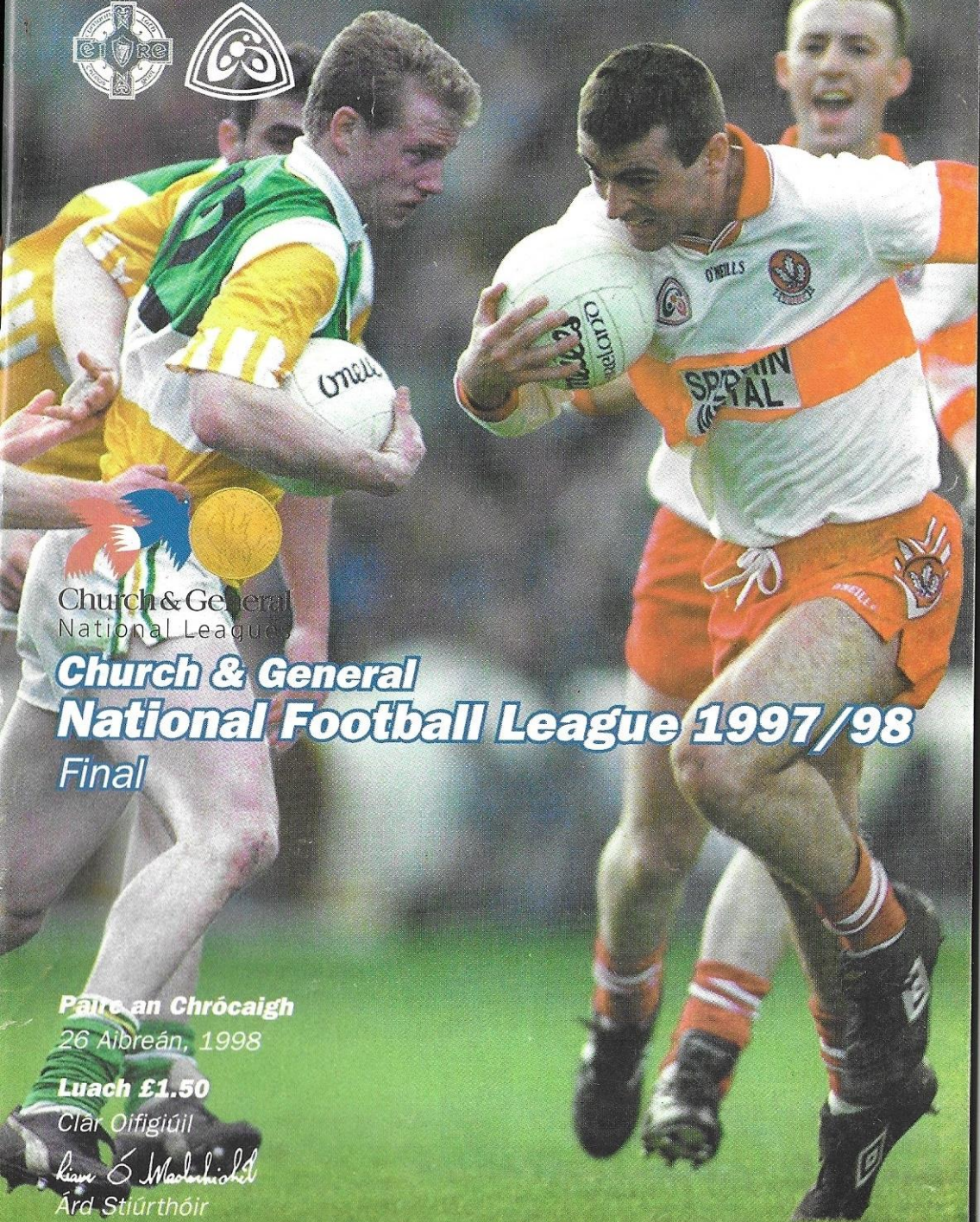


Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



Church & General
National Leagues

**Church & General
National Football League 1997/98
Final**

Paíre an Chrócaigh

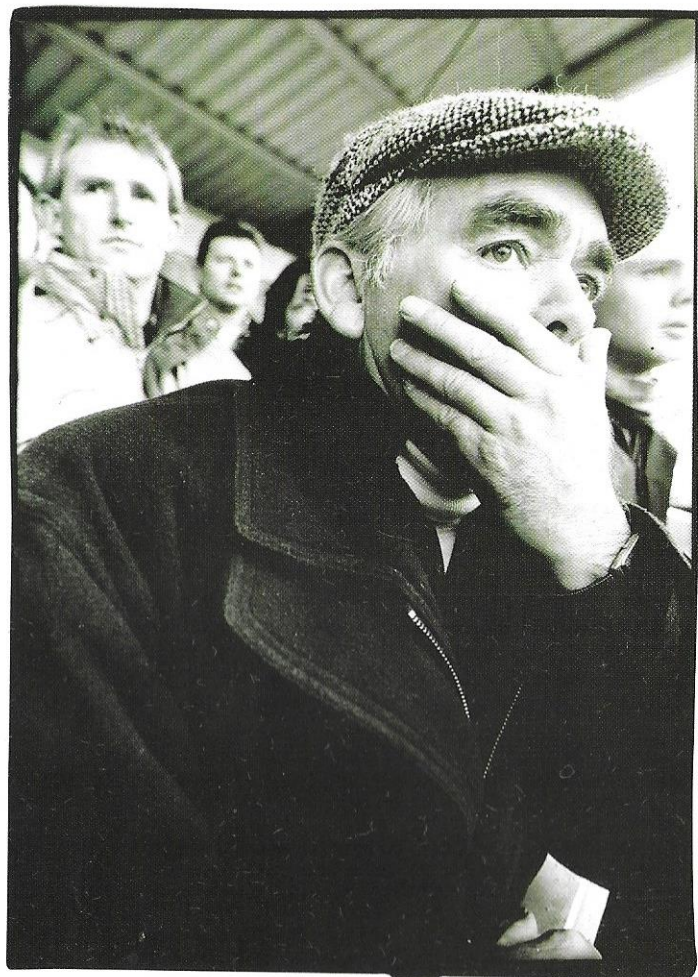
26 Aibreán, 1998

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Kieran Ó Madadhúch

Árd Stiúrthóir



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All-Ireland Vocational Schools' Intercounty Football Final
1.45 i.n.

Tír Eoghain v. Uíbh Fhailí

Réiteoir: K. Walsh (An Clár)



Church & General
National Leagues

Church & General National Football League 1997/98

Final

3.30 i.n.

Doire v. Uíbh Fhailí

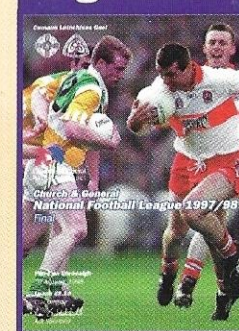
Réiteoir: N. Barrett (Corcaigh)

Linesmen: M. Curley (Gaillimh) STANDBY REFEREE
W. Feeley (Maigh Eo)

Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil,
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua
Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta
Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa bharna baoil
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.

Ár gClúdach



Our cover features
Offaly's **Ronan Mooney** and
Eamon Burns (Doire) in
action from their respective
semi-finals.

Ground Regulations – Páirc An Chrócaigh

- All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Ground Regulations and to the Rules and Regulations of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.
- Fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the ground, and any persons in possession of such an article or container may be refused entry or ejected from the ground.
- Spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground/arena.
- The climbing of walls, stands or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.
- Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language is not permitted in any part of the ground.
- Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any objects onto the pitch.
- Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play and shall be ejected.
- Any person who fails to comply with the instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground.
- The stadium management reserve the right of admission.
- The stadium management reserves the right to refuse admission to or to eject any person who refuses to be searched by a police officer.
- Any person who remains in a gangway or aisle may be ejected from the ground.
- The G.A.A. reserves the right for its servants or agents to remove from the stadium any person who does not comply with the Ground Regulations or whose presence on the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.

• C.C.T.V. is in operation at this stadium.

Medical

Upper Hogan: Medical Centre rear of Press Area.

Lower Hogan: Treatment and Cardiac Ambulance rear of Section G/L.

New Stand Lower: Medical Centre rear of Section 301.

New Stand Upper: Medical Centre rear of Section 701. Treatment and Cardiac Ambulance rear of Stand. Medical Personnel on duty on Premium & Box Level.

Hill 16: Treatment Ambulance beside Treatment Centre rear of Terrace.

The Site Medical Officer will be situated on the pitch in front of the Nally Stand.

All Treatment Centres are staffed by St. John's Ambulance Brigade members.

Lost Children

Lost Children can be collected at the above Medical Centres.

Public Telephone Locations

Hogan Stand

- Pay Phone and Card Phone beside the entrance to **Section P Lower Hogan Stand** opposite the main sweet shop
- Pay Phone beside the **stairs to Upper Hogan Section P/R**, close to the Information Box.

New Stand

- Level 3**, Pay Phone at rear of Sections 309/310.
- Level 5**, Card Phone/Credit Card Phone at rear of Section 510.
- Level 6**, Call Card rear lift opposite Box 633.
- Level 7**, Pay Phone next to lift at rear of Section 708.



History on the double in Church and General National League Final?

Na Reiteóirí Kevin Walsh (An Clár)



Kevin is no stranger to the role of referee in All-Ireland Vocational Schools' finals, having refereed a number already.

He has made his mark as a referee in football and hurling and

has a long list of major games at county, provincial and national level to his credit. This includes the 1996 Bank of Ireland Munster senior final between Kerry and Cork and the AIB Munster club football decider between Castlehaven, of Cork, and Fethard, of Tipperary last December.

Walsh has been a referee for over ten years and has been active in this role in the current Church & General National League.

Niall Barrett (Corcaigh)



Niall is having a busy weekend. Last evening he took charge of the first All-Ireland under-21 football semi-final meeting between Laois and Galway at Longford.

Earlier this year the Carrigaline clubman refereed the inter-provincial senior final between Ulster and Leinster at Clones. A referee for over seven years, Niall was the man in the middle in last year's Bank of Ireland Munster senior final between Kerry and Clare.

A very experienced Knight of the Whistle, his earlier assignments included the 1996 Laois-Down All-Ireland minor semi-final. He has also refereed a number of games in the current Church and General National League.

History may be made on the double in the Church and General National Football League final. This is the first decider between Derry and Offaly and a win for the Leinster champions would result in a new name on the Roll of Honour for the first time since 1985.

That year proved "Lucky Thirteen" for Monaghan, who won their only League so far—the thirteenth county to join the Roll of Honour. New York have also inscribed their name on the rankings.

The present decade is proving a very successful one for Derry. Starting the nineties they had only one title to their credit; today they are in line for their fourth of the decade.

A win would establish the Oak Leaf County as the most successful from Ulster in terms of League title wins. At present they are bracketed with Down on four Leagues each as Ulster's joint trend-setters.

Offaly are appearing in only their second final. In 1973, as reigning All-Ireland senior champions, they went down to Kerry at Croke Park by 2-12 to 0-14 before 25,303 spectators.

The game was noteworthy for a scoring spectacular from Offaly's left half forward, captain and sharpshooter supreme, Tony McTague, who rifled over all but two points of his team's total. Eleven of his twelve points were from frees.

Any Offaly forward who comes close to that Offaly spectacular today will have more than the usual cause for celebration.

Tohill On Target

The target for Derry's forwards to aim at is not nearly as intimidating. Anthony Tohill marked his League final debut in 1992 by scoring 1-5, 1-1 from "45's" and one from a free.

Four years later he scored exactly the same total as Derry won their last League final. He hit 0-3 from frees and a point from "45".

Those Tohill returns top the list for Derry forwards in League summits since 1959.

Derry's 1996 win ranks as the last League final success by an Ulster county. The crown has not been brought in triumph to Leinster since Meath won their seventh League in 1994.

Derry's last defeat in a National League final was in 1976 when they lost a thrilling game to Dublin by 2-10 to 0-5 before an attendance of 33,845. Brendan Kelly was Derry's ace marksman with 0-6.

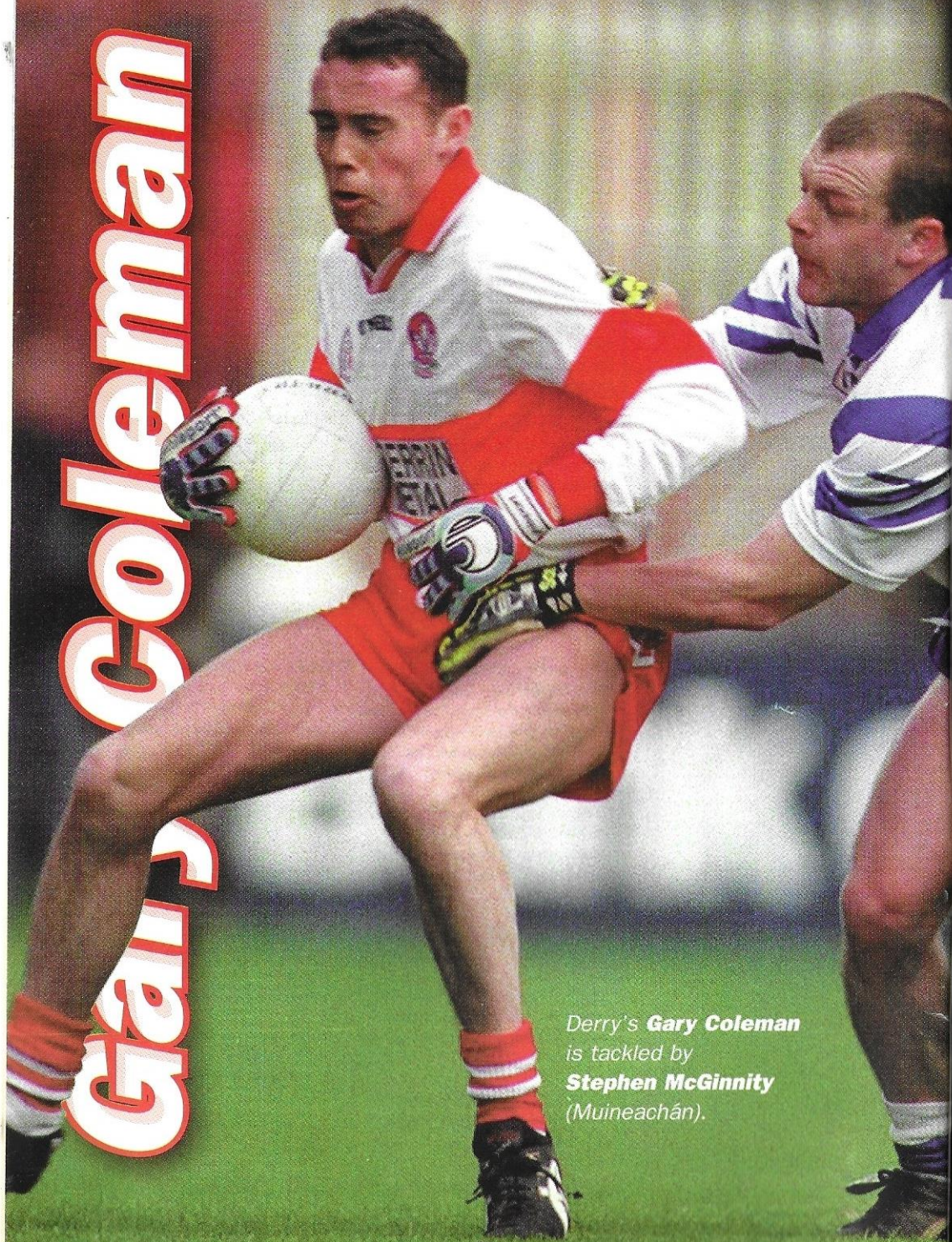
Interestingly, Brian Mullins, now Derry's team manager, had an outstanding game at centre-field for the Dubs.

The last drawn final was in 1993 when Dublin and Donegal each scored 0-9. Dublin won the replay by 0-10 to 0-6.

The last decider that failed to produce a goal was the all-Northern clash of Derry (0-12) and Donegal (0-8) for the 1995 title.

Last year's final between Kerry and Cork was played at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Gair Coleman



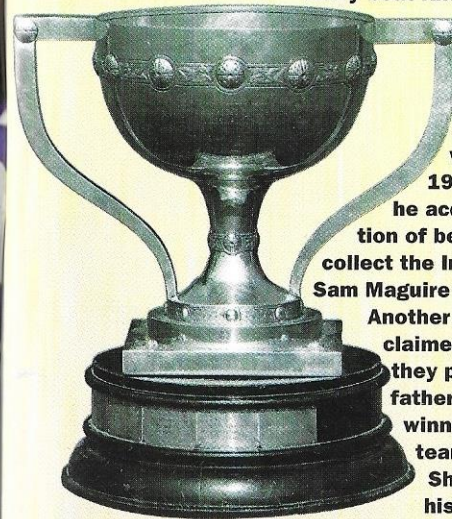
Derry's Gary Coleman is tackled by Stephen McGinnity (Muineachán).

The Trophy

The Irish National Insurance trophy which will be presented to the winning captain today was first competed for in 1929 when Kerry beat Kildare in the final.

The first man to receive the cup was Joe Barrett of Tralee and, as he was at the helm when Kerry won the 1932 All-Ireland final, he acquired the distinction of being the first man to collect the Irish National and Sam Maguire trophies.

Another distinction to be claimed by Kerry is that they provided the only father and son to captain winning National League teams - John Joe Sheehy (1928) and his son Niall who led the Kingdom to their fifth title in 1961 and again in '63. The first Ulster man to captain a winning side was Pat Keenan of Derry who was



was at the helm in that historic triumph of 1947, while the first Leinster man was Laois's Dick Miller in 1926 (the first final).

Connacht's first title (in 1934) marked the beginning of a remarkable period in National League history with Mayo establishing a record-breaking six successive wins which still stands after almost 60 years. A feature of Mayo's six triumphs was that the captaincy was shared by only two men, both from the same club - Gerald Courell and Paddy Moclair of Ballina. Courell was in command in the first three wins - 1934, '35 and '35 while Moclair was at the helm in '37, '38 and '39. This great run also gave the Mayo duo the distinction of being the only players to captain three title-winning league teams.

The number of recipients who have collected the trophy twice is equally short. Niall Sheehy accepted it on behalf of Kerry in 1961 and '63 while Tony Hanahoe led Dublin to the 1976 and 1978 triumphs. And the last player to join this illustrious band was Henry Downey who was captain in Derry's 1992 and 1996 wins.

A gCéad Chraobh Léige d'Fhoireann Uíbh Fhailí!



Tá cosúlachtaí thar an gcoiteann idir Doire Cholmccille agus Uíbh Fhailí. D'fhéadfá a rá gur tháinig siad in aois na maitheasa, i dtéarmaí peile dhe, thart faoin am céanna; bhí fir na Feabhaile sa chéad chraobhchluiche sin - sir acusan ariamh i 1958 agus fir An Chontae Dlíis i 1961. Bhí teip in ann dóibh araon.

1964 bhain mionúir Uíbh Fhailí a gcéad chraobh Uile-Éireann; i 1965 lean buachaillí Dhoire a sampla. I 1968 casadh ar a chéile iad i gcrabhbhluiche na nÓganách (faoi 21)

agus b'shin an chéad uair ariamh gur bhuaill siad le chéile i gcrabhbhluiche náisiúnta. Bhí an lá leis na tuaisceartaigh an lá úd ach b'iad buachaillí Uíbh Fhailí, ón lá sin, a bhain craobh shinsear Uile-Éireann níos túisce i.e. i 1971 agus 1972.

I dtaca le comortais na Sraithe náisiúnta nó an Léig Church & General is mó de cháil atá ag 'Contae na Duilleoige Daire' ná an 'Contae Dlíis'. I 1947 bhí Doire sa chluiche leathcheannais Sraithe den chéad uair, éacht nár éirigh le hUíbh Fhailí a dhéanamh go dtí 1959. Anuas air sin tá ceithre chraobh bainte ag an tuaisceartaigh agus

níl aon chraobh ag fir lártíre. N'fheadar an leigheasfear an scéal sin inniu?

Ní gá a rá go raibh an chluiche leathcheannais idir Dún na nGall agus Uíbh Fhailí, coicíos ó shin, i bhfad Éireann níos fearr ná a chomhionann idir Doire agus Muineachán. Bhí caighdeán na peile sa chéad chluiche chomh maith is a fheicfear sa chraobhchomortas i mbliana; bhí an iomarca strácala agus cinéal iomrascála sa cheann eile rud atá intuigthe, ar bhealach, nuair a smaoinítear go raibh an dá fhoireann ag smaoinéamh ar chraobh Uladh nuair a casfar ar a chéile iad sa chéad bhabhta. Mar sin féin ní féidir caighdeán na foirne ag Doire a mheas ar an dtaispeántas sin amháin.

Is curaidh Laighean iad foireann Uíbh Fhailí atá den chuid is mó réasúnta óg. De na "seanóirí" tá sé do-shéanta go bhfuil an tríúr díobh sna tosaí, Uinsíonn ('Vinnie') Mac Laithimh, Séamus Stiobhard agus Peadar Ó Brádaigh chomh maith lena gcomhionann ar aon fhoireann; an duine eile atá sa réimse aoise sin, an captaen Fionnbarra Ó Cullinn, níl a shárú mar leaththaca a fháil. Chomh maith, níor chaill an fhoireann aon chluiche sa Léig reatha agus anuraidh níor chaill siad ach an chluiche ceathrúcheannais in aghaidh Chill Dara, tar éis doibh teacht aníos as Roinn 4. Dá bhrí sin tá nós na buachana daingnithe go smior san fhoireann. Má tá 'laige' le sonrú is sa líne deiridh tacaigh atá sé ach mar chúiteamh air sin tá an cúlbaire, Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh, thar cionn.

Ní féidir a rá gur ghlac fir lártíre ceannas i lár na páirce in aghaidh na gConnallach ach b'é an plean imeartha a bhí acusan ná lár an ghoirt a phlódú le beirt tosaí ag imirt ann maraon leis na fir lárpáirce; ní féidir a sheánadh go bhfuil Séamus MagAonasa, Conallach, ard-éifeachtach sa réimse sin páirce pé'r bith. Ach lasmuigh de bheith ag saothrú i lár na páirce bhí Ciarán MacMánaís ina chabháir mhór do na tosaí agus ghóthaigh sé cúl agus dhá chúilín ón imirt.

I gcás Dhoire tá ciall cheannaithe na mblianta acu ag síneadh siar go 1993 nuair a bhain siad craobh Uile-Éireann. Is speisialtóirí iad i dtaca leis an Léig dhe agus dhá chraobh bainte acu san idirlinn i 1995 agus 1996. Ní haon dóthiní iad an sár-foireann seo a bhfuil meascán de na

sean agus na n-óg nasctha le chéile sa dóigh go bhfuil se deacair an ceann is fear a fháil orthu.

Má tá cúlthaca sa tír chomh héifeachtach le Ciarán MacÍomhair, thar tréimhse chomh fada, níor chuala mórán faoi. Tá Anraoi Ó Dúnaigh tar éis tiontú ó lár an líne leaththaca go dtí imeall na 'cearnóige' agus tá sé chomh maith san ionad nua agus a bhí sé san ionad eile nuair a bhain sé conn Uile-Éireann mar chaptaen. Tá Anton Ó Tuathail i lár an ghoirt ag feidhmiú ar bharr éifeachta arís agus is moladh mór é sin.

Is deacair a shamhailt cé chomh maith is atá tosaí Dhoire mar aonad. Bhí ainm in airde ariamh ar Sheosamh Ó Broiligh ach níor ghnóthaigh sé ach cúlín amháin sa chluiche leathcheannais; bhí ionadaíocht déanta ar Éamon Ó Broin tar éis fiche neomat agus b'é an fear a cuireadh isteach ina áit, Seosamh Ó Casaide, a ghnóthaigh an t-aon chúl sa chluiche sin; ní bheadh duine ró-chinnté go bhfuil ag éirí chomh maith le Gary Ó Colmáin mar thosach cé gur imreoir sar-oilte é ach samhláitear mar fhear taca é.

Ní mór ar deireadh tomhais a dhéanamh faoin toradh. Caithefear cúpla fainic a ghlacadh chugainn i dtús báire - má tá Séamus Ó Grianáin in ann smacht éigin a choinneáil ar Anton Ó Tuathail i lár páirce beidh cud den ghnó riachtanach do bhua na bhFáileach déanta; má tá lán-taca réasúnta éifeachtach aimsithe ag Uíbh Fhailí beidh caoi acu; má tá Peadar Ó Brádaigh in inmhe a chlisteacht imeartha a chur i bhfeidhm ar Chiarán Mac Íomhair beidh seans maith ag an gcuid eile de na tosaí na scóranna riachtanacha a ghnóthú.

Ina dhiaidh sin is uile is cinnte go mbeidh sár-chluiche againn. Beidh cothromaíocht anseo is ansiúd agus an ceann-is-fearr ar a gcéilí imeartha ag cúpla duine ar an dá thaobh ach síltear go mbeidh an lá leis na Fáiligh ag ceann scríbe. Tá cáil anois orthu mar fhoireann a choinníonn smacht orthu féin; ní bhíonn aon ghairbe ag baint leo agus tá stíl deas acu, meascán den sean agus den nua. Níltear ag rá go bhfuil foireann Dhoire garbh a mahlairt dáiríre ach amháin nuair a thugann céilí imeartha áirithe a ndúshlán le gairbhe.

Tréasláitear a ngaisce leo araon agus leis an bheirt bhainisteoir Tomás Ó Laighin agus Brian Ó Maoláin. Go maire siad uilig.

A gCéad Chraobh Léige d'Fhoireann Uíbh Fhailí!

Ar Lean.

Anxious Moments



A young Offaly supporter looks on anxiously during the semi-final against Donegal.

Offaly's **Roy Malone** appears to piggyback **Damian Diver** (Dún na nGall).

Roy Malone

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FINAL

Offaly in line to make history in curtain-raiser

As is the case in the Church & General National Football League final, Offaly are in line to make history in the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' football decider. The Faithful County has still to win the title.

Offaly helped to usher in the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' finals story in 1961 when they lost the initial decider to Cork City. The county's last appearance in a decider was in 1992 when the Midlanders were well beaten by Kerry.

Tyrone, in sharp contrast, have won five titles between 1967 and 1989 inclusive. They are hoping for better fortune than last year when they went down by 0-10 to 0-8 to Kerry at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in the final.

The last year a new name was added to the Roll of Honour was in 1991 when Cork County beat Galway for a first championship.

Donegal retained the title in 1996 for the

last success by an Ulster county.

Surprisingly enough we must go back as far as 1983 for the last win by a Leinster county. Wicklow won their second crown that season by beating Clare by 0-8 to 0-4.

Tyrone have the best record of an Ulster county with their five titles. Their last winning appearance was in 1989 when Peter Canavan led the side to a 0-13 to 1-5 win over Mayo. He also scored five points.

The Vocational Schools' Championship has gained greatly in popularity and appeal down the years and there is little doubt that the test is doing invaluable work in advancing the cause of Gaelic football in the schools. Many winners of All-Ireland medals - and indeed non national medal winners - graduated over the years to inter-county senior prominence.

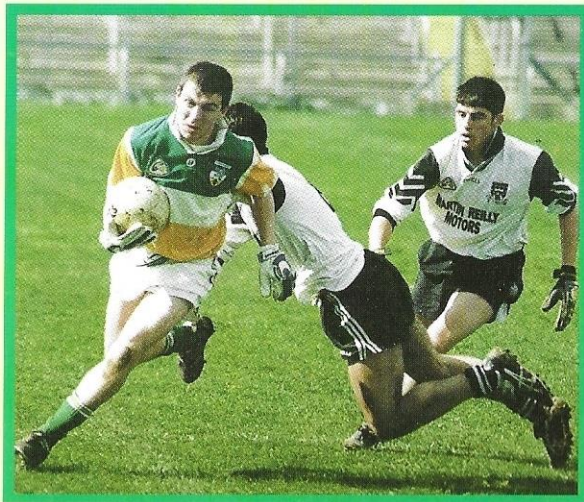
This season's championship provided a good quota of keen games and good individual displays.

The finalists are well equipped sides, with accomplished players in all departments and are capable of providing an entertaining and closely contested curtain-raiser.

EVERY DECADE

By appearing in today's final Tyrone maintain the honour of contesting at least one Vocational Schools decider in every decade since the 1960s. The only other county that can make a similar claim is Kerry who have been regular final contenders since their first appearance in 1960. Indeed, the Kingdom, as with so many other competitions, are the 'true regulars' of the Vocational championship, their longest absence from final day being the six-year gap between their 1967 and 1973 appearances.

Alan O'Meara races away during Offaly's semi-final defeat of Sligo.



DERRY DISTINCTION

The Oak Leaf county may have been conspicuous by its absence from the closing stages of the Vocational Schools championship in recent years. In fact, it is 17 years since they last appeared in the final and in all they have contested only three deciders. However, that last appearance in 1981 was the occasion of the completion of a magnificent treble, as they had also won out in 1979 and '80 - the first (and last to date) three-in-a-row achieved by any county. And Derry can claim to be one of only two counties with a 100% record of success in finals of this competition. Interestingly, the other county was Fermanagh...but they appeared in only one final.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FINAL



Uíbh Fhailí



The Offaly Vocational Schools football team that reached the All-Ireland final with a two point victory over Sligo in the semi-final.

Back row (l-r): Ivan Melia, Scott Brady, Francis Bannon, Noel Kenna, Ciarán O'Meara, Gordon Nutterfield, Ger Rafferty.
Front row (l-r): Eamon O'Keefe, Wesley Coyne, Edwin Finnerty, Nigel Mannion (captain), Alan O'Meara, Jack Kilmurry, Chris Cullen, Gary Mangan.

Ón uair gur thosaigh na comortais idir ceantair ghairmscoileanna ag tús na seascaidí, bhí na múinteoirí, na Coistí Gairmoideachais agus na Coistí Contae go mór taobh thiar díobh. Anuas air sin chabhraigh na clubanna áitiúla leis na gairmscoileanna agus vice versa ba bhunús do foirne 'faoi aois' sna clubanna na peileadóirí agus na hiománaithe óga a bheith á múnú ag múinteoirí díograiseacha. Moltar go hard an spéire iad agus tréaslaítear leo uilig.

De réir na dtaifead thosaigh an comortas i 1961 cé go raibh cluichí imeartha i 1960. Má's linn cloí leis an gceann udarásach b'iad Cathair Chorcaí agus Uíbh Fhailí a bhí sa chraobhchlúche i 1961 an t-aon cheann faoin teideal 'Cathair Chorcaí' a buadh. Dar ndóigh bhain 'Corcaigh' dhá chraobh eile ó shin i 1991 agus 1994.

Cé nár bhuaigh Uíbh Fhailí aon chraobh ariamh tá sé le maíomh acu, máisea, go raibh siad ag an tús stairiúil i 1961. Tá Tír Eoghain sa dara háit ar liosta bhuaiteoirí (tar éis Ciarraí) le cúig (5) chraobh agus is mór an chúis mhaolte doibh é sin. Rud suntasach faoin chomortas ná go bhfuil cúig chontae ó Chúige Uladh tar éis an chraobh seo a bhaint.

Ard-Mholadh Tuillte ag na Comortais Ghairmscoileanna

Rud eile taitneamhach faoi ná an oiread sin contaethe 'laga', i dtaca le peil dhe, atá ar liosta na mbuaiteoirí, mar shampla, Aontroim, Ceatharlach, Cill Mhantáin agus Fear Manach.

Ón uair go bhfuil sinsir Uíbh Fhailí sa chraobhchlúche Léige Church & General beidh slua ón Chontae Dlíis le tacaíocht ghlórach a thabhairt do na hógánaigh ón chontae. Ach bí cinnte go mbeidh lucht leananta Dhoire Cholmáille ag tabhairt na gáir mholta dá geomharsana ó Thír Eoghain.

Cé a bhuaifaidh? Ba bhreá an rud é ainm nua, Uíbh Fhailí, a bheith ar an Rolla onóra ach tá an stair taobh thiar de na hEoghanaigh. Ach seasainn gach cluiche ar a bhonnaibh féin agus braitheann sé, ar deireadh, ar éifeacht na n-imreoirí, mar fhoireann, ar an lá cinniúnach.

Guítear rath orthu araon agus ar a lucht stiúrtha agus traenála agus, arís, tréaslaítear leis na Coistí agus na múinteoirí ar fud na tíre a chuir dua orthu féin an comortas a choinneáil ar leibhéal fíor-ard. Go maire siad uilig.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FINAL

Semi-Final Details

Both Offaly and Tyrone were involved in closely fought semi-finals two weeks ago. The Midlanders travelled to Hyde Park, Roscommon and came away from the Connacht venue with just two points to spare over Sligo - 0-12 to 1-7. The scorers for the Faithful county that afternoon were - S.Brady 0-5, A.O'Meara 0-2, E.O'Keefe 0-2, G.Mangan 0-2, J.Kilmurry 0-1.

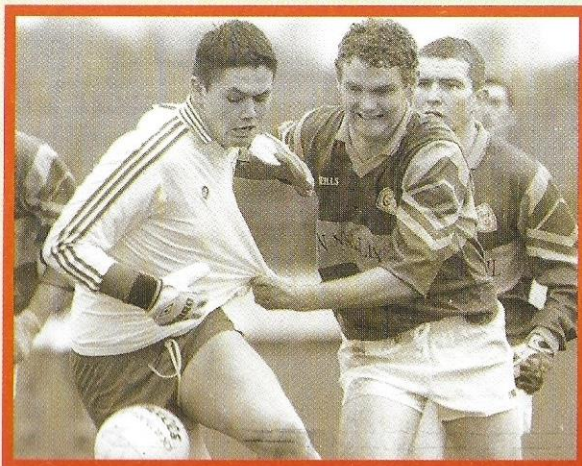
Tyrone were pressed equally hard by Cork in the other semi-final at Mountmellick. Indeed, it took an extra half hour's play before the Northerners advanced to today's final on a 0-19 to 0-16 scoreline. The scorers for the Ulster champions at the Laois venue a fortnight ago were - S.Donnely 0-8, G.Coney 0-3, E.McGinley 0-3, R.O'Neill 0-2, O.Mulligan 0-2, J.P.Kane 0-1.

The last finals of Offaly and Tyrone

1997 - Kerry 0-10; Tyrone 0-8.

Despite playing into the teeth of a strong wind Tyrone started the better and a couple of lovely points from Stephen O'Neill gave the Ulster champions an early lead. However, Kerry soon began to make use of the elements and points by John Sugrue, Bernard

Tyrone's Gareth Coney being pulled away in a tackle for the ball.



O'Connor and Liam Murphy helped the 'Kingdom' into an interval lead of 0-6 to 0-4.

On the restart Tyrone looked confident that the narrow deficit could be overcome and a Frank McGuigan point reduced their arrears to the minimum. However, the Kerry defence responded magnificently (especially the half-back line) and they effectively closed down the Tyrone attack allowing Murphy and Co. to snipe the points that sent the title southwards.

Tyrone scorers: S.O'Neill 0-3, S.Donnely 0-2, K.Hughes 0-1, F.McGuigan 0-1, J.P.Kane 0-1.

Tyrone: M.McCann, M.McNulty, M.McGee, J.Devine, K.O'Brien, E.Gormley, P.O'Neill, A.O'Connor, B.O'Neill, S.O'Neill, D.O'Hanlon, S.Donnely, K.Hughes, F.McGuigan, J.P.Kane.

Subs: C.McGinley for O'Hanlon, N.Loughran for B.O'Neill.

1992 - Kerry 4-15; Offaly 1-5.

Kerry, playing with the aid of the breeze, came out of the blocks fastest and were two points to the good in as many minutes. However, Offaly responded and points by Anthony Kelly and Kenneth Claffey (2) put the Midlanders a point clear after six minutes. But the first Kerry goal (Brian Clarke) came six minutes later and another followed close behind (John Crowley) to put the 'Kingdom' in charge. By the interval it was 2-8 to 0-3 and Offaly were doomed.

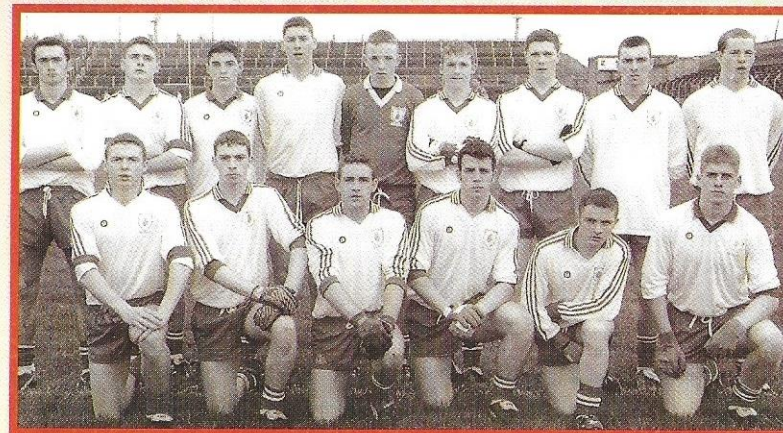
On the restart Kerry continued to dominate and only for David Hughes in the Offaly goal the final margin of defeat would have been even greater. However, the Midland goal-minder was helpless in the 40th minute when John Buckley got Kerry's third major and ten minutes from the end Clarke got his second and Kerry's fourth. Just prior to Clarke's strike Kelly got Offaly's lone major but it was little more than a consolation score.

Offaly scorers: A.Kelly 1-1, K.Claffey 0-3, S.Byrne 0-1.

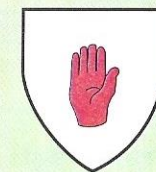
Offaly: D.Hughes, T.Hopkins, T.Dalton, D.Coyne, G.Lynam, S.Hand, B.Wynne, K.Claffey, S.Ryan, A.Kelly, D.Bannon, M.Cooney, C.Quinn, K.Daly, S.Byrne.

Subs: D.Minnock for Hopkins, D.Cuskelly for Minnock.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FINAL



Tír Eoghain



The Tyrone team which played in the semi-final.

Back row (l-r): Darren O'Hanlon, Fran Loughran, Martin McCarron, Stephen Donnelly, Peter Ward, Peter O'Neill, Enda McGinley, Jim Devine, Gavin Devlin.

Front row (l-r): Eoin Mulligan, Aidan O'Connor, J.P. Kane, Brian O'Neill, Aidan Quinn, Kevin Hughes.

Paths to the Final

Offaly 0-15; Laois 1-8.
Offaly 2-6; Wicklow 0-9.

Leinster Final:

Offaly 4-11; Carlow 3-9.
Offaly 0-12; Sligo 1-7.

Tyrone 1-14; Cavan 1-7.
Tyrone 1-20; Down 1-7.

Ulster Final:

Tyrone 1-11; Donegal 2-8.

Replay:

Tyrone 1-11; Donegal 2-8.

After Extra Time:

Tyrone 0-19; Cork 0-16.

Roll of Honour

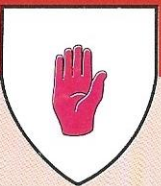
Vocational Schools (Football)

- 9: Kerry:** 1973, 1977, 1978, 1986, 1987, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1997.
- 5: Tyrone:** 1967, 1969, 1970, 1988, 1989.
- 4: Donegal:** 1984, 1985, 1995, 1996.
- 3: Derry:** 1979, 1980, 1981.
Galway: 1964, 1965, 1976.
Mayo: 1971, 1975, 1982.
- 2: Dublin City:** 1962, 1963.
Wicklow: 1974, 1983.
Cork: 1991, 1994.
- 1: Fermanagh:** 1966.
Antrim: 1968.
Carlow: 1972.
Cork City: 1962.

HEAVIEST DEFEAT

The dubious distinction of suffering the heaviest-ever defeat in an All-Ireland Vocational Schools Football final belongs to Offaly, whose students were overwhelmed to the tune of 19 points by Kerry (4-15 to 1-5) in 1992 - which was the last final contested by the 'tricolours'. It is of interest to note that the previous record in this regard was 18 points (6-7 to 1-4), the score by which Antrim overcame Galway in 1967.

One record that Offaly would rather be without.



Tír Eoghain

Dathanna: Bán is Dearg

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Brian McAnenley**
B. Mac an Anuille
(St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)
- (17) **Barry McDermott**
B. MacDiarmada
(St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)
- (18) **Nigel Loughran**
N. Ó Luachráin
(St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)
- (19) **Gareth Coney**
G. Ó Cuana
(Holy Trinity Cookstown)
- (20) **Ryan O'Neill**
R. Ó Néill
(Dungannon C.F.E.)
- (21) **Colm McCaughey**
C. MacEachaidh
(St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)
- (22) **Aidan McCrory**
A. MacRuairí
(St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)

1				
PETER WARD <i>P. Mac an Bhaird</i> (St. John's Dromore)				
2		3		4
MARTIN McCARRON <i>M. MacCearáin</i> (St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)		FRAN LOUGHRAN <i>P. Ó Luachráin</i> (Holy Trinity Cookstown)		JIM DEVINE <i>S. Ó Dalmhín (Capt.)</i> (Omagh C.F.E.)
5		6		7
GAVIN DEVLIN <i>G. Ó Doibhlín</i> (Holy Trinity Cookstown)		BRIAN O'NEILL <i>B. Ó Néill</i> (Holy Trinity Cookstown)		PETER O'NEILL <i>P. Ó Néill</i> (Omagh C.F.E.)
8			9	
EOIN MULLIGAN <i>E. Ó Maolagáin</i> (Holy Trinity Cookstown)			AIDAN O'CONNOR <i>A. Ó Conchúir</i> (Dungannon C.F.E.)	
10		11		12
DARREN O'HANLON <i>D. Ó hAnluain</i> (St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)		KEVIN HUGHES <i>C. Ó hAodh</i> (Dungannon C.F.E.)		STEPHEN DONNELLY <i>S. Ó Donghaile</i> (St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)
13		14		15
AIDAN QUINN <i>A. Ó Coinn</i> (Holy Trinity Cookstown)		ENDA McGINLEY <i>E. MacFhionnaile</i> (St. Ciarán's Ballygawley)		J.P. KANE <i>S. P. Ó Catháin</i> (Dungannon C.F.E.)

Roghnóirí:
Terry McCann,
Enda Kilpatrick.

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



Uíbh Fhailí

Dathanna: Uaithne, Bán is Ór

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Jonathan O'Brien**
S. Ó Briáin
(Ard Scoil Chiaráin)
- (17) **Anthony Clancy**
A. Mac Lannchaidh
(Ferbane V.S.)
- (18) **Chris Cullen**
C. Ó Cuilinn
(Ard Scoil Chiaráin)
- (19) **Gordon Nutterfield**
G. Nutterfield
(Oaklands C.C.)
- (20) **David Cummins**
D. Ó Comáin
(Oaklands C.C.)
- (21) **Andrew Grace**
A. de Grás
(Oaklands C.C.)
- (22) **Edward Green**
E. Ó hUaine
(Tullamore College)
- (23) **Eoin Robbins**
E. MacRoibín
(Killina S.S.)
- (24) **Ciarán McNeill**
C. MacNéill
(Tullamore College)

1				
NOEL KENNA <i>N. Ó Cionnaith</i> (Oaklands C.C. Edenderry)				
2		3		4
EAMON O'KEEFFE <i>E. Ó Caoimh</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)		FRANK BANNON <i>F. Ó Banáin</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)		NIGEL MANNION <i>N. Ó Mainnin (Capt.)</i> (Tullamore College)
5		6		7
JOSEPH KILMURRAY <i>S. Mac Giolla Mhuire</i> (Oaklands C.C.)		GERARD RAFFERTY <i>G. Ó Raifeartaigh</i> (Ferbane V.S.)		WESLEY COYNE <i>I. Ó Cadhain</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)
8			9	
SCOTT BRADY <i>S. Ó Brádaigh</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)			KIERAN O'MEARA <i>C. Ó Meara</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)	
10		11		12
ALAN O'MEARA <i>A. Ó Meara</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)		IVAN MELIA <i>I. Ó Máille</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)		DARREN KELLY <i>D. Ó Ceallaigh</i> (Ard Scoil Chiaráin)
13		14		15
EDWIN FINNERTY <i>E. Ó Fionnachta</i> (Killina S.S.)		SHANE CUNNINGHAM <i>S. MacCunneagáin</i> (Killina S.S.)		GARY MANGAN <i>G. Ó Mongáin</i> (Oaklands C.C.)

Roghnóirí:
Tom Donoghue (Manager),
Des Doolan,
Dominic Guinan.

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

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL FINAL

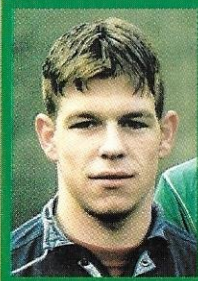
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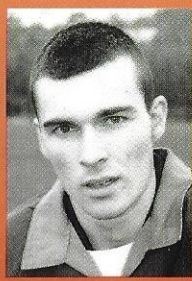
Uíbh Fhailí

- Today, Offaly will be appearing in their fifth final, having lost their four previous appearances, 1961, 1964, 1986 and 1992. Offaly lost the inaugural final to Cork City.
- **The 1964 team included All-Ireland medal winner and All-Star Eugene Mulligan and the County Board's Football Officer Christy Hand, who scored eleven points in the semi-final.**
- Four members of the 1986 team went on to win All-Ireland U-21 medals in 1989 - Tom Coffey, James Stewart, Niall O'Shea and Phil O'Reilly. Brendan Kelly and Ronald Byrne won All-Ireland hurling medals.
- **The 1992 team included Colm Quinn, John Kenny, Anthony Kelly and Niall Walsh who won a Minor All-Ireland with Meath. Niall won four Leinster V.S. Championships with Offaly. Stephen Byrne, the current Offaly S.H. goalkeeper, played at wing forward. His father Paddy played in the 1964 final.**
- Kildare men Gary Mangan and Noel Kenna, who play today, will maintain a tradition which began with the great Pat Mangan in the 1961 final.
- **Panelist Eddie Green is a nephew of Tommy Green who played for Offaly in the 1961 All-Ireland Final against Down. Eddie played for Leinster in the recent U-17 Compromise Rules series against Australia.**

Na Captain



Nigel Mannion
(Uíbh Fhailí)



Jim Devine
(Tír Eoghain)

Tír Eoghain

- **Team captain Jim Devine and Peter O'Neill are in their third year on the Tyrone team.**
- Eoin Mulligan's father, Eugene, captained Tyrone Vocational Schools to All-Ireland success in 1969.
- **Brian O'Neill, Gavin Devlin, Fran Loughran, Eoin Mulligan and Aidan Quinn all won All-Ireland medals with Holy Trinity College, Cookstown last Sunday.**
- Enda McGinley is the fourth member of his family to play for Tyrone in the last six years.
- **Seven of today's team were on the Tyrone Minor squad beaten by Laois in last year's All-Ireland Minor Final.**
- Ten of today's squad were also members of the squad beaten in last year's Vocational Final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.
- **Stephen Donnelly is the top scorer in this year's team having so far amassed a total of 1-34 in five games and is the son of Tyrone Vice-Chairman Cuthbert.**
- Gavin Devlin, known as "Trunks", is the Lough Neagh & District Pool Champion.
- **Eoin Mulligan and Brian O'Neill are accomplished musicians and hope to attend the London College of Music next year.**
- Enda Kilpatrick, co-manager, is also a selector with the Tyrone senior team, while his fellow co-manager, Terry McCann is full-forward on the Tyrone senior hurling team.
- **Kevin Hughes is the biggest player on the Tyrone team at 6 feet and weighs 14st.10lbs.**

McManus makes early bid for Goal of the Year

Ciaran McManus provided an early contender for the goal of the year when he powered through the Donegal cover to unleash an unstoppable shot for Offaly's third goal in their League semi-final win. That was a magnificent goal from twenty metres and a real match-winner for the Leinster champions.

McManus displayed plenty of potential in the under-age ranks when he won a Leinster under-21 medal in 1995.

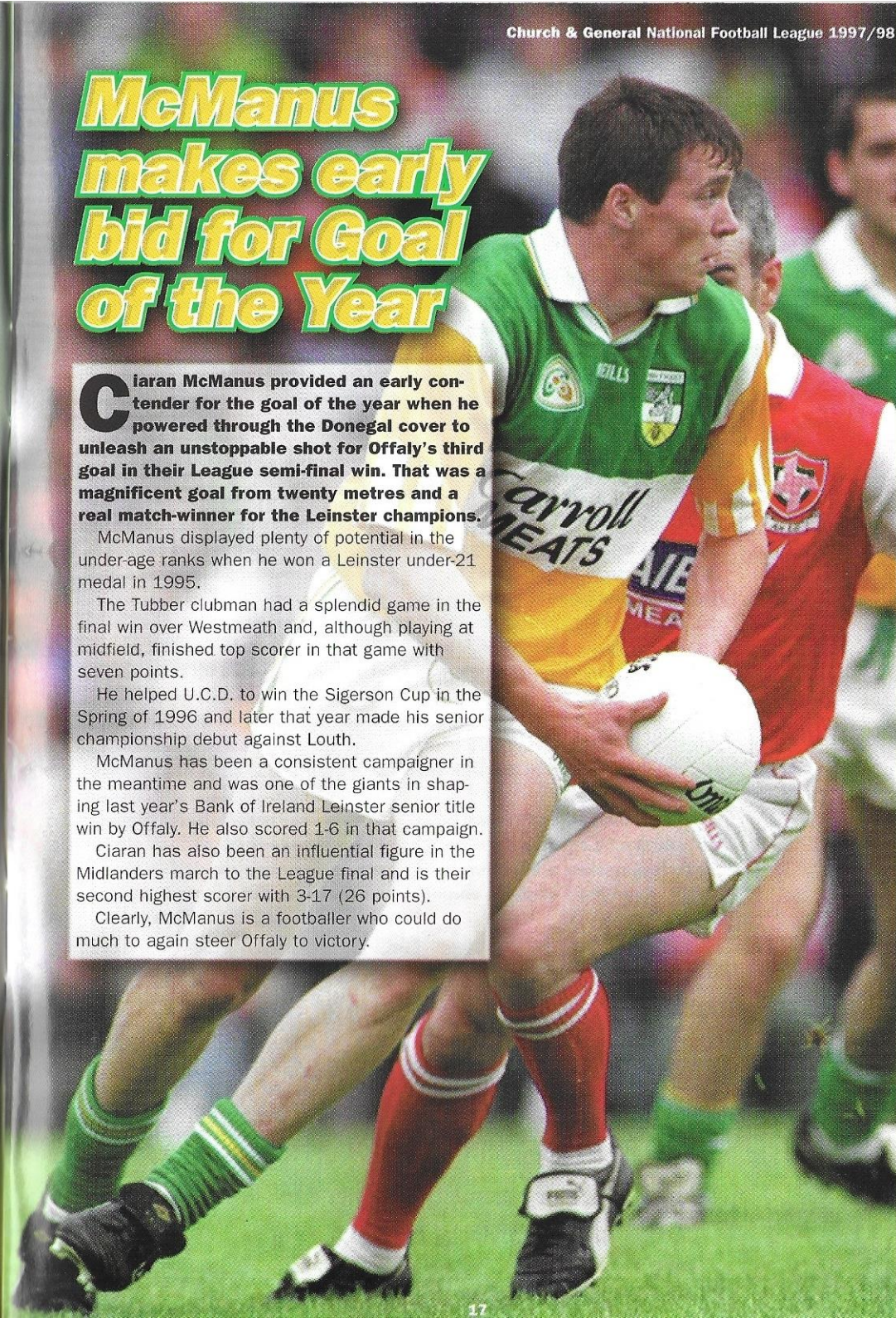
The Tubber clubman had a splendid game in the final win over Westmeath and, although playing at midfield, finished top scorer in that game with seven points.

He helped U.C.D. to win the Sigerson Cup in the Spring of 1996 and later that year made his senior championship debut against Louth.

McManus has been a consistent campaigner in the meantime and was one of the giants in shaping last year's Bank of Ireland Leinster senior title win by Offaly. He also scored 1-6 in that campaign.

Ciaran has also been an influential figure in the Midlanders march to the League final and is their second highest scorer with 3-17 (26 points).

Clearly, McManus is a footballer who could do much to again steer Offaly to victory.



Experience heavily on the side of Derry



Derry bring a wealth of experience and good form to their bid to enhance an impressive record in National Football League finals in the nineties. They have a rich framework of players who have played in three winning deciders and have been moving well of late.

After a spluttering start that saw them collect only one point from their first two games, they go into this Church and General decider backed by the perfect record from their last seven appearances.

Their performance last time out when seeing off Monaghan did not match the sparkle provided by Offaly in their semi-final win over Donegal. Nevertheless, there was still much to admire in the Oak Leaf men's win.

For one thing, they finished clear-cut winners by seven points—no mean feat against a side that had put up some good displays earlier on.

Then, there was the brilliance of Anthony Tohill. The tall midfielder has played many excellent games for Derry over the years but his display in the recent semi-final ranks as his best in a long time. He also finished the side's leading scorer with four points.

Team captain Kieran McKeever and Sean Martin Lockhart provided many telling touches in defence.

Joe Cassidy, one of the county's brightest young talents, who went in as a substitute after twenty minutes, was alert and nippy to scramble home the only goal of the game late in the first half. He also had a good outing over-all.

Seamus Downey, who scored two points, was another who helped to provide some bright moments in a dull game.

McKeever, Henry Downey, Tohill, Gary Coleman, who started in attack but finished up in defence, Joe Brolly, Fergal McCusker and Seamus Downey of the side that beat Monaghan all appeared in Derry's three League final winning teams so far.

All in all, then, Derry have plenty to encourage them as they strive to strengthen their ranking as the most successful county in League play in the present decade.

Offaly ready to make history

Offaly are particularly well armed for this bid to win the county's first-ever National Football League title. Teamwork, all round balance, self assurance and the ability to bounce back from early reverses are assets in a side that now has acquired the winning habit.

These were demonstrated yet again in the semi-final win over Donegal in what must rank as one of the best matches in the competition so far this season.

The Leinster champions lined out without their leading scorer, Peter Brady, due to injury, and were rocked by a Tony Boyle goal after only nine minutes.

The goal put Donegal 1-2 to 0-1 ahead but Offaly did not panic and powered back so well that they led at the interval by 1-7 to 1-4.

Offaly had to work hard in the second half as the talented Donegal men put them under strong pressure throughout the period. However, they impressively displayed their "steel" and will to win as they continued to play with poise and assurance.

They eventually reaped their reward when goals by James Stewart and a classic from Ciaran McManus in the 50th minute turned the key in the door to a two points win and with it the Faithful County's ticket to their first final in a quarter of a century.

This was another very workmanlike performance by Offaly. They were not hustled into making mistakes, played coolly all through and displayed plenty of football ability and a flair to capitalise well on their scoring opportunities.

The game will be linked in a special way with McManus for his classic goal.

He also scored four points to finish as his team's ace marksman on the day and proved a most influential figure in the success.

Vinny Claffey and Roy Malone in attack, James Grennan at midfield and centre half back and captain Finbarr Cullen were others who played pivotal roles in the win.

Offaly have now won 16 games in the Church and General National Leagues of 1996-97 and 1997-98 as against one defeat and a draw. An impressive statistic and one that brings home just how well the team has blended into a powerful force.

A background that also augurs well for the chances of making history in this unique decider.



Ulster Bank VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

The Ulster Vocational Schools' Committee offer best wishes to Tyrone in their bid for All-Ireland honours today and acknowledge the generosity of Ulster Bank in sponsoring our provincial championships.



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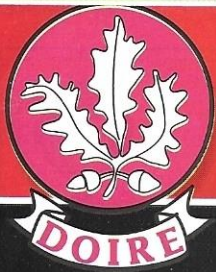


*Best Wishes to the
Offaly Team
from*

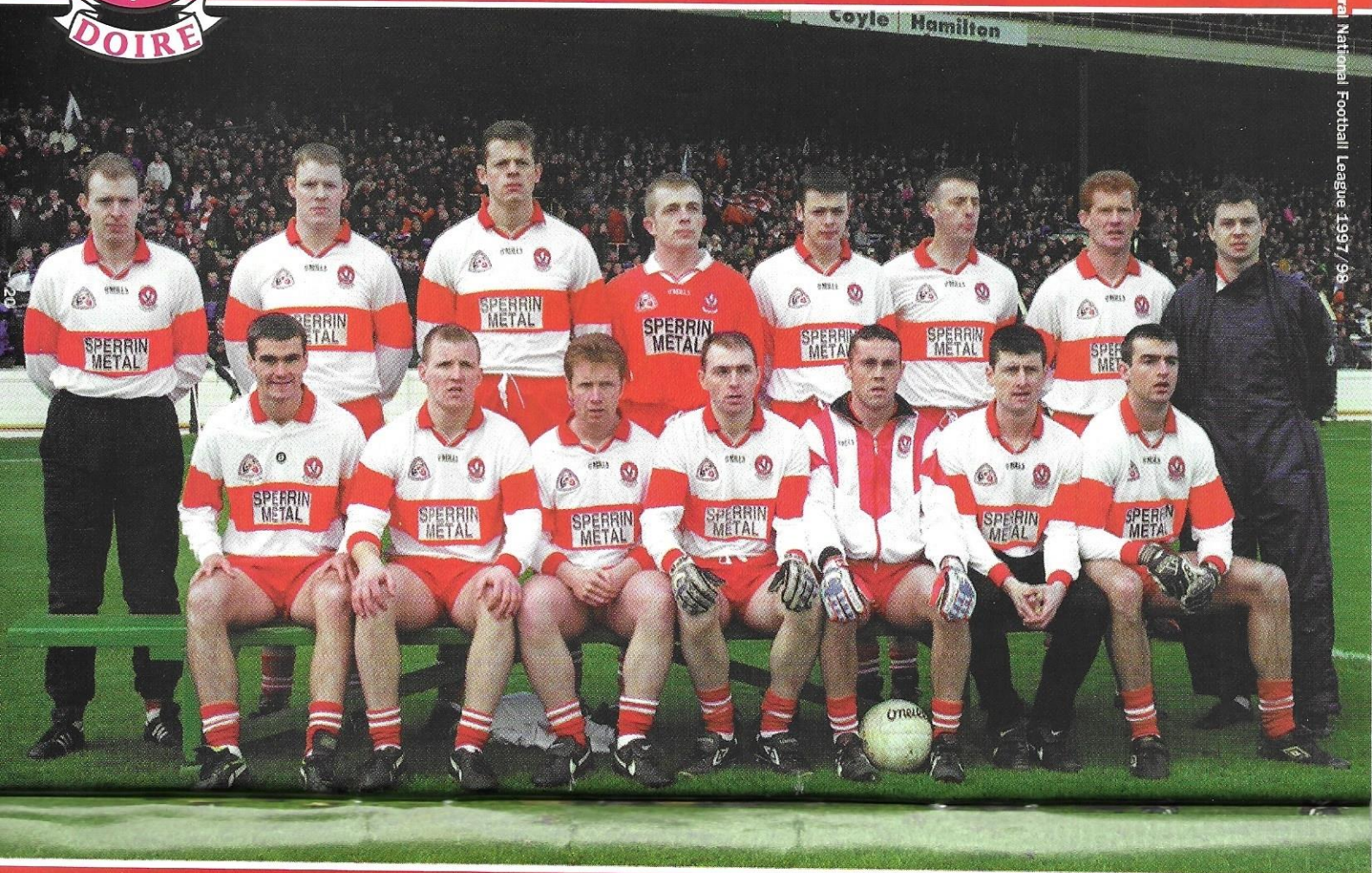
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FOR COUNTY OFFALY**



Doire



The Derry team which defeated Monaghan in the Semi-Final:

Back row (l-r): Seamus Downey, Dermot Heaney, Anthony Tohill, Eoin McCluskey, Paul McFlynn, Dermot Dougan, Gary Magill, Joe Brolly.
Front row (l-r): Sean Martin Lockhart, Johnny McBride, Kieran McKeever, Henry Downey, Gary Coleman, Fergal McCusker, Eamon Burns.

Eoin McCloskey (Dungiven)

23-years-old. 5'10". 13st.
Student.

Kieran McKeever (Dungiven)

30-years-old. 5'8". 11st.10lbs.
Building Contractor.

Sean Martin Lockhart (Banagher)

21-years-old. 6'0". 13st.
Student.

Johnny McBride (Loup)

20-years-old. 5'11". 13st.
Student.

Paul McFlynn (Loup)

20-years-old. 6'0". 12st.
Student.

Henry Downey (Lavey)

31-years-old. 5'10". 12st.
Teacher.

Fergal McCusker (Glen)

28-years-old. 6'0". 13st.
Bank Official.

Anthony Tohill (Swatragh)

27-years-old. 6'4". 15st.
Civil Engineer

Dermot Heaney (Castledawson)

26-years-old. 6'1". 14st.7lbs.
Double Glazing Technician.

Gary Magill (Glen)

29-years-old. 6'0". 13st.
Plumbing Contractor.

Gary Coleman (Magherafelt)

25-years-old. 5'10". 11st.7lbs.
Postman.

Dermot Dougan (Newbridge)

25-years-old. 6'2". 13st.7lbs.
Farmer.

Joe Brolly (Dungiven)

28-years-old. 5'10". 12st.
Barrister.

Benny Murray (Ballinascreen)

21-years-old. 6'1". 13st.
Plumber.

Joe Cassidy (Ballaghy)

21-years-old. 6'1". 12st.
Student.

David Hasson (Banagher)

25-years-old. 5'11". 12st.7lbs.
Student

Johnny McGurk (Lavey)

32-years-old. 5'7". 11st.7lbs.
Accountant.

Stephen McLarnon (Castledawson)

24-years-old. 5'9". 11st.10lbs.
Bank Official.

Sean Donnelly (Ballinderry)

22-years-old. 6'0". 12st.7lbs.
Farmer.

Ruairi Boylan (Glenmullin)

24-years-old. 6'1". 13st.7lbs.
Civil Engineer.

Paul Diamond (Ballaghy)

20-years-old. 6'0". 13st.
Student.

Ciarán Higgins (Magherafelt)

22-years-old. 5'5". 11st.
Student.

Adrian Heaney (Castledawson)

20-years-old. 5'9". 11st.7lbs.
Machine Operator.

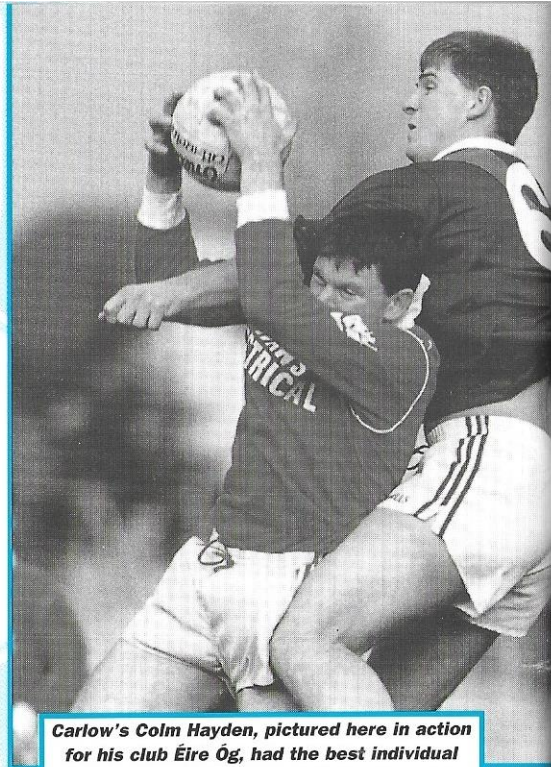
Individual Feats

Last season the top individual feats award was shared between four players (Dara Ó Cinnéide, Brendan Cummins, Maurice Fitzgerald and Pat Butterly) and were all performed within 75 miles of each other on Leinster soil (Droichead Nua, Nowlan Park, Croke Park and Carlow). However, this year thousands of miles and three countries separate the top three individual scoring performances and it was Maurice Fitzgerald (again) who set the target when he contributed a magnificent 1-10 to the Kerry cause in their opening round win over Cavan in New York. Two weeks later in Ruislip Armagh's Diarmuid Marsden equalled the Kingdom ace's total with a 2-7 haul in the Ulster side's facile victory over London. However, both these performances were eclipsed a fortnight later when Colm Hayden scored 2-8 for Carlow in their narrow loss to Louth at Dr.Cullen Park.

Since then, Padraig Brennan, Raymond Gallagher and Kevin O'Brien have all come close but have failed to oust the top three and, barring a truly immense scoring performance from a Derry or Offaly forward this afternoon (and no player from either of the counties made the chart), the top positions are likely to remain unchanged. Tipperary's Declan Browne with three scoring performances and Raymond Gallagher with two are the only players to make more than one appearance in the chart.

In all 19 performances (20 last year) of nine points or better were recorded in the 1997-98 campaign and they were:

Colm Hayden (Carlow)	2-8
v Louth - round 3 at Dr.Cullen Park	
Maurice Fitzgerald (Kerry)	1-10
v Cavan - round 1 at New York	
Diarmuid Marsden (Armagh)	2-7
v London - round 2 at Ruislip	
Padraig Brennan (Kildare)	0-12
v Clare - round 6 at Droichead Nua	
Raymond Gallagher (Fermanagh)	3-3
v Louth - round 2 at Drogheda	
Kevin O'Brien (Wicklow)	3-3
v Tipperary - round 7 at Cashel	



Carlow's Colm Hayden, pictured here in action for his club Éire Óg, had the best individual performance in the current National League campaign with 2-8 against Louth.

Tony Boyle (Donegal)	1-8
v Offaly - semi-final at Croke Park	
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	1-8
v Limerick - round 6 at the Gaelic Grounds	
Paul Taylor (Sligo)	1-7
v Monaghan - round 3 at Markievicz Park	
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	1-7
v Kildare - round 3 at Templemore	
Mark O'Sullivan (Cork)	2-4
v Tipperary - round 1 at Clonmel	
Brian McGuckin (Tyrone)	0-9
v Cavan - round 3 at Breffni Park	
Kieran McDonald (Mayo)	1-6
v Kilkenny - round 3 at Nowlan Park	
Padraig Davis (Longford)	1-6
v Antrim - round 2 at Casement Park	
Martin Daly (Clare)	1-6
v Roscommon - round 1 at Ennis	
Ger Keane (Clare)	1-6
v Waterford - round 7 at Ennis	
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	1-6
v Waterford - round 5 at Stradbally	
Raymond Gallagher (Fermanagh)	2-3
v Kilkenny - round 6 at Clara	
Michael Reidy (Limerick)	2-3
v Waterford - round 8 at Stradbally	

Last season the race to be the top scorer in the league was an exciting one. Entering the final, Sligo's Paul Taylor had a two-point lead over Colin Corkery and was five ahead of Maurice Fitzgerald. In the event, the Westerner shared the honour with Fitzgerald (who bagged 1-2 in the final) while Corkery managed only a single point in the decider to finish one in arrears.

This year the story is much different and Donegal's Tony Boyle is assured of the premier position. The North-Westerner has nine points to spare over Declan Browne in second place but is 24 points ahead of Peter Brady, his closest rival on duty this afternoon.

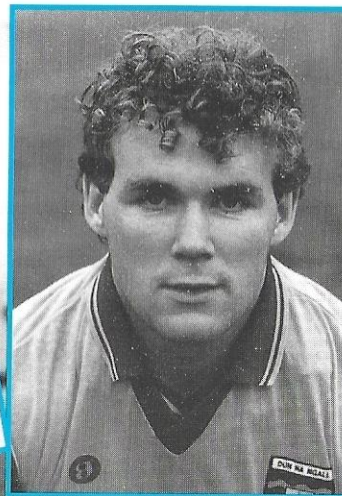
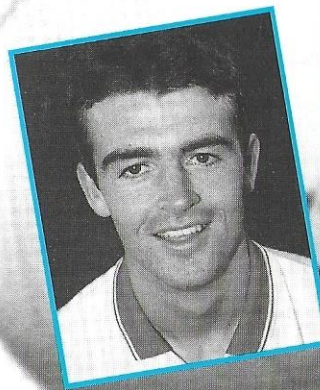
Just five of last year's top 20 return, with Boyle the only one to show improvement, jumping from 9th to 1st. Taylor has gone in the opposite direction dropping from joint-1st to 10th, while Brady drops from 5th to joint-15th. Ciaran McManus drops one place from joint-16th to joint-17th while Declan Smyth remains unchanged from last year alongside McManus.

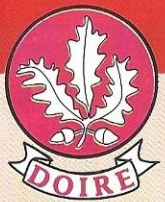
The top 24 scorers for this season's league are:

		POINTS
1	Tony Boyle (Donegal)	2-45 (51)
2	Declan Browne (Tipperary)	4-30 (42)
3	Martin Daly (Clare)	2-34 (40)
	Padraig Brennan (Kildare)	3-31 (40)
5	Diarmuid Marsden (Armagh)	4-26 (38)
6	Kevin O'Brien (Wicklow)	3-28 (37)
7	Padraig Joyce (Galway)	0-36
	Joe Kavanagh (Cork)	3-26 (35)
9	Padraig Davis (Longford)	3-24 (33)
10	Paul Taylor (Sligo)	2-26 (32)
11	John Duffy (Donegal)	3-22 (31)
12	Eddie Lohan (Roscommon)	1-27 (30)
	Raymond Gallagher (Fermanagh)	5-15 (30)
14	Ronan Carolan (Cavan)	0-28
15	Peter Brady (Offaly)	2-21 (27)
	Raymond McGee (Meath)	3-18 (27)
17	Declan Smyth (Monaghan)	2-20 (26)
	Ciaran McManus (Offaly)	3-17 (26)
19	Eamonn Burns (Derry)	0-25
20	Declan Darcy (Dublin)	0-24
	Leigh O'Brien (Wexford)	0-24
	Colm Hayden (Carlow)	2-18 (24)
	Kieran McDonald (Mayo)	2-18 (24)
24	Brendan Devenney (Donegal)	2-17 (23)

Top Scorers

Top scorer in the League for 1998/99 is Tony Boyle (Dún na nGall), centre. Derry's leading scorer so far is Eamonn Burns (far left) while Offaly's leading scorer is Peter Brady (below).





Doire

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

1

EOIN McCLOSKEY

E. Mac Bhloscaidh
(Dungiven)

2

KIERAN McKEEVER

C. MacÍomhair (Capt.)
(Dungiven)

3

SEAN M. LOCKHART

S. M. Locard
(Banagher)

4

JOHNNY McBRIDE

S. MacGiolla Bhríde
(Loup)

5

PAUL McFLYNN

P. MacFloinn
(Loup)

6

HENRY DOWNEY

A. Ó Dúnaigh
(Lavey)

7

FERGAL McCUSKER

F. MacOscail
(Glen)

8

ANTHONY TOHILL

A. Ó Tuathail
(Swatragh)

9

DERMOT HEANEY

D. Ó hÉanna
(Castledawson)

10

GARY MAGILL

G. Mac an Ghoill
(Glen)

11

GARY COLEMAN

G. Ó Colmáin
(Magherafelt)

12

DERMOT DOUGAN

D. Ó Duagáin
(Newbridge)

13

JOE BROLLY

S. Ó Brolaigh
(Dungiven)

14

BENNY MURRAY

B. Ó Muirí
(Ballinascreen)

15

JOE CASSIDY

S. Ó Caiside
(Bellaghy)

Fir Ionaid

(16) **David Hasson**

D. Ó hOisáin
(Banagher)

(17) **Johnny McGurk**

S. MagOirc
(Lavey)

(18) **Stephen McLarnon**

S. MacGiolla Earnáin
(Castledawson)

(19) **Sean Donnelly**

S. Ó Donnaille
(Ballinderry)

(20) **Ruairi Boylan**

R. Ó Baiolláin
(Glenullin)

(21) **Paul Diamond**

P. Ó Díomáin
(Bellaghy)

(22) **Ciarán Higgins**

S. Ó hUiginn
(Magherafelt)

(23) **Adrian Heaney**

A. Ó hÉanna
(Castledawson)

(24) **DUINE**

EILE

Roghnóirí:

P.J. Whelahan (Manager), Dr. P.J. McAuliffe, Finbar Spain.

Cúil Cúilíní Seachái 45m Saor Ciceanna

1adh Leath

2adh Leath

IOMLÁN

Uíbh Fháilí

Dathanna: Uaithne, Bán is Ór

1

PÁDRAIG KELLY

P. Ó Ceallaigh
(Shamrocks)

2

CATHAL DALY

C. Ó Dálaigh
(Tullamore)

3

JOHN RYAN

S. Ó Riain
(Shannonbridge)

4

DAVID FOLEY

D. Ó Foghlú
(Ballyfore)

5

JOHN KENNY

S. Ó Cionnaigh
(Daingean)

6

FINBAR CULLEN

F. Ó Cuillin (Capt.)
(Edenderry)

7

JAMES BRADY

S. Ó Brádaigh
(Gracefield)

8

CIARÁN McMANUS

C. MacMánais
(Tubber)

9

JAMES GRENNAN

S. Ó Grianáin
(Ferbane)

10

COLM QUINN

C. Ó Coinn
(Ballycumber)

11

JAMES STEWART

S. Stíobhard
(Clara)

12

RONAN MOONEY

R. Ó Maonaigh
(Shamrocks)

13

VINNY CLAFFEY

U. MacLaithimh
(Doon)

14

ROY MALONE

R. Ó Maoleoin
(Rhode)

15

PETER BRADY

P. Ó Brádaigh
(Edenderry)

Fir Ionaid

(16) **Ken Furlong**

C. Ó Furlong
(Tullamore)

(17) **Paul Mulvihill**

P. Ó Maolmhíchil
(Killeigh/Raheen)

(18) **Barry Malone**

B. Ó Maoileoin
(Rhode)

(19) **Phil O'Reilly**

P. Ó Raghallaigh
(Tullamore)

(20) **Alan Comerford**

A. MacCumascaigh
(Walsh Island)

(21) **Kevin Guing**

C. Guing
(Edenderry)

(22) **Barry Mooney**

B. Ó Maonaigh
(Shamrocks)

(23) **Ken Kelleghan**

C. Ó Céilleacháin
(Rhode)

(24) **Mark Daly**

M. Ó Dálaigh
(Clara)

Roghnóirí:

Tommy Lyons (Manager), Paul O'Kelly, Eddie Fleming.

Cúil Cúilíní Seachái 45m Saor Ciceanna

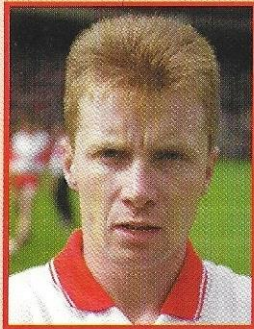
1adh Leath

2adh Leath

IOMLÁN

An Captaen

Kieran McKeever



Kieran was full back in the Dungiven team that regained the Derry senior title last August after six years. He also played a big part in the club's march to their first AIB Ulster senior title before Christmas.

McKeever helped to usher in what is turning out to be Derry's most successful era ever in League play as right full back in the team that won the 1992 title.

Over a year later he was again at No. 2 when the county captured the Sam Maguire Cup for the only time so far and he won further League medals in 1995 and 1996.

A wholehearted and reliable defender, he has stamped his personality on the current good League run by the Oak Leaf County.



An Captaen

Finbar Cullen



The Edenderry clubman is in line today to join a select company of footballers who have led their county to a first National League title w

He is hoping for better fortune than in 1989 when he was centre half back in the Offaly team that lost to an Anthony Tohill inspired Derry in the All-Ireland minor final. A few weeks earlier Cullen was full back in the side that beat Clare in the All-Ireland minor hurling decider.

Finbarr made his senior championship debut in 1991, won his second Offaly senior county medal last October, and was an influential figure as pivot and captain in last year's memorable march to the Bank of Ireland Leinster senior title.

Three Meetings

Derry and Offaly have never met in the senior championship and their league meetings have been few; in fact they have met on only three occasions with the record showing two-one in Offaly's favour, the details of which are:

1982 - Offaly 0-11; Derry 0-10.

Only in spasms did Offaly look what they were - reigning All-Ireland champions, as before a small home crowd they were pushed all the way by a Derry team that was not overly concerned by the standing of the opposition. The points were vital to both sides - to Offaly to keep their title hopes alive and the visitors to avoid the threat of relegation.

The rather shambling pace of the first half appeared to suit Offaly and they turned over leading by 0-8 to 0-4 thanks to the elegant sniping of Matt Connor, Tom Fitzpatrick and Gerry Carroll; but as the hour wore on Derry, with almost every forward willing to have a go, pulled back the arrears. In

A decade of glory

Whatever the outcome of today's encounter, the nineties have already proved to be a decade of glory for Derry in that they have won their first All-Ireland and three National League titles to date. And those three league triumphs put Derry in line for a rare distinction - to become only the third county to win four league titles in one decade. Previously, Mayo chalked up four (plus two) in their record-breaking run in the 1930s and Kerry took five in the 1970s. If Derry require incentive today they haven't too far to look for it.

the event, Derry just failed, but a share of the spoils would have done no more than justice to the attacking efforts of Laurence Moore, Cathal Faulkner and goalkeeping of John Somers.

Offaly scorers: T.Fitzpatrick 0-3, M.Connor 0-3, J.Guinan 0-1, G.Carroll 0-1, R.Connor 0-1, T.O'Connor 0-1, S.Lowry 0-1.

Derry: E.Donnolly 0-2, M.Lynch 0-1, D.O'Kane 0-1, B.O'Neill 0-1, C.McKee 0-1, A.Quigg 0-1, R.Moore 0-1, F.Johnson 0-1, C.Faulkner 0-1.

Offaly: D.Wynne, M.Fitzgerald, L.O'Connor, J.Rigney, P.Fitzgerald, S.Lowry, M.Lowry, T.O'Connor, T.Fitzpatrick, G.Carroll, B.Lowry, M.Connor, R.Connor, J.Guinan, S.Darby.
Sub: L.O'Mahony for Darby.

Derry: J.Somers, P.Doherty, J.Irwin, P.McElwee, L.Cudden, F.Johnson, B.Treanor, D.Barton, L.Moore, M.Lynch, D.O'Kane, B.O'Neill, C.McKee, A.Quigg, E.Donnolly.

Subs: T.Doherty for O'Neill, C.Faulkner for Donnolly.

1986 - Offaly 2-6; Derry 1-8.

There was nothing really at stake in this final-round clash at Birr. Derry had already won group honours and Offaly derived little inspiration from trying to deny the opposition the satisfaction of finishing with full points. And the frozen surface, which often left players floundering, did little for the occasion. Yet it wasn't an uninteresting contest as Derry established an early lead of 1-2 to nil after eleven minutes and Offaly readily accepted the challenge. Brendan Lowry's three points offset the advantage of Eamon Rafferty's goal and from there it was nip-and-tuck all the way. At the break it was 1-4 to 0-5 and Derry looked like holding on to that slender lead until goals by John Guinan and Pat Spollen put Offaly ahead. A frantic rally saw Enda Gormley shoot

two points but time ran out and Offaly gained an unexpected but probably deserved win.

Offaly scorers: P.Spollen 1-1, B.Lowry 0-3, J.Guinan 1-0, J.Mooney 0-1, J.Dowling 0-1.

Derry: E.Rafferty 1-3, E.Gormley 0-3, D.O'Loughlin 0-1, D.Cassidy 0-1.

Offaly: D.O'Neill, M.Lowry, L.O'Connor, S.McEvoy, A.Stewart, R.Connor, K.Corcoran, T.O'Connor, J.Dowling, S.Lynam, D.O'Loughlin, J.Guinan, J.Mooney, P.Spollen, B.Lowry.

Sub: P.Brady for Corcoran.

Derry: D.McCusker, H.McGurk, T.Scullion, P.McCann, P.Mackie, C.Glass, K.Keenan, P.Murphy, D.Barton, D.Cassidy, J.Irwin, E.Gormley, E.Rafferty, B.McGilligan, C.McKee.

1992 - Derry 2-13; Offaly 1-7.

With Derry playing on home territory at Greenlough and also having gained full points from their previous outings (Offaly had yet to win), there was never any doubt about the outcome of this contest between top and bottom. Within two minutes of the throw-in Derry were as many points to the good courtesy of a couple of Declan Bateson frees before Offaly replied through Pat Daly and Brendan Lowry. However, after

12 minutes the visitors conceded a penalty which Gary Coleman converted and when Joe Brolly notched Derry's second major eight minutes later, the favourites were away.

At the interval Derry led by 2-5 to 0-4 and although Finbar Cullen reduced the Midlanders' arrears to six points just after the restart, that was as close as they got. Indeed, with Anthony Tohill in splendid form, the Ulster side pulled further away in the second period and it took a late penalty from Lowry to put some respectability on the scoreboard.

Derry scorers: A.Tohill 0-6, D.Bateson 0-4, J.Brolly 1-1, G.Coleman 1-0, B.McGilligan 0-1, S.Downey 0-1.
Offaly: B.Lowry 1-2, S.Grennan 0-2, P.Daly 0-1, F.Cullen 0-1, M.Plunkett 0-1.

Derry: F.McCusker, K.McKeever, D.Quinn, T.Scullion, H.Downey, C.Rafferty, G.Coleman, B.McGilligan, D.Heaney, A.Tohill, E.Heaney, G.Magill, D.Bateson, S.Downey, J.Brolly.

Subs: D.Cassidy for Magill, B.Rafferty for McKeever, R.Treacy for Coleman.

Offaly: L.Molloy, V.Byrne, G.O'Brien, T.Coffey, M.Devine, F.Cullen, J.Stewart, D.Reynolds, D.Kavanagh, P.Brady, S.Grennan, V.Claffey, P.Daly, P.Dunne, B.Lowry.

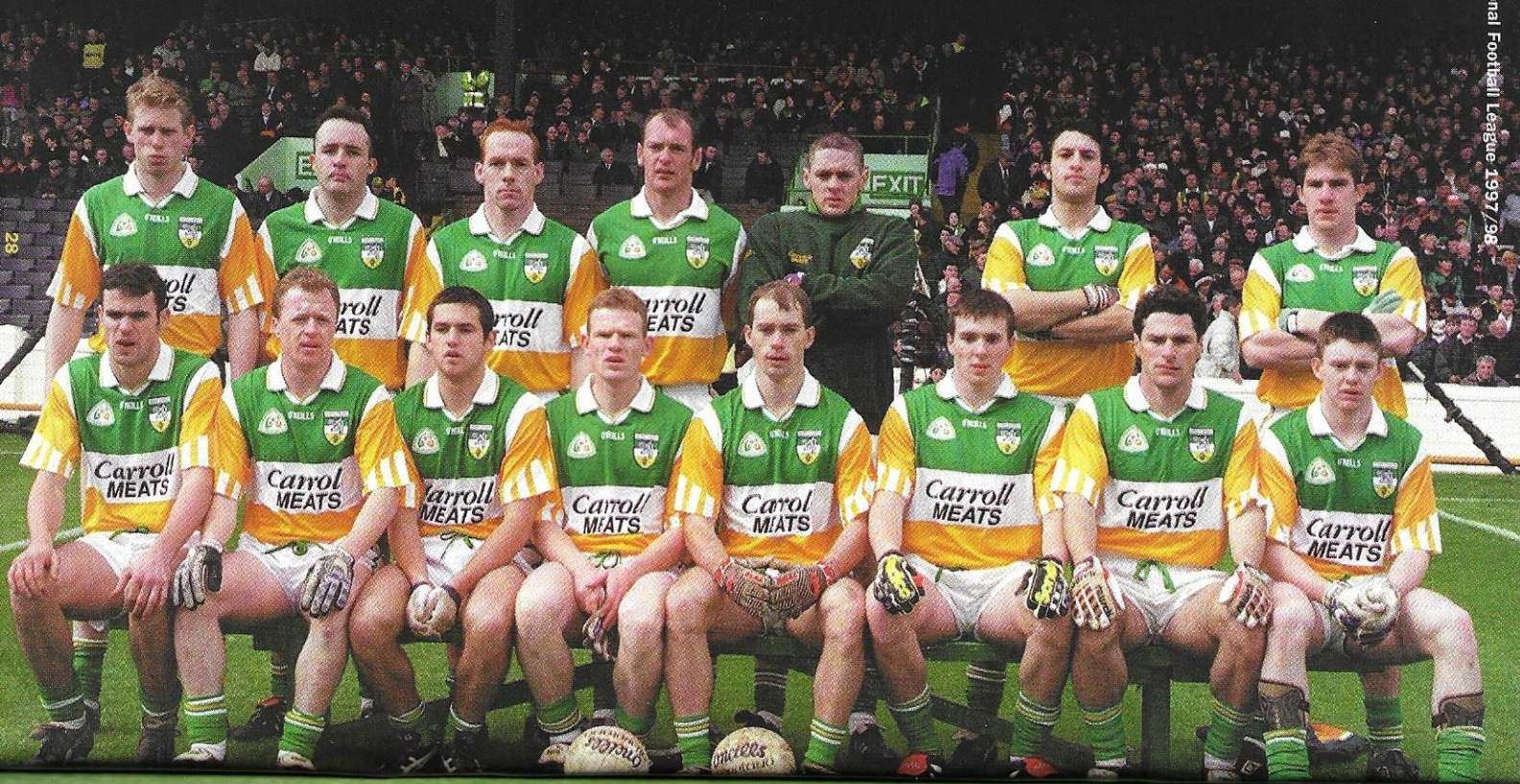
Subs: K.Kelleghan for Stewart, A.Bracken for Kavanagh, M.Plunkett for Brady.



The members and staff of
Offaly County Council
extend best wishes to
The Offaly Team today



Uíbh Fhailí



The Offaly team which defeated Donegal in the Semi-Final:

Back row (l-r): Ronan Mooney, Mark Daly, James Stewart, John Kenny, Pdraig Kelly, Ray Malone, Colm Quinn..

Front row (l-r): James Grennan, David Foley, Barry Malone, James Brady, Finbar Cullen (captain), Ciarán McManus, Vinny Claffey, Cathal Daly.

Padraig Kelly (Shamrocks)
22-years-old. 5'11". 12st.7lbs.
Student.

Cathal Daly (Tullamore)
22-years-old. 5'10". 12st.2lbs.
Garda.

John Ryan (Rhode)
22-years-old. 6'1". 14st.
Farmer.

David Foley (Ballyfore)
29-years-old. 5'9". 12st.6lbs.
Computer Programmer.

John Kenny (Daingean)
23-years-old. 6'0". 12st.12lbs.
Builder.

Finbar Cullen (Edenderry) **Captain**
26-years-old. 5'10". 13st.
Sales Representative.

James Brady (Gracefield)
28-years-old. 5'9". 12st.4lbs.
Production Manager.

Ciarán McManus (Tubber)
22-years-old. 6'1". 14st.
Student.

James Grennan (Ferbane)
24-years-old. 6'3". 14st.
Electrician

Colm Quinn (Ballycumber)
22-years-old. 6'0". 12st.12lbs.
Student

James Stewart (Clara)
28-years-old. 5'11". 13st.4lbs.
Sales Technician.

Ronan Mooney (Shamrocks)
24-years-old. 6'2". 13st.7lbs.
Student.

Vinny Claffey (Doon)
32-years-old. 5'11". 13st.
Farmer.

Roy Malone (Rhode)
22-years-old. 6'0". 12st.7lbs.
Bank Official.

Peter Brady (Edenderry)
32-years-old. 5'11". 12ast.12lbs.
Shopkeeper.

Ken Furlong (Tullamore)
26-years-old. 5'11". 12st.7lbs.
Building Society Official.

Paul Mulvihill (Killeigh/Raheen)
23-years-old. 6'1". 13st.10lbs.
Store Manager.

Barry Malone (Rhode)
19-years-old. 6'0". 12st.7lbs.
Student.

Phil O'Reilly (Tullamore)
29-years-old. 5'10". 12st.10lbs.
Shopkeeper.

Alan Comerford (Walsh Island)
23-years-old. 6'0". 13st.10lbs.
Farm Manager.

Kevin Guing (Edenderry)
27-years-old. 5'11". 12st.10lbs.
Dispatch Manager

Barry Mooney (Shamrocks)
21-years-old. 5'10". 13st.
Student.

Ken Kelleghan (Rhode)
28-years-old. 6'0". 13st.
Credit Controller.

Mark Daly (Clara)
23-years-old. 6'0". 13st.2lbs.
Garda.



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Paul O’Kelly on (087) 2576042 (pokelly@indigo.ie)

Or Pat Sutton on (086) 2523637.

Kerry 2-12; Offaly 0-14.

Twenty-five years ago the honours in Gaelic football were confined to an elite few among which Kerry and Offaly were pre-eminent. And in the spring of 1973 it seemed they had the field very much to themselves - Offaly being the All-Ireland champions for the previous two years and Kerry the custodians of league honours since 1971. And if the dominance of these two was not exactly total, the challenge to their position was neither persistent nor impressive, apart from that posed by Derry. Elsewhere the opposition was scattered with quite a number of former strongholds in decline. In Leinster, Dublin and Meath were struggling, in Connacht the game had very definitely slipped from the high standard of the sixties, while up north Down were also sliding into a valley period, so that when Offaly and Kerry emerged as 1973 finalists it was very much the expected pairing.

The semi-finals had provided few pointers: Offaly had overcome Sligo in a lack-lustre encounter while Kerry had received a walk-over from Derry after a controversial drawn game. The campaign needed a worthwhile finale - and it got it. In retrospect Offaly might claim that they could have won this final - and well they might, but for a hitherto unsuspected weakness in the Offaly rear-guard which was cleverly exploited by a wily Kerry attack.

The two first-half goals which both fell to Kerry captain, Brendan Lynch were the vital scores and underlined a significant difference between the sides as Offaly rarely looked likely to find the net. Indeed, a remarkable feature of this game was that, apart from Tony McTeague, not one Offaly forward raised a flag. And the Kerry tactic of conceding frees was - in the light of the game's outcome - a highly successful one, though it did provide the Ferbane marksman with the opportunity of converting no fewer than eleven of these.

The early exchanges were even enough as points were traded, but once the goals arrived Offaly were struggling. Still, at the break only two points divided the sides (2-4 to 0-8) and, though Offaly were labouring in the midfield sector, much of the action took place in the Kerry half thanks mainly to the

Offaly's Lone Final ... 1973

industrious foraging of half-forwards Paddy Fenning and Kevin Kilmurray. However, the lack of support for this pair (and McTeague) was to prove disastrous.

But for all their troubles Offaly were in contention for a long way. Five times they were on level terms, and indeed, were a point ahead as the game entered the last quarter. That, however, was the high point of Offaly's endeavours and McTeague's 61st minute attempt at a goal from a free was a fruitless and forlorn effort.

Offaly scorers: T. McTeague 0-12, W. Bryan 0-1, E. Mulligan 0-1.

Offaly: Martin Furlong, Sean Lowry, Mick Ryan, Mick O'Rourke, Eugene Mulligan, Larry Coughlan, Mick Wright, Willie Bryan, Sean Evans, Paddy Fenning, Kevin Kilmurray, Tony McTeague, Murt Connor, John Smith, Johnny Cooney.

Subs: Niall Kelly for Mulligan, Kieran Claffey for Connor.



McTeague sets the scoring pace in League Finals

Offaly's return to the National Football League final after an interval of twenty five years brings into focus the fact that one of their greatest scoring forwards, Tony McTeague, heads the chart of leading scorers for finals in modern times.

McTeague struck it rich in the 1973 summit when he rifled over 0-12 but his accuracy was not enough to prevent Offaly from sustaining a four points defeat from Kerry.

That final proved a rich one for impressive individual scoring returns as the Kingdom's right half forward Brendan Lynch helped himself to a splendid 2-3.

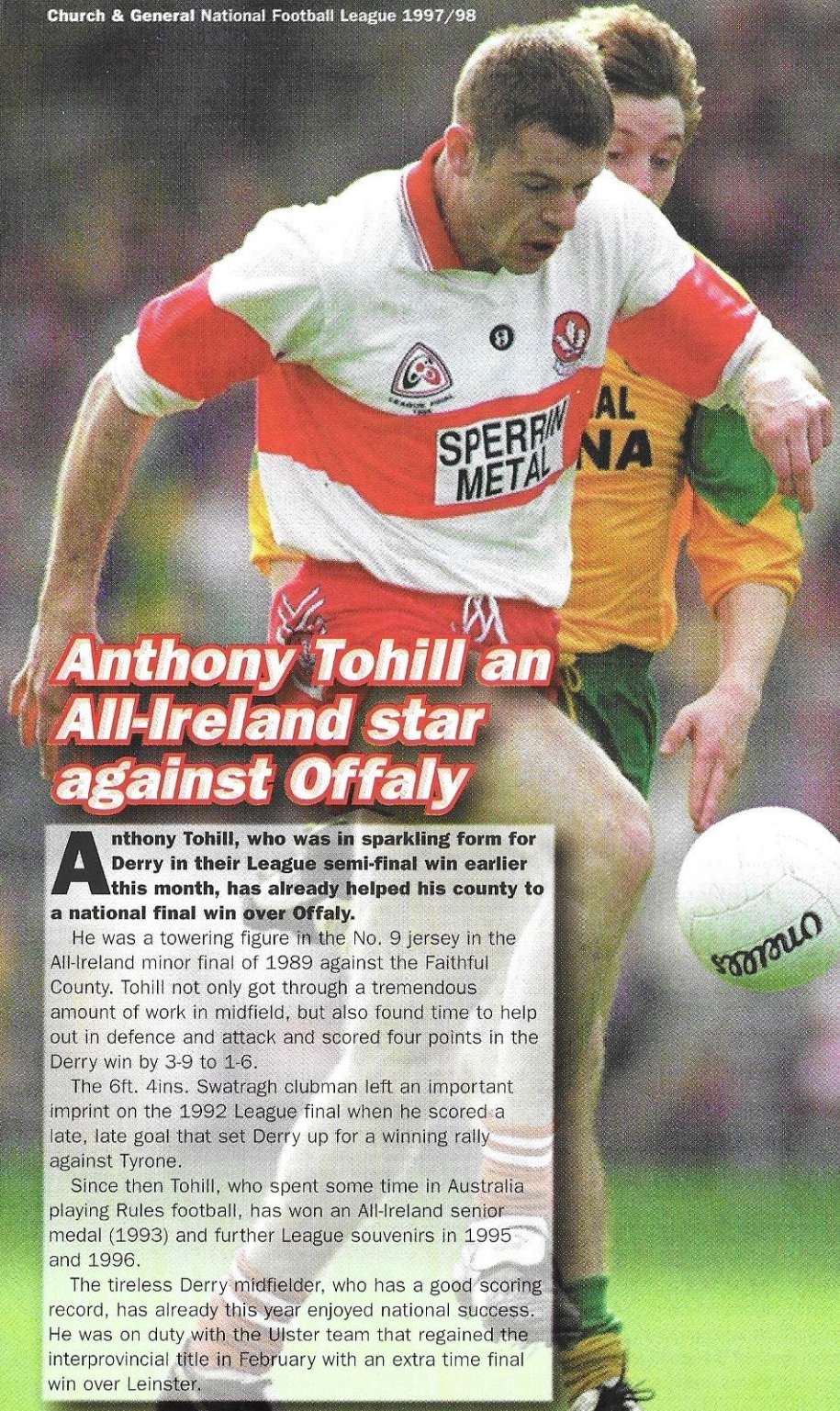
Incidentally, McTeague captained Offaly from left half forward.

Lynch joined Mick O'Connell on top of the Kerry chart with his scoreline. O'Connell hit 0-9 for Kerry in their win over New York in New York in 1969 in the second leg of a two leg game. That particular match, however, went to extra time.

Another nine points tally stands to the credit of Billy Fitzpatrick at 0-9 for Mayo against Dublin in 1978.

Michael Sheehy scored 1-5 for Kerry in their Centenary Year (1984) win over Galway at Limerick.

Anthony Tohill appears twice in this exclusive "Hot Shots" list with the same tally-1-5. He first reached that marker against Tyrone in Derry's final win of 1992 and equalled it in the 1996 triumph over Donegal.



Anthony Tohill an All-Ireland star against Offaly

Anthony Tohill, who was in sparkling form for Derry in their League semi-final win earlier this month, has already helped his county to a national final win over Offaly.

He was a towering figure in the No. 9 jersey in the All-Ireland minor final of 1989 against the Faithful County. Tohill not only got through a tremendous amount of work in midfield, but also found time to help out in defence and attack and scored four points in the Derry win by 3-9 to 1-6.

The 6ft. 4ins. Swatragh clubman left an important imprint on the 1992 League final when he scored a late, late goal that set Derry up for a winning rally against Tyrone.

Since then Tohill, who spent some time in Australia playing Rules football, has won an All-Ireland senior medal (1993) and further League souvenirs in 1995 and 1996.

The tireless Derry midfielder, who has a good scoring record, has already this year enjoyed national success. He was on duty with the Ulster team that regained the interprovincial title in February with an extra time final win over Leinster.

Derry's Last Final...1996

Derry 1-16; Donegal 1-9.

Derry took their fourth National League title two years ago when they defeated Donegal by seven points at Croke Park. The first major incident of the game happened at the 12th minute when, following a clever bat-down by Seamus Downey, Anthony Tohill was on hand to finish to the net, albeit at the second attempt after Gary Walsh saved his initial effort. Two minutes before the interval Noel Hegarty got the game's other goal. It was a bizarre effort as Derry full-back Gary Coleman played a perfectly weighted back pass to 'keeper Jonathan Kelly, but just as the ball reached him, Kelly slipped and as the ball went past him Hegarty rushed in to poke the ball into the empty net. This left matters delicately poised at the interval with champions' Derry holding a distinctly unflattering two-point lead - 1-7 to 1-5.

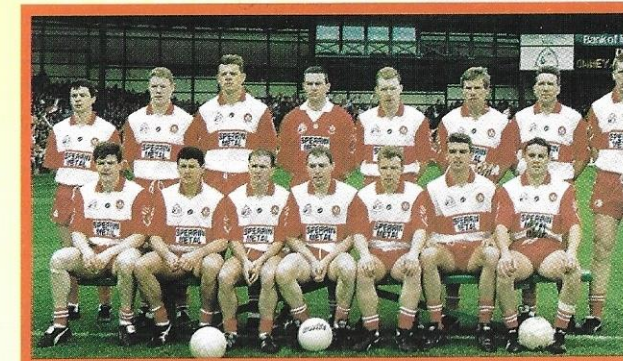
On the restart Derry continued to have the better of matters but were unable to translate territorial superiority onto the scoreboard. They missed two great goal chances in the third quarter as, firstly Eamonn Burns, was far too slow in preparing his shot which was easily smothered by Walsh, and secondly when Joe Brolly failed to find Enda Gormley in a promising position. With eight minutes left the gap

between the sides was still two points - 1-11 to 1-9 - but Derry upped the pace and Donegal could not respond. Five unanswered points - two from Seamus Downey and three from Tohill - saw the Oak Leaf county race clear and win their second title in-a-row by a well-deserved margin of seven points.

Derry scorers: A.Tohill 1-5, E.Gormley 0-6, J.Brolly 0-2, S.Downey 0-2, D.Barton 0-1.

Derry: Jonathan Kelly, Kieran McKeever, Gary Coleman, Tony Scullion, Karl Diamond, Henry Downey, Fergal McCusker, Anthony Tohill, Brian McGilligan, Eamonn Burns, Declan Bateson, Sean M.Lockhart, Joe Brolly, Seamus Downey, Enda Gormley.

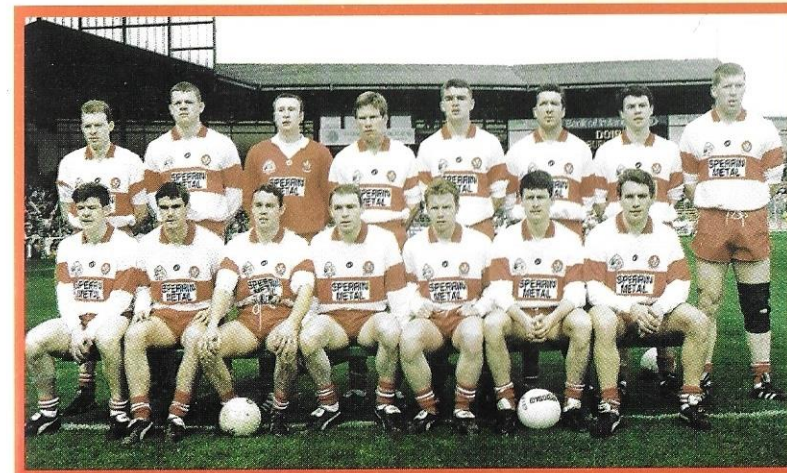
Subs: Dermot Dougan for Burns, Gary Magill for Seamus Downey.



Two-in-a-row

1994-95 League Champions

Back row (l-r): Joe Brolly, Dermot Heaney, Anthony Tohill, Damien McCusker, Seamus Downey, Tony Scullion, Damien Barton, Brian McGilligan.
Front row (l-r): Enda Gormley, Fergal McCusker, Johnny McGurk, Henry Downey (captain), Kieran McKeever, Eamon Burns, Gary Coleman.



1995-96 League Champions

Back row (l-r): Seamus Downey, Anthony Tohill, Jonathan Kelly, Tony Scullion, Eamon Burns, Damien Barton, Joe Brolly, Brian McGilligan.
Front row (l-r): Enda Gormley, Seán Martin Lockhart, Gary Coleman, Henry Downey (captain), Kieran McKeever, Fergal McCusker, Karl Diamond.

Uíbh Fhailí



Round 1 at Tullamore: **Offaly 1-12; Monaghan 1-8.**

Scorers - Peter Brady 1-2, Vinny Claffey 0-3, James Grennan 0-2, Ciaran McManus 0-2, Sean Grennan 0-1, Roy Malone 0-1, Vincent Mooney 0-1.

Round 2 at Parnell Park: **Offaly 1-11; Dublin 1-8.**

Scorers - Peter Brady 1-1, James Grennan 0-2, Ronan Mooney 0-2, Colm Quinn 0-2, Vinny Claffey 0-1, Finbar Cullen 0-1, John Kenny 0-1, Shane Manley 0-1.

Round 3 at Tullamore: **Offaly 0-9; Kerry 1-4.**

Scorers - Ciaran McManus 0-3, Shane Manley 0-2, Peter Brady 0-1, Vinny Claffey 0-1, Roy Malone 0-1, John Kenny 0-1.

Round 4 at Dungannon: **Offaly 1-10; Tyrone 1-8.**

Scorers - Shane Manley 0-4, Ciaran McManus 1-0, Peter Brady 0-2, Vinny Claffey 0-2, Sean Grennan 0-1, Finbar Cullen 0-1.

Round 5 at Markievicz Park: **Offaly 1-9; Sligo 0-12.**

Scorers - Vinny Claffey 0-5, John Kenny 1-0, Peter Brady 0-2, Ronan Mooney 0-1, James Brady 0-1.

Round 6 at Tullamore: **Offaly 1-11; Cavan 0-11.**

Scorers - Ciaran McManus 1-2, Peter Brady 0-3, Vinny Claffey 0-2, Colm Quinn 0-2, Roy Malone 0-1, Cathal Daly 0-1.

Round 7 at Gorey: **Offaly 1-16; Wexford 0-10.**

Scorers - Peter Brady 0-7, Ciaran McManus 0-4, Barry Mooney 1-1, Vinny Claffey 0-1, James Grennan 0-1, Roy Malone 0-1, Colm Quinn 0-1.

Quarter-Final at Hyde Park: **Offaly 1-11; Galway 0-10.**

Scorers - Colm Quinn 1-2, Peter Brady 0-3, James Stewart 0-2, Ciaran McManus 0-2, Roy Malone 0-1, Ronan Mooney 0-1.

Semi-Final at Croke Park: **Offaly 3-10; Donegal 1-14.**

Scorers - Ciaran McManus 1-4, Vinny Claffey 0-3, Roy Malone 1-0, James Stewart 1-0, Colm Quinn 0-1, Mark Daly 0-1, Phil O'Reilly 0-1.

Total Scored 10-99 (129 points)
Total Conceded 5-86 (101)
Average 1.28

Scorers - Peter Brady 2-21, Ciaran McManus 3-17, Vinny Claffey 0-18, Colm Quinn 1-8, Roy Malone 1-5, Shane Manley 0-7, James Grennan 0-5, John Kenny 1-2, James Stewart 1-2, Ronan Mooney 0-4, Barry Mooney 1-1, Finbar Cullen 0-2, Sean Grennan 0-2, Vincent Mooney 0-1, James Brady 0-1, Cathal Daly 0-1, Mark Daly 0-1, Phil O'Reilly 0-1.

Vinny Claffey
(Uíbh Fhailí)

Doire



Round 1 at Ballinascreen: **Derry 0-10; Westmeath 0-10.**

Scorers - Eamonn Burns 0-6, Benny Murray 0-2, Johnny McBride 0-1, Adrian Heaney 0-1.

Round 2 at Ballybofey: **Donegal 2-14; Derry 1-9.**

Scorers - Gary Magill 0-3, Ronan Rocks 1-0, Benny Murray 0-1, Johnny McBride 0-1, Anthony Tohill 0-1, Joe Cassidy 0-1, Michael Gribben 0-1, Dermot Dougan 0-1.

Round 3 at Celtic Park: **Derry 2-15; London 1-6.**

Scorers - Benny Murray 1-2, Eamonn Burns 0-4, Ciaran Higgins 1-1, Gary Magill 0-3, Ronan Rocks 0-2, Johnny McBride 0-1, Paul Diamond 0-1, G Diamond 0-1.

Round 4 at Casement Park: **Derry 0-14; Antrim 1-8.**

Scorers - Eamonn Burns 0-5, Gary Magill 0-3, Anthony Tohill 0-2, Ciaran Higgins 0-2, Ronan Rocks 0-1, Gary Coleman 0-1.

Round 5 at Pearse Park: **Derry 0-13; Longford 0-10.**

Scorers - Eamonn Burns 0-4, Anthony Tohill 0-2, Joe Cassidy 0-2, Benny Murray 0-1, Gary Magill 0-1, Seamus Downey 0-1, Johnny McGurk 0-1, Dermot Heaney 0-1.

Round 6 at Celtic Park: **Derry 1-7; Meath 0-7.**

Scorers - Joe Brolly 1-4, Eamonn Burns 0-1, Dermot Dougan 0-1, Rory Boylan 0-1.

Round 7 at Celtic Park: **Derry 1-15; Armagh 2-10.**

Scorers - Joe Brolly 0-5, Gary Magill 1-2, Eamonn Burns 0-2, Gary Coleman 0-2, Johnny McBride 0-1, Dermot Dougan 0-1, Dermot Heaney 0-1, Stephen McLarnan 0-1.

Quarter-Final at Markievicz Park: **Derry 1-9; Mayo 0-10.**

Scorers - Joe Brolly 0-3, Gary Coleman 1-0, Eamonn Burns 0-2, Dermot Dougan 0-2, Dermot Heaney 0-1, Paul McFlynn 0-1.

Semi-Final at Croke Park: **Derry 1-12; Monaghan 0-8.**

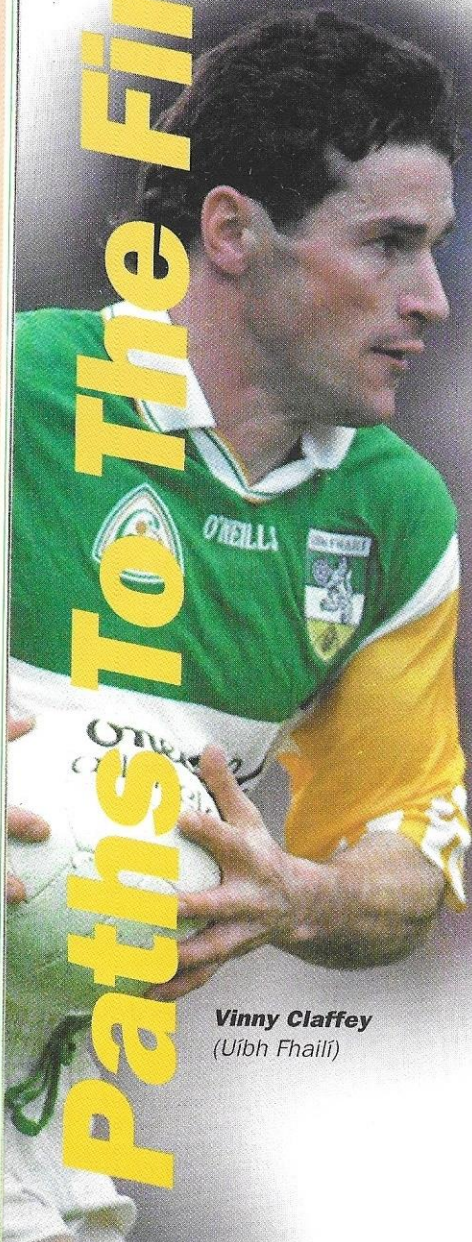
Scorers - Anthony Tohill 0-4, Joe Cassidy 1-0, Seamus Downey 0-2, Gary Magill 0-2, Dermot Heaney 0-1, Dermot Dougan 0-1, Joe Brolly 0-1, Eamonn Burns 0-1.

Total Scored 7-104 (125 points)
Total Conceded 6-82 (100)
Average 1.25

Scorers - Eamonn Burns 0-25, Gary Magill 1-14, Joe Brolly 1-13, Anthony Tohill 0-9, Benny Murray 1-6, Dermot Dougan 0-6, Ronan Rocks 1-3, Ciaran Higgins 1-3, Gary Coleman 1-3, Joe Cassidy 1-3, Johnny McBride 0-4, Dermot Heaney 0-4, Seamus Downey 0-3, Stephen McLarnan 0-1, Johnny McGurk 0-1, Paul Diamond 0-1, G Diamond 0-1, Michael Gribben 0-1, Adrian Heaney 0-1, Rory Boylan 0-1, Paul McFlynn 0-1.

Joe Brolly
(Doire)

Paths To The Final



Ag Feacaint Siar

Twenty Years Ago (1977-78)

The league was divided into six groups with the strongest section undoubtedly made up of Kildare, Dublin, Galway, Offaly, Cork and Kerry, though there was a sprinkling of fairly strong counties spread through the other groups. Early results were predictable with Kerry beating Offaly by 3-10 to 2-7, Kildare overcoming Galway (0-11 to 0-8), Tyrone beating Derry by 2-5 to 1-7 and Armagh trouncing Monaghan by 4-13 to 0-5.

Derry suffered their second defeat when losing by 0-9 to 0-10 to Cavan as did Offaly when Kildare beat them by 4-3 to 0-9 at Tullamore. Dublin signalled their intentions when they beat Kerry at Croke Park (2-11 to 3-7) and Derry collected their first points when they beat Antrim (2-8 to 1-4) at

Swatragh - the Glensmen had already beaten Roscommon (1-10 to 0-9) and drawn with Mayo (1-8 to 0-11).

Monaghan, who had lost to Westmeath in the second round, suffered their third defeat when going down to Louth by 1-6 to 2-7 and Derry dropped another brace of points as they lost to Roscommon by 0-9 to 2-9. Dublin continued on course with a 2-9 to 1-8 win over Kildare at Droichead Nua, but Kerry's interest began to wane when Cork beat them by 2-4 to 0-8 at Tralee.

Down, having lost their opening game to Armagh, began to put things together with wins over Westmeath (2-7 to 1-6) and Longford (0-9 to 1-5). As unbeaten records rapidly disappeared in all groups, Dublin kept theirs by taking full points from Cork (0-8 to 0-5) and Offaly (4-7 to 0-3) while Mayo, another unbeaten side - having drawn with Antrim and beaten Roscommon and Cavan - kept their challenge alive with good wins over Tyrone and Derry as the knock-out stages loomed.

Laois, meanwhile had been making good progress in the 'lower regions' and victories over Clare, Tipperary, Wexford, Limerick and Wicklow hoisted Laois into the last four where they joined Dublin, Mayo and Down, who clinched their place with a quarter-final win (1-15 to 1-11) over Kildare.

The semi-finals produced no surprises as Dublin disposed of Laois by 0-12 to 0-7 while Mayo also took the 'points' route in beating Down by 0-10 to 0-6. The final was always going Dublin's way although Mayo fought gallantly as they strove to keep in touch. They did make a reasonable contest of it and in the end were only five points adrift (2-8 to 2-13).

Forty Years Ago (1957-58)

With only minimal changes the format for the campaign was the same as in the previous three of four years. Ulster - minus Cavan - constituted a separate section divided into two groups and these opened the campaign in mid-September with Derry beating Antrim by 3-6 to 2-5, Down beating Armagh (2-7 to 2-5) and Donegal accounting for Fermanagh by 3-5 to 1-4.

The holders, Galway, opened with a 2-7 to

1-4 win over Wicklow at Aughrim, but Offaly, after a bright start, faded before the power of All-Ireland champions, Louth, at Ardee and went down by 0-8 to 2-16. Donegal collected their second brace of points by beating Monaghan (2-6 to 1-8) and Offaly got their first win when overcoming Laois by 0-14 to 2-3 at Portlaoise.

Mayo beat Sligo (1-6 to 1-5) and Cavan (5-9 to 0-4) but Offaly were clearly in trouble as they went down (2-11 to 4-7) to Dublin while Louth, following victories over Roscommon and Wicklow, experienced their first setback when failing to Galway (0-9 to 1-9) at Tuam. Reigning Ulster champions Tyrone presented a formidable challenge as they accounted for Monaghan (2-6 to 1-8) and Fermanagh (2-11 to 0-9) before Donegal lost a vital encounter to the O'Neill county (1-7 to 1-10).

In the "deep South" Kerry and Cork never really impressed (both lost to Kildare) and indeed, the Lily Whites' only real rivals were Carlow though Wexford also posed a threat.

Despite the fact that there was still a couple of rounds to play when the mid-winter break intervened - the 'casualty list' was heavy as counties like Cavan, Offaly, Monaghan, Donegal, Derry, Kerry and Cork were effectively out of contention. Mayo made it to the knock-out stages in which they eliminated Meath in a play-off and Tyrone also beat Down in a play-off. The Dublin-Galway play-off attracted a huge crowd to Croke Park where Dublin won by 3-5 to 1-7. Dublin then beat Mayo (0-10 to 0-7) in the semi-final while Kildare ousted Tyrone (3-8 to 1-6) in the other penultimate tie. In the final Dublin won their third title of the decade by 3-13 to Kildare's 3-8.

Sixty Years Ago (1937-38)

With the weaker counties, among which were numbered Derry, Down, Donegal, Cork, Tyrone and Roscommon, confined to subsidiary competitions, the National League was confined to the 14 strongest counties with Mayo seeking a record-breaking fifth successive title. The early returns were all along expected lines with Louth beating Kildare (2-4 to 1-2), Laois beating Clare (3-5 to 1-3),

Galway overcoming Offaly (3-5 to 1-7) and Mayo accounting for Longford (1-9 to 1-7).

Kildare took the points from Dublin (3-5 to 2-4) and, though Galway were winners by one point over Longford (1-6 to 1-5), there were two farcically one-sided contests in the second round in which Mayo beat Clare (8-13 to 1-3) and Kerry trounced Offaly (8-6 to 1-2).

Louth began to make an impression as they recorded their third successive win (5-4 to 1-1) over Monaghan and Ulster champions Cavan (late starters) overcame Kildare by 0-6 to 0-3. Offaly garnered their first brace of points at Longford's expense (1-7 to 0-5) while Galway, Wexford and Louth all reached the half-way stage with full points.

When activity resumed in February Dublin recorded their second draw of the campaign (1-6 all with Cavan) while deadlock also marked Monaghan's fourth outing - 3-4 to Cavan's 2-7, but the big surprise was Laois's defeat of Kerry by 0-9 to 0-5 at Portlaoise.

The sprint for the finishing line was now on in earnest. Kerry did Galway (and themselves) a good turn by comprehensively beating Mayo (3-7 to 0-4) at Tralee. Kerry recorded another notable triumph when beating Galway by 2-4 to 1-5 at Galway, and Mayo kept their chances alive with a 2-11 to 3-1 win over Offaly in the last round at Ballina.

In the play-off for Group B honours, Wexford and Louth finished level - 1-4 all at Croke Park in what was a thrilling game; the replay, however, never touched similar heights as the Slaneysiders coasted to the final on a 1-10 to 1-3 scoreline. In the Group A play-offs, Kerry did well to hold off a spirited Galway effort at Tralee, but in the end it was a comfortable 1-12 to 3-1 in favour of the 'Kingdom'. However, Mayo showed the 'champion touch' against Kerry a fortnight later before an appreciative home crowd at Castlebar where the score was 2-8 to 0-7.

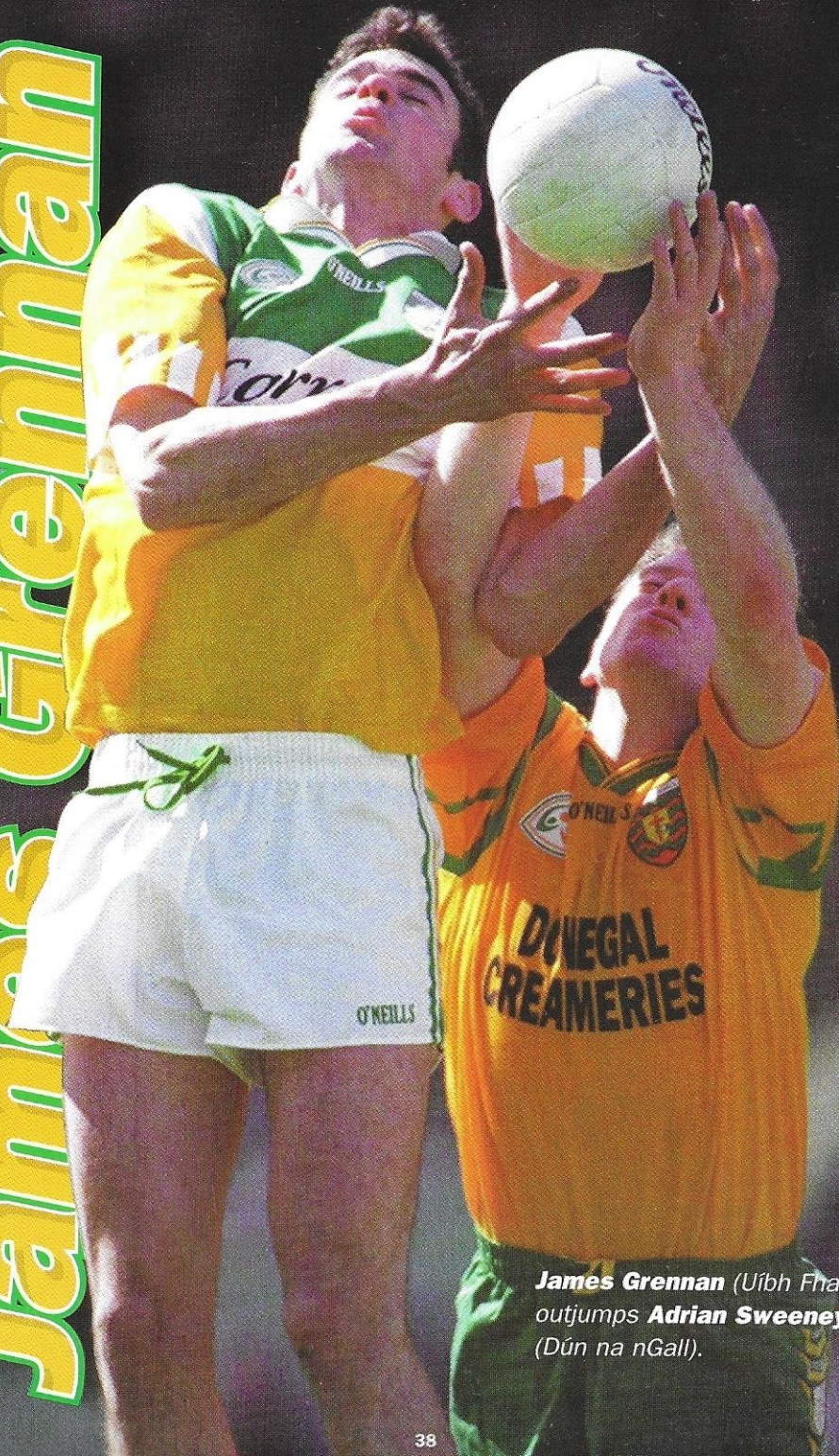
Mayo again enjoyed the home advantage of McHale Park for the final. Not that they really needed it. The long journey may have told against Wexford, but even allowing for that handicap there was no doubting the clear superiority of the hosts. Mayo made history by winning their fifth title in a row on the score of 3-9 to 1-3.

National Football League Title Winners

16: Kerry:	1928, 1929, 1931, 1932, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1982, 1984, 1997.
10: Mayo:	1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1949, 1954, 1970.
8: Dublin:	1953, 1955, 1958, 1976, 1978, 1987, 1991, 1993.
7: Meath:	1933, 1946, 1951, 1975, 1988, 1990, 1994.
4: Cork:	1952, 1956, 1980, 1989.
Derry:	1947, 1992, 1995, 1996.
Down:	1960, 1962, 1968, 1983.
Galway:	1940, 1957, 1965, 1981.
3: New York:	1950, 1964, 1967.
2: Laois:	1927, 1986.
1: Cavan:	1948.
Longford:	1966.
Monaghan:	1985.
Roscommon:	1979.

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

James Grennan



James Grennan (Uíbh Fhailí) outjumps **Adrian Sweeney** (Dún na nGall).

Leaders, Followers, Scorers and Referees

1927/28

Almost inevitably it was a Kerry-Kildare final with the 'Kingdom' reversing the All-Ireland final verdict. Led by the peerless John Joe Sheehy, Kerry won by 2-4 to 1-6 before a crowd of 10,000 as James Bailey with 2-0, took the scoring honours. Tom Shevlin of Roscommon had charge of the whistle.

1937/38

Heading for a fifth successive league title, Mayo hardly needed the advantage of playing at Castlebar, where, under the captaincy of Paddy Moclair they were easy winners by 3-9 to 1-3 over Wexford. Josie Munnely with 2-3 was the day's top scorer. The attendance was 5,000 at the game refereed by J.V.Kelly of Longford.

1947/48

Both Cork and Cavan were seeking their first title when John Joe O'Reilly led his men to a 2-11 to 3-8 draw at Croke Park in which Peter Donoghue with 0-6 topped the scorers' list, before an attendance of 25,370. Martin O'Neill (Wexford) was the man in the middle. In the replay, which was under the control of John Dowling (Kildare), Donoghue with 0-5 had the day's best return as 26,576 watched Cavan take the title on a 5-9 to 2-8 scoreline.

1957/58

A record crowd of 49,268 saw Kevin Heffernan lead Dublin to a 3-13 to 3-8 win on a day when the scoring honours were divided between the winners' Ollie Freaney (0-8) and Kildare's Kieran O'Malley (1-5). Cavan's Simon Deignan was the man in the middle.

1967/68

Joe Lennon was at the helm when Down won their third title of the decade before a crowd of 47,661 at Croke Park. Sean O'Neill, in accounting for 1-4, had the best individual score of the day with Mayo's Mick Loftus in charge of the whistle.

1977/78

A crowd of 39,625 saw the first Dublin-Mayo final since 1941 at Croke Park where Tony Hanahoe captained Dublin to a 2-18 to 2-13 win in a game refereed by Jim Deenigan of Cork. And although he was a member of the losing side, Billie Fitzpatrick took the scoring honours with a splendid 1-6.

1987/88

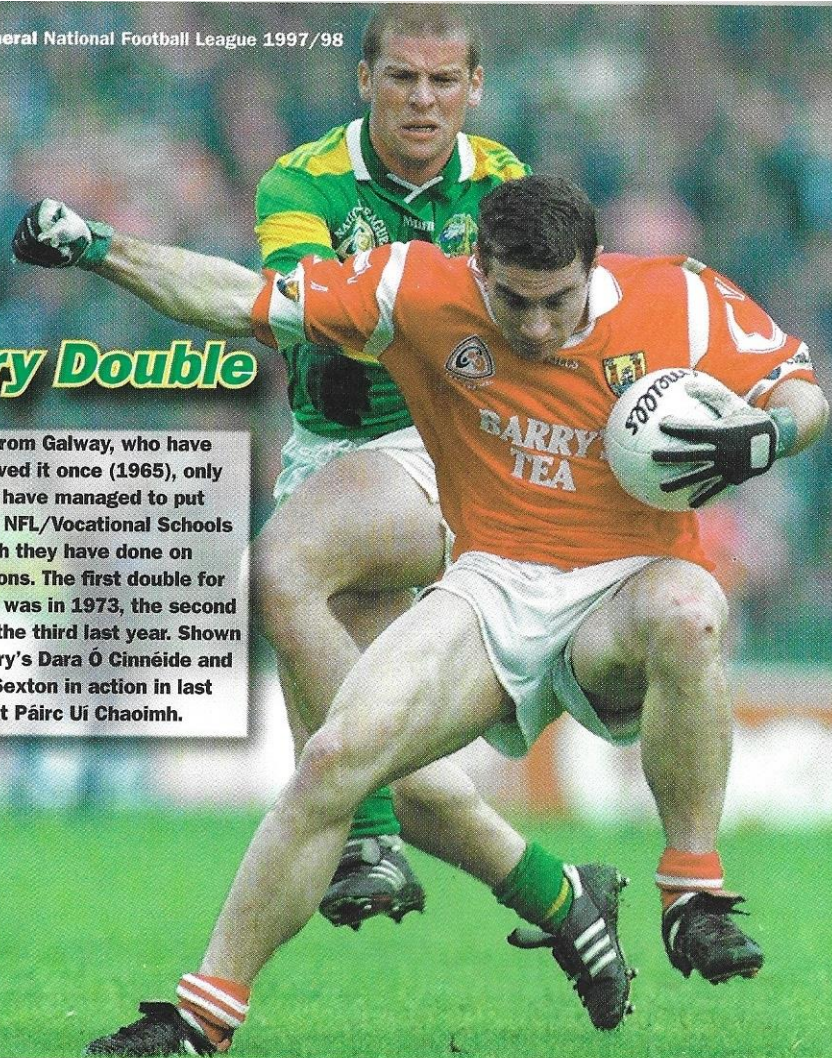
The biggest crowd for ten years (41,516) saw Dublin (1-8) and Meath (0-11) finish level as Brian Stafford shot 0-7 for Meath. A disappointing replay resulted in Meath winning by 2-13 to 0-11 under the captaincy of Mick Lyons. On this occasion Barney Rock took the scoring honours with 0-7 before a crowd of 33,260. Pat Lane of Limerick handled both games.



Finals X 10

Kerry Double

Apart from Galway, who have achieved it once (1965), only Kerry have managed to put together the NFL/Vocational Schools double, which they have done on three occasions. The first double for the Kingdom was in 1973, the second in 1977 and the third last year. Shown here are Kerry's Dara Ó Cinnéide and Cork's Eoin Sexton in action in last year's final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.



Seeking The Double

Offaly today are not alone seeking to win their first National League title but are attempting to bring off the league-vocational double, a feat that only two counties have achieved to date. Kerry, of course, won both titles last year by beating Cork (league) and Tyrone (schools). But that was the first double recorded since 1977 when Kerry beat Dublin and Kildare in the finals.

Galway was the first county to claim both titles when they overcame New York and Kerry in 1965, and the only other double triumph was Kerry's in 1973 in which year they beat Offaly in the league final. The schoolboys victory

over Mayo completed the double.

A number of attempts have been made by other counties with mainly mixed results: Dublin in 1962 won vocational honours at the expense of Sligo but lost the league final to Down. Mayo's attempt in 1971 had a similar outcome, and the same county had a double disappointment in 1978 when Dublin won the league encounter and Kerry the school's final.

Then between 1982 and 1996 there were four double attempts but Kerry ('82 and '87), and Donegal (in '95 and '96) had to settle for a division of the spoils. Offaly obviously, have it all to do today to bring Leinster its first double.



BACK ROW (l-r): Barry McGonigal, John Mulholland, Noel Heaney, Anthony Tohill, Martin, James Lynn, Eunan O'Kane.
FRONT ROW (l-r): Rory McEldowney, Declan Bateson, Roderick Skelly, Martin O'Connor, Gary Coleman (Capt), Paddy McAllister, Gregory Simpson, Eamonn Burns.

Offaly and Derry have met only twice in the championship - the 1968 under-21 final and the 1989 minor decider. But for most of the four very talented panels the future was to hold contrasting fortunes. For instance, of the '89 Offaly minor squad, only Finbar Cullen is currently a senior inter-county player. Derry profited more from that year's under-18 panel with Gary Coleman, Anthony Tohill, Eamonn Burns and Dermot Heaney all progressing to spectacular achievement at senior level.

And although they lost the 1968 game between the counties, Offaly players fared better subsequently than their victorious counterparts, with John

Smith, Eugene Mulligan, Willie Bryan, Nicholas Clavin, Sean Evans, Noel Kinnarney and Paddy Fenning all going on to win All-Ireland senior medals in 1971-72.

In retrospect, it seemed almost incredible that great players like John Somers, Tom Quinn, Malachy McAfee, Ger O'Loughlin, Tom McGuinness, Seamus Lagan, Eamonn Coleman, Micky Niblock and Anthony McGurk, all from the successful under-21 team (although they did become outstanding players at senior level, not alone never won All-Ireland senior medals but never got to play in a senior final!

Making the grade can be a strange process at times.



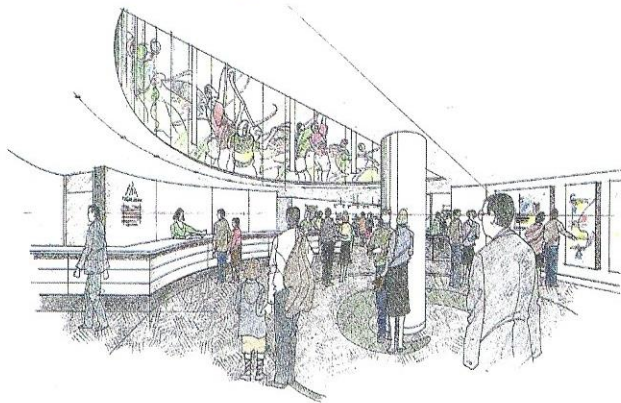
BACK ROW (l-r): Cathal Maher, Alan Hogan, Niall Hand, Finbarr Cullen, Damien McKean, Barry Daly, Bernard O'Brien, Sean Grennan.
FRONT ROW (l-r): Kevin Flynn, Paraic Moran, Daragh Scully (Capt), Colm McTeague, Willie Reynolds, Shane Kellaghan, Padraig Dunne.

Making The Grade

Pictured are the **Derry** and **Offaly** Minor teams who contested the 1989 All-Ireland Final, with Derry victorious by 3-9 to 1-6.



The
**GAA MUSEUM
CROKE PARK**
Opening Summer 1998



As part of the redevelopment of Croke Park, a modern interactive visitor centre is being constructed on the ground floor of the New Stand.

This magnificent new visitor attraction is designed by Orna Hanley & Associates and Robin Wade & Partners. It will have educational and exhibition areas, restaurant and shop facilities.

It will chart the origins of the Association and its role in the evolution of the country since 1884. The displays will include artefacts and trophies and "tools of the trade".

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The visit will culminate in one of the museums theatres where visitors can explore the excitement of All-Ireland day in Croke Park, in the unique audio visual presentation of "A Sunday in September".

Admission prices are:

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Students (with identification) £2.00.

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OAP's and Children under five are free of charge

Opening Hours:

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Closed Mondays

Pre-Booked Groups 10.00a.m. - 2.00p.m.

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Only pre-booked groups on match days.

For further information ring
Páirc an Chrócaigh on (01) 836 3222.



This season's league campaign saw 39 penalties awarded which was five more than last year and more than twice the number (19) awarded three seasons ago. Also, not only has the number of penalties awarded increased, but the conversion rate has also improved with on average each penalty yielding 1.87 points compared to last year's rate of 1.62. However, the rate of 2.31 achieved two seasons ago was never under threat. In all 24 goals and one point resulted from the 39 penalties.

Round one was easily the most lucrative as far as penalty awards were concerned with eleven, while round six (for the second year running) saw the fewest penalties conceded (two).

Two Ulster men (Ronan Carolan of Cavan and Monaghan's Declan Smyth) have been the penalty-kings for the last two seasons and incredibly it is another Northerner who takes the accolade this year. Kieran O'Neill of Antrim was put one-on-one on three occasions this season and he successfully converted each kick. Kerry's Maurice Fitzgerald and Longford goalkeeper Gavin Tonra were the Glensman's closest challengers as each converted both penalties they took while Joe Kavanagh of Cork scored twice but wided one of his three penalties. Tyrone's Peter Canavan had a 50% success rate from his two kicks but should Derry be awarded a penalty this afternoon Eamonn Burns may not be the ideal choice as the northerner has failed to find the target on the two occasions he took a penalty.

Amazingly, not alone did Gavin Tonra score two penalties but he also saved one, although he was beaten by the rebound. John O'Connor of Monaghan was the only 'keeper to save more than one penalty as he denied Ciaran McManus (round 1) and Peter Canavan (round 7).

PENALTY PARADE

The full list of penalties awarded and their outcome reads:

ROUND 1

Maurice Fitzgerald (Kerry)	GOAL v Cavan at New York
Martin Lynch (Kildare)	SAVED by Tom Brennan (Waterford)
Willie Quinlan (Carlow)	SAVED by Tony McMahon (Laois)
Enda Barden (Longford)	GOAL v Donegal
<i>(Paul Callaghan saved the initial kick but Barden scored on the rebound)</i>	
Cathal O'Rourke (Armagh)	GOAL v Antrim
Kieran O'Neill (Antrim)	GOAL v Armagh
Ciaran McManus (Offaly)	SAVED by John O'Connor (Monaghan)
Conan Daye (Wicklow)	GOAL v Down
Joe Kavanagh (Cork)	WIDE v Tipperary
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	GOAL v Cork
Mark O'Sullivan (Cork)	GOAL v Tipperary

ROUND 2

Raymond Gallagher (Fermanagh)	GOAL v Louth
Kieran O'Neill (Antrim)	GOAL v Longford
Maurice Fitzgerald (Kerry)	GOAL v Wexford
Declan Smyth (Monaghan)	GOAL v Cavan
Paul Bealin (Dublin)	GOAL v Offaly

ROUND 3

Colm Hayden (Carlow)	GOAL v Louth
Ian Fitzgerald (Laois)	GOAL v Galway
Padraig Joyce (Galway)	WIDE v Laois
Eamonn Burns (Derry)	WIDE v London
Gavin Tonra (Longford)	GOAL v Westmeath
Paul Taylor (Sligo)	GOAL v Monaghan

ROUND 4

Andy Carr (London)	SAVED by Gavin Tonra (Longford)
<i>(The rebound was netted by Sean McGrellis)</i>	
Gavin Tonra (Longford)	GOAL v London
Kieran O'Neill (Antrim)	GOAL v Derry
Thomas Cleary (Westmeath)	SAVED by Brendan Tierney (Armagh)
Maurice Sheridan (Mayo)	POINT v Carlow

ROUND 5

Joe Kavanagh (Cork)	GOAL v Limerick
Gavin Murdock (Down)	WIDE v Kildare
Niall Curran (Waterford)	WIDE v Tipperary
Peter Canavan (Tyrone)	GOAL v Kerry
Leigh O'Brien (Wexford)	WIDE v Cavan

ROUND 6

Eamonn Burns (Derry)	WIDE v Meath
Raymond Gallagher (Fermanagh)	SAVED by Enda Mulrooney (Kilkenny)

ROUND 7

Peter Canavan (Tyrone)	SAVED by John O'Connor (Monaghan)
Declan Smyth (Monaghan)	GOAL v Tyrone
Derek Duggan (Roscommon)	GOAL v Down
Michael Reidy (Limerick)	GOAL v Waterford

Quarter-Final

Joe Kavanagh (Cork)	GOAL v Donegal
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Final Goals

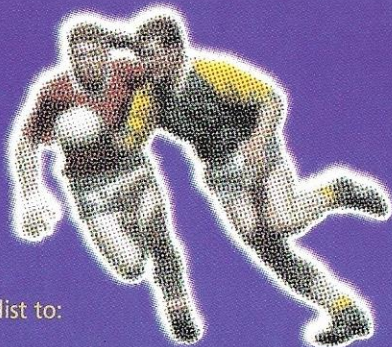
The greatest number of goals scored by any county in a National League final is five - a score recorded on four occasions in the 70 years of the competition. And Mayo were supreme in this particular field as they hit five in beating Fermanagh (5-8 to 0-2) at Castlebar in 1935, a performance they repeated in 1937 when they beat Meath by 5-4 to 1-8 at Croke Park. They hit their third (and final) 'quintet' - also in beating the Royal county - in the 1939 decider at Ballina (5-9 to 0-6).

Cavan is the only other county to perform this feat which was in beating Cork by 5-9 to 2-8 in the 1948 replay at Croke Park.

New York might claim that they scored 7-8 in taking the 1967 title at the expense of Galway, but that was over two legs at Gaelic Park. The nearest any county has since come to the record was when Dublin notched four (4-6 to 0-9) against Cavan in 1953, and in 1970 Mayo, themselves, had four in beating Down by 4-7 to 0-10.

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North and East

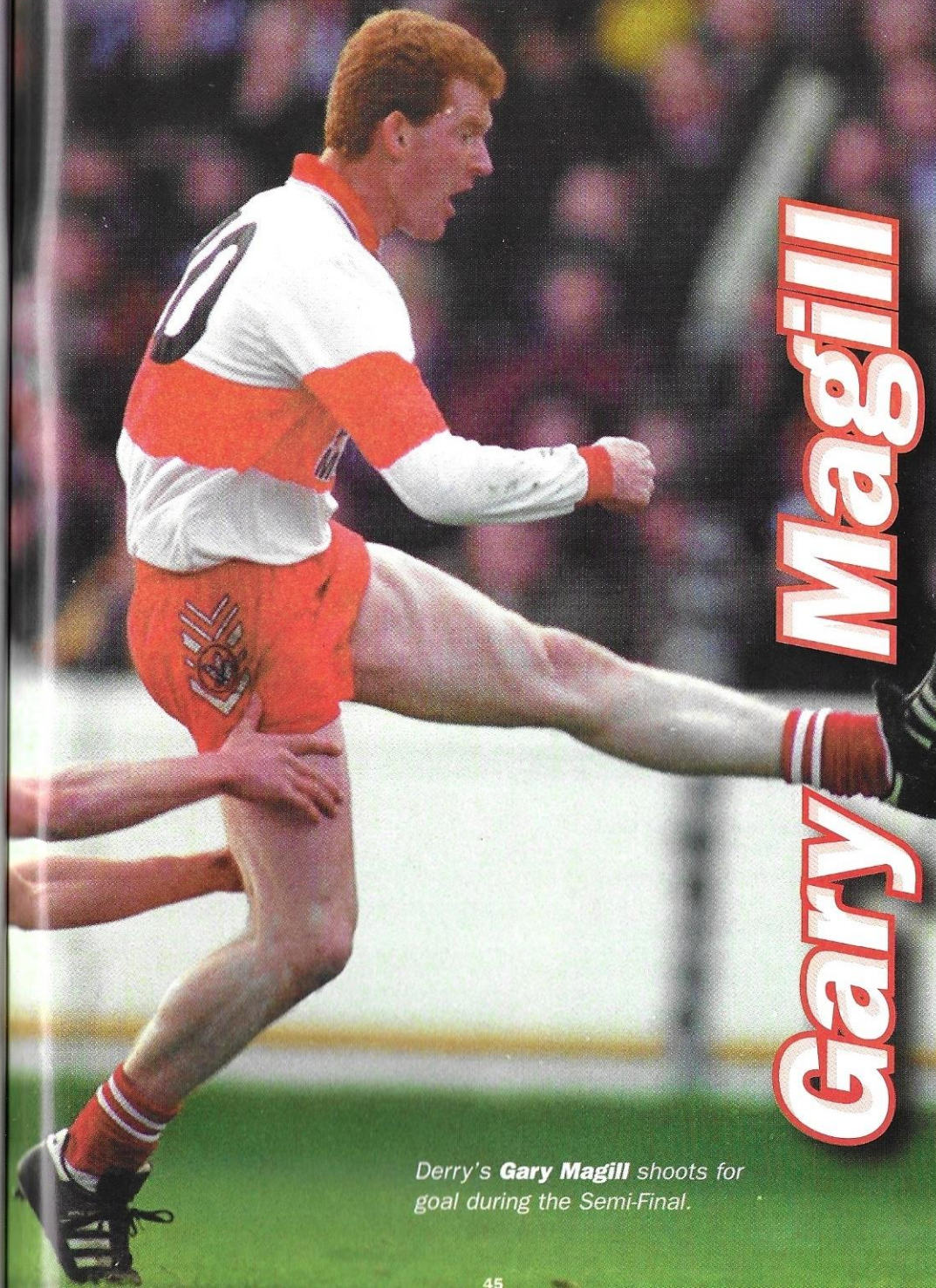
The clash of Derry and Offaly and Tyrone and Offaly in today's finals marks the first-ever meeting of two Ulster and two Leinster teams in these finals. Indeed, such confrontations are rare and has happened only twice previously - in 1977 when it was a Munster-Leinster double affair, and back in 1965 when it was a Connacht-Munster double, although the league final between Kerry and Galway was the "Home" final. Galway were the victors in both instances on that occasion.

In One Sphere

Today Offaly are bidding to banish a bogey that has haunted them for a long time - the inability of successive combinations to put a National League triumph beside their championship honours of the seventies and eighties. In this respect, however, they are in good company as Louth, Kildare and Donegal, who all won the Sam Maguire Cup, have failed to add the Irish National Insurance Company trophy to their collection of silverware. Tipperary and Wexford, who also took All-Ireland honours, did so before the Sam Maguire was first presented.

The Sole Link

In the Offaly squad today there is one link with the county's last league final appearance in 1973, and that link is provided by substitute goalkeeper Ken Furlong whose father, the legendary Martin Furlong, manned the number one spot in that final meeting with Kerry.



Magill
Gary

Derry's **Gary Magill** shoots for goal during the Semi-Final.

Cúinne na nÓg

Find the Missing Player

When you answer questions 1-7 correctly, the shaded column will reveal the surname of a player who has been prominent in this season's Church and General National League.

1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						

- Kevin O'Brien recorded some impressive scoring returns with this county in the current League.
- Offaly's left full back in the League semi-final win over Donegal.
- Surname name of Down's No. 9 in the League quarter-final loss to Monaghan.
- Alan was Cork's right full forward in their League quarter-final loss to Donegal last month.
- Christian name of Poland, Down's right half back in their League quarter-final loss to Monaghan.
- Sean was left half back for Down in that same game.
- The only team not based in this country that competed in the current National League.

Tráth na gCeist

- Who captained Monaghan in last month's League quarter-final?
- Who scored two goals for Offaly in last year's Bank of Ireland Leinster senior football final?
- Henry Downey captained Derry to the 1993 National League title. True or false?
- When did Offaly last win the Sam Maguire Cup?
- Derry scored one goal in their quarter-final win over Mayo in April. Name their goal scorer.
- What is the name of the Gaelic Grounds in Derry City?
- Where is O'Connor Park?

Club Players All

Listed here are six footballers who have been in action in this season's League and six clubs. What you have to do is to pair the player with his club.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tony Boyle | Raheny |
| Pauric McShane | Kilmacud Crokes |
| Nicholas Murphy | Sarsfields |
| Conor Deegan | Dungloe |
| Niall Buckley | Clontibret |
| Ciarán Whelan | Carrigaline |

Aimsigh iad!

Tá deich gcontae faoi cheilt sa líbra thíos - déan do dhicheall iad a aimsiú. Is feidir leo bheith ingearach nó cothrománach ar ceachtar bealach.

C	E	A	P	Ó	R	T	U	O	Á	A
O	L	A	O	U	I	A	M	H	T	N
R	O	C	R	A	S	E	Í	C	H	M
C	E	A	T	H	A	R	L	A	C	H
A	I	N	L	U	D	I	C	E	L	Í
I	S	M	Á	H	Ú	O	R	G	I	F
G	U	C	I	Á	L	D	S	I	A	L
H	B	K	R	C	N	C	A	L	T	A
Ú	L	P	G	L	A	O	I	S	H	O
T	Í	R	E	O	G	H	A	I	N	G

Freagraí

G	N	I	V	H	O	E	T	I	R	E
O	H	S	I	A	O	T	L	P	G	U
A	T	A	C	A	L	T	A	R	C	H
G	U	C	I	Á	L	D	S	I	A	L
F	I	S	M	Á	H	Ú	O	R	G	I
I	C	E	L	Í	A	I	N	L	U	D
H	C	H	A	R	L	A	C	H	C	E
M	H	T	N	O	Á	A	C	H	C	E
A	O	U	I	A	M	H	T	N	O	Á
A	O	U	I	A	M	H	T	N	O	Á

Aimsigh iad!

- Claran Whelan-Raheny;
Niall Buckley-Sarsfields;
Conor Deegan-Kilmacud Crokes;
Nicholas Murphy-Carrigaline;
Pauric McShane-Clontibret;
Tony Boyle-Dungloe.

Find the Missing Player

W	I	C	K	L	O	W
F	O	L	E	Y		
C	O	L	G	A	N	
O	R	E	G	A	N	
S	I	M	O	N		
W	A	R	D			
T	O	N	D	O	N	

Missing Player

- Tráth na gCeist
1. Right full back Edwin Murphy.
2. Roy Malone. 3. True.
4. 1982. 5. Gary Coleman.
6. Celtic Park. 7. Tullamore.

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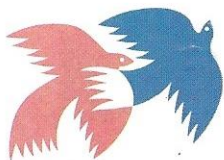


Too young to play...



... but not too young to dream.
He may be little, but he has his dreams. It's good to know that when he's old enough to play, Cumann na mBunscol will be there to nurture and guide him, so that one day he may achieve his dream to play in the Church & General National Leagues.

By supporting Cumann na mBunscol and the National Leagues, Church & General are helping to make his and all our dreams come true.



Church & General

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