

# LeaderSport

Sports Editor: Steven Miller E-mail: sport@limerickleader.ie Phone: 061-214514 COUNTY EDITION

## RYAN LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

Shock as Limerick minor hurling boss Brian Ryan overlooked **P2-3**



In the picture: the Limerick camogie team celebrate their All Ireland final win over Kilkenny in Croke Park on Sunday. See pages 3,4 and 5 for more as well as centre-page poster

## No Limerick switch for Kinnerk

**JEROME O'CONNELL**  
Email: jocConnell@limerickleader.ie  
Twitter: @JeromeSport

DESPITE leaving his role as Clare senior hurling coach Paul Kinnerk won't be linking up with TJ Ryan's Limerick hurling management. This Wednesday it was confirmed that the much lauded Kinnerk was leaving

Davy Fitzgerald's Clare hurling management. However, despite tentative enquires from Limerick officials, it is understood that Kinnerk is taking a year out of inter-county coaching and therefore isn't available to join up with any Limerick county team. Just last weekend Monealeen club-man Kinnerk

coached the Clare U-21 hurlers to a third successive All-Ireland U-21 championship. Indeed with that group of players, Kinnerk has won eight major trophies (minor and U-21 level) under the joint-management of Donal Moloney and Gerry O'Connor. The former Limerick senior footballer was seen

as a major part of Clare's All-Ireland SHC success this time last year but departed Fitzgerald's Banner back room team this week along with physical trainer, Joe O'Connor (Rathkeale native) and selector Mike Deegan (Cratloe). Twenty-eight year old Kinnerk has continued to play club football with Mo-

naleen as his coaching responsibilities increased in recent years. In 2013 Kinnerk, a Shannon based secondary school teacher, actually combined playing senior football with the Maurice Horan managed Limerick, while coaching the Clare senior and U-21 hurling teams.

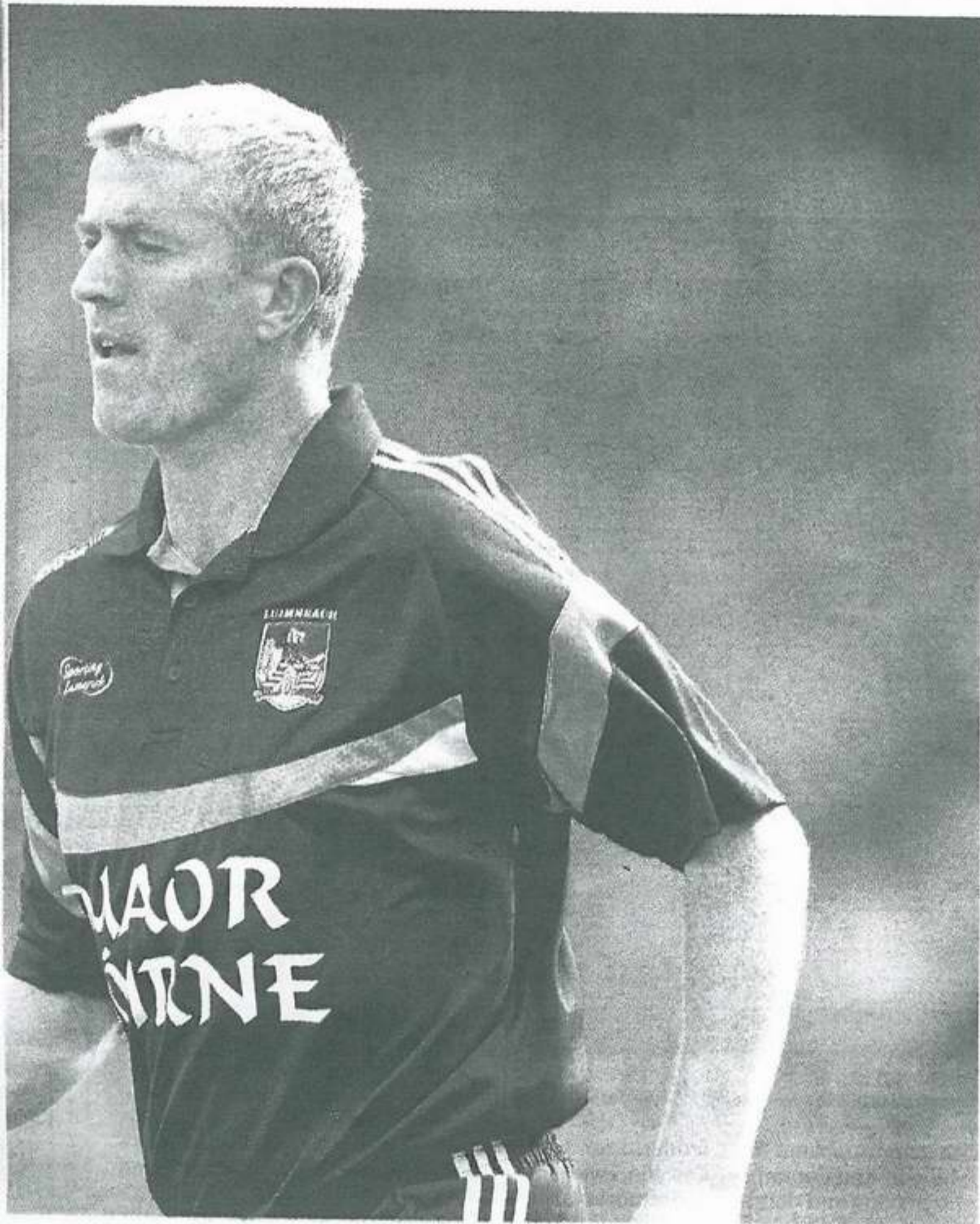
**Limerick GAA Club Championships**

**No quarter asked or given**

Club leads for same trophy as in 2013

**INSIDE: 12-PAGE GAA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPLEMENT**





Trading places: John Kiely (main pic) is set to be appointed as the new Limerick U-21 hurling manager for 2015 while Leo O'Connor (left) will be in charge of the minors; Brian Ryan (above left) has been left out in the cold despite his desire to stay in charge of the minor team for another season

## Brian Ryan denied wish to remain as minor manager

**JEROME O'CONNELL**  
Email: joconnell@limerickleader.ie  
Twitter: @JeromeSport

BRIAN Ryan has confirmed to LeaderSport that he was interested in continuing as Limerick minor hurling manager.

The South Liberties man told LeaderSport last Sunday that while he wished to remain in his minor management, he was open to a role at U-21 level to continue working with the players that won the last two Munster minor championships.

"I have spoken to the County Board and made my intentions known that I would like to stay on as minor manager," confirmed Brian Ryan last Sunday.

Ryan's two-year tenure came to an end with the Croke Park defeat. It is understood that he was hoping

to get another two-year term.

"I have done a lot of work with many of the players and we had 14 players that are underage again next season," he said.

Within 24-hours he was gone from the inter-county scene when overlooked for the minor and U-21 jobs.

The decision not to give Ryan as role was made at an officer meeting of Limerick GAA and will be proposed to clubs at this Thursday's full County Board meeting.

Last Thursday, the outgoing minor hurling manager had his end of season review, where he made his intentions known about his desire to remain at the helm.

This Monday night he received a phonecall from Limerick GAA secretary Mike O'Riordan to confirm that he wouldn't be involved for 2015.

Ryan said that his departure won't take away from "a wonderful two years" as manager of the minors.

"I had a wonderful two years as manager and indeed I have had nearly 20 years involvement with Limerick stretching all the way back to 1997," said Ryan.

"I am so grateful to everyone that helped over the last two years," said Ryan, who has served as Limerick senior hurling selector alongside both Tom Ryan and Justin McCarthy.

"I would like to thank all the players over the last two years - they are wonderful hurlers and characters. It is also important to thank the selectors and back room staff and the parents for all their help."

He added: "I would like to wish the new management the best of luck".

## Joe Quaid finally gets his Croke Park All-Ireland dream

**JEROME O'CONNELL**  
Email: joconnell@limerickleader.ie  
Twitter: @JeromeSport

JOE Quaid lost two All-Ireland senior hurling finals in Croke Park and lost the camogie decider last season at GAA Headquarters but last Sunday he declared 'dreams do come true'.

"People say that dreams don't come true but they did today," said a beaming Limerick camogie manager pitch side as his team celebrated in Croke Park.

"This is brilliant - I had said it during the week that I had never seen anybody climb the steps of the Hogan Stand from Limerick but to see it there from that bunch of girls is just unbelievable," said a hoarse Quaid, who managed Limerick to an All-Ireland U-16 hurling win two years ago.

"The emotion that poured out at the final whistle was after two years of hard work under me and a lot of hard work before that," said the former Limerick hurling goalkeeper.

"This is unbelievable - three Limerick teams and three Kilkenny teams in Croke Park this year and we finally get one over on them - you don't beat Kilkenny in Croke Park that easy," he said in reference to the senior and minor hurling battles of recent weeks.

"It was a complete squad performance, it wasn't even a team performance - absolutely brilliant."

The manager said that the experience of last season stood to his side.

"We didn't really panic because we were comfortable - we have them a couple of handy scores from frees and they never really threatened our goal - I don't think Sile (Moynihan) had a save to make. We never really put them away and you could probably put them down to the fear of the finishing line. We did dip a bit but you will get peaks and troughs in a match. We probably left them back into it in the second half as well," he explained.

"If had said two years ago that we would have had three All Irelands in the one year, we would have been laughed off the face of the earth but work has been done and the work is been put in at underage - some of those girls are picking up their third All Ireland medal this year and that



Final delight: The Limerick camogie subs rush onto the field at the final whistle of Sunday's All Ireland intermediate final in Croke Park. Below - Limerick manager Joe Quaid. See more on Pages 4 and 5

is unbelievable."

Many of the stars of the win were minors this season.

"They are unbelievable - their mental strength was just phenomenal, the likes of Caoimhe (Costello), Rebecca Delee, Deborah Murphy and Karen O'Leary when she came on," said the manager, who had selectors in Ger Sheehy, Patsy Hall, Willie Banks, Ann Herbert and Adrian O'Sullivan.

Quaid praised all who have worked to ensure the young talent is now available to the adult set-up.

"There is an awful lot of work been done underage in Limerick. I would urge the public and the clubs to back their own clubs and the county because it costs money to get where we are today and believe me the girls don't look for a whole pile. All

they get is the basics. I would like to thank the camogie County Board because anything we looked for off them they have given to us - they backed us to the hilt," stressed the Murroe-Boher clubman.

Quaid make some key changes to his line-up before the game and plaid tribute to the duo who he switched from attack to midfield roles.

"Moving Caoimhe (Costello) and Niamh (Mulcahy) to midfield was a bit of a gamble but they are two superb hurlers and they covered from back to front all day. The one thing we had this year was a panel. We were picking from 50 today - there are girls that weren't on the bench today that deserve a huge amount of credit as well. Everyone of them 50 has an All-Ireland medal for Limerick," outlined Quaid.





## GAA - ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL

# Glory days for Limerick girls

**JEROME O'CONNELL**

IN CROKE PARK

joconnell@limerickleader.ie  
@JeromeSport

LIMERICK	1-12
KILKENNY	0-10

AN hour after the final whistle in Croke Park the Limerick players were still celebrating on the Cusack Stand sidelines and in no rush to leave the scene of their triumph.

The outpouring of emotion as captain Fiona Hickey lifted the Jack McGrath Cup on the steps of the Hogan Stand told the story.

Just twelve months previous the scenes were very different as Limerick suffered final heartbreak against Galway.

But this time round there was no denying Limerick.

The win for the Joe Quaid managed side ensures that Limerick win promotion to the senior championship next season.

Limerick have never won the senior camogie championship and this was their third success in the second tier competition with previous wins in 1996 and 2007.

Both those previous wins came outside of Croke Park, but Limerick have tasted championship success in Croke Park on two previous occasions - the junior camogie championship wins of 1977 and 1995.

Indeed just like last Sunday, the win over 1995 came twelve months after Limerick have lost the decider the previous year.

Last Sunday's thrilling final win, brought an end to a remarkable year for Limerick camogie.

2014 has seen Limerick return to the top division in the league, while silverware was won in a first ever minor A championship and the juniors won both league and championship honours.

Indeed 11 of the Limerick panel of 30 were part of that successful minor panel, which beat Cork in their final.

Limerick, who beat Kildare, Antrim, Galway, Tipperary and Waterford enroute to Croke Park, went into this final as favourites and led 1-5 to 0-6 at half time after playing into the wind.

It was Kilkenny captain Mags Fennelly that had the



Happy days: the Limerick camogie team (above) celebrate after their All Ireland intermediate final win over Kilkenny in Croke Park; below - captain Fiona Hickey lifts the trophy

opening score of the game but two Niamh Mulcahy frees had Limerick settled and ahead by the fifth minute.

Aoife Sheehan had a brief glimpse of goal but the chance was smothered by the

Kilkenny defence.

Mulcahy had a third free to increase the Limerick lead before Mary O'Callaghan had the first Shannonside point from play in the 14th minute for a 0-4 to 0-2 advantage.

With usual attackers Niamh Mulcahy and Caoimhe Costello playing and dominating midfield and the half back trio of Katie Campbell, Sarah Carey and Claire Mulcahy on top Limerick were beginning to dominate.

Mulcahy's fourth free maintained the lead before the crucial score of the half came in the 19th minute.

Costello and Mairead Fitzgerald created the opening up the left wing and when the ball was crossed into the goalmouth Deborah Murphy kept her composure to crash the ball to the Hill 16 net for a 1-5 to 0-3 lead.

Murphy had an outstanding first half when given a free role across the half forward line to deny Kilkenny momentum when backed by the wind.

But that was it for Limerick in the half and they were to go the next 11-minutes without a score. Bit by bit Kilkenny's found their feet and had the last three scores of the first half, all frees, after going through their own barren spell. That left it 1-5 to 0-6 to Limerick at half time.

It was a half that saw Limerick hit four wides and Kilkenny just one.

On the resumption Kilkenny looked to reduce the deficit and had three points from play in the opening 10-minutes.

The Limerick reply came

from minor star Caoimhe Costello. Twice she was at the end of moves to split the posts into the Davin End Stand.

Those early scores left it 1-7 to 0-9 with 20-minutes to play.

It was now Limerick showed all the experience of last year. The substitutions introduced made impacts while the switch of Niamh Mulcahy to the half forward line made her an instantly a more dangerous attacking threat.

The next three scores came the way of Limerick and the attack was now brimming with confidence as Mulcahy, and Rebecca Delee increased the lead to four points entering the final quarter.

The first of Mulcahy's three second half points from play was a wonderful team effort with Murphy playing a superb cross-field ball before Sinead McNamara popped a short pass to Mulcahy.

The run of scores from Limerick came despite hitting 10-wides over the course of the game. But it was a final quarter that Limerick dominated and Kilkenny were to score just once in the final 20-minutes. An Orla Hanrick free in the 47th minute of the game merely interrupted the Limerick flow.

Player of the Match Niamh Mulcahy had her third point of the half to stretch the lead in the 50th minute and then

another of the minor stars Delee registered her second to seal the win.

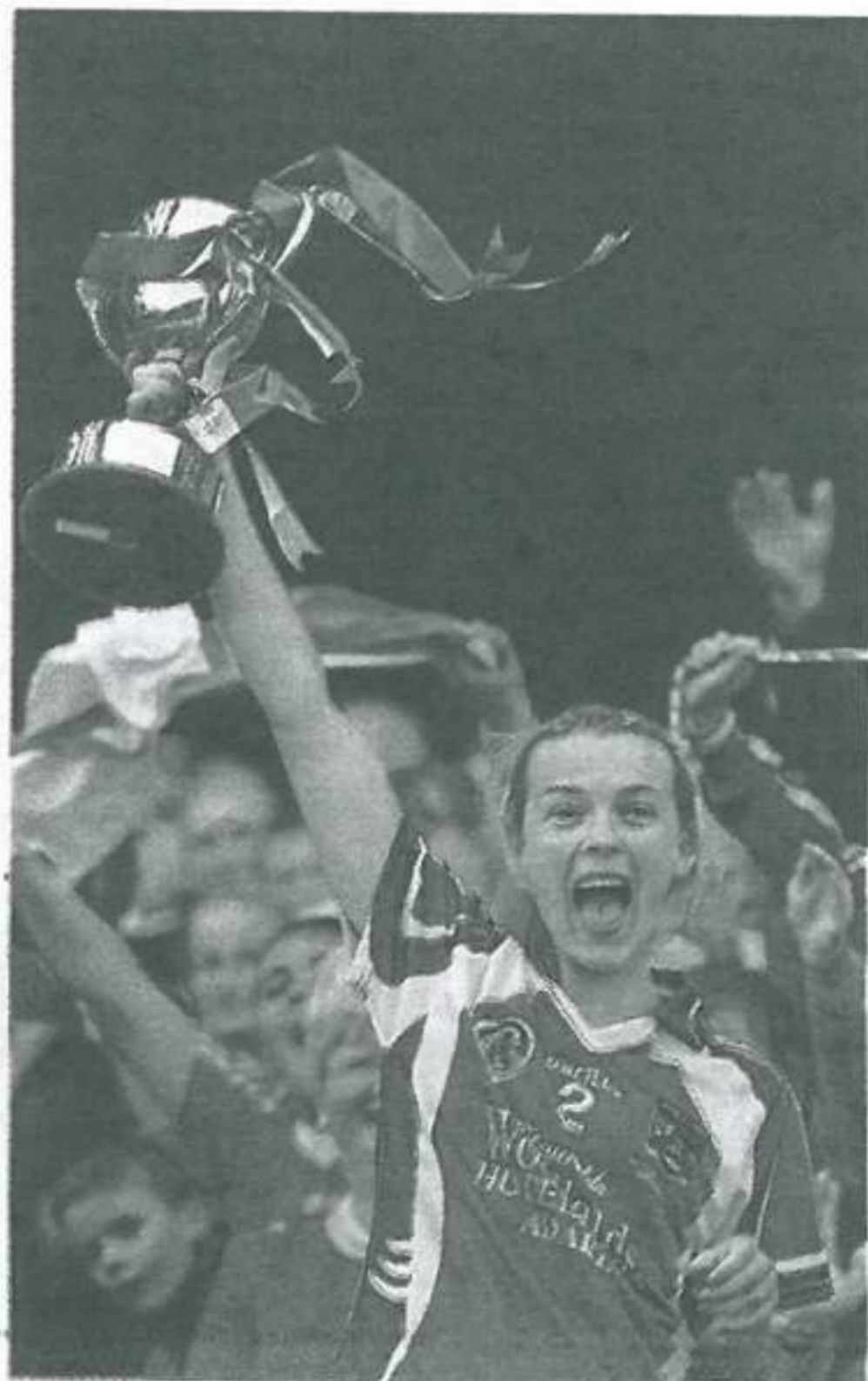
Limerick stood solid in the final minutes before the elation of the final whistle, which was greeted with Limerick You're a Lady blaring out over the Croke Park PA system.

**SCORERS:** Limerick: Niamh Mulcahy 0-7 (4frees), Deborah Murphy 1-0, Caoimhe Costello and Rebecca Costello 0-2 each, Mary O'Callaghan 0-1. Kilkenny: Orla Hanrick 0-5 (3frees), Mags Fennelly and Lydia Fitzpatrick 0-2 each, Catherine Foley (free) 0-1.

**LIMERICK:** Sile Moynihan (Ahane); Fiona Hickey (Granagh-Ballingarry), Michelle Casey (Killeedy), Judith Mulcahy (Ahane); Katie Campbell (Na Piarasigh), Sarah Carey (Granagh-Ballingarry), Claire Mulcahy (Ahane); Caoimhe Costello (Adare), Niamh Mulcahy (Ahane); Lorraine McCarthy (Bruff), Mary O'Callaghan (Bruff), Rebecca Delee (Newcastle West), Deborah Murphy (Knockaderry), Aoife Sheehan (Granagh-Ballingarry), Mairead Fitzgerald (Granagh-Ballingarry). **Subs:** Dymphna O'Brien (Killeedy) for Mairead Fitzgerald (h-t), Sinead McNamara (Na Piarasigh) for Lorraine McCarthy (h-t), Karen O'Leary (Newcastle West) for Mary O'Callaghan (43mins), Niamh Ryan (Bruff) for Deborah Murphy (59mins), Deirdre Fitzpatrick (Killeedy) for Aoife Sheehan (60mins). **Remaining panel:** Laura O'Neill (Na Piarasigh), Sarah Collins (Ballygran), Jane Wilson (Na Piarasigh), Leanne Browne (Newcastle West), Donna Mulcahy (Killeedy), Noreen Barry (Killeedy), Marguerita McCarthy (Ahane), Katie Hennessy (Ballygran), Tara Fitzgibbon (Ballygran), Muireann Creamer (Cappamore).

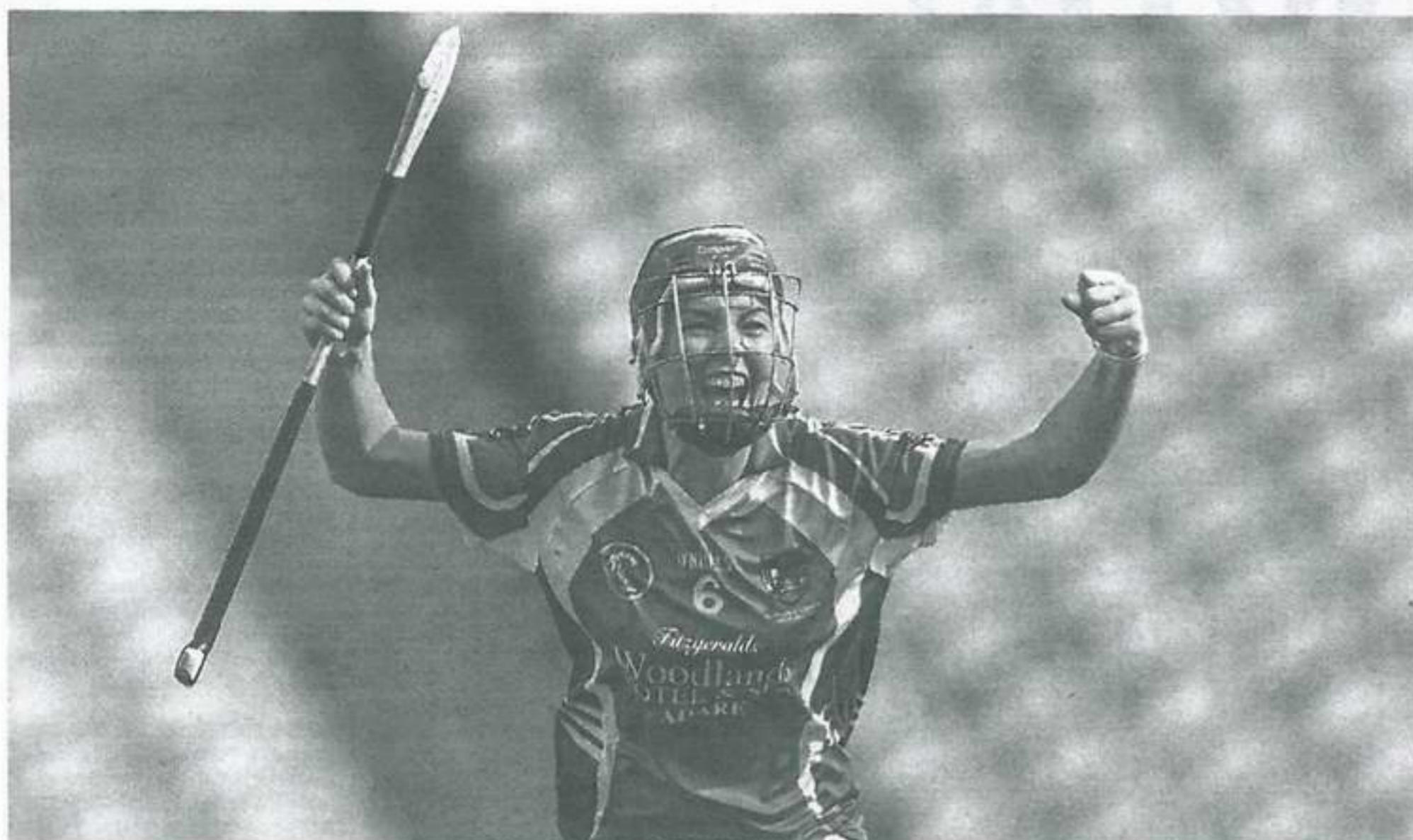
**KILKENNY:** Ann Marie Lennon; Edel Frisby, Catherine Foley, Therese Muldowney, Claire Aylward, Aine Fahey, Stacey Quirke, Megan Farrell, Mary O'Connell; Sarah Crowley, Anna Farrell, Laura Norris; Mags Fennelly, Orla Hanrick, Lydia Fitzpatrick. **Subs:** Aine Gannon for Laura Norris (h-t), Aine Kinsella for Stacey Quirke (49mins), Sarah Ann Quinlan for Orla Hanrick (51mins).

**REFEREE:** Ray Kelly (Kildare).





## GAA - ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL



That winning feeling: Limerick centre back Sarah Carey (above) celebrates at the final whistle; below - Rebecca Delee takes on the Kilkenny defence

# Captain gets lost in emotion of victory

**JEROME O'CONNELL**  
GAA Correspondent  
In Croke Park

**FIONA Hickey became just the third ever Limerick camogie captain to lift All-Ireland honours in Croke Park.**

And, the Granagh-Ballingarry defender can't remember the historic moment!

Hickey follows in the footsteps of Carrie Clancy (1977) and Helen Clifford (1995), who captained Limerick to junior championship wins

in GAA Headquarters.

But Hickey admits that accepting that Jack McGrath Cup from Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association, is a blur!

"I don't really remember it to be honest, it's all a blur - I had Aileen Lawlor in my ear telling me what to do and I needed that," recalled the Limerick captain outside the victorious dressing room beneath the Cusack Stand.

"Thank god we came out the right side. It's disbelief because I never thought I

would be here," he said with a broad smile.

"That was unbelievable. With about two or three minutes to go and we were five points up I was very emotional and I remember being very emotional last year with two or three minutes to go but it was just a totally different emotion - it was pure confidence and relief this year whereas last year it was 'this isn't happening'. Two polar opposites."

She continued: "I think there was a patch when we scored three points in a row and I was nearly getting emotional thinking about it but Kilkenny came back to score three points and I was brought back down to earth fairly lively! It was such a good feeling knowing that we were five points up and not much could have gone wrong at that stage - goals can happen but they didn't and we kept driving on."

What about lifting the winning trophy?

"I didn't think about it beforehand and I didn't even think about it at the time. We had it in our hands last Thursday at the captains day and I was looking at it and I just knew it would be mine. We have such potential and Limerick camogie is back where it should be back up senior and I just know that

the girls will drive it on next year and that they will compete at senior level," said a determined Hickey.

He added: "This is after capping off a perfect year for Limerick camogie."

Hickey felt that the 2013 final loss proved a valuable learning experience.

"We learned from last year's mistakes - the preparation was so different, everything rolled off to a tee. Coming up the night before was brilliant and thanks so much to Tommy Moran for that - we all nearly had sleep in our eyes getting off the bus last year."

At half time Limerick were two points up, but Hickey said that it was a content interval dressing room.

"We knew this year not to panic - we just said who wants it more and we knew we wanted it more and we showed that in the second half. We just said we won the first half, lets go out and win the second half. There was no panicking, I thought we were a bit panicky last year," she recalled.

"After winning the toss, things were going well and we were delighted to be play to play into the wind in the first half. That made a huge difference because we didn't get that last year," outlined the Limerick captain.

## Mulcahy: 'To win an All-Ireland in Croke Park is why you play camogie'

**JEROME O'CONNELL**  
Email: jconnell@limerickleader.ie  
Twitter: @JeromeSport

LIMERICK camogie star Niamh Mulcahy has revealed that a half-time pact inspired their All-Ireland victory.

The Player of the Match Mulcahy said the disappointment of losing the final last season was a key motivation.

"Last year the big thing was that everyone came off the field with regrets and we came in today (at half-time) knowing that we had more in us and we made a promise at half-time that no one was leaving with regrets," outlined Mulcahy, one of three Ahane sisters in the team in Croke Park.

"I don't think when you play sport there is no worst feeling than losing and losing in Croke Park was absolutely gutting. Subconsciously there was an element that the fear of failing was driving us on - we weren't coming off the field without winning," she said.

"To get the win is absolutely brilliant - the minute the final whistle went there was a moment of sheer relief. After losing last year, it took a few seconds to realise what we had achieved. We had set out at the start of the year to win this and then to hear that final whistle and to know that it has actually happens it turns to relation, happiness, joy."

She added: "To win an All Ireland in Croke Park is why you play camogie - it is your dream from when you are young. To finally achieve this is unbelievable for everyone in Limerick camogie - not just this panel of players".

Mulcahy scored seven points in the 1-12 to 0-10 final win over Kilkenny, but felt the first half goal was crucial.

"The goal was badly needed because they had been picking off points from play and we hadn't really got into a roll - the goal came at a crucial stage because if we hadn't got that and they tagged on a point or two

we could have gone in at half time having to chase the game and maybe an element of panic could have set in. Being two points up was a bonus because we knew ourselves that we hadn't played well," she said.

While Mulcahy is a survivor from the 2007 All-Ireland win, there are rising stars aplenty in this Limerick side.

Adare's Caoimhe Costello was one of three minors in the starting team in Croke Park. But her thoughts were with the panels' older members.

"Thank god they finally got the All-Ireland medal that they richly deserve - they have soldiered without any reward for the last 10-15 years and this is for those girls. Us minors are coming in when Limerick camogie is going brilliant and we were on a high from last year even though we lost - we have never experienced having to come back year after year to do the hard work and get no reward. Those girls deserve huge credit and they are the leaders all over the field," outlined Costello.

"It's been a magic year for Limerick - it's not every year we win a minor, a junior and this. This is what dreams are made of and why we play. The feeling inside in that dressing room is something to savour and something I will never forget as long as I play camogie and I am only 18 years and there are plenty years left in me but I don't think anything will top this," said the Adare teenager.

"I think the hurt of last year helped lots. Last year it was Croke Park, oh my god.... but this year it was a case of Croke Park is another field and we are going up to play a match and we have to get a result and nothing else mattered. It was tough out there because the field is a lot bigger than Adare or Mick Neville Park but Croke Park is where we wanted to be. I think no matter where the game was on we were going to come with a performance."



Star turn: Niamh Mulcahy, Limerick, receives the player of the match award from Patrick O'Brien, CEO, Liberty Insurance after the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final in Croke Park on Sunday