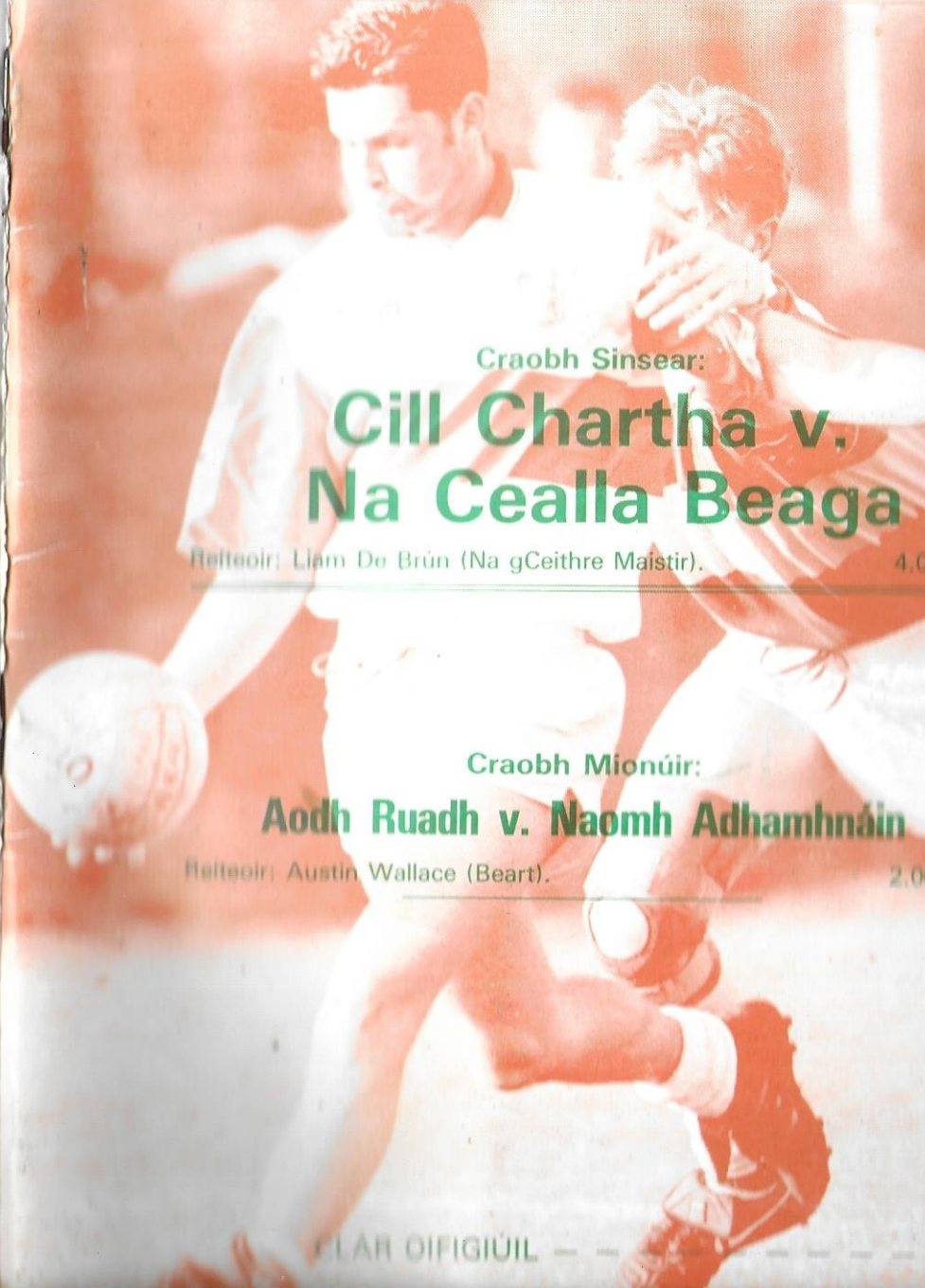




Gaeltachta

Cluiche Ceannais Peil Dhún na nGall '93

PAIRC SEÁN MHC CUMHAILL DÉ DOMHNAIGH 26ú MEÁN F



Craobh Sinsear:

Cill Chartha v. Na Cealla Beaga

Reiteoir: Liam De Brún (Na gCeithre Maistir).

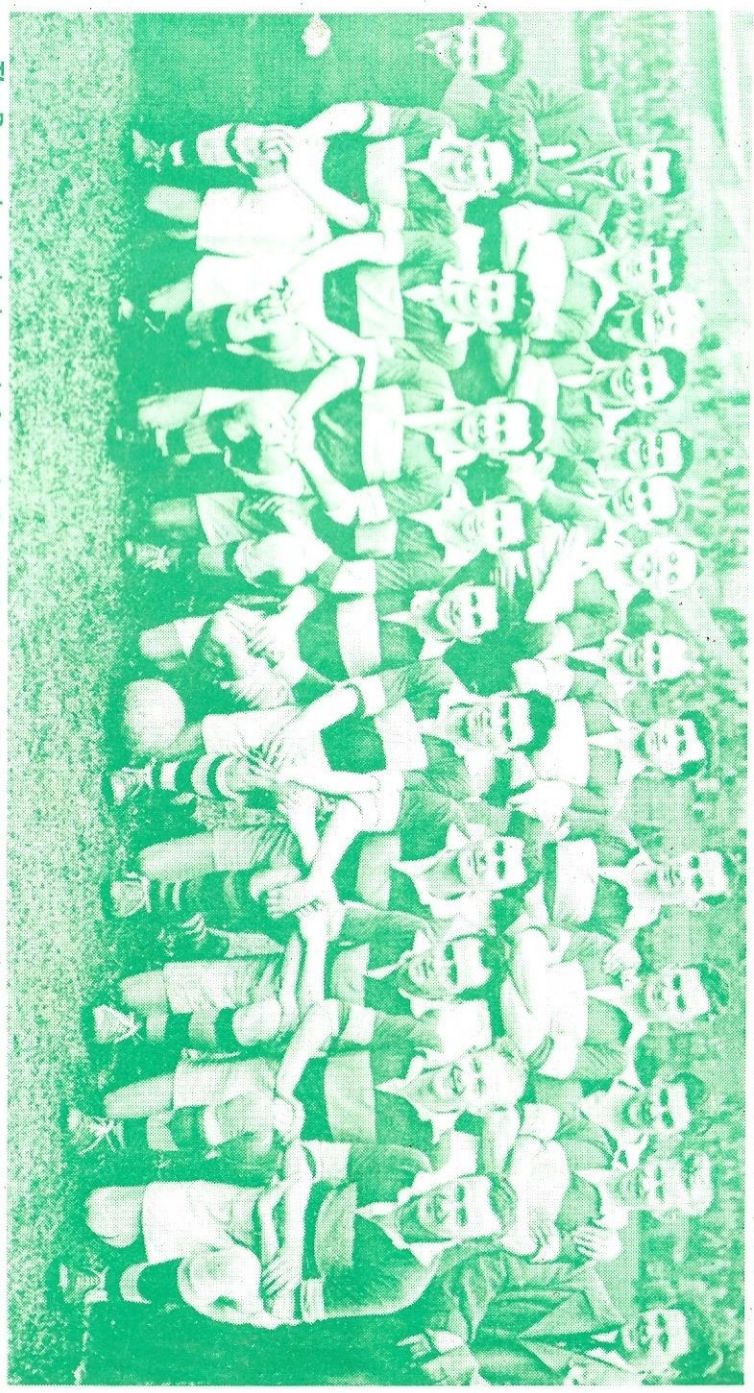
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Craobh Mionúir:

Aodh Ruadh v. Naomh Adhamhnáin

Reiteoir: Austin Wallace (Beart).

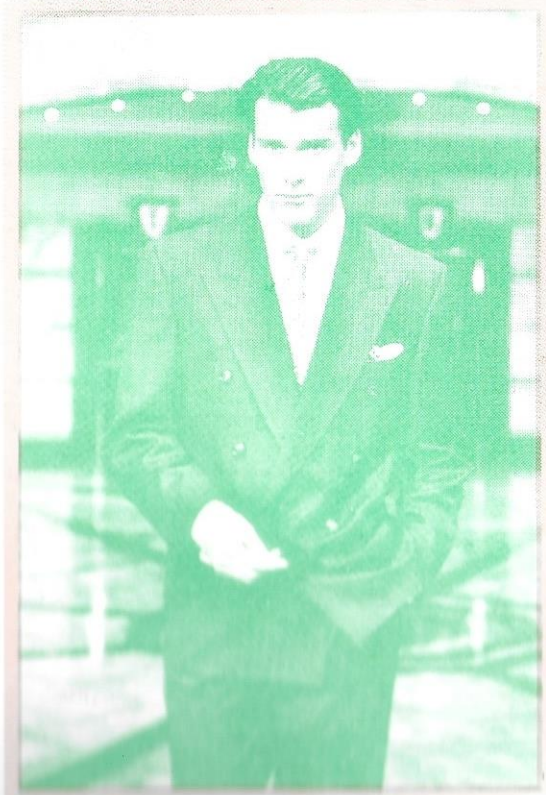
2.00



The Donegal squad, pictured after winning the Lagan Cup in 1952. Back row, l. to r., Dermot Moriarty, Con Halpin, Patsy Brogan, Phil Bonner, Anthony Rodgers, Jack McMullan, Andy Carr, Eddie John McGonigle, Tom Wickham, Pearse Dawson, John Gildea, Barney Coyle and David Brennan. Front, l. to r., Tom Faherty, Mickey Rua Gallagher, Peadar McGeenhan, Hughie Tim Boyle, Charlie Bovril Collins, Sean McGettrick, Jim Gallagher (capt.), Big Frank O'Donnell, Conal McCauley, Paddy Coyle and Frankie Brennan.



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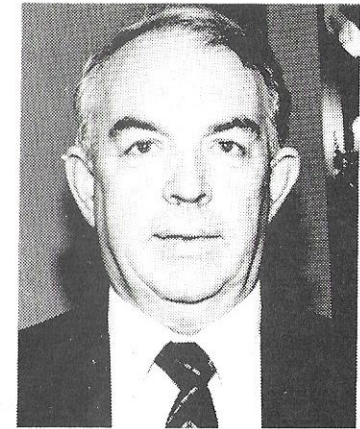


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TEACHTAIREACH AN CHATHAOIRLIGH

Ba mhaith liom mar Chathaoirleach ar Choiste Chondae Dhún na nGall fáilte a chuir roimh Gaeil ó gach cearn de'n Chondae chuig na cluichí ceannais inniu. Cuirim fáilte speisialta roimh na peileadóirí agus lucht leanúna na foirne ata ag glacadh pairt ins na cluichí ceannas inniu.

It is a great pleasure and privilege to welcome all four teams to MacCumhaill Park today. County senior final day is a special day in the G.A.A. calendar in any county. Donegal is no exception with a great final in prospect. Both clubs have come through very tough campaigns to reach today's final. Killybegs are going for an unique treble, three championships in succession, something that hasn't been achieved for a long time. They certainly have been the team of the nineties having completed the League and Championship double in '91 and '92.



While Kilcar were the kingpins of the eighties, they are participating in their first senior final in the nineties. This has been a tremendous year for them as they are playing in their second adult final, having already won the Junior final. As near neighbours both clubs will be very anxious to come out on top and have the honour of representing their county in the Ulster Club Championship.

I wish the players from Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, and St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, every success in today's minor final. I congratulate both clubs on reaching today's final and I hope they can provide us with a lively opening match.

To all the players participating in today's finals I hope you enjoy the occasion and have an enjoyable sporting match, one that you can recall with pride for many years to come.

I welcome the 1952 Lagan Cup winners, the first Donegal senior team to play in Croke Park, as guests of honour of the County Board at today's final. I thank them for the honour they brought to our county then and for all that many of them have done for Cumann Luthchleas Gael since. I hope they get satisfaction from the activities which we have organised for them. I would ask the spectators to give them a rousing reception when they are introduced to you.

I congratulate all the officials who have been selected to officiate at today's matches. I particularly want to wish Liam Brown well; he is officiating in his first senior final.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh feásta peile againn inniu.

Beir bua agus beannacht,

NIALL MacCUMHAILL

CLÁR AN LAE

- 2.00 i.n. Craobh Mionúir Peile na Condae: Aodh Ruadh v. Naomh Adhamhnáin.
- 3.15 Presentation of Domhnaill Mac a' Bháird C'ship Cup by Leas-Cathaoirleach, Bord na Mionúir, Seamus Ó Cuinn.
- 3.20 Arrival of Donegal Town Band.
- 3.30 Introduction of 1952 Lagan Cup team, by Charlie Collins of Highland Radio, and Pól Ó Gallchóir, of Raidió na Gaeltachta, sponsors of Championship.
- 3.45 Arrival of Senior Teams.
- 3.53 Parade of teams.
- 3.58 Amhrán na bhFiann.
- 4.00 Craobh Sinsear Peile na Condae: Cill Chartha v. Na Cealla Beaga.
- 5.15 Presentation of Dr. Maguire C'ship Cup by Naul MacCumhaill, Cathaoirleach, Bord na Condae.

Tír Chonail Abú!
At last — Donegal catches the big one!

DONEGAL TEAR DUBS APART
History makers Donegal show a touch of class

WALSH AND 'THE WEE MAN' MADE DONEGAL INTO THE DREAM TEAM!
Skill and speed take Sam north again

MIGHTY MEN OF NORTH TOO GOOD
Hillside men put on mighty city show

WELL DONE-GAL
McEniff's men capture Sam
Donegal's varied play exposes Dublin tactics

DONEGAL DESERVED SAM
McEniff's Tory waves sunk the true blues

SAM BUSTERS
Donegal's day of triumph

SAM HEADS FOR THE HILLS
Manus Boyle nets the cup!
New green and gold sea

Determination and skill the right combination!
Referee's whistle sends victory party into streets

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YOU'LL WANT THE BEST!**

Donegal Democrat
NO. 1 FOR SPORT

NA REITEOIRI

SENIOR FINAL:

LIAM BROWN (Four Masters)



Four Masters' Liam Brown takes charge of his first ever senior final today.

The Despatch Clerk with Magee and Co. in Donegal Town has been refereeing for nine years and in that time has taken charge of the U-21 final in 1988, the Junior final of 1990 and the Intermediate final of 1991.

He is in his second year on the Intercounty referees panel and refereed Ulster Minor League games as well as making his N.F.L. debut in the game between All-Ireland champions Derry and Sligo earlier this year.

He had one particularly busy Sunday earlier this year when he took charge of the Ulster Minor Championship game between Fermanagh and Armagh and later that evening refereed the Ulster U-21 Championship final between Derry and Down. He also refereed the Dr. McKenna Cup game between Fermanagh and Cavan this year.

Married to Mary, they have one son, Marc. Liam is also a playing member with Donegal Town Rugby Club.

Earlier this year he refereed the game between All-Ireland champions Derry and Sligo.

MINOR FINAL:

AUSTIN WALLACE (Burt)



Austin is 44 and has been refereeing for almost 15 years at senior level. He was the man in the middle at this year's Fermanagh Senior Hurling final and also refereed the Co. Junior football final between Fanad Gaels and Kilcar.

He has also refereed Senior Championship semi-finals; Reserve final, U-13, U-21 in football and also every age group in the Hurling Championship except the Senior final, due to the fact that his own club are almost always involved.

He is one of the few referees in the county to hold a grade two badge for hurling, and he also refereed this year's Senior Camogie final between Carndonagh and Newtowncunningham.

Austin is married with six children and wife, Eileen, is to be seen at almost every game with him and she is one of his sternest critics. The family of two boys and four girls are all involved in some way with the Burt Club, all holding Championship medals among three of them, Andrew, Hugo and John have represented the county.

Austin's favourite hurler is his son, Andrew, while his favourite footballer is the former Dublin great, Barney Rock.

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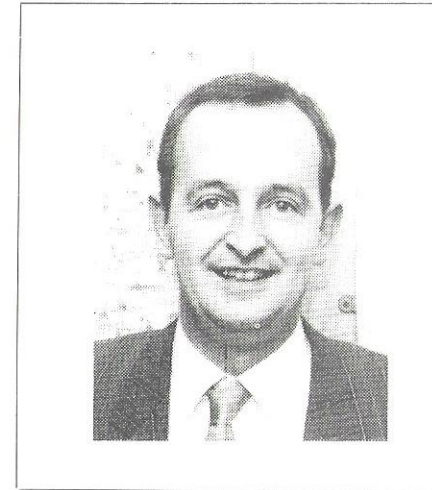
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Wishing both teams the very best.

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THE YEAR OF THE PLAY-O



Michael Daly
of the Donegal Democrat
looks back at this year's Championship

Today's Donegal club senior championship final is the 30th game in the series which started back in May with the home and away preliminary round fixtures between Naomh Columba and Termon. Looking back at the 29 games already played, there appears to be a consensus that the Killybegs/Red Hughs clashes provided the best games so far, but there is good reason to expect something special today with a whole bundle of inter-county players on view.

The preliminary round didn't provide any problems, Naomh Columba winning their way into the first round proper. In the first round there were 14 games played, amongst them early signs of greatness from today's protagonists. Kilcar demolished St. Eunans, 2-13 to 0-7, with Martin McHugh in sparkling form, while Killybegs won by 1-7 to 0-3 against Red Hughs, both games were first round, first leg matches.

However, the second leg games produced high drama. Kilcar were brought to a first round play-off and a play-off replay which they eventually won by a goal. In their play-off Killybegs also won by a goal. Naomh Columba also needed a third game to see off Aodh Ruadh.

Semi-finalists Glenfin also got caught in an extraordinary series of games they eventually defeated Milford and quarter-final stage they required a regret past Gaoth Dobhair.

Of the teams who didn't make it most will agree that Red Hughs, unluckiest of all, while St. Eunans very pulled it off against Kilcar — hard to believe they were beaten 2-13 to 0-7 in the game. I was surprised at Ardara and Dobhair, they were two teams who I thought would be good in the early stages, Ardara I thought would give Killybegs a real test, but they surrendered tamely while Gaoth Dobhair's defeat came as a surprise when I first learned of it minutes before the Glen-Killybegs final in Towney.

For the record the 29 games to date about as follows: Preliminary Round games, 14 games. First round proper, 4 games. First round proper replays, 2 games. Quarter finals, 4 games. Quarter final replays, 1 game. Semi-final games, 2 games. Total of 29 games. Interesting enough, considering the protracted nature of the Championship there were good odds offered by Ballyshannon bookmaker Andrew Doherty, when he gave 10/1 for a draw today. I wonder how many people were him up on that. Doherty also had Kill and Kilcar first and second favourites to win the final.

TEAM OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

This year the Donegal Democrat association with O'Donnell's Bakery and Ballyshannon will select a Player of the Championship, to be announced in the Donegal Democrat of Thursday, 7th October. On the same date we will announce our Team of the Championship, which will be made up of players throughout the county who played senior championship this year.

The readers of the Donegal Democrat are invited to send their choices for Player of the Championship to us at: Player of the Championship, Donegal Democrat, Ballyshannon, to arrive by 12 noon on Wednesday, 6th October. The winning team will receive two All-Ireland tickets for the final while the Player of the Championship will receive a specially inscribed Celtic Weave presented by O'Donnell's Bakery. The players named on our Team of the Championship will receive special jerseys again presented by O'Donnell's Bakery.

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AN SEACHTÚ CLUICHE CEANNAIS DO MHÁIRTÍN

Le Pól Ó Gallchóir, Raidió na Gaeltachta

Is í foireann sinsir na gCealla Beaga an fhoireann is fearr so chontae le cúig bliana anuas. Níl a sarú le fáil. Sna blianta atá romhainn, cuirfear an fhoireann seo i gcomparáid le sár fhoirne na fichiú haoise — Gaoth Dobhair agus an Chlochán Liath sna daichadaí agus na caogadaí, Seán Mhic Cúil sna seascaidí, Naomh Iósaeaf sna seachtóidí, Cill Charthaigh sna hochtóidí agus anois na Cealla Beaga.

Gach bliain ó 1987 bhí Cill Chartaigh nó na Cealla Beaga sa chluiche ceannais Craoibhe. Bhuail Aodh Ruadh, Bhéal Atha Seanaigh Cill Chartaigh i gcluiche ceannais '87 le sé phoinnte. Bhain Na Cealla Beaga an chéad Chraobh an bhliain ina dhiaidh sin nuair a bhuail siad Cill Chartaigh le dhá phoinnte. Bhí foirne '87 i gcoinne a chéile arís in '89 ach ar an lá sin bhain fir an Iar Dheiscirt. Bhuail Naomh Columba Na Cealla in 1990 le aon phoinnte amháin, ach le dhá bhliain anuas, tá an Craobh bainte ag na Cealla.

Tá trí bhonn sinsir Craoibhe ag naonúr imreoirí Na Cealla Beaga — tá Pól agus Donncha Carbery sa líne lán chúil i gcónaí ach bhí an mí-adh ar Phól i mbliana nuair a bhris sé a láimh.

Tá trí bhonn ag Mícheál Ó Cailín, mar ata ag Bainisteoir na foirne, Jimmy White. Bhí geansaí uimhir a sé a chaitheamh ag Jimmy in '88, tháinig se na páirce mar ionadaí in '91 agus anuraidh bhí leintean uimhir a trí déag a chaitheamh aige. Bhí Barra Ó Cuinneagáin i lar páirce nuair a bhain sé na boinn, bhí Barra Mac Gabhann gach áit — 1988 uimhir a 10, 1991 uimhir a 6 agus anuraidh uimhir a 11. Tá trí bhonn fosta ag deartaireach a Uí Ghalchóir, John Bán agus Conal chomh maith leis an lán thosach gach bliain Manus Ó Baoill.

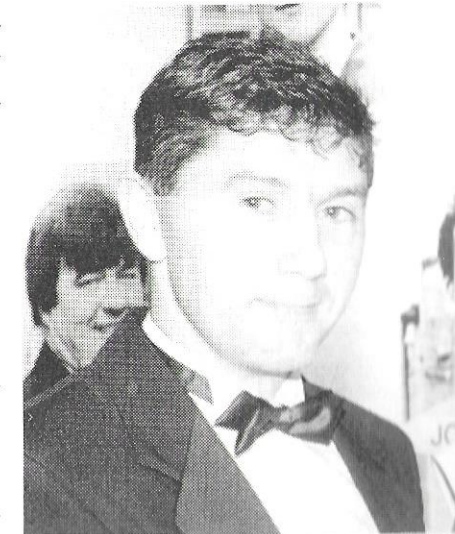
Sea, sár fhoireann atá ar maos i dtaithí. Ach níl aon easpa taithí i bhfoireann Chill Chartaigh ach a n-oiread. Bhain siad trí Chraobh sna hochtóidí — 1980, 1985 agus 1989.

Tá trí bhonn ag triúr de imreoirí Chill Chartaigh. Bhí Mícheál Mac Giolla Chearra i lár an líne leath chúil sna cluichí ceannais ar fad a bhain siad, bhí Muiris Mac

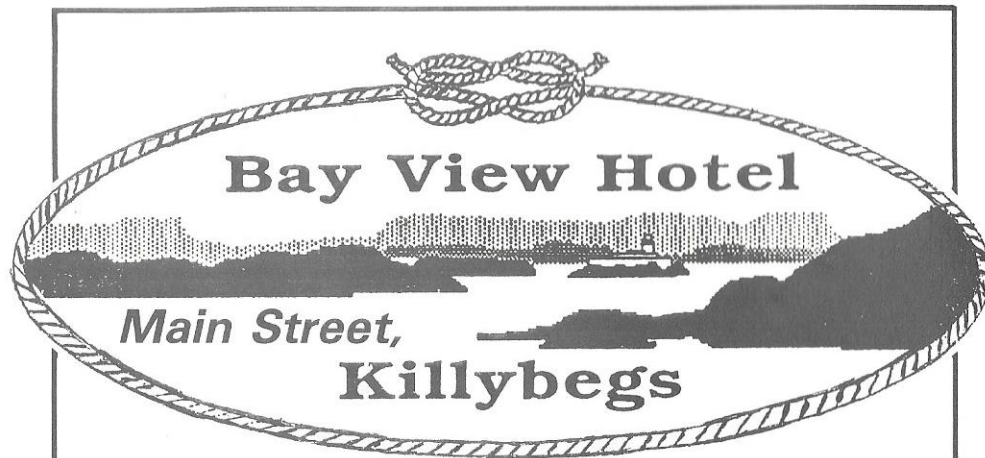
Giolla Chearra mar chúlbaire i 1980, i lár páirce i '85, mar chosantóir i '89 agus i mbliana mar lán thosach. Agus an triú duine — ce eile ach Máirtín Mac Aodha — uimhir a 10 i 1980, uimhir a 14 i '85 agus mar lán thosach ar dheis i '89.

Innín, ta Máirtín Mac Aodha ag imirt ina sheachtú cluiche ceannais sinsir — bhain se trí cinn, chaill siad cluiche ceannais '82, '87 agus '88. Is é an t-aon duine ó fhoireann an lae inniu a d'imir sna cluichí ceannais ar fad. Chaill Mícheál Mac Giolla Chearra cluiche ceannais '88 agus ní raibh Muiris ar fáil an bhliain roimhe sin.

Mar sin tá go leor taithí i bhfoirne an lae inniu, agus Bord na Contae ag tabhairt aitheantas speisialta don fhoireann a bhain Corn an Dochtúir Uí Lagáin in 1952 — aisteach go leor, bhain Na Cealla Beaga (foireann comhnascaithe) an Chraobh an bhliain sin, nuair a bhuail siad Naomh Adhamhnáin le aon phoinnte amháin. Ba í seo foireann na gCealla: N. J. Doogan; J. McHugh, F. O'Donnell, H. O'Donnell; T. McHugh, P. McShane, F. Gillespie; E. Cunningham, E. McBrearty; D. Hartnett, T. Wickham, W. Cunningham; H. Phillips, S. McGettrick, A. Carr.



Martin McHugh, an seachtú cluiche ceannais.



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It's Been A Hard Road To The Fi

It seems to have been a long time since we attended the draw for the 1993 County Championships in Heeney's of Ballybofey. Despite that, I remember well the reaction to the pairings in the Senior Championship. Two of them stood out as probable matches of the first round, Killybegs against Red Hugh's and Kilcar versus St. Eunan's. On that evening, and particularly over the next few days, I encountered varied opinions about the draw. However, it surprised me to hear many suggest that both Killybegs and Kilcar could be first-round victims. The thinking seemed to be that, over a possible three matches both Red Hugh's and an improving St. Eunan's could prove good enough to down the South-West neighbours.

By CHARLIE COLLINS

The record books, of course, show that those opinions almost became a reality, a late goal giving Killybegs victory in the play-off against Red Hugh's and Kilcar needing a fourth game to squeeze past St. Eunan's, so perhaps an element of luck about their first round success, but since that both sides have left little doubt that they deserve to contest today's final. Killybegs overcame tough fixtures against Ardara and Naomh Columba while Kilcar proved too good for both Naomh Conaill and Glenfinn. The reigning champions have improved since the first round and three tough games with Red Hugh's I believe have been a major boost to their chances of winning, and their in-depth strength has been again apparent in 1993.

Indeed some of their lesser known players have produced the goods throughout the campaign. Even without Declan Boyle and Cunningham Killybegs will be a force reckoned with today.

Kilcar, likewise, due to injuries and suspensions, have reached this stage having had tough games while not always at full strength but well served by squad members. An example would be my old!! friend Michael Siobhain only in that I have known Michael Siobhain to play for the minors back in 1972. Since then he has been introduced for the play-off clash with St. Eunan's. Michael has shown what Kilcar football is all about and it is the likes of him as well as the obvious modern day stars who make the game so dangerous opponents in championship football.

This will be Highland Radio's fourth time to broadcast a Donegal County Senior Championship final. Killybegs have featured in the last two and I believe have yet to show their true potential on a final day. Kilcar may be underdogs today, but while favouring Killybegs victory I am not convinced it will be as easy as some are suggesting. In previous occasions it has taken late rain to ensure victory, anything less than a top performance over the full hour today may not be enough to add another title to Kilcar's already impressive list. Good luck to both teams. To have got this far it has been a great achievement, and if you don't believe that, the case just think about Red Hugh's and St. Eunan's.



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Wishing Kilcar every success in the final

— KATHLEEN AND SEAMUS GALLAGHER

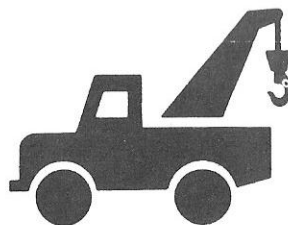
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McHugh . . . hurled with Killybegs

By TONY McGEE, Irish News

It may not be generally known that Martin McHugh once played hurling with Killybegs but, as far as I'm led to believe, that is fact, not fiction. What? Martin McHugh a hurler!

That has been the case in the past but today there is no doubt about where his allegiances will be. He will be a Kilcar man through and through and it will be a galling experience for him if his neighbours keep the Maguire Cup.

It is wonderful how the pendulum of power swings from time to time. Not so long ago it was the McHughs powered Kilcar who were the top dogs in Donegal football. Now it is the boys from Killybegs who come rolling home with the honours, to quote a line from that famous Tommy Makem penned song.

These are probably two of the strongest combinations to come from the same area of Donegal for quite some time. It's a local tangle of immense potential which has explosive ingredients in the football sense and the potential to be a great final.

Last year's decider was also looked upon as being something special. It was then Kilcar against Glencolmcille, but the pairing did not live up to expectations. Indeed, happenings over the week after the All-Ireland were not what had been expected.

That's in the past and we look forward to more entertaining hours of football this time. Killybegs and Kilcar are laden with talented players. Players who have been through the championship mill before and some who are new to the scene.

The McHughs, McShane and Gillespie are the likes of McGowan, Cunningham, Gallagher, McGinley and the Boyles . . . a line-up of men fit to grace any final. Turn it on and we hope they do.

Martin McHugh's hurling days may be behind him just like his Killybegs days with the club. His Kilcar days are still very much a part of the affair. He'll be influential, no doubt, but it may not be enough to wrestle the silverware from the holders. We must wait and see.



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Bunaíodh C.L.G. Chill Chartha i 1924 agus ó shoin tá an club seo ag obair ar son an chumainn in Iardheisceart Dhúnaí na nGall. Bhí na blianta ann go raibh an club ar an ngannchuid ach mar sin féin bhí cliú agus cáil ar fud na condae ar mhórán dá chuid imreoirí.

Bá mhínic gur ó Cheann Ghlinne go Droichead Inbhéar a tháinig na himreoirí ach ó tharla an oiread sin imirce ní raibh buaidh go ró-mhínic i gCraobh na condae go dtí gur chuir Naomh Columba agus na Cealla Beaga a gcuid clubanna féin ar bun go luath ins na seascaid agus tháinig forbairt mhór ar chluichí C.L.G. ins an chuid seo den chondae ins an scór bliain a chuaigh thart.

Insan am sin rinne na Cealla agus go háirithe Jimmy White agus Brian Ó Conachain an-obair go deo le foirne faoi aois agus sílim go bhfuil gach craobh condae ó faoi 12 go dtí sinsear buaite acu — brionglóid a bheadh ansin blianta ó shoin. Bhí Cill Chartha in air a réime insan treimshe seo chomh maith agus buaidh acu san seoisear, faoi 21 agus sinsear.

Tá páirceanna íontach ag an dá chlub. Páirc Mhic Daibhidh ag na Cealla a osclaíodh in 1967 agus a ainmníodh le goirid i gcuimh Phádraig Mhic Daibhidh, a rinne obair mhór é a fháil ansin. Osclaíodh Páirc Thamhnaí i gCill Chartha go h-oifigiúil i mbliain chomórtha an chéid, 1984.

Tháinig imreoirí ón dá chlub chun tosaigh ar fhoirne condae agus tá Craobh na hÉireann buaite ag Seán agus Barra Mac Cuinneaga Manus Ó Baoill agus Barra Mac Gabhainn na Cealla agus ag Séamus agus Mairtín M Aoidh as Cill Chartha. Arís tá Marc Mac Seáin as Cill Chartha agus Deaglas Ó Baoill, i gCilla, ag teacht chun tosaigh go maith agus is cinte go mbeidh baint acu le foirne Dhúnaí na nGall ins na blianta atá amach romhair tá síil againn go mbeidh cluiche an-mhaisiúil sa Chraobh Sinsear seo agus go gcuirfí síl stair an dá chlub.

Cuireann Bord na Condae fáilte speisialta roimh na fir a sheas an fhód do Dhúnaí na nGall i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i 1952.

Thanks

Bord na Condae wishes to thank the following people who have given great assistance in helping to organise the tribute to the 1952 Lagan Cup team.

Ann and Peadar McGeehin, Letterkenny; Fr. Sean Gallagher, Gweedore; P.S. Mac Ghoill, Ardara; to the Donegal Democrat, the Derry People, Derry Journal who have provided newspaper reports and photographs of this team; to our own committee members, Naul McCole, Noirin Ní Dhochartaigh, Danny McNamee, Ken Dooley, Michael Mac Giolla Easbuic, Seamus de Faoite and P.J. McGowan; to Charlie Collins, Highland Radio and Pol Ó Gallehoir, Raidió na Gaeltachta who will present the team today.

Without the assistance of the above this day would not be possible.



Amhrán na bhFiann

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

C.L.C.G. Na Cealla Beaga



The Killybegs club would like to thank the following sponsors for their support in 1993:

Seamus Tully.	Michael Melly.
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Michael O'Connor, (Tralee).	Donald Smith.
Eamonn McHugh.	Tony Smith.
	Blue Haven.
	Donegal Fish.
	Teddy O'Shea.

Donegal creating history

In 1952 I was appointed to referee the National Football League semi-final between Donegal and Cork on Palm Sunday at Croke Park. It was a red letter day for the Ulster county because they were creating history, being the first ever team to represent Donegal in a major game at Croke Park.

By SEAN ÓG O'CEALLACHAIN

The Cork team was captained by Eamon Young, one of the finest footballers I had the privilege to watch around that time, and he was one of the stars of Cork's win.

During the course of the game one of the Donegal forwards was "floored" in an attack on the Cork goal. I booked the Cork defender for the foul and went to retrieve the ball to award a free to Donegal. When I looked around I discovered there was an "extra" Donegal man on the field.

A supporter had run in from behind the Cork goal and was having verbal exchanges with Cork's John Cronin, and was telling him in no uncertain fashion what he thought about Cork and all Cork men.

The Donegal man stood about 5'6" while the Cork defender was about 6'3" so it took a bit of talking up to on the part of the Donegal man.

Having assured the "visitor" that I was capable of dealing with any indiscretions on the field of play I steered him gently off the pitch and handed him over to a ground official.

As he was being led away, he called back to me, "You'll never be as good as your father", and with that parting shot he left me.

Cork won the game convincingly enough and went on to beat Dublin in the final, which earned them a trip to New York. Incidentally, Dublin included Donegal footballer Frank McCreadie in that team.

I remember my good friend Owen McCann, one of Donegal's most able sports journalists and author of many great G.A.A. magazines, telling me an interesting story about the 1952 League semi-final.

He was living in Cork at the time and came up to Dublin for the match. He remembered passing a house on Parnell Square which had a statue of St. Martin de Pores on a perch on the railings and passers-by were asked for a donation for charity.

Owen confided to his friend on the way to the match that he would put a donation in the box should Donegal win.

Donegal lost the game and canny Owen kept his money in his pocket as he passed the statue on the way back from the match. Owen always believed that Donegal's failure to win a major football title in Croke Park was due to him not dropping his shilling into St. Martin's box.

Imagine Owen's relief when Donegal won the All-Ireland title last year. He is now convinced that had he dropped that shilling earlier into St. Martin de Pores box that all would have been forgiven and the Sam Maguire Cup would have travelled much sooner back to Brian McEniff country.

*Wishing St. Eunans Minor team a big victory in the Co. Minor
Football Championship Final today from*

JOSEPH GALLAGHER

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CLÁR OIFISIÚIL

6-4-'52

I bPáirc an Éirice

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Semi-Final

CORCAIG

P.

Tír Conaill

an 3.30 p.m.

Beitíocht: Beán ós ó Coallaicín

Lhac - - 3p.

Pádraig Ó Caoimh
Láir-Rúnaí

Clár Oifigiúil, GAA

The first Donegal Senior Football team to play in Croke Park – 1952

By Seán Ó Gallchóir

Before the start of today's Donegal Senior Football Championship final the Donegal Co. Board will honour the first Donegal Senior Football team to play in Croke Park. That team played Cork in the semi-final of the National Football League on April 6, 1952. Cork won by 3-3 to 0-7. The players who represented Donegal that day, along with the other players who featured in the 1951-'52 League campaign, will be introduced to the crowd before the 1993 Senior final and will be presented with commemorative scrolls at a post-match function.

Donegal played eight games in the 1951-'52 League campaign. At that time eight Ulster counties (excluding Cavan) constituted one division of the National League. There were two sections in the Division and the section winners met one another in the Dr. Lagan Cup final. The Dr. Lagan Cup winners advanced to the quarter-final of the National Football League.

(1) 30 Sept. 1951: Donegal 4-6, Fermanagh 1-5. Glenties.

Donegal opened their campaign with a convincing victory over Fermanagh at Glenties. When switched to full-forward, Dermot Moriarty, a Roscommon-born Garda, scored two fine goals. The Donegal team was: Vincent Sweeney (Glenties); Paddy Gallagher (Rosses Rovers), Pat English (St. Eunans), Barney Coyle (Gweedore); Hughie Tim Boyle (Gweedore), Jim Gallagher (Ballyshannon, capt.), Dan Bonner (Dungloe); Mickey Rua Gallagher (Gweedore) and Frank O'Donnell (Killybegs/Kilcar); Frankie Brennan (Ardara), Tom Wickham (Killybegs), Dermot Moriarty (Ballyshannon); Paddy Coyle (Gweedore), Patsy Brogan (Donegal Town), Andy Carr (Kilcar). Sub., Seán McGettrick (Killybegs) for P. Gallagher.

(2) 7 Oct. 1951: Donegal 4-7, Tyrone 3-3. Omagh.

Donegal lined out as they had finished in Glenties with Patsy Brogan at right corner-back and Seán McGettrick in attack. Paddy Gallagher was among the substitutes. Tyrone's side included some of their all-time greats – Thady Turbitt, Eddie Devlin, Frankie

Donnelly, Iggy Jones, etc. The *Donegal Democrat* reporter was rapturous in his praise of Donegal's 'classic masterly' display. He wrote about 'Brennan's individualism, Wickham's artistry, Carr's energy, Coyle's opportunism, Moriarty's forcefulness and McGettrick's craft' when describing the Donegal forward line. The rest of the team was also praised in glowing terms also. He summed up by designating the Donegal fifteen as 'the greatest of many great teams to bring honours to the colours of Clan Conaill.' McGettrick and Paddy Coyle scored 2-1 each.

(3) 14 Oct. 1951: Derry 2-6, Donegal 2-4. Magherafelt.

Donegal showed two changes from the Tyrone match. John Gildea (Ardara) took over in goals and Jackie McDermott (Ballyshannon) made his senior debut in replacing Dan Bonner at left-half back. The *Democrat* reporter partly blames a disallowed goal for Donegal's defeat, a goal that was 'the climax to one of the most spectacular movements ever witnessed in the code.' The Derry attack featured Niblock, Jim McKeever and two Gribbens. Moriarty scored 2-1 for Donegal.

(4) 2 Dec. 1951: Donegal 2-6, Tyrone 1-6. Irvinestown.

Tyrone had beaten Derry so the three counties had won two games each. In the play-offs Tyrone again beat Derry and qualified to meet Donegal in the sectional decider. Donegal introduced two new men: Con Halpin (St. Eunans) took over in goal, a position of which he made his own for the rest of the campaign. Charlie (Bovril) Collins of St. Eunans also replaced Frank O'Donnell at midfield. Our 'Democrat' man stated that it was 'the brilliance and opportunism of Paddy Coyle and Dermot Moriarty which turned the scales in their favour with two well-timed goals, shot with all the characteristics of craft and class.' When the Ulster Railway Cup team was announced in January 1952 Hughie Tim Boyle and Jim Gallagher were selected and starred.

(5) 9 March 1952: Donegal 1-6, Armagh 1-6. Ballybay.

The *Democrat* headlines were lengthy — 'It was big time football and a game and a half — Lagan Cup final reached All-Ireland heights'. The game went to extra time — 'ninety minutes of pulsating, thrill-packed football . . .' The winter break brought about changes on the Donegal team. Pat English had now declared for Roscommon and Pearse Dawson took over at full-back. Another St. Eunan's man, Peadar McGeehin, has now recovered from injury and he replaced Jackie McDermott at left-half back. Frank O'Donnell regained his place at midfield with Collins on the substitutes' bench. Con McCauley replaced fellow-south-westerner Andy Carr in attack. But Collins and Carr came on to score vital points. The *Democrat* made Jim Gallagher the man-of-the-match playing 'one of the most constructive games of his brilliant career'. Donegal suffered a serious blow after 10 minutes when Dermot Moriarty dislocated his shoulder thus ending his League campaign having scored 5-7 in the four previous games.

(6) 16 March 1952: Donegal 2-6, Armagh 1-4. Clones.

'Donegal are Leaders in Ulster Province' declared the *Democrat* as Donegal won the Lagan Cup for the first time. The defence was now settled — Halpin; Brogan, Dawson and Coyle; Boyle, Gallagher and McGeehin; Mickey Rua and Big Frank were at midfield. Ever-presents Brennan, Coyle, Wickham and McGettrick were joined by McCauley and Collins in attack. It was 'O'Donnell's greatest game to date for his county', said the *Democrat* stating that midfield superiority was Donegal's trump card. Paddy Coyle and Wickham scored 1-1 each with Collins (3) and McGettrick getting the other points. Simon Deignan refereed and Jim Gallagher received the Lagan Cup.

(7) 23 March 1952: Donegal 2-5, Sligo 2-4. Glenties.

Donegal fielded an unchanged team in the N.F.L. quarter-final against Sligo at Glenties. It was estimated that 9,000 people watched the match. Sligo led by a point with a minute to go when Sligo-born Tom Wickham scored a dramatic winning goal for Donegal, whose star player was Barney Coyle. It was not an impressive Donegal display but their grit saw them through.

(8) 6 April 1952: Cork 3-3, Donegal 0-7. Croke Park.

The same fifteen that beat Armagh and Sligo became the first Donegal Senior Football team to grace Croke Park. They had a disastrous first half with three softish goals giving Cork a 3-2 to 0-1 half-time lead. Donegal fought back magnificently in the second half and the *Democrat* reporter counted Cork lucky winners. 'The Scores to Cork, the Honour to Tirconail' was the *Democrat's* match headline. Conal McCauley scored Donegal's first Croke Park point. Paddy Coyle scored four points before an injury forced him to retire. Antoin Rodgers (Gweedore) replaced him. The *Democrat* had no doubts but that Patsy Brogan was the man of the match. Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin was the referee. Cork went on to win the National League, beating Dublin in the Home Final and New York in the final proper.

PLAYERS

Apart from the 16 players that played in Croke Park, Donegal used 10 other players during the campaign — V. Sweeney, J. Gildea, P. Gallagher, P. English, D. Bonnar, J. McDermott, D. Moriarty, A. Carr, Michael Carr (Gweedore) and Jack McMullan (Donegal Town). The latter two came on as substitutes. Other players mentioned on substitutes' lists were Phil Bonnar (Glenties), Danny McGill (Ardara), E. J. Gonigle (Ballyshannon), James McGettigan, Seán and Denis Curran (St. Eunan's), Christy Hegarty (Glenisland, Mayo) and Hugh 'Tood' Gallagher (Gweedore).

Of the final 16 Gweedore had five players, St. Eunan's and Killybegs 4 each, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town and Ardara one each.

The four 'outsiders' that featured were Pat English (Roscommon), Seán McGettrick (Longford), Dermot Moriarty (Roscommon) and Tom Wickham (Sligo).

The *Democrat's* count made Paddy Coyle top scorer with 4-11, pipping 4-match Moriarty who had 5-7.

Nine players played in all 8 games — Brogan, B. Coyle, Boyle, J. Gallagher, M. J. Gallagher, Brennan, Wickham, P. Coyle and McGettrick.

Four of the backs — Brogan, Boyle, J. Gallagher and McGeehin were selected on the 1984 Team of the Century.

Three months after the N.F.L. semi-final twelve of the Croke Park fifteen played on the Donegal team that made an inglorious exit

from the Ulster S.F.C. in the first round against Antrim in Corrigan Park, Belfast.

In the Donegal S.F.C. final of 1952 Killybegs beat St. Eunan's by a point. Kilcar was, of course, a 'part' of Killybegs at that time as was Glen! Tom Wickham captained Killybegs in the 1952 final and Frank O'Donnell, Seán McGettrick and Andy Carr also played.

MUINTIR NA GAELTACHTA

Bhí ceangal an-láidir idir an Ghaeltacht agus an fhoireann a d'imir i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Bhí Frank Mór Ó Dónaill as Cill Charthaigh, Frankie Ó Braonáin as Ard a' Rátha agus cúigear as Gaoth Dobhair ag imirt in éadan Chorcaigh. D'imir Bernard agus Paddy Coyle, Míci Rua, Hughie Tim agus Frankie Brennan i ngach ceann dena hocht gluichí.

Dúirt an *Democrat* go deachaigh 45 gluasteán agus dhá bhus as Gaoth Dobhair 'na nGleanntach chuig an chluiche in éadan Shligigh.

Socraíodh ansin go gcaithfeadh na himreoirí uilig ceithre lá ag traeneáil i nGaoth Dobhair roimh chluiche Chorcaigh. Tháinig 23 imreoir le chéile ar maidin Dé Luain 31ú Márta. Chuaigh siad chun Aifrinn i nDoirí Beaga le tús a chur lena saothar. Ba é an tAth. Seán Mac Eiteagáin S.C. a léigh an t-

Aifreann. Chaith siad ceithre lá ag traeneáil faoi stiúir John Joe O'Reilly, sár-imreoir an Chabháin, 'the pride of Cornafean', a fuair bás antráthach sula raibh an bhliain istigh. Thraeneáil said i Machaire Gáthláin maidin agus tráthnóna agus scaiftí móra ag amharc orthu.

Thug muintir Ghaoth Dobhair lóistín saor-in-aisce daofa. Thug Bord an Chontae buíochas daofa seo uilig a thug lóistín dona himreoirí — Seán Mac Fhionnghaile, O.S., An Bun Beag; Mrs. Stratford, do.; Charlie Ó Fríl, do.; Paddy Blake, do.; Doimnic Johnny Ó Gallchóir, do.; Paddy Jimmy Mac Giolla Bhríde, Ard na gCeapairí; Joe Ó Fríl, Doirí Beaga; Míci Ó Gallchóir, do., agus Jamesy Rodgers, do.

Tugadh buíochas fosta de Choiste Halla na Machaireacha a chur an Halla ar fáil saor-in-aisce i rith na seachtaine.

Ba é Conall Ó Fearraigh as Gaoth Dobhair cisteoir bhord an Chontae, 1952, agus bhí sé ar dhuine de roghnóirí na foirne. Tá Conall ar shlí na fírinne anois mar atá triúr d'imreoirí Ghaoth Dobhair a bhí ar phainéal '52 — Barney Coyle, Mícheál Carr agus Tood Mhicí Ó Gallchóir R.I.P. Tá Hughie Time, Míci Rua, Paddy Coyle agus Antoin Rodgers beo beithíoch go fóill. D'éirigh Antoin agus Míci as a bpostanna an Fómhar seo.

DONEGAL TEAM IN CROKE PARK 1952

	Con Halpin (St. Eunan's)	
Patsy Brogan (Donegal Town)	Pearse Dawson (St. Eunan's)	Barney Coyle (Gweedore)
Hughie Tim Boyle (Gweedore)	Jim Gallagher, capt. (Ballyshannon)	Peadar McGeehin (St. Eunans)
	M. J. Gallagher (Gweedore)	Frank O'Donnell (Killybegs/Kilcar)
Frankie Brennan (Ardara)	Connell McCauley (Killybegs)	Charlie Collins (St. Eunan's)
Paddy Coyle (Gweedore)	Tom Wickham (Killybegs)	Seán McGettrick (Killybegs)
Sub., Antoin Rodgers (Gweedore).		

Others who played during campaign: Dermot Moriarty, Ballyshannon (5 appearances); Pat English, St. Eunan's (4); Andy Carr, Killybegs/Kilcar (4); Dan Bonnar, Dungloe (2); Jackie McDermott, Ballyshannon (2); Vincent Sweeney, Glenties (2); Jack McMullan, Donegal Town (2, as substitute); Paddy Gallagher, Rosses Rovers (1); John Gildea, Ardara (1); Mícheál Carr, Gweedore (1, as substitute).

Players listed as substitutes: E. J. Gonigle, Ballyshannon; Danny McGill, Ardara; Seán Curran, St. Eunan's; Christy Hegarty, Glen Island, Mayo; Phil Bonnar, Glenties; James McGettigan, St. Eunan's; Denis Curran, St. Eunan's; Tood Gallagher, Gweedore.

CONCAIS

Datanna : DEARG IS DÁN
(Red and White)

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | (1)
D. Ó CAOLÍN
(D. O'Keefe) | |
| (2)
C. Ó DUNNÍN
(C. Dinneen) | (3)
P. A. Ó MURPHY
(P. A. Murphy) | (4)
B. Ó BUIAM
(J. O'Brien) |
| (5)
D. Ó BOANNÁIN
(D. Bernard) | (6)
B. Ó CROINÍN
(J. Cronin) | (7)
M. DE FÁIL
(M. Goolde) |
| (8)
T. Ó MORIARTY
(T. Moriarty) | (9)
C. Ó DUBAGÁIN
(C. Duggan) | |
| (10)
D. Ó DONOVAN
(D. O'Donovan) | (11)
CAPT. É. DE SÍÚN (Capt.)
(Capt. E. Young) | (12)
C. MAC CHAÍE
(C. McGrath) |
| (13)
M. Ó CAHILL
(M. Cahill) | (14)
P. MAC HENCHION
(P. Henchion) | (15)
S. Ó SEALDÁIN
(J. Galvin) |

FIR IONAD : (16) D. Ó CÉITCEACÁIN (D. Kelleher) ; (17) T. Ó CÉITCEACÁIN (T. Kelleher) ; (18) P. Ó HAYES (P. Hayes) ; (19) N. MAC SEANAIT (N. Fitzgerald) ; (20) D. Ó SÚNTEADÁIN (D. O'Sullivan).

CONCAIS	Cúil Goals	Cúilíní Points	Seadaí Overs	50 St. 50's	Saor-Ciceanna Free Kicks
1 ^o Leac 1st Half					
2 ^o Leac 2nd Half					
Iomlán Total					

TÍR ÉONAILL

Datanna : GLAS, DÁN 7 BUI
(Green, White and Gold)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| | (1)
C. Ó HALPÍN
(C. Halpin) | |
| (2)
P. Ó BROGÁIN
(P. Brogan) | (3)
P. DÁSON
(P. Dawson) | (4)
B. MAC DUBGÁILL
(B. Coyle) |
| (5)
A. Ó BAOIGÉILL
(H. Boyle) | (6)
S. Ó GALLEGÁIN (Capt.)
(J. Gallagher) | (7)
P. MAC GEACHÍN
(P. McGeehin) |
| (8)
M. S. Ó GALLEGÁIN
(M. J. Gallagher) | (9)
P. Ó DOMHAILL
(P. O'Donnell) | |
| (10)
P. Ó BRIENNAN
(P. Brennan) | (11)
C. MAC CAULÉID
(C. McCauley) | (12)
C. Ó COLLEÁIN
(C. Collins) |
| (13)
P. MAC DUBGÁILL
(P. Coyle) | (14)
T. WICKHAM
(T. Wickham) | (15)
S. MAC GETTRICK
(S. McGettrick) |

FIR IONAD : (16) D. Ó MORIARTY (D. Moriarty) ; (17) S. MAC MAOLÁIN (J. McMullen) ; (18) D. Ó CÉILMÁIRGE (D. Bonner) ; (19) A. MAC RUADÁIN (A. Rogers) ; (20) E. J. MCGONIGLE (E. J. McGonigle).

TÍR ÉONAILL	Cúil Goals	Cúilíní Points	Seadaí Overs	50 St. 50's	Saor-Ciceanna Free Kicks
1 ^o Leac 1st Half					
2 ^o Leac 2nd Half					
Iomlán Total					

KILCAR PEN PICTURES



The Killybegs team on their first outing, their first leg, first round tie against Red Hughs at Fintra. (Photo: Michael O'Donnell, Donegal Democrat)



The Kilcar team which lined out against St. Eunans. (Photo: John Foy)

- Paddy Sweeney:** Goalkeeper. Production manager. 5'11". 12 st. Reserve League and Championship; All Ireland Gaeltacht.
- Dermot McShane:** Full back or midfield. Unemployed. 6'. 13 st. Returned earlier this year from New York.
- Michael Carr:** Corner back or half-back. Shop and restaurant owner. 6'. 13 st. Ulster C'ship, Railway Cup, Co. Championship, League, Shield; All Ireland Gaeltacht medals.
- John O'Donnell:** Corner back. Net maker. 5'9". 11 st. 7 lb. Senior League and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht.
- Kevin Lyons:** Wing half-back. Factory worker. 5'7". 11½ st. All Ireland Gaeltacht.
- Enda McHugh:** Corner back or half-back. Factory worker. 5'9". 11 st. Senior League and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht.
- Christy Gillespie:** Centre half-back or midfield. N.S. teacher. 6'. 12 st. 10 lb. U-21 Championship in Dublin; Senior League and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht.
- James McHugh:** Centre half-back or midfield. ESB employee. 5'8". 11 st. Ulster and All-Ireland C'ship.; Senior League and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht medals; All Star, 1992.
- Roger McShane:** Midfield or half-forward. Fitter. 5'11". 12½ st. Ulster minor, 2 All-Ireland Voc., Senior League and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht.
- James Carr:** Midfield or full forward. Plasterer. 6'2". 13½ st. Senior League and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht.
- Padraig Howley:** Corner forward. Barman. 5'10". 13½ st. Numerous medals at underage hurling and football in Galway. Represented Galway at minor and U-21.
- Bill Vaughan:** Half-back or half-forward. Sales rep. 6'. 12 st. Co. Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht. Former minor player with Down.
- Mark McShane:** Midfield. Welder. 6'2". 12 st. Senior Championship, League; Co. and All Ireland Gaeltacht. Has played in every grade for county.
- Martin McHugh:** Half-forward. Salesman. 5'8". 12 st. Ulster and All Ireland Championship; U-21 All Ireland; Senior League and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht. 2 All Stars; Player of the Year 1992.
- David Cannon:** Half-forward. Student. 5'11". 11 st. One of the stars of the future.
- Michael Molloy:** Half-forward. 5'9". 13 st. Co. Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht.
- Noel McDevitt:** Corner back. Carpenter. 5'8". 11 st. Gaeltacht Championship; Reserve League and Championship medals.
- Neilly Byrne:** Full back. Fitter. 6'. 12½ st. Senior League, Shield and Championship; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht. Has been a great servant since he came from Glenties.
- Michael McShane:** Corner back or forward. Unemployed. 5'8". 11 st. Reserve League and Championship.
- Gerard McBrearty:** Half forward. Factory worker. 5'10". 11 st. Senior Championship, League, Shield; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht.
- Dermot Sweeney:** Forward. Student. 5'10". 11 st. Reserve League and Championship; Junior Championship medal already this year.
- Finlay McIvor:** Full back or corner back. Student. 6'. 12½ st. Reserve League and Championship medals.
- Stephen Byrne:** Midfield. Student. 6'2". 11 st. Reserve League and Championship medals.
- Raymond Carr:** Corner back. Labourer. 5'8". 11 st. Reserve League and Championship medals.
- Kieran O'Donnell:** Corner forward. Student. 5'11". 11 st. Reserve League and Championship; member of this year's Junior Championship winning team.
- Seamus Gallagher:** Team manager. Building contractor, hotelier, publican and restaurant owner. 5'7". 11 st. Senior Championship, League, Shield; Co. and All-Ireland Gaeltacht medals.
- Sean McGinley.** Age ?? Play anywhere on field except half-forward. Pen pic. writer, Insurance rep. with New Ireland. Honours: Donegal Co. Board Writers' Award '93.

CILL CHARTHA

1

Paddy Sweeney
P. Mac Suibhne

2

Michael Carr
M. Mac Giolla Chearra

3

Enda McHugh
E. Mac Aoidh

4

John O'Donnell
S. Ó Donáill

5

Declan McShane
D. Mac Seáin

6

Christy Gillespie
C. Mac Giolla Easbuic

7

Kevin Lyons
C. O Laighin

8

James McHugh
S. Mac Aoidh

9

Mark McShane
M. Mac Seáin

10

David Cannon
D. Ó Canainn

11

Martin McHugh
M. Mac Aoidh

12

Michael Molloy
M. Ó Ludhóg

13

Roger McShane
R. Mac Seain

14

James Carr
S. Mac Giolla Chearra

15

Padraic Howley
P. Ó hUallaigh

SUBS.: 16, **Noel McDevitt** (N. Mac Daibhid), 17, **Neilly Byrne** (N. Ó Beirn), 18, **Bill Vaughan** (L. Ó Bheochain), 19, **Ciaran O'Donnell** (C. Ó Donaill), 20, **Gerard McBrearty** (G: Mac Briartaigh), 21, **Dermot Sweeney** (D. Mac Suibhne), 22, **Finlay McIvor** (F. Mac Iobhair), 23, **Michael McShane** (M. Mac Seáin), 24, **Seamus Gallagher** (S. Ó Gallchóir), 25, **Raymond Carr** (R. Mac Giolla Chearra), 26, **Stephen Byrne** (S. Ó Beirn).

KILCAR	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

NA CEALLA BEAGA

1

David Meehan
D. Ó Miocháin

2

Francis Murray
P. Ó Muirí

3

Denis Carbery
D. Ó Cairbre

4

Peter McGinley
P. Mac Fhionnlaioich

5

Jimmy White
S. De Faoite

6

John Cunningham
S. Ó Cuinneagáin

7

Tony Hegarty
A. Ó hEigheartaigh

8

John Ban Gallagher
S. Ó Gallchóir

9

Barry McGowan
B. Mac Gabhann

10

Mark Boyle
M. Ó Baoill

11

Conor White
C. De Faoite

12

Paul Callaghan
P. Ó Ceallachain

13

Paul Rowan
P. Ó Rowáin

14

Conal Gallagher
C. Ó Gallchóir

15

Manus Boyle
M. Ó Baoill

SUBS.: 16, **Ian Cunningham** (I. Ó Cuinneagáin), 17, **Barry Cunningham** (B. Ó Cuinneagáin), 18, **Keith Jones** (K. Ó Seoine), 19, **Paul Carbery** (P. Ó Cairbre), 20, **Brian Conaghan** (B. Ó Conacháin), 21, **Declan Haughey** (D. Ó hEochaigh), 22, **Michael Campbell** (M. Mac Coilin).

KILLYBEGS	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

KILLYBEGS PEN PICTURES

David Meehan: Goalkeeper. Fisherman. 5'8". 14 st. Honours: 3 Senior Championships, 2 Senior League.

Paul Carbery: Corner back. Unemployed. 6'. 14 st. 3 Senior Championships, 2 Senior Leagues.

Denis Carbery: Full back. Fisherman. 5'10". 12½ st. 3 Senior Championships, 2 Senior League.

John Cunningham: Half back. Builder. 5'9". 13½ st. All Ireland S.F. medal; 2 Ulster S.F. medals; 3 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League.

Barry McGowan: Half back. ESB linesman. 5'11". 12 st. All Ireland S.F. medal; 2 Ulster S.F. medals; 3 County Championships, 2 Senior League.

Darren Cunningham: Half back. Unemployed. 6'. 12 st. 2 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League.

John Ban Gallagher: Centrefield. Net factory worker. 6'. 12½ st. 1 Ulster S.F.; 3 County Championship medals, 2 Senior League.

Declan Boyle: Half back. Unemployed. 5'11". 11½ st. 2 County Senior Championship; 2 County Senior League; 1 Ulster Minor C'ship.

Francis Murray: Corner back. Unemployed. 5'7". 12½ st. 1 Senior League; 2 U-18 Championship; 1 U-21 Championship.

Peter McGinley: Corner back. Unemployed. 5'7". 12½ st. 1 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League, 1 Ulster Minor Championship.

Ian Cunningham: Goalkeeper. Unemployed. 5'10". 13 st. 2 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League medals.

Paul Callaghan: Midfield. Student. 6'. 11½ st. 1 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League, 1 Ulster Minor Championship.

Michael Campbell: Corner back. Fisherman. 5'10". 12 st. 3 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League.

Barry Cunningham snr.: Centre field. Unemployed. 6'. 13½ st. 1 All Ireland S.F. medal; 2 Ulster Championship, 3 County Championship, 2 Senior League medals.

Conor White: Half-forward. Fisherman. 5'10". 12 st. 3 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League.

Manus Boyle: Corner forward. Net factory worker. 5'9". 13 st. 1 All Ireland S.F. medal; 2 Ulster Championship, 3 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League medals.

Conal Gallagher: Full forward. Insurance rep. 5'11". 12½ st. 3 senior Championships, 2 Senior League, 2 U-18 Championship, 1 U-21 Championship.

Barry Cunningham jnr.: Half-back. Fishermen. 5'11". 14 st. 2 Senior Championship, 1 Minor, 1 Senior League.

Mark Boyle: Wing-forward. Unemployed. 5'6". 10½ st. 3 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League, 1 U-18 Championship, 1 Ulster Minor Championship.

Jimmy White: Wing-back. Administration manager. 5'11". 12 st. 3 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League.

Tony Hegarty: Corner forward. Factory foreman. 5'5". 11½ st. 3 Senior Championship, 2 Senior League medals.

Paul Rowan: Corner forward. Unemployed. 5'8". 11½ st. 1 Senior League, 1 Junior Championship.

Joe McBrearty: Corner forward. Student. 5'7". 10½ st. Div. 16, 1 Junior Championship medal.

Keith Jones: Corner back. Unemployed. 5'6". 13 st. 1 Senior League; 1 Junior Championship.

Barry Mullen: Corner forward. Student. 5'6". 11½ st. 1 Senior League; 1 Junior Championship.

Brian Conaghan: Full back. Student. 5'11". 12½ st. 1 Senior Championship. 1 Senior League.

1988 REVISITED

By Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat)

A controversial Jimmy White goal a minute into injury time in the 1988 Donegal Senior Championship final started a Killybegs domination of senior football in Co. Donegal which has continued to the present day.

In the 1988 final, as today, Kilcar were also the opposition and seemed to be well on their way to their third title in the '80s, leading by 2-8 to 1-9 with the game in injury time when a Barry Cunningham long ball was collected by Rory McNelis and with the Kilcar players claiming that McNelis was in the 'square' he passed to Jimmy White to hammer home the killer goal.

At half-time, Kilcar led by 1-5 to 0-4.

The Killybegs side were captained by a 21-year-old that day — Barry Cunningham. And the red and white have gone on to lift the Dr. Maguire Cup twice since then, in 1991 (defeating Red Hughs) and last year (defeating Naomh Columba), while they were defeated in the 1990 final by Naomh Columba.

That late-late winning goal in 1988 by Jimmy White (who started the game at centre half-back that day) is still talked about in the villages of Kilcar and Killybegs — the fact that Kilcar's downfall was engineered by a Glen man (McNelis) would have added to the Kilcar woe.

Kilcar would have been strong favourites to win that final as Killybegs were a very young side who were relatively inexperienced at Senior Championship level. However, they have proved since that they are an exceptionally talented bunch of players and eleven of that side have played in the Senior Championship this year — Paul and Denis Carbery, Jimmy White,

Michael Campbell, John and Barry Cunningham, Barry McGowan, John Ban Gallagher, Conor White, Conal Gallagher and Manus Boyle.

Kilcar, on the other hand, were coming to the end of an era in 1988. They went on to win the Championship the following year making it three wins in the 80s, while suffering defeat also in three finals. Indeed, they were named team of the decade, after wins in 1980, 1985 and 1989.

Because they were a much more mature side it is more surprising that eight of the Kilcar team of '88 have played Championship football this year — Seamus Gallagher, Neilly Byrne, Enda McHugh, James Carr, Mark McShane, James and Martin McHugh and Christy Gillespie. However, if you take into account Michael Carr and Roger McShane, who didn't play in the '88 final, that number would be a remarkable ten.

For the record the teams in '88 were:

Killybegs: Hugh McFadden; Paul Carbery, Denis Carbery, Kevin White; John McGuinness, Jimmy White (1-1), Michael Campbell; John Cunningham, Barry Cunningham (0-2); Barry McGowan (0-2), John Ban Gallagher (1-0), Conor White (0-3); Conal Gallagher, Manus Boyle (0-2), Rory McNelis. Subs., Keith Jones for C. White, Charlie Tully for McNelis.

Kilcar: Mickey McFadden; Seamus Gallagher, Neilly Byrne, Enda McHugh; John Carr, James Carr, John Doogan; Mark McShane, Maurice Carr; James McHugh (1-3), Christy Gillespie, Gerard McBrearty (0-2); Martin McHugh (1-3), Danny Gillespie, Neilly Cannon.

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“The team to beat”

By: Charlie McGinley,
Derry People/Donegal News

A few years ago Killybegs and Kilcar met in the final of the Donegal senior football championship. Kilcar “the Team of the Eighties” were red hot favourites by many people (not me) to win their third title of the decade (they had won titles in 1980 and 1985 against Ardara and Four Masters).

A young Killybegs side (11 of the panel were under 21) were regarded by many onlookers as being the “also rans” and lacked the required experience to cause an upset. Killybegs (as predicted by this reporter) won the title, a Jimmy White goal sealing victory and a first championship for the Killybegs men since 1952.

Barry Cunningham captained the side that day. He had taken over the captaincy role after the tragic death in a league match of Manus Byrne earlier that season. Since then Killybegs have been the “team to beat”. They have dominated the championship with their confidence and lovely brand of possession football. Today they are seeking their fourth title in six years, their third successive championship.

Kilcar recovered from the defeat in 1988 to win the title the following year against Ballyshannon but since then the title has not gone to the town. Today they are seeking their fourth title at senior level but as the tables have turned since six years ago Killybegs go into the final as favourites. Few would wager against Jimmy White's side recording a treble of championships.

The current Killybegs panel is based largely on the hugely successful under-age team that came through the ranks (winning county championships with ease) in the 80s.

Barry Cunningham, John Cunningham, Barry McGowan, and Manus Boyle won all-Ireland medals last year with Donegal and form the backbone of this Killybegs machine. Barry McGowan is arguably the best player in the county at the moment and his role today will be crucial to Killybegs.

Kilcar with the McHugh brothers, Martin and James, will be hungry for success this year after a barren spell by their standards. Along with the McShanes, Mark and Roger, Christy Gillespie and the ever improving Pdraig Howley (a former Galway minor and under-21 player) Kilcar certainly have the ability to reverse the roles of six years ago.

But their task will be difficult against a classy Killybegs side who are also bidding for a third league title in a row this season. As one Kilcar player told me earlier this week “we are not going to Ballybofey to make up the numbers”. “Killybegs will be favourites and they play a lovely brand of football but if we can close them down it could make for a very interesting final”, he said.

Killybegs captain, Manus Boyle, is approaching today's final with an air of caution. “Last year almost every paper in the country tipped Dublin to beat Donegal and look what happendd. We know we will be favourites for today's final but it is a two horse race and in a final anything can happen. We will miss Barry Cunningham and Declan Boyle for the final but having said that the two lads who will be coming in will do a job for Killybegs and hopefully bring the title back to the town for the third year in a row”, he said.

Boyle felt the reason Killybegs were so successful over the last number of years is because they have been able to keep the same panel of players. “Up to twelve of this team have been together since we were 10 years old and we won all of the under-age titles. It helps us a lot and we know what we have to do in every game. People say that we are very confident but the reality is that we do not take any team for granted. If Kilcar had been able to keep players like Maurice Carr and Michael Carr they could have had the success that we enjoyed the last number of years.” Boyle said.

“We want to establish Killybegs as one of the major GAA centres in the county and if it takes more championships to do that we will do it,” Boyle added.

U DROP INN DIV. 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Killybegs	14	11	1	2	23
Cloughaneely	15	10	2	3	22
Ardara	15	10	2	3	22
Red Hughs	14	8	3	3	19
Gweedore	15	9	0	6	18
Naomh Columba	14	4	1	9	9
Aodh Ruadh	14	4	0	10	8
Dungloe	14	3	1	10	7
Glenfin	12	3	0	9	6
Kilcar	13	3	0	10	6

KILLYBEGS

First round, 1st leg in Fintra: Killybegs 1-7, Red Hughs 0-3

First round, 2nd leg in Killygordon: Killybegs 0-8, Red Hughs 0-10

First round play-off in Ballyshannon: Killybegs 1-10, Red Hughs 1-7

Quarter-final in Towney: Killybegs 2-12, Ardara 0-5

Semi-final in Towney: Killybegs 0-12, Naomh Columba 0-8

KILCAR

First round, 1st leg in Towney: Kilcar 2-13, St. Eunans 0-7

First round, 2nd leg in O'Donnell Park: St. Eunans 1-8, Kilcar 0-7

First round play-off in MacCumhaill Park: Kilcar 0-12, St. Eunans 2-6

First round play-off replay in Ballybofey: Kilcar 1-7, St. Eunans 0-7

Quarter-final in Fintra: Kilcar 1-14, Naomh Conaill 0-10

Semi-final in Ballybofey: Kilcar 3-10, Glenfin 2-6.

Killybegs have scored 4-49 while conceding 1-33 in their five games to date. Their scorers were:

Manus Boyle	1-14
Conor White	0-12
Barry McGowan	0-8
John Ban Gallagher	1-3
Mark Boyle	0-4
Declan Boyle	1-1
Conal Gallagher	1-1
Jimmy White	0-3
Francis Murray	0-2
Paul Callaghan	0-1

Kilcar have scored 7-63 and conceded 5-44 in their six games. Their list of scorers is:

Padraic Howley	2-16
Martin McHugh	1-17
James Carr	3-1
James McHugh	0-10
Mark McShane	0-6
David Cannon	0-4
John O'Donnell	1-1
Roger McShane	0-3
Michael Molloy	0-2
Kevin Lyons	0-1
Michael Carr	0-1
Christy Gillespie	0-1

(Statistics courtesy of Donegal Democrat)

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success to St. Eunan's
minor team in the
county final today
from*

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Killybegs try for three in a row!

Today's final sees Killybegs trying to establish a modern day record by going for three Senior Championship titles in a row. Killybegs will be trying to achieve what the Gweedore team did in the '40's (actually 4 in a row), again in the '50s ('53, '54, '55), McCool's did in the '60s ('62, '63, '64), and the amalgamated team St. Joseph's Bundoran-Ballyshannon in the '70s with 4 in a row. The club's first senior title was in 1952 when Tom Wickham captained the side and 26 years elapsed before Barry Cunningham received the Dr. Maguire Cup for the club in 1988. Defeat in the semi-final of '89 and in the final of '90 was followed by the club retaining the title in '92 when Barry McGowan lifted the trophy. Supporters of the club will be hoping that Manus Boyle can be the third player in successive years to bring the the trophy to the town.

The present Killybegs team as well as capturing the championship these past two years have also taken the Democrat Cup (County League) in '91 and '92. This success is mainly due to the great work put in at under-age level by Jimmy White and John Joe O'Shea, who won u-12 titles for the club in 1979 and 1983. The club was lucky that most of the players of these successful u-12 teams continued to play and form the bulk of today's senior team.

The club is indebted to the owners, skippers and fishermen of the various boats who re-schedule their plans to facilitate the footballers who are crew members. This co-operation typifies the spirit of the community in ensuring that the team has the great success it has, and hopefully continues after today.

Sean MacCumhaill (who the MacCumhaill Park is named after) was born in Killybegs.

Frankie (Dan) Cunningham, (President of the Killybegs G.A.A. Club) is uncle of Martin, James and Enda McHugh.

James McHugh (Bavin), father of Martin, James and Enda, won a senior championship medal with Killybegs in 1952.

Fintra G.A.A. pitch was officially opened on Sunday 11th June, 1967, when Donegal beat Mayo by 0-13 to 0-6 in a senior football challenge and also defeated Armagh in the Ulster Junior Hurling Championship by 7-9 to 2-0. The pitch was re-dedicated in 1988 and named Pairc Mac Daibidh after the late Paddy McDevitt the prime mover behind the work leading up to the 1967 development.

In 1971 the late Des Houlihane was secretary of the Killybegs club and Frankie Gallagher was secretary of the park committee. Killybegs had teams in the junior, minor, u-16 and u-14 football competitions and u-14, u-16 and senior hurling championships.

Killybegs won the intermediate football championship in 1979 under team manager Pat Cannon when they defeated Glenfin in the final replay. Michael Campbell, Jimmy White and Baker Boyle are still involved with the senior team. Killybegs are playing senior championship since then.

The Eamonn Byrne Memorial Cup is played each year in memory of Eamonn who died suddenly while playing a senior league game in the Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon, in 1988. The cup was presented to the club by Eamonn's colleagues in the Killybegs fire brigade. Winners of the competition were Killybegs in 1989, Naomh Columba 1990, Killybegs 1991 and Ardara in 1992. This year Gweedore have reached the final and will play the winners of Naomh Ultan v. Killybegs.

The club's proud boast is that four members of the club were members of the Donegal All-Ireland winning squad of 1992 — Barry McGowan, John Cunningham, Barry Cunningham and Manus Boyle.

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Cill Chartaigh in their 10th senior final

This is Kilcar's tenth appearance in the county senior championship final. Five of those were in the eighties and because of their success they were named the "Team of the Eighties" for consistency in championship, league, shield and all-Ireland Gaeltacht competitions. They were champions in 1925, 1980, 1985 and 1989.

BRIEF HISTORY

1925: Kilcar won when Dunfanaghy failed to field.

1959: Cill Charthaigh 1-6, MacCumhaills 2-7.

1963: Cill Charthaigh 0-4, MacCumhaills 1-6.

1980: Cill Charthaigh 1-13, Ardara 0-8.

1982: Cill Charthaigh 0-6, Four Masters 1-4.

1985: Cill Charthaigh 0-9, Four Masters 0-7.

1987: Cill Charthaigh 1-7, Aodh Ruadh 2-10.

1988: Cill Charthaigh 2-8, Killybegs 2-10.

1989: Cill Charthaigh 1-9, Aodh Ruadh 0-9.

The Kilcar team were written off by many sports writers at many stages of the past 13 years but they always manage to make a comeback while on the other hand the Killybegs team are on a roll achieving great success in the past three or four years and especially knocking the favourites Kilcar off their pedestal in 1988 with some late injury time scores. But the boot is on

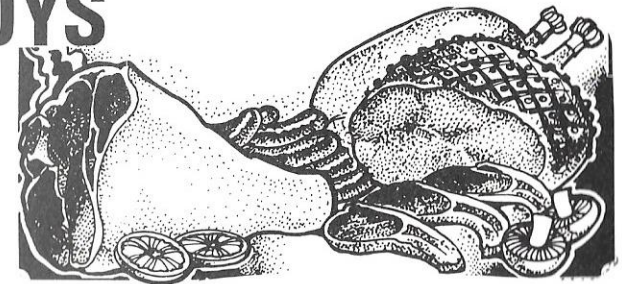
the other foot this time with Killybegs as favourites due to their success recently and having achieved better results in this year's run up to the final.

Reaching so many finals in such a short period of time has been a magnificent achievement for a Kilcar parish which is very small and can still field three adult teams in adult competitions. They have already won the junior championship this year and reached the semi-final of the reserve championship. In the senior championship they have more or less made hard work of getting past St. Eunan's in the first round, taking four games to do so. Then a very spirited Glenties team were difficult to break down in Fintra and in the semi-final against Glenfin things were difficult enough for long periods but they ran out easy winners in the end.

Great credit is due to this team — many other teams in the county would love to be in the same position — many players from other clubs will envy this Kilcar team and they will also hope that Kilcar do well on the day. Hopefully Kilcar have kept the good wine until last and that they can raise their game for the total hour and leave us all with a memorable 1993 county senior final.

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Céim Eile Chun Tosaigh

*Le: Séamus de Faoite
(Oifigeach na Gaeilge)*

Tugann coimhlint an lae inniu flúirse talainn go Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill ar ócaid Craobh Peile Sinsear na Contae. Beidh an-chluice ann agus measaim féin go mbeidh chomh maith. Níl aon dabht nó go mbeidh an choimhlint seo idir Cill Chartha agus Na Cealla Beaga thar bharr. Bhí an chomhraic eatarthu den chéad scoth sanam a chuaigh thart agus níl cuimhne agam ar uair ar bith a raibh sé leadránach nó neamheachtrúil.

Tá an dá fhoireann ar maos i dtraidisiún na peile, tá taithí mhaith acu ar an bhua agus tá seirbhís mhaith tugtha acu den pheil agus do pheileadóirí. Bhí na cluichí leath cheannais an-mhaith nuair a fuair Cill Chartha lámh an uachtair ar Ghleann Fhinne agus nuair a bhí an bhua an Na Cealla Beaga ar Naomh Columba.

I súla Bord na Contae, is "Red Letter Day" ócaid Craobh Peile na Contae in

annála an Pheil Sinsear. Tá sé ibhfad níos tábhachtaí indiaidh toradh iontach na bliana anuraidh i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Tuigeann gach duine anois go bhfuil caighdeán na peile sa chontae seo ar chéim níos airde nó in aon áit eile san am i láthair.

Cuidíonn gach rud leis an ghlór, an draíocht agus mustar an lae. Níor fhág Bord na Contae aon chloch gan iompú leis an ócaid seo a choinneáil i gcuimhne. Gné speisialta a bheidh ann inniu onóir a thabhairt d'fhoireann an Dr. Uí Lagáinn na bliana 1952. B'iad seo an chéad fhoireann peile Sinsear as Tír Chonaill a d'imir i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Tá n-aitheantas rud beag mall ach mar sin féin tuillte go maith acu. Cuirfidh seo uilig leis an lá mhór agus gan dabht balnfidh gach duine taitneamh as.

Cibé áit a mbeidh Corn An Doctúir Mag Uidhir indiaidh an lae inniu, bíodh dóchas againn uilig gur céim eile chun tosaigh a bheidh ann den pheil Ghaelach. Tá mé cinnte gur mar sin a bheidh sé.

Hunger

By Kieran Cunningham, 98fm, Dublin

It's a hard thing to define. That desire to keep on winning, to be the best. The great Kerry team had tons of the stuff. Men with eight all Ireland medals. Eight! How did they charge themselves year after year? Hunger!

Donegal had it in 1992. Derry had it this year. The day after the Ulster final, while most were nursing hangovers, Henry Downey was out training on his own. They tell me they trained so hard that players would get physically sick and then carry on. All down to hunger.

Killybegs and Kilcar definitely have it. The fishermen are going for their third title in a row and look set to be the team to beat for some time to come. They have many fine players but a lot of credit must go to player manager, Jimmy White who created this team and drives them on year after

year. Hopefully, White's talents will be availed of at county level at some stage in the future.

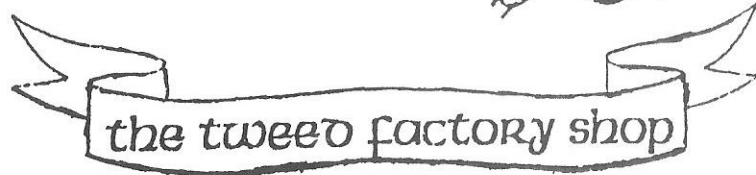
If Killybegs are the team of the 90's then Kilcar were the team of the 80's. Players like Michael Carr and Martin McHugh have been there before and know what's required.

Thankfully, football isn't an exact science so no-one can really predict the outcome of today's match with any great confidence. Killybegs should win, but maybe Kilcar want this title more. Strange things can happen on county final day. Ordinary players become good and good players become great. It can work the other way as well.

Whatever happens, I won't be there to witness it as the Dublin county final is on today as well, and work will keep me in the capital. But I'll be listening to Sean Og on RTE tonight to find out who was the hungriest team in Donegal in 1993.

Adh mór ar Chill Chartha

Ceadlann Cill Chartha & Seomra Tae

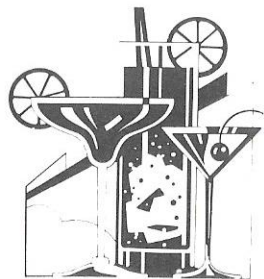


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The winning or the taking part ?

What a difference twelve months can make. Last September the National League campaign crept up on a county that was still on an euphoric high after Brian McEniff's men lifted the Sam Maguire for the first time in over a hundred years

By Robert Love

This year the likes of Manus Boyle, the two Cunninghams, Declan Boyle, Barry McGowan, Mark McShane, James and Martin McHugh will have more time to contemplate what is likely to be Donegal's most exciting league campaign ever.

For after having struggled for years to get out of the Division Three mire, the side are now up there among football's elite and consequently the best teams in the country will be lining out against Donegal in this year's re-vamped Division One.

There are mouth-watering fixtures in store and the crowds are sure to be streaming to MacCumhaill Park for Donegal's four home games against the likes of Down on the opening day of the league (October 10), Dublin (November 7), Mayo (February) and Clare (February 20). The away games are also likely to attract some Donegal day-trippers with the clash against Derry at Celtic Park on October 24 surely the highlight. Donegal have a score to settle with the newly crowned All Ireland champions on that particular Sunday and let's hope there's no downpour on the night before the game!

The remaining away fixtures include the long trip to Leinster for the match against Mick O'Dwyer's Kildare and to Munster for a game against the Kingdom.

It will be interesting to see how Brian McEniff and his fellow selectors approach this year's National League campaign. True the competition is not without its attractions. The revenue created by home games against Down and Dublin for instance is likely to be huge and County Treasurer Danny McNamee in particular will be delighted

to see supporters streaming across the Finn Bridge en-route for MacCumhaill Park.

But many suggested last season that it was this particular competition and its accompanying rigours, tribulations and resulting injury worries that played a big part in the exit of Sam across the Foyle to the Oak Leaf county. That is a view that would probably be echoed, if not completely endorsed by McEniff. No one can argue that the National League Campaign and its two finals exhausted an already weary Donegal team.

This year expect to see many new players blooded in the league by McEniff, McCole, Bonner, and Lafferty. 1993 is sure to mark the beginning of a rebuilding era for the county with players being brought into the panel and also the team. It's difficult to predict how many of these new faces will manage to secure a place come championship time next Summer but a significant number will be presented with their chance in the green and gold jersey in the meantime.

As the old cliché goes, this year's National League is sure to be more about the taking part than the winning. Donegal will be aiming to do well, certainly to maintain their coveted premier division status, but I doubt if rivers of tears will be shed if we don't make it all the way to the final. Donegal are engaged on a restructuring and strengthening programme first and foremost.

It could be suggested that such talk is negative but everyone knows that next season really begins in earnest when we take part in our Ulster championship first round clash away to Antrim. Last year Donegal were robbed of a fair chance to defend their Ulster and All-Ireland crowns by the ineptitude of the Ulster Council. This time round the side will be back with vengeance — hungrier than ever.

Enjoy Sam while he lasts Derry... there could be a fourth D. in the Ulster sequence and there's no reason why it can't be Donegal's initial for a second time.

*Very best wishes to St.
Eunan's minor team in the
county final today*

**You are always a winner
with us, St. Eunans.**

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McHugh has potential to upset the odds

By CIARAN O'DONNELL, Derry Journal

Martin McHugh might be the smallest player on view in this afternoon's senior football final, yet Killybegs will need no reminding that if the gifted attacker hits the right note he is capable of destroying even the most watertight rearguard. For those who need reminding, his weaving runs frustrated some of the country's best defenders during Donegal's memorable march to capturing Sam a year ago.

Things could have been different this year for the Wee Man and the rest of the Donegal players had they came up trumps in that quite forgettable lottery against Derry in Clones. Despite losing the Ulster and All-Ireland titles, Martin isn't the type to dwell on what might have been.

"Derry are a great team, and they thoroughly deserved their All-Ireland victory. I am delighted for all concerned in the Derry camp and it's great that two neighbouring counties have come through to win All-Ireland titles in successive years", he maintains.

While today's senior decider is a far cry from last year's epic encounters against Mayo and Dublin at Croke Park, as Donegal's deputising skipper points out, the clubs are where all county players start and finish their careers.

"While it's certainly not the same, it does keep some of us in shape. It's nice to be involved in

the championship, and to defeat Killybegs would be some consolation".

Footballer of the G.A.A. in 1992, McHugh is well aware that dethroning the senior club Killybegs is going to be no easy feat.

"We haven't played all that well in the championship so far. If we don't improve on our performances we won't stand a chance. It's as simple as that".

County championship finals are nothing new to McHugh, who was at the helm for a time when Kilcar were known as "the team of the 'eighties".

"I have played six, winning three and losing three", he explains. The company representative was manager of Kilcar in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Although successful four years ago against Aodh Ruadh, McHugh's men fell to Killybegs in the 1988 decider.

"It's the only time we have met them in a championship final, and strangely enough we haven't met them at any stage of the competition since".

McHugh has played in numerous positions for Kilcar in his outfit's current quest for championship glory. While Killybegs carry the heavy weight of favourites tag, McHugh has the potential to make a mockery of that.

SEAN MCGINLEY

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FOCUS ON AODH RUADH

It is no surprise that Aodh Ruadh are once again competing in a Minor Co. final as they have won the title on 12 occasions to date. They are the reigning champions, having defeated St. Eunans in last year's final before going on to emulate the Killybegs team of '84 and '85 by capturing the Ulster Minor Club title when they defeated Clanna Gael of Lurgan in the final on the first day of 1993.

The Killybegs senior team of today is made up largely of the minor team that were successful in Ulster in '84 and '85 — perhaps there is an omen there for the Ballyshannon club. Killybegs won their first senior title three years later, in 1988 — Aodh Ruadh's turn should come in 1995.

Last year's achievement for Aodh Ruadh was the greatest at underage level for a club which has been to the forefront at underage affairs for some time.

The success can be traced to the introduction of underage coaching in the

early '70s under the control of Jackie McDermott and since then titles have been won consistently at all age groups. There was a four in-a-row of minor titles in 1979, '80, '81 and '82 while the Club also were U-18 champions in 1988, 1990 and last year.

At U-16 level during that period there has been four titles in 1974, '79, '86 and '93; at U-14, one in 1972 and at U-12, five titles, in 1973, '74, '76, '90 and '91. They also won an U-12 B title in 1987.

Despite all this underage success, Aodh Ruadh have lifted only two senior titles during that time — 1986 and '87 — but there has been a huge turnover of players within the club and the lack of continuity has definitely worked against them.

However, with the coaching side of things still very strong within the club, it can be expected that the Ballyshannon side will compete in many underage finals in the years to come.

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AODH RUADH PEN PICTURES

- Niall McCready:** (Captain). Forward. Student. 5'9". 10 st. Honours: Co. U-12, 13, 15, 16, U-18 (2), U-21; 3 Ulster Colleges. Co. Minor 1993.
- Barry Ward:** Midfield. Student. 6'1". 14 st. Co. minor c'ship '90 and '92; Ulster minor c'ship. '92; Co. U-21; Ted Webb Co. County minor '92 and '93; Og Sport winner.
- Kenneth McGurrin:** Forward. Student. 5'11". 10½ st. All-Ireland C. Games, Co. U-13, U-14, U-16, Ulster Colleges, McLarnon r-up. Co. U-16 player.
- Michael Ward:** Forward. Student. 5'8". 10 st. All-Ireland C. Games, 3 Ulster Colleges, Co. U-16; all Div. medals.
- Diarmaid Slevin:** Forward. Student. 6'. 11 st. 2 lb. All divisional medals; Co. U-16 r-up; U-18 Co. and Ulster.
- David Hoey:** Forward. Student. 5'10". 11 st. All Div. medals; Co. U-12, U-16; All-Ireland C. Games.
- Bobby Reynolds:** Defender. Student. 5'10". 11 st. All div. medals; U-16 Co.; U-14 Co. r-up.
- David Downey:** Midfield. Student. 6'3". 12 st. 2 lb. U-12, 13, 15, 18 Co. titles; Ulster Minor medal.
- Patrick McGrath:** Defender. Student. 5'10". 10 st. All div. titles; Co. U-15, 16, 18 and Ulster minor. Co. U-16 player.
- Niall Drummond:** Forward. Student. 5'6". 9 st. All div. medals; U-14 and U-16 Co. r-up.
- Paul Roper:** Forward. Student. 5'10". 9½ st. U-10, U-12, U-13, U-15 Og Sport; Co. and Ulster minor titles in '92.
- James Shannon:** Defender. Student. 5'9". 11 st. Co. U-16, All-Ireland C. Games; Co. U-14 r-up; Voc. Schools U-14.
- Stephen Ward:** Forward. Student. 5'11". 12 st. U-12, U-16 Co. winner; All Ireland C. Games; Co. U-14 r-up; U-14 Ulster schools winner.
- David O'Donnell:** Defender. Student. 5'10". 11½ st. Co. U-15 Og Sport, U-17, U-18, U-21; Ulster U-18 Championship.
- Herman McNelis:** Defender. Student. 5'11". 10 st. U-10, 12, 14, 15 Og Sport, U-17, U-18 (2) and Ulster Minor medal.
- Glenn Matthews:** Forward. Computer Student. 6'2". 13 st. U-10, 12, 14, Og Sport, Ulster and Co. Minor. Excellent basketball player.
- Andrew McShea:** Utility player. Student. 5'10". 10 st. U-10, 12, 14, Og Sport. Plays College football in Galway.
- Kerry Ryan:** Defender. Donegal Parian China apprentice. 6'1". 11½ st. U-10, 12, 14, Og Sport. Co. hurler with great future.
- Martin McCaffrey:** Defender. Student. 5'8". 10 st. Og Sport, all Div. medals; U-12, 14.
- Kieran Barron:** Midfield. Student. 6'1". 12 st. Og Sport, all Div. medals. Ulster and Co. U-18 Championship.
- Barry Travers:** Utility player. Student. 5'11". 10½ st. U-12, U-16 Co.; All Ireland C. Games, Ulster schools. Co. U-16 player.
- David Greene:** Goalkeeper. Student. 5'10". 12 st. Co. U-12, 16; Co. U-14 r-up.; All Ireland C. Games; U-14 schools.
- Donal McWeeney:** Back. Student. 5'11". 11 st. Co. Og Sport; all Div. titles.
- Keith Mannion:** Forward. Student. 5'10". 11 st. All div. medals; Co. U-14 r-u.; Co. U-16, Og Sport.
- Claran McLean:** Centre half-back. 5'11". 11½ st. Co. minor c'ships, Co. U-21, Og Sport, Ted Webb Cup, county minor '93.

AODH RUADH

- 1
David Greene
D. Ó hUaine
- 2
Patrick McGrath
P. Mac Craith
- 3
David O'Donnell
D. Ó Donáill
- 4
Andrew McShea
A. Ó Sé
- 5
Bobby Reynolds
S. Mac Ránaill
- 6
Ciaran McLean
C. Ó Liain
- 7
Herman McNelis
H. Mac Niallais
- 8
David Downey
D. Mac Giolla Domhnaigh
- 9
Barry Ward
B. Mac a Bhaird
- 10
Niall McCready (C)
N. Mac Riada
- 11
Kenneth McGurren
C. Mag Corrain
- 12
Paul Roper
P. Mac Roipear
- 13
Stephen Ward
S. Mac a Bhaird
- 14
Barry Travers
B. Ó Treabhair
- 15
Dermot Slevin
D. Ó Sleibhin

SUBS.: 16, **Michael Ward** (M. Mac a Bhaird), 17, **Kerry Ryan**(K. Ó Riain), 18, **Glenn Matthews** (G. Mac Mathuna), 19, **Keith Mannion** (C. Ó Mainnín), 20, **Martin McCaffrey** (M. Mac Aifeartaigh), 21, **Paul Whoriskey** (P. Ó Fuairisce), 22, **David Hoey** (D. Ó hEochaidh), 23, **Donal McWeeney** (D. Mac Maonaigh), 24, **Ciaran Barron** (C. Barún).

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

NAOMH ADHAMHNÁN

- 1
Brian McBrearty
B. Mac Breartaigh
- 2
Gary Doyle
G. Ó Duail
- 3
Brian McMonagle
B. Mac Maonghaile
- 4
Seamus Nallen
S. Ó Naillúin
- 5
Martin Temple
M. Teampaill
- 6
Eugene Duffy
E. Ó Dufaigh
- 7
John Scanlon
S. Ó Scanlán
- 8
Eamon Haran
E. Ó hEagráin
- 9
Damien Daly
D. Ó Dalaigh
- 10
Brendan Devenney
B. Ó Duibheannaigh
- 11
Ronan Dillon
R. Ó Diolláin
- 12
Karl Doherty
C. Ó Dochartaigh
- 13
Bammy Bogan
B. Ó Bógáin
- 14
John Haran
S. Ó hEagráin
- 15
Brian McDermott
B. Mac Diarmada

SUBS.: 16, **John O'Carroll** (S. Ó Cearriúl), 17, **John Anderson**(S. Aindirsun), 18, **Joe Bradley** (S. Ó Brolláin), 19, **David Blake** (D. De Bláca), 20, **Kevin Winston** (C. Winston), 21, **Ollie Duffy** (O. Ó Dufaigh), 22, **Sean McEwen** (S. Mac Eoin).

BT. EUNANS	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

ST. EUNAN'S PEN PICTURES

Brian McBrearty: Goalkeeper. Student. 5'10". 11½ st. Honours: U-14 and U-16 Co. Championships.

Gary Doyle: Right full-back. Student. 5'11". 12 st. U-14 and 16 Co. Championships; C. Games medal 1988.

Brian McMonagle: Full back. Student. 5'11". 13 st. U-14 and U-16 Co. Championship.

Seamus Nallen: Left corner back. Student. 5'9½". 11 st. Co. U-14 and two Co. N.S. Championships.

Martin Temple: Right half-back. Student. 5'11". 12 st. U-14 and U-16 Co. Championship; one N.S. C'ship.

Eugene Duffy: Captain. Centre half-back. Student. 5'10½". 11½ st. Co. U-14 and U-16 Championship. Co. minor panel 1993.

John Scanlon: Left half-back. Student. 5'10". 10 st. Co. U-14 C'ship.; C. Games medal 1988.

Eamon Haran: Midfield. Student. 6'. 13 st. Co. U-14 and 16 C'ship.; Ted Webb Cup '90; Connacht Juvenile and 2 senior medals with St. Jarlaths. Co. minor '93.

Damien Daly: Midfield. Student. 5'8½". 9½ st. U-14 and U-16 Co. C'ships; two N.S. C'ships.; Co. minor '93.

Brendan Devenney: Right half-forward. Student. 5'9". 11 st. Member of Naomh Baithin Club until this year.

Ronan Dillon: Centre half-forward. Student. 5'9½". 12½ st. Co. U-14 and U-16 C'ships.; Connacht College senior medal in '93 with Jarlaths. Co. Minor '93.

Karl Doherty: Left half-forward. Student. 6'. 12 st. U-14 and U-16 C'ship. medals; N.S. C'ship.

Sammy Bogan: Right corner forward. Student. 5'2". 9 St. N.S. Championship and Co U-14 medal.

John Haran: Full forward. Student. 6'3". 12 st. Two U-14 and one U-16 C'ship. medals; Connacht juvenile and Junior A with St. Jarlaths.

Brian McDermott: Left corner forward. Student. 5'11". 12 st. Two Co. U-14 medals, one U-16 C'ship.

John O'Carroll: Utility player. Student. 5'10". 12 st. Co. U-14 and U-16 C'ship. medals.

John Anderson: Defender. Student. 5'9". 11½ st. Co. U-14 and U-16 medals; also N.S. medal.

Sean McEwen: Defender. Student. 5'8½". 11 st. Co. U-14 and U-16 medals; Ted Webb medal; Minor captain this year; Colleges All Star. Injured at the moment.

David Blake: Forward. Student. 5'10½". 12 st. U-14 and U-16 Co. Championships; also N.S. C'ship.

Kevin Winston: Forward. Student. 5'11". 11½ st. Co. U-14 medal and N.S. Championship; C. Games 1988.

Joe Bradley: Shopkeeper. 5'8". 11 st. Co. U-14 Championship.

Ollie Duffy: Student. 5'9". 7 st. Co. U-14 and U-16 Championship.

Padraig Fingleton: Student. 5'10". 11 st. Co. U-14 and U-16 C'ship. medals; N.S. medal.

Emmet McClafferty: Student. 5'11". 12 st. Co. U-16 and N.S. Championship medals.

Paddy Doherty: Student. 5'11". 12 st. Co. U-14 Championship.

FOCUS ON ST. EUNAN'S

1927 saw the first Donegal senior football championship title coming to the Cathedral Town and the team to bring this honour was Letterkenny Rovers. They beat Carrigans in a truly unique county final. Unique not only because it was the first senior football title for Letterkenny or because the opposition was Carrigans, but because of the venue. Believe it or not, the venue was Newtowncunningham. It was the first and to date only county final played in Newtowncunningham.

ST. EUNAN'S BEGIN

1930 saw the foundation of the present St. Eunan's Club. As the famous Geraldines and Rovers were fading from the scene it was decided to form a new club embracing all interested G.A.A. people in the town into one club and team. They secured their first playing pitch in Glencar and entered teams in all county and local competitions. The first St. Eunan's club officers and committee formed 63 years ago were: President, Chief Supt. Leahy; chairman, Supt. Patsy Cronin; secretary, Guard Walsh; treasurer, John Hourihan; committee, John Curran, John Crumlish, Guard Murphy and Guard Mulcahy.

Three of those founders are even to this day household names not only in Letterkenny but through the length and breadth of the county. They are John Hourihan — the man who did so much in

securing the club's present grounds, O'Donnell Park and unpaid groundsman for years and years; John Crumlish, who with Hourihan played such a significant part in the setting up of the O'Donnell Park and the early development of what we have today in our club; and Johnny Curran (father of our well known and respected Sean), whose dedication and shrewd managerial qualities guaranteed G.A.A. for Letterkenny for ever.

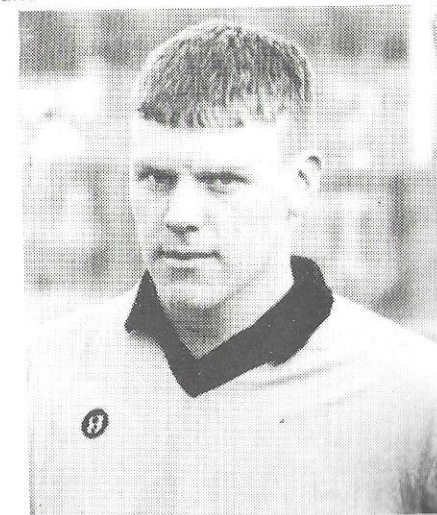
FIRST SENIOR COUNTY TITLE — 1948

Then the big breakthrough deservedly came in 1948 when St. Eunan's won their first ever county senior football championship beating their old rivals and all conquering Gweedore by 1-7 to 2-1.

In 1926 the Donegal county team reached the final of the Dr. McKenna Cup for the first time by beating Tyrone 4-4 to 2-3 at the Christian Brothers Park, Omagh, on 13th March in a semi-final replay. Some of the Letterkenny players who helped Donegal to that memorable history making final were P. 'Coachie' Doherty, Dan Taylor, Bill Roarty, H. McGlynn and P. Boyle, and the remainder of the side was: C. Black, Chas. McDyer (Glenties), D. Whelan, P. Breslin, C. O'Donnell, H. Martin (Newtowncunningham), J. Murphy, Jack Carey, Pady Hannigan (Killygordon), T. Gallagher, C. Callanan and C. Drumm.



Niall McCreeady, captain of Aodh Ruadh.

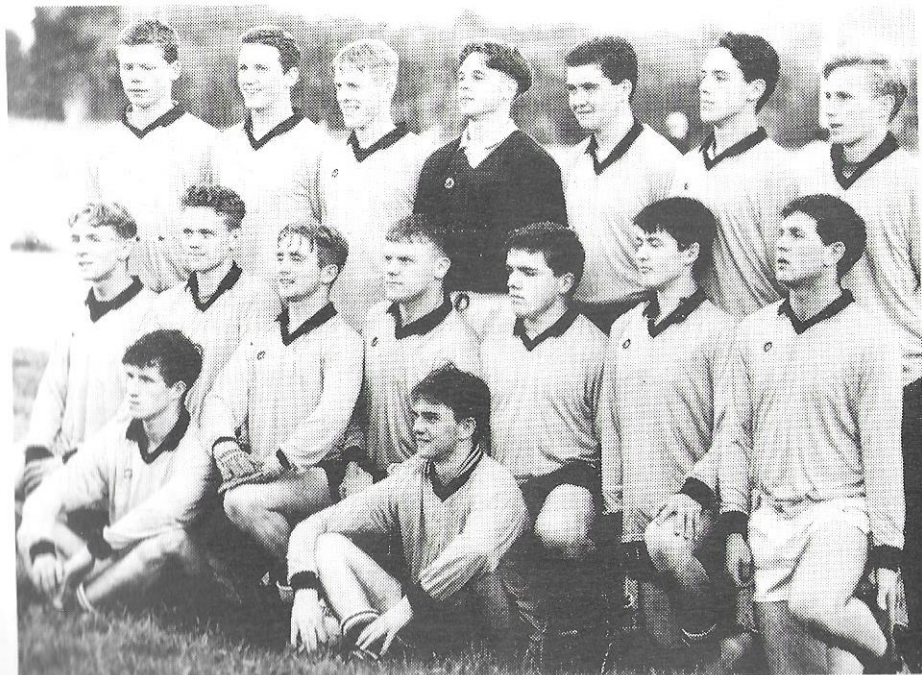


Eugene Duffy, the St. Eunan's captain.



The Aodh Ruadh team who meet St. Eunans in the Co. Minor final.

(Photo: Thomas Gallagher, Donegal Democrat)



The St. Eunan's team who hope to dethrone defending minor champions, Aodh Ruadh today.

(Photo: Brian McDaid, Donegal Democrat)

THANKS

The men who walk out on to the field today at approx. 3.30 are remembered for their historic endeavours in the season of '51/'52, when the light shone its brightest for Donegal football up to then; when they caught a glimpse of the 'Holy Grail'. But despite their best efforts and determination they could not overcome an equally strong and determined Cork side to win National League that year.

This team knocked the first blocks out of the 'wall' that Donegal football had been coming up against up to then; these men and the men who came before them, who had been steadily chipping away at this 'wall', were the inspiration to Donegal; these men who kept the flame burning, who never gave up hope, who served the Association throughout, and thankfully, most of them were around to see dreams come true on the 20th Sept., 1992.

The passion for the game in the team of '52 was passed on to future teams over the following 40 years and whenever this 'light' was flickering the memories of '52 returned to light our path and keep us going in the right direction. In the lean and barren times of football in Donegal they were an inspiration; and last year when we finally took our rightful and long overdue first All-Ireland senior title, they were again an inspiration. This honour today is well merited and long overdue. Enjoy your day.

To both minor and senior teams in today's finals, sincere best wishes; to the many people who contributed articles and photographs; to my colleagues on the Co. Board who assisted in compiling information for 40 years ago, chairman, Naul McCole; co. secretary, Noreen Doherty; Seamus de Faoite, Micheal Gillespie, Pat Connaghan; former officers, Sean Boyle, Fr. Sean Gallagher, Peadar and Ann McGeehin, Pauric McGill; to the media who were so helpful, Derry People, Donegal News for their files, and their correspondent, Charlie Joe McGinley, for his great help in securing same; the Derry Journal's files, thank you Maureen; Michael Daly in the Donegal Democrat; Packie Keeney, Highland Radio, and Pol O Gallchoir and Raidio Na Gaeltachta, our championship sponsors.

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— Co. Board PRO, KEN DOOLEY

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*Killybegs manager,
Jimmy White.*



Barry McGowan of Killybegs being presented with the Dr. Maguire Cup by Co. Chairman, Naul McCole, after winning the title last year.



*Charles O'Donnell, manager
of Aodh Ruadh.*



*Brendan Roache, the St.
Eunan's boss.*



*Seamus Gallagher, back
with Kilcar and looking for a
win.*

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