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PAIRC SEAN MHIC CUMHAILL
SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER, 1992



SENIOR FINAL '92

Naomh Columba v. Killybegs

Reiteoir: Mick McGrath (Aodh Ruadh) 3.30 p.m.


SENIOR RESERVE FINAL '92

St. Eunan's v. Kilcar

Reiteoir: Noel O'Kane (Robert Emmets) 2.00 p.m.

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AT LAST — THE COUNTY FINAL

By Charlie Collins

It is perhaps fair to say that today's final has come about without too many people outside the southwest area of the county really paying much attention. Donegal's all-Ireland victory this summer meant that the club championship had to be fitted in around the Ulster and all-Ireland championships. For that reason the excitement the club championship games usually generates appeared to wane somewhat. Even the two semi-finals a couple of weeks ago were something of an anti-climax coming as they did just a week after the all-Ireland final.

It has, of course, been very difficult for club teams to retain a high degree of interest with the amount of time between rounds of the championship. However I am sure that most of those problems at least will be overcome today as old rivals and near neighbours Killybegs and Naomh Columba meet in a repeat of the 1990 final. That clash produced an excellent game, high in passion and skill and I feel today's game could bring this year's club championship to a fine conclusion. The reigning champions Killybegs have, I feel, something to prove to the G.A.A. public in the county today. Beaten in 1990, unimpressive when winning in 1991, they

have yet to really produce the goods on a big day at MacCumhaill Park.

There is no doubt Jimmy White's men are the best squad in the county at club level and their consistency in both league and championship has been very impressive over the last few years, but perhaps they need a really top-class performance on a big final occasion to confirm just how good they can be. That could be today, but Naomh Columba are certain to make things very difficult for them, just as they did two years ago. There are fewer "big names" in the Glen line-up but those that are there, the Hegartys and John Joe Doherty, always tend to produce their best form for the club when it's most required.

The determination that the team showed in 1990 will again be required today, and as well as those mentioned above, the Gavigans will need to be at their best. Michael Oliver McIntyre produced the goods from the line when things were in poor shape against Aodh Ruadh and he can be expected to have his side in good condition and his tactics well thought out.

I believe today's game is likely to be decided around the midfield area and that if the Killybegs big names perform around this area then they will retain their title. However, any sign of a repeat of their last two championship performances at this venue could be very costly.

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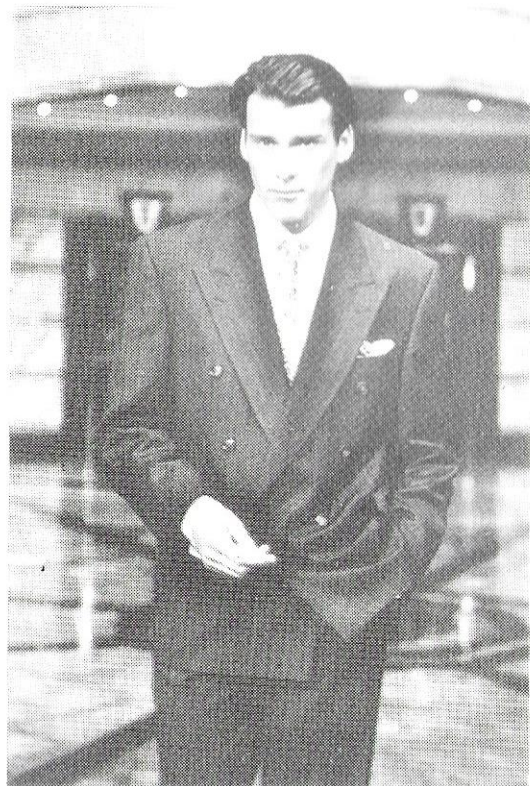
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THE SOUTH WEST DOMINANCE

By Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat and North West Radio)

Today's final sees a continuance of the dominance of teams from the south of the county and today's winner will produce the ninth winner in-a-row of the Senior Championship from the south and south west of the county.

The last eight finals have been won by Kilcar (2), Killybegs (2), Aodh Ruadh (2), Four Masters and Naomh Columba, and with two south west teams in opposition again in opposition the destiny of the Dr. Maguire for 1992 is already known.

St. Eunan's success in 1983 and MacCumhail's in 1977 are the only senior successes outside the south and south west since 1972 — statistics which underline the domination of Gaelic football by the this area of the county in recent times.

In those last nine finals since St. Eunan's won the title in 1983, Red Hughs have managed to reach the final on two occasions, but other than the Killygordon club, few have even threatened to upset the southern appellation.

The absence of a winner from the Rosses/Gweedore area for over 30 years is hard to explain. The fact that St. Eunan's, with their ever increasing population, have managed only one title since 1972 is also cause for some concern.

The Letterkenny side, along with Dungloe and Gweedore, and more recently, Cloughaneely, have remained very strong at underage level, but it has been their inability to sustain the underage successes through to senior level which has been the stumbling block.

Why then has the south of the

county dominated? What have they got that made the difference?

On inspection there seems little to differentiate. There has been a fairly good grounding here also at underage level with titles coming frequently to all the successful clubs, perhaps with the exception of Kilcar. But then they strung together a triple winning under-21 side in the 70s which was the springboard to their senior success.

The dominance of the south-west is reflected in the county senior team where from the total All-Ireland winning panel, only five — Donal Reid, Tommy Ryan, Charlie Mulgrew, Paul Callaghan and Mark Crossan — were from outside the south and south-west divisions. However, both Tony Boyle and Declan Bonner, while from the south west division, represented the Rosses on the panel.

Whatever the reasons for the phenomena, the dominance has a very close relationship with the success of the Donegal senior team over the past twenty years.

The keen parish rivalry which exists between the teams in the south-west in particular is one of the main reasons for the high-level of performance in the area. There is no better way of increasing the level of performance than having good competition in the next parish.

The success of the Donegal senior team in bringing 'Sam' home for the first time this year may be the spur for other clubs to make an impact at senior level in the next few years, but for the present it is hard to see a Co. final in the next five years without a team from the south west taking part.

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Best wishes to St. Eunan's.

JOHN JOE DOHERTY...

... one of football's greats

By Ciaran O'Donnell (Derry Journal)

Exactly eight weeks ago today, Naomh Columba's John Joe Doherty sat quietly on a bench on the Donegal dressing room at Croke Park after their All-Ireland semi-final victory over Mayo. County Board chairman, Naul McCole, was the first person to greet the Carrick publican. As the Donegal team menior embraced him, he declared "Now you have something to play for."

John Joe had, of course, been a substitute on the Donegal side up until the All-Ireland final, when he was called in as a late replacement for the unfortunate Martin Shovlin.

After that historic victory over the Dubs at Croke Park, during which John Joe gave an outstanding performance in the Donegal defence, the modest Glen man said that he had deserved a break. Few could argue with his claim. Two years ago, he was forced to pull out of the All-Ireland semi-final against Meath. After last year's championship campaign, an ankle injury kept him out until the start of the summer.

But like a true sportsman, John Joe showed great patience, and waited for his chance to prove he is still one of the best defenders in the county.

The 24-year-old Naomh Columba favourite: has always played with great heart and determination. While he was glad to replace the injured Martin Shovlin, he, like the rest of the Donegal players, used the misfortune of the Dunkineely player as a motivating factor.

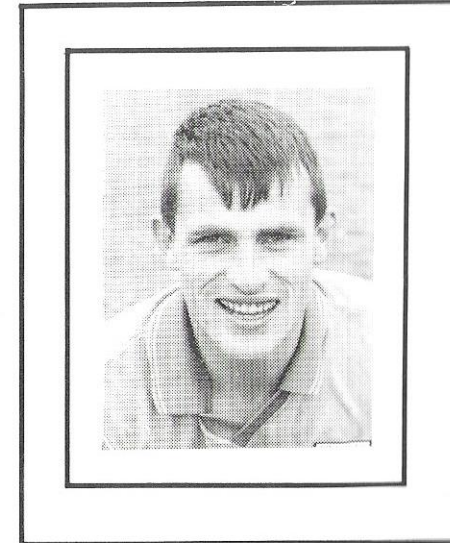
"If we ever needed inspiration, the face of that poor man, Martin Shovlin, was that inspiration. No other player, or myself, was going to let him down," he commented.

Although it has been a long season for him, John Joe is delighted to still be involved in the club championship.

"It's nice to come back to the club scene after all the excitement of the All-Ireland. If our first game after the All-Ireland had been in the first round of the championship, it might not have been so easy to have come back," explained John Joe, who captained Naomh Columba to their second senior championship two years ago.

So how does he see Sunday's final going?

"It's going to be a tough game, but I don't think it's going to be over-physical. Killybegs



have a lot of talented players, and are going to be red-hot favourites. But we'll keep going for as long as we can, and we certainly won't be too far away at the end," he opined.

John Joe left Ireland to work in Paris shortly after Christmas. When he returned around Easter, he certainly didn't think that the same Naomh Columba team would be so close to winning the senior championship six months later.

"When I came back, we played our first league game against Cloughaneely. I thought that day that we were at the beginning of a rebuilding process. We had lost five or six players from two seasons ago, and their replacements were very young.

"But we have made it this far, and we are certainly going to give it our best. It would be a great end to the season if we could win the championship," added John Joe, who was also part of the under-21 All-Ireland winning team of 1987.

John Joe Doherty is undoubtedly one of Donegal's best ever defenders. His overall reading of the game is superb, and no player more than John Joe deserved to play in that memorable clash with Dublin three weeks ago.

Long may his playing career continue.

Good Luck and Cheers to Naomh Columba's
Senior Team in the County Final 1992

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Mo Mhálainn Mhór Álainn

Le Pól Ó Gallchoír, Raidió na Gaeltachta

Is ar an phoinnte is faide siar i dTír Chonaill a bhfuil cónaí ar bhainisteoir Naomh Columba — fear nach bhfuil ach trí bliana agus fiche slánaithe aige. Ach má éiríonn le Noel Ó hÉigearthaigh bonn craoibhe a bhaint inniu, beidh beagnach achan ghradam sa chluiche gaelach bainte aige agus gan é ach ina ógfhear.

Tá dhá chloigeann déag teaghlaigh ag Proinsias Ó hÉigearthaigh agus a bhean mhaith. Tá dlúth bhaint ag an teaghlach le fó-chumann Naomh Columba. D'imir duine den tseachtar mac, Mícheál dá chumann agus dá chontae go dtí gur shocair sé a aghaigh a thabhairt ar thír na bpuncánach. Bhí Brian ina Rúnaí ar an fhó-chumann ar feadh fada go leor agus tá Noel agus Pádraig ar an fhoireann faoi láthair.

Fuair Noel Ó hÉigearthaigh a chuid oideachais i Scoil Náisiúnta an Chaisil agus ar Ghairmscoil na Carraige, agus tá sé faoi lathair ag obair i monarcha Errigal Éisc i Mín an Aoirigh. Tá cúig chraobh contae bainte aige le Naomh Columba. Bhain sé an chraobh faoi — 14 in 1982, an chraobh faoi-16 i mbliain an Chéid, craobh na mionúr in 1986 agus an chraobh faoi bhliain agus fiche an bhliain dár gceann. Dhá bhliain ó shin, bhain Noel craobh sinsir na contae nuair a bhuaíl siad na Cealla le aon phoinnte amháin.

Tá Noel ag imirt dá chontae le seacht mbliana. D'imir sé do na mionúirí ar feadh dhá bhliain agus bhí sé ar an fhoireann faoi bhliain agus fiche ar feadh trí bliana ó 1988 go dtí 1990. Dhá bhliain ó shin beagnach, ar an cúigiú lá fichead de Mhí na Samhna 1990, d'imir Noel a chéad chluiche sinsir do Thír Chonaill — i gcoinne fhoireann na



Noel Hegarty

Ríochta i mBéal Átha Seanaigh. Bhí sé ar an fhoireann le linn na sraithe ach bhris sé a lámh sa chluiche ceathrú ceananis.

Ar aghaidh linn ansin go dtí Craobh Uladh na bliana seo caite. D'imir Noel i gcoinne Fhear Manach, agus tháinig sé isteach mar fhear ionaid i gcoinne an Dúin — ach bhí droch chuma ar an scéal. Bhí a ghlúin gortaithe agus bhí obráid aige. Ach chinntigh an spiorad agus an cíocras imirt dá chontae go mbeadh Noel ar fhoireann sinsir na contae arís.

Roghnaíodh é don chluiche craoibhe i gcoinne an Chabháin i Mí Bealtaine agus d'fhan sé ar an fhoireann gur bhreith siad leo Corn Sam Maguire ar an triú Domhnach de Mhí Mheán an Fhómhair.

Inniu, tá Noel ag lorg craobh sinsir na contae, ní amháin an dara bonn mar imreoir ach i mbliana mar Bhainisteoir. Agus tá sé dóchasach go mbeidh an bonn sin ag dul go dtí Mo Mhálainn Mhór Álainn tráthnóna inniu. Craobh na hÉireann agus Craobh na Contae — Noel Ó hÉigearthaigh 1992 — Imreoir agus Bainisteoir?

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Wish every success to the teams

Traditional the hardest fought contest of the year, today's County Championship final takes on an added dimension as Naomh Columba meet near neighbours and reigning champions, Killybegs, in a match that is every bit as much a local derby as it is a title showdown.

By Robert Love, Donegal People's Press

Although neither side have shone en-route to today's final, there is no doubting the skill and ability of both teams and consequently the prospect of one of the most exciting matches for years is very much on the cards.

Killybegs will, perhaps, deservedly started as favourites. They have been the form team in inter-club football in Co. Donegal in the past five years. Last season they demolished Red Hughs of Killygordon to lift the senior title and then went on to demonstrate their huge ability to the rest of Ulster as they made it to the Ulster Club final only to be beaten by a strong Castleblaney side.

With three Donegal All-Ireland medal winners on their side in the form of Barry McGowan, Manus Boyle and Barry Cunningham, they have a wealth of experience that no other club side can match.

They have bolstered these with several young and promising players, three of whom (Declan Boyle, Paul Callaghan and Peter McGinley) have had an outstanding season on Donegal's Ulster Minor Championship winning side.

Indeed, very few of Killybegs starting fifteen have never represented their county at one level or another and that blend of ability and experience has helped the fishing port to dominate Donegal football in recent years. It is no surprise that they have contested each of the last five county finals and were successful in lifting the crown in 1988 and 1991.

However, Naomh Columba are no newcomers to the higher echelons of club football either. They made their important breakthrough in 1978 and there are still two survivors from that historic Glencolmcille team involved today in the shape of Sean Gavigan and Michael Oliver McIntyre.

They have county stars of their own and both John Joe Doherty and player-manager, Noel Hegarty, played important roles in bringing Sam Maguire to Donegal for the first time.

But even the people of Donegal's most westerly village would admit that their side is more a team of hard working individuals than the better known Killybegs opponents. In the words of John Joe Doherty, they are a squad of 'good honest to God club players' and therein lies much of their strength.

Containing one set of four brothers, Paddy, Pol, Noel and Michael Hegarty, one set of three brothers, Sean, Paddy and Conal Gavigan, as well as the Doherty brothers, John Joe and Eugene and Dessie and Conal Cunningham, the Glen team are a closely knit and determined bunch of players.

They have the fight and tenacity that has been the hallmark of Naomh Columba sides down through the years and their style of play sets an intriguing contrast with that of Killybegs.

One factor that could have a big bearing on the eventual outcome of today's game is the absence of Killybegs fourth county star, John Cunningham, who misses the final after being suspended for a month for a sending-off in his side's semi-final victory over Red Hughs.

The defender is a hugely influential member of the Killybegs squad and plays as big a role behind the scenes in the fishermen's dressing room as he does on the pitch.

Yet that point aside, it has to be said that neither team has really played up to their full potential in the run-in to today's showdown.

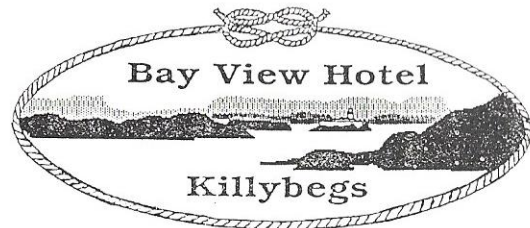
Killybegs have been faltering all season and were lucky to squeeze past Dungloe in a very tight quarter-final at Glenties last August. In fact they almost exited at the semi-final stage as well when only a late rally and two goals rescued them from defeat at the hands of Red Hughs.

And the same has to be said for Naomh Columba, though their progression to the final has been a little steadier. It took a play-off to get them past the first round challenge of Naomh Conaill and while they defeated a fancied Aodh Ruadh team in last fortnight's semi-final, the manner in which they did so was well short of being convincing.

So, understandably, this is going to be a hard one to call and most pundits, Brian McEniff included, expect this to be a very close and hard-fought final.

Killybegs must be favourites and if they can finally get their team on song, they may prove too strong for Naomh Columba. However, you can never write off the men from Glen and they will be very keen to exact revenge for their defeat at the hands of Killybegs in last year's Championship semi-final.

It's going to be difficult to predict but let's hope that football is the real winner on the day.



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NAOMH COLUMBA

CAOIMHIN O'DOCHARTAIGH:

Goalkeeper. Age: 21. Height: 6'1". Weight: 11st. Former county minor and Vocational Schools teams. He has won 1 senior championship league and underage medals with club. A very dependable keeper. First cousin of John Joe's.

PÁDRAIGH O'DOCHARTAIGH: Right corner back. Age: 32. Height: 5'9". Weight: 12st. Has won junior league and championship and All-Ireland Gaeltacht medals with club. A player who always gives 100%. Occupation: Factory worker.

SEAN PÓL Ó CURRAIGHÍN: Full Back. Age: 25. Height: 6'2". Weight: 12st. Junior League and Championship, 1 U-21, 1 senior championship, 2 leagues. Tallest player on team. A player with tower strength and whole hearted. Occupation: Building Contractor.

CONAL O'GAIBHEAGHÁIN: Corner Back. Age: 23. Height: 5'11". Weight: 12st. He has medals at all underage level plus 1 senior championship and 2 leagues. Younger brother of Seán and Paddy. Conal has proven to be a very strong and staunch defender. Occupation: Factory worker.

ADMHÁIN Mac tSAOIR: Right half back. Age: 26. Height: 5'7". Weight: 11st. Although small in stature he plays with enthusiasm and flair. First cousin of Michael Oliver. Has won U-21, 3 leagues and All-Ireland Gaeltacht with club. Occupation: Machine operator.

SEÁN S. O'DOCHARTAIGH. Centre half back. Age: 24. Height: 5'10". Weight: 12st. Has won medals at underage level. 3 league medals, 1 championship plus All-Ireland Gaeltacht All-Ireland U-21 and All-Ireland medals. One of the great ambassadors of the gaelic game and a household name. Occupation: Publican.

DEASÚN Ó CUINNEAGHÁIN: Left half back. Age 25. Height: 5'8". Weight: 11½st. Has won medals at all underage level plus 2 league and 1 championship medal. Very strong and forceful player. Occupation: Factory Worker.

PADRAIG Ó HEIGHEARTAIGH:

Midfield. Age: 26. Height: 6'1". Weight: 12st. Honours: Member All-Ireland U-21 successful team. Has won U-21, 3 senior leagues, 1 championship, All-Ireland Gaeltacht. Paddy is the most popular player with the supporters. A very talented player and on his day can be a match winner. A brother of county star Noel, Pól and Michael. Occupation: Building Construction.

PADRAIGH Ó GAIBHEAGHAIN: Midfield. Age: 32. Height: 5'9". Weight: 12st. Has won 3 senior league medals. 1 championship, 1 Shield, 1 All-Ireland Gaeltacht, 1 U-21. Another of the most experience players on the team. has tremendous work rate and great fielding ability. Occupation: Building construction.

SEAMÚS MacGIOLLA CHEARA: Right half forward. Age: 27. Height: 5'8". Weight: 12st. Has won 3 league medals. 1 championship, 1 shield, 1 All-Ireland Gaeltacht. Former county player, very difficult player to stop or dispossess when going for score. He is first cousin of Dublin star Dessie Farrell and the Gavigan brothers. Occupation: Factory worker.

NOLLAG O HEIGHEARTAIGH: Centre half forward. Age: 22. Height: 6'. Weight: 12st. Has won medals at all underage level, 2 league medals, 1 championship, 1 Ulster Vocational medal. Noel is one of the most talented players in the country and another household name. Will be in contention for All Star award. Occupation: Factory worker.

PÓL Ó HEIGHEARTAIGH: Left half forward. Age: 20. Height: 5'11". Weight: 11st. Has won medals at all underage level. 1 league, 1 senior championship medal. Pól is a very stylish talented player who always gives 100% and has drive to make scores. Occupation: Student.

MICHAEL Ó CUINNEAGHÁIN: Right corner forward. Age: 20. Height: 5'7". Weight: 10½st. Has won U-14, U-16, U-18, U-21 county championship medals, plus 1 senior league and 1 championship. Affectionally known as "Scennie".

Michael is a very intelligent player who always takes up good positions and creates scores. Occupation: Student.

ÁIDAN DÉ BURCHA:

Full forward
Age: 22. Height: 5'8". Weight: 11½st. Has won medals at all under age level. 1 senior championship, 1 league medal. A very strong player with great acceleration and talent. Occupation: Teacher.

PÓL Ó DOMHNAILL: Left corner forward. Age: 21. Height: 5'7". Weight: 10½st. Has won underage medals at club level. Although small in stature he makes it up by his forceful play and speed. First cousin of Dessie Cunningham. Occupation: Factory worker.

SEÁN Ó GAIBHEAGHÁIN: Right half back. Age: 32. Height: 5'9". Weight: 12st. Former county player. Has won underage medals, 2 senior championships, 6 league medals, 1 Shield, 2 All-Ireland Gaeltachts, 1 Ulster Championship. One of the survivors of 1978 team who won the first County Championship. Wholehearted player who has a wealth of experience.

MICHAEL O hEIGHEARTAIGH: Centre half forward. Age: 33. Height: 6'. Weight: 13st. Michael was one of the most talented players to pull on a jersey for Naomh Columba. He emigrated to New York in 1982 and at the time was at his peak. Occupation: Carpenter.

MICHAEL MacNIALLGHAIS: Half forward. Age: 30. Height: 5'9". Weight: 11st. Has won 1 Championship medal, 3 Leagues and 1 All-Ireland Gaeltacht medal. Was team manager in 1990. Very experienced player. Occupation: Knitwear Factory Manager.

EOGHAIN O DOCHARTAIGH: Age: 22. Height: 5'8". Weight: 10st. Has won medals at all underage level plus 1 senior championship, 2 league medals. A smaller version of John Joe. Very talented, speedy and aggressive player. Occupation: Builder.

CÍARAN Ó CUINNEA: Corner back. Age: 19. Height: 5'10". Weight: 10st. Has won medals at all underage level. A talented player with a very bright future. Occupation: Building Construction.

PAURIC Mac GIOLLA EASPBUIG: Half forward. Age: 17. Height: 5'10". Weight: 11st. Has won medals at underage. 1 Ulster Vocational School medal. Ted Webb medal with county U-16 team. Pauric is a very stylish player with natural talents awaiting to blossom. Occupation: Student.

CÓNAL Ó CUINNEAGHÁIN: Half forward. Age: 16. Height: 5'9". Weight: 10st. Has won U-12, 1 Vocational School Ted Webb medal with County U-16 team. Conal is another talented and exciting player with a very bright future. Occupation: Student.

CAOIMHIN MacFHIONNGAILLE: Half back. Age: 17. Height: 5'9". Weight: 10st. Has won medals at underage, 1 Vocational schools medal, 1 Tedd Webb medal with County U-16 team. A forceful and wholehearted player. A first cousin of John Paul. Occupation: Student.

MICHAEL O. Mac tSAOIR: Corner back. Age: 39. Height: 5'10". Weight: 11½st. One of South West Donegal's best known players. Captain 1978 team. Great motivator and has tremendous influence on players around him. Former county player.

Best wishes to Naomh Columba



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DAVID MEEHAN: Goalkeeper. Age: 26. Weight: (Too heavy); Height: 5'9". Occupation: Fisherman. Club Honours: Senior Championship 1988 U-21 and Minor Championships. County Honours: U-21 Ulster and All-Ireland medals from 1987.

PAUL CARBERY: Corner Back. Age: 23; Weight: 14 stone; Height: 6'; Occupation: Employee with B+I Ferry. Club Honours: U-12, U-14, U-16, U-18 and U-21 Championship medals — Senior Championship medal 1988. County Honours: Vocational School All-Ireland winner and has played for County Minors and U-21 teams.

DENIS CARBERY: Full Back. Age: 25. Weight: 13st. Height: 5'11. Occupation: Fisherman. Club Honours: All U-age Championship medals plus 2 Ulster club Minor medals plus Senior medal 1988/1991.

JASON O'SHEA: Forward. Age: 17. Jason is a bright prospect having showed up well at all under-age matches.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM: Corner Back. Age: 25. Weight: 13-5st.; Height: 5'10"; Occupation: Carpenter. Club Honours: U-age County medals at all grades plus 2 Ulster Club medals and Senior medal 1988/91. County Honours: Captained Donegal to All-Ireland 1987 U-21 and U-18 Ulster Championship winners 1985. Won Senior Ulster medal 1990 playing at corner back. Ulster Championship 1992 and All-Ireland 1992.

FRANCIS MURRAY: Half-back. Age: 29. Occupation: Forestry Worker. Club Honours: Ulster Minor League and championship medals 1985. U-age medals from U-12 to U-21. Francis has recently returned from Mexico where he was working for four years.

IAN CUNNINGHAM: Age: 23. Occupation: Factory Worker. Club Honours: Senior Championship 1991 and Senior League. Underage medals from U-12 to U-21. Ian is currently reserve goalkeeper and a very good one at that.

BAKER BOYLE: Attacker. Age: 34. Occupation: Fisherman. Club Honours: Junior League and Championship 1976. Intermediate Championship 1979. Junior 1988 and Senior League 1991.

PETER MCGINLEY: Defender. Age: 18. Occupation: Student. Ulster Minor Championship medal 1991. Senior League medal 1991 plus underage championship medals.

PAUL CALLAGHAN: Centrefield. Age: 18. Occupation: Student. Ulster Minor Championship medal 1991. Senior League medal 1991 plus underage championship medals.

BARRY CUNNINGHAM (Jnr.): Half Back. Age: 21. Weight: 13st. Height: 5'10". Occupation: Fisherman. Club Honours: U-12, U-14 and U-18 County Championships medals. Senior Championship medal 1988, 1991.

JIMMY WHITE: Half forward. Age: 32. Weight: 12st. Height: 6'. Occupation: I.A.W.S. employee. Club Honours: Intermediate Championship medal 1979 and Senior winner 1988. Jimmy is also manager of the team. 1991 Senior League medal 1991.

JOHN T. MURRIN: Full-forward. Age: 30. Weight: 14st. Height: 5'9". Occupation: Fisherman. Club Honours: Senior and Junior Championship medals 1988 — Div. 2 League and Shield medals, John T., is also on the Junior team. Senior medal 1991.

TONY HEGARTY: Wing Back. Age: 27. Weight: 12st. Height: 5'6". Occupation: Factory foreman. Club Honours: U-18 County Minor League medal plus U-21 County Championship medal 1986. Senior and Junior Championship medals 1988. Senior League and Championship winning medals 1991.

CONOR WHITE: Corner Forward. Age: 12st. Height: 5'10". Occupation: Fisherman. Club Honours: Underage medals from U-12 to U-21 plus Senior medal 1988/1991 and Senior League 1991. County Honours: Ulster Minor League and Championship 1985, plus Ulster and All-Ireland U-21 1987.

MANUS BOYLE: Full-forward. Age: 26. Weight: 12-5st. Height: 5'10". Occupation: Net factory worker. Club Honours: Under 18 and U-21 County medals plus Ulster club minor 1984 and Senior 1988. County Honours: Ulster Senior medal 1990 and McKenna Cup 1991. Ulster Senior Championship 1992 and All-Ireland winning team 1992.

CONAL "Flipper" GALLAGHER:

Half Forward. Age: 24. Weight: 11½st. Height: 5'11". Occupation: Insurance Rep. Club Honours: U-age medals from U-12 to U-21. Senior Championship 1988/1991 and Senior League 1991. County Honours: Played County Minor in 1986.

MARK BOYLE: Half Forward. Age: 19. Weight: 10st. Height: 5'7". Occupation: Fish factory worker. Club Honours: Under-age medals at U-12, U-14 and U-18. Senior and Junior medals 1988. Senior Championship and League 1991. County Honours: Ulster Minor winners medal 1991.

JOHN BAN GALLAGHER: Age: 13st. Height: 6'. Occupation: Nett factory worker. Club Honours: Underage medals at all grades plus Senior medal 1988/1991 and Senior League. County Honours: Ulster Minor League and Championship 1985 and Ulster and All-Ireland U-21 medals 1987. John also won Ulster Senior medals in 1990 appearing in the final as sub.

DECLAN BOYLE: Half Forward. Age: 11st. Height: 5'9". Occupation: Student. Club Honours: Underage Championship medals at all grades, Declan is in his second year at senior level. County Honours: Ulster minor medals in 1991, Declan played at centrefield on County Minor team.

MICHAEL CAMPBELL: Half Back. Age: 34. Weight: 12½st. Height: 6'. Occupation: Fisherman. Club Honours: Senior Championship 1988 and 1991, a series of injuries have prevented Michael from playing for many years but he is now back to his best.

BARRY CUNNINGHAM: Midfielder. Age: 25. Weight: 13st. Height: 6'. Occupation: Salesman. County Honours: Ulster Minor League and Championship 1985 plus Ulster and All-Ireland U-21 medals 1987. Barry won Senior Club Championship medals with Tir Chonaill Gaels London in 1990. All-Ireland senior medal 1992.

BARRY MCGOWAN: Half Back. Age: 25. Weight: 12st. Height: 5'11". Occupation: E.S.B. employee. Club Honours: Barry has won all underage championship medals and Senior Championship 1988/1991. County Honours: Ulster Minor 1985 and Ulster and All-Ireland U-21 1987. Barry won Ulster Senior 1990 appearing in the final as a sub and played in the Ulster final 1991. Corner back on All-Ireland winning team of 1992.

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Best wishes to the teams

EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED

By Tony McGee (Irish News)

Did you expect such a historic year in Donegal? I doubt if 100 per cent of you did. But whatever about that it was a wonderful 1992 and congratulations to all involved.

Now with the Sam Maguire proudly displayed on Anthony Molloy's sideboard — and Brid polishing it daily — when it's not doing the rounds, the attentions turn back to the club scene. Croke Park heroics will be forgotten today as Killybegs and Naomh Columba battle it out for championship glory.

A county final is always special but this season the Donegal decider is that little bit extra special than ever before. Euphoria, of course, still reigns mighty in Tir Chonaill-land and MacCumhaill Park will surely today house the biggest attendance at the final for many years.

But the brilliant All-Ireland exploits of Barry Cunningham, Barry McGowan, Manus Boyle (that Croker 'Man of the Match'), Noel Hegarty and John Joe Doherty will be forgotten this afternoon as in the white heat — just as hot as on September 20 — of the hour's football as the teams fight might and main, straining every muscle, to bring the cup to their club.

Club football in Donegal has always been a tough affair. Being from only a few miles from the Donegal border I had many experiences of its kind. Indeed I played in Donegal — maybe not always legally (that's another story) — and I appreciate the passion and the pride that goes with competing at this level.

The Boys from Killybegs and their opponents from Glencolmcille are fine exponents of the art. They are sure to display the fire that burns in their bellies when a trophy is set up for grabs, and they are sure to give the spectators 60 minutes of the best. Certainly, the best that they can muster on such an occasion when nerves are tingling and hearts beating fast.

I can recall a Donegal county final in Ballybofey some years ago. It was played in the evening but I don't remember the teams

involved. The Fermanagh final was on the same day at Irvinestown but both were timed expertly so that avid fans, like myself, could attend both. It was a dash over Scraghey, through Castleberg and over the mountain from St. Molaise Park to MacCumhaill Park.

What do I remember about that summer's afternoon — we had summers then! — was the sporting and vociferous crowd in Ballybofey. The ground was packed to the rafters... it will be the same, no doubt, this afternoon. With the same urgings of the respective followers and the same terrace advice issued to the players.

Heroes don't live long when a new goal is set so the men from Croke Park need not expect any VIP treatment today. They are wise enough to appreciate that — indeed they learned it, if need be, when the semi-finals were played a fortnight ago.

Speaking of that, it was very soon to rush those county players back into battle — just seven days after Dublin's deflation. But they rode the trail and now that club championship honours are just a game away they are ready again.

One player involved this afternoon mentioned to me just how wonderful it would be to receive the All-Ireland medals and the county championship medals at the Donegal dinner this season. What a dream for any player.

Yes, as my good friend Daniel O'Donnell told me at the Sunday night function in the Grand Hotel, Malahide: "It's always good to be a Donegal man but it's extra special now." That must surely sum up the general feeling within the county.

Finally, I am glad to get this opportunity to say a sincere "Thanks" to Brian McEniff, all the county players and the administrators. Throughout the championship campaign all were more than helpful to myself and my colleagues in the Irish News. We were allowed to attend the training camp when it might not be convenient to the squad and Brian and the players always invited us along with them for a meal afterwards. Lads and lassies, it was a great pleasure to feel so welcome. Keep up the good work.

NAOMH COLUMBA

- 1
KEVIN DOHERTY
- 2
CONAL GAVIGAN
- 3
JOHN PAUL CURRAN
- 4
SEAN GAVIGAN
- 5
DESSIE CUNNINGHAM
- 6
JOHN JOE DOHERTY
- 7
EUNAN McINTYRE
- 8
PADDY GAVIGAN
- 9
PADDY HEGARTY
- 10
SEAMUS CARR (capt.)
- 11
NOEL HEGARTY
- 12
MICHAEL McNELIS
- 13
MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM
- 14
AIDAN BURKE
- 15
PAUL O'DONNELL

SUBS: 16, PAUL HEGARTY; 17, MICHAEL HEGARTY; 18, PADDY DOHERTY; 19, EUGENE DOHERTY; 20, PAURIC GILLESPIE; 21, KIERAN CUNNEA; 22, KEVIN McGINLEY; 23, MICHAEL OLIVER McINTYRE; 24, MARTIN GILLESPIE.

FIRST HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
NAOMH COLUMBA				
KILLYBEGS				

NA CEALLA BEAGA

- 1
DAVID MEEHAN
- 2
MICHAEL CAMPBELL
- 3
DENIS CARBERY
- 4
PAUL CARBERY
- 5
PETER McGINLEY
- 6
BARRY McGOWAN
- 7
FRANCIS MURRAY
- 8
JOHN BAN GALLAGHER
- 9
BARRY CUNNINGHAM
- 10
PAUL CALLAGHAN
- 11
DECLAN BOYLE
- 12
MARK BOYLE
- 13
A.N. OTHER
- 14
MANUS BOYLE
- 15
CONAL GALLAGHER

SUBS: 16, TONY HEGARTY; 17, JIMMY WHITE; 18, STEPHEN BURKE; 19, JOHN BAKER BOYLE; 20, BARRY CUNNINGHAM; 21, IAN CUNNINGHAM; 22, JASON O'SHEA; 23, CONOR WHITE.

SECOND HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
NAOMH COLUMBA				
KILLYBEGS				

From Loftus Road to Croke Park — Barry Cunningham

Of the thirty players who will take the field for today's 73rd Donegal Senior Football Championship Final few have had the glittering career that talented Killybegs midfielder, Barry Cunningham, has enjoyed to date.

By CHARLIE MCGINLEY
Derry People & Donegal News

The 25-year-old was reared on Loftus Road in the shadow of Queens Park Rangers Football Club. However, as a boy he supported Chelsea before the family finally decided to move back to Killybegs where they run a launderette business when Barry was five years old.

The qualified Quantity Surveyor has already won two New York senior football medals, one London and British senior medal, and two Donegal titles. On Sunday he will be seeking his sixth senior championship medal in three different countries.

It has been a memorable year for the Killybegs lad. His girlfriend, Mary Anne Connaughton, from New York, represented the "Big Apple" in this year's Rose of Tralee competition, and even during the competition Barry travelled up from Kerry to assist his club in the Championship quarter-final against Dungloe in Glenties.

He made a major impact when introduced as a second half substitute for the All-Ireland semi-final and final against Dublin.

He is described by Donegal team manager, Brian McEniff, as a "shy lad really". "He may come across differently, but really Barry is quite a shy lad. He is a fine boy and he was quick to react when I phoned him in the States when Padraig Brogan left for Mayo. Few players have ever made the sort of contribution he made when he came off the bench at Croke Park in All-Irelands. Only Seamus Darby for Offaly springs to mind. I think he overtrained between the Cavan and Fermanagh matches and he went off the boil a bit. But really in the two big games he showed his class and his belief in his own ability", McEniff said.

This correspondent knows all too well what Barry is capable of. I spent three years at school with him in Falcarragh. In 1985 after I had

defected to St. Eunan's he hit a delightful point from a long range free in a McLarnon Cup final that won the Ulster Colleges B final for his school. Few players would even have had the guts to take the kick.

Barry is the son of Willie and Sheila (nee McGroarty) Cunningham. His father played for Donegal at minor and senior level and played on the Killybegs team who won the Donegal senior championship title in 1952. His mother from Inver is an aunt of Donegal under-21 star of 1982, Patrick McGroarty.

At under-age level with his club Killybegs, Barry enjoyed the early taste of success . . .

Under team manager Jimmy White, whom he admits has been a major influence on his career, Barry won all under-age county titles from under-12 to under-21. This also included Ulster Club minor and under-21 titles.

Along with his double first cousin, John, Barry was educated at P.C.C. Falcarragh where his football career was influenced by Fr. Sean O Gallchoir. He won a Loch An Iuir (u-15) Herald Cup and McLarnon Cup medals with P.C.C. during his five year stint at the Falcarragh College.

He also enjoyed playing a bit of soccer and was a member of the All-Ireland Colleges winning panel of 1982. Along with this correspondent he travelled with the P.C.C. team that participated in the World Schools soccer tournament in Belgium in 1984. Barry scored two goals in the tournament against Italy and Turkey in the third and fourth play-off.

He also played for Finn Harps youths and the Donegal League youth team. However, gaelic football is the game he loves. He captained Killybegs' championship winning team of 1988, a year after he first went to the U.S.

In New York he played along with great players such as Larry Tompkins (Cork), and the mighty Jack O'Shea (Kerry).

He travels to and from the U.S. regularly since that first trip in 1987. The fact that his girlfriend, Mary Anne, is there is not just a coincidence, she clearly plays a big part in his life.

At county level Barry has won Ulster minor (1985), under-21 (1987) and senior titles. He was a vital member of the All-Ireland under-21 winning team of 1987 which included five of the

Killybegs team who will be in action today.

McEniff gave him his chance at senior level on 2nd February 1986. "I remember the game in Breffni against Cavan well. It was a National League game and I was playing alongside Paul Carr at midfield. I hit the crossbar in the first ten minutes which would have been a great start", he remembers fondly.

He has not been beaten in a county championship final since 1981 when a Rosses Rovers team that included Donal Bonner defeated them in an under-14 final. He feels that the absence of his cousin John will motivate Killybegs today. "John is going through a bad spell. He has been unlucky", Barry said.

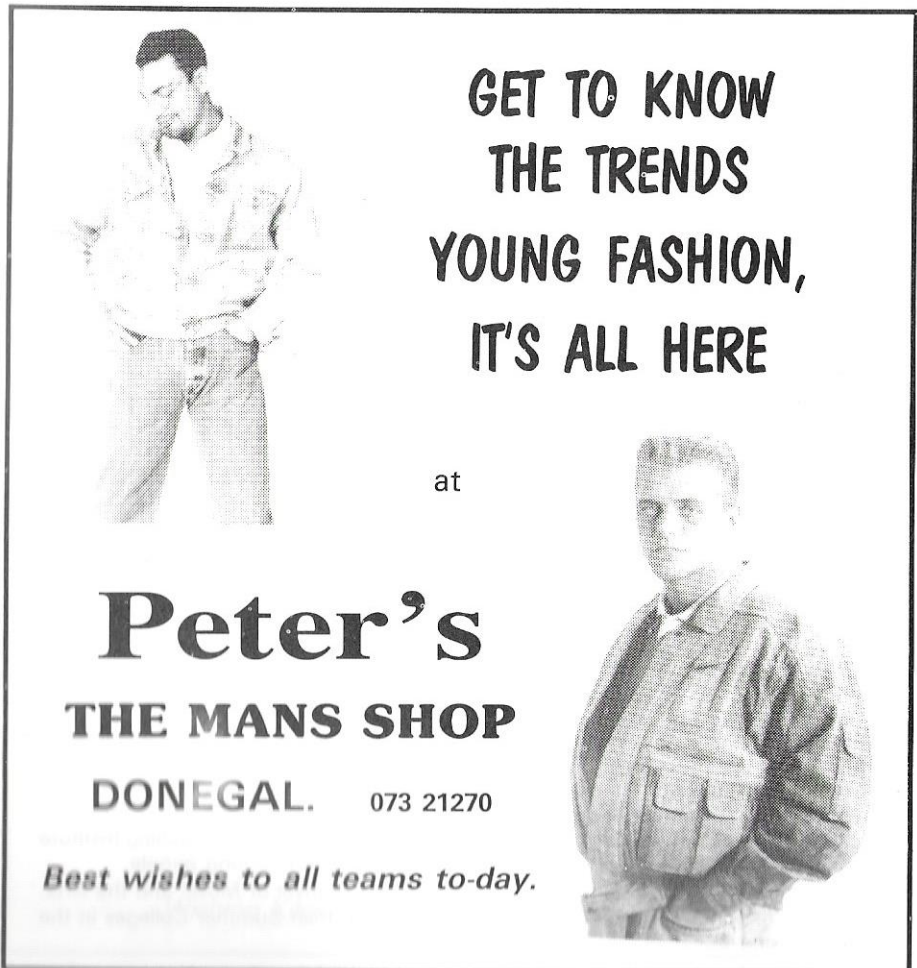
Referring to the All-Ireland success and the role he played in it, Barry said. "It is hard to

gauge the enormity of it all until you sit back and think about it. When you get onto the field it all happens naturally", he said.

Asked after achieving so much how did he now motivate himself for games, he had a fine answer.

"In football you are only as good as your last or next game. That is the way I have looked at it. I enjoy football and everyone around me enjoys it. I love success like anyone else", he said.

Despite the offer of several jobs in Donegal Barry is planning to go back to New York for the winter after the National League game against Kildare. However, I am sure that the whole of Donegal will like to see him back again soon.



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from

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THE DIAMOND
KILLYBEGS

Ádh Mór oraibh Peileadóirí Naomh Columba
i gcluiche Ceannais na Contae 1992

Ó

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THE OTHER DONEGAL SUCCESS

By John Campbell (Belfast Telegraph)

When record books for 1992 are being compiled shortly, the name of Donegal will loom large — and not just because the Sam Maguire Cup was brought to the county for the first time.

Donegal also scored another significant success this year — without a ball being kicked, though. It was in terms of organised support that the county secured a magnificent victory — a victory that is the envy of many other counties, indeed.

For rarely has a Supporters Club achieved such peaks in relation to fund-raising, sponsorship and general financial goodwill than the Donegal official outfit who have blazed a trail which others may seek to follow.

In a spontaneous outpouring of material support, the people of the county — and many from further afield — responded to the promptings and initiatives of a body who helped to generate so much invaluable income to underwrite the successful drive to bring "Sam" to his new resting place.

Donegal supporters have now acquired a deserved reputation for the volume of their vocal strength and the generosity of their financial aid and while they can bask in this well-earned reputation, the players too have proved that being gracious in victory merely embellishes success.

Individually and collectively, the players have shown that a modest demeanour and genuine

thoughtfulness can add lustre to their achievements. In fact three players involved in frantic preparations for today's decider — Barry Cunningham and Barry McGowan (Killybegs) and John Joe Doherty (Naomh Columba) made the sacrifice to travel to the Fanad and Downings area last week-end where they not only feted Sam again but also attended a special benefit dance.

It was a gesture much appreciated in that locality but a gesture typical of the Donegal team as a whole. No wonder the special mirror photographs which the Supporters Club have currently on sale are being snapped up.

The photographs portray not just a successful group of footballers but perhaps the finest ambassadors Donegal has ever had — and that's saying something.

After today's final thoughts will turn to the National League and next Sunday's meeting with Kildare.

But whatever happens in the forthcoming months — indeed, whatever happens in the future in the long term — there is no doubt that the side of '92 have written their names indelibly in the pages of the history of the GAA in Donegal in particular and the Association in general.

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KILCAR PEN PICTURES

PADDY SWEENEY: 34. 5'11½". 12 st. Occupation: Factory worker, Kilcarra Yarns Ltd.

FINLAY McIVOR: 19. 5'10½". 13 st. Student, Letterkenny R.T.C.

DANNY GILLESPIE: 39. 6'2". 14 st. Teacher.

JOSEPH O'DONNELL: 26. 5'11". 11½ st. Factory worker, Kilcarra Yarns Ltd.

PADDY CARR (capt.): 28. 5'9". 12 st. Fish Factory worker.

DERMOT CANNON: 25. 6'0". 13 st. Factory worker, Earagil Eisc, Meenaneary.

DECLAN CANNON: 27. 5'10". 11 st. Mechanic.

ANTHONY DIVER: 26. 6'0". 13 st. Fish Factory worker.

STEPHEN BYRNE: 20. 6'3". 12 st. Student, Athlone R.T.C.

MICHAEL McSHANE: 22. 5'9". 11 st. Unemployed.

CORNELIUS DIVER: 32. 5'10". 13½ st. Factory worker, Connemara Fabrics.

STEPHEN O'DONNELL: 21. 5'9". 11 st. Factory worker.

CHARLIE O'DONNELL: 40. 6'2". 13 st. Managing Director, Connemara Fabrics.

PETER HEGARTY: 28. 5'11". 12 st. Factory worker, Connemara Fabrics.

GERRY CARR: 18. 5'7". 10 st. Musician.

DERMOT SWEENEY: 22. 5'10". 11 st. Student, Athlone R.T.C.

RAYMOND CARR: 22. 5'10". 11 st. Labourer.

JAMES HEGARTY: 25. 5'10". 11 st. Factory Worker, Earagail Eisc, Meenaneary.

SEAMUS CUNNINGHAM: 18. 5'11". 11 st. Factory worker.

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CILL CHARTHA

- 1
PADDY SWEENEY
- 2
JOSEPH O'DONNELL
- 3
DANNY GILLESPIE
- 4
FINLAY McIVOR
- 5
PADDY CARR (capt.)
- 6
DERMOT CANNON
- 7
DECLAN CANNON
- 8
ANTHONY DIVER
- 9
STEPHEN BYRNE
- 10
MICHAEL McSHANE
- 11
CORNELIUS DIVER
- 12
STEPHEN O'DONNELL
- 13
GERRY CARR
- 14
PETER HEGARTY
- 15
CHARLIE O'DONNELL

SUBS: 16, JAMES HEGARTY; 17, DERMOT SWEENEY; 18, RAYMOND CARR; 19, SEAMUS CUNNINGHAM.

FIRST HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
CILL CHARTHA				
ST. EUNANS				

NAOMH ADHAMHNÁN

- 1
DODIE GRIEVE
- 2
RAY LITTLE
- 3
EDDIE McCAULEY
- 4
DENIS CURRAN
- 5
SEAN McEWEN
- 6
GERARD O'DONNELL
- 7
MAURICE McGEEHAN
- 8
DECLAN NEE
- 9
SEAMUS O'DONNELL
- 10
DWYER RAFFERTY
- 11
DEAN DOHERTY
- 12
PACKIE DUNNION
- 13
MICHAEL MULHERN
- 14
PAUL McGEEHAN
- 15
CHARLIE J. McGINLEY

SECOND HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
CILL CHARTHA				
ST. EUNANS				

Gach Rath ar Fhoireann Naomh Cholumba
Dai Domhnaigh agus bíodh Corn an Dochtuir Maguidir aráis
libh abhaile ó na gnothaí agus coistí seo.

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DUBS DIDN'T MIND!

By Cliona Foley (Irish Independent)

"Would I write a few words for the county football final programme?", Ken Dooley asked me. "About the All Ireland or anything that strikes you..." he prompted!

Lord God, where do you start!

Maybe on the eve of the final.

Driving home late from work towards Rathmines Bridge, a burly Garda grinning, told me the road was closed.

The crowds in the Porto Bello, a drinking stronghold for flatland gaelic fands, had spilled across the road and down the street.

Never, not even in the midst of the Italia '90 lunacy, was a main road in Dublin closed for sporting celebrations! Something joyous and wonderful was in the air.

Maybe you go back further.

Years of following the team's progress in the "Democrat" each week, regaled in recent years by Michael Daly, The Follower and Annette's Banana Bunch tales.

Maybe further still.

Remembering the time a trip to Dublin was a religious duty if Donegal were playing.

My mother is from Glenties. She married a Corkman who came up to design the Gweebarra Bridge.

Every house we have ever lived in, in a

transient childhood, has been called after it. So whenever Donegal came South we went to meet them.

For one day everyone who was economically forced to leave Tir Chonail down all the years was home again.

The great unifying thread in Irish communities, that one thing, possibly compensates for all the GAA's other faults.

In the weeks since Brian McEniff and your fine team brought home Sam I have not met one Dubliner who begrudged you that victory.

I was ambivalent beforehand. Both teams were, journalists agreed, amongst the nicest they had met.

Later I was thrilled for Donegal but upset for Dublin. I felt that time-wise, it was more important for the Dubs to win this one.

There. Spoken like a typical non-Donegaler. Only you know what it truly means. And this memorable victory will make today's County final all the more memorable.

The winners, Killybegs or Noamh Columba, will go forward to the Ulster Club Championship knowing they are the best footballing county in the country today.

That's what winning Sam means.

It is a wonderful legacy from a wonderful team and an inspiring manager.

It was the end of a long, hard, patient slog.

And yet it is only the beginning.

**Go n'éireoidh go geal le Foireann
Naomh Cholumba, Dia Domhnaigh**

Ó

Siopa agus Tabhairne

**RORY O'DONNELL,
Meenaneary.**

*Ádh Mór ar Fhoireann Naomh Cholumba
i gcluiche Ceannais Peile Dhún na nGall,
1992, ó na gnothaí agus Coistí seo thíos.*

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*Killybegs G.A.A. club wish to express their thanks to all the businesses
who sponsored this programme and to the club. Please support our
sponsors. — Mary Boyle (Cisteoir).*

THANKS

*A special thanks to all the printing staff of the Donegal Democrat who worked late for
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(Democrat Democrat/N.W.R.), Seamus de Faoite (Irish Officer C.L.E. Dhún na nGall).*

*Best wishes to Killybegs
in today's county final.*

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Tir Chonaill Abú

Na Casaidigh

le Michéal Ó Muircheartaigh

(3)

*Focail: An tAth. Séan Ó Gallchoir a chum.
Taifeadaidh: Stúideo Bhord na Gaeilge.
Innealtóir: Catherine Considine.
Lóiriú: Na Casaidigh.
Cópcheart: Raidió na Gaeltachta.*

*Tá'n Breathnach sa bhearna ag cosaint ar
lionta
's Maitiu Ó Gallchoir chomh daingean le
beann*

*'Sé'n Riddgach ta seasnmach is an
nEigearcata iontach
's thug Dia go O Gabhagain croi nach bhull
fann.*

*Mac Maolain 's O Riain linn
(O) Muiri 's McNiff linn/leo
bainisteoir neartmhar a fhuireann moircniú
Thugamar Sam linn
trasna na hÉirne linn
faoi cheannas Molloy linn
Tir Chonaill Abú.*

(1)

*Tá gaiscigh na peile i mbéalaibh na tíre
agus foireann Tir Chonaill ag máirseáil chun
glóir*

*ó Mhalainn 'na gCealla tá an chontae ar
lionnigh*

is trácht i ngach áit ar gach sábháil is scór.

*Leanann na milte sinn
ar aistear na staire linn*

béiceach is scairteach, scailtarnach is liú

Bhéarfaimid Sam linn

Trasna na hÉirne linn

Faoi cheannas Molloy linn

Tir Chonaill Abú.

(4)

*Tá ceathrar na gCealla a chomh trean leis an
toinn mhor*

*'s Máirtín O Sibhleain nios cruaidhe na creig
tá'n Chnaimhseach's an Baoileach ar cosaint
chlú Rosann*

*'s bert mach Mhic Aodha cumhachtach is
glíc*

Mánus is Mac Gabhann linn

Dochartach ghlinne linn

'sna Cuinneagáin is cróga a sheasodh brú

Thugamar Sam linn

trasna na hÉirne linn

faoi cheannas Molloy linn

Tir Chonaill Abú.

(2)

*Thit fearna na Breifne san fhearthainn chois
Finne*

is buac'íl na hÉirne ar thalta Tir Eoghain

duirt udair is saoihe nach mbuailí fir Dhoire

ach thit siad go fann luinn lá eachtach

Chluain Eois.

Uladh faoi chois againn

ó Thoraigh go crois Mhic Fhlionn

Leanstán an tsampla thug gaiscigh an

Duin

Thugamar Sam linn

trasna na hÉirne linn

faoi cheannas Molloy linn

Tir Chonaill Abú.

(5)

*Ba iontach ar ngaisce i gcrabhcchlúiche
Eireann*

*Is ar n-éachtaí cois life ar an Domhnach is
Mó*

*Do chuaigh muid 'na pairce is do scrios muid
na Dubs*

Agus thug muid Sam go Tir Chonaill Abú.

Glas agus órga linnorainn

brait agus meirgi linn

misneach is mórgacht ag coipeach na croí

Thugamar Sam linn

trasna na hÉirne linn

faoi cheannas Molloy linn

Tir Chonaill Abú.

DAVID ENRIGHT
Building Contractor

AND

JIMMY ENRIGHT
Publican, Carrick

Best wishes to Naomh Columba's in the Final

To one great team

from another

Congratulations

from everybody at

Quinnsworth