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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1963

## Tracing Limerick's national hurling league history

ALMOST two score years ago—on October 4, 1925—the first ever National Hurling League game was played, and Limerick's initial engagement in the new competition was at Croke Park, where they played Dublin in the opening round. It was a terrific game, which the Liffesiders won 6-1 to 4-4. Dublin were All-Ireland champions at the time. The teams were—

**Limerick**—M. Murphy, goal; J. J. Kinane, P. Hartigan, R. McConkey, M. Fitzgibbon, C. Garvey, J. Keane (Young Ireland), on the ground (Newcastle West), P. Shamy, M. Cross, T. McGrath (Cloughaun), W. Gleeson, T. Shiney (Fedomore), S. Tumpance (Kerry), W. Ryan (Pallas).

**Dublin**—Dr. Tommy Daly, goal; Joe Bannon, W. Snell, T. Kelly, Mick Gill, Jim (Builder) Walsh, Bob Mocker, P. Aylward, Bob Doherty, M. Holland, D. O'Neill, Garrett Howard, Tom Barry, W. Bannin, T. Finlay.

Limerick, subsequently, defeated on the grounds that Garrett Howard had played in the County Championships of both Limerick (Croom) and Dublin (Garda) that season. The Central Council upheld the objection, and also a counter one by Dublin, who alleged that the Limerick list of players was not handed to the referee. Two points were awarded to either side.

Limerick lost all their subsequent League engagements that year, to Galway (All-Ireland final, 1924), at Ballinacree, 3-4 to 3-1; to Cork at the Markets Field, 1-4 to 1-2; and again at the Markets Field, to Laois, 5-1 to 2-4. We jogged along in the League for the next couple of years without making any appreciable impact on the competition. Then, on October 9, 1927, we had a great win at Thurles when we beat the 1926 All-Ireland champions, Tipperary, 5-1 to 4-3, after a thrilling struggle. It was a surprise win, as we had never won a League game before. It was a surprise win, as we had never won a League game before.

November 12, beat Galway, 5-3 to 2-3.  
December 10, beat Clare, 6-3 to 2-3.  
1934  
March 25—Final at Limerick Gaelic Grounds, beat Dublin, 3-6 to 3-3.  
Limerick players: Mick Kennedy, captain; Bill O'Donoghue (Young Ireland), Paddy Scannlan, goal; Timmy Ryan, John Mackey, Mick Mackey, Mick Hickey (Ahaney), Ned Cregan (Newcastle West), Micky Cross (Cloughaun), Mick Ryan, Pat Ryan (Munroe), Jim Roche, Mick Sexton (Croom); Garrett Howard (Portroe), Christy O'Brien (Young Ireland Dublin), U.S.A. Tour—May 17, beat New York, 3-7 to 2-3.  
May 24, beat New York, 6-3 to 0-8.  
May 30, beat Massachusetts, 9-4 to 2-2.  
All-Ireland Championship—August 2, Munster Final, beat Tipperary, 3-5 to 4-3.  
August 15, All-Ireland Semi-Final, beat Galway, 4-9 to 2-4.  
September 6, All-Ireland Final, beat Kilkenny, 5-6 to 2-6.  
Limerick players—Paddy Scannlan, goal (Galway Gaels), Paddy Carroll (Eflin), Tommy McCarthy (Fedomore), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Paddy Coghessy (Fedomore), Peter Cregan (Croom), Timmy Ryan (Ahaney), Jim Roche (Croom), John Mackey (Ahaney), Mick Mackey, captain (Ahaney), Dick Stokes (U.C.D.), Ned Chawke (Grangah), Paddy Cook (Knockaney), (Ahaney), Jacky Power (do.), Sub., Tony Herbert (Ahaney).

The Shannoniders returned for one more National Hurling League success in the 1947-48 series. They drew with Kilkenny at the first meeting and beat them 2-8 to 1-7 in the replay at Croke Park on March 8, 1948.

The Limerick players on that occasion were—Paddy Collopy, goal (St. Patrick's); Jim Sadler (Young Ireland); Mick Herbert (Ahaney), Tom Cregan (Croom), Sean Herbert (Ahaney), Jacky Power, captain (Ahaney), Thomas O'Brien (Ahaney), Mick Ryan (Young Ireland), Paddy Fitzgerald (St. Patrick's), John Mulcahy (Cappamore), Dick Stokes (U.C.D.), Mick Dooley (South Liberties), Paddy Fitzgerald (Ahaney), Denis Flanagan (Knockaney), John Barry Shannon (Rovers).

Only once since did Limerick reach the final; on May 11, 1958, they lined up against a great Wexford side at Croke Park. It was a thrill-packed game which the Liffesiders won by a narrow margin, 5-7 to 4-8.

5-4 to 1-2.  
March 1, beat Cork, 3-6 to 4-2.  
March 22, beat Kilkenny, 6-1 to 1-2.  
April 5, final, at Croke Park, beat Dublin, 7-2 to 4-4.  
Limerick players—Timmy Ryan, captain; Jacky Power, John Mackey, Mick Mackey, Jimmy Close (Ahaney); Tom Shiney, goal; Tommy McCarthy, Paddy Coghessy, Dave Coghessy (Fedomore), Paddy Carroll (Eflin), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Micky Cross (Cloughaun), Garrett Howard (Portroe), Jim Roche (Croom), Paddy McMahon (Kildimo).  
U.S.A. Tour—May 17, beat New York, 3-7 to 2-3.  
May 24, beat New York, 6-3 to 0-8.  
May 30, beat Massachusetts, 9-4 to 2-2.  
All-Ireland Championship—August 2, Munster Final, beat Tipperary, 3-5 to 4-3.  
August 15, All-Ireland Semi-Final, beat Galway, 4-9 to 2-4.  
September 6, All-Ireland Final, beat Kilkenny, 5-6 to 2-6.  
Limerick players—Paddy Scannlan, goal (Galway Gaels), Paddy Carroll (Eflin), Tommy McCarthy (Fedomore), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Paddy Coghessy (Fedomore), Peter Coghessy (Fedomore), Timmy Ryan (Ahaney), Jim Roche (Croom), John Mackey (Ahaney), Mick Mackey, captain (Ahaney), Dick Stokes (U.C.D.), Ned Chawke (Grangah), Paddy Cook (Knockaney), (Ahaney), Jacky Power (do.), Sub., Tony Herbert (Ahaney).

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### Won All-Ireland again

That great Limerick combination were to win another All-Ireland senior hurling title when they returned in 1940 for a surprise success. They beat Cork in a great replay to win the Munster crown; overcame Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final; and on September 1, 1940, at Croke Park, took the Blue Riband from Kilkenny, 3-7 to 1-7.

The Limerick players that day were—Paddy Scannlan, goal (Liam Mellows), Jim McCarthy (Fenomagh), Mick Hickey (Ahaney), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Tommy Cook (Knockaney), Paddy Coghessy (Fedomore), Peter Cregan (Croom), Timmy Ryan (Ahaney), Jim Roche (Croom), John Mackey (Ahaney), Mick Mackey, captain (Ahaney), Dick Stokes (U.C.D.), Ned Chawke (Grangah), Paddy Cook (Knockaney), (Ahaney), Jacky Power (do.), Sub., Tony Herbert (Ahaney).

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### Second change

The selectors are unlikely to all these positions until shortly before the game on Sunday. In view of the possibility of Tony Roche being also anxious to assist his club, Blackrock, in their South Limerick junior hurling clash with Bruff at Kilmallock, three extra names have been added to the list of substitutes, which now reads: Jim Heelan (Kilmallock), Martin Rainford (Ahaney), Frank Costelloe (Banogue), a County minor of a few years ago, now figuring stoutly with Emmets; Eamonn Cregan (Cloughaun), captain of our minor hurling side in the recent All-Ireland Final; Tony Roche (Blackrock), Michael Deegan (Monaghan), Larry Cross (St. Patrick's), and Pat Connolly (Pallasgreen), another county minor of a few seasons ago, now a teacher in the Midland.

The team travels by train on Sunday morning. They will want a loosener after the journey, so they should look out for next Sunday. The contestants are Dromcollogher and Adare and are on the pitch a few minutes before the official starting time for a puck about. They have the winning of this game, and if every member of the side goes into the fray with heart, hand and head in unison, victory should come to the green-and-white.

### Football side to play Kilkenny

We have Kilkenny footballers as visitors to Limerick Gaelic Grounds on Sunday week, in the opening tie of the National Football League, and the team for this assignment is—

Pat Lynch (Cloughaun), goal; John Meade (Ballylanders), Timmy Wolfe (Ahaney), Seamus Cox (Old Christians), East Fitzgibbon (Ballysteen), Tony Fitzgerald (Ballysteen), Jack Quinlan (Cloughaun), John Aherne (Clan na Gael, Dublin), John Hartnett (Ballysteen), Bernie Hartigan (Old Christians), Tom Meaney (Treaty Sarsfields), Tommy Carrig (Ballysteen), Joe Dawson (Treaty Sarsfields), Moss Quane (Anglesboro), Jack Kelly (Newcastle West), Reserves—Dave Quirk (Oola), Kieran Bourke (Oola), Seamus Shatter (Treaty Sarsfields), Maurice O'Connor (Treaty Sarsfields), Sean Quilty (Croom).

During the score session he spent in top-class hurling, he made many friends on and off the field, for he was a very likable character, simple going and easy to get on with, who won the respect and admiration of all he came in contact with. A true Gael in every sense of the term, although entirely unpretentious, he will be missed by his death, a true exponent—honest and sincere in all his actions.

San agus Beannach gaigh go leir, a Chuid Gaelchael!

### Vale!

The sudden and untimely passing of Anthony Meade, Gaeldom last week. Thirty years ago or more, Anthony was one of our most popular hurling stars. A leading light in probably the greatest team ever to wear the horizontal bars of green and white, he won with Cloughaun the 1922 county hurling crown, after a tough fight with the leading teams of city and county, in a period that was unquestionably the heyday of club hurling by the Shannon.

Shortly afterwards, the Ahaney club was formed and it was only natural that Anthony should throw his lot in with them. He was very prominent in the formative Ahaney days, and there, wearing the veteran stage of the time was to help them to victory in five finals between 1931 and 1938, when he retired—a splendid record of achievement considering that he had appeared in the Castleconnell colours for twenty years earlier.

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San agus Beannach gaigh go leir, a Chuid Gaelchael!

### A great side

The Limerick players that day were: P. Scannlan, D. O'Malley, John O'Dowd, Timmy Ryan, P. Joyce, John Mackey, M. Ryan, M. Fitzgibbon, M. Quinlan, J. Roche, Ned Cregan, Micky Cross, W. O'Donoghue, J. Ryan and M. Geary.

Limerick won their next two games, both played at the Gaelic Grounds. They beat Offaly 7-2 to 3-3, and Clare 4-2 to 2-2. Galway, meanwhile, Tipperary and lost a point somewhere else along the road, with the result that Limerick and Tipperary qualified for the section final played at the place at Limerick Gaelic Grounds on March 5, 1933. Limerick had a commanding win that day, 3-2 to 1-1.

The Shannoniders had a qualified for their first National Hurling League final, in which they opposed All-Ireland title-holders Kilkenny at Nowlan Park on August 9, 1933. Limerick opened in whirlwind fashion, but forward work was faulty and they lost some golden chances. For 20 minutes they were in contact with the Mick O'Connell, who was playing a great game, fell down injured and Limerick were never the same afterwards. The Shannoniders forged in front by the interval, 1-4 to 1-0, and with a polished display of scientific hurling in the second moiety went on to win, 3-8 to 1-3. The teams were—

Kilkenny—J. Dermody, goal; P. Larkin, P. O'Reilly, James Grace, Paddy Phelan, Paddy Byrne, J. Carroll, Eddie Byrne, Lory Meaney, J. Walsh, Martin Power, T. Leahy, Dan Dunne, Matty Power, J. Fitzpatrick.

Limerick—P. Scannlan, goal; Timmy Ryan, capt.; Mick Mackey, John Mackey, D. O'Malley, M. Quinlan, M. Ryan, M. Fitzgibbon, P. Coghessy, D. Coghessy, McCarthy, M. Cross, E. Cregan, C. O'Brien, M. Hough.

### Victorious XV

Limerick players: Timmy Ryan, captain; Paddy Scannlan (goal); John Mackey, Mick Mackey, Jimmy Close (Ahaney); Ned Cregan (Newcastle West), Tommy McCarthy, Paddy Coghessy (Fedomore); Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Micky Cross (Cloughaun), Garrett Howard (Portroe), Mick Ryan (Munroe), Jim Roche, Jacky O'Connell (Croom), Paddy McMahon (Kildimo), Micky Cross (Cloughaun).

Thomond Feis, May 19, beat Clare, 6-7 to 4-3. June 16, beat Tipperary, 4-7 to 1-5.  
Ward Cup (in London), June 10, beat Dublin, 6-5 to 3-1.  
Newport Church Tournament, July 7, beat Kilkenny, 9-7 to 6-2.  
Munster Championship, July 28, beat Cork, 3-12 to 2-3. August 11, beat Tipperary, 6-5 to 1-4.  
All-Ireland Final, September 1, lost to Kilkenny, 2-4 to 2-5.  
National League—October 6, beat Laois, 6-3 to 3-1.  
October 20, beat Clare, 6-4 to 1-1.  
November 3, beat Waterford, 3-6 to 0-5.  
December 1, drew Tipperary, 3-3 to 3-3.  
1937  
February 2, beat Galway, 7-4 to 2-2.  
March 24, drew with Cork, 2-7 to 3-4.  
April 28, beat Dublin, 5-7 to 4-1-4.  
May 12, beat Kilkenny, 1-6 to 1-4.  
June 23, final at Portloughis, beat Laois, 6-6 to 2-2.

### Another big win

April 18, final, at Limerick Gaelic Grounds, beat Cork, 11-6 to 5-1.  
Limerick players—Mick Mackey, capt.; Paddy Scannlan, goal; Jacky Power, Timmy Ryan, Dan Givens (Ahaney), Paddy Carroll (Eflin), Tom McCarthy, Paddy Coghessy, Dave Coghessy (Fedomore), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Micky Cross (Cloughaun), Jim Roche (Croom), Paddy McMahon (Kildimo), Jim McCarthy (Fenomagh).

Ward Cup (in London)—May 17, beat Kilkenny, 3-5 to 0-5.  
Thomond Feis—May 2, beat Tipperary, 5-6 to 1-2.  
June 20, beat Clare, 6-2 to 1-2.  
Munster Championship—May 23, beat Clare, 5-4 to 4-1.  
July 4, beat Waterford, 3-4 to 3-2.  
July 25, lost to Tipperary, 4-3 to 6-3.  
National Hurling League—October 24, beat Waterford, 5-5 to 4-1.  
November 7, beat Cork, 3-3 to 3-2.  
1938  
February 6, beat Clare, 3-3 to 1-3.  
April 3, beat Kilkenny, 5-4 to 1-2.  
April 24, final, at Thurles. Limerick players—Mick Mackey, capt.; Jacky Power, Timmy Ryan, John Mackey, Dan Givens (Ahaney), Paddy Scannlan, goal (Galway Gaels), Maurice Power (Old Pallas), Tommy McCarthy, Paddy Coghessy (Fedomore), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Paddy

### Limerick team for Sunday next

Reviewing our team for next Sunday's engagement at Croke Park with Dublin, who will include at least a couple of the lads who won with such gusto a terrific All-Ireland senior football crown last week-end, we must feel that we go into the contest with an excellent chance of success, for our team is a right good one, well balanced and with confidence in its ability to make the welkin ring in this League campaign.

Starting off with Jim Hogan in goal, all will agree we score here with the best net minder in Munster at the moment. On any rating of 1958 hurling he must get the vote as tops in the South, and we have no worries in this regard. Behind a solid defence he could prove an inspiration to any side.

I think John McDonagh is in his best position as right corner back, and I feel he will fulfil the promise of his minor days and relive the hour of Croke Park glory when he collected an All-Ireland minor medal. Sound and dependable, the lad from Clino should enhance his

### Both codes

The only player now wearing the county jersey in both senior codes is Bernie Hartigan, nephew of one of the best scoring mid-fielders ever to wear the green and white, the late Paddy Hartigan, who is also a top class athlete, should be near peak form, and we look to him for some inspiring scores.

In a new berth as full forward we have the Eflin lad Tommy Bluet, who was a very successful defender before shifting to the attack, where he proved an immedi-

### South Board

KILMALLOCK  
J.H.C.:  
BLACKROCK v. BRUFF  
At 3 p.m.

### East Board

CAHERCONLISH  
DOON v. S. LIBERTIES  
2.15 (S.T.). Referee, D. Barrett.

FEDAMORE v. SOUTH LIBERTIES  
3 p.m. Referee, D. Barrett.

MURROE v. KNOCKANEY  
4.15 p.m. Referee, B. Crehan.

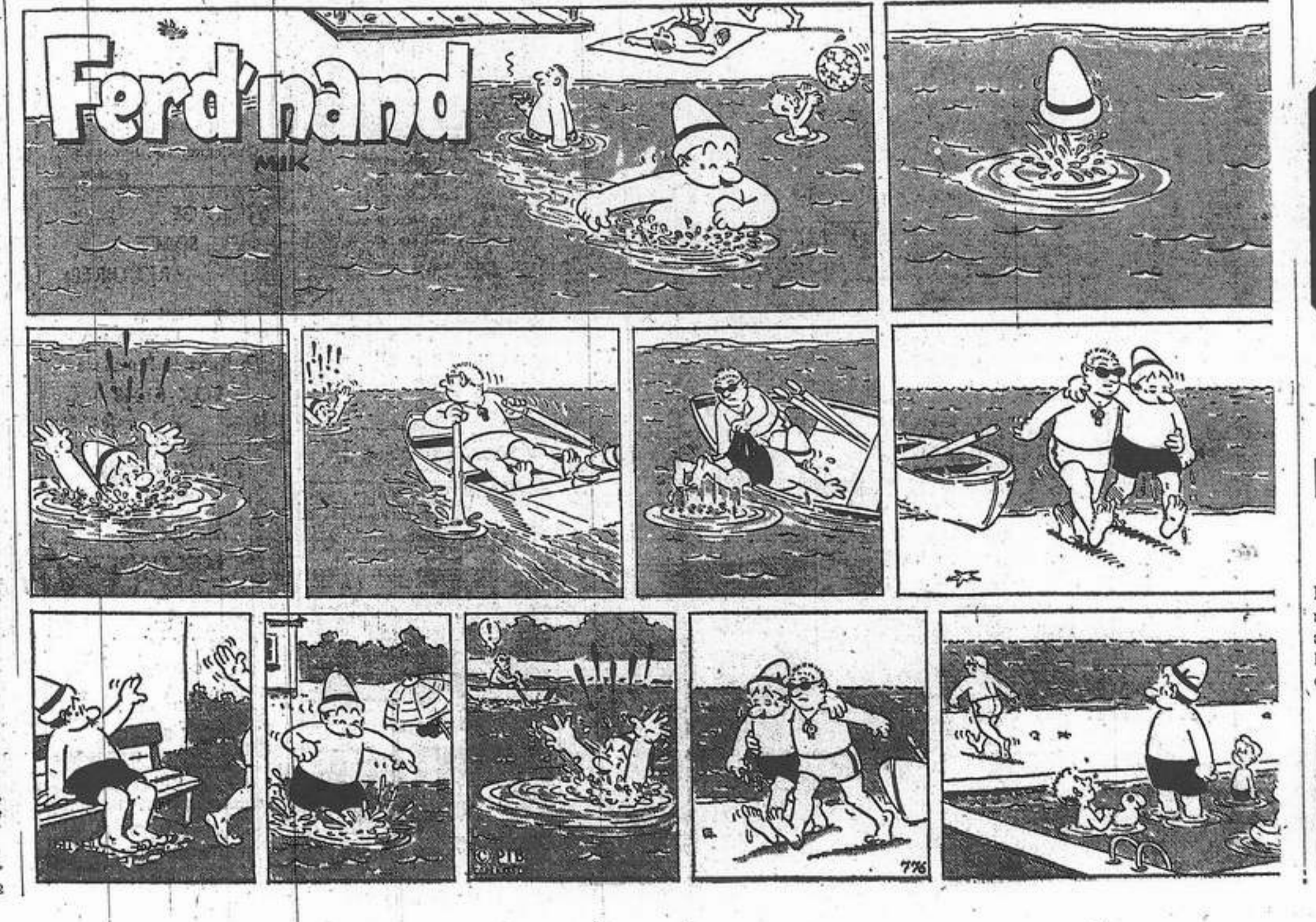
### Remarkable record

The same teams subsequently met in the 1933 All-Ireland Final, on which occasion a record for attendance at a sporting fixture in Ireland was smashed. It was a magnificent game in keeping with the great day, and Johnny Dunne's famous goal, the only one of that exciting evening put Kilkenny on the high road to a 1-7 to 0-6 victory.

In the fifty-five months following that match, Limerick hurlers played a grand total of sixty-five games—in Ireland, Britain and America—against all the great teams of the period. They won fifty-eight of these games, were held to a draw on four occasions and only lost three times in all that spell; completing a record that may never be equalled, let alone surpassed, by a hurling combination.

Their remarkable run of successes included five National Hurling League titles in a row—a magnificent achievement no other team has succeeded in emulating. On the eve of another National League campaign, a complete list of that wonderful victory march will recall happy memories to all admirers of that grand team and provide for the younger Gaels an inspiring reminder of the glory the county won during those great years of Limerick hurling grandeur.

1933 National Hurling League  
October 15, beat Tipperary, 2-7 to 1-4.  
October 29, beat Offaly, 9-2



## PER CENT

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