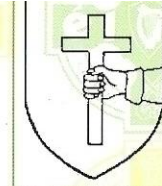
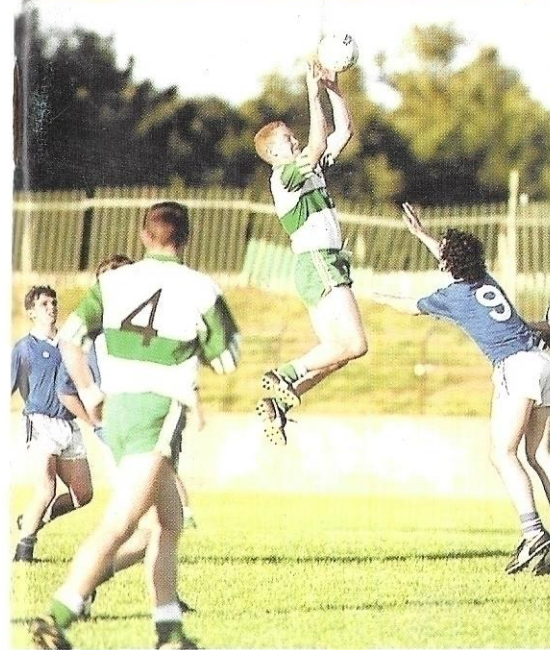




Cluiche Ceannais Peile Dhun na nGall



Paire Sheain Mhic Cumhaill De Domhnaigh 7u Mean Fomhair 1997



1.00 p.m.

Craobh Ceannais Sinsear na Contae

Naomh Adhamhnan

v

Aodh Ruadh

Reiteoir: Liam Brown (Four Masters)

2.00 p.m.

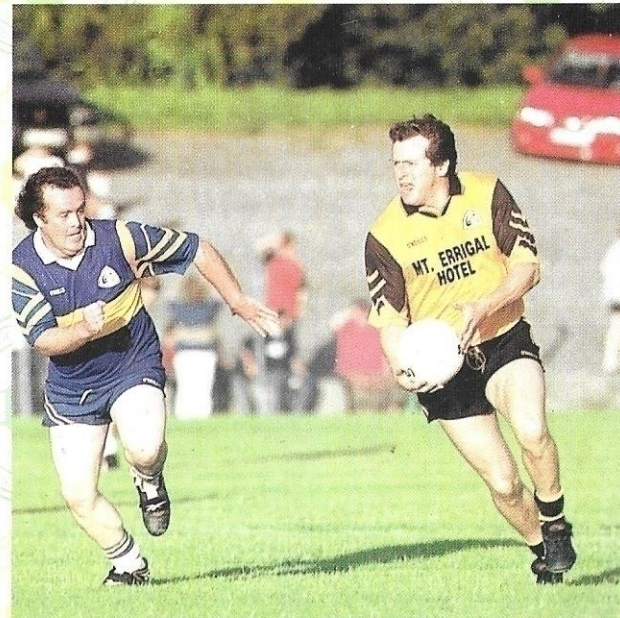
**Craobh Ceannais Sinsear
Tacaiochta na Contae**

Aodh Ruadh

v

Naomh Columba

Reiteoir: Pat Curley (Milford)





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Fáilte

Ba mhaith liom mar Chathaoirleach ar Choiste Chondae Dhún na nGall fáilte a chuir roimh Gaeil Ógach cearn d'en Chondae chuig na cluichí ceannais inniu.

Cuirim fáilte speisialta roimh na peileadóirí agus luch leanúna na foirne ata ag glacadh pairt ins na cluichí ceannas inniu.

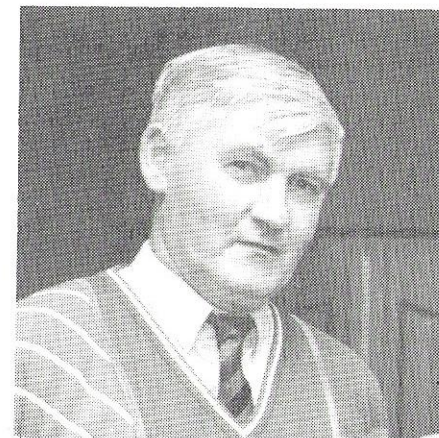
It is a great honour for me as County Board Chairman to welcome everyone here today to MacCumhaill Park for the showpiece of our domestic G.A.A. activities - our senior county finals.

In the senior final Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon are looking to bring their 11th senior title to the Banks of the Erne while St. Eunan's, back in their first final since 1983, are hoping to capture their 8th title for the club.

Today's senior final will rekindle memories of great games decades ago when these clubs along with Gweedore were the kingpins of Donegal football.

In the senior reserve final Aodh Ruadh take on Naomh Columba in what promises to be an exciting game with both teams showing a good mix of youth and experience.

Phase two of the development plan for MacCumhaill Park is expected to be



completed in October with the erection of the new stand. This will bring the facilities here to standards as good as anywhere in the province. The County Board are also investing in the development of our games with the appointment of a second coach for our schools who will supplement the tremendous work already being done on a voluntary basis throughout the county.

Finally, I would like to extend a special welcome to my colleagues from the St. Eunan's team who won the county championship 25 years ago. I hope everyone will have an enjoyable day.

Padraig O'Connachain

Timetable

1.42 p.m.	Aodh Ruadh Reserve team take the field	3.20 p.m.	Introduction of 1972 St. Eunan's team.
1.45 p.m.	Naomh Columba Reserve team take the field.	3.42 p.m.	Aodh Ruadh take the field.
2 p.m.	Reserve final: Aodh Ruadh v Naomh Columba.	3.45 p.m.	St. Eunan's take the field
		3.50 p.m.	Teams parade round the field.
		4.00 p.m.	Senior Final: Aodh Ruadh v St. Eunans
3.15 p.m.	Presentation of John Gallagher Cup to winning captain.	5.15 p.m.	Presentation of Dr. Maguire Cup to winning captain.

A word from the PRO

A word of thanks to all who helped contribute to today's programme: Fr. Sean Gallagher, Keith Duggan, Charlie Joe McGinley, Diarmaid Doherty, Michael McHugh and Ciaran O'Donnell; to both clubs for their co-operation and especially to Peter Campbell and printers, Donegal Democrat, for their help and efficiency. Thanks also to our advertisers in today's programme and in return we ask you to support them.

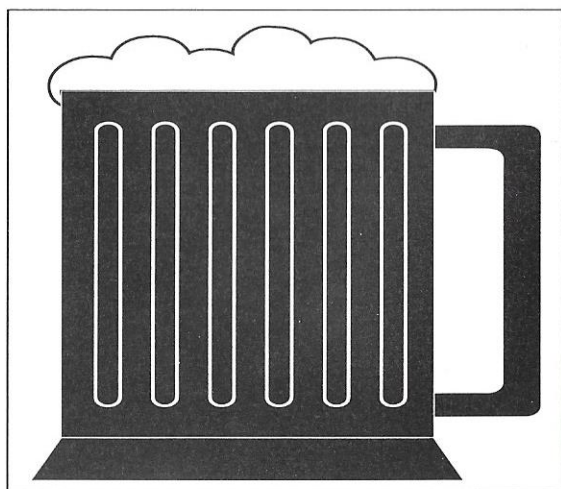
Mise le meas, Sean Mac Conaill

*Good luck to St. Eunan's,
to Sean McEwen
and all the lads*

from

BLAKE'S

BAR



TODAY'S REFEREES

Senior Final:
Liam Brown
(Four Masters)

Liam is a Despatch Clerk with Magees of Donegal and has been refereeing for some 13 years. His first Co. final was in 1993 and has been on the intercounty referees panel since 1991, refereeing Ulster Minor, U-21 and N.F.L. games. He is also secretary of the Four Masters Club

Married to Mary, they have one son, Marc.

Reserve Final:
Pat Curley
(Milford)

Pat is a Garda and at present is chairman of the Donegal Referees' Board. Aged 40, he has been refereeing for nine years. This is his third Reserve final while last year he refereed the Intermediate and U-21 finals as well as Ulster Minor League matches.

Married to Geraldine, they have three boys and one girl.

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Best wishes to St. Eunans G.A.A. Club on Sunday

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Good luck to Aodh Ruadh on Sunday

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Good Luck to Aodh Ruadh in the final on Sunday.

Aodh Ruadh and St. Eunans - County Final facts

Seán O Gallachóir

• Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon, have won the Donegal S.F.C. ten times:

1924 Aodh Ruadh 0-7, Killygordon 0-5.

1932 Aodh Ruadh 1-7, Dungloe 01

1937 Aodh Ruadh 3-8, Gaoth Dobhair 4-2.

1939 Aodh Ruadh 0-6, Gaoth Dobhair 0-4.

1942 Aodh Ruadh 2-8, Glenties 1-4.

1943 Aodh Ruadh 1-9, Convoys 2-1.

1951 Aodh Ruadh 1-6, St. Eunans 1-5.

1986 Aodh Ruadh 1-8, Killygordon (Red Hughs) 0-5.

1987 Aodh Ruadh 2-10, Kilcar 1-7.

1994 Aodh Ruadh 0-10, N. Columba 1-6.

They have lost five finals (1940, 1945, 1956, 1957 and 1989). They contest their sixteenth final today.

• St. Eunans, Letterkenny, have won the Donegal S.F.C. seven times:

1948 St. Eunans 1-7, Gaoth Dobhair 2-1.

1956 St. Eunans 0-8, Ballyshannon 1-2.

1960 St. Eunans 0-11, Gaoth Dobhair 0-3.

1967 St. Eunans 1-13, St. Joseph's 1-9.

1969 St. Eunans 0-10, St. Joseph's 1-4.

1972 St. Eunans 2-12, Clann Gael 1-8.

1983 St. Eunans 0-8, Ardara 0-3.

They have reached the county final on ten other occasions (1944, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1955, 1958 and 1974 - the 1950 final was not played)

• Letterkenny Rovers won the 1927 county championship and contested the 1926 and 1930 finals.

• St. Joseph's (Ballyshannon-Bundoran) were county senior football champions on seven occasions - 1965, 1968, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976. It could be said, therefore, that the Dr. Maguire Cup has come to Ballyshannon on 17 occasions.

• St. Joseph's and St. Eunans met in three epic County finals:

1967 St. Eunans 1-13, St. Joseph's 1-9.

1969 St. Eunans 0-10, St. Joseph's 1-4.

1974 St. Joseph's 1-8, St. Eunans 1-3.

The 1967 final is regarded as one of the greatest county finals with a St. Joseph's team that included Bernard Brady, Brian McEniff, Declan O'Carroll, Seamus Granaghan, Pauric McShea and Michael McLoone falling to a St. Eunans team fielding such legends as Seamus Hoare, Fionn Gallagher, John Hannigan, Noel

O'Donnell, Sean Ferriter, Anthony Gallagher and Joe Winston.

Leading the county S.F.C. roll of honour are:

12 Gaoth Dobhair

10 Ballyshannon

7 St. Eunans, St. Joseph's and Dungloe.

St. Eunans and Aodh Ruadh have met twice in the county S.F.C. final:

1951 Aodh Ruadh 1-6, St. Eunans 1-5.

1956 St. Eunans 0-8, Aodh Ruadh 1-2.

Peadar McGeehin, the late Noel O'Donnell and James McGettigan played on the winning St. Eunans team of 1956 and have sons on the 1997 panel.

The last Aodh Ruadh team to win the county final (1994) lined out:

Paul Kane; Donagh Keon, Eamonn O'Donnell, Ciarán Keon; Martin McGlynn, Gavin Bourke, Diarmuid Keon; Sylvester Maguire (capt.), and Charles O'Donnell; Brian Roper, Damien Conlon, Malachy Cullen; John Duffy, Donal Buggy, Val Murray. (Subs (used): Barry Ward, Shane McGee, Paul O'Loughlin.

The last St. Eunans team to win the county final (1983) lined out:

Noel McCole; Michael Houston, Anthony Gallagher, Paddy Tunney; Eunan McIntyre, Brendan Roche, Michael McGeehin; Damien Judge and Jim McLaughlin; Pdraig McDaid, Charlie Mulgrew, Jimmy Kennedy; Paul McGettigan, Paul McGeehin, Eugene Sharkey. Subs (used): Michael Mulhern and James Gallagher. Charlie Mulgrew is the only survivor.

• Diarmuid Keon and Sylvester Maguire played on Aodh Ruadh's winning 1986 and 1987 teams (as well as on the 1994 team) and are thus going for their fourth S.F.C. medal. Coincidentally both won 1992 Sigerson Cup medals with U.C.G.

• Pdraig McShea was one of the few to play for St. Joseph's in all seven successful county finals.

• 1986 was the last year that a South West Donegal team was not playing in the county final.

• John Hannigan played on the winning St. Eunans team in the county final of 1956, 1960, 1967, 1969 and 1972 (5). Is he the only one with five county senior medals (playing in final) with St. Eunans?

Best wishes to St. Eunans in the County Final from

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**KEEPING DONEGAL
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McEwen and O'Donnell seek appointment with Dr. Maguire

WHICHEVER TEAM wins today's Co. Championship title, we're going to have one of the youngest winning captains lifting the Dr. Maguire Cup in a long number of years.

At 22 and 24 years of age respectively, Sean McEwen and Charlie O'Donnell are certainly two of the youngest team captains to contest a Senior Championship Final and both would love nothing more than to lead their team to championship success.

By: Diarmaid Doherty

Donegal People's Press

Inter-county star, McEwen captains a side aiming to win their first Senior Co. Championship title since 1983. Having first lined out for St. Eunan's seniors as a 17 year old back in 1992, he has seen his team promise so much in recent years, but ultimately fail to deliver in the end.

"We have come close to reaching the final a few times. I think the games against Glen in 1995 and '96 were probably the most disappointing. We had done so well in the games leading up to those but each time, we just weren't able to take them", McEwen remarked.

"This year when we played Glen in the Quarter Final, we had to be at our best because in the back of our minds, we knew they had this hold over us in the Championship".

"In the end we won comfortably enough but it still took our best display so far this year to beat them".

McEwen took over as team captain from fellow half back, Mark Crossan this year although he hasn't been featuring quite as often in league games as he would wish.

After completing his studies at Queens in Belfast, Sean now works as a Civil Engineer in Clonmel - the 510 mile round trip to Letterkenny, making

visits home difficult to say the least.

"It is a bit awkward but I have been training hard with the local club and also with the Tipperary county team so I'm still in good enough shape".

"At this stage though, all the hard work has been done for the final as far as training goes at least. We now have to get into the right frame of mind and go out and do the business".

The name of Charlie O'Donnell has been appearing on Aodh Ruadh team lists for quite some time now. Despite being only 24, he could be classed as one of the more experienced players in the side.

Having made his senior debut in 1990, he is now in his seventh campaign and has already sampled championship success having played in the 1994 final.

"There are very few changes in the panel from that 1994 team. We beat Glen by a goal that day and the celebrations went on for days in Ballyshannon", he said.

"It was a great team to be part of and I suppose the experience that our side will have from that day will do us no harm on Sunday".

O'Donnell will line out at midfield alongside Barry Ward, a player who has been in excellent form this season.

"When you think that Barry was a sub in the 1994 final, it just shows how well he has progressed since then.

"Sylvie Maguire has been starting in the forward line but generally plays out as a third midfielder. That tactic has been working well for us and leaves more space in and around the forward line for the likes of John Duffy and Brian Roper".

Both O'Donnell and McEwen will play vital roles in their sides quest for victory today. The prize for the winning captain - an appointment with a certain Dr. Maguire!

Half Time Teaser

For boys and girls under 16 years

1. Who sponsors the Offaly senior football team
2. What club does Ronan Carolan play football for
3. How many County Football titles have Killybegs won in the 90s
4. Name the G.A.A. Park in Mullingar
5. In what county would you find the club Slabannon Parnells
6. Who captained Kerry to the All Ireland title in centenary year
7. What county does Brendan Cummins play football for
8. Who was the All Star Football full back in 1996
9. Who captained Wexford's hurling team this year
10. Who is the Galway football manager
11. Who are the sponsors of the County Football league division one
12. The 1996 Donegal Intermediate champions were
13. Who is acting secretary of the Ulster Council
14. What club does D.J. Carey play hurling for
15. Who won the man of the match award in the
Donegal v. Antrim championship match
16. When did Declan Bonner make his intercounty senior debut
17. Who was full forward in the 1992 All Star team
18. What milestone in Donegal football took place on
October 16, 1982
19. What colours do Carlow county team wear
20. Who is the manager of the County Ladies football team

Answers should be sent to John McConnell, Edergole, Ardara, no later than Friday 12th September. First correct entry to be picked out of the hat wins county football jersey. Answers will be printed in the local press.

Name

Address

.....Age.....

Maguire's passion rewarded

By Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat)

He could easily have been playing with Erne Gaels. Many of his neighbours in Clyhore did and still do.

Sylvester Maguire turned west however, and after his apprenticeship at Ballyshannon Vocational School, he has been part of the furniture at the Fr. Tierney Park in Ballyshannon for over two decades now.

In the house-seeking business for some time, Maguire has been encouraged to seek planning permission beside the stand at the park. He usually agrees saying: "I'm here most of the time, anyway".

Back in the late December 1989 when he suffered a broken leg, the recovery was taken up with managing the club minor team to a Donegal title, and after that the side went all the way to the Ulster Club final before losing out to Dungiven.

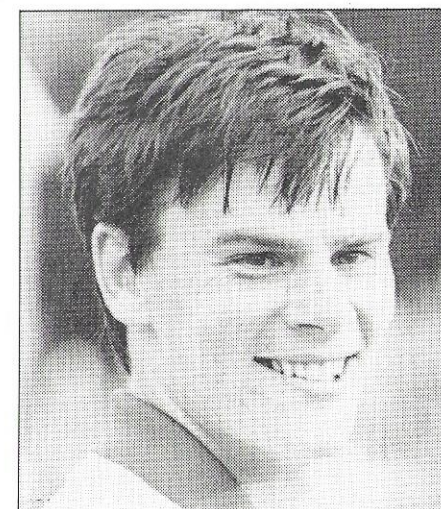
That passion for football has been Maguire's gift over his long service to Aodh Ruadh and Donegal and after disappointment in the last couple of years, he put his cards on the table at Christmas last when he sought the post of manager of the club.

The club members responded by giving him control of the club's fortunes and they have not been disappointed.

Along with another old boy, Brian Tuohy, Maguire told the members at the club AGM that he would be making the League his priority for 1997. "In the past Aodh Ruadh teams did not take the League seriously and they suffered because of that," said Sylvie.

Now sitting at the top of Division 1 in the League with just one defeat (their very first game away in Cloughaneely), Maguire has led his team to the final of the Senior Championship.

Before the league started, the club won the Shield final on Good Friday and since



that a fairly settled team structure has been achieved - an unusual occurrence with Aodh Ruadh over a full season. That has been one of the greatest achievements of Maguire and probably the best pointer to their success this year.

A great lover of referees, Sylvie has had his moments in attempting to guide them to the right decisions. He even donned the referee's uniform for a season when recovering from injury a few years back.

Sylvie has played in four county finals to date, winning three (1986, 87 and 94). His highpoint to date was captaining the side in 1994 but a victory today would be another milestone.

Looking back at an article in a Donegal v Leitrim NFL programme dated 24th November 1991, there was an article on the return of the Clyhore Cyclone to the Donegal colours and with it was a very youthful photo of Maguire. That was his return to the county jersey after breaking his leg; six years on, the youthful looks may have disappeared, but the passion to win remains.

He sums it up himself: 'Football to me is a passion . . . I suppose it's my life in a lot of ways. It's an addiction.'

Senior Championship 1997

FIRST ROUND:

Aodh Ruadh 2-8
Ardara 1-5

Ardara 0-11
Aodh Ruadh 4-8

Gweedore 3-12
Buncrana 3-7

Buncrana 1-3
Gweedore 2-16

Dungloe 3-23
Bundoran 0-9

Bundoran 1-7
Dungloe 0-20

N. Conaill 2-8
St. Nauls 0-11

St. Nauls 0-8
N. Conaill 0-12

MacCumhailis 3-6
St. Eunans 3-11

St. Eunans 1-14
MacCumhailis 1-8

Red Hughs 1-8
N. Columba 0-11

N. Columba 4-11
Red Hughs 1-8

Killybegs 1-12
Clochaneely 0-8

Clochaneely 0-7
Killybegs 0-12

Four Masters 1-9
Kilcar 1-7

Kilcar 0-12
Four Masters 0-6

Q-finals

Aodh Ruadh 0-10
Gweedore 1-7

Replay
Aodh Ruadh 1-13
Gweedore 0-6

N. Conaill 2-14
Dungloe 1-13

St. Eunans 1-11
N. Columba 1-4

Kilcar 3-11
Killybegs 1-16

Semi-Finals

Aodh Ruadh 1-17
N. Conaill 0-8

St. Eunans 2-13
Kilcar 1-11

Kilcar 0-10
Four Masters 0-9

The year to date

Aodh Ruadh: games played (L) = League; (C) = Championship; (S) = Shield.

- (S) Aodh Ruadh 1-13, Ardara 2-9.
- (L) Clochaneely 0-10, Aodh Ruadh 0-9.
- (L) Aodh Ruadh 4-16, MacCumhailis 4-6.
- (L) Kilcar 1-5, Aodh Ruadh 1-10.
- (L) Aodh Ruadh 1-8, St. Eunans 1-6.
- (L) St. Nauls 0-8, Aodh Ruadh 1-11.
- (L) Aodh Ruadh 5-12, Naomh Columba 2-3.
- (L) Naomh Conaill 3-9, Aodh Ruadh 4-11.
- (L) Aodh Ruadh 3-16, Killybegs 2-12.
- (L) Dungloe 0-8, Aodh Ruadh 2-7.
- (L) Aodh Ruadh 2-13, Four Masters 0-9.
- (L) Buncrana 1-10, Aodh Ruadh 2-15.
- (C) 1st round, 1st leg: Aodh Ruadh 2-8, Ardara 1-5.
- 1st round, 2nd leg: Ardara 0-11, Aodh Ruadh 4-8.
- Quarter final: Aodh Ruadh 0-10, Gweedore 1-7.
- Quarter final replay: Aodh Ruadh 1-13, Gweedore 0-6.
- Semi-final: Aodh Ruadh 1-17, Naomh Chonaill 0-8.

Games played 17. Won 15, Drawn 1, Lost 1.

Average score 2-11. Average conceded 1-8.

St. Eunans's year to date

- (L) St. Eunans 1-9, Killybegs 1-8.
- (L) Dungloe 2-13, St. Eunans 2-8.
- (L) St. Eunans 0-11, Ardara 1-4.
- (L) Aodh Ruadh 1-8, St. Eunans 1-6.
- (L) St. Eunans 2-9, Gweedore 1-7.
- (L) Bundoran 0-6, St. Eunans 4-11.
- (L) St. Eunans 6-10, Buncrana 2-3.
- (L) Four Masters 0-10, St. Eunans 1-14.
- (L) St. Eunans 0-7, Clochaneely 0-7.
- (L) MacCumhailis 0-10, St. Eunans 1-5.
- (L) St. Eunans 0-13, Naomh Columba 3-9.
- (C) 1st round, 1st leg: MacCumhailis 3-6, St. Eunans 3-11.
- 1st round, 2nd leg: St. Eunans 1-14, MacCumhailis 1-8.
- Quarter final: St. Eunans 1-11, Naomh Columba 1-4.
- Semi-final: St. Eunans 2-13, Kilcar 1-11.

Games played 15. Won 10, drawn 1, lost 4.

Average scored 2-9. Conceded 1-8.

County Board honours Champions of 1972 - St. Eunan's

By Michael McHugh (Donegal Democrat)

Today, it is the turn of the 1972 Senior County champions, St Eunan's to be honoured by the Donegal County Board.

The match report headline in the *Donegal Democrat* of that year read "St.Eunan's had what was needed to win", after they had beaten a highly fancied Clanna Gael team from Donegal Town in the final on a scoreline of 2-12 to 1-8 at MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey.

St Eunan's got off to a great start when they goaled in the opening minutes and were never behind in the sometimes very hard game.

There was little between the sides for twenty minutes until Paud McGowan snatched a second goal for the Letterkenny side to boost their confidence.

It was noted that the winners showed very considerable improvement over their semi-final showing at the same venue a week previously, as on their semi-final form Clanna Gael had been installed as favourites. On this occasion, however, they were never permitted to settle.

Both goalkeepers were safe but the winners Cathal Gallagher brought off some grand saves. Anthony Gallagher was their top man in a side that really got down to their work in style. John Hannigan at full back was outstanding as was Seamus Durkin at centre half who had a great battle with Hugh Travers, the key figure for Clann. The latter was their scorer in chief of all, but one point of the side's total.

Two points from Joe Winston and a Paud Mc Gowan point saw Letterkenny go into the interval with a 7 point advantage, 2-5 to 0-4.

The second half saw the Clann men fight hard to get back into the game,

but St. Eunan's stretched their lead to eight points. The Clann men fought hard to get back into contention after a brace of points they were duly rewarded with a Travers goal from a P.J. Flood pass.

18 minutes into the second half Seamus Bonner was fouled on a solo run and Travers again converted to leave just a goal between the sides and was set for a great closing ten minutes.

But it was men from the Cathedral Town that showed the greater urgency and points from Winston (2), Pat Conaghan and Anthony Gallagher increased their lead to 7 points again. That was the way it ended when referee D. Kelly from Greencastle blew for full time.

After the game, Donegal GAA Chairman Mr Tom Walsh, presented the cup to St Eunan's captain Joe Winston, congratulating the club on their very successful year and wishing Clanna Gael well on their American trip, saying he felt they would be a credit to the GAA on the tour.

St Eunan's: Cathal Gallagher; B. McFeely; John Hannigan; P. Gallagher; Pat Conaghan; Seamus Durkin, A. Delap; James Gallagher and Anthony Gallagher; L. Byrne; Paud McGowan; M. Crossan; Joe Winston; M. Sweeney; Dan O'Leary.

Subs: Sean Ferriter for Crossan; T. Kelly for P. Gallagher.

Clanna Gael: Donal Britton; C. Gallagher; Clement Coughlan; P. Woods; B. Needham; Donal Monaghan; B. Martin; Eddie Gallagher; Seamus Bonner; E. Mullen; Hugh Travers; E. Gorman; John Barry; P.J. Flood; Francis Monaghan.

Subs: T. Caldwell for Barry; S. McCormick for F. Monaghan.

Referee: D. Kelly.

Player Profile

Barry Gallagher

(Aodh Ruadh)

Date of Birth: 3rd April, 1970.

Height: 6' 2".

Weight: 15 stone.

Occupation: Carpenter.

Married/Single: Married.

Favourite Group/Singer: Charlie
Landsborough.

Favourite Film Star: Tom Cruise.

Favourite Position: Midfield.

Honours won: U-21 c'ship, minor
c'ship, u-16 c'ship, reserve
league.

Year made senior debut: 1988.

Toughest Opponent: Adrian Cush.

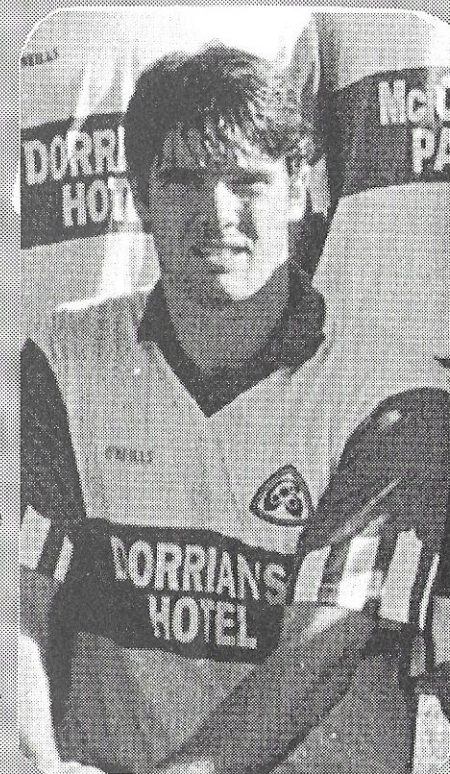
Favourite Ground: Towney.

Childhood Heroes: Bryan Robson,
Jack O'Shea.

Favourite other sports: Rugby.

Biggest Influence on Career: Josie
Boyle.

Most memorable game: v. Kilcar
championship 1992.



Ways of improving the game:

Enforce personal foul rule, pick
ball off the ground.

Dislikes about the GAA: Travelling
to away matches.

Hopes for the future: To win both
finals for Aodh Ruadh

**Best footballer in the game at the
moment:** Maurice Fitzgerald.

Aodh Ruadh

1

G. Mac Suibhne

(Gregory Sweeney)

2

B. Mac Rianail

(Bobby Reynolds)

3

K.O Riain

(Kerry Ryan)

4

C. O Laighleas

(Kevin Lawless)

5

M. O Baoill

(Mark Boyle)

6

B. O Baoill

(Brendan Boyle)

7

M. Mac Gorrain

(Michael Gurn)

8

B. O Gallachoir

(Barry Gallagher) capt.

9

M. O Gallachoir

(Martin Gallagher)

10

Duine Eile

(A. N. Other)

11

G. O Braonain

(Gary Brennan)

12

D. Mac Aonghusa

(Darren McGuinness)

13

S. Mac Giolla Easpaig

(John Gillespie)

14

D. O Sleibhin

(Dermot Slevin)

15

G. O Blaca

(Garrett Blake)

FIR IONAIÐ: 16, **G. Mac Ruairi** (Gavin Rogers); 17, **C. Mac Giolla Cearra** (Coleman Kerr); 18, **G. Mac Fearghais** (Gerard Ferguson); 19, **G. Mac Manais** (Gerry McManus); 20, **B. O Tuathaigh** (Brian Tuohy); 21, **P. O Roipear** (Paul Roper); 22, **S. O Dufaigh** (Joseph Duffy); 23, **B. O Neil** (Barry O'Neill); 24, **E. R. O Neil** (Owen Roe O'Neill).

Manager: Maurice McLaughlin; selectors, James Grimes and Diarmuid Drummond; trainer, Josie Boyle.

Naomh Columba

1

G. Mac a Ghoill

(Gerard McGill)

2

B. Mac Fhionnlaoigh

(Brian McGinley)

3

C. Mac Fhionnghaile

(Kevin McGinley)

4

C. O Gadhra

(Ciaran O Gara)

5

A. Mac Cuinneagain

(Hugh Cunningham)

6

E. O Dochartaigh

(Eugene Doherty)

7

B. O Dochartaigh

(Eoin Doherty)

8

C. O Cuinnea

(Ciaran O Cuinnea)

9

C. Mac Daibhid

(Ciaran McDevitt)

10

G. O Neill

(Gabriel O'Neill)

11

E. Mac Giolla Easbuig

(Enda Gillespie)

12

P. O Domhnaill

(Paul O'Donnell)

13

M. Mac Giolla Easbuig

(Martin Gillespie)

14

S. O Ceallaigh

(John Kelly)

15

D. Mac Cuinneagain

(Danny Cunningham)

FIR IONAIÐ: 16, **M. Mac Niallais**; 17 **D. Mac Giolla Easbuig**; 18 **D. Mac Fhionnlaoigh**; 19 **P. O hArdaigh**; 20 **M. O Beirn**; 21 **S. O Baoill**; 22 **Lucas O hEigeartaigh**; 23 **P O Curraighin**; 24 **R. O Dochartaigh**; 25 **C. Mac Cuinneagain**; 26 **M. O Cuinneagain**; 27 **D. Mac Giolla Cearra**; 28 **T. O Cuinnea**.

Manager: Micheal Mac Niallais.

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— ó —

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Fear a' Tí: P.J. McGinley

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Teileafón: 073-39023.

Experimental changes a positive sign

By Keith Duggan (Donegal Democrat)

One of the more curious aspects of Gaelic football is that when it is played well, it can match any field sport in the world but when it is played badly, it can reduce spectators to dreaming wistfully of an exciting, fast moving game of scrabble.

In attempting to initiate rule changes which could consistently improve the quality of the game, the G.A.A. have concentrated on the elimination of the hauling and dragging which account for over 80% of all frees awarded, emphasised the primacy of the catch and kick and are seeking to address the rise in so called 'off-the-ball incidents'.

Therefore, a number of fairly radical alterations will be introduced in the forthcoming provincial competitions such as the McKenna Cup.

The most relevant of these deals with fouling; the new rule states that any push, pull or holding of an opponent will lead to a caution or a booking.

Persistent fouling is the main scourge of Gaelic football; it is possibly the only sport in the world which allows a team to profit through negativity. But is a caution enough? Surely the only way to prevent a player from fouling is to limit him to a certain number of fouls per game. Why not have a player walk after, say, four personal fouls, to be replaced by a substitute of the manager's choice? Then, the player would be forced to use fouling as a last resort as opposed to a first option. It would simply require the implementation of simple administration on behalf of the referee at football matches.

The new rules also intend to restrict players to one toe-tap and one bounce over the course of a solo run and a direct catch from a kickout will be awarded with the option of a mark.

The former experiment seems dubious; observe, say, Brian Roper or

Mark Crossan torching 40 metres on a run today and then try and argue that it is a negative aspect of the game.

Also, if a good finisher finds space enough to run at goal, why pass? Limiting a player's options can only restrict the flow if the game.

The mark might also serve to break the games spontaneity but it will reward one of the games more spectacular elements, the high fetch and is certainly worth a trial.

Permitting players to lift the ball off the ground is a definite improvement; toe-lifting is just slow and cumbersome and not much of a skill. It should certainly help enhance the game's pace.

The other notable change concerns the introduction of two officials. The game needs to officials. If the G.A.A. have difficulty in securing referees, it is because they have such a thankless task. They are patrolling a fairly vast arena; allowing one official to follow ball-play and the other to observe general play would go a long way to eliminating off-the-ball stuff. Also, the G.A.A. could draft a clearly defined role for linesmen and should punish any verbal dissent from players more severely. Too often, so-called stars attempt to influence officials by virtue of their vitriol.

The one thing the changes seem to ignore is the tackle. Does anyone know what actually constitutes a tackle in Gaelic football? When does a tackle become a drag or a hold? The G.A.A. need to clearly define the tackle in dealing with hauling and dragging.

But in general, these proposals represent an encouraging sign that the G.A.A. are now willing to try and eradicate the problems which have ruined too many potentially good games. Perhaps the golden games shown on TnaG in thirty years time will resemble today's games in skill, pace and scores only.

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Aodh Ruadh Pen Pics

Sylvester Maguire: Midfield/Forward, age 33, height 6', weight 13st. Honours, All-Ireland S.F.C., Ulster S.F.C., All-Ireland U-21 C'ship, Ulster U-21 C'ship, Sigerson Cup, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship, Ogsport, U-12 C'ship.

Damien Conlon: Forward, age 27, height 5'11", weight 12st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship, Co. Minor '88, Co. U-21 '91, Intermediate and Junior Hurling C'ship.

Paul Kane: Goalkeeper, age 25, height 5'10", weight 14st. Honours, Senior C'ship, Senior Res. C'ship, Senior Reserve League, Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship. All Divisional medals.

Donagh Keon: Corner Back, age 28, height 5'11", weight 12.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor League. All Division medals, Co. Minor '87.

Paul O'Loughlin: Full Back, age 32, height 6', weight 12.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, Senior Shield, Fermanagh underage medals.

Patrick McGrath: Corner Back, age 20, height 5'11", weight 12st, Honours, Reserve League, U-16 C'ship, Ulster Minor Club C'ship, Minor C'ship, Co. Minor 1995. All Divisional medals.

Martin McGlynn: Half Back, age 27, height 5'11", weight 12st. Honours, Senior C'ship, Senior Shield, Hogan Cup with St. Mel's, Longford '87.

Ciaran Keon: Half Back, age 26, height 5'10", weight 13st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship, Co. Minor '88, Co. U-21 '91.

Anthony McGrath: Half Back, age 23, height 5'11", weight 12st. Honours, Senior C'ship, Ulster Minor and U-21 C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, Ulster Minor Club C'ship. All Divisional medals.

Charlie O'Donnell: Midfield, (Capt.), age 24, height 6'2", weight 13.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, former Co. Minor '90, Co. U-21 '93. All Divisional medals.

Barry Ward: Midfield, age 22, height 6'1", weight 13.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, Ulster Minor Club C'ship, Ulster U-21 C'ship. All Divisional medals.

John Duffy: Forward, age 27, height 6', weight 12st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship. All

Divisional medals. Played U-16, Minor, U-21 and Senior for Donegal.

Brian Roper: Half Forward, age 23, height 5'7", weight 11.5st. Honour, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, Ulster Minor Club C'ship, Ulster U-21 C'ship, Herald Cup, current Co. Senior player.

Michael Ward: Forward, age 20, height 5'11", weight 12st. Honours: U-16 C'ship, All-Ireland Community Games, Reserve League, Ogsport. All Divisional medals.

Val Murray: Corner Forward, age 29, height 6', weight 12.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor League. Played Co. Minor and Co. U-21.

Donal Buggy: Half Forward/Midfield, age 23, height 6'2". Honours, Senior C'ship, Reserve C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, Ulster Minor Club C'ship, Ulster U-21 C'ship, Ulster Minor C'ship.

David Greene: Goalkeeper, age 19, height 6'1", weight 13st. Honours, All-Ireland Vocational Schools, Ulster Vocational Schools, Ulster Minor League and C'ship, U-16 C'ship, Reserve League, All-Ireland Community Games, current Co. U-21 'keeper.

Gavin Bourke: Half Back, age 24, height 5'11", weight 12.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, played Co. Minor '90 and U-21 '93.

Stephen Ward: Midfield, age 19, height 6'2", weight 13st. Honours, McLarnon Cup, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship. All-Ireland Community Games, Ulster Minor C'ship.

Malachy Cullen: Half Forward, age 30, height 5'9", weight 11.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, Senior Shield, U-21 C'ship. All Divisional medals.

Diarmaid Keon: Half Back, age 29, height 5'10", weight 13st. Honours, All-Ireland U-21 C'ship, Ulster U-21 C'ship, Ulster Minor League and C'ship, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor League.

Eunan Doyle: Corner Forward, age 33, height 5'9", weight 12.5st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, All-Ireland Colleges D.L.S. Played Co. Minor and U-21.

Eamonn O'Donnell: Full Back, age 23, height 6'2", weight 12st. Honours, Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, Ulster Minor Club C'ship, Herald Cup, Ulster U-21 C'ship.

Aodh Ruadh

1 P. O Cathain (Paul Kane)		
2 D. Mac Eoin (Donagh Keon)	3 P. Mac Lochlainn (Paul O'Loughlin)	4 P. Mac Craith (Patrick McGrath)
5 M. Mac Ghloinn (Martin McGlynn)	6 C. Mac Eoin (Ciaran Keon)	7 G. De Burca (Gavin Bourke)
8 C. O Domhnaill (Charlie O'Donnell) capt.		9 B. Mac a Bhaird (Barry Ward)
10 A. Mac Craith (Anthony McGrath)	11 S. O Dufaigh (John Duffy)	12 D. O Conluain (Damien Conlon)
13 V. O Muiri (Val Murray)	14 S. Mac Uidhir (Sylvester Maguire)	15 B. O Roipear (Brian Roper)

FIR IONAIÐ: 16, **D. O Bogaigh** (Donal Buggy); 17, **D. Mac Eoin** (Diarmaid Keon); 18, **S. Mac a Bhaird** (Stephen Ward); 19, **M. Mac a Bhaird** (Michael Ward); 20, **M. O Cuilinn** (Malachy Cullen); 21, **E. O Dughail** (Eunan Doyle); 22, **B. O Tuathaigh** (Brian Tuohy); 23, **M. O Gallachoir** (Martin Gallagher); 24, **D. Glas** (David Greene).

Naomh Adhamhnan

1 B. O Gallchoir (Bosco Gallagher)		
2 B. Mac Diarmada (Brian McDermott)	3 M. Mac Gaothain (Maurice McGeehin)	4 P. Mac Gaothain (Peter McGeehin)
5 M. O Crosain (Mark Crossan)	6 S. Mac Scannlain (Jonathan Scanlon)	7 S. Mac Eoghain (Sean McEwen) capt.
8 P. O Duda (Paul O'Dowd)		9 S. O hEarain (John Haran)
10 B. Mac Giolla Chaoín (Brendan Kilcoyne)	11 C. O Maolchraoibhe (Charlie Mulgrew)	12 D. O Dalaigh (Damien Daly)
13 B. Mac Gaothain (Brian McGeehin)	14 L. Mac Eiteagain (Leslie McGettigan)	15 B. O Duibheannaigh (Brendan Devenney)

FIR IONAIÐ: 16, **E. Mac an tSaoir** (Eunan McIntyre); 17, **U. Mac Ghloinn** (Vincent McGlynn); 18, **D. O Domhnaill** (Declan O'Donnell); 19, **A. Mac Laifeartaigh** (Adrian McClafferty); 20, **E. O hEarain** (Eamon Haran); 21, **O. Mac Meanmain** (Eugene McMenamin); 22, **C. Mac Bhinstain** (Kevin Winston); 24, **D. Mac Fhionnghaile** (David McGinley).

St. Eunans Pen Pics

Paoric McDaid: Chartered Engineer. Age 34, height 6', weight 14st. Honours: '83 Senior Championship, All County League '86, Junior C'ship '80, Minor and U-21 C'ship, Colleges '79 All-Ireland.

John Anderson: Student. Age 21, height 6'5", weight 15st. Honours: 2 U-14, U-16, U-18 Championships.

Anjo Duffy: Civil Servant. Age 26, height 6', weight 13st. Honours: U-12, U-14, U-16, U-21 Championships; 1 Reserve C'ship.

Vincent McGlynn: Lab. Technician. Age 37, height 6'5", weight 14st. Honours: U-21 C'ship.

David McGinley: Student. Age 19, height 6'2", weight 13st. Honours: U-14, U-16, 2 U-18 Championships, 1 All-Ireland Minor League, 1 Ulster Minor C'ship.

Leslie McGettigan: Bar Manager. Age 31, height 6', weight 13st. Honours: U-18, U-21 C'ship.

Jonathan Scanlon: Student. Age 21, height 6', weight 12st. Honours: 2 Minor C'ship, County U-21 '97.

John Haran: Bank Official. Age 21, height 6'4", weight, 13st. Honours: U-14, U-16, 2 U-18 C'ship, 1 Hogan Cup '94, Connacht Junior C'ship '93, Connacht Senior Hurling C'ship 'B' '94.

Paul O'Dowd: Student. Age 22, height 6'1", weight 13st. Honours: 1 U-16 C'ship, 1 O-18 C'ship.

Barry Tinney: Mechanic. Age 27, height 5'10", weight 13st. Honours: County Minor and U-21 Captain, U-14, 2 U-18, U-21 Championships.

Mark Crossan: IFA Devt. Officer. Age 27, height 6', weight 12st. Honours: 1 All-Ireland Senior C'ship, 1 U-21 C'ship, 1 Ulster Senior C'ship.

Sean McEwen: Chemical Engineer. Age 22, height 5'8", weight 13st. Honours: U-14, U-16, U-18 C'ships, Ulster U-21 C'ship.

Brian McGeehin: Engineer. Age 33, height 5'10", weight 13st. Honours: None.

Brendan Kilcoyne: Bank Official. Age 27, height 6'1", weight 12st. Honours: 2 County C'ships (Sligo), 4

League C'ships (Sligo).

Charles Mulgrew: Sales Manager Donegal Oil Co. Age 36, height 5'11", weight 13st. Honours: Senior All-Ireland C'ship '92, Senior County C'ship '72, 3 U-14, U-16, 2 U-18, 1 U-21 C'ships, 3 Ulster C'ships, McKenna Cup medal.

Eugene McMenamin: ESB Worker. Age 30, height 6'1", weight 13st. Honours: Minor C'ship, Minor League, All-Ireland Vocational Schools C'ship, Junior Club C'ship, McKenna Cup medal.

Damien Gerard Daly: Student. Age 21, height 5'4", weight 11st. Honours: 1 U-14, 2 U-18 C'ships.

Brendan Devenney: Sales Marketing Trainee. Age 22, height 6', weight 12st. Honours: 1 U-18, 1 4th Div. C'ship.

Johnny McGinley: Biotechnologist. Age 21, height 6'3", weight 13st. Honours: 1 U-14, 2 U-18, 1 Sheephaven Sevens C'ship.

Kevin Winston: Student. Age 20, height 5'11", weight 13st. Honours: 3 U-18, 1 U-14, 1 U-16, County Minor '94-'96, 1 Hogan Cup medal.

Shane O'Donnell: Student. Age 19, height 6', weight 13st. Honours: U-12, U-14, U-16, 2 U-18 C'ships, 1 Ulster Minor medal, 1 All-Ireland Minor League medal.

Declan O'Donnell: Network Administrator. Age 27, height 6'1", weight 14st. Honours: 2 U-14, U-21 C'ships, 1 Loch an Uair, 1 Senior League Medal '86, Donegal Minor '86-'88, U-21 '89-'91.

Adrian McClafferty: Student. Age 19, height 5'10", weight 13st. Honours: U-16, 2 U-18, 1 Ulster U-18 C'ship, 1 League medal.

Paul McGovern: Factory Worker. Age 28, height 5'11", weight 12st. Honours: U-13, U-14, U-21 C'ships, 1 Junior Reserve C'ship, U-15/2 Loch an Uair.

Eamon Haran: Student. Age 22, height 6', weight 14st. Honours: 1 Ted Webb '92, 1 Fresher All-Ireland, 2 Minor C'ships.

Defences hold the key

When St. Eunan's last appeared in and won the final of the senior championship in 1983, few could have thought that 14 years would elapse before they would find themselves in the decider.

By Ciaran O'Donnell

While they have threatened to deliver on more than occasion since, and have been successful and various underage levels, reaching this stage of the senior competition is an entirely new experience for all but a few of the Letterkenny side.

Aodh Ruadh, who were captained to their last senior crown three years ago by Sylvester Maguire, are now managed by the same player. The experience they have gained from having played and won a final not that long ago will give them an edge over St. Eunan's today.

St. Eunan's showings thus far in the competition, like those of Aodh Ruadh, have been somewhat indifferent.

After blowing hot and cold in both games against MacCumahills. St. Eunan's, to their credit, really turned it on against Naomh Columba in the quarter final. And when it appeared that things were going too much against them against Kilcar, they turned the tie back in their favour with two goals in the space of a minute. While far from impressive, it was very much a case of mission accomplished.

After seeing off Ardara in the first round, Aodh Ruadh didn't legislate for the challenge Gweedore would put up. Indeed, it looked like they were about to cause the upset of the season when they held a commanding lead over the Ballyshannon outfit. But they hung on, drew level, held their breath as Gweedore struck an upright with a last minute free before ensuring a replay.

Not for the first time this season, the boat had been missed by the team who came so close to disposing of the odds-on favourites, and Aodh Ruadh marched on at the second time of asking.

The semi-final encounter a fortnight ago with Glenties was as disappointing as it was one-sided, so it is safe to suggest that Aodh Ruadh will have been none the wiser from their last outing.

Both of today's finalists are evenly

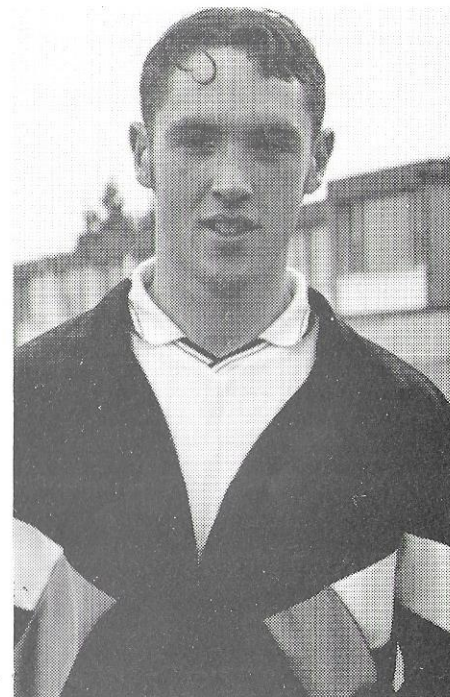
balanced - tight marking full back lines, attacking full back lines, strong midfield departments, creative half forward lines and free scoring full forward lines.

While Aodh Ruadh might have slightly more to offer with their midfield make-up, and the experience of their last senior success such an important advantage, St. Eunan's, overall, appear to hold the aces in terms of class.

Yet the difference between the sides could well come down to goals. Brendan Devenney, with 4-14 to his credit - an average of almost 1-4 a game, has that killer instinct in one-on-one situations. Aided and abetted by Charlie Mulgrew and Leslie McGettigan, he has made the meaneast of defences look vulnerable.

Aodh Ruadh have a similar match winner in Brian Roper, who benefits from the creativity of Val Murray and John Duffy.

Defences, therefore, to hold the key, with St. Eunan's to claim their ninth title after an evenly balanced contest with perhaps the just the minimum to spare.



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G.C.K. Glass Engraving, Gleann Cholm Cille.
Roses Butcher, An Charraig agus Cill Chartha.
Josie McLoughlin, Plumbing and Heating Contractor.
Francis J. Curran agus a Mhic, Conraitheoirí Tógála, An Charraig.
An Clachan (Folk Village), Gleann Cholm Cille.
Conal Éamonn, Seirbhís Bus, Gleann Mhálainne.
Joe Haughey, Bus Hire, Teileann.
Siopa Ó Gadhra, An Caiseal.
Cnriotáil Rossan Teo., An Mhálainn Mhóir.
Donegal Bay Knitwear, Ballymoon, Cill Chartha.
Seamus McLoughlin's Garage, An Charraig.
Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuig, Accountant and Tax Consultant.
Josie Boyle, Monaghan Milk, Cill Chartha.
Údarás na Gaeltachta.
Blue Haven, Largy, Cill Chartha.
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Doc's Bar, An Charraig.
David Enright, Building Contractor, An Charraig.
Andy's Bus Service, Mín an Aoire.
McGeehan Coaches.
Ulster Bank, Na Cealla Beaga.
Glencolmcille Launderette.
Siopa Mháire agus Mhartín Uí Fhatharta, An Caiseal.
Leonard Byrne & Sons, An Caiseal.
Frankie Craig, An Mhálainn Bhig.
Abbey Hotel, Dún na nGall.
Charlie's Star Bar, Dhún na nGall.
J. Quinn, Supermarket, an Charraig.
McGroarty's Bar, Dhún na nGall.
Boyle Bike Co., An Charraig.

Craobh '97

An tAth. Seán O Gallchoir

Bhris Craobh '97 forlámhas an Iar-Dheiscirt. Is deacair a rá cad é chomh buan is a bhéas an briseadh sin. Ach is dóiche go bhfuil deireadh le réimeas fhoireann mhór na gCeall agus nach bhfuil Craobh i ndán d'fhoireann chumasach Naomh Columba a buaileadh sna cluichí ceannais i 1992, 1994, 1995 agus 1996.

Ní raibh iontaisí móra ar bith sa chéad bhabhta i 1997. Bhí buaidheanna gan dua ag Gaoth Dobhair (v Bun Cranncha) agus ag an Chlochán Liath (v Bun Dobhráin). Bhí Naomh Conall ró-láidir ag Aodh Ruadh, Cúil na gCuirdín, cé go bhfuair siad scanradh ag an Chrois. Mheas go leor go rachadh na coimhlíní idir Aodh Ruadh, B.A.S. agus Ard a'Rátha; Seán MacCumhaill agus Naomh Adhamhnán; agus Na Cealla Beaga in éadan Chloich Cheannfhaola go dtí an tríú cluiche. Ach ní hamhlaidh a bhí, chuaigh Aodh Ruadh, Naomh Adhamhnán agus Na Cealla Beaga chun tosaigh gan athimirt. Bhí an tríú cluiche riachtanach idir Cill Chartha agus Na Ceithre Máistrí sula raibh an lá le cuid fear Bhaile an Droichid.

IONTAISÍ

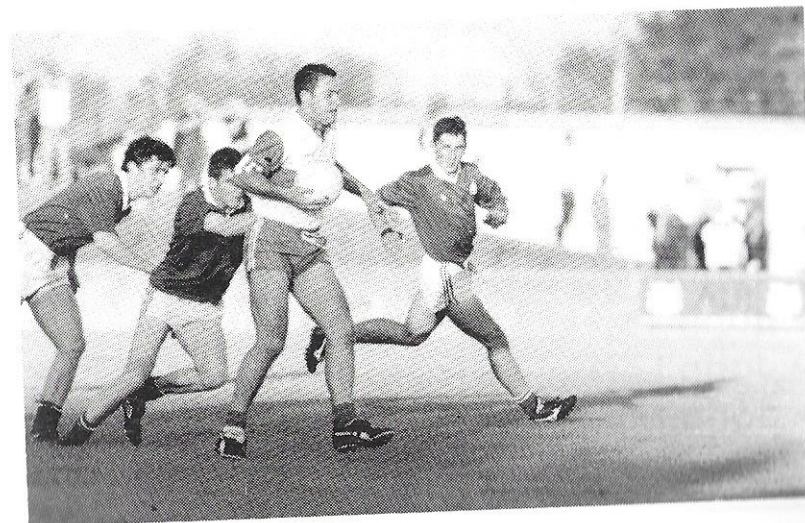
Muna raibh iontaisí ar bith sa chéad

bhabhta bhí iontaisí go leor sa dara bhabhta. B'ábhar iontais gach ceann dena ceithre torthaí. Mhuscail fathach an Iarthair, Gaoth Dobhair, agus ní raibh eatarthu fhéin agus an bhuaidh in éadan Aodh Ruadh ach cupla orlach de adhmaid pulla. Ach bhuaidh Aodh Ruadh an athimirt go cuimsitheach. Ní raibh dúil ag aonduine le buaidh Naomh Conaill (faoi cheannas Shéamuis Mhic Aonghusa) ar an Chlochán Liath. Ná le buaidh Chill Chartha ar na Cealla. Agus is beag a shíl go mbuailfeadh ógánaigh Leitir Ceanainn foireann Ghlinne.

Measadh go mbuaidhfeadh Aodh Ruadh agus Naomh Adhamhnán na cluichí leath-cheannais. Tháinig an tuar faoin tarngaireacht. Bhí Aodh Ruadh i bhfad ró-láidir ag Naomh Conall. Thug Cill Chartha scanradh mór do Naomh Adhamhnán go dtí gur scrios dhá bhuille mhóra iad. Bhí gearán Chill Chartha fá Leslie Mac Eiteagáin ina ábhar cainte muna raibh sé ina ábhar agóide.

Tá beirt de mhór-bhailte agus de mhór-fhoirne thraidisiúnta an chontae sa cluiche ceannais agus an chuma an sceal gur chois airne a bhéas na tinte chnamh.

Action from the semi-final



AODH RUADH

Thanks to the following who sponsored the club during the season

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- ❖ Joe O'Neill, Auctioneers.
- ❖ Owen Roe O'Neill
- ❖ John Kent Sport, Sligo.
- ❖ John Travers
- ❖ John Larkin
- ❖ John Magee, Royal Liver Insurance.

Player Profile

Paul O'Loughlin

(Aodh Ruadh)

Date of Birth: 12th Jan., 1965

Height: 6 ft.

Weight: 12 and a half stone.

Occupation: Mechanic.

Married/Single: Single

Favourite Group/Singer: Oasis /
U2.

Favourite Film Star: Humphrey
Bogart.

Favourite Position: Full Forward.

Honours won: Senior Champion-
ship, Senior Shield.

Year made senior debut: 1992.

Toughest Opponent: Sean Gavigan.

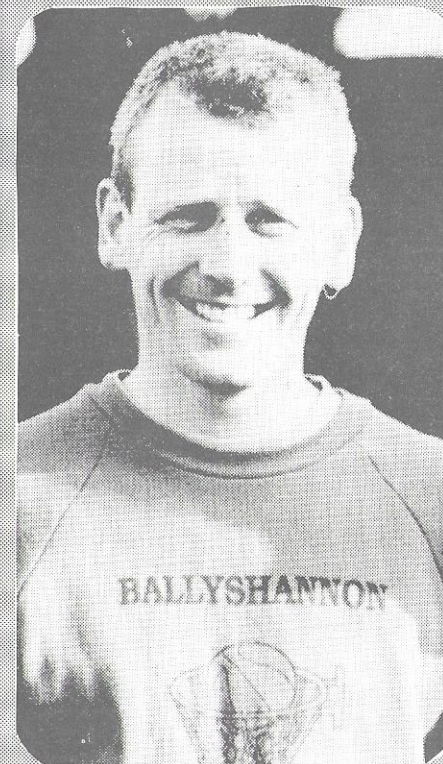
Favourite Ground: Irvinestown.

Childhood Heroes: Sylvester
Maguire / Jack O'Shea.

Favourite other sports: Basketball,
Cricket.

Biggest Influence on Career:
Sylvester Maguire.

Most memorable game: Ulster Club
v. Bellaghey.



Ways of improving the game: Pick
the ball off the ground.

Dislikes about the GAA: The club
treasurer.

Hopes for the future: To win the
final.

*Best footballer in the game at the
moment:* Maurice Fitzgerald.

Fifty Years Ago – Gaoth Dobhair's four-in-a-row

Seán O Gallchóir

St. Eunan's appearance in the 1997 County Final is a reminder that the Cathedral town also contested the final fifty years ago. Their opponents on that occasion were Gaoth Dobhair who were going for the first-ever four-in-a-row in the Donegal Senior Football Championship. The two teams had met in the 1944 final with the Gaeltacht men winning by 4-10 to 3-4. Gaoth Dobhair retained the title in the epic replay of 1945 against Ballyshannon (4-5 to 1-6). 1946 saw another Gaoth Dobhair versus St. Eunan's final. It was played in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny and Gaoth Dobhair won by the narrowest of margins 0-7 to 0-6. The 1946 final was the first of four successive County finals between St. Eunan's and Gaoth Dobhair.

The 1947 final was the only County Senior Football Championship final ever played in Magheragallon. Gweedore had come out of a tough Western Division eclipsing Dungloe and St. Crone's before beating Ballyshannon by 3-4 to 1-4 in Glenties in the County semi-final. St. Eunan's, on the other hand, hadn't a single game to play before the final. They had no senior opposition in the East and were awarded the semi-final because the South-West Division, where the competition was unfinished, did not nominate a team to meet them.

PEN PICTURES

The "Derry People" preview of the 1947 final included short pen pictures of the protagonists with the Gweedore contributions particularly witty:

Eddie Gillespie, Blacksmith, Handles horses. Should be able to handle men.

Hugh Boyle, The Achilles of the team. Always smiling, but does sheet lightning smile?

Jackie Gallagher, Paddy Og's grandson. Bottles stout for his grandfather, but bottled Joe Keohane once in his day.

John Doogan, Jackie's cousin. Will play anywhere on the field. That net won't be

safe if he's too near.

Paddy Diver, Scholastically silent. Believes in action rather than words.

Jim McFadden, A gentleman every inch. But, boys, did you ever hear of "Gentleman Jim"/ Stylist.

Anthony Rodgers. Wiry athletic forward. Always answers Gweedore's call.

Patrick Joe Gallagher. In hectic heat he can keep cool. Never yet slipped when Gweedore's honour was at stake.

Hudy Gallagher (Hudie Beag). Need we speak here? Won't hang his boots until he sees who is going to fill them.

Connie McBride (Connie Mór). Will reach you the moon if you want it. Can we give him higher praise?

Séamus Kearney. Ah! Their captain. He loves Gweedore. Gweedore loves him.

Patrick McGee. Gweedore selectors are always observant. Here they were again right.

Dannie Gillespie. Would give you the shirt off his back, but don't ask him for that green and white jersey until the game is over.

Hugh Gallagher. Son of Michael Gallagher. Pet name Tood. Some pet in centre-field!

Willie Gallagher. Brother of Tood. Even Tood cannot hold him.

Michael Jas. Gallagher. Giner-haired brother of Tood and Willie. Still in his teens. First of first through his habit of splitting seconds.

Owenie Boyle. Hard-working and neither ashamed nor afraid of it. Did the work of three in Gweedore's victory last year.

Don Coll. Full-blooded Gweedore man. Strong believer in practice. Gweedore wants more of his calibre.

Barney Coyle. If he follows his father he will "double hills" on the whole lot.

LETTERKENNY

On the youthful St. Eunan's side will be: J. McGlynn. Played minor, junior and senior for the county as well as for his club.

Tommy Curran, Seán Curran, Mick

Curran, Denis Curran. A feature of the Letterkenny team is the appearance of the four brothers Curran, who carry on the tradition of a well-known football family. Denis, Sean and Michael have already appeared for their county.

Kevin Fox. recently transferred from Donegal Town with whom he played in both Senior and Junior Championships in recent years.

Eamonn McMenamin. Well-known former Erin's Hope player. He figured on the county minor team in the Ulster championship.

Con Halpin. Starred as a county minor full-back in this year's Ulster championship.

Colm Halpin. His brother, is a clerical student at Dalgan Park. A brilliant midfield player.

Hugh McGovern. Is, with J. McGlynn, one of St. Eunan's veterans. He has played useful football for both club and county over a number of years.

Joe Doyle. The captain of the Letterkenny side. A former inter-county and inter-provincial star, Joe is still a useful and brainy forward.

Charlie and Eddie Boyle. Another instance of the "brotherly" composition of St. Eunan's. Two handy and useful forwards who have been regular members of St. Eunan's team.

Michael Blake. St. Eunan's brilliant full-forward. He has considerable club and inter-county experience.

Paddy McGeehin. Has played with the senior team for the last four years.

Peadar McGeehin. Outstanding minor of last year who came on as a substitute in the county final and played brilliantly.

Sean O'Donnell. Another county minor who on his two appearances for the county this year acquitted himself with honour.

John Crumlish. Still another promoted from minor ranks.

Pearse Dawson. One of the stars of the '46 minor inter-county team. He has also appeared on the junior county selection.

THE MATCH

The final was played on Sunday August 24th, 1947, in ideal conditions. The large crowd paid gate receipts of £102. The newly-formed Gweedore A.O.H. Band led the teams around the field. Very Rev. Canon John McGroarty P.P. threw in the

ball. The game was scrappy and mediocre. Tood Gallagher and Michael Gurrin exchanged early points. Jim McFadden pointed for Gweedore before Michael Blake missed a Letterkenny penalty. Micky Rua and brother Willie added Gweedore points before Willie made it 0-5 to 0-1. Tood Gallagher then got Gweedore's goal to leave them 1-5 to 0-1 ahead at the interval.

In the second half Jim McFadden (2), Willie Gallagher and Hiúdaí Beag added Gweedore points while McGeehin and Blake replied with two points for St. Eunan's, leaving Gweedore 1-9 to 0-3 winners.

The teams were: GAOTH DOBHAIR: Eddie Gillespie; Hughie Tim Boyle, Jackie Gallagher, John Doogan; Connie Mór McBride, Séamus Kearney (Capt.), Paddy Diver; Tood Gallagher and Danny Gillespie; Antoin Rodgers, Jim McFadden, Willie Gallagher; Michael J. Gallagher, Don Coll, Hiúdaí Beag Gallagher.

ST. EUNANS: Eamon McMenamin; Tommy Curran, Jim McGlynn, Kevin Fox; Pearse Dawson, Seán Curran, Peadar McGeehin; Charlie Boyle and Denis Curran; Paddy McGeehin, Colm Halpin, Joe Doyle; Eddie Boyle, Michael Blake, Michael Curran. Sub: Con Halpin for Fox.

Referee: Charlies Boyle, County Treasurer.

Of the Gaoth Dobhair team of 1947 Hughie Tim Boyle, John Doogan, Connie Mór McBride, Antoin Rodgers, Willie Gallagher, Michael J. Gallagher and sub Patrick J. Gallagher are still alive and well. Of the St. Eunan's team Joe Doyle, Paddy McGeehin, Tommy Curran and Michael Blake have gone to their eternal reward.

4-IN-A-ROW

The Gaoth Dobhair team of 1944-'47 is one of only two teams to win four County Senior Football Championships in-a-row. St. Joseph's accomplished the same feat in 1973-'76. five Gaoth Dobhair players played in the four successful County finals – Jackie Gallagher, Hiúdaí Beag Gallagher, Séamus Kearney, Danny Gillespie and Paddy Diver.

St. Eunan's avenged the 1947 by beating Gaoth Dobhair in the 1948 final but Gaoth Dobhair reestablished their supremacy by beating St. Eunan's in the 1949 final.

Player Profile

Jonathan Scanlon

(St. Eunan's)

Date of Birth: 5th June, 1976.

Height: 6 ft.

Weight: 11 and a half stone.

Occupation: Student.

Married/Single: Single

Favourite Group/Singer: U2.

Favourite Position: Wing Half back

Honours won: Two U-16 club titles;
two Minor club titles; 1 Ulster
Minor runner-up medal.

Year made senior debut: 1994.

Toughest Opponent: Jason Reilly
(Cavan).

Favourite Ground: Croke Park.

Childhood Heroes: Jack O'Shea.

Favourite other sports: Soccer,
relaxing at the pool.

Biggest Influence on Career:
Brendan Roache/Raymond
Blake.

Most memorable game: Playing
against Cavan for the Co. U-21s
this year.

Ways of improving the game:
Turning it into semi-pro and
more youth coaching.



Dislikes about the GAA: Over the
top turnstile prices for an
'amateur game'. Not enough
referee consistency.

Hopes for the future: Win a club
county championship and maybe
represent the county at senior
level.

*Best footballer in the game at the
moment:* Trevor Giles.

Aodh Ruadh Reserve Pen Pics

Dermot Slevin: Full Forward, age 33, height 5'11", weight 14st. Honours, Senior Championship, U-21 Championship, Minor Championship, U-16 Championship, U-12 Championship, Ulster Minor League, Senior Shield.

Gary Brennan: Half Forward, age 23, height 5'10", weight 12st. Honours, Senior Championship, U-21 Championship, Minor Championship, Ulster Minor Club, Reserve League. Played County U-21 1994.

Martin Gallagher: Full Back, age 18, height 6', weight 13st. Honours, McLarnon Cup, Ulster Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, Reserve League, Ogsport, Ulster Ogsport 7-a-side.

Kerry Ryan: Half Back, age 21, height 6'2", weight 12st. Honours, Reserve League, U-12 C'ship, Intermediate at Junior Hurling C'ship, Co. U-21 Hurler, Reserve Player of the Year 1996.

Gregory Sweeney: Goalkeeper, age 19, height 5'10", weight 13st. Honours, Reserve League, U-16 C'ship. All Divisional medals.

Gerard Ferguson: Corner Back, age 19, height 5'10", weight 11.5st. Honours, Reserve League, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, McLarnon Cup with D.L.S.

Kevin Lawless: Corner Back, age 18, height 5'10", weight 11st. Honours: U-16 C'ship, U-15 Ogsport, Co. Minor 1997. All Divisional medals.

Mark Boyle: Half Back, age 18, height 5'10", weight 11.5st. Honours, Reserve League, U-16 C'ship, U-15 Ogsport, U-12 C'ship, McLarnon Cup.

Brendan Boyle: Centre Half Back, age 19, height 5'11", weight 11st. Honours: -16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, All-Ireland Community Games, McLarnon Cup. All Divisional medals.

Bobby Reynolds: Corner Back, age 20, height 5'9", weight 12st. Honours: U-16 C'ship, Reserve League, All Divisional medals.

Garrett Blake: Corner Forward, age 17, height 5'11", weight 11.5st. Honours: Ulster Minor League and C'ship, U-16 C'ship, U-13 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, McLarnon Cup.

Barry Gallagher: Midfield, (Capt.), age 27,

height 6', weight 12.5st. Honours: Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship. All Divisional medals, Reserve League. Played Co. Minor 1988.

Kenneth McGurran: Half Forward, age 20, height 5'9", weight 11st. Honours: U-16 C'ship, Ogsport, All Ireland Community Games, U-12 C'ship.

Paul Roper: Half Forward, age 21, height 5'10", weight 12st. Honours, Ulster Minor Club C'ship, Minor C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Reserve League, All Divisional medals.

Coleman Kerr: Full Forward, age 33, height 5'11", weight 13st. Honours: Captained Fanad Gaels to Junior C'ship 1985. Transferred to Aodh Ruadh this year.

Darren McGuinness: Forward, age 18, height 6', weight 12st. Honours: McLarnon Cup, Reserve League, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship. Current County Minor.

John Gillespie: Forward, age 20, height 5'11", weight 11.5st. Honours: U-16 C'ship, All-Ireland Community Games, U-12 C'ship. All Divisional medals.

Gavin Rogers: Half Forward, age 18, height 5'10", weight 11st. Honours, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, McLarnon Cup, All-Ireland Community Games.

Owen Roe O'Neill: Corner Forward, age 25, height 5'9", weight 12.5st. Honours, Reserve League, Minor C'ship, Intermediate and Junior Hurling C'ship.

Brian Touhy: Midfield, age 34, height 5'11", weight 12.5st. Honours: All-Ireland U-21 C'ship, Ulster U-21 C'ship, Ulster S.F.C., Senior C'ship, U-21 C'ship, Minor C'ship, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, All-Ireland Colleges with D.L.S.

Shane Ward: Forward, age 17, height 5'9", weight 10.5st. Honours, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship. Played Co. U-16 '96.

Barry O'Neill: Forward, age 22, height 5'10", weight 12st. Honours: Minor C'ship, Ulster Minor Club, Intermediate and Junior Hurling C'ship.

Paul Rafferty: Full Back, age 18, height 6', weight 12st. Honours, U-16 C'ship, U-12 C'ship, McLarnon Cup, Co. U-16 1995.

Naomh Columba Reserve Pen Pics

Gearóid Mac a'Ghoill: Cúl Baire, age 18, height 5'10", weight 12st. Occupation, student. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Reserve League, 1 Leinster Championship (Colleges) with U.C.D.

Brian Mac Fhionnlaigh: Corner back, age 18, height 6', weight 12st. Occupation, Apprentice Builder. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-15 Co. Gaeltacht.

Caoimhín Mac Fhionnghaile: Full back, age 22, height 5'10", weight 11st. Occupation, Aircraft Mechanic. Honours, 1 Reserve League, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Ted Webb Championship, 1 Vocational School Championship, team captain.

Ciarán O Gadhra: Corner back, age 23, height 5'11", weight 13st. Occupation, Fisherman. Honours: 1 Reserve League, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-12 Championship.

Aodh Mac Cuinneagáin: Half Back, age 16, height 5'10", weight 11st. Occupation, Student. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-15 Co. Gaeltacht, 2 Vocational School Championship.

Eoin O Dochartaigh: Centre Half Back, age 27, height 5'9", weight 11st. Occupation, Factory Worker. Honours, 1 Senior Championship, 2 Co. Gaeltacht (Senior), 3 Senior League, 1 U-21 Championship, 1 Minor Championship, 1 U-16 Championship.

Brendan O Dochartaigh: Half Back, age 19, height 5'9", weight 12st. Occupation, Factory Worker. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Reserve League.

Ciarán O Cuinea: Midfield, age 24, height 5'11", weight 12st. Occupation, Fitter/Turner. Honours, 2 Co. Gaeltacht (Senior and Reserve), 1 Reserve League, 1 U-16 Championship, 1 Minor Championship.

Ciarán Mac Daibhid: Midfield, age 22, height 6'1", weight 14st. Occupation, Muinter Scoile. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Reserve League, 1 All Ireland Colleges Medal with St. Pats, Drumcondra.

Gabriel O Néill: Midfield, age 28, height 5'9", weight 11st. Occupation, Builder. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 London Championship.

Enda Mac Giolla Easbuig: Half Forward, age 21, height 5'8", weight 10st. Occupation, Project Manager. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Reserve League, 1 U-16 Championship.

Pól O Domhnaill: Half Forward, age 26, height 5'7", weight 10st. Occupation, Barman. Honours, 2 Senior League, 1 Reserve League, 2 Co. Gaeltacht (Senior and Reserve).

Máirtín Mac Giolla Easbuig: Centre Half Forward, age 28, height 5'8", weight 12st. Occupation, Factory Worker. Honours, 1 Senior Championship, 3 Senior League, 2 Co. Gaeltacht (Senior and Reserve), 1 Reserve League, U-14, U-16, U-18, U-21 Championships.

Seán O Ceallaigh: Corner Forward, age 21, height 5'11", weight 12st. Occupation, Factory Worker. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Reserve League, 1 U-16 Championship.

Dónal Mac Cuinneagáin: Full Forward, age 28, height 5'9", weight 11st. Occupation, Muinter Scoile. Honours, 1 Senior League, 2 Co. Gaeltacht (Senior and Reserve), 1 Junior B Championship, U-14, U-16, U-18, U-21 Championships.

Michéal Mac Niallais: Full Forward, age 35, height 5'10", weight 11st. Occupation, Knitwear Factory Manager. Honours, 1 Senior Championship, 4 Senior League, 1 All-Ireland Gaeltacht, 3 Co. Gaeltacht. Manager of the team.

Daithí Mac Giolla Easbuig: Corner Forward, age 20, height 5'7", weight 10st. Occupation, Barman. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Reserve League, U-16 Championship, 2 Vocational School Championships.

Diarmuid Mac Fhionnlaigh: Half Forward, age 20, height 5'7", weight 12st. Occupation, Factory Worker. Honours, 1 Senior League, 1 Reserve League, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-16 Championship.

Pól O hArdáigh: Corner Forward, age 19, height 5'7", weight 10st. Occupation, Factory Worker. Honours, 1 Reserve League, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 Schoolboys Championship.

Michéal O Beirne: Corner Back, age 17, height 6', weight 11st. Occupation, Student. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-15 Co. Gaeltacht, 2 Vocational School Championship, 2 Schoolboys Championships.

Séamus O Baoill: Corner Back, age 19, height 5'10", weight 11st. Occupation, Student. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-16 Championship.

Lucas O hEigeartaigh: Full Back, age 23, height 5'11", weight 12st. Occupation, Fisherman. Honours, 1 Senior League, 1 Reserve League, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve).

Pádraig O Curraighín: Corner Back, age 21, height 5'8", weight 12st. Occupation, Plumber. Honours: 1 Reserve League, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-15 Co. Gaeltacht.

Rónan O Dochartaigh: Corner Back, age 17, height 5'10", weight 10st. Occupation, Student. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), U-15 Co. Gaeltacht.

Caoimhín Mac Cuinneagáin: Corner Forward, age 18, height 5'10", weight 11st. Occupation, Student. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 U-15 Co. Gaeltacht, U-13 and U-14 Hurling and Football Championships.

Michéal O Cuinneagáin: Corner Forward, age 25, height 5'8", weight 11st. Occupation, Computer Programmer. Honours, 1 Senior Championship, 1 Senior League, 1 Reserve League, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve).

Damien Mac Giolla Cearra: Corner Forward, age 18, height 5'6", weight 10st. Occupation, Student. Honours, 1 Co. Gaeltacht (Reserve), 1 U-15 Co. Gaeltacht, Schoolboys Medals with Scoil Náisiúnta an Chaisil.

Terence O Cuinea: Corner Back, age 19, height 6'1", weight 11st. Occupation, Plumber. Honours, U-14, U-16, U-18 Championships.

Reserve thriller in store

Today's senior reserve final brings together two clubs who are fairly used to big occasions at different levels. Today, however, they meet in a grade where neither club have been dominant consistently at championship time for the past few years. Aodh Ruadh will be looking for their second title in the grade having won previously in 1990 defeating Gweedore in the final, while the Glen men are in their first final, hard to believe considering the talent they have fielded over the past decade. The game today sees two contrasting teams. Aodh Ruadh, who are depending mostly on youth, while Naomh Columba have a great deal of experience in their side as well some promising young players. Aodh Ruadh have been dominant all year and are unbeaten in both league and championship, their closest call coming in the semi-final against Dungloe where they needed a big second half display to go through.

Not too many reverse teams can boast three county minors in their ranks - Gareth Blake, Micheal Gurn and Martin Gallagher were all on this year's first 15. Blake has been responsible for most of their scores this year as well as being on the end of some not so legal marking in the process.

Former county minors Barry Gallagher, Dermot Slevin and Gary Brennan add their experience to the team and their displays will need to be strong if they are to emerge winners. Naomh Columba look very strong on paper and have shown their resilience through the

championship.

Former senior players Micheal McNelis, Martin Gillespie, Eugene Doherty and Gabriel O'Neill have all played in the county senior finals. O'Neill also having a British senior championship medal to his credit. Micheal McNelis is also manager of the side and will not be found wanting when changes are to be made. Naomh Columba had a fairly easy run to the final apart from their battle with a very strong St. Eunan's side in the quarter final which they won after a replay and 10 points from Gillespie who is also a very keen goalkeeper. Their senior team's exit in the quarter final has made the reserves more determined to succeed. So all in all this game is going to be too close to call, in the year of the draw, don't be too surprised if you see another one today, before the John Gallagher cup is claimed for another year.

PATHS TO FINAL

1st round:

Aodh Ruadh 1-14, Ardara 0-9.

Ardara 0-5, Aodh Ruadh 0-14.

Q.F.: Aodh Ruadh 2-12, Gweedore 0-2.

S.F.: Aodh Ruadh 1-9, Dungloe 1-7.

1st Round:

Red Hughs 1-2, N. Columba 4-7.,

N. Columba 4-11, Red Hughs 1-8.

Q.F.: N. Columba 2-5, St. Eunans 1-8.

Replay: N. Columba 0-13, St. Eunans 0-10.

S.F.: N. Columba 1-16, Killybegs 1-8.

Player Profile

MÁIRTÍN MAC GIOLLA EASBUIG

(Naomh Columba)

Date of Birth: 11th Feb., 1969

Height: 5' 8".

Weight: 12 stone.

Occupation: Factory Worker

Married/Single: Married to Antoinette with two children, Tara and Connor.

Favourite Group/Singer: Oasis.

Favourite Film Star: Gene Hackman.

Favourite Position: Centre Half Forward.

Honours won: 1 senior c'ship, 3 senior league, 2 Co. Gaeltacht (senior and reserve), 1 reserve league, u14, u16, u18, u21 c'ships.

Year made senior debut: 1987.

Toughest Opponent: Enda Mac Aoidh (Cill Chartha).

Favourite Ground: Páirc Mhic Daibhid, Fintra.

Childhood Heroes: Matt Connor, Mikey Sheehy, Pádraig Ó hEigeartaigh.

Favourite other sports: Soccer, Rugby.

Biggest Influence on Career: Michael O Mac a'tSaoir.



Most memorable game: U21 Championship final in 1987.

Ways of improving the game: Lift the ball off ground and having two referees.

Dislikes about the GAA: Officials who never played football making the rules.

Hopes for the future: To win a Reserve Championship today and to say free from injury.

Best footballer in the game at the moment: Maurice Fitzgerald.

Houston in the big time after three years

By Charlie Joe McGinley (Derry People and Donegal News)

Three years ago Michael Houston was appointed manager of St. Eunan's. He immediately set about fashioning a side he felt would be capable of challenging for major honours.

The club had enjoyed great success at under-age level but this hadn't manifested itself into the senior team. In his first year in charge of the squad Houston, a native of Glenfin, drafted in nine minors to the senior set-up. It was the beginning of the metamorphosis that has now brought St. Eunan's to the brink of their first senior football title since 1983.

Michael Houston began playing gaelic football competitively at his local national school in Glenfin but the area hadn't a club at the time and so he played under-age for neighbouring MacCumhaill's.

He won a county minor title with the Twin Towns team in 1971. On St. Patrick's Day 1975 he featured for the first ever adult team in Glenfin at the age of twenty and enjoyed Junior Championship and Intermediate Shield honours with the club. Houston spent four years studying to be a Physical Education Teacher in Thomond College in Limerick from 1974-78. He started playing for the college senior team in 1976 in the Higher Education competitions and they won the Ryan Cup, Trench Cup honours along with Milford based teacher Anthony Harkin.

The highlight of his college days came in 1978 when Thomond participated and won the Limerick county club championship. They went on to win the Munster and All-Ireland titles in the 1977-78 season. Houston played at right full and right half back on the side which included players like Mike and Pat Spillane (Kerry), and Brian Talty (Galway).

Houston took up an appointment at St. Eunan's College in 1979, ironically the year the college won an All-Ireland B Colleges title under Paddy Tunney. The squad included current St. Eunan's senior players Charlie Mulgrew and Eunan McIntyre.

In 1982 St. Eunan's won a Senior Shield

title but the following year the title was brought to the Cathedral Town. Houston again operated at right full in a side that included Anthony Gallagher (captain), Damien Judge, Jimmy Kennedy, Eunan McIntyre, Paul McGettigan and Brendan Roche.

Houston made his senior debut for Donegal in a National League match against Fermanagh in 1977 and played in the 1979 semi-final against Monaghan.

The call came back from Glenfin in 1984 and Houston won two Senior Shield medals and a Senior Championship medal. He rejoined St. Eunan's in 1991, won a Junior Championship title in 1993 and acted as trainer to the senior squad before taking over the mantle from Seamus Temple in 1994.

"There was a good enough squad there at the time but the problem was commitment. They needed motivation and direction. I lost a lot of players through injury in the first year. Peter McIntyre transferred to Bundoran. Eugene McMenamin got injured and Mark Crossan went to the States. I had tough decisions to make so I decided to bring in nine minors", he said.

Houston admits rather reluctantly the foresight he had at the time has played no small part in the current success.

"Those players have now matured because this is their third year playing senior. They know what it is about now and they have gained valuable experience. I took four more minors into the squad in my second year in charge and the new kids on the block have blended in well with some of the older players and we have ended up with a very comprehensive squad ranging in ages from 19 to 34.

Houston accepts the town was waiting on this breakthrough for some considerable time.

"I knew the talent was there. Many of the players had enjoyed success at various levels. What I brought to the team was a bit of guidance and understanding of what it takes to achieve major honours", he said. He accepts that to a certain extent Letterkenny was a victim of its own circumstances.

Best wishes to St. Eunan's from

Noel Cassidy & Co.

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Good luck to St. Eunan's from

*Jadhg Culbert, chairman,
and committee members,
Letterkenny U.D.C.*

Good luck to St. Eunan's from

*D. Kelly, Manager, and staff
Letterkenny Leisure Centre*

"The town is growing at an alarming rate. I am not saying there was a failing in the past but Letterkenny town has a lot of distractions going on. Players naturally get involved in a lot of sports. It is my belief that if you try this you don't excel at any one particular game", Houston added.

The manager admits he had to persuade a lot of the players to put their focus into one game to be successful at it and that realisation has now come to fruition for many of them. The players he has now are willing to give the commitment that is required to participate at the highest level. Houston is acutely aware of the expectancy there is around the town. Many people feel it is time St. Eunan's delivered.

"I always knew there was pressure there to bring a Championship to Letterkenny but that doesn't do anybody any harm at all. What I am happy about is the way the players have responded. Once we got over the obstacle of MacCumhail's and then more so Naomh Columba, we began to realise there was more in this team than we had realised", the manager said.

Houston paid tribute to the people who had helped him over the years, including Sean McIntyre, Enda O'Donnell, and more recently Pauric McDaid and Raymond Blake, without whom he is convinced St. Eunan's would not be where they are on Sunday.

He felt the psychological barrier for a lot of the players was broken when they defeated Naomh Columba in the annual 7-a-side tournament at O'Donnell Park earlier in the year.

"They had been our bogey side and we knew that if we were going to be up there with the best we had to beat Glen. Our whole focus was to achieve that goal since before Christmas", the manager said.

"We have experienced players like Charlie Mulgrew, Bosco Gallagher, Brendan Kilcoyne and Mark Crossan who are able to pass on guidance and the conviction that is needed to the younger players in the team",

he said

He feels there is a winning atmosphere around the club and the recent success of the club has brought the town to life.

"There has been proud tradition in this town and this team has brought that back to light again. There are a lot of supporters who haven't had the chance to get behind a team in the town at this level. This is their chance too", he said.

Houston has analysed his team's progress very carefully and feels there is need for improvements in some key areas.

"There are a number of frailties in our play at the moment. Our defenders must first concentrate on the defensive aspects of our play. They must realise that their first priority is to stop the opponent from scoring. We need more teamwork also in this department", he said.

He feels the midfield will need a lot of support from the half-forward line so we can feed our full forward line", he added.

Houston cast his eye over Ballyshannon in their semi-final win over Glenties and was impressed. "They have some very good quality players such as Brian Roper and John Duffy and the midfield pairing is very strong. The defence don't give away many frees. It will take a good team to beat them", he said.

"So far in the Championship we have taken each game at a time. We have taken a difficult course compared to Ballyshannon in that we have beaten Naomh Columba and Kilcar. I feel we have the squad to challenge for this one and we will not be far away. It's down to how the players perform on the day", he said.

"The younger players in the squad must come to realise that this is a once in a lifetime chance to win a county medal at this level. It may never happen again", he added.

"We need the supporters to encourage the players because if they do they will excel", he concluded.

Good luck to St. Eunan's from

E.S.B. Letterkenny

New Stand for MacCumhaill Park

For a lot of our patrons who regularly frequent MacCumhaill Park, today may well be the last time that they sit on the stand side without having to do an anorak or block somebody else's view with their umbrella. The news that the new covered stand will be in place by the end of October was greeted with delight and relief by all G.A.A. followers in the county. The stand which will include covered accommodation for 4,500 people will commence towards the end of this month and will hopefully be completed for the second game in the forthcoming national league. The contract for the steel work will be undertaken by Multispan Ltd., Letterkenny while the contract work will be done by Brendan Dunnion and Sons Ltd., Ballybofey. The stand will be phase three of the work, with phase four being the completed terracing around the ground and erection of a new press box and dressing rooms.

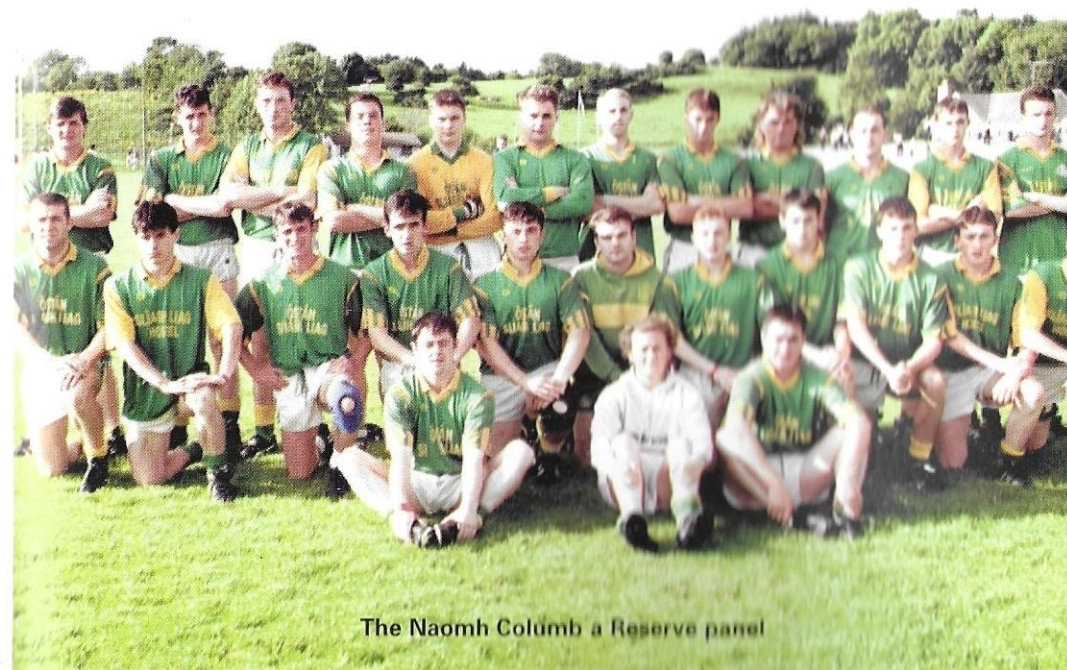
The contract for the stand will cost £280,000, bringing the total cost for work completed to circa £600,000. In the new stand 600 prime seats in the centre will be sold as five year tickets which are currently on sale through the clubs. The tickets which cost £300 will entitle the bearer to a seat for every county match at all grades for the next five years in MacCumhaill Park as well as all local championship games played at the venue (except MacCumhaill home games).

The five year term will commence from the first home national league match in 1997 and finish on that date in 2002. So anyone interested in helping fund this huge project contact your local club or contact any Co. Board officer for information on this excellent deal. To these patrons who have already given a commitment to purchase a ticket we are very grateful for your contribution in bringing C.L.C.G. Dun na nGall into this millennium.

St. Eunan's in training for the final



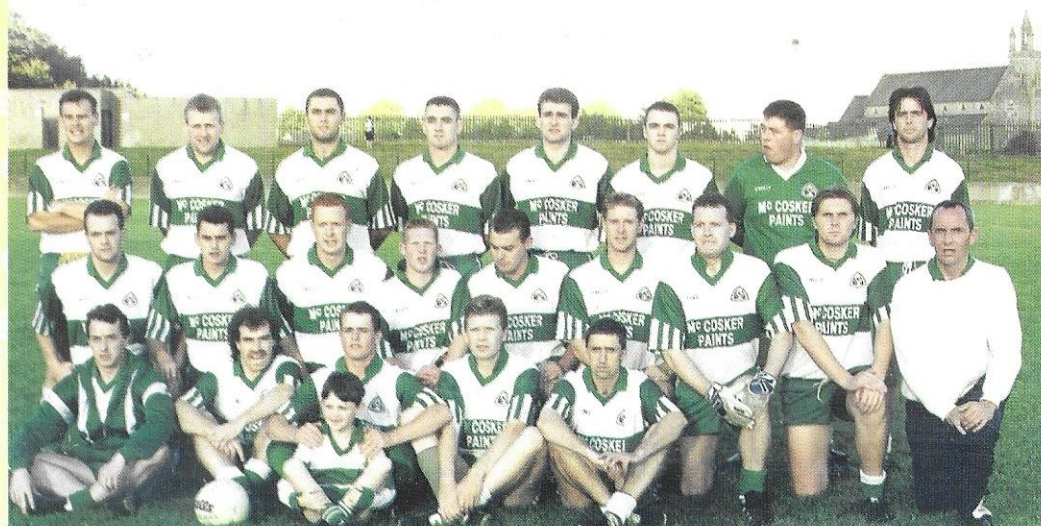
The Aodh Ruadh Reserve panel



The Naomh Columba Reserve panel



The St. Eunan's panel which defeated Kilcar in the semi-final.



The Aodh Ruadh panel which defeated Naomh Chonaill in the semi-final.