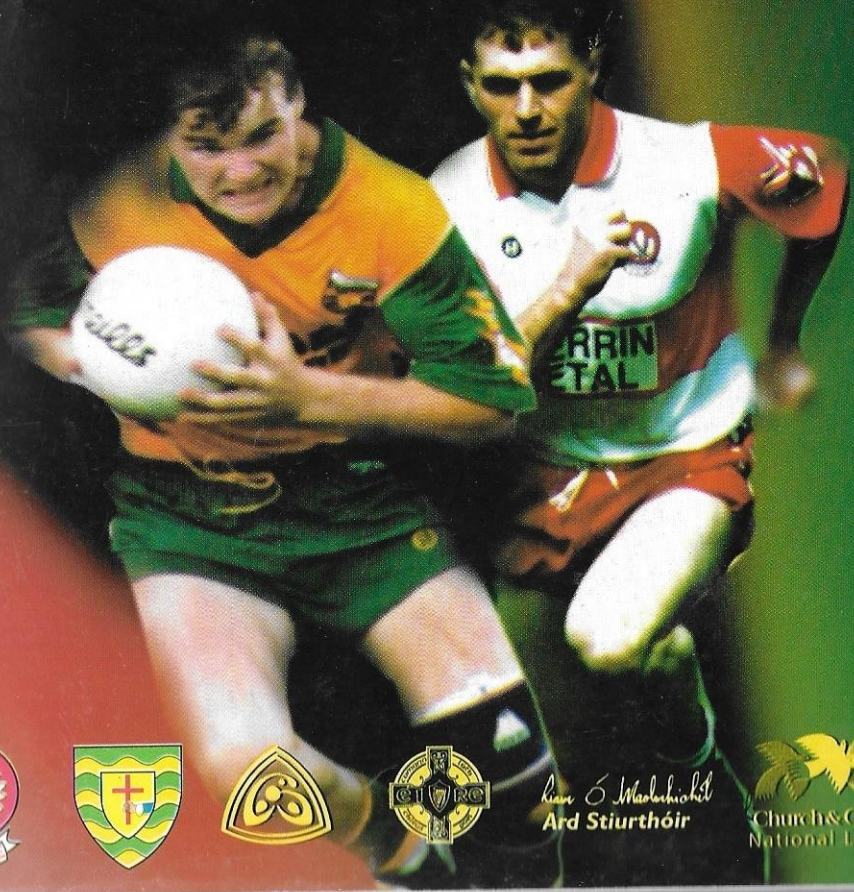


Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Church & General
**NATIONAL FOOTBALL
LEAGUE FINAL**

14 Bealtaine, 1995
PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

Luach £1
Clár Oifigiúil



Seán Ó Maolagáin
Ard Stiurthóir



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Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Church & General NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FINAL

14 Bealtaine, 1995
PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

1.45

All Ireland Vocational Schools' Football Final

Dún na nGall v Liatroim

Réiteoir: P. O'Toole (Longfort)

Linesmen: P. MacGann (Iar Mhi) and J. Harlin (An Mhi)

3.30

Dún na nGall v Doire

Réiteoir: P. Russell (Tiobraid Árann)

Standby Referee and Linesman: P. Casserly (Iar Mhi)

Linesman: T. McDermott (An Cabhán)

DBA

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Sean & Mairéad
Ard Stiurthóir



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 tíorán ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.



Dún na nGall v. Liatroim

Pat O'Toole (An Longfort)

Na Réiteoirí



Pat's from the Forgnay club in Longford and has been refereeing since 1982. He joined the national referee's panel in 1991. That year he was in charge of the Leinster Club Final and made his senior intercounty debut in the NFL. Since then he has officiated at a wide range of games at club, county and provincial levels including the

Railway Cup final and the Leinster U-21 final and replay in 1994. This year, he has been active in the NFL and refereed the Vocational Schools' semi-final between Leitrim and Offaly. Currently he is PRO for Longford County Board and is employed as a Manager at St. Christopher's Day Centre in Longford town.

Doire v. Dún na nGall

Paddy Russell (Tiobraid Árann)



The Premier County man is a much travelled referee, not only in this country but abroad. He had charge of the Cork-All Stars game at the Skydome, Toronto, in 1991 and was the man in the middle in the Willie Dowds Cup tie last month in Glasgow, where Donegal beat Dublin. Russell has been refereeing since 1975 and has steadily advanced through the ranks. He has refereed All-Ireland finals at minor,

junior and senior (the Sam Maguire Cup tie of 1990). On St. Patrick's Day he was referee of the club final between Kilmacud Crokes and Bellaghy. His most recent assignments were the quarter-final meeting of Tyrone and Kerry and the semi-final between Donegal and Laois at Croke Park two weeks ago.

Medical/Lost Children

Medical:

Hogan Stand: Upper Hogan, Medical Centre rear of Press Box Area.

Lower Hogan/Nally: Treatment Ambulance rear of Sections G/L.

New Stand: Medical Centre rear of Section 301. Treatment Ambulances on rear Concourse.

Canal End: Treatment Ambulance and Medical Centre rear of Terrace.

Hill 16: Treatment Ambulance and Medical Centre rear of Terrace.

Pitch: St. John Ambulance on pitch in front of Nally Stand and on pitch outside dressing room area.

Site Medical Officer: Dr. Stuart in front of Nally Stand.

All Medical Centres are staffed by St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Lost Children:

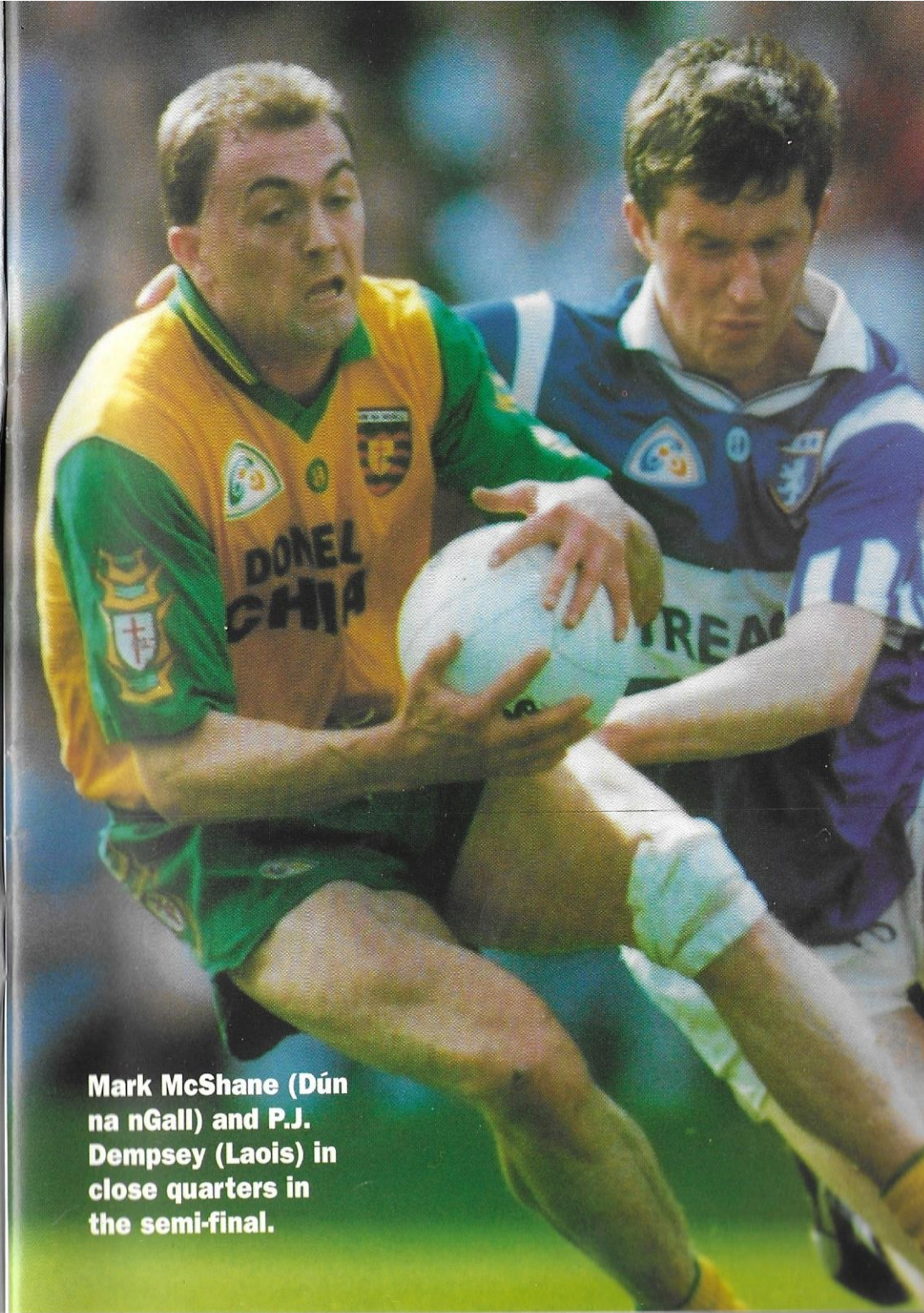
Upper Hogan at Medical Centre.

Lower Hogan/Nally at Gift Shop.

New Stand - rear of Section 301.

Canal Terrace - Medical Centre.

Hill 16 Terrace - Medical Centre.



Mark McShane (Dún na nGall) and P.J. Dempsey (Laois) in close quarters in the semi-final.



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**SPONSORS OF CORK SENIOR
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Both sides have a lot to play for

by CHARLIE MCGINLEY

Derry People & Donegal News

Today's final is the fifth time two teams from Ulster have contested the National Football League decider and is yet another landmark for the province.

Ulster has dominated the major honours in recent years and this season the provincial champions will be aiming to bring the Sam Maguire Cup north for the fifth successive year.

Derry are appearing in their second league decider in four seasons and are after their third crown — their previous victories being in 1947 when they beat Clare 2-9 to 2-5 and in 1992 when they scored a 1-10 to 1-8 win over Tyrone.

Donegal are bidding for their first National League title although they have appeared in the final before. They lost the 1993 league decider after a replay to Dublin which signalled the beginning of the end of the McEniff era.

Derry's league final win over Tyrone in 1992 marked the beginning of their resurgence. They narrowly lost the Ulster final the same year to Donegal, but gained revenge a year later when they went on to win the Sam Maguire Cup.

However, their success was laced with controversy following the decision to sack Eamon Coleman as manager. What followed was sad for everyone involved in Derry football and resulted in a scramble for players

to wear the county jersey.

Mickey Moran, unfortunately, was in the middle of the players' row with the County Board, but gradually the wounds healed and by November Derry were back on the winning circuit. They haven't lost a competitive match since and look upon the league as ideal preparation for the championship.

TRANSITION

Donegal, in many people's opinion, are still in a transition period after the successful McEniff era.

P.J. McGowan, however, set out merely to retain Division One status when he was appointed last summer. He scarcely believed his side would ever reach the league final but is now adamant they are all out to capture a league crown for the first time.

There has been plenty of talk about the close proximity of the championship meeting with Down in a week's time. The timing is rather unfortunate but speaking to their All-Ireland winning captain of 1992, Anthony Molloy, this week he felt it shouldn't present a problem.

The Ardara man suggested competitive matches were of much more benefit to a team than challenge games which would have taken place had Donegal not progressed. His sentiments were shared by the Down manager, Peter McGrath.

While Derry have struggled in

their path to the final, Donegal are the team in form. The return of Noel Hegarty and James McHugh along with the influential Martin Gavigan has given the side a huge confidence boost in recent games after a lull after Christmas.

Derry are one of the top teams in the country according to P.J. McGowan and few can argue with their record. While they seem to be uncomfortable with the experimental rules, they are capable of beating anyone in the country on their day.

POWERFUL

Their powerful midfield pairing of Anthony Tohill and Brian McGilligan may shade the honours in this department, but the game could be decided by the half backs and half forwards in both camps.

Henry Downey must be stopped from getting forward for Derry if Donegal are to be successful.

Seamus Downey is having a magnificent season and the return after Christmas of Enda Gormley has helped the balance in their full forward line.

Brian McEniff, one of the most successful managers ever, feels Donegal will shade it by four points but believes it will be the final ten minutes before McGowan's men get clear.

He feels the Derry forward line is not as potent as Donegal's. John Duffy is in tremendous form while the return after injury of Tony Boyle along with nine points hero of the All-Ireland final, Manus Boyle should keep the Derry rear-guard very busy.

In the vital matter of confidence, it is important for both teams to keep a winning sequence as they wrap up championship preparations.

Donegal seem to have more to play for and this may shade it.

THE ART OF HIGH FIELDING

is perfectly demonstrated by Derry's Brian McGilligan as he controls the situation at midfield despite the efforts of Tyrone's Fergal Logan.



VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FINAL

A New (And Rare) Double ... A Challenge For Donegal

Like the minor and senior All-Ireland championship finals, the Vocational Schools and National League finals form a well-established double event in the G.A.A. calendar. And the staging of these two finals has seen quite a number of counties attempting to bring off the League-Vocational double — but the success rate is low.

Galway was the first county to reach both finals (1965) and after beating Kerry in the League "Home" final and also in the Vocational decider, the Corribiders overcame New York in the league final proper at Gaelic Park, thus gaining the honour of being the first county to bring off this 'new' inter-county double.

Mayo was the next county to feature in both finals when they won the 1971 Vocational final from Antrim but lost the league final to Kerry. Shortly afterwards Kerry became the second county to record the double — the seniors beating Offaly by 2-12 to 0-14 and the students overcoming Mayo by 3-8 to 2-6 in the 1973 finals.

Four years later the Kingdom repeated the feat — at the expense of Dublin (senior, by 1-8 to 1-6) and Kildare (schools, by 1-9 to 0-11). That, however, was the last occasion on which the double was annexed, although there were three other attempts since then. In 1978 Mayo lost both finals (League to Dublin and Vocational to Kerry). Four years later Kerry were in line for the double only to lose the student battle to Mayo before beating Cork in the league final.

And the most recent double attempt was in 1987 with Kerry again the seekers; but having brought off the first leg at the expense of Donegal, they went down to Dublin in the senior event.

And now after a lapse of eight years, another county bids for this rare double, and for Donegal, today presents an intriguing challenge — to win the National League for the first time and become the first Ulster county to bring off this rare and exciting double. Incentives don't come stronger than that.

Roll of Honour

8:	Kerry	1973, 1977, 1978, 1986, 1987 1990, 1992, 1993.
5:	Tyrone	1967, 1969, 1970, 1988, 1989
3:	Derry	1979, 1980, 1981.
	Galway	1964, 1965, 1976.
	Mayo	1971, 1975, 1982.
2:	Donegal	1984, 1985.
	Dublin City	1962, 1963.
	Wicklow	1974, 1983.
	Cork	1991, 1994.
1:	Fermanagh	1966.
	Antrim	1968.
	Carlow	1972.
	Cork City	1961.

Coming Through

The Vocational Schools in Donegal have played a major role in the development of football in the county. Evidence of this is shown in the fact that, of the current Donegal squad, no fewer than ten of them have represented their county at

Vocational Schools level.

They are:

- John Joe Doherty**
- Martin Shovlin**
- Eugene McMenamin**
- Mark McShane**
- John Bán Gallagher**
- Declan Bonner**
- Tony Boyle**
- Manus Boyle**
- John Gildea**

Squad Members

In addition to the players named on today's team sheet, the following are also members of their respective squads:

DÚN NA nGALL — Charlie Boyle, Bernard McGeehan, Paul Stevenson.

LIATROIM — Raymond Gilmartin, Jonathan Duffy.

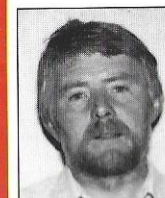
DONEGAL OFFICIALS



John Joe O'Shea
(Team Manager)



Cathal Campbell
(Trainer)

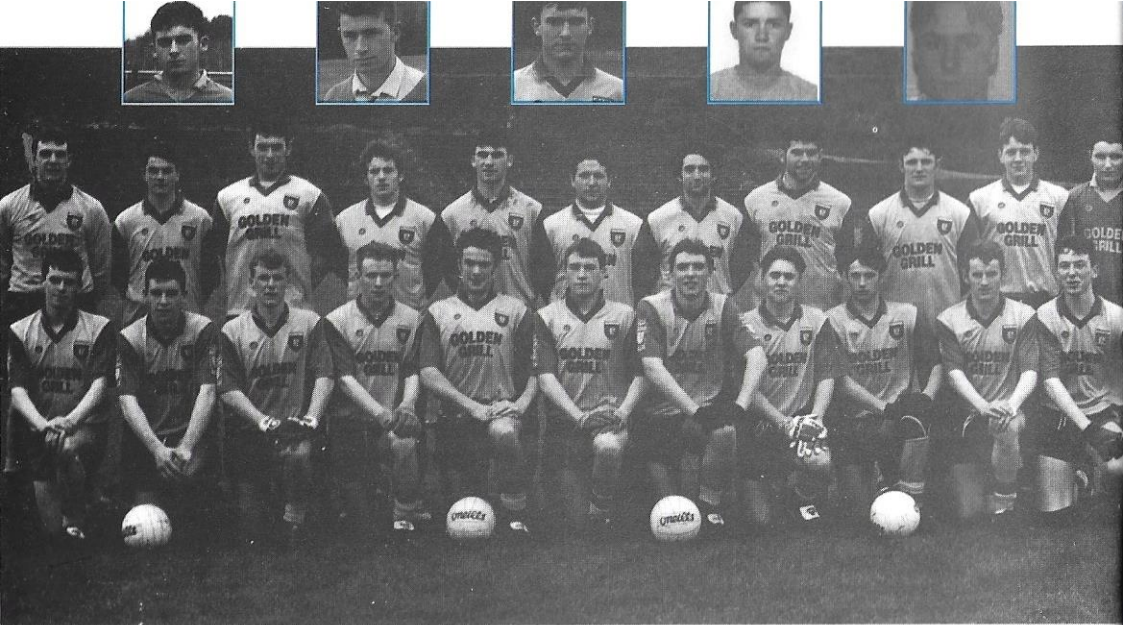


Barry Campbell



Danny O'Brien

DONEGAL OFFICIALS



The Donegal Vocational team which defeated Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Back row (l-r): Conal McFadden, Sean McHugh, Ciaran Brown, Shane Griffin, Vincent Kennedy, David Carroll, Gary Hilferty, Dermot McColgan, Adrian McColgan, Raymond Sweeney, David Greene. **Front row (l-r):** Rory Sweeney, Barry Monaghan, James Boyle, Conal Doherty, Martin McMenamin, Don Monaghan, Brian McLaughlin, Eamon Reddin, Gerard Cannon, Aodh Brennan, Charlie Boyle.

Inset (l-r): Shane McArt, Bernard McGeehan, Martin Robinson, Paul Stephenson, Peter McHugh.

Photo: John Foy.

The Other Double

Apart from the National League-Vocational Schools double which Donegal are striving to annex today, Donegal, as Ulster representatives, will be seeking the second leg of yet another double for the North, for should they overcome Leitrim in the Schools final they will add this title to the College's title already won by St. Patrick's, Maghera.

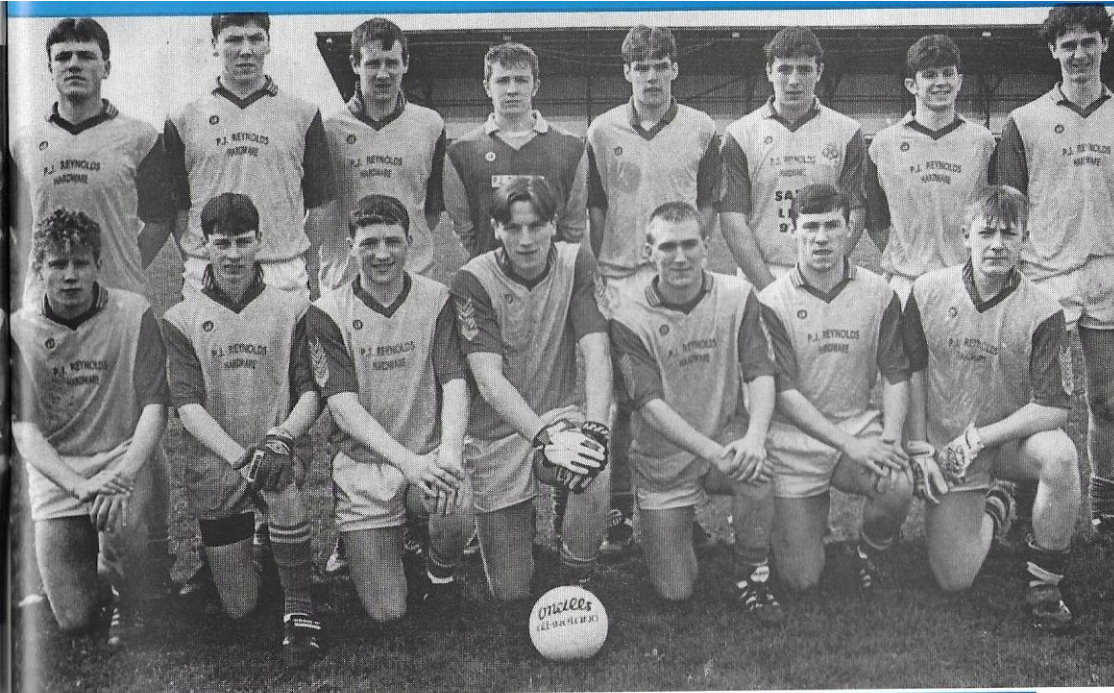
On only three occasions has the double been brought off by Ulster — in 1967 and 1988 when Tyrone and St. Colman's Newry won out, and in 1989 when the Maghera college beat Col. Christ Ri on a replay and Tyrone beat Mayo in the Vocational final.

Northern Doubles

Donegal's bid for the Vocational-League double recalls previous Ulster attempts to lift these titles in the same year. The first, in 1968 was successful when Antrim schools, in beating Galway by 6-7 to 1-4, recorded the biggest-ever winning margin in a Vocational final with Down completing the double at the expense of Kildare — 2-14 to 2-11. Two years later Ulster teams again contested both finals, but the example set by Tyrone in beating Clare schools failed to inspire the Down seniors who went down to Mayo by 0-10 to 4-7.

Donegal helped to make it another great day for Ulster when in retaining the Vocational honours with a 3-8 to 1-4 win over Cork in 1985, they brought off the first leg to which Monaghan added their contribution by beating fellow-Northerners, Armagh in the league decider.

Today, however, Donegal carry the North-West's banner a significant step further as the first Ulster county to contest the National League and Vocational Schools finals on the same day.



The Leitrim Vocational team which defeated Offaly in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Back row (l-r): Brendan Burke, Padraic Carroll, Adrian Moran, Gerard Glynn, Damien Kieley, Chris Roddy, Padraic Cox, Gerard Gunn. **Front row (l-r):** Fergus Redican, Pat Caslin, Dermot Reynolds, James McGowan (captain), Brian Foley, Fintan McBrien, Brendan Whelan.

Lá Mór Don Chomortas Gairmscolaíochta

Is dócha gurbé eisiomlár na sinsear sa pheil i nDún na nGall agus Liatroim, le tamall de bhlianta anuas, a spreag ógánaigh an dá chontae iomráiteacha seo chun aithris a dhéanamh orthu. Dá thoradh sin tá foirne na Scoileanna Gairmoideachais ón dá chontae sa chluiche ceannais inniu.

Ní mór focal buíochas a rá le múinteoirí na tíre, gan trácht ar an dá chontae sa choimhlint inniu, as an dúthracht agus an díogras a chaitheann slad chun na cluichí náisiúnta a choinneáil ar súil ag leibhéal an-ard. Ar ndóigh tá na clubanna lena mbaineann na

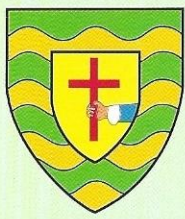
buacháillí seo ag tabhairt cabhrach agus ag baint tairbhe as na comortais idir-scoileanna ag gach leibhéal, bunscóileanna, gairmscoileanna, coláistí agus institiúidí trí leibhéal. Is mó peileadóirí den chéad scoth a tháinig tríd an córas sin. Moltar iad go hard.

Is breá an rud é go bhfuil na hógánaigh anseo sa Staid Náisiúnta den Chumann ar an lá speisialta seo nuair a bheidh an t-ardán nua in úsáid go hiomlán, ardán a tógadh in omós don Chiosógach ceannródaí sa ghluaiseacht atá, in imeacht breis agus céad is a deich mbliana tar éis meanma

an náisiúin a ardú agus na cluichí gaelacha a chur ar bhonn slán. Cuimneoidh siad ar an lá seo go deo.

Tá sé deacair a rá cé a bhuafaidh. Tá i bhfad níos leithne de rogha ag na Conallaigh agus ar an ábhair sin shílfeá go mbeidís níos láidre ná a gcéilí comhtraic. Mar sin féin is curaidh Chonnacht iad buachaillí Liatroma atá tar éis an cluiche leathcheannais a bhuanach agus ní mór iad a aithint mar fhórsa nua peile — ar nós a sinisir!

Nach cuma cé a bhuann, fhad is go mbíonn caighdeán maith peile ann agus go mbaineann ógánaigh an dá thaobh sult agus sásamh as an ócáid.



Dún na nGall

Dathanna: Bui is Dubh

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Conal McFadden**
C. MacPháidín
(Milford V.S.)
- (17) **Vincent Kennedy**
U. Ó Cinnéide
(Abbey V.S., Donegal Town)
- (18) **Peter McHugh**
P. MacAodha
(Glenties C.S.)
- (19) **Shane McArt**
S. MacAirt
(Scoil Mhuire Buncrana)
- (20) **Adrian McColgan**
A. MacColgan
(Buncrana V.S.)
- (21) **Ciarán Brown**
C. de Brún
(Carndonogh C.S.)
- (22) **Shane Griffin**
S. Ó Griofa
(Abbey V.S., Donegal Town)
- (23) **Martin Robinson**
M. Mac Róibín
(Milford V.S.)
- (24) **Sean McHugh**
S. MacAodh
(Milford V.S.)

Roghnóirí:
John Joe O'Shea (Killybegs V.S.)
(Manager);
Cathal Campbell (Killybegs V.S.) (Trainer);
Barry Campbell (Carrick V.S.);
Danny O'Brien (Buncrana V.S.)

1
DAVID GREENE
D. Ó hUaine
(Sacred Heart, Ballyshannon)

2
GARY HILFERTY
G. Ó hAilbheartaigh
(Loreto Convent, Milford)

5
RORY SWEENEY
R. MacSuibhne
(Abbey V.S., Donegal Town)

8
BARRY MONAGHAN
B. Ó Manacháin
(Abbey V.S.)

10
DAVID CARROLL
D. Ó Cearúill
(Ballinmore V.S.)

13
JAMES BOYLE
S. Ó Baoill
(Rosses C.S.)

3
MARTIN McMENAMIN
M. MacMeanman
(St. Columbas, Stranorlar)

6
EAMON REDDIN
E. Ó Rodáin
(Buncrana V.S.)

9
DERMOT McCOLGAN
D. MacColgan
(Buncrana V.S.)

11
RAYMOND SWEENEY
R. MacSuibhne
(Rosses C.S.)

14
BRIAN McLAUGHLIN
B. MacLochlainn
(P.C.C. Falcarragh)

4
DAN MONAGHAN
D. Ó Manacháin
(Abbey V.S., Donegal Town)

7
GERARD CANNON
G. MacCeannannáin
(Carrick V.S.)

12
AODH BRENNAN
A. Ó Broanáin
(Glenties C.S.)

15
CONAL DOHERTY
C. Ó Dochartaigh
(Glenties C.S.)

Liatroim

Dathanna: Bán



Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Terence Reynolds**
T. MacRánaill
(Carrigallen V.S.)
- (17) **Fergus Redican**
F. Ó Roideacháin
(Lough Allen College)
- (18) **Pat Caslin**
P. Ó Caisealáin
(Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.)
- (19) **Trevor Barry**
T. de Barra
(Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.)
- (20) **Conor Woods**
C. MacConchoille
(Lough Allen College)
- (21) **Brian Foley**
B. Ó Foghlú
(Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.)
- (22) **Damien McCabe**
D. MacCába
(Drumshanbo V.S.)
- (23) **Gordon Woods**
G. MacConchoille
(Lough Allen College)
- (24) **Ian McGreevy**
I. MacRiabháigh
(Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.)

Roghnóirí:
Joe Flynn (Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.)
(Team Manager);
Andy Redican (Lough Allen College);
Pat Riordan (Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.);
Walter Sharpley (Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.);
Michael Lynch (Carrick-on-Shannon V.S.);
Tony McGowan (Drumshanbo V.S.);
Tony Ward (Mohill V.S.)

1
GERARD GLYNN
G. MagFhloinn
(Lough Allen College)

2
DERMOT REYNOLDS
D. MacRánaill
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

5
DAMIEN GILBANE
D. MacGiolla Bán
(Drumshanbo V.S.)

8
JAMES MCGOWAN
S. MacGabhann (Capt.)
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

10
ADRIAN MORAN
A. Ó Moráin
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

13
BRENDAN WHELAN
B. Ó Faoláin
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

3
BRENDAN BURKE
B. de Búrca
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

6
PADRAIC CARROLL
P. Ó Cearúill
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

11
JIMMY GUCKIAN
S. MacEochain
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

14
CHRIS RODDY
C. Ó Rodaigh
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

4
PADRAIC COX
P. Mac an Choiligh
(Drumshanbo V.S.)

7
GERARD GUNN
G. MacGiollaDhoinn
(Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.)

9
NIALL FLYNN
N. Ó Floinn
(Mohill V.S.)

12
FINTAN McBRIEN
F. MacBriain
(Carrigallen V.S.)

15
DAMIEN KIELTY
D. Ó Caoilte
(Drumshanbo V.S.)

DÚN NA nGALL

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					

LIIATROIM

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seacháí	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					

Ulster's Barren Decades

An all-Ulster National League final — the second in four seasons — confirms, if such confirmation is needed, the Northern dominance of the current football scene. From the present pinnacle it is hard to realise that for the first 20 years of the National League Ulster was the "Cinderella" province, as teams from the North repeatedly failed to make an impression once the knock-out stages were reached.

And although the 1930s saw Ulster attain the championship peak for the first time in the shape of Cavan's All-Ireland success, in the National League the northern province was very much in the doldrums, and a decade that saw league honours go the rounds of the three other provinces, brought no joy to Ulster. Indeed, it might be true to say that the first 20 years of the National League constituted a most dismal period for the North. True, Cavan made a bold bid against Kerry in the 1931 final, as they did two years later against Meath, but the overall picture was one of frustration and defeat.

And the early signs had not been unpromising. In the first-ever semi-final in 1926 Antrim had made a brave showing against Dublin at Dundalk before going down by three points. But when Monaghan carried the Ulster banner into the 1929 semi-final, the advantage of playing at Carrickmacross availed them but little as Kildare had four goals in hand (4-5 to 0-5) at the end of a one-sided encounter.

BRAVE EFFORTS

Cavan's brave efforts in '31 and '33 gave rise to expectations of an early league breakthrough, but thereafter the thirties were indeed dismal. By 1934 Leinster, Munster and Connacht teams had all registered league triumphs, but apart from Donegal's 'localised' Division Two success in '31 and Armagh's 1935 win, also in Division Two, Ulster sideboards were bare of honours. Fermanagh's appearance in the 1935 final shed little lustre on Ulster football and it was Cavan who again made the most realistic bid when, in the only straightforward league campaign in the history of the competition (1935-36), they finished joint runners-up with Dublin, two points behind Mayo in the final table.

Donegal's vain bid in the 1937 Division Two final did little to boost Ulster's image and when a new format was introduced for the 1936-37 season — two seven-team divisions — only two Ulster counties were included in Group A, Cavan and Monaghan, along with five from Leinster. Cavan had to settle for runners-up spot again — sharing second place with Kildare — but Monaghan managed only two wins from their six outings. When that system was retained for the following season the Ulster representatives fared even worse, with Monaghan finishing at the foot of the table and the Breffni men finishing joint fourth with Dublin and Kildare.

Nor did yet another recasting of the groups for the '38 and '39 competition work in Ulster's favour, but the last campaign before the Emergency (1940-41) saw

Down's winning of a five-county Ulster group provide them with a place in the semi-finals. However, northern luck was still out, though the Mourne men's 1-4 to 0-11 defeat by league specialists, Mayo was an encouraging performance.

SUCCESS AT LAST

When the league resumed in the autumn of 1945, Donegal was the lone Ulster absentee from the competition, but the northern province was on the march with Cavan qualifying for a play-off with Meath for the right to meet Antrim in the semi-final. The Royal county proved the strongest of the three, but only after a drawn game with Antrim, the scoreline of which was 0-11 to 0-9.

A year later a drastically curtailed programme, caused by an unusually protracted winter, gave Derry the chance to take the New Ireland trophy north for the first time; but if that achievement was somewhat suspect because of the special circumstances surrounding it, there was no denying the merit of Cavan's success in 1948 when John Joe O'Reilly led a splendid team to win the replayed league final, four weeks after their All-Ireland triumph. Cavan thus became only the third county to win the National League — All-Ireland double.

League honours did not immediately shower on northern contenders in the wake of these events, but the mould of frustration and defeat which had dogged the footsteps of Ulster teams for 20 years was finally broken.

From Ulster's present eminence the events of the thirties and early forties seem a long time ago.



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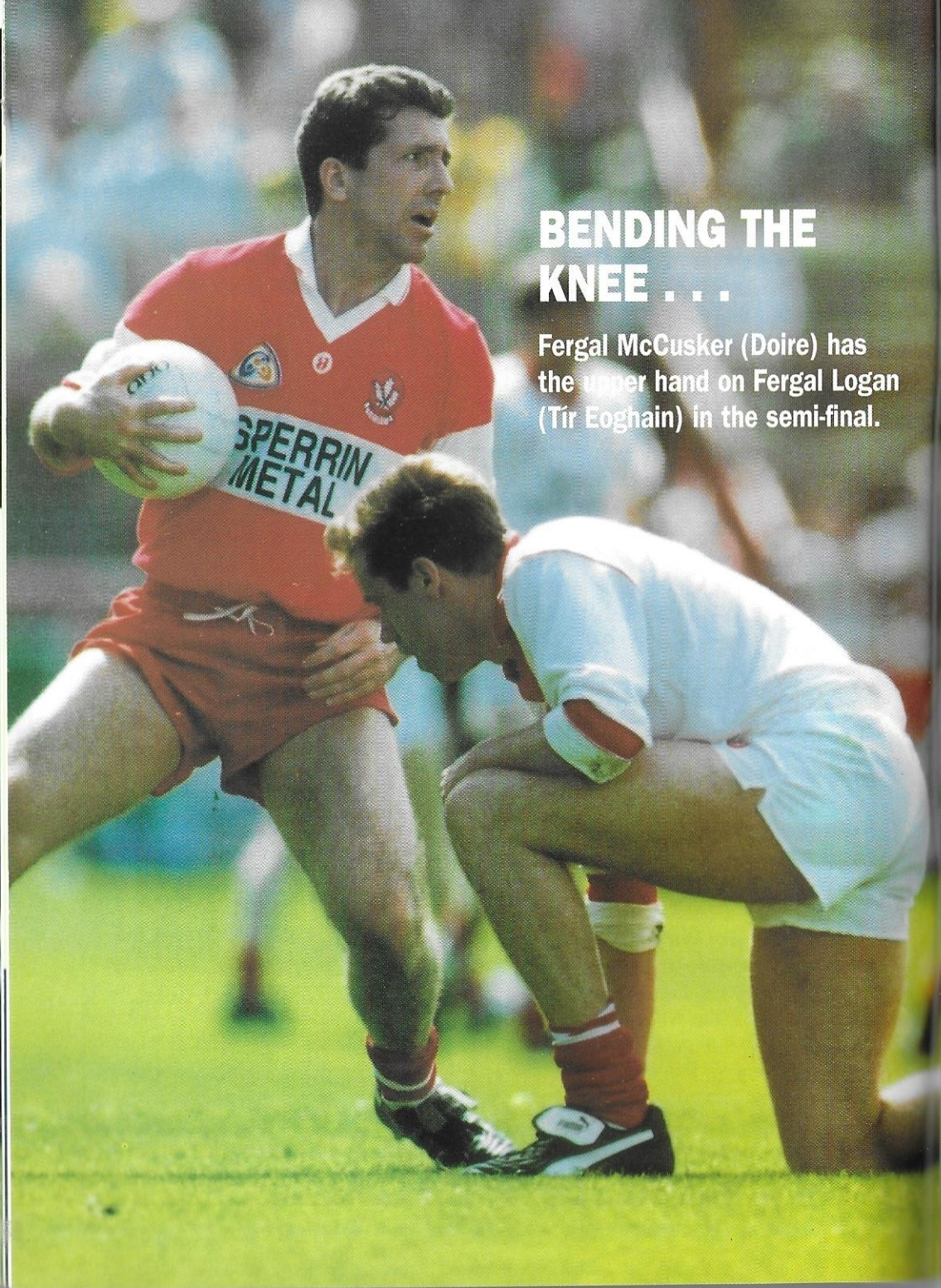
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BENDING THE KNEE . . .

Fergal McCusker (Doire) has the upper hand on Fergal Logan (Tír Eoghain) in the semi-final.

Na Conallaigh chun a gcéad chraobh léige a bhaint?



Bhí tráth ann agus níor áirmhíodh Dún na nGall imeasc fathaigh na peile. Ach tá an ré sin thart agus ó thús na naochaidí tá na Conallaigh le háireamh mar uaisle na peile Gaelí. Chun barr feabhais a chur ar a gcuid gníomhartha tá dúil láidir iontu craobh na Léige Teampaill agus Ginearálta (Church & General) a bhaint, rud nár rinne siad cheana.

Ach, dá mbeifí ag iarraidh bac do-sháraithe, beagnach, a chur ina mbealach go dtí an sprioc sin ní fhéadfaí céilí comhraic níos iomráití a fháil ná Doire Cholmille atá i bhfad níos faide ar bharr an chairn, nó cóngarach do, ná a gomharsana thar Feabhail.

Tréaslaítear leis an dá fhoireann chliúteacha seo aduaidh a thagann chuig staid náisiúnta An Chumainn ar an lá speisialta seo nuair a bheidh an t-ardán nua Chiosóig in úsáid go hiomlán.

Sna cluichí leathcheannais bhí an dá fhoireann seo gan a bheith chomh foirfe agus a bheifí ag súil leis dar leis na 'saineolaithe'. Ní dócha gur thug an lucht cáinte iomlán chreidiúna do foirme bréatha ó Laois agus ó Thír Eoghain a raibh peileadóirí den chéad scoth acu araon.

Mar chomhartha don chaoi a rachaidh an cluiche inniu is fíor a rá go raibh deis ag na hEoghanaigh an lámh in uachtar a fháil ar fhoireann Dhoire; ach dá nglacfaidís an deis cé adéarfadh nach dtiocfadh fosc ar Anraoi Mac Giolla Domhnaigh, Anton Ó Tuathail, Diarmuid Ó hEanna agus eile chun scóranna breise a ghuóthú nó speacanna saor a thuilleamh don bhroig oilte ag Éanna Ó Gormaile.

Chomh maith nuair a chuaigh Laois chun tosaigh ar na Conallaigh sa dara leath bhí a ndúshlán tugtha agus d'fhéadfá a rá gur ghéaraigh ar an ráta oibre ag gach imreoir de chuid Dhún na nGall sa chaoi gur thug siad freagra ar an gceist 'an raibh speis ag an Conallaigh sa Léig?'

Chunnte tá speis ach ann go háirithe nuair nár bhain siad an chraobh sin ariamh. Le peileadóirí a bhfuil cáil orthu le fada, ar nós Brian Ó Muirí,

Séamus MacAoidh agus Antón Ó Baoill, gan trácht ar an gcuid eile, níl aon amhras ach go mbeidh siad uilig ar a ndian-dhícheall chun an chraobh seo a bhaint.

Tá cúpla craobh ag foireann na Duilleoige Daire ach ní hionann sin is ag rá nár bhreá leo ceann eile — agus anuas ar sin a léiriú dá gcomharsana a dheacra is a bheidh sé craobh Uladh a bhaint níos déanaí i mbliana nuair atá Doire sa bhealach.

Ceaptar go mbeidh ard-chluiche againn inniu, go mbeidh taispeántas ann ar fiú a chur faoi bhráid phobail mhóir na tíre, taispeántas a bheidh mar chúla áisiúil don ócáid mhór stairiúil oscailt Ardán Chiosóig. An bua ag na Conallaigh? Más gá buile faoi thuairim a thabhairt isé an freagra ná 'Sea, ar éigin'

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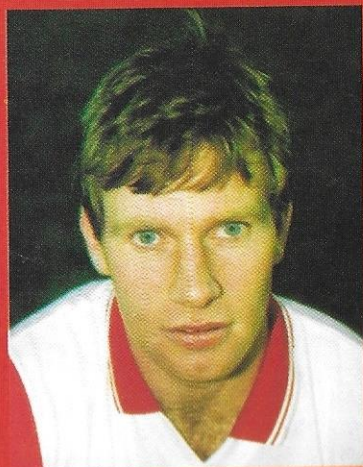
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Donegal*

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Doire

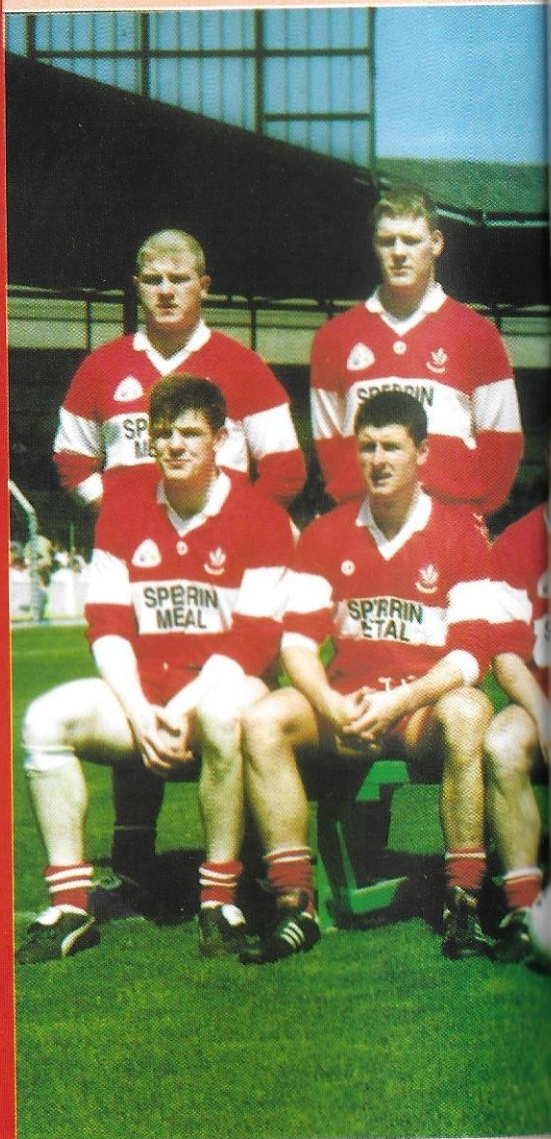


Tony Scullion
CAPTAIN

Tony Scullion's first appearance in the Oak Leaf jersey was in 1983, his last year as an Under 21. Derry went to the All-Ireland final only to be beaten by Mayo in a replay.

Tony has won many honours but his burning ambition is to win a Derry championship medal with his club, Ballinascreen. He has played in three senior football and three senior hurling finals, losing in each.

He made his senior debut in 1983 and has been ever present since, winning All-Ireland and National League medals. In 1987 and 1993, he was "man of the match" in the Ulster Final. He has made 14 consecutive appearances with Ulster and has played every minute of their last six straight Railway Cups. He played in the last two series against the Australians and has All Star Awards in 1987, 1992 and 1993. He has also played senior hurling with Derry and currently he is the full time coaching officer in the county.



The Derry team which defeated Tyrone in the NFL semi-final.

Back row (l-r): Geoffrey McGonigle, Dermot Heaney, Anthony Tohill, Damien McCusker, Tony Scullion, Damien Barton, Brian McGilligan.

Front row (l-r): Enda Gormley, Fergal McCusker, John McGurk, Henry Downey, Kieran McKeever, Gary Coleman, Eamon Burns, Damien Cassidy.

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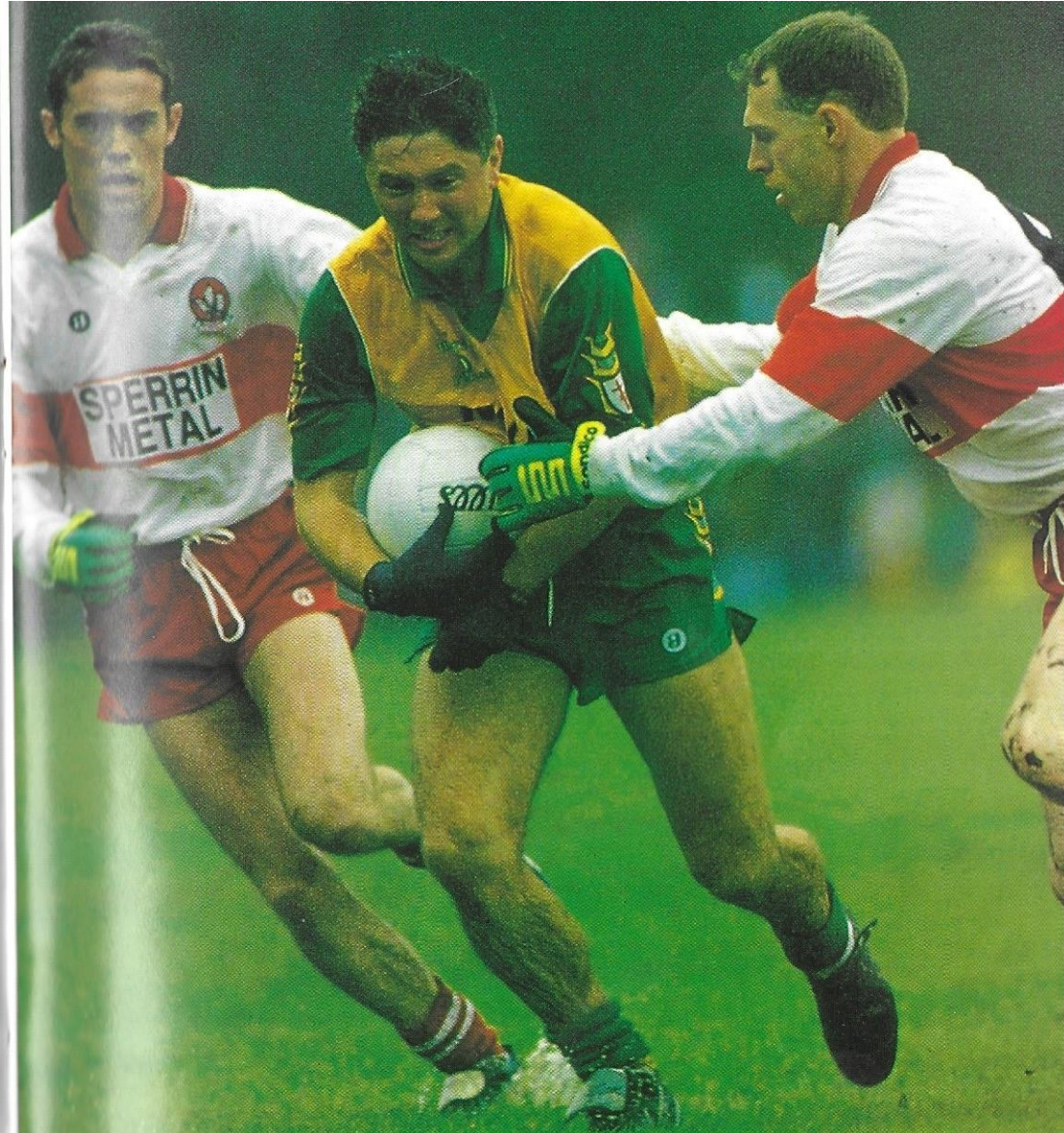
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FINAL CONFRONTATION OF CHAMPIONS

Gary Coleman (Doire), Martin McHugh (Dún na nGall) and Henry Downey (Doire)

In action in the 1993 Ulster Final when the reigning All-Ireland champions were defeated by their successors-to-be by 0-8 to 0-6.

Paths To The Final

When, after the first two rounds of this season's league, Donegal had full points and Derry none, few could envisage Donegal being the team that would have to take the "scenic" route to today's final. In all Donegal have played eleven games, winning seven and losing four. Derry have won six games en route to today's encounter, drawing one and losing two. However, it must be noted that since their round 2 defeat by Donegal at the end of October, Derry have remained unbeaten, and a draw with Dublin the only blemish on an otherwise spotless record.

Doire

Round 1 at Celtic Park: Lost to Laois by 0-8 to 1-17

Scorers — Eamonn Burns 0-3, Geoffrey McGonigle 0-3, Aidan Gunning 0-1, Dermot Doogan 0-1

Round 2 at Ballybofey: Lost to Donegal by 2-6 to 0-15

Scorers — Dermot Doogan 1-1, Eugene Heaney 1-0, Joe Brolly 0-2, Eamonn Burns 0-1, Geoffrey McGonigle 0-1, Anthony Tohill 0-1

Round 3 at Ballinascreen: Beat Kerry by 1-11 to 2-6

Scorers — Geoffrey McGonigle 1-4, Eamonn Burns 0-2, Anthony Tohill 0-1, Joe Brolly 0-1, Henry Downey 0-1, Dermot Heaney 0-1, Seamus Downey 0-1

Round 4 at Navan: Beat Meath by 0-9 to 0-8

Scorers — Anthony Tohill 0-4, Geoffrey McGonigle 0-2, Gary McGill 0-2, Eamonn Burns 0-1

Round 5 at Celtic Park: Beat Down by 1-10 to 1-7

Scorers — Eamonn Burns 1-4, Seamus Downey 0-2, Joe Brolly

0-1, Dermot Heaney 0-1, Gary McGill 0-1, B.McCormack 0-1

Round 6 at Newbridge: Beat Kildare by 0-10 to 0-9

Scorers — Anthony Tohill 0-4, Seamus Downey 0-2, Joe Brolly 0-2, Dermot Heaney 0-1, Geoffrey McGonigle 0-1

Round 7 at Croke Park: Drew with Dublin 1-9 to 1-9

Scorers — Anthony Tohill 1-1, Seamus Downey 0-3, Joe Brolly 0-3, Eamonn Burns 0-1, Dermot Heaney 0-1

Quarter-Final at Armagh: Beat Cavan by 1-11 to 0-11

Scorers — Damien Cassidy 0-5, Karl Diamond 1-1, Anthony Tohill 0-2, Joe Brolly 0-2, Enda Gormley 0-1

Semi-Final at Croke Park: Beat Tyrone by 1-8 to 2-3

Scorers — Enda Gormley 0-5, Anthony Tohill 1-0, Damien Barton 0-1, Tony Scullion 0-1, Damien Cassidy 0-1

Total Scored 7-82 (103); Total Conceded 7-85 (106)

Scorers — Anthony Tohill 2-13, Eamonn Burns 1-12, Geoffrey McGonigle 1-11, Joe Brolly 0-11, Seamus Downey 0-

8, Damien Cassidy 0-6, Enda Gormley 0-6, Dermot Doogan 1-2, Karl Diamond 1-1, Dermot Heaney 0-4, Gary McGill 0-3, Eugene Heaney 1-0, Henry Downey 0-1, Aidan Gunning 0-1, Damien Cassidy 0-1, Tony Scullion 0-1, B. McCormack 0-1.

Every Match

No Derry player scored in every game in the league. Anthony Tohill came closest scoring in all but two matches.

Top Individual Return

The highest score by a Derry footballer in a single game was 1-4, which was achieved twice; by Geoffrey McGonigle in Round 3 at Ballinascreen against Kerry, and Eamonn Burns in Round 5 against Down at Celtic Park.

Dún na nGall

Round 1 at Newry: Beat Down by 0-8 to 0-7

Scorers — Declan Bonner 0-3, John Duffy 0-2, Manus Boyle 0-2, Brian Murray 0-1

Round 2 at Ballybofey: Beat Derry by 0-15 to 2-6

Scorers — Manus Boyle 0-4, John Duffy 0-3, John Gildea 0-3, Tony Boyle 0-2, Declan Bonner 0-2, Mark McShane 0-1

Round 3 at Croke Park: Beat Dublin by 0-12 to 1-8

Scorers — Manus Boyle 0-5, Tony Boyle 0-3, John Duffy 0-2, Declan Bonner 0-2

Round 4 at Ballybofey: Lost to Kildare by 1-8 to 1-11

Scorers — Declan Bonner 1-2, Manus Boyle 0-3, Mark McShane 0-2, Tony Boyle 0-1

Round 5 at Portlaoise: Lost to Laois by 0-8 to 0-10

Scorers — Manus Boyle 0-3, John Duffy 0-2, Declan Bonner 0-1, Brian Murray 0-1, John Gildea 0-1

Round 6 at Navan: Beat Meath by 0-13 to 0-11

Scorers — Manus Boyle 0-5, Tony Boyle 0-3, Declan Bonner 0-2, John Duffy 0-1, Mark McShane 0-1, Paddy Hegarty 0-1

Round 7 at Ballyshannon: Lost to Kerry by 0-10 to 0-14

Scorers — Manus Boyle 0-4, Declan Bonner 0-2, Brian Murray 0-2, John Duffy 0-1, Mark McShane 0-1

Play-Off at Tuam: Lost to Kerry by 1-8 to 1-10

Scorers — Manus Boyle 0-4, T.J. Ryan 1-0, Declan Bonner 0-2, John Duffy 0-1, Noel Hegarty 0-1

Play-Off at Clones: Beat Kildare by 1-16 to 0-11

Scorers — John Duffy 0-5, Manus Boyle 0-5, Brian Murray 1-1, Mark McShane 0-2, John Gallagher 0-2, James McHugh 0-1

Quarter-Final at Castlebar: Beat Clare by 2-11 to 3-7

Scorers — Manus Boyle 1-6, Tony Boyle 1-0, John Duffy 0-2, John Cunningham 0-1, James McHugh 0-1, Declan Bonner 0-1

Semi-Final at Croke Park: Beat Laois by 1-14 to 2-8

Scorers — James McHugh 1-3, John Duffy 0-5, Manus Boyle 0-4, Noel Hegarty 0-1, Brian Murray 0-1

Total Scored 6-123 (151); Total Conceded 10-103 (133)

Scorers — Manus Boyle 1-45, John Duffy 0-24, Declan Bonner 1-17, Tony Boyle 1-9, Brian Murray 1-6, James McHugh 1-5, Mark McShane 0-7, John Gildea 0-4, T.J. Ryan 1-0, John Gallagher 0-2, Noel Hegarty 0-2, Paddy Hegarty 0-1, John Cunningham 0-1

Every Match

Manus Boyle was the only player to score in all eleven games that Donegal played on the way to today's final.

Top Individual Return

The highest score by a Donegal footballer in a single game was the 1-6 Manus Boyle scored in the county's quarter-final win over Clare at Castlebar.

National Football League Title Winners

15:	Kerry:	1928, 1929, 1931, 1932, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1982, 1984.
10:	Mayo:	1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1949, 1954, 1970.
8:	Dublin:	1953, 1955, 1958, 1976, 1978, 1987, 1991, 1993.
7:	Meath:	1933, 1946, 1951, 1975, 1988, 1990, 1994.
4:	Cork:	1952, 1956, 1980, 1989.
	Down:	1960, 1962, 1968, 1983.
	Galway:	1940, 1957, 1965, 1981.
3:	New York:	1950, 1964, 1967.
2:	Derry:	1947, 1992.
	Laois:	1927, 1986.
1:	Cavan:	1948.
	Longford:	1966.
	Monaghan:	1985.
	Roscommon:	1979.

Note: The National Football League was suspended from 1942 to 1945 inclusive due to World War 2.





Doire

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Jonathan Kelly**
S. Ó Ceallaigh
(Magherafelt)
- (17) **Damien Cassidy**
D. Ó Caiside
(Bellaghy)
- (18) **Gary McGill**
G. Mac an Ghoill
(Glen)
- (19) **Karl Diamond**
C. Ó Diomáin
(Bellaghy)
- (20) **Sean McGuckin**
S. MacEocháin
(Swatragh)
- (21) **Oliver Collins**
O. MacColleáin
(Lavey)
- (22) **Declan Bateson**
D. Bateson
(Ballinderry)
- (23) **Geoffrey McGonigle**
G. MacCongail
(Dungiven)
- (24) **Danny Quinn**
D. Ó Cuinn
(Bellaghy)

Roghnóirí:
Mickey Moran (Glen) Manager;
Eugene Young (Moneymore) Coach;
Harry Gibbin (Newbridge);
Denis McKeever (Ballymaguigan).

1
DAMIEN McCUSKER
D. MacOscair
(Glen)

2
KIERAN McKEEVER
C. MacÍomhair
(Dungiven)

5
JOHN McGURK
S. Mag Oirc
(Lavey)

8
ANTHONY TOHILL
A. Ó Tuathail
(Swatragh)

10
EAMON BURNS
E. Ó Broin
(Ballinascreen)

13
JOE BROLLY
S. Ó Brolaigh
(Dungiven)

3
TONY SCULLION
A. Ó Scolláin (Capt.)
(Ballinascreen)

6
HENRY DOWNEY
A. Mac Giolla Domhnaigh
(Lavey)

11
DERMOT HEANEY
D. Ó hÉanna
(Castledawson)

14
SEAMUS DOWNEY
S. Mac Giolla Domhnaigh
(Lavey)

4
GARY COLEMAN
G. Ó Colmáin
(Magherafelt)

7
FERGAL McCUSKER
F. Mac Oscair
(Glen)

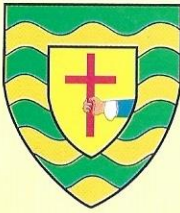
9
BRIAN MCGILLIGAN
B. MacGiollagáin
(Dungiven)

12
DAMIEN BARTON
D. Bartún
(Newbridge)

15
ENDA GORMLEY
E. Ó Garmaile
(Glen)

Dún na nGall

Dathanna: Uaithne is Ór



Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Paul Callaghan**
P. Ó Ceallcháin
(Beart)
- (17) **Tomás Ryan**
T. Ó Riain
(An Tearmain)
- (18) **Declan Bonner**
D. Ó Caimhsí
(Na Rossa)
- (19) **John Bán Gallagher**
S. B. Ó Gallchóir
(Na Cealla Beaga)
- (20) **Gerard Kelly**
G. Ó Ceallaigh
(Aodh Rua CoillmagCuidir)
- (21) **Mark Crossan**
M. MacCrossain
(Naomh Adhamhain)
- (22) **John Gildea**
S. MacGiolla Dé
(Naomh Conaill)
- (23) **Sean Boyle**
S. Ó Baoill
(Cloich Ceann Fhaola)
- (24) **Charlie O'Donnell**
C. Ó Domhnaill
(Aodh Ruadh Ballyshannon)

Roghnóirí:
Seamus Gallagher,
Tom Comack,
Michael Lafferty,
Sean Ferriter,
P. J. McGowan (Team Manager),
Patsy McGonigle (Coach).

1
GARY WALSH
G. Breathnach
(Burren)

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

5
JOHN CUNNINGHAM
S. MacCuinneagáin
(Na Cealla Beaga)

8
MARK McSHANE
M. MacSeáin
(Cill Chartha)

10
PADDY HEGARTY
P. Ó hEigearthaigh
(Naomh Columba)

13
JOHN DUFFY
S. Ó Dufaigh
(Aodh Ruadh Ballyshannon)

3
MATT GALLAGHER
M. Ó Gallchóir
(Naomh Bríd)

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

11
NOEL HEGARTY
N. Ó hEigearthaigh
(Naomh Columba)

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

4
BARRY MCGOWAN
B. MacGabhainn
(Na Cealla Beaga)

7
MARTIN SHOVLIN
M. Ó Sheibhleáin
(Naomh Ultan)

9
BRIAN MURRAY
B. Ó Muiri
(An Stát Sheirbhis)

12
JAMES MCHUGH
S. MacAoidh
(Cill Chartha)

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

DOIRE

Cúil Cúilíní Seacháí 45m Saor Ciceanna

1adh Leath

2adh Leath

IOMLAN

DÚN NA nGALL

Cúil Cúilíní Seacháí 45m Saor Ciceanna

1adh Leath

2adh Leath

IOMLAN

INDIVIDUAL FEATS

In recent years the top individual feat has tended to come from the lower divisions, and with this tendency players like Ger Heavin, Conan Daye, Peter Lambert and Ronan Carolan have become well known to the G.A.A. public. However, this season, the virtually unknown Pat Gavin of Limerick has emerged as the top scorer for a 60 minute period. The Shannonsider notched 2-5 in his county's defeat by Carlow last February.

Five feats of ten points were recorded and this year's current top scorer Conan Daye recorded three of these. The other two double-digit returns were by Ian Larmer of Monaghan and the magnificent 3-1 scored by Clare's Martin Daly in the Munstermen's quarter-final defeat by Donegal.

The premier division is represented by Manus Boyle's 1-6 against Clare in the above-mentioned quarter-final and Niall Buckley's 1-5 against Donegal in Round 4 at Ballybofey. As with the top scorer's list, no Derry player has scored sufficiently in an hour to warrant a place in the top 18 which reads:

Pat Gavin (Limerick)
2-5 v Carlow, Round 5 at Dr Cullen Park

Conan Daye (Wicklow)
1-7 v London, Round 3 at Aughrim

Conan Daye (Wicklow)
1-7 v Kilkenny, Round 6 at Arklow

Conan Daye (Wicklow)
1-7 v Monaghan, Round 7 at Arklow

Ian Larmer (Monaghan)
1-7 v London, Round 4 at Ruislip

Martin Daly (Clare)
3-1 v Donegal, Quarter-final at Castlebar

Manus Boyle (Donegal)
1-6 v Clare, Quarter-final at Castlebar

Colin Corkery (Cork)
0-8 v Clare, Round 1 at Pairc Ui Rinn

Adrian Cush (Tyrone)
0-8 v Clare, Round 5 at Dungannon

Ger Heavin (Westmeath)
0-8 v Longford, Round 3 at Athlone

John McManus (Antrim)
0-8 v Longford, Round 7 at Longford

Derek Duggan (Roscommon)
0-8 v Tipperary, Round 1 at Dr Hyde Park

Pat Daly (Offaly)
0-8 v London, Round 5 at Walsh Island

Conan Daye (Wicklow)
0-8 v Carlow, Round 1 at Aughrim

Niall Buckley (Kildare)
1-5 v Donegal, Round 4 at Ballybofey

Aidan O'Keefe (Clare)
1-5 v Galway, Round 7 at Cusack Park

Damien Walsh (Kilkenny)
1-5 v Carlow, Round 4 at Ballyragget

Mattie McGleenon (Tyrone)
2-2 v Mayo, Round 7 at Dungannon

Top Scorers • Top Scorers

After the league section of this year's competition, it seemed as if Conan Daye of Wicklow was assured of the top spot in the 1995 top scorer's list. However, Donegal's Manus Boyle has notched 1-19 since the league section ended and has closed the gap between himself and the Wicklow ace to just eight points. A repeat today of the 1-6 the Donegalman scored in the quarter-final would see the Na Rossa man gain the top spot.

Ronan Carolan of Cavan improves one place (and one point) on last year's fourth place, while Laois's Damien Delaney drops two places to fourth. Adrian Cush of Tyrone retains his fifth place of twelve months ago, while Westmeath's Ger Heavin, last year's top scorer, finds himself propping up the top half-dozen.

Amazingly, Derry, who failed to get beyond the quarter-final last year and had three representatives in

the top 22, have qualified for this year's final with no player in the top 20. Anthony Tohill in 27th

place is their top marksman. The top 20 for the 1994-95 season so far are:

Conan Daye (Wicklow)	5-41	(56 points)
Manus Boyle (Donegal)	1-45	(48)
Ronan Carolan (Cavan)	1-40	(43)
Damien Delaney (Laois)	1-37	(40)
Adrian Cush (Tyrone)	2-32	(38)
Ger Heavin (Westmeath)	3-25	(34)
Ian Larmer (Monaghan)	2-26	(32)
Damien Walsh (Kilkenny)	1-28	(31)
Oisín McConville (Armagh)	2-25	(31)
Pat Daly (Offaly)	0-30	
Colin Corkery (Cork)	0-27	
Aidan O'Keefe (Clare)	2-21	(27)
Stephen McGinnity (Monaghan)	3-18	(27)
Peter Ferncombe (Waterford)	0-26	
Martin Daly (Clare)	6-7	(25)
John Duffy (Donegal)	0-24	
Stefan White (Louth)	1-21	(24)
Pat Gavin (Limerick)	2-18	(24)
Colin Kelly (Louth)	2-17	(23)
Michael Lawlor (Laois)	3-14	(23)

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Past Encounters

Today's clash of Derry and Donegal may be the first-ever final involving these counties, but it might be said that this final is merely adding a new dimension to an old rivalry. Understandably, the paths of Derry and Donegal first crossed in the championship when they were in opposition in the opening round in 1920 at Derry. The game ended 0-11 to 1-2 in Derry's favour as did the next meeting in the following year's championship. Derry's bid to make it three wins in a row appeared to be successful when they finished 0-6 to 1-2 ahead of Donegal at Letterkenny in 1923, but the losers took the matter to the council chamber where the verdict was reversed.

After that episode the counties saw little of each other. Indeed, they saw little of any opposition for the remainder of the twenties, and it wasn't until Derry made a first tentative appearance in the league in 1930 that Donegal and the Oak county resumed their rivalry. The game at Derry which Donegal won by 2-6 to 1-4 appears to have been a 'once off' affair as far as Derry were concerned as they disappeared, almost immediately, from all competitions and there is no record of Derry being

involved in any further league or senior championship games for most of the 1930s.

DERRY RETURN

The Lagan Cup, introduced as a substitute competition for the National League during the Emergency in Ulster, brought Derry back into the 'league fold' and the Lagan Cup was maintained as the Ulster section of the National League when country-wide activity resumed in 1945-46. Donegal's opting out of the first post-war campaign meant that their first meeting with Derry since 1930 was delayed until the following season when they met in the second round at Ballybofey which Derry won by 1-7 to 1-4 before going on to their first league title the following spring.

For the next seven years they were in regular opposition without a break. The games were mainly close-run affairs with only one really one-sided encounter — the 1949 first-round clash at Derry which the home team won by 0-10 to 0-2.

ONLY DEFEAT

It is of interest to note that in the year which saw Donegal qualify for their first-ever league semi-final,

they were beaten by Derry in the second round — their only defeat on the way to the knock-out stages. Donegal 'returned the compliment' in the 1960-61 campaign when they inflicted the only defeat suffered by Derry (1-6 to 0-6) in the latter's route to the league final.

The 1960s produced one remarkable series of games. The third round at Ballybofey in December 1966 had seen the sides finished level (0-9 all) but when they met again on February 5 at Ballinascreen, Derry had a runaway win (5-6 to 0-5). However, subsequent results brought Donegal back into the reckoning and the third meeting saw them qualify for the league semi-final on a 0-6 to 0-5 scoreline.

Paths diverged for more than 20 years, and when they met again (in the 1986-87 campaign) both were making the running in Division Two, with Derry eventually gaining promotion despite Donegal's 1-9 to 1-7 win in the sixth-round clash at Greenlough.

Recent meetings have tended to go in Donegal's favour, their crushing defeat at Casement Park in '93 notwithstanding. And overall, Donegal also hold the balance, as of the 26 league clashes to date they have won 14 to Derry's eleven — with one drawn. Not that this statistic has much relevance today.

Dún na nGall



John Cunningham CAPTAIN

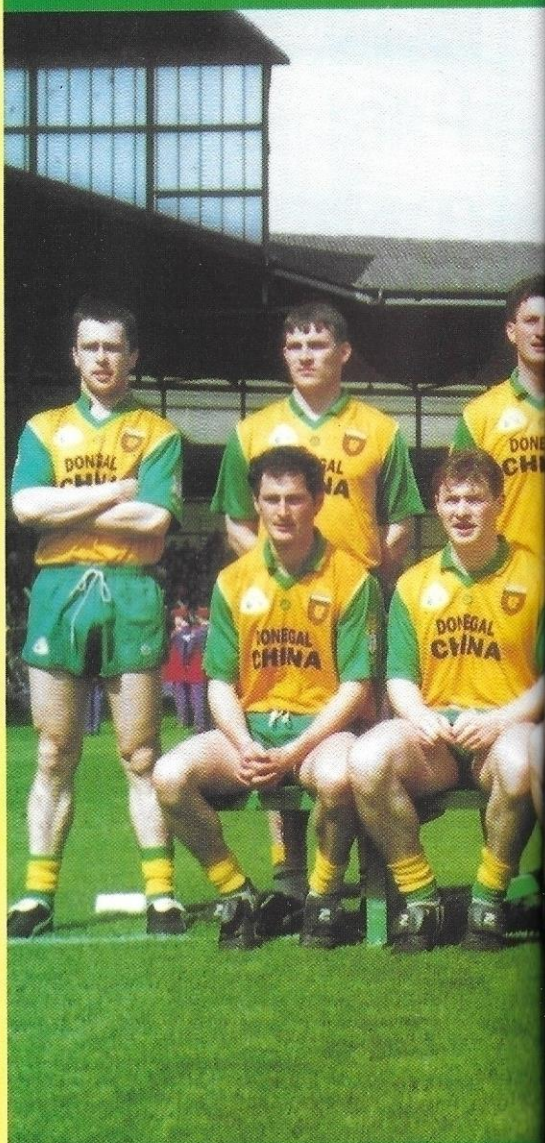
John is 28-years-old and is a café owner. He has won under-age county medals at all grades with his club, Killybegs, as well as two Ulster club minor medals.

He also holds 2 Derry Senior Football championship medals, won in 1988 and 1991.

Honours gained with the county include an Under 18 Ulster Championship in 1985, an All-Ireland Under 21 medal in 1987 and the All-Ireland SFC medal in 1992.

John captained Donegal to their Under 21 victory in 1987 when they overcame Kerry in the final replay by 1-12 to 2-4.

He is married to Fionnuala and they have one child.



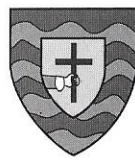
The Donegal Team which defeated Laois in the semi-final.

Back row (l-r): John Duffy, John Joe Doherty, Paddy Hegarty, Brian Murray, Gary Walsh, John Bán Gallagher, Matt Gallagher, Mark McShane.

Front row (l-r): Noel Hegarty, Manus Boyle, Tommy Ryan, John Cunningham, Martin Gavigan, Martin Shovlin, James McHugh.



How They Compare



Doire

DAMIEN McCUSKER. Glen. 28 years old. 6'1".
14st. Civil Servant.

KIERAN McKEEVER. Dungiven. 27 years old.
5'7". 12st. Joiner.

TONY SCULLION. Ballinascreen. 33 years old.
5'11". 12st. 7lbs. Sales Representative.

GARY COLEMAN. Magherafelt. 22 years old.
5'9". 11st 6lbs. Postman.

JOHN MCGURK. Lavey. 30 years old. 5'7". 12st.
Accountant.

HENRY DOWNEY. Lavey. 28 years old. 5'9". 12st
3lbs.

FERGAL McCUSKER. Glen. 25 years old. 5'11".
12st 4lbs. Bank Official.

ANTHONY TOHILL. Swatragh. 23 years old. 6'4".
15st. Student.

BRIAN MCGILLIGAN. Dungiven. 31 years old.
14st 7lbs. Site Manager.

EAMON BURNS. Ballinascreen. 23 years old.
6'1". 13st 4lbs. Student.

DERMOT HEANEY. Castledawson. 23 years old.
6'1". 13st 10lbs. Storeman.

DAMIEN BARTON. Newbridge. 32 years old. 6'.
13st. Teacher.

JOE BROLLY. Dungiven. 25 years old. 5'10".
12st 2lbs. Barrister.

SEAMUS DOWNEY. Lavey. 27 years old. 6'0".
13st 5lbs. Teacher.

ENDA GORMLEY. Glen. 29 years old. 5'10". 12st
11lbs. Finance Company Representative.

Dún na nGall

GARY WALSH. Burren. 30 years old. 6'3".
Accountant

JOHN JOE DOHERTY. Naomh Columba,
Glencolmille. 27 years old. 5'10".
Sales Representative.

MATT GALLAGHER. Naomh Bríd, Ballintra. 33
years old. 5'10". Publican and Sales
Representative.

BARRY MCGOWAN. Killybegs. 29 years old. 6'.
ESB Worker.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM. Killybegs. 28 years old.
5'11". Fast Food Proprietor.

MARTIN GAVIGAN. Ardara. 31 years old. 6'.
Teacher.

MARTIN SHOVLIN. Naomh Ultan, Dunkineely. 33
years old. 5'10". Telecom Employee.

MARK MCSHANE. Kilcar. 25 years old. 6'.
Welder.

BRIAN MURRAY. Civil Service. 31 years. 6'3".
Garda.

PADDY HEGARTY. Naomh Columba,
Glencolmille. 29 years old. 5'11".
Factory Worker.

NOEL HEGARTY. Naomh Columba, Glencolmille.
26 years old. 6'. Factory Worker.

JAMES McHUGH. Kilcar. 31 years old. 5'7".
ESB Worker.

JOHN DUFFY. Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon.
24 years old. 5'10". Student.

TONY BOYLE. Dungloe. 25 years old. 5'11".
Sales Representative.

MANUS BOYLE. Killybegs. 29 years old. 5'10".
Factory Worker.

Within The Province

JOHN DUFFY on the attack for Dún na nGall in the semi-final against Laois.

Today sees the staging of the third all-Ulster National League final, the second one-province final of the decade (Kildare and Dublin were finalists in 1991). League finals involving teams from the same province are not unusual and have occurred at, more or less, regular intervals since Laois and Dublin met at New Ross in 1926. Leinster, however, have provided the greatest number of 'dual' finals — seven in all, with Connacht's lone contribution — the 1981 Galway-Roscommon game. After today Munster and Ulster will be on three each.





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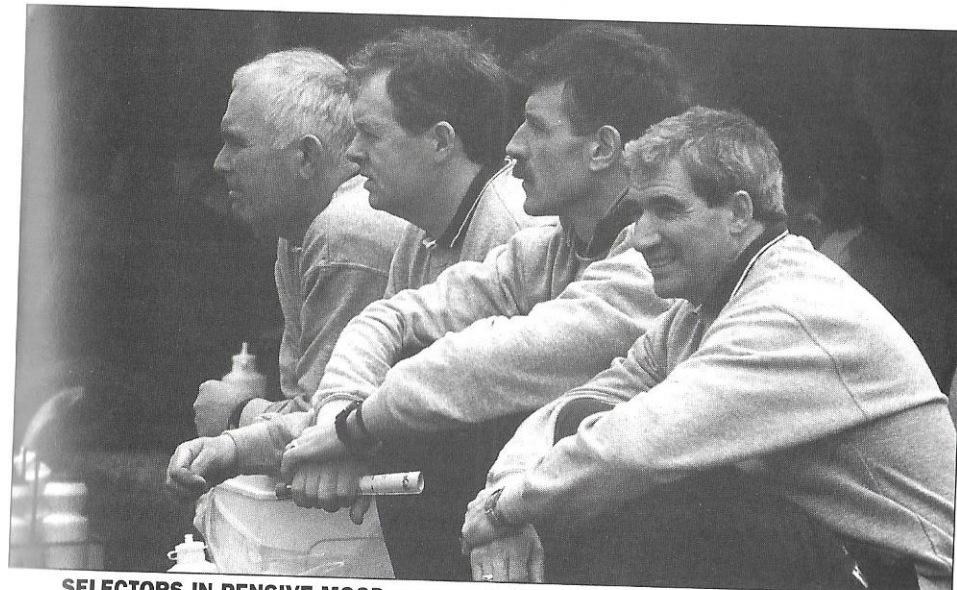
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Derry's Unique Position

Should Derry win today's final they could conceivably do so with a scoring 'deficit' for, remarkable to relate, the Oak Leaf county have conceded more scores than they recorded in the league campaign to date — for 7-82 (103 points); against 7-85 (106 points). So a winning margin of less than three points would still leave them with a 'debit balance'. This would represent an unprecedented situation in the history of the league (it couldn't happen in the championship) as no county has ever taken the title having conceded more than they scored. But win or lose today (and by whatever margin) Derry have already created a record by reaching the final with a lower for than against total.

And Derry enjoy another distinction — and will do so for another few hours at least — in that they are the only county to have won the National League and the All-Ireland championship in the 1990s. A Donegal win today would, of course, mean a sharing of this distinction.

Best Wishes to Derry

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Ag Feachaint Siar

Twenty Years Ago

Once again the format of the league was changed — five groups made up of three of seven teams and one each of five and six, as against four eight-team divisions the previous year, but the weakest group did not have access to the knock-out stages. Most of the strong counties showed up well in the early rounds — Cork, Roscommon, Offaly and Galway all recording their expected wins, but Donegal were held to a 0-10 all draw by Laois at Ballyshannon while Derry dropped a one-point verdict to Tyrone, 0-8 to 1-6.

All-Ireland champions, Dublin were still seeking a first win when they drew with Kerry (0-8 all) at Killarney, but Tyrone beat Galway by 2-6 to 1-6 at Ballinasloe and Derry swamped Sligo by 3-16 to 1-7 at Ballinascreen. League holders, Kerry had their first win when they beat Cork at Middleton, while Donegal had an easy 3-12 to 1-5 win over Leitrim at Carrick-on-Shannon. Tyrone dropped their first points when they

went down to Mayo 0-6 to 0-7 at Coalisland.

Unfancied Meath were making solid progress and went into the mid-Winter break with an unbeaten record and Donegal recorded their second win in December when they downed Monaghan by 1-6 to 0-7 at Ballybofey.

When activity resumed, Dublin, Kerry, Mayo and Meath were forcing the pace while Derry beat Wicklow, 0-10 to 0-4 at Arklow and Galway by 4-12 to 0-5 at Ballinascreen, but Donegal slid out of the reckoning when they lost to Westmeath (1-5 to 1-7) and Armagh (0-8 to 2-6). Dublin beat Roscommon by 1-13 to 1-4, Kerry overcame Kildare 3-8 to 1-3, Meath brushed Fermanagh aside, 2-12 to 2-3 at Navan and Mayo beat Derry by 0-10 to 1-6 at Castlebar to keep on course. Laois dropped verdicts to Armagh, 0-7 to 0-12 and Louth, 3-7 to 2-11, and Tyrone beat Wicklow by 3-13 to 1-3 to qualify for the quarter-final as did Monaghan when they concluded their section with a 1-7 to 1-6 win over Louth at Ardee. Meath and Kerry also reached the quarter-finals and both games went on at Croke Park on the third Sunday in

March — with at least one of them producing a big upset as Meath, giving their best display for a long time, beat the 'Kingdom' by 0-11 to 0-6, with the all-Ulster clash providing a closer contest as Tyrone just held on to beat Monaghan by 1-9 to 1-7. Dublin and Mayo made the semi-final without having a quarter-final outing and were favourites to reach the final. The citymen duly did so as Tyrone failed to find their best form and went down by 1-7 to 3-12, but Meath's goals eliminated Mayo in no uncertain manner, 4-6 to 0-8. And in the final the Royal county swept to another surprise, but fully merited, triumph as they reversed the championship result on a 0-16 to 1-9 scoreline.

Forty Years Ago

Ulster, minus Cavan, persevered with the four-team, two-group system that had been introduced nine years earlier, while there were only minimal adjustments to the three divisions that catered for the other 24 counties. Derry (4-7 to 1-3) beat Down, Donegal (3-1

to 1-3) beat Monaghan and Tyrone (5-7 to 0-5) beat Fermanagh in the opening round, which also saw Galway, Cork and Kerry record convincing wins.

Laois got off to a bad start when losing 0-6 to 1-7 to Galway at Portlaoise and they dropped another brace of points as Dublin proved too good at Croke Park.

Donegal had an easy 2-7 to 0-2 win over Fermanagh at Irvinestown and Derry had four points (1-6 to 0-5) to spare over Armagh at Ballinascreen. Tyrone failed to Monaghan at Carrickmacross and Derry dropped the verdict to Antrim (0-4 to 1-3) at Casement Park.

Galway beat Offaly and Kildare scored a shock 1-7 to 0-7 win over Kerry at Tralee and Cork, who had accounted for Waterford and Wexford, were beaten by Carlow at Mitchelstown, but got back on the winning trail with an 0-8 to 1-4 win over Kerry at the Athletic Grounds.

As every point became crucial in the Ulster sections, Derry beat Tyrone by 1-6 to 0-4 which put paid to the latter's chances, and Donegal, who almost went out as a result of losing to Armagh, got back on the rails with a hard earned 2-4 to 1-4 win over Monaghan.

Laois were still seeking a first win when they went to Annacurra to meet Wicklow and were still without points at the end of a one-sided hour (1-0 to 3-7). Dublin remained unbeaten in their division, with wins over Offaly, Wicklow and Roscommon.

Donegal's hopes of a place in the semi-finals disappeared when they lost, 1-1 to 1-5 to Armagh in the Ulster play-off. Meath kept up their challenge with a 0-11 to 1-2 defeat of Longford while Dublin qualified for the semi-final with an unbeaten record when they eased past Louth by 0-8 to 1-2 at Croke Park. Cork's two-point defeat of Kildare brought them level with the Lily Whites at the top of their division and in the play-off, they repeated that performance, 1-5 to 0-6. Meath arrived in the 'semis' boasting a one hundred per cent record as a result of their last-round defeat of their neighbours, Westmeath to leave the last four — Meath, Armagh, Dublin and Cork.

The expected final pairing emerged: Dublin, at Croke Park had three points to spare (0-12 to 0-9) in an entertaining encounter and equally entertaining was the game in which Meath just held out against the frantic efforts of the Northerners — 1-9 to 1-8. It was a poor final, however, as Meath could never get going and Dublin

took their second league title on a 2-12 to 1-3 scoreline.

Sixty Years Ago

Although it was only in its eight year, the league format had already undergone a number of changes, and there was yet another new line-up for the 1934-35 season. The main group was made up of eight counties — Mayo, Dublin, Kildare, Laois, Kerry, Meath and All-Ireland champions Galway (Cavan were surprising absentees) with a number of smaller groups confined to the weaker counties from which two teams would emerge to contest the concluding stages.

Laois opened with a good, 2-7 to 2-2, win over Meath at Navan while Mayo, at Ballina, had a point to spare over Dublin, 2-5 to 1-7. Mayo then beat Louth, and Dublin had a double-scores victory over Laois at Croke Park. Cork surprised Kerry at the U.C.C. grounds — to record their first-ever league win over their great rivals (1-8 to 1-5). The "Kingdom" then withdrew from the competition for political reasons, a move that opened up the South, and then Meath had two impressive outings, beating Kildare by 2-7 to 0-3 at

Navan and Galway by 2-2 to 1-1 at Ballinasloe.

Not to be outdone, the Lily Whites, too, had a good spell as they outscored both holders — Galway by 3-8 to 1-3 at Newbridge and Mayo by 4-9 to 2-5 at Newbridge. The Corribiders collected their first points in beating Dublin, 2-4 to 1-5 at Ballinasloe but dropped out of contention when they sustained their third defeat, 1-5 to 1-7, at the hands of Louth.

Meath concluded a poor season by losing their last three games — to Dublin, Louth and Mayo — and there was

no real opposition to Mayo once they got over Galway at Tuam — the latter also having little to celebrate as they finished the competition on a dismal note, going down to Laois by 1-2 to 4-6 at Portlaoise. Mayo's fifth-round defeat of Meath at Castlebar was hardly needed to keep them in line for a semi-final place as the opposition was hopelessly scattered down the table.

Considering the number of smaller groupings, it was surprising that there were no play-offs for the right to challenge Mayo, and it would appear that it was a purely arbitrary decision that gave the 'nod' to Fermanagh and Tipperary.

And there was little doubt that there would be further changes in the league format as a result of the games that saw Mayo take the title for the second year running. Conceding ground advantage to Tipperary was no handicap. At Clonmel, Tipperary survived for as long as they had the wind, but then swiftly collapsed as Mayo romped home by 6-8 to 2-5.

Fermanagh fared even worse in the final at Castlebar where a small crowd (2,000) saw another hopelessly one-sided game. The scoreline of 5-8 to 0-2 only begins to tell just how easy it all was for Mayo.



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20/5/95 — 6 p.m. —

ROUND 2:

Ballyshannon:

Dun na nGall v

Muineacháin

Casement Park:

Aontroim v Árd Mhacha

Omagh:

Tír Eoghain v An Cabhán

Rostrevor:

An Dún v An Lú

Clane:

Cill Dara v Baile Átha

Chliath

Mountmellick:

Laois v Uíbh Fáilí

Tuam:

Gaillimh v Ros Comáin

Ballina:

Maigh Eó v An Longfort

27/5/95 — 6 p.m. —

ROUND 3:

Ballyshannon:

Dun na nGall v

Aontroim

Lurgan:

Árd Mhacha v

Muineacháin

Omagh:

Tír Eoghain v An Dún

Drogheda:

An Lú v An Cabhán

Clane:

Cill Dara v Laois

Tulach Mhór:

Uíbh Fáilí v Áth Cliath

Tuam:

Gaillimh v Maigh Eó

Michael Fay Park:

An Longfort v Ros

Comáin

10/6/95 — 6 p.m. —

ROUND 4:

Casement Park:

Aontroim v Dún na

nGall

Parlekmacross:

Muineacháin v Árd

Mhacha

Rostrevor:

An Dún v Tír Eoghain

Breffni Park:

An Cabhán v An Lú

Mountmellick:

Laois v Cill Dara

Venue to be decided:

Baile Átha Cliath v Uíbh

Fháilí

Ballina:

Maigh Eó v Gaillimh

Dr. Hyde Park:

Ros Comáin v An

Longfort

17/6/95 — 6 p.m. —

ROUND 5:

Tuagh:

Muineacháin v Dún na

nGall

Lurgan:

Árd Mhacha v Aontroim

Breffni Park:

An Cabhán v Tír Eoghain

Drogheda:

An Lú v An Dún

Venue to be decided:

Baile Átha Cliath v Cill

Dara

Tulach Mhór:

Uíbh Fáilí v Laois

Hyde Park:

Ros Comáin v Gaillimh

Michael Fay Park:

An Longfort v Maigh Eó

1/7/95 — 6 p.m. —

ROUND 6:

Ballyshannon:

Dún na nGall v Árd

Mhacha

Casement Park:

Aontroim v Muineacháin

Omagh:

Tír Eoghain v An Lú

Castlewellan:

An Dún v An Cabhán

Clane:

Cill Dara v Uíbh Fáilí

Mountmellick:

Laois v Baile Átha Cliath

Tuam:

Gaillimh v An Longfort

Ballina:

Maigh Eó v Ros Comáin

Quarter-Finals:

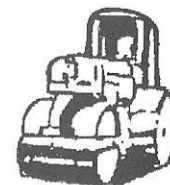
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Semi-Finals:

12 August 1995

Final:

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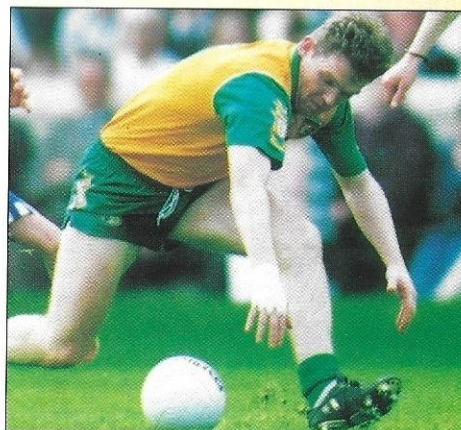
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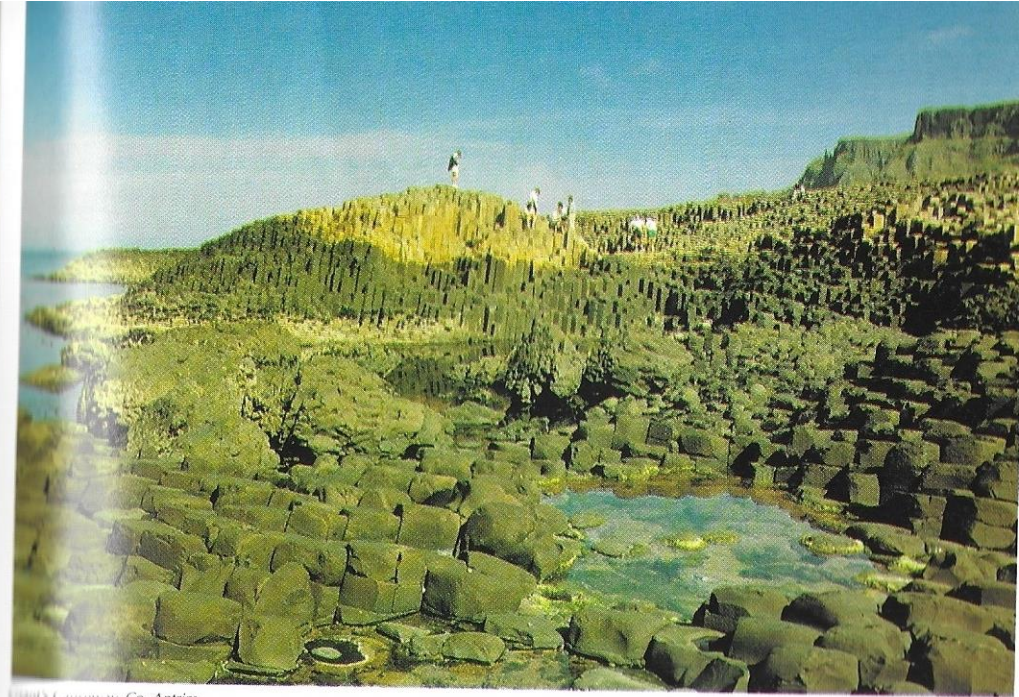
Although the majority of Donegal-Derry league games have been decided by quite small margins, two of their encounters have produced huge winning margins — one to each side. In the 1965-66 third-round tie at Ballinascreen Donegal had it all their own way, finishing up winners by 3-12 to 1-3 (15 points) — their biggest ever winning margin over their neighbours. A year later, however, Derry literally went one better when they won the corresponding tie by 16 points — (5-6 to 0-5) also at Ballinascreen.

The above scorelines represent a remarkable change of fortunes for both counties in the space of 12 months, but such occurrences were not confined only to the league, as in the 1979 championship semi-final, Donegal, who had been overwhelmed by Derry by 3-12 to 0-7 in the 1978 first-round championship game, reversed the verdict (2-9 to 0-14). Not quite as emphatic a reversal of form as in the league games mentioned above, but it does indicate that certainties are not part of the equation when Derry and Donegal line out.



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SEE YOU ALL IN CLONES



Penalty Parade

With one hour left to play, the 1994-95 league has so far yielded a grand total of 19 penalties from which 12 goals and three points have been recorded. This gives an average of 2.05 points per penalty. This is a slightly poorer conversion rate than last season, when prior to the final, 27 penalties had been awarded, and 19 goals and two points was the return, giving an average of 2.18 points per penalty. Amazingly, last year the only round in which a penalty was not awarded was round two, and the behaviour of defences in late October again proved exemplary as the Round Two games failed to see a penalty awarded.

Only one player, Eamonn Burns of Derry took a penalty for the second year running, and the Ulsterman improved on his point against Kerry by successfully converting his kick against Down at Celtic Park in February. Manus Boyle was the only player to take two penalties this season and unfortunately a lone point was his only reward.

The full list of penalties and the outcome reads:

ROUND 1

Conor O'Donnell (Kerry)

goal v Kildare at Tralee

ROUND 3

Ian Larmer (Monaghan)

goal v Limerick at Clones

Manus Boyle (Donegal)

point v Dublin at Croke Park

ROUND 4

Gerard Cavlan (Tyrone)

saved by Brendan Tierney (Armagh) at Dungannon

Andy McGahern (Longford)

goal v Cavan at Longford

Declan Bonner (Donegal)

goal v Kildare at Ballybofey

Niall Buckley (Kildare)

goal v Donegal at Ballybofey

ROUND 5

Michael O'Brien (Longford)

saved by Phil Ryan (Tipperary) at Longford

Eamonn Burns (Derry)

goal v Down at Celtic Park

Manus Boyle (Donegal)

saved by Emmet Burke (Laois) at Portlaoise

Scott Doran (Wexford)

goal v Antrim at Wexford Park

ROUND 6

Ross Carr (Down)

point v Dublin at Newry

Garvan Ware (Carlow)

goal v Offaly at Tullamore

John Fleming (Westmeath)

goal v Fermanagh at Enniskillen

ROUND 7

Conan Daye (Wicklow)

goal v Monaghan at Arklow

PLAY-OFF

Paul McLoughlin (Kildare)

point v Donegal at Clones

QUARTER-FINALS

Tony Dunne (Laois)

wide v Monaghan at Croke Park

Adrian Cush (Tyrone)

goal v Kerry at Croke Park

Mark Daly (Clare)

goal v Donegal at Castlebar

Bernard McCarron



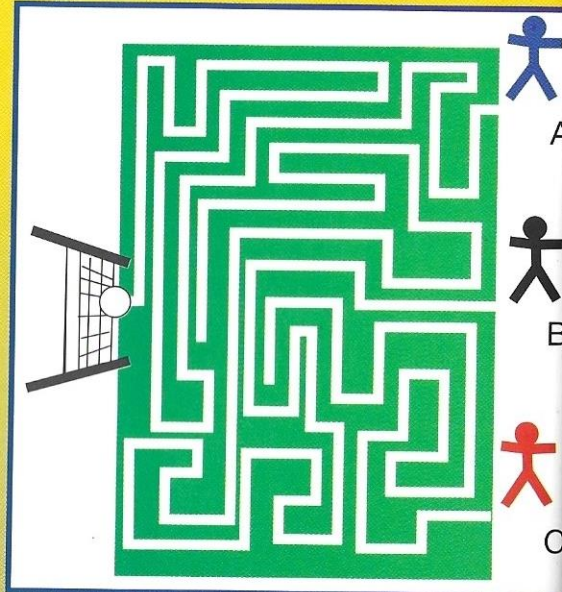
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Who scored the goal?

Find out whether it was A, B, or C who put the ball in the net by threading your way through the opposition's defence.



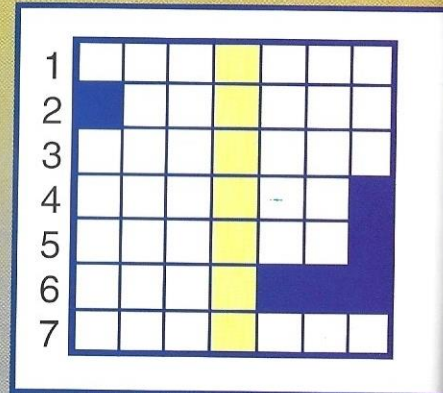
Tráth na gCeist

1. Who won the National Hurling League title last Sunday?
2. Where is Parnell Park?
3. Where did Derry and Donegal play their home games in this year's NFL?

Hidden Word

By answering the seven clues correctly, you can find the hidden word in the shaded panel.

1. Central defender for Donegal.
2. Long-serving Laois forward.
3. Derry postman in the corner.
4. This Derry forward is handy in the rain.
5. The man in the middle.
6. Tyrone forward — sounds green.
7. Donegal beat them in a play-off.

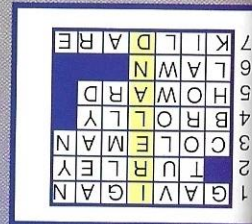


Freagraí

1. Kilkenny.
2. Dublin.
3. Celtic Park, Ballinascreen, Ballybofey and Ballyshannon.

Tráth na gCeist

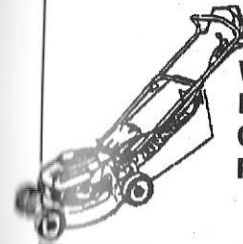
Who scored the goal?
A put the ball in the net



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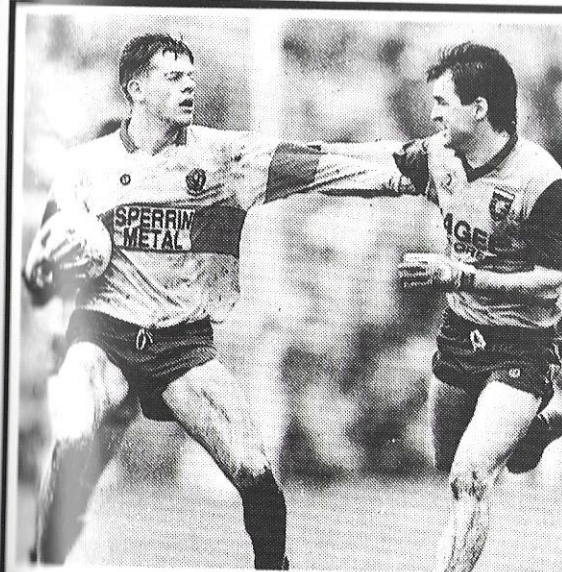
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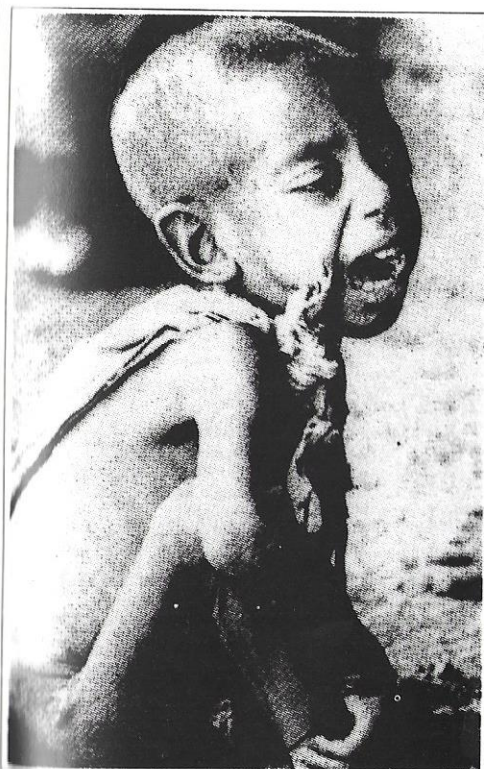
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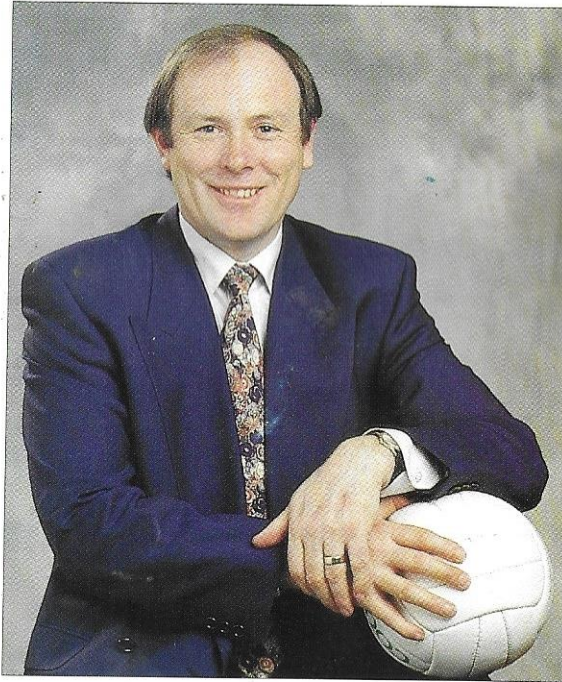
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