

Church & General
National Leagues

Church & General National Football League 1997/98

Quarter-Finals

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael



Páirc an Chrócaigh

5 Aibreán, 1998

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Church & General
National Leagues



Church & General National Football League 1997/98 Quarter-Finals

2.00 i.n.

Corcaigh v. Dún na nGall

Réiteoir: B. White (Loch Garman)

Linesmen: J. Harlin (An Mhí) STANDBY REFEREE
B. Doheny (An Lú)

Extra time will be played if necessary

3.30 i.n.

An Dún v. Muineacháin

Réiteoir: P. Russell (Tiobraid Árann)

Linesmen: S. McCormack (An Mhí) STANDBY REFEREE
P. O'Toole (An Longfort)

Extra time will be played if necessary

Amhrán na bhFiann

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



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Ground Regulations – Páirc An Chrócaigh

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground/arena.
4. The climbing of walls, stands or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.
5. 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.
6. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any objects onto the pitch.
7. Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play and shall be ejected.
8. Any person who fails to comply with the instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground.
9. The stadium management reserve the right of admission.
10. The stadium management reserves the right to refuse admission to or to eject any person who refuses to be searched by a police officer.
11. Any person who remains in a gangway or aisle may be ejected from the ground.
12. 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 / Lost Children

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.

Ár gClúdach

Our cover features players from the four teams appearing in today's quarter-finals: Clockwise from top left: Donegal's **Jim McGuinness**, Sean Óg Ó hAilpín of Cork, Monaghan's **Mark Daly** and Mickey Linden of Down.

Na Reiteoirí

Brian White (Loch Garman)



Brian, who refereed his first All-Ireland senior football final last September, was the man-in-the-middle in October when Kerry beat Cavan in a National League game to commemorate the

playing of the 1947 All-Ireland decider at the Polo Grounds, New York.

A member of the Rathgarogue-Cushintown club, he has been a referee for ten years and has taken charge of four Leinster senior finals as well as senior championship matches in Connacht, Munster and Ulster.

A former footballer and hurler, Brian has won intermediate medals in both codes. He has also refereed an All-Ireland club final and a national minor decider.

Paddy Russell (Tiobraid Árann)



Paddy was the Man-in-the-Middle in last year's Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football semi-final between Mayo and Offaly and is one of the most experienced referees in the country.

He refereed the All-Ireland senior finals of 1990 and 1995. Other assignments included the 1995 AIB All-Ireland club final and that year's Church and General National League decider. His refereeing duties have also taken him to Toronto and Glasgow.

A referee since 1975, the Tipperary official has been active in the current League and his assignments included last month's Mayo-Laois clash at Crossmolina and the Offaly-Cavan clash at Tullamore at the start of March.

Am scéim nua inmholta

Bhí an scéim a bhí leagtha amach don Sraith Church & General, don tréimhse 1997/98, ag Coiste Speisialta, thar a bheith suimiúil. Chas contaethe ar a chéile nach mbeadh go hiondúil sa Roinn chéanna nó de chaighdeán comparáideach.

Ar deireadh thiar bhí sé do-chreidte nach mbeadh curaidh na Mumhan nó curaidh Uladh, chomh maith le 'huaisle' eile na peile, cáilithe don Ard-Roinn sa tréimhse 1998-1999.

Thug an scéim uchtach do na contaethe 'laga' agus b'fhiú aistear fada a thaisteal chun peileadóirí Shligigh a fheiceáil ag cur seaimpíní Uile-Éireann, Ciarraí, 'faoi chois' nó Cill Mhantáin ag tabhairt bata is bóthar do Chorcaigh. Chomh maith chuir sé ríméad ar a lán peileadóirí Chill Chainnigh a bheith ag tabhairt cuntas maith orhtu féin.

Tá an leagan amach don séasúr nua socraithe anois agus beidh flosc ar a lán contaethe a suíomh sna Ranna a fheabhús sa tréimhse nua. Mar sin beidh comortas thar cionn againn arís i 1998-99.

Os ár gcomhair anseo inniu tá contaethe a bheidh i Roinn I sa tréimhse sin is cuma cén toradh a bheidh ar na cluichí inniu. Tá a chomhionann chluichí i ndá ionad eile agus más comhscór a bhíonn ann ag deireadh na huair beidh breis ama le himirt. Beidh coimhlint ghéar ann, mar rachaidh na buaiteoirí ar aghaidh go dtí na cluichí leathcheannais.

Conallagh chun an 'Contae Réabhlóideach' a chloí?

Ni riabh ainm-in-airde, mórán, ar pheileadóirí Chorcaí, i dtaca leis an Léig dhe, ach ón uair gur tháinig peileadóirí Thír Chonaill chun tosaigh, i saol na peile sinsear-aí, bhíodar den chuid is mó ag cnagadh ar dhoras chraobh na Sraithe Church & General; i ndeireadh thiar bhíodar sa chraobhchlúiche i 1996. Ar ndóigh tá ceithre chraobh ag An Contae Réabhlóideach.

Sa leagan amach nua mar a bhí i mbliana bhí meascán de chontaethe óna réigiún uile agus de chaighdeáin ilghnéitheacha. Ba scéim suimiúil i sa dóigh is gur casadh peileadóirí ar a chéile nach mbeadh de gnáth mar chéilí imeartha. Is féidir a rá, áfach, gur tháinig Corcaigh agus dún na nGall amach as an córas nua san áit is dual dóibh.

Smaoinítear gurbh curaidh Uile-Éireann 'an Contae Réabhlóideach' i 1989 agus i 1990 agus gur bhain Na Conallagh an gradam céanna sin amach i 1992. Dá bhrí sin tá bunús na n-imreoirí a bhí ann an tráth sin ag saothrú leo i gcónaí.

Dhá fhoireann den chéad scoth - an Iú áit ina Roinn bainte ag Dún na nGall agus an áit tánaisteach ina Roinn siúd ag Corcaigh. Mar sin beidh peil de chaighdeán ard curtha faoinár mbráid agus an bua ag dul do na Conallagh - ar éigin.

An fáth go dtugtar an nod do na Conallagh ná go bhfuil an fhoireann cuíosach socair le tamall agus Deaglán Mac Cnáimhsí mar bhainisteoir nua a mbeidh tionchar mór aige mar go raibh sé ina bhall den fhoireann iomráiteach 1992 agus é ar bís chun a chontae dúchais a chur ar ais i réim arís.

Ar an lámh eile dhe ceaptar go bhfuil Larry Ó Toimicín bainisteoir Chorcaí, ag coinneáil súil ar chraobh na Mumhan agus ag baint triail as raidhse imreoirí nua, a bhfuil neart díobh ann; ach níl foireann iomlán socair aige go fóill. Ina dhiaidh sin is uile creideann sé nach bhfuil traenáil ar bith inchurtha le cluichí tábhachtacha agus tá dhá cheann eile roimis má cloíonn sna 'diabhail dearga' na Conallagh chalmá!

Treasláitear a ngaisce leis an dá fhoireann as áit a bhaint amach i Roinn I don tréimhse seo chugainn.

A Season of Contrasting Fortunes in The National League

A novel setting for Kerry's opening defence of the League title...Some exciting performances by Offaly...A good come-back by Down. These were some of the highlights of the programme of group games in the 1997-98 Church and General National Football League.

The games attracted bumper attendances throughout the campaign and over 64,000 spectators attended the final programme on March 15 that cleared the way for today's quarter-finals.

Kerry opened their defence of the title on an impressive note at far-off New York where they beat Cavan by 1-12 to 0-8 at Downing's Stadium. The game was played there to mark the 50th Anniversary of the All-Ireland senior football final of 1947 between Cavan and Kerry played at the Polo Grounds in New York which was the only All-Ireland senior football final played outside of this country.

The Downing's Stadium game, which was played on a Saturday, proved a personal triumph for majestic Maurice Fitzgerald, who helped himself to a superb 1-10. The goal was from a penalty.

Kerry failed to build on that impressive start and a crushing defeat from Dublin in their final game at Parnell Park last month sent them down to Division III for next season's competition.

Pictured in action on the right are Colin Corkery (Corcaigh) and Matt Gallagher (Dún na nGall) in the Church & General NFL '95/96 semi-final.

BIG WINS

No matter how great a power a county is in the realm of Gaelic football and no matter what gigantic winning margin they may have recorded in their finest days, they are always occasions when they have tasted bitter defeat in its most depressing manifestations - huge margins of defeat. And Donegal and Cork can both report both experiences.

Cork, in the late fifties, enjoyed a high profile in championship football, but it was in the National League that they recorded their biggest ever win in competitive football. This was in the 1956-57 campaign when, still very much in contention for group honours, Cork took on Carlow at the Athletic Grounds in the fourth-round tie. There was never a doubt about the outcome as the Rebel county forwards tore the visitors' defence to pieces - and none more so than Eamon Goulding who shot six marvellous goals as Cork ran up their biggest winning margin in their league (or championship) history - 29 points (8-8 to 0-3).

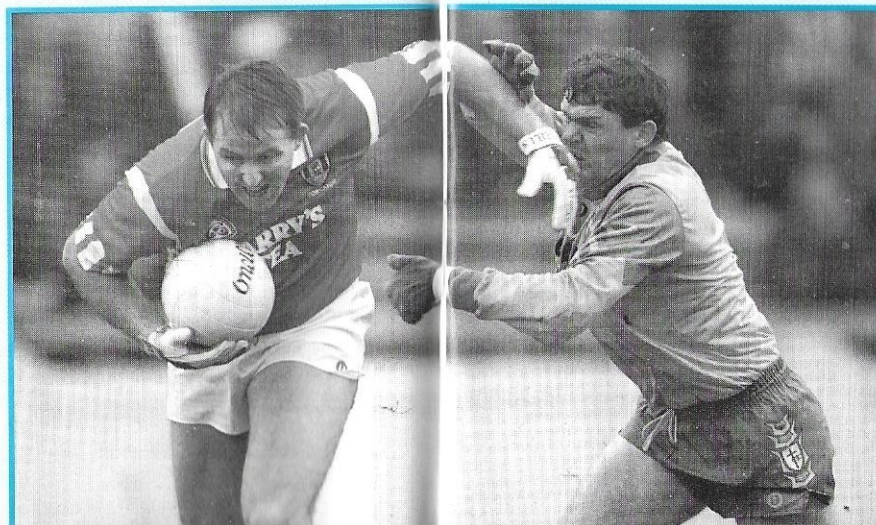
That scoring tour de force was a long way removed from the day in 1930 when disaster struck at Dungarvan in

HEAVY DEFEATS

the third round. Against Waterford, a nightmare first-half saw Cork concede seven goals, and though they improved considerably on the restart, in the end they were beaten by 7-5 to 0-2 - a margin of 24 points. Cork would know other bad days but none as bad as that.

Donegal's experience of one-sided encounters does not quite reach the extremes touched by Cork, but the margins in both cases were heavy enough. The early years of the league when Donegal competed in the Ulster section of the competition were uneventful as regards scoring feats and when the 'North-Westerners' finally made their debut in the league proper it was in a three-county group with Sligo and Leitrim, and they had a disastrous first outing as they crashed to Sligo at Sligo by a margin of 21 points (1-4 to 6-10).

And when Donegal recorded their most facile win in league football it was in the second round of the 1967-68 campaign when they overcame Leitrim at Ballybofey by 4-13 to 1-6 - a winning margin of 16 points. Since then Donegal have come close to equalling or bettering that performance, but the 16 points still stands as their best after 30 years.



Consistent League Campaigners

Consistent—that's Donegal and Derry in the National Football League. The North West County has appeared in a quarter-final every year in the nineties except last year.

Derry make their seventh successive appearance in a quarter-final today. They lost at this stage last year at Croke Park to a Laois team inspired by three goal hero Hughie Emerson. He scored all three goals in the second half to power Laois to a 4-10 to 1-13 success.

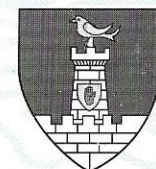
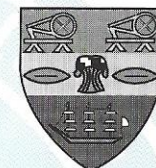
A year earlier Derry recorded their last quarter-final win when they beat Cavan by 0-12 to 0-11 in a splendid game at Clones. An injury time point by Brian McGilligan earned the Derry win.

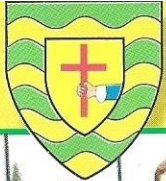
The game attracted an attendance of 12,000 and Anthony Tohill went into the match from the substitutes bench for his first game since the previous Summer.

Seamus Downey with five points and Joe Brolly, scorer of two points, were among Derry's brightest stars.

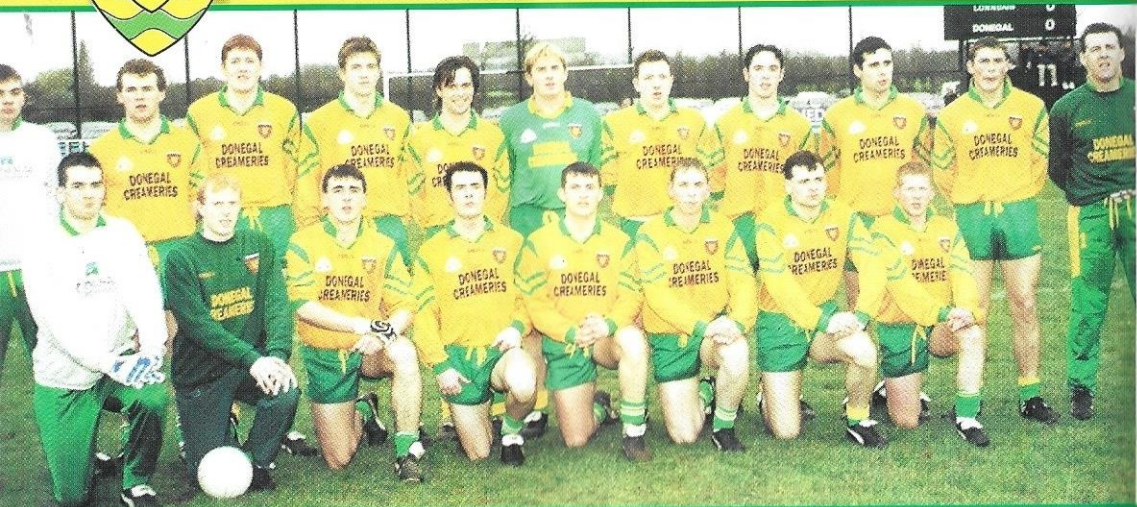
Declan Bonner, now the Donegal team manager, Brian Roper, who scored a goal, and John Joe Doherty and John Cunningham in defence, were key figures for the North-West county as they beat Wicklow at Croke Park in 1996 by 2-12 to 1-8 in their last League quarter-final outing.

Mayo also had a successful outing on their last quarter-final appearance in 1996. Goals by Ray Dempsey and Anthony Finnerty (they scored 2-5 between them) powered the Connacht county to a surprise 2-10 to 1-10 win over Meath at Dr. Hyde Park.





Dún na nGall



The Donegal team which played London in Round 7 of the NFL at Ruislip last month.
Back row (l-r): Dessie McNamara, Tony Boyle, John Haran, James Ruane, John Duffy, Paul Callaghan, Adrian Sweeney, Brendan Deveney, Shane Carr, Martin Coll, Brian Murray.
Front row (l-r): Cathal Brennan, Jonathan Scanlon, Mark Crossan, Damien Diver, John Joe Doherty (captain), Noel McGinley, Martin Bonner, Brian Roper.

Pic. courtesy of Donegal Democrat.

McGuinness plays big role in impressive Donegal comeback

What an impressive comeback by Donegal in senior football over recent months! After their six points defeat by Cavan in the Bank of Ireland Ulster semi-final at Clones last June some predicted a long spell in the wilderness for the North-West County.

However, under former inter-county star Declan Bonner, who took over as team manager just before the start of the Church and General League, Donegal have provided the best possible answer to the doubters by reaching the quarter-finals.

A major step along the way was taken at Ballybofey in early November when a sparkling display from Jim McGuinness set the scene for a good win over Derry. He was on top at midfield and also found time to show

his forwards the way by cracking home two splendid goals as the home side finished with eight points to spare.

Donegal saw out the old year with another good performance – that one against Meath. Although they had to settle for a draw in that encounter at Ballyshannon the point gained put the North-West County firmly in the driver's seat for a place in the knock-out stages.

This was a keenly contested and entertaining game with a memorable, low scoring second half. The scores were tied at 1-4 each at the break but with 90 seconds remaining Donegal were ahead by a point. However, Meath struck back to earn a division of the spoils on a scoreline of 1-8 each.

Once again the tireless and hard-working Jim McGuinness had an out-

standing game for Donegal. The defence performed heroically while in attack Brian Roper, Joe Duffy and Tony Boyle, who scored five points, were best.

Donegal shared leadership with Meath on top of the Section B chart going into the winter break and they did not slip up in their remaining three games to finish deserving winners of the group title.

The North-West County are steadily moulding into an accomplished and well-drilled team with John Joe Doherty, Noel Gallagher and Tony Boyle of their 1992 Sam Maguire Cup winning team providing invaluable touches of craft.

Brian Murray and Barry McGowan, who also won All-Ireland medals nearly six years ago, have made appearances during the campaign as substitutes.

An extra special day for John Joe Doherty

John Joe Doherty has more reasons that most to remember Donegal's historic All-Ireland senior football final win of 1992.

He was not included in the original team, but was drafted in at left half back shortly before the game in place of the injured Martin Shovlin and played a big part in the win over Dublin.

One of Donegal's most consistent campaigners, Doherty won an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1987 and Ulster senior medals in 1990 and 1992. In February he played a big part at right full back in bringing the interprovincial title back to Ulster for his third medal of the championship.

Now 29, the Naomh Columba, Glencolmcille, clubman has been a commanding figure for Donegal in their march to this League quarter-final.



Kavanagh again on the scoring target

Joe Kavanagh gave Cork the best possible start to the 1993 All-Ireland senior football final when he ran 30 yards through the Derry defence and scored a fine goal after only five minutes, but the Ulster champions bounced back to win the title.

A few months later Kavanagh was back among the goals at Croke Park when he helped himself to 2-2 to prove a giant in Nemo Rangers' win over Castlebar Mitchels, Mayo, in the AIB All-Ireland club final.

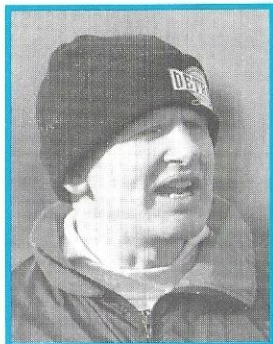
Kavanagh is again proving very target conscious for Cork and is not only their ace marksman but will be bidding today to maintain his record of having scored in every League outing.

Joe is a brilliant link with the Golden Years of the early nineties for Cork when the Rebel County won three Munster senior titles in succession, 1993 to 1995 inclusive. He helped to fashion all three successes.

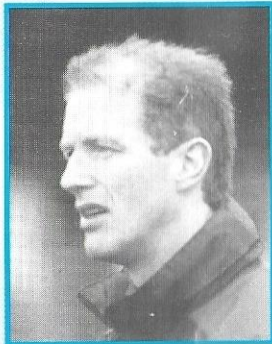
The Last Quarter-Finals of Cork and Donegal

1997 - Cork 1-12; Louth 0-11.

A crowd of 6,000 turned up at Portlaoise to see a rousing quarter-final in which Colin Corkery was the main difference between the sides. In all the Nemo Rangers man contributed 1-7 to the Rebel county's cause and it was his sixth-minute penalty which got them off to a great start. Despite having the better of matters Cork failed to put significant daylight between themselves and the Wee county and at the interval their lead was a less than enormous four points - 1-6 to 0-5.



MANAGERS IN OPPOSITION - Declan Bonner (Dún na nGall) above, and **Larry Tompkins** (Corcaigh)



Shortly after the restart the Leesiders had increased their lead to six points but with Louth now controlling matters in the centre of the park most of the action was taking place in Rebel territory. Thanks to points by Gerry Curran (two) and Seamus O'Hanlon. Louth got within three points of the Southerners but wayward shooting by Pat Butterly, Stefan White and Colin Kelly cost them dearly. A couple of late Corkery points put Cork safe but on the balance of play their four-point winning margin was somewhat flattering.

Cork scorers: C.Corkery 1-7, B.Corcoran 0-2, A.Dorgan 0-1, O.O'Sullivan 0-1, M.Cronin 0-1.

Cork: Kevin O'Dwyer, Ronan McCarthy, Mark O'Connor, Eoin Sexton, Ciaran O'Sullivan, Niall Cahalane, Martin Cronin, Damien O'Neill, Liam Honohan, Michael O'Donovan, Stephen O'Brien, Brian Corcoran, Ollie O'Sullivan, Colin Corkery, Aidan Dorgan.

Subs: Seán Óg Ó hAilpín for Honohan, John Buckley for Ollie O'Sullivan, Mark Farr for O'Connor.

1996 - Donegal 2-12; Wicklow 1-8.

Before 11,000 spectators at headquarters Division One table-toppers Donegal always had a bit to spare over their Division Four counterparts Wicklow. The Northerners had the better of proceedings in the opening half but at the interval their lead was just three points - 1-7 to 1-4 - with Brian Roper and Keith Byrne scoring the goals.

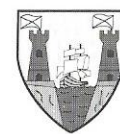
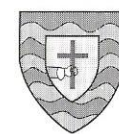
Five minutes after the restart Donegal had added another brace of points to their total before a small spell of Wicklow pressure saw Kevin O'Brien and Fergal Mulligan miss goal chances which could have made all the difference. However, at the 40th minute Declan Bonner ended the game as a contest when his miss-hit free went all the way to the net. The Garden county now found themselves 1-4 to 2-9 in arrears and, despite a hat-trick of unanswered points around the threequarter mark, the Ulster side were rarely troubled and eased into the semi-final with seven points to spare.

Donegal scorers: D.Bonner 1-4, T.Boyle 0-5, B.Roper 1-0, M.Shovlin 0-1, J.Ruane 0-1, M.Boyle 0-1.

Donegal: Gary Walsh, John Joe Doherty, Matt Gallagher, John Cunningham, Barry McGowan, Mark Crossan, Martin Shovlin, James Ruane, Brian Murray, Paddy Hegarty, James McHugh, Declan Bonner, Brian Roper, Tony Boyle, Manus Boyle.

Subs: John Ban Gallagher for McHugh, Eamon McMenamin for Hegarty, Dessie McNamara for Manus Boyle.

When Last They Met ... October 1997



Donegal 2-6; Cork 0-12.

Despite the torrential rain at Ballyshannon this was an exciting contest which saw the visitors start the brighter and open up a two-point lead after ten minutes. However, when Leeside goalkeeper Kevin O'Dwyer fumbled the slippery ball a minute later Brian Roper and Tony Boyle were on hand to bundle it home to give the Northerners the lead. A brace of points from Colin Corkery saw Cork back in front but Donegal then took command and points by Manus Boyle (two) and Brian Murray saw them leave the field at the interval leading by 1-3 to 0-4.

Four minutes after the restart Brian Corcoran narrowed the gap to the minimum but five minutes later Tony Boyle's miss-hit free was flicked to the net by namesake Manus to put the home side four clear. With quarter of an hour left that lead had increased to five but despite some wayward shooting Cork closed the gap to the minimum through points by Corkery, Pdraig O'Mahony (two) and Ciaran O'Sullivan. The Rebel county grabbed a share of the spoils when Corkery pointed an injury-time free and on the balance of play it was the least they deserved.

Donegal scorers: M.Boyle 0-3, B.Roper 1-0, T.Boyle 1-0, B.Murray 0-2, M.Coll 0-1.

Cork: C.Corkery 0-6,

P.O'Mahony 0-3, C.O'Sullivan 0-2, B.Corcoran 0-1.

Donegal: Gary Walsh, Mark Crossan, Matt Gallagher, Sean McEwen, Damien Diver, Noel Hegarty, Martin Shovlin, Brian Murray, Martin Coll, Dessie McNamara, James Ruane, Oliver Reid, Brian Roper, Tony Boyle, Manus Boyle.

Subs: John Ban Gallagher for McNamara, Pat McGinley for McEwen.

Cork: Kevin O'Dwyer, Mark Farr, Mark O'Connor, Ronan McCarthy, Martin Cronin, Niall Cahalane, Michael O'Donovan, Liam Honohan, Damien O'Neill, Brian Corcoran, Ciaran O'Sullivan, Pdraig O'Mahony, Jonathan McCarthy, Colin Corkery, Mark O'Sullivan.

Sub: Fachtna Collins for McCarthy.

Today sees the ninth meeting of Cork and Donegal in the National League with the Ulster side holding the edge to date with five wins to the Leesiders' two; one game was drawn. The initial meeting took place at Croke Park in 1952 when the counties were in opposition at the semi-final stage and the Munster side's more direct approach paid dividends as they advanced to the final by 3-3 to 0-7. It was more than three decades later before their paths crossed again with the Northerners gaining some revenge in a narrow win at Fermoy. The next two meetings saw honours evenly divided but the present decade has seen Donegal take command with three victories (including the semi-final of two years ago) and a draw from four

Previous Meetings

outings. The details of the eight meetings to date are as follows:

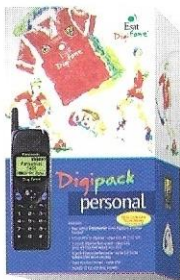
Semi-Final: 1951-52	Croke Park:	
Cork	3-3;	Donegal 0-7
1985-86	Fermoy:	
Donegal	2-4;	Cork 1-6
1986-87	Ballyshannon:	
Donegal	0-8;	Cork 0-5
1989-90	Ballincollig:	
Cork	2-14;	Donegal 2-10
1990-91	Ballybofey:	
Donegal	1-9;	Cork 1-6
1992-93	Ballybofey:	
Donegal	1-8;	Cork 0-9
Semi-Final: 1995-96	Croke Park:	
Donegal	0-10;	Cork 0-9
1996-97	Ballybofey:	
Donegal	2-6;	Cork 0-12



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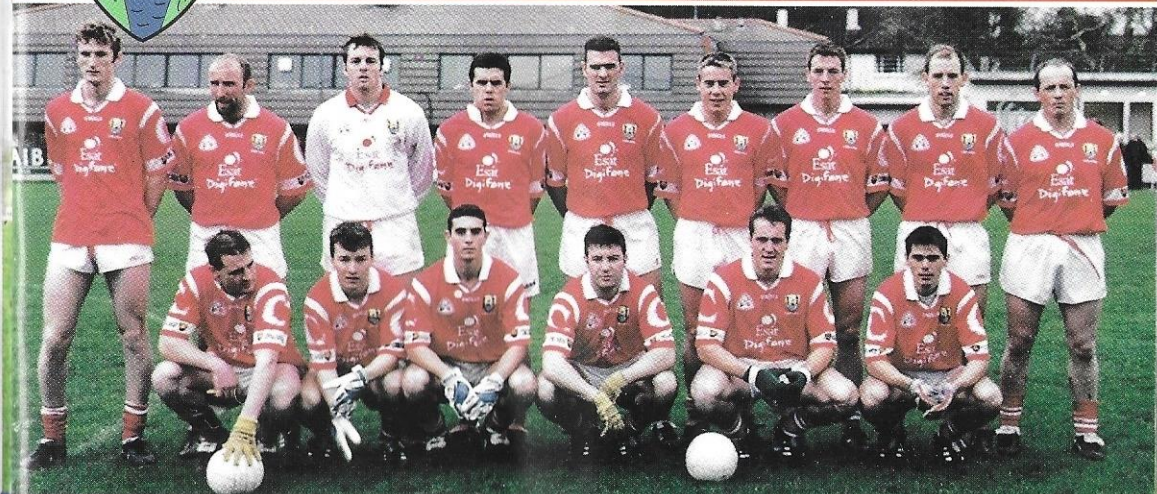
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Corcaigh



The Cork Team that played Clare in the NFL earlier this season.
Back Row (l-r): Nicholas Murphy, Brian Corcoran, Pat Mackey, Martin Cronin, Pat Hegarty, Ollie O'Sullivan, Stephen Dinneen, Ronan McCarthy, Niall Cahalane.
Front Row (l-r): Stephen O'Brien, Brian Collins, Colin Crowley, Joe Kavanagh, Ciarán O'Sullivan, Don Davis.

Cork bid to regain the winning formula

Can Cork, who were runners-up for last season's Church and General National Football League title, regain winning form by qualifying for the semi-finals for the third year in succession? That's a key question as the Leesiders line out under the shadow of a defeat by Wicklow in their last Section D game in mid-March.

Cork, who were beaten by a point by Donegal in a 1996 League semi-final at Croke Park, visited Aughrim backed by three wins in three games after a heavy defeat from Down before Christmas.

They then also shared top spot in the table with Kildare on twelve points each—but with a match in hand over the Leinster county.

The Rebels looked like justifying

their favourites role when they led Wicklow by 1-9 to 0-4 at the interval. But excellent points scoring by Kevin O'Brien sparked a home revival in the second half that ended with a well-deserved one point win.

However, Cork have the character to put that set-back behind them and come out battling strongly in this novel encounter. They proved that by the way they came back from their crash to Down at Newcastle in late November.

The Leesiders travelled North buoyed up by the perfect record from three outings in the League but amazingly scored just 1-2 as they went down by eleven points. Joe Kavanagh was the only Cork man to get on the scoresheet.

As a result, some dismissed Cork's chances of enjoying a good

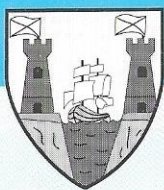
League run but they have come back well since that failure to Down even if some of the gloss has been rubbed off by the one point loss to Wicklow.

The Rebels have much to encourage them. Joe Kavanagh has been a very consistent marksman in the League. He has an impressive 2-14 to his credit and is the only member of the side to have scored in every game. He could well prove a match-winner.

Ciarán O'Sullivan, Pat Hegarty, Brian Corcoran, Seán Óg O hAilpín and Martin Cronin are other potential match-winners in a team that has all round balance, plenty of football ability and tons of determination.

A side, under manager Larry Tompkins, that has the necessary credentials to put the memory of the loss to Wicklow into the shade with a really spirited bid.

Incidentally, the last game between Cork and Donegal in the League ended in a draw at Ballybofey in October 1996.



Corcaigh

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

1-09

2-14

Fir Ionaid

- (16) Kevin O'Dwyer
C. Ó Dúibhir
(O'Donovan Rossa)
- (17) Brian Collins
B. Ó Coileáin
(Castlehaven)
- (18) Michael O'Donovan
M. Ó Donnabháin
(Dohenys)
- (19) Michael O'Donovan
M. Ó Donnabháin
(Mallow)
- (20) Stephen O'Brien
S. Ó Briain
(Nemo Rangers)
- (21) Don Davis
D. Ó Dáibhis
(O'Donovan Rossa)
- (22) Michael Harrington
M. Ó hArreachtáin
(Ardigole)
- (23) Ollie O'Sullivan
O. Ó Suilleabháin
(Garnish)

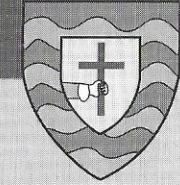
1 MICHAEL MAGUIRE M. Mac Uidhir (Castlehaven)	2 EOIN SEXTON E. Ó Seasnáin (Kilbrittain)	3 BRIAN CORCORAN B. Ó Corcráin (Erin's Own)	4 ANTHONY LYNCH A. Ó Loingsigh (Naomh Aban)
5 CIARÁN O'SULLIVAN C. Ó Suilleabháin (Capt.) (Urhan)	6 SEÁN ÓG Ó HAILPÍN S. Óg Ó hAilpín (Na Píarsaigh)	7 DONAGH WISEMAN D. Mac an tSaoi (Castletownbere)	
8 NICHOLAS MURPHY N. Ó Murchú (Carrigaline)	9 MICHAEL MONAGHAN M. Ó Manacháin (Kildorrery)		
10 BRENDAN WALSH B. Breathnach (Clonakilty)	11 JOE KAVANAGH S. Ó Caomhánaigh (Nemo Rangers)	12 COLIN CROWLEY C. Ó Crualaí (Castlehaven)	
13 ALAN O'REGAN A. Ó Ríogáin (Castletownbere)	14 PAT HEGARTY P. Ó hÉigearthaigh (Tadhg MacCartaigh)	15 AIDAN DORGAN A. Ó Deargáin (Grenagh)	

Roghnoirí:
Labhrás Ó Toimicín (Coach),
Conchúr Ó Cuanacháin,
Fionnbarra Ó Murchú.

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

Dún na nGall

Dathanna: Uaithne, Ór is Bán



Fir Ionaid

- (16) DUINE
EILE
- (17) Brian Murray
B. Ó Muirí
(Kilcock)
- (18) Eamon Reddin
E. Ó Ródáin
(Muff)
- (19) Raymond Sweeney
R. Mac Suibhne
(Dungloe)
- (20) Brian McLaughlinn
B. Mac Lochlainn
(Naomh Michael)
- (21) Martin Bonner
M. Ó Cnamhsí
(Na Rossa)
- (22) Dessie McNamara
D. Mac Conmara
(Bundoran)
- (23) John Harran
S. Ó hÉaráin
(St. Eunan's)
- (24) Jonathan Scanlon
S. Ó Scannláin
(St. Eunan's)

1 PAUL CALLAGHAN P. Ó Ceallacháin (Burt)	2 BARRY MCGOWAN B. Mac Gabhainn (Killybegs)	3 JOHN JOE DOHERTY S. S. Ó Dochartaigh (Capt.) (Naomh Columba)	4 DAMIAN DIVER D. Ó Dulbhír (Ardara)
5 NOEL MCGINLEY N. Mag Fhionnaile (Naomh Columba)	6 MARTIN COLL M. Mc Colla (Gweedore)	7 NOEL HEGARTY N. Ó hÉigearthaigh (Naomh Columba)	
8 JIM MCGUINNESS S. Mag Aonasa (Naomh Conaill)	9 JAMES RUANE S. Ó Ruáin (Bundoran)		
10 SHANE CARR S. Mac Giolla Chearra (Four Masters)	11 ADRIAN SWEENEY A. Mac Suibhne (Dungloe)	12 BRIAN ROPER B. Ó Ropier (Aodh Ruadh B/S)	
13 JOHN DUFFY S. Ó Dufaigh (Aodh Ruadh B/S)	14 TONY BOYLE A. Ó Baoill (Dungloe)	15 BRENDAN DEVENNEY B. Ó Duibheannaigh (St. Eunan's)	

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

Roghnoirí:
Declan Bonner (Manager),
Charlie Mulgrew,
Matt Gallagher,
Micheal O. McIntyre (Coach).

Dún na nGall



19th October at Pearse Park
Donegal 1-12; Longford 2-7.
Scorers - Tony Boyle 0-5, John Duffy 1-2, Shane Bradley 0-3, Brendan Devenney 0-1, Brian Roper 0-1.

2nd November at Ballybofey
Donegal 2-14; Derry 1-9.
Scorers - Tony Boyle 0-6, Jim McGuinness 2-0, John Duffy 0-2, Shane Bradley 0-2, Brendan Devenney 0-2, Brian Roper 0-2.

16th November at Lurgan
Donegal 0-12; Armagh 3-1.
Scorers - Tony Boyle 0-5, John Duffy 0-2, Brendan Devenney 0-2, Jim McGuinness 0-1, Brian McLoughlin 0-1, Adrian Sweeney 0-1.

30th November at Ballyshannon
Donegal 1-8; Meath 1-8.
Scorers - Tony Boyle 0-5, John Duffy 1-1, Brendan Devenney 0-2.

15th February at Ballybofey
Donegal 2-11; Westmeath 2-8.
Scorers - John Duffy 0-5, Tony Boyle 1-2, Brian Roper 1-2, Brendan Devenney 0-1, Adrian Sweeney 0-1.

1st March at Casement Park
Donegal 1-15; Antrim 0-7.
Scorers - T. Boyle 0-5, John Duffy 0-5, Brian Roper 1-1, A Sweeney 0-2, B Devenney 0-1, Jim McGuinness 0-1.

15th March at Ruislip -
Donegal 2-15; London 1-6.
Scorers - John Duffy 1-4, Tony Boyle 0-4, B. Devenney 0-4, Adrian Sweeney 1-1, Brian Roper 0-1, N McGinley 0-1.

Total Scored 9-87 (114 points);
Total Conceded 10-46 (76).
Average 1.50
Scorers - Tony Boyle 1-32, John Duffy 3-21, Brendan Devenney 0-13, Brian Roper 2-7, Adrian Sweeney 1-5, Jim McGuinness 2-2, Shane Bradley 0-5, Brian McLoughlin 0-1, N McGinley 0-1.

Corcaigh



19th October at Clonmel
Cork 4-17; Tipperary 3-5.
Scorers - Mark O'Sullivan 2-4, Peter Hegarty 1-1, Stephen Dineen 0-3, Ciaran O'Sullivan 0-3, Don Davis 1-0, Joe Kavanagh 0-2, Colin Crowley 0-2, Nicholas Murphy 0-1, Aidan Dorgan 0-1.

2nd November at Páirc Uí Rinn
Cork 0-14; Waterford 1-7.
Scorers - Joe Kavanagh 0-4, Jonathan McCarthy 0-4, Nicholas Murphy 0-2, Brendan Walsh 0-2, Martin Cronin 0-1, Mark O'Sullivan 0-1.

16th November at Páirc Uí Rinn
Cork 0-13; Clare 0-8.
Scorers - Ciaran O'Sullivan 0-4, Joe Kavanagh 0-4, Stephen Dineen 0-2, Nicholas Murphy 0-1, Martin Cronin 0-1, Brian Corcoran 0-1.

30th November at Newcastle
Down 1-13; Cork 1-2.
Scorer - Joe Kavanagh 1-2.

7th December at Páirc Uí Rinn
Cork 1-21; Limerick 0-7.
Scorers - Joe Kavanagh 1-4, Ciaran O'Sullivan 0-4, Aidan Dorgan 0-3, Brendan Walsh 0-2, Stephen O'Brien 0-2, Peter Hegarty 0-1, Nicholas Murphy 0-1, Martin Cronin 0-1, Ronan McCarthy 0-1, M Harrington 0-1, Fachtna Collins 0-1.

1st February at Droichead Nua
Cork 0-9; Kildare 0-8.
Scorers - Joe Kavanagh 0-3, Aidan Dorgan 0-2, Peter Hegarty 0-1, Ciaran O'Sullivan 0-1, Stephen O'Brien 0-1, Seán Óg Ó hAilpín 0-1.0

15th February at Páirc Uí Rinn
Cork 0-13; Roscommon 1-6.
Scorers - Fachtna Collins 0-4, Joe Kavanagh 0-3, Brendan Walsh 0-2, Nicholas Murphy 0-2, Peter Hegarty 0-1, Martin Cronin 0-1.

15th March at Aughrim -
Wicklow 1-12; Cork 1-11.
Scorers - Ciaran O'Sullivan 0-4, Fionan Murray 1-1, Joe Kavanagh 0-2, Aidan Dorgan 0-2, Colin Crowley 0-1, Ronan McCarthy 0-1.

Total Scored 7-100 (121 points);
Total Conceded 7-66 (87).
Average 1.39
Scorers - Joe Kavanagh 2-24, Ciaran O'Sullivan 0-16, Mark O'Sullivan 2-4, Aidan Dorgan 0-8, Nicholas Murphy 0-7, Peter Hegarty 1-4, Brendan Walsh 0-6, Stephen Dineen 0-5, Fachtna Collins 0-5, Martin Cronin 0-4, Jonathan McCarthy 0-4, Fionan Murray 1-1, Stephen O'Brien 0-3, Colin Crowley 0-3, Don Davis 1-0, Ronan McCarthy 0-2, M Harrington 0-1, Mark O'Sullivan 0-1, Brian Corcoran 0-1, Seán Óg Ó hAilpín 0-1.

An Dún



19th October at Aughrim
Wicklow 1-10; Down 0-10.
Scorers - Gerard Deegan 0-5, Glen McMahon 0-2, Alan Molloy 0-1, Kieran McCabe 0-1, G Baillie 0-1.

2nd November at Newry
Down 2-10; Tipperary 1-7.
Scorers - Glen McMahon 2-2, Paddy Sloan 0-3, Gavin Murdock 0-2, Gerard Deegan 0-1, G Murphy 0-1, Shane Ward 0-1.

16th November at Dungarvan
Down 0-12; Waterford 0-5.
Scorers - Gerard Deegan 0-4, Gavin Murdock 0-2, Conor Deegan 0-2, Glen McMahon 0-1, Alan Molloy 0-1, Paddy Sloan 0-1, Shane Ward 0-1.

30th November at Newcastle
Down 1-13; Cork 1-2.
Scorers - Gavin Murdock 0-4, Gerard Deegan 0-3, Micky Linden 0-3, Shane McMahon 1-0, Shane Ward 0-1, S Poland 0-1, Glen McMahon 0-1.

14th December at Newry
Down 0-12; Kildare 1-8.
Scorers - Gavin Murdock 0-4, Gerard Deegan 0-3, Shane Ward 0-2, Paddy Sloan 0-1, Shane McMahon 0-1, Finbar Caulfield 0-1.

1st February at Ennis
Clare 1-8; Down 0-10.
Scorers - Gavin Murdock 0-4, Mickey Linden 0-2, Gerard Deegan 0-1, Alan Molloy 0-1, Paddy Sloan 0-1, A Quinn 0-1.

1st March at Newry
Down 0-19; Limerick 1-6.
Scorers - A Quinn 0-5, Gavin Murdock 0-3, Shane Ward 0-3, Gerard Deegan 0-2, Mickey Linden 0-2, Ross Carr 0-2, Conor Deegan 0-1, S Poland 0-1.

15th March at Elphin
Down 1-12; Roscommon 1-7.
Scorers - Mickey Linden 1-1, Shane Ward 0-2, Conor Deegan 0-2, A Quinn 0-2, Ross Carr 0-2, Gerard Deegan 0-1, Peter Withnell 0-1, Finbar Caulfield 0-1.

Total Scored 4-98 (110 points);
Total Conceded 7-53 (74).
Average 1.49
Scorers - Gerard Deegan 0-20, Gavin Murdock 0-19, Glen McMahon 2-6, Mickey Linden 1-8, Shane Ward 0-10, A Quinn 0-8, Paddy Sloan 0-6, Conor Deegan

0-5, Ross Carr 0-4, Shane McMahon 1-1, Alan Molloy 0-3, S Poland 0-2, Finbar Caulfield 0-2, Kieran McCabe 0-1, G Murphy 0-1, Gareth Baillie 0-1, Peter Withnell 0-1.

Muineacháin



19th October at Tullamore
Offaly 1-12; Monaghan 1-8.
Scorers - Gary Meehan 0-5, Stephen McGinnity 1-1, Damien Freeman 0-1, Mark Daly 0-1.

2nd November at Clones
Monaghan 2-8; Cavan 1-8.
Scorers - Declan Smyth 1-3, Kevin Hughes 0-4, Peter Duffy 1-0, Mark Daly 0-1.

16th November at Markievicz Park
Monaghan 1-11; Sligo 1-11.
Scorers - Declan Tiernan 1-3, Declan Smyth 0-5, Kevin Hughes 0-2, Stephen McGinnity 0-1.

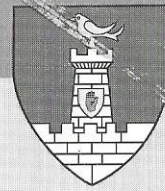
30th November at Scotstown
Monaghan 2-13; Wexford 1-8.
Scorers - Declan McKernan 1-2, Declan Smyth 0-4, Kevin Hughes 0-4, Stephen McGinnity 1-0, Pauric McShane 0-1, Gerard McGuirk 0-1, E Hoey 0-1.

15th February at Parnell Park
Monaghan 2-12; Dublin 0-12.
Scorers - Darren Swift 1-1, Declan Smyth 0-3, Declan McKernan 0-3, Cyril Ronaghan 1-0, Mark Daly 0-2, Stephen McGinnity 0-1, Kevin Hughes 0-1, John Conlon 0-1.

1st March at Clones
Kerry 2-9; Monaghan 0-10.
Scorers - Stephen McGinnity 0-3, Damien Freeman 0-2, John Conlon 0-2, Declan Smyth 0-1, Kevin Hughes 0-1, Darren Swift 0-1.

15th March at Omagh
Monaghan 2-6; Tyrone 0-11.
Scorers - Declan Smyth 1-2, Kevin Hughes 1-2, Declan McKernan 0-1, Darren Swift 0-1.

Total Scored 10-68 (98 points);
Total Conceded 6-71 (89).
Average 1.10
Scorers - Declan Smyth 2-18, Kevin Hughes 1-14, Stephen McGinnity 2-6, Declan McKernan 1-6, Darren Swift 1-3, Declan Tiernan 1-3, Gary Meehan 0-5, Mark Daly 0-4, Damien Freeman 0-3, John Conlon 0-3, Cyril Ronaghan 1-0, Peter Duffy 1-0, Pauric McShane 0-1, Gerard McGuirk 0-1, E Hoey 0-1.



Dathanna: Dearg is Dubh

Dathanna: Bán is Gorm

Fir Ionaid

- (16) Peter Travers
P. Ó Treabhair
(Bryansford)
- (17) Pdraig McColdrick
P. Mac Gualraic
(Newry Shamrocks)
- (18) Cathal Murray
C. Ó Muiri
(Clonduff)
- (19) Alan Molloy
A. Ó Maolmhuaidh
(Loughinisland)
- (20) Shane Mulholland
S. Ó Maolchallann
(Ballyholland)
- (21) Aidan Quinn
A. Ó Cuinn
(Newry Bosco)
- (22) Shane McMahon
S. Mac Mathúna
(Mayobridge)
- (23) Eugene O'Hagan
E. Ó hAgáin
(Clonduff)
- (24) Ciarán McCabe
C. Mac Cába
(Castlewellan)

1
MICHAEL McVEIGH
M. Mac An Bheatha
(Castlewellan)

2
FINBAR CAULFIELD
F. Mac Conmhaoil
(Rostrevor)

3
BRIAN BURNS
B. Ó Broin
(Bryansford)

4
MALACHY McMURRAY
M. Mac Muiri
(Newry Bosco)

5
SIMON POLAND
S. Mac Póilín
(Bryansford)

6
MICHAEL MAGILL
M. Mac an Ghoill
(Warreapoint)

7
SEAN WARD
S. Mac an Bhaird
(Burren)

8
CONOR DEEGAN
C. Ó Duígin (Capt.)
(Kilmacud Crokes)

9
GERARD COLGAN
G. Ó Colgáin
(An Riocht)

10
GERARD DEEGAN
G. Ó Duígin
(Downpatrick)

11
PETER WITHNELL
P. Withnell
(Drumaness)

12
JAMES McCARTAN
S. Mac Artáin
(Tullylish)

13
MICKEY LINDEN
M. Mac Giolla Fhiondáin
(Mayobridge)

14
ROSS CARR
R. Ó Ceara
(Clonduff)

15
SHANE WARD
S. Mac an Bhaird
(Clonduff)

Roghnóirí:
Peter McGrath (Manager),
John Murphy,
J.P. O'Kane,
Pat O'Hare.

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

1
JOHN O'CONNOR
S. Ó Conchúir
(Carrickmacross)

2
EDWIN MURPHY
E. Ó Murchú (Capt.)
(Castleblayney)

3
GERARD McGURK
G. Mag Oirc
(Scotstown)

4
NOEL MARRON
N. Ó Mearáin
(Donaghmoynne)

5
DERMOT McARDLE
D. Mac Ardail
(Castleblayney)

6
SEAMUS MULLEN
S. Ó Maoleáin
(Scotstown)

7
JOHN CONLON
S. Ó Conluain
(Carrickmacross)

8
PAURIC McSHANE
P. Mac Seáin
(Clontibret)

9
CYRIL RONAGHAN
C. Ó Reannacháin
(Tyholland)

10
DAMIEN FREEMAN
D. Mac an tSaoir
(Magheracloone)

11
MARK DALY
M. Ó Dálaigh
(Drumhowan)

12
KEVIN HUGHES
C. Ó hAodha
(Latton)

13
DECLAN SMYTH
D. Mac Gabhann
(Carrickmacross)

14
DECLAN McKIERAN
D. Mac Clarnáin
(Clones)

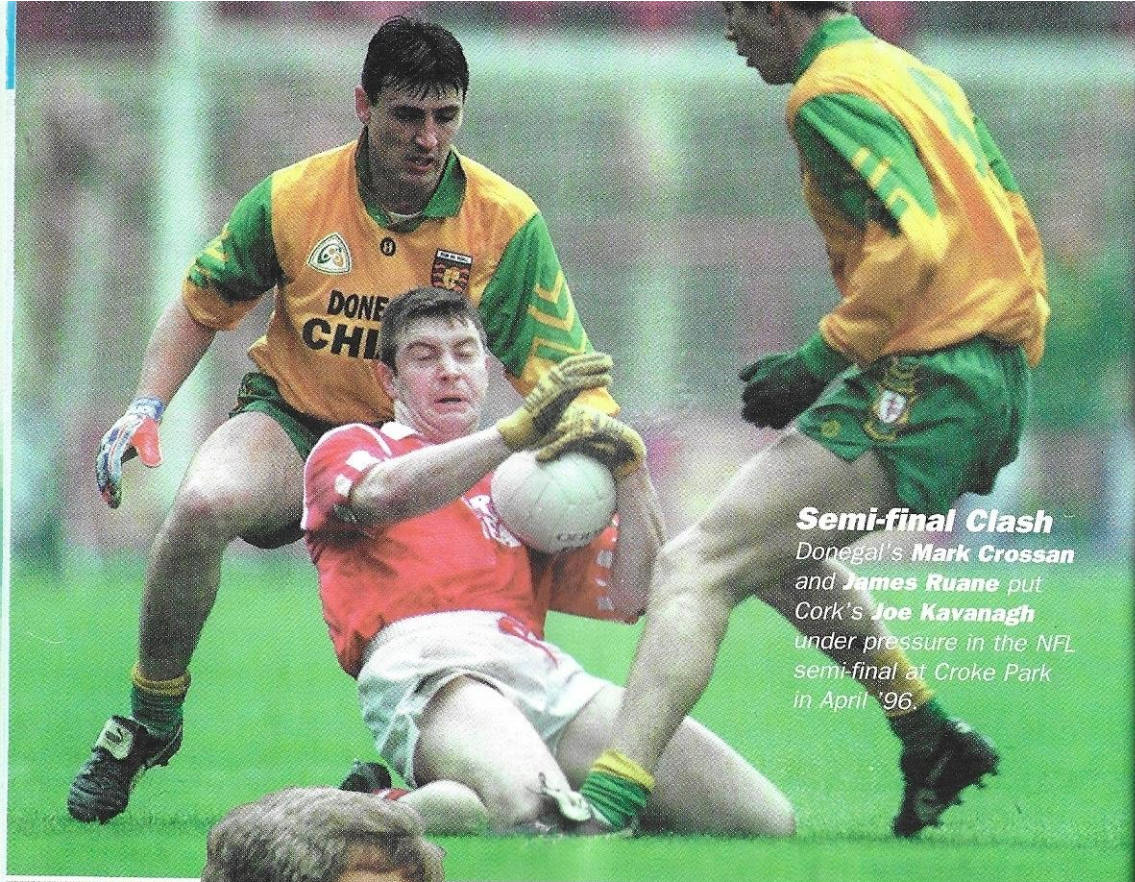
15
STEPHEN MCGINNITY
S. Mac Fhinneachta
(Drumhowan)

Fir Ionaid

- (16) Glen Murphy
G. Ó Murchú
(Emyvale)
- (17) Darren Swift
D. Ó Fuada
(Monaghan Harps)
- (18) Peter Duffy
P. Ó Dufaigh
(Castleblayney)
- (19) Niall Magennis
N. Mac Aonghusa
(Clontibret)
- (20) Pauric McDonald
P. Mac Dómhnaill
(Castleblayney)
- (21) Colin McAree
C. Mac Conraoi
(Monaghan Harps)
- (22) Eamonn Hoey
E. Ó hEochaidh
(Killanny)
- (23) Fergal Duffy
F. Ó Dufaigh
(Inniskeen)
- (24) Lorcan Kelly
L. Ó Ceallaigh
(Aghabog)

Roghnóirí:
Eamonn McEaney,
P.J. McKenna.

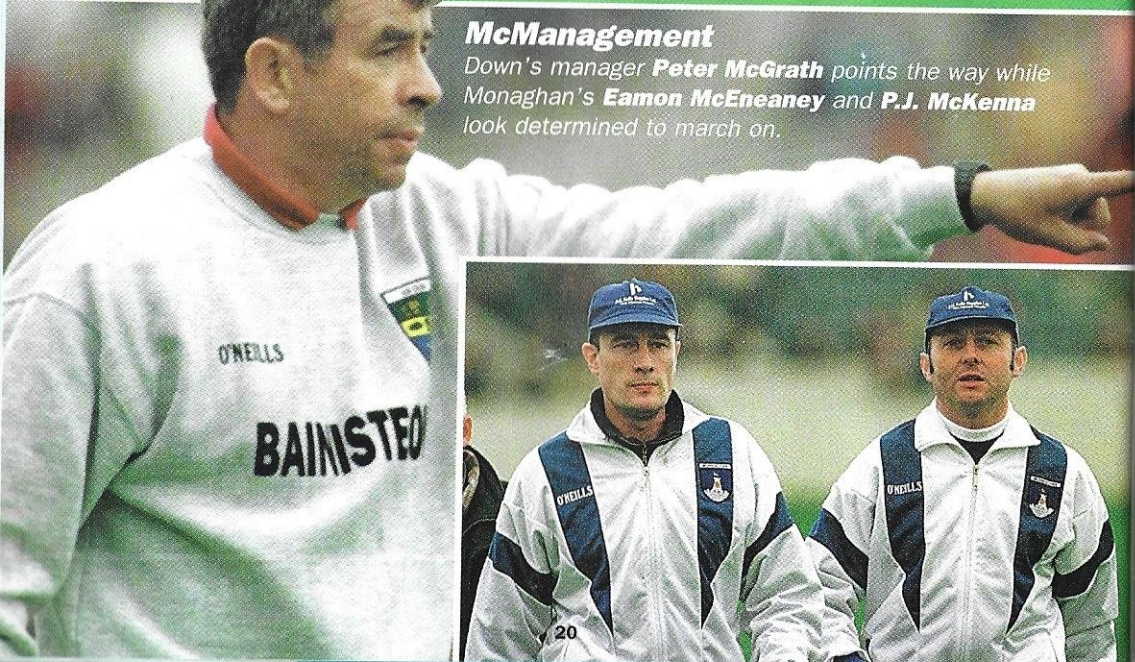
	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45m	Saor Ciceanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
IOMLÁN					



Semi-final Clash
Donegal's Mark Crossan and James Ruane put Cork's Joe Kavanagh under pressure in the NFL semi-final at Croke Park in April '96.



The Monaghan team that played Tyrone in the league last month.
Back row (l-r): Pauric McShane, Mark Daly, Cyril Ranaghan, Gerard McGuirk, John O'Connor, Kevin Hughes, Noel Marron, Declan Smyth.
Front row (l-r): Declan McKiernan, Stephen McGinnity, Seamus Mullen, Edwin Murphy (captain), John Conlon, Dermot McArdle, Darren Swift.



McManagement
Down's manager Peter McGrath points the way while Monaghan's Eamon McEneaney and P.J. McKenna look determined to march on.

Monaghan win through from competitive group

Monaghan have genuine grounds for being particularly pleased at their achievement in qualifying for the Church and General National Football League quarter-finals. They finished runners-up to Offaly in what many understandably regarded as the most competitive group in the competition.

The Ulster county took a major step along the road to the knock-out stages by starting the New Year with a surprise but well-merited two goal win over fancied Dublin—and at Parnell Park in the capital.

The game was only eight minutes old when left full forward Darren Swift boosted Monaghan morale with a well-taken goal. Two minutes from the interval a goal by Cyril Ronaghan put Monaghan in a very strong position at

the interval as they led by 2-8 to 0-5. The Northerners had to battle hard all through the second half as Dublin came back strongly but held out for a 2-12 to 0-12 win that put them very much in the hunt for a place in the knock-out stages.

Hopes took a knock next time out when Monaghan lost an entertaining game at Clones to All-Ireland champions Kerry by five points, but they regained the winning formula in the final game of the section against Tyrone at Omagh.

A superb penalty save by John O'Connor in the Monaghan goal from Peter Canavan in the second half and a well-taken goal from the spot by Declan Smyth were features of the 2-6 to 0-11 win.

Tyrone led by a point at the interval and just after the restart came

O'Connor's vital penalty save. Boosted by that save Monaghan fought back well and confidence was increased with two splendid points from Declan Smyth.

Twelve minutes from the end Smyth further underlined his finishing powers by expertly converting a penalty kick and Monaghan battled on gamely for a well-deserved win.

Then, the news came through that Sligo, who started that morning a point ahead of Monaghan in the Section C table, were surprisingly beaten by Cavan. As a result Monaghan finished runners-up a point ahead of the Yeats County, Dublin and Tyrone.

Under manager Eamonn McEneaney, Monaghan have played good football through the campaign and displayed plenty of all out endeavour. They have a lively defence, a good midfield and solid defence and, with morale buoyed up by the march to the knock-out stages, they will not be easily beaten.

The Last Quarter-Finals of Down and Monaghan

1997 - Kerry 1-18; Down 0-10.

For threequarters of an hour this was a fine contest but when Kerry put their foot to the floor in the last quarter Down simply had no answer. Although the Kingdom opened the scoring the Mourne men looked the livelier outfit and after Mickey Linden fisted over the equaliser, points by John Treanor, Gerard Deegan and Linden again helped Down into a 0-4 to 0-2 lead after 11 minutes. However, the Ulster side failed to trouble the scoreboard operator again in the opening half and, with Maurice Fitzgerald leading the way, Kerry turned over leading by 0-7 to 0-4.

Within 40 seconds of the restart Fitzgerald made it double scores (0-8 to 0-4) and entering the last quarter the gap between the sides was still four points. However, Kerry simply upped the pace and Down could not respond. With William Kirby and Dara Ó Sé in command at midfield the Kerry forwards were kept well supplied and it was Kirby who provided the pass for the game's only goal four minutes from time with Pa Laide providing the finish. Although Kerry's final margin of victory (eleven points) may have flattered them, Down had little cause for complaint.

Down scorers: J.Treanor 0-5, M.Linden 0-3, G.Mason 0-1, G.Deegan 0-1.

Down: Michael McVeigh, Conor Deegan, Liam Howlett, Finbar Caulfield, Daniel Flynn, Sean Ward, Ross Carr, Gregory McCartan, Jarlath Austin, Aidan Farrell, John Treanor, Gary Mason, Mickey Linden, Ciaran McCabe, Gerard Deegan.

Subs: James McCartan for Carr, Greg Blaney for Farrell, Peter Withnell for McCartan.

1995 - Laois 2-8; Monaghan 1-6.

Laois opened the scoring after two minutes through Leo Turley but Monaghan were the superior side in the opening ten minutes and points by Michael Slowey, Stephen McGinnity and Declan Smyth (two) reflected as much on the scoreboard. A couple of minors from Damien Delaney reduced the O'Moore county's deficit to the minimum before Michael Lawlor hammered in a fine goal to leave it 1-3 to 0-4 after the first quarter. There were just two more scores in the first half and both fell to Laois which left the Midlanders four points ahead at the interval.

On the restart the pace of scoring did not improve and by the end of the third quarter Laois had added just two points to their half-time total with Monaghan faring even poorer with just one minor to leave it 1-7 to 0-5. The game ended as a contest in the 51st minute when Hugh Emerson grabbed Laois's second goal and although Pauric McShane replied similarly for Monaghan three minutes from the end, the result was never in doubt. Indeed, Laois could afford to miss a late penalty and still emerge comfortable winners.

Monaghan scorers: P.McShane 1-0, D.Smyth 0-2, Michael Slowey 0-2, S.McGinnity 0-1, D.Loughman 0-1.

Monaghan: John O'Connor, Edwin Murphy, David King, Noel Marron, Martin Slowey, Gerard McGuirk, John Conlon, Pauric McShane, Frank McEaney, Ray McCarron, Michael Slowey, Gregory Flanagan, Stephen McGinnity, Kieran Lavelle, Declan Smyth.

Subs: Declan Loughman for McCarron, Colin McCaul for Lavelle, Conor Moen for Martin Slowey.

To say that Down and Monaghan are no strangers when it comes to National League combat is something of an understatement as today sees the counties in opposition for the 26th time in the secondary competition. The competition was only in its second year when they met for the first time at Hilltown where the Mourne men emerged victorious by two points. Barely six months later Monaghan had their revenge at Castlewellan but there was just one further meeting before the Emergency break. Down levelled the series at two all in their first meeting after the break but Monaghan dominated in the fifties winning all six meetings. However, Down responded the following decade with six wins of their own (from seven meetings) and followed that with three more in the seventies. More recent years have seen Down maintain their dominance with only Monaghan's 1986 win at Ballybay upsetting the trend to leave the overall series score 15-10 in Down's favour, the details of which are:

1927-28 Hilltown:		
Down	1-4;	Monaghan 0-5
1928-29 Castlewellan:		
Monaghan	2-6;	Down 0-3
1938-39 Carrickmacross:		
Monaghan	2-6;	Down 1-2
1948-49 Ballybay:		
Down	0-10;	Monaghan 0-7
1949-50 Newcastle:		
Monaghan	1-10;	Down 0-8
1950-51 Newcastle:		
Monaghan	2-3;	Down 1-3
1950-51 Ballybay:		
Monaghan	2-8;	Down 0-4
1951-52 Newcastle:		
Monaghan	2-3;	Down 1-3
1952-53 Carrickmacross:		
Monaghan	1-9;	Down 0-4
1953-54 Newcastle:		
Monaghan	3-5;	Down 2-6
1959-60 Ballybay:		
Down	1-9;	Monaghan 0-2
1960-61 Newry:		
Down	1-8;	Monaghan 0-4
1961-62 Ballybay:		
Down	0-7;	Monaghan 0-3

Previous Meetings

1963-64 Ballybay:		
Down	1-7;	Monaghan 2-2
1964-65 Newcastle:		
Monaghan	1-11;	Down 1-5
1965-66 Irvinestown:		
Down	3-13;	Monaghan 1-9
1966-67 Newry:		
Down	3-8;	Monaghan 1-3
1975-76 Ballybay:		
Down	0-11;	Monaghan 1-6
1976-77 Newry:		
Down	6-5;	Monaghan 2-10
1977-78 Ballybay:		
Down	4-9;	Monaghan 0-2
1981-82 Newry:		
Down	1-7;	Monaghan 0-4
1985-86 Newcastle:		
Down	5-7;	Monaghan 0-9
1986-87 Ballybay:		
Monaghan	1-16;	Down 3-5
1988-89 Carrickmacross:		
Down	2-12;	Monaghan 0-7
1992-93 Newry:		
Down	1-14;	Monaghan 1-7

When Last They Met ... February 1993

Down 1-14; Monaghan 1-7.

The Mourne men dominated matters in the opening half at Páirc An Iúir and led by five points at the changeover. The crucial score of the match came halfway through the second period when a combination of Conor Deegan and Gary Mason set up Mickey Linden for a superb goal. That was the insurance score and Down cruised to a comfortable seven-point victory.

Down scorers: G.Mason 0-5, M.Linden 1-1, B.Breen 0-4, E.Burns 0-2, C.Burns 0-1, P.Withnell 0-1.

Monaghan: R.McCarron 0-5, A.Tavey 1-0, K.Hughes 0-1, D.Byrne 0-1.

Down: E.Connolly, M.McGill, C.Deegan, P.Higgins, J.Kelly, B.Burns, D.J.Kane, B.Breen, E.Burns, C.Burns, G.Blaney, G.Mason, M.Linden, P.Withnell, B.Mason.

Monaghan: T.McManus, G.Hoey, E.Sherry, B.Murray, E.Murphy, G.McGuirk, D.King, D.Byrne, G.Mone, A.Tavey, P.McShane, K.Hughes, S.McGinnity, E.Murphy, R.McCarron.

Subs: D.Loughman for Sherry, M.Slowey for McGinnity, G.Flanagan for Murphy.

Cé go raibh Muineachán chun tosaigh ar a chomh-Ultaigh i dtaca le cúrsaí peile dhe tháinig an 'gasún', An Dún, aniar-aduaidh orthu uilig (cé's moite den Cabhán), chun craobh na hÉireann sin-searach a bhaint i 1960. Ó shin i leith tá fir na Móirne ag tabhairt dúshlán uaisle na peile ó gach cearn den tír.

Dhá chontae Ultacha uaibhreacha i ngleic

Le tamall de bhlianta áfach ní féidir beag-is-fiú a dhéanamh de pheileadóirí chontae 'na gcnoc is na loch' agus nuair a bhain siad craobh Uladh tamall ó shin bhíothas ann a cheap go raibh stíl álainn feiceálach á chleachtadh acu. I mbliana, faoin phlean nua, bhíodar sáite isteach i Roinn 'an bháis' ina raibh trí chontae arbh iad curaidh a gCúigí iad, Ciarraí (curaidh Uile-Éireann chomh maith), Uíbh Fhailí agus mar bharr donais ar an scéal curaidh Uladh, An Cabhán, a gcomharsana iomráiteacha. Níor thit an lug ar an lag acu áfach agus seo chugainn inniu iad i bPáirc An Chrócaigh chun a chruthú nach gal soip iad peileadóirí Mhuineacháin.

Over the past few seasons the leading scorer has tended to come from Div. 4, but with no fourth division this time it was always likely that a player in the nine-team section would top the chart, and so it is with Kildare's Pádraig Brennan leading the way with 3-31. However, his average of 5 pts. per game is lower than the second placed Diarmuid Marsden who notched 4-26 (38 pts.) in seven outings for an average of 5.43. The Armagh man is tied for second position with Tipperary's Declan Browne who recorded the exact same score, but from 8 matches.

The list of top marksmen in the league section refers to the leading flag-raiser of each county and these 34 players (there was a tie in Kilkenny) are not necessarily the leading marksmen overall.

Section A

Padraig Joyce (Galway)	0-30
Raymond Gallagher (Fermanagh)	5-15 (30pts)
Kieran McDonald (Mayo)	2-18 (24)
Colm Hayden (Carlow)	2-18 (24)
Gene Bohan (Leitrim)	0-22
Colin Kelly (Louth)	0-22
Ian Fitzgerald (Laois)	1-16 (19)
Damien Walsh (Kilkenny)	0-11
J Maher (Kilkenny)	1-8 (11)

Tá An Dún breá cleachtach ar an staid náisiúnta; lasmuigh de thréimhsí eile, roimís sin, nach raibh siad ann faoi cheathair sna naochaidé féin nuair a bhain siad dhá chraobh shinsear Uile-Éireann i 1991 agus 1994? Chomh maith leis sin bhain siad craobh na Léige Church & General ar cheithre ócáid.

An bhfuil 'tuirse' ar Roinnt d'fhoireann An Dúin nó an bhfuil na daoine óga den caigdeán ard fós atá de dhíth ar an mBainisteoir oilte Peadar Mac Craith. Pér bith é anseo iad ar ais arís agus ciall cheannaithe na mblianta dá dtreorú.

Cad faoin toradh? Smaointear gur thug Muineachán bata is bóthar dón Dún sa chraobhchomortas cúpla bliain ó shin agus é sin déanta faoi scáth na Móirne. Bhítheas ann a cheap go rachadh Muineachán an bealach ar fad an bhliain sin. Is foireann óg scilliúil iad agus tar éis dóibh foirne cáiliúla ar nós Áth Cliath, Tír Eoghain agus An Cabhán a chloí le déanaí ní mór aird a thabhairt orthu.

Tréaslaítear a ngaisce leis an dá fhoireann as teacht an fhad seo sa chomortas agus feicfear iad araon i Roinn I an bhliain seo chugainn. Go maire siad.

Section B

Diarmuid Marsden (Armagh)	4-26 (38 pts)
Tony Boyle (Donegal)	1-32 (35)
Padraig Davis (Longford)	3-24 (33)
Raymond McGee (Meath)	3-18 (27)
Eamonn Burns (Derry)	0-22
Tommy Maguire (London)	1-17 (20)
Kevin Madden (Antrim)	0-19
Thomas Cleary (Westmeath)	1-16 (19)

Section C

Paul Taylor (Sligo)	2-26 (32 pts)
Ronan Carolan (Cavan)	0-28
Declan Darcy (Dublin)	0-24
Lee O'Brien (Wexford)	0-24
Peter Brady (Offaly)	2-18 (24)
Declan Smyth (Monaghan)	2-18 (24)
Brian McGuckian (Tyrone)	0-20
Maurice Fitzgerald (Kerry)	2-13 (19)

Section D

Padraig Brennan (Kildare)	3-31 (40 pts)
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	4-26 (38)
Martin Daly (Clare)	2-31 (37)
Kevin O'Brien (Wicklow)	3-28 (37)
Eddie Lohan (Roscommon)	1-27 (30)
Joe Kavanagh (Cork)	2-24 (30)
Gerard Deegan (Down)	0-20
Martin Power (Waterford)	1-16 (19)
Tony Cummins (Limerick)	0-14

Smyth's scoring power a key factor for Monaghan

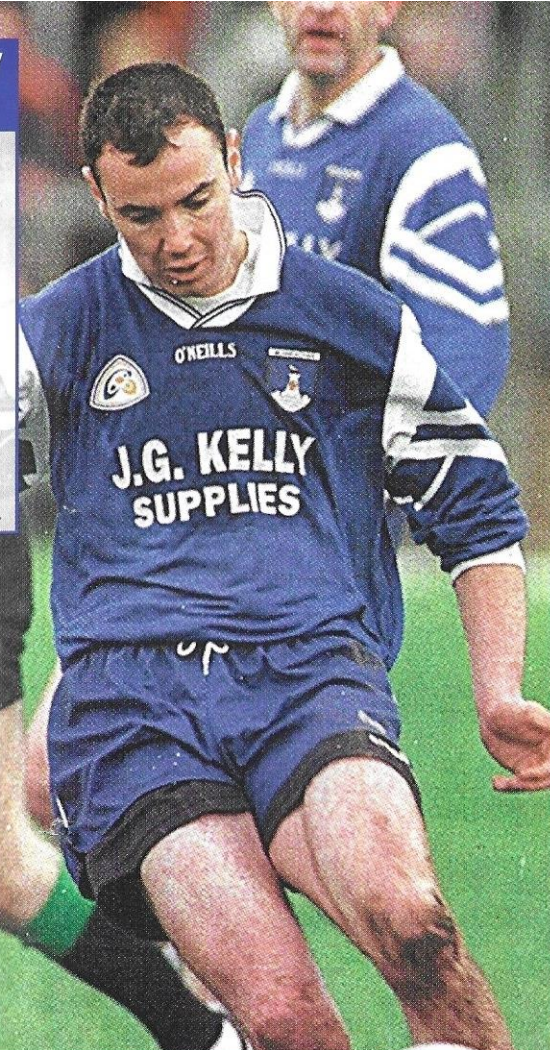
Decan Smyth was one of the stars of Monaghan's last Ulster senior football championship win. He rifled over six points in a shock win over fancied Donegal in a first round game at Ballybofey in 1996.

The Carrickmacross clubman has been a leading figure in the Monaghan senior team in recent seasons and has also been a consistent marksman.

A clever footballer, who works tirelessly and to good effect in every game, Smyth has left a big imprint on Monaghan's return to the quarter-final stages this season.

He did not play in the opening game against Offaly, but was on the target in each game after that and is now Monaghan's leading marksman for the campaign so far with an impressive 2-18 (24 points).

Smyth's finishing powers and his good general play mark him out as a potential match-winner for the Northern county.

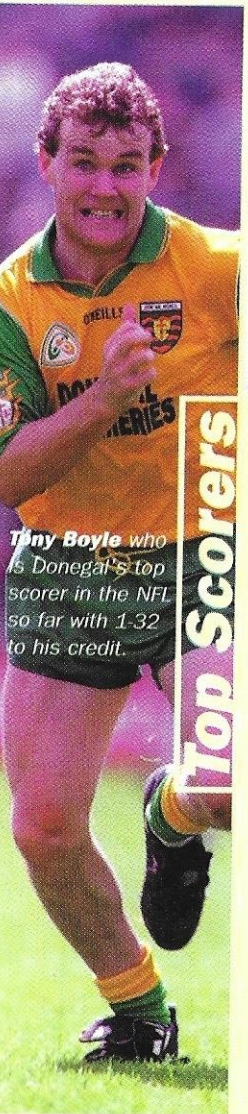


Conor Deegan a star in two roles for Down

Conor Deegan allies his undoubted football skills with versatility. He had an outstanding game at full back when Down ushered in a great era for Ulster by winning the Sam Maguire Cup in 1991.

Three years later Down regained the title and recorded Ulster's fourth win All-Ireland final win in a row by beating Dublin. Deegan lined out at left midfield and played a big part in the last final win by a Northern team.

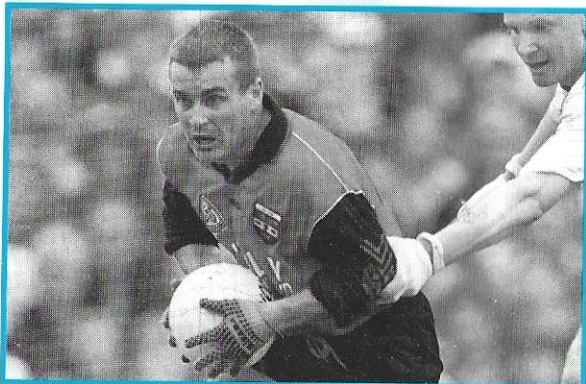
The six foot-plus Down man was then assisting Downpatrick in club games but is now a member of Kilmacud Crokes in Dublin. A hard-working and gifted player he has made a major contribution with his polished and effective midfield play in Down's march to the quarter-finals of the current League. He has two Ulster senior medals as well as that brace of national souvenirs.



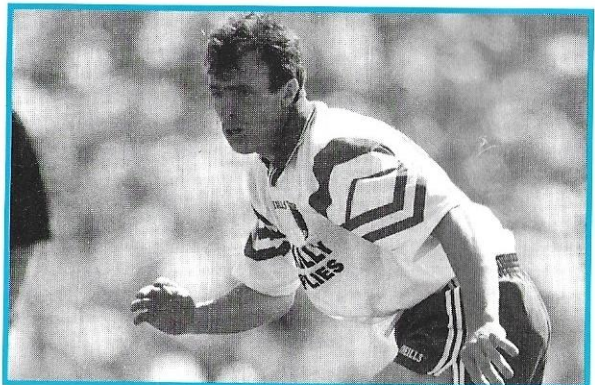
Tony Boyle who is Donegal's top scorer in the NFL so far with 1-32 to his credit.

Aggregate Report

Surprisingly, the top two places in the aggregate report are filled by counties which did not qualify for the quarter-finals, nor were they involved in the nine-team group. Armagh and Meath, third and fourth respectively in Section B, lead the way with the Northerners ten points ahead of the Royal county. However, quarter-finalists Galway and Cork are third and fourth respectively, while the other qualifiers Donegal (6th), Down (7th) and Mayo (13th) are all in the top half. For the fourth year in succession Derry have qualified for the knock-out stages from a relatively lowly position (17th) along with Monaghan (joint 17th) and Offaly (19th).



Above **James McCartan** (An Dún) who starts his first game in the current league today and (below) **Noel Marron** (Muineacháin).



In the matter of average per game, the top three placings are the same but there are fewer teams averaging less than ten points per game - five this year compared to seven last season. Of those five Kilkenny, Wexford and Limerick are appearing for the second year running, London for the third.

In terms of change from last year, Meath are the most improved team jumping from 31st to 2nd while All-Ireland and League champions Kerry show the greatest drop, falling from 9th to 29th.

	Score	Total	Games	Av.
Armagh	18-80	134	7	19.14
Meath	11-91	124	7	17.71
Galway	7-102	123	7	17.57
Cork	7-100	121	8	15.12
Kildare	7-94	115	8	14.37
Donegal	9-87	114	7	16.29
Down	4-98	110	8	13.75
Louth	10-76	106	7	15.14
Westmeath	9-77	104	7	14.86
Leitrim	11-71	104	7	14.86
Wicklow	9-77	104	8	13
Clare	4-91	103	7*	14.71
Mayo	7-81	102	7	14.57
Roscommon	8-78	102	8	12.75
Laois	10-70	100	7	14.29
Longford	9-72	99	7	14.14
Derry	5-83	98	7	14
Monaghan	10-68	98	7	14
Offaly	6-78	96	7	13.71
Dublin	5-80	95	7	13.57
Fermanagh	10-65	95	7	13.57
Tyrone	5-78	93	7	13.29
Tipperary	9-64	91	7*	13
Sligo	3-77	86	7	12.29
Cavan	7-64	85	7	12.14
Antrim	10-53	83	7	11.86
Waterford	9-49	76	8	9.5
Limerick	5-59	74	8	9.25
Carlow	7-52	73	7	10.43
Kerry	8-48	72	7	10.29
Wexford	5-52	67	7	9.57
London	5-45	60	7	8.57
Kilkenny	6-38	56	7	8

*Clare and Tipperary are playing their final divisional game today.

Round by Round

ROUND 1

Top Score: Armagh 5-18 v Antrim at Lurgan
Biggest Winning Margin: 22 pts - Meath 4-17; London 0-7
Highest Aggregate: 46 pts - Armagh 5-18; Antrim 2-7
Lowest Aggregate: 20 pts - Derry 0-10; Westmeath 0-10
Goal-less Games: One
Home Wins: Six
Away Wins: Seven
Draws: Two
 *Kerry v Cavan was played on neutral territory in New York

ROUND 2

Top Score: Armagh 4-17 v London at Ruislip
Biggest Winning Margin: 26 pts - Armagh 4-17; London 0-3
Highest Aggregate: 35 pts - Louth 2-12; Fermanagh 3-8
Lowest Aggregate: 15 pts - Kerry 1-7; Wexford 0-5
Goal-less Games: One
Home Wins: Ten
Away Wins: Four
Draws: Two

ROUND 3

Top Score: Meath 2-18 v Antrim at Páirc Tailteann
Biggest Winning Margin: 15 pts - Mayo 2-17; Kilkenny 1-5
Highest Aggregate: 35 pts - Meath 2-18; Antrim 1-8
Lowest Aggregate: 16 pts - Dublin 1-9; Wexford 0-4
Offaly 0-9; Kerry 1-4
Goal-less Games: Three
Home Wins: Five
Away Wins: Nine
Draws: Two

ROUND 4

Top Score: Leitrim 3-20 v Kilkenny at Carrick-on-Shannon
Biggest Winning Margin: 25 pts - Leitrim 3-20; Kilkenny 0-4

Highest Aggregate: 34 pts - Longford 3-12; London 2-7
Lowest Aggregate: 17 pts - Laois 0-9; Fermanagh 0-8
Goal-less Games: Four
Home Wins: Eight
Away Wins: Seven
Draws: One

ROUND 5

Top Score: Cavan 4-11 v Wexford at Breffni Park
Biggest Winning Margin: 11 pts - Galway 1-19; Fermanagh 1-8
Highest Aggregate: 37 pts - Cavan 4-11; Wexford 1-11
Lowest Aggregate: 21 pts - Mayo 1-9; Leitrim 0-9
 Armagh 1-8; Meath 1-7
 Tyrone 1-9; Kerry 1-6
 Tipperary 1-11; Limerick 0-7
Goal-less Games: One
Home Wins: Eight
Away Wins: Seven
Draws: One

ROUND 6

Top Score: Westmeath 3-19 v London at Castletowngeoghegan
Biggest Winning Margin: 22 pts - Galway 3-17; Carlow 0-4
Highest Aggregate: 37 pts - Westmeath 3-19; London 1-6
Lowest Aggregate: 16 pts - Dublin 1-7; Tyrone 1-3

Goal-less Games: None
Home Wins: Seven
Away Wins: Eight
Draws: One

ROUND 7

Top Score: Galway 1-18 v Kilkenny at Clara
 Donegal 2-15 v London at Ruislip
 Meath 1-18 v Longford at Pearse Park
Biggest Winning Margin: 15 pts - Galway 1-18; Kilkenny 0-6
Highest Aggregate: 36 pts - Waterford 3-9; Limerick 2-12
Lowest Aggregate: 22 pts - Leitrim 2-6; Louth 1-7
Goal-less Games: None
Home Wins: Six
Away Wins: Seven
Draws: Two

SUMMARY

Top Score: Armagh 5-18 v Antrim (Round 1)
Biggest Winning Margin: Armagh 26 pts v London (Round 2)
Highest Aggregate: 46 pts - Armagh 5-18; Antrim 2-7 (Round 1)
Lowest Aggregate: 15 pts - Kerry 1-7; Wexford 0-5 (Round 2)
Goal-less Games: 10 (23 Last Season)
Home Wins: 50 (64 Last Season)
Away Wins: 51 (36 Last Season)
Draws: 11 (12 Last Season)

Unbeaten Teams

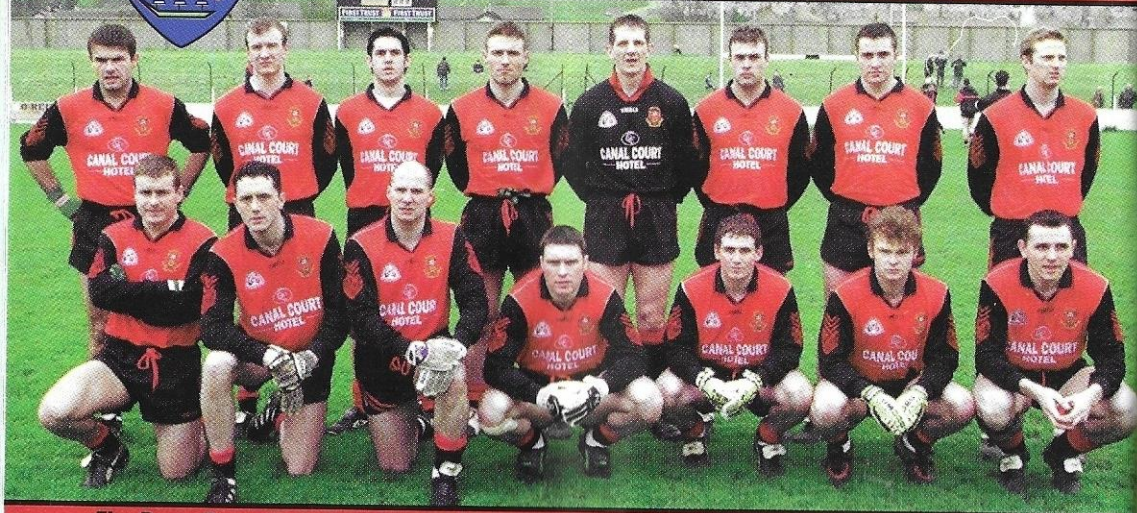
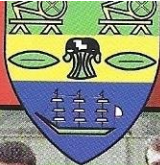
Mayo and Galway are doing good jobs in the current League in advertising Connacht standards. These sides, along with Offaly and Donegal are the only unbeaten counties starting the quarter-finals.

Mayo dropped their only point when they played a draw with Galway at Castlebar in November. They clinched the Section A title with a memorable win over Laois at a packed Crossmolina where Ciaran McDonald was a bright star for the winners with five points.

Galway's hopes took a knock after the draw with Mayo when they were finished level with Louth at Ballinasloe but they hit back with big wins in their three remaining games to finish runners-up in the Section.

Galway topped the scoring department in this group and also finished with the best defensive record. They have reached the quarter-finals for the first time in eleven years.

Mayo are appearing in a quarter-final today after an interval of two years.



The Down Team that played in the McKenna Cup last Sunday.

Back Row (l-r): Finbar Caulfield, Charlie Pat McCartan, Shane Mulholland, Brian Burns, Mickey McVeigh, Seán Ward, Shane McMahon, Cathal McCabe.

Front Row (l-r): James McCartan, Simon Poland, Cathal Murray, Peter Withnell, Gavin Murphy, Padraig McGoldrick, Michael Magill.

Down Come Back Well From Disappointing Set-Backs

Down have given a new twist to the old adage "A good beginning is half the battle" by qualifying for their second successive Church and General National Football League quarter-final.

Their prospects of making an impact in this season's competition did not look bright when they failed to justify their favourites ranking in their first-round game against Wicklow at Aughrim. A Conan Daye goal from a penalty five minutes from the end ensured a three points home win.

But the Mourne men struck back in fine style with four wins in succession, including victories at the expense of Cork and Kildare, the early pace-setters in Section D.

However, they started the New Year on a disappointing note when

they failed to end a losing sequence against Clare at Cusack Park, Ennis.

Despite some good points scoring by Gavin Murdock, Mickey Linden and Gerard Deegan, Down still squandered many good scoring opportunities and paid the penalty with their fourth defeat in four League games at the Banner County venue in ten years.

Once more, however, Down have come back well from a set-back. They had a convincing win over Limerick and helped their cause in the scoring averages review with an 0-19 to 1-6 scoreline.

Last time out the Northerners gave their best performance of the year so far when clinching a place in the knock-out stages by beating Roscommon at Elphin. A year earlier in last season's League Down had to settle for a draw against the

Connacht county at the same venue.

However, the Northerners did much better on the return visit. A goal by Mickey Linden after about twenty four minutes helped them to an interval lead of 1-5 to 0-3.

They had to battled doggedly throughout the second half but with a display of controlled football they forged out a well-merited five points win to edge out Kildare on scoring averages for a place in the knock-out stages.

Conor Deegan and Gerard Colgan at midfield, Linden and Ross Carr in attack and right full back Finbarr Caulfield, who also got on the scoring sheet with a point, were best for Down.

A good run over-all, then, for Down and one that indicates they are on the right track to improve on last year's quarter-final outing when they lost to Kerry at headquarters.

League Tables 1997/98

Section A	P	W	D	L	Pts	F	A	Average
Mayo	7	6	1	0	13	7-81	4-56	1.50
Galway	7	5	2	0	12	7-102	4-51	1.95
Laois	7	4	2	1	10	10-70	4-70	1.22
Leitrim	7	4	1	2	9	11-71	7-55	1.37
Louth	7	3	0	4	6	10-76	12-57	1.14
Fermanagh	7	1	1	5	3	10-65	10-74	0.91
Carlow	7	1	1	5	3	7-52	11-82	0.63
Kilkenny	7	0	0	7	0	6-38	17-107	0.35

Section B	P	W	D	L	Pts	F	A	Average
Donegal	7	6	1	0	13	9-87	10-46	1.50
Derry	7	5	1	1	11	5-83	6-64	1.19
Armagh	7	5	0	2	10	18-80	6-62	1.72
Meath	7	4	1	2	9	11-91	5-59	1.67
Longford	7	3	0	4	6	9-72	10-80	0.90
Westmeath	7	2	1	4	5	9-77	8-71	1.09
Antrim	7	1	0	6	2	10-53	10-102	0.63
London	7	0	0	7	0	5-45	21-104	0.35

Section C	P	W	D	L	Pts	F	A	Average
Offaly	7	6	1	0	13	6-78	4-62	1.30
Monaghan	7	4	1	2	9	10-68	6-71	1.10
Dublin	7	4	0	3	8	5-80	7-48	1.38
Tyrone	7	4	0	3	8	5-78	7-53	1.26
Sligo	7	3	2	2	8	3-77	6-74	0.93
Kerry	7	3	0	4	6	8-48	1-70	0.99
Cavan	7	2	0	5	4	7-64	7-78	0.84
Wexford	7	0	0	7	0	5-52	11-87	0.56

Section D	P	W	D	L	Pts	F	A	Average
Down	8	6	0	2	12	4-98	7-53	1.49
Cork	8	6	0	2	12	7-100	7-66	1.39
Kildare	8	6	0	2	12	7-94	4-77	1.29
*Clare	7	4	1	2	9	4-91	5-63	1.32
Wicklow	8	4	1	3	9	9-77	6-76	1.11
Roscommon	8	2	2	4	6	8-78	4-76	1.16
*Tipperary	7	3	0	4	6	9-64	11-64	0.94
Limerick	8	1	1	6	3	5-59	9-119	0.51
Waterford	8	0	1	7	1	9-49	9-116	0.53

* Clare and Tipperary game yet to be played.

Cúinne na nÓg

Tráth na gCeist

- Who won the Church and General National Football League title last year?
- Where was the final played?
- Pat Casserly (Westmeath), Paddy Russell (Tipperary) or Brian White (Wexford) refereed last year's League final?
- Paul Taylor plays senior football with what county?
- When did Donegal last win the National League title?
- Offaly have still to win a League title. True or false?
- Who manages the Derry senior football team?

Junior Crossword

The clues below, if answered correctly, will reveal the name in the shaded squares down of a forward who holds two All-Ireland senior medals and has been in action in the current League.

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

- Donegal dropped their only point of the current League in their game against this county before Christmas.
- This county finished in third position in Section A of the current Football League.
- The Church and General National Football League is an ... county competition.
- Down beat Kildare at this venue in the current League just before Christmas.
- Christian name of Nestor, Mayo's left full forward in last year's Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior final.
- Not late.
- Christian name of Crossan, who scored the dramatic Erin's Isle (Dublin) winning goal against Castlehaven, of Cork, in the AIB All-Ireland club senior football semi-final at Thurles in February.

Fréagraí

Tráth na gCeist
 1. Kerry. 2. Páirc Uí Chaoimh. 3. Pat Casserly (Westmeath).
 4. Sligo. 5. Donegal have yet to win the National League.
 6. True. 7. Brian Mullins, the former Dublin senior star.

Junior Crossword

1. Meath. 2. Laois. 3. Inter. 4. Newry. 5. David. 6. Early.
 7. Niall.
 The hidden name is **M. Linden** (Down).

Good luck to Down from:



Carrickdale Hotel

Carrickcannon, Ravensdale, Dundalk, Co. Louth
 Tel: (042) 71397. Fax: (042) 71740.

and

Canal Court Hotel

Merchants Quay, Newry BT35 8HF.
 Tel: (01693) 251 234. Fax: (01693) 251 177.



Fluctuating Fortunes and Consistent Performances

Few competitions demonstrate the uncertainty of team sports to quite the same extent as the National Football League which, from year to year, sees remarkable changes in the fortune of many counties. Conversely, where some counties experience wild swings of fortune, others display a quite remarkable consistency. The campaign now reaching its climax maintains these well-established trends.

In terms of consistency nobody can match Derry as, for the seventh year in succession, they have made it to the quarter-final stage. The Oak Leaf county did however improve somewhat on their divisional record as for the past three seasons in their seven group outings it was four wins, one draw and two defeats, while this time it was five wins, one draw and one defeat.

KERRY'S DROP

Three more of last year's quarter-finalists (Offaly, Down and Cork) have returned to the knock-out stage while two others (Kildare and Laois) almost made it. However, the remaining two

quarter-finalists from last year (Louth and Kerry) fared poorly; Louth were never really in the hunt in Section A while champions Kerry's fall from grace was startling. The Munster 'kingpins' have never played outside Division One in the history of the competition but next season they will be operating out of the third division.

The most dramatic improvement in fortunes came from Donegal who finished bottom of Division One last year with just one win and two draws from seven games, but this time the North-Westerners were in great form winning six and drawing one. Other dramatic improvements came from Galway, Mayo and Monaghan.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

The greatest reversal of fortune was probably Kerry's but other sides also experienced a fall from grace. Cavan were plying their trade in the top division last season but will be operating out of the bottom division next year and Louth, who topped Division Two last year will be playing in the third next season. And Roscommon, who should have been playing second division football this year await the outcome of the Tipperary-Clare clash to see if they have avoided Division Four next year.

However, some of the perennial Division Four sides such as Kilkenny, London, Carlow, Limerick and Waterford saw no great change in fortunes in the new format and all shall be plying their wares in the bottom rung of the league next season.



U-17 Compromise Rules v. Australia

Sunday, April 12th in Tullamore at 2.00p.m.

Leinster v. Australia

(Curtain-raiser to Dublin v. Laois -

Leinster U-21 Football Final)

Tuesday, April 14th in Silverbridge at 5.30p.m.

Ulster v. Australia

Thursday, April 16th in Tuam at 5.30p.m.

Connacht v. Australia

Sunday, April 19th in Ennis at 2.00p.m.

Munster v. Australia

(Curtain-raiser to Clare v. Galway NHL game)

Wednesday, April 22nd in Croke Park at 2.00p.m.

Ireland v. Australia

For further information contact: **Pat Daly,**
GAA Coaching and Games Development Manager,
Croke Park, Dublin 3.

Tel: (01) 836 3222. Fax: (01) 836 6420.

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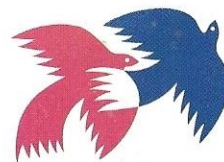


Too young to play...



... 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.



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