

Joe Faunt

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL REPLAY
SENIOR FOOTBALL

An Mhí v. Áth Cliath

(MEATH)

(DUBLIN)

3.45 p.m.

Réiteoir: TOMMY HOWARD (Kildare)

SENIOR FOOTBALL REPLAY



SEAN BOYLAN
MEATH TEAM MANAGER



PADDY CULLEN
DUBLIN TEAM MANAGER

i bPaire an Chrochaigh

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

JUNIOR FOOTBALL REPLAY

An Mhí v. Áth Cliath

(MEATH)

(DUBLIN)

2.15 p.m.

Réiteoir: CARTHAGE CONLON (Westmeath)

PROGRAMME LUACH £1. *Joe Faunt*

Si bPaire an Chrochaigh TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL

SENIOR FOOTBALL

DUBLIN V MEATH

REFEREE : T. HOWARD (KILDARE)

3.45.P.M.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINAL

DUBLIN V MEATH

REFEREE : C. CONLON

(WESTMEATH) 2.15.P.M.

WARNING TO INJURY PROBLEMS AND LATE SELECTION ANY CHANGES IN THE JUNIOR TEAMS OR SUBS WILL BE ANNOUNCED OVER THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM.



MEATH SAVED THEIR FIRST DIVISION LIVES BY DRAWING AGAINST DUBLIN AT THIS SAME CROKE PARK VENUE A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO - NOW THEIR MANAGER, SEAN BOYLAN, WANTS THEM TO FINISH OFF THE JOB. BOYLAN IS CONVINCED HIS TEAM CAN BEAT THE "DUBD" AND GO ON TO WIN THE LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP. THE IMPLICATIONS OF DEFEAT ARE TOO GREAT FOR EITHER MANAGER TO CONSIDER.

AND BOYLAN DOESN'T WANT TO BE BRANDED A LOSER. "DUBLIN MIGHT BE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS BUT THAT WILL COUNT FOR NOTHING IN A CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEXT.

"THE TEAM THAT LOSES TODAY FACES THE PROSPECT OF 12 AWFUL MONTHS ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP SCRAPHEAP AND I'M TOO LONG IN THE GAME TO ENDURE THAT INDIGNITY".

MEATH HAVE STOPPED DUBLIN IN THEIR TRACKS BEFORE AND BOYLAN IS BACKING THEM TO DO IT AGAIN TODAY.

"DUBLIN WERE ON A ROLL THE LAST TIME WE PLAYED THEM", SAYS BOYLAN "BUT WE MATCHED THEM FOR THE FULL 60 MINUTES AND MIGHT EVEN HAVE BEATEN THEM.

"IF OUR ATTITUDE IS AS GOOD TODAY AS IT WAS LAST MARCH I'M SURE WE CAN DUMP PADDY CULLEN'S DUBLIN ON THE SEAT OF THEIR PANTS". BOYLAN HAS A POINT. FOR WHEN THE TEAMS CLASHED LAST MARCH ALL THE PRESSURE WAS ON THE MEATHMEN.

"WE HAD TO WIN TO AVOID RELEGATION WHEREAS DUBLIN WERE ALREADY GUARANTEED A QUARTER - FINAL TIE AGAINST WICKLOW.

"FURTHERMORE, THEY WERE ON A ROLL OF FIVE STRAIGHT WINS AND WE HAD DOWN BREATHING DOWN OUR NECKS.

"ONE SLIP AND WE FACED THE POSSIBILITY OF LIFE IN THE SECOND DIVISION.

"BUT WE RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE AND CAME AWAY WITH THE POINT WE NEEDED."

BUT BOYLAN ISN'T TAKING THAT PERFORMANCE IN THE LEAGUE OUT OF CONTEXT IN RELATION TO TODAY'S CUP TIE CLASH.

"THE NATURE OF THE TWO GAMES BEAR NO COMPARISON BUT THE SIGNS LAST MARCH WERE ENCOURAGING AND, WHAT'S MORE, THE PLAYERS WON'T NEED ANY MOTIVATING FOR THIS ONE.

"IT'S THE LEINSTER FOOTBALL FINAL FOR THE 30 PLAYERS WHO WILL DO BATTLE OUT THERE TODAY".

BUT DUBLIN MANAGER CULLEN IS BACKING HIS MEN TO DO THE BUSINESS TODAY.

"I HAVE EVERY BELIEF IN THIS TEAM AND I HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT AT THE REAL WORK WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

"BUT IF WE LOSE TODAY ALL THE HARD WORK WE HAVE PUT IN SINCE I BECAME MANAGER WILL COUNT FOR NOTHING.

"IT'S A FRIGHTENING PROSPECT BUT I'M NOT FRIGHTENED. NEITHER ARE THE PLAYERS".

THE TEAMS DREW 0-11 TO 1-8 WHEN THEY MET IN THE LEAGUE LAST MARCH, TOMMY DOWD SCORING THE ONLY GOAL OF THE GAME AFTER 12 MINUTES AFTER DUBLIN HAD OPEN UP AN EARLY THREE POINT LEAD.

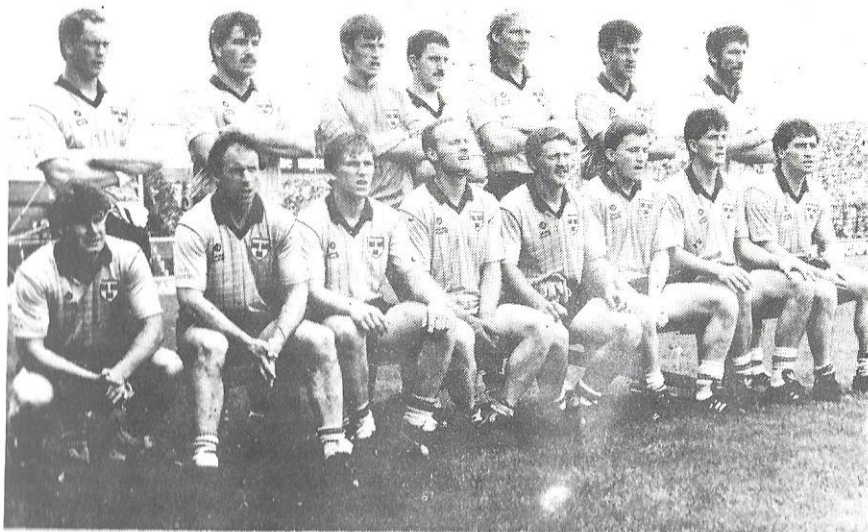
DOWD'S GOAL HAD THE MEATHMEN ALL FIRED UP AND IT WAS ONLY WHEN NOEL McCAFFREY CAME ON AS A SUBSITUTE FOR THE "DUBS" THAT THEY GOT THEIR ACT TOGETHER AGAIN.

DUBLIN GOT OFF THE HOOK THAT DAY, GOT OFF THE HOOK AGAIN WHEN THEY BEAT A KILDARE TEAM THAT SHOULD HAVE BEATEN THEM IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FINAL LAST MONTH.

BUT WILL MEATH ALLOW THEM TO GET AWAY WITH MORE DAYLIGHT ROBBERY WERE THIS AFTERNOON ? "NOT IF I CAN HELP IT," SAYS BOYLAN. BUT IT'S UP TO THE PLAYERS TO DO THEIR BIT AS WELL.

AND WHAT OF DUBLIN'S CHANCES ? "DUBLIN STILL HAVE SOME WORK TO DO AND SO HAVE MEATH", SAYS KILDARE MANAGER MICK O DWYER. "BUT I HAVE A SNEAKING FEELING WE'LL BE PLAYING DUBLIN IN THE LEINSTER FINAL IN THE SUMMER. I HOPE SO. BECAUSE WE HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO", JOKES O'DWYER.

OUR VERDICT : DUBLIN'S BUBBLE TO BURST ALL OVER CROKE PARK . MEATH PROVED LAST MARCH THET THEY CAN COPE WITH THE PRESSURE. DUBLIN HAVE BEEN LIVING ON BORROWED TIME AND THEIR NUMBER IS JUST ABOUT UO FOR ANOTHER SEASON. MEATH TO WIN BY TWO POINTS.



The Dublin senior football team beaten, 1-13 to 0-12, by Meath, in 1987. Leinster Final. Back row, left to right: Barney Rock, Joe McNally, John O'Leary, David Synnott, Declan Bolger, Gerry Hargan, Kieran Duff. Front row, left to right: Charlie Redmond, Mick Kennedy, David De Lappe, Noel McCaffrey, David Carroll, Eamonn Heary, Mick Galvin, Anto McCaul.

To go through a successful provincial campaign — especially in Leinster — without conceding a single goal is an achievement to be noted. To go through five championships, winning four of them, and to defy the goalscoring efforts of allcomers in the course of the five campaigns is almost incredible. But a team did actually perform this feat in the Leinster championship of more than eighty years ago and mostly against powerful opposition. The team was the Dublin three-in-a-row combination of the early 1900s which boasted what was probably the finest defensive set-up the game has ever seen.

But their defensive deeds began even before they embarked on the successful All-Ireland campaigns of 1906-08. From the first round of the 1904 championship to the first round in July 1909 at Jones' Road, the Dublin

net never once fell in Leinster. Through 14 hours of hectic combat the Dublin defenders reigned supreme — even on the one occasion on which they lost to Kildare. The details of this great run are:

- 1904 — Dublin 0-9, Kildare 0-5.
Dublin 0-11, Louth 0-6.
Dublin 0-5, Kilkenny 0-1.
- 1905 — Kildare 0-6, Dublin 0-2.
- 1906 — Dublin 1-9, Kilkenny 0-5.
Dublin 0-8, Louth 0-6.
Dublin 1-9, Kildare 0-8.
- 1907 — Dublin 0-11, Kildare 0-4.
Dublin 2-6, Louth 0-6.
Dublin 1-11, Offaly 0-4.
- 1908 — Dublin 1-8, Meath 0-1.
Dublin 0-13, Laois 0-7.
Dublin 1-7, Kildare 0-3.
- 1909 — Dublin 0-18, Wexford 0-6.



The Dublin team, beaten 2-5 to 0-9 in 1988. final. Back row, left to right: Tommy Conroy, Barney Rock, Joe McNally, Declan Sheehan, John O'Leary, Declan Bolger, Vinny Murphy, Mick Galvin, Gerry Hargan. Front row, left to right: Charlie Redmond, Mick Kennedy, Tommy Carr, Noel McCaffrey, Eamonn Heary, Dave Synnott.

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JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINAL DUBLIN "V" MEATH

DUBLIN

1) A. McALLISTER COLOURS : BLUE
(Goalkeeper) A NAVY BLUE

2) T. BEHAN
(Right Full)

3) R. CAVERLY
(Full Back)

4) S. BARRY
(Left Full)

5) S. HERBERT
(Right Half)

6) D. DOWLING
(Centre Half)

7) A. MOORE
(Left Half)

8) D. HETHERTON 9) P. TIERNAN
(Midfield Players)

10) P. O'HARA
(R. Half Fwd.)

11) S. MURRAY
(Centre Fwd.)

12) C. REILLY
(L. Half Fwd.)

13) K. ROWE
(R. Corner Fwd.)

14) I. MULLETT
(Full Fwd.)

15) J. WATSON
(L. Corner Fwd.)

SUBS : C. KEARNEY, P. FEEHAN, G. TROY, G. MAHER, R. BYRNE,
J. WARD, D. GRIFFIN, J. CAMPBELL, C. KELLY, G. MURPHY.

MEATH

1) J. SULLIVAN COLOURS:
(Goalkeeper) GREEN A GOLD

2) M. CROSBIE
(Right Full)

3) P. FAY
(Full Back)

4) V. MAGUIRE
(Left Full)

5) P. REILLY
(Right Half)

6) P. CAHILL
(Centre Half)

7) D. LYNCH
(Left Half)

8) T. KANE 9) J. HENRY
(Midfield Players)

10) D. McGOURTY
(R. Half Fwd.)

11) A. GILLIC
(Centre Fwd.)

12) J. DEVINE
(L. Half Fwd.)

13) T. CONNOR
(R. CORNER Fwd.)

14) O. GILSENAN
(Full Fwd.)

15) P. HENRY
(L. Corner Fwd.)

SUBS : J. BRADY, E. McMANUS, J. CUNNINGHAM, J. HENDERICK,
A. CROSBIE, L. SMITH, J. KAVANAGH, N. COLLIER, D. MAHER.

ANY CHANGE IN THE TEAMS WILL BE ANNOUNCED OVER THE PUBLIC
ADDRESS SYSTEM.

*Best Wishes to the Meath Team
from*



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& Carr*

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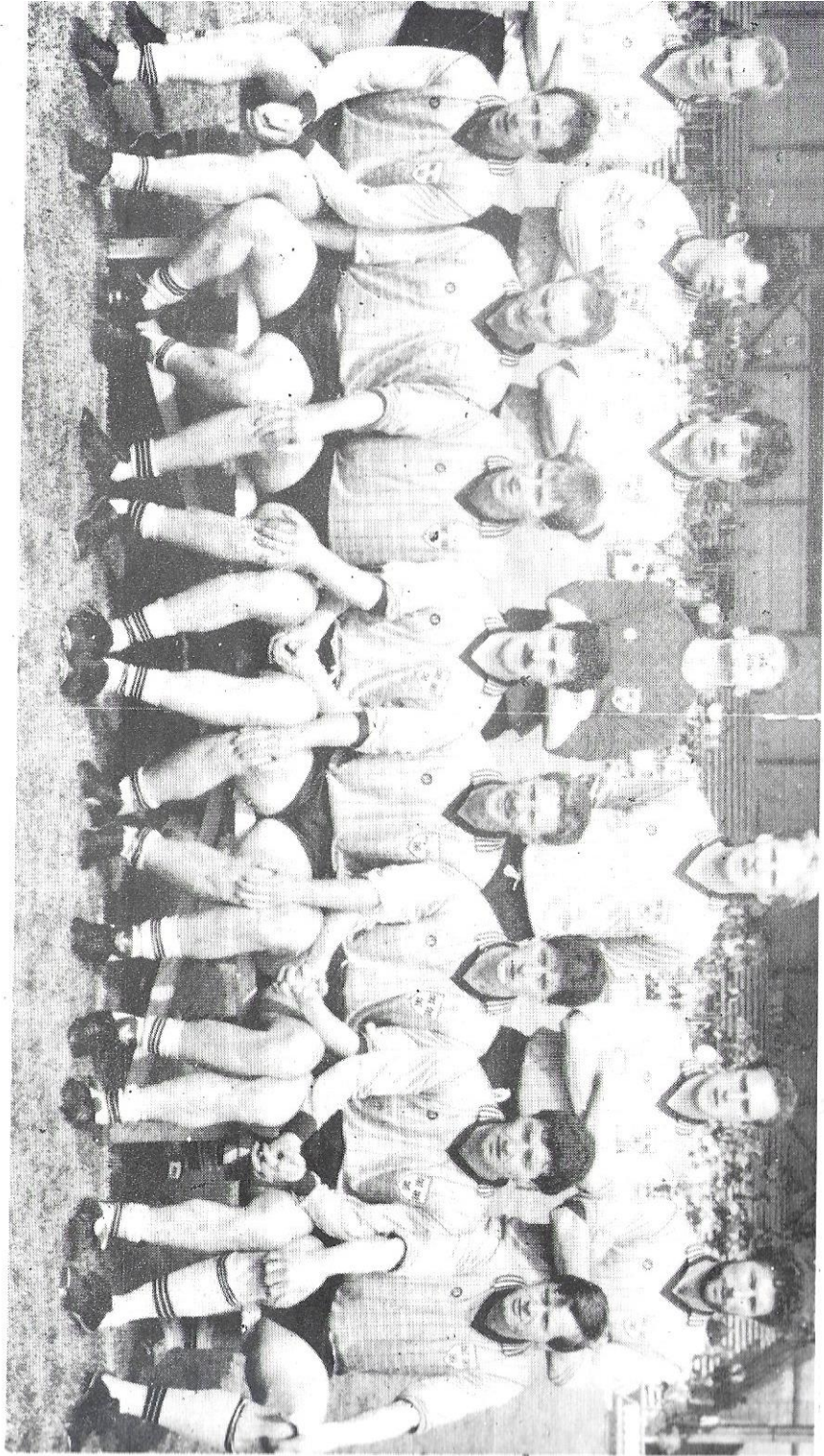
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Back Row (left to right) B. ROCK, G. HARGAN, J. McNALLY, J. O'LEARY
D. BOLGER, G. O'NEILL, K. DUFF.
Front Row (left to right) M. KENNEDY, N. McCAFFREY, D. DE LAPPE,
D. SYNNOTT, D. CARROLL, M. GALVIN, A. McCAUL, J. RONAYNE.

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

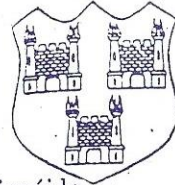
THE TEAMS LINE OUT

AVMHI

Dathanna: **Gorm is Dubhghorm**

Dathanna: **Glas is Bán**

S. Ó Laoire
1. JOHN O'LEARY
O'Dwyers



M. Ó Duígin
2. MICK DEEGAN
Erins Isle

C. Breathnach
3. CIARAN WALSH
St. Annes

M. O'Cinneide
4. MICK KENNEDY
St. Margarets

R. Ó Máille
2. ROBBIE O'MALLEY
St. Colmcille

M. Ó Liatháin
3. MICK LYONS
Summerhill

T. Mac Fearghais
4. TERRY FERGUSON
Gaeil Colmcille

T. Ó Carra
5. TOMMY CARR
Ballymun Kickhams (Capt.)

C. Ó Bairr
6. KEITH BARR
Erins Isle

E. Ó hIorua
7. EAMONN HEERY
St. Vincents

C. Ó Foghú
5. KEVIN FOLEY
Trim

L. Ó hEarnáin
6. LIAM HARNAN
Moynalwey

M. Ó Conaill
7. MARTIN O'CONNELL
St. Michaels

D. Ó Fuaráin
8. DAVID FORAN
Thomas Davis

P. Ó Bealáin
9. PAUL BEALIN
St. Kevins

LEINSTER FOOTBALL

L. Ó hAodha
8. LIAM HAYES
Skyrne (Capt.)

S. Ó Ceallaigh
9. SEÁN KELLY
Dunderry

CHAMPIONSHIP REPLAY

SUNDAY 9th. JUNE 1991

C. Mac Réamainn
10. CHARLIE REDMOND
Erins Isle

S. Ó Síoda
11. JACK SHEEDY
Garda

N. Mac Giodáin
12. NIALL GUIDEN
Raheny

D. Ó Beigeáin
10. DAVID BEGGY
O'Mathúna

C. Ó Ruairc
11. COLM O'ROURKE
Skyrne

T. Ó Dúda
12. TOMMY DOWD
Dunderry

P. Ó Corráin
13. PAUL CURRAN
Thomas Davis

U. Ó Murchú
14. VINNIE MURPHY
Trinity Gaels

C. Ó Duibh áin
15. KIERAN DUFF
Fingallians

B. Stafort
13. BRIAN STAFFORD
Kilmainhamwood

P.S. Mac Uilic
14. P.J. GILIC
Carnaross

B. Ó Floinn
15. BERNARD FLYNN
St. Josephs, Laois

FIR IONAIÐ: D. Ó Fearail DEREK O'FARRELL Na Fianna; G. Ó hArgáin GERRY HARGAN Ballymun Kickhams; R. Ó hAoláin RAY HOLLAND Parnells;

P. Ó Dochartaigh PAURIC DOHERTY Naomh Mearnóg; D. Ó Síocháin DECLAN SHEEHAN Ballymun Kickhams; D. Sionóid DAVID SYN-NOTT O'Tooles; B. Mac Concharraige BARNEY ROCK Ballymun Kickhams. P. CLARKE Whitehall/Colmcille, P. DWANE Thomas Davis

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

FIR IONAIÐ: D. Mac Gabhann DONAL SMITH O'Mathúna; F. Ó Muirreartaigh FINIAN MURTAGH O'Mathúna; B. Ó Raghallaigh BRENDAN O'REILLY St. Peters, Dunboyne; C. Mac Giolla Chomháill COLM COYLE Seneschalstown; S. Mac Diarmada JOHN McDERMOTT Curraha; T. Ó Conchúir TERRY O'CONNOR Ballivor; A. De. Brún ALAN BROWNE Walterstown.

MEATH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Chiceanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					



All-Ireland Club Finals

(Teams and Scores)

Iomáint

- 1971: Roscrea, Tipperary 4-5;
St. Rynagh's, Offaly 2-5.
- 1972: Blackrock, Cork, 5-13;
Rathnure, Wexfo 1, 6-9.
- 1973: Glen Rovers, Cork, 2-18;
St. Rynagh's, Offaly 2-9.
- 1974: Blackrock, Cork, 3-8;
Rathnure, Wexford, 1-9. (Replay).
Blackrock, 2-14; Rathnure 3-11.
(Draw).
- 1975: St. Finbarr's, Cork, 3-8;
The Fenians, Kilkenny, 1-6.
- 1976: James Stephen's, Kilkenny, 2-10;
Blackrock, Cork, 2-4.
- 1977: Glen Rovers, Cork, 2-12;
Camross, Laois, 0-3.
- 1978: St. Finbarr's, Cork, 2-7;
Rathnure, Wexford, 0-9.
- 1979: Blackrock, Cork, 5-7;
Shamrocks, Kilkenny, 5-5.
- 1980: Castlegar, Galway 1-11; Ballycastle,
Antrim, 1-8.
- 1981: Shamrocks, Kilkenny, 1-15;
St. Finbarr's, Cork, 1-11.
- 1982: James Stephen's, Kilkenny, 3-13;
Mount Sion, Waterford 3-8.
- 1983: Loughgiel Shamrocks, Antrim,
2-12; St. Rynagh's, Offaly, 1-12.
(Replay).
Loughgiel Shamrocks 1-8;
St. Rynagh's 2-5. (Draw).
- 1984: Ballyhale Shamrocks, Kilkenny
1-10; Gort, Galway 0-7. (Replay).
Ballyhale Shamrocks 1-10;
Gort 1-10 (Draw).
- 1985: St. Martin's, Kilkenny, 1-13;
Castlegar, Galway, 1-10. (Replay).
St. Martin's 2-9; Castlegar 3-6.
(Draw).
- 1986: Kilruane McDonagh's, Tipperary 1-
15; Buffer's Alley, Wexford
2-10.
- 1987: Borris-Ileagh, Tipperary, 2-9;
Rathnure, Wexford 0-9.
- 1988: Middleton, Cork, 3-8;
Athenry, Galway, 0-9.

- 1989: Buffer's Alley 2-12;
O'Donovan Rossa 0-12.

Peil

- 1971: East Kerry 5-9;
Bryansford, Down 2-7.
- 1972: Bellaghy, Derry, 0-15;
U.C.Cork, 1-11.
- 1973: Nemo Rangers, Cork, 4-6;
St. Vincent's, Dublin, 0-10 (Replay).
Nemo Rangers, 2-11;
St. Vincent's, 2-11. (Draw).
U.C.Dublin, 0-14; Clann na nGael,
Armagh, 1-4. (Replay).
U.C.D. 1-6; Clann na nGael 1-6.
(Draw)
- 1974: U.C.Dublin 1-11;
Nemo Rangers, Cork, 0-12.
- 1975: St. Vincent's, Dublin 4-10;
Roscommon Gaels 0-5.
- 1976: Austin Stacks, Tralee, 1-13; Ballerin,
Derry 2-7.
- 1977: Thomond College, Limerick, 2-4; St.
John's; Belfast, 1-3.
- 1978: Nemo Rangers, Cork, 2-9;
Scotstown, Monaghan, 1-3.
- 1979: St. Finbarr's, Cork, 3-9; Ballinasloe,
Galway, 0-8.
- 1980: St. Finbarr's Cork, 1-8; Walterstown,
Meath 0-6.
- 1981: Nemo Rangers, Cork, 6-11;
Garrymore, Mayo 1-8.
- 1982: Portlaoise, Laois, 0-12;
Clann na nGael, Roscommon, 2-0.
- 1983: Nemo Rangers, Cork, 2-10;
Walterstown, Meath 0-5.
- 1984: Castleisland Desmonds, Kerry
2-2; St. Vincent's, Dublin 0-7.
- 1985: Burren, Down, 1-10;
Castlisland Desmonds, Kerry 1-6.
- 1986: St. Finbarr's, Cork, 0-10;
Clan na nGael, Roscommon, 0-7.
- 1987: Burren, Down, 1-9;
Clann na nGael, Roscommon, 0-8.
- 1988: Nemo Rangers 1-13;
Clann na nGael 1-3.
- 1989: Nemo Rangers 1-13;
Clann na nGael 1-3.

1990 RESULTS

IOMÁINT: Shamrocks, Kilkenny, 1-16; Ballybrown, Limerick, 0-16.
PEIL: Baltinglass, Wicklow, 2-7; Clann na nGael, Roscommon, 0-7.

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JUNIOR FINAL LOOKS A LIVELY PIPE-OPENER

FANS ARRIVING EARLY AT CROKE PARK TODAY COULD BE ROCHLY REWARDED AS THE LEINSTER JUNIOR FOOTBALL FINAL AT 2.15. BETWEEN DUBLIN AND MEATH HAS ALL THE INGREDIENTS OF AN ABSORBING CONTEST.

MEATH INVARIABLY PRODUCE GOOD JUNIOR SIDES AND SOME IN RECENT YEARS WOULD HAVE GIVEN MANY SENIOR COUNTY SIDES PLENTY TO DO. THE CURRENT PANEL HAVE EIGHT PLAYERS WITH SENIOR INTER-COUNTY EXPERIENCE, AND A FEW MORE UNDOUBTEDLY HEADING THAT WAY, SO THEY WILL BE WARM FAVOURITES TODAY.

AS WE HAVE SEEN DOWN THE YEARS THOUGH BOOKMAKERS ODDS COUNT FOR VERY LITTLE WHEN DUBLIN AND MEATH CLASH IN CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AS AT ANY LEVEL.

MEATH MINORS WON THE ALL IRELAND LAST YEAR, BUT TOOK A TUMBLE IN LEINSTER THIS TIME WHEN DUBLIN WON A REPLAY IN WALTERSTOWN BY SIX POINTS AFTER EXTRA TIME.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE RESPECTIVE FORM OF THE JUNIOR SIDES. MEATH DEMOLISHED CARLOW IN THE SEMI FINAL IN A GAME THAT WAS IN EFFECT OVER AFTER SIX MINUTES.

THE RESULT SUPRISED NOBODY IN LEINSTER, IN FACT CARLOW ONLY QUALIFIED BECAUSE LOUTH GAVE THEM A WALKOVER.

DUBLIN'S WIN OVER KILKENNY WAS ALMOST EMBARRASINGLY ONE SIDED, BUT WHILE THEIR VICTORY OVER LAOIS DIDN'T INDUCE RAVE REVIEWS, IT WAS A GOOD PERFORMANCE NONETHELESS.

THE MIDLANDERS WERE A USEFUL COMBINATION, AND INDEED CLOSE TO HALF TIME WERE LOOKING LIKELY WINNERS. A PAUL O'HARA PENALTY EARLY IN THE SECOND HALF SETTLED DUBLIN DOWN HOWEVER, AND WHEN KENNY ROWE FINISHED OFF A MOVE HE STARTED HIMSELF WITH A GOAL, THE CONTEST WAS OVER.

ROWE IS THE LATEST TO ARRIVE ON THAT CONVEYOR BELT OF TALENTED PLAYERS EMERGING FROM TALLAGHT. JOEY WATSON, A SKERRIES FIREMAN, LOOKSWELL ABOVE AVERAGE ALSO.

MIDFIELDER PETER TIERNAN WILL BE REMEMBERED AS ONE OF THE KEY PLAYERS IN PARNELLS PURSUIT OF LEINSTER AND ALL IRELAND GLORY THREE YEARS AGO.

AS USUAL THOUGH DUBLIN'S ACES ARE IN DEFENCE. SEAN BARRY WON A MINOR ALL IRELAND MEDAL IN '84 AND HIS ST. MONICAS CLUBMATE TOM BEHAN IS A SUPERB DEFENDER.

TOM'S FAMILY IS STEEPED IN SOCCER INDEED HE IS A NEPHEW OF FAMOUS MANCHESTER UNITED SCOUT BILLY BEHAN BUT GAELIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN TOM'S FIRST LOVE, AND TO RUN OUT IN FRONT OF HILL 16 ON BIG MATCH DAY IS A BOYHOOD DREAM COME TRUE.

DEREC DOWLING IS A FINE CENTRE HALF BACK, AND THE SANDYFORD LAD COULD WELL BE IN THE SENIOR PANEL IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

IT LOOKS DUBLIN'S BEST JUNIOR SIDE FOR SOME YEARS, ALTHOUGH THE ELEVATION OF PAUL BEALIN TO THE SENIOR RANKS WAS A MAJOR LOSS.



The Meath team that beat Dublin, 2-5 to 0-9 1988, final. Back row, left to right: Colm O'Rourke, Mick Lyons, Gerry McEntee, Michael McQuillan, Martin O'Connell, Liam Hayes, David Beggy. Front row, left to right: P.J. Gillic, Mattie McCabe, Colm Coyle, Bernard Flynn, Robbie O'Malley, Pádraic Lyons, Liam Harnan, Kevin Foley.

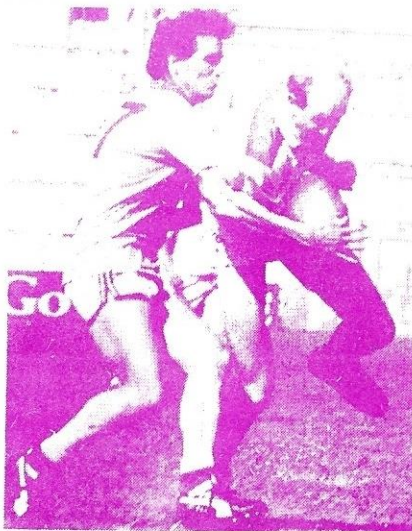
AN MHÍ

Meath can claim to be one of the longest established football powers in the country as the county was one of the four Leinster counties which took part in the very first championship in 1887 — the others being Louth, Wexford and Kilkenny. And the Royal County took part in the first championship of that historic year when they were involved in the inaugural games played on July 24.

Four games were played on that date — Cork and Kilkenny in football at Dungarvan, Wexford and Galway in hurling, Louth and Waterford and Meath and Limerick in football at Elm Park, Dublin.

Kilkenny were successful at Dungarvan, but the big attraction was in Dublin. Louth ousted Waterford, Galway overcame Wexford while Meath, who were represented by the Dowdstown club, went down to the Limerick Commercial by 0-2 to 3-2.

Interestingly, none of the above three football pairings has ever been repeated in championship football at any level.

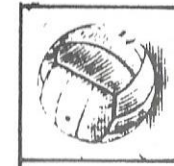


Joe Cassells (Meath) and Dave Kavanagh (Offaly)!

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The Most Coveted Award in Irish Sport

An All-Ireland senior medal is without doubt the most coveted award in Irish sport. Every player in the game is desperately keen to gain just such a medal — and success in an All-Ireland senior final is also the dream of every schoolboy in the land.

The schoolboy, in his youthful imagination, sees himself marching on to Croke Park for the parade round the pitch to the thunderous cheers of thousands of spectators. At times he wonders will he be caught up by headquarters nerves.

He brushes aside the fear and concludes his fantasy with a scene in which amid a welter of excitement with the sides level and thirty seconds to go he weaves his way through the opposing backs, side-steps and dodges and scores the point that brings the cup to his county.

And then he modestly makes his way through the milling thousands to the Hogan Stand to live his proudest moment when he receives from the President

the All-Ireland Cup — in his own hands.

It has come to all of us. With envious eyes we had seen the local hero outside the church on Sunday and caught a glimpse of his All-Ireland medal. He had won three in all; we would gladly give our right hand to win just one.

The great players who became — legends in their own time and whose deeds will survive in folklore have had their names enshrined on that golden Roll of Honour, some three times, some oftener still.

How frequently too does the talk turn on the great players who have never won All-Ireland medals, the tragedies of the Gaelic field, the men who lived in the wrong era in their counties, those whose superb prowess could not bring about the miracle of rising their counties to the front rank, the men who, born in another parish, in another county, would have figured in half-a-dozen All-Ireland finals.

Alas, in a whole year are only twenty precious trophies won — only twenty in football there are the minor 21 players and the 21 footballers and hurlers in the schoolboy's year he takes these in hand and it is on the senior level his ambition is faster.

What has become of these medals since the All-Ireland design was fashioned nearly 100 years ago. Some have been handed down to make the greatest sacrifice an owner could make, some are handed down as heirlooms.

Some are proudly worn on broaches by favoured players. Some are doubtless hidden in the backwoods of a county some worn on the breast of a missionary priest in Africa.

The All-Ireland senior medalist has a status unique . . . a status growing year after year. The G.A.A. goes from success to success.

THE SAM MAGUIRE CUP

The first game for the "Sam Maguire" was the 1928 final between Kildare, then defending All-Ireland champions, and Cavan played on September 30 at Croke Park before an attendance of 24, 700.

Kildare fielded the same team that had won the title in 1927, but looked uncertain in the early stages as Cavan built up a three points lead. A goal by Billy Mangan, however, revived the champions hopes, and at the interval they were ahead by 1-2 to 0-3.

The exchanges were keen in the second half, and coming up to the final whistle the scores were tied at 2-5 each. However, Mangan again popped up for a vital Kildare score by sending the ball over the bar to earn his side an historic 2-6 to 2-5 win.

Bill "Squires" Gannon led Kildare from midfield to the title to become the first man to be presented with the trophy. He received the Cup from a Dr. Patrick McCartan, a close friend of Sam Maguire, and a member of a committee that made arrangements for the provision of the trophy.

Sam Maguire was born of Protestant parents in Dunmanway, Co. Cork, in 1879. On leaving school he joined the Civil Service and was assigned to duty in London.



He became actively involved in the affairs of the G.A.A., and was an accomplished footballer as well. He helped London in the All-Ireland finals of 1900, 1901 and 1902. Later still he became actively involved in the War of Independence.

Maguire returned to his native Dunmanway late in 1924, and died there in February 1927. He is buried in the Church of Ireland cemetery in Dunmanway.



A Committee was subsequently formed to raise funds for a trophy to commemorate Sam Maguire and so the association with the Cup and the All-Ireland final began in 1928.

The winners of the final were presented with that trophy each year up to and including 1987 when Meath beat Cork for their fourth success since 1949.

A new trophy was awarded for the 1988 final, and Meath became the first winners to complete the second leg of what will now rank as a unique Sam Maguire Cup double.

KERRY SHOW WAY

Kerry are the Sam Maguire Cup specialists. They first inscribed their name on the plinth in 1929, and took the Cup for the 23rd time in 1986.

Galway brought the trophy West for the first win in 1934, and Mayo joined the ranks of winners two years later and also captured their initial All-Ireland crown.

Cork had to wait until modern times for a first Cup win - 1945. Their only other triumph in the meantime was in 1973 when Biliy Morgan, now team manager, led the Rebel County from goal to their final win over Galway.

THE WEST'S LAST GLORY DAY

The last Sam Maguire Cup win by a Connacht county was in 1966 when a great Galway side, led by Enda Colleran, better known these days as a panelist on THE SUNDAY GAME, beat Meath to complete a sequence of three All-Ireland senior titles in succession.

MAYO DOUBLE

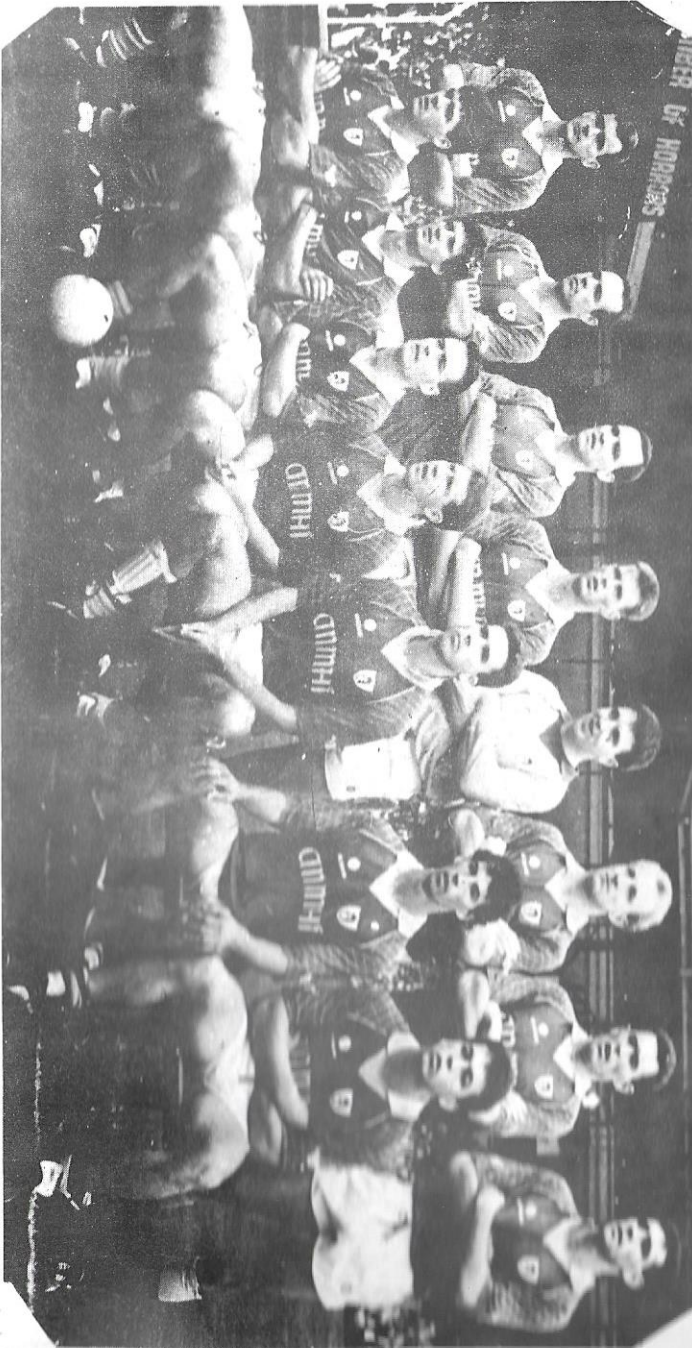
Mayo's return to the final action brings into focus the fact that the county's last Sam Maguire Cup appearance in 1951 saw Sean Flanagan take his place in an elite company of title winning captains.

Joe Barrett (Kerry), 1929 and 1932, was the first footballer to be twice presented with the trophy. Jimmy Murray led Roscommon to their only all-Ireland championship victories in 1943 and 1944, and John Joe O'Reilly captained Cavan's championship winning team

for 1947 - won in New York and 1948.

Flanagan led Mayo to the 1950 and 1951 successes, and the 1966 win marked Enda Colleran's second successive season to skipper Sam Maguire cup winning teams.

The Meath team that lost to Cork in the 1990 All-Ireland Final. Back Row (From left to right): Colm O'Rourke, Mick Lyons, Gerry McEniece, Colm Brady, Donal Smyth, Martin O'Connell, Brian Stafford, David Begg. Front Row (From left to right): P.J. Gillic, Terry Ferguson, Bernard Fynn, Robbie O'Malley, Liam Hayes, Kevin Foley, Brendan Reilly.



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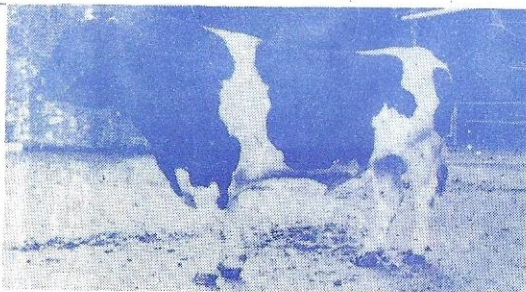
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