



ROYAL LIVER
leagues



**Paíre An Chrócaigh,
18 Aibreán 1993**

Gair: Dágraib: Luach: £1

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Ard Stiúrthoir

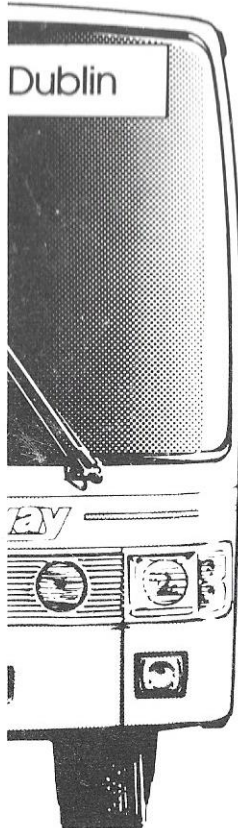
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Semi Finals

1992/93

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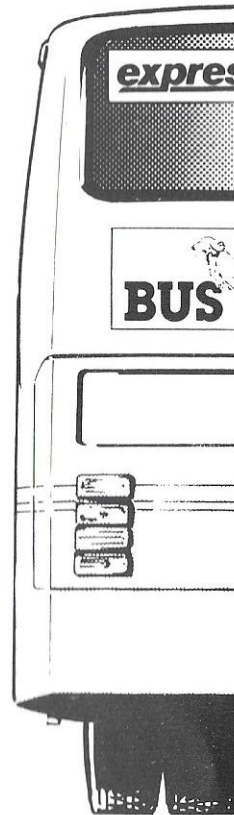
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National Football League Semi Final

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National Football League Semi Final

An Clár v. Dún na nGall

3.30 i.n. Réiteoir: Pat Casserly (An Iarmhí)

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Na Réiteoirí

PAT CASSERLY, a member of the St. Loman's club in Westmeath, is a native of Longford, and has been an inter-county referee for the past few years. He has played club football in Longford and Westmeath and he refereed, among other games this year, the National League ties between Wicklow and Laois at Arklow and Donegal/Cork at Ballybofey, both in February.

□ □ □

PAT McENEANEY, of the Corduff club in Monaghan, had charge of his first Ulster championship game last May at Celtic Park, Derry where he refereed the opening round minor game between Tyrone and Derry.

He was the man in the middle when Dublin beat Galway in the NFL at Croke Park in February and his other engagements this year included the meeting of Derry and Louth at Drogheda last month.

MEDICAL/LOST CHILDREN

MEDICAL:

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- Medical Centre rear of Section P, Upper Hogan
- Canal Medical Centre - rear of Terrace
- Lower Cusack Medical Centre - rear of Section 2/3
- Treatment Ambulance - rear of Section 10
- Upper Cusack - rear of Section N
- Treatment Ambulance - rear of Section 10
- Hill 16 Treatment Ambulance - rear of Terrace behind Medical Centre
- First Aid crew on pitch in front of Nally Stand and at Dressing Room Entrance
- Site Medical Officer - Dr. Joe Stuart at Wheelchair Section in front of Nally Stand
- Medical Centres staffed by St. John Ambulance Brigade

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- Lower Hogan/Nally Information Centre in front of the G.A.A. Gift Shop
- Upper Hogan - Medical Centre
- Canal Terrace - Medical Centre
- Lower Cusack - rear of Section 1/2
- Upper Cusack - Medical Centre
- Hill 16 - Medical Centre

Martin Daly Set An Early Scoring Standard

The Royal Liver National Football League campaign has so far been marked by some noteworthy individual scoring achievements.

Martin Daly, who went in as a substitute for Clare in their memorable Munster final win over Kerry last July, lost little time in setting an early standard in the League. He struck it rich in a big way on a visit to Athlone in early November and it was just as well for the Munster champions that the Lissycasey man proved so sharp in his finishing.

Daly scored 2-7, four points from frees, as Clare worked really hard for a two points win.

Westmeath were on the receiving end of another of the season's leading scores later in November. Ray McLarron, who has chalked up so many valuable points and goals for Monaghan, was the man on target at Moate as the Ulster county recorded a 4-9 to 3-8 win.

Mc Carron contributed 2-5 to his team's total with one of his goals from a well-taken penalty.

Eamonn McCaffrey also rifled over eight points to finish with 1-8.

Colin Kelly earned his position not once, but twice in the big-hitters review and, remarkably, with the same scoreline in each game.

The young Louth forward started his programme with 1-7 as the "Wee County" celebrated a first competitive meeting with Limerick in over 100 years with a winning effort at Limerick. Late in November, Kelly hit 1-7 once more as he proved very influential in a Louth win over Wexford at Drogheda.

Special mention must be made of the goal scoring exploits of Fintan Cahill (Cavan),

who hit 3-1 in a win over Carlow at Kingscourt in March.

Some of the leading individual scoring returns so far are:

- 2-7: Martin Daly (Clare) v Westmeath at Athlone on November 1.
- 2-5: Ray McCarron (Monaghan) v Westmeath at Moate on November 29.
- 1-8: Eamonn McCaffrey (Tyrone) v Armagh at Armagh on November 15.
- 1-7: Colin Kelly (Louth) v Limerick at Limerick on October 18.
- 0-10: Niall Buckley (Kildare) v Cork at Newbridge on November 29.
- 1-7: Colin Kelly (Louth) v Wexford at Drogheda on November 29.
- 3-1: Fintan Cahill (Cavan) v Carlow at Kingscourt on March 14.
- 1-7: Colin Corkery (Cork) v Tipperary at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on March 14.

THE GREAT  **9th**
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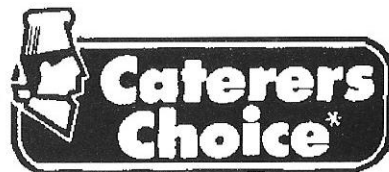
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Goalkeepers contributed in rich measure to the many exciting talking points so far in the Football League as they demonstrated their expertise in the demanding last line of defence.

Peter O'Leary was in tremendous form for Kerry in their quarter-final win over Down at Croke Park earlier this month and brought off four particularly brilliant saves. He was unbeaten in that game, the third encounter in the League in which O'Leary had not to pick the ball out of the net.

Gary Walsh, whose brilliance in goal played such a big part in Donegal's memorable All-Ireland championship campaign last year, kept up a very solid barrier in his side's unbeaten seven games march to the League quarter-finals.

Walsh conceded just one goal, a first half penalty kick from Tipperary midfielder Brian Burke at Semple Stadium in mid-February.

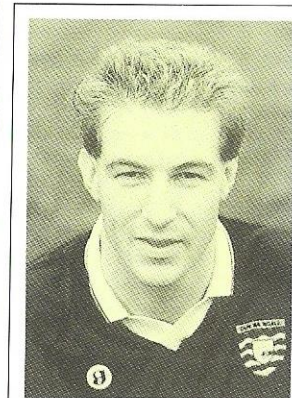
Last Sunday at Breffni Park against Derry, the Donegal goalkeeper was beaten twice. That ranks as the only game in which he conceded more than one goal in a competitive match in league or championship since Dublin recorded three against Donegal in a league quarter-final at Breffni Park in April of last year.

GOALKEEPERS HELP TO ENLIVEN LEAGUE SERIES

John O'Leary, who has been such a force for Dublin for so long, was beaten just twice in seven games in the divisional programme of the current League. Both goals were recorded in the opening matches of 1993.

The first was scored by 1992 minor star Scott Doran for Wexford after 50 minutes at Wexford Park in mid-February for the only goal of the game. Later in the month, Fergal O'Neill collected the solitary goal of a Croke Park encounter when he found the net for Galway nine minutes into the second half.

O'Leary did not concede a goal to Kildare last week in the quarter-final.



Gary Walsh, Dún na nGall

OTHER STAR "STOPPERS"

Limerick did not collect a single point in their seven games in Section "A", but that still did not prevent Richard Bowles from presenting a solid barrier in goal. He saw out the 1992-93 campaign at Askeaton with a very good game against Dublin that included a really fine save from Jim Gavin. That was the fourth game in seven outings in which the Shannonsider kept his net intact.

Fermanagh brightened the pre-Christmas campaign with a success story that had them in the rare position of Section "C" leaders with full points from four games at the mid-winter break. The reliability of Cormac McAdam in goal was a big factor in that exciting run. He was unbeaten in two of his three appearances before Christmas and Mayo's forwards also failed to beat the Fermanagh man in one of the county's engagements in 1993.

Carl Walsh (Clare), who kept his net intact last week at Castlebar, Gabriel Irwin (Mayo) and Damien McCusker (Derry) are just a few of the other goalkeepers who played their parts in fine style in making the League programme so far one of the most successful ever.

*Congratulations and Best Wishes for Continued
Success to the Victorious Clare Team.*

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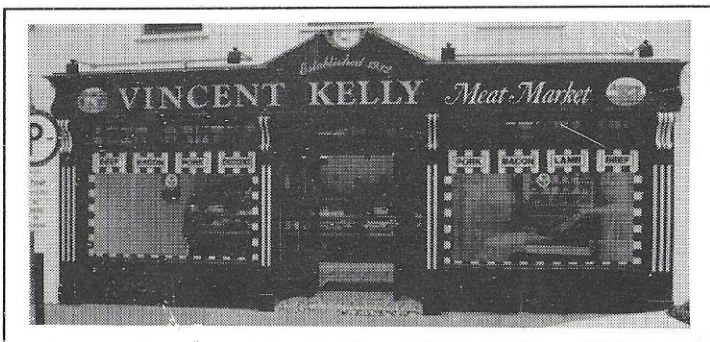
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Variety The Key Note in League Semi-Finals

The semi-finals in this, the concluding series of the Royal Liver National Football League, provide a touch of variety.

Dublin and Kerry clash at this stage of the competition for the first time since as far back as 1964 when the Metropolitans won by 0-10 to 0-9.

That game at Croke Park drew a then new attendance record at 53,088, and the teams provided a memorable encounter with play and sportsmanship of a high standard.

That was only the second League semi-final clash of Dublin and Kerry. The Metropolitans also won the first, again at Croke Park, in 1941 by 2-7 to 1-4.

FIRST CLASH

The other semi-final makes history in that this is the first clash of Donegal and Clare at this stage of the competition.

Dublin's bid for a fifth semi-final win on the trot since losing to Laois in 1986 was stopped by Tyrone last April at headquarters, where the Northerners won by 0-13 to 1-9. Dublin's last semi-final win in 1991 was at the expense of Roscommon — 1-18 to 0-11.

Kerry's last semi-final win was in 1987 at the expense of Monaghan, 2-11 to 2-9.

Donegal lost their semi-final appearances of 1951, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969 and 1992.

Unlike Donegal, Clare have contested one National League final. They lost that game in 1947 to Derry, who won their first title that season.

Curaidh Chróga Chúigí sa Choimhlint!

Is annamh go mbíonn clár chomh taitneamhach agus inspéise i bPáirc an Chrócaigh an tráth seo den bhliain againn.

Is breá an rud é go bhfuil na contaethe ar fad ag cur iarracht chomh mór isteach i gluichí na Léige is atáid sa chraobhchomortas. Dá thoradh sin tá faoinár mbráid inniu curaidh Uladh, Laighean agus Mumhan, mar aon le Riarchuraidh na Mumhan, chun féasta peile a sholáthar; ní gá a rá, dáiríre, gur curaidh Uile-Éireann iad foireann Dhún na nGall agus flosc orthu dhá chraobh sa bhliain chéanna a bhaint.

Deintear comhghárdeas leo uilig as teacht an fhad seo tar éis tréimhse fhada chluichíochta ó mhí Dheireadh Fomhair na bliana seo caite.

An Average Solution

The concluding stages of the 1992-93 National League (hurling and football) have involved an unusually large number of play-offs to determine the qualifiers for the quarter-finals as well as relegation issues. Play-offs, of course, have cluttered up the fixtures in late March and early April, but if scoring averages had decided the final placings in the tables, play-offs would have been unnecessary, but only just. Meath would have pipped Down for the right to meet Kerry, but only by 0.02 as their respective averages were 1.5 and 1.48. Nor would Offaly, Roscommon and Monaghan have joined in a three-way battle as the Connacht side, with an average of 1.09, were better placed than Offaly (1.03) and Monaghan, who conceded more than they scored for a final figure of 0.90. In the event justice was done as Roscommon took both challenges in their stride. It goes without saying that scoring averages would make for a tidier competition, but a system that would mean a team going out of contention because of a two percent differential would be difficult to support.

Donegal — The Semi-Final

When Donegal's finishing flourish gave them the verdict in last year's All Ireland semi-final against Mayo it was an historic occasion for the Ulster champions as never previously had a Donegal team crossed the semi-final barrier in a National senior competition. A frustrating and persistent bogey had been laid at last. As bogeys and barriers go, it had not been particularly long-lived - a mere 20 years involving four defeats (1972, 1974, 1983 and 1990) - but each had been a heart-breaking milestone for Donegal as they sought a place in the final for the first time. But Donegal had known semi-final frustration for many years previous to 1972 - in the National League where the penultimate step had always been the fatal one - and that tale of hope

denied goes back 40 years to the day that Donegal first set foot on the national stage. The 1951-1952 League campaign had promised much. Victories over Fermanagh, Armagh, Tyrone and Sligo had brought Donegal to the knock-out stages for the first time and, despite the opposition presented by a powerful Cork team, there was no lack of confidence in the approach of the newcomers from the North West. Cork's experience, however, carried the day at Croke Park; Donegal scored seven times to Cork's six, but Cork had the goal-scoring touch and won by 3-3 to 0-7.

BLEAK PERIOD

The remainder of the fifties and early sixties were a bleak period for Donegal as they repeatedly failed in their quest for group honours. The

first flickering of a revival came with an Ulster final appearance (losing) in 1963, but it was the League that saw the main thrust of Donegal's bid for a National title in that period. The faultless run through the League stage brought wins over Armagh, Fermanagh, Down and Derry (twice) in 1964-65 and if Kerry, almost inevitably, proved a semi-final stumbling block, lessons were to be learned in the best way possible.

A year later convincing displays in the North set up another semi-final appearance. Longford were also striving for a place in the final for the first time and as luck, not for the first time, proved less than reliable, Donegal missed a glorious chance as they went down 0-11 to 0-13. For the third year running, the following year Donegal

success, except for one setback in 1992. They came out on top in Division II "A" for 1991-92 with a record of five wins and one draw in six games, to earn a quarter final meeting with Meath at Ballinasloe.

Clare put up a spirited performance when losing that game by just two points, and that now ranks as their last defeat in the League. Since then they have won five games and played three draws in eight outings.

So, Clare line out in this latest quarter-final with a proud record, ten wins, four draws and one defeat in 15 matches stretching back to their March 1991 failure to Wexford.

An Impressive League Run by Clare

Clare's win over Mayo last week at Castlebar has considerably enhanced a proud run in National Football League fare stretching back to March 10th, 1991.

That afternoon the Banner County completed their Division III South programme by losing to Wexford 1-5 to 0-10 at Enniscorthy to finish in second last spot in the group table with five points from seven games.

Since then Clare have gone from success to

Barrier

again approached the semi-final barrier. Again the credentials were excellent, but the result was the same, helped this time by an amazing penalty incident which gave Galway the verdict 1-10 to 2-4. Donegal's persistence, at no time less than admirable, was again in evidence in 1968-69. A slip-up against Sligo early on was the blot on the record as a fourth semi-final in the space of five seasons was reached. The crash to Offaly was as inexplicable as it was traumatic. After some promising early forays, the effort disintegrated and a full-time scoreline of 2-13 to 1-3 reflects Donegal's most miserable experience of semi-final combat.

For the next decade and a half, Donegal's ambitions centred mainly on the championship and when they next found themselves in a play-off situation in the League, it was a Division II relegation tie, which they won, with Louth in 1985.

Despite a palpable improvement in standards, the semi-final remained a distant peak for Donegal in the late 1980's, but the semi-final meeting with Kildare in 1991, even if it was a losing one, could be said to signal a new era.

Last year the championship semi-final barrier finally yielded. This year . . . ?

Maughan Confounds the Critics

Just over two years ago it was becoming increasingly difficult to find Clare footballers to don the county jersey. Then Corssmolina's John Maughan drew national headlines when he became manager of the Clare football squad.

The ace central defender from Mayo had his playing career terminated by a knee injury in early 1987. The arrival of the army man to the Banner county almost immediately gave Clare an insight to the task ahead.

Working on fitness, self-esteem and general play, the improvement in results soon followed. An All-Ireland 'B' title and a league quarter-final spot showed promise but the capture of the Munster Senior crown after a seventy-five year wait heralded the arrival of Clare football.

John Maughan had confounded the critics. Since then, with the exception of the All-Ireland semi-final defeat by Dublin, the success has continued for Clare's footballers.

In a seven game league programme, Clare remained undefeated with wins over Westmeath, Waterford, Down and Monaghan and draws with Roscommon, Offaly and Meath.

This earned the Gerry Kelly-led side a league quarter-final slot against Mayo. Team manager John Maughan faced his home county with relish. "I was delighted that we drew Mayo at the quarter-final stage and I took great pleasure in disposing of them. I think the players knew where my loyalties lay at that stage", he said. Now Clare eagerly anticipate the clash with the All-Ireland champions in their second national semi-final in eight months.



● Clare Selectors John Maughan and Pat Hanrahan point the way.

Tony Boyle's Goal Tonic Not Enough For Donegal



Tony Boyle, now firmly established as one of the most cultured and effective full forwards in football, provided Donegal with a splendid first half tonic on their last appearance in a National Football League semi-final outing in 1991 against Kildare. He goaled after 22 minutes to help his side on the way to a 1-8 to 0-6 interval lead.

Donegal played good football in that opening half, and coming up to the close were as many as seven points clear. However, in the closing minutes Jarlath Gilroy and Johnny McDonald sent over what were to prove crucial points.

The Ulstermen's scoring rate slumped badly in the second half. They scored

just two points, both by Manus Boyle, and went out by the minimum margin, 0-14 to 1-10.

The Donegal side included Gary Walsh, J. J. Doherty, Matt Gallagher, Barry McGowan, Martin Gavigan, Brian Murray, Declan Bonner, Joyce McMullan, Tony Boyle and Manus Boyle, all of whom helped to bring the Sam Maguire Cup to be county last September.

Barry Cunningham went in as a substitute as he did against Dublin in the All-Ireland final. James McHugh was another to make an appearance as a substitute in that game. He was on right through that memorable win against the Dubs in the championship final.

Manus Boyle's Winning Show

Manus Boyle has special cause to remember his All-Ireland senior football final debut last September. He was Donegal's top scorer against Dublin with 0-9, five points from frees.

The sharpshooting Killybegs man has kept up the scoring momentum in the current League.

Bonner Continues on Scoring Trail

Declan Bonner, who hit the last score of the All-Ireland senior football final last September a minute from time when he pointed for Donegal, has continued in the League where he left off in that game. He has been consistently on the target in the series, and last week again emphasised his free-taking skills and ability to shoot from play when he contributed five points to the win over Derry.

The All-Ireland senior final win ranks as the high point in the career of Bonner, who has been in the inter-county ranks since 1983. He has given great service to Donegal over the years, and has also had his share of major triumphs.

Bonner helped Ulster to the 1991 interprovincial title, and has two provincial senior medals. Now 27, he played in Donegal's last League semi-final outing two years ago, and scored four points in the Sam Maguire Cup success over Dublin.



Clare Going From Strength to Strength

Clare are doing a very good job in maintaining their newly won status as a power in senior football. Their form since beating Kerry in July for a first Munster title in 75 years has been quite impressive.

On their last appearance at Croke Park in August they provided Dublin's much more experienced team with many worrying moments in the All-Ireland semi-final before bowing out by five points. The Munster champions competed in a section of the Royal Liver National League with Down, Roscommon and Meath also among the starters, and did really well to finish on top of the group table.

Clare had also plenty of cause for celebration after coming through a particularly difficult examination against Jack O'Shea's resurgent Mayo last weekend at Castlebar in a quarter-final. It appeared as if they would not measure up to the task as they turned over at the break leading by just 0-6 to 0-3 and having played with a strong wind.

But, in a stubborn rear-guard action in the second half the Banner County men

Griffin A Tower of Strength for Clare

Frankie Griffin was a vital link in a powerful Clare defence that did much to pilot the way to the Munster champions hard-earned but merited win over Mayo in the League quarter-final last week.

He has also been a tower of strength for the Banner County in the campaign over-all, and played a regal part as well in bringing the Munster senior title to the county last July.

Griffin, who is 27, is a whole-hearted and determined defender. He is a member of the Kilrush Shamrocks, and won county medals at minor and senior.

The half back had a fine game for Clare on his last Croke Park outing last August in the All-Ireland semi-final against the Dubs.

demonstrated their maturity and all round ability and poise. They knuckled down to the task in great style, with the defenders setting a high standard.

Seamus Clancy, Joe Joe Rouine and Gerry Kelly did much to ensure that the rear-guard gave the Mayo attack little freedom. Tom Morrissey and Brendan Rouine came more into the picture with their tireless play at midfield.

The forwards did not find the target often, but still kept their side narrowly ahead. Ten minutes from time the visitors were hanging on grimly to a two points lead.

Entering the last five minutes Gerry Killeen put Clare three points clear, but the Munster men had to withstand a strong home rally that brought two points, and Mayo were on the attack as

the final whistle sounded.

All in all a top class performance by Clare, and one that proves they are going from strength to strength. That outing against Dublin last August is also bound to prove very beneficial for the Clare men, all of whom are appearing in a League semi-final for the first time.

They know from first hand experience what the big game atmosphere at Croke Park is all about, and as a result are all the better equipped to settle down from the throw-in and produce their undoubted football skills right through the game.

Clare in that mood and with confidence increasing with each League step forward will make a strong bid to earn a first final appearance in 46 years.

Clare and Donegal will not, by any stretch of the imagination, be described as great league or championship rivals; in fact, the counties have no background in championship football and very little in the context of the National League. Up to the beginning of the eighties their paths had never crossed, and when a first-ever meeting did take place it was in the less than glamorous Third Division. The game, played at Ballyshannon on March 1st, 1981 was a seventh-round tie, in which the points at stake were of little use to middle-of-the-table Donegal but were of use to Clare in that they would enable them to force a play-off with Sligo at the bottom of the table. Destroyed by an almost gale-force wind, the standard was generally poor, enlivened only occasionally by deeds of note.

The Ulster team always had an edge, especially in the matter of finishing, and scores by P. J. McGowan 0-3, M. Gallagher 0-2, M. Huston 0-2, and M. McHugh 0-2 to which M. Downes 0-2, M. O'Reilly 0-1 and N. Normoyle 0-1 replied, left Donegal comfortable winners by 0-9 to 0-4.

1982-83 — Ennis: Clare 0-8; Donegal 0-7.

It was still Division Three fare, but this time Clare were the more impressive. Despite a first-half penalty, they still managed to turn over in front, thanks mainly to the brilliant display of Noel Normoyle at midfield whose efforts kept the play in Donegal ground for long stretches. An interval lead of 0-4 to 0-3 was no more than Clare deserved, but the home county's lead was often under threat during the second period, and especially after they were reduced to 14 men with 40 minutes gone. Martin McHugh did most to maintain the pursuit with some

FOUR Meetings

accurate shooting. His support, however, was less than satisfactory and Clare held on to win by the minimum margin.

Clare scorers: S. Maloney 0-2, T. Tubridy 0-2, G. Fitzgerald 0-2, N. Murray 0-1, N. Normoyle 0-1.

Donegal scorers: M. McHugh 0-5, P. McGettigan 0-1, A. Molloy 0-1.

1983-84 — Ballybofey: Donegal 2-8; Clare 0-5.

Only the most rabid follower of the home side could have enjoyed this encounter in driving rain on a miserable December afternoon. Adapting better and quicker to the conditions, Clare completely dominated the first quarter and Pat McNamara, Normoyle and Frank Mescall raised five white flags between them before the end of the first quarter at which stage Donegal looked a very disorganised outfit.

But the visitors had flattered only to deceive and when Donegal infused something approaching real purpose into their play, the game swung irrevocably in their favour. By the interval they had taken the lead thanks to a Seamus Bonnar goal at the 28th minute which topped up the points accounted for by Pat McCrea, Michael Carr, Declan Bonnar and Martin McHugh. The Clare fade-out which had begun at the start of the second quarter continued after the break and never looked like being arrested. McHugh, Gerry Curran and Damien Reid extended Donegal's lead in a lack-lustre second half and long before Seamus Bonnar's second goal near the end, the destina-

tion of these Division Three points had been decided.

Donegal scorers: Seamus Bonnar 2-0, M. McHugh 0-3, P. McCrea 0-1, M. Carr 0-1, M. McHugh 0-1, D. Bonnar 0-1, G. Curran 0-1.

Clare: P. McNamara 0-3, N. Normoyle 0-1, F. Mescall 0-1. 1987-88 — Ballyshannon: Donegal 1-7; Clare 0-9.

This was easily the best of the four games between these counties, an enthralling contest with the issue in doubt almost to the end. In an hour of fluctuating fortunes each side in turn looked like winners, and with four minutes remaining, Clare, who were seeking their first win in four outings, appeared to be on course when O'Keeffe put them in front. Donegal, however, finished with a will; Declan Bonnar levelled the scores at the 57th minute and sixty seconds later John Connor knocked over a marvellous winning point. A point that sent Donegal into the mid-winter break at the top of the Division 2 table with unlucky Clare sharing last position with Laois.

Scorers — Donegal: D. Bonnar 1-3, P. McCool 0-1, M. Boyle 0-1, T. Ryan 0-1, J. Connor 0-1.

Clare: A. O'Keeffe 0-3, P. Burke 0-2, G. Killeen 0-2, F. Griffin 0-1, M. Lillis 0-1.

The foregoing constitutes the meagre background to today's semi-final and the contrast between the low key setting of those early meetings and today's eagerly-awaited clash could hardly be greater. In the early eighties Clare and Donegal rated no more than a few paragraphs in any newspaper outside their own counties. The combined attendances of the four games did not reach six thousand which more than any other statistical illustrates just how times and fortunes have changed for Clare and Donegal.

At The (Unlucky?) Venue

To suggest to Donegal supporters that Croke Park was not exactly a happy hunting ground for the wearers of the green and gold after last year's momentous deeds may sound wildly inaccurate, but the record shows that over the years Donegal and Clare have found the famous sward anything but accommodating to their ambitions. Indeed, for many years Croke Park could be considered something of a bogey venue for both counties so often did the trail - championship or league - end there.

Clare's first appearance at Croke Park may have predated that of Donegal by more than 30 years, but in the matter of total appearances the Northerners are way ahead though, like Clare, most of these were on the losing end. Just how these counties have fared at Croke Park is shown below:

DONEGAL

1952 - National League Semi-final:		
Cork	3-3;	Donegal 0-7
1965 - National League Semi-final:		
Kerry	3-10;	Donegal 1-8
1966 - National League Semi-final:		
Longford	0-13;	Donegal 0-11
1967 - National League Semi-final:		
Galway	1-10;	Donegal 2-4
1969 - National League Semi-final:		
Offaly	2-13;	Donegal 1-3
1972 - All Ireland Semi-final:		
Offaly	1-17;	Donegal 2-10
1974 - All Ireland Semi-final:		
Galway	3-13;	Donegal 1-14
1983 - All Ireland Semi-final:		
Galway	1-12;	Donegal 1-11
1985 - National League:		
Dublin	0-15;	Donegal 0-8
1989 - National League:		
Dublin	1-10;	Donegal 0-9
1990 - All Ireland Semi-final:		
Meath	3-9;	Donegal 1-7
1991 - National League Semi-final:		
Kildare	0-14;	Donegal 1-10
1992 - All Ireland Semi-final:		
Donegal	0-13;	Mayo 0-9
1992 - All Ireland Final:		
Donegal	0-18;	Dublin 0-14

CLARE

1917 - All Ireland Final:		
Wexford	0-9;	Clare 0-5
1947 - National League Final:		
Derry	2-9;	Clare 2-5
1974 - National League:		
Clare	4-9;	Dublin 2-9
1976 - National League Play-off:		
Armagh	0-9;	Clare 1-6
1976 - National League Play-off (Replay):		
Armagh	1-7;	Clare 1-6
1980 - National League Play-off:		
Wexford	1-14;	Clare 0-7
1992 - All Ireland Semi-final:		
Dublin	3-14;	Clare 2-12

Twelve defeats in fourteen appearances suggest that Donegal have been less than happy at Croke Park, but the two wins are of such historic importance that all that went before tends to be forgotten. Clare's one out of seven also leaves a question mark hovering over their experience of Croke Park, but hoodoos are there to be broken as Donegal so tellingly demonstrated in 1992.

Comhairle Chontae an Chláir Ag Caomhnú an Chomhshaoil



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Inevitably, Clare's qualifying for the National League semi-final recalls the last occasion on which they competed at this stage of the competition. And while the 1947 semi-final was indeed an occasion for the banner county, the manner in which it came about took somewhat from the honour. A winter of unparalleled ferocity lead to so many postponements that the authorities decided to short-cut the competition by declaring the teams heading each section should be the semi-finalists. With almost all of the leading powers way down the tables because of games called off, the luck of the situation favoured Derry, Wicklow, Longford and Clare - all into the semi-final for the first time. The home venue of Cusack Park probably tipped the balance in favour of the banner men 2-6 to 1-6.

The lineout: J. Gallagher, D. Hogan, F. Keane (Capt.), B. Bradley, M. Collins, J. Murrin, D. Fitzgerald, E. Carroll, J. Griffin, P. Power, G. Guinnane, P. Daly, J. Hill, P. Fitzpatrick, N. Crowley.

That, however, was not the first time for Clare to contest a semi-final. Back in 1934, they had met Offaly in the penultimate round of the second division, but that was an occasion of little note or consequence and over the next few decades the closing stages of the league represented alien territory to Clare.

The championship win over Kerry in 1949 did not translate to the league. With no second division in which

CLARE'S LONG MARCH

to test their strength against teams of similar calibre through the fifties and sixties, while victories over counties like Tipperary, Limerick and Waterford were regularly recorded, when Kerry or Cork barred the way to advancement, the result was predictable.

RENEWED HOPE

And even when the Second Divisions were reintroduced in the early seventies, Clare struggled - though a victory over Dublin in a seventh-round tie of the 1973-74 campaign was a bright spot in the all-pervading gloom. Clare returned to Croke Park for a Division III final with Armagh in 1976 - a game that ended in a draw with the Northerners shading it in the replay.

A new decade brought renewed hope and a run that included a win over Meath at Navan brought them to the knock-out stages in the spring of 1980; but the display against Wexford at Croke Park was the poorest given by a Clare team at headquarters to that date. Representing

Division IV in the 1982 preliminary quarter-final against Kerry was a task beyond their range. Not so far outside their range was the quarter-final with Kerry in 1987. At Ennis, Clare did themselves proud in going down by a one goal margin.

But that fine showing did not herald a new dawn and the following four seasons brought little joy to banner county supporters. As recently as March 1991, Clare languished in the lower reaches of the league; in fact, at the end of the 1990-91 season, they finished second-last in the table having lost to Waterford, Tipperary, Wicklow and Limerick.

Then literally from nowhere Clare burst on the scene. A display of epic dimensions almost toppled Meath at Ballinasloe to be followed by the sensational annexation of Munster championship honours a few months later and the current campaign, which has taken them to today's semi-final, has furthered the process of consolidation among football's elite. The fact that no outstanding minor or under-21 team of recent years provided the impetus for Clare's emergence makes it all the more notorious. Indeed, it makes one of the most remarkable and heart-warming developments in gaelic football for a long time.

Clare's long march from obscurity to renown has been marked by few achievements by the way of title annexation, but it is likely to be remembered for a long time.

Án Clár



The Clare team which defeated Mayo by a point at Castlebar last Sunday:
Back row (l-r): Seamus Clancy, Francis McInerney, Pat Murray, Gerry Kelly,
Tom Morrissey, Carl Walshe, Gerry Killeen, Brendan Rouine.
Front row (l-r): Martin Daly, Pat Vaughan, Noel Roche, John Enright,
Frankie Griffin, Aidan Maloney, Joe Joe Rouine.



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The Donegal team which had a narrow victory over last season's League champions, Derry:
 Back row (l-r): Donal Reid, Matt Gallagher, Declan Bonner, John Joe Doherty, Barry McGowan, Brian Murray, Gary Walsh, Paul Carr.
 Front row (l-r): Martin McHugh, Barry Cunningham, Martin Shovlin, Manus Boyle, Anthony Molloy (capt.), Tony Boyle, James McHugh.



Donegal Seek 14th Successive Win

Donegal are enjoying their most successful run ever in senior championship and League fare in football. Victory today would give them their 14th successive success over the two competitions since they lost by two dramatic late goals to Dublin in April 1992 at Breffni Park in a League quarter-final.

Goals by Paul Clarke and Vinny Murphy in the last two minutes turned apparent defeat for the Dubs into a sensational 3-6 to 1-10 win.

Donegal played a draw with Cavan in the first round of the Ulster championship in May, and followed on with five wins on the way to their first All-Ireland senior crown. They have the perfect record from eight appearances in the current League.

Clare lost on their last appearance at headquarters in August when, as Munster senior champions for the first

time in 75 years, they put up a fine display when going down to Dublin by 3-14 to 2-12.

Since then the Banner County have not lost in the League, although they did play three draws. Their last defeat in the League was at Ballinasloe last April when they put up a spirited performance in a two points — 0-8 to 0-6 — loss to Meath.

This is the overall records of the Donegal and Clare teams so far in the current League:

	P	W	D	L
Donegal	8	8	0	0
For 8-97 (121 points); Against 3-54 (63 points)				
Clare	8	5	3	0
For 8-82 (106 points); Against 6-64 (82 points)				

Donegal booked their semi-final ticket as follows:
 October 18 — Ballybofey: Donegal 1-9; Kildare 0-6.
 November 1 — Carlow: Donegal 0-12; Carlow 0-5.
 November 15 — Ballyshannon: Donegal 1-14; Leitrim 0-6.
 November 29 — Cavan: Donegal 1-16; Cavan 0-9.
 February 14 — Thurles: Donegal 1-12; Tipperary 1-9.
 February 28 — Ballybofey: Donegal 1-8; Cork 0-9.
 March 14 — Longford: Donegal 3-16; Longford 0-7.
 April 11 — Cavan: Donegal 0-10; Derry 2-3.

Top scorers: Declan Bonnar 2-23 (29 points) in eight games. Best score by a Donegal footballer in the series so far: 1-4 by Declan Bonner against Cork at Ballybofey in February and 1-4 by Manus Boyle against Longford at Longford in March.

The Clare record so far:
 October 18 — Ennis: Clare 0-8; Roscommon 0-8.

November 1 — Athlone: Clare 2-13; Westmeath 3-8.

November 15 — Ennis: Clare 1-10; Offaly 1-10.

November 29 — Navan: Clare 0-7; Meath 1-4.

February 14 — Dungarvan: Clare 2-14; Waterford 0-11.

February 28 — Ennis: Clare 1-8; Down 0-7.

March 14 — Ennis: Clare 2-13; Monaghan 1-8.

April 11 — Castlebar: Clare 0-9; Mayo 0-8.

Top scorer: Martin Daly 6-20 (38 points) in eight games including a limited outing as a substitute against Roscommon in the first round.

Best score by a Clare footballer in the series: 2-7 by Martin Daly against Westmeath at Athlone in November.



An Clár

Dathanna: Gorm is Ór

(1) C. Breathnach
CARL WALSH

St. Joseph's, Miltown Malbay

(2) S. Mac Lannchaide
SEAMUS CLANCY
Corofin

(3) A. Ó Maoldomhnaigh
AIDEN MOLONEY
Kilmurry Ibrickane

(4) G. Ó Ceallaigh
GERRY KELLY (CAPT.)
St. Senan's, Kilkee

(5) P. Ó Gríofa
FRANKIE GRIFFIN
Kilrush Shamrocks

(6) S.S. Ó Ruaine
JOE JOE ROUINE
Ennistymon

(7) S. Mac Lamrachlaigh
JOHN ENRIGHT
St. Senan's, Kilkee

(8) T. Ó Muiríosa
TOM MORRISSEY
Cooraclare

(9) B. Ó Ruaine
BRENDAN ROUINE
Ennistymon

(10) N. de Roiste
NOEL ROCHE
St. Senan's, Kilkee

(11) P. Mac an Airchinnigh
FRANCIS MCINERNEY
Doonbeg

(12) G. Ó Cillín
JERRY KILLEEN
Doonbeg

(13) P. Ó Beachain
PAT VAUGHAN
St. Breckan's

(14) P. Ó Muiri
PAT MURRAY
St. Joseph's, Miltown Malbay

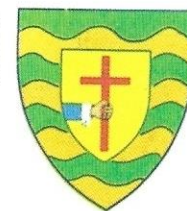
(15) M. Ó Dalaigh
MARTIN DALY
Lissycasey

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) S. Ó hAonracháin (**James Hanrahan**) *St. Joseph's, Doora/Barefield*, (17) P. Ó Beachain (**Pat Vaughan**) *St. Breckan's*, (18) B. de Brún (**Brendan Brown**) *Kilmihil*, (19) C. Mac Lannchaide (**Colm Clancy**) *Corofin*, (20) C. Ó Neill (**Ciaran O'Neill**) *St. Joseph's Doora/Barefield*, (21) S. Ó Conaill (**John O'Connell**) *Cooraclare*, (22) M. Ó Rochain (**Michael Roughan**) *Kilmurry Ibrickane*, (23) M. Ó Floinn (**Martin Flynn**) *St. Joseph's, Miltown Malbay*, (24) M. de Búrca (**Mark Burke**) *St. Breckan's*.

ROGHNÓIRÍ: John Maughan (Manager), Donal Clancy, Noel Walshe, Pat Hanrahan.

AN CLÁR	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
lomlán					

Dún na nGall



Dathanna: Ór is Uaithne

(1) G. Breathnach
GARY WALSH
Burren

(2) S.S. Ó Dochartaigh
JOHN JOE DOHERTY
Naomh Columba

(3) M. Ó Gallchóir
MATT GALLAGHER
Naomh Bríd

(4) B. Mac Gabhainn
BARRY MCGOWAN
Na Cealla Beaga

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

(6) M. Ó Gaibheagáin
MARTIN GAVIGAN
Ard an Ratha

(7) M. Ó Sheibhleáin
MARTIN SHOVELIN
Naomh Ultan

(8) A. Ó Lúdóg
ANTHONY MOLLOY (CAPT.)
Ard an Ratha

(9) B. Ó Muirí
BRIAN MURRAY
An Stát Sheirbhís

(10) S. Mac Aodha
JAMES MCHUGH
Cill Chartha

(11) M. Mac Aodha
MARTIN MCHUGH
Cill Chartha

(12) B. Mac Cuinneagáin
BARRY CUNNINGHAM
Na Cealla Beaga

(13) D. Ó Cuoimhní
DECLAN BONNER
Na Rossa

(14) A. Ó Baoill
TONY BOYLE
An Clochán Liath

(15) M. Ó Baoill
MANUS BOYLE
Na Cealla Beaga

FIR IONAIÐ: (16) P. Ó Ceallacháin (**Paul Callaghan**) *Beart*, (17) P. Mac Giolla Chearra (**Paul Carr**) *Na Ceithre Maistír*, (18) M. Ó Chrossáin (**Mark Crossan**) *Naomh Adhamháin*, (19) S. Mac Cuinneagáin (**John Cunningham**) *Na Cealla Beaga*, (20) N. Ó hAigheartaigh (**Noel Hegarty**) *Naomh Columba*, (21) S. Mac Maoláin (**Joyce McMullin**) *Na Ceithre Maistír*, (22) S. Mac Aunghusa (**Jim McGuinness**) *Naomh Conaill*, (23) S. Mag Uidhir (**Sylvester Maguire**) *Aodh Rua, Béal Átha Seannaigh*, (24) S. Ó Dufaidh (**John Duffy**) *An Stát Sheirbhís*.

TEAM MANAGER: Brian Mc Eniff. **TEAM TRAINER:** Antony Harkin.

DÚN NA NGALL	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
lomlán					



Timmy Fleming (Ciarraí) breaks through the tackle of Down's D. J. Kane

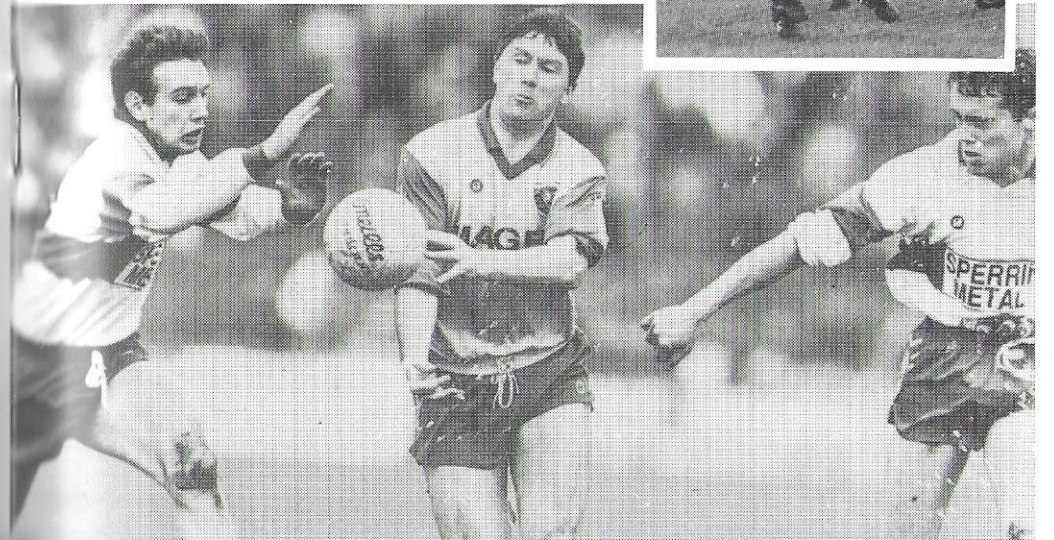
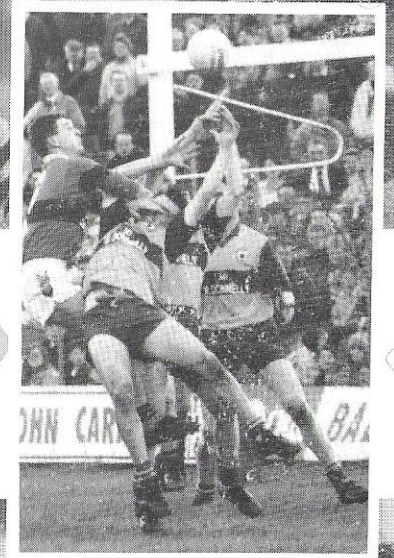
Dublin's Tommy Carr evades Kildare's Anthony Rainbow and Glen Ryan.

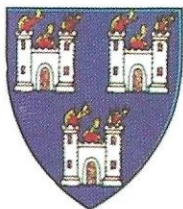
Action from the
Quarter-Finals



Martin McHugh (Dún na nGall) cuts through the Derry defence at Breffní Park.

Full-back Aiden Moloney and his Clare defence under pressure from Mayo.





Áth Cliath

Dathanna: Gorm is Dubhgorm

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

(2) C. Breathnach
CIARAN WALSH
St. Anne's

(3) D. Déiseach
DERMOT DEASY
Garda

(4) S. Mac an Chalbhaird
JOHN CALVERT
St. Vincent's

(5) P. Ó Corráin
PAUL CURRAN
Thomas Davis

(6) C. Ó Bairr
KEITH BARR
Erin's Isle

(7) M. Ó Duiginn
MICHAEL DEEGAN
Erin's Isle

(8) P. Ó Bealáin
PAUL BEALIN
St. Kevin's

(9) S. Ó Síoda
JACK SHEEDY
Garda

(10) E. Ó hIorua
EAMONN HEERY
St. Vincent's

(11) T. Ó Cearra
TOM CARR
Ballymun Kickhams

(12) N. Ó Guidín
NIALL GUIDEN
Raheny

(13) M. Ó Deoráin
MARTIN DORAN
Clontarf

(14) U. Ó Murchú
VINNIE MURPHY
Trinity Gaels

(15) P. Ó Donncha
PAURIC O'DONOGHUE
Kilmacud Crokes

FIR IONAID: (16) M. Piondar (Mick Pender) Kilmacud Crokes, (17) P. Ó Moráin (Paddy Moran) Whitehall Colmcille, (18) P. Mac Giolla Rua (Pat Gilroy) St. Vincents, (19) C. Mac Reamóinn (Charlie Redmond) Erin's Isle, (20) M. Ó Gealbháin (Mick Galvin) St. Oliver Plunketts, (21) P. Ó Dochartaigh (Pauric Doherty) Naomh Mearnóg, (22) G. Ó Riagáin (Ger Regan) St. Vincents, (23) P. Ó Cléirigh (Paul Clarke) Whitehall/Colmcille.

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Pat O'Neill (Manager), Jim Brogan, Fran Ryder.

ÁTH CLIATH	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

Ciarraí

Dathanna: Uaithne, Ór is Bán



(1) P. Ó Laoire
PETER O'LEARY
Legion

(2) L. Ó Flaitheartaigh
LIAM FLAHERTY
Ballydonoghue

(3) A. Ó Gliasáin
ANTHONY GLEESON
John Mitchels

(4) M. MacNíocais
MORGAN NIX
Kerins, O'Rahilly

(5) S. Stach
STEPHEN STACK
Emmets, Listowel

(6) S. de Búrca
SEAN BURKE
Milltown

(7) S. Ó Muineacháin
SEAMUS MOYNIHAN
Glenties

(8) M. Mac Gearailt
MAURICE FITZGERALD
St. Mary's

(9) D. Ó hAinifín
DERMOT HANAFIN
Desmonds

(10) B. Mac Uileagóid
BERNARD MCELLIGOTT
Brick Rangers

(11) E. Mac Briain
EAMONN BREEN
Finuge

(12) T. Fléimeann
TIMMY FLEMING
Laune Rangers

(13) P. Ó Doineannaigh
PA DENNEHY
Currow

(14) E. Liostún
EOIN LISTON
Beale

(15) C. Ó Dubhuí
KARL O'DWYER
Waterville

FIR IONAID: (16) L. Ó Sé (Billy O'Shea) Laune Rangers, (17) C. Ó Murchú (Connie Murphy) Dr. Crokes, (18) P. Ó Slatara (Pat Slattery) Brick Rangers, (19) D. Ó Fearail (David Farrell) Annascaul, (20) C. Ó Cearnaigh (Conor Kearney) Brick Rangers, (21) P. Ó Briain (Peter O'Brien) Dr. Crokes, (22) C. Ó Coileáin (Kieran Culhane) Ballylongford, (23) N. Ó Mathúna (Noel O'Mahony) Kerins O'Rahilly.

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Pat O'Shea (Cromane), Johnny Mulvill (Moybane).
Trainer: Ogie Moran (Beale).

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

Áth Cliath



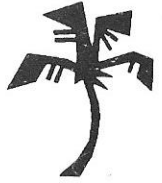
The Dublin team which beat Kildare at Croke Park last Sunday:

Back row (l-r): Tom Carr, Dermot Deasy, John Calvert, John O'Leary, Paul Bealin, Pauric O'Donoghue, Keith Barr, Jack Sheedy, Eamonn Heery.
Front row (l-r): Ciarán Walsh, Paul Curran, Vincent Murphy, Niall Guidden, Mick Deegan, Martin Doran.



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to
Both Teams
from
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Dublin On Course To Go One Better Than Last Year?

Dublin can feel well pleased with their progress since losing to Donegal in the All-Ireland Senior Football final in September, and to Derry some weeks later in the opening round of the current Royal Liver National League.

They followed an efficient rather than spectacular march to the quarter-finals with their best performance in some time when seeing off a fancied Kildare in comfortable fashion last week. The Dubs had the tonic of a goal from right full forward Martin Doran after only 80 seconds, and playing against the wind.

Murphy Helps Fuel Dublin Revival



Vinny Murphy, who won his first Bank of Ireland All-Stars award last December, has been very much to the fore with his clever play and scoring exploits in the revival that has brought Dublin from the ashes of the Sam Maguire Cup defeat in September to this League semi-final.

The young Trinity Gaels man, who hit three points last week against Kildare, is living up fully to the potential he displayed at midfield in the minor team, beaten coincidentally enough by Kildare in the 1987 Leinster final. He won a regular place in the county senior team later that year, and has blossomed into one of the most accomplished forwards in the game.

Murphy, who is also an accomplished hurler, won an inter-provincial medal with Leinster, two provincial senior medals, and was on the target with a goal after five and a half minutes in the 1991 Royal Liver National League final win over Kildare. He also hit a valuable point.

They built impressively on that start, and their supporters in the 31,107 attendance were in reasonably happy mood as their favourites led by 1-3 to 0-5 at the break.

Dublin were led for a short period early in the second, but really turned on the style in the concluding stages. In a purple patch in the last nine minutes they scored seven points without reply to finish more clear-cut winners than many had anticipated at 1-13 to 0-8. Kildare hit just three points in the second half.

Paul Curran, who had an outstanding game, Keith Barr and goalkeeper John O'Leary were commanding figures in defence for Dublin. Jack Sheedy worked hard and effectively at midfield, and Vinny Murphy, and Charlie Redmond, who was sent in from the substitutes' bench eight minutes after the interval, were prominent up front.

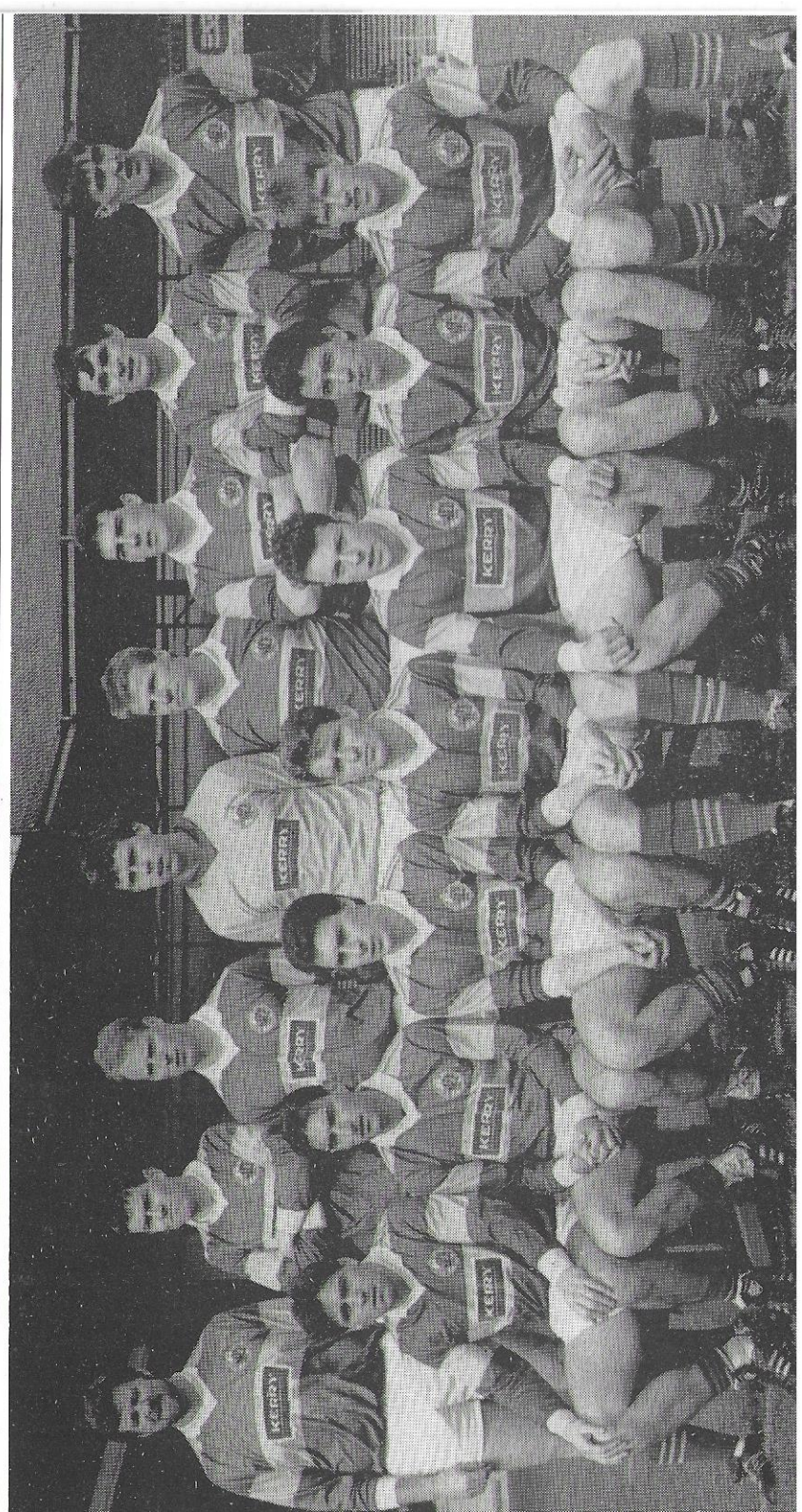
This convincing success against the county that many were tipping to relieve Dublin of their Leinster title this summer, is bound to give the Liffesiders much confidence for this show-down with Kerry. The type of boost and at the right time for to go one better than a year ago when League ambitions came tumbling down at Croke Park as Dublin, then defending champions, were surprised by Tyrone in a semi-final.

The Kerry team which defeated Dublin at Croke Park:

Back row (l-r): Eoin Liston, Sean Burke, Liam Flaherty, Peter O'Leary, Eamonn Breen, Bernard McElligott, Karl O'Dwyer, Maurice Fitzgerald.
Front row (l-r): Stephen Stack, Morgan Nix, Anthony Gleeson, Billy O'Shea, Seamus Moynihan, Pa Dennehy, Timmy Fleming.



Ciarraí



DUBLIN AND KERRY A Splendid Rivalry

In all sports there are confrontations that have a special place in the sporting firmament - meetings that stand apart from the general run, not alone for the quality of the fare which they produce, but for the response they evoke from the sporting public. Gaelic football has thrown up a number of those special confrontations over the years, rivalries that have consistently packed stand and terrace for league and championship. In this regard the championship rivalry of Kerry and Kildare in the early years of the century, Galway and Mayo over many decades in Connacht, Meath and Louth in Leinster in the forties and fifties, Cork and Kerry over the past half century and Meath and Dublin over the past 20 years in Leinster.

But it is doubtful if the appeal of any of these confrontations carried over to the National League to quite the same extent as it has in the case of Dublin and Kerry, whose every meeting is invested with an aura all its own. The rivalry which has captivated Gaeldom since the re-emergence of Dublin in 1974 did have an earlier dimension and, in the early years of the National League, Dublin-Kerry clashes were the big events in a competition

that was slowly coming to be accepted as a permanent part of the gaelic football scene.

The first meeting of Dublin and Kerry in the league was in the 1930-31 campaign and, although it was only a third-round game, it had a vital bearing on the eventual destination of the honours. A December setting meant an attendance of modest proportions, but the fare on offer would have done justice to a July or August meeting.

Through the field there was little between the teams, but though defences dominated for long stretches, Kerry's Con Brosnan, J.J. and Tim Landers were the point-scorers who made all the difference. Kerry's interval lead of two points was eventually expanded to five, but the final margin did less than justice to the efforts of a game Dublin side.

The teams which met in that first encounter 62 years ago, lined out:

KERRY: D. O'Keeffe, D. O'Connor, J. Barrett, J. Walsh, P. Russell, J. O'Sullivan P. Whitty, M. Doyle, R. Stack, J.J. Landers, C. Brosnan, T. Landers, M. Regan, J. Ryan, C. Geaney.
DUBLIN: J. McDonnell, P. Synnott, W. Leonard, M. O'Brien, J. O'Shea, G. McLoughlin, D. Brennan, P.

Hickey, T. Dowd, W. Dowling, C. Duff, M. Keating, E. McCann, J. Kelly, M. Kelly.

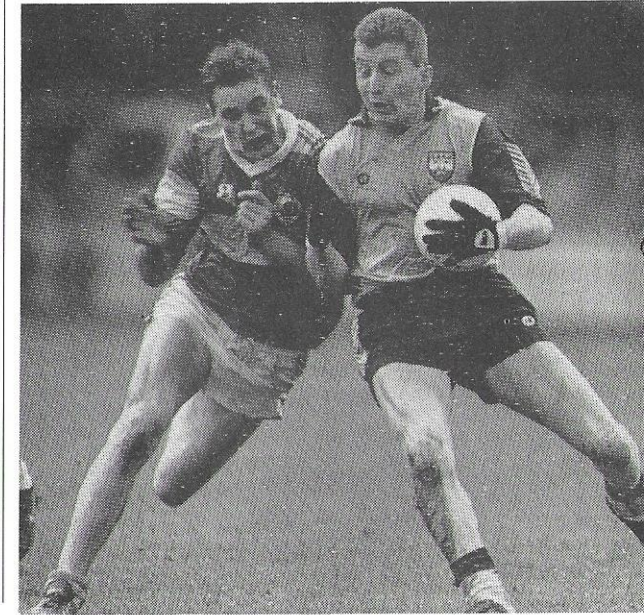
Kerry also won the second and third meetings, but Dublin's turn came in the 1933-34 clash when they had two points to spare at Croke Park. Like Kerry, they followed their first win with two more. But, over the years, Kerry have had the better of the argument as of the 26 clashes to date they have won 14 to Dublin's 11. The 1974 meeting was drawn.

The scorelines were:

1930-31 - Croke Park:
Kerry 0-8; Dublin 0-3
1931-32 - Listowel:
Kerry 1-10; Dublin 3-2
1932-33 - Tralee:
Kerry 0-9; Dublin 0-7
1933-34 - Croke Park:
Dublin 2-6; Kerry 1-7
1940-41 - Croke Park:
Dublin 2-7; Kerry 1-4
1963-64 - Croke Park:
Dublin 0-10; Kerry 0-9
1970-71 - Tralee:
Kerry 0-16; Dublin 2-4
1970-71 - Croke Park:
Kerry 0-15; Dublin 1-8 (Play-Off)
1971-72 - Croke Park:
Dublin 3-9; Kerry 0-11
1972-73 - Tralee:
Kerry 1-10; Dublin 1-6
1974-75 - Killarney:
Kerry 0-8; Dublin 0-8
1975-76 - Croke Park:
Dublin 2-11; Kerry 0-13
1976-77 - Tralee:
Kerry 0-12; Dublin 0-7
1976-77 - Croke Park:
Kerry 1-8; Dublin 1-6 (Final)

1977-78 - Croke Park:
Dublin 2-11; Kerry 3-7
1978-79 - Croke Park:
Kerry 2-9; Dublin 0-8
1979-80 - Tralee:
Kerry 1-16; Dublin 0-10
1980-81 - Killarney:
Kerry 2-11; Dublin 2-7
1981-82 - Croke Park:
Kerry 1-7; Dublin 0-7
1982-83 - Tralee:
Dublin 0-8; Kerry 0-7
1986-87 - Tralee:
Kerry 0-10; Dublin 0-8
1986-87 - Croke Park:
Dublin 1-11; Kerry 0-11 (Final)
1987-88 - Croke Park:
Dublin 1-9; Kerry 2-5
1988-89 - Tralee:
Kerry 1-10; Dublin 0-11
1989-90 - Croke Park:
Dublin 1-15; Kerry 3-7
1990-91 - Croke Park:
Dublin 3-11; Kerry 0-7

DUBLIN AND KERRY IN OPPOSITION *Maurice Fitzgerald (Ciarraí) and Eamonn Heery (Áth Cliath).*



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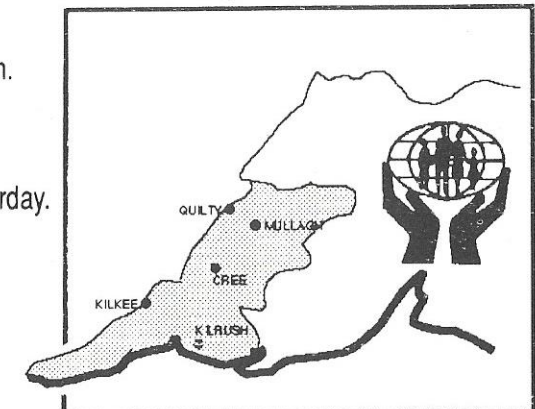
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Kerry Unbeaten In League Run

Kerry, who have not won the League title since 1984, are unbeaten in the current Royal Liver campaign. They did, however, drop one point in Section "C".

That was at Crossmolina in February when they played a draw with Mayo. However, the Kingdom still finished on top of their group and won their semi-final ticket with a thrilling one point success over Down at Croke Park in extra time.

Dublin lost their opening game of the campaign to Derry at Croke Park in October and that now ranks as their last defeat in a major game at headquarters. They have won all their League ties in the meantime.

The following are the overall records of both counties so far and their scoring titles for and against:

	P	W	D	L	For	Against
Kerry	8	7	1	0	12-110 (146)	6-74 (92)
Dublin	8	7	0	1	3-94 (103)	2-63 (69)

October 18 - Tralee:	Kerry	0-17;	Wicklow	1-11
November 1 - Portlaoise:	Kerry	2-15;	Laois	0-16
November 15 - Kilkenny:	Kerry	5-20;	Kilkenny	1-3
November 29 - Tralee:	Kerry	1-8;	Tyrone	0-9
February 14 - Killarney:	Kerry	1-11;	Armagh	2-5
February 28 - Crossmolina:	Kerry	1-9;	Mayo	1-9
March 14 - Enniskillen:	Kerry	2-14;	Fermanagh	1-6
April 4 - Croke Park: (After Extra Time)	Kerry	0-16;	Down	0-15

Kerry's points scores overall, goals and points combined, are 146 points for and 92 points against.

Top Scorer: Maurice Fitzgerald 1-38 (41 points) in eight games.

Best score by a Kerry footballer in the series so far: 2-3 by Michael Galvin and also by Seamus Moynihan in the same game - against Kilkenny at Nowlan Park in November.

Dublin March Back

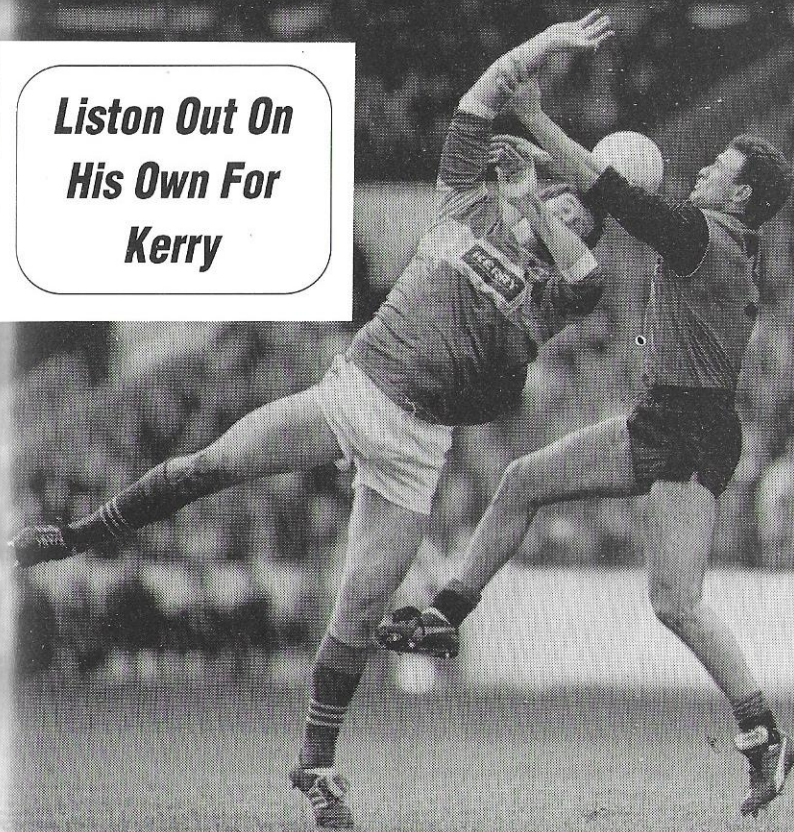
Dublin's eight game march back to the semi-final was as follows:

October 18 - Croke Park:	Dublin	0-9;	Derry	0-11
November 1 - Sligo:	Dublin	0-18;	Sligo	0-8
November 15 - Croke Park:	Dublin	1-8;	Louth	0-9
November 29 - Casement Park:	Dublin	1-7;	Antrim	0-5
February 15 - Wexford:	Dublin	0-11;	Wexford	1-7
February 28 - Croke Park:	Dublin	0-13;	Galway	1-6
March 11 - Askeaton:	Dublin	0-15;	Limerick	1-9
April 11 - Croke Park:	Dublin	1-13;	Kildare	0-8

Top Scorer: Charlie Redmond 1-19 (22 points) in six games, including last week's limited appearance as a substitute.

Best score by a Dublin footballer in the series so far: 0-7 by Charlie Redmond against Sligo at Sligo in November.

Liston Out On His Own For Kerry



BOMBS AWAY! "The Bomber" challenges Down full-back Conor Deegan in the quarter-final two weeks ago.

Eoin Liston, who has made a successful come-back to the Kerry senior football team this year after a lengthy absence, is the only Kingdom player in the squad to have already played in a title-winning side.

Liston had an unsuccessful League final debut in 1980 when Cork beat the Kingdom at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Two years later he helped Kerry to take revenge over the Leesiders in a final replay at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

The tall Kerry man went in as a substitute when Kerry won their last title in 1984 by beating Galway at Limerick. He made another appearance as a substitute and also scored two points when Kerry lost their last final outing to a then young Dublin outfit in 1987.

Stephen Stack was at right half back in the 1987 final team and Denis "Ogie" Moran, now the Kerry team manager, was centre half forward. He won League medals in 1977, 1982 and 1984.

Family Total

Karl O'Dwyer will be hoping to advance his prospects of adding another National League medal to the family collection. His father, Mick, now of course the Kildare team manager, won seven medals with Kerry between 1959 and 1973.

Donegal recorded their lowest return in a National Football League semi-final in their 1969 encounter with Offaly at Croke Park.

Donegal opened promisingly, but were soon rocked by goals by corner forward Sean Kilroy in the 12th and 13th minutes. Mickey McLoone reduced arrears for the Northerners before half time with a goal to leave the Faithful County 2-5 to 1-2 ahead at the break.

Donegal only managed a single point in the second half, that one from a free near the end by left half forward McLoone, as Offaly powered to a 2-13 to 1-3 win. Brian McEniff, now the county's team manager, was at right half back for Donegal in that semi-final.

Lowest Return



THOU SHALT NOT PASS – seems to be the message to Donegal's Donal Reid from Dermot McNicholl last Sunday.

An Clár v. Dún na nGall

B'é 1992 an bhliain inar tháinig borradh nua i scéal na peile Gaelaí. Bhain An Clár stathadh as lucht leanta na gcluichí nuair a bhain siad craobh na Mumhan don chéad uair ó 1917 agus sa chluiche ceannais gurb iad uaisle na peile, Ciarraí, a smachtaigh siad. Cé go raibh craobhacha Uladh bainte ag Dún na nGall, le fiche éigin bliain, níor shroich siad craobhcluiche na peile ariamh go dtí 1992 agus ba leathadh súl dá lán an éifeacht agus an stíl lenar bhain siad a gcéad chraobh Uile-Éireann.

Bhíothas ann a raibh díomá orthú nár bhuail an bheirt 'Daithí' in aghaidh a chéile sna cluichí leathcheannais fiú ach tá a mian bainte amach inniu. Tá laochra Dal gCais agus Tír Chonaill ag tabhairt dúshlán a chéile agus fáiltítear go croiúil rompu araon.

Tá go leor scríofa futhu cheana féin ag tuairisceoirí eile, maidir lean gcumas, agus níl le déanamh anseo ach a mheas cé acu is mó a bhfuil dúil sa bhua acu agus an bhfuilid in inmhe an dúil a chomhlíonadh le héifeacht, misneach agus féin-mhuinín.

Ón uair go raibh curaidh Uile-Éireann chomh gnóthach sin tar éis an bhua iontach a bhí acu anuraidh agus go bhfuil cuid éigin den faobhar cailte ceaptar go mbainfid An Clár leas as sin chun an cluiche seo a bhuachan.

Anuas ar sin ceaptar go bhfuil "gá" níos mó ag na Dal gCais craobh náisiúnta a bhaint chun barr feabhais a chur ar an mbliain iontach a bhí acu.

Bealach amháin nó bealach eile beidh sár-chluiche againn agus má bhíonn fir lár páirce na gConallach i mbarr réime, mar a bhíodar anuraidh, beidh sé rí-dheacair iad a chloí.

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- Proceeds are required to provide concrete terracing behind each Goal in Cusack Park, thereby enhancing the facility for the greater comfort and safety of patrons. Work is due to commence in early June.
- Existing Pass Card Holders will be afforded an opportunity to renew in early 1994.

While the County Board will at all times do its utmost to honour the terms of the scheme, no guarantee can be given as exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the Board and its stewards may arise to prevent it.

**S. Ó Riain,
Cisteoir**

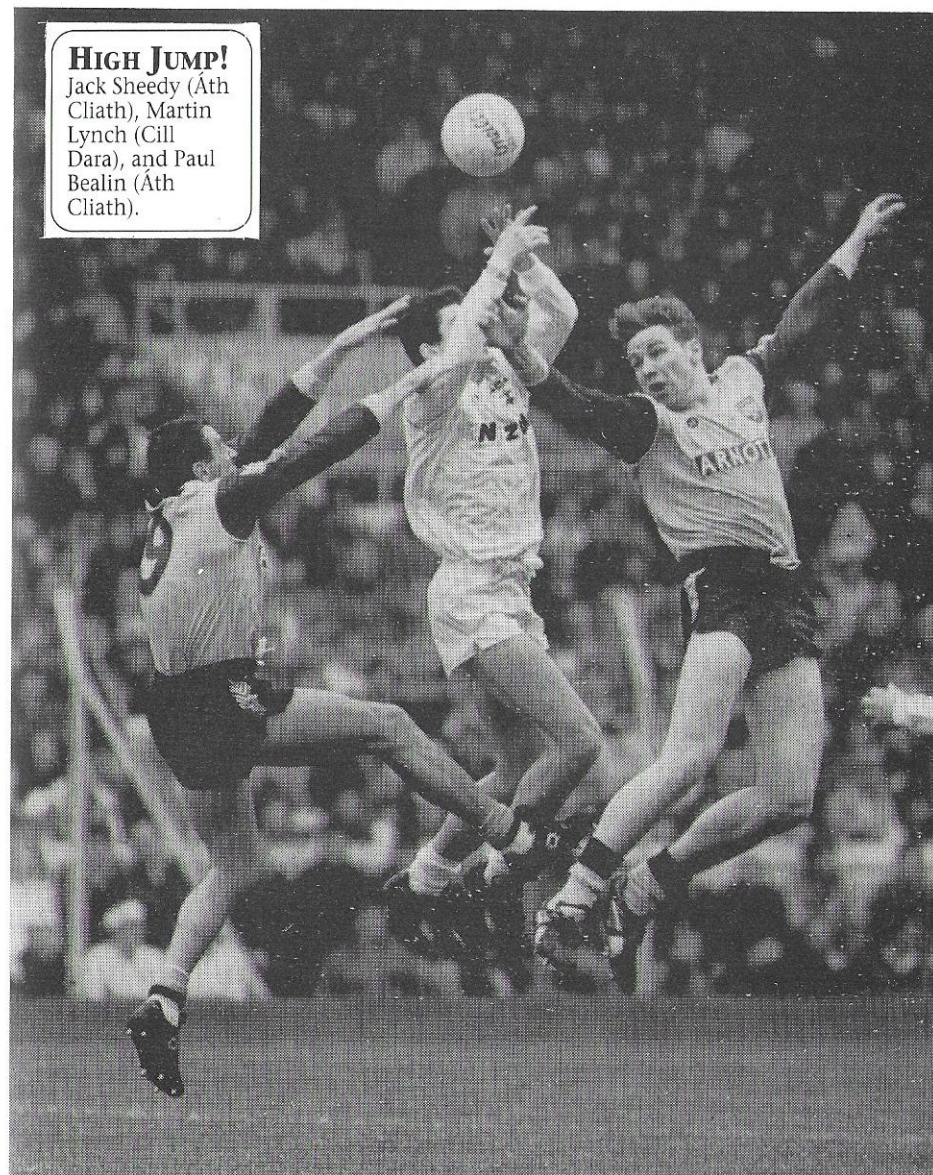
Bealin's Goal Not Enough

Paul Bealin goaled for Dublin just before the break in last year's Royal Liver National Football League semi-final at Croke Park but that score was not enough to prevent the Dubs from bowing out to Tyrone by 0-13 to 1-9.

John O'Leary, Mick Deegan, Keith Barr, Paul Curran, Tommy Carr, Paul Clarke, Jack Sheedy, Niall Guiden, Vinny Murphy and Charlie Redmond were among those who lined out for Dublin in that tie. Galvin did not play in that game.

HIGH JUMP!

Jack Sheedy (Ath Cliath), Martin Lynch (Cill Dara), and Paul Bealin (Ath Cliath).



Crowd Pullers Extraordinary — Abroad

When Kerry and Kildare met in the 1929 All-Ireland final they were watched by an attendance of 43, 839 - the biggest crowd to attend a final in either code up to that date. Two years later, Kerry was to be one of the teams to smash that record and it wasn't in an All-Ireland final or semi-final or in the league, but in a challenge game that was played outside this country.

If Kerry were a big attraction at home, they were an even bigger attraction in the United States. When they played New York in a challenge game in May 1931, the New York authorities, knowing they had an extraordinary attraction to stage, hired the Yankee Stadium for the day. They weren't disappointed; a crowd of 60,000 turned up to see the great Kingdom team in action and, if the visitors had to battle for an 0-4 all draw, they had the satisfaction of knowing that they had played before the biggest crowd ever. That figure of 60,000 would not be exceeded at an All-Ireland for another seven years. The fans obviously liked what they saw at the baseball stadium for when Kerry returned to the States a year later, 50,000 thronged the Polo Grounds for the game between the same sides. Setting attendance records has never been the least of Kerry's achievements - obviously.

Footballers' Feat

Although there are occasional exceptions, hurling is more productive of scores than football. But in this year's National League divisional campaigns the Kerry footballers demonstrated that they were capable of upsetting the 'Natural Order' of things - and not just in one game, but over the entire seven games. The hurlers, in totting up an aggregate of 11-92 (125) points shared the top spot in the overall chart with Laois 9-98 (125 points).

The footballers did even better, as in their seven games they accounted for a grand total of 12-93 (129).

This was one of the rare occasions that the top aggregate score in the National League was higher for football than hurling. It was also one of the even rarer occasions that sees one county heading the charts in both codes in the league.

Keeping Fit

Joe Barrett of Tralee was one of Kerry's greatest footballers - not just of his own generation, but of all time - and he certainly was a believer in keeping fit, as a story about him in the early thirties clearly shows.

Chosen at full-back for an important game in the spring of 1931, pressure of work prevented him getting in any serious training. This obviously caused him some concern as on the Tuesday afternoon before the game when he found himself in Killarney with a few hours to spare and decided he should do something about his level of fitness. And he most certainly did - he walked home to Tralee, a distance of 21 miles!

Irrepressible Kerrymen

It's not too easy to keep Kerrymen out of the lime-light, even when the county is not officially engaged, as was the case in the 1942 All-Ireland in which Dublin and Galway were the finalists.

Kerry had been knocked out at the semi-final stage for the first time since 1936, but there were still Kerrymen on the field of play. In fact, Kerry had a foot in both camps with Joe Fitzgerald, Jimmy Joy and Mick Falvey playing with Dublin and Dan Kavanagh and Jackie Flavin assisting Galway.

Áth Cliath v. Ciarraí

Is athimirt de laethanta órga na peile, sna seachtóidí, atá os ár gcomhair inniu; an t-aon difriocht atá ann ná go bhfuil imreoirí nua órga sa choimhlint agus gan de cheangae idir an dá ré ach na bainsiteoirí, Donncha Óg ('Ogie') Ó Móráin i gceannais ar na Ciarraigh chróga agus an Dr. 'Pat' Ó Néill i bhfeidhil Átha Cliath ardeamnmach.

Tá an dá fhoireann den chuid is mó comhdhéanta de pheileadóirí órga cé go bhfuil roinnt "seanóirí" acu araon ar nós Seán Ó Laoire, Michéal Ó Duibhinn, Seán Mac Sithigh agus Tomás Ó Cearra ar fhoireann Átha Cliath agus Muiris Mac Gearailt, Eoin Liostún agus P. Ó Doinneanaigh ar fhoireann na Ríochta.

Bheifí ag súil leis an iomarca óna 'Stócaigh' seo inniu agus iad a chur i gcomparáid leis na laochra a mhaisigh an tréimhse idir 1975 agus 1978. Chomh maith le rud ar bith eile ní hé an craobhchomortas atá a imirt inniu ach, mar adúradh thuas, is breá an rud é go bhfuil na 'cumhachtaí móra' ag cur an oiread sin spéise sa Léig. Bhí tráth ann agus is beag nár rinne Ciarraí neamhaird don Sraith-chomortas.

Toisc go bhfuil Cill Dara curtha faoi smacht beidh na 'Dubs' ag díriú ar chraobh Laigean go luath agus dúil mhór acu i gcraobh na hÉireann go gairid ina dhiaidh sin. Beidh Ciarraí ag faire go cúramach ar an gluiche ina dhiaidh seo féachaint an bhfuil aon laigí i bhfoireann An Chláir.

D'fhéadfadh duine a thuar gurbé an cluiche leathcheannais Léige seo réamhimirt de cluiche ceannais na craobhe i Mí Mheán Fomhair seo chugainn. Ar ndóigh beidh focal faoi seo le rá ag curaidh Uile-Éireann agus curaidh na Mumhan a fheicfear i gceann uair an chloig nó mar sin agus tig leis an breathnóir an scéal a mheá agus geall a chur.

Ceaptar gurb iad na 'Dubs' a rachaidh ar aghaidh go dtí an cluiche craobhe sa Léige — ná deintear dearmad gurbh curaidh 1991 iad sa chomortas sin.

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Clare, who are still without a league crown, qualified for the 1947 decider only to lose to Derry, 2-9 to 2-5. Forty-five years of effort since have seen Clare reach the knockout stages on a few occasions but defeat has been the fate of the saffron and blue.

'The Young Tigers'
 The late nineteen-sixties and early seventies saw a revival in the county's football fortunes. Building on some useful under-age teams and Doonbeg football club, the 1970 season offered much hope.

After impressive results over Laois, Cork and Galway, Clare's 'Young Tigers' gained a league

**REMEMBERING
CLARE'S 1970
LEAGUE
QUARTER-FINAL**

BY SEAMUS O'REILLY
(COUNTY EXPRESS)

quarter-final tilt with Mayo. Present selector Noel Walshe remembers the day well. March 22nd, 1970 at Salthill offered Clare little to celebrate. Walsh remembers it as being a dismal day both weather and result-wise.

On the scoreboard Mayo outclassed the Munster men 3-11 to 0-5. Noel

Walshe remembers this game as an occasion when Clare came out to support their side in force. The defeat left an air of despair that lasted for a further two decades, Noel claims.

Meanwhile, the Johnny Carey led Mayo side went on to capture their tenth league title at the expense of Down on a score of 4-7 to 0-10 before 32,042 spectators.

Incidentally, the curtain-raiser on that May day was provided by a Bernie Gavin (Clondegad) led Clare V.C. side defeated by Tyrone in the Vocational Schools' final.

Aidan Moloney (An Clár) and Ronan Golding (Maigh Eo) — a race for possession!



AGGREGATES AND AVERAGES (FOOTBALL)

In the divisional section of the football league, the scoring honours were superbly garnered by Kerry, who shot a total of 129 points in 7 games, 16 points better than their nearest challengers. A surprising feature of the campaign was the fine performance by Cork forwards, who shot a splendid 9-84 to share third place with Donegal. Another surprise was the quite modest totals recorded by Meath, Dublin and Down whose returns, while sufficient to enable them to survive to the closing stages, still left them far down the chart. Also worthy of note were the goal-scoring exploits of Wexford, who shot 11 goals to better the goal totals of all but Kerry. And in relation to goals, Dublin had a remarkable campaign, finding the net on only two occasions. Only Carlow and Roscommon scored fewer majors. The complete list of aggregate scores and average per game reads as follows:

	Average per Game		
Kerry	12-93	(129)	18.4
Kildare	9-86	(113)	16.1
Cork	9-84	(111)	16.0
Donegal	8-87	(111)	16.0

Mayo	8-84	(108)	15.4
Derry	8-74	(98)	14
Monaghan	10-67	(97)	13.8
Offaly	8-72	(96)	13.7
Clare	8-72	(96)	13.7
Wexford	11-60	(93)	13.3
Cavan	8-67	(91)	13.0
Galway	7-70	(91)	13.0
Armagh	8-63	(87)	12.7
Tyrone	5-72	(87)	12.7
Dublin	2-81	(87)	12.7
Meath	7-65	(86)	12.3
Laois	8-61	(85)	12.1
Leitrim	4-72	(84)	12.0
Down	4-70	(82)	11.7
Tipperary	7-61	(82)	11.7
Westmeath	8-57	(81)	11.6
Louth	6-62	(80)	11.4
Wicklow	7-59	(80)	11.4
Roscommon	1-68	(71)	10.1
Antrim	2-65	(71)	10.1
Limerick	4-55	(67)	9.6
Longford	6-48	(66)	9.4
Waterford	4-53	(65)	9.3
Fermanagh	4-48	(60)	8.6
Sligo	3-47	(56)	8.0
Carlow	0-41	(41)	6.0
Kilkenny	4-28	(40)	5.7

* These figures are for the divisional games only and do not include scores for the quarter-finals or play-off games.

LAST MEETING

1991: Dublin 3-11; Kerry 0-7

Places in the final stages of the league were at stake as well as the inevitable prestige in this sixth round clash at Croke Park where an attendance of 13,735 saw Dublin set the pace early on with the highlight of the opening period being two wonderful goals after pitch-length movements involving half a dozen players. Ahead by 2-5 to 0-4 at the break, Dublin kept well in front in spite of the frantic efforts of the opposition to narrow the gap. The final scoreline did not flatter the winners, though Kerry deserve full marks for trying even when the game was gone beyond any hope of recall.

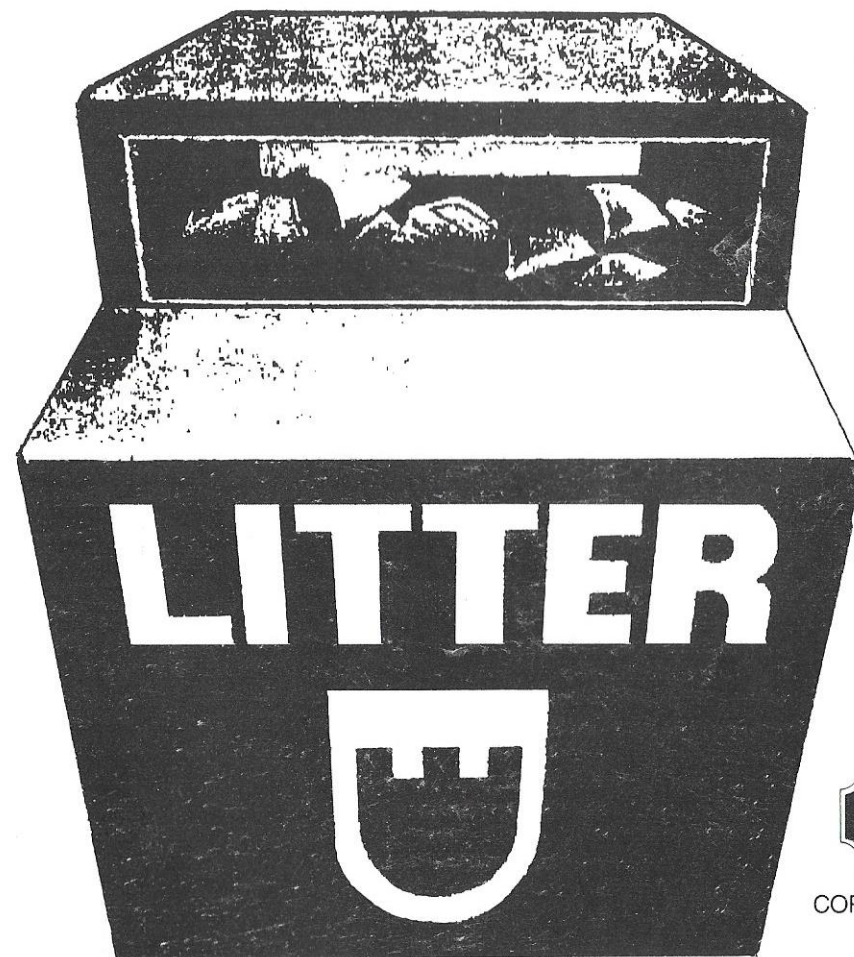
Dublin scorers: V. Murphy 1-4, D. McCarthy 1-2, J. Sheedy 1-0, P. Curran 0-2,

N. Guiden 0-1, T. Carr 0-1, C. Redmond 0-1. Kerry scorers: M. Fitzgerald 0-5, J. O'Shea 0-1, E. Breen 0-1.

Dublin: John O'Leary, Mick Deegan, Ciaran Walsh, Mick Kennedy, Tommy Carr, Keith Barr, Eamonn Heery, Dave Foran, Paul Clarke, Paul Curran, Jack Sheedy, Niall Guiden, Charlie Redmond, Vinny Murphy, Donal McCarthy. Subs: Dave Sinnott for Kennedy, Noel McCaffrey for Sheedy.

Kerry: Peter O'Leary, Connie Murphy, Ambrose O'Donovan, Ciaran Culhane, Robbie O'Dwyer, Sean Burke, Stephen Stack, Noel O'Mahony, Tim Dennehy, Jack O'Shea, Eamonn Breen, Maurice Fitzgerald, Sean McElliott, Donal Farrell, Pa Dennehy. Subs: Anthony Gleeson for Dennehy, P. Slattery for O'Dwyer.

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