



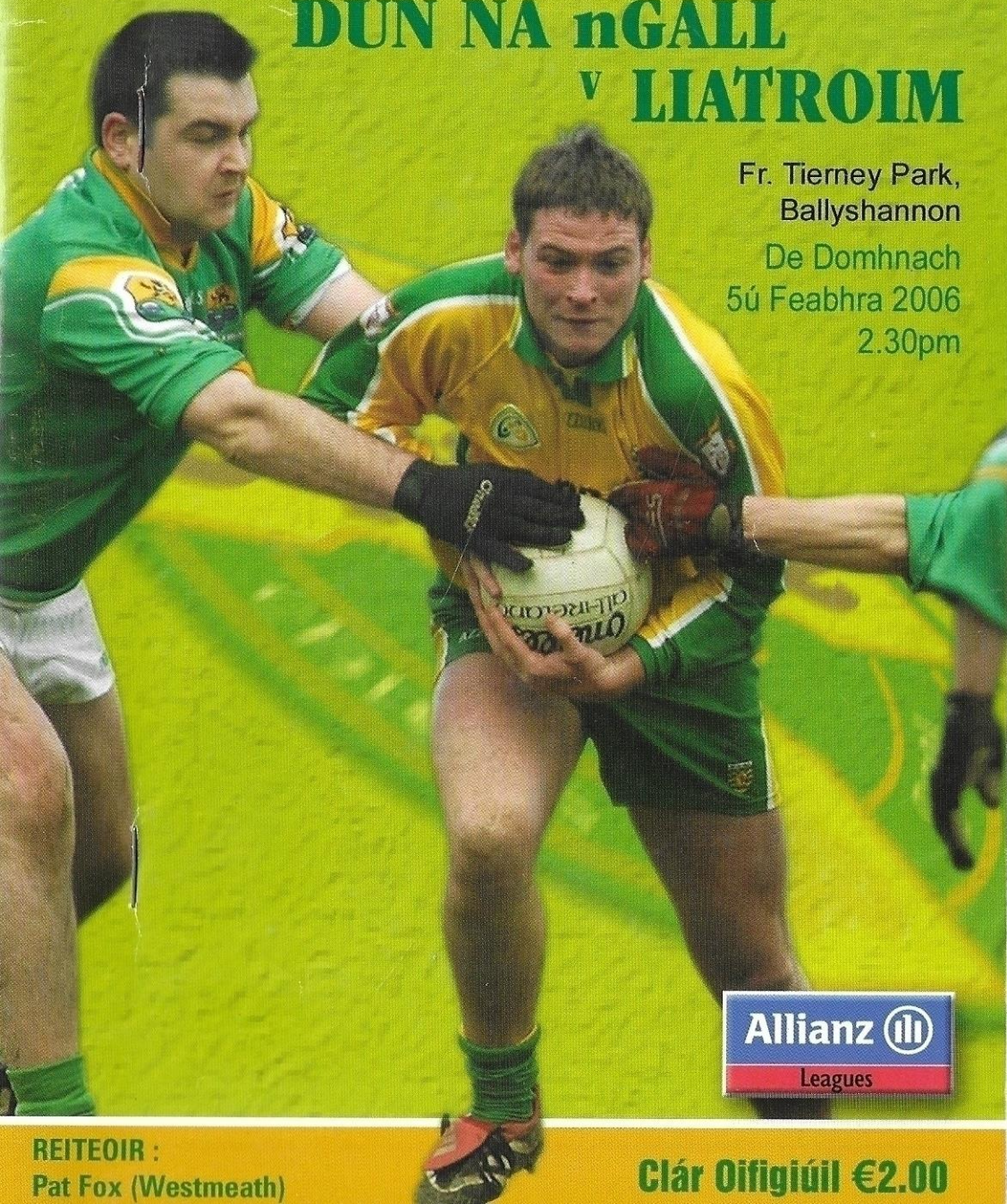
Allianz National Football League
Division 2a



DÚN NA nGALL v LIATROIM

Fr. Tierney Park,
Ballyshannon

De Domhnach
5ú Feabhra 2006
2.30pm



Allianz 

Leagues

REITEOIR :
Pat Fox (Westmeath)

Clár Oifigiúil €2.00



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Fáilte

Mar Cathaoirleach ar Coiste Chontae Dhún na nGall C.L.G is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte a fhearadh romhaibh go léir cúig Páirc Uí Thighearnaigh, Beal Átha Seanaigh inniu i gcoir an chead cluiche sa sraith i mbliana, sé sin in éadan ar gcorcán béal dorais Co. Liatroma .

Every new year brings with it a fresh start for all counties in their quest for National honours and we commence our National League programme with this game against Leitrim here to-day. Our team manager Brian Mc Iver together with his assistants and selectors has prepared well over the winter months and we enter our league campaign with hope and expectation for the year ahead.

A special welcome to our friends in Leitrim, players, management and supporters and while "The Follower" is no longer with us in body I am sure that he is with us in spirit.

Our main sponsors, The Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town and Azzurri are with us again this year and I thank them for their continued support.

A special word of thanks to fó-chumann Aodh Ruaidh and their members for their co-operation and excellent arrangements for to-day's game.



Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh uilligh taitneamh agus pléisiúr as an chluiche atá a imirt anseo inniu.

Míle Buiochas,

Charlie O Dónaill
Cathaoirleach Coiste na Contae.

MATCH PROGRAMME

Match Programme prepared by Aodh Ruadh Park Committee

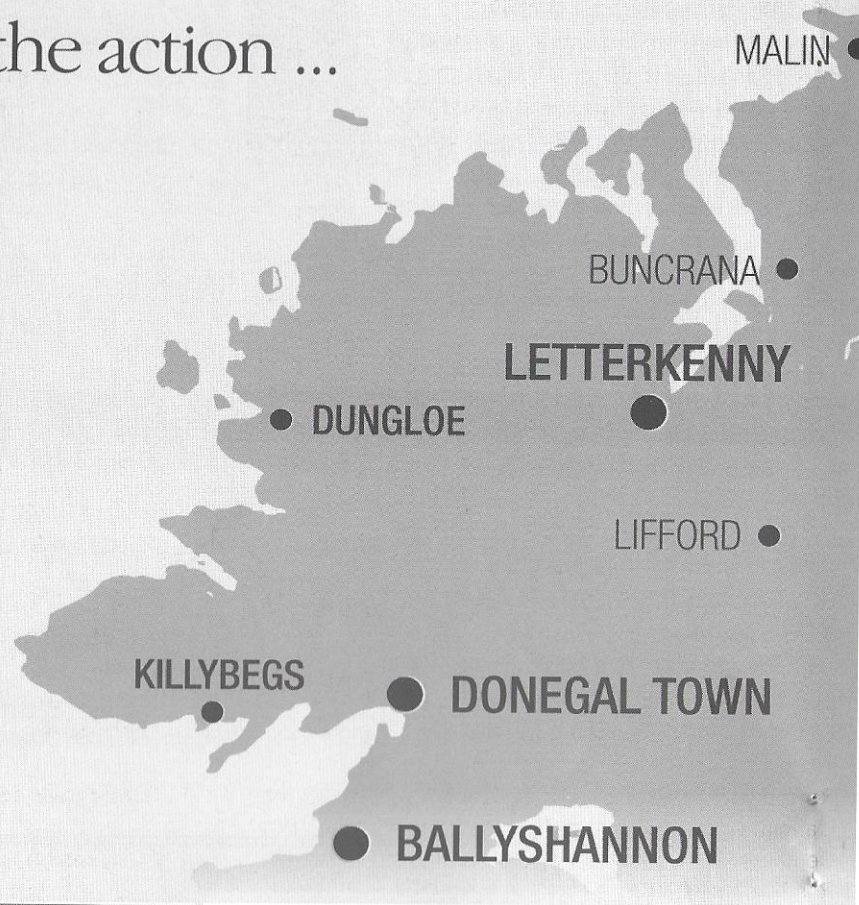
Editors: Sean Perry and Peter Campbell

Contributors: Colin Regan, Gerry McLaughlin, Seamus Mac Geidigh, P. J. Buggy, Sean Perry, Peter Campbell.

Cover Photo: Brendan Boyle in action against Leitrim when the teams last met two years ago in Cloone. (Photo, Michael O'Donnell).

Donegal's top newspapers

All the action ...



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Today's Referee - Pat Fox (Westmeath)

A member of the Rosemount club, Pat has won senior and minor championships with club and All-Ireland Colleges senior title with Carmelite College, Moate.

He has represented Westmeath at all grades from U-14 to senior and was a member of the Westmeath senior panel from 1980 until 1994. He has also served as treasurer and



secretary of his club, Rosemount. Pat took up refereeing in 1993 and graduated on to the National referees panel in 1997. In recent years he has officiated at provincial finals at minor and senior. His most recent games involving Donegal include the All-Ireland quarter-final against Tipperary in 2003 and the Ulster championship game against Antrim in Ballybofey in 2004.



Allianz Football League Div. 2A

Round 1 - 5th February

An Clár v Ceatharlach
Dún na nGall v Liatroim
Londain v Longfort
Luimneach v Ros Comáin

Round 2 - 12th February

Liatroim v An Clár
Ceatharlach v Dún na nGall
Ros Comáin v Londain
Longfort v Luimneach

Round 3 - 5th March

An Clár v Ros Comáin
Ceatharlach v Luimneach
Longfort v Dún na nGall
Liatroim v Londain

Round 4 - 12th March

Luimneach v An Clár
Ros Comáin v Ceatharlach
Londain v Dún na nGall
Liatroim v Longfort

Round 5 - 19th March

An Clár v Dún na nGall
Ceatharlach v Liatroim
Longfort v Ros Comáin
Luimneach v Londain

Round 6 - 26th March

Londain v An Clár
Longfort v Ceatharlach
Dún na nGall v Luimneach
Liatroim v Ros Comáin

Round 7 - 9th April

An Clár v Longfort
Ceatharlach v Londain
Ros Comáin v Dún na nGall
Luimneach v Liatroim

Semi-Finals 16th April

Final 23rd April

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If You Bend It - We'll Mend It!!!

Good Luck To The Donegal Team

A Donegal-Leitrim link removed from chain

By Peter Campbell, Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat

Today as we gather in the Fr. Tierney Park, one friend of Donegal and Leitrim is missing. Cormac 'The Follower' McGill is not with us in person, but one feels that he is looking down with as much interest as ever.

Cormac left us at the end last year after giving a lifetime to the Gaelic Athletic Association. He was Oifigeach na Gaeilge in Leitrim because he was domiciled in Dromod.

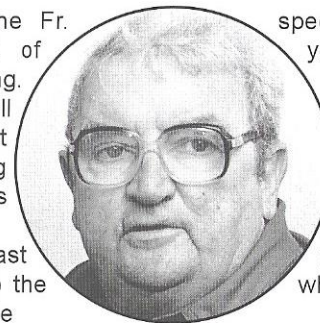
Donegal's loss was Leitrim and Bornacoola's gain. He supported Leitrim and Donegal and there wasn't any conflict when the two counties met - he just supported his native county.

His column, 'The Follower', in the Donegal Democrat was an outlet for his great enthusiasm as a supporter of Donegal and it was also an outlet for the views of the people he met on his travels with the Donegal team.

His column coincided with the glory days of Donegal football - Donegal winning their second U-21 All-Ireland in 1987, through their greatest triumph in 1992, reaching Ulster and National League finals almost for fun.

In Leitrim he was a respected member of their Executive, working tirelessly for the promotion of the language, music and culture through Scor. It was in that regard that I came to see his great enthusiasm in recent times. The strength and participation of clubs in Scor in Leitrim was no surprise. It came from hard work and preparation. Few could say no to Cormac.

He loved travelling to Donegal to adjudicate at the Donegal finals. How he would have loved to be going to Athlone I.T. in a few weeks time for the All-Ireland Scor na nOg finals - with three Donegal and two Leitrim clubs represented. It was fitting that a



Cormac McGill

special award was made at this year's Leitrim Scor na nOg finals to honour Cormac.

Through his column in the Donegal Democrat he kept his readers informed of what was happening at local and national level. He was in my thoughts two weeks ago when details of games to be played in Croke Park in 2007 were revealed. He was vehemently opposed to the

playing of any games other than Gaelic games on Jones's Road. Even though his views were in the minority, he held them strongly.

Apart from any success enjoyed by Donegal (and by Leitrim), Cormac was really proud that his son, Fergal, had taken up employment at GAA headquarters as a press officer. The last time he talked to Fergal, Cormac was in Sligo Hospital and Fergal was in Australia with the Compromise Rules squad.

Cormac was a frequent visitor to today's venue, mostly taking his seat in the dugout at pitchside. Today he has a grandstand seat, looking down from above. One wonders what he would make of Donegal and manager, Brian McIver.

He held a very strong view that Donegal should have a manager from within and said so when Mickey Moran was appointed in the early 1990s. But while he was not happy with the selection, it was nothing to do with Mickey. He would probably feel the same about Brian McIver.

There would be a tinge of sadness that the first meeting of the National Football League in 2006 would be between Donegal and Leitrim. Cormac would be hoping for a Donegal victory today but whatever the result, he would be welcome back in Jimmy's (or Cox's as it is now) this evening. Let's hope he gets his wish.



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A Leitrim man - but only just

By Colin Regan, Donegal News (and sometimes Leitrim footballer)

It's happened more than once, while playing in some far flung corner of south Leitrim for my club Melvin Gaels, that a supporter of the home team has made the polite, if inaccurate suggestion, that I should "feck off back home to Donegal."

The root of their misconception that I hail from the land of Tir Conaill lies in my accent, laced as it is with a slight southern Donegal twang. One of the side-effects of being raised too close to the border of Bundoran I'm afraid.

Add to this the fact that my mother was born and reared in Winterhill outside Donegal Town and that I had all my primary and secondary schooling in Dun na nGall (in Ballyshannon, and boarding in Raphoe, respectively) and you see there was no real way of avoiding a bit of Donegalese.

While living in Boston recently - where there are more Donegal folk than you would find at a once-off concert featuring Daniel O'Donnell, Clannad, Enya and Goats Don't Shave - I often had to show people my passport to prove I came from Leitrim and not Donegal.

Upon returning to Ireland, that I should become gainfully employed as a journalist with the Donegal News came as a welcome development, it being a home from home already.

It would, however, allow for some interesting opportunities when it came to football. When we came up against Donegal in Division 2A of the National League in Cloone two years ago I had interviewed the majority of the Donegal lads at some stage of the previous year when Donegal went on an extended run through the championship ending up in Croke Park.

Others, the likes of Brian Roper and Niall McCready, I already knew too well from playing soccer with them at underage level with Kilbarron Utd, located out by Rossnowlagh Beach.

The game offered the opportunity to win bragging rights at work for the rest of the year. We lost and I got slagged. Lots. Today offers the opportunity to rectify that situation, although we know we will have our work cut

out for us to overcome Donegal on their own turf. At the time of writing this piece I am suffering from an ankle injury that has kept me off the playing field to date in 2006 but I am hoping it will have come right by today, allowing me enter the fray at some stage, if not from the start.

The fact that Donegal are recently relegated from Division 1 and more used to playing their league football at the highest level doesn't help our lot. Also going for Donegal is the fact they have a new manager in charge, Brian McIver, who has brought in a lot of new young players eager to make a name for themselves.

I expect a good turnout for today's match. My North Leitrim brethren and Melvin Gaels compatriots will be on hand (I hope and trust) delighted not to have to venture up the long and winding road to Carrick-on-Shannon or beyond for a change.

Many past pupils of the De La Salle have pulled on the Leitrim jersey in the past; the likes of Gareth and James Phelan, Gareth Foley and BB Brennan spring to mind - unfortunately none of whom are playing with Leitrim at the moment.

Another Leitrim man with an enhanced interest in today's game is fellow Melvin Gael and former De La Salle Principal Michael McGowan, who would hand over the family's last decent meadow in Rossinver for an away win today. I know Fr. Tierney Park well and during the redevelopment of our own pitch in Kinelough some years ago we played a league match or two here.

It caused some furore from those who travelled from South Leitrim, with one famous quote resulting: "It's bad enough having to leave your own county to play a league match but having to leave your province is too much," one disgruntled spectator was heard lament.

So this is practically a home match for me today. But you know, you could be called a lot worse than Donegal man - it's not the worse affliction you could be marked with. It's when people accuse me of being from Fermanagh or Cavan that I start getting defensive.

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"The poor auld GAA" - By Sean Perry

My fledgling county board career was less than an hour old when I gasped as I heard a member of the executive tell the meeting that the fixed assets of the GAA in Donegal amount to something close to €100million. Yes, one hundred million euro. Jaysus, I'd just walked into a board meeting at Stamford Bridge and not MacCumhaill Park in January.

I suppose I shouldn't have been that surprised, let's face it, you can hardly travel 15 minutes (by road and not air) without passing a GAA ground anywhere in Co Donegal. That figure is considerably less in certain parts of the county, take for instance the five minute spin from Bundoran to Ballyshannon and onto Ballintra, out to Pettigo, up to Donegal Town and west to Mountcharles. Fine pitches with dressing rooms in each town or village, stands and clubrooms at many as well as training areas to boot. Superb, the Association is rightly the envy of many other organisations and full credit to the people who toiled to put those facilities in place yesteryear and today.

However, my new-found bliss at the substantial resources in place was soon shattered as delegates were briefed on a levy being considered by the county treasurer. Clubs were being asked to sell 112 €100 tickets or come up with the equivalent payable to the county board by way of levy. This money would in turn go towards the running of the county teams for 2006, the county senior team alone cost just short of €349,000 the previous year, that being down significantly on 2004.

Hardly a problem you would think for 40 Donegal clubs waddling around with millions spilling out of their arse pockets. You're wrong. While asset rich, most clubs find it increasingly difficult to sustain themselves, let alone the county board. Transport requirements, medical expenses, insurance, registration fees, cost and maintenance of kit, and in some cases, the delicate issue of payment to managers. The vast majority of clubs are dependent on a weekly club lotto and little or nothing else to keep the current account in the black.

Well, delegates looked at the poor treasurer like he was a coughing Chinese chicken, "we

can't go to the people with these tickets, v already sold them tickets last year, they'd laugh at us, there aren't enough houses in our town were among the common excuses put forward. And fair enough, they might well be and probably are genuine responses.

However, it prompts me to think of the equity release feature which banks are frantically trying to sell to the middle-aged and elderly market at the moment. Why leave everything behind you when you can live in luxury today being the bottom line.

While not daring to question the necessity and importance of a pitch, does the GAA have surplus of ground in some cases? The love of the land is enshrined in our very being, you'll surely see Richard Harris writhing in "T Field".

Take the example shown to us by the unlikely partnership of Belfast Harlequins rugby club Belfast and St. Brigid's GAA club in recent weeks. The St. Brigid's club - only formed in recent years by new residents on the fashionable Malone Road in Belfast including Joe Brolly - couldn't afford a base of its own has agreed to rent the top class facilities Harlequins for the summer months while the rugby season is in recess. The benefits to be parties are quite obvious.

It baffles many people to think that the GAA at a national or indeed local level could struggle financially. Many think that that Liam Mulvihill and his friends in Croker come along with a bag of swag and hand it out to welcoming clubs like chicks in a nest. However, through shrewd financial management, a massive refurbishment job on Croke Park is reported paid for well ahead of schedule, as and from 5pm on February 11th, 2007, rental income will be due from the IRFU.

To do any job properly requires money, a county or county team is no different as a brief glance at figures in Armagh or Tyrone will prove. This is an amateur era, imagine professionalism. Sean Perry is a sports and news broadcaster with Ocean FM radio in Donegal Town. He is also PRO of the Donegal county board and club, Aodh Ruadh.

LIATROIM



(1)
Cathal Mac Crainn
(Cathal McCrann)
Gortleitreach

(2)
Diarmuid Mac Raghnaill
(Dermot Reynolds)
Naomh Muire

(5)
Dáibhíd Mac Aoidh
(David McHugh)
Eanach Dubh

(8)
Garraí Mac Bhlaoscaigh
(Gary McCloskey)
Barr na Cúille

(10)
Seán Mac Ualraig
(Johnny Goldrick)
Naomh Muire

(13)
Barra Mac an Phríora
(Barry Prior)
Acadh Mhaolainn

(3)
Seán Mac Eoin
(John McKeon)
Droim Raghallaigh

(6)
Barra Mac Mhaoínigh
(Barry McWeeney)
Acadh an Síleann

(9)
Críostóir Ó Cearbhaill
(Christopher Carroll)
Cill Tiobraid

(11)
Cóilín Ó Riagáin
(Colin Regan)
Gaeil na Meilge

(14)
Déaglán Ó Meiscil
(Declan Maxwell)
Droim Raghallaigh

(4)
Micheál MacAonghusa
(Michael McGuinness)
Maothail

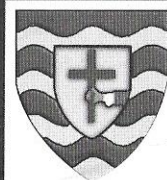
(7)
Seán Ó Foghlú
(Shane Foley)
Cill Tiobraid

(12)
Micheál Ó Foghlú
(Michael Foley)
Droim Caorthainn

(15)
Ciarán Ó Duigeannáin
(Ciaran Duignan)
Fíodhnach-Naomh Cailín

Fir Ionad: 16. P. O Durcain (Paul Durcan); 17. D. O Duibhir (Damien Diver); 18. G. MacUidhir (Gavin Maguire); 19. T. MacDonncha (Thomas Donoghue); 20. P. MacFhloinn (Frank McGlynn); 21. P. O Ceallaigh (Paddy Kelly); 22. A. MacTomais (Anthony Thompson); 23. C. O Duinn (Conal Dunne); 24. P. MacNultaigh (Paddy McNulty); 25. E. O Braonáin (Eddie Brennan); 26. S. O Gallchoir (James Gallagher); 27. S. O Frighil (Seamie Friel); 28. N. O Gallchoir (Neil Gallagher); 29. C. O Casaide (Kevin Cassidy); 30. R. O Caomhanach (Rory Kavanagh).

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DÚN NA NGALL

(1)
M. O Baoill
(Michael Boyle)
Termon

(2)
N. MacAoidh
(Neil McGee)
Gaoth Dobhair

(5)
E. MacAoidh
(Eamon McGee)
Gaoth Dobhair

(8)
B. O Baoill
(Brendan Boyle)
Ardara

(10)
C. O Tuatha
(Christy Toye) (c)
St. Michaels

(13)
L. MacTomais
(Leon Thompson)
Naomh Conaill

(3)
R. MacSuibhne
(Raymond Sweeney)
Dungloe

(6)
B. O Muineachain
(Barry Monaghan)
Four Masters

(11)
C. O Chnamhsi
(Ciaran Bonner)
Glenswilly

(14)
A. MacSuibhne
(Adrian Sweeney)
Dungloe

(4)
C. De Leis
(Karl Lacey)
Four Masters

(7)
S. MacAoidh
(Stephen McHugh)
Ardara

(9)
S. MacDiarmada
(Stephen McDermott)
Glenfin

(12)
M. O Caulfield
(Martin Caulfield)
Na Rossa

(15)
M. O Dochartaigh
(Michael Doherty)
Four Masters

Fir Ionad: 16. P. O Durcain (Paul Durcan); 17. D. O Duibhir (Damien Diver); 18. G. MacUidhir (Gavin Maguire); 19. T. MacDonncha (Thomas Donoghue); 20. P. MacFhloinn (Frank McGlynn); 21. P. O Ceallaigh (Paddy Kelly); 22. A. MacTomais (Anthony Thompson); 23. C. O Duinn (Conal Dunne); 24. P. MacNultaigh (Paddy McNulty); 25. E. O Braonáin (Eddie Brennan); 26. S. O Gallchoir (James Gallagher); 27. S. O Frighil (Seamie Friel); 28. N. O Gallchoir (Neil Gallagher); 29. C. O Casaide (Kevin Cassidy); 30. R. O Caomhanach (Rory Kavanagh).

PAT SPILLANE

READ HIM

No frontiers around Erne and Melvin

by Gerry McLaughlin (Sligo Weekender, Irish News)

Jim Reeves had a hit song with 'O South of the Border' when I was a quiet child in the pram in the 1960's.

But there are not too many pure-bred Mexicans in those lovely Donegal border townlands of Cloghore and Corlea.

For natives (like me), Donegal will always be that special place, where the winds sing the secrets of Noirin Ban and the mountains lie like sleeping gods.

But I grew up where Donegal, Fermanagh and even Leitrim meet so often you would get dizzy and there were no real frontiers when it came to chasing an O'Neills size five or smacking a sliothar in May.

Aodh Ruadh, Erne Gaels, Melvin Gaels and Devenish were all within kissing or spitting distance for us border cubs.

So, many of us roamed far and wide between the Erne and the Melvin when we wore the bright armour of youth. Some of us stayed at it too long but scribbling comes only trotting after playing.

From our house, the haunting beauty of Leitrim was ever present with Rossinver Braes shawled in mist high above Lough Melvin. And the Barrs of Uibh Ailt looked down on the grey Erne in Fermanagh, a county we were always told "could not kick snow off a rope".

Donegal has always looked on Fermanagh and Leitrim like a big brother sees his hardy kid sibling. A bit scrawny but still capable of giving you a black eye now and again.

We were reared on tales of how the cross-border club of Corlea, which included players from Donegal and Fermanagh, reached a Democrat Cup Final in 1948, and was then broken up for the greater 'Ogood' of Donegal and Fermanagh.

In Corlea they will always remember the late Hugh Daly and Harry Carey as highly respected officials while my good friend Tom Cullen from that area is carrying on that tradition in Fermanagh.

Our cousins the O'Kane's from Castlefin/Clady had a similar dilemma with Donegal and Tyrone. Seamus "Congo" O'Kane played for Tyrone, Donegal, Westmeath and Leitrim but there were never any frontiers in this marksman's Gaelic world and his five brothers all played for Tyrone.

Many of us are Erne Gaels (as distinct from the Belleek club) who often gave great Leitrim Gaels like Michael McGowan, a.k.a. Michael Smyth a dig-out when he was promoting hurling in Kinlough a few years ago.

The sweet striking Michael kept his head well down underneath my father's hunting cap in 1975 when he inspired Erne Gaels (the club) to a Fermanagh championship.

Michael also performed in Waterford, Cork, Galway, Laois as well as his native Leitrim. This was a full ten years before the Anglo/Irish Agreement so we have always been a bit avant garde. And we have a strange record in our house as my brother Liam captained Fermanagh senior footballers while I captained the hurlers.

Our story is not unique, as all over Ulster there are similar tales of cross-border co-operation. But the border cub is becoming an endangered species as the GAA gets really organised.

Seriously, I would like to sincerely thank all those clubs for tolerating me including Naomh Eoin (Sligo), Liam Mellows (Galway), St Pauls (Antrim), Ballycastle (Mayo) and Commercials (Dublin), who all helped give this buachaill on Eirne such a rounded education in the GAA.

But no matter where I have wandered, there are no colours quite like the green and gold of Donegal.

Cormac Uasal Mac Goill would have understood perfectly and he was never a Mexican.

20 QUESTIONS

with P. J. Buggy

1. Name Leitrim's two All-Stars.
2. Who are the Leitrim 2005 County Football Champions.
3. Which Club has won the greatest number of Leitrim Senior Football Championships.
4. Name the Donegal man who captained Sligo I.T. to Sigerson Cup victory in 2005.
5. Name the only man to have captained two different colleges to win the Sigerson Cup.
6. What Leitrim man won Railway Cup medals in 1957 and 1958. He also played for Ireland in both years in the Representative games against the Combined Universities.
7. What Leitrim man played for Ireland in the 1960 Representative game.
8. Connacht's last Railway Cup win was in 1969. Name the Leitrim player who was a member of that team.
9. Donegal won the Ulster Minor Football Championship in 1956. Who defeated them in the All-Ireland semi-final.
10. Name the only player to be selected on the 2003, 2004 and 2005 All-Stars football team.
11. Which three counties supplied all the football All-Stars in 2005.
12. Two of to-days Donegal panellists are the holders of All-Star awards. Name them.
13. Martin McHugh is the Donegal man with the greatest number of Railway Cup medals. How many has he won.
14. Who was manager of the Glenswilly team that reached the 2005 Ulster Intermediate Football Championship final.
15. Name the Leitrim man who referred the Down v Meath 1991 All-Ireland Senior Football Final.
16. Who was captain of the Naomh Conaill team that won the 2005 Donegal Senior Football Championship.
17. Donegal won an Ulster Minor Football Final in 1991. Name the only player from that team still playing for Donegal.
18. Rucks, Mauls and Gaelic Football is a recent book written by what famous retired Rugby International.
19. Which Donegal Club plays their home games in Hibernian Park.
20. When Ballinderry won the 2002 All-Ireland Football Club Championship, who was their manager.

ANSWERS: 1. Mickey Quinn, in 1990 and Seamus Quinn in 1994. 2. Kiltubrid. 3. Sean O'Heilsin (Ballinamore) - 20 titles. 4. Current Donegal star Christy Toyne. 5. Jim McGuinness, Donegal. (I.T. Tralee in 1999 and U.U.J. in 2001). 6. Packerie McGarty. 7. Cathal Flynn. 8. Harry O'Carroll. 9. Leitrim. 10. Sean Cavanagh, Tyrone. 11. Tyrone, Armagh and Kerry. 12. Kevin Cassidy 2002 and Adrian Sweeney 2003. 13. Five. (1983, 84, 89, 92 and 93). 14. Frankie Martin. 15. Seamus Prior of Aughawillan. 16. Paddy Campbell. 17. Damian Diver. 18. Moss Keane. 19. County Hurling Champions Burt. 20. Today's Donegal Manager, Brian McIvor.

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The Aodh Ruadh GAA Club which owns the Fr. Tierney Park in Ballyshannon and a further 8 acres of playing fields close-by, have decided to embark on an ambitious development programme with a view to having all of its physical facilities development work completed in the run up to the Club's Centenary in 2009.

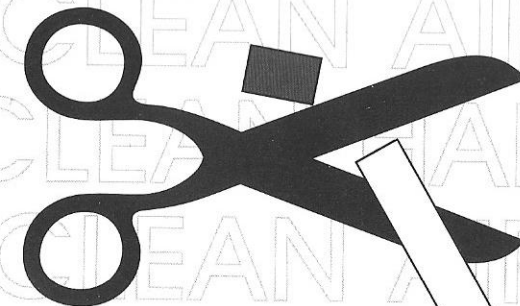
A major part of the development hinges on the laying of a new surface on the Fr. Tierney Park as well as providing a second adult playing field, properly surfaced at Munday's field, together with a training field and a training track. Floodlighting is also planned. This is the most ambitious part of the Project work as it involves closing each of the existing playing fields in turn for a period as the work is undertaken. The intention is to have consultations with external contractors in respect of both developments completed over the coming weeks so that work on this element of the Development can start in 2006 with the final part of it completed in 2007. At that stage it is visualised that 2 regulation size and one

junior playing field, a running track and flood lights will all be completed.

Separate from this, the Club, through the mechanism of the Community Employment and Rural Social Schemes is moving ahead with upgrading the spectator and other facilities at the Fr. Tierney Park. Recently the spectator stand was re-roofed and security fencing erected and over the coming months a further programme of works will be undertaken to improve spectator facilities including toilets, turnstiles, entrances/exits and other associated works.

At present planning work is near completion on a major fund-raising draw. The Club looks forward to the support of the community at large with this venture and GAA followers in Donegal and the surrounding area with this venture as all of the funds generated will be put to good use. All of this development work will be managed and led by the Park/Development Committee of the Club which has responsibility for leading out on and delivering all of the projects involved.

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Uimhir a haon a bhí ar liathróid Naomh Conaill do tharraingt Craobh Shinsear RTE/RnaG na Contae ar an 28ú Eanáir agus b'iad an chead fhoireann a thainig amach as an mhála agus ina gcuideachta bhí Na Cealla Beaga. Cluiche cruaidh do churaí na contae mar go bhfuil fuinnimh úr ins na Cealla Beaga agus ar dhóigh go bhfuil said cosúil le Naomh Conaill mar go bhfuil glún úr eirimúil ag teacht chun cinn ansin le roinnt blianta. Ar ndoighe bhain said craobh mionúir na contae agus rinne éacht sa chomortas cúige ag fáil fhad leis an chluiche ceannais. Mar sin beidh an chead chluiche sin thar a bheith suimiúil ar fad.

Thar an iomlán tá na cluichí sa chead bhabhta thar a bheith cothrom agus deacair moran de na buaiteoirí a thuar ag an am seo, rud nach raibh fíor blianta eile.

Casfaidh Naomh Columba agus Ard a'Ratha ar a chéile, an péire faoi bhainistíocht úr Cathal O Cianaigh agus Antoin Ó Luag agus is beag a bhéas eatarthú ach beidh Ard a'Ratha ag iarraidh cuntas níos fearr a thabhairt i mbliana no mar a rinne said i gcluiche leath cheannais

na bliana anuraidh.

Tá cluiche cruaidh ag Gleann Finne in éadan Naomh Adhamhnáin agus mar an gcéanna ag an Chlochán Liath in éadan Ghaoth Dobhair a bhéas ag iarraidh cur lena mbua i gCraobh faoi 21A na Contae oíche na seanbhliana.

Beidh an choimhlínt idir Naomh Micheal agus curaí an chraobh idirmhéanach Gleann Sulí thar a bheith suimiúil agus an chuma air ag an am seo go mbeidh an triú cluiche ag teastal le iad a scaradh agus d'fheadfadh an scéal céanna a bheith fíor idir Na Ceithre Maistrí agus an Tearmann a thug rás do Naomh Adhamhnáin sa chead bhabhta anuraidh.

Féadann Cill Chartha a bheith ar a gcoimhead in éadan Bhun Cranacha agus beidh an scéal céanna amhlaidh do Aodh Rua in éadan Mhalainn.

Sílím go mbéidh cupla "upset" againn nuair a bhéas an chead bhabhta thart agus mar a tharla anuraidh le Naomh Conaill cuirfidh sin brí agus spiorad i gCraobh na bliana seo.

Séamus Mac Géidigh RTE/RnaG

Raidio na Gaeltachta Senior & Senior Reserve Championship

Naomh Conaill v Killybegs
Glenfin v St. Eunans
Naomh Columba v Ardara
Buncrana v Kilcar
St. Michaels v Glenswilly
Dungloe v Gaoth Dobhair
Four Masters v Termon
Aodh Ruadh v Malin

Intermediate & Reserve Championship

Byes: Bundoran, Urris, Naomh Ultan

1st Round

Sean MacCumhails v Milford
Convoy v Downings
Fanad Gaels v Moville
St. Nauls v Carndonagh
Cloughaneely v Burt

*Best of luck to the Leitrim team
in the 2006 National League & Championship
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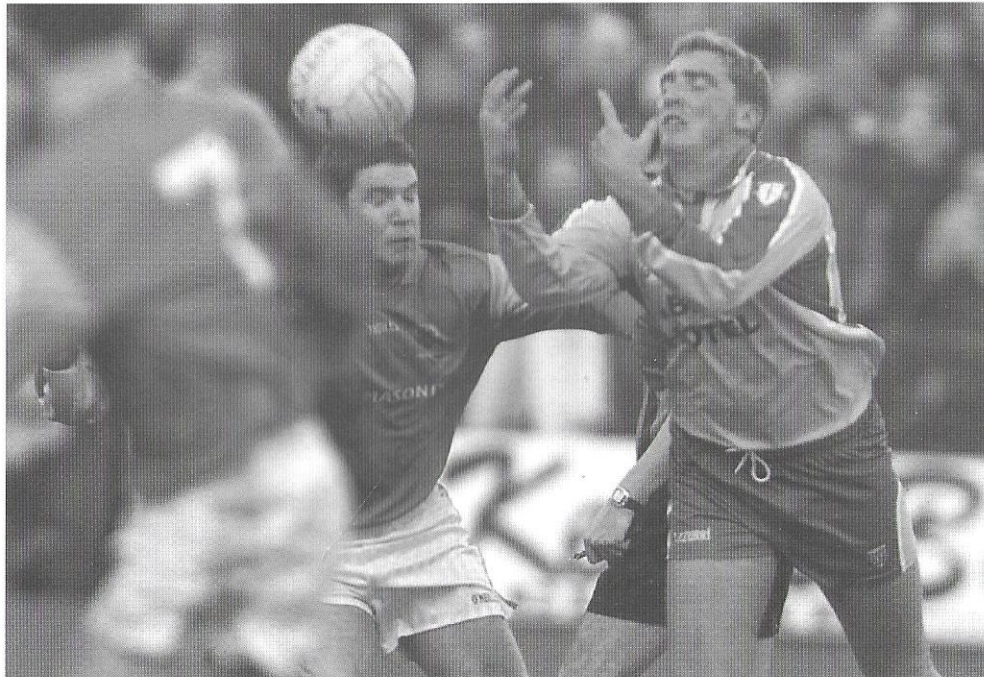
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Action from the last meeting.

Allianz NFL Div. 2A

Double scores in Cloone

Donegal2-10
Leitrim1-5

Two goals in the space of two minutes in the middle of the second half from Adrian Sweeney and Brendan Devenney, finally saw Donegal pull away from a determined Leitrim when they last met two years ago in Cloone.

Full-forward Sweeney rattled the Leitrim net on fifty three minutes for the first of the three pointers, after good work from Christy Toye, Brendan Devenney, and John Haran - to open up a four point lead for the second time in the contest.

Two minutes later, it was game set and match for the visitors, when Devenney took a long delivery from Paul McGonagle on the run to add goal number two. This score finally silenced the home support in the 2,500 approximate Cloone crowd who were still clutching on to hopes of an upset. Wing forward Michael Foley had raised those hopes with a goal five minutes into the second half to bring his side back into the game, and to within a point of the Tirchonail men.

Foley's goal was of the opportunist variety, as he cheekily lobbed Tony Blake, after Blake had been dispossessed by Colin Regan just outside his area. But that's as good as it got for the home team, and while it took Donegal some time to pull away again the goals sealed the victory.

While this was far from a vintage Donegal there was a sense of inevitability about the outcome from way out. True Leitrim were full of bluster and heart early on, but the harsh reality

is that when it came to translating possession into scores they were not in the same orbit as Donegal. Half forwards Michael Foley and Pat Farrell were the only Leitrim men to raise a flag, and what's more were the only men that looked like doing so. Wing man Foley posting 1-4, the 0-4 from frees, while Farrell knocked over their only point from play.

In fairness to the Leitrim attack, the Donegal rearguard with Niall McCreeady back on board looked razor sharp and in no mood for giving away handy scores.

The game went very much according to the script in the first half with Leitrim coming out with all guns blazing. And they had three shots on the Donegal posts, one of them a decent chance of a goal, before the visitors had got their first breath.

Despite the home team's early bluster, it was Donegal who were first to score, Brendan Devenney splitting the posts with a thirty five metre free. With their midfield and defence on top, Leitrim continued to set the pace and they were in

front by the fifteen minute mark with two pointed Foley frees. Adrian Sweeney brought Donegal level with a point from play in the middle of the half.

And it was still level, 0-3 each, well into the second quarter. Devenney and Foley trading scores. But in the closing ten minutes we got the first hint that Donegal had that little extra in their locker, and without much fuss they were two up, 0-5 to 0-3, thanks to late points from Michael Hegarty and Christy Toye. And like last week against Offaly, Donegal began the second half in whirlwind fashion, and had two points on the board inside three minutes. Brendan Devenney from a free and Adrian Sweeney from play the scorers. All of a sudden they were in the driving seat and four up, 0-7 to -3, but they were rocked when Foley chipped Blake for the Leitrim goal to reduce the margin to a single point once more.

While it took Donegal some time to recover from the setback, Leitrim were not able to build on their good fortune and in fact it was Donegal who were next to score, Paul McGonagle popping up in front of the posts to punish a poor clearance with a point. And minutes later it was lights out for Leitrim, with that two goal barrage from Sweeney and Devenney. Game over!

John Haran and Brendan Devenney put the icing on the win with two late points. With two wins under their belts Donegal are now joint top with Roscommon who also remain unbeaten after two rounds.

Donegal: Tony Blake; Niall McCreeady, Raymond Sweeney, Eamonn McGee; Shane Carr, Barry Monaghan, Kevin Cassidy; Paul McGonagle (0-1), Brendan Boyle; Brian McLaughlin, Michael Hegarty (0-1), Brian Roper; Johnny McCafferty, Adrian Sweeney (1-1), Brendan Devenney (1-4,3f); Subs: Christy Toye (0-1) for B. McLaughlin, 25 min.; Colm McFadden for J. McCafferty, half-time; John Gildea for Brendan Boyle, 47 min.; John Haran for B. Roper, 52 min.; Barry Dunion for N. McCreeady, 67 min.

Leitrim: Gareth Phelan; Michael McGuinness, John McKeon, Dermot Reynolds; Niall Gilbane, Seamus Quinn, Barry Prior; Shane Canning, Chris Carroll; Colin Regan, Pat Farrell (0-1), Michael Foley (1-4,4f); John McGuinness, Fintan McBrien, Jimmy Guckian. Subs: John McGoldrick for Fintan McBrien, 48 min; John Mooney for J. McGuinness, 55 min; Michael Greene for Niall Gilbane, 60 min; Dermot Kennedy for P. Farrell, 66 min.

Referee: P. Daly (Westmeath).

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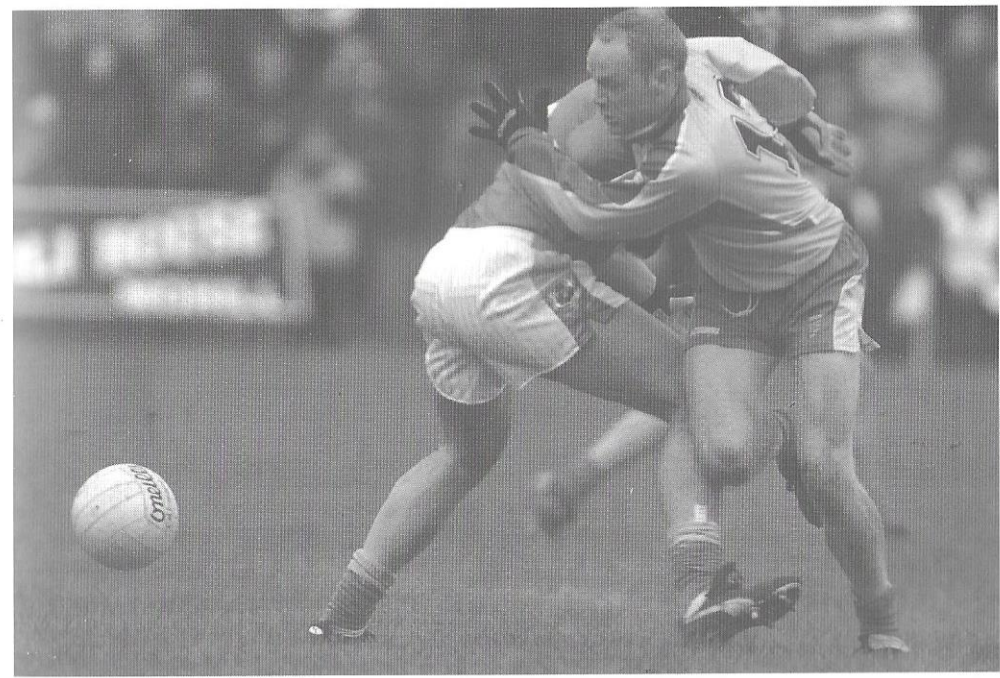
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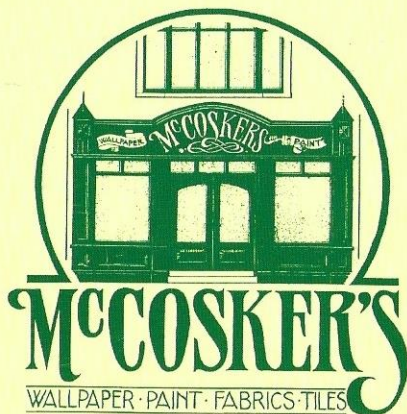
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