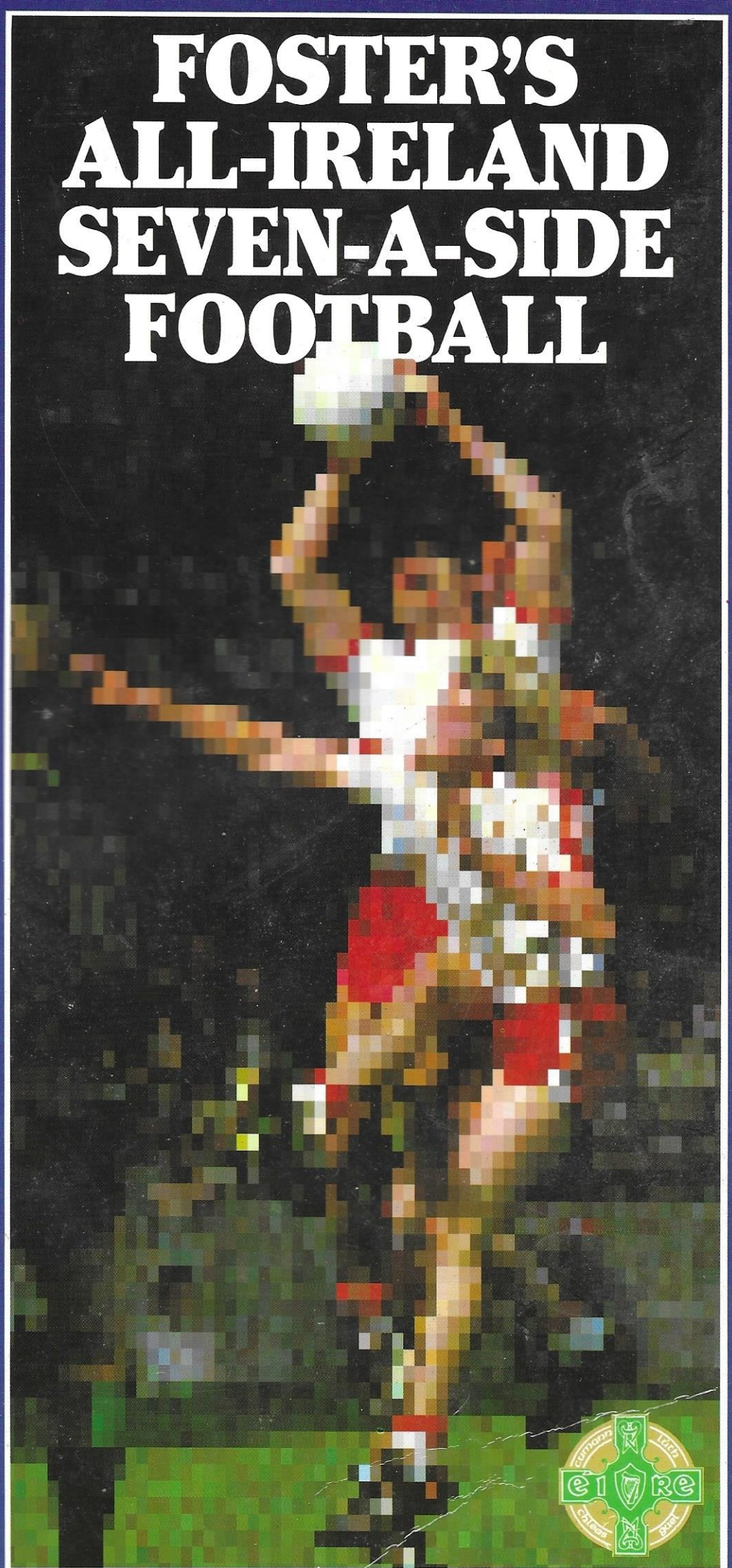
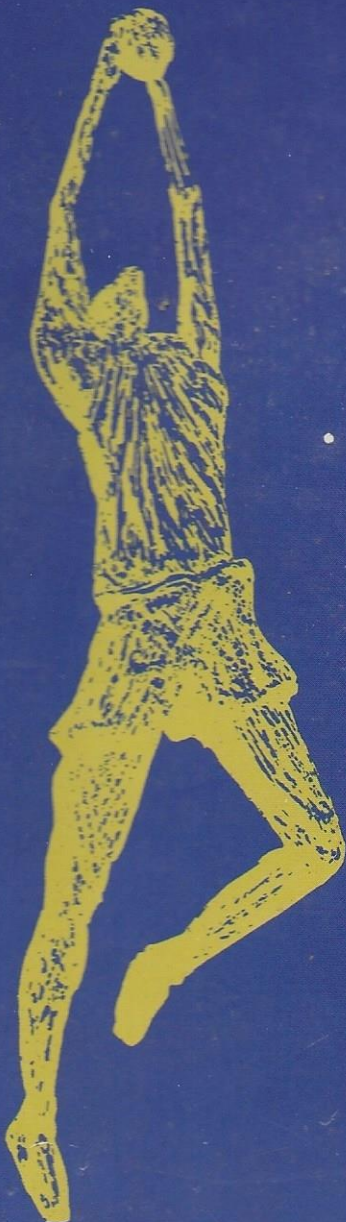


FOSTER'S ALL-IRELAND SEVEN-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

KILMACUD CROKES
GAA CLUB
GLENALBYN HOUSE
STILLORGAN

SATURDAY
14th SEPTEMBER 1991



LUACH £1

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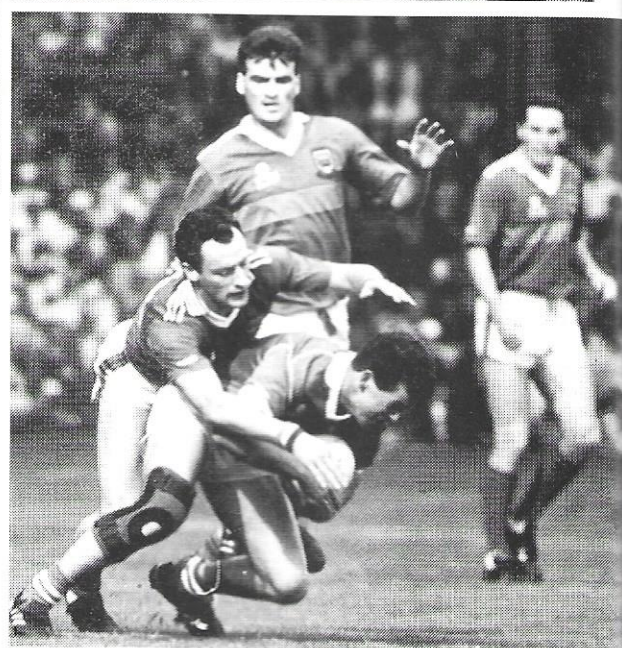
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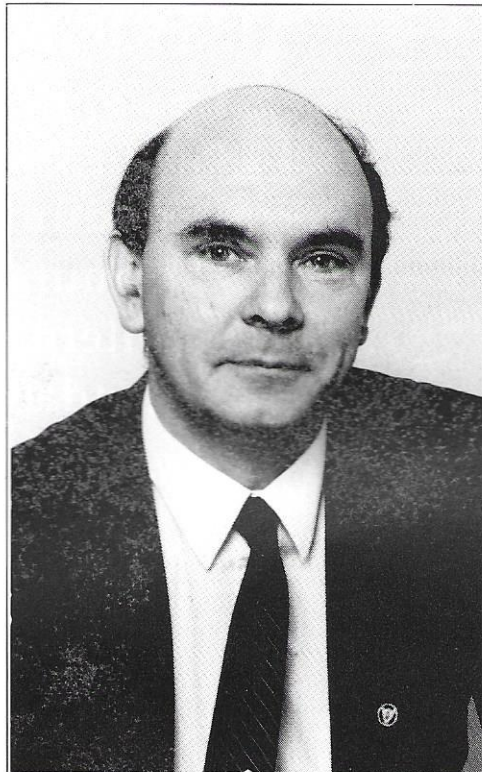
Is cúis mór áthas dom fáiltiú roimh comórtas 1991. Tugann an comórtas seo sásamh mór do imreoirí agus féachadoirí araon agus leis na blianta d'eagraigh na brochaigh na cluichí go heifeachtach agus go cúirtéiseach. Tá an ghnaoi ag na himreoirí ar an comórtas seo agus treaslaím na timirí leanaigí leis an obair maith!

The Kilmacud Crokes seven-aside competition is now so much a part of All-Ireland weekend that many supporters now arrive in Dublin early on Saturday to attend this great festival of competition. In the 1950's and 1960's seven-aside tournaments were very popular across the country. Today their popularity has waned somewhat but the Kilmacud Seven still attracts the best teams from every county in Ireland and from Britain; they provide a spectacular festival of football with both competition and comradeship balanced finely. In bygone days - too far gone - I had the pleasure of participating in the All-Ireland Sevens competition on a number of occasions. It was a marvellous experience and one which I have treasured since, even though we never finished among the prizewinners. I know that all of those who compete in this week-end's competition will find equal satisfaction and will treasure their own memories.

I compliment Kilmacud Crokes on their efficient organisation of this competition; it gives so much pleasure to so many. An the openness of this particular version of the game places a premium on skill and intelligent use of the ball that the more conventional format sometimes lacks. Long may it continue.

Tá mé cinnte go rachaidh on comórtas seo ó neart go neart agus guim ádh air.

*Peadar 'O Cuinn
Uachtarán,
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.*



Peadar 'O Cuinn

G.A.A.
Library

Kilmacud Crokes are opening a G.A.A. library/museum and would be grateful for donations of material. If you can contribute any memorabilia, please contact Larry Ryan at Glenalbyn House or telephone (01) 2800110.

We express our appreciation to former Dublin camogie great Sophia Black for letting us have her collection.

FÁILTE

Thar cheann Chumann Baire agus Peile Cill Mochuda no Crócaigh cuirim cead míle fáilte roimh gach éinne go Gleann Albannach inniu agus tá súil agam mbainfidh sibh sult agus taitneamh as na cluichí agus as an deire seachtainne í gcoitinne. Arís i mbliana tá an comórtas urraithe ag Comhlucht Beamish & Crawford agus taimid go mór faoi chomaoin acu.

It is my privilege to bid a cead míle fáilte to all who attend the All Ireland Football Sevens. This competition which is regarded as the best of its kind has again attracted entries from the top clubs in the country and in England. Indeed it is indicative of the quality and popularity of the tournament that more applications than ever were received this year. With so many of our leading teams and players competing all the best skills of Gaelic Football is promised.

Once again Beamish & Crawford are official sponsors of the tournament and are using Fosters as the product to be promoted. Beamish & Crawford have been associated with the Football Sevens for seventeen years and we sincerely hope it will continue and are extremely grateful for their generous support.

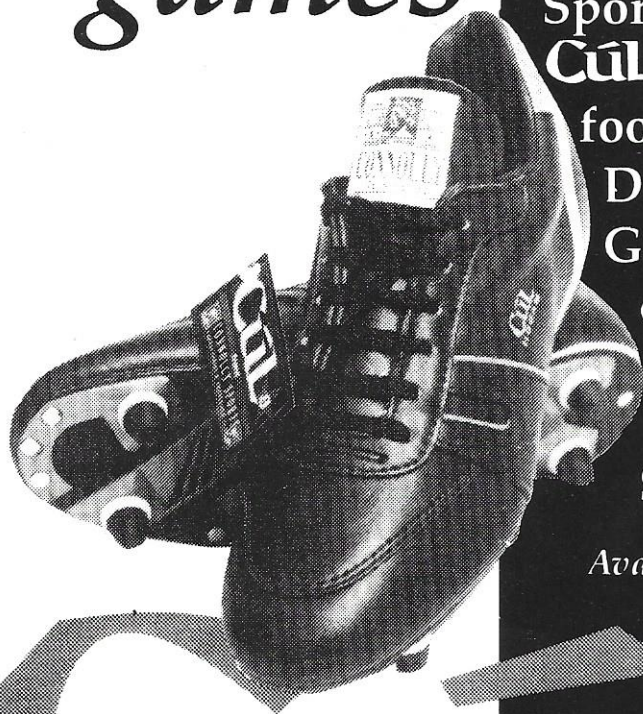
In running our competition we are dependent upon the enthusiasm of teams and spectators and the help and commitment of referees and all the members of Kilmacud/Crokes who give unselfishly of their time. I want to pay a special tribute to the Football Committee and its Chairman Pauric McMenamin for undertaking the enormous task of organising what is now the premier football sevens in the country.

We appreciate sincerely the Co-operation of St. Benildus and Oatlands Colleges who have given us their facilities.

I wish everyone a most enjoyable and memorable day in Stillorgan.

*Tom Rock
Chairman.
Kilmacud/Crokes G.A.A. Club.*

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A Word from the SPONSOR

We at Beamish & Crawford are proud to be associated with the Foster's All-Ireland Football Sevens - a sponsorship which has thrived for seventeen years and achieves new levels of excellence each time it takes place.

The event involves much organisation and I would like to pay tribute to the dedication and enthusiasm of Kilmacud Crokes and those involved whose efforts contribute to the overall success on the day.

The exciting programme presented this year signals a fun filled and action packed 'appetiser' to the All Ireland final. And on behalf of Foster's, I would like to welcome players, coaches, officials and, of course, supporters from all over the country.

Go n-eírí leis na h-íomathóirí go leír agus bíodh an bua ag an foireann is fearr.

John O'Callaghan
Brand Manager
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1982 St. Vincent's (Dublin)
1983 Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin)
1984 Bryansford (Down)
1985 St. Gall's (Antrim)
1986 Bellaghy (Derry)
1987 Mount Bellew (Galway)
1988 Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin)
1989 Clann Na nGael (Roscommon)
1990 Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin)

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Castletown (Wexford)
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St. Patrick's Ardagh (Longford)
St. Mary's (Sligo)
Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin)
Glencolmcille (Donegal)
Clara (Offaly)
St. Eunan's (Donegal)
C. Blaney Faughs (Monaghan)
St. Gall's (Antrim)
Knockmore (Mayo)
Carbury (Kildare)
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Bryansford (Down)

MESSAGE FROM THE DUBLIN BOARD CHAIRMAN

Eighteen years ago the Kilmacud Crokes Club launched the All-Ireland Seven-a-Side Hurling, Football and Tournaments. The date and weekend coincides with the All-Ireland Finals.

It was, at the time, a very enterprising event. Time has shown, through the many teams from the 32 counties who have and continue to become involved, that the competition is part of the All Ireland weekend not only for the teams and friends that take part but to the many GAA followers who faithfully have a place of welcome in Glenalbyn on the All-Ireland weekend.

Kilmacud Crokes, by their enterprise, have created an event that brings together GAA members in an atmosphere of friendship. It brings a speciality to the All Ireland Weekend - something which the management of the GAA have failed to recognise.

The All-Ireland is more than 3 hours in Croke Park and a match. It is an occasion for all the GAA members across Ireland and the more we accept this concept the more we invest in creating events that make a special All-Ireland week and the more we bring together the members, supporters and friends, the more we develop the Association.

May I pass on to Kilmacud Crokes and all its members the best wishes of the Dublin GAA for another successful tournament.

Yours Sincerely,

C. Clarke
Chairman, Dublin County Board.

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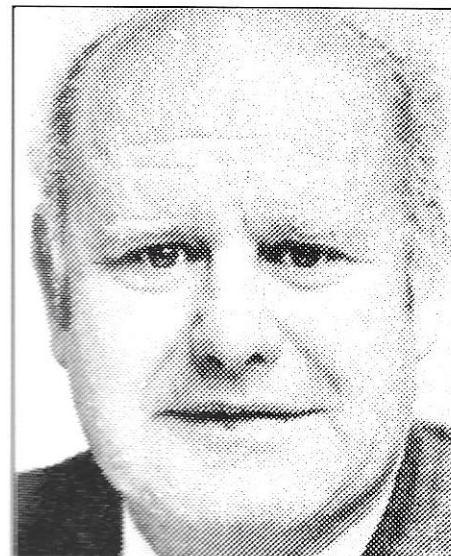
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7-A-SIDE

A Better Game?

By Sean Kilfeather, The Irish Times



The playing of hurling and football matches with reduced team numbers has always been regarded as a valuable exercise and one which is enjoyed by both players and spectators. It is widely accepted that the playing of matches such as "sevens" and "nines" gives players an opportunity to demonstrate their skills. An emphasis on team-work is also given priority.

In view of the fact that there is now a constant stream of criticism, particularly as far as football is concerned, about the frequency of stoppages for frees of the "pulling and dragging" variety might it not be a good idea to consider a reduction of the numbers with a view to creating more space on the field of play?

On first glance the

suggestion of reducing the number in a team to 13 or even 12 might appear too radical a move for an association which is notorious for its conservatism but the fact is that it would not be the first time, for this to be done.

In the early days of the association 21 players were sometimes used and this was reduced to 17 before the present 15-A-Side game

became the norm. It can be said without doubt that the level of fitness of players in the modern games is now at an all-time high and that this has, in some way, contributed to the problems which now afflict the game.

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St. John's (Antrim) semi finalists in the 1990 Sevens and winners in 1977

Nowadays a corner back is expected, not only to mark his opposite number closely but also to link up with half backs and midfielders to move up for the return pass, to follow a corner forward who moves out the field. Wing backs are expected to be even more mobile. Players like Jack O'Shea and Pat Spillane can be expected to turn up in any position on the field during the course of a game. Only goalkeepers can be expected to remain in their designated position although this should not be taken to refer to Gerry Farrell of Louth who is a law unto himself.

The game is no longer the man-to-man game it used to be when there were 15 different contests going on when the widespread advices from the sideline was either "Mark your man" or "Get rid of it". Nowadays there can be as many as five or six players challenging for the ball at the one time, particularly in the middle of the field from kick-outs or in the goal area when long-range frees are being taken.

Sadly the high-fielding fullback or midfielder who makes a spectacular catch can expect to find three opponents waiting to pummel and harry him when he gets back to earth. As often as not a free is awarded against him when he can't get his kick in.

If the number of players were to be reduced a more open type of game would develop. Fewer fouls would be committed, there would be a more open play and probably higher scoring. The "pulling and dragging" would be reduced.

The only negative aspect of that suggestion would be that fewer players would be involved but the impact of this could be reduced by allowing say five subs to be used and by allowing players to be "interchanged" frequently as in the Australian Rules game. If it would put an end to games with 50 or 60 fouls in the course of the match it would be well worth while.

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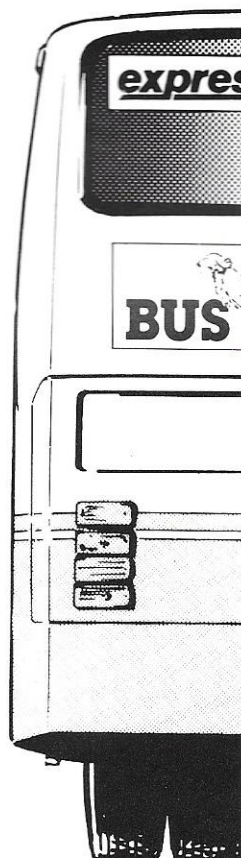
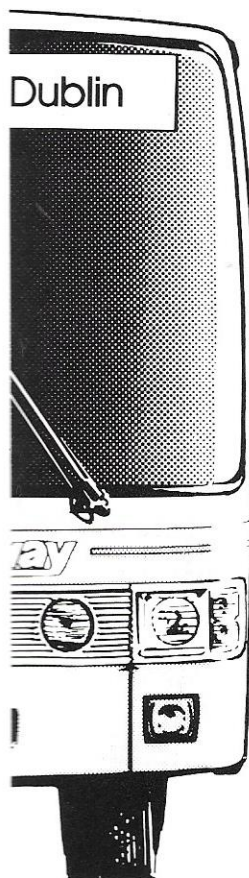
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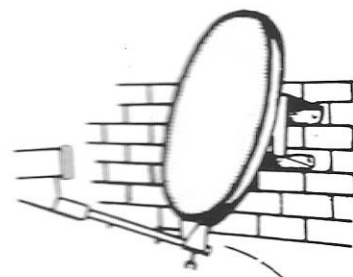
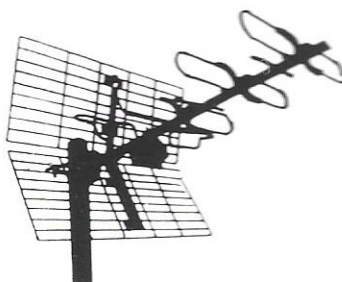
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EXCITING GAMES CAN HIDE THE TRUTH

By Eugene McGee

Excitement covers a multitude as far as sport is concerned. The average sports follower simply wants two things from sport: their own team to win and good entertainment. Throughout the 1991 championships in football we have had plenty of excitement and unexpected results so as far as most people are concerned it was a very good year.

The Meath-Dublin saga is a good example of the rather superficial way that most people analyse sport. The vast majority of Irish sports followers will tell you now that they were all great games, very exciting and a terrific advertisement for Gaelic Football. But were they really that good? Were the games in Connacht as good as they were made out to be this year?

For those who want to examine the games a little more closely and forget about the drama and excitement of drawn or close games, there was nothing this year to indicate that Gaelic Football is getting any better at county level. In every game I watched this year I saw a great deal of rank bad football. Terrible attempts at scoring, very few high balls caught cleanly, too much short-passing and above all too many frees.

We are now accepting as normal that there should be about 60 frees in a 70-minute game of gaelic football. Surely this is a shocking admission of failure? After all the participants in county football are the *elite* players, representing only the top five per cent of all those who regularly play football.

Should they not be expected to be more skillful than 60 frees a game would indicate? It is said that the absence of a proper tackle is the cause of most of the high tally of frees, but I wonder. I have always maintained there is plenty of scope for tackling in Gaelic Football if players and their coaches are prepared to



Mick Lyons & Paul Clarke in action during the Meath - Dublin saga - Were the games really that good?

spend enough time practising such things as shepherding a man in possession, blocking his kick, etc.

DELIBERATE FOULING

The 'no tackle in Gaelic Football' cry is largely a cop-out in my opinion. Let's face it, a lot of the fouling in the middle zone of the field nowadays is deliberate, tactical fouling. The purpose is to stop the game when your opponents win possession in the centre of the field so that your defence gets time to re-group and mark their men. That sort of fouling is simply not being punished hard enough. It pays off so teams continue to use it so long as they foul *outside* the scoring range of the freetakers. I have always favoured a more severe punishment for these fouls, such as moving the free forward to

the next line on the field. So for instance, if a player was fouled 49 yards out from goals the free would be taken from the 21 yard line, and so on.

One of the saddest aspects of modern football for me, and for a lot of other people, is the virtual disappearance of high catching at midfield. Breaking the ball out of a high-fielder's

grasp as he is about to catch it is now the norm. This is a negative tactic with the 'breaker' admitting he cannot outfield his opponent and resorting to negative play to make up for this. An then if a player *does* actually field a high ball he is almost inevitably fouled when he comes down with it.

There is lot to be said for the Mark as used on Australian Rules football. Here, the man who catches a ball cleanly, high or low, is entitled to an automatic free kick - but the decision to avail of this, or play as normal, is *his*. This certainly encourages players to get out in front and *catch* the ball and it does not hold up play at all. Catching is the prime skill in Gaelic Football and must be preserved - this is one way of doing that and I think the GAA should bring it in.

Some people are also proposing the Australian tackle also but that would be a very drastic step. However if there is no improvement in the present situation, I have no doubt there will be a demand for that too in Gaelic. As the addition of the free from the hands showed this year, rule changes can improve Gaelic Football without damaging the fabric of the game as we have known it over the years. It appears some more changes are needed in the rules - and in the attitudes of coaches and players too.

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FEICHE CÉIST

By Larry Ryan

CÉIST (1)

The winner of the All Ireland minor football championship are awarded what trophy?

CÉIST (2)

The first county to be awarded a walk-over in an All Ireland S.F. final was?

CÉIST (3)

Kilkenny's only dual All Ireland senior medal winner is?

CÉIST (4)

The American Cup is awarded to the winners of which county's S.F. championships?

CÉIST (5)

Bob Stack played in which position for Kerry?

CÉIST (6)

Cork's captain in their 1973 All Ireland victory was?

CÉIST (7)

The only Leinster man to captain two Sam Maguire Cup winning teams was?

CÉIST (8)

The only person to serve two different terms as President of the GAA is?

CÉIST (9)

Thomond College won the All Ireland club championship in?

CÉIST (10)

The only Connacht man to win four All Ireland S.F. medals is?

CÉIST (11)

Why is the 11th October 1959 an unique date in Fermanagh?

CÉIST (12)

Name the player killed at Croke Park on Bloody Sunday?

CÉIST (13)

The venue for the Ulster S.F. final replay between Cavan and Armagh in 1939 was?

CÉIST (14)

The author of "Twelve Glorious Years" is?

CÉIST (15)

Meath's first All-Star was?

CÉIST (16)

Can players ordered off be replaced in extra time?

CÉIST (17)

Castlebar born, he played minor, under 21, junior and senior for Roscommon in 1966. He is?

CÉIST (18)

Name the half-forward line of the Down team which beat Kerry in the 1960 All-Ireland final?

CÉIST (19)

The Kerry half-back line in the 1960 final was?

CÉIST (20)

Leitrim won it's only S.F.C. in?

ANSWERS PG. 7

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One of my first, and my Club Nemo Rangers', 'onslaught' on Kilmacud Crokes Seven-a-Sides was when I was in my prime - I was just going on 32.

We left Cork by train on Friday night at 6.30pm, after meeting at 4.00pm (never missed a train in my life). We were not playing until 11.00am on Saturday morning which after a few pints was as far away as Christmas.

By this time we reached Limerick junction a hearty and wholesome sing-song had begun (what kept us that long you may ask?). I presume everyone knows those small bottles of vodka, whiskey and gin that you can purchase on trains, well you can take it from me now, they are not 'Small Bottles' - they are 'Enormous Bottles' - twenty four so called athletes fell off, sorry stepped off the train in Dublin, everyone of us resembling E.T. after a marathon. We immediately adjourned to our secret hotel (secret because we couldn't find it) for a meeting about our conduct and discipline. We decided after an hour and a half (3 pints) that we were ready for the sevens

MY

1ST

SEVENS

BY DINNY ALLEN



*Dinny Allen
Captain of Cork's All Ireland winning team in 1989*

and that we sang very well on the train.

At 9.30am Saturday morning bright and early, so bright in fact we all wore our sunglasses, we planned our strategy for the day.

PERESTROIKA

A major argument broke out whether we should have scrambled eggs on toast or kippers. Well the Russians have perestroika so we decided that each player could have his own choice. I had Rice Krispies! (Big plus for democracy).

The activity at Kilmacud Crokes G.A.A. Club was like the Allies moving into Kuwait with ourselves mingling like boy scouts with sunglasses on.

We decided that if a player wanted to be substituted, he was to get the attention of our manager by putting his hand in the air. After minutes, eight hands had risen. The manager could not take any more so he headed for the bar. We suffered through three matches until fatigue, lack of oxygen, the

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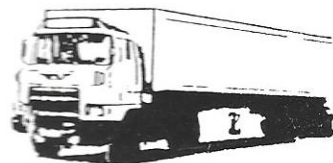
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brightness (we had to take of our sunglasses during games), lack of motivation and a ferocious dryness of the larynx, took over our minds and our bodies. We waved white flags of surrender like the Iraq

soldiers - who incidentally were in better condition than us, and we headed for the showers. It was only 12.30pm. The sun was high in the sky and it was still very bright!



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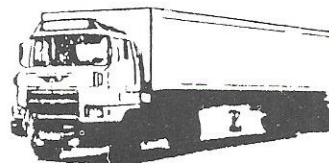
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It's been a great year for the GAA. The Meath v Dublin 4 game saga set the tone for a return of the GAA to its former zenith position in the sporting calendar. Mind you it never relinquished that position.

But since the 50's and 60's when the GAA generally reached an all time high in popularity, there has been dwindling attendances and the upsurge of soccer fever experienced lately in Germany and Italy when Ireland reached the European and World Cup Final play off series had sent warning lights. That and the approval of the 2nd ever rugby World Cup.

OPEN DRAW

But Meath and Dublin saved all that and we can thank the Open Draw in Leinster for giving us such a 1st round pairing. I travelled to the 4th game and never thought I'd see the day when Croke Park would be thronged with a 61,000 attendance for a Saturday 1st round Leinster S.F.C. game televised live to the nation. And because of the Munster Open Draw we had an early Cork v Kerry game and a Kerry v Limerick Munster Final which gave us a classic. Who would have ever anticipated this?

SUGGESTIONS

This being a programme which will be studied by so many clubs in Ireland could I make the following suggestions.

(1) Let's have a real national Open Draw in both hurling and football for a 2 year trial period. Think about it and formulate a motion to that effect for congress '92.

(2) Let us de-emphasize the team - manager cult. They have taken over as the real stars. God be with the days of Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan and Jim Barry, who wouldn't understand the limelight now for men like Sean Boylan, Brian McEniff, Mick O'Dwyer, Paddy Cullen etc., etc. Mind you the hurling team managers tend to hit the spotlight less.

A FEW THOUGHTS TO CHEW ON

By Jack Mahon



Saltil - All Ireland Club finalists in 1991

(3) Let's have less live television of games. I'd allow All Ireland finals only. The Munster Council were wrong to televise the drawn Munster semi final without warning to the G.A.A. at large. Kangaroo decisions like this don't take into consideration that wider association out there.

(4) Let's stop the "space invaders" as Con Houlihan calls them. They are messing up the whole scene. John O'Mahony, the Mayo team manager, is the greatest offender of them all. He should know more because he used to play himself. But he isn't the only one. Nearly all the team managers and many helpers seem to be on or near the field of play all the time. They should stay in the dugouts. That penalty of the Leinster Council in confining Richie Connor to the dugouts for the Leinster Final was ludicrous. It suggests that only bad boy managers should be confined. The others should be let run loose. And they do.

(5) We should stop this bicycle shorts or black knickers thing that is creeping in. These black knickers are very unsightly and

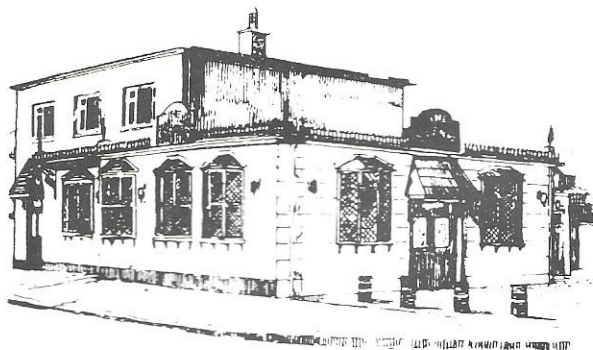
suitable for cyclists only. Martin O'Connell, Colm Coyle, Tommy Grehan, you know the guys that wear them. I'm not talking of knee bandages. They tell me they are used to protect muscles and groins etc. But can they not be made tog length only. Some other sports are beginning to ban them I believe. Am I wrong in thinking some players wear them to be noticed?! I believe they are quite expensive.

(6) Has the huddle become necessary now for all teams? Next thing we will see a huddle developing when a player goes down injured. Do we now need to be re-motivated all the time? Human robots!

(7) I don't want to hear a player or manager ever again talking about giving anything more than 100%. You can never go beyond that and the player who ever achieves 100% is a rarity if not unique.

Those are just a few thoughts!

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In terms of overall exposure and marketing of its product, 1991 has seen a very significant turnaround for the GAA from the position that prevailed this time last year. Twelve months ago the exploits of our soccer team in Italy were the focus of everybody's attention and the names of Packie Bonner, Jack Charlton, David O'Leary etc. were first to the lips of most youngsters. Meath and Brian Stafford, Dublin and Tommy Carr and Down and Mickey Linden were as far away from most young sporting minds as the reserves on the Indian hockey team are right now.

Not that I want to give the impression that I in any way begrudge our soccer heroes any of their success. On the contrary, I enjoyed those moments last summer as much as anybody. Indeed the atmosphere in my own GAA clubhouse when Dave O'Leary's penalty went in against Romania will remain as a memory for me forever as one of the great moments in sport. I hope as much as anybody that the national team make it again to the European finals in Sweden and the next World Cup in the US.

At the same time we have to realise that there was a need for other sporting organisations to respond to this tremendous boost to soccer if they were to continue to compete on the ground in attracting younger members to their games. In this respect I am glad to note the huge turnaround in the relative attraction of GAA and soccer over the summer just gone and, particularly glad, to note this has come not as a result of any diminution on the part of the performance of our soccer

The Product in the Window Improved, but has Anything Else Changed?

By: Robbie Kelleher

team but as a result of some epic contests on the Gaelic field.

If one were to ask most people who have a broad based interest in sport what have been the highlights of Summer '91. I think the absorbing battle between Dublin and Meath and the two enthralling hurling matches between Tipperary and Cork would jump quickly to their lips. And not far behind would be the other provincial deciders as well.

From a purely parochial perspective it all ended slightly disappointingly. A success at All-Ireland level for a Dublin senior team is a vital ingredient for the successful

marketing of the game in the capital. At one stage we were faced with the dream scenario - an outright victory in the football series after a titanic struggle with Meath and a provincial title or maybe more in the hurling. Alas it was not to be, but maybe next year...

EMERGENCE OF DOWN

Returning to the national perspective an additional feature was the emergence of a number of new powers in the games, particularly in football. In the North, Down, Derry and Donegal could all now aspire to a top ten national ranking.

In Leinster the success of Kildare, Louth, Laois and Wicklow will seriously threaten the dominance of Dublin and Meath while in Munster both Clare and Limerick were cheeky enough to seriously question the dominance of the old firm of Kerry and Cork. Over in Connaught the two matches between Mayo and Roscommon were as good as we have seen for quite a while.

Another bonus of this year's matches is that it will help to dispel the sometimes widely held notion that the playing standards of the games are in terminal decline. In the corresponding publication last year I argued against the often expressed view that current inter-county players were not up to the same standard of those of the decades in which the proponent of the opinion happened to be youthful. In my own case it referred to the debate about the nineties and the seventies. I believe this year's championship has greatly helped to vindicate that view. The standard and entertainment value of the encounters this year would stand the test of anything we have seen in the past. And I hope this will come across in the utterances of senior figures within the GAA. It does not help the current image at all if senior figures

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consistently suggest the quality of the product is continually in decline. It would be like the chief executive of Guinness going around saying the pint is not nearly what it was twenty years ago. Some marketing strategy, I tell you!

So far so good. The quality and marketing of our most visible product - intercounty championship fare - had a super year and let us all be very thankful for it. The benefits will be felt right throughout the organisation. At the same time let it not draw us into any false

sense of complacency about the adequacy of the whole range of products we, as an association, offer. The intercounty games may be the most visible and financially lucrative but they are certainly not the most numerous and, many would argue, not the most important.

The basic purpose of GAA is to provide regular hurling and football games for our thousands of members. In this respect I have to say my experience is confined to Dublin and I feel no competence in commenting on

the adequacy of arrangements elsewhere. In Dublin last year I played on and ran an adult football team at junior level and ran a juvenile hurling and football team at under 12 level. I regret to day that both experiences left me very unimpressed. When it comes to providing regular and reasonably well organised football and hurling matches I believe we are still a distance behind the main opposition for us - soccer and rugby.

And it is too easy to plead that they do not have the same

conflicts as we have - the clash of the dual player, the clash of club and county. Even within these constraints we can offer something very much better than what we have.

The one encouraging feature of the year was the proposals of the development committee especially established to review the situation in Dublin. Alas the early enthusiasm surrounding these proposals appears to have diminished. For the games' sake I hope they are revised quickly.



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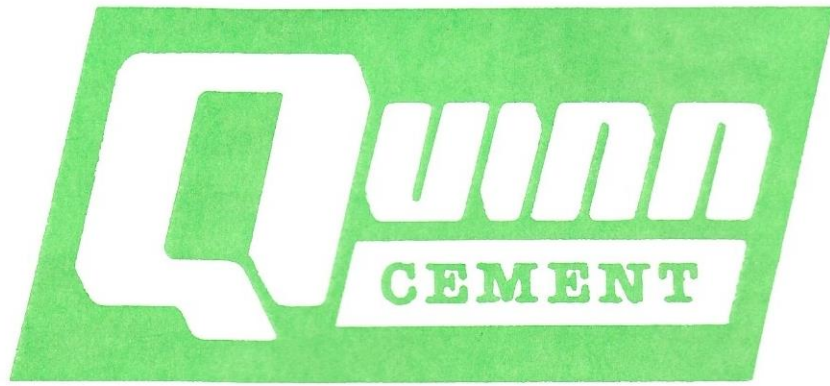
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1991 A CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A DIFFERENCE

By Tony McMahon (Laois)

At approximately 4.15pm on the third Sunday in July, as the latest scores filtered through to the RTE studios from championship venues throughout the country, Des Cahill, on Sunday Sport, speculated about the possibility of a Laois V. Limerick All Ireland Senior Football final. Admittedly this unlikely pairing was just a possibility, rather than a probability, however, the fact that such a possibility even existed at such a late stage in the championship season, reflects in some way, the unique nature of this year's provincial football championships, where the unexpected became the expected, and the form books went out the window.

While a number of factors may account for this development, the impact of the Open Draw cannot be ignored. Although the Open Draw was introduced in a limited form, i.e. on an intra-provincial rather than an All Ireland basis, it has still been the single most influencing factor on the progression of the provincial championships.

Although there was much opposition to the open draw before its introduction, and this comes from varied quarters, it is safe to say that even before the championships have run their course, the open draw has been a success.

Objections

The main objection to the idea of an open draw were that:-

- (1) It would result in a loss of revenue to the respective provincial councils
- (2) The 'occasion' of a provincial final would be spoilt by mismatches.

While the Leinster Council had a bonanza this year in terms of revenue from gate receipts. I am convinced, that even without the series of draws, revenue would not have suffered as a result of the open draw. If one was to take the combined gate receipts of the Meath - Dublin game of June 2nd and the Meath - Laois Leinster Final to be played on August 10th. I'm sure that they would exceed the combined receipts from a Meath - Laois first round game and a Meath - Dublin Leinster Final. The reason why I say this is because, while Dublin - Meath in Round 1, and Meath - Laois in the Leinster Final would attract crowds in the region of 40,000 each, a Meath Laois first round game would attract

about 15,000 - 20,000, while a Dublin - Meath Leinster Final would still have an attendance similar in size to what was in Croke Park, on June 2nd.

Mismatch?

On the second issue, the question of one-sided finals, a number of points should be borne in mind. First of all, the 'Big Two' (for the time being), won't always be drawn in the same side of the draw, as happened this year in Munster and Leinster. However, if they are drawn that way, it is still very dismissive to suggest that a final between one of the 'Big Two' and one of the so called weaker counties would be a mismatch. This year's Munster Football Final, though undermined by the replay of that province's hurling final at a different venue on the same day, turned out to be an excellent game, in which Limerick score 3-12, yet lost out by 2 points. A remarkable scoreline by any standards, and certainly a lot closer than the 1990 Munster Football Final. Any predictions (and there were many) that the 1991 Final would be a mismatch were well and truly shattered in Killarney that day. Looking at Leinster, Laois played some fine football, but failed to convert possession into scores in the Leinster final. Colm O'Rourke said afterwards that this was Meath's toughest game in Leinster.

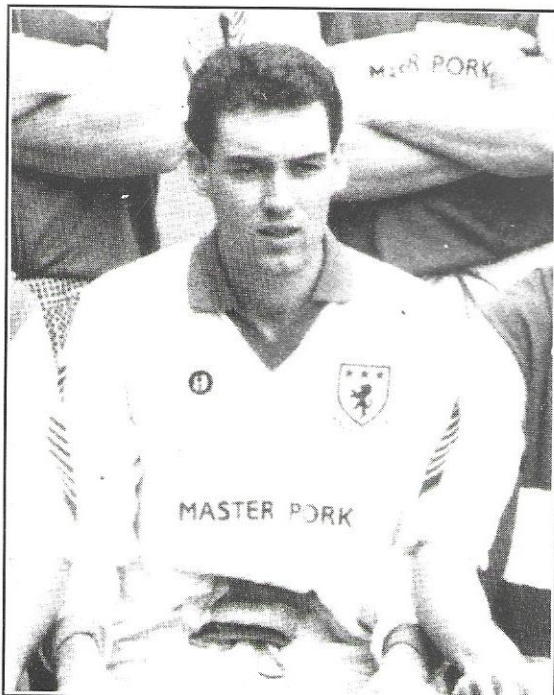
Really, objections based on the above grounds, basically had their roots in the reluctance to change tradition. This then begs the question that, although tradition plays a very prominent role in our games, how compelling is tradition in itself, as an argument against introducing change in the playing and administration of Gaelic Games?

When the open draw debate was in progress, the best arguments against its introduction came from some of the players of from the stronger counties. Their argument was that they had gained a seeded position because of their success on the field, which they had to work very hard to achieve. This is a very reasonable, and a very understandable argument from their point of view, but really it is a 'chicken or the egg' situation i.e. players in the less successful counties have also worked hard and made sacrifices, but they were competing against the stronger counties from a position whereby the structure of the competition favoured the strong. Therefore, it has been very difficult for counties to make a breakthrough, with Offaly being the notable exception of the last 20 years. It will be interesting to see if, over the course of time, there is a levelling off in standards as a result of the open draw. I think that there will.

Other Developments

Apart from the open draw, some of the other developments arising in this year's championship are:-

- (1) Increased focus on the standard of refereeing. While this area is a dangerous one to comment on, in spite of all the personal attacks on referees. I feel that the nature of the refereeing 'problem' lies more in the system of appointment of referees, and in the lack of clarity in the rules, rather than in inadequacies among individuals.
- (2) Sponsorship and Supporters Clubs - I think these are very welcome, as the cost of training inter county team these days is very high and the advent of supporters clubs and sponsors takes a lot of pressure off county boards, many of which are struggling financially, and depend a lot on the good will of the general public to support their fund raising ventures, a point which can be emphasised to the individuals in Croke Park responsible for fixing admission charges.



Tony McMahon made some excellent saves for Laois during the Leinster Championship

COMMON "INJURIES" IN GAELIC FOOTBALL

By Amy Johnson, Physiotherapist to Irish Compromise Rules Team 1986, 1987 and 1990

In my 20 years experience of treating sports injuries the most 'frustrating' injuries in Gaelic Football would appear to be (a) hamstring tears and strains (b) groin strains and (c) lower abdominal muscle tears. Hamstring tears are one of the most infuriating injuries in that once you tear a hamstring - the probability is that you will continue to have hamstring problems for the rest of your playing career. One of the reasons why hamstring tears seem to recur is that players fail to realise is that when a muscle is torn it loses both flexibility and strength.

Let me briefly explain what happens when a hamstring muscle tears. The muscle originates from your hip bone (the part you sit on). It fans out in three parts and is inserted into the top of the back of your shin bone. The function of the hamstring is to bend your knee. The strength of the hamstring is ideally meant to be equal to 2/3 the strength of your quadriceps (the muscle on the front of your thigh). Most of your training strengthens the quads - with little emphasis on the strengthening of the hamstrings.

What happens when a muscle tears?

- (a) the fibre actually ruptures
- (b) blood vessels also rupture and the blood oozes and seeps into the tissues
- (c) an actual 'gap' forms between the torn muscle fibre ends
- (d) this gap is eventually closed by means of 'scar' tissue formation
- (e) scar tissue is not nearly as elastic as muscle - therefore the torn area of the muscle is much tougher and tighter than the original untorn muscle fibres.

The result is that the muscle heals up tighter and shorter than it was originally. The other thing to remember is that a tear in a major muscle usually means that you may develop a protective limp for a few days while healing takes place. Within 24 hours of healing - the muscle actually begins to lose **power and strength** - as other

muscles take over to compensate for the torn muscle. Therefore it is very important to remember that the slightest muscle tear (i.e. strain) must be **gently and carefully** stretched to regain full flexibility **and** the muscle must also be re-strengthened with specific strengthening exercises for the muscle. Remember that simply returning to normal training doesn't strengthen that muscle specifically.

I've been monitoring **how, when** and **why** people seem to be tearing hamstrings. I would say the most common reason for tearing hamstrings are;

(a) the last sprint of a training session - when - presumably - a player is giving his all in a final 'do or die' effort to win the last sprints!! regardless of how tired he feels - simply 'cos it is the last sprint. You must remember than when fatigue sets in - nothing is functioning as efficiently as it at the beginning of the season.

(b) Another common time to injure a hamstring is if you arrive late for training session and you haven't done any 'warm up'.

(c) Footballers often tear hamstrings if they suddenly slip slide on very wet grass.

(d) Another time they 'go' is on the 'turn' in a shuttle run - again probably when fatigue is beginning to set in.

(e) Carrying another player on your back is a very common way of tearing.

(f) Sometimes pain in the hamstring is not indicative of a hamstring tear. Pain in the hamstring can be referred from the lower back so it is very important to have your back checked if you have a hamstring problem - especially if the problem continues.

When a player tears a hamstring for the **first** time - it's very important to have **professional** advice. The first 24 hours after the tear is the time you must do the correct thing, i.e. (1) rest, (2) anti-inflammatories, (3) ice, (4) elevate, (5) bandage and (6) don't unnecessarily walk on it.

Then, if possible, you should have

some physiotherapy treatment to speed up the healing process. Start to very gently stretch the muscle after approximately 48 hours. Remember - the stretching must be within the limits of pain - if you overstretch you will pull on the healing scar tissue and re-open the 'gap' that forms between the torn muscle fibre ends - or worse still - if you go 'overboard' - you will widen the gap even more.

Returning to Training

In conclusion you must very gradually stretch the torn muscle and return to training very gradually - remembering - that you should be able to walk and go up and down stairs without any trace of a limp before you can start jogging. Then you progress to gently jogging at a very slow pace. Then step by step gradually increase you pace from 50% to 90% and include some 'zig-zag' running. This type of training should be done on your own and you shouldn't join in on a full training session 'till you feel you can sprint on it. **Tip:** remember - the 'turn' in shuttle running is one of the hardest things on a hamstring tear and a groin strain. So, do 'gentle pace' shuttle runs on your own the first night. the last thing your 99% recovered hamstring or groin muscle will tolerate is short shuttle runs. Many a hamstring has **re-torn** doing same. I presume in this day and age - everybody knows how to stretch their hamstring properly. Remember - that after injury you should initially stretch the injured area only one way - with caution and a great deal of control. In my opinion, the way to stretch with maximum control is the following way:

Starting Position

Lying on back with the good leg straight and the injured knee bent. Grasp your thigh with your two hands - gently bring your thigh in contact with you chest. Holding your thigh in this position - then gently

..... **Continued**

stretch out your lower leg till you feel a 'gentle' stretch on the tear area. Hold for 30 seconds and repeat x 6. the mistake everyone makes doing this exercise is not keeping the thigh in contact with the chest while stretching out the lower leg. Remember to always stretch the good leg first to get the 'feel' of what it is like to stretch the normal leg. Only stretch gradually and never force a stretch.

Easy strengthening exercises can be done initially by (a) pulling you injured leg's heel against your other toe - as in trying to pull off a tight welly !! You can do the same by pulling the injured heel in to the leg of a chair or table. Another way to pressurise and strengthen the hamstring is to sit with your foot planted firmly on the floor and attempt to pull your foot back towards you, without actually allowing your foot to move. Put your hand on your hamstrings and feel them contracting. You can then progress to tying ankle weights round your ankle and stand side ways on the last step of the stairs with the injured side free - then do a cycling action. Cycling is also a good exercise for a recovering hamstring - as is swimming.

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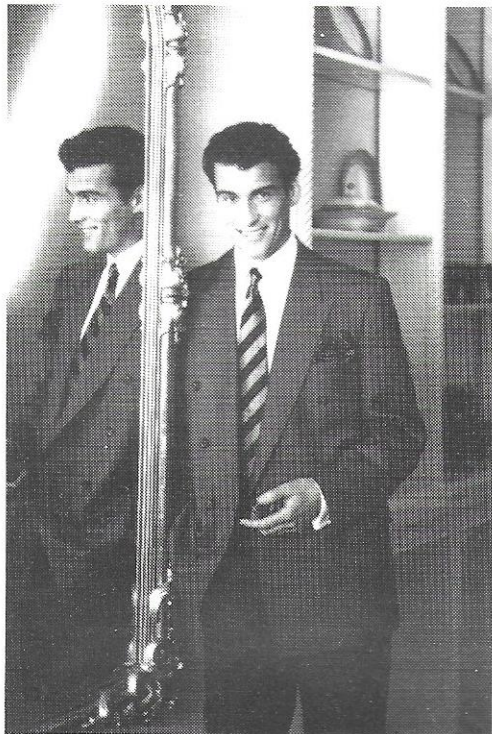
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TO REFEREE OR NOT TO REFEREE...

By: Joe Woods

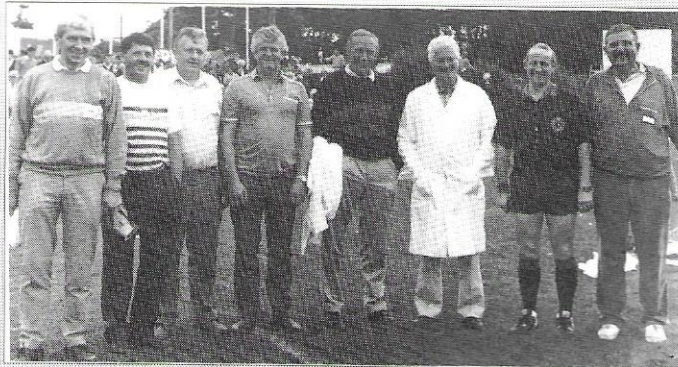


The summer of 1991 will assume in time a special significance in Gaelic football folklore. Just as the army of volunteers who fought with Pearse in the General Post Office in Easter Week 1916 grew and grew with each succeeding generation to the point that very few families in Ireland had not unearthed a great grandfather who acquitted himself with the distinction amid the burning rafters and molten lead and the flying shell from the Helga as it peppered O'Connell Street from its vantage point on the Liffey, so the numbers who were in attendance in Croke Park not only for one but also for all the Dublin / Meath confrontations which characterised the return of the "open draw" experiment in Leinster will mushroom in time, fertilised by athletic imaginations and the need to assume a mark of identity that attendance at all episodes of those Herculean struggles will confer. The lounges and bars of Ireland may expect the emergence of an ant hill of Niall Tobin and David Kelly look-alikes who will narrate to enthralled audiences personalised perspectives of the more memorable incidents of matches which they never attended.

The Summer of 1991 will also be remembered for the amount of media attention directed to the control of our

games and in particular the amount of interest which has been shown in the performance (if indeed this is the appropriate word) of the referee.

The critical role of the referee which has for so long gone unnoticed and, perhaps, taken for granted has now attracted almost as much notice as the individual performances of the star players whose names are now part and parcel of the chit-chat of the bus queues of the City and also the dining tables of the more fashionable restaurants countryside.



Johnny Maloney, Thomas O'Reachtaire & Kevin Walsh, with referees from last years Sevens.

The anonymity which traditionally characterised the role of our best referees has now been replaced with a spotlight position which almost warrants as much comment upon his handling of the game as the individual performances of any one of the thirty players who commence the match. The

ultimate acknowledgement of this changed situation must surely be the regularity with which questions concerning the identity of the referee of particular championship encounters now characterise pub quiz competitions from Derry to Kerry.

A healthy interest in all aspects of the game is to be welcomed and the greater interest shown in peripheral and marginal aspects of the game can be both illuminating and refreshing. Comment upon the pressure on wives and girlfriends can attract a degree of empathy and interest from others similarly placed and human dimension articles tend to break down the sense of isolation which success and stardom can attract.

However, when it comes to comment upon referees the one unifying and persistent factor which permeates most articles is the singular inappropriateness of all those men in black for the task before them and for which most have only spent half a lifetime studying, training and preparing. Years of development within the game,

the lonely years of travelling and officiating at all levels within the County and throughout the Country have by almost universal acclamation ill-equipped those involved to satisfactorily execute their assignments. Refereeing would now appear to be the only pursuit where those who

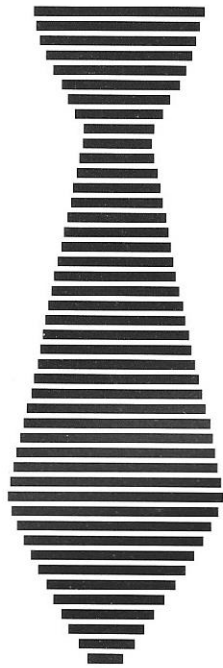
have invested their time and energy so generously are least qualified to carry out the task in hand. Partisan supporters and media commentators would appear to be possessed of insights which have escaped the administrators of our games.

Where comment is made upon refereeing standards invariably it is of a negative nature. Even when positive comment is made in specific instances it is usually couched with caveats on the general standard. Paddy Collins who is probably still the best referee around must surely at this stage have reservations about his name and reputation being used to undermine the confidence and self esteem of every other referee in the Country. Paddy Collins would no doubt be the first to come to the defence of his fellow "knights of the whistle" but the perception persists and is actively animated that there are no worthy successors ready to assume the mantle that Paddy has worn with honour and distinction for so long.

If the process of referee bashing is not reversed soon the prospects for attracting entrants of calibre and ability into the ranks will be greatly diminished. Unbalanced and negative comment on refereeing will only perpetrate the perceived running sore by discouraging the committed and inhibiting the interested. This is in no way to suggest that refereeing should be treated as a no-go area for media commentators. Indeed, refereeing should attract more comment, but comment of a positive and encouraging nature. Referees are human. Most have wives and children who also suffer under the impact of the unconcerned media scribe. Pity it is that refereeing which may well deserve criticism is rarely balanced by positive comment and acknowledgement when it is merited. Good refereeing today is unfortunately met by apathy and stony silence.

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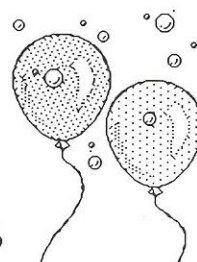
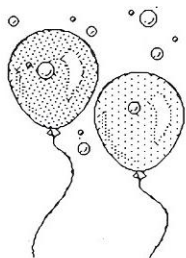
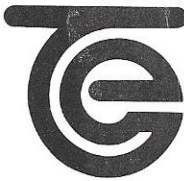
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Under the terms of the agreement, Telecom Eireann will be associated with R.T.E.'s "Sports Stadium" and "The Sunday Game" programmes.

Among the uses to which the G.A.A. is putting its share of the proceeds is to help fund its Games Development Programme, a major portion of which is an initiative involving the appointment of regional games development officers.

TELECOM EIREANN CHAMPIONSHIPS

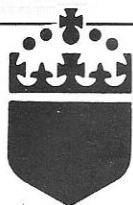
As part of Telecom Eireann's ongoing commitment to our National Games the Telecom Eireann Inter District Gaelic Football Championship was revived in Castlebar last year. The 1990 final was held in McHale Park, Castlebar with Kerry emerging victorious. This year's championship in Killarney was superbly organised with Cork overcoming Drogheda in the final at Fitzgerald Stadium.

TELECOM MAN OF THE MATCH

With the excitement of this year's championships Telecom Eireann are also delighted to sponsor the Man of the Match awards. These awards are in recognition of the skill, courage and commitment which has caught the public's imagination this Summer

The winners of the Telecom Eireann Man of the Match awards are:

5th May John O'Leary	Dublin	7th July Jim Cashman	Cork
12th May Roy Mannion	Offaly	14th July Liam McHale	Mayo
19th May Gary Kirby	Limerick	21st July Maurice Fitzgerald	Kerry
26th May Ger Cush	Wexford	21st July Damien Byrne	Dublin
2nd June Liam Hayes	Meath	21st July John Leahy	Tipperary
9th June Barney Rock	Dublin	28th July John Newton	Roscommon
16th June Pa Dennehy	Kerry	28th July Greg Blaney	Down
23rd June Jack Sheedy	Dublin	4th August Cormac Bonner	Tipperary
30th June D.J. Carey	Kilkenny	10th August Eamon Morrissey	Kilkenny
30th June M.J. Ryan	Dublin	11th August Mickey Linden	Down
6th July Brian Stafford	Meath	18th August Tommy O'Dowd	Meath



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CLUB TEAMS WITH GOOD RECORD

By: Seamus McCluskey

Monaghan club teams have always been able to hold their own when they go outside the county and the names of Scotstown and Castleblayney Faughs players have been household names throughout the country. Nudie Hughes and Eamonn McEaney from the Castleblayney side and Gerry McCarville and Eugene Sherry from the Scotstown club are as well known in Connacht, Munster and Leinster as they are in Ulster or Monaghan.

Scotstown proved themselves the dominant club in the North throughout the eighties and have four Ulster titles to prove it - 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1989 - while the Faughs notched up one title win in 1986. Amazingly, the Scotstown men made their exit from the 1991 Monaghan Senior Football Championship race at an extremely early stage when they were surprisingly well beaten by a totally unfancied Donaghmoynce team. The Fontenoys really had the Blues on the proverbial rack in the opening half and it took a tremendous second-half rally from Scotstown to put a respectable look on the score-board.

Donaghmoynce, in turn, were simply annihilated by Castleblayney Faughs in the semi-final of the Monaghan Championship and the 'Blayney men marched on to meet unusual and unexpected opponents in the County Final where a revitalised Monaghan Harps were making a welcome appearance. The Harps had provided two major surprises

in the opening rounds when they ousted a fancied Ballybay team in the quarter-final and overcame their neighbours and old friends from Emyvale at the semi-final stage.

Draws were the order of the day in inter-county games this year but the 1991 Monaghan Senior Championship provided only one draw in the series leading up to the Final and that was between Castleblayney and Inniskeen, the sides who had contested the previous year's County Final. That was a Final that Inniskeen wanted to avenge as the Faughs winner had been scored by team captain Stefan White, currently with Louth, in the dying seconds. The Grattans, however, could only draw in the first meeting and a rejuvenated Nudie Hughes simply tore them apart in the replay.

The Kilmacud 'sevens' are always eagerly looked forward to by Monaghan teams and the side which represents the county this year will be guaranteed tremendous support from all Monaghan folk, no matter

what their club allegiance, and there is quite a big Monaghan following in the Metropolis. This besides the

fact that the average Monaghan follower will travel any distance just to see a football match.



The Scotstown team which includes senior players Gerry McCarville & Ray McCarron reached the quarter final in last year's Sevens.

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RESULTS

ALL IRELAND FINALS

Under-21 Football:

Tyrone 4-16 : Kerry 1-5
at Newbridge

Under-21 Hurling:

Galway 2-19 : Cork 4-10

Junior Football:

Kerry 2-14 : London 0-5 at London

Junior Hurling:

Tipperary 2-13 : Kilkenny 0-10
at Croke Park

"HOME" FINAL

Junior Football:

Kerry 1-15 : Meath 0-12
at Croke Park

ALL IRELAND SEMI-FINALS

Senior Football:

Down 2-9 : Kerry 0-8
Meath 0-15 : Roscommon 1-11

Senior Hurling:

Tipperary 3-13 : Galway 1-9
Kilkenny 2-18 : Antrim 1-19

Under-21 Football:

Kerry 2-7 : Meath 1-6
Tyrone 4-13 : Leitrim 2-7

Minor Hurling:

Kilkenny 0-15 : Derry 2-6
Tipperary 2-15 : Galway 1-13

Junior Hurling:

Kilkenny 2-16 : Galway 1-10
Tipperary 3-19 : Armagh 0-4

Minor Football:

Cork 0-12 : Donegal 1-6
Mayo 1-12 : Kildare 2-3

NOTE: No junior football semi-final as only Leinster and Munster promote provincial championships in this grade.

ALL IRELAND QUALIFYING GAMES

Senior Hurling:

Antrim 5-11 : Westmeath 1-5 at Dundalk

Minor Football:

Donegal 5-24 : Warwickshire 2-3

ALL-IRELAND

"B" HURLING FINAL

Westmeath 2-12 : London 2-6 at Mullingar

ALL IRELAND

"B" "HOME" FINAL

Westmeath 3-10 : Carlow 0-12 at Croke Park

PROVINCIAL FINALS

CONNACHT:

Senior Football:

Mayo 0-14 : Roscommon 0-14 DRAW at Castlebar

Roscommon 0-13 : Mayo 1-9

REPLAY at Roscommon

Under-21 Football:

Leitrim 1-7 : Galway 0-9

Minor Football:

Mayo 4-9 : Leitrim 0-6

1001 Results Summary

By Owen McCann

The following is a summary of the results of the principal games during the year in the championships and Leagues, interprovincial and All Ireland Club and Colleges' up to the time of going to press.

LEINSTER:

Senior Football:

Meath 1-11 : Laois 0-8

Senior Hurling:

Kilkenny 1-13 : Dublin 1-11 at Croke Park

Under-21 Football:

Meath 0-9 : Wicklow 1-5

Under-21 Hurling:

Offaly 2-10 : Kilkenny 0-12

Junior Football:

Meath 1-10 : Dublin 1-10 DRAW

Meath 1-14 : Dublin 2-2 REPLAY

Junior Hurling:

Kilkenny 3-12 : Wexford 2-6

Minor Football:

Kildare 2-8 : Dublin 0-12

Minor Hurling:

Kilkenny 1-20 : Laois 0-4

MUNSTER

Senior Football:

Kerry 0-23 : Limerick 3-12 at Killarney.

Senior Hurling

Cork 4-10 : Tipperary 2-16 DRAW at Pairc Uí Chaoimh

Tipperary 4-19 : Cork 4-15 REPLAY at Thurles

Under-21 Football:

Kerry 1-8 : Cork 0-10

Under-21 Hurling:

Cork 0-17 : Limerick 1-7

Junior Football:

Kerry 1-12 : Waterford 3-4

Junior Hurling:

Tipperary 4-13 : Cork 5-10 DRAW

Tipperary 2-20 : Cork 0-11 REPLAY

Minor Football:

Cork 0-10 : Kerry 0-8

Minor Hurling:

Tipperary 3-13 : Limerick 1-5

ULSTER

Senior Football:

Down 1-15 : Donegal 0-10 at Clones

Senior Hurling:

Antrim 3-14 : Down 3-10

Under-21 Football:

Tyrone 3-10 : Down 0-8

Under-21 Hurling:

Antrim 2-19 : Down 2-6

Junior Hurling:

Armagh 2-7 : Fermanagh 1-4

Minor Football:

Donegal 1-10 : Tyrone 1-19

Minor Hurling:

Derry 3-10 : Antrim 2-11

ROYAL LIVER

NATIONAL LEAGUES

FINALS

Football:

Dublin 1-9 : Kildare 0-10 at Croke Park

Hurling:

Offaly 2-6 : Wexford 0-10 at Croke Park

IARNROD EIREANN CUPS

Football:

Ulster 1-11 : Munster 1-8 at Croke Park.

Hurling:

Connacht 1-13 : Munster 0-12 at Croke Park

ALL IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINALS

Football:

Lavey, Derry 2-9 : Salthill, Galway 0-10 at Croke Park

Hurling:

Glenmore, Kilkenny 1-13 : Patrickswell, Limerick 0-12 at Croke Park

TOURNAMENT FINALS

FOOTBALL

Dr. McKenna Cup:

Donegal 0-11 : Tyrone 1-6 at Omagh

O'Byrne Cup:

Laois 0-13 : Wicklow 0-10 at Portlaoise

McGrath Cup:

Limerick 1-16 : Tipperary 1-13 at Thurles.

HURLING

Walsh Cup:

Laois 2-12 : Kilkenny 1-12 at Kilkenny

ALL IRELAND COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Football:

St. Faethna's, Skibbereen 2-9 : St. Patrick's,

Navan 0-7 at Croke Park

Hurling:

St. Flannan's, Ennis 1-15 :

St. Kieran's, Kilkenny 1-9 at Thurles

SEVENS

Feast of Football

By Tony McManus

(Roscommon & Clan na Gael)

The eve of the All-Ireland is always the day I associate with the Kilmacud Sevens. The Sevens is not only a feast of football but it is a great gathering place on the most important weekend in football in the country. Whether one is knocked out early in the competition or whether one progresses to the latter stages, I have experience of both, an enjoyable day is usually the end result.

We won the sevens in 1989 and it will always rank as a very enjoyable experience. Every year however I hope I will not be able to play in the Sevens because of an important engagement in Croke Park on the following day.

I would like to congratulate the Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club for the great organisation of the sevens and the many years of enjoyment they have given to me and many others, but I had hoped to

be otherwise engaged this year but it was not to be! ■



Disappointed at losing the All-Ireland semi-final to Meath but hoping to compensate by winning another All-Ireland Sevens medal with Clan Na nGael

PLAYER PROFILE

Name:

Tony McManus

Date of Birth:

14/4/57

Height:

5'11"

Weight:

13 Stone 7 lbs

Club:

Clan na nGael

County:

Roscommon

Place of Work:

Longford District Veterinary Office

Honours:

1 National Leagus; 1 All Ireland U-21; 5 Connaught Senior Championships; 12 County titles; 7 Connaught Club titles; 3 Sigerson medals.

Inter County Debut Versus:

Dublin 1976 League

Where:

Roscommon

Toughest Opponent:

Stephen O'Brien

Favourite Grounds:

Hyde Park, Roscommon

Sporting Ambition:

To win an All-Ireland Final

Do you play any other sports?:

Golf and Indoor Soccer

Favourite Player at Present:

Val Daly

Biggest Influence on Career:

Clan na nGael Club

Any Dislikes about GAA:

The fact that the players probably have less money when preparing for big games. I would think that some Meath & Dublin players were out of pocket preparing for those 4 matches.

Ways of Improving Game:

More refereeing courses with players having an input into refereeing standards.

Best Game Seen:

1982 All-Ireland Final Offaly v Kerry

Best Game Played In:

1980 All Ireland Semi Final v Armagh

Ambitions:

To win an All Ireland Final and to win an All Ireland Club Final.

Profile courtesy of Hogan Stand Magazine

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A new range of Irish-made Gaelic football, hurling and camogie boots from Connolly Sports Ltd., Galway, marketed under the "Cúl" brand name has been launched on the market.

The "Cúl" range has been designed for Irish playing conditions with features adapted to aid the playing of Gaelic games and has been produced to international standards. The "Cúl Hogan" retails at £39.95 and the "Cúl Cúsack" at £29.95.

The launch is being backed by a major marketing campaign aimed at the 300,000 registered players affiliated to more than 2,600 GAA clubs in Ireland and the company's first year target is a market share of 10%.

Connolly Sports Ltd. has impressive credentials for marketing Irish sports products. The company's marketing director is Joe Connolly who captained the winning All-Ireland hurling team which, in 1980, won the Liam McCarthy Cup for



Pictured at the Launch of "Cúl", a new range of Irish-made Gaelic football and hurling and camogie boots from Connolly Sports Ltd., Galway held at the Irish Goods Council in May, Mr Terry Leyden, T.D., Minister for Trade and Marketing (right), with (left to right), Barney Rock, Brian Mullins and Paddy Cullen.

Galway for the first time in 57 years. He is one of seven famous Connolly hurling brothers who won county and All Ireland club championship with their Castlegar club. Four of the

brothers (Joe, John, Pádríc and Michael) won All Ireland medals in the historic 1980 win.

Another generation of Connolly brothers were at the launch to offer their expert opinion on the new "Cúl" range - Joe Connolly's five sons: Paul (11), Brian (8), James (6), Barry (4) and Joe (2).

Connolly Sports was established in 1981 and manufactures a range of sportswear and leisurewear. With an emphasis on product quality and customer service, the company sells to sports and tourist outlets throughout the country and provides custom manufacture for companies and clubs.

Connolly Sports is committed to export development in the near future to take advantage of new business opportunities offered by the Single European Market. It intends to develop a specialist range of boots, similar to "Cúl", for the Irish, U.K. and other European rugby and soccer markets. ■



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PLAY UNTIL YOU DROP!

By Paddy Cullen

Oh! To be able to play 7-A-Side again. Oh! to be able to play football again!

My only contribution to the physical side of the game now is participating in charity games, etc., played at a pace that would be termed slow! However, it's still nice to tog out.

Speaking of togging out, I'm still at it, with the Dublin Football team, this time in the managerial role, who would have ever guessed I would wind up in this position.

There is vast difference in playing and managing. Tension never leaves your system. The same tension was there when playing, but once on the field it was played out of the

body. Now it there before, during and after, win or lose.

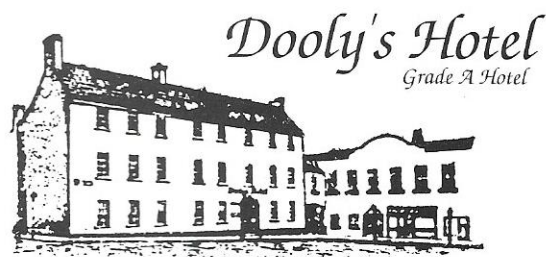
People ask if I enjoy it, the answer is no! But I like it, there is a slight difference.

There is no substitute for playing, so play until you drop!

What a Baptism in 1991, League Champions and then the Meath Marathon! It just wasn't meant to be, that's the only answer to the unanswered question.

I see they have brought the series out on video. It will certainly not be in my collection of favourites!

I hope in '92 that my fellow selectors and myself, and of course the team, can reward all of the people who enjoyed our stint in '91.



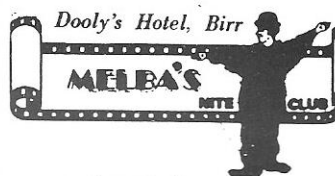
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The Dublin Senior Footballers who were involved in a titanic struggle with Meath in this year's Leinster Championship: Back row left to right, Charlie Redmond, Declan Sheehan, Paul Bealin, John O'Leary, Mick Deegan, Gerry Hargan, Mick Galvin, Keith Barr and Jack Sheedy. Front row from left, Paul Clarke, Mick Kennedy, Tommy Carr, Nial Guider, Eamon Heary and Paul Curran.



MENTAL PREPARATION

By **Brendan Hackett B.A. (Phys. Ed.) M.I.P.T.I.**

"They froze, they didn't believe in themselves, they let it slip, the others had a greater will to win, you can't beat experience".

How often do we hear phrases like these about games, teams or individuals. They all refer to the mental qualities or skills. Nobody will dispute their importance to teams in Gaelic games, but how are they developed in players. The assumption very often among manager, coaches and supporters is that a players should have all these qualities but I would contend that very few players do.

Mental skills such as self confidence, concentration and the ability to control anxiety are similar to physical skill in many ways. Physical skills such as catching, kicking and shooting develop over years. Certainly individuals have different innate qualities, that, all things being equal, will mean they become more skillful players. So too with mental skills. Some people seem to be born more confident than others but as with physical skill it is our environment that plays the largest role in skill development.

Let us look at how our environment influences the development of physical skills. Teachers, coaches, parents, friends exert both good and bad influences on us. Encouragement, teaching, practicing, playing all help

develop skills. Many people can look back on their childhood and remember people and situations that exerted positive and negative influences on their skill development. It is widely accepted that teaching and coaching largely improve physical skills. This provides the direction and the player provides the practice. In the past players spent a great deal of time practicing mainly as their principle form of recreation. They were guided by what they saw from other players and helpful hints from people here and there.

Today physical skills are learned in the same way even though the environment may be slightly different. Teachers and coaches still provide the direction and players practice the skills. Most of the practice takes place at training sessions where the whole team is practicing together. It is accepted by everybody within sport that physical skills get better by coaching and practicing and nobody bats an eyelid at individuals or teams practicing or trying to get better.

The situation is not similar with mental skills. They are somehow assumed to be present in players and therefore the idea of teaching and practicing to

develop them as with physical skills is never considered.

Various influences in a players career affect the mental skills already mentioned. Briefly let us look at each of these skills.

These are just an example of the many mental skills that play a part in sport by these three were chosen because of their importance in Gaelic games.

(1) Confidence

It is very difficult to achieve anything in sport unless one has the belief that they have the ability and work done. Past success, encouragement and plenty of practice act as a positive influence on a players self confidence. Failure, criticism, lack of organisation and apathy can affect self confidence negatively. Is it any wonder that the strong counties in Gaelic football seem to produce more confident players and the weaker counties never seem to have confidence when most needed. A player growing up in Kerry for example sees success throughout his playing years, he is encouraged to practice if he makes the county minors he achieves success usually, he is probable under the guidance of a previous All Ireland winner. The player from the weaker county hears plenty of criticism, there is little incentive to practice and he probable experiences the first of many failures when he begins to make a county team.

(2) Concentration

When we talk about concentration in football we really mean attention. Obviously the better able a player is to focus his attention (concentration) on the relevant cues in a game more likely he is to play to his potential. The problem with most people is that (a) they focus on the wrong cues such as their own mistakes, the score, how long is left, the referee or their opponent, and (b) they can't hold their focus for long enough periods. A players focus should always be on his task. Concentration in itself is worthless if it is not focused on the right thing.

(3) Anxiety

Most people are aware of the scale of anxiety a player can experience. At the lowest end of the scale it can be boredom, disinterest, to the highest point of the scale which is over tense, too hyped up, leading to "freezing". Each player has his own optimum level of tension that he must reach to perform well. People associated with teams must recognise this. Hence the big psych up in the dressing room doesn't work for all the players either does a laid back approach.

How can players develop these skills. The first step is awareness. Either on their own or better still guided by manager or coach, players should be encouraged to explore and talk about their own experience of these skills. There can be no change until a player is aware how he rates on each of these skills. This process takes time and because it means a player talking about himself and possibly admitting weaknesses it should be handled carefully and sensitively.

After an awareness period the player hopefully will want to improve these skills. Unfortunately there is very little help available to players as coaches do not know what to do in many cases. However, the situation is changing. Books on sport psychology are more easily accessible and personnel are beginning to study this area of sport preparation. I am currently undertaking a Masters Degree in Sports Psychology with the help of the inaugural GAA scholarship scheme.

There is a course for sports people and coaches being run within the next fortnight and information can be obtained by phoning (01) 6244551. This is an introductory course on developing mental skills and will prove invaluable to all participants. It is proposed to run the course one night per week for eight weeks but if there is sufficient demand a weekend course will be organised.

Brendan Hackett, is manager of the Offaly senior football team

1991 Belongs to Mourne Men

By Brian McAvoy

It had been a barren decade for the footballers of Down, ten barren years since the Anglo-Celt Cup last found a resting place among the foothills of the Mournes. As the 1991 Ulster Championship campaign approached there was nothing to suggest that this would be the year in which it was making its long overdue return to Down. The men in Red and Black had been relegated to Division two of the National Football League following a disastrous winter campaign in which they won only one game, trouncing neighbours and great rivals Armagh in Pairc In Iuir in early December. Although Down did register a creditable draw against Meath at Pairc Tailteann, sickening defeats at the hand of Dublin and Kerry in post-Christmas matches only served to paint a gloomy outlook for Down football. An injury to long serving and highly influential player Ambrose Rodges sustained in a club game ruled him out of any involvement in the Ulster Championship - things were getting even worse. Indeed talk in the county was of the hurlers winning an Ulster Championship while the footballers were hardly even mentioned.

It was time for Peter McGrath and his selectors John Murphy and Barney Treanor to take stock. Down struggled to beat Fermanagh in the Dr. M. Kenna Cup on St. Patrick's Day and a number of additional players were drafted into the panel prior to their meeting with Donegal in the semi-final in this competition at Ballyshannon. Down lost that day by 1-13 to 1-8 and only a handful of supporters were there to see them play. It's a pity for I firmly believe that it was on this day that the present Down team came of age. They matched Donegal for effort and commitment and it was only in the final ten minutes that the fitter Tir Connell lads put daylight between them and their Mourne challengers. From that day on I had a firm belief that if Down reached this years Ulster Final and had Donegal as opponents then Down would win. I was proved right.

Following this game the Down management laid it on the line as to what was required in terms of Championship commitment. Sacrifices would have to be made and if any players felt that he couldn't make them then he could depart now. A number did but what was left was a bunch of players who were fully committed to themselves and to the cause of Down football who would leave no stone unturned

in their bid to bring Down back onto the Gaelic football map.

Down's opening Ulster Championship encounter with Armagh in Newry on June 9th was a none too impressive affair. There was too much tension in the air, both teams had a fear of losing. The extremely wet and windy conditions left things even worse. Down in the end won by two points though their winning margin should have been greater although this was largely due to the fact that they had gone into the game without a recognised free taker.

MAMMOTH FREE

Next it was on to the Athletic Grounds in Armagh to face a Derry side which looked most impressive in defeating Tyrone and Monaghan in earlier rounds. Down were starting to play like a team as they led by seven points with 25 minutes remaining. Then disaster struck. Greg Blaney was sent-off and towering midfielder Liam Austin sustained a groin injury. With Down in disarray Derry saw their opportunity and helped by on Eamon Burns went in front by a single point on two occasions. Down keeper Neil Collins saved a point to keep his side in touch and when Ross Car landed a mammoth free in injury time Down had lived to fight another day.

With Barry Breen operating at midfield for the replay Down were always in control. Indeed they had seven points on the board before Derry scored and although

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Derry had reduced the gap to just two points midway through the second half Down were not going to be caught second time around and in the end won convincingly by 0-14 to 0-9.

Donegal now stood between Down and an Ulster title. The men in Green and Gold were firm favourites and indeed were many peoples tip for All Ireland honours. In Down's favour however was the fact that no team had retained the Ulster title since 1976. Donegal started well but Down kept in touch and when Michael Linden shot Down in front with glorious goal after ten minutes the Mourne men were on their way. With an exhibition of long range point taking Down demolished the men from the North West and enjoyed a seven point interval lead.

Some slovenly shooting after the break by Down gave Donegal a lifeline and they crept back to within four points. Then Neil Collins saved brilliantly from James McHugh and D.J. Kane fly-hacked the rebound to safety and seconds later Barry Breen was pointing at the other end. There was no way back for

Donegal after this. Down were the Ulster Champions.

Down supporters were confident going into the All Ireland semi-final against Kerry, they reassured themselves with the record that Down had never been beaten by Kerry in Championship Football. Despite missing numerous goal opportunities and a penalty by Telecom Eireann 'Man of the Match' Micky Linden, Down proved too strong for Kerry and finished worthy winner on a scoreline of 2-9 to 0-8. Full-forward Peter Withnall gave Kerry full-back Tom Spillane a torrid time and finished the game with 2-1 to his credit.

There is a new pride in the county and it is now fashionable to be seen wearing one of the new style Down jerseys.

The decisive victories over Kerry and Donegal, the skill and mobility of Down's forwards and the record that Down have never been beaten in an All Ireland final must leave Down supporters confident that the Sam Maguire Cup will be crossing the border in September.



Benny Corrigan, Bryansford - Generally regarded as one of the best Sevens players

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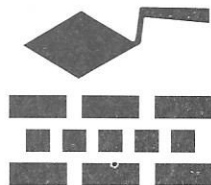
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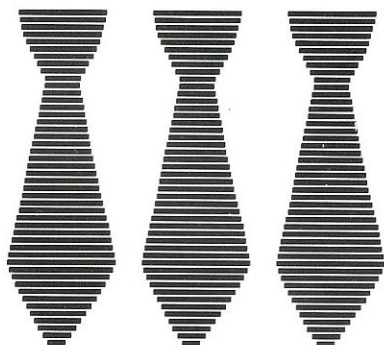
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ULSTER

St. John's (Naomh Eoin) (Antrim)

(Blue and White)

Another strong panel for this year's competition from the Belfast club which include their regular county stars, Michael Darragh and Eddie McToal. Still looking to add a third title to the two they won in '77 and '79, this year could see them achieve their goal.

Panel:

Michael Darragh, Kevin Gough, Eddie McToal, Jim McGuinness, Tony Evans, John Kelly, Paddy Nugent, Turlagh Farram, Jim Wilson, Paddy Hannigan, Andy Healy.

Castlewellan

(Green with White Trim & Black Shorts)

Castlewellan have a great record in Seven-a-side competitions. Winners of the All-Ireland Sevens in 1978 and 1981 and current holders of the New York International Sevens. Martin Laverty, Kevin Owens and Gerard Lynch are members of the Down panel. Castlewellan are managed by former All-Star Colm McAlarney. They will have high hopes for this years Sevens.

Panel:

Frankie Toner, Donal Ward, Conor O'Neill, Brendan Rogers, Maurice O'Neill, Paddy Hardy, Aubery McVeigh, Brian O'Neill, Colm McAlarney (Jnr.), Kieran McCabe, Paul McCabe, Gareth Shields.

St. Eunan's (Donegal)

(Yellow and Black)

The Letterkenny outfit are a good Sevens team and were finalists in the International Sevens in New York in 1989. They were runners up to a St. Vincents team which included Dublin giants Brian Mullins and Bobby Doyle in 1982. Charlie Mulgrew has contributed an excellent article to this publication. Charlie, Paul Carr and Leslie McGettigan are members of the Donegal senior panel.

Panel:

C. Mulgrew, P. Carr, B. Tinney, M. Gibbons, L. McGettigan, J. Higgins, P. McLaughlin, J. Dillon, Declan Donegal.

Sarsfield (Armagh)

(Green and White Hoops)

Founded in 1926, Sarsfield defeated Armagh Harps in the county final last year to win the McKillop Cup for the first time in their 64 year history.

Team mentor Brian McAlinden was Armagh goalkeeper for 17 years while former All-Star Denis Stevenson and current Armagh captain Kieran McGurk will be hoping to make an impression in this years competition.

Panel:

K. McGurk, J. Doran, G. Conway, S. Skelton, D. Skelton, E. Murray, L. Murray, D. Stevenson, D. Murray, M. McAlinden, B. Murphy, M. Reynolds, R. McConville, B. Skelton.

Loughinisland (Down)

(Royal Blue)

Runners up to Mountbellew in the 1987 Sevens, Loughinisland will have strong support this year and could get the weekend of to a winning start for Down supporters. Much will be expected of former Down player Brendan Mason, who was brilliant in the 1987 Sevens tournament, however cousin Gary Mason will be on duty in Croke Park.

Panel:

Sammy Nixan, Ted Nixan, Donald King, Noel McCarthy, Paul Rice, Paul Toman, Colin Mason, Brendan Mason, Michael McGlew, Desmond Mason, Terry O'Toole, Gerard Trainor, Martin O'Neil.

Owen Roe's (Kilcoo) Down

(Black and White)

Panel:

Dan Morgan, Jerome Johnstown, Barney McEvoy, Donal Rogan, Martin Johnstown, Terence O'Hanlon, Jimmy Doherty, Jimmy Devlin, Kevin Kane, Sean Johnstown, Sean Devlin, Noel Doherty, Sean Fitzpatrick.

Glencolmcille (Donegal)

(Green and Gold)

Donegal league and Championship winners in 1990. Strong panel which includes Donegal senior squad members John Joe Doherty, Noel Hegarty and Paddy Hegarty.

Panel:

John Joe Doherty, Noel Hegarty, Paddy Hegarty, Noel Carr, Seamus Carr, Kevin Doherty, Sean Gavigan, Paddy Gavigan, Conal Gavigan, Michael McNellis, Dessie Cunningham, Eugene Doherty, John Paul Curran, Michael McIntyre, Michael Cunningham.

Downpatrick (Russel Gaelic Union)

(Green and White Hoops)

Current Down senior football champions and will be travelling with a very strong panel. The panel includes three sets of brothers; Barry and Jeffery Breen; Conor, Gerard and Gregory Deegan; Anthony and Paul Evans. Barry Breen and Conor Deegan will be playing for Down in the All-Ireland final and will be badly missed. However, the fact that many of the panel have played Senior, Under-21 or Minor for Down should see Downpatrick through to the latter stages.

Panel:

Mal O'Hare, Kyran Smith, Paul Evans, Mark Bohill, Mark Quinn, Jeffrey Breen, Gerard Deegan, Gregory Deegan, Kevin Donnelly, Anthony Evans, Richard Starkey, Harry Rice, Seamus Cahir, Seamus Fitzsimons, T. P. Loudan, Paul Moore, Damien Cambell, Declan Johnson, John Cunningham, Paul Stranney.

Erin's Own, Lavey (Antrim)

(Orange and Black)

All-Ireland Club Champions 1991. Founded in 1926, the club have won 2 county football championships in the last 3 years. Many of the panel listed here, play both football and hurling. Lavey, with county players John McGurk, Colm McGurk, Henry Downey and Seamus Downey, could crown a remarkable year by winning the All-Ireland Sevens.

Panel:

Brendan Reagan, Paddy McGurk, Brian Scullion, John McGurk, Henry Downey, Ciaran McGurk, Fergal Rafferty, Brian McCormick, Colm McGurk, Seamus Downey, Oliver Collins, Don Mulholland.

Omagh St. Enda's (Tyrone)

(White with Black Trims)

Semi-finalists in last years Sevens and will be expecting a good run again this year. Famous names of the past include Paddy Corey (the Iron Man), Jack Taggart, Thaddy Turbitt, and the Donnelly Bros. Their best known players at present are Seanie Myler and Eugene Bradley.

Panel:

Sean McCrory, Sean Myler, Sean Healy, Kenny Clarke, Mickey Flanagan, Eugene Bradley, Garreth McGirr, Kieran McBride, Emylon McGale, Paul Woodhead, Liam Turbitt, Conor McQuaid, Tony McGinn and Eddie Duffy.

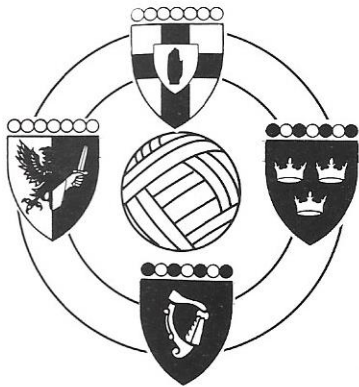
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St. Margarets, Dublin
Round Towers, Dublin

ACC Festival Plaque
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Valley Rangers, Dublin
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Leinster juvenile football received a great boost when in the Summer of '89 new competitions for players of under twelve years of age were introduced in Dublin. Now with the blessing of the Dublin County Board and Leinster Council, a feast of football is laid on over the last weekend in June each year for panels of under 12 players from Leinster.

The first ACC Juvenile Football Festival was held in June 1989. It was a great success and the event has gone from strength to strength ever since with the 1991 competition being hosted by St. Jude's GAA club in Templeogue, Dublin.

Along with the ACC Festival Cup, the ACC Festival Trophy, the ACC Festival Shield and the ACC Festival Plaque a new award was introduced in 1990. It was decided to award a "Club of the Festival" prize to the Club which displayed the best standard of sportsmanship, presentation, dress and general behaviour, both on and off the pitch during the weekend. This much coveted title has caused great excitement among all the participating teams.

In 1991 ACC has taken the lead once again with the juvenile development by rewarding the "Club of the Festival" winners with an intensive coaching course which will be led by Paddy Clarke, Leinster Development Officer.

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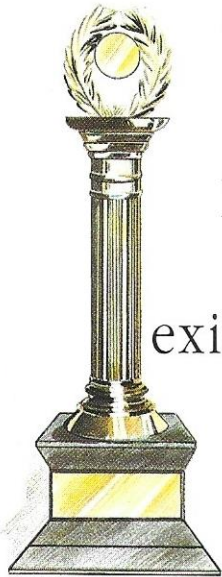
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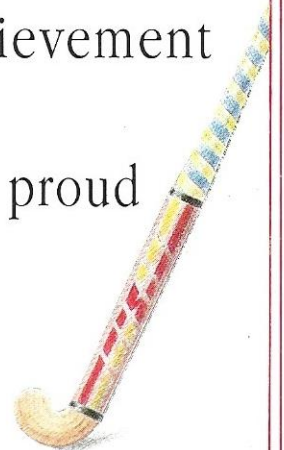
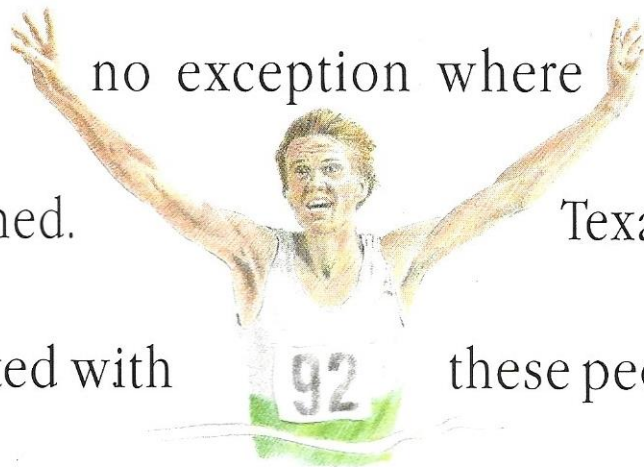
been no exception where achievement

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COMPETITION RULES

1. All games up to and including Quarter Finals except as stated in Rule 15 shall be of 10 mins. each half. Semi Finals and Final shall be of 15 mins. each half.
2. A panel of 9 players must be submitted in duplicate to the Organising Committee before commencement of the first game. Only the players on this panel may be used throughout the competition. Any team using more than 9 players is automatically disqualified.
3. The original team list will be retained by the Organising Committee. A copy of the team list will be sent to the Secretary of the Activities Committee.
4. Substitutions can be made as often as wished but only with the consent of the Referee, and from the centre point of each side line.
5. The ball from the kick-out must travel outside the 21 yard line.
6. Referees are required to submit a report on each game played to the Organising Committee, copy of all contentious reports will be submitted to the Secretary of the Activities Committee within seven days.
7. Any team fielding 15 mins. late is liable to disqualification subject to the decision of the official in charge of the ground.
8. There will be ten groups of 4 teams in each section. They will play each other on a league system.
9. In the event of two or more teams tying on top of a group the team with the best scoring difference shall go forward to the Quarter Finals.
10. The winners of each group shall go forward to the Quarter Finals which will be on a knockout basis.
11. In the event of a draw from the Quarter Final stage, five penalties shall decide the winners of that match using five different players to take the penalties. Goals only to count.
12. Should there be a clash of colours one side, on the toss of a coin, shall wear jerseys supplied by the Organising Committee.
13. The Organising Committee's decision shall be final and binding in all matters relating to this competition.
14. Normal G.A.A. Rules will apply in all other cases, except that the ball may not be played backwards whilst in ones own half.
15. All matches in groups 1,2,3,4, 5 & 6 are 10 minutes each half. All matches in groups in 7, 8, 9, 10 and Round 4 are 8 minutes each half.

Know The Team By It's Colours



GLENALBYN

GROUP 1

Austin Stacks	Kerry	Black & Amber
Castlewellan	Down	Green, White & Black
Roundwood	Wicklow	Navy & Sky Blue
Devenish	Fermanagh	Navy Blue & White

GROUP 2

O'Donovan Rossa	Cork	Red & White
Omagh St. Enda's	Tyrone	White & Black
Sean O'Heslin	Leitrim	Gold & Green
Owen Roe's	Down	Black & White

SILVERPARK

GROUP 3

Castlehaven	Cork	Blue & White Hoops
Loughlinisland	Down	Royal Blue
Glencolmcille	Donegal	Green & Gold
Shamrock Gaels	Sligo	Maroon & White

GROUP 4

Clan Na nGael	Roscommon	Blue & Gold
St. John's	Antrim	Blue & White
St. Mary's	Louth	Blue & White
St. Kieran's	Limerick	Green & Gold

OATLANDS

GROUP 5

Lavey	Derry	Orange & Black
St. Nicholas	Cork	Black & White
Johnstownbridge	Kildare	Green, Blue & White
Downpatrick	Down	Green & White Hoops

OATLANDS

GROUP 6

Bellaghy	Derry	Blue
Portlaoise	Laois	Green & White
Doonbeg	Clare	Black & White
Aughawillan	Leitrim	Blue & Yellow

ST. BENILDUS COLLEGE

GROUP 7

Baltinglass	Wicklow	White & Green
St. Gall's	Antrim	Blue & White
St. Mary's	Sligo	Red & Black
St. Anne's	London	Green, Red & Yellow

GROUP 8

Bryansford	Down	Green, White & Yellow
Tuam Stars	Galway	Red & White
Dungarvan	Waterford	Blue & White
Round Towers	London	Blue & White Hoops

GROUP 9

Kilmacud Crokes	Dublin	Purple & Gold
Naas	Kildare	Blue & White
Sarsfields	Armagh	Green & White Hoop
Hollymount	Mayo	White & Blue Hoop

GROUP 10

Longford Slashers	Longford	Sky Blue
Clonmel Commercials	Tipperary	Green & Gold
St. Eunan's	Donegal	Yellow & Black
Crossmaglen Rangers	Armagh	Black & Amber

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ROUND 1

GROUP 1 GLENALBYN

	Time	Pitch	Score
Austin Stacks v Devenish	11.30	G.1.	
Castlewellan v Roundwood	11.30	G.2.	

GROUP 2 GLENALBYN

O'Donovan Rossa v Owen Roe's	12.00	G.1.	
Omagh St. Enda's v Sean O'Heslin's	12.00	G.2.	

GROUP 3 SILVERPARK

Castlehaven v Shamrock Gaels	11.30	S.1.	
Loughlinisland v Glencolumncille	11.30	S.2.	

GROUP 4 SILVERPARK

Clan na nGael v St. Kieran's	12.00	S.1.	
St. John's v St. Mary's (Louth)	12.00	S.2.	

GROUP 5 OATLANDS

Lavey v Downpatrick	11.30	O.1.	
St. Nicholas v Johnstownbridge	11.30	O.2.	

GROUP 6 OATLANDS

Bellaghy v Aughawillan	12.00	O.1.	
Portlaoise v Doonbeg	12.00	O.2.	

GROUP 7 BENILDUS

Baltinglass v St. Anne's (London)	11.30	B.1	
St. Galls v St. Mary's (Sligo)	11.30	B.2.	

GROUP 8 BENILDUS

Bryansford v Round Towers (London)	11.55	B.1	
Tuam Stars v Dungarvan	11.55	B.2.	

GROUP 9 BENILDUS

Kilmacud Crokes v Hollymount	11.30	B.3.	
Naas v Sarsfields	11.30	B.4.	

GROUP 10 BENILDUS

Longford Slashers v Crosmaglen Rangers	11.55	B.3.	
Clonmel Commercial v St. Eunan's	11.55	B.4.	

ROUND 2

Austin Stacks v Roundwood	12.30	G.1.	
Castlewellan v Devenish	12.30	G.2.	

O'Donovan Rossa v Sean O'Heslin's	1.00	G.1.	
Omagh St. Enda's v Owen Roe's	1.00	G.2.	

Castlehaven v Glencolumncille	12.30	S.1.	
Loughlinisland v Shamrock Gaels	12.30	S.2.	

Clan na nGael v St. Mary's	1.00	S.1.	
St. John's v St. Kieran's	1.00	S.2.	

Lavey v Johnstownbridge	12.30	O.1.	
St. Nicholas v Downpatrick	12.30	O.2.	

Bellaghy v Doonbeg	1.00	O.1.	
Portlaoise v Aughawillan	1.00	O.2.	

Baltinglass v St. Mary's	12.20	B.1	
St. Galls v St. Anne's	12.20	B.2.	

Bryansford v Dungarvan	12.45	B.1	
Tuam Stars v Round Towers	12.45	B.2.	

Kilmacud Crokes v Sarsfield	12.20	B.3.	
Naas v Hollymount	12.20	B.4.	

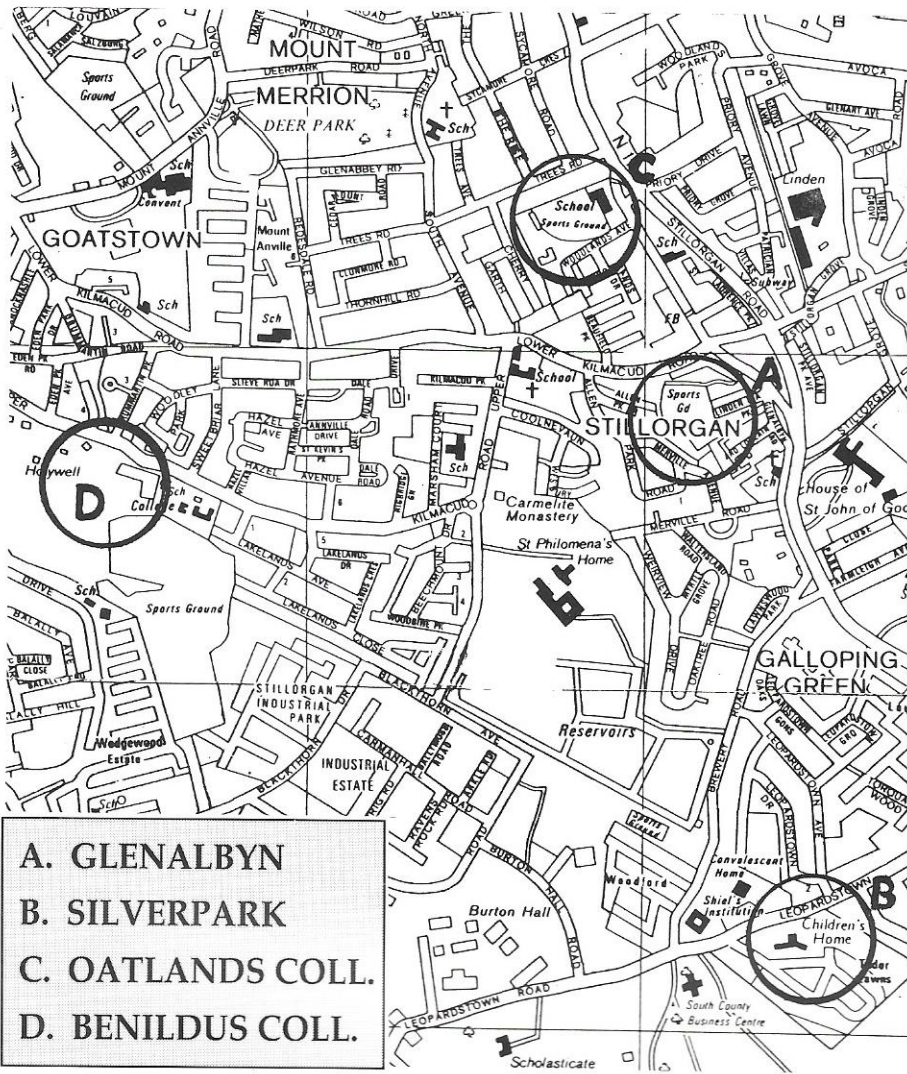
Longford Slashers v St. Eunan's	12.45	B.3.	
Clonmel Comm. v Crosmaglen Rangers	12.45	B.4.	

All matches in groups 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 are 10 minutes each half.

ns at Kilmacud-Crokes

ROUND 3	Time	Pitch	Score	Round 4	1/4 Finals	Semi-Finals	Final
Austin Stacks v Castlewellan	1.30	G.1.					
Roundwood v Devenish	1.30	G.2.					
					3.15 G.1.		
O'Donovan Rossa v Omagh St. Enda's	2.00	G.1.					
Sean O'Heslins v Owen Roe's	2.00	G.2.				4.30 G.1.	
Castlehaven v Loughlinisland	1.30	S.1.					
Glencolumncille v Shamrock Gaels	1.30	S.2.					
					3.15 G.2.		
Clan na nGael v St. John's	2.00	S.1.					
St. Mary's v St. Kieran's	2.00	S.2.					6.30 G.1.
Lavey v St. Nicholas	1.30	O.1.					
Johnstownbridge v Downpatrick	1.30	O.2.					
					3.45 G.1		
Bellaghy v Portlaoise	2.00	O.1.					
Doonbeg v Aughwillan	2.00	O.2.					
						5.00 G.1.	
Baltinglass v St. Galls	1.10	B.1					
St. Mary's v St. Anne's	1.10	B.2.					
					2.30 B.1.		
Bryansford v Tuam Stars	1.35	B.1					
Dungarvan v Round Towers	1.35	B.2.					
						3.45 G.2.	
Kilmacud Crokes v Naas	1.10	B.3.					
Sarsfields v Hollymount	1.10	B.4.					
					2.30 B.2.		
Longford Slashers v Clonmel Slashers	1.35	B.3.					
St. Eunan's v Crossmaglen Rangers	1.35	B.4.					

All matches in groups 7, 8, 9, & 10 are 8 minutes each half.



LOCATION MAP

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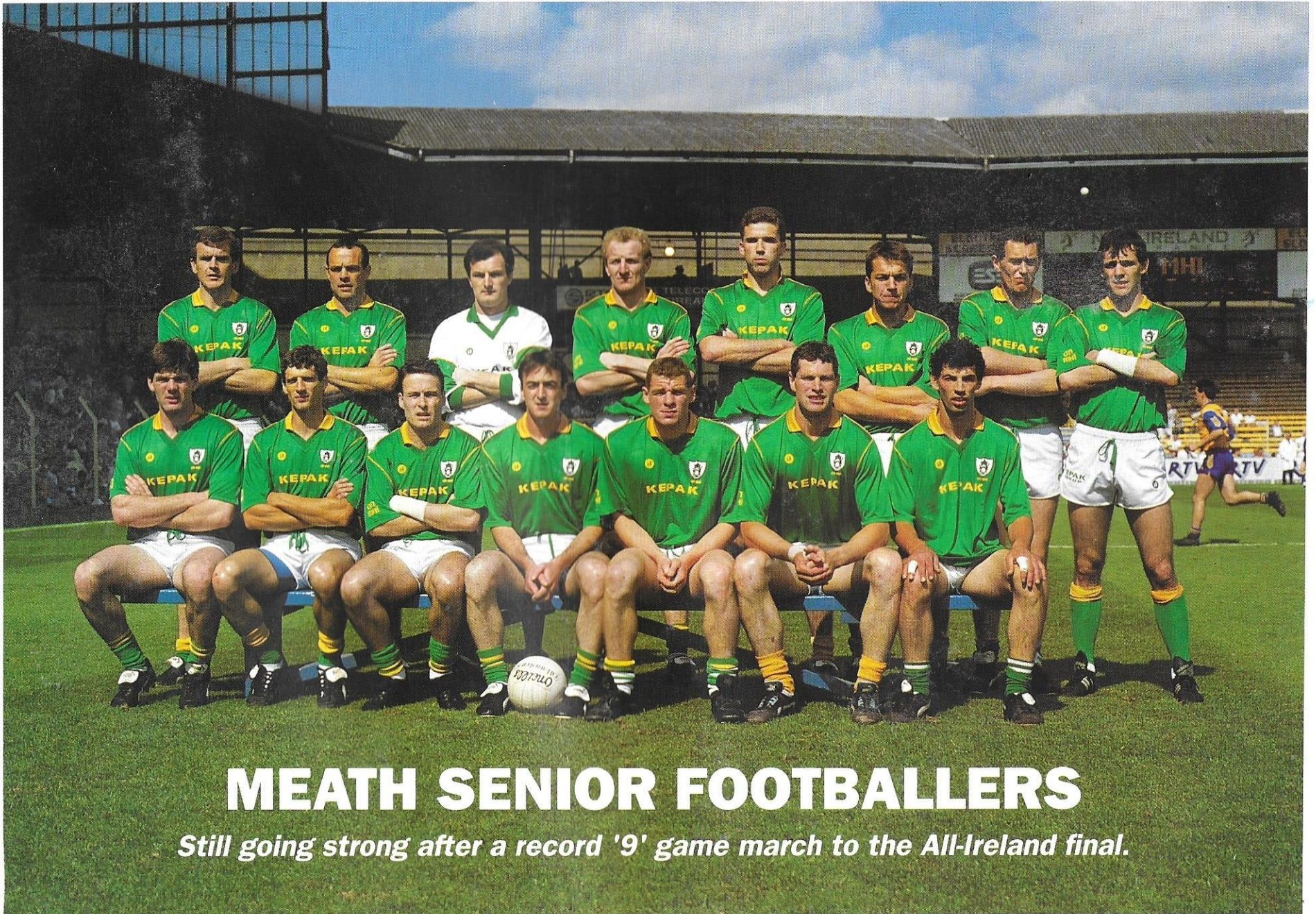
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THE OPEN DRAW

By Donal Keenan, Irish Independent

Normally the world of Gaelic sports journalism is a sedate, happy place. Over a few "jars" debates can become quite heated, but the divergence of opinion on many issues guarantees some excitement.

However, the very mention of "The Open Draw" sends the pulse rates into manic overdrive, pupils dilate, nostrils become inflamed and tempers rage.

Just less than twelve months ago the Leinster and Munster Councils re-kindled the longest running debate in Gaelic games when they decided to run their football championships as an open draw.

Some journalists, Martin Breheny in particular, welcomed the change, and the results of that change in this remarkable year would suggest that the Leinster Council and their Munster counterparts had made a progressive decision which could only improve the game.

And next year when the Munster hurling championship is run on an open draw basis we will have another opportunity to examine the effects.

Last year, however, a number of observers, this correspondent included amongst them, questioned the wisdom of the open draw as introduced by Munster and Leinster. Despite the excitement generated by the Meath/Dublin saga and the novelty of Limerick's appearance in the Munster final, I still reserve judgement.

Yes, the Meath/Dublin situation was extraordinary, one of the great sporting spectacles of the modern era. It generated unprecedented interest in the championship and was invaluable as a promotional exercise for the GAA.

It also led, directly, to another engrossing tie between Meath and Wicklow which had us captivated for two games.

What else did it achieve? Apart from allowing the "weaker" counties a soft passage into the Leinster final, Absolutely nothing.

The reader should consider his/her other memories of the Leinster series. Yes, the disgraceful brawl at the end of the Louth/Laois replay. Maybe one of Stefan White's goals against Kildare. Apart from that, it was a very ordinary year.

The Munster Council clearly showed what they thought of their open draw when they allowed their provincial hurling and football finals to clash on the same Sunday. The football became a secondary competition in their minds when it became an open draw event.

THE WEAKER COUNTIES

The open draw was brought into the provinces by the unification of the "weaker" counties which ensured a majority in favour. It was done to provide an easy passage to the provincial final.

It was claimed that reaching

a provincial final would prove to be the catalyst in a change of fortunes for counties like Laois, Louth, Kildare and Limerick. That is so ridiculous that it is hard to believe it is trotted out as a serious argument.

Kildare appeared regularly in Leinster finals in the seventies and went nowhere; Laois reached a final in the eighties and progressed no further.

What is needed in the weaker counties is a new, progressive, aggressive approach to coaching and to the handling and management of the inter-county teams. Change has been taking place, but too slowly.

Incentives must be provided for the players to work as hard as it is now necessary to achieve the levels of fitness to compete at the top in football and hurling. They must be treated properly. Deluding the players by giving them an easy run to a provincial final is a backward step.

An open draw can only achieve the desired results if it is a seeded draw. Because the provinces in this country are so small, seeding, in effect, would make an open draw impossible.

Which brings up the question of running All-Ireland championship on an open draw

basis and dispensing with the provincial campaigns. This would be the real test of whether or not the weaker counties could eventually compete with the traditional powers. It is the only true test.

When the weaker counties seek means of improving their fortunes, they simply have to look to Meath. In 1985 they had endured sixteen barren years in Leinster. They were then humbled by Laois in the Leinster championship and the future looked very bleak.

Look at them now. Hard work, organisation and persistence made them the leading team of the late eighties. They did not need any favours from an open draw.

Unless the GAA are prepared to introduce the open draw for the entire championship, the provinces should not allow sectional interests detract from the overall good of the game within their areas.

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Panel:

Dermot O'Callaghan, P.P. Ferncombe, G. Beresford, J.J. Ferncombe, M. Ferncombe, D. Lyons, D. Burke, E. Burke, D. O'Connor, D. Dee, T. Hamilton, M. Houlihan, D. McGrath, D. Donnelly, P. Quealy, B. Lyons, M. Sheehan, M. Kelly, J. Meehan, Ml. Ferncombe, P. Power, P. Flynn.

Castlehaven (Cork)

(Blue with White Hoops)

Cork and Munster champions in 1989. They have performed well in the Sevens in the past without their county stars. The addition of Larry Thomkins, Niall Cahalane and John Cleary should make them one of the favourites this year.

Panel:

Larry Thomkins, Niall Cahalane, John Cleary, Michael Maguire, Denis Cleary, Michael Burns, John Maguire, David O'Reagan, Martin O'Mahony, Francis Collins, Edmond Cleary, Liam O'Connell, Patsy Cahalane, Michael O'Brien, Francis Cahalane, Donal McCarthy.

St. Nicholas (Cork)

(Black with White Hoops)

Founded in 1902 and Cork County Champions on five occasions. Their panel includes Ken O'Neill, Cork Under-21 team and Viv Hedderman, All-Ireland winning captain in 1981.

Panel:

D. Ellis, M. Brosnan, J. McAllen, N. Burns, N. Hedderman, D. Fagan, C. Buckley, A. Monaghan, J. Lynch, K. O'Neill, V. Hedderman, M. Galvin, C. Halloran, D. Lucey, M. Hooley.

LEINSTER

Roundwood (Wicklow)

(Navy and Sky Blue)

Roundwood are a team making progress. Won Intermediate championship in 1988 and Under-21 in 1989 and are set to threaten Baltinglass dominance in Wicklow.

Panel:

Brendan Brady, Paul Brady, David Brady, Tom Fee, Donal McGillicuddy, Philip McGillicuddy, Tiernan Hall, Seamus Cullen, Gerry Grehan, Liam Cullen, Conor Doyle, Nicholas Nolan, Seamus Nolan, Josephy Mulloy, Emmet Duffy.

Johnstown Bridge (Kildare)

(Green, Blue and White)

County Kildare champions in 1988 and 1989, Johnstown Bridge have a strong panel and will be expected to come out of their group in this years Sevens.

Panel:

G. Ennis, D. Doran, P.J. Doran, K. Cooney, R. Doran, C. Farrell, P. O'Donoghue, J. O'Donoghue, B. O'Donoghue, D. Kerrigan, N. Kerrigan, P. Farrell, K. Flynn, D. O'Brien, A. Sullivan, T. Kerrigan, K. Dixon.

Portlaoise (Laois)

(Green and White)

Portlaoise are current Laois champions and have one of the finest football traditions in the country. Their panel includes Tom Prendergast, Colm and Gerry Browne who won League medals with Laois in 1986. Prendergast was one of the most exciting forwards in the game in his day.

Panel:

Tom and Noel Prendergast, Colm, Gerry and Des Browne, John Hanniffy, Michael Dalton, Tom Conroy, Cyril Duggan, Michael Lillis, Liam Duggan, Niall Rigney, Carl Lenihan, Jimmy Lewis,

Tony Dunne, Seamus Lawlor, Shane O'Neill, John Keenan, Donal Buckley and Mark Kavanagh.

Longford Slashers (Longford)

(Sky Blue with Dark Blue Togs)

The Slashers won the International Sevens in New York in 1988. Their best known player is Dessie Barry who is a replacement All-Star and a member of Eugene McGee's squad for Compromise Rules Series in Australia last year.

Panel:

Dessie Barry, Leonard Dolan, James Halligan, Fintan Flanagan, Michael McCormack, John Barry, Niall Caslin, James Diffley, Declan Flanagan, Brian Lawlor, Joe O'Reilly, John Martin, G. Clarke.

Naas (Kildare)

(Blue and White)

Club with a proud history, founded in 1887 and Kildare County champions after a lapse of 58 years. 1990 was great year with the club winning 11 titles at various grades. Dara McKeivitt captained Kildare in their fine National League run, Johnny McDonald was also a team member while former Galway star Gay McManus is also on the Kildare panel.

Panel:

Philip McAuley, Martin Kane, Joe Sheridan, Gerry Buggy, Charlie Hill, Niall O'Connor, Terry McDonald, John O'Rourke, Jim Cash, Dara McKeivitt, Gay McManus, Shay Clarke, Robbie Riley, Denis Danagher, Paddy Sheridan, Ray Hanley, Mick Keecans, Johnny McDonald, Brian O'Reilly, Mark Millham, Mark Higgins.

Kilmacud Crokes

(Purple and Gold)

The host club have an amazing record in this competition. Winning in 1983, '88 and '90 and finalists in 1975, '79 and '89. Dermot Maher will play in his eighteenth Sevens tournament this year. Experience should help them reach the latter stages this year.

Panel:

Mick Leahy, Mick Dillon, Dermot Maher, Paul Walsh, Rory Ward, John Sweeney, Mark Duncan, Con Cleary, Tommy Coughlan, Mick Pender, Mick Jones, Tom McEvoy, John O'Boyle.

Baltinglass (Wicklow)

(White and Green)

All-Ireland club champions in 1990. Baltinglass have a very talented and experienced panel including All-Star Kevin O'Brien. Hugh Kenny, Billy Kenny and Robert McHugh.

Panel:

Davy Leigh, Thomas Donohue, Hugh Kenny, Brian Fitzpatrick, Bryan Kilcone, Billy Kenny, Pat Murphy, Raymond Dunne, Paul Kenny, Billy Timmins, Robert McHugh, Liam Morgan, Con Murphy, Anthony Kealy, Kevin O'Brien, Tommy Murphy, Brendan Dooley, Adrian Curry, Tony Mullins, John O'Keefe, Peter Timmins, Tom Fox, Billy Nolan.

St. Mary's, Ardee (Louth)

(Blue & White)

St. Mary's are one of the top clubs in Louth. Current league leaders and league finalists in 1990. The club has provided some great Louth players in the past. St. Mary's players on the 1957 All-Ireland winning team were Patsy Coleman, Jim Roe, Dermot O'Brien, Barney McCoy and Kevin Behan.

Panel:

Dessie Wood, Vinny McCoy, Tommy Kirk, Eamon Cluskey, John Reid, Mark Keenan, Ken Rooney, Pat Callan, Gabriel McKenny, Dermot Duffy, Alan Rooney, Michael Malone, Alan Doherty,

Mickey Rooney, Gary Keenan, Brendan Kerins, Michael Malone, Gerry Rooney, Andrew Callaghan, Brian Coleman, Robert McMullan, Eddie Gray, Brendan Woods.

CONNAUGHT

Shamrock Gaels (Sligo)

(Maroon & White)

Formed in 1972 by the amalgamation of two junior clubs in the Riverstown area, Shamrock Gaels made steady progress winning minor, under 21, junior and intermediate championships before finally winning senior honours in 1990. The club have a number of players on the Sligo panel including 3 Deignan brothers. Team mentor P.J. Quigley is Sligo's delegate to the Connaught Council.

Panel:

Philip Kearns, Cormac Kearns, James Kearns, Gerry Ballintine, Ronan Ballintine, Enda Deignan, Brendan Deignan, Tommy Deignan, Bernard Mulhern, Brendan McKenna, Noel McKenna, Donal McDermot, Tommy McDermott, Sean McKeon, Michael Tuohy, Michael Conlon, Johnny Kenny.

Clan na nGael (Roscommon)

(Blue and Gold)

All-Ireland Sevens champions in 1989. Clan na nGael have been the most successful Connaught club in the last decade but like Roscommon the All-Ireland title continues to allude them. Tony McManus will be keen to make up for the disappointment of losing to Meath with a good performance in this years Sevens.

Panel:

P. Naughton, J. Connaughton, M. Keegan, F. Nicholson, P. McManus, A. McManus, E. McManus, T. McManus, T. Lennon, E. McManus, D. Rock, G. Lennon, D. Kennedy, E. Gavin, F. Shine, B. Doyle, L. Kildea, D. Shine, D. Nolan, K. Gavin.

St. Mary's (Sligo)

(Red and Black)

The most successful Sligo team of recent times with eight Sligo senior championships, three Connaught Club titles and the All-Ireland Sevens in 1980. Not quite the force of previous years, they still have some good players such as John Kent and Declan McGoldrick.

Panel:

G. Young, J. McLoughlin, D. Lynch, T. Brehony, D. Conlon, Jim Kent, John Kent, H. Gilvarry, D. Downes, D. McGuire, M. Laffey, D. McGoldrick, J. Foy, A. Mitchell.

Tuam Stars (Galway)

(Red and White)

Became famous during the reign of the terrible twins - Purcell and Stockwell in the 50's. The sons of the famous pair are now playing for Tuam Stars. Their best known players are current Galway seniors John Fallon, and Conor O'Dea, and former Galway defender Padraic Oxy Moran. All the other members of the panel have played minor or Under-21 for Galway.

Panel:

Martin Fallon, Ian Doyle, Gerard Bodkin, Seamus Fallon, Cathal McGinn, John Fallon, Francis Stockwell, Conor O'Dea, Brian Morgan, Odie Monaghan, John Purcell, Tony Keating, Jarlath Fallon, Kevin Reidy, Padraic Oxy Moran, Pat O'Neill.

Aughawillan (Ballinamore, Leitrim)

(Blue with Yellow Stripes on Sleeves)

Small rural club founded in 1972 and Leitrim champions in 1989. Great celebrations in Aughawillan this year when favourite son Mickey Quinn won an All-Star award. Other inter-county players include Gerry Flanagan, Jerome Quinn, Thomas Quinn and Declan

Darcy who captained Leitrim Under 21's to Connaught success.

Panel:

Martin Prior, Mickey Quinn, Thomas Quinn, Seamus Quinn, Jerome Quinn, Declan Darcy, Peter Prior, Damien Gileaney, Martin Flanagan, Gerry Flanagan, Pius Flanagan, Brian Prior.

St. Comans Hollymount (Mayo)

(White with Blue Hoop)

Won League and championship double in 1990. Key players are Mayo seniors Frank Noone and Jarleth Jennings but many of the panel have represented Mayo at minor and under-21. David Healy won a Dublin Senior championship medal with Erins Isle in 1978. This writer would like to see Hollymount get the weekend off to a winning start for Mayo.

Panel:

David Healy, Ollie Kelly, Michael Morris, Ardil Jennings, Frank Noone, P.J. Fallon, Noel Connolly, Pat Ruane, Frank Fahy, George Stagg, Noel Stagg, Jarleth Jennings, Patsy Walsh, P.J. Coen, Tom Connolly, Kevin Stagg, Kevin Connolly, Michael Connolly, Shane Trench.

Sean O'Heslins (Leitrim)

(Gold with Green Collar and Cuffs)

Leitrim's leading club with 20 county titles. 1990 County Champions and Connaught Club finalists. Players such as Olly Honeyman (County team captain), Ciaran Mahon (club captain), Brian Breen, and Paul Kieran are leading Leitrim's recent revival. Most of the team have represented the County at one time or another.

Panel:

Brian Breen, Damien Crossan, Thomas Conlon, Olly Honeyman, Conor Harte, Garry Smyth, Patrick Martin, Joe Honeyman, Brian Breen, Ray Logan, Peter Reynolds, Patrick McKiernan, Ciaran Mahon, Liam Conlon, Paul Kieran, Gerry Logan, Sean Crossan, Shane Harte, John Martin, Adrian Murphy, Conor Smyth, Tommy Dolan, Brian Mahon.

BRITAIN

St. Annes (London)

(Green with Red Collar and Yellow numbers)

Taking part in All-Ireland Sevens for the sixth year and a club who really enjoy their visits to Kilmacud. The team is managed by former Tipperary star Joe Fryday whose motto is "No drink on Fryday" may this year bear better results. Several of this years panel have inter-county experience including Hugh Pedan (Armagh), Damien Sloan (Down), Mark Duggan (London) and Brian Storey (Offaly).

Panel:

H. Pedan, M. Duggan, P. McKearney, D. Sloan, D. Herlihy, M. Herlihy, B. Storey, G. Hurst, J. O'Brien, C. Ward, J. Fullen. (First Aid man - Ciaran Loughran).

Round Towers (London)

(Blue with White Hoops)

Regular visitors to Kilmacud and current holders of the B+I Seven-a-Side championship of Britain. Their panel include high-fielding John Costello, winner of National League medal with Laois in 1986 and John Archbold, winner of an F.A.I. cup medal with Dundalk.

Panel:

Jason O'Loughlan, Seamus Cocoman, Richard Kelly, Dave Clarke, Dave Claffery, John Archbold, Eddie Harrison, Seamus Malone, Brendan Hyland, Las Lacey, Pat Guenan, John Costello.

Do you remember Schillachi? Will we ever forget? Do you remember Dave O'Leary's penalty against Romania? Will we ever forget?

Twelve months ago an organisation unique to this country in the minds of many played second fiddle to World Cup euphoria... the GAA were reportedly slipping in terms of organisational ability, lacking in an international outlet and above all else basic popularity amongst the Irish nation. Do you remember? Will we ever forget? Oh ye of little faith!

Twenty years ago, the Gaelic Athletic Association took a decision to revolutionise the modern game by deleting from the Rule Book... Rule 21, or the famous (or infamous) ban on foreign games. The dyed in the wool members of that august body predicted the end was nigh as a consequence of such a draconian measure. However the Association went from strength to strength and if anything consolidated its position as the flag ship of the Irish sports fleet.

Last year following the Republic of Ireland's soccer performances in Italy when soccer mania swept the nation like a plague in Peru many again predicted the beginning of the end for the skillful game bequeathed to Éire since the helicon days of Setanta and Cuchulainn!

The year 1991 will forever be remembered for Saddam Hussein and the GAA! The former for the torture, war and misery he inflicted, the latter for the joy, the draw - in terms of openness and equality of scoring and as a consequence the financial bonanza for this amateur organisation.

A new President of the Association was elected and much is expected over the next two years of the Fermanagh businessman. Peter Quinn, hopefully will not disappoint.

The Open draw saw the emergence from the shadows of Limerick, Wicklow, Kildare, Louth & Laois footballers. The Shannonsiders brought football credibility, not alone to themselves, but to the three other weaker counties in the province of Munster. Limerick can now build on

A YEAR TO BE

REMEMBERED



by Marty Morrissey (RTE)



Michael McQuillan catches safety ahead of Wicklow's Pat Baker while P.J. Gillic & Mick Lyons await developments. Pat Baker & Fergus Daly fielded brilliantly in Wicklow's two matches against Meath

this year's achievements - both physically and psychologically by making an impact in the forthcoming league competition. For the sake of football and success starved counties it is important they do.

One clear message emanated from this year's championship - any county can win a championship if a team is properly prepared - mentally, physically and financially (in terms of expenses). Counties like Louth, Laois, Wicklow, Fermanagh in football and Antrim in hurling are not far from the ultimate glory at provincial and All-Ireland level.

Players from less successful counties gained tremendous

credibility and enhanced reputations as a result of this years marvellous season.

EXPLOITS

Remember the exploits of Paul Coyle, Mark Gallagher and John Reihill of Fermanagh, Sean Walsh, Fergus Daly (Wicklow), Eamon Burns (Derry), Peter Canavan (Tyrone) Sean Kelly (Limerick), Aidan Moloney Francis McNerney (Clare) on the football field, while in hurling Damien Byrne, Brian Kelleher, John Carson, Jim Close (Antrim), Brian Greene and Johnny Brenner (Waterford), David Fitzgerald, Francis Corey and Pat McNamera (Clare) all put in excellent performances.

Unquestionably the gap between the top counties and the also-rans has substantially been reduced. Based on this years open draw in Munster, Clare, Limerick, Tipperary or Waterford could in the short-term win the Munster title. It is essential that psychological preparation is underlined equally if not more than just physical readiness. These counties must believe they can achieve their goal. In Leinster, Champions Meath provided a wonderful example for up and coming footballers anywhere in the country. Do the simple things well, take your chances when available and never ever give up until the final whistle. Tommy David and Kevin Foley didn't!

Louth provided contrasting memories... sheer brilliance in Drogheda as Stefan White crushed the lily whites and a dark hole of depression and ultimately exit from the championship. Weeks later they knew similar feelings when Laois won the replay but not before a well know Louth substitute received a 3 month ban following a disgraceful free for all between Laois and Louth players at headquarters! Do you remember? Will we ever forget?

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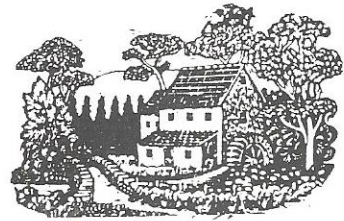
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GOOD MEMORIES

Ah... but the good memories... the cracker of a Munster Hurling Final, Nicky English's marvellous goal against Limerick, Down footballers breathing fresh air on the game of football with wonderful performances in Clones and Croke Park and ultimately gaining qualification for the All-Ireland final and Wicklow's great displays against Meath, Antrim against Kilkenny. At one stage on a particular Sunday afternoon during the summer bets were being waged at incredible prices of Limerick and Wicklow meeting in this years All-Ireland final. Do you remember?

Half way through the Leinster Hurling Final it was a real possibility that Dublin would win and play Antrim (who were lucky to beat Down) in an All Ireland semi final. That day is not far away.

Last year's 'Double' by Cork will never be forgotten but even that historic achievement seems to fade

into the background as Sunday after Sunday, new talking points arose this year. Will we ever have a year like 1991 again? As weaker counties gain confidence, strength and experience, it is likely that the years ahead will see new powers emerge from the shadows. The quicker it happens, the stronger the Gaelic Athletic Association will become. It needs this development to retain its present status.

One area need immediate attention. Every year there is hassle, disgruntlement and arguments as loyal members of the Association seek tickets for All Ireland Final days... many fail while people with contacts usually have access to several tickets!! The GAA must stop ignoring this annual dilemma. It must act. It must provide a better system of distribution so that the person who organises the street league or washes the jersey can be in Croke Park this weekend.

But what of personal memories? Tyrone's U-21 football exhibition in

the All Ireland Final stands out as an unforgettable team display, breathtaking goalkeeping by Wicklow's Sean Walsh, Tony McMahon of Laois, Kilkenny's Michael Walsh and Dublin's Damien Byrne, Glenmane and Lavey emphasising how important the club is as All Ireland titles were won with heart and determination, the brilliant fielding by Wicklow's Fergus Daly, Pat O'Byrne, Pat Baker, Antrim repeating '89 all over again... almost, Limerick showing there are footballers in the weaker counties, but above all else remember the welcome and a sense of belonging no matter where our national games are played... Omagh, Belfast, Kilkenny, Limerick or Carrick-on-Shannon... each venue different but the feeling within the same - a bond and unquenchable love affair between an island's people and their culture, their games, their heritage, their roots. The GAA and 1991... Do you remember? We will never forget!

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DAVID BEGGY

THE MINSTREL BOY

BY BRENDAN CUMMINS

"He is an individual playing with a team", said a Meath colleague.

"To be honest, I never know myself what I am going to do next", said David Beggy.

"A breath of fresh air to Scottish rugby", wrote an Edinburgh journalist.

"Isn't he just gorgeous", said the mother, supposedly collecting his autograph for her teenage daughter.

For huge numbers of Meath's loyal followers, "Jinksy" Beggy is the man. The bright smiling face of Meath football. There is a rare ability among footballers and hurlers which surfaces once or twice in a generation. It is difficult to define. Christy Ring, James McCartan, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Pat "Red" Collier had it. David Beggy has it. They could/can generate what can best be described as a loud anticipating buzz in the stands and on the terraces. With Ring, the crowd anticipated a goal; with McCartan, they knew a score or a free would be conceded; with Barry-Murphy, they could rest assured that the ball would be used to Cork's maximum advantage; with Collier the tackle or charge would be confidently shipped before the attack was set in motion; with Beggy, **nobody knows**. Last of all, himself, or his colleagues. The "buzz" has been growing for five years now and is likely to increase as Autumn beckons.

SUPERB-ATHLETE

In another existence, Jinksy Beggy could have been a Derby winner or perhaps a medieval entertainer at some Royal court. In the life he lives, he is a superb athlete and a consistent winner. He will be 25 on September 8th, just one week before the All-Ireland final. Roscommon permitting, he will postpone his party for seven days and celebrate this particular milestone by winning his third All-Ireland medal against Down. A third All-Ireland medal? For Jinksy Beggy? The guitar playing, 'craic' loving, cigarette smoking, happy-go-lucky adventurer of the Meath team. The rugby player with an "international" dream. Where did he come from and how valuable is he to the Royal County's continuing success story?

When the glory days eventually come to an end, some scribe will put pen to paper and contend that it all began with Sean Boylan's appointment as manager. Others will say it all began when the

Dunboyneman was given (won) the right to choose his own selectors. But Leinster Championship success proved elusive until 1986, when four players made their championship debuts against Carlow in Dr. Cullen Park. The quartet comprised of Terry Ferguson, Liam Harnan,

Brian Stafford and David Beggy. Beggy was the only one without an under-age pedigree. From a rugby playing background, he decided to "mess around" with Gaelic football in the early Summer of 1985. In the following Autumn he was at centre-field for Navan O'Mahoney's, along with Joe Cassells, when they shocked the favourites, Skryne, in the County Final. They have not been eliminated from the championship on the field of play since. On June 1st, 1986, the Walterstown club opened their new dressing rooms and pitch with Monaghan providing the opposition. The programme team did not include Beggy, nor was his name among the eleven substitutes. But there he was, running

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Meath senior footballers who defeated Laois to win a hard earned Leinster title.

Back row from left:

Colm O'Rourke, Mick Lyons, Michael McQuillin, Martin O'Connell, Liam Hayes, Brian Stafford & David Beggy

Front row from left:

P.J. Gillic, Tommy O'Dowd, Colm Coyle, Bernard Flynn, Robbie O'Malley, Pdraig Lyons, Kevin Foley & Liam Harnan.

greenly at the uncompromising Farney defence.

He held his place for the game against Carlow and scored a great goal as Meath started out on their memorable odyssey. At the end of July they faced the holders, Dublin, in the Leinster Final. The hype commenced. According to the media, Meath's young winner had never been at a game in Croke Park previously. Sure, he'd attended a rock concert there, but a football match - never. The assertion wasn't entirely true but made good reading/listening and it had no effect on its subject. He wriggled here, darted there, feinted one way, then the other and generally caused panic in the opposition defence as the Leinster title returned to Meath after a sixteen

year absence. Most of the players became instant heroes. Some, like Joe Cassells, Mick Lyons, Colm O'Rourke and Gerry McIntee had been heroes for several years. Beggy was "instant". But Kerry, somewhat fortuitously, overcame the Meath challenge and went on to take the Sam Maguire Cup for the last time.

NO MISTAKE

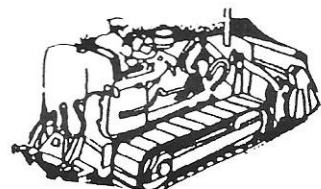
There was to be no mistake in 1987. Beggy intercepted a loose Cork pass, threaded the ball to O'Rourke and Meath were back in the game, which they had showed little sign of winning. Photographs, interviews, celebrations. "Jinksy" was in the middle of it all.

Teenagers, children and their mothers too, flocked around him for his

autograph. He always,

always obliged. A second championship medal with Navan O'Mahoney's followed and the carnival continued until Christmas. And then Jinksy Beggy became an All-Star. He was just 21. The following year was to prove even more rewarding. His first National League medal and the retention of the Sam Maguire Cup, both won after replays. It was Beggy's gutsy pursuit of a 'lost cause' ball which earned Meath the replay against Cork, and he won his third championship with O'Mahoney's shortly afterwards.

In 1989 Dublin wrenched the Leinster title back from Lyonsless Meath and David headed for Scotland, to take up employment. There were many who believed that



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for many of the heroes of '87 and '88, the end of the road had been reached. Having added another county medal to his collection in the Autumn of '88 he commuted from Scotland for the closing stages of the National Football League. The seeds of revival were sown in Springtime

victories over Mayo, Donegal, Cork and, in the Final, Down. David was back to his best. He could and should have scored a bagful of goals against Donegal at Clones and netted the winner against Down.

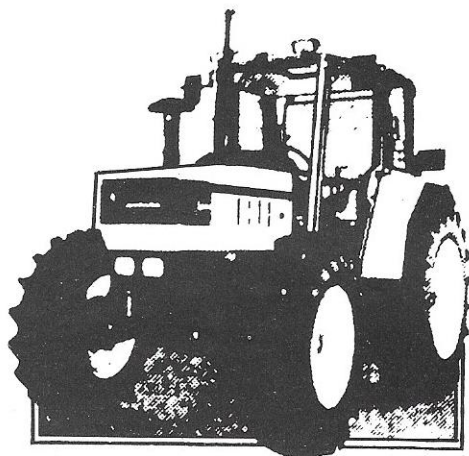
In Meath's opening Leinster Championship encounter against

Longford at Pairc Tailteann he destroyed the Longford defence and had his second All-Star before high Summer had been reached. However, Meath's insipid performance against Cork in the All-Ireland Final ensured that the Sam Maguire Cup stayed in Leaside for a second year. "Jinksy" returned from Scotland to help his club retain the County Championship but the burden of travelling from Scotland was proving too heavy and he decided to opt out of the National League campaign.

To retain his level of fitness David decided to play some rugby with the Currie club, outside Edinburgh. It wasn't long before he earned a first team place, on a first division team. The rave reviews followed. As did rumours of a place on the "Exiles" team. Noted Scottish internationals heaped praise on the flying full-back. Further rumours of representative selection abounded. In May he was selected for the Leinster squad training which commences shortly. He had impressed all and

sundry with his performances for the Wolfhounds in the famed "Melrose Sevens" Tournament. But his priority is to help Meath to win the All-Ireland. After that, who knows? The thought of playing for Ireland at Landsdowne Road and Murryfield is attractive to "Jinksy". The thought of winning a third All-Ireland medal with Meath is even more attractive at the moment. There is little doubt that in the aftermath of Meath's championship efforts, successful or otherwise, he will give the rugby a real 'go'. It is likely that he will sign up with one of Dublin's top clubs in what would be considered a career move. And next Summer, who knows?

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Hope for the Future

By Dominic McClements
(Ulster Herald)

The success this year of the Tyrone U-21 football team in the All-Ireland championship against Kerry has revived hopes within the O'Neill County of another possible breakthrough by the seniors on the Sam Maguire front in the not-too-distant future.

It is exactly five years since thousands of Tyrone fans travelled to Croke Park to see Eugene McKenna come agonisingly close to getting his hands on the elusive trophy for the first time. Without doubt that was an historic occasion for the Ulster men but even though men like Pat Spillane and Mike Sheehy had a personal involvement in wrecking those Tyrone dreams, the defeat on that famous September day has only fuelled the hopes of many that the men in red and white will be back again very soon.

Tyrone may have been disappointing in Ulster during the past couple of seasons but there are quite realistic hopes that men like Plunkett Donaghy and Damien O'Hagan, along with the county's "new breed" of players will revive the northern fortunes within the next year or so.

NEW STARS

Indeed, the magnificent

way Tyrone's U-21 footballers steamrolled their way through Ulster and the rest of the country earlier this year to confidently seize their first



Omagh St. Enda's captained by Seanie McMyler reached the semi-finals of the 1990 All-Ireland Sevens.

title in this grade augurs well for the future. Young stars like Peter Canavan, Adrian Cush and Fay Devlin have already made a considerable impression on the senior ranks and many more are set to follow.

Canavan and Cush are, of course, the two "stars" on the scene with Canavan in particular - the captain of the U-21's - setting scoring records alight with his golden touch in front of goals.

In Division Two of the National League last Spring, he had recorded a brilliant 1-40 to help Tyrone gain promotion and then in the five U-21 championship games that followed, he astounded everyone when he notched up an incredible 8-19.

Based on those facts, Tyrone people have every reason to feel hopeful for the future. The county has always had considerable success, especially during the 80's when the seniors

dominated most of the action on the championship scene culminating with that great occasion on All-Ireland final day in 1986.

The Minors, too, have held centre stage on numerous occasions as well and in fact were

extremely unlucky not to have emerged out of Ulster this year when Donegal pipped them by a point in the decider at

Clones.

All-Ireland titles at Minor, Junior and U-21 is proof positive that Tyrone have plenty to offer Gaelic Football. The only one missing is, of course, the Sam Maguire itself but if determination has anything to do with it, it can only be a matter of time before "the big one" will be winding its way north.

The popular Kilmacud Crokes Sevens has provided the platform for many great players from Tyrone to demonstrate their skills in the past. Omagh St. Enda's, always a force in the annual series and semi-finalists in 1990 regularly boasts of top quality players and are presently served by current Tyrone player Seanie Meyler.

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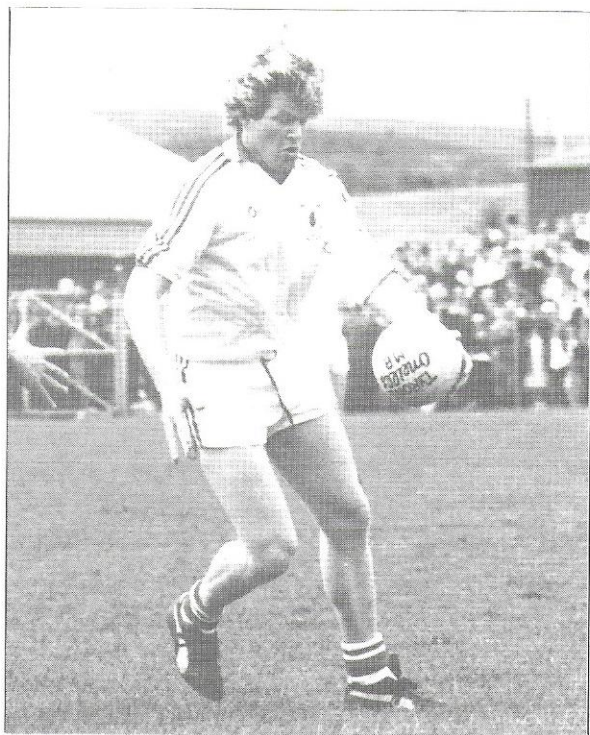
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PLAYER PROFILE



Plunkett Donaghy seen here in action against Derry in the Ulster Championship has been a great stalwart for Tyrone over the years. He will be hoping to combine with the Under-21 stars to bring success to Tyrone in the future.

Name:

Adrian Cush

Date of Birth:

12/6/70

Height:

5'10"

Weight:

12 Stone

Club:

Donaghmore St. Patrick's

County:

Tyrone

Place of Work:

Powerscreen

Honours:

Railway Cup, 2 Ulster U-21, Ulster Minor, 1 All-Ireland U-21 Vocational Schools, 1 Tyrone I.F.C.

Inter County Debut

1989, in Castlebar against Mayo

Toughest Opponent:

Them all.

Favourite Grounds:

Croke Park, Mullingar

Sporting Ambition:

To win an All-Ireland Senior Medal

Do you play any other sports?:

Most other sports

Boyhood Heros:

Micheal Sheehy/Jack O'Shea

Favourite Player at Present:

Plunkett Donaghy/Brian Stafford

Biggest Influence on Career:

Parents/Donaghmore Clubmen

Any Dislikes about GAA:

Too many games

Ways of Improving Game:

Should be two referees

Best Game Seen:

1986 All-Ireland Final

Best Game Played:

All-Ireland U-21 Final

Tip for Future:

Any of Tyrone's U-21 Team

Hopes for 1991:

To win All-Ireland Senior Medal.

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Profile by Hogan Stand Magazine



Peter Canavan, captain of Tyrone Under-21 team in action against Kerry in the All-Ireland Final. Scored 1-4 for Tyrone in the National League and is one of the bright stars of the future.

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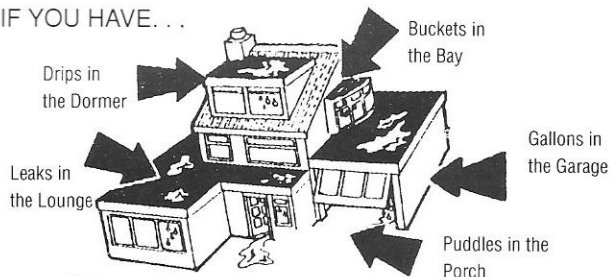
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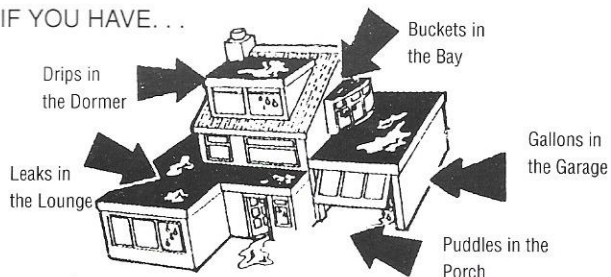
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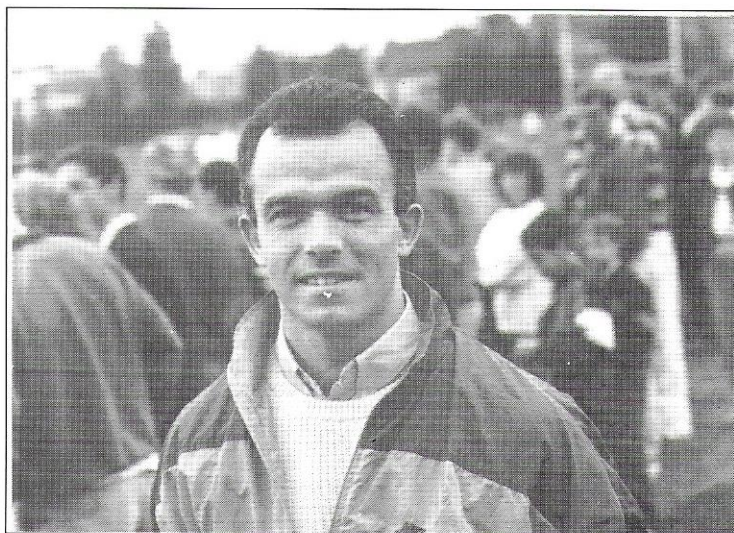
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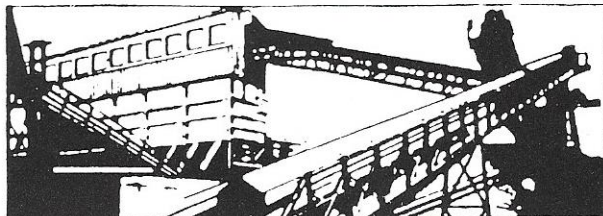
*Roscommon Captain John Newton and son
photographed at last years Seven'*



*Mayo Captain, John Finn enjoying the football in
Glenalbyn last year.*

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THE COLLEGES' LINK IN DONEGAL

By Charlie Mulgrew

Every county has gaelic football nurseries and Donegal is no exception. In the two main centers of population namely Letterkenny and Ballyshannon, St. Eunan's College and De La Salle College overtook these towns and over the years their contribution to gaelic games in Donegal has been invaluable to the County. A glance back at Donegal's first Ulster finals in '63 and in '65 when they again reached the final. St Eunans supplied outstanding players like S. Hoare, Sean Ferriter, John Hannigan and Paul Kelly, while De La Salle gave us the elegant Declan O'Carroll and Donegal top scorer of the sixties, M. McLoone. In the following decade when the county claimed its first ever Senior Ulster title, these colleges supplied



Charlie Mulgrew, Donegal captain in the Ulster final defeat by Down & a former St. Eunan's College player

two thirds of the players, men like the towering Pauric McShea at fullback, Anthony Gallagher the thinking players' centre-halfback, the wily Hughie Mc Clafferty at centre-half forward and a dashing right-half forward Martin Carney to mention but a few.

In 1979 St Eunans defeated De La Salle in the McLarnon cup final and went on to achieve glory in the All-Ireland Colleges 'B' final. The following year De La Salle emulated St. Eunans bringing the title to the North-West once again. The nucleus of these two

teams provided the base for Tom Conaghans All-Ireland U-21 success in 1982 with a total of eight players from both colleges. The following year Tommy McDermott, Matt Gallagher and myself were part of the team that regained the Anglo-Celt cup for the third time. Throughout the eighties players such as Brendan Dunleavy, Paul Carr, Eunan McIntyre, Leslie McGettigan, Tommy Ryan (St. Eunans). Pauric Gallagher (RIP), Gerry Curran, Brian Tuohy, Brian Murray, Gary Walsh (De La Salle) backboned many a good Donegal Team.

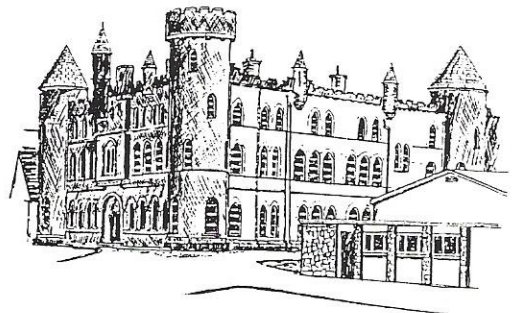
Hopefully, this trend will continue, thanks to the dedication of coaches such as Tom Cullen and Paddy Tunney. In this regard my old alma mater undertook a massive fund raising effort this year and presently Prunty Contracts are developing a full size sand carpet gaelic football field and an all-weather training surface. The college hopes that the addition of these facilities will enable it to face the challenges of the nineties & 21st Century. Donegal can only benefit too.



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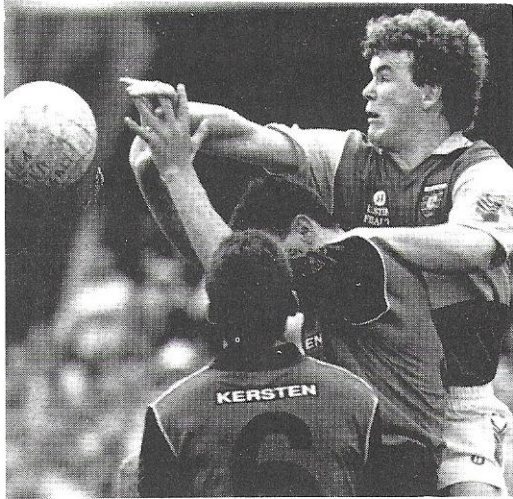
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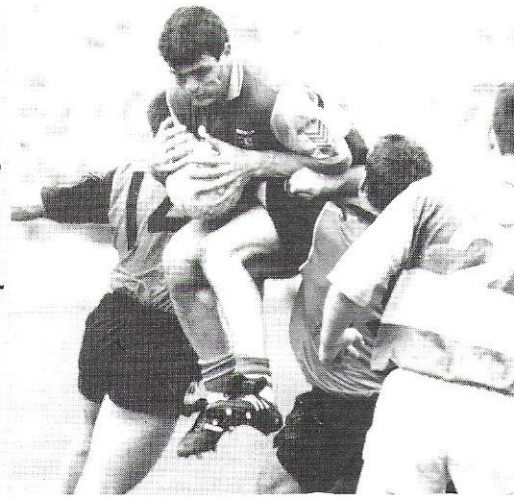
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Tony Boyle Donegal, in action against Down in the Ulster final, must be rated as one of the top full-forwards in the Country



Thou shall not pass- Martin Gavigan (Donegal) has his way blocked by two Down players while J.J. Doherty looks on

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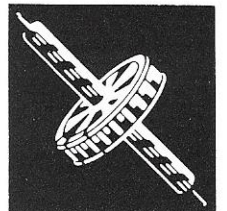
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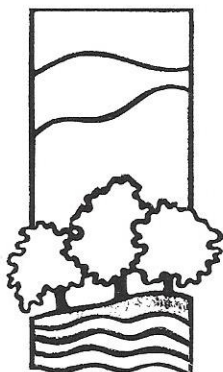
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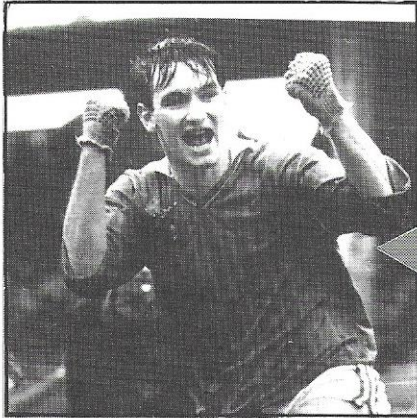
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KILCAR

Donegal Champions in 1990

*Photographed at the
All - Ireland Sevens last year*



Cavan were the only county to win an All-Ireland outside of Ireland, when they defeated Kerry in a historic match in the Polo Grounds, New York in 1947. Cavan went on to beat Mayo in 1948 and won their last title in 1952 when they defeated Meath. Players such as Gunner Brady, Mick Higgins, John Joe Reilly, P.J. Duke became household names during this golden era of Cavan football.

Seamus Donogue of Cavan celebrates scoring a goal

Kingscourt, 1990 Cavan Senior Football Champions



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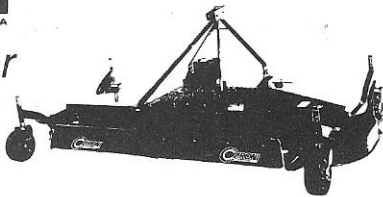
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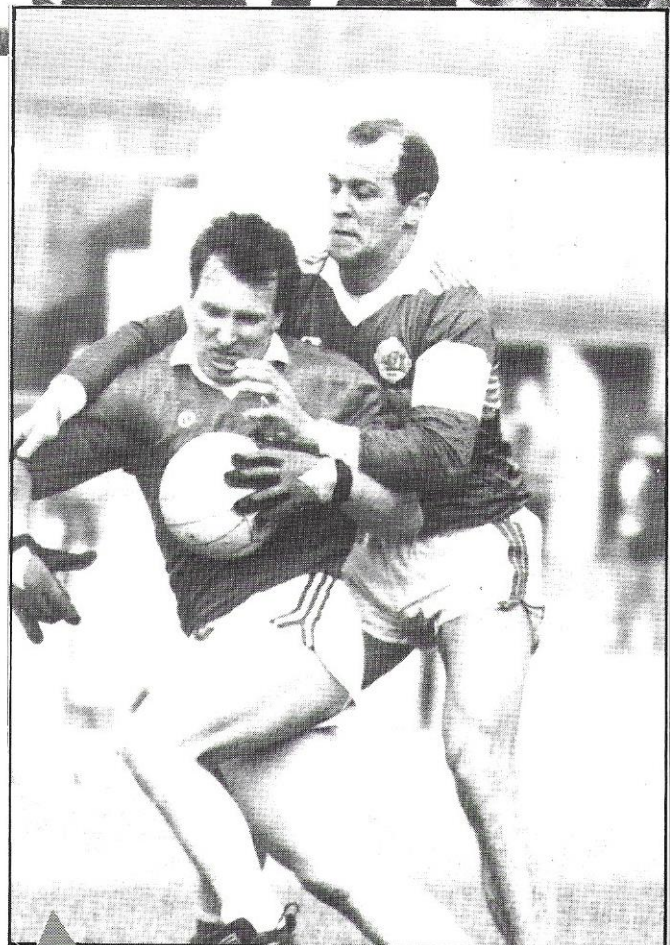
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Joe Dillon of Kingscourt and Cavan with Jack O'Shea in 1989-1990 league tie.

GREAT STRIDES By G.A.A.

By Bernie Mullen

The Gaelic Athletics Association in Derry has come a long way in a comparatively short space of time. It wasn't until 1933 that Gaelic games came to stay in the three divisional areas of the city, north and south.

St. Patrick's Waterside had been formed a few years before 1884, at that stage gaelic games were confined mainly to the city area and this pattern was to continue for another 50 years. Ironically as the GAA spread to rural Derry it tailed off somewhat in the city. It has been said that Derry was the last county in Ireland to get organised:

Clubs began to spring up with the number doubling between 1933 and 1953. Following Derrys near miss in the 1958 All Ireland final against Dublin there was another upsurge. The advent of the troubles in 1969 saw an almost complete cessation of games in the city but the reconstruction of Celtic Park has been a great boost and three new clubs have been formed in the last four years.

High Standard

Derry club football is of a very high standard as Lavey proved by lifting the All Ireland club title, Bellaghy, who are the former winners of the Fosters All-Ireland Sevens, completed this feat in 1962, also Ballinderry lifted Ulster titles.

There is no dominant club in Derry football and this is borne out by the fact that Ballinderry, Dungiven, Lavey, Bellaghy, Newbridge and Glenmullin have all won the County title in the last ten years.

There are 40 clubs in Derry divided into three divisions. Eight clubs field three adult teams, each in the league and championship. Another 20 have two adult teams which would point to the region of two thousand

footballers in the county excluding under age players.

Thirty one clubs have their own grounds and pavilions. There are 16 GAA halls and five social clubs.

The community spirit is strong in Derry GAA circles. When the Swatragh GAA hall was opened a few months it was destroyed in an arson attack. In less that a year they built a bigger one. Derry must surely be one of the top counties for GAA facilities in the country at present, as another round of development gets

underway. With most of the pitches and halls constructed it will be stands and floodlights that will be the "in thing" in the county.

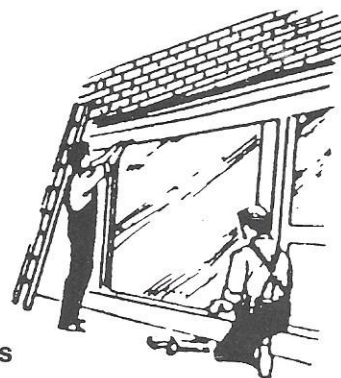
Not too long ago when Derry were going through a bad spell at senior county level a Sunday paper proclaimed "What's wrong with GAA in Derry?" To most GAA folk nothing was wrong - simply it was a case of the media conviction that the only important aspect of the Association is senior hurling and football teams. How wrong can they be!

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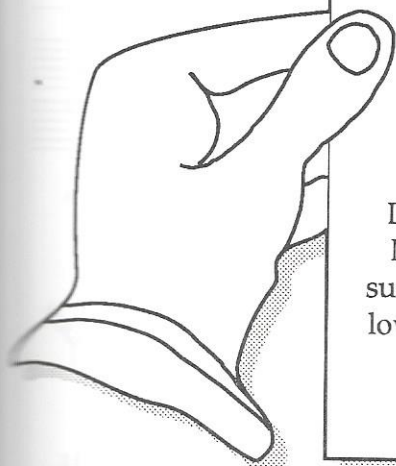


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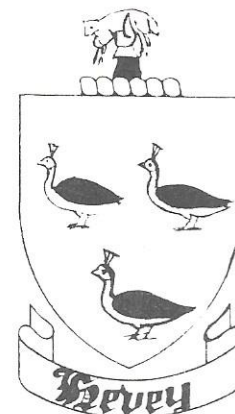


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LEITRIM

NO SOFT TOUCH

By: Tommie Moran

Dublin won the 1991 National Football League - but the "glamour" teams of the competition were surely Kildare - League finalists - and Leitrim, pipped by the lily-whites in a play off game at Navan.

Leitrim, a long time "poor relation" had earned massive media attention since the arrival of Cavan man P.J. Carroll as team manager and the whole county was abuzz about the new success and the high profile of the team members - an All Stars Award had finally come to Mickey Quinn from one of Ireland's smallest rural clubs,

Aughawilliam.

Indeed two thirds of the county senior team came from Aughawilliam, Sean O'Heslin's Ballinamore, Drumreilla all within a few miles of each other so the success at county level was all the more admirable. In fact the total population of Leitrim, 25,000, is similar to that available

to the Salthill club in Galway, giving an indication of the limited pool of players available.

Senior success and pride in the county jersey rubbed off on under-age teams, with Leitrim winning the Connaght Minor League this year and the Connaght Under 21 Championship - the first such success since 1977.

So the future looks good - hopefully these rising Under 21 stars will blend well with the experienced senior members to prove that Leitrim are indeed no longer "a soft touch".



Leitrim-Connaght under 21 Champions

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A Short Story

By J.J. Barrett

(A tribute to the five who won eight, and made it easier to win ten). In Kerry we spend as much time debating the All Irelands we should have won, as we do the thirty we actually did capture. In fact the many we should have won or of which we were robbed, get most attention.

So in the depths of Winter as the south westerly storms whistle in from the Atlantic through the thatch, many a midnight court is held to set the record straight.

From Lyreachrompane to Baillinskelligs, Kerry Head to the Black Banks at Brosna, in games replayed around many an open hob, the same difficult balls are played again and again to see if anything at all can be worked to swing the game in Kerry's favour.

Points which were "never a point", injured players who should never have played, hours of referees, twisted selectors, wind, badly lined pitches, the price of calves, inflation, TB, the hot days, bad pitches, soft balls, thick goal

posts, snow, rain, emigration, education, the motor car, constipation, teachers, a cripple, a few windy forwards, a whistler, bad breeding, ceili music, Ballybunion, rock and roll, the mini skirt, freaks, tempest, World War One, the Will of God, strong porter, Seamus Darby, World War Two, a miracle, a blind umpire, fast women, slow backs and the Christian Brothers, are *some* of the reasons why Kerry have not won every All Ireland since the inception of the GAA.

But what about all those promising young footballers who were raddled at fourteen years of age to have glittering careers ahead in the Green and Gold, if it hadn't been for ?

It's early on Christmas Eve morning.

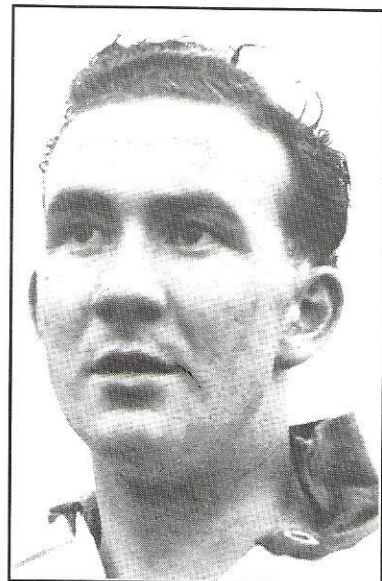
They have come back from Midnight Mass, are well nourished in body, soul and spirit too.

There is still a drop left in a bottle, nobody feels like bedding down, and the new football year is merely seven days away.

"Will we do it?"It is the story of our lives. This uncertainty, inferiority complex, troubles all Kerry men and women throughout the year. Why else would any breed or creed keep asking such a question from one September to the next?

In a dimly lit room, the flickering light of the open turf fire casts strange shadows across the faces of those closest, as they gaze into the pile of gasping embers of a dead day.

As if from a crystal ball those present seek



J.J. Barrett pictured during his playing days. J.J. played on Kerry teams defeated by Galway in 1964 and 1965. He won an All-Ireland medal when going in as a substitute in the '62 final.

the answer to the most important question of the hopeful year ahead.

"Will we do it?" New kindling is thrown on to give life to the dying fire, and year.Hope too, for the new season, rises from the new born, leaping flames.

In silence, these men see their players going high into a summer sky to fetch confidently, and part with a well placed pass into a racing, hungry forward line.

In these dark hours of winter men look forward to the days getting longer, "Sure the longest night is now over a week gone".

Whispers of deeds of days gone by,



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comparisons of then and now, keep the conversation going at a gentle pace.

Things are not as they were, but sure they never are. The future is exhausted as "only time will tell." But on the past these men can stay going forever.

Voices get louder as the certainty of the past comes through. All men are positive of what they saw and what was, having borne witness.

"He was very promising" There wasn't a murmur raised.

"He would have made it" That too was agreed. "He would have won the All Irelands in '62, '69, '70 and '75. Sure he would have been only 33 in '75, so he would have been plenty young enough.

FIVE-IN-A-ROW

"Only four All Irelands?" says another who has: "seen every Kerry final win since 1926, and many more we won anyway but the other fellas got the cup. Just like in 1982 when Kerry won five-in-a-row. Remember?"

"If he had been playing in '60 against Down, we would have won at midfield. And even though we had injuries we would have won by a point



The Kerry Senior Football Team defeated by Down in the All-Ireland Semi-Finals

or two.

"Yes", says another, "And he would have been the answer to our midfield problems in '64 and '65 when Mick O'Connell had a few off-days. Sure Pateen Donnellon would never have been able for our fella, and we would have beaten Galway handy enough then."

"Lord God" says a younger man, "that's three more he would have won."

"And what about Down in 1968 and that lucky Sean O'Neill goal".

"Right again," said the man who had seen every All Ireland since 1926.

He continued: "We lost that by a couple of points and if your man had been playing, sure that high ball would never have dropped in, hit the post and collided with the back of O'Neill's boot before crossing the line."

cont...

Best of the Summer Light.



"By God, that's another one we would have won by a point, but only just."

The youngest man present said: "So, how many All-Irelands has he got now?"

EIGHT ALL-IRELANDS

"I make it eight," said another, pushing his cap back off his forehead, just realising that Mikey Sheehy, Ger Power, Ogie Moran, Paud O'Se and Pat Spillane have just been joined in the record books by one more.

The oldest man, and the wisest, the one who had seen every match, good, bad and not so bad since 1926, spoke again. There was a certain nervousness in his voice, which one would reserve for major addresses of enormous importance.

"What about the Offaly Final of '72?" he says.

"The draw or the replay?" asked another.

"The draw of course," said the old one, who had seen so much. He continued slowly: "Sure if we had our man in '72, Willie Bryan wouldn't have got a kick, and there would have been no replay at all."

"Could he have stuck around for '76 against Dublin?"

"Why wouldn't he, of course and he would have beaten that other Kerry man Brian Mullins and Bernard Brogan too, on his own." said the older man, his voice now raised considerably. "Why not, indeed" he muttered, "and we would have won that year too."

"Do you know what you have just said?" the voice comes from the darkest and farthest corner of the room.

"I do, I do", said the old man who had seen so much.

He sighed quietly, and resignedly said: "Sure that's life. And history is full of questionable facts but tonight we have been present to see a man win ten All-Ireland medals."

There was a long silence. Minds concentrated on the immensity of the discovery which had unfolded before them.

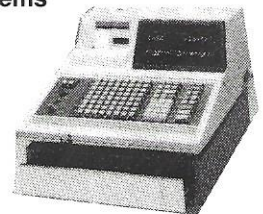
History was rewritten. Enshrined in the death-like gazes into the, by now, dead fire, was the proud feeling of having been there.

Where were you when War was declared, when John F. Kennedy was killed, the first man walked on the moon, when a man won his tenth All-Ireland medal?

A lone voice from the farthest and darkest corner of the room spoke for only the second time on that Christmas morning: "Sure, though it never happened, wasn't it great that it was a Kerry man who won them anyway."

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BIG COLM IN CHARGE

Normally when famous Armagh footballers retire from the game they are inclined to break the link completely - not so former All-Star Colm McKinstry, who is presently putting the years of experience garnered throughout his long and illustrious career to the best possible use - managing Annaghmore Pearses, writes Joe McManus.

The former County and Clan na Gael stalwarts undisputed credentials may just be the sustenance the Third Division side necessitates to go one step further this season and capture and Intermediate Crown which so narrowly evaded them in 1990.

Sampled Before

McKinstry's stupendous appetite for the game is being perpetuated in his new-found role through management he had sampled previously, albeit in a brief subsidiary form with the county team, during the reign of Father Sean Hegarty.

His Annaghmore position is far from ancillary and despite the fact that the season has started on a losing note, the eventuation of Big Colm's tuition could have a delectable effect on this small rural club.

Out of Retirement

In 1984 Big Colm made a county comeback for the

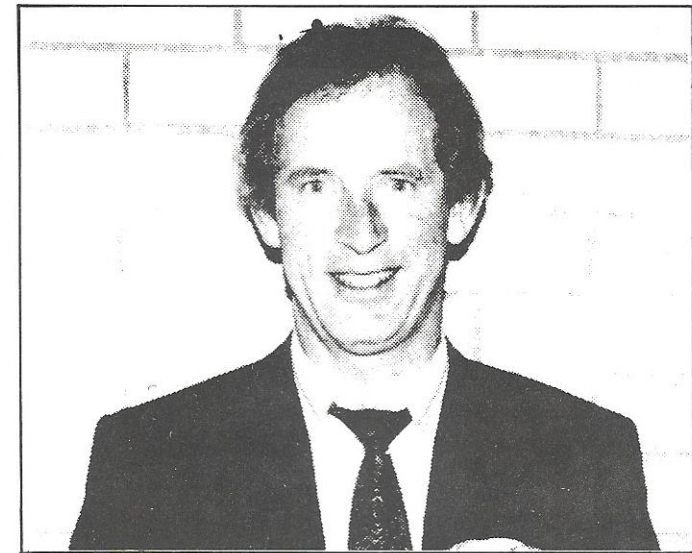
Ulster Championship, when Armagh reached the final, only to be beaten by neighbours, Tyrone.

It was a sad sight seeing the old veteran limping along the sideline at St. Tiernach's Park; Clones, forced to leave the fray with a hamstring injury, something he had never previously experienced in his long and chequered career. With Armagh out of the Championship race, Colm slipped back into retirement never more to be seen in that old familiar No. 9 orange jersey.

County Love

It was only after a certain amount of pressure and love for his country that Colm decided on a comeback, aimed at helping Armagh survive the initial hurdle against Donegal. His display against Monaghan in the semi-final at Breffni Park must surely rate among his best.

Colm played for Armagh



Colm McKinstry

for well over a decade but seemed to keep his best form for that particular meeting with the Farney men.

Winner of ten Armagh Senior Championship Medals with Clan na Gael, three Ulster and an All-Star Award amongst others, the 'big fella' established himself as one of the best.

Forever modest and unassuming, Colm's achievements have been

plentiful and the following little story possibly sums him up best.

After the Ulster Final in 1977, when the victorious Armagh team were coming back to the dressing room, Big Colm was walking up the steps when a young, wild-eyed fan still yelling his head off ran over to him, asking Colm for his gloves as a souvenir. Without a moments hesitation Colm pulled off his gloves and

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handed them to the unbelieving fan, who ran off in delight and probably had them framed.

Everything went wrong

Getting back to that '84 defeat by Tyrone when the Red Hand maestro Frank McGuigan launched eleven record-breaking points, Colm remarked that everything seemed to go wrong for Armagh on that fateful day. Had the sun fallen from the sky, joked Colm, that man McGuigan would have caught it and kicked it over the bar.

COLM MCKINSTRY - footballer and gentleman, thanks again for the countless fond memories. May you continue to climb the tree of success in the orchards around Annaghmore!

Article Courtesy of magazine GAA in the Orchard County.



The Galway team, pictured above, which won the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship in 1956, were the guests of the Irish Nationwide Building Society at a celebration dinner in the Great Southern Hotel, Galway, on August 20th where they were presented with the Irish Nationwide Building Society G.A.A. "Great Teams of the Past" Awards.

Front row, from left: Billy O'Neill, Jack Mangan (captain), Gerry Daly, Frank Stockwell, Jack Mahon, Jackie Coyle and Sean Keely. **Back row, from Left:** Joe Young, Jack Kissane, Gerry Kirwan, Mick Greally, Mattie McDonagh, Tom Dillion, Frank Evers and Sean Purcell.

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Back row, from left: Packie Bonner, Pat O'Hara, Sean Kelly, Deborah Feherty (David), Tony O'Sullivan, Jim Bolger and Shay Fahy.

Front row from left: Dave McAuley, Aidan O'Toole (Gary), Vincent O'Brien, M. D. Texaco, John Wilson (Tanaiste), Lord Killanin, John O'Connor (Stephen).



Aisling

"After this
You are no
longer Your
Brothers'
Keeper!"

PROFESSIONALISM IN GAELIC FOOTBALL

By Dermot Flanagan, Mayo.

Is professionalism undermining the amateur status of some sports today? Is professionalism creeping into Gaelic Football or is it just modern attitudes replacing traditional ones? These are questions restricted to the amateur status of Gaelic football alone. Many other codes have come under scrutiny - Amateur Athletics and Rugby Football to name but a few.

It seems to me that the "modern" way of life has had a huge impact on Gaelic Games. Football no longer is restricted to the local parish competition and rivalry. The media and power of communication has enhanced and promoted football and allowed the public to enjoy greater access to the sport. Football, as a national sport, comes to prominence on a regular basis with regular broadcasting and up to date information available at all times. There is a great sense of involvement attached to the

sport. People identify and find special interest in games - be it personal, business or otherwise, thus Gaelic Football is a vehicle for achievement and enjoyment:- for players who participate, supporters who identify with teams and beyond. By beyond, of course I refer to the many organisations - charitable, business or otherwise who stand to gain from involvement in Gaelic Football.

One can cite many instances of players and teams becoming involved in activities off the field of play. Players are invited to functions, asked to raise money for charity and asked to represent their County or Club in various ways. This is as much a part of life as sport. Is there a connection? My view is that there is a great respect and admiration for Gaelic Football and its players precisely because it is an amateur game. Therefore, the required commitment and dedication is all the more noteworthy because the reward is to represent itself and does not

extend to monetary gain. I use the word 'gain' carefully.

It is a reality of life that nothing comes cheap! For players and counties, success requires dedication, perseverance and... money. To achieve success requires sacrifices... including money. Therefore players are usually reimbursed travelling, medical, and other necessary expenses in pursuit of success. Recently the question of compensation for lost earnings at work was raised. Most players in such difficulties are genuine in their grievance particularly as work pattern today often necessitate weekend and/or shift work. These are the realities of modern life which have to be accommodated with the still more modern reality that players often train 4-5 days in the week.

On the other hand, it is said that players benefit indirectly from their involvement with football particularly in finding employment. I suggest that it is the qualities that make players give a commitment to sport that is recognised by employers as a positive trait for employment. Again this is a fact of life in general.

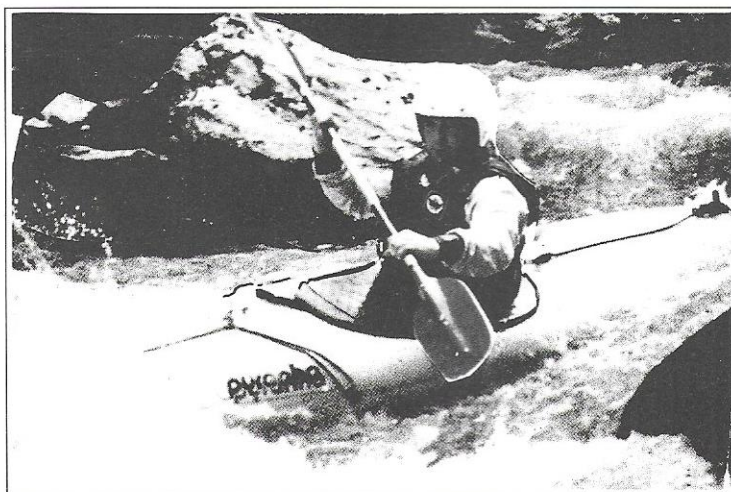
Nowadays, the GAA has reorganised the intrinsic benefit

of sponsorship of which the Organisation from club to national level has benefited. Generally, teams receive their sponsorship through the County board. Most of the benefits are limited to helping the team prepare and reach its potential. It seems to me that the real danger is when the playing of the game becomes tangled up with sponsorship of activities off the field of play. Everyone needs to be conscious of this. There is great scope for individual and group benefit - personal or business - within the ambit of Gaelic Football - as long as the essentials of amateur sport are preserved - **Dedication, Commitment and Honour.**

So as Gaelic Football enters the fast lane of the 90's it is important to remember that, above all, football should bring people together and that the struggle for supremacy on the field should be an opportunity for intense rivalry and enjoyment of life. In that way, the razmatazz associated with football will have its place, albeit at a level which does not take away from the game itself. And the benefits that accrue to players? **Perhaps not reward, merely recognition and thanks**

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PLAYER PROFILE



Dermot Flanagan

Name
Dermot Flanagan
Date of Birth:
22/12/61
Height:
6' 0"
Weight:
14 Stone
Occupation:
Barrister
Club:
Civil Service
County:
Mayo
Playing Position:
Left full-back
Honours:
3 Connaught Senior
Football medals; Sigerson
Cup medal with UCD in
1985; 2 All-Star awards
1985 and 1989.

Favourite Player:
Paudie Lynch (Kerry)
Most Difficult Opponent:
Paul McGrath (Cork)
**Biggest Influence on
Career:**
Sean Flanagan
Most Enjoyable Game:
All-Ireland Final 1989

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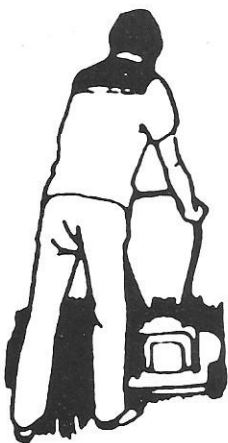
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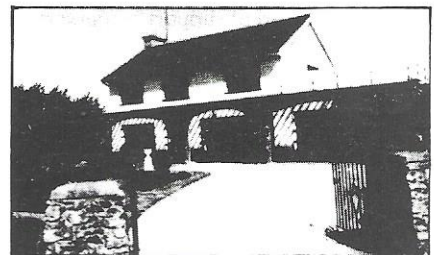
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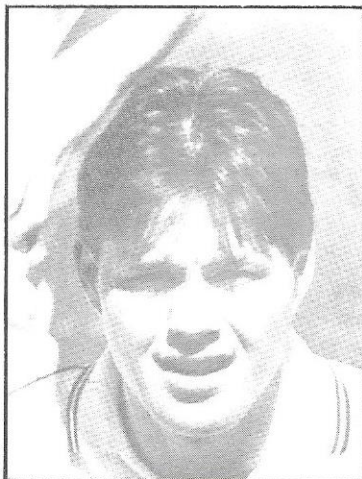


←
Kildare Senior footballers-
the glamour team of the
1990-1991 National
League

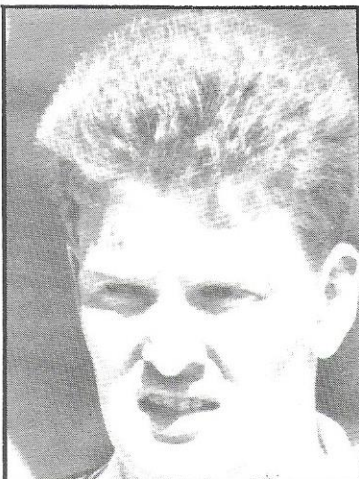
Back: M. Lynch, J. Gilroy,
S. Mc Govern, B. Sea,
D. McKeivitt (Capt.),
D. Dalton, P. McLoughlan,
P. O' Donoghue

Front: G. Ryan, J. Crafton,
D. Kerrigan, S. Dowling,
J. McDonald.

Photographs, Courtesy of Tommy Callaghan, Leinster Leader



J. McDonald, Naas & Kildare
One of the stars for his club &
County in 1990-1991



Naas & Kildare Captain 1990-
1991, D. McKeivitt
(Army Officer)

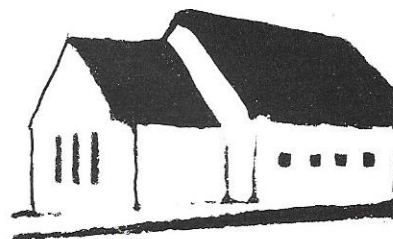


Johnstownbridge (Kildare) from the 1990 All-Ireland Sevens

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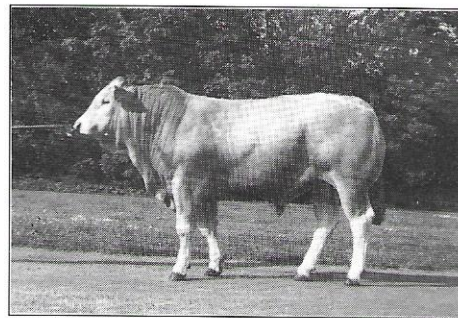
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Shamrock Gaels, founded in 1972, won their first Sligo Senior Championship in 1990. The club have a very strong youth policy and in their first year won the County Minor Championship which they again won in 1973.

The Gaels won the Intermediate League and Championship double in 1985 before finally making the big break-through to Senior Championship success in 1990.

Numerous Gaels have been chosen on Sligo teams in various grades over the years. Frank Henry was a member of the Sligo senior team which won Connacht honours in 1975 but were unfortunate to come up against a great Kerry team in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Former chairman Paddy Joe Quigley is presently one of Sligo's delegation to the Connacht Council and a Connacht delegate on the G.A.C. Shamrock Gaels host a very successful Seven-a-Side tournament for Sligo clubs every year.



Shamrock Gaels - 1990 Sligo Senior Champions

Photograph by Leo Kearns - Shamrock Gaels

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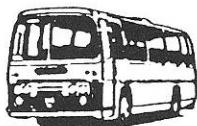
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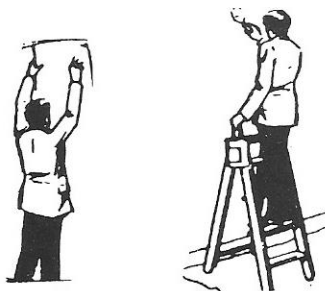
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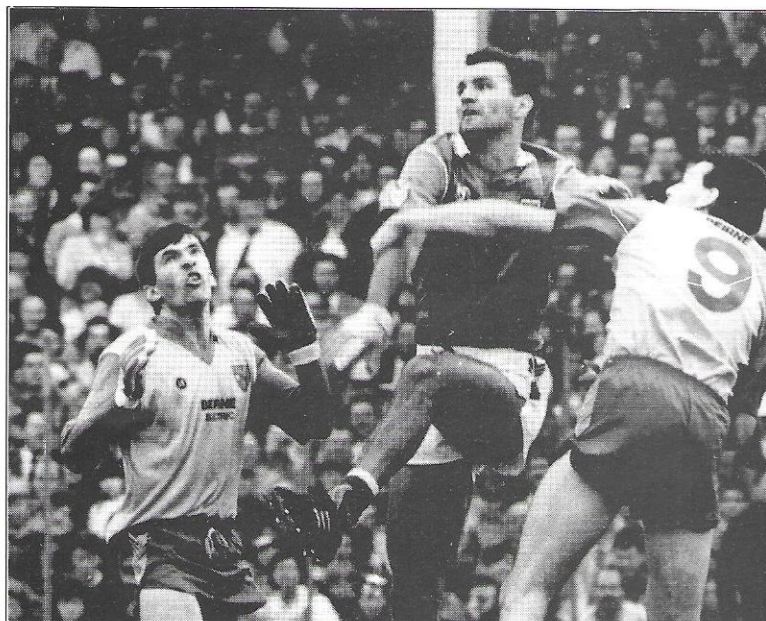
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St. Mary's competed in the 1990 Sevens.



St. Patricks - good performance in last years' Sevens



Action from this years Connacht Final. Sligo last appeared in the Connacht Final in 1975 - will they be back?

FRANK LYNCH *From Boy Wonder to Team Boss*

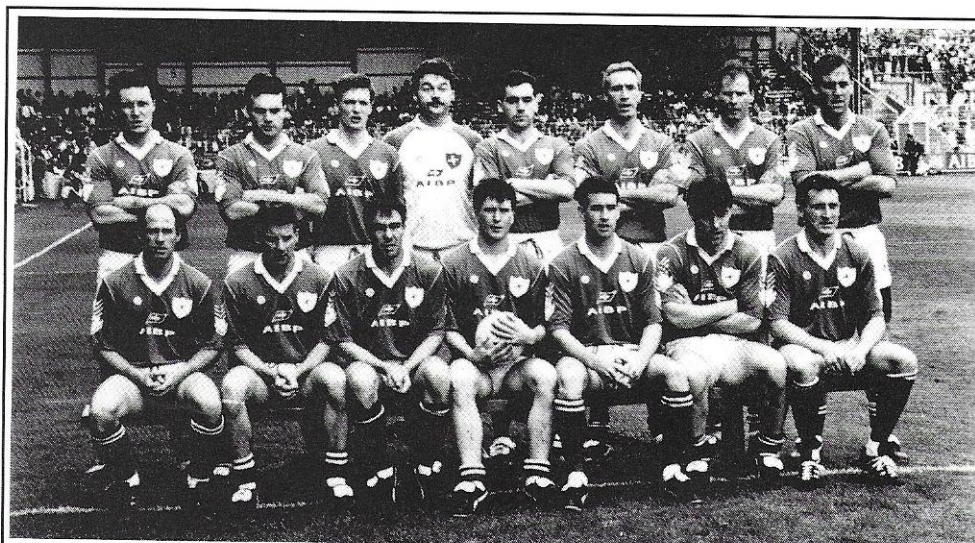
By: Joe Carroll,
Dundalk Democrat

He was a boy among men, yet acquitted himself well. Frank Lynch was a little over eighteen when he realised the Great GAA Dream. By being part of Louth's All-Ireland-winning team of 1957, the boy known as "Lollie" by just about everyone in Louth football, might also have written himself into the history-books.

It's quite possible there hasn't been as young a winner of an All-Ireland SFC medal, and naturally, this is something of which he is rightly proud.

In that great odyssey of thirty-four years ago, the young man from Haggardstown stepped on board at the Leinster final stage. He was a first half replacement for Alfie Monk in the defeat of Dublin, a game in which his great friend of many years, Dan O'Neill, had probably the best outing of the entire campaign.

Lynch retained the left-forward



Louth Senior Footballers - Shocked Kildare but went under to Laois in the Leinster Championship.

position for the semi-final joust with Tyrone. The curtain-raiser at Croke Park that day was the Junior semi-final in which Louth played Mayo. Another of the Lynch clan - Frank's brother, Phil - was included on that side, but didn't enjoy any great fortune. Mayo, with a

future President of GAA included - Mick Loftus - won by 2-7 to 1-6.

GREAT NEWS

No surprise that Frank Lynch was asked to again wear the No. 12 jersey in the All-Ireland final. And alongside some of the great names in Louth football he played his part in the 1-9 to 1-7 win over Cork.

Just as many great

players went through their inter-county careers without winning an All-Ireland Senior medal, Frank Lynch failed to collect at local level. For many years the mainstay of the Geraldines side, he got just one big chance to win a Louth SFC medal.

The year was 1969, just shortly after Gers had moved into the senior ranks. The Haggardstown side were drawn against Newtown Blues in the final and as it was around the time that Blues were near unbeatable in the knock-out, the challengers were always going to find it difficult.

They battled hard, but just couldn't match the skill of the Drogheda side. A 1-14 to 2-5 win gave Blues their seventh title of the decade.

Frank Lynch's career at club and county level came to an end in the early seventies, but he continued to be involved in the Association. He was

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founder-member of the Louth Past-Present Players' Association, which, from 1970 to 1983, gave recognition each year to the outstanding performers in the different grades.

NEW IDEAS

His administrative qualities made him the obvious choice to succeed Nicky Marry as Co. Board chairman, in 1977 - and whereas he was responsible for introducing many new ideas as leader, most remember his term in office best, for the part he played in Louth's success at under-21 level, in 1978.

It was he who took control at a time when things seemed to be going off the rails, and after beating Offaly in the Leinster final, Louth went desperately close to beating a star-studded Kerry side in the All-Ireland semi-final.

This was the second time Lynch had seen All-Ireland glory snatched from him at this stage. Seven years, year earlier he had guided a Terry Lennon-captained side to victory in Leinster, only to see them beaten by Fermanagh in the next round. And it was the same when Louth won the under-21 title for the third time in 1981. Galway, it was, who ended the dream that particular year.

O'BYRNE CUP

And just as he has been associated with each county's three under-21 wins,

"Lollie" has had an input into each of Louth's O'Byrne Cup successes, which also number three. He was at centre-half when this Leinster Council-promoted competition came this way for the first time in 1963, and manager when it was won for the second time in 1980, and for the third time, twelve months ago.

This is his second term as senior team boss. He stresses the point that it's also his last. But one feels that if he can guide the county's premier side to a first championship success in thirty-four years - or even a first appearance in the final in 31 years - he'll come under as much pressure to stay on as he did when he tried to hand in his star twelve months ago. ■



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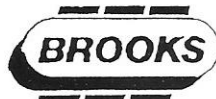
- (1) The Tom Markham Cup (Tommy was a founder member of Crokes in 1904).
- (2) Louth in 1910 (Kerry refused to travel as they were in dispute with the railway authorities over travel arrangements for GAA teams and supporters).
- (3) Dr. Pierce Grace (S.F. with Dublin in 1906 and 1907, S.H. with Kilkenny in 1911, '12 and '13).
- (4) Monaghan
- (5) Midfield (No. 8) Won All Ireland S.F. medals in 1924, '26, '29, 30 and '32.
- (6) Billy Morgan

- (7) Tony Hanahoe (Dublin)
- (8) Maurice Davin
- (9) 1978
- (10) Mattie McDonagh (Galway)
- (11) They won their first All Ireland title defeating London in the junior football final.
- (12) Michael Hogan (Tipperary)
- (13) Croke Park (The first match at Castleblaney was abandoned due to the crowd encroaching onto the pitch).
- (14) Jack Mahon (Galway)
- (15) Pat Reynolds (1971)

- (16) Yes
- (17) Dermot Earley
- (18) Sean O'Neill, Jim McCartan, Paddy Doherty
- (19) S. Murphy, K. Coffey, M. O'Dwyer
- (20) 1927

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PROFILE PROFILE PROFILE PROFILE
PROFILE OF
BRENDAN HAYDEN
 by Tommie Murphy

Brendan Hayden, one of Carlow's star players, started playing with his club, Tinryland, in 1949 and retired in 1977 as a player. During that period he won one I.F.C. in 1953; three S.F.C. in '71,

'72, '75; two S.F.L. in '61 and '68; played with Éire 'Og in 1960 winning S.F.C. and league. He played with Carlow Senior team from 1955 to 1971 winning O'Hannahans cup medal and John Players Cup

medal. He played County Minor in 1952, '53 and '54. He won Leinster Railway cup medals in 1959 and 1961. He was also on the panel in 1964 and '65 and played at full forward for Leinster in 1966.

He won four S.F.C. inter finals medals with "Cosets" Sugar Factory in '58, '59, '63 and '64.

Today Brendan is a member of Carlow County Board and a delegate to the Leinster Council.



Rathvilley, Carlow Senior Football Champions 1990

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1947 New York, New York

By Phil Murphy, People Newspaper, Wexford

Martin O'Neill may have indirectly helped to make sure the 1947 All-Ireland football final should cross the Atlantic and make history by being decided outside the country for the only time.

A moving plea by Canon Hamilton of Clare had persuaded the 1947 Congress to grant the final to New York, but some doubts were still being felt on the evening of May 23rd when the Central Council met in Barry's Hotel to make a final decision on this matter.

Martin O'Neill was in the hotel but not attending the meeting. During an adjournment before the vote he was approached by Bob O'Keefe, a long serving Leinster Council chairman whom Martin had served as secretary.

"What do you think we should do, Martin?" O'Keefe asked. After some reflection, O'Neill replied: "We'll always have our All-Ireland finals here every year; sure, Irish hearts are breaking over there, and if we can give them a little bit of joy, we should do it."

"Right, Martin. That's made up my mind, I'll vote that we go," said O'Keefe.

And it was very tight. By 20 votes to 17, Central Council irrevocably agreed that the All-Ireland Final should be played in the Polo Grounds, New York, that year.

Little did Martin O'Neill know then that when Cavan and Kerry won through to contest that historic Polo Grounds final on September 14th, he was to have a central role.

He was nearing the end of an illustrious refereeing career that had been highlighted by the handling of two successive senior football All-Irelands, in 1932 and 1933. Curiously, the first featured Kerry as they completed their four-in-a-row by beating Mayo, and the

second featured Cavan's first All-Ireland victory as they beat Galway.

And now Martin O'Neill, Cavan and Kerry were to join in a moment of destiny in the home of the New York Jets Baseball team, the Polo Grounds.

Talking to Martin O'Neill recently, he admitted quite frankly that he was amazed to be selected as referee - the counties had a 'say' in picking the match official, and he didn't think he was regarded with special favour by either county. "It was the last thing in the world I expected".



Martin O'Neill divided his time between Wicklow and Wexford

But there was a little trade-off: Martin would probably be making the trip anyway as an official, being then in his 20th year as Leinster Council secretary. Cavan and Kerry said they would be delighted to accept him as referee, if they were allowed to include an extra person each in the travelling party. This was agreed, and two lucky people got a trip to America they had little expected!

Martin made the five-day trip over on the Mauritania from Cobh in mid-August and looked up many relatives and former playing colleagues. He arrived in New York a few days before the game and he and Paddy O'Keefe, the General Secretary, had a look at the polo Grounds on the Thursday before the final.

He was amazed to see this big mound in the midfield area, the pitcher's mound for the baseball games normally played there. "That's going to have to come out of there" he exclaimed to O'Keefe, and nearly caused the New York Jets groundsman to have a stroke! The famous 'mound' stayed, but Martin felt it certainly did not help the players in the final.

RAZZMATAZZ

There was a wonderful atmosphere in New York, with a lot of American razzmatazz being created around the game. The players and officials were given a ticker-tape parade down Broadway on their way to a civic reception by Mayor Bill O'Dwyer (with Mayo connections) at City Hall. And they were received by Cardinal Spellman who presented them with a special medal which Martin still cherishes.

There are always bound to be some little snags when organising such a big sporting occasion so far away from home, and Martin came upon one on the Saturday night before the game - they had no valves or pumps to blow up the footballs! But somehow, the job got done, and all was ready for the game.

Martin remembers it as a very good, competitive game. Mindful of Canon Hamilton's invocation to "make a good spectacle of it", he used the whistle sparingly and thinks there were only about fifteen frees in the whole hour.

Kerry got off to a flying start and led by 2-2 to nil after fifteen minutes, a goal by Batt Garvey after a fine solo run, and 1-2 from Gega O'Connor. They

had the ball in the net twice more, but they were called back because the whistle had sounded. Martin is still quite convinced that he was right on both occasions - fouls had been clearly committed and he had 'blown up' well before the 'scores' came.

Cavan moved P.J. Duke from midfield to right half back in a switch with John Wilson, and the half back line of Duke, captain J.J. O'Reilly and Simon Deignan closed off the route to goal, with Duke giving "one of the best exhibitions I ever saw" says Martin.

Cavan hauled back the lead with goals from Joe Stafford and the great Mick Higgins, and points from Peter Donohoe and led at half time by 2-5 to 2-4.

Martin O'Neill thinks the real turning point came just before half time when Kerry's fine midfielder Eddie Dowling fell awkwardly, hurt his ankle and had to leave the field. Cavan never looked back after that, and Kerry were further hampered when Paddy Kennedy's already damaged ankle gave way on the hard ground and he had to quit the full forward line.

Only some great saves by the veteran Kerry goalie Danno O'Keefe - playing in his last All-Ireland final -

kept Kerry in it in the second half, but Cavan were worthy winners by 2-11 to 2-7.



The Wexford Senior Football team defeated by Galway in the National Football League Div. 2 promotion play-off in March

For many at home that game will be remembered for Michael O'Hehir's marvellous commentary and his plea for the lines across the Atlantic to be kept open "just a few minutes more" to fit in the climax of the game. Martin O'Neill used to joke with the late Joe Keohane that O'Hehir's dilemma was all his fault - the second half was held up for several minutes while the bould Joe was sitting down on the pitch lacing up his boots!

Martin has never heard O'Hehir's commentary, but he appreciated the famous broadcasters references to his Alma Mater in Wexford, St. Peter's

College. Two of Martin's sons - the late Fr. Thomas and Micheal - were students at St. Peter's and by special dispensation of the college president the boys were allowed to stay up late that Sunday night to hear the broadcast.

It was a unique match, and Martin O'Neill has such a unique souvenir of it. It was in 1947 that the practice of awarding the All-Ireland referees a gold medal was first started, and Phil Cahill of Tipperary was the first to get one when he was in charge as Kilkenny beat Cork on September 1st in the hurling final.

But when the medals were awarded at the impressive after-match banquet in New York, GAA President Dan O'Rourke of Roscommon handed Martin a referee's medal made of silver. He is convinced this was the sample medal presented to the makers for inspection by the Croke Park officials some months earlier. Martin never got his gold medal, but the silver one has a special place in his trophy case in Ferns.

Martin also has a couple of other special souvenirs of that trip - some lapel badges and miniature footballs on sale outside the ground in typical American fashion. And that's not all... he carried home with him all the way

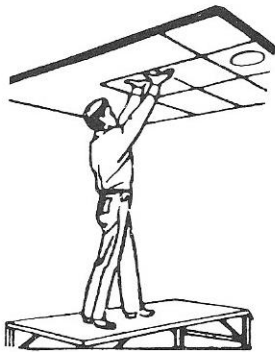
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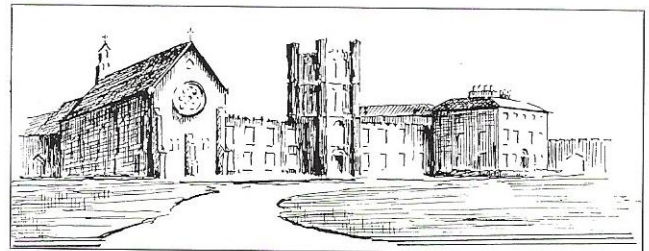


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Wicklow Team beaten by Meath in the replay of the Leinster Championship match at Croke Park L. to R. front, Paul Allen, Tom Keogh, Terry Allen, Mick Murtagh, Billy Kelly, Conan Daye, Ashley O'Sullivan and Kevin O'Brien. Back L. to R., Pat Baker, Phil Healy, Fergus Daly, Pat Byrne, John Walsh, David Gordon and Hugh Kenny.

from America two of the corner flags used in the game. "I had to cut the poles in half to fit them in my case," he says.

He made the trip home in mid-October, again on the Mauritania, and had a most enjoyable five days in the company of some of the Kerry players, including Eddie Dowling, Paddy Bawn Brosnan and Joe Keohane.

This remarkable American odyssey is still clearly etched in the mind of Martin O'Neill, and he has 'replayed' the game many times in the past forty-four years, often in the company of players from both sides.

But for a man who was a stickler for the rules in his many years as a referee and an official, he has one strange little confession to make... "I don't ever remember sending in a referee's report on that game, you know" he says with a wry smile.

For the record, the teams on that famous day lined out like this:

CAVAN:

V. Gannon; W. Doonan; B. O'Reilly; P. Smith; J. Wilson; J.J. O'Reilly (Capt.); S. Deignan; P.J. Duke; P. Brady; T. Tighe; M. Higgins; C. McDwyer; J. Stafford; P. Donohoe; T.P. O'Reilly.

KERRY:

D. O'Keefe; D. Lyne (Capt.); J. Keohane; P. Brosnan; J. Lyne; W. Casey; E. Walsh; E. Dowling; E. O'Connor; E. O'Sullivan; D. Kavanagh; B. Garvey; F. O'Keefe; T. O'Connor, P. Kennedy.

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MUNSTER DEVELOPMENTS

By Michael Brophy,

Time was, and not very long ago either, when counties like Waterford, Limerick, Clare and Tipperary were regarded as the poor relations of football in the Munster region. For far too long, Kerry and Cork ruled the roost, and game in the four other so called weaker counties suffered as a result. But thankfully times have changed, and hopefully for the better. It all came about when the Provincial Council at the tail end of 1990, decided that the Munster Senior Championship would be conducted this year on an open draw basis. Quite understandable, the move was vehemently opposed by the long refereed to "Big Guns", and some of their representatives went as far as to say that the Council would lose out financially.

Of course high Summer proved the pessimists all wrong, and the entire image of this prestigious championship gained a new and invigorating image. The nett outcome was that the weaker counties having shown a solidarity in opting for the open draw, proceeding to make it work even beyond their own imagination. Kerry were given a right good game in the first round by Clare and then they in turn toppled the reigning munster and All-Ireland Champions, Cork. Most pleasing of all from a Munster Council viewpoint, all games in the series attracted bigger crowds than expected, and the Cork-Kerry showdown contrary to earlier expectations, attracted an attendance bordering on a Final crowd, while in the other half of the draw, Tipperary gave Limerick a run for their money, while later at the semi final stage the Shannonsiders had the smallest possible margin to spare over a youthful and exceedingly promising Waterford side. Even more remarkable, the Final when played in direct opposition to the



Waterford senior football team who were defeated by Limerick in the Munster semi-final.

magnetic drawing power of a Cork-Tipperary Hurling decider in Thurles on the same afternoon, produced a very respectable 25,000 audience at Killarney.

Now there is unlikely to be any going back for the heretofore weaker counties, Limericks magnificent display against honours laden Kerry has proved beyond all shadow of doubt, that removed from the shackles of a "guarded draw", every county can stand on its own two feet, and that given occasion, the minnows can likewise snatch a meed of glory. Football in Waterford is now emerging from the doldrums, and club fare in the county is as good if not better than most outsiders are inclined to give credit.

It was Limericks turn to taste the glory trail this year - who knows, it could be Waterfords turn next. Roll on 1992 and the expectation that dreams can be fulfilled, and new horizons attained

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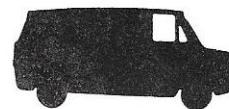
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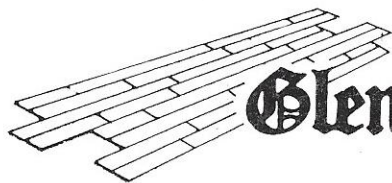
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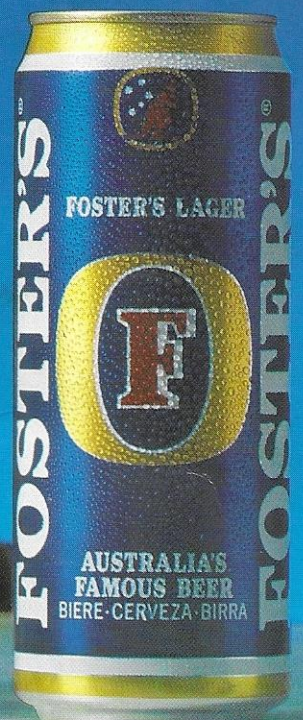
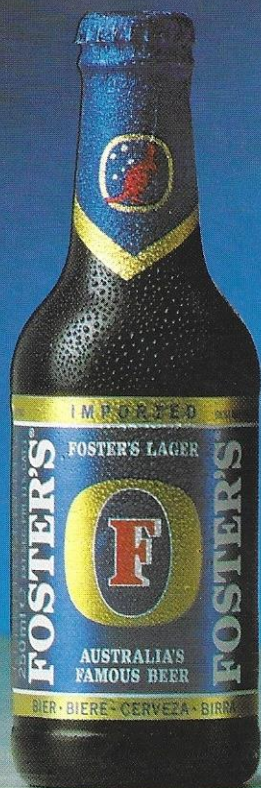
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