

ROYAL LIVER ASSURANCE
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

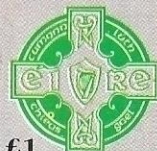
QUARTER-FINALS



PÁIRC BREFFNI - AN CABHÁN
14 AIBREÁN 1991

Rian Ó Madadhan
Árd Stiurthóir

Clár Oifigiúil - Luach £1



CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
QUARTER-FINALS



Páirc Breffni, An Cabhán
14 AIBREÁN, 1991

2.00 i.n.

Ros Comáin v. Tír Eoghain

Réiteoir: **Paddy Collins** (*larmhí*)

3.30 i.n.

Dún na nGall v. Uíbh Fháilí

Réiteoir: **Paddy Russell** (*Tiobraid Árann*)

DES NEWTON
(Roscomáin)

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

figure among the table-toppers, but Mick Nolan can still look back with satisfaction on his appearance for the county against Kilkenny at Carlow on a Saturday (yes, Saturday!) afternoon in October when he set a headline by scoring 3-3.

aurice Fitzgerald hit a dozen points as Kerry took what was to prove a vital step along the road to the concluding rounds by beating Roscommon at Killarney back in mid-October.

Gary Walsh brought off some excellent saves in Donegal's goal, Ciaran McGurk (Armagh) further enhanced his reputation as an ace penalty-taker by scoring four from the spot, Jack O'Shea had some grand games for Kerry, and Dublin and Meath provided a 16,984 attendance at

Croke Park with an enthralling game as they rang down their Division I programme proper by playing a draw at Croke Park in early March.

Cork were relegated to Division II after the heady days of last September when they retained the Sam Maguire Cup for the first time ... Galway, in contrast, back again in Division II after a play-off with Wexford ... once-mighty Cavan with just two points after seven games in Division II are relegated.

Exciting individual performances from Dessie Barry (Longford), Stefan White (Louth) and James McCartan (Down) were just some of the other features of a Royal Liver National Football League campaign that seems destined to add some more memorable moments before the champions of 1990-91 are crowned.

IRELAND V. AUSTRALIA

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The GAA would like to extend a hearty Céad Míle Fáilte to the Under 17 Australian Schoolboy Team and their Officials who are attending today's games as guests of the Association.

The Australians are scheduled to undertake the following series of games under the International Playing Rules:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Monday, April 15 | — at Navan, 6.30p.m.
AUSTRALIA v. LEINSTER |
| Wednesday, April 17 | — at Scotstown, 6.30p.m.
AUSTRALIA v. ULSTER |
| Friday, April 19 | — at Killarney, 6.30p.m.
AUSTRALIA v. MUNSTER |
| Sunday, April 21 | — at Pearse Stadium, Galway 3.30p.m.
AUSTRALIA v. CONNACHT |
| Wednesday, April 24 | — at Croke Park, 6.30p.m.
AUSTRALIA v. IRELAND. |

TYRONE'S Good Record On Way to Division II Title

Tyrone emerged last month as the quiet rather than spectacular winners of the Division II title in the Royal Liver National Football League. While some other counties, notably Leitrim, captured most of the headlines over the winter and early spring months, they beavered away quietly and with a minimum of fuss, but plenty of skill and commitment, to eventually head the group chart.

Five wins and one draw as against a solitary defeat stamp the O'Neill county not only as worthy divisional champions, but a side possessing the skills and players necessary to go into this latest encounter with solid grounds for optimism.

The solitary defeat was at Celtic Park in Derry city at the start of the year when the local county won a low scoring match by a point. Good work by Adrian Kilpatrick, after having been switched from attack to centre field, and his partner there, Plunkett Donaghy, and sharpshooting Adrian Cush, who hit 1-2, was not enough to keep Tyrone's unbeaten record intact.

But the O'Neill County men, who played their drawn tie in the first round, have bounced back with two wins since the Celtic Park tie. They ended their programme with the title decider against Leitrim at Omagh last month when they had to withstand a late rally by their visitors before coming out on top by the minimum margin.

Yet at one stage Tyrone looked "home and dried" as they led by 1-9 to 1-1. They were dominant for most of the time, conceded just a single point in the opening half, and appeared in no danger as the game moved into the closing stages.

Plunkett Donaghy and Danny Barr at midfield, and Adrian Cush and sharpshooter supreme Peter Canavan were the men who did most to put Tyrone into that safe-looking eight points lead with those nine minutes remaining.

After that the team began to lose the earlier advantage, and goals by Padraig Kenny and Pat Donoghue suddenly had Leitrim back in the hunt, and Tyrone fighting a strong rearguard action for survival. The home guard, however, struck resolutely to the job on hand, and with drive and determination survived the crisis, even though Leitrim did hit a third goal just on time. Tyrone edged through by 1-10 to 3-3 to finish a programme a point clear of joint runners-up Leitrim and Kildare, and so earn this quarter-final outing, and a return next season to Division I football.

Tyrone are now in line for a return to the semi-final after a six year break. In 1985 they played a draw with Monaghan, scoring 0-9 to their opponents 1-6, at Croke Park, and in the replay at Armagh were only beaten in extra time by a goal. Monaghan went on to win their only title.

Noel McGinn, centre half back, Plunkett Donaghy, Harry McClure, midfielders, and John Lynch, left half back in the 1985 replay all helped to shape the recent success over Leitrim.

A success, that coming after their earlier performances, indicate that Tyrone will do a good job in further advertising Division II standards when they bid to bridge that six years League gap in this Cavan outing.

One Title To Their Credit

Although Tyrone have yet to win, or even contest, a National League final, they do have one title to their credit — the 1972-73 Division Two crown. The path to that success was long and sometimes arduous, beginning with a 1-13 to 0-5 win over Leitrim at Carrick-on-Shannon on October 22nd, 1972. A drawn game (1-9 all) with Donegal at Omagh was followed by a hard-earned 1-7 to 1-5 win over Down at Dungannon and an easy 2-15 to 1-4 demolition of Armagh at Lurgan. They took group honours by beating Monaghan (0-10 to 0-5) at Castleblaney and they qualified for the final when they squeezed past Wicklow, 1-10 to 3-3, a game which marked Tyrone's first win in senior competitive football at Croke Park.

On the first Sunday in May they won the Division Two "Home" final with a 1-13 to 0-15 victory over their old rivals Down, and then came a wait of almost five months before the final proper versus New York in New York.

The final was played on a 'two-leg' system at Gaelic Park — the first leg on September 30. After leading by a point at half-time, Tyrone pulled away to win by 1-16 to 1-11. Tyrone's scorers were: P. Hetherington 1-3, F. McGuigan 0-4, S. Donaghy 0-3, M. Hughes 0-3, J. Early 0-2, J. Taggart 0-1.

The team was: Frank Quinn, Ollie Nugent, Peter Mulgrew (captain), Jackie Duffy, M. J. Forbes, John Early, Pat King, Frank McGuigan, Gerry Taggart, Micky Hughes, Brendan Donnelly, Seamus

Donaghy, Joe McElroy, Sean McElhatton, Patsy Hetherington.

A week later, with one change — Paddy McMahon for Jackie Duff — Tyrone confirmed the verdict of the first game, winning readily by 2-11 to 1-7 for an aggregate score of 3-27 to 2-18. The scorers were: P. Hetherington 1-4, M. Hughes 1-2, B. Donnelly 0-2, P. King 0-1, F. McGuigan 0-1, J. McElroy 0-1.

Since that success Tyrone have enjoyed little good fortune in their search for league honours. They lost the 1974 semi-final to Kerry, the 1975 semi-final to Dublin, the 1979 quarter-final to Offaly, a play-off tie with Down at Lurgan in '84 and a quarter-final to Monaghan a year later.

From the above statistics it can be seen that the knockout stages of the league have proved a frustrating field for Tyrone. But then, there's always a first time.

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Late Winning Spurt To Boost ROSCOMMON Challenge?

Roscommon, who have been displaying in-and-out from in the Royal Liver National Football League this season, have good grounds for happily recalling their last appearance in a quarter-final of the competition.

They earned that outing last spring by winning the Division II title, drawing their last outing in the group with Tryone at Dr. Hyde Park. The Westerners started outsiders for their next encounter with Dublin at Portlaoise, but made light of the odds as they turned in an exciting show to win in extra time by 2-22 (28 points) to 3-13 (22 points).

Hero of the win was long-serving Tony McManus, who had one of his best-ever displays. He scored a superb 2-5, and also set up many scoring chances for his colleagues. Roscommon lost their semi-final to Down.

Remarkably enough it was the skilful and ever young Clann na nGael clubman who contributed more than any other player to Roscommon's win over Donegal at Hyde Park in early March that ensured the county of their return to the knock-out stages. McManus had another first-class game as he caused all sorts of problems for the Ulster champions rearguard, and created plenty of opportunities for his colleagues.

He had not as spectacular a scoring day as against the Dubs last year, but still

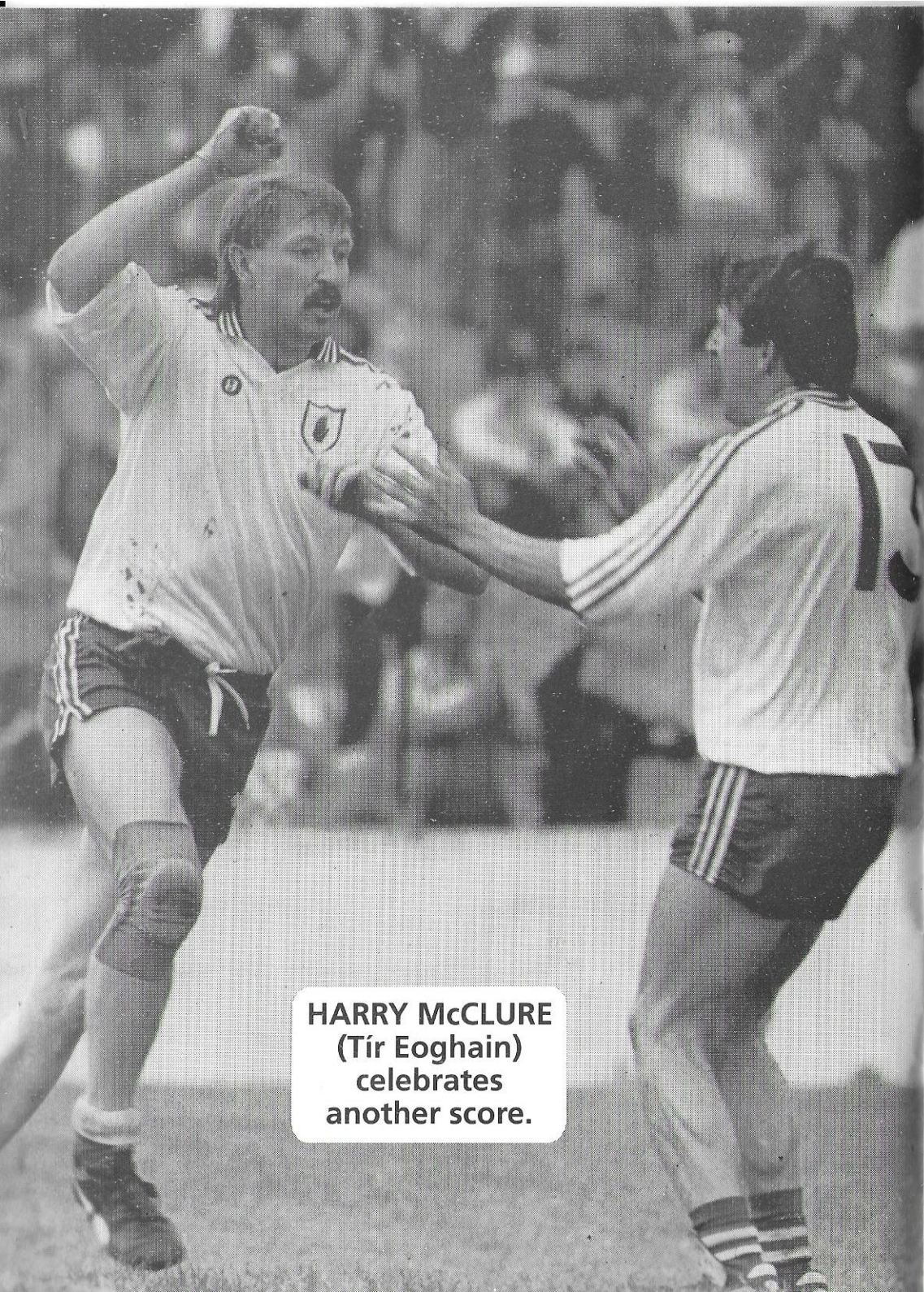
contributed three vital points to the unexpectedly comfortable 1-10 to 0-4 win. Donegal were assured of their place in the quarter-finals before that game, but that fact must not be allowed to take from the merit of the Roscommon success.

The triumph boosted the Connacht champions points tally to eight from seven games, and ensured them of one of the four places from Division I in the knockout stages. It was also one of the team's better performances in a campaign that got off to a most unpromising start when they were beaten by five points by Kerry at Killarney.

Wins over Meath and Down did revive ambitions, but Dublin dampened the Christmas Cheer as they saw out the old year with a run-away win over the Connacht standard-bearers. Nor was there much to cheer about as the year began with a failure to Armagh at Lurgan, and few could then have anticipated that Roscommon would come back to earn a place in the final shake-up for the title.

But they earned themselves a lifeline with a purple patch just into the final quarter against Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in late February. Two points in front and apparently struggling, Roscommon got their game together with a brace of points from Michael Donlon, and one from Paul Earley, who had gone into the tie as a substitute. Those scores gave then a useful cushion, and enabled them to withstand a late Cork rally that yielded a Dave Barry goal, but time ran out for the All-Ireland champions and Roscommon edged home by the minimum margin.

Then came that even more encouraging win over Donegal, and this late winning spurt must boost Roscommon's ambitions as they renew rivalry with the Division II standard-bearers.



HARRY McCLURE
(Tír Eoghain)
celebrates
another score.

Connachtaigh, Laighnigh agus Ultaigh — Togha is Rogha

Is annamh go mbíonn fóirne ó thrí Chúige sa choimhlint ar an aon lá amháin agus ar an aon láthair amháin, ach is é sin atá againn sa dá chluiche inniu, idir Dún na nGall is Uíbh Fháilí agus Ros Comáin is Tír Eoghain. Gan trácht ar na cluichí, beidh an pháirc imearta go lonrach le bratacha den iliomad dathanna — dearg, bán, uathne, gorm, ór aus crónbhuí.

Curáí Uladh, na Conallaigh, i ngleic le lucht an 'Chontae Dúilis' atá tar éis cúig bliana a chur díobh i Roinn 3 den Léig! Nach íontach an t-athrú atá tagtha ar chúrsaí peile le tamall de bhlianta; an uair dheireannach a bhuaíl an dá chontae in aghaidh a chéile ba churaídh Uile-Éireann iad na Fáiligh agus na Conallaigh mar churaídh Uladh don chéad uair le cuimhne na bhfear. Is dócha go bhfuil a chion déanta ag an Aicéadach agus Roinn 2 a bheith bainte amach ag Uíbh Fháilí i mbliana. Anuas ar sin ní haon dóithíní iad foireann Thír Chonall atá sa chéad áit i Roinn 1 agus meastar go mbeidh siad ró-oilte do lucht lár-tíre.

Sa chluiche eile tá curaidh Connachta, Ros Comáin, in aghaidh iar-churaídh Uladh, Tír Eoghain, a rug an chéad áit leo i Roinn 2 so Léig reatha.

Is minic a casadh na dá fhoireann seo ar a chéile sa tSraith Náisiúnta agus tamall de bhlianta ó shin níor

mhór dóibh an cluiche leath-cheannais Chraoibhe a athimirt sula rug na hEoghanaigh an lá leo.

Dá bhrí sin beidh sár-chluiche anseo agus an bua ag an bhfoireann a mbaineann an tosaigh an leas is fearr as an tseirbhís a tugtar dóibh ó lár páirce; meastar gurb iad na Connachtaigh a dhéanfaidh sin, ach gan mórán eatarthu ag deireadh báire.

Rud amháin a bheidh suntasach inniu agus is é sin an difríocht a bheidh idir toirt agus airde na n-imreoirí. Den ceithre fhoireann beidh na himreoirí is lú ar fad ag Uíbh Fháilí, tríd is tríd. Ní fathaigh iad an Conallaigh ach tá téagar agus láidreacht iontu. A dhála céanna beagnach ag foireann Thír Eoghain ach gan aon chruthúnas eolaíoch ar fáil faoi, ceaptar go bhfuil foireann Ros Comáin níos airde agus níos troime san iomlán ná aon cheann de na foirne eile.

Ag an tráth seo sa Léig is ionann na cluichí agus cluichí sa chraobhchomórtas, nuair nach mbíonn ach an t-aon deis (lasmuigh d'athimirt) ag foireann dul ar aghaidh go dtí an chéad bhabhta eile. Is fíor-annamh go n-éiríonn le foireann bheag sa chinéal sin chomórtas cé go ndeireann an sean-fhocal nach iad "na fir mhóra a bhaineann an fómhar".

Ach is cuma cén dá fhoireann a thagann as an chomórtas seo inniu beidh siad in inmhe agus in ann d'aon fhoireann eile atá fágtha sa tSraith!

Ros Comáin

Dathanna: Gorm is Ór

- (1) P. Mac An Mhílidh
PAUL STAUNTON
Elphin
- (2) G. Ó Gaothain
GARY WYNNE
Kingscourt
- (3) M. ÓRaghallaigh
MATTIE REILLY
Castlerea
- (4) D. Ó Nuatain
DES NEWTON
Carndonagh
- (5) S. Ó Connachtáin
JOEY CONNAUGHTON
Clan na nGael
- (6) E. Ó Gabhain
EAMON GAVIN
Clan na nGael
- (7) D. Ó Concubhair
DAVID O'CONNOR
St. Dominics
- (8) S. Ó Nuatain
JOHN NEWTON (Capt.)
Garda
- (9) S. Mac Giolla Luaithrinn
SEAMUS KILLORAN
Elphin
- (10) U. Mac Leannain
VINCENT GLENNON
St. Faithleach
- (11) M. Ó Donalláin
MICHAEL DONLON
Strokestown
- (12) T. Ó Greachain
TOMMY GREHAN
St. Aidan's
- (13) D. Ó Dugain
DEREK DUGGAN
Castlerea
- (14) P. Ó Mochaoir
PAUL EARLEY
Michael Glaveys
- (15) A. Mac Manais
TONY McMANUS
Clann na nGael

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) G. Ó Siorain (**Gabriel Sheerin**) *St. Ronan's*, (17) S. Ó Heanachain (**James Heneghan**) *Michael Glaveys*, (18) P. Mac Neill (**Padraig McNeill**) *Roscommon Gaels*, (19) E. Mac Manais (**Eamon McManus**) *Clann na nGael*, (20) L. Ó Dolain (**Luke Dolan**) *Strokestown*, (21) A. de Leilinn (**Andy Leyland**) *Castlerea*, (22) G. de Creag (**Gerry Cregg**) *Ballynameen*. (23) S. Ó Corrain (**Shane Curran**) *Castlerea*, (24) D. Ó Donallain (**Damien Donlon**) *Strokestown*.

ROGHNOIRÍ: Martin McDermott, John Kelly, Sean Kilbride.

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

Tír Eoghain

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

- (1) F. Mac Dhónaill
FINBAR McCONNELL
An Baile Nua
- (2) P. Ó Doibhilín
PAUL DEVLIN
Baile an Móna
- (3) E. Mac Giolla Phádraig
ENDA KILPATRICK
Cabhán a'Chaortainn
- (4) S. Ó Loingsigh
JOHN LYNCH
Caisleán na Deirge
- (5) S. Mac Maoilir
SEAN MYLER
An Ómaigh
- (6) N. Mac Fhinn
NOEL McGINN
Coill an Chlochair
- (7) N. Ó Donnailé
NOEL DONNELLY
An Droim Caoin
- (8) P. Mac Donnchaidh
PLUNKETT DONAGHY
An Maigh
- (9) A. Mac Giolla Úir
HARRY McCLURE
Cluain Eo
- (10) A. Mac Coise
ADRIAN CUSH
Domhnach Mór
- (11) S. Ó Conbhuí
STEPHEN CONWAY
An Cora Criche
- (12) C. Ó Corra
CIARAN CORR
Oileán a'Ghuail
- (13) S. Mac an Fháilí
SEAN McNALLY
An Bruachaile
- (14) R. Mac an Rothaich
RAYMOND MUNROE
An Charraig Mhór
- (15) P. Ó Ceannubháin
PETER CANAVAN
Errigan Ciarán

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) A. Ó Cuinn (**Tony Quinn**) *Oileán a'Ghuail*, (17) A. Ó Muiris (**Aidan Morris**) *An Baile Nua*, (18) F. Doibhilín (**Fay Devlin**) *Ard Bó*, (19) C. Mac Oireachtaigh (**Colin Garrity**) *Trí Leac*, (20) D. Ó hÁgáin (**Damien O'Hagan**) *Oileán a'Ghuail*, (21) F. Ó Laocháin (**Fergal Logan**) *An Chraobh*, (22) A. Mac Giolla Phádraig (**Adrian Kilpatrick**) *Dun Geanainn*, (23) D. Ó Bairr (**Donal Barr**) *Dún Geanainn a'Ghuail*, (24) M. Mac Giolla Fhinnéin (**Matthew McGleenan**) *Eaglais*.

ROIGNÓIRÍ: John Donnelly (Team Manager), Laurance Strane, Mattie McGlennon.

TÍR EOGHÁIN	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

Anxious Moments Along The Way For Tyrone & Roscommon

Tyrone and Roscommon had some anxious moments along the way before finally earning this quarter-final clash in the Royal Liver National Football League. The Northerners lineout as Division II champions with eleven points from their seven games.

Roscommon booked their place in the last four of Division I by beating Donegal in their concluding game in March. That brought their points tally to eight from seven games — the same total as Kerry.

The following is the records of the counties so far. Tyrone were first in action:

October 8:	Castlebar:	Tyrone 2-7;	Mayo 2-7
October 22:	Omagh:	Tyrone 0-10;	Antrim 0-7.
	Killarney:	Roscommon 2-7;	Kerry 0-18.
November 4:	Roscommon:	Roscommon 1-13;	Meath 0-12.
November 25:	Cootehill:	Tyrone 1-11;	Cavan 0-9.
:	Roscommon:	Roscommon 1-10;	Down 1-8.
December 2:	Omagh:	Tyrone 0-11;	Kildare 0-7.
	Croke Park:	Roscommon 0-6;	Dublin 2-14.
February 17:	Celtic Park:	Tyrone 1-5;	Derry 1-6.
	Lurgan:	Roscommon 1-9;	Armagh 1-11.
February 24:	Omagh:	Tyrone 2-13;	Longford 0-5.
	Roscommon:	Roscommon 0-9;	Cork 1-5.
March 10:	Omagh:	Tyrone 1-10;	Leitrim 3-3.
	Roscommon:	Roscommon 1-10;	Donegal 0-4.

Best Wishes to Roscommon G.A.A.

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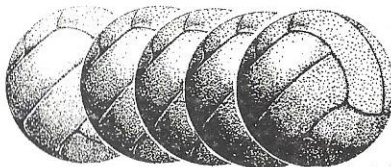
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Tyrone chalked up 7-67 (88 points) and conceded 6-44 (62 points) in their march to the Division II title and this quarter-final place. Their ace marksman and also the top scorer for both counties is Peter Canavan, who hit 1-31 (34 points), and is also the only member of both sides to score in every round of the League so far.

Roscommon scored six points fewer than Tyrone at 6-64 (82 points). Their against record is 5-72 (87 points) which means they conceded 25 points more than the Northerners. Heading the Roscommon scoring returns is Tony McManus with 1-12 (15 points).



Donegal finished in second place in the Division I table of the Royal Liver National Football League with nine points. **Offaly** won Division III North without dropping a single point to finish the divisional series proper as the only county in the competition with a one hundred per cent record. Each team played seven games.

This is how these counties advanced to this stage of the League:

October 7:	Ballybofey:	Donegal 2-11;	Dublin 1-9.
	Tullamore:	Offaly 4-8;	Galway 0-6.
October 21:	Newry:	Donegal 1-7;	Down 0-10.
	Dundalk:	Offaly 2-17;	Louth 1-7.
November 25:	Ballyshannon:	Donegal 1-12;	Kerry 0-12.
	Tullamore:	Offaly 3-12;	Fermanagh 1-4.
December 2:	Navan:	Donegal 0-10;	Meath 1-11.
	Moate:	Offaly 2-25;	Westmeath 0-1.
February 17:	Ballybofey:	Donegal 1-9;	Cork 1-6.
	Ballybay:	Offaly 2-7;	Monaghan 0-11.
February 24:	Ballybofey:	Donegal 2-8;	Armagh 1-7.
	Tullamore:	Offaly 1-12;	Laois 0-8.
March 10:	Roscommon:	Donegal 0-4;	Roscommon 1-10.
	Tullamore:	Offaly 2-11;	Sligo 0-9.

Donegal chalked up 7-61 (82 points) and had 5-65 (80 points) scored against them. Heading their scoring returns is Declan Bonnar with 3-18 (27 points). He failed to score in one game.

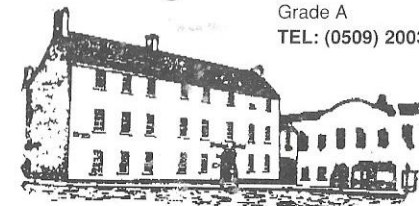
The Donegal-Offaly Records So Far In The League

Offaly have by far the best scoring record of all the counties still in the running for the Royal Liver National Football League title. They amassed an amazing 16-92 (140 points) in seven games, and conceded just 2-46 (52 points).

Top marksman as far as these quarter-finalists are conceded is Peter Brady with 4-30 (42 points), and he also scored in every one of the seven rounds.

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Offaly and hope to
see you after the match.*

1-16

Dún na nGall

Dathanna: Uaithne, Ór is Bán

- (1) G. Breathnach
GARY WALSH
Aodh Ruadh
- (2) S. S. Ó Dochartaigh
JOHN JOE DOHERTY
Naomh Columba
- (3) S. Ó Cnaimhsí
SEAN BONNER
Na Rossa
- (4) M. Ó Gallachóir
MATT GALLAGHER
Naomh Bríd
- (5) N. Ó hEigeartaigh
NOEL HEGARTY
Naomh Columba
- (6) M. Ó Gaibheacháin
MARTIN GAVIGAN
Ardara
- (7) M. Seibhleáin
MARTIN SHOVLIN
Naomh Ultan
- (8) B. Ó Muirí
BRIAN MURRAY
Civil Service
- (9) M. Ó Gallachóir
MICHAEL GALLAGHER
Civil Service
- (10) B. Mac Gabhann
BARRY MCGOWAN
Killybegs
- (11) D. Ó Cnaimhsí
DECLAN BONNER
Na Rossa
- (12) T. Ó Riain
TOMMY RYAN
Termon
- (13) S. Mac Maoláin
JOYCE McMULLAN
Four Masters
- (14) A. Ó Baoill
TONY BOYLE
Dungloe
- (15) M. Ó Baoill
MANUS BOYLE
Killybegs

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) M. Ó Ceallaigh (**Michael Kelly**) *Four Masters*, (17) A. Ó Maolmhuaidh (**Anthony Molloy**) *Ardara*, (18) G. Mac Corráin (**Gerry Curran**) *Aodh Ruadh*, (19) S. Mac Aodha (**James McHugh**) *Kilcar*, (20) P. Ó Brógáin (**Pauric Brogan**) *Bundoran*, (21) M. Mac Aodha (**Martin McHugh**) *Kilcar*, (22) C. Ó Maolchraoibhe (**Charlie Mulgrew**) *St. Eunans*, (23) P. Ó Carra (**Paul Carr**) *Four Masters*, (24) B. Ó Cuinneagáin (**Barry Cunningham**) *Killybegs*.

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

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

0-16

Uibh Fháilí

Dathanna: Glas, Bán is Ór

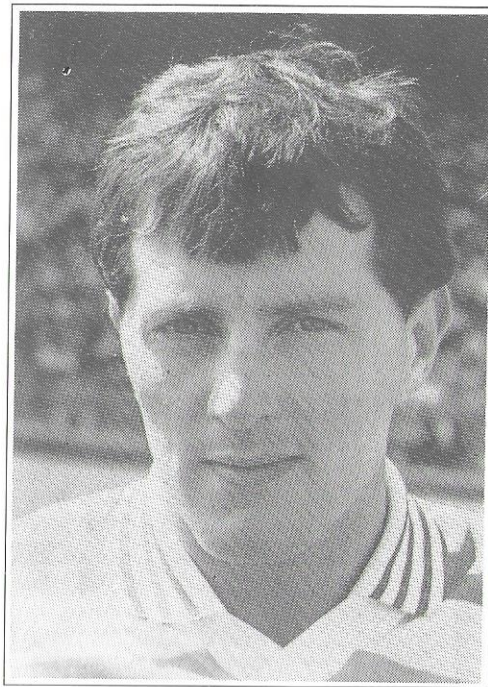
- (1) L. Ó Maolmhuaidh
LAZARUS MOLLOY
St. Bridget's
- (2) T. Ó Cofaigh
TOM COFFEY
Ballyfore
- (3) C. Ó Céileacháin
KEN KEELAGHAN
Rhode
- (4) M. Ó Labhradha
MICHAEL LOWRY
Ferbane
- (5) M. Ó Duibhgeannáin
MICHAEL DUIGNAN
St. Rynagh's
- (6) M. Ó Dáimhín
MICHAEL DEVINE
Shannonbridge
- (7) S. Stíobhart
JAMES STEWART
Clara
- (8) P. Ó Duinn
PAURIC DUNNE
Gracefield
- (9) M. Pluincéid
MARK PLUNKETT
Tullamore
- (10) D. Mac Raghnaill
DAVID REYNOLDS
Clara
- (11) D. Ó Ceallaigh
DENIS KELLY
Ferbane
- (12) U. Mac Lathaigh
VINCENT CLAFFEY
Doon
- (13) M. Ó Cathasaigh
MICHAEL CASEY
St. Bridget's
- (14) P. Ó Brádaigh
PETER BRADY
Edenderry
- (15) B. Ó Labhradha
BRENDAN LOWRY (Capt.)
Ferbane

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) U. Mac Aodhagán (**Vincent Egan**) *Ferbane*, (17) A. Ó Breacáin (**Aidan Bracken**) *St. Carthage's*, (18) P. Ó Moráin (**Pauric Moran**) *Tubber*, (19) S. Ó Maoláin (**James Mullen**) *Edenderry*, (20) F. Ó Cuilinn, (**Finbarr Cullen**) *Edenderry*, (21) C. Ó Raigne (**Kieran Rigney**) *Doon*, (22) P. Ó Raghailigh (**Phil O'Reilly**) *Tullamore*, (23) N. Ó Sé (**Niall O'Shea**) *Shannonbridge*, (24) D. Mac Lathaigh (**Derek Claffey**) *St. Carthage's*.

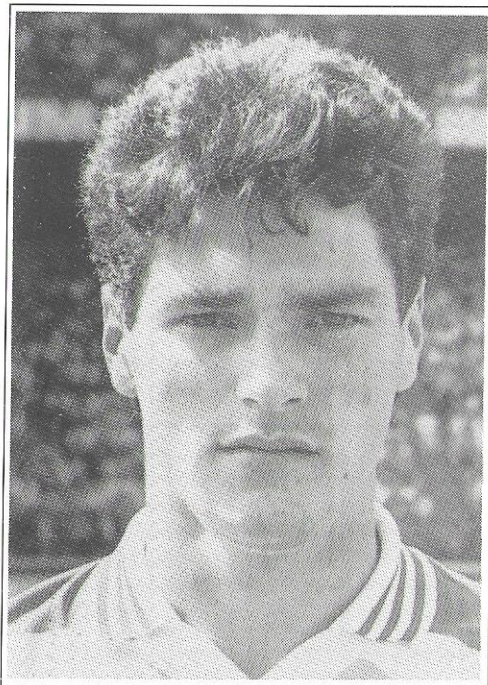
ROGHNOIRÍ: Brendan Hackett (Manager), Stephen Darby, Dinny Wynne.

UIBH FHÁILÍ	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

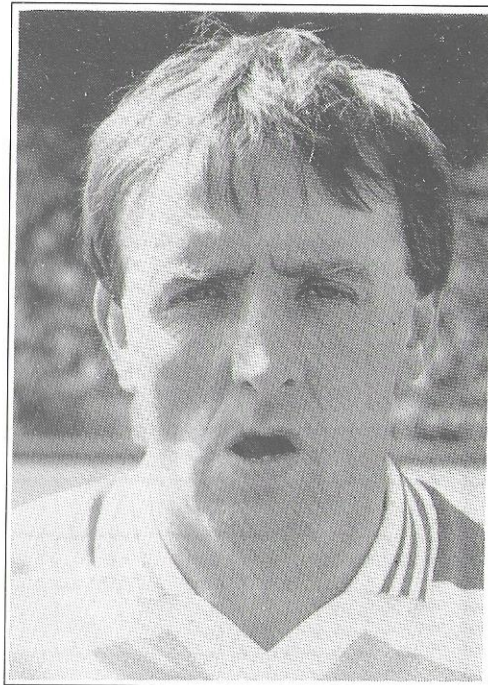
RÉALTA UÍBH FHÁILÍ



Peter Brady



Vinnie Claffey



Brendan Lowry

Striking Twice:

Lightening never strikes twice, according to the old adage, but up Tyrone way those who remember the county's breakthrough in 1956 might be inclined to disagree. In that year Tyrone won the Ulster title for the first time, and though pitted against the great Galway team of that period in the All-Ireland semi-final put up a wonderful display in holding their famed opponents to a two point margin (0-8 to 0-6).

Undaunted, the Northerners embarked enthusiastically on their National League campaign and after an unbeaten run qualified for the semi-final for the first time in their history. But again their semi-final opponents were Galway and again, despite a magnificent display, they went down to the Connacht representatives ... and again the margin was two points (1-10 to 2-5).

At the end of a year of wonderful effort Tyrone had to be content with the consolation of knowing that they had proved to be Galway's most troublesome opposition in championship and league.

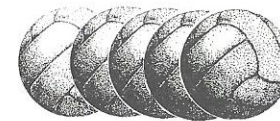
The Spoilers:

Some 40 years ago Roscommon and Offaly engaged in something of a mutual spoiling operation in their confrontations over a three-year period in the National League.

In the final game of the 1950-51 campaign, with Offaly out of the running, Roscommon needed the two points from the game at Tullamore to force a play-off for group honours with Cavan but on the day they failed badly as Offaly won well by 0-9 to 0-2.

A year later the positions were reversed. Roscommon were out of the running and Offaly needed the points to tie with Cavan. But as had happened at Tullamore, Roscommon, with nothing to gain, were easy winners, 3-6 to 1-4 at Castlerea.

The final episode in the spoiling operation took place at O'Connor Park in the concluding round of the group on March 15, 1953. On this occasion **both** counties needed the points to force a play-off with the Breffni men. Each county in turn looked likely winners in an hour of swaying fortunes, but when the final whistle sounded, Offaly and Roscommon had spoiled things for each other for the third year running by ending level, 1-8 all!



Goalgetter Supreme:

No matter what feats of marksmanship are recorded in the closing stages of the current National Football League, only Jarlath Gilroy of Kildare has a credible chance of pipping Offaly's Brendan Lowry for the honour of best goal-scorer of the campaign. The talented Ferbane corner-forward has so far accounted for eight 'majors' in Offaly's march to the quarter-final.

The Kildare sharpshooter has seven goals to his credit, but of the counties still in contention only Pa Dennehy of Kerry and Declan Bonner of Donegal have consistently been on the mark in finding the net ... and they have notched only three goals each to date.

EXTRA TIME

In the event of a draw in today's games, extra time will be played.

DONEGAL Hope for a Change of Fortune

Donegal are hoping that they will have more to celebrate today than on their last Royal Liver National Football League quarter-final appearance on April Fool's Day last year. A first semi-final appearance in 23 years looked almost a certainty as they moved with authority and purpose into a 0-12 to 0-6 lead at the end of the third quarter at Clones.

There did not appear to be a way back for Meath, but three minutes later David Beggy hit the first goal of the game, and the match was turned around. Just three minutes later Beggy struck again with another goal, and Donegal had victory snapped from their grasp as the Royal County went on for an amazing five points success — 2-12 to 0-13.

This season's League campaign has been one of "highs" and "lows" for Donegal. There was that heady day in October when some excellent work by full back Matt Gallagher, a fine midfield performance from Brian Murray, and the sharp-shooting of Manus Boyle set the scene for the best possible start — a win over Paddy Cullen's Dublin.

Next time out the Ulster champions were fortunate to get away with a draw against Down at Newry, but joy knew no bounds again when a Tony Boyle goal nine minutes from time clinched a one goal win over dashing Kerry at Ballyshannon.

Then came another set-back, that one a defeat from Meath at Navan, before the Northern king-pins powered back in exciting fashion. Declan Bonner gave one

of his best performances of the League when he stole the show with a cracking performance at centre half forward that also yielded 1-5 and set the scene for a famous win over Cork at Ballybofey in mid-February.

It was Bonner again who rallied Donegal against Armagh at Ballybofey at the end of February after Ciaran McGurk had goaled from a penalty to give the visitors a 1-1 to 0-1 lead after nine minutes. Bonner soon had Donegal back in the game when he goaled from the spot, and before half-time he added another goal to ensure his team of a four points lead. The home heroes went on for a four points win and with it a place in the knockout stages.

Even though Donegal were through to the quarter finals that still did not prevent a big contingent of supporters journeying to Dr. Hyde Park for the concluding match of the divisional programme. They were understandably in a quietly confident mood as well, but the team that had opened the year on such a high note failed completely to produce the earlier sparkle. Indeed, it was Donegal's poorest display of the League, and they turned out to be no match for a Tony McManus inspired Roscommon, who won convincingly by nine points — the Ulster champions heaviest defeat of the series.

Donegal will have to leave that form far behind them if they are to reach the semi-finals, but it does not appear unreasonable to expect them to do that as there is tremendous potential in this side.

The players are also sure to respond to this latest challenge as they appreciate better than most that defeat would be a big set-back in the bid to build on what has been achieved over the past couple of seasons.

Incidentally, Donegal lost that last semi-final in 1967 to Galway by 1-10 to 2-4.

A New Rivalry

One of the interesting things about the concluding stages of the National Football League in recent years is the number of meetings between counties whose paths did not cross during the first 50 years of the league's existence. Meath and Donegal provided an example in last year's quarter-final as did Laois and Down at the same stage in 1986. The final of that latter year — Laois v. Monaghan — was also a unique pairing.

Roscommon and Tyrone may not quite fit into that category, but their rivalry in the league (it is non-existent in the championship) is less than a decade and a half old, their first meeting having been in 1974 and their most recent confrontation being their 1985 first-round tie at Hyde Park when the home team had four points to spare.

In all, the counties have met on eight occasions, with the record reading 4-3 in Tyrone's favour and with one game drawn. The last meeting, which

brought Roscommon their third win, was played at Roscommon, and the details of the game are:

Scorers for Roscommon: P. Early 1-2, E. McManus 0-5, P. McNeill 0-2, P. Gaynor 0-1, T. O'Brien 0-1, T. McManus 0-1.

Scorers for Tyrone: M. Mallon 0-3, E. McKenna 0-1, A. Hamilton 0-1, D. O'Kane 0-1.

Roscommon: Gay Sheeran, Ger Wynne, Harry Keegan, Pat Doorey, Ollie McManus, Fran Nicholson, Paul Hickey, Pat Gaynor, Seamus Killoran, Sean McNeill, Pdraig McNeill, Eamon McManus, Tom O'Brien, Paul Early, Tony McManus. Subs: Eamon Glaney for Killoran, Seamus Hayden for Doorey.

Tyrone: Aidan Skelton, Art O'Hagan, Ciaran McGarvey, Joe Mallon, Kevin McCabe, Noel McGinn, Roger Keenan, Peter O'Neill, James Devlin, Eugene McKenna, Paul Murphy, Declan Muldoon, Con Mulholland, Audi Hamilton, Mick Mallon. Subs: Don O'Kane for O'Neill, Liam Grugan for Murphy.

The Scorelines of their eight meetings:

1976-77 — Roscommon:	Roscommon 2-8;	Tyrone 0-10.
1977-78 — Omagh:	Tyrone 1-4;	Roscommon 0-7.
1978-79 — Pomeroy:	Tyrone 2-11;	Roscommon 0-14.
1979-80 — Roscommon:	Roscommon 3-13;	Tyrone 1-9.
1982-83 — Roscommon:	Tyrone 2-6;	Roscommon 2-2.
1983-84 — Coalisland:	Tyrone 0-9;	Roscommon 1-4.
1983-84 — Lurgan:	Tyrone 1-6;	Roscommon 0-8. (play-off).
1985-86 — Roscommon:	Roscommon 1-12;	Tyrone 0-6.



● Peter Quinn, Uachtarán C.L.G. presents the Interprovincial Football Championship Cup to the Ulster captain Tony Scullion after the final last Sunday in Páirc an Chrócaigh.



● Martin McQuillan (Ulster) receives the "Man of the Match" Award for the Railway Cup Football final from David Waters, Managing Director, Iarnród Éireann.

OFFALY Back In the Big-Time With Proud Record

Offaly, who have had some lean times since that heady day in 1982 when they snatched a dramatic All-Ireland senior football final win over Kerry with a late, late Seamus Darby goal, are back in the big-time, and with a proud record in the Royal Liver National League. Since losing somewhat unexpectedly to Laois at Portlaoise by a thundering ten points in their first Leinster senior championship outing last year, they have not lost a single competitive match.

Under then new manager Brendan Hackett, and with a number of changes from their championship side, the Midlanders got the revival under way with a win over fancied Galway at Tullamore in Division III North of the League. Not only that, Offaly had fourteen points in hand at the finish!

That was a major hurdle overcome in the quest for promotion, and Offaly have not looked back in the meantime. They completed their divisional programme with six more wins in six games, and also scored very freely.

The team hit at least two goals in all but one tie, and the Leinster county can also point to a couple of the most efficient scoregetters in League play at present. Peter Brady and Brendan

Lowry have chalked up a majestic twelve goals and 47 points between them in the League so far.

One of the most clinical performances by the team was a run-away win over Westmeath at Moate in December. Brendan Lowry had the ball in the home net after only fifteen seconds, but was still outshone on the scoring front by Brady (he hit 1-6) as Offaly powered to a resounding 2-25 to 0-1 win.

Nevertheless, it was still not all plain sailing on the road to the Division III North crown and a place in the quarter-finals. The resurgent Leinstermen had many worrying moments, for example, in their opening game of the year against Monaghan at Ballybay. Things did not look too rosy for Offaly as they led by just three points at the interval after having played with the wind, but they battled gamely in the second half, and held out for a deserved success. Monaghan, though, did not help their cause by poor finishing, but overall it was a good performance by Offaly, and proved that they were determined not to allow their revival hopes take a knock for lack of all-out endeavour.

Offaly kept their winning sequence firmly on track in early March in their concluding divisional game when two golden goals by Brendan Lowry in the second half steered them to an eight points win over Sligo, and with it ranking as the only side in the League to complete the programme with a 100 per cent record.

This good build-up is bound to give Offaly much encouragement and confidence for what promises to be their sternest test yet in the League. The type of assurance they are likely to need if they are to book their first semi-final outing since 1982 when, despite 1-3 from Brendan Lowry, they lost to Cork at Croke Park by 1-15 to 1-10.

Dún na nGall agus Uíbh Fháilí

FEW MEETINGS

Donegal and Offaly will not be described as “old rivals” as their paths in competitive football have rarely crossed. In fact, the counties have met on only four occasions — in the 1969 league semi-final, the 1972 All-Ireland semi-final, the Grounds’ Tournament final in 1972 and in a Division Two third-round tie at O’Connor Park in 1984.

All four meetings ended in Offaly’s favour, and so Donegal today, apart from their immediate objective, are seeking a first-ever win over the midlanders who are appearing in the knockout stages of the league for the first time since 1979.

In regard to reaching the knockout stages, Donegal have done better than Offaly in recent years as they were quarter-finalists v. Monaghan in 1988 and last year when they lost to Meath at Clones.

But although both counties have yet to win a league title, Offaly, unlike their opponents today, can claim that they have contested two league finals — the ‘Home’ final of 1969 and the final proper in 1973, both of which they lost to Kerry.

For the second year running Donegal are in sight of a national title, and with Offaly striving to return to the heights they occupied at the beginning of the eighties, the contestants in this quarter-final do not lack incentive.

1969 Offaly 2-13; Donegal 1-3.

This unique pairing brought a big crowd to Croke Park on the third Sunday in April with high expectations of a great encounter. On the day, nothing went right for the Northerners who, though they led briefly in the opening minutes, were crushed by two great goals by Offaly corner-forward Sean Kilroy in the 12th and 13th minutes. As Donegal tried to fight their way back into the game their cause wasn’t helped by the disallowing of a goal scored by Jim Bradley after 22 minutes, though Micky McLoone’s well-worked major left only six points between the teams (2-5 to 1-2) at the break.

Offaly continued to dominate on the restart, and as a harassed Donegal rearguard conceded frees, Tony McTeague’s deadly right boot steadily widened the gap. Brian McEniff, Paul Kelly and McLoone strove valiantly to stop the rot, but it was all in vain, as even when play swirled into the Offaly half Paddy McCormack, Mick Ryan and Eugene Mulligan were unbeatable.

A game of which so much had been expected fizzled out with Offaly the easiest of winners and Donegal still denied by the Croke Park bogey.

Scorers for Offaly: T. McTeague 0-11, S. Kilroy 2-0, W. Bryan 0-1, M. O’Rourke 0-1.

Scorers for Donegal: M. McLeon 1-2, J. Bradley 0-1.

Offaly: Martin Furlong, Mick Ryan, Greg Hughes, Paddy McCormack, Eugene Mulligan, John Smith, Nick Clavin, Larry

Coughlan, Ambrose Hickey, Pat Monaghan, Willie Bryan, Tony McTeague, Mick O’Rourke, Joe Flynn, Sean Kilroy.
Sub: Johnny Cooney for Flynn.

Donegal: Seamus Hoare, Donal Monaghan, John Hannigan, Paul Kelly, Brian McEniff, Micky Griffin, Anton Carroll, Frank McFeeley, Declan O’Carroll, Seamus Granahan, Sean Ferriter, Micky McLoone, John Bradley, Mick McColgan, Jim Quigley. Subs: Pat Conaghy for Griffin, Anthony Gallagher for McColgan, Liam McDaid for Hannigan.

1984 Offaly 1-8; Donegal 0-9.

Donegal were on the way up, having been promoted from Division Three (North) and Offaly were on the way down, having been demoted from Division One, when they clashed in the Division Two third-round tie at Tullamore.

With the visitors slow to settle, Offaly, thanks to the midfield dominance of Tom Connor and Sean Lawlor, made the early running and a great goal by Pat Spollen at the 17th minute helped them to an interval lead of 1-6 to 0-3.

When Offaly shot two points to Donegal’s one in the first ten minutes of the second half, it looked like plain sailing, but then Donegal’s re-arranged midfield of Martin Griffin and Paul McGettigan found their touch. Slowly, despite a tenacious Offaly defence, the gap narrowed and with five minutes remaining only a goal divided the teams. Donegal continued to press and with only 30 seconds remaining were awarded a close-in free. The situation obviously called for an attempt at goal, but Joyce McMullen surprisingly elected to take his point, and that was that.

Offaly Scorers: P. Spollen 1-2, M. Connor 0-3, R. Connor 0-1, J. Mooney 0-1, O. Scally 0-1.

Donegal Scorers: M. McHugh 0-3, P.

Farragher 0-3, D. Reid 0-1, J. McMullan 0-1, P. McGettigan 0-1.

Offaly: Martin Furlong, Mick Fitzgerald, Liam Connor, Mick Lowry, Pat Fitzgerald, Richie Connor, Sean Lowry, Aidan Scally, Tom Connor, Sean Lawlor, Pat Spollen, Matt Connor, Aidan O’Halloran, Johnny Mooney, Ollie Scally. Sub: Brendan Lowry for O’Halloran.

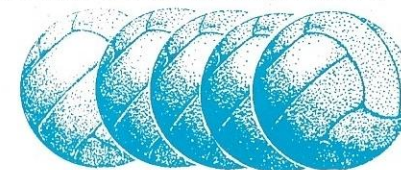
Donegal: Noel McCole, Tommy McDermott, Martin Griffin, Sean Gavigan, Donal Reid, Brendan Dunleavy, Martin Shevlin, Michael Lafferty, Anthony Molloy, Martin McHugh, Sylvester Maguire, Joyce McMullan, Seamus Meehan, Pauric Farragher, Paul McGettigan. Subs: John Boyle for Maguire, Paddy Carr for Meehan.

Record Points:

When Offaly defeated Westmeath in the fourth-round tie at Moate last December, they not alone recorded their biggest-ever win over their neighbours, but in scoring 2-25 in that one-sided game they set up a record of being the first county to raise 25 white flags in an hour of National League football.

Tiny Tally:

To score only three points in an hour and to still emerge as winners of a very competitive game sounds an unlikely happening; but 60 years ago Offaly footballers actually had that experience when they took on Longford in a vital National League tie. At Longford on April 6th, 1931 defences were much on top, but the Offaly forwards eventually managed to get through for the match-winning score which left them victors by 0-3 to 0-2. This was the only occasion on which such a tiny tally was sufficient to decide a National League game.



The 32 Marksmen:

The seven-match series of National Football League games produced a typical crop of returns from the leading marksmen. In all four divisions there were deeds of note with even the most lowly-placed returning impressive tallies by their leading scorers.

Hereunder are the totals recorded by the top man in each of the 32 counties (those listed are not necessarily the overall top scorers in the league to date).

Division One

Maurice Fitzgerald (Kerry)	1-39 (42)
Brian Stafford (Meath)	1-26 (29)
Declan Bonnar (Donegal)	3-18 (27)
Micky Linden (Down)	3-18 (27)
Vinnie Murphy (Dublin)	2-14 (20)
Vincent Glennon (Roscommon)	1-15 (18)
Declan Canavan (Armagh)	0-18 (18)
Colm O'Neill (Cork)	0-15 (15)

Division Two

Peter Canavan (Tyrone)	1-31 (34)
Des Barry (Longford)	3-24 (33)
Michael Fitzmaurice (Mayo)	1-24 (27)
Ray Corolan (Cavan)	0-25 (25)
Ciaran Mahon (Leitrim)	1-20 (23)
Jarlath Gilroy (Kildare)	5-6 (21)
Joe Brolly (Derry)	2-13 (19)
Brian Pender (Antrim)	0-10 (10)

Division Three (North)

Peter Brady (Offaly)	4-30 (42)
Mick Turley (Laois)	5-23 (38)
Stefan White (Louth)	5-16 (31)
Eamon McEnaney (Monaghan)	3-22 (31)
Val Daly (Galway)	3-17 (26)
Mal O'Rourke (Fermanagh)	1-17 (20)
Fintan Feeney (Sligo)	2-8 (14)
Donal Wilson (Westmeath)	0-12 (12)

Division Three (South)

Billie Dodd (Wexford)	1-29 (32)
Frank Kelly (Tipperary)	2-24 (30)
Robert McHugh (Wicklow)	1-23 (26)
Eoin Sheehan (Limerick)	2-17 (23)
Mick Nolan (Carlow)	4-9 (21)
Eamon O'Brien (Waterford)	0-20 (20)
Martin Flynn (Clare)	0-13 (13)
John Brennan (Kilkenny)	0-8 (8)

MARTIN SHOVLIN
(Dún na nGall)
is pictured here
in action for
Ulster at Páirc
an Chrócaigh
last Sunday.

YOUR
ROYAL LIVER
 TEAM



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