



ROYAL LIVER NATIONAL
FOOTBALL LEAGUE
DIVISION 1 B



Fr. Tierney Park,
Ballyshannon

SUNDAY, 24th
NOVEMBER, 1991
2.30 p.m.

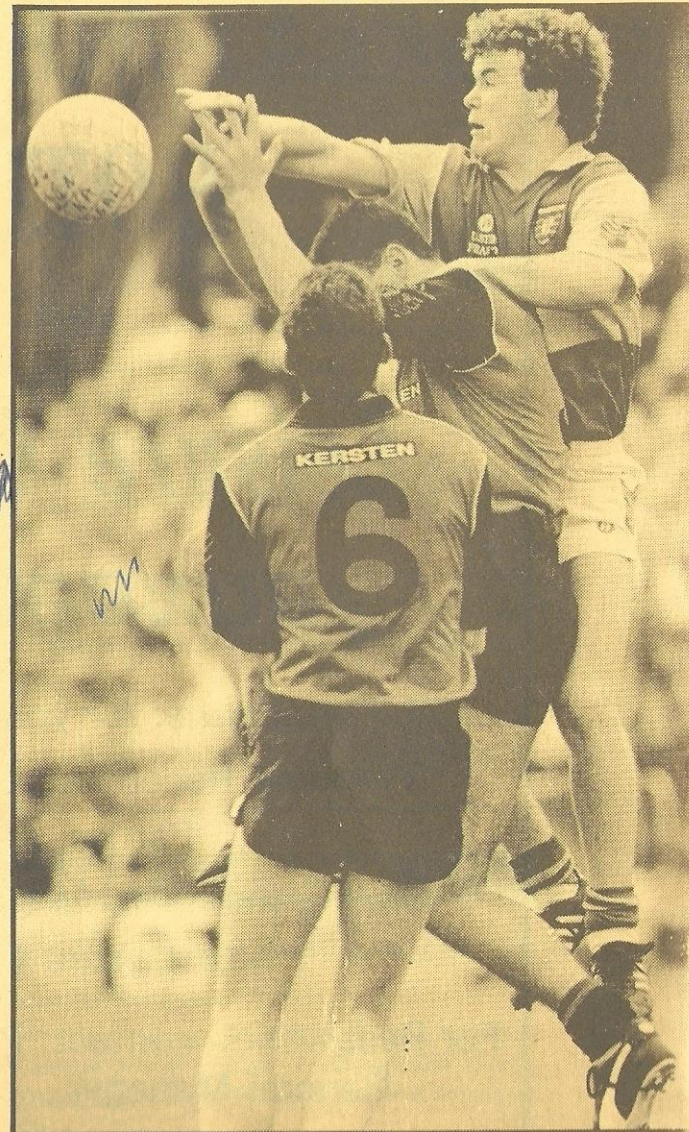
Dún na nGall

~

Liatroim

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FÁILTE

Ar son Bord C.L.G. Dhún na nGall cuireann muid fáilte agus fiche roimh na peileadoiri agus na hoifigigh as Liatroim agus lucht leanúna ó gach áird.

On behalf of the Co. Board C.L.G. Dún na nGall I extend a warm welcome to the footballers and officers of our neighbouring county, Leitrim.

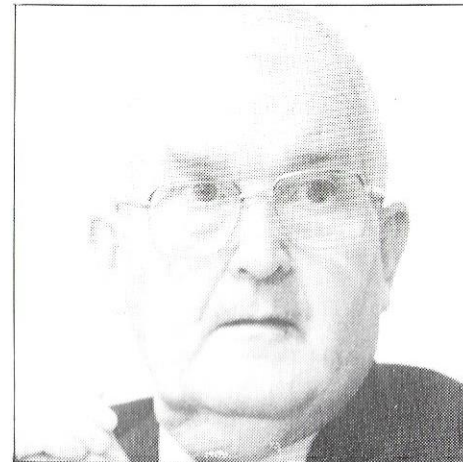
It is the first time since the Leagues were re-organised that Donegal and Leitrim have met in a competitive League game and this makes today's game even more special.

Under Ulster and Cavan man, P. J. Carroll, Leitrim have risen from the football doldrums in recent years and, despite losing their first two matches in this year's campaign, are still one of the most formidable League teams in the country.

Donegal have had a successful start to this new-look League with comprehensive wins over Antrim and Longford but everyone is looking forward to a much tougher game today.

Donegal football got a major boost on Sunday last with a young Killybegs side defeating Down champions, Downpatrick, to reach the Ulster Club Championship final — a feat that augurs well for Donegal football, both today and in the coming years.

CATHAL Ó FÁCHTNA,
Cathaoirleach, Coiste Chontae C.L.G.



MATCH PROGRAMME

Programme prepared by Park Committee, Aodh Ruadh G.A.A. Club

Compiled by: Tom Daly, Peter Campbell (Aodh Ruadh C.L.G.)

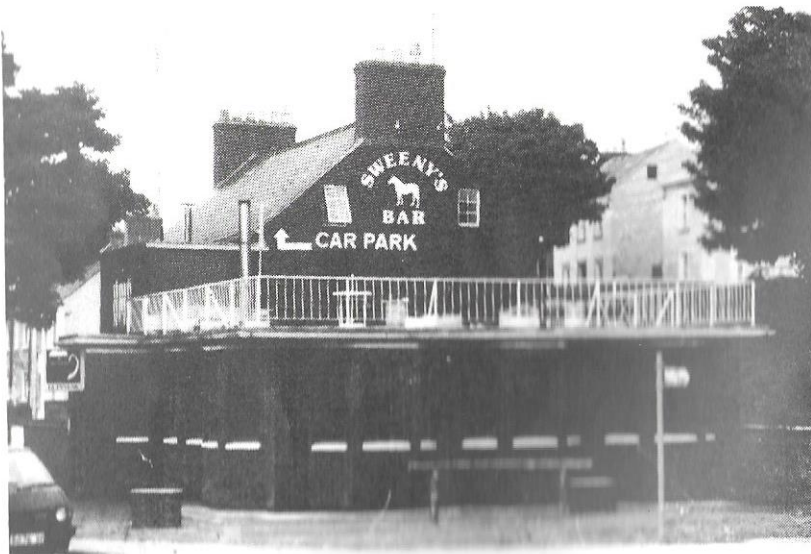
Contributors: Cormac Mac a Ghoill (Longford Leader); Michael Daly (Donegal Democrat); Ciaran O'Donnell (Donegal People's Press); Pól Ó Gallchoir (Raidió na Gaeltachta); Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat); Tommy Moran and Tom Daly.

Photographs: Donegal Democrat.

● COVER PHOTO: Tony Boyle in action against Conor Deegan and Paddy O'Rourke in the Ulster final.

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TODAY'S REFEREE

SEAN McHALE (Mayo)

Today's referee is Knockmore clubman, Sean McHale, who has been refereeing for 12 years. A teacher in Gortnor Abbey, Crossmolina and living in Ballina, Sean has refereed an All-Ireland U-21 semi-final between Tyrone and Meath and a League quarter-final between Donegal and Meath. He has officiated at finals in all grades in Mayo as well as four Colleges Senior finals in Connacht.

In his playing days as Knockmore goalkeeper, he won a Connacht Club medal in 1973.

Married to Bernie with five children, Sean's other interests are squash and road running and he has completed eight marathons including the recent Dublin marathon.

His umpires today are: Eugene McHale, John McKenna, Mick Timlin and Brendan Flynn, all members of the Knockmore Club.



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION 1 A					DIVISION 1 B					DIVISION 1 C				
	P	W	D	L Pts		P	W	D	L Pts		P	W	D	L Pts
Tyrone	2	2	0	0 4	Donegal	2	2	0	0 4	Derry	2	2	0	0 4
Armagh	2	1	1	0 3	Roscommon	2	2	0	0 4	Down	2	0	2	0 2
Cork	2	1	1	0 3	Antrim	2	1	0	1 2	Kildare	2	1	0	1 2
Dublin	2	1	0	1 2	Longford	2	1	0	1 2	Meath	2	1	0	1 2
Galway	2	0	0	2 0	Leitrim	2	0	0	2 0	Kerry	2	0	1	1 1
Mayo	2	0	0	2 0	Wicklow	2	0	0	2 0	Offaly	2	0	1	1 1

DIVISION 2 A					DIVISION 2 B				
	P	W	D	L Pts		P	W	D	L Pts
Tipperary	2	2	0	0 4	Fermanagh	2	2	0	0 4
Carlow	1	1	0	0 2	Cavan	1	1	0	0 2
Clare	2	1	0	1 2	Laois	2	1	0	1 2
Limerick	2	1	0	1 2	Monaghan	2	1	0	1 2
Wexford	2	1	0	1 2	Westmeath	2	1	0	1 2
Kilkenny	1	0	0	1 0	Louth	2	0	0	2 0
Waterford	2	0	0	2 0	Sligo	1	0	0	1 0

OTHER N.F.L. FIXTURES TODAY

Division 1 A: Tyrone v Cork; Dublin v Armagh; Galway v Mayo.

Division 1 B: Longford v Roscommon; Donegal v Leitrim; Antrim v Wicklow.

Division 1 C: Down v Meath; Kerry v Derry; Kildare v Offaly.

Division 2 A: Wexford v Clare; Carlow v Tipperary; Kilkenny v Waterford; Limerick free.

Division 2 B: Louth v Monaghan; Sligo v Westmeath; Cavan v Fermanagh; Monaghan free.

THEIR GAMES TO DATE

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ANTRIM 0-8
 DONEGAL 1-13

The game against Antrim in the new-look League had one positive aspect from a Donegal point of view — apart from the two points. The game saw the return to county colours of Aodh Ruadh's Sylvester Maguire and he stamped his authority on the game throughout.

A new-look Donegal side struggled for most of the hour but a final flourish in the last five minutes gave them a somewhat flattering double scores winning margin.

There was only two points between the sides at the interval as Donegal led by 0-6 to 0-4 and early in the second half Antrim threatened to cause a surprise, but the arrival of Manus Boyle and Barry McGowan as Donegal subs. saw the game swing back in favour of the Tirconaill lads.

Donegal scorers: Declan Bonner 1-2, Sylvester Maguire 0-3, Martin McHugh 0-3, Manus Boyle, Donal Bonner 0-2 each, Tommy Ryan 0-1.

DONEGAL 1-7
 LONGFORD 0-1

Donegal remained unbeaten when they easily overcame Longford in Ballybofey two weeks ago in a game that was totally one-sided.

Longford turned out to be somewhat of a disappointment as Donegal waltzed their way through in the wind and rain to lead at half-time by 1-6 to no score.

The Donegal goal came six minutes from the break when a high ball into the Longford square was fisted to the net by Sylvester Maguire to keep up his three point a game average.

The Donegal hero in the second half against the elements was corner back and captain, John Cunningham, who seemed very much at home under the high dropping ball.

Longford could only manage one point with the wind at their backs.

Donegal scorers: Sylvester Maguire 1-0; Manus Boyle 0-2; Tommy Ryan 0-2, Paul Carr, Martin McHugh, Declan Bonner 0-1 each.

ROSCOMON 1-11
 LEITRIM 0-11

P. J. Carroll's men were robbed of the points in the final minutes of an exciting League game in Dr. Hyde Park four weeks ago as Roscommon turned a one point deficit into a three point winning margin.

The crucial goal came when Tony McManus collected a poor kickout and lobbed over 'keeper, Thomas Quinn.

Leitrim had a one point lead at half-time and entering the final quarter were 0-8 to 0-4 ahead.

Martin McGowan took the Leitrim scoring honours — the Co. Chairman's son getting 0-6 of their total.

The Leitrim team and scorers was: T. Quinn; O. Honeyman, G. Holohan, J. Quinn; D. Smith, J. Owens, N. Moran; M. Quinn, P. Donoghue (0-2); B. Duignan, D. Darcy (0-1), P. Kenny (0-2); M. McGowan (0-6), P. Kieran, G. Flanagan.

LEITRIM 0-6
 ANTRIM 2-2

Antrim created the shock of the day when they took the points from their visit to Carrick-on-Shannon a fortnight ago.

With the advantage of the elements in the first half, Leitrim built up a lead of 0-5 to 0-0, but their inability to score a goal cost them dearly in the second half as Antrim staged a comeback.

A penalty awarded after a foul by Leitrim 'keeper Thomas Quinn was converted by Joe Kennedy and Gerard McConville had Antrim's second goal midway through the second half.

Leitrim were only able to add a point to their tally in the second half.

Leitrim team and scorers: T. Quinn; O. Honeyman, G. Holohan, G. Flanagan; K. McLoughlin, D. Darcy, D. Smith; P. Donoghue, P. Kieran (0-1); B. Duignan, M. Quinn, P. Kenny (0-1); C. McGlynn, M. McGowan (0-4), D. Mulligan. Subs., P. Prior for C. McGlynn; B. Guekian for D. Mulligan; J. Quinn for P. Prior.

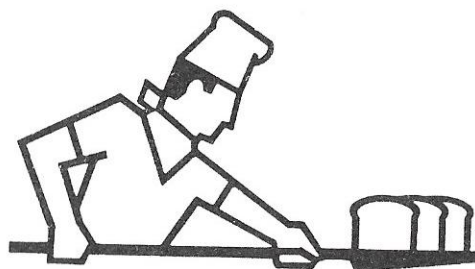
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TODAY.**

WHY A NEW FORMAT IN THE LEAGUE?

By Tom Daly

When the new format for the National Football League was announced earlier this year it brought a mixed reaction from G.A.A. followers with views varying from county to county. In some counties, for example, Leitrim, it saw the team catapulted into Division 1, whilst in Donegal there was discernible disappointment among followers of the county team when it was realised that "glamour" games against teams like Dublin, Cork and Kerry would not be part of the calendar this season. The fun and excitement which was part and parcel of the away trips to Cork and Tralee by hundreds of Donegal fans over the past few years would have certainly influenced the reaction among GAA followers in Donegal.

So, what was the thinking behind changing the league format?

Apart from the new Divisions, the main impact of the changed structure is the reduction from seven to five in the number of games which the 18 teams in Division 1 play in the League part of the competition. The rationale for this change was first put forward by a Fixtures Workgroup at National level which promoted the concept of playing the National Football League from start to finish at the beginning of each year and leading up to the All-Ireland Championship series. The view was that this would provide ideal preparation for the Championships and eliminate the need for challenge games which can often prove ineffective and are almost always costly for County Boards. A somewhat lesser reason for reducing by two the number of games played, was to attempt to eliminate some of the "gathered up" county teams which often fielded for counties before the Christmas break, safe in the knowledge that there were sufficient games left after the break to avoid relegation or to gain a quarter-final place.

In short, the view was that with a lesser number of games, all of the matches would provide good quality viewing for spectators.

A third factor was in response to the pressure coming from many quarters that a long, competitive N.F.L. put too much pressure on amateur players who had to cope with club and, in many cases, college commitments as well as serving their counties in the Championship.

The fore-going outlines the core thinking behind the original proposals for change, but as we all know the reality of the changed League has only taken on board some of this thinking and has ignored the most radical of the proposals which would have seen the League played in a straight run before the Championship.

With regard to the new Divisions and the allocation of teams to each of the three sections in Division 1, there has been considerable comment, particularly in Donegal, on the mix of teams. On this point, the chairman of the GAA's Games Administration Committee, Sean McCague, has commented that because there were six Ulster teams in the old Division 1, and reflecting a general view throughout Ulster that it would be better if these teams were not clashing too regularly, the Ulster teams were spread out into different sections of the new Division 1. Access by public transport to the different counties was also a factor in allocating teams.

So, for those who are still dissatisfied with the new format is there light at the end of the tunnel? To quote Sean McCague:

"We had planned to review the new structure after two years at the very most. However, I am keen to identify deficiencies and to take on board the views and experiences of the competing counties. I am very well disposed towards reviewing the format at the end of the current season and where deficiencies warrant change, the Games Administration Committee will recommend change to the Central Council."

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The return of the Clyhore Cyclone

By Peter Campbell

The 30th of December, 1989, was a black day in the life of one Sylvester Maguire as an accidental collision with a goalkeeping clubmate in a challenge match resulted in the Clyhore man suffering a badly broken leg.

So bad was the diagnosis that doubts were expressed whether Sylvester would pull on football boots again.

When Brian McEniff assembled a panel for the current League, it was no surprise when Maguire's name was included. Indeed, it was obvious by his club form throughout the summer that Sylvester was fully recovered from his ordeal.

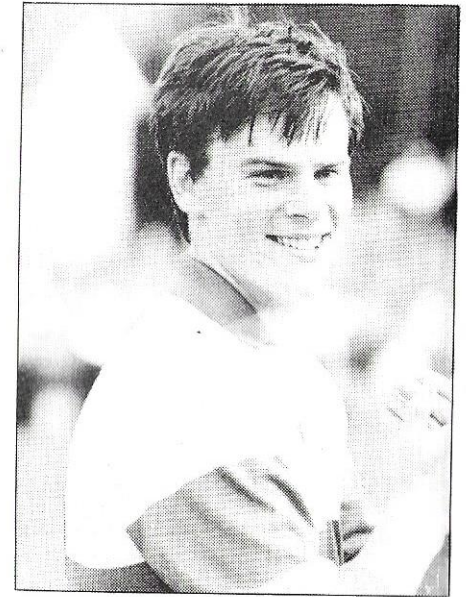
It would be easy for people to think that his was a natural recovery but the truth is that would be a very simplified version.

Sylvester has made the recovery purely by a huge personal battle which has required many sacrifices but all the time he kept his return to county colours as his ultimate goal.

At the beginning of 1991 he was almost ready for full training and he entertained hopes of making the Donegal Ulster Championship side but unfortunately for both Sylvester and Donegal that target came too soon.

The rehabilitation period saw Sylvester making his home in the swimming pool. From someone who could hardly complete a length he became a proficient swimmer. The old bicycle also came in for much more use as he began to build up the muscles again.

But also during the rehabilitation period Maguire immersed himself in the management of the Ballyshannon club's U-18 side — and with much success too. He guided the side to the Donegal Minor title and then to the final of the Ulster Minor Club



Tournament final, only to lose that final to Dungiven.

Highly regarded throughout the county by both supporters and fellow players, Sylvester has returned to the county squad a little older and a little wiser. His never-say-die spirit and will to win and his ability to win the 50/50 ball will be a vital asset to the Donegal forward line.

Sylvester has few equals in his love for Gaelic football in the county and no matter what happens on the field of play, when the game is over Maguire enjoys the 'crack' with his fellow and opposing players. Indeed, the bould Sylvester is never stuck for a reply, be that on the field or off it.

His number one fan (and I won't mention her name) responded to the Follower's call with a team for the Ulster Championship tie against Cavan and in a footnote at the bottom pencilled in Sylvester's for the Ulster final. Maybe, her advice should have been heeded.

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20 QUESTIONS

1. In the 1988 All-Ireland football final replay, what player was sent off?
2. In what year was the first 80 minute All-Ireland Senior Football Final held?
3. When did Kerry first achieve the 4-in-a-row in football?
4. Who was known as the 'Boy Wonder'?
5. In what county would you find the club Lamh Dearg?
6. What player has won the greatest number of Texaco football awards?
7. Who was the first Ulster man to become President of the G.A.A.?
8. What county were winners of the first All-Ireland Minor football title played in 1929?
9. How many Ulster counties have won the All-Ireland minor title?
10. Name the trophy presented to the winners of the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship?
11. How many times did Christy Ring captain Cork to All Ireland Senior Hurling success?
12. In what year did Antrim foil Cavan's bid to win eight Ulster titles in a row by defeating the Breffni men by 2-8 to 1-7?
13. What have former Kerry footballers Mick O'Connell and Ger Lynch in common?
14. When did Fermanagh last appear in an Ulster football final?
15. Who captained Meath in the 1987 All-Ireland football final win over Cork?
16. Which teams were in action when Micheal O Hehir made his first live radio broadcast?
17. When were the National League titles first played for?
18. O'Rourke Park is the GAA grounds in what Coinnacht town?
19. Who captained Offaly in the 1972 All-Ireland victory over Kerry?
20. The All Ireland Club Championships date back to 1971. Who were the first winners in hurling and football?

ANSWERS:

1, Gerry McEntee of Meath; 2, 1970, Kerry v Meath; 3, 1929-1932, and Roscrea in hurling.
final; 17, 1926; 18, Casterea; 19, Tony McTague; 20, East Kerry in football
Lyons; 16, Galway and Monaghan in the 1938 All-Ireland football semi-
12, 1946; 13, they were both natives of Valentia Island; 14, 1982; 15, Mick
Derry, Down, Cavan; 10, Bob O'Keefe Cup; 11, three, 1946, '53 & '54;
Padraig McNamee of Antrim; 8, Clare in 1929; 9, five, Armagh, Tyrone,
'4, Tommy Murphy of Laois; 5, Antrim; 6, Jack O'Shea with four; 7,
1, Gerry McEntee of Meath; 2, 1970, Kerry v Meath; 3, 1929-1932,

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Le Cormac Mac a Ghoill

Is orm fein ar an triobloid inniu. Im Oifigeach Gaige ar Bhord Chonndae Liathdroma agus Tir-Chonnallach go smior mo chnamha, gan ambras ar domhan ta "Cota Tadhg an Da Thaobh" de dhith orm.

In national competitive terms we have not played Leitrim since the 70s and that brings a whole new generation of players to the colours and new supporters to the terraces for this afternoon's intriguing clash.

The young lads will not remember a tighter than tight game at Sligo's Markievicz Park some years back; will not remember a Donegal flop in Carrick-on-Shannon in the early 70s or indeed the '56 All-Ireland minor semi-final when Leitrim beat us and went on to lose to Dublin in the final. We also must remember the middle 80s when in our run to a Vocational Schools All-Ireland the closest call we had came from today's most welcome visitors.

That Carrick-on-Shannon referred to above may well be described as the watershed in Donegal's rise to national prominence. We got the act together shortly after that and became realistic provincial championship challengers.

Since the advent of P. J. Carroll to the managerial seat, Leitrim too have started to look towards wider and brighter horizons. Carroll is a disciplinarian par excellence, a superb motivator and above all a man who believes in success.

He had a fair share of that with Leitrim, taking them over in November '89 when Galway had handed out an 18 points hammering. P. J. took them to Division Two that year and to an All-Ireland 'B' Championship.

Winning their five opening games in the '90 League projected "Lowly Leitrim" to the national sports pages. More important still it gave Leitrim people a football identity and youngsters in the school yards of the

county no longer were idolising the televised images of England's first division but Mickey Quinn, Declan Darcy and Padraig Kennys overnight. As a gilt edged investment in our youth, that was good. That brought the GAA spotlight to bear where it could do its best work. Above all else it discarded the "Lowly" tag.

That mighty run Leitrim enjoyed in '90 has, unfortunately" not continued into '91. Apart from a February victory over Longford they have done little of note since. Kildare blighted the league dream, Roscommon the championship hopes and two defeats against Roscommon and Antrim so far in the League have presented Leitrim with a mountain to climb.

However, Leitrim imbued with the Carroll philosophy, love a challenge and the greater it is the bigger effort will be made. With a population of less than 25,000 souls, the county, victim of political neglect over the years, is ravaged by emigration to the detriment of club football. Keeping the game alive, keeping club structures active against that backdrop is part of the challenge and a winning county team is the greatest possible asset.

That is why Leitrim will fight to-day tooth and nail. They got a taste last year of playing the better teams and no longer want to go to empty grounds on bleak Sunday afternoons. They want the centre stage again and a win to-day will do a great deal towards the realisation of that dream.

To-day Leitrim have a chance to examine their performance worth against one of the most consistent League sides in the country. With both teams playing a fine brand of open football, I expect a fine game and as long as football wins I'll depart my native Donegal this evening and head for my Leitrim home reasonably happy.

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TRÁTH NA gCEIST 1991

Seachtain ón Chéadaoin seo chugainn, an 4ú Nollag, beidh príomh thráchtair C.L.G., Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, ag tabhairt cuairt ar Dhún na nGall le leabhar a lainseáil. Níos luaithe í mbliana, ghlac ceithre fho-chumann déag ón chontae seo páirt i dTráth na gCeist Spóirt. Craoladh an comórtas ar fad ar Raidió na Gaeltachta agus rinne Udarás na Gaeltachta urraíocht ar an chomórtas. Indiaidh dian choimhlint, chas foirne Naomh Columba agus Naomh Mícheál ar a chéile sa chluiche ceannais. Is beag a bhí idir na foirne — ach ag deireadh na hoíche, bhí Corn Hiúdaí Bhig agus míle punt i seilbh fhoireann Eamonn Mhic Pháidín.

Cuireadh trí chéad déag ceist le linn an chomórtais. Bá é Seosamh O Gallchóir as Gaoth Dobhair a leag na ceisteanna agus bhí an mhór chuid acu dírithe ar C.L.G. Tá na ceisteanna sin ar fad curtha in eagar i bhfoirm leabhair agus beidh Mícheál ag seoladh an leabhair sin Oíche Chéadaoine, an 4ú Nollag in Aras fho-chumann

Ghaoth Dobhair i Machaire Gathlán. Chomh maith le sin, beidh Mícheál í mbun Tráth na gCeist boird indiaidh lainseáil an leabhair.

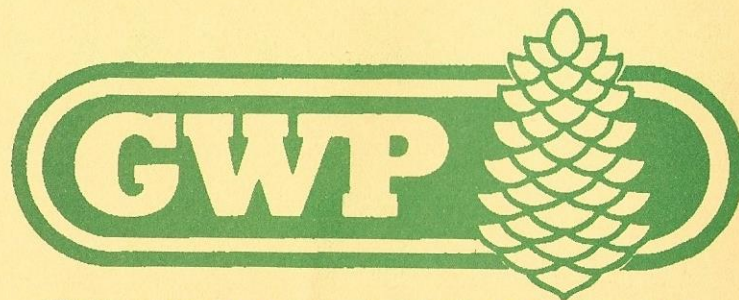
Tá fáilte roimh dhaoine ó chuide chearn chuig an lainseáil seo agus le páirt a ghlacadh i dTráth na gCeist. Ceisteanna spóirt ar fad a bheidh ann agus ba cheart go mbeadh oíche mhór ag achan nduine agus Mícheál ag cur na gceisteanna. Bigi ann.



Mickey Quinn, Leitrim's first All Star.

SNIPPET

The last competitive outing between today's teams was at the re-dedication of McDevitt Park, Fintra, on Sunday, May 29th, 1988. Donegal won that tie by 2-12 to 0-9 and the teams were: DONEGAL: Gary Walsh; Matt Gallagher, Brendan Dunleavy, Cathal Campbell; John Joe Doherty, Donal Reid, John Cunningham; Anthony Molloy, Paddy Hegarty; Barry Cunningham (1-2), Charlie Mulgrew (0-3), Declan Bonner; Martin McHugh (0-4), Joyce McMullan (0-3), Tommy Ryan (1-0). Subs., Eamonn Breslin for Cathal Campbell; Brian Lafferty for Declan Bonner. LEITRIM: Damien Crossan; Brendan Conway, Keelan McLaughlin, Pauric Rooney; Donie McLaughlin, Martin Flanagan, Ollie Honeyman; Paul Kieran (0-1), Jimmy Ward; Pauric Kenny (0-5), George Dugdale (0-1), Thomas Quinn (0-1); Brian Doyle (0-1), Frank Smith, Damien Gilheaney. Subs., John Crowe for Frank Smith; Aidan Rooney for Damine Gilheaney; Damien Gilheaney for Brian Conway.



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The Donegal team which defeated Leitrim at the re-dedication of McDervitt Park, Fintra, in 1988.

DÚN NA nGALL ⁰⁷

	1 G. BREATHNACH Gary Walsh (Aodh Ruadh)	
2 S. Ó CUINNEAGÁIN John Cunningham (Killybegs)	3 P. Mac GIOLLA CHEARRA Paul Carr (Four Masters)	4 M. Ó GALLCHOIR Matt Gallagher (Naomh Brid)
5 B. Mac GABHANN Barry McGowan (Killybegs)	6 M. Ó GABHAGAIN Martin Gavigan (Ardara)	7 M. Ó SHEIBHLEÁN Martin Shovlin (Naomh Ultan)
8 B. Ó CUINNEAGAIN Barry Cunningham (Killybegs)	9 P. Ó BRÓGÁIN Padraig Brogan (Bundoran)	
10 D. Ó CNAIMHSE Declan Bonner (Na Rossa)	11 A. Ó BAOILL Tony Boyle (Dungloe)	12 T. Ó RIAIN Tommy Ryan (Termon)
13 M. Mac AOIDH Martin McHugh (Kilcar)	14 S. Mac UIDHIR Sylvester Maguire (Aodh Ruadh)	15 M. Ó BAOILL Manus Boyle (Killybegs)

SUBS.: 16, **P. Ó Ceallachain** (Paul Callaghan, Burt); 17, **M. Chrosáin** (Mark Crossan, St. Eunans); 18, **S. Mac Aoidh** (James McHugh, Kilcar); 19, **M. Ó Gallchoir** (Michael Gallagher, Civil Service); 20, **A. Ó Lúdhog** (Anthony Molloy, Ardara); 21, **L. Ó Néill** (Liam O'Neill, Malin); 22, **D. Ó Cnaimhse** (Donal Bonner, Kilcar).

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	1 T. Ó CUINN Thomas Quinn (Aughawillan)	
2 O. hUANACHÁIN Ollie Honeyman (Sean O'Heslins)	3 G. hUALLACHAIN Gerry Holohan (Drumreilly)	4 G. Ó FLANAGÁIN Gerry Flanagan (Aughawillan)
5 D. Mac GABHANN Donal Smyth (St. Mary's)	6 D. Ó DORCHAÍ Declan Darcy (Aughawillan)	7 K. McLOCHLAINÍ Killian McLoughlin (Fenagh)
8 M. Ó CUINN Mickey Quinn (Aughawillan)	9 P. Ó DONNCHÚ Pat Donoghue (Drumreilly)	
10 S. Mac EOGHAIN John Owens (Allen Gaels)	11 S. Ó hEISLIN Shane Heslin (Gortletteragh)	12 P. Ó CIONAOITÍ Padraig Kenny (Allen Gaels)
13 B. Ó DUIGEANNÁIN Brian Duignan (St. Marys)	14 P. Mac CIARÁIN Paul Kieran (Sean O'Heslins)	15 A. Ó RUANAIDÍ Aiden Rooney (Glencar/Manor)

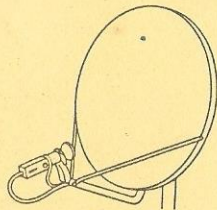
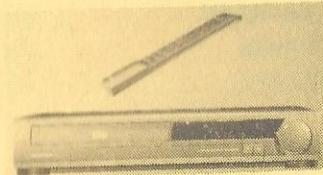
SUBS.: 16, **M. Mac an Príora** (Martin Prior, Aughawillan); 17, **J. Ó Cuinn** (Jerome Quinn, Aughawillan); 18, **M. Mac Gabhann** (Martin McGowan, Allen Gaels); 19, **D. Ó Maolagáin** (Derek Mulligan, Carrigallen); 20, **S. Mac Briain** (Seamus McBrien, Aughavas); 21, **B. Mac Uckian** (Brendan Guckian, St Marys); 22, **G. Ó Donnchú** (Gary Donoghoe, Drumreilly); 23, **P. Mac an Príora** (Peter Prior, Aughawillan); 24, **C. Mag Fhloinn** (Colin McGlynn, Kiltubrid)

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LIAM O'NEILL — MAKING THE BREAKTHROUGH

By Ciaran O'Donnell, Donegal Peoples Press

A month ago, Donegal set off in quest of their first league points when they travelled to Casement Park, Belfast to play Antrim in the opening series of the National League campaign. For most players and the small number of supporters who made the cross border journey, it was just another game and just the start of another league campaign which has been reduced by two games to five league encounters before the play-off stages. But for Malin's Liam O'Neill, it meant a whole lot more for him. In the days before the game, the quietly spoken Inishowen man had hit the headlines both locally and nationally for his selection at midfield by Brian McEniff. For this 22-year-old had never even figured in the senior ranks of the county side at all before the Antrim game. He became the first player from the Malin club to proudly don the Donegal jersey.

With the exception of winning a place in the Donegal minor squad four years ago, which incidentally was managed by Jimmy White who has guided Killybegs to the Ulster club championship against Monaghan champions Castleblaney to be played next Sunday, Liam has never represented the county at any other level before his dramatic inclusion by McEniff. "This is all new to me", says Liam, "but I'm really enjoying myself."

Liam was a member of the combined Inishowen side who were drawn against Four Masters in the championship this year. "We forced the tie to a third game and although we were narrowly defeated in that

deciding game, we didn't do ourselves justice and could well have progressed further in the competition."

Although the Inishowen side's in the senior championship was short-lived, it was during those encounters with Four Masters that Donegal manager Brian McEniff first had a look at Liam.

"I liked what I saw and I believe Liam would be a good addition to the squad. He's a big strong lad and a good idea of how the game should be played," he said.

Recalling his first competitive game in Belfast Liam said it was a very proud day for him, and added that he was extremely nervous.

A week before that, he lined up against Dublin in a challenge match and capped a fine performance with a goal and a point.

Although Liam will start the game today on the substitute's bench, he is still very much a part of McEniff's plans. "The more experienced players in the team have been a terrific help to me and there is a great atmosphere in the squad", Liam explained.

His selection by the Donegal manager will no doubt encourage many of the younger players in the Inishowen side to carry on playing the national game. Although Inishowen is a mainly soccer playing part of the world, Liam's reward could be the start of a transformation in the north of the county. And his ambitions — "I want to keep my place in the squad, enjoy the football and hope I will be included when the Ulster championship comes around next Summer".

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DIVISION 1 B OR NOT 2 B?

By Michael Daly, Donegal Democrat and North West Radio

Donegal are one step from almost ensuring qualification to the play-off stages of the National Football League and yet the new-look League set-up hasn't won the hearts or minds of their supporters.

Perhaps because Donegal teams and supporters have been used to upsetting the big guns it's difficult to adapt to a situation where Donegal are the prized scalps.

Had Antrim or Longford defeated Donegal it would have made much bigger headlines than the two Donegal victories did. It's probably a bit of an insult to those defeated teams and Leitrim that most Donegal supporters don't really give a damn about this League. It isn't intended as such but how would the Leitrim contingent feel had they won promotion to Division One last year to discover the administrators had reshuffled the pack and placed them in a Division with a majority of teams from a lower division. Basically, like Donegal supporters, I feel a wee bit cheated.

I know most teams in the other two Division One sections are happy enough with their lot, in many cases the new look League suits the antipathy which some of the big name teams showed to the old system. One always felt that Cork, Meath and Dublin had an ambivalent attitude to the League, particularly the pre-Christmas games and often just did enough to retain their status with winning post-Christmas exertion.

On both occasions the Antrim and Longford games have generated small crowds. Today's game will

probably be an exception. Leitrim are famous for their loyal support to the county cause. As you read this check the accents in the crowd, no shortage of Ballinamore, Bornacoola and Fenagh folk, the Gaels from Letterkenny, Buncrana and Gaoth Dobhair are probably more difficult to spot.

Rather than suggest a solution, I ask only this. What was wrong with the old system? Who didn't like it; is it change for the sake of change?

On a different theme, just a word about last Friday week's fourth annual GAA Writers Banquet. Held in the Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, it was very much a night to honour the Down team. For the benefit of Leitrim readers the function runs on a Bank of Ireland All Stars format, video replays and special guests are the norm.

Surprise, surprise, Pete McGrath, Down manager, received the Personality of the Year awards. Amongst guests present I met Leitrim boss, P. J. Carroll. He gave little away about today's clash, but knowing him to be a shrewd and meticulous man, I can only presume Leitrim will make this the most difficult tie yet for Donegal.

Finally, on your way home, should you have FM on the radio, tune in to 102.5 or 96.3 where hopefully, P.J. and Brian, will give us their views on the game. By the way on my earlier point in relation to the new look League, if you have a viewpoint, I'd like to hear from you at NWR, Market Yard, Sligo, or Donegal Democrat, Ballyshannon.

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A NEW EXPERIENCE

By Tommy Moran, Leitrim Co. Secretary

Playing Division 1 football is a new experience for Leitrim — but is indicative of the progress made in the county in recent years.

Back in 1959 Leitrim reached the National League semi-final, losing to Derry 3-7 to 1-6, in Croke Park. That Leitrim team contained household names like McGarty, Flynn, Cryan, Lynch, Hayden, Dolan, Sweeney, Gallagher, etc. — names that were on everybody's lips in Leitrim in the late 1950s, names that were part of terribly unlucky Leitrim sides that suffered defeat in four Connacht finals — that was the era of the Galway dominance in Connacht with the Stockwell-Purcell scoring machine.

In the intervening years Leitrim's showing in the National League was generally what one expected from the weaker counties, with promotion from Div. 4 to Div. 3 being one of the highlights. But present day supporters expect much more.

Team managers like Michael McGowan, Eamonn McGowan and Declan McCabe had all worked extremely hard for Leitrim in recent years but lacked a sufficient number of quality players to build a really good side. Then came a really "valley period" when Leitrim slipped so far in the football ratings nobody, but nobody, wanted to be the county team manager.

P. J. Carroll was persuaded to take up the challenge in Nov. '89 when Leitrim had lost the first NFL game to Laois and had been hammered in the second round by Galway by a margin of nineteen points. A challenge it certainly was, but P. J. Carroll rose to the task and with the goodwill of veteran players like Michael Martin, Ollie Honeyman, Micky Quinn and

Shane Heslin and with the enthusiasm of the younger members of the club willingly forthcoming, the slide has stopped and the rest is history.

A narrow defeat in an exciting off game with Kildare on 1 Sunday of this year spoiled Leitrim's chances of a quarter-final spot entry into the Div. 1 of the new structure of the League. However, the new structure, Leitrim qualified for Div. 1 status and the team is now in the top echelon. Defeats to date by Roscommon and Antrim have many Leitrim players saying, "It's back to the same old story", but it should be remembered that a plethora of injuries has replaced many of their key players and despite the best efforts of replacements, they can scarcely be expected to be an overnight success.

Some years ago if such serious depleted Leitrim sides had met in opposition they would have been annihilated — but that day is gone. Thanks to the work being done on a minor level in Leitrim and to the success of the Under 21 county team P. J. Carroll has a number of quality players coming on stream that can guarantee the county a side that can compete with the best.

Indeed, Donegal — hotly tipped to win today's game — would be advised not to take Leitrim for granted.

What Leitrim need most of all is a competitive win to compensate for recent disappointments, to give the team two valuable league points as a reward for their great efforts and to bring a smile back to the Leitrim supporters.

Two league points won't come today for Leitrim — or for Donegal.

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U-14 A Championship
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U-15 Ogsport
U-16 Championship
U-17 Championship
U-18 Championship
U-21 Championship
Senior Championship
Intermediate Championship
Junior Championship
Senior Reserve C'ship.
Div. 1 League
Div. 2 League
Div. 3 League
Div. 4 League
Div. 3 Shield
Div. 4 Shield
Senior Hurling
Senior Hurling Shield

Winners

Aodh Ruadh
Convoy
Four Masters
Ardara
Carndonagh
Four Masters
St. Eunans
still in progress
Ardara
Gaoth Dobhair
Killybegs
Termon
Naomh Mhuire
Kilcar
Killybegs
St. Nauls
Milford
Naomh Mhuire
Buncrana
Glenswilly
Burt
Aodh Ruadh

Runners-Up

Cloughaneely
Buncrana
St. Eunans
Aodh Ruadh
Naomh Brid

Aodh Ruadh

Aodh Ruadh
Red Hughs
Bundoran
Naomh Baithin
Killybegs

Urris
Buncrana
Naomh Mura
Setanta

LEITRIM

Winners

U-12 Towns
U-12 Rural
U-14 Towns
U-14 Rural
U-16 Towns
U-16 Rural
Minor
Minor B

Mohill
Carrigallen
St. Marys
Drumkeerin
St. Marys
Aughavas
St. Marys
Melvin Gaels

Leagues

Minor, Towns
Minor, Rural

Senior Championship
Intermediate Championship
Junior Championship
U-21
Div. 1 League
Div. 2 League
Div. 3 League
Div. 4 League

St. Mays
Kiltubrid

Allen Gaels
Carrigallen
Glenfarne
(not complete)
(not complete)
Carrigallen
Bornacoola v Eslin
Glenfarne

Iomáint:

U-14 Championship
U-16 Championship
Minor Championship
Senior Championship
Dorrigan Cup

St. Marys
St. Marys
Ballinamore
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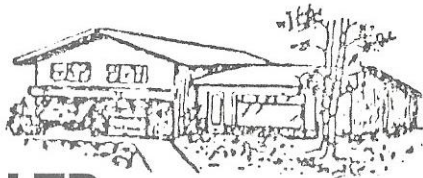
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WELL DONE, KILLYBEGS

On Sunday last Killybegs did themselves and Donegal proud by defeating Downpatrick in Newcastle to qualify for the Ulster Club Championship final on Sunday next against Castleblaney Faughs in Omagh. In wishing them well we include some action photos from Newcastle.



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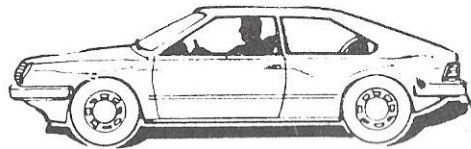
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THE RULE CHANGES OF 1990 — HAVE THEY HELPED OUR GAMES

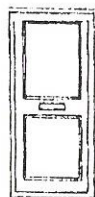
By *Donegal PRO, Mick McGrath*

In 1989 the decision was taken to experiment with the rules of football and hurling after many words of complaint. The decision to experiment was wiswe, so as the right changes could be implemented at the 1990 Congress. Every five years the rules are discussed, revised and, if need be, changes can take place when motioned properly by a county through its representation at Cumann Luthchleas Gael's National Congress. Some of the experiments were rejected, like the four quarters; the goalkeeper kickout out from his hands; and even since that Congress in 1990, the 'can he or can't he hop it before the free' — the answer is, yes, he can.

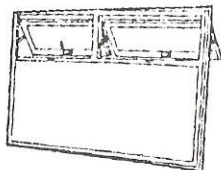
Taking into account the complaints on the amount of time the ball was actually in play, many of the changes called for, were to speed up the game and create more action. Recently a comparative match analysis for the seniors and minors of the 1989 All Ireland Finals (before the rule changes) were compared with the 1990 All Ireland finals (after the changes. Note for yourself the comparisons.

	Cork v Mayo '89 Senior Final	Offaly v Derry '89 Minor Final	Cork v Meath '90 Senior Final	Meath v Kerry '90 Minor Final
Total Time				
Actual Playing time	74 m.21sec 31 m.11sec	61 m.20sec 25 m.45 sec	71 m.01 sec 29 m.06 sec	63 m.15 sec 29 m.12 sec
Longest period of continuous play	71 sec	77 sec	90 sec	54 sec
Average length of a segment of play	17.33 sec	17.36 sec	15 sec	16.85 sec
Number of segments of play	108	89	119	104
Number of segments of play lasting 20 seconds or less	71	62	94	77
Frequency of stoppages	Every 41.30 sec	Every 41.35 sec	Every 36 sec	Every 36 sec
% of fouls which were aggressive	84.09	89.19	90.14	91.11
% of fouls which were technical	9.09	8.11	4.23	8.89
% of fouls which were for dissent	6.82	2.70	5.63	Nil
% of all stoppages which were for aggressive fouls	34.25	37.08	53.78	39.42
% of all stoppages which were for total fouls i.e. Aggressive, Technical and Dissent.	40.74	41.57	59.66	45.19
Total number of fouls	44 (3 dissent)	37 (1 dissent)	71 (4 dissent)	47
Frequency of fouls	Every 1 m.41 sec	Every 1 m.40	Every 1 m.	Every 1 m.21 sec
Frequency of scores from play	Every 2 m.34 sec	Every 3 m.14 sec	Every 3 m.33 sec	Every 2 m.38 sec
Frequency of wides	Every 3 m.40 sec	Every 5 m.07 sec	Every 5 m.55 sec	Every 3 m.
Frequency of side-line kicks	Every 3 m.23 sec	Every 3 m.04 sec	Every 3m.33 sec	Every 4 m.52 sec
Average length of a stoppage	Every 6 m.12 sec	Every 8 m.46 sec	Every 7 m.53 sec	Every 3 m.43 sec
Total Number of high catches	24 sec 19	24 sec 17	21 sec 16	20 sec 33

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LEITRIM SNIPPETS

Ireland's tallest ever inter-county footballer, 6'8½" J. P. Newton, father of Roscommon's Des and John, is a native of Annaduff, Co. Leitrim, and played a great deal of club football in Donegal where he worked as a linesman with the ESB in the 50s.

* * * * *

Ballyshannon De La Salle school principal, Kinlough's Michael McGowan, was on the Leitrim team in the late 50s when they reached the Connacht final.

* * * * *

Former Donegal players both members of the Gardai, Paddy Ward (Convoy) and Brian Cotter (Dunkineely) played club football in Co. Leitrim and also wore the Leitrim colours.

* * * * *

Leitrim's legendary Packie McGarty once worked in Letterkenny and remembers vividly of a trip he made from the Cathedral town to Tralee for a Railway Cup game.

* * * * *

Donegal's star minor defender this year, Dara Dolan, was born in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim. His father was a member of the great Leitrim team that got to four consecutive Connacht finals in the late 50s while the mother of the Boyle brothers from Killybegs hails also from in or near Ballinamore.

* * * * *

Leitrim squad member, Brian Breen, played with Tir Chonaill Gaels a few years ago.

* * * * *

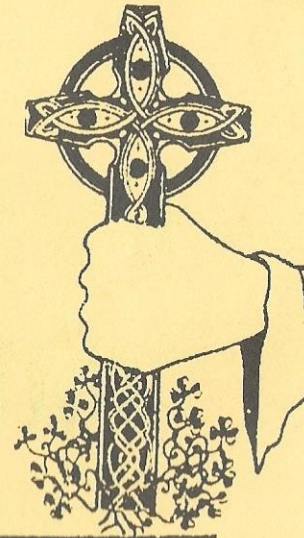
Manorhamilton's Aiden Rooney, a member of to-day's Leitrim panel, works in Co. Donegal.

SNIPPET

We extend a warm welcome to the Killybegs Youth Band, formed just over two years. The Band has already made a major impact in Donegal and further afield. Please support the band by donating whatever you can to their collection.

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