

SPORT

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GAA chiefs planning fixtures

HURLING

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LIMERICK GAA chiefs were to meet this Monday night to plan the run-in to the county's All-Ireland semi-final appearance next month.

As well as the August 18 All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final in Croke Park, County Bard officials were looking to confirm a date and venue for the replayed Munster minor final between Limerick and Waterford.

The replay of the U-18 decider was initially planned for Tuesday July 23 but Limerick had sought that the replay was brought forward by 24-hours to Monday evening.

The extra day would allow for better preparation for the provincial final losing side as they would be in All-Ireland quarter-final action the following weekend against Antrim.

The venue for the minor replay was also a source for debate with Limerick claiming that Waterford owned Limerick a game.

Aside from last Sunday's Munster final, which was determined by the senior final venue, when the sides last met at minor level the contest was played in Waterford's Walsh Park in 2011.

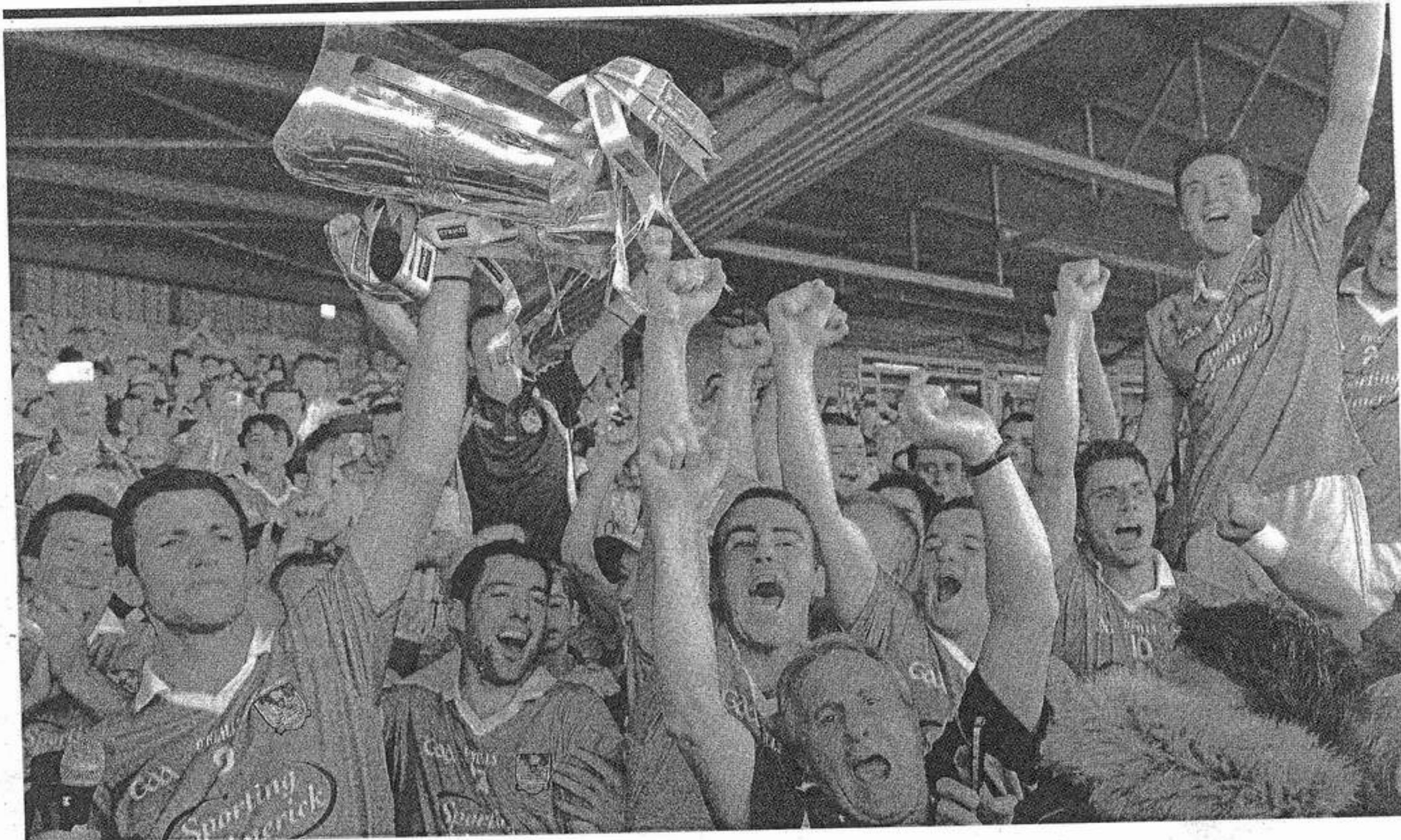
However, the Munster Council were most likely to schedule the replay for Semple Stadium in Thurles.

Another fall-out from the senior success on Sunday are potential changes to local club championship games.

The final round of group games in the senior and intermediate club hurling championships are scheduled for the August Bank Holiday weekend, August 1-4.

The games are likely to go ahead but could be played early in the weekend to allow extra time for inter-county preparations.

On the weekend of August 9-11 is the next round of SFC and IFC but clubs with inter-county hurlers are unlikely to be asked to play.



Limerick captain Donal O'Grady hoists the Munster senior hurling championship trophy aloft following the side's final victory over Cork at the Gaelic Grounds

O'BRIEN FACES ANXIOUS WAIT

Wing back Paudie O'Brien awaiting scan results on injured leg

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LIMERICK hurling defender Paudie O'Brien faces an anxious wait to determine the extent of the leg injury he sustained in Sunday's historic Munster SHC win.

The wing back was forced off injured during the second half of the nine point win over Cork in the Gaelic Grounds.

The team's vice-captain is now awaiting results of a scan on the leg injury and this Monday was on crutches.

It is understood that O'Brien hasn't sustained any broken bones but damage to ligaments would put the defender in a race against time for the All-Ireland semi-final.

O'Brien was also involved in the first half sending off of Patrick Horgan. The Cork attacker was dismissed for a wild pull on the Limerick man under a dropping ball.

Another carrying a slight knock out of the Munster final is sub Conor Allis.

The Croom man also picked up a slight leg injury but should be ok with a period of rest.

Limerick's first appearance in the last four of the

All-Ireland senior hurling championship since 2009 will take place on August 18 in Croke Park.

Limerick will have to wait until the quarter-finals are played on Sunday June 28 to confirm their opposition for the last four game.

Potential opponents for John Allen's side are Kilkenny, Galway or Clare. If Kilkenny and Galway are the quarter-finals winners, it will be a straight draw to determine the pairings for semi-finalists Limerick and Dublin. As provincial winners, Limerick and Dublin will be kept apart in the semi-finals.

Where possible teams

that have already met in the championship would be kept apart at the semi-final stage. Therefore if Kilkenny and Clare were to win the respective quarter-finals, Limerick would be played Kilkenny next month.

Regardless of the opposition the semi-final will take place in Croke Park on August 18 and the game will be televised live on RTE television.

Limerick full forward Declan Hannon is now hoping that his side can now build on the momentum of the first Munster title since 1996.

"Look at the scenes at the final whistle - it just showed how much it meant to people,

it was sheer elation," he said. Hannon is one of just two members of the 2011 Munster U-21 winning teams to start Sunday's senior final.

"It's been 16 or 17 years waiting to win Munster - this is just my third year on the panel but the likes of Niall (Moran) and Donal O'Grady are playing 10 or 12 years," explained Hannon, who scored eight points.

"The place was just unreal at the final whistle. I met Niall Moran and he was nearly in tears - they were just unbelievable scenes," said the former Ardscoil Ris star hurler.

He added: "We are just absolutely delighted."