

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

Cluichí Leath-Cheannais Peile na hÉireann

Páirc an Chrócaigh

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Kian Ó Maolshéich

18.08.96

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Bank of Ireland



CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

Cluichí Leath-Cheannais Peile na hÉireann
Páirc an Chrócaigh



Mionúir

Dún na nGall v. Laois

2.00 i.n. Réiteoir: N. Barrett (*Corcaigh*)

Sinsir

An Mhí v. Tír Eoghain

3.30 i.n. Réiteoir: M. Curley (*Gaillimh*)

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 bhFia



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ar son
CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL.
Cló: Wood-Printcraft

OUR COVER:

Our cover shows action
from the provincial finals
showing Tyrone's Adrian
Cush and Meath's
Graham Geraghty.

Bank of Ireland
Football Championship

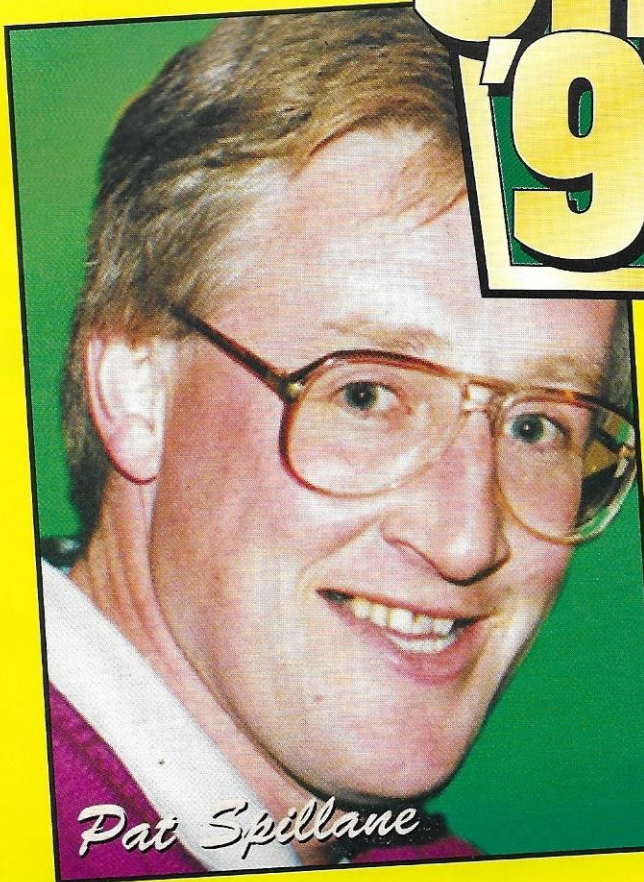
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ON THE SEVENTH DAY FORGET THE REST

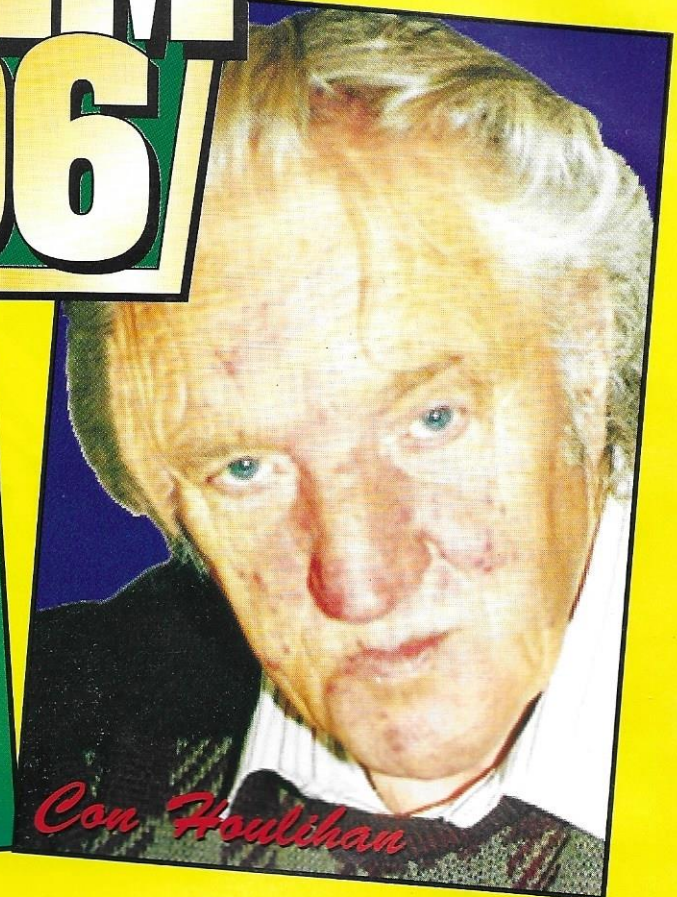
SUNDAY
WORLD

SAM
'96

SUNDAY
WORLD



Pat Spillane



Con Houlihan

YOUR SPORT
ON SUNDAY

SUNDAY
WORLD

Clár an Lae

- 1.50 i.n.: Dún na nGall amach ar an bPáirc.
 1.53 i.n.: Laois amach ar an bPáirc.
 2.00 i.n.: Cluiche Leath-Cheannais Peile: Mionúir
Dún na nGall v. Laois
 2.30 i.n.: Leath-ama.
 2.32 i.n.: GAA/INTO Games Exhibition.
 2.40 i.n.: An Dara Leath.
 3.10 i.n.: Críoch leis an gCluiche.
- 3.15 i.n.: Foireann Na Mí amach ar an bPáirc.
 3.17 i.n.: Foireann Thír Eoghain amach ar an bPáirc.
 3.23 i.n.: Paráid na Foirne.
 3.28 i.n.: Amhrán na bhFiann.
 3.30 i.n.: Cluiche Leath-Cheannais Peile: Sínséar
An Mhí v. Tír Eoghain
 4.05 i.n.: Leath-ama.
 4.07 i.n.: GAA/INTO Games Exhibition.
 4.15 i.n.: An Dara Leath.
 4.50 i.n.: Críoch leis an gCluiche.

Medical/Lost Children

Medical

Upper Hogan: Medical Centre rear of Press Area.
Lower Hogan: Treatment and Cardiac Ambulance rear of Section G/L.
New Stand Lower: Medical Centre rear of Section 301 - Doctor on duty.
 Treatment and Cardiac Ambulance rear of Stand.
 Medical Personnel on duty on Premium & Box Level.
Hill 16: Treatment Ambulance beside Treatment Centre rear of Terrace.
Canal Terrace: Medical Room, Doctor on duty.
 The Site Medical officer will be situated on the pitch in front of the Nally Stand.
 All Treatment Centres are staffed by St. John's Ambulance Brigade members.

Lost Children:

Lost Children can be collected at the above Medical Centres.



I.N.T.O./G.A.A. Mini-Sevens



Boys' Football

Team N

Meath - Green and Gold

Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand - Canal end

- 1 Pat Mulcahy
Newmarket N.S., Kilkenny
- 2 Cormac Cumiskey
Scoil Phádraig, Clane, Kildare
- 3 John Farrell
Carlanstown N.S., Meath
- 4 Richard O'Sullivan
Holy Spirit N.S., Ballymun, Dublin
- 5 John McGran
St. Vincent's C.B.S., Glasnevin, Dublin
- 6 Paul Earls
St. Patrick's B.N.S., Wicklow
- 7 Liam Cuddy
Shanahoe N.S., Abbeyleix, Co. Laois
- 8 Conor Bracken
Syngé Street C.B.S., Dublin
- 9 Deasún Ó Móchain
Gael scoil Ultain, Muineacháin
- 10 Robert Rogers
St. Damien's B.N.S., Walkinstown, Dublin.

Team P

Tyrone - Red and White

Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand - Canal end

- 1 John Gallagher
St. Patrick's P.S., Dungannon, Tyrone
- 2 Karl Lacey
Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala, Donegal
- 3 Ciarán Ó Gairbhia
Gael scoil Ultain, Co. Muineacháin
- 4 Shane Cole
Carrigabruise N.S., Cavan
- 5 Brendan Byrne
Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala, Donegal
- 6 Shannon McCartan
St. Mary's Boys P.S., Rostrevor, Co. Down
- 7 Peadar Toal
C.B.S., Armagh
- 8 Galbhan Barr
St. Patrick's P.S., Dungannon, Co. Tyrone
- 9 Pádraig McManus
C.B.S., Armagh
- 10 Joseph O'Kane
Loup P.S., Derry

Girls' Football

Team Q

Tyrone - Red and White

Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand - Hill 16 end

- 1 Joanne Magee
Carrick P.S., Burren, Down
- 2 Sharleen Murray
St. Michael's P.C., Newtownhamilton, Armagh
- 3 Niamh Britton
St. Francis' N.S., Donegal
- 4 Catherina Clarke
Kilnaleck N.S., Cavan
- 5 Elisha Kelly
St. Rynagh's N.S., Offaly
- 6 Siobhán O'Hagan
St. Patrick's P.C., Mullinahoe, Ardboe, Tyrone
- 7 Geraldine Ward
Robertstown N.S., Co. Kildare
- 8 Sinéad Mudock
Carrick P.S., Burren, Down
- 9 Emer Carr
St. Francis N.S., Donegal
- 10 Antoinette Canavan
St. Patrick's P.C., Mullinahoe, Ardboe, Tyrone

Team R

Meath - Green and Gold

Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand - Hill 16 end

- 1 Caroline Kirkpatrick
St. John's P.S., Swatragh, Derry
- 2 Emma Ní Chlochartaigh
Scoil Móibhí, Glasnaion, BÁC
- 3 Linda Casey
Clingeán N.S., Wexford
- 4 Mia Ní Dhughláis
Scoil Chualann, Bray, Wicklow
- 5 Sarah Denvir
Scoil N. Phádraig, Ballyroan, Dublin
- 6 Katie O'Brien
St. Brigid's N.S., Kells, Co. Meath
- 7 Pamela Kearns
Archbishop Ryan N.S., Balgaddy, Dublin
- 8 Aileen Kane
Robertstown N.S., Kildare
- 9 Mona Healy
Scoil Cholmchille, Knocklyon, Dublin
- 10 Emma O'Connor
Rath N.S., Ballybrittas, Laois



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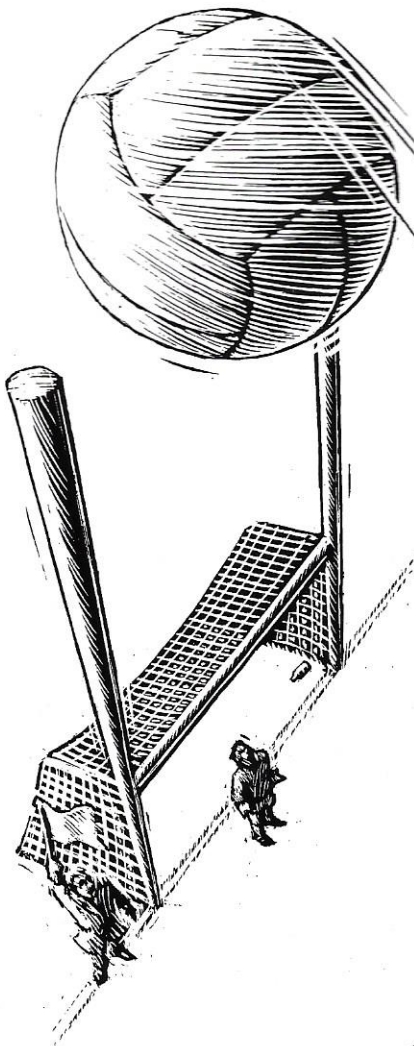
Semi-final Day

Tyrone V Meath

What stories can one predict for the return journeys of today's supporters?

For Meath, heroic success in the Leinster Final by two slim, but glorious, points repeated history of '86. Can the Leinster heroes now make the next step by defeating Tyrone? The Ulster Champions have responded positively to last years bitterly disappointing one point defeat and show no signs of cracking. Today's clash will produce it's own 'inquest' on the train home.

It's been a pleasure to carry you for all these years. Go raibh maith agaibh go leir.



We're here to take you there!

The Championship in Leinster and Ulster

It is not often that a footballer scores a majestic 2-7 in a match and still finishes on the losing team, but that was the sharply contrasting fortune experienced by Dessie Barry on the day the Bank of Ireland Leinster senior football championship got under way in mid-May

Barry proved very target-conscious for Longford at Longford, but his sharp-shooting was not enough to prevent his team from bowing out to favourites Wicklow by a single point — 2-11 to 2-10.

Anthony Keating was also in superb scoring form on the day, but he finished on the winning side. Keating rifled home 1-8 to help power Carlow to a resounding 15 points win at Dr. Cullen Park over Wexford.

Carlow and Wicklow provided a feast of goals in a very exciting game at Droichead Nua. Substitute Colm Hayden proved the real Carlow hero as he turned around a game that looked like slipping away from his team.

Wicklow led by 1-6 to 0-4 at the interval and after 39 minutes were still five points clear. Then up stepped Colm Hayden, who went into the game after 19 minutes, to turn the match around completely.

In a three minute spell between the 39th and 42nd minutes goals by Hayden and Willie Quinlan and points by Anthony Keating and Sean Kavanagh had Carlow ahead by 2-7 to 1-7. After a further nine minutes Colm Hayden won possession and went on a 20 metres solo run before driving expertly to the net to give his side a two goal advantage. Carlow eventu-

ally finished winners by 4-10 to 3-10.

Apart from his two goals Hayden contributed much in general play to the victory. Sean Kavanagh and Derek Tracey at midfield, Anthony Keating, top scorer with seven points, and John Wynne in defence sparkled for the winners.

Keith Byrne and Kevin O'Brien in attack and Brendan Brady in defence were best for Wicklow.

14-Man Donegal

The Ulster championship opened on a dramatic note when a Donegal forward was dismissed by the referee a mere 40 seconds after the start of their clash with Down at Clones

Seventeen minutes later Donegal received another blow when goalkeeper Gary Walsh was adjudged to have carried a high lob by Conor Deegan across the goal line. Even so, Down still only led by 1-5 to 0-4 at the break.

Donegal battled back with great conviction after the restart and with about 15 minutes remaining were on level terms. Then the game was really won and lost. Donegal midfielder James Ruan broke through the Down cover to power down on the Mourne goal and sent a powerful shot on target only to be foiled by a magnificent one hand save by goalkeeper Michael McVeigh.

Down had to withstand strong pressure after that but held out for a hard-earned 1-9 to 0-11 win.

Midfielders Greg McCartan and Conor Deegan were prominent for the winners.

A good start did not prove half the battle for Armagh, who raced into a

four points to no score lead after eight minutes against Derry at Celtic Park.

However, Derry rallied and were on level terms at five points each at the interval. A goal by Joe Brolly early in the second half boosted Derry morale and they went on to book their place in the next round by 1-13 to 1-6.

Anthony Tohill contributed seven points to the Derry tally.

Authoritative Start

Dublin started their defence of the Leinster and All-Ireland titles with an authoritative performance when seeing off Westmeath in convincing style by eleven points at An Uaimh.

Westmeath opened promisingly and led by 0-3 to 0-1 after eight minutes, but six minutes later Dublin were in front by 0-4 to 0-3. A goal by Keith Barr after 35 minutes put the Dubs on the road to their comfortable win.

A two goal burst in four minutes in the second half set Louth up for victory over Offaly in the curtain-raiser to the Dublin-Westmeath game. David Reilly and Raymond O'Neill were the men on target as Louth went on for a five points win in an undistinguished game.

Another tour-de-force by Peter Canavan was the chief feature of Tyrone's winning start to their defence of the Ulster title. The gifted full forward contributed 1-7, just two points from frees, as Tyrone advanced comfortably by twelve points, at the expense of Fermanagh at Omagh.

Meath turned on a points scoring exhibition as they proved far too good for

Carlow in a Leinster quarter-final at Croke Park. The Royals had the game very comfortably in safe keeping as they led by eleven points at the interval.

Trevor Giles, who scored six points and right half back Colm Coyle were two of the stars of Meath's run-away 0-24 to 0-6 success.

Tony Maher at midfield and forward Leo Turley, who scored two goals, were the principle architects of a win by Laois by five points over disappointing Kildare, also at Croke Park.

Maher had an outstanding game and Turley took his goals well, one in each half, as Laois gave a purposeful display in booking their semi-final ticket.

A man of the match display at midfield by Stephen King and the accurate finishing of Ronan Carolan, who scored seven points proved key factors in earning Cavan a four points win over Antrim at Casement Park.

Comeback star John "Shorty" Treanor starred for Down at centre-half forward in their first round proper clash with Monaghan at Clones. After a lengthy absence from inter-county competitive play, Treanor gave a top-class display to power Down to an 0-14 to 0-9 win.

League Champions Out

Church and General National League champions Derry went out at the Ulster semi-final stage by defending champions Tyrone at Clones. Ciarán McBride in attack and Fay Devlin in the full back line were in majestic form for the Ulster champions, who gave an

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The Championship in Leinster and Ulster — *continued*

impressive team performance as they raced to a convincing five points win.

A splendid goal by Peter Canavan twenty three minutes into the second half put Tyrone clear by 1-12 to 1-4 and effectively ended the match as a contest.

Dublin were given a testing time by Louth in the first Leinster semi-final at An Uaimh. Nine minutes from time the All-Ireland champions trailed by a point and Louth looked like taking control.

However, the Dubs continued to battle strongly and Joe McNally popped up with two crucial scores in a minute to swing the game for the holders.

He sent over a point in the 65th minute and quickly followed with an opportunist goal after a Charlie Redmond free was batted out by the Louth goalkeeper and the big St. Anne's clubman snapped up his chance. Redmond finished the scoring to earn Dublin a four points win.

A point by Evan Kelly after a minute and a cracking goal by Brendan Reilly, who was put through by Tommy Dowd after a solo run after only two minutes, provided Meath with a strong platform from which they built their semi-final win over Laois by eight points.

Meath got a second goal from a penalty by Trevor Giles in the 65th minute after Dowd was taken down.

A high point of Down's return to the Ulster final after two years following a win over Cavan at Clones was a cracking second half goal by Gregory McCartan. The semi-final attracted an attendance of 25,237 and 21 minutes after the change of

ends Michael Magill, Peter Withnell and Mickey Linden combined to give McCartan his chance and he made no mistake with a cracking left footed shot.

Down had to survive a late surge by Cavan but held out for a one goal success.

Tyrone started their defence of the Ulster senior title against Down at Clones before an attendance of 33,000 against a background that defending champions had proved unsuccessful in retaining titles stretching back to 1976. That year Derry retained the Northern crown.

At a rain soaked venue, Tyrone started with great gusto and led by 0-6 to 0-1 after 27 minutes, but then lost their way and were just 0-6 to 0-5 ahead at the interval.

As in the opening half, the defending champions were quickly into their stride after the restart and Jody Gormley and Ciarán McBride combined to put Peter Canavan through and he made no mistake by sending to the net after just two minutes of the half for the game's only goal.

That gave Tyrone a 1-7 to 0-5 advantage, but they still had to battle all the way before coming out on top with the Canavan goal separating the sides at the final whistle.

Peter's Brother Stars

Pascal Canavan, brother of Peter, had an outstanding game for Tyrone in mid-field, where his polished and clever football and good work-rate contributed greatly to the success.

Finbarr McConnell

brought off two superb saves in the Tyrone goal, and Fay and Paul Devlin in defence, Brian Dooher and Adrian Cush were other commanding figures for the winners.

Dublin, holders of the Leinster and All-Ireland titles, and Meath attracted an attendance of 55,182 to Croke Park for their Leinster final meeting.

The exchanges were always keen and Dublin led by just a point at the end of a low scoring first half. After 58 minutes they were two points clear and looked like taking a decisive grip on the exchanges, but Meath came back strongly, did not concede a further score and sent over four points to finish champions

again after five years by 0-10 to 0-8.

John McDermott and Jimmy McGuinness had much to do in shaping the late winning rally by Meath. They came very much into the game in the final twelve minutes to lay the foundations for the winning burst.

Captain Tommy Dowd had a fine game, especially in the second half, and Darren Fay, Mark O'Reilly and Colm Coyle at the back were other vital figures in the win.

Ciarán Whelan, a late choice at right half forward because of the unavailability of the injured Niall Guiden, Paul Curran and Eamonn Heery were best for the Dubs.

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Na hEoghanaigh Chun an Contae Ríoga a Cheannasú?

Anuraidh nuair a tháinig foireann Thír Eoghain aduaidh ceapadh nach raibh seans acu in aghaidh uaisle na bpeileadóirí ag an an, Átha Cliath. Ach is ar éigin a bualadh iad le cúlín amháin le spáráil ag am 'Jacks'. Agus táthar ann a cheap gur thuill siad athimirt nuair a chealaigh an réiteoir cúlín a scóráil siad sa neomat deiridh.

Tá An Mhí tar éis a maireachtáil faoi scáth na 'Dubs' le ceithre bliana anuas agus anois táid ar ais san áit ba dhual dóibh sna hoctóidí nuair a bhain siad dhá chraobh Uile-Éireann (1987 agus 1988).

Bhí neart daoine den tuairim ag tús na bliana go mbainfeadh Doire, curaidh na Léige, craobh na hÉireann i mbliana. Thug Tír Eoghain bata is bóthar dóibh i gcluiche leath-cheannais Uladh. Ina dhiaidh sin bhí na 'saineoilithe' ag rá go mbeadh An Dún ar ais i bPáirc An Chrócaigh arís i '96. Thug na hEoghanaigh bata is bóthar dóibh siúd, chomh maith.

Ní raibh an oireadh sin daoine ag cur gheall ar An Mhí chun craobh Laighean a bhaint in aghaidh churaidh Uile-Éireann 1995; ach chruthaigh siad nach bhfuil aon easpa talainn sa chontae ríoga gan trácht ar mhisneach agus teacht aniar. De réir cosúlachta níor rinneadh mórán suntais den bhua in aghaidh Laoise sa chluiche leathcheannais cé go raibh an tuairim coitianta gurbí seo bliain chontae Uí Mhórdha.

Bhí cosúlachtaí áirithe idir An Mhí agus Tír Eoghain so chaoi go raibh feabhas ag teacht orthu de réir mar a bhí an comortas ag dul ar aghaidh; 'taithí a dhéanann máistreacht' adeir an sean-rá agus is amhlaidh a tharla. Bhí na hEoghanaigh leath-chuibhseach in aghaidh Fhearmanach, bhíodar éifeachtach, cumasach in aghaidh Dhoire agus bhíodar ag barr feabhais nuair a d'imríodar An Dún i gcluiche ceannais Uladh. B'fhéidir gurbé sin an clár a bhí leagtha amach ag Art Mac Ruaidhrí dóibh agus dá thoradh rinne siad éacht trí dhá chraobh Uladh as a chéile a bhaint, rud nár tharla le fiche bliain roimhe sin.

Níl ach cúpla 'seanóirí' ar fhoireann na Mí agus den chuid is mó is fir óga cuid mhór den fhoireann a tháinig óna foirne mionúir agus ógánaigh le ceithre nó cúig bliana anuas. Tá fir chruthanta acu ina measc siúd Mac Diarmada i lár an ghoirt, Mac Oireachtaigh agus Styles ar na tosaigh a bhfuil taithí trí nó ceithre de bhlianta acu mar shinsir.

D'fhéadfaí a rá gur foireann óg atá ag Tír Eogain chomh maith; dáiríre tá an fhoireann shinsear láithreach bunaithe ar na sár-fhoirne d'ógánaigh (faoi 21) a rug craobh na hÉireann i 1991 agus 1992. Tá chámh droma na foirne tógtha ar an drean sin — tá Brian McConaill ar an cúl-báire is cruthanta sa tír, Prionsias Ó Doibhlinn, Criostóir Ó Luain agus Aodán Mac Giolla Phádraig ar an tacaigh, Adrian Mac Coise, Brian Ó Gormlaith, Colm Mac Giolla Bhríde agus an captaen Peadar Ó Ceannabháin ar na tosaigh chomh cruthanta mar pheileadóirí is a fheadfaí a fháil. B'é Peadar Ó Ceannabháin 'peileadóir na bliana 1995.

Cad faoin toradh? Níl aon amhras faoi go bhfuil caighdeán na n-Utach an-ard le tamall de bhlianta — in imeacht chúig bhliana bhain siad ceithre chraobh Uile-Éireann gan trácht ar an Léig (faoi thrí) agus Corn An Bóthair Iarainn (faoi cheathair). Is ar éigin nár éirigh leis an hEoghanaigh comhscór a bhaint anuraidh sa chluiche

ceannais. Beidh siad cíocrach chun an chéad chraobh shinsear a ghnóthú do Thír Eoghain; chun é sin a dhéanamh caithfear bua a ghnóthú inniu.

An bhfuil fir an Chontae Ríoga bréan de bheith san áit tánaisteach i gCúige Laighean? Ón uair go bhfuil an chraobh sin bainte an bhfuil mian láidir acu an chéad chéim eile a ghlacadh. Ceaptar go bhfuil ach ar an ócáid seo tá na hEoghanaigh, mar fhoireann, níos oilte agus níos éifeachtaí gan trácht ar an taithí atá acu ar na hócáidí móra.

Braithfidh a lán ar na fir i lár na páirce ar ndóigh ach tá an bheirt Ceannabhánach Mac Coise agus Mac Giolla Bhríde níos éifeachtaí ar an tosaigh ná a gcéilí imeartha ar fhoireann na Mí. Beidh sé deacair ag tosaigh na Mí an ceann is fearr a fháil ar an líne lántaca ag Tír Eogain. Cinnte beidh Tomás Ó Dubhda (an captaen) in ann is in inmhe a chéile imeartha féin a cheannasú ach an leor é? Ní raibh cluiche ann le fada gur bhraith an toradh chomh mór ar éifeacht an dá chaptaen, Ó Ceannabháin agus Ó Dubhda.

Sár-chluiche chugainn, máisea agus cúpla cúlín eatarthu ag deireadh.

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Young Players Spur on Meath Revival

Mark O'Reilly, Darren Fay, Paddy Reynolds, Trevor Giles and Barry Callaghan are hoping Meath will go one better in the Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football semi-final than on their last appearances in the county colours. All were in the under-21 side that played a draw with Cavan in the first All-Ireland semi-final earlier this month.

This quintet have been to the fore in Meath's senior football revival in recent months. Prospects for a good championship season did not appear too bright back in late March when Division III champions Mayo scored a shock one goal win over the Royals in a Church and General National League quarter-final at Roscommon.

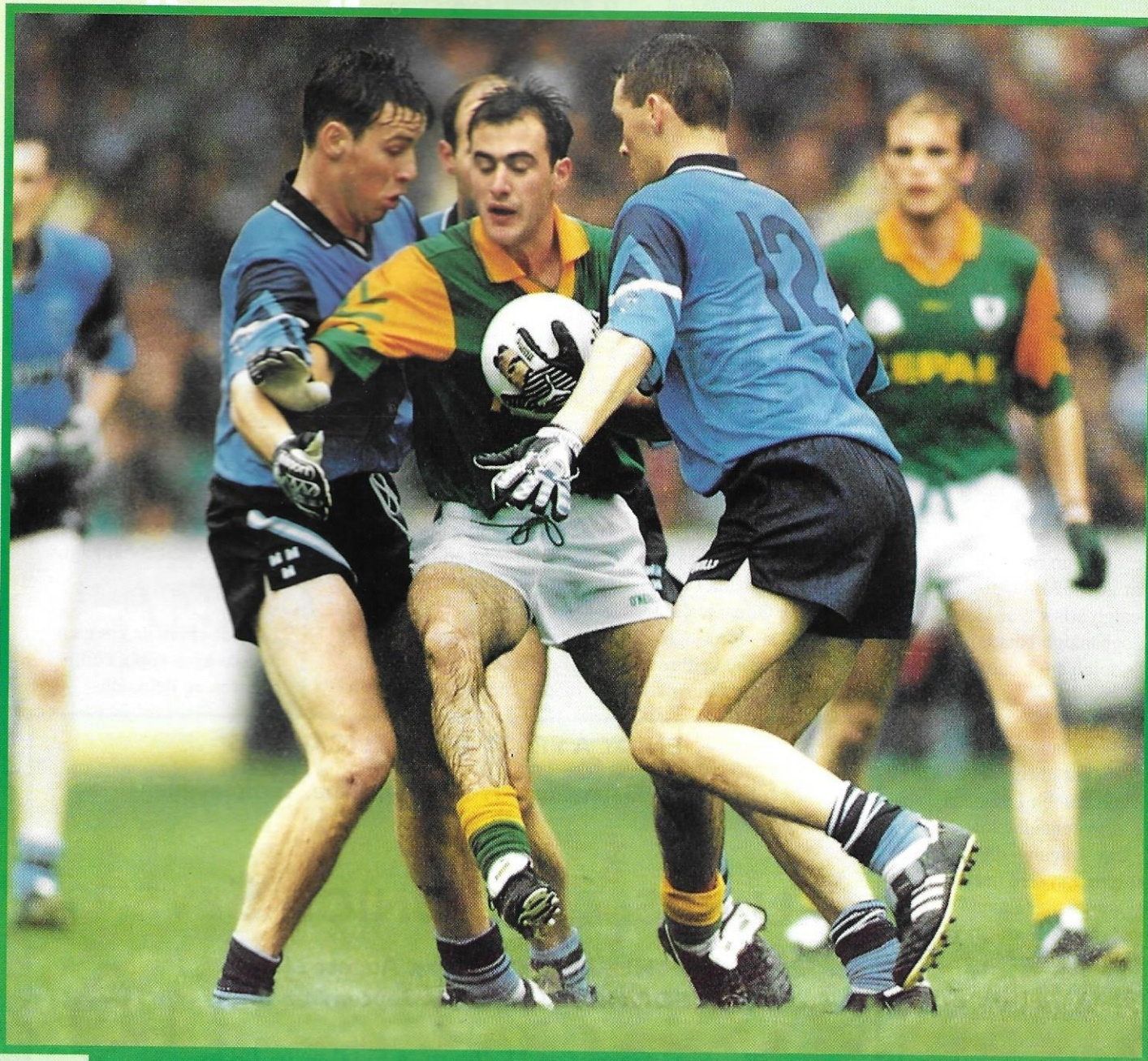
However, Meath lost

no time in picking up the pieces again. They opened their Leinster campaign with an exciting exhibition in points scoring as they powered to an 0-24 to 0-6 win at Croke Park over a Carlow team that went into the match buoyed up by two good championship wins.

That encouraging win suggested that Meath were on the right track with a generally youthful team

and the point was underlined further next time out in another big win — an eight points success at the expense of a fancied Laois team.

Meath had a dream start with an Evan Kelly point after a minute and a goal a minute later following a Jimmy McGuinness free. Tommy Dowd won possession and went on a solo before passing to Brendan Reilly to goal.



One of Meath's young bloods — Paddy Reynolds in possession despite the close attentions of Dublin's Paul Bealin and Ciarán Whelan in the Leinster Final.

At the interval Meath were 1-8 to 0-5 ahead and well on the way to a third successive final. One-time defender Graham Geraghty at left half forward had a big say in earning that lead through his purposeful football.

Laois took a leaf out of Meath's book by grabbing a goal one minute after the restart, but the Royal County did not panic and continued to play authoritatively. They were eight points clear when they were awarded a penalty in the 65th minute and Giles made no mistake by finding the net.

Although Meath did not score again after that

they still finished good winners.

All the Meath forwards scored, with only four scores from frees. That included the penalty. The backs also did their work effectively.

Mammoth Task

Meath, with a number of players new to Leinster senior final experience, faced a mammoth task as they challenged All-Ireland champions Dublin under the shadow of the county's ten points drubbing by the Dubs at the same stage a year ago.

But the Royal County rose to the test on a day of torrential rain and in a low scoring game finished the stronger to regain the provincial crown on an 0-10 to 0-8 scoreline.

Dublin led by 0-4 to 0-3 at the interval and midway through the half looked like taking control and moving on to victory. However, prompted by Jimmy McGuinness and John McDermott at mid-field, Meath began to dictate matters.

They held the defending champions scoreless for the final twelve minutes as they rallied strongly to turn a two points

deficit into a well deserved two points win.

Callaghan and Dowd were also commanding figures in the late winning rally. Colm Coyle and Martin O'Connell, two of the longer serving campaigners, and Fay provided the telling touches that helped to ensure the defence all round did not allow the Dubs attackers much freedom.

This victory represents a solid comeback for Meath and will give a great boost to their morale as they strive for an All-Ireland appearance after a four year absence.

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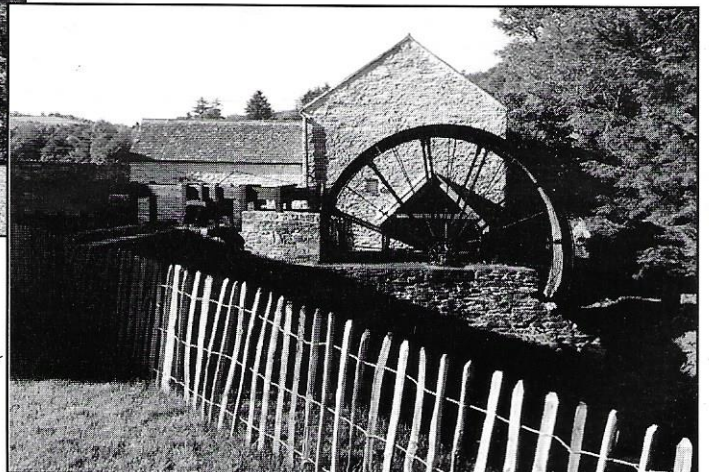
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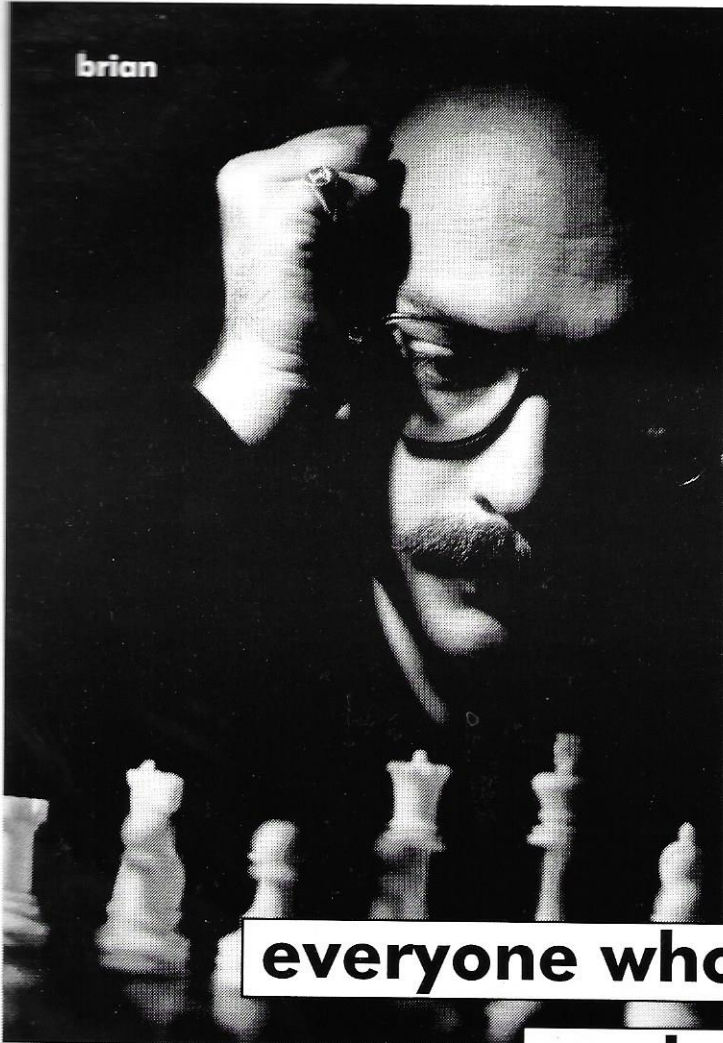
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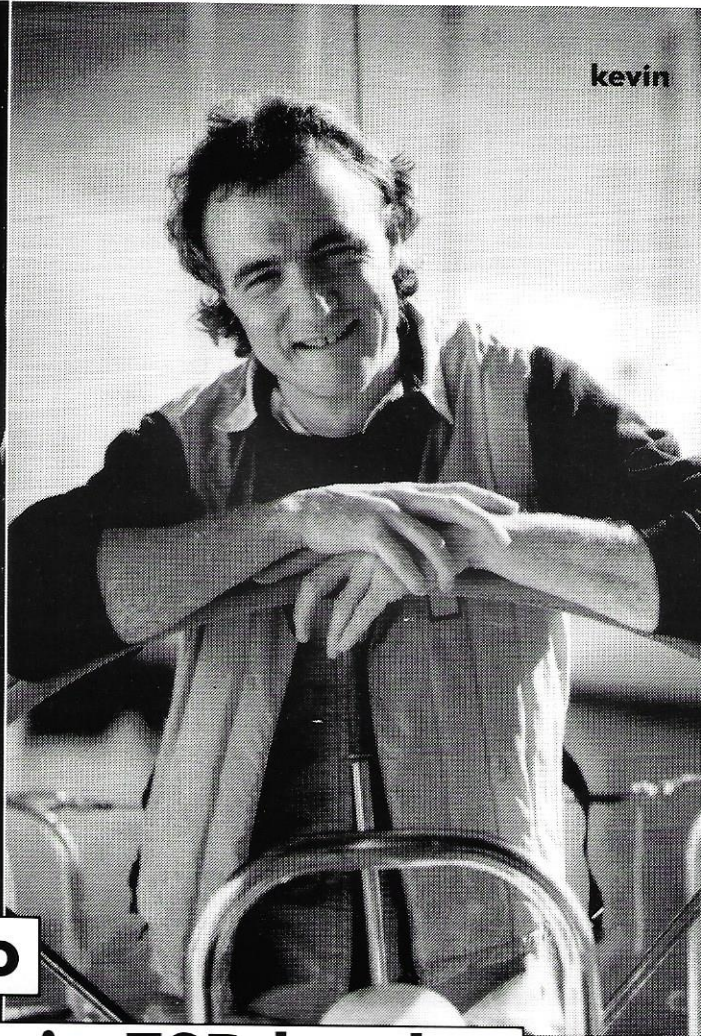
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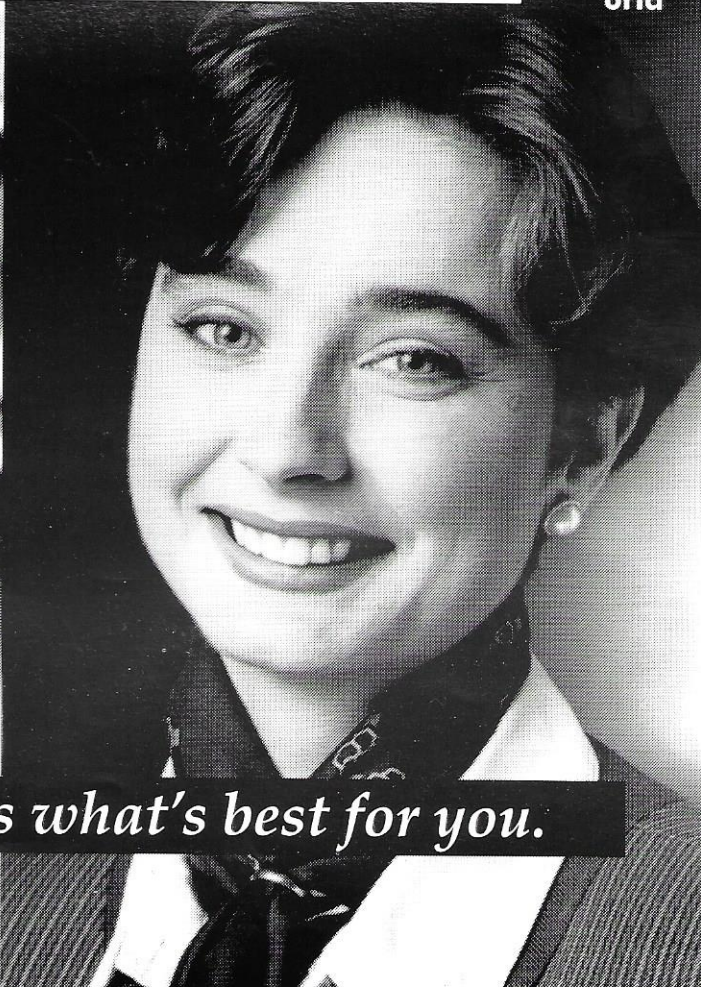
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Tyrone return with experienced and in-form lineup

Tyrone's team has not changed greatly since the one point defeat by Dublin in last year's Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football championship final.

Eighteen players appeared during the Ulster final win last month and of those only Brian

Dooher, Gerard Cavlan, Adrian Cush and Damien Gormley did not play in last year's national summit.

The O'Neill County backs up this rich vein of experience with very good current form. Sean McLoughlin at left half back and Peter Canavan, who scored a splendid 1-7, played stellar parts in get-

ting the defending Ulster champions off to a great start with twelve points win over Fermanagh at Omagh.

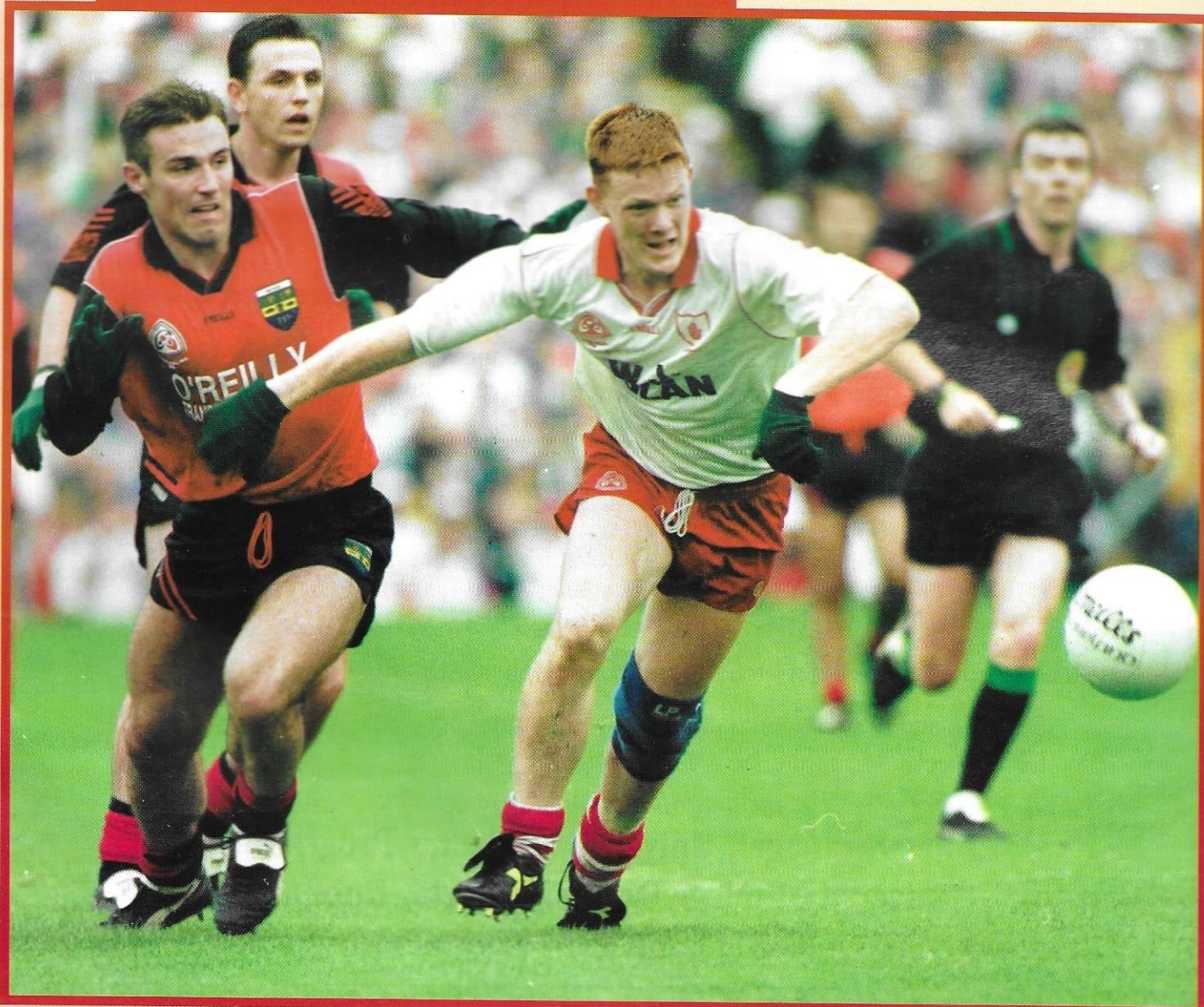
Then came Tyrone's best team performance of the campaign. They moved with speed and authority when surprising Derry, Church and General National League champions for the second

successive season and the side rated by many as All-Ireland champions in waiting. Tyrone finished with five points to spare.

Pascal Canavan and Jody Gormley had the edge in an area where many expected Derry to be dominant — midfield. That proved a vital bonus for the defending champions, at Clones.

Ciarán McBride leaves the Down defence in his wake as he chases a loose ball in the Ulster Final.

continued overleaf →



Tyrone return with experienced and in-form lineup — contir

Tyrone's defence tackled tigerishly, gave away few frees, and generally did not allow the Derry forwards much freedom. McLoughlin, Ronan McGarrity and Paul and Fay Devlin were much to the foreground in the tight disciplined rearguard action.

Up front Ciarán McBride had one of his best-ever games. He was a constant threat to the Derry defence and also scored two points. Peter Canavan yet again secured the clinching goal.

Tyrone led by 0-8 to 1-3 at the interval. Finbarr McConnell contributed to

that position with a fine save from Johnny McGurk after 27 minutes.

Derry had added only one point to their half-time tally when Canavan popped up to end their ambitions. He got through for his team's only goal of the day twenty-three minutes into the second half to give Tyrone a commanding lead at 1-12 to 1-4 and effectively book their tickets back to Clones. The final score was 1-13 to 1-8..

Bogey Ended

Tyrone ended a twenty-year old bogey by beating

Down by a goal in the Ulster final at rain-swept Clones before an attendance of 33,000. They became the first county to retain the provincial crown since Derry in 1976.

The O'Neill county struck two really decisive blows immediately after the restart. After leading by 0-6 to 0-1 twenty seven minutes into the first half they fell away somewhat and were just 0-6 to 0-5 ahead at the break.

A Gerard Cavlan point a minute after the change of ends boosted the champions. A minute later Jody Gormley and Ciarán

McBride combined in an exciting fashion to give Peter Canavan a great chance and the full forward responded with a splendid goal.

Down did not throw the towel, however, and made the holders struggle the way, but in the end Tyrone finished champions again with a goal spare.

Pascal Canavan in midfield, Jody Gormley also at midfield, Brian Dooher and full-back Paul Devlin, Chris L and Fay Devlin, as well as goal-getter Canavan were best for the winners.



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Minúir – Dún na nGall v. Laois

Of Minor Importance - A New Rivalry...An Old Quest

Today's meeting of Donegal and Laois is a new pairing in the All-Ireland minor football semi-final. And though a first-ever meeting at this stage is nothing new in under-18 football, a clash between two counties, neither of which has won All-Ireland honours is indeed something of a rarity. Indeed, it is 30 years since a minor semi-final was contested by two counties still seeking a first title and the counties on that occasion were Laois and Down, a tie which took two hours to decide (in the Ulster champions' favour). Previously, Westmeath and Down were cast in the "novices" role in 1963, while further back Donegal and Leitrim were also 'first timers' in the 1956 semi-final.

The minor grade has been no happy hunting ground for either Donegal or Laois, although the Leinster county did contest an All-Ireland final in the fourth year of this competition (1932) for which they had qualified by beating Antrim by 2-3 to 1-3 in the semi-final at Dundalk. But after failing to retain their provincial honours when beaten by Dublin in the Leinster final the following year, Laois faded from the ranks of serious contenders in the East for many years.

Late Entrants

Donegal meanwhile, were slow to field in minor competition, and when they eventually did it was to suf-

fer a first-round defeat at the hands of Tyrone at Omagh in 1934. However, a year later Donegal were All-Ireland semi-finalists - but in very controversial circumstances. With only six counties taking part in Ulster, a victory over Antrim was sufficient to give them a place in the provincial final, but in a close contest at Omagh they were pipped by Tyrone (2-2 to 2-1). An objection to the winners was, however, upheld by the Ulster Council and Donegal were awarded the title which gave them a shot at Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final. Here again, Donegal lost narrowly - and worse was to follow. Tyrone had lodged a counter objection which was not heard until after the All-Ireland semi-final and when the Ulster Council upheld this, both counties were disqualified.

Like Laois, Donegal also faded from the scene and it was 1948 before they again contested a provincial final. The early fifties brought no reward and Donegal were still seeking a first Ulster title when they set out in the 1956 campaign. There was relief at last: beating Derry by 4-5 to 1-9 at Derry, and Down by 4-4 to 0-3 at Castleblaney. Donegal qualified for the final in which they beat Armagh by 2-5 to 0-6 at Clones. Leitrim however, proved too good for them in the All-Ireland semi-final at Sligo (1-9 to 2-1).

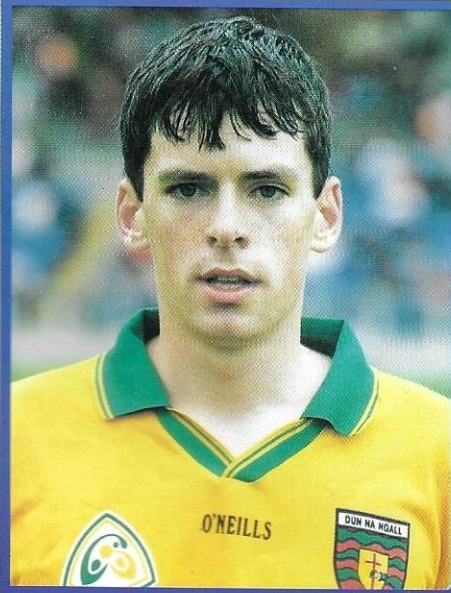
After three frustrating decades Laois again created an impression in minor football in the mid-sixties when, after losing to eventual All-Ireland champions Offaly in the 1964 provincial final, they took the eastern title in '66 and '67.

Ultimate success was denied them by Down in the All-Ireland semi-final (1966) and by Cork in the 1967 final.

Donegal bridged a gap of more than 30 years when they emerged from Ulster in 1985 following victories over Down, Monaghan, Armagh and Cavan, only to lose the semi-final (0-9 to 2-4) to Cork. Their most recent (until this year) northern success was in 1991, but again the All-Ireland semi-final barrier remained uncrossed as Cork beat them by 0-12 to 1-6.

Donegal and Laois are today presented with another opportunity of moving nearer an elusive goal, and it is doubtful if two more worthy contestants have fought out an All-Ireland minor semi-final.

Today's Minor Football Captains



Rory Sweeney (Dún na nGall)



Martin Delaney (Laois)

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Laoisigh Lúthmhara chun Conallaigh Chróga a Chloí?

Don chéad uair ariamh, i scéal peile na mionúir, casann buachaillí ón chontae cáiliúil Uí Mhordha ar na gaiscígh ó Thír Chonaill agus feartar fíor – chaoin fáilte rompu araon go Páirc An Chrócaigh.

Níor éirigh leis na Conallaigh dul fhad leis an gceathrúchluiche ariamh is trua a rá. Bhain siad trí chraobh Uladh roimhe seo i 1956 versus Ard Mhaca (2-5 v. 0-6) i 1985 versus An Cabhán (2-11 v. 1-3) agus i 1991 versus Tír Eoghain (1-10 v. 1-9). I mbliana chloígh siad mionúir Dhoire Cholmcille tar éis athimirt.

Ar an trí hocáidí a bhain siad craobh Uladh theip orthu sna cluichí leathcheannais in aghaidh Liatroim, Maigh Eo agus Corcaigh faoi seach. I mbliana áfach tá sé le maoinm acu gur thug siad bata is bóthar in Ultaibh don fhoireann a bhí mar thánaisti i gceathrúchluiche Uile-Éireann '95, Doire; chuaigh sé rite leo é a dhéanamh acu bhí leath d'fhoireann Dhoire 1995 intofa i '96.

I gcás na Laoisigh láidre bhí comhscór in aghaidh Átha Cliath i gceathrúchluiche Laighean agus bhí bua éasca acu san athimirt. Tá seantaithe acu ar chomhscóranna mar anuraidh níor éirigh leis An Iarmhí dul tharstu go dtí an tríú iarracht agus is eol gur chuaigh buachaillí Uisnigh ar aghaidh chun craobh na hÉireann a bhaint den chéad uair ariamh.

Mar ar tharla b'iad mionúir Dhoire Cholmcille a bhí sa chraobhchluiche sin agus, mar sin, tig linn comparáid a dhéanamh mar a leanas — is ar éigin gur chloígh An Iarmhí mionúir Laoise i '95 agus chuaigh sé rite leo Doire a cheannú; is ar éigin go raibh na Conallaigh in inmhe Doire a chloí i mbliana, ergo, tá na Conallaigh ar chomhchéim leis an Iarmhí a bhuaigh ar éigin ar Laois anuraidh!

Ciallaíonn sé seo uilig go bhfuil sárchluiche chugainn agus go bhfuil an dá fhoireann ar bís chun an chéad chraobh mhionúir a bhreith leo ach chuige sin ní mór an cluiche inniu a bhuaichan.

Bhí na Laoisigh i craobhchluiche Uile-Éireann ar dhá ócáid i 1932 nuair a bhain Ciarraí an lá (3-8 v. 1-3) agus i 1967 nuair a bhí an ceann is fearr ag Corcaigh (5-14 v. 2-3). Idir an dá bhliain sin bhain siad craobh Laighean eile i 1966.

Is dhá chontae iad, Dún na nGall agus Laois, nár bhain an oiread sin craobhacha Uile-Éireann ach gur féidir a rá futhu gur ghlac siad páirt sna comortais éagsúla leis na cianta Cairbhreacha. Tá ard-mholadh tuillte ag na clubanna agus ag na scoileanna i dtach leis na comortais 'faoi-aois' go háirithe. Tugtar an 'Contae Dílis' ar chontae eile toisc gur leanadh leis an gcomhpháirtíocht sna cluiche in éagmais bhuanna nó chraobhach — a dhála céanna le Laois agus Dún na nGall, táid dílis i gcónaí agus is trua go mbeidh ar cheann acu fanacht bliain eile sa 'bhfásach', is é sin muna mbíonn comhscór ann arís! Go maire siad agus a lucht stiúrtha.

Laois in Sharpshooting Form in Leinster

Laois make a quick return to Croke Park in minor football. On their last visit three weeks ago they drew with Dublin and now are back in a bid to earn the county a direct interest in an All-Ireland final in the grade for the first time in 29 years.

The O'Moore County lads displayed exciting scoring power in their march to the Leinster final. Danny Doogue with 2-3 and Chris Conway on 1-6 sparked their side into top scoring action right at the start with a 15 points win over Wexford.

Laois did not score as freely in their next engagement with defending All-Ireland champions Westmeath at Croke Park, but still put up a good score at 1-11 as they won a keenly contested encounter by two points. The success put the side into a provincial final clash with Dublin.

The teams provided a highly entertaining game, despite continuous rain and a slippery surface and a draw was a fair result.

Laois, who failed to find the net for the only time in the Leinster campaign, were two points clear four minutes from the final whistle, but great-hearted Dublin came back with two last gasp points to earn a second chance.

Noel Garvan had an outstanding game at midfield for Laois. Centre half back Derek Conroy and forwards Conway, Doogue and Brian McDonald were others who worked hard for the O'Moore County.

The stage looked set for another exciting and keenly contested tie in the replay at Tullamore on a Saturday evening earlier this month, but expectations were not realised as Laois pulled away for a whopping thirteen points win.

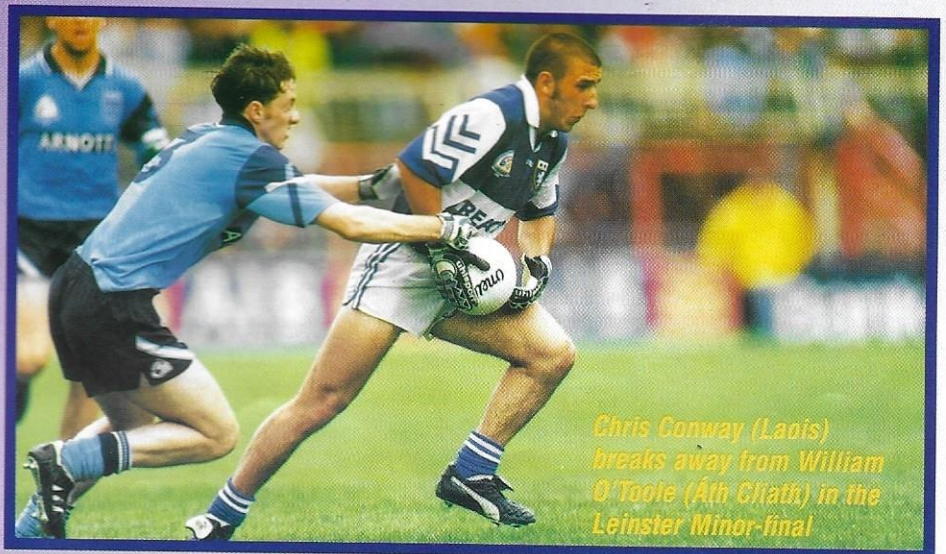
The game opened on an interesting note with keen exchanges over the first quarter during which scores were level three times. Dublin full forward Leon Knight gave Dublin a tremendous boost with a fine goal in the 19th minute, but Laois lost no time in bouncing back.

Five minutes later midfielder Martin Delaney goaled for Laois and two minutes later Danny Doogue also found the Dublin net to put Laois firmly in the driving seat at the interval by 2-7 to 1-4.

Dublin looked like making a real contest of it as they sent over two quick points after the restart, but Laois took control and rifled over excellent points to run out handsome winners by 2-18 to 1-8.

Full forward Doogue, who again confirmed his status as a sharp finisher with 1-6, Conway, also in attack, midfielder and captain Delaney and Colm Parkinson and David O'Hara in defence were key figures in earning Laois their first provincial crown since 1967.

Laois have displayed real fire-power up front and with a good centre field and a solid defence to back up the attack they can be depended on to make a tremendous effort to give football in the county a real boost by earning a rare final appearance.



Chris Conway (Laois) breaks away from William O'Toole (Ath Cliath) in the Leinster Minor final

VOCATIONAL MEDAL WINNERS TO THE FORE WITH DONEGAL

Last May Donegal and Kerry provided one of the classic football games in any grade this year when they met in the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' final at Croke Park. The North West county won by a point.

Donegal will not be lacking in Croke Park experience, then, in their first-ever All-Ireland minor semi-final clash with Laois. As many as twelve of the side that beat Kerry helped to forge out the Ulster final win in a replay over Derry at Omagh two weeks ago. The Vocational Schools' medal winners include Michael Hegarty and Aodh Brennan, who went in as substitutes against Derry.

Right full back Shane O'Donnell (Bundoran), left full back Ronan Mulligan, centre half back Adrian McClafferty, right half forward Shane O'Donnell (Letterkenny) and top scoring David McGinley are the only members of the provincial title winning side who are not linked with the team that won the Vocational crown.

After the sparkling football of an All-Ireland final tie, Donegal were installed as firm favourites for a first Ulster minor title since 1991. They looked like fully living up to that promise as they swept to high scoring wins over Down, Monaghan and Antrim to qualify for the final with an amazing scoring record of 12-43 (79 points).

However, Donegal were brought down to earth in a big way by a Derry side that included a number of links with the St. Patrick's, Maghera, team that finished runners-up for the All-Ireland Colleges' title last spring.

The Northerners with the goal getting technique failed to collect even one and in a low scoring game had to rely on a point from a free with virtually the last kick of the game by second half substitute Johnny McLoone, a Vocational Schools' medalist, to earn a draw.

Adrian McClafferty at centre half back Gerard Cannon at left half, Barry Monaghan in midfield and Rory Sweeney in attack worked extremely

hard in earning Donegal their 0-9 all draw.

The replay attracted a bumper attendance to Omagh but did not provide football of the quality expected. Donegal played with a stiff breeze in the first half and the outlook did not appear too bright as they trailed at the change of ends by 1-2 to 0-4. They would have been further in arrears but for a splendid one-hand save by goal-keeper David Greene.

Fifteen minutes from the end Donegal were still a point behind. They

introduced Aodh Brennan from the substitutes and made some positional changes as a result. They began to move with more fluency and steadily began to find the range to eventually edge through by 0-9 to 1-5 for a fourth Ulster title.

McClafferty again had an excellent game at centre half back and Greene in goal, Ciarán Browne, Cannon and substitutes Brennan and Michael Gallagher were very instrumental in ensuring a successful end to the Ulster campaign for Donegal.

Minor Football Championship Scoreboard Leinster and Ulster

Leinster

May 4 — Wexford:	Wexford 1-11; Wicklow 0-11.
May 4 — Longford:	Kildare 3-7; Longford 0-13.
May 4 — Tullamore — Draw:	Offaly 0-12; Meath 1-12.
May 4 — Kilkenny:	Carlow 0-11; Kilkenny 1-6.
May 11 — An Uaimh — Replay:	Meath 1-15; Offaly 2-11.
May 18 — Droichead Nua:	Dublin 2-8; Kildare 1-10.
May 18 — Wexford:	Laois 3-14; Wexford 1-5.
May 18 — An Uaimh:	Meath 0-13; Louth 0-3.
May 18 — Carlow:	Westmeath 3-9; Carlow 1-5.
June 30 — An Uaimh:	Dublin 0-10; Meath 0-8.
July 7 — Croke Park:	Laois 1-11; Westmeath 1-9.
Final:	
July 28 — Croke Park — Draw:	Laois 0-15; Dublin 2-9.
August 3 — Tullamore — Replay:	Laois 2-18; Dublin 0-8.

Top scorer for the entire championship: D. Doogue (Laois) with 3-16 (25 points) in four games. Average: 6.15 points.

Ulster

May 26 — Clones:	Donegal 4-8; Down 1-5.
May 30 — Irvinestown:	Donegal 4-15; Monaghan 0-2.
June 2 — Celtic Park:	Derry 0-15; Armagh 1-11.
June 9 — Omagh:	Fermanagh 1-8; Tyrone 0-9.
June 16 — Casement Park:	Antrim 1-11; Cavan 1-7.
June 30 — Clones:	Derry 0-18; Fermanagh 1-9.
July 7 — Clones:	Donegal 4-20; Antrim 0-3.
Final:	
July 28 — Clones — Draw:	Donegal 0-9; Derry 0-9.
August 4 — Omagh — Replay:	Donegal 0-9; Derry 1-5.

Top scorer for the entire championship: D. McGinley (Donegal) with 4-26 (38 points) in five games. Average: 7.60 points.

The linesmen for today's Minor Semi-Final are: Francis Finan (*Sligeach*), who is the stand-by referee, and Ger Haugh (*Luimneach*).

MOLLOY AIMS FOR ANOTHER PIECE OF HISTORY.

By: Charlie McGinley, Derry People / Donegal News

Four years ago Donegal Minor football team manager, Anthony Molloy led the county to an historic first All-Ireland Senior Title. On Sunday the Ardara man will be bidding for another piece of history as he plots Donegal's path to what would be their first All-Ireland Minor Final.



Sunday's game will be Donegal's fifth semi-final but the county has yet to win one. They lost the previous four to Tipperary 1935, Leitrim 1956 and Cork twice in 1985 and 1991.

Molloy's side will be up against a formidable Laois side. They bridged a 29 year gap when they won their first Leinster title since 1967 at Tullamore a fortnight ago with a memorable 2-18 to 1-8 win over Dublin.

The Leinster champions forced last year's All-Ireland champions, Westmeath to three games in the provincial decider a year ago and manager Gabriel Lawlor has eight of that side available this time around.

Expectations are high in the county and some might consider that Donegal face a "Mission Impossible" on Sunday but Molloy was optimistic about his side's chances earlier this week.

"We know little about Laois but they had an impressive win in the Leinster Final and I know there are seven or eight players from last year. They are a strong, physical side with a good mid-field pairing and an excellent full forward who will need to be watched carefully" Molloy said.

"We haven't had much time to recover from the Ulster final replay but

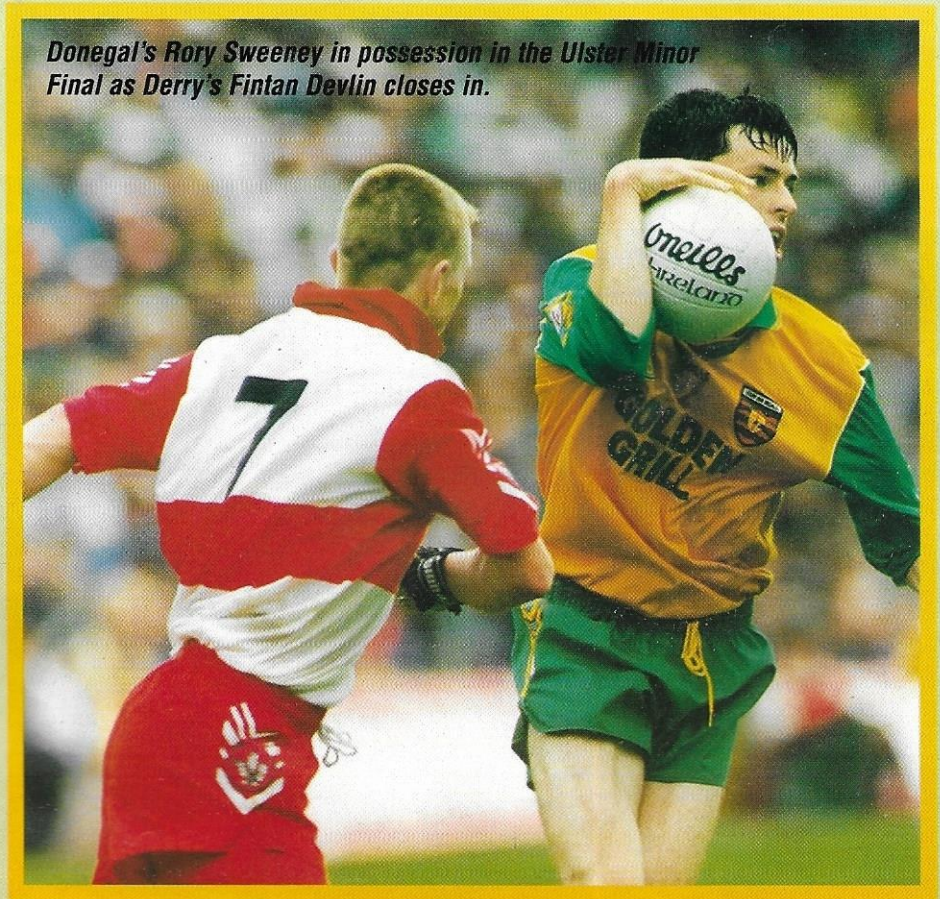
for the first time this year the pressure is off us. Having won the Ulster Minor League and the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' title the pressure was on us throughout the Ulster championship. On Sunday Laois will go in as favourites and that will suit us fine. We are really looking forward to this one" the manager added. "With minor footballers it is vital to have the proper psychological approach. In recent games we have played to our potential for twenty minutes and then dropped off again. That certainly will not do this time round against a very strong Laois side" Molloy said.

"The game will hinge around the midfield where it is vital we get a fair share of the possession. I have great faith in the lads and they know what is required on Sunday and I am optimistic they can pull it off. It will be the first time if we do qualify so I think that is an incentive if the lads need one at all"

he added. "A lot of our players have played in Croke Park before with the Vocational Schools' side and I think that will help on Sunday. The large pitch will suit us as we are a side who like to play a controlled, short passing game. We know it is not going to be easy but I have a well balanced side this year and hopefully they will do themselves justice on Sunday" he said.

Molloy was waiting on a video of the Laois side during the week so he could cast his eye over the opposition but he admitted that they had already gathered some information about their opponents.

Molloy watched last Sunday's corresponding semi-final where Kerry emerged winners against Mayo. Asked did he think Donegal would be good enough to win an All-Ireland if they qualified the manager replied simply by saying "let's take one game at a time".



Donegal's Rory Sweeney in possession in the Ulster Minor Final as Derry's Fintan Devlin closes in.



Dún na nGall



1-10

Dathanna: Uaithne is Ór

Fir Ionaid

- (16) Sean P. Clarke
S. P. Ó Cléirigh
(Naomh Colmcille)
- (17) Aodh Brennan
A. Ó Braonáin
(Ard an Rath)
- (18) John McLoone
S. Mac Giolla Eóin
(Naomh Conail)
- (19) Stephen Ward
S. de Bhaird
(Aodh Ruadh)
- (20) Andrew Gallagher
A. Ó Gallchóir
(Naomh Naílle)
- (21) Donal Martin
D. Ó Mairtín
(Naomh Bríd)
- (22) Gareth Blake
G. de Bláca
(Aodh Ruadh)
- (23) Darin Dorrian
D. Ó Deorain
(Gleann Fhinne)
- (24) Patrick McMenaman
P. Mac Meanman
(An Tearmain)

Roghnóirí

Antony Molloy (Manager),
Michael Oliver McIntyre,
Barry Campbell,
Paddy McBride (Trainer.)xj

2
SHANE O'DONNELL
S. Ó Domhnaill
(Bundorán)

5
MICHAEL HEGARTY
M. Ó hEigeartaigh
(Cill Chartha)

10
RORY SWEENEY
R. Mac Suibhne (Capt.)
(Naomh Bríd)

13
JOEL CARR
S. Mac Giolla Chearra
(Na Ceithre Maistir)

1
DAVID GREEN
D. Ó hUaine
(Aodh Ruadh)

3
EAMON REDDIN
E. Ó Rodáin
(Muff)

6
ADRIAN MacCLAFFERTY
A. Mac Laifeartaigh
(Naomh Adhamhain)

8
CIARÁN BROWNE
C. de Brún
(Carn Domhnaigh)

11
BARRY BROWNE
B. de Brún
(Carn Domhnaigh)

14
DAVID MCGINLEY
D. Mac Fhionnaile
(Naomh Adhamhain)

4
RONAN MULLIGAN
R. Ó Maolagáin
(Naomh Adhamhain)

7
GERARD CANNON
G. Mac Ceannanáin
(Naomh Columba)

9
BARRY MONAGHAN
B. Ó Muineacháin
(Na Ceithre Maistir)

12
SHANE O'DONNELL
S. Ó Domhnaill
(Naomh Adhamhain)

15
PETER MCHUGH
P. Mac Aodha
(Ard an Rath)

Dún na nGall

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

Foireann Mhionúir Dún na nGall

The Donegal Minor team which defeated Derry in the Ulster Final:

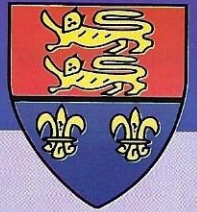
Back row (from left): Barry Monaghan, Shane O'Donnell (Letterkenny), Barry Browne, David Greene, David McGinley, Gerald Cannon, Eamonn Reddan.

Front row (from left): Adrian McClafferty, Peter McHugh, Michael Hegarty, Rory Sweeney (captain), Ronan Mulligan, Joel Carr, Aodh Brennan, Shane O'Donnell (Bundoran).





Laois



2-08

Dathanna: Gorm is Bán

- 1**
ROBERT DARBY
R. Mac Diarmada
(Stradbally)
- 2**
PADRAIG LANGTON
P. Langtún
(Park/Rathinska)
- 3**
MARTIN BUGGY
M. Ó Bogaigh
(The Rock)
- 4**
DAVID O'HARA
D. Ó hÉara
(The Heath)
- 5**
NIALL COLLINS
N. Ó Coileáin
(Portlaoise)
- 6**
DEREK CONROY
D. Ó Conraoi
(The Rock)
- 7**
COLM PARKINSON
C. Mac Peáircín
(Portlaoise)
- 8**
MARTIN DELANEY
M. Ó Dubhshláine (Capt.)
(Portlaoise)
- 9**
NOEL GARVAN
N. Ó Garbháin
(St. Joseph's)
- 10**
OWEN DELANEY
E. Ó Dubhshláine
(Portlaoise)
- 11**
CHRIS CONWAY
C. Ó Conbhuí
(Arles)
- 12**
STEPHEN KELLY
S. Ó Ceallaigh
(St. Joseph's)
- 13**
BRIAN McDONALD
B. Mac Donnail
(St. Michael's)
- 14**
DANNY DOOGUE
D. Ó Duaga
(Graiguecullen)
- 15**
KEVIN FITZPATRICK
C. Mac Giolla Phódraig
(Portlaoise)

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Ken Dunne**
C. Ó Duinn
(Graiguecullen)
- (17) **Tom Lynch**
T. Ó Loingsigh
(Abbeyleix)
- (18) **John Paul Kehoe**
S. P. Mac Eochaidh
(O'Dempsey's)
- (19) **Diarmuid Mullins**
D. Ó Maoláin
(Portlaoise)
- (20) **Tom Mulligan**
T. Ó Maolagáin
(Portlaoise)
- (21) **Eddie Kinsella**
E. Cinsealach
(Stradbally)
- (22) **Shane Hennessy**
S. Ó hAonasa
(The Heath)

Roghnóirí

Gabriel Lawlor (*Emo*) Manager,
Brian Delaney (Portlaoise),
Oliver Phelan (Ballyfin).

Laois	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					

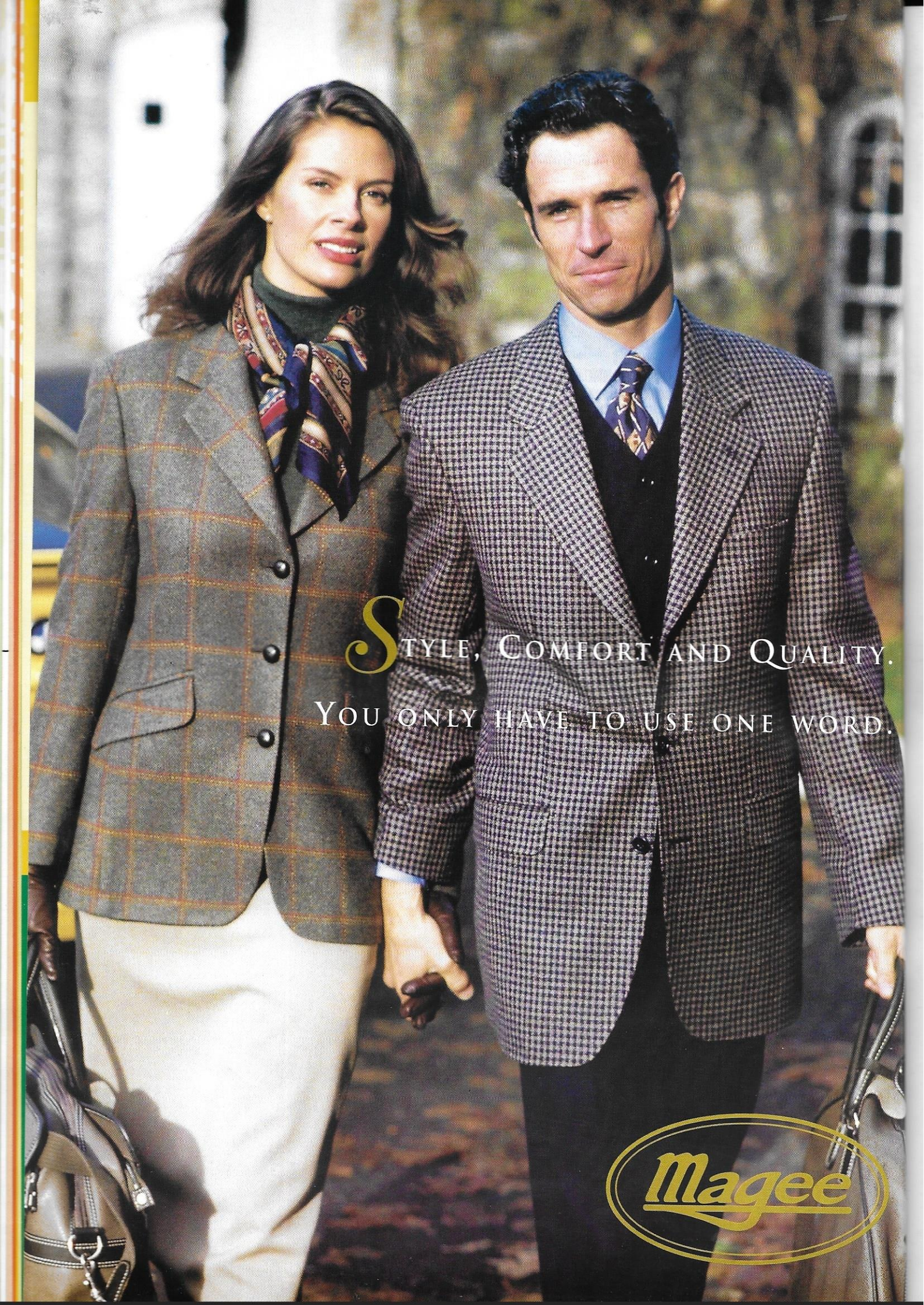
Foireann Mhionúir Laois



The Laois Minor team which defeated Dublin in the Leinster Final:

Back row (from left): Owen Delaney, Martin Buggy, Robert Darby, Noel Garvan, Stephen Kelly, Derek Conroy, Kevin Fitzpatrick.

Front row (from left): Colm Parkinson, Padraig Langton, David O'Hara, Martin Delaney (captain), Niall Collins, Danny Doogue, Chris Conway, Brian McDonald.



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Magee

Minor Paths To The Semi-Final

Laois

Laois are Leinster minor football champions for the first time in 29 years. Their replay win over Dublin at Tullamore last time out earned the county a fourth provincial crown since 1932.

The O'Moore County's last semi-final outing in 1967 ended in a 2-8 to 2-7 win over Roscommon.

18th May at Wexford Park: Beat Wexford by 3-14 to 1-5.

Scorers: C.Conway 1-6, D.Doogue 2-3, C.Parkinson 0-1, M.Delaney 0-1, S.Kelly 0-1, K.Fitzpatrick 0-1, B.McDonald 0-1.

7th July at Croke Park: Beat Westmeath by 1-11 to 1-9.

Scorers: C.Conway 0-4, D.Doogue 0-3, M.Delaney 1-0, S.Kelly 0-2, N.Collins 0-1, P.Langton 0-1.

28th July at Croke Park: Drew with Dublin 0-15 to 2-9.

Scorers: D.Doogue 0-4, C.Conway 0-3, K.Fitzpatrick 0-3, B.McDonald 0-2, S.Kelly 0-2, Noel Garvan 0-1.

3rd August at Tullamore: Beat Dublin by 2-18 to 1-8.

Scorers: D.Doogue 1-6, M.Delaney 1-1, C.Conway 0-3, S.Kelly 0-3, K.Fitzpatrick 0-2, B.McDonald 0-1, C.Parkinson 0-1, E.Delaney 0-1.

For and Against

Laois scored an impressive 6-58 (76 points) and conceded 5-31 (46 points).

Doogue Comfortably Ahead

Danny Doogue is comfortably ahead in the Laois Scoresheet and also their

goal expert with 3-16 (25 points).

Chris Conway comes next on 1-16 and well down the field in joint third are Martin Delaney 2-2 and Stephen Kelly 0-8.

Kevin Fitzpatrick scored 0-6, Brian McDonald 0-4, Colm Parkinson 0-2, Niall Collins, Padraig Langton, Noel Garvan and Eoin Delaney 0-1 each.

Top Individual Returns

Danny Doogue is twice represented on the chart of leading individual match returns by a Laois forward. He hit 2-3 in the opening encounter against Wexford and 1-6 last time out.

That first round game at Wexford also was marked by a good return by Chris Conway at 1-6.

Dún na nGall

Donegal are Ulster minor football champions for the fourth time since 1956. They lost their last All-Ireland semi-final appearance in 1991 to a Cork side that included Kevin O'Dwyer in goal, Brian Corcoran at full back, Joe Kavanagh and Mark O'Sullivan in attack.

The North-West county has still to appear in an All-Ireland final in this grade.

This is the Donegal record so far:

26th May at Clones: Beat Down by 4-8 to 1-5.

Scorers: D.McGinley 3-5, P.McHugh 1-0, S.

O'Donnell 0-1, M. Hegarty 0-1, J. McLoone 0-1.

31st May at Irvinestown: Beat Monaghan by 4-15 to 0-2.

Scorers: D.McGinley 1-8, P. McHugh 3-0, S. O'Donnell 0-3, M. Hegarty 0-2, R. Sweeney 0-1, G. Blake 0-1.

7th July at Clones: Beat Antrim by 4-20 to 0-3.

Scorers: P.McHugh 2-1, D.McGinley 0-6, R.Sweeney 1-2, M.Hegarty 0-3, S.O'Donnell 0-3, S.Ward 1-0, A.Brennan 0-2, J.Carr 0-1, B.Browne 0-1, J. P. Clarke 0-1.

28th July at Clones:

Drew with Derry 0-9 each.

Scorers: D.McGinley 0-4, J.McLoone 0-2, S.O'Donnell 0-1, A. Brennan 0-1, B.Browne 0-1.

4th August at Omagh:

Beat Derry by 0-9 to 1-5.

Scorers: D.McGinley 0-3, R.Sweeney 0-1, G.Cannon 0-1, B.Browne 0-1, A.Brennan 0-1, J.McLoone 0-1, J.Carr 0-1.

For and Against

Donegal scored an impressive 12-61 (97 points) and conceded 2-24 (30 points).

McGinley in Sharpshooting Form

David McGinley has been in sharpshooting form for Donegal and is far and away their ace marksman with 4-26 (38 points). Well down the field in second place is the goal expert of the side, Peter McHugh with 6-1.

Shane O'Donnell scored 0-8, Rory Sweeney 1-4, Michael Hegarty 0-6, Johnny McLoone 0-4, Aodh Brennan 0-4, Stephen Ward 1-0, Barry Browne 0-3, Joel Carr 0-2, Gareth Blake 0-1, J. P. Clarke 0-1, Gerard Cannon 0-1.

Top Individual Return

David McGinley opened the programme in tremendous style by scoring a majestic 3-5 against Down at Clones for what understandably ranks not only as the top individual return by a Donegal player but the best for both counties engaged in this novel semi-final.

Low Tally Against

Donegal's 0-2 in their second appearance against Monaghan is the lowest total conceded by each side in the run-in to the semi-final.

An Réiteoir:

Niall Barrett (Corcaigh)

A member of the Carrigtwohill club, Niall has been refereeing for some six years. He took charge of the Cork county senior finals of 1991 and 1994 and has controlled important games at inter-county level.

These include the Munster minor football final of 1994, the provincial under-21 decider between Kerry and Clare last May and the 1992 McGrath Cup decider.

The 42-year-old Cork man has also refereed games in the National League in recent seasons.



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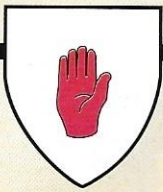


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Championship Meetings

To say that the championship paths of Meath and Tyrone have rarely crossed is an understatement, as it is rarely that teams contesting an All-Ireland semi-final have so meagre a championship background as Meath and Tyrone have today. They have never met in a senior championship game and at other levels there have been only two meetings - the 1972 minor semi-final and the 1990 under-21 semi-final at Cavan, both of which were won by Tyrone, and the details of which are:

1972

All-Ireland Minor Football Semi-final :

Tyrone 3-10; Meath 0-10.

A winning margin of three goals would appear to leave little scope for lamentation on behalf of the vanquished, but, the fact that two - or possibly, all three - of the winners' goals could have been prevented, made this defeat all the more galling for Meath who won at least fifty percent of possession over the hour.

And for a game with such a lob-sided final scoreline, this was a remarkably entertaining game with several fine performances on both sides. There was no sign of a definite pattern of superiority or inferiority developing and it was a snap goal by Mick Harte at the end of the first quarter that enabled Tyrone turn over leading by 1-5 to 0-6.

Meath restarted with commendable aggression and were soon on level terms; indeed, they might have gone in front but for full-back, Hugh Mooney's goal-

line save at the 39th minute. In the event, it was Tyrone who broke the deadlock, as thrifty forward work saw points recorded by Mick Quinn, Harte and Frank McGuigan and then a goal by the latter appeared to have settled it.

But Meath never gave up the fight. Despite Joe Cassells and Gerry Dempsey widening easy frees, they still continued to press forward with Kennedy, O'Brien and Mick Ryan in the vanguard, but when McGuinness's shot rebounded off the crossbar, with Patsy Kerlin the Tyrone 'keeper no more than a helpless spectator, it was clear that Meath's ill-luck was not to be alleviated. The third goal with five minutes remaining was the final heartbreak for Meath, as Pat Jennings save with the boot rebounded to the inrushing Cunningham who gratefully accepted the chance. Tyrone, overall, certainly deserved their victory, but not by three clear goals.

Tyrone scorers: F.McGuigan 1-2, M.Harte 1-2, J.Cunningham 1-0, J.Hughes 0-2, M.Quinn 0-2, B.O'Neill 0-1, D.McKenna 0-1.
Meath: E.O'Brien 0-4, B.McGuinness 0-3, G.Dempsey 0-1, M.Ryan 0-1, J.Kennedy 0-1.

Tyrone - P.Kerlin, G.Goodwin, H.Mooney, D.Daly, O.O'Neill, C.McAleer, J.O'Doherty, F.McGuigan, D.McKenna, M.Quinn, B.O'Neill, J.Hughes, T.Campbell, M.Harte, P.Quinn.
Subs - J.Cunningham for Campbell, M.Coyle for Goodwin, T.Campbell for O'Neill.

Meath - P.Jennings, J.Farrelly, M.Conroy, E.Young, S.Fanning, P.Callinan, G.Reynolds, M.Ryan, J.Cassells, M.Dempsey, E.O'Brien, S.Brennan, G.Dempsey, B.McGuinness, J.Kennedy.

1990

All-Ireland U-21 Football Semi-final:

Tyrone 2-10; Meath 1-9.

Against the breeze at Breffni Park, Meath started impressively with Colm Brady providing an excellent service from midfield - a service that wasn't always turned to the best use. However, a lead was slowly built as Tommy Dowd repeatedly led forays on the Tyrone lines.

even when things were not going their way, the Ulster champions' showed their ability to strike back and the first tangible evidence of this was at the 14th minute when Ciaran Loughran provided the pass which Laurence Strain finished to the net.

Unruffled, Meath, thanks to the power play of Brady and Dowd, continued to force the pace, and they were really flying when a good move earned a penalty which Billie Shaw dispatched to the net with utter conviction. Points by Larry McCormack and Shaw left the Royal county sitting pretty on an interval lead of 1-6 to 1-1.

And things looked even rosier when Dowd and Brendan O'Reilly extended the lead with points immediately after the break.

But then without warning the game underwent a remarkable change: mid-field control passed to Tyrone's Adrian Kilpatrick and Danny Barr, and simultaneously Peter Canavan and Adrian Cush, who had been having an exceptionally quite game, cut loose. Suddenly Meath were in retreat. Points were reeled off to narrow the gap, and then three minutes after they had drawn level Canavan put Tyrone ahead with a well-struck penalty. Meath reacted with spirit, but seeking goals when points were there for the taking, proved their undoing. Yet with seven minutes remaining only a point divided the sides. It could have gone either way, but it deservedly went to Tyrone who finished with three excellent points from Cush (two) and Shaw, to qualify for the final for the first time.

Tyrone scorers: L.Strain 1-3, P.Canavan 1-2, A.Cush 0-4, C.McElduff 0-1.
Meath: B.Shaw 1-3, T.Dowd 0-3, L.McCormack 0-2, B.O'Reilly 0-1.

Tyrone - C.Blee, P.Devlin, P.Hughes, F.Devlin, P.Donnolly, P.McGinn, A.Morris, A.Kilpatrick, D.Barr, A.Cush, M.Cummings, P.Canavan, L.Strain, C.McElduff, C.Loughran.
Sub - T.McGinn for Hughes.
Meath - J.Brady, C.Smith, T.Halpin, K.Macken, B.Reilly, M.Crosbie, N.Hughes, G.Martyn, C.Brady, J.Devine, A.Brown, B.Shaw, A.McCormack, T.Dowd, A.O'Halloran.
Subs - D.White for Smith, J.Henry for Devine, M.Kirk for Brown.

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Paths To The Semi-Final

An Mhí

Meath regained the Leinster senior football title after an interval of five years last month and brought their total of provincial crowns to 18 since 1895.

Like Tyrone they had three games on the way to the semi-final.

16th June at Croke Park:
Beat Carlow by 0-24 to 0-6.

Scorers - Trevor Giles 0-6, Evan Kelly 0-5, Brendan Reilly 0-3, Barry Callaghan 0-3, Tommy Dowd 0-2, Graham Geraghty 0-2, Mark O'Reilly 0-1, Paddy Reynolds 0-1, Donal Curtis 0-1.

7th July at Croke Park:
Beat Laois by 2-14 to 1-9.

Scorers - Trevor Giles 1-3, Brendan Reilly 1-2, Graham Geraghty 0-3, Evan Kelly 0-3, Tommy Dowd 0-2, Barry Callaghan 0-1.

28th July at Croke Park:
Beat Dublin by 0-10 to 0-8.

Scorers - Trevor Giles 0-4, Tommy Dowd 0-2, Brendan Reilly 0-2, Barry Callaghan 0-1, Evan Kelly 0-1.

Total Scored 2-48 (54 points);
Total Conceded 1-23 (26).

Scorers - Trevor Giles 1-13, Brendan Reilly 1-7, Evan Kelly 0-9, Tommy Dowd 0-6, Graham Geraghty 0-5, Barry

Callaghan 0-5, Paddy Reynolds 0-1, Donal Curtis 0-1, Mark O'Reilly 0-1.

Top Individual Return

Trevor Giles also leads Meath's chart of leading individual match returns with 0-6 against Carlow and 1-3 against Laois.

Tír Eoghain

Tyrone ended a long-standing bogey last month when they became the first county to make a successful defence of the Ulster senior football title since Derry in 1976. The latest win brought their total of provincial senior championships to eight since 1956.

This is how Tyrone qualified for their latest Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior final:

9th June at Omagh:
Beat Fermanagh by 1-18 to 0-9.

Scorers - Peter Canavan 1-7, Adrian Cush 0-3, Jody Gormley 0-3, Sean McLaughlin 0-2, Brian Dooher 0-2, Damian Gormley 0-1.

30th June at Clones:
Beat Derry by 1-13 to 1-8.

Scorers - Peter Canavan 1-5, Adrian Cush 0-3, Ciaran McBride 0-2, Brian Dooher 0-1, Stephen Lawn 0-1, Brian Gormley 0-1.

28th July at Clones:
Beat Down by 1-9 to 0-9.

Scorers - Peter Canavan 1-1, Brian Dooher 0-3, Adrian Cush 0-2, Paschal Canavan 0-1, Gerard Cavlan 0-1, Brian Gormley 0-1.

Total Scored 3-40 (49 points);
Total Conceded 1-26 (29).

Scorers - Peter Canavan 3-13, Adrian Cush 0-8, Brian Dooher 0-6, Jody Gormley 0-3, Sean McLaughlin 0-2, Ciaran McBride 0-2, Brian Gormley 0-2, Stephen Lawn 0-1, Damian Gormley 0-1, Paschal Canavan 0-1, Gerard Cavlan 0-1.

Top Individual Score

Peter Canavan has also the top individual match score to his credit in the current championship not only for Tyrone but as far as the semi-finalists are concerned with 1-7 in the opening encounter against Fermanagh.

All Games

Giles, Kelly, Callaghan, Reilly and Dowd scored in each of Meath's three games.

Peter Canavan, Cush and Dooher share the same distinction on the Tyrone side.

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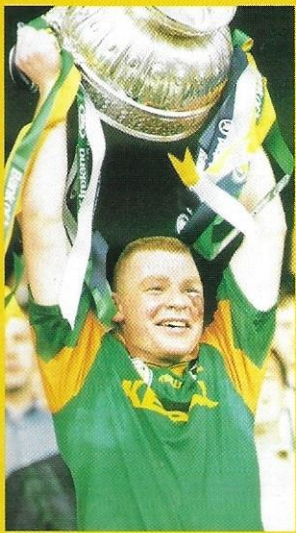
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An Captaen



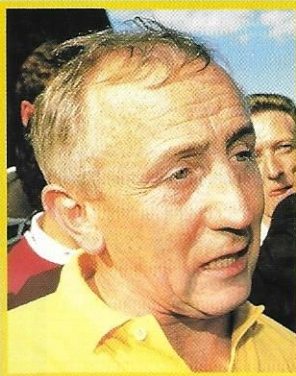
Tommy Dowd

Man-of-the-Match for Dunderry in their winning debut in a Meath senior football final last October, Tommy won Leinster senior medals in 1990 and 1991 and appeared in the All-Ireland finals in those years (he went in as a substitute in the first game).

Holder of two Leinster under-21 medals, he helped Meath to their last National League title in 1994 and won All-Stars awards in 1991 and 1994.

Tommy has represented Leinster in the interprovincial championship and was also on the target in leading Meath to their first provincial title since 1991 in fine style.

Manager



Seán Boylan

Roghnóirí:

Seán Boylan (St. Peter's, Dunboyne)
Manager,
Frank Foley (Trim),
Eamon O'Brien (Walterstown).

An Mhí ²⁻⁵



Dathanna: Uaithne is Ór

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1
CONOR MARTIN
<i>C. Ó Máirtín</i>
(Ballivor) | 3
DARREN FAY
<i>D. Ó Féich</i>
(Trim) | 4
MARTIN O'CONNELL
<i>M. Ó Conaill</i>
(St. Michael's) |
| 2
MARK O'REILLY
<i>M. Ó Raghallaigh</i>
(Summerhill) | 6
ENDA McMANUS
<i>E. Mac Mánaís</i>
(St. Peter's, Dunboyne) | 7
PADDY REYNOLDS
<i>P. Mac Raghnaill</i>
(Walterstown) |
| 5
COLM COYLE
<i>C. MacGiolla Chomhaill</i>
(Seneschalstown) | 8
JIMMY McGUINNESS
<i>S. Mag Aonasa</i>
(Dunsany) | 9
JOHN McDERMOTT
<i>S. Mac Diarmada</i>
(Skryne) |
| 10
TREVOR GILES
<i>T. Ó Glaisne</i>
(Skryne) | 11
TOMMY DOWD
<i>T. Ó Dúda (Capt.)</i>
(Dunderry) | 12
GRAHAM GERAGHTY
<i>G. Mag Oireachtaigh</i>
(Seneschalstown) |
| 13
EVAN KELLY
<i>E. Ó Ceallaigh</i>
(Drumree) | 14
BRENDAN REILLY
<i>B. Ó Raghallaigh</i>
(St. Peter's, Dunboyne) | 15
BARRY CALLAGHAN
<i>B. Ó Ceallacháin</i>
(Dunderry) |

Fir Ionaid

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| (16) Ronan Finnegan
<i>R. Ó Fionnagáin</i>
(Kilmainhamwood) | (19) Ollie Murphy
<i>O. Ó Murchú</i>
(Carnaross) | (22) John Brady
<i>S. Ó Brádaigh</i>
(Navan O'Mahonys) |
| (17) Jody Devine
<i>S. Ó Dáimhin</i>
(Ballinlough) | (20) Kevin Cahill
<i>C. Ó Cathail</i>
(Mullingar Shamrocks) | (23) Colm Brady
<i>C. Ó Brádaigh</i>
(Simonstown Gaels) |
| (18) Donal Curtis
<i>D. de Curtéis</i>
(Rathkenny) | (21) Stephen O'Rourke
<i>S. Ó Ruairc</i>
(Dunderry) | (24) Cathal Sheridan
<i>C. Ó Sireadáin</i>
(Moynalvey) |

An Mhí

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

Paths to the Semi-Final

An Mhí

June 16: Croke Park:	Meath	0-24	0-6	Carlow
July 7: Croke Park:	Meath	2-14	1-9	Laois
July 28: Croke Park:	Meath	0-10	0-8	Dublin

Tír Eoghain

June 9: Omagh:	Tyrone	1-18	0-9	Fermanagh
June 30: Clones:	Tyrone	1-13	1-8	Derry



Tír Eoghain

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

1
FINBAR McCONNELL
F. Mac Dhónaill
(An Baile Nua)

2
PAUL DEVLIN
P. Ó Doibhlinn
(Baile na Móna)

3
CHRIS LAWN
C. Ó Liatháin
(Baile na Móna)

4
FAY DEVLIN
F. Ó Doibhlinn
(Árd Bó)

5
RONAN MCGARRITY
R. Mag Aireachtaigh
(An Charraig Mhór)

6
SEAMUS MCGALLAN
S. Mac Ailín
(An Charraig Mhór)

7
SEAN McLAUGHLIN
S. Mag Lochlainn
(An Droim Caoin)

8
PASCAL CANAVAN
P. Ó Ceannubháin
(Aireagal Chiaráin)

9
JODY GORMLEY
S. Ó Garmaile
(Trí Leac)

10
BRIAN DOOHER
B. Ó Dúchair
(Domhnach Éadaí)

11
GERARD CAVLAN
G. Ó Cathláin
(Dún Geanainn)

12
ADRIAN CUSH
A. Mac Coise
(An Domhnach Mór)

13
CIARÁN McBRIDE
C. Mac Giolla Bhríde
(An Omaigh)

14
PETER CANAVAN
P. Ó Ceannubháin (Capt.)
(Aireagal Chiaráin)

15
BRIAN GORMLEY
B. Ó Garmaile
(An Charraig Mhór)

Fir Ionaid

(16) **Plunkett McCallan**
P. Mac Ailín
(An Charraig Mhór)

(19) **Fergal Logan**
F. Ó Leocháin
(An Chraobh)

(22) **Stephen Lawn**
S. Ó Liatháin
(Baile na Móna)

(17) **Aidan Morris**
A. Ó Muiris
(An Baile Nua)

(20) **Ciarán Loughran**
C. Ó Luachráin
(An Charraig Mhór)

(23) **Adrian Kilpatrick**
A. Mac Giolla Phódraig
(Dún Geanainn)

(18) **Paul Donnelly**
P. Ó Donnaile
(An Bearach)

(21) **Damien Cormley**
D. Ó Garmaile
(Trí Leac)

(24) **Ciarán Corr**
C. Ó Corra
(Oileán a'Ghuail)

Maigh Eo

Cúil

Cúilíní

Seachaí

45m

Saor Ciceanna

1adh Leath

2adh Leath

IOMLÁN

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

An Réiteoir

Michael Curley (Gaillimh)



Michael has been refereeing for over nine years and took charge of the Church and General National Football League final last May. Another highlight was last year's All-Ireland minor final between Westmeath and Derry.

He has refereed two Connacht senior finals and was the man-in-the-middle in the Mayo-Roscommon Connacht semi-final at Roscommon in June.

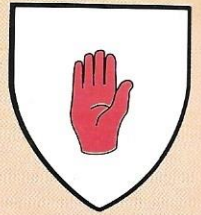
A native of County Galway, Curley assisted Creggs in underage football and represented Roscommon in the minor grade as the club was affiliated to the county for GAA purposes.

Linesmen

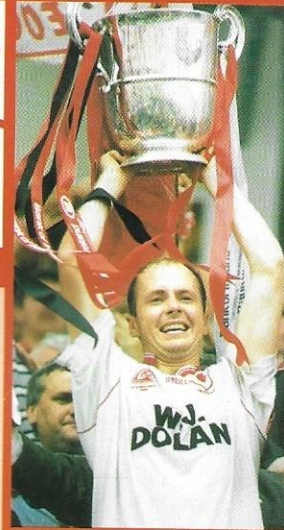
Seán Ó Caoimh (Corcaigh)

Standby Referee

Martin Murphy (Maigh Eo)



An Captaen



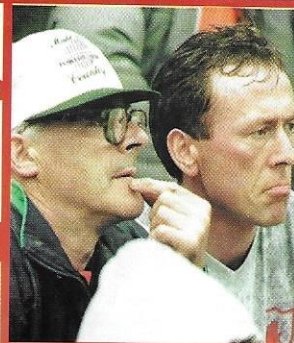
Peter Canavan

Tyrone's captain led the county to their All-Ireland under-21 title wins of 1991 and 1992 and is the only player to captain two national championship winning teams in the grade.

He has had a successful time as a team leader. He led Tyrone to the 1989 All-Ireland Vocational Schools' crown and Errigal Ciarán to a first county senior title in 1993.

An All-Star in 1994, Peter won his first Ulster senior medal last year and scored 6-11 in the All-Ireland final. He has two inter-provincial medals, was full forward in the inaugural Powerscreen All-Stars team last December and is again Tyrone's ace marksmen this season.

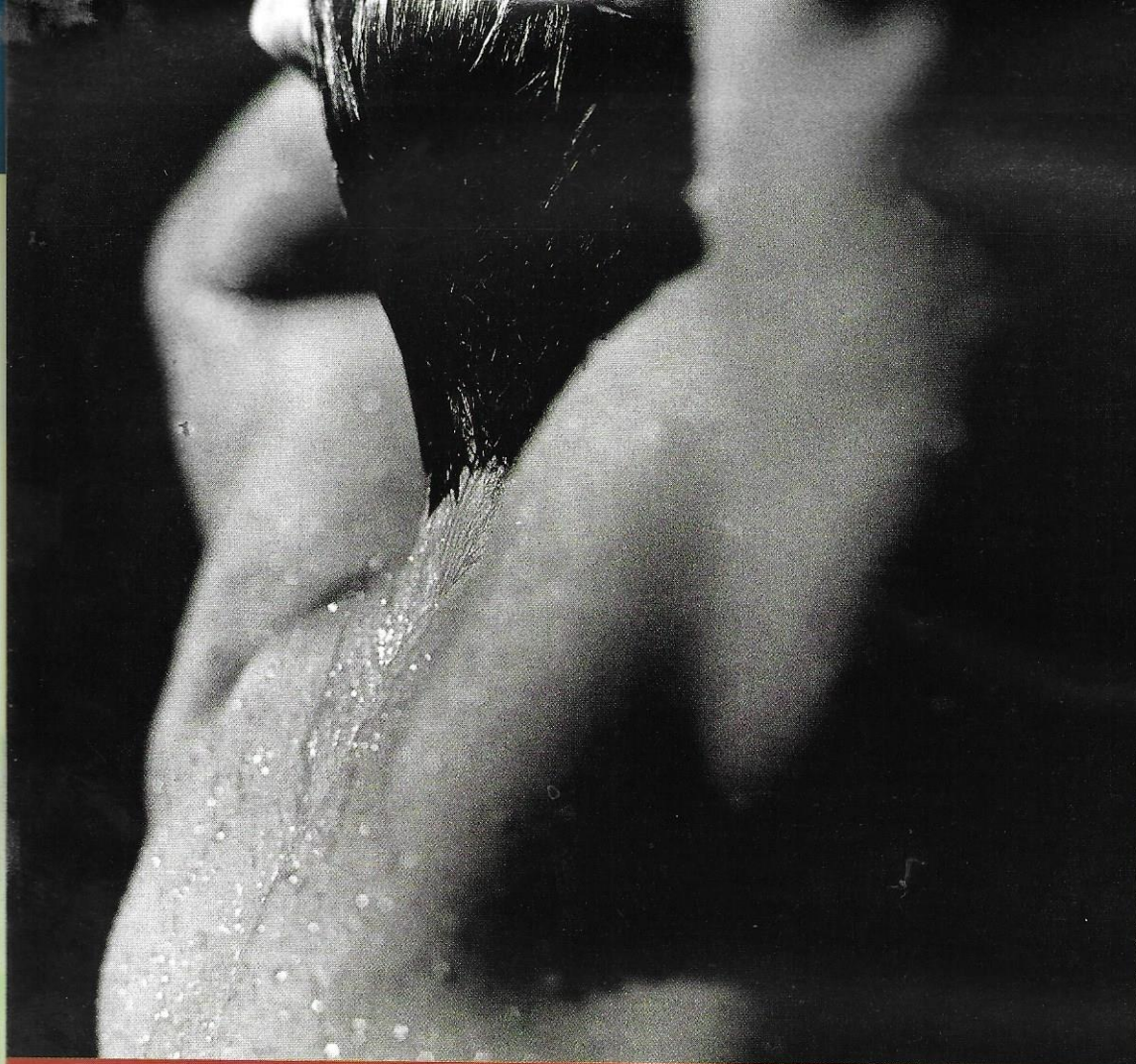
Managers



Art McRory and Eugene McKenna

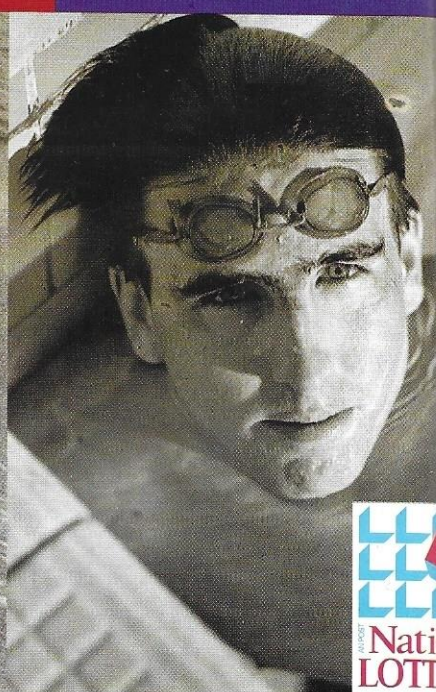
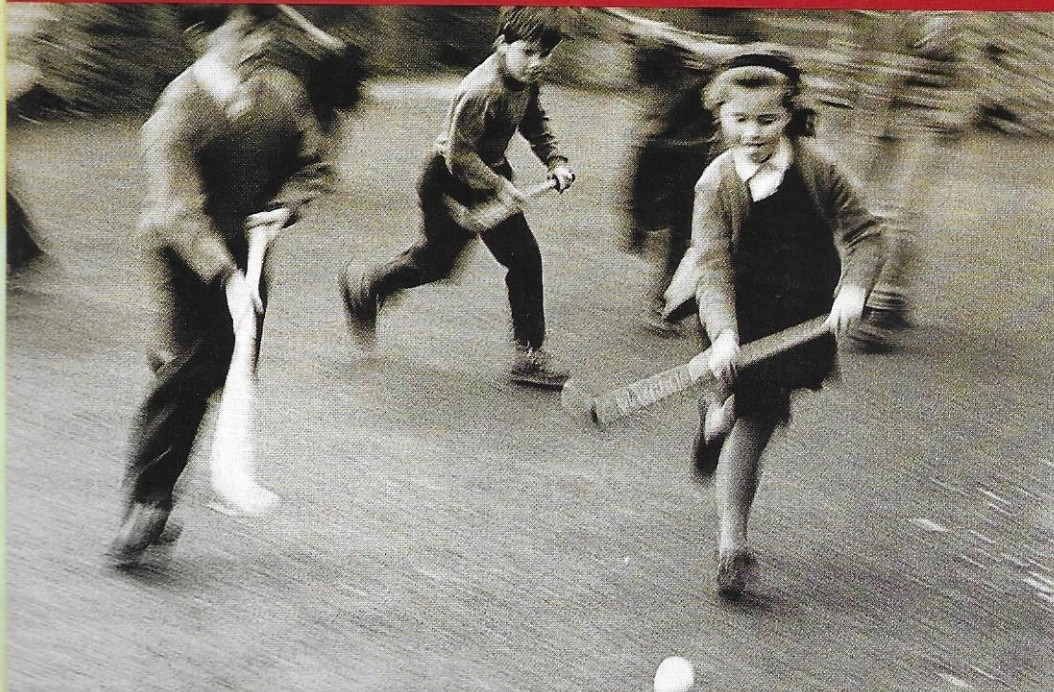
Roghnóirí:

Art McRory,
Eugene McKenna,
Pat McCartan,
John Kremer



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lent a
hand, thank
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Scoreboards...

Leinster And Ulster

Leinster Preliminary Rounds

12th May at Cullen Park:

Carlow 4-17; Wexford 1-11

12th May at Pearse Park:

Wicklow 2-11; Longford 2-10

26th May at Droichead Nua:

Carlow 4-10 Wicklow 3-10

1st Round

9th June at An Uaimh:

Dublin 1-18; Westmeath 0-11

Louth 3-8; Offaly 0-12

16th June at Croke Park:

Meath 0-24; Carlow 0-6

Laois 3-9; Kildare 0-13

Semi-Finals

30th June at An Uaimh:

Dublin 1-9; Louth 0-8

7th July at Croke Park:

Meath 2-14; Laois 1-9

Final

28th July at Croke Park:

Meath 0-10; Dublin 0-8

Top scorer for the entire championship:
A Keating (Carlow) 1-18 (21 points) in three games. Average: 7 points.

Ulster Preliminary Round

26th May at Clones:

Down 1-9; Donegal 0-11

1st Round

2nd June at Celtic Park:

Derry 1-13; Armagh 1-6

9th June at Omagh:

Tyrone 1-18; Fermanagh 0-9

16th June at Casement Park:

Cavan 1-15; Antrim 1-11

23rd June at Clones:

Down 0-14; Monaghan 0-9

Semi-Finals

30th June at Clones:

Tyrone 1-13; Derry 1-8

7th July at Clones:

Down 1-13; Cavan 0-13

Final

28th July at Clones:

Tyrone 1-9; Down 0-9

Top scorer for the entire championship:
P. Canavan (Tyrone) 3-13 (22 points) in three games. Average: 7.44 points.

Individual Feats... Leinster

An eleven point total was good enough for the top individual performance in the East last year (Damien Delaney's 2-5), and so it is this season with Anthony Keating and Dessie Barry sharing top honours. In fact the top five scoring feats were all performed during the preliminary rounds in the Leinster championship, with no performance in the championship proper exceeding six points. Six times six-point totals were recorded with Trevor Giles (twice), Louth's Redmond O'Neill, Offaly's David Reynolds, Westmeath's Noel Dolan and Laois's Leo Turley compiling them. However, none were good enough for the top five:

Anthony Keating (Carlow) 1-8 v Wexford; preliminary round at Cullen Park

Dessie Barry (Longford) 2-5 v Wicklow; preliminary round at Pearse Park

L O'Brien (Wexford) 0-8 v Carlow; preliminary round at Cullen Park

Willie Quinlan (Carlow) 2-2 v Wexford; preliminary round at Cullen Park

Anthony Keating (Carlow) 0-7 v Wicklow; preliminary round at Newbridge

Individual Feats...Ulster

Peter Canavan, as well as retaining the top position in the overall scorer's chart, also retains the top individual performance position in the Ulster rankings. The Tyrone ace goes one better than last year in that he has the first and second positions, as 12 months ago he was first and third. Incidentally, for the second year in-a-row he recorded an eight-point total against Derry. Ronan Carolan, joint third with Canavan last year, is tied third this year with Anthony Tohill, and along with Joe Brolly, the top five is as follows:

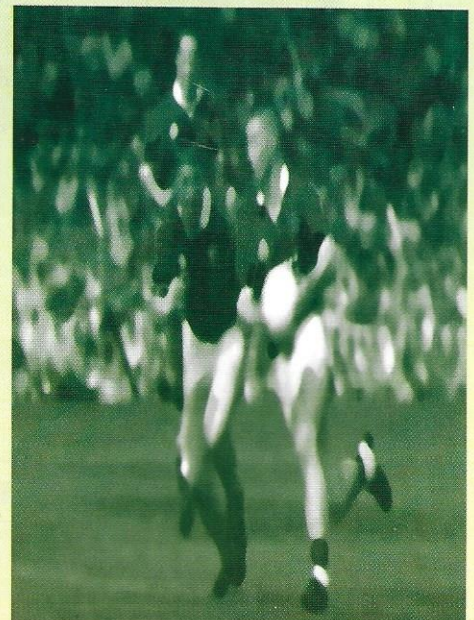
Peter Canavan (Tyrone) 1-7 v Fermanagh; 1st round at Omagh

Peter Canavan (Tyrone) 1-5 v Derry; semi-final at Clones

Anthony Tohill (Derry) 0-7 v Armagh; 1st round at Celtic Park

Ronan Carolan (Cavan) 0-7 v Antrim; 1st round at Casement Park

Joe Brolly (Derry) 1-2 v Armagh; 1st round at Celtic Park



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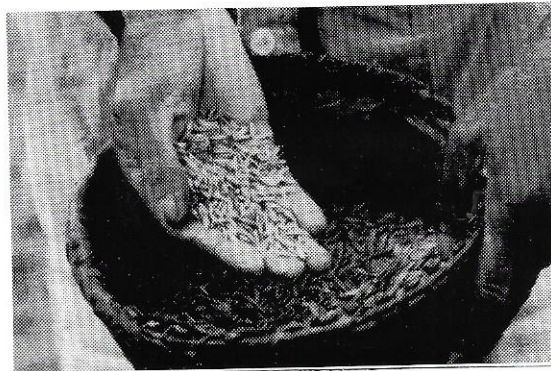
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An Mhí



The Meath team which defeated Dublin at Croke Park in the Leinster Final.

Back row (l-r): Trevor Giles, Graham Geraghty, John McDermott, Jimmy McGuinness, Martin O'Connell, Brendan Reilly, Barry Callaghan.
Front row (l-r): Paddy Reynolds, Evan Kelly, Colm Coyle, Tommy Dowd (captain), Conor Martin, Darren Fay, Enda McManus, Mark O'Reilly.

The Past Year How Meath Have Fared August 1995 - July 1996

7th August - 1798 Tournament:			
Meath	3-16;	Wexford	1-7
15th October - League round 1:			
Meath	0-12;	Laois	0-8
29th October - League round 2:			
Meath	1-19;	Clare	0-11
12th November - League round 3:			
Meath	2-11;	Kerry	2-8
26th November - League round 4:			
Meath	2-7;	Tyrone	0-9
13th January - Trial:			
Meath	2-7;	Leinster	1-9
14th January - O'Byrne Cup:			
Westmeath	3-6;	Meath	2-8
21st January - Challenge:			
Down	0-16;	Meath	2-7
4th February - League round 5:			
Meath	2-4;	Donegal	0-10
11th February - League round 6:			
Kildare	0-16;	Meath	1-9
25th February - League round 7:			
Derry	1-11;	Meath	1-8
10th March - Sean Flanagan Memorial Plate:			
Meath	3-10;	Cavan	0-6
31st March - League Q/Final:			
Mayo	2-10;	Meath	1-10
12th May - Challenge:			
Meath	2-14;	Westmeath	2-11
26th May - Challenge:			
Meath	2-12;	Cavan	0-11
2nd June - Challenge:			
Meath	1-17;	Monaghan	0-11
16th June - Championship:			
Meath	0-24;	Carlow	0-6
7th July - Championship:			
Meath	2-14;	Laois	1-9
28th July - Championship:			
Meath	0-10;	Dublin	0-8

Games Played 19; Won 13; Drew 1; Lost 5.



A million calls a day.
(Including Dad's.)



IRELAND'S MOBILE



Tír Eoghain



The Tyrone team which defeated Down in the Ulster Final.

Back row (l-r): Paul Devlin, Jody Gormley, Gerard Cavlan, Finbarr McConnell, Seamus McCallan, Ronan McGarrity, Ciarán McBride.

Front row (l-r): Adrian Cush, Brian Gormley, Chris Lawn, Brian Dooher, Peter Canavan (captain), Fay Devlin, Pascal Canavan, Sean McLaughlin.

The Past Year How Tyrone Have Fared August 1995 - July 1996

13th August - '95 Semi-Final:		
Tyrone	1-13;	Galway 0-13
17th September - '95 Final:		
Dublin	1-10;	Tyrone 0-12
15th October - League round 1:		
Tyrone	1-7!	Derry 0-8
29th October - League round 2:		
Donegal	0-16;	Tyrone 0-7
12th November - League round 3:		
Tyrone	2-13;	Kildare 1-14
26th November - League round 4:		
Meath	2-7;	Tyrone 0-9
20th January - Trial:		
Ulster	2-13;	Tyrone 0-5
21st January - O'Flaich Cup:		
Tyrone	1-13;	Armagh 2-6
4th February - League round 5:		
Tyrone	0-10;	Kerry 1-7
11th February - League round 6:		
Tyrone	1-9;	Clare 0-7
25th February - League round 7:		
Laois	1-10;	Tyrone 1-8
3rd March - O'Flaich Cup:		
Tyrone	1-14;	Derry 1-11
17th March - McKenna Cup:		
Armagh	3-12;	Tyrone 1-3
24th March - Willie Dowd Cup:		
Dublin	3-16;	Tyrone 2-8
28th April - Challenge:		
Tyrone	2-19!	Antrim 1-6
9th June - Championship:		
Tyrone	1-18;	Fermanagh 0-9
30th June - Championship:		
Tyrone	1-13;	Derry 1-8
28th July - Championship:		
Tyrone	1-9;	Down 0-9

Games Played 18; Won 10; Drew 1; Lost 7.

Meath And Tyrone...League Report

In neither the championship nor the National League would Meath and Tyrone be described as old rivals, though in the secondary competition, at least, the teams do share some background.

But it is a rivalry of comparatively recent vintage with their first meeting taking place as recently as 1976. The occasion was a round five tie at Pomeroy which was, with both counties out of the running for the honours, an understandably low-key affair. Tyrone introduced a number of new players for this game, and for a time it appeared that they were capable of coping with an opposition that included

many of the side that had won the league the previous May.

However, at the 40th minute, Meath who had just been tagging along, suddenly went into top gear, and goals by Cormac Rowe, Ollie O'Brien and P.J.O'Halloran quickly finished the game as a contest, despite the wholehearted and skilful efforts of Frank McGuigan, Mick Harte and Barry Campbell. The final scoreline of 3-11 to 0-7 may have flattered the winners somewhat, but not too much.

The teams that lined out in that first-ever meeting were:

Meath - R.Giles, R.McMahon,

K.McConnell, B.Murray, P.Smith, J.Gibbons, P.Trainor, M.Coyne, C.O'Rourke, P.J.O'Halloran, M.Ryan, D.O'Brien, C.Rowe, M.Kerrigan, O.O'Brien. Tyrone - B.Campbell, G.Taggart, P.Mulgrew, M.Lennon, P.King, J.McMullan, S.O'Doherty, W.McKenna, D.McKenna, F.McGuigan, S.Coyne, P.H.Forbes, M.Harte, P.Kerlin, C.McElduff. Subs - F.McMahon for Taggart, E.Devlin for O'Doherty.

Tyrone's Turn

It was five years before they met again in the league. Again the venue was Pomeroy, but this time the points at stake were vital to Tyrone who were on course to take Division Two honours. And they got them. A flying start saw them take a six points to one lead after only 21 minutes. Meath, however, kept plugging away and a goal from a penalty with ten minutes remaining kept their hopes alive. But Tyrone were not to be denied and they held on to win by 0-11 to 1-6.

Apart from its immediate consequence, that was a significant win for Tyrone - the only one they have recorded in nine league meetings with the Royal county. The team that recorded this lone triumph in round five in 1980-81 was - E.Mullan, S.Donnely, D.McKenna, F.Rafferty, M.Bradley, K.McCabe, A.O'Hagan, J.Devlin, P.Ball, G.Taggart, P.Kerlin, D.O'Hagan, B.Donnely, E.McKenna, M.Harte.

The scorelines:

1975-76 @ Pomeroy:
Meath 3-11; Tyrone 0-7
1980-81 @ Pomeroy:
Tyrone 0-11; Meath 1-6
1981-82 @ Navan:
Meath 1-6; Tyrone 1-5
1982-83 @ Pomeroy:
Meath 1-10; Tyrone 1-9
1984-85 @ Omagh:
Meath 1-10; Tyrone 1-8
1985-86 @ Navan:
Meath 1-12; Tyrone 1-7
1989-90 @ Omagh:
Meath 4-12; Tyrone 1-14
Play-Off @ Cavan:
Meath 1-20; Tyrone 1-10
1995-96 @ Navan:
Meath 2-7; Tyrone 0-9

The details of their most recent meeting (November 26, 1995) were:
Meath scorers: T.Giles 1-2, C.Coyle 1-0, O.Murphy 0-2, J.Devine 0-1, C.Sheridan 0-1, G.Geraghty 0-1.
Tyrone scorers: G.Cavlan 0-7, F.Logan 0-1, B.Dooher 0-1.

Meath led at half time by 2-3 to 0-4 and the lineouts were:
Meath - C.Martin, J.Brady, D.Fay, M.O'Connell, G.Geraghty, J.McDermott, K.Macken, K.Cahill, J.McGuinness, T.Giles, C.Coyle, E.Kelly, O.Murphy, T.Dowd, J.Devine.
Tyrone - P.McConnell, P.Devlin, A.Morris, C.Lawn, S.McLoughlin, P.Donnely, C.Holmes, C.Corr, M.Quinn, B.Dooher, F.Logan, B.Mallon, G.Cavlan, P.McLoughlin, D.Gormley. Subs - P.Tally for P.McLoughlin, J.McAllister for Corr.

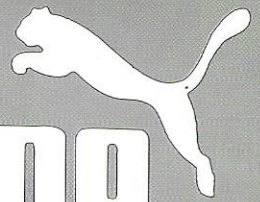
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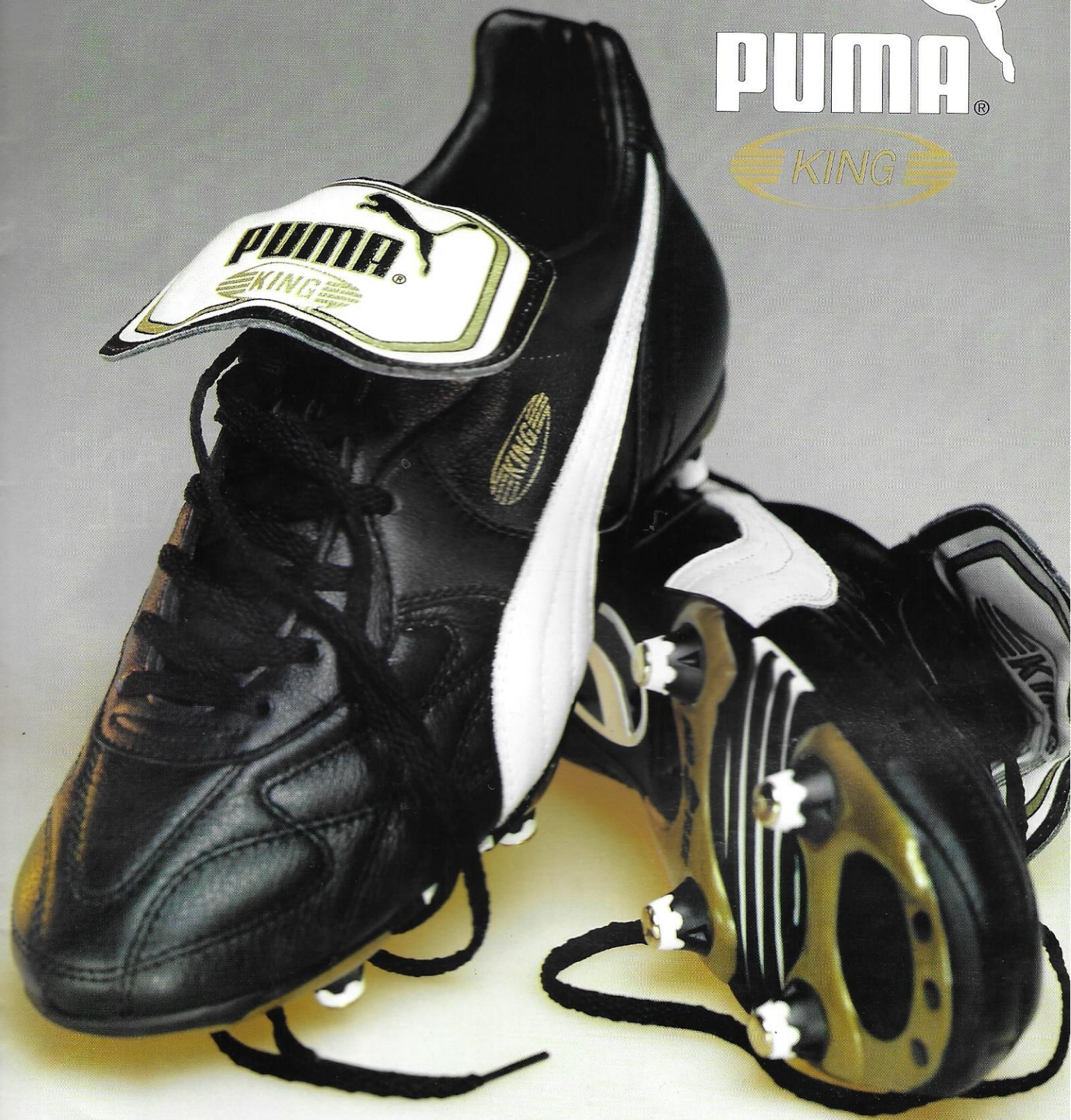
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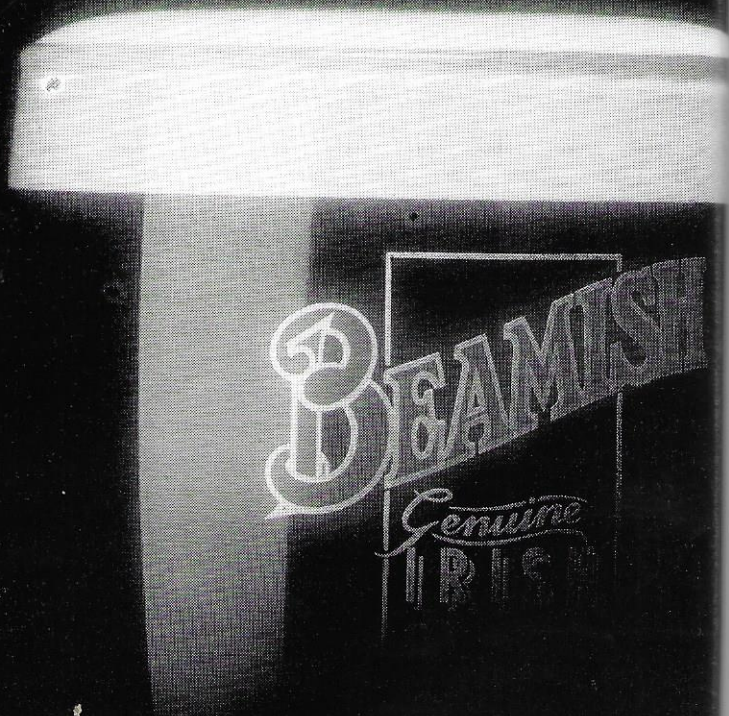
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Top Scorers



Laighin

Charlie Redmond's four-year dominance of Leinster scoring honours ended this year as the Dublin ace fell to third position in the 1996 top scorers' chart. Carlow's Anthony Keating (eighth last year) assumes the premier position with 1-18. Two points behind in second position is Trevor Giles of Meath and along with team-mate Brendan Reilly and Wicklow's Willie Quinlan, the top five is as follows:

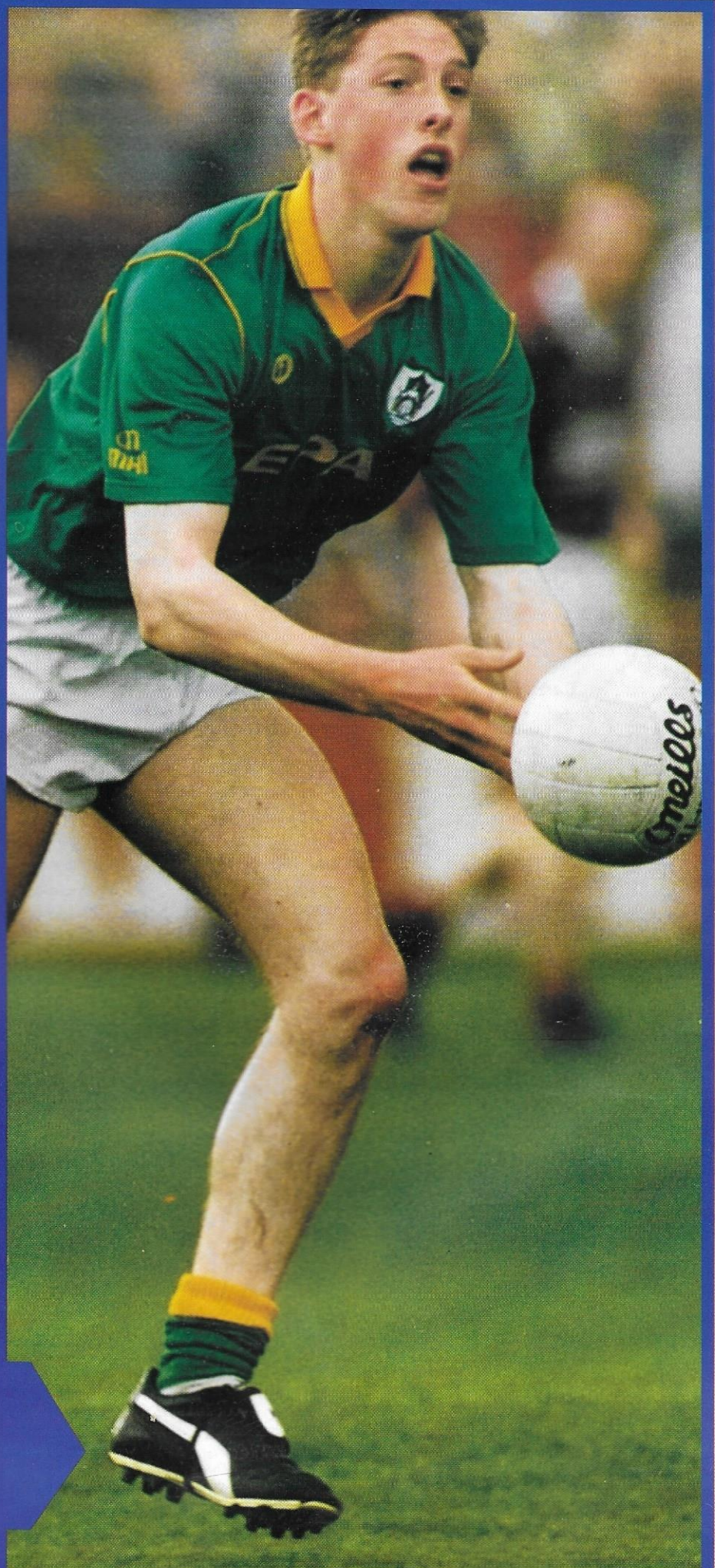
Anthony Keating (Carlow)	1-18	(21pts)
Trevor Giles (Meath)	1-13	(16)
Charlie Redmond (Dublin)	0-13	
Willie Quinlan (Wicklow)	3-2	(11)
Brendan Reilly (Meath)	1-7	(10)

Uladh

Unlike Leinster, the top scorer of the Ulster campaign is the same as last year. Peter Canavan of champions Tyrone leads the field with 3-13 (0-20 last year) and was comfortably ahead of Gregory McCartan in second place. Anthony Tohill — seventh last year — jumps four positions to third. John Treanor, and Joe Brolly make up the top five which reads:

Peter Canavan (Tyrone)	3-13	(22 pts)
Gregory McCartan (Down)	1-10	(13)
Anthony Tohill (Derry)	0-9	
John Treanor (Down)	0-9	
Joe Brolly (Derry)	1-6	(9)

Trevor Giles, Meath's representative at the scorers' list with 1-13 (16 points).



Ag Feachaint Siar ...

... HOW THE SEMI-FINAL SCENE HAS DEVELOPED

Since the rotational system was introduced for All-Ireland semi-finals in 1939, Leinster and Ulster teams have met as often at this stage of the championship as any other provincial pairing.

Previous to that year, however, something of a seeding system obtained in arranging semi-final ties, though as it transpired, the paths of North and East crossed quite often in those early years.

The honour of being the first representatives of Ulster in an All-Ireland semi-final belongs to Armagh who lined out against Cork in 1890 at Clonturk Park, but a year later the first-ever meeting of Leinster and Ulster teams in a semi-final took place when Dublin and Cavan met at the Drumcondra venue. The Northern representatives turned over with a point lead, but then faded rapidly as Dublin went on to win by 3-7 to 0-3.

Strangely, the next meeting of Leinster and Ulster teams in the championship was in the first round of the Leinster championship. This remarkable contest was between Cavan and Louth, after the Breffni county had been admitted to Leinster because of no opposition in the North. It was another Leinster victory, the Wee county winning by 0-5 to 0-1.

All-Ireland semi-finals on a regular basis were not introduced until the beginning of the century, and in 1901 Antrim and Dublin were in opposition at Jones's Road with the Leinster

county emerging victorious on a 1-12 to 0-3 scoreline. A year later Dublin accounted for Armagh (4-16 to 1-6) at Dundalk and, as the seeding arrangement designed to keep Leinster and Munster apart, became firmly established, Kildare saw off Cavan by 0-8 to nil in the 1903 semi-final at Jones's Road.

An adjustment to the semi-final pairings in 1904 saw the line-up being Munster v Ulster and Leinster v Connacht, but twelve months on, the original arrangement was restored - but with the same result, Kildare scoring an easy 4-15 to 1-6 win over Cavan at Jones's Road. The year 1906 presented a picture of semi-confusion at the semi-final stage, but when the representatives of Leinster and Ulster met at Belfast, Kildare had an easy ten-point win over Monaghan, who were making their All-Ireland semi-final debut.

And the remainder of the decade held no joy for Ulster as Leinster's dominance continued with Dublin beating Monaghan in 1907, and Antrim by 1-8 to 0-2 in 1905.

Louth took over as tormentors of the North in 1909 when they won a high-scoring game at Belfast, and Dublin returned in 1901 to crush Antrim at Jones's Road.

Ulster's First

But Ulster's turn came at last, and in surprising circumstances. Kilkenny beat Meath in the Leinster final, after the latter had been awarded the titles, and were favourites to maintain

Leinster's semi-final control. However, Antrim proved to be a surprise packet and history was made when they beat the black and amber by 3-1 to 1-1 in a game that was played at Jones's Road on the second Sunday in December, 1911.

Antrim recorded Ulster's second semi-final success a year later when they shocked Kerry, but the first-ever Leinster-Ulster All-Ireland final saw the restoration of Eastern supremacy, as Louth won the final by 1-7 to 1-2.

Semi-final 'relations' were resumed in 1913 with Wexford scoring heavily over Antrim and twelve months on, Monaghan fared no better when they took on the mighty Slaneysiders at Croke Park.

It was an unchanging story as the years passed. Cavan and Monaghan (twice) fell to Wexford in successive seasons, and when Louth (with the Leinster championship unfinished by October 1915) were nominated to take on Ulster champions, Cavan, the Wee county was not found wanting as they triumphed by 2-4 to 0-4. Kildare, after an absence of 13 years, returned to semi-final action in 1919 and showed they hadn't lost their touch as they saw off Cavan by 3-2 to 1-3 at Navan.

Leinster Unbeaten

Dublin's return to the semi-final scene was marked by a 3-6 to 1-3 win over Ulster representatives, Cavan, and Northern frustration was extended by Dublin victories over Monaghan in 1921

and '22, and Cavan in 1924, before there was a break in Ulster-Leinster relations in the mid twenties. When "hostilities" were resumed there was no change in the 'established order', as Kildare recorded wins over Monaghan in '27 and '29. But Gaeldom, expecting another Kerry-Kildare final in 1930, were shocked by Monaghan's 1-6 to 1-4 win at Croke Park - Ulster's second win from 25 clashes with Leinster.

But it was to be 15 years on before a third Ulster success was recorded - in 1945 when Cavan beat Wexford narrowly. In the meantime, Kildare (1931) and Laois (1936) renewed Leinster dominance, and in the first year of the rotational system Meath arrived on the scene with a splendid 1-9 to 1-1 win over Cavan at Croke Park.

But the days of Leinster dominance were passing. Three years after Cavan's 1945 win, the Breffni men repeated that performance with a 1-14 to 4-2 win over Louth, and though the fifties encounters all went the way of the Leinster representatives, including Tyrone's challenge to Louth in '57, Down ushered in the sixties with a 1-7 to 1-5 win over Offaly, who were appearing in a semi-final for the first time. And although the years since have seen more Leinster than Ulster victories, the most recent semi-final (1993) resulted in an Ulster triumph as Derry recorded a first-ever championship win over Dublin. However, the overall record reads heavily in Leinster's favour - 40 wins to Ulster's six.



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Semi-Final Shots....

Marksmen 1906-1986

Although players like Mikey Sheehy, Matt Connor, Jimmy Keaveney and Cyril Dunne have returned some magnificent tallies over the years, individual scores in All-Ireland semi-finals have tended to be modest enough, with great marksmen like Sean Purcell, Larry Stanley, Dick Fitzgerald, Paddy Moclair and Donal Keenan quite often settling for three or four points in the hour.

But the record would appear to show that individual displays of flag-raising fluctuate, and that no persistent downward, or upward pattern is discernible – a fact underlined by the returns at ten-yearly intervals over the past 90 years.

1906

Cork's 0-10 to 1-6 win over Mayo at Limerick produced no outstanding feats of marksmanship, and Bill Mackessey's 0-4 for the winners made him top scorer of the day. Nor did Dublin's dismissal of London by 2-7 to 0-3 at Wexford call for any great flurry of green and white flags as the 1-2 recorded by Jack Grace left him at the top of the scorers' list.

1916

The Mayo-Cork semi-final at Athlone saw Paddy Smith's 1-0 the best of the day and when an objection by the losers, Cork, resulted in a replay which was decided at Croke Park in a November downpour Tom Ruane (Mayo) and Con Lucey (Cork), each with 1-

0 shared the individual honours. And at Carrickmacross, Gus Kennedy's 0-4 was a vital contribution to Wexford's 0-9 to 1-1 win over Monaghan.

1926

There was never a doubt that a Kildare man would head the list of scorers against Galway, though Larry Stanley's 0-3 and Joe Curtis's 1-0 were modest enough tallies in the 2-5 to 0-2 win at Croke Park. But Kerry's Jackie Ryan hit an impressive 1-4 in the easy 1-6 to 0-1 win over Cavan at Croke Park.

1936

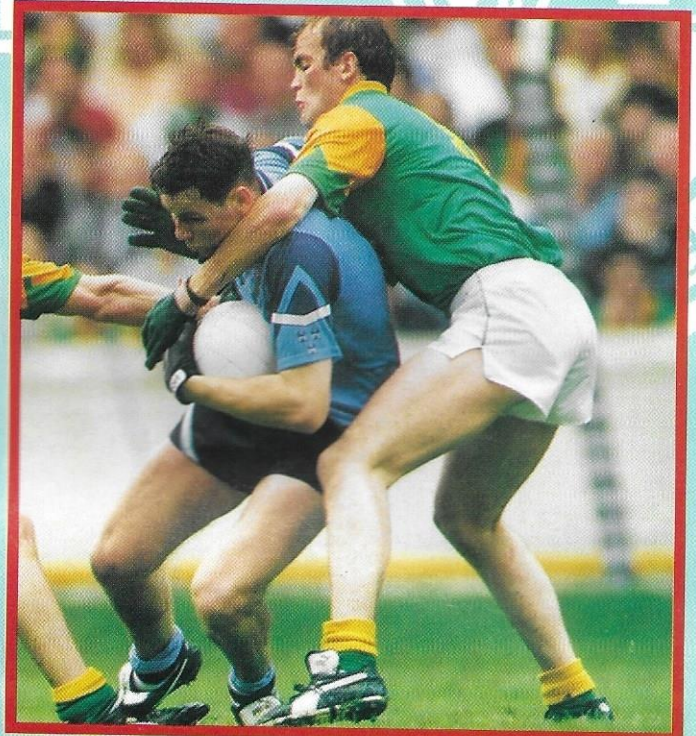
In beating Kerry for the first time, Mayo's 1-5 to 0-6 win at Roscommon owed much to Patsy Flannelly's 1-3 on that occasion. And though Laois shocked reigning champions, Cavan by 2-6 to 1-5, the scoring honours went to the losers' Pakie Devlin with 1-2.

1946

Before a record semi-final attendance, J.J.Fallon (Roscommon) and Des Connolly (Laois) shared the top spot with 1-2 each as Roscommon won by 3-5 to 2-6. Kerry's Willie O'Donnell had 1-5 in the 'Kingdom's' 2-7 to 0-10 win over Antrim in a tempestuous tie.

1956

In a sluggish low-scoring encounter, Seamus Harrison (Kildare) and Eric Ryan of Cork had 0-4 each as the Rebel county won by 0-9 to 0-5. In another game in which scores were hard to



Paul Bealin (Áth Cliath) is tackled by John McDermott (An Mhí)

come by, Sean Purcell was surprisingly pipped by the losers' Frank Donnelly, whose 0-5 was the best individual return in a game which Galway won by 0-8 to Tyrone's 0-6.

1966

Galway's 1-11 to 1-9 win over Cork owed much to the outstanding marksmanship of Cyril Dunne who shot a magnificent 1-7 in the course of the hour. And Meath's 2-16 to 1-9 win over Down was blue-printed by a second-half surge of scoring power in which Noel Curran 0-6 and Gerry Quinn's 2-0 shared the top spot.

1976

As the prelude to the magnificent performances he was to give over the next ten years, Kerry's Mikey Sheehy - the only man ever to score three goals in an All-Ireland semi-final - hit

3-3 in his side's 5-14 to 1-9 rout of Derry. And as Dublin qualified for their third successive final, Jimmy Keaveney showed the way with a useful 1-5 in the citymen's hard-earned 1-8 to 0-8 win over Galway.

1986

Meath may have been disappointed with the result – a seven-point win for Kerry – but in the matter of raised flags Bernard Flynn produced the best return of the afternoon, a commendable 0-5. Tyrone's first-ever semi-final win (1-12 to 1-9) was not adorned by any great feats of marksmanship, and for the first time the top position was shared by four players - the winners' Damian O'Hagan 0-3 and Kevin McCabe 1-0; and Galway's Gay McManus 0-3 and Brian O'Donnell 1-0.



Tyrone full back Paul Devlin, who went off injured, salutes his side's victory in the Ulster final at Clones surrounded by a sea of celebration.

Front Line Frustration

In the Thirties, Kerry and Dublin could boast of the two finest forward divisions in the game, but when they met in the 1932 All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park, forward frustration was the 'order of the day' as, in an amazing opening 30 minutes, neither side managed to raise a flag - the only occasion in an All-Ireland semi-final or final that has happened.

On the changeover things improved up front with Kerry eventually notching 1-3 to Dublin's 1-1.

A Special Six

The greatest number of goals scored by a team in an All-Ireland football semi-final is six, and this record belongs to the great Wexford team of the years 1913 to 1918. And it was in winning their fifth successive semi-final in 1917 that the Slaneysiders ran in their record-breaking six when on home territory at Wexford Park they crushed Monaghan by 6-6 to 1-3, which was a remarkable scoreline considering that a year previously they had found the same opposition difficult to overcome at Carrickmacross where the score was 0-9 to 1-1.

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Kilkenny and Sligo are unlikely 'partners' in the context of gaelic football at any level, but these counties do share the distinction of being the only counties to have won All-Ireland senior semi-finals and yet never appeared in a final!

KILKENNY FIRST

Kilkenny were the first to 'enjoy' this unusual experience when they beat Tipperary by 1-6 to 1-2 in the 1900

semi-final at Carrick-on-Suir. An objection by Tipperary resulted in the Central Council ordering a replay, which Kilkenny refused to play thus conceding a walkover to the Premier county who, incidentally, went on to win the final.

SLIGO'S YEAR

Sligo's year of disappointment was in 1922 when they beat Galway in the Connacht final, and then overcame

Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park. But while waiting for their game with Tipperary, Sligo were objected to by Galway; however with the hearing of the objection pending, the Central Council had ordered the Sligo-Tipperary game be played, and Sligo duly delivered at Croke Park. When the objection was heard the Connacht Council ordered the provincial

final replayed, and this time Galway were winners and went forward to the All-Ireland final in which they lost to Dublin.

LAST CHANCE

Sligo's victory in the All-Ireland semi-final had merely facilitated their Western rivals, and they never got to play in an All-Ireland final as they lost the two semi-finals they played since - in 1928 and 1975.

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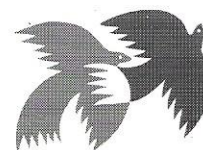


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The Semi-Final Story...

When the Golden Jubilee of the G.A.A. was celebrated in 1934, Meath and Tyrone were not among the great powers of gaelic football, and an All-Ireland semi-final appearance must have appeared as an almost unrealisable ambition. True, Meath had appeared in an All-Ireland final in the 1890s, but as Connacht and Ulster were inactive at that time there were no semi-finals required.

But by the end of the thirties Meath were beginning to make an impact and in 1939 their victory in the Leinster final over Wexford put them in a semi-final for the first time. Tyrone had to wait much longer to sample semi-final combat and it was 1956 before they made the breakthrough in Ulster and won a place in the semi-final for the first time. The All-Ireland semi-final story of Meath and Tyrone reads:

1939 *Meath 1-9; Cavan 1-1*

Playing with remarkable confidence, Meath, with Jackie Cummins in attack and Tom McGuinness in defence giving truly regal displays, Meath swept to an interval lead of 0-6 to 0-1. Cummins shot to the net on the restart and thereafter they were never really in danger against their more experienced opponents.

1940 *Galway 3-8; Meath 2-5*

Meath opened the scoring with a Matt Gilsenan point, but after Galway's

first goal they were always chasing the game. At the break it was 1-4 to 0-1, and though Kevin Devine's goal had the arrears down to four points at the 40th minute, two more goals to the Westerners finished the game as a contest.

1947 *Kerry 1-11; Meath 0-5*

With a trip to New York for the final at stake, Kerry were irrepressible and really Meath had no answer. In arrears 0-1 to 0-6 at the interval, Meath reopened with a Frankie Byrne point, but once Kerry's goal went in, that was that.

1949 *Meath 3-10; Mayo 1-10*

A marvellous display at full-back by Paddy O'Brien held Meath together when Mayo were dominating during the first 20 minutes. Then, when Meath found their feet on the restart, two goals by Mattie McDonnell paved the way for a well-deserved triumph.

1951 *Meath 2-6; Antrim 1-7*

Meath played the first half at a pace that threatened to swamp the Northerners, and with goals by Paddy Meegan and Jim Reilly, an early second-half gap of 2-6 to 0-2 was opened up. Then Antrim came alive and the last quarter was mainly a rear-guard action which saw Meath just survive.

1952 *Meath 1-6; Roscommon 0-7*

Despite playing with a strong breeze, it took a 28th minute goal by Mattie McDonnell to give Meath the lead at half time. And when Roscommon fought back it was late points by Meegan and O'Reilly that swung the verdict.

1954 *Meath 1-5; Cavan 0-7*

Meath appeared to be in trouble as they trailed by three points at the break against a more youthful Cavan side. However, Brian Smith's goal shortly after the restart inspired Meath to hold on as Cavan missed an easy chance of the equaliser in the last minute.

1956 *Galway 0-8; Tyrone 0-6*

Appearing in their first-ever semi-final, Tyrone did what every other county failed to do that year - curb Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell, a task splendidly accomplished by Paddy Corey and Jim Devlin. Alas, it wasn't sufficient to ensure victory although Frankie Donnelly took the scoring honours with five points to his credit.

1957 *Louth 0-13; Tyrone 0-7*

In a blistering opening quarter Tyrone went 0-5 to 0-2 in front, but then lost their way and were a point down (0-5 to 0-6) at the break. Scores were level (0-7 each) at the 42nd minute, but

thereafter, despite the gallant efforts of Jack Taggart, the Devlins and Brian McSorley, Louth pulled away to win comfortably.

1964 *Galway 1-8; Meath 0-9*

A goal conceded just before the interval meant Meath turning over in arrears and then a "premature" referee's whistle denied Meath what looked like a perfectly good goal. Jack Quinn, however, equalised with ten minutes to go, only to see Galway grab two late points and the verdict.

1966 *Meath 2-16; Down 1-9*

Meath looked less than impressive as they struggled against the breeze in the opening half during which they recorded a meagre three points. But the resumption saw a remarkable transformation. Jack Quinn hit two goals in the space of three minutes, and after that salvo Meath coasted home.

1967 *Meath 3-14; Mayo 1-14*

And evenly-contested first half swung to Meath when "Red" Collier's long range shot went all the way to the net. Meath's interval lead of 1-8 to 0-8 was wiped out by a Mayo team who appeared to be getting on top, until swift goals by Peter Moore and Tony Brennan put Meath on the way to a most convincing win.

1970 **Meath 0-15; Galway 0-11**

Against the breeze Meath found it hard to stay in contention and did well to turn over only 0-4 to 0-8 in arrears. But the second half was a different story as Tony Brennan got on target (he scored 0-7), ably assisted by Matt Kerrigan and Mickey Fay. Meath were not flattered by the final scoreline.

1973 **Cork 5-10; Tyrone 2-4**

Tyrone were to learn that eagerness was no substitute for skill and experience, though their position at the interval when they trailed by 0-1 to 1-4 was by no means hopeless. But they were always chasing a game which became a rout when Cork hit three goals in the last seven minutes.

1984 **Dublin 2-11; Tyrone 0-8**

Tyrone hustled and harried to some effect, but still slipped into interval arrears of 0-2 to 1-6. Eugene McKenna's and Frank McGuigan's points kept Tyrone afloat for some time, but Dublin's second goal was the real killer after which the game drifted to its inevitable conclusion.

1986 **Kerry 2-13; Meath 0-12**

Presenting goals to Kerry is not advisable and a mix-up in the Meath defence led to the goal which enabled Kerry to turn over leading by 1-6 to 0-7. With Liam Hayes and Gerry McEntee ensuring a reasonable supply from

midfield, Meath were still there with a chance until Kerry's second goal twelve minutes from the end.

1986 **Tyrone 1-12; Galway 1-9**

Tyrone were shocked by an early Galway goal, but recovered to turn over on level terms (0-6 to 1-3). With Plunkett Donaghy keeping up a good supply forward, no fewer than nine Tyrone players got their names on the scoresheet, but the most important was that of Eugene McKenna who converted a penalty with only five minutes remaining.

1987 **Meath 0-15; Derry 0-8**

After a wait of 17 years, Meath's All-Ireland semi-final win was surprisingly easy. Against earnest, but inferior, opposition the game was always going Meath's way. Hayes and McEntee provided the mid-field pull and Brian Stafford, Bernard Flynn and Colm O'Rourke did the needful up front, comfortably extending an interval lead of four points to a secure seven.

1988 **Meath 0-16; Mayo 2-5**

Not the most convincing of Meath's penultimate successes. Colm O'Rourke intelligent promptings made up for deficiencies in several areas as a ten-point lead at the threequarters stage was rolled back by a Mayo rally that might have succeeded but for a disallowed goal.

1989 **Mayo 0-12; Tyrone 1-6**

Tyrone were looking good when Eugene McKenna goaled at the 48th minute. It was a score that should have inspired the Northerners, but for some reason it didn't, and following the missing of a possible second goal, Tyrone faded unaccountably as Mayo picked off the match-winning points.

1990 **Meath 3-9; Donegal 1-7**

Meath's huge advantage was apparent at most stages of this encounter, and though the Ulster champions had their moments, the chance of an upset was never a realistic possibility. Bernard Flynn was the outstanding marksman of the occasion, contributing a splendid 2-2 to the winners' total.

1991 **Meath 0-15; Roscommon 1-11**

Never was a team's indomitable spirit more in evidence than in this game which seemed to be going Roscommon's way for long periods. In arrears (0-7 to 1-7) at the break, Meath revamped their forces for the second half and Brian Stafford led the points rush with 0-9 as a wonderful victory was fashioned in the closing stages.

1995 **Tyrone 1-13; Galway 0-11**

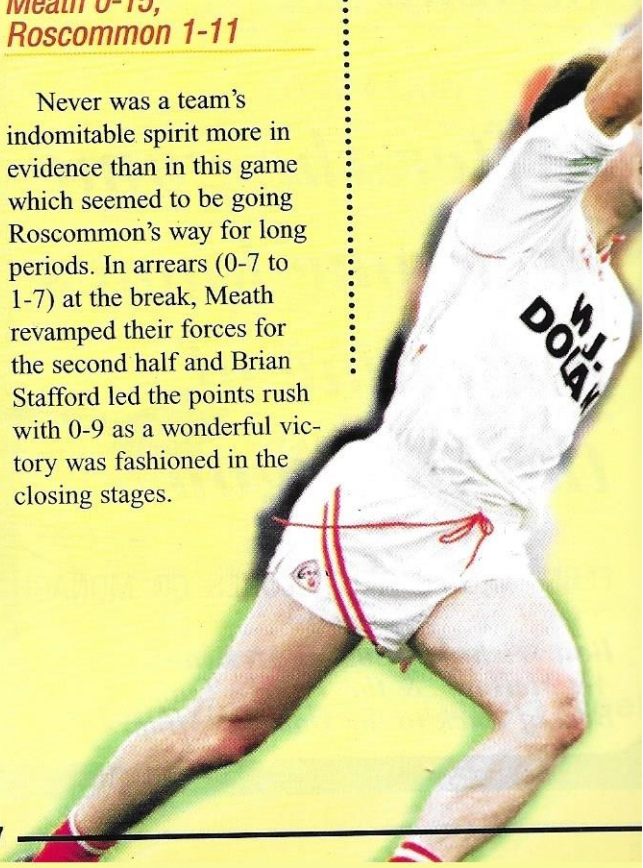
Favouritism was a burden Tyrone struggled with all through, and they looked to be in some trouble when they trailed by 1-3 to 0-8 at the interval. But into the breach stepped Peter Canavan with a typical display of marksmanship - a display that yielded a personal tally of 1-7 and a place in the final for Tyrone.

The overall semi-final records of both counties

Meath: Played 16
Won 12
Lost 4

Tyrone: Played 7
Won 2
Lost 5

Peter Canavan celebrates another score.



Tyrone Topics • Tyrone Topics • Tyrone Topics

RECORD WIN

- Tyrone holds the distinction of recording the biggest-ever win in an All-Ireland under-21 football final - which they acquired when beating Kerry in the 1991 final by 4-16 to 1-5 (20 points). Their 4-16 on that occasion is also the highest score recorded in a final at this level - ironically, one point better than the 5-12 Kerry had chalked up against them twelve months previously. Another distinction arising from their under-21 feats is that of administering the heaviest defeat ever sustained by Kerry in an All-Ireland final at any level.

FORWARD BACK

- *Eddie Devlin, one of Tyrone's greatest performers who was the first player to receive the Markham Cup twice (1947-48), achieved the unusual feat of emerging as top scorer in an All-Ireland semi-final while playing at centre-half back. This was in the 1947 minor semi-final with Offaly at Drogheda when he scored two vital goals in Tyrone's 4-2 to 2-5 win - the first from a penalty which enabled his side to turn over on level terms after playing against the breeze,*

and the second four minutes from the end when he drove a '50' all the way to the net for what proved to be the winning score.

U-21 DOUBLE

- Like his illustrious predecessor Eddie Devlin more than 40 years earlier, Peter Canavan made a piece of football history while leading Tyrone, as by captaining the 1991 and 1992 under-21 All-Ireland winning teams, he became the first — and only — man to collect the Clarke Cup twice. Also in the realm of under-

21 football: Tyrone is the only county to have won the Ulster championship in three successive seasons.

TITLES LACK

- Tyrone is the only county that has won All-Ireland titles at minor level (1947-48, 1973) and junior (1968) but is still without a senior title. And Tyrone is also the only county that has contested National League (1992) and All-Ireland senior (1986 and 1995) finals and has still to win a title in either competition.

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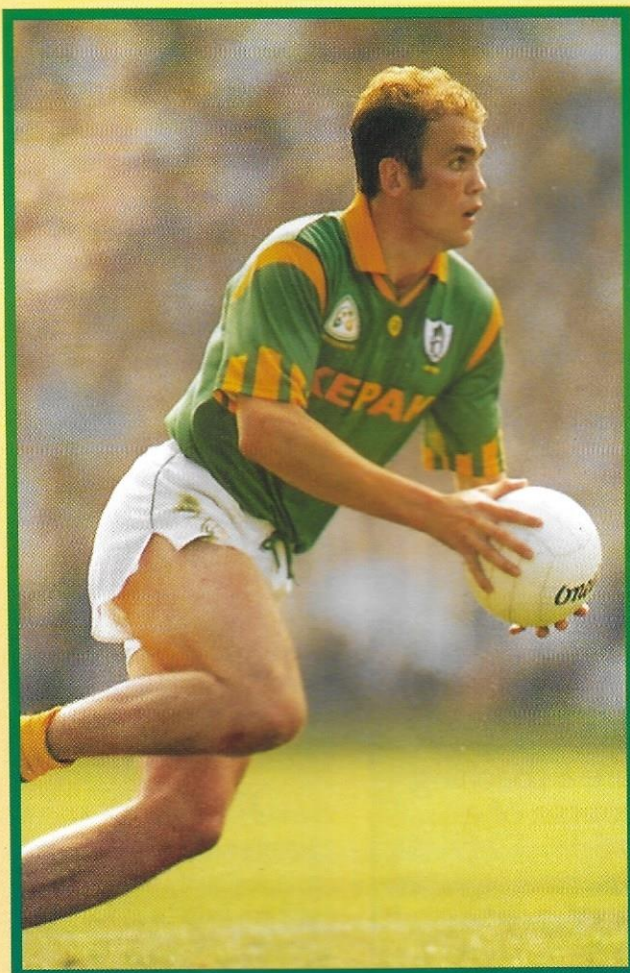


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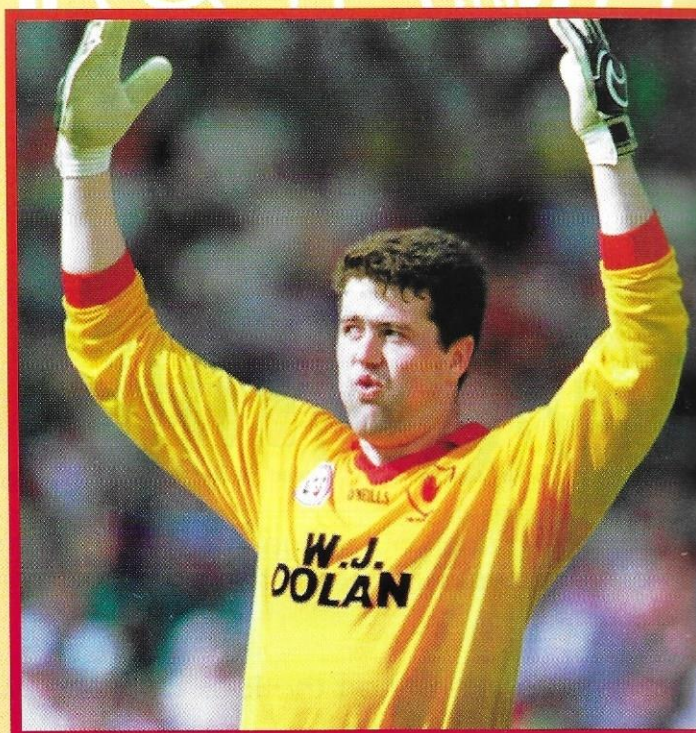
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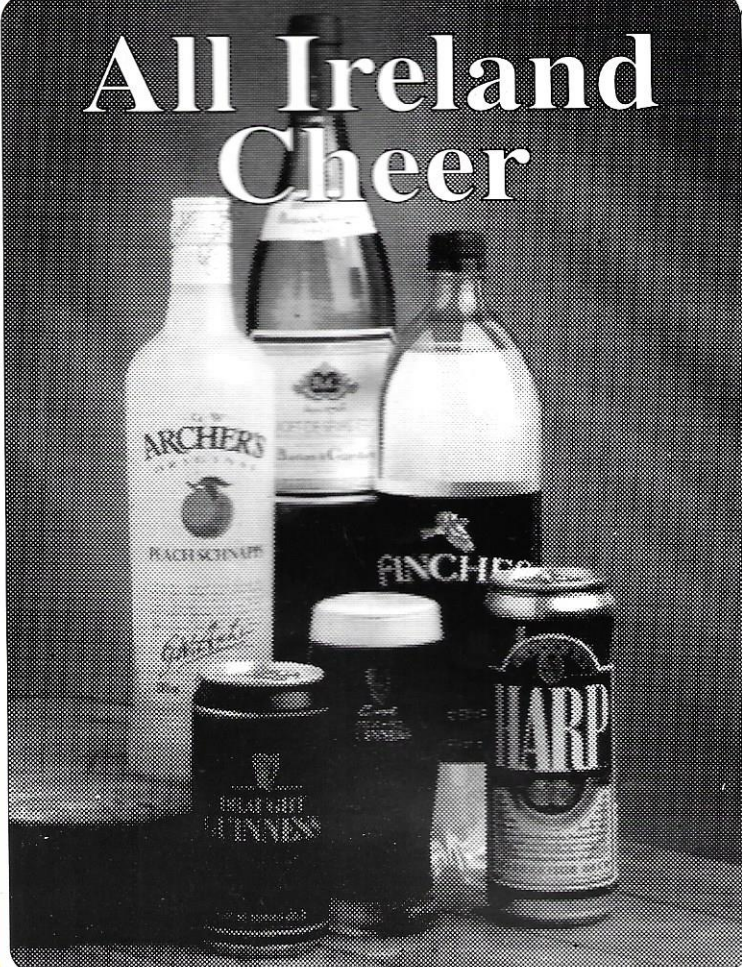
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Tyrone goalkeeper Finbar McConnell, despite appearances, will not surrender easily to the attacks of Meath led from midfield by John McDermott (on left).



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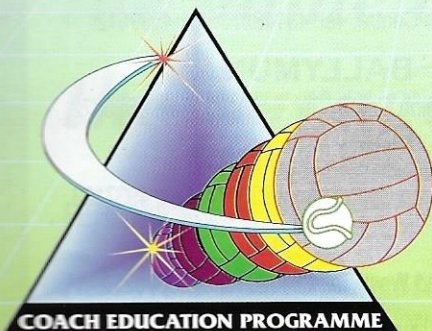
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The days of the double-noughts

In the days of 21, and later, 17-a-side games, teams failing to score in sixty minutes was not an unusual occurrence - especially in club competition. It happened, too, in inter-county matches - one of the most notable instances being the 1889 All-Ireland final when Laois failed to raise a flag in the hour against Tipperary.

Meath was one of the first counties to return a pair of noughts which they did in the opening round of the 1888 championship when Louth beat them at Drogheda by 2-4 to nil. Meath were in good company in failing to score, as every strong county 'hit the noughts' in those early years - Cork, Louth, Wexford, Dublin (in a Leinster final) and Armagh in an All-Ireland semi-final.

Kerry and Cork came close to playing the first-ever scoreless championship game in 1890 when both were flagless with only two minutes remaining. Then their blushes were saved when the ball burst and, as there was no replacement available, the game at Limerick had to be abandoned.

Even the reigning All-Ireland champions were not immune to bouts of frustration up front: Wexford were reigning All-Ireland champions when they lined out against Dublin in the first round of the 1894 championship at Clonturk Park, but by the end of the hour they had made no reply to Dublin's 1-11.

As the years moved on, scoreless hours became fewer, as forward technique

improved, but there were occasional lapses, like in the 1903 All-Ireland semi-final when Kildare beat Cavan by 0-8 to 0-0.

Dublin Decline

Dublin experienced their only scoreless hour when Louth beat them (0-3 to nil) in the 1910 Leinster final at Navan.

Galway, one of the few leading counties to avoid the noughts in the early days, came unstuck in the 1912 Connacht final which Roscommon won by 0-2 to 0-0, which was twelve months after Monaghan had finished flagless against Armagh in the first round.

With the reduction of teams to 15-a-side in 1913, it seemed the days of scoreless returns were over, as forwards revelled in the wide open spaces provided by the new format. But not quite. In 1914 the Ulster semi-final at Carrickmacross ended with neither team having a score on the board - the only scoreless inter-county game in the history of Gaelic football, and then in 1917 the Leinster championship produced two pairs of noughts as Laois beat Offaly at Tullamore by 2-7 to 0-0, and Louth did the same to Meath 2-7 to 0-0 at the Navan Show Grounds. A year later Cavan produced a remarkable double - beating Armagh by 2-4 to 0-0 in the semi-final and Antrim by 3-2 to 0-0 in the final.

Enter Tyrone

Tyrone joined the ranks of the 'nought recorders' in the first round of the 1920

championship, when the home venue of Dungannon failed to inspire their forwards as Armagh won a surprisingly well-contested game by 2-1 to 0-0.

Meath's problem up front continued into the twenties - at Croke Park in the 1921 first-round tie, Dublin beat them by 3-6 to 0-0, and in the 1923 Leinster final which Dublin won by 3-5 to 0-0. In between, Dublin had beaten Monaghan by 2-5 to 0-0 in the 1921 All-Ireland semi-final at Dundalk.

Clare saved Meath from the ignominy of being the last team to finish scoreless in a provincial final by losing to Kerry 0-0 to 5-5 in the 1925 Munster decider.

Sligo, the reigning Connacht champions, finished scoreless against Galway in 1929 and the last instance of the 'double noughts' in Connacht was in 1933 when Galway beat Roscommon by 2-10 to 0-0 in the first round at Tuam; and Tyrone acquired the 'distinction' of being the last team to finish scoreless in an Ulster championship game in going down to Armagh 0-0 to 3-4 at the Athletic Grounds in 1942.

But like Clare with Meath seventeen years earlier, Kilkenny saved Tyrone an unenviable place in history when they lost to Wexford by 0-0 to 3-6 in the 1943 first round tie. The reign of dismal noughts was over.

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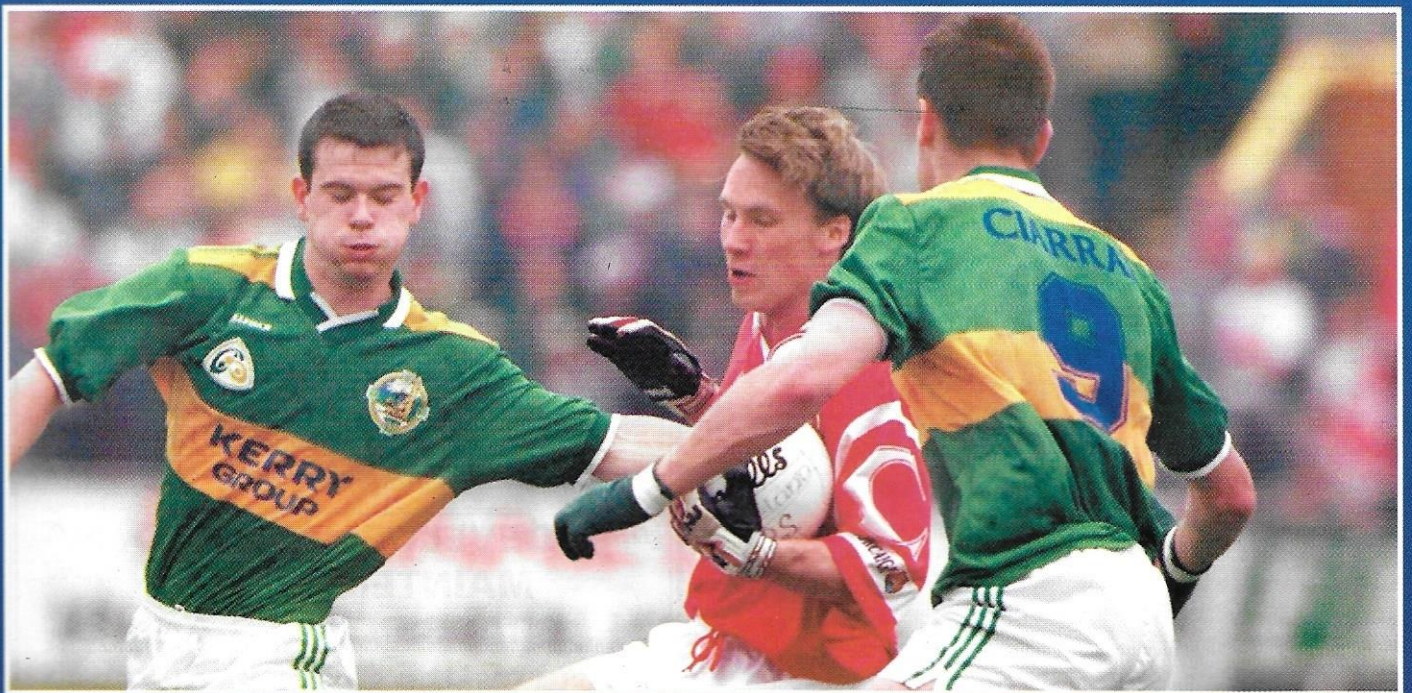
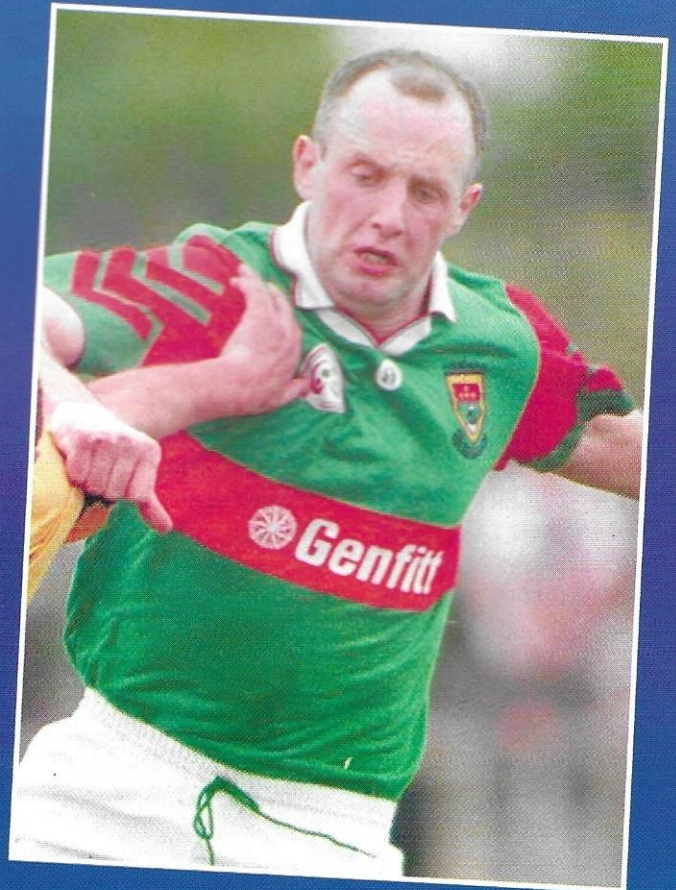
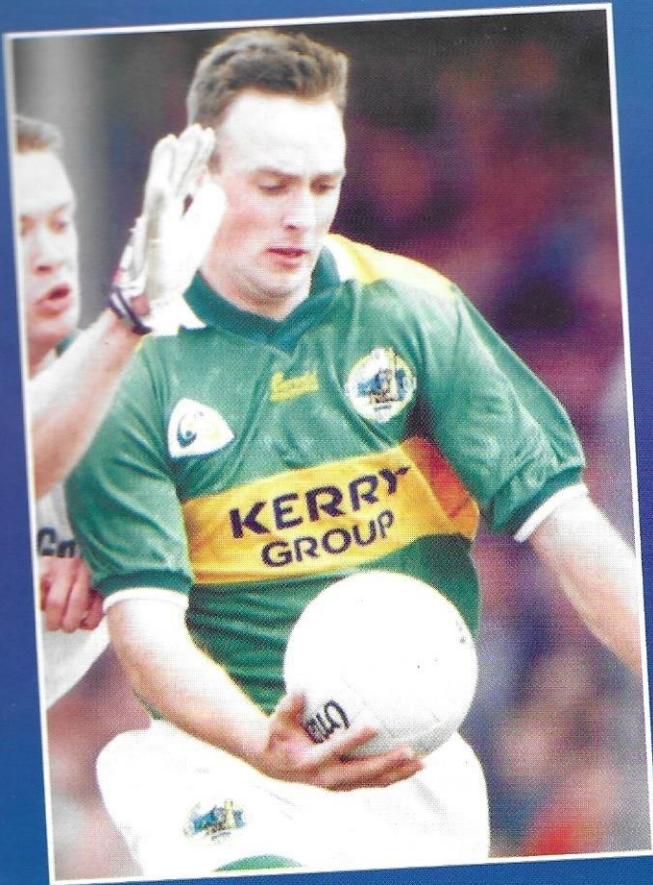
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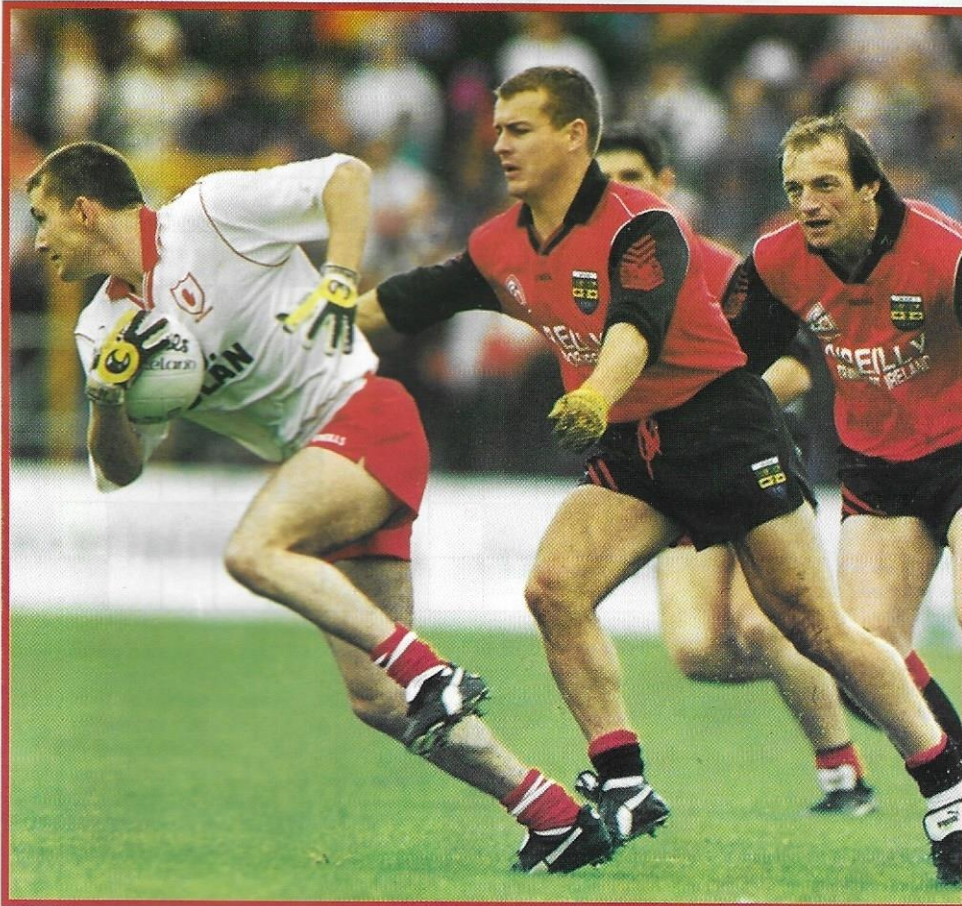
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Last year U.C.D. launched its new 'Certificate in Injury Management and Fitness in Sport' aimed at people with an interest in Sports Medicine but no previous medical training or experience. It was the first University course of its kind in Ireland and provided participants with a thorough and broad based knowledge of:

- relevant human anatomy and exercise physiology
- safe and sensible handling of sports injuries including emergencies until medical aid can be obtained
- the principles of rehabilitation of special sports injuries

The course was a huge success. It drew together ninety people from many sporting and professional backgrounds who shared a common interest in sport. The shared enthusiasm of the participants, lecturers and tutors generated a wonderful atmosphere of friendship, good humour and willingness to learn and next year's course is now eagerly anticipated.

"Excellent, a quality course with a balanced blend of theory and practice. The content, teaching and administration throughout the year was excellent — with the students expected to maintain the high standards set! I thoroughly enjoyed this course and have found the

knowledge, confidence and ability which it imparted of great benefit both to me and my club".

(Mary Duane, Erin's Isle, GAA Club).

"Having completed the Certificate in Injury Management and Fitness in Sport, I would highly recommend the course to any person interested in Sport and its medical side. The course was both very interesting and most enjoyable, covering an extensive range of material over the academic year".

(Ronan Coffey, Rathnew GAA Club).

"This course was a most enjoyable learning process and has been a great help

to me in dealing with injury problems arising both on and off the playing field"

(John Trapper Dalton, Dublin GAA Senior Football Team — Strapping and First Aid).

"I found the range of subjects covered to be of enormous benefit to me. I was very impressed with the quality of the lectures, the expertise and professionalism of all concerned".

(Anne Keenan-Buckley, Olympian and International Athlete).

Full course details are provided in the advertisement in this programme.

Bank of Ireland Football Championship Crossword

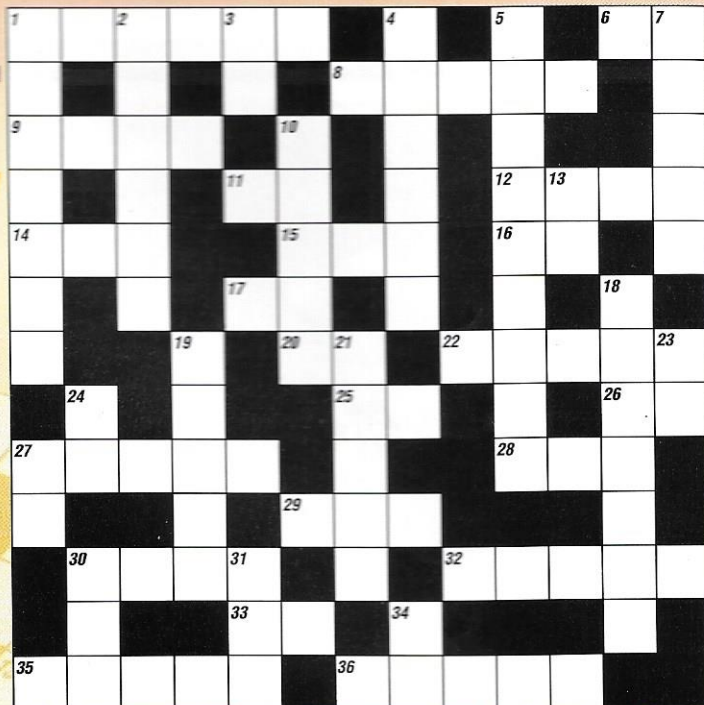
Our crossword is based mainly on events and personalities associated with this season's Leinster and Ulster senior football championships. (Solution on page 56)

Across

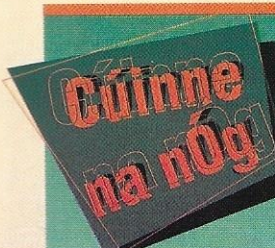
1. Wicklow full back who won an interprovincial senior football medal last April. (1,5).
6. Initials of Donegal's left full back in the Bank of Ireland Ulster senior football championship loss to Down in May. (1,1).
8. Two players with this surname were in Donegal's attack against Down in the Ulster championship tie in May. (5).
9. The senior football championship campaign of 1996 was this for Longford early in the season. (4).
11. Initials of Derry's regular full forward this year (1,1).
12. Surname of an All-Ireland senior medalist in 1991 and 1994 who was missing from Down's attack against Donegal because of injury. (4).
14. It is rare, indeed, that a team finished with this return in a Gaelic football game. (3).
15. It is often said that a player is good at putting this on troubled waters. (3).
16. Initials of a Church and General National Football League medal winner last May at right half back. (1,1).
17. Initials yet again. Try Carlow's right full back in their senior football championship loss to Meath in June. (1,1).
20. First initial of the county that won the first championship senior game in Ulster this year and of the team they beat next time out. (1,1).
22. Gary, an All-Ireland medalist as a forward, has played good games for Down at right half back. (5).
25. Initials of a Meath senior player who earlier this year led his county's under-21 side to the Leinster title. (1,1).
26. This will do as shorthand for the county beaten by Dublin in a Leinster semi-final this season. (2).
27. Kildare's captain and centre half back who took over from the injured Davy Dalton at full back just before the start against Laois (1,4).
28. It could be said that Meath had this to their meeting with Carlow in the Leinster senior championship. (3).
29. Club of Derry sharpshooter Enda Gormley. (4).
31. Dessie scored a splendid 2-7 against Wicklow in the opening round of the Leinster senior championship (5).
33. Initials of No. 35 Across. (1,1).
35. A substitute for Manus Boyle in Donegal's defeat by Down in a preliminary tie in Ulster and brother of 1992 All-Ireland medal winner Donal, who has been the county's under-21 team manager of late. (1,4).
36. An Ulster senior football medal winner this year after going in as a forward to ensure a family double. (1,4).

Down

1. Captain of the side that lost to



2. Tyrone in a Bank of Ireland Ulster senior championship semi-final in June. (1,6).
2. Meath's second highest marksman in the 1996 Bank of Ireland Leinster senior football championship. (1,5).
3. Initials of Donegal's senior football captain of 1996. (1,1).
4. Many rate this player as the best midfielder in senior football in years. (6).
5. Derry's right half forward in their unsuccessful senior outing against Tyrone in the Ulster championship in June. (1,8).
7. Tyrone's 1995 Sam Maguire Cup team captain and a member of this year's senior panel. (1,4).
10. A current county senior who won a senior medal with Dunderry in last year's Meath senior football championship. (1,4).
13. Initials of the first two counties knocked out of the Ulster senior football championship. (1,1).
18. This prominent footballer started his 17th senior football championship last June. (1,6).
19. This Éire Óg clubman went in as a first half substitute for Carlow during their Leinster quarter-final loss to Meath in June. (1,4).
21. Scorer of Armagh's only goal in their loss to Derry in the Ulster senior championship. (1,4).
23. As No. 3 down (1,1).
24. Initials of Kildare's left half back in their loss to Laois in the Leinster senior championship. (1,1).
30. Popular form of a Christian name. Try an Armagh football forward who scored a point from a penalty in the Ulster senior championship in June. (3).
31. So much happens generally in a football game that there is little danger that any spectator will miss this off during a match. (3).
34. Initials yet again. This time those of No. 36 across. (1,1).



Tráth na gCeist

1. When did Tyrone win its first Ulster Senior Football title?
2. When did Meath last win the All-Ireland Senior Football title?
3. Tyrone is one of fifteen counties who have not won an All-Ireland Senior Football title. Can you name the other fourteen?
4. When did Meath first win "back-to-back" Leinster Senior Football titles?
5. In Minor Football, how many All-Irelands have Laois and Donegal won?

Word Step

Can you change the word **WIND** to **RAIN** in just four steps changing one letter each time to make another word?

W	I	N	D
R	A	I	N

Name the Captains

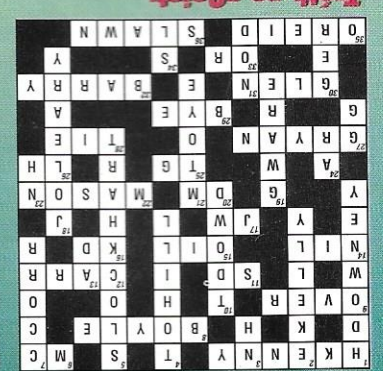
- Can you name the captains of the following All-Ireland winning teams:
1. Dublin, 1995
 2. Derry, 1993
 3. Meath, 1988
 4. Kerry, 1986
 5. Offaly, 1982

Freagraí

1. 1956.
2. 1988.
3. Leitrim, Sligo, Westmeath, Longford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Laois, Clare, Waterford, Antrim, Armagh, Fermanagh, Monaghan.
4. 1939 and 1940.
5. None.

Name the Captains

R	A	I	N
R	A	I	D
R	A	N	D
W	A	N	D
W	I	N	D



Crossword Solution

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(Whether a human year being equal to seven canine years has anything to do with this, we don't know).

However, we have grown rather more rapidly than our tender years would suggest.

For a start, we've more than doubled business on our Expressway service. This large fleet of modern coaches provides 5

million inter-city travellers with excellent value for money, and provides us with revenues of the order of £22 million annually.

Then there are our City Bus services in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford. Running seven days a week, morning, noon and night, the total amount of journeys comes to nearly 21 million.

Our Local Bus service covers the length and breadth of rural Ireland, carrying 13 million people to and from work, shops, friends and family.

We also maintain a range of vital social services in both rural and urban areas. For this we receive a £4 million payment from the Government.

And, through the School Bus service, we're responsible for bringing 165,000

children to school every day. This includes 9,000 students who have special needs and we cater for them.

Then, of course, there are the 60,000 tourists and holidaymakers who take trips ranging from one day excursions to two week tours.

Today, Bus Éireann provides 2,500 jobs with an additional 1,800 sub-contracted. Our total revenue for the year 1995 was over £95 million. We look forward to building on this by the time we're 10 and our mascot is 70.

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GAA/INTO MINI SEVENS 1987-1996



Meath U-21 star and senior panellist, Oliver Murphy, was one of the outstanding players in the inaugural GAA/INTO Mini-Sevens in 1987. Since then this unique scheme has provided an opportunity for thousands of boys and girls to partake in the greatest occasion in the GAA calendar. Many of them have gone on to play inter-county football, hurling and camogie: all of them have had an experience they will never forget. As we celebrate the tenth birthday of the "sevens", 240 Cumann na mBunscol boys and girls will participate during this year's All-Ireland semi-finals and finals. The parents and teachers of today's participants are guests of the GAA and the INTO at today's games.

Gerry Grogan, P.R.O.

Emer Carr



Emer Carr

The Carr family from Donegal Town have reason to be proud today as Joe lines out for the Donegal Minors and sister Emer wears the Tyrone colours in the mini-sevens. Emer plays for the Four Masters GAA Club and is also a keen basketball player. She was selected to play at a very enjoyable regional festival in Omagh this year and regards playing in Croke Park today as "the most exciting thing that has happened to me".

When not engaged in active sports Emer relaxes to the songs of Michael Bolton. She hopes to become a Primary school teacher when she finishes school. She currently attends St. Francis N.S. where she is coached by teacher Christopher Callaghan. Two other members of the talented family have worn the Tir Conaill jersey. Shane played for two years with the county minors and is currently a member of the U-21 team. Sister Bridgeen is a county minor. Emer's favourite player is Tony Boyle and thinks Tyrone will win today because "they have more spirit than Meath".

Emer is greatly saddened that her best friend Niamh Britton can't line out with her today as she is recovering from serious injuries sustained in a car accident which resulted in the death of both her parents. Cumann na mBunscol wishes Niamh a speedy recovery.

Liam Cuddy



Liam Cuddy

The commitment of teacher David Brickley in Shanahoe N.S. paid dividends this year with victory in the Laois mini-sevens and subsequent participation in the regional festival in Wicklow. It was here that Liam Cuddy was selected and he is greatly excited about following in the footsteps of all the famous Cuddy relatives who have worn the blue and white of Laois with some distinction.

Liam is also an accomplished hurler and his favourite sportsman, Peter Canavan, will be on view today. This Bon Jovi fan wants to be a carpenter some day and says that if he won the Lotto he would "head straight for Disneyland". Liam expects a Tyrone win today "because they are a better team and they have Peter Canavan".

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and the I.N.T.O. extend sincere sympathy to the Britton family from Donegal following the recent tragic car accident which resulted in the deaths of Marie and Dónal Britton. Their daughter, Niamh, who was to participate in today's half-time mini-game, is still recovering from her injuries and is in attendance today. We wish Niamh, Tanya and Garreth a speedy recovery from their injuries.

John Farrell

John Farrell's selection for today's exhibition game, representing Carlanstown N.S. in North Meath, continues a proud tradition of participation which began with Meath stars Oliver Murphy and Nigel Regan (U-21 team) in 1987. Martin O'Connell is also a past pupil of Carlanstown N.S. which



Twins John and James Farrell

feeds the St. Michael's club. Ladies' football is extremely strong and current Meath ladies' players Sharon Lynch, Aisling Fitzsimons, Mandy Carr, Orlath McCabe and Carol O'Connell – a niece of Martin's – are all past pupils of the school and all have participated in the Croke Park mini-games. Christopher and Elaine Lynch, Kevin Scully and Lisa McDonnell have also represented Carlanstown N.S. in Croke Park.

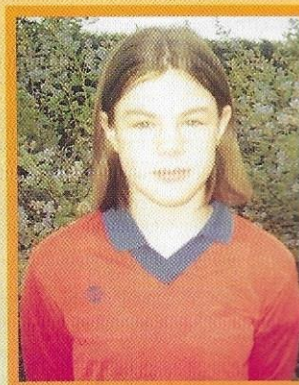
John Farrell is excited about marching out in a crowded stadium this afternoon. His ambition is to wear the Meath senior jersey some day and he confidently expects a Meath victory today "simply because they are better".

John plays midfield with the St. Michael's U-14 team and his favourite players are Graham Geraghty and Peter Canavan. Soccer, Volleyball and Basketball occupy his time when he's not playing Gaelic football.

Twin brother James will be in Croke Park today to offer support. He plays centre-back for the club and admires Tommy Dowd.

Much of the credit for Carlanstown's success must go to Mayo school principal Tony Kearney. He has been involved in Cumann na mBunscol since 1980 and is also a community games activist. Last year in a small area with 200 children under the age of 17, they won the All-Ireland award for participation in the community games. A total of 24 areas were entered. As a result of this and other achievements Tony and fellow teacher Maureen Fanning were presented with the "Meath Personality of the Year Award". If the Mayo footballers can continue their winning sequence 1996 will be another vintage year for Tony Kearney.

Antoinette Canavan



Antoinette Canavan

The news that a third Canavan will take the field in Croke Park today has caused alarm in the Meath camp. They need not be too concerned, however, as stylish midfielder, Antoinette, will participate in the mini-sevens at half-time. She is a pupil in St. Patrick's school in Mullinahoe and plays for the Ardboe GAA club. She was selected for today's performance at the regional festival in Carrickmore. Antoinette is a keen swimmer and a committed Boyzone fan. Her school coach, Miss Conlon, will watch her play today. When she leaves school she hopes to become a teacher or a cook. Perhaps she'll manage

to do both! On the outcome of today's big game, she is hopeful of a Tyrone victory and she thinks the difference between the team will be the other two Canavans.



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