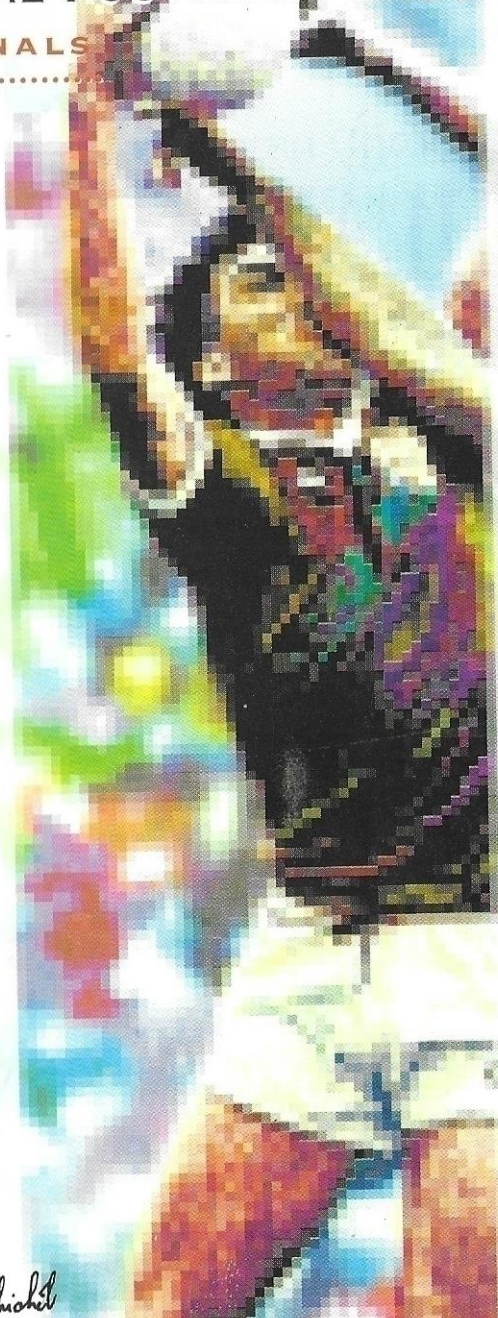


CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

ROYAL LIVER ASSURANCE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS



Kian Ó Maolmíchéil

Árd Stiurthóir

Clár Oifigiúil

Luach £1

PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH
21 AIBREÁN 1991



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CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS



Páirc an Chrócaigh

21 AIBREÁN, 1991

2.15 i.n.

Cill Dara v. Dún na nGall

Réiteoir: **Seamus Prior** (*Liatroim*)

3.45 i.n.

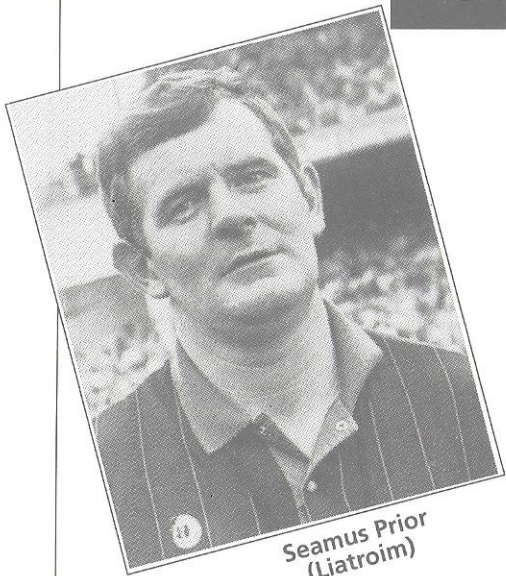
Áth Cliath v. Ros Comáin

Réiteoir: **Tommy Sugrue** (*Ciarraí*)

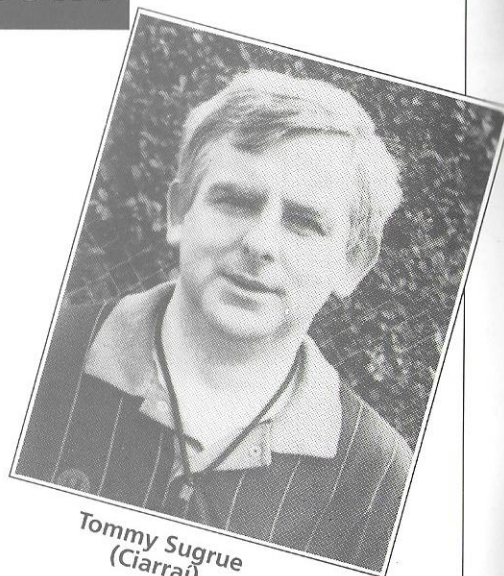


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Na Réiteoirí



Seamus Prior
(Liatroim)



Tommy Sugrue
(Ciarraí)

Amhrán na bhFiann



Sinne Fianna Fáil,
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua
Thar toinn do ráining chugann
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.

REACHING FOR THE HEIGHTS
Martin Lynch has played
an important
role for
Cill Dara in
their march to
this semi-final

League & Championship

When Kildare reached the National League semi-final for the first time – in 1929 – they certainly found themselves with a crowded programme in the summer of that year. In late July they retained their Leinster championship crown when they defeated Laois in the final, thus qualifying to meet Monaghan in the All-Ireland semi-final on August 25. But then the Central Council decided to play off the 1928-29 league semi-final which also involved Kildare and Monaghan . . . between the two championship games!

The great Lily White combination, led by Jack Higgins, was equal to all demands: on August 4, they travelled to Carrickmacross and beat the home county by four clear goals (4-5 to 0-5), and three weeks later repeated that triumph at Croke Park, though not as emphatically. But what was most notable about that achievement was that it gave Kildare the distinction of being the only county ever to win a National League and All-Ireland semi-final in the one month.



Medical/Lost Children

First Aid

Hogan/Nally Stand

Cardiac Ambulance Rear of Hogan Stand (Section G/L)
Treatment Ambulance alongside Cardiac Ambulance
Upper Hogan — New Medical Centre rear of Section P

Lr. Cusack Stand

Treatment Ambulance beside Hill 16/Cusack Transfer Gate

Upper Cusack Stand

Permanent Medical Station rear of Section N.

Hill 16

Permanent Medical Centre behind Terrace

Canal

Permanent Medical Centre under Terrace

Doctors — Dr. Bernard Stuart and Dr. Joe Stuart on duty.

Lost Children

Hogan/Nally — at G.A.A. Gift Shop

Cusack Stand — rear of Section O Inside Stiles

Canal End — at First Aid Station

Hill 16 — at First Aid Station

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VOLVO



NISSAN

Donegal and Kildare go into their novel clash in a Royal Liver National Football League semi-final with sharply contrasting form in recent months. The Ulster champions are finding the going tough after some headline making performances, while Kildare line-out with their best morale boosting win in a long time.

Donegal disappointed their supporters when they lost their final game in Division I rather badly to Roscommon at Dr. Hyde Park, and gave enthusiasts a very anxious time last week before seeing off Division III champions Offaly at Breffni Park. Woeful finishing — they had 27 wides over 90 minutes, most from favourable scoring positions — almost cost the Northerners dearly.

It was only some three minutes from time that Tony Boyle earned the struggling Division I side a lifeline by fisting a goal to give his side a one point lead. But Offaly hit back deservedly to level and force the game to extra time.

Donegal did give their supporters some hope for the future with their showing in the second half of extra time. They suddenly found their shooting boots, with Manus Boyle setting the pace, and the Ulster men hit four fine points to ensure a 1-16 to 0-16 win that for a long time appeared well beyond their capabilities.

The winning spurt was helped in no small measure by the introduction from the substitutes' bench of former Mayo footballer Pauric Brogan, who brought new life and direction to the Donegal side. He contributed three valuable points, provided many valuable touches as well, and generally left a big imprint on his return to competitive inter-county football after a lengthy absence.

Interesting Back-Drop To Donegal-Kildare Clash

But if Donegal, who have plenty of potential and are capable of playing very attractive and purposeful football, are to mark the county's sixth League semi-final appearance since 1952 with a first win, they will have to sharpen up their shooting.

Kildare can feel well pleased with the way they have come back from their end of the year league failure to Tyrone. Five wins in five games since the start of the year indicates they are on the right track, and they also could hardly have boosted hopes for a game of this nature in better style than their success over Kerry last Sunday.

The match was not one of the best seen at headquarters, but the win over such a renowned power is bound to give Mick O'Dwyer's new charges renewed confidence in their own ability. After that win, the Lily Whites will have no qualms about throwing down the gauntlet to a Donegal side uncertain about their capabilities, and with a rare League final outing looming ahead, the Kildare men are sure to put in a tremendous effort.

After a somewhat uncertain start against the Kingdom the Leinster men settled down to play good football, and with John Crofton, Paddy O'Donoghue, Seamus Dowling and Davy Dalton to the fore, deservedly forged out the county's most important win in a long time.

An interesting back-drop then to a game that undoubtedly has the potential to provide a closely contested and entertaining encounter.

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**Dublin-Roscommon —
 One Win Apiece in
 Recent Meetings**

Tony McManus and Vinny Murphy are footballers who have exercised decisive influence on meetings of Dublin and Roscommon in recent times as these counties provide another chapter to the story of their clashes in the Royal Liver National Football League with this encounter for a ticket to the 1990-91 final.

McManus, the longest serving member of the Roscommon team, played with the dash of a youthful star, and the guile of a seasoned campaigner as he teased and tormented the Dublin defence to turn the key in the door to an unexpected but well-merited win in extra time in a League quarter-final at Portlaoise last April. McManus finished with 2-5 in a performance that highlighted an exciting and polished display from the Westerners, who upset the form with a 2-22 to 3-13 win.

It was Murphy who proved to be the man for the occasion when these counties next met in the National League at Croke Park last December. Playing at full forward, he had a capital game and scored 1-4 as he blueprinted a handsome revenge for the Dubs, who finished the most convincing of winners by fourteen points.

Highly encouraging that success for the Dubs going into this test, as is the fact that they have not looked back in the meantime. They went on to win the Division I title with some fine performances, and last Sunday kept the winning momentum intact at the expense of Division III South champions Wicklow in a quarter-final at headquarters.

The match was not all that exciting, but still had its moments, with Jack Sheedy and that young Murphy providing some bright moments. It was Sheedy who set Dublin on

the way with a goal in seven minutes, and Murphy got the second after twenty five minutes.

Wicklow kept bravely battling all the way and at the finish were only five points adrift — 2-10 to 0-11. But if the Dubs did not exactly set the scene alight their display was still solid, and they finished worthy winners.

Dublin have now gone seven League games without a defeat since Paddy Cullen had a disappointing start to his term as team Manager in October where his charges had an unprofitable visit to Donegal at Ballybofey, where they lost by five points. The record since then is six wins and one draw.

Roscommon cannot point to as impressive a record. They had four wins and three defeats in the divisional programme, and had to work hard for their quarter-final win last week over Tyrone at Breffni Park. The Ulster men did not help their cause by poor finishing, and only two of their forwards scored, but it would still be unfair to Roscommon to say that they did not deserve their one point win.

They played good football throughout, worked hard, and made the best of their chances.

Paul Earley led the attack in authoritative style, scoring 1-3, and the free-taking of Michael Donlon was another feature of the win. Joey Connaughton at right half back was a star of a defence that made the Tyrone forwards work hard for their scores.

Dublin and Roscommon, then, both have plenty to recommend them for their latest show-down. These are accomplished teams, with experienced campaigners in all departments, and are capable of providing a match well up to the exciting one that marked their last appearance in the knockout stages of the League just over a year ago.



JOYCE McMULLEN
(Dún na nGall)

The industrious corner-forward was a leading light in the quarter-final victory over Uíbh Fháilí.

Donegal's five semi-finals

Donegal has appeared in five National League semi-finals and the story of how they reached that stage and then departed the race is as follows.

1951-51:

Donegal 4-7; Tyrone 3-3
Derry 2-6; Donegal 2-4
Donegal 2-6; Tyrone 1-6
Donegal 1-6; Armagh 1-6
Donegal 2-6; Armagh 1-4
Donegal 2-5; Sligo 2-4
Cork 3-3; Donegal 0-7

1964-65:

Donegal 1-11; Armagh 1-6
Donegal 4-9; Derry 1-10
Donegal 2-7; Down 0-11
Donegal 2-9; Down 1-7
Kerry 3-10; Donegal 1-8

1965-66:

Tyrone 1-10; Donegal 1-9
Donegal 3-12; Derry 1-3
Donegal 4-11; Antrim 0-0
Donegal 1-10; Down 1-3
Longford 0-13; Donegal 0-11

1966-67:

Donegal 3-15; Fermanagh 2-5
Donegal 1-8; Tyrone 1-5
Donegal 0-9; Derry 0-9
Derry 5-6; Donegal 0-5
Donegal 1-11; Antrim 0-6
Donegal 0-6; Derry 0-5
Galway 1-10; Donegal 2-4

1968-69:

Donegal 4-7; Leitrim 3-7
Sligo 3-8; Donegal 1-11
Donegal 1-15; Fermanagh 2-5
Sligo 0-12; Donegal 0-7
Donegal 0-10; Cavan 1-6.
Offaly 2-13; Donegal 1-3.

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Johnstown, Co. Kildare

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"Come on, Kildare!"

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Kildare's Seven Campaigns

Kildare are striving to reach the League Final for the first time since 1968 which was the year in which they recorded their third semi-final victory. How they performed in their seven campaigns between 1929 and 1983 which culminated in their reaching the semi-final stage is noted hereunder.

1928-29:

Kildare	2-6;	Dublin	0-3.
Kildare	4-8;	Meath	1-5.
Wexford	1-3;	Kildare	0-4.
Kildare	1-5;	Laois	0-4.
Kildare	4-5;	Monaghan	0-5.

1957-58:

Kildare	2-6;	Cork	0-8.
Kildare	2-4;	Wexford	0-5.
Kildare	3-10;	Kerry	1-0.
Carlow	2-10;	Kildare	1-5.
Kildare	2-5;	Carlow	1-3
(play-off).			
Kildare	2-16;	Tipperary	1-8.
Kildare	3-8;	Tyrone	1-6.

1965-66:

Dublin	1-15;	Kildare	1-9.
Kildare	0-12;	Laois	0-4.
Kildare	3-8;	Cork	1-11.
Kildare	3-12;	Carlow	2-5.
Kildare	0-10;	Dublin	0-7.
Galway	2-12;	Kildare	0-6.

1967-68:

Kildare	3-13;	Kilkenny	0-9.
Kildare	0-11;	Wexford	1-7.
Kildare	1-11;	Waterford	2-3.
Kildare	0-8;	Laois	0-4.
Kildare	2-8;	Offaly	1-8.
Kildare	1-12;	Sligo	2-9.
Kildare	3-13;	Sligo	1-10
(replay).			

1969-70:

Kildare	2-11;	Carlow	1-9.
Roscommon	1-11;	Kildare	1-1.
Kildare	1-8;	Limerick	0-4.
Kildare	2-12;	Roscommon	1-4.
Kildare	2-7;	Wicklow	0-5.
Kildare	2-8;	Wexford	0-4.
Down	1-11;	Kildare	2-3.

1978-79:

Kildare	2-11;	Dublin	0-6.
Cork	1-11;	Kildare	0-6.
Kildare	0-10;	Galway	0-9.
Kildare	6-11;	Laois	0-15.
Kerry	7-8;	Kildare	0-7.
Cork	2-9;	Kildare	0-4.

1982-83:

Kildare	0-14;	Galway	0-9.
Kildare	0-12;	Antrim	0-4.
Kildare	0-10;	Wicklow	0-6.
Kildare	0-12;	Cavan	0-10.
Roscommon	2-9;	Kildare	0-10.
Kildare	1-11;	Meath	1-3.
Kildare	0-11;	Tyrone	1-6.
Down	1-9;	Kildare	0-4.

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DÚN NA NGALL

The Donegal team which defeated Offaly in extra time at Breffni Park last Sunday.



CILL DARA

The Kildare team which won a famous one-point victory over Kerry in the quarter-final.

Connachtaigh, Laighnigh agus Ultaigh sa Rás!

Is fíor-annamh a castar Baile Átha Cliath agus Roscomáin ar a chéile i gcomortas náisiúnta peile; aon uair a raibh na Connachtaigh mar churaidh thiar bhí fir na Life in ísle brí agus vice versa. Ar ndóigh, bhí an dá fhoireann i Roinn I den tSraith Náisiúnta peile i mbliana agus casadh ar a chéile ann iad agus an taca sin bhí an lá leis na Laighnigh.

Is ceist eile agus teist eile an cluiche leathcheannais Léige. Le linn na Léige baineann bainisteoirí foirne leas as chun imreoirí óga a thástaíl, ní bhíonn an aimsir thar moladh beirte den chuid is mó agus uaireanta cuirtear na cluichí ar siúl i bPáirceanna nach mbíonn sa chéad rang ach oiread.

Ach nuair a shroiceann foirne an cluiche leathcheannais is i gceann éigin de phríomh-pháirceanna an Chumainn a imrítear é, go hiondúil i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Mar sin, ní bheidh, ná ní bhíonn, leathsceál ag aon fhoireann faoin bplásóg imeartha. Dairíre, ba cheart gur buntaiste mór ag Baile Átha Cliath é a bheith ag imirt 'sa mbaile' ach nuair a thagann foireann ó chearn ar bith go dtí staid náisiúnta is mór an spreagadh a tugann sé dóibh.

Bhí cluiche ceathrú-cheannais níos déine ag Roscomáin, is curaidh reatha Chonnachta iad agus, dá bhithin sin, ceaptar go mbeidh an bua acu — ar éigin.

I gcás an cluiche leath-cheannais eile is breá an rud é dhá fhoireann úr-nua a fheiceáil sa choimhlínt agus fáiltítear go croiúil roimh Chill Dara agus Dhún na nGall. Níor bhain ceachtar acu craobh na Léige ariamh agus beidh siad araon cíochrach chun an cluiche ceannais a shroicint.

As Roinn I a thainig na Conallaigh ach chuaigh sé rite leo an lámh in uachtar a fhaíl ar churaidh Roinn 3, Uíbh Fháilí, sa chluiche ceathrú-cheannais — ba ghá leath-uair a' chloig breis ama imirt agus deirtear go raibh an t-ádh dearg ar Dhún na nGall an deis a fháil.

Bhain Cill Dara stádas nua amach nuair a bhuaigh siad Roinn 2 i mbliana agus is i Roinn I a bheidh siad i 1991/92. Le bainisteoir nua, Micheál ÓDuíbhí, i gceannas orthu anois agus Ciarraí, thar dream ar bith cloíte acu sa chluiche ceathrú-cheannais samhlaítear do dhuine go bhfuil sprid láidir agus duíl chun bua múscaille i bhfir lár-tíre agus, ar a laghad ar bith, go rachaidh siad go dtí an cluiche ceannais Léige.

Ag an am céanna is curaidh Uladh iad na Connallaigh, tá foireann bhreá acu agus beidh tairbhe nach beag bainte acu as an gcluiche fada in aghaidh na Fáiligh.

Ní chuimhin leis an scríbhneoir seo an dá fhoireann seo ag casadh ar a chéile in aon mhór-chomortas ariamh agus tá sé deacair a mheas cé acu a mbeidh rith an ráis. Ach beidh leath de dhaonradh Chill Dara bailithe i bPáirc an Chrócaigh inniu chun fir na ngeansaí mbána a spreagadh — gan trácht ar 'Mhicko' — agus ceaptar go mbainfidh na Laighnigh áit amach sa chluiche ceannais.

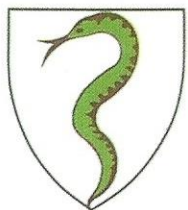
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Dathanna: Bán

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NIALL CONNELLY
Grange

(2) Daithí Ó Daltún
DAVY DALTON
Kilcock

(3) S. Ó Crochtún
JOHN CROFTON
Sarsfields

(4) S. Ó Dubhlainn
SEAMUS DOWLING
Moorefield

(5) G. Ó Riain
GLEN RYAN
Round Towers

(6) P. Ó Donnchú
PADDY O'DONOGHUE
Johnstown

(7) L. Sex
BILL SEX
Portlaw

(8) M. Ó Loingsigh
MARTIN LYNCH
Clane

(9) S. Mac Shamhráin
SEAN MCGOVERN
Athy

(10) D. Ó Ciaragáin
DECLAN KERRIGAN
Johnstown

(11) T. Ó hEarchaí
TOM HARRIS
Rheban

(12) S. Mac Domhnaill
JOHNNY McDONALD
Naas

(13) P. Ó Lochlainn
PAUL McLOUGHLIN
Clane

(14) D. Mac Dhaibhéid
DARAGH McKEVITT (Capt.)
Naas

(15) I. Ó Giolla Rua
JARLATH GILROY
Ballymore

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) P. Mac Amhalaí (**Phillip McAuley**) *Naas*, (17) S. Ó Riain (**Sean Ryan**) *St. Laurences*, (18) P. Mac Conéinn (**Peter McConnon**) *Round Towers*, (19) L. Ó Maolaidh (**Liam Miley**) *St. Laurences*, (20) D. Ó Conaill (**Denis O'Connell**) *Clane*, (21) N. Donlon (**Noel Donlon**) *Round Towers*, (22) A. Rainbow (**Anthony Rainbow**) *Suncroft*, (23) M. Ó Fogartaigh (**Mick Fogarty**) *St. Laurences*, (23) M. Ó hAoláin (**Mick Hyland**) *Monasteravin*.

ROGHNOIRÍ: Mick O'Dwyer, Jack Donnelly, Tommy Carew, Fr. M. Lennon, Jack Wall.

CILL DARA	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

Dún na nGall



Dathanna: Uaithne, Ór is Bán/

(1) G. Breathnach
GARY WALSH
Aodh Ruadh

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

(3) S. Ó Cnaimhsí
SEAN BONNER
Na Rossa

(4) M. Ó Gallachóir
MATT GALLAGHER
Naomh Bríd

(5) B. Mac Gabhann
BARRY MCGOWAN
Killybegs

(6) M. Ó Gaibheacháin
MARTIN GAVIGAN
Ardara

(7) M. Seibhleáin
MARTIN SHOVLIN
Naomh Ultan

(8) B. Ó Muirí
BRIAN MURRAY
Civil Service

(9) M. Ó Gallachóir
MICHAEL GALLAGHER
Civil Service

(10) G. Ó Corráin
GERRY CURRAN
Aodh Ruadh

(11) D. Ó Cnaimhsí
DECLAN BONNER
Na Rossa

(12) T. Ó Riain
TOMMY RYAN
Termon

(13) S. Mac Maoláin
JOYCE McMULLAN
Four Masters

(14) A. Ó Baoill
TONY BOYLE
Dungloe

(15) M. Ó Baoill
MANUS BOYLE
Killybegs

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) M. Ó Ceallaigh (**Michael Kelly**) *Four Masters*, (17) D. Ó Maoildeirg (**Donal Reid**) *Red Hughs*, (18) P. Ó Carra (**Paul Carr**) *Four Masters*, (19) A. Ó Maoilmhuaidh (**Anthony Molloy**) *Ardara*, (20) B. Ó Cuinneagáin (**Barry Cunningham**) *Killybegs*, (21) S. Mac Aodha (**James McHugh**) *Kilcar*, (22) M. Mac Aodha (**Martin McHugh**) *Kilcar*, (23) P. Ó Brógáin (**Pauric Brogan**) *Bundoran*, (24) P. Ó hÉigeartaigh (**Paddy Hegarty**) *Naomh Columba*

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

DÚN NA NGALL	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

The Road to the Semi-Final for Dublin and Roscommon

Dublin and Roscommon meet today for the second time in the current Royal Liver National Football League. Their first clash was at Croke Park in early December when a sparkling second half performance, orchestrated by Vinnie Murphy, swept the Dubs to a decisive 2-14 to 0-6 win.

DISAPPOINTING START

Dublin went on to capture the Division I title with eleven points from seven games. Roscommon collected eight points from their seven outings in the group.

Dublin had a disappointing start when they lost to Donegal by 2-11 to 1-9 at Ballybofey. They beat Armagh by 0-12 to 0-9 at Croke Park in round two, and their record since then is:

Dublin 0-10; Cork 0-6 at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.
Dublin 2-14; Roscommon 0-6 at Croke Park.

Dublin 2-10; Down 1-7 at Newcastle
Dublin 3-11; Kerry 0-7 at Croke Park.
Dublin 0-11; Meath 1-8 at Croke Park.

Then came last Sunday's quarter-final win over Wicklow at Croke Park by 2-10 to 0-11.

The Dubs scored 10-87 (117 points) and had 4-65 (77 points) chalked up against them. Vinnie Murphy sets the pace in their scoring chart with 3-14 (23 points).

ROSCOMMON'S LOSING START

Roscommon, like Dublin, had a losing start to the campaign. They went down by 0-18 to 2-7 to Kerry at Killarney. Next time out they surprised Meath at Dr. Hyde Park, winning by 1-13 to 0-12.

Since then they have beaten Down 1-10 to 1-8 at Roscommon, lost that Croke Park encounter to Dublin, failed to Armagh by 1-11 to 1-9 at Lurgan, beat Cork by 0-9 to 1-5 at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, and completed their divisional programme with a 1-10 to 0-4 win over Donegal at Dr. Hyde Park.

In last week's quarter-final at Breffni Park, Roscommon beat Tyrone, the Division II champions, by 1-9 to 0-11.

Roscommon chalked up 7-73 (94 points), and had 5-83 (98 points) recorded against them. Although Tony McManus surprisingly failed to score at Cavan he continues to head the Connacht champions chart of ace marksmen with 1-12 (15 points).

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Donegal and Kildare meet for the first time in the current Royal Liver National Football League. The Ulster champions finished runners-up in Division I with nine points from their seven games.

First League Clash This Season for Donegal and Kildare

Kildare competed in Division II, and beat Leitrim in a play-off tie at Navan on Easter Sunday for the runners-up position to Tyrone, and also promotion to Division I next season, as well as their place in the knockout stages of the current League.

GREAT START

Donegal had the best possible start — a win over Dublin at Ballybofey by 2-11 to 1-9. Next time out they gained a somewhat fortunate draw with Down, scoring 1-7 to the Mourne men's 0-10 at Newry.

Donegal returned to the winning trail with a 1-12 to 0-12 win over Kerry at Ballyshannon. They lost next time out to Meath by 1-11 to 0-10 at Navan, beat Cork 1-9 to 1-6 at Ballybofey, Armagh by 2-8 to 1-7, again at Ballybofey, and lost their concluding Division I tie to Roscommon by 1-10 to 0-4 at Dr. Hyde Park. Last Sunday, Donegal went one better than in 1990 when they lost their quarter-final to Meath. However, they had to go to extra time before seeing off Offaly by 1-16 to 0-16 at Breffni Park.

Donegal's record is 8-77 (101 points) for, and 5-81 (96 points) against. Declan Bonner, who hit just one point last week, is their top scorer with 3-19 (28 points).

SURPRISE DEFEAT

Kildare had a surprise defeat in the opening round when they failed to Leitrim by 0-16 to 1-10 at Droichead Nua. Then came wins over Longford by 1-11 to 0-5 at Longford, and Derry 2-8 to 2-6 at Droichead Nua before they lost again to Tyrone at Omagh by 0-11 to 0-7.

Since then Kildare have beaten Antrim by 1-12 to 0-6 at Casement Park, Cavan 2-8 to 0-7 at Droichead Nua and Mayo 1-11 to 2-7 at Charlestown, to earn a play-off tie for promotion and a place in the knockout stages. They won that game with Leitrim at An Uaimh by 3-11 to 2-8.

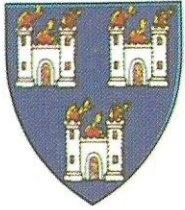
Last Sunday Kildare kept the winning sequence intact at the expense of Kerry by 1-7 to 0-9. That boosted their scoring record to 12-85 (121 points), and their against tally to 6-75 (93 points).

Jarlath Gilroy scored just a point in the last game, but that still helped him to keep on top of the Kildare scoring chart with 7-7 (28 points).



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JOHN O'LEARY
O'Dwyers

(2) M. Ó Duiginn
MICK DEEGAN
Erins Isle

(3) C. Breathnach
CIARAN WALSH
St. Anne's

(4) M. Ó Cinnéide
MICK KENNEDY
St. Margaret's

(5) T. Ó Cearra
TOM CARR (Capt.)
Ballymun Kickhams

(6) C. Ó Bairr
KEITH BARR
Erin's Isle

(7) E. Ó hIorna
EAMONN HEARY
St. Vincent's

(8) D. Ó Fuaráin
DAVID FORAN
Thomas Davis

(9) P. Ó Cléirigh
PAUL CLARKE
Whitehall Colmcille

(10) P. Ó Corráin
PAUL CURRAN
Thomas Davis

(11) S. Ó Síoda
JACK SHEEDY
Garda

(12) N. Ó Duibh
NIALL GUIDEN
Raheny

(13) C. Mac Reamoinn
CHARLIE REDMOND
Erin's Isle

(14) U. Ó Murchú
VINCENT MURPHY
Trinity Gaels

(15) D. Mac Carthaigh
DONAL MCCARTHY
St. Sylvesters

FIR IONAID: (16) D. Ó Fearail (Derek O'Farrell) *Na Fianna*, (17) S. Sionóid (Dave Synnott) *O'Tooles*, (18) G. Mac Giolla Mhartáin (Gary Kilmartin) *Thomas Davis*, (19) C. Ó Duibh (Ciaran Duff) *Fingallians*, (20) D. Ó Siocháin (Decland Sheehan) *Ballymun Kickhams*, (21) M. Ó Gealbháin (Mick Galvin) *Oliver Plunketts*, (22) B. Mac Concharraige (Barney Rock) *St. Sylvesters*, (23) S. Mac Giolla Mhaoil (Johnny Bell) *O'Dwyers*, (24) M. Ó Bearáin (Martin Barnes) *St. Sylvesters*.

ROGHNOIRÍ: Paddy Cullen, Dr. Pat O'Neill, Jim Brogan, Selectors; Fran Ryder, Trainer.

ÁTH CLIATH	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

Ros Comáin



Dathanna: Gorm is Ór

(1) P. Mac An Mhile
PAUL STAUNTON
Elphin

(2) G. Ó Gaothain
GARY WYNNE
Kingscourt

(3) M. Ó Raghallaigh
MATTIE REILLY
Castlereah

(4) D. Ó Nuatain
DES NEWTON
Carndonagh

(5) S. Ó Connachtain
JOEY CONNAUGHTON
Clan na nGael

(6) E. Ó Gabhain
EAMON GAVIN
Clan na nGael

(7) D. Ó Concubhair
DAVID O'CONNOR
St. Dominics

(8) S. Ó Nuatain
JOHN NEWTON (Capt.)
Garda

(9) S. Mac Giolla Luathrinn
SEAMUS KILLORAN
Elphin

(10) U. Mac Leannain
VINCENT GLENNON
St. Faithleach

(11) M. Ó Donallain
MICHAEL DONLON
Strokestown

(12) T. Ó Greachain
TOMMY GREHAN
St. Aidans

(13) D. Ó Dugain
DEREK DUGGAN
Castlereah

(14) P. Ó Mochaoir
PAUL EARLEY
Michael Glaveys

(15) A. Mac Manais
TONY McMANUS
Clan na nGael

FIR IONAID: (16) G. Ó Sioráin (Gabriel Sheerin) *St. Ronans*, (17) S. Ó Heanachain (James Heneghan) *Michael Glaveys*, (18) E. Mac Manais (Eamon McManus) *Clan na nGael*, (19) L. Ó Dolain (Luke Dolan) *Strokestown*, (20) A. de Leilinn (Andy Leyland) *Castlereah*, (21) G. de Creag (Gerry Cregg) *Ballynameen*, (22) S. Ó Corráin (Shane Curran) *Castlereah*, (23) D. Ó Donnallain (Damien Donlon) *Strokestown*, (24) L. Ó Dubhda (Lorcan Dowd) *Western Gaels*.

ROGHNOIRÍ: Martin McDermott, John Kelly, Sean Kilbride.

ROS COMÁIN	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

Dublin Dominate in 21 Meetings

Dublin and Roscommon do not, in league or championship, represent one of the great rivalries of gaelic football, and by no strength of the imagination would their relationship be described as other than low-key. Their contribution to gaelic football, immense in many ways, has been carved apart from each other and against different rivals. Even the most knowledgeable G.A.A. follower would be hard set to recall a memorable Dublin-Roscommon clash of the past, apart from the 1979 All-Ireland semi-final, though last year's quarter-final meeting at Portlaoise, which could not be decided within the normal 60 minutes, was in its way the stuff of folklore.

Fortunes, though they did not greatly differ through the early years of the National League, were experienced without even one meeting and the years of Roscommon's greatness — the 1940s — came and went without a league honour, and it is of interest to note that Dublin and Roscommon did share an experience in the forties — that of winning an All-Ireland but not a league title.

The National leagues were more than a quarter of a century in being before the

format established in 1953 brought them together for the first time. The meeting at Croke Park on February 28, 1954 was not a great occasion, Dublin winning by a margin of **14 points**. The next fourteen meetings, apart from the 1960-61 clash which was drawn, all went in favour of the Metropolitans, and it wasn't until 1976 that Roscommon finally broke their chain of failure. More recent times have seen a greater balance in the returns from the meetings, with the record reading 3-3 since 1980. But overall Dublin have been the dominant force and of the 21 meetings, they have won 16 times to Roscommon's four.

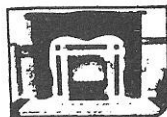
The scorelines:

1953-54 — Dublin 1-12; Roscommon 0-1
 1954-55 — Dublin 3-5; Roscommon 2-3
 1955-56 — Dublin 1-9; Roscommon 1-4
 1956-57 — Dublin 1-9; Roscommon 0-4
 1957-58 — Dublin 4-6; Roscommon 0-4
 1958-59 — Dublin 3-6; Roscommon 0-4
 1959-60 — Dublin 3-8; Roscommon 2-8
 1960-61 — Roscommon 1-10; Dublin 1-10
 1961-62 — Dublin 3-10; Roscommon 2-4
 1962-63 — Dublin 2-6; Roscommon 1-1
 1963-64 — Dublin 1-7; Roscommon 0-7
 1964-65 — Dublin 1-17; Roscommon 1-1
 1970-71 — Dublin 3-8; Roscommon 1-8
 1974-75 — Dublin 1-13; Roscommon 1-4
 1975-76 — Roscommon 2-8; Dublin 1-6
 1980-81 — Roscommon 0-10; Dublin 1-5
 1981-82 — Dublin 4-13; Roscommon 1-8
 1984-85 — Roscommon 0-8; Dublin 0-6
 1986-87 — Dublin 1-11; Roscommon 0-8
 1989-90 — Roscommon 2-22; Dublin 3-13
 1990-91 — Dublin 2-13; Roscommon 0-6

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The Roscommon team which had a one point victory over Tyrone last Sunday

ROS COMÁIN

Semi-Final Barrier

Crashing the National League semi-final barrier for the first time can be an intimidating assignment — a fact to which not a few counties will testify. In fact, in the 60-odd years of the competition **eight** counties have found the semi-final to be the limit of their achievements.

On their only appearance in the semi-final Wicklow (1947), Leitrim (1959) and Westmeath (1969) all tasted defeat; two-time losers were Antrim (1926 and 1946) and Tipperary (1935 and 1953), while Sligo failed at the second-last hurdle in 1926, 1968 and 1973. But the greatest frustration experienced by any was to **lose five semi-finals**, and Tyrone and Donegal share that experience — Tyrone in 1957, 1958, 1974, 1975 and 1985; and Donegal whose five 'semi' defeats were in 1952 to Cork, to Kerry in '65, to Longford in '66, to Galway in '67 and to Offaly in '69.

Those four semi-final disappointments in the 1960s leaves Donegal sharing with Meath the distinction of being the only counties **to lose four** National League semi-finals in one decade — Meath's dismal decade being the 1960s also.

The Longest Way

Nowadays a National League campaign usually lasts about eight months — or perhaps a little longer if New York is involved. In the early days of the league, however, the approach to completing the competition was much more leisurely and it often took twelve months or more to reach a final decision. But undoubtedly the longest campaign ever was Kerry's in 1931-32. The 'Kingdom' opened with a win over Laois at Portaloise on March 8, 1931 and the campaign ambled on over the next two years until the final with Cork was eventually staged at Killarney on February 5, 1933 — 23 months later! This was easily the longest campaign in league history.

Record Crowds

The fifties and early sixties were years of growing public interest in Gaelic games generally, and this interest was reflected in the attendance figures at games at all stages of the National League games. The first occasion that the thirty thousand mark was passed at a football (or hurling) semi-final was when **33,000** paid to see Meath beat Cavan in 1951. Three years later the Mayo-Dublin semi-final attracted a crowd of **37,424** and this record stood until 1964 when **53,088** saw Dublin defeat Kerry in a hectic encounter.

That 1964 figure has not been battered — or even approached — in the intervening years; but in regard to attendance figures perhaps the most remarkable were those which Dublin and Galway set on two occasions more than a quarter of a century ago.

In a **play-off tie** for a semi-final place in 1958, these counties were watched by **36,700** at Croke Park; but more remarkable still was when an "ordinary" **fifth-round** game between Dublin and Galway in 1964 drew a crowd of **33,721** to headquarters.

Pointless

The odds against any of today's semi-finalists failing to score a point during the 60 minutes of play are truly astronomical, but incredibly, that was the experience of Kerry on one occasion in the National League. This was back in the 1927-28 campaign when the 'Kingdom' were hosts to Clare at Tralee. Kerry were not unduly pressed in winning by five points, but did so without raising a white flag as the final score was **4-0 to 1-5**.




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ATH CLIATH

The Dublin team, victors over neighbours Wicklow at Croke Park last Sunday.

Semi-final report — ROSCOMMON

Roscommon are today contesting their ninth National League semi-final. Of the eight they have played in to date they won three and lost four. How they reached the semi-final and fared in those eight previous campaigns is shown hereunder:

Roscommon:

1938-39:

Roscommon 3-3; Longford 1-5
Roscommon 2-3; Westmeath 1-1
Meath 2-5; Roscommon 1-4

1939-40:

Roscommon 4-8; Westmeath 1-3
Roscommon 6-5; Longford 2-4
Roscommon 0-10; Cork 2-2
Roscommon 3-5; Sligo 0-4
Galway 1-7; Roscommon 0-7

1960-61:

Roscommon 0-11; Laois 0-6
Roscommon 0-11; Wicklow 1-6
Roscommon 1-10; Dublin 1-10
Roscommon 2-4; Offaly 0-6
Roscommon 2-8; Louth 2-3
Roscommon 2-5; Galway 2-4
Kerry 1-8; Roscommon 1-8
Replay: Kerry 4-9; Roscommon 0-12

1973-74:

Roscommon 2-14; Tipperary 0-5
Kerry 1-14; Roscommon 2-5
Roscommon 1-11; Galway 0-5
Roscommon 1-5; Offaly 0-8
Roscommon 1-10; Cork 1-9
Roscommon 1-11; Longford 1-9
Roscommon 0-15; Wicklow 3-6
Roscommon 0-12; Sligo 0-12
Replay: Roscommon 0-16; Sligo 0-10

1976-77:

Roscommon 2-13; Antrim 2-8
Roscommon 2-8; Tyrone 0-10
Mayo 1-12; Roscommon 2-7
Roscommon 0-9; Dery 1-5
Roscommon 1-6; Sligo 1-3
Mayo 1-9; Roscommon 1-6
Roscommon 1-4; Offaly 0-5
Kerry 2-13; Roscommon 0-8

1978-79:

Roscommon 1-16; Cavan 0-8
Tyrone 2-11; Roscommon 0-14
Down 1-8; Roscommon 0-9
Roscommon 2-12; Antrim 1-5
Roscommon 1-9; Mayo 0-5
Roscommon 1-10; Cavan 0-8
Roscommon 1-14; Offaly 0-12

1980-81:

Roscommon 3-14; Kildare 0-8
Roscommon 0-9; Kerry 1-6
Roscommon 0-13; Down 0-2
Roscommon 2-9; Offaly 1-9
Armagh 0-6; Roscommon 0-5
Roscommon 1-11; Mayo 1-6

1989-90:

Roscommon 4-15; Wexford 2-9
Roscommon 5-12; Antrim 0-10
Roscommon 1-16; Monaghan 0-12
Roscommon 1-19; Meath 0-6
Roscommon 0-13; Louth 0-7
Roscommon 0-13; Tyrone 1-10
Roscommon 2-22; Dublin 3-13
Down 4-8; Roscommon 0-11

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Dublin's Semi-Final Appearances

Dublin are no strangers to league semi-final fare. In fact, the capital representatives can claim the distinction (with Antrim) of having contested the first-ever semi-final away back in 1926. That historic encounter took place at Dundalk on April 21 of that year and resulted in a win for Dublin — the first of many at this stage of the competition — and though the thirties had passed before they again featured in a penultimate test, from the resumption of league activity after the Emergency they have rarely been absent from the semi-final scene. And not alone have they been regular competitors, but they have also been regular victors, as of the 20 semi-finals they have played they have won 15 — an impressive 75% success rate.

The scorelines of their 20 semi-finals are:

1925-26 — Dublin 0-8; Antrim 0-5
 1940-41 — Dublin 2-7; Kerry 1-4
 1945-46 — Wexford 5-6; Dublin 1-2
 1951-52 — Dublin 7-5; Laois 1-5
 1952-53 — Dublin 0-9; Tipperary 0-3
 1953-54 — Mayo 0-11; Dublin 0-7
 1954-55 — Dublin 0-12; Cork 0-9
 1955-56 — Cork 1-16; Dublin 1-9 (replay)
 1957-58 — Dublin 0-10; Mayo 0-7
 1959-60 — Cavan 2-8; Dublin 1-8
 1961-62 — Dublin 0-15; Meath 1-8
 1963-64 — Dublin 0-10; Kerry 0-9
 1966-67 — Dublin 1-15; Meath 1-7
 1974-75 — Dublin 3-12; Tyrone 1-7
 1975-76 — Dublin 1-11; Galway 0-12
 1976-77 — Dublin 2-12; Mayo 0-5
 1985-86 — Laois 0-12; Dublin 1-7
 1986-87 — Dublin 1-8; Galway 0-8
 1987-88 — Dublin 4-12; Monaghan 1-8
 1988-89 — Dublin 1-10; Cavan 1-9

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Gary Walsh, J. J. Doherty, Martin Shovlin and Declan Bonner, who were in action for Donegal in their extra time quarter-final win over Offaly last Sunday at Breffni Park, helped the Ulster champions to capture the new Iarnród Éireann Interprovincial title by beating Munster at Croke Park two weeks ago.

WITH LEINSTER

John O'Leary, Paul Clarke and Vinnie Murphy of Dublin, and Martin Lynch (Kildare) were in the Leinster team beaten by Munster in the Iarnród Éireann Interprovincial semi-final in March. Gary Wynne, Des Newton, Joey Connaughton, Seamus Killoran, Tommy Grehan and Paul Earley lined out for Connacht in the other semi-final at Ballybofey. Vincent Glennon went in as a substitute in a game in which Ulster won in extra time.



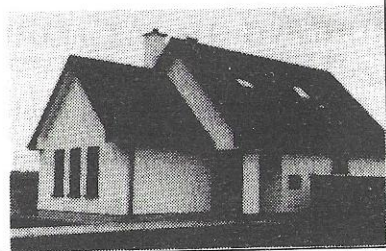
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● Biggest Margins

By the very nature of things, teams reaching the semi-finals stages of the National League are well-matched, as evidenced by the narrow winning margins of the majority of 'semis' over the years. Occasionally, however, form (and fortunes) go widely astray as a result of which one side over-runs the other. Notable among these one-sided encounters was Mayo's **15-point** win (6-8 to 2-5) over Tipperary at Clonmel in 1935. Eleven years later Dublin were on the receiving end of a **15-point** trouncing when they flopped to Wexford at Enniscorthy, but the metropolitans were themselves the administrators of a six-goal beating (7-5 to 1-5) to Laois at Croke Park in 1952. Kerry's superiority to Armagh in 1982 was in their **15-point** (3-14 to 1-5) demolition of the Northerners. But the biggest-ever winning margin in a semi-final was recorded at Breffni Park in 1931 when Cavan had 23 points (7-5 to 0-3) to spare over Waterford.

Happily, one-sided semi-finals are the exception — the present structure of the league virtually guarantees that.

● A Breakthrough

Apart from gaining them a place in the league semi-final for the first time in more than 20 years, last Sunday's win over Offaly constituted something of a breakthrough for Donegal in that they recorded their first-ever win over Offaly in a competitive outing — the only county they had never previously managed to overcome in league, championship or official tournament.

● Comeback

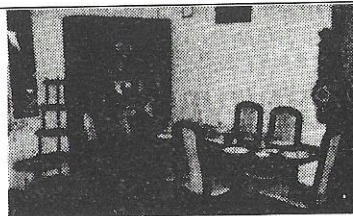
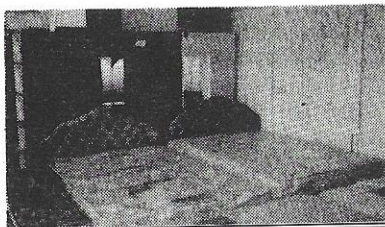
On their way to the 1967 league semi-final, Donegal had to stage a remarkable comeback to remain in contention, as their hopes of qualifying appeared to have been dealt a disastrous blow when Derry beat them by 16 points (5-6 to 0-5) at Ballinascreen on February 5.

But Donegal stayed with it, forcing a play-off with their conquerors, which was staged at Ivinestown six weeks later. And in a total reversal of form Donegal held on to win by a point — 0-6 to 0-5. In such a short time it was a truly astonishing comeback.

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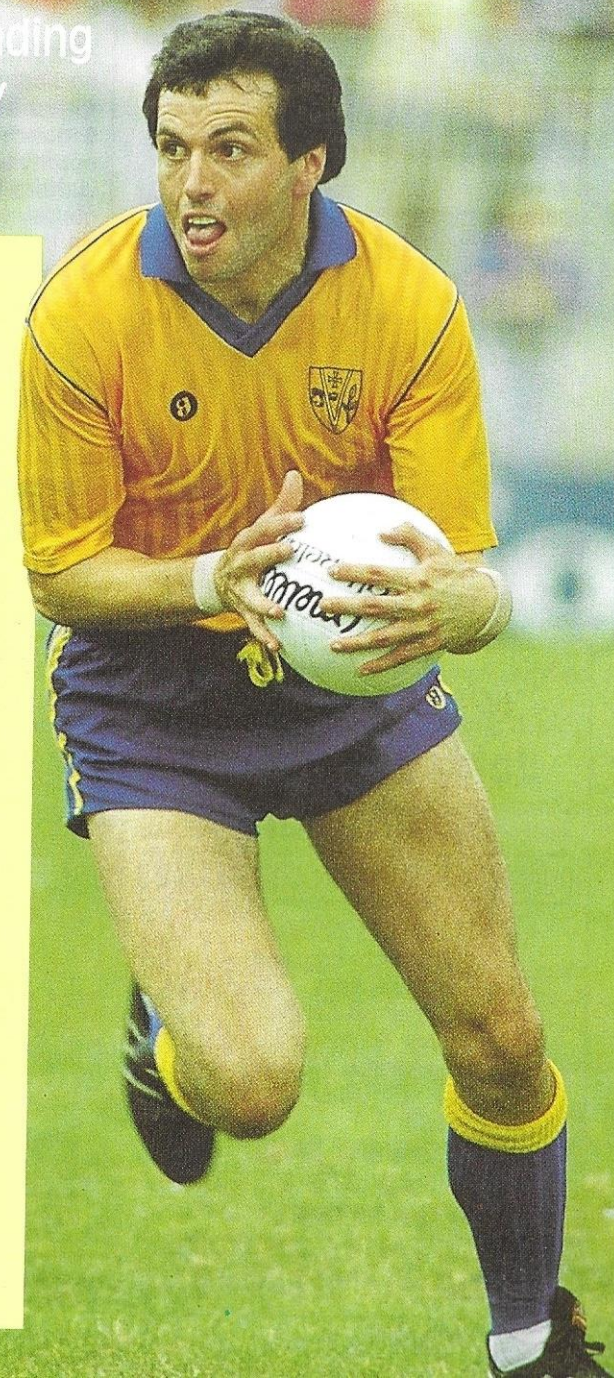
Ros Comáin's outstanding
forward PAUL EARLEY

Big crowds at knock-out games

Last week's first series of knockout matches proper in the Royal Liver National Football and Hurling Leagues had the followers out in strength. Around 50,000 spectators over-all attended the matches at Croke Park, Thurles and Cavan.

Last April a double bill of football semi-finals at Croke Park featured Down against Roscommon, and Meath against Cork, and drew a crowd of 25,103.

The previous year Dublin beat Cavan at headquarters before 23,941 spectators, and the same day Cork outscored Kerry in the other League semi-final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, where the attendance was 25,000.



Venues — Home and Away

Apart from the case of Cork and Kerry who have a home and away arrangement for championship and league games, or when Croke Park is the obvious location, league semi-finals, when staged at provincial venues, have invariably been neutral venues.

It wasn't always so, and indeed, in the early years of the National Leagues, it was the rule rather than the exception to play semi-final ties at the home ground of one of the competing teams. For instance, when Kerry contested their first semi-final (1928-29) they had Sligo as visitors to **Tralee**, and the same year Kildare made the trip to **Carrickmacross** to take on Monaghan.

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Two years later, Kerry took on Galway at Tuam and won, but that same year Waterford were no match for Cavan at **Breffni Park**.

Meath questioned the system in 1932 and conceded a walk over to Cork rather than travel to the **Athletic Grounds**, but a year later the Royal county was happy to accept Mayo as visitors to **Navan** where the home county won readily. Mayo were again on the road in 1935, but this time they were easy winners over Tipperary at **Clonmel**.

When semi-finals were re-introduced in 1939 after other systems had been experimented with for four seasons, Mayo again proved themselves good travellers by beating Wexford at **Wexford Park**, and at **Roscommon** Meath overcame the home team. Twelve months on, Galway beat Roscommon at **Galway** and Meath overcame Wexford at **Navan**.

Home venue was of little advantage to Down in 1941 as on their first appearance in a semi-final they went down to Mayo at **Newcastle** but when the leagues resumed after the Emergency closedown, Wexford at **Enniscorthy** were easy winners over Dublin, but at **Navan** Meath had to settle for a draw with Antrim, though they got it right in the replay at **Corrigan Park** a fortnight later — the only semi-final to be staged in Belfast.

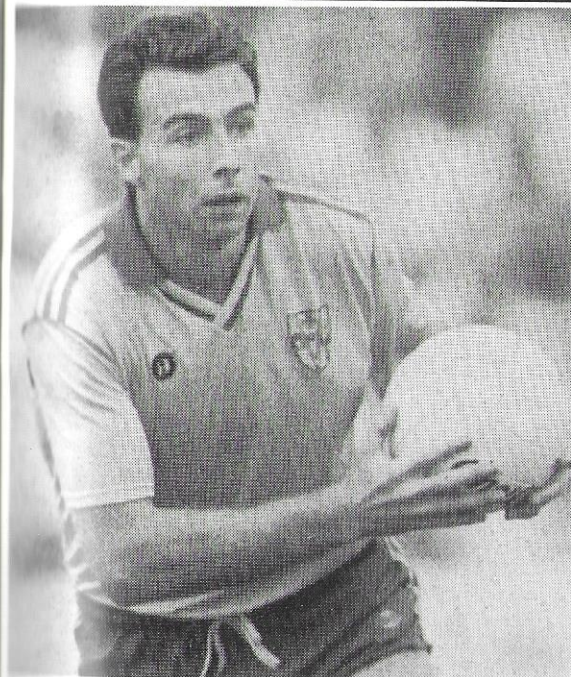
But things were changing in regard to semi-final venues, and though the peculiar circumstances of the year saw **Derry** and **Clare** enjoy home advantage in their encounters with Longford and Wicklow respectively in 1947, the following season saw both semi-finals — Cavan v. Kerry and Cork v. Antrim — staged at Croke Park for the first time. And with very few exceptions that is the way it has been since.

Murphy Plots a Roscommon Defeat

Roscommon followers will not need reminding that Vinny Murphy did much to plot their team's downfall in their last Royal Liver National League meeting with the Dubs at Croke Park in December. The young man in the No. 14 jersey had an excellent game, and scored 1-4 as the Liffesiders marched to a run-away win.

Murphy was again on the goals trail last Sunday in the win over Wicklow, and he has been showing a nice line in scoring since winning a regular place in the county senior side in late 1987. Earlier that year he sparkled at midfield in the minor team beaten by Kildare in the Leinster final.

The young Trinity Gaels club man helped Leinster to the 1988 Railway Cup title, and won a Leinster senior medal the following season. He is now one of Dublin's trump cards up front.



Des Newton Provincial Medalist on Double

Donegal have a direct interest in both Royal Liver National League semi-finals as Des Newton, Roscommon's left full back, plays club fare with Carndonagh in the Inishowen peninsula, in the North-West of the county.

He is also a former Donegal county senior footballer, and won an Ulster senior medal in 1983. Last July this All-Ireland under-21 medallist with his native Roscommon in 1978 added a Connacht senior souvenir to his collection.

Cool under pressure, with good positional sense, Newton at 30 is a key link in the Roscommon rearguard, and has left his imprint on the march to this semi-final. He is brother of midfielder and current Roscommon captain John Newton.

Connacht's (Bad) Luck

While the West may have been very awake at all times in their search for league honours, no county from Connacht ever enjoyed 'beginners' luck' when they reached the semi-final for the first time. Sligo was the first Western county to contest a semi-final (1926), but went out to Laois on a replay at Roscommon.

Sligo had a second unsuccessful turn before Galway qualified for a first 'semi' in 1931; but even at Tuam the Tribesmen proved no match for Kerry, though a year later Mayo's initial effort fell only two points short at Killarney against Kerry. Nor could Roscommon capitalise on home advantage in their first venture in a semi-final, losing by four points to Meath at St. Colman's Park in 1939.

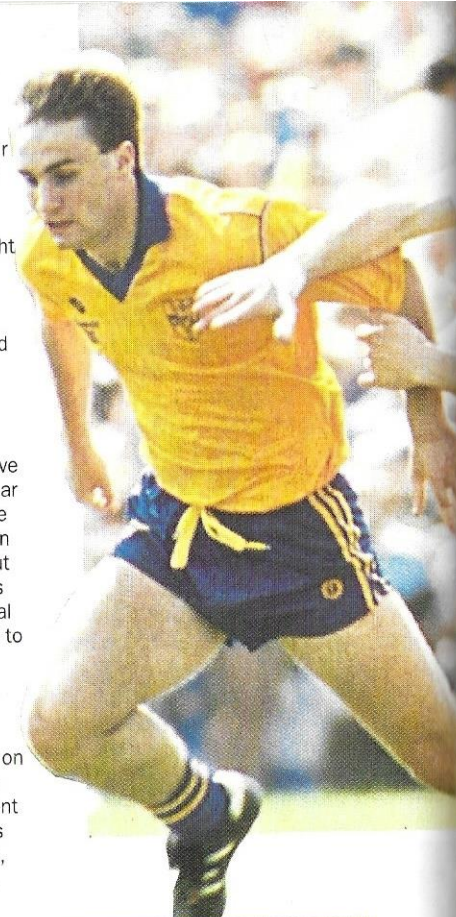
And Leitrim completed an 'unhappy quintet' when in their first (and only) semi-final they went down to Derry at Croke Park in 1954. Nothing, it seems, came easy to Connacht teams.

Good Leinster Record

Leinster has been represented in every League football final since 1986, except in 1989, and the title has also been brought to the province four times in that period. Down gave Ulster a direct interest last year when they lost to Meath in the concluding round. Roscommon hope to bring Connacht "in out of the cold". The province has not been represented in a final since 1984 when Galway lost to Kerry at Limerick.

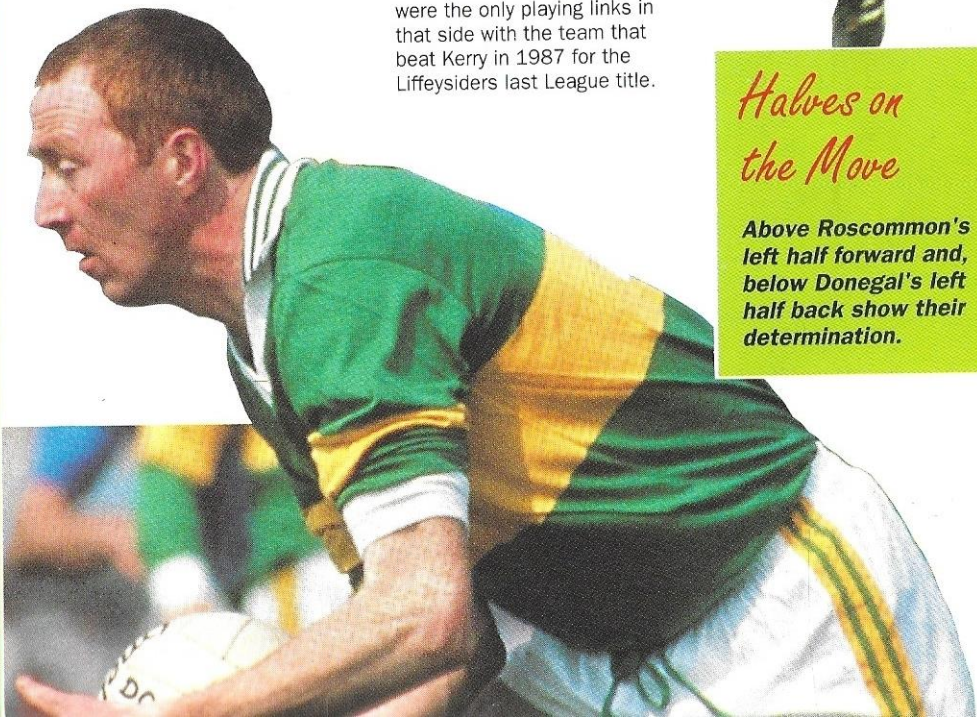
Medal Winners

John O'Leary and Mick Kennedy, both of whom were on from the throw-in, and Kieran Duff and Mick Galvin, who went in as substitutes, in the Dubs win over Wicklow last Sunday, were the only playing links in that side with the team that beat Kerry in 1987 for the Liffesiders last League title.



Halves on the Move

Above Roscommon's left half forward and, below Donegal's left half back show their determination.



A rare confrontation — Donegal and Kildare

It is rarely that two teams with so little mutual background meet in the semi-final of a National competition as Donegal and Kildare who clash today for the right to meet either Dublin or Roscommon in the National League final. The paths of these two counties failed to cross for the 60 years of the competition, which at first glance may appear quite remarkable; but considering that Donegal's league efforts were for most of that time confined almost exclusively to competing with Ulster team in the Dr. Lagan Cup (which until 1966 was an integral part of the National League) makes it a little less remarkable.

And even when Kildare and Donegal made it to the knock-out stages of the competition (which was a rare enough occurrence for either county) there was little likelihood of a meeting, and though they both came good at the same time for once, in 1965, the luck of the semi-final draw kept them apart.

When a more open format was introduced in the late sixties the Lily Whites and the Northerners remained unacquainted with each other's potential. Movement up and

down through the divisions because of promotion or relegation in the seventies and early eighties still did not make for a meeting until 1986 when Kildare's demotion to Division Two brought them together for the first time. Droichead Nua staged this first-ever clash on November 2 and it proved to be an absorbing encounter, with wind-backed Kildare leading by five points at the break and then soaking up a lot of Donegal pressure until Brian Nolan's 58th minute goal clinched it for the home team (2-11 to 1-10).

The teams that did duty in that first meeting were —

Kildare: S. Sargent, J. Cribben, S. Kenneavy, D. Malone, S. McGovern, P. Donoghue, S. Dowling, D. Bergin, B. Donovan, M. Curtis, M. Moynihan, S. Ryan, P. McLoughlin, J. Crofton, B. Nolan.
Donegal: N. McCabe, E. Gallagher, T. McDermott, M. Gallagher, D. Reed, C. Carr, M. Shevlin, J. McMullan, M. Griffin, M. Carlin, C. Mulgrew, D. Bonner, L. McGettigan, M. Lafferty, M. Boyle.

That was the opening of the Donegal-Kildare 'saga', and a year later when Donegal took advantage of the home venue to win by 1-10 to 1-3, was the closing (until now) of the brief relationship. These meetings were the only competitive confrontations of the counties which today take what they hope will be the second-last hurdle on the way to a first league title.

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A First Class Show From McMullan

Joyce McMullan had one of his best games for Donegal in last week's hard-earned win over Offaly at Breffni Park. He was incisive, industrious, scored two points, and generally provided many anxious moments for the Offaly rearguard in a first-class show that did much to fashion the Ulster champions ticket to this semi-final.

A member of the Four Masters (Donegal) club, McMullan helped to carve out history for Donegal as a forward in the side that won the county's first All-Ireland championship at under-21 in 1982. A year later he added an Ulster senior medal to his collection, and last July at 28 collected a second provincial senior medal.

A very efficient and lively raider, the Donegal man has won county senior medals with his club, and in December brought the fourth All Stars trophy to the county with his selection at left half forward in the 1990 Bank of Ireland side.

O'Donoghue Continues to Play Vital Role

Paddy O'Donoghue is one of Kildare's longest-serving footballers, but continues to show, at 35, that the sport is by no means the domain of the men in their twenties. His form at defence in the march to this Royal Liver League semi-final has been most impressive, and he is also providing the type of mature leadership and craft that marks him out as a vital unit.

O'Donoghue, from Johnstown Bridge, has been playing regularly with Kildare at senior since 1976, and is a link with the county's last National League semi-final appearance in 1983. He has represented Leinster in the Railway Cup, and has won county medals with his club at under-21, intermediate and senior.

Although now in the twilight of his career, he is the type of cool, purposeful footballer who could take a decisive grip on this semi-final, and steer a winning course.

See Australia play Ireland!

— UNDER 17 SCHOOLBOYS INTERNATIONAL —

IRELAND v. AUSTRALIA

Wednesday next, April 24, 1991 at 6.15p.m., Croke Park.

Best Wishes to Kildare today

from

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