

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS



Páirc an Chrócaigh. 15 Aibreán, 2007.



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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS

ALLIANZ N.F.L. SEMI-FINAL 2.15 I.N.



GALLIMH



MAIGH EO

Réiteoir: David Coldrick (An Mhí)
Linesman: Cormac Reilly (An Mhí) (STANDBY REFEREE)
Con Reynolds (An Dún)

EXTRA TIME WILL BE PLAYED IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW

ALLIANZ N.F.L. SEMI-FINAL 4.00 I.N.



CILL DARA



DÚN NA NGALL

Réiteoir: Rory Hickey (An Clár)
Linesman: Michael Meade (Luimneach) (STANDBY REFEREE)
Pádraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha)

Sideline Official: Tomás Quigley (Baile Átha Cliath)


EXTRA TIME WILL BE PLAYED IN THE EVENT OF A DRAW



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TEACHTAIREACHT AN UACHTARÁIN



A Chairde, Is mór an onóir domsa fáilte a chuir romhaibh go Páirc an Chrócaigh inniu. Mar is eol dúinn tá na lae ag dul chun síneadh. Tá ár n-aighe go léir dírithe ar laethanta geala an t-Samhraidh ach níl amhras ar bith ann ach go bhfuilimid ag súil le cluichí den scoth inniu. Go n-eirí go geal leis na himreoirí go léir ata ag glacadh páirt inniu.

On behalf of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, I welcome you all to Páirc an Chrócaigh this afternoon for what promises to be two highly entertaining games. I welcome in particular the Players, Team Mentors and County Board Officials from the participating counties and I wish all the teams well in their endeavours. I also welcome our Match Officials and hope they also have an enjoyable and successful afternoon.

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is grateful for the generous support of our sponsors and I especially welcome the representatives of Allianz who sponsor the National Hurling and Football Leagues.

Right from the opening game in this year's Allianz National Football League Donegal have impressed in every outing. With two of their players recently awarded Vodafone All-Star of the Month Awards, it is not surprising that the team has reached today's semi-final in Croke Park. Although the county harbours strong championship ambitions this year, an Allianz National Football League Final appearance would be most welcome. The Lilywhites also had a tremendous league and are in Croke Park today on merit. The side is undergoing some rebuilding at present and it is to the credit of all concerned that they have progressed so well in the current league. Although meetings between Donegal and Kildare are pretty rare, I expect many patrons attending today's game will recall the 1991 semi-final between the same two counties which Kildare won on a score of 0-14 to 1-10. Naturally the Lilywhites would like a similar outcome today but the disappointment of three league final defeats in the nineties will have Donegal in determined mood to reach yet another final.

When the draws for this year's Senior Football Championships were made both Galway and Mayo supporters had their diaries clearly focused on the 20th May in Pearse Stadium. Fate however dictates that a dress rehearsal takes place in Croke Park this afternoon as the sides vie for a place in this year's Allianz National Football League Final. This has been a good league for Mayo and with an exciting crop of young talent emerging in the county a national title might well be the boost the side requires entering into what will be a highly competitive championship. After a less than impressive start to the league, Galway now find themselves just one game away from a second successive appearance in the Allianz National Football League Final. The re-emergence of some wise "old" heads during the league was the catalyst for Galway to reach today's semi-final. With Western pride at stake today, neither side will want to cede an advantage to the other as the big championship day looms.

I wish you all an enjoyable afternoon and I thank you for travelling to Croke Park, whether you are a supporter of one of the participating counties or just here to enjoy two great games of Gaelic Football from some of our most talented sportsmen.



Bainigí fíor-thaitneamh as imeachtaí an lae.

Nioclás Ó Braonáin

Nioclás Ó Braonáin
Uachtarán, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN LEAGUES FORMAT

Perhaps it was the overdue sunburst as much as the quality of the games, but last week's NHL quarter finals provided a scent of summer to hurling followers looking for meaningful action. Football fans were also enthralled, as the final round of league fixtures sliced and diced the contenders into winners, losers and big losers who jostled to make the league semi-finals, remain in their respective divisions or drop one or even two grades for next season. The phoney war is over and the business end of the league is upon us. Bring it on.

NAVEL GAZING

However, at the latter stages of the leagues we are also wont to cast a cold eye on the GAA's secondary competition. This annual bout of navel gazing has never gone away, induced by the mantra of those who question the status of the league: it is only used to unearth new players for the championship; it is only used to get players fit for the championship; who remembers the league champions come September? It is hard to dispute these accusations, but it is not for lack of trying that the GAA has failed to boost the status of the leagues. Its latest effort might be a step in the right direction.

The National Hurling League was mingled with the championship as far back as 1997 in the hope that championship intensity would be injected into pedestrian league encounters. This proved to be the case in the early stages of the championship, but as the back door shut and the championship reached its trap door stages, the remaining participants fielded weakened teams in the league and focused on hurling's big prize. Limerick defeated Galway to win the league in October of that year, but they had been knocked out of the first round of the Munster championship by Tipp in June, and the late addition of silverware was not enough to keep

Tom Ryan in his job. The experiment was abandoned the following year and the league was completed before the championship begun. Back to square one.

MAJOR CHANGE

"A major change occurred in 2002, when it was decided to have the leagues fit with the calendar year", according to the GAA's information officer Fergal McGill. "That has been a success since 2003, as managers are now playing their best teams in league games with the championship so close, as opposed to league games in October when the previous championship had just ended." It's early stages yet, but the statistics bear out his assertion. Since they were introduced in 1926, only 24% of league winners in both codes went on to win the All-Ireland. Yet three out of the last four NFL champions went on to win the All-Ireland in September (Kerry twice, and Tyrone), while the figure has risen to 50% in hurling (Kilkenny twice). Playing the whole league in the calendar year and in the run-in to the championship seems to be progress in the right direction, but there's more to come.

Task forces in hurling and football have recommended substantial changes in format for next year's competitions. The NHL will continue to have three divisions, but the split within these divisions is to be abolished, thus giving teams a greater minimum number of games. The split in the two NFL divisions will also disappear, but they will be replaced by four divisions, hence the scramble by teams like Cork and Limerick last weekend to avoid a two-tier drop. Cork football manager Bill Morgan is happy with the changes, but not with their execution. "I am very much in favour of splitting the league into four divisions, as it pits teams of relatively equal strength against one another, but the strength of Division 1A was lopsided when compared with Division 1B this year, so it was harder for us to avoid relegation to

"... MANAGERS ARE NOW PLAYING THEIR BEST TEAMS ..."

the new Division 2. I feel really sorry for the likes of Limerick who have to drop two divisions, as it would have been easier for them to avoid Division 3 if they had been in Division 2!"

SIMILAR FATE

A similar fate befell the Louth footballers, who dropped two divisions last week having earned promotion to the top flight for the first time in years. "We fought hard to beat Donegal and win Division 2 last year, and look how far they have gone this year", notes star forward Darren Clarke. "We followed up with a good championship campaign and were unlucky to lose to Meath in the qualifiers. This year was the first time we have had a chance to prepare for the championship with Division 1 football, so that's been great." Can we infer from this that dropping two divisions will hamper championship preparations next year? "We will have to wait and see how it goes next year. Fortunately, there will be teams in Division 3 like us who feel they should be in Division 2 or even Division 1." But is that fair? "It was a bit unfair for us to drop to Division 3, but it is even more unfair for counties like Waterford and Tipperary to go down to Division 4." For both Morgan and Clarke, there is no comfort to be gained from the

misfortune of lesser lights, only sympathy.

However, it is not all doom and gloom for the so-called weaker football counties; in fact it is quite the opposite. "Some football teams in Division 2A and 2B had no chance of being promoted, so the linear format will suit them better" notes Fergal McGill. "Only Division 4 teams will play in this year's Tommy Murphy Cup, and they will play in that tournament instead of the qualifier series, removing a round from the qualifier series and freeing up a couple of weekends in the summer for club championship games." Keeping the Tommy Murphy Cup among Division 4 teams will also make it more competitive, as it removes the stronger counties that made an early exit in the past and subsequently showed little interest in the competition. That will not be the case for the likes of Wicklow and Waterford, who would relish a chance to be in Croke Park to pick up silverware in August.

SIGNIFICANT

Like the poor, it seems the league will always be with us. The trick is to make it more significant by making it more competitive, and the idea of linking it with the championship is beginning to filter through to officials, to teams and to the match-going public. As McGill points out, "More teams are now winning the league and championship double, and the new league will complement the championship even more." If it whets the appetite for our summer games, it will be a step on the right road.

Best wishes to Mayo for 2007

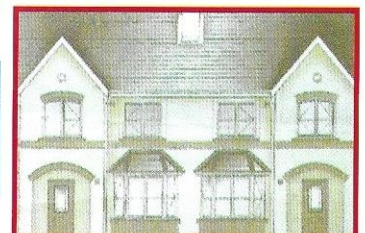


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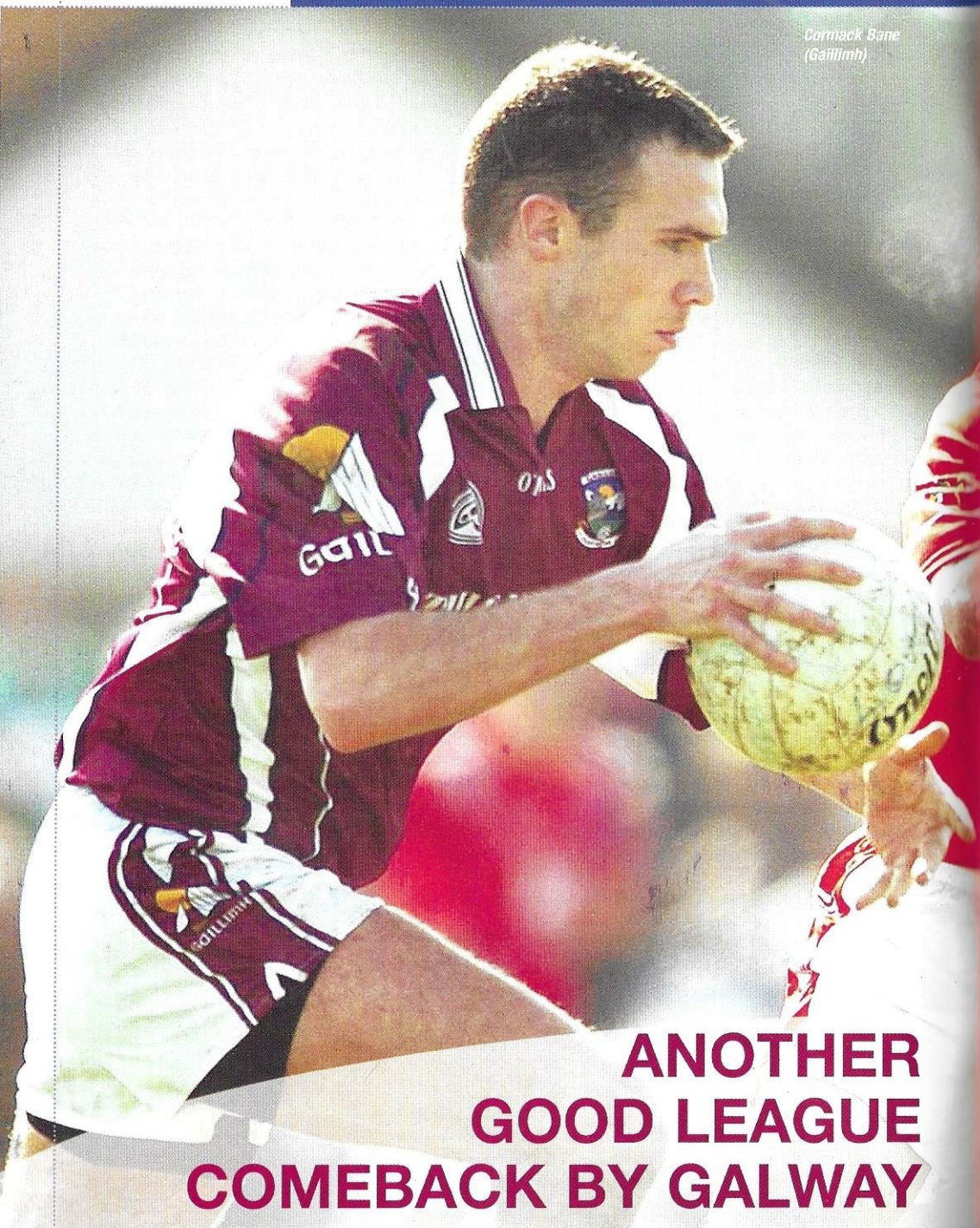
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Cormack Bane
(Gaillimh)



ANOTHER GOOD LEAGUE COMEBACK BY GALWAY



Will history repeat itself for Galway? Last year they collected just a single point from their first three games in the Allianz League, but recovered so well that they not only reached the semi-final, and also won that game.

They had a slightly better start this season, collecting two points from their first three outings. Nevertheless, it was still not a very encouraging beginning but, like last year, they have bounced back impressively with five wins in succession to earn another semi-final outing.

Last Sunday they clinched that outing with their highest scoring win of the season when seeing of a spirited challenge from Down at Tuam Stadium. The comeback qualities that have been a feature of the recent campaigns was again in evidence. Had Down made better use of their opportunities they might well have been further ahead at the break than 1-5 to 0-6.

BREAKTHROUGH

The visitors had somewhat the better of the early exchanges following the restart, but

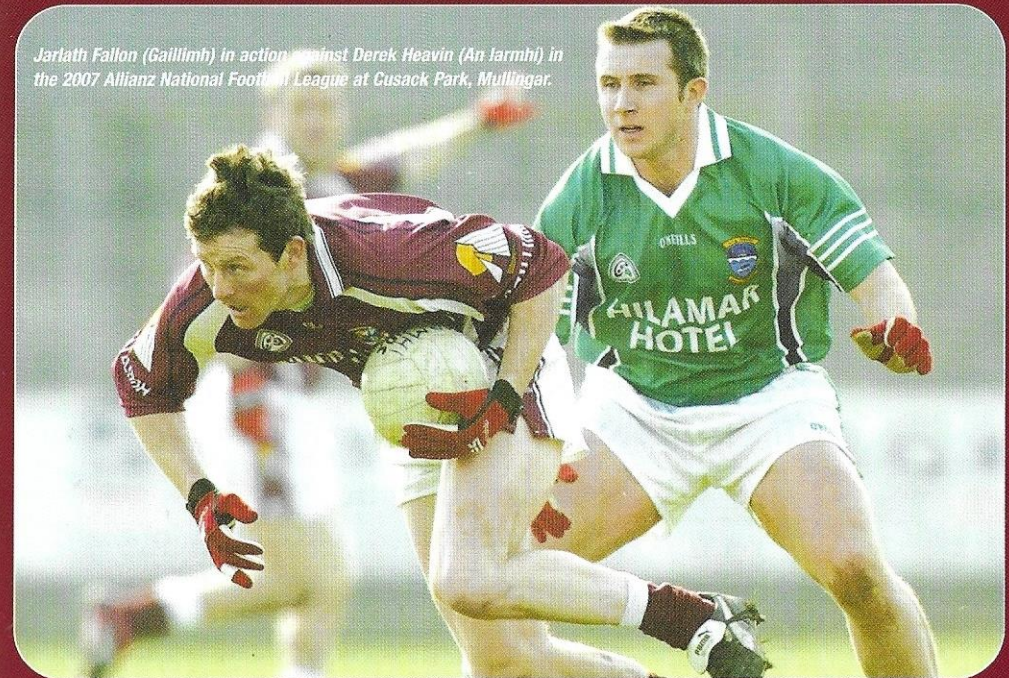
Galway achieved a real breakthrough after forty minutes when Michael Meehan goaled from a penalty. The Tribesmen went a point clear following a pointed free from Padraig Joyce four minutes later.

The exchanges continued keen but a golden spell that yielded quick goals from Nicky Joyce and Padraig Joyce put the home county eight points clear with about eight minutes remaining. They then held out for a hard-earned but well-merited 3-11 to 1-11 win.

This was a solid rather than spectacular win for Galway, with Pádraig Joyce to the forefront with his clever play and a return of 1-4.

Nickey Joyce also left his imprint, while Comac Bane, also in attack, Joe Bergin at midfield and Declan Meehan and Michael Comer at the back were others to play strong roles in the success.

Jariath Fallon (Gaillimh) in action against Derek Heavin (An Iarmhí) in the 2007 Allianz National Football League at Cusack Park, Mullingar.





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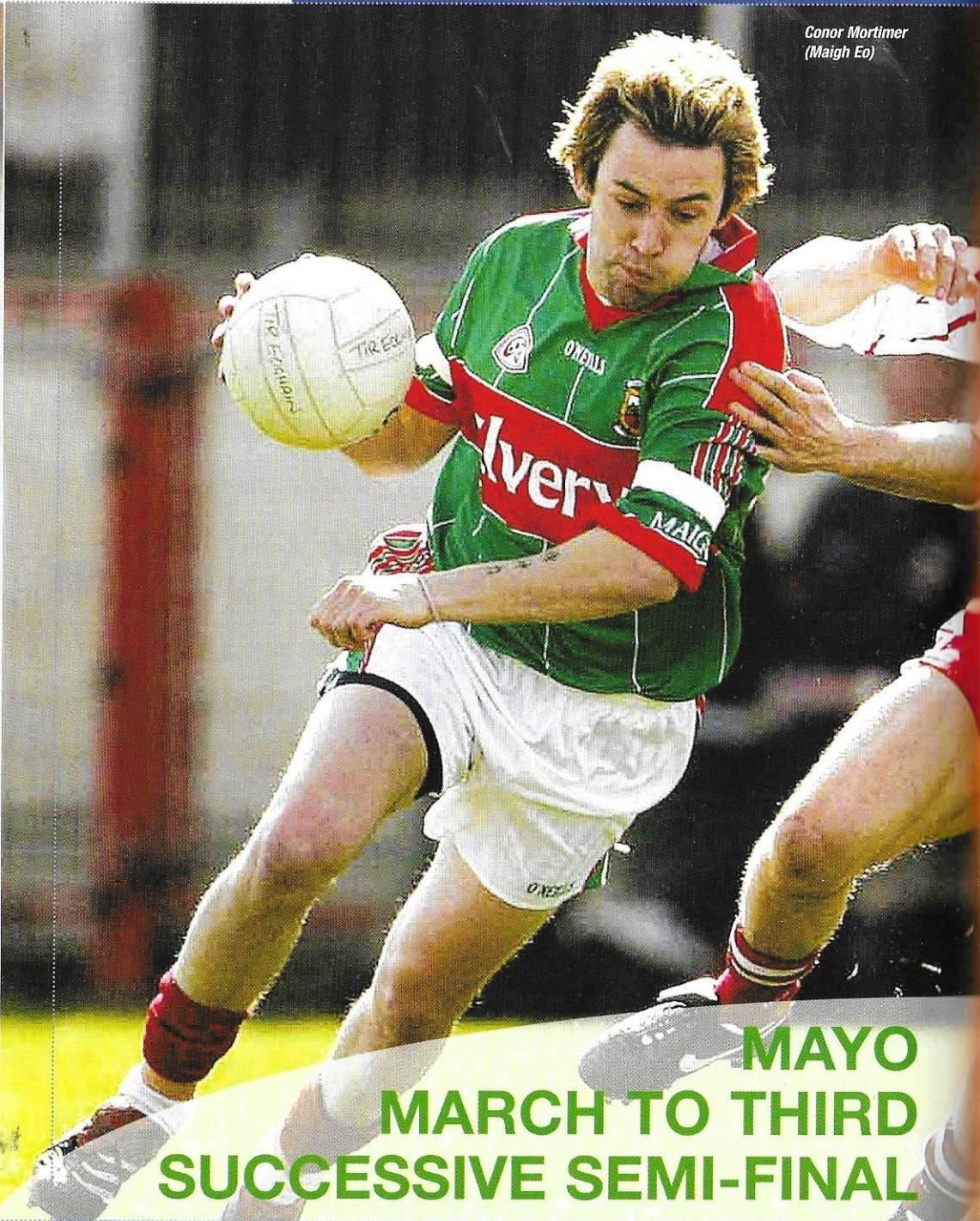
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GALLIMH & MAIGH EO HEAD-TO-HEAD



As well as a great championship rivalry, Galway and Mayo also enjoy a healthy league relationship with today's semi/final encounter the 39th in a series that is almost as long in existence as the competition itself. Of the previous 38 meetings Mayo have won 20, Galway 14 with four games drawn, the details of which are:

1927/28 - CASTLEBAR		TUAM	
Mayo 2-5; Galway 1-5		Galway 2-6; Mayo 0-7	
1928/29 - TUAM		1966/67 - TUAM	
Mayo 0-6; Galway 0-3		Galway 3-8; Mayo 0-6	
1930/31 - CASTLEBAR		CASTLEBAR	
Galway 1-5; Mayo 1-3		Galway 2-6; Mayo 2-4	
1931/32 - BALLINASLOE		1967/68 - CASTLEBAR	
Mayo 1-5; Galway 0-7		Galway 1-9; Mayo 0-4	
1932/33 - TUAM		1968/69 - TUAM	
Galway 1-2; Mayo 1-2		Mayo 1-8; Galway 0-7	
CASTLEBAR		BALLINA	
Mayo 3-6; Galway 1-5		Galway 1-7; Mayo 0-7	
1933/34 - CASTLEBAR		1974/75 - TUAM	
Mayo 2-8; Galway 0-3		Mayo 1-6; Galway 1-5	
1934/35 - TUAM		1975/76 - CHARLESTOWN	
Mayo 1-8; Galway 1-3		Galway 1-10; Mayo 0-7	
1935/36 - BALLINASLOE		1980/81 - TUAM	
Mayo 1-6; Galway 0-3		Galway 3-7; Mayo 2-10	
1936/37 - GALWAY		1981/82 - GALWAY	
Mayo 7-9; Galway 2-4		Galway 0-9; Mayo 0-7	
1937/38 - CASTLEBAR		1983/84 - TUAM	
Mayo 4-3; Galway 1-6		Galway 2-15; Mayo 0-11	
1938/39 - BALLINASLOE		1985/86 - BALLINA	
Galway 0-7; Mayo 0-6		Mayo 3-9; Galway 1-9	
1947/48 - CASTLEBAR		1988/89 - TUAM	
Mayo 1-4; Galway 0-3		Mayo 2-10; Galway 0-5	
1948/49 - TUAM		1991/92 - TUAM	
Mayo 1-11; Galway 1-3		Galway 1-9; Mayo 0-7	
1949/50 - CASTLEBAR		1994/95 - BALLINA	
Mayo 4-6; Galway 3-5		Mayo 0-9; Galway 0-9	
1950/51 - TUAM		1995/96 - CASTLEBAR	
Mayo 5-9; Galway 1-3		Mayo 1-6; Galway 0-6	
1951/52 - BALLINA		1997/98 - CASTLEBAR	
Mayo 3-11; Galway 1-4		Mayo 1-9; Galway 0-12	
1952/53 - TUAM		2000/01 - CROKE PARK (FINAL)	
Galway 3-3; Mayo 0-6		Mayo 0-13; Galway 0-12	
1965/66 - CASTLEBAR		2006 - CASTLEBAR (SEMI/FINAL)	
Galway 1-9; Mayo 0-2		Galway 1-11; Mayo 1-6	



Conor Mortimer
(Maigh Eo)

MAYO MARCH TO THIRD SUCCESSIVE SEMI-FINAL

Mayo, the one-time specialists of the National Football League, have come back from their Bank of Ireland All-Ireland senior football final defeat by Kerry with an impressive campaign in the Allianz National League.



Not only did they take revenge for their Sam Maguire Cup defeat, but they had booked their place in the League semi-finals for the third successive season before their final engagement against Tyrone.

After seeing of the Kingdom in round one, they displayed plenty of character in bouncing back from a second round loss to Donegal at Ballybofey. A comeback that ensured a win over Dublin at Castlebar in round six would send them through to the knock-out stages.

History repeated itself in a way. In the meeting of the counties in last year's All-Ireland semi-final Mayo turned a seven points deficit early in the second half into a one point victory.

They were not presented with anything like a similar mountain to climb in the League game. Nevertheless, Dublin had the better of the first-half exchanges and a strong finish to the half left them with what looked like a comfortable enough interval lead of 0-9 to 0-4.

NEW DRIVE

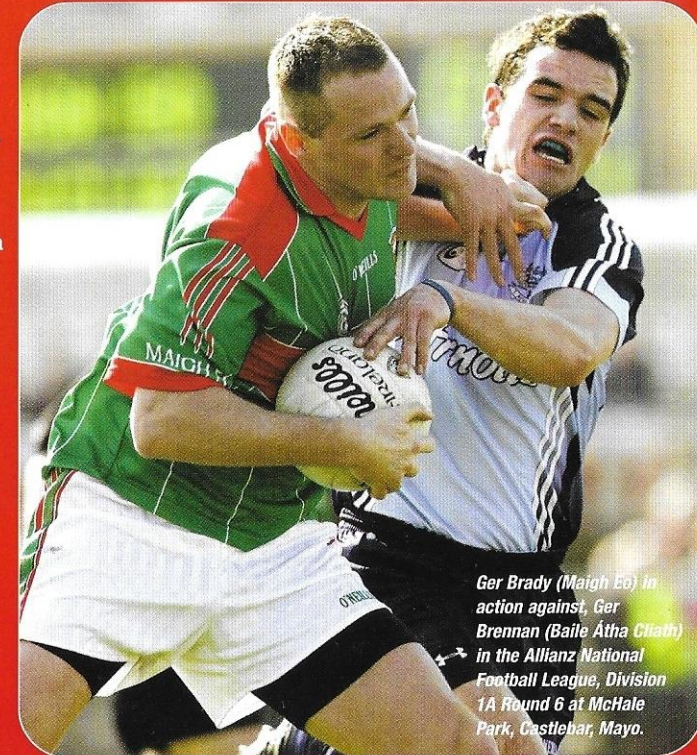
However, the introduction from the substitutes of Alan Dillon and Aidan Campbell brought new drive and purpose to the home effort.

Dublin's cause it has to be said was not helped by the dismissal by the referee of a forward early in the half. However, this cannot take from the merit of the Mayo come-back that earned them an exciting one point win. Remarkably, Dublin failed to score in the second half.

Mayo got on level terms in the 56th minute. Five minutes later Trevor Mortimer gave them the lead with a point. The exchanges were very competitive after that but there were no further scores and the Connacht champions held on for an 0-10 to 0-9 win.

Mortimer, top scorer with four points, substitutes Dillon and Campbell, midfielder David Heaney and Keith Higgins and Enda Devenney in defence were to the forefront in the success that allied with results elsewhere ensured a place in the semi-final.

However, they still finished their programme with a flourish, with Conor Mortimer scoring 3-1 in a 4-7 to 1-11 win over Tyrone.



Ger Brady (Maigh Eo) in action against, Ger Brennan (Baile Átha Cliath) in the Allianz National Football League, Division 1A Round 6 at McHale Park, Castlebar, Mayo.



GAILLIMH & MAIGH EO SEMI-FINAL RECORDS

GAILLIMH - 16

MAIGH EO - 24

WINS (10)			
1940	Galway	1-7	Roscommon 0-7
1957	Galway	1-10	Tyrone 2-5
1965	Galway	0-8	Meath 1-2
1966	Galway	2-12	Kildare 0-6
1967	Galway	1-10	Donegal 2-4
1981	Galway	0-10	Kerry 0-8
1984	Galway	1-10	Meath 0-13
replay	Galway	0-10	Meath 0-9
2001	Galway	2-12	Sligo 0-11
2004	Galway	1-16	Tyrone 1-16
replay	Galway	2-18	Tyrone 1-19
2006	Galway	1-11	Mayo 1-6

WINS (12)			
1935	Mayo	6-8	Tipperary 2-5
1938	Mayo	2-8	Kerry 0-7
1939	Mayo	3-7	Wexford 0-6
1941	Mayo	0-11	Down 1-4
1949	Mayo	4-11	Wexford 2-4
1951	Mayo	1-6	Cork 0-2
1954	Mayo	0-11	Dublin 0-7
1970	Mayo	0-10	Kerry 1-5
1971	Mayo	1-9	Dublin 0-8
1972	Mayo	2-10	Offaly 0-16
replay	Mayo	1-9	Offaly 0-6
1978	Mayo	0-10	Down 0-6
2001	Mayo	0-16	Roscommon 1-10

LOSSES (6)			
1931	Kerry	2-5	Galway 1-1
1963	Down	2-8	Galway 4-1
1968	Down	2-10	Galway 1-8
1976	Dublin	1-11	Galway 0-12
1980	Cork	1-16	Galway 1-6
1987	Dublin	1-8	Galway 0-8

LOSSES (12)			
1932	Kerry	2-5	Mayo 1-6
1933	Meath	2-7	Mayo 1-3
1958	Dublin	0-10	Mayo 0-7
1961	Derry	0-11	Mayo 1-7
1975	Meath	4-6	Mayo 0-8
1977	Dublin	2-12	Mayo 0-5
1981	Roscommon	1-11	Mayo 1-6
1986	Monaghan	0-10	Mayo 1-6
1996	Derry	1-12	Mayo 0-7
2002	Tyrone	3-12	Mayo 0-11
2005	Armagh	0-19	Mayo 0-14
2006	Galway	1-11	Mayo 1-6

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Best wishes to the Mayo Team in today's Semi-final!

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GALWAY ON TOP IN LAST YEAR'S SEMI-FINAL

2006 GALWAY 1-11 MAYO 1-6

Today's semi/final is a repeat of the counties' meeting twelve months ago at Castlebar when Galway easily disposed of Mayo in a one-sided encounter. The final margin of victory – five points – suggests that this match may have been fairly competitive, but had the winners been more clinical up front, the victory margin would surely have run into double figures.

Initially, however, the victors struggled and despite enjoying the wind advantage they found themselves a point behind with 20 minutes played, by which point their tally of wides was beginning to mount. Eventually, they found their range and points from Derek Savage, Pádraig Joyce, Michael Meehan and Michael Comer gave them an advantage they never subsequently looked like surrendering.

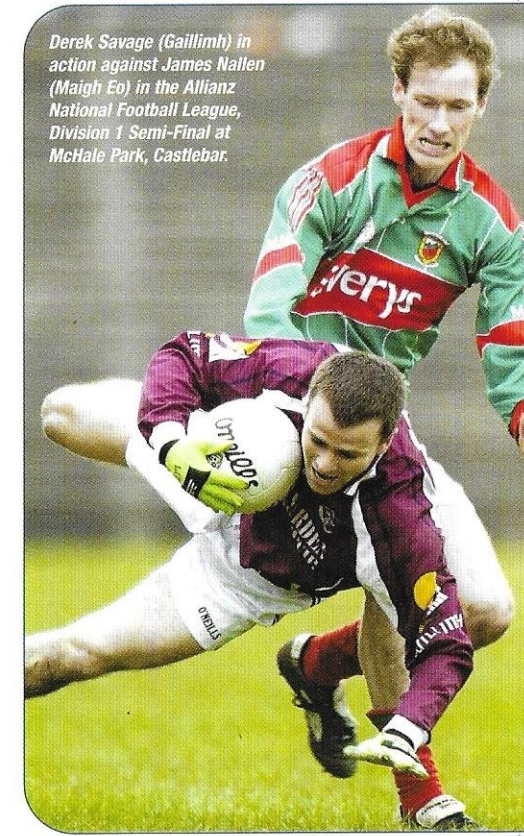
At the 28th minute Niall Coleman provided the pass for Matthew Clancy's goal to make it 1-5 to 0-2 and six points still divided the sides at the change of ends after Alan Dillon and Joyce swapped points.

It was imperative that the hosts make a fast start to the second period, but quarter of an hour's endeavour saw them reduce the deficit by just a point. Paul Clancy restored the interval advantage with a rasping shot that was deflected over the bar and a free from Michael Donnellan made it 1-9 to 0-5 as Mayo derived no advantage from the elements.

Indeed, Sean Armstrong could have ended the contest when good work by Donnellan and Meehan presented him with a glorious goal opportunity, but he blazed wide. A goal by Austin O'Malley twelve minutes from time did instill some doubt in the Corribside support, but a couple of points from Joyce and Donnellan settled the issue.

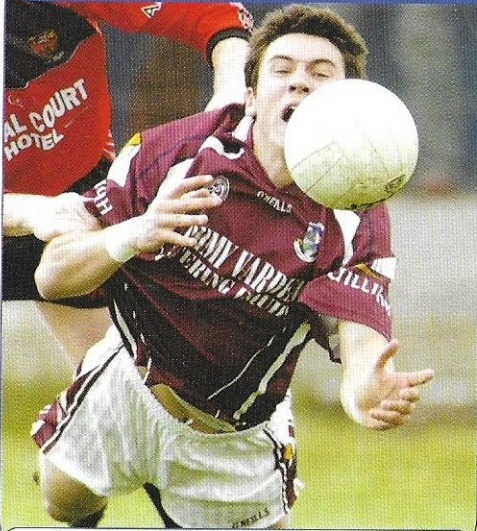
Galway scorers: P.Joyce 0-4, M.Clancy 1-0, M.Donnellan 0-2, M.Meehan, S.Armstrong, M.Comer,

D.Savage, P.Clancy 0-1 each.
 Mayo scorers: A.O'Malley 1-3, A.Dillon 0-2, T.Mortimer 0-1.
 Gaillimh – A.Keane, D.Meehan, K.Fitzgerald, D.Burke, A.Burke, D.Blake, M.Comer, P.Clancy, N.Coleman, M.Clancy, D.Savage, M.Donnellan, M.Meehan, P.Joyce, S.Armstrong. Subs – P.Geraghty (M.Clancy), B.Cullinane (Armstrong).
 Maigh Eo – J.Healy, K.Higgins, D.Heaney, L.O'Malley, T.Howley, J.Nallen, P.Gardiner, J.Gill, R.McGarrity, B.J.Padden, G.Brady, A.Dillon, A.Moran, A.O'Malley, A.Durcan. Subs – D.Brady (Durcan), T.Mortimer (Gill), C.McDonald (G.Brady), P.Kelly (Howley).

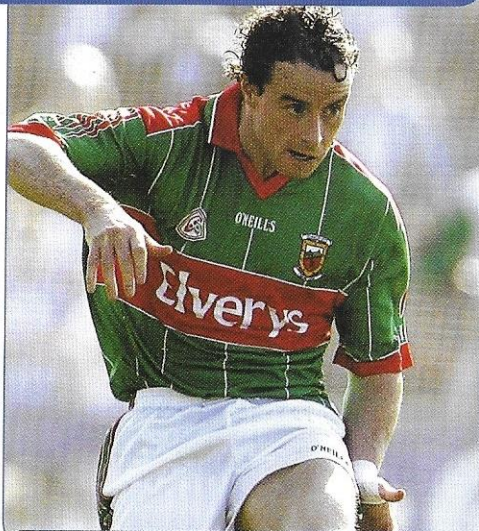


Derek Savage (Gaillimh) in action against James Nallen (Maigh Eo) in the Allianz National Football League, Division 1 Semi-Final at McHale Park, Castlebar.

NA CAPTAEIN



FINIAN HANLEY (GAILLIMH)



KEVIN O'NEILL (MAIGH EO)

A CROWDED MONTH

In the greatest days of Kildare football the Lily Whites performed many notable feats, and perhaps one of these was in 1929 when they played the league semi/final and an All-Ireland semi/final in the space of three weeks...and against the same opposition.

The 1928/29 league campaign was running late and the semi/final was fixed for August 4th at Carrickmacross with Kildare taking on Monaghan. The Lily Whites made light of the away venue and duly dispatched the home side by 4-5 to 0-5 to qualify for the final.

Just three weeks later the counties rejoined battle at Croke Park in the All-Ireland semi/final, and although the result was the same – a Kildare win – the margin of victory was not (0-9 to 0-1).

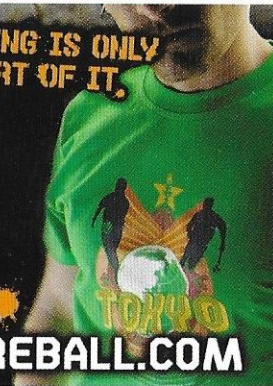
Kildare faced Kerry in the final of both competitions and lost each time, but they could still claim the distinction of being the only county to win a league and championship semi/final in the same month!

THE FUTURE HAS NEVER
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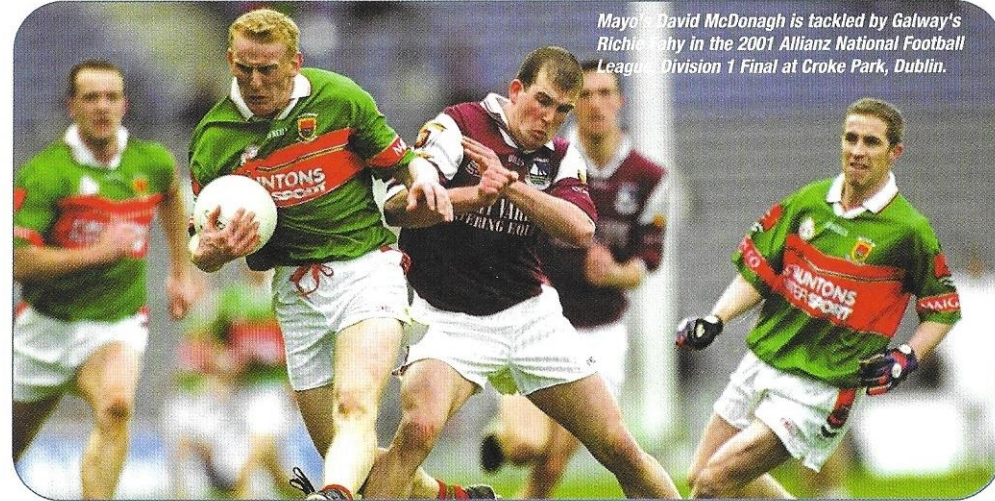
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MAYO TAKE-TITLE IN LAST WIN



Mayo's David McDonagh is tackled by Galway's Richie Fahy in the 2001 Allianz National Football League Division 1 Final at Croke Park, Dublin.

2001
MAYO 0-13 GALWAY 0-12

Not exactly the thriller the final scoreline suggests, but Mayo's most recent victory over Galway in the National League was in the final at Croke Park six years ago before an attendance of just under 23,000. The game ebbed and flowed with each side having their little periods of dominance, but Mayo timed theirs to perfection and held the Corribiders scoreless for the final 23 minutes, in which time they grabbed the points that secured their 11th title and first in more than 30 years.

Initially, Galway were on top and in the opening four minutes they set out their stall with three points. Gradually Mayo found their feet and ten minutes before the break they were back on terms, only for another period of Galway pressure that yielded another three unanswered points. Still, Mayo refused to panic and by the change of ends trailed by just the minimum – 0-7 to 0-8.

On the restart Galway took it up again and twelve minutes after the restart it appeared as if they had finally broken the Mayo challenge as they led by 0-12 to 0-9. However, David Brady was starting to

get a grip on the midfield battle and he had a telling influence on the remainder of the game. Despite dominating possession, it took the wearers of the green and red some time to close the gap, but having done so Marty McNicholas lofted over the winner with three minutes remaining.

There was still time for Galway to save the day, but by this stage their attack had become totally disjointed and was of little threat to a resolute Mayo rearguard.

MAYO SCORERS: J.Gill 0-3, R.Loftus, M.Sheridan, N.Connelly 0-2 each, C.McManamon, D.McDonagh, S.Carolan, M.McNicholas 0-1 each.

GALWAY SCORERS: J.Donnellan 0-4, P.Joyce 0-3, D.Savage, M.Donnellan 0-2 each, S.Walsh 0-1.

MAIGH EO – P.Burke, R.Connelly, T.Nallen, K.Cahill, F.Costello, A.Roche, N.Connelly, C.McManamon, D.Brady, J.Gill, D.McDonagh, S.Carolan, M.McNicholas, R.Loftus, T.Mortimer. Subs – M.Moyles (Mortimer), J.Nallen (Roche), M.Sheridan (Loftus), D.Nestor (Moyles).
GAILLIMH – P.Lally, M.Comer, K.Fitzgerald, M.Colleran, D.Meehan, J.Divilly, S.dePaor, M.Donnellan, J.Bergin, M.Clancy, K.Comer, L.Colleran, D.Savage, P.Joyce, J.Donnellan. Subs – S.Walsh (Clancy), R.Fahy (M.Comer), T.Mannion (M.Colleran), J.Fallon (K.Comer), S.Ó Dómhnaill (Bergin).



AG DRUIDIM LE DEIREADH AN RÁIS

Tá lucht faire na caide ag tnúth go mór le haicsean an lae inniu. Tá na laethanta ag dul i bhfad agus tá Craobhchomórtas 2007 faoi chaibidil ag go leor daoine. Bhí cluichí den scoth sa sraith Allianz go dtí seo agus tá súil arís inniu le hard-choimhlint nuair a bheidh fathaigh Chonnachta – Muigheo agus Gaillimh- agus laochra móra Laighean agus Uladh - Cill Dara agus Tír Chonaill - in adharca a chéile.

Ní fada go mbeidh na sluaite ag bailiú san Iarthar don choimhlint bhliantúil idir Mhuigheo agus Gaillimh sa Chraobhchomórtas. Inniu i bPáirc an Chrócaigh beidh deis ag a lucht leanta, agus go leor nach iad, na foirne a mheas. Bhí cúrsaí peile i Muigheo in isle brí fada go leor i ndiaidh chluiche ceannais an bliana seo chaite

nuair a thug fir na Ríochta léasadh dóibh. Is cosúil go bhfuil éacht déanta, go dtí seo ar aon nós, ag John Maughan agus bhí feachtas sraithe tharr bharr ag an bhfoireann. Má éiríonn leo dul tríd go dtí cluiche cenanais na sraithe tabharfaidh sé uchtach do lucht leanta dílis an chontae do shamhradh eile le dóchas.

Tá lucht leanta na Gaillimhe ag súil freisin le haiséirí na peile sa chontae agus baineann said taitneamh i gcónaí as chath na gcomharsan le Muigheo. Tá foireann óg go leor acu faoi láthair ach tá leithéidí Pauric Joyce, Joe Bergin Michael Meehan agus Ja Fallon ina measc go fóill - laochra le an-thaithí acu ar laethanta mar seo. Bhí an lámh in uachtar acu ar An Dún an tseachtain seo chaite agus is léir go bhfuil go

“Bhí cluichí don scoth sa sraith Allianz go dtí seo...”

leor le déanamh acu go fóill roimh dhúshlán mór Chonnachta i Staid an Phiarsaigh i gceann cúig seachtain. Ní chuirfidh sé ionadh ar éinne má éiríonn leo Muigheo a chloí inniu ach ní dócha go bhfuil said réidh go fóill agus moltar fir John O’Mahony chun dul tríd go dtí an cluiche ceannais.

Níor éirigh le héinne Tír Chonaill a chloí go fóill i mbliana sa sraith Allianz. Tá a stíl imeartha athruithe go mór ag Brian McIver agus tá siad ag imirt le scil, féinmhuinín agus neart. Is beag nár tháinig Fear Manach aniar aduaidh orthu sa bhabhta deireannach. Bhíodar 2-4 do 0-3 chun deiridh ach léirigh siad go raibh mianach iontu agus bhí an lá leo arís. Beidh siad ag brath arís inniu ar leithéidí Barry Monaghan agus Kevin Cassidy ach tá go leor imreoirí fiúntacha nach iad ar an bhfoireann. Cuirfidh Cill Dara fíor-scrúdú orthu um thráthnóna agus sin í an dúshlán atá uathu agus iad ag ullmhú d’fheachtas Uladh sa Chraobhchomórtas.

Tá na fir lártíre ó Chill Dara i gcluiche leathcheannais an sraithe don chéad uair ó 1997 nuair a chloí Corcaigh iad. Bhíodar ann freisin i 1991 nuair a bhí an lá leo in aghaidh an gConnallach. Sháraigh na Dubs iad sa chluiche ceannais an bhliain sin. Níl amhras ar bith go bhfuil lá mór eile tuille go maith acu. Bhí ard choimhlint acu an tseachtain seo chaite in aghaidh Laoise. Bhí 14,000 i láthair agus ní raibh díomá ar éinne ag dul abhaile. Tá seanfhondúir - leithéidí Tadhg Fennin agus John Doyle – ag imirt chomh maith agus a bhí riamh agus tá cúpla óganach tógtha isteach ag John Crofton atá thar bharr freisin. Níl amhras ná go raibh mí-ach ar Laois. Tá go leor dá nimreoirí gortuithe faoi láthair agus tá súil le coimhlint eile idir na contaethe seo i rith an tsamhraidh. Inniu, áfach, ceaptar go mbeidh an lá ag na Conallach ach ní bheid mórán eatarthu.

Ta súil againn go mbeidh an ghriain ag spalpadh anuas ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh inniu agus go mbeidh ard-lá ag na himreoirí agus an lucht féachana araon. Bainigí spraoi as an ócáid.

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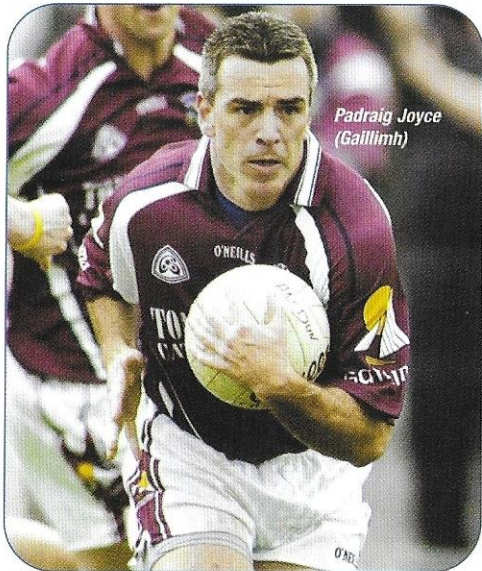
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IT HAPPENED IN THE ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE 07



Padraig Joyce
(Gaillimh)

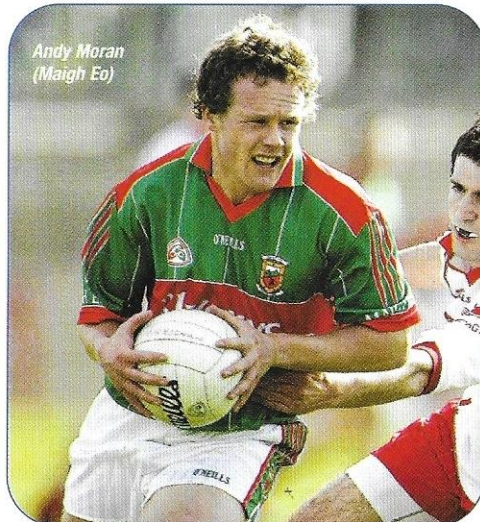
Mullingar against Laois and in the process recorded their first win over the O'Moore County in the League since 1983.

- BLISTERING**
 John Doyle made a blistering start in the scoring review by scoring eleven points for Kildare—all but one point of their entire total—in their winning start against Armagh at Droichead Nua.
- FLOODLIGHTS**
 New floodlights were switched on at Portlaoise in early February and Laois marked the occasion with a hard-earned one point win over Galway in a low scoring (0-8 to 0-7) second round tie.
- TREBLE**
 A power-packed midfield performance by Neil Gallagher helped Donegal to complete a remarkable treble over reigning provincial champions with victory over Leinster kingpins Dublin at Ballyshannon in round

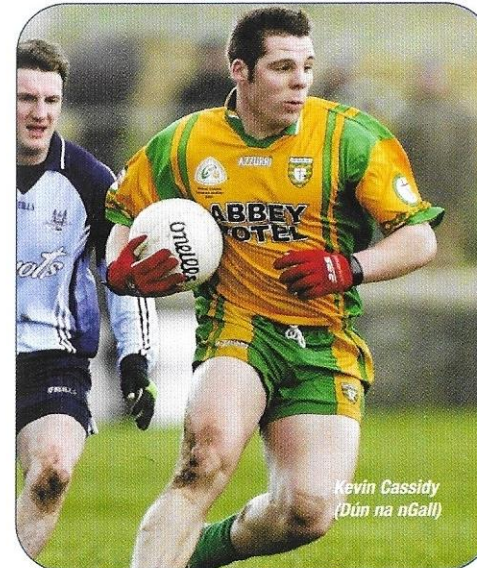
- FIRST SCORE**
 The first score in Division I of the Allianz National Football League was recorded on that memorable Saturday evening in early February when the lights were officially switched on at Croke Park before an attendance of 81,678. The meeting of Tyrone and Dublin was just over six minutes old when Dublin midfielder Diarmuid Connolly (Dublin) pointed from a free. Two and a half minutes later came the next score and the first from play, a point by Alan Brogan (Dublin).

- FIRST GOAL**
 The Donegal-Cork game at Páirc Uí Rinn on the same evening started half an hour after the Croke Park tie and was six minutes old when Cork forward Kevin O'Sullivan helped himself to the first goal of the campaign.

- FOGGY DAY**
 The following afternoon Westmeath made a winning start in the foggy conditions at



Andy Moran
(Maigh Eo)



Kevin Cassidy
(Dún na nGall)

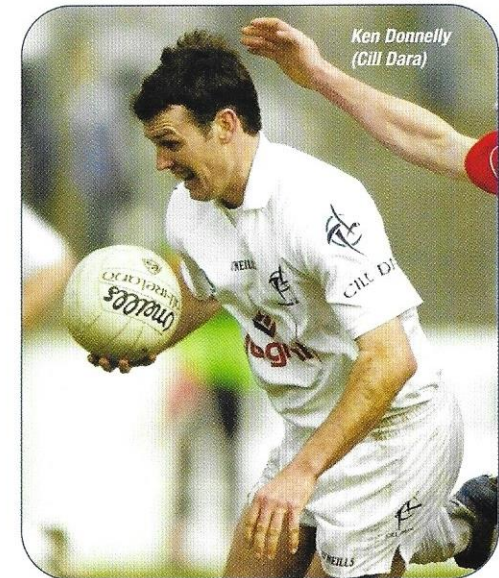
three. Earlier they beat Cork and Mayo, champions of their respective provinces.

- FIVE OUT OF FIVE**
 Donegal made it five wins in five outings when they entertained Kerry at O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, at the end of March in the first inter-county competitive football game played there in thirty years. M. F. Russell opened the scoring with a point from play for Kerry after just over a minute.
- NO SCORE**
 A remarkable feature of the meeting of Mayo and Dublin at Castlebar in round six was the fact that the visitors failed to register a single score in the second half. Dublin were awarded a penalty in that half but the shot hit an upright and spun wide. That win, allied to a draw the previous



evening between Kerry and Tyrone at Austin Stack Park, Tralee, ensured that Mayo went through to the semi-finals—even with a game against the O'Neill County outstanding.

- FOUR-GOAL DRAW**
 It is not often that a team scores four goals and still has to settle for a draw. That was Donegal's fate in round six when they visited Limerick knowing that a point would be enough to put them through to the knock-out stages. The Ulster men were three points clear coming up to the final whistle, when Limerick scored a goal to earn a draw.



Ken Donnelly
(Cill Dara)

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PATHS TO THE SEMI-FINALS



GALWAY

4th February, Salthill:	Galway 0-7; Derry 0-12
10th February, Portlaoise:	Galway 0-7 Laois 0-8
25th February, Salthill:	Galway 0-10; Armagh 0-8
11th March, Salthill:	Galway 1-8; Kildare 1-6
25th March, Mullingar:	Galway 1-13; Westmeath 0-10
1st April, Dundalk:	Galway 1-12; Louth 0-11
8th April, Tuam:	Galway 3-11; Down 1-11
Total Scored 6-68 (86)	
Total Conceded 2-66 (72) Average 1.2	

MAYO

4th February, Castlebar:	Mayo 1-11; Kerry 0-11
11th February, Ballybofey:	Mayo 1-10; Donegal 1-13
25th February, Castlebar:	Mayo 1-10; Limerick 0-7
11th March, Clones:	Mayo 0-12; Fermanagh 1-7
24th March, Pairc Ui Rinn:	Mayo 1-12; Cork 2-8
1st April, Castlebar:	Mayo 0-10; Dublin 0-9
8th April, Omagh:	Mayo 4-7; Tyrone 1-11
Total Scored 8-72 (96)	
Total Conceded 5-66 (81) Average 1.19	

DONEGAL

3rd February, Páirc Uí Rinn:	Donegal 1-12; Cork 2-7
11th February, Ballybofey:	Donegal 1-13; Mayo 1-10
25th February, Ballybofey:	Donegal 0-9; Dublin 0-5
10th March, Healy Park:	Donegal 2-11; Tyrone 1-8
25th March, Letterkenny:	Donegal 1-15 Kerry 0-13
1st April, the Gaelic Grounds:	Donegal 4-6; Limerick 2-12
8th April, Ballybofey:	Donegal 1-13; Fermanagh 2-9
Total Scored 10-79 (109)	
Total Conceded 8-64 (88) Average 1.24	

KILDARE

4th February, Droichead Nua:	Kildare 0-12; Armagh 0-10
11th February, Newcastle:	Kildare 1-11; Down 0-14
25th February, Droichead Nua:	Kildare 0-10; Derry 0-7
11th March, Salthill:	Kildare 1-6; Galway 1-8
25th March, Droichead Nua:	Kildare 0-14; Louth 2-7
1st April, Mullingar:	Kildare 0-9; Westmeath 0-8
8th April, Droichead Nua:	Kildare 0-15; Laois 1-12
Total Scored 2-77 (83)	
Total Conceded 4-66 (78) Average 1.06	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Padraig Joyce	—	—	0-5	0-2	0-6	0-5	1-4	1-22
Nicky Joyce	—	0-5	0-2	—	0-2	0-4	1-2	1-15
Cormac Bane	0-2	—	0-1	0-4	—	0-3	0-1	0-11
Derek Savage	0-1	0-1	—	1-0	0-2	—	—	1-4
Michael Meehan	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	1-1	2-1
Joe Bergin	—	0-1	0-2	—	0-2	—	0-1	0-6
Matthew Clancy	0-2	—	—	—	1-0	—	—	1-2
Ja Fallon	—	—	—	0-1	0-1	—	0-1	0-3
Michael Comer	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Fiachra Breathnach	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Niall Coleman	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Diarmuid Blake	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Conor Mortimer	0-1	0-4	—	0-7	1-4	0-4	3-1	4-21
Alan Dillon	0-4	0-2	0-3	0-1	—	0-1	0-2	0-13
Andy Moran	—	0-1	0-2	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-6
Austin O'Malley	0-2	0-2	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-5
Ger Brady	—	—	0-1	0-1	—	—	0-3	0-5
Pat Harte	1-0	0-1	—	0-1	—	—	—	1-2
Trevor Mortimer	—	—	1-1	0-1	—	—	—	1-2
Peadar Gardiner	0-3	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-4
David Heaney	—	—	—	—	0-2	0-2	—	0-4
Aidan Kilcoyne	—	—	—	—	0-2	0-1	—	0-3
Trevor Howley	—	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	1-0
Kevin O'Neill	0-1	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-2
Aidan Campbell	—	—	0-1	0-1	—	—	—	0-2
Marty McNicholas	—	—	—	—	0-2	—	—	0-2
Enda Devenney	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1
Neil Gallagher	—	1-0og	—	—	—	—	—	1-0

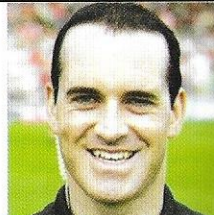
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Brendan Devenney	0-1	0-4	0-3	0-3	0-7	0-2	—	0-20
Colm McFadden	0-1	0-1	0-3	1-4	0-3	—	—	1-12
Kevin McMenamin	1-3	0-4	—	—	—	—	0-2	1-9
Kevin Cassidy	0-1	—	—	1-0	0-2	1-1	—	2-4
Christy Tóye	0-2	0-1	—	1-0	—	1-0	—	2-3
Ciaran Bonner	0-1	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-3	—	—	0-8
Adrian Sweeney	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	0-4	1-4
Rory Kavanagh	—	—	0-1	0-3	0-1	—	—	0-5
Michael Hegarty	—	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-3	—	0-5
Ryan Bradley	—	1-0	—	—	—	—	0-1	1-1
Leon Thompson	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	—	1-0
Michael Doherty	—	—	—	—	—	1-0	—	1-0
Brian Roper	0-2	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-2
Johnny McLoone	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1	0-2
Barry Monaghan	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
Barry Dunnion	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
P McConigley	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Denis Boyle	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
John Doyle	0-11	0-5	0-5	—	0-8	0-4	0-4	0-37
Padraig O'Neill	0-1	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-10
Tadhg Fennin	—	—	—	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-3	0-7
Murt Donnelly	—	1-0	0-1	1-0	—	—	—	2-1
Emmett Belton	—	0-1	—	—	0-3	—	0-1	0-5
James Kavanagh	—	—	0-1	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-4
Ken Donnelly	—	—	—	—	—	0-2	0-2	0-4
Killian Brennan	—	0-1	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-2
Tomas O'Connor	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-2
Anthony Rainbow	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	—	0-1
M Scanlon	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1
D McCormack	—	—	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Kevin O'Neill	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1
Mark Hogarty	—	—	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1

AN RÉITEOIR

DAVID COLDRICK (AN MHÍ)

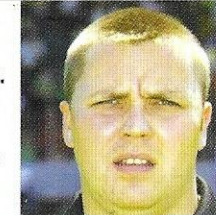
David has plenty of refereeing experience both in this country and in Australia. He has been on duty in International Rules Tests at under-17 and senior in Australia and was the Irish Referee/Umpire at the Second Test at Croke Park last year. On the home-front, Coldrick has controlled games in the Allianz League and the Bank of Ireland senior championship and in 2005 took charge of his first AIB All-Ireland club senior final. He won minor and under-21 football championship medals with Kilcloon-Myonalty, and is now a Blackhall Gaels club member.



AN RÉITEOIR

RORY HICKEY (AN CLÁR)

Rory made his Croke Park debut as a referee in the All-Ireland minor football semi-final between Roscommon and Meath last August. Earlier last year he was on duty in the Allianz League in London and also in the Cadbury Munster Under-21 championship. He won county minor and junior championships medals in hurling and football with the Éire Óg club in Ennis, and referees locally in both codes. Hickey's Allianz League programme this season includes the Mayo-Cork tie at Páirc Uí Rinn under lights last month.





CILL DARA

DATHANNA: BÁN

	1ADH LEATH	2ADH LEATH	IONLÁN
CÚIL			
CÚILÍNÍ			
SEACHAI			
45m			
SAOR			
CICEANNA			



FIR IONAD

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| (16) THOMAS CORLEY
T. Mac Thoirealtaigh
(Acadha Mórdha) | (19) TOMÁS O'CONNOR
T. Ó Conchúir
(Claonadh) | (22) DAMIEN HENDY
D. Ó hEndí
(Diseart Diarmada) | (25) TIMMY DOWLING
T. Ó Dúllaing
(Fiodh Aluine) | (28) ADRIAN KELLY
A. Ó Ceallaigh
(Áth Í) |
| (17) MARK SCANLON
M. Ó Scannláin
(Na Cloighithe) | (20) MARTIN DONNELLY
M. Ó Donnalle
(Baile Ellis) | (23) ROBERT McCABE
R. Mac Cába
(Baile Thaidgh) | (26) DEREK McCORMACK
D. Mac Cormaic
(Baileach Eile) | (29) MICHAEL CONWAY
M. Mac Conbhuí
(An Urnaí) |
| (18) BRIAN FLANAGAN
B. Ó Flannagáin
(Baile Sheáin) | (21) IAN LONERGAN
I. Ó Longargáin
(Acadha Mórdha) | (24) WILLIAM HEFFERNAN
L. Ó hfeárnáin
(An Urnaí) | (27) TOMMY ARCHIBALD
T. Mac Giolla Easpaig
(Baile Mór) | (30) NIALL BROWNE
N. de Brún
(Teach Dhá Mhíle) |

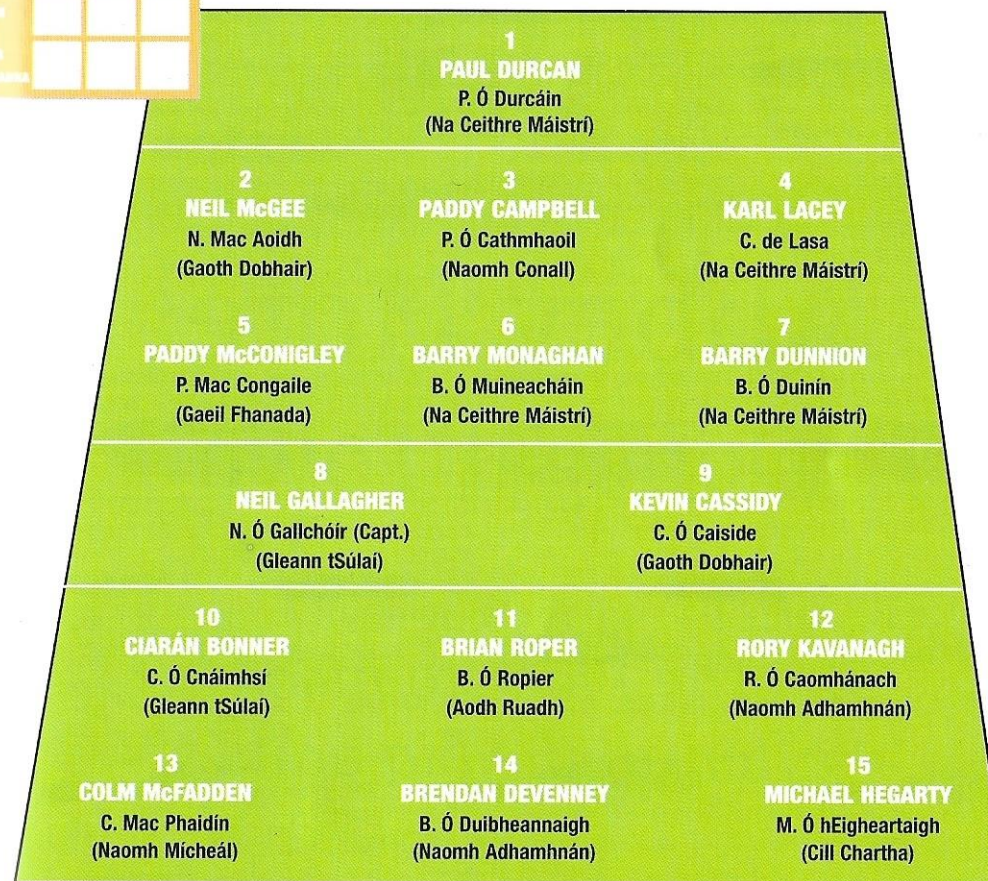
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DÚN NA nGALL

DATHANNA: UAITHNE, ÓR IS BÁN



	1ADH LEATH	2ADH LEATH	IONLÁN
CÚIL			
CÚILÍNÍ			
SEACHAI			
45m			
SAOR			
CICEANNA			



FIR IONAD

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| (16) MICHAEL BOYLE
M. Ó Baoill
(An Tearman) | (19) FRANK McGLYNN
P. Mac Fhloinn
(Gleann Fhinne) | (22) ANTHONY THOMPSON
A. Mac Tomáis
(Naomh Conall) | (25) RYAN BRADLEY
R. Ó Broicháin
(Buncranaigh) | (28) JOHNNY McLOONE
S. Mac Giolla Eoin
(Naomh Conall) |
| (17) THOMAS DONOGHUE
T. Ó Donnchú
(Naomh Conall) | (20) PETER WITHEROW
P. Witherow
(Naomh Mícheál) | (23) CHRISTY TOYE
C. Ó Tuathaigh
(Naomh Mícheál) | (26) MICHAEL DOHERTY
M. Ó Dochartaigh
(Na Ceithre Máistrí) | (29) BENNY BYRNE
B. Ó Broin
(Na Ceithre Máistrí) |
| (18) EAMON McGEE
E. Mac Aoidh
(Gaoth Dobhair) | (21) JOE FRIEL
S. Ó Friel
(Cloch Cheann Fhaola) | (24) ADRIAN SWEENEY
A. Mac Suibhne
(An Cloch an Liath) | (27) KEVIN McMENAMIN
C. Mac Meanman
(An Tearman) | (30) DENIS BOYLE
D. Ó Baoill
(Cloch Cheann Fhaola) |

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TWO SEMI-FINALISTS LOOKING FOR A FIRST LEAGUE TITLE

Of the four counties engaged in the Allianz National Football League semi-finals, Donegal and Kildare have both still to win the title.

- **Donegal** are appearing in their first National Football League semi-final since 1998 when they put up a very spirited performance when going down to Offaly at Croke Park by 3-10 to 1-14.

Their goal was scored by full forward Tony Boyle early in the first half and he finished as leading scorer on the day for both teams with 1-8, six points from frees. The Donegal side also included Adrian Sweeney (centre half forward), Brian Roper (left half forward) and Brendan Devenney (left full forward).

- They recorded their last semi-final win in 1996 at the expense of Cork at Croke Park. A replay looked on the cards when Cork drew level in the 60th minute, but the Ulster men powered back from the kick-out. Centre half back Mark Crossan initiated a move that ended with right half forward John Bán Gallagher rifling over a magnificent point from over 45 metres for a 0-10 to 0-9 victory.

- **Mayo** are hoping it will prove a case of fourth semi-final lucky. They lost to Tyrone in 2002, Armagh in 2005 and last year went down to Galway at Castlebar by 1-6 to 1-11.

- **Galway** led at the interval by 1-6 to 0-3 and also had the better of the exchanges early in the second half. After fifty-eight minutes Mayo received a boost when full forward Austin O'Malley sent to the net. Substitute Trevor Mortimer followed with a fine point, but Galway regained the initiative with a brace of points to finish good winners.

- Mayo last reached the final in 2001 when they beat Roscommon by 0-16 to 1-10 at Markievicz Park. They trailed for 50 minutes but got their game together so well that they scored eight points and conceded just one to gain a well-merited win.

- **Kildare's** last semi-final outing was in 1997 when they went down to Cork at Croke Park. They were a goal down after only fifty-four seconds, and conceded another goal after only ten minutes to trail by 2-1 to 0-2. Although they rallied well, the Lily Whites bowed out by 2-10 to 1-9. Right half-forward Pádraig Gravin scored their goal eight minutes into the second half.

- Kildare last reached the final in 1991 with a win over Donegal at headquarters in an enthralling game. Two wonderful points by Darragh McKeivitt in the last five minutes ensured a memorable 0-14 to 1-10 win.

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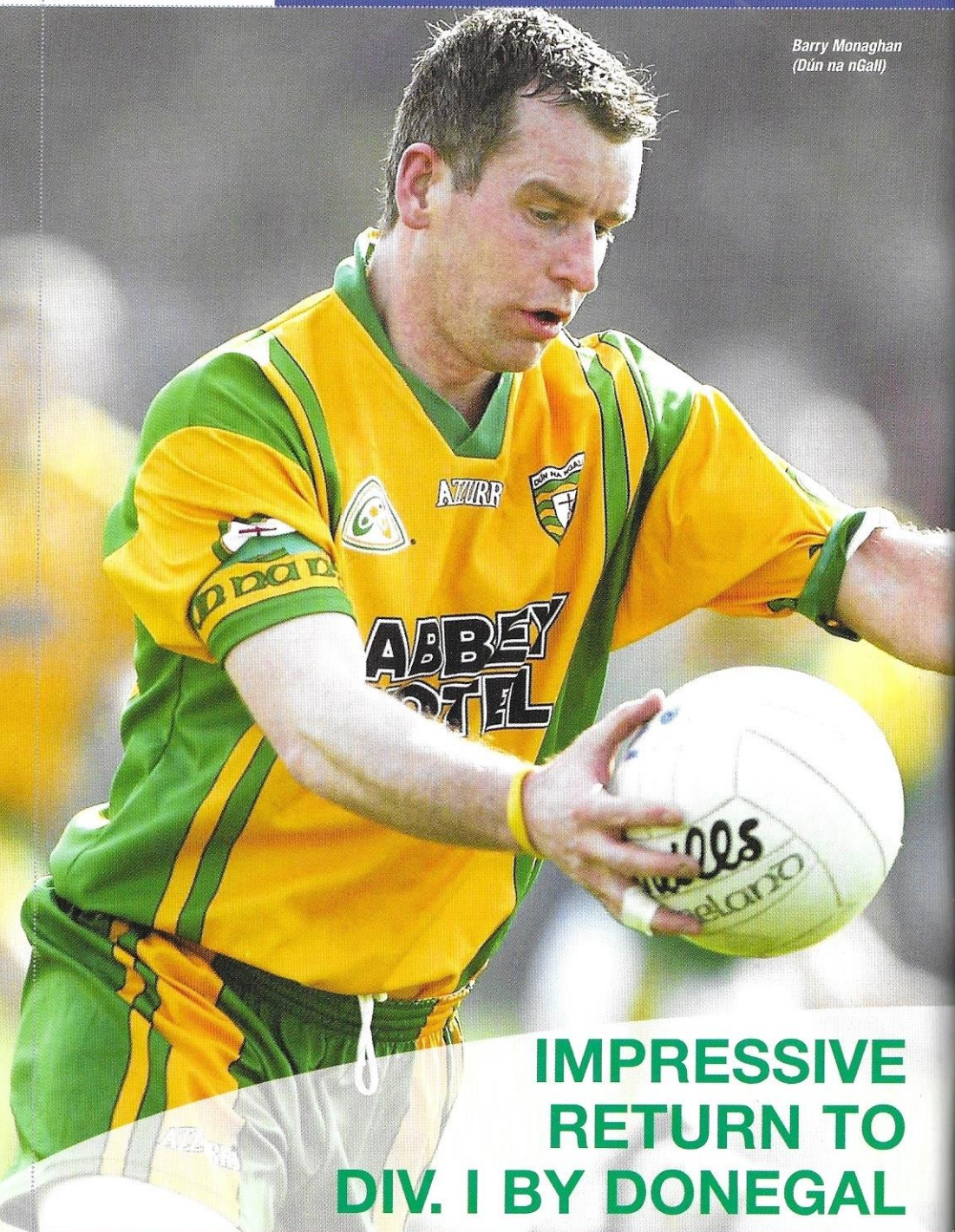
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Barry Monaghan
(Dún na nGall)

IMPRESSIVE RETURN TO DIV. I BY DONEGAL

What a return by Donegal to Allianz National League Division I football! Beaten by Louth in a Division II final replay last year, they go into this semi-final ranking as the only county to emerge from the group undefeated in their seven games.

Nor does that tell the full story as, along the way, they beat the provincial champions of Munster, Connacht and Leinster as well as All-Ireland king-pins Kerry.

The win over the Kingdom in the first Football League game at O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny in thirty years was sealed by a tremendous finish.

A goal late in the first half by Kevin Cassidy left the home side just 0-9 to 1-5 in arrears at the break. Twenty-five minutes into the second half, a splendid point by Brendan Devenney had Donegal ahead for the first time and they dominated the closing stages so well that they outscored their visitors by eight points to one.

Devenney's finishing was one of the features of the 1-15 to 0-13 success. He scored seven points. However, this was a good all round team performance.

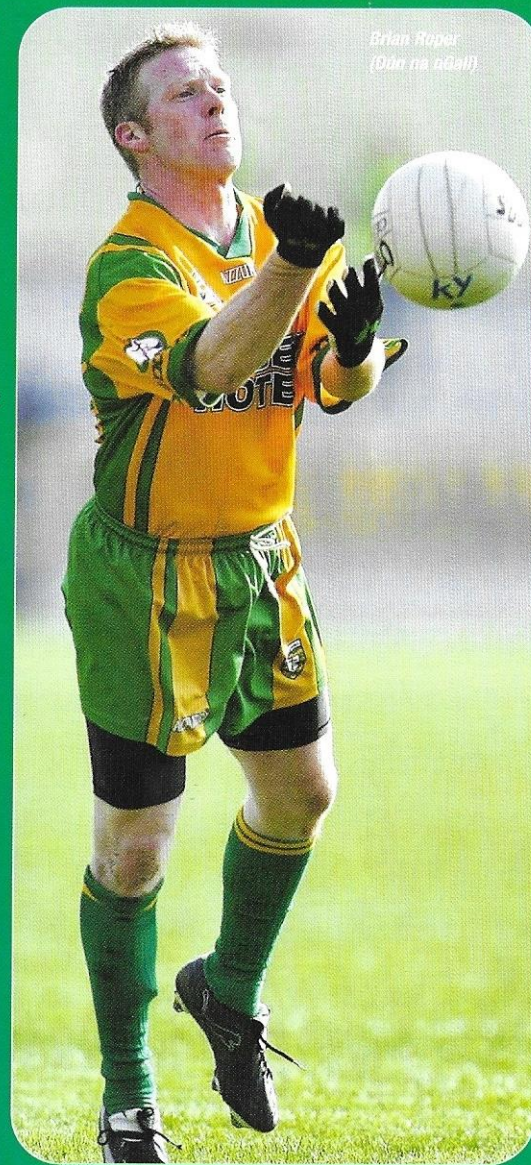
SINGLE POINT

As a result Donegal needed just a single point from their visit to Limerick at the Gaelic Grounds to clinch their place in the semi-finals. They struck a goals harvest, with Leon Thompson, Christy Toye, Michael Doherty and Adrian Sweeney finding the net, but still had to settle for a draw—4-6 to 2-12.

So, with their semi-final ticket secured, there was nothing at stake for Donegal in their final divisional engagement with Fermanagh last Sunday at Ballybofey.

They fielded a much changed team and hit back from a seven points deficit after twenty-eight minutes to narrowly maintain their unbeaten divisional record by 1-13 to 2-9.

All in all, it has been a very impressive march by the NorthWest county and one that indicates they are blending into a formidable outfit.

Brian Roper
(Dún na nGall)



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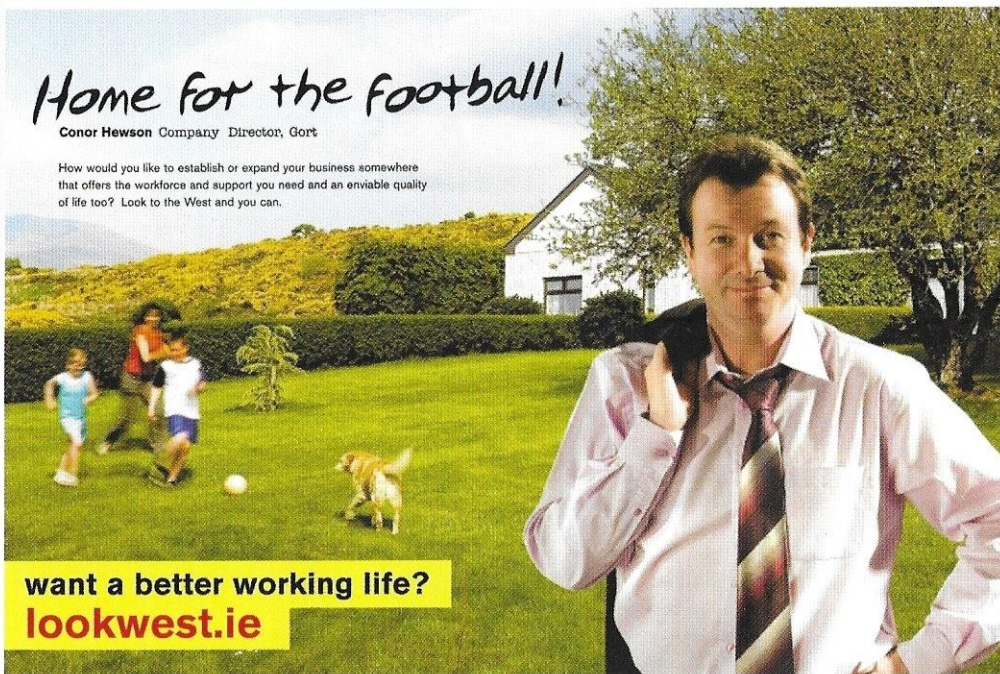


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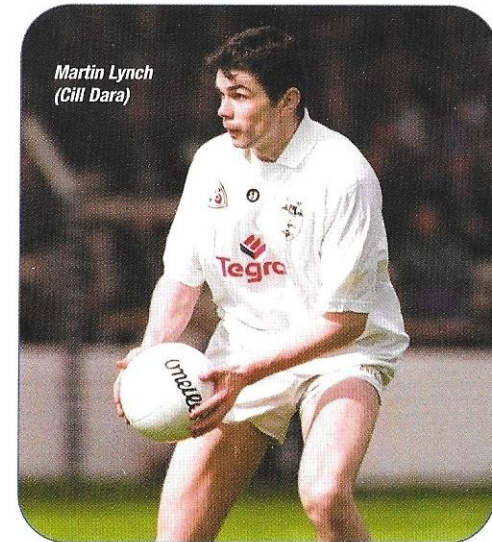
TIGHT FINISH IN LONE
SEMI-FINAL MEETING

1991		
Kildare	0-14	Donegal 1-10

This semi/final, part of a double bill with Dublin and Roscommon, attracted an attendance of over 30,000 to headquarters, and they witnessed a closely-fought encounter in which two late points secured victory for the Lily Whites.

In the opening half Donegal availed of the wind, but it wasn't until Tony Boyle pounced on a goalkeeping error by Niall Connolly at the 23rd minute that they looked to have the edge. That score gave the Ulster side a 1-5 to 0-3 lead, but they failed to build on that advantage and eventually lost their way.

In the second period the Kildare defence tightened up with Crofton, O'Donoghue and Lynch getting the better of Curran, Bonner and Boyle, which meant that Donegal's chances were limited. Also, Lily White wing-back Glen Ryan acted as a sweeper between the '40' and



Martin Lynch
(Cill Dara)

midfield and he initiated many of Kildare's second-half attacks.

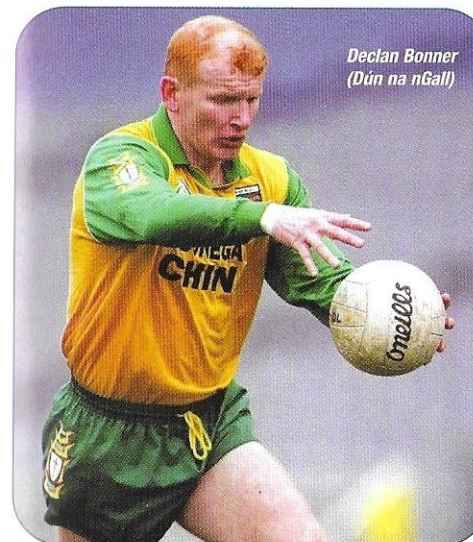
Still, Donegal were holding onto the narrowest of leads with five minutes remaining before two huge points by Daragh McKeivitt swung the tie Kildare's way. Donegal did almost snatch a late winner but Martin Lynch gathered the ball on the goal line before clearing.

KILDARE SCORERS: M.Lynch, P.McLoughlin 0-3 each, S.McGovern, J.McDonald, D.McKeivitt 0-2 each, J.Gilroy, T.Harris 0-1 each.

DONEGAL SCORERS: T.Boyle 1-2, M.Boyle 0-4, D.Bonner 0-2, T.Ryan, J.McMullan 0-1 each.

CILL DARA - N.Connelly, D.Dalton, J.Crofton, S.Dowling, G.Ryan, P.O'Donoghue, B.Sex, M.Lynch, S.McGovern, D.Kerrigan, T.Harris, J.McDonald, P.McLoughlin, D.McKeivitt, J.Gilroy.

DÚN NA nGALL - G.Walsh, J.J.Doherty, S.Bonner, Matt Gallagher, B.McGowan, M.Gavigan, M.Shovlin, B.Murray, Mark Gallagher, G.Curran, D.Bonner, T.Ryan, J.McMullan, T.Boyle, M.Boyle. Subs - B.Cunningham (McMullan), P.Brogan (Gallagher), J.McHugh (Shovlin).



Declan Bonner
(Dún na nGall)





A sharpshooting display by John Doyle in the opening round against Armagh at Droichead Nua and a draw that was as good as a win in the final round in Division I "B" against Laois, were among the highlights of Kildare's march to a place in the knock-out stages of the Allianz National Football League.

Doyle scaled the scoring heights against Armagh by scoring all but a point of his team's tally of 0-12 against the Orchard County in that winning start. The Lily Whites experienced in-and-out form after that, drawing next time out with Down and losing along the way to Galway. But wins over Derry, Louth and Westmeath left them requiring just a point in their final game against Laois at Droichead Nua to qualify for the knock-out stages.

And how they earned that single point in a splendid encounter with the O'Moore County, who needed to win to reach the semi-finals!

THRILLING

The counties provided one of the best games of the League campaign so far, a thrilling encounter in which the scores were level eleven times, and the issue was in doubt right until the final whistle.

Another top class display from sharpshooter supreme Doyle was a key factor in the Kildare

success. The home team also displayed a real will-to-win throughout and particularly coming up to the close, when they trailed by a point.

Substitute Tomás O'Connor stepped into the picture with a peach of a point and when Doyle followed on with a point from a free it looked as though the home team were assured of victory.

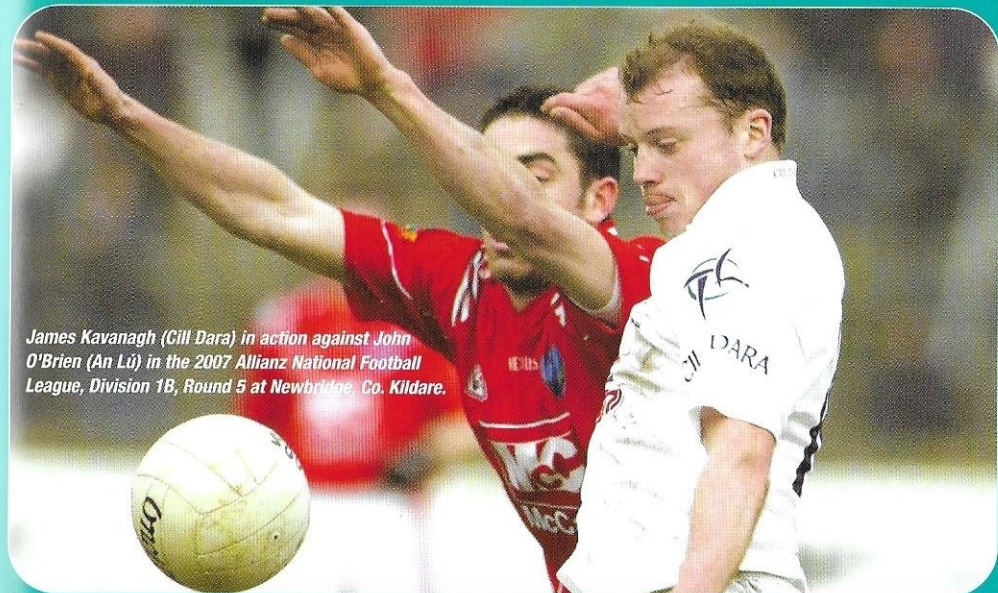
But Laois responded in positive style with a point to tie the scores at 0-15 for Kildare to 1-12. However, the Likely Whites held out to earn their semi-final ticket. Once again Doyle had an outstanding game for Kildare and finished as their top scorer with four points.

Tadhg Fennin, also in attack, substitute O'Connor, especially for that vital late point, Ken Donnelly, also in attack, and defender Anthony Rainbow were others whose contributions were a little special.

Overall, however, it was a good all round team performance and the best possible morale-booster for this latest test.

Emmet Beilton
(Cill Dara)

**DRAW AS
GOOD AS A WIN
FOR KILDARE**



James Kavanagh (Cill Dara) in action against John O'Brien (An Lú) in the 2007 Allianz National Football League, Division 1B, Round 5 at Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

Dún na nGall agus Cill Dara

SEMI-FINAL RECORDS

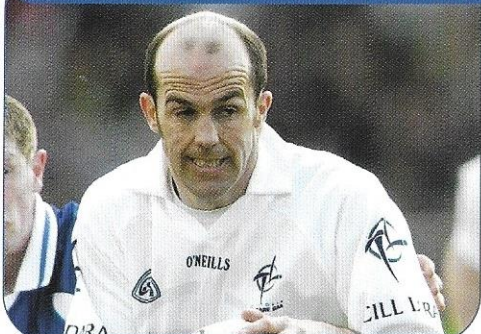
Donegal – 10

Kildare – 9

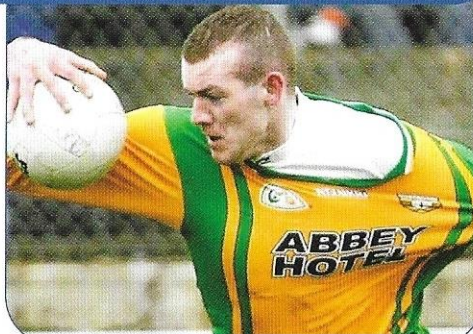
WINS – 3			
1993 – Donegal	1-12	Clare	1-7
1995 – Donegal	1-14	Laois	2-8
1996 – Donegal	0-10	Cork	0-9
LOSSES – 7			
1952 – Cork	3-3	Donegal	0-7
1965 – Kerry	3-10	Donegal	1-8
1966 – Longford	0-13	Donegal	0-11
1967 – Galway	1-10	Donegal	2-4
1969 – Offaly	2-13	Donegal	1-3
1991 – Kildare	0-14	Donegal	1-10
1998 – Offaly	3-10	Donegal	1-14

WINS – 4			
1929 – Kildare	4-5	Monaghan	0-5
1958 – Kildare	3-8	Tyrone	1-6
1968 – Kildare	1-12	Sligo	2-9
replay – Kildare	3-13	Sligo	1-10
1991 – Kildare	0-14	Donegal	1-10
LOSSES – 5			
1966 – Galway	2-12	Kildare	0-6
1970 – Down	1-11	Kildare	2-3
1979 – Cork	2-9	Kildare	0-4
1983 – Down	1-9	Kildare	0-4
1997 – Cork	2-10	Kildare	1-9

NA CAPTAEIN



KILLIAN BRENNAN (GILL DARA)



NEIL GALLAGHER (DÚN NA nGALL)

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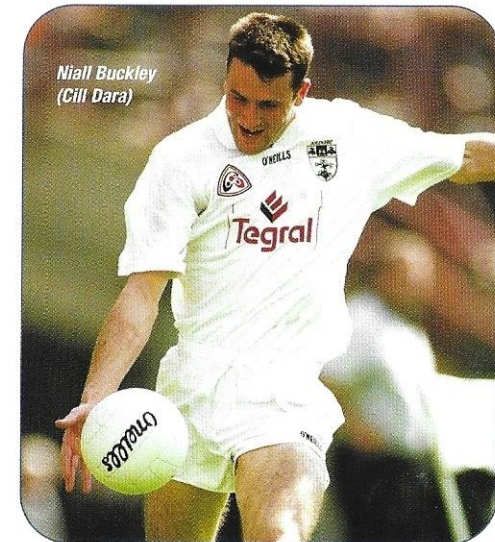
KILDARE'S LAST VICTORY A DECADE AGO

1997
KILDARE 1-14 DONEGAL 1-7

Donegal needed to win this final-round encounter to avoid relegation while Kildare required the points to ensure a quarter/final spot and at Droichead Nua the home side duly emerged seven-point victors. However, it was the visitors who made the brighter start and despite playing into the strong breeze spent most of the early minutes in Kildare territory. However, four wides was all Donegal had to show for their efforts and when Niall Buckley found his range, the scoreboard was soon ticking over at the other end.

Adrian Sweeney eventually opened Donegal's account at the 26th minute and the same player quickly added another before Declan Lynch finished the first half scoring with a delightfully-worked point – 0-5 to 0-2.

On the restart, wind assisted Donegal narrowed the gap quickly with points from Manus Boyle and Ollie Reid, but a couple of Buckley frees restored the interval position. Still a tight finish



Niall Buckley (Cill Dara)

looked in prospect as Eddie McCormack and Boyle swapped points, but Declan Kerrigan's goal gave Kildare new confidence.

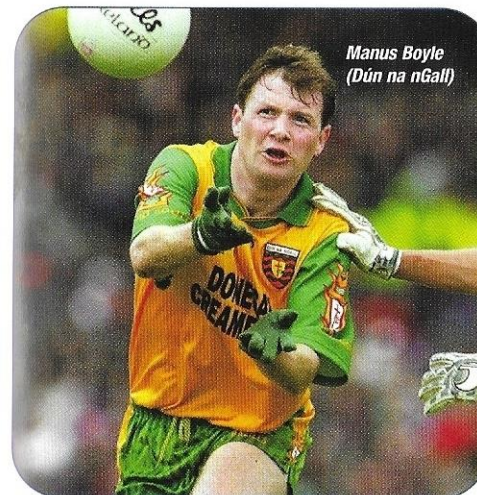
Points by Buckley, McCormack, Eric Dockery, Lynch and Michael Ryan followed and brought just a couple in reply from Manus and Tony Boyle. It took a late Brian Roper goal to put some respectability on the scoreboard, but it was of little consolation to the relegated visitors.

KILDARE SCORERS: N.Buckley 0-8, D.Kerrigan 1-0, M.Lynch, E.McCormack 0-2 each, E.Dockery, M.Ryan 0-1 each.

DONEGAL SCORERS: M.Boyle 0-3, B.Roper 1-0, A.Sweeney 0-2, O.Reid, T.Boyle 0-1 each.

CILL DARA – C.Byrne, Martin Ryan, J.Finn, K.Doyle, A.Rainbow, G.Ryan, B.Fahy, D.Hynan, N.Buckley, P.Gravin, D.Kerrigan, T.Harris, E.McCormack, M.Lynch, E.Dockery. Sub – Michael Ryan (Gravin).

DÚN NA nGALL – P.Callaghan, P.McGinley, S.McEwan, J.Cunningham, D.Diver, M.Crossan, O.Reid, J.Ruane, M.Gavigan, J.Gallagher, T.Boyle, B.Murray, A.Sweeney, M.Boyle, B.Roper. Subs – D.McNamara (Gallagher), M.Gallagher (McEwan), J.Gildea (M.Boyle).



Manus Boyle (Dún na nGall)

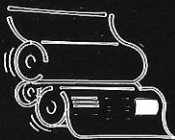


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FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE DONEGAL'S LAST WIN

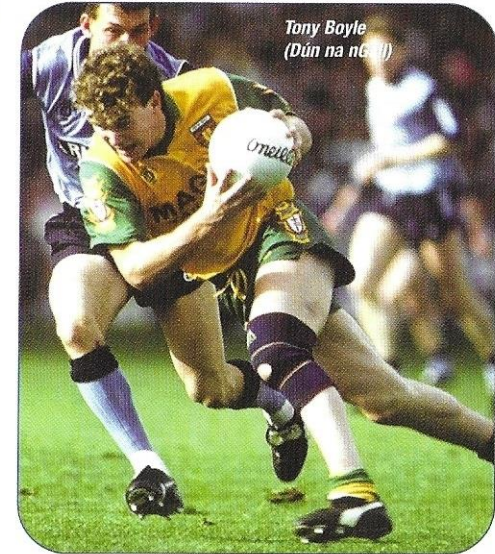


	1992	
DONEGAL	1-9 KILDARE	0-6

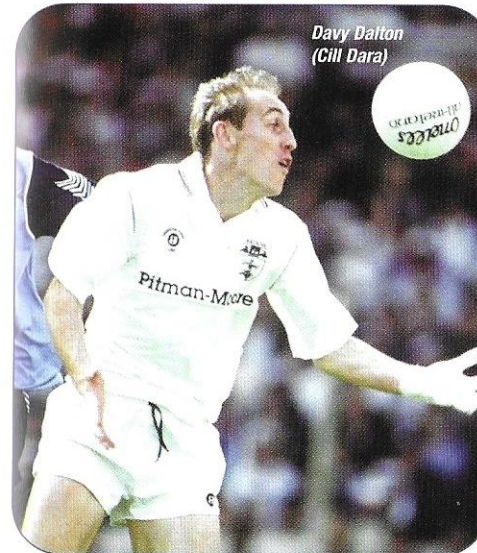
At Ballybofey 10,000 soaked spectators turned up to see the recently crowned All-Ireland champions open their league campaign against Kildare and, despite the inclement conditions, they witnessed an enterprising contest which the Ulster side won by a somewhat flattering six points. The champions fielded the 15 that finished the All-Ireland four weeks previously, but having afforded the hosts the customary guard of honour, Kildare quickly set about trying to win the points.

Possession-wise Kildare had the better of the early skirmishes, but a lack of accuracy up front undermined their cause as they shot six wides in the opening 20 minutes. A more frugal Donegal turned over leading by 0-3 to 0-2 at the break thanks to points by Joyce McMullen, Manus and Tony Boyle.

Kildare restarted with intent and with nine



Tony Boyle
(Dún na nGall)



Davy Dalton
(Cill Dara)

minutes played led by 0-5 to 0-4 before Anthony Molloy fired over the equaliser. Two Donegal points brought one in reply from Kildare, but eleven minutes from time the game's decisive score came when Tommy Ryan finished Tony Boyle's knock-down to the net. A couple of late points pushed Donegal's winning margin out to six.

DONEGAL SCORERS: T.Ryan 1-1, M.Boyle 0-3, B.McGowan, A.Molloy, J.McMullen, T.Boyle, D.Bonner 0-1 each.

KILDARE SCORERS: P.McLoughlin 0-3, D.Malone, B.Fahy, N.Buckley 0-1 each.

DÚN NA NGALL – G.Walsh, B.McGowan, M.Gallagher, N.Hegarty, D.Reid, M.Gavigan, J.J.Doherty, A.Molloy, B.Cunningham, J.McHugh, M.McHugh, J.McMullen, D.Bonner, T.Boyle, M.Boyle. Subs – T.Ryan (M.McHugh), S.Maguire (Cunningham), P.Carr (Molloy).

CILL DARA – G.Gannon, D.Dalton, G.Ryan, P.McConnon, A.Rainbow, T.Harris, N.Donlon, S.McGovern, D.Malone, D.Kerrigan, N.Buckley, B.Fahy, P.McLoughlin, M.Lynch, J.McDonald. Subs – L.Miley (McDonald), P.Donnolly (Fahy).

TOP SCORERS

John Doyle (Cill Dara)
37 points so far.



JOHN DOYLE LEADING CHALLENGER TO McDONNELL

Steven McDonnell took over on top of the nationwide chart of leading scores for the Allianz National Football League when he scored 2-4 for Armagh in their win over Westmeath at Crossmaglen. That boosted his total to 4-30 (42 points) in seven games at an impressive average of six points.

However, he has just five points to spare over his closest rival, John Doyle (Kildare), who is guaranteed at least one game more. He has 0-37 from seven games at an average of 5.28 points. Joint third is Conor Mortimer (Mayo), who chalked up 4-21 (33 points) from six games on the way to today's semi-final at an average of 5.5 points.

James Masters (Cork) is also on 33 points, but he recorded his 0-33 in seven games at an average below Mortimer's at 4.71 points.



Steven McDonnell (Ard Mhacha) - 42 Points in this year's campaign

THE TOP SCORERS IN THE ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION I STARTING THE SEMI-FINALS ARE:

Points	Score	Games	Average	
42	Steven McDonnell (Armagh)	4-30	7	7.6
37	John Doyle (Kildare)	0-37	7	5.28
33	Conor Mortimer (Mayo)	4-21	6	5.5
33	James Masters (Cork)	0-33	7	4.71
32	Michael Reidy (Limerick)	2-26	7	4.57
31	Paddy Bradley (Derry)	1-28	5	6.2
29	Dessie Dolan (Westmeath)	1-26	7	4.14
25	Declan Quill (Kerry)	0-25	7	3.57
23	Bryan Sheehan (Kerry)	0-23	6	3.83
23	Shane Lennon (Louth)	5-8	7	3.28

INDIVIDUAL FEATS

JOHN DOYLE SET AN EARLY HEADLINE

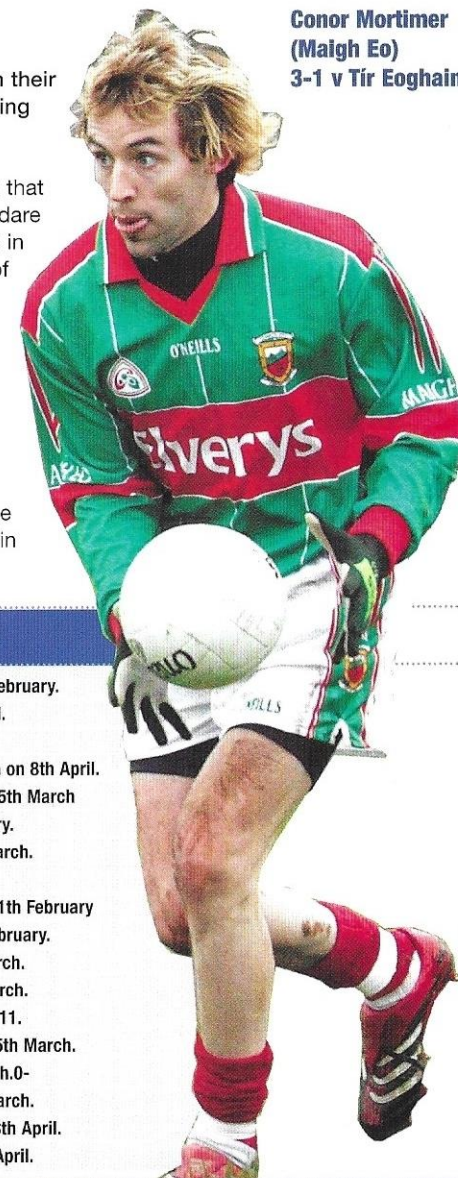
John Doyle set an early headline for forwards in Division I when he rifled over 0-11 for Kildare in their win over Armagh at Droichead Nua in the opening round of the Allianz National Football League at the beginning of February.

That was all but a single point of his team's return in that game. Eight of Doyle's points were from frees. The Kildare sharpshooter appears twice on the list. He scored 0-8 in a win over Louth, against Droichead Nua, at the end of March.

James Masters came close to that total when he scored 0-10 in Cork's win over Fermanagh at Clones on the first of April. Four of his points were from frees and one from a "45".

Conor Mortimer and Steven McDonnell joined Masters on ten points in the final round of Divisional games last Sunday. Mortimer took over on top of the goal stakes by recording 3-1 in Mayo's win over Tyrone at Omagh, while McDonnell scored 2-4 in Armagh's win over Westmeath at Crossmaglen.

Conor Mortimer (Maigh Eo)
3-1 v Tir Eoghain



The leading individual match returns in the Allianz National Football League Division I starting the semi-finals are:

- 0-11: John Doyle (Kildare) v Armagh at Droichead Nua on 4th February.
- 0-10: James Masters (Cork) v Fermanagh at Clones on 1st April.
- 3-1: Conor Mortimer (Mayo) v Tyrone at Omagh on 8th April.
- 2-4: Steven McDonnell (Armagh) v Westmeath at Crossmaglen on 8th April.
- 1-6: Steven McDonnell (Armagh) v Down at Crossmaglen on 25th March
- 1-5: Darren Clarke (Louth) v Down at Drogheda on 4th February.
- 0-8: John Doyle (Kildare) v Louth at Droichead Nua on 25th March.
- 0-8: Paddy Bradley (Derry) v Down at Newcastle.
- 1-4: Steven McDonnell (Armagh) v Louth at Crossmaglen on 11th February
- 0-7: Bryan Sheehan (Kerry) v Fermanagh at Clones on 25th February.
- 1-4: Conal Keaney (Dublin) v Cork at Parnell Park on 10th March.
- 0-4: Colm McFadden (Donegal) v Tyrone at Omagh on 10th March.
- 0-7: Conor Mortimer (Mayo) v Fermanagh at Clones on March 11.
- 0-7: Brendan Devenney (Donegal) v Kerry at Letterkenny on 25th March.
- 1-4: Paddy Bradley (Derry) v Laois at Celtic Park on 25th March.
- 0-7: James Masers (Cork) v Limerick at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on 8th April.
- 1-4: Pádraig Joyce (Galway) v Down at Tuam Stadium on 8th April.

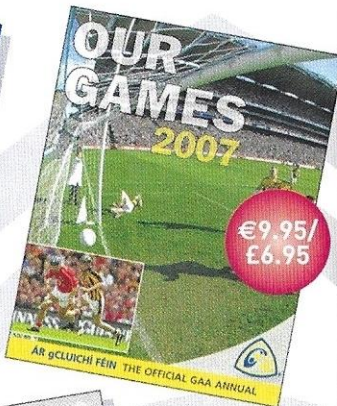




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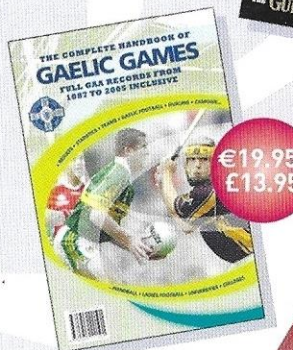


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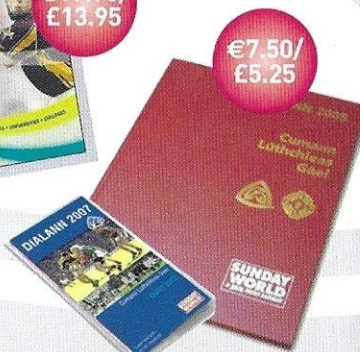
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Our Official Desk and Pocket Diaries carry information on all intercounty fixtures for the year. The Pocket Diary is a sell out each year and is available through newsagents and directly from us.



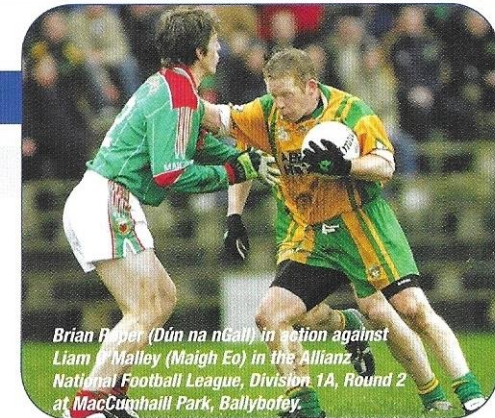
THE SEMI-FINAL REPORT

Unlike its hurling equivalent, from the outset semi-finals were a part of the format from the beginning, though a number of semi-finals were dispensed with in the 1930s as there was no provision for the winners of Division 2 to take part.

The first league (1925/26) was run on a provincial basis, though Leinster, because of the number of counties involved, was split into two divisions with Laois and Dublin emerging. Not surprisingly Kerry came through Munster while Sligo beat Mayo and Roscommon to take the honours in Connacht.

With five counties qualifying there was need of what would nowadays be called a quarter/final in which Laois sensationally accounted for Kerry – a well merited win even if the margin was only a point. That wasn't the only surprise of the campaign as, also against the odds, Antrim came through Ulster to set the scene for the semi-finals. It lent a special appeal to the competition that Antrim had not won an Ulster championship since 1913; Laois's only championship victory in the East had been as far back as 1889 while Sligo had still to make the breakthrough in Connacht.

At Dundalk, Dublin became the first winners of a league semi/final and Sligo appeared to have



done the needful when they beat Laois at Croke Park, only to be compelled to replay the game as a result of an objection by the losers. The O'Moore county availed of the second chance to win by 4-6 to 1-4 at Roscommon.

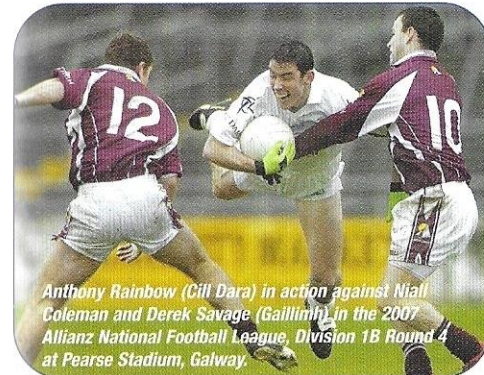
A SECOND CHANCE

It could probably be said that Mayo had two stabs at the next semi/final (1927/28) as three groups produced three winners with the red and green losing to Kildare and then to Kerry. However, this format was never repeated, though there were semi-finals for a number of years thereafter with Galway and Waterford appearing for the first time in 1931 only to lose to Kerry and Cavan respectively.

Meath's refusal to travel to meet Cork at Cork meant there was only one semi/final in 1932 (Kerry v Mayo) but the Royal county made a first-ever penultimate appearance a year later to record a win over Mayo...still hoping for their first win at this stage of the competition.

Mayo's day came at last but their 1933/34 final win did not include a semi/final triumph as that stage had been dropped in yet another change of format. The green and red did taste semi/final success in 1935 when they defeated Tipperary at Castlebar but three further final triumphs in 1936, '37 and '38 did not demand a penultimate engagement.

Mayo had now chalked up five league wins with just one semi/final triumph to their credit, but when the authorities decided to revert to a semi/final format Mayo again tasted success as Wexford were overcome at Wexford Park in 1939. Since that occasion two semi-finals have been the rule.



Anthony Rainbow (Gill Dara) in action against Niall Coleman and Derek Savage (Gallinagh) in the 2007 Allianz National Football League, Division 1B Round 4 at Pearse Stadium, Galway.

VENUES ... FAR & NEAR

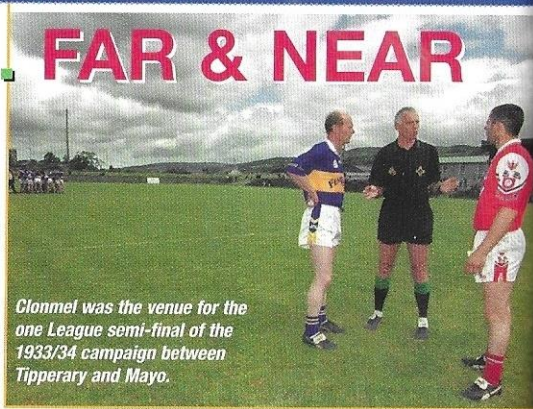
Part from the occasions when a league semi/final requires a Croke Park setting, the venues chosen for the penultimate contests are usually the most suitable for the contestants. This wasn't always the case and in the early years many league semi/finals were staged at the home venue of one of the contestants even if this meant a long journey for the opposition.

The first-ever semi/finals of 1925/26 were reasonably arranged as regards venues, but almost immediately the format of home and away games was extended to the knock-out stages, and at first glance this arrangement appeared to be unsuitable and unfair, although it was accepted without any objections.

The 1928/29 semi/finals saw the introduction of the home and away system with Kildare showing that being the away team wasn't an insurmountable handicap as they travelled to Carrickmacross and thumped the locals by 4-5 to 0-5. However, in the other 'semi' at Tralee, Kerry enjoyed the home venue to record a 1-5 to 1-2 win over battling Sligo.

When the league was resumed after the 1929/30 break, Waterford made the long journey to Breffni Park but they were no match for Cavan who handed out a 7-5 to 0-3 thrashing to the Decies. Kerry, however, made a profitable trip to Tuam to defeat Galway by 2-5 to 1-1.

In 1931/32 Kerry enjoyed home advantage (Killarney) for the visit of Mayo, with the



Clonmel was the venue for the one League semi-final of the 1933/34 campaign between Tipperary and Mayo.

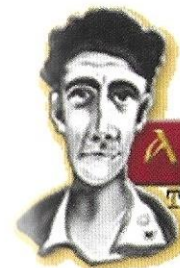
Kingdom just holding on for a 2-5 to 1-6 win, but the Cork-Meath semi/final fell through when the Royals refused to make the trip to Leaside. However, twelve months later Meath were happy to host Mayo at An Uaimh and won the tie by 2-7 to 1-3.

There were no semi/finals in 1933/34, but in the one penultimate contest the following season Mayo were again on their travels as they easily defeated Tipperary at Clonmel by 6-8 to 2-5. A straight-forward league system did away with semi/final action and it wasn't until the 1938/39 season that the penultimate round was again in vogue. Again Mayo made the local travel agent happy as they journeyed to Wexford Park to defeat Wexford, while Meath travelled to St. Coman's Park to defeat Roscommon.

The Royals were back on home territory the following season to host Wexford...successfully, while Galway also enjoyed a successful home outing as Roscommon made their exit. In the last semi/finals before the Emergency, Kerry defeated Dublin at Croke Park while Mayo got the better of Down at Newcastle.

The home and away system was still in place when the league resumed in 1945 and, following a draw at An Uaimh, Meath made their way to Corrigan Park to record a victory over Antrim, while Dublin slumped to Wexford at Enniscorthy.

The home and away system ended the following season when Wicklow travelled to Ennis and Longford made their way to Derry, although in recent seasons (2004 and 2006) the Kerry-Limerick, Galway-Tyrone and Galway-Mayo penultimate clashes have not taken place at neutral venues!



An Fear Rua
THE GAA UNPLUGGED

Speaking Irish is my first natural preference', Cork hurling star Seán Óg Ó hAilpín recently declared.

'As much as Gaelic games, Irish dancing and traditional music are part of our culture, the language is as well', Seán Óg said. 'I think it's great. Any chance I get, I speak it.'

Ó hAilpín revealed he enjoys the moments before big matches when Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh drops into the dressing room for a last minute check on the lineout. The two of them always chat in Irish and the hurler often enquires what the pitch is like and what type of studs he should wear.

Ó hAilpín's love of Irish was one of the main reasons he moved to Dublin to study rather than opting for the Lee-side hurling powerhouse of UCC. DCU offers a course in Finance taught through Irish: 'I wanted to continue my studies through Irish because I'd studied hard to learn it and I didn't want to give it up that easily. So, the chance to enhance that for a further four years was a big influence on me going to Dublin'.

He has no doubt his four years in DCU were 'the greatest'. It was his first time away from home and away from Cork. In his time there, DCU got to the Fitzgibbon final in 1998. He has great memories of that time and is still good friends with a lot of people he met and played with. He says: 'DCU wasn't noted as a strong hurling college but, whenever we meet up, we remember the good and bad times'.

Ó hAilpín's victory speech after Cork won the Liam McCarthy Cup in 2005 is regarded as one of

'Irish is my first natural preference' – Séan Óg

By Liam Cahill (An Fear Rua)

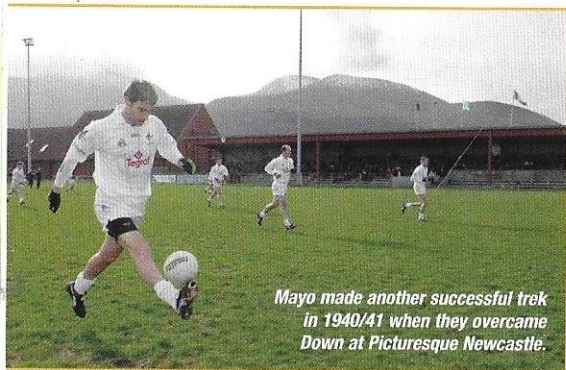
the very best captain's speeches delivered in Croke Park. He recalls: 'Ní raibh aon rogha agam ach an óráid a rá as Gaeilge. I always knew that if we got to the final there was a 50/50 chance that either myself or the Galway captain Liam O'Donoghue would be going up for the presentation. After doing my secondary school through Irish and my degree through Irish, there was only one language to use. I suppose there is no better day or no better platform than All Ireland final day – with all things Irish.'

Since then, the Cork star has received a lot of positive feedback for his speech: 'What's great for me is that a lot of people - agus níl mórán Gaeilge acu - come up to me and they say a few words of Irish, even if that's all they have.' Ó hAilpín's response always is that trying a little Irish is better than none at all. He says: 'People make the effort and if my speech achieved anything it's that the people who would have been shy about speaking Irish get out there and speak the cúpla focal, which is great.'

In 1988, Seán Óg Ó hAilpín was ten years old when he landed into what he recalls as 'a dull and miserable Cork in the month of February'. He grew up in Sydney, Australia. In Ó Muircheartaigh's memorable words 'His father from Fermanagh, his mother from Fiji ... neither a hurling stronghold...'

Seán Óg's story – his excellence at our native games (for he is a fine footballer as well) and his proud adherence to our language and culture – are not only an inspiration to the rest of us but to the tens of thousands of people originally from overseas who now live here.

Liam Cahill is Editor of the leading GAA website 'An Fear Rua – The GAA Unplugged!' www.anfearrua.com



Mayo made another successful trek in 1940/41 when they overcame Down at Picturesque Newcastle.



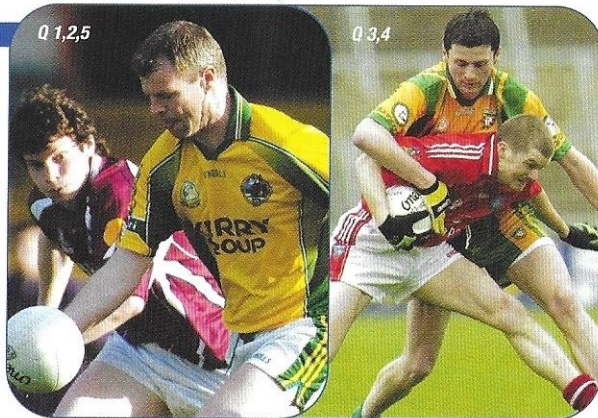
PROVEN IN
LABORATORY CONDITIONS



CÚINNE NA NÓG

LAST YEAR'S FOOTBALL LEAGUES

1. Where was last year's Allianz National League Division I final played?
2. Kerry went into that game as defending champions. True or false?
3. What two counties played a draw in the League Division II final?
4. Name the venue for that drawn game.
5. What county finished runners-up for the Division I title.
6. Who won the Division II title?



REFEREES' WHISTLES

This exercise features well-known intercounty football referees. All you have to do is to complete each sentence with the first name, surname or county of each referee.



1. Hickey (Clare) refereed the televised Football League tie between Cork and Mayo at Páirc Uí Rinn late last month.
2. Frank Flynn is from
3. Syl (Wexford) was the man-in-the-middle at the AIB All-Ireland senior club drawn final on St. Patrick's Day.
4. Fahy (Longford) took charge of the All-Ireland junior club football final last month.
5. is the home county of Michael Hughes.

ODD MAN OUT

Who is the odd man out in each of the four sentences below? He may be a goalkeeper in a group of forwards, a referee in the company of footballers, or a hurler sharing the spotlight with footballers.



1. BARRY GILLIS, CIARÁN WHELAN, OWEN MULLIGAN, JAMES MASTERS.
2. COLM MCFADDEN, AIDAN CARR, MICKEY COLE, BARRY OWENS.
3. TOMÁS FREEMAN, AIDAN MANGAN, JOHNNY MCCARTHY, EAMONN O'HARA.
4. PÁDRAIG JOYCE, JOHN DOYLE, MICHAEL ENNIS, DARREN CLARKE.

FREAGRAÍ

LAST YEAR'S FOOTBALL LEAGUES: 1. Limerick, 2. Faise. Armagh won the 2005 title, 3. Louth and Donegal. 4. Kingspan Breffni Park, 5. Galway, 6. Louth. REFEREES' WHISTLES: 1. Rory, 2. Leitrim, 3. Doyle, 4. Derek, 5. Tyrone. ODD MAN OUT: 1. Barry Gillis, the Derry goalkeeper. The rest are outfield players. 2. Mickey Cole, the sharpshooting Meath hurler, in company of footballers. 3. Aidan Mangan, the Kerry referee. 4. Michael Ennis, the only defender in the group.

SUPPORTERS ARE ASKED TO RESPECT THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ENTERING AND LEAVING THE STADIUM THROUGH RESIDENTIAL AREAS.



BULLETIN BOARD

Health and Safety Rules - Páirc an Chrócaigh

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted subject to the following Rules (which are designed to protect the health and safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
2. The management reserves the right of admission.
3. The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
4. All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochana.
5. Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
6. The following are not permitted:-
 - 6.1. Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
 - 6.2. Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.3. The climbing of floodlight or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behaviour constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.4. Throwing any object onto the pitch.
 - 6.5. Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
 - 6.6. Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
 - 6.7. Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
 - 6.8. Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
 - 6.9. Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language.
7. If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
8. Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

• C.C.T.V. IS IN OPERATION AT THIS STADIUM •

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ LOST CHILDREN

Cusack Stand Lower: First Aid Centre rear of Section 312.
Canal Stand Upper: First Aid Centre rear of Section 724.
Hogan Stand Lower: First Aid Centre rear of Section 329.
Hill 16: First Aid Centre rear of Section A
Lower Hogan: Medical Centre

The Site Medical Officer will be situated on the pitch in front of the Cusack Stand.
 All Treatment Centres are staffed by St. John Ambulance Brigade members.

Lost Children -

Lost Children can be collected at the above Medical Centres.

PUBLIC TELEPHONE LOCATIONS

Cusack Stand

- At Lower Level [Level 3]
Pay Phone at Section 309.



Cusack Premium Level 5

- Pay Phone at Section 508.

Hogan Premium Level 5

- Pay Phone at Section 529.

SAFETY NOTICE

IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY, PATRONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PLAYING AREA AFTER THE GAMES.

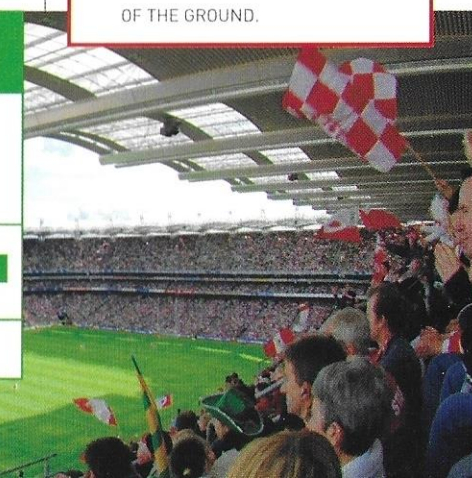
The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid further injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardaí, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the ERHA.

Supporters are sincerely thanked for their co-operation to date and are asked to continue this co-operation in the future to ensure that games can be enjoyed without recourse to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing the action from all vantage points. Together we can ensure that a Croke Park experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

CROKE PARK NOW OPERATES A **NO SMOKING**



POLICY EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED AREAS OF THE GROUND.





Heroes aren't born —
they are made.

Whether it's a brilliant save or a match winning point, it all begins with the dedicated and committed people who nurture the heroes of tomorrow. As the sponsor of both Cumann na mBunscol and the Allianz Leagues, Allianz is proud to be associated with these and all the people who make the games the success they are.

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Allianz 