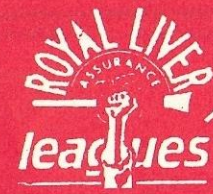




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**DÚN NA nGALL**

-v-

**CORCAIGH**

Sunday 28th February, '93

Seán MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey.

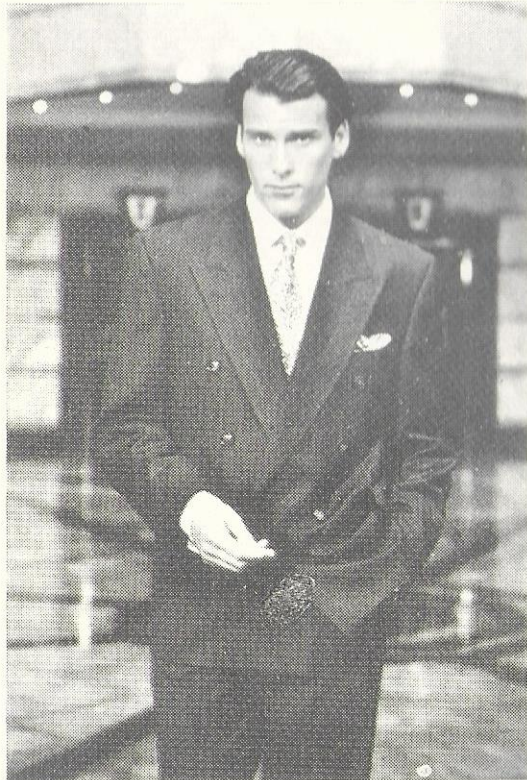
2.30 p.m.

Reiteoir: **TOM CASSERLY** (Westmeath)

Programme: £1.00



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On behalf of Coiste Chontae Dhún na nGall I welcome you all here today. I extend a special welcome to the footballers, officers and supporters from Cork, a county deeply steeped in the GAA tradition.

All-Ireland success was ours in 1992, but success is nothing new to the Gaels of Cork as they have been in the top ranks of both hurling and football throughout the history of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Today is an important game for both teams — a win for Donegal will ensure a place in Division One of the National Football League for next season and will also see us qualifying for the play-off stages of this year's League. However, Cork also have a great incentive to win as their Div. 1 status depends on the result.

Once again I thank our great band of supporters, especially the large numbers which travelled to our last away League game in Thurles — you are a credit to the county.

A special word of thanks to Co. PRO, Ken Dooley, for his fine work in preparing today's programme.

Finally, may I wish both teams well in today's contest while hoping that the result is right at the end.

Beir bua agus beannacht.

NIALL MacCUMHAILL  
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae, C.L.C.G.

## BUIOCHAS

A special word of thanks to the many people who contributed articles, photographs and items for this programme.

The Co. Board and the Sean MacCumhail's Club is deeply appreciative of the support given by the advertisers and hope our patrons support these businesses in return.

— Ken Dooley, Co. Board P.R.O.

● COVER PHOTO: Tony Boyle leaves Paul Curran in his wake in the All-Ireland final.

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# "TOMORROW" NEVER COMES

By Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat)

Sunday, 6th June — the date set for the start of Donegal's defence of their Ulster and All-Ireland Championship titles — is just 14 weeks away from today. How prepared are the Donegal team to defend their titles?

We all know about the graveyard that is the Ulster Championship for the defending champions. Derry in 1975 and 1976 are the last side to retain their Ulster crown — and it is difficult to see it being any easier in 1993.

With apologies to Antrim, Donegal have a reasonably favourable draw but a lot will depend on their attitude and appetite for the long haul that must go into the preparation.

That preparation must get underway in earnest in the very near future. The same talent is still there — with an added confidence that had been missing until last Summer.

However, despite all the talent in the world if 1992 has taught us anything it is that the preparation and physical well-being for the challenge is of the utmost importance.

I don't know why it has taken me so long to get to the point, i.e., there is a strong concern among supporters that the Donegal panel are finding it difficult to shed the social circuit attached to success. There is always "one more" function and it is that "one more" function which postpones the training session until tomorrow.

The revelation at the weekend that between the Monday and Thursday of the week before last county captain, Anthony Molloy was asked to fulfil seven different engagements brought it



Donegal captain, Anthony Molloy. Are we being fair to the county panel?

home to me that the public are not being fair to the captain, manager and the rest of the panel.

A refusal causes offence, so the players and manager are left in a very difficult position which can only find a solution with the people making the demands.

The time has surely come for the people within the county to 'back off' and give the panel breathing space. It is only with that breathing space that they can begin the preparations in earnest. Whether they qualify today or in two weeks time (as they must surely do) for the play-off stages of the National League, the panel will face difficult and competitive games which must be approached in a professional manner. That is apart altogether from preparing for the Ulster Championship.

If the social burden is not lifted in that period then again the training session is again put off until tomorrow.

The problem about that is "tomorrow" never comes.

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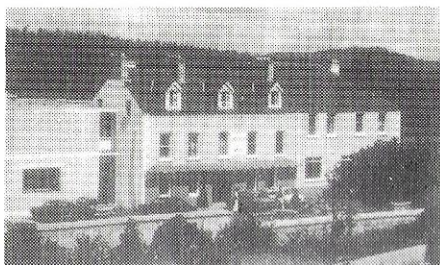
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*Good luck to both teams*

## Declan Bonner - Jack and Master of both games

by: **CIARAN O'DONNELL**. Derry Journal

Most inter-county footballers are happy to take life easy when they aren't on playing duty on Sundays during the winter months. However, Declan Bonner, Donegal's gifted attacker, has been doing the opposite over the past number of Sundays.

Three weeks ago, the flame-haired Na Rossa man made the long journey south with Finn Harps, and made a significant contribution in the Ballybofey-based League of Ireland side's hard-earned scoreless draw.

The previous Wednesday, the sharp-shooting utility player scored a glorious free kick against St. James' Gate in what was his first game for Finn Harps for 12 months.

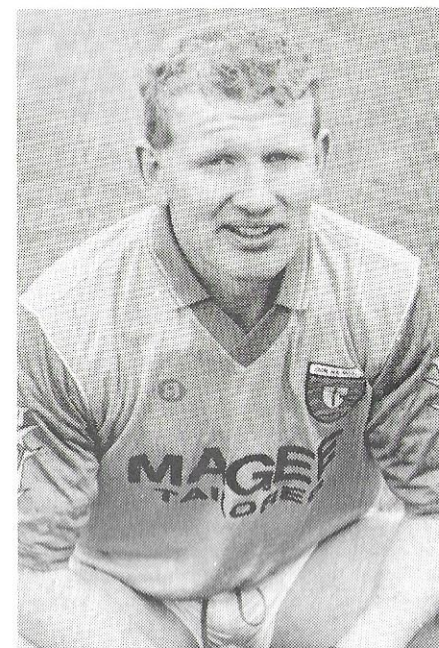
Scorer of 18 points in Donegal's memorable championship run last season, Bonner made a dramatic recovery from a serious pelvic injury which almost ended his playing career just over a year ago.

The manner in which he fought his way to peak fitness in a relatively short time epitomises the fighting spirit he possesses.

"At the time, I suppose I did fear the worst. But I rested for a while, and looking back now, everything really fell into place for me," insists the modest Bonner, who has always been a favourite with the ever growing band of Donegal supporters.

Declan was Donegal's top scorer in the 1990/'91 National Football League campaign, when he notched up an impressive tally of 3-21. In Donegal's five League games so far this season, he has chalked up 1-11.

Bonner, who began his career with Finn Harps at the end of the 80's, and returned for a second spell when he impressed former Harps boss, John O'Neill before the 1991/'92 season began,



is one of the few players in the county, let alone in the country, who is both Jack and Master of both Gaelic and soccer.

His will to win a skill on the field, coupled with his good nature off it has made him one of the most respected sporting figures in the North West.

In the corresponding fixture two years ago, Bonner was Donegal's top scorer in the 1-9 to 1-6 victory when he scored 1-4 when he lined out at centre-half forward. One suspects that the Na Rossa man who has built up a formidable partnership in front of the target with Donegal full forward Tony Boyle - won't be far away from being the game's top scorer this afternoon again.

*Best wishes and every success to  
Brian and the Boys on Sunday*

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## When 'Shov' Comes to Push (by: *Charlie McGinley, Derry People/Donegal News*)

Undoubtedly the biggest cheer to reverberate around Mac Cumhaill Park today will go up if thirty-one years old Dunkineely man, Martin Shovlin, enters the fray.

"Shov" of course was ruled out of the All-Ireland final on September 20th due to a neck injury incurred in a training session in Donegal Town three days before the final.

He has not worn the Donegal jersey in a competitive match since the All-Ireland semi-final victory over Mayo on August 16th and the telephone technichan with Telecom Eireann was virtually on the treatment table up until three weeks ago. But counties throughout Ireland should take note that "Shov" is on his way back to full fitness and hungry for the All-Ireland medal as a player on the winning team, he so dearly missed.

"Words just cannot describe how it felt to miss the final. It was without a doubt the biggest disappointment I ever had," he says.

"We were just knocking around in training on the Thursday night and after evading a challenge I got a sudden jerk in the neck. I stopped training straight away and got treatment from the physio. Since then it has been five months of treatment."

The decision to declare himself unfit to play in the All-Ireland final was heartbreaking and was made at the Finnstown Hotel, Lucan, just hours before throw-in.

"I went through a fitness test along with Brian McEniff, Michael Lafferty, Seamus Bonner and the team doctor. Although I did receive painkillers the pain seem to move down the back of my shoulders. For the sake of the team I had to take the decision not to play" Shovlin said.

"While obviously it was great to get a winners' medal it's not the same, having not played" he added.

A surgeon in the Mater Hospital, Dr. Tim O'Brien diagnosed the injury last month as being located in a joint and since rejoining the squad for training over three weeks ago, 'Shov' is happy to report that there has been a great improvement.

"Up until Christmas I was receiving treatment two or three nights per week. I did feature in a squad match in Ballybofey on January 17 but it was still uncomfortable. It was then that I went to Dr. O'Brien and he diagnosed the injury and prescribed treatment for it. I had also attended Dr. Pat O'Neill, the Dublin team manager," he said.

Typically "Shov" is eager to get back into the Donegal team although he admits frankly that the competition for places is extremely keen.

"I am available for selection. It is up to the manager if he wants to play me."

Martin began his career in gaelic football with

the formation of the Naomh Ultan club in 1972. He made fifteen championship appearances for Donegal and a total of sixty-nine in all. He made his league debut in November '84 against Mayo and his championship debut against Armagh in 1988. Since then he has won a Railway Cup medal (1991), Ulster Senior Football Title medals in 1990, and 1992, and was the Ulster Sports Writers' Player of the Year in 1990 and Donegal Player of the Year in 1986.

He rates Jack O'Shea (Kerry) and Dave Barry (Cork) as his toughest opponents and also admitted that Derry's Dermot McNicholl was "a little hard to handle" as well.

Aside from football, Martin enjoys a spot of fishing and squash although recently due to his injury he had been unable to play the game. He is married to Mary (nee Cannon) a former secretary of the Naomh Ultan club.

Martin said that he was grateful to the people who sent letters to him after missing the All-Ireland final and the disappointment was made up for shortly after the final with the birth of his second child, Sarah. His son, Danny two years old is following his father's footsteps and enjoys kicking football around the family home.

Martin believes that sometimes people do not fully appreciate the effort and commitment players make for a county team. "He explained that in the build up to the All-Ireland players would go straight from work in the evening to training which often meant that they would leave home at 8 a.m. and not return until 11.30 that night.

He firmly believes that players should be well "looked after" expenses wise and thinks a Players Union would be a good idea.

Recent forecasts putting Donegal at odds of 10/1 to win the All-Ireland behind Kerry and Dublin is just the incentive that Donegal need to retain the title, according to "Shov."

"I was a member of the All-Ireland Under-21 squad of 1982. I had been on the team up until I fell off a pole at work and injured myself. Missing the All-Ireland final last year was like lightning had struck twice" Martin said.

The Ulster final against Derry last year and the All-Ireland semi-final against Meath in 1990 are the two most memorable games he has had for Donegal.

The man who took his place in the All-Ireland final, John Joe Doherty told me after the final in the dressing room that if any player needed incentive to win "Sam" all they had to do was look at the expression on Martin Shovlin's face.

Missing the final was obviously sore for the Dunkineely man but he was determined to get back again in 1993.

# Cork Football at Crossroads

by: **MICHAEL ELLARD**. The Cork Examiner

The days of wine and roses are over for the moment at any rate and following the heady triumphs of not so long ago Cork football currently finds itself at a crossroads.

The phenomenal record of success at under 21 level coinciding with the arrival on Leaside of Larry Tompkins and Shea Fahy provided the launching pad for the establishment of a golden age. True there were teething problems and the path to glory did not run smooth.

But despite two traumatic All-Ireland final losses to Meath the pinnacle of success was reached in 1989 when for the first time in the history of the county a memorable league-championship double was recorded. Back to back All-Ireland successes were enshrined for posterity in 1990. Cork football was at an all time high. The future promised even greater things particularly with Kerry receding into the shadows after the Kingdom's

long sojourn at the helm of Gaelic football affairs..

In the Munster semi-final of 1991 however Cork made the fatal mistake of underestimating Kerry and have paid dearly since. Vibrant three in-a-row All-Ireland ambitions about it went up in smoke and to be truthful about it Cork football has never really recovered from that dagger-blow inflicted in Killarney.

Matters were not helped last season when Cork failed to make the knock-out stages of the Royal Liver National League and were trounced by Kerry in the first round of the championship on their home ground of Pairc Ui Chaolmh.

Many believe however that with one good, prestigious victory under their belt Cork's footballing fortunes can be resurrected. Certainly a step in that direction would be taken today if the All-Ireland champions were to be beaten on their native heath. This is certainly a game of crucial importance for Cork.



Brian Murray in the thick of the action in Thurles.

(Photo: Michael O'Donnell, Donegal Democrat)

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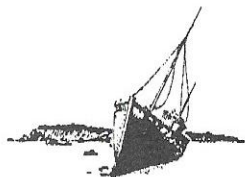
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# CRUNCH MATCH FOR BOTH TEAMS

As the National Football League reaches its most interesting and hard-fought stages, the importance at this late juncture in the campaign has become heightened by the fact that poor performances could result in division two or even division three next season.

By Robert Love,  
Donegal Peoples' Press

That is the situation facing Cork as they make the marathon trip north today. Currently joint third in Section B on seven points, the Rebel County have had an indifferent season thus far.

In direct contrast to Donegal, their recent fortunes have been in the decendency. Their All-Ireland titles are but a fleeting memory as they struggle to ensure first division football for the tens of thousands of Cork faithful next season.

And with Donegal blazing away at the top of the group with five wins from five starts, Cork will know only too well that a victory is vital if they are to halt a possible slide down the National League.

Already they have lost to Kildare and been held to a draw by Leitrim in Carrick-on-Shannon. A defeat at the hand of Donegal would see them lose almost all chance of finishing in the top two of Section B. They would then face Tipperary at home on March 14th and could only expect a total of nine points, a figure that is unlikely to guarantee top quality teams at Pairc Ui Caoimh in 1994.

You don't have to tell Donegal supporters that their's is a different story. Unbeaten since the first round of the Ulster championship ten months ago, they are having their best ever run of success.

One more win will guarantee a spot in next year's NFL division one and treasurer Danny McNamee will have less problems balancing the books. Today's home game against Cork is followed by a trip to Longford, a side who haven't exactly been setting the world on fire of late with only one win in five outings.

So should they win against Cork today, a full seven wins out of seven starts is not an impossibility for Anthony Molloy's men.

However, it seems unlikely that there will be any over confidence in the Donegal dressing room in MacCumhaill Park today. Last fortnight's Tipperary trip, while maintaining the unbeaten run, hardly inspired much confidence in the supporters who made

the long journey to Thurles.

Donegal, while evidently confident and talented, lacked a fitness edge and only performed in fits and starts. Brian McEniff has promised us a different story today... and it most likely will have to be if Donegal are to obtain another two points.

But a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. There have been injuries and there have been changes. A couple of undistinguished games in Carlow and Tipperary have demonstrated the champions possible fallibility and it's to this that Cork will look for inspiration.

In all fairness however, wins against Kildare, Leitrim and Cavan all counted for something and no team goes ten months unbeaten without having established a very, very successful style of preparation and football.

Yet as Donegal's run stretches on and on, more and more of us are thinking of Derry's fortunes last year. They won the National League without dropping a point. They stormed into the Ulster final — seemingly invincible and odds-on to take the Sam north, but then it all fell apart at the seams.

Some have argued that the confidence inspired by the Oak Leaf men's long run of success was the cause of their eventual downfall against an unfancied Donegal. There is, they would add, a salutary lesson for the men of Tirconnail in Derry's tale of woe.

Yet you can't wish anything other than success for your county, and given a solid performance and a victory today, most supporters will be satisfied with Donegal's progress since lifting Sam five months ago.

They will have qualified for the play-off stages of the league and will be guaranteed the likes of Down, Galway, Kerry, Mayo and possibly Dublin, Clare, Derry or Offaly at MacCumhaill Park next year.

And qualification must be the number one priority in Brian McEniff's mind. A victory today is essential to that plan and that's what his side will be striving for in front of thousands of Donegal faithful.

Cork should provide a stern test but the long journey may take a lot out of them, just as trips to Munster and Leinster seemed to sap the Donegal players' keenness.

McEniff has promised some of the old-guard will return and he has pledged that his players will have total commitment. Today's performance will be the acid-test of his comments.



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# Where I Courted and Strayed

by: FRANK GALLIGAN. BBC Radio Foyle

You won't know Michael, the younger brother. As the third male in a household of eight girls and three boys, he is coming under increasing pressure - not just to forego his increasingly precious bachelor status - but to marry a Cork woman! "Sure there's nothing wrong with that, boy!," I hear you chorus.

No indeed, but unfortunately our Michael hasn't the slightest intentions of forsaking her outdoors for a her indoors, and the only Cork women he knows are his two sisters-in-law.

That precisely is the problem since I ended up getting married to a Macroom girl and Christy to a Cobh lassie, my mother is firmly convinced that the Man Above has predestined Donegal-Cork assignments for all males in the Galligan household.

My wife Shelagh is indeed a Macrompian, a Dennehy from Mashanaglass, with about as much interest in sport as her fellow townsman, Professor John A. Murphy, has in snipe shooting. That, however has not prevented her giving two cheers on those occasions when her county has taken Sam Maguire or The McCarthy Cup back to de banks. Last year however, my turn came and as you will have gathered already by the tone of this article, I'm still hoarse. I'm told that I was so far gone after our semi-final defeat of Mayo, that I even drank Paddy whisky. That may not seem of any particular significance to you constant imbibers down there, but up here we incline towards Scotch in our spirits, no crubeens or drisheen in our Ulster fries, and of course, we head South for the women.

On the subject of drink: some years ago, I happened - purely by accident to be perched like a snipe on a high stool in Goldens in Macroom. For those of you unfamiliar with the hostelery, it's one of the last of the original shop-cum-public houses complete with partitioned snug, brass fittings, solid wooden

counter and almighty pints of stout. I believe that when in Rome you should do the decent thing, so when in Cork, the almighty is Murphys (if you get me draught). In any event, I fell into conversation with Colman Corrigan, then a stalwart in the Cork defence, until recurring injury put paid to what promised to be a great career. "And what about Donegal?," he sighed, with that air of resignation one normally associates with defenders who are wondering if the blur bearing down on them is a Bonner, one of the Boyles or the McHugh brothers.

In desperation, I was nearly tempted to resort to the Fahy-Tompkins defense by asking him - "And what about Kildare?." However, just like the team I love so well, I am incapable of resorting to what my mother calls *dhurt*, so I reverted to the quick handpass and sidestep. "Yerra, Colman," says I, "sure what would we know about hurling. Camán agus sliotar, divil the differ!." Despite this pathetic attempt at deflection and subsequent diversionary tactics which included conversation stoppers such as - "Begod, when it comes to football, you won't pass Kerry" - "The Dubs are gentlemen" - and "Jimmy Crowley's a boy soprano" - big Colman just kept sighing: "And what about Donegal?" It was only later in the day I realised that his curiosity was not born out of any superior attempt at point scoring but a genuine grá for Tir Conaill. Just before he left, he smiled knowingly and informed me - "My mother is from Buncrana. Sure how could I miss it?" I haven't met Colman since despite many visits to Macroom but boy, could I reply now. Question: "And what about Donegal?" Answer: Remember September or you'll know shortly!

One final request, girls, could you do anything for poor Michael..... no fortune or farm of land but as we say, he's wild civil.



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# Changing Times

There was a time, only very recently, when a suggestion that Clare should be re-located to Connacht for GAA purposes would have caused just a minimal stir through the provinces. But when Connacht Council Secretary Johnny Mulvey alluded to the notion in his annual report this month there were mumblings of concern through the West and a few whispers of assent down South. One prominent GAA official revealed his roots as a Kerryman when he commented acidly; "I wish to Christ it had happened twelve months ago."

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By: DONAL KEENAN

(Irish Independent)

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That is a reflection of the esteem in which Clare football is now held and a reflection of the magnitude of the task which faces Billy Morgan and Cork when they travel to Ennis on May 30 for the first round of the Munster championship.

Since Morgan and his marvellously talented team won the All-Ireland title in 1990 the football landscape has changed dramatically. The only certainty about the championship and League now is the uncertainty.

Clare's emergence as a power in 1922 and the proof over the winter that they could stay the pace has provided only some of the ingredients of change. The rest has come from Donegal and, to a lesser extent, Down.

No longer can the teams which have traditionally dominated in their own provinces and at national level take anything for granted. The upstarts have grown up and are now competing on a level pitch.

It would be fanciful to suggest that every county now has a chance of winning honours. Some have remained in the dark ages, have failed to take the hint from Clare and Donegal that hard work, attention to detail and fierce commitments will bring about an improvement in results.

Cork themselves laboured for a dozen years under the shadow of "the greatest team of all time". It took organisation, determination and gut-wrenching determination to remain competitive and ready to seize the chance when it eventually came.

Many of the Donegal players who are currently basking in their deserved glory of the All-Ireland success would have been forgiven if they had cried enough was enough. But they would never have forgiven themselves.

It is a lesson which, if learned around the country, will benefit the game of football to an extraordinary extent. The scenes of ecstasy and joy which made 1992 one of the most memorable years in the history of the GAA could become a regular experience.

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Tommy Ryan in action in the last clash against Cork in 1991.

(Photo: Michael O'Donnell, Donegal Democrat)

# Bhí Brionglóid agam...!

Nuair a tháinig Contae na Reibiliúnach go Páirc Sheáin Mhic Chumhaill an uair dheireannach, ar An Domhnach 10 Feabhra, 1991, bheannaigh mé dóibh mar churaidh Craobh Ceannais na Éireann agus bhí sé mar onóir agus mar phribhléid dúinn iad a bheith linn. Tháinig siad mar churaidh peile agus iománaíochta — gaisce ar dóigh do chontae ar bith. Tháinig siad chugainn agus dochás ina gcroí go mbeadh an bhua acu ach bhí fiordhíoma orthu i ndeireadh na dála.

Mar gheall ar chasadh na taoide, is muidinne caomhnóirí “Sam” faoi láthair agus thug na Reibiliúnaigh suas a dteideal. Mar sin féin, is foireann maith peile iad Corcaigh agus caithfidh curaidh na craoibhe fiú amháin, urraim a thabhairt dóibh. Táim ag súil go ndéanfaidh muidinne sin inniu agus ní thig linn a bheith ró-shiúráilte dúinn féin. Caithfidh muid ár ndícheall a dhéanamh ó thús go deireadh.

Tá Corcaigh ag teacht leis an bhua a fháil. Níl amhras ar bith faoi. Leis an fhírinne a rá caithfidh siad an bhua a fháil má tá siad ag dréim le bheith san iomaíocht ag deireadh na scráithe. Níl dabht ar bith ná go dtabharfaidh siad cluiche cruaidh dúinn agus beidh ar na Conalligh a bheith ar a n-airdeall i rith an ama. Caithfidh muid dearmad a dhéanamh ar a n-iarrachtaí

## Le: SÉAMUS de FAOITE

(Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

lagmheasártha sna cluichí atá thart agus smaoinemh go bhfuil sé ar a gcumas an caighdeán imeartha a thógáil nuair a bíonn gá leis. B'fhéidir gur inniu ceann de na laethanta sin. Caithfidh muid a bheith ullmhaithe agus gan ligean dóibh láimh an uachtair a fháil orainn. Sílim nach dtarlóidh sé ach sílim fosta go mbeidh cluiche an lae inniu ar cheann go deacair agus a bhí againn go dtí seo. Beidh ar ár gcúig gcloigne déag fear an gaisce céanna a dhéanamh agus a rinne siad in mí Meán Fómhair.

Creidim nach an bhua an t-aon rud amháin i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael. Caighdeán imeartha an chluiche is ea an fíor bhua agus tá an bhua seo ar chumas gach foireann. Tá dochás agam go mbeidh taispeántas ar dóigh peile againn agus tá súil agam go mbeifear ábalta é a thabhairt chun cuimhne níos moille ní miste cén toradh. Ábróidh mé fosta nuair a imreoidh muid foireann Longphoirt i gceann coicíse go mbeidh ár gcuriarracht slán sábháilte agus go mbeidh dhá phoinnte eile cailte ag na Reibiliúnaigh. Bhí brionglóidh agam....!

Le coicíis fuair iar-Chathaoirleach Bord Contae Chorcaigh Donnacha Ó Conraoi (Denis Conroy) bás agus cnagaois mhór aige. Carachtar maith a bhí ann i measc lucht peile sa deisceart. Níor chuir sé fiacal in aon rud ariamh agus ní déanfaidh an mhuintir againn a raibh eolas againn air, dearmad dena chuid caibidil ag an Chomhdháil Naisiúnta. Bhí sé ina onóir aige a bheith mar Chathaoirleach nuair a bhí Corcaigh mar churaidh dúbailte na Craoibhe. Crothnóidh muid é i dtír Chonaill. Go ndéanfaidh Dia trócaire ar a Anam uasal.

— S. de F.

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# Dún Na nGall

1 Gary Walsh		
2 John Joe Doherty	3 Matt Gallagher	4 Paul Carr
5 Donal Reid	6 Martin Gavigan	7 Noel Hegarty
8 Anthony Molloy	9 Brian Murray	
10 Sylvester Maguire	11 Barry Cunningham	12 Joyce McMullan
13 Declan Bonner	14 Tony Boyle	15 Manus Boyle

Subs: 16, Paul Callaghan; 17, Mark Crossan; 18, Martin Shovlin; 19, Barry McGowan; 20, Martin McHugh; 21, Jim McGuinness; 22, Tommy Ryan; 23, John Gildea.

DONEGAL	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacha	45m	Saor C.
1ú Leath					
2ú Leath					
Iomlán					

# Corcaigh

1 John Kerins		
2 Michael Farr	3 Conor O'Donovan	4 Conor Counihan
5 Stephen O'Brien	6 Tony Davis	7 Ciaran O'Sullivan
8 Shay Fahy		9 Brian O'Donovan
10 Dan Davis	11 Larry Tompkins	12 Paud O'Mahony
13 Colin Corkerry	14 Pat Hegarty	15 Michael McCarthy

Subs: 16, K. O'Dwyer; 17 M. O'Connor; 18, P. Coleman; 19, J. Cleary; 20, J. Cavanagh; 21, D. Culloghty.

CORK	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacha	45m	Saor C.
1ú Leath					
2ú Leath					
Iomlán					

# Championship-type collision

Anyone prospecting for football gold today will surely pack his mule, gather his pan and head for Ballybofey.

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**By: ROY CURTIS (Daily Star)**

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For the meeting of Donegal and Cork provides us with some glimmering 24 carat nuggets.

All but one of the past four All-Ireland titles have been claimed by these two counties. Cork were champs in 1989 and '90, Donegal — you may remember! reached the summit in September last.

Although we are still in chilly February, today's game is a real Championship type collision. Donegal have ten points from five games and look certain to reach the knockout stages. Another win today would remove any lingering doubts.

Cork are banging onto the cliff-face by their finger nails. They have already dropped three points and another slip-up will be fatal. Quite simply, Billy Morgan's men must win today.

A meeting of two great champions inevitably brings together some of the nation's great football artists. Men who have

painted some breath taking portraits on the playing field canvass.

Donegal have illuminated the scene with men like Anthony Molloy, Tony Boyle and Martin Gavigan. Cork hearts have soared thanks to the displays of Stephen O'Brien, Shay Fahy and Anthony Davis.

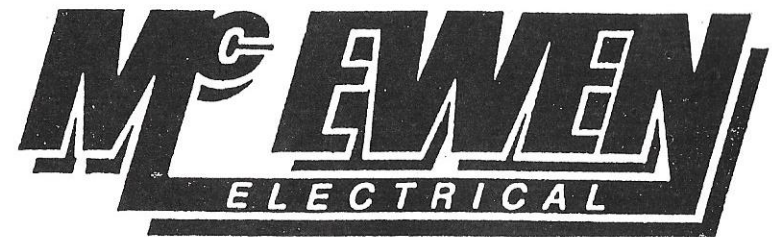
But two players, more than any others, have been synonymous with the success of Cork and Donegal — Martin McHugh and Larry Tompkins.

Their careers have been remarkably alike. Both played their best football at centre forward, both have frequently pulled their teams back from the precipice of defeat, both are deadly free takers, both have won Allstars, both have been named Footballer of the Year.

Damn it, Larry even played for the Donegal team during his stay in New York!

McHugh will not start today, but it would be no surprise if the Wee Man were summoned from the bench. Tompkins, healthy again and hungry for further glory, will seek to weave his dazzling patterns across the Ballybofey pitch.

Appreciate their skills, if you have the chance today. You will be watching two of the greats of contemporary football. Many a orospector travelled to Klondike for less.



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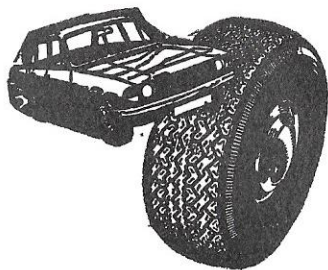
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"NO. 1 IN DONEGAL"



Tommy Ryan challenges a Cork defender in the 1991 clash.

(Photo: Michael O'Donnell, Donegal Democrat)



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## Three cheers for Supporters Club

Donegal not only achieved the ultimate victory when they lifted the Sam Maguire Cup a few short months ago — they also chalked up several other triumphs in the process.

---

By: **JOHN CAMPBELL**  
(Belfast Telegraph)

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And one of these surely centres on the success of the flourishing Supporters Club, surely one of the best organised, most buoyant bodies of its kind in the country, for not only has the club provided what can be described as a licence to print money — money, incidentally, that has been used for the general welfare of both team and the Association in general in the county — but it has also provided the spur for the thousands of luke-warm supporters to become more embroiled in the affairs of the county team.

And that, as we all know, cannot be bad. In fact, the long-term benefits accrued because of the Supporters Club's dynamic

approach are now beginning to be enjoyed.

The successful trip to Glasgow was an example in master planning, while the interest and enthusiasm generated by the recent trip to Tipp were clearly out of character, given that we are still in the month of February.

It is this kind of commitment and dedication on the part of Supporters Club officers and helpers that is proving a massive bonus for the Association as a whole in the county.

Anthony Molloy, Martin McHugh and the rest of the players fully deserve the plaudits they have been received from so many quarters since September, while Brian McEniff must be only a hair's breadth away from canonisation. But while these heroes bask in the continuing euphoria, there is no doubt that the people behind the scenes — the Danny McNamees of this world, for instance — surely deserve the gratitude of all.

Without their boundless enthusiasm, enterprise and initiative the back-up which was such an integral part of Donegal's charge to glory last year would not have been in place.

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*Wishing good luck to the Donegal Team.*

# **His Perfect Day**

by: **NIALL DELANEY. North West Radio**

I see where Brian McEniff regards Sunday as his favourite day of the week, that is, barring the (quote) "trepidation in your life, knowing that one thing you cannot control is the elements."

The way February is turning out, Brian may be on his knees again this morning wishing the wind away. The elements may dismay the manager and his merry men but it'll surely not take away from the large crowd that's expected.

For those that don't make it, of course, you can follow the action move by move yet again on North West Radio (102.5 and 96.3 FM), as Donegal bid for the sixth successive win in the League.

Interestingly enough, we find the reaction of listeners to our coverage comes not just from the Donegal area but from throughout the North West and Mid West Region. Our sister station, Mid West Radio, based in Ballyhaunis and covering the Mayo, Roscommon and Galway areas, take our Donegal match coverage periodically which goes to show just how many Donegal Gaels there are.

It has to be said that the last outing to Semple Stadium was something of a novel experience

for the commentary crew. Some were petrified of the likelihood of being belted by a stray sliothar, others couldn't believe it was the same arena of music and debauchery last August Bank Holiday weekend at Feile.

This time, the files will once again be diligently dug into as the Cork teams of recent outings haven't been as forthcoming memory wise as those that tussled with Meath for four years. That being said, Teddy McCarthy, Shay Fahy, Danny Culloty and Larry Tompkins won't need any rehearsing of numbers on the commentator's behalf. And Niall Cahalane is making enough headlines at club level for a comment or five from our analyst.

Our trail of Donegal commentary traipsed us exhausted across the length and breath of Ireland last year.

Long may it continue. And maybe tonight Brian can go happily to his Country and Western night in the Holyrood, the pinnacle of his perfect day.....

**\*COVERAGE OF THE DONEGAL VERSUS CORK GAME BEGINS ON NORTH WEST RADIO AT 2 p.m. WITH LIVE COMMENTARY AND EXPERT ANALYSIS.**

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Best wishes to Brian McEniff and the Donegal team for the new League campaign.*

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*Congratulations and continued success to Brian and the lads from Seamus and  
Ann Marie.*

*Best wishes to the Donegal team for  
the coming season*

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Tony Boyle in action in Thurles against Tipperary.  
(Photo: Michael O'Donnell, Donegal Democrat)

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## **Brendan McHugh Memorial Tournament**

The 3rd annual Brendan McHugh Memorial Tournament was held last weekend in Bundoran and Ballyshannon with teams from seven counties competing.

Hosted by the Bundoran G.A.A. Club, and home of the county manager, this year's event was an outstanding success and the local club, with the co-operation of their colleagues in Ballyshannon are to be congratulated on the professional manner in which the tournament was run.

The late Brendan McHugh was chairman of Bundoran club for a number of years and at the height of his playing days he lined out for his native Donegal and Sligo. He picked up a total of six senior championship medals with St. Joseph's and later Bundoran.

Mayobridge from Co. Down were the winners of the Cup on the day with captain and star forward Mickey Linden accepting the cup from wife of the late Brendan, Lila.

Daingean from Offaly were the runners-up while the host club were beaten by a single point by the eventual winners in a most exciting semi-final.

Over 300 people attended a special banquet dinner in the evening with the presentation of prizes and overall it was a fitting testament to one of the most popular modern Gaels in the south of the county.

## **Sandy Harper Memorial Tournament**

The Sandy Harper 13 a side Memorial Tournament which is run in Castlefin each year by the local Robert Emmets Club is organised in the memory of Sandy Harper who at the age of 23 died as a result of a car accident. Sandy's attitude to the game was an example to all young players. He gave 100% to training to the club and to the county. In his short playing career he became very respected not only in the Finn Valley or county but throughout Ulster. The tournament which the Robert Emmets Club organise to his memory each year since his death is a fitting tribute to one who gave so much to the G.A.A. In his short life span the tournament is now recognised as the Premier Tournament in the North West and this year already club's have expressed an interest to be included in the draw. It is an eight team competition and is run from mid April to mid June.

*Best wishes to Donegal on Sunday*

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Declan Bonner gets his pass away in Thurles.  
(Photo: Michael O'Donnell, Donegal Democrat)

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# Greene Memorial Cup

The Greene Memorial Cup commenced in 1982 in memory of the late Charley Greene.

Charley Greene himself played for Cloughaneely and was a member of the 1939 and 1940 team that won the county championship and also was manager in the early '40s. His two sons, Alfie and Eugene, played midfield for Cloughaneely when they won the county championship in 1959.

Cloughaneely were the first winners of the Greene Cup in 1982, and have won it a total of four times in all. Other clubs to have won the Greene Cup are St. Eunan's, Gweedore, Na Rossa and Dungloe.

The Greene Cup is sponsored by Alfie Greene and he also gives the Cup a subscription every year.

# Eamonn Byrne Tournament

The late Eamonn Byrne was a native of Co. Wicklow and was a playing member of the Killybegs club for 12 years up to his death in 1988. While playing for Killybegs in a senior league game in the Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon, Eamonn passed away at half-time.

The Killybegs Fire Brigade, (in which Eamonn was a member), presented a magnificent trophy to the local team for a senior football competition to be run in memory of Eamonn.

Winners so far have been: 1989, Killybegs; 1990, Naomh Columba; 1991, Killybegs; 1992, Ardara.



Joyce McMullan goes for his score in the last game against Cork in Ballybofey.

(Photo: Michael O'Donnell, Donegal Democrat)

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## **St. Eunans, Letterkenny, National Easter Sevens**

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Yes, St. Eunan's Club in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, host this annual Easter 7-a-side football tournament at its grounds and new Social Centre in O'Donnell Park, with teams from all four provinces taking part.

Each year twenty four teams are chosen from the large number of applications received by the club from all over the country.

This year, however, will see even more new faces as it is expected very few Donegal teams, if any, will be taking part because after today's victory over Cork, all Donegal people will be following our great heroes to the N.F.L. quarter-final on Easter Sunday. Therefore, this is an opportunity for teams with aspirations of participating in this glamorous competition to get in. So hurry, those who have not applied yet, you might be lucky — write or 'phone club secretary, Charles McAteer, 074-22695.

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