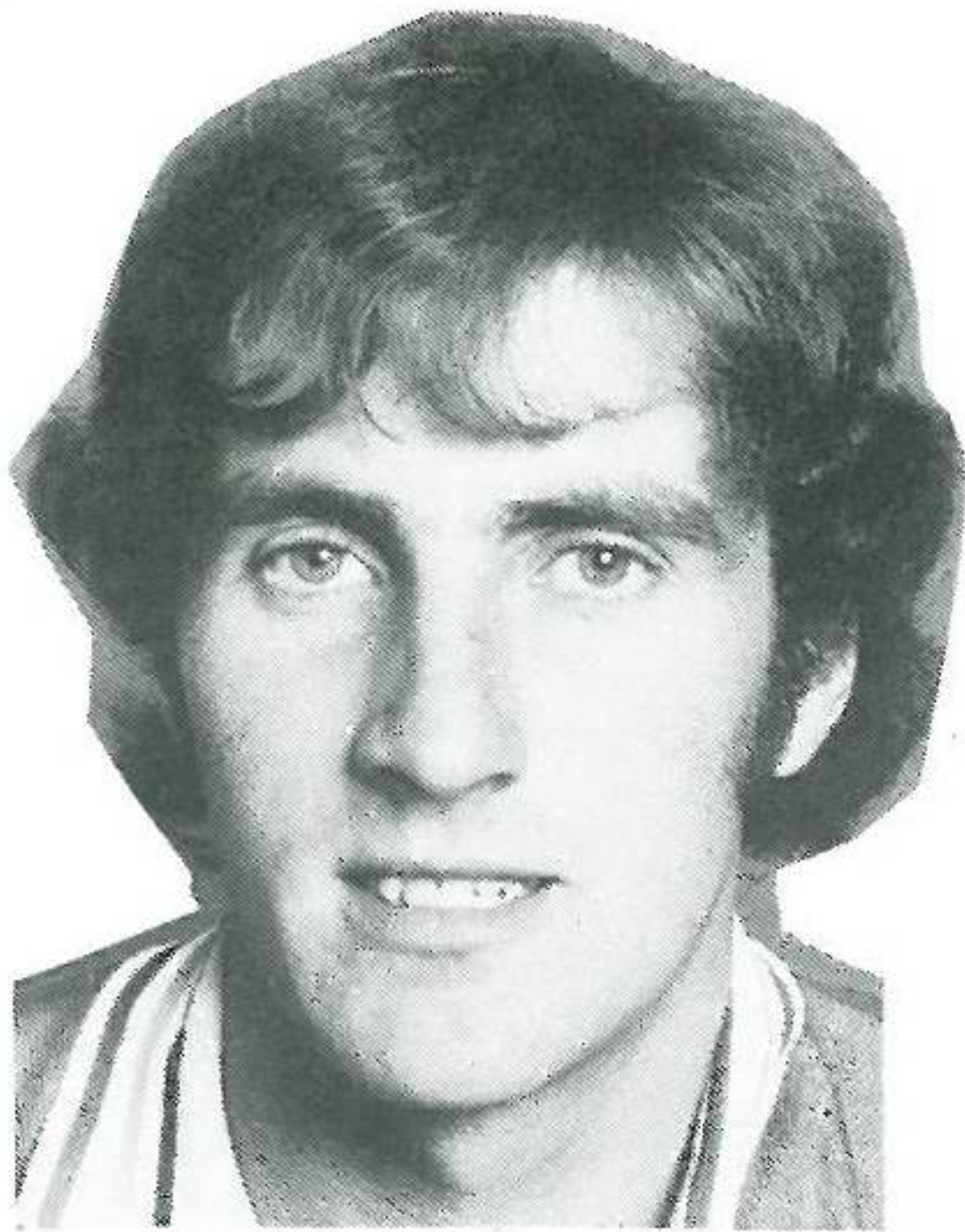
• CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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•EUGENE COUGHLAN

TALL men in more ways than one... that can be truthfully said of Eugene Coughlan and Jack O'Shea, who won the Gaelic Games trophies in the Texaco awards for the past year. Not only is each over six foot tall, but the hurling and football standard-bearers are big as well in ability, effort and sportsmanship.

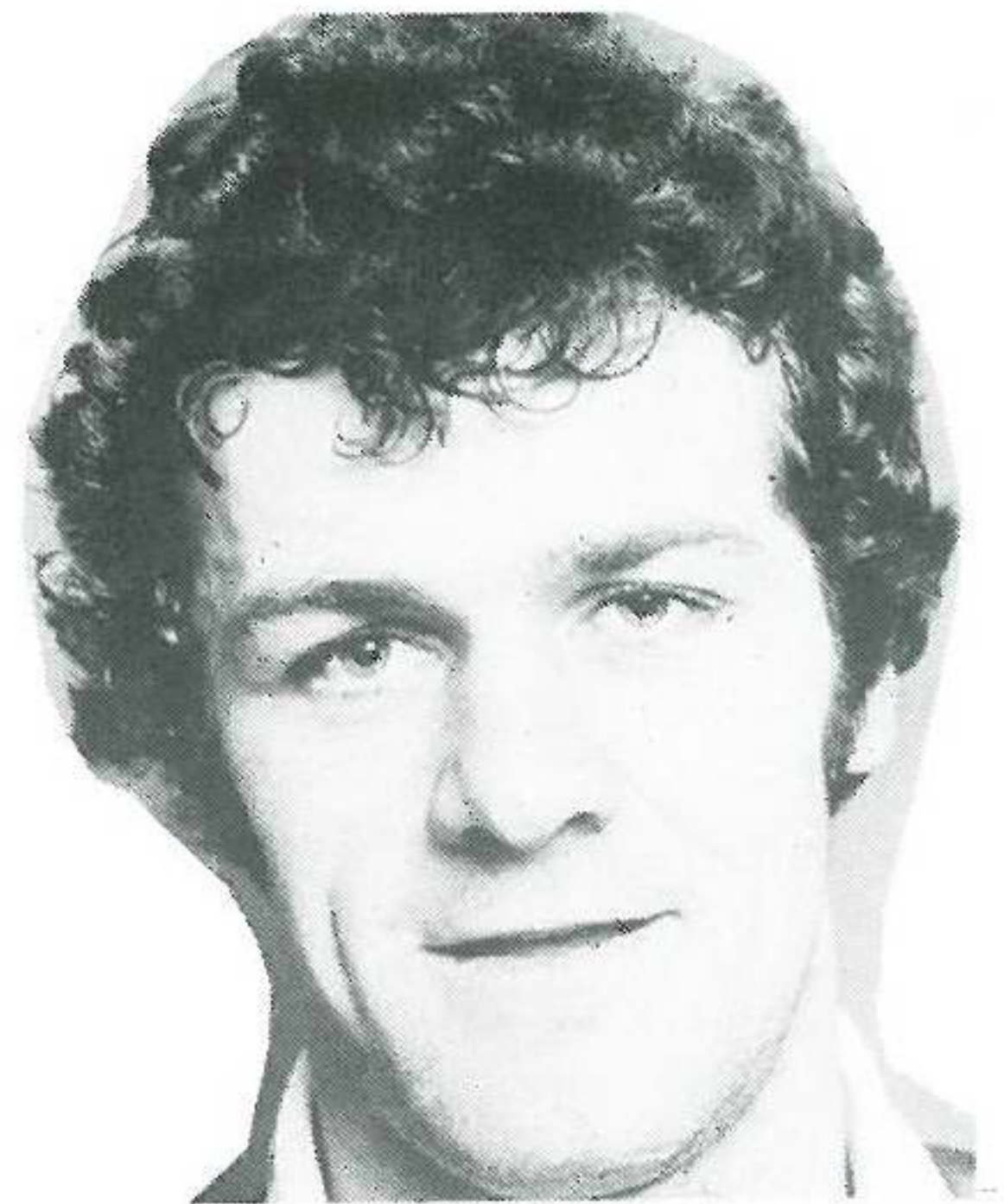
The pair emphasised those qualities to the best possible effect in 1985. They impressed in their contrasting roles over the year as a whole, but especially in the championships, and it is beyond dispute that Coughlan and O'Shea were vital influences in shaping the triumphs that were Offaly's and Kerry's in the All-Ireland senior campaigns.

Coughlan was a tower of strength at full back for Offaly; the rock on which so many attacks floundered as the Midlanders marched to their second McCarthy Cup win. O'Shea took a grip on the football final proceedings right from the throw-in, and he helped himself to 1-2 in the first 16 minutes almost before the Dubs knew what was happening.

Both, then, had the strongest of credentials for places in the latest Texaco parade of champions. It is a parade with which Jack O'Shea is especially familiar, as his 1985 trophy win was his fourth in all. That says much for the consistency

TEXACO AWARD WINNERS

1985



•JACK O'SHEA

the team that won the county's initial All-Ireland senior crown in hurling, was later in 1981 honoured as the Midlanders' first trophy winner in the history of the promotion.

It is safe to say now that it is all happening somewhat late in his career for the giant hurling full back. Last March he received his first Bank of Ireland trophy at No. 3 in the All Stars Centenary Year selection, and that came despite Offaly's disappointing showing when losing the 1984 final to Cork at Thurles.

Coughlan has experienced the fluctuating fortunes of hurling with Offaly over the years. He played in all grades with the county, including appearances at senior during the second half of the 'Seventies when the Midlanders were continuing their struggle for a place among the elite. Then, in 1980 when the seeds of greatness were at last coming to fruition, he was on the injured list for a spell that year.

Indeed, when Offaly lined out that summer against Kilkenny in the Leinster senior final the big defender was on the substitute's bench. During the game, however, he went into the fray and played his part in bringing the provincial crown to the county for the first time.

• TO PAGE 19

of the Kerry ace over the years, his first award having been gained in 1980.

In contrast, Coughlan has just joined the Texaco ranks for the first time. The presentation came just about two months after he celebrated his 29th birthday, and after years of up-and-down fortunes in the most skilful game of them all. The honour also confirmed the Seir Kieran club man as the leading full back in hurling at present.

By JOHN ROBERTS

Strong as well as tall, he has a great reach, and is such a dependable defender that most forwards find it very difficult to get the better of him. Cool under pressure, he does the simple things really well, and he kept such a tight rein on his opposite numbers in the last championship campaign that he allowed the opposition to score only 1-3 in the four game run to the All-Ireland crown. A striking guideline that to the part that Eugene Coughlan played in the triumph.

Little wonder, therefore, that he has become only the second Offaly hurler to collect a Texaco award — Pat Delaney, centre half back in



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TEXACO WINNERS FROM PAGE 17

ALL-IRELAND DEBUT

Coughlan was at right full back for Offaly's All-Ireland senior hurling final debut as the Easterners gave Galways a great run when losing by two points. By the time the counties lined out again in championship play for the 1981 All-Ireland senior title, the solid defender was at full back, and he did much to steer a course to win that gave the Leinster county the Liam McCarthy Cup for the first time.

The determined full back has gone from success to success in the present decade, and stands today as one of the real giants of the game. He was very much on the top of his form in the All-Ireland final last September, when his dependability took much of the sting from the Galway attack.

He allowed his opposite number, Noel Lane, who did so much to sink Cork's hopes in the thrilling semi-final last August, to hit just a single point.

Coughlan, who is a technician with Telecom Eireann, now has two All-Ireland senior medals and four Leinster championship souvenirs.

He has also worn the Leinster jersey, but has still to win a Railway Cup medal, and a National League trophy is also missing from his collection.

On his form over the past year, the man who has become hurling's latest addition to the ranks of Texaco award winners, is likely to provide plenty of inspiration for Offaly in their bid to further emphasise this year their status as the leading team of the 'Eighties in the East. He will undoubtedly prove a big man in the heart of the Offaly defence, with Jim Troy, who has emerged as such a worthy successor in goal to the great Damien Martin, and Pat Delaney, majestic at centre half playing their parts in providing strength in depth in key positions at the back.

HARD TO BEAT

What can one say about Jack O'Shea that has not been said before? Not a lot, such has been the regularity with which the man from Cahirciveen has been in the news for nearly all of his senior inter-county career.

Suffice to say here with regard to his Texaco record that his tally of four trophies is one that will be very hard to beat in the future.

Like Coughlan, the brilliant

midfielder from Kerry, who now plays club fare with Leixlip, still has much to offer — he will be only 29 in July. A big aim, no doubt, apart from another All-Ireland triumph, of course, will be the winning of his place in the Ireland team for the visit to Australia in the autumn.

It will be remembered that O'Shea who is a plumbing contractor, captained Ireland in the Centenary Year series to add a major honour to a collection of trophies and awards that is one of the most impressive in Irish sport. Unlike Coughlan, the high-fielding Kerry midfielder has won every honour in his sport — All-Ireland medals (6), National League (3) and Railway Cup (4) medals. He also captained Kerry to their last League title win in 1984.

Weigh in a great innings as well as with the Bank of Ireland All Star awards, and it all adds up to a remarkable success story for the man we know so well simply as "Jacko".

Eugene Coughlan and Jack O'Shea are not only two of the outstanding personalities in Irish sport — and here we include all games — at present, but proof positive as well that the men of today can walk tall with the giants of any era of the past in Gaelic Games.

CONNACHT COMMENT FROM PAGE 15

expectations raised by last year's exploits in the championship.

What could be more appropriate, then, than that this gifted squad marked the 50th anniversary of that first All-Ireland senior title win by returning from Croke Park next September with the Sam Maguire Cup? It is a distinct possibility.

THE GREEN ABOVE THE RED.
A compilation of Mayo's greatest football triumphs. By Terry Reilly and Ivan Neill, Ballina, Co. Mayo. Western People Ltd. Price £4.00.

Incidentally, the 1936 Mayo senior captain, Seamus O'Malley, was elected new President of the Mayo County Board at the last County Convention. Another bright

omen for 1986 for the county?

GOOD SHOW

The West enjoyed a good show in the Bank of Ireland All Stars selections, with Galway earning five new members of the club out of five of their hurlers honoured, and Mayo having their greatest year ever.

Before the 1985 football team was announced Mayo had only two players honoured over the entire fourteen years history of the series until then. Then along came Dermot Flanagan, at left half back, Willie Joe Padden at midfield, and Kevin McStay at right full forward, to wipe out memories of past disappointments with a new standard at three awards.

Paul Earley completed the Western interest with his selection at

full forward in football. This was a first for the young Roscommon man, and another achievement for the Earley family, as Dermot, probably the county's greatest footballer ever, was an All Star in 1974 and 1979.

Leitrim remains the only Connacht county without a full All Star in football, and one can only hope that this situation will be set right in the not too distant future.

In the meantime, on the score of representative honours, it was good to see Leitrim directly involved in the Connacht Railway Cup team with the selection of Michael Martin, who has been such a commanding figure with the county, and indeed Connacht, chosen at left full forward for the football semi-final against Munster at Tralee.

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CAMOGIE

SHEILA WALLACE IS NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

BY MARY MORAN

SHEILA Wallace, the new *Soifigeach Forbartha* of *Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael*, is no stranger to camogie. An enthusiastic worker for the game, she is well known throughout the Association.

A native of Dalkey, she features in goal with the local Cuala Club. Sheila has played a prominent part in Cuala's rise through the ranks to the senior grade. An inter-county defender, she captained Dublin to win the 1981 National Senior League and previously won an All-Ireland Junior medal.

Sheila has administration experience of club, county and provincial levels behind her. She acted as secretary to both Dublin Senior and Junior County Boards and represented her county at Leinster Council and Annual Congress.

In her capacity as a referee, she has officiated all over the country. Sheila was in charge of the Armagh v. Galway All-Ireland Junior Final in Croke Park last September.

Sheila has been quick to find her feet in her new role. Preparation for Annual Congress has occupied the early days. Her job embraces the duties of *Ard Runaí* with the function of Development Officer. The first involves organising a

calendar of events and handling the numerous matters which find their way on to her desk.

Setting the Development Plan in motion and keeping it on the boil will absorb her attention in the coming months. Seeking to expand the boundaries of the Association, increase the spectator appeal of our games, improve the standard of administration, attract new members and help in fund-raising, will hold her interest as time goes by.

The Annual General Meeting of the Post Primary Schools Council elected Sr. Mairead from St. Clare's Convent, Keady as their President. Sr. Mairead is the first President to come from within the schools. Daughter of famous Gael "Pappy" Fearon, President of the Armagh G.A.A. Board, Sr. Mairead is a former player who is determined to make a worthwhile impact on the colleges scene.

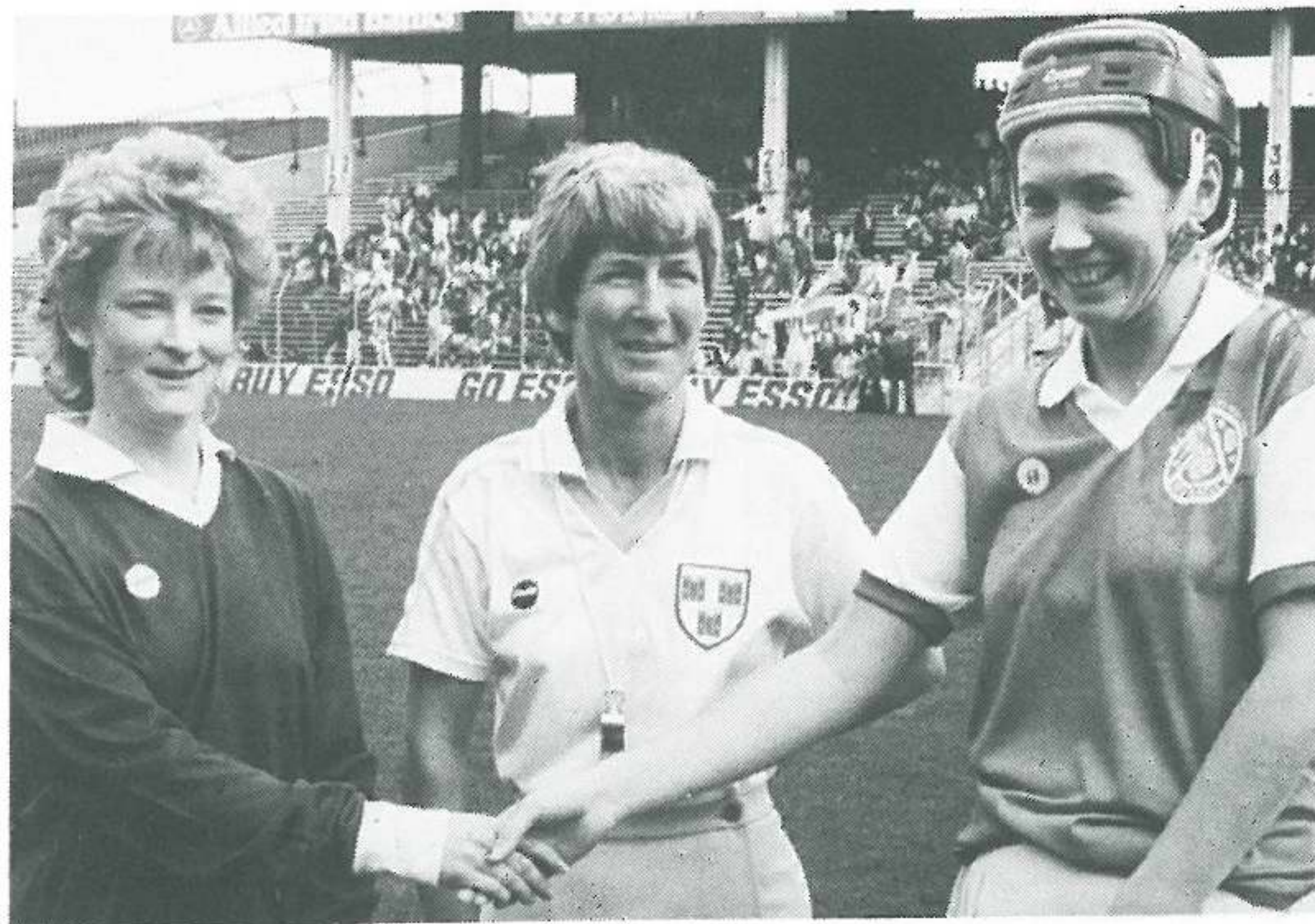
The meeting considered ways and means of perpetuating the memory of the late Agnes Purcell. Longtime camogie correspondent of this magazine, Agnes had a deep love of college camogie. It is envisaged that an All-Ireland Colleges Sevens will

be introduced in the 1986/87 season.

The G.A.A. published many histories to coincide with the celebration of their Centenary Year. Hopefully, the history of the Camogie Association will have reached the bookshelves long before it arrives at the hundred years mark in 2004. The task presented to Ini Leonard, Nell McCarthy, Eilish Redmond and Mary Walsh is a particularly difficult one.

Camogie received sparse coverage in the early years curtailing the newspapers as a source of information. Lack of an official home in which to store valuable items over the years was another disadvantage. The committee will find their main sources of knowledge in minute books, memory and private collections like that of the late Sean O'Duffy.

Interest is building up in the 1986 inter-county season. With the National Leagues already underway, fans wait with curiosity to see who will challenge Dublin and Kilkenny in the senior grade, match Cork in the minor, test Angela Downey at *Gradam Tailte* and emerge as the teams of the season in colleges, *Feile* and junior competitions.



Camogie's New Development Officer, Sheila Wallace pictured prior to the 1985 All-Ireland Junior Final with rival captains, Ena Cannon, Galway (left) and Margaret Moriarty, Armagh.

SPONSORSHIP:

TELEVISION coverage of Gaelic Games, sponsorship, teenage drinking and the allegiance of members to the G.A.A. were some of the many topics touched on at county and divisional conventions as the legislators took time out to look back over the past year and forward to the coming one at their annual gatherings in recent months.

RTE came under fire at the Down County convention. Delegate Gerry Sheehan claimed that the station virtually ignored Gaelic Games after the All-Ireland finals, with little attention paid to the National Leagues. He requested delegates, through the County Board, to take the matter up with RTE.

Many would go along with the views of Mr. Sheehan.

On a different slant, the failure to televise live the All-Ireland senior football semi-final replays last year, continues to have repercussions. Here it must be said that the decision not to have live coverage of the Kerry-Monaghan and Dublin-Mayo replays was the G.A.A.'s and not RTE's.

Kerry County Board Vice-Chairman, Sean Kelly, speaking at the East Kerry Convention in Killarney, said that the G.A.A. owed it to the young, old and incapacitated supporters who could not attend games to allow live TV. He maintained that any loss of gate revenue would be outweighed by the longer promotional benefits.

Mr. Kelly went on to make the very relevant point that the growth of popularity of some minority sports mainly through the influence of TV coverage showed what an effective medium television is for promoting any sport.

The following is an extract from Pauraic Duffy's address to delegates at the recent Monaghan Co. Board Convention, in which the Chairman expresses deep concern at recent trends prevailing within the Association, nationwide, in the matter of sponsorship:

"I must refer to one wider issue which, I believe, threatens the basis of the G.A.A. as we know it.

The increased reliance on sponsorship at national level appears to be fostering or, at least, has coincided with a growing professionalism within the Association. Let me endorse everything which our Secretary stated in his report on the question of sponsorship, both local and national and make it clear that when I speak about professionalism, I am not referring to the higher standards of organisation to which we all aspire. I am speaking about a growth in practices that make a mockery of our claim to be an amateur association.

Among the stated aims of the G.A.A. are the preservation and promotion of Gaelic games and the promotion of a community spirit through the clubs. That has been achieved thus far through players, officials and thousands of voluntary workers giving freely of their time and expertise to build an organisation that is central to community life in this country.

If we allow ourselves to be browbeaten towards professionalism, then I fear we must be prepared to abandon those claims to be a community based amateur organisation. That for me would be the ultimate failure."

All those, within the Association, who favour a growth in sponsorship to provide the elixir to the future financial requirement of the G.A.A., would do well to ponder awhile on the Monaghan man's expressions of anxiety.

Sound reasoning here.

The non-televising of the Mayo-Dublin replay live was dealt with by Mayo County Board Secretary, John Prenty, in his report to the County Convention. He criticised the decision, and went on to make the comment:

"In these days of supposedly equal opportunity for all, the Association discriminated against the old, sick, infirm, those unable to afford to go to Dublin, and sadly the young, by refusing live TV coverage".

Mr. Prenty went on to say that it would have necessitated only a minor adjustment for fixtures in other counties to overcome the problem.

"This situation must never be allowed to happen again"

commented the Mayo Board official.

So say all of us!

It could have surprised no one, in view of all that happened in the past year when sponsorship, not only proved a talking point at the Kerry County Board Convention, but will be carried through to the Annual Congress in Limerick.

A motion from the Dr. Crokes Club in Killarney requesting that all County Boards and clubs should have the right to accept any sponsorship they see fit, was adopted, and goes forward to the national gathering.

The Ford sponsorship of the National Leagues was touched on by Central Council representative, Gerald McKenna, who said that

MONAGHAN CHAIRMAN EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT A GROWTH IN PRACTICES THAT MAKE A MOCKERY OF G.A.A.'s CLAIM TO BE AN AMATEUR ASSOCIATION

CONVENTION COMMENTS

huge question marks hung over the acceptance of this sponsorship. He also said that there was nothing very much wrong with the sponsorship accepted by Kerry during the past year.

MORE INVOLVED

There was a call to become more actively involved in attracting sponsorship at Roscommon Convention. The County Board President and former All-Ireland title winning senior football captain, Jimmy Murray, said the County Board should employ a professional consultant, if necessary, to tackle through sponsorship debts of almost £18,000.

It was at the same convention that Michael O'Callaghan, chairman, urged the Association to become more involved in curbing teenage drinking, and the general abuse of alcohol. He went on to describe as unpardonable for any official to have under-age teams celebrate with alcohol.

The point was brought a step further when delegates adopted a motion requesting a ban on alcoholic drinks in G.A.A. Cups.

One does not have to be a non-drinker to see the merit of taking steps to ensure that officials of club and county under-age teams do not celebrate title wins by filling the Cup with alcohol. A good time can still be had by all without that practice, which can lead to abuse, not only at a function, but later in life.

Some would say that a motion from Tyrrellspass club in Westmeath to the County convention was a method of reviving the old Ban Rule by the back door. The club moved that members of the G.A.A. who play either Soccer or Rugby, be suspended.

One can appreciate the thinking

behind such a proposal, as it is a fact that some players are giving divided loyalties these days in sport.

The mover of the Tyrrellspass motion, Liam Maher, said that when the Ban Rule was deleted from the official Guide another was written in stating that the allegiance of G.A.A. members is to the Association, and its games, and clubs and counties were to insist that this rule was adhered to.

There was little support at the Convention for the proposal. Syl Murphy, of Ringtown, said the move was an attempt to re-hash the "Ban", and that he felt the Association is strong enough to carry on without players who have breached the existing rule.

Peter Rigney, Caulry, said that what the motion was purporting to seek was loyalty. In his view, however, loyalty under duress was not loyalty.

The motion was overwhelmingly defeated on a show of hands.

UNEMPLOYMENT WORRIES

The influence of the unemployment position in the country on Gaelic Games was touched on at the Offaly Convention. Chairman Padge Mulhare told delegates at Tullamore during the course of his address that the G.A.A. must pledge its support in securing jobs for young players at home, and thus prevent emigration, which had serious effects on Offaly in the past.

G.A.A. President Mick Loftus addressed the delegates to the Mayo Convention, and called on the Government to abolish the rates on club premises and also to reduce the VAT charges on hurleys.

Is there a need for a new drive by the G.A.A. among the youth of the country? Many will answer "Yes" to that question, and rally strongly to the side of Tipperary chairman, Michael

Lowry in views he expressed at the County Convention.

Speaking at Thurles he proposed the establishment by the Central Council of a working party to prepare a development plan for encouraging the active participation of under-age players in Gaelic Games.

He felt that unless action was taken the trend of under-age players switching to other codes would accelerate. Mr. Lowry attributed the present trend to the influence of television, and the provision of well organised fixtures by the other codes.

There is much to be said for an in-depth look at the position of the games among the youth. Is there a need, for instance, for an inter-provincial move to have an annual Youth Day at Croke Park, dominated by a double bill of All-Ireland minor hurling and football finals?

These are just a couple of points that immediately spring to mind, and which would merit examination even without the setting up of a special working party for youth affairs. It is not today or yesterday that GAELIC SPORT called on the G.A.A. to step into line with other sports by promoting annual minor inter-provincial championships.

Let's end more or less where we began our review of the County Conventions on sponsorship. The sponsorship of the National Leagues by Ford was totally supported at the Cork convention.

There was a proposal from Glanmire that sponsorship of provincial and national competitions be prohibited, and that current agreements not be renewed. The move, however, was heavily defeated on a show of hands.

Cork County Board Chairman Con Murphy told the delegates that the Association had nothing to fear from controlled sponsorship.

\$PONSORSHIP

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GET
ON
WITH
IT
BEFORE
OTHER
SPORTS
TAKE
THE
ICING
ON
THE
CAKE”**

SPONSORSHIP looks like proving a consistent debating point in Gaelic Games throughout the coming year. The subject was aired at a number of the County Conventions, and not unexpectedly, conflicting viewpoints were expressed.

Then, there was the new policy document on sponsorship issued by the G.A.A. recently, which has added to the talking points. There can be little doubt that the guidelines contained in the blueprint will continue to provide much debating material for a long time to come.

Let me declare my position right away — I favour the principle of sponsorship in Gaelic Games. I have little patience, in fact, with those who dismiss sponsorship out of hand on the grounds that this is not compatible with the G.A.A.’s amateur status.

BY FINTAN GRANT

I like to believe that I am as good a supporter of the amateur cause as most. Certainly, I would not go along with payment for hurlers and footballers for playing the games. I believe the games themselves would suffer as a result, and I have no evidence that there is any real demand for such a move from the players themselves.

But I am an advocate of attracting as much finance as possible to the Association as a unit from commercial sources. I fail to see the logic of any sporting association turning its back on outside financial aid while its competitors are making the most of such assistance.

Make no mistake about it, hurling and football are facing strong and increasing competition each year from other sports, both for playing members and spectators. The opposition is not coming exclusively from what one might term the traditional sports of Soccer and Rugby, but from such other codes as basketball and squash.

Hurling and football are measuring up superbly to the challenge. The

heavy programme of inter-county and inter-club matches each year, and the attendances at most of the games — crowds that put the ‘gates’ at other codes firmly into the shade — emphasise the point that the national pastimes are still by far the No. 1 drawing cards in the land, and the games with the highest playing membership as well.

This is no reason to sit back snugly and say that we do not need sponsorship. Hurling and football will survive without this type of financial aid, but sponsorship is still a worthwhile vehicle in ensuring a further vital edge for the games.

My support for the sponsorship ideal, though, is not a blanket one. In other words I am not for sponsorship at all costs. Ideals, principles and the good image of the G.A.A. must now be thrown out of the window in order to worship at the altar of sponsorship.

I would be totally opposed to some of the practices that seem to be taken for granted these days in other sports. For instance, any move to have teams, county or club, known other than by their proper names to accommodate sponsors would have me up in arms. I am thinking here of such titles as, say, Team GAELIC SPORT, rather than St. Vincent’s, or Dublin, as is the case in at least one other code.

Fortunately, this will not be possible now in Gaelic Games, judging by what I have read in the terms of the guidelines contained in the new policy document. Association with a team name for sponsorship will be definitely out.

I understand that this will also extend to a ban on the names of sponsors or of their products emblazoned on jerseys. Thankfully, unlike some other sports, we have been spared this in Gaelic Games, and I hope that this will always be the case.

CLUBS OUT

I welcome most of the restrictions contained in the new blueprint. But I



Tommy Conroy (Dublin) and Peter Forde (Mayo) sporting their county's crests. The guidelines on sponsorship will now impose a ban on the names of sponsors or their products emblazened on players' jerseys.

am disappointed that sponsorship of inter-club championships will not be allowed.

The club is the basic unit of the Association. Many are being kept on the road through the enthusiasm and goodwill of members, many of whom not only give freely of their time, but put their hands into their own pockets to provide necessary finance to keep the clubs ticking over. Any help from sponsorship that can be channeled this way should, in my view, be encouraged greatly, again under carefully defined rules and safeguards.

The new guidelines on sponsorship will, I believe, benefit Gaelic Games generally in the long-term. The organisation has two of the most marketable "products" in this country in football and hurling, and the men who negotiate sponsorship deals for their firms are aware of this.

They do not require telling that football and hurling are ideal vehicles to bring sponsors messages to the widest possible public and on an All-Ireland basis.

The result is that the Association can continue to negotiate from a position of strength with any potential sponsor under the new arrangement.

At the same time we must not lose sight, either, of the fact that the sponsors are anxious, like the rest of us, to get the best possible value for their money, and will strive to that end. But the G.A.A., for the reasons of the popularity of their games, are still in the driver's seat.

Increased sponsorship could go a long way to strengthen the position of hurling and football.

VAT on hurleys is proving a "killer" for clubs and County Boards. Many would say that VAT threatens the future of the most distinctive national sport we have. If sponsorship of one or two competitions proved sufficient to compensate fully for the loss of VAT annually on hurleys, then that would be well worthwhile.

Extra sponsorship might also enable the G.A.A. to provide full time coaching in hurling, or at least more rigorous coaching schemes in the weaker counties.

Nor is all well with football. There are many ways that the big ball game would benefit from an annual added injection of finance, ranging from coaching at schools, club and at adult level.

NOT SLOW

One could go on and on, but I think I have put forward enough

points in favour of sponsorship.

There are those who will say that sponsorship could result in thousands of voluntary workers up and down the country becoming disillusioned as a result of the approach of the marketing "whiz kids".

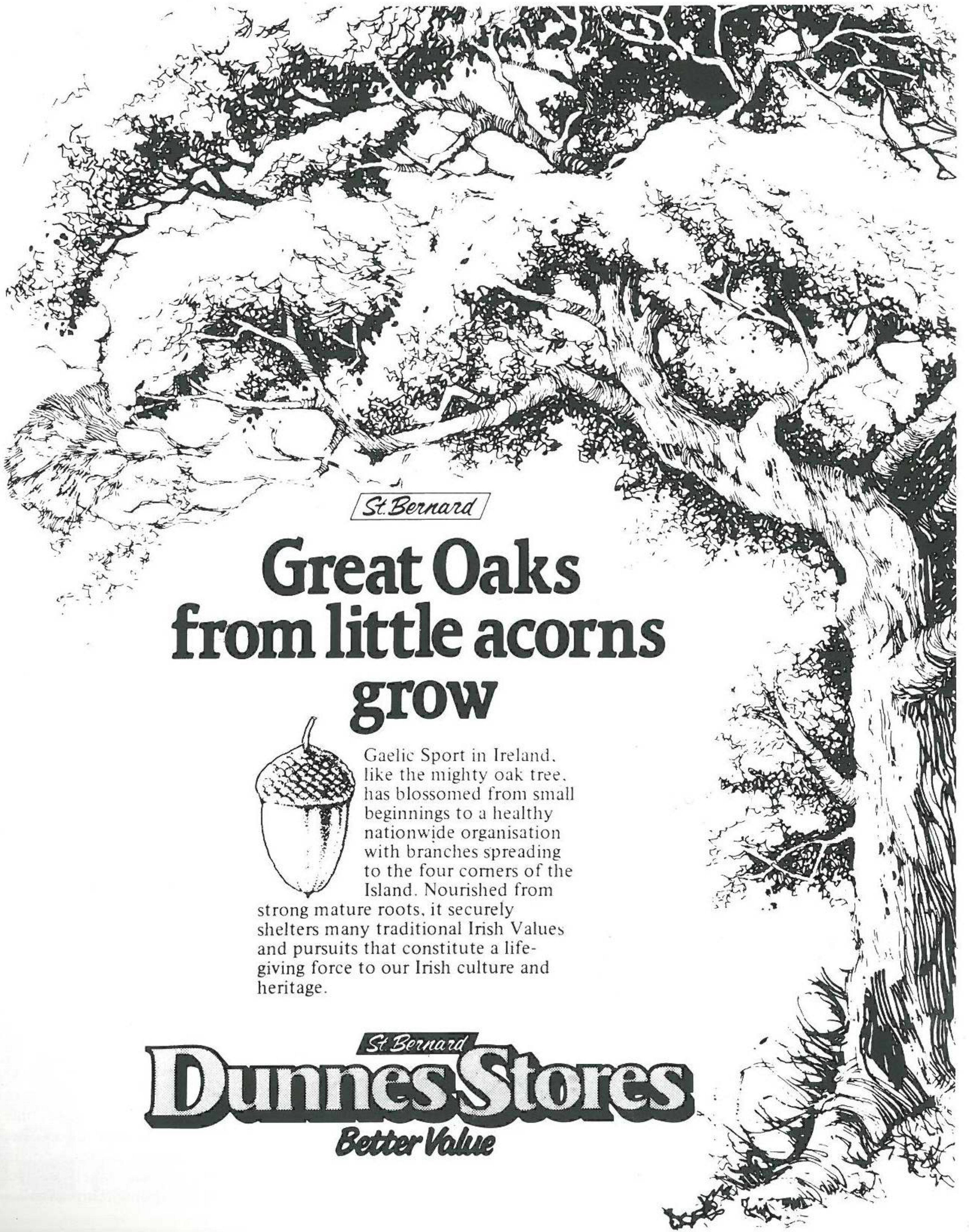
I do not accept that for a minute.

I have already mentioned the way that many men — and women — are digging deeply into their own pockets to help ease the money problems of their clubs. One has only to think here of those who week in, week out, use their own cars at their own expense to transport players to and from games. These enthusiasts are the backbone of the G.A.A.

In these inflationary times, when the cost of running a car is so high without the additional expense of transporting players each weekend, it is expecting a lot of such enthusiasts to rally to the cause season after season. I feel sure such followers would welcome some tangible form of recognition through the advancement of monies from sponsorship directly to clubs.

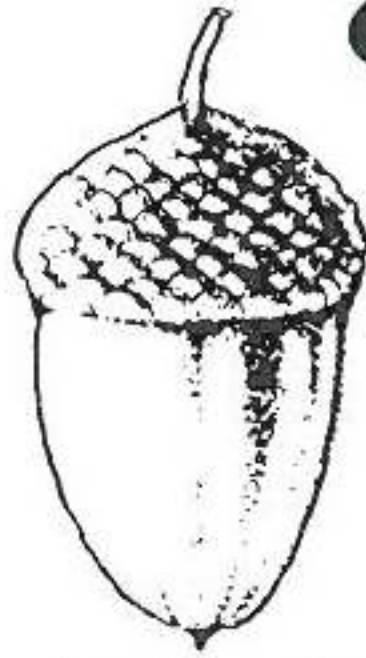
As for the danger of disillusionment — believe me the enthusiasts I have spotlighted would not be over-awed or intimidated by a marketing manager or a P.R.O. from a sponsoring firm, or for that matter, by the hierarchy of the G.A.A. If such followers felt they were being squeezed out or were being merely used for the advancement of a sponsor, they would not be slow to let all and sundry know just how they felt. Or for that matter, slow to take the necessary steps to right the position.

No, I think the case for sponsorship, under the strict control of the new guidelines released by the G.A.A., and with the monies for well designated purposes, is a very strong one. So strong, in fact, that I say let's get on with it on these conditions before other sporting organisations have taken the real "icing on the sponsorship cake".



St. Bernard

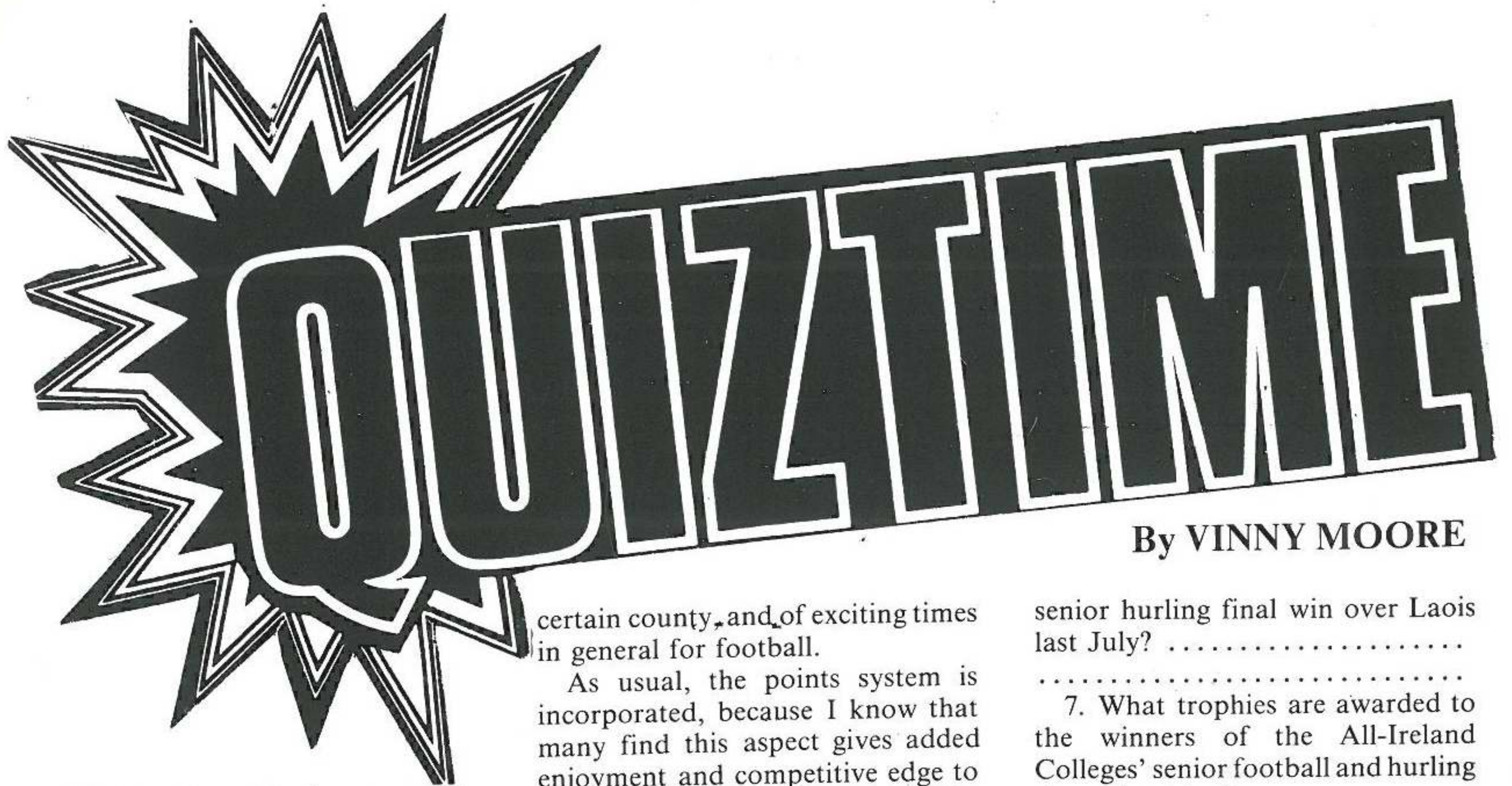
Great Oaks from little acorns grow



Gaelic Sport in Ireland, like the mighty oak tree, has blossomed from small beginnings to a healthy nationwide organisation with branches spreading to the four corners of the Island. Nourished from

strong mature roots, it securely shelters many traditional Irish Values and pursuits that constitute a life-giving force to our Irish culture and heritage.

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QUIZTIME

By VINNY MOORE

WHAT has 1986 in store on the Gaelic Games front? QUIZTIME is not in the business of forecasting trends for this or any other year, but it does seem safe to briefly say that the season promises plenty of exciting fare.

The football trends in recent times suggest that the campaigns for the League and All-Ireland titles will be the keenest in some years. Offaly will be hoping to withstand the challenges of all the contenders in hurling, and here we will be watching with interest the progress of Tipperary under their new trainer, Tony Wall, the former centre half back star.

Some of the trophies that the counties will be playing for form the basis of the first part of our latest edition of QUIZTIME. This ten question exercise brings into focus some of the major trophies in Gaelic Games, and is one of three separate sections in the Quiz. I have not forgotten our camogie and handball readers in the Quiz, with a few questions dealing with their favourite sports.

Happenings in the minor and senior grades of hurling and football are recalled as well, and our new 'dimension' to our Picture Quiz angle that has been such a popular feature of the test, will revive memories of happier days for a

certain county, and of exciting times in general for football.

As usual, the points system is incorporated, because I know that many find this aspect gives added enjoyment and competitive edge to the QUIZTIME. But the overall aim is not so much to see how many points readers can't win from the feature overall, but to try and provide some enjoyment, and possibly information along the way.

Let's make a start then, with our first section, which features some of the most coveted prizes on offer in Gaelic Games each year, and which I have entitled:

THE TROPHIES

1. The Sam Maguire Cup is presented to the winners of the All-Ireland senior football championship. In what year was the trophy first awarded for an All-Ireland senior final?
2. What county won that particular final?
3. The Liam McCarthy Cup is awarded to the All-Ireland senior hurling champions. How many times have Galway won this trophy?
4. Cork have won the McCarthy Cup more times than any other county. True or false?
5. "The Irish Press" Cup is the trophy awarded to the winners of what particular championship?
6. Offaly were presented with what trophy after their Leinster

senior hurling final win over Laois last July?

7. What trophies are awarded to the winners of the All-Ireland Colleges' senior football and hurling championships?

8. Who are the current holders of the Tom Markham Cup? It may help you to know that the trophy is the prize for an under-age competition?

9. A five points bonus if you provide the year during which the Tom Markham Cup was first presented

10. A popular senior football inter-county competition in Ulster each year is the Cup. In other words, the test carries the name exclusively of the trophy, like the Railway Cup for the inter-provincial championships. Donegal won this particular trophy in 1985. What is the name of this Cup knock-out competition?

Each question, other than Numbers 7 and 9, is worth five points apiece. In the case of No. 7 five points are on offer for each trophy named, and therefore it is possible to collect ten points here for an all correct answer. Then at No. 9 there is that five points bonus on offer so that here, too, a total of ten points may be earned.

Overall, then, this section has a total of 60 points on offer.

YOUR SCORE:

TO PAGE 31



Pictured here is one of the great St. Vincent's teams of the past. Do you spot any familiar faces?

Tyrrellspass, and Rev. Ulic Troy, O.F.M., Ballynacargy, the former Chairman, is the new Youth Officer.

While on Westmeath affairs, it was somewhat surprising that the county's great run in the pre-Christmas programme of Division II games in the National Hurling League did not earn recognition for a single hurler in the Leinster team for the Railway Cup.

Westmeath finished the League campaign up to the winter break as the only county in Division II with full points. However, only one hurler "made" the Leinster panel for the semi-final against Connacht — Michael Cosgrove, who was named among the substitutes.

A RECORD

If I mistake not Dermot Earley, the former Roscommon footballer, carved out a unique record by playing in minor, junior under-21 and senior championship at inter-

county level, Railway Cup and National League fare in the one year in the 'Sixties.

What has that to do with Leinster news? Just this, P. J. Gillic, a bright young teenage footballer from Carnaross, went really close to the Earley record in recent times.

Gillic played with Meath in minor, junior and under-21 championship football last year, winning Leinster medals at under-18 and under-21.

He did not appear with the county at senior championship last season, but did find favour with Meath for the Ford League before the end of 1985. So, the teenager played in five separate grades with the county during the past year.

P. J., who was centre half forward in the Meath team beaten by Mayo in the All-Ireland minor football semi-final last August, was on duty again with Meath when the League resumed after the winter break. He will certainly repay watching.

SURPRISE OMISSION

More than Offaly folk I will suggest were surprised at the omission of Jim Troy from the Bank of Ireland All Stars team of 1985. Fair play to Ger Cunningham, who found favour in goal. He is a goalkeeper of the highest standard and had a good year with Cork and Munster.

Nevertheless, Troy was one of the big successes of the Offaly march to the Liam McCarthy Cup. He played soundly all through, and also brought off some top-class saves. He has emerged as the ideal successor to Damien Martin, the county's long standing goalkeeper and the man honoured in the position in the first All Stars team in 1971.

Overall, then, Troy looked to have accomplished more than enough to have earned that Bank of Ireland team spot. However, he has had some compensation with his selection by Leinster for the first time for the Railway Cup.

UNLUCKY FOR SOME!

Kerry's Mikey Sheehy has worn the No. 13 jersey for many years now, and it usually proves to be a lucky number for the ace Kingdom forward. On this occasion, however, during the drawn semi-final with Monaghan last year, Mikey can't get his hands to the ball. Neither can Fergus Caulfield, the Monaghan defender, and his expression tells the story of "the one that got away."



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As you are aware, the ability to finance the achievement of one's goal doesn't always accompany a vocation. And this is where you come in. Are you willing to give financial assistance to help a young apostle realise his dream? A great sacrifice you will say. Remember, however, that if God asks one per cent from us, it is because He wants to give us a hundred in return.

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IN THE PICTURE

Our picture quiz this month features a team in general, rather than single personalities. The squad pictured above is one that captured some important headlines in the not too distant past.

Here is your chance to see what you can remember about the team in question, and of the squad's achievements.

1. This selection won the All-Ireland senior football title in what year?
2. Who was captain of that title triumph?
3. What county finished runners-up to our IN THE PICTURE Squad?
4. How many points had our selection to spare in the final — five, seven, ten or twelve points. Your selection?
5. Who is the player on the extreme right in the front row?
6. What position did he fill in the final in question?

No bonus points on offer for this section. Five points for each correct answer, making a total of 30 points. YOUR SCORE:

Now for a final series of ten questions covering a variety of topics, and embracing hurling, football, handball and camogie, as well as personalities and events. I call this a

GENERAL REVIEW

1. The World Handball Championships will be held in Canada in May. When were the last World Championships held?
2. Who will represent Ireland in the open or senior championship in Canada?
3. Gradam Tailte is camogie's "superstar" competition, an annual promotion featuring the camogie player of the year in each county. Who won the title in 1985?
4. Kilkenny won the All-Ireland senior camogie title last September. What trophy is presented to the championship winners?
5. Who was in goal for Kilkenny in their loss to Offaly in a Leinster senior hurling semi-final replay last summer?
6. Who refereed the All-Ireland senior hurling decider last September?
7. This footballer scored one of the quickest goals at Croke Park in inter-county competitions in 1985, and went on to hit three goals in the match in question. He later won a National League medal. Who is he?
8. This personality helped to shape an historic win in All-Ireland Colleges' senior football in the past year, and later won a

provincial senior championship medal himself in the code, and scored one of the year's most dramatic points. Who is he?

9. Who was at full back for Kerry in their Munster senior football semi-final win over Limerick at Listowel?

10. To end on a bonus note. Five points for each venue correctly named. What I want here is the venues for the 1985 National Hurling League final, the All-Ireland club football decider of last year, and for the Railway Cup hurling decider of last season.

An additional five points if all three venues are correctly named, with the result that this particular question could boost the ratings by a thundering 20 points. All the other questions are five points each for every correct answer.

Total number of points possible:
65. YOUR HAUL:

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

The Quiz carries a total of 155 points. A return of 120 plus is the best possible start to the New Year as far as our Quiz features are concerned, and you can be proud of your achievement as a result. 100 points to 120 points qualified for a Very Good rating. 80 to 100 is Good.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 44

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NORTHERN



SPOTLIGHT

COUNTY Conventions are over and plans are set for a thrilling year in Ulster football. In general there were not many changes in county executives. In Antrim the existing chairman, the experienced Hugh McPoland was beaten for the chair by the previous vice-chairman, Pearse's man Oliver Kelly. Antrim's standard in football has deteriorated and it would be difficult to see again players of the calibre of Kevin Armstrong, Harry O'Neill, Brian McAteer and all the other greats of the forties and fifties. Although many supporters are not satisfied with the progress of the Hurling Board I have said before that they have in the present Loughgiel and Cushendall teams the nucleus of players which could come to the top as Offaly and Laois have done in recent years.

Oliver Kelly is a young Belfast solicitor, an Irish speaker and a man with a genuine interest in all aspects of Irish culture. He played for Pearse's and in the present difficult times his determination to restore his county's prestige could bring about an improvement in the performance of present county teams.

COISCÉIM 1

As regards C.L.C.G. and Irish

culture it is encouraging to see the co-operation between the G.A.A. and C.C.E. to produce a booklet which is the first of a series for set-dancing. Coiscéim at £3 will be a great help to clubs for Scór competitions. With the crowded G.A.A. calendar and C.C.E. calendar clubs do not get the opportunity of devoting sufficient time to Scór to ensure efficient and widespread participation.

At one time Ceilí dancing was completely to the fore in all Northern Counties. Unfortunately in modern times the disco has taken over to the detriment of the youth of the G.A.A. Official G.A.A. presentations should be arranged at properly organised Irish nights in keeping with their objectives. In this regard Oifigeach na Gaeilge in Donegal Seamus De Faoite has organised some very successful céilí/presentations in recent years.

TÍR CHONAILL

Brian McEniff was very busy with county trials over the winter period as well as the normal Railway Cup trials. This should give promising young players from all parts of the county an opportunity to prove their worth. Declan Bonnar of na Rossa club proved a very effective forward in a January trial with Monaghan as

did young players like Paul Carr, Seamus Ward, Leslie McGettigan and Manús Boyle. Declan Bonnar is a brother of current full back Sean Bonnar and county minor Donal. Their father Dan Bonnar from Lettermacaward played for the famous Dungloe team of the fifties and was also full-back on the Donegal senior football team.

Gweedore who were the kingpins of Donegal football for many years celebrated the centenary of the G.A.A. in December and made presentations to their greatest players and officials. It would be difficult to go over the number of Gweedore men who donned the Donegal jersey with distinction but it was great to see one of their oldest surviving county players Owen Boyle (Eoghan Ellen) there to receive a certificate of merit. We wish a great player who was unable to be present due to illness Patrick Magee a speedy recovery.

This reminds me of a great opponent of Gweedore Jas. McGarvey of Rosses Rovers of Donegal and Ulster fame who died at the end of centenary year. Other great Rosses players who departed in that year were Andy Gilligan a native of Coolera, Sligo and Paddy "Fally" Gallagher who played for

• TO PAGE 35

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ELECTRICITY

It's here for good!

both the Rosses and Gweedore. The Gweedore Club's fortunes was not impressive in recent years but with a hard-working Chairman Pádraig Mac Fhionnghaile they have a strong team that could do well if the present trend of emigration does not worsen in the Gaeltacht. The employment of up to 800 in the Gweedore Industrial Estate, backed by Udaras na Gaeltachta should be a great help to this whole area. The present Donegal goalkeeper Bosco Gallagher plays for Gweedore.

MINOR TOURNAMENT

St. Paul's, Belfast, are to be congratulated on organising the Ulster Minor football tournament for the minor champions of practically all Ulster Counties. This year's final in Shaw's Road was a thriller when Killybegs Donegal powered by their county players beat a gallant Sarsfield team by 2-5 to 0-8 to take the Jimmy McConville cup for the second time. Sarsfields had a great player at centre half in Conal Heatley who scored 3 pts. We will hear more of this youngster.

JIM McKEEVER

He was in my opinion one of the greatest midfielders of our time and his high fielding in the 1958 All-Ireland against Dublin was equal to the best. He has taken over the management of the Derry team and with the help of Phil Stuart, his midfield partner in '58, they could make this young Derry team, who now have a good League record, a difficult one to beat in 1986.

Plunkett Murphy of Dungiven has shown good promise of high fielding at centre field and although college and all-star player Dermot McNicholl is plagued with injury he will be around with some determined Glenullen team mates for the championship.

SEAN McCAGUE

For another year at least he will manage the Farneymen and at the January County Convention he was appointed Central Council representative to succeed the late

Mick Duffy who represented the county capably for years. His son Pauraic, a teacher at St. McCartan's College, is chairman of the Co. Board. Good news for Monaghan is that Bernie Murray is making good progress in America and may be back for the championship. Other injured players Loughman and Hoey are back in action.

BILL DOONAN

The late Bill Doonan played at right full back for Cavan in the Polo Grounds in 1947 and was always a stalwart defender. Over the 1985 Christmas period the Gaels of Cavan showed their appreciation when Cavan Gaels and Lacken in senior and Killygarry and Denn battled it out in wintry conditions for the coveted Willie Doonan Cup. Indeed a great tribute to a great Cavan player to keep this tournament going.



● Seán McCague . . .
Monaghan manager.

ARD MHACHA

It was with deep regret that we learned in January of the death of Sean Quinn who played gallantly on the Armagh team narrowly beaten by Kerry in the 1953 All-Ireland Final. Originally from Derrytransa, Lurgan he played with Sarsfield High Moss. Talking of 1953 reminds me of the trainer of that team John Valley who died last year, go ndéanaidh Dia trócaire ar a anam. Many believe that the 1953 team with such players as Mal McAvoy, Jack Bratten, Eamonn McAvoy, Joe Cunningham was the best ever.

Valley was both as great player

and administrator and with Poppy Fearon and Gerry Arthurs pioneered the work of the G.A.A. in the early years. He was also associated with athletics and his son Brian is present secretary of the Ulster Council N.A.C.I.A.

Fr. Sean Hegarty of Blackwaterton a good footballer in his day has kept the Armagh team in the top grade for many years. Although they have won no major trophies they have on their day equalled the best and if they could get a few promising young footballers they could be a difficult task for any team in the championship. They are especially a hard team to crack in the Athletic Grounds, Armagh, recently renovated and in great condition.

Finally congratulations to an old friend Fintan Ginnity from the Meath Gaeltacht who was elected Co. Chairman at the Meath Convention. A former Drumbarragh player, his enthusiasm for the game will help Meath's progress. I am sure he is aware that Colm Coyle's father Paddy Coyle, a teacher in Beaupark is a former Gweedore and Donegal player and that his uncle Bernard recently deceased was one of Donegal's toughest defenders in the fifties. We wish him every success.

TYHOLLAND

It has been said that the rural club is the backbone of the organisation and this small club who have their pitch on the main road from Monaghan to Armagh are presently running a massive private membership - draw in order to develop their field as a first class Gaelic playing pitch. Tyholland is only a small parish on the Armagh border but this Junior Club has proved equal to the best since their formation in 1952 and gave such players to the county as John Duffy, the Donnelly brothers, Paddy and Eamonn and others. Emigration has edged in too and a good number of their players are in America. Of course they will not forget to help their colleagues at home in their big adventure. Undoubtedly a club with a great local spirit. Go n-éirí go geal leo!

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Joe McNally seen here in action in the 1984 Leinster Final against Meath. Former Minor goalkeeper, under Kevin Heffernan's guidance Joe has blossomed into a star forward.

● FROM PAGE 7

Heffernan has already decided to quit but he leaves behind a settled side which is likely to remain a force for some time. The test for his successors will come when that squad disintegrates and Dublin have to build again.

O'Dwyer, one suspects, will retire in the near future and his replacement will, indeed, have a daunting task as several of Kerry's key players are approaching the veteran stage

and the task of rebuilding will come sooner rather than later for the new men at the helm.

Both O'Dwyer and Heffernan will depart knowing that they brought Gaelic football to a new level in terms of team-work and fitness but their main asset, in my view, was their innate ability to read the game and to make match-winning decisions under the most intense pressure. It will be a completely different ball-game when they are gone.

I am not suggesting that Kerry and Dublin will be banished into the football wilderness but it is unlikely that they will be able to become so consistently successful again. And that can only be good for Gaelic football because, while the Kerry-Dublin rivalry has provided many memorable duels in the last decade or so, one feels that their continued control would have a detrimental effect on the game. Long term monopoly by a few is bound to be unhealthy in any sphere.



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For information or encouragement about a vocation to the Priesthood or the Religious Life please write to me:

FR. MICHAEL BROWNE, (Redemptorist),
Cluain Mhuire, Galway.
Telephone: (091) 51523.

TIPPERARY'S TONY WALL

— A DOYEN OF MODERN COACHING

BY SEAMUS O'NEILL

MORE than Tipperary followers will be watching the progress of the county senior hurling team under the guidance of new trainer Tony Wall.

Young boys have grown to manhood since Tipperary last brought home the Liam McCarthy Cup in triumph, and other counties like Offaly and Galway, who it is safe to say were not in the 'seventies rated serious contenders for All-Ireland senior crowns, have carved out their own new traditions in the meantime — especially Offaly.

Tipperary's failure to win the All-Ireland senior hurling crown since 1971 is one of the most amazing statistics of the modern game. A long, long famine that has come after years of richness during which the county's name was linked almost automatically with All-Ireland senior triumphs.

That 1971 win was the county's 22nd All-Ireland and had Tipperary proudly ahead of the field in the rankings list. In the meantime they have been passed out by both Cork and Kilkenny, and enthusiasts in the county have become just a little tired and dismayed as the last great "Hurrah" recedes more and more in the mists of time.

Wall is a link with the great days. He was a classic hurler to his fingertips, a man whose delicate artistry and supreme command of the skills earned him a rating as one of the best centre half backs of all time.

A brilliant Colleges' and minor

inter-county player in his time, he made his debut with the Tipperary seniorside in 1953 as a forward. However, in 1957 he settled into the centre half back position, and it was from there that he led Tipperary to the 1958 All-Ireland senior hurling championship, and went on to become the first winner of the Caltex, now Texaco, award in hurling that year. In all, Tony won five All-Ireland senior medals, the last in 1965, and was a true superstar long before the term was bandied about with the same frequency as is the case today.

But Wall was more than a player of the highest order — he was a very deep thinker, and many would regard him as the doyen of modern coaching. He undoubtedly set an early standard in this regard by publishing a book on hurling around 1965.

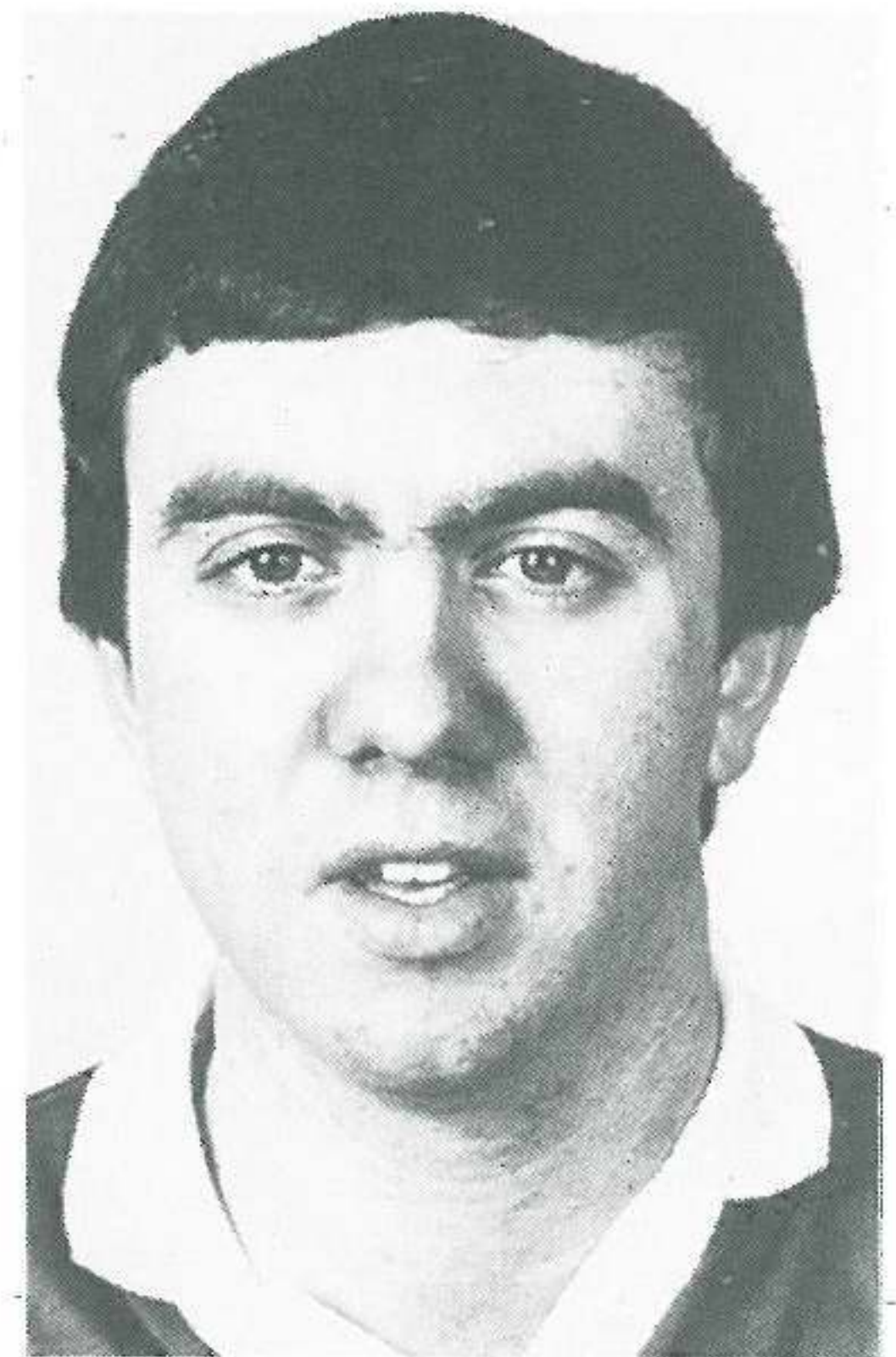
Tony, who is a Lt.-Col. in the Army, is well equipped for the bid to revive Tipperary's long lost glory. If any man can do it, then the one-time centre half back supreme is that man. Little has been heard of him in the game since he retired from inter-county hurling, but now he is right in the hot seat.

We wish him well. And, in saying that it would be nice to see Tipperary back on top this year, we are not taking sides; rather expressing a hope that if realised it would help to bring a new vitality and interest to the national game. After all, Tipperary, in full cry, had a style and

appeal uniquely their own.

KERRY HURLER

Still on hurling, and how nice to see a Kerryman selected by Munster for the Railway Cup. The choice of Christy Walsh at left full forward in the side for the semi-final showdown with Ulster is another strong



•GER CUNNINGHAM . . . a worthy All-Star.

point in favour of the retention of the interprovincial games.

After all, how many enthusiasts countrywide would have heard of Walsh but for his selection by the South. Granted, he has been playing

FROM PAGE 38

well with Kerry in Division II of the National Hurling League, but let's be painfully honest, none but the most ardent of followers keep all that a close eye on activities in that group.

So, well done, Christy! Your selection is a tribute to your own ability, and also an inspiration to



•MICK O'DWYER . . . very strong credentials.

hurlers and footballers in the other less fashionable counties to keep plugging away as interprovincial honours are not merely the right of the man in the successful counties.

Incidentally, it is not all that long since a Kerry hurler appeared in a Railway Cup final. Paddy Moriarty was the South's left full forward in their unsuccessful bid against Leinster in the 1977 decider.

Kerry folk are still rankled at the omission of Mick O'Dwyer from the managerial positions for the Ireland team to visit Australia later in the year. The highly successful Waterville man had undoubtedly very strong credentials.

However, the issue is now all water under the bridge, and no doubt O'Dwyer will be to the fore as ever as Kerry strive to pick up the pieces again in their efforts this year

to make it three Sam Maguire Cup wins in succession.

GOALKEEPING ROW

What a furore about the selection of Ger Cunningham in goal in preference to Jim Troy in the latest Bank of Ireland All Stars hurling team!

Fair play to Troy. He had a superb year with Offaly, and was one of their biggest successes in the march to the All-Ireland senior title. Troy, in fact, firmly emerged from the shadow of the great Damien Martin during 1985, and there can be no disputing the fact that he had strong claims for a first All Star award.

But Cunningham was not exactly standing still either when Troy was showing his style with Offaly. Many seem to overlook the fact that very early in the year the Cork man was in form with Munster as he did much to keep the trophy in the South with his excellence in goal.

Then, there was the Munster championship, and the All-Ireland

semi-final with Galway, games in which Cunningham more than once proved that he is one of the most accomplished goalkeepers around, and that he too had a lot going for him in the race for the All Stars position.

The final choice must have been a difficult one for the selectors but I must admit that I had expected Cunningham to shade the issue.

VISITING STARS

You cannot keep good men down! One of the success stories of the G.A.A. Centenary Year in 1984 was the World Championships in handball. A good number of the World Masters championships were played in Clare, with the finals at Croke Park in conjunction with the senior tests.

Now, I hear that Clare will host international open or tests in the Masters grades for players over 40 years and over 50 years of age next Easter 1987 and that players from Australia, the U.S. and Canada are likely to compete.

COMHAIRLE NA MUMHAN C.L.G.

Munster Senior Championships 1986

IOMÁINT

First Round: 1/6/86 Clár v. Luimneach
Semi Finals: 8/6/86 Corcaigh v. Portláirge
22/6/86 Tiobraid Árann v. Clár
Nó 15/6 nó 22/6/86 Tiobraid Árann v. Luimneach
Cluiche Ceannais: 20/7/86 Sinsir agus Mionúir

PEIL

First Round: 18/5/86 Portlairge v. Clár
18/5/86 Tiobraid Árann v. Luimneach
Semi Finals: 15/6/86 Corcaigh v. Portlairge nó Clár
15/6/86 Ciarraí v. Tiobraid Árann nó Luimneach
Cluiche Ceannais: 6/7/86 Sinsir agus Mionúir

THE HARD STUFF

BY EAMONN YOUNG

“While it is human to err it is also fair play to get your knuckles rapped”

THE well-known forward was really a decent fellow but he was a terrible “mouth”. After the throw-in the ball went down to the other side of the field so our well-known man ran up to his equally well-known opponent, and walking up and down in front of the back announced that “we’re going to beat the stuffing out of you little culchies today” and the words, as one may suspect, weren’t quite what I’ve written. The big back, who was already afraid of the forward, not physically, but in football, simply walked forward, swung a hard right hand and I didn’t see that forward any more until he went off the field after half time. It was the condition of the poor boy’s face that made me enquire. It seemed to be a very private argument.

Munster were defending the Railway goal against Connacht in football and the day was very wet though, the crowd was big, those being the days of the mighty Railway Cup when fellows regarded it as an honour to be selected and trained like hell for them. Anyway a slim fair-haired Western forward sprinted out to the Cusack Stand near the Railway goal and after him thundered a very brave southern back, a clean man but a hard one. As the Connacht youngster doubled over the ball to pick it up he slipped on the greasy sod and the back fell over him.

Bleep, went the ref’s whistle and the free was against Munster. As the pair ran back for the free-in the Connacht man was very happy but

not so that son of Munster who caught his man by the shoulder and gritted “Listen, ladeen, don’t you be throwing your head in front of my boot or by heavens I’ll kick the silly thing off you”. The words again are not quoted verbatim.

Long, long ago I was playing a League game down in Kenmare and, at nineteen, I was trying hard to impress both myself and the chaps on the line. The man I was trying to mark was a strong boy from Dingle who had played in the four previous All-Irelands for Kerry and he was one fine player named Gega Connor who emigrated to America but who I hear was back some time ago and is in good health, thank the Lord. A fair man who never liked nonsense. A high ball came down and he was going to get it, because I was well back so I went as hard as I could. At the right moment I placed my palm gently but persuasively into the small of Gega’s back and he drifted forward slightly allowing the ball to drop neatly into my hands. Off I went and did something with it.

Very satisfied with myself I ran back to take up my position to be met by a rather intense young man from Dingle who looked me in the eye and said squarely “Listen, Young, if the ref won’t give me fair play I’ll get it for myself”. Impressed by the undoubted sincerity of the man’s words plus the fact that he was also Munster middleweight champion I confined my act completely to football for the rest of the game.

When I was eighteen I was playing

for the Dohenys of Dunmanway, my home town. We were being beaten by Clonakilty and surely the day wasn’t going at all well. We ran and harried; we belted and chased but they were going strong and I myself was covered more with sweat than glory. The Doheny supporters were getting more and more angry over on the line and there wasn’t any wire to protect the players from the crowd or the crowd from the players both precautions being necessary on occasion. Then my man took away another ball and away they went down the field where somebody was hurt. Suddenly I was caught urgently by the arm and an agonised face looked into mine.

“Eamonn”, said that honest poor man from Dunmanway with tears of rage and frustration in his face. “Will we rush the field?”. Young, innocent and bewildered as I was (and have remained), I could think of no answer, so taking my silence for a benediction he rushed to the sideline, struck a Clonakilty man on the wan, and the crowd rushed in to save the game. The pitch was cleared (unfortunately) and we lost, but the poor man tried his best.

It was an army match in Clonmel and while the rivalry was fierce we all knew each other well and some of us were good friends. I noted with surprise the angry carry-on of a certain player who was exceedingly skilful and who usually played it completely according to rule. Here he was running around like a fighting ferret, snapping at fellas,

kicking them and calling us all nasty names (some of them earned) I was amazed all the more because, deep down, I knew this guy was a coward anyway. My man, a strong honest chap named Jack Walsh who runs a pub and youth hostel down in Glencar gave me a powerful shoulder and bowled me over. When I stopped rolling he asked as he ran by "Are you all right Eamonn?" and it was a genuine inquiry.

The other fellow, Jack's comrade, ran up, and abused Jack in very emphatic terms most of which did not come out of the Lord's prayer. I then realised that our friend must have taken whiskey or something because in those days drugs would have been out. I watched him for a moment and I suppose the subconscious made the decision, for I didn't. A few minutes later I got a ball and saw him coming very hard to get me so I kicked it away over his head not giving a damn where, and he ran into a well-timed protective fist that closed the case for the Crown. I didn't see him any more.

John Quirke, as clean a player as ever caught a stick, got ready for the free-in against Cork from far outfield. As the half forwards ran in John saw 19-year-old Christy Ring was streaming red blood down his face.

"Who hit you Christy?", asked John in dismay.

"So and so", says young Ring.

The players all gathered for the drop of the ball and there was your man, the culprit, ready to seize his chance.

"Let it come out of the air now, Christy boy", called out Quirke "and every man can look after himself". The bad boy backed away.

Any player who ever swung a stick or laced on a boot can tell a dozen yarns like these. Some of them are funny, some sad and quite a few reveal what we all know: angels are usually in heaven, and certainly I've never seen a player carry a halo as part of his sporting equipment.

The surest way to keep the hard stuff under control is for team managers to emphasise that the

games are for sport and no matter how much we want to win, that fair play is bonny play and we've all got to work on Monday morning. The way to win games is train hard and use your head. There's no greater joy than tricking the other fellow and getting a score . . . and if you meet him afterwards you can always stand him a pint. Sport is for sportsmen and if a fellow wants to use his fists there's a grand place called the roped square — the loneliest place in the world if you can't look after yourself. Our games should be played honestly and when the blackguarding is revealed on the club video the men in charge should say a quiet word to the offender. Players are great but they must be educated also and as for good players, I've seen 'em come, I've seen 'em go and like a city bus, there will be another along in a minute.

The ref hasn't eyes in his poll anymore than the rest of us, so there's no point in abusing him because of the unseen dirty stroke or the bumping and boring that's part

of some men's sporting ability. The men on the sideline are usually friends of the ref (for a start anyhow) and the umpires aren't blind either, we hope. If five men can't see most of what's happening on the field they should get their sight tested for that leaves an area of about 60 yards by 45 for each of them. If we can't control the games by one referee, then we must have two like the Australians but there's no use talking about that until we encourage more men to take up the whistle, a desirable project which is now getting a lot of attention.

The dirty play and off-the-ball carry-on must be attacked by the good men who run the clubs — the greatest men in the Association, and after that the spectators must frown on blackguardism. Finally the Association will, as always, point out in firm fashion that games are for the recreation and training of young Irishmen and Irishwomen and while it is human to err it is also fair play to get your knuckles rapped. It happens to us all.

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

JUNIOR DESK is now on the go since 1970. Since it began we have evolved into a forum for ideas for young G.A.A. people. We also provide a service to programme collectors and it is a vehicle for the sale of G.A.A. books. Usually at this time of year I get yearbooks for review, though less this year than ever before. So here goes with recent books received.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL na nGAIRM SCOL 1960-'85

This is the history of G.A.A. games in Vocational Schools, county by county and nationally. Plenty of photos, old and new. (Price £3 incl. postage from myself at 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway. I didn't write the book but I'm providing this service).

YOUNG TRADRÁI CLUB na nÓG. NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS 1985

A very unusual and interesting venture in G.A.A. communications. Different. Enquiries to McNamara Printers, Shannon. The young people involved deserve credit.

CORK '86 — OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CORK COUNTY BOARD

Very colourful and compact as usual. Tommy McQuaid deserves the usual credits for his editing of this yearbook. I have an article in this one myself in which I pay tribute to a great character named Johnny Hurley whom I had the pleasure to meet in Dunmanway in 1984. Great value at £3 including postage from: Cork Co. Board, Pairc Uí Chaoimh, Cork.

KELLOGGS BOOK OF G.A.A. FACTS, produced by Coiste na nÓg in Croke Park

Pat Daly in Croke Park deserves credit for this factual book which is ideal for young people engaged in G.A.A. projects at school. Fulfils a great need. Enquiries to Mr. Pat Daly, G.A.A. Youth Development Officer, Croke Park, Dublin 3.

GAELSPORT NO. 6 — G.A.A. YOUTH ANNUAL 1986

A youth annual to be proud of. Plenty of great photos. Much colour. A window on the past in words and pictures. One of the best yet. Another Coiste na nÓg venture. Editing is by Eoghan Corry and production by Pat Daly. Price £5 includes postage from Mr. Pat Daly, G.A.A., Croke Park, Dublin 3.

GAISCIGH AN ACHREIDH — CLAREGALWAY AND CARNMORE HISTORY (Galway)

Price £5 from Michael O Linnain, Colaiste Einde, Gaillimh. Very well produced and compact book.

KILLIMOR HURLING CLUB 1884-1984

Price £5 from Secretary, Killimor G.A.A. Club, Killimor, Co. Galway. Some grand photos in a fine social history.

KERRY G.A.A. YEARBOOK '86

As always, excellent. Plenty of articles from people outside Kerry. Price £4 includes postage from Michael Lyne, B.A., Valentia Island, Co. Kerry.

G.A.A. HISTORY OF ROSGREEN AND CASHEL

Cost £13.50 including postage from Carl Cregan, Secretary, Cashel King Cormacs G.A.A. Club, Main Street, Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Written by Seamus King.

More reviews next issue of Junior Desk, including CLARECASTLE CLUB YEARBOOK.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this month is Tipperary All-Star Nicholas English, profiled recently in the Irish Independent. He expects great things of Tony Wall and we tend to expect great performances from himself. I want to pay tribute this month too 2 golden oldies — 2 marvellous sportsmen from the East; Kilkenny's Frank Cummins and Buffer's Alley's Tony Doran, both still going strong. Keep it going young fellas!

THE MAILBAG

John English, 33 Liam Lynch Park, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork, "I am trying to complete the full set of Gaelic Sport issues. I am missing the first issues plus some in the 60's and 70's."

(Can any reader help John? J.M.)

Kieran Rosney (Snr), 181 Grotto View, The Batteries, Athlone, was very critical of Eamonn Cregan's selection of the Top Ireland Hurling 15 for Gaelic Stadium. He feels too the G.A.A. is losing out to other codes in every aspect. Referees failing to turn up, linesmen usually

officials from the teams playing and giving unfair decisions, the pitches unmarked, grass too high, time-keeping abysmal. Schoolboy soccer is so much better organised.

(Harsh criticism there and we must improve our standards at all levels. J.M.)

Tim Murphy, Shamrock Bridge, Rathmore, Co. Kerry, is very critical of the Programme Collector's Club charging £10 and sending on 13 programmes valued £7.30 with postage costing £1.50.

(Not a good bargain Tim. J.M.)

Fachtna McCarthy, Main Street, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, "I read the piece in the Cork Yearbook of your visit to Dunmanway in '84. It was very good. I hope Mayo win the All-Ireland in '86 if Cork don't."

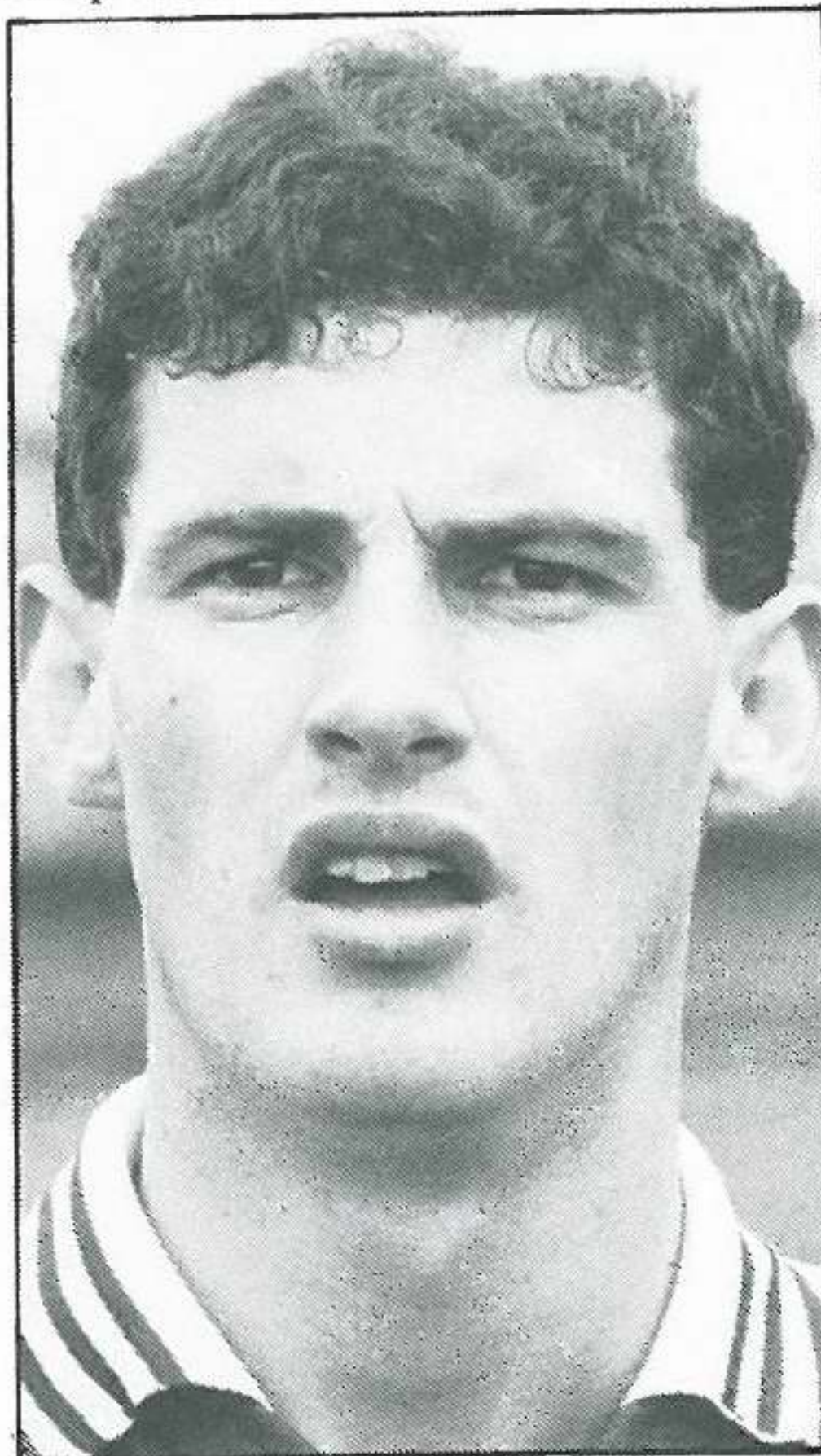
(And what about Galway? I enjoyed my trip to Dunmanway. Give my regards to the Gildeas and Johnny Hurley. J.M.)

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Auhrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, sends me on a regular batch of Wicklow and Wexford provincial papers. He is very proud of the Baltinglass S.F. team who so nearly beat Portlaoise in the Leinster club final at Athy. High praise he has for two brilliant players, Kevin O'Brien (Baltinglass) and Tom Prendergast (Portlaoise). He compares Tom Prendergast's skill to that of Mikey Sheehy, Kevin McStay and Barney Rock. "Come on Tom Prendergast, go out for Laois and win a Leinster S.F. title in '86." Gerry thinks the G.A.A. should end the live television of All-Ireland semi-finals. He quotes the following statistics to boost his claim:

Kerry v Monaghan draw with live T.V.....	21,746
Kerry v Monaghan replay NO T.V.....	53,529
Dublin v Mayo draw with live T.V.....	40,295
Dublin v Mayo replay NO T.V.....	64,132.

(I agree with you Gerry on both issues. Tom Prendergast will regret not playing for Laois now when he is too old to play. About live telly I'm sick and tired trying to convince the G.A.A. of their folly. I hope someone is reading us. J.M.)

Cathal Ryan, 6 Ordhardton, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, is a programme collector and lists his swaps and wants:



Kevin McStay
... Mayo's skilful forward

Swaps:

- All-Ireland S.F. Final 1984. Kerry v Dublin.
- 1985 Munster S.H. Final.
- 1985 Munster S.H. semi-final replay. Tipp v Clare.
- 1984 Munster S.H. semi-final. Tipp v Clare.
- 1984 All-Ireland S.F. semi-final. Kerry v Galway.
- 1980 N.F.L. semi-final. Kerry v Armagh.
- 1980 All-Ireland S.H. (B) final. Kildare v London.
- 1980 All-Ireland S.H. Q/F. Galway v Kildare.

- 1983 N.F.L. semi-finals.
- 1984 N.H.L. quarter-final. Tipp v Laois.

- 1984 N.H.L. quarter-final. Wexford v Offaly.

- 1983 Wicklow Co. S.F. final.

Wants:

- 1985 All-Ireland semi-finals: Dublin v Mayo (draw), Kerry v Monaghan (draw).
- 1985 Leinster S.H. final.
- 1985 All-Ireland S.H. semi-final. Galway v Cork.

+ ANY GAELSPORT ANNUALS.

Kevin Fahy, Cornamoriff, Killargue, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim, is a great fan of Brian Mullins. "His interview on R.T.E. radio on Sunday November 3rd was superb." Kevin thinks he is a very shrewd footballer.

(He has a new role to play now as a selector and we wish all of the new team management of himself Robbie Kelleher and Sean Doherty every success in keeping Dublin football alive and well. J.M.)

Joe Fitzgerald, Green Hill Park, London N.W. 10, "I was at the All-Ireland S.F. final and had a Nally Stand ticket. I like to keep the stubs of the stand tickets as a souvenir of the occasion. Unfortunately, I lost my ticket stub after the game. If any reader of Junior Desk can send me the stub of a Nally Stand ticket for the '85 F. final I will send them a cash reward."

Can any reader oblige? J.M.)

Patrick Martin, Shanmullagh, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan, wants the return of the Programme Collectors' Club. He has been a member of same since its inception and got great enjoyment from the variety of programmes available.

(Hope it is back on stream again. J.M.)

Tim Murphy, Tureenclassaugh, Knocknagree, Mallow, Co. Cork, writes to compliment the Monaghan football team on their '85 achievements. "Hard luck too to a great Cork minor football team which lost to Mayo. Jerome O'Mahoney is a

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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JUNIOR DESK

great goalkeeper and John O'Driscoll is very good too." Tim liked my tribute to Dermot Earley and paid tribute to Galway hurlers and to Dave Synnott and Noel McCaffrey of Dublin.

Nuala Redmond, Redcastle, Mountrath, Co. Laois, is highly critical of the Games Administration Committee of the G.A.A. for their handling of the Finn incident, the unfairness in suspending Eoin Liston for two weeks and Eamonn McEaney for four weeks for a similar offence. She goes back to the "tunnel incident" of '83. "It is about time the G.A.C. examined their role and rid themselves of their inconclusiveness before they make a shambles of something else."

(Strong words Nuala! J.M.)

Tom Morrison, Lansdowne, Shanagarry, Middleton, Co. Cork, has all the copies of Gaelic Sport since 1958 and hopes it continues to thrive despite the recession and many cutbacks. His own collection of programmes goes back to 1913 but he has no spares left. He finds it sad that no Munster final programmes have been distributed through the

Programme Collectors' Club for the past couple of years. "All programmes should publish an address where these same programmes can be purchased at a later date by some collector who may not be present at the games."

(As always, very sound advice Tom. Keep up your writing. It is over 20 years ago since you wrote to me first. I'll have to call to see your programme collection next time I spend a few days down South. J.M.)

Donal Coleman, Newsagent, Halfway, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork, one of that amazing family of Colemans (remember that great goalkeeper for Cork, Martin, well he was one of them) sent me on two copies of the official Cork G.A.A. publication "Cork City and County G.A.A. News" costing £1 and a good exercise in G.A.A. Communications within a county. I hope it is supportive now.

Last month my "Mailbag" ran too long and we had to leave out letters from **Brian Flannery, Ballycraggan, Ballycommon, Nenagh**, who is very proud of Tipperary and his brother John, a member of the

1982 All-Ireland minor panel; **Dermot McCarthy from Bath**, who speaks highly of Channel 4's great service to G.A.A. fans in Great Britain; old friend **Gerry Pender, G.K. Isaac, Croydon 3136, Victoria, Australia**, who wants the address of Gaelic Sport "I have no family ties with Ireland but I am a fan of hurling and football and I love Ireland."

(What a lovely tribute. How about a few readers dropping a line to Geoff Isaac at the above address? J.M.)

Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis Street, Edenderry, another man critical of the Programme Collectors' Club; **Hugh Keaveney, Cragmore, Askeaton, Co. Limerick**, who loves Junior Desk; our old friend **Nuala Redmond** already mentioned above. Finally **Kieran Rosney**, address given earlier, wants a copy of the Ultan Macken book on Eddie Keher and will pay for same.

Please keep writing on any topic to:

**Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.**

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

• FROM
PAGE 31

THE TROPHIES

1. 1928. 2. Kildare, who beat Cavan in the final, and have not won the Cup in the meantime. 3. Twice: 1923, in a final played in 1924, and 1980. 4. True. Cork have inscribed their name on the McCarthy Cup 25 times, two wins more than their closest rivals, Kilkenny. 5. The All-Ireland minor hurling championship. 6. The O'Keeffe Cup, which commemorates Kilkenny-born Bob O'Keeffe, who helped Laois to their first Leinster senior hurling title in 1914, and was G.A.A. President from 1935 to 1938, representing Laois. 7. Hogan Cup (football) and

Croke Cup (hurling). 8. Mayo. The trophy is awarded to the winners of the All-Ireland minor football championship. 9. 1940. Louth were the first winners. 10. Dr. McKenna Cup, a knock-out senior football tournament.

IN THE PICTURE

1. 1977. 2. Tony Hanahoe. 3. Armagh. 4. Twelve points: 5-12 to 3-6. 5. Gay O'Driscoll. 6. Right full-back.

GENERAL REVIEW

1. In Ireland, at Clare and Croke Park, in 1984. 2. Michael Walsh (Kilkenny). 3. Angela Downey

(Kilkenny). 4. The O'Duffy Cup. 5. David Burke. 6. George Ryan (Tipperary). 7. Monaghan full forward Eamonn Murphy, who scored the three goals in a quarter-final win over Kildare in the League. 8. T. J. Kilgallon, who helped to train the Summerhill College, Sligo, team that reached the All-Ireland Colleges' senior football final for the first time, and scored the late equalising point for Mayo in their drawn All-Ireland senior semi-final with Dublin. 9. Sean Walsh. 10. Thurles (National Hurling League); Tipperary Town (club final); Thurles (Railway Cup decider).



**NICHOLAS
ENGLISH
Tipperary**

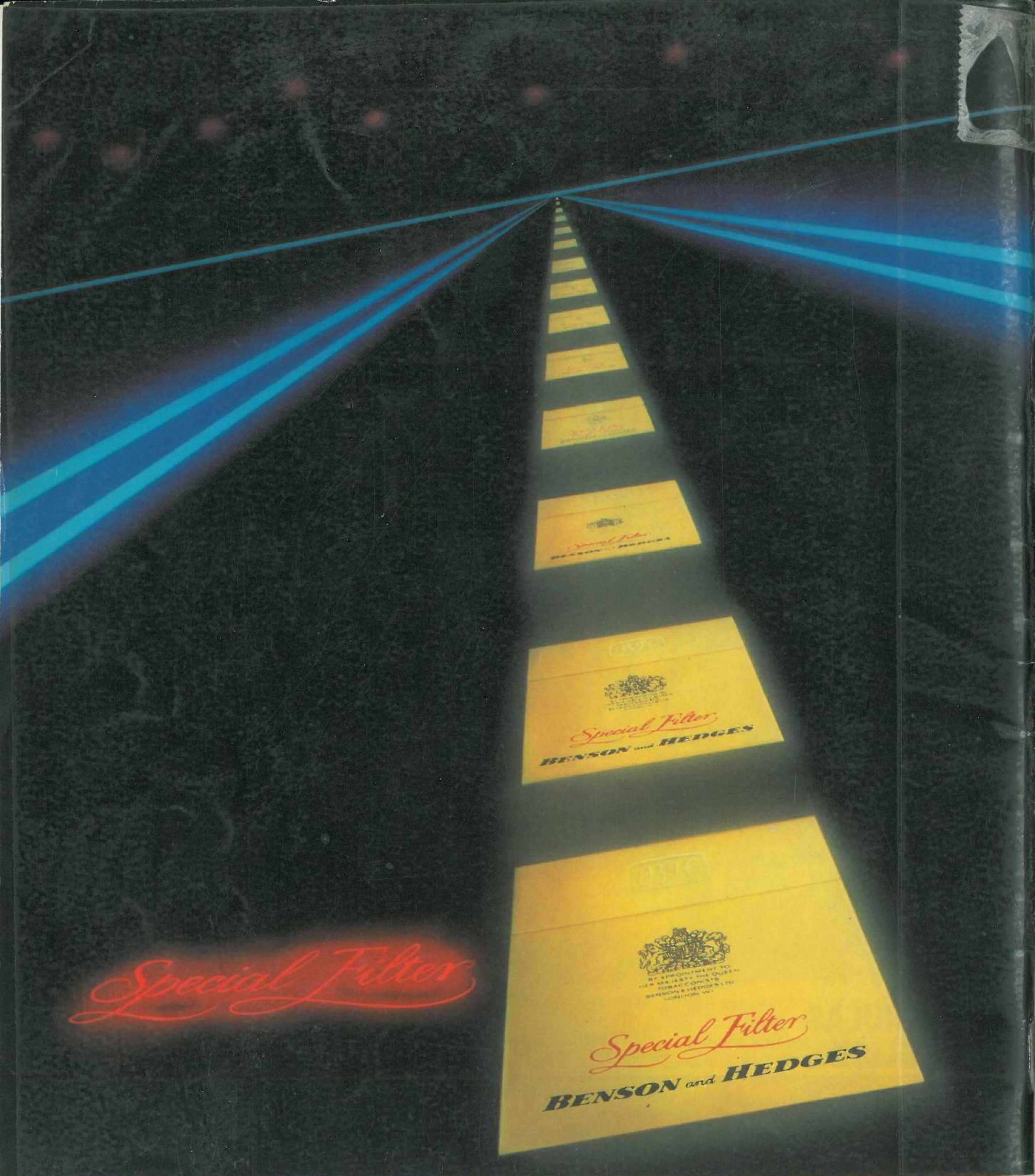
ALTHOUGH he has still to win an All-Ireland senior hurling medal, Nicholas has enjoyed considerable success nationally, and he has also established himself as one of the best goal-getting forwards in the game.

He won a second successive Railway Cup medal last year, and was also in Tipperary's attack in their Ford Cup open-draw final win over Galway last May. A member of the Lattin-Cullen club, he has been honoured three times by the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors.

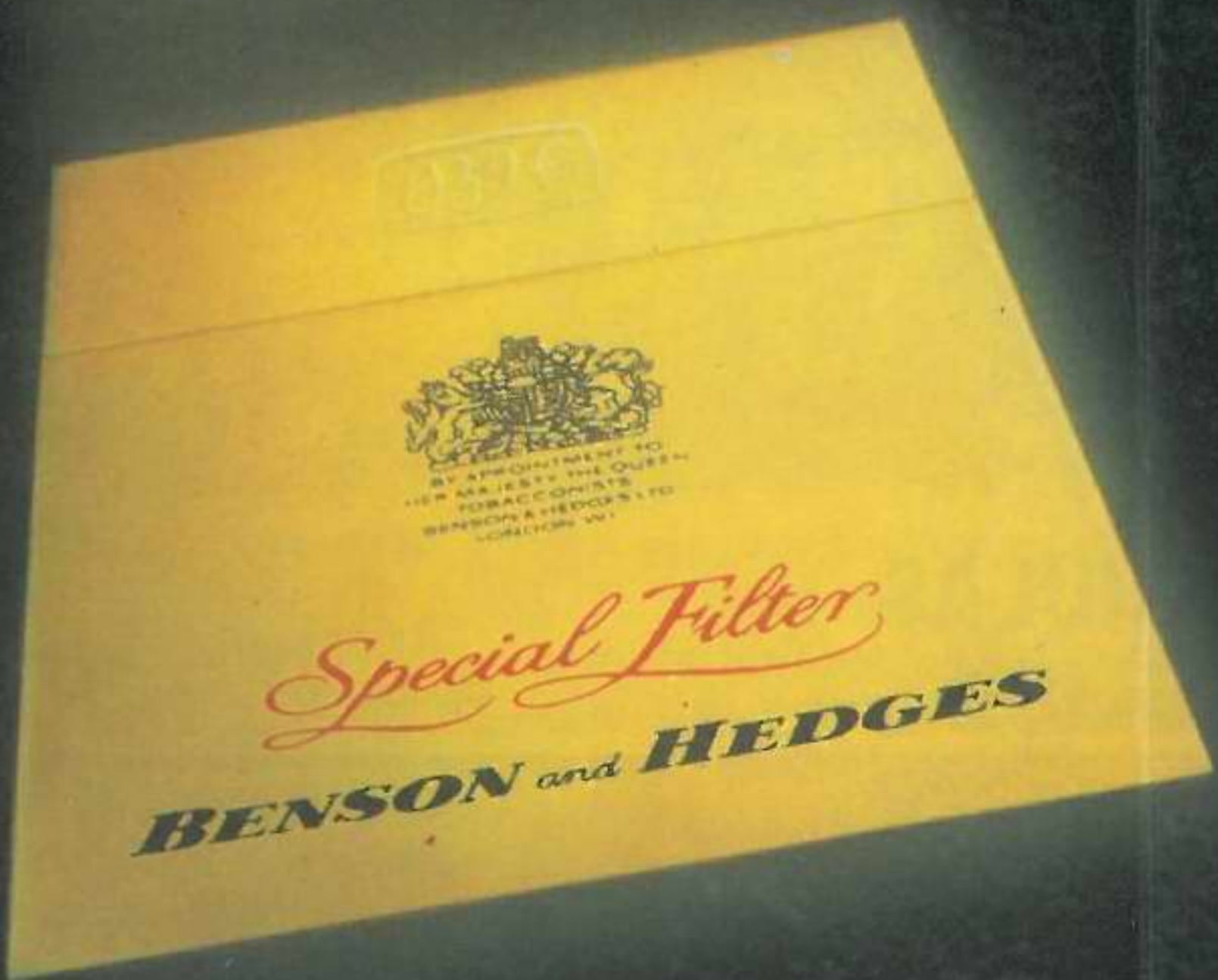
Nicholas had a successful career with Tipperary in under-age competitions before graduating to the senior county team in the autumn of 1981. He won All-Ireland medals

at minor in 1980 and under-21 in 1981.

However, probably the most remarkable feature of his career so far is his record in the Fitzgibbon Cup, the Universities' senior hurling championship. U.C.C. set a new peak for the competition by winning the title for the fifth successive year in 1985, and the young Tipperary forward not only played in all five final teams, but scored in each decider.



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