

Nov. 24th 2001



Furious Ryan 'laces' into Loughnane's autobiography

By JEROME O'CONNELL

TOM Ryan has labelled Ger Loughnane's infamous autobiography, *Raising The Banner*, 'a disgrace'.

The man that led Limerick to Croke Park finals in 1994 and '96 said that the top selling book sunk to a new low.

He has called for an investigation into comments made by Loughnane regarding Limerick corner back Steve McDonagh.

"The thing should be revisited in view of his comments about having contemplated flattening Stephen McDonogh in the tunnel coming out onto the pitch, in the 1995 Munster final".

In the John Scally written autobiography, the former Clare manager recalled that his side were first onto the field when the neighbours met in Thurles. Clare went on to win the game.

This was what Loughnane had to say:

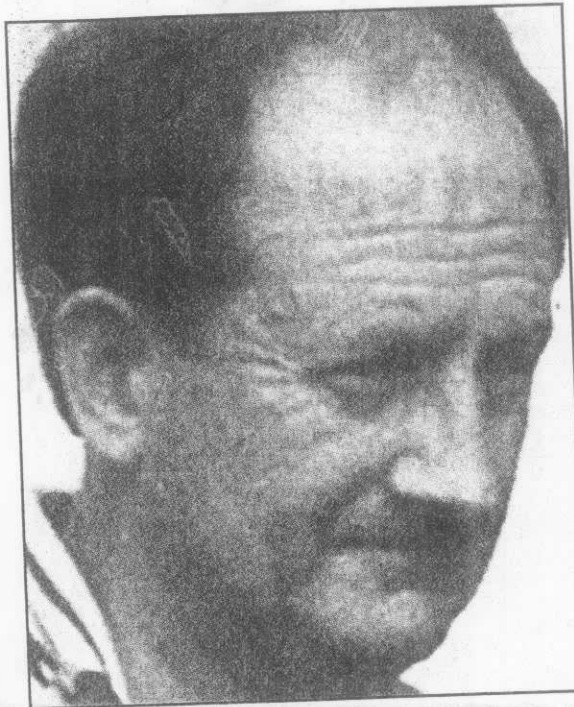
"I was standing at the end of the tunnel and as Limerick's Steve McDonogh was coming out something inside me said 'Will I flatten him?'. It would have been an absolutely crazy thing to do, I wanted something to show them (Limerick) that although they had all the noise from the supporters, by God we were going to take them on that day."

According to Tom Ryan, that was a declaration of intent.

"Those tactics have to be explained and when I see them in print it gives a chill up my spine. A contemplated exercise of thuggery, it is psychological anyway and I would be worried about people in that frame of mind as to the way they would send out a team. To think you had to contend with that kind of attitude and mentality in the opposing dressing room leaves me angry."

He now believes that the Clare frame of mind in their '95 meeting was to win at all costs.

"I think is of paramount importance that we ensure that the game of hurling never has to put up with such people again. I would be worried about Loughnane in charge of an inter county team."



Eamonn Cregan fares badly in the book

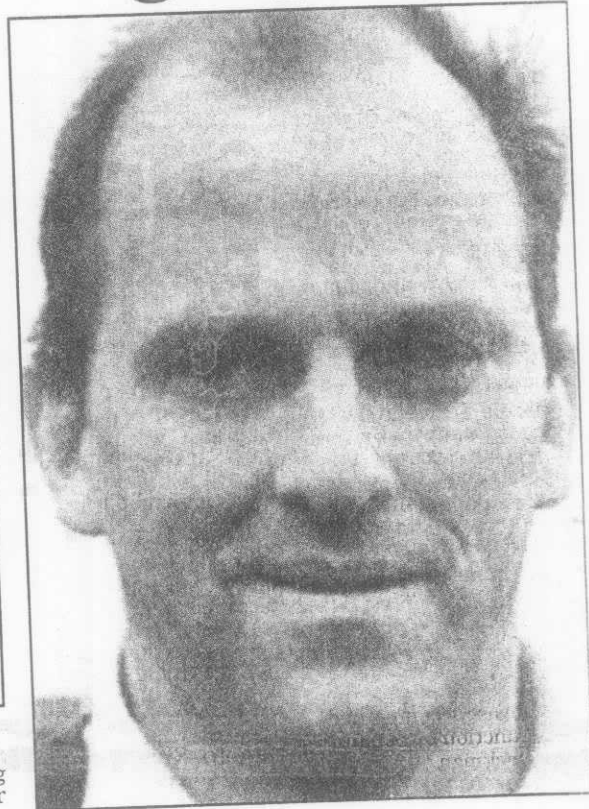
Also in the book Loughnane stated that Tom Ryan and Eamon Cregan, along with Jimmy Barry Murphy, were the only managers not to visit the Clare dressing room after being defeated.

"Whatever I am, I am not a hypocrite and I had nothing to say to Clare or Ger Loughnane after that game, and I had no busi-

ness in the Clare dressing room-I don't apologise for that",

The Ballybrown man also stood firm on the side of his successor, Eamon Cregan, claiming Loughnane's comments about him were nothing short of disgraceful.

To quote Loughnane's views on the controversy which surrounded Cre-



Loughnane under fire

gan's TV views on the 1997 All-Ireland final:

"A few years on, I really feel I should have tore into him much more strongly that night."

Back to Ryan" It is a personalised attack on Cregan and I think that it shows what you can say to sell books... those remarks were totally out of order. I have tremendous admiration for Cregan.

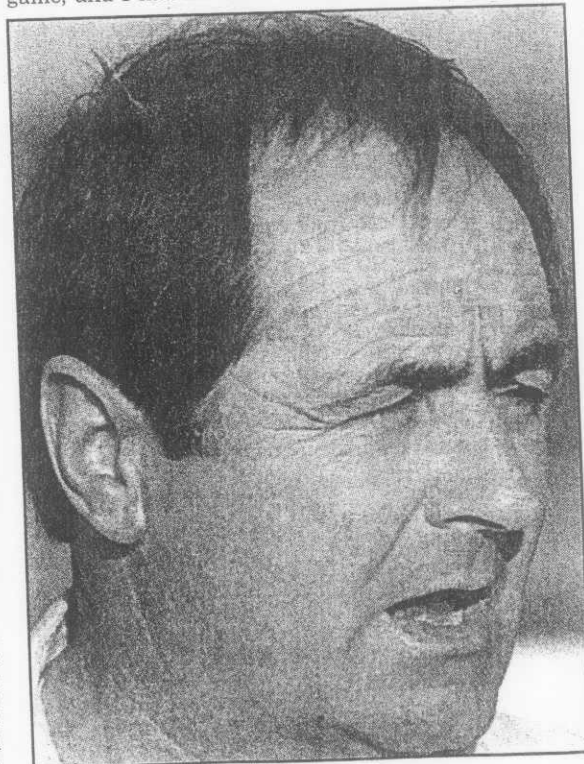
"I would have plenty to feel aggrieved about the '95 game. Firstly on decisions made by the referee, the actual tackling, the behaviour of the Clare team and the indecision of the referee, Johnny McDonnell.

"Where the decision came that day to award a penalty... it was absolutely outrageous and all of these points have been raised by me before and

people didn't listen. I hope they listen now, for the future of our game, for the credibility of our games and for the sportsmanship of our games in the future. I think we need to look at this book in a very serious way."

County Board Fixtures

Sunday: Junior chship final, Ballysteen Bruff, at Ballingarry, at 2
Junior A football chship final, Monagea Ahane, Askeaton at 2
East division SH cup final, Ballybricken v Muroe Boher, Caherconlish at 2.



Tom Ryan furious at Loughnane's book

Celebration time for U-21 hurlers

THE Limerick under-21 hurlers will fly back to a party in Adare this weekend to celebrate their achievement in having retained their Munster and All-Ireland crowns.

The 21s and senior hurlers are putting the finishing touches to their week long stay in the Gran Canaria.

Hartigan explains

