

ROYAL LIVER NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

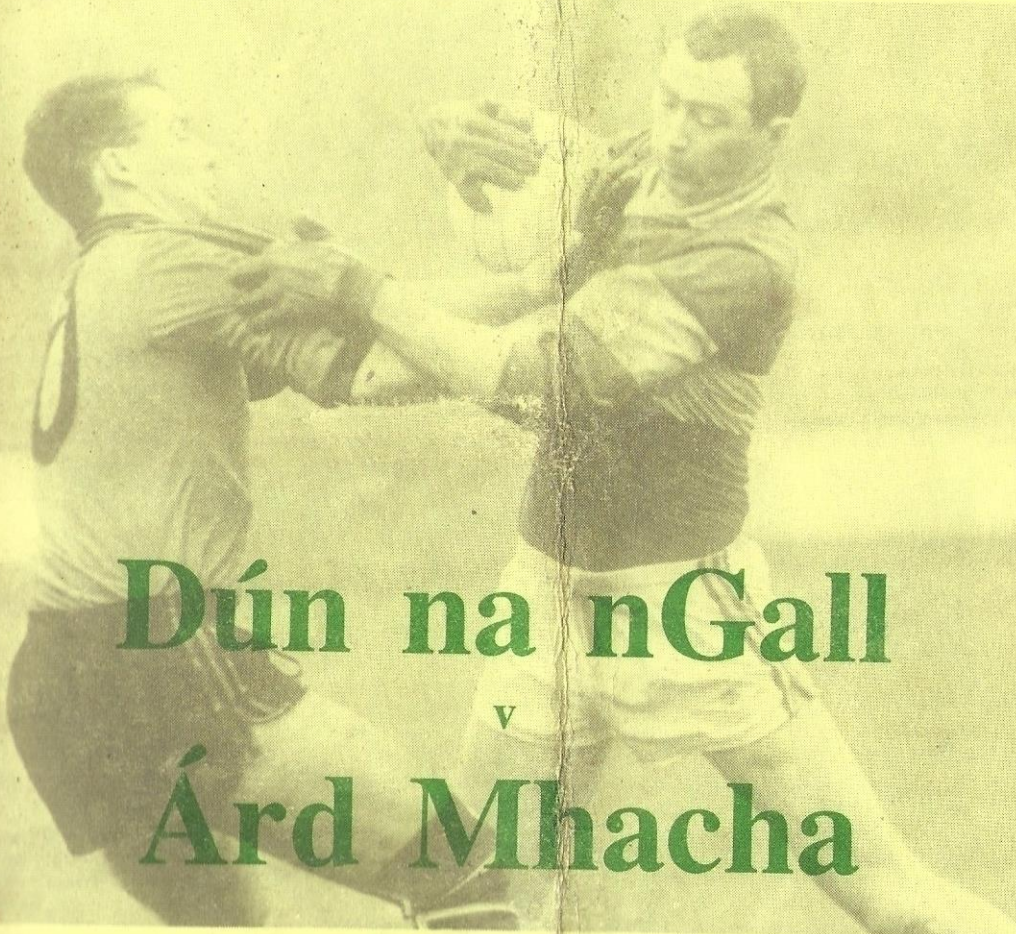
DIVISION ONE



MacCumhail Park, Ballybofey

SUNDAY, 24th FEBRUARY, 1991

at 3.00 p.m.



Dún na nGall

v

Árd Mhacha



Reiteoir:

SÉAMAS DE PAOR (Liathroma)

CLAR €1.00



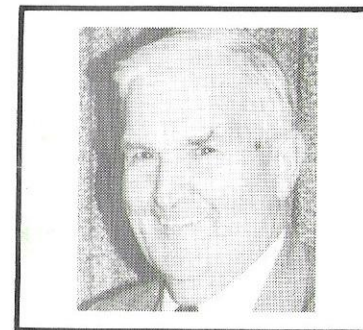
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FÁILTE ROIMH ARD MHACHA

Ar son Bord na Contae Dhún na nGall cuireann sé pleisiúr mór orm fearadh na fáilte a chuir roimh Ard Mhacha anseo inniu. Is mian liom fosta fáilte mhór a chuir roimh Oifigigh Bhord na Contae Ard Mhacha agus gaellaim dóibh go mbeidh fíor chaoin fáilte rompu i gconaí. Leis an chuairt seo inniu tá athnuachan cairdeas idir an dá chontae agus le blianta anuas is féidir linn amharc ar gcúl ar roinnt coimhlintí géara.



Tháinig feabhas mór ar an dá chontae le deich mbliana agus tá sé ar chumas an dá fhoireann caighdeán ard peile a imirt. Tá meas againn ar imirt a chéile, ach mar a dúirt mé go minic cheana féin, caithfidh an pheil Ghaelach a bheith mar bhuaiteoir inniu. Tá Ard Mhacha agus Dún na nGall ábalta seo a thabhairt chun críche agus tá mé ag súil le coimhlint bhreá uathu.

Feicfidh ár gcuairteoirí an feabhas mór a tháinig ar Pháric Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill. Tá a lán eile le déanamh go fóill agus tá súil agam cibé uair a thiofais Ard Mhacha arais inár measc, go mbeidh mórán feabhsaithe breise curtha i gcrích.

Guím ádh mór oraibh uilig agus go mbeidh an bhua ag an fhoireann is fearr.
CATHAL Ó FACHTNA, Cathaoirleach Bord na Contae.

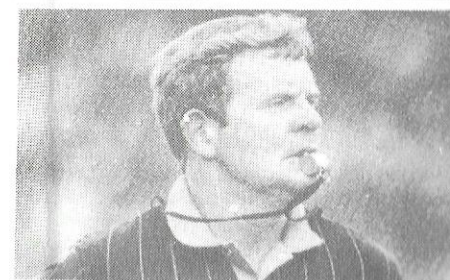
AN REITEOIR

SÉAMUS PRIOR, Leitrim

Séamus played his football with his native Aghnasheelin in Co. Leitrim where he was regarded as a very useful forward. Since taking up refereeing he has become well-known, not only in Connaught and the North-West generally, but also nationally, being the All-Stars referee to the U.S. last year and refereeing the Senior All-Ireland Football semi-final in 1988 between Monaghan and Cork.

He also handled the Minor All-Ireland Football final in 1987 between Cork and Down.

He is a very busy intercounty referee and last Sunday handled the Down v Dublin Div. 1 match.



We extend a hearty Cead Míle Fáilte to Séamus today and hope that he, along with officials and supporters, enjoy a fine, sporting game.

FRONT COVER: Replacement All-Star, Martin Shovlin in typical pose.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Aiden Doherty, Ken Dooley, Dermot Patton, Brian Muldoon. Special thanks to Michael McGrath, P.R.O., and to all our contributors.

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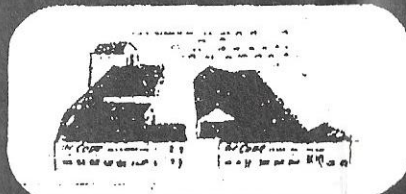
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Armagh record setters

By Pdraig Og Nuinseann, Caidreamh Poibli, Árd Mhacha

Armagh are known throughout Ireland as the League specialists. This title is well deserved when one considers that they are presently playing their 12th season in Div. 1 of the National Football League.

During this period of time they have contested four semi-finals and two finals but unfortunately the title still eludes them and what has made the disappointment of losing two finals even harder to accept is that the victors were Ulster neighbours, Down and Monaghan.

This failure at the last hurdle has naturally frustrated our supporters over the years and I believe the enjoyment and excitement they have got from our team's exploits in Div. 1 of the N.F.L. has partially made up for the lack of silveware.

Today's match brings to five the number of meetings between Armagh and Donegal in the N.F.L. with the score to date in matches standing at Armagh 3, Donegal 1.

Armagh suffered their only defeat at the hands of Donegal on October 22nd, 1989, during the trial rules series, which at the time Armagh management and players were totally opposed to, and unfortunately this came across in their performance on the day.

Thankfully, from Armagh's point of view, most of the trial rules were not adopted and they were able to return to their natural game. In the present League series, Armagh have had something of an up and down season.

They opened their League campaign with a victory at home over Kerry; this was followed by a defeat away to Dublin. Next came Meath and probably one of Armagh's most comprehensive performances to date, which resulted in a convincing win. However, one week later we were witness to what would have to be described as the most inept performance this present panel has displayed, which in turn received a resounding thrashing from close neighbours, Down.

When the League resumed last Sunday, February 17th, following the Christmas break, we could only hope that Armagh would be able to bounce back from the Down defeat, but anyone who was subject to the first 30 minutes against Roscommon could have been forgiven for thinking that time had reversed itself to the Down match. Thankfully, the second half brought with it a change of fortune for Armagh and another much needed victory.

So to today's match, victory for Armagh could possibly result in them securing a play-off place and another year in Div. 1, whereas on the other hand, defeat could also mean a play-off, but this time to avoid relegation.

It is therefore very evident how important today's match is and although coming away from Ballybofey with a victory will be very difficult, it is by no means an impossible task.

DIVISION ONE LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Dublin	5	4	0	1	8
Donegal	5	3	1	1	7
Armagh	5	3	0	2	6
Kerry	5	3	0	2	6
Meath	5	2	0	3	4
Roscommon	5	2	0	3	4
Down	5	1	1	3	3
Cork	5	1	0	4	2

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BEST WISHES TO DONEGAL IN COMING SEASON

Martin Shovlin – the perfect example

By Ciaran O'Donnell, Donegal People's Press

A fortnight ago, Martin Shovlin received a 'phone call informing him he was among eleven replacements selected to travel with the 1990 All-Star team to Toronto in a few weeks to play current All-Ireland champions, Cork, in the famous Skydome.

Although the very modest Naomh Ultan player is relishing the prospect of next month's dream trip, today he is more concerned with adding two more League points which he hopes will secure a place for the Tir Conaill men in the quarter-final stages of the National Football League.

In 1982 Martin was a substitute on Donegal's U-21 All-Ireland Championship winning side, and after he was given the break in the Donegal senior side under Tom Conaghan some years ago, he never looked back.

A Telecom Eireann technician, Martin ensures 'phone lines are in good working

order. On the field of play, he carries out a similar job, ensuring Donegal's half-back line is also in perfect working order.

Since coming of age in the senior ranks his dedication and commitment has always been 100 per cent. His mild manner off the field, coupled with tenacious performances in the green and gold jersey have earned "Shov" an army of admirers.

Winner of the 1990 Ulster GAA Footballer of the Year award, this latest honour bestowed on him is just tribute to the patience, persistence and progress this great sportsman has shown.

Martin's forthcoming trip to Canada can only act as a further boost to Donegal's All-Ireland Championship winning aspirations. If the youth of today are looking for a player to mould themselves on, they need look no further than Martin Shovlin who reflects all that is good in the game.

PAIDIR Ó NEAMH?

Le Séamus de Faoite (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

Tá snaidhm cairdeasa agus ag an am céanna spiorad coimhlinte idir an dá chontae seo againne le dáta maith blianta. Rinne daoine cosúil le Ó Ludhóg, Mac Geiteagáin agus Ó Dónaill a lán oibre le nasc spioradálta a chothú eadrainn. Mar is gcéanna chothaigh an fear cumasach sin as Ard Macha leis an "Hata Dearg" nasc cultúir eadrainn agus crothnóidh muid a chuirteanna inár measc.

Is maith agus is breá an rud coimhlint ghlan agus 'sé toradh nó spiorad iomaíochta peile. La blianta anuas chonaic muid an choimhlint sin a léiriú féin i gcluichí idir an dá chontae. Fuair muid an bhua orthu agus bhí an bhua acu orainn. Creidim go bhfuil siad chun tosaigh orainn sa scrudú deiridh. D'éirigh linn níos fearr i gcluichí sraithe nó mar a d'éirigh linn i gcluichí craoibhe, ach bhí meas agus urraim againn dóibh i gconaí agus tá fhios againn go bhfuil sé ar a gcumas a bheith inchurtha leis an ócáid nuair is lú atá coinne leis.

Tá togha na bhfear againn faoi láthair. Tá eagla ar a lan contaethe romhainn anois. Caithfidh muid an rása rathúil seo a thabhairt chun críche. Anois agus lámh an uachtair againn ar fhoireann Chorcaigh agus Roscomáin amach romhainn i gcoimhlint eile i gceann coicise – tá laethanta ar dóigh fá choinne foireann na gConallach. Caithfidh sé gur seo bliain s'againne agus cruthóidh ár mbuachaill gur sin an cás. Seo linn mar chúl taca dóibh agus mar chruthú do gach contae eile den turas deireanach go bhfuil ár mbliain tagtha.

Chruthaigh Ard Macha am agus am eile gur contae í le tallainn thar an gcoitiantacht. Gan amhras bhí siad thuas seal agus thíos seal, ach ar an mheán agus go speisialta le blianta beaga anuas tháinig a ngníomhartha le chéile níos fearr. Tá súil againne inniu go bhfuair muid greim orthu ar lá atá siad beagán lag mhisniúil agus go gcruthóidh muid i ndeireadh an lae go bhfuil ár máirseáil leanúnach go Roscomáin rathúil. Tá muid ag tnúth le rath níos mó agus níos mó sna babhtaí deireanach den tsraith.

Tá a fhios againn uilig go mbainfeadh an fear a chaith an "Hata Dearg" sult mhór as comhraic an lae inniu agus ag amharc anuas ós ard ar Neamh, beidh sé ag rá go cinnte "tá mo cheann le foireann amháin agus mo chroí leis an taobh eile"! B'fhéidir ina eagnaíocht gur dhúirt sé an phaidir bhreise sin dúinn féin inniu!

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael
(Coiste Cultúir Chomhairle Uladh)

CÚRSA GAEILGE

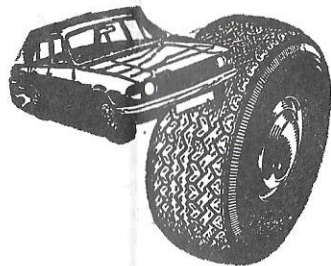
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Prop: DONAL MONAGHAN

MARTIN GAVIGAN, ALL STAR

By Charlie Joe McGinley, Derry People and Donegal News

An All-Star replacement award for twenty-eight-year old Donegal centre half back Martin Gavigan two weeks ago was yet another fitting accolade in what has truly been a fairytale season for the Ardara man. The construction studies schoolteacher at St. Columba's College is relishing the prospect of playing in front of a huge crowd in the Skydome against All-Ireland champions, Cork, on St. Patrick's Day.

However the "big occasion" is something Gavigan is becoming accustomed to of late. On October 26th he left Dublin Airport as part of a twentyfive man Irish football team party for the three-match International Compromise Rules series with the men "down under".

Gavigan was appointed vice-captain of the team and is the first Donegal man ever to be recognised at such a high level. He gave fine account of himself in the three matches in Melbourne, Canberra and Perth and was named by team manager Eugene McGee as one of the players of the series. A fine tribute to a player who is every team manager's dream with his professional and dedicated approach to the game. On Sunday as Martin Gavigan steps onto the soil at MacCumhail park, Ballybofey he will no doubt reflect on his debut at senior championship level for the county. It was in 1986 against the Orchard County in the Athletic Grounds and a troublesome knee injury and a hammering for his side in what was undoubtedly a forgettable baptism in the county colours.

"I remember my championship debut but to be honest it was a day I would rather forget. I carried a knee

injury into the game and should not have played but I was so excited about playing that I thought it would be alright. Sadly neither my knee or the result was satisfactory," Gavigan explains. Martin's workrate during the course of any game, at club or county level is enormous which he attributes to a lot of tough training.

"Well I am fortunate in that the job I have facilitates a heavy training schedule. Other players might have other interests and commitments but I have the time to spend training and I enjoy it."

A fitting example of Gavigan's input to the game is the fact that during his preparation for the trip to Australia he trained for over twenty five hours per week, six weeks before his departure. Training for Gavigan is second nature.

Typical of his hunger for yet further glory, Martin is now looking to go one step further and reach an All-Ireland final with Donegal this year. "We have a strong panel and there will be a lot of competition for places this year during the championship. I have had a lot of luck with injury since I made my debut and things just seem to come right at the correct time for me. In fact I almost missed out on the Australian tour because of a hand injury which will require surgery in the not too distant future," Gavigan said.

A great favourite with the Donegal fans, Gavigan has established himself in the county team over the last number of years. He is a player that regardless of where he lines out will give one hundred per cent. Now that is all any manager can ask for. He was the Ulster G.A.A. Writers' Player for the month of July.

Best wishes from Carmel and the girls to Donegal

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Orchard County pose major threat

By Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat)

Nine points is the magical target — two games to go, only two points needed to get there; but beware, we are now entering the business part of the League, the final furlong where all the whips are out; the last two finishers are condemned to the scrapheap of Division Two football.

'We are coming down to the wire' as the Americans would put it and we find Donegal in a stronger position than even last year. Two points will guarantee nine points, a place in the play-offs and the distinct possibility of finishing in the top two which would bring an added 'bonus' of a quarter-final against Div. 3 opposition. Maybe the 'bonus' might not turn out to be so with such as Wicklow, Offaly or Galway waiting in the wings.

Everything seems to be falling into place but all may not be what it seems. Today's opponents, Armagh, and Roscommon, who we meet in two weeks time, need the points just as urgently as Donegal — two points for Armagh would almost certainly qualify them for the play-offs while Roscommon, depending on today's result against Cork, might need them for different reasons.

When Armagh came here in last year's campaign they paid the price for a less than enthusiastic approach to the new rules and lost 3-13 to 0-12, but Donegal were somewhat flattered by that win, and the Armagh side went on to win three and draw two of their remaining six games to qualify for the play-offs. As we know, Donegal also qualified but were April-fooled by Meath.

Since then these sides have done battle in the Ulster final with Donegal

holding out against a late Armagh rally to win by 0-15 to 0-14.

League specialists throughout the eighties, Armagh, under Paddy 'Mo' have shown continual improvement. It is no coincidence that the side is backboned by big men down the middle for the manager believes in a no-nonsense approach.

The Armagh record in the current League makes interesting reading.

In Round 1 they overcame Kerry by 3-6 to 1-8 with scores from: Ger Houlihan 1-3, Jim McConville 1-1, Kieran McGurk 1-0, John Toner 0-2.

In Round 2, they lost to Dublin by 0-12 to 0-9 (M. Toye 0-2, G. Houlihan 0-5, J. McConville 0-2).

In Round 3 they proved too strong for Meath at the Athletic Grounds, 1-12 to 0-7 (D. Canavan 0-4, K. McGurk 1-0, M. Toye 0-3, J. Toner, M. McQuillan, G. Houlihan, J. McConville, N. Smyth 0-1 each).

In Round 4 they fell to Down 3-13 to 2-4 (K. McGurk 1-0, M. Toye 1-0, D. Canavan 0-2, J. Toner, J. McConville 0-1 each).

And in Round 5 last week, they staged a Lazarus-like recovery against Roscommon to win by 1-11 to 1-9 (D. Canavan 0-5, J. McConville 1-1, M. Toye 0-3, K. McGurk, M. McQuillan, D. Duggan 0-1 each).

To reach the play-off target Armagh have to contest two away games, today's and in a fortnight time they travel to Pairc Ui Choimh. They rightly feel that today is their best chance.

Donegal's recent record against the Orchard County is good and if for no other reason than to maintain a dominance over Ulster teams, must win today.

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100 games for Donegal— "and still learning"

By Michael Daly, Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat & NWR

Today, Donegal captain Donal Reid reaches a remarkable watershed in his inter-county career. Donal will play his hundredth competitive senior football game for Donegal.

The Red Hughs' clubman is the first of the current Donegal bunch to make the magical 100, several others will celebrate their centenary shortly.

Indeed, Donal is one of an unknown but it's rightly suspected very small group of players to make the 100 mark.

According to statistician Fr. Seán Ó Gallchóir, Donal has played 60 National Football League games for Donegal, today is his 61st; 17 Senior Football Championship games, 16 McKenna Cup games and 6 Open/Centenary Cup games. Most remarkable of all in this age of the 'hamstring injury' Donal has played in Donegal's last 58 league matches, today makes it 59-in-a-row.

Typically modest, the current Donegal captain wasn't aware of his impending centenary when I spoke to him this week. He said he was fortunate that he had avoided injury, only missing an '88 championship

clash against Armagh because of an injury picked up the previous week playing hurling for Donegal.

This is his second term to captain Donegal—he was captain in Tom Conaghan's term for a National League campaign.

"I may have played as often as you have pointed out but like any player I'm still learning, trying to improve my skills, improve my game.

"Looking back on my under-21 All-Ireland win and the '83 Ulster Championship I was probably too young to appreciate them at the time. I appreciate them now, however, and I hope the younger members of the team appreciate what we did in 1990.

"I hope to go further and I think we have an All-Ireland in us, that's certainly my goal", he said.

"I made my debut in October '82 when I came on as a sub. at right half forward against Louth. Apart from the cold I didn't remember a great deal about that day in Dundalk", he added.

Donal Reid, a most loyal and dedicated servant of Donegal—happy 100 from all Donegal supporters.

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2-08

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- 2 JOHN JOE DOHERTY
- 3 SEAN BONNER
- 4 JOHN CUNNINGHAM
- 5 DONAL REID
- 6 NOEL HEGARTY
- 7 MARTIN SHOVLIN
- 8 MARTIN GAVIGAN
- 9 BRIAN MURRAY
- 10 BARRY McGOWAN
- 11 DECLAN BONNER
- 12 TOMMY RYAN
- 13 PADDY HEGARTY
- 14 TONY BOYLE
- 15 MANUS BOYLE

SUBS: 16, Michael Kelly, 17, James McHugh, 18, Eugene McMenamin, 19, Barry Cunningham, 20, Michael Gallagher, 21, Gerry Curran, 22, Anthony Molloy, 23, Tom Dunleavy.

FIRST HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
DONEGAL				
ARMAGH				

1-07

ARD MHACHA

- 1 BRENDAN TIERNEY
- 2 JOHN RAFFERTY
- 3 JOHN GRIMLEY
- 4 PADRAIG O'NEILL
- 5 MARTIN McQUILLAN
- 6 GARETH O'NEILL
- 7 AIDAN SHORTT
- 8 MARK GRIMLEY
- 9 JARLETH BURNS
- 10 DECLAN CANAVAN
- 11 NEIL SMYTH
- 12 MARTIN TOYE
- 13 GERARD HOULIHAN
- 14 KIERAN McGURK (capt)
- 15 JIM McCONVILLE

SUBS: 16, Fergal Harney, 17, Benny O'Kane, 18, John Toner, 19, Shane Skelton, 20, Colin Hanratty, 21, Damian Horish, 22, Leo McGeary, 23, Kieran McGeeney, 24, Dermot Forker, 25, Ollie Reel.

SECOND HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
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The best of... JOYCE McMULLAN

By Kevin Sharkey, Highland Radio

As a Donegal county footballer for what game is Joyce McMullen best remembered?

If I say the year was 1989 and the venue Breffni Park, you will know that for me the answer to this question is the first round of the Ulster championship that year against Cavan.

That particular outing however, need not necessarily represent the Bank of Ireland All Star's best ever performance in the county colours. Indeed since he burst onto the county scene as part of the All-Ireland U-21 side of 1982, McMullen has given Donegal supporters many thrilling moments in many different matches.

So why will he always be remembered for his contribution in this match? Simply because he was the player who got the vital scores that brought Donegal victory in a match they were not expected to win.

Remember the scenario — in the previous two championship campaigns Donegal had been dumped out of the race unceremoniously at the first hurdle and now they were travelling to meet a 'cock a hoop' Cavan side that national pundits believed would represent Ulster in the All-Ireland semi-finals following their impressive showing in the league

semi-final earlier that year when they lost out to Dublin by the odd point.

That was the script in any case but how Joyce McMullen tore it to shreds as his two-goal burst that day set Donegal on their way to another Ulster final.

I choose to remember his input into this game more than any other because here he enjoyed a personal triumph which was translated into a triumph for the county at a time when it was needed more than ever before.

In addressing the Donegal Town player's contribution to the county side over the past decade in view of his selection as a Bank of Ireland All-Star I also remember him as being something of an enigma throughout his career.

Would anyone doubt that potentially he has been the outstanding player in Donegal football when it came to running at an opposing defence with the ball seemingly tied to his boot. That particular art (that's what it is) is what supporters always expect him to produce to good effect.

It didn't always happen that way but when it did happen, momentarily or other wise, we knew that here was a player of real class, real class!

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DUBLIN BRANCH

A further meeting of the Dublin Branch will be held in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square, on February 20th, where it is hoped all Donegal people in the city interested will attend.

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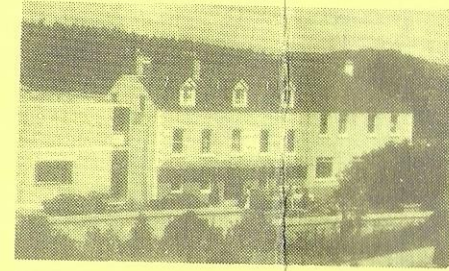
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Good luck to both teams

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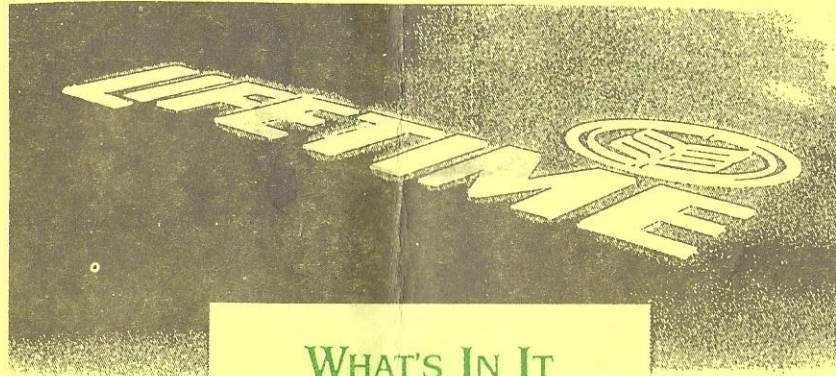
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