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eagarfhocal

S abhar athais agus bróid dúinn bliainiris "Nuachtán Gael" a chur i bhur lathair aris. Is é cuspóir na bliainirise seo athbhreitniú a dhéanamh ar imeachtaí Chumann Luthchleas Gael sa bhliain atá istigh—agus sár-bhliain a bhí ann ó thaobh na gcluichí Gaelacha de.

Ar ndóigh, bliain faoi leith a bhí ann ina rinne an náisiún Eirí Amach 1916 a chomóradh. Rinne Cumann Luthchleas Gael a chion féin chun laochra na Cásca a onórú

An scéal is mó faoi na cluichí is ea go bhfuil iománaithe Chorcaí ag an mbarr arís agus go bhfuil borradh nua sa saol iomanaíochta ar fad. Tá an cuma ar an scéal go bhfuil an Clár, Luimneach agus Loc Garman ag teacht chun tosaigh freisin agus tá roinnt gaisce déanta ag Ua bhFáili sa Sraithchomórtas Iománaíochta.

Déanaimid comhghairdeas le Gaillimh as an Craobhchomórtas Peile a bhuachan as deis a chéile. Chruthaigh foireann seo na Gaillimhe gur sár-pheileadóirí iad. Traoslaimid freisin do Longfort as a mbua i gcraobhchluichí an tSraithchomórtais Peile don chéad uair riamh.

D'éirigh go maith le Comórtas "Nuachtán Gael" i mbliana. Déanaimid comhghairdeas le Muigheo as an corn a bhreith leo an babhta seo.

Caithfidh Cumann Luthchleas Gael gach iarracht a dhéanamh chun a chuid aidhmeanna agus a thionchar a chur i bhfeidhm agus creidimid go bhfuil áit tabhachtach ag Bliainiris Chuchulainn agus ag Nuachtán Gael san obair seo. Muna mbeadh an creideamh sin againn, ní bheadh deich mbliain sáraithe ag an dá iris agus is cúis dóchais agus spreagtha dúinn go bhfuil an creideamh atá againn glactha níos forleithne ag formhór na dtaoiseach agus na mball den Chumann ná mar a bhí nuair a bunaíodh na hirisí seo i 1956. De bharr an chomhoibrithe breise atá á fháil againn anois is féidir linn bail níos fearr a chur ar na irisí agus is feidir leis na leitheoirí agus na fógróirí bheith ag súil le seirbhís níos fearr uainn.

Guimid Nollaig faoi shean agus faoi mhaise dár léitheoirí, dár scríbhneoirí d'oifigigh Chumann Luthchleas Gael, dár lucht fógraíochta agus do gach duine a chabhraigh linn i rith na bliana.

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LE ALF O MUIRI

REAMHRA

TA Bliainiris Chuchulainn chugainn arís agus beidh daoine ag tnúth go mór leis an athbhreithniú a bheas ann ar an mbliain stairiúil seo.

Tá bliain na hIubhaile Orga beagnach istigh agus tá éirithe cuid mhaith leis an gcuspóir a bhí léi. Is fearr anois a thuigeann an t-aos óg an oidhreacht náisiúnta atá acu agus saibhreoidh an mórtas a múscladh iontu a dtodhchaí féin agus todhchaí an náisiúin.

Rinne an Iubhaile maitheas freisin do chuid againn nach bhfuil chomh hóg. Agus iad ag féachaint ar an dtoradh a bhí ar athmhúscailt na gcuimhni, tagann beagán náire orthu gur lig siad, trí fhaillí neamhthuisceanach agus trí easpa dea-shampla, do ghlún iomlán fás aníos gan eolas a bheith acu a spreagfadh mórtas cine iontu.

Caithfear gan ligean do spiorad a múscladh bás a fháil. Tugann gach bhliain deis faoi leith dúinn cuimhní a athmhúscailt agus ábhar faoi leith bróid dúinn. Ba chóir dúinn gan faillí a dhéanamh in aon bhliain. Sa bhliain seo romhainn, mar shampla, beimid ag comóradh Eirí Amach na bhFíníneach agus thar aon ghlún eile tuilleann glún na bhFíníneach go ndéanfaimis iad a onórú, mar is uathu-san a síolraíodh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. B'olc an mhaise dúinn iad a ligean i ndearmad agus tá súil agam go dtabharfaidh gach contae dóibh an onóir is dual dóibh i 1967.

It is wise to look back to the glories of the past but it is essential that we look forward to the future also. What progress can we hope for in our Gaelic Athletic Association before our own centenary comes along.

I have hopes that, before long, we will see our Association as one that knows its own strength, has that strength organised and controlled and knows how to use its power for national good. Before that happens, there will have to be an extension of the co-operation between all counties, towards which we have yet taken only the first timid steps. The Association will be just as strong as is our weakest county and the weaker counties must be strengthened.

There must also be a determined effort to avail, in full, of the work being done in our schools. Tremendous effort is being put into the promotion of Gaelic games and wonderful progress is being made in an increasing number of schools and colleges. Clubs and county committees must see that our organisation is geared to reap the fullest benefit from this.

If we are to hold our place in the life of the country, our clubs must expand. They must develop socially and provide attractions for their ex-players and for non-players of our games. There may be fewer clubs—it may even be necessary to return in some form to the Parish Rule—but those clubs must cater for a wide variety of interest. That will mean much harder work for club and county officials and more help will be needed, for, already, the Association suffers from having too few trying to do too much.

If this progress is to be made nation-wide it is essential that we

REFERENCE DEPT.



have a means by which every member of the Association can know what is happening, can feel himself a part of it and can see what must be done in his own club to keep pace with it. The Association is well served by publications at present but the members are not making proper use of them and they should be universally supported if they are to wield the influence they should have.

Two years have shown that the first part of the Hurling Scheme can succeed. It is an effort that must be kept up through its second and third five years. It can give effective progress up to the minor stage in every county, by 1969 and it would harm the Association if that progress were not carried forward.

The next five years must see the Association taking a definite stand with regard to using our own language. The issue is joined now and, if the battle is not to be lost, there should be more Irish than English spoken in Ireland within the coming five years. Our Association would be false to its traditions if it were not to play a leading part in that campaign.

Now is the time to plan ahead. The year that is gone has had the good effect of reminding many that it is easy to neglect out responsibilities. There is a new determination to "keep faith" with the past by working unselfishly for the future. The opportunities to do so were never more plentiful.

Tipperary Senior Hurling Champions

The 1966 Carrick-onSuir team which beat
Lorrha in the final.
Front row (left to right):
P. J. Ryan, S. Kenny,
R. Walsh (capt.), T.
Waters, T. Ryan, M.
Hassett, J. Ryan.
Back row (left to right):
J. Walsh, C. Broderick,
N. Walsh, T. Arrigan,
W. Mackey, B. Kenny,
P. Arrigan, M. Roche.



WHERE THIS YEAR'S TITLES WENT

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

WINNERS S.H. - CORK I.H. - TIPPERARY U.-21 H. — CORK J.H. — KILDARE J.H. (Home) - KILDARE M.H. — WEXFORD S.F. — GALWAY U.-21 F. - ROSCOMMON J.F. — LONDON J.F. (Home) - CORK M.F. - MAYO

RUNNERS-UP KILKENNY DUBLIN WEXFORD WARWICKSHIRE KERRY CORK MEATH KILDARE CORK DOWN DOWN

CONNACHT CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.F. — GALWAY U.-21 F. — ROSCOMMON J.F. — GALWAY M.F. - MAYO U.-21 H. - ROSCOMMON J.H. - ROSCOMMON M.H. — ROSCOMMON CLUB F. - MOUNTBELLEW (Galway)

MAYO MAYO ROSCOMMON ROSCOMMON MAYO LEITRIM MAYO CLAREMORRIS (Mayo)

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.H. — KILKENNY I.H. — DUBLIN U.-21 H. — WEXFORD J.H. — KILDARE M.H. - WEXFORD SPECIAL M.H. — WICKLOW S.F. — MEATH U.-21 F. — KILDARE J.F. - LOUTH M.F. — LAOIS

WEXFORD WEXFORD LAOIS WICKLOW LAOIS KILDARE KILDARE LONGFORD KILDARE OFFALY

MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.H. - CORK I.H. — TIPPERARY U.-21 H. — CORK M.H. — CORK S.F. - CORK U.-21 F. — KERRY J.F. — CORK M.F. - CORK CLUB F. — EAST KERRY

CLUB H. 1965 — GLEN ROVERS (Cork) CLUB H. (1966): MOUNT SION v. ST. FINBARR'S (Cork) or TURLOUGH-MORE (Galway).

WATERFORD GALWAY LIMERICK GALWAY KERRY CORK CLARE KERRY CLONMEL COMMER-CIALS MOUNT SION (Waterford)

ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.F. - DOWN U.-21 F. - DONEGAL J.F. - DOWN M.F. - DOWN I.H. — ANTRIM U.-21 H. — ANTRIM J.H. — ANTRIM M.H. — ANTRIM CLUB F. — ST. JOSEPH'S (Ballyshannon-Bundoran).

DONEGAL DOWN MONAGHAN DERRY DOWN DOWN DOWN TYRONE

ST. JOHN'S (Belfast)

RAILWAY CUPS

H. — MUNSTER F. — ULSTER

LEINSTER MUNSTER

LEAGUES, TOURNAMENTS, ETC

N.H.L. - KILKENNY NEW YORK TIPPERARY N.H.L. (Home) - KILKENNY KERRY N.H.L. (Div. 2) — OFFALY NEW YORK N.F.L. — LONGFORD N.F.L. (Home) — LONGFORD GALWAY DR. LAGAN CUP (F.) -DONEGAL DOWN DR. McKENNA CUP (F.) -ANTRIM TYRONE WALSH CUP (H.) -DUBLIN OFFALY GROUNDS TOURNAMENT (F.) — GALWAY CORK WEMBLEY TOURNAMENT (H.) — CORK WEXFORD WEMBLEY TOURNAMENT (F) — CAVAN SLIGO

GAELIC WEEKLY CUP (F.) — MAYO O'KENNEDY SHIELD (H) — KILKENNY GOODE CUP (F.) -GALWAY CORN NA CASCA (F.) -DUBLIN PLAYER CUP (F.) -MEATH McKEEVER CUP (F.) -

LOUTH McBRIDE MEMORIAL CUP (F.) — KILDARE CAVANAGH CUP (F.) -MAYO FEIS CUP (F) - MAYO GAEL LINN CUP (F.) -GALWAY SIGERSON CUP (F.) -U.C.C. DIREACHTAS CUP (H.) -KILKENNY GROUNDS TOURNAMENT

O'BYRNE CUP (F.) -

KILDARE WEXFORD KILDARE CAVAN DUBLIN

DUBLIN

MAYO

ROSCOMMON LONGFORD

SLIGO

U.C.G.

WEXFORD (H.) - CORK or KIL-KENNY. OFFALY v. DUBLIN or WEXFORD

Gork Are Worthy Champions

BY PADDY DOWNEY

(of the Irish Times)

have reason to believe that the Editor asked me to write something about Cork's All-Ireland hurling victory because he knows I am a Corkman. I feel that I should fulfil his wishes, then, by temporarily laying aside the sportswriter's badge of non-alignment: I am to reveal the private joy that the events of the season wove for a Corkman.

For many it was not so private. The intoxication induced by the success of one's native team may be a subject for the psychologists. It may be un-adult, foolish, illogical; but it is real: the accomplishment, in one way, of what the Americans call the pursuit of happiness (since that ideal is so elusive in so many other sides of life): the treasure at the end of the rainbow.

Ah, yes; the rainbow. Its colours filled Cork's sky this year, the sign that the deluge of defeats was over. And at its end, the long-sought end, there was the glinting, brimming crock of gold.

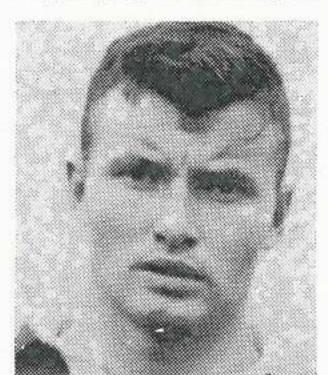
For me, the story begins in 1965, on a dull July afternoon at the Limerick Gaelic Grounds. Tipperary had again thrashed Cork in a Munster final—the biggest, bitterest thrashing that Cork had suffered from their arch-rivals. It seemed, as one of the losers' supporters said sadly, that "Cork hurling was dead, only to bury it."

In one of the puddles that the morning's rain had left in the rutted lane behind the Hogan stand, a red and white rosette bled its red dye into the muddy water: the pathetic scrap of crinkled paper would soon be trampled into oblivion by departing feet. I was free then, too, to be committed, for the Dublin papers had temporarily ceased publication and imagination saw in that doomed rosette the symbol of Cork hurling bleeding to death in a puddle of mediocrity.

It was a false omen; although it was impossible to foresee then than the reign of Tipperary's greatest team was nearing its end and that this dark hour only presaged the dawn of recovery that was at hand for Cork.

It was a long, tedious hour as winter followed autumn and spring came bleakly with stunted buds of hope.

The League semi-final against Kilkenny was the May wind that ravaged the sparse blossoms; but



PAT FITZGERALD . . . a star of the Cork side.

a few survived and the Wembley match against Wexford was the first sign that September might yet yield ripened fruit.

But there was still a long way to go. The first Munster match against Clare (Clare, who had pushed Tipperary to four points in the League) was a day of brave cheers and smiling faces that covered thumping hearts. It was also a day of the most fantastic luck that Cork has ever had in a championship game. Fantastic is about the only description that fits the turn of events which wrenched a draw from the precipice as Justin McCarthy's 30 yards free puck somehow spun through the Clare defence for the saving goal.

For Corkmen, the agony of the seconds before that stroke still numbs the memory—as the shock of those following must still numb Clare's.

Victory in the replay was far easier than anyone foresaw. And so for the rapier-challenge of Limerick, who had beaten the champions, Tipperary, at the Athletic Grounds—a feat which I am convinced Cork would not have performed had the task been theirs. I am also convinced that the very name of Tipperary had paralysed Cork into submission for years before.

Now, with the granite barrier knocked aside the road ahead was passable if still ominously rough. There was mist in Killarney and the sod was slippery soft on Sunday, July 10. But it was a keen, (overleaf)

Worthy Champions

(continued)

fast, exciting match—the best of the season—and if Limerick were maddeningly unlucky to have a goal nullified for a free in, and missed the winning goal by inches in the last seconds, Cork had fractionally the better of the hour.

The sap of confidence was now rising rapidly and could be seen everywhere: in the swelling crowds, red-capped, who spilled out of trains and buses and crammed motor cars-the young ones laughing in anticipation of something they had not known before and the older generations walking with jaunty steps and smiles on their faces. The shadowy ghosts of the glory years no longer transfixed the memory with pictures of deeds long dead: the past had again become part of the present.

The Munster final came and went, Waterford had planned for victory but like all great teams in decline, they had too many old players in key positions and too many new, inexperienced ones in others. Cork were through to the All-Ireland final for the first time in ten years. That, in itself, was a feat which six months before could only have been conceived in fantasy.

Ignoring the Killarney portents, the consensus of public opinion wrote off Cork in the final. The avalanche of doubt and thinlyveiled disdain for their chances should have daunted even Corkmen.

But it didn't. Steely determination, a dash of the old daredevilry and some of the old polish won the final. Kilkenny, old rivals and friends, in defeat made no excuses.

The game itself was not outstanding; the man to man combat was too close and dour for that. But who can forget the wild delirium that followed as ten thousand Corkmen cheered and chanted in front of the Hogan stand, their joy spilling over in torrents and rising to the sky. A river in flood: a tidal wave of emotion. Twelve years of waiting for the All-Ireland title had done this. It was worth seeing and worth remembering.

And yet, perhaps, the memory that this writer shall keep of it longest is of an old man, silver haired and tanned, standing at the rostrum, who wept with joy as his team came by and hugged him one by one. Jim Barry, trainer of Cork teams for 40 years, was no less a hero of the hour than the men who had won the county's 20th All-Ireland crown.

And now it is time to re-affix the badge of the critic. This was



JIM BARRY . . . trained the Corkmen.

not a great Cork team and it might even be argued that it was not a good one. But it has great potential, as time will tell.

Some of the criticism subsequently levelled at the new champions was outlandish and unfair. An All-Ireland is never easily won, even in the least distinguished of seasons and it should not be forgotten that Cork had to win five matches before they grasped the McCarthy Cup.

In the down-grading days following a final that was in many ways disappointing for the detached spectator, Cork were inevitably compared with their predecessors, Tipperary. It was an unreasonable comparison. The Tipperary team of the previous five years was one of the greatest of the century. Their successors might be only half as good and still exceptional when measured by the norm.

The winning of a Munster

championship alone is a grinding test of a team's proficiency, mettle and spirit. Cork came through the southern campaign impressively notwithstanding the incredible good fortune that gave them a draw with Clare in the opening round.

Any hurling man who saw them in their narrow win over Limerick must have known then that we had seen the fibre of All-Ireland champions. It was proved on September 4 when they went out to hold Kilkenny by all legitimate means in the first quarter and thereafter to hurling them. And that was how the cookie crumbled. The game may have lost as a spectacle because of those tactics (pehaps we expected too much because of the counties' classical encounters in the past) but the purpose of Cork's operation was to win the title-and this they did. Who can say that, in similar circumstances, they would not have done the same?

I have often thought since that Kilkenny might have won that final if, having won the toss, they asked Cork to play with the strong wind in the first half. An inexperienced team, needing time to settle in, might not have built up a lead big enough to withstand a combination of experienced hurling, backed by the elements in the second half.

My remaining space will not permit of reference to each of the players and the parts they played throughout the championship. Only a few may therefore be paraded: Paddy Barry, whose contribution in goal was incalculable; Tony Connolly and Paddy Fitzgerald for their splendid hurling in the half back line; Justin McCarthy, whose majesty as a midfielder grew with every game; Seanie Barry, the inspiration of the forwards and Peter Doolan, whose performance at right full back in the final was one of the most memorable features of the year.

There have been many Cork hurling teams greater than this; but there have been few pluckier or more dedicated to the mission of maintaining the proud tradition of hurling by the River Lee.

1966 County Senior Winners

COUNTY

WATERFORD CORK KERRY CLARE

LIMERICK TIPPERARY

LOUTH

MEATH

WESTMEATH

LONGFORD

DUBLIN KILDARE LAOIS OFFALY

WICKLOW WEXFORD

CARLOW

KILKENNY GALWAY

MAYO

SLIGO LEITRIM

ROSCOMMON

DONEGAL DERRY ANTRIM DOWN ARMAGH

CAVAN MONAGHAN

TYRONE FERMANAGH FOOTBALL

Kill St. Nicholas Tralee Mitchels Kilmurray-

Ibrickane Askeaton Clonmel

Commercials Newtown Blues, Drogheda Colmcille Gaels,

Ceannanus Mor Shamrocks, Mullingar St. Mary's

St. Mary's Granard St. Vincent's Carbury Portlaoise

Rhode

Baltinglass Castletown or Ballyhogue

St. Vincent's, Kildavin Railyard Dunmore

MacHales Ballina

Stepenites
Easkey Sea Blues
Aughavas or
Annaduff
Clan na Gael

Newbridge Glenravel

Glenravel
Burren
Crossmaglen
Rangers
Crosserlough
Castleblayney
Faughs
Carrickmore
Devenish

HURLING

Ballygunner Avondhu Ballyduff Eire Og,

Patrickswell Carrick-on-Suir Davins

Athboy

Castlepollard

Crokes

Camross
St. Rynagh's,
Birr
Avondale
Geraldine-O'Hanrahan,s New

Bennettsbridge

Turloughmore

Ross

St. Finbarr's

Roscommon Gaels or St. Patrick's

Bailieboro

Loughgiel

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TWO WATERFORD TITLES FOR KILL



The Kill club had a great year in Waterford competitions winning both the county S.F.C. and J.H.C. crowns. Above: The senior football team. Front row (left to right): P. Duggan, J. Regan, J. Torpey, T. Guiry, G. Mooney (capt.), A. Lennon, M. Guiry, N. Whelan, J. Tibbs, T. Kirwan. Back row (left to right): T. Hennessy, G. Guiry, M. Flynn, N. Power, S. Keevans, M. Hayes, T. Mooney, M. Kirwan, M. Hennessy. Below: The junior hurling side. Front row (left to right): P. Duggan, T. Hennessy, N. Whelan, P. Power, M. Kirwan (capt.), A. Lannon, J. Tibbs, J. Torpey, M. Guiry. Back row (left to right): P. Lonergan, T. Power, T. Mooney, G. Mooney, P. Tuohy, M. Oates, T. Kirwan, J. Regan, S. Keevans.



SPOTLIGHT ON CAMOGIE



The team which brought the tenth consecutive All-Ireland title to Dublin. Front row (from left): Orla ni Shiochain, Kitty Murphy, Kit Kehoe, Una O'Connor, Kathleen Ryder (captain), Judy Doyle, Ethna Leech, Josie Quinn. Back Row: Sheila Creevy, Kay Lyons, Claire Heffernan, Frances Whelan, Concepta Clarke, Ann Mc-Allister, Mary Ryan, Patricia Timmons, Brid Keenan, Mary Sherlock.



The Leinster camogie team which lost to Munster in the Gael-Linn Cup Final at Cork. Front Row (from left): Nuala Duncan (Kilkenny), Peg Magee (Kildare), Rita Kierans (Louth), Joan Murphy (Wexford) captain, Joan Cullen (Wexford), Claire O'Hanrahan (Kilkenny), Margaret Hearne (Wexford), Margaret O'Leary (Wexford). Back: Mary Fennelly (Kilkenny), Kay Ryder (Dublin), Mary Connery (Kilkenny), Peg Cash (Wexford), Mary Houlihan (Kilkenny), Monica Malone (Kildare), Barbara Magee (Kildare), Carmel O'Shea (Kilkenny), Bridget Cushion (Kildare), Mrs. Corcoran (Kildare) vice-chairman Leinster Council.

PETER DARBY (Meath)



ALL-IRELAND FINAL TEAMS



PA DILLON (Kilkenny)

ALL-IRELAND FINAL TEAMS
CORK (S.H.): P. Barry (St. Vincent's); P. Doolan (St. Finbarr's), T.
O'Donoghue (Sarsfields), D. Murphy
(St. Finbarr's); T. Connolly (St. Finbarr's), J. O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers), P.
Fitzgerald (Midleton); J. McCarthy
(Passage), M. Waters (Blackrock); S.
Barry (U.C.C. and Bride Rovers), J.
O'Halloran (U.C.C.), G. McCarthy
(St. Finbarr's), C. Sheehan (Eire Og),
J. Bennett (Blackrock).

KILKENNY (S.H.): O. Walsh (Thomastown); P. Henderson (Johnstown), J. Lynch (Mooncoin) capt., J. Treacy (Bennettsbridge); S. (Bennettsbridge), T. Carroll (Lisdowney), M. Coogan (Castlecomer); P. Moran (Bennettsbridge), J. Teehan (Freshford); E. Keher (Rower-Inistioge), C. Dunne (Mooncoin), S. Buckley (Freshford); J. Dunphy (Mooncoin), P. Dillon (Freshford), T. Walsh (Thomastown). Subs.: T. Murphy (Rower-Inistioge), P. Carroll (Knocktopher).

TIPPERARY (I.H.): R. Shinnors (Newport); P. Kennedy (Knockshegowna), N. Ryan (Newport), A. Burke (Shannon Rovers); J. Drohan (Carrick), N. O'Gorman (Newport), P. Dawson (Emly); W. O'Grady (Moyne-Templetuohy), J. Fogarty (Golden); S. Kenny (Carrick), M. O'Grady (Moyne-Templetuohy), M. Jones (Newport), L. Connolly (Fethard), S. Noonan (Knockshegowna), T. Brennan (Ballingarry). Subs.: D. Dunne (Moyne-Templetuohy), P. McLoughlin (Sean Treacys).

DUBLIN (I.H.): D. Massey (Naomh Fionnbarra); D. Moyles, (do.), P. Corcoran (Good Counsel), B. Dunne (St. Columbas); S. Armstrong (Faughs), T. Burke (Grocers), S. Moyles (Naomh Fionnbarra); H. Dalton (Good Counsel), T. McGrath (Craobh Ciaran); N. Kinsella (Colmcille), T. Woods (Ballyfermot), E. Flynn (Craobh Ciaran); T. Cunningham (Ballyfermot), B. Sunder-

land (Scoil Ui Conaill), D. Doody (Rialto Gaels), Subs.: W. Markey (do.).

KILDARE (J.H.): J. Curran (St. Dernotts); C. O'Malley (Ardclough), P. Sharpe (Eire Og); J. Wall (St. Dermotts), F. Fogarty (Moorefield), P. Dunny (Eire Og), T. Carew (Cill Dubh); R. Burke (Ardclough), T. Christian (Ardclough); J. Lalor (St. Dermotts), D. O'Keeffe (Military College), M. Dwane (Ardclough); N. Behan (Eire Og), W. Quinn (Moorefield), M. O'Brien (Kilrock). Sub.: A. Byrne (St. Dermotts).

WARWICKSHIRE (J.H.): E. O'Brien (Wexford); J. Dineen (Limerick), J. Burke (Limerick), R. Hayes (Tipperary); T. Ryan (Tipp), D. Dillane (Limerick), P. Cullen (Kilkenny); E. Hanlon (Wexford), M. Sullivan (Tipp), R. Dunne (Laois), P. Hallinan (Waterford), W. Hogan (Limerick); K. Phelan (Kilkenny), M. O'Leary (Wexford), T. Buckley (Cork). Subs.: P. Gilman (Waterford), L. Byrne (Kilkenny), P. Cullinane (Tipp).

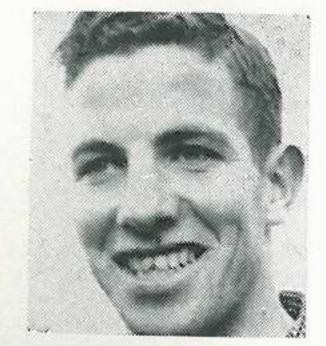
CORK (U.-21 H.): J. Mitchell

(U.C.C.); W. Murphy (Ballincollig), T. Falvey (Blackrock), P. O'Sullivan (Midleton); C. Roche (St. Finbarrs), J. Russell (Ballyhea), D. Coughlan (Glen Rovers); J. McCarthy (Passage), G. McCarthy (St. Finbarrs); S. Barry (U.C.C.), T. Browne (Carrigtwohill), P. Curley (Brian Dillons); C. McCarthy (St. Finbarrs), A. Flynn (Glen Rovers), E. O'Brien (Passage). Subs.: B. McKeown (St. Finbarrs), A. Maher (do.).

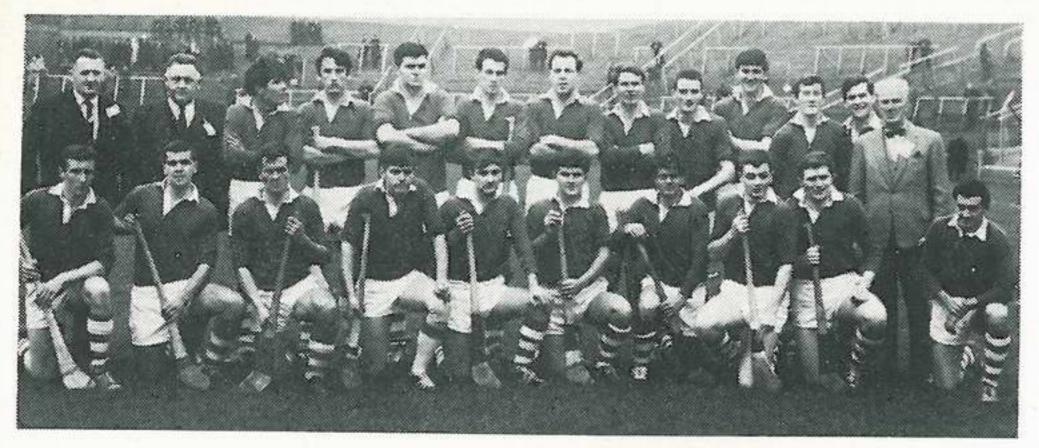
WEXFORD (U.-21 H.)—H. Butler (Buffers Alley); W. O'Neill (Kilmone), M. Nolan (Oylegate), A. Somers (Rathnure), W. Bowe (Horsewood), M. Kinsella (Buffers Alley), V. Staples (St. Martins); M. Jacob (Oulart), G. Dowdall (Faythe Harriers); S. Barron (Rathnure), P. Quigley (do.), J. Quigley (do.); P. Butler (Buffers Alley), A. Doran (do.), E. Cousins (St. Martins). Subs.: M. Gardiner (Geraldine-O'Hanrahans), N. Rochford (Kilmone), E. Murphy (Ferns).

WEXFORD (M.H.): H. Butler (Buffers Alley); J. Quigley (Rathnure); E. Murphy (Ferns), W. Butler (Geraldine-





HAPPY CAPTAINS . . . Gerald McCarthy (Cork), left, and Galway's Enda Colleran.



The Cork Under-21 hurling side which beat Wexford in the second replay.

O'Hanrahans); E. McDonald (St. Martins), M. Fitzpatrick (Duffry Rovers-Marshallstown), E. Buggy (Faythe Harriers); D. Howell (Tramclan), T. Kavanagh (Duffry Rovers-Marshallstown); T. Furlong (Shamrocks), L. Bent (Faythe Harriers), P. Byrne (Boys Club, Enniscorthy); T. Royce (Oulart), M. Browne (Faythe Harriers), P. Bernie (Ferns). Subs.: J. Nagle (Boys Club, Enniscorthy), J. Ryan (Duffry Rovers-Marshallstown).

CORK (M.H.): B. Hurley (Black-rock); D. Carroll (Glen Rovers), P. Geary (Blackrock), F. Norberg (Blackrock); J. Aherne (Cloyne), J. Horgan (Passage), R. Cummins (Blackrock); P. Moylan (Blackrock), W. Walsh (Youghal); B. Meade (Passage), S. Murphy (Blackrock), P. Ring (Cloyne), F. Keane (Youghal), G. O'Riordan (Glen Rovers), M. Curley (Brian Dillons). Subs.: C. Kelly (Cloughduv), L. Comer (Clonakilty), D. Clifford (Cloyne). Kelly and Comer played in the drawn game.

GALWAY (S.F.): J. Geraghty (Mount-bellew); E. Colleran (Mountbellew), N. Tierney (Milltown), J. B. McDermott (Williamstown); C. McDonagh (Fr. Griffins), S. Meade (Ballinasloe), M. Newell (Fr. Griffins); J. Duggan (Claremorris), P. Donnellan (Dunmore); C. Dunne (Ballinasloe), M. McDonagh (Ballygar), S. Leydon (Dunmore), L. Sammon (Fr. Griffins), S. Cleary (Ballygar), J. Keenan (Dunmore). Sub.: J. Donnellan (Dunmore).

MEATH (S.F.): S. McCormack (Nobber), D. Donnelly (Skryne), J. Quinn (Kilbride), P. Darby (Trim), P. Collier (Stamullen), B. Cunningham (Ballivor), P. Reynolds (Walterstown); T. Browne (Enfield), P. Moore (Ballinabrackey); T. Brennan (Enfield), M. O'Sullivan (Kilbride), D. Carty (Skryne) capt.; G. Quinn (Kilbride), N. Curran (Dunshaughlin), O. Shanley (Dulcek). Subs.: M. White (Rathkenny), J. Fegan (Killallon), M. Quinn (Kilbride).

LONDON (J.F.): M. Nally (Mayo);
N. Lucey (Kerry), S. O'Sullivan
(Cork), P. Flynn (Kerry); J. Kilcommins (Galway), J. Harrison (Kildare),
J. Madden (Roscommon), N. O'Reilly
(Mayo), J. Langan (Mayo); P. McKenna (Fermanagh), T. O'Sullivan
(Kerry), E. Glennon (Galway); P.
Grainger (Dublin), R. Dowd (Armagh),
T. Roche (Kerry). Sub.: J. Gallaghar
(Mayo) for Langan.

CORK (J.F.): G. McCarthy (St. Finbarr's); J. Flynn (Kilshannig), T. Bermingham (Grange), A. Burke (Bandon); J. O'Leary (Nemo Rangers), J. O'Halloran (U.C.C.), M. Healy (St. Finbarr's); P. J. O'Sullivan (Adrigole), R. Evans (Skibbereen); T. Burke (Millstreet), D. Sheehan (Na Piarsaig), B. Honohan (Mitchelstown); C. Kelleher (Millstreet), D. McCarthy (Kilmurry), B. O'Keeffe (Kiskeam). Subs.: J. Downing (Urhan), J. Allen (Nemo Rangers).

ROSCOMMON (U.-21 F.): P. Reynolds (Elphin); P. Clarke (Boyle), N. Nicholson (do.), C. Shine (Clan na Gael); G. Mannion (St. Brigids, Kiltoom), P. Moclair (St. Croans, Ballintubber), T. Heneghan (Tarmon); M. J. Keane (Creggs), J. O'Connor (Roscommon Gaels); J. Finnegan (Tarmon), D. Earley (Michael Glaveys), J. Cox (Rosbeg); M. Cummins (Shannon Gaels), J. Keane (St. Brigids), J. Kelly (Elphin). Sub.: M. O'Gara (St. Croans).

KILDARE (Under-21 F.): O. Crinnigan (Carbury); D. Wynne (Athy), S. Cash (Sarsfields), J. McTeague (Ballyteague); S. Reilly (Raheens), P. Nally (Carbury), T. Keogh (Sarsfields), P. Mangan (Carbury), L. Casey (Moorefield); T. Carew (Clane), P. Dunny (Raheens), T. Walsh (Straffen); K. Kelly (Carbury), M. Mullins (Raheens), N. Behan (Allenwood). Sub.: M. Mannion (Grange).

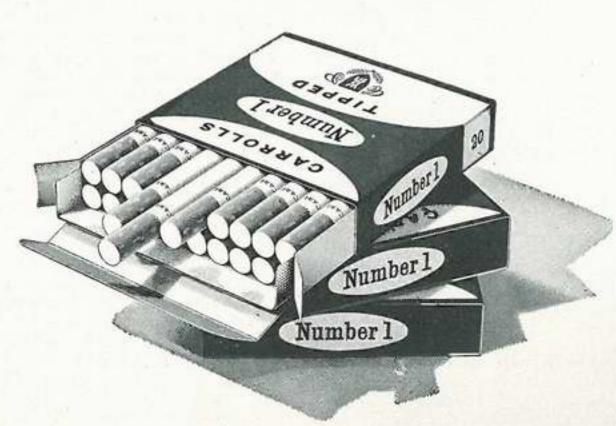
MAYO (M.F.): E. Rooney (Kiltimagh); S. Hughes (Balla), T. Snee (Aghamore), B. Meenehan (Burrishoole), G. Nevin (Castlebar), T. McCafferky (Achill), B. McHale (Castlebar); S. O'Dowd (Ballina), A. Joyce (Knockmore); J. Timoney (Ardnaree), T. Fitzgerald (Ballyhaunis), D. Griffith (Claremorris); P. Glavey (Aughamore), J. Smith (Claremorris), A. Kelly (Kiltimagh). Sub.: S. Kilbride (Ballaghaderreen).

DOWN (M.F.): J. Harte (Loughinisland); S. Brennan (Drumaness), L. Sloan (Ballymartin), H. Smith (Longstone); B. Sloan (Attical), C. Mc-Alarney (Leitrim), D. Curran (Newry Shamrocks); J. Murphy (do.), D. Mooney (Clonduff); S. Purdy (Tullylish), N. Miller (Burren), M. Cole (Rostrevor); M. Lavery (Kilwarlin), P. Rooney (Warrenpoint), J. Morgan (Kilcoo). Sub.: H. McGrath (Rostrevor).

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THE year 1966 has almost ended but thoughts of games and personalities linger on. Here are some questions to test your memory of matters Gaelic during the past 12 months.

1. The referee for the All-Ireland senior finals were?

He became the first player to captain two All-Ireland champion teams in the same year.

3. Three brothers played in an All-Ireland final. Can you name them?

4. This Corkman won the individual Poc Fada championship.

A substitute, he scored three goals in an All-Ireland semi-final.

This youngster played championship football in all four grades for Roscommon.

7. He bears the same surname as a former world champion boxer and his county's supporters call him by this boxer's christian name. Do you know him?

8. He became the first Kerrymen to be chosen for the Rest of Ireland hurlers for the annual game against the All-Ireland champions.

 Honoured by the New York selectors, he returned to Ireland and won a Cork senior hurling championship medal with Avondhu.

10. Another former New York star, he returned to the Tipperary colours for the National Hurling League campaign in October.

 This player's dismissal in a College's game sparked off a row at senior inter-county level.

12. One of Clare's all-time greats, he returned to the intercounty scene for the Munster intermediate hurling championship.

 Name the only player to win two provincial senior championship medals during 1966.

14. He was elected chairman of the Leinster Council in succession to Kildare's Liam Geraghty.

(Continued on Page 16)

Personality Posers

G.A.A. affairs during 1966?

Here are 20 questions concerning the activities of well-known personalities. How many can you answer?

- 1. He became the first Ulsterman to win six Railway Cup medals?
- 2. A noted defender, he won a Meath senior football championship medal as a forward with Colmcille Gaels?
- 3. These two Kerrymen added All-Ireland junior football medals, won with London, to senior awards collected with their native county. Their names?
- 4. Probably the first Roscommon man to become a dual All-Ireland medalist. He is?
- This player won a provincial senior championship medal yet played with New York in a National League final.
- 6. Who were the Clare hurlers whose trip to New York caused such a furore in early Summer?
- A dual star from Kildare, he now holds three All-Ireland medals.
- 8. Two players helped Cork win All-Ireland senior hurling and home junior football titles. Their names?
 - 9. A star of the County Down

in 1960 and '61, he appeared in an All-Ireland junior final.

10. A famous Kilkenny defender of not so long ago, he collec-

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KILCOCK, CO. KILDARE IRELAND. ted another Dublin senior hurling championship medal.

- A rising Galway star, he plays his club football in Mayo.
- 12. Three clerical students figured in the All-Ireland senior hurling final. They were?
- This hurler won his tenth provincial senior championship medal.
- 14. He emulated Mayo's Padraig Carney by flying home for a National League final.
- 15. In the same game, this player helped his county achieve a long-sought ambition. But his father beat him by 43 years!
- Down-born, he collected a Meath senior medal.
- 17. This player's namesake, and fellow-countyman, won three All-Ireland medals as a forward. The latest star to carry the name is a defender. And he is?
- 18. He played with his province in a Railway Cup final but could not command a place on his county's champion fifteen.
- 19. This famous Wexford hurler made a surprise return to the inter-county scene for the Leinster intermediate final.
- A minor, he played a big part in Dublin senior hurlers' Walsh Cup success.

(continued on Page 16)

GAELIC WEEKLY CUP FINALISTS...



The Mayo team which beat Kildare (below) in the Gaelic Weekly Cup (S.F.) final.



NEW YORK LINE-OUTS



PAT DOWLING . . . New York hurler.

URING the year New York teams visited Ireland for the finals of the National Leagues in hurling and football. The following teams represented the exiles in these two-leg contests.

NEW YORK (H) v. KILKENNY
At Croke Park: K. Croke (Galway);
P. Donohue (Galway), J. Maher (Galway), M. Morrissey (Carlow); P. Hennessy (Tipp), P. Dowling (Cork), J. Murphy (Tipp); B. Hennessy (Kerry),
J. Kelly (Galway) capt.; M. Curtin (Galway), P. Kelleher (Limerick), D. Long (Waterford); B. Kelleher (Limerick), J. Donohue (Wexford), B. Ahern (Cork). Sub.: A. English (Tipp).

At Kilkenny: K. Croke, P. Donohue, J. Maher, M. Morrissey; P. Hennessy, P. Dowling, J. Murphy; B. Hennessy, B. Ahern; B. Kelleher, J. Donohue, M. Curtin; D. Long, E. England (Offaly), S. Forde (Galway). Subs.: J. Kelly, J. Doherty (Kilkenny).

NEW YORK (F.) v. LONGFORD
At Longford: W. Nolan (Offaly); P.
Maguire (Kildare), P. Nolan (Offaly),
S. Kenna (Roscommon), D. Finn
(Louth), K. McNamee (Meath), S.
Nugent (Kildare); M. Moynihan
(Kerry), B. Tumulty (Wicklow); E.
Driscoll (Kerry), J. Foley (Kerry), J.
Halpin (Meath); P. Cummins (Kildare)
capt., B. O'Donnell (New York), J.
O'Brien (Galway). Subs.: E. McCarthy
(Cork), D. Ryan (Tyrone), T. Frawley (Limerick).

At Croke Park: W. Nolan; P. Maguire, P. Nolan, K. Finn (Louth), D. Finn, S. Nugent, E. Driscoll; J. Foley, B. Tumulty; D. Byrne (Wicklow), M. Moynihan, K. McNamee; P. Cummins (capt.), S. Brogan (Leitrim), J. Halpin. Subs.: B. O'Donnell, J. O'Brien.



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Personality Posers

THE ANSWERS

- 1. Paddy Doherty of Down.
- Offaly's Greg Hughes, who was at centre half-forward in the second county final replay against Kilbride.
- 3. Noel Lucey and Timmy O'Sullivan. Both were on the Kerry team that beat Roscommon in the 1962 All-Ireland senior final.
- 4. Martin John Keane. He added an under-21 football medal to the junior hurling medal he won in 1965.
- 5. Gene McCarthy of Cork. He helped his county win the Munster football championship and went on as a substitute for New York in the first leg of the National League final against Longford.
- 6. Jim Woods, Tony Marsh and Paddy McNamara.
- 7. Pat Dunny, who hold two All-Ireland junior hurling medals (1962 and '66) and one for under-21 football (1965).
- 8. John O'Halloran and Donal (Fox) Sheehan.
- Pat Rice, full-back for Down against Cork in the junior football home final.
- 10. John Maher. He helped Crokes win the Dublin senior hurling title for the first time. Three years previously he was on the Junior Board Selection that won the same championship.
- Jimmy Duggan, who lives in Claremorris and plays for the local club.
- 12. Seanie Barry and Michael Waters played for Cork and Tom Murphy for Kilkenny.
- 13. Christy Ring! He starred for Glen Rovers in the final of

the 1965 Munster club hurling championship against Mount Sion.

- 14. Tipperary's Tony Wall, who came home from United Nations duty in Cyprus for the home Hurling League final.
- 15. When Kilkenny beat Tipperary in the above game it was
 their first victory for 43 years over
 their neighbours in the final of a
 national senior hurling competition. A member of the Kilkenny
 team was Joe Dunphy, whose
 father, Eddie, helped the county in
 its previous major success over
 Tipperary—the 1922 All-Ireland

final, which did not take place until September 9, 1923.

- 16. Des Ferguson, the former Dublin star who was the guiding light behind Colmcille Gaels' first victory in the Meath senior football championship.
- 17. Cork's hurling goalkeeper Paddy Barry. His namesake helped Cork to All-Ireland success in 1952, '53 and '54.
 - 18. Tom Forrestal of Kilkenny.
- 19. Willie Rackard. But his comeback was in vain for his county lost to Dublin.
 - 20. Harry Dalton.

DO YOU KNOW?

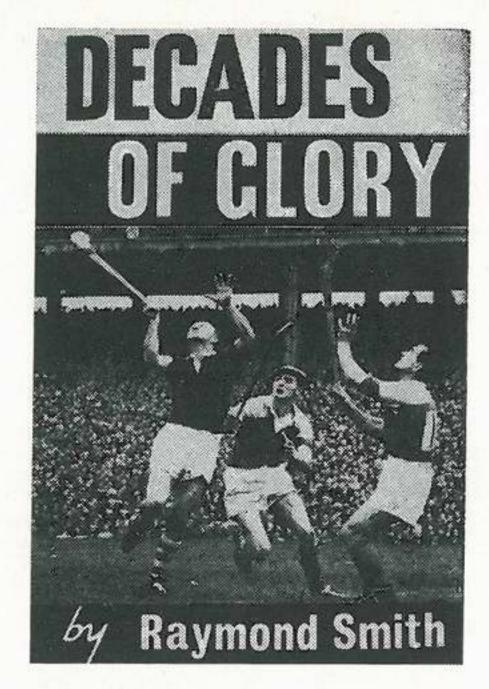
THE ANSWERS

- Jimmy Hatton of Wicklow had charge of both.
- Gerald McCarthy, who captained Cork to victory in senior and under-21 hurling.
- 3. Jack, Gerry and Martin Quinn, who played with Meath senior footballers against Galway. Jack and Gerry were on the first fifteen and Martin came on as a substitute in the last quarter.
- 4. Finbarr O'Neill, reserve goalkeeper on the team that won the All-Ireland senior hurling title.
- Mayo minor footballer Des Griffith. He performed this feat against Cork.



JIMMY SMITH

- 6. Dermot Earley.
- 7. Kildare's Pat Moore, affectionately known as 'Archie.'
 - 8. Declan Lovett.
 - 9. Jerry Keating.
 - 10. Sean O'Meara.
- 11. Down's Colm McAlarney. His county played him in the Dr. Lagan Cup against Armagh after he had been order off the field in a Colleges' tie, thus causing Armagh to lodge an objection.
- 12. Jimmy Smith, who played against Galway in the Munster intermediate semi-final.
 - 13. Cork's Jerry O'Sullivan.
 - 14. Bob Aylward of Kilkenny.



Wills of Dublin and Cork, who have always taken an active interest in the development of Gaelic Games, are proud to have played a part in making possible the publication of Raymond Smith's 'Decades of Glory.'

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WCE15a

with pride on the achievements of 1966 and to the future with renewed feelings of hope . . . with the lion's share of the credit falling to fifteen youths who wrote a new bright chapter of minor football history last year.

These young men met and mastered the cream of the country's talent. By winning the All-Ireland title and the Tom Markham Cup, after a lapse of thirteen years, they have bolstered a county's confidence which, to say the least, had become rather deflated following successive seasons of failure and frustration.

The past decade has not been a fruitful one for Mayo. But with only the memories of the triump-hant thirties and the golden era of the fifties as sources of inspiration, they battled gamely on, searching for success. This year they hit the jackpot.

The county's senior representatives have won recognition and fresh respect. Indeed one might be excused for harbouring the thought that with a little more experience and craft they could well succeed neighbours Galway as Ireland's supreme force. Then, of course, there are the minors, as fine a bunch of players to wear the green and red for many seasons.

As the championship campaign advanced, their fielding ability, cohesion and cuteness in attack became more obvious. Yet, to my mind, their greatest attribute was their unquenchable spirit and determination. They are, without doubt, destined for higher honours.

Players like Tim Snee, Gay Nevin, Tom Cafferkey, Benny MacHale, Tony Joyce, Tom Fitzgerald, Des Griffith and full-forward Jim Smyth are a guarantee of strength in the years to come.

Already the captain, S. O'Dowd has been promoted by the county selectors to the ranks of the first fifteen. In the five games which he had with the seniors up to the end of the year, the Ballina star—he helped the Stephenites regain the county senior championship crown after eleven years—has knitted in well with his colleagues in attack. It is little wonder, then, that they

MAYO MINOR'S

All-Ireland Victory has done a lot for the game in the county

By TOM COURELL

look forward so much to brighter and more rewarding days in Mayo.

Recalling the championship, I am sure the majority of people remember that delightful display against Down in the minor final. Mayo were most impressive on that occasion, but for me their five-star performance in the semi-final against Cork was the best I have seen in many seasons.

Like most Mayo people, I made the 150-mile journey to Headquarters that day lacking confidence. Cork, we were told, were aiming high. Their crushing win over Kerry in the Munster final proved it was not an idle boast.

Physically, too, they seemed to tower over their rivals from the West. But once the game got underway, what a revelation! The smaller, but slicker, Mayo boys moved with machine-like precision and Cork fell to pieces. Tom Fitzgerald paved the way with a brilliant goal from fully 30 yards.

With a steady supply floating in from midfield, where Seamus O'Dowd and Tony Joyce were supreme, the Mayo attack snapped up chances like dollar bills. Des Griffith, the Claremorris stylist who likes nothing better than a soothing round of golf at the local links in his spare time, stole the show. Three times he dashed through the reeling Cork defence to plant the ball in the net.

There was no doubting the better side. For the first time, Mayo were regarded as champions in the making.

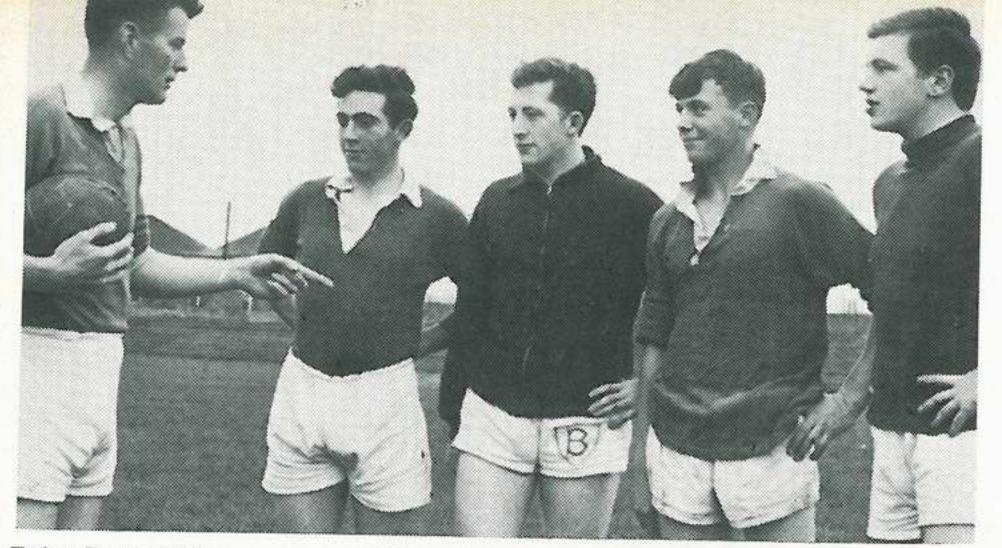
Earlier in the season they had shown fine form in the Connacht Non-College League. In four games they amassed no less than 14-45
. . . a fantastic average of almost 22 points per match. Still followers were not convinced. Haunted by the memory of that nightmare Connacht final of the previous year, when Roscommon caused a major surprise at Castlebar, they were very slow to express a final opinion.

Came the first round of the championship in Sligo, where Mayo's first-half performance was not what you would associate with potential champions. For 30 minutes they fumbled and fiddled against a spirited home fifteen, but on resuming they shook off their lethargy and cruised home, 4-10 to 0-7 winners.

Their next opponents were Roscommon, powered by college star Dermot Earley and Jimmy Cox and considered favourites to remain top dogs in the province. Those who expressed this view must have been nodding their heads in approval as they watched the Roscommon boys nip into an early 0-6 to 0-2 lead at Castlebar.

Those four points were 'scrubbed' within five minutes of the restart as Mayo, now more purposeful, flashed into prominence. Fourteen minutes later Kiltimagh's Aidan Kelly rose to meet a centre and guided the ball into the Roscommon net.

The champions were really in trouble. Even the switching of Dermot Earley from full-back to midfield was not sufficient to halt the march of Mayo. They were on the highway to Croke Park again for their fifth semi-final appearance in six years.



Trainer Eamonn Kelly passes on some advice to Mayo minors P. Navin, S. O'Dowd (captain), D. Griffith and J. Smith during a pre-final training session.

So to the final! Only twice before in the 34 years of the competition had titles come to Mayo
—1935 and '53. Admittedly confidence was rising as the big day
approached, mainly as a result of
the scintillating display against
Cork. But there was no element
of over-confidence in this outlook.
On the contrary, if anything distinct feelings of caution were obvious.

Down had taken two attempts to dismiss Laois in the other semifinal. Gruelling games like these were bound to have toughened the Ulster champions, seeking their first title in their first final. And they proved this in the opening ten minutes, when they matched Mayo on the field and on the scoreboard.

However, Mayo's ability to fire over points from long range began to tell. They were 0-7 to 0-3 in front when, in the 23rd, minute, Joe Joe Timoney chipped a high ball into the square and it was aided to the net by Aiden Kelly and Jim Smyth.

The comforts of a 1-8 to 0-3 interval lead were soon forgotten as Down battled back on the resumption. The mettle of the Mayo backline was tested to the full as the pressure piled on. But a goal eight minutes from the end was too late to be of any real consequence. And so Mayo went home rejoicing.

Back across the Shannon they trouped with laurels held high. A hero's welcome awaited them in the hamlets, villages and towns of their native county. Words of praise and compliments were showered on them from all quarters.

Congratulations of a more concrete form flowed from Ballina, where it was learned that local businessman and former Mayo All-Ireland player, Paddy Moclair, had started a move to find permanent employment at home for members of the team, who might otherwise have to leave the country through lack of opportunities.

A committee of interested parties and officials was set up to put the Moclair Plan into operation.

As Mr. Moclair explained at the time: "This is a great Mayo team and they deserve the best. But it is too easy just to leave it with congratulations. Compliments are not enough, for I have been told that many members of our minor team will have to emigrate. If this is so they will be lost to football and to Ireland.

"They will then be soon forgotten by the thousands who were thrilled by the spirited, stylish and typical Mayo brand of football."

Mayo does not want to lose its minors of 1966. Too much depends on them for the future.

When one recalls the success of the past season it is impossible to disassociate from it the work of the members of the County Minor Football Board. Six years ago this Board was formed to foster football in the younger grade. Since then five provincial titles, four Connacht League titles, and now the national crown have come to the county.

Few will dispute the fact that these loyal men have done their work well and to Rev. Jarlath Waldron, chairman of the Board for the first five years, Paddy Waldron (Ballyhaunis), the present chairman, and the other members must go a silent word of gratitude.

For the last word I turn to Mr. Waldron who said: "The winning of the All-Ireland final has done a tremendous lot for the game in the county. The senior team seems to be settling into a balanced combination and, with the emergence of the youngsters, there is now competition for places on the side. This will keep all the lads on their toes," he said.

His words echo the sentiments of thousands of Mayo supporters! PADRAIG PUIRSEAL (of the Irish Press) asks:

WHAT POSITION WILL THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HOLD . . .

50 YEARS FROM NOW...

Athletic Association hold in the Ireland of fifty years from now? Quite frankly, that question, posed for me by the Editor, is one to which I can no more give a definite answer than I can prophesy what kind of Ireland my grand-children will be living in by then. So, in the circumstances, the best I can do is to visualise the work the G.A.A. will be doing in the Ireland of 2016.

A great deal can happen in half a century. Fifty years ago my grandfather was peasant-proprietor of the small farm on which his own grandfather had been a precarious tenant-at-will a further fifty years before.

My grandfather's grandfather, armed with a thick-bossed hurley, battled the tithe proctors in the year before Emancipation. He heeded fighting speeches from Meagher of the Sword on Waterford's Ballybricken Hill, but saw no point in facing the muskets of the redcoats or the sabres of the dragoons with no better weapon than his stout camán. Yet, a dozen years later, he was sheltering James Stephens, the Wandering Hawk.

My grandfather drilled with the Fenian Men, whom the same James Stephens had mustered. He shook the hand of Parnell. He was ever proud of the green card that listed him as one of the earliest members of the Land League. And he lived to see the hills ablaze with bonfires to greet the 1918 election victory of Sinn Fein.

My grandfather's grandfather was a barefoot leader in the old parish-to-parish hurling games in the year before the Famine. I am told he never had any meas on a player who could not sweep man and ball alike before him. 'Fág an bealach' was full of meaning on the hurling fields of those times.

My grandfather hurled barefoot too, through the years that saw 'hurling home' change to 'hurling to goals.' His playing days were over by the time the G.A.A. was founded in 1884, but he saw Foxy Billy Walsh's 21 'iron men' bring the first Leinster hurling championship to Kikenny, and he saw the G.A.A. grow from a small and derided body to become a power in the land.

But, even with that hindsight into the past one hundred years to guide me, I am no better able to predict what kind of Gaelic Athletic Association my grandchildren will know fifty years from now.

One thing, at least, is certain. The ideals of the G.A.A. will not have changed. The Association will, indeed must, remain devoted to the preservation and cultivation, mainly through the native games, of all that is best in the traditions handed down to us by our fore-fathers. But, in those years ahead, the G.A.A. will just as certainly have to broaden the scope of its activities to meet effectively the challenge of changing times.

The Gaelic Athletic Association was not founded as a games organisation only, but with the higher aim of keeping alive in the hearts of our people the realisation that we Irish are a separate and ancient race with a culture all our own,

The native games were the most outstanding evidence of Ireland's separate identity and it was to encourage and popularise these pastimes that the annual hurling and football championships were first founded. The organising of championships was essential work, and it was work superbly done. But now we have reached the stage where we have as many annual competitions as we can comfortably cope with.

To serve Ireland properly in the coming times, while remaining true to its treasured ideals, the Association must get away from the toowidely held idea, within and without the G.A.A., that the running of the annual championships is the be-all and end-all of the organisations existence. The championships were forced into their present position of seemingly supreme importance by two developments, themselves closely related, the attainment of a measure of independence by 26 Counties and the formation of N.A.C.A.

From the Treaty on the close association and comradeship in the 26 Counties between the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League no longer remained the same vital bond that it had been—and both bodies lost something in consequence. With the foundation of the N.A.C.A., the Gaelic Athletic Association withdrew from active participation

in athletics, and thus had no scope for its energies, except hurling and football, with handball a rather poor relation.

Those of my generation well know and fully appreciate the wonderful advances that have been made in the forty-odd years since then—the National Leagues, the Railway Cup competitions the minor, intermediate and under-21 championships all bear testimony to that—but that work is now surely completed, and we cannot remain static. There are wider fields waiting to be tilled.

The next objectives, a stadium in every county, a fully-equipped playing field in every parish, are attainable in the next decade or two, and by then the revival of hurling should be an accomplished fact all Ireland over. But where do we go from there?

To me it seems essential for the G.A.A. to resume as quickly as possible its former direct participation in athletics. Through no fault of its own, the N.A.C.A. has been frustrated in its original purpose—the building up in Ireland of a single athletic association as power-ful in numbers as it was national in spirit.

The present position, with the Irish singlets monopolised by splinter-groups while the vast majority of our athletes are banned by the 'select few,' is the very humiliation against which Michael Cusack and Maurice Davin revolted in 1884.

The unity talks that have been

going on show little signs of succeeding in the immediate future. Would not the whole situation be most quickly resolved by the G.A.A. again fully living up to its original name, the Gaelic Athletic Association, and resuming control of athletics in all 32 counties? It is the only national sporting organisation in Ireland with the power, the prestige, the resources, and the grounds, to do so triumphantly.

Through the next fifty years, athletic training and physical education will become mort and more a vital aspect in the lives of all nations. Ireland will be no exception, so it is surely essential that the direction of such physical education here should be, directly or indirectly, guided by those who realise that nationalism is the true basis of internationalism.

Only the G.A.A. has the organisation to meet that coming challenge adequately. So, the expansion of every hurling and football club to include an athletic section is the first step I would hope for towards making the G.A.A. clubs the real centres of our national life and outlook that they must become through the years ahead,

The next step—in some ways it may be even more urgent than the controlling and popularisation of Irish athletics—must be the formation of a camogie club as an integral part of every G.A.A. club. The days are already long gone when sport was a male pre-

serve. If we are to keep Ireland true to the ideals of the G.A.A., we must have the women on our side no less than the men—and the women of Ireland have never been any whit less patriotic than their men-folk.

The G.A.A. club that I visualise fifty years from now must be in a position to provide recreational facilities for the whole district, boys and girls, men and women alike. It will have its football teams, its hurling teams, its camogre teams and its athletic section, which will also cater increasingly for girls, as athletics for girls increases in popularity with the spread of physical education in the schools.

Then, when every club, with its own playing fields and dressing-rooms, is providing a full range of outdoor recreational facilities, the time will have arrived for the provision of a club-room that will become a social centre for the district, a centre which must, if the G.A.A. is to fulfil its purpose, be a stronghold of all that is best in the traditions we seek to preserve and popularise.

In those club-rooms fifty years from now my grandchildren should hear Irish freely spoken by young and old alike, just as my grandfather's grandfather spoke Irish and English with equal facility one hundred years before my time. Surely our childrens' children will speak the language of our forefathers for the same reason as they

(continued on page 24)

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WHY NOT PLAY THE

FINAL IN AUGUST?

THERE have been suggestions of late that, for one reason or another, the All-Ireland football semi-finals should be moved farther back in the season with possibly one of them going back to the last Sunday in August, if not later. It has also been suggested that to make room for these semi-finals, the hurling final should be moved back from the first Sunday in September.

Now I do agree that the gap between the first All-Ireland football semi-final, early in August, and the All-Ireland final, on the fourth Sunday in September, is too wide, and would be helpfully bridged by playing both semi-finals at later

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But if the hurling final has to be moved to allow for a change of dates in the football semifinals, surely the obvious thing to do is to bring it forward, not shift it back further into September.

To move back the hurling final would, as I see it be a retrograde step in every sense of the word. If it were played even on the second Sunday in September it would be even further separated from the provincial semi-finals which are, in effect, the hurling semi-finals and which are often very widely separated from the final even as matters stands at present.

Moreover, by moving back the hurling final, even by a single week, we would be further cluttering up the back-end of the season, especially

for the top teams.

Take Kilkenny last season. They played Cork in the All-Ireland final on the first Sunday in September; New York in the National League final on the second and third Sundays and still had three National League matches, the Oireachtas competition and the Grounds Tournament ahead of them. But for the fact that the Oireachtas Committee altered the draw to accommodate them, the Noremen just could not have played in the Corn Aghais.

As it is, due to the draws and replays between Cork and Wexford in the minor and under-21 grades, the Oireachtas final had to be put back to the first Sunday in December, with the Grounds Tournament before Christmas, Decem-

ber 18

Even allowing for the undeniable fact that the weather immediately before Christmas is often far better than it is in the opening weeks of the New Year, it is unpleasant for players and spectators alike to have games so important scheduled for the heart of winter.

And it is obvious that, if the hurling final is moved back further into September, the congestion of fixtures in the back-end of the season is likely to become even worse. So the spreading

HURLING

ASKS MOONDHARRIG

out of the back-end-of-the-season fixtures provides one very good reason for moving the hurling final forward.

But the second reason is, I believe, even more important. August, despite every effort to change it, is still the holiday month, and is likely to remain so.

Now the sad fact is that, since the All-Ireland semi-finals ended in 1958, we have no senior hurling championship game in the whole holiday month of August. I believe that playing the hurling final in August would increase the interest, and the attendance.

With the Leinster final usually played on the second-last Sunday in July and the Munster final on the last Sunday of the same month, it should, even allowing for replays, be possible to have the hurling final on the third Sunday of August. The football semi-finals could then be played either on the second and fourth Sundays in August or on the fourth Sunday in August and the first Sunday in September, whichever of these dates prove most suited to the counties and provinces concerned.

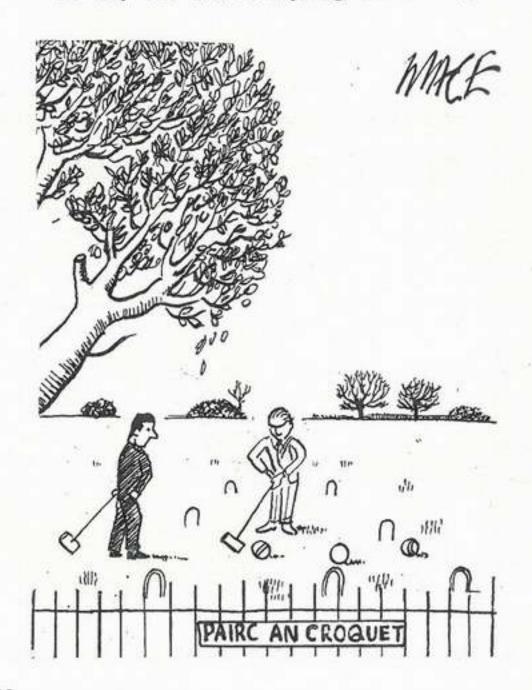
I do not think such a change would pose too many administrative problems. While it would provide some very busy weeks in August for the Croke Park staff, it would ease their problems somewhat in another respect by providing a longer interval between the hurling final and the football final.

All in all, if the hurling final has to be moved the case for moving it forward is stronger than can be put up for moving it back. We can take no backward steps of any kind as far as hurling is concerned.

It will be time enough to consider a later date instead of an earlier one for the hurling final when we have strong caman-wielding teams in every county and can look forward confidently to two well-contested All-Ireland hurling semifinals every August, and that happy day is still some way ahead.



"Do they ever talk of anything else nowadays."



play the games, for the sheer love of it.

To facilitate the revival of Irish as a spoken tongue, I would hope to see, from here on, the re-establishment of the close relationship that once existed between the G.A.A. and the Gaelic League, starting with simple, and enjoyable, conversation sessions to encourage all to use the Irish they already know. The G.A.A. can do a great deal more for the language, but the best work must await the day when the clubs become real social centres.

In those club rooms, too, fifty years from now my grandchildren should enjoy the best of Irish music and Irish dancing. dancing today is far gone in decline for one simple reasan, that it is no longer taught in the home. Practice sessions in the local club rooms, sessions that would be fun, not drudgery, for the teenagers would soon change all that.

I would not entirely agree, however, that such activities be strictly confined to Irish dancing and Irish The jungle-beats, please God, will be forgotten by then, but music is a universal language,

the only one mankind possesses except laughter.

Bach and Beethoven, Ravel, Toccelli or Strauss will only help in the appreciation of 'the Coulin,' 'the Connerys' or the compositions of Sean O'Riada. And who can seriously justify placing the Viennese waltz in the same category as the Schenectady Shimmy?

Beyond such matters as language and music and dancing there lie ever wider horizons. Year by year we get ever more money and ever increasing leisure time. The Government provides better and better educational facilities, almost all aimed at teaching more and more people to earn a comfortable living. But neither the Government nor the Trade Unions are making any real effort to teach the rising generation how to spend all that extra money or how to occupy all that spare time.

And that is what, above all, the G.A.A. clubs of the future may well have to provide for my grandchildren, a training-ground for the young people in the battle against boredom and frustration, against the very real problem of children growing up who have everything

but one thing-a satisfying way of filling their leisure hours in more lasting pursuits than the playing fields can offer.

Therefore, I would hope that the future activities of G.A.A. clubs fifty years from now would extend to drama groups, ballad groups, musical groups, discussion groups, hobby groups, anything you wish as long as it helps our young people to occupy their minds, teaches them to provide their own amusement, and does not leave them with the false impression that life is empty beyond the sight of a television set or the sound of a radio.

By the year 2016 Ireland will surely be united and independent, probably within the framework of an Associated States of Europe, and possibly of the World, unless someone drops the Big Bomb between now and then. But, in the last analysis, freedom is an attitude of the mind.

If, in 2016, the G.A.A., while remaining true to its ideals, has expanded to cultivate, through the techniques of a new world, all that is best of the old traditions, I have no fears that my grandchildren will ever lose the freedom of the mind that has always characterised the Gael.

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GALWAY'S 3-IN-A-ROW

BY JACK MAHON

WHEN the 1966 football campaign opened in February, the thoughts of most Galway supporters were centered on one question "Could the Galway boys make it three-in-a-row with another All-Ireland win in 1966?" The magnitude of the task was obvious to everybody as no team in recent years except Kerry, had won the coveted three successive titles.

Such great teams as the 1950-'51 Mayo team and the 1960-'61 Down team, had won two successive finals but failed to win even the provincial title when chasing the elusive third All-Ireland. So, the Galway team were under no illusion at the start of the 1966 championship that the road ahead was a rocky one; and that the greatest danger to their continued success lay on their own doorstep in their own provincial championship. And so it proved to be.

Early in the year when the National League resumed activities after the winter break, Galway defeated Offaly and Mayo to qualify for the semi-final against Kildare. In these games Galway won well but the football they played was competent rather than brilliant. Kildare, who had won the All-Ireland under-21 title in 1965, beat Cork and Dublin in fine style to qualify for the League semi-final, and were being hailed as one of the up-and-coming young teams, and were given a right good chance of beating the champions. When they met, Galway proceeded to play their best football for months and over-whelmed

the young Kildare team with a succession of points in the first half and two great goals by John Keenan and Matty McDonagh in the second half.

Longford qualified for the League (Home) Final by beating Donegal in the semi-final after emerging from a very 'hot' group which included Meath, Cavan, Kerry, Sligo and Louth. Longford had long been one of the weaker counties in the football world and have never, in fact, won a Leinster senior title, so definitely this was their big day. And after a titanic struggle victory was indeed theirs. Galway, like true champions laid sieze to the Longford goal for the last seven minutes of the game and only trailed by one point. But the finishing rally that brought victory to Galway so many times in the past was contained by a stout-hearted Longford defence.

Then came the championship. On all sides speculation was rife about the title-holders. Were Galway gone over the top? Was their appetite for football sated? Was the edge gone off their game? And if Galway were to go who would succeed them? Was it Longford, flushed with their League final success? Would it be Down who still had memories of a great win over Galway in the Grounds Tournament final? Or would it be Kerry, smarting from defeats by Galway in 1963, 1964 and 1965? Or what about Meath or Dublin or Kildare or Donegal? And in the West would this be Sligo's year? And was it true that Mayo were really on the up-grade? Only time, and the championship, would end most of this speculation.

First round of the championship saw Galway pitted against Roscommon in Castlebar. Galway lined out without John Geraghty (recovering

(continued on Page 27)

SELECTORS ALWAYS CHOOSE GUINNESS

for a strong side



GALWAY'S THREE IN-A-ROW (contd.)



BOSCO McDERMOTT

after an operation), Martin Newell, Sean Meade, Sean Cleary and Mick Garrett.

The team was, M. Moore, E. Colleran, N. Tierney, J. B. McDermott; J. Donnellan, T. Brennan, T. Sands; P. Donnellan, M. Reynolds; C. Dunne, M. McDonagh, S. Leydon; C. Tyrrell,

J. Keenan, L. Sammon.

Tommy Brennan of Milltown, brother of Sean who had been on the Galway panel in 1963 was at centre-half-back and Liam Sammon (Fr. Griffins) at corner-forward. Both made good debuts in the maroon-and-white-Brennan contained the thrusts of Eamonn Curley and Sammon combined well with his fellow-forwards. Pat Donnellan gave a tremendous display at midfield and made light of the conditions of greasy ball and slippery sod. His brother John, Bosco Mc-Dermott, Brennan and E. Colleran were best of the back-line, while Michael Moore did well in goal as understudy for the absent J. Geraghty. Up front John Keenan who set Galway on the road to victory with a goal from a penalty in the first 10 minutes, and Cyril Dunne were best in the forward-line. Roscommon tried hard, especially for a period half-way through the second half, but could not pierce the Galway defence for any worth-while scores, and Galway won comfortably on a score of 1-11 to 0-5.

Next came the Connacht final, where Galway's opponents were to be Mayo at Castlebar on July 17. Mayo had qualified by beating Sligo at the second attempt. The Galway team for the final showed one change in personnel, and a few positional changes from the team that beat Roscommon. Jimmy Duggan, the St. Jarlaths schoolboy star, only 18 since December 1965, was selected at corner-forward with John Keenan on the "forty-yards" and Mattie McDonagh at full-

forward.

Mayo started very strongly with John Morley surpreme at centre-half-back, J. Langan and M. Connaughton lording it at midfield and Joe Corcoran, J. Gibbons and P. Kilbane leading the Galway half-backs a merry dance. Still their superiority in this half was not converted into the scores that might have brought them victory, and led only by 0-5 to 0-3 at half-time.

A goal by Mayo full-forward M. J. Ruddy and a point just afterwards left Mayo 5 points clear with 17 minutes to go. At this stage the Galway

'sideline-mentors' made the moves that ultimately brought victory. Sean Meade was brought on for T. Brennan and immediately proceeded to seal up the middle, Matty McDonagh was brought to the "forty" where he curbed a previously rampant Morley, and the best move of all brought Jimmy Duggan to midfield to partner Pat Donnellan, and from this on Mayo's stranglehold at midfield was well and truly broken. From this to the end, it was a pulsating struggle, with Galway now well on top, and point by point overhauling Mayo. With 10 minutes to go Enda Colleran changed places with John Donnellan, and with Enda backing up a now well-on-top centrefield pair, the Galway forwards of whom Cyril Dunne was outstanding, scored point after point to draw level with 3 minutes to go -Dunne's point from a sideline kick was the best of many good scores. This point put Galway in the lead with 2 minutes to go, and it looked all over, but back came Mayo for a point from a free to put them level. John Donnellan took the kick-out, and sent a mighty kick-out beyond midfield where Connaughton got possession but had his kick blocked down by Duggan who sent the Galway forwards away. After a bout of interpassing Duggan himself was put through and his kick for the winner fell short but was grabbed by corner-forward Liam Sammon who punched it over the bar for the winning point, leaving Galway again Connacht champions on a score of 0-12 to 1-8.

Toast of Galway was Jimmy Duggan, who with Cyril Dunne, had done most to bring Galway through—but old campaigners Matty McDonagh and Sean Meade, in the second half, did much to fashion this victory. It had been the best Connacht final for years, and brought back memories of the Connacht Derby of the 'thirties.'

In the dressing-room just after the game the Galway team heard the news of a big upset down South as Kerry were beaten by Cork in the Munster final for the first time since 1957.

Galway were firm favourites for the semi-final on August 7 but Cork, the complete underdogs, gave the Galway boys the fright of their lives, especially in the second half when Niall Fitzgerald was foiled by Johnny Geraghty twice in quick succession. And again, Galway, though, creaking in a lot of places showed admirable coolness and experience in winning by two points, 1-11 to 1-9. As well as Geraghty, Coleen McDonagh and Enda Colleran (second half) were best of the backs with Noel Tierney showing a glimpse of his real form only at the end. Jimmy Duggan gave a great display at midfield, with a

(overleaf)

GALWAY'S THREE IN-A-ROW (contd.)



JOHN KEENAN

Strangely subdued Pat Donnellan as his partner-Cyril Dunne with a personal tally of 1-7, was the big man of the team, and had best assistance in attack from Matty McDonagh and Seamus Leydon, Lucey, O'Mahony, Cogan, Mick Burke, Con Sullivan and Johnny Carroll were best of a fine Cork team.

Meath won the other semi-final v. Down who were well in the game for 40 or 45 minutes, and it was in the last 15 or 20 minutes that Meath ran rampant and shot over a succession of points from long range to pulverise Down. Meath's strong finish in this game was surely the cause of their over-confidence in the final. For, as the final approached, Meath became stronger and stronger favourites to beat Galway—some forecasts estimating at least a 5 points margin at the end.

Galway selectors dropped their own bombshell by leaving out lion-hearted John Donnellan out of the side for the final. Sean Meade, returned to good form and to full fitness in training, resumed at centre-half-back and Coleen McDonagh was preferred to John Donnellan at right-half. There was great controversy and speculation in the county before the game but all is well that ends well, and Coleen McDonagh proceeded to have a very good game at number 5, while Galway, in a grand gesture, called on John Donnellan to replace a tiring Sean Meade in the last 5 minutes.

The team was: J. Geraghty; E. Colleran (capt.), N. Tierney, J. B. McDermott; C. McDonagh, S. Meade, M. Newell; P. Donnellan, J. Duggan; C. Dunne, M. McDonagh, S. Leydon; L. Sammon, S. Cleary, J. Keenan. (Sub.: J. Donnellan for S. Meade).

Galway settled down immediately after the throw-in and never let Meath mount a serious attack in the first half. The real upper-cut for Meath came in about the 20th minute when Matty McDonagh crashed in the only goal of the game, after a cross by Cyril Dunne. Shortly after his goal, Matty nearly had another goal but had his kick charged down at the last moment by a Meath defender. Galway put on a few more points and led at half-time by 1-6 to 0-1. Meath's only score of the first half was a point from a free by Murty Sullivan.

The second half was a bit of an anti-climax. Meath improved on their first-half display but could never get close enough to Galway to make a match of it, and Galway ran out most convincing winners by 1-10 to 0-7. No more could anybody say 'Lucky Galway'. This was indeed a wonderful team win-as the strength of the team lay through all the field, from goalie to left-full forward, and not in any sector. But the full-back line, midfield and half-forward line took most of the glory. John Geraghty had an easy day in goal, fronted by a wonderful fullback line in which Enda Colleran and Bosco Mc-Dermott were excellent and Noel Tierney was super excellent. Noel's display was 'vintage Tierney' and confounded any false prophets who before this game said that Tierney was finished. Sean Meade was like the Rock of Gibraltar in the middle, and was very well flanked by Coleen McDonagh and Martin Newell and when John Donnellan appeared, to a mighty roar from the Galway supporters, in the last few minutes, he too cleared some great balls up the field.

But it was at midfield, where Pateen Donnellan and Jimmy Duggan were paired, that Galway caused the real eye-opener. Peter Moore and Tom Browne were expected to rule the roost hereabouts, but Donnellan and Duggan gave tremendous displays and wrapped up midfield all through the hour. This was Pateen at his best, irrepressible, unstoppable and triumphant. And Jimmy Duggan, playing with the coolness, calm and precision of a veteran, outfielded and outsmarted Peter Moore and proved to be the ideal link-man in the Galway set-up.

Seamus Leydon was in wonderful form and had some great tussles with "Red" Collier. Matty McDonagh, John Keenan and Cyril Dunne were also excellent and got good assistance from Liam Sammon and Sean Cleary. Yes! this was indeed a team-triumph.

Galway had indeed forged a famous victory and won the "Third in a Row." The Galway people will remember with pride the highlights of the campaign. (1) Pateen's display and John Keenan's accuracy v. Roscommon; (2) Cyril Dunne and Jimmy Duggan against Mayo, and Cyril's point from the acute-angled sideline kick and Liam Sammon's winning point; (3) Cyril Dunne's goal and Duggan and Coleen in the semifinal-and, of course, John Geraghty and (4) the whole team in the final but especially Tierney, Duggan, Pateen, Leydon, Keenan and Matty. But the memory of the final that I will always carry with me was the pulsating, thunderous chant of the Galway followers in the last 10 minutes, "Gal-way, Gal-way."

BY SEAN

MAXWELL

* Looking back *
* on the year *
* * * * * * * * * * * * *

marked with tragedy, as one of the finest Irishmen ever to embark on the shores of America passed on to the parish beyond the grave. Michael J. Quill, native of Co. Kerry, International President of the T.W.U. and father of the Transport Worker's Union of New York, succumbed to a heart attack, after conducting one of the most effective fights in the history of the Labour Movement in the U.S.

An honorary member of the New York G.A.A., he was a loyal friend of the Irish and those of other nationalities within the Labour Movement. And down the years he was a staunch supporter of the Games of the Gael.

In his passing, not alone did the Irish lose an intrepid leader, but the force of Labour a dynamic fighter for the rights of the working class.

Saturday evening, February 5, saw 2,000 Gaels attend the Annual Banquet at the Hotel Statler Hilton in New York. The Guest of Honour was Patrick C, Downey, native of Cobh, Co, Cork.

Mr. Downey arrived in the U.S. in 1923, and for many years lined out with his native Cork on the hurling field He has served the organisation over the years in every official capacity and continues to be an active member and officer.

In the dark and gloomy days of the G.A.A. in New York, it was men like Paddy Downey that gave it its great momentum and salvaged it from those that would wish to destroy it. New York has honoured him, and rightly and justly so.

Mr. Downey opened the 1966 season at "The Home of the Gael" on March 13, long before the official date had come around. New York Gaels togged out under freezing temperatures to assist Paddy in his efforts to contribute to the building of a park in Cork.

The occasion was a memorable one, and the man revered on that day was none other than the late beloved Padraig O Caoimh, General Secretary of the G.A.A.

It was "play ball" time at the New York venue as sports-starved Gaelic fans made their way back after a severe winter to attend the Dolan-Kearns Field Day in late March. Jimmie Kearns, all-star hurler and footballer for his native Offaly in New York, passed away after a brief illness in the closing days of the 1965 season.

Vince Dolan, a New York policeman of a few months, lining out for his native Leitrim, suffered an injury that has left him incapacited for life. New York Gaels came forward as usual to help their injured brethren and the loved ones of departed Gaels.

It has always been the policy of the New York G.A.A, to attend and support the various Easter Commemorations held within the City each year, But 1966 was a special occasion. On the Fiftieth Anniversary, the G.A.A. and its many clubs were active participants in honouring the patriot dead. Believing that politics belong perhaps to the few, the New York Board claims that Nationalism belongs to all.

The highlight of the season in New York each year, is the Cardinal Cushing Field Day—the grand old cleric from Boston, and the admirable friend of the late President of the U.S., John Fitzgerald Kennedy. New York were honoured by 14 of Ireland's finest hurlers and footballers, who participated in the Cardinal's scheduled games. The exhibition given by those fine athletes will be long remembered here.

Welcomed to New York's Gaelic Park were: Christy Ring (Cork), John Doyle (Tipp), Austin Flynn (Waterford), Pat Dunny (Kildare), Bernie Hartigan (Limerick), Christy O'Brien (Laois), Cathal Flynn (Leitrim), Tony Whyte (Roscommon), Jimmy Whan (Armagh), Con Sullivan (Cork), Paddy Holden (Dublin), Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry), Pat Collier (Meath) and Mick Carley (Westmeath). We are sure that all those boys have very pleasant memories of New York.

After battling their way up, Wexford took their first junior title. They are now eligible to enter senior ranks. Should they prefer to do so, it will alleviate somewhat the congestion in the

(overleaf)

Junior League. Kerry again emerged champions in the Junior Football League final.

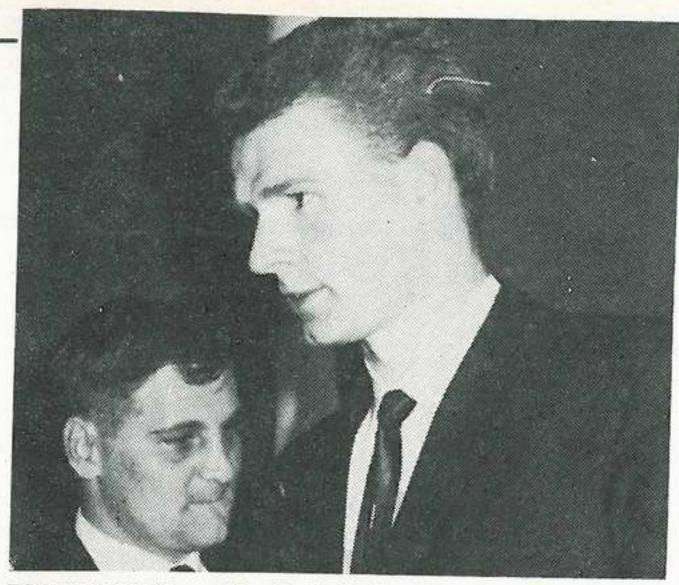
The 1965 senior hurling title is still under controversy. Clare won the game on the field, but were suspended by Central Council. Galway were declared victorious on the Council's ruling. The question is still in abeyance.

Not so with the football finalists. Kilkenny in splendid form defeated Offaly. In this epic struggle, Offaly failed to finish despite the fact that they were leading at half-time by what seemed a comfortable margin.

The losers were without the services of Tommie Furlong, and this made all the difference. Furlong, now playing American Professional Football, is rated one of the finest field-goal kickers in the game.

The Civil Service football team, of Dublin, and the Glen Rovers' hurlers, of Cork, were guests of the New York G.A.A. in July and September. Civil Service ran the New York selection to a close finish, but Glen Rovers waltzed through a none too formidable home hurling side.

Both teams created a wonderful spirit of goodwill, and New York footballers, on visiting Ireland,



TOM FURLONG . . . New York's Gaelic All-Star footballer of 1964

were cordially greeted and the hosts of the Dublin boys. At least there is one team in Ireland that has shown its appreciation of the generosity and kindness extended them in New York.

What promised to be an eventful year for New York was, to a certain extent, rather disappointing. The senior hurlers failed in their efforts to beat Kilkenny, but it cannot be said that this was unexpected.

The National Football League final, between Longford, the home winners, and New York was not alone disappointing but regrettable. New York had by far the better team, but lacked the organisation to bring home the laurels.

The rest is history better left unwritten, as we feel there is no place for such in G.A.A. records. We choose to leave the jeers, the sneers and the violence where they belong.

It is a bitterly cold evening in New York's Gaelic Park. The few watching the dying moments of the season and a mixum-gatherum game walk up and down the sidelines. It is too cold to sit.

"There are only a few of us left," says one old-timer. And true for him. And as the few trek their way through the exits, the locks go on and the playing arena of Gaelic Park has told its story for 1966.

And so the Gaels of New York take a glance back and say to themselves—"That was the season that was."

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GAILLIMH AS MEAN I BPEIL AR LINNE

Le SEAMUS BREATNACH

AR atá cúrsaí cluichí faoi láthair tógann sé foireann thar an gcoitíantacht chun iad féin a chruthú ina gcuraí i bpeil nó in iomáint. Féach mar a thárlaíonn: ní túisce a mbíonn cluiche ceannais na hEireann buaite acu i Meán Fómhair na bliana ná go dtosaíonn siad ar a dtriail do sheasamh i gcoinne ionsaithe gach contae go bhfuil tuairimí acu díobh féin.

Bhí tráth ann nuair ná raibh tábhacht ag baint ach leis an gcraobh; cinnte bhí an tSraith-Chomórtas ann ach ní ró-mhór an tsuim a chuir pobal ná imreoirí ann; bhí cluichí an Oireachtais ann freisin, ach ba mhó de thaispeántas ná de chomórtas iad-sin féin, bíodh go rabhadar ag teacht go gairid i ndiaidh Craobh na hEireann. Ní raibh rud ar bith a bhainfeadh de cháil na fóirne a mbeadh an craobh buaite acu.

B'fhéidir gur comhartha é nó toradh den saol nua so ina bhfuilimíd - saol ná fuil aon mhistéir ann, aon institúid ann atá saor ó cháineadh agus ó lochtú, saol inar fearr linn, b'fhéidir, an dabht ná an creideamh. Pé scéal é ní glactar a thuilleadh le bua i gCraobh na hEireann mar chruthú gurb iad na buaiteóirí an contae is fearr de chontaethe na hEireann. An mó fuireann go mbuatar orthu ná bíonn focail éigin mar "the better team on the day" acu agus iad ag gabháil comhgáirdis leis na buaiteóiri. Ionann is a rá, nach mór, "fan go bhféadfaimid teacht aris oraibh, agus ansan beidh fhios againn cé acu againn is fearr."

Agus tá oiread san comórtais,

agus tábhacht níos mó acu anois ná mar a bhíodh tamall de bhlianta siar. Féach an triail atá seasta ag an nGaillimh, ag imirt gach Domhnach ón lá a bhuadar Craobh na hEireann, agus dá gcaillfidís cluiche ar bith acu, cad a bheadh le rá, ach mar a bhí le rá nuair a bhuaigh an Dún anuraidh orthu, nár cheart dóibh a bheith ina gcuraí. Ar a laghad tá daoine ann —mór-chuid acu — a dúirt é sin. Agus fad a bheidh amhras mar sin aon uair a bhuann foireann eile ar na curaí, cuirfear ualach an-throm anuas ar imreoirí ar nós peileadóirí na Gaillimhe. Táid tar éis bualadh ar an gClár, Sligeach, Luimneach, an Dún, agus anois arís ar Chorcaigh i gcluiche a bhí mar ath-imirt ar an gcluiche leathcheannais úd i mí Lúnasa-comh fada agus bhí na Corcaigh i gceist, sé sin. Agus tar éis an meid sin bhí Muigheó ansan ag bagairt orthu, contae eile a shil go bhfuil sásamh éigin ag dul dóibh as an gcúilín san a buaidh orthu sa nóimeat deireanach i gCraobh an Iarthair. Nuair a chas siad ar a chéile i dTuaim, chruthaigh Gaillimh cérb' iad na máistrí.

Corcaigh anois, san iomáint, muna ndéanann siad gaisce thar cuimse sa tSraith Naisiúnta, tá baol ann go ndamnófar iad mar gur bhuaigh Loch Garman orthu i gcluiche an Oireachtais. Agus toisc gur bhuaigh Loch Garman ar Chill Choinnigh chomh maith, ná fuil daoine ag rá cheana féin gur acu ba cheart an Chraobh a bheith.

Sé is mian liom a rá, ná go bhfuil claonadh níos mó anois ionainn baint de cháil ceannaithe buaiteoirí na Craoibhe. Nár cheart

go dtuigfimis níos fearr nach féidir bheith in árd-chrot an t-am go léir, agus gur mó seans atá ann go mbéarfaí gairid ar na buaiteóiri tar éis a mbua agus iad fós ag céiliúradh. Agus nár cheart dúinn tuiscint a bheith againn go raibh seans díreach chomh maith ag gach contae an Chraobh a bhaint amach, agus ná raibh ach foireann amháin ábalta chuige, bhí an seans acu go léir ach, nuair ba thabhachtaí é, ni rabhadar maith go leor. Fanaidís in a dtost má sea go mbeidh siad maith go leor nuair is tabhachtaí bheith maith.

Ach, as an méid so go léir smaoinigh ar chomh dian agus atá sé dóibh san atá in uachtair i bpeil nó in iomáint. Ní féidir gan iontas a dheanamh de Ghallimh. Sár-fhir is ea iad ina n-aonair agus sár-fhoireann iseadh iad sníofa le chéile. Tá gach bua aca, agus is beag le rá é ina dtaobh gur geall le míor-úilt a mbuanacht. Má bhí amhras ann i 1964 nó i 1965, ní féidir aon amhras a bheith anois ann, ná gur foireann as meán ar fad iad i measc peileadóiri ár linne.

Anois nuair atá fadhb na lárpáirce réitithe aca, agus Pádraig O Domhnalláin agus Séamus Og O Dubhagáin socrithe isteach ann go buan, táid 50% níos éifeachtaí. Mar ní bheidh feasta an t-ualach chéana ar na leath-chúil ná na leaththosaithe lámh cúnta a thabhairt sa ghné so den imirt i bhfochair a gcuid dualgaisí féin do choimlíonadh. Agus má bhí líne triúr níos fearr ná O Duinn, Mac Donnchadha agus O Líodáin sna leaththosaithe ag aon fhoireann ó thosach aimsire, ba mhaith liom iad d'fheiceáil.

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PERSONALITIES OF '66 By Raymond Smith

THE year 1966 was marked by many outstanding individual performances but if I must name my two personalities of the year I would plump for Noel Tierney (Galway), in football, and Peter Dealer (Control of Calway)

and Peter Doolan (Cork), in hurling.

It is in the heat of an All-Ireland final that some players attain true greatness while others have the weaknesses in their style or courage revealed. We had known before the 1966 football final that Noel Tierney was a great full-back, but his performance in this game against Meath marked him down, to my mind, as the finest this decade has produced.

Tierney had given a laboured performance against Cork's outstanding full-forward Con O'Sullivan in the semi-final, and some there were who were inclined to write him off. But they did not realise that he was about a stone over-weight, and he shed the superfluous flesh in the weeks of

intensive training before the final.

Noel himself told me at the reception after the All-Ireland that if he had done this before the semi-final he would, perhaps, have been over the top on the day of the final itself.

Noel Tierney has a penchant for going high and fielding at least three balls in the hour that you know might well have produced goals if he had not caught them so cleanly and safely.

He did just that against Meath—but this time more masterly than ever. One save of his will always remain etched in my memory. To my mind it was Tierney's finest hour in the Galway jersey.

How he has grown in stature since I talked to him when Galway were in training at Tuam for their 1964 semi-final clash against Meath. Now he has that quiet confidence and assurance that are characteristics of the great ones of the game, and he will talk to you with sure knowledge of the tactics forged by the Galway full-back line

that make them of the finest defensive units in

the country.

In 1954 Tony O'Shaughnessy put the seal on his reputation by a masterly display of corner-back play that contributed more than anything else to the defeat of Wexford. This year, when Tony himself was a selector, Peter Doolan of St. Finbarr's emerged as the star of the All-Ireland hurling final at right-full back. The length of his



THEO ENGLISH (Tipperary)



SEAMUS CLEERE (Kilkenny)

clearances, particularly in the first half when Cork were under pressure against the wind, amazed me and nipped in the bud some very dangerous Kilkenny attacks.

If Peter Doolan was the man of the match on the day of the final itself, there are two other Cork players I must not overlook for their consistency during the season — Seanie Barry (U.C.C.) and Paddy Barry (St. Vincents). Seanie brought guile and cleverness to the attack which had been so sadly lacking, while Paddy, a county minor in 1958 and '59, emerged as a netminder in the tradition of Tom Mulcahy, Dave Creedon and Mick Cashman.

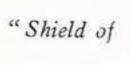
Denis Murphy, Tom O'Donohgue and Pat Fitzgerald had some fine displays to their credit in defence, and it was unfortunate for that fine

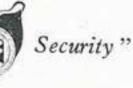
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centre-back Denis O'Riordan that he had to miss the final. Cork were fortunate however, that the versatile Jerry O'Sullivan of Glen Rovers was able to move back from midfield and take over this vital position with no marked weakness in defence.

I have always admired the forceful hurling of O'Sullivan and his courageous qualities. It was good to see him becoming an All-Ireland medalholder.

I have talked about Noel Tierney's outstanding contribution to Galway's third-in-a-row All-Ireland triumph, but all the backs were brilliant in the All-Ireland. Pat Donnellan and Jimmy Duggan were a magnificent midfield pair—Donnellan being a bundle of energy and Duggan showing class in everything he did. Here is a young player whose future performances I eagerly await. His kicking is a joy to watch.

John Keenan is often overshadowed by the star names of the attack but Galway owe much to this player. Mattie McDonagh, with his strength and his eye for an opening at centreforward, knits the attack wonderfully well and Frankie Stockwell agreed with me when I said to him that Galway will not find it easy to replace Mattie when he retires.

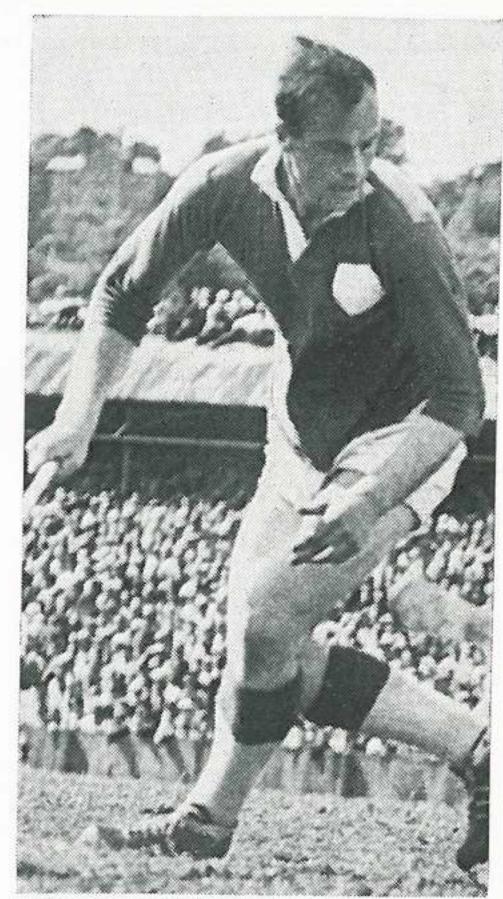
The Cyril Dunne-Mattie McDonagh-Seamus Leydon half line will go down in football history as one of the great attacking units the game has seen. If you want a topic for discussion, you have a ready-made one in pondering the poser: Is this Galway line better than Down's great trio of

Sean O'Neill-Jim McCartan-Paddy Doherty?

Leydon's speed, his quick changes of direction and his swerving runs baffle the best defenders, while Dunne's accuracy off frees can mean that every foul conceded within range of the posts is almost certain to become a point on the scoreboard.

People are inclined to overlook the contribution to Galway's triumph made by co-trainers John Dunne and Frankie Stockwell. The great Tommy Murphy of Laois said to me after the All-Ireland that this pair must take much of the credit for this third-in-a-row victory. They managed to get over the Mayo and Cork challenges while leaving a lot to work on—and they brought the whole fifteen to peak fitness on the day that mattered.

I have named my personalities of the year in Noel Tierney and Peter Doolan. Now if I am to pinpoint the two matches that gave me the



JOHN JOE BRESNAN . . . full-back for Limerick hurlers.

most pleasure I have no hesitation in saying the League (Home) finals in hurling and football. And these games had their outstanding personalities too.

The closing quarter of the Kilkenny-Tipperary clash in mid-May provided some of the most stirring hurling I have seen in years. Tony Wall had flown home specially from Cyprus and here were Kilkenny trying to lay the bogey that had dogged them for 44 years. And they laid it—beating Tipperary in the final of a national competition for the first time since the All-Ireland of 1922.

It was a glorious hour for Kilkenny hurling and you would not have thought then that Cork could beat them in the All-Ireland, especially as (overleaf) they had overwhelmed the Leesiders by 4-11 to 1-8 in the semi-final.

There is such a world of difference between

League and championship.

All the Kilkenny men were heroes in that historic victory over Tipperary. The sheer courage of the hurling of John Teehan and Paddy Moran at midfield, the sterling qualities of Seamus Cleere, Ted Carroll, Martin Coogan and Pat Henderson in defence, the determined efforts of Sean Buckley and Eddie Keher up front and Ollie Walsh's display in goal thrilled the hearts of all supporters of the Black and Amber. Tipperary, too, had their heroes. Theo English as good as ever at midfield and John Doyle a towering figure in defence.

Longford had their finest hour when they overcame Galway by a point in a magnificent game, the second half being as exciting as I have ever seen in a Football League decider. Bobbie Burns, a very fine footballer at full-forward, scored the winning point off a free eleven minutes from the end but what an agony of suspence the Longford supporters had to endure as their defence battled

to keep Galway at bay.

Full-back Larry Gillen and centre-back John Donlon were rock-like figures, and I was also much taken by the display of Brendan Gilmore at left-full. Even more impressive was the performance of Jimmy Flynn at midfield. He seemed to dominate the sector, and his high fielding at times attained Mick O'Connell standards.

After that triumph I was marking down Longford as likely winners of the Leinster crown, but before a crowd of 20,000 at An Uaimh they failed surprisingly to Louth, for whom Liam Leech had an outstanding hour on the '40', scoring six points. Louth, in turn, failed to Dublin, for whom big John Timmons had a tally of one goal and five points.

I still believe that Longford can become a championship prospect for their approach in

attack is in the modern mould.

From a scoring viewpoint one of the most shattering individual feats of the season was Eamonn Cregan's 3-5 for Limerick in the dethroning of All-Ireland champions Tipperary, in Cork. It brought back memories of Dermot Kelly's feat against Clare in the 1955 Munster final.

Cregan was not the only Limerick hero that day. Bernie Hartigan at midfield and John Joe Bresnan at full-back gave fine displays also and

I must mention Tony O'Brien in the half-back line. I liked this players' style and courage.

Clare's corner-back Vincent Loftus had impressed me against Tipperary in the League semi-final-he has the free, attractive style of a John Barron or Jimmy Brohan-and he played exceedingly well, too, against Cork in the drawn semi-final, when Clare supporters had reason to enthuse over the hurling of Liam Danaher at midfield and Pat Cronin in attack. But the Banner County men struck rock-bottom form in the replay, when Cork in the second half, by the elan and fire of their hurling, made us sit up and take note of the fact that they had the look of an All-Ireland team.

I must not overlook the display given by fullback Jack Quinn for Meath in the All-Ireland football final. But for his fine fielding and solidness under pressure it could have been a worse

day for the Royal County men.

I will remember one great run by 'Red' Collier that carried him from his own half into the Galway zone. Had it been rounded off with a goal it would have gone down as one the most memorable scores at Croke Park, Pat Reynolds gave a striking display of wing back play in the semi-final against Down.

It was not possible for me to see all the big matches in every province and in one article I could not hope to cover all the outstanding performances. But if I had to acclaim one team effort it was that by Mayo against Galway in Connacht. With a little bit more luck and experience they would have done it.

I can reveal now to Mayo fans that Frankie Stockwell makes no secret of the fact that if Galway are to fail in their bid to win the four-ina-row in 1967 he feels that Mayo could well

prove their "Becher's Brook."

"If we get out of Connacht I think we can make it a four-timer," added Frankie.

So there it is-Mayo the team to watch in Connacht, Cork in Munster, Kildare and Longford in Leinster and maybe Antrim up North.

In hurling, Wexford will make a bold effort in 1967 to win back the Leinster crown, while neutral observers in Munster will be hoping that, now that Cork have come back after a decade out of the All-Ireland honours list, Limerick may recapture their former glory (it is 27 years since they have won an All-Ireland title).

We could do with new faces in hurling and

football

Raymond Smith is the author of "Decades of Glory", the full length history of hurling published by Little & McClean, Langrishe Place, Summerhill, Dublin at 8/6.

WHEN Longford emerged from many year's obscurity to reach the Leinster senior final for the first time in 1965, only to be beaten by Dublin, there were many who said that it was but a flash in the pan. Others doubted the county's ability to win a national title.

In Longford itself they never had any doubts about their ability to do just that, and the defeat by Dublin was looked on simply as part of their football education—an object lesson that the team which takes its chances wins and also that there is no substitute for experience.

Immediately Longford started preparing for the League campaign. Victories in the O'Byrne and Gaelic Weekly Cups, over such counties as Kildare, Louth and Sligo, instilled confidence and added to the experience of the players. They were in the same group as two defeated provincial finalists of 1965, Sligo and Cavan, both of whom had to be faced away from home.

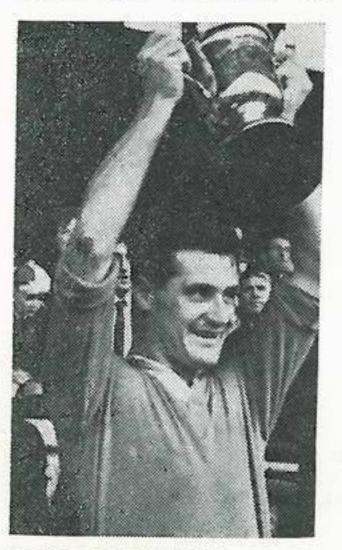
Longford just got home by a point in a very high scoring game at Breffni Park, Later, after a tempestuous game in Ballymote, Sligo were defeated by the narrowest of margins.

These narrow wins, coupled with a rather fortuitious victory over Meath in the divisional play-off, set the cynics going again and when Longford faced Cavan in the divisional final the Breffni men were favourites. However Longford defeated their neighbours convincingly at Carrick-on-Shannon to qualify for the semi-final against Donegal.

The next two games were to see the blossoming of Longford's football greatness. In the semi-final, with only 14 men for the last 20 minutes, the Midlanders proved far too clever for Donegal and showed that they had one of the prerequisites of all great teams—the ability to give their best when all seems lost.

LONGFORD'S LEAGUE TITLE

This victory put Longford into the home final against the holders, All-Ireland champions, Galway. Despite press predictions, the



BRENDAN BARDEN . . . the Longford captain.

Longford players and officials were convinced that they would beat the champions. And, as everybody knows now, they did.

It was difficult to realise on that Spring evening in Croke Park that Longford had at last taken its place among the elite of Gaelic football. The county had languished for so long in the wilderness that its supporters could have been forgiven for thinking that success was something to be dreamt about but never to be achieved.

Why, after so many years, did Longford finally succeed in winning a national title? Contrary to general belief, this was no overnight success. The origins can be traced back to the late fifties when, under the guidance of the Minor Board, minor and juvenile games reached a very high standard and for a time aroused more interest than senior and junior games in the county.

Two clubs in particular, St. Mary's Granard and Clonguish, had exceptionally good under-age teams. That was the time when the Flynns, Bardens and Burns, among

(overleaf)

others, first showed the promise which was to manifest itself later at inter-county level.

Administration within the county reached a very high level during the period in which the late Liam O hOistin was chairman of the County Board, and has remained that way ever since.

Despite this, in the early sixties success at inter-county level was very rare, although St. Mel's did win a couple of All-Ireland colleges titles. In fact, the League campaign of 1964-'65 was Longford's worst for many a year, not one victory being recorded from six games. It was after this dismal performance that the County Board, encouraged by some of the more experienced players, decided to take some action to remedy the situation.

An elaborate training plan was prepared and this differed from those of other years in that all the players would be brought together instead of half the team training in Longford and the remainder in Dublin. The most important single factor, however, was the acquisition of Mick Higgins as trainer.

From the very start he was a success with the players. During his playing days he was especially well known in Longford, where he often played in club and county tournaments. Many Longford people saw in him the brains behind that great Cavan team of 1947-'48, so when he came as a trainer neither his ability nor his knowledge was never questioned.

As time went on the confidence of Longford players and supporters in Mick continued to grow and, more important, it was reflected in the displays of the team, which kept on improving in every game. The most telling factor in Longfords success story, then, was undoubtedly the trainer.

There were, of course, other reasons, for success at national level can never be attributed to one or two causes. The intelligent approach by the County Board officers and their willingness to spend money in treating their players well from the start was all important. Players like to be well looked after and made to feel important, and in the proper cultivation of this attitude can depend, to a large extent, the success or failure of a team.

Another important point about the Longford players was that, al-



LARRY GILLEN

though many of them had come up from minor ranks, there were also some key men who had gained more experience than the others, mainly from playing club football in Dublin, where they had as team mates and opponents some of the best footballers in the country.

It was Larry Gillen, Brendan Barden, Sean Murray and Bobby Burns who provided the vital experience to balance the enthusiasm and vigour of the home-based brigade. In moments of crisis, more often than not it was one of this quartet who came to the rescue.

When one considers that, for G.A.A. purposes, Longford is one of the three smallest counties in Ireland one realises just how great was this achievement of winning the National Football League outright. Whatever happens in the future, football in Longford can never be the same again. The cynics have been silenced.

Perhaps, because their ambitions had been frustrated so often, Longford supporters were always slow to praise and quick to condemn.

But when success did come the praise was genuine and unstinted, and the average supporter felt that he himself had achieved something concrete at last. Maybe he will be even more critical and more demanding in the future, but if his criticism is fair it can only do good.

One way or another, 1966 will for ever have as much significance for Longford people as another year exactly fifty years earlier had for so many others.

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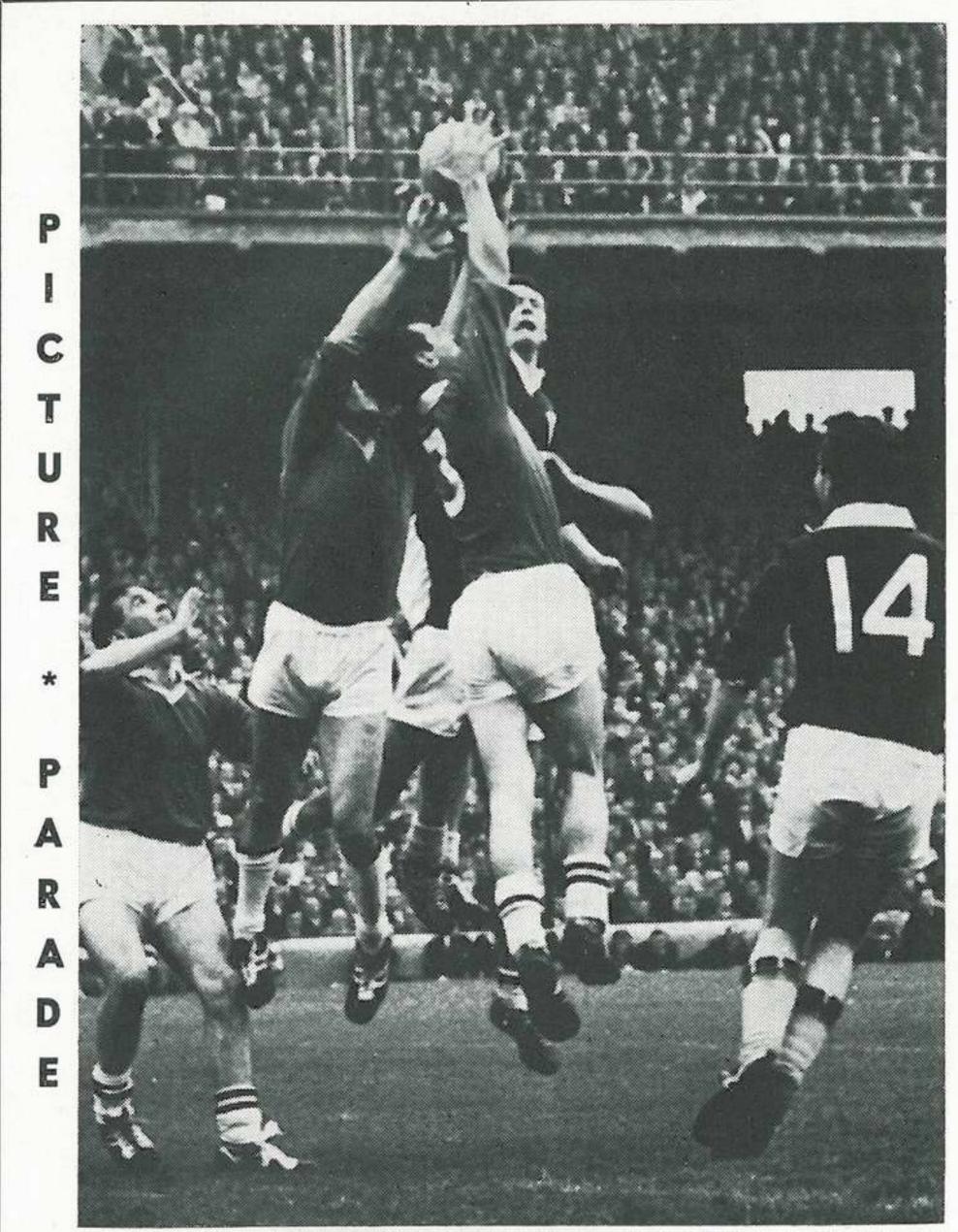
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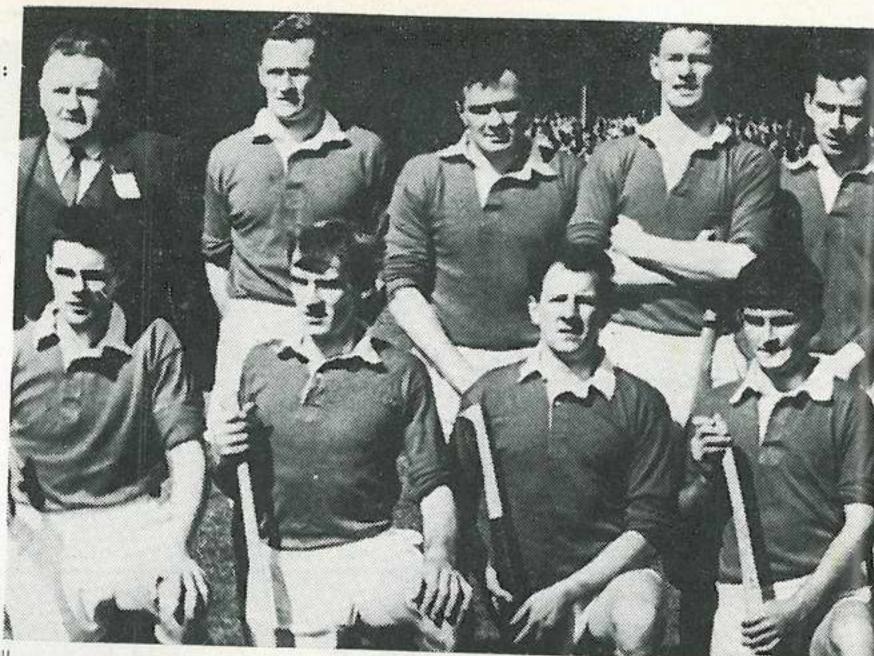
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Jack Quinn (Meath) outjumps Galway's Cyril Dunne and Liam Sammon in the All-Ireland final. Looking on are Peter Darby (M) and Sean Cleary (G. No. 14).

The team which brought the 20th senior title to Cork. Kneeling (from left): Gerry O'Sullivan Colm Sheehan Paddy Barry Charlie McCarthy Gerald McCarthy (capt.)
Seanie Barry Finbarr O'Neill Gerry O'Leary Standing (from left): Sean Barrett (Co. Board Chairman) Denis Murphy Tom O'Donoghue John O'Halloran Tony Connolly Peter Doolan Mick Waters Justin McCarthy Pat Fitzgerald Donal Sheehan John Bennett Jim Barry (Trainer)



THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING





AND FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS OF 1966



The men who won
the third-in-a-row
for Galway.
Kneeling (from left):
Sean Cleary
Coilin McDonagh
Cyril Dunne
Martin Newell
Enda Colleran (capt.)
Johnny Geraghty
Jimmy Duggan
Pat Donnellan
Standing (from left):
Seamus Leydon
Noel Tierney
Sean Meade
Mattie McDonagh
Liam Sammon
John Keenan
Bosco McDermott



John Bennett (right) scores Cork's third goal in the Munster S.H.C. final despite the diving effort of Waterford's Austin Flynn (No. 3).

*

*

*

*

Cork defenders look on helplessly as the ball enters the net for a Wexford goal in the drawn minor final.



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SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW 1967:

June 4—Sligo v. Mayo, at Sligo. June 11—Leitrim v. Roscommon at venue to be decided.
Semi-final—Galway v. Sligo or Mayo (if Sligo at Sligo on June 25, if Mayo at Pearse Stadium Galway, on June 25). July 16: Final—at venue to be arranged.

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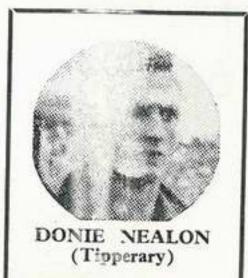
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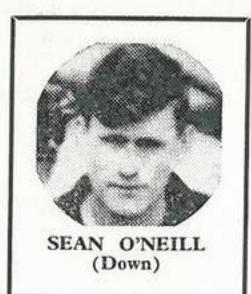
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FLEADH GHRADAM



NA REALT

Le Padraig O Drisceoil

cráite ag daoine ag lorg ticéidí do na cluichí ceannais. Mar an gcéanna do stiúrthoirí "Gaelic Weekly" nuair a bhíonn Fleadh Ghradam na Réalt a heagrú acu.

Sí an Fhleadh seo an ócáid shóisialta is mó i mbliain Chunann Lúthchleas Gael. An oíche sin bronntar Gradaim na Réalt ar na lúthchleasaithe is mó le rá sna cluichí Gaelacha. Bronntar na gradaim na 15 peileadoirí agus ar na 15 iománaí ab'fhearr imirt an bhliain atá thart, ar iomá agus ar pheileadóir a bhaint amach clú dóib in san am atá thart, ar an bheirt imreoir in san am atá thart, ar an bheirt imreoir in iománaí agus ar an bpeileadóir is fearr, a iománaí agus ar an bpeileadóir is fearr i I dain agus Nua Eabhrac agus ar an réiteoir is ó a thuill meas i rith na bliana. Níos

tabhachtaí fós bronntar Gradam Chuchulainn an oíche sin, gradam a thugann onóir do dhuine éigin a thug seirbhís faoi leith do Chumann Lúthchleas Gael agus don naisiún.

Bronntar na gradaim sin ag an bhfleadh a bhíonn in Ostlann Gresham Oiche Fheile Phadraig (16ú Márta) ag an mbíonn breis agus 300 aoí.

AN ROGHNU

Conas a dhéantar lucht na ngradam a roghnú? I dtús ama iarrann stiúrthóirí "Gaelic Weekly" ar chathaoirligh na mbord contae go léir a dtuairimí a thabhairt faoi na 15 peileadóirí agus iománaithe is fearr a d'imir sa bhliain atá thart. Tar éis na liostaí sin a fháil ó na cathaorligh, iarrann na stiúrthoirí ar choistí faoi leith, comhdhéanta de iriseoirí spóirt agus eolaithe eile, an

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Rogha gach bidh agus togha gach dí ar fáil

roghnú deireannach a dhéanamh. Mar an gcéanna bíonn coistí eile ann leis an bheirt imreoir liathróid láimhe, an bheirt imreoir camógaíochta agus an réiteoir a roghnú agus a shocrú cé air a bronnfar Gradam Cuchulainn. Is iad na boird i Nua Eabhrac agus i Londain a ainmníonn an peileadóir agus an t-iománaí is fearr san dá áit.

Ag an bhfleadh féin bíonn, ar ndóigh, lucht buaite na ngradam, cathaoirligh na mbord contae, baill den Ard-Chomhairle, airí Stáit, na roghnóirí agus aíonna eile a dtugann stiúrthoirí "Gaelic Weekly" cuireadh dóibh. Is teacht le chéile an-taitneamhach é a thugann deis do oifigigh, do imreoirí agus de chairde Chumann Lúthchleas Gael aithne níos fearr a chur ar a chéile.

Idir oifigigh roghnóirí agus aíonna is mó sean-imreoirí a bhíonn i láthair ag an bhfleadh. Ní nach ionadh, bíonn fonn an-mhór ar na sean-imreoirí casadh ar imreoirí an lae inniu agus vice versa. Agus an oíche sin san Gresham is mó grupa suimiúil a bhíonn le feiceáil i mbun comhráite—b'fhéidir peileadóir as Contae an Dúin, iománaí as Tiobrad Arann agus sean-pheileadóir as Cill Dara ag cur agus ag cúiteamh faoi na sean-laethanta agus faoi imreoirí móra an lae inniu. Ní ag na fir amháin a bhíonn an lá—nó an oíche—mar bíonn na mná go flúirseach ann agus iad gléasta go gleoite, mar is dual dóibh.

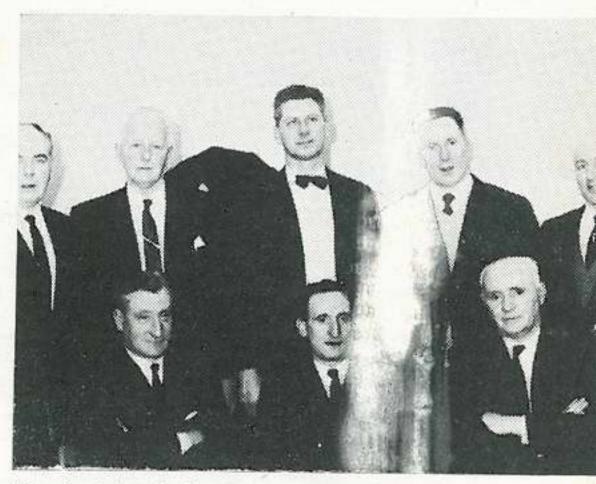
An-oíche a bhíonn ann i ndáiríre agus ní gá mórán samhlaíochta a bheith ag duine chun a thuiscint cé chomh taitneamhach agus chomh bríomhar a bhíonn sé nuair a thagann comhluadar mór de lucht Chumann Lúthchleas Gael le chéile —iad tagaithe ó gach cearn den tír agus ó gach aois-ghrúpa.

AN FAILTIU

Tosaíonn an oíche le failtiú i bhforhalla na hostlainne mar a mbíonn deochanna á dtabhairt do na aíonna. Ar bhealach, seo an chuid is taitneamhaí, mar is féidir gluaiseacht ó dhuine go duine níos eascaí ná mar a bhíonn sé nuair a bhíonn daoine ina suí ag boird sa seomra bia. Bíonn an-deis ag na haíonna aithne a chur ar a chéile ag an bhfáiltiú.

Ina dhiaidh sin bíonn an fhleadh féin agus nuair a bhíonn an fhleadh thart bronntar na gradaim. De ghnáth glacann Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael leis an ócáid seo chun ráiteas tabhachtach ar pholasaí an Chumainn a thabhairt uaidh. Nuair a bhíonn na imeachtaí "oifigiúla" thart bíonn deis ag na haíonna meascadh lena chéile arís agus maireann an cur agus cúiteamh go dtí go mbíonn sé déanach san oíche.

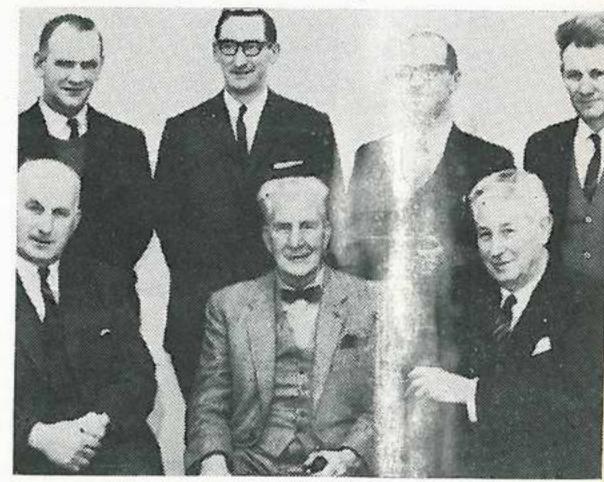
Is oíche é le taitneamh a bhaint as agus le cuimhneamh air go ceann i bhfad.



The football adjudicators. Standing (from left): Donal Carroll (Irish Independent), Larry Stanley (Kildare), Paddy Downey (Irish Times), Mal Mc-Evoy (Armagh), Eamonn Young (Cork). Seated (from left): Sean Flanagan (Mayo), Gony Mc-Quigan (Belfast Telegraph) and Sean O Fogalu, who was a member of the Cuchulainn Award Committee.

THE MEN WHO PICKED THE ALL STARS

Lt. Col. Sean Clancy (seated on left). Chulainn Award Committee, pictured with the human adjudicators. Standing (from left): M. J. 'F. P. Flaherty (Galway), Mick Dunne (Irish Press John D. Hickey (Irish Independent), Des Fergus (Dublin). Seated: Jim Barry (Cork), centre, and Brendan Considine (Clare). Missing from the place is Val Dorgan (Cork Examiner).



MICHAEL BARRETT TALKING

PADDY BARRY

TO ...

M. B.: Now that you have won an All-Ireland, what ambitions have you left?

P. B.: Quite a few, including, I would hope, another All-Ireland.

M. B.: How did you start hurling and footballing?

P. B.: I seemed to naturally take to them. I cannot remember when I had not a hurley in my hand. I played in Parish Leagues with St. Vincents', then in under-15 and so on up the line.

M. B.: Has your club a strong nursery?

P. B.: Yes. We draw players from the Nort/West City area by means of Parish and Street Leagues. There is a big population thereabouts.

M. B.: What are your club's main needs?

P. B.: We need more officials with spare time to organise the boys recruited, and to coach them in hurling and football. When some lads finish playing, they never think of giving anything back to the game. The existing officials are overburdened.

M. B.: What do you think of playing and dressing facilities generally in the Association?

P. B.: They are being improved. Both official pitches in the city, Cork Athletic Grounds and Ballinlough, have showers now. So also have St. Finbarrs and my own club, Glen Rovers have them in their hall near their training ground. More and better pitches are being secured. Players are rarely asked to undress nowadays in the open. There has been a big improvement in the past ten years.

M. B.: Do you prefer hurling to football and why?

P. B.: Yes-I seem to do better at it.

M. B.: What have you done in the football line?

P. B.: Played with Cork juniors and Under-21's but we did not win any championship. Played with St. Vincents in two intermediate championship finals. We lost both.

M. B.: In what position do you play?

P. B.: Right half-forward. And I kick the close-in frees.

M. B.: Your club, St. Vincents, is a strong North City one, together with Na Piarsaigh and Glen Rovers. Piarsaigh are rivalling the Glen. Will Vincents' do so? Is there room for all of you?

P. B.: Yes! The more clubs, the more boys being organised and brought into the game. There is a spirit of friendly rivalry between the clubs and good co-operation. There is often a North Parish League amongst the young boys, and all the clubs enter teams in it. Vincents are a good club with a fine spirit. We can hold our own with the Glen in most grades, though possibly not in senior.

M. B.: What hobbies besides hurling and football have you?

P. B.: I like to watch boxing.
M. B.: When you cease playing,
will you continue as a referee or
an official or will you coach young
lads?

P. B.: I would like to coach young lads and help them enjoy the games as much as I do. Coaching is becoming a lost art to some extent and this could eventually reduce the standard of play.

M. B.: What are your views on the televising of games?

P. B.: It is a great idea, but the games should be shown on the Sunday night. It spoils four Summer Sundays for county and other games. Besides, the players taking part could also see them that night. It can be awkward when asked about something shown in a closeup on TV. and which came instinctively to you during the game.

M. B.: Which grade of games do you prefer to watch—inter-county, senior club or young lads?

P. B.: Young boys. I try to get out to my club's under-15 games every week, if possible. It does the lads good to see the older club members taking an interest. It also gives them a sense of belonging.

M. B.: Whom do you consider the best present day player?

P. B.: Frankie Walsh of Waterford.

M. B.: Who was the best forward you played against?

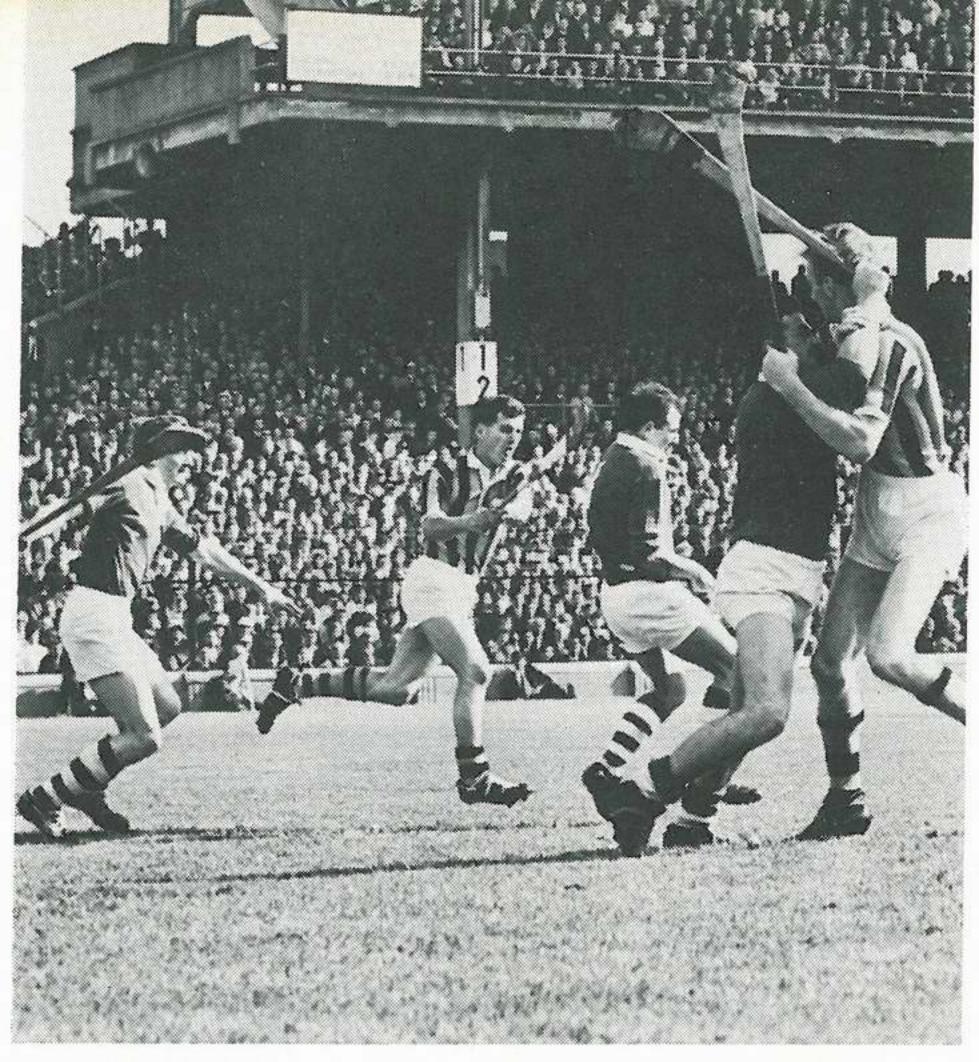
P. B.: I never played against Christy Ring. In goal, you do not have much time to appreciate a forward's good points. You have to watch them all and try to outthink them.

M. B.: What tips would you give aspiring goalies?

P. B.: A goalie must be a good ball-player, with perfect timing. Regular ball practice is a must! Fitness is as vital in goal as out the field. A goalie must be very decisive, as you rerely get a second chance. Courage is an obvious help, but I suppose a fellow would not go in goal without it.

M. B.: You are 25 now, married and have a family. How long more do you think you will play?

P. B.: As long as I feel good enough—for quite a good spell, I would hope.



Cork goalie Paddy Barry played a big part in bringing the All-Ireland S.H.C. back to his county after a lapse of twelve years. This picture shows Paddy (third from right) out of his goal to make one of his many spectacular saves in the final. Looking on are (from left): Denis Murphy (C), Joe Dunphy (Kilkenny), Tom O'Donoghue (C) and Pa Dillon (K).

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Is mise,

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The Central Executive Committee of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation appeal to members of the Organisation to give their maximum support to the campaign "Buy Irish" initiated by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, and urge them by talks to their pupils, to bring the importance of buying Irish Goods to the notice of their parents.

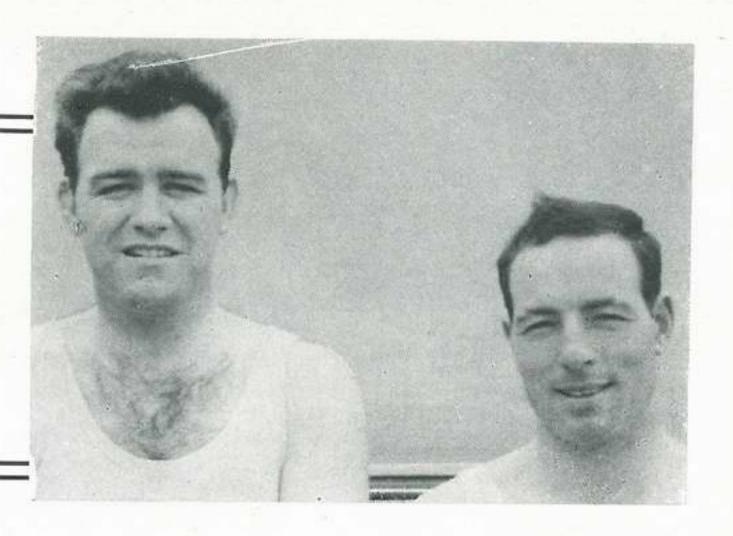
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Mick Sullivan and Jim Doyle, Dublin, who were beaten in the All-Ireland S.H.D. final.

HANDBALL REVIEW

BY CLARACH MAC EOIN



NATIONAL LEAGUE A BIG SUCCESS

THERE is a trend nowadays to bring everything into line with the requirements of modern living. It can be found in every walk of life and has been caused by that most important but often abused word—progress.

Naturally, the world of sport is no exception. Administrators have long since found out that, in order to retain the status of their particular code, they must make changes to satisfy the discerning player and the demands of critical spectators.

These can cover a wide field, ranging from alterations to the basic rules, additional or adjustments to existing competitions and more upto-date amenities for those who play and watch.

Handball, a couple of years ago, found that it, too, had to move with the times. Some of the playing rules were antiquated, stagnation was setting in and the game was losing its appeal.

However, those dedicated officials who orgained the game at different levels were aware of the situation. And they did something about it. The playing rules were drastically altered, and gradually, handball acquired a new, and more acceptable, form. Without losing any of its recognised characteristics, the game as played today is a real test of a player's ability and a more satisfying spectacle for spectators. The season just ended proved this, for attendances showed a marked increase on other years—surely a most reliable barometer.

Other ventures undertaken have also done an amount of good. This time last year we made a fleeting reference to the National League, which had just been instituted. Well, this proved an immediate success.

Its first running attracted a fine entry and provided first-class fare before Wexford won the title by beating Mayo.

The big advantage of the League is that it puts the emphasis on team-work. As a result, lesser-known players who are continually overshadowed by the Number One ace in their county, get an opportunity to show their paces.

I can foresee this type of team game gaining in popularity and it might with benefit, be introduced to the under-age grades.

Speaking of these, it must go on record that

(continued on page 51)



Whatever the county you name When you shatter Croke Park with a yell, As you drive up and down to the game Be sure that your shout is for Shell!

GO WELL... GO

considerable progress has been made in cater-

ing for the younger players.

Through the combined efforts of the Willwood Athletic Foundation and the Central Council, under-14 and under-16 sections were introduced to the Tailteann Games and were an immediate success. As a result, under-21 players will be catered for next season with singles and doubles competitions.

At the other end of the age scale, a noval attraction will be over-40 competitions and the senior section, won this season by Paddy Hickey and John Cleary, will again be included.

Switching to another tangent one cannot fail to sense the self-sufficient attitude adopted by

many officials at club and county level.

This is a deviation from what obtained some time ago, when it was almost unheard of for a unit to up and fend for itself. To mention but a few random examples, there is the initiative shown by such clubs as Ceanannus Mor, Mullingar, Longford, Cappagh, Roscrea and Killala.

On the competitive scene, the championships lost none of their appeal. Generally speaking they JOE MAHER ... had a great season in Toronto.



were evenly contested, of a high standard and productive of a couple of new records.

It is difficult to define spectacular achievements in their correct order of merit, but for my money the three top places must be shared by the McEllistrim brothers of Kerry, Monaghan's Seamus McCabe and Peadar McGee of Mayo.

McGee assured himself of representation in the 1967 World Games by winning both senior softball and hardball doubles. His partners were Micky Walsh from Charlestown, who is eligible for the over-40 Tailteann Games, and Paddy Bollingbrook, one of the mainsprings of handball in Castlebar.

(overleaf)

PÉ CÚRAM BAINC ATÁ LE DEÁNAMH AGAT, DÉANFAR DUIT É

i mBANC na MUMHAN & LAIGHEAN

Tá oilteacht agus muintearthas i mBanc na Mhuman agus Laighean rud a tharraingíonn daoine as gach aicme sa tsaol ann. Beidh áthas ar Bhainsteoir an Bhrainse is comhgaraí dhuit de Bhanc na Mumhan agus Laighean labhairt faoi lánrún leat ar aon cheisteanna ar chúrsaí airgid atá ag déanamh buartha dhuit agus mineoich sé go deas duit buntáistí na séirbhísí éagsúla atá ar fáil do gach custaiméir in ngach Brainse de Bhanc . . . cúntais reatha, tíobhais agus taisce, taisceadáin baile, buan-ordaithe, seiceanna taistil agus litreacha creidheasa, gnó coigriche, seiceadóir agus iontaobhai, cáin ioncaim, etc.

Banc Na Mumhan & Laighean Teoranta

BRAINSI AR FUD NA hÉIREANN



This pair must play off to decide McGee's

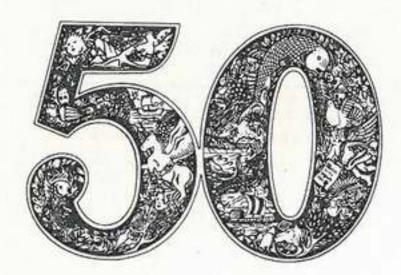
partner in the Games.

Ulster handball, for so long the poor relation, at last achieved the big breakthrough, when Seamus McCabe brought the softball singles to Monaghan and gained for the Northern province its first National senior title.

He also reached the hardball final but in this had to bow the knee to the skilled Tipperary player, Paddy Hickey. This, in turn, was Hickey's first outright win in senior ranks, despite the fact that he had made some valiant, but unsuccessful, efforts since gaining promotion from junior ranks in 1962.

The achievements of the McEllistrims, Tom and Murt from Ballymacelligot, have been in-

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scribed in red lettering in the record books. They made history by farming all the junior titles with Tom gaining the added distinction of being the first player to win all four in the same year.

In minor ranks, Roscommon took a hardball title for the first time, when Mark O'Gara upset the highly fancied Kildare boy, Grey Lawler. Meath also made it a first-timer, as the Grimes cousins Vincent and Christy, proved themselves the seasons dark horses by winning the soft doubles.

Limerick's attempt to re-enter the handball limelight was successful, when Pat McGarry won the minor softball singles, and Kildare's disappointment at Lawler's defeat by O'Gara, was softened by the same players doubles victory in partnership with Tony Campbell.

Neither can we overlook Joe Maher, who is keeping the Irish flag to the forefront in Toronto handball. He had a great season, winning every major tournament for which he entered and also having a victory to his credit over world champ-

ion, Jimmy Jacobs.

On that note we close the book on the present season, one that saw the game of handball grow further in status. There is every indication that the year ahead will be equally successful. Nollaig shona Dhibh.

Cumann Luith-Chleas Gael

COMHAIRLE ULADH

wish all its supporters a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

ULSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP, 1967:

4th June — Armagh v. Donegal at Armagh

11th June — Down v. Derry at Newry

11th June — Fermanagh v. Tyrone at Dungannon

18th June — Antrim v. Cavan at Belfast

25th June—Monaghan v. Fermanagh or Tyrone at Irvinestown or Dungannon

Semi-finals — 2nd July and 9th July Final — 23rd July.

Ag Gaint Le "Backbencher"

NOLLAIG O GADHRA

S fada cáil ar "Backbencher" mar cholúnaí polaitíochta; léitear an méid a scríobhann sé go forleathan agus tá tionchar mór aige. Cé scríobhann an colún seo? Sin rud nach bhfuiltear cinnte faoi. Tá go leor daoine luite—Seán Lemass ina measc!

Nuair a bhíonn an Dáil gan a bheith ina shuí agus na teachtaí ar saoire, is minic a théann "Backbencher" chun cainte le ceannairí na bpáirtithe—bíonn agallamh líon aige leo agus bailíonn sé go leor eolais nach mbíonn ag colúnaithe polaitíochta eile uathu.

Anois tá áthas ormsa a fhógairt gur thoiligh "Backbencher" agallamh a thabhairt domsa le déanaí. Níl cead agam a ainm a lua, ach ar aon nós, seo an chaint a bhí againn eadarainn:

O Gadhra: Tá an-áthas orm gur thoiligh tú an t-agallamh speisialta seo a thabhairt dom. Dar ndóigh, is deacair teacht suas leat.

B. B. Ná habair.

O. G. Abair liom anois, cathain ar thosaigh tú do cholún?

B. B. I lár na gcaogadaí, ar an Sunday Review.

O. G. Is cuimhin liom ceart go leor. Cén fáth gur thosaigh tú á scríobh?

B. B. Bhí fonn orm colún maith, beacht, agus cothrom, tá súil agam, faoi chúrsaí polaitíochta a chur ar fáil don bpobal in aghaidh na seachtaine Ní raibh mórán colúin den chineál sin á scríobh nuair a thosaigh mise. Ar léibhéal níos praiticiúla, scríobh mé an colún sin ar an bpáipéar áirithe sin ag an am mar theataigh uaim cabhrú leis na hiarrachtaí a bhíteas á

ndéanamh chun cur leis an díolaíocht,

O G. Agus níor éirigh leat san dara aidhm sin?

B. B. D'imigh an Review bocht ceart go leor, agus thosaigh mé ar an Irish Times ansin.

O G. Is dócha gur mó an meas agus an tionchar atá ag do cholún ó shin áfach?

B. B. Déarfainn é.

O G. Abair liom anois, cén áit ar thosaigh tú ar ghnó an iriseora?

B. B. San Western People, chaith mé tamaill leis an Irish Press ansin sarar chuaigh mé go dtí comhlacht an Irish Times.

O G. An scríobhann tú don Western People fós?

B. B. Ní déarfaidh mé ach go bhfuil mé mór leo.

O G, Sea?

B. B. Nach fíor go bhfuil an eite iriseoireachta sin i mBaile Atha Cliath an-cheanúil ar an Western ar aon nós? Is minic a luaitear é fiú in eagarfhocail an Times faoi mar ba ghuth oifigiúil an Iarthair é.

O G. Agus an gceapann tú sin? B. B. Cén guth maith eile atá ann? Ar aon nós níor mhaith liom a thuilleadh a rá faoin gceist sin.

O G. Abair liom, cad é an eachtra is mó is cuimhin leat le linn duit bheith i mbun an cholúin sin?

B. B. Go pearsanta, an chúis dlí le Frank Sherwin, agus ba bheag údar sóláis a bhí agam toisc go raibh Seán O Riada os comhair na cúirte ag an am céanna.

O G. Bhí sin dainséarach go maith ceart go leor. Ach nach ndearna John Healy cás maith duit "I was editor of the Review at the time, and I used to prepare the script for the printer," nó rud éigin cosúil leis sin a dúirt sé más buan mo chuimhne.

B. B. Sea! Ach, b'é seo an chéad uair a raibh baol ann go mbeadh orm teacht os comhair an phobail.

O G. Agus nach bhfuil tú tar éis dul i mbaol níos mó ó shin mar sin, trí obair teilifíse a thógáil idir lámha?

B. B. B'fhéidir é. Ach is maith liom an obair, agus tá an t-airgead go maith. Meastú, an bhfuil mórán daoine tar áis mo rún a fháil amach ó thosaigh mé ar an teilifís?

O G. Déarfainn é, agus munar mhiste leat mé á rá, ceapaim gur fearr an scríbhneoir tú ná an fear teilifíse.

B. B. Tá mé lánsásta an méid sin a admháil.

O G. Abair liom anois, conas a bhíonn do chuid eolais chomh beacht sin agat?

B. B. Sin ceist. An mbionn?

O G. O, bíonn. Ní féidir liom cuimhneamh ar shamplaí anois, ach is fíor go mbíonn beagáinín níos mó ar eolas agat ná an chuid eile acu.

B. B. Bhuel, tá mo "senior assistant" agam, ach cad is féidir a rá faoi sin?

O G. Cad is féidir! Bhfuil tú cinnte áfach nach bhfuil cara nó beirt i measc na n-airí agat?

B, B. Nil tú ag súil le freagra ar sin, an bhfuil?

O G. Cad faoi Chathal? Ní raibh tú ró-dhian air riamh rud nach féidir a rá i gcás an Taoisigh nua.

B. B. Cad faoi Chathal?

O G. Is dócha nach raibh aon bhaint leis an "set-up" seo agus do sheasamh faoi N.F.A. ach an oiread. D'íoc tú as leis—tusa bocht! Briste as an Farmer's Journal agus trioblóid leis an Western féin! Muna bhfuil ag Dia, beidh ort filleadh ar Comhar agus na drochaistriúcháin!

B. B. Fág go fóill é sin. Ní déarfaidh mé leat ach an méid seo. Tá cáirde agam ar an dtaobh istigh agus is fíor go mbíonn beagán níos mó agam ná mar bhíonn ag an gcuid is mó de na hiriseoirí. Fágaimis mar sin é.

O G. Fágaimis. Táim buíoch díot as ucht labhairt liom ar chor ar bith.

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This new work will be a companion book to his recently-published book on hurling, "Decades of Glory," a full-length history of the national game running to 400 pages and including sixteen pages of action and team shots.

All the great finals are covered down to the sixties and all the great teams are featured, too, from the Tubberadora and 'Rockies of the eighties down through Cork's four-in-a-row side of 1941-'44, Wexford's magnificent team of the fifties, Waterford's brilliantly fast side of 1957-'63 to Tipperary's powerful 1964-'65 fifteen. And, of course, the brilliant Limerick and Kilkenny sides of the thirties receive due mention. The book has been a big seller among Irish exiles in England and America.

"Decades of Glory" (published by Little and McClean, Langrishe Place, Summerhill, Dublin at 8/6) has a foreword by Mr. Alf Murray, President of the G.A.A.

Where the Handball titles went this year

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: S. McCabe (Monaghan); runner-up, P. McGee (Mayo).

S.S.D.: P. McGee and M. Walsh (Mayo); Lewis and John Gilmore (Cavan).

S.H.S.: P. Hickey (Tipperary), S. McCabe (Monaghan).

S.H.D.: P. McGee and P. Bollingbrook (Mayo); M. Sullivan and J. Doyle (Dublin).

J.S.S.: T. McEllistrim (Kerry), J. Howlin (Wexford).

J.S.D.: T. and M. McEllistrim (Kerry); J. Howlin and S. Dempsey (Wexford).

J.H.S.: T. McEllistrim (Kerry); M. Doherty (Kilkenny).

J.H.D.: T. and M. McEllistrim (Kerry); M. Purcell and L. Winders (Kildare).

M.S.S.: P. McGarry (Limerick); D. White (Cavan),

M.S.D.: V. and C. Grimes (Meath);
P. McGarry and P. Moane (Limerick).
M.H.S.: M. O'Gara (Roscommon);
G. Lawler (Kildare).

M.H.D.: G. Lawler and A. Campbell (Kildare); W. Myles and S. Connor (Kerry).

MUNSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: W. Kerins (Kerry); S.S.D.:
P. Hickey and J. Cleary (Tipperary);
S.H.S.: P. Hickey (Tipperary); S.H.D.:
P. Hickey and J. Cleary (Tipperary);
J.S.S.: T. McEllistrim (Kerry); J.S.D.:
T. and M. McEllistrim (Kerry); J.H.S.:
T. McEllistrim (Kerry); J.H.D.: T.
and M. McEllistrim (Kerry); M.S.S.:
P. McGarry (Limerick); M.S.D.: P.
McGarry and P. Moane (Limerick);
M.H.S.: W. Myles (Kerry); M.H.D.:
W. Myles and S. Connor (Kerry).

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: R. Lyng (Wexford); S.S.D.: R. and W. Lyng (Wexford); S.H.S.: J. Delaney (Kilkenny) S.H.D.: M. Sullivan and J. Doyle (Dublin); J.S.S.: J. Howlin (Wexford); J.S.D.: J. Howlin and S. Dempsey (Wexford); J.H.S.: M. Doherty (Kilkenny); J.H.D.: M. Purcell and R. Winders (Kildare); M.S.S.: T. Ryan (Carlow); M.S.D.:

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P. Grant (Secretary, Ceanannus Mor Club), left, and G. Dolan (Chairman), right, pictured with some stars of the past and present (from left): Liam Molloy (Meath), Paddy Downey (Kerry), Jimmy O'Brien (Kerry), and D. McGovern (Meath).

V. and C. Grimes (Meath); M.H.S.: G. Lawler (Kildare); M.H.D.: G. Lawler and A. Campbell (Kildare).

ULSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: S. McCabe (Monaghan);
S.S.D.: L. and J. Gilmore (Cavan);
S.H.S.: S. McCabe (Monaghan);
S.H.D.: L. and J. Gilmore (Cavan);
J.S.S.: E. Quinn (Armagh); J.S.D.: S.
Galligan and D. White (Cavan); J.H.S.:
L. Lawler (Armagh); J.H.D.: M.
Donagh and G. Sheridan (Cavan);
M.S.S.: D. White (Cavan); M.S.D.:
D. White and G. Sheridan (Cavan);
M.H.S.: G. Sheridan (Cavan); M.H.D.:
G. Sheridan and D. White (Cavan).

CONNACHT CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: P. McGee (Mayo); S.S.D.: P. McGee and M. Walsh (Mayo); S.H.S.: P. McGee (Mayo); S.H.D.: P. McGee and P. Bollingbrook (Mayo); J.S.S.: E. Hannon (Sligo); J.S.D.: P. Hoare and P. Clarke (Roscommon); J.H.S.: E. Hannon (Sligo); J.H.D.: E. Hannon and R. Walsh (Sligo); M.S.S.: M. O'Gara (Roscommon); M.S.D.: J. McAndrew and J. McArdle (Sligo); M.H.S.: M. O'Gara (Roscommon); M.H.D.: M. O'Gara and E. Kennedy (Roscommon).

NATIONAL LEAGUE (1965)

Winners: Wexford: (R. Lyng, S. Dempsey, W. Lyng, J. King). Runnersup: Mayo: (T. Derrig, E. Connelly, P. McGee, P. Bollingbrook).

GAEL-LINN CUP

Winner: F. Confrey (Dublin); Qualifiers: P. Hickey (Tipperary), P. Sheerin (Offaly), D. Walsh (Sligo), J. Doyle (Dublin), W. Kerins (Kerry), R. Lyng (Wexford), S. McCabe (Monaghan).

TAILTEANN GAMES

Senior: Winners: Tipperary: (P. Hickey and J. Cleary). Runners-up: Meath: (L. Molloy and D. McGovern).

Under-14: Singles: Winner: M. Walsh (Roscommon); Runner-up: P. Lamphier (Tipperary). Doubles: Winners: M. Walsh and A. Jameson (Roscommon); Runners-up: P. McKeogh and J. Kelly (Tipperary).

Under-16: Singles: Winner: A. Casey (Tipperary); Runner-up: J. Corley (Galway), Doubles: Winners: A. Carey and P. Kelly (Tipperary); Runners-up: P. Murphy and J. Sindy (Wexford).

ARMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.S.S.: Pte. M. Davin (12th Battalion); Runner-up: Cpl. J. Kealy (1st. Motor Squadron).

S.S.D.: Pte. M. Davin and Cpl. J. Grady (4th Battalion); Runners-up: Trooper P. Coady and Cpl. J. Kealy (1st. Motor Squadron).

J.S.S.: Pte. M. Hore (Eastern Command); Runner-up: J. O'Grady (4th. Battalion).

J.S.D.: Sgt. S. Oakes and Airman L. Norton (Air Corps); Runners-up: Troopers P. Coady and J. Mahon (1st. Motor Squadron).

GARDA CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.S.S.: Winner: M. Sullivan (Crumlin); Runner-up: P. McGrath (Nenagh); S.S.D.: P. McGrath and W. Maguire (Nenagh); Runners-up: M. Sullivan (Crumlin) and R. Walsh (Terenure).

S.H.S.: W. Doran (D.M.G.); Runner-up: L. Aherne (D.M.G.).

S.H.D.: W. Doran (D.M.G.) and J. McGrath (Kanturk); Runners-up: P. McGrath and W. Maguire (Nenagh).

J.S.S.: F. Stafford (Kilkenny); Runner-up: L. McNulty (D.M.G.).

J.S.D.: F. Stafford (Kilkenny), and G. Clancy (D.M.G.); Runner-up: L. McNulty and L. Ferguson (D.M.G.) J.H.S.: P. Connor (D.M.G.); Runnerup: J. Landers (D.M.G.).

J.H.D.: L. Ferguson and L. Mc-Nulty (D.M.G.); Runners-up: F. Stafford (Kilkenny) and G. Clancy (D.M.G).

Novice S.S.: N. Flynn (Howth); Runner-up: J. O'Connell (Bridewell).

N.S.D.: J. Flaherty and P. J. Farren (D.M.G.); Runners-up: T. McGrath and J. Hernon (Cork).

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES

Tralee C.B.S.: (W. Myles and M. O'Connor), Runners-up: Roscommon C.B.S. (M. O'Gara and J. Higgins).

LEINSTER COLLEGES (JUNIOR)

Scoil Ui Chonaill: (B. Tremble and A. Campbell); Runners-up: Tullamore C.B.S. (P. J. Furlong and P. Fleming).

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SUCCESS FOR ROSCOMMON

BY SEAMUS DUKE

but victory achieved when all the odds are against one makes it even sweeter. This explains the wildly enthusiastic scenes witnessed in Croke Park on Sunday, October 2, when Mr. Hugh Byrne, past President of the G.A.A. presented the under-21 All-Ireland football trophy to the captain of the Roscommon team.

Fifteen years had elapsed since an All-Ireland football title had come to the county and in the minds and writings of many people it was not expected to come in 1966. Yet, as we stood on that October evening in the shadow of the Hogan Stand, what had seemed impossible had been achieved. Another major football trophy of 1966 was on its way to the West and Roscommon had inscribed its name on the list of title-winners in all grades.

The road to success in any walk of life is long and hard and the honours achieved in one hour on that October evening were not achieved by accident overnight. Behind every success story lie hours, days, weeks and sometimes years of planning. With an assessment of the situation comes a plan to achieve an objective, the motivation of the people to do it and the implementation of the plan to reach the target.

This plan to interest the youth in football in the county goes back to 1956, when a juvenile championship was inaugurated. Immediately this competition clicked. With tremendous enthusiasm and support the competition was a huge success. Apart from involving players at an early age, it also interested the parents—a very important factor.

With the number of youths playing football it was felt that when these advanced to minor age there would be a vast improvement in that grade. This did not happen and there were many hours spent ascertaining what had gone wrong. Eventually a proposal was put before the County Board that a small committee be set up to examine the position of minor football in the county.

This was agreed upon and the

major recommendations which these people came up with were: (i) that a secondary and vocational schools committee be set up in the county to arrange a championship between all of these schools; (ii) that an inter-divisional minor league be commenced and that these divisional teams be selected after interclub games; (iii) that prior to the inter-club games a short talk be given on placings of players on the field and certain other fundamentals. There were other recommendations made but these were the most important. They were all accepted by the County Board.

Involving clubs in these minor games (and the teams did not include college players) meant that every young boy was under observation from a very early age. Youths who showed promise at twelve and thirteen or maybe before that were noted and slowly but surely the shape of a team began to emerge.

There were defeats; there were setbacks; there were disappointments. But the people behind the scenes were dedicated; they were optimistic and they were convinced that the road to the top was a long hard one. Then the Connacht Council started a League confined to players who were not resident in a college and let me at this stage say that this competition has played a major part in Western successes. It gives many players an opportunity to taste inter-county fare who might not otherwise achieve that honour and it has more than justified the money spent on it.

The years of preparation and hard work, seemed about to pay dividends as 1963 dawned. None of us present in Ballinrobe on an evening in May will forget the Connacht minor football league final, when Mayo defeated us by one point. This was a real thriller with football fare served up that was caviar. No wonder that, when the same teams met in the champ-

(continued on page 64)

THE LEVELLING OF STANDARDS

BY AINE MEAGHER

THE camogie year of 1966 will go down in the annals of the Association as the year that Una O'Connor and Dublin set new records by winning a tenth All-Ireland in a row; the year in which St. Patrick's of Glengoole-Ballingarry, the Tipperary title-holders, won the All-Ireland club championship for the second consecutive season; the year when camogie, for the first time, was granted a Caltex Award.

But I like to think back on 1966 as the year of the great levelling up of standards; the year when Dublin, in both the All-Ireland semi-final and final, only escaped defeat by a single stroke of the ball; the year in which Leinster, despite having the services of only one Dublin player, yet ran Munster hard in the Gael-Linn Cup final at Cork.

On the playing fields it was a year of truly memorable games, and it began on an epic note with that wonderful Ashbourne Cup series in the Belfield mud. First we had University College, Galway going within inches of dethroning the holders, University College, Cork, in a magnificent semi-final, and then an unfancied U.C.D. side marched ankle-deep in liquid mud to lion-hearted victory in the final.

The bright stars of U.C.D's victory that day were Anne Carroll, at centre-half, and Kitty Murphy, first in attack and then in defence. And both through the year maintained that magnificent form.

Anne Carroll was again a prominent stalwart for Tipperary, who went as close to victory over Dublin at Cahir as any team could get and still lose, but she had compensation when she won a club All-Ireland medal with St. Patrick's.

Incidentally, it was very interesting to note that, after U.C.D. had conclusively proved in the Ashbourne that centre-back is probably the versatile Anne's best position, St. Patrick's played her very successfully in that post through the inter-club championship.

Kitty Murphy, who was not called upon by her native Clare, threw in ther lot with Dublin and quickly won her way onto the county side. She proved an able deputy for Alice Hussey, who was out of the country, and played a big part in helping the Metropolitans to that record-breaking All-Ireland victory.

Yet Dublin had to battle all the way for the honours even in Leinster, as Wexford were very little behind the champions, and made their bravest bid yet to win the senior title of the province.

The game which caused most controversy was, of course, the All-Ireland semi-final at Cahir. But, while this was a matter about which, at the time, some opinions were sharply divided, it was always obvious that Central Council had to stand over the decision of the referee.

Yet any clouds that may have gathered over the semi-final were quickly dissipated by the sheer brilliance of much of the play in the final between Dublin and Antrim. Those who saw it will not forget the display of Mairead Mc-Atamney on the Antrim left wing. She gave what was possibly the finest individual performance in an All-Ireland final in the last decade.

Despite all her efforts, the Antrim attack failed to find a way to the Dublin net for the goal that would have made all the difference. Yet, over the fifty minutes, the actual number of scores, six for Antrim to four for Dublin, is a fitting reflection of the general trend of the play.

So, on all the evidence, it seems that Dublin's long supremacy has now very definitely come to an end. But I must add one proviso to that. Many a time in the past I have said much the same thing, yet, when the following season came round, Dublin always succeeded in producing new stars to keep the county's flag flying.

The levelling-up of standards was very obvious also on the club fields of Leinster. No one could ask for better or more exciting games than those in which St. Paul's (Kilkenny) beat Caragh (Kildare) and St. Ibar's (Wexford), in turn, to win the right to represent the province in the club champions' competition. St. Paul's seemed to improve steadily with every outing and gave a very good account of themselves against the powerful St. Patrick's in the final.

Indeed, if I had to make a prophecy for 1967 I would say that Kilkenny, backboned by these St. Paul's players, might well prove the shock team of the coming year.

Another side to watch in Leinster should surely be Kildare. They have a number of well-organised local competitions, including a schools league, and the standard throughout the county has improved out of all knowledge in recent seasons.

Down South the team of 1967 may well be Cork. I was tremendously impressed by their secondary side that won the Munster title in that grade, and I think the Leesiders will be very real challengers next season to the recent Munster supremacy of Tipperary. With Limerick and Waterford also on the upgrade, the prospects in the South are rosy.

Antrim are still supreme up North and it is a pity that they are really unchallenged. I am convinced that, if Antrim had the benefit of a couple of hard games early in the championship they must have won the All-Ireland title this year. However, the resurgence of Down may lead to keener competition in the province.

In the West, Galway remain on top, but now that Roscommon have returned to the ranks we may look for improvement in the allround standard across the Shannon.

All in all, therefore, 1966 was a good camogie year, and, if the bright promise fulfilled then is carried forward into 1967, we should have a really memorable year ahead.

All The Facts And Figures

ALL-IRELAND FINAL Dublin, 2-2; Antrim, 0-6.

DUBLIN: E. Leech (Celtic), M. Ryan (Austin Stacks), B. Keenan (Austin Stacks), K. Murphy (Celtic), K. Lyons (Eoghan Ruadh), M. Sherlock (Austin Stacks), K. Ryder (Naomh Aoife) captain, O. ni Shiochain (Holy Faith, Clontarf), K. Kehoe (Celtic), A. Mc-Allister (Austin Stacks), J. Doyle (Naomh Aoife), U. O'Connor (Celtic).

ANTRIM: Teresa Kearns, Moya Forde, Eithne Dougan, Maeve Gilroy, Kathleen Kelly, Betty Smyth, Mairead Quinn, Mairead McAtamney, Mairead Carabine, Margaret Finn, Eilis Mc-Grogan (captain), Mary Phil Jameson.

Referee: Mrs. B. Byrne.

GAEL-LINN CUP FINAL Munster, 4-2; Leinster, 1-3.

MUNSTER: S. Long, A. Graham, A. Carroll, M. Loughnane, B. Moloney, K. Griffin (Tipperary), B. Gilenane, B. Guiry (Limerick), P. Dorgan, S. O'Connell, M. Cummins (Cork), L. Howlett (Waterford).

LEINSTER: J. Cullen (Wexford), M. Houlihan (Kilkenny), J. Murphy (Wexford) (captain), M. O'Leary (Wexford), M. Connery (Kilkenny), P. Cash (Wexford), M. Hearne (Wexford), M. Malone (Kildare), B. Magee (Kildare), K. Ryder (Dublin), C. O'Shea (Kilkenny), C. O'Hanrahan (Kilkenny).

ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Provincial Winners

Connacht: Oranmore (Galway).

Leinster: St. Paul's (Kilkenny).

Munster: St. Patrick's (Tipperary).

Ulster: Deirdre (Antrim).

Semi-Finals: St. Paul's bt. Oranmore; St. Patrick's bt. Deirdre.

Final: St. Patrick's (Tipperary) 5-5, St. Paul's (Kilkenny) 2-1. St. Patrick's: S. Long, A. Graham, E. Maher, A. Carroll, A. Long, K. Griffen, M. Ryan, B. Moloney, L. Scott, P. Graham, M. Loughnane; M. McBride.

St. Paul's: T. Brennan, M. Houlihan, A. Gargan, M. Connery, M. Butler, N. Duncan, O. O'Neill, C. O'Shea, R. Vennard, M. Fennelly, N. Grace, C. O'Hanrahan,

Ashbourne Cup: University College, Dublin.

Ashbourne Shield: University College, Galway,

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS LEINSTER

Senior: Dublin. Inter.: Wexford. Junior: Kildare.

MUNSTER

Senior: Tipperary. Secondary: Cork.

ULSTER Senior: Antrim.

Minor: Down. CONNACHT

Senior: Galway.

COLLEGES LEINSTER

Senior: Holy Faith Convent, Clontarf. Junior: Gilson School, Oldcastle.

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Antrim: Deirdre.

Dublin: Senior: Naomh Aoife; Inter. A.: U.C.D.; Inter B.: Lucan Sarsfields; Senior League: Naomh Aoife,

Kildare: Caragh; Senior League: Caragh; Schools: Mercy Convent, Naas.

 Kilkenny: Senior: St. Paul's; Junior: Castlecomer.

Wexford: St. Ibar's.

Cork: Senior: Glen Rovers; Inter.: Churchestown North.

Tipperary: St. Patrick's; Minor: Cashel.

Limerick: Croagh. Galway: Oranmore. Tyrone: St. Teresa's.



A DUAL ALL-IRELAND

MICHAEL BARRETT

OT since the turn of the century has any county achieved the senior All-Ireland double. Prior to that, it had been brought off three times, twice by Tipperary and once by Cork. So it is interesting to conjecture if it is within the ability of any present day county to win the All-Ireland senior hurling and football championships in the same year.

We will look at the list of championship winners first, as it seems most likely that the possible dual winners would come from the ranks of

those who have already been successful.

Down are the most recent county to make the breakthrough. They could win another football championship, but the possibility of their going all the way in hurling is very remote, as they do not even compete in senior grade. The same remarks could very well apply to Cavan, Kildare, Mayo, Louth, Roscommon and Meath.

Other counties who have been successful in football are Limerick and Wexford. Both are playing good hurling. Wexford had great minors and under-21 this year, while they feel that their seniors did not do as well as they might. But there are high hopes for them in hurling.

The picture is different in football, which has been more or less in the doldrums for the past 20 years. Wexford are unlikely to again scale the heights of the First World War years, which brought them four football titles from 1915 to

1918.

Limerick's football championships were won in 1887 and 1896 in different conditions from those obtaining today. After many years in junior grade, they created a sensation last year when they beat Cork and reached the Munster final.

There is a slight possibility that this form could be repeated, but it is unlikely. However, it shows what could be done if Limerick were to pick a squad of footballers and have them trained and coached. The domestic football standard

would have to be raised also. Both of these requirements could be met, but as I regard it as unlikely, we must eliminate Limerick as possible winners of both All-Irelands.

Kerry won out the hurling in 1891 and had to wait 12 years for their first football success. Though hurling is strong in parts of the county, there is no possibility of their becoming serious All-Ireland contenders in this code.

On turning to the list of hurling winners, we find that we have already knocked out Limerick Wexford and Kerry, Clare and Laois, whose only victories occurred over 50 years ago, are next to be crossed off.

Clare hurlers might make the grade, but their footballers will not. Laois seem unlikely to be really strong contenders in either game. Waterford hurlers might come back in time, but their footballers have achieved little or nothing except occasional sensational Munster semi-final successes over Kerry and Cork.

The list of previous All-Ireland winners has now been whittled down to: Hurling: Tipperary, Cork, Kilkenny and Dublin, Football: Dublin,

Galway, Tipperary and Cork.

Kilkenny footballers can be eliminated, as there seems to be no great love for this game on Noreside, so three names appear in both lists-Tipperary, Cork and Dublin. Galway are the outsiders, but their wonderful football record of recent years merits their consideration as possible dual All-Ireland champions.

We will examine Galway first and then consider the others. The county's football deeds need no re-telling, but their hurling decline is a source of worry to Gaelic followers. Eight years ago, when they were invited into the Munster championship, it was thought that Galway were getting the opportunity of winning an All-Ireland. But for some reason, their standards fell. They were anxious this year to opt out of Munster, but the votes of the strong hurling counties foiled them.

One would think that a county could decide its own future, especially as we have such apparently ridiculous Railway Cup entries as Connacht and Ulster. The future of hurling could not be seriously put forward as the reason for refusing Galway's request to opt out. Whatever the cause,

. IS IT POSSIBLE?



it is almost certain that Galway will not win an All-Ireland while still in Munster.

Perhaps the county's heart is not in the artificial competition. Maybe their previous isolation, which brought them automatically to the All-Ireland semi-final, suited their temperament better. They could make the super effort once, or a second time if successful, but starting from scratch seems foreign to them. The retirement of Joe Salmon and other stars makes their task more difficult and we must reluctantly cross them from the list of possibles.

Tipperary are next to go! Their hurlers will always be around, but for the past 20 years they have achieved very little in football, since the days of Lambe and Cahill. Eight years ago, I saw them seriously trouble the Kerry stars at Thurles. Only a super display by John Dowling and a mistake by their own full-back deprived Tipper-

ary of a place in the Munster final.

Though they have had some successes in League games, there is no consistency at the level required. I do not say that it could not be there. It possibly could, if the standard of club football was improved. But genuine efforts have been made by football lovers to make Tipperary a live force and these have failed. They still fall short of potential All-Ireland standards.

We are now left with two, one our biggest county, the other our capital city. The western area of County Cork is steeped in football tradition and the North/West and Northern areas have always produced fine footballers. Hurling is also strong in the North, as it is in the East and South/East, while the Mid Cork territory pro-

duces the occasional inter-county man.

There are clear-cut distinctions between the traditional hurling and football areas, though the city is almost equally strong in both. There have been cases of dual performers at inter-county level. Indeed there still is the occasional one. Despite this, the county footballers can be clearly separated from the county hurlers. This means that proper preparation can be carried out in both games. Vigorous leagues can be run without clashing of interest.

Cork is a big county with a wonderful following. Its population is anxious for the success of its teams at all levels. Capable men are available to train and coach both hurling and football teams. There is a high standard in domestic competitions under both codes.

Nowhere is the club football standard higher than in Dublin. This is due in part to the presence of so many country-born inter-county stars and partly to the standard set by St. Vincents.

Hurling is good, but not as good as it was. The rule allowing a man to play with his native parish seems to have attracted more hurlers than footballers from Dublin-based personnel. In spite of this, the county lost by only a point to Tipperary in a recent All-Ireland final, while their footballers are formidable at all times.

It seems that tradition is important for the possibility of dual success. A large population is another must. Some distinction between hurlers and footballers and well-organised competitions of high standard for both are further essentials. Capable instructors and coaches are also vital.

The general problem has been considered largely in retrospect. No account has been taken of the changes which may occur in the next ten years or so, due to the activities of An Coiste Iomana.

At present only Dublin and Cork seem capable of winning both All-Irelands in senior grade in the same year. Cork were beaten in both finals in 1956. Are they gradually working back to the same high standard? Whether or not, I am satisfied that in any county where both games are extensively played, a double success is not an impossibility. There is no challenge which cannot be met!

Only what is put into a game can be got from it. If enough is put into both games by a county, both titles could be won. So it is possible that a feat last performed in 1900 may be repeated if there are people dedicated enough to attempt it.

Those counties not mentioned or which I eliminated, should not lose heart. If they have most of what I listed as essential, plus an enthusiastic public, they may not win All-Ireland's but they could make a better showing than heretofore. Surely that in itself would be an achievement

CUMANN LUITHCHLEAS GAEL

COMHAIRLE NA MUMHAN

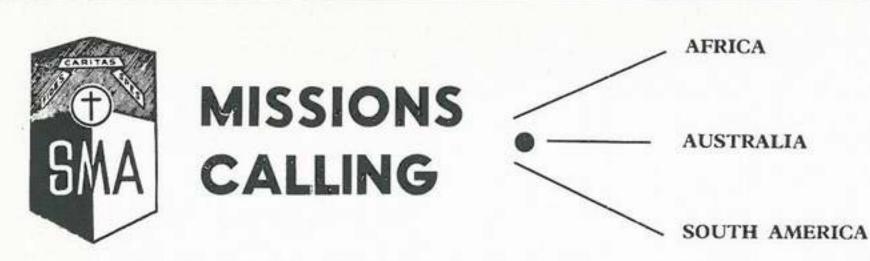
Wishes the Gaels of Munster and Ireland a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and thanks them for their patronage during the past year.

1967 CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES:

Munster S.H. Championship: (A) Cork v. Waterford, June 4. (B) Limerick v. Clare, June 11. Semi-final: Tipperary v. winners of (A), July 2. Galway v. winners of (B), July 9. Final: July 30. Senior Football Championship: (A) Waterford v. Clare, May 21. (B) Tipperary v. Limerick, May 21. Semi-finals: Cork v. winners of (A); Kerry v. winners of (B), both on June 18. Final: July 16.

Intermediate H. and Junior F.: Clare v. Limerick, April 9; Waterford v. Kerry, April 9; Cork v. Tipperary, April 9. Under-21 H.: Galway v. Cork; Limerick v. Clare; Kerry v. Tipperary, all on April 23. Under-21 F.: Tipperary v. Limerick; Waterford v. Clare, all on April 30. Dates for the following have yet to be fixed—Minor H.: (A) Cork v. Waterford; (B) Limerick v. Clare; (C) Tipperary v. winners of (A); (D) Galway v. Kerry, and winners meet winners of (B). Should Kerry not participate the semi-finals will be (A) v. (D) and (B) v. (C). Minor F.: (A) Waterford v. Clare; (B) Tipperary v. Limerick; (C) Cork v. winners of (A), and (D) Kerry v. winners of (B).

Munster Club Championships: Eire Og (Clare) v. Avondhu (Cork); Ballyduff (Kerry) v. Carrick-on-Suir (Waterford); Patrickswell (Limerick) v. Turloughmore (Galway), all to be played in March. Club Football Championships: Cork winners v. Limerick winners; Tipperary winners v. Waterford winners; Kilmurray (Clare) v. John Mitchells (Kerry).



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TRACK AND FIELD ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

60 yds.: 1, M. Keane (St. Patrick's, Bandon); 2, I. Moriarty (U.C.D.), 6.3 secs.

100: 1, I. Moriarty; 2, M. Keane. 10.1 sec.

220: 1, J. C. Riordan (St. Finbarr's, Cork); 2, I. Moriarty, 21.8 s. (record). 300: 1, I. Moriarty; 2, C. Moriarty (U.C.D.).

440: 1, J. C. Riordan; 2, M. J. Dooley (St. Finbarr's), 49 s. (record).

880: 1, P. Durnin (Mervue, Galway); 2, J. O'Leary (Blarney). 1 m. 57 s.

Mile: 1, R. J. Hodgins (U.C.C.); 2, R. Buckley (Grange). 4m. 12.9s.

1,500m.: 1, R. J. Hodgins; 2, R. Buckley, 3m. 54.6s.

2 miles: 1, R. Hodgins; 2, J. Buckley (Cork). 9m. 19s.

3 miles: 1, Hodgins; 2, Hickey (Dundrum, Tipp).

4 miles: 1, M. Murphy (Rising Sun, Cork); 2, M. Hickey. 19m. 28.6s.

8,000m.: 1, S. O'Sullivan (Tournafulla); 2, M. Hickey.

5 miles: 1, M. Murphy; 2, M. Molloy (Oughterard).

6 miles: 1, M. Molloy.

10 miles: 1, M. Molloy; 2, M. Murphy. 54m. 3.3s.

15 miles Road: 1, M. Molloy.

Marathon: 1, M. Molloy; 2, J. J. O'Leary (U.C.C.). 2h. 24m. 45s.

120 H.: 1, A. Moloney (Limerick A.C.); 2, I. Moriarty. 16.7s.

440 H.: 1, A. Moloney; 2, A. Sheehan (Limerick A.C.). 55.7s.

High Jump: 1, P. O'Shea (Millstreet);
2, T. Twomey (Knocknacurra). 6' 0\frac{1}{2}''.

Long Jump: 1, C. O'Regan (Waterford); 2, S. O'Dwyer (U.C.D). 23' 0\frac{1}{2}''.

Pole Vault: 1, L. Gleeson (U.C.D. and Nenagh); 2, J. C. Moroney (U.C.D. and Clogheen). 12' 5".

Triple Jump: 1, S. O'Dwyer; 2, G. Lynch (Oak Leaf, Derry). 49' 2".

Shot: 1, B. Coughlan (Hilltown, Cork); 2, P. Hickey (Millstreet). 44' 2". Discus: 1, B. Hartigan (Regional, Limerick); 2, K. Prendergast (Kil-

kenny City Hrs.). 143' 5½".

Hammer: 1, J. Keaty (Phoenix Hrs.,
Dublin); 2, B. Hartigan. 157' 6½".

Javelin: 1, D. Toomey (Guinness); 2, D. Nugent (U.C.C.). 189' 4".

56 lb. for Distance: 1, T. Twomey; 2, M. Leahy (Kildorrery). 26' 5½".

56 lb. over bar: 1, T. Twomey; 2, P. Ruddle (Croom and Granagh A.C.).

Decathlon: 1, D. Toomey, 5,581 pts.; 2, M. Mullett (Arklow), 4,460 pts.

LADIES

100: 1, M. Jeffords (Leeside, Cork); 2, B. Coady (do.).

880: 1, U. Kennedy (Raheny Shamrocks); 2, A. Barry (U.C.D.).

WHERE THE ATHLETICS HONOURS WENT IN '66

MUNSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONS

100: L. Power (Waterford); 220 and 440: F. McSweeney (Grange, Cork); 880: D. Buckley (St. Finbarr's); Mile: T. J. O'Reilly (Grange); 3 Miles: D. Walsh (Fr. Matthew); Relay: Cork; High Jump; P. O'Shea (Millstreet); Long Jump: C. O'Regan (Waterford).

Triple Jump: T. Twomey (Knocknacurra); Discus and Shot: B. Coughlan (Hilltown); Pole Vault: L. Gleeson (Nenagh Oly.); Javelin: D. Nugent (U.C.C.); 1, 2 and 5 Miles Cycle: M. Hegarty (Fermoy).

LEINSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONS

100: M. Ryan (Kilkenny); 220: P. J. Noonan (Raheny, Dublin); 440: P. J. Kelly (D.M.P., Wexford); Mile: M. Heery (Raheny, Dublin); 3 Miles: T. Byrne (Dublin); 10 Miles Road: G. Kavanagh (Inchicore).

Shot, Discus and Javelin: K. Prendergast (Kilkenny); High Jump and Triple Jump: M. Mullent (Arklow); Long Jump: L. McCormack (Droichead Nua); Pole Vault: V. Gill (D.M.P., Wexford); Mile Cycle: E. Dunne (Setanta); 3 Miles Cycle: R. Doyle (Wexford).

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

100: 1, J. Ryan (Thurles Crokes); 2, D. O'Donovan (Fr. Matthew, Cork). 10s.

220: 1, H. Duggan (Crannford, Donegal); 2, J. Ryan 24.6s.

440: 1, C. O Muircheartaigh (U.C.D.); 2, T. Power (Limerick A.C.). 52s.

880: 1, J. Lynam (Hilltown, Cork); 2, M. Quinlan (Fr. Matthew) 2m. 2s.

Mile: 1, M. Heery (Raheny, Shamrocks); 2, D. Walsh (Fr. Matthew). 4m, 16.9s. Medlay Relay: 1, Fr. Matthew; 2, 2, Rockwell College.

High Jump: 1, M. Lally (Lourdes, Drogheda); 2, C. Devine (Kilmacud, Dublin). 5' 4''.

Long Jump: 1, H. Duggan; 2, J. Saunders (Hilltown), 21' 12''.

Triple Jump: 1, P. Magnier (St. Josephs); 2, J. Magee (Dunboyne) 42' 4".

Pole Vault: 1, M. Kelly (Nenagh Olympic) 2, D. O'Donovan (Ballymore). 9' 2".

Shot: 1, P. Conway (Blackrock, Dublin); 2, N. Houlihan (do.) 57' 4".

Hammer: 1, M. Kelly (Nenagh Oly.); 2, P. Conway 131' 2".

Javelin: 1, P. Moore (St. Finbarr's); 2, N. Counihan 164' 2".

Discus: 1, P. Conway; 2, P. Geraghty (Newbridge) 165' 10".

ALL-IRELAND JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIPS UNDER-13

100: M. O'Sullivan (Tipperary); High Jump: B. Brogan (Dublin); Long Jump: M. O'Sullivan; Relay: Dublin. UNDER-14

100: M. McGrath (Cork); High Jump: D. Carbery (Dublin); Long Jump: A. Hayes (Meath); Relay: Fermanagh.

UNDER-15
100: A. Brennan (Dublin); 220: A. Brennan; High Jump: L. Fortune (Dublin); Long Jump: D. Harris (Dublin); Shot: G. Gillespie (Fermanagh); Relay: Dublin.

UNDER-16

100: D. Heneberry (Dublin); 440: R. Keirins (Fermanagh); 880: D. Heneberry; Pole Vault: J. McGee (Meath); Shot: P. Hartigan (Limerick); Relay: Dublin; Inter-Group Relay: Dublin.

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(continued from page 57)

ionship final, there was a huge crowd present and Roscommon felt their day had come. But Mayo had other ideas, and after a superb game they emerged good winners. What was to happen now? Would many of that team make the grade?

A motion at Congress saw the under-21 football and hurling championships inaugurated in 1964 and a new avenue was opened to talented youth. Meanwhile, the organisation set in motion to look after minor football kept up the hard work. 1964 passed without any noteworthy achievement but early in 1965 the whisper went around-yes, we could do it this year. Again the long hours of training, the many miles of travel but this time some reward.

In Tuam that year, the Connacht minor championship came to Rocommon after a great game. Anybody who saw them against Derry in the semi-final will admit that it was one of the best games in that grade for many years. Derry won and went on to take the All-Ireland title—a popular and deserved victory.

Every year, forecasting the probable winners in both codes and in each grade is an interesting though hazardous exercise. In Roscommon no secret was made of the fact that we had a strong minor team, and a good under-21 side. The minors went to Castlebar, where they were deservedly beaten by Mayo, who carried our best wishes and fully justified the high opinion held of our minor team when they went on to win the All-Ireland title.

What then of the under-21 team? Back turned the pages to 1963 and added to the backbone of that side were the top minors of 1964, 1965 and 1966.

Would this fifteen blend? Would the stars of four years combine? The first question was posed on a Friday evening in July at St. Coman's Park, Roscommon, when then met Galway. Close on four thousand people turned up to see one of the best football games of

1966. For sheer speed, skill and a sporting display, it had the crowd in a fervour of excitement. Roscommon won by 1-9 to 1-5.

The next game was against Leitrim in Carrick-on-Shannon, What a display Leitrim gave and how lucky Roscommon were to emerge winner (2-6, to 1-8). The losers' performance that day must give wonderful encouragement to their officials.

And so to Mayo, who with several of their 1963 stars, came to Roscommon for the final, For ten minutes they swept through the field-rampant and scoring at will. Then came a switch and the whole game was transformed. Roscommon took over and proceeded to put on a superb display to win by 1-13 to 0-9. The Connacht final was won. Now only two games remained to that elusive crown.

The semi-final against Donegal in Ballybofey will not be recorded in any book as a thriller. If it is remembered for anything apart from the fact that Roscommon won by 2-2 to 0-5 it will be remembered because of the amazing number of wides kicked by both sides, but particularly by the winners. Victory? Yes. A ticket to the All-Ireland final? Yes. But the possibility of ultimate victory? No. Yet, as we retraced our steps to the Hotel in Ballybofey, one player said: "We must be a great team to kick so many wides and still win."

So the stage was set for the final. Kildare with thirteen of their 1965 champion side available and ten of the team that lost to Meath in the senior series, were hot favourites and justifiably so. But Roscommon were determined. They trained as hard as any team could possibly train. They realised they had the football ability, they had the spirit and the determination. Could they co-ordinate all into sixty minutes. Writing in one of the local papers before the game one critic said: "But it is always when the odds are greatest in adversity that the spirit, determina-

tion and will-to-win of the outsiders should be greatest! There is no certainty in any sport-this is fifteen players against fifteen players-no more, no less."

From the beginning Roscommon adopted well-planned tactics. They played as if they were the masters. Writing after the game one paper commented: "This type of football, this enthusiasm, this one might even describe it as utter cheek by the team termed as 'pupils' completely upset the 'masters.'

Three points up in four mintes, Roscommon led by 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time. But Kildare were not to let that cup go West without a battle. Back they came and in seven minutes scored 1-3. With ten minutes to go the score read Kildare 1-11, Roscommon 0-8. Then came a master switch and in two glorious minutes Roscommon scored 2-1 to transform the game.

I remember distinctly that at 4.34 p.m. the score was Kildare 1-11, Roscommon 0-8. At 4.36 p.m. it was Roscommon 2-9, Kildare 1-11. This was excitement at its greatest. The thousands present rose as one man to cheer their favourites. Roscommon added another point and Kildare did likewise but the final whistle blew and on the score 2-10 to 1-12 Roscommon had won the title.

All the pent-up enthusiasm burst forth in acclaiming this success. The players were chaired to the dressingroom and that night got a tumultuous reception in a whistlestop tour of the county.

The players deserve congratulations. So, too, do many people behind the scenes. The road from the late fifties had been a long one. There had been moments of success, moments of disappointment, long hours of planning, training and self-sacrifice. It proved, if necessary, that confidence and perseverance spell success.

There will be no resting on the laurels. This is but a milestone on a road that at times seems interminable. Memories of wonderful people and of successes act as stimulants on that road. I hope the story of Roscommon's under-21 success will help many others in the future.

is with us again and it is my privilege to reminisce on NACA activities during 1966. It was a season of expansion, particularly at juvenile and youths level; better organisation and presentation of fixtures; and the intermingling of athletes from both sides of the Irish athletic barrier at the Gormanston cross-country event and Tailteann Games.

On the debit side, open sports meetings, that great medium of improving standards outside of championship fare, were pitifully scarce. Lack of experienced personnel to officiate at the entrypacked fixtures of a secondary nature throughout the country was another obstacle. We must not forget that it was from those small 'meets' that the stars of the future will emerge. Very few of those who reap rich rewards in their competitive days continue to assist even their local club once they retire.

Apart from these irritants, it was one of the most eventful and exciting seasons that this scribe can remember and record-breakers like Sean O'Dwyer (U.C.D.), in the triple jump; Cashel Riordan (St. Finbarr's, Cork) in the 220 and quarter mile; his clubmate John Buckley, in the three miles; and Mick Molloy (Oughterard, Galway), in the marathon and other long distance races, gave the athletic fraternity plenty to talk about.

The cross-country season at National level opened with the junior six miles over a heavy and somehow unfamiliar circuit at Ballymore-Eustace, Co. Kildare on February 27. Just under 200 runners from all four provinces and representatives of fifteen counties lined up. Big pre-race talking point was: Would Cork, with the Munster novice and junior under their belts and, as defending

champions, forced to field a new side, be strong enough to succeed again? Galway had impressed in the grade twelve months ago and were fancied while from Dublin came the whisper: "This year we are good enough to win."

The race over three laps of two miles each, started at a cracking pace with the field well bunched. But after the first mile the crouching figure of Jimmy Brogan, in the yellow and green sash of Clare, was seen breaking away, followed by T. P. O'Callaghan (Dublin) and young Stephen Hennessy (Cork), the Munster champion. This trio continued to dominate and Brogan forged ahead powerfully to win well at the tape and atone for past set-backs in this race.

He won the All-Ireland youths individual title in 1961 but failed to get on his county's scoring sextet which won the junior in 1963. The following season, after a terrific duel, he had to be content with third place but in 1966 the Clareman made no mistake and there could not have been a more deserving champion.

Hennessy came second, O'Callaghan third and Cork had 17 points to spare over Dublin to win the team title for the third year in a row.

The newest additions to the fixture list, the under-14 mile and under-16 two miles, next held interest and were successfully decided over an excellently prepared Tullamore course on March 20. The organising here was a credit to Paddy Larkin and the enterprising Tullamore Harriers Club. Teams of six, with four to score entered from all provinces. Meath scored a double, with the minor placings going to Clare (under-14) and Limerick (under-16). The defeat of the Limerick boys was a surprise. The under-14 victor was D. O'Neill, of Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, and Anthony McNamara proved he had no under-16 equal when winning that title for Limerick.

So to windswept Dromoland, Co. Clare, for the Blue Riband of the Association's cross-country year—the National senior 7½-miles championship and the equally important youths under-18 three miles. The Clare Board had everything in perfect order and a large crowd watched some fine sport.

Cork's youths, packing well and led home by the season's outstanding minor Donal Walsh (Fr. Matthew A.C. and North Monastery), won the team title for the fifth time in succession. Stephen Hennessy came second with Noel Forrestal third, and Clare took the silver medals. This duplicated the result of the same event twelve months previously at An Uaimh.

Then came the senior race. Cork, Limerick, Clare and Tipperary represented the home province. Dublin were sole eastern standard-bearers. Galway upheld Connacht prestige and Wexford's Noel Hendrick completed the rather small field.

Starter J. J. Bruce soon had them under orders and away. Eight runners composed the leading group as the first of five laps was completed. Galway had three there, with Hickey and O'Dwyer (Tipp), Hendrick (Wexford), Brogan (Clare) and a lone Corkman John Buckley. Two laps, and little appreciable difference, but John O'Brien, following a fall, dropped out and Cork were in dire trouble.

Urged on by vocal support Galway, realising they were in command and running with that tenacity which experience brings, began to attack. Mick Molloy had taken over the lead, with Brogan, Hickey, Madden and Flanagan (Galway) moving strongly behind.

(Continued on Page 68)



Above . . . Newtown Blues — 1966 Louth S.F. Champions: Back Row (from left): Frank Fagan, Frank Clarke, Paddy Leonard, Jimmy Mulroy, Paul Judge, Tom Black, Peter McKenna. Front Row (left to right): Danny Nugent, Paddy Leech, Val Murphy, Liam Leech (capt.), Matt Murphy, Jim Downey, Jim Judge, Gerry Clifford.

Rhone 1966 Offaly S.F. Champions: Front Row (from left): J. Byrne, S. Murphy, E. Mulligan, P. McCormack (capt.), B. Toole, M. Heavy, P. Swayne. Back Row (from left): L. Swayne, M. Casey, W. Heavy, S. Malone, J. Hannon, P. Kilmurry, P. Murphy, J. Gunning.



Champions Down The Years

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING TIPPERARY (21): 1887, 1895, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1916 1925, 1930, 1937, 1945, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965.

CORK (20): 1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1902, 1903, 1919, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1966.

KILKENNY (15): 1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1922, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1947, 1957, 1963.

DUBLIN (6): 1889, 1917, 1920, 1924, 1927, 1938.

LIMERICK (6): 1897, 1918, 1921, 1934, 1936, 1940.

WEXFORD (4): 1910, 1955, 1956, 1960.

WATERFORD (2): 1948, 1959.

CLARE (1): 1914.

GALWAY (1): 1923.

KERRY (1): 1891.

LAOIS (1): 1915.

LONDON (1): 1901.

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL KERRY (20): 1903, 1904, 1909, 1913, 1914, 1924, 1926, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1946, 1953, 1955, 1959, 1962.

DUBLIN (17): 1891, 1892, 1894, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1942, 1958, 1963.

GALWAY (7): 1925, 1934, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966.

WEXFORD (5): 1893, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.

CAVAN (5): 1933, 1935, 1947, 1948, 1952.

TIPPERARY (4): 1889, 1895, 1900, 1920.

KILDARE (4): 1905, 1919, 1927, 1928.

CORK (3): 1890, 1911, 1945.

MAYO (3): 1936, 1950, 1951.

LOUTH (3): 1910, 1912, 1957.

LIMERICK (2): 1887, 1896.

ROSCOMMON (2): 1943, 1944.

MEATH (2): 1949, 1954.

DOWN (2): 1960, 1961.

ALL-IRELAND INTER, HURLING

WEXFORD (2): 1961, 1964.

TIPPERARY (2): 1963, 1966,

CARLOW (1): 1962.

CORK (1): 1965.

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR HURLING

CORK (8): 1912, 1916, 1925, 1940, 1947, 1950, 1955, 1958.

TIPPERARY (7): 1913, 1915, 1924, 1926, 1930, 1933, 1953.

LONDON (5): 1938, 1949, 1959, 1960, 1963.

KILKENNY (4): 1928, 1946, 1951,

LIMERICK (4): 1935, 1941, 1954, 1957.

DUBLIN (3): 1932, 1937, 1952.

KILDARE (2): 1962, 1966.

MEATH (2): 1927, 1948.

OFFALY (2): 1923, 1929.

WATERFORD (2): 1931, 1934.

CLARE (1): 1914.

GALWAY (1): 1939.

WESTMEATH (1): 1936.

KERRY (1): 1961.

DOWN (1): 1964.

ROSCOMMON (1): 1965.

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL

KERRY (9): 1913, 1915, 1924, 1928, 1930, 1941, 1949, 1954, 1963.

DUBLIN (5): 1914, 1916, 1939, 1948, 1960.

LOUTH (4): 1925, 1932, 1934, 1961.

CORK (4): 1951, 1953, 1955, 1964.

MAYO (3): 1933, 1950, 1957.

MEATH (3): 1947, 1952, 1962.

GALWAY (3): 1931, 1958, 1965.

LONDON (2): 1938, 1966.

TIPPERARY (2): 1912, 1923.

ARMAGH (1): 1926.

CAVAN (1): 1927.

DOWN (1): 1946.

FERMANAGH (1): 1959.

LONGFORD (1): 1937.

ROSCOMMON (1): 1940.

SLIGO (1): 1935.

WESTMEATH (1): 1929.

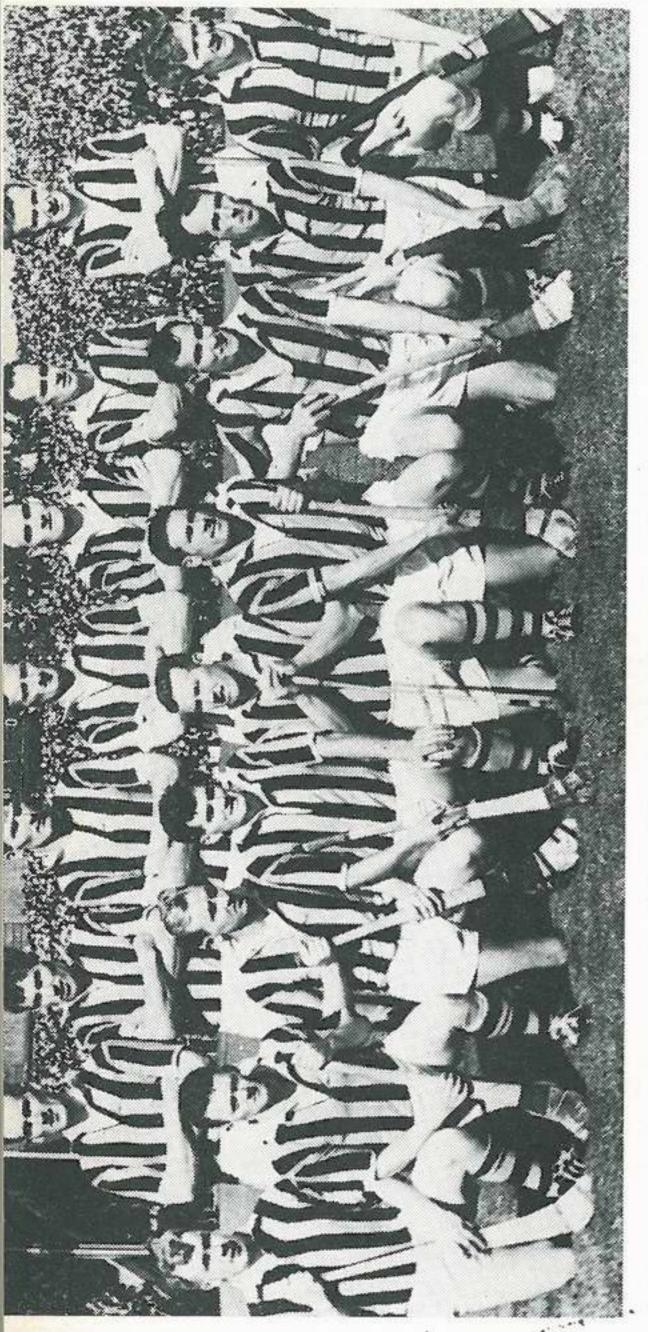
WICKLOW (1): 1936.

MONAGHAN (1): 1956.

ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING

TIPPERARY (12): 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959.

(Continued on Page 74)



The Kilkenny team which was beaten in the All-Ireland final: Standing (from left): Eddie Keher, Claus Dunne, John Teehan, Pa Dillon, Seamus Cleere, Ted Carroll, Pat Henderson. Kneeling (from left): Jim Treacy, Sean Buckley, Tom Walsh, Joe Dunphy, Paddy Moran, Martin Coogan, Jim Lynch (captain), Pat Delahunty, Ollie Walsh.



RAILWAY GUP TEAMS

RAILWAY CUP TEAMS FOOTBALL SEMI-FINALS Ulster 1-8, Leinster 1-4

ULSTER: S. Hoare (Donegal), G. Kelly (Cavan), T. McCreesh (Armagh), T. O'Hare (Down); P. O'Hagan (Down), D. McCartan (Down), P. J. Flood (Donegal), R. Carolan (Cavan), J. O'Neill (Tyrone), S. O'Connell (Derry), J. McCartan (Down), P. Doherty (Down), C. Gallagher (Cavan), S. O'Neill (Down), P. T. Treacy (Fermanagh). Sub.: J. Lennon (Down) for O'Connell.

LEINSTER: P. Bracken (Laois), P. McCormack (Offaly), L. Gillen (Longford), C. Kane (Dublin), P. Collier (Meath), P. Holden (Dublin), B. Bardon (Longford), D. Foley (Dublin), S. Lee (Dublin), B. McDonald (Dublin), M. McKeown (Louth), L. Leech (Louth), S. Murray (Longford), B. Hayden (Carlow), J. Keaveney (Dublin). Subs.: J. Quinn (Meath) for Lee; A. McTeague (Offaly) for Leech.

Munster 0-11, Connacht 0-11 MUNSTER: J. Culloty (Kerry); Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry), S. Downes (Clare), M. Morris (Kerry); Denis O'Sullivan (Kerry), T. Fitzgerald (Limerick), P. McMahon (Clare); M. Fleming (Kerry), M. Burke (Cork), E. Ryan (Cork), T. Hayes (Cork), D. Geaney (Kerry), P. Murphy (Limerick), C. Sullivan (Cork), B. O'Callaghan (Kerry). Sub.: M. Tynan (Limerick) for Hayes.

CONNACHT: J. Geraghty (Galway); J. Leyden (Leitrim), N. Tierney (Galway), J. Morley (Mayo); J. Donnellan (Galway), E. Colleran (Galway), R. Creaven (Roscommon); P. Donnellan (Galway), W. Shannon (Sligo), C. Dunne (Galway), M. McDonagh (Galway), M. Kearns (Sligo); J. Keenan (Galway), M. Durkin (Sligo), S. Leydon (Galway). Sub.: P. J. Loftus (Mayo) for Shannon.

REPLAY: Munster 2-8, Connacht 2-6

MUNSTER, J. Culloty; Donie O'Sullivan, S. Downes, J. Lucey (Cork); Denis O'Sullivan, T. Fitzgerald, P, McMahon, M. Fleming, M. Burke; E. Geaney, B. O'Callaghan, C. O'Sullivan, M. Keating (Tipperary).

CONNACHT: J. Geraghty; J. Leydon, N. Tierney, J. Morley; J. Donnellan, E. Colleran, T. Whyte (Roscommon); P. J. Loftus, P. Donnellan C. Dunne, M. Kearns, S. Leydon, P. McGarty (Leitrim), M. Durkin J. Keenan. Subs.: E. Curley (Roscommon) for Whyte; R. Craven for Curley; B. McAuley (Sligo) for Keenan.

FINAL: Ulster 2-5, Munster 1-5

ULSTER: S. Hoare (Donegal); P. Kelly (Donegal), T. McCreesh (Armagh), T. O'Hare (Down); P. O'Hagan (Down), D. McCartan (Down), P. J. Flood (Donegal), R. Carolan (Cavan), J. O'Neill (Tyrone); J. Lennon (Down), J. McCartan (Down), P. Doherty (Down); C. Gallagher (Cavan), S. O'Neill (Down), P. T. Treacy (Fermanagh). Subs.: A. Morris (Cavan) for Kelly, S. O'Connell (Derry) for Treacy, Kelly for O'Hagan.

(Kerry); MUNSTER: J. Culloty Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry), S. Downes (Clare), M. Morris (Kerry); Denis O'Sullivan (Kerry), A. Fitzgerald (Limerick), J. D. O'Connor (Kerry); M. Fleming (Kerry), M. Burke (Cork); P. McMahon (Clare), P. Moynihan (Kerry), D. Geaney (Kerry), B. O'Callaghan (Kerry), C. O'Sullivan (Cork), M. Keating (Tipp). Subs.: M. Tynan (Limerick) for Geaney, J. Lucey (Cork) for Donie O'Sullivan.

HURLING SEMI-FINALS

Munster 6-10, Connacht 3-3. MUNSTER: E. Power (Waterford), John Doyle (Tipp), A. Flynn (Waterford), D. Murphy (Cork), L. Guinan (Waterford), D. O'Riordan (Cork), A. O'Brien (Limerick); B. Hartigan (Limerick), M. Roche (Tipp), Jimmy Doyle (Tipp), L. Kiely (Tipp), L. Danaher (Clare); D. Nealon (Tipp), J. McKenna (Tipp), S. McLoughlin (Tipp) capt. Sub.: P. Fitzgerald (Cork) for Roche.

CONNACHT (all Galway except the goalkeeper): A. Gavin (Roscommon); M. Howley, R. Stanley, S. Francis; J. Duggan (capt), J. Conroy, M. Sweeney, Ryan, P. Moynihan (Kerry), D. P. Mitchell, F. Heaney, F. Coffey, P. Kenny, Conway, M. Regan, M. Fox F Connaire Subs.: B. Lally

(Galway) for Heaney, J. Horan (Mayo) for Sweeney.

Leinster 6-14, Ulster 3-7 LEINSTER: O. Walsh (Kilkenny); T. Neville (Wexford), J. Lynch (Kilkenny), E. Colfer (Wexford), S. Cleere (Kilkenny), D. Quigley (Wexford), T. Mahoney (Laois); P. Molloy (Offaly), B. Cooney (Dublin); W. Walsh (Carlow), R. Shannon (Wexford), E. Keher (Kilkenny), T. Walsh (Kilkenny), P.

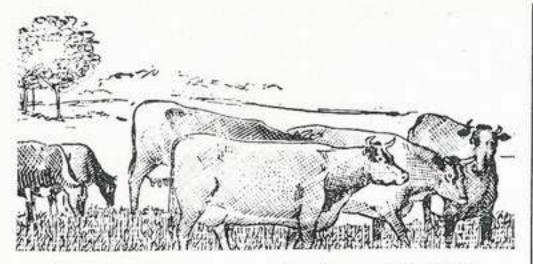
Dillon (Kilkenny), J. O'Brien (Wexford). Subs.: W. Murphy (Wexford) for Mahoney; J. Foley (Wexford) for Shannon.

ULSTER: J. Kirk (Armagh); P. Braniff (Down), H. Dorrian (Down), D. Gilmore (Down); M. McLoughlin (Donegal), J. Phelan (Armagh), S. Burns (Antrim); P. McShane (Antrim), E. Faloona (Down); J. Carlisle (Armagh), S. Gallagher (Antrim), E. Mc-Bride (Armagh); P. Braniff (Down), J. Houlihan (Monaghan), B. Campbell (Antrim). Subs.: J. McCamphill (Antrim) for Carlisle; C. McMullen (Down) for Holohan; F. Gilmore (Down) for E. McBride.

FINAL

Munster 3-13, Leinster 3-11 MUNSTER: E. Power (Waterford); A. O'Brien (Limerick), A. Flynn (Waterford), D. Murphy (Cork); D. O'Riordan (Cork), A. Wall (Tipperary), L. Guinan (Waterford); M. Roche (Tipperary), B. Hartigan (Limerick), L. Danaher (Clare), L. Kiely (Tipperary), F. Walsh (Waterford); D. Nealon (Tipperary), J. McKenna (Tipperary), J. Doyle (Tipperary). Subs.: P. Fitzgerald (Cork) for O'Riordan, L. Devaney (Tipperary) for Danaher, P. Cronin (Clare) for Nealon.

LEINSTER: O. Walsh (Kilkenny); T. Neville (Wexford), J. Lynch (Kilkenny), E. Colfer (Wexford), S. Cleere (Kilkenny), D. Quigley (Wexford), W. Murphy (Wexford), B. Cooney (Dublin), P. Molloy (Offaly); W. Walsh (Carlow), T. Forrestal (Kilkenny), E. Keher (Kilkenny); T. Walsh (Kilkenny), P. Dillon (Kilkenny), J. O'Brien (Wexford). Subs.: P. Moran (Kilkenny) for Quigley, J. Foley (Wexford) for Molloy.



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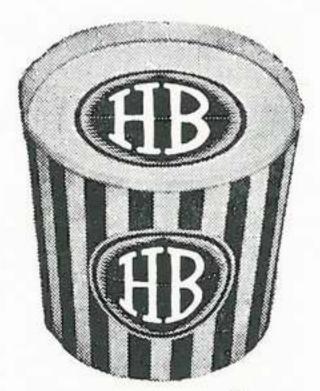
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Alf Murray, President G.A.A., introduces An Taoiseach, Mr. Jack Lynch to Wexford captain, A. Doran before the second replay of the All-Ireland under-21 hurling final. In background is Gerald McCarthy, the Cork captain.

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KILKENNY (7): 1931, 1935, 1936, 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962.

CORK (7): 1928, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1964.

DUBLIN (4): 1945, 1946, 1954, 1965.

WATERFORD (2): 1929, 1948.

LIMERICK (2): 1940, 1958.

WEXFORD (2): 1963, 1966.

ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL

DUBLIN (7): 1930, 1945, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1959.

KERRY (7): 1931, 1932, 1933, 1946, 1950, 1962, 1963.

MAYO (3): 1935, 1953, 1966.

ROSCOMMON (3): 1939, 1941, 1951.

CAVAN (2): 1937, 1938.

GALWAY (2): 1952, 1960.

LOUTH (2): 1936, 1940.

TYRONE (2): 1947, 1948.

ARMAGH (1): 1949.

CLARE (1): 1929.

TIPPERARY (1): 1934.

MEATH (1): 1957.

CORK (1): 1961.

OFFALY (1): 1964.

DERRY (1): 1965.

ALL-IRELAND UNDER-21 HURLING

TIPPERARY (1): 1964

WEXFORD (1): 1965.

CORK (1): 1966.

ALL-IRELAND UNDER-21 FOOTBALL

KERRY (1): 1964.

KILDARE (1): 1965.

ROSCOMMON (1): 1966.

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

TIPPERARY (12): 1928, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1965.

LIMERICK (6): 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1947.

CORK: (6): 1926, 1930, 1940, 1941, 1948, 1953.

KILKENNY (3): 1933, 1962, 1966.

DUBLIN (2): 1929, 1939.

WEXFORD (2): 1956, 1958.

GALWAY (2): 1932, 1951.

CLARE (1): 1946.

WATERFORD (1): 1963.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MAYO (9): 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1949, 1954.

KERRY (7): 1928, 1929, 1931, 1932, 1959, 1961, 1963.

DUBLIN (3): 1953, 1955, 1958.

MEATH (3): 1933, 1946, 1951.

GALWAY (3): 1940, 1957, 1965.

CORK (2): 1952, 1956.

DOWN (2): 1960, 1961.

NEW YORK (2): 1950, 1964.

LAOIS (1): 1927.

DERRY (1): 1947.

CAVAN (1): 1948.

LONGFORD (1): 1966.

ST. BRENDAN CUP HURLING

TIPPERARY (4): 1955, 1957, 1959, 1960.

CORK (1): 1954.

NEW YORK (1): 1958.

FOOTBALL

DUBLIN (2): 1955, 1958.

GALWAY (1): 1957.

KERRY (1): 1959.

DOWN (1): 1960.

NEW YORK (1): 1954.

RAILWAY CUP HURLING

MUNSTER (29): 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1966.

LEINSTER (10): 1927, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1941, 1954, 1956, 1962, 1964, 1965.

CONNACHT (1): 1947.

FOOTBALL

LEINSTER (17): 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1940, 1944, 1945, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1959, 1961, 1962.

ULSTER (10): 1942, 1943, 1947, 1950, 1956, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966.

CONNACHT (7): 1934, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1951, 1957, 1958.

MUNSTER (6): 1927, 1931, 1941, 1946, 1948, 1949.

OIREACHTAS CUP (S.H.)

TIPPERARY (7): 1945, 1949, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965.

KILKENNY (5): 1940, 1947, 1957, 1959, 1966.

WEXFORD (4): 1951, 1953, 1955, 1956.

GALWAY (3): 1950, 1952, 1958.

DUBLIN (2): 1944, 1948.

LIMERICK (1): 1939.

CLARE (1): 1954.

WATERFORD (1): 1962.

GAELIC WEEKLY CUP (S.F.)

MEATH (3): 1961, 1962, 1963.

KERRY (2): 1959, 1960.

GALWAY (1): 1958.

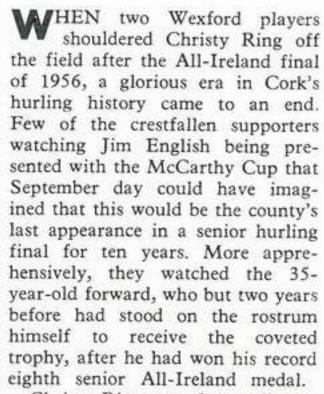
TYRONE (1): 1957.

LONGFORD (1): 1965.

KILDARE (1): 1966.

TEN YEARS OF CHRISTY RING

BY TIM MURPHY



Christy Ring was then well past the usual retiring age, and even the most optimistic Corkman could not conceal his fears that the Cloyne maestro might hang up his hurley at last. The dread of such a decision was much more harrowing to the Leesiders than the disappointment of losing an All-Ireland. And each day after that unforgettable Sunday, the papers were scanned in search of that dreaded announcement. But it never came.

Christy Ring did not retire after the 1956 final though that particular game was to lead to the departure from the field of such Cork 'greats' as Willie John Daly and Josie Hartnett. That the Glen Rovers stalwart continued to play for his county was the greatest thing that happened to Cork hurling in the last ten years. The Rebel County failed to acquire a major

title in that decade, but Ring was to keep spectators thrilled with many majestic performances, and youngsters, who had not been around to watch his early displays, were given the chance of seeing for themselves hurling's greatest exponent in action.

Cork met old rivals, Tipperary in the Munster semi-final of 1957, and Ring was again the centre of attraction at Limerick. The previous year he had dashed the Shannonsiders' hopes of a provincial title by blazing home three goals in the dying moments of the final. Now all eyes were focussed on him as Cork confronted much more formidable opponents.

The game was full of the spills and thrills that distinguish Cork and Tipp clashes. Ring chalked up his usual quota of scores but the most unexpected incident occurred just after the interval.

Tipperary were still looking for a suitable goalie, as Tony Reddan had retired some time previously. The man who minded the net on this occasion did not live up to expectations and was replaced at half-time by an eager-looking substitute.

No sooner had the referee thrown in the ball for the re-start than Ring collected it at midfield and sent it sailing all the way to the back of the net. It was one of the most surprising goals ever scored in a Munster semi-final, and one which followers in both counties still talk about.



That goal played a vital part in Cork's victory, but though few of us realised it then, it was to be the Rebel County's last championship win over Tipperary.

Ring retired with his arm in a sling before the hour was over, and was unable to play in the provincial final against Waterford. As a result, the Decies captured their first Munster title in nine years after a game highlighted by the fine midfield performance of Phil Grimes.

Christy was back in action the following year, and continued to weave a spell over the spectators with his dazzling displays for Glen Rovers, Cork and Munster. When the new Hogan Stand was blessed and opened at Croke Park, the cream of the country's hurlers lined out for the Railway Cup final of 1959. But it was Ring who stole the thunder once again with the fantastic personal tally of six goals and seven points.

The end of the decade brought to a close the careers of some of the finest hurlers Ring had played with and against for many years. John Lyons, Mattie Fouhy and Joe Twomey retired from the home front, and Nick Rackard, Billy O'Neill and Paddy Kenny had already hung up their illustrious hurleys. Ring was now entering his "forties", but showed no signs of stopping.

Gael-Linn made plans to preserve some golden memories of the (continued on page 80)

FOOTBALL REVIEW

BY MICK DUNNE

(of the Irish Press)

ball in 1966 that is not a repeat of what was written in 1964 and '65? Very little. For, as was the case in the previous two years, the past twelve months was Galway's year. Only the details changed.

However, one feature established 1966 as distinct from the two seasons of football that preceded it. Banished beyond all question was any lingering doubt there may have been about Galway's greatness. For in 1966 they showed themselves to be a highly talented, enormously efficient side that must rank among the all-time great teams of football.

In the year that is now fading Galway lost two matches. One deprived them of the National League title they won the previous summer in the blazing heat of New York and the other prevented them making another trip to London's Wembley Stadium where they have been such notable visitors.

But otherwise Galway proved themselves to be a team capable of using their vast experience to full effect, a side devoted to their major ambition, which was to become the first Connacht county to capture the All-Ireland championship for the third consecutive year.

To attain that object they paced themselves throughout a gruelling year, rarely doing more than was adequate to the occasion although bringing their supporters to the brink of heart failure in the process, until they reached their fourth successive All-Ireland final. Once there they allowed their enthusiasm, spirit, skill and team-work to burst forth in the full flowering of memorable triumph.

But the football year of 1966 was not many months old before the doubts and suspicions about Galway had build up into a huge questioning of their ability to fulfil their hopes.

Not for twenty five years had a team played in four successive All-Ireland deciders, nor in the same period had a side captured the title three years running. Several tried, but none could manage more than two in a row.

And as 45,000 football devotees departed from Croke Park on a late April evening there were few indeed—even Galway folk — who believed that Galway would, five months later, succeed where all others had failed in the past quarter of a century. For in their defeat by Longford in the home League final Galway looked a football-weary, disjointed side.

The emergence of Longford was one of the most welcome occurences in latterday football, but near though they approached the top and steadily though they improved, they had achieved nothing that was really notable until they dethroned the League champions on that April day.

In the home final they showed themselves to be a side of intelligent football, sound fielding and effective team-work coupled with the unbridled eagerness and enthusiasm of the up-and-coming and supported by the speed and ability of peak physical condition.

But they had one weakness that looked as if it might bring them down. For inaccuracy on this, their biggest day, so far prevented them from enjoying a bigger than 0-7 to 0-5 half-time lead.

Midway through the second half Galway levelled, but, when it appeared that Longford were doomed, they found new inspiration and with superb free-kicking by Bobbie Burns, dominant play by Seamus Flynn and Larry Gillen, Jimmy Flynn's control at midfield and constant menace from Jackie Devine and Mick Hopkins, they triumphed in the end (0-9 to 0-8).

When two weeks later Galway lost to Sligo in the Wembley qualifying game even their most faithful followers were perturbed that, after all, the end might be at hand.

The early months of football had thrown up many pretenders to Galway's throne, Longford, of course, led the reckoning as the leading challengers. Kildare's young and promising side were highly thought of, Mayo had been steadily team-building and improving, Cork had looked good early in the League and Meath had been knocking at the door of success for over two years. And, however much some of their glory might have faded, Kerry, Down and Dublin could not be ignored.

We did not have to wait long for the first shock. Indeed it was a sensation when Longford, still not fully recovered from their League success into which they had thrown all their energies and endeavours, crashed to Louth in the first round of the Leinster championship.

And one month later that same Louth team fell by a sensational

eight points to Dublin.

Kildare were held to a draw by Offaly, but they in turn dismissed Dublin and were back in the Leinster final.

Meath, on the other hand, had been impressively progressing towards the provincial final and Wexford and Westmeath fell as their victims. But only in the dying minutes of the final did they hold off Kildare's spirited rally (1-9 to 1-8).

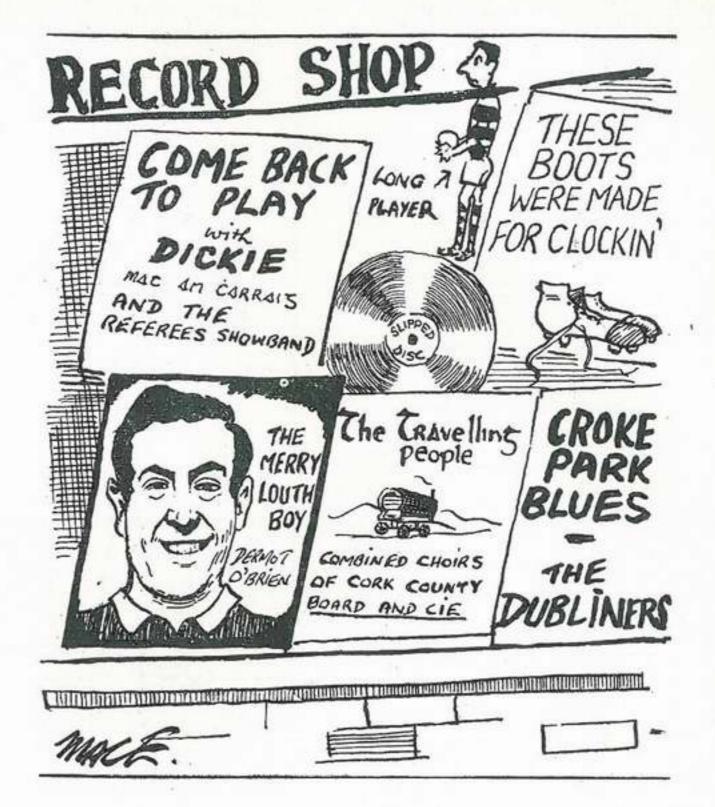
It was the "old firm" of Kerry and Cork in the Munster final, but it was nine years since Kerry had to hand up possession of the provincial crown. But in July on their own Fitzgerald Stadium in Killarney they had to step down again. For reduced to fourteen men in the last ten minutes they were overcome by Cork (2-7 to 1-7).

In Ulster, Fermanagh shocked Armagh, but were beaten by Donegal, the Lagan Cup holders, who had earlier avenged their 1965 defeat by Cavan. In the other semi-final Down beat McKenna Cup winners Antrim to reach their ninth successive provincial final. In a final that was memorable for nothing, Down held off Donegal's challenge.

A Connacht final would hardly be the same now without Galway and this year they appeared in it for the eleventh consecutive year. Mayo, after being held to a draw by Sligo in the semi-final, came through the other side of the draw.

In a thronged McHale Park in Castlebar, Mayo gave the champions a rare fright and seemed to produce further evidence that Galway were slipping. But belatedly Galway equalised, pulled ahead and held off Mayo's late attempt to save the game.

For the first of the All-Ireland semi-finals Cork, under the tutelage of former stars Eamonn Young and Donie O'Donovan, prepared assiduously. And in a rousing, pul-



sating struggle of absorbing manfulness and determination these Munster champions pushed Galway to the limit.

It was only in the 26th minute that Galway led for the first time and they were in front 0-6 to 0-5 at half-time. But so badly did their defence creak in that first period that many of their supporters in the 30,000 crowd were thoroughly alarmed.

The champions began the second half with captain Enda Colleran at centre half-back and his superb play plus the dominance of Jimmy Duggan at midfield in the second half sent Galway more often on the attack. They opened the gap 0-9 to 0-5. But the accuracy of Con Sullivan from frees that were conceded by a hard-pressed Galway defence soon narrowed the gap again.

However, ten minutes after half-time Galway broke away on the movement that brought a spectacular goal. And, as it turned out, that score decided the game. Pat Donnellan placed Mattie McDonagh, who was over on the right. Big Mattie avoided two defenders and dropped a pass onto the path of the inrushing Cyril Dunne who crashed the ball to the net.

Five minutes later Cork were through and Mick O'Loughlin, moved earlier from midfield to corner forward, fisted the ball down past Johnny Geraghty, but in two moments of horror (46th. and 51st. minutes) substitute Niall Fitzgerald, who had gone into full-forward after Con Sullivan's switch to midfield, missed two

(overleaf)

FOOTBALL REVIEW

(continued)

chances of goals and Cork's hopes were dashed.

The second semi-final showed Meath almost as two distinct teams. In the first half, as if overcome by Croke Park nerves, the side that played all their championship games in Croke Park this year were hesitant and purposeless and not at all impressive.

But what a transformation there was in the second half. Turning over 0-6 to 0-3 behind, they stormed into action. They levelled after four minutes of the second half and three minutes later they went ahead for the first time. Then Gerry Quinn, who had moved to right corner forward, cut in for two goals that sent the Leinster champions surging ahead.

But most of all it was the ease with which the then rampaging Meath forwards could pick off points from any angle and any range that stunned Down. In the end Meath were comfortable 2-16 to 1-9 winners.

So impressive were Meath in that second half that their followers had no difficulty in ignoring the discomforting thought that their county had never beaten Galway through the years in the League or Championship. Many neutrals, mindful of Galway's disturbed passage to the final were heavily in support of the Leinster champions.

The final proved beyond all doubt that Galway's dedication was as strong on their fourth appearance in the final as it had been on their first in 1963. Moreover, it indicates, in retrospect, that dangerous though it may have been, and close though it may have carried them to the jaws of defeat, Galway had sparingly measured out their energy over the year until they could pour all into the most vital hour of all—the All-Ireland final.

On the fourth Sunday of September they were the superbly fit team that they had not been in any earlier game, they were the masters to whom the big occasion



The last thing you want is unpleasantness eh — have you any more last wishes?

is now second nature and they showed that they have brought their team-work and co-ordination into a machine-like combination.

After little more than two minutes Galway took the lead and never lost it. Meath could never get moving against a perfectly coordinated midfield partnership of Pat Donnellan and young Jimmy Duggan and they could never open up a now tightly-knit and insurmountable Galway defence.

So Meath's hopes sank. They were shattered in the 21st. minute when Cyril Dunne placed Mattie McDonagh for the only goal of the game—and the first that Galway scored in their four appearances in the final.

All round it was a glorious

football year for Connacht. For on the same day that Galway retained the senior title, Mayo's brilliant minors recaptured the minor crown and within a week Roscommon shocked Kildare to take the under-21 crown.

Only one football championship remained and that went out of the country when London travelled to Limerick and beat Cork in the final.

The last months of the year brought Longford their first major trophy when they won the National League title. A 1-9 to 0-7 victory on their own Pearse Park was good enough to carry them through the second leg of the final which they lost to New York at Croke Park by one point.

Gaelic All-Stars

HERE is a list of the 1965 Gaelic All-Star Award winners who were feted at a presentation banquet in Dublin's Gresham Hotel on St. Patrick's eve, 1966.

> HURLERS JOHN O'DONOGHUE (Tipperary) TOM NEVILLE (Wexford) AUSTIN FLYNN (Waterford) KIERAN CAREY (Tipperary) DENIS O'RIORDAN (Cork) TONY WALL (Tipperary) JIMMY DUGGAN (Galway) PHIL WILSON (Wexford) MICK ROCHE (Tipperary) JIMMY DOYLE (Tipperary) PAT CARROLL (Kilkenny) PAT CRONIN (Clare)

JOHN McKENNA (Tipperary) SEAN McLOUGHLIN (Tipperary) LONDON WILLIE BARNIVILLE (Tipperary) NEW YORK MICK MORRISSEY (Wexford) STAR OF THE PAST LORY MEAGHER (Kilkenny) FOOTBALLERS JOHNNY GERAGHTY (Galway) ENDA COLLERAN (Galway) TOM McCREESH (Armagh) BOSCO McDERMOTT (Galway) DONIE O'SULLIVAN (Kerry) PADDY HOLDEN (Dublin) MARTIN NEWELL (Galway) MICK O'CONNELL

CYRIL DUNNE (Galway) MICKEY KEARNS (Sligo) SEAMUS LEYDON (Galway) SEAN MURRAY (Longford) SEAN O'NEILL (Down) PADDY DOHERTY (Down) LONDON NOEL O'REILLY (Mayo) NEW YORK TOM FURLONG (Offaly) STAR OF THE PAST TOMMY MURPHY (Laois) CUCHULAINN AWARD PADDY McDONNELL (Dublin) HANDBALLERS PEADAR McGEE (Mayo) JOE DELANEY (Kilkenny) CAMOGIE PLAYERS MAIREAD MCATAMNEY (Antrim) CLAIRE O'HANRAHAN (Kilkenny) REFEREE OF THE YEAR EAMONN MOULES (Wicklow)

THE year 1966 for the G.A.A. in Britain has been one of quiet progress. The various County Boards pressed ahead despite inclement weather in the early part of the season. The bad weather led to a loss of badly needed revenue and in some cases the championship finals were late. Practically all the County Boards face added burden of expenditure.

DONIE NEALON

(Tipperary)

The London Board had the cruel luck of having their pavilion destroyed by fire. Added to that were the expenses of running the spacious ground at New Eltham. The popular and energetic chairman of the London County Board crappled with difficult problems in the past and he is optimistic that he and his fellow workers will continue the onward march.

London footballers rose to great heights in the provincial championship. They had a narrow squeeze against Warwickshire in the provincial final. They rode that storm

ACROSS THE SEA

BY MICK MORRISSEY

(Kerry)

DES FOLEY

(Dublin)

and beat Cork in the junior All-Ireland at Limerick.

Hertfordshire County Board still young, is fastly growing to maturity. Much hard work has been put in by the officials and clubs to place the county high in the ranks of the G.A.A. Clubs such as Colmcilles, Erins Hope, and St. Dymphnas have played a leading role in Herts continued strides forward.

The Gaels of Gloucester must be the most enthusiastic in Britain. Year in and year out, in days of adversity, they continue to keep the Gaelic flag flying. The turn of such steadfast Gaels will, we hope, soon reap the reward they so richly deserve.

Yorkshire is another bastion of the Gael. One must appreciate their great work for Gaelic games. Often the road is rugged, but they never know the word defeat. Thanks to their gallant band of officials much progress continues to be made.

Last but not least we salute the tireless Gaels of Lancashire who down the years have nurtured and enriched the G.A.A. round the Merseyside. We recall with pride Lancs' great show against a starstudded Kerry side a few years ago in an All-Ireland junior football final.

Due credit must also be given to outstanding Lancs Gael, Tom Walsh and men like Rev. Fr. Stritch, Yorkshire, Charlie Beirne and Jim Nicholas, Herts, and Mick Houlihan, Warwickshire. One could mention many more but space does not allow it.

The G.A.A. in Britain is indeed served by devoted officials.

(continued from page 75)

Maestro on film, and it was decided to 'shoot' in full the National League final of 1960 at the Athletic Grounds. Cork and Tipperary were in opposition again, and though the Leesiders lost, Ring had a splendid game and scored 2-4. After the match he apologised to Louis Marcus for not having done more!

The following year, Christy scored three goals and four points in the Munster semi-final against Waterford, and hopes ran high that Cork would be able to beat Tipperary. But, despite the return of Paddy Barry and Ring's determined efforts, they were well beaten. So badly did the Leesiders play outfield that day that the 40-yearold forward was compelled to move out around the centre in the second

Christy was top scorer in hurling for the year 1961 with Tipperary's Jimmy Doyle in second place. Ring's total amounted to 90 points, not bad for a 40-year-old!

Came 1962 and Christy Ring was still the best forward in the game. In the Spring of that year Cork met Dublin in the League semi-final at Thurles, and between them Liam Dowling and Ring notched a devastating 5-5. The final against Kilkenny was played at Croke Park in torrential rain,

and Christy was again Cork's star, scoring 1-7. But the Munstermen were beaten.

The county final saw University College doing battle with Glen Rovers and after a hectic hour's hurling the result was a draw. The replay drew one of the largest attendances ever to the Athletic Grounds, with most of the spectators urging the students on to their first title. And it looked as if they would take the laurels, for U.C.C. went into a two-point lead with as many minutes remaining.

However, a Glen forward was fouled on the last minute, and Ring drove the "21" to the back of the net, leaving the huge crowd dumbfounded with wonder and awe. Once again the lesson was taught that no team with Christy on it is beaten until the final whistle.

Many people expected him to retire after that game, but the Maestro harboured no such intention. Two years later he led the Glen to yet another county title when they bear the 'Barrs.

 For personal reasons, Christy was unable to play for Cork in the 1963 championship, and though no formal retirement from inter-county hurling was announced the Cloyne stalwart has not worn the red jersey since. The Rebels showed

how badly he was missed when they lost the Munster final of 1964 by five goals and went under to Tipperary the following year by SIX.

Despite his absence from the inter-county scene, Ring has been very active in hurling circles during the past three years. He paid his fourth visit to America in 1965 and delighted the emigrants with some superb displays. And two further trips to the States this year have been equally successful.

At home, he led Glen Rovers to the final of the inaugural Munster club championship, and ten thousand thrilled spectators were privileged to see a performance at Limerick on Easter Sunday, 1966 that will go down in history. Without him, the Glen would not have beaten Mount Sion.

This year, for the first time in quarter of a century, Cork won the All-Ireland senior hurling title without Christy Ring. But it was only fitting that the great forward was not forgotten as thousands of jubilant supporters chaired the captain, Gerald McCarthy to the presentation rostrum.

"We want Christy," they chanted as the red and white colours were carried proudly through the Metropolis. And the same cry was heard again the following night on the triumphant return to Cork. A well-earned tribute indeed to end another glorious decade in the career of our greatest hurler!

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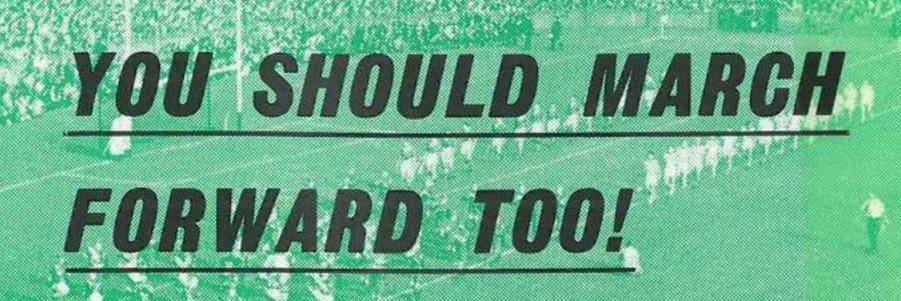
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