



National Football League
Division One

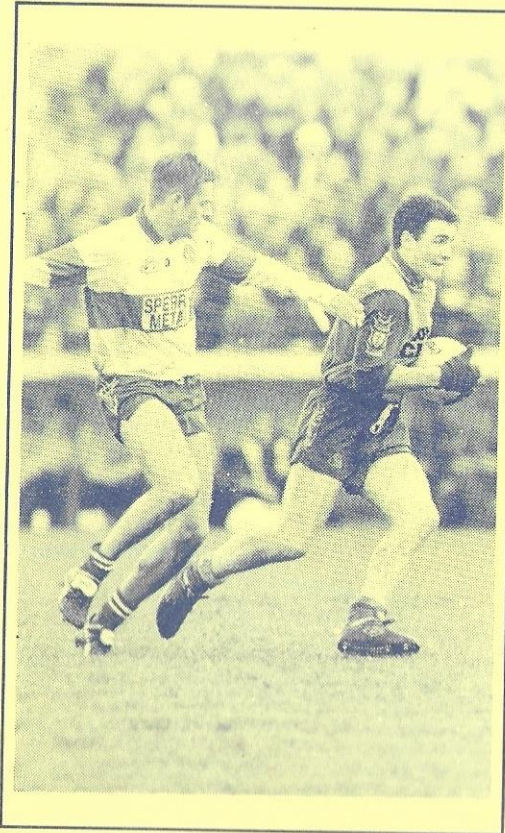


Church & General

Páirc Seáin Mhic Cumhaill, Bealach Feich

DE DOMHNAIGH, 11ú FEABHRA, 1996

2.30 p.m.



Dún na
nGall

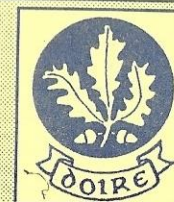
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Doire

Reiteoir: Seamus Mac an Phríora
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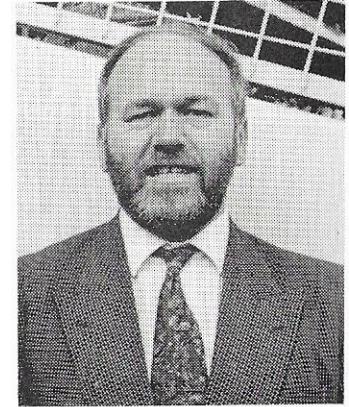
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To-day we have our third home game in the Church & General National Football League and our second in MacCumhaill Park and we welcome the players, management and officers of Doire.

Last Sunday we travelled to Navan and came away with a well-earned point to leave us well placed in second place in the top Division. However, with Derry, Kerry and Tyrone all breathing down our necks, we need a win today to ensure qualification for the play-off stages of the League.

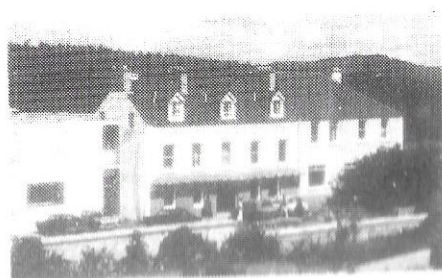
Today we renew our rivalry with neighbours, Derry and we remember meeting them twice last year, defeating them here in Ballybofey before losing in the League final in Croke Park in May. Games between the sides have always been competitive and hopefully, today's game will be no different.

Our thanks to the MacCumhails Club for producing today's match programme and to the Donegal supporters who continue to give encouragement to this young Donegal side.

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An Reiteoir

SEAMUS
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A member of the Aughnasheelin club, Seamus Prior is now one of the most experienced referees in the country.

Highlights of refereeing career include the 1991 All-Ireland

Senior Championship final between Down and Meath, and the 1987 Dublin-Kerry League final as well as the Minor All-Ireland final of 1987.

Seamus is now established as one of the most experienced referees in the North-West and has refereed at all levels in the Connacht Championship.

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A Period of Team Building

By P. J. McGowan, Donegal Team Manager

The National Leagues are the most important competitions in the G.A.A. calendar after the Championship. They provide a definite number of games and if counties manage to reach the knock-out stages then many novel pairings ensue and very welcome revenue accrues to the competing counties. Unlike the Championship, where all-out effort towards winning as comfortably as possible is the target, the League provides varying aims and goals for every county. For some the target is to achieve promotion to a higher division and fielding the strongest side possible. For some others the aim might be to introduce new players to the team and rest some older fellows, after the rigours of Championship preparation. This can be risky and difficult as no county wants to lose ground and slip to a lower division, nor wish to lose any game.

We find ourselves in a transitional phase with a need for team building. 1992 and winning the All-Ireland was absolutely fantastic and never to be forgotten, but it was also four years ago, with players from that era four years older. The success and quality of the 1992 squad made it very difficult for new lads to get an opportunity,

but nobody can go on indefinitely and this League campaign has given the opportunity to younger lads to show what they can do. So far it has gone well enough and the younger lads have blended in well and they have not been found wanting in the top flight. Donegal still remains one of the best teams in the country.

Today we welcome our near neighbours and good rivals from Derry. They achieved outstanding success in 1993 and continuously produce very talented players. Football in Derry has not been without its difficulties in recent years and I'm sure I speak for all genuine Donegal G.A.A. followers when I hope that all their difficulties are behind them. I certainly wish Brian Mullins well and I'm certain that football in Derry will benefit greatly from his involvement. Being an adopted Donegal man, Brian will know Donegal well, so it will be difficult to pull any surprises today, but we're looking forward to a good game of football and a Donegal victory of course.

May I take this opportunity also to thank Donegal supporters for their continued support and encouragement, especially for the younger players in the team. We won't please you all the time, but we will certainly try our best.

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Best wishes to the Donegal Team.

The League to date for Derry and Donegal

Compiled by Michael Daly, Donegal Democrat

Both teams have played five games, Derry have won three and lost two, putting them on six points. Donegal have seven points, again with three wins but with a draw against Meath last Sunday in Navan.

Derry's NFL campaign got off to a bad start on October 15th last when they were in some disarray off the field, Tyrone at home, winning by two points, 1-7 to 0-8.

In the absence of Peter Canavan, Tyrone's scoring star was Gerard Cavlan with 1-6. Derry, under caretaker manager, Eugene Young, battled gamely despite their well documented problems.

Derry scorers: E. Burns 0-5, B. McCormack, D. Dougan, J. Brolly 0-1 each.

Derry: D. McCusker; K. McKeever, T. Scullion, S. McLarnon; K. Diamond, P. Downey, G. McGill; B. McCormack, B. McGilligan; D. Dougan, E. Heaney, D. McNicholl; J. Brolly, D. Cassidy, E. Burns. Subs., S. Lockhart for McLarnon; D. Quinn for Cassidy.

By contrast, on the same day, Donegal were romping home, 3-8 to 0-8 against Clare at Ennis.

Brian Murray and Eamon McMenamin bagged early Donegal goals but Clare improved to trail by just 2-4 to 0-6 at the break. Tony Boyle sealed the issue in the 57th minute with a fine goal.

Donegal scorers: T. Boyle, E. McMenamin 1-1 each, B. Murray 1-0, M. Boyle 0-3, J. McHugh, J. Duffy, N. McCready 0-1 each.

Donegal: P. Callaghan; G. Kelly, M. Gallagher, S. McEwen; B. McGowan, N. Hegarty, M. Shovlin; J. B. Gallagher, B. Murray, E. McMenamin, J. McHugh, J. Gildea; J. Duffy, T. Boyle, M. Boyle. Subs., N. McCready for Duffy, J. Ruane for Murray, B. Roper for Gildea.

OCTOBER 29th

Derry 0-7
Kerry 2-15

Kerry were five points up before Joe Brolly got Derry on the scoresheet. Damien McCusker saved a penalty and Derry were fortunate to trail 0-8 to 0-4 at the break.

Kerry went on a scoring spree in the second half. For new manager, Brian Mullins it must have been an eye opener as to the task he had taken on.

Derry scorers: E. Burns 0-3 (two frees), J. Brolly 0-3, S. Lockhart 0-1.

Derry: D. McCusker; K. McKeever, D. Quinn,

T. Scullion; F. McCusker, K. Diamond, G. McGill; B. McCormack, B. McGilligan; D. McNicholl, S. Lockhart, E. Burns; J. Brolly, E. Heaney, E. Gormley. Subs., J. McBride for B. McCormack; C. McEldowney for E. Burns.

Donegal 0-16
Tyrone 0-7

While Derry were struggling in Ballinascreen, Donegal were cantering in Ballybofey. All but two of Donegal's total came from play. James Ruane and Niall McCready, two 20-year-olds, were making their full debuts, following Sean McEwen in the Clare game.

Paul Callaghan saved a Canavan penalty in the 50th minute but long before that Tyrone had lost their taste for this battle. Donegal led 0-8 to 0-3 at half-time, Donegal never led by less than four points and five of their six forwards had scored by the finish. Martin Shovlin was playing his 100th competitive game for Donegal.

Donegal scorers: M. Boyle 0-6 (two frees), J. McHugh (0-4), J. B. Gallagher, T. Boyle 0-2 each, J. Gildea, E. McMenamin 0-1 each.

Donegal: P. Callaghan; G. Kelly, M. Gallagher, S. McEwen; B. McGowan, N. Hegarty, M. Shovlin; J. B. Gallagher, J. Ruane; J. Gildea, J. McHugh, E. McMenamin; N. McCready, T. Boyle, M. Boyle. Subs., D. Diver for Kelly; B. Murray for McMenamin; O. Reid for Gildea.

NOVEMBER 12th

Clare 2-8
Derry 2-13

The defending NFL champions finally got a win, and that away from home. After 23 minutes they led 2-5 to 0-2, goals from Colin McEldowney and Joe Brolly making the difference.

After 30 minutes Derry's lead was whittled to 0-3 to 0-2 with 15 minutes left. Downey, Diamond and Barton all pointed in a strong Derry finish.

Derry scorers: J. Brolly 1-2, C. McEldowney 1-1, D. Barton, R. Boylan 0-3 each, S. Downey 0-2, D. Dougan, K. Diamond 0-1 each.

Derry: J. Kelly; K. McKeever, D. O'Neill, T. Scullion; S. Lockhart, P. Downey, F. McCusker; R. Boylan, B. McGilligan; D. Dougan, D. Barton, D. McNicholl; J. Brolly, S. Downey, C. McEldowney. Subs., K. Diamond for Dougan, G. McGill for McKeever.

Laois 0-8
Donegal 1-10

Donegal showed tremendous character to win a difficult away game. Down two points, 0-6 to 0-4 at half-time, Donegal took the initiative after five early second-half wides from Laois.

By the 40th minute the sides were level at 0-6 each, Gallagher and Ruane controlling midfield. In the absence of Matt Gallagher, J. J. Doherty deputised admirably at full-back and Donegal had five points from Manus Boyle and 1-1 from the impressive McMenamin.

Donegal scorers: M. Boyle 0-5, E. McMenamin 1-1, J. Ruane 0-2, T. Boyle, J. Gildea 0-1 each.

Donegal: P. Callaghan; G. Kelly, J. J. Doherty, S. McEwen; D. Diver, N. Hegarty, M. Shovlin; J. B. Gallagher, J. Ruane; J. Gildea, B. Murray, E. McMenamin; N. McCready, T. Boyle, M. Boyle. Sub., J. Duffy for McCready.

NOVEMBER 26th

Derry 2-7
Laois 0-9

Derry were taking shape under new boss, Brian Mullins, with 1-5 to 0-1 putting them well in the driving seat by half-time, Rory Boylan scoring three points and Colin McEldowney flicking to the net close to the break.

However, Laois made a remarkable revival and by the 47th minute were ahead, Jacko Murphy goaling to put them in front. However, young Boylan fired to the net and he added two points from frees to earn the Glenullin lad the man of the match award.

Derry scorers: R. Boylan 1-4 (frees), C. McEldowney 1-1, D. Dougan, D. Barton 0-1 each.

Derry: D. McCusker; K. McKeever, D. O'Neill, P. Scullion; G. McGill, P. Downey, F. McCusker; R. Boylan, B. McGilligan; D. Dougan, D. Barton, D. McNicholl; E. Gormley, S. Downey, C. McEldowney. Subs., J. McBride for Gormley; G. McMonagle for Dougan.

Donegal 0-6
Kerry 1-11

A disappointing result for Donegal at Ballyshannon. Leading 0-7 to 0-5 with 41 minutes gone, Kerry scored a fluke goal through Dara O Cinneide and never looked back as Donegal were beaten by the wind and rain and better team who were far keener for the points.

With Brian Murray switched to midfield and Tony Boyle at centre forward, Donegal briefly threatened to turn the game on its head. They didn't and a sharper Kerry side won for the second time in Ulster in a month.

Donegal scorers: J. Gildea 0-2, M. Boyle, T. Boyle, J. Duffy, B. McGowan 0-1 each.

Donegal: P. Callaghan; G. Kelly, M. Gallagher, S. McEwen; B. McGowan, M. Coll, M. Shovlin; J. B. Gallagher, J. Ruane; J. Gildea, B. Murray, E. McMenamin; J. Duffy, T. Boyle, M. Boyle. Subs., N. McCready for Kelly, B. Ward for McMenamin, P. Cunningham for Duffy.

FEBRUARY 4th

Derry 1-6
Kildare 0-7

Last Sunday at Celtic Park, Derry soaked up tremendous pressure from a profligate Kildare side. Two points behind as the game entered added time, Kildare were still forcing the issue when Henry Downey got a hand to block a goal attempt.

After 18 minutes Damien Cassidy scored a marvellous goal to punish poor Kildare passing. Fergal McCusker and Brian McGilligan were dominant at midfield yet Derry were still just two clear, 1-3 to 0-4 at the break.

In the second half a mere three more scores from Derry answered three from Kildare and Brian Mullins' side had a further two points in the bag.

Derry scorers: J. Brolly 0-4, D. Cassidy 1-0, E. Gormley, C. McEldowney 0-1 each.

Derry: J. Kelly; K. McKeever, D. Heaney, T. Scullion; J. McGurk, H. Downey, K. Diamond; F. McCusker, B. McGilligan; D. Dougan, D. Barton, E. Gormley; J. Brolly, D. Cassidy, C. McEldowney. Subs., J. McBride for McGurk (25 mins.); E. Burns for McEldowney (half-time); G. McGonigle for McGilligan (55 mins.)

Meath 2-4
Donegal 0-10

Despite the unexpected absence of Brian Murray and Noel Hegarty, Donegal were more than capable of finding replacements and might well have won at Navan.

As it was they had to call (twice) on Tony Boyle's free-taking skills to rescue a point in a game that spilled dramatically into added time.

Meath found the net with ease for the second goal, Donegal's defence, while impressive most of the game, stretched by the pace and vision of Trevor Giles.

Mark Crossan, Damien Diver and Sean McEwen were, however, valued players in that defence, Tony Boyle close to priceless in attack.

Donegal scorers: T. Boyle 0-4 (3 frees), J. Duffy 0-3 (all frees), J. Ruane, J. B. Gallagher, E. McMenamin 0-1 each.

Donegal: P. Callaghan; P. Cunningham, M. Gallagher, S. McEwen; D. Diver, M. Crossan, M. Shovlin; J. Ruane, J. B. Gallagher; E. McMenamin, J. Gildea, N. McCready; B. Roper, T. Boyle, J. Duffy. Subs., N. McGinley for McEwen, P. Hegarty for Duffy, B. Ward for Roper.

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

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Dhún na nGall inniu. Measaim go dtiocfadh leis an chluiche seo a bheith ar cheann chomh deacair agus a bhí acu go dtí seo — mar tá mé den bhardúil gur deacair foireann Dhoire a sharú i gcomórtas ar bith. Dhéanfaidh siad a míle dícheall mar a dhéanann i gconaí. Leoga, imríonn siad peil ghlan ghasta atá suntasach le amharc air.

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

Bhí Doire ar barr minic go leor agus tá fios a ngnó acu. Bhí roinnt blianta loma acu ach tá feabhas ag teacht archúrsaí anois. Níl siad ag teacht le cluiche peile amháin a imirt, ach fosta lenár gcuid mórtais a bhaint asainn má tá siad ábalta a bheith uaibhreach ina ngaisce. Nuair a amharcann muid ar gcúl ar a n-iarrachtaí go dtí seo, tá fhios agaibh cad atá ar intinn agam. Caithfidh an bhua a fháil. Is fearr do Dhoire a bheith ar a bhfaichill.

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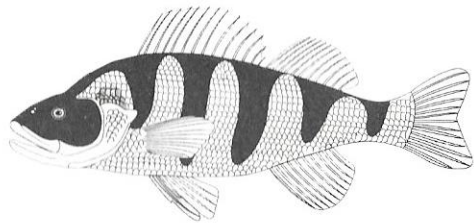
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(Naomh Brid)

4
S. Mac Eoin
SEAN McEWEN
(St. Eunans)

5
D. O Duibhir
DAMIEN DIVER
(Ardara)

6
N. O hEigearthaigh
NOEL HEGARTY
(Naomh Columba)

7
M. O Seibhleain
MARTIN SHOVLIN
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EAMON McMENAMIN
(MacCumhails)

11
S. Mac Giolla De
JOHN GILDEA
(Naomh Conaill)

12
S. Mac Ruain
JAMES RUANE
(Bundoran)

13
N. Mac Creadaigh
NIALL McCREADY
(Aodh Ruadh)

14
A. O Baoill
TONY BOYLE
(Dungloe)

15
S. O Dufaigh
JOHN DUFFY
(Aodh Ruadh)

SUBS: 16, P. O Ceallachain (Paul Callaghan, Burt); 17, N. Mac Fhionnghaile (Noel McGinley (N. Columba); 18, S. Mac Fhiontaigh (Seamus McGinty, MacCumhails); 19, S. Mac Cuinneagain (John Cunningham, Killybegs); 20, D. O Conluain (Damien Conlon, Aodh Ruadh); 21, B.O Roipear (Brian Roper, Aodh Ruadh); 22, B. Mac a Bhaird (Barry Ward, Aodh Ruadh); 23, P. O hEigearthaigh (Paddy Hegarty, N. Columba)

DOIRE 0-10

1
D. Mag Oscair
DAMIEN McCUSKER
(Glen)

2
C. Mac Iomhair
KIERAN McKEEVER
(Dungiven)

3
P.O Dundhaig
PADDY DOWNEY
(Bellaghy)

4
S. Mac Giolla Earnain
STEPHEN McLARNON
(Castledawson)

5
S. O Locaird
SEAN M. LOCKHART
(Banagher)

6
A. O Dundhaig
HENRY DOWNEY
(Lavey)

7
F. Mag Oscair
FERGAL McCUSKER
(Glen)

8
R. O Baoigheallain
RUAIRI BOYLAN
(Glenullin)

9
D. O Cuinn
DANNY QUINN
(Bellaghy)

10
D. O Casaide
DAMIEN CASSIDY
(Bellaghy)

11
D. Bartun
DAMIEN BARTON
(Newbridge)

12
D. Mac Niocail
DERMOT McNICHOLL
(Glenullin)

13
G. Mac Congail
GEOFFREY McGONIGLE
(Dungiven)

14
S. O Dundhaig
SEAMUS DOWNEY
(Lavey)

15
C. Mag Oirc
COLM McGURK
(Lavey)

SUBS: 16, D. O Ceallaigh (Jonathan Kelly, Magherafelt); 17, A. O Scollain (Tony Scullion, Ballinascreen); 18, A. O Brollaigh (Joe Brolly, Dungiven); 19, D. de Bath (Declan Bateson, Ballinderry)

Allies and Rivals

(By Bernie Mullan, Derry P.R.O.)

It must have been a strange situation in the early thirties when Donegal and Derry met. Clubs from East Donegal and Inishowen were winning county titles in Derry. As far back as 1919 a Donegal county senior football championship replay took place in Derry's Brandywell. For a Burt or Buncrana man it must have been difficult knowing who to support.

As times move on the battle lines have been much more clearly drawn and a healthy rivalry has been built up over the years. The only thing in common now is the dialects. Certain areas of the two counties have a peculiar similar lilt. Donegal are one up in Daniel O'Donnell. No one in Derry can match his singing or his West Donegal drawl.

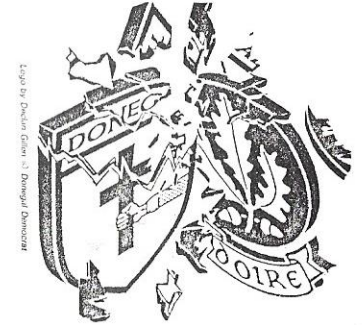
Both teams have remained at or near the top for the past six or seven years and through all that the players have put in endless hours of grind and training to maintain that status. Some new faces are beginning to appear but for players like Damien Barton and Martin Shovlin with close on 30 years county experience behind them the enthusiasm is as keen as ever.

Sean Lockhart and Brian Roper are at the other end of the scale. They were no doubt great admirers of the aforementioned players and rarely thought they would get a chance to play alongside players of such stature.

It's this type of loyalty that makes the G.A.A. the great organisation that it is today. Whether a player be from Derry or Donegal it's the donning of a county jersey that makes our games so special. The day that players don the jersey for any

other reason the G.A.A. will take on a different meaning to many, many people.

Both teams have been prominent in the League in the 'nineties with four final appearances between them. It's not impossible that one or both could be there again.

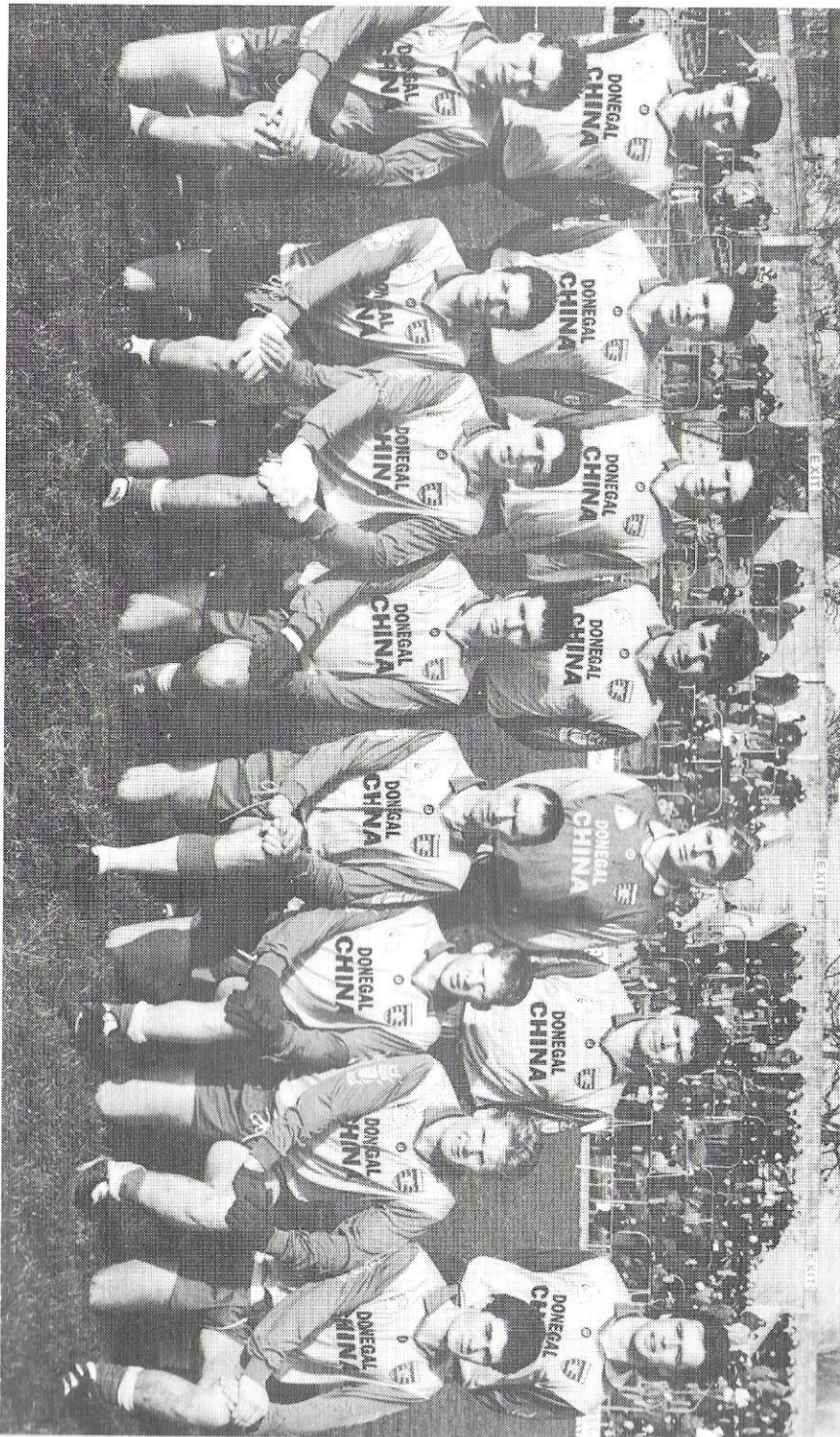


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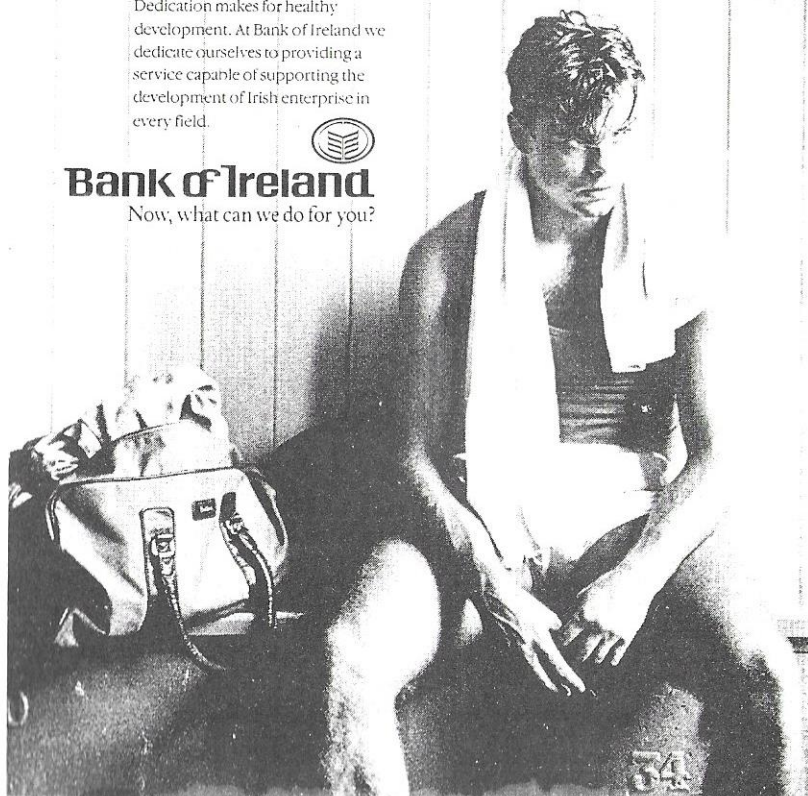
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