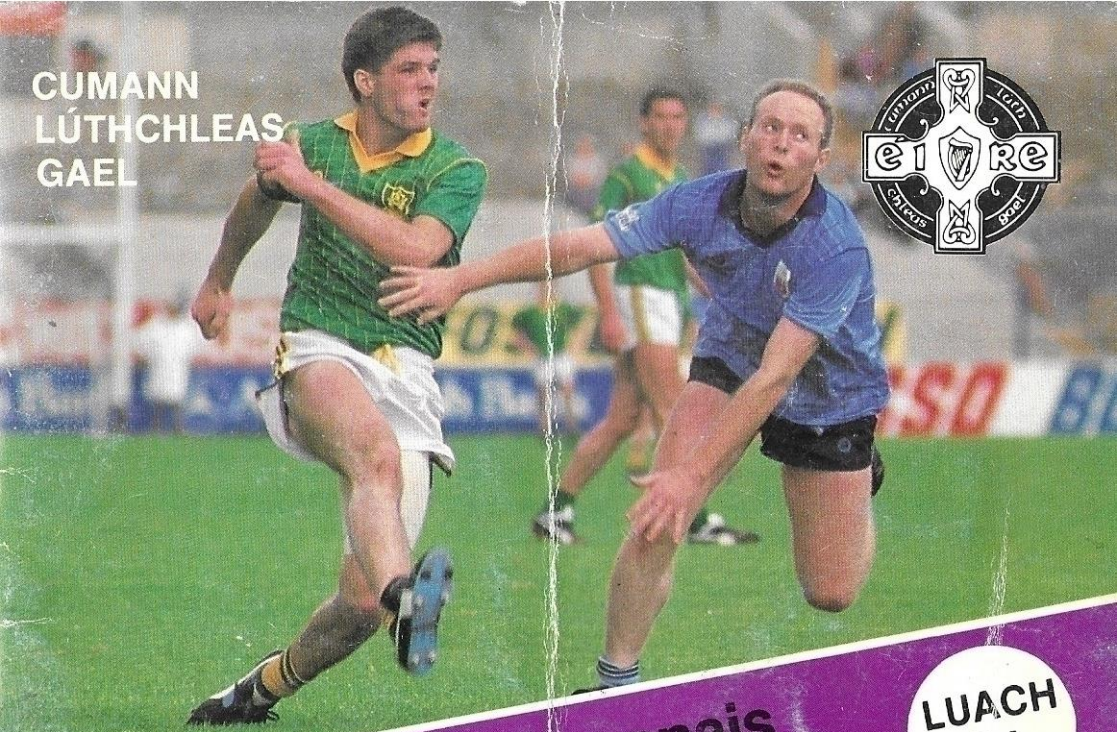


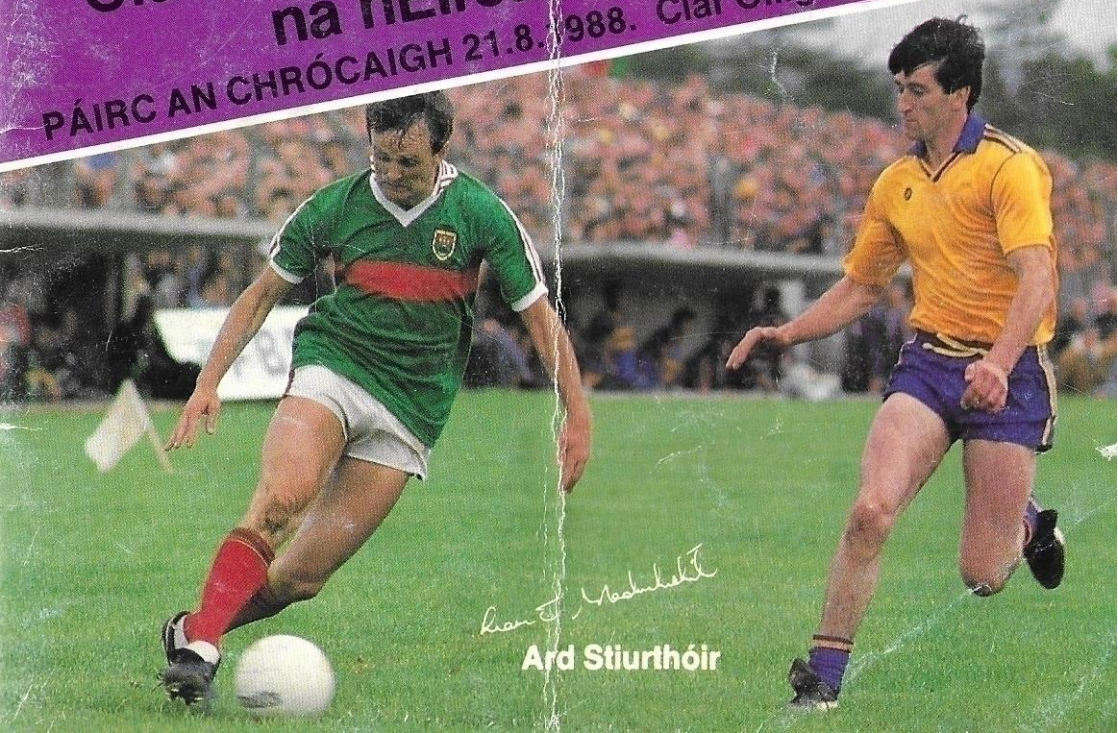
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LÚTHCHLEAS
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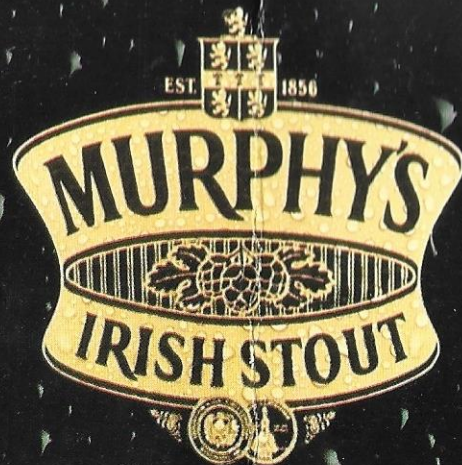
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NA hÉIREANN**

Páirc an Chrócaigh, 21 Lúnasa, 1988

UNDER-21 HURLING

Aontroim v. Corcaigh

Réiteoir: PASCHAL LONG (Cill Chainnigh)

MINOR FOOTBALL:

Áth Cliath v. Gaillimh

Réiteoir: MICHAEL GLENNAN (An Cabhán)

SENIOR FOOTBALL:

An Mhí v. Maigh Eo

Réiteoir: TOMMY SUGRUE (Ciarraí)



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 Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
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 Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
 Sean-tir ár sinsear feasta
 Ní fhágfar faoin tiorán ná faoin tráil.
 Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil
 Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil
 Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na
 bpiléar,
 Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.



CLÁR AN LAE

— 21st AUGUST, 1988 —

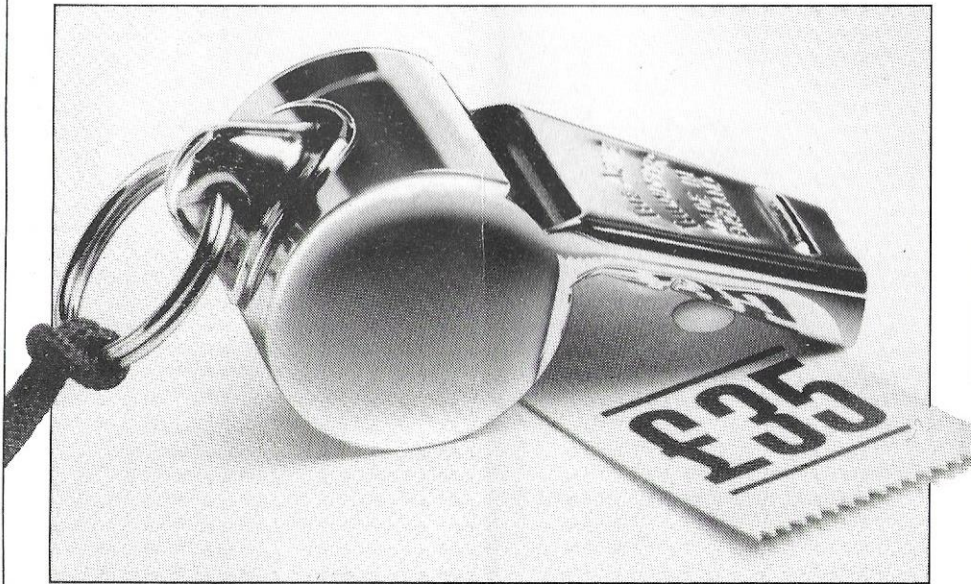
- 12.30 p.m. Under-21 Hurling Semi-Final
ANTRIM v. CORK
- 2.00 p.m. Minor Football Semi-Final
DUBLIN v. GALWAY
- 3.28 p.m. Amhrán na bhFiann
- 3.30 p.m. Senior Football Semi-Final
MAYO v. MEATH
- 4.06 p.m. I.N.T.O. Skills Exhibition
- 4.50 p.m. End of Programme

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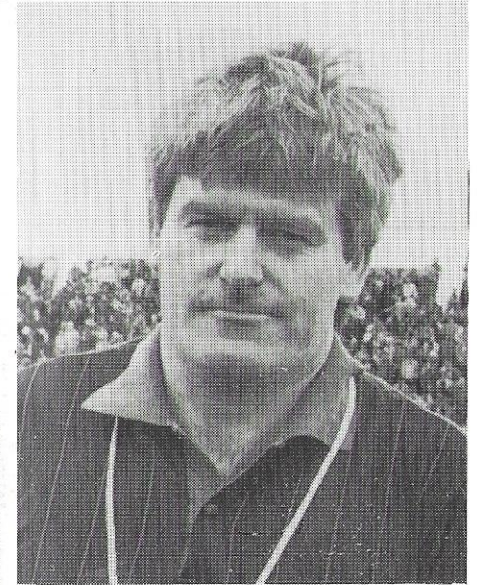
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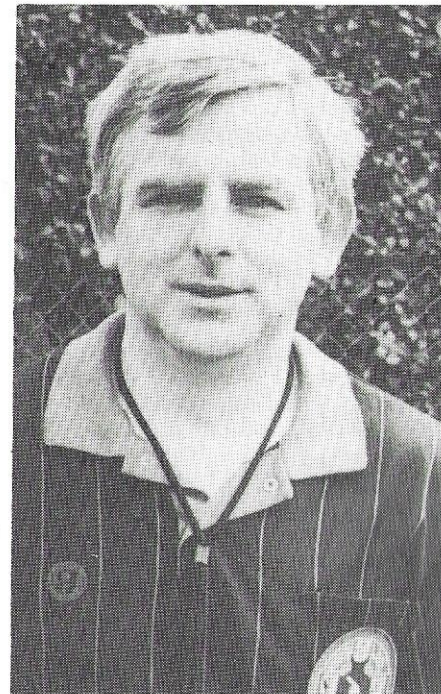
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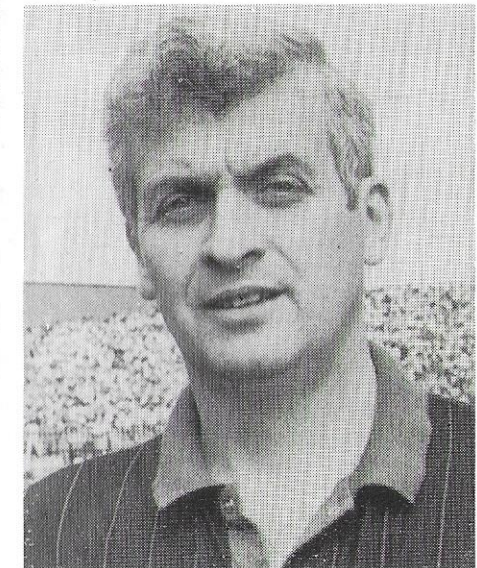
TODAY'S REFEREES



UNDER 21 HURLING:
Antrim v. Cork
PASCAL LONG (Kilkenny).



SENIOR FOOTBALL:
Mayo v. Meath
TOMMY SUGRUE (Kerry).



MINOR FOOTBALL:
Dublin v. Galway
MICHAEL GREENAN (Cavan).

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NO GOALS CONCEDED ON WAY TO SEMI-FINAL

Neither Meath nor Mayo conceded a goal on the way to the All-Ireland senior football semi-final. Each played three games.

Meath are Leinster champions for the 15th time since 1895, and also completed a first treble of Eastern titles in succession last month. Mayo captured their 32nd crown in July. The first was in 1901.

This is how Meath qualified:

June 5 — At Drogheda: Meath 3-13; Louth 0-9. Meath scorers: B. Stafford 0-6, D. Beggy 1-2, P. J. Gillic 1-1, M. McCabe 1-0, B. Flynn 0-3, T. Ferguson 0-1.

July 3 — At Croke Park: Meath 0-19; Offaly 0-10. Meath scorers: B. Stafford 0-8, B. Flynn 0-6, C. O'Rourke 0-2, D. Beggy 0-1, M. McCabe 0-1, P. J. Gillic 0-1.

July 31 — At Croke Park: Meath 2-5; Dublin 0-9. Meath scorers: P. J. Gillic 1-3, M. McCabe 1-1, L. Hayes 0-1.

Meath scored 5-37 (52 points) and had 0-28 scored against them.

Brian Stafford, who did not play in the Leinster final, is their ace marksman with 0-14. P. J. Gillic hit 2-5, Brendan Flynn 0-9, Mattie McCabe 2-2, and David Beggy 1-3. The scoring returns were completed by Colm O'Rourke 0-2, Terry Ferguson 0-1 and Liam Hayes 0-1.

THREE YEARS

Mayo regained the Connacht senior championship after an interval of three years. Their programme West of the Shannon was as follows:

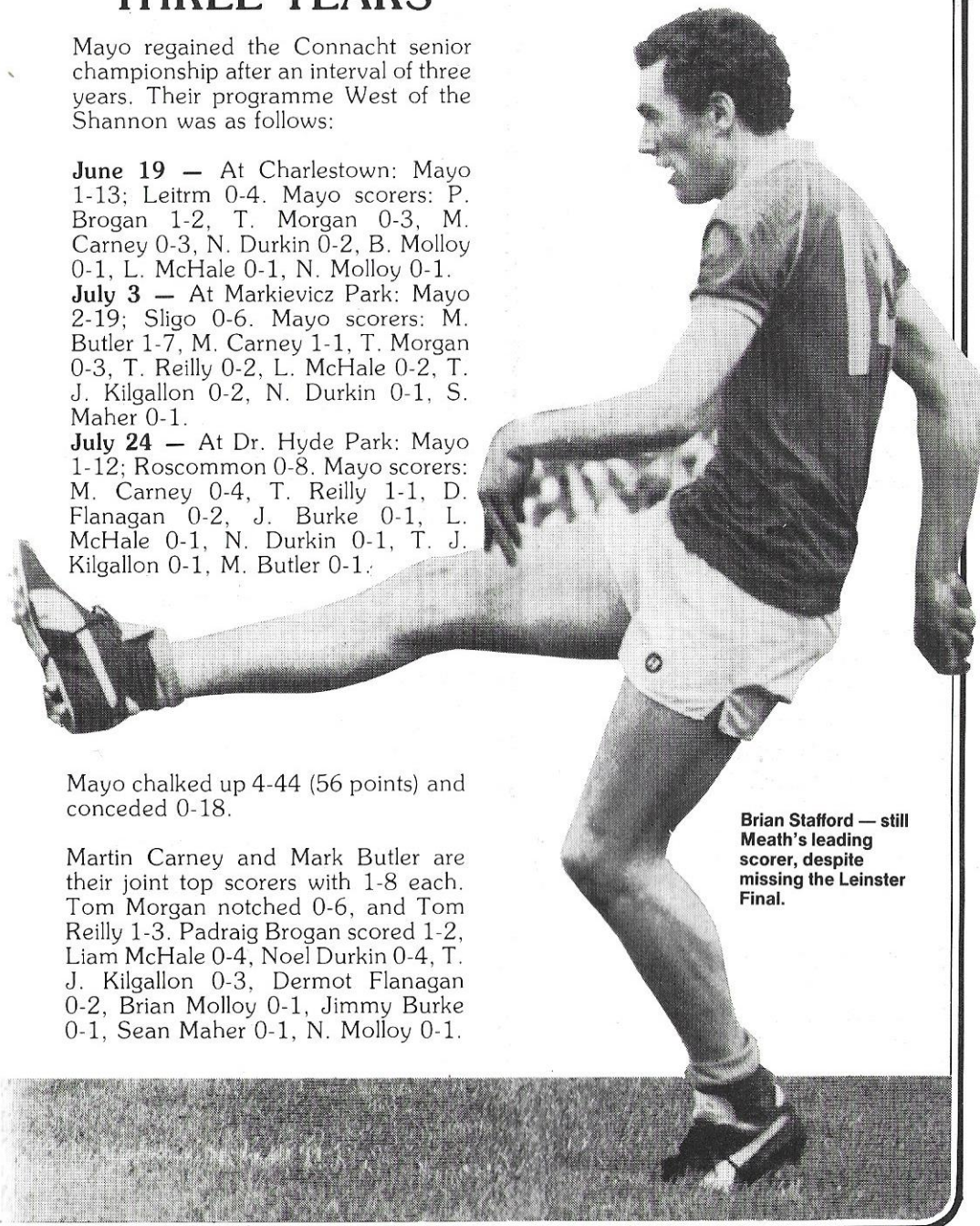
June 19 — At Charlestown: Mayo 1-13; Leitrim 0-4. Mayo scorers: P. Brogan 1-2, T. Morgan 0-3, M. Carney 0-3, N. Durkin 0-2, B. Molloy 0-1, L. McHale 0-1, N. Molloy 0-1.

July 3 — At Markievicz Park: Mayo 2-19; Sligo 0-6. Mayo scorers: M. Butler 1-7, M. Carney 1-1, T. Morgan 0-3, T. Reilly 0-2, L. McHale 0-2, T. J. Kilgallon 0-2, N. Durkin 0-1, S. Maher 0-1.

July 24 — At Dr. Hyde Park: Mayo 1-12; Roscommon 0-8. Mayo scorers: M. Carney 0-4, T. Reilly 1-1, D. Flanagan 0-2, J. Burke 0-1, L. McHale 0-1, N. Durkin 0-1, T. J. Kilgallon 0-1, M. Butler 0-1.

Mayo chalked up 4-44 (56 points) and conceded 0-18.

Martin Carney and Mark Butler are their joint top scorers with 1-8 each. Tom Morgan notched 0-6, and Tom Reilly 1-3. Pdraig Brogan scored 1-2, Liam McHale 0-4, Noel Durkin 0-4, T. J. Kilgallon 0-3, Dermot Flanagan 0-2, Brian Molloy 0-1, Jimmy Burke 0-1, Sean Maher 0-1, N. Molloy 0-1.



Brian Stafford — still Meath's leading scorer, despite missing the Leinster Final.

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Stars old and new

Sean Flanagan — The Greatest Left Full Back?



Mayo's return to All-Ireland senior football semi-final stage invariably revives memories of great days in the past, especially in the early 'Fifties. Sean Flanagan, a polished left full back, led the county to their last All-Ireland senior final wins of 1950 and 1951 — the only footballer to captain Mayo successfully in two Sam Maguire Cup ties.

He has more than unusual interest in this clash with Meath, as his son, Dermot, is not only an established defender in the side, but also following in his father's footsteps as a team captain.

Sean Flanagan put tremendous thought into his approach to football, and is regarded as the left full back supreme. He found favour in that position in the Team of the Century chosen during the Centenary Year.

Flanagan delighted followers for a lengthy spell in the late 'Forties and 'Fifties. He played in his first All-Ireland senior final in 1948 at left full when

Cavan beat Mayo, and was still a commanding figure when it took two games to separate the Westerners and Dublin in the 1955 semi-final.

He was also the first footballer to win four Ireland jerseys in the now suspended series of games against the Combined Universities, and it helps to hammer home his special qualities at No. 4 that he held down that position in every game.

Flanagan won his only Railway Cup medal in 1951, and at the end of a great career captured the one award that had consistently eluded him — a Mayo senior football medal. He helped East Mayo to a final win over Crossmolina in 1957.

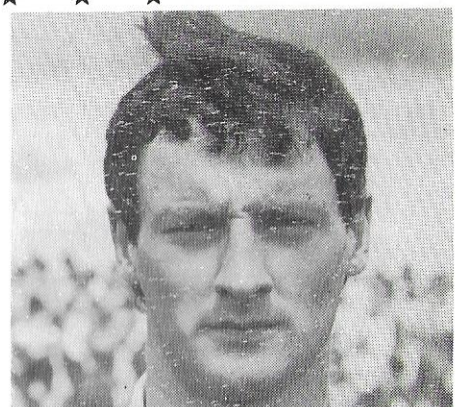
Like Father — Like Son

Dermot Flanagan, who adds to a proud family tradition when he leads Mayo back onto the All-Ireland senior football championship stage today, is well established as a defender of the highest class. But he has proven his worth as well as a forward, and shared in some important successes in that role.

He won a Sigerson Cup (Universities' Championship) medal with U.C.D. in 1985 as a creative centre half forward, and later appeared in attack with the Combined Universities in a representative series of games. He also has worn the Mayo jersey as an attacker.

Flanagan has played at all levels for Mayo in inter-county games, and held down the position filled so long and with such distinction for the county by his father, Sean, when at left full he won his first Connacht medal in 1985 as a senior. He was on duty for Mayo in their two games against Dublin in the semi-finals.

This season, however, Dermot is playing probably the best football of his career at centre half. He had a superb game there when leading Mayo to



the Connacht title at Roscommon, where he was a commanding general in general play, helped out when needed at midfield, and kicked two excellent points from frees.

The best possible way to join the ranks of Connacht title winning captains. This polished young footballer has also worn the Connacht jersey in the Railway Cup, but still seeks his first national medal for interprovincial, championship or League football at senior.

COACHING

The culmination of the Championship season annually heralds an increase in underage coaching activity.

In the Autumn/Winter period of this year courses will take place in five Leinster Counties, Dublin, Wexford, Kilkenny, Louth and Kildare.

Each course will contain lectures and practicals on the three main facets of team preparation — skills, fitness and teamplay, along with a discussion on the Rules and talks on planning yearly programmes and organising coaching/training sessions. Several top class coaches along with well known personalities will attend these courses.

Those interested should contact the director of the programme Mr. Paddy Clarke, Cooperhill, Drogheda.

In Connacht a team work coaching scheme is being finalised by the Connacht Council with coaches servicing the National Schools. Mr. John Kenny, Ballina 096/21996 is the co-ordinator.

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UNDER 21 HURLING

CORK AND ANTRIM BACK AFTER SIX YEARS

As Cork and Antrim meet in underage hurling for the second week in succession when they clash in the All-Ireland under-21 semi-final, it is somewhat surprising that these counties, who are such powers in their respective provinces, have been absent from this stage of this championship grade for some years.

Cork are Munster champions for the first time since 1982, and it is also six years since Antrim last carried the Northern under-21 banner at All-Ireland level. They lost on that occasion to Cork by 4-21 to 1-10 at Navan.

Cork are by far the title specialists. Despite their six years absence from the national Roll of Honour, they still set the standard with eight All-Ireland crowns. No county from the North has yet reached an All-Ireland decider.

The Leesiders travelled to Thurles for their first round game against Tipperary in June with ten of the side beaten by a powerful Limerick team in last year's provincial final. The Shannonsiders went on to capture a first All-Ireland championship.

Goals by John Fitzgibbon and Frank Hogan midway through the first half set the Cork men up for a well-merited 2-15 to 2-9 triumph.

Next time out they had to work hard for a 2-8 to 1-8 victory over Clare at Kilmallock, and so qualified for the provincial final.

The young stars from the Leaside gave probably their best display of the championship when seeing off Limerick at Midleton. A superb showing at midfield by Mickey Mullins, who was in the senior team that lost the

Munster final to Tipperary, proved the basis for the success.

He excelled all through, and set the scene early on for a win by bifling over three excellent points in the opening twelve minutes. Even so, Cork were still only a goal clear at the interval, but pulled away in the second half for a comfortable 4-12 to 1-7 triumph, and the county's tenth provincial crown.

Antrim proved very target conscious on their march back to the top in the North. They won their opening tie in the most comprehensive manner possible at Keady against Armagh. Murphy, Walsh and Elliott were among their goal scorers as they shot a superb 7-11, and conceded just a single point. The win earned Antrim a final place against Down at Casement Park.

That match provided the keenest possible exchanges in the opening stages. Down, with seven minors on duty, gave their supporters plenty of hope as they matched their more fancied opponents for much of the first half. Indeed, after twenty minutes the Mourne team led by a point.

Then, full forward Jarlath Elliott got the first goal of the match, and at the break Antrim were seven points clear. They pulled away in the second half for a very convincing 6-11 to 1-4 win.

John Carson, with two goals, Noel Murray, another goal-getter, and centre half back Eoin Donnelly were the brightest stars in a well-drilled Antrim side that moved well.

Kilkenny, who beat Galway last Sunday, await today's winners in the All-Ireland final.

UNDER-21 HURLING



AONTROIM

Dathanna: **Saffron is Bán**

(1) A. Mac an Ghoill
HUGH MCGILL
(Glenarm)

(2) G. Ó Catháin
GARRY O'KANE
(Cuchulain)

(3) A. Mac an tSaoir
AIDAN McATEER
(Ruairí Óg)

(4) S. Mac Giolla Chatáin
SEAN McILLHATTON
(Cuchulain)

(5) L. Mac Coláin
LIAM Mac COLUM
(Shamrocks)

(6) M. Ó Donnasa
MICHAEL DENIS
(Faughs)

(7) D. Ó Cinnolaidh
DANNY McKINLEY (Capt)
(Faughs)

(8) S. Ó Cluasaigh
SEAMUS CLOSE
(O'Donovan Rossa)

(9) O. Ó Donnaile
OWEN DONNELLY
(McQuillans)

(10) S. Ó Greacháin
JOHN GRAHAM
(O'Donovan Rossa)

(11) L. Mac Mhuireartaigh
LOUGHLIN McCURDY
(St. John's)

(12) S. Mac Corsain
JOHN CARSON
(Ruairí Óg)

(13) N. Ó Muirí
NOEL MURRAY
(O'Donovan Rossa)

(14) D. Mac Philib
DECLAN McKILLOP
(Shamrocks)

(15) I. Uileagóid
JARLATH ELLIOTT
(Cuchulain)

FIR IONAID: (16) G. Ó Dufaigh (**Garret Duffy**) O'Donovan Rossa; (17) C. Ó Murchú (**Collie Murphy**) O'Donovan Rossa; (18) C. Ó Ceallaigh (**Chris Kelly**) Cuchulain; (19) B. Ó Muirí (**Brendan Murray**) O'Donovan Rossa; (20) N. Mac Cathmahoil (**Niall McCamphill**) Cuchulain; (21) S. Mac Philib (**Sean Paul McKillop**) Shamrocks.

AONTROIM	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

UNDER-21 HURLING



CORCAIGH

Dathanna: **Dearg is Bán**

(1) T. Mac Clochaire
TOM KINGSTON
(Tracton)

(2) C. Ó Conaire
CHRISTY CONNERY
(Na Piarsaigh)

(3) D. Ó hEireamhóin
DAMIEN IRWIN
(Killeagh)

(4) A. Ó Caoimh
ANTHONY O'KEEFE
(Erin's Own)

(5) C. Ó Cathasaigh
CATHAL CASEY
(St. Catherine's)

(6) P. Mac an Fháilí
PAT KENNEALLY
(Newcestown)

(7) C. Mac Eocháin
KIERAN MCGUCKIAN
(Glen Rovers)

(8) L. Ó Ceallaigh
LIAM KELLY
(Tracton)

(9) M. Ó Maoláin
MICHAEL MULLINS
(Na Piarsaigh)

(10) B. Ó hÁirt
BARRY HARTE
(Timoleague)

(11) G. Ó Máinlí
GER MANLEY
(Inniscarra)

(12) P. Ó hArgáin
FRANK HORGAN
(Erin's Own)

(13) D. Ó Conaill
DONAL O'CONNELL
(Kilbritton)

(14) M. Ó Foghlú
MARK FOLEY
(Timoleague)

(15) S. Mac Giobúin
JOHN FITZGIBBON
(Glen Rovers)

FIR IONAID: (16) P. de Barra (**Pat Barry**) Blackrock; (17) C. Ó Coirc (**Coleman Quirke**) Midleton; (18) T. Ó Cuana (**Trevor Cooney**) Fermoy; (19) S. Ó Corcráin (**John Corcoran**) Erin's Own; (20) B. Mac Cuinneagáin (**Brian Cunningham**) St. Finbarr's; (21) S. Ó Laoire (**Seamus O'Leary**) St. Finbarr's.

CORCAIGH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

NA MIONÚIR

PAST AND PRESENT LINKED IN MINOR TIE

Some interesting links with the past will be forged when Dublin and Galway meet in an All-Ireland minor football semi-final for the first time since 1982.

The Western team manager is Mattie McDonagh, one of Galway's greatest-ever players, and the only Connacht man to win four All-Ireland senior medals (1956 and 1964 to 1966 inclusive). The squad includes Paul Sammon, son of Liam, and another one-time Galway ace, who won an All-Ireland senior medal in 1966, and led the county in two unsuccessful national championship finals.

On the Dublin side, full forward Senan Moylan is son of Mick Moylan, a solid and long-kicking defender with the county in the 'Fifties, and who was left full in the side beaten by Kerry in the 1955 All-Ireland final.

Galway staged probably the revival of the season in minor football to come back from a demoralising start for a memorable win over Mayo in a cracking Connacht final at Roscommon.

Mayo opened in a blaze of glory with a brace of goals in just two and a half minutes, but undaunted by those morale-shattering blows, the Galway boys got their game together, and to such telling effect as well that in a remarkable turn-around they forged ahead by 2-5 to 2-1 at the break.

Galway had some uncertain moments in the early stages of the second half,

and also lost a great chance when a penalty kick was driven wide, but steadily took command and finished deserving champions for the third year in succession by two points.

Then came a run-away win over Lancashire that leaves Galway in line for a first All-Ireland final outing since 1986 when they won the title. The Connacht champions went out at this stage last year to Cork.

Dublin scored well in their early games against Laois and Wicklow, and really hit the goal standard in the Leinster decider against Meath. In a match that produced some grand football, especially in the opening half, Brian Barnes did much to steer the way for the Metropolitans with a five-star show at left full forward. He also contributed an excellent goal to the success. Dublin hit four goals in all.

Dessie Farrell, who scored two goals, and Senan Moylan were others prominent in a ten points triumph that brought the Cup back to the capital after a two year absence.

Next time out it was a comfortable win over New York in a game at Parnell Park in which Dessie Farrell must have set some sort of record for a match of this nature by helping himself to 4-1.

Dublin lost their last semi-final outing to Cork two years ago. Their last win was in 1984 when they beat Derry by seven points, and went on to capture the title.

MINOR ROLES

Although Dublin and Galway have been regular contestants at All-Ireland semi-final level, paths have rarely crossed in the 60 years of the competition and they have been in direct opposition on only three occasions, with Galway holding the 2-1 edge.

Yet in the matter of semi-final appearances the Metropolitans out-strip the Connacht county as they have been involved in 22 semi-finals to Galway's 15. Dublin's return from these encounters is a highly creditable 15 wins (their most recent being in 1984), while Galway had to settle for a more modest five (the last in 1986).

The scorelines of the three meetings:

1970 — Galway	3-12:	Dublin	0-10.
1976 — Galway	2-8:	Dublin	2-7.
1982 — Dublin	0-17:	Galway	1-3.

SCORELESS

The unwelcome distinction of being the only county to fail to score in an All-Ireland minor football semi-final belongs to Clare who had that unhappy experience, when, as reigning champions, they took on Mayo at Birr on August 17 1930. On a day when their attack failed completely, Clare went down, 0-0 to 2-3 — ironically on the same pitch that had been the scene of their All-Ireland triumph six months previously.

TOP SCORES

The biggest win recorded by any county in an All-Ireland semi-final at under 18 level was Kerry's 3-11 to 0-2 dismissal of Mayo at Tuam in 1932.

Today's contestants have also recorded facile wins at this stage — Dublin's best being their 14-point elimination of Mayo in 1954, while Galway's easiest passage was in 1986 when they had 13 points to spare (3-10 to 0-6) over Down.

WINNING STREAK

Cork holds the record for the greatest number of successive wins in All-Ireland minor football semi-finals — a grand total of seven between 1974 and 1987. And but for the slip to Tyrone in '73 the Leesiders would have set up an incredible 13 semi-finals without defeat, stretching back to 1967.

DEBUT

Dublin made their first All-Ireland semi-final appearance in 1930 when they beat Armagh by 1-3 to 1-1 at Croke Park, before going on to take the title.

Galway's debut in 1932 was a less happy occasion as they went down to Kerry by 3-1 to 4-6. Subsequently they were losing semi-finalists in '37 (to Cavan), in '38 (to Kerry) and to Tyrone in '48. At the fourth attempt they were successful, when they overcame Cork in 1952.

APPEARANCES

Mayo, Kerry, Dublin, Cork and Galway, in that order, have been the most consistent contenders at the semi-final stage of the minor football championship, with Kerry showing as the most successful county with 17 wins.

The record of these to five counties read:

Kerry	played 27, won 17.
Cork	played 20, won 15.
Dublin	played 22, won 15.
Mayo	played 28, won 14.
Galway	played 15, won 5.

But the only two counties with a 100% record of success in All-Ireland minor semi-finals are Tipperary and Leitrim. On their four appearances (1934, 1935, 1955 and 1984) Tipperary were unbeaten, as were Leitrim who beat Monaghan in 1945 and Donegal in 1956 — the only years they were Connacht champions.

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High Scoring March by Dublin

Dublin has a high scoring march to their first Leinster minor football semi-final in two years. A prominent feature was the goal-getting exploits of Dessie Farrell, of Na Fianna, who featured his run by bagging four goals in the one game — against New York at Parnell Park last time out.

Dublin are Leinster minor champions for the 24th time since 1930. Galway are Connacht champions for the third successive year, and the 16th time since 1932.

Dublin's record so far:

May 28 — At Portlaoise: Dublin 2-10; Laois 1-4. Dublin scorers: B. Stynes 1-3, S. Moylan 1-3, D. Farrell 0-3, M. Brady 0-1.

June 26 — At Mullingar: Dublin 2-15; Wicklow 0-7. Dublin scorers: D. Far-

rell 2-3, D. Howard 0-7, B. Barnes 0-2, P. Cassells 0-1, B. Stynes 0-1, D. Quinlivan 0-1.

July 31 — At Croke Park: Dublin 4-6; Meath 0-8. Dublin scorers: D. Farrell 2-0, D. Howard 1-2, B. Barnes 1-2, S. Moylan 0-2.

August 7 — At Parnell Park: Dublin 4-11; New York 0-4. Dublin scorers: D. Farrell 4-1, B. Stynes 0-3, S. Moylan 0-3, D. Howard 0-2, M. Brady 0-1, D. Quinlivan 0-1.

Dublin chalked up an impressive 12-42 (78 points) in their four game run, and had just 1-23 (26 points) scored against them.

Their outstanding scorer is Dessie Farrell, the goal expert of the team with 8-7. He is followed by Derek Howard 1-11, Senan Moylan 1-8, Brian Stynes 1-7, Brian Barnes 1-4, Mark Brady 0-2, David Quinlivan 0-2, Pat Cassells 0-1.



● GAILLIMH — Connacht Minor Football Champions.

Ath Cliath agus Gaillimh

GALWAY'S RECORD

Galway had two games in the West.

June 26 — At Pearse Park: Galway 2-8; Roscommon 1-9. Galway scorers: O. Monaghan 2-4, S. Conlon 0-2, P. Sammon 0-1, N. Finnegan 0-1.

July 24 — At Hyde Park: Galway 2-9; Mayo 3-4. Galway scorers: S. Conlon 1-1, S. Dooley 0-2, N. Finnegan 0-2, C. Tonge 0-2, S. Sommers 0-1, A. O'Connor 0-1, D. Carney (Mayo) An "Own Goal".

Then the Connacht champions had novel visitors to Ballinasloe on Satur-

day **August 6** in Lancashire, and won that game handsomely by 7-12 to 0-3.

Their scorers were J. Dooley 2-1, O. Monaghan 2-0, K. O'Hara 1-3, S. Sommers 1-2, C. Tonge 1-2, N. Finnegan 0-3, S. Conlon 0-1.

Galway scored 11-29 (62 points) and had 4-16 (28 points) chalked up against them.

LEADING SCORER

Their leading scorer and goal expert is Odie Monaghan with 4-4. John Dooley hit 2-3, Sean Conlon 1-4, Colm Tonge 1-4, Sean Sommers 1-4. Their scoreboard is completed by Kevin O'Hara 1-3, Niall Finnegan 0-4, S. O'Connor 0-2, and Paul Sammon 0-1.

ONLY ONE DEFEAT FOR MEATH

These are proving unusually rich years for Meath in senior football . . . years in which a new pride has been born in the county. The current company of players under manager Sean Boylan have blended their skills and talents together into such a potent force that they have blazed their way impressively to new frontiers in the annals of the county.

Last month it was a first-ever run of three Leinster senior football titles in succession. Today it is a semi-final debut for Meath in the role of All-Ireland champions.

The Sam Maguire Cup holders did not exactly set the scene alight in their Leinster final win over Dublin last month. They put up a moderate enough return of 2-5, and finished with just a brace of points to spare after a last ditch Dublin penalty was sent over the bar.

In fairness to Meath it must be said that they still overcame the handicap of having to defend their titles without marksman supreme Brian Stafford, who was then nursing an injury. His absence added to the merit of the win, narrow and dramatic though it was.

That triumph also enhances a record that is unequalled by any other county in the game at present. Since they started out in defence of the Leinster championship in June 1987, Meath have lost just once in 19 games in competitive football — championship and League — and captured two Leinster titles, one All-Ireland crown, and the Royal Liver League. You can't do much better than that!

The solitary defeat was at Ballybay in mid-February — nine games back. Monaghan won by 1-12 to 1-8 in the League.

There were other moments of doubt and uncertainty, of course, on the way. The All-Ireland champions played two draws in last season's

League with Dublin — in round one and in the final — and another against Derry. Generally speaking, however, it has been success all the way for the team.

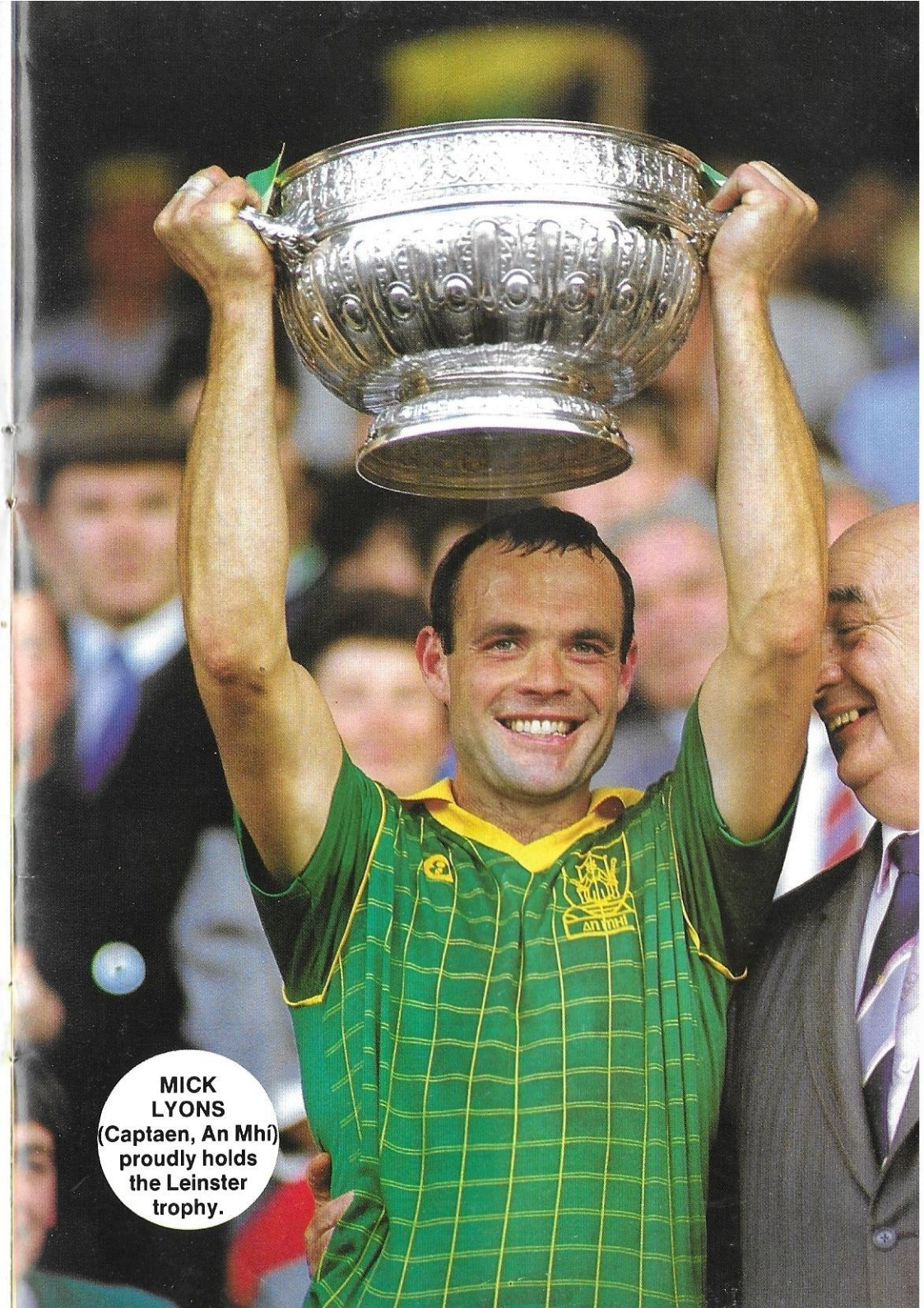
A highly successful comeback this from the last senior championship defeat just short of two years ago by Kerry in an All-Ireland semi-final — 2-13 to 0-12. A comeback furthermore that franks the team as one of the greatest-ever from the Royal County.

But there are always new targets to be aimed at no matter how successful a team. Having accomplished so much already the men from Meath are now desperately keen to further colour their outstanding feats by landing the first All-Ireland senior titles double for the county.

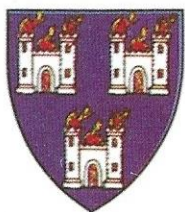
At the same time they will not underestimate the strength of the challengers. Mick Lyons and his colleagues will not need reminding that the Connacht outfit has improved greatly since losing by eight points to Meath in the Royal Liver League last February at Kells, or that there is a new spirit of hope and confidence abroad in Mayo.

The Lyons-led outfit has made amends for the loss to Kerry by beating Derry at this stage last year, and so contributed to a good Meath record in semi-finals. The only loss in five outings at this stage since a 1964 failure to Galway was that one to the Kingdom two seasons ago. In all, Meath have appeared in fourteen All-Ireland semi-finals since 1985, when they beat Cavan, and lost just four.

That's a proud record for the men of '88 to safeguard. Add in the fact that no Meath team has lost at this stage so far to Mayo, and you have another reason to anticipate an extra special effort from the men who hold the Sam Maguire Cup.



MICK LYONS
(Captan, An Mhí)
proudly holds
the Leinster
trophy.



BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

Dathanna: **Gorm is Dubhghorm**

(1) D. Ó Fearail
DEREK O'FARRELL
(St. Brigid's)

(2) P. Mac Mánaís
PÁRIC McMANUS
(St. Vincent's)

(3) S. Mac Siurtáin
JOHN JORDAN
(Round Towers)

(4) C. Ó Caomhánach
CONOR KAVANAGH
(Naomh Mearnóg)

(5) A. Ó Baoill
TONY O'BOYLE
(St. Vincent's)

(6) B. Ó Muirí
BRENDAN MURRAY
(Erin's Isle)

(7) G. Ó Riagáin
GEARÓID O'REGAN (Capt)
(St. Vincent's)

(8) S. Ó Cathail
SEAN CAHILL
(St. Patrick's)

(9) D. Ó Caoinnealbháin
DAVID QUINLIVAN
(Ballymun Kickhams)

(10) D. Ó hIomhair
DEREK HOWARD
(Raheny)

(11) B. de Stín
BRIAN STYNES
(Ballyboden-St. Enda's)

(12) M. Ó Brádaigh
MARK BRADY
(St. Vincent's)

(13) D. Ó Fearail
DESSIE FARRELL
(Na Fianna)

(14) S. Ó Maoileáin
SENAN MOYLAN
(St. Vincent's)

(15) B. Barún
BRIAN BARNES
(St. Sylvester's)

FIR IONAID: (16) D. Ó hAnluain (**Damien O'Hanlon**) Na Fianna; (17) P. Wilde (**Paul Wilde**) Skerries Harps; (18) A. Mac Gaibheacháin (**Tony Gavigan**) Erin's Isle; (19) S. Ó Nualláin (**Joe Nolan**) Ballymun Kickhams; (20) G. Ó Murchú (**Gary Murphy**) St. Maur's; (21) A. Mac Eochaidh (**Tony Keogh**) St. Sylvesters.

ÁTHA CLIATH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	45m	Saor Chiceanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

MINOR

GAILLIMH

Dathanna: **Marún is Bán**



(1) C. Mac Fhionnaile
CATHAL MCGINLEY (Capt)
(Salthill)

(2) P. Mac Aogáin
PAT EGAN
(Castlegar)

(3) I. Ó Donnchú
IAN O'DONOGHUE
(Salthill)

(4) E. Mac Giollarnáth
EDDIE FORDE
(Milltown)

(5) D. Ó hIarnáin
DAVID HERNON
(St. Brendan's)

(6) P. Ó Bradáiní
PAUL SAMMON
(Salthill)

(7) S. de Paor
SEAN POWER
(An Ceathra Rua)

(8) P. Ó Coisteala
PAT COSTELLOE
(Caherlistrane)

(9) A. Ó Conchúir
ALAN O'CONNOR
(Oughterard)

(10) N. Ó Fionnagáin
NEILL FINNEGAN
(Salthill)

(11) C. Ó Toinge
COLM TUNGE
(Salthill)

(12) S. Ó Conalláin
SEAN CONLON
(Barna)

(13) S. Ó Faoláin
JIMMY FOLAN
(Micheál Breachnach's)

(14) S. Ó Dúlaoidh
JOHN DOOLEY
(Caherlistrane)

(15) O. Ó Muineacháin
ODIE MONAGHAN
(Tuam Stars)

FIR IONAID: (16) S. Ó Dufaigh (**John Duffy**) Oranmore/Maree; (17) S. Ó Somacháin (**Sean Somers**) Mountbellew; (18) S. Mac Donncha (**Shane McDonagh**) St. Brendan's; (19) C. Ó hEara (**Kevin O'Hara**) An Ceathra Rua; (20) F. Ó Cuinn (**Frank Quinn**) St. Brendan's.

GAILLIMH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	45m	Saor Chiceanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					



AN MHÍ

Dathanna: **Glas is Ór**

(1) M. Mac Uilín
MICHAEL McQUILLAN
(St. Patrick's)

(2) R. Ó Máille
ROBBIE O'MALLEY
(St. Colmcille's)

(3) M. Ó Liatháin (Capt.)
MICHAEL LYONS
(Summerhill)

(4) P. Ó Liatháin
PÁRAIC LYONS
(Summerhill)

(5) C. Ó Foghlú
KEVIN FOLEY
(Trim)

(6) L. Ó hEanáin
LIAM HARNAN
(Moynalvey)

(7) M. Ó Conaill
MARTIN O'CONNELL
(St. Michael's)

(8) L. Ó hAodha
LIAM HAYES
(Skryne)

(9) G. Mac An tSaoi
GERRY McENTEE
(Nobber)

(10) D. Ó Beigeáin
DAVID BEGGY
(Navan O'Mahonys)

(11) P. S. Mac Uilic
P. J. GILLIC
(Carnaross)

(12) M. Mac Cába
MATTIE McCABE
(Seneschalstown)

(13) C. Ó Ruairc
COLM O'ROURKE
(Skryne)

(14) B. de Stafort
BRIAN STAFFORD
(Kilmainhamwood)

(15) B. Ó Floinn
BERNARD FLYNN
(St. Colmcille's)

FIR IONAID: (16) D. Mac Gabhann (**Donal Smyth**) Navan O'Mahonys; (17) S. Ó Caisil (**Joe Cassels**) Navan O'Mahonys; (18) T. Mac Fearghais (**Terry Ferguson**) Gaeil Colmcille; (19) C. Mac Giolla Chomhaill (**Colm Coyle**) Seneschalstown; (20) F. Ó Muireartaigh (**Finian Murtagh**) Navan O'Mahonys; (21) P. Ó Foghlú (**Frank Foley**) Trim.

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Bainisteoir: Sean Boylan (Dunboyne); Pat Reynolds (Walterstown); Tony Brennan (Dunderry).

AN MHÍ	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Chiceanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

MAIGH EO

Dathanna: **Dearg is Glas**



(1) E. Ó Laimhín
EUGENE LAVIN
(Kiltimagh)

(2) S. de Brún
JIMMY BROWN
(Ballina Stephenites)

(3) M. Ó Coileáin
MICHAEL COLLINS
(Lacken)

(4) D. Ó Cearnaigh
DENIS KEARNEY
(Swinford)

(5) F. Ó Nuáin
FRANK NOONE
(Hollymount)

(6) D. Ó Flannagáin
DERMOT FLANAGAN (Capt)
(Civil Service, Dublin)

(7) S. Ó Finn
JOHN FINN
(Mayo Gaels)

(8) T.J. Mac Giolla Chaillín
T. J. KILGALLON
(Balla)

(9) S. Meachair
SEAN MAHER
(Civil Service, Dublin)

(10) A. Ó Fiannachta
ANTHONY FINNERTY
(Moygownagh)

(11) L. Mac Éil
LIAM McHALE
(Ballina Stephenites)

(12) N. Ó Durcáin
NOEL DURCAN
(Ballaghadereen)

(13) T. Ó Raghallaigh
TOM REILLY
(Castlebar Mitchels)

(14) S. de Búrca
JIMMY BURKE
(Aughamore)

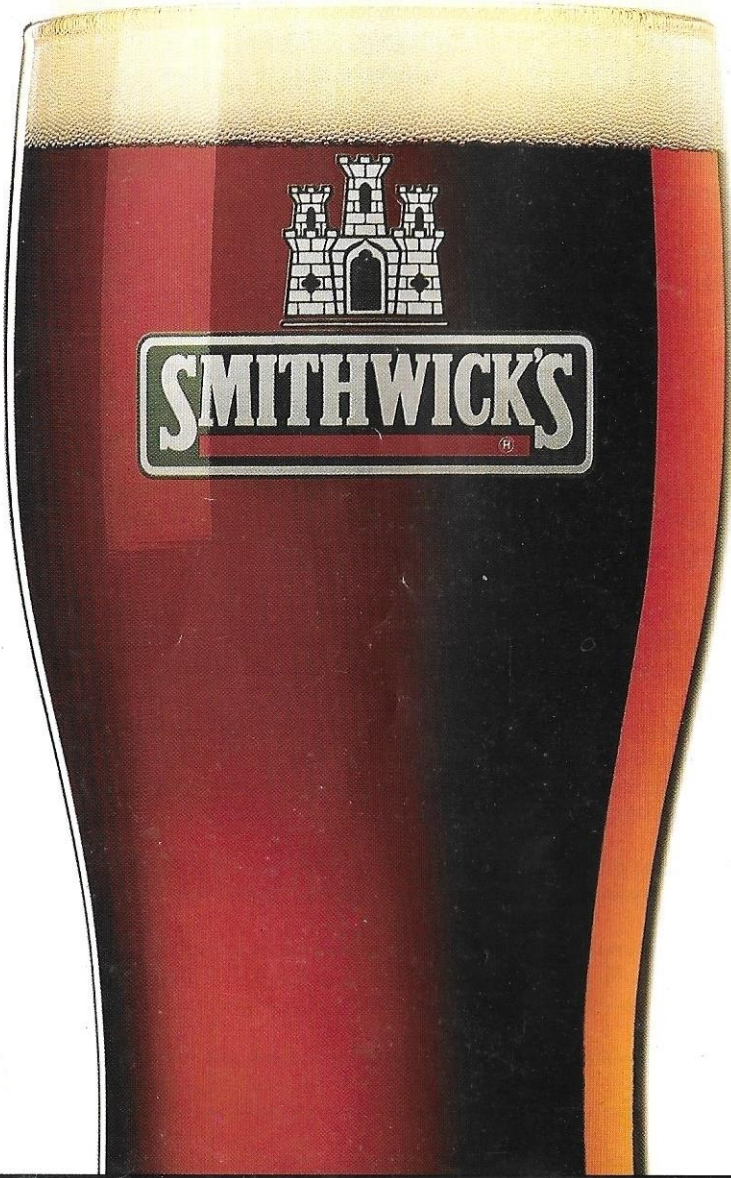
(15) M. Ó Cearnaigh
MARTIN CARNEY
(Castlebar Mitchels)

FIR IONAID: (16) G. Ó hÉireamhóin (**Gabriel Irwin**) Glenaboy; (17) P. Mac Thomáis (**Pat Holmes**) Moy; (18) W. J. Mac Phaidín (**W. J. Padden**) Belmullet; (19) S. Ó Lindsaigh (**Joe Lindsay**) Kiltane; (20) T. Ó Muireagáin (**Tom Morgan**) Ballaghadereen; (21) M. de Buitléir (**Mark Butler**) Kilmaine.

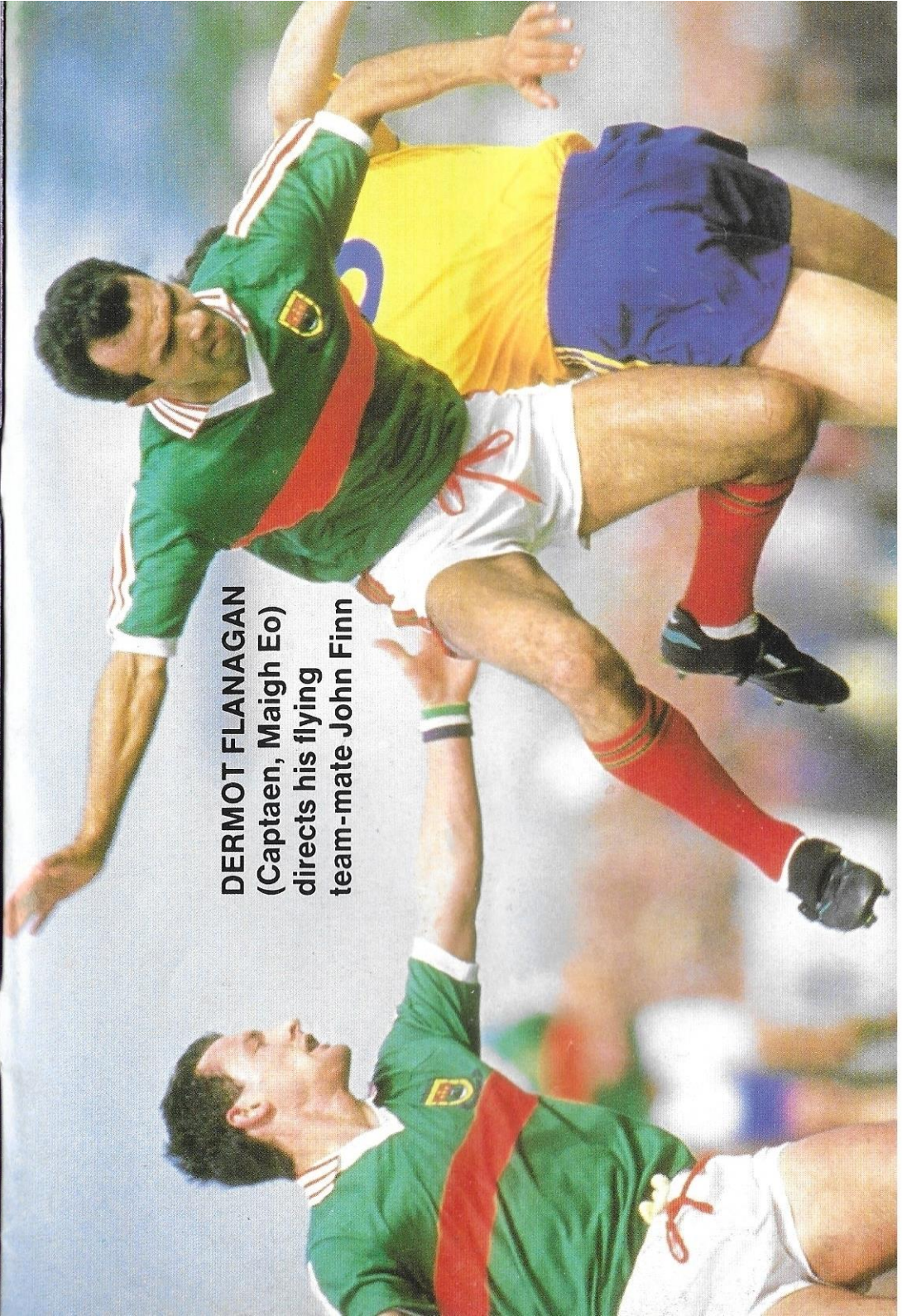
ROGHNÓIRÍ: John O'Mahony, Ballaghadereen (Manager); Mick Higgins, Kiltimagh; Charlie Collins, Lacken; Seamus Daly, Mulrany; Christy O'Haire, Ballinrobe.

MAIGH EO	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Chiceanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

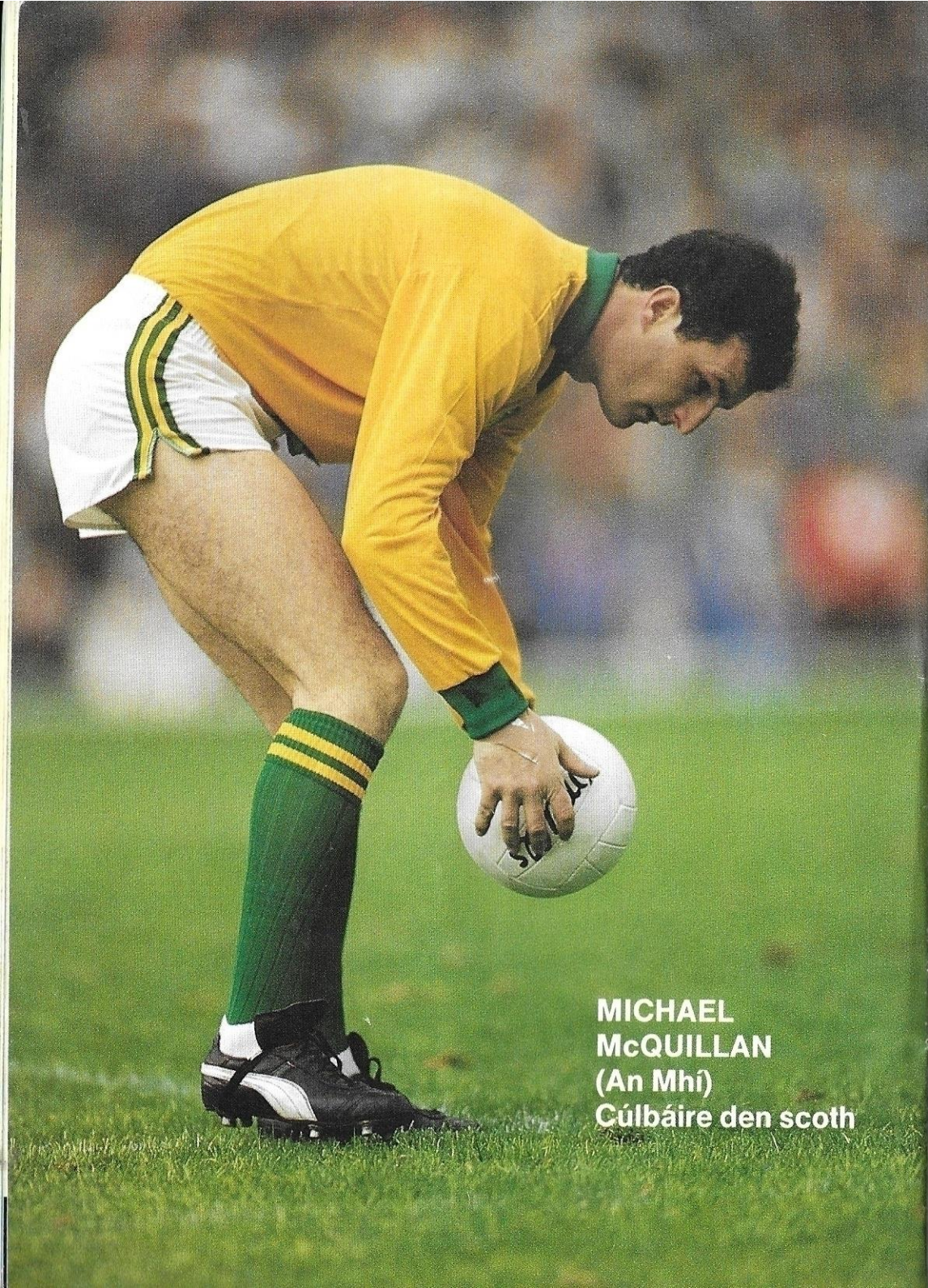
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DERMOT FLANAGAN
(Captan, Maigh Eo)
directs his flying
team-mate John Finn



**MICHAEL
McQUILLAN**
(An Mhí)
Cúl báire den scoth

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The Beaten Path

MARTIN CARNEY . . . THESE DAYS A FAMILIAR FACE

On his way out of Roscommon after this year's Connacht Senior Football final, Pauric McShea, an elegant Donegal and Ulster full-back of the not too distant past, met Martin Carney's mother, congratulated her on her son's towering display against Roscommon — and told her he was seriously thinking of buying a new pair of football boots.

"Maybe we all retired a little too soon" — he told her — "If Martin can do it, perhaps we should all have been able to do it".

And Pauric later summed up Martin's performance and his continuing involvement with Gaelic football with a few telling words: "It isn't how long you stay around counts. It's what you do while you are here — and Martin has been doing that no for quite a long time".

And Martin Carney, nowadays one of the happy veterans of Gaelic football, has, unquestionably, been around for a long time — and that time has been quite memorable, not just alone with Mayo, but, of course, also with Donegal, Ulster, Connacht and the Combined Universities.

Veteran he may be — but his appearance, his fitness and above all his enthusiasm for the game most certainly do not suggest that. One senses that every game for him is a new and exciting adventure — a fresh challenge to be faced and won.

"He has always been like that" — says Pauric McShea — "I remember him from the days of 20 years ago when I played with him on the St. Joseph's team, drawn from Bundoran and

Ballyshannon, which won the unofficial all-Ireland Club Championship and also from 1972 when we won the Ulster title for the first time — and I don't believe there has been any great change in him".

"In those days he was a totally dedicated player, absolutely wholehearted in every way and a first-class sportsman at all times on the field. He was a vital man in our two Ulster Championship wins in 1972 and 1974 — and he is still a vital man these days with Mayo".

In between those two Ulster Championship wins, Martin Carney collected an historic medal in 1973 when he was with the Combined Universities team which won the Railway Cup after a final replay against Connacht — and that, of course, remains as the only time in the Championships' history since 1927 that a team, other than one of the four provinces, has taken the title.

"I have a very vivid memory of that win" — says Pauric McShea — "It was a year I thought that Ulster would win the Railway Cup and for me and, I imagine also for the other Donegal players on the Ulster team, it was ironic that one of our team-mates, Martin, was responsible, perhaps more than anyone else, in beating us in the semi-final. His performance that day for the Combined Universities was quite something".

Martin Carney, subsequently, played with Ulster in the Railway Cup, has since played with Connacht — and that gives him the rare distinction of having played with three different sides in the Railway Cup.



After taking up a teaching post in Co. Mayo Martin switched his county allegiance to Mayo — and that, Pauric McShea remembers with some sadness, was a sore blow to everyone in Donegal football.

"I don't think we have ever really got over it" — says Pauric — "At the time he left us Martin was far more than just a player on the team. He was a presence on the side — so much revolved around him — and at that time I think every youngster in County Donegal looked up to him. They all wanted to be like him".

Martin Carney, however, went on to establish his new home and his football reputation in Mayo — and in 1980 he captained Mayo to their Connacht Championship title and was on the side beaten by Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park.

Five years later, still as strong and impressive as ever, he collected a second Connacht Championship medal — and had two memorable outings in Croke Park before Mayo went down to Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final replay.

And now, in his 18th season of senior championship football — and with most of his early contemporaries in retirement for many years — Martin Carney has come up with another Connacht Championship medal — and this afternoon, against the All-Ireland champions, Meath, he is back again in Croke Park to play in another All-Ireland semi-final.

And as Pauric McShea says: "He will have two counties solidly behind him all the way. If Mayo win — and for Martin's sake we all hope they do — we'll be able to share in just a little of the glory up here in Donegal".

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SÁR-CHLUICHE CHUGAINN!

Má tá páirc imeartha ar bith sa tír a dtugann muintir na Mí gean do is é Páirc an Chrócaigh é. Is ann a d'imir siad an dá chluiche i gcaobh Laighean i mbliana agus is cuimhneach le mórán daoine, cúpla bliain ó shin, nuair a bhí rogha ionaid acu d'athmirt in aghaidh Átha Cliath, thar dhream ar bith, gur roghraigh siad Páirc an Chrócaigh thar Páirc Tailteann san Uaimh.

Ionann sin uilig is a rá go mbíonn buntáiste mór ag foireann na Mí nuair a thagann sé go dtí cluichí leathcheannais nó ceannais i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Tá fáilte speisialta rompa inniu mar is iad Curaí Sinsear na hÉireann agus don chéad uair i stair an chontae bhain siad trí chraobh Laighean as a chéile i 1986, 1987 agus 1988.

Táthar ann adeir gur cheart go mbeadh foireann na Mí, ag an bpointe seo, ag déanamh ar thrí chraobh Uile-Éireann as a chéile murach gur thit an mí-adh ar fad orthu sa chluiche leathcheannais in aghaidh Chiarraí i 1986. (Is cuimhin leat gur bhuaile an cúlbaire agus beirt fhear taca in aghaidh a chéile gur thiteadar ina gcnap agus go bhfuair Ger Power cúl éasca dá bharr). Ach, d'fhás foireann na Mí ina dhiaidh sin go dtí gur bhain siad Craobh na hÉireann 1987 agus Comórtas na Léige 1987/88. Is foireann bhreá iad inchurtha le Chiarraí ó thaobh stíle de.

I dtaca le foireann Mhaigh Eo bhítheas den tuairim go mbuafidís Craobh na hÉireann i 1985 nuair a bhíodar ag imirt peile d'ard-chaighdeán ach thit an lug ar an lag acu san athmirt in aghaidh Átha Cliath. Ar ndóigh goineadh duine de na tacaí ab'fhearr acu an lá úd agus chaill siad an misneach.

Is breá le mórán daoine go bhfuil siad ar ais arís agus fearaimid Fáilte Uí Cheallaigh rompu.

B'fhéidir gur comharthá maith é go bhfuil mac Sheáin Uí Fhlannagáin, Diarmuid, ina chaptaen ar an bhfoireann amhail mar a bhí an t-athair sna "laethe órga" i 1950/51, nuair a bhain Maigh Eo an dá chraobh deireannacha don chontae.

Tá cosúlachtaí eile idir an dá fhoireann. I 1948 bhuaigh An Cabhán ar Mhaigh Eo sa chluiche ceannais go "héagórach" nuair a cheap Mick Higgins an liathróid laisthreach den ceithre slat déag nuair a ghlac Pádraic Carney saor-speech os comhair na cuailí — agus bhí an cluiche thart noiméad ina dhiaidh sin. I 1949 sáraíodh iad sa chluiche leathcheannais — agus cé a sháraigh iad? Muintir na Mí, a bhí ar a

Ar Lean ▶



From 1975 to 1987 the Kerry football team reigned supreme. Eight championship wins and countless other honours were achieved in an era unlikely to be equalled.

This three-hour cassette encapsulates the exciting action of those twelve years and features interviews with the outstanding personalities involved.

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The best of '87 - 3 hours

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SÁR-CHLUICHE CHUGAINN!

AR LEAN

mbealach chun an chéad chraobh ariamh a ghnóthú don chontae. Ach tháinig fir Mhaigh Eo ar ais go tréan gur bhain siad dhá chraobh as a chéile i 1950/51 agus Seán Ó Flannagáin mar chaptaen an dá uair.

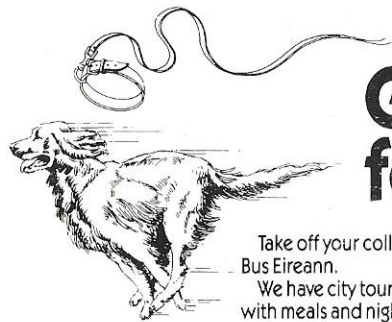
Cuir an méid sin i gcomórtas leis na blianta 1985-'88 agus, má chreideann tú ina leithéid, tá an roth tagtha timpeall arís agus Craobh amháin, ar a laghad, i ndán do Mhaigh Eo.

An acu a bheas an bua máisea? Tá stíl bhreá imeartha ag foirne Mhaigh Eo go háirithe ag na mionúir a rinne go maith sna blianta déanacha agus a bhfuil cuid mhaith acu anois ar fhoireann na sinsear. Táid in inmhe

foireann ar bith a chloí ach an fonn a bheith orthu. Is é an rud ar a dtugtar "croí" atá in easnamh agus muna mbíonn an croí agat rud a dheánamh go críochnúil ar feadh 70 noiméad ní h-aon mhaith an ealaín nó an stíl.

Tá taithí mhaith ag foireann na Mí, is é Páirc an Chrócaigh an fhaiche is ansa leo sa tír, is curaf na hÉireann iad faoi láthair agus níl aon amhras ann ach go gcuireann siad a gcroí i ngach cluiche a imríonn siad.

Ar na fáithanna sin is dóigh liom go mebeidh an bua ag an Mhí. Tá na tosaigh, mar aonad, míos féarr na tosaigh Mhaigh Eo agus creidim, in ainneoin na scoth-thacaí atá ag fir an Iarthair, go mbeidh 'An Contae Ríoga' ag seoladh isteach sa chluiche ceannais i mí Mheán Fómhair — ach gúitear ádh mór ar an dá fhoireann.



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MEATH'S SEMI-FINALS 1939-1987

Compared with their rivals of today Meath were comparative latecomers to the All-Ireland semi-final scene (when they won their first Leinster title way back in 1895 there were no semi-finals in those days as Connacht and Ulster remained inactive) but in the years since their debut at this stage of the championship in 1939 they have been strong contenders on every occasion that they have come out of Leinster. Indeed, their semi-final record stands comparison with any county's, with nine wins from 13 outings — the scorelines of which are:

1939 — Meath	1-9;	Cavan	1-1.
1940 — Galway	3-8;	Meath	2-5.
1947 — Kerry	1-11;	Meath	0-5.
1949 — Meath	3-10;	Mayo	1-10.
1951 — Meath	2-6;	Antrim	1-7.
1952 — Meath	1-6;	Roscommon	0-7.
1954 — Meath	1-5;	Cavan	0-7.
1964 — Galway	1-8;	Meath	0-9.
1966 — Meath	2-16;	Down	1-9.
1967 — Meath	3-14;	Mayo	1-14.
1970 — Meath	0-15;	Galway	0-11.
1986 — Kerry	2-13;	Meath	0-12.
1987 — Meath	0-15;	Deny	0-8.

★ ★ ★ SAME AGAIN

Under the rotational system which operates for All-Ireland semi-finals, no two counties can meet at this stage of the championship in successive seasons. But before the system was introduced in 1939 back-to-back confrontations were not unusual, and as late as 1936-'37 Laois and Kerry were semi-final opponents.

But Mayo and Kerry went one better by meeting in three successive semi-finals, and for good measure they did it twice — in 1908-'09 and '10 and again in 1929, '30 and '31. Sadly for Mayo, they were losers on all six occasions.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The only county with a one hundred percent record of success in All-Ireland football semi-finals is not one of the great powers of the game, but is in fact a county that has never won an All-Ireland title — Clare.

The Banner county, winners of the Munster championship for the first, and only, time in 1917, took on Galway in the semi-final at Athlone on November 18 of that year and qualified for the final with a 2-1 to 0-4 win.

Alas for Clare hopes of an outright success, they failed in the final to the all-conquering Wexford team by a margin of four points.

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FOUR IN ONE

That nothing compares with actual match-play for improving a team's performance would certainly find agreement among those who watched Meath's progress to the 1949 All-Ireland title.

From being no more than a fairly moderate outfit to really credible All-Ireland contenders took the Royal county less than three months, and the focus of their dramatic development was the number of games they played in Leinster — not the least being the four which they were engaged in during the month of July of that historic year. On the 3rd they staged a late rally to force a draw with Louth; a week later it was Louth who came from behind to make yet another meeting necessary, and on the 24th Meath finally shook off their great rivals when they won another epic contest by a single point. And they concluded what was probably the most arduous but rewarding month in the county's history when they regained the Leinster title with a comprehensive win over Westmeath in the final on the 31st.

This was the only instance of a county playing four senior championship

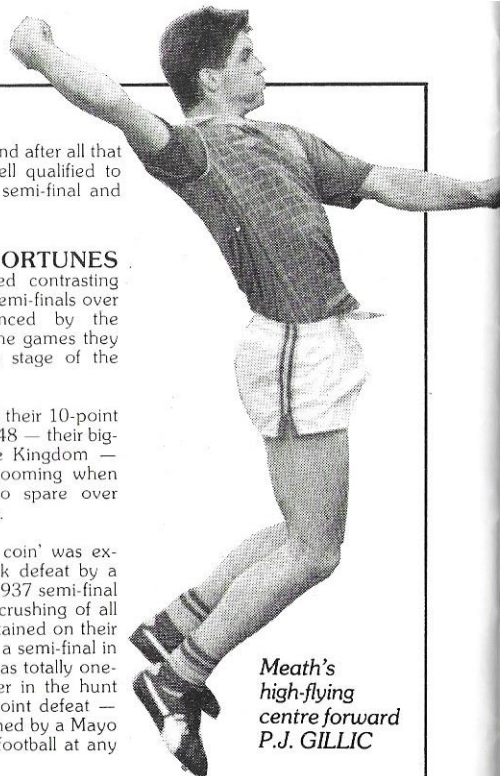
games in one month, and after all that activity Meath were well qualified to meet the challenge of semi-final and final opponents.

CONTRASTING FORTUNES

Mayo have experienced contrasting fortunes in All-Ireland semi-finals over the years, as evidenced by the scorelines of some of the games they have contested at this stage of the championship.

On the 'credit' side was their 10-point victory over Kerry in 1948 — their biggest win ever over the Kingdom — and things were still booming when they had 12 points to spare over Armagh two years later.

The 'other side of the coin' was exemplified by their shock defeat by a late Cavan goal in the 1937 semi-final at Mullingar; but most crushing of all was the defeat they sustained on their very first appearance in a semi-final in 1901. In a game that was totally one-sided, Mayo were never in the hunt and slumped to a 29-point defeat — the heaviest ever sustained by a Mayo team in championship football at any level.



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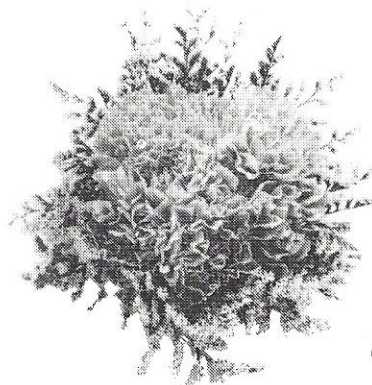
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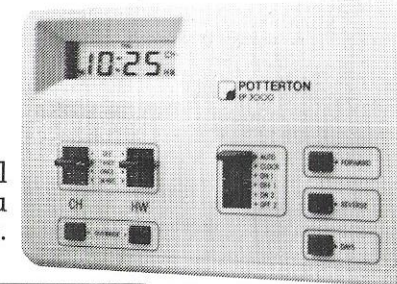


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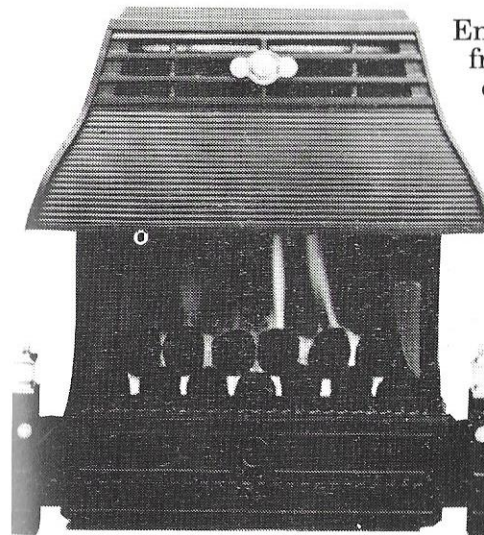


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GOLDEN SPELL WINS 1967 CLASH FOR MEATH

A golden three minutes spell in the second half set Meath up for a resounding win over Mayo in the last All-Ireland senior football semi-final meeting of the counties on August 20, 1967.

Meath had the edge in the first half, and led by 1-8 to 0-8 at the break, but the Connacht champions rallied strongly on the restart, and within ten minutes were a point clear and playing like probable winners.

Then, Meath struck it rich in a big way. Playing football of rare splendour they turned the game completely around their way with a devastating three minute burst.

Points by Matt Kerrigan and Tony Brennan had the Royal County ahead and in the 17th minute Peter Moore, who started at midfield, but was switched to the "40", was on hand to goal. Less than a minute later a free by Tony Brennan, was fumbled in the Mayo defence, and Moore was again the one who appeared to finish the ball over the line for another goal.

● MAIGH EO



Paddy Mulvanney and Noel Curran popped over good points, and the Leinster champions were into a 3-12 to 0-12 lead. They went on from there for a 3-14 to 1-14 triumph.

Full back Jack Quinn, centre half Bertie Cunningham, left half Pat Reynolds, Terry Kearns, and Brennan, Moore and Matt Kerrigan were the men who did most to fashion the Meath victory.

Johnny Farragher, who started at centre half back but was moved to centre half forward after 16 minutes, and later returned to the defence at left wing, Joe Corcoran and Johnny Carey at right full, and P. J. Loftus at midfield were the pick of the Mayo team.

Patrons in the Cusack Stand are requested to follow the exit signs provided and make full use of the exits at both the Belvedere Lane and Love Lane ends of the stand.

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael would appreciate every co-operation.

Stars old and new

Unique Position for Pat Reynolds

Pat Reynolds, one of the men who have helped to mastermind the modern success story that is Meath as a selector, has a place apart in the county's history. He became Meath's first All Star with his selection at left half back in the initial team of 1971.

An exciting and attacking exponent of wing back play, Reynolds was a powerful unit in a great half back department that proved one of the chief weapons in forging out the Royal County's 1967 All-Ireland final win over Cork. The supreme honour came three years after he stepped up to the senior championship grade for the first time — and at No. 7.

Reynolds excelled as an athlete in his youth, and won medals in the sprints, hurdles and shot putt. He had two seasons in the county minor team, and won a provincial medal at junior in 1964.

The tireless and dependable wing back with the



attacking flair, toured Australia with Meath in 1968, and two years later won the last of his four Leinster senior medals.

A member of the Walterstown club, he had his last big national success as a player in 1975, but a centre half back. It was there that he helped Meath to the National League title, and when they regained that crown last spring, he was a key figure yet again, but as a selector.

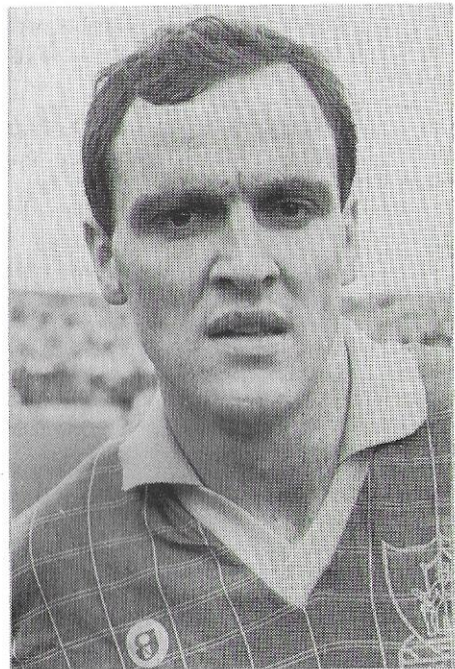
McEntee — The Man Who Came Back

Gerry McEntee is the footballer from Meath who came back to the big time this year to make a handsome contribution with his midfield talents to what is proving the most successful season yet for his county.

After a short retirement from inter-county football around the turn of the year this Nobber clubman returned to the Meath side earlier this season, and had a big say in the Royal League title win. He helped to link two eras, as when Meath won the title in 1975 — their last before the triumph of last May — he was a substitute, but did not play in the final against Dublin.

McEntee has been a consistent performer with Meath for over a dozen years, and now at 31 remains a valuable link in the side. He led Leinster to the Railway Cup last October, and later set the seal on a memorable season by winning his first Bank of Ireland All Star trophy.

McEntee has won two Meath "Footballer of the Year" awards — the only man to earn such a double honour. Last month he added his third Leinster senior medal to his All-Ireland had League souvenirs.



MAYO FIRSTS

Mayo was the first Connacht county to win an All-Ireland football semi-final. After 16 fruitless seasons of semi-final endeavour, western frustration was ended at Croke Park on November 19, 1916 when Mayo beat Cork by 1-2 to 0-2 on a replay.

This second meeting arose not from a drawn encounter, but as a result of a Cork objection after they had lost the game at Athlone three weeks previously.

This Mayo success was also noteworthy for the fact that it was the first win a championship game at Croke Park by a Connacht county. And Mayo were still in the business of 'firsts' when they came to Dublin to take on Wexford in the 1925 semi-final. To that time no Connacht team had ever overcome a Leinster team in the senior championship, but on August 30 of that year, Mayo made another piece of football history when they had a goal to spare over the Slaneysiders.

MAYO'S LATEST CHANCE TO EMERGE FROM SHADOWS

Victory for Mayo in the All-Ireland senior football semi-final would not only revive memories of former greatness, but result in a unique experience for very many of their supporters. For a county with such a great tradition in the game, it is surprising that no team from there had successfully negotiated an All-Ireland semi-final at senior since as far back as 1951.

A glorious era in Mayo football was then drawing to a close. In 1951 Kerry were beaten by two points in a replay on the way to a successful defence of the All-Ireland title. Sean Flanagan, from left full back, captained an outstanding side that included such giants as Eamonn Mongey, Padraic Carney, Paddy Prendergast and Tom Langan as the county completed a first-ever double of national crowns. Who would have believed then that come the concluding years of the 'Eighties Mayo would still be striving not only to add to their All-Ireland titles tally, but to chalk up even a semi-final triumph?

Mayo have produced outstanding teams in the meantime, and promised much from time to time as well, but have still consistently found the All-Ireland semi-final the major "road block" on the way to glory. They lost to Dublin in a replay in 1955, to Meath in 1967, to Kerry two years later, and again in 1981.

Four years after that in their next semi-final outing T. J. Kilgallon earned Mayo a dramatic and well-deserved draw with a much taunted Dublin with a well-taken point virtually on the final whistle. A new generation from the county had a brief and thrilling glimpse of what glory at All-Ireland level is all about, and hopes were high that the team would complete the task in the replay.

It was not to be, however, as the Dubs, with Dave Synnott, Mick Holden, Kieran Duff and Barney Rock prominent, won comfortably by eight points. Another dismal chapter to the now well-worn and disappointing record in the semi-final.

Mayo have had their ups and downs in their efforts to return to Croke Park. Only last spring they were involved in a National League relegation tie with Kerry, and lost that one at Ennis by three points to drop to Division II for next season.

Championship hopes hardly looked bright as a result, but they found new

Continued Overleaf —

MAYO'S LATEST CHANCE — *Continued.*

reserves of determination, commitment and skill and regained the Connacht title after a break of three years in a manner that left no room for doubts as to their right to carry the Western banner once more.

All of which means that Mayo line out with their most experienced side in an All-Ireland semi-final in years. Eugene Lavín, Martin Carney, Frank Noone, John Finn, Dermot Flanagan, T. J. Kilgallon, Sean Maher, Noel Durkin, Jimmy Burke and Willie Joe Padden, all of whom played in the Connacht final, know at first hand the semi-final tension.

Carney, in fact, is something of a semi-final veteran. He helped his native Donegal in their unsuccessful games against Offaly in 1972, and against Galway in 1974, and was in the Mayo teams beaten in 1981 and 1985.

Plenty of craft in the Mayo team, then, and the younger players are also blending in well, and will undoubtedly benefit from the coolness and support of their older colleagues.

Mayo are certainly better equipped for the bid to end the dismal semi-final records than in any game since the glory days of the 'Fifties. Whether or not new heroes will emerge today to roll back the years and give Mayo football its greatest boost of the modern era, only time will tell.



FÁG AN BEALACH

Mayo's corner forward Tom Reilly in full flight.

MAYO'S SEMI-FINALS 1901-1985

With the setting up of the provincial councils at the turn of the century and the establishment of the Connacht and Ulster championships on a sound basis, the staging of All-Ireland semi-finals involving all four provinces became a permanent feature of the gaelic scene.

Meath, by virtue of the highly competitive nature of the Leinster championship, had no role in the early semi-finals, but Mayo, often dominant in Connacht, were quickly involved with the great powers of the South and East.

The Westerners' experience of competition at this level was, however, not particularly rewarding, and indeed, they endured years of frustration in vain attempts to lower the colours of Kerry, Cork and Dublin.

Mayo's first appearance in a semi-final was when they opposed Cork at Limerick in the 1901 championship (played May 17, 1903) but a crushing defeat was their lot on that occasion. That was to be the first of many disappointing jousts at the Markets Field for the Connacht men, as between 1901 and 1908 they lost five semi-finals at the venue.

It wasn't until 1916 that Mayo finally laid the semi-final bogey when they defeated Cork on a replay at Croke Park. That was the beginning of happier days for them in semi-final competition, but the early reverses left their overall record with a heavy 'debit' balance, as of the 30 semi-finals they contested they have won seven and lost 23.

The scorelines of the 30 outings were:

1901 — Cork	4-16;	Mayo	0-1.
1903 — Kerry	2-7;	Mayo	0-4.
1904 — Dublin	0-8;	Mayo	1-4.
1906 — Cork	0-10;	Mayo	0-6.
1907 — Cork	2-10;	Mayo	0-2.
1908 — Kerry	2-4;	Mayo	0-1.
1909 — Kerry	2-12;	Mayo	0-4.
1910 — Kerry	1-7;	Mayo	0-4.
*1916 — Mayo	1-2;	Cork	1-1.
1918 — Tipperary	2-2;	Mayo	1-4.
1920 — Tipperary	1-5;	Mayo	1-0.
1923 — Dublin	1-6;	Mayo	1-2.
1924 — Kerry	1-4;	Mayo	0-1.
1925 — Mayo	2-4;	Wexford	1-4.
1929 — Kerry	3-8;	Mayo	1-1.
1930 — Kerry	1-9;	Mayo	0-4.
1931 — Kerry	1-6;	Mayo	1-4.
1932 — Mayo	2-4;	Cavan	0-8.
1935 — Kildare	2-6;	Mayo	0-7.
1936 — Mayo	1-5;	Kerry	0-6.
1937 — Cavan	2-5;	Mayo	1-7.
*1939 — Kerry	3-8;	Mayo	0-4.
1948 — Mayo	0-13;	Kerry	0-3.
1949 — Meath	3-10;	Mayo	1-10.
1950 — Mayo	3-9;	Armagh	0-6.
*1951 — Mayo	2-4;	Kerry	1-5.
*1955 — Dublin	1-8;	Mayo	1-7.
1967 — Meath	3-14;	Mayo	1-14.
1969 — Kerry	0-14;	Mayo	1-10.
*1985 — Dublin	2-12;	Mayo	1-7.

*REPLAY.

MAYO'S LAST

Mayo's last win in a championship game at Croke Park as in the 1951 All-Ireland final when they retained their title with a 2-8 to 0-9 win over Meath. The team was: S. Wynne; J. Forde; P. Prendergast; S. Flanagan, captain; J. Staunton; H. Dixon; P. Quinn; E. Mongey; J. McAndrew; P. Irwin; P. Carney; S. Mulderrig; M. Flanagan; T. Langan; J. Gilvarry. Sub: L. Hastings for H. Dixon.

Since that All-Ireland triumph Mayo's best performance at headquarters were the drawn games with Dublin in 1955 and '85.



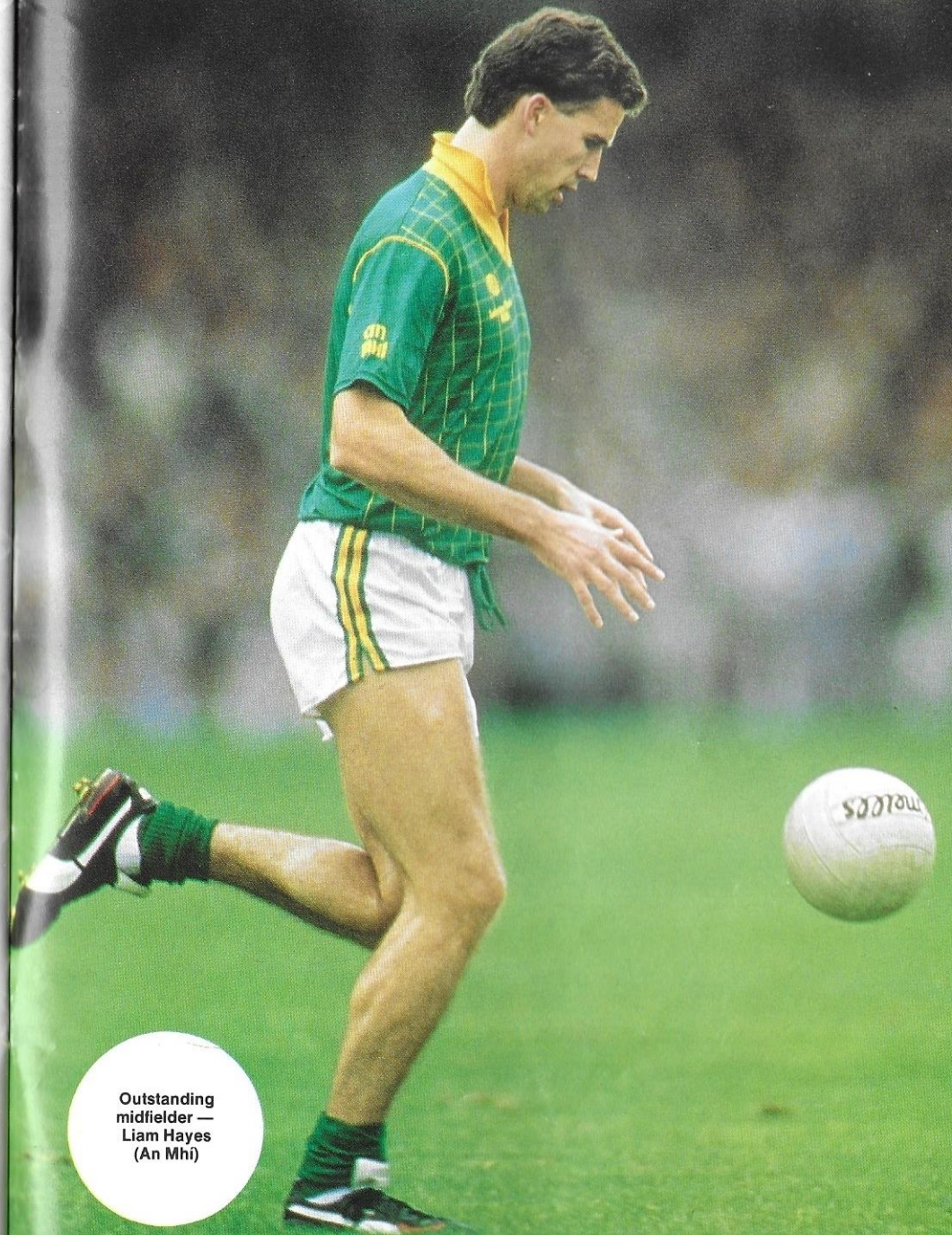
INTO/GAA MINI SEVENS EXHIBITION

Today forty children from all four Provinces have the opportunity to display their skills in Gaelic Football during half time in the Senior game. These children were amongst approximately 8,500 who participated in the Primary Schools INTO/GAA Mini Sevens competition which began last April.

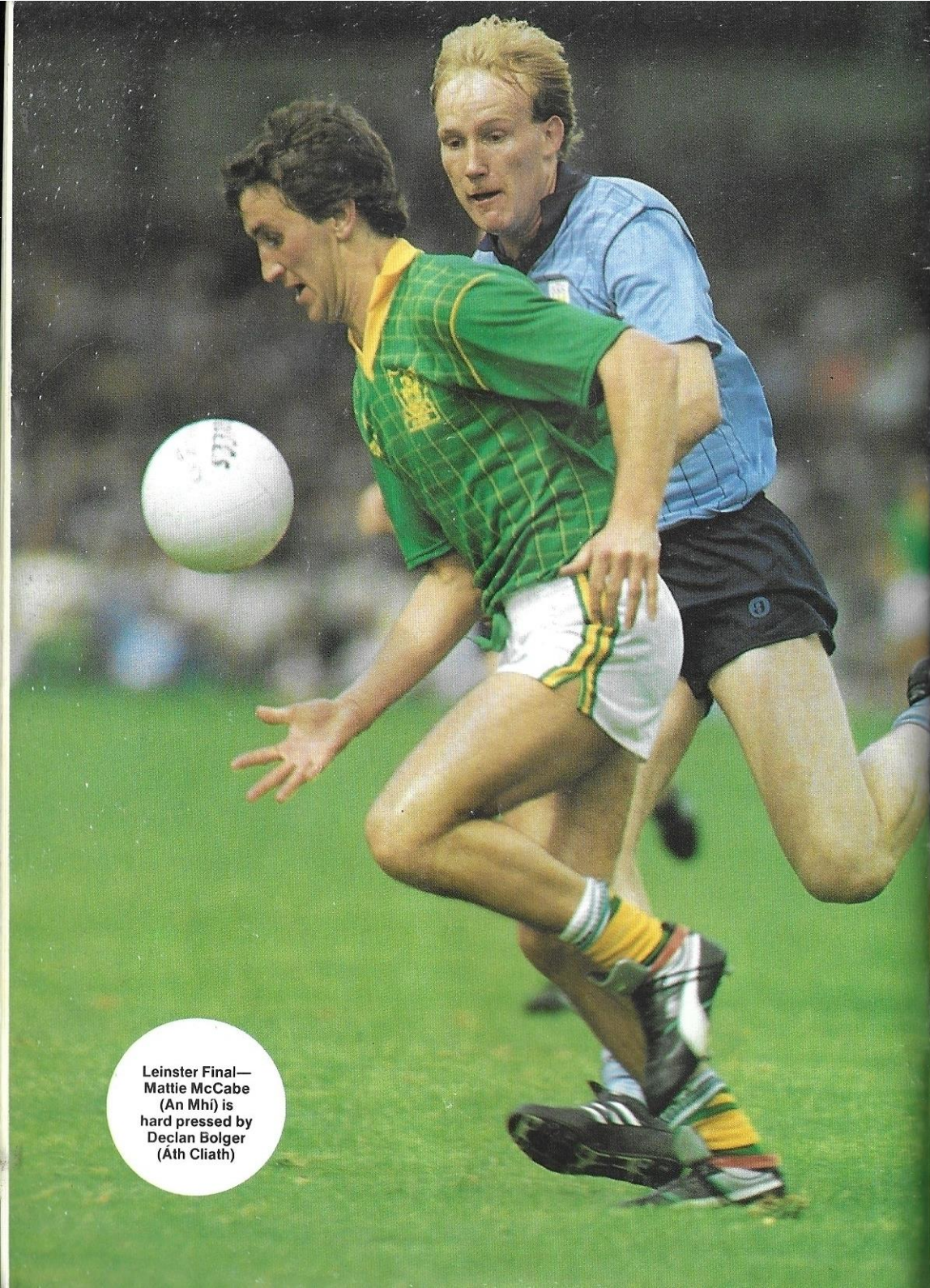
The competitive aspect of the scheme ended at Provincial level and today's participants were selected to come to Croke Park for today's Exhibition Games on the basis of skills displayed.

Children will be allowed keep the specially designed playing gear they are wearing today and will receive certificates from G.A.A. President, John Dowling, and INTO President, Michael Drew.

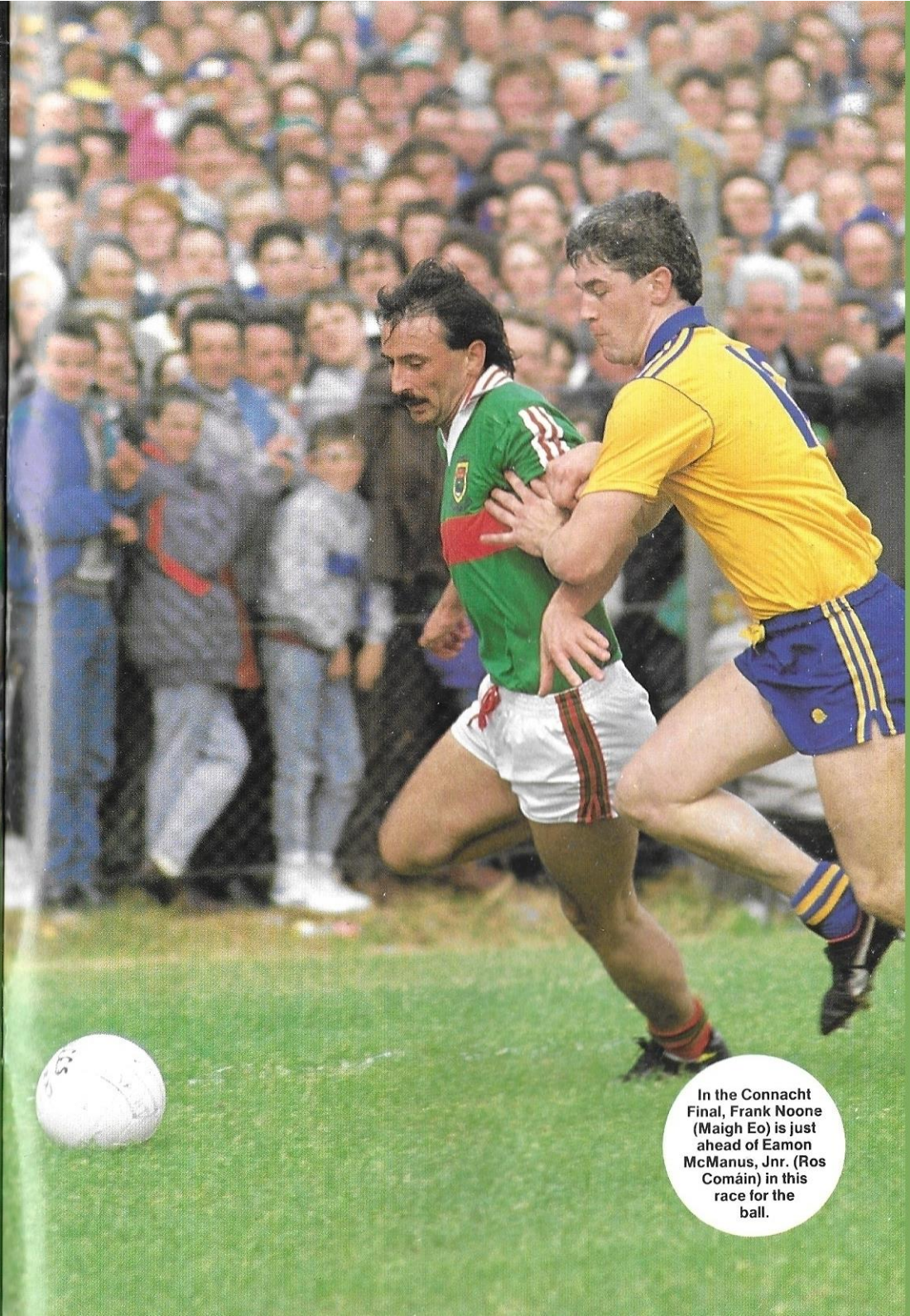
Gabhaimíd buíochas ar leith leis na múinteoirí a mhúin scileanna ár gcluichí dona daoine óga seo.



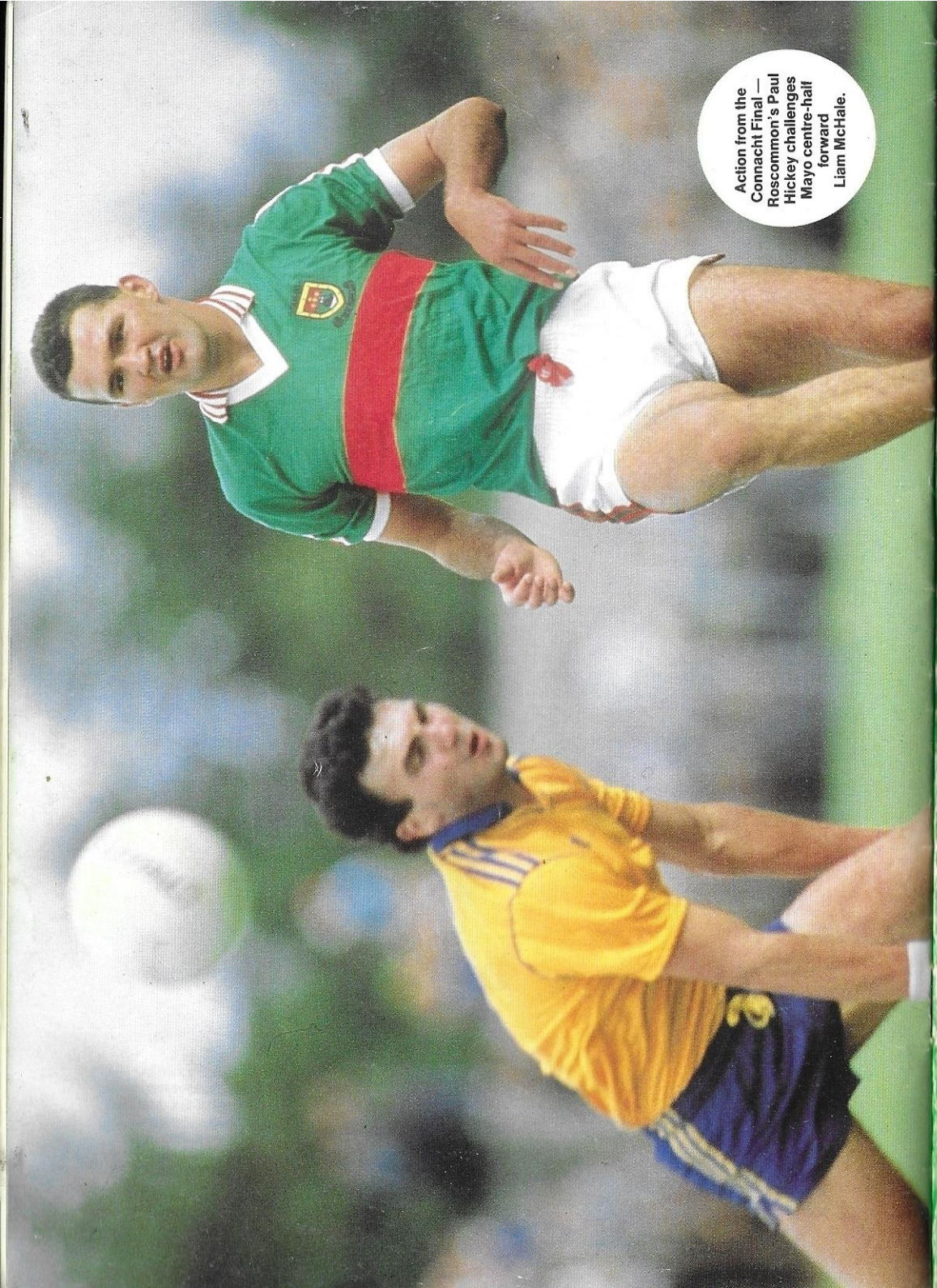
Outstanding
midfielder —
Liam Hayes
(An Mhi)



Leinster Final—
Mattie McCabe
(An Mhi) is
hard pressed by
Declan Bolger
(Ath Cliath)



In the Connacht
Final, Frank Noone
(Maigh Eo) is just
ahead of Eamon
McManus, Jr. (Ros
Comáin) in this
race for the
ball.



Action from the Connacht Final — Roscommon's Paul Hickey challenges Mayo centre-half forward Liam McHale.

AN MHI

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