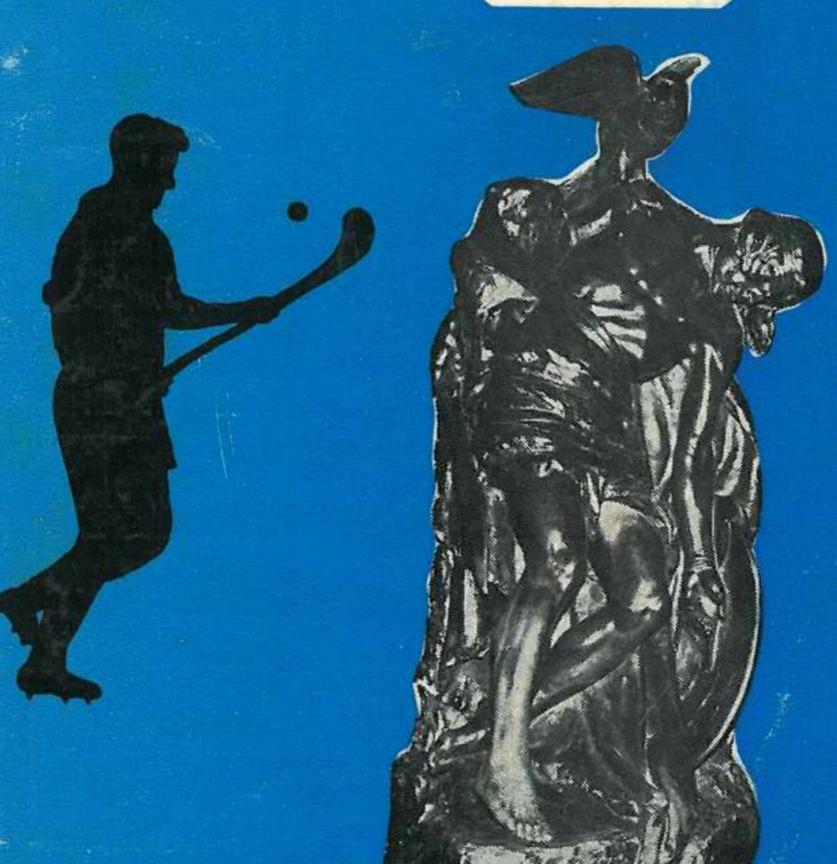
Cuchulainn Annual 1960





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Cumann lúitilear Saeveal

Comainte laisean

Clán na 5Cluicí Laizean, 1961

Corn Uí Broin

(1) An Mhi v. Longphort-An Uaimh

(2) Ua bhFailghe v. Ceatharlach-Tulach Mór.

(3) Loch Garman v. Cill Coinning—Ros Mhic Treóin.
 (4) Cill Mhanntáin v. Laois—Eachdruim Uí Bhroin.

Gach Cluiche ar 26-2-1961

Babhta (2)

(5) Lughbhaidh v. (1).

(6) Iar-Mhi v. (2).

(7) Cill Dara v. (3).(8) Ath Cliath v. (4).

Leath-Chraobhacha

(9) (6) v. (7). (10) (5) v. (8).

An Chraobh: (9) v. (10).

Peil Sóisear agus Iomáint Sóisear agus Idir-Mheánach 2-4-61

Lughbhaidh v. An Mhi--An Uaimh.
Ath Cliath v. Cill Dara-Ath Cliath,
Cill Choinnigh v. Loch Garman-Cill Choinnigh.

9-4-61

Iar-Mhi v. Longphort (Peil Sóisear).

Iar-Mhí v. An Mhí (Icmáint Idir-Mheánach).

(ag Muileann Cearr)

Cill Mhanntáin v. Ceatharlach (Peil Sóisear agus Iomáint Sóisear)

(Eachdruim Uí Bhroin)
Laois v. Ua bhFailghe (Peil Sóisear agus Iomáint Idir-Mheánach).

Babhta (2) 30-4-61 nó 7-5-61

(Port Laoise)

COMÓRTAS IDIR MHEÁNACH

(1) Laois v. Ua bhFailghe.

(2) Ceatharlach v. (1).

(3) Cill Coinnigh v. Loch Garman.

(4) An Mhí v. Iar-Mhí.

(5) Ath Cliath v. Aondruim.

Leath-Chraobhacha

(6) - (2) v. (3). (7) (4) v. (5).

An Chraobh: (8) (6) v. (7).

IOMÁINT SÓISEAR

(1 Lughbhaidh v. An Mhi.

(2). Cill Mhanntáin v. Ceatharlach.

(3) Cill Dara v. (2) ar 30/4/61.

An Chraobh: (1) v. (3).

Babhta (2) PEIL SÓISEAR

Lughbhaidh nó An Mhí v. Longphort nó Iar-Mhí. Cill Dara nó Ath Cliath v. Ceatharlach nó Cill Mhanntáin.

Ua bhFailghe nó Laois v. Cill Choinnigh nó Loch ... Garman.

IOMÁINT MIONÚR-Babhta Cáilithe

- (A) Cill Dara v. An Mhi, 2-4-61.
- (B) Cill Mhanntáin v. Ceatharlach, 2-4-61.
- (C) (A) v. (B), 16-4-61.
- (D) Ath Cliath v. (C), Bealtaine, 1961.

IOMÚINT SÍNSEAR agus MIONÚR

- (1) Laois v. Iar Mhí: Iomáint Sinsear agus Mionúr— Tulach Mór.
- (2) Ua bhFailghe v. (1), 30-4-61.

SÍNSEAR agus MIONÚR CRAOBH IOMÁNUÍOCHTA

Le togha idir:

(2) Thuas: B'lá Cliath, Loch Garman, Cill Choinnigh. Dátaí Cluichí Ceannais Sínsear 18-6-61 agus 25-6-61, an ceann le B'lá Cliath ag imirt le bheith ar 18-6-61.

SÍNSEAR agus MIONÚR CRAOBH PEILE

- (1) Longphort v. Iar-Mhí ag Muileann Chearr ar 7-5-61.
- (2) An Mhi v. (1) 21-5-61.
- (3) Laois v. Ceatharlach ag Áth Í ar 14-5-61.
- (4) Uí bFáighle v. (3) ag Droichead Nua ar 4-6-61.
- (5) Loch Garman v. Cille Mhantáin ag Eachdhruim nó Inis Chórthaigh ar 30-4-61.
- (6) B'lá Cliath v. (5) ag Ceatharlach nó Droichead Nua ar 21-5-61.
- (7) Cill Dara v. Cill Choinnigh ag Droichead Nua ar 7-5-61.
- (8) Lughbhaidh v. (7) ag Páirc on Chrócaigh ar 28-5-61.

Craobhaca de Thuas ar 23-7-61.

CRAOBHACHA SINSEAR

(2) (4) (6) (8) le togha

Dátaí dóibh so—Iúl 2ú, 1961; Iúl 9ú, 1961. N.B.—Corn Breathnach Iomáint Sínsear Leath Chraobh ar Lúnasa 6ú; Craobh ar 20-8-61.

Dátaí Craobhacha Cúige

Iománaíocht Sínsear-Laighean 16-7-61; Mumhan

30-7-61.

Peil Sinsear—Connacht 9-7-61; Laighean agus Uladh 23-7-61; Mumhan 16-7-61.

Ní bheidh aon chraobh chluiche Mionúr ar siúl ar 11-6-61 tasc scrúdúcháin.

Tá comórtaisí iománaíochta idirmheánach oscailte d'imearthóirí go léir a bhí intofa le h-aghaidh eadar chondae sóisear. Tar éis imirt i gcomórtas idirmheánach níl imearthóir intofa don ghrád sóirsear. Tá Foireann Cúige Sóirsear Ceatharlaigh den ghrád idirmheánach.

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We look back with pleasure on many years of active and friendly association with the G.A.A. whose enterprise and progressive outlook continues to make Gaelic games an unrivalled attraction for players and spectators alike.



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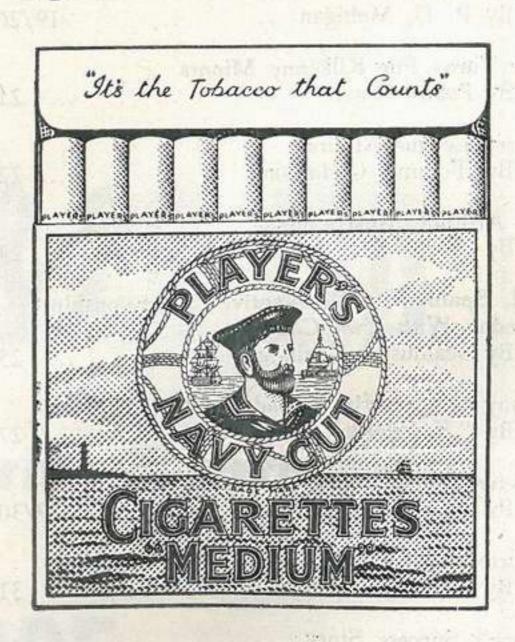
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RÉAMH-RADH

By Dr. J. J. Stuart

President of the

Gaelic Athletic Association

TÁ Deire bliana eile sroiste againn agus an trát buailte linn in ar péidir linn iomlán d'eactraí na bliana a tabairt airís os ár gcomair ar scáileán na cuimne agus aoibneas do baint at-uair as na mór-gníomarta do tárla ar ár bpáirceanna imearta—gníomarta gur péidir linn, tríd is tríd a beit mórálac, maoíteac asta. Ar ócáid seo na cartanacta agus an tsonais gabaim buíocas le gac poireann is le gac imeartóir a cuir le cáil an Cumainn i rit na bliana agus is é mo guí gur seact b'rearr a beid an Cumann agus gac aoinne a tagann pé na tionncur i rit na bliana

WE have reached yet another valley period between two seasons—that happy and holy season when it is my pleasure and privilege to extend greetings and good wishes for Christmas and the

New Year to all members of the Association.

ATÁ ROMAINN.

With the coming of December the triumphs and glories, the victories and defeats, which made memorable the past year are seen in a sharper, clearer light. For us in the Gaelic Athletic Association

there are many moments in which all the provinces of our land have shared.

To me, the President of your Association, it is a matter of special pride that during 1960 new links were forged which will, we hope, do much to join the sundered parts of our nation. The victory of Down in the All-Ireland Football Final will ever rank among the supreme achievements in our history. The skill and sportsmanship which brought them victory also won them something else, it won them the applause of neutrals and, indeed, of opponents too.

The year had but begun when the Railway Cup Finals came to indicate the growing strength of the northern province. Victory went to Ulster in a splendid foottball final and, within a month, they were back again to win honours in the National League. Meanwhile, Tipperary hurlers were emerging as the team of the year in the South, when, following their League triumph over Cork, they went

through to take the Munster championship.

Even while Tipperary were winning their provincial laurels, Wexford were also setting out on the road which was to lead them and many thousands of their followers to Croke Park in September. Dublin held them to level scores before going down to defeat, Kilkenny came to within two points of them and, finally, in a superb display of fast, fearless hurling they again won the highest honours.

Galway's supremacy in western football was strongly challenged and it is heartening to find such

counties as Leitrim achieving almost equal status with the best teams in the country.

The growing strength of the games in Great Britain makes the task of the home winners in Junior Hurling and Football a formidable one. The great displays of Carlow in hurling are one of the first results of the drive to develop the game in new areas. Carlow met a particularly well-equipped London side which won a deserved though narrow victory.

Dublin Junior footballers in resisting the challenge of Galway and Kerry at home and then beating London in a rain-soaked final indicate that a team to equal that of 1958 may be taking shape.

Minor football and hurling champions came from old strongholds of the games, and both Kilkenny in Hurling and Galway in football had many players who showed exceptional skill.

IN IN INCHES AND A PARTY OF THE PARTY OF THE

AS FÉACAINE SIAR

1 S taitneamac asus is tairreac an Ruo é as veire bliana out siar ar boitrin na smaointe agus eactraí na bliana a tabaire cun cummne at-uair, 5lionoar a baint airis as na zniomarta zaisce a tuz arou meanman ouinn as am a otarlacaint ASUS, in aon áit is sá san, Riar níos fearr a cur ar ar Scursai caréis ouinn ar laise réin vo cur i 5commeas le neart an oume este. Tá 50 teor ruosi a tártaíonn in imeact bliana ná bímío iomlán cruinn in a otaob le nimeact-aimsire agus is mar seall ar sin isea a bionn pailte com croiuil as a luct leite roim an Irisean so Sac nollais, mar so mbionn ann cur-sios cruinn an éactaí na bliana agus 100 curta

Romainn 50 Seal, maisite, amail is mar a a bead scannán beas il-vaitte. Cá molad as out von easartóir asus vo sac vuine a cabruis leis in a cur le céile.

Da mait liom an deis seo do Ślacad le buiocas an Cumainn a cur in iúl do na milte imeartóirí—iománaite, peileadóirí asus luct liatróid láime—a dein a scion le dea-cáil an Cumainn a coimeád so hárd i rit na bliana asus ba mait liom, presiin, dea-méinn an Cumainn a tabairt d'ár bpobal líonmar as a noilseact.

Suím beannactaí na Nollaz azus atbliain ré sonas is ré séan oo luct léite Nuactán Zael.

pádrais ó caoim áro-Rúnaí



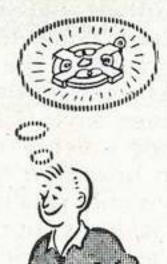
A Christmas greeting we would share, With Gaelic sportsfans everywhere,

With players, linesmen, referees, And those who serve on committees.





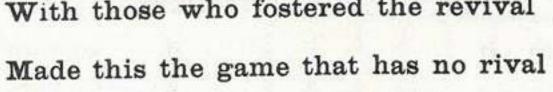
With "gossuns" on a minor team -All Ireland medal as their dream.





With he who triumphs at Croke Park And is the game's great patriarch.

With those who fostered the revival



To every sportsfan that we know,

A Happy Christmas from





MACTÁN JAEI OF OF THE GALLES

CUCHULAINN ANNUAL, 1960

ERRIERIE ERRE

TWELVE EVENTFUL MONTHS

Tá bliain eile curtha dhínn agus is iontach liom chomh tapúla agus d'imig an t-am ó'n uair sin anuraidh nuair a bhíomar ag obair ar an t-eagrán deireannach de'n bhliantán seo. Ach, mo léan, is fíor go bhfuilimíd-ne go léir bliain níos aosta agus chúis áthais don arís an "Cuchulainn Annual" do chur ar fáil do Ghaelibh uilig.

Christmas time is with us once again and, yet, it is hard to believe that twelve months in the world of Gaelic sport have passed since last we had the pleasure of preparing the "Cuchulainn Annual."

The year 1960 will go down in the annals of the Gaelic Athletic Association as that in which the men of Down brought the Sam Maguire Cup across the border for the first time. It will also be remembered as the year in which the hurlers of Wexford, imbued with all the courage and determination of their illustrious forebears of 1798, upset all calculations to regain the blue riband of hurling.

In 1960, too, Offaly footballers won their first Leinster senior trophy while London hurlers gained their own special niche in the hall of fame by winning the junior All-Ireland for the second time in succession. They were the first ever to do so and, by a strange coincidence, became the last to win that particular championship before the introduction of the new intermediate system.

The year just ended also witnessed a very definite step forward in Carlow's hurling progress.

You can read about all these historic events in the pages of this annual. They form but part of a complete review of the Gaelic year brought you by a talented team of the country's leading sportswriters, aided by prominent officials and players.

No effort has been spared to ensure that only the best possible material finds its way into these pages. I sincerely trust that it meets with your approval.

At the end of another successful year for the Gaelic Weekly I take this opportunity of thanking our readers, contributors, advertisers and all who in any way helped us during the past twelve months. Without them, all our efforts would have been but labour in vain.

I can assure them that their co-operation and support at all times has only steeled our resolve to do our utmost to make our weekly publication even bigger and better.

To these, to all players, officials and followers of Gaelic games, and especially to the soldiers of Ireland who are spending Christmas far away from their loved ones on the far

Teacthaireacht na Nollag By FRANK SHEEHY (Chairman)

BA chóir gur leór a rá libh "Go raibh Nollaig Shona shéanmhar agus Áth-bhliain fé mhaise agaibh go léir, a léitheóirí," ach níor leór, is dócha, an méid sin, ámh.

I have pleasure in wishing the readers a very happy Christmas from the Directors of "The Gaelic Weekly", and well to ye deserve such a wish. Without you, the paper would not now be in its fifth year and prospering. As the years go by, I am more than ever convinced that the establishment of "The Gaelic Weekly" was something that needed to be done.

Papers of this kind have been born, have lived a sickly life, and have died an unnatural death. Many people believed that a similar fate was in store for "The Gaelic Weekly", but, thanks to the enthusiasm of the Directors and of our staff, indoor and outdoor, the danger of death is now lifted from the paper, and it is hoped that our little periodical, while maintaining its general attitude on all things national, will go on to greater strength.

It gives me peasure to be associated with this Annual in a year in which G.A.A. history has been made by Down's All-Ireland victory and the first trip of the Sam Maguire Cup over the unnatural border imposed on us by an alien people and race.

I would like to express the very sincere thanks of the President, General Secretary and members of the Central Council of the G.A.A., without whose continuing support we would often have been in dire straits, because it cannot be denied that the annual tournament has been of immense financial help to us. Our thanks also to the counties who participated in this year's tournament, viz., Kerry, Dublin, Cavan and Fermanagh.

But, above and beyond all others, I thank you readers who buy the paper week-in, week-out.

Gura fada buan sibh agus go dtuga Dia go dtiocfaidh as ór n-iarrachtaí an tairbhe gur mbuan linn dór gcine.

Siedele de la company de la co

foreign fields of the Congo, I extend my best wishes for a holy and happy Christmas and a bright, prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Rath Dé oraibh go léir is go mheirimíd beo ar an am seo arís.

Gerry McCarthy,
Editor.

ROUND TOWER

táirgí a léiríonn scil agus ealaín an cheardaí thraidisiúnta maraon le tuiscint domheallta do chlaonta an lae inniu idir dhearadh agus faisean.

Bréidiní Lámhfhite, Earraí Lámhcniotala, Earraí Inneallcniotála, Bábóga Crolly, Bréagáin Tara, Líneadach Lámhbhróidnithe na h-Eireann, Earraí Taistil.

FIOSRUCHAIN TRADALA

GAELTARRA EIREANN

34, RAE AN IARTHAIR, ATH CLIATH

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* * * WEXFORD * * *

Glamour Team of 1960

JUDGED BY EVEN THE MOST EXACTING STANDARDS, WEXFORD WERE UNDOUBTEDLY THE GLAMOUR TEAM OF 1960.

Their devastating victory over Munster champions, Tipperary, in the All-Ireland final was the climax to a season during which the Model County swept the championship boards.

Every man on Wexford's allconquering team played a vital part in that great All-Ireland win. Teamwork and fitness were their pronounced assets and every player was at peak form on final day.

Unlike Tipperary, who carried their main hopes on Jimmy Doyle, Wexford's attack blended perfectly and it was this all-round striking force that carried the day.

Tipp's chief schemer, Jimmy Doyle, was well held by newcomer John Nolan, getting his baptism of fire in an inter-county test, and, thus disorganised, the Munster side fell easy prey to a rampaging Wexford team.

Wexford's newcomers looked to Nick O'Donnell, Padge Kehoe, Ned Wheeler, Tim Flood, Billy Rackard and Jim English for inspiration and confidence before the final day and the way Jimmy O'Brien, Jack Harding, Oliver McGrath, Tom Neville, John Mitchell and John Nolan performed in the big test showed how the veteran sextet played their parts even before the game started.

No praise is too high for the manner in which Jim Morrissey and Tim Flood, both recalled to the colours, settled into training and, altogether, this happy atmosphere preceding final day made all the players more determined than ever to bring the McCarthy Cup back to the Model County.

That great win over Tipperary, hailed as the wonder team of Munster, is now history, but that epic match will long remain the storied memory of Wexford folk for many a day to come.

Wexford had fifteen heroes that

day; no man was found wanting and all played their parts in a resounding win over their southern rivals.

SEAN POWER

well-known Wexford Journalist and a member of the County's All-Ireland selection.

. Seeds Sown

Going back to a hot June day in Kilkenny, Wexford really sowed the seeds of an All-Ireland win. In a pulsating Leinster semi-final against Dublin, the Model County hurlers turned back the Metropolitans' brave challenge and, at the end of a hectic 60 minutes, the teams finished on level terms.

Now the critics began to take notice; here they noted was another Wexford team with potential. But few envisaged what was to come.

In the re-play a few weeks later, Wexford showed their skill in disposing of Dublin, rather more comfortably than their margin of five points suggests, and in the Leinster final at Croke Park, the Model County stalwarts were impressive in holding off a great Kilkenny on-slaught.

Wexford had broken through the barrier and set out to bring the prized McCarthy Cup home again. In the six weeks' preparation before the final, they made some daring experiments and the success of these risks, if risks they were, showed the wisdom of the men who guided the affairs of the team.

To County Chairman, Mr. Sean Browne, T.D., and his close friend

and collaborator, now deceased, Mr. Liam Murphy, the secretary, must go a large meed of praise for the success of the team.

Having the advice of the team selectors, Messrs. N. Rackard, P. Hayes, M. Hanlon, P. Boggan and J. Walsh, these two officials worked unceasingly for the welfare of the players and did much to foster that great team-spirit that eventually carried Wexford to success.

The selectors, all shrewd judges of the game, made many wise moves during the championship campaign. Their chief successes were the recall of Jim Morrissey for the re-play against Dublin and the inclusion of John Nolan on the team for the All-Ireland, even though the Oylegate man had only very limited experience of inter-county hurling.

Throughout the whole season, Nick O'Donnell was an inspiring captain. His display in the All-Ireland was superlative, and no full-back of this era has surpassed the lion-hearted St. Aidan's man in daring or efficiency.

Pat Nolan had a great year in goal and, when Wexford were under Dubiln pressure in the Leinster semi-final, the Model County netminder proved himself in the top class. He continued his success against Kilkenny in the Provincial decider when he even outshone Olly Walsh, and he also took the spotlight with some thrilling saves against Tipperary.

Both corner backs, Tom Neville and John Mitchell, drafted into action at the beginning of the year, improved with every outing and were at their best against Tipp while, out in the half-back line, Billy Rackard, if only for his brilliance against Kilkenny, had a big share in the final triumph. Jim English moved into top gear as the year progressed and John Nolan,

(Continued Overleaf)

WEXFORD-GLAMOUR TEAM OF 1960

(from previous page)

who took over from the injured Mick Morrissey in the final, had a dream debut.

It is appropriate that tribute should be paid here to Mick Morrissey, now in the U.S., for his great contribution to Wexford hurling over the year. An unfortunate accident a week before the final kept him out of the side.

Jim Morrissey, moved from centreforward to mid-field for the final,
played a big part in that success,
and he teamed up with Ned Wheeler
to form a powerful centre-field pairing. Wheeler struck a golden patch
against Dublin in the first game at
Kilkenny — his whirlwind hurling
that day kept Wexford very much
in the picture.

Scorer-in-Chief

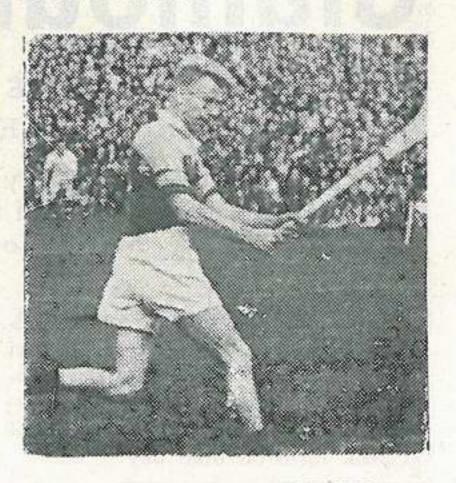
The evergreen Padge Keogh, on the '40' mark, was Wexford's scorer-in-chief and many will recall his wonderful accuracy, especially from placed balls. It's accepted that Wexford hurling will be very much poorer when Padge retires.

The success of wing-forwards Seamus Quaide and Jimmy O'Brien on All-Ireland final day wrought havoc amongst the reputedly castiron Tipp defence — Quaide's speed off the mark often had Mick Burns floundering, while O'Brien seemed to have the Indian sign on John Doyle. This dominance gave the inside trio of Tim Flood, Jack Harding and Oliver ("Hopper") McGrath all the scope they needed.

McGrath's golden goal, shortly after the interval, was really the death-knell of Tipp's hopes and Flood's flying solo-runs in the second-half accentuated the Munster team's distress. Harding, at full-forward, was a real live-wire and his inclusion in this berth at the beginning of the campaign was another master stroke by the selectors.

The Model County rounded off their championship campaign in a blaze of glory and added to their already proud reputation in eliminating such teams as Dublin, Kilkenny and Tipp.

WEXFORD WERE BACK AGAIN ON THE CREST OF THE WAVE, BACK TO STAY THIS TIME AFTER FOUR YEARS IN THE HURLING DOLDRUMS.



NED WHEELER . . . STRUCK a GOLDEN PATCH AGAINST DUBLIN IN THE FIRST GAME AT KILKENNY.

ST. LUA' BRAND HURLEYS

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DOWN'S HISTORY-MAKING TRIUMPH



BY
DAN
McCARTAN

On Down's

All-Ireland team

THE crowded memories of that historic hour at Croke Park on September 25 are still jostling so madly in my mind that I can scarcely remember the exact moment in which I knew for certain that Down had won the 1960 All-Ireland football title . . . that the Sam Maguire Cup was bound for its first visit to the sundered six counties.

It could have been in those dramatic seconds when Johnny Culloty walked to the back of the Kerry net for the ball that my brother James had lashed in from 40 yards; or, more probably, it could have been the sight of the net billowing from Paddy Doherty's pile-driving penalty goal a few minutes later.

But whenever it was, the "moment of truth" came in a blinding flash of joy that was echoed and amplified ten thousand times in the thunderous cheering of our followers

I think every Down player felt as I did in that exhilirating second. But even in the certainty of success we sensed the disturbing prickles of apprehension. Down were two goals clear: the lead looked safe. But behind that scoreboard lurked the danger of the legendary Kerry rally.

So we took no chances. Clinching scores were still needed—every last one of them. We knew how Kerry had shattered similar leads in finals of the past. There must be no let up. The Kingdom rally never came, however—although it could be said that we made sure it wouldn't!

NO SECRETS

Many times since that great September evening I've been asked to explain the reason for Down's resounding victory . . . what was the secret behind our rapid rise to the "summit" of the football world.

There were no secrets; and if one "reason" can provide the impetus necessary to reach the top, then, the winning of an All-Ireland title would be a very simple exercise indeed.

There were, of course, a wide range of reasons and a vast amount of hard work behind Down's football resurgence. Chief of these was the positive team-building policy embarked upon by men like Maurice Hayes, George Tinnely, Arthur Doran, Barney Carr and Brian Denvir a few years ago. This policy was based on the recruitment of young players of ability around a nucleus of experienced men.

The winds of success began to blow in 1958, when Down won the Ulster junior and minor titles. From there on the pace quickened, and the first major advance emerged when the senior team beat Galway in the 1959 Wembley tournament—I came on as a sub that day, and later found a regular place on the side.

A resounding victory over Cavan in the Ulster final that year was further proof that the County Committee's policy and strategy (and, I suppose, the players' interpretation of both) were dead on target. However, if there was a tendency towards complacency or cocksuredness in the county at that time, it was handed a heavy jolt when Galway whacked us in the All-Ireland semi-final.

But we quickly realised the cause of that set-back. Staleness. We had trained hard for all our important matches through the year, and we had slipped past the neak of fitness at a time when we should just be reaching it!

It was dearly-bought experience, but the men in charge of the team were determined to benefit by it. They knew—and we knew—that Down could win an All-Ireland title within the next two or three years.

ERRORS RECTIFIED

The training errors of 1959 were rectified in 1960. The fervour of our approach to each game was modified, and a well-planned schedule of physical exercises took precedence over ball practice—which we got enough of in a heavy programme of competitive matches, anyway. The peak loomed ahead in September this time, and we had no intention of scaling it too hurriedly.

Our progress through the past season is too well known to warrant detailed review here, but I think it is necessary to mention that the most important single factor on our road to All-Ireland success was that win over Kerry in the National League semi-final. We knew then that we could beat the best, and when we won the competition in the final against Cavan our self-assurance was consolidated.

Paradoxically, two subsequent defeats—against Kerry in a challenge and against Derry in the McKenna Cup final—helped considerably to whip us into shape for the steep championship road. We had to prove to ourselves that those slips were only temporary—the result of a strenuous League campaign.

Thus we went over to London to play Galway in the Wembley tournament in a very determined mood. This was the time to stop the rot. We did it, and our confidence was fully restored.

Did I say somewhere that the championship road was steep? You can be sure of it. Offaly very nearly toppled us in the semi-final!

(Continued overleaf)

DOWN'S HISTORY-MAKING TRIUMPH

After we had beaten Cavan in the Ulster final and when Offaly came out of Leinster, we told ourselves (and everybody told us): there must be no complacency. It was sound advice, and we pulled up our socks, so to speak, and got ready for a hard battle.

Looking back on it now, however, I am convinced that somewhere below the surface of consciousness we harboured the idea that this Offaly team would be a push-over. Down, as raw recruits to the big-time Croke Park stuff, had failed at the same stage in 1959. Newcomers Offaly could hardly do better!

That subconscious attitude was very nearly our undoing. Offaly turned out a magnificent team whose strong tackling threw us off our usual game. We barely survived!

I would like to go on record now as saying that they were the best team we met in 1960. And I shall be very surprised, indeed, if they don't win an All-Ireland within the next two or three years.

Those two games against Offaly did us the world of good; we were now in top physical trim, and we were confident that we had Kerry's measure in the final. So it transpired—and the rest is history.

We have been told on all sides since that we should have beaten Kerry by two more goals. How? If Paddy Doherty hadn't hit the post and if Tony Hadden hadn't blazed over the bar in the early minutes of the game.

It is my opinion that we might have lost the final if Paddy and Tony had scored those goals. And I'll tell you why. It has been one of Down's faults all along to lie on

an early lead. Remember the Ulster final? We got two shock goals in the first few minutes of the game, and then Cavan came back to level in the second half—and almost pipped us.

The same thing could have happened in the All-Ireland final. Kerry would have had ample time to close ranks and launch their rally. As it happened, however, our goals came just at the right time—near the midway stage of the second half. We were then in full cry, and Kerry couldn't recover.

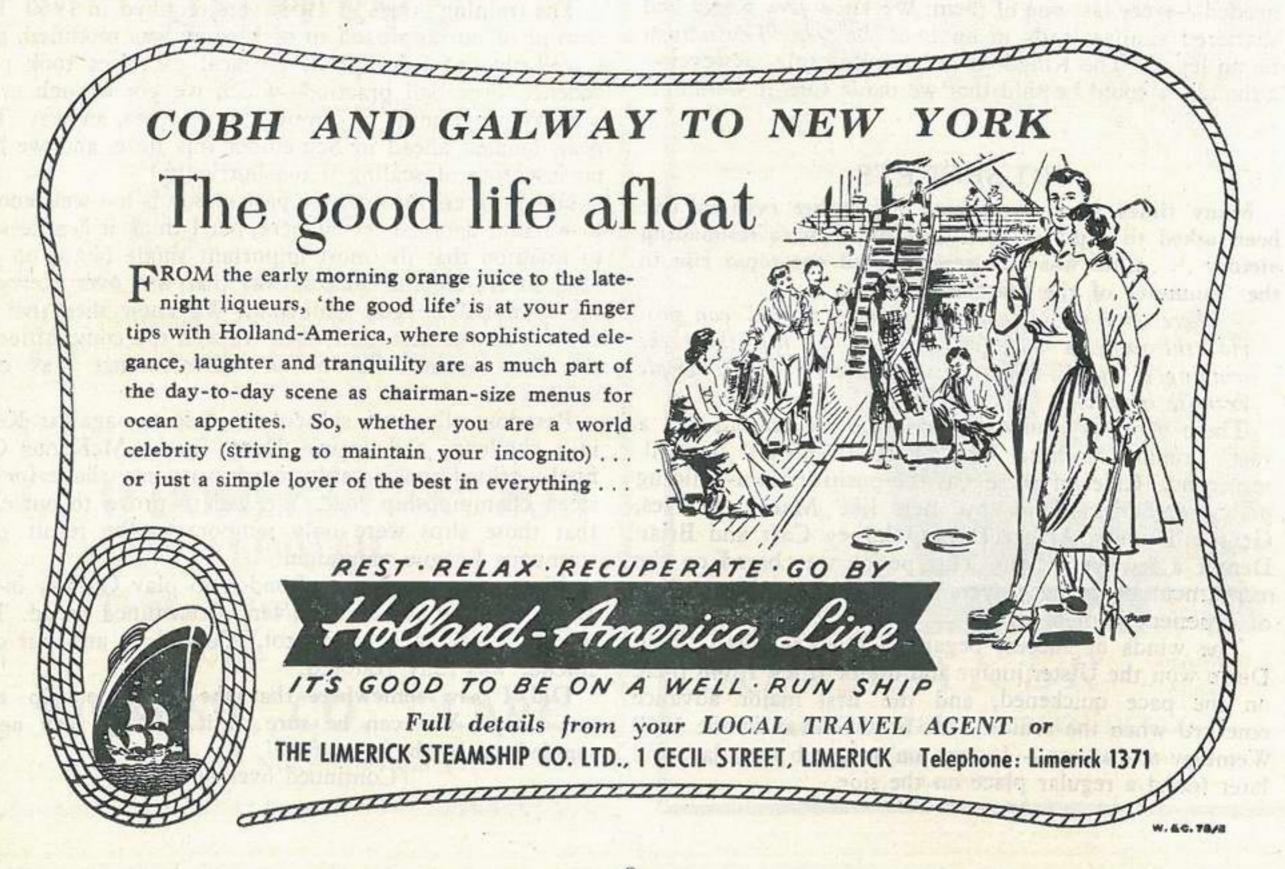
"WE ARE GOING TO TRY"

What are our chances in 1961? It is hard to say; for it takes an extraordinary effort to stay at the top for two consecutive seasons. But I can tell you this quite frankly: WE ARE GOING TO TRY.

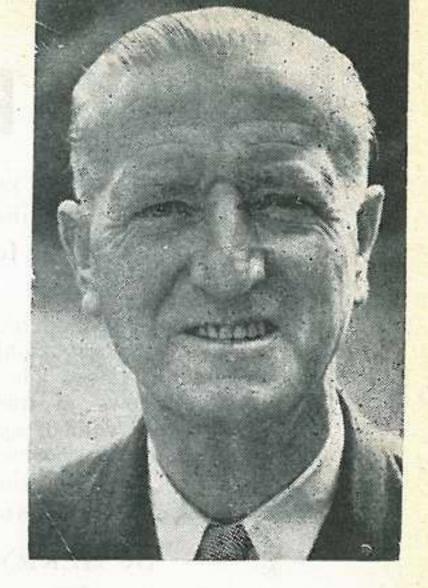
The final whistle that day meant more to Down than the title of All-Ireland champions, and a gold medal for each of the players. It was the glorious culmination of many long years of striving; the rich harvest of success that had sprouted and ripened from the dedicated seeds sown by scores of great Down players over all the barren decades.

They never achieved what we did, not because of lesser ability, but because the training technique of their time didn't reach the required standard.

That was certainly no fault of the old (and not so old) timers, and for that reason we are proud to proclaim that All-Ireland victory, when it did come, was theirs as much as ours.



COLLEGE WAR THRAIN.G



THE Editor has invited me to record for the readers of his timely and Gaelic journal—
the "Cuchulainn Annual"—my views in record to what he was a little of the second to was a litt Time Collective Training.

Prior to and since the introduction of the G.A.A. ban on this type of training, many words have been written in approval and otherwise. Those in approval rested their case on either that of alleged "professionalism," or because of the introduction of "tension" or other undesirable "atmospheres" into the collective training camps.

Let us examine these arguments and see if they constitute sufficient grounds for the "ban." "Professionalism" is capable of many differing interpretations, and probably in this context is regarded as a condition which invalidates what is referred to as the "Amateur status".

The rules of the G.A.A. do not define or even refer to "amateurism". The "aims and objects" of the Association are defined in the general rules as "the preservation and promotion of Ireland's National Games and Pastimes". The only general restriction on its members is that "The Association shall be non-political and non-sectarian".

Dictionaries define an Amateur as "an athlete who has not engaged in contests open to professional athletes, or used any athletic art as a livelihood". This would be in accord with the view held by most members of the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

I had the honour of being Ireland's sole representative at the I.A.A.F. meeting in Berlin in May, 1930. One of the main discussions at this meeting was the amateur status of athletes who were granted hotel and travelling expenses to compete at athletic meets in other countries.

Practically all delegates, from the many countries represented, expressed the view in keeping with the above definition of an Amateur, and distinguished the "professional" from the "amateur" as one who made his livelihood from the sport concerned. On this acceptation it would be difficult to regard any playing member of the G.A.A. as a "professional."

The paying of travelling and hotel expenses to team members of the Association does not arise, as these are sanctioned by scale where referred to in the rules. There can, therefore, be no valid objection to these payments covering the players in collective training camps.

the "Cuchulainn Annual"-my views in regard to what has come to be termed Full-

What, however, is the position of the payments for loss of wages and out of pocket expenses during the training periods? Surely these are necessarily incurred by our players, who are not so circumstanced economically as to suffer such losses. Looked on from such viewpoints, these players can never be regarded as exploiting the Art of Gaelic games for "livelihood" purposes.

DEAL WITH EACH ON ITS MERITS

Should situations develop in any county training camps that might be regarded as savouring of "professional" practices, surely reasonable administrators should be competent to investigate and deal with each such situation on its merits.

A general ban, as now enforced, could mean an embargo on something whose merits might substantially outweigh the alleged objections. If this could be proved, as I believe it can, then a moral case would be established against the ban enforcement. Nobody has ever suggested total prohibition of such a therapeutic weapon as alcohol, simply because a number of individuals bring it into disrepute by abusive use.

Firstly, the banning of the full-time form of training, while permitting other restricted forms of collective training, has created a definite injustice, in the case of some counties, notably County Kerry.

Here in the Kingdom, only the full-time type of training is at all practicable. Apart from the fact that many members of the All-Ireland teams, sometimes constituting the majority of the players, are domiciled in many distant centres, such as Dublin, Cork and other cities and towns, the normal residences of the other players are situated in many different and distant parts of the country.

The evening collective type of training becomes an impossibility, certainly from the point of view of proper training. One can readily see the comparative injustice to Kerry as against those counties whose training engagements involve only a short bus ride each evening.

AN INJUSTICE

Such a discriminary advantage is an injustice that conflicts with the lofty ideals of the G.A.A. If one admits that there is a case for a collective training ban, then common justice calls for an embargo on every type of collective training. The scales of justice should have (overleaf)

KERRY RETAIN CUCHULAINN TROPHY

FOR the second year running Kerry won the "Gaelic Weekly" tournament and thus kept the magnificent Cuchulainn Trophy in the Kingdom. The competition this year had several unique features, not the least being the participation for the first time of Cavan and Fermanagh.

The first semi-final took place on Thursday, August 10, at Parnell Park, Dublin, and a fine attendance was present when Cavan and Dublin took the field. Owing to' a break-down in transport, the Breffni men were forced to start without some of the selected fifteen.

Pressed into service was none other than their old All-Ireland stalwart, Simon Deignan, who gallantly

By GERRY McCARTHY

stood between the posts. With this belated, and totally unexpected appearance in the familiar Royal Blue jersey, Simon achieved the distinction of playing for Cavan in all fifteen positions.

The game itself was highly entertaining, although lacking somewhat in "bite." Dublin won comfortably enough, but the Cavan forwards were guilty of some atrocious shooting in the first-half when their team had a decided territorial advantage.

History was made in the second semi-final when

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Kerry made the long journey to Irvinestown on Sunday, August 14, to engage Fermanagh. It was the Kingdom's first appearance on Fermanagh soil and also marked their first official game in the Six Counties. And what a warm welcome they received from the Gaels of the Maguire County!

(Continued on page 17)

FULL-TIME COLLECTIVE TRAINING

(Continued from previous page)

an overriding effect in the constituting of any prohibition. This moral argument has not, I believe, ever been advanced or considered.

Secondly, there are other reasons, mainly technical, which call for a revision of the Association's attitude in the matter. The necessity for the full and proper preparation of teams for the main engagements of the Association cannot be opposed on any grounds.

Spectators, be they partisan or otherwise, expect the highest quality of performance from competing teams. Otherwise, All-Ireland finals and semi-finals will fall short of the spectacle that has now become part and parcel of these games. Should our big games deteriorate for lack of such preparation, then we may reach a situation where we may possibly have "killed the goose that lays the golden egg".

It is in such training camps that suitable opportunity is afforded to develop to the full all the skills in our games that tend to raise their standard. This is particularly true of combination skills, which can only be developed in regular group training and not otherwise.

If our games are to reach higher standards in play, as they are tending to, this will be achieved mainly in improving combination tactics. Every encouragement, therefore, is necessary in the promotion of collective training efforts.

SECOND MAIN OBJECTION

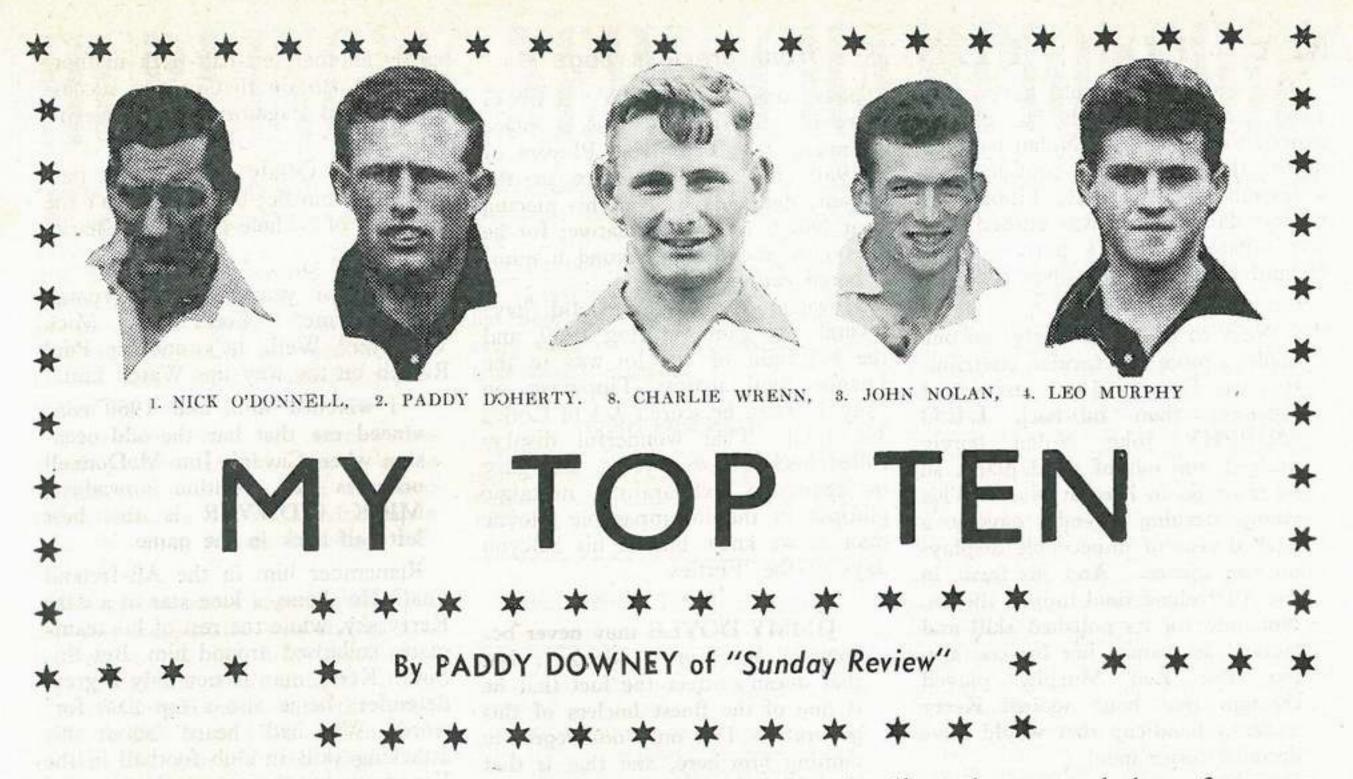
Finally, it is important to dispose of the second main objection to the promotion of collective training camps, namely, that concerning the alleged development of "tensions", "atmospheres", etc. A properly-planned training schedule of work, rest, play and sleep should be so blended as to create in the camp is jolly, if busy, atmosphere, where dissensions, unpleasantness and every undesirable trend should find no place.

I can only speak from the practical experience of many Kerry training camps, covering a period of over 35 years. All these occasions, without exception, were characterised by a spirit of camaraderie, friendliness and pleasantness that contributed so remarkably to the development of the general fitness of the players concerned.

For all these reasons, I would make a strong plea for the removal of this training embargo. This would enable each county to make whatever training arrangements its Board considers necessary to put its teams into the best possible form for its major engagements, so as to lead to the best possible results for the games and for the counties concerned.

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THE silent playing fields are shrouded in grey mist and tall goalposts stab lean fingers into leaden skies. Time to draw the chairs closer to crackling fires, while the cheers of a dead season fade faintly in the wind . . . time to flip through the memories and images of longer, brighter days . . . action-packed days . . . and from them, pick out, one by one and game by game, the star players of the old year.

It has become a pleasant pastime for most followers of the national games nowadays; but for the newspaper man, this seasonal occupation carries a hidden hazard: the grave risk that, when his list of chosen stars appears in print, the wrath of thousands of readers will fall heavily on his unfortunate head — and just because it doesn't agree with their selections!

Some of the men I have chosen as the Ten Best Players of 1960 will probably meet with unanimous approval; others will doubtless evoke heated comment. Nevertheless, I now present my Top Ten with a certain degree of confidence that the "heckling" will not be too hot! Here they are:

The No. 1 accolade goes unhesitatingly to Wexford's hurling full-back and All-Ireland captain, NICK O'DONNELL.

This amazing man gets better as the years go by. And 1960 saw him at his greatest. Remember the AllIreland final? The scores of outstanding games he has played during 14 years of inter-county hurling were all dwarfed by the magnificence of his performance in that match against Tipperary.

This was O'Donnell at his superb best: cool, courageous. colossal; hurling with the controlled power and immense skill of the master fullback.

This invincible Kilkenny - born defender is not only the best full-back in the game to-day; he is the best that hurling has produced in the past quarter of a century. And there are men—whose memories go back far enough—who tell me that he is the greatest the game has ever known.

From here on the order of merit takes some unravelling. But, in all justice, the No. 2 spot must go to a man who, more than any of his team-mates, is responsible for Down's rapid rise to glory. That man is PADDY DOHERTY.

Off days he may have had; but Doherty sparkled in ALL Down's vital games through the year. And his mammoth total of 11 goals and 77 points, compiled in 19 games from February to November, is ample testimony to the part he played in that record-making victory march. None of his forward colleagues came anywhere near that figure.

One item on Paddy Doherty's score-sheet deserves special mention. It says: 1-7 out of a team-total of 1-10 in the drawn All-Ireland semi-final against Offaly. That magnificent contribution kept a surprisingly sluggish Down team in the hunt for the title that they were later to win so handsomely.

My No. 3 choice may look surprising at first glance. Yet, there can be no quibble about this man's qualifications for inclusion here. And just for one performance. But what a performance that was; and what a vital time, too!

JOHN NOLAN was handed the mightiest task of his short hurling career when the Wexford selectors named him for the left half-back position on their All-Ireland final team—the task of marking, and holding, Tipp's scoring wizard, Jimmy Doyle.

MY TOP TEN

This assignment would have overawed many men with far greater experience. But young Nolan handled it with the coolness and confidence of a veteran. Jimmy Doyle, Tipperary's biggest danger man, was curbed, and after that, Wexford's path to All-Ireland victory was an open road.

> Next to Paddy Doherty, no one made a more spectacular contribution to Down's 1960 stream of successes than full-back LEO MURPHY. John Nolan barely nudged him out of third place; so he must go in here at No. 4. This young, dashing defender gave us a packed year of impeccable displays on the square. And his form in the All-Ireland final topped the lot. Not only for its polished skill and tactical assurance; but for courage, too. For Leo Murphy played through that hour against Kerry under a handicap that would have daunted lesser men.

Few knew, as he took the field, that the tall Down full-back was still struggling with a painful ankle injury (sustained a few weeks earlier)... that he had to have medical treatment just before the game. But he scoffed at the pain, and the risk that he ran, and played a storming part in Down's rampant romp to the title.

At No. 5 I nominate that Wonder Man of the West — SEAN PURCELL of Galway. Although now slipping past his best, does anyone dare deny that Purcell is still the finest forward in football? Following a rather inconspicuous start to the season, he quickly regained his form, and pulled Galway through the Connacht championship and on to the All-Ireland semi-final.

Playing mostly at full-forward, the

Tuam star's acute football brain and

all-round skill often made the best

efforts of team-mates and opponents

Galway scored 0-8 in the semifinal against Kerry: Purcell notched 0-7 of that. Galway's score-total in the Connacht championship games was 5-18. Purcell's share? 4-11! Which goes to prove that, at the moment, to mention Sean Purcell's name is just another way of saying "Galway football team."

Had he played only one game during the past season, and that a

from previous page

poor one, CHRISTY RING would still qualify for a place among the Ten Best Players of 1950. His very presence in the game demands it. And his placing at No. 6 is hardly relative; for he is now above and beyond a numbered rating.

However, the Corkman did have several fine games during 1960, and the highlight of the lot was in the League final against Tipperary on May 1, when he scored 3-4 of Cork's 3-8 total. That wonderful display rolled back a dozen years, and gave us again an exhilarating, nostalgic glimpse of the incomparable Cloyne man as we knew him in his halcyon days of the 'Forties.

JIMMY DOYLE may never become a Ring or a Mackey; but that doesn't affect the fact that he is one of the finest hurlers of this generation. I've only one regret in naming him here, and that is that I couldn't have placed him higher up the list than No. 7.

Doyle was held in Tipperary's most vital game of the year — the All-Ireland final. Right. But consider the rest of it. His fabulous scoring feats in nine big inter-county games —championship, league and tournament — reached the grand total of 11-51. And that includes 4-3 against Limerick in the Munster championship; 1-8 against Cork in the southern decider (although he was well held for three-quarters of the hour that day) and 2-10 against Kilkenny in the Oireachtas semi-final.

Jimmy Doyle's hurling all through 1960 was sheer delight to watch. Be sure that we will see even greater stickwork from this young Thurles lad in the years ahead.

I'm worried about Offaly. Several of the Midlanders were really outstanding over the past twelve months; yet, none of them stood out clearly above his fellows.

However, as I can choose only one at this late stage on the list, the No. 8 position goes to CHARLIE WRENN.

The Air Corps utility man was consistently good in all his games; but he was really great in the drawn and replayed All-Ireland semi-final against Down. Great, because he snuffed out the Sean O'Neill threat on both occasions — and there is

hardly another left-half-back in football who can do that in two successive games against the Queen's winger.

Granted, Offaly failed to get past the Down hurdle; but that wasn't the fault of whole-hearted Charlie

About two years ago, a Kerryman said to me: "You know Mick O'Dwyer? Well, he's another Paul Russell on the way up. Watch him."

I watched him, and 1960 convinced me that bar the odd occasion when Cavan's Jim McDonnell occupies the position nowadays, MICK O'DWYER is the best left-half-back in the game.

Remember him in the All-Ireland final? He shone, a lone star in a dark Kerry sky, while the rest of his teammates collapsed around him. But this South Kerry man is not only a great defender: he is also a top-class forword. We had heard about his attacking skill in club football in the Kingdom; but we got sparkling proof of it when, at centre-forward, he bamboozled and bewildered Dublin in the Gaelic Weekly final in October.

A No. 9 place is scarcely good enough for a man who gave us those displays.

Nor does the No. 10 spot do full justice to the outstanding games which JIM McDONNELL played for Ulster and Cavan in the early part of the season. McDonnell was magnificent for his province in the Railway Cup games, and even more so for Cavan in the final stages of the League. There is no doubt about his claim to a place in the Ten Best Players of 1960.

There were, of course, many candidates for inclusion on that list; but, with a limit of ten places, I was reluctantly forced to omit such top 1960 stars as Padge Kehoe, Jim English, Ned Wheeler, (Wexford), James McCartan, Tony Hadden, Kevin Mussen, Pat Rice (Down); Frank Evers (Galway), Mick O'Connell (Kerry), Gabriel Kelly, James Brady (Cavan), Donie O'Hanlon, Sean Egan, Harry Donnelly (Offaly), Jimmy Brohan, Mick Cashman (Cork), Eddie Keher (Kilkenny), Liam Devaney (Tipperary).

'Bye, now: I'm ducking. And a happy Christmas.

NEW CHAMPIONSHIP HURLINGS

THE year 1887 is well known to all followers of the game of hurling as it was the season of the first Senior Championship. Thirteen teams took part and it was played as an "Open Draw Competition." Tiobrad Arann, represented by Dúrlas Éile, beat Gallimh, represented by Mileach in the final.

That was the only competition until 1912 when the Junior grade started and Corcaigh won the first title. Then, in 1928 Corcaigh again won the first Minor Hurling All-Ireland.

Thirty-two years have passed since this last competition was started and hurling is not yet fully established throughout the whole country. The year 1961 will rank with the years 1887, 1912 and 1928, because it marks the year of the first All-Ireland Intermediate Competition.

That there will be a new All-Ireland Competition in 1961 will come as a surprise to some, while others will not just be familiar with the developments that led to it. All may wish, however, to read the facts again, and then be in a better position to offer criticism.

Reports from County Conventions in late January, 1958, showed that Galway wanted a fifth province for hurling and that Kildare wanted an "Arranged Draw." In the weeks before Congress, the merits of both schemes were weighed, and it became obvious that all was not well with the hurling competitions.

Easter Monday, 1958, newspaper reports told their own tale-"No change in Hurling Competitions." The Galway motion had been well beaten, but the Kildare one by only a small margin of four votes.

Both debates were healthy, and it was obvious that many people were giving much thought to the problem and a possible solution. Some time later, Mr. Padraig McNamee, a trustee of the Association, and a former President, asked Central Council to establish a Commission to examine the whole question of hurling and advise a solution.

The Commission is known as "Coisde na h-Iomana" and is presided over by the President of the Association, Dr. J. J. Stuart. The General Secretary sits with the Committee and acts as its secretary, and the members are: Rev. Fr Gantly (Galway). Mr. P. Farrell (Dublin), Mr. L. Harvey (Antrim), Mr. C. Murphy (Cork). Mr. P. Fanning (Waterford), Mr. N. Rackard (Wexford) and Capt. T. N. Leyne (Kildare).

The Coisde has met often, if quietly, and made recommendations to both Central Council and Congress. It is a tribute to these bodies, and to the wisdom of the recommendations, that not even one has been returned for amendment. In every case, recommendations have been unanimously accepted.

ONE DEFECT

The most outstanding recommendation that has been made is that "An Intermediate Competition" be established. This was agreed to by Annual Congress

By CAPT. T. N. LEYNE

1960, and will be a feature of the competitions in 1961.

There is but one defect that I can see. That is that, according to Rule 73 O.G., the runners-up in the competition will not receive trophies. This is, I feel, an oversight, and I hope to include a motion to Convention this year to clarify it. I am sure that it was never intended to deprive the Intermediate runners-up of suitable trophies.

Since there will be four hurling competitions in the 1961 series I felt that fixtures would be more crowded than ever. On examination I find that a county may only enter teams in three grades, so that there will not be an increase in the number of games unless those counties out of competition start Minor or Junior teams in 1961. The extra games necessary for this reason would be indeed

welcome. Below I show the grades that Counties may compete in.

The Senior Championship will continue with two Provincial competitions and the winners meeting in the final on the first Sunday in September. There will be six counties in each province.

The Intermediate Championship will follow a similar pattern. All counties of Munster and Galway play in one Provincial Competition. In Leinster, the counties of the senior competition will compete with the best teams from Meath, Carlow and Antrim, who play by permission in this Provincial title race. The respective Provincial winners meet in the Home Final and the winners play

London in the final proper.

The Junior Competition will be played on the Provincial basis as for football. This will mean that Kerry will represent Munster as the only county in that province entitled to have a Junior team. Galway, out of Connaught for hurling purposes, will leave the other four counties to fight it out. Antrim Juniors will compete in Ulster and it is expected that all counties will be represented. In Leinster, Meath and Carlow second teams, with Wicklow, Kildare and, I hope, Louth and Longford should make a very interesting competition. As in the Intermediate Competition the winners at home will play the winners of the Province of Britain in the final proper. The second London team will compete with the other five or six teams there. The London Intermediate team will not have competition until the final, but this is unavoidable.

MUST PLAY FIRST

To ensure that the Junior teams get a fair deal, the Intermediate teams must (Continued on page 72)

Senior	Intermediate	Junior	Minor
Clare. Cork. Dublin. Galway. Kilkenny. Laois. Limerick. Offaly. Tipperary. Waterford. Westmeath. Wexford.	Clare, Cork. Dublin. Galway. Kilkenny. Laois. Limerick. Offaly. Tipperary. Waterford. Westmeath. Wexford. Meath. Kerry. Antrim. Carlow. London.	NO ENTRY ALLOWED. Meath. Kerry. Antrim. Carlow. Kildare. Wicklow. Louth. Longford. Armagh. Fermanagh. Donegal. Derry. Down. Cavan. Tvrone. Monaghan. Leitrim. Sligo. Mayo. Roscommon. London and others of English Province.	AN ENTRY EXPECTED FROM EACH OF THE 32 COUNTIES

* The Year in Hurling

N any survey of hurling activities in 1960, Wexford's great and totally unexpected triumph over Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior final must take precedence over all other events. Although happenings before and after the All-Ireland suggest that Tipperary were, and are, the better team, there is no closing one's eyes to the fact that the superiority of Wexford was by no means truly mirrored in the final tally of 2-15 to 0-11.

Some few whose duty it is to express publicly their views on the likely outcome of a match did, I concede, give the vote to the Model County, but to this day I cannot fathom the basis of their conclusions.

I know they have been proved right, but I cannot help feeling that their choice was born of the desperation of a punter who, scornful of the price of a favourite, picks a complete outsides, and when success attends his efforts rejoices in the profundity of hi knowledge.

No effort whatsoever is being made to question the merit of Wexford's victory—they were incomparably the better team, but why they were so much superior will always remain a mystery to me.

Some say that Tipperary were overtrained, others affirm they were overconfident, while some go so far as to say that "they beat nothing" in the Munster championship and that the bubble was burst when they encountered a side of real merit.

That latter opinion is hardly sustainable in the light of what happened in the Oireachtas semi-énal when a Cork side, that had been described as a team of old men, well and truly outclassed the Model County in the match abandoned after eighteen minutes of the second half, with Cork leading by 4-4 to 1-4.

OVERDID IT

Even in those days when the hardy annual of full-time collective training is almost invariably raised at Congress, it may seem untenabe to suggest that Tipperary were over-trained. But the Premier County, without breaching the rule in any way, trained their men at will and, because of their happy, or unhappy position, they seem to have over-done it.

They trained for the League engagement against Limerick, for the League decider against Cork and for the championship encounters against Limerick, Waterford, Cork and Wexford, and now many wiser, but sadder, Tipperary folk venture the opinion that the team was tired of hurling. But then, when one meets those who query if there was too long a spell between the Munster final and the commencement of training for the All-Ireland, the whole matter becomes so confusing that the match is likely to be

By JOHN D. HICKEY of the Irish Independent

an animated subject of discussion during the "long starvation", the present period of inactivity on the playing fields as far as inter-county competition is concorned.

There is only one positive finding about the match—that Wexford were far and away the better team and well and truly deserved their distinction against a side rated the team of all the talents.

NOT A GREAT YEAR

With the exception of the Tipperary-Cork Munster final, the brilliance of Wexford's Nick O'Donnell in the All-Ireand final, and the hurling of Jimmy Doyle and Liam Devaney throughout the year, it was not a great twelve months for the game.

Many games were satisfying, but there is a vast gulf between the entertaining match and the epic combat, and, everything considered, the uprise of Carlow in the code was one of the big events of the year.

Down the years there has been much lamentation that all that might be done for the game is not being done. The Central Counil is the butt of most who subscribe to that view. But all the Central Councils that ever were cannot achieve anything tangible unless the local wil is there to propagate the greatest game in the world.

Carlow was not given preferential treatment, but look at what they have accomplished in the year under review. Their junior hurlers thundered through Leinster and, with all due respect to London, I feel sure Carlow would have hall-marked the year with victory in the

All-Ireland final had they not been assailed by the "fifth column" of many a team, a feeling of complacency when, apparently, coasting to an easy win.

It would be absurd to suggest that Carlow are in any way more favourably placed than any of what might be described as the struggling hurling counties. But the difference between Carlow and those others is that Carlow have the will to be up and doing while others wail that "ash is so scarce that it is almost impessible to procure hurleys", or that "where they are available the cost is almost prohibitive".

All such talk, to my mind, is an effort to escape from, or a reluctance to, bending the back to the task of developing the game, admittedly a job that calls for hard work, and plenty of it.

It may be considered that the terms of reference of this article—a review of hurling activities in 1960—have been by-passed. But, the major happenings of the year excepted, it appears much more appropriate that we should devote out attention to "hurling inactivities in 1960".

INACTIVITY

Many counties stand accused on that charge of inactivity. I know there will be an outcry at such a suggestion, but for my own part, I am convinced, and, what is more, I am standing by my conviction, that most counties are playing at hurling rather than playing hurling, and, believe me, there is a world of difference between the two approaches to the game.

If there was more work and less talk about the sad state of the game in most of our counties, there would be less cause for talk and more hurling.

TO MY MIND, EACH COUNTY IN WHICH THERE IS NO MORE THAN A TOKEN ATTEMPT TO PLAY THE GAME SHOULD MAKE A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION TO SEEK MOST ELABORATE DETAILS FROM CARLOW AS TO HOW THEY CAME FROM NOWHERE TO HOLD GUT BRIGHT HOPE THAT THEY HAVE FOUND THE FORMULA THAT IT HAS BEEN BEYOND THE INGENUITY OF MANY OTHER COUNTRIES TO FIND.

Connaught Review

OST notable feature of the Gaelic Year in Connaught was the "grand slam" achievement of the Galway footballers in annexing the Province's three football titles. St. Jarlath's College, Tuam did likewise in Colleges, while, to crown a great year for Galway in general, St. Mary's College, Galway, monopolised the hurling titles.

Galway footballers won their fifth successive Connaught Senior football title, thus equalling the feat of Mayo's 1905-1910 combination. Galway's minor footballers won the county's second ever All-Ireland title in very convincing fashion, after looking a good prospect from the very beginning of the championship. Galway's junior footballers performed very creditably in reaching the All-Ireland Home Final, before falling to Dublin in a hard-fought game. In the Senior Football Semi-final, Galway almost caused a shock before losing to Kerry by one goal, on the score 1-8 to 0-8.

On the hurling front, the feat of the Galway minor hurlers in reaching the Munster final, and putting up a very creditable performance, must be recorded. The displays of the seniors, in going under to Waterford, and of the juniors, in yielding to Cork, by a big margin, are hardly worthy of mention.

St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, won their third Hogan Cup title, defeating St. Finian's College, Mullingar, in a great Final, at Athlone. St. Mary's College, Galway, went under to St. Peter's College, Wexford, in a replayed All-Ireland Colleges' S.H. semi-final, after missing their chance on the first day.

Galway cailini contested the Camogie Final with Dublin, but, though defeated, deserve credit for an unexpected victory in the semi-final over fancied Antrim at Casement Park, Belfast.

Leitrim footballers failed to Galway in the Connaught Senior Final for the fourth successive year. Surely their turn is around the corner, or will it be Galway again next year?

Tuam Stars won their eighth successive Galway Senior Football title—a truly great achievement.

Castlebar Mitchell's became the first club side to tour the U.S. from this side. We hope that the headline set by this enterprising Mayo club will be followed by many more in the future.

1960 also saw that grand game in Tuam between Tuam Stars and St. Vincent's (Dublin), with the Tuam side winning on the remarkable score of 1-19



by JACK MAHON
Galway's star defender

to 4-7. The above were, in general, the highlights in Connaught Gaelic circles for 1960.

Galway's minor footballers climaxed a great year by winning the All-Ireland Final from Cork at Croke Park on the score 4-9 to 1-5. Though the score may suggest otherwise, this last was not Galway's best performance, and they were lucky they met a Cork forward line bereft of scoring power.

Every boy on the team deserves credit for this triumph, not forgetting forward Noel Cheevers, who was not available for the Final, the man who scored some glorious goals in the Connaught Championship.

THE HOGAN CUP

St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, won their third Hogan Cup (no other college has won it more than once), defeating St. Finian's College, Mullingar, in a riproaring Final by 3-10 to 3-7. That game will be remembered as one of the best of 1960 and was watched by a large crowd in sweltering conditions. There was a great midfield duel between Pat Donnellan of Tuam and the tall Mullingar lad, Fintan Costelloe, with Donnellan shading the honours. Enda Colleran, Larry O'Brien, Tony Ryan, John Geraghty, Seamus Leydon and Gerry Prendergast, all of whom won All-Ireland minor medals with Galway later, were members of the St. Jarlath's Hogan Cup-winning combination.

We cannot leave the Hogan Cup triumph without paying tribute to the St. Jarlath's captain, centre-half-forward, PAT SHERIDAN, a very worthy skipper indeed, who led his team in grand fashion in the Final. More, too, will be heard of St. Finian's ball-juggling forward FRANK CARTHY.

(Continued on next page) ...

CONNAUGHT

Sports Star of the Year
Best Individual Performance
Colleges Football Sports Star
Colleges Hurling Sports Star
Camogie Sports Star
Hurling Star of the Year
Club Hurler of the Year
Club Footballer of the Year
Most Enterprising Club
Most Outstanding Minor
Administrator of the Year
Handball
Athlete of the Year
Referee of the Year

AWARDS-1960

Frank Evers
Aidan Swords
Pat Donnellan
Paddy Fahy (St. Mary's, Galway)
Chrissie Conway (Castlegar)
Tim Sweeney
Nicholas Murray (Fohenagh)
Murt Prendergast (West Mayo)
Castlebar Mitchells.
Tony Ryan (Milltown & Galway)
Gerry McDonnell (Castlebar)
Steve Casey (Galway)
Willie Morris (Derrydonnell)
Jimmy Martin (Roscommon)

CONNAUGHT REVIEW

(Continued from page 15)

CLUB GAMES

Shock result at club level was the defeat of Castlebar Mitchell's in the Mayo S.F. Final by a little-fancied West Mayo side. Castlebar were just back from a highly successful U.S. tour and were more than confident of adding to their laurels. Hero of West Mayo's little known selection was veteran Murt Prendergast (brother of better-known Paddy), who showed great opportunism in attack.

Fohenagh won the Galway S.H. title for the second successive year, defeating traditional stalwarts, Castlegar, in an over-robust Final. Star of this game was Fohenagh's well-built midfielder, Nicholas Murray.

Tuam Stars, by their great victory over St. Vincent's, can justly claim the title "unofficial club champions of Ireland", or can they?

Melvin Gaels retained the Leitrim senior football title after two great struggles with Carrick-on-Shannon in the final. The champions, the only North Leitrim side ever to win the championship, were very lucky to earn a replay, but made no mistake on the second

Ballisodare defeated Tourlestrane in the Sligo senior football final, and left no doubt in anyone's mind that they were the leading club in the county by adding the league title to their collection a few weeks later.

In Roscommon, history was made when United Stars, picked from the junior clubs, Creggs and Oran, won the senior football championship. Shortly afterwards, Oran, fielding nine of the county senior champions, failed to Shannon Gaels in the junior final, thus providing more proof that it is much easier to win a senior title than a junior one. Or is it?

... As the year drew to a close Connaught followers were satisfied that football in the province was on a secure footing. Mayo, Leitrim, Roscommon and Galway, despite their failure to Laois, were all well placed in their National League groups. Would it be asking too much to hope to see two western teams contesting the semi-finals in April?

Above, are just some of the Gaelic happenings in Connaught during 1960. My pen cannot hope to record every detail, and this will be brought home to me when I see this in print. However, then it will be too late.

I know I have omitted any reference to the Railway Cups, but, then, there are not many happy memories west of the Shannon of those competitions in the past year. Neither have I given any statistics of minor and junior club games. Space, however, does not permit.

Before closing, I would like to pay tribute to my own team-mate, Frank Evers, who has emigrated to Palestine. It is my earnest wish that we have not seen the last of Frank as a player. That would, indeed, be a sore loss to football.

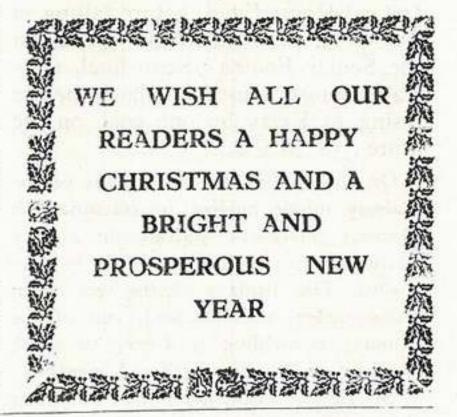
No review of 1960 in Connaught would be complete without paying tribute to the great vic.v.y recorded in the Sigerson Cup by the student footballers of University College, Galway. In regaining this trophy for the first time since 1954, the western lads displayed rare spirit and above-average ability in first of all resisting a stern challenge from Queen's University, Belfast and then dethroning the star-studded holders, U.C.D.

Galway's George Glynn was an inspiring captain, and he was well-supported by fellow countrymen Mick Laide, Tony Ryan, Martin Newell, Pat Donnellan and Brian Geraghty.

Alan Delancy, Des Feeley and Tony Kenny kept the Roscommon flag well to the fore; Mayo's Adrian Kilbane, Willie Loftus and Joe Langan played their parts nobly, while Hubert McGonigle of Sligo was an excellent full-back. The two "outsiders," Limerick's John Kelly and Longford's Sean Donnelly, completed as bonny a bunch of battlers as ever wore the maroon jersey in a Sigerson Cup.

I have no hesitation in saying he was the greatest midfielder I have seen. He gave some outstanding displays in 1960. Indeed, his last game for Galway, against Kerry, was among his greatest ever. For me, at any rate, he qualifies for the title "Connaught Sports Star of 1960". A Happy Christmas to you all.—Good night..

Tailpiece.—It would be unjust to pass over the Gaelic year in Connaught without paying due tribute to Mayo's Aidan Swords, whose championship display versus Galway at Castlebar in June was heroic. His was the best individual performance in Connaught last year.



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Kerry Retain Cuchulainn Title

seccessessessessessesses (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10) seccessessessessessessessesses

Former All-Ireland player, Colm Kenneally, home after a three-years' sojourn abroad, appeared once more in the green and gold colours. Although below full strength, Kerry were one too many for a Fermanagh side that seemed over-awed by the opposition.

And so the way was clear for a Kerry-Dublin final, a game all football followers had been waiting for since that epic All-Ireland semi-final clash between the counties in August, 1959.

GRAND CROWD AT CROKE PARK

Sunday, October 16, found a grand crowd in Croke Park anxious to see if Dublin could leave behind their unimpressive form of the championship and also to find out if that defeat by Down three weeks previously had left its mark on the Kerrymen.

Gasps of surprise greeted the announcement that Kerry had revised their published line-out. Tom Long and Seamus Murphy as half-backs, Mick O'Dwyer on the "40," Tadhg Lyne as full-forward and another newcomer named O'Callaghan in attack! All these changes seemed far too many for one game.

But there was method in this seeming Kerry madness. Every man fitted into his position as if born there, with Dwyer giving an exhibition of centre-forward play. The Munster men produced a brand of highly-skilled, combined football rarely, if ever, seen from them before,

and the hapless Dubliners, earnestly though they tried, were fighting a losing battle long before the end.

FAR FROM SPENT FORCE

The final score of 5-14 to 2-8 was a true reflection of the game. Kerry had proved they were very far from a spent force and that replacements for any regulars beginning to feel the test of time were ready and able to step into the gaps.

So ended another highly successful "Gaelic Weekly" Tournament. The semi-finals and final were characterised by sportsmanship of a high degree, and Kerry have now inscribed their name on the Cuchulainn Trophy for the second time. Tyrone (1957) and Galway (1958) were the other winners.

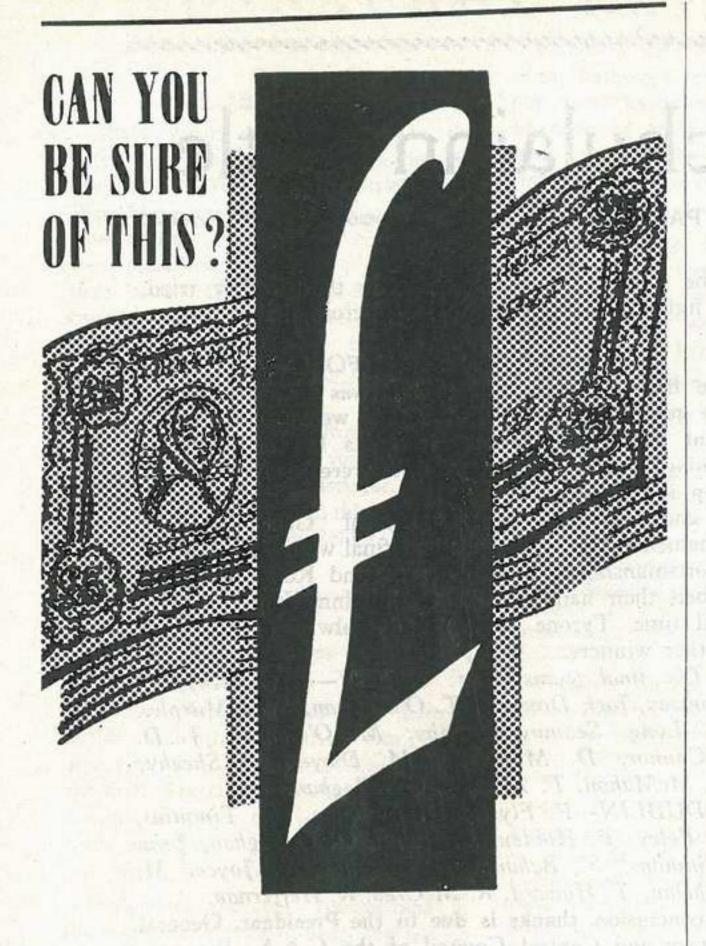
The final teams were: KERRY—J. Cullothy; A. Conway, Jack Dowling, T. O'Sullivan; Sean Murphy, T. Long, Seamus Murphy; M. O'Connell, J. D. O'Connor; D. McAuliffe, M. Dwyer, P. Sheehy; G. McMahon, T. Lyne, B. O'Callaghan.

DUBLIN-P. Flynn; D. McKane, Joe Timmins, L. Foley; P. Holden, L. Quinn, O. Callaghan; John Timmons, S. Behan; P. Haughey, J. Joyce, M. Whelan; T. Howard, R. McCrea, K. Heffernan.

In conclusion, thanks is due to the President, General Secretary and Central Council of the G.A.A., the participating counties, players, officials and referees, and all who in any way helped to make the Tournament such a success.

DUBLIN - JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 1960





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La Marathon fame were founded by the Grecian Government, the Tailteann Games flourished in Ireland under Regal patronage.

One of the aims of Irish patriots, struggling for Irish Freedom down through centuries, was definite.

"Tailteann we will revive" they wrote!

Even in our own times, the nation-builders were fully determined to re-establish the Tailteann Games as a feature of Irish national life. A gallant effort was made as soon as we had a native Government in the Twenty-Six Counties. The Tailteann Games were revived with some considerable success in 1924, 1928 and 1932, after which they were again allowed to lapse.

Should the

Tailteann

From ancient Gaelic manuscripts we are assured that the Tailteann Games were founded at Telltown, County Meath (outside Navan) by the Irish King, Luadh-nalamh-fada (Lua-of-the-long-arm), who reigned many centuries before the Christian Era.

It is told that Luadh established the Games in honour of his mother—Tailte, a distinguished Irish Queen—to perpetuate her memory. They were named after her and it is written that they flourished for many years, being held once in every three or every four years according to circumstance.

Invasions and intermittent wars forced the abandonment of the Tailteann Games. Hopes of revival lived on,

but were not realised until 1924.

Though athletics and chariot races were outstanding features of the Tailteann Games, they had far deeper significance. During the period of the Games, a truce was called and rigidly enforced on all warring clans. All arms were discarded for the period of the Games by the order of the High King. And it is told that this order was religiously obeyed. Lasting friendships were established, and it is told that many clans were united with marriage vows between members during the Tailteann truce.

LASTED FOR THREE WEEKS

The Ancient Tailteann Games lasted three weeks. During the first week, the High King held Court at Tara which is close to Telltown Hill. There was a huge hosting of the Clans; from every corner of Ireland along the "five roads" the glittering cavalcade came; peace and rejoicing reigned. During this first week, new laws were passed and old laws amended. The various disputes between neighbouring chieftains were discussed and smoothed.

The second week brought the Games proper on the Telltown slopes, where some mounds and deep trenches still bear evidence of old activities. Chariot racing, horse racing and hurling matches were the principal features. Then came athletics proper—foot races at all distances, leaping, throwing the lance, throwing the smith's hammer and heavy weights. These were conducted in great good humour and care was

taken that nothing would disturb the peace and joy in the sacred precincts of Queen Tailte's grave!

The third week of the Games was devoted to the honouring of the Tailteann victors, with feasting, banqueting and, particularly, with marriage-making. The Tailteann Festival was a real rallying-ground for the whole Irish Nation at stated periods.

Leaders in the 1916-1921 National Struggle had visualised a Race Conference of every branch of the Irish race at some stated place—Paris was suggested. Then the revival of the Tailteann Games was favoured and, as soon as a Provisional Government was established here, a Tailteann Committee under Mr. J. J. Walsh was formed. Mr. Walsh was a man of great organising ability; the Government of the period favoured the Tailteann project and subsidised it to the extent of £7,500 for the improvement of the athletic venue at Croke Park where the principal competitions were held.

Hurling and football teams from Ireland, America and different parts of Britain competed. All native pastimes were included; handball was prominent. Olympic athletes of Irish blood came and the Games finished with a credit sum on hands.

The 1928 revival was also successful, but the 1932 celebration lost something in appeal and the Committees were disbanded. Mr. J. J. Walsh, who was the dynamic force

Games be Revived?

By P. D. MEHIGAN

behind the Revivals of 1924 and 1928, resigned through illhealth after 1928 and after 1932 the whole plan faded out.

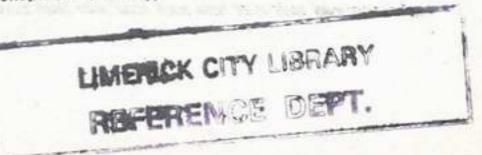
PRESENT DIFFICULTIES

More than once since 1932, the question of reviving the Tailteann Games has occupied Irishmen of many schools of thought. However admirable the idea may be, there are, unfortunately, many difficulties in the way. The principal obstacle at the moment is the unfortunate athletic dispute which has been forced on the National Athletic and Cycling Association. They have the practical support of 90 per cent of Irish athletes, yet are denied International competition and are "banned" by the International Association of Athletics.

The National Athletic and Cycling Association claims control of Athletics over the Thirty-two Counties of Ireland and has an active branch in Ulster. The International body in control of the Olympic Athletics denies the N.A.C.A. the right to control athletics in the Six Counties, and has disqualified athletes competing under its auspices. Our Tailteann Revival would specially cater for our own people and for N.A.C.A. athletes.

But, until the Athletic dispute is ended, we cannot have international athletes here, even Irishmen on overseas teams. These formed an important part in the earlier revival.

(Continued overleaf)



SHOULD THE TAILTEANN GAMES BE REVIVED ? - from previous page

A most important national effort would be this revival of the Tailteann Games, but many shrewd supporters of the idea believe that the revival must be delayed until the Six Counties are restored to the Nation and that Tailteann could only be enthusiastically revived by a completely free Nation of Thirty-two Counties!

Just as the Ancient Tailteann Festival was directly organised and sustained by the Government of the period, I am satisfied that any future Tailteann revival

must be directly under Government auspices.

If the Government is interested, their influence may be the means of settling the Athletic dispute which is crippling the progress of the sport here. Many meetings have been held between the two athletic bodies and there is nothing between the rival claims that cannot be smoothly arranged, granted the proper atmosphere. Athletes under the N.A.C.A. as well as the A.A.U. are all eager for a settlement.

Granted that there is Athletic unity here, and that the Government of the day is interested, everything would be favourable to a whole-hearted Tailteann Revival.

DATE IMPORTANT

It is important that the date of the next Tailteann Games should be close to the date of the Olympic Games of the same year. Tailteann must, by tradition, be held in August. The Gaelic word for August is Lughnasa—called after Luadh, the founder of the Tailteann Games.

The Olympic Games are always held in July, and athletes with any trace of Irish blood could be brought to Ireland for Tailteann.

Irish-Americans would gladly welcome the re-establishment of the Tailteann Games. They took a big part in the 1924-1932 revival. Hurlers and footballers, athletic teams, hand-ballers—all came from America and won many trophies. South Africa, Australia, Argentine, Canada — all will send teams of Irish blood as before.

Now that tourism is booming in Ireland, the revival of Tailteann in a whole-hearted way would help the movement. Good publicity would bring exiled Irishmen in thousands to the Games. The Gaelic League would be glad to co-operate—Tailteann Championships in dancing, singing, music of all kinds, would fit in with the outdoor programme. The 26½ miles of road from the G.P.O., Dublin, to Telltown Hill would be an ideal marathon course.

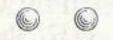
There are splendid prospects for a new Tailteann. Croke Park stadium has been improved out of all knowledge — seating (covered) for 23,000; standing 60,000. The Santry Stadium looks like developing into a 100,000 accommodation. Our hotel development plans are proceeding apace.

But, before we can set about organising a new Tailteann, the Athletic dispute here must be settled, and the Irish Government must take a direct and enthusiastic interest in a well-organised revival of the Ancient Games

on a comprehensive basis.

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TIDE TURNS FOR KILKENNY MINORS

1960 will be remembered in Kilkenny as the year in which the tide turned for the county's minor hurlers. They faced old rivals, Tipperary, in the All-Ireland Final with the rather sobering knowledge that in 1956, 1957 and 1959 other minor teams wearing the black and amber colours had failed to the same opposition and at the same stage.

Would it happen again, we asked ourselves, or would Dame Fortune smile at last upon our efforts? Well, 'tis history now how all those heart-breaks of other years were forgotten as the young lads well and truly trounced Tipperary to the tune of 7-12 to 1-11.

As in 1959, we were again drawn against Laois in the first round, this time in Portlaois. Remembering the close call they gave us last year, and how lucky we were to have beaten them, we did not relish the prospect of meeting them on their own ground, as reports indicated that

By PADDY GRACE

Secretary, Kilkenny Co. Board

Laois had a better team this year.
Our fears were well and truly justified.

Our lads opened with the breeze and, while leading by eleven points at half-time, displayed anything but winning form. Play remained fairly even for the first 15 minutes of the second half, but Laois, playing with great determination, then turned on the steam, and five minutes from the end Kilkenny were fighting with their backs to the wall and their lead cut to a single point.

The boys rallied then, however, and had three points to spare at the end of their hardest game of the whole campaign. Tom Barry, Joe Ayres and Ritchie Walsh were our best players that day.

We beat Carlow easily enough and then faced Wexford in the Leinster Final. The Model County boys looked a very strong team in Nowlan Park against Dublin and we thought we would be up against it in earnest.

The boys, however, played superbly in every sector and, although in arrears at the interval, drew away in the second half to win

by twelve points. Barry and Ayres again sparkled at midfield, Walsh and Nyhan shone in attack, while McGrath, Rohan and Ryan took the honours in defence.

Despite the margin of victory, our back line and goalman looked a bit shaky and we had a problem on our hands. Luckily for us, we had to

GAELIC SPORTS QUIZ

(1). The first player who won All-Ireland medals in both hurling and football never played for his native county. His name was W. J. Spain and he won a hurling medal with Dublin and a tootball medal with Limerick. What was his native county?

(2). What President of the G.A.A. became Secretary after his Presidency?

(3). When were the first All-Ireland championships staged in the City and Suburban Sportsgrounds, now Croke Park?

(4). When was the first broadcast of an All-Ireland hurling or football final?

(5). Kerry won their first football All-Ireland title when they beat Kildare after three great games in 1903. True or false?

(6). Did Cavan ever play in the Leinster senior football championship?

(7). Christy Ring won his first senior All-Ireland medal in 1941. Why did he not win a Munster senior medal in the same year?

(8). Cork's Eamonn Young won an All-Ireland medal with a Leinster team. True or false?

(9). A Mountrath man was the first handball champion of the world. What was his name?

(10). Who won the Leinster hurling championship of 1929 in senior grade?

(11). Only one man has won six senior.

All-Ireland medals in successive years.

Who is he?

(12). Two famed All-Ireland footballers of the recent past were American born. Who were they?

(Answers on Page 60)

meet Roscommon in the All-Ireland semi-final and we made some changes in the doubtful positions. Although easy winners, we had not improved the team enough to satisfy ourselves, and, to make a long story short, we picked the "old" fifteen to face Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final. How right we were was proved on the first Sunday in September.

SURPASSED THEMSELVES

All the boys, without exception, surpassed themselves and played great games on the Big Day. The backs showed just how a defence should knit together, and their covering-off was an eye-opener even to those of us who knew their capabilities. Our midfield had a grip on things for most of the hour and the attack, in a devastating second half, in which they notched five goals and seven points, made life a misery for an overworked Tipperary defence.

Dempsey in goal set the standard for his colleagues out-field, Liam Grace, Pierce Brett and Noel Rohan formed an impregnable barrier in front of him. Alec McGrath, at centre-field, and Oliver Ryan, on his left, had the game of their lives and got sound assistance from O'Brien on the other flank.

Tom Barry and Joe Ayres reigned supreme in the centre and defied the best efforts of various Tipperary pairings to curb them.

The Tipperary half-backs could never subdue Ritchie Walsh, Denis Kinsella and Pierce Freyne, while Tom Murphy at top of the left put his name to three great goals. Phil Ryan and Sean Nyhan completed a sextet whose combined striking-power was virtually unstoppable.

So ended a great season for Kilkenny minor hurlers. In regaining a title last won in 1950, they proved beyond yea or nay that they still breed good hurlers by the Nore and that, with normal improvement, many of the minor stars of 1960 should spearhead senior efforts by the black and Amber in the years ahead,

*

THE Leinster Inter-Factory League was formed in the late 1940's to promote Gaelic games in our industries, to help counteract foreign elements which were creeping in and also to foster among the workers a growing desire to support all things of Irish manufacture. To a certain extent, the aims of the founders have been successful, but quite an amount of work remains to be done before their ideals are fully realised.

There can be no doubt that the league has brought closer liaison between the workers in the different factories, and firms that were only names before are now actual realities, but whether this has been of any great help in the actual promotion of sales can only be a matter of conjecture. Still, it is a step in the right direction and must be doing a certain amount of good.

Convention time in the league is really an excuse for an annual re-union, and, when the business is finished, all concerned sit down for a session which usually ends in the early hours of the morning. Here, all past differences are settled in the proper "spirit"!

But what of the actual competitions themselves? One of the chief obstacles here is the fact that almost all competing teams are composed of players who regularly turn out for their clubs and, in many cases, also represent their counties. This rules out almost all Sundays for games, and also many Saturdays, with the result that matches are played mostly at mid-week. Consequently, they get very little support from the general public and depend on their own few faithful supporters to make up their gates. Usually, the money taken helps to entertain the visiting team, an innovation which is a feature of this league.

FLOURISHING

In spite of all these difficulties, the games have flourished and the number of teams now competing far exceeds the number that went into the hat on that first night in Aird's Hotel, Portlaoise, twelve years ago. Bord na Mona and E.S.B. teams who were accepted into the League until recently now have their own leagues and, although they have no connection with the Leinster Inter-Factory League, it can surely be said that they were born out of it.

A note of apathy crept into the league a few years ago and competitions tempted to lag, but a new enthusiasm was engendered with the advent of Mr. Sean Walsh, of Roadstone, to the chair, If, at times, his rulings seemed hard, they have certainly borne fruit and, in 1960, for the first time in many years, both the hurling and football finals were played before the end of September. In 1959, 2 beautiful cup was presented by the directors of Roadstone for the football competition, and it is hoped that other

By TOMMY O'HANLON,

Prominent Kildare and Factory League Official

firms will follow this lead and give trophies worthy of our other competitions.

Maybe, then, it was only fitting that Roadstone themselves should have won this year's football final and so brought home the cup to its rightful home. However, it was only after some thrilling struggles that they succeeded in doing so.

They beat Irish Ropes in the semifinal on a replay, and then faced Irish Sugar Co., Carlow, or Cosets as they style themselves, in the final, Cosets, who were champion's in '58 and '59, had overcome a strong challenge in their semi-final from Clover Meats, Wexford, and were confident that they could repeat their 1959 victory over Roadstone.

The final was played in Droichead Nua before one of the largest attendances ever at one of these games and was a thriller all the way. Neutrals voted it one of the best matches seen at this venue for years, and the fare served up will ensure the popularity of factory games in Droichead Nua for years to come. Both teams had trained really hard. If Roadstone were determined that the cup should rest on their sideboard for at least one year, Cosets were no less determined to be the first team to win the league for three successive years.

There is no need to describe the game at length. Suffice to say that it was fought out at a cracking pace with Cosets the early leaders, and looking the more impressive. But disaster overtook them in the form of an injury to Ned Long, who was lording it at centre-field.

Roadstone soon took advantage of this weakness on the part of their opponents. Paddy Holden really came into his own and supplied his forwards with plenty of the ball, but it was only in the last ten minutes they succeeded in clinching the issue with a soft goal by John Timmons. However, they were deserving winners of a game worthy of a great Association, and the sportsmanship displayed by both teams will long be remembered.

Scenes of great enthusiasm were witnessed at the presentation of the cup to the winning captain, Joe Timmons. Sean Walsh, chairman of the league, and Liam Geraghty, Chairman of the Kildare Co. Board, both congratulated the teams on their fine display. Irish Ropes were hosts to the teams and officials at a dinner afterwards.

TWO-TEAM DUEL

The hurling competition from an early stage resolved itself into a duel between Cosets and Clover Meats, Waterford, and, once again, the Carlow team had to be content with runners-up honours. The final was played in Kilkenny and it can be said that Cosets went down in a blaze of glory.

They were pitted against a team steeped in the hurling tradition of Waterford and Kilkenny, powered by such as Martin Og Morrissey, John Barron and John Sutton, but they flung themselves into the game with such abandon that they had Clover Meats on the run for most of the hour. It was only a fatal weakness in front of goal that deprived them of a title they richly deserved.

And so ended the 1960 campaign. We now know that the general public realise at last that these Inter-Factory encounters provide all that is best in Gaelic games. Officials of the Leinster Inter-Factory League look forward with confidence to 1961 certain that it will be their greatest year.

WHEN Adam and Eve ate that a p p l e so long ago in the Garden of Eden, it had an effect on all of us. Ever since, no human being, and no human organisation, has been perfect.

The Gaelic Athletic Association is a great organisation, one of the world's greatest, but, because all its members are descended from Adam and Eve, it suffers from minor imperfections. Some of these are really very small, and often quite amusing, even though they can be very irritating to the people they effect.

Take for instance two teams playing in a county final. Team A wins, but plays 5 men from another county. Naturally, team B objects, but in the excitement the unfortunate club secretary forwards the objection in an unwatermarked envelope. The County Board meets to hear the case, but, because the envelope is not Irish watermarked, although it may be of Irish manufacture, the objection is ruled out of order and not even discussed. Unbelievable? Yet it can, and does, happen. And, if you don't believe me, I refer you to any club official who has said in his time, "They have us all right, but the envelope isn't watermarked!"

This, however, is only a minor detail. A much more serious matter, which strikes at the very core and foundation of the Association, is the dangerous play, violent conduct and striking which are still too prevalent. These can bring the Association into far more disrepute than conduct which has often resulted in suspension.

"But", the officials say, "the vast majority of our games are played in a fine sporting spirit and incidents are the exception rather than the rule." True enough, perhaps, but, in my opinion, "incidents" still occur too often to be lightly dismissed.

Offhand, I can recall three games in recent months where the pitch was invaded by spectators. In games in which I myself have taken part this year, there were four separate instances of players striking an opponent on the head with a hurley. All these cases were discussed freely afterwards, and it was generally agreed that the blows were struck deliberately with the intention of doing damage.

THIS ATTITUDE MUST CHANGE

says Tony Wall

There were other instances where players deliberately struck opponents, with and without hurleys, on other parts of the body. In others, players traded blows, and in more, hurleys were used indiscriminately. Not once, in any of these, can I remember anyone being ordered off the field.

All the above took place during the past year. In other years there have been similar happenings. I have often discussed the position with players from other counties, and, from what I have heard, have been forced to the conclusion that some of what I have seen was mild in comparison with happenings elsewhere.

MUST GET TOUGH

In this connection, when players get together, it is generally agreed that, in order to survive, players must get tough. There are exceptions, of course, but most young players concentrate on the ball at the start of their careers. This lasts for a while, but, very soon, the bad habits are picked up from older players and these, in some cases, get worse with experience.

It is futile to argue that these things do not occur. Granted, they do not happen in every match, but happen they do, and far too often for my liking. The point is: Why do they happen? And how can they be stopped?

The rule on this matter could not be more explicit: "In the case of dangerous play, violent conduct, irritating or improper language, or a player rising his hand to threaten or strike another player or to retaliate, the referee shall, without any caution, order the offender off the field."

Could anything be clearer? Could any rule be more straightforward? The men who framed it certainly knew their job, and human nature, and covered every eventuality likely to arise in the heat of a hotly-contested game.

THE SNAG

The snag, of course, is that many referees do not apply this rule strictly according to the letter of the law. Far too much latitude is allowed some players before the referee intervenes. When he does, the offenders rarely get the line, and, at the end, both teams are happy and the referee will be appointed for more matches.

Woe betide the referee who is "too strict" and puts "too many" to the sideline for "insufficient cause". He will not be agreed to again by the team, or teams "offended".

In other words, the lenient referee is the popular one and the refereeing we get is the refereeing we want.

This, I think, is the kernel of the situation. The whole attitude of players and officials is towards leniency in this matter of dangerous play. This must change.

We all know the lip-service paid to "strictness" and ruthlessness in dealing with offenders. Yet, when it comes to dealing with particular cases, leniency holds sway. We are all inclined to say afterwards that the particular incident wasn't too bad after all, especially so when our own team or a friendly neighbour is involved. This attitude too, must change, But how?

MUST COME FROM TOP

The change must spread through the entire Association, and, since it will never come from the bottom, it must come from the top.

First, participating teams should have no say whatsoever in selecting a referee. Referees should be told to control games according to the strict letter of the rules. They must also be assured that all their decisions will be backed to the hilt.

(Continued on page 60°)

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W.J.SPANWON CONSTITUTE CHAMPIONSH PS WI ONLY eight men, in the seventy-six years since the G.A.A. was established, have succeeded

in winning All-Ireland medals in both hurling and football.

The first claim to such greatness was hammered in the initial All-Ireland Senior Football Final, in which Limerick Commercials beat Dundalk Young Irelands, 1-4 to 0-3.

One of the Limerick players, W. J. Spain, who, two years later, had the honour of being the first player to prove his mastery in both codes when he helped Dublin Kickhams beat Tulla (Clare), 5-1 to 1-6, in the 1889 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.

Actually, he won his renown in consecutive championships, for, owing to the "invasion" of America by G.A.A. athletes and players in 1888, the championships for that season were not played.

Thus, in the second decided championship, the record was set that only seven others have succeeded in emulating down the long years.

And only one of that seven won with two counties, as did W. J. Spain. He was Dr. Pierce Grace, who took football laurels with Dublin in 1908, and afterwards captured three hurling titles with his native Kilkenny-the years, 1911, 1912 and 1913.

Two Wexfordmen lined up for the "double" with the surprise defeat of Limerick in the 1910 All-Ireland Hurling Final. They were P. J. Mackey and Sean O'Kennedy, who subsequently helped the Slaneysiders in winning the Football Blue Riband-Mackey doing so on four occasions - 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918; O'Kennedy three times - 1915, 1916 and 1917.

Frank Burke was the only man to win at least two in each code. He helped Dublin in the 1917 and 1920 hurling finals, and was with the same county in the 1921, 1922 and 1923 football finals-all of which they won.

Cork boast three of the eight dual champions - Willie Mackessy, who won in 1903 in hurling, and in 1911 in football; Derry Beckett, 1942 in hurling and 1945 in football, and last, but by no means least, Jack Lynch, our present Minister for Industry and Commerce, with the biggest collection of the lot-five in hurling, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1946, with one in football, the year, 1945. Jack set a record, too, in that he won his six medals in consecutive years.

IN DRAPERY TRADE

Three counties and two continents shape the glory of the G.A.A.'s first dual medalist. Like many of his colleagues on that first great Limerick Commercials side, W. J. Spain was employed in the drapery trade in Sarsfield's City. A Tipperary man by birth-he was born at Moanfin, Nenagh, but spent his early football years in Limerick City. One of the pioneer members of the famed Commercials side, he was a tower of strength from the start—and that start predated the actual foundation of the G.A.A. by almost twelve months.

He participated in all the great games of the early G.A.A. days by Shannonside and was a familiar figure every place the Commercials went-and they travelled far, considering the limited facilities available at the time.

Those far-off days in Limerick were hectic ones as far as football was concerned, and it is on record that the only defeat the famous Commercials suffered in that great first championship campaign was at the hands of another Limerick City Club-St. Michael's. They were great rivals, this pair and played some memorable games when the G.A.A. was young.

On their way to the 1887 final, Commercials ousted Dowdstown (Meath), Kilmacow (Kilkenny), on a replay, and Templemore (Tipperary), also on a second meeting. In the decider, played at Clonskeagh-then a remote village on the outskirts of Dublin, reached by horse tram to Ranelagh Angle -now well in the city area and partly occupied by Brown and Nolan's factory-on April 29th, 1888, the pair provided a grand game, in which Young Irelands (Louth) employed the hand-to-toe style to an exceptional extent. The Limerickmen triumphed by 1-4 to 0-3.

PRESS REPORT OF GAME

A press report of that first great All-Ireland Football Final demonstrates the part W. J. Spain played in bringing the title to the Shannon:

"To Din Corbett, the Commercials owe a good deal for their victory, as his splendid play in goal, together with his admirable generalship, contributed largely towards it. The Commercials team was a remarkably good one, there not being what could be called a weak man on it. Where everyone worked so well, it is almost a pity to mention any particular names; still, I think that not one of the team will feel aggrieved by my picking out two who beyond doubt distinguished themselves in no small way.

One of the two is W. J. Spain, who blinded the Dundalk goalkeeper and backs in such an extraordinary manner when he scored the only goal of the game ,and the other is no less a personage than that football wonder-seventeen years old Malachi O'Brien, whose name is a household word in the South of Ireland."

(Continued on page 30)

Cumann Lúit-Cleas Jaeoeal

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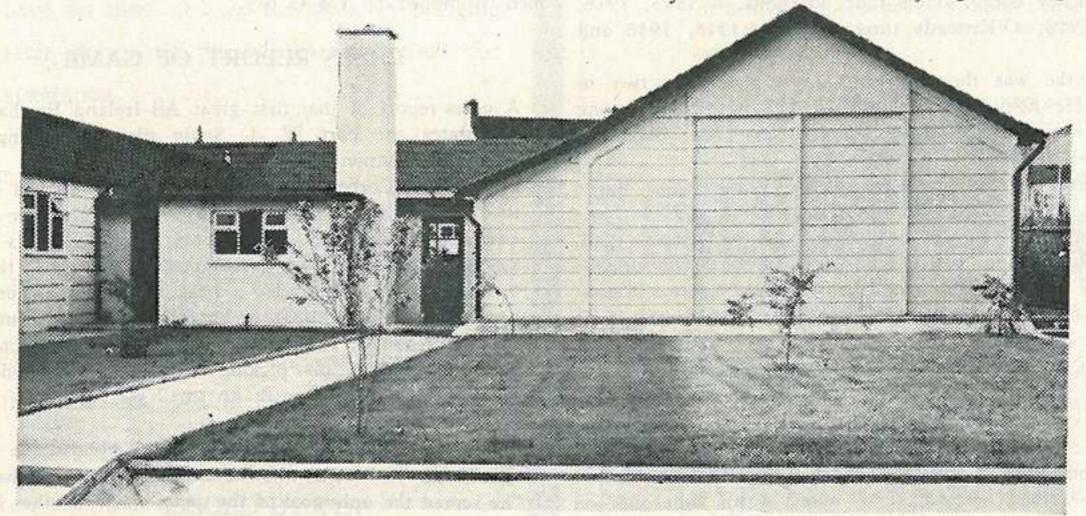
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Galway Minors Win Second Football Title

features of the 1960 championship campaign was the fact that not one title went to Munster. Three went to Leinster, one to Ulster, one to London and one to Connacht. Connacht's standard-bearers, and worthy ones at that, were the Galway Minor footballers. They brought Galway her second title in the grade, as in 1952 the Markham Cup also found its way to the county.

Since the All-Ireland Colleges series ended in May, with St. Jarlath's, Tuam, annexing the Hogan Cup for the third time, many discerning judges felt that Galway, who

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could call on no less than six of the St. Jarlath's team must have a great chance of winning the Minor title. Those boys formed the backbone of the side, but other Western and Leinster colleges were also represented, notably St. Joseph's College, Garbally Park, Summerhill College, Sligo, St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen, Franciscan College, Gormanston, Cistercian College, Roscrea, St. Joseph's College, Galway, and St. Mary's College, Galway.

There were only three non-college footballers on the selection, and this fact shows how much G.A.A. competitions, especially in the Minor grade, are indebted to and dependent on the Colleges.

Galway's only other Minor success

was in 1952, although the 1959 team was rather unlucky to be beaten by Cavan in the semi-final. This year's team was a very solid unit, combining strength and power in the backlines and midfield with finesse and accuracy in a fast-moving forward line.

Noel Tierney and Tony Ryan were the big men of the defence in every sense of the term. Tierney, at fullback, revelled in high-catching and thundering clearances, while Ryan, at centre-half, showed that he is one of the best prospects in Galway by serving up some glorious displays as pivot of the defence. His wonderful catching and long raking clearances were probably seen to best effect in the first game of the campaign against old rivals, Mayo, when he blotted Stanley Rowe, already a senior county player, completely out of the picture.

HARDEST GAME

That was easily Galway's hardest game in the whole series, and it produced one of the best scores seen in Tuam for many a day, when Noel Cheevers first-timed a ground pass from Gerry Prendergast to the net for Galway's second goal.

Enda Colleran and Johnny Smith, both beautiful footballers, gave Ryan great cover in the half-back line. Colleran and right-full back Gabriel Lohan served up masterly displays in All-Ireland Final, while Smith and young Larry O'Brien at left-full sparkled, especially in the semi-final.

At midfield, Sean Cleary, captain of the side, provided most of the drive that helped on his forwards, as well as being the place-kicker par excellence. He got good support from hard-working Harry Anderson from Galway city, whose best performance was in the second half of the semifinal against Offaly.

The score-sheets of the five matches show that the forwards (and midfielders) notched a total of 15 goals and 45 points. They beat Mayo by 2-6 to 0-4, Sligo by 3-5 to 0-7, Roscommon by 4-11 to 0-3, Offaly by 2-12 to 2-3, and Cork by 4-9 to 1-5.

This total speaks volumes for the precision shooting, and excellent positional play of the forward sextet, in which Gerry Prendergast, on the forty yards, was the "general" of the attack and reminded many people of his fellow-townsman, Sean Purcell, with his strategy and eye for an opening.

Seamus Leydon, Noel Cheevers and Eamonn Slattery were the scorers-in-chief; Cheevers, who scored so many goals - a tribute to his flashing speed as Irish Colleges 120 yds. hurdles champion-and was unable to play in the Final; Leydon, whose combination with Prendergast, great speed and deadly leftfoot made him one of the danger men, and had the Croke Park thousands applauding his great scores on All-Ireland Final Day; Slattery, the full-forward who always seemed to revel when the going was hardest, and who turned the tide in Galway's favour in the semi-final and Final. Christy Tyrrell and Johnny Gavin were well up to their colleagues' high standard in attack-and Andy Donnelly, who came on for Cheevers in the Final, fitted very well into the scheme of things.

Many comparisons have been made in Galway, and there has been much discussion, as to whether the team skippered by Sean Cleary was better than the one captained by Brian Mahon in 1952. The 1952 team was a great one and so was the 1960 side, so comparisons are odious.

There are some great prospects in in this 1960 team for Galway's senior ranks, though most people have realised by now that a good minor does not necessarily grow up to be a good senior. But Galway followers are hoping that, as 1952 was the prelude to a Senior All-Ireland victory in 1956, so too, 1960 will be a prelude to another Senior All-Ireland in the very near future.





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A REFERES VIEWPOINT

TO MY WAY OF THINKING GAELIC GAMES SHOULD NOT BE MEASURED IN SPLIT SECONDS. I DO AGREE THAT THE TIME FACTOR IN ANY WALK OF LIFE IS IMPORTANT YET, WHEN IT COMES TO PLAYING THE GAME, SURELY IT'S NOT THE WINNING OF TITLES THAT COUNT.

Regarding the accurate timing of matches, a referee cannot be always on the stroke of time, due principally to the fact that he must make certain allowances. For example, he must allow time for deliberate delays on the part of players to play the ball immediately the whistle is blown and also for the last kick, etc.

Yet I do not believe that the Bogue Clock would help, and I would go so far as to say that the presence of a Bogue Clock in any park in the course of a game, particularly one with close scoring, could cause pandemonium.

Look at the present set-up. I believe most players never have a clue as to time during a game, and a closely fought match usually ends without incident. The presence of a clock would mean that all players were aware of how time was going. With the minutes ticking away, players, seeing victory turning to defeat, could easily panic and provoke unsavoury scenes.

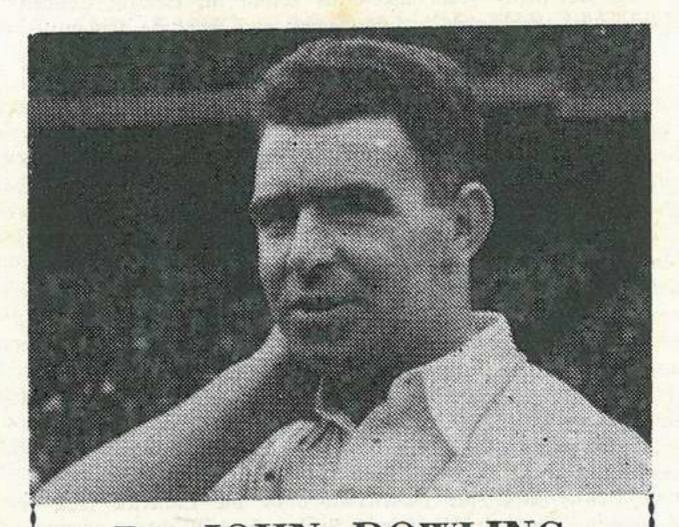
I firmly believe that the referee should be relieved of the time-keeping job, but in a manner different to the Bogue Clock. I would suggest an official time-keeper. He alone should be responsible for time during a game and he should be guided by the rules as at present. He would take on the task that now leans heavily on the referee's shoulders.

The time-keeper could be supplied with a stren and he would sound it for full-time and half-time only. The siren should make a distinctive sound that could not be easily copied. I say a distinctive sound in order to prevent a recurrence of what happened at the close of this year's All-Ireland hurling final.

OPEN TO ABUSE

With games ending as at present, by the referee blowing the final whistle, the situation is wide open to abuse as has already been proved. To eliminate this I suggest the siren, and suggest a time-keeper to make the referee's task easier.

The referee, in his efforts to keep time in a proper manner, may miss vital fouls which could mean the winning or losing of a game. Therefore a time-keeper is essential.



By JOHN DOWLING
of TULLAMORE—who refereed
both All-Ireland Senior Finals
this year

Spectators are part and parcel of our games and without them excitement would be lacking. They can be so wonderful . . . they can also be so frightening. So wonderful when everything is going well for their team—so frightening when everything is going against their team —AND THEN THE REFEREE IS BLAMED.

To spectators I would say, be a little charitable towards the referee. Give him a chance. He is honest, he is there to do his best and he is doing his "Almighty best." Give him as much encouragement as you would the players. Should the spectators do this it would be easier to get more young men to-day to take up refereeing.

CO-OPERATIVE

To give credit where it is due, I usually find players most co-operative and willing to do as I say in big-time hurling and football. In a good game, no matter how tough, players are too intent on getting to the ball to know whether they have fouled or not and will accept you? decision without question.

When players are unfit for the fray you find them grumbling with the referee, their team-mates and, of course, the opposition. Usually a warning from the referee ends all this.

It is easy to control games where both teams want to play the game in a sporting manner. Where there is too much "needle", anything can happen and there is very little a referee can do about it. If teams want to fight they will, but mostly only when the referee cannot see them.

(Continued overleaf)

W. J. SPAIN won consecutive championships with two counties

(Continued from page 25)

It was many years afterwards before the Central Council provided the medals for the teams who won the first titles. The Council was in debt for several years and the American "invasion" did not help matters, incurring a heavy financial loss instead of the expected profit.

When eventually the medals were received in Limerick only three of the original selection were still in the city—Thomas McNamara, Patrick J. Corbett and Michael O'Loughlin. Nine had died—P. Reeves, J. Mulqueen, Patrick Kelly, Robert Normoyle, Thomas Keating, William Guiny, Philip Keating, Richard O'Brien and Patrick Treacy.

With W. J. Spain in America, there were also Timothy Fitzgibbon, Malachi O'Brien, Ned Casey and Denis Corbett. Mick Slattery was in Australia and James Purcell in the Phillipines.

Still in the Emerald Isle, we find Timothy Kennedy and Ned Nicholes in Dublin; John Hyland in Cork; Jeremiah Kenny in Gort, and Thomas Lynch in Kilcommon. The whereabouts of one—Willie Cleary—could not be traced.

Shortly after the great victory of the Limerick lads in securing the first All-Ireland Senior football title, a number of the players left to seek a living elsewhere—and included in the batch was W. J. Spain, who went to take up a position in Arnott's of Dublin.

JOINED KICKHAMS

What Commercials was to the young lads entering business

life in Limerick, Kickhams was to the Metropolitan youth, and when W. J. Spain moved to the capital, the Kickhams soon claimed him. He entered as enthusiastically into the work of Gaelicisation by the Liffey as by the Shannon, and was one of the best of the Dubliners that day against Clare—November 3rd, 1889.

The following April he left for America, and continued there his good work for Irish games, then fighting an uphill battle for recognition in the big cities of the Americans.

An outstanding achievement recorded to his credit across the atlantic took place at Madison Square Gardens, New York, on December 13th 1890, when, in a Gaelic football exhibition, he scored two goals and five points for his team—New York Gaelic. And it is interesting to recall that J. Connery, who remained in America following the 1888 "invasion," played in the same game.

W. J. Spain was a hard worker and was not long making his mark across the broad Atlantic, becoming in time one of the richest silk merchants in New York.

That he did not forget Ireland is evidenced from the fact that he brought over many of his neighbours and found them good employment in the silk business.

W. J. SPAIN WAS A GREAT GAEL IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE TERM—ONE WORTHY OF THE MANTLE OF THE FIRST DUAL MEDALIST OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

A REFEREE'S VIEWPOINT

(Continued from page 29)

However, there is little of this in our Gaelic games. If all games were left to the referee and players I am confident there would not be any scenes.

"ADVANTAGE RULE"

The playing rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association are well known to everyone. In the Official Guide they are clearly stated. To those who never played the games, some of the rules may seem hard to understand.

There is one "rule," however, which is not contained in the Official Guide. This is what is commonly known as the "advantage rule." It does not exist, therefore it cannot, and should not, be applied.

The so-called "advantage rule" which the public demand so often should never be considered. A foul is a foul and the whistle must be blown. After all, it's from the Official Guide that the referee gets his instructions and not from the general public.

The "advantage rule" suits a team one minute, and the next moment it does not. If it is applied one half of the crowd is appalled. If it is not applied the other half is equally appalled.

SO I SAY, FORGET ABOUT THIS SO-CALLED RULE AND HAVE OUR GAMES PLAYED AS SET OUT IN THE OFFICIAL GUIDE. OTHERWISE THE RULES AS THEY NOW STAND ARE A.1.



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Historic Year In Football

A WATCHED KERRY'S HIGH-FIELDING, LONG-KICKING ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS REPEL, WITH ALMOST CONTEMPTUOUS EASE, THE FAST AND FANCY FOOTBALL OF THE ULSTER TITLE-HOLDERS FROM DOWN.

Beside me that day sat two well-known Dublin officials. Said one of them, "These Down fellows have an awful lot to learn before they cut much ice in championship football." Said the other, "But if ever they do learn, they're going to take a great deal of stopping."

And, if ever a team turned defeat to best advantage, it was surely these Downmen, who never forget a single lesson they learned the hard, hard way, when losing to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1959 and to Kerry in that "Gaelic Weekly" final last October twelvemonths. They turned those lessons to good account in their Lagan Cup games through the winter, while many of their keymen were obviously not above picking up a thing or two from the stars they meet and beat in the semi-final and final of the interprovincial competition for the Railway Cup.

Indeed it was watching the Railway Cup Final on St. Patrick's Day that first led me to believe that the Sam Maguire Cup was likely to go to Ulster again.

That was hard genuine football and the Kerry-Cork combination which represented Munster that day took a deal of beating. But beaten they were, narrowly on the score-board, yet fairly and squarely on the field.

So the Railway Cup went back to an Ulster side based on Down, Cavan and Derry, and that victory gave a foretaste of the season to come.

The Railway Cup games over, the National League was the next big item on the agenda. Down had come through successfully in the Dr. Lagan Cup competition in the North, Cavan had also qualified triumphantly in their sector, a revived Dublin fifteen had come through in one of the hardest divisions of all, while Kerry had once again cruised triumphantly through Division IV.

The semi-finals matched Down with Kerry and Dublin with Cavan, and that game with Kerry in Croke Park marked Down's achievement of greatness. For much of the hour it seemed that Kerry might counter with craft and experience the speed and dash and combination of the men from beyond the Mournes, but a great goal from James McCartan set the headline for his colleagues and, despite the best endeavours of the men from the Kingdom, Down went on to the final, and very deservedly so.

Yet, most folk in the South were not as much impressed as they should have been by that Down triumph. Too many people chose to believe that Kerry never take the League campaign really seriously. That was certainly the case some seasons back, and for many a year before that, but the Kingdom footballers have put plenty of earnest endeavour into

By PADRAIG PUIRSEAL of the "IRISH PRESS"

Moreover, when they met Down in that semi-final, the men from the Reeks were defending the title they had won the year before, and were also defending the St. Brendan Cup which had been anything but easily earned in New York's Gaelic Park. And the Kerrymen are no more partial than anybody else to surrendering lightly titles they have won the hard way.

Anyway, with Kerry beaten, Down advanced to meet Cavan in the National League Final, and again those who doubted the worth of the Mournemen freely predicted that this game would mark the end of the victory road for Kevin Mussen and his "pupils."

Cavan, it was alleged, knew Down's style backwards. Besides, the Breffnimen had proved themselves by first holding Dublin to a draw and then beating the Metropolitans in the second of their two rousing games at An Uaimh. In addition to that, Cavan had old scores to settle with their opponents, especially that heavey defeat at Clones in the Ulster Final of 1959.

That League Final was a revelation, for it was not the sort of game we expect from Ulster teams. It was a hard, grim, dour match of negative football, of trying to keep the opposition from doing anything brilliant rather than seeking to do anything brilliant yourself. It was the kind of football that I would have sworn six months before that Down couldn't play. But they played it far more successfully in Croke Park that day than Cavan did and emerged narrow but deserved winners, to bring the National League Cup and title across the Border for the first time since Derry had won the curtailed competition of 1947.

With the League over, all eyes were on the championship. Down seemed to lapse briefly at this stage. They paid a visit to Kerry for a tournament game; they lost to Derry in the McKenna Cup semi-final, and knowing ones began to pass remarks about a "flash-in-the-pan" team.

But the footballers in red and black soon silenced such critics by coming back to their best form at Wembley where they once again beat Galway in the final of the London County Board Tournament.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The provincial championships fell somewhat below expectations. In the West, Galway came through once more, the challenge of Leitrim again fading almost inexplicably when the testing time came.

Waterford knocked the bottom out of the Munster battle by defeating Cork and then failing badly to Kerry in the final. In the North, Down again came through, their fiercest rivals Cavan not proving good enough on Final Day.

Only in Leinster did we see the unexpected. Offaly, lucky when beating Carlow in their opening game, went on to score a sensational win over Dublin and then opposed Louth in the provincial Final.

For a long time it looked as though the Midlanders were to be baulked again by their "Croke Park bogey," but they came storming

(Continued on page 50)



Remember the team?



Wexford had won the All-Ireland title of 1955, having beaten Limerick in the semi-final and Galway in the final but there were many folk who felt that they had not yet proved themselves, and that lent added edge to their clash with Tipperary in the National League Final of 1956. Tipperary were League holders and made no secret of their determination to defeat the All-Ireland champions. Never has so much controversy raged in advance among hurling followers about a National League Final. There were those who maintained that the powerful Wexfordmen, then at the peak of their glory, would steamroll the Tipperary lads, while there was another school of thought, just as vocal, which claimed that the old masters from Tipperary would make mince-meat of Wexford's hurling pretensions, and would show without doubt that they were really the top hurling team in Ireland. The counties met in that historic league decider in Croke Park on the first Sunday in May, 1956-a day most disappointing from the spectators' view-point, for half-a-gale whipped rain ceaselessly towards the Railway goal from start to finish. Yet thousands upon thousands of hurling fans defied the weather and thronged into the G.A.A. Headquarters. The serried ranks of faithful Wexford supA. FOI

R. Rackard N. O'Donnell M. Hanion

J. English (Capt.) W. Rackard M. Morrissey

S. Hearne J. Merrissey

Padge Kehoe E. Wheeler T. Flood

T. Ryan N. Rackard T. Dixon

Substitutes:

Ted Bolger for English, Paddy Kehoe for Bolger

The date: May 6th, 1956

The score:

Wexford 5-9 Tipperary 2-14

porters must have spent the first half regretting that they had not stayed at home, for Tipperary took first use of the breeze. Nick O'Donnell, Bobby and Billy Rackard and goalman Art Foley battled hard in a Wexford defence and lost captain Jim English early on. But Tipperary's irrisistible mood moved through for score after score, and the Wexford followers looked as

gloomy as the day when half-time came with their favourites trailing fifteen points behind on a score of 2-10 to 0-1. Everyone in Ireland knew that nobody could concede a fifteen-point lead to those Tipperary hurlers, at least everyone did except the Wexford team. Out they came for the second half and were quickly heartened by goals from Tom Dixon and two by big Nicky Rackard. Then Ned Wheeler and Jim Morrissey drove over a whole series of long distance points and, though Paddy Kenny kept sniping over points for Tipperary, Wexford were miraculously within striking distance with ten minutes to go.

Nicky Rackard took over. He placed Dixon for one goal, tore through for another himself—and Wexford had won the most sensational National Hurling League Final ever played.

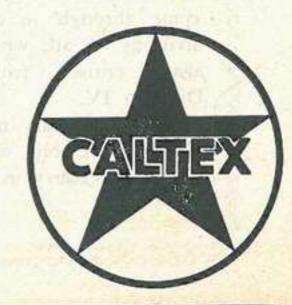
TIPPERARY

A. Reddan, M. Byrne, M. Maher,
J. Doyle, J. Finn, P. Stakelum,
A. Wall, J. Hough, S. O'Meara,
L. Devanney, L. Skelly, T. English,
P. Kenny, W. Quinn, S. Bannen.

Substitutes:

L. Keane for Quinn, T. Ryan for Skelly

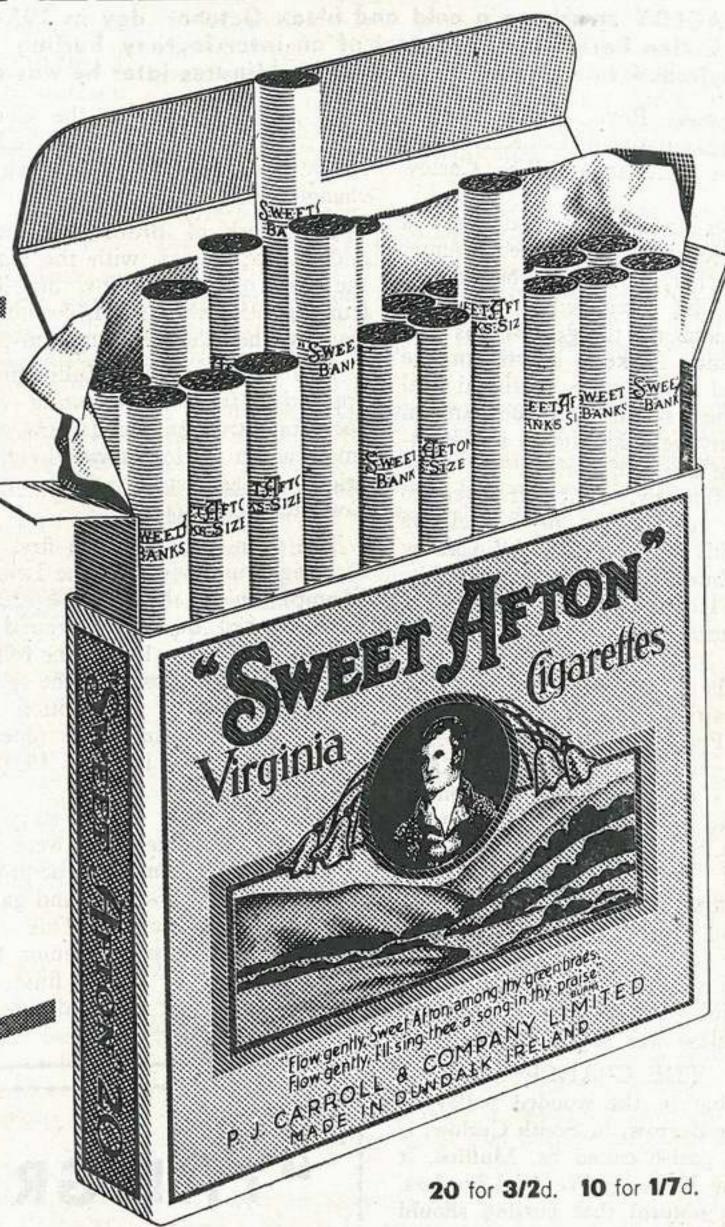
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Carlow's Success Story

TRAGEDY struck on a cold and bleak October day in 1954 at Carlow's G.A.A. headquarters, Dr. Cullen Park. On the restart of an inter-factory hurling game, the referee suddenly stumbled and pitched forward on the green sod. Minutes later he was dead.

He was Rev. Bro. Michael O'Connor, a native of Co. Kerry, who taught at St. Mary's C.B.S., Carlow town.

Brother O'Connor's death was a severe blow to his adopted county. As a teacher, he had few betters. As a Gael, he cherished a love for Ireland and all things Irish as few men could. A keen sportsman, he promoted games with unstinted zeal and enthusiasm in his school, and in the county he championed the seemingly lost cause of hurling.

Unfortunately, he never lived to see the culmination of his efforts which this year ended with Carlow junior hurlers winning the "All-Ireland Home Final" and narrowly losing the All-Ireland Final proper to

With the aid of men like Ned Long, Vice-Chairman of Carlow Co. Board, Jimmy Phelan, winner of two All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny, and several teachers, Brother O'Connor worked to promote hurling among the juveniles.

Street leagues and inter-parish games flourished under their guidance. But their dreams of a Carlow upsurge could never have been achieved without first having a solid foundation to build on. Fortunately, the problem was solved . . .

THE CRADLE

Nestling in the wooded valley of the river Barrow, in South Carlow, is a small parish called St. Mullins. It is on the Kilkenny-Wexford borders, so it is natural that hurling should flourish there.

St. Mullins is the cradle of the hurling revival in Carlow. Men like the Walshes, Morrisseys, Gahans and Gladneys have contributed much to set the county on the road to success. They can wield a caman with the best, and proof of this is the number of tournaments they have won in other counties.

During the "bad years" of hurling in Carlow, St. Mullins had the only

good team. They won the County title so often that it becomes tedious to even start counting. But then the change came . . .

The work of Brother O'Connor and his colleagues, with the aid of the men of St. Mullins, first bore fruit in 1954 when a Carlow hurling team reached the Leinster semi-final.

Two years later, St. Mullins found opposition from neighbouring clubs becoming stronger. Good teams were emerging in Carlow town, Leighlinbridge, Bagenalstown, Tullow and Courtnellan.

The year 1957 saw the first sign of a vigorous revival. In the Leinster Championship, the Carlow junior team reached the second round for the first time since 1935. The following season saw them win the special National league competition for weaker counties, and they repeated the performance in the 1958-'59 season.

Since then their success story has continued. Last year they were promoted to the National League proper, where they did quite well and gained invaluable experience. This year they won the Leinster junior title, beat Cork in the "Home" final and, after a replay, lost to London in the All-Ireland proper.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

In many respects the Carlow success story is stranger than fiction. The strongest opposition to their hopes in past years came, ironically, from within the county itself. The Co. Board for many years never took the game seriously; supporters were few; funds were almost nil. Add to this the fact that nearly every time Carlow tried to rise in the hurling world, they were unfortunate enough to meet Kilkenny or Wexford, and you have the background to their fight.

Their achievement is all the more praiseworthy when you remember that they have only about 150 players to select from.

It has been a long, weary struggle from near extinction to success. The faithful few have battled bravely and won. They have tasted defeat often, yet, even in defeat, found inspiration to carry on. They deserve their laurels and we hope they go from success to success in the years to come.

CARLOW HAS THE PROUD BOAST THAT THEY ARE ONE OF THE BIGGEST ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE THEORY THAT HURLING IS ON THE DECLINE. WE HOPE THEY WILL INSPIRE OTHER COUNTIES TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE.

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THE NEW FOOTBALL RULES

********** ADVANTAGES AND FLAWS

A NEW deal for football goalkeepers, we called it . . . and hardly a voice remained silent. The legislators started it, and thereafter the players, the public and the Press supported the widespread demand that netminders be allowed the privilege of picking the ball off the ground in football.

A very great concession it would be, too. Unique, in fact, since it would grant to football goalkeepers something allowed to no other player in Gaelic games. For almost as old as the games themselves is the strict regulation that the ball must not be picked off the ground in hurling, football—or indeed camogie.

But over the years experience showed that such a concession to football goalkeepers was necessary and

By MICK DUNNE

of the
"Irish Press"

urgent. It would give the much harrassed man-in-theposts greater effectiveness and be some safeguard against onrushing forwards since it would allow him greater speed in avoiding punishing charges.

It seemed the sensible way of preventing the controversies that exploded from time to time as a result of goalmouth happenings in major and minor matches.

And so Congress on Easter Sunday last wrote into the Official Guide the new rule that thereafter allowed the goalkeepers to lift the ball off the ground in the square. The voting was: 150 for, 54 against.

Not Availed Of

What happened? Despite the fury, the speed and the super-charged excitement of many of the major football games we have watched since Easter, I have yet to see goalkeepers availing of the new concession. Moreover, a check with my sportswriting colleagues reveals that they haven't seen it happen either.

Perhaps, goalkeepers haven't, so far, found it necessary to pick up the ball. Or perhaps they fear that in a packed goalmouth referees may mistake them for a defender, since there is nothing to distinguish a goalie from any of his six backs.

The Flaw

Therein lies the flaw in the rules as passed by Congress. For, although it may not have been availed of as often as we thought, it still remains a wise change. But Congress, I feel, should have gone the "whole hog." They should not have dropped so quickly the request (incorporated in some motions) that the goalkeeper wear a distinctive jersey.

The objection was that teams lining-out with goal-keepers togged differently from their team-mates would too closely resemble soccer sides. But forgotten in the discussion was the fact that for many years Tommy Beirne and Sean Wynne, famed Mayo goalkeepers of former years, regularly appeared in an all-green polo neck sweater.

Overlooked, too, was the obvious fact that this wasn't the only outfit a goalkeeper could adopt. What was there to prevent the goalkeeper wearing a jersey numbered on the front as well as the back or, alternatively, wearing a diagonal stripe of any colour on his jersey? Then referees could never be in doubt about who picked the ball.

Matter of fact, there's nothing in the rule to prevent teams adopting these markings. Congress may come to realise—as it did in the substitute rule when it neglected to attach a penalty—that it may be wiser to complete this new rule in the next rule-changing year.

Already the Cork Co. Board has found it necessary to advise—not order, mind you—its clubs that such distinctive markings be incorporated in goalkeepers' jerseys.

This was the major alteration in football playing rules at Congress. But it was not the only one.

Wise Change

Another allowed players to change the ball from one hand to the other—or as it's commonly called "sell the dummy." A wise change this, for such a feature of the game has been brought to a fine art by some players—Down's Sean O'Neill is one adept exponent — and it makes the game all the more attractive.

Then there was the successful motion which reverted to the position where the referee placed the ball for frees. Since Congress several players have expressed the opinion that the privilege of placing the ball should remain with them.

But it was the players themselves—or some of them—who were primarily responsible for the change. They so abused the privilege that it became a fetish in some cases; a time-wasting ritual that became an annoyance to spectators.

We saw an example just a year ago in Croke Park where a full-back came some 30-40 yards out to take frees. Repeatedly he dashed out from his position insisted on performing the ceremony of settling the ball, and then went back some yards before starting his runup to take the free. Before long he became the object of the crowd's derision.

The fear expressed by players is that referees, when dropping the ball, may inadvertently have the lace turned towards the player's boot. But since most refs. played the game at some level, surely they would guard against this!

(Continued overleaf)

DUBLIN'S FOOTBALL CROWN

XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOX

FOR much of 1960 it looked as if Dublin's name would not be inscribed on the honours' list. Our minor hurlers fell to Wexford in the first round. The juniors crashed heavily to Carlow in the second round, while the senior hurlers' only championship consolation was the fact that they made the eventual All-Ireland champions, Wexford, go two games with them in Nowlan Park.

In football, our teen-age hopes showed promise when overcoming a useful Meath fifteen, but ran into an Offaly tornado in the Leinster semi-final and bade good-bye to their titles. That same July day in Portlaoise also proved to be the graveyard of the Metropolitans' pride and joy, the senior footballers.

However, while all these disappointments were rocking Dublin followers to their heels, the county junior football team was progressing on a triumphant championship march almost unnoticed.

On 3rd April they opened their campaign at Droichead Nua with Kildare providing the opposition. The Lily

By JIM CROWLEY

Whites usually field a workmanlike junior string, so Dublin's winning margin of 5-10 to 2-7 should have made us sit up and take notice. We didn't, however, begin to realise the team's potential until Carlow were beaten in the provincial semi-final, strangely enough by the same twelve-point margin.

Next on the list came Meath, the county that has ended our Leinster senior championship hopes more often than any other in the last ten years. True to tradition, the Royal County boys put up a good show, but could not prevent a now confident Dublin team from taking

Then came a long trip to Tralee to face the Kingdom. Dublin find it harder to beat a Kerry team in Croke Park than anyone else, so the prospect of playing in the lion's den itself was anything but a pleasant one. At this stage, and it couldn't have come at a better time, the Metropolitans were able to add extra players to their panel, some with senior experience. Among these was Sean "Yank" Murray, one of the 1958 seniors, who was included at midfield.

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Five minutes from half-time, Dublin, with the wind, were trailing Kerry by seven points. Then, an amazing goal by the flying Sean Coen improved matters, and the half-time deficit of three points, though tricky, did not look unsurmountable.

All concerned with the team agree that Dublin played their best football of the whole campaign in the second half of the Kerry game. With time running out, scores were level, but a wonderful last movement put Kevin Russell in possession, and this son of a former county chairman lashed the winner over the bar. A happier bunch of footballers never left Tralee!

Galway came to Croke Park for the home final with good credentials. Had the Westerners' finish been on a par with their outfield play, Dublin's winning margin of 1-12 to 0-9 would have been severely shaken. As it was, the result was a tribute to the ability of the Metropolitan attack to take what chances came their way.

To secure the official title and the All-Ireland medals, London had to be beaten. And beaten they were under atrocious weather conditions in Croke Park by 2-5 to 0.5.

So ended a successful year for one Dublin team. I will not single out any players for special mention as this All-Ireland victory was, above all else, a team effort. A wonderful spirit of camaraderie existed among players and officials, and they were backed by an enthusiastic trainer in Mickey Wellington.

THE NEW FOOTBALL RULES -ADVANTAGES AND FLAWS

(Continued from previous page)

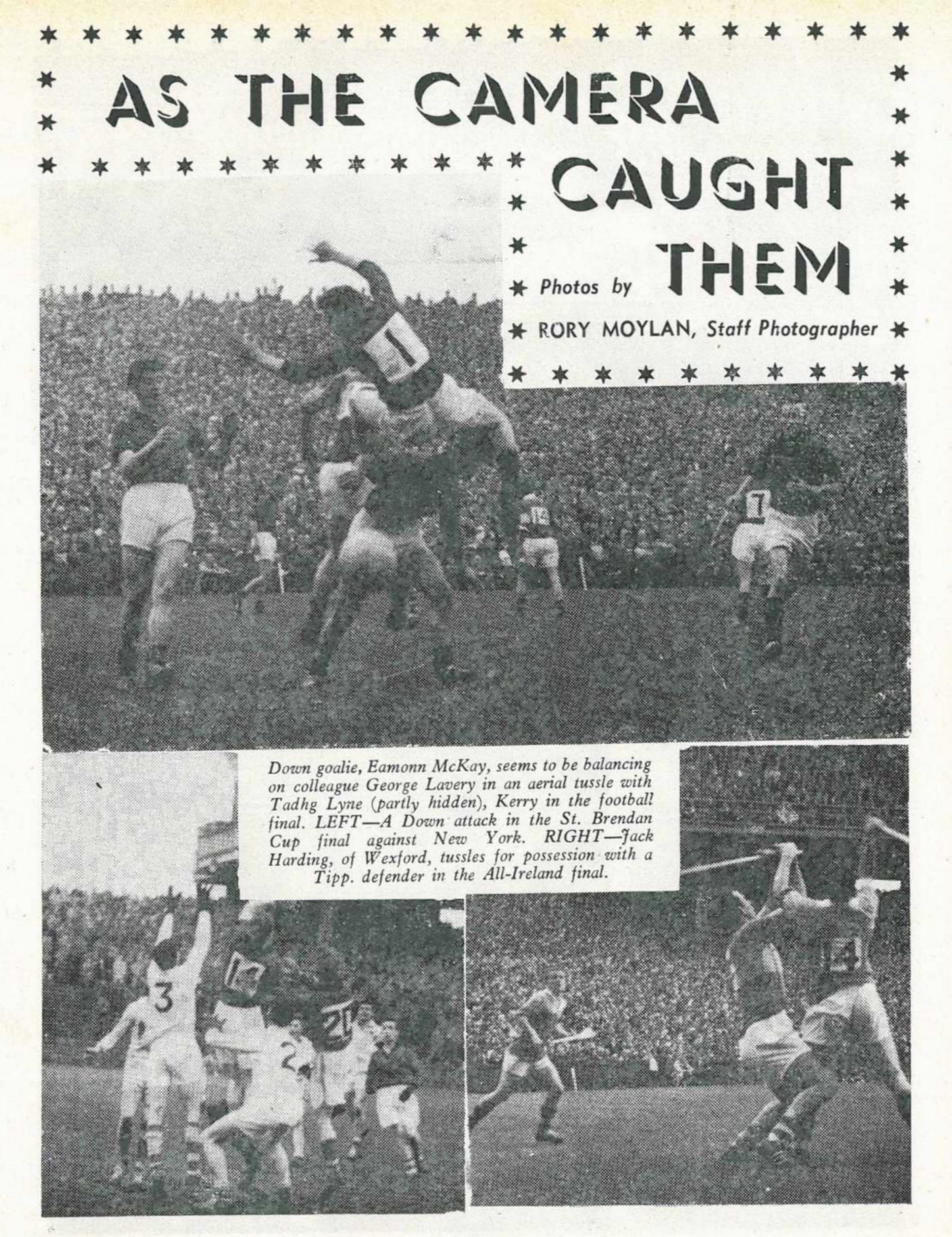
Excessive Application

Not that referees haven't to some extent carried the strict application of the rule to an excessive degree. Congress ruled that the referee place the ball or indicate where it is to be placed, the sole object of the rule being to speed up the game.

Instead. some referees insist on placing every ball even though it means having to trot across the pitch to do so. Then, having placed it, the resumption of play must be further postponed until he has positioned himself upfield before blowing the whistle.

If only referees and players would strike a happy medium.

But none of this marred the over-all enjoyment of football this year . . . a year which, no matter what its shortcomings, gave us plenty to remember.





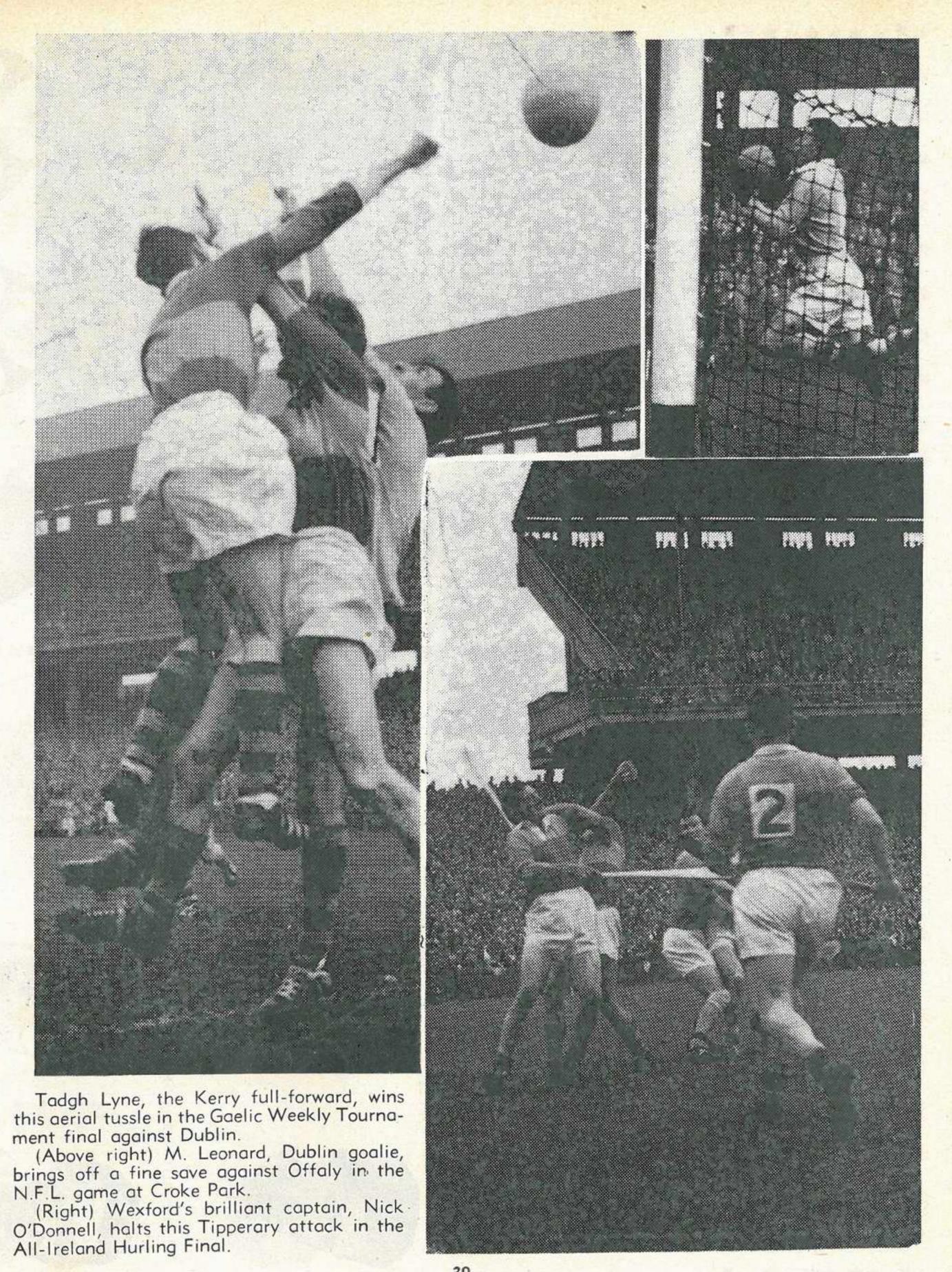
Christy Ring about to pull on the ball in this Cork attack in the Oireachtas Cup final against Tipperary at Croke Park.

(Right) P. Flynn (No. 1) and L. Foley rise high in the Dublin "square" to halt a Kerry attack in the Cuchulainn Cup (Gaelic Weekly Tournament) final against Kerry at Croke Park. Looking on is G. McMahon, Kerry.

(Below) Highfielding in the Railway Cup Final between Munster and Ulster at Croke Park.







ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS, 1960



S.H. WEXFORD



S.F. DOWN

GALWAY . . . ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



CORK-ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL FINALISTS-1960



KILKENNY-ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS



LONDON-ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS



KERRY . . . CUCHULAINN CUP WINNERS, 1960



OFFALY - THEY HAD A GREAT YEAR.



Irish Handball Review

WHEN the All-Ireland handball championship series concluded at Clogh, Co. Kilkenny, in mid-October, followers of the game were able to look back with satisfaction on a tremendously successful season of high-class play. The general standard of alley-craft showed an all-round improvement on former years, and, although there was a marked absence of contestants of equal calibre to that of former Kilkenny star, John Joe Gilmartin, nevertheless, the senior grade provided an abundance of top-class performers such as Paddy Downey, Fintan Confrey and Tom McGarry. In addition, the excellent handball served up in the junior and minor divisions indicate that the future well-being of the game is assured.

The first major issue of the year to be decided was the Gael-. Linn tournament, in which Joe Maher of St. Mary's club, Drogheda, emerged victorious from the record total of 744 entries. Maher defeated Tom McGarry of Limerick in the final. In doing so, he prevented the Shannon-sider making it a hattrick of three successive wins in Gael-Linn finals, and compensated for his own defeat in the decider of the two preceding years.

Since its inception in 1953 with an entry of 160, this increasingly popular competition has provided a winners' list that corresponds to the "hall of fame" in modern handball circles. John Ryan, Dr. Des Dillon, and Tom McGarry have all won twice, and Louth enthusiasts now expect Maher to do likewise.

Munster dominated the All-Ireland championships by qualifying for eleven finals out of a possible twelve. They acquitted themselves nobly by capturing eight titles, taking all four in the junior grade, three senior and one minor. Leinster came a close second, contesting ten finals, but succeeded in winning only four, of which the most outstanding was that of Louth's Fintan Confrey, who retained the senior softball singles.

Kerry, however, set a headline which would be difficult to emulate when they took five National titles, and were beaten finalists in two others. Their brilliant achievement was due in no small way to the sparkling performances turned in by Paddy Downey, who took three All-Irelands, retaining both the senior hardball singles and doubles, ably supported by Jimmy O'Brien, and winning the

senior softball doubles, also with O'Brien as partner.

Downey, by virtue of his consistently good displays throughout the year, was easily the most impressive player to be seen on the court. In the senior hardball

By C. A. O'CONNELL Sec., Dublin Handball Board

singles, he defeated Gael-Linn holder, Joe Maher of Louth, to retain his title after a marathon struggle, by four games to three.

Partnered by Jim O'Brien, he won the senior softball doubles, defeating Louth's representatives, Confrey and

TITLE-HOLDERS, 1960

S.S.S.—F. Confrey (Louth). S.H.S.—P. Downey (Kerry).

S.S.D.—P. Downey and J. O'Brien (Kerry).

S.H.D.—P. Downey and J O'Brien (Kerry).

J.S.S.-M. O'Brien (Limerick).

J.H.S.—J. Donovan (Kerry).
J.S.D.—M. O'Brien and C.
Walsh (Limerick).

J.H.D.—T. Cleere and C. Cleere (Tipperary).

M.S.S.—T. Ledwith (West-meath).

M.H.S.—M. Purcell (Kil-dare).

M.S.D.—N. Kerins and G. McMullan (Kerry).

M.H.D.—M. Purcell and J. Byrne (Kildare).

Gael Linn Cup Final — J.

Maher (Louth) beat T.

McGarry (Limerick),

32-15.

Maher, by three games to nil. It was the third occasion on which this splendid combination carried off the soft doubles. O'Brien, however, has won it five times, having done so twice previously in company with Joe Hassett.

A decisive victory by the holders over the Kildare partnership, Pat Winders and Tony Daly, in the senior hardball doubles gave Downey his third All-Ireland medal this year, and made O'Brien's total to a well-merited two for the current season.

To the holder, Fintan Confrey, of Louth, went the coveted senior softball singles title, when he overcame some stiff opposition from Tom McGarry of St. Munchin's handball club, Limerick, in the final, by three games to nil. It was McGarry's second failure in a major event this year, as he aso had to be content with the runner-up position in the Gael-Linn competition.

Confrey could, understandably, have anticipated a full rubber of five games in the final, for the Limerick man had already beaten Paddy Downey earlier in the year. However, although he led several times throughout, the nearest that the Shannonsider went to taking a game was his 21-16 defeat in the second. Fintan, playing outstandingly, and playing a most successful slow lob toss, went on to win 21-15, 21-16, 21-15.

MADE HISTORY

Limerick and St. Munchin's club took two All-Irelands, and handball history was made by that county when Mick O'Brien defeated Des Walsh of Sligo in the junior softball singles by three games to nil to win Limerick's first ever title in that grade. O'Brien made it a double when he took the court with Conny Walsh to defeat Kilkenny's dual All-Ireland finalists, Pierce Hanlon and Mick Burke, also by three to nil.

(Continued on page 48)

Memorable Year In W teams, new faces, a continued top-level stanin play and sportsmanand a wider distribution Colleges' GAA

continued top-level standard in play and sportsmanship and a wider distribution of the provincial prizes. These were the factors which combined to make the year since the last appearance of the Annual a memorable and most successful one in Colleges' G.A.A. history.

Growth in numbers means a growth in popularity, and one of the happiest signs of the growing strength of the games was the decision of Chanel College, Raheny, Skerries De La Salle, St. Brendan's, Bray, and Marist College, Clondalkin to participate in the various competitions.

By DONAL CARROLL

(of the "Irish Independent")

The welcome mat was not extended to the newcomers alone, for adding considerably to the joy of the occasion was the return, after many years' absence, of such contenders as Bandon Secondary School and Presentation Brothers' College, Cobh.

These Munster colleges are but two in the growing list of "prodigals" who have been welcomed back to the fold in recent years, and perhaps in the not too distant future we may see such as Blackrock and Castleknock re-enter the competitions in which they were the early pace-makers in the honours' race.

About this, there seems to be some confusion; many being under the impression that such colleges cannot compete while continuing to play rugby.

This, of course, is not true. As long as such colleges keep separate panels of players for the respective codes, there is nothing to prevent them from joining the happy family of G.A.A. participants.

Champions Crashed

The year saw provincial champions crash like ninepins. In Ulster, the MacRory Cup made the short, but by now regular, journey from Abbey C.B.S., Newry, to the sideboard of local rivals, St. Colman's College. In Connacht, St. Joseph's, Garbally Park, handed over the hurling trophy to Galway St. Mary's, while St. Jarlath's, Tuam, relieved St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen of the football crown.

The year also saw North Monastery, Cork, score their 13th Dr. Harty Cup success, but their first since 1955, while Limerick C.B.S. regained the football title they had previously won in 1956.

Leinster followed the general pattern, St. Finian's, Mullingar, returned to the football honours' list after a seven-year absence, but perhaps the biggest turn-up of all was the victory of St. Peter's, Wexford, over the Leinster hurling specialists, St. Kieran's, Kilkenny.

And as new champions came to the fore, so too did new football and hurling stars follow in the footsteps of such illustrious predecessors as Des Foley (St. Joseph's, Fairview, and Dublin) and John Alley (St. Kieran's, Kilkenny).

Outstanding Side

St. Jarlaths, Tuam, produced a galaxy of stars to win back the Connacht crown and the All-Ireland Individual senior football title—the latter for a historymaking third success. This, without question, was the outstanding side of the season, progressive, polished and powerful.

Their captain, Mayo minor Patsy Sheridan, played a notable part in all their triumphs while Pat Donnellan, Gerry Prendergast, Seamus Leyden, Tony Ryan and Liam Campbell were others who seemed certain to establish themselves on the intercounty level at an early date.

St. Finian's, Mullingar, also had a great season; improving steadily from a disappointing start to qualify for the final of the Hogan Cup competition. In this, and against the mighty Tuam side, we saw some of

the best football of a particularly bright season. Moreover, we saw a display of fighting courage seldom surpassed as the Mullingar boys, time and again, struck back manfully from the edge of disaster.

The Westmeath college, too, had many outstanding players with their captain, Fintan Costello, Michael O'Brien, Paddy Cromwell, Brian Smyth, Jim Delaney, Frank Carty and Larry Fagan displaying remarkable skill and consistency through a testing season.

The hurling was equally satisfying and from the opening games it seemed as if North Monastery, Cork and/or Limerick C.B.S. must figure in the closing stages. And that is the way it worked out with these exceptionally capable sides brushing aside every challenge in Munster until they clashed in late March.

Big Two

Strangely, however, this meeting of the season's most talented sides failed to come up to expectations and, with greater ease than they had a right to expect, the Cork boys went on to win their first All-Ireland title. In the decider, they came up against the year's surprise-packet, St. Peter's, Wexford, who had surprisingly pipped St. Mary's, Galway, at the second attempt to qualify.

The Slaneysiders lacked the allround skill, craft and enterprise of their southern rivals but, my goodness, what strength and enthusiasm they put into their play!

Limerick C.B.S. went out by only a point to the fancied St. Finian's, Mullingar, but injuries prevented St. Colman's, Newry, from performing with equal distinction against St. Jarlath's in the second football semifinal.

YES, A SUCCESSFUL, SATIS-FYING YEAR—MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS.

HBPERENCE DEPT.

Whither Galway Hurling?

HOW LONG MORE WILL GALWAY HURLING CONTINUE TO WALLOW IN THE WILDERNESS OF INSIGNIFICANCE RESERVED FOR IT THROUGH ENTRY INTO THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE TWO YEARS AGO? PERHAPS THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE WILL WITNESS THE CONNACHTMEN EMERGING VICTORIOUS FROM THE CHAOS IN WHICH THEY NOW FIND THEMSELVES, THOUGH THE IMMEDIATE PORTENTS ARE ANYTHING BUT FAVOURABLE.

Good intentioned sports writers, and some followers of the game, would have Galway committed from whence they came, but who can say that any worthwhile cure would be effected by doing so? Is two years of trial down among the celebrated hurlers of Munster sufficient for Galway to prove themselves? No, I don't think so.

It will be agreed by all that Galway hurling has fallen from prominence in recent years, and there must be reasons why. You cannot, for instance, wave aside football tradition with the casual excuse that there is room for both games.

Undoubtedly, f o ot b all in the county has profited at the expense of the game of hurling. You are left, therefore, with a policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul. Was it not in the past few years of Galway's football supremacy that the decline in hurling was noted?

Again, a shortage of hurleys is no incentive to young aspirants to play the game, and so it would appear that the decline in hurling generally should be tackled at the Association's highest level. It matters not one whit whether Galway be included in Munster or Connacht.

In running through the reasons for Galway's failure to sparkle on the hurling fields one must not overlook incidents on the field of play. It is not sufficient for the County Board administrators to admit in their annual round-table conference that some incidents have come to their notice. Drastic action must be taken, as indeed I am glad to say it has been. Pity of course that the County Board should be troubled at all by unsporting conduct. Some of the

deeds that were done in the name of hurling during the past year were certainly no advertisement towards the recruiting drive.

But, behind the cloud of past uncertainty, there is a silver lining. The minor county hurlers, for instance ran Tipperary to the hilt for threequarers of the hour in Thurles last

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By MICEAL O BRIAIN

Leading Western Sportswriter

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August, and many of them will again be available in 1961.

Emigration in the past has claimed all too many of Galway's top-rate players, and it is hoped that a turning point has come here also.

In recent years, too, more players in the city of Galway are taking up hurling and of course one should not write about Galway without mentioning the City Leagues in hurling and football. It is estimated that between 500 and 600 young boys from the schools and colleges are now playing hurling in the under 12, 14, 16 and 18 groups every week. If a resurgence is to come in Galway hurling it will spring from the young players who are now coming up in plentiful supply.

The past year has failed to unearth any worthwhile players in the Senior, Intermediate and junior championships, and just now there are a number of players on the county team whose tooth is not so keen. Would that Galway could establish themselves on a par with All-Ireland standards, they might well show the way to counties who have ruled the roost for too long.

The winning of a Munster cham-

pionship would blot out their inferiority complex and set them on the high road. There is no immediate application, it would seem for Galway's hurling ills, time will cure all. Their failure to establish themselves in the League against Tipperary was a pity, for a win would have worked wonders.

Despite all the mediocrity which abounds in hurling in Galway, it is surprising that a new record gate was taken in 1960 for the county final between Fohenagh and Castlegar. Now let us examine the position with regard to our entry into Munster.

TWO WORST TEAMS

Galway, any fair-minded critic will agree, had their two worst teams for a long time in 1959 and '60. Nothing was expected of them and nothing was forthcoming.

Would they have done better by remaining in Connacht? I say emphatically, NO. Of course some will have us believe that Galway has too many cooks and the resultant broth is

Those who gloat over the team's misfortune, and call out "bring them back to Connacht," should look to the records. The county is credited with the honour of having taken part in the first All-Ireland final when a team from Meelick played Thurles, representing Tipperary, at Birr in 1887. Tipp won that game and thereafter the old story of defeat for Galway is in the records.

For those who need reminding, Galway's hurling record is made up of one All-Ireland senior title in 1923; two National League titles, 1931 and 1951; three Oireachtas Cups, 1950, '52 and '58; one junior title in 1939; no minor title, and Galway, representing Connacht,

(Continued on next page)

IRISH HANDBALL REVIEW

Continued from page 45

Both junior hardball titles also went to Munster. In the singles, Jimmy Donovan of Kerry fought a tremendous battle with Galway's Mick Kelly before he emerged victorious by a total of only nine aces, winning by three games to one. Donovan thus goes senior, and joins with last year's winner of the title, Denis Downey, to provide Kerry with an excellent second string to the Downey-O'Brien combination.

Tipperary ended Kilkenny's hopes of figuring in this year's honours list when the brothers Con and Tom Cleere overcame sound opposition from Hanlon and Burke in the final of the junior hardball doubles. Every credit is due to the winners, but it was hard luck on the Kilkenny pair to lose a second final, having fought so hard and so sportingly throughout the year.

The minor division provided first rate deciders, including three clashes between Kildare and Kerry. Ulster were involved in the softball singles final, a factor which undoubtedly points significantly to a promise of prosperous times ahead for Northern handball.

Matt Purcell, of Kildare, won two All-Ireland medals in the course of the season. Gerry McMullan, of Kerry, provided the opposition in the hardball singles, and was considered favourite by "Kingdom" followers. However, when Purcell broke through the Tralee man's service he dominated in alley-craft and went on to victory.

FIRST IN SIX YEARS

McMullan, partnered by Nicholas Kerins, gave Kerry its first win in a minor softball doubles final for six years. They defeated Kildare, represented by Purcell and Jack Byrne, rather easily, two games to nil. Thus did these two counties' under eighteen representatives find themselves tying one-all with yet another encounter to come, just one week ahead, at Clogh.

Westmeath's Tom Ledwith took the minor softball singles crown. Ledwith beat Sean McCabe of Monaghan who, incidentally, was the only Ulster player to reach a National final during the year. The winner had a difficult passage before reaching the decider, and accounted for Dublin's Bill Casey and Purcell of Kildare en route.

McCabe defeated Nicholas Kerins of Kerry in the semi-final, but against the accurate "placing" of Ledwith he showed a lack of experience. The Monaghan youth is, however, eligible for this grade next year and could go one better.

"Lily White" and "Kingdom" minor representatives found themselves in opposition again when the same pairs, Byrne and Purcell from Ballymore Eustace and the Tralee boys, McMullan and Kerins, played out the final of the hardball doubles. Kildare were victors in a hard-fought match by two games to one, and thereby kept alive the "alley-cracker" tradition of their county borne so creditably until quite recently by Bobby Grattan.

By winning this, the last minor championship of the year, Kildare prevented Kerry from beating their own personal best achievement of five All-Ireland titles, which was scored by their now famous team of 1953. However, their excellence in equalling that record, by winning a similar number this year brings to a total of thirty the number of Irish titles won by the Fitzgerald-Jones handball club in Tralee in the twelve years that it has been in existence,

On such a note did the All-Ireland handball championships come to a close. Records were equalled, and others were broken. New names appeared in the honours' list, while a few of the old ones were conspicuous by their absence. It is to be hoped that this lapse by such

regulars as the Delaney's of Kilkenny and Joe Cleary of Wicklow will be but temporary.

The revival of the game throughout the country is progressing rapidly. Entries are increasing yearly for the various and numerous competitions. Only in Ulster is there a dearth of talent, but, with a little assistance from their southern colleagues, whose experience in such matters would prove invaluable, they could be in a position to compete on level terms with the rest of the country inside the next five years,

Happlly, the situation has vastly improved in Connaught during the past half-decade, and, at the moment, officials there are planning on a most elaborate scale to provide two new first-class alleys in Co. Mayo. Castlebar is to be the location for an ultra-modern £3,000 structure.

The improvements on the court in Kells have already been admired by many this year, and the energetic committee responsible for this marvellous work have plans for even greater things to come, A big move is also afoot in Dublin to provide a new ballcourt for the growing number of enthusiasts there.

The future of handball, although the game is now on a fairly secure footing, depends solely on the present-day youth. When it is popularised in the schools and colleges to the fullest extent, it will take its rightful place again as one of the foremost of Ireland's national games.

GALWAY HURLING—from page 47

took the Railway Cup from Munster in 1947.

Not very impressive is it after 73 years of trying? And, now, some pontificators want the hurlers back in Connacht without a fair trial!

In passing, it must be noted that Galway appeared in nine All-Ireland finals. The first appearance was in 1887. They were back five times in the 1920's, only to be beaten by Dublin in '24, Tipperary in '25, and Cork in '28 and '29. They made three appearances in the fifties and were beaten by Cork in 1953, Wexford in 1955 and Tipperary in 1958.

Galway's contribution to the game of hurling has been a noteworthy one despite the records. The county produced some of the greatest players the game has ever known. The twenties produced Mick King, Mick Gill, Ignatius Harney, Mick Derivan and Matty Burke to mention but a few, while in the not too distant past names like Sean Dug-

gan, Fr. Paddy Gantley, "Inky" Flaherty, Josie and Stephen Gallagher, Tadgh Kelly, Hubert Gordon, John Killeen, Bernie Power and Johnny Molloy were household names.

When, and if, Congress comes to consider the advisability of retaining Galway in Munster I hope they will give some consideration to the possibility of keeping the senior team and sending back the junior and minor teams to compete in Connacht. Otherwise, the great efforts of Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim and Sligo to foster hurling will be defeated. Colleges in the province are doing their share of work but a shortage of hurleys is everybody's problem.

I have been asked — "Whither Galway Hurling?" and, in so far as it is humanly possible, I have endeavoured to plot the road to recovery. The immediate future is none too bright. Time alone can best supply the answer.

OFFALY'S AMBITION

By H. C. BURKE ex-captain Offaly S.F.T.

REALISED

COR the last quarter century Offaly has been fielding very good senior football teams, but the ambition of the "Faithful County" to win a Leinster title was never realised until last July.

Secondary competitions were won, like the Divisional National Football League victory in 1939, the O'Byrne Cup, a few years back, on the first occasion for which it was competed, and, in the years 1945 and '54, the ambitious midland county reached the Leinster finals against Wexford in Portlaoise and Meath in Croke Park, without capturing the crown. The third time to contest the provincial final proved lucky. The breakthrough had been long delayed.

Offaly's football record in the past showed that a peak performance was not repeated, but was usually followed by a disappointing display. This see-saw form appeared season after season until, in the last two leagues, a constantly-winning streak set in. Last year, a drubbing from Kerry in the league semi-final and a shock defeat on the home ground, O'Connor Park, by Laois, on a replay, in the Leinster Championship, revealed that the old fault of failing when least expected had not been eradicated.

THE VICTORY MARCH

The bad luck element disappeared and the lucky breaks came Offaly's way in 1960. But, there was more than luck attached to winning the Leinster Senior Football Championship. The Offaly team. had moulded into a well-disciplined unit by the personnel of the line-out remaining pretty constant. It had toughened and hardened into a confident combination by competition with first-class opposition. It was ready to sweep successfully through the provincial ties, and the minor team came with it.

CLOSE CALL FROM CARLOW

The difference between League and Championship was fully illustrated in Droichead Nua in mid-May when, in the first round. Offalv had a close call from Carlow. The off-hand ease and silky precision of league play was gone. In its place were the teak-tough, teeth-jarring jolts of the knock-out game played with the flavoured fury of a feud

It was a dramatic game with Offaly panting in serious arrears after the first half, trailing by 1-4. It took. a grinding 20 mins. to crawl abreast of a fading Carlow team: An interchange of points created a nail-biting finish. There was no slow trek to the exits. With two minutes to go the gloriously unexpected happened.

An exploratory, but well-directed, shot by centre half-back Charlie Wrenn hopped in the Carlow square, and left goalie J. Nolan frantically clawing at the leather, which thunked into the top of the twines.

There was no recovery for Carlow.

The match was won.

Carlow's chagrin over the fateful turn of events was sympathetically understood by Offalians, when it is realised that Doogue scored a disallowed Carlow goal, and Hogan missed a penalty.

The final score-Offaly, 2-12; Carlow, 2-9. Offaly introduced three substitutes, Mick Casey, Paddy McCormack and Tommy Greene, who held their places to the All-Ireland semi-final.

Greg. Hughes and Mick Brady were Offaly's best defenders, and midfielder Foran caught like a vacuum cleaner. Nine players scored, with substitute Casey top marksman.

HATS OFF TO THE HEROES

The disappointing days of misfortune were behind the "Faithful County", and the match-winning breaks continued to come to the tricolour jersey, Dublin was the next victim.

Dublin had annihilated Longford to progress to meet Offaly in Portlaoise on the 26th June in the Leinster semi-final. The caution which their 1954 reverse should have instilled in Dublin was swamped by over-confidence arising from their freak ten-goal trouncing of Longford. The reverse psychological effect settled on Offaly.

Chastened by the Carlow game's course, and stiffened for the fray by Dublin's facile victory over Longford, the muscular midlanders streaked through the muddled Metropolitans for a sensational result. The Leinster champions of two years' standing were heavily outscored in the second half, having held the slender lead of two points at halftime.

Some wonderful scoring by their captain, streak-runner Donie Hanlon, started a purple patch for Offaly, and three goals came in quick succession after Heffernan had booted a Dublin penalty over the bar.

When the long whistle sounded, the dethroned champions had been beaten by the biggest margin in years, and the famed scoring machine was spiked. The team that struggled past Carlow had been transformed into a highly efficient fifteen, ready to challenge title-laden Louth in the final,

The Metropolitan giant was also overcome in the minor grade. Winners of the minor All-Ireland championship five times in the past six years, Dublin were fairly and squarely beaten by the Offaly teenagers. So Offaly partisans lived to see the day when two of their football teams contested the Leinster finals-and won both-on the same day. It never rains, but it pours!

THE HISTORIC FIRST

In two hours of prestige-packed football, Offaly, on the last Sunday of July, in heretofore awe-inspiring Croke Park, completed their lordly and victorious sweep through the Leinster championships, and annexed a majestic double in minor and senior football by defeating Louth in both grades.

Played in wind and rain, the unkind elements failed to dampen the ardour of the huge Offaly contingent present, whose emotional relief and swelling pride, as the long senior whistle knelled Louth's defeat, were expressed in a racing swoop on the exultant players, and a hysterical round of congratulations. The "Corn Peile Laighean" was at long last in the hands of an Offaly captain.

MINOR CHAMPIONS

The minor footballers won all four quarters from Louth and had a 2 pts. lead at half-time (0-6 to 0-4). In the third quarter, the winners pointed four times without reply, but Louth decorated the last period with 1-1. Yet, Offaly remained ahead with a 1-2 tally in reply. T. Furlong's goal turned the Reds into a routed team, and the scoreboard showing 0-5 to 1-12, before Louth's late goal, would have been more indicative of Offaly's superiority.

Midfielder Martin Turley was the powerhouse of the team; goalie Merrigan was exceptional, and the half-forwards, Scully, Ennis and Shaughnessy, were the best balanced.

Offaly's first Leinster minor title was won in 1947.

LAURELS AT LAST

The final atmosphere, the closeness of the scores, and the stake of a Leinster title precluded any hint of dullness in

HISTORIC YEAR IN FOOTBALL—from page 31

back in the closing stages to gain victory by a point and thus take very deservedly the first Leinster senior title ever won by the County.

SURPRISING

The semi-finals were, to say the least of it, surprising. Galway, well beaten by Kerry in the previous All-Ireland final, were given little chance against the Kerrymen in the first, especially since for one reason or another, the Galwegians were well under full strength. Yet, they ran rings around Kerry through most of the first-half, were unlucky to be in arrears at the interval, and, if Frank Evers had any luck at all with his shooting, might well have snatched a draw in the closing stages.

But the second was even more sensational. Offaly led Down until well into the second-half when a penalty award, which will be long the cause of contention in the OConnor county, was goaled by Paddy Doherty to bring the Ulstermen back into the game. The teams finished level, and in the replay it was only in the closing stages that Down pulled out to win after Offaly had squandered chances in the opening half. Again there were those who claimed that they saw many weak spots in the Down fifteen in the course of those two hard-fought games.

But anyone who adopted that attitude was being entirely unfair to Offaly, a team that had improved out of all knowledge between their first championship game and their last. Down would, I'm sure, be the very first to acknowledge just how much they owe to Offaly, for the men from the Midlands combined strength with speed, they marked closely, went high for the ball and fielded safely, so that, in those two exhilarating struggles they provided the Ulster stars with the best possible preparation for an All-Ireland Final against Kerry.

That All-Ireland Final is history now. In fairness to Kerry, let it be said that they probably attempted the impossible when they tried to play the fastest team in Ireland under the handicap of an injured full-forward and full-back, but, though there was little in it through the first half, I always had the feeling that, while Down were holding something in reserve, Kerry were already at full stretch.

The men in green and gold made their big effort at the start of the second half. For ten minutes or so it looked as though the traditional fighting spirit of the Kerrymen might yet save the day, but, once James McCartan's high shot beat Johnny Culloty for Down's first goal, the end was inevitable. Paudhy Sheehy might have kept interest alive had he availed of a good goaling chance hereabouts, but there could be no doubts at all about Down's superiority in the last quarter.

In the end Kerry had sustained their worst-ever defeat in an All-Ireland final, and yet they can thank their luck that the margin of Down's victory was not even greater.

REALLY REACHED MATURITY

But I thought that Down really came to maturity a couple of Sundays later when they met New York in the St. Brendan Cup Final, again at Croke Park.

Through the opening ten minutes the new champions seemed content to size up the opposition. Then they suddenly found the Achilles heel of the Exiles, lack of mobility in covering off. At once Down began to swing the ball about into the open spaces, a type of football that they had got little chance to exploit in any of their previous Croke Park games through the year. And once the Ulstermen got that ball on the move it was obvious that the St. Brendan Cup was going to join the National League and All-Ireland trophies on Kevin Mussen's sideboard.

And so, in senior football it has been Ulster's greatest year with all four major trophies crossing the Border, but for Down it has been a true Annus Mirabilis, and deservedly so.

The present All-Ireland champions have time and again proved their versatility. They have learned to play close, hard football and yet keep the leather on the move. They are not now ruffled by hard tackling, and it has been proved that it is all but impossible to knock them off their game. They have shown themselves the greatest team that has ever come South of the Border, and in doing so have made football history.

FOOTBALLER OF YEAR

Despite their many mid-field switches, they have not had a weak link on the side and they have, moreover, produced the man who was for me the footballer of the year, Leo Murphy, now in my opinion the best full-back in the country, and well fitted to stand with the

best who have ever filled that onerous position.

After Down, Offaly who even in defeat gained new prestige, were the most improved team of the year, but Kerry set the minds of their followers at rest, and showed the reserve of football talent in the Kingdom, by fielding several new-comers in the "GAELIC WEEKLY" Final against Dublin and gaining a resounding victory in which the lads in green and gold played glorious football.

In the other ranks, the junior championship produced nothing of note. A workmanlike Dublin side were good winners of the title, though they had not a great deal to spare over London at Croke Park in a rain-ruined Final.

The minor championship produced some excellent games. A lively Offaly side made it a memorable year for the county by coming through in Leinster, but failed to match a grand Galway fifteen in the semi-final. In the other semi-final Cork had little to spare over Down.

In the final we saw an amazing game. Over the hour Cork had rather more of the play, but their forwards just could not score, while, on the other hand, the clever Galway attackers seemed to land a score in every one of their comparatively rare attacks. So Galway scored a resounding victory and I shall be greatly surprised if many of these lads are not seniors of note in another three or four seasons.

ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A HISTORIC YEAR IN FOOTBALL, A YEAR THAT WILL SURELY NEVER BE FORGOTTEN IN DOWN AS LONG AS THE MOURNE MOUNTAINS SWEEP DOWN TO THE SEA.

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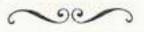
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OFFALY'S AMBITION REALISED - from page 49

the senior game. The shouldering was muscular and energy-sapping, the kicks ground-devouring. It does not belittle Offaly's display to say that the good fortune which descended on their banners in Droichead Nua did not desert them in Croke Park.

The scores were level three times. In the last quarter the lead changed hands. The last score of the game, a hard-earned field point by captain Hanlon, was registered five minutes from time, and in the closing minutes Casey and Brady distinguished themselves by heroic

defensive efforts.

In this game, Offaly's severest set-back was the award of a penalty to Louth in the 29th minute of the first half. Kevin Behan drove a grass-grazing bullet into the right corner of Willie Nolan's net, to send Louth to their dressing rooms in

the lead (1-4 to 0-3).

Fortunately, Offaly mounted a sixminute offensive on restarting, and
tried the scores with 4 points. The
turning point was a missed "sitter"
by Behan (who had previously
pounded lengthy frees over the bar
with elan) from a close free earned by
Woods who was held while groping for
a goal. The exchange of points after
that left one white flag in Offaly's
favour. The final score was: Offaly
0-10; Louth 1-6, and it was the only
game in which Offaly failed to raise a
green flag.

Years of unrewarded endeavour and bitter frustration were at last crowned with success. Ambition was realised; the goal reached. The final score was: Offaly, 0-10; Louth 1-6, and it was the only game in which Offaly failed to

raise a green flag.

ON TO THE SEMI-FINAL

The traditional hoodoo that had assailed past wearers of the republican jersey (Offaly makes a strong claim to be the first county to have woven the national colours in their jersey) had been shattered. Untouched by superstition, unhampered by the record book, impressed only by present performance, Offaly's 1960 line-out had toppled Louth to progress against the Ulster champions, Down, in the All-Ireland semi-final. The Mourne men had won the National League, defeating Kerry in the final. They had whacked Galway in Wembley. They came to Croke Park with a big reputation for fast, combined play, with incisive score-producing forward work.

MINORS OUT

In the semi-final, the Offaly minors came up against Galway, who proved to be an exceptional team and ultimate All-Ireland champions. The Westerners won easily enough, 2-12 to 2-3. It was the end of the road for the minors, and, for the first time, the seniors faced the opposition without the feeling of satisfaction that the teenagers had shown them the way.

If the minors were eliminated, the superb seniors lived to fight another day, drawing with Mussen's men, having led for 53 minutes and only deprived of victory by a controversial penalty, sunk by Doherty, before a near-record crowd of over 64,000.

Offaly led at half-time, 2-4 to 0-3, by means of 2 goals by Casey and Donnelly. Down restarted with four unanswered points. Doherty's penalty tied the scores seven minutes from time-up. An exchange of points left the teams level, 2-7 to 1-10.

OFFALY LOSE REPLAY

It was like old times, after the semifinal replay, treking home in the rain, defeated. There was one comforting thought. Offaly were still Leinster champions, the pinnacle of past ambitions.

Our great team raised the football prestige of the county to an all-time high. In September's semi-final defeat by a 2 pts. margin (1-7 to 1-5) they were far from disgraced, but were eliminated after a severe test and a most strenuous effort before the second highest attendance at a semi-final

Mussen said that Down won in the rain. Offaly's mentors blamed the freshened wind and persistent drizzle of the last quarter for the team's eclipse. Many an "if" was tagged to Greene's shots; if Casey was held scoreless, Doherty's tally slumped from 1-7 of the drawn game to 0-1 (free) in the replay. Late points by James McCartan at a vital stage prevented Offaly from con-

It is worth noting that Offaly led at half-time, 1-3 to 0-2, and Down showed that they had the stuff of champions in

testing their first All-Ireland final.

them by fighting back.

A TEAM EFFORT

It was a team effort which won the Leinster title for Offaly, and went so near to winning the Sam Maguire Cup. The defence proved the better part of the team. Willie Nolan had a creditable campaign in goal. The fulls, McCormack, Hughes and Egan, were exceptional. Mobility and anticipation helped the lighter halves, O'Reilly, Brady and Wrenn, to more than hold their own. The great forwards of the season, Joyce, Heffernan, Behan, Sean O'Neill, Hadden and Morgan, remained practically scoreless against the defence.

Six-footer Foran fielded confidently and had his best year in competitive football but he needs a permanent

partner.

Winger Tommy Greene emerged is one of the fastest and surest forwards in Leinster. A big figure in the Dublin defeat, and scorer of the winning point in the Leinster final, Donie Hanlon, was quite indisposed in the Down games, in which Tommy Cullen gained in stature.

Although Sean Brereton worked hard in all games, his scoring power was low. If Har Donnelly had continued his scoring feats from frees and field in the semi-final replay, Offaly would have won. The Air Corps player returned from a Rome holiday at the Olympic

Games to Croke Park, and had lost his touch.

From the time he came on as a sub. against Carlow, the Croghan blacksmith, Mick Casey, now in the veteran stage, influenced every game in his team's favour.

WHY?

Why did Offaly's first title come at last? Some have ascribed success to the sincere searching and perseverance of the five-man selection committee of some years ago. Others have suggested that the creation of the Football Board three years ago brought along the big ball game.

Undoubtedly, the cumulative effect of Bord na Scol competitions, juvenile and minor games in the county, has been felt. The personality of the Carlow-born County Board Chairman, Rev. Fr. Doran, C.C., Daingean, impressed itself on the team and contributed to its development.

Not from the shrines of Ciaran, Carthage or Colmcille have the wells of ambition sprung; the glacial Great Esker that snakes its low sand line over North Offaly, or the Fianna-haunted Slieve Blooms on the southern bottler, provided no inspiration to Offaly's footballers.

The resurgence has coincided with the mechanisation of brown boglands, and the conesquent economic and industrial expansion that has taken place in the heart of Ireland. The tranquil midland area has been transformed into a thriving industrial region, where columns of machinery are like the facade of ancient Greek temples, and imposing drying towers point at the sky.

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Munster Survey



THE 1960 season was a barren one for Munster teams as far as the winning of All-Ireland titles was concerned. One by one the southern challengers bit the dust when they came into opposition with the title-holders of other provinces, until finally Munstermen could hardly believe that their luck had been so bad.

It was the first time in many years that a championship title of some sort had not come to the province.

What reference can be drawn from this failure to uphold the proud tradition of Munster teams in the year we have left behind? Is one to draw the conclusion that the Southern titleholders were not quite as good as in former years?

Let us look first at the performances of the provincial senior titleholders in the All-Ireland tests. In hurling, it will be recalled, Tipperary crashed badly to Wexford in the final, after having been rated odds-on favourites to win, while Kerry lost to Down after having survived a great Galway challenge in

the semi-final. Tipperary's crushing defeat left Munstermen wondering whether the mantle of hurling greatness had really been surrendered to the Leinster champions. The dashing. long-striking Wexfordmen left no doubt as to their superiority in the All-Ireland final, but soon after the big test hurling followers had to readjust their sights as championship form was contradicted in the Oireachtas Cup competition.

Cork cruised to a three-goal win over the Slaneysiders in the famous unfinished game at New Ross, and Tipperary came back to slam the Rebels in the final of the com-

petition.

These results, and Tipperary's return to top form in the St. Brendan Cup final against New York, left most Munster observers convinced that Tipperary, and not Wexford, were the outstanding hurling team of 1960.

It was felt that the Premier-county men had struck an off-day in the All-Ireland final, and that a repeat of their best form against Wexford would have left them clear-cut winners.

Down Were Better

There was no such "we wuz robbed" feeling about the defeat of Kerry in the football championship. Even in the Kingdom it is admitted that Kerry were lucky to go so far, for Galway beat them on the run of the play in the semi-final and were downright unlucky not to have at least forced a draw. And there could

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By JOHN JOE BROSNAN

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be no denying that Down were the better team in the last quarter of the final.

Nothing has happened since to suggest that the Kingdom footballers deserved a better fate in the All-Ireland final. It is felt that the Sam Maguire Cup went north on merit alone.

In view of the uniformly high standard of football in the four provinces, one cannot hold that the failure to annex top honours is something to get worried about. After all, Kerry were champions as late as 1959 and, with the backbone of that team providing the nucleus of the present side, it cannot be argued that Munster is poorly represented in the national sphere.

How can we explain away the defeat of all the other Munster challengers for premier honours? Simply by stating that the games are thriving so well throughout the country at large that winning a national title in any grade is now a matter of great difficulty. The Munster teams were not good enough, but neither were they so much below the average standard as to give cause for concern.

Biggest Surprise

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the defeat of the Tipperary minor hurlers by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final. The Tipp minors have for so long made a formality of winning the premier title

that their defeat was generally regarded as a breath of fresh air for this competition. Outside of Tipperary itself, nobody in Munster begrudged the boys in black-and-amber their success.

There was a different feeling about the Cork minor team's attempt to annex the football crown. Dogged by ill-luck in the Munster championship down the years -they have suffered several one-point defeats at the hands of Kerry-the Cork boys had all Munster behind them in their bid for the first minor fcotball title ever to be won by a Leeside fifteen. There was, then, keen disappointment when the team failed to Galway in the All-Ireland final.

Kerry came within a point of Dublin, the ultimate winners, in the junior football championship, but Cork were well beaten by Carlow in the All-Ireland junior hurling final.

Much To Be Desired

The 1960 Munster championships themselves left a lot to be desired. In senior hurling, the Munster final between Cork and Tipperary was the only game that lived up to expectations, while football followers were cheated right along the line.

Waterford's sensational victory over Cork in the semi-final robbed the football championship of the only game that right have come up to scratch-a clash between Cork and Kerry in the final. It was generally felt after Waterford's surprise win at Lismore that they had little chance of standing up to Kerry in the final, and this predilection proved only too true.

In the light of subsequent events, it must be regarded as doubtful whether Cork would have done much better against the reigning All-Ireland champions. The opening games of the 1960-61 National League showed only too plainly that they have slipped a lot in recent times, leaving Kerry now the unchallenged masters of the Munster football scene.

(Continued on next page)

MUNSTER SURVEY - from previous page

This is the big cause for concern in Munster Gaeldom at the moment. A competition dominated by one team does nobody good—least of all the team which overshadows all its rivals—and, gloomy as the prospect is, it would appear that in the immediate future Kerry are going to have an untroubled reign as football kingpins of the south,

Second-Rate Games

It is to be hoped that the Munster hurling championship does not for a long time throw up such a succession of second-rate games as that of 1960. The Tipperary-Limerick game at Cork was little short of a fiasco, and the Cork-Clare semi-final at Thurles was an uninspiring affair in which Cork scrambled to an unimpressive win after having been led for most of the hour.

We all looked to the Tipperary-Waterford clash at Limerick to compensate for these disappointments, but what happened? On a sodden pitch and in blinding rain, Tipperary played ducks and drakes with the reigning All-Ireland champions, exacting sweet revenge for their humiliation at the hands of the same opponents ten months previously.

Then there was only the Munster final left, and everything pointed to an easy Tipp victory. Their return to top form was in direct contrast to the stumbling victory of the Cork side over Clare, and few neutral observers gave Cork a chance.

Happily, that game at Thurles made amends for much that had gone before. Cork disputed the issue in the old Rebel County tradition and the Tipperary men had to fight tooth and nail to win the title by a narrow margin.

Subsequent to their championship defeat, Waterford showed that their poor display at Limerick was too bad to be a true indication of their worth, and at season's end it was crystal clear that Munster, the premier hurling province, could boast three teams who could compete in any company.

County Championships

Some of the most exciting games in the province during the year were provided by the county championships. There were a number of surprises, and teams which had not figured in the winning list for many years came to the fore in several cases.

Limerick brought forth new hurling champions in Kilmallock, who beat Claughaun in the county final. Also winning their first-ever county title were Thurles Crokes football team, who beat Clonmel Commercials in the Tipp final.

It was a coincidence that the Crokes, who included a number of Thurles Sarsfields hurling stars, should win their first crown the year that "Sars"—champions for the past five years—surrendered their hurling title to Toomevara, who were recording their first victory in 29 years.

The Cork senior football title went to U.C.C. after a lapse of thirty-two years, but the hurling crown remained with Glen Rovers, whose eighteenth victory it was in this competition. U.C.C. were the runners-up in the hurling.

In Clare, Ruan retained their senior hurling title for the third year running, while Kilrush beat Cooraclare in the football championship final.

Mount Sion won the Waterford senior hurling championship, and Ballyduff bested Lixnaw in the same competition in Kerry, thus winning their fifth title.

Western Gaels triumphed over Treaty Sarsfields in the Limerick football final, wresting back the title they had last held in 1953.

Those storied championship battlers, Kilrossanty, won yet another Waterford senior football final when they beat their great rivals, Brickey Rangers, in a hard-fought encounter while, in Kerry, John Mitchels (holders) and West Kerry must meet a second time to decide who will be football champions of the Kingdom for 1960.

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Camogie Made Significant

AMOGIE CONTINUED TO MAKE SLOW BUT STEADY PROGRESS THROUGH 1960 AND, IF THE STRENGTH OF THE ORGANISATION IS STILL, IN MANY COUNTIES, FAR BELOW WHAT WE WOULD ALL WISH IT TO BE, YET THERE ARE MANY SIGNS OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, AND MANY SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES WERE MADE.

One of the most important of these was the decision taken at Congress to try and set up official Colleges' championships in each province. Such a championship has been successfully run for some years past in Ulster, and now Leinster has followed suit.

Dublin already had a thriving College League and championship, so that while many Dublin Schools were naturally to the fore in this

AGNES HOURIGAN

new departure, it was the response from the Provincial Schools that was the most encouraging when the first steps were taken to set up a Leinster Colleges' Camogie Council.

Of this body, Miss P. Fingleton of the Convent of Mercy, Callan, County Kilkenny, was elected first Chairman, while it was gratifying to see two famous players, Miss Annette Corrigan and Miss Annie Donnelly, elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Both ladies have won all the honours of the game with U.C.D., Dublin and Leinster.

At the time of writing, the Leinster Colleges' championship has reached the final stage with two Dublin schools, Holy Faith, Glasnevin, and Holy Faith, Clontarf, remaining to battle for the honour of becoming the first winners of the competition. They beat two country schools, Convent of Mercy, Callan, and Convent of Mercy, Athboy, respectively, in the semi-finals.

The Ulster competition was run off earlier in the year and resulted in senior victory for St. Dominics, Belfast, and the junior title went to Coleraine. In Dublin, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin won the senior Colleges' League, while Holy Faith, Clontarf, won the senior championship.

Cork Colleges beat Dublin Colleges in their annual challenge game, the Southern girls staging a remarkable recovery after a poor start.

INTER-COUNTY GAME

The senior inter-county championships got off to a good start, Antrim, hard pressed in the previous year by Derry, now had a very ready win in Ulster, but there was something of a surprise in the South where Cork had a good win over title-holders Waterford. Tipperary had a runaway win over Limerick (Clare had been beaten by Waterford in the first round), and then went on to regain the provincial title with a good win over Cork.

In the West, Galway regained the title by defeating Mayo after a good game.

But Leinster was the busiest pro-

Presentation of the Smyco Trophy for the Leinster Junior Camogie championship by Miss Iney O'Kelly, chairman of the Leinster Council, to Babe O'Loughlin of Kilkenny, winners of the cup, at the Gaelic Sports Shop, Dublin. Included in photo are, from left to right; Doreen Brennan, captain of Dublin, Miss O'Kelly, Babe O'Loughlin and Kathleen Corcoran, captain of Galway.

Advances

vince of the lot. For the first time, all twelve counties affiliated but neither Meath nor Wicklow participated in the championships. This year, all the competing counties, except Dublin, participated in the junior competition, the winners of which advanced to meet Dublin in the final.

Here, Kilkenny proved the surprise team, beating Offaly, fancied Wexford and Laois in turn, to take the title after some great games. The Kilkenny girls then faced Dublin in the senior final, but, after putting up a great battle in the opening half, fell away after the interval and were well beaten at the end. But the value of this Leinster junior competition was very obvious when the interprovincial series came round later on.

Antrim travelled to London in the first game of the All-Ireland series and enhanced their reputation with a good win over the exiles who had given Waterford such a fright at

Dungarvan last season.

(Continued on page 62)



GAELIC SPORTS QUIZ

ANSWERS

Questions on Page 21)

- (1) Tipperary. He was a native of Nenagh.
- (2) F. B. Dineen, a native of Ballylanders, who was first the Association's official handicapper, then President and then Secretary.
- (3) The G.A.A. Athletic championships of 1892, held there on September 10, three weeks after the ground was opened.
- (4) September, 1927. The teams were Cork and Dublin and the commentator was P. D. Mehigan ("Carbery").
- (5) Doubly false. The games in which they played Kildare were in the "home" Final, and the Final against London Irish was not played until late in 1905.
- (6) Yes. In 1895 Cavan played Louth in the first round and were beaten.
- (7) The Munster Final was not played until after the All-Ireland due to an epidemic of foot and mouth disease. In the Munster Final Tipperary beat Cork.
- (8) True. Then a pupil at Good Counsel College, New Ross, he played on the Leinster team that won the Colleges All-Ireland hurling championship of 1940.
- (9) Phil Casey, who built Casey's famous ball-court in Brooklyn, New York.
- (10) Nobody. Both Kilkenny and Dublin were disqualified for being late on the field.
- (11) Jack Lynch of Cork, now Minister for Industry and Commerce. He won Hurling medals in 1941, '42, '43, '44, a football medal in '45 and another hurling medal in '46.
- (12) Mick Higgins (Cavan) and Jim Crowley (Dublin).

THIS ATTITUDE MUST CHANGE—from page 23

There may be other measures, such as motions to Congress and County Conventions, and Referee's Committees, which might help. Payment of referees might, or might not, be a good move. Of one thing only am I sure. A change is needed in most members' attitudes on this question, and the sooner it comes, the better.

Having got so much off my chest, I would like to make it clear that I am blaming no one in particular for any incidents that have occurred. Most "over robust" players have learned the game from somebody else, and may have learned it the hard way, by bitter experience.

Neither am I lumping all players and all games in the same boat. In proportion to the total number of games played yearly, the number of incidents is small. Yet, I believe they are far too prevalent for this day and age.

A playing field is a place for disciplined men, and a game is the ideal test of self-restraint and the ability to give and take hard knocks without a murmur. Anyone who cannot do this, or who possesses a very nasty temper, should not be an active participant.

FOR MY OWN PART, I WOULD NOT REST UNTIL WE HAD HEARD THE VERY

LAST OF ALL INCIDENTS. WERE THE RULE QUOTED EARLIER STRICTLY EN-FORCED, I BELIEVE WE WOULD SOON SEE AN END TO THEM AND THE GOOD NAME AND REPUTATION OF THE ASSO-CLATION WOULD BE ENHANCED A HUNDRED FOLD. IN THAT WAY, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OUR PLACE WITHOUT QUALM IN THE TELEVISION AGE.

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Miss K. Griffin, Miss L.
O'Grady (Munster); Mrs.
Heneghan, Mrs. Daly (Connacht); Miss M. Smith, Mrs.
N. Murray (Ulster).

ROLL OF 1960 CHAMPIONS

Leinster: Senior, Dublin; Junior,

Kilkenny.

Munster: Tipperary. Connacht: Galway. Ulster: Antrim.

Inter-Provincial (Gael-Linn Cup):

Leinster.

All-Ireland: Dublin.
Ashbourne Cup: U.C.D.

Inter-Provincial Champions: Leinster: L. Tobin (Kilkenny), B.
Hughes (Dublin), T. Nolan (Carlow), D. Brennan (Dublin),
capt., S. Lennon (Louth), C.
Whitty (Laois), A. Hussey (Dublin), M. Kehoe (Wexford), G.
Callinan (Laois), C. Hanrahan (Kilkenny), A. Donnelly (Dublin), U. O'Connor (Dublin).

ALL-IRELAND FINAL

Croke Park, November 13. Dublin, 6-2; Galway, 2-0

DUBLIN: E. Leech, B. Hughes, N. Murney, D. Brennan (Capt.), A. Nulty, C. Nolan, A. Hussey, K. Mills, J. Kinsella, K. Ryder, A. Donnelly, U. O'Connor.

GALWAY: E. Naughton, P. Colclough, E. Niland, V. Heneghan, S. Tonry, C. Conway, K. Higgins, K. Corcoran (Capt.), F. Fox, K. Clancy, K. Flaherty, E. Walsh. Sub-K. Quinn. (Continued from page 59)

And then the surprises began. Dublin played Tipperary at Parnell Park, Dublin, in the first semi-final, and the All-Ireland champions found themselves outplayed in the first half, and were deservedly behind at half-time. Tipperary continued to do well through a hard-fought second half and level scoring at the end of the game was a deserved verdict.

Extra time was then played, and Dublin just snatched the verdict after a further twenty exciting minutes.

Galway travelled to Belfast to engage Antrim in the second semi-final, and were not expected to trouble a youthful Northern side. But the Connacht champions sprang the surprise of the decade by snatching a great victory and thus qualified to meet Dublin in the final for the first time.

...It had been hoped to play off this final before the end of August, but, owing to bad weather and draws in the G.A.A. championship, Croke Park was not available until November 13, so that, for once the Interprovincial championships were played off before the All-Ireland.

GAEL-LINN CUP

And these battles for the Gael-Linn Cup evoked more interest than ever before. Munster fielded a very strong side at Cahir to beat Connacht in a hard-fought semi-final in which the Western forwards failed to take their chances, while a widely-based Leinster selection had a runaway win over a disappointing Ulster side at Parnell Park.

Munster won the toss for choice of venue for the final, and again the venue was Cahir where the home side were fully confident of breaking Leinster's monopoly in this competition. And what a great game this was. There was little or nothing between the provinces all the way, but, as time approached, Munster, holding a slender lead, looked to have their title won. But a brilliant move from the Leinster forwards in a break-away brought what proved to be the winning goal and left the Gael-Linn Cup in the Eastern province for the fifth successive year.

THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL

It was a pity that the camogie final was played so late in the year, for the dull November afternoon sadly cut down the crowd and the heavy sod was all against a spec-

tacular display.

Neverthless, Dublin and Galway showed between them how much the all-round standard of the game has improved, for, while this was, from goal to goal, a solid and well-drilled Dublin side, Galway matched them in style and stickwork in many positions. However, the craft, combination and team-work of the city girls was more than the Connacht champions could match, and Dublin's flying start took much of the interest out of what was otherwise a grand game.

Kathleen Mills, who met a very worthy opponent in Chris Conway, Doreen Brennan, an inspiring captain, Gerry Hughes, Alice Hussey, Colette Nolan, Kay Ryder and Una O'Connor were, perhaps, oftenest in the limelight, but the whole Dublin team played brilliantly. For Galway, Eileen Naughton, P. Colclough, Sheila Tonry, and Francis Fox were

outstanding.

Miss Ethna Neville of Kilfinny, County Limerick, herself an All-Ireland camogie player, and member of a famed hurling family, was an extremely competent referee.

DEALERS IN SALMON AND POULTRY

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Guthan 60

TIP-TOP YEAR IN ATHLETICS

NOTHER glorious year in the colourful history of the National Athletic and Cycling Association of Ireland is drawing to a close and those who guide the destinies of the organisation can look back with pride on the position which it commands in the country.

Another Olympic Games passed into history during 1960, another Olympic Games to which the members of the N.A.C.A. were denied entry as they are not prepared to accept the ruling of the International Federation in relation to their position at home.

However, while minor snags did show their teeth during the current year, the overall picture is one of progress and well-being, with the numerical strength of the Association's membership growing yearly and new clubs being formed throughout the country.

Despite all that, the members, from Council level down, must keep on striving for their goal—to have County

By PADDY HOARE

Boards established in all counties in the country.

From the athletic point of view it was a tip-top year, and now, as I sit down to review it, many happy memories of great races and great performances come flooding back to my mind.

Where to start is the problem. Where would you?

Well, for me, one of the greatest thrills was when that great and gallant Galway athlete, Willie Morris, entered the the Iveagh Grounds on Sunday, July 24, ahead of all opposition to win the National marathon championship.

I have seen Willie win many All-Ireland titles. When I saw him in 1959 win the All-Ireland senior cross-country championship over a bone-shaking course at Dunleer, as he pounded his younger rivals into the muddy terrain, I said, "surely this will be the end for this 39-years-old forestry worker."

But the stout-hearted Derrydonnell runner had other ideas. On the opening day of the All-Ireland championships I met him at Iveagh Grounds. "What do you think of your chances in the marathon?" I asked. "I'll be trying", came the modest reply. Then, up spoke another well-known Association athlete

of a few years ago, Brian Bell, who commented, "Willie has a great chance". How right he was.

Over the roads of Dublin, Morris lived up to Brian's expectations and did a (Continued on page 68)

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ULSTER COUNCIL G.A.A.
S.F. CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES—1961

MAY 28—Donegal v. Derry, Ballybofey, T. McGill.

JUNE 4—Armagh v. Cavan, Lurgan, J. Dowling; Monaghan v. Antrim, Castleblaney, M. McArdle.

JUNE 11—Down v. Fermanagh, Newry or Irvinestown, D. McArevey; Tyrone v. Donegal or Derry. If Tyrone v. Donegal, Dungannon, L. Maguire; if Tyrone v. Derry, Ballinascreen, M. McArdle.

Semi-final "A"—June 25—Armagh or Cavan v. Monaghan or Antrim. Semi-final "B"—July 2— Down or Fermanagh v. Donegal or Derry or Tyrone.

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Ulster's Year of Glory

THE last Sunday of September, 1960, revived for me memories of a certain day, years before I experienced the thrill of being present for the first time in our great National stadium, Croke Park, and seeing a team from one's Province take home the coveted Sam Maguire Cup.

I was still at school when my father allowed me to wait up until after midnight on that day, now in the gathering years, which seems so far away. It was the day that the men of Breffni made history in bringing home their first All-Ireland football title.

It was a time when the Radio had not become such a common medium, as it is now, for bringing an up-to-theminute account of how the teams were faring. If that particular match was broadcast, we had not reached the stage at home of having a crystal set.

But, the arrival of the All-Ireland train after midnight brought with it an excited brother, Joe, and, as we warmed our toes around the fire, he enthralled us with every kick of that game. How proud we were of Cavan that night!

The years sped on, and the name of Breffni loomed large for long on the Gaelic horizon. They were the only team to go back again and again to Croke Park, and, if they did not always bring home the bacon, they always seemed to satisfy us that they had worthily upheld the honour of the Province.

Times, and teams, have changed since that in Ulster. New champions arose after a long and hard struggle. First it was Antrim; then, Armagh, and, in recent years, Tyrone and Derry, to be followed by the darlings of them all, the gallant men of Down, led by Kevin Mussen.

For me, for all Ulster, as well as for the greater part of the country, Down's victory in the All-Ireland final this year provided one of the greatest thrills of a lifetime. New champions are always popular, and old ones respected, but this was an unforgettable day in famed Croke Park, which seemed to turn almost completely black and red in colour when the full-time whistle went to herald the most history-making event in the annals of Gaeldom.

HUGH DALY

It was an unforgettable thrill, not because it brought the fall of the Green and
Gold of the Kingdom of Kerry, but because of the inherent yearning in most
people's hearts over the past few years
to see Gaeldom's greatest football prize
cross for the first time, the foreignimposed imaginary line, commonly referred to as the Border.



Johnny Creedon (14) beats Pat Rice (4) and Leo Murphy in the St. Brendan Cup Final.

Down it was who had that great honour; Down it was who richly deserved it, for there was nothing slipshod in the manner in which the Kingdom fell. It was to the super-charged play of a side that has carved for itself, and for the Kingdom of Mourne, a special niche among the "greats" of all time, since that day many years ago Kerry and Kildare, at their third meeting, set Gaelic standards on a new high pinnacle that only the best can attain.

ROSE THE HARD WAY

To me, Down's victory in this year's All-Ireland was a triumph brought about by hard and persistent endeavour, and by the most methodical training schedule ever put into effect in the Province. Down rose the hard way. After year's of frustration, they have now won every honour in the game. The grand treble of the National League, Championship, and St. Brendan Cup. They have filled the cup of glory to the brim, and, in doing it, have they not given those of us heart who have yet to see our counties earn even one of these coveted prizes?

And when we come to analyse Down's merited successes of 1960, have they not been a natural sequence to the development of our games in Ulster? This year, our footballers bore that out in regaining the Railway Cup. Gradually, over the past decade or so, county after county has arisen in sequence to the top ranks. Fermanagh, struggling for long, made history last year in bringing home their first junior All-Ireland crown, and now they are once again in senior ranks to challenge the best with ever-improving standard.

Down would seem to have a bright reign in store, but who can say with any degree of accuracy, who may be Ulster champions for 1961?

(Continued overleaf)

Yes, the Association has for long been flourishing in Ulster, due in no small measure to the most progressive of our Provincial Councils, and a secretary, Gerry Arthurs, of whom the Association may well feel proud. Efficient and energetic men control the destinies of the respective county boards; our Colleges' Council has organised to the limit, or almost; and schools and juvenile or minor boards have long-since been functioning in all nine counties, some of which have as many as nine well-equipped vested county or club grounds.

This year new ground was broken in the organisation of a minor football league, won recently by Tyrone. Four counties competed. Next year, all nine

will be taking part.

For long, all the business at our Provincial Council meetings has been conducted in the native tongue, and a very successful course in Irish has been an annual feature at Rosguill Gaelic college, in my native Tir Conaill, under the aegis of the Council for future as well as present-day administrators.

We have yet much work to do before the McCarthy Cup follows the Sam Maguire to any part of the Province, but we are steadily gaining ground in the hurling drive. Antrim lead the way in this, followed closely by Down and Donegal. Within the next decade, our day, we hope, will come. If it does not, it will not be for lack of striving.

AROUND THE COUNTIES

DONEGAL: An all-time record of 69 clubs affiliated. Much progress made in the hurling failed to pull the record crowds which attended football championship and league games throughout the county.

The senior county team gave a bright performance against Down at Newry in the Dr. McKenna Cup, but failed dismally to Cavan in the championship at Breffni Park. Prestige, to some extent has been regained in the National League.

Plenty of young talent is coming up, but large scale emigration has been proving a bugbear, not alone in the rural areas, but also in the towns.

Senior football championship won by St. Eunan's; junior by Bundoran; minor by Gweedore, and juvenile by MacCumhaill's. Senior football league won by Kilcar; junior league by Cloughaneely. Minor hurling championship won by MacCumhaill's; juvenile by Cardonagh. Junior final to be played before Christmas. Outstanding Player: county cul baire, Seamus Hoare, Letterkenny, reckoned as Ulster's best hurler,

ULSTER'S YEAR OF GLORY

(Continued from page 65)

ARMAGH: Armagh, the team that might have won the senior championship this year, have already made their impact in the National League, and can be regarded as one of the 'danger sides of 1961.

Lurgan Clan Eireann and Cross-maglen Rangers must meet again to decide the county senior football final, they drew 3-5 to 1-11 in their first encounter. The minor competition is progressing, and the leagues are also incomplete. The South Armagh club, Mullaghbawn, beat Derrynoose, in an excellent final.

The outstanding club was Carrick-croppin, led by county centre-half back, Danny Kelly. They won six G.A.A. weeks in Co's Armagh and Down, and are in the final of the Armagh Gold Watches tournament. They were unfortunate, due to injuries, to be beaten in the semi-final of the junior championship.

The county's outstanding player of the year is county midfielder, Johnny McGeary, who for club or county, never missed a game, and always plays his heart out. A close second would be Ranger's Gene Larkin, and Clann na Gael's Harry Hoy.

MONAGHAN: Monaghan put up a fine display against Down at Dungannon in the senior football championship. The most outstanding player on that occasion, and indeed during the year, has been cul baire, Johnny McKenna from Killanny Geraldines. He gave a masterly display against Down, and catches the eye on every occasion. Other prominent players were Benny Moen, Seamus McElroy and Frank McQuaid.

The senior football championship, the second semi-final of which was played on 4th September, was held up by an objection by Monaghan Harps against Castleblaney Faughs, a counter-objection by the latter club, two appeals to the Ulster Council, and the final chapter—two appeals by the Monaghan County Board against the decisions of the Ulster Council, which have had the effect of leaving the final in abeyance.

The finalists are Scotstown and Castleblayney. The competition itself took a remarkable turn, as all the fancied teams, Clontibret, Inniskeen, Donaghmoyne and Ballybay were knocked out in the first and second rounds. Without doubt, the surprise team of the competition was Scotstown, who recorded victories over Donaghmoyne and Clontibret.

Castleblayney Faughs, once the kingpins of Monaghan football, after many years in the doldrums, came bang into the picture this year with a team backboned by a number of minor inter-county players.

Inniskeen officially opened their grounds—Grattan Park—during 1960. It is a fitting reward for years of hard work and endeavour on the part of this energetic South Monaghan country club. The principal architect in this venture was Paddy O'Rourke, club secretary, and also secretary of the grounds committee.

TYRONE: On the inter-county fields, the only success achieved by Tyrone was in winning the special minor-four-county league, an excellent competition. Prominent minors who should be heard of in the senior ranks at a later date are—Charlie O'Hagan (capt.); Harry Strain, Patsy Forbes, Tom McKeagney, Malachy O'Neill (brother of Jody), and Declan O'Neill.

The winning of the Dr. McLarnon cup by St. Patrick's Academy was another notable achievement in Tyrone G.A.A. circles this year, The coming of Rev. D. Faul (ex-Louth minor) to the Academy saw a great revival of interest in football and hurling. The Academy team supplied three members of the county minor team.

Championship winners for 1960 are: senior football: Clonoe O'Rahilly's; Runners-up, Denaghmore St. Patrick's. Junior champ., Benburb Eoghan Ruadh (who took their first title); Runners-up: Strabane St. Colman's. Minor champ., Ardboe O'D. Rossa's and Fintona Pearses have played two drawn games in the final. Juvenile champ., Coalisland Fianna and Dromore St. Dympna's played in the final on Nov. 6th. Feis Shield: Dungannon Clarke's; Runners-up Moy Tir na nOg. Fr. Campbell Trophy (S.F.), South East Section (Dungannon, Moy, Donaghmore, Galbally); Runnersup: Mid-West Section (Pomeroy, Carrickmore, Beragh, Ballygawley).

FERMANAGH: Flushed from its All-Ireland success of 1959, the county team reentered senior ranks for the first time in many years. It promised much, but failed against Cavan in the provincial quarter-final.

ULSTER'S YEAR OF GLORY

Feature of football in Fermanagh this year has been the even standard of the senior teams. Newtownbutler and Derrygonnelly are probably the strongest, but there is a great likelihood that the senior football championship will be won by the combined strength of two junior teams, Devenish and Mulleek, who have already reached the final. This is the first year that junior clubs have been able to compete in the senior football championship.

In junior ranks Brookeboro' and Knocks are tops in the East; Mulleek and Belcoo in the West.

Newtownbutler's domination in minor football was ended at last by the Derrylin-Kinawley selection after a great struggle, but the best performance of any Fermanagh team this year was Newtown-butler's easy success in the un-official minor team championship of Ulster, run off in Armagh during the Summer.

Mickey Brewster, Enniskillen Gaels and Queen's, the county midfielder, was the outstanding player. Promising young players coming along are Eamonn Courtney, Lisnaskea; Patsy McKenna, Newtownbutler; Ray Dundas, Derrygonnelly, and Frank McManus, Kilawley. Biggest loss this year was the emigration of the county's best minor, Noel McClurg, Enniskillen, to England.

Five 1959 competitions were completed this year. S.F.C., Newtownbutler; runners-up, Roslea (holders for 4 years). S.F.L., Derrygonnelly. R u n n e r s - u p, Aghadrumsee. J.F.C., Teemore; runners up, Lack. J.F.L., Kinawley; runners-up, Belcoo. M.F.C. (1960): Kinawley-Derrylin; runners-up, Newtownbutler. M.F.L. (1960): Newtownbutler; runners up, Enniskillen Gaels. Schoolboys (1959) Lisnaskea; runners-up, Derrygonnelly.

CAVAN: Twice this year, Cavan bowed to the eventual champions, Down, in the National Football League final in Spring, and in the Ulster final in July. Some of the 1960 competitions have yet to be completed. Bailieborough and Ballinagh have reached the senior final, and Cootehill beat Cross in the junior final on November 6th. Lacken and Bailieborough are in the minor final. The leagues, senior and junior, are in the last stages of competition,

The schools competitions were finished in good time, and the results were as follows: De La Salle, Cavan, beat Bailieborough in the Urban Competition, and Castletara beat Templeport in the rural competition. In the under-16 championship, Kingscourt beat Crosserlough. A new trophy—the John Joe O'Reilly cup—was presented by the County Committee to perpetuate the memory of this great player. The trophies for the urban and rural competitions also carry cups known as the Duke Cup. There is one for each competition.

There are some very promising minors—Jimmy Stafford, nephew of John Joe Stafford; Raymond Carolan, Cross, and Tony and Brian Morris, Loch Gamhna. Tony is now a playing member of the senior county team and is likely to hold his place. Con Smith, Gael an Chabhain, is another worthy of mention. He played a great game in the Ulster final on Kevin Mussen.

Handball is going strong in the county which won many Ulster championships this year. A new alley has been completed in Cavan Town. The official opening will take place in 1961. A Hurling Committee has been set up to revive the game in the county and it is hoped to get it going in the schools next year.

DFRRY: On the inter-county front Derry's only success was in the Dr. McKenna Cup when they beat Cavan in the final in late August. In the Ulster championships, the seniors lost to the Breffni men in the semi-finals, folding up inexplicably in the second half after a great start. The minors lost narrowly to Down at the same stage, while the juniors failed to Antrim in the provincial final. In the Spring, the senior footballers were beaten in the Dr. Lagan Cup Final by Down.

At club level it was a most successful year for South Derry—all county championships going to that area. Bellaghy Wolfe Tones are senior football champions for the third year running. They also won the Sean Larkin Cup and are senior league leaders, while their schoolboys won the county title in that grade. By winning the junior football championship, Magherafelt O'Donovan Rossas created a new record by becoming the first club in Derry to have won county

titles in all grades of football, senior, junior, minor and schoolboy. Ballina-screen won the minor football champion-ship.

History was made on November 6th when an Irish Army football team visited Derry for the first time and engaged the county seniors in a benefit game at Magherafelt.

DOWN: Overshadowing all else in Down was the triumphant progress of the county senior footballers. The Sam Maguire Cup, National League National League, St. Brendan Cup, Ulster Championship, Dr. Lagan Cup, Wembly Tourna-ment and Railway Cup all found a resting-place 'neath the shadow of the Mournes. In addition, the minor footballers and junior hurlers won provincial titles, and the three main trophies in Ulster Colleges football went to Newry, St. Colman's College winning the MacRory Cup (S.F.) and Ranafast Cup (J.F.), and Abbey C.B.S. capturing Corn na n-Og. A formidable record indeed for any one county.

Newry Mitchels won the county senior football championship but it was indeed a pity that the leagues had to be abandoned late in the year owing to the competitions having lagged due to the county senior footballer's many engagements.

In a effort to foster hurling, the game was introduced into the Intermediate Schools for the first time. Three Down senior clubs received permission to play in the Antrim Senior League so that they might get sufficient competition.

ANTRIM: Antrim's only success in the inter-county sphere was gained by the junior footballers, who captured the Ulster title. The senior footballers had a lean year and, towards the end, the selectors adopted a "youth policy" in the Lagan Cup in an effort to build for the future. All Ulster awaits the outcome with interest, for an Antrim resurgence is long overdue.

On the home front, St. John's in football, and Rossa, in hurling, were crowned county senior champions. Eire Og took the minor football title and hurling honours in this grade went to Shamrocks (Loughgiel). Sarsfields won the junior football championship, but the junior hurling competition is not yet concluded.

TIP-TOP YEAR IN ATHLETICS

(Continued from page 63)

"Zatopek" act when winning this 26 miles 385 yards event at his first attempt.

Now, at 40 years of age, it looks as if Willie can repeat the performance next season.

WONDERFUL RUNNING

From here on, it is difficult to sort out what next to select. We had the wonderful running of Monaghan-born, Dublinbased Garda Siochana, Kevin Gormley, competing in the Phoenix Harriers singlet.

He had a wonderful year, in which he remained unbeaten in open handicap and scratch races throughout the season, and in the process collected All-Ireland, Leinster, Co. Dublin and inter-county championship titles, as well as setting records for the mile, two miles and 1,500 metres.

Undoubtedly a series of performances of which Kevin and his club can well feel proud.

The former Celtic A.C. star, Denis Toomey, now with U.C.D., and a son of former President of the Association, Sean, set the javelin world alight with some stupendous throwing. He shattered the 200 feet mark on several occasions, and wound up the season holding the record at 209 feet 9 inches, which he set at Belfield when winning the junior title with a senior javelin.

Throughout the year he was positively brilliant and the javelin was not his only forte, for he showed great all-round brilliance in the All-Ireland and Leinster junior championships.

Possibly his greatest triumph was at the Leinster championships at Gorey when he won five titles and closed a great afternoon by setting a new pole vault record for the meeting with a leap of 11 feet.

Another athlete who showed great early-season promise when setting a new All-Ireland ten miles record was Tullamore's Mick Neville. Then he went on to win the All-Ireland junior 880 yards and mile titles, but after that appeared to lose some of his lustre, However, we will surely hear more of Mick next year.

A new sprinting star also appeared on the scene—Liam Devitt of Bros. Pearse A.C., Dublin. Back after a few years' absence, Liam had some notable handicap wins, particularly at the Guinness Sports and the Phoenix Harriers meeting, and rounded off a good season by winning three inter-county championship medals for Dublin.

TOP SPRINTER

But, without question, the top sprinter of the season was lightly-built John Lalor of Carrick-on-Suir. He won the 60 yards and 100 yards at the National meeting, and in the Munster champion-ships at Macroom ran a great "100" in 9.9 seconds, and also won the 220 yards in 23.1 seconds.

Another Munster runner to continue his winning way was P. J. O'Sullivan of Regional A.C., Limerick. This very unassuming athlete provided us with one of the greatest finishes to an 880 yards during the year. It was at Iveagh Grounds at the All-Ireland championships. He appeared to have lost his crown after the first lap, but, down the back straight on the final circuit, began to show signs that he was still in with a chance.

Nearer came the tape, and O'Sullivan was moving well on the cutside through his field. With ten yards to go, every Inchicore A.C. supporter on the ground was shouting Austin Clarke, a dark horse, home. Then, as if jet propelled, O'Sullivan came from behind to gain a dramatic inches win. What a race that was!

CLASS HIGH JUMPER

Pat O'Shea of Millstreet blossomed forth as a high jumper of real class. He snished second to Brendan O'Reilly in the President's versus Universities match at Belfield, and from then on added titles weekly to his collection. He jumped 5 feet 11 inches to win the Munster title, took the Irish junior title at over six feet, and won the All-Ireland senior title with a grand 6 feet 2 inches. We will certainly be hearing of Pat in 1961.

In the field events, Kevin Prendergast and U.C.D. clubmate, Brian O'Halloran, dominated in the 16 lbs. shot and discus, while the Tipperary-born hammer thrower, John Keaty, continued to show improvement and was well worth his All-Ireland championship medal when winning the title at the Curragh.

In the decathlon, held under very adverse weather conditions at the Curragh, Paddy Naughton, a native of Nenagh, and running for St. Finbarr's A.C., Cork, duly retained his title. But what a close call he got from former champion Mick O'Farrell of Phoenix Harriers A.C.

Throughout the provinces, competition was well up to standard, with the number of sports meetings held showing an upward trend. In Ulster, Derry did a wonderful day's work when reaching the inter-county championship final, and former All-Ireland junior champion, J. P. Reilly, was in brilliant hop, step and jumping form to take the All-Ireland senio rtitle from his Green Cockade clubmate, Brian Morrison, with a jump of 46 feet 6 inches.

The Ballinasloe relays were again hit by the weather, but they continue to grow in popularity with the athletes of Ireland. We all sincerely hope that the enthusiastic body of men who run this meeting will be favoured by better weather next year.

Phoenix Harriers must be complimented on their foresight in procuring College Park for their Open Sports. This was a well-organised "meet", but did not get the support it deserved from both athletes and public alike.

MODEL MEETING

But the bouquet of the year in relation to sports promotions I hand to the committee at Gorey who promoted the Leinster junior track, field and cycling championships.

This was a model of presentation and, with everything in readiness, it made starter Jimmy Bruce's job a very easy one.

Consequently, the meeting was running ahead of schedule all through and, accordingly a very satisfied public left the ground high in praise of the occasion. It is meetings like this that the Association wants. Given them, the public will have no hesitation in turning up in force.

The year is now ended, Convention and Congress time is with us, and so you men who meet to discuss the season should look deeply into the future and endeavour to make your club and your sports bigger and better in 1961.

The youth of the country are getting very athletic conscious and everything will have to be done to provide them with the necessary facilities for coaching and training. In this respect, the greatest weapon the Association has is that wonderful School of Athletics, held annually in Dublin.

Mick Farnan and his gallant band of workers are doing a first-class job at this school, and we wish them continued success in the coming season.

Across the Channel

THE year 1960 is now drawing to a close, and officials of the Provincial Council of Britain can look back with pride on their achievements and on the progress made in the past twelve months. Seven county boards, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire and London are affiliated to the Provincial Council, and it is particularly gratifying to see the weaker members, especially Derby and Gloucester, more than holding their own in face of heavy odds.

The Warwickshire Board is now a very well-organised unit and the number of clubs under its jurisdiction is expected to increase considerably next season. The visit of the Cork and Tipperary hurling teams to Birmingham in May attracted a big hosting of the Gael, and thanks is due both teams and their officials for helping promote the games in the Midlands.

No mention of Warwickshire would be complete without reference to the former county secretary, Gerry Flanagan (Roscommon), who did a man's part for Gaelic games. His work will always be remembered. The acting secretary, John Kennedy (Tipperary), is proving himself a worthy successor and deserves to be elected secretary at the next convention. Other great workers for the G.A.A. in this area include Rev. Fr. P. Maguire (Leitrim), Rev. Fr. P. J. O'Mahoney (Cork), Mr. E. Ryan (Laois), Mr. M. O'Brien (Kerry) and Mr. P. Healy (Tipperary).

Feature of 1960 in Britain was the progress made by the youngest board of all, that in Hertford. The Chairman, that genial Cork priest, Rev. Fr. J. O'Hanlon, and Secretary, Jim Foley from Waterford, deserve great credit for this state of affairs. We all know how close the Herts footballers came to defeating London in the championship. With club membership on the increase, the future of the Herts Board looks bright

indeed.

VIRILE AND HEALTHY

Without any shadow of doubt the games of the Gael are in a virile and healthy state in London. The hurlers retained their All-Ireland junior crown when defeating Carlow in Croke Park, after a thrilling drawn game at New Eltham, while the footballers lost no caste when going down to Dublin with colours flying under atrocious weather conditions, again at Croke Park.

The hurlers now have their sights

By MICK MORRISSEY Prominent London Gael

on the title in a higher grade next year and, on their performances against a first-rate Carlow team, could well achieve their objective.

The New Eltham ground, well served by rail and road transport, has been a great asset to the London Board. Though the burden of rates, etc., is a heavy one, and they on do with all the support possible from the large Irish community in the English capital, no expense is being spared to make it a first-class stadium.

The annual Whit Saturday games at Wembley have proved very successful and show that the vision and courage of the London officials in staging them were well-founded. Next year we look forward to repeats of both All-Ireland finals and assure all four teams of a real Gaelic welcome from their exiled kin-folk in Britain.

HARD WORKER

London Board Chairman, Jim Mullarkey, from Sligo, deserves much credit for the happy state of affairs in his area. Since he assumed office a few years ago he has spared neither time or effort in promoting the cause of the Association in London. He must indeed be proud that under his chairmanship two All-Ireland junior hurling titles crossed the Irish Sea. May he long be spared to guide the destinies of the G.A.A. over here.

Vice-Chairman Jack McCarthy, from Wexford, and Secretary Jerry Daly, from Kerry, have both served the Association in London with distinction. Jerry stepped into the interests when business forced Sean Dunne (Laois) to reside outside London. He has proved an able Secretary and when most of us are in slumberland can be found burning the midnight oil.

To likeable and efficient Treasurer Johnny Moriarty, from Kerry, falls

the heavy task of financing all the workings of the London Board. Results to date show how good a job he is making of his arduous task.

Board Registrar, Paddy Hickey, from Adare, Co. Limerick, and Provincial Council Delegates, Billy Lawless (Wicklow) and Paddy Costelloe (Limerick), are others who make the wheels of the Association in exile run smoothly.

Neither must we forget men like Fr. McNamara, the late Jim Collins and Sam Smith, and Jack Shalloe, still with us in rain or shine, who, in former years, did so much for the cause of the Gael in the city by

the Thames

PADDY O'DONOGHUE

And of course no reference to the G.A.A. in Britain would be complete without mention of that popular figure from Shannonside, Paddy O'Donoghue, former Secretary of the Provincial Council and the London Board. Paddy was there in days of trial and tribulation, but he always had faith that the Association in Britain would survive and prosper.

The Provincial Council of Britain is under the capable chairmanship of Kilkenny-born Mr. Christopher Holden. Mr. Cassidy, from Swinford, Co. Mayo, is the Treasurer, and Mr. Daniel Murphy, a son of the Kingdom of Kerry, is Secretary. All three have done more than their share in furthering Gaelic games and ideals in Albion's clime. Dan Murphy's duties as Secretary are many and varied and he also represents Britain

on the Central Council.

All have but one aim—the cause of Ireland in exile. They are fully conscious that the games of the Gael go hand in hand with Irish traditions and aspirations, and they face the future with courage and confidence and with the knowledge that much yet remains to be done before all Irish exiles are fully organised under the banner of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

London Retain Title

IN any history of the G.A.A. that may in future be written, 1960 will probably be primarily remembered as the year that fabulous football team from County Down came to Croke Park and, in a blaze of glory, took the Sam Maguire Cup across the border for the first time by toppling the mighty Kingdom from their pedestal, or as the year wonderful Wexford faced an invincible Tipperary team in the Senior hurling decider and confounded the critics and the fans alike by waltzing to victory.

But, to the Gaels of London, the retaining of the junior hurling title outshone all else. They became the first team ever to win this title in successive years by their defeat of the home Champions, Carlow, on the score, 4-8 to 2-11 at Croke Park on

Sunday, October 23rd.

Great though they were, the credit for this outstanding success is by no means entirely due to the players. Many dedicated officials also contributed their share to it, men like Co. Chairman J. J. Mullarkey, Secretary Jerry Daly, Treasurer Johnny Moriarty, who trained the team this year and last, and the selection committee who put so much work into ensuring that the county was represented by the best possible fifteen. Messrs. Paddy Ryan (Brian Boru), Paddy Hickey (Emerald), Ted Maher (Fintan Lalors), Paddy Kiely (Bro. Pearse), Tom Quirke (Fr. Murphys), Dan Purcell (Cu-Cullains), Billie Malone (Moindearg) and the Co. Chairman picked their men well.

In the Provincial championships of Britain, London were never extended, having facile victories over Gloucester and Hertfordshire and their first serious challenge came, as was expected, from old rivals Warwickshire. This game, the provinical final took place at New Champions fielded the nucleus of the Eltham on July 10th, and the team that defeated Antrim in the

1959 final.

Mainstay of the side that day was Billie Dargan, Cashen Rovers and Laois, who turned in a brilliant display at midfield, while Paddy Murphy, Pearses and Kilkenny, Mick Kerrse, Pearses and Galway, Paddy Dwyer, Brian Boru and Tipperary, and Joe Kearns, Fr. Murphys and Wexford, were in great form in defence. Goalkeeper Alec Morrissey, Sean McDermott's and Cork, was scarcely tested and the capable Corkman made the most of his clearances

to set in motion an attack which clicked quickly into gear. Although Eamon Murray was well held at centre - half - forward by ex-Tipp senior, John McGrath. Phil Wilson, Fr. Murphy's and Wexford, John Hickey, Borus and Tipperary, and Noel Murphy, Emerald and Limerick, were able to get free often enough to give London an easy victory over a hardworking Warwickshire fifteen who tried all the way but never seemed fit enough to really challenge in a race for the loose ball.

Only sore point of this fine win for London was an injury to Dr. Des Dillon, their right half forward. The former Munster Railway Cup star received a knock on the knee which was to keep him out for the re-

mainder of the season.

EYES ON HOME

With the provincial title in the bag, London started looking towards the All-Ireland home final and great attention was focussed on the way things were shaping at home. Already, Carlow had acquired the Leinster title and were going great guns in search of further honours. In Munster, Cork and Kerry lined up in the final. As this was played at the U.C.C. grounds, and I was at home on holiday at the time, I went along to see what the possible opposition looked like.

The fare served up here, however, was poor and, though Cork won, Kerry looked the more dangerous side. They had wonderful players in Johnny Culloty and Niall Sheehy, both better known as football stars, and Brendan Hennessey who dominated most of the game at midfield. Cork were best served by Paddy Barry, the St. Vincent's goalkeeper, who got plenty to do but never wilted, and Jerry Sullivan of Mallow in defence, and Barry Nagle, also of Mallow, who had a good game in attack.

I came away feeling that neither team would constitute a serious challenge to London and, unless, Roscommon created a surprise, it looked like the final would be against the Rebel County. As things turned out, Carlow produced the surprise and on the 9th of October arrived at New Eltham to make their bid for the Crown.

This they did in sparkling fashion despite very heavy underfoot conditions, and the large attendance

By PADDY MULLANE

was treated to a fine exhibition of hurling. London lined out as in the provincial final with Alec Morrissey in goal; full-backs, J. Kearns, M. Kerrse. P. Murphy; half-backs, P. Wilson, P. O'Dwyer, W. Ryan; mid-field, W. Dargan, M. O'Connell (Cu-Cullains), who came on for the injured Dillon; half-forwards, E. Murray, W. Duffy, L. Fitzgerald; full-forwards, S. Redmond, J. Hickey and Liam Healy.

After a sizzling first half, in which tempers flared a little, London were being led 0-3 to 0-0. Though this looked poor on paper, it was, in fact, far from it. Both Morrissey and Hayden, the goalmen, were on their toes. Gladney was proving Duffy's master and Liam Healy, with some assistance from John Hickey, was try-

ing very hard indeed.

The second half was a real cracker and some fine combination between the two Walshes for Carlow had London worried After about ten minutes Eamon Murray came into his own with some superb solo runs and things began to look a bit brighter for the champions. At the other end, Morrissey was keeping the colours flying with a series of miraculous saves, two from McCarthy and one from Hogan in quick succession.

(Continued on page 72)

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LONDON RETAIN TITLE - Continued from page 70

In spite of this, however, Carlow were leading by four points with six minutes to go when the London selectors made a master move. O'Connell was taken off and replaced by King Redmond, whose appearance resulted in Phil Wilson being brought to midfield where he proceeded to take control and cut through in less than three minutes to snatch a great goal and followed up seconds later with the equalising point.

When referee Cronin of Cork blew the whistle a minute later, London were still Champions and Carlow had lived to fight another day. thanks mainly to the policing of Duffy by Gladney.

Immediately after this game, Johnny Moriarty called the team into really serious training. They attended at Primrose Hill for the outdoor session of four nights a week, and at the gym two nights a week under the London Co. Council instructor, who prepared them last year. As a result of their conscientious attendance, they left for Croke Park confident in their ability to succeed, where so many had failed, and retain the Junior All-Ireland hurling crown.

London brought on Gus Moloney, a brother of Tipperary's Terry Moloney, at right half-back following a fine display for Cucullains in the county championship against Pearses. Things followed much the same pattern as at New Eltham. Beled at the interval by 1-7 to 1-2, the champions were undaunted and some brilliant hurling was seen before they finally got on top of a classy Carlow fifteen and ran out eventual winners. Liam Healy had 2-1, John Hickey 1-1, Seamus Somers (Cu-Cullains), who came on as a sub had a fine goal, while Billy Duffy's 2 points was a tribute in it itself to Gladney. Wilson, Murray and Paddy Ryan, another sub, had points each. The referee was again P. Cronin of Cork.

Victory was celebrated at the Hollybrook Hotel and among those present was Mr. Tom Barry, of Cork, now residing in Dublin, who was a member of the first London team to win a Junior All-Ireland hurling title.

Next year, London hope to compete in the newly-inaugurated intermediate championship, but the officers of the Board are adamant that the County will also field a Junior team, as it is widely felt, and not without reason, that the talent is available to compete with success in both grades, With this in mind, we can look forward to even greater things to come and, with two All-Ireland repeats, Down versus Kerry and Wexford versus Tipperary, lined up for Wembley, prospects for 1961 look rosy indeed.

I am being continuously asked as to whom do I think played the biggest part in London's victories this year and last. Excluding officials, I would distribute the honours thus—1959: (1) Eamon Murray; (2) Alec Morrissey; and (3) W. Dargan. 1960: (1) Phil Wilson, who was also a member of the county football team; (2) Alec Morrissey; and (3) W. Dargan.

HURLING'S NEW CHAMPIONSHIP

(Continued from page 13)

play first so that genuine second teams are played against them. This should be an easy matter, since only Meath, Carlow and Antrim are involved. The opening of the Junior Competition must now be delayed as far as possible in late Spring or early Summer and, if necessary, given priority over any other competition.

Mid-May should be the earliest date for opening Junior games. At that time the dry ground conditions would help the development of the game. That is what is intended by "Coisde na h-Iomana" and the Central Council. I hope that the Provincial Fixture Committees assist and do not treat the Junior Hurling Competition as a matter to be played off out of the way before the foo-ball campaign opens.

One point I like about the new arrangement is that the Counties of Meath, Carlow and Antrim graded Intermediate may play second best teams in Junior. This has a two-fold benefit in my opinion. It sets a standard for the Junior Counties and also ensures a reserve of experienced match-play players to the Intermediate ones.

NOT YET COMPLETE

"Coisde na h-Iomana" will play a great part in the future in my opinion. Their work is not yet complete, and we are likely to get many more recommendations from them. Congress, last Easter Sunday, gave a direction to the Coisde.

At the end of each year the Coisde are to review the position and may recommend the re-grading of any County out of its class to a lower grade. They may also accept applications and recommend the re-grading of a County. A County, however, may only move to the next higher grade by winning out a competition.

In a few short years I expect to see Clare, Galway, Laois, Offaly and Westmeath playing in Intermediate grade. If they are not down-graded by the "Coisde na h-Iomana", I hope that the respective Counties will seriously consider making such an application themselves. It would be in their own best interests in the long run to seriously consider this question now. Championship and National League performances of those mentioned show that they are not in the top class, or even near it.

Now that the Competitions are provided, it remains with the Counties and the Provincial Councils to see that they are successful. So all I say is, make 1961 a memorable one and ensure the success of the great drive towards a 32-County All-Ireland Senior Hurling Competition.



Copn Sam M15 U1011 1nr na

Táinis sé treasna na teorann sa veireat. Is iomat iarract a rinneat le na tabairt anseo roime seo, at níor éiris le condae ar bit an Corn a tabairt so ceantar Stormont so otí 1960.

Sé Conose

te pádrais mac con mite

15 píor 50 rab Co. Aontroma sa babta deirid dá uair sul a raid teora sa tír :-

> 1911 in ÉADAN Co. CORCAÍ. 1912 in CADÁN Co. Luguaí.

1s fior so deus Co. an Cabáin an Corn so Cúise Ulad cúis h-uaire, 1933, '35, '47, '48 asus '52, asus cóm mait le sin bí siad sa babta deirid ceitre h-uaire eile, 1928 in éadán Cill Dara, 1937 in éadán Ciarraí, 1943 in éadan Ros Comáin asus 1949 in éadan Co. na Mide, ac, ar ndóis, sid so bruil Co. an Cabáin in a cuid de Cúis Ulad, tá sé ar an taoid eile den teorainn.

Di Co. Áro-Maca sa babta deirió 1 1953 asus Co. Doire 1 1958 ac, dá reabas na róirne sin uilis, níor snótais condae ar bic den t-seisear Craob Sinsear na hÉireann 1 bpeil so dtí 1 mbliana nuair a rinne pir An Dúin an éact mór sin.

Muair a séid an réiteoir an feadós as deiread an cluice ar an Domnac sin—Méan fomair 25,—bí tús le caibidí úir i stair Cumann lúit-Cleas Jael. Dí ainm úr ar an Corn—ainm an Dúin, ac bí a lán rudaí níos tábactaí ná sin.

bí crutú eile azainn nac raib teora ar bit sa Cumann. Cuais záir molta suas i bpáirc an crócais nár cualtas a léitéid ariam roime azus nac ndéantar dearmad de 30 luat. Záir ina raib zac condae i néirinn páirteac co. Ciarraí com mait le các. Márb uasal Zaelac an comarta nuair a rinne captaen Ciarraí com sairdeas le poriinn an Dúin.

An lá ma viaiv sin tusav sac onóir ón Stát ve'n foirinn asus vo oifisis na convae nuair a fuair siav cuireav so h-Áras an Uactaráin. Asus ansin an turas na vaile so Co. an Oúin—treasna na teorainn.

Jo sealadac cuiread deiread leis an Teorainn nuair a táinig líne Sluaisteáin trí míle ar pao. Ní tearn luct an Custúim a dat ac comarta a

tabairt oóib out ar agaio. Dí fios acu 50 raib an Corn leo agus ba teor sin mar " Poscail Sesame."

Ac Co. an Oun péin, cuir sin an olaois mullais ar an iomláin—
páiltiú oipisiúil i n-lúr Cinn Trá; teinte chám ar sac choc asus sliab; Caisleán a Muilinn, áit ar cuir an Sasart paróiste páilte rompu asus beirt Ministéir ar an aroán leis; asus céilí na buaí i sCaisleán Úr.

AC anois, nuair atá an Sliondar asus an callán uilis tart, is réidir linn suí síos so ciúm asus tairbe na buaí seo do Cúis Ulad uilis a meas.

TAIRBE NA BUAÍ

Ó taoib na peile réin nit séanab ar bit sur cuir an buaib seo spiorab ur ins na condacte uilis sa cúise seo, asus sur spreas si peileadóirí i nsac cearn ó bun Dobráin so baile Caisleáin. Deid coimlint séar i scraob na peile i scúis Ulad i 1961.

Ac nít annsin ac an cuid is tuga den corad. Ní h-iad na gaeit amáin, ac gac duine caob iscig de críoca utad a bí bródúit as an éact mór seo. Smaonigí ar na rudaí seo.

- (a) Line Slauisceán as criall prio na Cuscúim as Cillin asus lucc Cuscúim Sasana as Sáirí asus as suí áo mór orcu.
- (b) páiltiú oipigiúil i n-lúr agus cead ó Rialtas Stormont céad punnta nó níos mó a caiteam ar an páiltiú sin.
- (c) SASART PARÓISTE AS FEARAD PÁILTE ROMPU ASUS BEIRT AS CUIDIÚ LEIS.
- (d) Cláraca ar an TV eadar BBC agus UTV mar caisbeánað an cluice.
- (e) An T-suim A bi A5 Acan Duine ins na Sé Condae ins an cluice; A5us 50 h-Aicrid ins an torab.

Is fior a rao so oceann buad an Ouin 1 scraob na héireann níos mó le saeil asus saill 1 scúis Ulao a tabairt le céile "níos mó le oeiread a cur leis an teorainn, ná rinne camt luct piolitíocta ó 1922. Asus tá súil as sac Ultac so mairrió an torad sin so buan so otí so raib deiread ar fau le scoilt ar bit sa tír.

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MEMORIES are

Editor to let me have an article in the Cuchulainn Annual but now, having eased myself in, I might as well have my say with the 'rest' of them as to what features of 1960 are embedded in my memory.

What struck me most forcibly, I am sorry to say, were several defects in the running of G.A.A. affairs. This was brought home to me clearly on the day of the All-Ireland football final.

That, as most of you, no doubt, remember, was the day Croke Park went mad. And, mind you, it wasn't hard to blame them, seeing as the Sam Maguire Cup was on its way to the "Wee Six" for the first time.

Amid all the excitement I felt sorry for young Sean Cleary, the Galway minor captain. There he was, dressed in his Sunday best, receiving the Tom Markham trophy from Dr. Stuart, and not a sinner, apart from a few fervid Galway supporters, gave two hoots about what was going on.

After the ceremony and shouting and flag-waving that attended the presentation of the Sam Maguire Cup to Kevin Mussen a short while previously, it came rather as an anti-climax.

"Surely", I said to myself, "the winning minor captain deserves a better show than this. After all, their teams have won All-Ireland championships in very competitive grades and, to the boys themselves, these victories are every bit as important as the senior ones are to the older players. The least we could do is to surround the presentation of the minor trophy with a little more ceremony."

Why not present the cups to the winning minor captains immediately the minor games finish? By doing this it would look much more like what it should be (to be honest, I think it looks completely out of place presenting a cup to a captain wearing his best Sunday suit—they don't play matches in those rig-outs, if you see what I mean) and would give the winning teams an opportunity of chairing their captains to the dressing-rooms complete with cup. I, for one, think it would add an extra touch of colour to our big Croke Park occasions.

Then the controversial New York question cropped up again. While I hold no brief for the Yanks in blatantly ignoring the rulings of the President of the Association, I think it is about time the position was clarified by making any player who wishes to play in the United States transfer through the usual channels. After all, if players who go to England have to do so, why not those who emigrate West?

By PADDY O'NEILL

Then the question of American-based players assisting their old clubs while over here for the St. Brendan Cup games arose. Some of them did so, illegally, in



"SEAN CLEARY . . . DRESSED IN HIS SUNDAY BEST, RECEIVING THE TOM MARKHAM TROPHY FROM DR. STUART . . ."

my opinion, in all cases but one. Peter Nolan helped Clara win the Offaly football title for the first time, a feat which, in the estimation of some rule-book lawyers, put him in the same boat as Willie Casey of Mayo,

Now these seem to have forgotten that Peter assisted Offaly in the first round of the Leinster championship against Carlow. And there's nothing in the rules which states that he couldn't finish out any 1960 competition over here, provided he was able to get home.

However, I do think it is time this business of players competing indiscriminately both in Ireland and America was ended. I hope that Congress next Easter will see to it that it is.

Now, I'm not very good at this business of rules. Neither am I ignorant of the general "gist" of most of them. However, I usually pay a visit to the local club secretary to satisfy myself on any point that doesn't seem altogether too clear.

HAS ME STUMPED

This business of university students, for one, has got me stumped. Rule 17 tells us that University Undergraduates or Students of a recognised Teachers' Training College, or of the College of Pharmacy, or of the Salesian Agricultural College, Co. Meath, may play with their college clubs during the Academic Year and with their home clubs during the Summer holiday period.

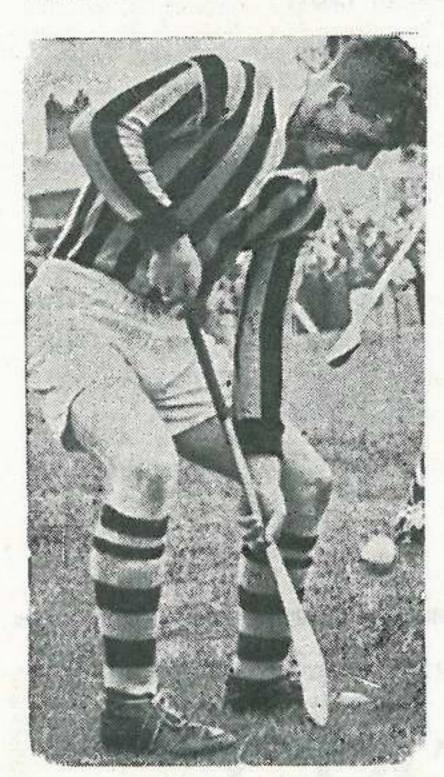
Now note this carefully. Academic Year is reckoned as October 1st to May 31st; Summer holiday is reckoned as June 1st to September 30. Nothing, you would think, could be clearer than that.

Yet, we find students playing with home clubs well into November and December. On the other hand, in 1956—I remember it well, because that was the year St. Vincents did not win the Dublin football championship—a lad named Murphy helped St. Finbarrs reach the Cork senior football final. However, he couldn't play in that game, because it took place after September 30th, and he had returned to St. Patrick's Training College in Drumcondra.

Later, he did help Erin's Hope beat St. Vincents in the Dublin final. Maybe they apply the rules more strictly in Cork, or perhaps that rule has been amended somewhat very recently. If it has, I haven't heard of it, but, judging from the way it is being enforced, I think it is time the terms "Academic Year"

made of this ...

and "Summer Holiday" were deleted from the wording and carte blanche given to students to play with two clubs all the year round.



"OLLIE WALSH . . BROUGHT OFF A MIRACULOUS SAVE AGAINST DUBLIN . . ."

After all, they are doing just that. So why not make it official?

DECLARED PLAYERS

Then there's the question of players residing outside their native counties declaring for clubs in their native parish. This rule forbids, by its very wording, any player who wasn't born in a county, but who has lived in it since he was very young, from declaring for his home parish club should his work ever bring him outside the county in which his home is situated.

Well, I know of at least four senior inter-county players who violate this rule, and no one says a word. On the other hand, I am aware of cases where players are prevented from assisting their home clubs once they went to reside outside counties in which they have lived most of their lives but in which they weren't born.

This is one rule I don't agree with but, while it is a rule, it should apply equally to all.

At the moment there are far too many rules in the Official Guide of the G.A.A. open to different interpretations. I have given a few examples. Isn't it about time all these were straightened out?

After all, there should not be one rule for some and a different rule for others. Perhaps Congress will get around to it sometime.

"SCRAGGY" HURLING

Well, now you might like to know something of what I thought of the past year on the playing fields. My main impression was one of too much "scraggy" hurling in the top grades. For this, believe it or not, I am inclined to blame referees.

Too many of them, in my opinion, err on the score of over-leniency. I am not advocating piccolo solos on the whistle by every referee. But I do maintain that far too much over-carrying and charging with the ball in possession is allowed go unchecked. As a result, many hurling games during the year deteriorated into a series of rucks and melees all over the field.

Strict enforcement of the "three steps" carrying rule, which the majority of referees either have not heard of, or else have decided to ignore, would lead to more open hurling and a return to the days of first-time striking on the ground and in the air.

FOOTBALL FINAL NIGHT

And now, the highlights of the year, for me at any rate. There was All-Ireland football final night in Dublin, when the Down supporters took over the centre of the city. Traffic was in a state of chaos, the Gardai Siochana were helpless to do anything about it (and, to give them due credit, didn't seem to mind much anyway), and, in Lower Abbey Street, a bare few paces off O'Connell Street, there was the spectacle of groups of hardy men, sporting red and black favours, standing on the footpaths, downing large pints of a certain beverage and paying street musicians to play certain songs which, in a certain part of the world, not a hundred miles away at that, would hafe been classed as seditious. Aye, indeed. What a night that was by Anna Liffey.

Then there was Paddy McCormack's thundering display for Offaly in the second half of the drawn game against Down; Pat Nolan's goalkeeping for Werford; Sean Purcell's deadly accuracy for Galway in the semi-final against Kerry; Mick Dwyer's eye-opening performance as Kerry's centre-forward in the Cuchulainn Trophy final; Ollie Walsh's miraculous save against Dublin in the Walsh Cup when he twisted around to bat out a hard shot that had actually passed him as he advanced; James McCartan's energetic play for Down in all their games and, finally, the manner in which those amazing veterans, Nick O'Donnell and Christy Ring, in vastly different positions, seem to be able to keep on forever.



"NICK O'DONNELL . . . SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO KEEP ON FOR-EVER . . ."

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COMORTAS THOMAIS AGHAS

HÍ dlú-bhaint i gconaí idir Connradh na Gaeilge agus Cumann Luthchleas Gael. Ní h-ionadh san Dagus na cuspóiri céanna acu nach mór. Bunaíodh an dá Chumann beagnach ag an am gcéanna agus tá siad ag oibriú as lámha a chéile ó shoin i leith.

Ag an riachtanas céanna, as an dúchas céanna a phréamhaigh an dá ghluaiseacht naisiúnta Cumann Lúthchleas Gael agus Connradh na Gaeilge. D'fhásadar taobh le taobh ag tógáil an naisiúin Ghaelaigh, ag · teagasc an phobail agus ag caomhnú ár naisiúntachta. Ba mhinic iad na taoisigh céanna ag saothrú sa dá chumann. Forbairt na gCluichí ba mhór chúram do Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. De bharr saothair an dá chumann múscladh meanman Gael. Bunaíodh Óglaigh na hEireann agus as san amach níor leis an nGaeilge amháin nó le cursaí chluichí amháin a bhíodh formhór baill an dá chum-

le Seán Ó rostú

,0000000000000000000000

ann ag pléach leis an gcur i gcóir chun chatha comh maith. Lagaíodh an dá Chumann da bharr san agus go háirithe Connradh Gaeilge, Nuair a bunaíodh an Saor-Stát thit formhór cúram an Chonnartha ins na conntaethe ar an Stát agus thit coras an Chonnartha fé mar a bhí as a chéile. Bhí gá fós leis an gConnradh agus b'eigin an gluaiseacht a thógaint as an nua nach mór.

bhriseadh i Níor tharla aon leanúnachas Chumann Luthchleas Gael ach chuaigh sé ó neart go neart agus i láthair na huaire is é Cumann Luthchleas Gael an Cumann amaitéarach spoirt is mó sa domhan. Fé mar atá an Cumann ag dul i neart agus i saibhreas is mó a mbaidh le gluaiseacht athbheochana na teangan Ní hiondh mar sin gur thoiligh Cumann Luthchleas Gael a bheith i bpáirt le Connradh na Gaeilge agus Cuman Naisiúnta eile in athbheochaint an Oireachtais sa bhliain 1939. Is príomh pháirt do cheiliúradh na Féile sin gach bliain ó shin Cluiche an Oireachtais.

Tuairim na bliana 1944 tháinig borradh i ngluaiseacht Chonnradh na Gaeilge ach ba mhór an constaic ortha staid Chiste an Chonnartha. Lorgaíodh cabhair ar Chumann Luthchleas Gael agus tugadh san go

fonnmhar. Sa bhlian 1944 agus 1945 himríodh sreath chluichí ar mhaithe le chiste na Teangan. D'fhonn go mbeadh an chabhair seo ar fáil go buan do bheartaigh Ard Chomhairle Chumann Luthchleas Gael sa bhliain 1946 ar Chomórtais Thomais Aghas do chur ar siúl ar mhaithe le ciste Connrad na Gaeilge agus ar mhaithe le Chiste an Oireachtais araon.

Do bhaisteadh Comórtas Thomais Aghas ar an gComórtas so toisc nach bhfeadfaí duine eile a thoghadh go raibh onóir agus omós tuillte ní b'fhearr aige o Chonnradh na Gaeilge ná ó Chumann Luthchleas Gael. Ba duine é Tomas do hoileadh sa dá Chumann agus do fuair bás ar son cuspóra an dá Chumann Ba dheas an smaoineamh é ag an dá Chumann omós agus onóir a thabhairt do trí Chomórtas de na cluichí Gaelacha ba rogha leis, ar son ciste na Teangan dob' annsa leis do thionscnamh.

Ó 1950 tháinig isteach go ciste Chonnradh na Gaeilge timpeall £26,000 as ucht na cluichí seo agus is maith a bhí gá leis an tairgead seo. Tá sleacht agus cuma níos éifeachta curtha ar imeachtaisí Oireachtais na nGael agus ar an Connradh féin. Nach leor san agus nach mór dúinn

Imríodh ocht gCraobhchluichí déag i gComórtas an Oireachtais agus mar seo a leanas na fóirne a bhuaigh an Corn:-

8666666666666666666666666

Loch Garman (4) 1951, 1953, 1955, 1956 Cill Choinnigh (4) 1940, 1947, 1957, 1959 An Ghaillimh (3) 1950, 1952, 1958 Atha Cliath (2) 1944, 1948 Tiobrad Arann (3) 1945, 1949, 1960 Luimneach (1) 1939 An Clár (1) 1954

atá ar coiste na gcluichí bheith buíoch

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Agus ma's eol díbh uilig bhan Tiobrad Árann craobh na bliana seo taréis sár-chluiche le Corcaí agus fé mar is gnáthach bhí an cluiche féin ar fheabhas.

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LEINSTER ROUND-UP

CHRISTMAS brings with it all tits blessings and an opportunity for leisurely discussion on the year gone by. In the glow of hissing logs, and sound of clinking glass, there's nothing some of us like better than to take stock of Gaelic happenings in the Eastern province during 1960. Even if the year did start rather dismally there is still much to talk about.

Railway Cup time had us wistfully recalling great Leinster teams of other years as we watched our footballers' colourless display in going down to a Jody O'Neill-inspired Ulster selection.

Our spirits sank even lower on St. Patrick's Day. Never, I repeat never, have I witnessed a more lifeless exhibition from fifteen hurlers purporting to be the best in an entire province. Munster must have been embarrassed at the ease with which they captured the medals and cup.

Round that time, too, Dublin hurlers were going great guns in the League. However, Cork threw a large spanner in the works in the Athletic Grounds by the Lee, and thus ended Leinster's last chance of hurling league honours. It also caused many to revise their opinions as to the true worth of the Metropolitan hurlers.

As the days were growing longer we journeyed to Navan for the famous "colours" match between Dublin and Cavan in the football league semi-final. The Breffni men, with Jim McDonnell and James Brady the villains of the piece, dashed our hopes with a dramatic victory and Leinster's cupboard was still bare after the first four months of the year.

However, hope springs eternal, and we soon forgot our disappointments with thoughts of the forthcoming championship campaigns. Little did we know that new football champions were to be crowned.

SHOCKS STARTED EARLY

The shocks started in the first senior game, when Westmeath footballers put out the previous year's finalists, Laois.

Louth, notoriously slow starters, showed little or no urgency about their work, and had their followers on the verge of heartfailure, when eliminating Wicklow at Croke Park. A late Jackie Reynold's goal did the trick, but Wicklow's Brown at centre half-back was the man of the match.

Meath certainly must have no love left for the Mullingar venue, especially when Longford show up there in the first

By JIM CROWLEY

round. For the last two years the Royal County pitch has been queered at Cusack Park by the Midlanders.

Newbridge has a soft spot in my heart. I loved playing there and enjoy watching games there, so the Kildare venue, in early summer, with Carlow and Offaly crossing swords, proved an irresistible attraction. On reflection, it seems that Offaly were a trifle lucky to win that one, but, to their credit, they came back after Carlow had threatened to run them off the field.



"TIM FLOOD . . . THE PASSING YEARS HAVE NOT DIMMED THE LUSTRE OF HIS HURLING . . ."

Two men who came on as substitutes that day, Paddy McCormack and Mick Casey, were later to prove vital links in Offaly's successful campaign. Casey, the veteran blacksmith from Rhode, hammered his team back into that game with the best goal I saw during 1960. And how often were we to hear of the name McCormack before the year was out?

Down Westmeath way, they added the Kildare scalp to their belt, and football was to be had for every meal, with Carley and Kane the toasts of the county.

Johnny Joyce stole everyone's thunder momentarily with five goals and some odd points against luckless Longford, but Dublin's joy was short-lived. On a sultry day in Portlaoise, Offaly, with their tails up, dethroned the champions of two years.

Donie Hanlon's fair hair bobbed up all over the place as the boys in sky blue collapsed in the last ten minutes. Offaly were in the Leinster final.

Westmeath drew the biggest cheer of the day when they took the field against Louth in Navan for the other semi-final. Who would have believed that their forwards had target practice on the same ground some days previously? Westmeath (1-1), midfielder Carley (1-1), just about sums up the total failure of a forward line to score in a championship match.

Louth, almost apologetically, chalked up 1-8 and stole into the final. I fervently hoped on the way home that Mick Carley's injury was not serious. I dearly wanted to see that man in action again.

NEW RESTING PLACE

Meteorologically speaking, we had a bad summer. And it didn't rain any heavier than on Leinster football final day. Offaly folk didn't like to see the rain for those Louth lads were always "divils" on a wet sod. The cup seemed headed north of the Boyne once more when the Wee County goaled from a rather fortunate penalty on the stroke of half-time.

However, we saw a new Offaly in the second half. They smashed their Croke Park hoodoo and, to the delight of neutrals, the cup found a new resting place.

Offaly minors completed a great double for their county and, though both teams failed in the All-Ireland semifinals, the senior's two pulsating games with Down satisfied us that Leinster standards were up there with the best. It was left to Dublin juniors to bring the only football All-Ireland to the Eastern province, but more of that elsewhere.

GREAT HURLING YEAR

Unquestionably, however, Leinster folk will remember 1960 as a great hurling year for the province. Never before has Munster's supremacy been so successfully challenged, and who can forget September 5th when Wexford seniors

(Continued on page 80)

TROPHIES ON DISPLAY.



DOWN'S "BIG-THREE," FROM LEFT, THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP, THE SAM MAGUIRE CUP AND THE ST. BRENDAN'S CUP.

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LEINSTER ROUND-UP - from page 78

swept majestically through the shattered blue and gold clad ranks of Tipperary and Kilkenny minors administered their biggest-ever beating to the Tipp, minors.

O'Donnell, Rackard, Flood, Kehoe, Wheeler and Morrissey showed us that day that the passing years had not dimmed the lustre of their hurling, while the Noreside youngsters reminded us that a Kilkenny resurgence cannot long be delayed.

Carlow juniors completed a memorable season for Leinster hurling by taking the home title and narrowly losing the final proper to London after two closely-fought games. Lack of experience, above all else, was their downfall in the replay.

Westmeath, Kilkenny, Dublin and Wexford contested the provincial senior hurling semi-finals in that order. Kilkenny, as expected, reached the final, but few could make up their minds about the outcome of the other pairing.

On one of the few really hot days of the summer the match took place in Kilkenny. When it was over, we were just as wise as ever, with Lar Foley's desperate last effort saving the day, and earning a draw, for Dublin.

In an effort to infuse punch into the attack, Dublin introduced Kevin Heffernan for the replay, but the football wizard was forced to retire early in the game. With Willie Rackard his old commanding self again, Wexford got through and the Model County was on the march.

THE SHOW-PIECE

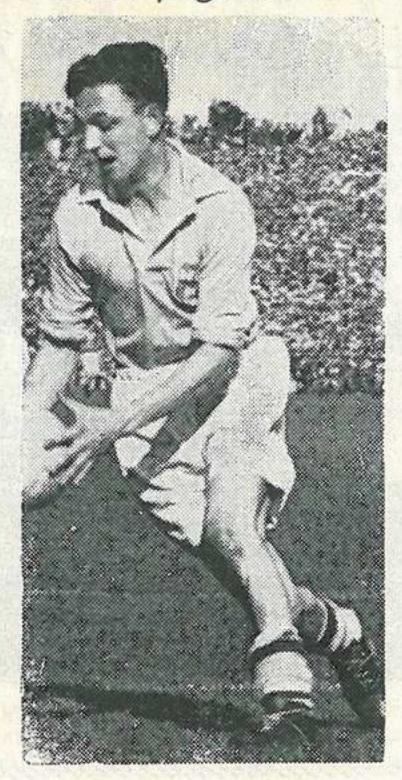
For me, the Leinster final was the hurling show-piece of the year. At times, Wexford moved in impressive fashion, but Kilkenny, true to tradition, were storming the opposing goal at the end, and the final whistle saw but a bare two points between the sides.

When I heard that Tipperary had come out of Munster, I was glad that Wexford were Leinster champions, and the boys in purple and gold didn't betray our confidence,

CLUB DOUBLES

In club circles, most counties finished their championships in good time. St. Vincents brought off the senior double in Dublin, a feat they accomplished more than once before. The Wexford town club, Faythe Harriers, did likewise in the Model County and were the first to achieve the double down there. It was also their first victory in the county senior hurling championship.

Navan O'Mahony's and Trim retained



KEVIN HEFFERNAN

the senior football and hurling titles in Meath, while, in Louth, Kevin Beahan and his men from Ardee took senior football honours and threw in the county hurling championship for good measure.

Peter Nolan took time off during his trip home with New York's Brendan Cup squad to help his native Clara capture their first Offaly senior football title after two tremendous games with Tullamore. Drumcullen retained the O'Connor County's hurling crown.

New champions in both codes is the report from Laois, where Borris-inOssory (hurling) and The Heath (football) regained titles held in recent years.

In nearby Carlow, Eire Og from Carlow Town swept aside the county's best football teams in impressive fashion, but the hurling championship has not yet concluded.

SOME RECORD

great hurling combination, That Bennettsbridge, took yet another Kilkenny title to round off a marvellous year, in which they also won no less than five hurling tournaments against the cream of the country's hurling clubs and qualified for the final stages of two others yet to be decided.

The Kildare senior football title returned to that great stronghold of the game, Carbury, while Broadford took the hurling crown to give that enthusiastic veteran, Dermot Burke, another trophy for his collection.

Down Athlone way they celebrated the senior footballer's sixth-in-a-row in Westmeath, and Castletown-Geoghegan regained the senior hurling title.

Killoe folk in Longford went wild with delight when the local Young Emmets won the senior football championship for the first time in 45 years, while St. Patricks from Wicklow Town retained the senior football crown in the Garden County.

Finally, I must not forget to mention that Dublin hurlers won their first senior honour since 1952 by beating Kilkenny in the Walsh Cup final. The evergreen Des Ferguson was the only survivor of the Leinster champion side of 8 years ago to share in this latest success.

Well, that's about all I have time to mention in this review. If I have omitted anything, I pray the readers' indulgence and wish them a happy Christmas, a bright New Year and plenty of good hurling and football in 1961.



Cycling Review

INVARIABLY when one comes to cast his eye back over the happenings of any one year, one is tempted to immediately express his thoughts as follows—it was a wonderful season. Never can these remarks be nearer to the truth in relation to the happenings of the National Cycling Association's activities throughout 1960.

The Association's showpiece readily bears this out, for the 8th Ras Tailteann displayed to the full the proud position which the N.A.C.A. hold in Ireland.

They are denied international competition but they still prosper. Those who thronged O'Connell Street on July 31st for the the start of the mammoth 1,000 miles event got full proof of the place they hold in the sporting life of the country.

Cyclists from fourteen Irish counties and a team of exiles presented a wonderful sight and while the weather was not up to the mark, it did not damp the riders enthusiasm.

By PADDY HOARE

Resplendent in their County jersies, they moved off from the G.P.O. from the fall of the flag, performed by President Jim Killean, and rode in orderly formation until Whitehall or the Swords Road was reached.

By now the roads were flooded but they were not disturbed. On they went at a terrific pace and at An Uaimh, President Killean, in company with Mr. J. Hillard (Minister for Post and Telegraphs), were there to see them through.

From there the 81 starters still rode through driving rain to Cavan where 19-years-old Dan Ahern, of Kerry, won the opening day.

CRASHED INTO A COW

Short at the finish of one of the finest names in the Association—Con Carr of Kildare. He crashed into a cow and had to pull out of the race with injured ribs which necessitated his detention in the local hospital for over a week.

Throughout Ireland the race brought out the crowds, no bigger indeed than in Killarney. And when they reached their destination down the main road in the Phoenix Park, seven days later, a crowd of unprecedented proportions saw Sean Dillon, of Clann Brugha and the Dublin team, win the final stage.

But the hero of the race was the young Kildare rider, Paddy Flanagan, of Monasterevan, who won the overall title comfortably from Dan Ahern, of Kerry, with another Kerry rider and former winner of the race Mick Murphy third. His win broke the monopoly which the Kerry and Dublin riders had held in the race. Flanagan is a rider with ability, a sense of road tactics and one who, if he went to the Continent (what a pity the N.C.A. are barred from international competition) could show them over there a thing or two.

Dublin, in the team race, retained their title and they were more than worthy of it. Placed were three members of the Clann Brugha Club. 4th was S. Dillon; 5th, S. Murphy; 6th, S. O'Hanlon, with the Dublin Co. Chairman and Dublin captain in the race, Mick Christle, being the fourth member.

Meath gained runners-up honours, with luckless Tipperary third. From what we hear from the Tipperary Board's Convention it looks as if they have plans in hand to give Dublin a very worthwhile challenge next season.

FEW SURPRISES

The Road championships provided a few surprising results. Murt Logan, of Clane C.C., a very grand rider, won the 100 miles massed start All-Ireland championship from the well-known Willie Hasely, of the St. Patrick's C.C., Meath, with favourite Seamus O'Hanlon, Clann Brugha, third.

Though beaten in this race, O'Hanlon made up for his lapse later in the season when breaking the 25, 30 and 50 miles time trial records.

In winning an open 25 miles on the 28th of June on the Navan Road he set a new Association record of 58 mins., 19 secs. In July he won (Continued overleaf)

St. PIUS X

pleads with you to help build a Church in his honour and that of B. Richard Gwynne at BETHESDA in Snowdonia, where there are only 31 resident Catholics. It is a Mass Centre since 1939.

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CYCLING REVIEW

from previous page

the All-Ireland 25 miles T.T. championship in 1 hour and 19 seconds over the same distance. His 50 miles T. T. record attempt was also successful and he culminated a wonderful year on the road when breaking, by over two minutes, the 30 miles T.T. record set by Matt Marlow with a time of 1 hr. 11 mins. 1 sec.

But while Seamus won several other great races—Rás Mumhan, the three day — he also made his presence felt on the track. He finished second in the 1,000 metres in the All-Ireland championships, and capped all his achievements with a win in the five miles point-to-point title race. Now he had come on the scene—track, road and time trialist. He is my CYCLIST OF 1960.

Paddy Flanagan, Monasterevan and the Midland C.C., is another great rider. He won the Ras Tailteann, and 50 miles T.T. titles, but knowing his sporting qualities, I doubt if he will quibble over his great rival O'Hanlon, though down the field in Ras Tailteann, if he is given rider of the year "AWARD."

STRANGE HAPPENINGS

On the track we had strange happenings. Corkman Frank O'Sullivan, did get more "gold" but his total was a little less than in previous years.

Frank, again a great sportsman, may have reasons for his loss of form, he had some family bereavements and accordingly he could not give his full time to training . . . yet he did well.

Mick Finnegan, of the Harp C.C., took from him, in a great finish, his Harry Reynolds Memorial Trophy, awarded for the All-Ireland mile at the annual Guinness Sports at Iveagh Grounds.

Though beaten in this event he still maintained his form, won the 880 yards title at his home track, Fermoy, and gave a wonderful display of fitness when beating Finnegan for the 440 yards All-Ireland title at Iveagh Grounds—by three-quarters of a length on Sunday, 24th July.

That afternoon, D. Byrne, of Wexford (St. Christopher's), a well-established Leinster track and road cyclist, created something of a surprise when winning the 1,000 metres title from S. O'Hanlon and J. Nolan (Harp C.C.).

Young Byrne is another to watch in 1961.

Throughout the provinces the progress of the game is exceptional. In Munster, on the road and track, the Council are more than satisfied with the appeal for the game. The Munster B.A.R. road championship provided a wonderful impetus for cycling. The individual winner was clear-cut but only Convention decided that St. Finbarr's, Cork, who had three scoring men in the 25 and 50 kilos events would be nominated the team winners.

PROGRESS

In Connacht and Ulster the sport makes progress but both provinces would do well to keep in touch with the other provincial Councils and the Central Council of the Association.

A letter's cost is only threepence, possibly more, but apparently the provincial delegates are reluctant to put a letter in the post, informing the Council of their races. This does not happen in Munster — will Munster rule at this year's Congress? They should for Leinster, Connacht and Ulster have not measured up to their strength.

Take, for instance, the Clonmel C.C.'s three-day Ras Mumhain. It's a model. Ulster's two-day is good, but Munster comes out on top. It's second to Ras Tailteann!

But in the final summing up are records, stage races and what have you, the be all and end all of Irish cycling? Yes, they are a means to this end, but what end.

UNITY MUST FIRST COME INTO THE GAME IN IRELAND BEFORE CYCLING CAN FLOURISH. THE N.C.A. CAN, THROUGH RAS TAILTEANN, BRING ABOUT THIS END. THE WILL AND THEY CAN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

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Cork Cavan

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Hurling Football Tipperary Down

New York New York

RAILWAY CUPS

Hurling Football Munster Ulster

Leinster Munster

WEMBLEY TOURNAMENT

Hurling Football Kilkenny Down

Waterford Galway

OIREACHTAS CUP (H)

Tipperary

Cork

GAELIC WEEKLY TOURNAMENT (F)

Kerry

Dublin

SIGERSON CUP (F)

U.C.G.

U.C.D.

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Football

Southern Command Air Corps

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

CONNACHT

Senior Football Junior do.

Galway Galway

Leitrim Leitrim

Minor do. Junior Hurling Minor do. Accident Fund (S.F.) Comp.

Senior Hurling Junior do. do. Minor Senior Football Junior do. Minor do. Walsh Cup (S.H.)

O'Byrne Cup (S.F.)

Galway Roscommon Roscommon

Roscommon Mayo Mayo

Galway Mayo

LEINSTER

Wexford Kilkenny Carlow Wexford Kilkenny Wexford Offaly Louth Meath Dublin Offaly Louth Kilkenny Dublir. Dublin and Louth have qualified for final

Cork

MUNSTER

Senior Hurling Tipperary Cork Junior do. Minor do. Senior Football Junior do. Minor do.

Kerry Galway Tipperary Waterford Kerry Cork Kerry Cork Kerry

ULSTER

Senior Football Down . Junior do. Minor do. Junior Hurling Minor do. Dr. McKenna Cup Derry (S.F.) Cub Lagan (S.F.)

Cavan Antrim Derry Monaghan Down Antrim Down & Donegal Antrim & Cavan

Down

Armagh Tyrone

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4-County League

(M.F.)

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Roll of Honour-1960

Castletown-

Faythe Harriers

Leighlinbridge, St.

Molings and Erin's

Geoghegan

Louth

Meath Westmeath

Longford

Dublin Kildare Laois Offaly Wicklow

St. Vincents Broadford Borris-in-Ossory Drumcullen

Trim

Wexford Carlow

Own (Muinebeag) remain Kilkenny Bennettsbridge Donegal Lifford

Rossa

Derry

Antrim Down Armagh

Cavan Monaghan

Tyrone Fermanagh

REFERENCE

HURLING

St. Mary's (Ardee) St. Columcilles (Ardee)

Navan O'Mahonys Athlone

FOOTBALL

Killoe Young Emmets St. Vincents Carbury The Heath Clara St. Patrick's (Wicklow)

Faythe Harriers Eire Og

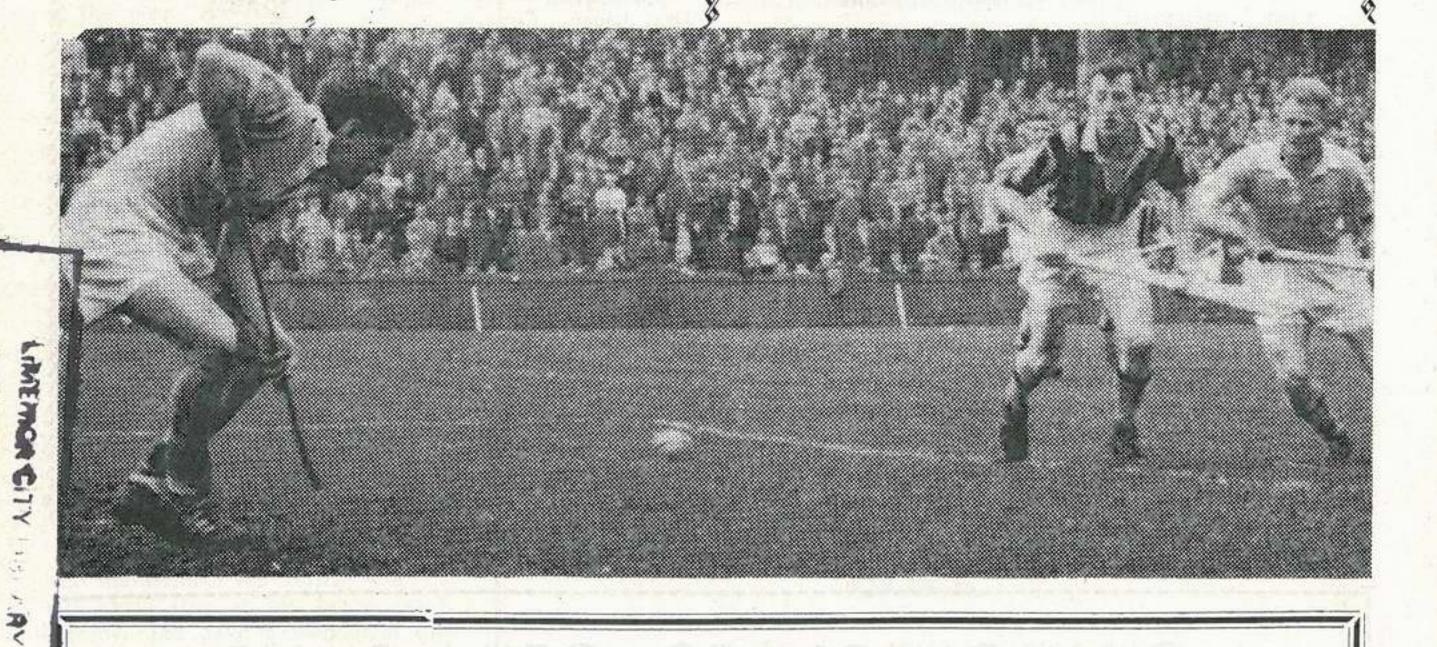
Railvard St. Eunan's (Letterkenny) Bellaghy Wolfe Tones St. John's

Newry Mitchels Lurgan Clan Eireann or Crossmaglen Rgs. Bailieboro' Scotstown v. Monaghan Harps or Castleblayney Faughs Clonoe O'Rahillys

Newtownbutler Devenish-Mulleek

JIMMY DOYLE . .

Tipperary's "wonder boy," who notched a total of 11 goals and 51 points in championship, league and tournament games with Tipperary this year. BELOW -Willie Jackson, Dublin goalie, saves a Kilkenny shot in the Walsh Cup final at Croke Park. Looking on are Tommy O'Connell (K.) and Des Ferguson.



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