

Ros Comáin v. Tír Eoghain

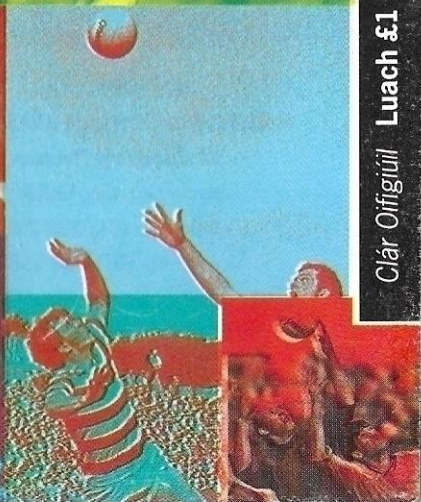
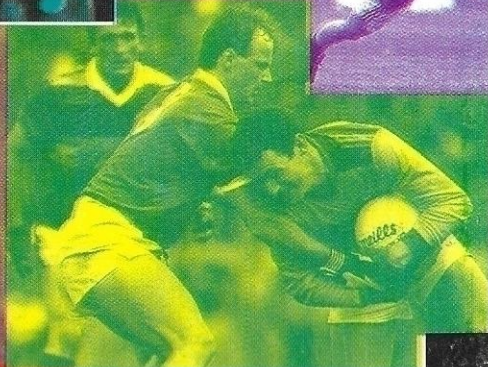
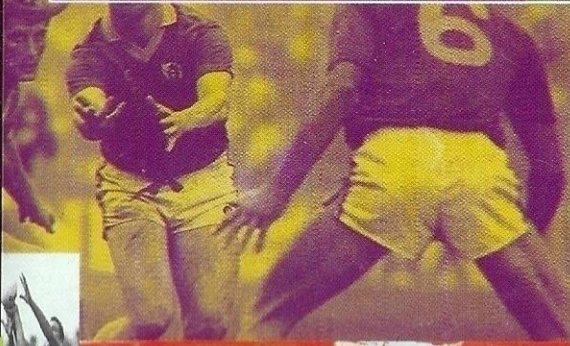
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Áth Cliath v. Dún na nGall

Royal Liver Assurance

# National Football League

Quarter-Finals



Páirc Breffni, An Cabhán  
5 Aibreán 1992



*Kevin O'Malley*  
Ard Stiurthóir

Clár Oifigiúil - Luach £1

# Royal Liver National Football League



Royal Liver National Football League

Páirc Breffni, An Cabhán

5 AIBREÁN, 1992

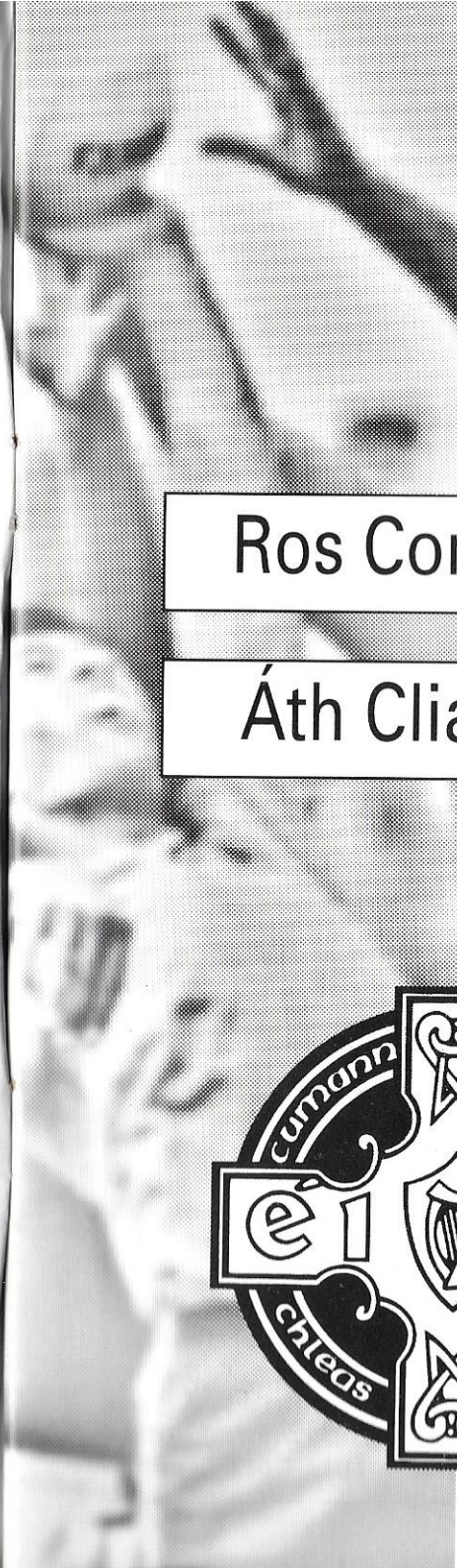
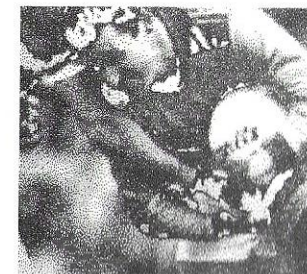
Quarter Finals

Ros Comáin v. Tír Eoghain

2.00 i.n. Réiteoir: Tommy Howard (Cill Dara)

Áth Cliath v. Dún na nGall

3.30 i.n. Réiteoir: Paddy Russell (Tiobraid Árann)



The following Tables show how the counties fared in the divisional programme proper in football:

Donegal Finished on top on scoring averages

Division I (A)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Tyrone	5	4	0	1	8
Dublin	5	3	0	2	6
Galway	5	3	0	2	6
Cork	5	2	1	2	5
Armagh	5	1	1	3	3
Mayo	5	1	0	4	2

Division I (C)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Derry	5	5	0	0	10
Meath	5	2	1	2	5
Kildare	5	2	1	2	5
Kerry	5	2	1	2	5
Down	5	0	4	1	4
Offaly	5	0	1	4	1

Division I (B)


	P	W	D	L	Pts
Donegal	5	4	0	1	8
Roscommon	5	4	0	1	8
Wicklow	5	3	0	2	6
Longford	5	1	1	3	3
Antrim	5	1	1	3	3
Leitrim	5	1	0	4	2

Division II (A)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Clare	6	5	1	0	11
Tipperary	6	5	0	1	10
Wexford	6	3	2	1	8
Limerick	6	3	0	3	6
Waterford	6	2	0	4	4
Carlow	6	1	1	4	3
Kilkenny	6	0	0	6	0

Division II (B)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Monaghan	6	5	0	1	10
Cavan	6	5	0	1	10
Fermanagh	6	3	1	2	7
Laois	6	3	0	3	6
Sligo	6	2	1	3	5
Louth	6	1	0	5	2
Westmeath	6	1	0	5	2

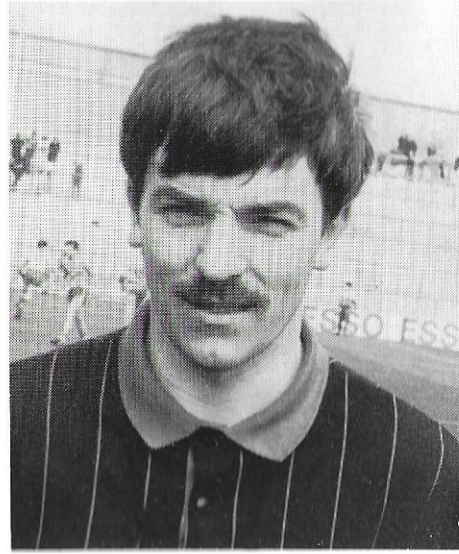


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 ar son  
 Chumann Lúthchleas Gael.  
 Cló: Kilkenny People.

## Réiteoirí



*Tommy Howard (Cill Dara)*



*Paddy Russell (Tiobraid Árann)*



### Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Flanna Fáil,  
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,  
Buíon dár slua  
Thar toinn do ráining chugann  
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,  
Sean-tir ár sinsear feasta  
Ní fhágfar faoin tiorán ná faoin tráil,  
Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil  
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil  
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,  
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.

## Last Time Out — Quarter Finals Style

All eight counties engaged in today's Royal Liver National Football League quarter-finals have appeared at this stage of competition in the past number of years, with Clare bridging the longest gap.

They make their first appearance since April 1987 when a tour-de-force by Eoin "Bomber" Liston, who scored four points, and set up the goal, turned the key in the door for Kerry to a hard-earned 1-10 to 0-10 win at Ennis.

It is somewhat ironic that Derry and Cavan, in opposition at Irvinestown, have both reached the last eight for the first time since their clash in 1989 provided a rare all Ulster encounter at Croke Park. The Breffni men, inspired by centre half back and captain Jim Reilly, and a two goal barrage from left full forward Derek McDonnell, won by 2-9 to 1-5 to record their

first success at headquarters in 22 years!

Roscommon, Tyrone and Donegal are returning to familiar territory in the double bill at Breffni Park. All were in action there at the same round of last season's Royal Liver National League.

Last time out — quarter finals style Tyrone paid a heavy penalty for poor finishing (they had twelve wides in the first half alone) in their show-down with Roscommon when a late Paul Earley point sent them out of the title race — 1-9 to 0-11.

Donegal did not take the lead against Offaly in their quarter final for the first time until Tony Boyle fisted a goal three minutes from the end. However, a Peter Brady free-kick brought Offaly the equaliser, and sent the match into extra time. The Ulster men forged out a 1-16 to 0-16 win.

On the same afternoon Dublin, who make a rare appearance at Breffni Park, beat Wicklow at headquarters, despite some superb high fielding feats by the visitors' Fergus Daly at midfield. Jack Sheedy and Vinny Murphy scored Dublin's goals in their 2-10 to 0-11 triumph.



# Many exciting moments in Royal Liver Football League

**While all four provinces are represented in today's Royal Liver National Football League quarter-finals, Ulster followers have particular cause for satisfaction with four teams engaged. In addition, the Derry-Cavan clash at Irvinstown ensures that the north will have at least one place in the semi-finals.**

Derry's march to the quarter-finals ranks as one of the highlights of a competition that since last October has enlivened the sporting scene with many exciting and memorable moments and talking points.

The Foylesiders, with Tony Scullion, Colm

Rafferty, Anthony Tohill and Joe Brolly prominent, did not drop a single point in their five game march to the Division I "C" title. They rank as the only county in the League to finish the group matches with the perfect record.

Derry's defence gave little away as well. Damien McCusker was beaten only twice in five games and no team scored more than eight points against the squad in the campaign so far.

The first goal of the 1991-92 League proved to be one of the most crucial so far, and today stands as a vital reason why Dublin are in action at Breffni Park.

Keith Barr was the man on the target when Galway entertained the

Dubs on Saturday, October 26 at Pearse Stadium in what was the first game of the current series. He was not in the Dublin line-up at the start, but went into the match as a substitute, and in the final minute stunned the home followers in the 3,000 crowd by sending a low shot past Pat Comer in the Galway goal. The score gave Dublin a sensational 1-5 to 0-7 win.

John O'Leary, Dublin's long-serving goalkeeper, was beaten four times as his team slipped to an amazing four goal defeat from Tyrone at Croke Park in November, and lost his place in goal. However, the Balbriggan man, who won an All-Ireland senior medal in 1983 and has given the county such wonderful service in a long innings, came back to favour for the play-off match with Galway earlier this month, and was not beaten as Dublin ensured their survival in the League.

Matt McGleenan had a celebrated day for Tyrone in what must surely represent their best-ever win at Croke Park in that clash with Dublin. He stamped his personality on the match by scoring 1-5, and that ranks as the

best individual score by a Tyrone forward in the campaign so far.

Gary Walsh has contributed greatly to Donegal's football exploits in recent years with his excellent goal-keeping, and he can look back on the divisional games with particular satisfaction.

Walsh was unbeaten in four games, but had to pick the ball out of the net twice as Donegal sustained an unexpected reverse against Wicklow at Aughrim in February. The second goal was from the penalty spot by Kevin O'Brien.

Roscommon have not conceded a goal since Darren Behan, of Wicklow, beat Gay Sheerin after 22 minutes at Aughrim in early November. Sheerin was also on duty in the next round against Longford, and since then the Connacht champions have fielded two other goalkeepers in the League.

Chris Grogan kept his net intact against Antrim at Elphin, and Paul Staunton did likewise in Roscommon's only other outing so far this year in the series against Donegal at Ballybofey.

## A PREMIUM

Scorers were at a premium when Waterford and Kilkenny met in a Division II "A" match at Mooncoin at the end of November. The visitors won by 0-4 to 0-3. In fairness, a strong wind made matters difficult for the players, and neither side scored against the element.

Offaly, who were only beaten by Donegal in extra time in a quarter-final last April at Breffni Park, after earlier having had a high scoring march to the Division III North title, started the current programme on a high note.

They were two points adrift against then newly crowned All-Ireland champions Down at Newcastle in October with less than nine minutes remaining when goalkeeper Laz Molloy stepped prominently into the picture. He brought off a fine save from Mark McCartan, and set up a fine movement that ended with Peter Brady sending over the bar. Soon afterwards Seamus Dunne, who had gone in as a substitute, picked off the equaliser, and the Faithful County had good reason to feel

happy with their draw — 1-7 to the Sam Maguire Cup holders' 0-10.

A good beginning, however, did not prove "half the battle" for Offaly, as that was the only point they collected in their divisional programme.

At the other end of the scale are Clare who, like Derry, did not sustain a single defeat in the divisional programme. However, they did drop a point to Wexford in the third round in the wind and rain at New Ross in November.

Late points by Gerry Killeen, who led the Banner County to the All-Ireland "B" championship title in November, and Ciaran O'Neill earned a division of the spoils, and a point that proved crucial at the end. It enabled Clare to pip Tipperary for the Division II "A" title by a point, with eleven points from their six games, and so qualify for a place in the last eight of the League.





## Aon Fhoireann Chonnachtach Fágtha

I gcomparáid leis na hUltaigh, a raibh ceithre fhoirne, Doire, Dún na nGall, An Cabhán agus Tír Eoghain fágtha sa rás níl ach ceann amháin, Roscomáin, ón Iarthar sna cluichí ceathrú ceannais den Léig.

Is olc an mhaise d'udaráis contaethe áirithe nach nglacann go ró-dháiríre leis an Léig. Ceart go leor, is féidir leas a bhaint as chun imreoirí óga a thriail ach ní mór tacú leo ar gach bealach is féidir agus go háirithe gan iad a chaitheamh i leataobh tar éis chluiche amháin, abair. Tá ceacht le foghlaim óna hUltaigh maidir leis an Léig agus Corn Iarnród Éireann.

Bhí Roscomáin ar tí onóir náisiúnta a bhaint amach le cúpla bliain anuas; is beag nár éirigh

leo anuraidh sa chluiche leathcheannais in aghaidh na Mí agus tá craobh i ndán dóibh gan mhoill. Ní fheadar an é an Léig reatha atá futhu a bhuachan ach ceaptar go ndéanfaidh siad tréan-iarracht dul chomh fada agus is féidir mar i ndeireadh thiar ní bheidh ach dhá chluiche, ar a mhéid, acu i gcrabhb-chomortas Chonnachta.

Beidh foireann Thír Eoghain ag iarraidh stop a chur leo, ar ndóigh. Ní fada ó bhí an 'dearg-is-bán' sa chluiche ceannais (1986 in aghaidh Chiarraí) agus táthar ann adeir go raibh caoi acu an ceann sin a ghnóthú. Bíodh sin mar atá ach ní haon dóithíní iad, i dtaca le peil ach go háirithe. Tá cuid acu 'aosta' go leor mar go bhfuilid ann le fada ach muna mbeidís in inmhe ní roghnófaí iad.

D'éirigh le Roscomáin an ceann is fearr a fháil ar Dhún na nGall sa bhabhta deireannach den Roinn acu beirt den Léig

reatha; bhí áit bainte amach ag an Conallaigh cheana féin sa cheathrú-ceannais agus ar an ábhar sin ní féidir glacadh leis an toradh sin mar cheann fírinneach. Ach ag an am céanna is treoir-líne é maidir leis an gcluiche inniu. Ón uair go raibh Dún na nGall in ann do na hEoghanaigh anuraidh agus gan aon dís-peagadh a dhéanamh ar an peileadóirí iontach a Thír Eoghain meastar go mbeidh an lámh in uachtar ag fir an Iarthair inniu. Ach bí cinnte de rud amháin — beidh sár-chluiche curtha faoinár mbráid.

Focal faoin pheil Ghaelach as an leabhar álainn 'Scéal na hIomána' ag an mBráthair Liam P. Ó Caithnia (An Cléochomhar Teo.): "Gaelic: an pheil Ghaelach. Níl puinn sin-searachta ag an bhfocal 'peil' áfach, go bhfios domsa. Caid agus rough-and-tumble, sin iad a thugtar ar chluiche na coise-iadsan agus football, an focal ba coitianta ar fad. Dealraíonn, nuair a cumadh an cluiche nua seo (agus cluiche nuadhéanta gan dabht ab ea an pheil i dtosach na haoise seo) is é an focal 'gaelic' féin a tugadh air a gCorca Dhuibhne ... "



# Ros Comaín

Dathanna: Ór is Gorm

(1) G. Ó Síoráin  
**GAY SHEERIN**  
*St. Ronan's*

(2) D. Ó Nútáin  
**DES NEWTON**  
*Carndonagh*

(3) P. Ó Duaraí  
**PAT DOOREY**  
*Éire Óg*

(4) E. Ó Gáibhín  
**ENON GAVIN**  
*Clan na nGael*

(5) S. Ó Connachtaín  
**JOEY CONNAUGHTON**  
*Clan na nGael*

(6) D. Ó Dónalláin  
**DAMIEN DONLON**  
*Strokestown*

(7) M. Ó Raghallaigh  
**MATTIE REILLY**  
*Castlerea St. Kevins*

(8) S. Mac Giolla Luairinn  
**SEAMUS KILLORAN**  
*Elphin*

(9) S. Ó Nútáin  
**JOHN NEWTON**  
*Garda*

(10) A. Ó Lolleáin  
**ANDY LEYLAND**  
*Castlerea St. Kevin's*

(11) Duine Eile  
**A.N. OTHER**

(12) T. Ó Gréacháin  
**TOM GREHAN**  
*St. Aidans*

(13) L. Ó Dúda  
**LORCAN DOWD**  
*Western Gaels*

(14) A. Mac Manais  
**TONY McMANUS (Capt.)**  
*Clan na nGael*

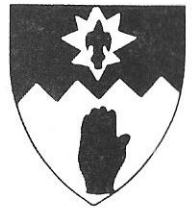
(15) D. Ó Duagáin  
**DEREK DUGGAN**  
*Castlerea St. Kevins*

**FIR IONAID:** (16) P. Ó Standuín (**Paul Staunton**), *Elphin*, (17) C. Ó Gruagáin (**Chris Grogan**), *Roscommon Gaels*, (18) G. Ó Gaoithín (**Gary Wynne**), *Boyle*, (19) P. Ó hIcí (**Paul Hickey**), *Salthill*, (20) D. Ó Conchúir (**David O'Connor**), *Garda*, (21) M. Ó Fallúin (**Martin Fallon**), *Strokestown*, (22) M. Ó Donnalláin (**Michael Donlon**), *Strokestown*, (23) E. Mac Manais (**Eamon McManus**), *Clan na nGael*, (24) B. Mac Pionnaish (**Benjy Penny**), *Roscommon Gaels*, (25) P. Ó Mochóir (**Paul Earley**), *Michael Glaveys*.

**ROGHNOÍRÍ:** Martin McDermott (St. Brigids), Manager; Gerry Fitzmaurice (Michael Glaveys); Seamus Hayden (St. Josephs).

ROS COMAÍN	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

# Tír Eoghain



Dathanna: Bán is Dearg

(1) F. Mac Dhónaill  
**FINBARR MCCONNELL**  
*An Baile Nua*

(2) N. Ó Donnaile  
**NOEL DONNELLY**  
*An Droim*

(3) E. Mac Giolla Phádraig  
**EANNA KILPATRICK**  
*Cabhán a Chaortainn*

(4) P. Ó Doibhlinn  
**PAUL DEVLIN**  
*Baile na Móna*

(5) P. Ó Donnaile  
**PAUL DONNELLY**  
*Bearach*

(6) P. Ó Ceannubháin  
**PASCAL CANAVAN**  
*Aireagal Chiarán*

(7) F. Ó Doibhlinn  
**FIACHA DEVLIN**  
*Ard Bó*

(8) A. Mac Giolla Phádraig  
**ADRIAN KILPATRICK**  
*Dún Geanainn*

(9) C. Ó Corra  
**CIARÁN CORR**  
*Óileáig a 'Ghuail*

(10) A. Mac Coise  
**ADRIAN CUSH**  
*Domhnach Mór*

(11) E. Mac Gafraidh  
**EAMON MCCAFFREY**  
*Aireagal Chiarán*

(12) B. Ó Garmaille  
**BRIAN GORMLEY**  
*An Charraig Mhór*

(13) M. Mac Giolla Fhinnéin  
**MATTHEW MCGLEENAN**  
*Eaglais*

(14) D. Ó hAgáin  
**DAMIEN O'HAGAN**  
*Óileán a 'Ghuail*

(15) C. Mac Cabe  
**KEVIN McCABE**  
*Cluain Eo*

**FIR IONAID:** (16) S. Mac Caba (**Sean McCabe**), *Cluain Eo*, (17) P. Mac Donnchaidh (**Plunkett Donaghy**), *An Maigh*, (18) A. Ó Cuinn (**Tony Quinn**), *Óileán a 'Ghuail*, (19) R. Mac an Rothach (**Raymond Munroe**), *An Charraig Mhór*, (20) C. Mac Giolla Bhríde (**Ciarán McBride**), *An Omaigh*, (21) A. Mac Giolla Uir (**Henry McClure**), *Cluain Eo*, (22) S. Mac An Fhailí (**Sean McNally**), *An Bruachaile*, (23) C. Ó Laitheann (**Christopher Lawn**), *Baile na Móna*, (24) S. Ó Conbhúí (**Stephen Conway**), *An Cora Criche*.

TÍR EOGHAIN	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					



# The Knock-out stage ... mixed memories for Roscommon

In Roscommon, recollections of the knock-out stages of the National League are undoubtedly mixed, with the good, the bad and the indifferent crowding their story through the years. Last year was typical: a hard-earned quarter-final win over Tyrone at Breffni Park raised expectations for the next encounter, but the semi-final with Dublin at Croke Park was a disaster, as they slumped to a defeat that was as emphatic as the 1-18 to 0-11 scoreline indicates.

That experience could be said to reach all the way back to the first league campaign in 1925 when Roscommon reached the final of the Connacht section of the competition; but, even playing on the home soil of Castlerea, nothing went right for Roscommon as they crashed to a five-goal defeat at the hands of Sligo — 0-2 to 5-2.

For more than a decade thereafter no impression was made until the county's resurgence, which saw an All-Ireland title annexed for the first time (minor 1939), also brought an improvement in league fortunes and a place in the semi-final against Meath. Beaten but unbowed Roscommon were back the following year, won out their section, beat Cork in a play-off and then overcame neighbours Sligo in what was one of the first quarter-finals to be played in league football. At Boyle, Roscommon won by 3-5 to 0-4, and if the 1940 semi-final against Galway brought disappointment, that goal defeat marked the nearest Roscommon came to league honours in the first 35 years of the competition.

It will always be a matter of conjecture as to how Roscommon would have fared but for the suspension of the league during the War years, as it was in

1943-44 that the county reached its highest peak, when Jimmy Murray's men swept magnificently to a brace of All-Ireland titles!

The late Forties and all the Fifties passed without Roscommon once reaching the closing stages of the league, but there was promise of that long-sought title when they reached the 1960-61 semi-final; Kerry however, on a replay, was an obstacle that could not be surmounted. Twelve years on, the Kerry replay tradition again proved too much as Roscommon lost the first final they contested, after they had appeared home and dried in the first meeting. There have been good and bad times since then. A crushing semi-final defeat by Kerry in the 1977 semi-final, was followed by the ultimate success of 1979 when Dermot Earley led his men to a nine-point win over Cork in the final.

The success-failure pattern was quickly resumed, however, and the highs and lows were again in evidence as hopes were alternatively raised and dashed through the Eighties. Perhaps the 'Dublin Experience' of 1990 (Portlaoise) and 1991 (Croke Park) really exemplifies Roscommon's frustration in the knock-out stages of the 'secondary' competition.



● Tyrone's corner-forward **KEVIN McCABE** heads goalwards.

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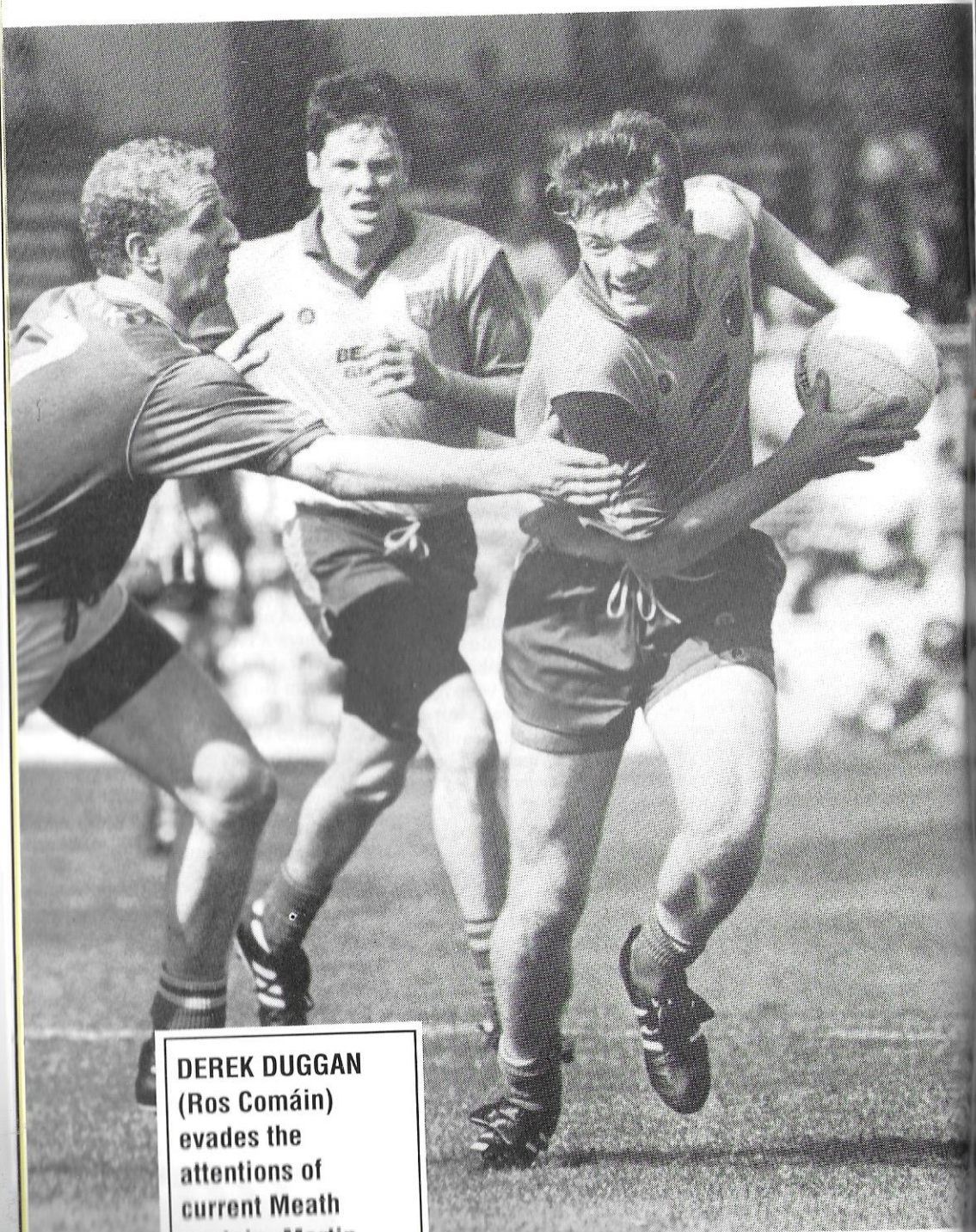
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**DEREK DUGGAN**  
(Ros Comáin)  
evades the  
attentions of  
current Meath  
captain, Martin  
O'Connell.

# Tyrone's Quest for Honours

**O**f all eight counties involved in this year's quarter-finals, Tyrone can most easily be described as latecomers to the closing stages of the competition. For a county that was there at start of the leagues more than sixty years ago, it took Tyrone a long time to make an impression. In fact, the competition was 32 years in existence before the county qualified for the knock-out stage for the first time. Yet Tyrone was one of the seven Ulster counties that took part in the **1925-26** league ... and in which they did not enjoy the best of fortune losing to Donegal on a replay. Yet when the league was reduced to just two Divisions in 1927 (Northern section nine teams and the Southern seven) Tyrone were considered good enough to be included, though they managed to acquire only two points from their eight outings. By the fourth year of the Leagues they were assigned to Division Two and it was here that the O'Neill

county recorded their first-ever win in league football when they beat Fermanagh at Dungannon in March **1930**. Tyrone made occasional appearances in the Ulster League in the Thirties but even in 1939 when the National League was reorganised, Tyrone were not included in the new format, though a year later they were admitted, but lost all their four games; and when they again appeared in the competition in 1947 they managed only one draw (against Down).

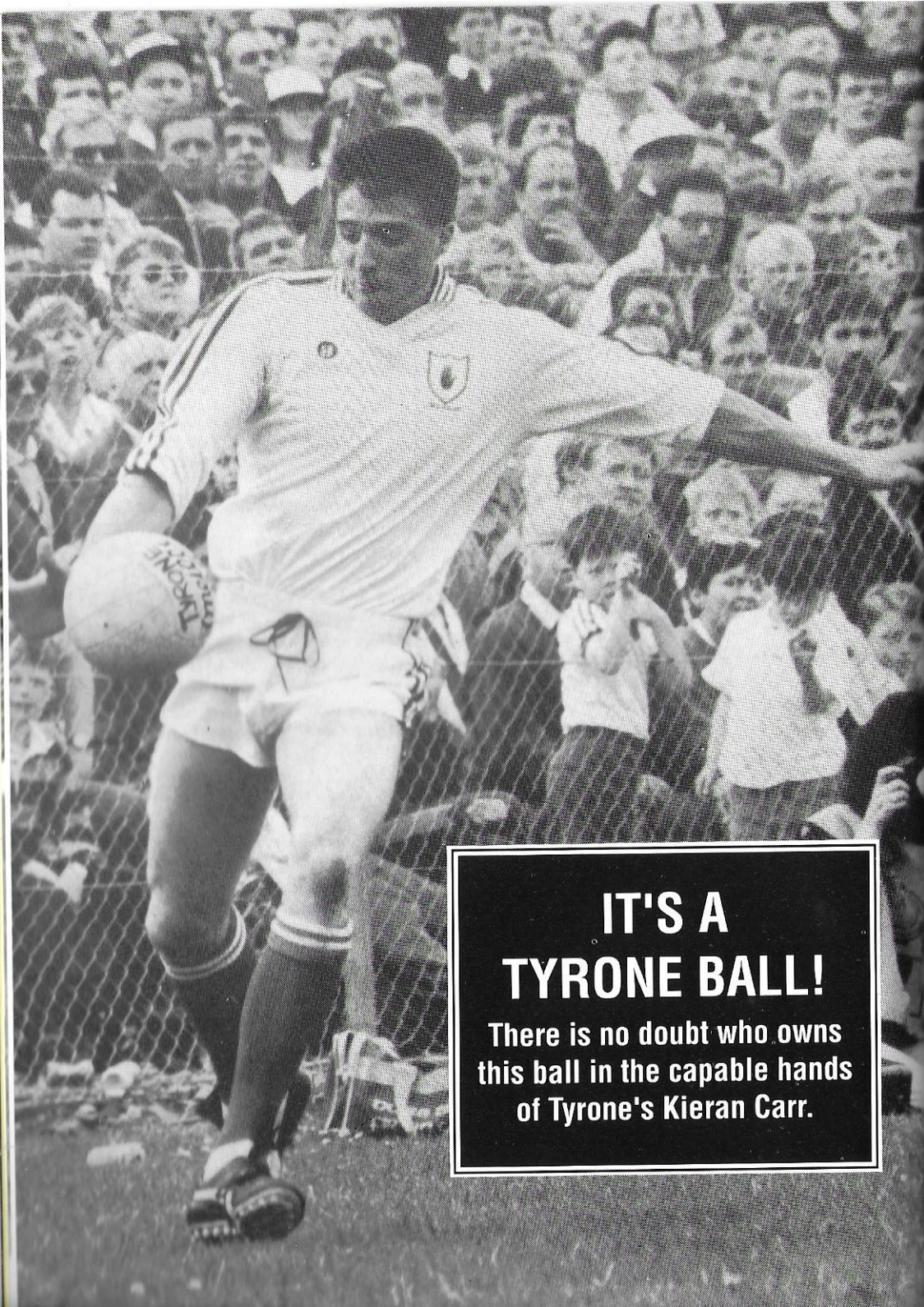
It was an uphill and frustrating struggle as the Fifties moved on; then, however, championship deeds were complemented by similar good showings in the league in which they reached the semi-finals of 1957 and 1958 (their two-point defeat at the hands of Galway in the former year being a particularly fine effort). But those moments of near greatness passed and it was a barren road all the way through the Sixties and early Seventies. Limited though it was,

Tyrone's winning of the second Division title in **1973** was widely acclaimed though their bid against the mighty Kingdom in the Division 'A' semi-final in **1974** also gave immense satisfaction.

The defeat by Dublin in the **1975** semi-final and the slump to Offaly in the **1979** quarter-final were comprehensive and depressing, but Tyrone, true to tradition, resumed the quest for league honours and they were quarter-finalists again in **1984** gaining their place with a play-off victory over **Roscommon** at Lurgan. It was in **1985**, however, that Tyrone probably came closest to outright success, going out in the semi-final to eventual winners Monaghan only on a replay. And the proof that their resolve has not been impaired by the setbacks of the play-off with Meath in 1990 and the 1991 quarter-final with Roscommon is evidenced by their presence here today.







**IT'S A TYRONE BALL!**  
There is no doubt who owns this ball in the capable hands of Tyrone's Kieran Carr.

## Draws and Replays

One does not usually associate a league competition with drawn games ... or to be more precise, replays; but gaelic football because of its own particular league format has given rise to more than a few second meetings through the years. DUBLIN, of course, were involved in the last drawn final (against Meath in 1988), but in regard to stalemate in the closing stages of the competition, ROSCOMMON literally went one better in that they were involved in the drawn SEMI-FINAL and FINAL in one year — the only county ever to have this experience. This was in 1974 when they finished level, 0-12 all, with Sligo at Croke Park before beating them at the second attempt at Castlebar. It was stalemate again in the final — a late goal for Kerry denying the

Westerners; but Kerry prevailed in the replay.

DONEGAL and TYRONE share the distinction of playing the first National League game to an "all square". This was their second-round tie at Omagh on February 28, 1926 when the score was 4-3 to 3-6. Surprisingly, although this was at such an early stage, the powers-that-be arranged a replay which Donegal won at the same venue a fortnight later.

In regard to stalemate DONEGAL can (with Cavan) claim another distinction, in that they took part in the first National League game in which extra time was played — and played for no apparent reason, as it was only a first-round for both counties. Yet, at Cavan on the

second Sunday in March, 1927, Cavan (1-5) and Donegal (2-2) were level at the end of the hour, and when the referee suggested a half-hour of extra time, both sides agreed. It was an unwise decision for Donegal as they failed to score during the extra 30 minutes, while Cavan raised three white flags to take the points.

Coincidentally, the second occasion on which extra time was played in a league game also saw Donegal involved. This time there was a good case for it. Sligo and Donegal were level on points at the top of their group when the league stage was completed so the teams played off at Cooloney on February 4 1939. Donegal had won the earlier clash at Ballyshannon, but when the teams finished level on this occasion, a session of extra time saw Donegal go down by a one-point margin.

## ... and Extra Time

# How They Fared ... ... a Decade Ago

No matter what fortune the remainder of the current league holds for today's four quarter-finalists it can be stated with certainty that they will all have fared better than they did in 1981-82 when not one of them managed to make it to the knock-out stages. Indeed, at the end of a very disappointing season, Roscommon were relegated and Dublin and Donegal were lucky to avoid the same fate — the final round results elsewhere working to their advantage. Tyrone, with seven points from seven games, finished fourth on the Division Two table.

Interestingly, Clare and Derry, who have topped their sections this year, also did so in 1982 with Clare the only county with full points from the seven games.

The final tables in 1982 were:

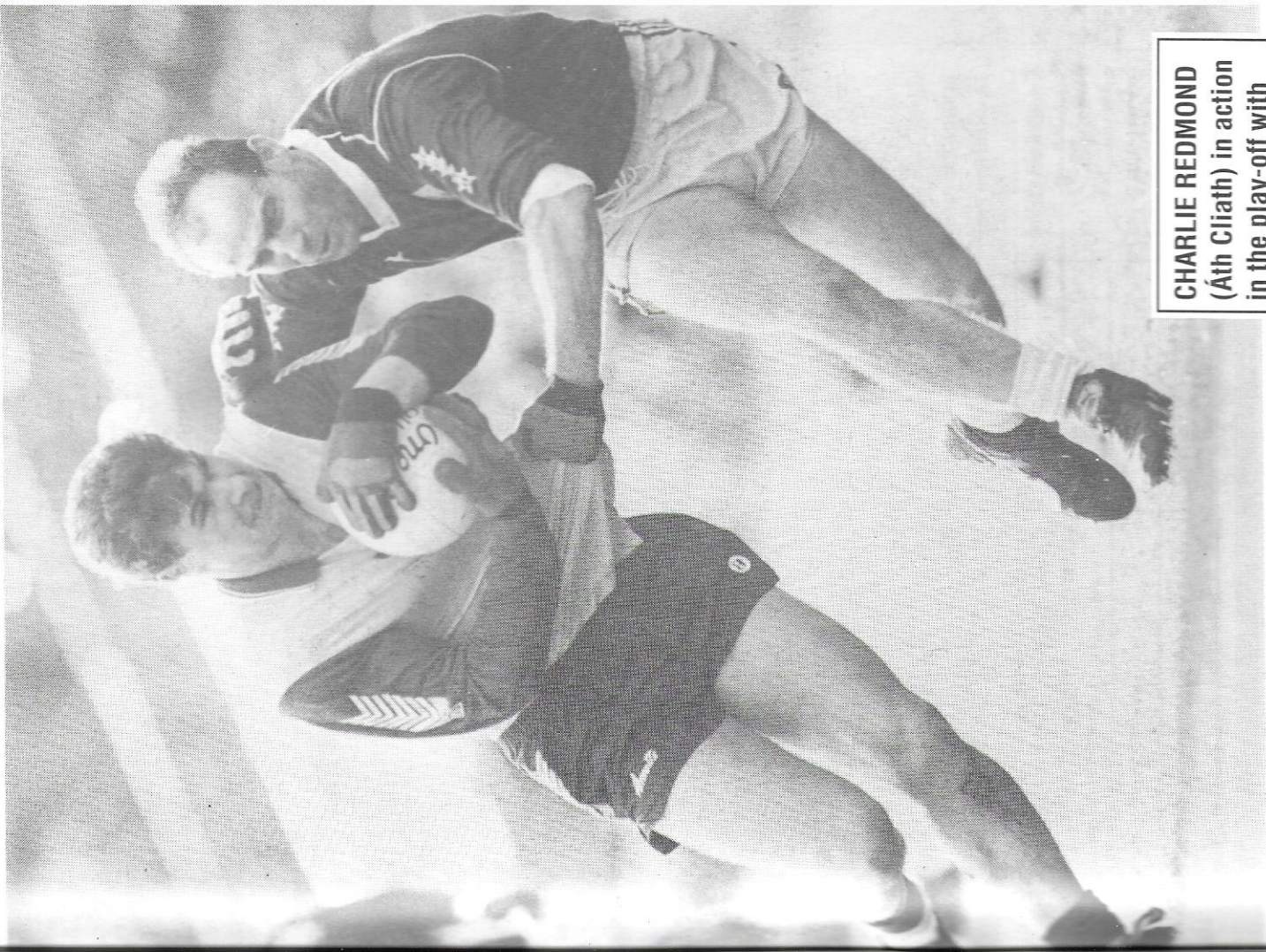
## DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	Pts.		P	W	D	L	Pts.
Armagh	7	4	2	1	10	Wicklow	7	6	0	1	12
Cork	7	4	0	3	8	Antrim	7	5	1	1	11
Kerry	7	4	0	3	8	Laois	7	3	1	3	7
Offaly	7	4	0	3	8	Wexford	7	3	1	3	7
Mayo	7	3	1	3	7	Donegal	7	3	0	4	6
Dublin	7	3	1	3	7	Louth	7	3	0	4	6
Galway	7	2	1	4	5	Tipperary	7	2	1	4	5
Roscommon	7	1	1	5	3	Westmeath	7	1	0	6	2

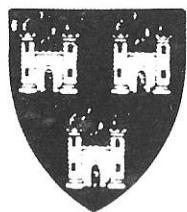
## DIVISION THREE

## DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	Pts.		P	W	D	L	Pts.
Derry	7	5	1	1	11	Clare	7	7	0	0	14
Meath	7	4	2	1	10	Longford	7	5	0	2	10
Down	7	4	2	1	10	Sligo	7	5	0	2	10
Tyrone	7	3	2	2	7	Waterford	7	3	0	4	6
Kildare	7	3	2	3	6	Carlow	7	2	2	3	6
Cavan	7	3	0	4	6	Limerick	7	2	1	4	5
Fermanagh	7	1	1	5	3	Leitrim	7	1	1	5	3
Monaghan	7	1	1	5	3	Kilkenny	7	1	0	6	2



**CHARLIE REDMOND**  
(Áth Cliath) in action  
in the play-off with  
Gaillimh.



# Áth Cliath

Dathanna: Gorm is Dubhghorm

(1) S. Ó Laoire  
**JOHN O'LEARY**  
*O'Dwyers*

(2) M. Ó Duigínín  
**MICK DEEGAN**  
*Erin's Isle*

(3) G. Ó hArgáin  
**GERRY HARGAN**  
*Ballymun Kickhams*

(4) S. Ó hÍorua  
**EAMONN HEARY**  
*St. Vincent's*

(5) C. Ó Bairr  
**KEITH BARR**  
*Erin's Isle*

(6) P. Ó Corráin  
**PAUL CURRAN**  
*Thomas Davis*

(7) T. Ó Cearra  
**TOM CARR (Capt.)**  
*Ballymun Kickhams*

(8) P. Ó Bealáin  
**PAUL BEALIN**  
*St. Kevins*

(9) D. Ó Fuaráin  
**DAVE FORAN**  
*Thomas Davis*

(10) S. Ó Sioda  
**JACK SHEEDY**  
*Garda*

(11) D. Ó Fearail  
**DESSIE FARRELL**  
*Na Fianna*

(12) N. Ó Duibh  
**NIALL GUIDEN**  
*Raheny*

(13) C. Mac Reamoinn  
**CHARLIE REDMOND**  
*Erin's Isle*

(14) M. Ó Gealbháin  
**MICK GALVIN**  
*Oliver Plunketts*

(15) P. Nuinseann  
**PAUL NUGENT**  
*Thomas Davis*

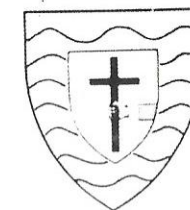
**FIR IONAIÐ:** (16) M. Piondar (Mick Pender), *Kilmacud Crokes*, (17) M. Ó Cinnéide (Mick Kennedy), *St. Margaret's*, (18) G. Mac Giolla Mhartáin (Gary Kilmartin), *Thomas Davis*, (19) L. Ó Cathláin (Liam Callan), *Ballyboden/St. Endas*, (20) P. Ó Cléirigh (Paul Clarke), *Whitehall/Colmcilles*, (21) U. Ó Murchú (Vinnie Murphy), *Trinity Gaels*, (22) C. Breathnach (Ciarán Walsh), *St. Annes*, (23) C. Ó Duibh (Kieran Duff), *Fingallians*.

**ROGHNOÍRÍ:** Paddy Cullen, Dr. Pat O'Neill, Jim Brogan.

**TRAINER:** Fran Ryder

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

# Dún na nGall



Dathanna: Uaithne, Ór is Bán

(1) G. Breathnach  
**GARY WALSH**  
*Aodh Ruadh*

(2) M. Ó Gallachóir  
**MATT GALLAGHER**  
*Naomh Bríd*

(3) P. Ó Ceara  
**PAUL CARR**  
*Na Ceithre Maistir*

(4) B. Ó Tuathaigh  
**BRIAN TUOHY**  
*Aodh Ruaidh*  
*Béal Átha Seannaigh*

(5) D. Ó Maoildeirg  
**DONAL REID**  
*Aodh Rua Coill na gCuirdiú*

(6) M. Ó Gaibheacháin  
**MARTIN GAVIGAN**  
*Ardara*

(7) M. Seibhleáin  
**MARTIN SHOVLIN**  
*Naomh Ultan*

(8) A. Ó Maolmhuidh  
**ANTHONY MOLLY (Capt.)**  
*Ard an Ratha*

(9) P. Ó Brógáin  
**PAURIC BROGAN**  
*Bundoráin*

(10) M. Mac Seáin  
**MARK McSHANE**  
*Cill Chartha*

(11) T. Ó Riain  
**TOMMY RYAN**  
*Termon*

(12) S. Mac Maoláin  
**JOYCE McMULLAN**  
*Four Masters*

(13) M. Mac Aodha  
**MARTIN McHUGH**  
*Cill Chartha*

(14) A. Ó Baoill  
**TONY BOYLE**  
*Dungloe*

(15) M. Ó Baoill  
**MANUS BOYLE**  
*Killybegs*

**FIR IONAIÐ:** (16) P. Ó Ceallacháin (Pól Callaghan), *Beart*, (17) N. Ó hEigeartaigh (Noel Hegarty), *Naomh Columba*, (18) B. Mac Gabhann (Barry McGowan), *Na Cealla Beaga*, (19) S. Mac Aodha (Seamus McHugh), *Cill Chartha*, (20) C. Ó Gallchóir (Cunan Gallagher), *Aodh Ruaigh Beal Átha Seannaigh*, (21) M. Ó Gallchóir (Michael Gallagher), *Civil Service*, (22) B. Ó Múirí (Brian Murray), *Civil Service*, (23) S. Mag Uidhir (Sylvester Maguire), *Aodh Ruaigh Beal Átha Seannaigh*.

DÚN NA NGALL	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

# Dublin.....

In retrospect it seems remarkable that Dublin, who have figured so prominently in the league in recent times, did not record their first outright success until 'as late' as 1953. Since that initial triumph Dublin have added another five titles to their name, and for most of that time they have been very much the team to beat by all aspirants for league honours.

But the early days were not without their moments and achievements. From the beginning Dublin were no strangers to the closing stages of the National League and in the first league campaign they had the distinction of being the first team to qualify for the final when they overcame Antrim in the semi-final at Dundalk.

The final was a disappointment, and Dublin's interest in the new competition waned until 1934 when they won

their group (there were no semi-finals) to qualify for a confrontation with Mayo, which they lost on a replay. A splendid semi-final win over Kerry in 1941 was followed by another defeat at the hands of Mayo, and when activity resumed after the Emergency break Dublin crashed to Wexford (1-2 to 5-6) in the 1946 semi-final. They had a big semi-final win over Laois in 1952, but it wasn't until 1953 that the league yielded to Dublin's efforts as Tipperary (semi-final) and Cavan (final) were overcome.

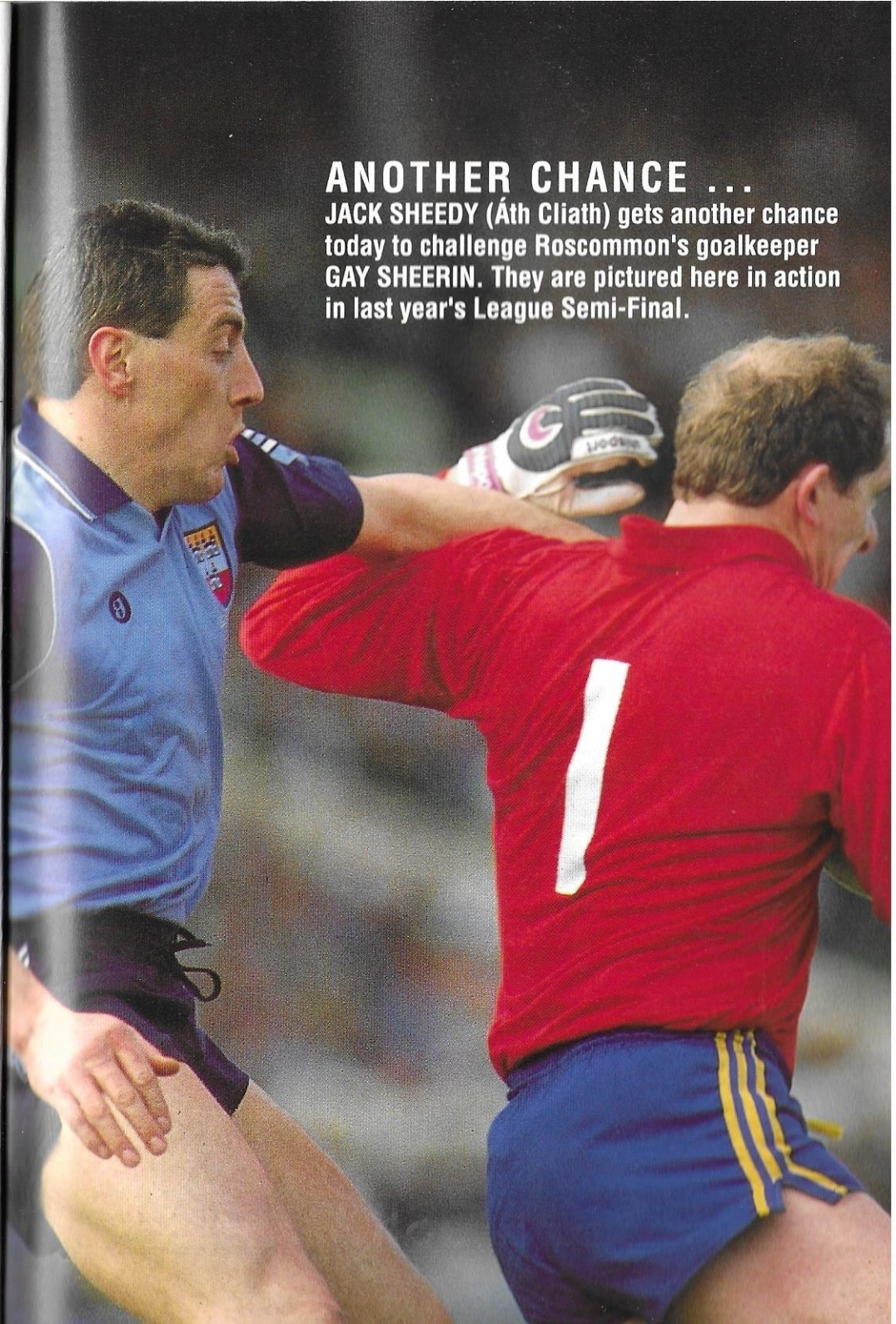
Having broken the hoodoo, Dublin pressed forward, and though they lost the 1954 semi-final to Mayo before a record attendance of 37,424, they were very much at the centre of things for the next dozen seasons, reaching the knock-out stages on many occasions — the final (1955), semi-final (1956), the final (1958), semi-final (1960) the finals of 1962 and

1964 and the 'Home' final of 1967.

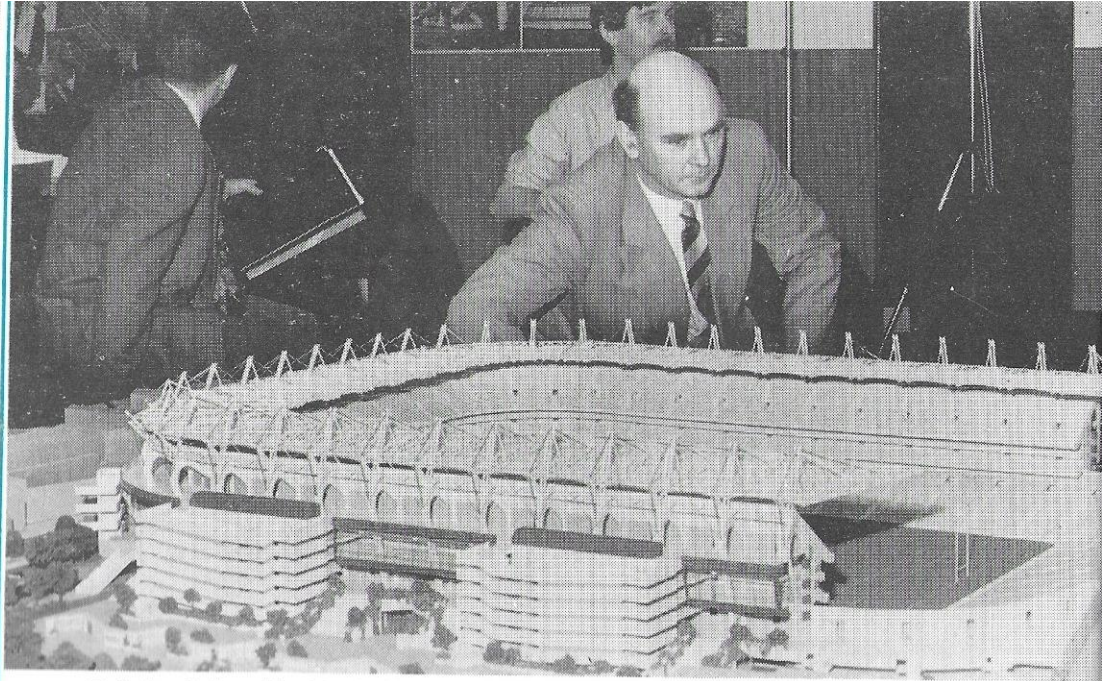
The Seventies were equally impressive; a semi-final defeat by Mayo in 1971 preceded four successive final appearances in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978. The early Eighties were lean years as regards the knock-out stages; Mayo ousted them in the 1981 quarter-final, and it was five years before they again came through the league section — in 1986, when they beat Meath in the quarter final only to lose next time out to surprise-package, Laois. A year later it all fell into place — a quarter-final win over Cork, Galway overcome in the 'Semi' and Kerry beaten in a magnificent final.

Meath, on a replay, prevented a Dublin retention of the title in 1989; in 1990 it all came apart in extra time against Roscommon at Portlaoise, but last year more than compensated, as Wicklow, Roscommon and Kildare fell in the run-in to the seventh title. As the record clearly shows, Dublin are no strangers to the closing stages of the National League.

**ANOTHER CHANCE ...**  
**JACK SHEEDY (Áth Cliath) gets another chance today to challenge Roscommon's goalkeeper GAY SHEERIN. They are pictured here in action in last year's League Semi-Final.**



.....  
... and the closing stages



● Peter Quinn, Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, is in pensive mood as he views the architect's model for the proposed redevelopment of Páirc an Chrócaigh — dreaming, perhaps, of his native Fermanagh playing there in an All-Ireland Final.

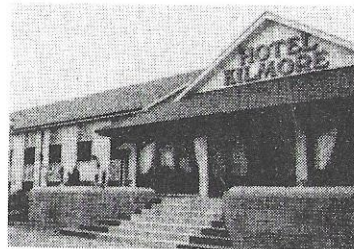


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Although Donegal took part in the inaugural league campaign in 1925-26 and recorded wins over Cavan and Tyrone, they disappeared from the competition during the remainder of the Twenties, and it was only in 1930-31 that they again took the competition seriously. In that year, apart from the main divisions involving the leading counties, there were three Second Division groups — Northern, Midland 'A' and Midland 'B'. In a three-match campaign Donegal were unbeaten, accounting for Tyrone at Ballyshannon, Derry at Derry and Fermanagh at Ballyshannon. There were no play-offs so Donegal had to be content as the winners of the Northern Division.

They were still toiling in the Second Division when they again made an impression, reaching the 1937 final against Longford. Their luck was out, as Longford took the title on a 1-7 to 1-3 score-line at Ardara.

For the next fourteen years there was only defeat, but the first break came when they beat Sligo in the 1952 quarter-final at Glenties. Cork, however, carried too much firepower at the next stage at Croke Park. For more than a decade subsequently, Donegal's

# The Donegal Experience

activity was confined exclusively to Ulster, with their best effort being to reach the last two (with Derry) in 1959. Six years later Donegal made another brave effort, beating Derry, Fermanagh, Antrim and Down to win a semi-final place. But again their luck was out, losing to Longford by 0-11 to 0-13. Luck was in an even more capricious mood in 1967 when a bizarre (possibly unique) penalty incident played a decisive part in their exit to All-Ireland champions, Galway in the semi-final. A penalty award to Donegal was changed to a free out when the penalty-taker replaced the ball after it had been blown off its sport by the wind. To make the incident even more painful, Galway swept downfield from the resultant free and scored a point at the other end. An inexplicable collapse to Offaly in the 1969 semi-final compounded Donegal's frustration, and then strangely their Ulster championship success in '72 and '74 — milestones in the county's history — were not reflected in their

league campaigns. It was the same story when they won their third Ulster championship in 1983: in that year they finished fifth in the Division Three Table; and two years on, they were involved (successfully) in a relegation play-off with Louth — to stay in Division Two!

But matters improved for Donegal as the Eighties drew to a close. In 1988 they reached the quarter-final where they lost to Monaghan; in 1990 they were again quarter-finalists but lost to Meath at Clones; last year they went one better as they got past the quarter-final, though only after a session of extra-time with Offaly at Breffni Park. In the semi-final with Kildare luck was rarely their ally, but even so it was a close-run affair, a single point depriving them of a second chance. Donegal may still be one of the counties which have never contested a league final — let alone won one — but in recent years their progress has been inexorably in the right direction.

# Conaillaigh Chun Curaidh '91 A Chloí

**B**hí neart daoine díomúch le cúpla bliain annuas nár éirigh le Dún na nGall craobh náisiúnta á bhaint amach. Tá stíl dheas peile acu agus iad cliste, lúfar láidir. Rinne siad go maith sa tSraith reatha nuair nár chaill siad ach cluiche amháin in aghaidh Roscomáin agus níor rinne an toradh sin difríocht ar bith don stad as a bhí bainte amach ag an Conaillaigh, is é sin, áit sa ceathrú ceannais '92.

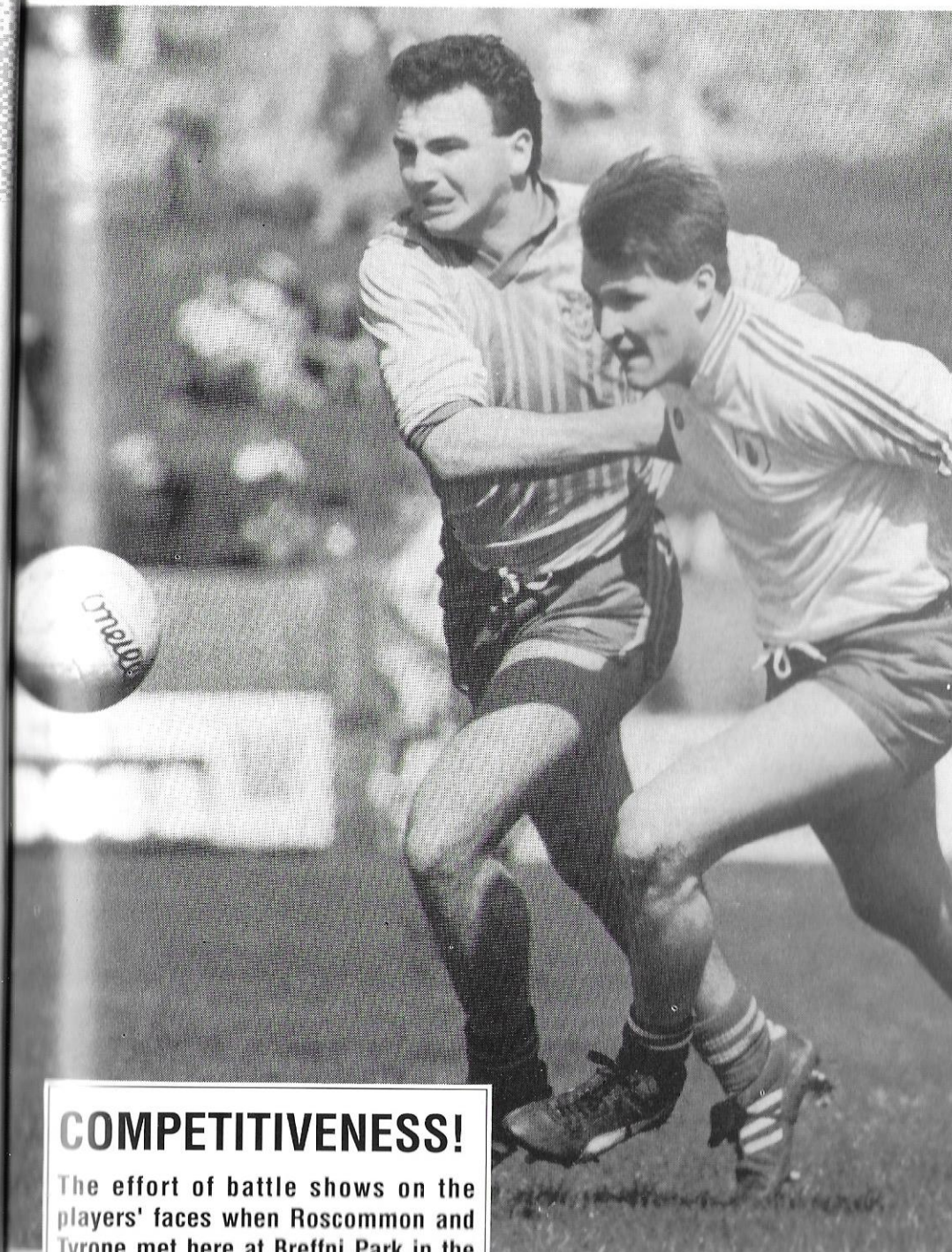
I gcás Bhaile Átha Cliath ní raibh rudaí chomh cinnte céanna. Foireann chu-

masach a fhéadfadh foireann ar bith a chloí ar uairibh agus a thiteann in ísle brí an chéad lá eile; ar deireadh bhí orthu dúshlán na Gaillimhe a chur faoi chois sula rachaidís ar aghaidh don cluiche ceathrú ceannais.

Níor casadh na foirne seo ar a chéile a ggraobhcluiche náisiúnta ariamh agus dáiríre ní raibh Dún na nGall sa chluiche ceannais na Léige ariamh; ar an lámh eile tá sé chraobh Léige ag Baile Átha Cliath. Beidh na Conaillaigh ag déanamh tréan-iarracht i mbliana dul ar aghaidh fhad leis an ggraobhcluiche agus fiú an stair a 'cheartú' agus ainm Dhún na nGall a bheith greanta ar Chorn 'New Ireland'.

Ní dóigh lena lán daoine go bhfuil foireann Átha Cliath socair go fóill, go bhfuil ar Bainisteoir, Paddy Ó Cuilinn, ag 'tógáil' go fóill agus go mb'fhéidir go bhfuil a shúil, agus súile na foirne chomh maith, dírithe ar an ggraobh; ach má tharlaíonn go mbaintear an Léig ar an mbealach, cén dochar.

Más féidir leis na Conaillaigh a bheith foighneach, meáite san imirt, rud nach raibh ar ócáidí eile, agus leas iomlán a bhaint as an gcumas atá iontu, ceaptar go mbeidh an lámh in uachtar acu sa chluiche seo inniu. Tá na tosaigh, san iomlán, mar aonad, níos fearr ná cinn na 'Dubs' ach muna mbíonn greim acu ar chúrsaí i lár páirce beidh thiar orthu. Ach meastar go bhfuil a gcéilí comhraic san ionad sin páirce inchurtha leo agus is ann a chaillfear nó a bhuafar an cluiche seo.



## COMPETITIVENESS!

The effort of battle shows on the players' faces when Roscommon and Tyrone met here at Breffni Park in the League quarter-final last year.

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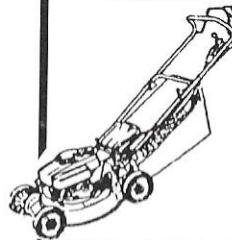
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## Uncertain prelude ... and aftermath

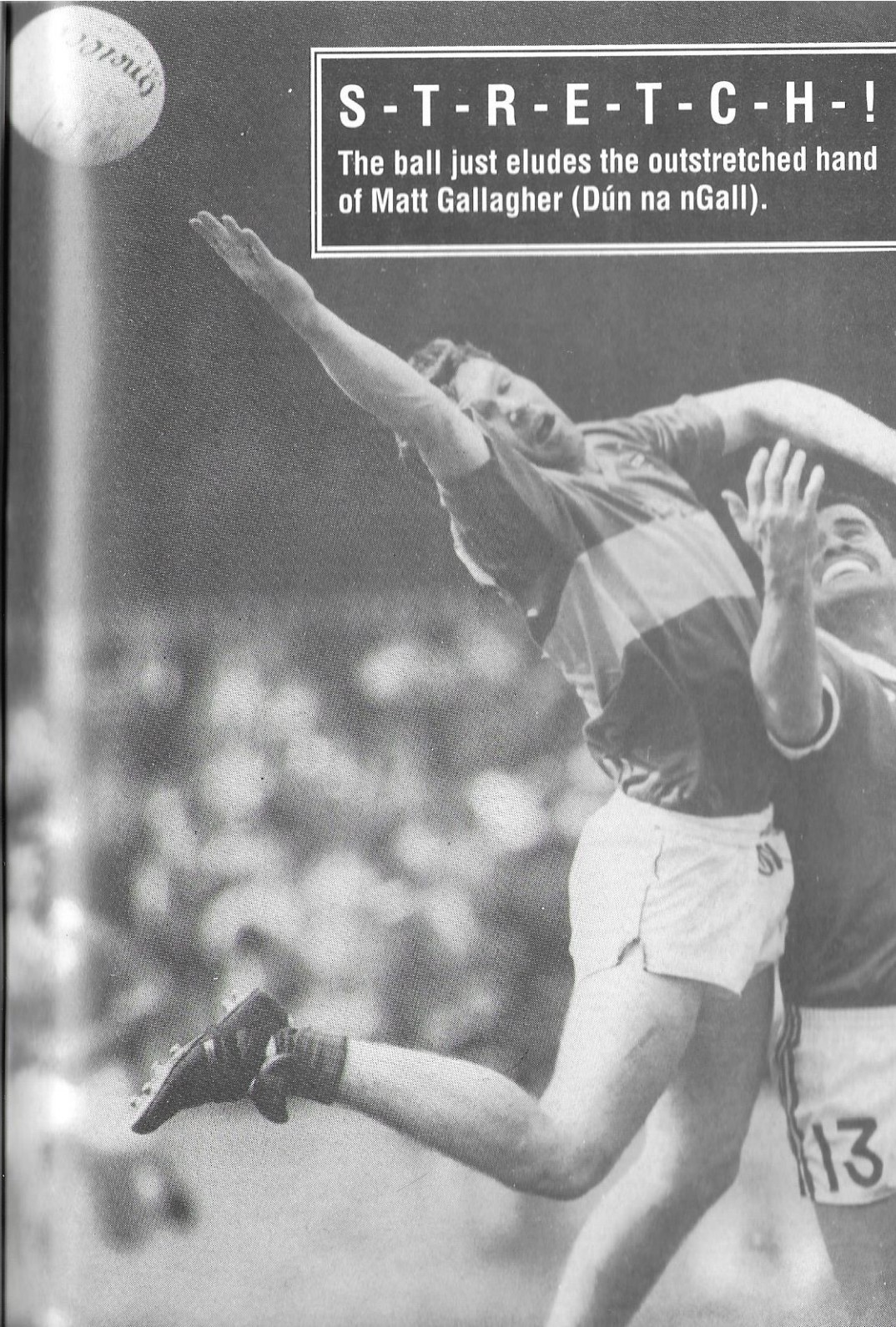
When Tyrone reached the 1986 All-Ireland final it was undoubtedly the greatest moment in the county's football history. And when a county achieves this initial breakthrough to the big September date, there is invariably some indication of their emergence in the league campaign preceding it — instance Down (1960), Offaly (1961), Armagh (1953) and Derry (1958).

With Tyrone, however, things were different, for not alone did they not have a good league run the previous winter, but it was positively disastrous. They opened their campaign with a nine-point defeat at the hands of Roscommon at Hyde Park, and from there the trail of defeat went on with ties lost to Meath, Monaghan, Armagh, Kildare and Down, and they were relegated to Division Two at the end of the season.

But perhaps there was a hint of better things to come amidst all those set-backs, in that the only game Tyrone won was against Kerry in the fourth round at Omagh. The great bid in the All-Ireland final more than softened the blow of relegation, but the mystery had another episode to run, as in the league campaign that followed the 1986 All-Ireland, Tyrone were again at odds with themselves, losing to Longford, Laois, Kildare, Derry, Cavan and Cork. Their only outing of any merit was against Donegal at Ballyhofey where they forced a division of the spoils. But one point from seven games meant that they were again relegated, so that in between their rapid demotion from the first to the third division of the National League, Tyrone almost made it to the championship summit! Needless to say, Tyrone's contradictory form between 1985 and 1987 in league and championship is without parallel in football history.

# S-T-R-E-T-C-H-!

The ball just eludes the outstretched hand of Matt Gallagher (Dún na nGall).



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