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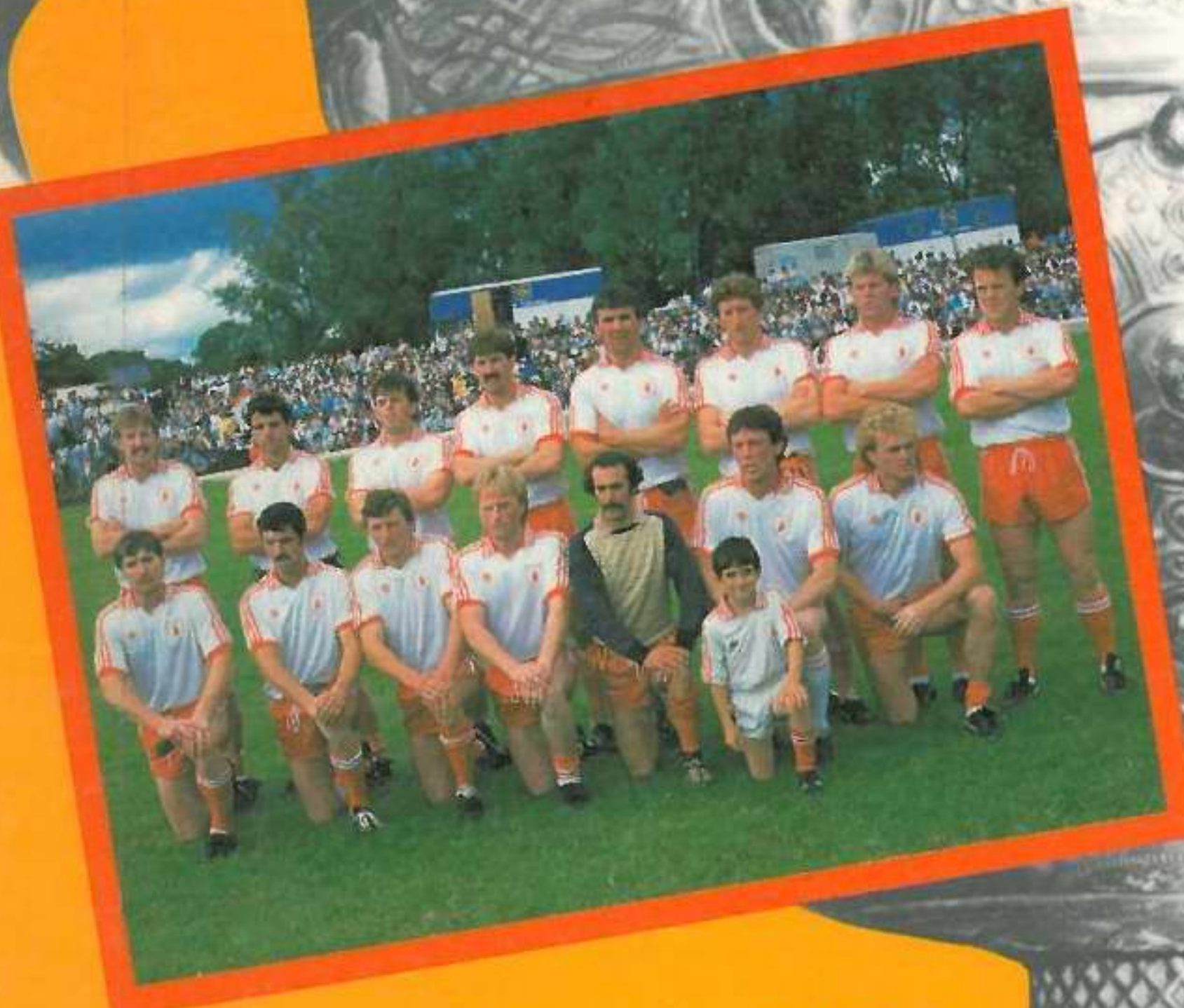
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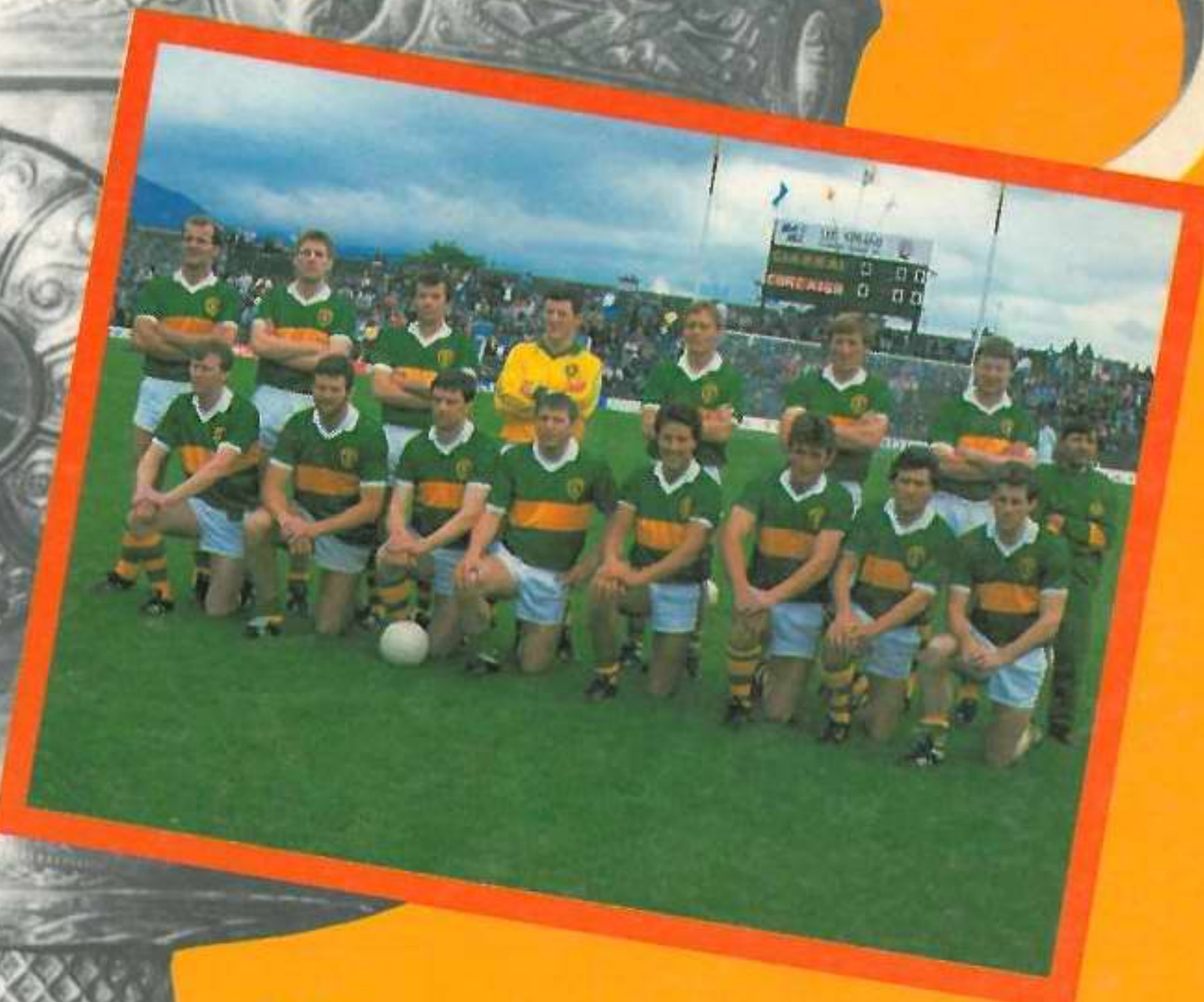
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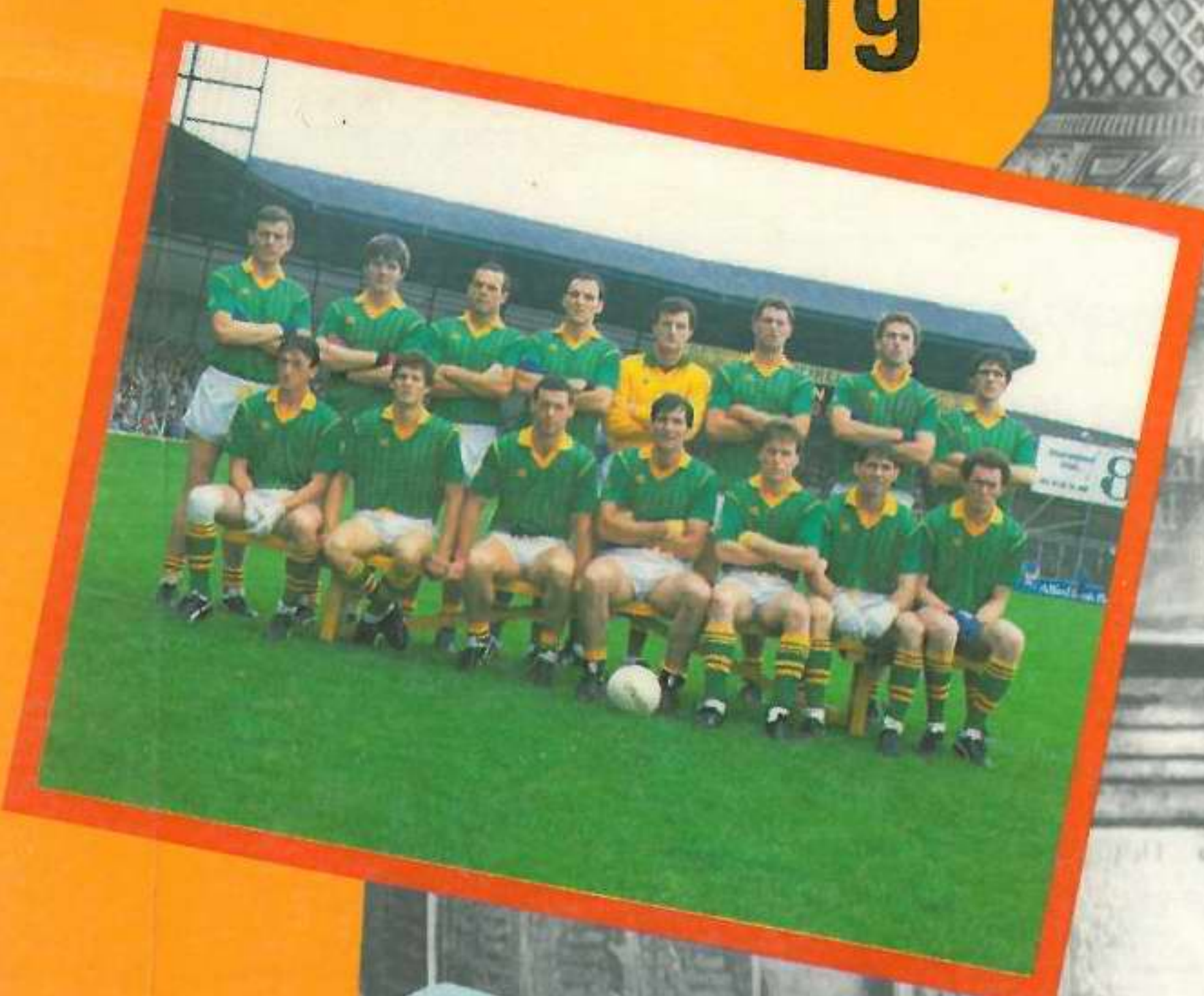
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COVER PHOTO: As a tribute to the four provincial champions who provided us all with such excitement and thrills in the All-Ireland football semi-final games, we considered it appropriate to feature the four teams on the front cover. We congratulate them all on their success and thank them for the enjoyment they have given to thousands of G.A.A. fans around the country.

GAELIC SPORT

139A Lower Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Phone: 374311, 360366.
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October-November, 1986.

A DISAPPOINTING YEAR IN FOOTBALL — BUT ONE TO BE REMEMBERED!

IT has not been a particularly good year for senior championship football. There were few games of sustained excitement and real value for money fare, and overall the general standard left much to be desired.

That is not to say that the season has not had its bright moments. One recalls the wave of excitement that swept the nation following the upset wins of Roscommon over Mayo at Castlebar, and Wicklow over Ford League champions Laois at Aughrim. Those against-the-odds victories added another twist to the glorious uncertainty of sport, and helped to provide many interesting and much needed talking points.

Then, there was the rags-to-riches march by a county not even considered by most as serious provincial title contenders at the start of the campaign — Tyrone. Their climb back to the top in Ulster and the semi-final win over Galway, has ensured that 1986 will be remembered in a special way in football.

After all, it is not every year that a county reaches an All-Ireland senior final for the first time. In earning this distinction, the men from the O'Neill County have brought glory on themselves, and Tyrone, and have ensured as well that the Maguire Cup game will have a colour probably unequalled since Armagh lost to the Dubs in 1977.

Tyrone did well to win their second Northern crown in three years. They played intelligent football in the final against the title favourites Down, and if the match was not as competitive or as memorable as had been hoped, few in the winning county will worry over much about that. A provincial senior title win is a signal for celebration, irrespective of the closeness or otherwise of the game in which the crown was won.

Even more magical for Northerners was the semi-final win over Galway.

Croke Park was a sea of Tyrone favours, and the players rewarded their supporters with skillful touches, fierce determination and competitive spirit. Their footballers were in town to win, and they did that with a bravery that warmed the hearts not only of Ulster folk, but of supporters of the game from other provinces.

Here, one must spare a thought for Galway. Croke Park is not proving a happy hunting ground for the Corrib County, and the latest defeat was the third in a row in championship football since the 1983 semi-final win over Donegal.

However, Galway are undoubtedly deserving of more than the loud criticism that has come their way for undermining their cause with rank bad finishing

Turning scoring opportunities into goals and points is what the game is all about. Even so, while Galway were found wanting in this department, let's give them the praise they merit for keeping their heads high. They never stopped trying all through, and might have pulled the game out of the fire but for a super save by Aidan Skelton in the Tyrone goal late in the match from a cracker from Tomas Tierney.

The future for Galway certainly looks brighter than when they were relegated to Division III of the Ford League at the start of the year.

Meath are still smarting from their semi-final defeat, but as the disappointment recedes with the passing of time, they will get much satisfaction from the Leinster final win over Dublin. It took 16 long years to regain the provincial crown, and if for nothing else, 1986 will stand out as a milestone in Meath football.

The game in the province is bound to benefit from the Royal County's latest success. Football will become more competitive. The scene in Leinster has for too long been monopolised by

Dublin and Offaly. Any sport becomes more alive, more interesting when titles change hands regularly.

As for Kerry, it is hard to find something new to say about the present company of footballers. They keep going on and on, defying old Father Time and their critics by not only winning titles year in, year out, but marking each success with style and flair.

The Munster final win over Cork may not have been vintage Kerry, but how they improved on that showing against Meath! That was Kerry at as near to their best as makes no difference, and the stars were the men who have given so much over eleven long years of sustained competition at the highest level.

Some say football is losing out by the Kerry dominance of the All-Ireland title. As is clear from our remarks earlier that is a viewpoint with which we find much sympathy, but there is always an exception to every rule.

Kerry are that exception in football. There is something special about the Kingdom. They are the team they all want to beat, and their football over the last eleven years or so has been a joy to watch, and a wonderful advertisement for the game.

Kerry, Tyrone, Meath and Galway are very worthy provincial senior champions of 1986. As a tribute to the dedication, the training and the efforts that went into bringing all four to the All-Ireland semi-finals, we dedicate our special Front Cover in this issue.

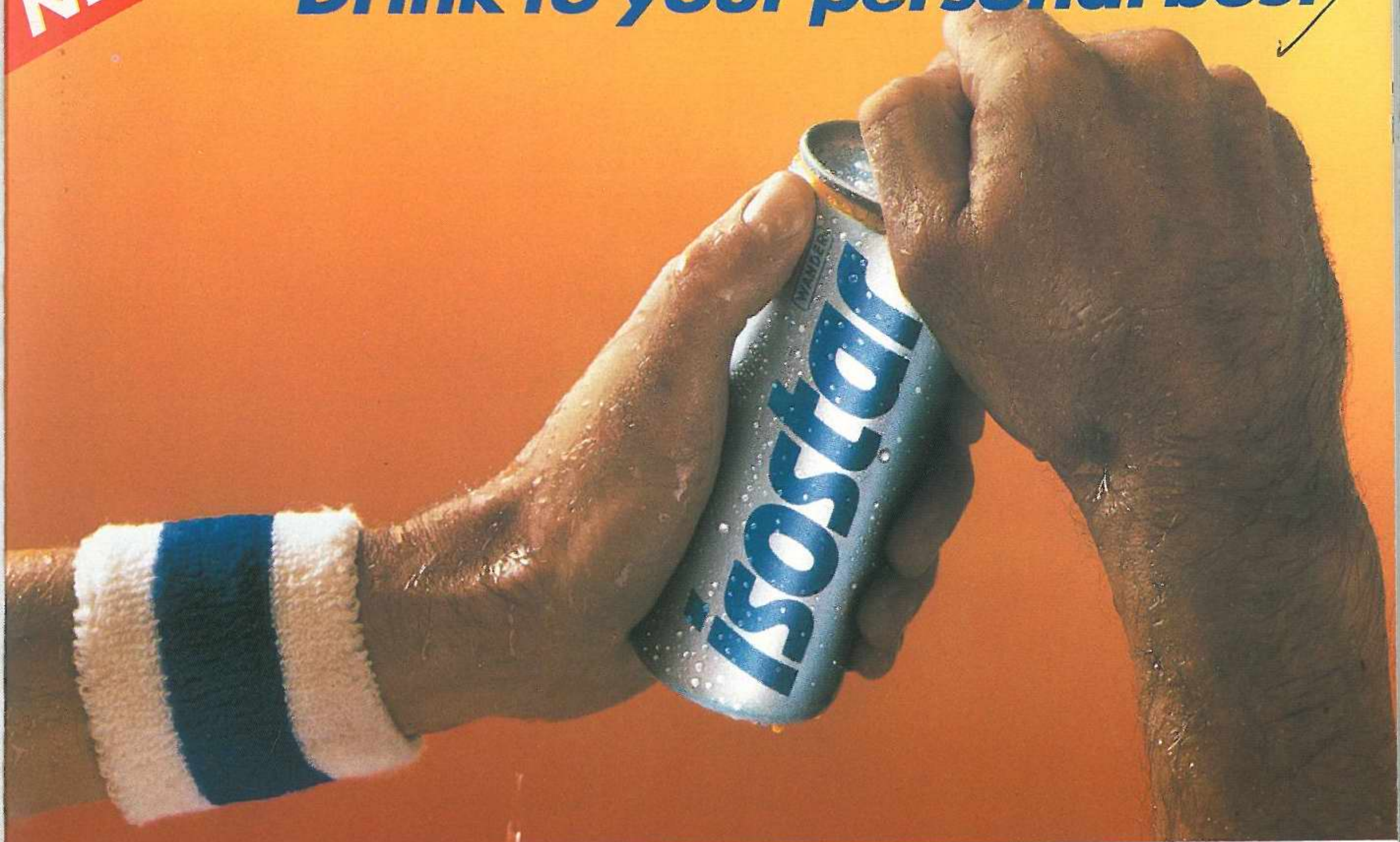
Well done, lads!

Jimmy McQuaid

EDITOR

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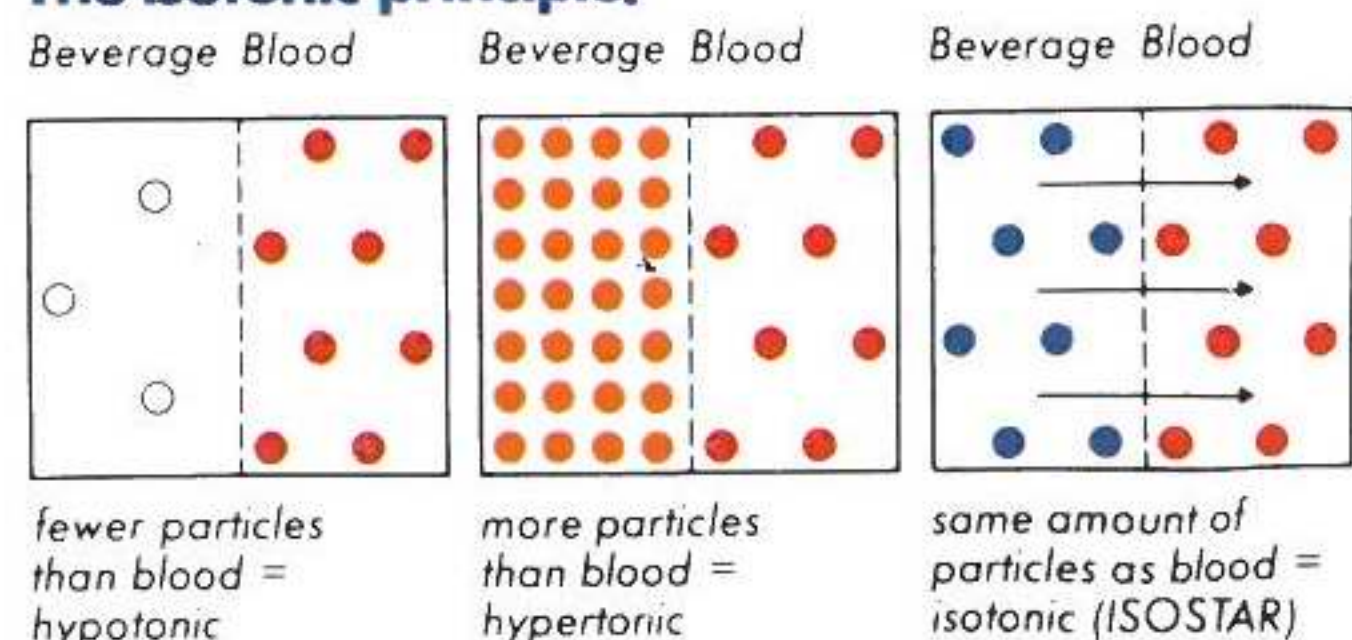
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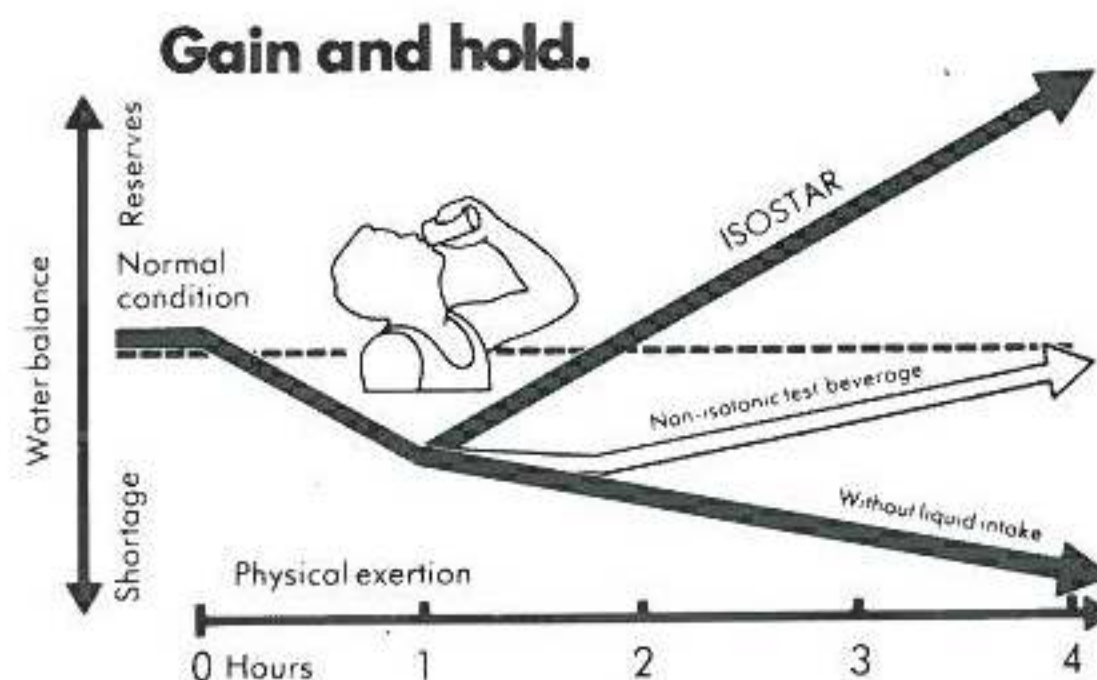
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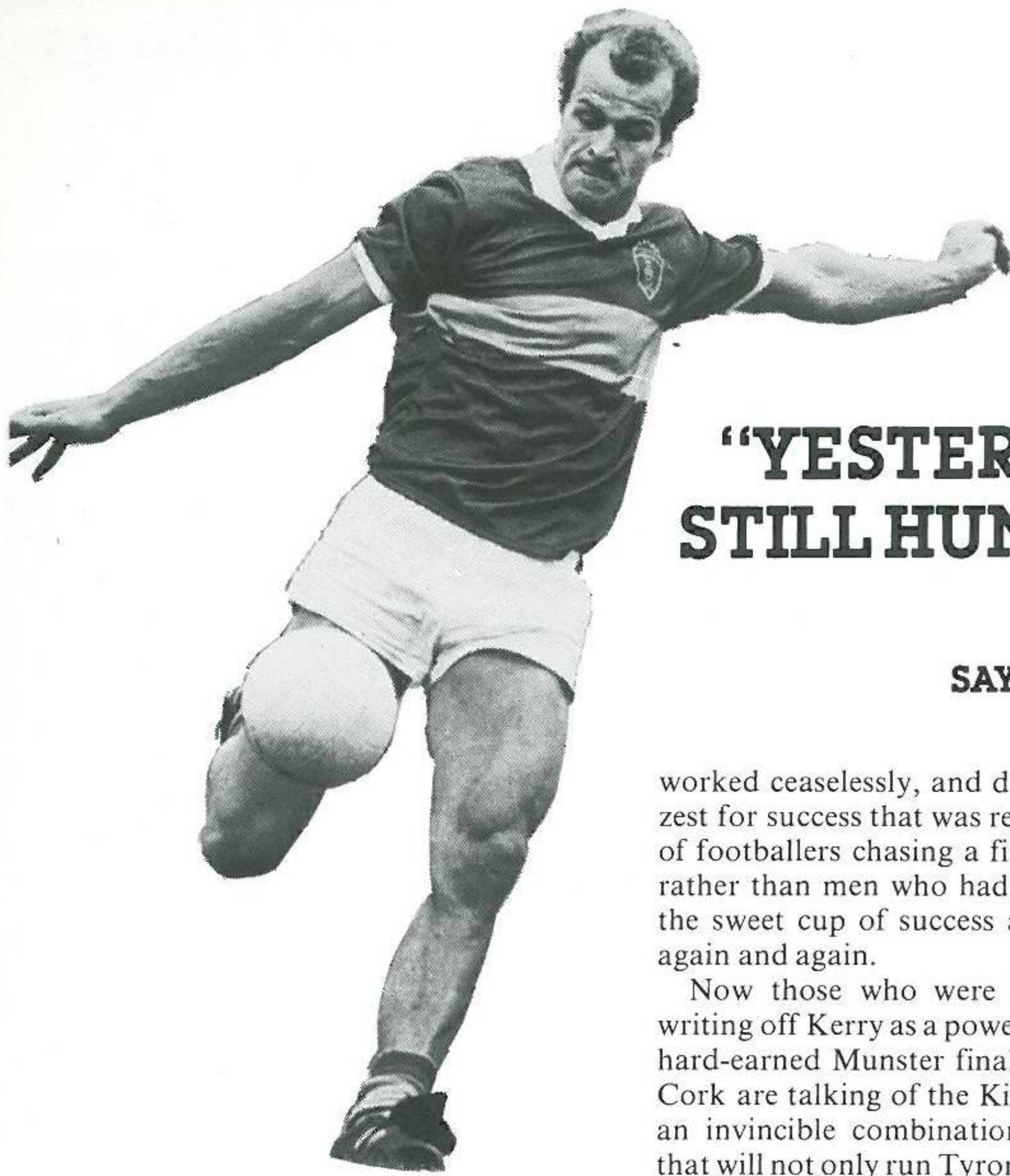
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KERRY

“YESTERDAY’S MEN” ARE STILL HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS

SAYS CORMAC BUTTERLY

HEARDED the story about the Kerry men who made a joke of the passing years? They were to be found buzzing around Croke Park on an August day in 1986 running the legs off young fellows from Meath in an All-Ireland senior football semi-final.

Like many an Ethnic joke that is probably a little hurtful on Meath followers. It is not meant to be, but rather to pay tribute to a group of men from the Kingdom who were, according to many so called experts, too old for top-class competition.

Football, the critics said, was a young man’s game, and Kerry had too many old stagers in their team; too many players who would be caught out by jaded legs and limbs in the white heat of an All-Ireland semi-final tie.

Not for the first time, the Kerry men had the last laugh. The players laden with football years showed no signs of wear as they sprinted,

worked ceaselessly, and displayed a zest for success that was reminiscent of footballers chasing a first medal, rather than men who had sipped at the sweet cup of success again and again and again.

Now those who were so loudly writing off Kerry as a power after the hard-earned Munster final win over Cork are talking of the Kingdom as an invincible combination; a team that will not only run Tyrone into the ground in the final, but go on to maintain the county’s dominance of the top award right up to the ‘Nineties’.

This is exaggerated talk, just as was the comment about Kerry being finished before the meeting with Meath. The All-Ireland champions are a powerful side, but invincible? I doubt that.

I certainly believe that there is another All-Ireland in the team. Look at the expert manner in which Mickey Sheehy and Ger Power, two of the oldest campaigners in football, linked up so superbly to plot the downfall of Meath.

It was a joy to watch this pair in action. No real signs that the years were catching up on a couple of forwards who won their first All-Ireland medals as team-mates in the team that shocked Dublin in the 1975 final.

That is all of eleven years ago, and I doubt if there is a better or more potent twosome in any division in the

game today.

Then, there is Pat Spillane. I did not think he left his usual stamp on the semi-final, but there was no questioning his stamina or his appetite for the game as he roamed far and wide prompting, encouraging his team-mates. Here is another link with 1975, and a man who is sure to be a prominent figure in the latest Sam Maguire Cup contest.

Denis ‘Ogie’ Moran, another who won his first medal in 1975, lost no time in getting Kerry into a point lead against Meath and played well throughout as well.

These forwards, as well as Eoin Liston, John Kennedy and Willie Maher, who went in as a substitute and scored a vital goal, knit together up front like a well-oiled machine that is not going to splutter along for the moment at least.

Jack O’Shea was not as prominent as usual against Meath, but my goodness, how any county would be delighted to have the new Leixlip club man in their squad. He remains one of the best match-winners in mid-field.

YESTERDAY’S STARS

Paudie O’Se and Tommy Doyle played their parts at the back in upholding the flag for the brigade of Kerry footballers who, prior to the semi-final, were being talked of as “Yesterday’s Men”. Doyle may yet take his place as one of Kerry’s best team leaders. He certainly had a grand

KERRY: MUNSTER CHAMPIONS | 1986



game in the semi-final, and O'Se turned in his usual wholehearted display.

No, Kerry are not finished yet. And, even if they have not been enjoying much success at under-age level in Munster, let alone on the national stage, the performances of Willie Maher, Timmy O'Dowd, and Michael Galway, who were all introduced from the substitutes bench during the semi-final said much for the high standard of reserve talent in the county.

Let's not forget either the wonderful part that Mick O'Dwyer has played in motivating the Kerry footballers and in keeping them together and in such wonderful form over so long and so successful a period. His contribution has been immense, and he, like his players, will be eager to keep the victory song a sweet one for another final.

I'm convinced that Kerry will retain the Cup. No disrespect to Tyrone, but they have not nearly as many skilled campaigners as Kerry, and they lack the Kingdom's experience and facility for fast, precision

football in attack, topped off by scoring technique.

But Kerry men are realists. That is one of the reasons why the county has enjoyed such success in football over the years. There is no room for sentiment. A player can be a glittering star one day, and taken off during the next game because of a moderate showing.

While other counties are tempted to wait in the hope that a footballer will shake off indifferent form and regain his touch, Kerry are quick to take remedial action. And, time and again, this bold approach has paid off for the county.

As I have said they are realists, the cute men from the deep South. They realise only too well that even Kerry men cannot go on for ever, and that time is running out for many of the present team. That's why I say that it is premature to look far beyond the 1986 final.

There will be incentives for the honours laden giants to keep playing. Last year it was to help Tommy Doyle to take the Cup. Next year it

could be to help Sheehy earn the one honour that has eluded him... that of skipping the Kingdom to an All-Ireland title.

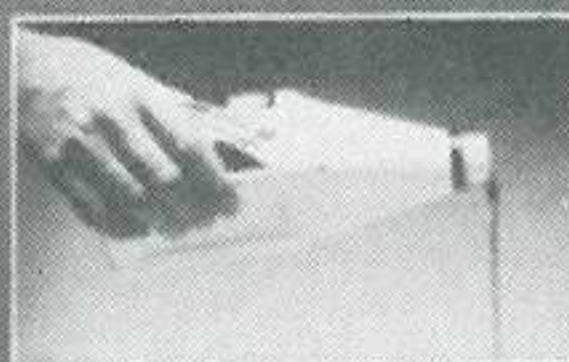
However, let's wait until nearer the time to start talking in terms of the Kingdom juggernaut bowling on successfully into 1987, and beyond.

I believe that Kerry will soon have to get down to a major reconstruction job. In the meantime, however, let's sit back and enjoy the skills of the men who have already given us so much to enthuse over for so many years.

Sheehy, Power, Pat Spillane, Doyle, O'Se and their colleagues can advertise Gaelic football again with their fast, snappy and so productive football. It is a pity that it has to be Tyrone at the other end.

The Northerners will battle all the way, but right now with a Kerry team of footballers still hungry for success, and a good number of men also determined to show that there is plenty of life in them yet, I can't see the Southerners failing to lift the title for the third successive year.

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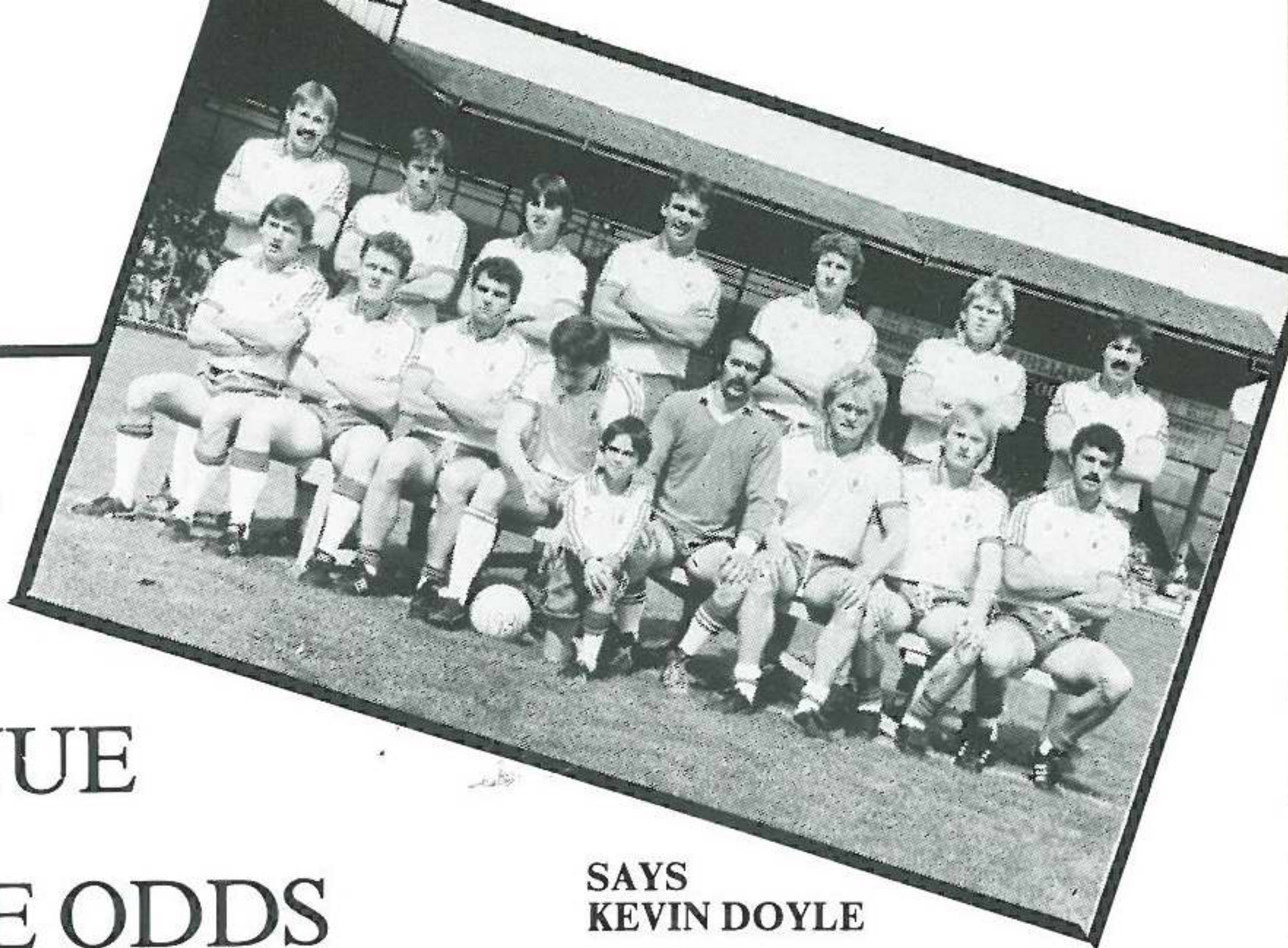
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TYRONE

THE ULSTER CHAMPIONS CAN CONTINUE TO DEFY THE ODDS



SAYS
KEVIN DOYLE

ULSTER says 'Yes' to All-Ireland senior football final action. 'Yes' to the build-up to what is the biggest sporting attraction of the Irish year; 'Yes' to the anticipation, the glamour and the colour that is All-Ireland football final day.

When I say Ulster I mean all nine counties, not merely the Six Counties area that so many are prone to call Ulster. Every single county in the historic Northern province rejoiced at Tyrone's win over Galway; every one of the nine counties will have natives at Croke Park cheering on the "Men from the Bushes" in their bid to make history on the double by returning home with the coveted Sam Maguire Cup.

This is a good Tyrone team. I have little doubt that the side will fare much better than Armagh in 1977 when, on the last occasion that an Ulster team contested a final, the Northern squad lost heavily to a powerful Dublin side.

We knew that Tyrone had plenty to offer after the Ulster campaign, especially following their final win over Down. I would submit that Tyrone did not do themselves justice against Galway.

A win is certainly a win, and it was a great experience to have been at Croke Park when Tyrone finally took their place among the elite with that

first semi-final triumph. But when the excitement had died down and it was possible to look more rationally at the success, one fact came through very clearly... Tyrone are capable of much better things than they produced on their last Croke Park appearance.

They displayed their football skills in bursts rather than in a sustained effort over the 70 minutes. They needlessly gave away possession time and again through careless passing movements, or a lack of concentration. The Northerners also lost some good chances through poor finishing, especially in the first half.

But these are all faults that can be eradicated. The point that must be remembered is that Tyrone have the players with skills and, now one submits, the Croke Park experience necessary, to deliver the goods on the big day.

They have good players throughout the field, and some outstanding campaigners in all departments. Ciaran McGarvey and John Lynch — he is surely a 'cert' for the Australian tour — in the full line, and penalty kicker supreme Kevin McCabe at half back, are just three footballers capable of moulding the defence into an unyielding unit.

The attack may not be quite as rich in top-class talent. However, with

footballers like Eugene McKenna and Damien O'Hagan scheming matters, no defence can expect a "soft" afternoon.

Plunkett Donaghy can be a tremendous force at midfield, and Harry McClure provides much valuable support.

Remember, too that Tyrone had to line out at the last minute without two of their team through injuries.

Let's not forget, either, team manager Art McRory, whose wonderful work behind the scenes contributed in such rich measure to the history-making march this year.

Tyrone consistently defied the odds in their earlier games. Most people expected Derry to end the Tyrone ambitions in the first round, and I think it is true to say as well that Cavan, despite their lack of success in the province, were strongly fancied for their semi-final with the men from the Red Hand County.

That game at Irvinestown was the one that convinced me that Tyrone had distinct possibilities. They won convincingly enough by 2-16 to 1-12, and while all the talk at the time was about a great Down side, I left the County Fermanagh venue that afternoon convinced that here was a team capable of making a real bid for the provincial title.

As we know now, Tyrone did more

●TO PAGE 9

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● Action from the All-Ireland semi-final. Tyrone's Padge Quinn shows Galway's John Fallon a clean pair of heels.

●FROM PAGE 7

than make a strong bid. They won a handsome victory by 1-11 to 0-10.

MODERN ONE

Although Tyrone have a tradition in the game stretching back to the early days of the Association, their senior title winning record up North is something of a modern one. It is just a little over 30 years, in fact, since a well-drilled outfit, captained by Jodie O'Neill from midfield, beat Cavan to take the provincial crown for the first time. Then, came a gallant Croke Park debut that ended in a two point loss to Galway.

A year later Tyrone retained their title, but lost again in the semi-final to Louth.

O'Neill, Thady Turbett, a goal-keeper of exceptional ability,

diminutive Iggy Jones, who had captivated the nation as a quick-silver forward with a mastery of the solo run when with St. Patrick's College, Armagh, and later as a senior, and Frankie Donnelly, deadly from frees, are just some of the names that come down the mists of time from those heady days of the 'Fifties.

Tyrone had to wait until a young man called Frank McGuigan provided the spur of leadership and high quality midfield play in a run that brought Ulster title No. 3 in 1973. That year, however, Tyrone made little impact in the All-Ireland semi-final when they were trounced by Billy Morgan and his merry men from Cork, who went on to take the Sam Maguire Cup.

Eleven more years and it was Frank McGuigan, with a real tour-

de-force as he popped over eleven golden points from play to down Armagh — one for every barren year it would seem — to give Tyrone their next Ulster crown in Centenary Year. Dublin ended their ambitions in the semi-final.

As many as eight of that 1984 All-Ireland semi-final team helped Tyrone to their fifth provincial crown in July, and were on duty in the win over Galway.

Plenty of tradition in the North, and considerable Croke Park experience as well behind Tyrone as they line up for their Sam Maguire Cup debut. They will start outsiders again, no doubt, but having made light of that role so often this season already, who is there to be so bold as to dismiss their chances of upsetting the odds again?

Whatever about that, they can — and will — do Ulster proud.



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SPOTLIGHT ON

THE GALWAY TEAM

“Despite the semi-final setback it’s not all doom and gloom for Galway”

By
**NOEL
MULHALL**

WHAT now Galway? That now must be the burning question after the failure to Tyrone in the All-Ireland senior football semi-final. A defeat that was all the more bitter for the simple reason that the Connacht champions lost so many good scoring chances.

Galway could — many would say — have won the semi-final. They certainly had more than enough opportunities, even from free kicks alone, but any team that fails to put away the scoring chances can offer no other excuse for a defeat.

At the same time, I think there has been too much negative talk about the Galway set-back. Too many remarks to the effect that they won out in a poor Connacht championship, and that defeat was the inevitable consequence of that.

Perhaps the Connacht championship this year was not a high-standard one. Perhaps Galway were a trifle fortunate to have overcome Roscommon with a late late goal from Stephen Joyce.

But they still did all that was asked of them in the West with a determination and a will to win that commanded respect. And, they showed many progressive features on the Croke Park outing.

I thought that Gay McManus had one of his best ever games at head-



■ **GAY McMANUS**
“... played one of his best ever games in the semi-final”.

quarters. He played with polish and purpose all through, and for a time early in the second half I believed he was going to prove the inspiration for a winning effort.

The Milltown club man truly sparkled in that period, and inspired his team-mates with three well-taken points in the first ten minutes. With a little stronger support up front his efforts could have paid out in a winning dividend.

Brian O'Donnell took his goal well. The score was the perfect payoff for the direct approach from the half backs, and had Galway employed that play more often Tyrone could have been in all sorts of problems.

Val Daly worked hard in midfield. Team captain Tomas Tierney had the unenviable job of marking the Tyrone skipper and one of the most creative footballers in the land, Eugene McKenna, and the Milltown club man has every reason to feel pleased with his showing.

Indeed, Tierney almost won the game for Galway. He sent in that cracking shot, that was initially set up by Stephen Joyce, and which pulled out a tremendous late save from Aidan Skelton, as the Tyrone net-minder tipped the ball over the crossbar for a point, just a few

●TO PAGE 13

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GALWAY: CONNACHT CHAMPIONS 1986



●FROM PAGE 11

minutes from time.

Had Tierney goaled from that cracking effort, it would not only have been the score of the game, but a match-winner as well for Galway. So, despite all their misses — and there were many — the Connacht men were right in the hunt until Paddy Collins (Westmeath) whistled up for the end. They just lost by three points.

Overall, it was a much improved performance from the showings against Kerry in the 1984 semi-final, and Dublin in that torrid Sam Maguire Cup contest of three years ago.

SOME TIME

It will probably take Galway some time to get over this set-back. Croke Park is becoming more and more of a bogey ground for their hopes in the championship, and as the memories of that last Sam Maguire Cup win of 1966 — the third in a superb sequence of three-in-a-row title wins — grows ever dimmer as time passes on, frustration will become more and more acute. There is nothing like the stimulus of success to boost morale

and help store up talent for the future.

But as I have already said there are some progressive features from the loss to Tyrone that should be focused on rather than the negative ones. If Galway adopt this policy — and I am sure they will — then they will soon be well on the road to picking up the pieces again after the Croke Park defeat.

Their team also includes some young and very promising players, who have much to offer in the years ahead. Then, there is the most encouraging aspect of all that received little comment after the loss to Tyrone — the sparkle we saw from the minors in their run-away win over a Down team that many felt earlier in the year was All-Ireland championship material.

Galway can take tremendous hope for the future from the showing of the minor team last time — irrespective of the outcome of the All-Ireland final. Here is a solid base on which to build, and there is also no shortage of talent in the county in the 19 years to 22 years age bracket. So, it is not all doom and gloom for Galway in senior football.

Galway were relegated to Division

III of the league at the end of last season. The main aim now must be to get back not only to Division II of the National Football League at the end of the 1986-87 series, but to the premier group as soon as possible. Division I is where a county with Galway's wonderful tradition should be.

It is only by competing regularly with the top teams in the league can any county aspire to challenge with any degree of hope for the "Sam". I have little doubt that despite what happened at Croke Park last month Galway will book their return to Division II at the end of the upcoming National League.

Football is safe in the county. There were set-backs in the past, and they were overcome. The hearts of some in the Corrib County may be a trifle weary just now, but time is a great healer, and as the wins come in the new season's National League the old spirits will rise again.

Galway is too rich in tradition, has too many shrewd officials, and too rich a supply of talent, not to take the latest blow on the chin and bounce back again with pride and flair.



MEATH

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

'86

“They can go on to silence the begrudgers — and retain the title in '87”

THERE are those who are dismissing Meath's Leinster senior football final win as of little real relevance in the light of the heavy defeat from Kerry in last month's semi-final. That is most unfair to the men from the Royal County.

It would be pointless to deny that the unsuccessful venture last time out rubbed some of the gloss from the long awaited climb back to the top in the East. Victory would undoubtedly have given added point to the Leinster win.

But let's not forget that Meath were up against one of the greatest powers in football. All the talk about the Kerry men being “over the hill” was shown to be just poppycock, and I doubt if any other county in the land would have fared better than Meath against a champion side that played like supreme champions.

At times in the first half, the Royal County footballers made the Kerry men look like mere mortals, especially the backs. They were unable to maintain the momentum, especially after conceding that Ger Power goal that came about as a

result of a complete mix-up in the Royal County defence after about seventeen minutes. The score unsettled Meath, and they were never the same power as in the early stages of the semi-final.

Even so, they continued to play with spirit, no little skill, and provided a good challenge. The fact that it was all in vain should, then, not be allowed to devalue the merit of the march in Leinster.

SAYS

EAMON PARKER

I know that it is fashionable now to say that Meath would not have won the Leinster final if Dublin had not lost Barney Rock because of an injury after 28 minutes.

That was a cruel blow to the then defending champions, not only because of Rock's creative football, but his expertise from free-kicks. Dublin did miss some vital frees after the departure of Rock, but it is still a little unfair to Meath to say that they would have lost had the sharp-

shooter from Ballymun Kickhams been on duty for the full 70 minutes.

Meath did a “Dublin act” by giving Joe Cassells the assignment of marking roving full-forward Tommy Carr, and their move paid off. Cassells was a key factor in ensuring that the defence gave the opposition little scoring opportunities, and the rearguard tackled tigerishly and tenaciously all through, but especially in the closing stages when the final was really won and lost.

Liam Hayes and Gerry McEntee had much the better of the centre field exchanges, and Colm O'Rourke had a fine game in the attack, and Finian Murtagh and David Beggy, in particular, provided good support.

No, Meath were well worth their hard-earned two points win for a first Leinster senior crown in 16 long years. Nothing that happened in the All-Ireland semi-final can take from that.

Put it another way, had Meath been drawn against Galway or Tyrone, rather than Kerry, would they now be on the “outside looking in” for All-Ireland final day? Frankly, I doubt it.

This is a useful Meath team, and one that should improve as a result of the outing against Kerry.

Bernard Flynn, 21, David Beggy,

19, Brian Stafford, 22, and Martin O'Connell, 23 are young forwards who must profit from the semi-final. They have gained invaluable experience, and it is in the attack that Meath need to make most improvement in their efforts to mould an All-Ireland title winning team.

TOO LONG

Colm O'Rourke has provided the main danger up front chiefly on his own for far too long. Flynn, Beggy, Stafford and O'Connell, not to mention Finian Murtagh, who is only 24, have the potential to in time give Meath a greater spread of scoring power than they have possessed for some time.

Gerry McEntee, I thought, had an excellent game in the semi-final. He is now in the autumn of his career at 30, but on the evidence of what he produced against Kerry he has still much to offer Meath.

Liam Hayes, who is 24, is big, strong, sure in his fielding, and can be quite adept at free-taking. He did not, in my view, stamp his personality on the semi-final, but he is a player of genuine ability, and will be around to keep Meath to the fore in this vital area for a long time to come.

Some of the Meath backs are getting on in football years. Cassells is 31 and Mick Lyons is 28, but they can both look back on a successful season in championship football.

Then, Colm Coyle at 23, Liam Harnan, 25, and Terry Ferguson, son of a famous father — Des, the former Dublin hurler and footballer — are blending in the type of youthful exuberance and dash that will ensure they play their parts in ensuring that Meath present a rocky road to goal in the seasons ahead.

I think, then, that I have presented sufficient hard facts to back up my contention that not only are Meath worthy Leinster champions, but a team with a panel of players capable of turning the key in the door to brighter things in the years ahead.

It is all of 16 years now since Meath

last appeared in an All-Ireland senior final. They lost that game to Kerry, and we have to go back as far as 1967 for their last Sam Maguire Cup success.

The win over Cork opened the door to bright new horizons for Meath and Gaelic football . . . horizons that next month will be strengthened by the visit of the Irish squad to Australia. Meath blazed the trail in '68 when they went out to Australia on an ambitious tour.

The Royal County's tradition in football is a proud one. All-Ireland title wins may not be that numerous at three since 1949, but that statistic cannot take from a strong impact in the game over the years, and a reputa-

tion built-up for good and polished teams.

Meath are now, I would suggest, the best placed team in Leinster to look forward with confidence to the upcoming League and next year's championship. A lot can happen in a year in football, but the lessons that will be learned and put into practice as a result of the defeat by Kerry should help to ensure a good run in the League.

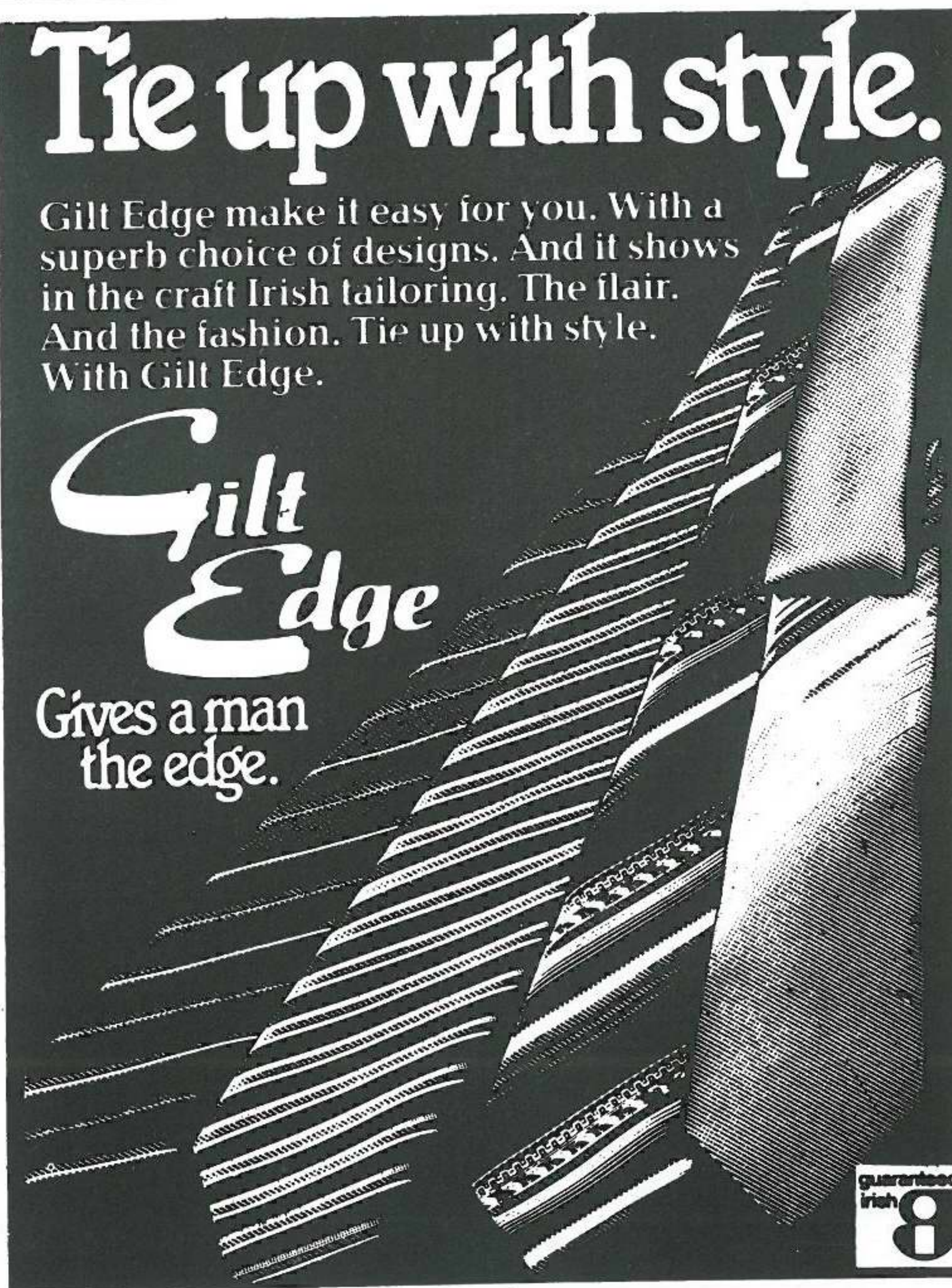
Given that — and I confidently look forward to Meath challenging for top honours — the county should go on and silence the begrudgers by retaining the Leinster crown in 1987. I'll go further, and say that I make Meath my earliest of favourites for the Eastern title next season.

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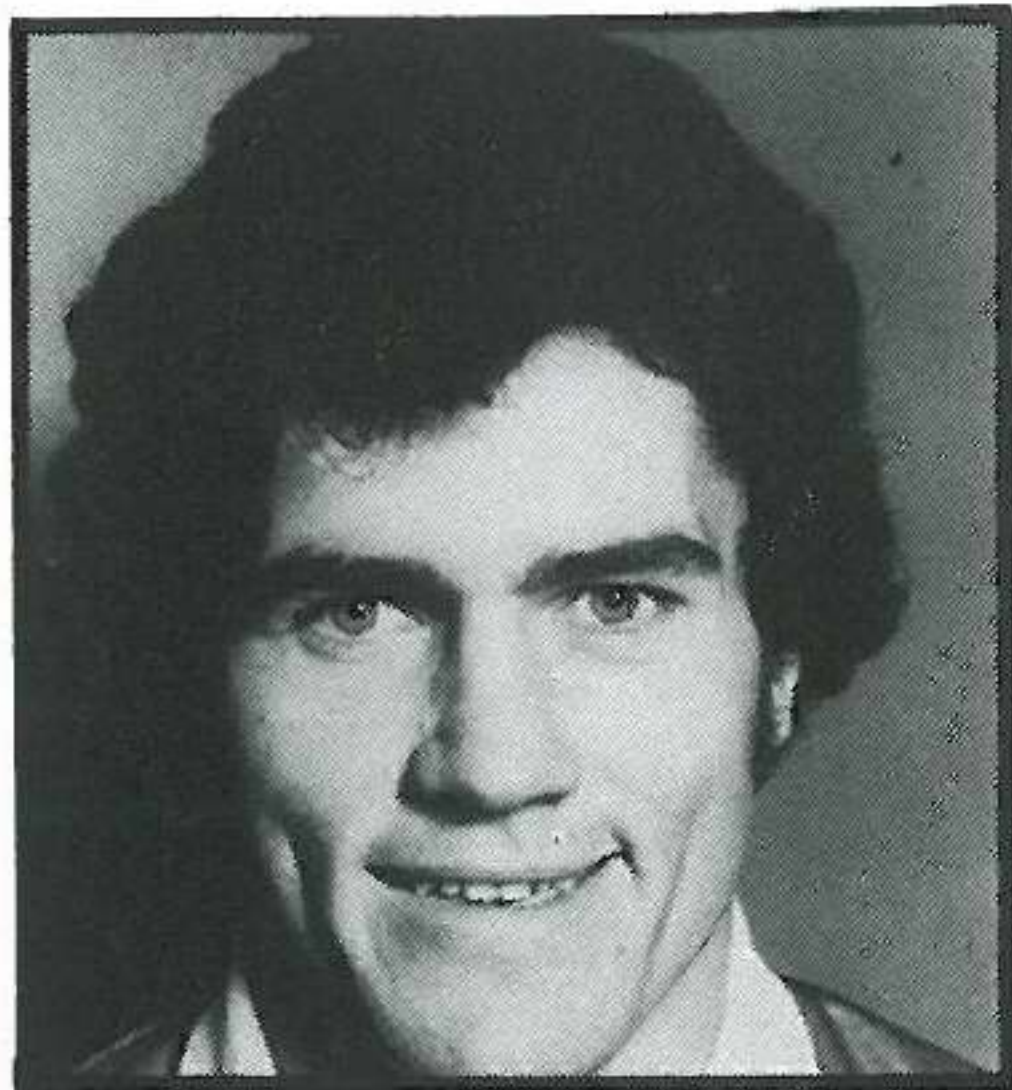
EAMONN YOUNG PREVIEW THE FINAL

“FITNESS, SKILL AND ACCURACY ARE THE KEY TO CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS”

FOUR hundred years ago Hugh O'Neill and the men from Tir Eoghain marched south to Kinsale and a hiding. Maybe that's why the boys from Dingle, Waterville, Templenoe or Tralee never marched north looking for trouble. Anyhow these men from the opposite sides of our island meet today at a neutral venue in a contest where the north is given two chances: slim and none, but before five o'clock we may have changed our ideas.

Tir Eoghain flying fit and flashing with spirit banged home a penalty and left Galway lamenting, not only that score but half a dozen they themselves missed. Kerry thanked Meath politely for a very handy goal and then went on to take the game gently but firmly from manly but prodigal adversaries. Today it's the old dog for the hard road and the pup for the breen. That's what they say. But suppose the old dog can't get it across to the pup that he should lie down and take his beating?

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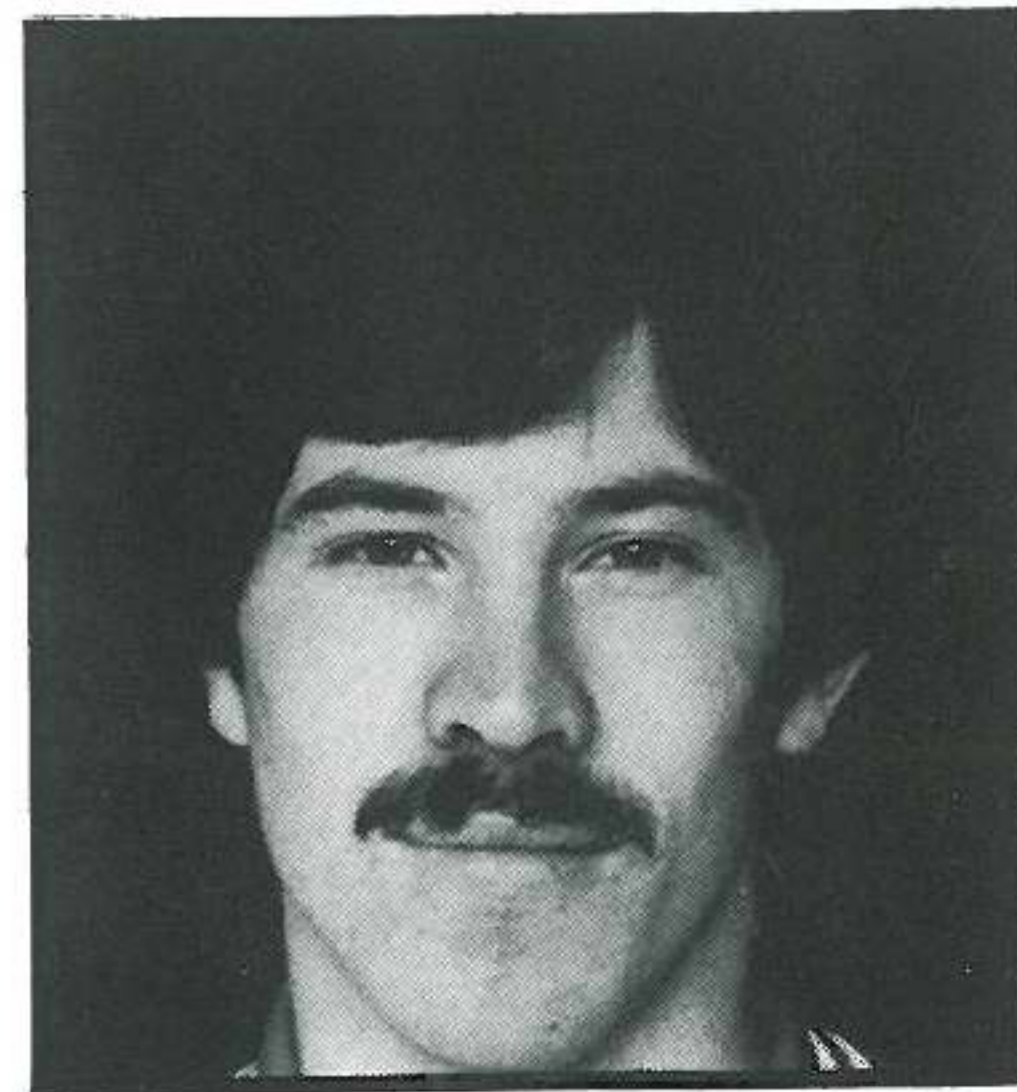
emphasis on accuracy, good positional play, the ability to size up your opponents on the way up to the game, common sense on the sideline and the level head in the tight moment on the field... which side will show them most clearly today? You'll say Kerry. Let's take a look at it.

Pure physical fitness won't win all games on its own but it will go a long way. Will Kerry be fitter than Tir Eoghain today? The Kingdom spent seven weeks preparing for the game with Meath after the Green and Gold had put up, what their own critics said, was a poor show, in the Munster final. I didn't think they were poor that day when they scored 12 good points from play but certainly a few of them were faster both to react and move in the Meath game, after which they had four weeks to sharpen up further and there is normally a dramatic advance in pure physical fitness (including peripheral vision and all-round alertness) when diligent, but wise training continues for ten weeks. So we must assume that today out there on Pairc an Chrocaigh there are 21 well-trained young men in the Green and Gold which incidentally looks a lot better on them than Munster's blue.

But a lot depends on this experienced man Art Mac Rory. Training one man to a peak is more than some professionals can manage; getting 15 into top form on the day is a lot harder, and often enthusiasm and spirit far from being a help manage to destroy a man's form unless there is wisdom and restraint to guide them. If Tir Eoghain are trained hard and carefully as indeed this Kerry side

have been over many years, then we'll see some unrelenting man-to-man duels where skill may not always win. But skill is wonderful. That's where the class performer scores and the use of that word is emphatic. Look at Cork with our three points off play in the Munster final. Look at Galway with their seven useless frees.

The bad mistake that presented an elated Ger Power with a beautiful goal in the Meath game proved the courage, poise and balance of a fine player and it set Kerry on the way, but even if we forget about that score it seems clear that Kerry would win anyhow simply because their clarity, conviction and readiness to work eagerly for a score and then hit the ball for the white flag, was in direct contrast with the dreadful indecision and half-hearted kicking shown by good Meath footballers when that split-second chance was on. This lucid decision to do the right thing followed by the quick neat skill to carry out that decision is the trademark of the champion player.



KEVIN McCABE

Semi-Final Goalscorers

It is not learned overnight and is the product of careful training by wise men since the player was a lad and even then without the genuine practice, hour after hour, the high standard needed to beat first-class opponents will not be achieved. Fair play for Kerry they learn the skills early, just as in many schools all over the country, but from the age of twenty on they work harder at improvement than most — than, perhaps, any. Have Tir Eoghain got the same standard of skill in hand-passing, blocking, solo running? I don't think so partly because it needs coolness or plain cheek to effect them in the great moment and the veteran of many a final is usually the better man here.

In fetching, a skill which has been going steadily down just as combined possession football has increased I thought Tir Eoghan were fairly sound and of the 20 clean, over-the-head fetches in the Galway game they won 15 while the Kingdom, famed for its fetching, won out of a similar number of catches the modest figure of eight, mainly because they are happier at hand-passing these days than at leaping and fetching.

Do Tir Eoghain play their positions as well as Kerry? Certainly, right down the middle in goalie Skelton, strong Ciaran Mac Garvey, steady Noel MacGinn, tireless Plunkett Donaghy and Harry MacClure, Eugene Mac Kenna who fetches well and Damien O Hagan at full forward who had three fine points off as capable a man as Seamus MacHugh, are as good as you'll find while the men on the wings fit in perfectly. The better-known Kerry men have an obvious advantage here for they have soldiered together through many a tight spot and the quick, cool thinking shown by Jack O'Shea in that slap of the high ball that put Willie Maher through for the killer goal against Meath, was proof of the little extra in poise and commonsense that players gain the hard way. We can hardly expect Tir Eoghain to match this and that's where they'll fall unless they can compensate in energy, speed and accuracy.

Both sides will have analysed each other thoroughly and each man should have a fair idea of the strengths and weaknesses of his opponents. I don't expect anything unorthodox in plays or ploys today and apart from the habit of some to run away out of position — sometimes wisely, oft times not so — we'll see a football match generally where backs mark forwards and forwards score or fail to do so.

If Tir Eoghain get fussy, make a few mistakes which the Kingdom smilingly note, then the champions

will simply change up into a higher gear, the engine will purr and the white flags go up. If that happens those good Northern boys will go back home pondering over a few lessons for '87.

But I see the North playing with real spirit and fitness, taking the game hard to their better qualified opponents. The question is, how long can they sustain the onset?

Here's to a great final and may the better football team bring that lovely cup home.

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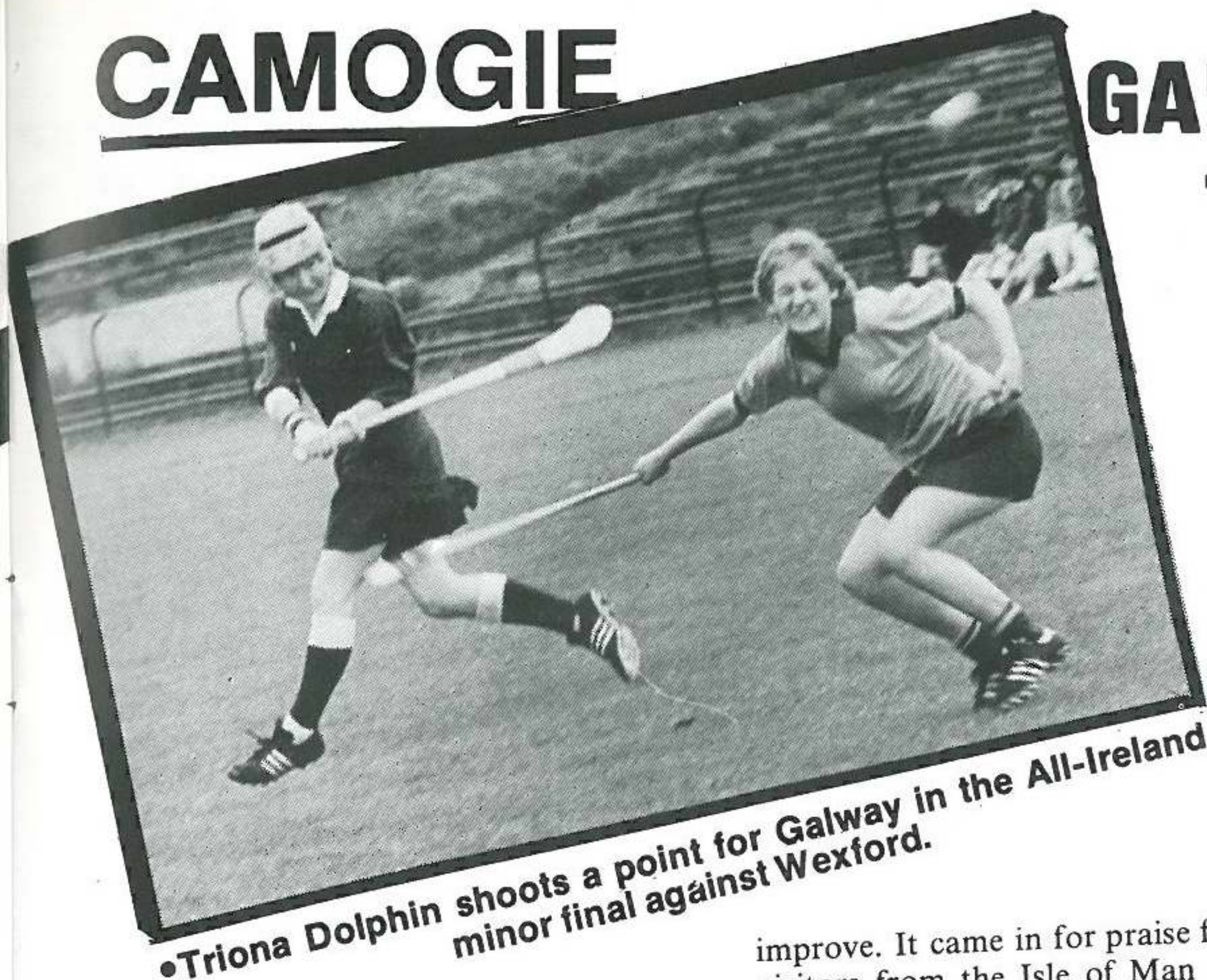
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CAMOGIE

GALWAY MINORS TAKE THEIR THIRD ALL- IRELAND TITLE



•Triona Dolphin shoots a point for Galway in the All-Ireland minor final against Wexford.

GALWAY pay special attention to underage camogie. The fruits of intensive work in this area were realised last month when the county minor team recorded their third All-Ireland victory.

Youngsters are introduced to camogie at a tender age and groomed in the skills of the game. Competitions start for the under-ten age group and by the time these players progress through Community Games, Feile na nGael, primary and post-primary championships, their standard is very good.

Excellently prepared by Isobel McGee, this Galway team had no obvious weak link. Isobel, who graduated from University College, Galway early in the summer must rank as one of the youngest coaches to train an All-Ireland winning team. Her mother, Dr. Eithne McGee, a former Ashbourne star with U.C.D., is the guiding light of the vibrant Salt-hill Camogie Club.

The final itself produced camogie of a high standard. Indeed the All-Ireland Minor Championship is the one competition which continues to

improve. It came in for praise from visitors from the Isle of Man who were surprised that girls so young could be so skilful.

By
MARY MORAN

It often happens that a team which found it so difficult to make a breakthrough discovers that success comes easily once the barrier has been broken. This has been the case with the Crumlin Club in the Dublin Senior Championship. With more than a half dozen senior inter-county players at their disposal, they took a long time to establish themselves.

Second time around, they retained the Dublin title with ease. Backed by the Redmond sisters, Mary Mernagh, Anna Condon, Mary Keane, Cathy Walsh and Bernie Toner, the Crumlin side is looking forward to retaining their All-Ireland title.

SUPER RECORD

A club with a super record is Buffer's Alley of Wexford. Fivetimes All-Ireland Club champions, they stretched their unbroken run in the Wexford championship to twelve years. The Alley players have a

tremendous pride in their club and give their all when wearing the famous green and gold.

Another club which continues to dominate the scene on the home front is St. Pauls, Kilkenny. Without a serious challenger for many years, St. Pauls remain kingpins by the Nore and are likely to do so while Angela Downey, Liz Neary, Bridie McGarry, Anne Downey and Breda Holmes carry on.

Glen Rovers, who won the first Munster Club Championship in 1964, collected their thirteenth Cork title in July. Exciting play from Ger McCarthy, Marie Ryan, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Val Fitzpatrick and captain Mary Ring brought the cup to Blackpool.

Competition is very keen in the Cork championship. Nothing more than a puck of the ball separates the top four clubs. The 1987 championship is within the reach of Killeagh, St. Finbarrs, Eire Og and, of course, Glen Rovers.

The balance of power in Antrim camogie has swung away from Belfast for some years now. The once famous clubs Deirdre, St. Malachy's and St. Teresa's are either struggling or gone out of existence.

Portglenone, Creggan and Loughgiel made the Glens of Antrim the stronghold of the game in the county. This season Cushendall captured the honours. Broadford (Kildare), Kilanney (Monaghan), Laragh (Cavan) and Ballymacnab (Armagh) also carry memories of the 1986 season.

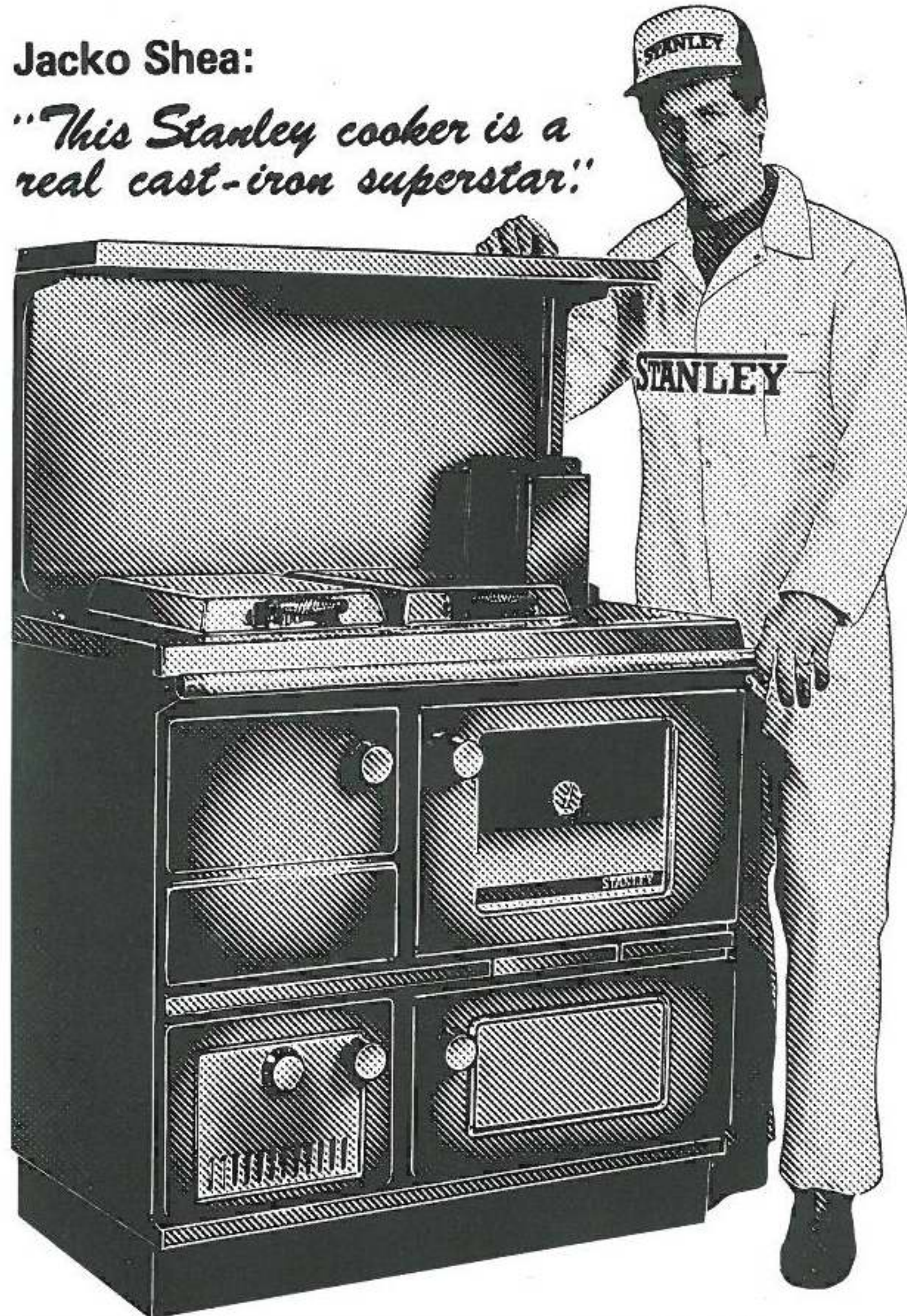
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QUIZTIME

By VINNY MOORE

THE continuing cycle of competition in Gaelic Games is mirrored yet again this month. The hurling summit of 1986 was only the other day, but already we are talking about the latest contest for the Sam Maguire Cup.

But, then, that is sport. We always seem to be looking ahead. No sooner than a match has finished and the early talking points are quickly exhausted we are looking ahead to the next big engagement. The memories of past events live on, of course, but like *Oliver Twist* we are always looking for more action... no matter how golden the thoughts of past games may prove to be.

This year we have history in the making with Tyrone appearing in the concluding round for the first time. They deserve congratulations on making the breakthrough, all the more so in view of the conditions under which enthusiasts for the game have to labour in the "Wee Six."

So, well done, Tyrone, and while we must be strictly neutral on the GAELIC SPORT desk, I still admit to a sneaking hope that the men from the "bushes" will make it a double joy day.

Whatever about that, their history-making achievement in beating Galway last time out has prompted me to start this month's QUIZTIME with a section dealing with Famous Firsts.

The quiz has four separate sections, including a long one on the minors. I think it is only fair to give the teenagers a place apart, as they are part and parcel of All-Ireland final days in football, and, of course hurling.

As usual points are on offer for each section, just to add to the enjoyment of the competition. So, let's make a start now with that group of questions prompted by the great march of Tyrone to their first final. These are our ten questions:

FAMOUS FIRSTS

1. What was the last year during which a county contested an All-Ireland senior football final for the first time?
2. The Sam Maguire Cup is, of course, the trophy awarded to the football final winners. When was a new name last inscribed on the trophy?
3. What county had the distinction of winning the first final for which the Sam Maguire Cup was awarded as the prize?
4. Down brought the trophy across the Border for the first time in 1960 when they beat Kerry in the final. Who captained the Mourne side?
5. What was special about the 1958 final?.....
6. When Tony Hanahoe led Dublin to the successful defence of the All-Ireland senior football title in 1977 he achieved a Famous First. Can you say what that first was?
7. What county brought the Sam Maguire Cup across the Shannon for

the first time?

8. The All-Ireland finals are now over 70 minutes. But there was a time when matches ran to 80 minutes, and the first such decider featured Kerry and Meath. What year was that particular game played?.....

9. A Famous First in the annals of the Sam Maguire Cup was carved out in 1947. Can you say what that was?

10. Louth brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Leinster for the first time? True or false?

Each question carries a points tally of five points. So, 50 points on offer here, plus a ten points bonus for an all correct return, making 60 points for a bright start for the expert follower. YOUR SCORE

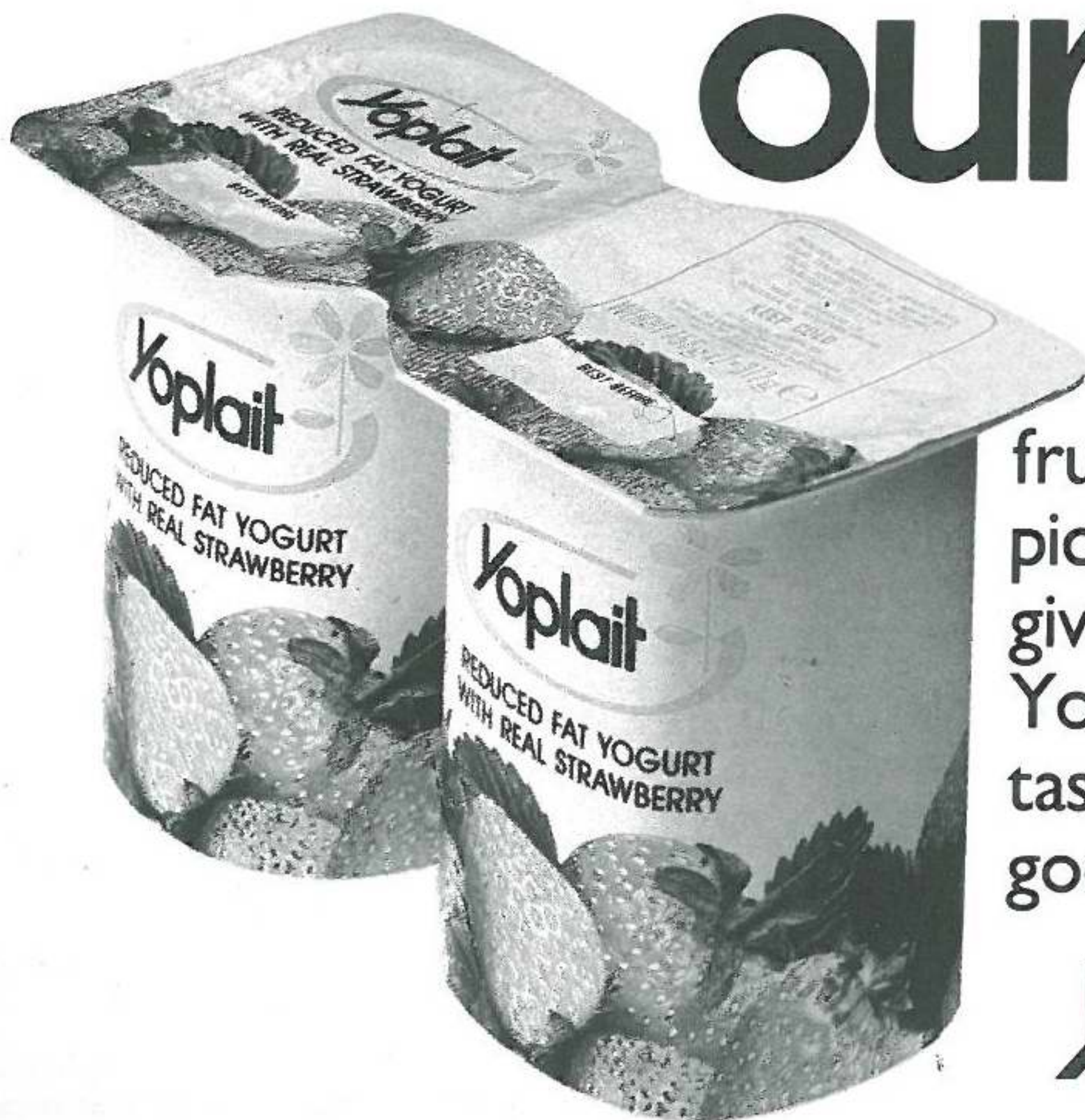
Now, let's take a look at some more recent happenings. All the questions relate to the last decade, and I have titled this section the 'Seventies Finals.

'SEVENTIES FINALS

1. Only one goalkeeper captained an All-Ireland senior football final winning team in the 'Seventies. Name the player in question
 2. Ulster had a direct interest in only one final in the decade. What year was the North represented in the concluding round?.....
 3. What have the following in common — Paul Kelly (Dublin), Fintan Tierney (Cavan) and Hugh Duggan (Armagh)?
 4. How many final replays were there during the 'Seventies?
 5. Tyrone won an All-Ireland minor football title in that decade. True or false?
- 25 points on offer here, five for



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each correct answer. No bonus. **YOUR RETURN**

Now, with Ulster represented in the big game of the football year, I am going to the North for my section based on a photograph, one of the most popular features of **QUIZTIME**.

This photograph is of a Northern side that appeared recently enough in an All-Ireland semi-final, and representing a county that has still to experience the delight of cheering on their own team in a national final.

It may perhaps be a little more difficult than usual. But we shall see after I have posed by five questions making up:

IN THE PICTURE

1. What county selection is the one in our photograph?
2. The captain is third from the left in the front row. Is he Seamus Bonner, Michael Lafferty or Tommy McDermott?
3. Our photograph was taken prior to a semi-final at Croke Park. Please list the year of that game
4. What county beat our picture squad in that game?
5. What margin separated the teams at the final whistle?

Five points on offer once more for each correct answer, and I have

decided to give a bonus of 15 points for an all-correct card, as I feel this section is just a little more difficult than usual. Or am I wrong in that assumption? Anyway, **YOUR SCORE**

To end the quiz, let's give the minors a place of their own. After all, the under-18 footballers play their part in the big day and I have little doubt that this year's final in the grade will be an entertaining affair, well worth getting to Croke Park early to take in the full match.

THE MINORS

1. What is the name of the trophy awarded to the minor football final winners?
2. Who won the All-Ireland minor title in football in the Centenary Year?
3. Cork have won more minor All-Ireland crowns in the code than Kerry. True or false?
4. When were Galway last under-18 national champions?
5. There will be no All-Ireland Colleges' and minor football title double by any province this year, as the Colleges title went North in the springtime. Name the successful school in the national colleges' football final
6. What have Pat Coyle (Galway), Joe McNally (Dublin) and Pat Donnan (Down), all well-known in

senior affairs these days, in common as minors?

7. Dermot McNicholl (Derry), who is on the short list for the Irish squad for Australia, is a former All-Ireland minor title winning captain. True or false?

8. This footballer captained his county in their 1986 championship run, and earlier in the year led his province to the Railway Cup. He won an All-Ireland minor medal in goal in 1979, helped his county to their last Sam Maguire Cup triumph, and is in the Ireland squad preparing for Australia. Who is he?

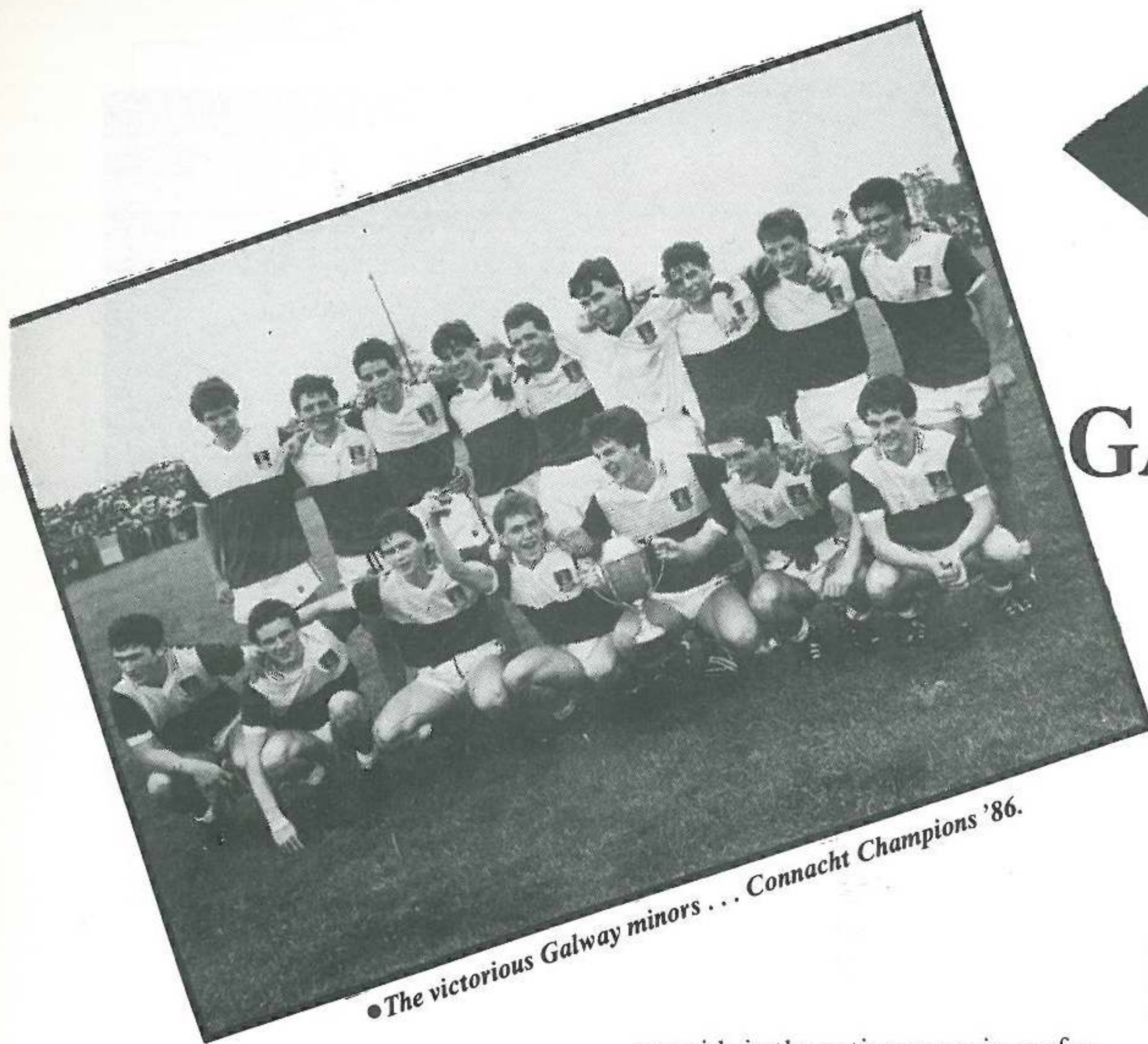
9. The first winners of the All-Ireland minor football final in 1929 were Kerry, Clare, Dublin or Cork. Your selection?

10. When did Cork last prove too good for all comers in the All-Ireland minor football grade?

Let's end on a big note with a 25 points bonus if you get every single question correct. Each carries five points, so that you could finish **QUIZTIME** with a whopping 75 points. How did **YOU FINISH UP?**

HOW DID YOU RATE

Now to sum up. The **QUIZTIME** exercise carries a total number of points at 200. Any score over 175 is **FIRST-CLASS**. 145 to 175 is **VERY GOOD**. 100 to 145. **GOOD**.



• The victorious Galway minors ... Connacht Champions '86.

JUBILA

GALWAY MINORS TITLE WEST TIME IN T

By SEAN C

GALWAY have a chance to salvage some glory from a most disappointing year for Connacht in all grades of football when they meet Cork in an All-Ireland minor final that looks like proving an exciting display of fast, clever and high standard play.

The teenagers from Galway are the only squad from the West to qualify for a national football final this season. Much, then, rests on their shoulders, and the youngsters from the Corrib County are quite capable of relieving the Western gloom.

Not that it will be easy. Cork, despite a good Munster final win over Kerry, were outsiders for their semi-final with Dublin, but turned in a display that left the fancied Metropolitans in tatters.

Even so Galway's exhibition when seeing off Down in their semi-final was one of the best produced by

any side in the entire campaign so far.

Galway were quick to the ball, tight in defence, progressive in mid-field, full of running in attack. And above all, they had forwards who knew how to take scores.

It is a measure of the superiority of the team that Down managed to score only a single point in the first half. The game was over as a contest ten minutes into the second, and there was just no disputing the merit of the 3-10 to 0-6 winning margin.

The Connacht champions had stars all over the field. Any forward division that scored as freely as Galway's last time out, must have much to recommend it.

Thomas Mannion (Monivea Abbey) and Thomas Finnerty (Oughterard), who scored 3-6 between them, were the men who did most to bore holes in the Down defence, but the other forwards also played their parts well.

All the stars, however, were not in attack. I thought the defence dealt

expertly with everything that Down had to offer when the chips were down in the early stages.

Brian Silke, (Corofin) at No. 2, is a tremendous footballer and a tight marker. Michael Tarpey (Corofin) at left half back, and full back Francis McWalter (Monivea Abbey) are others I can see playing big parts in shutting down the way to the Connacht goal.

John Joyce (Salthill) and Kevin Walsh (Killanin) at midfield are bound to present their opposite numbers with by far their most pressing problems of the campaign so far.

The manager and trainer is John Tobin, of Tuam Stars, the former Galway senior forward, and he has undoubtedly moulded together a combination that is the best we have seen from Galway in this grade in years.

Cork under-age teams, however, appear to revel at Croke Park, unlike their seniors. True, the county lost to Mayo at this stage last September, but the county has won six titles in the past 19 years.

One also had to be impressed by

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GRADY

the quality and flair of Cork's play last time out.

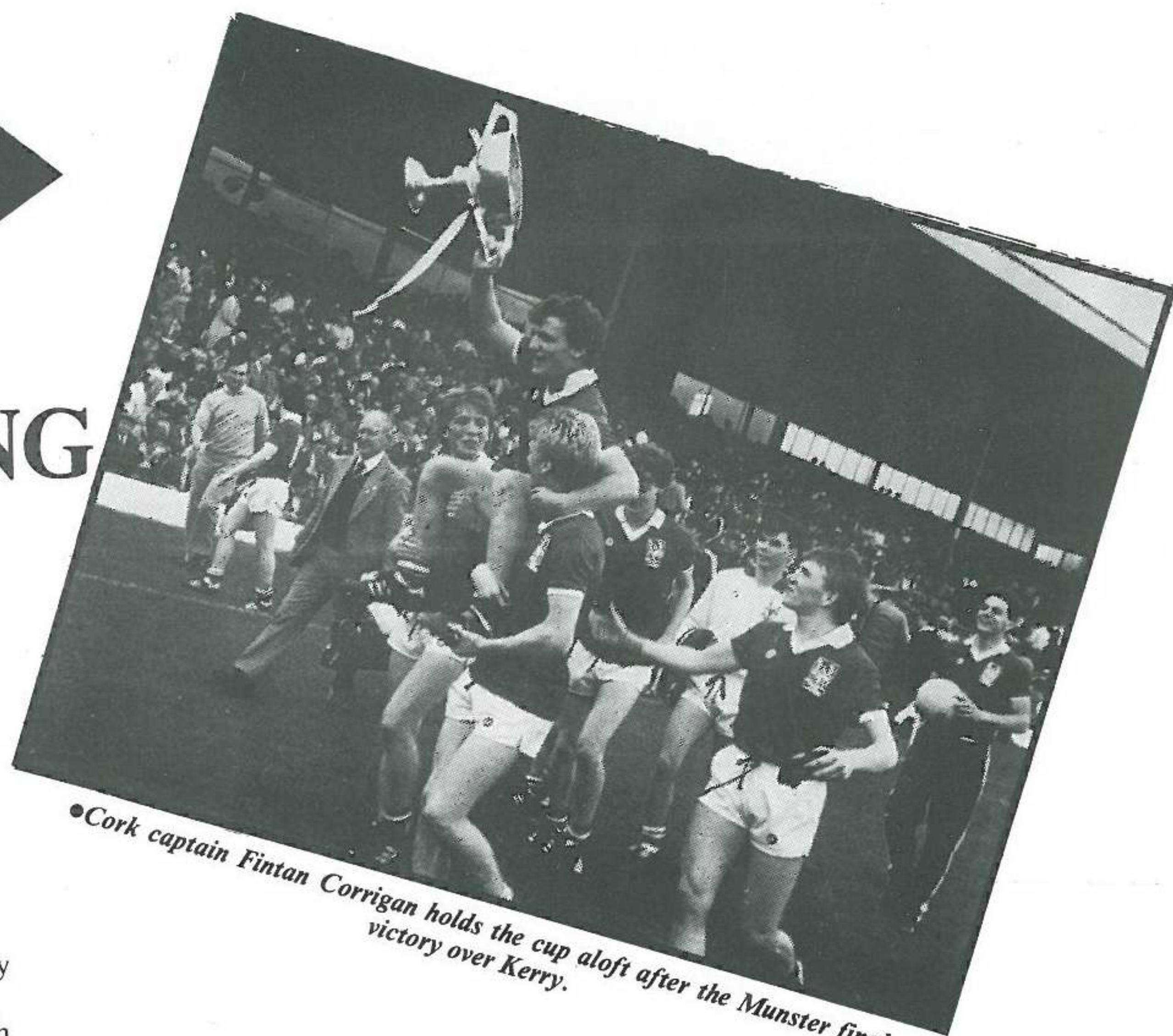
I will say that Dublin were much over-rated. Many read far too much into the Metropolitan's big win over a poor Meath team in the Leinster final. As a result, the 2-7 to 0-8 win for Cork may not be as noteworthy as it appears on paper.

FAR SUPERIOR

Having said that, it cannot be disputed that Cork were far superior to Dublin. They did not help their cause by failing to score for about 20 minutes after the change of ends, when they led by four points. They allowed Dublin to come back into the game, and level matters seven minutes from time.

When danger threatened in a big way, though, Cork proved equal to the task. They re-asserted their dominance, and a great goal by midfielder Gabriel Lally steadied the side and set the scene for a clear-cut win.

I was particularly taken by the Cork defence. Sean O'Rourke (Bishopstown) and David Burke (Ballincollig) in the half line, and



●Cork captain Fintan Corrigan holds the cup aloft after the Munster final victory over Kerry.

Michael Crowley (St. Michael's) provided the type of leadership that made for a formidable unit.

Fintan Corrigan, who like Galway's captain, skippers the team in the No. 8 jersey, and Lally had much the better of the midfield exchanges the last day.

Full forward David Larkin (Douglas), centre half Michael Mullins (Na Piarsaigh) and Noel Twomey (Macroom) are the raiders I believe will exert plenty of pressure on the Galway defenders.

Have Cork, though, what it takes to end a proud Galway record of not having lost an All-Ireland minor final? If they play up to their potential for the full sixty minutes, and do not flag for a spell as happened against Dublin, they will be in with a great chance and we could have a final to remember.

I believe that Galway will produce top form all through. That attack did not shape up well. Even so, there is a dependable look about the rearguard, and the backs it must be admitted have performed well all

through.

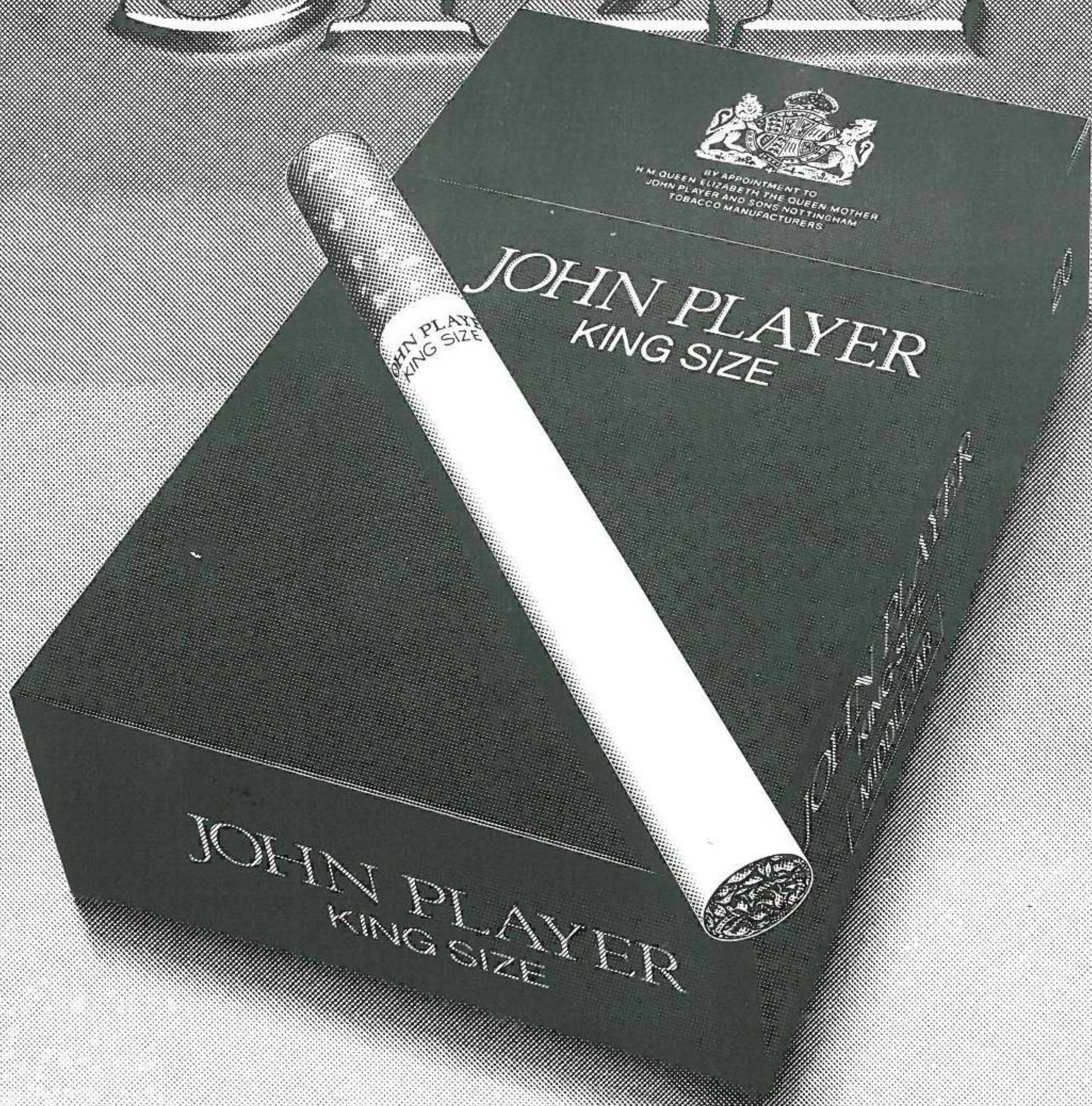
My reading of the final, then, is that Galway have the power at the back to cut the Cork forwards down to size, and that their own raiders are the more accurate finishers, and should grab the goals and points necessary to bring the Tom Markham Cup back to the county after an interval of ten years when, incidentally, Cork were on the receiving end.

The 1976 win was Galway's fourth final triumph. They took the championship for the first time in 1952.

Cork's record at minor football is a comparatively modern one as well. They did not win the championship for the first time until 1961, and are chasing their eighth title this month. The last was in 1981, and Cork were runners-up to Derry in 1983 and Mayo last year.

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HANDBALL

BY
SEAN
CLERKIN

It must be made clear that the connection between the G.A.A. and handball is important

AT this time of the year, when the hurling and football finals tend to remotivate our sense of pride in the GAA, it also awakens in us a desire to reflect on the status of our Association.

We are, of course, happy that it has assumed enormous proportions and terms like "the greatest amateur organisation in the world", tend only to spur us to greater heights and more endeavour.

In the broad picture of progress it is in the natural order of things to look for flaws and, in the terms of my brief, one of these has been the failure of the GAA to devise a constructive scheme for the promotion of handball.

That is not to say that the parent body has not played a role, particularly since 1970, the year of the World Championships at Croke Park.

It will be recalled that the construction of the all glass court at Croke

Park and the general awareness of the GAA administration of the time to promote handball gave the game an unprecedented boost.

There followed a period when the message was relayed to all units of the organisation that handball was an integral part of the Association.

We gauged then that the club which promoted the two field games, the game of handball, and portrayed a cultural image through its social activities, was, in fact, defining the comprehensive ideal of the Association, as envisaged by its founders.

That club, had, by its ambitious plans embarked on the desired objective of creating an Irish Ireland where our games, language and culture would be the insignia of our identity.

In the intervening years many GAA clubs have given handball a priority rating and the playing court has become the Mecca for past and present members to maintain a high level of physical fitness.

In some instances the handball court, suitably equipped with emergency exit doors has proved to be a major fund raising arena for clubs.

On the other hand, many clubs, having already catered for the needs of hurlers and footballers have chosen to provide additional facilities for indoor sports, to the exclusion of handball.

These, in my view, have not complied with the true aspirations of the GAA.

I suggest that, if a GAA club is intent on providing facilities to cater for communities, they should initially, be geared towards Gaelic Games.

That said, and with due appraisal for the GAA Clubs who do promote handball, I opine to the view that new initiatives are now required from GAA Headquarters to integrate handball within the framework of the Association.

This view is based on the fact that, of the thousands of GAA clubs throughout the country, the number of them promoting handball is minimal.

The same statistics hold good for the few hundred handball clubs, who

can claim no contact, not to mention affiliation, with the GAA clubs in their areas. On the assumption that the theory of integration is acceptable, it will be necessary to implement it with goodwill, tact and vision.

Discussions between the parent body and the Handball Council would obviously be geared towards a blueprint for handball within the Association.

From the GAA the message must come clearly again that the connection between handball and the Association is real, not merely theoretical. It must be relayed to the GAA clubs in the country, while existing handball clubs, will, through the Irish Handball Council, be encouraged to integrate with local hurling and football clubs.

That done, and the scheme will be well under way.

In the initial stages, the main commitment of the parent body will be financial, particularly, in the area of capital investment.

This will be geared towards the erection of modern fully equipped courts, the size of which must be standardised in order to avoid a conglomeration of different sized courts, which would leave us in a quandary as to what in fact, is the standard court.

It would be naive to suggest that the hypothesis of integration is a mushroom operation.

The transition period may be spaced over a number of years but the end result will be exciting.

The game of handball will have received a massive injection of promotional activity and the GAA, ever evolving, ever developing, will have acquired a new dimension in unification, a new shop window with the goods to adorn it, which we can proudly present on the international front.

In the final analysis, the integration of handball with the G.A.A. should be the decisive factor, not alone in the dawn of a new era for this great game of Celtic origin, but in a fertilisation of the ideals of the members of the GAA — Our Association. Ní neart go chur le chéile.

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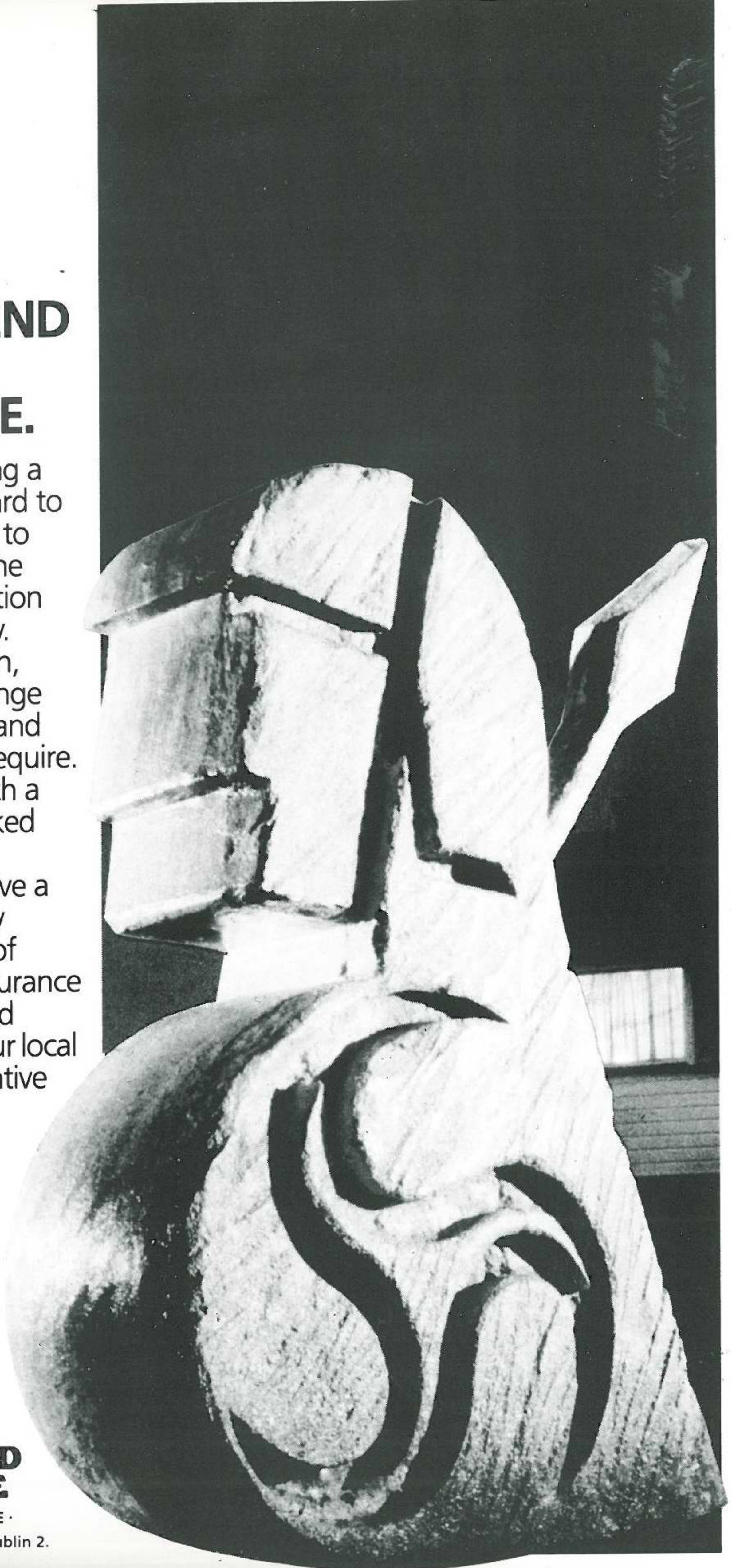
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WESTMEATH BOYS TAKE ALL-IRELAND TITLE

BY PAUL FAY

EARLIER this year Westmeath captured the hurling limelight by winning promotion for the first time to Division I of the Ford League for the next season, and they later made followers sit up and take notice again with a good effort against Kilkenny in the knock-out stages of the 1985-1986 League.

It would seem now that the youthful talent in the county is also of a high standard. The under-16 county team beat Down at Croke Park to lift the All-Ireland hurling title in that grade, and in the process turned in an encouraging showing.

Paul Moran, who scored three goals, David Mooney, outstanding at midfield, and Kevin Kiernan, another goal-getting forward, were just three members of a well-drilled team to catch the eye. On this showing, the game is making steady progress among the youth in Westmeath.

GOOD TELEVISION

How pleasing it was to see handball back on the television screens again after a long absence. The All-Ireland Coca-Cola senior singles softball final between Michael "Duxie" Walsh (Kilkenny) and his namesake Mickey Walsh (Roscom-

mon) made for good TV viewing as well.

The Kilkenny Walsh struck another blow for Leinster standards — not to mention his own exceptional qualities — by retaining the title, with a two games to nil triumph. He became the first to make a successful defence of those championships since Pat Kirby, of Clare made it four titles in succession in 1977.

Walsh has had an amazingly successful career, and he is still only twenty. He has won major titles at home and in America, and last May in Canada he beat the then World champion Merv Deckert, of Canada, in the World championship semi-final.

He lost the final to America's Vern Roberts, but it seems inevitable that it is only a matter of time now until he adds a World crown to his great record.

BACK ON TOP

Faughs, one of the most famed hurling clubs in the land, are back on top in Dublin. An indication of the power of club teams of the past may be gleaned from the fact that Faughs had 27 Dublin senior titles to their credit starting the 1986 championship.

But the proud reputation was wearing a little thin by virtue of the fact that thirteen years had almost elapsed since the last success by the time Faughs lined out against Erin's Isle in this year's county final.

However, Faughs set the record straight with a good win over Isles in terrible conditions at Croke Park. Faughs, composed almost exclusively of hurlers born outside of the capital, won by 1-7 to 1-4.

DESERVED TRIBUTE

Time now for a well-deserved tribute to Dermot Healy, who has retired as coach-manager of the Offaly senior hurling team.

Healy played an outstanding part in the success story that has been Offaly in senior hurling in modern times. He was the inspiration behind their historic first Liam McCarthy Cup win of 1981, and also last year's win over Galway that brought the All-Ireland crown to the county for the second time.

Under Healy's guidance, Offaly also reached the National League final in 1981, when they lost to Cork.

Offaly hurling undoubtedly owes much to Kilkenny native Healy.

FIRST FOR WICKLOW

I have been juggling with figures of late — not, I must admit, one of my strong points. But unless I am mistaken, Robert McHugh, of Wicklow, proved the ace score-getter in Leinster football this year.

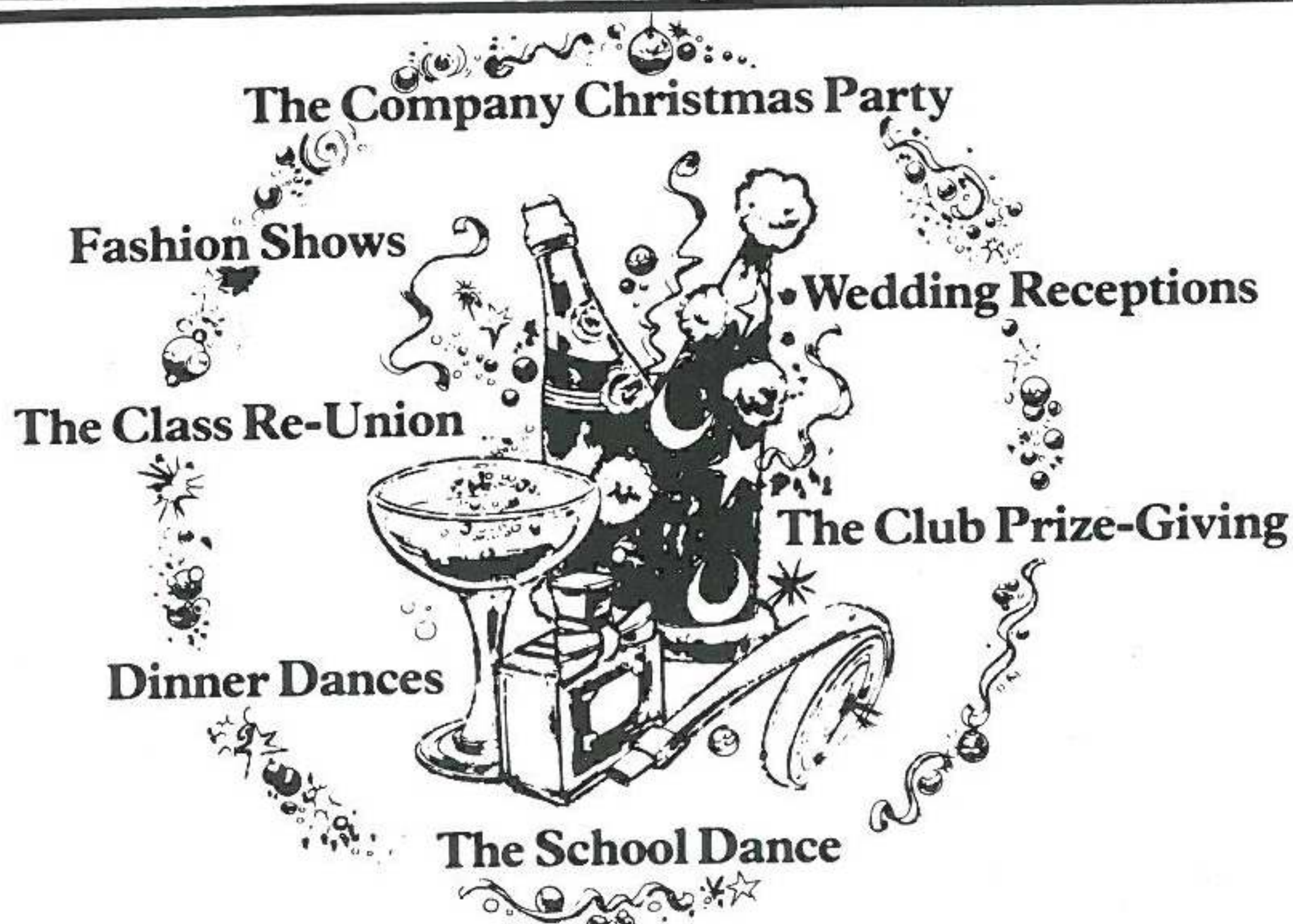
My mathematics give McHugh the No. 1 position with sixteen points from three games, and that says much for the skills of the Wicklow man, considering that his county team went out in the semi-finals to Meath.

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IS 'BABS' THE MAN

TO TAKE TIPP BACK TO THE TOP?

ASKS SEAMUS O'NEILL

A NEW campaign coming up, and new men at the helm... that is the main feature of the season in Munster just now as the counties are already looking forward to the challenges of the up-coming Ford Leagues.

As we reported last month, Eamonn Cregan has taken over as the new boss of the Limerick hurling side. He has now been joined in the Southern managerial line-up by a hurler who was often on the opposing side during Cregan's playing days, and also a team-mate of his for Munster in the Railway Cup — Michael "Babs" Keating.

Keating is a link with the Tipperary team that last won the All-Ireland senior title in 1971. Indeed, he was a glittering star of the final win over Kilkenny with his purposeful forward play and excellent finishing — he scored seven points.

The Ballybacon-Grange club man won his second All-Ireland senior medal that year, having first played in a final winning team in 1964.

Michael was a versatile player in more ways than one. As a hurler he filled every forward position with the county, and he was a top-class footballer as well. He won a Railway Cup medal in the "big ball" code in 1972 to join the ranks of the dual medalists in inter-provincial fare. Keating had earlier helped Munster to hurling titles in 1968 and 1970.

Incidentally, Tipperary have not won out in the South since the year of their last All-Ireland senior

championship, and that is a dismal statistic for a county that has such an honoured place in the All-Ireland records.

One can only hope that a change of fortune will not be too long delayed. A return to the top by Tipperary would be good for hurling.

Waterford have also a new coach-trainer in hurling. He is Tony Mansfield, a former county player who is also a former under-21 coach.

Tony is from Abbeyside, and was a coach of the team that made a great effort when losing to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland under-21 final of 1974.



● Michael 'Babs' Keating ... new Tipperary manager.

Alo Curran has taken over from Mick Burke, who did not seek a return to the post this year, as the Waterford football boss.

Yes, it is all change manager-wise down South!

RECORD MAKERS

As Kerry get set for the final hurdle in their bid to take the Sam Maguire Cup for the third year on the trot, three of their footballers are in line to join the ranks of the record-makers. No footballer has yet played in eight All-Ireland senior football title winning finals, but Paudie O'Se, Pat Spillane and Denis 'Ogie' Moran may set that right in the show-down with Tyrone.

They made it seven winning outings in finals against Dublin last September.

Dan O'Keeffe, a native of Fermoy, was Kerry's goalkeeper in seven winning finals between 1931 and 1946, and that was a record until last year. Now, Moran, O'Se and Pat Spillane will become footballers apart if the Kingdom beat Tyrone in the latest summit.

Pat Spillane made the briefest of brief appearances in the 1981 final win over Offaly because of injury. He only went into the game a minute from time, but still appeared as a result in a final winning team to qualify for the share in the O'Keeffe record as a result of the success last September over Dublin.

THE AUSSIE TOUCH

It is always nice to hear of an Irish

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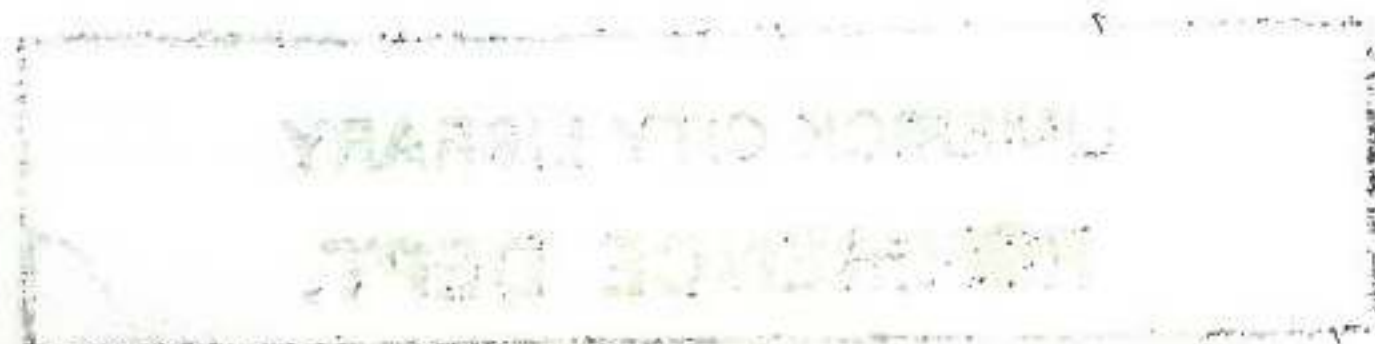
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●FROM PAGE 31

success abroad, and all the more so when this has to do with a Gaelic footballer.

Sean Wight, who was a high fielding midfielder in the Kerry minor team beaten by Dublin in the 1982 All-Ireland final, has been playing Australian Rules football for the past few years. More than that, he made the grade at senior level last year, and now comes his inclusion in the Australian panel for the Test games against Ireland in October.

Let's hope he makes the actual home squad for one or more of the Test games. It would certainly be something to have an Irishman on duty for Australia against an Ireland selection in Australia. Sean, by the way, plays club fare with Melbourne. He assisted Listowel Emmets in Kerry.

Still on the Australian theme, and while the stars of the football strongholds in Munster were prominent in the trial at Croke Park at the end of August, it was also good to see Noel

Roche, of Clare, strike a blow for the lesser lights of the game.

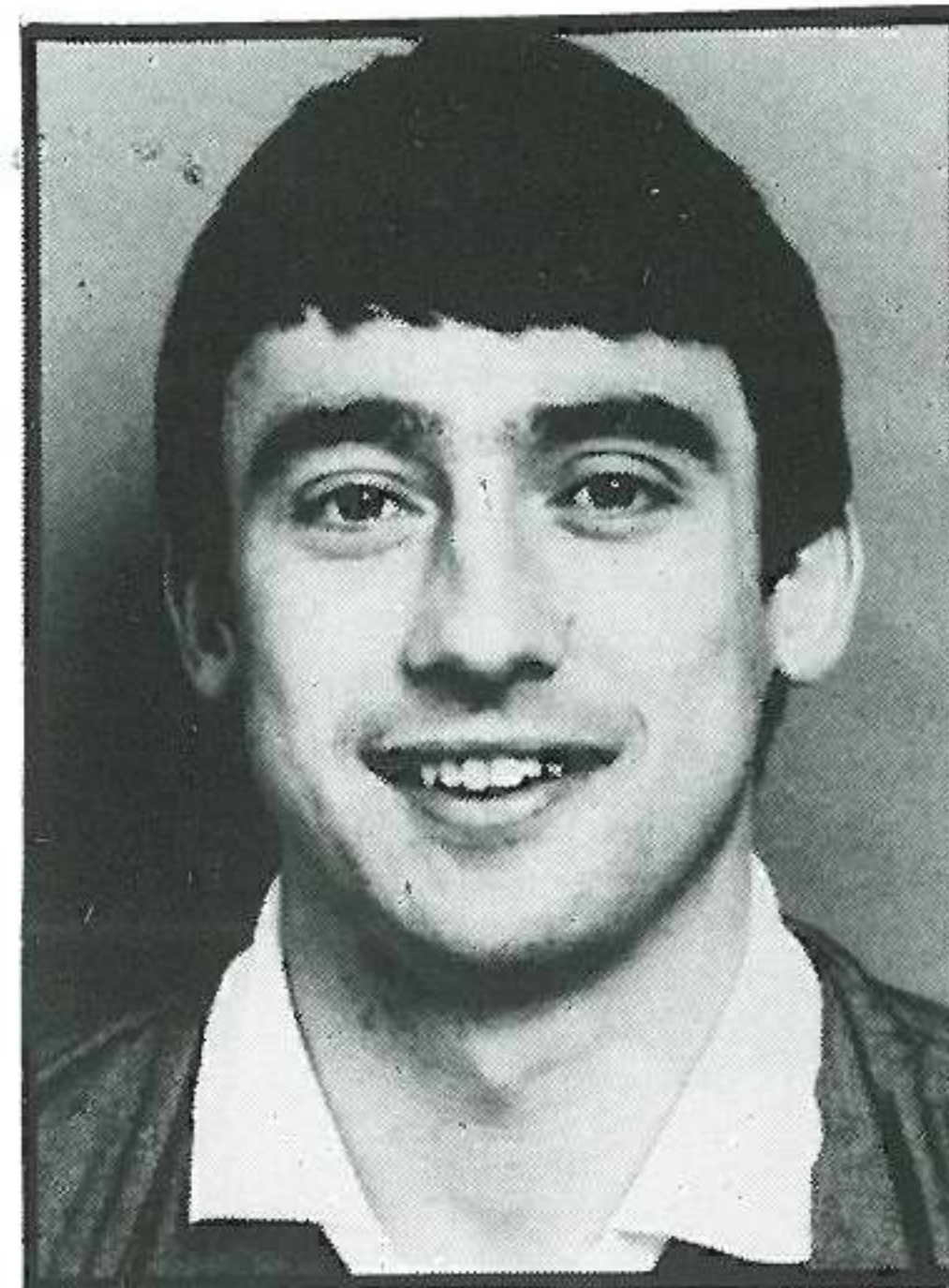
Noel had an excellent trial, and must have boosted his chances of a trip "down under". It will be remembered that the Clare man was one of the real successes for Ireland in the Centenary Year games in this country.

CORK BREAK-THROUGH

When are Cork going to regain the Munster senior football title? The question is very relevant again with the Leaside county having won provincial titles in the code this year at under-21, junior and minor, and also reached the All-Ireland finals in each grade.

Cork's last Munster senior final win was in 1983. That year they were caught in the All-Ireland semi-final with a late, late Barney Rock goal, and paid the ultimate penalty when they went down at their own Pairc Ui Chaoimh in the replay.

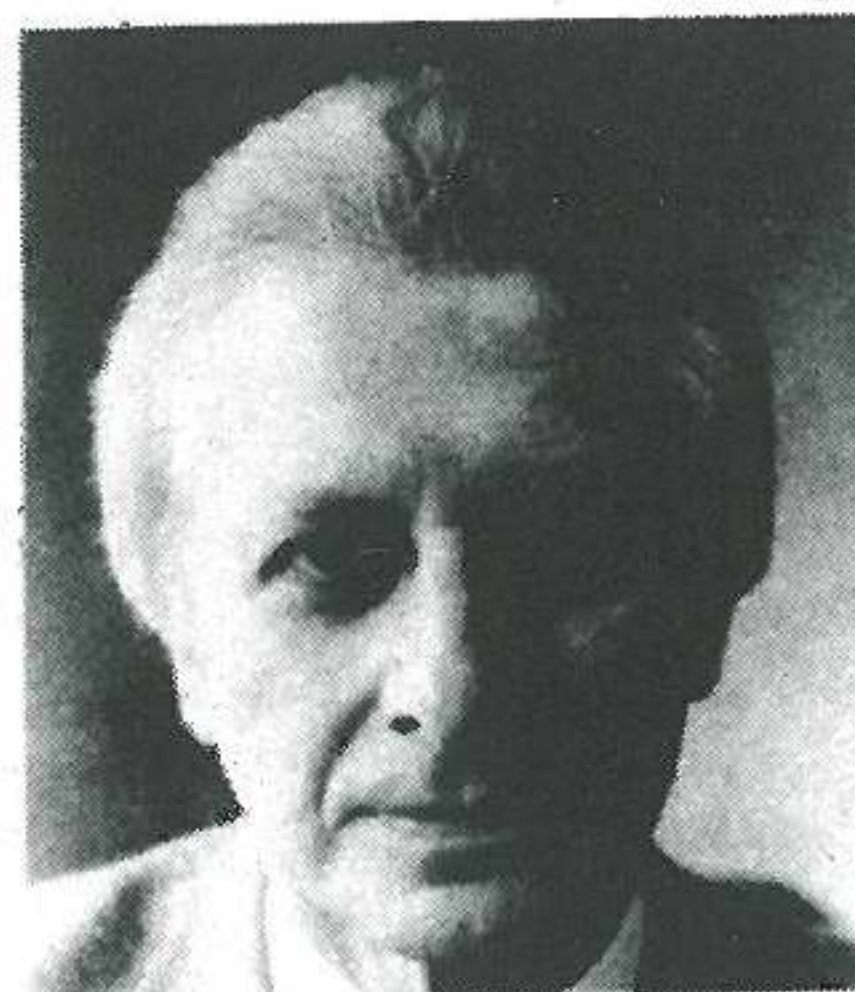
The latest provincial win is a clear indication of the wealth of talent within the county. The question is



● Denis 'Ogie' Moran ... set to become a record-breaker.

when will it be marshalled to make up a senior provincial title winning team? It is certainly past time that Cork not only won out in the South, but regained the Sam Maguire Cup, which has eluded them now since 1973.

GAA Reporting by Paddy Downey



Paddy Downey has been Gaelic games correspondent of *The Irish Times* for more than twenty years.

In that time he has earned a nationwide reputation for his knowledgeable and perceptive reporting of hurling and Gaelic football . . . for his sound judgement and the flair with which he captures the colour and thrills of the big occasion—and big occasions are many in Gaelic games.

His reports and comments, his criticism when that is necessary, are always balanced and fair. But then, you'd expect no less from a writer who has won the Gallaher and Benson & Hedges awards as Sports Journalist of the Year four times in all in the past fourteen years.

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THE IRISH TIMES

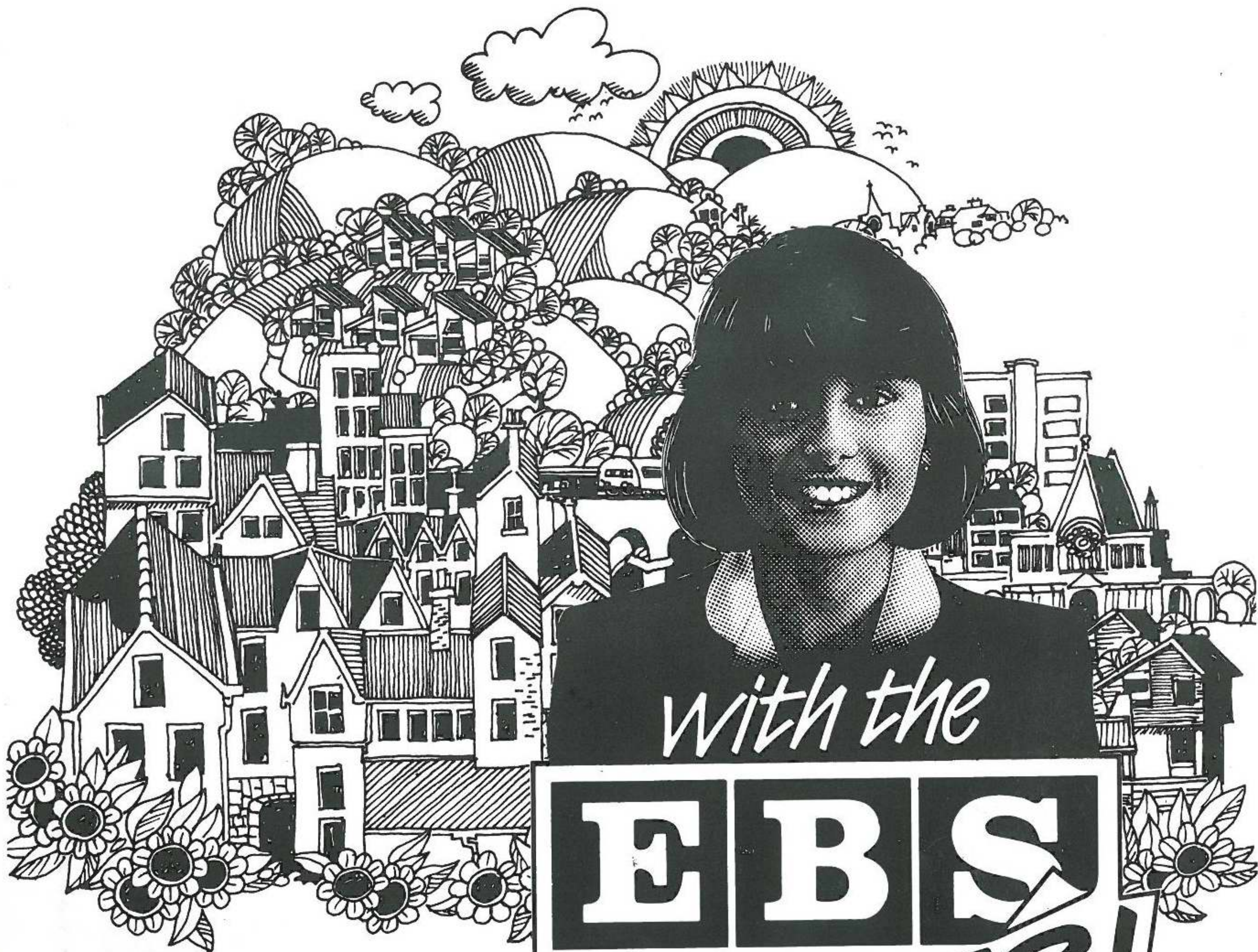
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ANTRIM HURLERS RESTORE NORTHERN PRIDE

I KNOW this is the All-Ireland football final issue, but I make no apology for leading off this month's feature with a hurling item. Not for years was I so proud at Croke Park of my Northern Heritage than on the day in early August when Antrim's hurlers gave Cork a real fright in the All-Ireland senior semi-final.

If ever a company of sportmen made the so-called experts look extremely silly it was the caman-wielders from the Glens in that clash with the title specialists from the deep South. To listen to some before the game Antrim were like lambs going to the slaughter and there were also many who lost no opportunities to tell all and sundry that the hurlers from the Northern outpost had no right at all to a semi-final place.

What the know-alls overlooked — or did not take the trouble to check — was that Antrim just missed out on a Division I place in next season's Ford Hurling League. They were beaten in their concluding Division II game last March by Westmeath in a cracker

at Mullingar. Victory would have earned them the second promotion spot. As it was, Westmeath went forward, and gave Kilkenny a good run next time out in the knock-out stages of the League.

It was clear, then, to the keen student that Antrim had a team with the ability to justify All-Ireland semi-final status, and how they emphasised the point against red-hot favourites Cork!

It is not every day that a team scores as many as 24 points in a match (as Antrim did in the semi-final) and still finishes on the wrong end of the scoresheet. Cork hit just eleven points, but proved more adept in goal scoring, and so won the day.

The Leesider's greater big-game experience saw them through, but, cliché it may be, but it is true nonetheless — Antrim won more glory in that defeat than many a side gains in victory.

I am reluctant to single out Antrim players for special mention, as their performance was an exhilarating team effort. At the same time, I do feel that Paul McKillen, who got through much good work at centre-field and also scored 1-4, Ger Cunningham, the other midfielder, and Des Donnelly in attack were deserving of just a little extra mention.

Unfortunately, Croke Park had only a very small attendance for the game. Few of the leading Gaelic Game writers saw the tie either as most were understandably enough at the Galway-Kilkenny semi-final.

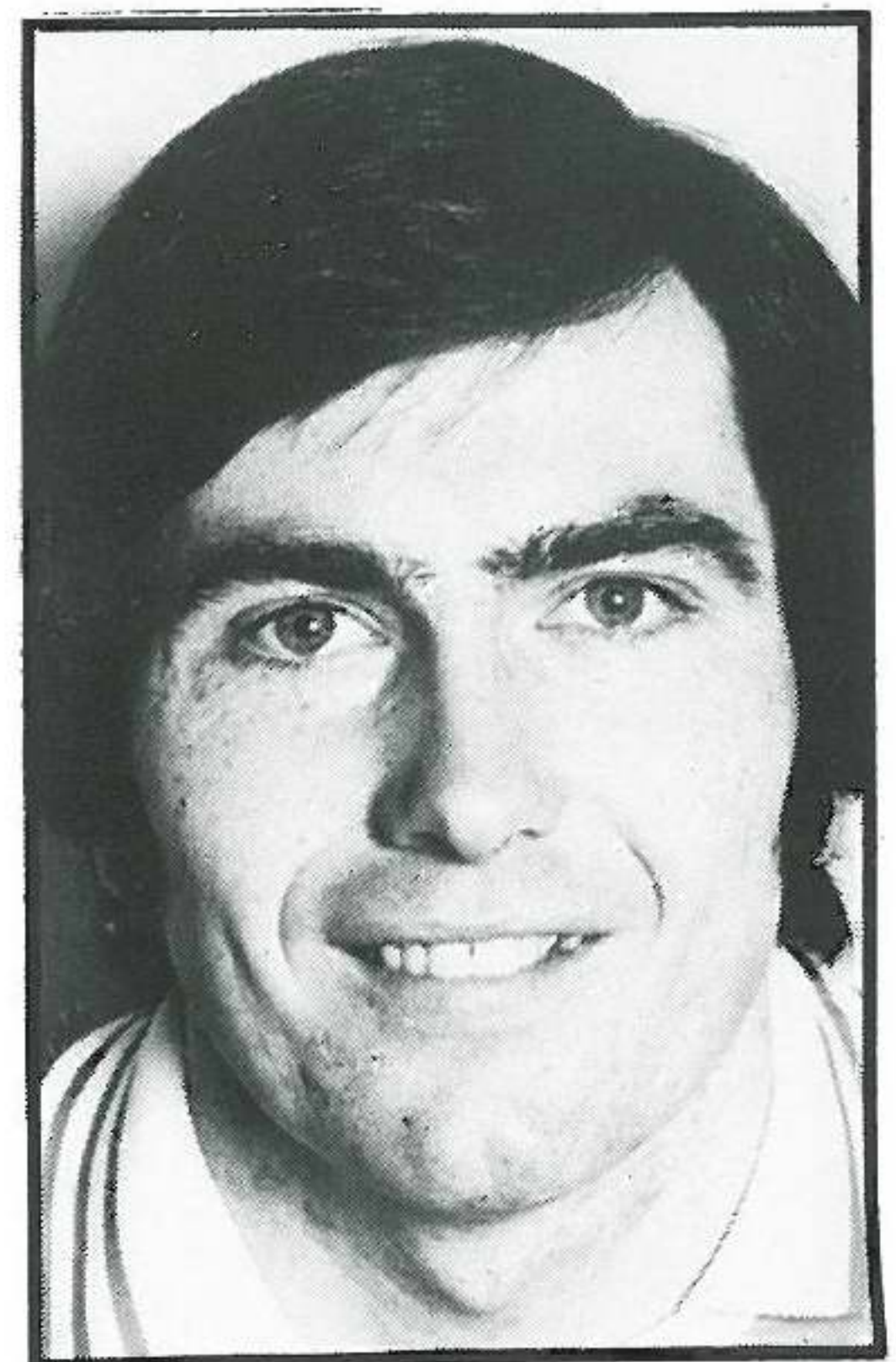
But even though Antrim's performance was not watched by many, I sincerely hope that it will not be overlooked when it comes to the time for selecting the Bank of Ireland All Stars hurling team. It is past time than an Ulster hurler was honoured in an actual selection for the first time.

Here is another hint for the selectors. Des Donnelly, who scored four points in the semi-final, was the

leading marksman nationwide for last season's National Hurling League for all Divisions. There is a lesson there surely for the All Stars people.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

The family connection was especially strong in the Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, team that won the Donegal senior football championship recently for the first time since 1951. Indeed, one could say it was a case of like father, like son.



● **JOE KERNAN... helped Crossmaglen to Armagh Senior Football title.**

Tommy McDermott, who captained the team from full back, is son of Jackie, who was at midfield in the 1951 team, and also played for the county. Tommy, of course is a regular with Donegal nowadays, and has played for Ulster as well.

Centre half for Ballyshannon was Eonan Gallagher, another county player. His father, Jim, captained Ballyshannon to the 1951 title, and believe it or not, he manned the centre half back berth. Jim Gallagher also

● **TO PAGE 37**

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●FROM PAGE 35
played for the county.

Then, Tomas Gallagher, who went in as a substitute during the final was also maintaining a family tradition. His father, Tom, was right full forward in the all conquering side of 35 years ago.

There were also father and son connections involving other members of the Ballyshannon panel who did not play in the final win over Red Hughs, of Killygordon. Indeed, Tom Gallagher had another son, Seamus, among the substitutes.

Nor was the family connection confined to Ballyshannon. The Red Hughs attack included Hugh Gillespie and his sons, Chris and Lynden. Possibly a record here for the Gillespie family.

Red Hugh's were bidding for their first final win. They lost by 1-8 to 0-5.

Ballyshannon will now carry Donegal's banner in the Ulster club championship, and will be fancied to make a strong impact.

TYRONE HISTORY-MAKERS

It would be very remiss of me in an

issue like this not to pay tribute to Tyrone on earning an All-Ireland senior football final debut. I doubt if they will be in the least annoyed by the fact that Kerry are starting the strongest of favourites.

Tyrone, after all, have repeatedly upset the odds this year, and there is no reason why they cannot keep the trend going when they challenge the giants from the Kingdom.

Eugene McKenna and his men will have all Ulster behind them when they line out at Croke Park. I am convinced that they will do Ulster proud.

Incidentally, Tyrone received a welcome boost in the build-up for the Sam Maguire Cup tie with the selection of brilliant midfielder Plunkett Donaghy as the B & I Line G.A.A. Personality of the Month award winner for August. This was his first such award. Could he be back again for September as a midfield giant in an historic win?

BIG JOE AGAIN

More county championships

news. Joe Kernan, who scored two goals for Armagh against Dublin in the 1977 All-Ireland senior football final, was on the goal standard again as Crossmaglen Rangers regained the Armagh senior football title after an interval of three years.

Big Joe helped his team off to a blistering start against the defending champions, Pearse Og, of Armagh City, when he goaled after about four minutes.

Kernan, a former Bank of Ireland All Star, was at full forward, and finished the day with 1-2, as Crossmaglen took their 25th title.

I just cannot keep Dessie Donnelly out of this column this month. After his All-Ireland semi-final performance, he was bang on the target again as Ballycastle regained the Antrim senior hurling title in a disappointing final with St. John's, of Belfast, at Dunloy.

Des scored a majestic 1-12, all but eight points of his team's total, and more than double the score achieved by the challengers.



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CONNACHT



COMMENT

ALL Connacht is behind Galway minor footballers in their clash with Cork for the All-Ireland football championship. The teenagers from the Corrib County are the West's last hope for a national championship in the code this year.

They can do the province proud. This is an outstanding minor team, one of the best to represent Connacht in a final in years, and while Cork must command respect, the Galway lads are capable of taking the crown.

The manager and trainer of the team is no stranger to followers of Gaelic Games. John Tobin, of Tuam Stars, has also been through the All-Ireland finals action as a player.

He was left full forward in the minor team that beat Kerry in a replay for the 1970 title, and two years later he held down the same position in the side that brought the All-Ireland under-21 crown to the county for the first time.

Donegal folk will ruefully recall Tobin's finishing flair in the 1974 All-Ireland semi-final when he did much to sink the Ulster champions ambitions by scoring 2-6. He played for Galway in their All-Ireland finals of 1974 and 1983, but the game's top award eluded him.

It will be a real feather in Tobin's hat if he follows up that under-18 success as a player of 16 years ago by training and managing a Tom Markham Cup side.

GALWAY MANAGER TOBIN CAN REPEAT MINOR VICTORY OF 1970

SAYS KEVIN MALONE

I think I am right in saying that Galway have not lost an All-Ireland minor football final. That's a proud run that I believe they will maintain against the Munster champions.

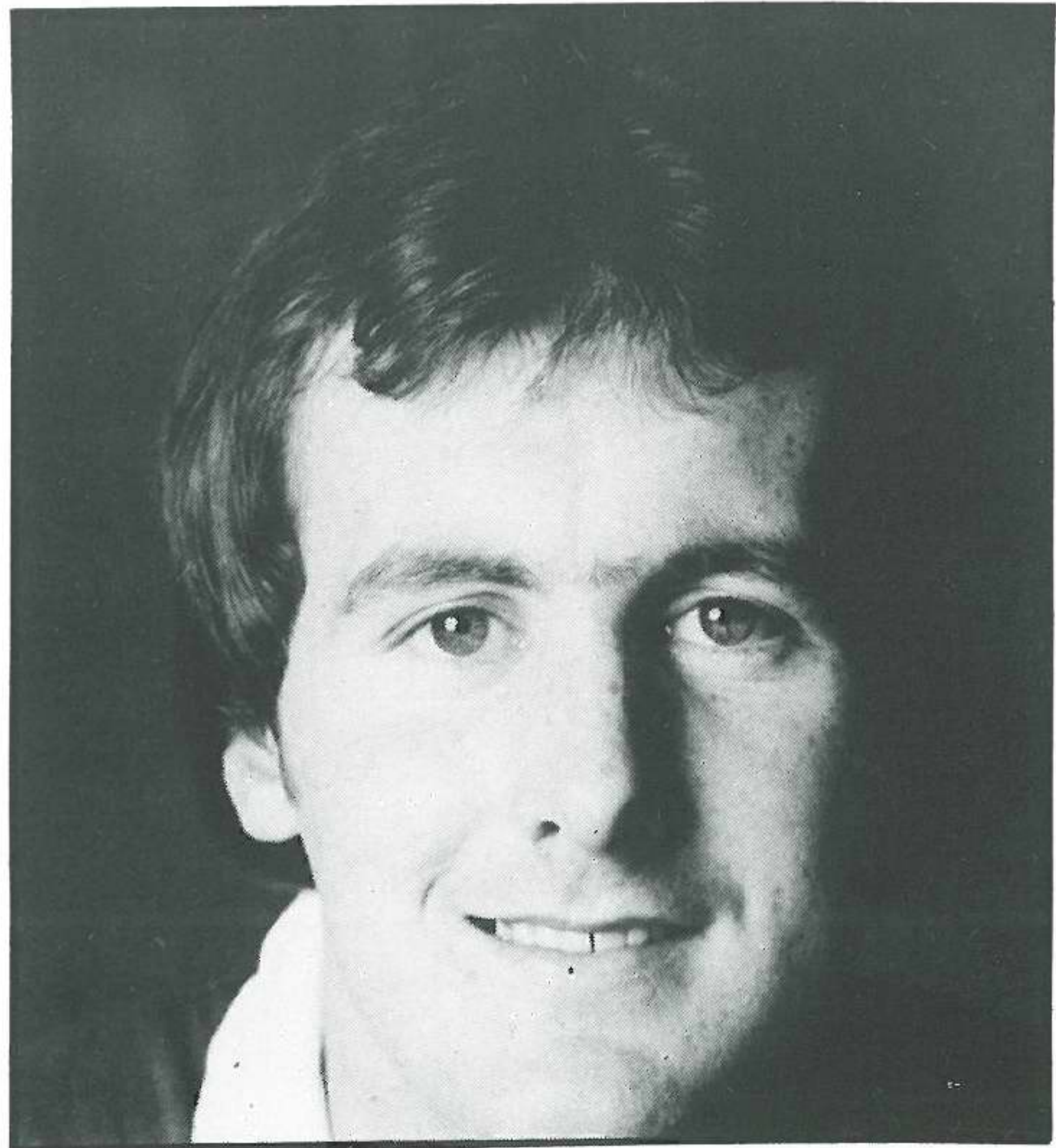
WESTERN SADNESS

There was deep sadness in the West in particular, and in the nation in general at the tragic death of Aonghus Murphy, killed while on duty in the Lebanon with the United Nations peace-keeping force.

Aonghus was well known for his football skills. He won an All-Ireland Colleges' senior football medal with that great Connacht and Galway nursery, St. Jarlath's, Tuam, in 1978, and captained Galway when they lost the 1981 All-Ireland under-21 title to Cork in a replay.

Only last September, Aonghus was at Croke Park starring at midfield as Galway beat Kerry for the national junior home title.

●OVERLEAF



● JOHN TOBIN... the former Galway star forward is now manager and trainer of his county's minor footballers.

●FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

I know that I am voicing the sentiments of readers of GAELICSPORT everywhere when I offer sincere sympathy to the family of Aonghus Murphy.

FOURTH TIME LUCKY

It is a long road that has no turning. Tubbercurry probably appreciate that better than most just now as they celebrate a Sligo county senior football final win over St. Mary's, Sligo.

Tubbercurry went into the latest summit under the shadow of three successive county final defeats from St. Mary's. It looked as if the old bogey was to strike again when Mary's led by two points at the interval, but Tubbercurry got their game together in fine style in the second half and came out on top by 1-

11 to 0-10 to take their first crown in ten years.

Full marks to Tubbercurry. They proved that persistence and dedication, allied to skill, can pay off in the end.

But spare a thought as well for St. Mary's, who have a really remarkable record. Founded only 11 years ago, they were chasing their eighth title this year, and they have also won three Connacht championships.

DOWN UNDER

Congratulations to P.J. McGrath, of Mayo, on his selection as one of the two referees for the Australian tour by the Ireland footballers for the trend-setting Test Games. It is a well deserved tribute.

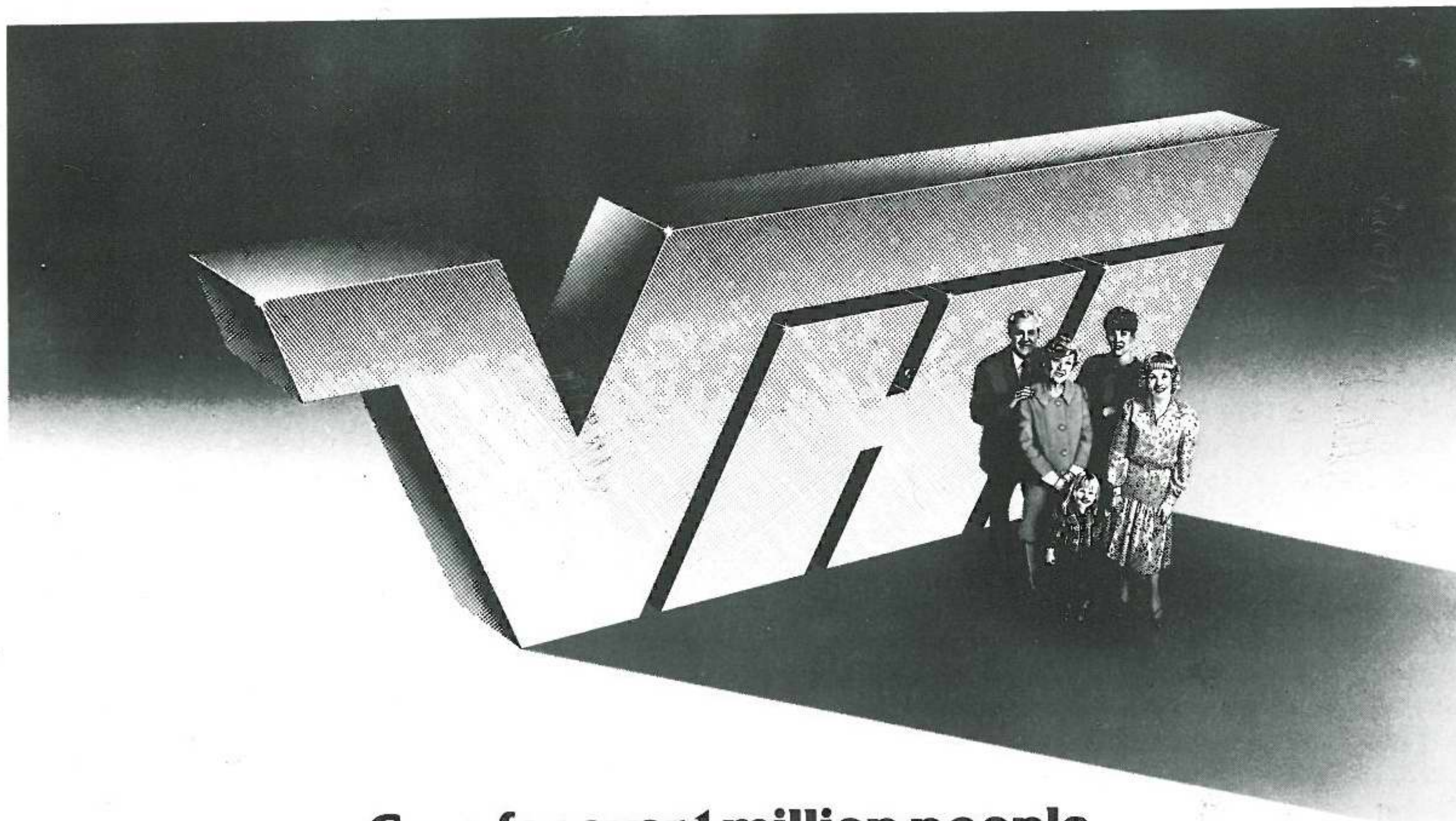
GOOD SHOW

No joy for the West on the televised

All-Ireland senior softball singles final. But if Mickey Walsh, of Roscommon failed to bring the championship to the county for what would only have been the second time, he still went down gallantly against the firm title favourite, 'Duxie' Walsh.

The challenger gave the champion plenty of anxious moments, and all in all gave an excellent account of himself. He certainly can be proud of his effort against one of the greatest handballers this country has produced.

But there was still some cause of real joy for the West on the programme as Paddy Delaney (Galway) took the junior singles title for Galway's third such title.



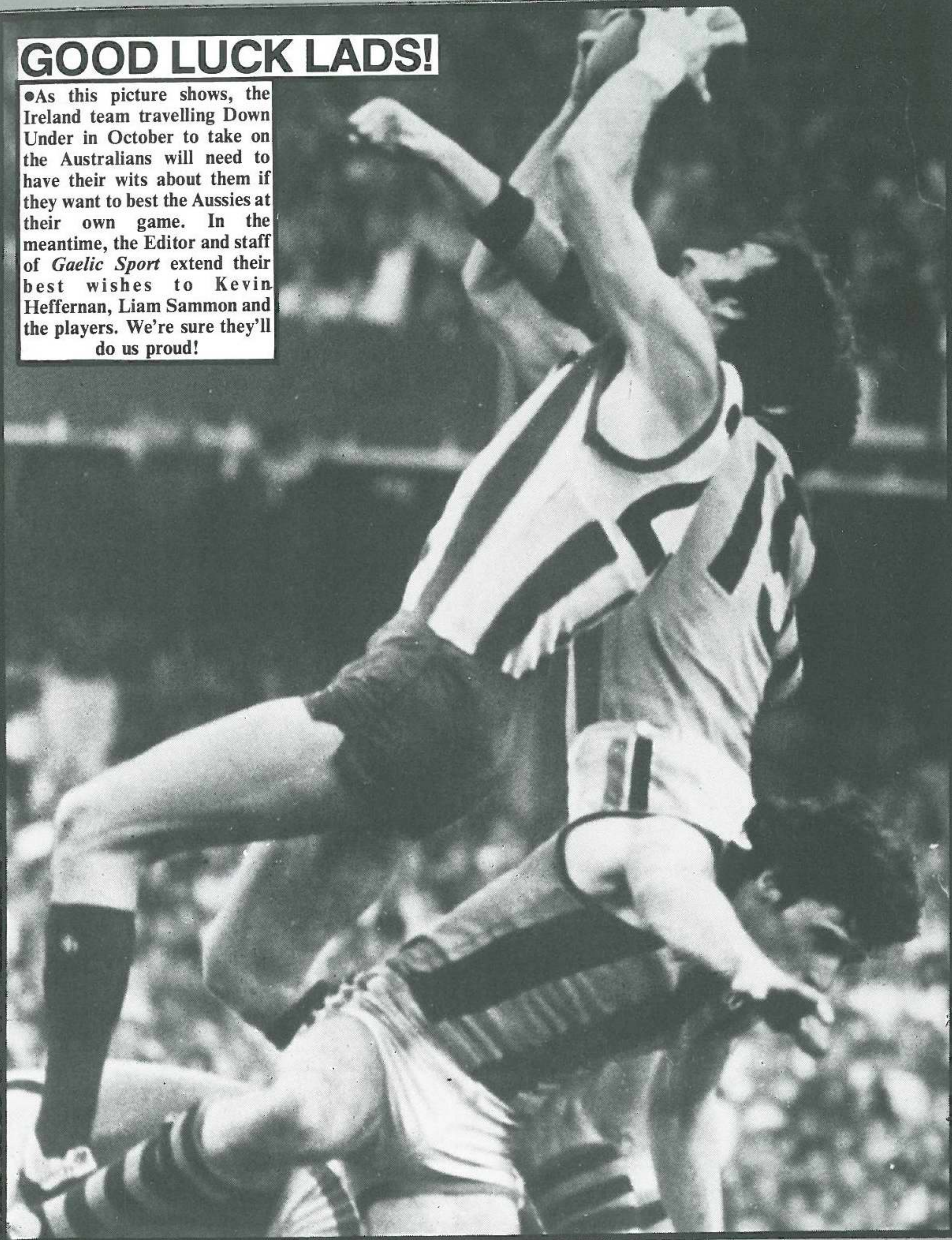
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GOOD LUCK LADS!

●As this picture shows, the Ireland team travelling Down Under in October to take on the Australians will need to have their wits about them if they want to best the Aussies at their own game. In the meantime, the Editor and staff of *Gaelic Sport* extend their best wishes to Kevin Heffernan, Liam Sammon and the players. We're sure they'll do us proud!





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The Team For All Workers...

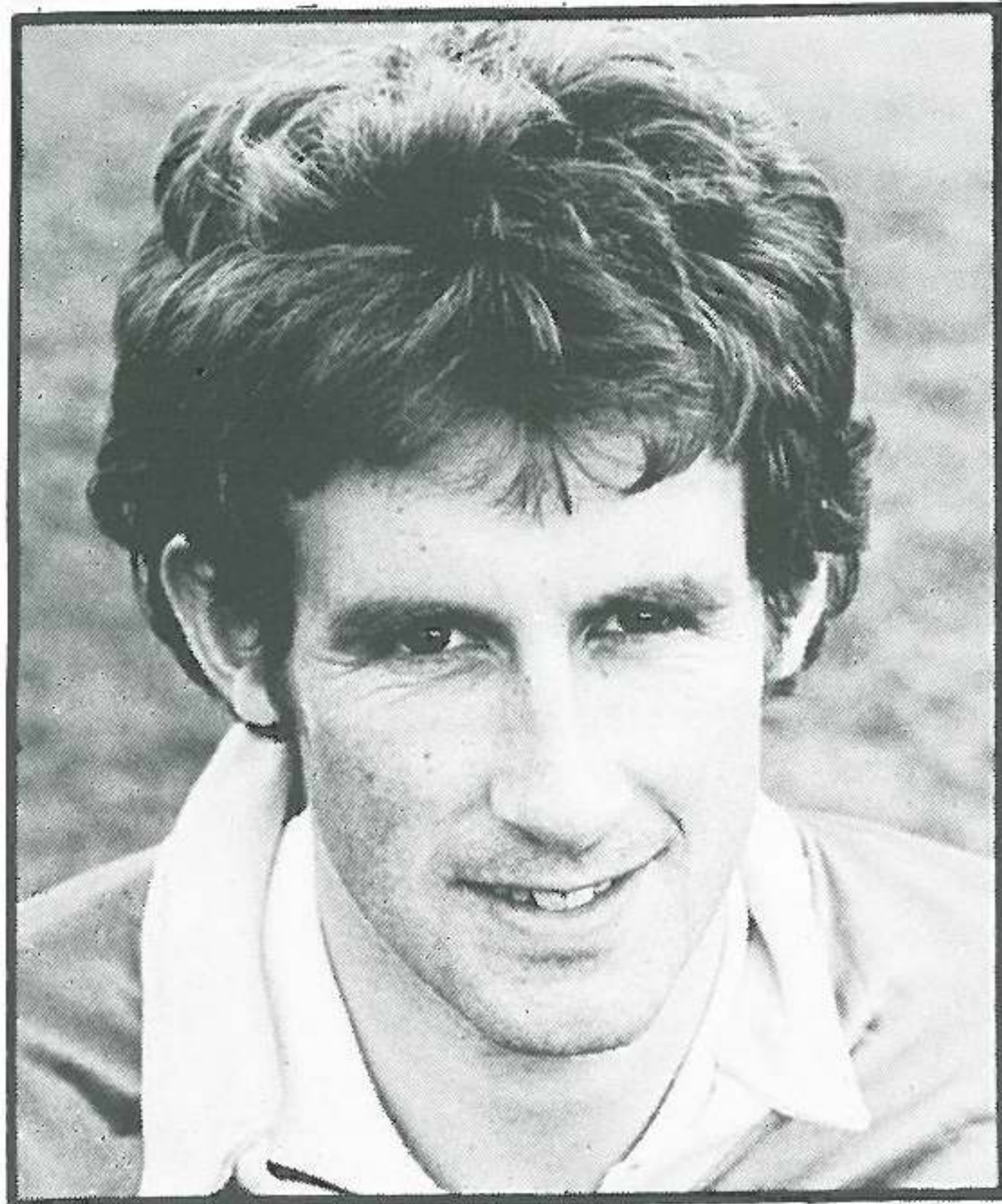
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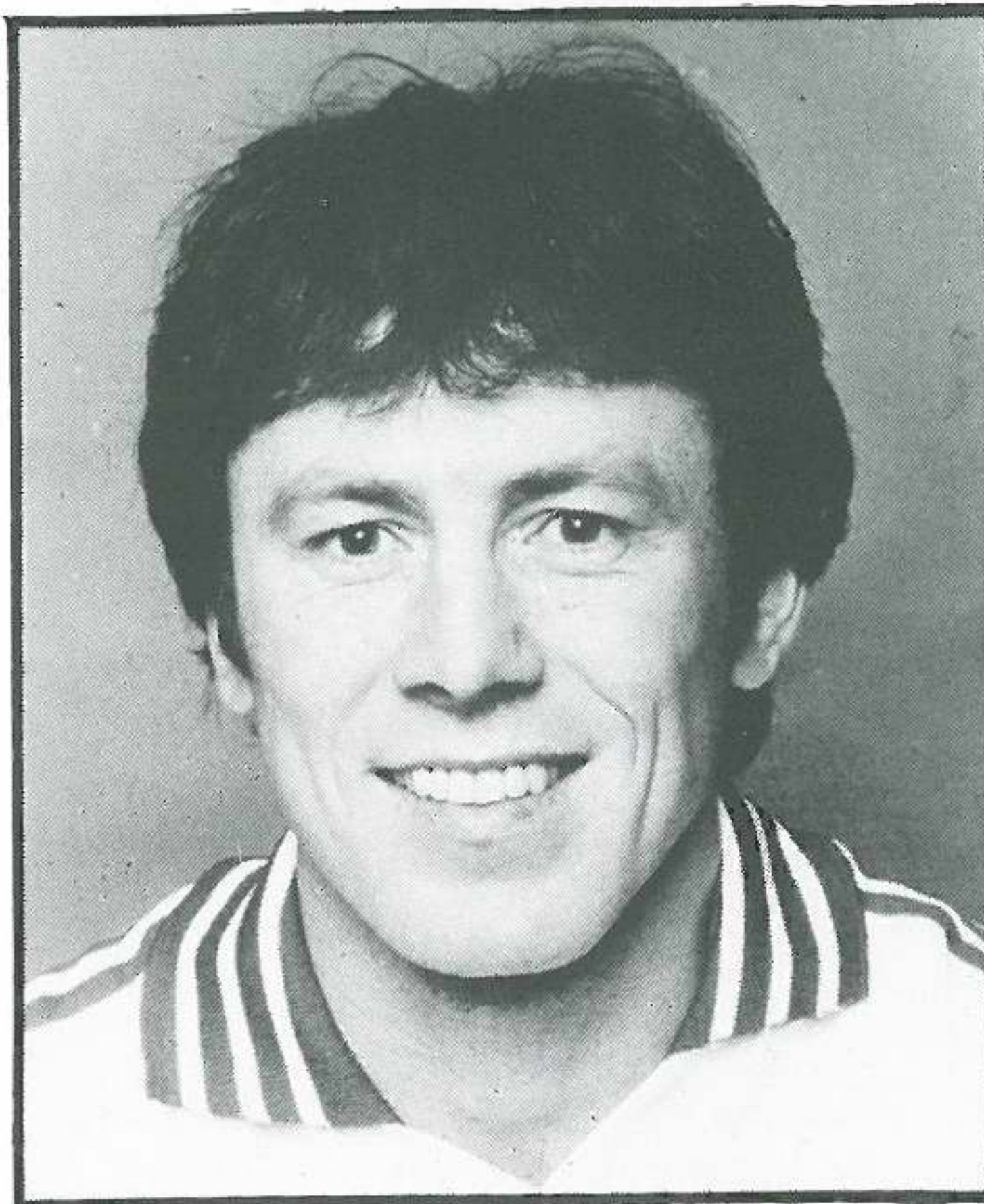
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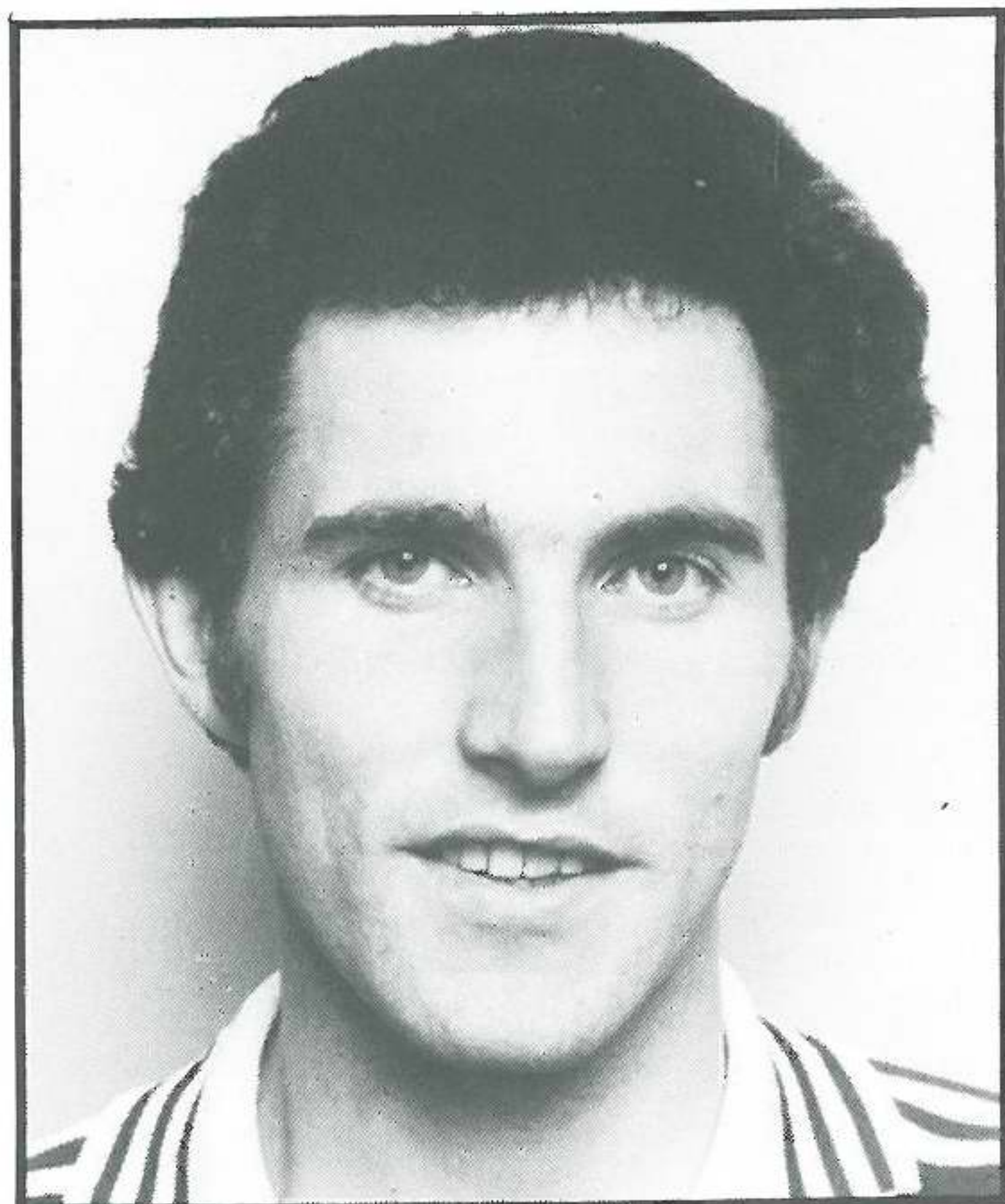
* A QUARTET OF STARS *



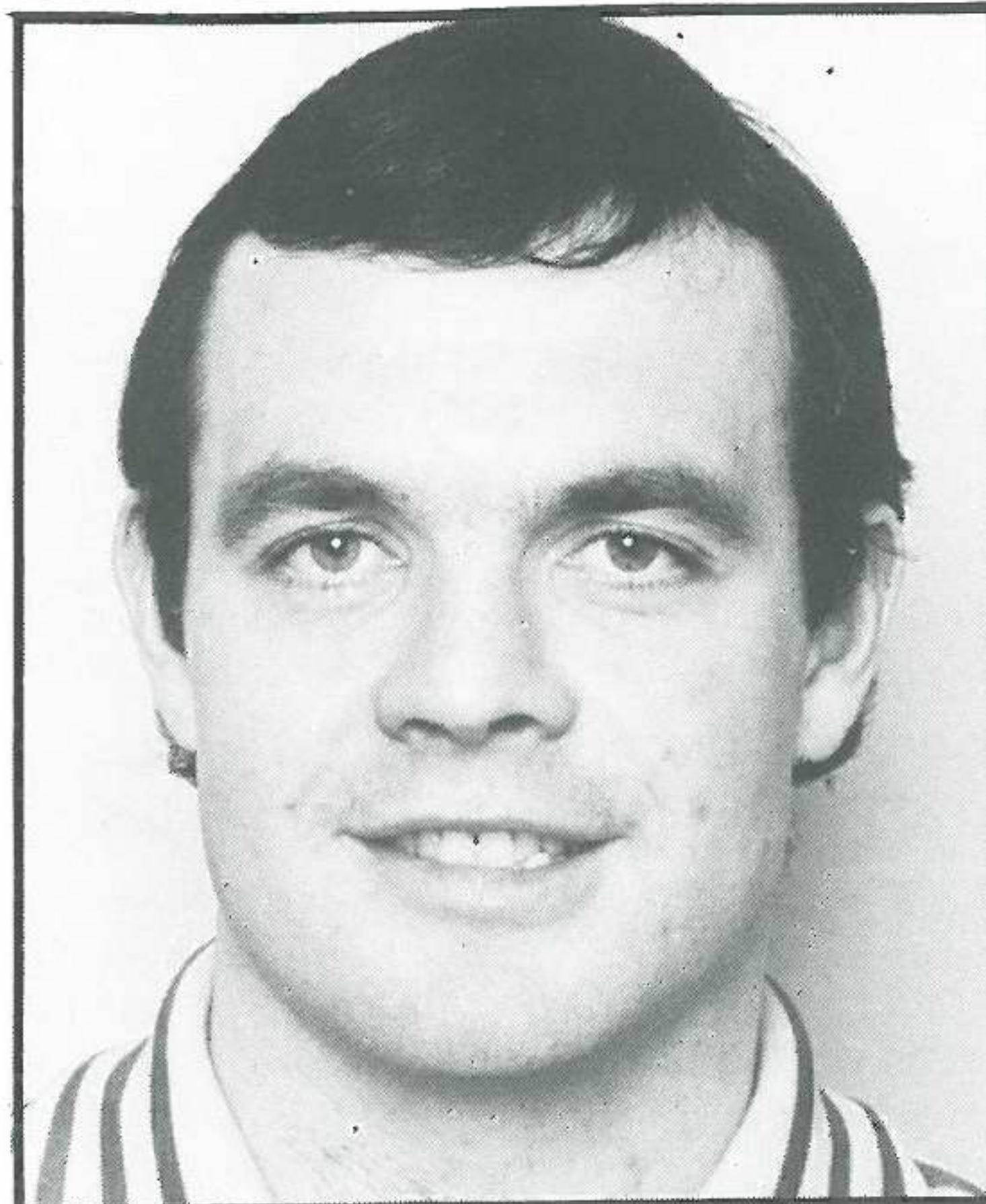
●MICK SPILLANE (KERRY)



●EUGENE McKENNA (TYRONE)



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ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL

CHAMPIONS: 1887-1985

Compiled by SEAMUS COSTELLO

FIRST established in 1887, with the only break the following year, ninety-eight All-Ireland Championships have been decided to date. Less than half the Irish counties share the titles (fifteen in all) and the two top teams Kerry (29), and Dublin (21) — are far ahead of their rivals. Their nearest is Galway with a titles tally of 7.

KERRY

Championships won — 29: Years 1903, 1904, 1909, 1913, 1914, 1924, 1926, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1946, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1962, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985.

The Kerry-Kildare games for the 1903 championship stirred the country and “made” Gaelic Football. At their first meeting in Tipperary town the crowd encroached on the pitch in the seething excitement and the match was abandoned.

The second meeting at Cork Athletic Grounds was a draw. When they met for the third time, again at Cork. Kerry won narrowly. The big upsurge of public interest created resulted in the G.A.A. clearing its then heavy debt — a carry-over from the G.A.A. “Invasion” of America in 1888.

There was a great repeat of the 1903 epics in the drawn game and replay between the same counties in 1926. The renowned John Joe Sheehy was Kerry captain on that occasion.

DUBLIN

Championships won — 21: Years

1891, 1892, 1894, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1942, 1958, 1963, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1983.

The Dublin Young Irelands, who won the first title for the Metropolis in 1891, were many of them, workers in a well known brewery. On one remarkable day — 28th February 1892, they beat Cavan Slashers in the semi-final and that same afternoon faced Cork in the All-Ireland final, to win 2-1 to 1-9 (at that period a goal outrated any number of points).

When Bray Emmetts led Dublin to victory in the 1902 championship, the final, played at Cork Athletic Grounds marked the official opening of that historic venue.

Pat “Cocker” Daly, a member of the Dublin winning side of 1908 — perfect kicker of points left and right — was still a fine footballer when he retired in 1926, at the age of fifty-three. His was a record surely for long service.

GALWAY

Championships won — 7: Years 1925, 1934, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966.

Galway won their first title in 1925 under peculiar circumstances. The Connacht championships were not completed and Mayo were nominated to represent the province in the All-Ireland semi-finals, and they created a big surprise by defeating Wexford 2-4 to 1-4. In the other semi-final at Tralee, Cavan put up a fine performance, losing only by a point to Kerry, 1-7 to 2-3. An objection and counter-objection followed this game and both teams were disqualified. Mayo were at first declared champions, but were subsequently defeated by Galway in the Connacht final. Galway were then declared champions by the Central Council.

OTHER TITLE WINNERS

The remainder of the All-Ireland football Championships — 41 in all — have been won by 13 counties. The following is a list of Champions since 1887, excluding Kerry, Dublin and Galway.

Wexford — 5 titles; 1893, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.

Cavan — 5; 1933, 1935, 1947, 1948, 1952.

Tipperary — 4; 1889, 1895, 1900, 1920.

Kildare — 4; 1905, 1919, 1927, 1928.

Cork — 4; 1890, 1911, 1945, 1973.

Mayo — 3; 1936, 1950, 1951.

Louth — 3; 1910, 1912, 1957.

Meath — 3; 1949, 1954, 1967.

Down — 3; 1960, 1961, 1968.

Offaly — 3; 1971, 1972, 1982.

Limerick — 2; 1887, 1896.

Roscommon — 2; 1943, 1944.

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

TO THINK we are at the Football Final issue once again. Naturally enough we are disappointed in Galway to have failed to Tyrone. I thought we had it won when we led by 2 points with about 10 minutes remaining. Tyrone finished the stronger and the penalty goal finished us off. Still we fought back and Tomás Tierney had a cracking shot for goal which nearly made it. And so after it was all over we took off our hats to Tyrone. This was the Northerners fifth attempt to reach an All Ireland final: 1956, '57, '73, '84, and this year. And their first time to make it. Well done Tyrone and best wishes from Junior Desk in the final.

MID-FIFTIES

My Association with Tyrone goes back to the mid-fifties. In 1954 I took up my first teaching appointment in Enniskillen Technical School the day after Cork defeated Wexford in an epic All Ireland S.H. Final. I remember listening to Michael O'Hehir describe the marvellous display of Bobby Rackard when he replaced Nick O'Donnell at full-back. I remember a newsflash of an air crash at Shannon as I listened to the game in the Royal Hotel.

The next day I wasn't long making friends with the Donnellys, the Carsons and a whole host of lovely people in Enniskillen. In June 1955 I was posted to do superintendent of examinations in Omagh Technical school and I stayed in Donnellys' guest house, the home of Sean and

Donal Donnelly, Tyrone and Omagh players at that time. The Donnelly girls were great Irish dancers and had won loads of medals at Feiseanna throughout the country. It was a real Irish home and I had a great time. A real holiday. I trained with the local St. Enda's team and met for the first time Thady Turbett, Jackie Teggart, Paddy Corey, all men who became famous with the Tyrone 1956 team, the first Tyrone team to win an Ulster senior title.

JIM DEVLIN

It is history now, how Galway managed to snuff out Tyrone by 0-8 to 0-6 in a magnificent game. How that wizard of the solo Iggy Jones almost got a goal for Tyrone. How Jime Devlin that portly full-back held Frank Stockwell scoreless. Poor Jim has long since gone to his reward, shot to death along with his wife as he returned home from work, another victim of the sectarian violence that has afflicted Northern Ireland since 1969. We just held on to win. Sean Donnelly had a great game for Tyrone. In 1984 I was invited back as a guest to Tyrone's Centenary Banquet.

I was honoured to be asked and travelled to Omagh where I had a marvellous night and renewed acquaintance with all the men of '56 who were the special guests. When the late Jim Devlin's name was read out there was this moment of uncertain silence and then the loudest applause of the night. Long and

sustained with many a silent tear. It spoke volumes for all the suffering undergone in this present trouble stricken section of our land. It was a moment I will never forget. It was a night of many speeches. And yet the Tyrone team of 1984 — the Ulster champions of that year — sat through it all, lapping up every moment of it, allowing centre stage to the men of '56, waiting patiently for their own turn near the end and showing a discipline and display of good manners that was an example to many other youthful teams of the present. This current Tyrone team has character.

MASSIVE SUPPORT

Tyrone had massive support at the semi-final. It must have given them great confidence compared to Galway's almost non-existent support. They created a big din in the Hogan Stand. But their barracking of Galway freetakers left a little to be desired. I'm not trying to excuse Galway's lamentable inaccuracy from placed balls. Leaving the ground after the game this Tyrone supporter pulled me aside. "Jack I knew we'd beat ye. You see one of the late Jim Devlin's sons became the father of a baby boy last week and he called him Jim. So the name lives on. We had to win." Loyalty runs deep in Tyrone.

CUT-OUT

Our cut-out star for this issue is that wonderful servant of the

kingdom, Pat Spillane. Pat has been an integral part of Kerry's recent successes and has shown great courage and endurance in bouncing back from the injuries that nearly ruined his career a few years ago. Pat, incidentally, is the most honoured All-Star of all time, having won his eight award last year.

MAILBAG

It's a bit slim this month.

Tim Murphy, Shamrock Bridge, Rathmore, Co. Kerry. In a long letter wonders if I have the 1970 Kerry v Meath final programme (*can any reader help?*). Once again Tim is all in favour of having a Quiz in every issue of Gaelic Sport. He thinks the All Stars in future should be selected by the people on a popular vote system "It's the best and fairest way."

(Your last point is good Tim but a bit unwieldy. Where would you place the coupons and would you give unlimited

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FLASHBACK



●Action from the epic struggle between Galway and Tyrone in 1956. The late Jim Devlin is on the extreme right of the picture.



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votes to any voter? It would be open to abuse. A player could arguably have himself selected this way. J.M.)

Aidan Grennan, Killina, Rahan, Co. Offaly, adds the following mistakes he has found in programmes to those already given by Tony Maher of Carlow in a previous issue.

1. Leinster S.H. Final Prog. of 1986 — Both Kilkenny and Offaly teams have only 14 pen-pictures.

2. Centenary Cup 1984 — H. Quarter final prog. — lineout of Offaly F. team placed beside Kilkenny Hurling team.

3. N.F.L. Final of 1980 — Cork are listed as having 2 captains — Christy Ryan and Denis Allen.

4. All Ireland S.H. Semi-Final '85. This programme states that the game is the All Ireland H. Final between Antrim and Offaly.

(Aidan — that will keep our programme producers on their toes J.M.)

Kieran Rosney, 181 Grotto View, the Batteries, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, is highly critical of the G.A.A.

for allowing Croke Park to be destroyed by the Rock Concert and made available for a short time for Gaelic Games "The day is not far away when players will have to be paid." (*Can't agree with that sentiment Kieran. J.M.*). "I look forward to seeing professional G.A.A. players in the near future."

(*Can't agree at all Kieran. If the G.A.A. goes professional there is no way I'd give any voluntary commitment to it as I do now. Look at soccer in Ireland today. Professional soccer I mean. They can't even improve their facilities for lack of finance. Dalymount Park is a blot on them. The money they get is given to players. And still the public won't go out and support them. I'll leave Irish soccer to look after itself though. As Jimmy Barry Murphy once said "if the G.A.A. ever goes professional count me out". Me too. J.M.*)

"THAT'LL DO."

A Little story to finish. It happened at the Munster S.F. final. I sat in front of a seasoned Kerry supporter who said little, but it was obvious that he

had seen them all from Purty Landers, Batt Garvey, Tadhgy Lyne, Paudie Sheehy, down to today. Cap on head he agonised a bit, never pontificated or clapped, just measured it all against bygone days. At half-time he felt they'd need to improve to hold on, he was afraid of this young Cork team. Then late in the second half Mickey Sheehy turned it on as only he can and scored a magical point that literally won the game. Our Kerry connoisseur then allowed himself what I would call the immortal remark: "That'll Do". It said it all. Tim Long (brother of Tom's) will love that story.

That'll do for me now too. Keep writing to me on any issue. The Sunday Game is still a fine programme though its format is too much the same. A bit of variety would help it a lot don't you think?

Write to:
Jack Mahon,
Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
139A Lr. Drumcondra Rd.,
Dublin 9.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

FAMOUS FIRSTS

1. 1961 when Offaly were beaten by Down. 2. 1971, when Offaly beat Galway for their first title. 3. Kildare, captained by Bill Gannon, who beat Cavan in the 1928 decider. 4. Kevin Mussen. 5. Derry appeared in the final for the first and only time. 6. Hanahoe became the first Leinster man to be twice presented with the Sam Maguire Cup. 7. Galway, who beat Dublin in the 1934 summit. 8. 1970. 9. The 1947 final was played at the Polo Grounds in New York, the only national senior final played outside of the country. 10. False. If you answered No. 3 correctly then this question would have presented you with no problem.

'SEVENTIES FINALS

1. Billy Morgan, Cork's captain in their 1973 win over Galway. 2. 1977, when Armagh were well beaten by the Dubs. 3. They all refereed All-Ireland senior finals during the decade. Kelly was referee in 1970 and 1971, Tierney in the drawn game of 1972, and Hugh Duggan had charge of the 1979 summit. 4. One. 1972 in which Offaly retained the Cup at the expense of Kerry. 5. True. Tyrone won the 1973 final, beating Kildare.

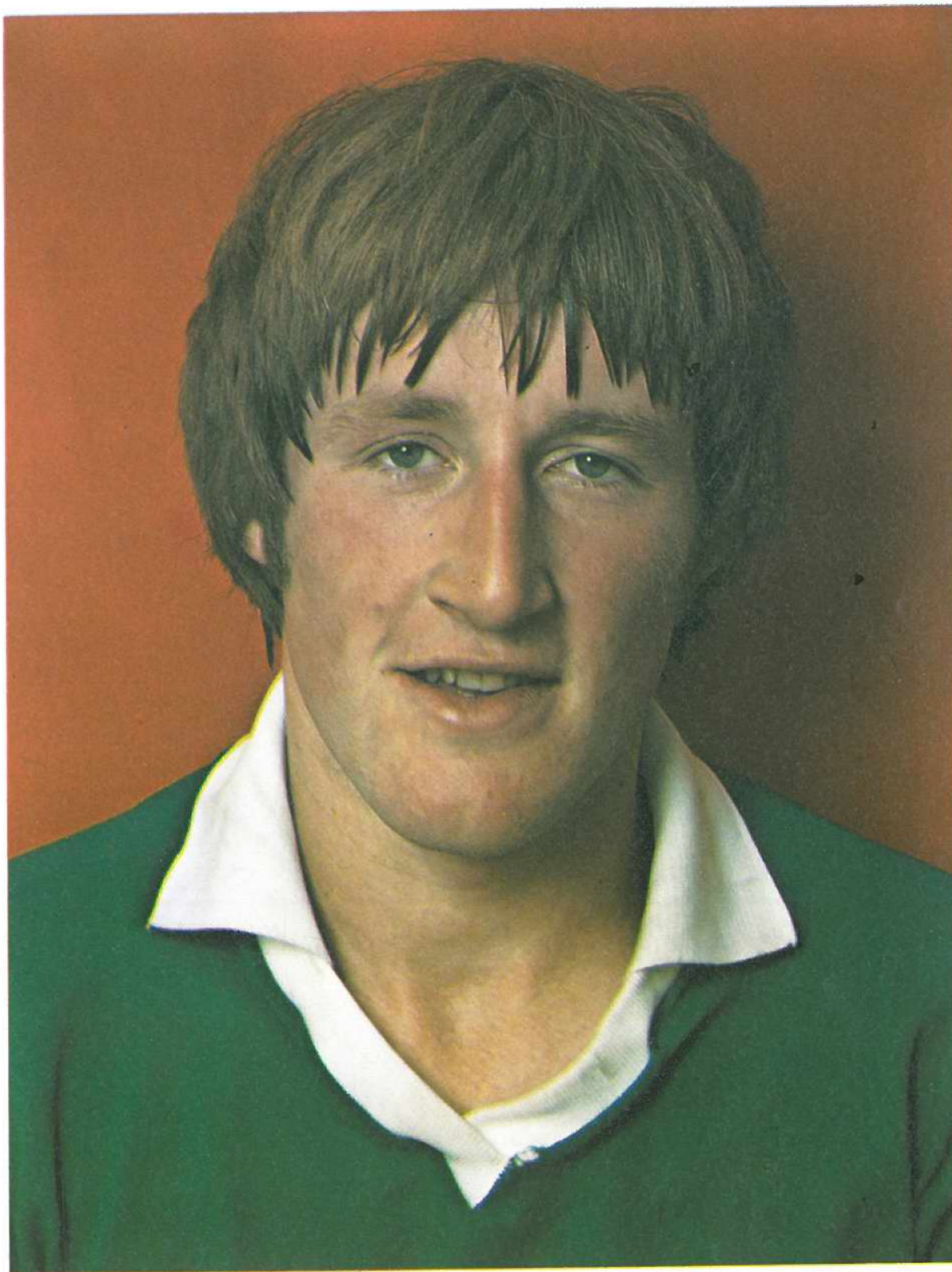
IN THE PICTURE

1. Donegal. 2. Michael Lafferty, 3. 1983. 4. Galway. 5. One point — 1-12 to 1-11.

THE MINORS

1. The Tom Markham Cup. The trophy commemorates a Dublin Gael, and the first winners were Louth in 1940. 2. Dublin, who beat Tipperary in the final. 3. False. Kerry have nine titles and Cork seven. 4. 1976 when they won their fourth crown. 5. St. Colman's, Newry, who had a number of representatives in the Down team trounced by Galway in last month's minor semi-final. 6. They all won All-Ireland minor medals in goal. Yes, McNally, best known these days as a forward, was Dublin's goalkeeper at under-18 in the 1982 final win over Kerry. 7. True. He was Derry's captain when they beat Cork in 1983. 8. John O'Leary. 9. Clare. 10. 1981.

GAELIC SPORT



PAT SPILLANE **Kerry**

THE oldest of three brothers who have given wonderful service to Kerry, Pat made a courageous comeback from serious ligament trouble

that threatened to end his career prematurely some years back. He won his seventh All-Ireland senior football medal last September.

Now twelve years in inter-county senior football, the Templeogue man captained Thomond College, Limerick, to the 1978 All-Ireland club title. He will be 31 in December, stands 6 ft., and won four Railway

Cup medals and two National League souvenirs.

Pat, with his defence-splitting solo runs and tremendous appetite for work, has been one of the most dynamic figures in Kerry's modern success story. He became the most honoured All Star of all time earlier this year when presented with his eighth Bank of Ireland trophy.

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