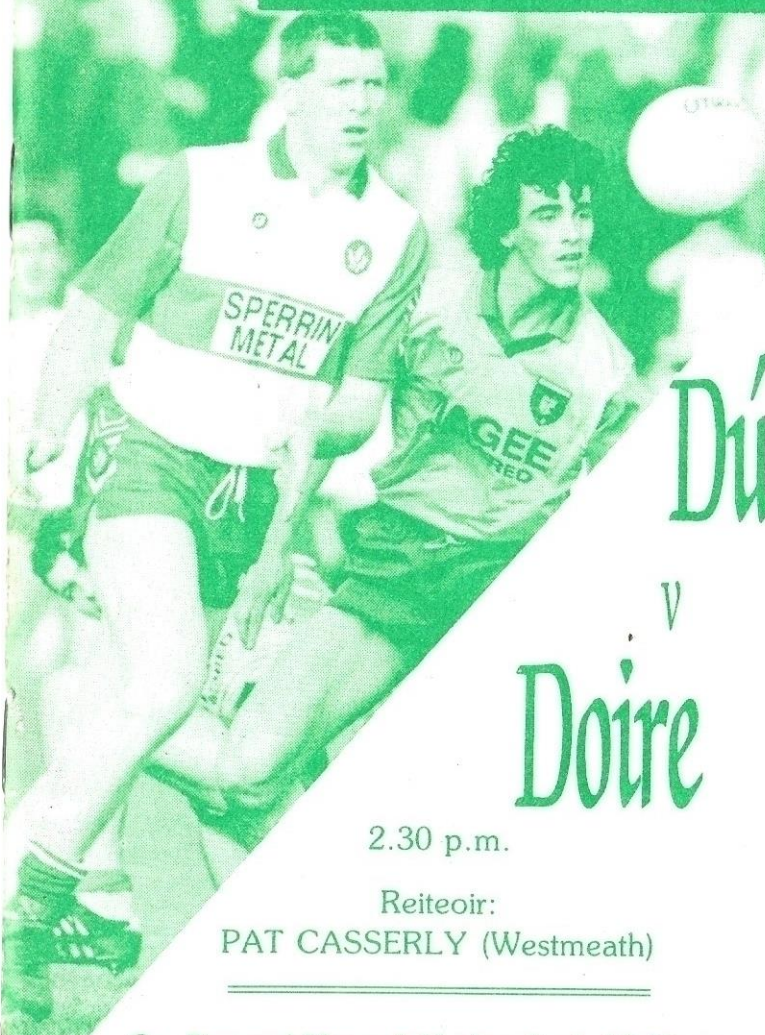




Clár Seán Mícheál Cúinnigh, Bealach Feich
 DÉ DOMHNAIGH, 30ú DEIRE FÓMHAIR, 1994
 Church & General National Football League
 Division One



Dún na nGall

v Doire

2.30 p.m.

Reiteoir:
PAT CASSERLY (Westmeath)



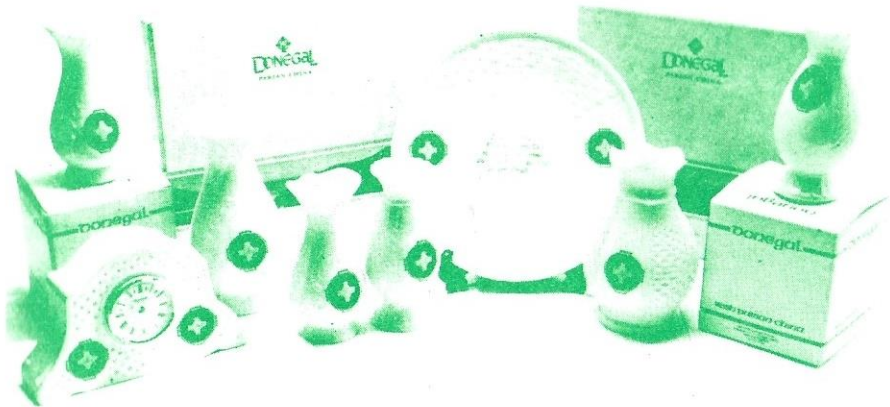
Co. Donegal Minor A Hurling final, 12.45 p.m.

Beart v Gaofh Dobhair

Reiteoir: Micheal Mac Eafartaigh (Aodh Ruadh)

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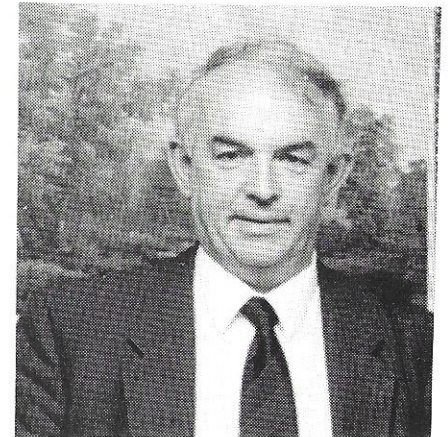
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FÁILTE

By mhaith liom "Fáilte mór" a chuir roimh gach duine go Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill inniu. Fáiltim speisialta roimh na peileadoirí, na h-oifigi agus lucht leanúna Doire.

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 our neighbouring county, Derry.

This time last year, Derry were riding on the crest of a wave after winning the All-Ireland. As we in Donegal know from experience, a year can make a big difference.



Donegal have made a good start to the League with an away win in Newry against the reigning All-Ireland champions, Down, and today I wish new manager, P. J. McGowan, and his mentors well in his first game in charge of Donegal in his home patch, MacCumhaill Park.

P. J. has given much to Donegal football over the years and in following in the footsteps of Brian McEniff, his targets have been set. Winning in Newry in his first outing was very satisfying and will give the newer members of the Donegal side much encouragement.

In wishing P. J. well, I also want to wish Derry's new manager, Mickey Moran all the best for the future. He has had a difficult introduction but, hopefully, all that is behind him now and, no doubt, the Derry side will provide formidable opposition for Donegal today.

With Donegal having only three home games in the Church & General National Football League this season, it is vital that we achieve success and keep up our excellent home record. I would urge the Donegal supporters to get behind their side and give them the encouragement so necessary.

Finally, I thank the MacCumhails Club for preparing today's match programme.

Beir bua agus beannacht, **NIALL Mac CUMHAILL,**
Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae, C.L.C.G.

BUIOCHAS

The MacCumhails Club thank all who contributed articles and items for today's match programme. They also wish to thank their advertisers and hope our patrons support these businesses in return.

● Cover Photo: Derry's Brian McGilligan and Donegal's Jim McGuinness in action during last year's clash.

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TODAY'S REFEREE

PAT CASSERLY (Westmeath)

Pat is a member of the St. Loman's Club in Westmeath, but is a native of Longford. He has been an intercounty referee for a few years. He has played club football in both Longford and Westmeath.

Pat was in charge last year when Donegal and Derry met in Casement Park, and was also in charge when Donegal defeated Clare in the National League semi-final of 1993.

Today's games in the National Football League

Division 1: Meath v Kildare in Navan; Donegal v Derry; Laois v Down in Portlaoise; Kerry v Dublin in Killarney.

Division 2: Mayo v Louth in Castlebar; Clare v Leitrim in Ennis; Tyrone v Cork in Dungannon; Galway v Armagh in Tuam.

Division 3: Longford v Roscommon in Longford; Wexford v Cavan in Enniscorthy; Antrim v Westmeath in Casement Park; Tipperary v Fermanagh in Thurles.

Division 4: London v Sligo in Ruislip; Limerick v Waterford in Askeaton; Offaly v Wicklow in Tullamore; Carlow v Monaghan in Carlow.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Laois	1	1	0	0	2
Kerry	1	1	0	0	2
Meath	1	1	0	0	2
Donegal	1	1	0	0	2
Down	1	0	0	1	0
Dublin	1	0	0	1	0
Kildare	1	0	0	1	0
Derry	1	0	0	1	0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Louth	1	1	0	0	2
Armagh	1	1	0	0	2
Clare	1	1	0	0	2
Leitrim	1	1	0	0	2
Cork	1	0	0	1	0
Tyrone	1	0	0	1	0
Galway	1	0	0	1	0
Mayo	1	0	0	1	0

DIVISION 3

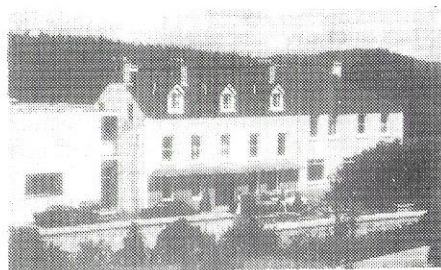
	P	W	D	L	Pts
Fermanagh	1	1	0	0	2
Roscommon	1	1	0	0	2
Westmeath	1	1	0	0	2
Cavan	1	1	0	0	2
Longford	1	0	0	1	0
Tipperary	1	0	0	1	0
Antrim	1	0	0	1	0
Wexford	1	0	0	1	0

DIVISION 4

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Monaghan	1	1	0	0	2
Wicklow	1	1	0	0	2
Waterford	1	1	0	0	2
Sligo	1	1	0	0	2
London	1	0	0	1	0
Kilkenny	1	0	0	1	0
Carlow	1	0	0	1	0
Offaly	1	0	0	1	0

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GOOD LUCK TO BOTH TEAMS

Derry's ups and Downs

By Michael Daly, Donegal Democrat

In 1991 a journalist writing in the 1991 Ulster final programme started off his article with a prophetic question, "Is the wait nearly over?"

The writer was, of course, alluding to Ulster's lack of success in recent times at All-Ireland level. However, he rightly predicted: "There is a widespread feeling that this could be Ulster's year. Certainly the winners of today's final have nothing to fear from the other provinces. Here's hoping that the Sam Maguire will return to Ulster in September."

The wish expressed was fulfilled, Down defeating Donegal to win the Ulster title and then going to the All-Ireland final to defeat Meath by 1-16 to 1-14. The wish was not only fulfilled, but has been granted four years-in-a-row, Down, Donegal, Derry and this year, Down yet again.

Until recent times 1968 stood out as the most successful year for Ulster GAA. Down won the senior, Tyrone the Junior and Derry the All-Ireland Under-21 with Ulster winning the Railway Cup. Down also won the National League, the Wembley Cup and the 'World Cup'.

Since 1991 the researchers don't have to flick too many pages to uncover the many 'highs' that Ulster football has experienced.

For Derry, coming to Ballybofey today, the recent press coverage has had little to do with their memorable achievements, an N.F.L. title on May 3rd, 1992, and an All Ireland title in September, 1993.

Of all three teams, Down, Donegal and Derry, who won those All-Ireland titles, it appeared Derry had the youngest team and a team most likely to repeat the feat. In 1993 when they ousted Cork, Derry presented a most compelling argument in favour of winning the title again in 1994.

Derry's desire to win that '93 title came from a belief that but for sloppiness they would have won in 1992 also. Henry Downey, in Brian Carthy's "Football Captains, The All-Ireland Winners" states:

"Losing to Donegal in last year's Ulster final had a tremendous impact on the team. We were cross! We totally hated ourselves. We were very angry with ourselves. We

believed we could win an All-Ireland in 1992 . . . We were determined to make amends. And we did."

Yet, Derry were probably caught out a year later, 1994, when Down healed their differences, to shatter any dreams about a Derry double.

Derry can complain little about that defeat, it was little consolation that they participated and lost in the best game of the 1994 championship. However, what has happened in Derry in recent months could do untold damage to the county's chances of winning another All-Ireland.

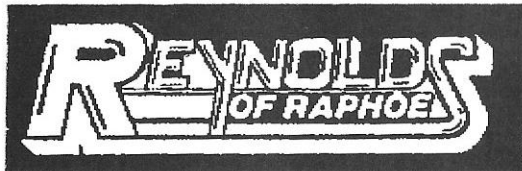
What does or does not happen today in Ballybofey may have little to do with the real business of deciding championship titles come next July/September. However, like Donegal's defeat in the 1992 NFL quarter-final to Dublin, Derry now need a spur; it's time they stopped beating themselves with a rod of their own making.

Here in Donegal there is a new impetus, thanks to Donegal's league win over Down in Newry. If Donegal are to continue to progress and win championship games against Derry or anyone else, they would much prefer to do so against the 'real' Derry team.

The talented footballers of Derry owe it to themselves to win/lose/draw on the football field, not in the committee room.

On May 30th, 1993, Eamon Coleman came out of his side's dressing room beaming from ear to ear. According to Jerome Quinn's book, "Ulster Football & Hurling, The Path of Champions" he was asked by reporters how he had motivated his team to a memorable 3-11 to 0-9 victory over Down. "I didn't," declared Coleman. "Youse did. Youse all tipped Down."

Bearing that in mind, one can't but wonder might Coleman's replacement, Mickey Moran, be using the same words, for a different reason in July 1995! Will Derry take something from their present difficulties and use it to mould another All-Ireland success? Donegal and Down, Tyrone and Cavan, could have a thing or two to say about that but it makes for an interesting 1995.



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Heading the legislators off at the PASS

By Robert Love (Donegal People's Press)

Can someone, somewhere please tell us why the GAA has decided to change the hand-pass rule? Who were the bureaucrats in Croke Park who, at a stroke, caused the opening games of this year's National Football League to be disjointed, confused, low-scoring and free-ridden? What were the motives behind the dismantling of a brand of football which has helped Ulster counties become great over the last four years.

These are questions that need to be seriously addressed . . . and fast.

Brian McEniff, the county's All-Ireland manager and new Central Council delegate, tried right from the start to persuade Cumann Luthchleas Gael that the idea was madness. His was the only dissenting voice in the national newspapers as the GAA began to plan the implementation of the new hand-pass regulations in the run up to the 1994/'95 League campaign.

In their wisdom the GAA chose to ignore McEniff and others like him. However, not for the first time, the Bundoran hotelier's footballing instincts were shown to be spot-on.

We all saw the folly of the new legislation at the Marshes two weeks ago and with the opening games of the NFL played, I doubt if you could find a manager in the country who now thinks the rule-change was a good idea.

And they are not just Ulster managers either. Pat O'Neill of Dublin and Sean Boylan of Meath bitterly criticised the new rule after the opening games.

Of course, we all knew it would be teams from this province who would suffer most. The emphasis of Donegal and, to a lesser extent, Down and Derry, on the hand-pass, has been massive. It is the means by which the Donegal defence works the ball out of danger areas, with players running into space and keeping vital possession while moving the ball downfield at pace.

Remember, Matt Gallagher commented after the All-Ireland final in 1992 that he had only kicked the ball on one occasion in the full seventy minutes.

In Newry we saw both teams struggle as a player receiving a handpass was closed down quickly and was forced to hurriedly boot the ball away. The game, and other league openers like it all around Ireland, lost its flow and was characterised by frees, stoppages and low scoring. The cumulative result of the experiment was disastrous.

But the rules will stay to the end of this year's NFL and we are stuck with them. Players will be forced to revert to the old set of directives for domestic league and provincial championship matches after spending a whole winter trying to get used to something completely new. And what of referees who are in a similar, unfortunate situation. The whole thing is crazy.

Let's put the pressure on now to make certain that this sort of Croke Park experimentation is nipped in the bud. I have no idea what the thinking behind it is. Some people have suggested that it is a blatant attempt to discriminate against Ulster teams in the wake of that province's recent success. Let's hope that's not the case.

One of the country's most respected GAA figures told me recently he had it on good authority that Croke Park was hoping to resurrect the Ireland v Australia Compromise rules tests. The new rules, he added, were intended to bring Gaelic football closer in style to the Australian version. Let's hope that's not true either.

While we are stuck with the new rules for this year's League, let our players, management and officials make every effort to send a clear and blunt message to those who formulated the changes in the first place — the GAA and Gaelic football is more popular now than ever. Why try and mend something which isn't broken in the first place?

Last year's clash in Casement Park

Peter Campbell of the Donegal Democrat looks back at last year's N.F.L. clash

At the same stage last year, round 2, Donegal and Derry met in Casement Park, the game being switched to the Belfast venue because it was felt that Ballinascreen would be unable to accommodate the huge interest which the tie generated.

As it turned out, the game proved something of a damp squib with Derry winning easily by 3-16 to 0-7.

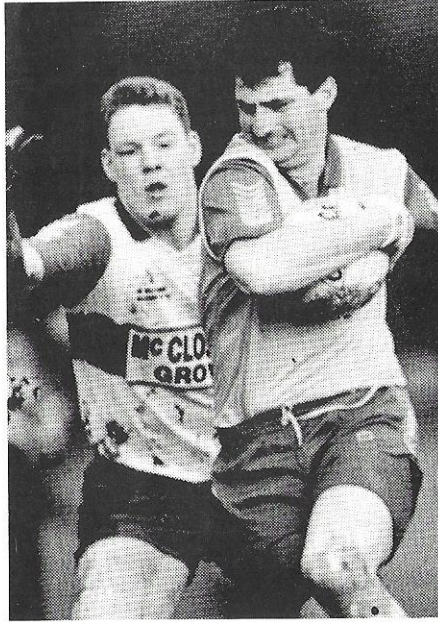
Derry were fresh from their All-Ireland triumph over Cork and along with a grim atmosphere in Belfast, a day after the Shankill bombing, it proved a disastrous journey for the few Donegal fans who made the trip.

Derry had defeated Donegal by two points (0-8 to 0-6) in the Ulster final in Clones on a day best forgotten, and were in the mood to show that their two-point victory was no flash in the pan.

They completely annihilated Donegal with their superior fitness being very much to the fore.

At half-time they led by 2-9 to 0-5, and the second half was even more one-way traffic with Enda Gormley, Joe Brolly and Anthony Tohill being masters.

Derry: Damien McCusker; Kieran McKeever, Tony Scullion, Fergal McCusker; John McGurk, Henry Downey, Karl Diamond (0-1); Anthony Tohill (1-3, two frees), Brian McGilligan; Dermot McNicholl, Dermot Heaney (0-1), Damien Cassidy (0-2); Joe Brolly (0-4), Seamus



Noel Hegarty and Dermot Heaney in a tussle during the Donegal-Derry game in Glasgow earlier this year.

Downey (1-0), Enda Gormley (1-5, three frees). Subs., Hugh Martin Tohill for H. Downey, Declan Bateson for S. Downey.

Donegal: Gary Walsh; Paul Carr, Matt Gallagher, Paddy Hegarty; Mark Crossan, Martin Gavigan, Noel Hegarty; Anthony Molloy, Jim McGuinness (0-1); James McHugh (0-1, free), Martin McHugh, Joyce McMullan; Declan Bonner (0-2, two frees), Tommy Ryan (0-1), John Duffy (0-1). Subs., Michael Gallagher for McMullan, John Gildea for D. Bonner, Marty Carlin for Duffy.

Referee: Pat Casserly (Westmeath).

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE 1993 / 1994 ANALYSIS

	v Down (1-15 to 0-9)	v Derry (3-16 to 0-7)	v Dublin (0-11 to 0-7)	v Kildare (1-10 to 0-7)	v Mayo (3-7 to 0-12)	v Clare (0-10 to 1-5)	v Kerry (0-11 to 0-9)	v Down (1-8 to 0-10)	v Laois (0-8 to 0-7)	TOTAL
John Duffy	0-4	0-1	sub. 0-1	0-2	—	—	—	—	—	0-8
Declan Bonner	0-3	0-2	0-3	0-1	0-3	—	—	—	0-2	0-14
Tommy Ryan	1-0	0-1	✓	✓	—	sub. 0-1	✓	—	—	1-2
John Gildea	0-3	sub. 0-1	—	✓	1-0	✓	✓	—	—	1-4
Jim McGuinness	0-2	0-1	0-1	—	✓	✓	✓	sub.	✓	0-4
Noel Hegarty	0-2	✓	0-1	✓	✓	0-1	✓	✓	✓	0-4
Mark McShane	0-1	—	sub.	—	✓	—	sub.	✓	✓	0-1
James McHugh	✓	0-1	0-1	—	—	✓	✓	0-2	✓	0-4
Brian Murray	✓	—	0-1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0-1
Gary Walsh	✓	✓	✓	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—
John Joe Doherty	✓	—	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—
Matt Gallagher	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—
Paul Carr	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—	—	—	sub.	—
Mark Crossan	✓	✓	✓	0-1	✓	✓	sub.	✓	—	0-1
Martin Shovlin	✓	—	✓	0-1	✓	✓	✓	—	—	0-1
Paddy Hegarty	sub.	✓	—	sub.	—	—	✓	—	✓	—
Marty Carlin	sub.	sub.	0-2	✓	1-0	✓	—	—	sub. 0-1	1-3
Martin Gavigan	—	✓	sub.	sub.	sub.	—	—	—	—	—
Anthony Molloy	—	✓	—	—	—	—	sub.	—	sub.	—
Joyce McMullan	—	✓	✓	✓	sub.	✓	0-1	✓	✓	0-1
Michael Gallagher	—	sub.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paul Callaghan	—	—	—	✓	—	—	—	—	—	—
Donal Reid	—	—	✓	✓	—	0-1	✓	✓	✓	0-1
Donal Breslin	—	—	—	0-2	—	—	—	✓	—	0-2
Martin McHugh	—	✓	0-1	sub.	1-0	sub. 0-1	—	✓	—	1-2
Manus Boyle	—	—	—	—	0-4	0-6	0-8	1-6	0-4	1-28
John Cunningham	—	—	—	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—
Eamon McMenamin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	sub.	—	—

— = didn't play.

✓ = played but didn't score.

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STILL A LONG WAY TO GO

By Charlie Joe McGinley (Derry People and Donegal News)

Fresh from their victory a fortnight ago over All-Ireland champions, Down, P. J. McGowan's new-look Donegal today play the 1993 title winners, Derry.

The Newry result in terms of boosting morale and confidence for the experimental Donegal squad is incalculable but should be viewed with some caution.

To spoil what was billed as Down's homecoming party after their All-Ireland success just four weeks previously was a magnificent achievement for the manager and his players.

The result on the day was excellent but it is important a few factors are taken into consideration before judgement is passed. Down fielded just eight of their All-Ireland winning team. Initially, injuries ruled out five before James McCartan and Barry Breen cried off at the last minute. The fact that just 4,000 supporters (the majority of whom were from Donegal) attended the fixture reflected a degree of apathy prevalent in Down before the game.

Down had just one training session (more of a get-together) on the Wednesday previous which is hardly ideal preparation, especially when the new hand-pass was put into operation. Donegal had three challenge matches — albeit with different line-ups and this did help towards the end.

While P. J. McGowan and his lads will be happy with the victory they will be the first to "measure the result".

Donegal's priority in the league is to retain Division One status and as a platform to experiment in preparation for the championship (the draw is on

live tonight).

Hopefully, post Christmas, P. J. will have a full strength panel at his disposal. To be honest, I believe Donegal's experimental line-up would have learned more from the game in Newry had Down been at full strength. While the reserves who deputised for the Lindens, McCartans and Masons of this world have had inter-county experience, it is minimal.

Players can sometimes get a false sense of security about their own ability and that is why I believe there is still quite a lot of work to be done before assessment can be made of the new look Donegal. When the championship begins Down should (injury free) have their All-Ireland winning team back in action. Just how much better Donegal can get remains to be seen although the return to action of players like Barry McGowan, James McHugh and, hopefully, Noel Hegarty, will surely be welcome pieces for the jigsaw.

If Donegal had fielded "half a side" in any of their pre-Christmas National League games after their All-Ireland success in 1992 and lost, supporters would immediately have gauged the result in exactly those terms.

Therefore, the same principal should apply in the Newry case. Caution all round is called for. A lot of work has yet to be done. Admittedly, it is difficult to learn a great deal from league matches which are traditionally looked upon as a "rest" period for championship contending teams.

Maybe by the Christmas break after games against Derry, Dublin and Kildare, everybody will be in a much better position to comment.

DÚIN NA nGALL

1

P. Ó Ceallacháin
(Paul Callaghan)
(Burt)

2

M. Ó Gallchoir
(Matt Gallagher)
(Naomh Brid)

3

A. Mac Meanmáin
(Eugene McMenamin)
(St. Eunans)

4

S. S. Ó Dochartaigh
(John Joe Doherty)
(Naomh Columba)

5

M. Ó Chrosáin
(Mark Crossan)
(St. Eunans)

6

S. Ó Cuinneagáin
(John Cunningham, capt.)
(Killybegs)

7

M. Ó Seibhleain
(Martin Shovlin)
(Naomh Ultan)

8

M. Mac Seain
(Mark McShane)
(Kilcar)

9

B. Ó Muirí
(Brian Murray)
(Civil Service)

10

E. Mac Meanmáin
(Eamonn McMenamin)
(MacCumhailís)

11

S. Mac Giolla Dé
(John Gildea)
(Naomh Conaill)

12

D. Ó Cnaimhsi
(Declan Bonner)
(Na Rossa)

13

S. Ó Dufaigh
(John Duffy)
(Aodh Ruadh)

14

A. Ó Baoill
(Tony Boyle)
(Dungloe)

15

M. Ó Baoill
(Manus Boyle)
(Killybegs)

FIR IONAIÐ: 16, G. Breathnach (Gary Walsh, Burren); 17, C. Mac Cormaic (Kevin McCormack, MacCumhailís); 18, C. Ó Donaill (Charles O'Donnell, Aodh Ruadh); 19, L. Ó Gaibheachain (Luke Gavigan, Ardara); 20, P. Mac Fhionnlaioich (Peter McGinley, Killybegs); 21, S. Ó Baoill (Seanie Boyle, Cloughaneely); 22, P. Ó hEigeartaigh (Paddy Hegarty, N. Columba); 23, S. Mac Aonghusa (Jim McGuinness, N. Conaill); 24, S. Ó Ruain (James Ruane, Bundoran).

Dúin na nGall	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45s	Saor Ciceanna
First Half					
Second Half					
Total:					

DOIRE

1

S. Ó hÉanna
(Seamus Heaney)
(Castledawson)

2

S. Mag Eochain
(Sean McGuckian)
(Swatragh)

3

A. Ó Scolláin
(Tony Scullion, capt.)
(Ballinascreen)

4

C. Mac Íomhair
(Kieran McKeever)
(Dungiven)

5

D. Mac Giolla Earnain
(Damien McLarnon)
(Castledawson)

6

D. Ó Casaide
(Declan Cassidy)
(Slaughtneil)

7

G. Mac a Ghoill
(Gary McGill)
(Glen)

8

A. Ó Tuathail
(Anthony Tohill)
(Swatragh)

9

D. Ó hÉanna
(Dermot Heaney)
(Castledawson)

10

E. Ó Broin
(Eamonn Burns)
(Ballinascreen)

11

A. Ó hÉanna
(Eugene Heaney)
(Castledawson)

12

R. Mac Concharaige
(Ronan Rocks)
(An Lúb)

13

S. Ó Brolaigh
(Joe Brolly)
(Dungiven)

14

D. Ó Duagáin
(Dermot Dougan)
(Newbridge)

15

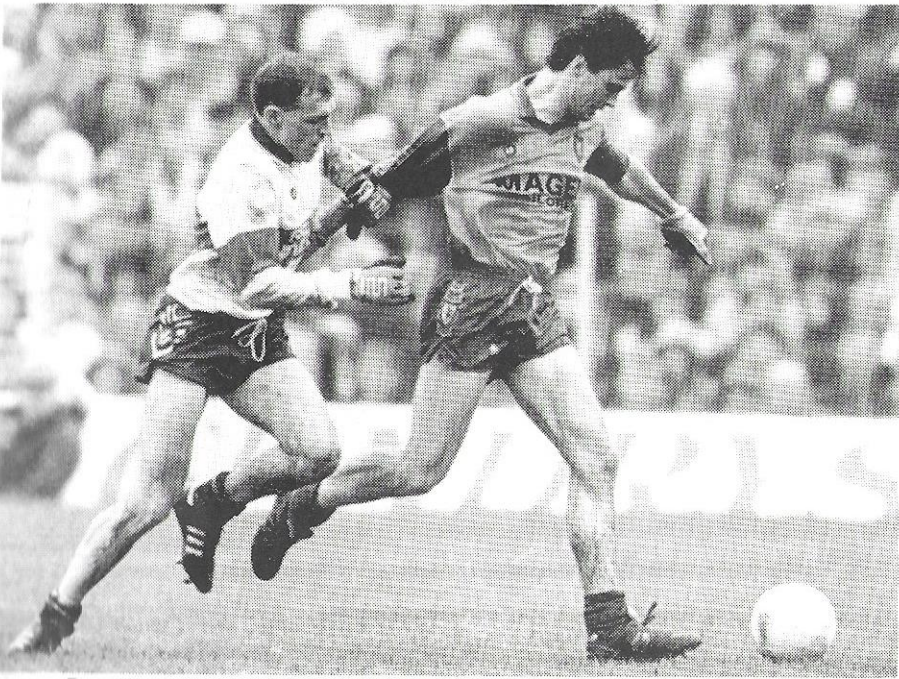
G. Mac Congaill
(Geoffrey McGonigle)
(Dungiven)

FIR IONAIÐ: 16, B. Ó Riagain (Brendan Regan, Lavey); 17, P. Ó Griobain (Paul Gribben, Newbridge); 18, C. Ó Raifeartaigh (Colm Rafferty, Glenullin); 19, D. Mac Niocail (Dermot McNicholl, Glenullin); 20, D. Mac Concharraige (Dominic Rocks, Ballinderry); 21, P. Mac Conamy (Paul Conway, Ballinderry); 22, A. Ó Conaig (Aidan Gunning, Swatragh); 23, C. Mac Bhloscaigh (Colm McCloskey, Limavady); 24, G. Mac Lochlainn (Gary McLaughlin, Craighbane).

Doire	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45s	Saor Ciceanna
First Half					
Second Half					
Total:					



Joyce McMullan hot on the heels of Anthony Tohill.



Derry's Henry Downey in chase of John Duffy in the 1993 Ulster final.

Derry and Donegal connections

By Bernie Mullan, Derry PRO

Had county boundaries not been changed today's game would have been a rather mixed up affair. At a time a large part of Derry was in the county of Coleraine and another part was in Tironaill.

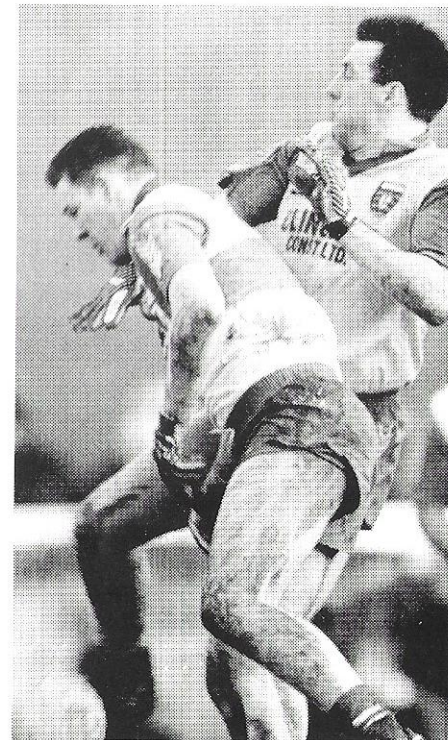
The natural boundary for Co. Derry would appear to be the River Foyle but for some peculiar reason the planners left part of it attached to the Donegal hinterland.

It is not surprising then that for the first 45 years of the GAA club teams from East Donegal and Inishowen played in Derry competitions. Indeed, three Donegal clubs have won the Derry County Championships. They were Clan Chonail (1914), Bunrana (1930) and Burt (1931). Not surprisingly, players from these areas were eligible to play for Derry up until late thirties.

It wasn't all one way traffic, however. In 1919, the Donegal Co. final second replay between Killygordon and Bundoran, I think, was played at the Brandywell.

In many areas of Donegal and Derry there is a peculiar similarity in the dialect. For example, the people of Park and Craighane would not be out of place in Clonmany.

Today, it's not about history or the vocals, but all about local pride. The counties will strive in yet another of their see-saw battles of the nineties. There's rarely a bad game between the two and this one should be no exception.



Danny Quinn and Brian Murray tussle in Glasgow earlier this year.

Old adversaries, Anthony Molloy and Brian McGilligan, will be missing from their familiar midfield positions, and these giants of football will be sorely missed in the dressing rooms. I wish Brian a speedy recovery from his knee injury and wish Anthony the best of luck in his new managerial role.

Neither county is happy with the reduction of the hand pass which both use so well. They should be able to adjust enough to produce a good game.

Des McFeely

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Le Séamus de Faoite (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

Inniu, i bPáirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill, tá Doire agus Dún na nGall i gcoimhlint le chéile — ní fá choinne áit i gCraobh tábachtaí i bhféilire Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Tá an dá chontae ag iarraidh an sprioc a bhaint amach ach 'sé tuairim s'againne nó go mbeadh an bhua síor thábhachtach dúinn. Rinneamar gníomh tá coichís ó shin a shíl mórán daoine a bhí dodhéanta. Caithfear triall a bhaint as an caighdeán céanna oilteachta inniu in éadan foireann, a mheasaim féin atá ar cheann den mhuintir is fearr sa tír in ainneoin a ndeachachtaí.

Ní shíleann aon duine ar feadh bomaite go bhfuil obair fhurast roimhe Dhún na nGall inniu. Measaim go dtiocfadh leis an chluiche seo a bheith ar cheann chomh deacair agus a bhí acu go dtí seo, mar ta mé den bhardúil gur deacair foireann Dhoire a sharú i gcomórtas ar bith. Dhéanfaidh siad a míle dícheall mar a dhéanann i gconaí. Leoga, imríonn siad peil ghlan ghasa atá suntasach le amharc air.

Tá caighdeán ard i gconaí le cosaint ag Dún na nGall. Bíonn gach duine ag dréim le éacht mhór uatha. Tá sé coimhthíoch againn a bheith sa suíochán tiomána. Labhair muid ar fea fada go leor ar bhuannta contae eile. Bhí éad orainn leo le blianta. Tá an taoide indiaidh tiompú agus tá an aisling fíor anois. Bíodh sin mar atá, caithfidh muidinne dul san iomaíocht le Doire agus ní dhéanfaidh aon rud ach bua gnoithe.

Bhí Doire ar barr minic go leor agus tá fios a ngnó acu. Bhí roinnt blianta loma acu ach tá feabhas ag teacht ar chursaí anois. Níl siad ag teacht le cluiche peile amháin a imirt, ach fosta lenár gcuid mórtais a bhaint asainn má tá siad ábalta a bheith uaibhreach ina ngaisce. Nuair a amharcann muid ar gcúl ar a n-iarrachtaí go dtí seo, tá fhios agaibh cad atá ar intinn agam. Tá freagra againne dóibh — go díreach mar a rinne muid ceansú agus sainniú ar An Dún coichís ó shin. Is fearr do Dhoire a bheith ar a bhfaichill.

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (Bord na Contae)

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Rule change – fixing something which wasn't broken

By Ciaran O'Donnell, Derry Journal

Few would argue that GAA sports have increased hugely in popularity in recent years. Yet the decision to introduce a new rule regarding the handpass, which states that a player who takes possession from a handpass direct from a teammate, shall not be permitted to play the ball away with the hand(s) (penalty a free), has put the game of football right back in the dark age.

According to the Association's Development Officer, Pat Daly, one of the main reasons for the farcical alteration was because Croke Park officials had noticed young players weren't kicking the ball very much when attending underage games.

On the opening day of the new Church & General National League a fortnight ago, GAA President, Jack Boothman, described the new rule change as “a refreshing change in the world of football”.

Yet, every manager, coach and player asked about the new rule since its controversial introduction have all taken the same viewpoint. Scrap it before it destroys the game completely.

Ulster counties will naturally feel more hard done by with the introduction of this crazy new rule. Donegal, like today's opponents, Derry, have mastered the hand-passing game to perfection. The short, running game has become the hallmark of Ulster teams which have dominated the championship scene for the last four seasons.

Instead of having a situation whereby players are thinking what to

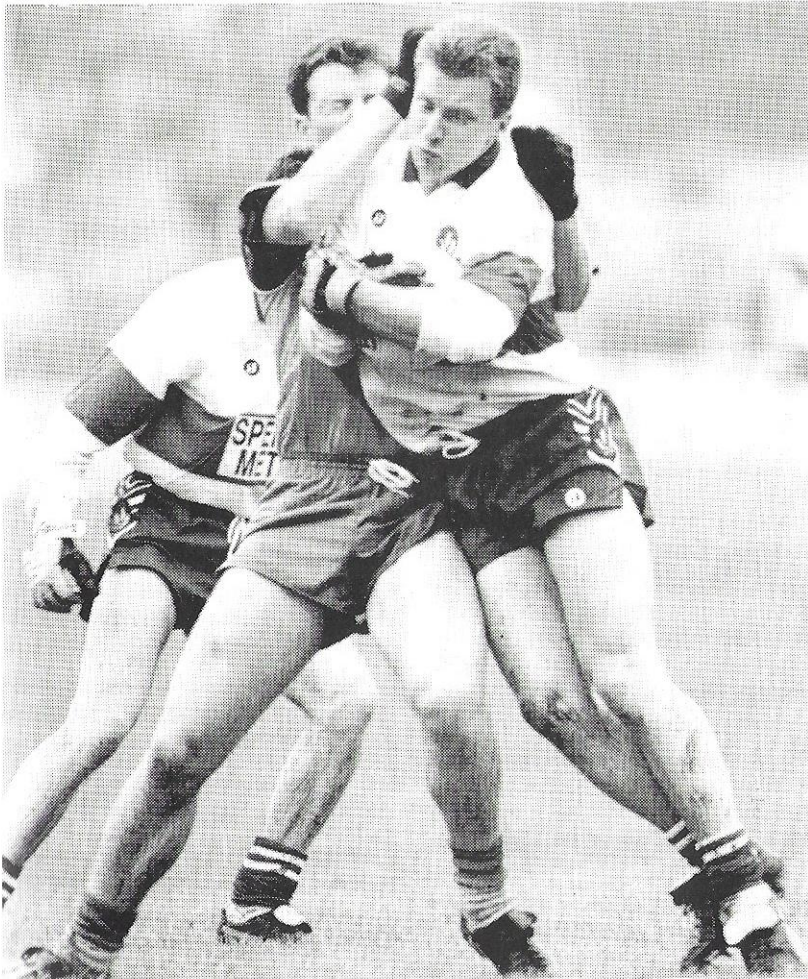
do when they get the ball, they now find themselves in the ludicrous position of having to think how they received the ball. Consequently, we have a slower game, littered with frees and irritated players being prevented from using a style adopted since their playing career began.

The referee, as Donegal manager, P. J. McGowan quite rightly pointed out, is possibly the biggest victim of the new change. With so much happening on a field of 30 players already, surely the last thing officials need to be on the lookout for is the number of handpasses exchanged.

As it happened, Down scored two points against Donegal two weeks ago when the handpass rule was quite clearly broken. On another day, such oversights could have cost Donegal victory, and league points which could well have proved costly during the latter stages of the league competition.

The bottom line is this. Respected personalities in the game such as P. J. McGowan, Martin McHugh, Greg Blaney, Martin O'Connell, Jack Sheedy and Peter McGrath can't all be wrong when they are calling for the rule to be changed.

Why the GAA have proceeded to fix something which wasn't broken in the first place is simply beyond this writer. Hopefully, the powers that be will see fit to give back the game players and followers were happy with when the knock-out stages of the league commence later in the season. For now, unfortunately, all concerned will have to make do with the change.



Kieran McKeever in a clash with Manus Boyle from the 1993 Ulster final.

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Wishing good luck to the Donegal Team.

Derry's double inside 19 months

By Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat)

May 3rd, 1992 and September 19th, 1993 are two dates which will roll easily off the lips of Derry football supporters.

On those two days, this present panel of Derry footballers brought the League and Championship cups back to Derry and to enthusiastic receptions in places like Maghera, Castledawson, Magherafelt and the GAA heartland of South Derry.

Many observers felt they were a little lucky in winning the League title, defeating neighbours, Tyrone by 1-10 to 1-8.

The main talking points afterwards were a disallowed Peter Canavan goal and then the mix-up between Tyrone midfielder, Plunkett Donaghy and goalkeeper, Finbar McConnell which allowed an Anthony Tohill '45' slip through Donaghy's hand to the net to bring Derry on level terms, 1-8 each with just two minutes of normal time left.

Tyrone were devastated and Tohill put Derry in the lead from the kick-out and Dermot Heaney added the final point to send Derry home victorious.

Derry: Damien McCusker; Kieran McKeever, Danny Quinn, Tony Scullion; Henry Downey (capt.), Colm Rafferty, Gary Coleman; Brian McGilligan, Dermot Heaney (0-1); Anthony Tohill (1-5, three frees, goal from '45), Dermot McNicholl; Gary McGill (0-1); Joe Brolly (0-1), Fergal McCusker (0-1), Enda Gormley (0-1). Subs., Seamus Downey for McNicholl; John McGurk for Rafferty, Declan Bateson for McGill.

While Derry completed the double over Tyrone in the '92 Championship clash in Celtic Park, they fell to Donegal in the Ulster final in Clones — Donegal going on to win their first All-Ireland title.

Seventeen months later, Derry were back at the top of Gaelic football when during the summer of 1993 they battled their way through Ulster, defeating Down, Monaghan and finally gaining revenge on Donegal in the Ulster final.

They defeated Dublin in a thrilling All-Ireland semi-final, Johnny McGurk scoring a memorable winning point.

Next stop was back in Croke Park for the final against Cork and although they were hit by an early Joe Kavanagh goal, Derry showed their fighting spirit and with a Seamus Downey goal they eventually came out on top, 1-14 to 2-8.

Cork finished with 14 men, Tony Davis being controversially sent off in the first half, when most people felt Niall Cahalane should have been the Cork player to 'walk' after an off-the-ball foul on Enda Gormley.

John McGurk was once again the Derry man of the match, scoring two mighty points.

Derry: Damien McCusker; Kieran McKeever, Tony Scullion, Fergal McCusker; John McGurk (0-2), Henry Downey, Gary Coleman; Anthony Tohill (0-3), Brian McGilligan (0-1); Dermot Heaney, Damien Barton, Damien Cassidy; Joe Brolly (0-1), Seamus Downey (1-0), Enda Gormley (0-6). Subs., Dermot McNicholl (0-1), Eamon Burns.

Action from the 1993 Ulster final with Mannus Boyle and Declan Bonner in an aerial clash with Henry Downey. Awaiting the outcome, from left, John McGurk, James McHugh, Fergal McCusker and Gary Coleman.



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BURT U-18 HURLERS PEN PICTURES

John Martin Wallace: 18. Midfield. Storeman/Merchandiser. Honours: U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile and Senior. Member of current Donegal senior team, Feile Poc Fada champion. Captain of team.

Brian McDermott: 18. Full-forward. Chef. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Morgan Hegarty: 17. Goalkeeper. Labourer. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile and Senior.

Michael McCann: 16. Centre forward. Storeman. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile and Mini Sevens.

Ardle McDermott: 17. Centre back. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Conor Grant: 17. Full-back. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile and Senior.

Ciaran Dowds: 17. Midfield. Labourer. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Pearse Callaghan: 18. Half-back. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile, Mini-Sevens.

Barry Friel: 16. Half-forward. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile, Mini-Sevens.

Nigel Gallagher: 15. Half-back. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile, Mini-Sevens.

Hugo Wallace: 17. Half-forward. Labourer. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Patrick McLaughlin: Corner-back. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18.

Paul Boyle: 16. Corner forward. Labourer. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Darren Wallace: 14. Corner forward. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Mark McGrath: 17. Corner back. Tyre fitter. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Paul McLaughlin: 14. Forward. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Niall Campbell: 14. Forward. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Stephen Sweeney: 15. Back. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

David Mullan: 16. Back. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Paul O'Brien: 15. Goalkeeper. Student. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Andrew Curran: 16. Forward. Merchandiser. U-12, 14, 16, 18, Feile.

Manager: Austin Wallace.

Team Coach: Andrew Wallace.

GAOTH DOBHAIR U-18 HURLERS PEN PICTURES

Micheal Gallagher: 16. Honours to date: U-14 and U-16 medals. Very reliable goalkeeper.

Eugene McDowell: 17. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16.

Donal Clancy: 18. Honours, U-16. Strong and fit as a result of his other favourite hobby, cycling.

Frankie McGinley: 16. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16. A keen golfer and plays some lovely ground hurling.

Hugh Eamon Gallagher: 15. Honours: u-12, 14 and 16. over six feet tall and uses his height to great advantage.

James Gallagher: 17. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16. A very stylish centre-half. Son of Neilly.

Gerard Hamer: 16. Honours: U-16. A late developer at the game. Missed the semi-final due to injury.

Omar Sherlock: 18. Captain. Honours: U-16. Has played for Donegal and U-16 and minor level.

Michael Doherty: 17. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16. A very strong midfielder, known better as "Cundy".

Colm Diver: 18. Honours: U-14 and 16. University student. Very fast on the wings.

Rory McCool: 17. Honours: U-14 and U-16. Strong on the ball. Scored a great goal in the semi-final.

Liam McBride: 15. Honours: U-12, 14 and U-16. Just back from a trial with Derby County. Could be another Roy Keane in the making.

Martin 'Beag' Galalgher: 16. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16.

Aidan Carroll: 16. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16. A great goalscorer in the past and hoping for a few more today.

Paul Hickey: 16. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16. Very versatile, can play in any position.

Damien Doherty: 16. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16. A good corner forward.

Kieran Campbell: 15. Honours: U-12, 14 and 16. Can play back or forward.

Steven McFadden: 16. Honours: u-12, 14 and 16. Can play midfield or forward.

Sean Gallagher: 17. Honours, U-16.

Trainer/manager: Pat Sherlock.

BURT

Dathanna: Buí agus Gorm

	1		
	Morgan Hegarty		
2	3	4	
Mark McGrath	Conor Grant	Paddy McLaughlin	
5	6	7	
Pearse Callaghan	Ardle McDermott	Nigel Gallagher	
8		9	
John M. Wallace (capt.)		Ciaran Dowds	
10	11	12	
Hugo Wallace	Michael McCann	Barry Friel	
13	14	15	
Darren Wallace	Brian McDermott	Paul Boyle	

Subs.: 16, Paul McLaughlin; 17, Niall Campbell; 18, Stephen Sweeney; 19, David Mullan; 20, Paul O'Brien; 21, Andrew Curran.

GAOTH DOBHAIR

Dathanna: Glas agus Bán

	1		
	Michael Gallagher		
2	3	4	
Eugene McDowell	Donal Clancy	Frankie McGinley	
4	5	6	
Hugh Eamon Gallagher	James Gallagher	Gerard Hamer	
8		9	
Omar Sherlock		Michael Doherty	
10	11	12	
Colm Diver	Rory McCool	Liam McBride	
13	14	15	
Martin 'Beag' Gallagher	Aidan Carroll	Paul Hickey	

Subs.: 16, Damien Doherty; 17, Kieran Campbell; 18, Steven McFadden; 19, Sean Gallagher.

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