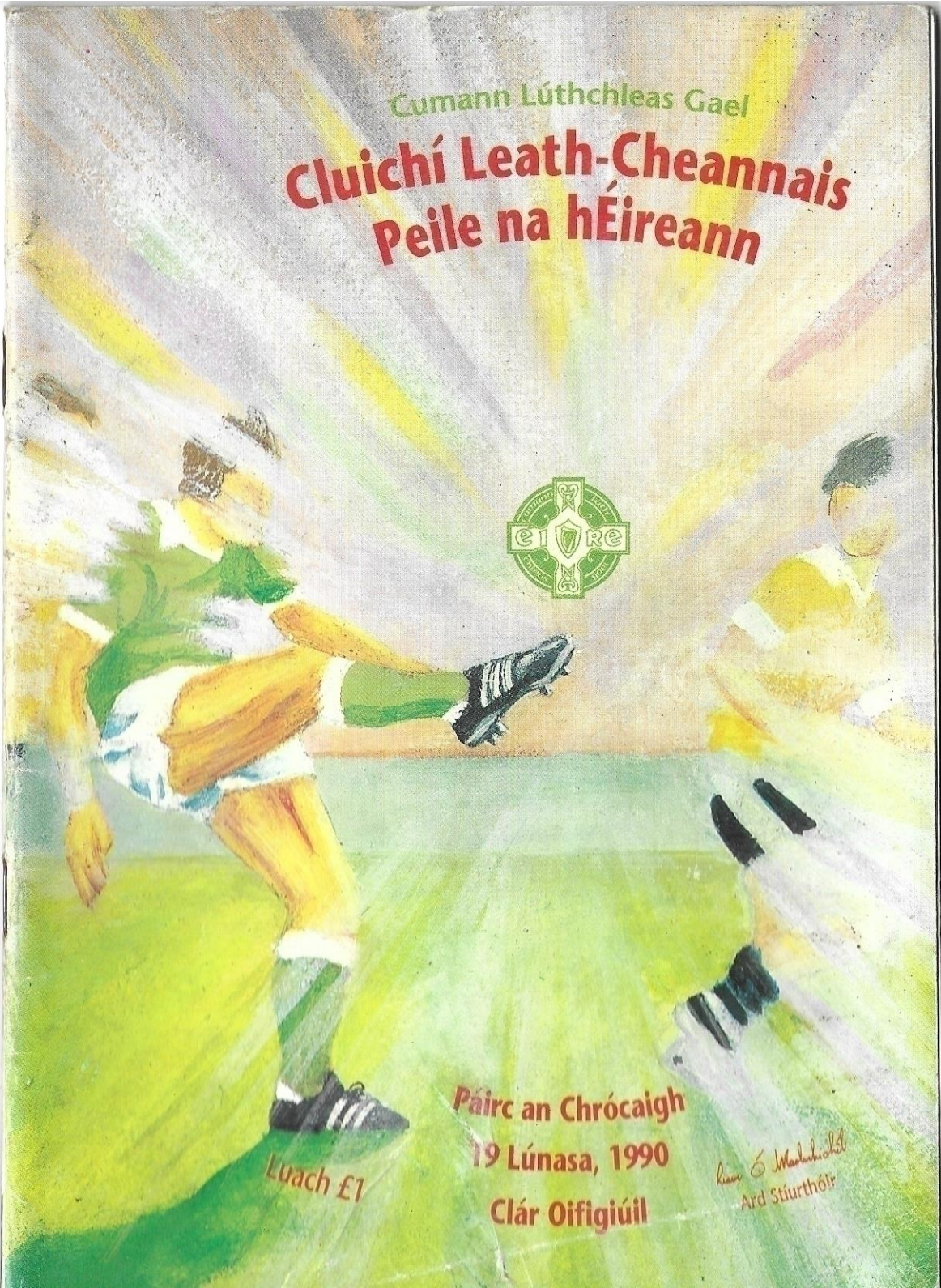


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2.00 i.n.

An Mhí v. Doire
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Senior Football
3.30 i.n.

An Mhí v. Dún na nGall
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Clár an Lae

- 2.00p.m. Minor Football Semi-Final:
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- 2.32p.m. GAA/I.N.T.O. Mini-Sevens
- 3.23p.m. Parade of Senior Teams
An Mhí v. Dún na nGall
- 3.28p.m. Amhrán na bhFiann
- 3.30p.m. Cluiche leath-cheannais
Peile na hÉireann
An Mhí v. Dún na nGall.
- 4.50p.m. Críoch



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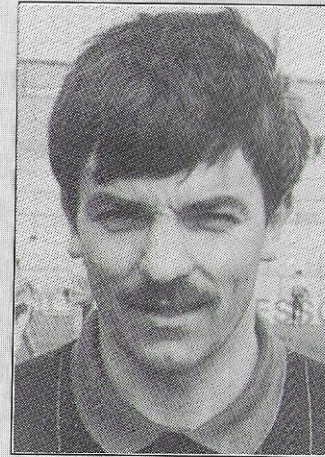
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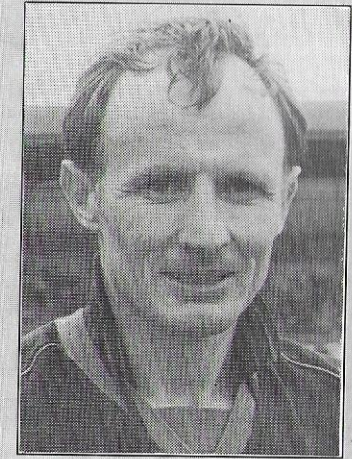
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The Mini-Sevens game which take place during today's programme are the culmination of a series of Primary School games which were organised at local, county and provincial level. The children participating today were chosen on the basis of their skilful performance at provincial level. Ba mhaith leis an gCumann Lúthchleas Gael buíochas a ghabháil leis na múinteoirí uilig a chabhraigh chun an scéim seo a chur i gcrích.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Green and Gold (Donegal)

— Team 1

Pitch: defending Hogan Stand, Canal End.

1. CATRIONA BRADY, Swan's Cross, Co. Monaghan.
2. ANGELA WHITMORE, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford.
3. EMMA COONEY, Drumlish, Co. Longford.
4. FIONA MOORE, Carbury, Co. Kildare.
5. MAIRÉAD MCKENNA, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.
6. BRENDA HARROLD, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.
7. IRENE McCARRON, Smithboro', Co. Monaghan.
8. DORA GILL, Drumlish, Co. Longford.
9. EILIS DOHERTY, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal.
10. SINÉAD NÍ GHRIANAIN, Aghabog, Co. Monaghan.

Team Manager:

Brian Doyle, Cavan.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

Green and Gold (Meath)

— Team 2

Pitch: defending Cusack Stand, Canal End.

1. DONNA SMALL, Newry, Co. Down.
2. ANGELA MURPHY, Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh.
3. TRACEY LAMB, Ballyboden, Dublin.
4. CATIONA RENNICKS, Ardbraccan, Co. Meath.
5. AIMEE BENNETT, Bohermeen, Co. Meath.
6. VOURNEEN QUIGLEY, Kilkenny, Dundalk.
7. TANYA WHELAN, Ballyboden, Dublin.
8. DENISE CONWAY, Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh.
9. LINDA FITZSIMONS, Ardbraccan, Co. Meath.
10. LOUISE QUINN, Newry, Co. Down.

Team Manager:

Larry Broderick, Dublin.

BOYS FOOTBALL

Green and Gold (Donegal)

— Team 3

Pitch: defending Cusack Stand, Hill 16 End.

1. BARRY DEVLIN, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.
2. CHARLES BOYLE, Glenties, Co. Donegal.
3. BARRY GOFF, Castlebridge, Co. Wexford.
4. NOEL McPARLAND, Belleek, Co. Armagh.
5. JOE BYRNE, Glenties, Co. Donegal.
6. DEREK CONROY, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
7. RICHARD CONNOLLY, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny.
8. DERMOT McKILLION, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.
9. JOHN DOYLE, Naas, Co. Kildare.
10. ENDA McGANN, Kenagh, Co. Longford.

Team Manager:

Frank Bradley, Donegal.

BOYS FOOTBALL

Green and Gold (Meath)—

Team 4

Pitch: defending Hogan Stand, Hill 16 End.

1. ALAN HENNESSY, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow.
2. KEVIN CURRAN, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh.
3. BARRY MOORE, Slane, Co. Meath.
4. DONAGH COURTNEY, Virginia, Co. Cavan.
5. ADRIAN IRWIN, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan.
6. ROBERT McAULEY, Clogherhead, Co. Louth.
7. GERARD McGUINNESS, Slane, Co. Meath.
8. ENDA O'CONNOR, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan.
9. CIARAN BYRNE, Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow.
10. MARTIN HOPKINS, Virginia, Co. Cavan.

Team Manager:

Fintan Keating, Meath.

Donegal make their fourth attempt since 1972 to earn an All-Ireland senior football championship debut today, and they line-out with probably the best credentials of any side from the county that has so far contested a national semi-final.

All of which indicates that Donegal, whose side includes All-Ireland under-21 medal winners from 1982 and 1987, are not a team that has suddenly come up overnight. They have been steadily building up strength in recent times, and have shown that they are now capable of successfully matching the best around.

Donegal Well Armed For History-Making Bid

The current team has had a thorough schooling in Division I play in the Royal Liver National League. The county gained promotion to the premier group in 1988-89 for the first time under the present groupings, and had a particularly good run last season, qualifying for the knockout stages.

Moreover, the North-West men put up a spirited showing against Meath in a League quarter-final at Clones last April. They led by six points starting the final quarter, but were rocked by a Meath revival sparked by two goals from David Beggy, and at the end finished in arrears by five points. Nevertheless, that was an encouraging display, and one that augured well for the championship.

Donegal lived up to that promise in Ulster. Indeed, they showed the right character in bouncing back from a defeat by Tyrone in last year's Ulster final in a replay to regain the provincial crown after an interval of seven years,

The new Ulster champions also have a number of strong links with the team that put up a very spirited effort when losing by a point to Galway in the 1985 semi-final.

Martin McLugh was top scorer for Donegal in that game with five points and is still in sharpshooting form. Anthony was at right midfield, the same position from which he led the county to last month's Ulster title win.

Donal Reid and Joyce McMullan, who also helped to regain the provincial crown last month, were both in the attack in the last semi-final appearance, while a number of the substitutes at Clones also saw action against Galway seven years ago.

Donegal's All-Ireland semi-final debut was against Offaly, then All-Ireland champions, in 1972, and they played their part well in providing an entertaining game for an attendance of

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Donegal Well Armed For History-Making Bid

— CONTINUED

26,606. Shamie Granaghan and Martin Carney, who later won Connacht senior medals with Mayo, were Donegal's goal scorers as they lost by 2-10 to 1-17.

Two years later Donegal were back again in an All-Ireland semi-final, and with most of the 1972 team once more in action, and despite losing key men Brian McEniff, right half back, and midfielder Seamus Bonner with injuries in the first half, gave Galway a good run.

John Tobin, now the Galway senior team manager, was the man of the match, scoring 2-6 to prompt his team to a 3-13 to 1-14 win before an attendance of 33,782.

The Northerners had to wait nine years until their next semi-final outing, when a Val Daly goal in the 62nd minute proved the vital score in a 1-12 to 1-11 win that kept a 28,507 crowd on their toes in sweltering heat.

Not very encouraging pointers, then, for the men of the 'Nineties as they strive to give the North a direct interest in an All-Ireland final for the first time since 1986 when Tyrone made their Sam Maguire Cup debut. But this is unlikely to worry Anthony Molloy's crew after their exciting run in last season's League and their good championship displays in Ulster over the last two years.

Meath Have Come A Long Way On The Road Back

Meath, who are back in an All-Ireland senior football semi-final after a break of two years, have shown in the Royal Liver National League and in the Leinster championship that, despite all they achieved towards the end of the 'Eighties, they are still eager and enthusiastic for more success.

They competed in Division II of last season's League, and a 16 points drubbing from Roscommon and a ten points crash to Antrim in successive games in the spring were enough to discourage any side. Meath had the resilience and determination, however, to bounce back to finish runners-up in the Division, earn promotion and also qualify for a place in the quarter-finals.

Their quarter-final clash with Donegal at Clones in early April was a game in which the great will-to-win of the Meath men was again strikingly in evidence. Many at that tie had written off the hopes of the Easterners as they trailed a lively and confident Donegal side by six points at the start of the last quarter, but they reckoned without the great heart and skills of the Royal County footballers — not to mention the goal scoring techniques of David Beggy.

Twice within the space of three minutes he was presented with goal scoring opportunities by Colm O'Rourke, and twice he proved equal to the challenge. His two goals demoralised Donegal, and from a team that had struggled until then, Meath were back in form, and powered to a convincing five points win.

They have not looked back in the meantime. The Royal Liver National League crown was regained after two years, and last month the revival was further boosted with victory at the expense of old rivals Dublin for the Leinster crown. Sweet revenge for a defeat at the same stage last

year by the Dubs that ended hopes of a fourth Leinster title in a row.

Meath have obviously come a long way on the road back to the standard that brought them the All-Ireland senior crowns of 1987 and 1988. They also have a real trump card for this semi-final in championship know-how — all the more so against a team that has so many footballers appearing at this stage of the championship for the first time. All but three of the footballers who appeared in the recent win over Dublin hold All-Ireland senior medals.

The Leinster final newcomers were Donal Smyth, Colm Brady and Tommy Dowd.

Smyth was a substitute when Meath won the 1987 and 1988 All-Ireland titles, and has the proud distinction of not having conceded a goal in three championship outings this season.

Reilly won a League medal in 1988 and a Leinster medal that year as well, but his career was interrupted by an injury and he did not play in the Sam Maguire Cup winning sides. He was a substitute in this season's Royal Liver League final side.

Brady has been doing well in midfield, and has built up an effective partnership with wily Liam Hayes.

Dowd was not in the League final side or substitute panel, but appeared in all three Leinster championship ties this season.

Both Smyth and Brady won Royal Liver League medals earlier this year.

Meath, then, have a strong panel of championship campaigners and promising newcomers. They have a good record after the earlier morale-deflating reverses from Roscommon and Antrim, and a hunger for more success. These are all vital assets in the make-up of the side as Meath strive to keep the revival firmly on the rails by earning another Sam Maguire show-down with the men from Cork.

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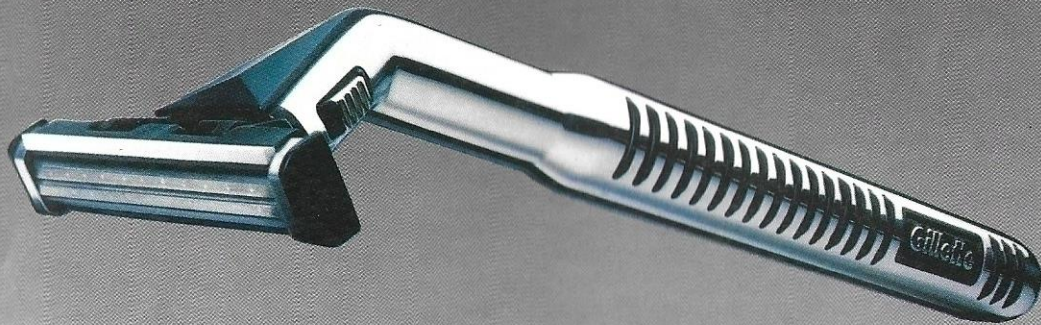
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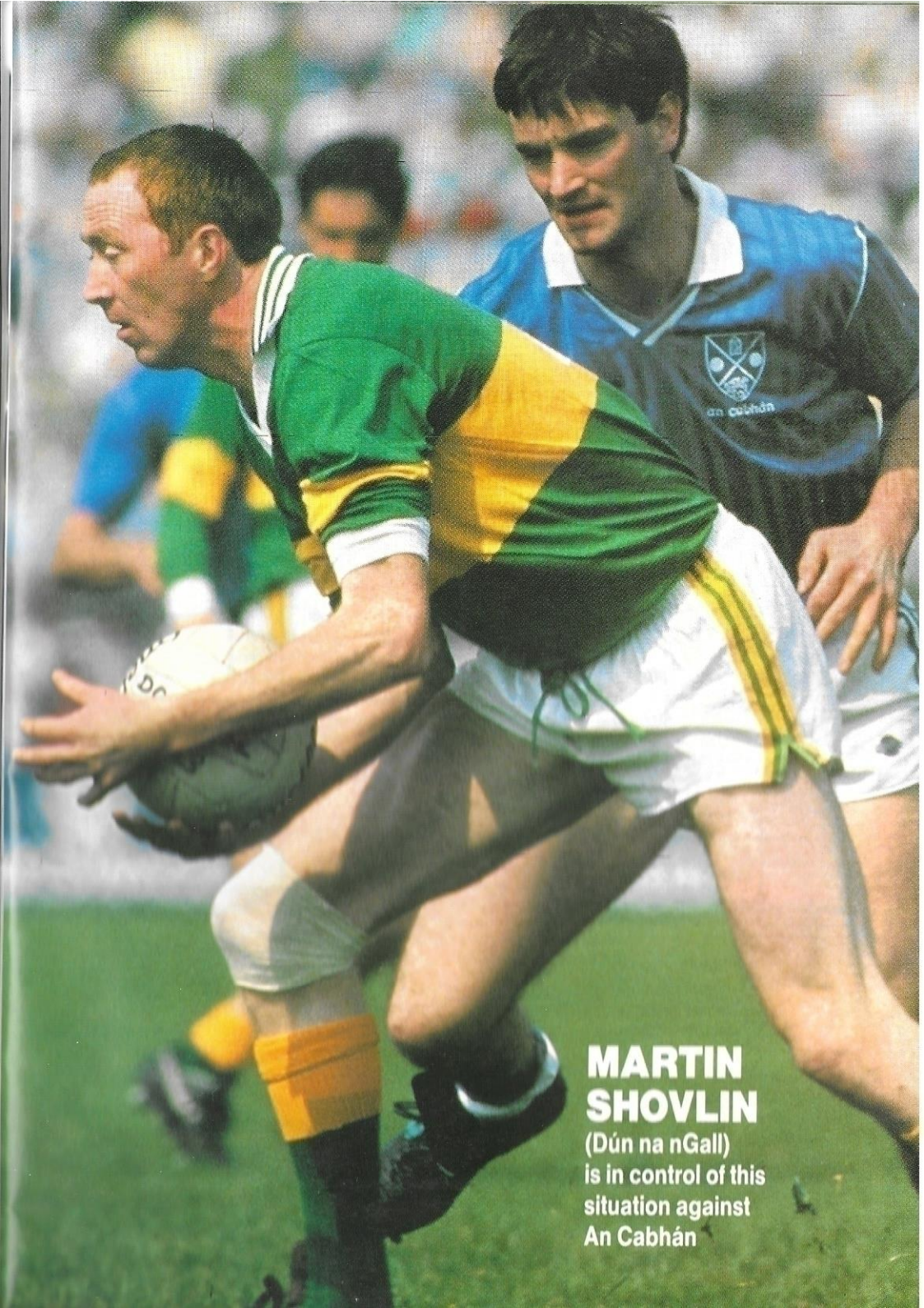
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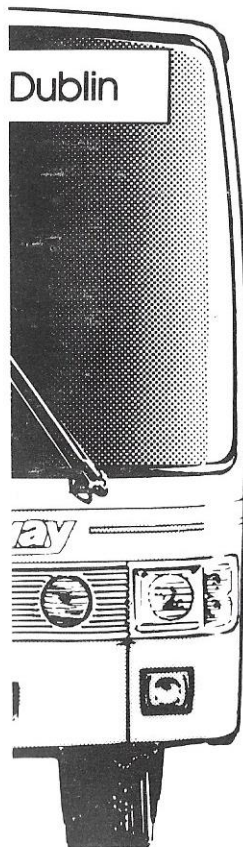
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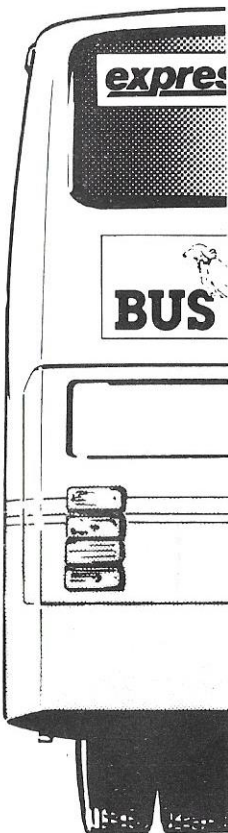
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PATHS TO THE FINAL

A Fourth Ulster Title for Donegal

Donegal are Ulster senior football champions for the first time since 1983. Their win over Armagh last month earned the county a fourth provincial crown since they made the breakthrough for the first time in 1972.

This will be the North-West men's fourth championship appearance of the season.

May 20. Ballybofey: Donegal 0-13; Cavan 0-9.
 June 17. Clones: Donegal 1-15; Derry 0-8.
 July 15. Clones: Donegal 0-15; Armagh 0-14.

This gives the new Ulster champions a scoring record of 1-43 (46 points), and 0-31 against.

Manus Boyle leads their scoring parade with 1-16, and he scored in every game. Declan Bonner, who is the only other player to have scored in each of the three ties, takes second place on 0-8.

Martin McHugh has 0-6, Charlie Mulgrew 0-3, Joyce McMullan 0-2, James McHugh 0-2, and Brian Murray 0-2.

Gerry Curran, Martin Gavigan, Donal Reid and Tommy Ryan with a point each were the other Donegal men on the scoring target.

Meath Back After Two Years

Meath are back in an All-Ireland senior football semi-final after two years. Their win over Dublin last month earned the county a 16th Eastern title since 1895.

Meath, who won the Royal Liver National League title in April, had three games on the way to this latest triumph.

June 10. Navan Meath 3-15; Longford 0-12.
 July 1. Croke Park: Meath 4-14; Laois 0-6.
 July 29. Croke Park: Meath 1-14; Dublin 0-14.

The Meath returns for the three games are 8-43 (67 points), for, and 0-32 against.

Brian Stafford and Bernard Flynn share joint leadership of the scoring returns. Stafford has 0-16, and Flynn 2-10. Colm O'Rourke is in close contention with 3-5, and so also is the goal expert of the team.

David Beggy, P. J. Gillic and Liam Hayes share the next position with 1-2 each. The scoring returns are completed by Tommy Dowd 0-3, Sean Kelly 0-2, and Martin O'Connell 0-1.

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THEIR THREE

Although there has been no championship meeting to date of Donegal and Meath in senior football, the National League has produced three confrontations of the counties from which the record reads - one win each and one drawn. The first of these was at Tierney Park Ballyshannon in the 1973-74 campaign and the third the recent quarter-final tie at Clones.

1974 - Donegal 0-8, Meath 0-8.

Donegal needed both points from this seventh-round tie to gain promotion; a draw would satisfy Meath. The need for a clear-cut decision lent extra urgency to the Donegal efforts and with a midfield pull, they did most of the attacking in the first half at the end of which they led by four points to three. Continuing to hold the edge, the Northerners

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led by three points with ten minutes remaining, but Meath fought back to divide the honours. Donegal missed two close-in frees in the last two minutes.

Donegal scorers: N. Gallagher 0-2, S. Bonner 0-2, M. Lafferty 0-1, B. McEniff 0-1, S. Granaghan 0-1, J. Winston 0-1.
Meath: D. Murtagh 0-3, K. Rennicks 0-1, P. Farrelly 0-1, G. Farrelly 0-1, M. Faye 0-1, M. Kerrigan 0-1.

Donegal: A. Kane, D. Monaghan, P. McShea, A. Curran, B. McEniff, A. Gallagher, F. Ward, M. Lafferty, P. McGettigan, M. Carney, S. Bonner, J. Winston, H. McCafferty, N. Gallagher, S. Granaghan. Subs: K. Keeney for Winston, P. McDyer for Granaghan.

Meath: F. Carbury, M. Collins, J. Quinn, P. Murray, M. Mahon, K. McConnell, P. Reynolds, K. Rennicks, P. O'Brien, P. Cromwell, M. Kerrigan, D. Murtagh, P. Farrelly, G. Farrelly, M. Faye. Subs: K. Mooney for O'Brien, P. McManus for P. Farrelly, C. Blake for Cromwell.

1988: Donegal 0-15 Meath 1-6

At Ballybofey Donegal, displaying scant respect for Meath's position as All-Ireland champions, began at a furious pace before 5,000 spectators. They were three points ahead, despite missing many chances, when David Beggy's 30th minute goal left it 1-4 to 0-7.

Donegal took it up on the restart and soon regained the lead with Martin McHugh giving an exhibition of marksmanship from play and frees. Meath, short six of their All-Ireland team, could not respond and Finian Murtagh's two points were their only second-half scores.

Donegal scorers: M. McHugh 0-9, B. Murray 0-3, M. Carlin 0-2, P. Ward 0-1.
Meath: D. Beggy 1-0, F. Murtagh 0-2, B. Stafford 0-2, J. Henry 0-1, G. Martyn 0-1.

MEETINGS

Donegal: G. Walsh, J. Doherty, J. Connors, C. Campbell, D. Reid, B. Tuohy, M. Shoovelin, A. Molloy, M. Gavigan, P. Ward, B. Murray, T. Ryan, M. McHugh, M. Carlin, S. Carr.

Meath: M. McQuillan, M. O'Connell, B. O'Malley, T. Ferguson, C. Coyle, L. Harnan, B. Reilly, L. Hayes, S. Kelly, D. Buggy, M. McCabe, J. Henry, G. Martyn, B. Stafford, L. Smith, Subs: F. Murtagh for Kelly, F. Foley for Harnan, P. Coyle for Smith.

1990 - Meath 2-12 Donegal 0-13

For threequarters of the way Donegal did the pacemaking and looked to be sailing to a comfortable victory when they led by double scores (0-12 to 0-6) and no sign of a Meath resurgence. Then David Beggy, quiet enough by his standards up to then, took a hand when he fisted home Colm O'Rourke's pass. Suddenly Donegal were in disarray; concentration wavered and three minutes

later Flynn's line ball was taken on by O'Rourke who sent Beggy through for his second major. In the closing minutes Meath could do no wrong and baffled Donegal had no answer.

Meath scorers: D. Beggy 2-0, B. Stafford 0-6, C. O'Rourke 0-2, B. Flynn 0-2, C. Brady 0-1. P. J. Gillic 0-1.

Donegal: M. McHugh 0-9, A. Molloy 0-1, J. McHugh 0-1, C. Mulgrew 0-1, M. Boyle 0-1.
Meath: D. Smith, R. O'Malley, M. Lyons, T. Ferguson, K. Foley, L. Harnan, M. O'Connell, L. Hayes, C. Brady, D. Beggy, C. Coyle, P. J. Gillic, C. O'Rourke, B. Stafford, B. Flynn. Subs: - J. Cassells for Gillic.

Donegal: G. Walsh, J. J. Doherty, S. Bonner, B. Touhy, D. Reid, P. Carr, M. Shovlin, J. Gallagher, A. Molloy, J. McHugh, J. McMullen, D. Bonner, C. Mulgrew, L. Gavigan, M. McHugh. Subs: J. Connors for Shovlin, B. Murray for Gallagher, M. Boyle for Gavigan.

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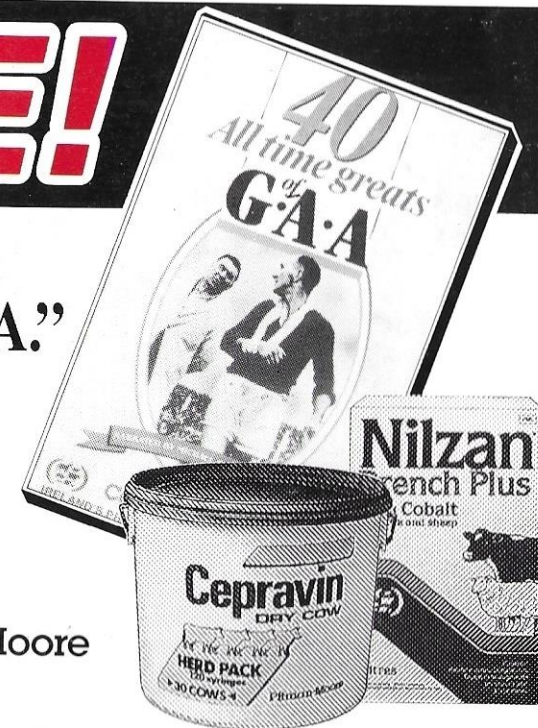
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- 1891 — Dublin 3-7 Cavan 0-3
- 1901 — Dublin 1-12 Antrim 0-3
- 1902 — Dublin 4-16 Armagh 1-6
- 1903 — Kildare 0-8 Cavan 0-0
- 1905 — Kildare 4-15 Cavan 1-6
- *1906 — Kildare 2-10 Monaghan 1-3
- 1907 — Dublin 1-5 Monaghan 0-2
- 1908 — Dublin 1-8 Antrim 0-2
- 1909 — Louth 2-13 Antrim 0-15
- *1910 — Dublin 3-5 Antrim 0-2
- 1911 — **Antrim 3-1** Kilkenny 1-1
- 1913 — Wexford 4-4 Antrim 0-1
- 1914 — Wexford 2-6 Monaghan 0-1
- 1915 — Wexford 3-7 Cavan 2-2
- 1916 — Wexford 0-9 Monaghan 0-1
- 1917 — Wexford 6-6 Monaghan 1-3
- *1918 — Louth 2-4 Cavan 0-4
- 1919 — Kildare 3-2 Cavan 1-3
- 1920 — Dublin 3-6 Cavan 1-3
- 1921 — Dublin 2-8 Monaghan 2-2
- 1922 — Dublin 2-5 Monaghan 0-0
- 1924 — Dublin 0-6 Cavan 1-1
- 1927 — Kildare 1-7 Monaghan 0-2
- 1929 — Kildare 0-9 Monaghan 0-1
- 1930 — **Monaghan 1-6** Kildare 1-4
- 1931 — Kildare 0-10 Cavan 1-5
- 1936 — Laois 2-6 Cavan 1-5
- 1939 — Meath 1-9 Cavan 1-1
- 1942 — Dublin 1-6 Cavan 1-3
- 1945 — Cavan 1-14** Wexford 1-2
- 1948 — Cavan 1-14** Louth 4-2
- 1951 — Meath 2-6 Antrim 1-7
- 1954 — Meath 1-5 Cavan 0-7
- 1957 — **Louth 0-13** Tyrone 0-7
(Replay) Down 1-10 Offaly 2-7
- 1963 — Dublin 2-11 Down 0-7
- 1966 — Meath 2-16; Down 1-9
- 1969 — Offaly 0-12 Cavan 1-9
- Replay Offaly 3-8 Cavan 1-10
- 1972 — Offaly 1-17 Donegal 2-10
- 1975 — Dublin 3-13 Derry 3-8
- 1978 — Dublin 1-16 Down 0-8
- 1981 — Offaly 0-12 Down 0-6
- 1984 — Dublin 2-11 Tyrone 0-8
- 1987 — Meath 0-15 Derry 0-8

*Nominated teams represented Leinster in the All-Ireland semi-finals, but were later beaten in the provincial final.

DETAILS OF A DECADE

Whatever the immediate future holds for Donegal and Meath, the 1990s have begun splendidly for both counties - Meath wrenching the provincial title from their great rivals, Dublin, and Donegal regaining Ulster honours after a lapse of seven years, in what is arguably the most competitive province of them all.

Their respective positions now are in marked contrast to what they were at the beginning of the Eighties when fortunes were at a low ebb - Meath unable to make any impression on the Dublin-Offaly monopoly and Donegal struggling unsuccessfully to record a first-round win.

But after the early frustrating years of the decade had yielded to better times for both counties, the paths of today's rivals took very dissimilar routes - Meath scaling new peaks between '86 and '89 while Donegal toiled with little reward in the North.

The contrast in the fortunes of Donegal and Meath in the ten-year period 1980 to '89 is accurately reflected in the statistics of their championship outings which show Meath as having won 21 of the 30 games they contested in those years as against Donegal's seven wins from 17 outings.

The story of their championship deeds reads:


Donegal:

- 1980 — Tyrone 1-17 Donegal 0-9
- 1981 — Armagh 2-15 Donegal 0-13
- 1982 — Armagh 1-11 Donegal 0-13
- 1983 — Donegal 1-10 Armagh 0-7
— Donegal 1-14 Monaghan 1-9
— Donegal 1-14 Cavan 1-11
— Galway 1-12 Donegal 1-11
- 1984 — Armagh 1-10 Donegal 0-12
- 1985 — Donegal 2-12 Down 2-8
— Monaghan 1-14 Donegal 0-7
- 1986 — Down 2-8 Donegal 1-10
- 1987 — Armagh 1-8 Donegal 1-10
- 1988 — Armagh 2-10 Donegal 0-8
- 1989 — Donegal 3-12 Cavan 0-14
— Donegal 2-8 Derry 1-9
— Donegal 0-11 Tyrone 0-11
— Tyrone 2-13 Donegal 0-7

Meath:


- 1980 — Meath 4-12 Westmeath 1-5
— Dublin 3-13 Meath 2-7
- 1981 — Wexford 2-9 Meath 1-11
- 1982 — Longford 0-12 Meath 0-11

- 1983 — Dublin 2-8 Meath 2-8
Replay Dublin 3-9 Meath 0-16
- 1984 — Meath 2-15 Westmeath 1-9
— Meath 1-12 Louth 0-10
— Meath 3-15 Laois 1-10
— Dublin 2-10 Meath 1-9
- 1985 — Meath 0-13 Kildare 0-7
— Laois 2-11 Meath 0-7
- 1986 — Meath 1-15 Carlow 1-12
— Meath 1-17 Wicklow 0-11
— Meath 0-9 Dublin 0-7
— Kerry 2-13 Meath 0-12
- 1987 — Meath 1-11 Laois 2-5
— Meath 0-15 Kildare 0-9
— Meath 1-13 Dublin 0-12
— Meath 0-15 Derry 0-8
— Meath 1-14 Cork 0-11
- 1988 — Meath 3-13 Louth 0-9
— Meath 0-19 Offaly 0-10
— Meath 2-5 Dublin 0-9
— Meath 0-16 Mayo 2-5
— Meath 0-12 Cork 1-9
- Replay Meath 0-13 Cork 0-12
- 1989 — Meath 1-15 Louth 0-13
— Meath 3-11 Offaly 0-9
— Dublin 2-12 Meath 1-10

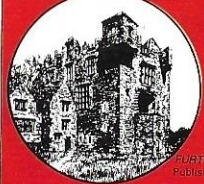


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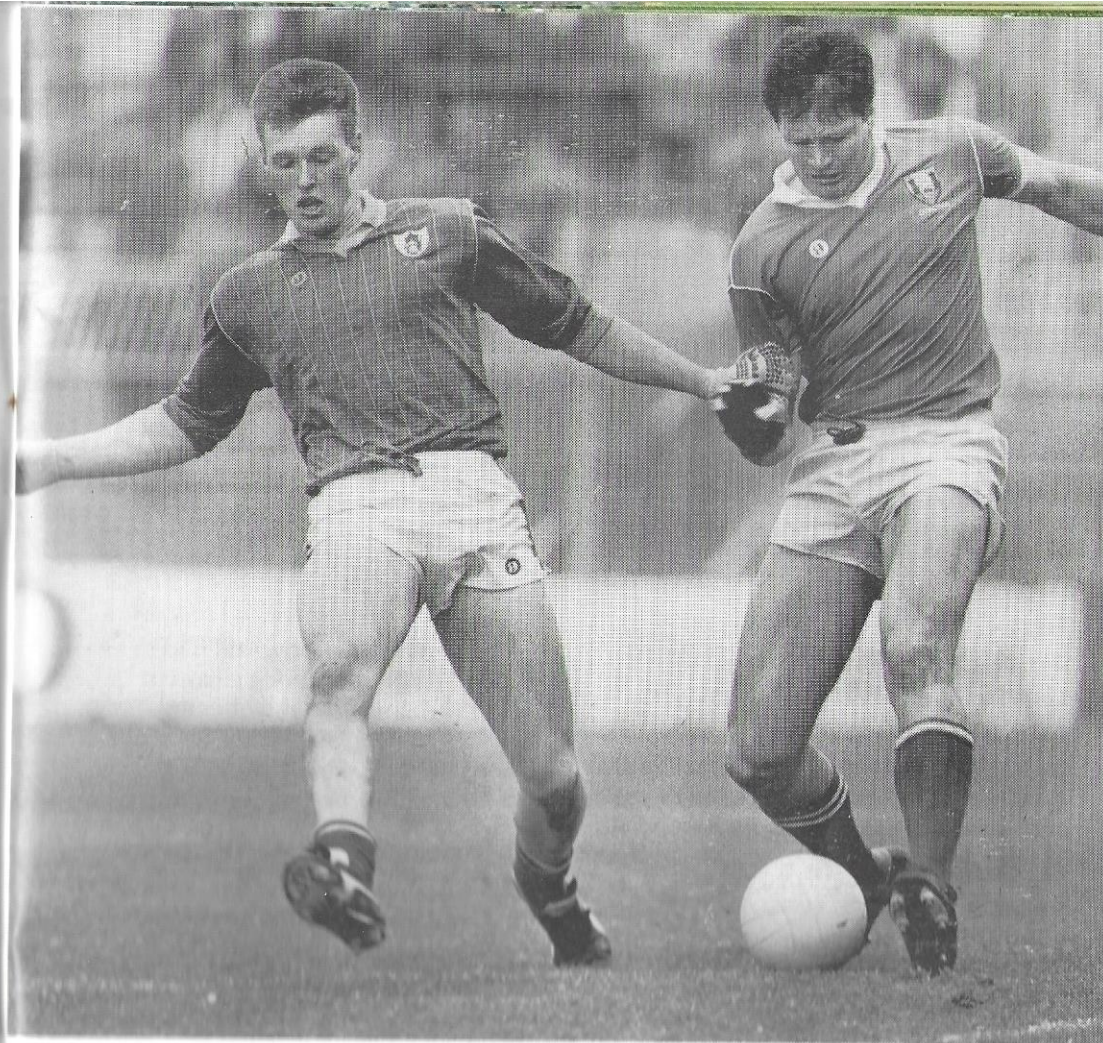
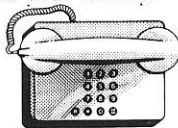
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● *Colm Brady (An Mhi) and Shay Fahy (Corcaigh) — will they be in opposition again in a month's time?*

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NA MIONÚIR

Derry and Meath Can Provide Top-Class Curtain-Raiser

Derry, striving this year to become the first Ulster county to win two All-Ireland minor football titles in succession since Tyrone as far back as 1948, and Meath should colour their first meeting in an under-18 semi-final with a top-class encounter. Both teams have much to recommend them.

Derry are enjoying something of a boom period in teenage football. Last year's minor title win came a few months after St. Patrick's, Maghera, captured the All-Ireland Colleges' championship for the first time. The Derry school retained the national crown earlier this year.

The Ulster champions have a strong framework of survivors from the team that sparkled in a 3-9 to 1-6 win over Offaly in last year's All-Ireland summit. Gregory Simpson, Barry McGonigle, Gary Coleman, John Mulholland, Eamon Burns, Eunan O'Kane and Karl Diamond (he went in as a substitute)

are All-Ireland minor medalists who have been prominent again this season.

The team also includes Ryan Murphy and Dermot Dougan, who were in the official panel of substitutes for the Offaly game, but did not appear during that match. All but Coleman and Mulholland helped St. Patrick's to retain the All-Ireland title this year, so this is a very experienced and gifted Derry outfit.

Even so, the Oak Leaf boys still had to battle hard up North. After a clear-cut win over Fermanagh in the opening round, they were given a late, late fright by Donegal in the semi-final at Clones. The defending champions were comfortably in control as they led by a whopping ten points with seven minutes remaining, but Donegal rallied strongly to rock their more fancied opponents with two late goals, the second virtually on full time.

However, Derry showed their conviction and composure as they raced back for a Geoffrey McGonigle point — their first score since the 40th minute — to keep championship hopes alive with a three points win.

It took another come-back display to ensure victory against Down in the Ulster final. Once again Derry had a bright start, scoring 1-1 after two minutes, but they still trailed by three points at the break. However, they once more proved their character as they stormed back with a splendid second half display for a two points

NA MIONÚIR

win to complete a first provincial double since 1984.

WILL TO WIN

Meath also provided evidence of a real will-to-win on the way to their first Leinster title in five years. Sharpshooting by Tony Byrne, David Martin and Terry O'Connor helped to send them off to a bright start with a seven points win over Longford at Navan. That win gave the Royal county a place in the semi-final against Laois at Croke Park.

Meath were on the receiving end of a three goal barrage in the opening quarter, but kept cool, played intelligent football, and in the second half with full forward Terry O'Connor causing the Laois defence plenty of problems edged home to a one point win — 1-11 to 3-4.

There was much to admire in an excellent display from Meath as they beat Kildare to capture their sixth Leinster crown. They turned in a polished display of crisp, purposeful football, with Graham Geraghty storming the scene at centre half back. He gave one of the best displays in the senior grade for a long time, and for good measure contributed a superb point following a long and pulse-raising solo run.

David Martin, who hit ten points, five from frees and two from 45's, and left half forward Brendan Kealy were others to impress as Meath finished clear-cut winners by 1-19 to 1-6.

On that performance the Royal County boys, who had a run-away win in a quarter-final over London at Athlone, will make a tremendous bid to give the county a direct interest in a final for the first time since 1977.

And, with Derry also having an outstanding chance of keeping their great unbeaten championship run intact, this has the makings of a stirring encounter.

A LONG WAIT

Meath are seeking the first win over an Ulster team in minor football since they beat Armagh in the 1957 All-Ireland final. Derry are striving for their fourth success at the expense of Leinster opposition, having previously beaten Wexford (1969), Dublin (1981) and Offaly (1989).

ULSTER ON TOP

On Leinster team's records against Ulster opposition in All-Ireland semi-finals, Meath have an uphill battle today, as in the past quarter of a century only one Leinster county - Dublin - has recorded championship victories over Northern teams. The Dublin wins were over Tyrone in 1978 and Derry in 1984. Previous to the Dublin win in '78 one has to go back to 1963, when Westmeath overcame Down, for a successful semi-final outing by a Leinster county against Ulster representatives.

NA MIONÚIR

Derry Back As All-Ireland Minor Title Holders

Derry represent Ulster of the second successive year in an All-Ireland minor football championship semi-final. The Oak Leaf county beat Roscommon at this stage last year, and went on to win the Tom Markham Cup in a clash with Offaly.

This is how the Ulster crown was kept in Derry for another year.

May 27. Celtic Park: Derry 2-21; Fermanagh 1-7.

June 17. Clones: Derry 3-6; Donegal 2-6.

July 15. Clones: Derry 2-10; Down 2-8.

That gives Derry a scoring record of 7-37 (58 points) for, and 5-21 (36 points) against in a campaign that brought a ninth provincial title.

Leading the scoring parade is Ryan Murphy with 3-6. He is followed by Oliver Collins 1-5, Dermot Dougan 0-8, Eunan O'Kane 0-7, Geoffrey McGonigle 1-4, and Eamonn Burns 1-3.

Hugh Mullan 1-1, John Mulholland 0-2, and Gary Coleman 0-1 complete the returns.

FIRST IN FIVE YEARS FOR MEATH

Meath won their first Leinster minor football title in five years by beating Kildare at Croke Park. They followed on with a resounding win over London in a quarter-final at Athlone in a game noteworthy for the fact that they did not concede a single score.

Meath are Leinster champions this season for only the sixth time since 1957, and this is their record so far:

May 26. Navan: Meath 2-16; Longford 2-9.
July 1. Croke Park: Meath 1-11; Laois 3-4.
July 29. Croke Park: Meath 1-19; Kildare 1-6.
All-Ireland Quarter-Final:
August 4. Athlone: Meath 6-23; London 0-0.

The Royal county boys scored 10-69 (99 points) and conceded 6-19 (37 points).

David Martin sets the standard on their scoresheet with 1-19. Right on his heels is Tony Byrne with 1-18. Hugh Carolan comes next with an impressive goals record as well on 6-2.

Terry O'Connor scored 0-12; Cathal Sheridan 1-5; Bartle Lenihan 1-2, Conor Macken 0-3, and Brendan Kealy 0-3.

Vincent Ryan, Graham Geraghty, Jason Hendrick, Thomas Hanley and John McCarthy complete this review with a point each.

SEMI-FINAL APPEARANCES

Derry are today appearing in their ninth minor football semi-final, the first of which was in 1965 and the most recent last year when they beat Roscommon.

The scoreline of these were:
1965 — Derry 4-8; Roscommon 4-5.
1969 — Derry 0-14; Wexford 3-4.
1970 — Kerry 2-10; Derry 0-11.
1980 — Derry 1-11; Mayo 0-11.
1981 — Derry 0-8; Dublin 0-6.
1983 — Derry 0-16; Galway 3-5.
1984 — Dublin 0-14; Derry 0-7.
1989 — Derry 4-16; Roscommon 1-7.

Meath's Five Appearances

1957 — Meath 3-8; Mayo 1-7.
1972 — Tyrone 3-10; Meath 0-10.
1977 — Meath 0-12; Cork 1-5.
1980 — Kerry 3-5; Meath 0-10.
1985 — Mayo 2-12; Meath 0-8.



NA MIONÚIR

Slow starts in Minor ranks

Like the senior semi-final, the Derry-Meath game will be a first-ever clash of the counties, which is a little surprising considering the high profile that the Royal and Oak Leaf counties have presented at under-18 level in recent times. For counties that were prominent in senior ranks 40 or 50 years ago, it is remarkable that both were slow to make an impression in minor ranks — even compared with counties of much more modest standing.

The minor championships were almost 20 years in existence before Meath managed to reach a provincial final for the first time — and in that final they were badly beaten by Dublin. With Derry, the 'isolation' was even more marked, and by the early Sixties when more than 30 provincial and All-Ireland minor championships had been completed, they had not alone failed to win an Ulster title, but had yet to make a first appearance in a provincial final — a 'distinction' they shared with Kilkenny, Carlow and Fermanagh.

In the meantime, however, Meath had made the breakthrough, taking their first Leinster and All-Ireland titles with a series of scintillating displays in 1957 — only Offaly in the Leinster final causing them any unease.

Derry's day finally dawned; 1965 saw them take their first Ulster title with a sweeping win over Cavan in the provincial final which was followed with convincing victories over Roscommon and Kerry.

From there on Derry and Meath have maintained a presence in minor ranks that has varied from the adequate to the very imposing, Derry doing especially well in the Eighties, winning five Ulster titles, while Meath, if less well rewarded by way of

provincial honours have still been very much a team to beat in Leinster. Indeed, with Dublin, Cork, Kerry and Galway, Derry and Meath can be considered the dominant under-18 powers as a new decade opens. All of which is a far cry from the days when neither county could challenge for provincial honours.

LEINSTER AND ULSTER

The first-ever meeting of Leinster and Ulster teams in an All-Ireland semi-final took place in 1931 when Louth beat Tyrone at Drogheda. There were further Leinster wins in '32, '34 and '36 before Cavan recorded Ulster's first success in 1938. Since then, with Dublin carrying most of the Leinster burden, an overall balance has been maintained with the eastern province showing slightly ahead, 12 wins to ten in these confrontations.

The scorelines of the 22 semi-finals to date are:

- 1931 — Louth 2-6 Tyrone 1-7
- 1932 — Laois 2-3 Antrim 1-3
- 1934 — Dublin 0-9 Tyrone 2-1
- 1936 — Louth 3-8 Antrim 1-3
- 1938 — Cavan 4-6 Longford 2-4
- 1939 — Monaghan 0-5 Westmeath 1-1
- 1940 — Louth 3-8 Monaghan 0-3
- 1941 — Louth 4-7 Antrim 0-4
- 1946 — Dublin 2-7 Tyrone 0-6
- 1947 — Tyrone 4-2 Offaly 2-5
- 1952 — Cavan 3-6 Westmeath 1-10
- 1955 — Dublin 3-7 Antrim 2-5
- 1958 — Dublin 3-5 Down 0-9
- 1963 — Westmeath 3-9 Down 0-8
- 1966 — Down 3-8 Laois 2-4
- 1969 — **Derry 0-14** Wexford 3-4
- 1972 — Tyrone 3-10 **Meath 0-10**
- 1975 — Tyrone 4-8 Kildare 2-6
- 1978 — Dublin 5-7 Tyrone 1-9
- 1981 — **Derry 0-8** Dublin 0-6
- 1984 — Dublin 0-14 **Derry 0-7**
- 1987 — Down 2-11 Kildare 1-9

DOIRE

ULSTER M.F. CHAMPIONS 1990



The Doire team and officials pictured after their Ulster final victory over An Dúin.



AN MHÍ

MINOR

Dathanna: **Glas is Ór**

(1) C. Ó Máirtín
CONOR MARTIN
(Ballivor)

(2) U. Ó Riain
VINCENT RYAN
(Ballinlough)

(3) E. Mac Mánaís (Capt.)
ENDA McMANUS
(St. Peter's, Dunboyne)

(4) N. Coiléir
NOEL COLLIER
(St. Patrick's)

(5) R. Mac Craith
RONAN McGRATH
(Simonstown Gaels)

(6) G. Mac Oireachtaigh
GRAHAM GERAGHTY
(Seneschalstown)

(7) T. Ó hÁinle
THOMAS HANLEY
(Athboy)

(8) S. Ó hEanraic
JASON HENDRICK
(Enfield)

(9) S. Mac Carthaigh
JOHN McCARTHY
(Walterstown)

(10) A. Ó Broin
TONY BYRNE
(St. Peter's, Dunboyne)

(11) D. Ó Máirtín
DAVID MARTIN
(Athboy)

(12) B. Ó Caollaí
BRENDAN KEALY
(Dunshaughlin)

(13) A. Ó Cearúlláin
HUGH CAROLAN
(St. Colmcille)

(14) T. Ó Conchúir
TERRY O'CONNOR
(Ballivor)

(15) C. Ó Síridéain
CATHAL SHERIDAN
(Moynalvey)

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) C. Mac Siúrtáin (**Kevin Jordan**) *Gaeil Colmcille*; (17) A. Ó Murchú (**Andrew Murphy**) *Skyrne*; (18) C. Ó Móra (**Ciaran Moore**) *Simonstown Gaels*; (19) D. Ó Diolúin (**David Dillon**) *Seneschalstown*; (20) B. Ó Léannacháin (**Bartle Lenihan**) *Duleek*; (21) C. Maicín (**Conor Macken**) *Seneschalstown*; (22) A. Aghas (**Alan Ashe**) *Boardsmill*; (23) P. Ó Broin (**Paul O'Brien**) *Simonstown Gaels*; (24) P. Diolún (**Paul Dillon**) *Syddan*; (25) S. Mac Gabhann (**James Smith**) *O'Mathúna's*; (26) B. Ó hAilpín (**Brendan Halpin**) *Oldcastle*.

Roghnoíri: Pat O'Neill (St. Colmcille); Ultan Fitzpatrick (*Gaeil Colmcille*); Paul Kenny (*Simonstown*); John Joe Murray (*Gaeil Colmcille*); Oliver Harding (*Slane*); Patsy Duff (*Syddan*); Tommy Mahon (*Kilbride*); Padraig Dunne (*Monalvey*); Benny Gartland (*Wolfe Tones*). *Team Manager:* Paul Kenny.

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

DOIRE



Dathanna: **Dearg is Bán**

(1) D. Masún
DAVID MASSON
(Banagher)

(2) G. Mac Shim
GREGORY SIMPSON
(Banagher)

(3) B. Mac Congail
BARRY McGONIGLE
(Dungiven)

(4) M. Ó Muirí
MICHAEL MURRAY
(Ballinascreen)

(5) K. Ó Díomáin
KARL DIAMOND
(Bellaghy)

(6) G. Ó Colmáin (Capt.)
GARY COLEMAN
(Magherafelt)

(7) M. Mac Congail
MARTIN McGONIGLE
(Dungiven)

(8) S. Ó Maolchalann
JOHN MULHOLLAND
(Bellaghy)

(9) A. Ó Maoláin
HUGH MULLAN
(Dungiven)

(10) E. Ó Broin
EAMONN BURNS
(Ballinascreen)

(11) O. Ó Coileain
OLIVER COLLINS
(Lavey)

(12) D. Ó Duagáin
DERMOT DOUGAN
(Newbridge)

(13) E. Ó Catháin
EUNAN O'KANE
(Dungiven)

(14) R. Ó Murchú
RYAN MURPHY
(Dungiven)

(15) G. Mac Congail
GEOFFREY McGONIGLE
(Dungiven)

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) S. Ó Ceallaigh (**Jonathan Kelly**) *Magherafelt*; (17) B. Mac Oiscáir (**Barry McOscar**) *Ballinderry*; (18) B. Mac Cormaic (**Brian McCormick**) *Lavey*; (19) G. Ó Díomáin (**Gerard Diamond**) *Moneymore*; (20) P. Ó Scolláin (**Paul Scullion**) *Lavey*; (21) P. Mac Giolla Domhnaigh (**Paddy McEldowney**) *Ballinascreen*; (22) E. Ó Caiside (**Eunan Cassidy**) *Bellaghy*; (23) S. Ó Muirí (**Joe Murray**) *Doire Colmcille*; (24) S. Ó Dúnaigh (**Seamus Downey**) *Greenlough*; (25) D. Ó Brolcháin (**Declan Bradley**) *Magherafelt*.

Roghnoíri: John Joe Kearney, Manager (*Slaughtneil*); Michael Bradley (*Ballerin*); Michael Gribben (*Newbridge*); William Hampson (*Slaughtneil*).

DOIRE	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor-chiceanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					



AN MHÍ

Dathanna: **Glas is Bán**

(1) D. Mac Gabhann
DONAL SMYTH
(Ó Mathúna)

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

(3) M. Ó Liatháin
MICK LYONS
(Summerhill)

(4) T. Mac Fearghais
TERRY FERGUSON
(Gaeil Colmcille)

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

(6) C. Ó Foghlú
KEVIN FOLEY
(Trim)

(7) B. Ó Raghallaigh
BRENDAN REILLY
(St. Peter's, Dunboyne)

(8) L. Ó hAodha
LIAM HAYES
(Skryne)

(9) C. Ó Brádaigh
COLM BRADY
(Simmonstown Gaels)

(10) D. Ó Beigeáin
DAVID BEGGY
(Ó Mathúna)

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

(12) T. Ó Dúda
TOMMY DOWD
(Dunderry)

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

(14) B. Stafort
BRIAN STAFFORD
(Kilmainhamwood)

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

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) M. Mac Uilín (**Michael McQuillan**) St. Patrick's; (17) P. Ó Liatháin (**Padraic Lyons**) Summerhill; (18) G. Mac an tSaoi (**Gerry McEntee**) Summerhill; (19) M. Mac Cába (**Mattie McCabe**) Seneschalstown; (20) S. Ó Ceallaigh (**Sean Kelly**) Dunderry; (21) I. Ó Cearnaigh (**Ian Kearney**) Walterstown; (22) M. Ó hIcí (**Mal Hickey**) Seneschalstown; (23) F. Ó Muireartaigh (**Fintan Murtagh**) Ó Mathúna; (24) L. Ó hEanáin (**Liam Harnan**) Moynalvey.

Roghnóirí: Team Manager: Sean Boylan (St. Peter's, Dunboyne).
Selectors: Pat Reynolds (Walterstown); Tony Brennan (Dunderry).

AN MHÍ	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor-chiceanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

DÚN NA nGALL

Dathanna: **Buí is Dubh**



(1) G. Breathnach
GARY WALSH
(Aodh Ruadh)

(2) S. S. Ó Dochartaigh
JOHN JOE DOHERTY
(Naomh Columba)

(3) M. Ó Gallachóir
MATT GALLAGHER
(Naomh Brid)

(4) S. Ó Cuinneagáin
JOHN CUNNINGHAM
(Killybegs)

(5) D. Ó Maoildeirg
DONAL REID
(Red Hughs)

(6) M. Ó Gaibheacháin
MARTIN GAVIGAN
(Ardara)

(7) M. Seibhleáin
MARTIN SHOVLIN
(Naomh Ultan)

(8) A. Ó Maolmhuaidh
ANTHONY MOLLOY
(Ardara)

(9) B. Ó Muirí
BRIAN MURRAY
(Civil Service)

(10) S. Mac Aodha
JAMES McHUGH
(Kilcar)

(11) M. Mac Aodha
MARTIN McHUGH
(Kilcar)

(12) S. Mac Maoláin
JOYCE McMULLAN
(Four Masters)

(13) D. Ó Cnaimhsí
DECLAN BONNER
(Na Rossa)

(14) A. Ó Baoill
TONY BOYLE
(Dungloe)

(15) M. Ó Baoill
MANUS BOYLE
(Killybegs)

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Roghnóirí: Team Manager: Brian McEniff Selectors; Seamus Bonner (Civil Service, Dublin); Naul McCole (Dungloe); Michael Lafferty (Sean Mac Cumhailis).
Trainer: Anthony Harkin (Ardara).

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AN MHI
LEINSTER S.F. CHAMPIONS 1990



The Meath team which defeated Áth Cliath in the Leinster Final:
Back row (left to right): Colm O'Rourke, Colm Brady, Mick Lyons, Tommy Dowd, Donal Smyth,
Martin O'Connell, Brendan Stafford, David Beggy.
Front row (left to right): P. J. Gillic, Gerry Egan, Ronan Flanagan, Kevin Egan, Robert O'Malley

DUN NA NGALL

ULSTER S.F. CHAMPIONS 1990



The Donegal team which defeated Armagh in the Ulster Final:
 Back Row: John Joe Doherty, Paul Carr, Matt Gallagher, Gary Walsh, Brian Murray, Declan Bonner, Tommy Ryan, James McHugh.
 Front row (left to right): Manus Boyle, Martin Shovlin, Joyce McMullen, Anthony Molloy, Martin Cavigan, Donal Reid, Martin McHugh.

HURLING FIRST

In the light of present standards and aspirations it is interesting to recall that Donegal won an Ulster senior hurling title more than 60 years before they won the football crown for the first time!

Donegal's first provincial hurling triumph was in 1906 when they beat Antrim (holders) in the final at Burt by 5.21 to 0-1 (that 35 -point defeat was the heaviest ever inflicted on Antrim by an Ulster team). However, Donegal did not contest the All-Ireland semi-final that year; with the championship running late in Ulster, Antrim were nominated to oppose Kilkenny and were well-beaten by the reigning All-Ireland champions. Apparently the fact that there would be no All-Ireland appearance for the winners took nothing from Donegal's enthusiasm for the Ulster decider - hence the huge scoreline.

Tír Connail did eventually get to make an All-Ireland semi-final appearance (1923) when, after beating Antrim in

the Ulster final, they took on Limerick at Croke Park on April 27, 1924. Against the might of the Shannonsiders, Donegal had little chance and were beaten by 7-4 to 0-1. Despite that reverse, it was an historic day for Donegal in that it marked the first-ever appearance of a team from the county on the famous sward. There would not be another at senior championship level until the footballers threw down the gauntlet to Offaly in 1972.

It is interesting to note - and is probably news to most followers of gaelic games - that Donegal have contested more Ulster hurling than football finals. In all, beginning with an unsuccessful attempt to topple Antrim 1903, they have been involved in eleven - 1903, 1906, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, and 1945 ... and the last of these was 18 years before Donegal contested their first football final with Down in 1963! And that was the first of the six Ulster finals in which Donegal featured.

No-one would suggest that Donegal is a 'hurling county', though historically speaking, there might be something to such a suggestion.

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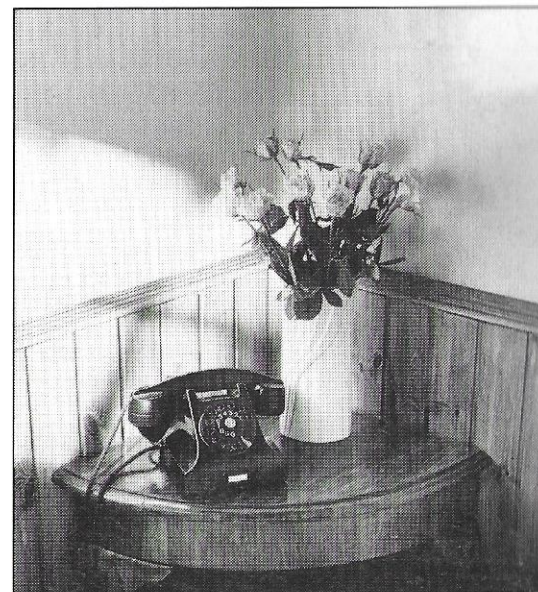
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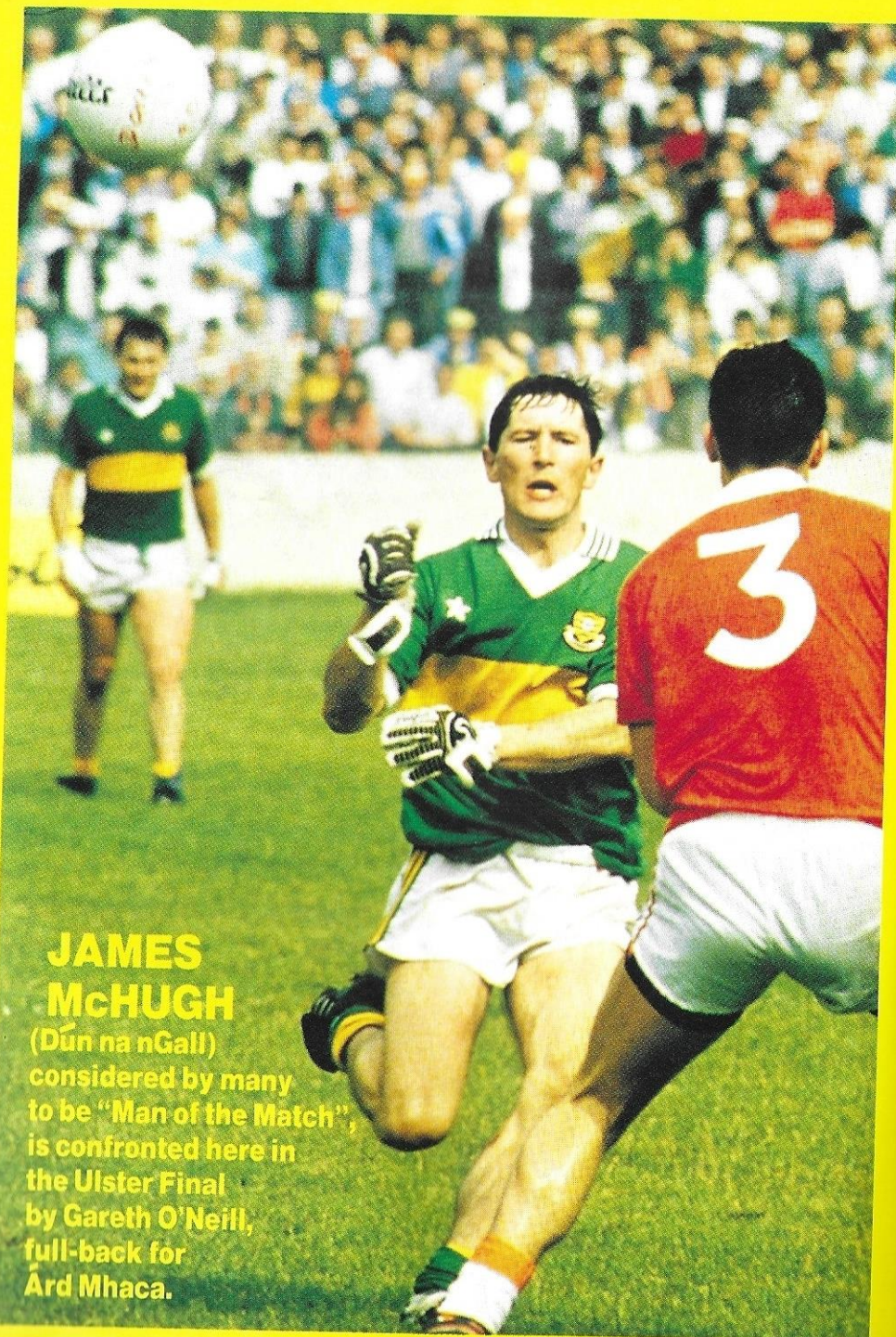
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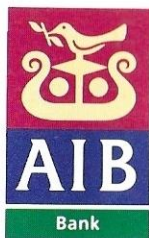
**JAMES
McHUGH**
(Dún na nGall)
considered by many
to be "Man of the Match",
is confronted here in
the Ulster Final
by Gareth O'Neill,
full-back for
Árd Mhaca.

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YOU BRING OUT THE BEST IN US

O'Connell A Half Back With The Attacking Flair

Martin O'Connell, who continues to prove an inspiring figure for Meath, left his stamp in a big way on the recent win over Dublin that earned him a fourth Leinster senior medal.



Apart from top-class work all through in the half back department, O'Connell contributed a fine point. Then, after Gerry McEntee went in as a substitute near the end, the half back linked up with the midfielder to gain possession and provide Brian Stafford with his chance to put the Royal County three points clear at the finish.

It is not surprising that the man who is now regarded as one of the finest half backs in the game has a flair for attacking play and scoring. He made his name earlier as a forward, and won his first provincial senior medal in 1986 when he went in as a substitute for P. J. Gillic.

However, it is as a defender that O'Connell has enjoyed his most memorable successes, including a classic showing in the All-Ireland senior final replay win over Cork in 1988. The St. Michael's club man was very much on his game, and his faultless display earned him a "man-of-the-match" rating from many followers.

The tireless half back was at No. 7 when the latest success story for Meath took root with the Centenary Cup win of 1984. He shared in all of the major triumphs in the meantime, and can point to a brace of All-Ireland senior medals, two Royal Liver National League souvenirs and a Bank of Ireland All Stars trophy.

At 26, this versatile footballer is playing as well as ever, and he can certainly feel well pleased with his exciting and so effective contribution to the Meath come-back this year.

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● **SEEKING THE DOUBLE**
 Today Meath becomes the 14th country to contest the All-Ireland senior and minor football semi-finals on the same day. But if thirteen counties have striven to bring off this particular double, only five have actually recorded it - Kerry, Cork, Dublin, Cavan and Mayo - with the 'Kingdom' the acknowledged specialists, having 13 successes (from 25 attempts) to Dublin's five, Cork and Cavan's two each and Mayo's lone 1936 success. Just how difficult a task Meath have set themselves today can be gauged from the fact that only Dublin, Cork and Kerry have recorded the 'semi' double in the past 35 years!

● **REGULARS**
 It now happens only every three years - an Ulster-Leinster football semi-final - but before the rotational system was introduced there was a period when these provinces were in opposition on a much more regular basis. Between 1900 and 1910, the representatives of the East and North met on nine occasions, as Dublin, Kildare and Louth repeatedly thwarted Ulster ambitions. But even that period of intense Leinster-Ulster relations was exceeded a few years later when the 1913 meeting of Wexford and Antrim ushered in 13 successive meetings of these provinces in the semi-final, which ended in 1922 as it began - with a Leinster victory.

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SEMI-FINAL MARKSMEN

In the sphere of flag-raising, the semi-finals of the Eighties have seen deeds as accomplished as those of any previous decade, and if the closing years of this ten-year period were dominated by Larry Tompkins and Brian Stafford, the early stages were very much the preserve of Mickey Sheehy and Matt Connor. Indeed, the Offaly man's 2.9 in the 1980 semi-final was not alone the highest of the decade, but the highest-ever individual score in a semi-final (or final). Tying for second place are Larry Tompkins and Roscommon's Mick Finneran.

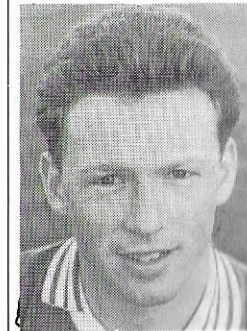
The top scorers in the ten semi-finals between 1980 and '89 were:

- 1980 — Roscommon and Armagh - Mick Finneran (Roscommon) 1-8
- Kerry and Offaly - Matt Connor (Offaly) 2-9
- 1981 — Kerry and Mayo - Mikey Sheehy (Kerry) 0-6
- Offaly and Down - Matt Connor (Offaly) 0-7
- 1982 — Kerry and Armagh - Mikey Sheehy (Kerry) 1-4
- Offaly and Galway - Matt Connor (Offaly) 0-7
- 1983 — Galway and Donegal - Martin McHugh (Donegal) 0-5
- Dublin and Cork - Denis Allen (Cork) 2-1
- Replay Dublin and Cork - Barney Rock (Dublin) 1-4
- Dave Barry (Cork) 2-1, John Cleary (Cork) 0-7.
- 1984 — Kerry and Galway - Mikey Sheehy (Kerry) 1-4
- Dublin and Tyrone - Barney Rock (Dublin) 1-7.
- 1985 — Kerry and Monaghan - Eamon McEnaney (Monaghan) 0-5
- Replay Kerry and Monaghan - Eamon McEnaney (Monaghan) 0-5
- Dublin and Mayo - Barney Rock (Dublin) 1-7
- Replay Dublin and Mayo Barney Rock (Dublin) 0-5
- 1986 — Kerry and Meath - Bernard Flynn (Meath) 0-5

- Tyrone and Galway - Damian O'Hagan (Tyrone) 0-3
- Kevin McCabe (Tyrone) 1.0
- Gay McManus (Galway) 0-3
- Brian O'Donnell (Galway) 1.0

- 1987 — Cork and Galway - Larry Tompkins (Cork) 0.5
- Gay McManus (Galway) 0.5
- Replay - Cork and Galway - Larry Tompkins (Cork) 0.11
- Meath and Derry - Brian Stafford (Meath) 0-4
- Bernard Flynn (Meath) 0-4
- Enda Gormley (Derry) 0-4.
- 1988 — Meath and Mayo - Brian Stafford (Meath) 0-9
- Cork and Monaghan - Larry Tompkins (Cork) 0-7
- 1989 — Cork and Dublin - John Cleary (Cork) 2.0
- Mayo and Tyrone - Michael FitzMaurice (Mayo) 0-6

Pictured below are the top two scorers in the 1989 Semi-Finals.



Above:
Michael FitzMaurice
 (Maigh Eo).



Below:
John Cleary (Corcaigh).

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● REVERSE ORDER

In the normal course a successful All-Ireland semi-final appearance is a prelude to a final appearance - a fact with which Donegal are only too well acquainted - but in regard to a first-ever appearance in a semi-final and final, Meath have had the experience in reverse as when they reached their first final in 1895 and there were no semi-finals - Ulster and Connacht being non-competitors - and it wasn't until 1939 when they opposed Cavan at Croke Park, that the Royal county made their first semi-final appearance - 44 years after their All-Ireland final debut.

● THE LAST NEWCOMERS

Twenty-seven counties have contested All-Ireland semi-finals, beginning with Cork and Armagh in 1890. In the following 78 years 24 more counties experienced semi-final combat - Longford in 1968 being the 26th entrant. Four years later the 'club' was brought up to its present strength when Donegal, who had won the Ulster title for the first time by beating Tyrone in the final, opposed Offaly, the reigning All-Ireland champions, at Croke Park. Alas for Northern hopes, Donegal, despite a magnificent showing, went down to defeat, as had most of their fellow Ulstermen on their semi-final debut.

Wheel Turns Full Circle For Molloy



Anthony Molloy, who helps to enrich a valuable vein of senior championship experience for Donegal as he leads the team on this return to Croke Park, is no stranger to the contrasting fortunes of football at All-Ireland level. Indeed, in a sense the wheel has turned full circle for the wily and hard-working midfielder from Ardara.

He wore the No. 8 jersey on the county's last appearance in a senior semi-final in 1983 when hopes of a history-making win were dashed in a keen encounter by a point by Galway — 1-12 to 1-11.

Prior to that Molloy helped to usher in a bright new era for Donegal as a midfield giant in a gifted under-21 side that won the All-Ireland title in 1982. He was a powerful influence all through the run, and had a particularly good game in a three points win over Roscommon at Carrick-on-Shannon that earned Donegal a first inter-county title in any grade.

The big and high-fielding Molloy has been a regular in the middle of the park with the county senior side for the past nine seasons or so. He has also given excellent service with his consistent and high-powered football. It is a case of second time lucky as county captain last month when he stepped up to receive the Ulster senior championship trophy — compensation for the disappointment of last year's provincial final defeat in a replay by Tyrone. Molloy was also Donegal's team leader then.

The six-foot plus North West captain, who is 28, won under-age trophies with his club as well as a Donegal senior championship medal. He went in as a substitute for Ulster during their Railway Cup final win over Munster last October for his first interprovincial medal.

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Bua Ag Glas Is Ór Inniu!

Dála an cluiche idir Corcaigh agus Roscomáin is é seo an chéad chluiche ariamh i gcaobhchomortas uile Éireann idir An Mhí agus Dún na nGall. Ar ndóigh, níor éirigh leis na Conallaigh teacht an fhad seo ach uair amháin cheana — i 1972 — agus b'iad Uíbh Fháilí na céilí comhraic acu an taca sin. Fáiltítear ar ais rompu.

Tá sean-taithí ag foireann an Chontae Ríoga ar Páirc An Crócaigh; gan trácht ar chluichí i gcaobhchomortas Laighean, thug an fhoireann áirithe seo iliomad chuairt ar fhód an cheannárais, ó 1984 i leith, nuair a áirítear cluichí an chéid, cluichí na Léige agus, gan amhras, cluichí leathcheannais agus cluichí ceannais na craoibhe.

Is buntáiste níor ag foireann ar bith an taithí a bheith acu ar an ócáid mhór, agus ar ionad ar nós Pháirc An Chrócaigh, le caoga míle duine ag béicíl agus ag scairteadh.

Tá foireann óg ag Tír Chonaill agus stíl bhreá cliste acu; mar sin féin, le dhá bhliain annas níor bhain siad iomlán tairbhe as an ábaltacht atá iontu. I 1989, sa chéad chluiche in aghaidh Thír Eoghain, bhí na Conallaigh ag imirt le fíor-éifeacht sa chéad leath ach lig siad don fhreasúra teacht suas leo; san athimirt bhain Tír Eoghain an chraobh agus sa chluiche leathcheannais is beag nach raibh an lá acu in aghaidh Mhaigh Eo.

Táthar ag súil, mar sin, go bhfuil ciall cheanaíthe na bliana anuraidh — gan tagairt

a dhéanamh don bhealach ar tháinig Ardmhacha aniar aduaidh orthu, beagnach, i gcluiche craoibhe Uladh i mbliana — imithe abhaile ar na Conallaigh agus go ndéanfaidh siad tréan-iarracht ar feadh seachtó nóiméad.

Bhí an lámh in uachtar ag muintir na Mí ar an Conallaigh sa chluiche ceathrú ceannais na Léige i mbliana, agus, cé nach ionann an dá chomortas, ní féidir neamh-áird a dhéanamh ar thorthaí ach an oiread. Tá dhá chraobh Uile-Éireann bainte ag an fhoireann seo ó Mhí, is curai na Léige iad faoi láthair agus peil chomh maith is a bhí sí ariamh acu á h-imirt agus na "sean daoine" chomh foirfe is a bhíodar riamh — leithéidí Colm Ó Ruairc, Micheál Ó Laighin, Brian Stafford agus Bearnárd Ó Floinn.

Is dúshlán mór ag foireann Dhún na nGall an cluiche seo inniu. Caithfidh siad a bheith muiníneach astu féin, gan lú siar nuair a cheapann siad go bhfuil go leor déanta acu nuair atáid cúpla cúlín chun tosaigh, agus gan a bheith ag braith an t-am ar fad ar Mháirtín MacAodha; is imreoir den scoth é, ach má bhíonn gach liathróid á sheoladh chuige beidh cúpla fairtheoir ón Mhí anuas air go tapaidh. Tá seisear tosaigh Chonallacha ann agus ní mór do gach duine acu a chion féin a dhéanamh.

Ag deireadh an lae is cosúil go bhfuil an iomarca "gunnaí móra" ag an Contae Ríoga agus nach mbeidh na Connallaigh in ann dóibh inniu ach, mar adeirtear, "ar na lá", d'fhéadfadh rud ar bith tarlú. Táthar dóchasach go mbeidh sár-chluiche againn.

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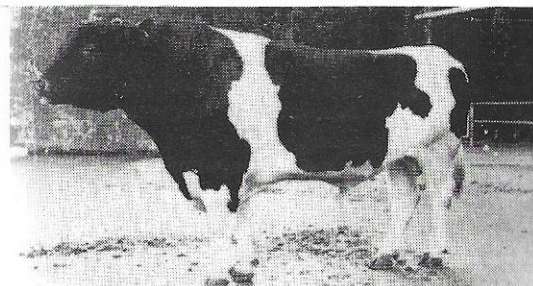
SIÓÉLINE CUTS

● SUBS GALORE

It won't happen today, as apart from other considerations, the rules don't allow it - a team bringing on six substitutes in the course of the hour! But there was such a seemingly bizarre occurrence when Meath and Donegal met in the 1952 All-Ireland junior football semi-final replay at Navan - the only championship clash at any level of these counties. In a game that was tough, but by no means rough, Donegal made six replacements during the hour - most of them because of injuries - but it availed them but little as Meath strolled to a comfortable victory.

● ONE OUTSTANDING

In over 100 years of championship endeavour Meath have clashed with 21 different counties, and with most of these they have enjoyed a generous measure of success. In fact, the Royal County has recorded victories over 20 of these counties at one time or another. The one county Meath has never beaten in the championship is Limerick whom they met on their very first championship outing in 1887. But then that first meeting was also their last, as their paths have not crossed since that first-round game at Elm Park 103 years ago. But one defeat hardly justifies calling Limerick Meath's bogey team.



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FIRST SEMI-FINAL WINS

Today Donegal make their fourth attempt to win an All-Ireland senior football semi-final, and from bitter experience they can have no illusions as to the gigantic task they face - the 1972, '74 and '83 defeats are still fresh in memory.

But then winning a semi-final, especially a first one, is an achievement requiring ability and luck, often in equal proportions. And it is interesting to note that most of the counties that have won a semi-final at the first time of asking, did so in the early years of the championship, long before competition became as intense as it is today. Since 1922 only three counties — Laois, Meath and Derry — have been successful on a first appearance at the penultimate stage of the championship.

Ulster teams in particular have found it extremely difficult to win on their semi-final debut, and only Derry (1958) have managed to do so. Cavan, arguably the most successful Ulster county of all time, "served a long apprenticeship" of semi-final failure that lasted from 1891 to 1928. Even Down, who wrote a glorious page in football history in the Sixties, failed on their first venture outside Ulster in 1959.

In all, 27 counties have contested All-Ireland semi-finals, and here is how they fared in search of a first success:

CORK	— Won at first attempt in 1890
DUBLIN	— Won at first attempt in 1891
KILKENNY	— Won at first attempt in 1900
KERRY	— Won at first attempt in 1903
KILDARE	— Won at first attempt in 1905
LOUTH	— Won at first attempt in 1909
WEXFORD	— Won at first attempt in 1913
CLARE	— Won at first attempt in 1917
SLIGO	— Won at first attempt in 1922
LAOIS	— Won at first attempt in 1936
MEATH	— Won at first attempt in 1939
DERRY	— Won at first attempt in 1958
TIPPERARY	— Won at second attempt in 1902
DOWN	— won at second attempt in 1960
OFFALY	— won at second attempt in 1961
ARMAGH	— won at fourth attempt in 1953
ANTRIM	— won at fifth attempt in 1911
GALWAY	— won at fifth attempt in 1919
ROSCOMMON	— won at fifth attempt in 1943
TYRONE	— won at fifth attempt in 1986
MAYO	— won at seventh attempt in 1916
MONAGHAN	— won at tenth attempt in 1930
CAVAN	— won at thirteenth attempt in 1928

Leitrim, Carlow and Longford have each played in one semi-final without success, while Donegal complete the list with three appearances and are still seeking a first win.

THE CROKE PARK BOGEY

Donegal footballers are today seeking to break the county's long run of bad luck at Croke Park which stretches back for more than 50 years and encompasses league and championship, and several grades of football. Donegal did actually win a senior competitive game at headquarters in the not-too-distant past, but that was in the 1972 Grounds Tournament semi-final when they had a point to spare over Roscommon. Before that one success - and since - the famous arena has frowned on Donegal's bravest efforts, especially in the concluding stages of championship and league.

And the irony of it all is that Donegal's first Croke Park appearance was a winning one, when their junior footballers recorded a 1-8 to 2-3 win over Cork in the 1933 semi-final, that game being the curtain-raiser to the Kilkenny-Limerick senior hurling final. But when the men of Tír Connail returned to Jones's Road for the 'Home' final five weeks later they were well beaten by Mayo. That defeat ushered in a period of frustration that has lasted to this day. In 1935 the minor footballers contested the All-Ireland semi-final with Tipperary only to go down by a goal margin. It wasn't until 1954 that there was another championship appearance by Donegal in Dublin - and again it was a losing one, to Kerry in the junior 'Home' final.

The senior semi-finals of '72, '74 and '83 extended Donegal's misery at Croke Park as did the minor clash with Cork in 1985 when the margin of defeat was a tantalising two points.

Fate did not relent in the National League. Donegal came South for the first time in this

competition to tackle Cork in the 1952 'semi'. They scored seven times to Cork's six, but the Rebel county passed on, 3-3 to 0-7. In the Sixties came three heartbreaking semi-final defeats at Croke Park - to Kerry in '65, to Longford in '66 and to Galway in '67, the last often attributed to a bizarre decision by the referee at a vital stage of the game. But there was no element of luck or the bizarre in the 1-3 to 2-13 defeat at the hands of Offaly in '69 - though, on form, the extent of that reverse was inexplicable.

The aura of better times in the Eighties, which saw the county win two All-Ireland under-21 titles, did not extend to Croke Park as both triumphs were recorded at provincial venues, and promotion in the league did not bring a change of fortune on the famed sward as Dublin prevailed in the clashes of '84 and '89. After 57 years the bogey was, it seemed, as virulent as ever.

But bogies, by definition are made to be broken - even those that have been almost six decades in existence.

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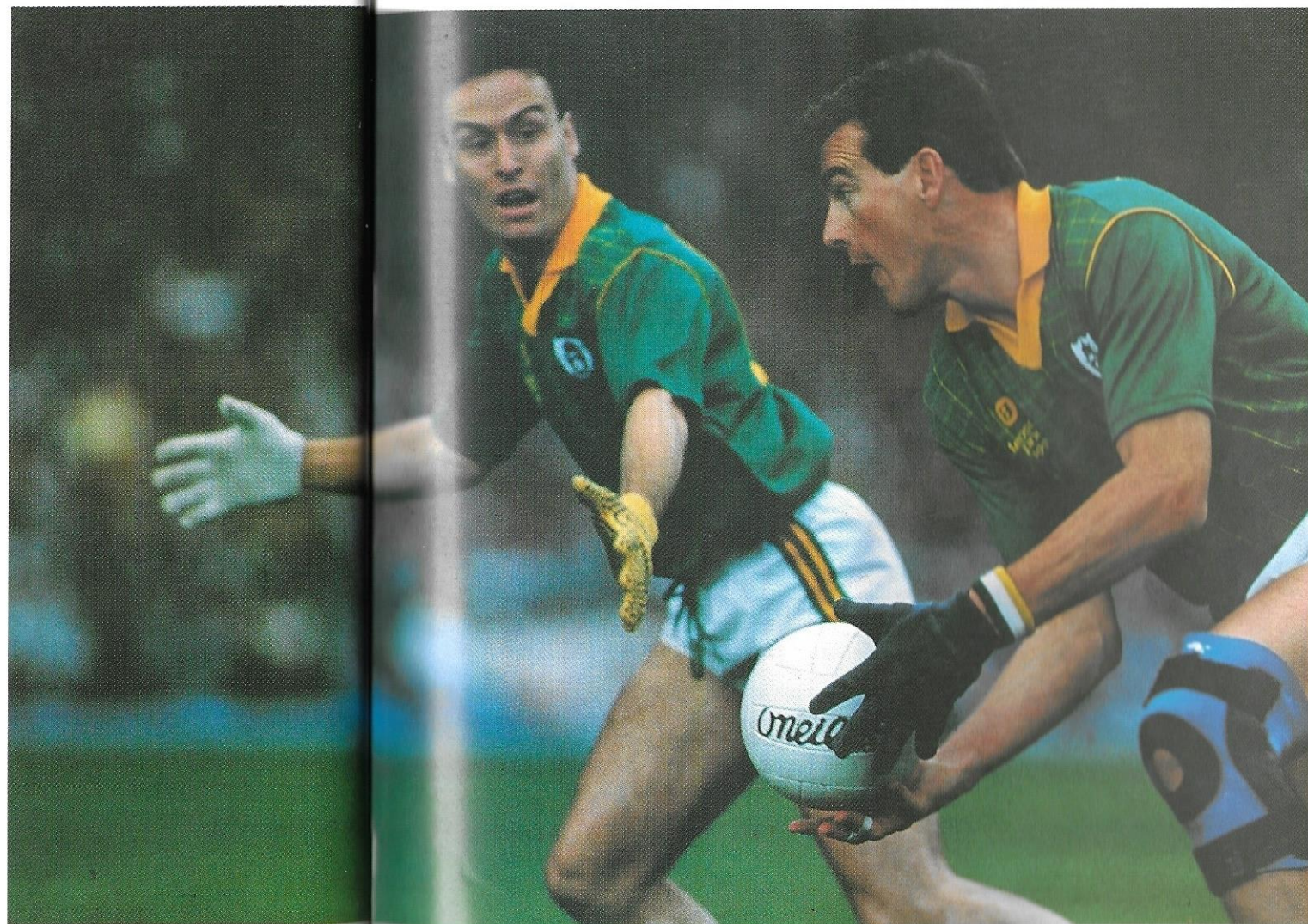
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Best wishes to the Meath Teams



GIMMIE!

Meath's full forward line
on the move in the
Leinster Final with
Bernard Flynn looking
for the pass from Colm
O'Rourke.

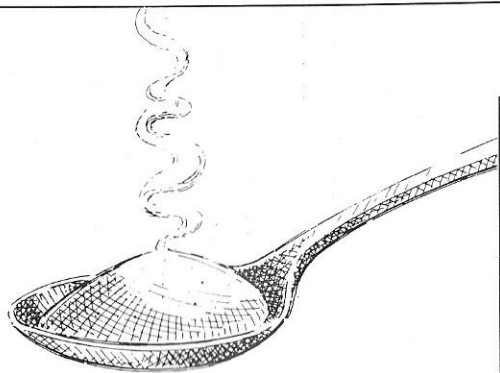
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snippets

● SCORELESS

Only two counties have had the dismal experience of failing to score in an All-Ireland senior football semi-final. In 1903 Cavan failed to reply to Kildare's 0-8 at Jones's Road (this game, incidentally, was played in June 1905). Nineteen years later the Dublin-Monaghan game at Dundalk saw the Ulster champions end the hour without a score to their credit as Dublin chalked up 2-5.

● SEEKING A GOAL

Apart from the immediate objective of qualifying for the All-Ireland final, Meath players might be said to have another goal in this semi-final - scoring a goal! In their three semi-finals in '86, '87 and '88 Meath failed to find the net, as they did in 1970 against Galway. In fact, one has to go back to 1967 for the last occasion on which Meath recorded a semi-final goal. In that semi-final the Royal county forwards found the net three times in the hour.

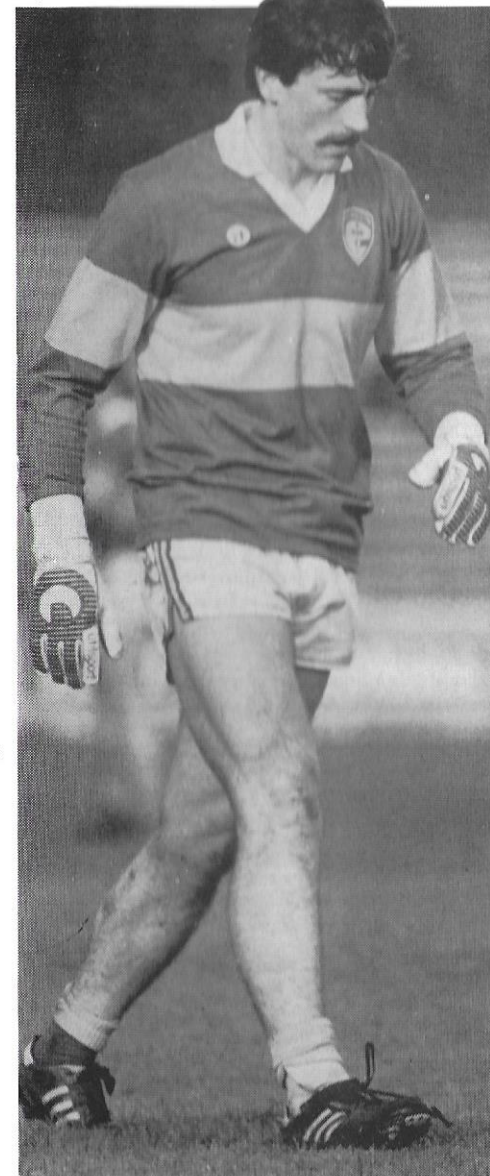
● TWO SCORE AND MORE

When Kerry and Offaly contested the 1980 semi-final they totted up an aggregate score of 8.25 (49 points), the highest aggregate ever recorded at this stage of the championship, beating by three points the record of 46 points (Roscommon 2.20; Armagh 3-11) set up a fortnight previously. Interestingly, no 80-minute semi-final has exceeded the 'two score' mark, though the 1972 Kerry-Roscommon game did return a total of 40 points (1.22 to 1.12), which was almost knocked by Donegal and Galway in 1974 when the Westerners won by 3-13 to 1-14 (a total of 39 points).

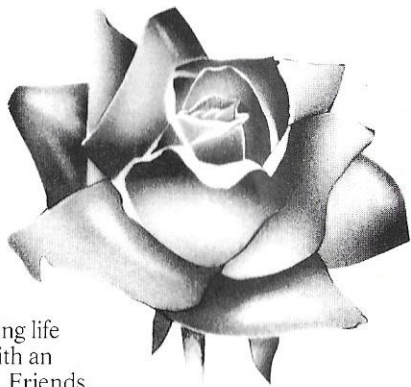
For a 60 minute semi-final, the 1967 Meath-Mayo game was the highest ever. Meath's 3-14 to 1-4 win (an aggregate of 40 points) being approached only once - by the Kerry-Longford game (2-13 to 2-11 — 36 points) in 1968.

On a score per minute basis that Meath-Mayo semi was the most productive in football history.

● Michael Gallagher (Dún na nGall).



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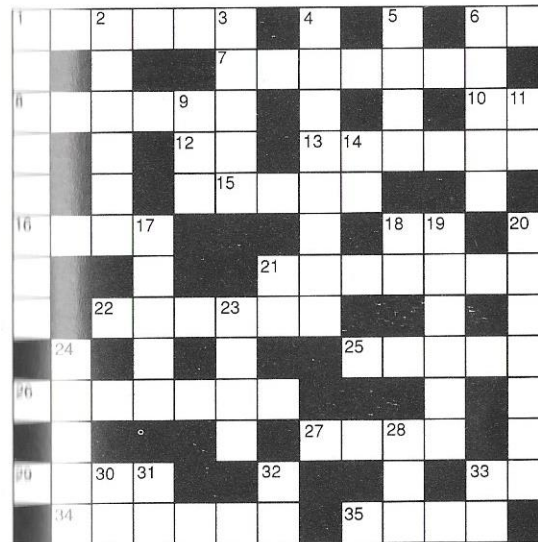


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CROSSFOCAL

Our special crossword concentrates in the main on Leinster-Ulster affairs.



ACROSS

1. Aidan was left half back in the Armagh team beaten by Donegal in last month's Ulster senior football final (6).
6. Initials of Armagh's right half forward in the same game (1,1).
7. Showing position in a series, for example (7).
8. Followers of the winning team after the Donegal-Meath tie will be in this mood (6).
10. Donegal's centre half forward in the Ulster semi-final win over Derry, but who missed the final because of injury. Initials (1,1).
12. Right midfielder in the Galway team that beat Tyrone in the 1956 All-Ireland semi-final, and won the Sam Maguire Cup that year as well (1,1).
13. Mickey was centre half forward in the Dublin team that won the 1963 All-Ireland senior football title (6).
15. Wicklow's centre half forward against Dublin in the Leinster senior football semi-final last June (1,4).
16. _____16, for instance at Croke Park (4).
18. To move (2).
21. Donegal's right full back in their 1983 Ulster title winning team, who won a provincial medal this year with another county (1,6).
22. Termination (6).

25. _____ Columba, club of Donegal defender, John Joe Doherty. (5).
26. Donegal's Man-of-the-Match award winner in the recent Ulster Senior Football final, selected by the Ulster journalists (1,6).
27. Martin was left half forward in the Armagh team that lost last time out in the championship to Donegal (4).
29. That which is done; an act, a feat (4).
33. A well-known basketball international and Gaelic footballer, who appeared with Derry in this year's senior championship. Initials (1,1).
34. Try this form of a Christian name associated with a current Meath defender (6).
35. Christo helped Meath from left half back to their first All-Ireland senior football title in 1949 (4).

DOWN

1. Down's right full back in their minor team beaten by Derry in the Ulster final last month (1,7).
2. Gareth was Armagh's full back against Donegal in the Ulster senior final last month (6).
3. It is often said that a brilliant forward did this with the opposing defence (5).
4. This official is coming near to the end of his term of office in a senior position in the G.A.A. (1,7).
5. Meath pierced the Dublin goal _____ during the recent Leinster senior football final (4).
6. Better known as an All Star hurler this Antrim man has also made his mark in football, and not necessarily exclusively in Gaelic (5).
9. This will suffice for Right Full Forward (1,1,1).
11. Carlow's left midfielder against Louth in the Leinster senior football championship at Dr. Cullen Park in May (1,1).
14. This will suffice for a half yard (1,1).
17. Vincent from Ballinlough was left midfielder for Meath in the unsuccessful 1970 All-Ireland senior football final bid against Kerry (5).
18. Initials of a goalkeeper who won a provincial senior medal this year (1,1).
19. A member of Dublin's all powerful football side of the 'Seventies who also won an All-Ireland senior medal in attack in 1981 (6).
20. Christian name of a provincial senior medal winner this year, and also a county team captain (7).
21. Initials of 21 across (1,1).
23. Popular form of a Christian name and old-timers will associate same with dashing forward Jones of Tyrone, who played in All-Ireland semi-finals in 1956 and 1957, and a legendary Colleges' player (4).
24. A glowing ember (5).
28. Often used for 'Yes' (3).
30. Try this for Errors and Omissions (1,1).
31. A two goal hero for Meath when they last met Donegal in senior competitive football earlier this year in the Royal Liver National League. Initials (1,1).
32. For example (2).
33. Left half back in Meath's 1954 All-Ireland senior football title winning team. Initials (1,1).

SOLUTION ON PAGE 55

The Only Meeting

Only once have the championship paths of Donegal and Meath crossed, and that was when they were in opposition in the 1952 All-Ireland junior football semi-final.

Donegal enjoyed the advantage of a home venue, and at Bundoran, before a crowd of 3,000, both teams served up a highly entertaining game. An early goal by McGettigan gave the home team the start they wanted, but Meath kept in touch and at the break it was 2-3 to 1-5. In see-saw scoring in the second half, Donegal managed a one-point edge with time running out; then Sean O'Brien's point made a second meeting necessary (2-6 to 1-9).

Meath scorers: D. Brennan 0-5, P. Whelan 1-1, S. O'Brien 0-2, T. Moriarty 0-1.

Donegal scorers: A. Carr, 0-4, P.J. Gallagher 1-0, P. McGettigan 1-0, P. Peoples 0-1, M. Brearty 0-1.

The replay two weeks later at Navan was a huge disappointment. After the opening quarter there was only one team in it and that team was Meath after

Tom Moriarty's goal had set them on their way. Further goals by Lenihan and Monks helped to build up an interval lead of 3-2 to 1-3, and though Donegal reopened vigorously with a point by Carr, O'Brien's goal killed off any semblance of a challenge. Meath coasted into the final with the ease suggested by a 12 point margin.

Meath scorers: A. Monks 1-1, S. O'Brien 1-1, T. Moriarty 1-0, K. Lenihan 1-0, D. Brennan 0-3, T. O'Brien 0-1.

Donegal scorers: J. McGettigan 1-0, L. Brogan 0-1, A. Cunningham 0-1, S. Curran 0-1, A. Carr 0-1.

Meath: P. Watters, P. McKeever, J. Donegan, E. Mee, K. Clarke, J. McHugh, B. Conlon, J. Duff, T. O'Brien, P. Whelan, D. Brennan, K. Lenihan, A. Monks, T. Moriarty, S. O'Brien.

Donegal: C. Halpin, S. McDonogh, J. Kerr, F. Mooney, T. Gallagher, D. Bonner, S. Flynn, A. Cunningham, L. Brogan, P. Peoples, J. McGettigan, J. Gallagher, C. Breslin.

Wishing Every Success To The Meath Team From

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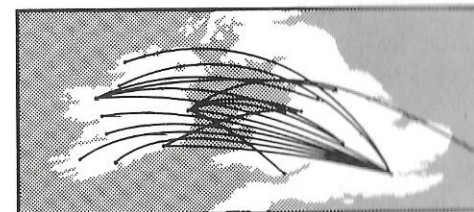
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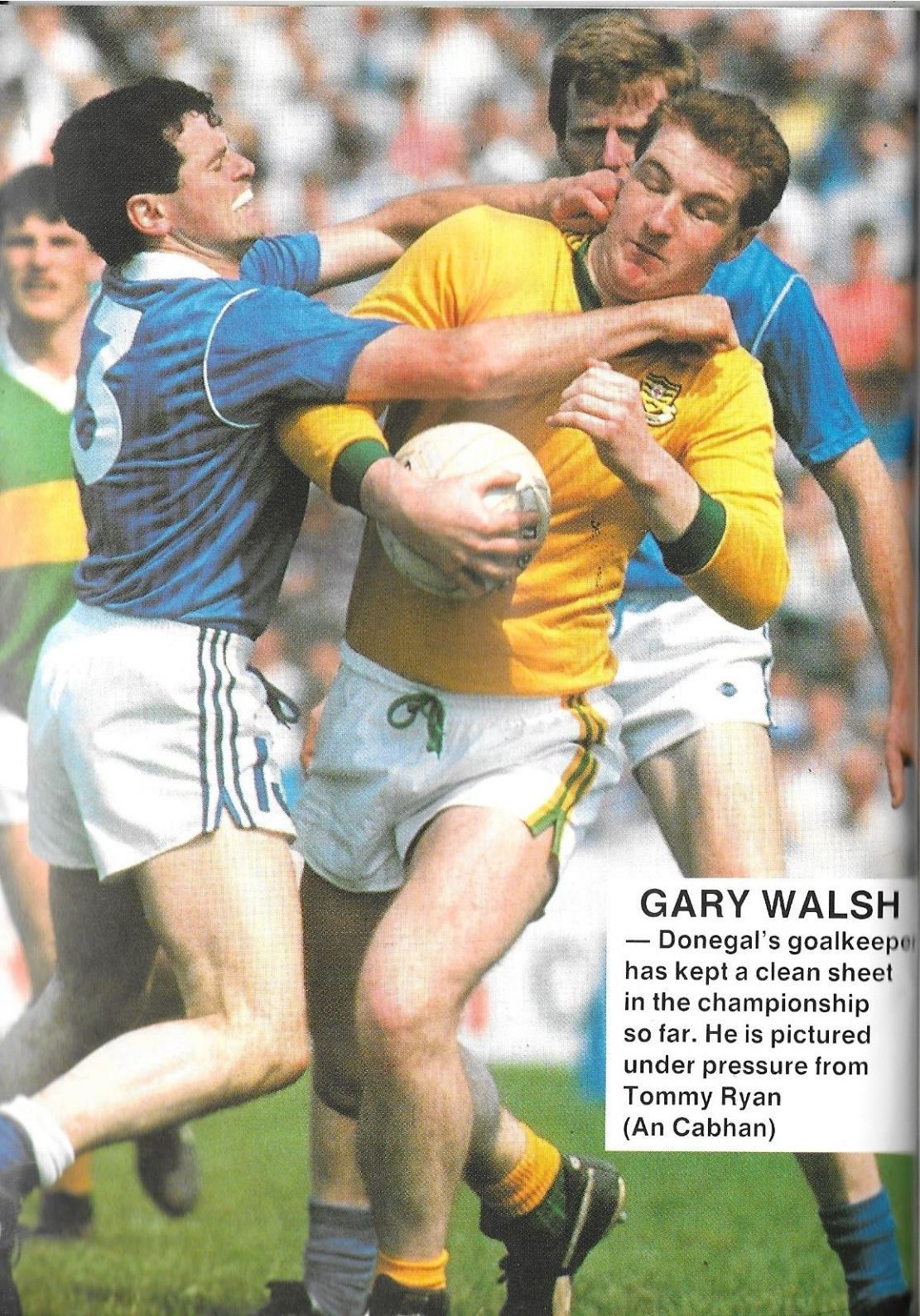


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GARY WALSH
 — Donegal's goalkeeper has kept a clean sheet in the championship so far. He is pictured under pressure from Tommy Ryan (An Cabhan)

SEMI-FINAL OUTINGS

While it would not be accurate to describe today's semi-final as a David and Goliath confrontation in regard to semi-final outings, the experience of Meath in recent years and the number of semi-finals contested, shows them to be considerably ahead of Donegal in time (first appearance in 1939) and actual activity (14 semi-finals, ten of which they won) to Donegal's three losing appearances — the first of which was in 1972.

- Meath's 14:**
 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 Derry 0-8
 1988 — Meath 0-16 Mayo 2-5

- Donegal's Three:**
 1972 — Offaly 1-17 Donegal 2-10
 1974 — Galway 3-13 Donegal 1-14
 1983 — Galway 1-12 Donegal 1-11

CROSFHOCAL

SOLUTION

(See Page 51)

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Being a Sport means...

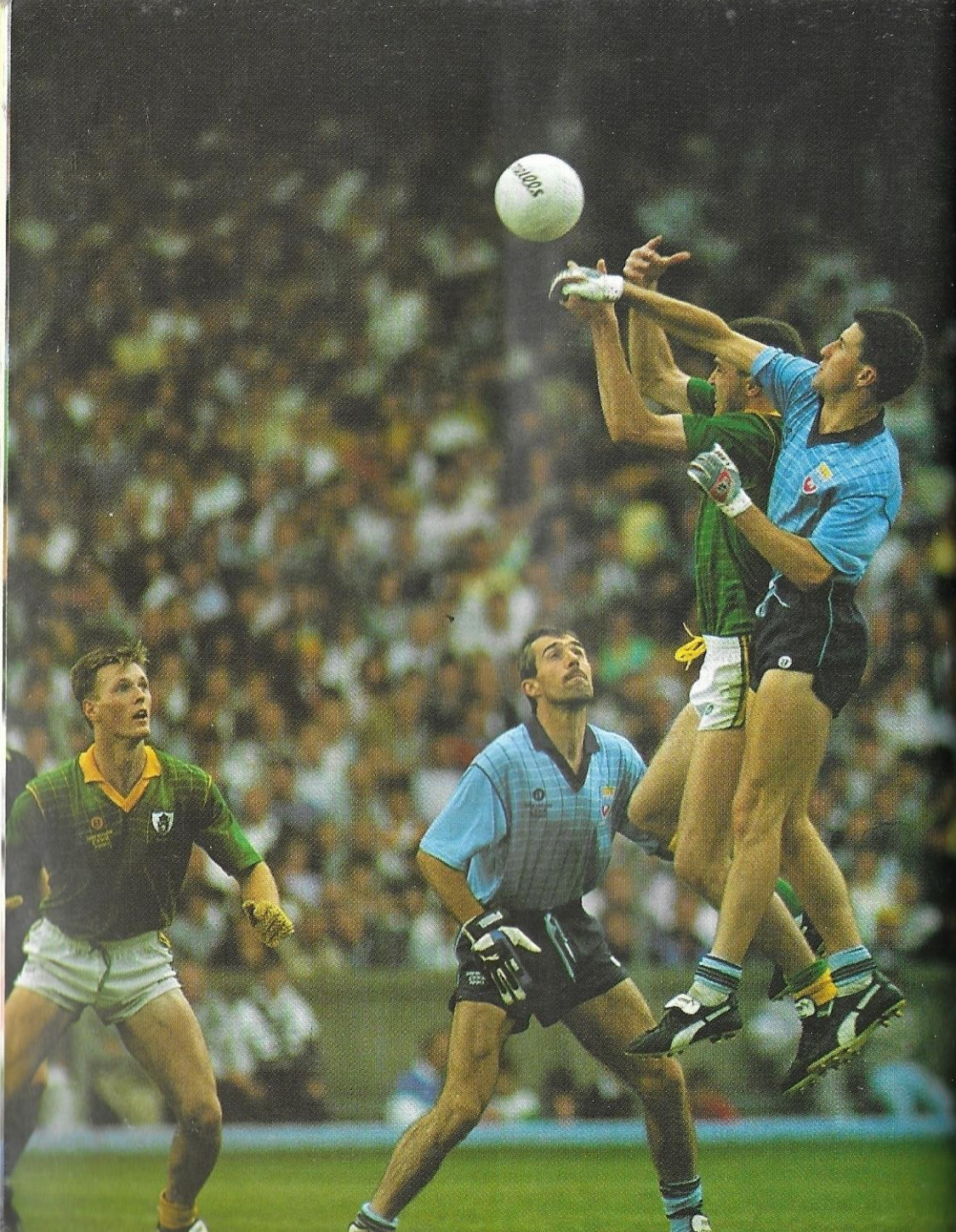
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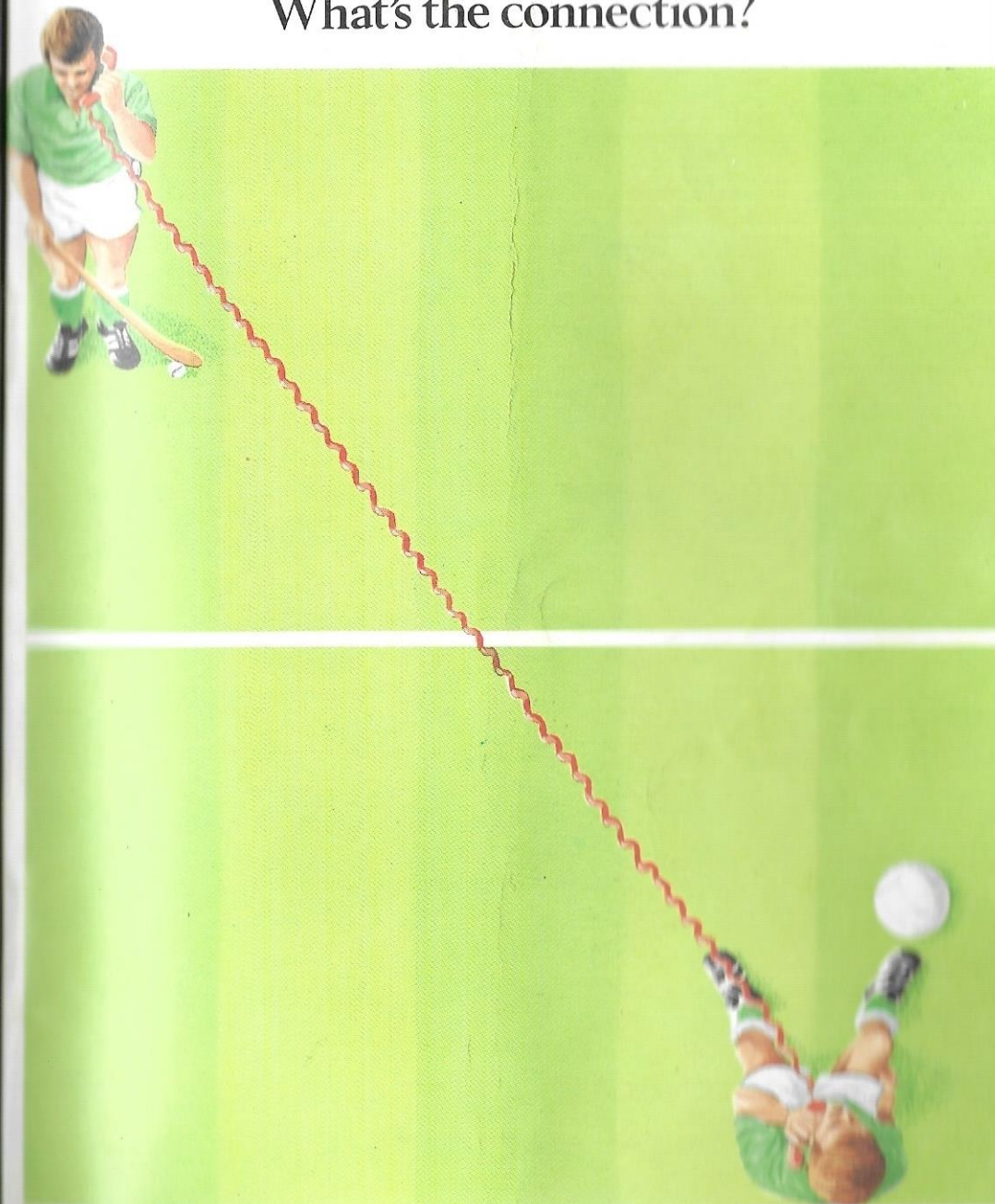
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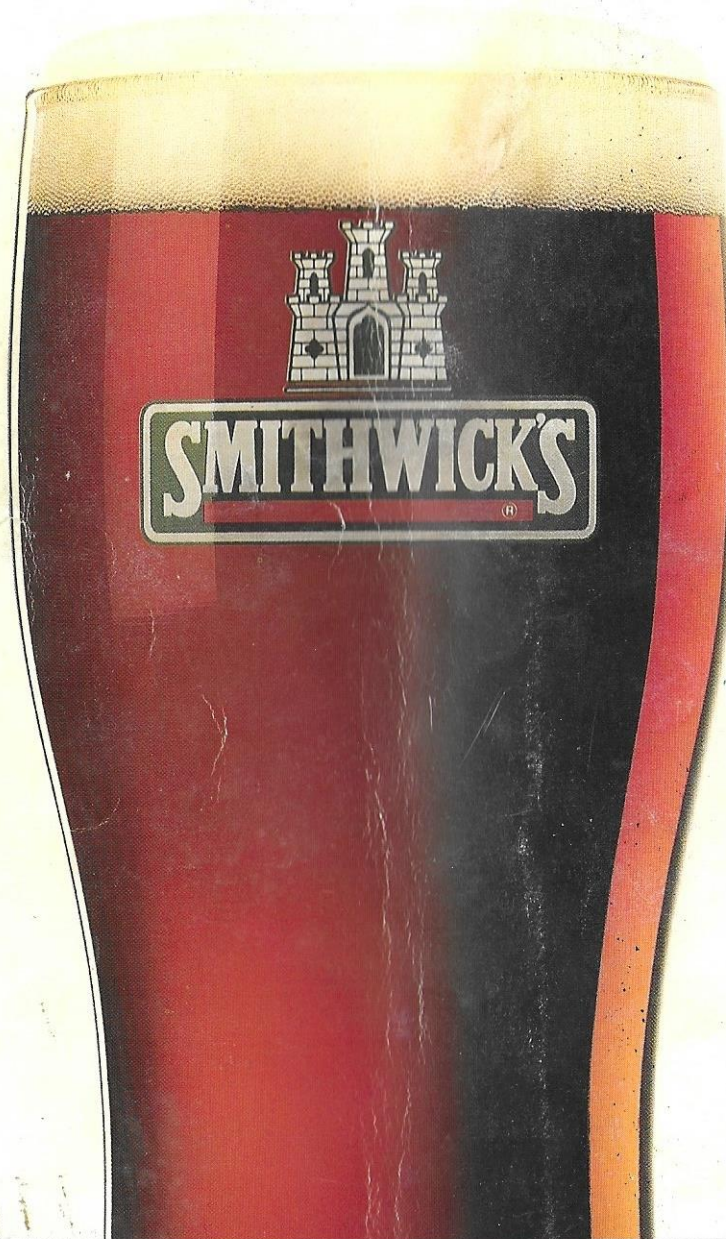
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What's the connection?



CEAPTHA - BEAGNACHI!
Paul Clarke (Áth Cliath) foils Liam Hayes (An Mhí) in this midfield action in the Leinster Final

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