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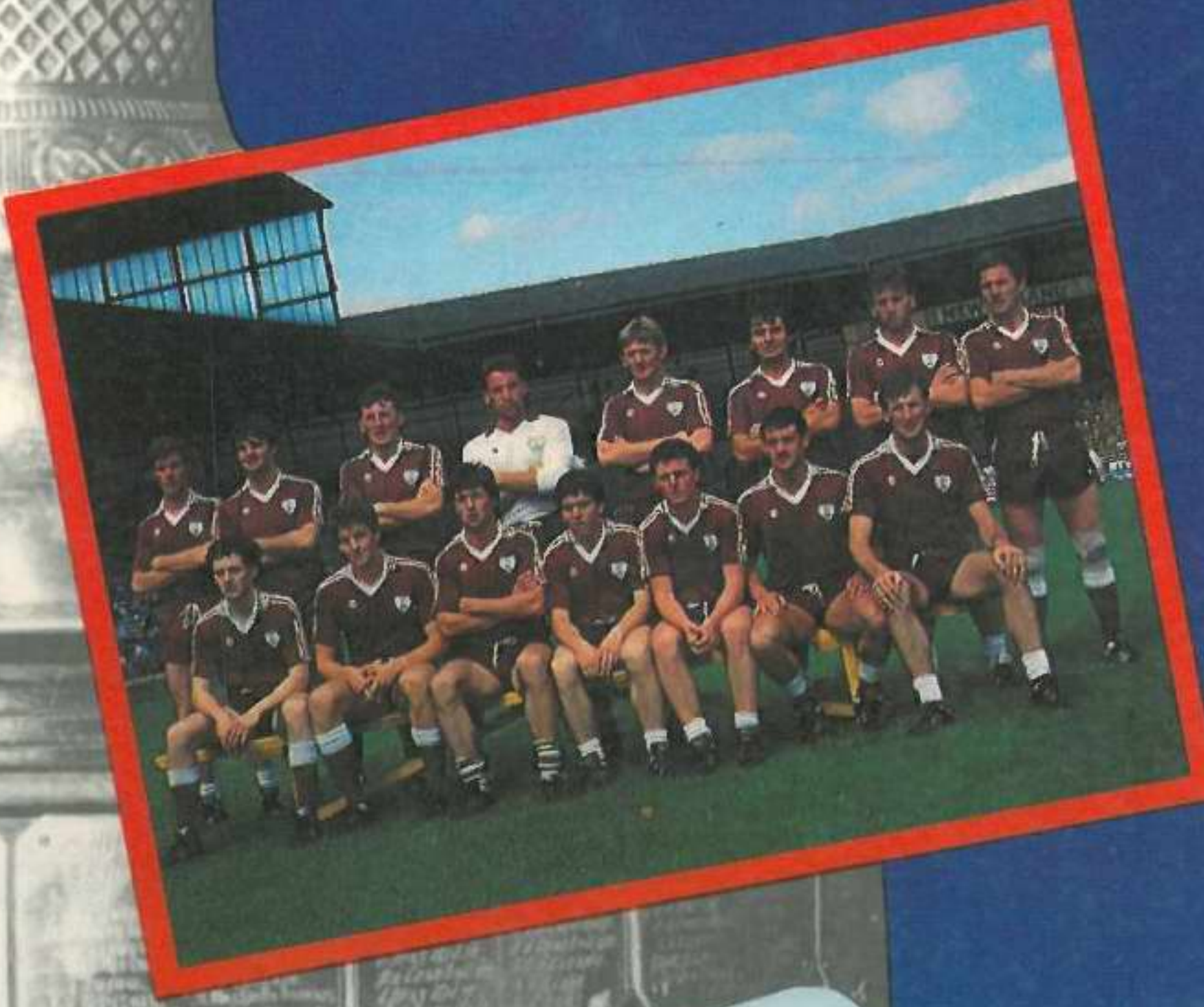
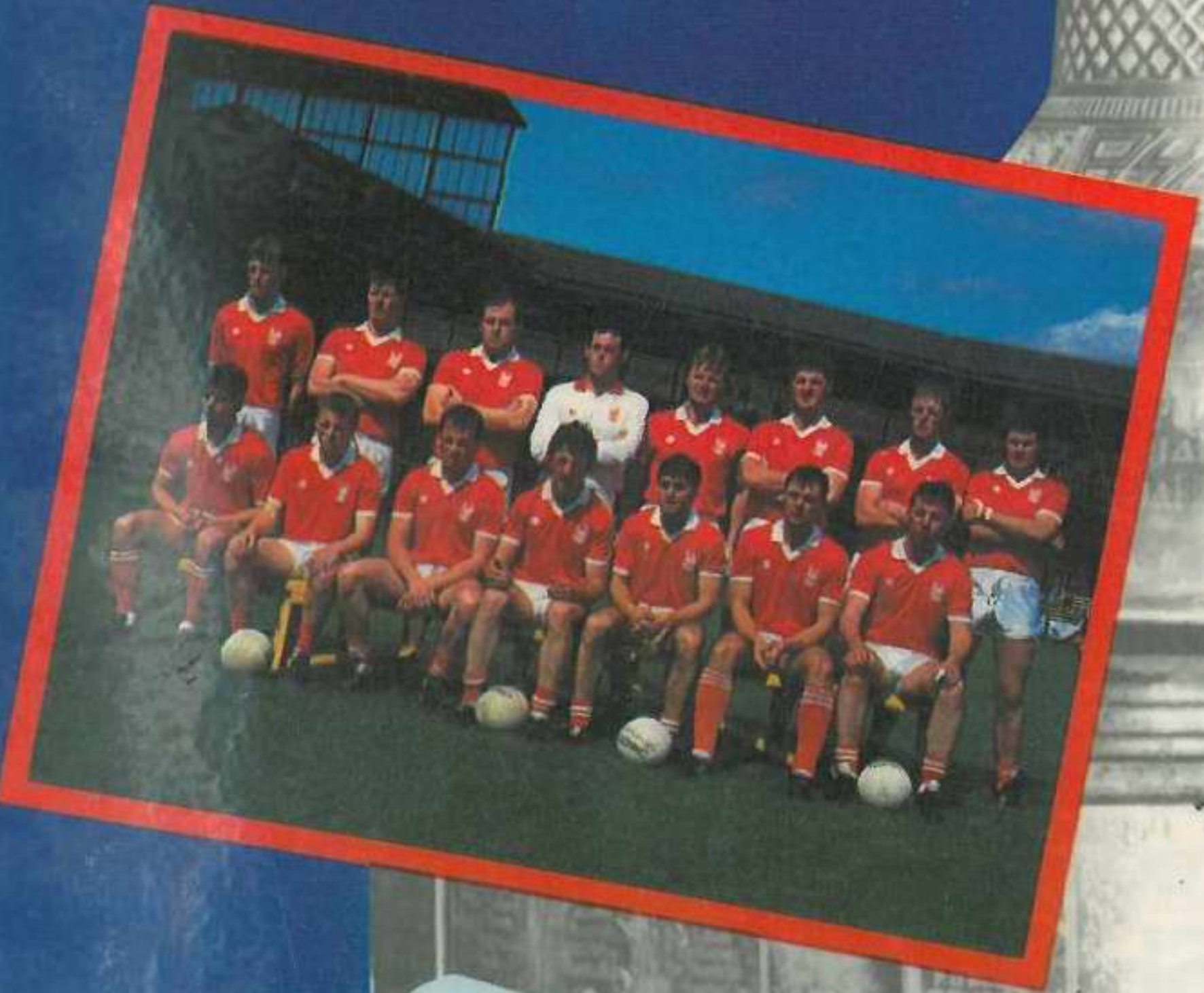
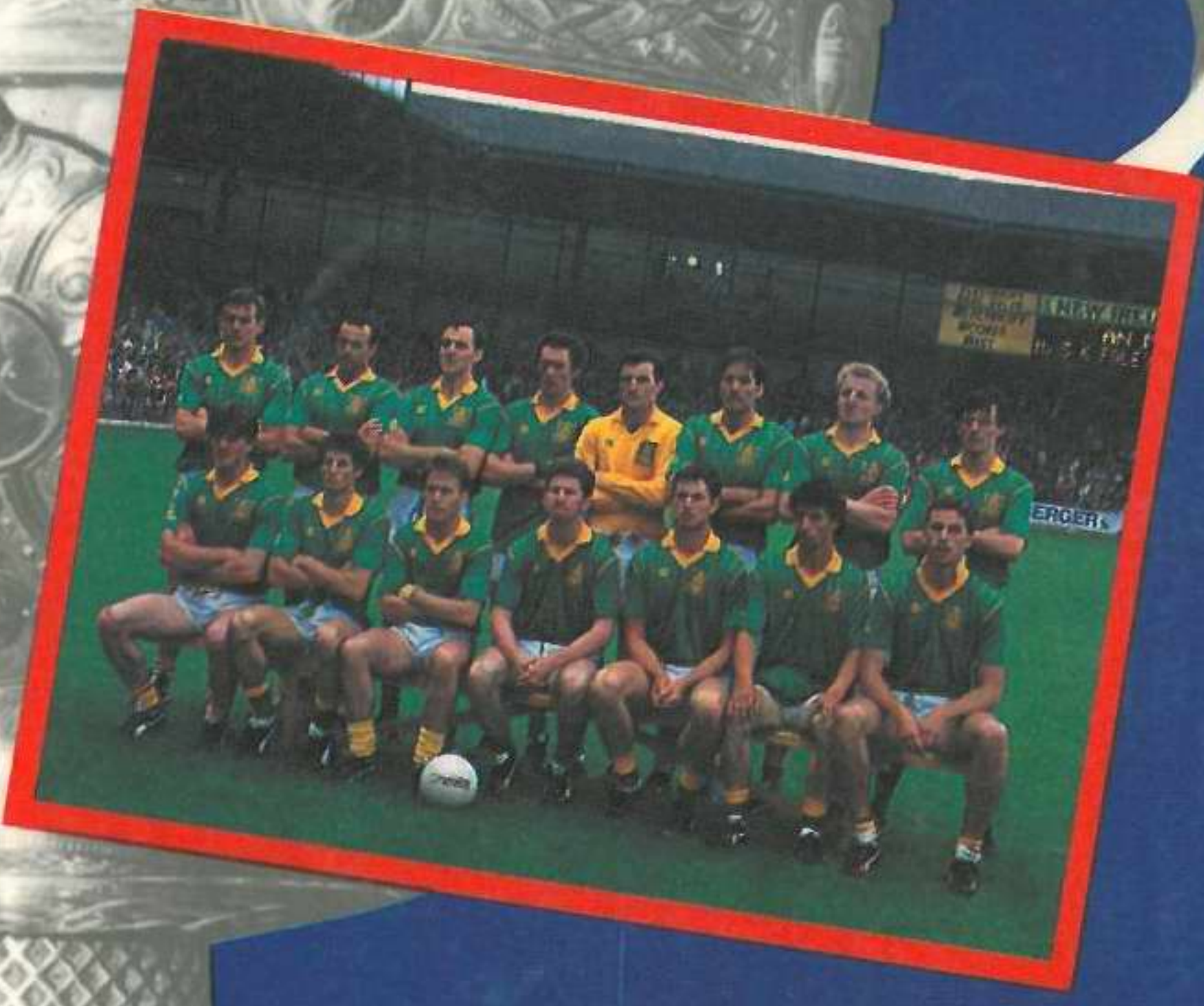
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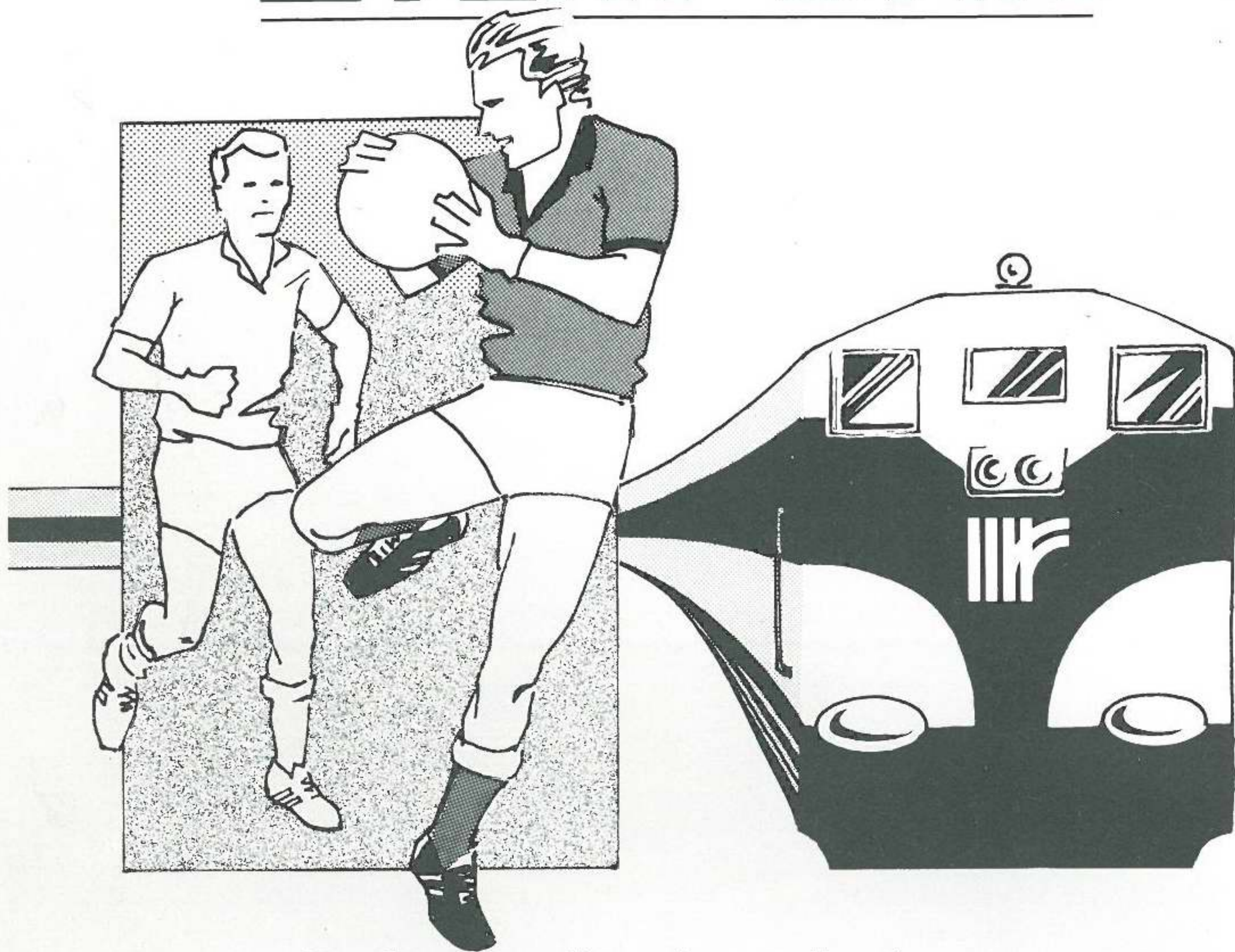
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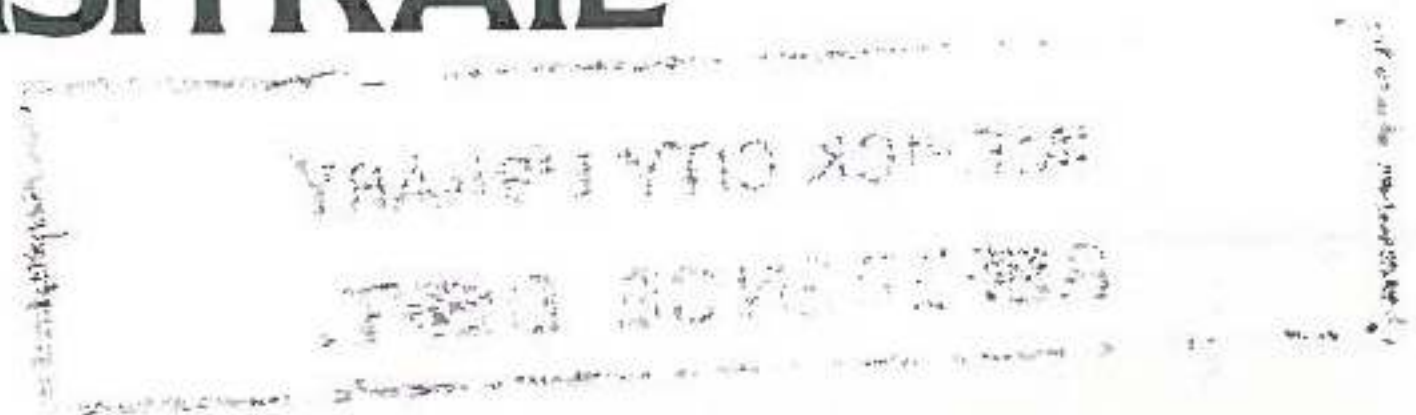
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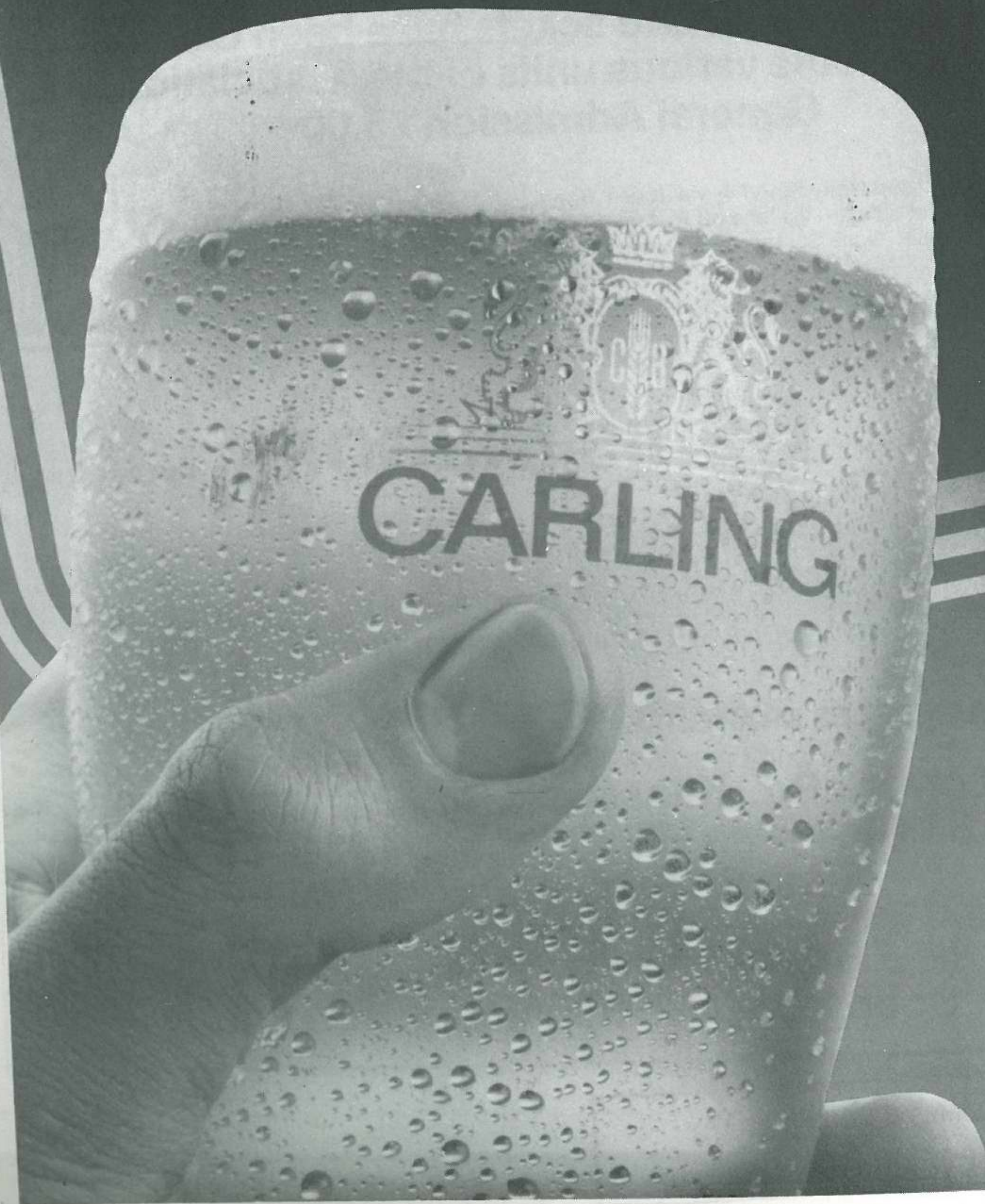
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ON our front cover, this issue, we pay tribute to the four Provincial Football Champions, each of whom, came by their title the hard way. Both Cork and Derry's emergence as title winners were outstanding feats and while Galway and Meath's success were less surprising, both counties had to overcome some stern opposition along the way. Our congratulations to all four teams for the many exciting moments they provided us with, in 1987.

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 Vol. 30 No. 4 ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL FINAL 1987

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SUCCESSFUL SUMMER FOR THE ASSOCIATION

AT a time when many firms are complaining about falling sales and cash flow problems, the G.A.A. can already point to a remarkably successful "trading" period in 1987. The unique quota of drawn matches in the football and hurling championships, allied to the fact that most games this year attracted big crowds, contributed to a championship season that ranks as a fantastic one for the G.A.A. financially.

The coffers are bulging, particularly with three of the major fixtures of the annual programme — the Munster hurling and football finals and one All-Ireland senior football semi-final — having all been drawn. And, we still have the top sporting attraction of the Irish year to come — the All-Ireland senior football final.

In this year of the replay it would be in the nature of things if the senior final, or the minor decider ended all square.

The success story of Gaelic Games this summer provides the best possible answer to the many who have been hammering typewriters noisily, or trumpeting loudly about the future of hurling and football. Some would have us believe that the national sports will lose out as satellite television brings more and more world promotions to our fire-sides.

This year's experiences, attendance-wise, indicate that there is no genuine need for fear on this front. But what about the extra money generated by the unusual number of drawn matches? How can this be wisely spent?

We all have our own views on this score. At the same time, there will surely be general agreement on the

need for improvements at many leading grounds in the country for a start.

Great work has been achieved over the years, but the fact remains that too many grounds are still not up to the standard demanded by the discerning supporter of the 'Eighties. In particular, more covered accommodation is badly needed at many grounds, and this is just one area where the increased cash influx could be put to good effect.

There are others. Take youth. Is the G.A.A. doing enough to promote the games among our young people? Other codes organise inter-provincials and international competitions for teenagers, while budding hurlers and footballers have only one inter-county competition a year in each code under 20 years.

Internationals, by their nature are out, but we could have inter-provincials. And, just now when there is so much talk about trips abroad for the Divisional winners of the Leagues, why not some similar trips for teenagers?

After all, if the champions of Britain and New York can visit Ireland each year for minor football championship quarter-finals, surely it should be possible to send a provincial minor county team to New York or to Britain for such an engagement once in a while?

More money could also be spent on promoting the All-Ireland Colleges' championships and the Vocational Schools' tests. These are much overshadowed each year in the press as they are usually played in opposition to inter-county senior ties in the Leagues.

Coaching is another area that would benefit from a further financial injection. The G.A.A. is making impressive strides forward here. One has only to consider the growing number of coaching courses, and the efforts being made in the weaker counties in Munster, where Eoin Liston is the full-time coach, to appreciate that point.

At the same time the hard facts are that hurling continues to be confined to a small company of elite counties, and that the general standard of football leaves much to be desired.

Last but by no means least, there are many dedicated men and women up and down the country who are doing so much away from the limelight in furthering the cause of Gaelic Games.

We have all met them — the enthusiasts who use their cars to transport teams, especially for schoolboy competitions, without any cost at all to the club. Enthusiasts who step into the breach time and again to raise funds for the club, and who more often than not dig deeply as well into their own pockets to support such promotions. The G.A.A. owes much to such enthusiasts.

Say what you will about the players — and this is a point that many footballers and hurlers so readily accuse the G.A.A. of not doing enough for them — without these dedicated club people working away tirelessly and without any reward behind the scenes, there would be no G.A.A.

Jimmy McQuaid

EDITOR

THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA ...

I'LL drive down from Dublin and at half past twelve I'll meet ye at Glenflesk" said John.

So there we were the four of us, veterans of many a match and already half broke from following Cork in hurling and football through a series of draws and replays that had worn thin the smiles of our benevolent bank-managers.

When we parked beside the church there wasn't a sign of John, and as no true sportsman will waste a pre-match minute in any occupation divorced from food or drink, we left word for him at the shop and headed up the bye-road for Con Spillane's. *"There's a cooked chicken in the plastic bag"* I told the boys *'and his mother said to keep the three of ye thieves away from it'*. Munching their sandwiches they assured me they wouldn't dream of interfering with either John's meal or the tender maternal wishes. So into Con's we went, where in less than quarter of an hour we stood in firm confrontation with the local singers, who apart from the advantage of home venue also had the significant social asset of half an hour's start. It was a happy beginning to that July replay with Kerry in Killarney.

The previous Sunday we had all trooped dutifully down the Marina to cheer on a bunch of good young Corkmen who, in the opinion of most, had two chances: slim and none. The stands were packed and the years of defeat injected both a volume and intensity to the waves of scarlet sound that rocked the arena. Kerry may be great but someday they have to go and this could be it.

Cork played grand football from the beginning, moving well into the open spaces and hand-passing the ball to one another with a slick confidence that pleased us, while Larry Tompkins on the forty hit

over the frees, that not only placed the vital numbers on the board but calmed each competent player into a steady self-confidence. Cork's backs stayed close to wily, accurate forward stars of the last ten years and on the halfway line we held our own. *"If the forwards keep this up"* said Chairman Con Murphy, veteran of six All-Irelands *"we're in with a real chance."* In the second half Kerry turned on the heat because it was clear to both players and selectors that Cork, far from chucking in the towel had shown the cheeky intention of even beating the champions. *"Let 'em have it now"* said Mick O'Dwyer and each solid son of the Kingdom fetched, ran, kicked, hand-passed and shouldered with a manly skill that once again earned my admiration.

by Eamon Young

Playing to the city end Kerry forced a free on the twenty-one line. It was clear that some of the players disagreed with the ref and because it was so close and so dangerous there was a moment of panic. Mike Sheehy, silver skill in hands and feet motored by ice-cold precision of shining brain, remembered the trick played on a great goalie nine years ago in Croke Park. Ignoring the excitement in the group around him the quiet Kerryman paced back a few quick steps and hit that ball fast along the ground. My heart nearly stopped for I knew it was in the net. But another cold brain was switched on and a sudden leap to right brought a fast hand outstretched to the speeding leather as John Kerins pushed it away for a fifty. Somehow I knew then we were not going to be beaten although the priest beside me kept on saying that the Kingdom goal was coming.

Suddenly Mike Sheehy had it again but this time out on the left corner where he had no chance. Changing feet like a ballet-dancer he slid goalwards along the end-line turned outfield, flung a quick pass to young sub Michael MacAuliffe (whose father Finbarr played for Cork), got it back just as fast, juggled the leather on his toe, faded around a desperate defender on the edge of the square, kicked a soft ball from three yards against the shins of a Corkman — and there it was in the net.

The fellows who broke an Olympic high jump record beside me robbed us then of the wonderful poise of goalie Kerins who had that ball kicked out before most of the crowd (as well as players and referee) knew it. There it was, over on the left wing with agile John Cleary chasing a quick tussle of players followed and then we heard the whistle. I couldn't believe our luck as Larry Tompkins faced up to that free for surely time was up. Calmly the fair-haired forty-yards man paused, looked at the posts, studied the lie of the ball, ran up and drove. Before he hit it at all, I knew it was a point.

"Didn't I tell you they'd get a goal" said the priest.

"Didn't I tell you we'd get the point" *"You're still a liar"* he said and he was right.

So here we were in Con Spillane's eight miles from Killarney a week later, Tom half-way through the sixteen verses of the "Battle of New Ross" and John asking about the chicken his mother had promised. Out I went and smugly in triumph, placed the plastic bag on the table. Out of it fell four round stones and half a dozen dockleaves, to the wild hilarity of the thieves who had removed the bird and, for a tempestuous ten minutes, pretended they had eaten it. However we struck Killarney

eventually and the match. Cork had done a little training during the week under a very urgent Billy Morgan whose creed is winning, and the real message of that training was in the increased self-confidence coming from the drawn game. Corkmen were saying "*We have'em on the run. Now let's hunt them*" Kerry we knew, had come together to assess the damage and to pool the collective thinking of champions before destroying the usurpers. I remembered the words of Charlie O'Sullivan, a fine forty yards man who, after Cork had drawn with the Kingdom 44 years ago said to me with a smile on his face and an edge in his voice, an hour before the replay. "*We've come up to give ye a real hammering this time*". I was a little worried before that Killarney game.

Before the start I watched Pat Spillane kick over four neat practice shots and wondered if Niall Cahalane would handle him as well as in Cork, but the game wasn't five minutes on, when to my relief the forward from Templeoe kicked one over his head and wide. Then Mikey Sheehy did the incredible: kicked a free wide, and when he missed two more, my heart leaped for the best performer in the world meets a day when nothing will go right.

For Ger Power especially, that statement has real meaning, as this talented man, a vital part of a champion progress over a dozen years earned the ref's attention and, to the dismay of half the crowd (and the regret of people like me who had seen both father Jackie and son Ger, in so many great games) started the loneliest walk in the world to the sideline. *At half time with the score 0-7 to 0-1 in Cork's favour I knew the Kingdom's chips were cashed.*

After half time I was delighted to see that Tony Davis the Cork right corner, who had been marking Ger Power, was our loose man. It couldn't have been better because Davis who has good ball control,

fair speed and experience outfield, was ideal for the new role of attacking back. Several times he joined in movements upfield and when another back, neat Tony Nation, soloed up and drove it straight and sure over the bar, it was clear that Cork had no intention of losing this one. Indeed Tony Davis created a record, for in one hundred years of football no Cork corner-back scored two points against Kerry in a Munster final. For ten minutes in the second half Kerry put up a great show as they drove forward with the elan of champions and I cringed as Jack O'Shea drove not one but two raspers from close-in just over the bar. Then Dermot Hanafin got a great goal and every Kerryman from Rathmore to Dingle roared "*Ye'll beat 'em with fourteen. Come on the Kingdom*". Cork took fright, and quite wisely, for once again they got down to the hard grind of winning and at the town goal tacked on the few points that kept our nose in front. Five glorious points we were ahead when the whistle sounded and the stadium erupted in overpowering enthusiasm lit by wide, waving banners of red and white, while players, mad with joy, sat in triumph on ecstatic shoulders and waves of sound overflowed Killarney until Dick Fitzgerald and Doctor Eamonn, God rest them, wondered what was wrong up in the field.

An hour later we talked gently with sorrowful Kerry men, outside Teddy O'Connor's we "slagged" the fellows we knew could take it; we sang "The Banks" and "Beautiful City" until melody overflowed on to the streets like froth from the creamy top of a pint glass and we struck the winding road for home over the soft green hills of the county bounds to put Billy Morgan up on our shoulders as cheers rocked the walls of the pub in Baile Mhuirne.

It was a great day and make no mistake about it, whatever happens in '87 that win in Killarney, as important as the resurrection of

Tipperary, is the dawning of a new era for the footballers of Cork.

Were Kerry the best ever team? Certainly anybody who knows football would hate to play against them. The Dubs of '76 with clever Tony Hanahoe, unerring Jimmy Keaveney, Brian Mullins, David Hickey, Robbie Kelleher, Bobby Doyle and the rest, all tuned up by masterful Kevin Heffernan made a great side. The men of Down led by Kevin Mussen, Sean O'Neill, the MacCartans Jim and Dan, Leo Murphy, Paddy Doherty, Joe Lennon and Tony Hadden were fluid, incisive, efficiency. The Galway team of the '60's, rock-like Jack Mahon, Mattie MacDonagh, Frank Eivers, Frank Stockwell, Joe Young, Billy O'Neill, Jack Mangan and Pook Dillon had Sean Purcell on the forty to destroy us all, and what about that great bunch who played in eight finals over eleven years winning four. Not so many remember them today, for time slips along doesn't it? They were Johnny Walsh, Paddy Kennedy, Gega Connor, Paddy Bawn Brosnan, Jack Lyne, Danno Keefe, Tim Healy, Murt Kelly, Purty Landers And what about John Joe Sheehy's team of the early thirties. It's hard to know where to start or finish, but one sure thing: the record of the present (and note I don't say "Past") Kerry side is enough to kindle a light in a sportsman's heart and put a gleam of pride in the eye of any son or daughter of the Kingdom. May their shadows never grow less; surely their reputations won't.

How good are Cork? We are all realistic enough to see faults in the team but there's a fair weight also on the asset side of the audit. Better they'll become and if we can continue to give the emotional support from the line now being supplied by selectors, who are daily getting more experience and by a trainer who, knowing the path to victory, pounds steadily along it with precision and gusto, we'll be a match for anybody.

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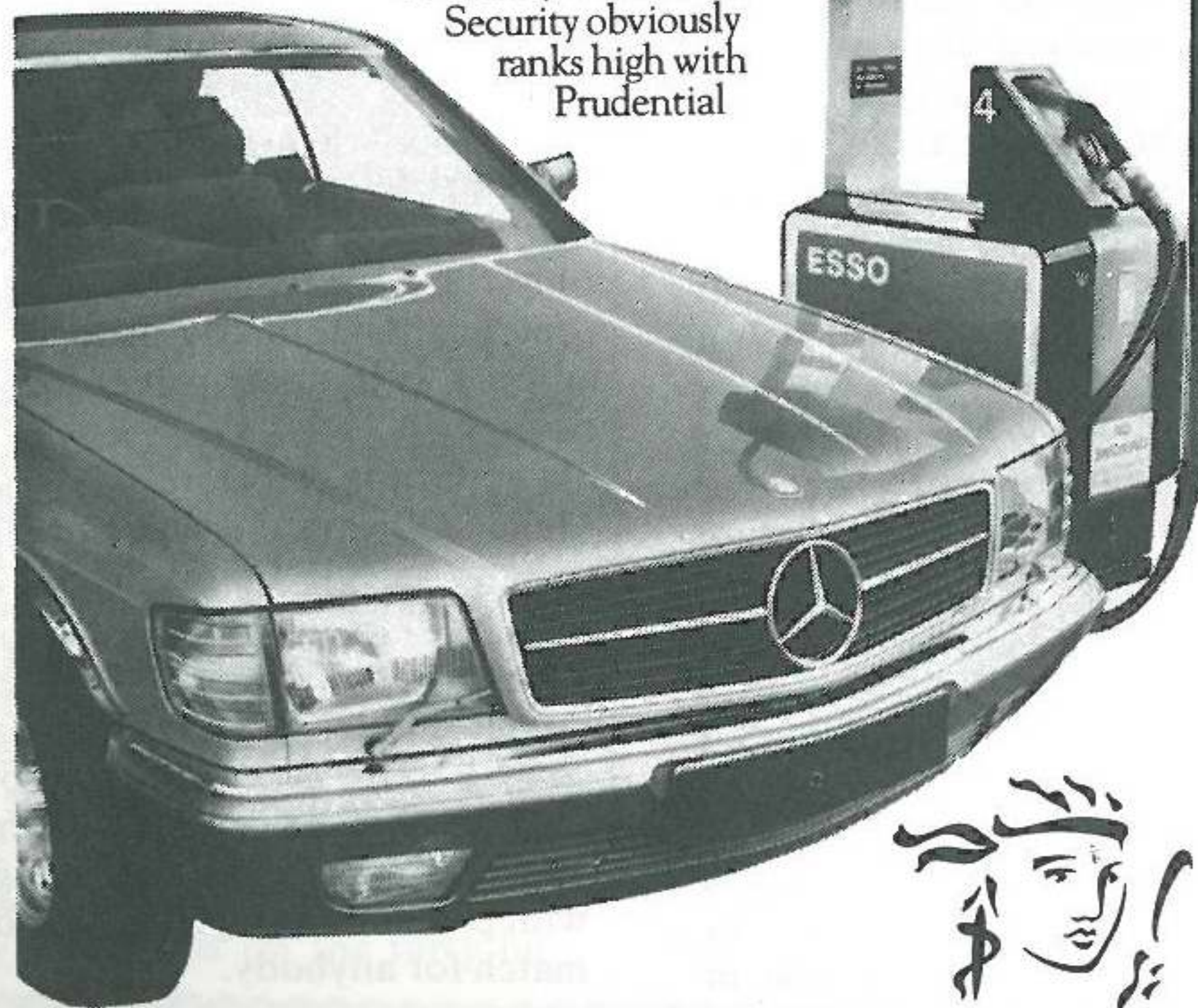
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**A SOUND DETERMINED SIDE
WITH MUCH TO RECOMMEND THEM**

By **DAVID PURCELL**

MEATH are not the most attractive of teams to watch in football. They are a solid, dogged side that approaches the job on hand with purpose, method and determination, rather than in the spectacular and free-flowing manner that we associate with such as Kerry.

That is not to say, however, that Meath are not capable of flashes of flair that rivals the best produced by the men from the Kingdom or Dublin in latter times. Remember, the dazzle that led to a David Beggy point against Derry after about twenty minutes in the recent All-Ireland semi-final.

Beggy started the

movement himself. The right half forward collected the ball within his own half, and linked up with Joe Cassells and Colm O'Rourke in a bewildering movement that was executed with speed and polish before gaining possession again near to the Derry goal. Beggy applied the perfect finish himself

with a peach of a point.

That was a flash of football at its brilliant best; football that even hard-bitten Kerry men would have been proud to have acclaimed in the hey-day of the 'Seventies and 'Eighties. Unfortunately, we saw little of that sparkle from Meath afterwards, but it was a telling

example of the depth of football the side possesses, and as confidence increases with more wins at All-Ireland level, the Royal County men could produce that flair more frequently in the top games.

Although the Leinster champions have not decorated their wins this season with snappy football and spectacu-



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lar scores, this should not be allowed to take one whit from the fact that they are a very sound side, with much to recommend them.

Their attack no longer relies in the main on Colm O'Rourke for scores. The tall schoolteacher from Skryne is still capable of finding the target very well at 29, but he now has a very able colleague in Brian Stafford, from Kilmainhamwood.

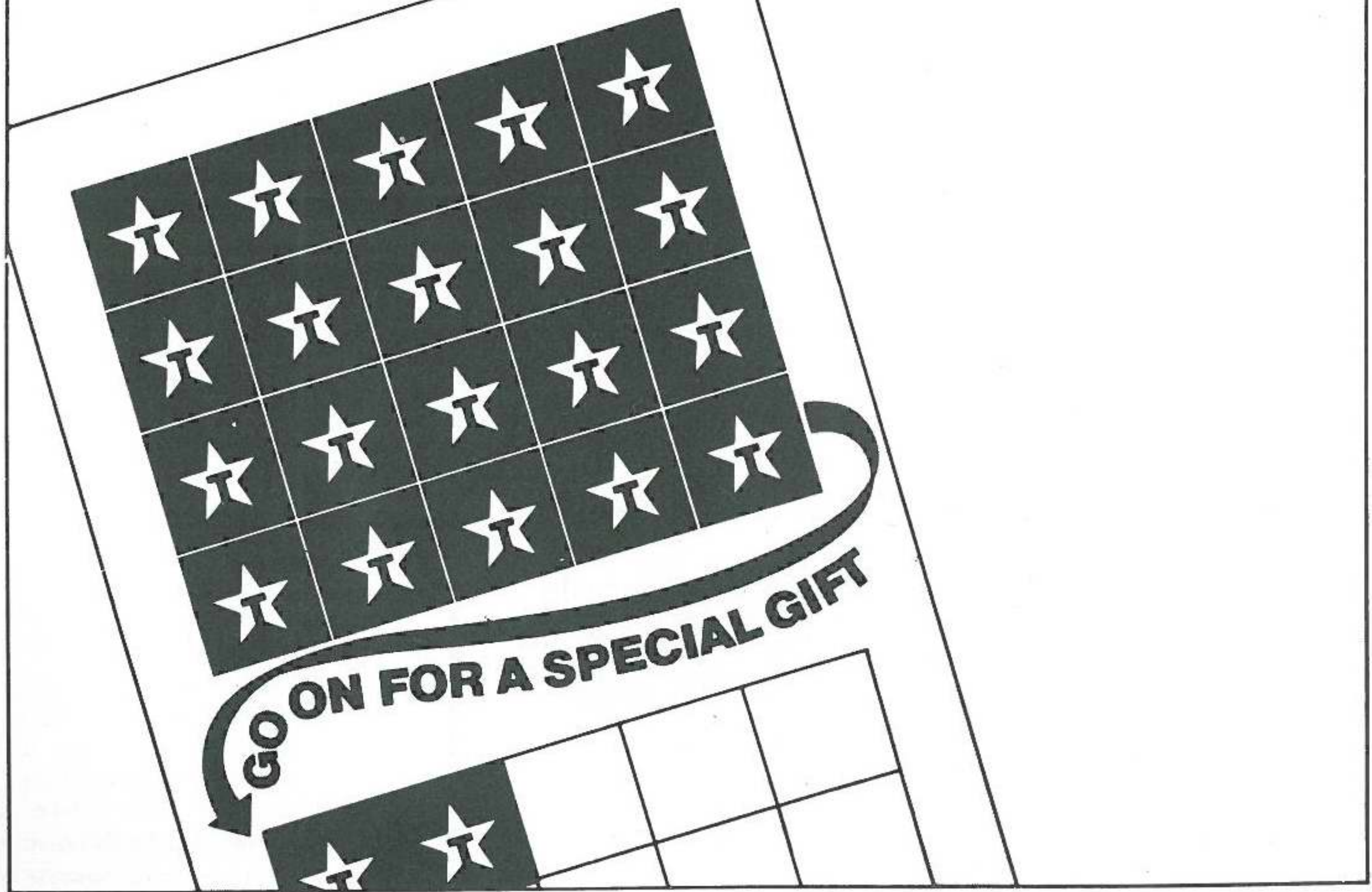
Stafford is this season at 23 achieving the standards so many had been saying he was capable of. He has been so accurate that he is one of the top scorers in the land for the championship, and his free-taking capabilities give Meath an added depth in the scoring stakes that they have lacked for too long.

Another plus mark for the Royal

TO PAGE 11

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FROM PAGE 9

County is midfield. Gerry McEntee is one of the "grand old men" of the team at 31—I don't think he will be too upset at my calling him that, — but my goodness Father Time has still not caught up with him in football years. I thought he had a quite superb second half against the Dubs in the Leinster final, and he was in fine form again in the Derry match.

Liam Hayes is an effective companion for McEntee. He, too, can get up for the high ones, and uses the ball intelligently. Together this pair can face up to any partnership in the land with genuine optimism about their chances of forcing a match-winning edge.

The Leinster champions are well served as well in defence. Robbie O'Malley, one of the younger members of the side at 22, has already matured into one of the best corner backs in football. He will not allow any attacker much freedom.

Mick Lyons is tenacious and dependable at full back, and also proving a fine team leader this season as captain. Terry Ferguson, son of former Dublin dual star, Des, completes a strong full back line.

Kevin Foley, Liam Harnan and the recalled Martin O'Connell will also play their parts well in cutting down on chances for the opposition.

Then, if O'Rourke and Stafford have been capturing most of the scoring limelight, that is not to say that the other members of the attack are not pulling their weight.

David Beggy at only 20 is proving a great addition to the team at right half forward, and Bernard Flynn impressed me greatly with his polished football against Derry, not to mention four excellent points that he rifled over.

Meath have also Joe Cassells, who is 32, but still playing good football, Mattie McCabe, an absentee through injury against Derry, and Colm Coyle, who has returned from a stint in the U.S.

This trio help to give the county added depth in talent, as well as mobility in formation.

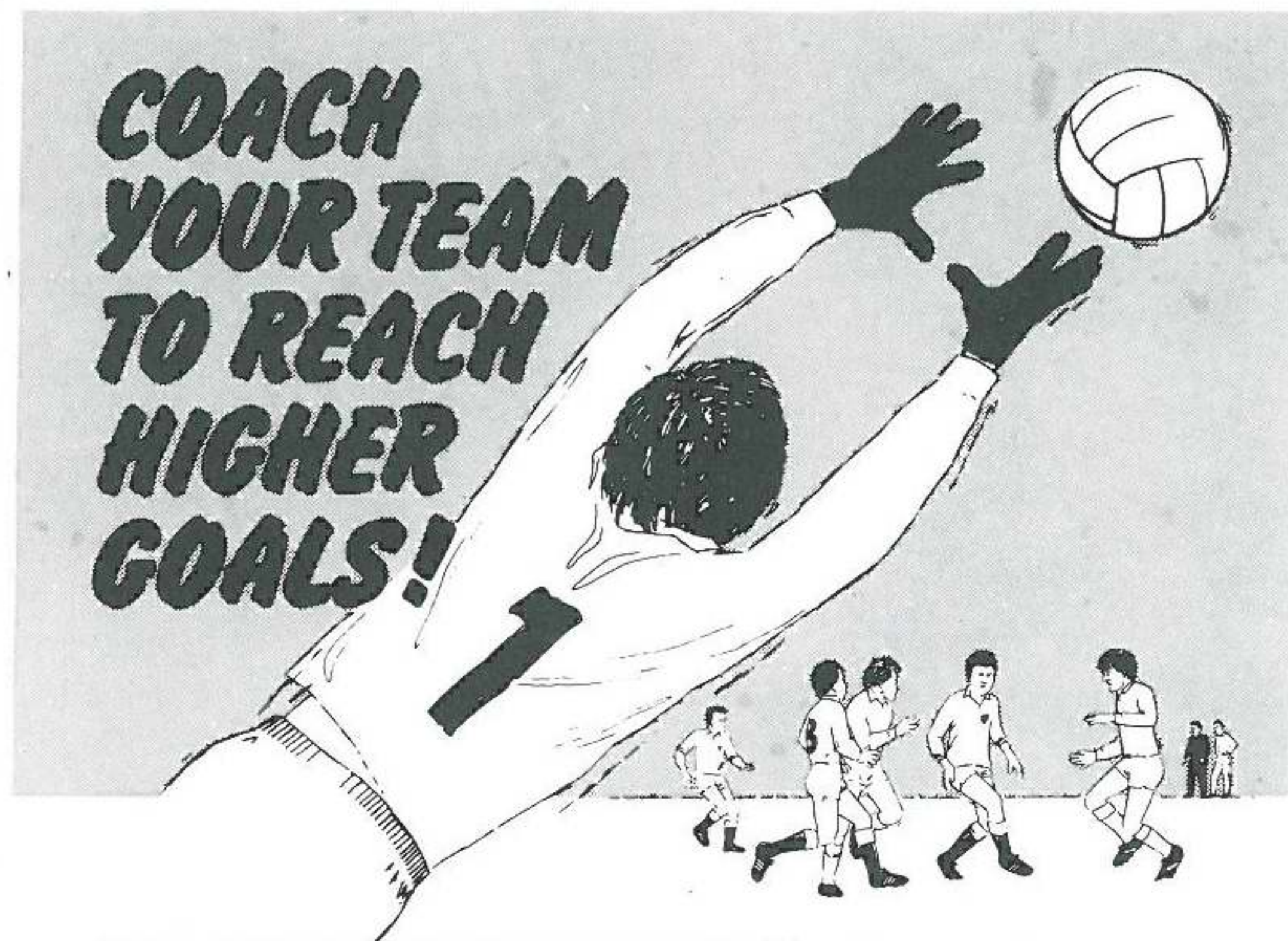
It seemed to me as well that Meath had against Derry a belief in themselves that was lacking in many of the Northern footballers, and which was also well above anything I have experienced from a Royal County side in a long time.

What I am getting at here is that I thought right from the start, Meath were convinced that they had the beating of Derry and they translated that belief into their steadied approach to the challenge.

At no stage could I see Meath losing after the bright start that brought them two points inside a minute.

That was the type of beginning that mirrored the confident approach of the Meath men. It is something that comes with the habit of winning and the building up of experience. Meath certainly score on both counts just now.

The Royal County appear to have learned valuable lessons from last year's semi-final crash to Kerry. They have certainly progressed a long way since then, and I have a hunch that the best has still to come.



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CORK WILL BE A POWERFUL FORCE IN FOOTBALL FOR SOME TIME TO COME

by Leo McCarthy

THE most improved team in football — that's Cork. They looked to be on the right track when they played that draw with Dublin in the National League quarter-final extra-time game that never was, at Croke Park in early April, but I doubt if many would then still have been prepared to wager that come September the Leesiders would be appearing in the match of the year.

True, they looked a team of distinct promise. They moved splendidly and played stylish football, but a meagre return of 1-7 did much to temper optimism about the chances of dethroning Kerry in the South. It seemed as if not for the first time, good defensive work and general outfield play would not be enough to get Cork through because of a lack of punch up front.

But the arrival of Larry Tompkins has changed all that. The former Kildare forward has captured plenty of the headlines for his free-taking — and rightly so. He has emerged this season as one of the best in the game in years; a footballer to rival such giants of the past as Paddy Doherty (Down), Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin) and the elegant Kerry man Mikey Sheehy. That's status of the highest order!

However, Tompkins is more than a free-taker of outstanding ability. He is an alert, creative forward with the vision and the work-rate to weld an attack into a strong and imaginative unit. The other forwards are responding superbly to his leadership.

Then, there is Colm O'Neill, who, if memory serves me correctly, bagged three goals against Derry in an All-Ireland

minor final some years back. Brought back as a substitute during the drawn game against Galway after having been out of the side for the Munster final and replay, the Midleton man had a fine game, bringing a new depth to the Cork scoring power.

I thought that Christy Ryan, the long-serving St. Finbarr's man, had an excellent game at full forward in the All-Ireland replay match. He worked tirelessly, presented the Western defence with many problems, and opened up many opportunities for his team-mates.

Then, there is the talent that is John O'Driscoll. Perhaps he was not over impressive last time out, but he remains one of the most exciting young footballers in the game, and a player who cannot be left on his own for a second by his "marker".

Cork's forwards are also playing

now — like the other members of the team — with a confidence that is helping them to produce their best form. There is a dash and accuracy about the division in general that the county has not possessed in many years.

Over the championships of the past Cork have been very well served year after year by their backs. The county has never been short in outstanding exponents of this facet of the game.

Conor Counihan, the team captain, leads by example with his solid and so dependable work as pivot. He receives good general support from his outfield colleagues.

Then there is John Kerins, who, like Ryan, won an All-Ireland club senior football medal on St. Patrick's Day. He is a goalkeeper in

TO PAGE 15



Cork, Munster Champions 1987, back row (l. to r.): Paddy Hayes, Shay Fahy, Christy Ryan, John Kerins, Teddy McCarthy, Colman Corrigan, Larry Tompkins, Denis Walsh. Front row (l. to r.): John O'Driscoll, John Cleary, Niall Cahalane, Conor Counihan, Tony Nation, and Anthony Davis and Jimmy Kerrigan.



*Reach out,
we'll be there.*

VHI

We're at your side.

FROM PAGE 13

the mould of Billy Morgan, the present coach-trainer, and who led Cork from that position to their last Sam Maguire Cup in 1973.

NO FEARS

The form that Kerins is displaying this season shows that Cork need have no fears about the goalkeeping position.

The Leesiders have got together just now a capable rather than brilliant midfield in dual star Teddy McCarthy, from Glanmire, and one-time Kildare star, Shay Fahy. This pair did not scale the heights in the second game with Galway, even though Cork always had the edge at midfield, but McCarthy and Fahy are earnest workers, and will not easily concede second place to any combination around.

Cork, then, are a good all round team, probably the best we have seen from the county in years. They are dependable in defence, capable at midfield, and more imaginative in forward play and more accurate as well in finishing than has been the case for a long time.

It should not be forgotten, either, that Cork are not a team that has come from "nowhere" overnight. That quarter-final show-down with Dublin in the League was earned on the strength of a good run that brought the Leesiders the Division II title in last season's points competition, and with it promotion to Division I for 1987-88. Cork lost only once in the League — if we exclude their elimination after the clash with Dublin. The defeat was away back in November to Donegal at Ballyshannon.

They have also learned many vital lessons along the road. That was clear when they refused to be in the least upset by the Galway forward tactics coming up to the start of the recent replay. The interchanging of the Western attackers in the minutes before the throw-in seemed to confuse the Galwaymen more so than the Cork backs.

That's an indication of the new maturity in the Cork team. Now

that they have finally emerged from the shadows of Kerry by beating the Kingdom in their own backyard at Fitzgerald Stadium in the Munster final replay, Cork have no fears of any opposition.

I said at the start they are the most improved team in football. Now, I am convinced that I can safely add that having at last advanced further in the championship than any Leaside outfit in 14 years, this combination is capable of proving a powerful

force in the game for some time to come.

It would be too much to expect Cork — or any other team for that matter — to dominate the game in the same way as Kerry over the past dozen years or so. But make no mistake about it, now that Cork have at last arrived back on top again, they are there to stay as serious contenders for the major titles. And to give their supporters much more to cheer about than they have had this year so far.

LOOKS LIKE

TASTE TELLS

The advertisement features a black and white illustration of a Smirnoff vodka bottle and a glass of vodka on the rocks. The bottle is the central focus, with its label clearly visible, showing the Smirnoff logo and the text "SMIRNOFF", "VODKA", and "750 ml". The glass is filled with ice and vodka. The entire scene is framed by a double-line border. The words "LOOKS LIKE" are written in a bold, sans-serif font at the top left, and "TASTE TELLS" is written in a similar font at the bottom right.



Jimmy Kerrigan solo's up field during the drawn All-Ireland semi-final with Galway.

JIMMY Kerrigan had more cause than most to light up his face with a broad smile that was captured so vividly by the television cameras as he scored his first point of the '87 senior football championship late in the All-Ireland semi-final replay. It was the perfect answer to the many who had been so critical of the retention of the Nemo Rangers club man in the Cork team for the second meeting with Galway.

Kerrigan was not that impressive in the first engagement with the Connacht champions. But what his critics overlooked was that he is a man of tremendous experience, the type of experience that any team needs in an All-Ireland tie, that he has served Cork really well over the years, and that he did some constructive work as well on the Leesiders' semi-final return to Croke Park.

In the circumstances, it was not surprising that the selectors — despite the critics — stood by the one time defender turned forward for the second bite at the Western cherry. And, he did not betray that trust.

JIMMY KERRIGAN A PLAYER OF TREMENDOUS EXPERIENCE

by Frank McMahon

The 28-year-old slotted in well yet again in the general scheme of things up front, found time to help out in defence, and put the flourish to the day with that good point.

Kerrigan is one of Cork's longest-serving footballers. He was there when the county last captured a national title by taking the League crown back in 1980. That year he held down the left back spot.

Then, in 1983 when Cork made another long-awaited breakthrough by capturing their first Munster senior crown in nine years, Kerrigan's polished football at left half back was a big factor in a dramatic win over Kerry at Pairc Uí Chaoimh.

He followed on with good games in a draw with Dublin at Croke Park, and in the replay at Pairc Uí Chaoimh, and was rewarded later in the season with his first Bank of Ireland All Star trophy in the 1983 side.

The near six footer played against the Australians in Centenary Year, and, in fact, was voted player of the series. No mean achievement that in view of the strong opposition he had to contend with for such an honour.

But then, Jimmy Kerrigan has been in there throughout the 'Eighties competing successfully with the best around. He won his only Railway Cup medal when he went in as a substitute in the 1982 final, and had the distinction of leading the South in the inter-provincial series during the Centenary Year.

Last year, despite Cork's defeat in Munster, Kerrigan kept his place

in the Ireland panel for the second series of the games with Australia. So, it was a dream trip "down under" for Jimmy, and he played in each of the three test games, and did remarkably well, too.

A defensive star of the Cork team that won the 1977 Munster minor title, Jimmy has enjoyed remarkable success with his club. He is no stranger to All-Ireland finals in this championship, and has been on three national title winning teams.

A FORWARD

Kerrigan was on the scoring sheet with Ireland in Australia, and since taking over a forward role with the Cork senior team he has also been finding the target — even though his single point in the championship hardly suggests so. But he did contribute some worthwhile scores to the League success story that was Cork's winning of the Division II title last season, and promotion to the premier grade.

And, away from the scoring angle, Kerrigan did much with his intelligent football to prompt the attack in that League run, and again in the series of games that have earned him his second Munster senior medal, and no doubt an All-Ireland senior final debut.

Kerrigan seems to the spectator looking on, to enjoy his football. But that is not to say that he is not serious about the task on hand. He is deadly in earnest. And, despite his long innings with Cork — maybe because of it — he still remains a very "handy" man to have in the team.

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"GALWAY WILL BE BACK!"

says Owen Ryan



Galway, Connacht Champions 1987, Back row (l to r): Mattie Coleman, Brian O'Donnell, Barry Brennan, Pat Comer, Brian Talty, Gay McManus, Tomás Tierney, Seamus McHugh. Front row (l to r): John Fallon, Val Daly (capt.) John Joyce, Stephen Joyce, Alan Mulholland, Frank Broderick and Hugh Blehein.

WHAT now, Galway? That must be the burning question after the county's crash to Cork in the All-Ireland senior football semi-final replay at the end of August.

Supporters of a team beaten in a national tie at Croke Park often console themselves with the thought: "Ah well, we will be back stronger and better next year". I doubt if many harboured that illusion as they wended their way back to the West following the eleven points trouncing from Cork.

This was without question the poorest display by a Galway team at headquarters in a long time. In saying that, I have no intention of rubbing salt into the Western wounds, but merely expressing an undeniable fact.

What made the performance all the more disappointing was that it came so soon after the brilliance we saw from Galway in the concluding stages of the drawn match. In the last ten minutes or so, the Connacht champions played progressive football, went about their work with tremendous enthusiasm, and with just a little more steadiness in tight situations would have scraped home.

I was fully convinced as a result that Galway would profit more from the drawn game than Cork. Their form in the West was not at all impressive, and they went into the first meeting with Cork as the outsiders. They made light of that rating after much uncertainty in the first half, to come back inspired by a Val Daly goal near half-time and battle with bravery and courage for a lead point coming up to the end. Then, Tompkins tied the match.

Galway's display in the last ten minutes or so of the drawn tie was as good as produced by any team in a year of disappointing football at championship level. I felt Galway would have a new belief in themselves as a result.

It was not to be, however, nor is it easy to pinpoint to reason. Maybe Galway devoted too much attention to tactical plans. Certainly, they appeared to confuse themselves rather than Cork with their interchanging of

forwards as they awaited the throw-in.

Far better in my view if they had realised that the concession of frees was like handing candy to a child with Larry Tompkins around to greedily gobble up the opportunities and turn them into points. He had three on the board in the first four minutes almost before Galway had made a single sortie into the Munster champions' half. A costly start that for the Connacht champions.

And, from then on, Galway were always fighting a rearguard action. I know that they were twice denied of goals when Barry Brennan struck the woodwork in the second half, but that's the luck of the game.

All of which brings me back to the question I asked at the start. A little belatedly, perhaps, I will attempt to answer it.

First of all, it would be easy to be destructive, or negative, and say Galway football is down and out after this trouncing. Let's try and be a little more positive instead.

CHANGES NEEDED

Obviously, changes are needed in the Galway squad. Some of the longer serving campaigners — on the evidence of the last game — have come to the end of the road in terms of top-class football. They will have to move over and make way for new blood.

Is the talent there in Galway to refloat the county's sunken football fortunes in the not too distant future? I would suggest that it is.

Galway, with one of the best minor teams we have seen in a long time, won the All-Ireland championship last September. Here is obviously a good reservoir of talent.

In fact, two of that side played in the 1987 championship — Alan Mulholland and John Joyce, both of whom won Connacht senior medals.

Joyce, in particular, had a splendid Croke Park debut in the senior grade in the drawn match. He was troubled by a hamstringing problem on replay day, and not unexpectedly,

● OVERLEAF

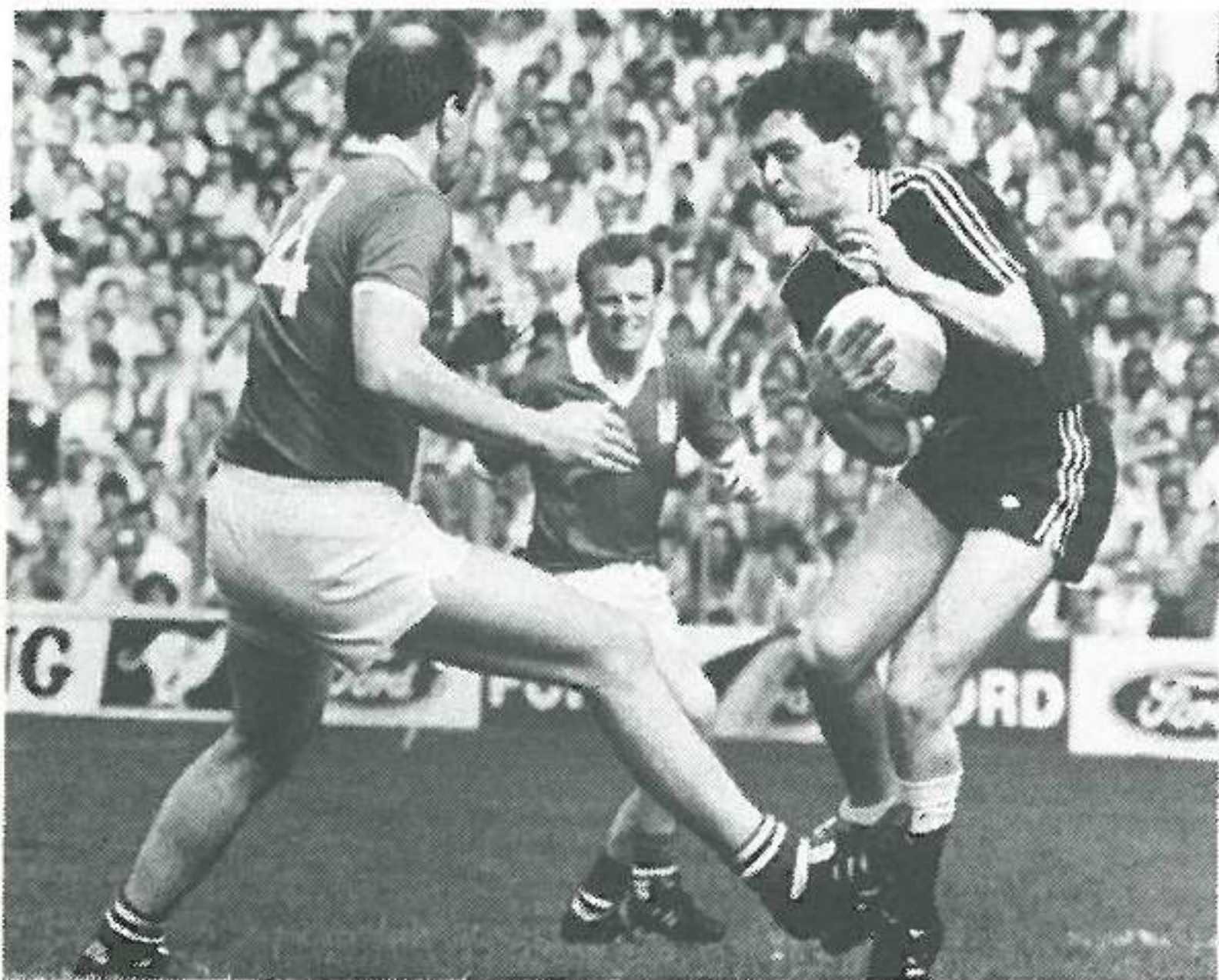
did not play up to his full potential.

But he is a very gifted youngster, and can play a major role in the Galway come-back plans.

So, too, can Mulholland, right half back in the Connacht series, and who was substituted from there during the draw with Cork. Here is another young footballer with plenty going for him, and like Joyce, he is bound to profit from the senior experience he has gained at such an early stage of his career.

It is encouraging for Galway as well that they won the Connacht under-21 title last summer, and only lost by two points to Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final. Another bright barrometer on standards in the under-age ranks in Galway.

Let's not forget either that the Galway team of this season had a strong framework of men not yet in their middle 'Twenties. They include John Fallon, Tomas Tierney, Val Daly, and of course Joyce and Mulholland, all of whom have still their best years ahead of them. I have been trying to work out the average age of the side, and



Action from the All-Ireland Semi-Final as Galway's John Fallon attempts to get by Christy Ryan of Cork.

while I freely admit that mathematics are not my strong point, I think I am not far off in giving the average as 24 years. Remember, too, that some Galway players carried injury problems into the draw with Cork.

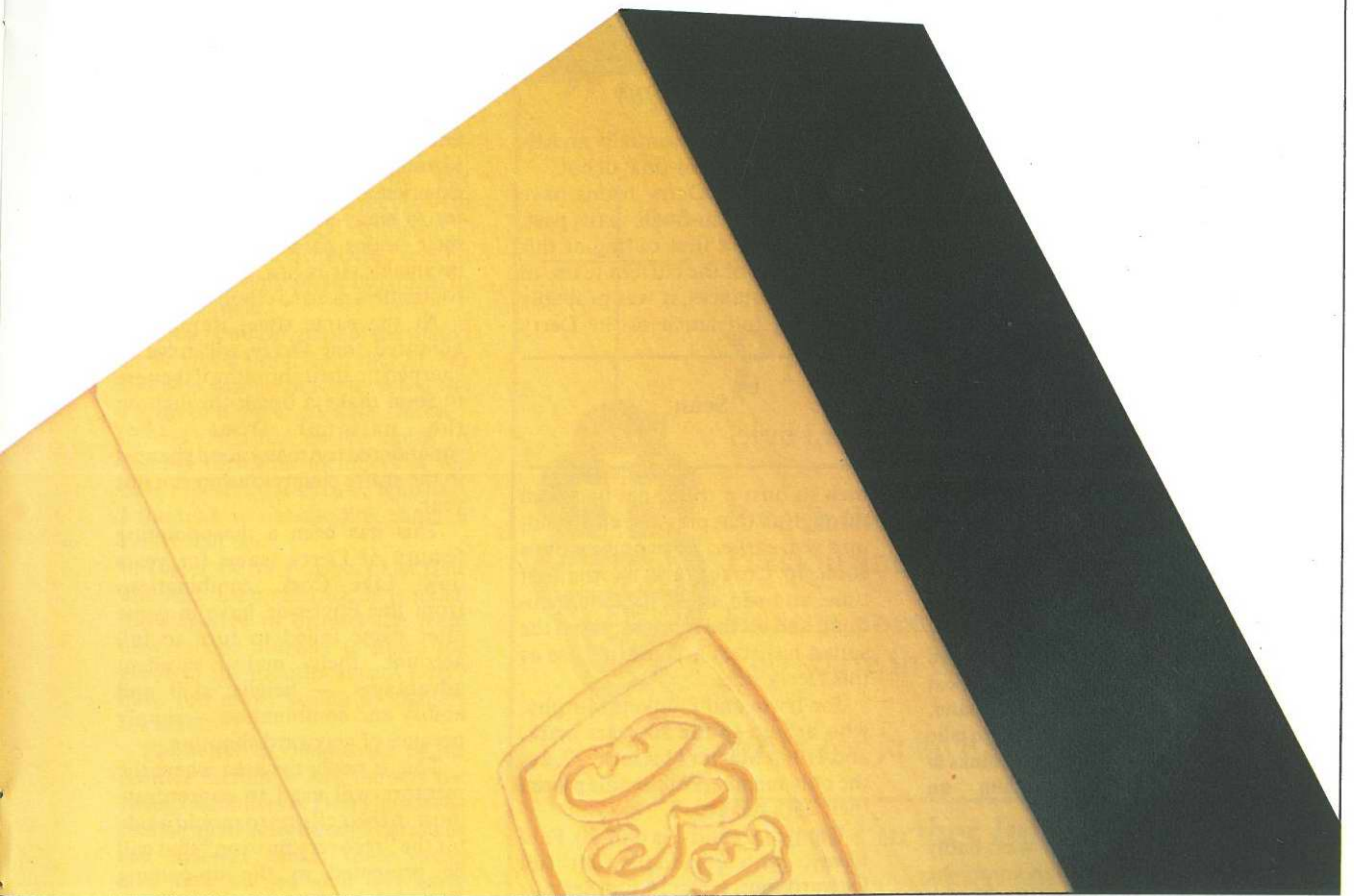
That is another fact that must give Galway hope for the future. All the more so at a time when it is bound to call on a special effort from the county to shake off the loss to Cork — especially after the heart-break of such defeats as the '83 All-Ireland final and the 1986 semi-final by Tyrone.

A severe challenge ahead, then, for Galway and a real test of character of the men behind the scenes and the players. Billy Joyce, the team manager, said after the defeat by Cork, that he had two more years to run in the post, and intended to see his term through.

With spirit like that at a time when the football world of Galway came crashing down around him, we should have no fears about the future of football in the county. Galway will be back.

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Government Warning

DERRY

A TEAM WITH YOUTH ON THEIR SIDE



ULSTER CHAMPIONS 1987

THERE can be no disputing the fact that Derry were a big disappointment in that entirely forgettable All-Ireland senior football semi-final against Meath, but I still cannot go along with those who have been so brash in rating the Northern outfit as a very moderate one.

I say this is unfair to Derry. Their team is capable of playing much better football than produced against Meath, and I have not the slightest doubt that the Foylesiders will prove that point before too long.

Then, there was the injury to Dermot McNicholl, who was so central to the success story of Derry in the North. The Glenullin forward is undeniably one of the most accomplished footballers in the land, a dashing player whose ability to take on any defence and find the chinks in the armour, makes him an inspiration to his side.

McNicholl's genius was badly hampered by the thigh injury he carried into the show-down with Meath, and Derry suffered as a result. I would not go so far as to say that had the centre half forward been fully fit, the Ulster champions would have won, but my goodness, what that would have meant to the

side on what was essentially an All-Ireland senior semi-final debut.

I know that Derry teams have appeared in semi-finals in the past, but this was a first outing at this stage for all of the current team. In the circumstances, it was probably expecting too much of the Derry

by **Sean Bell**

men to oust a team that had been through all that pressure and build-up a year earlier. Few combinations come to Croke Park for the first time, and win an All-Ireland semi-final, and all the more so, when the squad has such a youthful base as this Derry side.

Joe Irwin and Plunkett Murphy, who are up to the 30 years mark, and Hugh Martin McGurk, 27, are the only members of the side passed their 25th birthdays.

Damien Cassidy, is only 20, Paul Kealy, who filled the left full forward spot, is just 18, and Seamus Downey, centre half forward, is 20. The other members of the squad have also by far their best years in football ahead of them, and all of this says much for the prospects for Derry football in the years to come.

Let's not forget, either, that the

latest headquarters outing is bound to benefit the Derry men greatly. The experience they have gained — and for so many at such early stages in their senior careers — will prove invaluable. It is just what budding footballers need to climb to the top.

At the same time, it must be admitted that Derry will have to sharpen up their shooting if they are to soon make a break-through on the national front. They squandered too many good chances in the entire championship run this year.

This has been a disappointing feature of Derry teams for years now. Like Cork, combinations from the Foyleside have in game after game failed to turn to full account their many excellent advantages — height, skill and ability and combination — simply because of wayward shooting.

This is really the area where the mentors will need to concentrate most in their efforts to mould a side for the "recovery mission" that will be presented in the up-coming National League, in which Derry will be back in Division I next season.

SOLID BASE

If Derry can effect an appreciable improvement here — and this is essential — they will be well on their

way as they have a solid base of top-class players.

When the 21-year-old McNicholl has recovered full fitness that will be a big boost to Derry's scoring power. In Enda Gormley they also have the type of sharpshooter that any team needs in their make-up if they are to get to the winners' circle nationally.

Granted, he was not as prominent among the scores at Croke Park, but Gormley has the ability to rifle over the frees with consistency as he showed with his exciting finishing in Ulster. And he did score four valuable points against the Royal County to finish the campaign with 24 points in all. Not bad going that for a young man who is only 21.

Brian McGilligan, one of Ireland's heroes on the last Australian tour, caught the eye with his high fielding against Meath. I thought he had a splendid second half, and at only 24, he has much to offer the team.

Tony Scullion, man of the match in the Ulster final, is another 24 year old who can do much to speed the return to happier days for Derry.

And, let's not be too quick to dismiss the older members of the side, especially Joe Irwin, who had, I thought an outstanding game at centre half back.

Yes, if Derry's display last time out was disappointing, it is much too negative to dismiss the team now as one unlikely to make the grade in the months ahead. Derry have too many young footballers for that.

Far better to concentrate on the positive factors — like the way the young footballers of Derry have been coming up steadily through the minor and under-21 ranks. These young men have learned at a very early stage in their careers just what football at All-Ireland senior level is all about. Just what is needed to win the big games.

Meath came back well this year from their disappointing showing against Kerry in last year's semi-final. I don't believe that the Royal

county had as much going for them in 1986 as Derry have at present.

Northern teams have a poor record of living up to earlier promise. One has only to look back to Monaghan's two games with Kerry in the 1985 All-Ireland semi-final, and Tyrone's gallant bid against the Kingdom in last year's championship final.

Derry's performance against Meath fell far short of the Monaghan and Tyrone efforts, but somehow I feel that the Foylesiders are in a stronger position than those

counties were after their eliminations from the championship story.

Derry have youth on their side, and to a degree that is probably unmatched by any county in the country just now. They have picked up vital experience as well, and with a fully fit McNicholl back to provide that vital touch of leadership that was missing up front, and a sharpening up in finishing technique, Derry could really make us all sit up and take notice next season.

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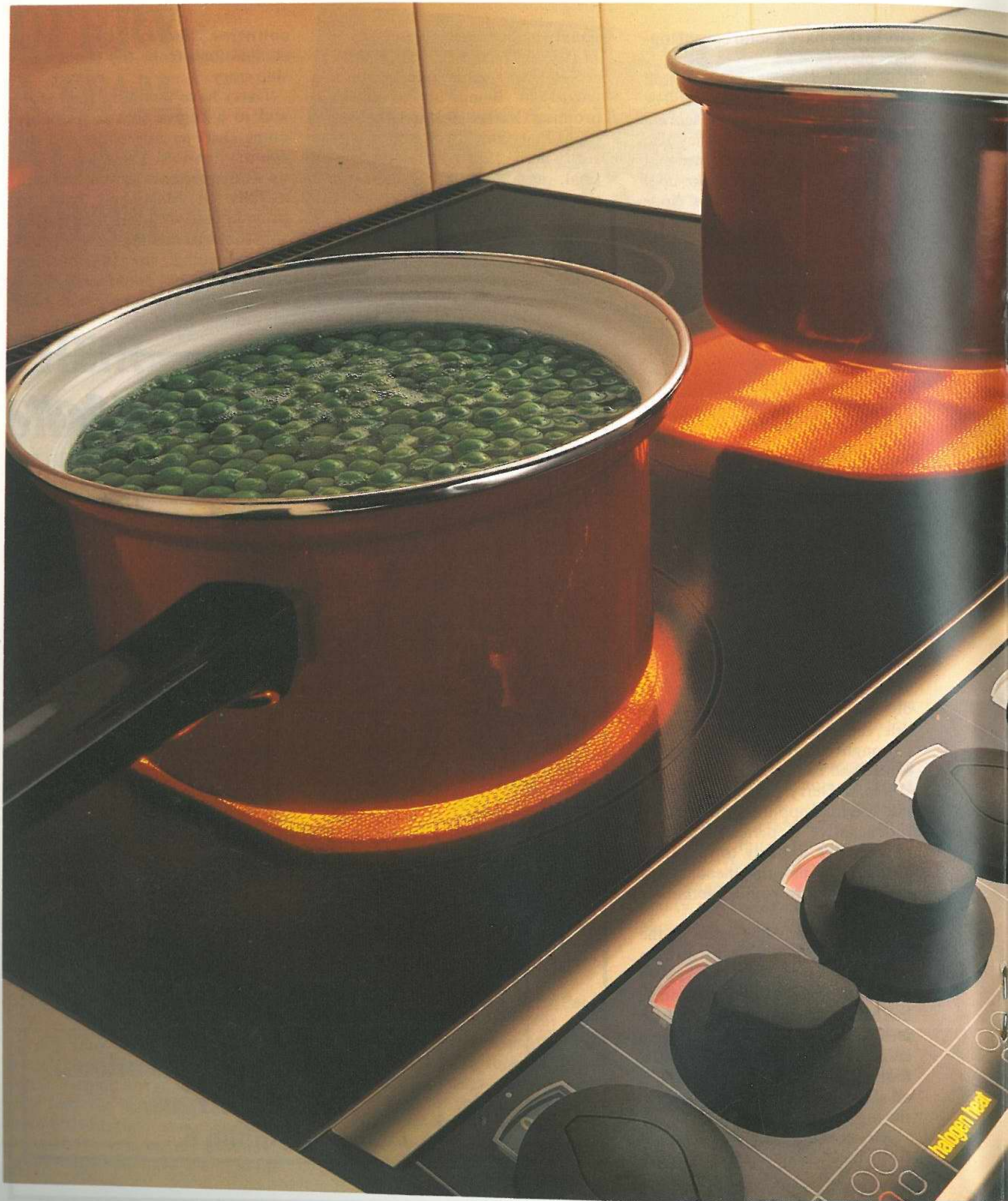
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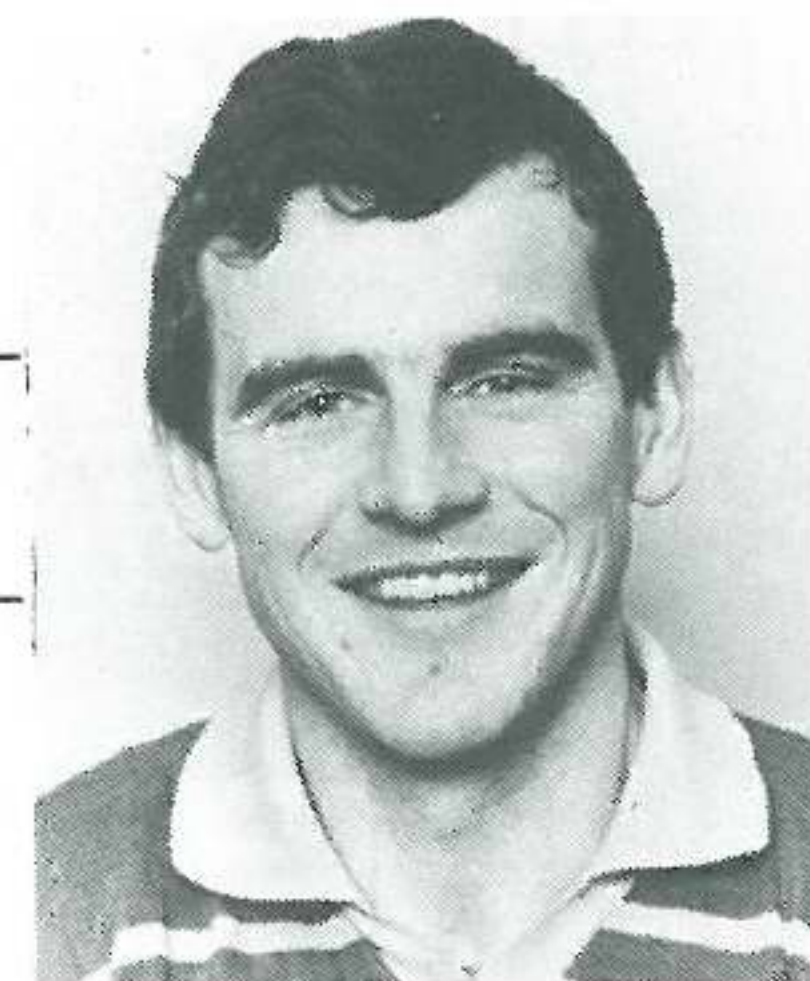


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COLM O'ROURKE GETS HIS JUST REWARD



says Declan Sweeney

THERE must have been times when Colm O'Rourke despaired of ever playing in an All-Ireland senior football final. Early in his career a serious knee injury threatened to bring his footballing days to a premature end, but he battled back from that set-back only to find himself in a side that just could not shake off a dominant Dublin in the Leinster championship.

And all the time the years kept slipping relentlessly away. Just a dozen had passed from the day he first pulled on the Meath shirt as a senior, and while still a teenager in 1975 O'Rourke had his second chance of earning a final ticket in the recent show-down with Derry.

That was the Skryne club man's outing at that stage, and that in itself is a remarkable statistic for a county like Meath with such a long and honoured tradition. Kerry sent the 1986 ambitions tumbling like the autumn leaves into the Boyne, but the long-serving forward and his colleagues were in no mood to allow that to happen again last August.

They displayed plenty of maturity and poise as they took everything Derry had to offer, and pulled away for a convincing seven points win. The game was a disappointing one; the football was not such as to cause ripples of excitement.

That did not worry Meath folk. What was important to them, and to the team in general, was that a barrier had been broken at last and the county had won through to the top game of the year for the first time since 1970.

O'Rourke was one of the better players on a dull day for football that was the second semi-final. He linked up wonderfully in one of the best movements of the match that brought a spectacular David Beggy point in twenty minutes, and later the tall schoolteacher provided an object lesson to young students of the game in how to snap up the half-chance.

Two minutes from half-time, Damien McCusker, Derry's goalkeeper, saved in the square. The Meath right full forward did not rush in to commit an illegal tackle, but as McCusker moved out, dispossessed the Ulster net-minder and sent over a vital point — his only one of the day. That was a touch of the master, and one of the best highlights of a game that had so few memorable moments.

Talking of scores, O'Rourke was the man whom Meath had to look to chiefly for the goals and points for some

years past. He never let the side down in this regard, but any team needs more than one consistent marksman to collect the top pots on offer.

O'Rourke is now being given tremendous assistance in this department by Brian Stafford, who this year has emerged as a bright new finisher in the game.

Stafford has been one of the best scoregetters in championship football this year, in fact, and this has helped to relieve some of the pressure on the 29-year-old O'Rourke. His football is bound to benefit as a result.

O'Rourke was a prominent minor with Meath in 1975 when they lost the Leinster final to Kildare. A year later he saw Leinster senior final action for the first time, and also came up against what was to prove the Dublin bogey, as the Dubs were then probably at the height of their power. They won the All-Ireland title that year.

Late in 1976 O'Rourke received a leg injury that threatened to put him out of the game prematurely, but with courage, determination and a real will-to-win, he returned to the game and the Meath senior team in 1978.

O'Rourke has left a tremendous impact on the game since his comeback. He went on to prove a regular with Leinster in the Railway Cup, but had to wait until as recently as 1985 before he collected his first interprovincial medal.

A long awaited Leinster senior football medal was equally slow in joining the O'Rourke collection. That finally arrived in his third final appearance and just ten years after his debut at that stage when Meath beat Dublin last year for a first provincial crown since 1970.

In between the Meath man, who must still rate as one of the best forwards in the country, had other successes. He joined the Bank of Ireland All Stars award winners in 1983 at full forward, and played in the international games against the Australians in Centenary Year.

Last year, O'Rourke was away on tour with Ireland "down under", and so has picked up quite a few major awards in the game. But a League and an All-Ireland souvenir still elude him.

If ever a player deserved a final appearance it is O'Rourke. More than that a medal at this stage of his career would be a just reward for a man who has given so much time, energy — not to mention pain — to football and provided so many bright moments.



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TODAY'S GAME WITH THE GAME OF YESTERYEAR

MANY stars from Dublin's glorious past took down their boots to celebrate National Camogie Day at Na Fianna recently. With the odd grey hair showing here and there, Kay Lyons, Gerry Hughes, Una O'Connor, Carmel Walsh, Sophie Brack, Judy Doyle and the legendary Kathleen Mills were among the familiar faces.

What a host of wonderful camogie memories were brought to mind by the gathering. The seven named can boast of a combined tally of sixty three All-Ireland senior medals. Each one was a celebrity in her own right on the game's most successful team.

The many changes which have taken place in the games since their playing days were topics of conversation. The most obvious, of course, concerns the style of dress. Gone are the days of the swishing gym frocks, coloured sashes and long black stockings. The modern uniform is more suited to an energetic game.

The larger pitch, lighter and faster sliothars and male trainers are part of the modern inter-county scene. However, none of the boys could hope to match the status or records achieved by Nell McCarthy, the Dublin coach of their golden era.

There is certainly more emphasis on physical fitness nowadays. But whether the players are fitter as a result is debatable. Players in the fifties and sixties did not confine their camogie activity to matches and organised training. In fact, they rarely left their stick aside and, consequently, needed less physical training.

Angela Downey is the only player in today's game who could match Kathleen Mills and Una O'Connor in star quality. The modern game is very short on personality players.

I wonder if the tendency nowadays

to participate in several sports hinders the attainment of mastery in one. However, in fairness to the current players, it must be said that some of the supporting players on former winning teams would not make their county's present side. The bond between players in those days was stronger. Perhaps this was because players looked to camogie for friends. Greater combination and teamwork was reflected in the game as a result.

Nowadays there are far more girls playing camogie. The majority of inter-county players have achieved a good standard. The days when a particular county dominated the scene are gone. At least four counties are capable of winning the All-Ireland Senior Championship today.

The tremendous work being done at underage level in Galway was borne out by the competent manner in which their minor team retained the All-Ireland crown. In accounting for Dublin and Cork, the side displayed skill, teamwork and maturity. It takes many hours by club trainers and school coaches to achieve this standard.

Triona Dolphin proved to be a tower of strength at centreback. Each time Mary Treacy, Aileen Brett, Bridget Fahy or Catriona Finnegan gained possession, a score looked on. Galway contested the first All-Ireland Senior Final in 1932 but they have yet to carry home the O'Duffy Cup. Let us hope that these fine prospects will realise that dream some day.



● Kathleen Mills, winner of 15 All-Ireland senior medals, examines the modern day sliothar while former Dublin coach Nell McCarthy looks on.

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DERMOT McNICHOLL

A BRILLIANT YOUNG FOOTBALLER

DERRY supporters are not the only ones who regret that Dermot McNicholl was not match fit for the team's greatest test in years in senior football in August. Even followers of Meath, flushed by the prospect of a first final appearance since 1970, said that the win over the Northerners in the All-Ireland semi-final would have been much more pleasing had they beaten an outfit with a fully fit McNicholl.

A fine tribute that to the young Derryman — and a well-deserved one. Almost with a blink of an eyelid he has emerged from the minor grade to the position of one of the most exciting personalities in the top echelon of football, and as a campaigner as well with international representation. All this before he celebrates next November what will only be his 22nd birthday!

Talk about a sportsman not allowing the grass to grow under his feet. McNicholl has achieved that to a degree unmatched by many in the history of the sport. I can't remember a team going into an All-Ireland senior semi-final with a footballer as young as the Glenullin club man being so central to their plans of operations as was the case with McNicholl and Derry in the recent show-down with Meath.

Derry revolved around McNicholl in the series that brought the Ulster crown back to the county last summer after a break of eleven years. He was the lynchpin not only of the attack, but of the side in general, the man above all others the squad looked to for that extra special touch of class that means all the difference in tight situations.

McNicholl's career in football has been tinged with something of the flavour of a "Boys Own" paper story. Success at schools games, the highest accolade possible in the

by **Bernard Gallagher**

minor grade, Ireland jersies, a visit to the other side of the world to play football, and an Ulster senior medal all virtually before he had really put his "foot into his 'twenties".

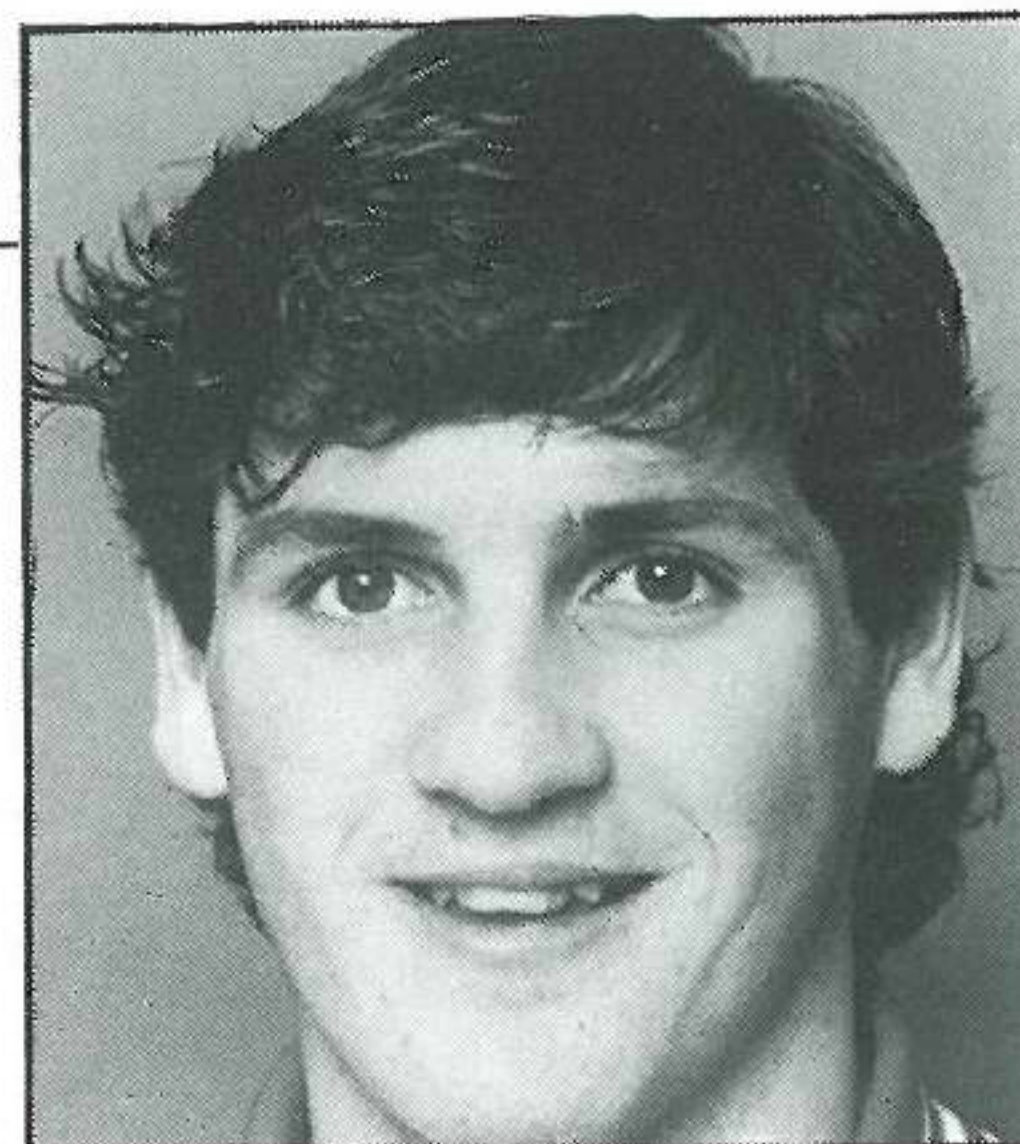
McNicholl first came to the attention of many outside of Derry as left full forward in the St. Patrick's High School, Maghera, team that lost a classic All-Ireland Colleges' senior football final at Croke Park in 1980 to Carmelite College, Moate, by a last gasp point. Incidentally McNicholl won four MacRory Cup (Ulster Colleges' Senior medals).

A little over a year later he was in the Derry team that lost to Cork in the All-Ireland minor football final. However, it was to prove a case of third time lucky in 1983 when Derry took revenge over Cork in that season's national under-18 final, and for McNicholl there was the added distinction of captaining the successful team. He was right half forward.

There was no delay after that by the Derry senior selectors in deciding to bring in the brilliant teenager to the senior side. He joined the senior grade in the Autumn in the National League, and it is true to say — cliché though it is — that he has gone from success to success in the meantime.

McNicholl became a schoolboy international at senior level when he won his spurs with the Ireland squad for the Test series of games against the Australians during Centenary Year. And, there was nothing juvenile about his play as he delivered the goods for Ireland to such an extent that his showings helped him on the road to a Bank of Ireland All Star award as left full forward in the 1984 team.

McNicholl had arrived in style in the big-time.



Since then he has worn the Ulster jersey in the Railway Cup, and few could have been in the least surprised when he "made" the Ireland squad for the historic visit to Australia last autumn. Once again he showed that he was more than capable of producing football of the best possible standard against the best around by proving one of the heroes in a team of many heroes that brought the title back home.

Dermot McNicholl is the brightest jewel in a crown of young stars who have been doing Derry proud in under-age competitions over the past few years. True enough, the county can only point to one under-18 title from two finals in the grade and two under-21 deciders at All-Ireland level, but the fact that Derry have been so prominent in reaching four national under-age deciders in the past six years speaks volumes for the quality of the talent on the way up.

Then, the team, prompted so skilfully by McNicholl, that won the Ulster senior crown in July was basically a very young side. Most of the players are under 25, and with a fit McNicholl back to provide the type of leadership that was lacking against Meath, I feel sure Derry will prove a test for the best in the years ahead.

As for Dermot McNicholl himself, it is exciting in view of all he has achieved so far, that his brilliant football skills have still to come to full bloom. He should certainly do much to enliven the football scene for a long time to come.

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1989

VAL DALY

A PLAYER WELL EQUIPPED TO PLAY HIS PART PROUDLY IN GALWAY'S REVIVAL

by Sean O'Neill

GALWAY'S championship run this year does not leave many worthwhile memories, but one that will endure is Val Daly's goal that ignited the team in the first game with Cork and very nearly helped to turn the key in the door to a dramatic win.

The Connacht champions looked like tumbling to defeat as they trailed a confident and in-form Cork team coming up to half time when team captain Daly decided to take a stand. Just on the half-time whistle, the lively forward, playing at right full at the time, took possession from Brian O'Donnell, turned quickly and sent a blistering shot to the net. A goal of real class.

A goal, furthermore, that brought the Connacht champions back into the hunt, as they went to their dressingrooms only two points adrift — 1-5 to 1-3. As we all know now, that score was still not enough to save the day in the long-term for Galway in the championship, but it will command a special place in the review of leading goals of 1987.

Val Daly, who will only be 25 in September, is one of the young men whom Galway will undoubtedly be looking to in their efforts to pick up the pieces again after the drubbing from Cork. He is well equipped to play his part proudly in the revival drive, as he has packed a lot of

football into his short career, both at minor and senior level.

If he is finding a Celtic medal as a senior most elusive, that was not the case during his days as a Colleges' player. Many keen students of the game will tell you that he gave one of the best displays seen in an All-Ireland final in this grade when he held down the centre half back position for Carmelite College, Moate, in the 1980 summit.

The Westmeath nursery beat a St. Patrick's, Maghera, side, that included Dermot McNicholl, with a last gasp point. Daly's powerful ball carrying technique, and his utter dependability at centre half made him the outstanding player on the field. Truly, a striking way to win one's first All-Ireland senior medal.

Daly began his football with Mountbellew in the juvenile ranks. From there he graduated to Colleges' championship, and was soon turning on his skills with the Galway senior team.

He had a splendid debut with the side in 1981 in a National League quarter-final against Armagh, and he celebrated his call-up not only with a good display but by scoring a vital goal. Later he was in the Galway panel for the final, but did not go into the game against Roscommon at Croke Park, where the Westerners won their last title.



Val Daly gathers the ball under pressure from Cork's Tony Nation in this year's All-Ireland Semi-Final.

Since then, Daly has demonstrated his versatility with Galway by delivering the goods for the county both as a midfielder and a forward.

The six-footer from Mountbellew was in the Galway team that lost the 1983 All-Ireland final to Dublin, and won his fifth Connacht medal last July.

Although Daly's hopes of an All-Ireland senior medal were thwarted last year at the semi-final stage by a gallant Tyrone team, he still can look back on 1986 with particular joy.

In the autumn he toured with Ireland in Australia, and had a very successful time. On his return home he led his club to the Galway senior football title, and was also named senior club player of the year in the county.

The best possible end to the year for Val Daly then, who went on to prove one of the outstanding figures in the Division III National League title win by Galway last spring. They followed that by beating Meath and then gave Dublin a good run in the semi-final.

Daly took over as Galway's captain from Tomas Tierney at the start of the championship, and did much to set the trend for the run that came to such a crushing end late in August.

The team captain scored 1-6 in the championship.



**TEDDY
McCARTHY**

CORK'S SUPER DUO

by Noel Horgan



**DENIS
WALSH**

IT was Billy Mackesy who started the trend at the beginning of the century, then came Jack Lynch, Derry Beckett and Paddy 'Hitler' Healy in the 'forties and in the 'seventies we had Ray Cummins, Denis Coughlan, Brian Murphy, Dinny Allen, Johnny Crowley and Jimmy Barry-Murphy. Others to have been Cork dual stars over the years include Jim O'Regan and Jim Hurley who collected Munster senior medals in hurling and football in 1928.

Today Teddy McCarthy and Denis Walsh provide ample evidence that the dual star syndrome continues to flourish within the rebel county. Mackesy, Lynch, Beckett, Coughlan, Cummins, Murphy and Barry-Murphy won All-Ireland medals in both codes and now young McCarthy and Walsh are just a step away from joining that elite group.

The dual player is a phenomenon which Cork followers, especially in recent years, have had reason to view with mixed feelings. Grateful on the one hand that Cork should be blessed with so many gifted and versatile performers, they are, at the same time, aware of how severe the role of the dual purpose player can be. And some contend that many Cork players failed to realise their full potential in the past

because of the demands of dual commitments at top level.

One might expect that a county like Cork, large in size and rich in player power, would be inclined to shy away from the dual performer. Yet, it was impossible to ignore the claims of such as Cummins, Coughlan and Barry-Murphy for inclusion on both Cork teams during the 'seventies although they eventually found the strain too difficult to endure and confined their activities to hurling towards the end of their careers. Similarly, Teddy McCarthy and Denis Walsh are key figures on both teams at the moment but one wonders for how long can they be expected to cope with the extreme demands of their twin roles.

Although both are only 22, Teddy and Denis have already clocked up a lot of mileage on the playing fields, representing their county in both codes in all under-age competitions and Denis played with the Cork minor and Under 21 hurlers in 1983. Last year Denis did duty throughout the senior hurlers' entire campaign in Munster and played a starring role at wing-back in the memorable All-Ireland win over Galway. He also shone when moved to full-back, following an early injury to Colman Corrigan,

on Eoin Liston in last season's Munster football final which Cork lost narrowly to Kerry.

Teddy graduated to senior football ranks in 1985 and made his championship debut with the hurlers in last September's All-Ireland decider. It seemed as if Teddy had lost his chance of being involved with the hurlers on final day when he decided to take a holiday abroad during the penultimate clash with Antrim but the selectors, to their credit, realised that the Sarsfields man needed a break and took a sympathetic view.

With Cork's hurlers and footballers involved in so many draws this season Teddy and Denis have been under more pressure than ever and one wonders if the arduous programme will have an adverse effect on their form in this year's final.

Teddy was an inspirational figure, with his spectacular leaps and sure fetching at midfield in the Munster campaign but there were signs that his stiff schedule might be taking its toll as he failed to last the pace in the middle of the replay against Kerry and in the drawn match with Galway when he was transferred to attack on both occasions.

Denis appears to be standing up better in the corner back post which, arguably, requires less stamina but he, too, must be feeling somewhat drained at this stage. His contribution highlighted by some fine fielding, shrewd positional play and tenacious marking, has been invaluable to date, especially in both games against Kerry when he enjoyed much the better of his exchanges with the great Mike Sheehy.

The durability of this dynamic duo will, indeed be on trial in the near future but if they can produce the goods just one more time, Cork's prospects of achieving their first All-Ireland triumph since 1973

"Victory in this year's football final would indelibly stamp the names of St. Catherine's Walsh and Glanmire's McCarthy, on the list of G.A.A. immortals."

will be greatly enhanced. Their careers have literally been sprinkled with success so far and, besides their intercounty honours, both won county senior football medals with the East Cork divisional team, Imokilly in '84 and '86.

Victory in this year's football final would indelibly stamp the names of St. Catherine's Walsh and Glanmire's McCarthy on the list of GAA immortals increasing the total number of dual All-Ireland medalists to a mere sixteen. It might be easier after that for Teddy and Denis to consider concentrating on one game at some stage in the future. It might be more prudent to do so, too, because it has been proved in the past that few players are capable of performing to their peak at top level in both codes over a long period.

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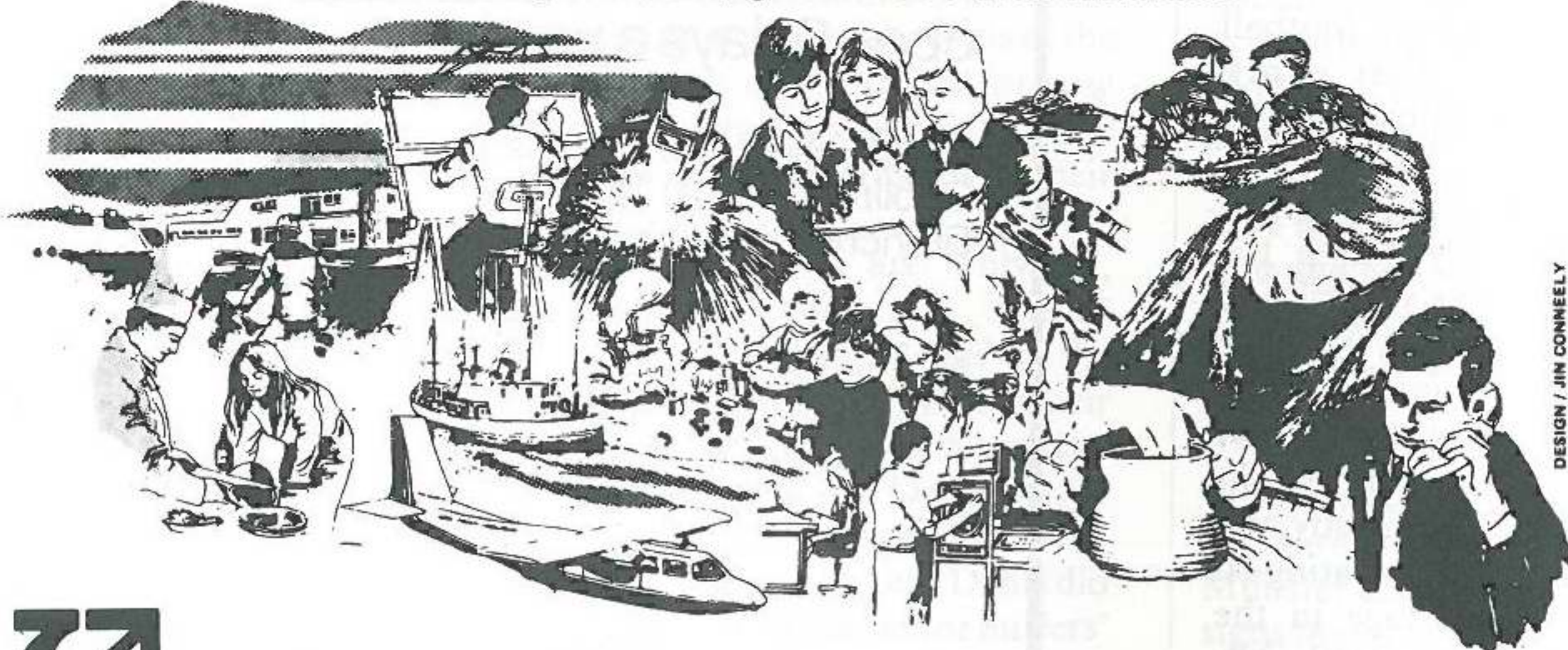


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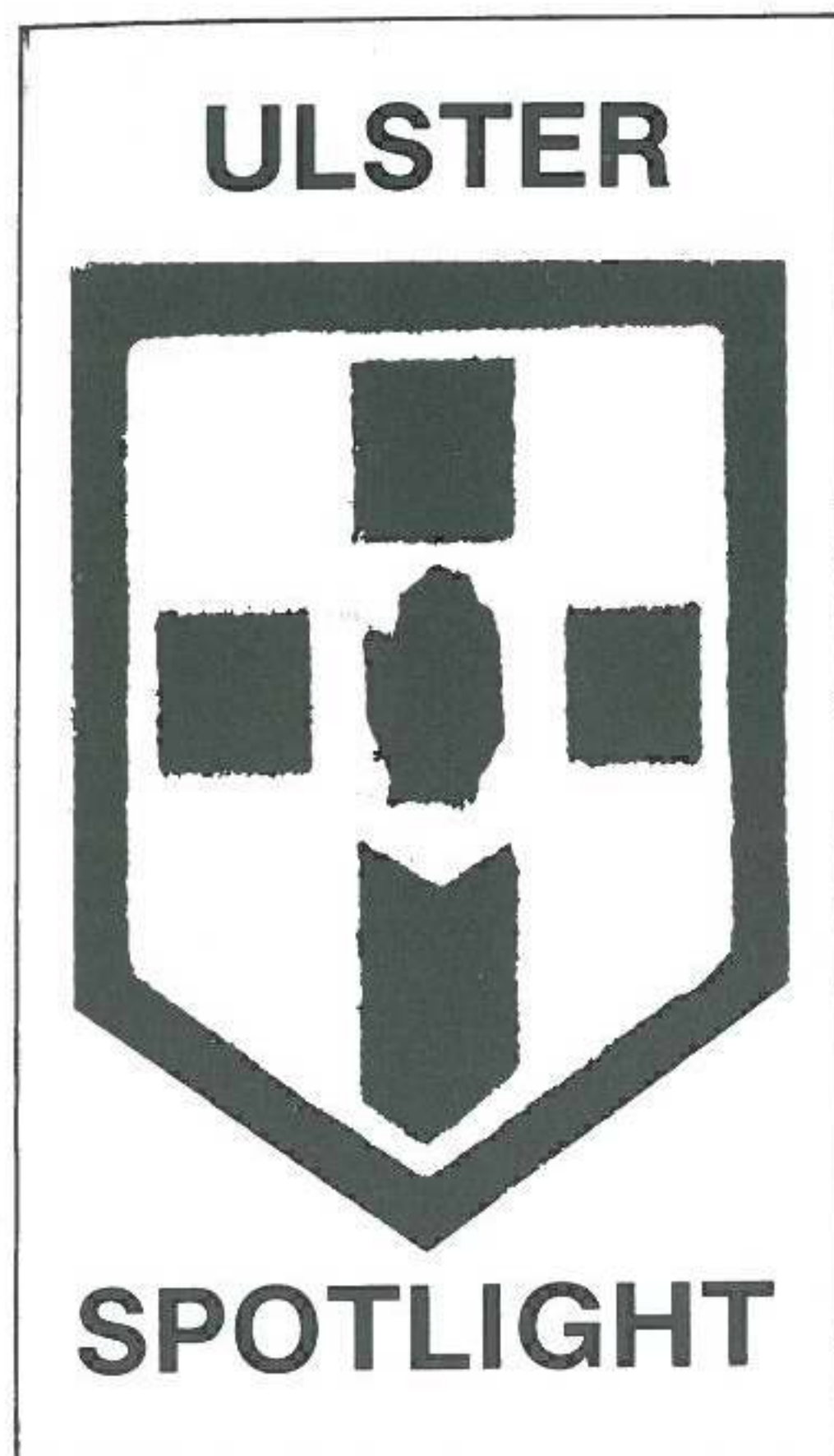


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by Padraig O'Baighill

IN a year when many champions were dethroned, including the great Kerry team, Ulster proved to be as tough as ever. Antrim forced a draw with Tyrone in Casement Park and Cavan drew with Derry in Omagh. However, it was not surprising that a young consistent Derry team over a number of years eventually captured the title. It was evident that injury problems were going to be too much for Tyrone.

Fr. Sean Hegarty, who brought Armagh into the top bracket of Gaelic teams went very close in Clones. With only 14 players, it seemed in the last quarter that there were more Armagh players on the field. The experience of veterans Kiernan and McGirr showed Armagh supporters that they had a team worthy of the occasion. Armagh can always be a formidable side and if they can get a settled side they will be well to the fore in the coming season.

Eugene McGee made progress with Cavan, as they showed great determination in their defeat of fancied Monaghan at Breifne and their two tough games with Derry in

Omagh. A few more enterprising players could make this team a difficult assignment for any county in Ulster in 1988. With memories of Cavan's great All-Ireland win in the Polo Grounds forty years ago, the names of Tighe, Duke, O'Reilly, Higgins, Donohue, McDyer, should inspire the boys in blue.

In the Cavan championship former county players Derek McDonnell and Martin Lynch starred for their club Ramor United. How often was McDonnell's name mentioned as a sharp shooting forward, who could have been a great asset in Omagh? Among other former county players who were prominent in the championship were Ollie Leddy, who managed a promising Drumalee side, backboned by the Costelloe brothers. In Ballyhaise Barry Tierney was as accurate as ever, ably assisted by Hubert Conaty, while the names of Carney in Cootehill and Donohue in Laragh were much to the fore.

In neighbouring Monaghan, two more former county stars P.J. and "Jap" Finlay laid the foundation for Ballybay Pearse's unexpected win in the county semi-final over Castleblayney Faughs, a team that was expected to go a long way in this year's All-Ireland club championship. Even the great forward power of Stefen White could not get by the high fielding P.J. at full back. Up front as often before, the "Jap" proved that he has few equals, when it comes to free taking. One free from the sideline outside the 45 in Clontibret was a magnificent effort. On this display he would be well worth a place on the Monaghan panel.

In the other semi-final Monaghan Harps were too strong for Aughnamullen, who had two outstanding players in former county men Pat McCabe and P.J. Forde. The McAleers, Seamus and John, Adrian Trappe and Dan McElligot from Castleisland of the old brigade, played well for Monaghan but this is a youthful Harp's side, well-tutored by Donegal school-teacher Kevin Conlon from Gortahork.

Saint McCartan's great victory in

this year's All-Ireland series augurs well for the future of Monaghan football. **A coming star in their ranks is Latton player Finbar Fitzpatrick. Although only 14 years old, he holds Dalton Cup, Herald Cup, McLarnon Cup medals in Ulster, as well as the coveted All-Ireland medal. He also has won U-12, U-13, U-14 and U-16 medals with his club Latton.**

At a time when there is much discussion on low standards in senior championship football, the importance of residential colleges must again be stressed. Like McCartans, similar colleges such as St. Pat's, Cavan, St. Pat's, Armagh, St. Columbas, Derry, St. Eunans, Letterkenny, St. Malachy's, Belfast, Violet Hill, Newry, are the backbone of county teams. With the coming of comprehensive schools, many students do not get the opportunity of training as they would, if residing in College and this has an effect on standards in many counties. **County Boards should pay special attention to what is now left of the famous footballing colleges. The attention to intensive training in McCartans has brought dividends.**

In Donegal, Killybegs backboned by six of the victorious All-Ireland U-21 team, found out that senior championship in the county is tough business. They were knocked out by St. Eunans Letterkenny, always a difficult team in the championship race. However, this young team will make the breakthrough in future and we will hear more of the Cunninghams, McGowan and Manus Boyle.

I always enjoyed going into Jimmy Burn's pub in Enniskillen to discuss Gaelic games. Burns was a great follower of Down in their day and a shrewd judge of Gaelic football. Enniskillen Gaels showed up well in this year's championship and their new pitch is great credit to their committee and to the man, after which it is named — Mickey Brewster R.I.P. Brewster was the star of the 1958 All-Ireland J.F.C. winning team. He played with distinction for the Gaels, Queens University, The Combined Universities and Ulster. His brothers Gus R.I.P. and Paddy also played for the Enniskillen Club.

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HANDBALL

MELBOURNE TO HOST 1988 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

HANDBALL

BY SEÁN CLERKIN

THE international aspect of handball has been highlighted recently with the announcement that the 1988 world handball championships will be held in Melbourne, Australia from March 14th to 19th.

This provides an interesting prospect for all our top players in the adult men and women's division, and in the masters and under age grades.

The international dimension has, of course, been a feature in the evolution of handball and tends to give it a very special place in the scenario of the G.A.A. Back in the last century Irish emigrants brought handball into the U.S.A., thus providing the acorn from which the major oak of American handball has grown.

We have been told about the court that was built by Phil Casey in Brooklyn, and the marathon home and away games staged between himself and John Lawlor of Dublin for the world championship, exactly one hundred years ago. That was the start of an international era, that has survived to the present day, even if at times, it appeared to be dormant.

The aforementioned John Lawlor, who plied his trade as a Dublin jarvey had an impact in promoting the international image when, as first President of the Irish Amateur Handball Association formed in January 1924, he successfully, promoted the jailteam games, the senior competitions of which, were won by J.J. Heeney, M. O'Donnell and P. McDonagh of the U.S.A. In the same year, Heeney and O'Donnell were to feature in the world police championships, where they were beaten by Ireland's T. O'Reilly and B.J. Daly.

In 1926, the secretary of the Irish

Handball Council Sean O'Hanlon attended the international amateur athletic federation and was elected President of the court handball commission, the chief aim of which was to present rules and regulations acceptable to all countries for the playing of handball.

Sean had the distinction of being presented with the German badge of honour. And so the international needle is threaded with the jailteam championships in 1928, which attracted players from England and Scotland, the visit of players from the Basque country in 1929 to partake in a series of exhibition matches at the Garda Depot in Dublin and the participation of Martin O'Neill and Paddy Perry in exhibition matches in Bootle Liverpool in 1935. That was at the height of Perry's reign as All-Ireland senior football singles champion, a title he held for eight successive seasons.

Martin O'Neill, who also won senior doubles titles in softball in 1930 and 1931 will ever be remembered as a progressive Leinster G.A.A. secretary, a position he held between 1927 and 1970. Those games at Bootle, which incidentally, consisted only of a front wall, closed a specific chapter on internationalism.

A precise twenty years had passed before a team of three players from the U.S.A. Tom Ginty, Harry and Bob Hyde visited Ireland under the managership of well known AAUE Handball President, the late Charles J. O'Connell.

I have recollections of many outstanding games in which they participated against our own top players. Capacity attendances turned

up at all the venues in which they played.

On then to the first ever official world championships at the New York Athletic Club in October 1964, when Joey Maher and the late Des Dillon, did us proud, despite the fact that they were at a major disadvantage playing in the small 40 x 20 court for the first time. Besides our players, representatives from Australia, Canada, Mexico and the U.S.A. participated.

The championships marked a distinctive change in the career of Joey Maher, for shortly afterwards he returned to Canada, became a very proficient exponent at the American style game and won the second World Handball Championships held in Toronto in November 1967.

I have often written that the next world championships held in Dublin in 1970, were a watershed for the game in this country. There was the construction of the all glass court. The cost of which heavily subsidised by the G.A.A. the official opening of the event by his Excellency, the late President de Valera, the capacity crowd on the final, and the input of RTE with the televising of handball for the first time. The handball game has been on an upwards spiral ever since.

Irish players participate regularly in the U.S.A. championships and our under age players have made it quite a practice to bring home the spoils. The 1984 world championships held in Ireland were very successful and prompted the suggestion from participating countries that these championships must be held on a regular basis.

So, now, all handball roads lead to Melbourne, Australia in March 1988 for yet another gala occasion.

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QUIZTIME

BY VINNY MOORE

WE HAVE hardly had time to get over the All-Ireland hurling finals, yet here we are already looking forward to the two big games of the year in football.

The football championship has not matched the hurling series in terms of cracking games, draws and high quality-play. Even so, we have still had some thrilling encounters in football, and I have the feeling that the campaign will end with two keenly contested finals, marked by plenty of passages of good play.

But I am not going to dwell here on the battles for the 1987 senior and minor crowns. You will read all about the points for and against with regard to those games elsewhere in this issue.

Instead, I am going to follow my own footsteps from the Hurling Final issue, and devote QUIZTIME to a more general review, with All-Ireland finals of the past — rather than the upcoming ones — providing some of the ingredients for the exercise. And, when I say All-Ireland finals, I don't mean simply senior games.

You will find questions relating to the under-21 finals, the junior hurling decider, camogie finals, and others on a variety of events, ranging over the Dr. McKenna Cup, the referee of last year's All-Ireland senior final, and this one specially for the ladies — the Ashbourne Cup.

You know the pattern by now, so I do not think there is need for much more from me. Except perhaps to put you in the picture with regard to my opening section of ten questions.

All the questions have to deal with events in 1987 so far, and I call this section simply:

CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR

1. The Ashbourne Cup is awarded to the winners of the Universities camogie championship each springtime. What University took the trophy last February — Dublin, Queen's or Cork?
.....
2. The MacRory Cup is the prize for the Ulster Colleges' senior football championship. Name the 1987 winners
.....
3. Down won the Dr. McKenna Cup, Ulster's pre-championship knock-out senior football tournament, last April. True or false?
.....
4. The O'Byrne Cup senior football final was played at Enniscorthy last May. Wexford were beaten in the final. Name their conquerors
.....
.....
5. A more recent final... the All-Ireland minor camogie decider. What county beat Cork in that

final at Cork in early August?
.....
.....

6. Our first bonus question: Name the winners of the All-Ireland under-21 football and hurling championships in 1987
.....
.....

7. Who won the All-Ireland junior hurling championship at Thurles in late July?

8. Name the winners of the Railway Cup title in hurling only (careful now!)

9. Who are the reigning All-Ireland senior hurling "B" champions?

10. The Quish brothers, Tom and John, of Limerick, who have been so dominant in handball competitions for some years now, took the All-Ireland 40 x 20 senior crown for the first time last May. True or false?
.....
.....

Five points for each question answered correctly, plus a five points bonus for No. 6 if both champions are named. Just five points if only one under-21 title winner is correctly named.

Add in a five points "well done" token if you get all the questions in this section right. So, on offer here: 60 points. YOUR SCORE.

Now as this is the All-Ireland football final issue we just have to devote a section to the big game, but the emphasis here is not on the finalists. Rather, on general matters.

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FOOTBALL FINAL DAY

1. In what year did an Ulster team last win the Sam Maguire Cup?
.....
2. This is the 40th anniversary of the 1947 final. What was unusual about the Cavan-Kerry meeting that year?
.....
3. It is almost 21 years since a Connacht county took the All-Ireland senior football crown. What county has the distinction, then, of chalking up that victory?
.....
4. Kerry completed the last double of All-Ireland senior and minor football titles on the same day by beating Derry at under-18, and Roscommon the Sam Maguire Cup tie. In what year was that double achieved?
.....
5. Who refereed last year's All-Ireland senior football final? ..
.....
6. Hardly any need to remind you that Tyrone made their senior final debut last September. But what was Kerry's winning margin over the Northerners in that game?
.....
7. A bonus question now. Name the finalists in the Centenary Year All-Ireland minor football final
.....
8. This footballer scored 2-1 in the 1972 All-Ireland minor final, and hit exactly the same scoreline a year later in the All-Ireland senior final. Who is he? It may help you to know that he went on to become perhaps better known as a hurler
.....

9. How many counties have appeared in All-Ireland senior finals in the present decade — four, five or six? Here, remember the emphasis is on the number of different counties to reach the last round, and not on the number of appearances by a particular county
.....
10. Galway won the under-18 title last September. Who were runners-up?
.....

Another section of 5 pointers, with a five points bonus if both finalists are named correctly in No. 7. Just five points there if only one of the two teams concerned is correctly named.

Add on a further five points for a 100 per cent answer to this section, so here, too, 60 points are possible. **HOW DID YOU SCORE**

Now to our ever popular Picture Parade, which evokes memories not of a final, but of a gallant failure in an All-Ireland senior football semi-final of a few years back. I call this section:

OTHER GRADES

1. Donegal won an All-Ireland Hurling title in August. Any ideas what that championship was? A clue: a teenage and somewhat limited championship
.....
.....
2. Peter McAuley (Louth) completed an All-Ireland minor singles double in handball. One title was won at 40 x 20. Name the championship in which he took the other under-18 medal.
.....
.....
3. James Folens scored 2-5 in the Connacht minor football final at Castlebar. Was he on duty for Mayo or Galway?
.....

4. What county knocked Cork out of the Munster under-21 football championship earlier in the year?
.....
5. Who won the 1987 National Junior Camogie League title? ..
.....
6. Liam Honohan won a provincial under-18 football medal with what county during the summer?
.....
7. A former inter-county footballer and All-Ireland senior medal winner, who has been enjoying much success as a team manager with a certain county in recent years, stepped down from his post after his side lost a provincial final at home. Who is he?
.....

That at home might prove something of a clue!

8. To end — and on a double note. Name the runners-up in the Ulster minor football final last July, and the number of goals scored by Kildare against Dublin in the Leinster decider.
.....
.....

Five points once again on offer here for each correct mark pencilled in after every question, other than No. 8. Here we end on a double note. Help yourself to ten marks if both sections are answered correctly. Five points for just one correct part of this question.

And a five points additional tally to help you end the QUIZTIME on a bright note if all eight questions are taken in your stride. Total marks possible: 50. **YOUR FINAL HAUL**

HOW DID YOU FARE OVER-ALL

The total number of points on offer: 170. 150 points-plus qualifies for the type of mark that suggests you could do a good job in compiling QUIZTIME. 130 points: Very Good. 110 points-plus: Good.

● **ANSWERS ON PAGE 48**



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Munster Medley by Seamus O'Neill

"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, KERRY!"

IT WOULD be most inappropriate to do anything but start this latest issue of Munster review without paying tribute to the Kerry footballers, who will be spectators at an All-Ireland final for the first time in four years.

Inappropriate because whether you "love 'em or hate 'em", the company of footballers who went down to Cork in the recent Munster final replay at Killarney enlivened the scene as no football squad in very many years.

Kerry, under the tutorship of Mick O'Dwyer, brought Gaelic football to a fine art. They fused their skills superbly, each working unselfishly for the other, to produce a brand of football that was as spectacular to watch as it proved so successful in terms of winning national titles.

More than that, they maintained that standard over a period of years that no team equalled in the long annals of the game. They arrived in 1975 with an All-Ireland final win over Dublin and picked up seven more crowns after that.

Throughout the long years on top, both in championship and League they consistently produced football of the highest standard; football that drew the crowds.

It is a tribute to the dedication of the Kerry footballers over the past dozen years or so that they gave up so much of their time, and put in such efforts in training to keep at the top for so long. Such commitment was truly remarkable for amateurs, and can hardly be matched by teams generally in the professional sports.

Some argue that this Kerry squad was the greatest of all time, others that there were better combinations in the country and in Kerry in the past.

I'm not concerned about that. What I can say — like so many more supporters — is that I received many

hours of sheer enjoyment and pleasure from watching Kerry in action since they returned to the top in 1975.

So, here's a sincere "thank you" to the men of the Kingdom. You may be down now, but your exploits during the past great era for the game in football's Kingdom will never be forgotten.

Well, done! And well done also to Mick O'Dwyer, the man who masterminded the success story, and who won such respect and support from the players that they sacrificed so much for so long.

Thanks for the memories, Kerry!

NEW CHAMPIONS

It is early days yet, I know, but we are already assured of new champions come next spring in the All-Ireland club football and hurling championships.

St. Finbarr's, of Cork, led by John Myler at full back, and Borris-Ileigh, captained by Michael Ryan at left full back, took the football and hurling titles respectively last St. Patrick's Day.

However, the All-Ireland champions of 1987 have both bitten the dust in the current county senior championships.

The Barrs were beaten by divisional side Muskerry by 0-10 to 0-9 in a keen game. Muskerry included Colman Corrigan and John O'Driscoll, of the Cork senior team, in their line-up.

Borris-Ileigh went down to Lorrha, club of county goalkeeper Ken Hogan, in the Tipperary north championship as a result of a last minute goal by John Sherlock. Borris-Ileigh had six of the Tipperary county panel.

DURACK STEPS DOWN

Seamus Durack did not celebrate a major title win during his spell as manager of the Clare senior hurling

team, from which he recently resigned. Even so, the former goalkeeping great can still feel well pleased with his team's displays during his spell in the position.

Durack, who took over the manager's post in the autumn of 1985, helped to mould a fine side. That is clear from the performances that saw Clare finish runners-up for the last year's Munster title, and put up a great display when going down by two points to Galway in the Ford League final in May.

Even though Clare disappointed somewhat badly when losing their recent Munster semi-final replay to Tipperary at Killarney, there has been enough solid evidence to indicate that Durack's successor will have solid foundations on which to build for the future.

FORTY YEARS ON

It is always nice to know that the giants of the past are not forgotten. Jack Lynch had a wonderful career in hurling and football, and 40 years ago he won his last major medal — a Munster senior hurling souvenir.

The anniversary has been marked by Kaliber with a special presentation lunch to the famed former Cork dual star.

Jack won his first inter-county championship medal in 1939, and continued to hurl with Cork up to 1950. He won six All-Ireland senior medals in succession (hurling in 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, and 1946, and football in 1945), and he is the only man to achieve such a distinction.

Lynch also played for Munster in hurling and football, and won three Railway Cup medals in hurling. However, he did not join the ranks of interprovincial medalists in football.

Later in life, of course, Jack Lynch went right to the top as well in politics, and is, of course, a former Taoiseach.

Connacht Comment by Kevin Malone

BRIAN Talty, the Galway midfielder, has made an important contribution to football in Dublin in more ways than one.

He has been coach to the St. David's, Artane, school teams for some years, and in 1986 his charges brought home the Leinster Colleges' senior title for the first time. Later St. David's made a brave fight when losing the All-Ireland final to St. Colman's, Newry.

Talty is now playing club football in the capital with Parnells, and he made a vital contribution at midfield to a rare win by this long established club.

Parnells met St. Anne's in the county senior final at Parnell Park, and Talty's dominance in midfield in the second half did much to steer the way to a win that earned the club their first Dublin title since as far back as 1945.

Talty also contributed one of Parnell's twelve points. So, he has won two major medals in different provinces this year — a Connacht inter-county souvenir with his native county, and the Metropolitan medal.

Leitrim have not captured many headlines over the years in football, but Séamus Prior, from Aughnasheelin, is doing a good job in keeping the county flag flying proudly as a referee.

Many will recall seeing him handle a big game for the first time when he proved a very capable man-in-the-middle in the Ford League final between Dublin and Kerry at the end of April.

In July he took charge of his first Connacht senior football final and again did a good job, and followed on with his grand handling of the Kildare-Down Minor semi-final.

Prior played club football at all levels from juvenile up with the club side, and has been in the refereeing ranks in Leitrim since around 1974. Last year he refereed a Connacht senior football championship tie for the first time.

Seamus is employed in the building trade.

It has all been happening this year for Michael Walsh, the long-serving handballer from Roscommon. He has been turning on the style in title winning form on the double and in separate codes in the sport.

Indeed, Walsh got well within sight of a rare treble. On the smaller American court he won the All-Ireland 40 x 20 senior title for the



BRIAN TALTY . . . The Galway midfielder has made an important contribution to football in Dublin.

first time. Some weeks later he was back in an All-Ireland final — but on that occasion in the traditional Irish code of handball. Walsh captured the national crown — another first for the Westerner.

Then came the prestigious All-Ireland Coca Cola senior softball singles championship, and Walsh reached the semi-finals before going out to a former World champion, Tom O'Rourke (Kildare).

A great run, then, for Walsh, even if his hopes of a rare treble were foiled. He certainly did a good job in boosting the sport West of the Shannon.

Where do all the good minors go? That is a question that has almost become a cliché in Gaelic sport, it is asked so often year after year.

Over in Galway they will give you a ready enough answer if you care to mention the county's headline-making performances in the senior football championship this year.

John Joyce, who led Galway to their All-Ireland minor final win last September, and Alan Mulholland, who was centre-half back in the under-18 title winning team of last year, both won provincial senior medals this season.

Joyce was right half forward and Mulholland right half-back in the side that surprised Mayo in the Connacht final. Both were in action at Croke Park later in the All-Ireland campaign, and are unquestionably young men with very bright futures.

It has been changing times in the West on the management front, with both Sean Young (Roscommon) and Liam O'Neill (Mayo) having decided to "call it a day".

Both gave tremendous services to their respective counties in their onerous positions as team managers, and deserve a hearty "well done" from all concerned in Roscommon and Mayo respectively.

I know the Connacht senior football final day is long since gone, but as this is my first column since then, I must avail of the chance to comment on a very welcome new touch to the big day at Castlebar.

This was the staging of a novel and appealing pageant, organised by Macnas, a community arts group based in Galway. This included a recreation of the Galway team that won three All-Ireland senior football titles in succession in the 'Sixties, and used giant heads or masks.

It was a bright addition to the usual programme, and brought new gamour and interest to the West's big day in football.

LEINSTER LIMELIGHTS by Paul Fay

THE past championship season has been a bleak one for Dublin in football. The county failed to win at least one Leinster crown for the first time since as far back as 1973.

Even so, followers of the North-city club, Parnells, will still remember the year in a special way. The reason? Parnells are back on top in the capital after 42 long years!

Yes, an 0-12 to 0-8 win over St. Anne's, Bohernabreena, in the final at Parnell Park, gave Parnells their fifth Dublin senior football crown, and the first since 1945.

The club was one of the first to affiliate to the Dublin County Board in 1886. Now boasting a fine club house in Coolock village on the city's northside, Parnells cater for four adult and four minor teams, as well as a big number of under-age teams.

Their senior title winning team included Jim Bissett, who has worn the Dublin county senior jersey, Brendan Brady, captain of Monaghan's 1979 Ulster senior title winning team, Donal Fitzgibbon, who is a Limerick county player, and Galway's Brian Talty.

On the same evening that Parnells made the long awaited return to the winners' rankings, Faughs, another famed club in the capital, retained their county senior hurling championship. The four points win over Cuala gave Faughs their 30th title in all.

Incidentally, work is well advanced now on new dressing-rooms and amenities at Parnell Park. I understand that these will be officially opened during October. It could well be that the attraction will be a showdown between those great rivals Dublin and Kerry to mark the occasion, but we shall just have to wait and see.

Meanwhile, the new facilities will greatly enhance the popular north city venue.

Still on the Dublin theme, and congratulations to St. Anne's, who are celebrating their jubilee this

year. It was in 1937 that the club was founded, and since then has gone from strength to strength.

The club now has a splendid ground and clubhouse situated in some of the most picturesque surroundings it has been my good fortune to have seen in any county in Ireland.

St. Anne's did not mark the jubilee year by taking a first county senior title as they had hoped, but they still gave a good account of themselves when losing the final to Parnells, and they are capable of going one better next year.

BOGGAN STAYS

Hurling is very much overshadowed by football in Dublin, but the game still has its strong supporters, both at playing and official level, and none more so than Jimmy Boggan, the county's senior team manager.

Boggan has just completed his second year in his second successive term of three seasons as manager of the county senior team. He had thoughts about retiring from the position after the Dubs crash to Offaly in a Leinster senior championship quarter final tie in May, but has now decided to remain on.

His experience will again prove invaluable to Dublin, and Boggan will have the best wishes of hurling lovers on the Liffeside in his bid to mould a team capable of getting the county back to the forefront over the coming League campaign, and in next year's championship. Go to it, Jimmy!

CHANGE IN LOUTH

The news that Mickey Whelan, the former Dublin footballer, has stepped down as the Louth senior football team manager because of other commitments, brings into focus the fact that Louth, like Kildare, have been a long time out of the limelight. They have not won a Leinster senior crown since their

last great hurrah in 1957 when they went on to take the Sam Maguire Cup.

It is a strange phenomenon that such mighty powers of yesterday as Louth, Kildare, Wexford and to a lesser extent, Laois, have all slipped down the ladder of football strength in recent years.

One can only wonder at the reason for this. But look at what we are losing out as a result of the development. What a great provincial championship we would have if Louth, Kildare, Wexford and Laois were all in there battling with equal chances of success in taking the Leinster crown.

We would have some crowds at all matches, not just at the final, if that was the case. The Provincial Council could give some monies to headquarters as a result to ensure that no Rock Concerts would be needed at Croke Park!

It is a problem that demands some serious consideration. I have not forgotten that a few years back the Leinster Council did look at the state of football in the province and issued a document with regard to their findings and suggestions.

But there does not appear to have been any worthwhile progress in the meantime, and perhaps a new drive is needed to boost Leinster football standards in general.

After all, the Leinster final this year was not much to write home about.

SCORING ACE

A new scoring star has arrived on the football front in Brian Stafford, whose accuracy from free-kicks proved a major factor in Meath's successful defence of the Leinster crown.

Brian won his first Leinster senior medal last year, but he has really come into his own this season. He has displayed a real flair for rifling over the points from frees. Brian won a Leinster under-21 medal with Meath in 1985.

THE JACK MAHON COLUMN

ONCE the All Ireland Football Final is over the summer is really over and the dark nights are on the way. Summer went quickly for us in Galway until Sunday August 31st. The replay with Cork was a long dreary game for us in the dug-out. We simply never got going. We aren't that bad. We had trained hard. The spirit was good but on the day Cork were in a different class. It was so deflating.

LARRY TOMPKINS

Cork looked good, none more so than centre half-forward Larry Tompkins. In February 1985 in a N.F.L. game between Kildare v Galway in Newbridge, I saw him play first and he was magnificent. This was how I described his display in my column in the Galway Advertiser:

"As I wrote earlier Larry Tompkins gave one of the best displays I have seen for years - top class football in the Jack O'Shea style. Tomas Tierney couldn't stay with him. Enda Guerin stuck very close to him

and tried his utmost to curb him". He has matured since his Kildare days into an even better player and I agree totally with Enda Colleran's assessment of him. He is the best player in the game at the moment. I hope the adulation and over exposure in the media doesn't get to him before the final and that he gets the chance to exercise his talents on the greatest day.

MEATH

Meath have now beaten Dublin two years running and have been improving all the time. They have proven players in Colm O'Rourke, Gerry McEntee, Mick Lyons and Joe Cassells, all of whom have been through the mill since 1983 and before. **Their team manager Sean Boylan has done a good job with his team over the years and is a much respected man inside and outside his county.** In last year's semi-final loss to Kerry, Meath were over-eager and suffered in the process. Experience will have taught them to be more relaxed.

I hate comparing teams and

players. I just have a hunch Cork will win. Most of the Cork team have been reared on minor and U-21 successes in the past five or six years. There is an All-Ireland look about them and I expect them to last longer on the scene than Cork's last All-Ireland team of 1973, when Billy Morgan, the present manager was goalkeeper.

GOALKEEPER

Talking of goalies who were the best I have seen — Sean Wynne, Jack Mangan, Aidan Brady, Johnny Cullotty, Andy Phillips, Johnny Geraghty, Billy Morgan, Paddy Cullen, Charlie Nelligan, John O'Leary. Hard to separate Geraghty, Cullotty and Morgan. Nelligan is the best there is today but I wish he'd stop racing out of goal berating his fellow players and generally shooting his mouth off. It may be a release for himself but it looks bad and is in no way inspirational.

Anyway Cork to win a close one and let's hope the standard of football improves somewhat.

QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 43

CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR

1. U.C. Dublin, who beat U.C. Galway in the final. 2. An all-Newry clash for the Cup with Abbey C.B.S. beating St. Colman's. 3. True. They beat Cavan in the final. 4. Laois. 5. Galway. 6. Donegal in football and Limerick. 7. Cork, who beat Wexford in the final. 8. I told you to be careful here, did I not? Well, the Railway Cup finals, usually played on St. Patrick's Day, were put back this year to October, and so have not been played there. Maybe I cheated just a little here! 9. London.

10. False. The Quish brothers lost their first final on the smaller American court at senior to Tom Sheridan and James McGovern (Meath).

FOOTBALL FINAL DAY

1. 1968, when Down beat Kerry. 2. The game was played at the Polo Grounds, New York, the only All-Ireland senior final played outside of this country. 3. Galway, who completed a run of three titles in succession. 4. 1980. 5. Jimmy Dennigan (Cork). 6. Eight points—2-15 to 1-10. 7. Dublin, the winners, and novel finalists in

Tipperary. 8. Jimmy Barry-Murphy (Cork). 9. Six—Kerry, Roscommon, Offaly, Dublin, Galway and Tyrone. 10. Cork.

OTHER GRADES

1. Donegal won the Under-16 Special hurling; their first such title. 2. Hardball Championship. 3. Galway. 4. Tipperary, who later lost in extra time in a replay with Kerry in the Munster final. 5. Dublin, who surprised defending champions Kildare in the final. 6. Liam was at midfield for Cork. 7. Alan Larkin (Dublin). 8. Armagh. Kildare did not score a goal against Dublin.



WILLIE JOE PADDEN

Mayo

WILLIE Joe has proven time and again that the spectacular high catch and secure fielding are not lost arts in football. Since winning his place in the Mayo senior team in 1978, he has established himself as a footballer

who can more than match the giants of the past in this eye-catching facet of the sport.

Padden is from Belmullett, and he graduated to the county senior team after a fine career at minor and under-21. A high-point of his career at under-18 came in 77 when he captained Mayo from midfield to the Connacht title. Down ended their run in the All-Ireland semi-final.

He had not long to wait for a

provincial senior medal. That came in 1981, and Willie Joe gained a second Connacht souvenir in 1985. He was in high-fielding style again in Mayo's games against Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final draw and replay, and later won his only Bank of Ireland All Star trophy.

Padden is 27 and has played for Connacht in the Railway Cup, but the province has not won the title in 18 years.

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