

Church & General
National Leagues

**Church & General
National Football League 1997/98
Semi-Finals**

Páirc an Chrócaigh
12 Aibreán, 1998

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Church & General
National Leagues

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

2.00 i.n.

Dún na nGall v. Uíbh Fhailí

Réiteoir: M. Curley (Gaillimh)

Linesmen: M. McBrien (Fear Manach) STANDBY REFEREE
M. Brady (An Cabhán)

3.30 i.n.

Doire v. Muineachán

Réiteoir: B. White (Loch Garman)

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

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Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.

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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.

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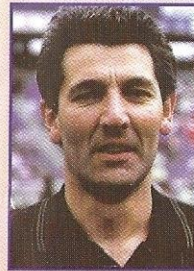
New Stand

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- Level 5**, Card Phone/Credit Card Phone at rear of Section 510.
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Ár gClúdach

Our cover features players from the four teams appearing in today's semi-finals: Clockwise from top left: Offaly's **Vinnie Claffey**, **Brendan Devenney** of Donegal, Derry's **Anthony Tohill** and **Declan Smyth** of Monaghan.

Na Reiteoirí Michael Curley (Gaillimh)



A native of County Galway, Michael assisted Creggs in under-age football and represented Roscommon in the minor grade as the club was affiliated to the county for G.A.A. purposes.

He has been refereeing for over ten years and controlled the 1996 Church and General National League final between Derry and Donegal. Other highlights include the 1985 All-Ireland minor final between Westmeath and Derry and the meeting of Meath and Tyrone in the 1996 All-Ireland senior semi-final.

Curley has been in action in this season's League already and was the man in the middle game between Offaly and Monaghan at Tyrone in October.

Brian White (Loch Garman)



Brian makes a speedy return to Croke Park today. He refereed last week's game between Donegal and Cork.

One of the most experienced referees in the game, he had charge of his first All-Ireland senior

final last September and ushered in his assignments in the current Church & General National League by refereeing the Kerry-Cork first round tie in New York in October.

That game was played to commemorate the playing of the All-Ireland senior final of 1947 in New York.

White is a member of the Rathgarogue-Cushintown club and he has been a referee for ten years. He is a former footballer and hurler.

Conallaigh agus Fáiligh i ngleic sa Léig den chéad uair!

Ní chreidfeadh éinne nár bhain peileadóirí uaibhreacha Uíbh Fhailí nó scoth-imreoirí mar na Conallaigh chróga craobh na Léige ariamh, faoin sean-reimeas nó mar Shraith Church & General. Ach is amhlaidh atá agus cruthóidh ceann acu inniu deis chun an scéal sin a leigheas agus fágar a goéill imeartha san fhaopach ar feadh bliana eile ar a laghad.

Cé gur tháinig Uíbh Fhailí chun cinn níos túisce i dtaca le gradaim náisiúnta is fíor a rá go raibh Dún na nGall níos feárr maidir leis an Léig dhe agus b'é an buaicphointe acu sa chomortas sin go raibh siad sa chraobhchlúiche i 1996 in aghaidh a gcomharsana, Doire Cholmille, a raibh an ceann is fearr acu ar na Conallaigh an lá sin. Chomh maith is fíor a rá le blianta beaga anuas go raibh Uíbh Fhailí in isle brí ag treabhadh leo i Roinn 4 agus Dún na nGall den chuid is mó sna hardranganna i Roinn 1 nó 2. Anuraidh áfach nuair a tháinig na Fáiligh sa chéad áit i Roinn 4, a bhíochas sin do Tomás Ó Laighin an Bainisteoir, bhí deis acu imirt sna cluichí ceathrúcheannais agus, dáiríre, bhí mí-adh orthu an chluiche in éadan Chill Dara a chailliúint le cúilín amháin.

Ach b'shin tús le hathbheochan na peile sa 'Chontae Diliis'; mar is eol, anois, bhain siad Corn Uí Bhroin, comortas do chontaethe Laighean, agus ina dhiaidh sin chloigh siad fir scafanta na Mí chun craobh Laighean a bhaint den chéad uair ó 1982. Cé gur chaill siad an cluiche leathcheannais in aghaidh Mhaigh Eo níor chaill siad aon chluiche ó shin agus sa leagan amach nua sa Léig Church & General bhíodar sa Roinn chéanna le Ciarraí, Átha Cliath, An Cabhán agus Tír Eoghain.

Nuair a bhain Dún na nGall craobh shinsear Uile-Éireann i 1992 den chéad agus an t-aon uair bhí sé tugtha suas dóibh go raibh foireann thar an choiteann acu ach mar is dual i gCúige Uladh níor éirigh leo craobh an Chúige a bhaint arís go nuige seo. Sa Léig reatha bhí na Conallaigh, ar nós na Fáiligh, i Roinn an-láidir agus tháingadar amach chun tosaigh sa Roinn; ceann de na foirne a chloigh siad (agus

díoltas bainte amach!) ná Doire Cholmille atá sa chluiche leathcheannais eile inniu.

Má bhíonn aon chiall leis an nath gurbí an fhoireann a bhaineann ceannas i lár na páirce an ceann a bhuan beidh sé fíor-spéisiúil sa cheantar sin inniu. I gcás na bhFáileach tá beirt cruthanta acu, Séamus Ó Grianáin, fear ard, láidir, cumasach agus Ciarán Mac Máinais nach bhfuil chomh hard sin ach atá rí-chumasach ag tabhairt cúnamh do na tacaigh agus na tosaí araon agus atá in ann cúl nó cúilín a ghnóthú in am an ghatair. I gcás na gConallach tá an fhoireann trí chéile ard go maith ach tá beirt don scoth, mar imreoirí, i lár an ghoirt Séamus Mac Aonasa agus Séamus Ó Ruáin beidh sé rite le fir Uíbh Fhailí iad a cheansú.

Tá an líne tosaí mar atá Peadar Ó Brádaigh, Ó Maoileoin agus Uinsíon (Vinnie) Mac Laithimh ag an Contae Diliis chomh héifeachtach is atá in aon chontae; tá an cúlbaire, Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh, gan locht agus sna tacaigh tá 'All-Star' Cathal Ó Dálaigh sa chúinne agus an captaen Fionnbarra Ó Cuilinn ard-éifeachtach. Tá an chuid eile den fhoireann d'ardchaitheandéan freisin agus tríd is tríd is "foireann" iad gan aon réaltóga mar a tugtar orthu anois.

Tá cuid d'fhoireann 1992 fós ag tabhairt sár-sheirbhís do Thír Chonaill agus ar ndóigh duine acu, Deaglán Mac Cnámhsí mar bhainisteoir orthu anois. Ach níor chaill siad luas, fíneamh nó dúnghaois agus ní sárú leitheidí Seán S. Ó Dochartaigh na tacaigh ní Aontón Ó Baoill sna tosaí; ar ndóigh tá an fhoireann ar fad láidir, oilte agus mar adúrachas thuas tá an bheirt lárpairce comh maith le nó níos fearr ná céilí imeartha ar bith sa tír.

Mar sin, tá togha chluiche le bheith faoinár mbráid inniu agus ag meas an toradh a bhí acu in aghaidh Chorcaí caithfear a rá go mbeidh an lá leis na Conallaigh.

Tréasláitear leis an dá fhoireann as teacht an fhad seo sa chomortas. Go maire siad.

Ulster's strongest representation in three years



The Church and General National Football League semi-finals today will see three Ulster counties in action at this stage for the first time since 1995.

Amazingly, Donegal and Derry were also engaged in those games and both recorded wins. Derry beat Tyrone in their semi-final and Donegal knocked out Laois.

DRAMATIC WIN

Donegal are back in the last four after an interval of two seasons.

A magnificent point from over forty five metres by John Bán Gallagher two minutes into injury time earned the North West County a dramatic win over Cork at Croke Park.

Cork looked to have ensured a replay when Colin Corkery pointed a 45 metres free on the 60th minute to leave the teams level.

But Donegal powered back from the kick-out. Centre half back Martin

One title already for Ulster

Ulster's strong representation in today's Church and General National Football League semi-finals, brings into focus the fact that the province has already won one of the season's major football titles - the interprovincial championship. The North beat Leinster by 0-20 to 0-17 after extra time at Clones in February.

The victorious team included J. J. Doherty, Noel Hegarty, Jim McGuinness and Tony Boyle (Donegal), Kieran McGeeney, Henry Downey, Anthony Tohill and Gary Coleman, who went in as a substitute, of Derry

The last year that the interprovincial title and the Church and General National League crown went to Ulster in the same season was 1995. Derry won the League and retained the crown a year later for the last two successes by a Northern county.

Crossan won possession and initiated a move that ended with Gallagher expertly flying the ball over the bar to give his side an 0-10 to 0-9 win.

John Joe Doherty and Barry McGowan in defence, Brian Murray at midfield and top scoring Tony Boyle, who hit seven points, were best for Donegal.

The Donegalmen have a good record in National League semi-finals in the nineties. They got off to a disappointing start by losing to Kildare by 0-14 to 1-10 in 1991 but have the perfect record in three appearances in the meantime.

They beat Clare 1-12 to 1-7 in 1993, Laois by 1-14 to 2-8 in 1995 and Cork in that last appearance two seasons ago.

OFFALY LOSE GRIP

Offaly looked well on the road to victory on their last National League semi-final appearance in 1982 when they led Cork by 1-7 to 0-5 at the interval before an attendance of 11,487.

The Leinster men deserved their lead. They were the sharper side, took their scores well and when they went six points clear two minutes into the second half they looked finalists in waiting.

However, Cork rallied strongly after that, did not concede a single score in the last twenty three minutes and a goal by left full forward Ephie Fitzgerald in the 43rd minute set Cork up for a 1-15 to 1-10 win.

g Dunne and Gerry Carroll at midfield, Brendan Lowry, top scorer with 1-3, Matt Connor, scorer of five points, and Michael Lowry in defence, were hard workers for the Faithful County.

That was one of two defeats since Offaly's last semi-final win in 1973 when they beat Sligo by 0-11 to 0-8 at Croke Park before 16,400 spectators. Tony McTague led the scoring returns with 0-5.

The Faithful County lost their next outing at this stage to Roscommon in 1979 by 1-14 to 0-12. Then came that only other engagement against Cork 16 years ago.

League Champions 1985



The Monaghan team which brought the county its only League title when they defeated Kerry in a replay in 1985.

Back row (l-r): Hugh Clerkin, David Byrne, Eugene O'Hanlon, Eamonn McEnaney, Eamonn Murphy, Clarán Murray, Fergus Caulfield, Gerry McCarville. Front row (l-r): Ray McCarron, Declan Flanagan, Paddy Linden, Eugene Sherry (captain), Eugene Hughes, Brendan Murray, Michael O'Dowd.

SPLENDID COME-BACK BY TOHILL

An outstanding performance by midfielder Anthony Tohill, in his first competitive game in ten months, was a feature of Derry's 1-12 to 0-7 win over Mayo at Croke Park in their last League semi-final outing two years ago.

Tohill worked tirelessly all over the field, scored four grand points and generally proved a real inspiration to Derry.

The Ulster county dictated matters in the first half and it took four late points in around four minutes near the close to bring Mayo back into the race as they trailed by 0-6 to 0-4 at the interval.

Derry, defending champions, got off to a great start in the second half. After only three minutes the ball slipped from the hands of a Mayo defender and Joe Brolly was on the spot to collect. He went off on a solo run before sending the ball right footed to the net for the only goal of the game.

The Oak Leaf men went on from there for a good win. In addition to Tohill, tireless Kieran McKeever at right full back, full back David O'Neill, Enda Gormley and Brolly in attack impressed for the winners.

THIRD TIME LUCKY?

Monaghan are hoping it will prove a case of third time lucky in their latest semi-final appearance. Their last win was in 1986 when, as defending cham-

pions (their final win the previous year ranks as their only League crown so far), they met Mayo at Croke Park.

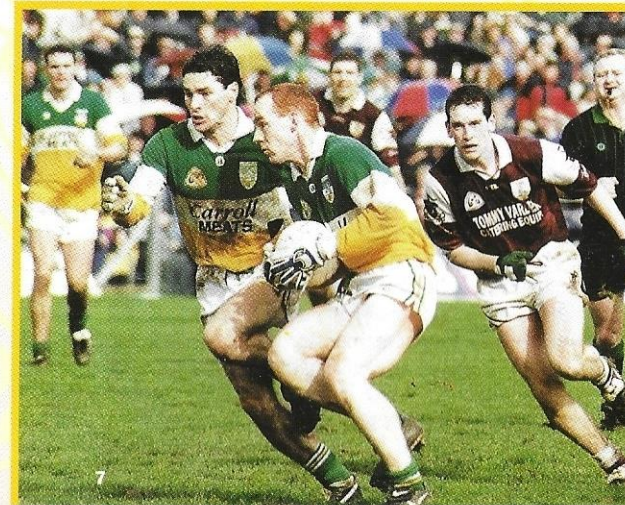
Points in the closing seconds by right full back Gene Sherry and defender turned forward Gerry Hoey clinched a hard-earned but deserved 0-10 to 1-6 win.

Hoey was chosen in the attack in the absence of the unavailable Eamonn McEnaney, now, of course, the Monaghan team manager.

A year later Monaghan lost to Kerry by 2-11 to 2-9 and in 1988 the sharpshooting of Kieran Duff, who hit 1-5, played a big part in Dublin's win over the Ulster county. That ranks as Monaghan's last semi-final outing.



The non-Ulster representatives, Offaly are shown here in action against Galway last Sunday with centre-half-forward James Stewart in possession, supported by Vinny Claffey.





Their Semi-Final Meeting of 1969

Offaly 2-13; Donegal 1-3.

To say that this first-ever meeting of Offaly and one-gal was a disappointment would be a gross understatement, for a game from which so much was expected was dying as a contest even before the half-way stage was reached. In fact, the Offaly coup was delivered in the first quarter after Donegal, thanks to points by Mick McLoone and John Bradley, the last of these at the 11th minute, giving the Ulster side the lead for the first time.

The lead was short-lived, however, as Sean Kilroy hit a brace of goals in the 12th and 13th minutes - scores that put Offaly on the way. Yet, Donegal were always garnering a goodly share of the midfield

exchanges where Frank McFeely and Declan O'Carroll matched Ambrose Hickey and Larry Coughlan all the way. Elsewhere, however, there was a marked difference between the sides, with John Smith, Nicholas Clavin and Paddy McCormack presenting an impassable barrier to Donegal's best efforts. Up front, goal-getter Kilroy's efforts were supplemented by McTeague's impeccable marksmanship and the support enjoyed by this pair was never less than adequate.

McLoone was easily the most enterprising of the northern attack, but too often he laboured alone in vain. Donegal's interval arrears of six points might well have been only three but for the disallowing of Bradley's goal at the 20th minute; but that was only part of the

losers' troubles as Offaly coasted home.

Offaly scorers: T.McTeague 0-11, S.Kilroy 2-0, W.Bryan 0-1, M.O'Rourke 0-1.

Donegal: M.McLoone 1-2, J.Bradley 0-1.

Offaly: M.Furlong, M.Ryan, G.Hughes, P.McCormack, E.Mulligan, J.Smith, N.Clavin, L.Coughlan, A.Hickey, P.Monaghan, W.Bryan, T.McTeague, M.O'Rourke, J.Flynn, S.Kilroy.

Sub: J.Cooney for Flynn.

Donegal: S.Hoare, D.Monaghan, J.Hannigan, P.Kelly, B.McEniff, M.Griffin, A.Carroll, T.McFeely, D.Carroll, S.Granahan, S.Ferriter, M.McLoone, J.Bradley, M.Colgan, J.Quigley.

Sub: P.Conaghan for Griffin, A.Gallagher for Colgan, L.McDaig for Hannigan.

When Last They Met April 1991



Donegal 1-16; Offaly 0-16.

An attendance of 5,000 turned up at Breffni Park seven years ago for the last meeting of Donegal and Offaly when the counties clashed at the quarter-final stage of the 1990-91 competition. The Midlanders elected to play with the wind in the opening half but at the interval they had to be satisfied with a two-point lead - 0-7 to 0-5.

Donegal introduced former Mayo star Pauric Brogan after the interval and he was at the forefront of the Northerner's best efforts. However, despite a brace of points from the Westerner and another from Brian Murray, the Leinster side remained ahead and with just three minutes left their interval lead of two points

was still intact. Then a floating ball from Martin Gavigan was fisted to the net by Tony Boyle and Donegal were ahead for the first time and it took a Peter Brady free with less than a minute to go to send the game into extra time (1-9 to 0-12).

The first period of extra time saw Donegal put on a spurt and points by Manus Boyle (two), Brogan and James McHugh put them in command. Offaly replied through a brace of minors from Mark Plunkett but the Faithful county never really threatened to deny Donegal and they advanced to the semi-final by a relatively comfortable three points.

Donegal scorers: M.Boyle 0-4, T.Boyle 1-1, P.Brogan 0-3, T.Ryan 0-2, J.McMullan 0-2, J.McHugh 0-2, D.Bonner 0-1, B.Murray 0-1. **Offaly:** P.Brady 0-4, V.Claffey 0-3,

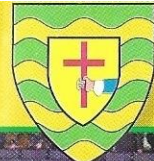
D.Reynolds 0-2, M.Plunkett 0-2, B.Lowry 0-2, M.Duignan 0-2, M.Casey 0-1.

Donegal: G.Walsh, J.J.Doherty, S.Bonner, M.Gallagher, N.Hegarty, M.Gavigan, M.Shovlin, B.Murray, M.Gallagher, B.McGowan, D.Bonner, T.Ryan, J.McMullan, T.Boyle, M.Boyle.

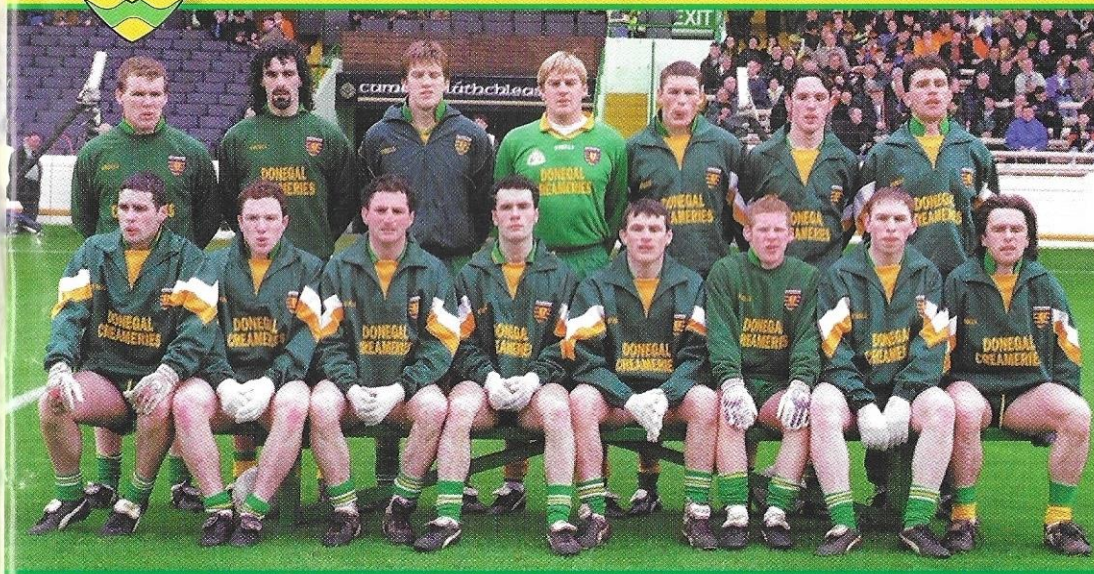
Subs: J.McHugh for Hegarty, P.Brogan for M.Boyle, M.McHugh for D.Bonner, M.Boyle for McHugh, G.Curran for Brogan, D.Bonner for Ryan.

Offaly: L.Molloy, T.Coffey, K.Keelaghan, M.Lowry, M.Duignan, M.Devine, J.Stewart, P.Dunne, M.Plunkett, D.Reynolds, D.Kelly, V.Claffey, M.Casey, P.Brady, B.Lowry.

Subs: A.Bracken for Plunkett, J.Mullen for Claffey, Plunkett for Casey.



Dún na nGall



The Donegal team which defeated Cork in the quarter-final at Croke Park last Sunday.

Back row (l-r): Tony Boyle, Jim McGuinness, James Ruane, Paul Callaghan, Martin Coll, Brendan Devenney, Barry McGowan.

Front row (l-r): Shane Carr, Adrian Sweeney, Noel Hegarty, Damian Diver, John Joe Doherty (captain), Brian Roper, Noel McGinley, John Duffy.

Steady build-up by Donegal

Donegal's performance when seeing off Cork last Sunday in the Church and General National Football League quarter-final was probably their best team display since that memorable day when they beat Dublin in 1992 for the county's only All-Ireland senior championship.

The North-West County has been steadily building up strength since their surprise defeat by Cavan in the Bank of Ireland Ulster semi-final last June. That point was reinforced by their assured performance last week.

Donegal played with confidence throughout. They got off to the best possible start with a

goal by Brendan Devenney in the opening minutes and went on to lead by 2-11 to 0-9 in the 44th minute.

Cork then had a goal from a penalty but the Ulster men took that set-back in their stride, did not concede a further score and ran out well-merited and convincing winners by 2-14 to 1-9.

That win set the seal on Donegal's achievement in winning the League Section B title earlier and indicates that they have solid grounds for optimism about their chances of forging out another win here.

They have a nice blend of youth and experience. Tony Boyle, playing some of the best

football of his career at present, team-captain John Joe Doherty, Noel Hegarty, Barry McGowan and Brian Murray, all of whom appeared in last week's game, are solid links with the Sam Maguire Cup winning side.

All five helped to fashion Donegal's last semi-final win in 1996 over Cork and that side also included James Ruane and Brian Roper, two more links with last week's win.

The experience of these players is bound to be invaluable in helping Donegal to produce the type of form that will be needed if they are to record a fourth League semi-final triumph in four games since 1993.

Semi-Final Reports



Dún na nGall

By the standards of Meath, Kildare, Kerry and Dublin, Donegal were latecomers to the National League semi-finals and the competition was more than 20 years in existence before the North westerners reached the knock-out stages for the first time (1952). It was a shattering experience for the newcomers as they were hit by three first-half goals by rampant Cork, and though Donegal put in a heroic second-half effort which saw points from Coyle (3) and McAuley and McGetterick (two each) reduce the arrears, the gap was too wide and Cork won by 3-3 to 0-7.

Thirteen years later Donegal contested their second semi-final, but the 1965 joust with Kerry was another big disappointment as they went

down by 1-8 to 3-10. Undaunted, Donegal were back a year later - against Longford who were appearing in their first semi-final. A game that could have been won was lost, albeit narrowly, as Micky McLoone took the top scorer spot with 0-8 in a 0-11 to 0-13 defeat.

For the third year running Donegal were league semi-finalists but the 1967 encounter with Galway was to be a memorable occasion for an incident that may well have cost Donegal the game when Eamon Moules, the referee, reversed a penalty decision with a free out. Micky McLoone (0-3), Sean Ferriter and Niall Gallagher a goal each accounted for the bulk of Donegal's 2-4 to Galway's 1-10.

The 1969 clash with Offaly was Donegal's most disastrous outing at this stage as Tony McTeague grabbed the scoring honours despite a creditable 1-2 from McLoone. The full-time score of 2-13 to 1-3 tells it all.

Donegal's expense in a remarkably one-sided encounter that was out of contention even before the half-way stage was reached. Sean Kilroy and Tony McTeague were responsible for most of Offaly's 2-13 to which the losers' reply was only 1-3.

Offaly's next semi-final experience was less than rewarding; as reigning All-Ireland champions they were favourites to beat Mayo in '72, but on the day it was the outsiders who made the running thanks to a great brace of goals by Willie McGee. Offaly eventually fashioned a draw as McTeague kicked himself into the record books with all but two of Offaly's 16 points - one of which was the second-last kick of the game (0-16 to 2-10). A trip to 'the States' did not help Offaly's replay preparations, and though the Ferbane marksman again accounted for all but two of his side's eight points, Mayo were wor-

thy winners by 1-11 to 0-8. Five appearances, five defeats; Donegal were finding the league semi-final an impossible task and they had to wait until 1993 to make the breakthrough, which was at the expense of Clare as Tony Boyle, James McHugh and Barry Cunningham shared the scoring honours in a 1-12 to 1-7 victory.

It was a welcome change of fortune for the north west as two years previously they had suffered their sixth semi-final reverse at the hands of Kildare (1-10 to 0-14), though Tony Boyle's 1-2 was the best return of the afternoon. But having found the formula, Donegal went from strength to strength, beating Laois by 1-14 to 2-8 in '95 and Cork by 0-10 to 0-9 twelve months later. Having won their last three outings at this stage, fourth semi-final success in six years is the target Donegal is aiming for today.

Offaly were a fading force in 1973, but they were still strong enough to handle a spirited but somewhat ragged Sligo challenge at Croke Park. As was the case against Mayo a year previously, Offaly were unable to find the net; McTeague, however, was again to the fore in taking the scoring honours with 0-5 in the 0-11 to 0-6 victory. The reversal of Offaly's fortunes at the beginning of the 1980s was marked by what was to prove their last semi-final to date. Having already lost twice to Cork earlier in the season, Offaly were less than confident in taking on the Leesiders at Croke Park where a team that was always struggling - despite Brendan Lowry's 0-6 - went down by 1-10 to 1-15.



The Offaly team which defeated Galway in the quarter-final at Hyde Park, Roscommon.

Back row (l-r): Cathal Daly, Vinnie Claffey, John Kenny, Ciarán MacManus, Roy Malone, James Grennan, Colm Quinn.

Front row (l-r): David Foley, James Stewart, Peter Brady, Finbar Cullen, Barry Malone, Ronan Mooney.

Uíbh Fhailí

It will not surprise anyone with even the slightest knowledge of Gaelic football that Offaly have contested more championship than league semi-finals (the figures are 12 to 5), but despite this imbalance it should be noted that the Faithful county were involved in the penultimate round of the National League twelve months before their championship breakthrough.

That was in 1959 when Kerry were their opponents at Croke Park, an occasion of few happy memories for Offaly as Kerry won as they pleased (3-8 to 0-5). Har Donnelly accounted for three of Offaly's five points.

Unlike Donegal, Offaly did not have to wait too long for their first semi-final success - and it was at

Offaly's winning streak in League

Can Offaly celebrate their return to Croke Park by going one better than on their last visit there in August when they lost to Mayo in the Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football semi-final?

Only time will tell but the Faithful County has well and truly put that set-back firmly in the shade. They won Section C in fine style and last Sunday brought their record to a superb 15 wins, one draw and one defeat in the Church and General National League since the start of last season.

The Leinster champions had to work hard to keep on the winning trail last week against Galway in the rain at Dr. Hyde Park. The Connacht men did not help their cause by

shooting 13 wides, but that still cannot take from the merit of the Offaly success.

The Easterners played with poise and assurance, combined well and all but one of their forwards scored from play. James Grennan played a big part at midfield in earning Offaly a lead of 0-7 to 0-5 at the break and he continued to prove an influential figure in the second half.

Colm Quinn struck a vital blow for Offaly early in the second half. Galway had reduced their arrears to a single point and were moving well. Then midfielder Ciaran McManus sent a free into the Galway goal-mouth which was flicked on for Quinn to find the back of the net for the only goal of the day.

Galway, to their credit, kept bat-

ting away, but Offaly continued to play with assurance. They withstood strong Galway pressure and finished in style with points by James Stewart and Roy Malone for a well-deserved 1-11 to 0-10 win.

Grennan and McManus had the edge at midfield. Quinn with 1-2 and Peter Brady 0-3 led the scoring parade and the defence, shrewdly marshaled by Cathal Daly and Finbar Cullen, presented a solid barrier to the Western attack.

Offaly are now a mature team with genuine and understandable confidence in their own ability. They do not panic under pressure, combine well and all in all are well equipped for this bid to earn the county a first final appearance in a quarter of a century.

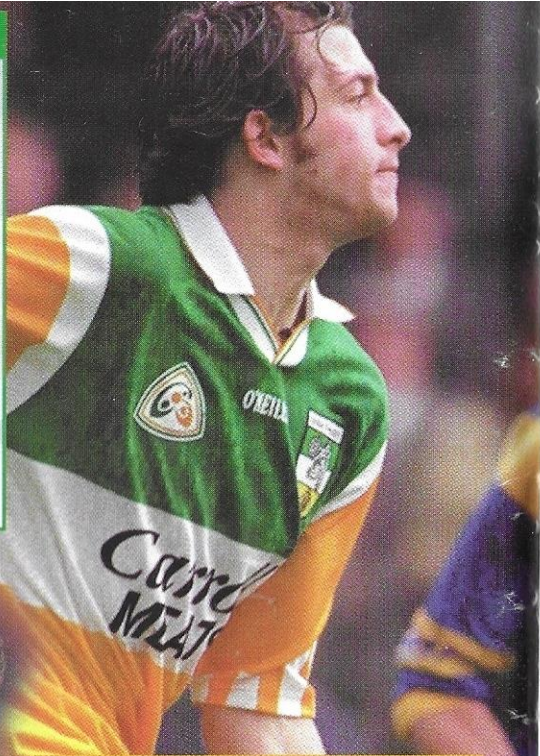
Malone a young man in form

Roy Malone is a young man who is not allowing the grass to grow under his feet. Last August at only 21 he celebrated his Bank of Ireland Leinster senior football final win by scoring two golden goals to power Offaly to an upset win over Meath.

The Rhode clubman has also contributed in fine style to Offaly's march to this semi-final. Although he contributed just a single point to last week's win over Galway he still got through much valuable work throughout the game.

Malone made his senior championship debut as recently as last year and is now firmly established as an accomplished and hard-to-mark forward.

He is another who has graduated to the premier ranks after a successful under-age career that brought him Offaly minor championship medals and a Leinster under-21 souvenir.



Sharpshooting Boyle

Tony Boyle is one of Donegal's longest-serving campaigners, having made his senior inter-county championship debut in 1990. However, he is playing exceptionally well at present.

Earlier this year his expert finishing technique and clever play made him an exciting star for Ulster in the march to the interprovincial title. He scored a majestic 0-24 over three games, all of which went to extra time.

Boyle's leadership and scoring flair also had much to do in earning Donegal their place in today's League semi-final.

The Dungloe clubman is a brilliant link with the side that brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Donegal in 1992. Later that year he won an All Star award and he also holds two Ulster senior medals.

One of the best full forwards of modern times, Boyle is Donegal's leading scorer with 1-37 (40 points) in eight games at an average of five points a match.

Offaly's Last Semi-Final

Cork 1-15; Offaly 1-10.

Undoubtedly, a game of distinct halves - but Offaly's half was not nearly as impressive or as productive as the opposition's.

Offaly's dominance of the first half was less than overwhelming, but it was still good enough to put six points between the sides when the half-time whistle sounded. In that period of Midland supremacy Offaly were scoring steadily while Cork were vainly trying to establish some kind of pattern, and with Matt Connor willing and able to profit from the service provided by the mid-fielders Gerry Carroll and Pdraig Dunne, it looked plain sailing.

And it was plain sailing...but only to the half-way stage for when Cork reorganised their forces during the break they could hardly have hoped for such a transformation as eventually enveloped the scene. The scoring perfectly illustrates the pattern of the game. In the opening half Offaly scored 1-8 to Cork's 0-5, but Offaly's last score came in the 36th minute and from there on Cork forced the pace as the Offaly effort became more ragged by the minute.

The parting of the ways came on the turn of the last quarter when a great Cork move left Martin Furlong with no chance between the posts. That wasn't quite the end for Offaly - Matt Connor and Brendan Lowry continued to pose a threat, but it was a threat that gradually faded as Cork sprinted home.

Offaly scorers: B.Lowry 1-3, M.Connor 0-5, G.Carroll 0-1, A.O'Halloran 0-1.

Offaly: Martin Furlong, Mick Lowry, Mick Fitzgerald, Charlie Conroy, Stephen Darby, Richie Connor, Liam Currams, Gerry Carroll, Pdraig Dunne, Pat Fitzgerald, Matt Connor, Aidan O'Halloran, Tom Fitzpatrick, John Guinan, Brendan Lowry.

Donegal's Last Semi-Final

Donegal 0-10; Cork 0-9.

Like their opponents today, Donegal's last penultimate outing was against Cork but unlike the Faithful county representatives there was a successful outcome to the proceedings. However, in a very tight contest the outcome was in doubt right up to the final whistle. Things looked decidedly bright for Donegal after the first half when, having played into a slight breeze, they led by 0-5 to 0-4. All five of their first half scores came from the boot of Tony Boyle while Colin Corkery got all bar one of the Leesider's reply.

Within six minutes of the restart Donegal were three points ahead thanks to efforts by Brian Roper and Paddy Hegarty, but a spell of Cork dominance resulted in points by Corkery (2), Paul McGrath and John O'Driscoll to give the Leesiders the lead. Tony Boyle equalised for Donegal at the three-quarter stage and another point from the same player four minutes later put the Ulster side ahead. Although Corkery levelled matters, an injury time point by John Bán Gallagher gave Donegal the victory they just about deserved.

Donegal scorers: T.Boyle 0-7, B.Roper 0-1, P.Hegarty 0-1, J.B.Gallagher 0-1.

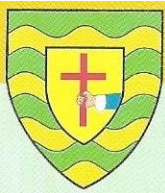
Donegal: Gary Walsh, John Joe Doherty, Matt Gallagher, John Cunningham, Barry McGowan, Mark Crossan, Martin Shovlin, James Ruane, Brian Murray, John Ban Gallagher, Noel Hegarty, Paddy Hegarty, Brian Roper, Tony Boyle, Manus Boyle. Subs - Sean McEwen for Shovlin.

Previous Meetings

April 1969 - NFL Semi-final:	Offaly	2-13;	Donegal	1-3.
August 1972 - All-Ireland Semi-final:	Offaly	1-17;	Donegal	2-10.
April 1991 - NFL Quarter-final:	Donegal	1-16;	Offaly	0-16. (AET).

THEIR LAST SEMI-FINALS





Dún na nGall

Dathanna: Uaithne, Ór is Bán

1-14

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **DUINE EILE**
- (17) **Brian Murray**
B. Ó Muirí
(Kilcock)
- (18) **Eamon Reddin**
E. Ó Ródáin
(Muff)
- (19) **Raymond Sweeney**
R. MacSuibhne
(Dungloe)
- (20) **Brian McLaughlín**
B. MacLochláinn
(Naomh Michael)
- (21) **John Gildea**
S. MacGiolla Dé
(Naomh Conail)
- (22) **Manus Boyle**
M. Ó Baoill
(Killybegs)
- (23) **John Harran**
S. Ó hÉaráin
(St. Eunan's)
- (24) **Mark Crossan**
M. MacChrossain
(St. Eurnan's)

1
PAUL CALLAGHAN
P. Ó Ceallacháin
(Burt)

2
BARRY MCGOWAN
B. MacGabhainn
(Killybegs)

3
JOHN JOE DOHERTY
S. S. Ó Dochartaigh (Capt.)
(Naomh Columba)

4
DAMIAN DIVER
D. Ó Duibhír
(Ardara)

5
NOEL MCGINLEY
N. MagFhionnaile
(Naomh Columba)

6
MARTIN COLL
M. McColla
(Gweedore)

7
NOEL HEGARTY
N. Ó hÉigearthaigh
(Naomh Columba)

8
JIM MCGUINNESS
S. MagAonasa
(Naomh Conaill)

9
JAMES RUANE
S. Ó Ruáin
(Bundoran)

10
SHANE CARR
S. MacGiolla Chearra
(Four Masters)

11
ADRIAN SWEENEY
A. MacSuibhne
(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)

Roghnóirí:

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

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

Uíbh Fhailí

Dathanna: Uaithne, Bán is Ór

3-10

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **Ken Furlong**
C. Ó Furlong
(Tullamore)
- (17) **Paul Mulvihill**
P. Ó Maolmhichil
(Killeigh/Raheen)
- (18) **John Ryan**
S. Ó Riain
(Shannonbridge)
- (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)

1
PADRAIG KELLY
P. Ó Ceallaigh
(Shamrocks)

2
CATHAL DALY
C. Ó Dálaigh
(Tullamore)

3
BARRY MALONE
B. Ó Maoileoin
(Rhode)

4
DAVID FOLEY
D. Ó Foghlú
(Ballyfore)

5
JOHN KENNY
S. Ó Clonnaigh
(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)

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

Roghnóirí:

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

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.

Total Scored 7-89 (110 points)

Total Conceded 4-72 (84)

Average 1.31

Scorers - Peter Brady 2-21, Ciaran McManus 2-13, Vinny Claffey 0-15, Colm Quinn 1-7, Shane Manley 0-7, James Grennan 0-5, Roy Malone 0-5, John Kenny 1-2, Ronan Mooney 0-4, Barry Mooney 1-1, Finbar Cullen 0-2, Sean Grennan 0-2, James Stewart 0-2, Vincent Mooney 0-1, James Brady 0-1, Cathal Daly 0-1.

Donegal



Round 1 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.

Round 2 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.

Round 3 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.

Round 4 at Ballyshannon

Donegal 1-8; Meath 1-8

Scorers - Tony Boyle 0-5, John Duffy 1-1, Brendan Devenney 0-2.

Round 5 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.

Round 6 at Casement Park

Donegal 1-15; Antrim 0-7

Scorers - Tony Boyle 0-5, John Duffy 0-5, Brian Roper 1-1, Adrian Sweeney 0-2, Brendan Devenney 0-1, Jim McGuinness 0-1.

Round 7 at Ruislip

Donegal 2-15; London 1-6

Scorers - John Duffy 1-4, Tony Boyle 0-4, Brendan Devenney 0-4, Adrian Sweeney 1-1, Brian Roper 0-1, Noel McGinley 0-1.

Quarter-Final at Croke Park

Donegal 2-14; Cork 1-9

Scorers - Brendan Devenney 2-2, Tony Boyle 0-5, Jim McGuinness 0-2, Barry McGowan 0-1, Noel Hegarty 0-1, James Ruane 0-1, Adrian Sweeney 0-1, John Duffy 0-1.

Total Scored 11-101 (134 points)

Total Conceded 11-55 (88)

Average 1.52

Scorers - Tony Boyle 1-37, John Duffy 3-22, Brendan Devenney 2-15, Brian Roper 2-7, Jim McGuinness 2-4, Adrian Sweeney 1-6, Shane Bradley 0-5, Brian McLoughlin 0-1, Noel McGinley 0-1, Barry McGowan 0-1, Noel Hegarty 0-1, James Ruane 0-1.

Derry



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 McLaman 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.

Total Scored 6-92 (110 points)

Total Conceded 6-74 (92)

Average 1.20

Scorers - Eamonn Burns 0-24, Gary Magill 1-12, Joe Brolly 1-12, Benny Murray 1-6, Ronan Rocks 1-3, Ciaran Higgins 1-3, Gary Coleman 1-3, Dermot Dougan 0-5, Anthony Tohill 0-5, Johnny McBride 0-4, Joe Cassidy 0-3, Dermot Heaney 0-3, Stephen McLarnan 0-1, Seamus Downey 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.

Monaghan



Round 1 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.

Round 2 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.

Round 3 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.

Round 4 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 McGurk 0-1, Eamonn Hoey 0-1.

Round 5 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.

Round 6 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.

Round 7 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.

Quarter-Final at Croke Park

Monaghan 2-6; Down 1-8

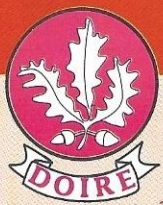
Scorers - Stephen McGinnity 1-2, Darren Swift 1-0, Damien Freeman 0-3, Peter Duffy 0-1.

Total Scored 12-74 (110 points)

Total Conceded 7-79 (100)

Average 1.10

Scorers - Declan Smyth 2-18, Kevin Hughes 1-14, Stephen McGinnity 3-8, Declan McKernan 1-6, Darren Swift 2-3, Damien Freeman 0-6, Declan Tiernan 1-3, Gary Meehan 0-5, Mark Daly 0-4, Peter Duffy 1-1, John Conlon 0-3, Cyril Ronaghan 1-0, Pauric McShane 0-1, Gerard McGurk 0-1, Eamonn Hoey 0-1.



Doire

Dathanna: Dearg is Bán

Fir Ionaid

- (16) **David Hasson**
D. Ó hOsáin
(Banagher)
- (17) **Johnny McGurk**
S. MagOirc
(Lavey)
- (18) **Stephen McLarnon**
S. MacGiolla Earnáin
(Castledawson)
- (19) **Ruairi Boylan**
R. Ó Baiolláin
(Glenuillin)
- (20) **Adrian Heaney**
A. Ó hÉanna
(Castledawson)
- (21) **Joe Cassidy**
S. Ó Caiside
(Bellaghy)
- (22) **Ciarán Higgins**
S. Ó hUiginn
(Magherafelt)
- (23) **Sean Donnelly**
S. Ó Donnalle
(Ballinderry)
- (24) **Benny Murray**
B. Ó Muiri
(Ballinascreen)

Roghnóirí:
Brian Mullins (Manager),
Frank Kearney,
Anthony McGurk,
Enda Gormley.

1				
EOIN McCLOSKEY				
<i>E. Mac Bhloscaidh</i>				
(Dungiven)				
2		3		4
KIERAN McKEEVER		HENRY DOWNEY		JOHNNY McBRIDE
<i>C. MacÍomhair (Capt.)</i>		<i>A. Ó Dúnaigh</i>		<i>S. MacGiolla Bhríde</i>
(Dungiven)		(Lavey)		(Loup)
5		6		7
PAUL McFLYNN		SEAN M. LOCKHART		FERGAL McCUSKER
<i>P. MacFloinn</i>		<i>S. M. Locard</i>		<i>F. MacOscair</i>
(Loup)		(Banagher)		(Glen)
8			9	
ANTHONY TOHILL			DERMOT HEANEY	
<i>A. Ó Tuathail</i>			<i>D. Ó hÉanna</i>	
(Swatragh)			(Castledawson)	
10		11		12
GARY MAGILL		GARY COLEMAN		EAMONN BURNS
<i>G. Mac an Ghoill</i>		<i>G. Ó Colmáin</i>		<i>E. Ó Broin</i>
(Glen)		(Magherafelt)		(Ballinascreen)
13		14		15
JOE BROLLY		SEAMUS DOWNEY		DERMOT DOUGAN
<i>S. Ó Brolaigh</i>		<i>S. Ó Dúnaigh</i>		<i>D. Ó Duagáin</i>
(Dungiven)		(Lavey)		(Newbridge)

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

Muineachán

Dathanna: Bán is Gorm



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. MacAonghusa
(Clontibret)
- (20) **Pauric McDonald**
P. MacDómhnaill
(Castleblayney)
- (21) **Colin McAree**
C. MacConraoi
(Monaghan Harps)
- (22) **Eamonn Hoey**
E. Ó hEochaidh
(Killanny)
- (23) **Fergal Duffy**
F. Ó Dufaigh
(Inniskeen)
- (24) **Gerry Mone**
G. Ó Moacháin
(Clontibret)

1				
JOHN O'CONNOR				
<i>S. Ó Conchúir</i>				
(Carrickmacross)				
2		3		4
EDWIN MURPHY		GERARD McGURK		NOEL MARRON
<i>E. Ó Murchú (Capt.)</i>		<i>G. MagOirc</i>		<i>N. Ó Mearáin</i>
(Castleblayney)		(Scotstown)		(Donaghmoynne)
5		6		7
DERMOT McARDLE		SEAMUS MULLEN		JOHN CONLON
<i>D. MacArdail</i>		<i>S. Ó Maoleáin</i>		<i>S. Ó Conluain</i>
(Castleblayney)		(Scotstown)		(Carrickmacross)
8			9	
PAURIC McSHANE			CYRIL RONAGHAN	
<i>P. MacSeáin</i>			<i>C. Ó Reannacháin</i>	
(Clontibret)			(Tyholland)	
10		11		12
DAMIEN FREEMAN		MARK DALY		KEVIN HUGHES
<i>D. Mac an tSaoir</i>		<i>M. Ó Dálaigh</i>		<i>C. Ó hAodha</i>
(Magheracloone)		(Drumhowan)		(Latton)
13		14		15
DECLAN SMYTH		DECLAN McKIERAN		STEPHEN MCGINNITY
<i>D. MacGabhann</i>		<i>D. MacCiamáin</i>		<i>S. MacFhinneachta</i>
(Carrickmacross)		(Clones)		(Drumhowan)

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

Roghnóirí:
Eamonn McEneaney,
P.J. McKenna.

Tá sean-aithne ag Doire is Muineachán ar a chéile!

Tá na babhtáí deireanacha den Léig Church & General plódaithe le hUltaigh agus inniu tá dhá chontae iomráiteacha ón Chúige sin i ngleic d'áit sa chraobhchluiche. Má tá cáil níos mó ar Dhoire Cholmcille le blianta beaga anuas, le craobh Uile-Éireann i 1993 agus dhá chraobh Léige i 1995 agus 1996 ní féidir a rá nár cualathas trácht ar fhir scafanta chontae na 'gnoc is na loch', Muineachán, go dtí inniu; bhíodar ar an stáitse náisiúnta chomh fada siar le 1930 nuair nach raibh contaethe eile an Chúige, seachas An Cábhán, ach ag lapadóireacht ó thuaidh!

Mar adeirtear tá Doire molta dá mbeimís inár dtost agus tá peileadóirí acu faoi láthair nach bhfuil a sárú le fáil in aon chontae eile - imreoirí ar nós Sheosaimh Ó Broiligh, Ciarán Mac Íomhair, Anton Ó Tuathail aus go leor eile; tá taithí na mblianta acu ag imirt le chéile agus ciall cheannaithe na n-

ocáidí móra i bPáirc An Chrócaigh agus áiteanna eile. Tá iar-imreoir, duine de shármireoirí a linne, Éamon Mac an Éanaigh, mar bhainisteoir ar Mhuineachán le tamall agus tá sé tar éis creidiúint iontu féin a ghníúint sa bhfoireann. Ar ndoigh ba bhall cruthanta é Éamon ar fhoireann 1988 an ceann deireannach a bhain craobh Uladh agus is buntáiste é d'aon bhainisteoir go bhfuil meas ag ha himreoirí air agus mortas as an héachtaí a rinne sé.

Tá sean-aithne ag an dá fhoireann seo ar a chéile agus ní dhéanfar dearmad i Muineachán ar an deis a cailleadh i 1994 nuair a bhí deis acu Doire, seaimpíní Uile-Éireann 1993, a chloígh i gCluain Eois; bhí comhscór ann ag deireadh agus an chaoi cailte nuair a bhí orthu taisteal go Páirc Cheilteach i nDoire don athimirt. Níl an oiread céanna iomrá ar imreoirí láithreach Mhuineachán ach mar sin féin tá fir éifeachtach i ngach cearn

den pháirc acu, daoine ar nós Damien Mac a' tSaoir, Stiofán Mac Fhionnartaigh agus Páraic Mac Seáin; níl aon amhras ach go bhfuil fiúntas iontu agus táid tar éis feabhsú ó chluiche go céile le linn na Léige reatha.

An bhfuil Doire ar a bhealach ar ais nó an gcuirfidh 'óige' Mhuineacháin Iaincis orthu inniu? Is rud le sonrú é go bhfuil trí fhoireann ó Ultaibh sna cluichí leath-cheannais inniu agus i gceann scathaimh beidh siad in aghaidh a chéile sa chraobhchluiche; dáiríre i gceann cúig sheachtain beidh Doire agus Muineachán ag casadh ar a chéile sa chéad bhabhta de chraobh Uladh. Is fáth eile é sin go ndéanfaidh an dá fhoireann tréan-iarracht chun an cluiche inniu a bhuachan.

Ní mór don tráchtair ceann acu a roghnú agus ní mór a thógaint san áireamh gur smachtaigh Doire curaidh Chonnachta, Maigh Eo, an Domhnach seo caite agus nach bhfuil An Dún chomh héifeachtach is a bhí. Ar an ábhar sin tugtar an 'nod' do Dhoire dul fhad leis an gcrabhbhluiche.

Tréaslaítear a ngaisce leis an dá fhoireann agus moltar a mBainisteoirí Brian Ó Maoleoin agus Éamon Mac An Éanaigh as a stiúthóireacht. Go maire siad uilig.

Unlike the championship teams which reach the closing stages of the National League often bear scant resemblance to the sides which started out on the trail the previous October. The reasons are varied - club commitments, players wishing to take a break and occasional disenchantment with inter-county fare.

Donegal proved the most frugal of the 'last four' using 28 players in their eight outings, with their opponents today, Offaly, proving nearly as frugal with 29. Monaghan also managed to get through 29 individuals on their way to the semi-finals but Derry proved the most unsettled side with 37 players doing duty during their eight-game campaign. Here is how each county fared in personnel matters between the first round and in qualifying for today's games:

DONEGAL: As already stated, Donegal were the thriftiest of the four in using 28 players in their eight games to date. However, despite winning their opening encounter against Longford, the selectors made three changes for their second round tie with Derry, but following that result the side was unchanged for round 3 at Armagh. Two more changes followed for round 4 and in every round since there has been at least two changes from game to game.

Seven players appeared in all eight outings: Paul Callaghan, Damian Diver, Brian Roper, John Duffy, Tony Boyle, Brendan Devenney and Adrian Sweeney - and all bar Sweeney (who came on as a substitute in round 1) started all eight games. However, only Callaghan (1), Boyle (14) and Devenney (15) wore the same shirt on each outing. Brian Murray must certainly wear the tag of 'super sub' for Donegal in that he made seven appearances in the campaign, six of which were as a substitute.

OFFALY: The Midlanders started off the campaign with a fairly settled starting line up making just one change between rounds one and two. However, the next three rounds saw the selectors make two changes for each outing and towards the end of the campaign they made three changes per game. Even between their last divisional outing and the quarter-final another three changes were made to the 'Faithful' county's starting fifteen.

Despite all the above mentioned changes eight players - Cathal Daly, Barry Malone, John Kenny, James Grennan, Colm Quinn, Peter Brady, Ronan Mooney and Vinny Claffey - played in all eight outings, although Grennan and Quinn each made one appearance as a substitute. Only Daly (2) and Malone (3) appeared in the same shirt every time although Brady and Claffey always appeared as corner forwards but swapped sides three times.

Changing Formations

MONAGHAN: The Ulster side rung the changes after their opening defeat to Offaly dropping no less than six players for their second round clash with Cavan. Despite a win over the Breffni men the selectors made three further changes for the round 3 trip to Sligo. A draw didn't impress the men behind the scenes and a further four changes were made for Wexford's visit to Scotstown. The later rounds saw Monaghan adopt a less abrasive approach to selection which paid off with wins away to Dublin and Tyrone.

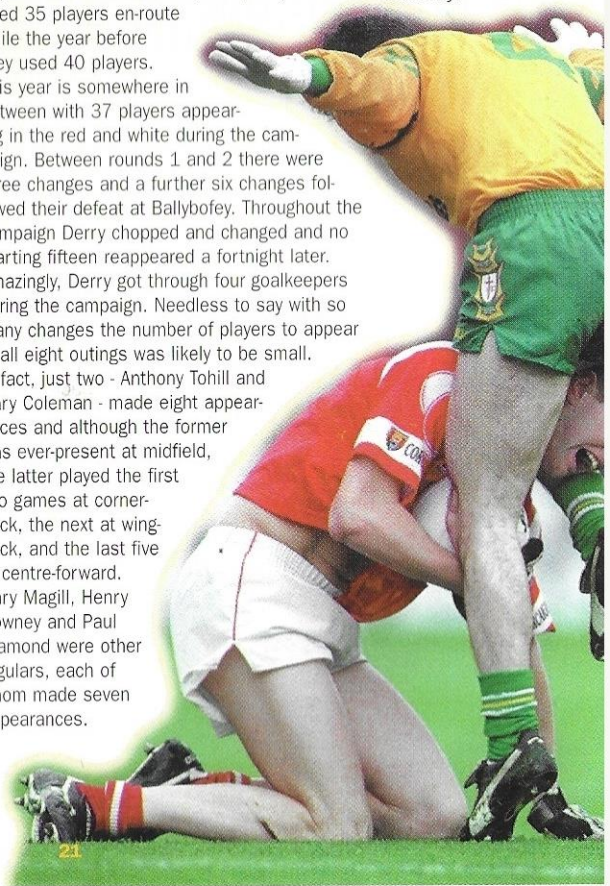
Seven players - Edwin Murphy, Cyril Ronaghan, Mark Daly, Stephen McGinnity, Gerard McGurk, Seamus Mullen and Kevin Hughes - appeared in all eight games although McGurk, Hughes and Mullen made one appearance each as a substitute, while McGinnity came on twice from the bench. Declan Smyth and Pauric McShane, who missed the opener against Offaly, were selected for the next seven games.

DERRY: The last time the "Oak Leaf" county appeared in the semi-final (1996) they used 35 players en-route while the year before they used 40 players.

This year is somewhere in between with 37 players appearing in the red and white during the campaign. Between rounds 1 and 2 there were three changes and a further six changes followed their defeat at Ballybofey. Throughout the campaign Derry chopped and changed and no starting fifteen reappeared a fortnight later. Amazingly, Derry got through four goalkeepers during the campaign. Needless to say with so many changes the number of players to appear in all eight outings was likely to be small. In fact, just two - Anthony Tohill and Gary Coleman - made eight appearances and although the former was ever-present at midfield, the latter played the first two games at corner-back, the next at wing-back, and the last five at centre-forward. Gary Magill, Henry Downey and Paul Diamond were other regulars, each of whom made seven appearances.



EVER-PRESENTS Appearing in all outings for their counties in the League so far - above, Derry's Gary Coleman and, below, Donegal's Damien Diver, shown here playing an unusual version of leapfrog with Cork's Alan O'Regan last Sunday.



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

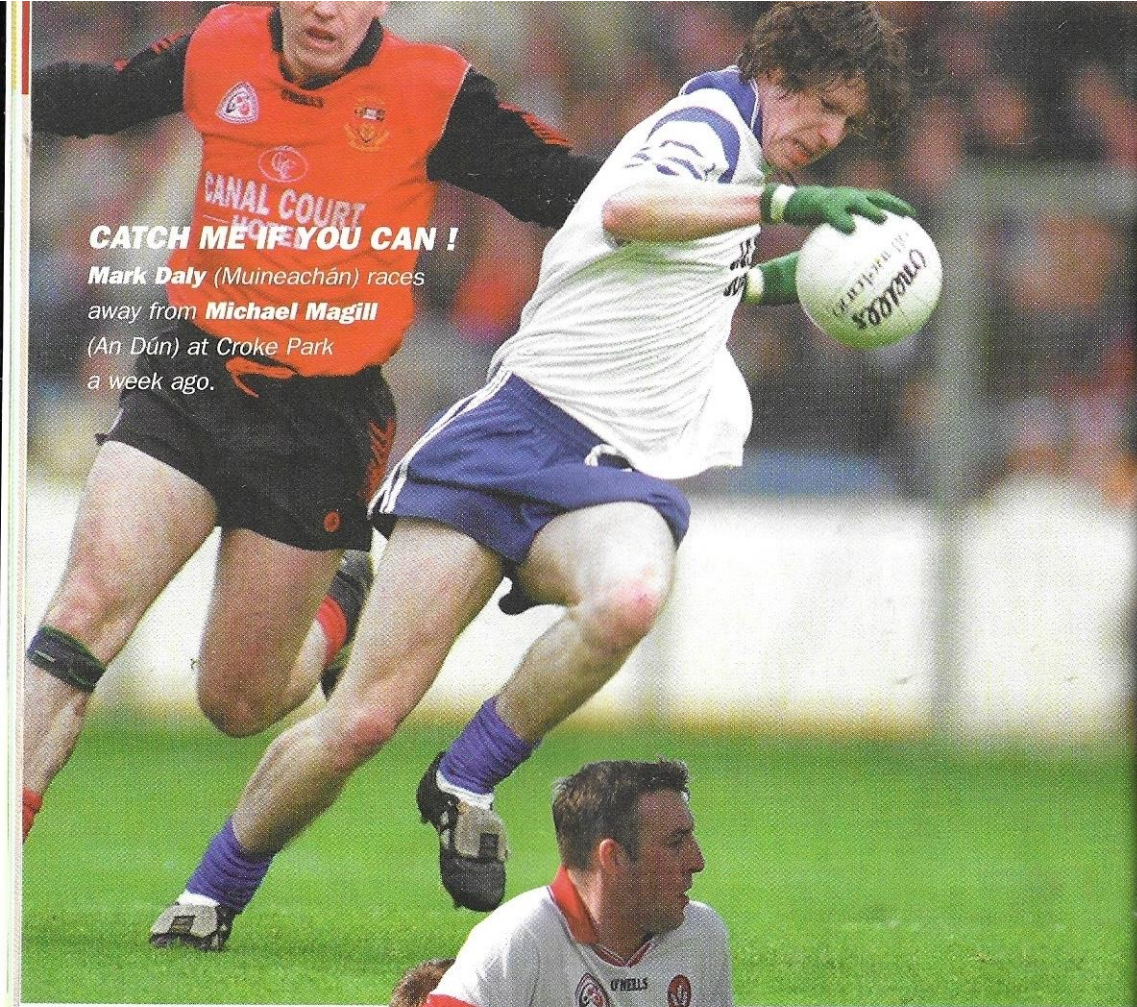
Sunday, April 19th in Ennis at 2.00p.m.

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

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

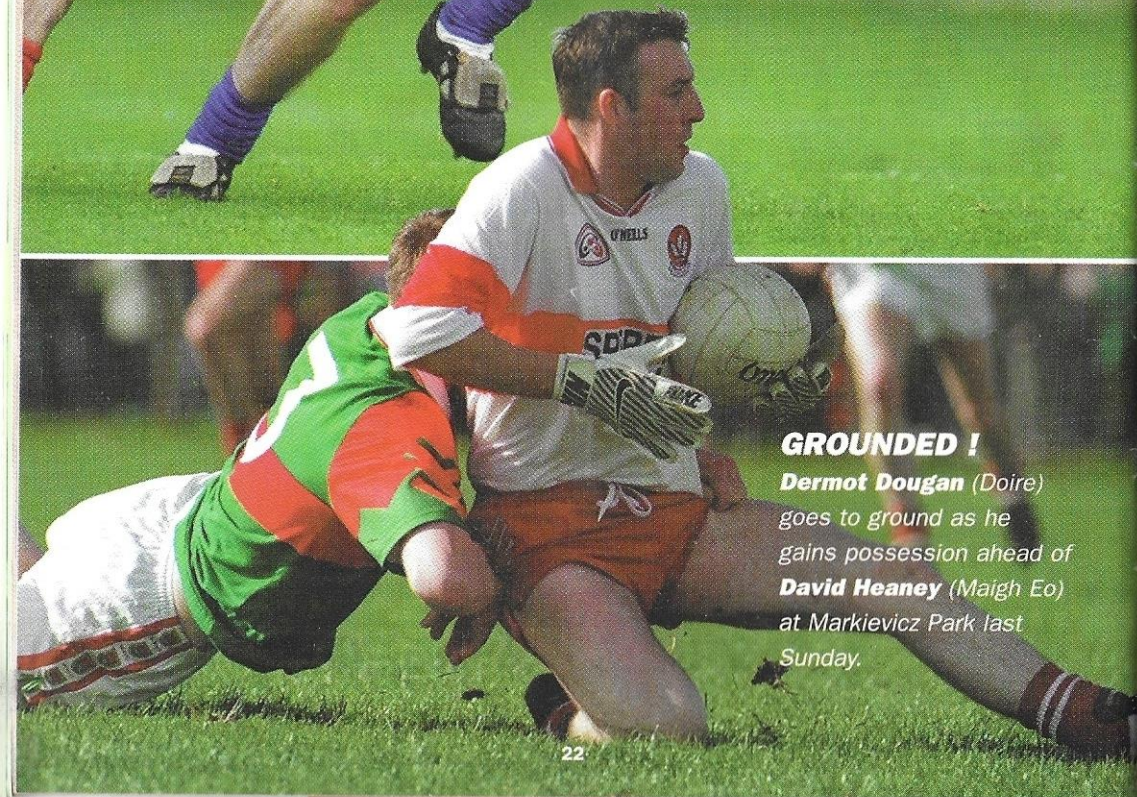
Ireland v. Australia

For further information contact: **Pat Daly, GAA Coaching and Games Development Manager, Croke Park, Dublin 3.**
Tel: (01) 836 3222. Fax: (01) 836 6420.



CATCH ME IF YOU CAN !

Mark Daly (Muineachán) races away from Michael Magill (An Dún) at Croke Park a week ago.



GROUNDED !

Dermot Dougan (Doire) goes to ground as he gains possession ahead of David Heaney (Maigh Eo) at Markievicz Park last Sunday.



Doire



The Derry team which defeated Mayo in the NFL Quarter-final at Markievicz Park, Sligo.

Back row (l-r): Gary Magill, Dermot Dougan, Dermot Heaney, Anthony Tohill, Eoin McCloskey, Paul McFlynn, Joe Brolly.

Front row (l-r): Stephen McLarnon, Sean Martin Lockhart, Johnny McBride, Kieran McKeever, Henry Downey, Johnny McGurk, Eamon Burns, Gary Coleman.

Derry bounce back from disappointing start

What a splendid come-back by Derry! Held to a draw by Westmeath in the opening round and beaten next time out by eight points by Donegal, they put those setbacks behind them in fine style to earn this bid to further enhance a proud League record in the nineties.

Derry have three titles in the decade so far—1992, 1995 and 1996. This is the best record by any county in the period.

A goal by defender turned forward Gary Coleman was a vital factor in earning the Oak Leaf

County their semi-final ticket last Sunday at the expense of Mayo before 7,000 spectators at Sligo.

The game was seventeen minutes old when Coleman, in the No. 11 jersey, sent a powerful shot to the Mayo net to help Derry to an interval lead of 1-3 to 0-5. They went on for a 1-9 to 0-10 win to repeat their semi-final success of 1996 over the Westerners.

This was a workmanlike rather than brilliant performance by Derry. Their defence, with Henry Downey, Kieran McKeever and Sean Lockhart prominent, made Mayo work hard for scores.

They had a solid midfield and

Eamonn Burns, Gary Magill and the hard-working Coleman up front were other stars for Derry, who have now a team rich in big-match experience with a solid framework of League medal winners in their side.

Indeed, Kieran McKeever, Henry Downey, Anthony Tohill, Gary Coleman, Joe Brolly and Seamus Downey, all of whom were in action last week, already hold three National League medals.

The Oak Leaf County, then, appreciate better than most what is required for success at this level. And, with this craft backed up by all round ability, and a hunger for further success, Derry can be depended on to make a very spirited bid to advance to another League summit.

Semi-Final Reports



Doire

When Derry set out in the 1946-47 league campaign they were not too hopeful of reaching the last four, but a prolonged and severe winter saw much of the activity being aborted (some counties didn't play at all), with the result that the semi-finals were contested by four teams that had never previously featured in the knock-out stages. Derry was one of those and they gladly availed of the chance to beat Longford by 2-11 to 2-3 in the semi-final clash at Derry - a win splendidly adorned by Larry Higgin's 1-3.

Twelve years later Derry contested their second semi-final with more impressive credentials, and with Sean O'Connell hitting an impres-

sive 2-2 saw off Leitrim by 3-7 to 1-6 for the right to meet Kerry in the 1959 final.

In a goal-less semi-final in 1961 Jim O'Neill's 0-6 was a big help in beating Mayo 0-11 to 0-7; but when these counties were in opposition in the 1970 'semi' the verdict was reversed on a 2-7 to 1-11 scoreline. And although he was pipped by Joe Corcoran for the top scorers' spot, Sean O'Connell was Derry's best marksman with 1-3.

There was further frustration in '72 when Kerry won an all-points semi-final by 0-17 to 0-13 with O'Connell again doing the Derry honours with 0-6. The 1973 clash with Kerry was a rugged affair which resulted in a draw (2-5 to 0-11) with Derry conceding a walk-over in the replay.

Derry returned to winning ways in semi-final combat with a 1-7 to 1-6

win over Cork to which Brendan Kelly's 0-4 was a not insignificant contribution. The eighties were a bleak period for Derry in league football, but when they returned to the forefront much had changed among the elite of the game and Derry was one of the counties that helped to bring about this change. Their 1992 win over Meath (0-12 to 1-8) was widely hailed with Enda Gormley accounting for 0-5 and Gormley was again to the fore when Derry won the 1995 semi-final from neighbours Tyrone (1-8 to 2-3) - his contribution again being 0-5.

The 1996 win over Mayo made it three semi-final wins out of three in the 1990s and if the Oak Leaf need an added incentive today it must surely be in the realisation that should they win they will become the first Ulster county to have won four semi-finals in one decade.

Muineachán

In terms of actual outings Monaghan's semi-final tale is easily told as today's encounter marks only their sixth appearance at this stage. It is an unremarkable story, but with at least one remarkable feature - more than half a century separated their first and second outings in semi-final endeavour.

When the leagues began in the mid-twenties Monaghan were a force in Ulster football - indeed, at that time they often appeared to be the only real opposition to Cavan in the province.

Operating in the northern section of the league in 1928-29, Monaghan qualified for the semi-final with a series of wins over Louth, Cavan, Down, Armagh and

Antrim. And when they were drawn against Kildare at Carrickmacross there was a quiet confidence that the All-Ireland champions could be overcome.

On the day, however, it all went horribly wrong as the Kildare attack tore holes in a suspect defence. Long before the end it was clear that there could be only one result - a win for the visitors, and it was by a margin of four goals - 4-5 to 0-5.

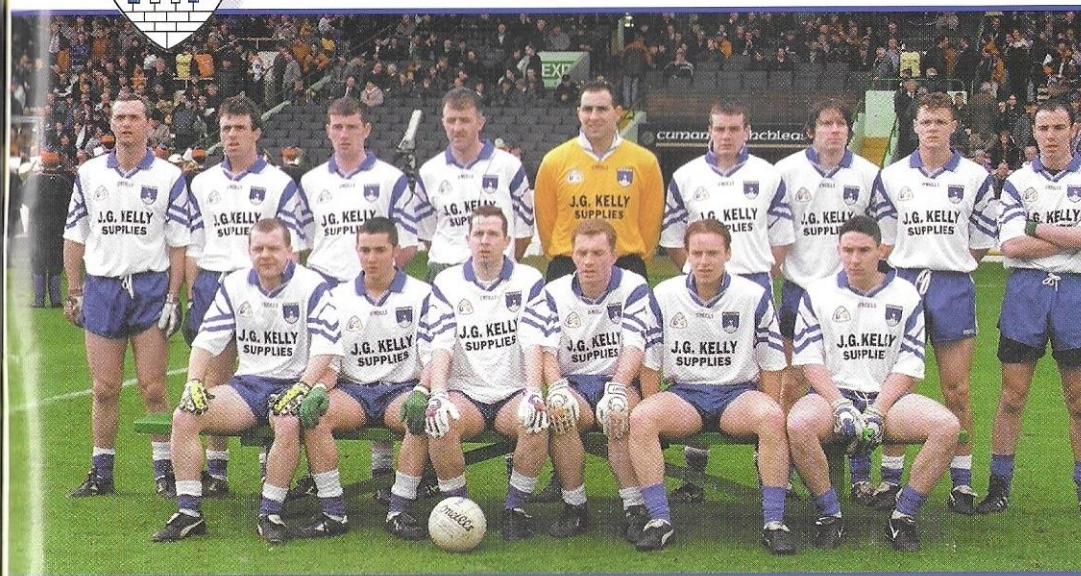
An astonishing 56 years (1984-85) elapsed before Monaghan again made it to the last four. This time they enjoyed better luck, with Eamon McEaney and Eamon Murphy their chief marksmen, they drew with Tyrone (1-6 to 0-9) at Croke Park and beat them at Armagh by 1-8 to 0-5 in the replay. And much the same team made it back-to-back semi-final wins when they overcame Mayo by 0-10 to 1-6

a year later - Ray McCarron's 0-3 was the winners' best individual return.

McCarron (0-4) and Hugh Clerkin (1-1) were the marksmen of note when Kerry were challenged in the 1987 'semi' at Croke Park. With a magnificent display Monaghan almost topped the All-Ireland champions. In the end it was desperately close with the margin in Kerry's favour a precarious two points (2-11 to 2-9). This was really the last hurrah of a fine Monaghan side, although they still had one more shot at the semi-final target when they opposed Dublin in 1988. The will was still there...but not the expertise, and though McEaney was again in scoring form, a score of 4-12 to 1-8 indicates the extent of the slide. Monaghan had known better days...and would know them again.



Muineachán



The Monaghan team which defeated Down in the Quarter-final at Croke Park, last Sunday.
Back row (l-r): Kevin Hughes, Noel Marron, Declan McKiernan, Gerard McGurk, John O'Connor, Paoric McShane, Mark Daly, Cyril Ronaghan, Declan Smyth.
Front row (l-r): Stephen McGinnity, Damien Freeman, Edwin Murphy, Seamus Mullen, Dermot McArdle, John Conlon.

Monaghan's exciting comeback

Monaghan can feel well pleased with their achievement in qualifying for this League semi-final.

They were grouped in probably the most competitive group of all and got off to a disappointing start when they lost to Offaly by four points. But they displayed plenty of character and ability in battling back to finish runners-up in Section C to qualify for the knockout stages for the first time since 1995.

The character of the side was very much in evidence again last Sunday when they turned apparent defeat into a memorable win over Down at Croke Park. Monaghan had a good deal of possession but they only managed to score a point in the first half as against the Mourne men's six. Eight minutes from the end Down were four points ahead

and there appeared no way back.

However, Monaghan stuck resolutely to their task and reaped their reward when two goals inside a minute by substitute Darren Swift and Stephen McGinnity gave the side an unexpected two points lead.

Spurred on by those goals, Monaghan played with tremendous heart, withstood strong Down pressure and held out for an amazing and hard-earned and with it a place in a semi-final after ten years.

Over-elaboration in attack did not help Monaghan's cause but there was still much to admire. They played with tremendous enthusiasm all through, refused to concede defeat even when the outlook was bleak and also displayed genuine football ability.

Peter Duffy and Swift, who both went in as substitutes during the

game, did much to prop up the Monaghan attack. Stephen McGinnity was another who contributed much valuable work. He also finished as top scorer in the game with 1-2.

The forwards were also denied vital scores by a brilliant Michael McVeigh, who brought off three splendid saves in the Down goal.

Paoric McShane was a splendid link at midfield. Dermot McArdle and Noel Marron were commanding figures in a defence that worked well and held out against Down pressure in the concluding minutes.

The win is bound to prove a tremendous boost to Monaghan morale who will also doubtless benefit from the Croke Park outing and that experience should help them to settle down quickly and prove their potential right from the throw-in.

McShane keeps Clontibret to the fore

Padraig McShane played a big part in Monaghan's win last week over Down. He had a splendid game at midfield, where his clever football and tireless work proved invaluable.

McShane, who is now 24, was a member of the Clontibret O'Neill's team that in 1994 brought the Monaghan senior football title to the club after an interval of 26 years.

Clontibret regained the title last September (their first since 1994) and McShane had a fine game at centre half forward and he also contributed a point to the three points win over a much-fancied Castleblayney Faughs, who were the defending champions.

An accomplished footballer who gives 100 per cent effort in every game, Padraig was Clontibret's only representative in last week's win over Down.

Versatile-Johnny McBride

Johnny McBride has experienced contrasting fortunes at All-Ireland final level. He led Derry in their unsuccessful minor football final against Westmeath in '95.

Last year the Loup clubman led the Oak Leaf County to their first national under-21 title in twenty-nine years.

McBride is a versatile footballer. He was at midfield in the minor final and centre half forward in the under-21 decider.

The young Derry man appeared regularly at full back with the senior side in last year's League and also at No. 3 with his club.

McBride's versatility has been very much in evidence in the current League. He has appeared as a half forward, a midfielder, full back, a half back and at left full back. Certainly a player capable of pulling his weight in a variety of positions.

Derry 0-6; Monaghan 0-3.

The margin in the winners' favour was only a modest three points - and there might well have been a sharing of the points in this Division One tie at Clontibret but for a marvellous save late in the hour by Derry 'keeper Damian McCusker. But overall Derry always looked the likely winners on a grey December day.

None the less Derry made exceedingly hard work of a win that should have been gained with more comfort, and indeed, they looked to be in real trouble at the interval when, having played with the breeze, they were only 0-3 to 0-1 in front. But with Plunkett Murphy and Brian McGilligan continuing to dominate midfield the Monaghan attack was operating on a very restricted service.

Derry continued to attack and continued to wide (they had more than twice as many misses as Monaghan in this regard) and their aimlessness left them vulnerable to a quick strike at the very end. Monaghan, to their credit, never lost heart and despite the loss of their outstanding player, Ciaran

When last they met ...

DECEMBER
'88

Murray, in the last quarter continued to stalk the pacemakers with more than a hint of menace. They were still there with a chance that almost materialised in injury time when Damian McCusker somehow kept out Michael O'Dowd's blistering drive. It was that close; but the honours rested where they truly belonged.

Derry scorers: E. Gormley 0-3, B. McGilligan 0-2, P. Mackle 0-1.

Monaghan: E. Murphy 0-1, R. McCarron 0-1, M. O'Dowd 0-1.

Derry: D. McCusker, C. McKeever, D. Quinn, B. Kealey, P.J. McCormack, T. Scullion, D. Cassidy, P. Murphy, B. McGilligan, M. Berryman, S. Downey, D. Barton, E. Gormley, R. Devlin, F. McCusker.

Sub: P. Mackle for Berryman.

Monaghan: P. Hamilton, E. Sherry, G. McGurk, D. Flanagan, M. McKenna, M. Caulfield, C. Murray, S. McElroy, G. McCarville, O. Hamilton, E. Hughes, S. White, R. McCarron, E. McEaney, E. Murphy.

Subs: K. Carragher for McElroy, M. O'Dowd for McEaney, P.J. Finlay for Murray.



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McTague's scoring peak one to beat for forwards today

The National Football League semi-finals have featured some noteworthy individual scoring returns over the past twenty nine seasons or so.

Tony McTague, probably Offaly's greatest ever scoregetter, rifled over 0-14 against Mayo at Croke Park in 1972. That was all but two points of his team's total but despite his lethal finishing powers the Faithful County had to settle for a draw. Mayo won the replay by six points.

However, that impressive return by McTague still tops the list of leading individual match returns in League semi-finals since 1970.

Two years later Michael Sheehy went close to the McTague return when he helped himself to 2-6 in Kerry's win over Tyrone at Croke Park.

That, in fact, was a good year for big individual returns as Dermot Earley scored 0-11 for Roscommon in their

replay win over Sligo at Castlebar.

Maurice Fitzgerald struck a blow for today's finishers when he raced impressively up the chart by recording 2-5, one goal from a penalty, to play a big part in Kerry's win over Laois at headquarters last year.

Those rank as the leading individual match returns for semi-finals since 1970. Further down the field a big number of players share fourth place on eight points.

So, the forwards engaged in today's games have impressive targets to aim at. But whatever about achieving a new peak for a semi-final in modern times, any finisher who races to the top of the League chart overall in these games will really have much cause for celebration.

The standard is a most impressive one at a thundering 4-11 by Frankie Donnelly, one of the scoring giants of all time, for Tyrone in a win over Fermanagh at Pomeroy as far back as 1956.



Tony McTague,
Uibh Fhaili.



(Above)

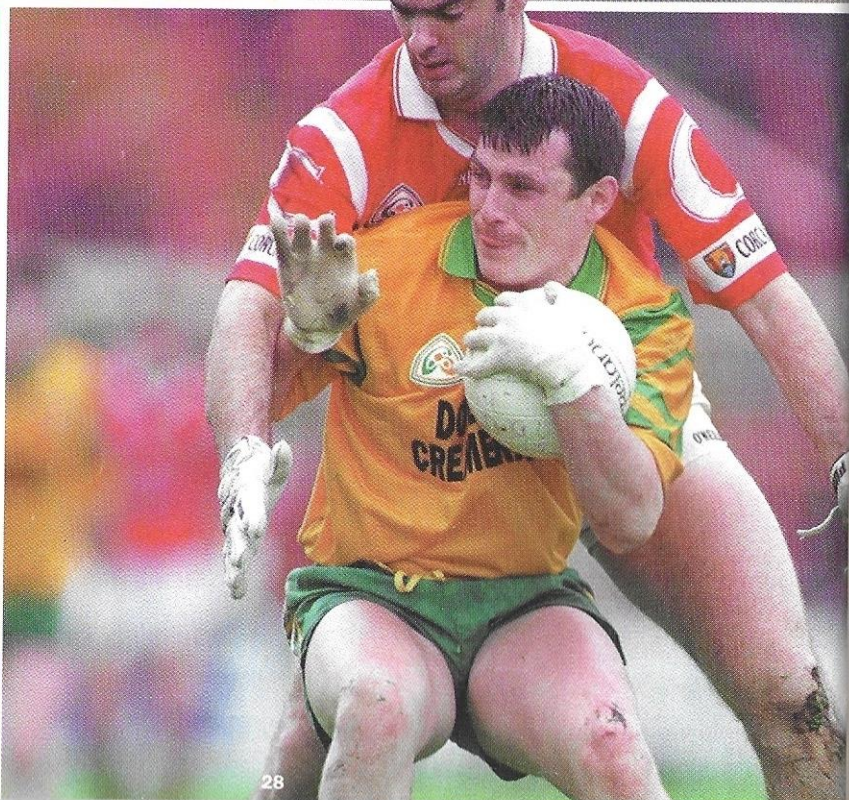
GOAL!

Offaly's **Colm Quinn** (right) celebrates his goal against Galway at Roscommon last Sunday with teammates **Peter Brady** and **Ronan Mooney**.

(Right)

LITTLE & LARGE

Donegal's **John Joe Doherty** seems about to be engulfed by Cork's **Pat Hegarty** in their quarter-final meeting at Croke Park.



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AIB Donegal G.A.A. School of Excellence

The AIB Donegal G.A.A. School of Excellence, which was launched recently, will involve the coaching of the best 14-year-olds in the county starting in 1998 and continuing with the group until Minor level, with a new group coming on stream each year. It is hoped the project will enable Donegal to compete more consistently at national level in under-age competitions than at present. A sub-committee has been set up to administer the scheme with the main co-ordinator being former All-Star and Cavan manager, Martin McHugh who has given a commitment to oversee the success of the scheme. Former county managers Brian McEniff and P.J. McGowan are among the group of coaches also involved in the scheme. McHugh says that he is delighted to be given an opportunity to put something back into Donegal football after getting so much enjoyment out of it through his years as a player. He pleaded for the clubs and members throughout the county to support the scheme and hoped that it would see Donegal football prepare diligently for the new millennium. He also thanked AIB Bank for their generous support of the scheme with a commitment given over a three-year period. Coaching and Games Development Manager in Croke Park, Pat Daly also attended the launch where he complimented the county for the excellent organisation behind the scheme and hoped that other counties would follow the lead which has been set in both hurling and football.

Dunne & McDonald Motors



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Offaly Team
from*

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Cúinne na nÓg

Find the Word

When you answer questions 1-7 correctly, the shaded column will tell you what all four teams will be trying to do today.

1. They were beaten in a quarter-final.
2. Tommy Lyons formerly managed Kilmacud
3. He is his county's leading scorer so far with 2-18.
4. He was Galway's captain last Sunday.
5. Offaly's new attacker sounds like an old-time film star.
6. You won't have to do this if you are in one of these.
7. Sounds like this Derry club is in the mountains.

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

Tráth na gCeist

1. How many times have Donegal won the National Football League?
2. Where was last year's National Football League final played?
3. What was unusual about Kerry's win over Cavan in the opening round of the current league?
4. When did Offaly last win the National Football League?
5. When did an Ulster county last win the Church & General National Football League?
6. Who were runners-up for last year's National Football League title?
7. Monaghan had a winning start to the current League campaign. True or false?

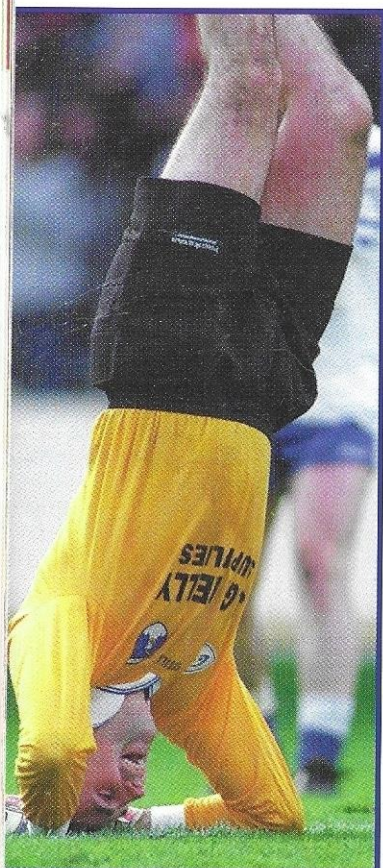
Freagraí

1. Donegal have yet to win the League title.
2. Páirc Uí Chaomh.
3. The game was played in New York.
4. Offaly have yet to win the title.
5. 1996, Derry.
6. Cork.
7. False. They lost to Offaly.

Tráth na gCeist

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

Find the Word



HEAD OVER HEELS WITH EXCITEMENT

Monaghan's goalkeeper **John O'Connor** celebrates his team's win over Down at Croke Park last Sunday.

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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".

The use of modern audio visual and touchscreen technology will bring you the heroes, the great games, the great goals and the great saves, of yesterday and today. The exciting, specially developed, interactives will allow visitors to try out the particular skills required to play our national games.

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:

Adults £3.00.

Children £1.25.

Students (with identification) £2.00.

Family (based on family of four) £6.00.

OAP's and Children under five are free of charge

Opening Hours:

May-September: Every Day 10.00a.m. - 5.00p.n

October-April:

Closed Mondays

Pre-Booked Groups

10.00a.m. - 2.00p.n

General Public

2.00p.m. - 5.00p.n

Only pre-booked groups on match days.

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





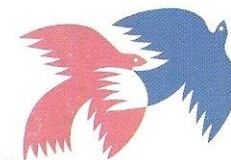
Too young to play...



... 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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