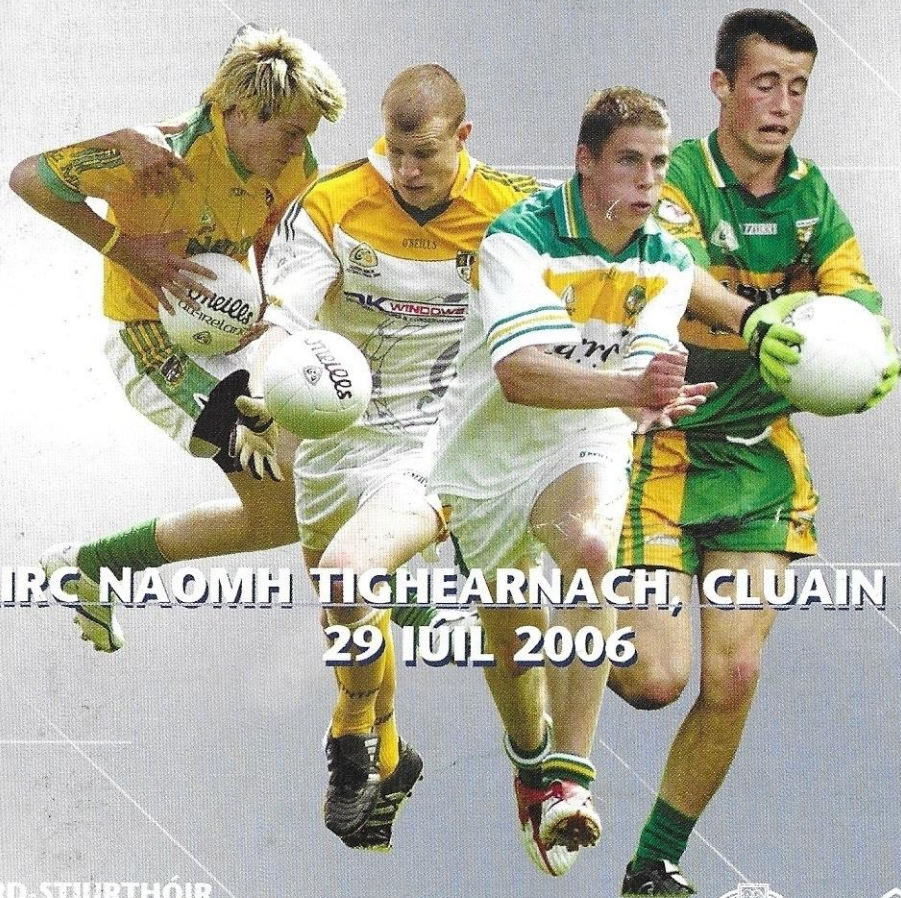


ESB ALL-IRELAND MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTER FINALS



**PÁIRC NAOMH TIGHEARNACH, CLUAIN EOIS.
29 IÚIL 2006**

ÁRD-STIURTHÓIR

Kevin Ó Maduigh

CLÁR OIFICIÚIL

€2.00



CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL





PAÍRC NAOMH TIGHEARNACH, CLUAIN EOIS

2.00 i.n. ESB MFC QUARTER-FINAL Dún na nGall v Uíbh Fhailí

Réiteoir: Michael Meade (Luimneach)
Linesmen: Dermot Mullaney (Sligeach) STAND-BY REFEREE
Barry Toland (Doire)
Sideline Official: Feargal Cleary (Fear Manach)

3.30 i.n. ESB MFC QUARTER-FINAL An Mhí v Aontroim

Réiteoir: Eamonn O'Grady (Liatroim)
Linesmen: Robert O'Donnell (Dún na nGall) STAND-BY REFEREE
Stephen McNamee (Tír Eoghain)
Sideline Official: Nickey Calvert (Muineachán)

IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW, EXTRA TIME MUST BE PLAYED.

MESSAGE FROM ESB. SPONSORS OF MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP:

On behalf of ESB, I would like to welcome you all to the ESB Minor Football Quarter Finals. Today's programme promises to be competitive and entertaining. All four teams competing here today have earned their place and I look forward to watching the continued progress of the victors.

ESB is proud to be linked with the GAA through our sponsorship of the ESB All Ireland Minor Championships; both our organisations have developed alongside each other over the past decades. ESB and the GAA Junior Championships were both founded in the late 1920s, so it could be said that they both grew up together. Our sponsorship of the Minor Championships marks a coming of age for the competitions.

This partnership is, I believe, the most natural liaison between business and sport in Ireland. It is appropriate that two of the oldest and largest institutions in Ireland join forces.

ESB's sponsorship of the All Ireland Minor Football Championship has a sound commercial basis too, as one of the few companies with a presence in every parish in the country it makes sense that we should support a sporting organisation that mirrors that presence.

I wish the best of luck to all the teams in today's games and hope that they and all of you enjoy magnificent games of minor football.

PADRAIG MCMANUS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE ESB



PATHS TO THE QUARTER-FINALS

AN MHÍ

13th May, Droichead Nua:
Meath 0-11 Kildare 0-9
Scorers – A.Nestor 0-6, G.Reilly 0-2,
C.Lynch 0-1, S.Keating 0-1, S.O'Rourke 0-1.

5th July, Droichead Nua:
Meath 1-9 Laois 0-11
Scorers – G.Reilly 0-3, C.Carry 1-0,
B.Sheridan 0-2, E.Reilly 0-1, S.O'Rourke
0-1, C.Lynch 0-1, A.Nestor 0-1.

16th July, Croke Park:
Meath 1-16 Offaly 2-5
Scorers – S.O'Rourke 0-5, G.Reilly 0-5,
A.Nestor 1-2, B.Sheridan 0-2, S.Keating
0-1, C.Lynch 0-1.

AONTROIIM

21st May, Enniskillen:
Antrim 0-9 Fermanagh 0-8
Scorers – C.McGourty 0-4, C.Murray 0-2,
A.Gibbon 0-1, S.O'Neill 0-1, A.Thompson 0-1.

11th June, Clones:

Antrim 2-8 Armagh 2-7
Scorers – C.McGourty 1-6, A.Thompson
1-1, C.Murray 0-1.

9th July, Croke Park:

Antrim 1-5 Donegal 2-12
Scorers – C.McGourty 1-2, A.Thompson
0-2, C.Murray 0-1.

DÚN NA nGALL

28th May, Enniskillen:

Donegal 0-12; Cavan 0-6
Scorers – M.Murphy 0-3, D.Gallagher 0-3,
P.McGinley 0-1, L.McLoone 0-1,
D.Molloy 0-1, G.Ward 0-1, E.Wade 0-1,
I.McGarvey 0-1.

18th June, Clones:

Donegal 0-11; Tyrone 1-5
Scorers – D.Molloy 0-4, M.McElhinney 0-2,
L.McLoone 0-1, D.Walsh 0-1, M.Murphy
0-1, D.Gallagher 0-1, B.Faherty 0-1.

Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil,
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua

Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn

Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta

Ní fhágfar faoin tiorán ná faoin tráill.

Anocht a théam sa bhearn baoil

Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil

Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar.

Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.

DONEGAL AND OFFALY PARADE SOUND CREDENTIALS

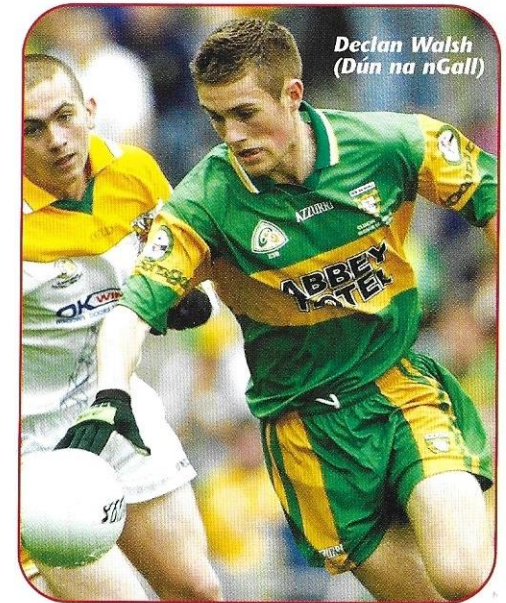
Donegal and Offaly have the players and pedigree to provide a keenly contested and entertaining match in their novel ESB All-Ireland minor football championship quarter-final.

Donegal are enjoying their most successful season in a long time. Earlier in the year they won the Ulster League and maintained that good form with impressive wins on the way to a first Ulster minor crown in ten years.

The North West County set the seal on their Northern championship campaign with an impressive second half performance when seeing off Antrim at Croke Park by 2-12 to 1-5.

After trailing by four points early on, they rallied well and a goal by right half forward Martin McElhinney helped them to an interval lead of 1-4 to 1-3.

The exchanges were keen enough in the early stages of the second half, but as the game wore on Donegal took charge and points from Dara Gallagher, Ross Wherity and team captain Eoin



Declan Walsh (Dún na nGall)

Wade strengthened their grip on the exchanges.

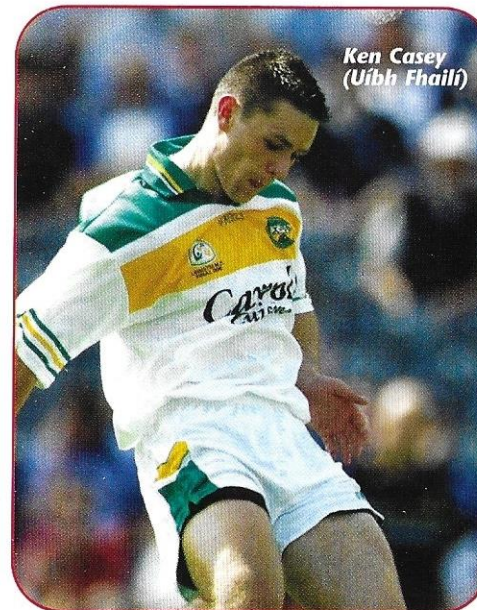
They went on from there to seal victory with McElhinney finding the net for the second time to secure a well-deserved win... a success that further underlined that this is an accomplished Donegal side.

Offaly had a god first round win over Wicklow and then beat a fancied Dublin side, helped by goals from Willie Mulhall and Ken Casey.

Wayward shooting did not help Offaly's cause in the Leinster final against Meath at Croke Park. They had sixteen wides. They still put up a spirited performance. At half-time the Faithful County trailed by 1-7 to 1-3. James Gorman was their goal scorer.

Early in the second half Offaly goalkeeper Brian Quinlan brought off a splendid save and two minutes later Ken Casey boosted hopes further with a goal to leave Offaly just three points in arrears.

However, Meath finished the stronger to take the title by 1-16 to 2-5. Still, it was a brave bid by Offaly, who are a good all round and well-balanced team.



Ken Casey (Uíbh Fhailí)



© Foilsithe ag DBA Publications Limited, 56 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Telephone: (01) 288 7247. Facsimile: (01) 288 3583. ar son Chumann Lúthchleas Gael.
Cló: Wood Printcraft. Sportsfile. SPORTSFILE



DÚN NA nGALL

Dathanna: Uaithe is Bán

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>2
DECLAN WALSH
D. Breathnach
(Malainn)</p> <p>5
PAUL MCGINLEY
P. Mac Fhionnaile
(Na Cealla Beaga)</p> <p>8
ROSS WHERITY
R. Ó Fargartaigh
(Naomh Adhamhnán)</p> <p>10
MARTIN MCELHINNEY
M. Mac Giolla Chainnigh
(Naomh Micheál)</p> <p>13
BRENDAN FAHERTY
B. Ó Fathartaigh
(Na Cealla Beaga)</p> | <p>1
LEE MCFADDEN
L. Mac Pháidín
(Cloch Cheann Fhaola)</p> <p>3
SHANE BOYLE
S. Ó Baoill
(Na Cealla Beaga)</p> <p>6
LEO MCLOONE
L. Mac Giolla Uain
(Naomh Conall)</p> <p>11
DUALTACH MOLLOY
D. Ó Maolmhuaidh
(Naomh Adhamhnán)</p> <p>14
GERARD WARD
G. Mac a' Bhaird
(Gleann Fhinne)</p> | <p>4
MARK MCGOWAN
M. Mac Gabhann
(Naomh Adhamhnán)</p> <p>7
PAUL THORNTON
P. Ó Draighneáin
(Naomh Adhamhnán)</p> <p>9
MICHAEL MURPHY
M. Ó Murchú
(Glenn tSuilí)</p> <p>12
EOIN WAIDE
E. Mac Uaid (Capt.)
(Naomh Conall)</p> <p>15
DARA GALLAGHER
D. Ó Gallchóir
(Naomh Conall)</p> |
|--|--|--|

FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) **Declan O'Donnell**
D. Ó Dónaill
(Carn Dornhaigh)
- (17) **Barry Showlin**
B. Ó Seibhleáin
(Cill Chartha)
- (18) **Aidan Lynch**
A. Ó Loingsigh
(Muff)
- (19) **Declan McGarvey**
D. Mac Gairbheith
(Cloch Cheann Fhaola)
- (20) **Declan Gavigan**
D. Mac Gaibheagáin
(Ard an Rátha)
- (21) **James Carroll**
S. Ó Cearúill
(Gaoth Dobhair)
- (22) **Ciarán Geaney**
C. Ó Gheibheannaigh
(Cloch Cheann Fhaola)
- (23) **Daniel Green**
D. Mac Grianna
(Malainn)
- (24) **Paul White**
P. de Faoite
(Bun an Phobail)
- ROGHNOIRI:**
Seán Clerkin, *Manager*
Jimmy Hegarty, Paddy Sweeney



AN MHÍ

Dathanna: Uaithe is Ór

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>2
GERARD FARRELLY
G. Ó Faircheallaigh
(Parnell's)</p> <p>5
DAVID DONEGAN
D. Ó Donnagáin
(Parnell's)</p> <p>8
EOIN REILLY
E. Ó Raghallaigh
(Donaghmore/Ashbourne)</p> <p>10
GRAHAM REILLY
G. Ó Raghallaigh
(St. Colmcille's)</p> <p>13
ALAN NESTOR
A. Mac an Adhastair
(Blackhall Gaels)</p> | <p>1
JONATHAN GINNY
S. Mac Ginneartaí
(Parnell's)</p> <p>3
STEPHEN SHEPPARD
S. Mac an Aoire
(Wolfe Tones)</p> <p>6
PADDY BRADY
P. Ó Brádaigh (Capt.)
(Blackhall Gaels)</p> <p>11
SHANE O'ROURKE
S. Ó Ruairc
(Simonstown Gaels)</p> <p>14
SEÁN KEATING
S. Mac Céitín
(Navan O'Mahony's)</p> | <p>4
SHANE CARR
S. Ó Carra
(Simonstown Gaels)</p> <p>7
DAVY DALTON
D. Ó Daltún
(Summerhill)</p> <p>9
CILLIAN FINN
C. Ó Finn
(St. Martin's)</p> <p>12
CIARÁN LYNCH
C. Ó Loingsigh
(Blackfort Gaels)</p> <p>15
BRIAN SHERIDAN
B. Ó Sirideáin
(Seneschalstown)</p> |
|--|--|---|

FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) **Shane Geraghty**
S. Mag Oireachtaigh
(Na Fianna)
- (17) **Sean Mallon**
S. Ó Mealláin
(St. Vincent's/Curraha)
- (18) **Colin Clarke**
C. Ó Cléirigh
(Dee Rangers)
- (19) **Colm Carry**
C. Ó Carraidh
(Round Towers)
- (20) **John Colman**
S. Mac Colmáin
(St. Martin's)
- (21) **Dermot Bailey**
D. Ó Báille
(Na Fianna)
- (22) **Gavin Butler**
G. Ó Builéir
(Round Towers)
- (23) **Darren Mallon**
D. Ó Mealláin
(St. Cuthbert's, Bohermeen)
- (24) **Paul Larkin**
P. Ó Lorcáin
(Summerhill)
- ROGHNOIRI:**
Dudley Farrell, *Manager*
Sean Barry, Seán Kelly.



UÍBH FHAILÍ

Dathanna: Uaithe, Bán is Ór

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>2
DIARMUID HORAN
D. Ó hOráin
(St. Rynagh's)</p> <p>5
BRYAN LONERGAN
B. Ó Longaráin
(Birr)</p> <p>8
CONOR MAHON
C. Mac Mathúna
(Kilcormac/Killoughey)</p> <p>10
ROSS BRADY
R. Ó Brádaigh
(Edenderry)</p> <p>13
PAUL LAMBE
P. Ó Luain
(St. Vincent's)</p> | <p>1
BRIAN QUINLAN
B. Ó Caoineáin
(Edenderry)</p> <p>3
DANIEL HALES
D. Mac Héil
(Gracefield)</p> <p>6
JOHN KNIGHT
S. Mac an Rídiré
(Gracefield)</p> <p>9
COLIN EGAN
C. Mac Aogáin
(Ferbane/Belmont)</p> <p>11
DANIEL CURRAMS
D. Ó Corraim
(Kilcormac/Killoughey)</p> <p>14
JAMES GORMAN
S. Mac Gormáin
(Kilcormac/Killoughey)</p> | <p>4
SEAN PENDER
S. Piondar
(Edenderry)</p> <p>7
LIAM BRENNAN
L. Ó Braonáin
(St. Vincent's)</p> <p>12
WILLIAM MULHALL
L. Ó Maolchathail
(Walsh Island)</p> <p>15
KEN CASEY
C. Mac Cathasaigh
(St. Brigid's)</p> |
|--|---|---|

FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) **Ian Duffy**
I. Ó Dufaigh
(Walsh Island)
- (17) **Niall Geraghty**
N. Mac Oireachtaigh
(Ballinamere/Durrow)
- (18) **Glenn O'Connell**
G. Ó Conaill
(Rhode)
- (19) **Damien Kilmartin**
D. Mac Giolla Mhartáin
(Kilcormac/Killoughey)
- (20) **Gerard Dunne**
G. Ó Doinn
(Edenderry)
- (21) **Brian Kelly**
B. Ó Ceallaigh
(Ballycumber/Tubber)
- (22) **Ger Ward**
G. Mac an Bhaird
(Tullamore)
- (23) **Nigel Dunne**
N. Ó Doinn
(Shamrocks)
- (24) **Mark Mangan**
M. Ó Mongáin
(St. Vincent's)
- ROGHNOIRI:**
Phil Reilly, *Manager*
Tom Coffey, Pat Daly



AONTROIM

Dathanna: Bui is Bán

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>2
PAUDRAIG LOWE
P. Mac Lú
(Naomh Pól)</p> <p>5
DERMOT McCANN
D. Mac Cana
(Na Cicéaimí)</p> <p>8
GERARD McCANN
G. Mac Cana
(Clann na hÉireann)</p> <p>10
BRIAN NEESON
B. Mac Aonasa
(Naomh Eoin)</p> <p>13
AARON THOMPSON
A. Mac Tomás
(Naomh Gall)</p> | <p>1
DAMIEN LYNCH
D. Ó Loingsigh
(Lámh Dhearg)</p> <p>3
GERARD CROSSEY
G. Mac an Chrosaigh
(Naomh Éanna)</p> <p>6
JUSTIN CROZIER
S. Crúiséir
(Clann na hÉireann)</p> <p>11
CONOR MCGOURTY
C. Mac Eabhartaigh
(Naomh Gall)</p> <p>14
SEÁN O'NEILL
S. Ó Néill
(Mhichíl Mac Daibhéid)</p> | <p>4
DARREN HARBINSON
D. Mac Hoirbín
(Naomh Gall)</p> <p>7
AIDAN GRIBBON
A. Mag Roibín
(Naomh Gall)</p> <p>9
SEÁN BURKE
S. de Búrca
(Naomh Gall)</p> <p>12
MARK SWEENEY
M. Mac Suibhne
(Naomh Bríd)</p> <p>15
CONOR MURRAY
C. Ó Muirí
(Lámh Dhearg)</p> |
|---|--|---|

FIR IONAIÐ

- (16) **Francis Neeson**
P. Mac Aonasa
(Naomh Muirí)
- (17) **Conor McAuley**
C. Mac Amhalal
(Mhic Uilín)
- (18) **Kevin McBride**
C. Mac Giolla Bhríde
(Naomh Séamus)
- (19) **Daniel Hanna**
D. Ó hAnnaidh
(Naomh Pól)
- (20) **Mark Cullen**
M. Mac Cuillinn
(Lámh Dhearg)
- (21) **David McElhorne**
D. Mac Giolla Cholaim
(Clann na hÉireann)
- (22) **Tony Alwell**
A. Mac Aildhail
(Lámh Dhearg)
- (23) **Christopher Nolan**
C. Ó Nualláin
(Lámh Dhearg)
- (24) **Andrew Brennan**
A. Ó Braonáin
(Naomh Bríd)
- ROGHNOIRI:**
Seamus O'Prey, *Manager*
Kevin McGuinness,
Michael Boyle, Paddy McQuillan,
John McCallin.

RARE MEETING FOR ANTRIM AND MEATH

Can Antrim comeback from their Ulster minor final defeat by Donegal to earn a place in the ESB All-Ireland minor football semi-final, or will Meath maintain their unbeaten record so far this season?

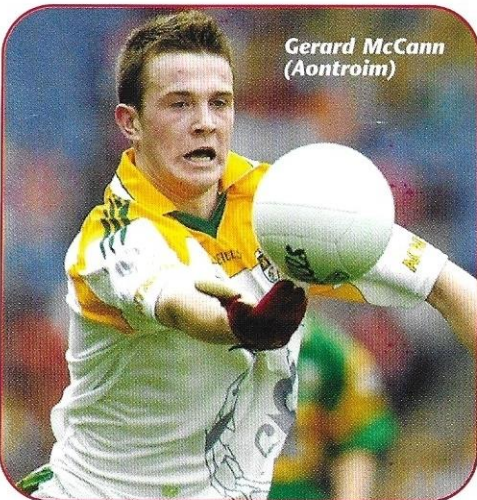
These are just some of the intriguing questions surrounding this appealing and rare meeting of these counties.

Antrim had good wins over Fermanagh and Armagh to earn the county a direct interest in an Ulster minor final for the first time since 1998.

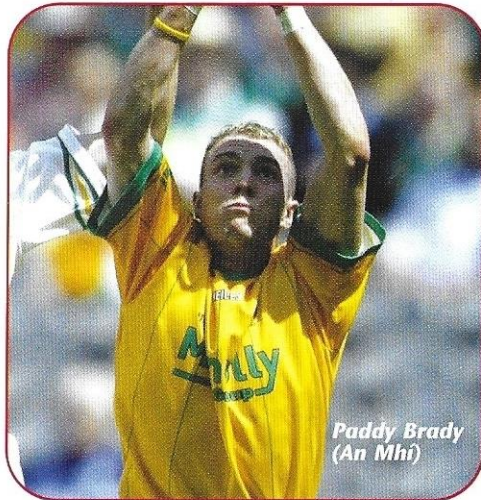
They started the final against Donegal in encouraging style with a goal from a free by Conor McGourty to go 1-2 to 0-1 clear after ten minutes.

They continued to play with spirit and ability but their cause was not helped by the fact that ace attacker McGourty had to retire because of a chest infection after twenty minutes.

They continued to strive manfully and were just a point adrift at the break—1-4 to 1-3. Midway through the second half, Antrim were still just a point adrift, but Donegal finished the stronger to earn a 2-12 to 1-5 win.



Gerard McCann (Aontroim)



Paddy Brady (An Mhi)

Still, it was a brave performance by Antrim, with midfielders Sean Burke and Gerard McCann, McGourty, during his limited appearance (he finished top scorer with 1-2) and team captain Justin Crozier very much to the fore in their bid.

Meath set the seal on a good campaign in Leinster by seeing off Offaly by 1-16 to 2-5 at Croke Park to capture the title for the first time since 1993.

They got off to a bright start with a goal from Alan Nestor after nine minutes and went on to lead at the break by 1-7 to 1-3.

The Royals kept up the pressure after the restart with points from Graham Reilly and Brian Sheridan and were only denied a goal by a great save by the Offaly goalkeeper.

Offaly then had a good spell to get within three points of their opponents. But Meath finished the stronger with Shane O'Rourke and Graham Reilly hitting valuable points to ensure a good win.

Graham Reilly and O'Rourke with five points each, Nestor and defenders Paddy Brady, the team captain, and Eoin Reilly all contributed richly to the success.

DONEGAL STILL SEARCHING

The minor championship has been an integral part of the G.A.A. year for more than three-quarters of a century and in that time all the strong counties have chalked up at least one All-Ireland success with one exception – Donegal. An interesting statistic about Tir Connail is that it is the only county that has won an All-Ireland senior title in the past 77 years but has yet to achieve an outright win at under-18 level, or to have even appeared in a final.

Remarkably, Donegal was the first Ulster county to contest a minor championship game at Croke Park and they came within a goal of qualifying for the All-Ireland final when they lost to Tipperary by 2-3 to 3-3. That appearance was to be their last for a number of years and it was 1956 before Donegal, with victories over Derry, Down and Armagh, qualified for the All-Ireland semi/final in which they were surprised by Leitrim (2-1 to 1-9).

Three times since then Donegal came within an hour of the final only to be denied by Cork (1985 and '91) and Laois (1996). That loss to Laois (the eventual All-Ireland champions) ten years ago by 1-10 to 2-8 was particularly unlucky as the Ulster side certainly deserved a second chance, but the search still goes on

ANTRIM'S STRUGGLE

In minor football Meath have three All-Ireland titles to their credit. Antrim have yet to make the breakthrough to ultimate honours at this level, but long before the Royals came to be an under-18 force, Antrim were emerging as Ulster standard bearers.

The Glensmen lined out in the first-ever minor championship game in Ulster in 1930 and if defeat was their lot on that occasion, two years later they were provincial champions for the first time when they defeated Armagh (5-7 to 1-0), Cavan (2-6 to 2-5), and Tyrone in the final by 2-7 to 1-2. However, the All-Ireland semi/final proved to be the end of the line as they lost to Laois by 1-3 to 2-3.

And that was to become the pattern of Antrim's experience outside Ulster. In 1933 Antrim were again Ulster champions in a year when only four counties entered the race in the province, but having easily disposed of Tyrone and Armagh, they went down in the All-Ireland semi/final to Kerry in what was the first-ever appearance of an Antrim minor football team at Croke Park.

Though they were again provincial champions in 1936, Louth proved too strong in the All-Ireland semi/final. Since then Antrim have contested four championship games against opposition from outside the province without success. But persistence has always been a powerful trait in the glens.

THE MIDLAND ENIGMA

The achievements of Offaly at senior level in both codes over the past 35 years have been unparalleled in G.A.A. history, but apart from minor hurling there has been no reflection of that success at under-age level.

Yet the sole All-Ireland success in minor football (1964) was to have a remarkable effect on the county's football fortunes. In many of the counties that have enjoyed regular success in the minor grade, it is often asked what becomes of so many brilliant under-age players. But not in Offaly where no fewer than nine of the 1964 panel went on to win senior All-Ireland medals.

It was a unique achievement though Offaly have been striving to repeat it ever since. With little success, however, and Offaly's campaigns that have not stalled inside Leinster invariably did when they moved outside the province, the most recent being last year when they lost to Down at the penultimate hurdle.

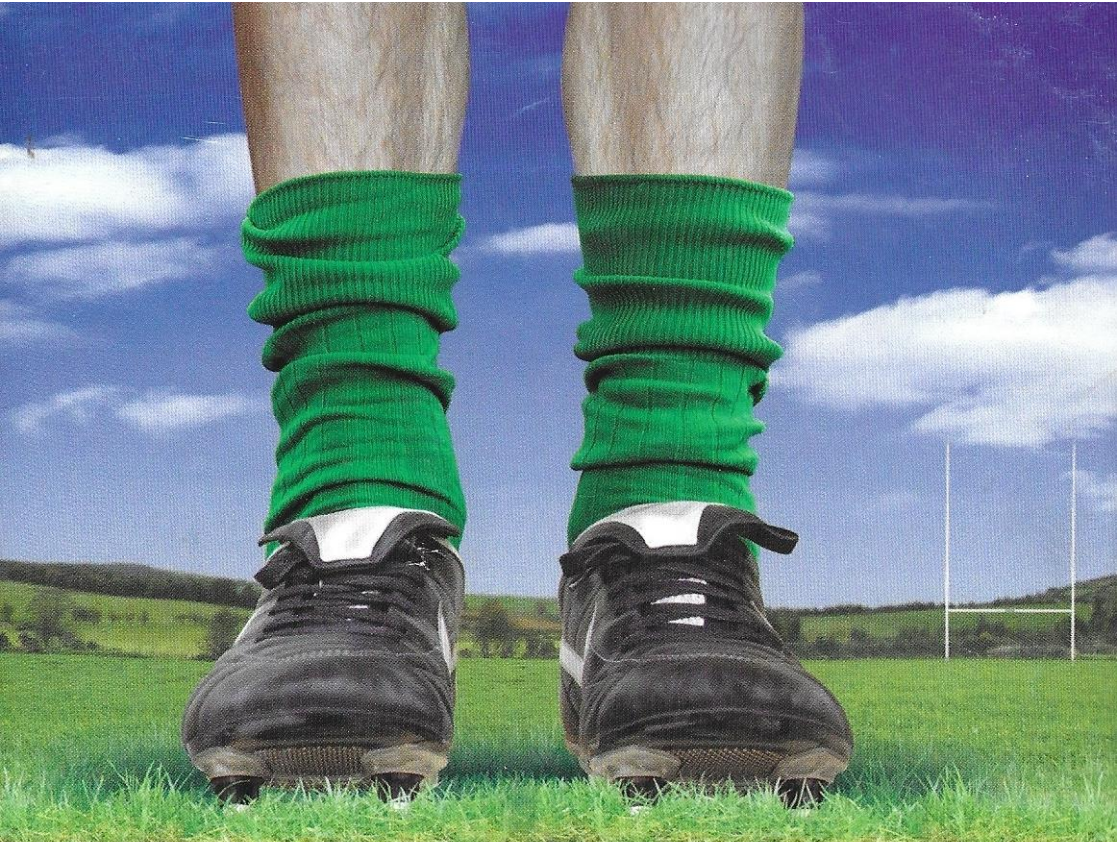
But Offaly remains the great enigma of gaelic games, a claim borne out by the fact that of the counties with populations of less than 65,000 the Faithful county is the only one to have won an All-Ireland senior title in the past 50 years – and they won in both codes. A fact that can only inspire the fifteen teenagers wearing the green white and gold today.

MEATH ON THE MARCH

Unlike Antrim, Meath were slow to make an impression in under-age football (this would later apply to the under-21 grade) and though they were involved from the earliest days, not once did the Royals manage to reach a provincial final. In fact, through the 1930s when most Leinster counties managed to reach one decider, Meath were a notable exception and often their campaigns failed to survive the first round. The 1940s were no better and when they at last reached a provincial final it was to be completely swamped by Dublin in 1946.

But the clouds finally lifted in the fifties. In 1954 Meath failed by a single point to Dublin – the eventual All-Ireland champions, and two years later when Dublin again became champions, just two points separated the Royals and the capital in the Leinster final. The breakthrough came in '57; victories over Laois, Longford and Offaly brought provincial honours for the first time and then it was surprisingly easy the rest of the way as Mayo were defeated by 3-8 to 1-7 and Armagh in the final by 3-9 to 0-4.

Meath didn't immediately become a power at minor level but the big breakthrough had been made as the recent record so clearly shows.



**ESB ALL IRELAND MINOR
FOOTBALL AND HURLING
CHAMPIONSHIPS**



CELEBRATING THE POWER OF PEOPLE.

