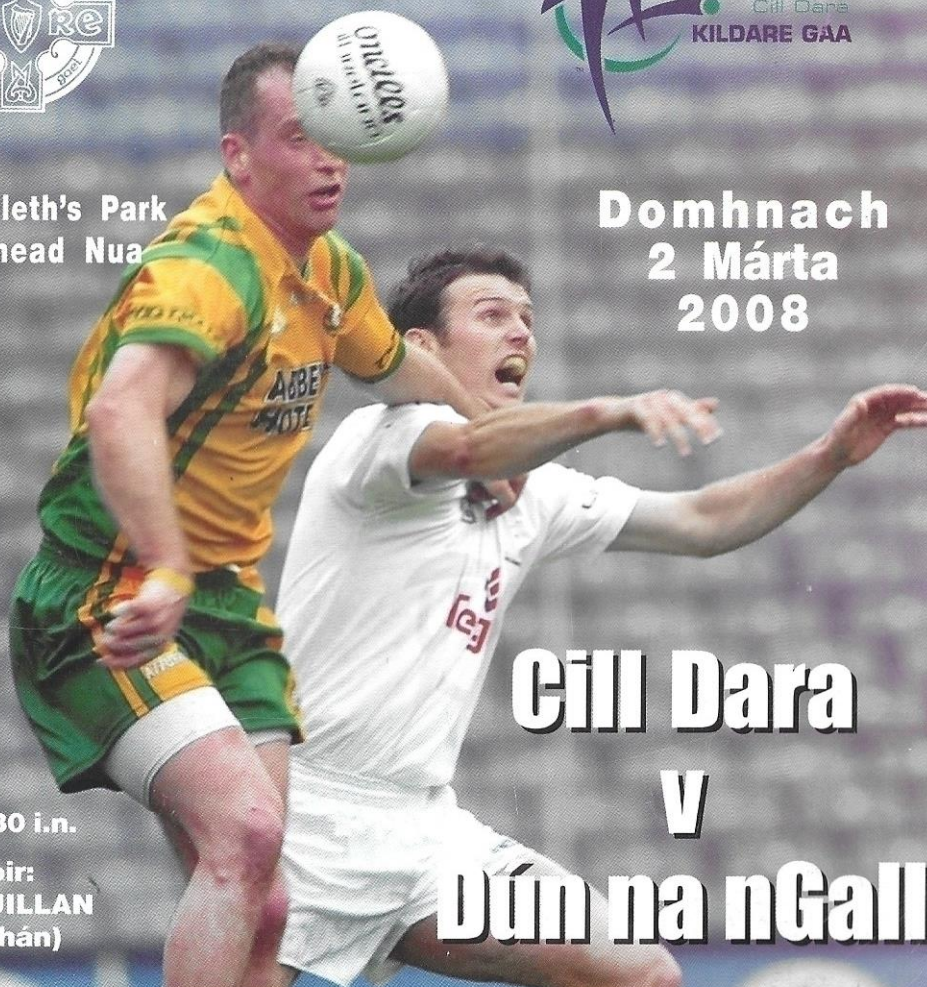




St. Conleth's Park  
Droichead Nua

Domhnach  
2 Márta  
2008



Tosnú 2.30 i.n.

Réiteoir:  
JOE McQUILLAN  
(An Cabhán)

# Cill Dara v Dún na nGall

Allianz 

NATIONAL  
FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE

Leagues

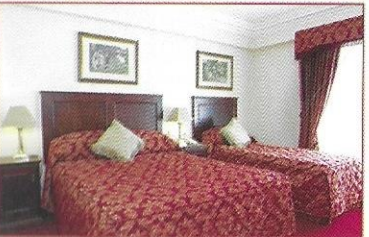
Division 1

ROUND 3

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## Today's Match Programme

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~~~~~  
Cover picture by  
Adrian Melia shows  
Donegal's  
Barry Monaghan  
tussling for the ball  
with Ken Donnelly of  
Kildare in the NFL  
semi-final at Croke Park.

# FÁILTIÚ ON gCATHAOIRLEACH

A Chairde, is mór an onóir domsa fáilte a chuir romhaibh go Droichead Nua inniu. Fearaim fáilte specialta roimh peileadóirí, oifigeach agus an lucht tacaíochta ó Dún na nGall.

On behalf of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Chill Dara I would like to extend a warm welcome to the players, mentors, officials and supporters who have travelled from Dún na nGall today.

Our visitors have got off to the perfect start in the 2008 National League campaign and following their historic victory in last year's competition will be anxious to add a second title to their roll of honour. Many followers will remember the many encounters between our two counties over the years and particularly recall the National League semi finals of 1991 and 2007. Following Kildare's narrow defeat to Galway in the last round the lilywhites will be anxious to make amends today.

At half time in today's game there will be, as usual, underage exhibition games taking place. It goes without saying that the participation of our children in our games is not just hugely important to our association but also to society in general. Huge challenges face our organisation now and in the future. A recent G.A.A. survey of all the counties in Leinster showed Kildare having the largest underage population outside of Dublin. The population of the under 9 age group now stands at over 30,000 in Kildare alone, a figure that is greater than the entire population of some counties.

On one hand it is a positive position to find ourselves in, on the other hand it creates huge challenges in relation to facilities and manpower. Most clubs biggest concern is in the area of manpower or lack of it. How many times have we heard the cry from club officials that they don't have enough mentors to look after their various underage teams. I am asking any parents or adults with an interest or just a passing interest in our games to get involved in their local club and help us nurture and harvest the potential talent that we have within the county.

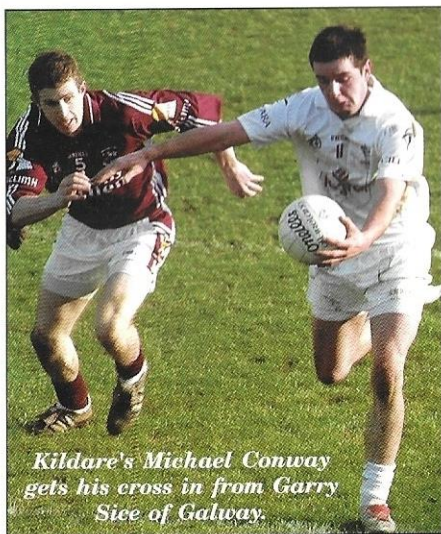
Last Saturday in Navan our County U-21 footballers got this years championship off to a great start with a comprehensive 1-14 to 0-5 victory over neighbours and great rivals Meath. I would like to say well done to Glenn, Mick and Pádraig and all concerned. Kildare now play Dublin in the Leinster Quarter Final next weekend in Newbridge and I would ask that you give the lads as much support as possible.

Mise le meas,

S. Ó Mearáin, Cathaoirleach C.L.G. Chill Dara





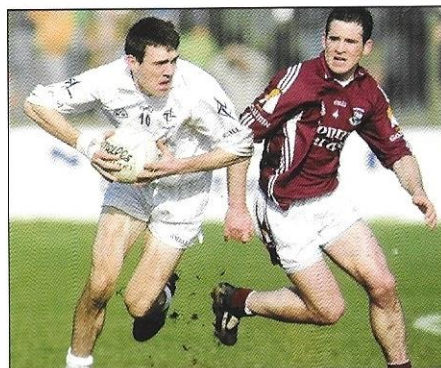


*Kildare's Michael Conway gets his cross in from Garry Sice of Galway.*

Action pics by Adrian Melia from the Kildare v Galway tie on 17th February.



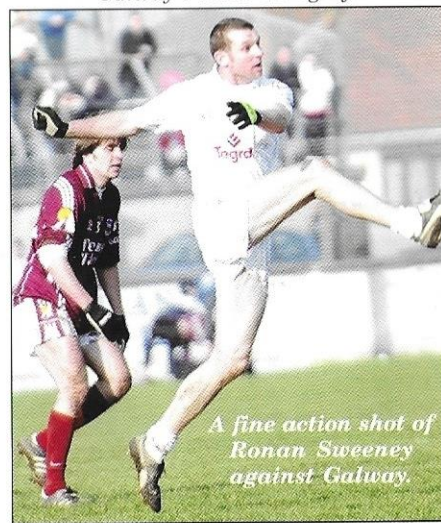
*Kildare's James Kavanagh tries to get away from Damien Burke of Galway.*



*Kildare's John Doyle tries to go past Galway's Paul Geraghty.*

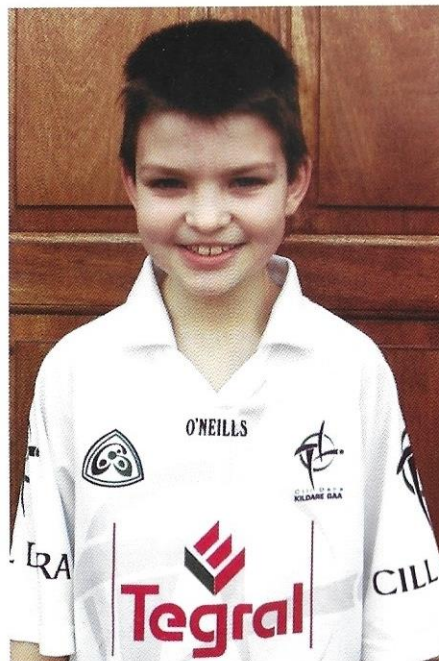


*Dermot Earley goes highest against Galway.*



*A fine action shot of Ronan Sweeney against Galway.*

## Today's Mascot: CHRISTOPHER BRADY



Christopher Brady, age 9, is a member of Ellistown G.F.C. He plays full-back for the U-10 football team and is in third class in Rathmore National School.

His favourite player is Anthony Rainbow. He likes football and horseracing.

### LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
Derry	2	2	0	0	4-21	2-18	+9	4
Galway	2	2	0	0	1-27	3-17	+4	4
Donegal	2	2	0	0	3-19	1-23	+2	4
Kerry	2	1	0	1	1-19	1-17	+2	2
Kildare	2	0	1	1	3-12	1-19	-1	1
Tyrone	2	0	1	1	0-16	1-16	-3	1
Mayo	2	0	0	2	1-25	4-20	-4	0
Laois	2	0	0	2	2-18	2-27	-9	0

JOIN...

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Cumann CILL DARA

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### U-21: Kildare v Dublin

After their fine victory over Meath in Navan last week, Kildare under-21s face Dublin in Newbridge next weekend in what should be a very interesting encounter which should attract a large crowd.

### 2008 N.F.L. Results Div. 1

Round 1		
Galway	0-15	Laois 1-9
Donegal	1-8	Kerry 1-7
Tyrone	0-7	Kildare 1-4
Derry	2-9	Mayo 1-9
Round 2		
Derry	2-12	Laois 1-9
Kerry	0-12	Tyrone 0-9
Donegal	2-11	Mayo 0-16
Galway	1-12	Kildare 2-8



# Today's Visitors Donegal

## A BRIEF HISTORY

### All-Ireland Football Titles

1 Senior: 1992  
2 Under-21: 1982, 1987.

### Ulster Football Titles

5 Senior: 1972, 1974, 1983, 1990, 1992  
5 Minor: 1956, 1985, 1991, 1996, 2006  
6 Under-21: 1963, 1964, 1966, 1982, 1987, 1995  
5 Junior: 1930, 1933; 1939, 1952, 1954  
6 Dr. McKenna Cups: 1963, 1965, 1967, 1975, 1985, 1991.

### 1 National League Title 2007

Winning team in final v Mayo: Paul Durcan; Neil McGee, Karl Lacey, Paddy Campbell; Barry Dunnion, Barry Monaghan, Paddy McConagley; Neil Gallagher, Kevin Cassidy; Brian Roper, Ciarán Bonner, Christy Toyne; Colm McFadden, Brendan Devenney, Michael Hegarty.

*Subs:* Kevin McMenamin for Devenney, Eamon McGee for Neil McGee, Thomas Donoghue for McConagley, Rory Kavanagh for Gallagher, Adrian Sweeney for Bonner.

*Also on panel:* Michael Boyle, Frank McGlynn, Joe Friel, Peter Witherow, Anthony Thompson, Ryan Bradley, Michael Doherty, Johnny McCloone, Benny Byrne, Denis Boyle.

*Manager:* Brian McIver.

*Selectors:* Prionsias Ó Máirtín, Piaras Ó Coill, Mícheál Ó Ceallaigh

*Scorers:* Brian Roper 0-3, Colm McFadden 0-3, Ciarán Bonner 0-2, Kevin Cassidy 0-1, Kevin McMenamin 0-1, Rory Kavanagh 0-1, Eamon McGee 0-1, Adrian Sweeney 0-1.

### Winning Captains:

All-Ireland Senior: 1992 Anthony Molloy.  
National League: 2007 Neil Gallagher.  
All-Ireland Under-21: 1982 Brian Tuohy; 1987 John Cunningham.

Ulster Senior: 1992 Frankie McFeely, 1974 Pauric McShea, 1983 Michael Lafferty, 1990 and 1992 Anthony Molloy.

### ALL STAR FOOTBALLERS

(15 awards won by 14 players)

2: Martin McHugh 1983, 1992.

1 each: Brian McEniff 1972, Donal Monaghan 1974, Joyce McMullan 1990, Gary Walsh 1992, Matt Gallagher 1992, Martin Gavigan 1992, Anthony Molloy 1992, James McHugh 1992, Tony Boyle 1992, John Joe Doherty 1993, Kevin Cassidy 2002, Adrian Sweeney 2003, Karl Lacey 2006.

### Texaco Footballer of the Year Award

Martin McHugh 1992.

### R.T.E./Ballygowan Team of the Year

Award: Donegal Football Team 1992.

## FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

### Kildare's Remaining NFL Fixtures:

Sat. 15 March: v Derry (away)  
Sun. 30 March: v Mayo (Newbridge)  
Sat. 5 April: v Kerry (away)  
Sun. 13 April: v Laois (away)

### Donegal's Remaining NFL Fixtures

Sat. 15 March: v Galway (home)  
Sat. 29 March: v Tyrone (away)  
Sun. 6 April: v Laois (home)  
Sun. 13 April: v Derry (home)

### Important Dates:

Sun. 27 April: National Football League Finals (Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4)  
Sun. 20 April: National Hurling League Finals (Divisions 1, 2).  
Sun. 18 May: Connacht S.F.C. (Salthill), Galway v Roscommon; Leinster S.F.C. (Croke Park), Kildare v Wicklow.

# Sam's for the Hills

By JOE WOODS

In a well-known hostelry in the vicinity of Croke Park some hours and several beverages after the 1990 All-Ireland football final I listened attentively as a prominent member of the Donegal team boldly proclaimed that his county would win the All-Ireland within the next four years.

"What makes you think that," I asked. "If we haven't won it by then we'll never win it. I'm 28 years of age now and I've only got four more years left as a Donegal player," came the reply.

Silently, I wondered was the Steve Miller band's big hit of the time, "The Joker" inspired by this footballing prophet!

Donegal had won the Ulster title a few months previously for the first time since 1983. In the All-Ireland semi-final they performed heroically before yielding to a very experienced Meath team.

For Donegal to take Sam to the hills for the first time a very competitive Ulster championship, fraught with concealed trapdoors, would have to be surmounted once again. Then the Croke Park hoodoo, no senior championship victory there, would have to be exorcised.

After breaking that bogey how would they cope with the pressure, the nerves, the hype and the tension that football's greatest occasion is liberally laced with? Add in the ever-increasing number of new admirers singing (demanding!) Maria McKee's 1990 chart-topper "Show Me Heaven"! Donegal for Sam? It sounded incongruous.

In 1991 they reached the Ulster final for the third year in a row. But the "Great Expectations" of their fans had been replaced by "Hard Times" long before this contest petered out. It wasn't Charles Dickens that wrote the script! It was Pete McGrath.

The Down manager had his side superbly tuned. In delivering the best performance by any team from the Mourne county for

several years they displayed skill, flair, drive and incisiveness. Their team-work was flawless and their long-range point-taking was immaculate.

At half-time with Down leading by 1-9 to 0-5 I observed several disgruntled Donegal supporters quietly departing the famous hill that in those days overlooked the Clones pitch. Dreams shattered. Sam Maguire, a forlorn reverie!

A mini-revival was staged by Donegal after the break which reduced the deficit to four points. A wonderful save by Down's netminder Neil Collins quelled the insurgence.

That stop started a procession as Down pulled out all the stops to regain control throughout the field. It finished with a comfortable Down success, 1-15 to 0-10.

It didn't shock any observers of this Down tour de force when the Sam Maguire Cup returned to the mountains of Mourne in September for the first time since 1968. It was to be the beginning of an unprecedented four year Sam and Ulster union.

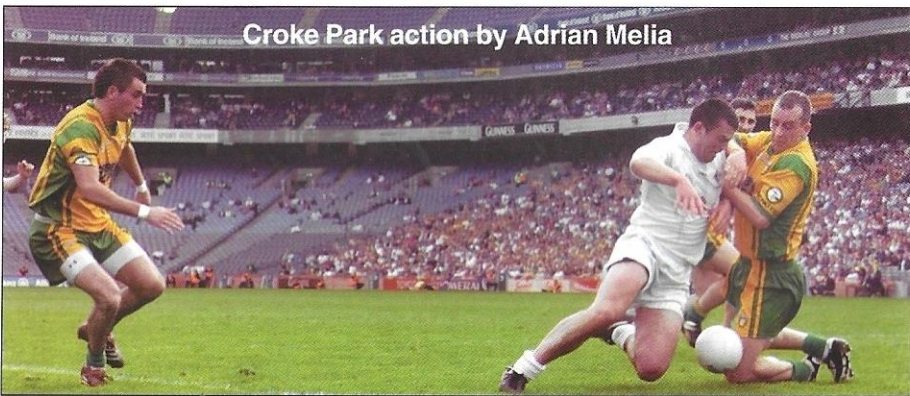
Donegal almost fell by the Cavan wayside in the first round of the 1992 Ulster championship at Breffni Park. In a marvellous game against a spirited home side they, as is said in other codes, got a result!

A week later in Ballybofey they easily obliterated Cavan's challenge. In the semi-final Fermanagh were disposed of by a whopping sixteen points margin.

In the Ulster final at Clones a magnificent performance in front of 35,000 spectators restored Donegal's All-Ireland optimism and regained the Anglo-Celt Cup. Donegal came from behind and a man down (for all of the second half) to deservedly beat the National League champions Derry who had knocked Down out of the race.

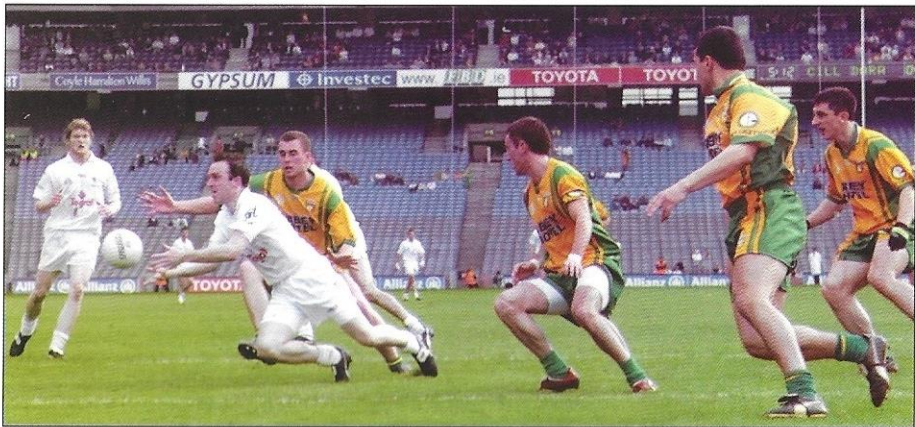
On that same day, Sunday 19th July, at the Gaelic Grounds on the Ennis Road in Limerick, a shock of seismic proportions was registered by the footballers of Clare



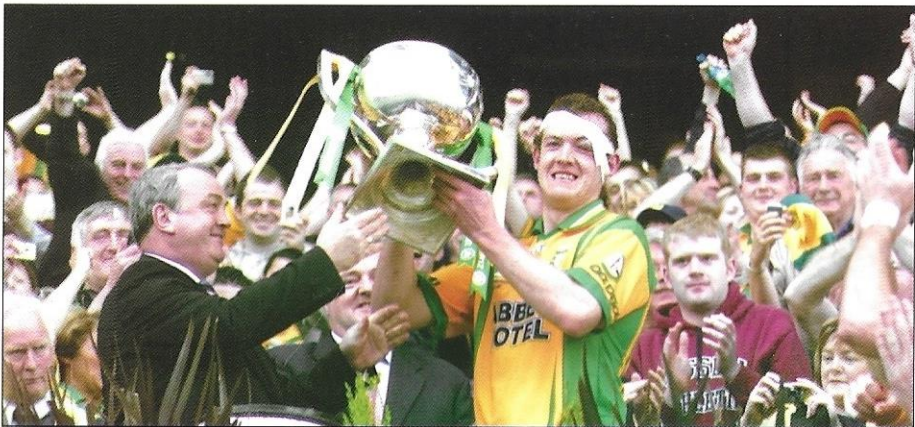


Croke Park action by Adrian Melia

*Kildare's Pádraig O'Neill is taken down for a penalty in NFL semi-final.*



*Kildare's Tadhg Fennin tries to get forward against Donegal in NFL semi-final.*



*Donegal captain Neil Gallagher with a bandage and swollen eye and the league trophy after defeating Mayo in the NFL final at Croke Park.*

## SAM'S FOR THE HILLS continued

who beat Kerry in the Munster final.

In Connacht, Mayo were crowned champions after experimenting with a radical training method, pushing cars! Mick O'Dwyer steered his Kildare charges to a Leinster final place but the great white hopes were dashed by Dublin.

Much was said and written about the influence of Dublin's half back line, not only on this victory but throughout the Leinster campaign. "We play as a unit" became the catchphrase of a certain Dublin defender. It was repeated ad nauseum. This naive attitude lulled the Dubs into a false sense of invincibility.

In the first of the All-Ireland semi-finals at Croke Park on Sunday 16th August, Donegal created a surplus of chances but shot an inordinate number of woeful wides against Mayo. It was a very poor game but this didn't matter to Donegal who broke the hoodoo and advanced by four points to the All-Ireland final.

One week later Croke Park experienced one of its most colourful-ever days when the Clare footballers and their massive army of saffron and blue clad supporters came to town for the first time since 1917.

The disallowing of a perfectly legitimate Clare goal and the allowing of a dodgy Dublin goal probably decided this game. For the first time all year Dublin's half back line instead of attacking were retreating in the face of Clare's strong running at them. The "unit" looked vulnerable but the flashing blue lights were ignored in the euphoria of victory.

Donegal's shrewd manager Brian McEniff, who attended the game, observed the vulnerability of the "unit". He departed, convinced that the deploying of Clare's tactics by Donegal could destroy the Dubs in the final.

"You've seen the green and gold of Kerry, you've seen the green and gold of Offaly but you've never seen anything like the green and gold of Donegal." The immortal words of Micheál O'Hehir when Donegal entered the Croke Park arena for the 1983 All-Ireland semi-final against Galway.

Sunday 20th September 1992 completely surpassed that '83 spectacle. Croke Park was a cauldron of colour, emotion and sound. The atmosphere was incredible. Was the prophecy of 1990 about to experience its fulfilment? The "prophet" himself was on the field and ready for a massive battle for supremacy.

Donegal started nervously and trailed by two points to one when Dublin were fortuitously awarded a penalty in the ninth minute. The sigh of relief from the huge Donegal following when Charlie Redmond blazed the kick wide at the Canal End could be clearly heard as far away as Malin Head!

The nerves disappeared and Donegal began to impose their will on the game. They ran at the Dublin defence in a Clare-like manner. The "unit" was torn to shreds, making a mockery of the pre-match, "comfortable Dubs victory" predictions.

At half-time the green and gold wearers led by 0-10 to 0-7.

In the second half Donegal were clearly the better team restricting their opponents to a meagre two points in the opening 25 minutes. Their lead had been extended to six points, 0-15 to 0-9 as the last ten minutes approached.

Three points in as many minutes had a previously subdued Hill 16 reacting in a typically boisterous manner.

Manus Boyle and Redmond exchanged pointed frees before the former landed his ninth point with four minutes remaining. Four long, agonising minutes away from football's greatest prize!

As the game entered its last two minutes the Dubs brought it back to three points again via a free. With thirty seconds still to be played Declan Bonner kicked the most applauded point ever in the history of Donegal G.A.A. The insurance score! A silent Hill 16! A scoreboard stating Donegal 0-18, Dublin 0-14.

From the kick-out Donegal take possession of the ball. Bonner seeks it but receives a heavy challenge. Referee Tommy Sugrue blows the final whistle. Donegal – All-Ireland champions, for the first time.



Neil Gallagher, Donegal, tussles for a high ball against James Kavanagh Kildare as Barry Monaghan and Ken Donnelly wait for the breaking ball during the NFL semi-final in Croke Park last year.

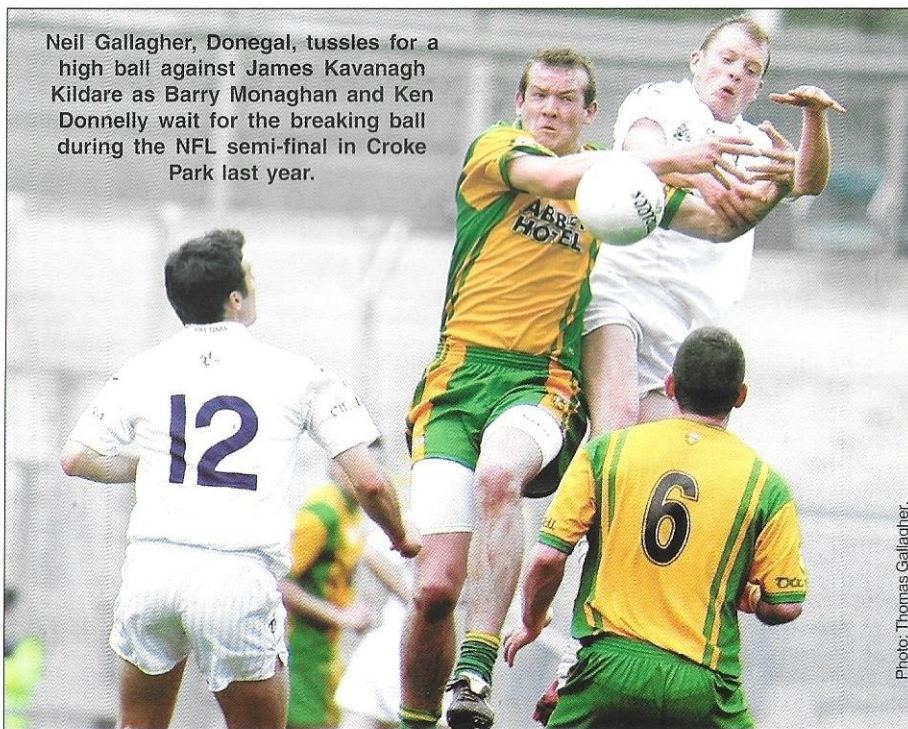


Photo: Thomas Gallagher.

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## SAM'S FOR THE HILLS continued

Two years after it had been defiantly made the prophecy had been fulfilled. The prophet himself had an outstanding game. An All-Ireland medal was now his, to savour for ever more.

Amazingly every Donegal player performed superbly, which represented a unique achievement for a team appearing in a final for the first time. It was a brilliant attacking display. Eleven of their points, two of which could have been goals were scored from play.

The sheer outpouring of emotion that greeted the game's conclusion has rarely if ever been witnessed at Croke Park. It was the essence of sporting romanticism.

When captain Anthony Molloy concluded his deeply moving speech with the never to be forgotten words "Sam's For The Hills" the rapturous response sparked off a winter of wild celebrations.

Hours later in the Grand Hotel in Malahide, Daniel O'Donnell entertained the delirious gathering of Donegal players and supporters. But on this historic night, for a change, he was upstaged by the heroes of the day, the 1992 All-Ireland football champions.

Sam was heading for the hills!

**The team:** Gary Walsh; Barry McGowan, Matt Gallagher, Noel Hegarty; Donal Reid, Martin Gavigan, John Joe Doherty; Anthony Molloy, Brian Murray; James McHugh, Martin McHugh, Joyce McMullan; Declan Bonner, Tony Boyle, Manus Boyle. **Subs:** Barry Cunningham for Murray (inj.), Martin Shovlin although selected was unable to play in the final, John Joe Doherty replaced him.

**Other panel members:** Paul Callaghan, Tommy Ryan, Paul Carr, Charlie Mulgrew, John Cunningham, Sylvester Maguire, Michael Gallagher, Jimmy McGuinness and Mark Crossan.

**Manager:** Brian McEniff. **Selectors:** Michael Lafferty, Seamus Bonner, Naul McCole. **Trainer:** Anthony Harkin.

**Scorers in the final:** M. Boyle 0-9, D. Bonner 0-4, M. McHugh 0-3, J. McHugh 0-1, T. Boyle 0-1.

### The Road to All-Ireland Gold

- May 24 (Cavan): Donegal 1-15, Cavan 1-15
- May 31 (Ballybofey): Donegal 0-20, Cavan 1-6
- June 21 (Omagh): Donegal 2-17, Fermanagh 0-7
- July 19 (Clones): Donegal 0-14, Derry 1-9
- August 16 (Croke Park): Donegal 0-13, Mayo 0-9
- September 20 (Croke Park): Donegal 0-18, Dublin 0-14

### THE ONLY ONE

Of the eight teams that participate in this year's National League Division One competition only Kildare have so far failed to win the title.

### MOST N.F.L. MEDALS

In a glittering career in the green and gold jersey of Kerry, spanning three decades, Mick O'Dwyer won a record total of eight National Football League medals.

### THE CUP

The National Football League winners receive the Irish National Insurance Cup. It was first presented to Kerry at the conclusion of the 1929 final. The recipient was Joe Barrett from Rock Street, Tralee, who was born on 17th July 1902. A member of the famous Austin Stack's Club he won a total of 4 National League, 9 Munster and 6 All-Ireland medals. He also received the Sam Maguire Cup as the Kingdom's captain in 1929 and '32.



# KILDARE v DONEGAL

## Last League Meeting

Sunday 15th April 2007

Donegal 1-13 Kildare 1-11

Donegal maintained their unbeaten run in this National League division one semi-final at Croke Park, with a narrow victory over a game Kildare side. The winners had three points on the scoreboard by the 11th minute with Kildare still seeking an opener.

With Colm McFadden in excellent form up front, Donegal still held that three-point advantage (0-7 to 0-4) at half-time.

In the 44th minute McFadden brilliantly set up Kevin McMenamin for the game's first goal. Michael Hegarty added a point to put Donegal seven points clear.

Kildare then displayed their tremendous battling qualities with points by John Doyle and Pádraig O'Neill reducing the deficit to five points.

A tremendous save by Paul Durcan deprived the Lilies of a certain goal. Shortly afterwards Kildare's perseverance was rewarded when Doyle clinically netted a penalty. The Allenwood man then registered a point after his impressive clubmate, Mark Hogarty, provided the pass.

Kevin Cassidy and Doyle exchanged points before the former was sent off for a second yellow card offence.

With a numerical advantage Kildare continued to search for gaps in the Donegal rearguard. But Donegal stood firm and advanced to the final.

**Scorers - Donegal:** Colm McFadden 0-6, Michael Hegarty 0-3, Kevin McMenamin 1-0, Brian Roper 0-1, Paddy McConagley 0-1, Kevin Cassidy 0-1, Adrian Sweeney 0-1. **Kildare:** John Doyle 1-6, Pádraig O'Neill 0-2, Tadhg Fennin 0-2, Michael Conway 0-1.

**Donegal:** Paul Durcan; Neil McGee, Paddy Campbell, Karl Lacey; Paddy McConagley, Barry Monaghan, Barry Dunning; Neil Gallagher, Kevin Cassidy; Ciarán Bonner, Brian Roper, Christy Toye, Colm McFadden, Brendan Devaney, Michael Hegarty. **Subs:** Kevin McMenamin, Eamon McGee, Adrian Sweeney, Frank McGlynn, Thomas Donoghue.

**Kildare:** Enda Murphy; Eamonn Callaghan, David Lyons, Andrew McLoughlin; Anthony Rainbow, Mark Hogarty, Emmet Bolton; Killian Brennan, Kevin O'Neill; James Kavanagh, John Doyle, Ken Donnelly; Tadhg Fennin, Jason Phillips, Pádraig O'Neill. **Subs:** Tomás O'Connor, Michael Conway, Willie Heffernan, Murt Donnelly.

Referee: Rory Hickey (Clare).

## Last Newbridge League Meeting

Sunday 2nd March 1997

Kildare 1-14 Donegal 1-7

Kildare impressively defeated a less than enthusiastic Donegal side in this round 7 division one league match to qualify for the quarter-final of the competition.

Niall Buckley's shooting was top-class throughout the afternoon. He scored four of Kildare's five first half points (Martin Lynch got the other) which enabled the Lilies to go in at the break with a three-point advantage.

"Nuckser" raised a further four white flags in the second half while Declan Kerrigan got his side's only goal. With thirteen minutes remaining Donegal were six points adrift and drifting.

A late Brian Roper goal kept a respectable look on the scoreboard for bottom of the table Donegal.

**Scorers - Kildare:** N. Buckley 0-8, D. Kerrigan 1-0, M. Lynch 0-2, E. McCormack 0-2, E. Dockery 0-1, Michael Ryan 0-1. **Donegal:** M. Boyle 0-3, B. Roper 1-0, A. Sweeney 0-2, O. Reid 0-1, T. Boyle 0-1.

**Kildare:** Christy Byrne; Martin Ryan, John Finn, Ken Doyle; Anthony Rainbow, Glenn Ryan, Brian Fahy; Dale Hynan, Niall Buckley; Pádraig Gravin, Declan Kerrigan, Tom Harris; Eddie McCormack, Martin Lynch, Eric Dockery. **Sub:** Michael Ryan.

**Donegal:** Paul Callaghan; Peter McGinley, Seán McEwan, John Cunningham; Damien Diver, Mark Crossan, Ollie Reid; James Ruane, Martin Gavigan; James "Ban" Gallagher, Tony Boyle, Brian Murray; Adrian Sweeney, Manus Boyle, Brian Roper. **Subs:** Dessie McNamara and Matt Gallagher.

★ The introduction of Matt Gallagher in the second half brought his total number of senior competitive appearances in the Donegal jersey to 146.

★ Adrian Sweeney and Brian Roper won National League medals with Donegal in 2007.

★ Brian Murray won a Kildare senior league division one (Leinster Leader Cup) medal with Kilcock in 2003.

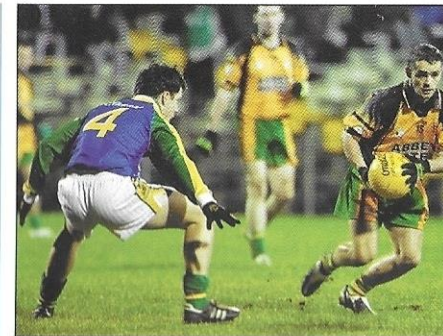
By JOE WOODS

# DONEGAL HOPE TO KEEP UP THEIR GOOD START

As Donegal roll into Newbridge today to take on Kildare they will be hoping that Lady Luck remains firmly wrapped up in the green and gold. Despite performing well, we have enjoyed more than our fair share of good luck in recent weeks relying on two last gasp goals to dash the hopes of both All-Ireland champions Kerry as well as Mayo and in doing so we have secured full points from our opening encounters in the defence of the NFL title.

Kildare for their part have seen the other side of Lady Luck, have just one point to show for their efforts and were on the wrong side of a narrow one point defeat at the hands of Galway last time out. That makes this game with Donegal all the more important for Kieran McGeeney's men and the Donegal supporters who have made their way up the M1 will be aware that there may be a sting in the Kildare tail.

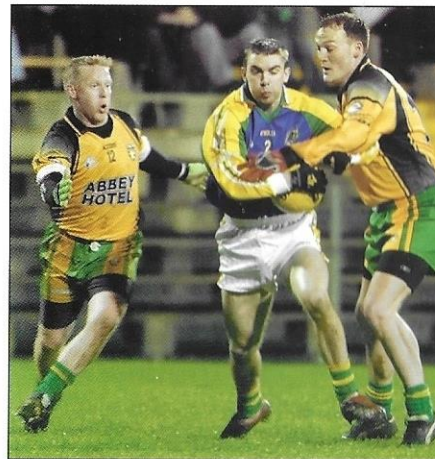
From afar it looks like Kildare have yet to hit their rhythm with McGeeney at the wheel but, as Donegal men know only too well, when McGeeney gets going he is a hard man to stop! Donegal and McGeeney have faced up to each other on many occasions when McGeeney was the driving force behind Armagh and it must be said that the overall outcome was stacked heavily in the favour of the Na Fianna clubman.



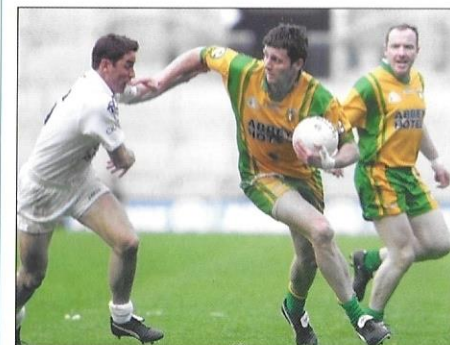
Brian Roper who was awarded with the Donegal Player of the Year last Friday week and Colm McFadden in action against Kerry.

Last year after the high of winning the National League, a lot was expected of the Donegal team but, unfortunately, it didn't materialise as Monaghan swept us aside in the Qualifiers. That said, Donegal seem content within themselves in 2008 and with Brian McIvor back in charge there is much expectation for the year ahead – particularly when the summer rolls around. Kildare will also be anxious to make their mark under McGeeney therefore today's encounter is nicely teed-up and could well turn out to be a cracker.

SÉAMUS Ó DÓMHNAILL



Kevin (Wappa) McMenamin against Kerry.



Christy Toye, Donegal, gets away from Kildare's Mark Hogarty as Adrian Sweeney awaits the outcome during the NFL semi-final.



## Donegal's 2007 National League Score Sheet

### Division 1A

3rd Feb:	Páirc Uí Rinn	
	<b>Donegal 1-12</b>	<b>Cork 2-7</b>
11th Feb:	Ballybofey	
	<b>Donegal 1-13</b>	<b>Mayo 1-10</b>
25th Feb:	Ballybofey	
	<b>Donegal 0-9</b>	<b>Dublin 0-5</b>
10th Mar:	Omagh	
	<b>Donegal 2-11</b>	<b>Tyrone 1-8</b>
25th Mar:	Letterkenny	
	<b>Donegal 1-15</b>	<b>Kerry 0-13</b>
1st Apr:	Limerick	
	<b>Donegal 4-6</b>	<b>Limerick 2-12</b>
8th Apr:	Ballybofey	
	<b>Donegal 1-13</b>	<b>Fermanagh 2-9</b>
15th Apr:	Croke Park – SEMI-FINAL Div. 1	
	<b>Donegal 1-13</b>	<b>Kildare 1-11</b>
22nd Apr:	Croke Park – FINAL	
	<b>Donegal 0-13</b>	<b>Mayo 0-10</b>

### 2007 NFL SCORERS

Colm McFadden	1-21
Brendan Devenney	0-20
Kevin McMenamin	2-10
Kevin Cassidy	2-6
Ciarán Bonner	0-10
Christy Toye	2-3
Adrian Sweeney	1-6
Michael Hegarty	0-8
Rory Kavanagh	0-6
Brian Roper	0-6
Ryan Bradley	1-1
Leon Thompson	1-0
Michael Doherty	1-0
Johnny McCloone	0-2
Paddy McConagley	0-2
Barry Monaghan	0-1
Barry Dunnion	0-1
Denis Boyle	0-1
Eamon McGee	0-1

### BEST INDIVIDUAL FEATS

Brendan Devenney 0-7 v Kerry  
Colm McFadden 0-6 v Kildare  
Colm McFadden 1-4 v Tyrone  
Kevin McMenamin 1-3 v Cork

## Donegal's 2007 Championship Campaign

### Ulster Championship

Sunday 27 May:	Ballybofey	
	Donegal 1-9	Armagh 1-8
Sunday 17 June:	Clones	
	Tyrone 2-15	Donegal 1-7

### All-Ireland Qualifiers

Saturday 7 July:	Carrick-on-Shannon	
	Donegal 1-16	Leitrim 1-14
a.e.t.		
Saturday 14 July:	Mullingar	
	Donegal 1-13	Westmeath 1-8
Saturday 28 July:	Omagh	
	Monaghan 2-12	Donegal 1-7

### CHAMPIONSHIP SCORERS

Brendan Devenney	2-9
Rory Kavanagh	1-8
Colm McFadden	0-8
Kevin McMenamin	0-7
Michael Murphy	1-2
Kevin Cassidy	1-1
Ciarán Bonner	0-3
Ryan Bradley	0-3
Michael Hegarty	0-2
Eamon McGee	0-2
Christy Toye	0-2
Adrian Sweeney	0-1
Paddy McConagley	0-1
Niall McCready	0-1
Neil Gallagher	0-1
Stephen McDermott	0-1

### BEST INDIVIDUAL FEATS

Colm McFadden 0-6 v Armagh  
Brendan Devenney 1-3 v Westmeath  
Rory Kavanagh 1-2 v Monaghan  
Michael Murphy 1-1 v Leitrim

For up-to-date Kildare G.A.A.

News visit the Kildare website at  
**kildaregaa.ie**

## The Kildare-Donagall Football Quiz

Compiled  
by  
**JOE WOODS**

1. "The All-Ireland final of 1992 would have to be the game of my life in a Donegal jersey. There was a lot of talk about Keith Barr before the game and I remember standing up in the dressing room and saying "We'll see who is the main man at 5 o'clock this evening"! The words of which Donegal great?
2. Who scored Kildare's winning point against Donegal in the All-Ireland qualifiers match at Newbridge in 2001?
3. Name the only Donegal man to win four consecutive Railway Cup medals?
4. Of the past 24 seasons in the National League 1989/90 was Kildare's most fruitful scoring-wise. Who was manager for that season?
5. "I was disappointed at not being selected for the Ulster final in 1991 and the week after the game I decided it was time to hang up the boots." Which famous Donegal man, who luckily changed his mind, made this statement?
6. Before meeting Donegal in the National League semi-final of 1991 who did Kildare beat in the quarter-final?
7. When last did Donegal reach the Ulster senior final?
8. When last did Kildare win two Leinster championship matches in the same year?
9. Who scored Donegal's only goal of the 1991 National League semi-final against Kildare?
10. Who scored Kildare's only goal in the All-Ireland qualifiers match against Donegal in 2001?
11. Which county defeated Donegal in the 1983 All-Ireland senior semi-final?
12. Which county did Kildare defeat in the 1998 Leinster semi-final?
13. Against which county did Kieran McGeeney play his last Ulster championship match?
14. Who scored Kildare's two goals against Dublin in the 2002 Leinster final?
15. When Donegal last played Kildare in a national league match in Newbridge on Sunday 2nd March 1997 who was their manager?
16. What is the title of former Kildare manager Mick O'Dwyer's most recent autobiography?
17. Who scored Donegal's first goal of the 2007 Ulster championship?
18. Who scored Kildare's only goal of the 2007 Leinster championship?
19. "We were never at the races. You could have blown that match up with 20 minutes to go." Which match was Brian McIver referring to?
20. After which of Donegal's championship matches in their All-Ireland winning year of 1992 did Matt Gallagher state to reporters in the Press Box – "you can stop writing about the full-back problem now, boys"?

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 30**





# THIS MAN KNOWS WHO WILL WIN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

SUNDAY WORLD  
A REAL IRISH SUNDAY

THIS MAN KNOWS WHO WILL WIN



## CILL DARA

Dathanna: **BÁN**

(1) T. Mac Thoirealaigh  
**THOMAS CORLEY**  
Moorefield

(2) E. Baltún  
**EMMET BOLTON**  
Eadestown

(3) A. Mac Lochlainn  
**ANDREW McLOUGHLIN**  
Ellistown

(4) M. Ó Flahartaigh  
**MORGAN O'FLAHERTY**  
Carbury

(5) A. Rainbow  
**ANTHONY RAINBOW**  
Suncroft

(6) C. Ó Néill  
**KEVIN O'NEILL**  
Moorefield

(7) G. De Faoite  
**GARY WHITE**  
Sarsfields

(8) P. Maolairce  
**PÁDRAIG MULLARKEY**  
Round Towers

(9) C. Ó Braonáin  
**KILLIAN BRENNAN (c)**  
Suncroft

(10) R. Mac Suibhne  
**RONAN SWEENEY**  
Moorefield

(11) M. Mac Conmidhe  
**MICHAEL CONWAY**  
Nurney

(12) A. Mac Gabhainn  
**ALAN SMITH**  
Sarsfields

(13) S. Ó Caomhánach  
**JAMES KAVANAGH**  
Ballymore

(14) D. Ó Mochóir  
**DERMOT EARLEY**  
Sarsfields

(15) C. Ó Donnaile  
**KEN DONNELLY**  
Ellistown

*Fir Ionaid:*

(16) E. Ó Murchú

**ENDA MURPHY**

Leixlip

(17) S. Ó Dúghaill

**JOHN DOYLE**

Allenwood

(18) C. Aonais

**KARL ENNIS**

Maynooth

(19) M. Mac an tSaoir

**MICK WRIGHT**

Celbridge

(20) E. Ó Ceallacháin

**EAMONN CALLAGHAN**

Naas

(21) N. De Brún

**NIALL BROWNE**

Two-Mile-House

(22) A. De Barra

**ALAN BARRY**

Sarsfields

(23) M. Ó hAírnéada

**MICHAEL HARTNETT**

Suncroft

(24) T. Rositéir

**TERRY ROSSITER**

Carbury

(25) T. Ó Fionnáin

**TADGH FENNIN**

Castlemitchell

(26) M. Ó Scanláin

**MARK SCANLON**

Round Towers

(27) P. Ó Néill

**PÁDRAIG O'NEILL**

St. Laurences

(28) D. Hendí

**DAMIEN HENDY**

Castledermot

(29) B. Ó Flanagáin

**BRIAN FLANAGAN**

Johnstownbridge

(30) D. Ó Floinn

**DARYL FLYNN**

Moorefield

Manager: Kieran McGeeney (Na Fianna).

Selectors: Paul Grimley (Pearse Óg), Niall Carew (St. Kevin's).

## DÚN NA nGALL

Dathanna: **GLAS, ÓIR AGUS BÁN**



(1) P. Ó Durcain  
**PAUL DURCAN**  
Na Ceithre Máistrí

(2) C. De Léis  
**KARL LACEY**  
Na Ceithre Máistrí

(3) N. Mac Aoidh  
**NÉIL McGEE**  
Gaoth Dobhair

(4) N. Mac Riada  
**NIALL McCREADY**  
Aodh Ruadh BAS

(5) C. Ó Casaide  
**KEVIN CASSIDY (c)**  
Gaoth Dobhair

(6) E. Mac Aoidh  
**EAMONN McGEE**  
Gaoth Dobhair

(7) P. Mag Fhlionn  
**FRANK McGLYNN**  
Gleann Fhinne

(8) N. Ó Gallachóir  
**NEIL GALLAGHER**  
Gleann tSúilí

(9) C. Ó Raifeartaigh  
**KEVIN RAFFERTY**  
Naomh Adhamhnáin

(10) C. Ó Tuathaigh  
**CHRISTY TOYE**  
Naomh Mícheál

(11) M. Mac Giolla Chainnigh  
**MARTIN McELHINNEY**  
Naomh Mícheál

(12) B. Ó Roipear  
**BRIAN ROPER**  
Aodh Ruadh BAS

(13) C. Mac Phaidín  
**COLM McFADDEN**  
Naomh Mícheál

(14) R. Ó Brolchain  
**RYAN BRADLEY**  
Bun Crannaigh

(15) D. Breathnach  
**DAVID WALSH**  
Naomh Bríd

*Fir Ionaid:*

(16) M. Ó Baoill

**MICHAEL BOYLE**

An Tearmainn

(17) P. Mac Daibheid

**PADDY McDAID**

An Tearmainn

(18) B. Ó Mannacháin

**BARRY MONAGHAN**

Na Ceithre Máistrí

(19) S. Mac Aoidh

**STEPHEN McHUGH**

Ard an Rátha

(20) D. Ó Laingáin

**DERMOT LANGAN**

Naomh Bríd

(21) S. Mac Diarmada

**STEPHEN McDERMOTT**

Gleann Fhinne

(22) C. Mac Meanman

**KEVIN McMENAMIN**

An Tearmainn

(23) M. Ó hÉireartaigh

**MICHAEL HEGARTY**

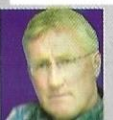
Cill Chartha

(24) L. Mac Giolla Eoin

**LEO McLOONE**

Naomh Conall

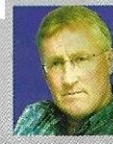
WILL WIN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE



THIS MAN KNOWS WHO

SUNDAY WORLD  
A REAL IRISH SUNDAY

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE





# GEEZER'S GLORY TRAIL

## PART I - TO HELL AND BACK

By **JOE WOODS**

**DESPITE the facile nature of Kerry's victories in the last two All-Ireland finals there is no quick, easy way of capturing the Sam Maguire Cup.**

It requires the patience of a Bertie-probing Judge Mahon, the perseverance of a Derby-chasing Frankie Dettori and the passion of a perfection-seeking Roy Keane.

If any young or aspiring Kildare player thinks otherwise then he should have a chat with Kieran McGeeney. Alternatively having wisely invested less than the price of a pint in today's match programme he could at his leisure please read on!

It was a scorcher of a day in the city of Armagh. The Athletic Grounds was packed to its 14,000 capacity. The BBC cameras and commentators were there to provide live coverage.

It was the first round of the Ulster championship, an all ticket clash of the reigning All-Ireland champions Down and an Armagh side comprising of novices and thoroughbreds.

Armagh introduced four debutants. One of them wore the number 4 jersey. His name was Kieran McGeeney. Sunday 7th June 1992 was to provide him with a baptism of brimstone.

Prior to the throw-in he switched to the right half back position to get to know Gary Mason!

Twelve hard-hitting minutes after the last strains of Amhrán na bhFiann had died away his championship aspirations lay shattered, like Brian Boru's ashes, in the bosom of Armagh city.

A head-on collision with the Down powerhouse, Conor Deegan, saw the Geezer depart for hospital suffering from facial lacerations, a damaged arm and a broken collar-bone.

A glorious James McCartan goal in stoppage time raised the sun-baked roof and sent the title-holders to the dressing room leading by 1-5 to 0-3.

In a ferociously contested second half Down picked off a further seven points while the home side added six to their tally. Gary Mason was chosen as man of the match after shooting eight points, seven from frees. It was only the second time ever that Down had recorded a championship victory on Armagh soil.

Six gruelling matches in the following year's championship proved fruitless for the Orchard County men.

On Sunday 16th May 1993 Fermanagh and Armagh scored 1-9 apiece at Irvinestown. A week later at the Athletic Grounds, Armagh came from nine points down to edge out their visitors on the amazing scoreline of 4-8 to 1-16.

If there is such a thing as an inspired substitution it was made after 55 minutes of this replay. On came a 22-year-old student, appropriately named Denis Hollywood, who stole the show by scoring two goals and one point. His starring role won the match for Armagh and for him the man of the match award.

Kieran McGeeney missed those encounters due to a hamstring injury picked up in training in Bundoran on Saturday 8th May while testing a previous hamstring problem under sprint conditions.

Next up, Tyrone. Another two game saga ensued. Episode one with the Geezer still an absentee, was a full-blooded thriller. The superb free-taking of John Toner denied Tyrone a first championship victory at the Athletic Grounds since 1904. Armagh had two points to spare in the replay at Healy Park, Omagh, with McGeeney entering the action in the 53rd minute.

A minefield lay in waiting in the semi-final at Breffni Park, the previous year's All-Ireland champions, Donegal.

It was an extraordinary inconclusive epic of fluctuating fortunes culminating in a last gasp levelling Donegal point. A fully fit McGeeney had the 1992 footballer of the year Martin McHugh in his pocket for the second half.

## GEEZER'S GLORY TRAIL continued

This game marked the 100th competitive appearance for Donegal of their charismatic full-back Matt Gallagher.

McHugh got his revenge in the replay by roasting McGeeney as Donegal asserted their 'independence' on Sunday 4th July with a magnificent display. Armagh were totally outclassed and also outscored by 2-16 to 1-7.

In torrential rain at the Athletic Grounds, Armagh began their 1994 championship campaign with a 1-6 to 0-6 win over Fermanagh. In their next outing, Tyrone ended Armagh's dream for at least another year.

The men from the Orchard County only got one bite at the championship cherry in each of the following three seasons. They lost dismally to Derry in both '95, when McGeeney experienced difficulties with Damian Barton, and '96. Tyrone completed a miserable three-in-a-row for them a year later.

Derry again came back to torment them in the 1998 semi-final after Armagh had defeated Down in their opener.

Dark and gloomy days were replaced in 1999 by a shining light at the end of the tunnel.

It took two games to dismiss Donegal. A closing stages point by Diarmaid Marsden saw off Derry in one of the best games of the year.

On Sunday 1st August at Clones, a magnificent Armagh display illuminated by a 2-7 Óisín McConville contribution put down Down in the Anglo-Celt Cup decider. Armagh were now champions of Ulster for the first time since 1982 and Kieran McGeeney in his eighth successive campaign had finally won that elusive provincial souvenir.

The rocky road to Dublin had become smooth at last for Armagh. In the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park they led Meath by 2-4 to 0-8 at half-time but thereafter their challenge fizzled out, only notching one further point. However, a new ray of hope emerged when Meath went on to win the final.

With McGeeney now as captain Armagh made it back-to-back Ulster crowns in 2000. Luck deserted them in Croke Park against Kerry at the penultimate stage. On several

occasions over the two games plus extra time their moment appeared to have arrived. It was not to be. Kerry survived and went on to win the All-Ireland.

Tyrone dumped Armagh out of the 2001 Ulster championship in round one. But for the first time a back door had opened.

Armagh defeated Down and Monaghan before losing in a round 3 qualifiers match in Croke Park to Galway who subsequently won the All-Ireland.

With Joe Kernan as manager 2002 began with a drawn encounter with Tyrone. Armagh narrowly claimed victory in the replay before comfortable seeing off Fermanagh in the semi-final. They had four points to spare against Donegal in the Ulster final at Clones on Sunday 7th July.

Lady luck, a deserter from Armagh's armoury in previous years, returned for the remainder of the season. Her return was needed. A lively Sligo prevented them from gaining a victory in the All-Ireland quarter-final at Croke Park and only failed by two points in the replay at Navan. A thrilling one point victory over Dublin in the semi-final supplied Kieran McGeeney with the opportunity of a lifetime.

Could a torturous journey end in glory?

★ SEE PART TWO

## PART 2 - NIRVANA!

**IT'S 5 a.m. on a Monday morning. The village of Saggart about ten miles from Dublin's city centre is the place to be. No thoughts of work. Not even a mention of bed.**

A cacophony of sound greets a new dawn. Citywest Hotel can barely accommodate the delirious crowd. The uplifting and roof-raising singing of "The Boys from the County Armagh" wipes away the sorrows of 1953 and '77. Tears of joy are shed in the celebrating of a glorious achievement, the capturing of Sam for the first time.

Invited guests and 'guests' who invited themselves all savour a 'new dawn' in every sense. Bet Jim Mansfield never dreamt of





## Happy Kildare Supporters in Omagh after Tyrone match



## GEEZER'S GLORY TRAIL continued

Monday mornings like this! Bet the composer of Armagh's greatest song never envisaged his words gaining such acclaim. Those standing idly by could hardly remain unmoved as rendition after rendition of the famous anthem passionately reverberated around the hotel.

Even a militant atheist like Richard Dawkins if he walked in would find it difficult not to say "to hell with begrudgers, thank God for such an occasion of pure heavenly bliss!"

Had those nuns from Omeath who knitted Armagh's first set of orange and white jerseys in 1926 appeared, one wonders would they have been able to remain faithful to all of their vows! How times had changed from an evening in September of 1942 when five members of the local Saggart club, St. Mary's, Paddy O'Connor, Paddy Bermingham, Gerry Fitzgerald, Caleb Crone and Peter O'Reilly (later a Kildare trainer) returned home after helping Dublin beat Galway in the All-Ireland final.

Armagh had now reached their footballing nirvana.

The party had begun about twelve hours previously when referee John Bannon signalled an end to the 2002 All-Ireland final with Kieran McGeeney fittingly in possession of the football. The prophecy on one of their many banners, "Thine is the Kingdom, Ours is the Glory", had been fulfilled.

Croke Park became an ocean of orange and white. The waves parted to allow their king ascend to the throne. Seán Kelly spoke. The disciples waited. And then the Sam Maguire Cup was handed over to the mighty Mullaghbawn man.

But at half-time on Sunday 22nd September 2002 fears of another crop failure for the Orchard County were being expressed by many in the 79,500 crowd.

Armagh started brightly but lost control after about ten minutes as Kerry's style and speed threatened to demolish their full-back line. Five unanswered Kerry points between the 18th and the 26th minute left Armagh trailing by 0-9 to 0-5. Diarmaid Marsden reduced the deficit to three points but another Kingdom surge opened up a

gap of five, 0-11 to 0-6.

A boost came for Armagh after 34 minutes in the form of a penalty but Declan O'Keefe saved from Oisín McConville. Marsden delivered another point to leave the scoreboard reading Armagh 0-7 Kerry 0-11 at the break.

In the second half Armagh got on top at midfield thus limiting the supply of ball into Kerry's danger men. Also their half-backs began to tackle superbly and then surged forward inspirationally. In fact all over the field Armagh showed tremendous character and amazing bottle as every man stood up and was counted. It was a fantastic display of team-work. Kerry had no answer and from play in that second 35 minutes of action could only muster one solitary point.

Armagh's most important ever goal was splendidly executed in the 54th minute. Andrew McCann soloed from the Canal End side in front of the Hogan Stand towards the Railway end before parting to Oisín McConville. He gave the ball to Paul McGrane who returned it to McConville. A great low drive by the Crossmaglen man to the corner of the Kerry net and Croke Park erupted.

Ronan Clarke four minutes later kicked a magnificent equaliser. In the 62nd minute Steven McDonnell sealed it with the game's last score. Armagh 1-12, Kerry 0-14.

Joe Kernan's troops had taken the spoils in their greatest battle. Their inner belief, heart and skill had made the shared dream of generations of Armagh supporters become a reality. And then they began to sing "The Boys from the County Armagh".

**Armagh:** Benny Tierney; Enda McNulty, Justin McNulty, Francie Bellew; Aidan O'Rourke, Kieran McGeeney, Andrew McCann; John Toal, Paul McGrane; Paddy McKeever, John McEntee, Oisín McConville; Steven McDonnell, Ronan Clarke, Diarmaid Marsden. **Subs:** Barry O'Hagan and Tony McEntee. **Scorers:** O. McConville 1-2, S. McDonnell 0-3, R. Clarke 0-3, D. Marsden 0-3, J. McEntee 0-1.

P.S. I can still mentally hear those immortal words:

*"There's one fair county in Ireland  
With memories so glorious and grand."*



## KILDARE v DONEGAL NFL MEETINGS

1986	NOVEMBER 2	Newbridge	Kildare 2-11	Donegal 1-10
1987	November 8	Ballybofey	Donegal 1-10	Kildare 1-3
1991	April 21	Croke Park	Kildare 0-14	Donegal 1-10 (semi-final)
1992	October 18	Ballybofey	Donegal 1-9	Kildare 0-6
1993	November 21	Newbridge	Kildare 1-10	Donegal 0-7
1994	November 27	Ballybofey	Kildare 1-11	Donegal 1-8
1995	April 2	Clones	Donegal 1-16	Kildare 0-11 (play-off)
1996	February 25	Ballyshannon	Kildare 0-11	Donegal 1-8
1997	March 2	Newbridge	Kildare 1-14	Donegal 1-7
2007	April 15	Croke Park	Donegal 1-13	Kildare 1-11 (semi-final)

10 meetings. 5 wins for Kildare. 4 wins for Donegal. 1 draw.

### ONE CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING - All-Ireland Qualifiers

2001	Sat. June 30	Newbridge	Kildare 1-17	Donegal 1-16
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### GAELIC WEEKLY TOURNAMENT MEETING

1966	Sun. Oct. 23	Newbridge	Kildare 3-7	Donegal 0-11
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## NATIONAL LEAGUE FINAL APPEARANCES

### KILDARE

1928	April 29	Croke Park	Kerry 2-4	Kildare 1-6
1929	December 1	Croke Park	Kerry 1-7	Kildare 2-3
1958	May 18	Croke Park	Dublin 3-13	Kildare 3-8
1968	May 26	Croke Park	Down 2-14	Kildare 2-11
1991	May 5	Croke Park	Dublin 1-9	Kildare 0-10

### DONEGAL

1993	May 2	Croke Park	Donegal 0-9	Dublin 0-9
	May 9	Croke Park	Dublin 0-10	Donegal 0-6 (replay)
1995	May 14	Croke Park	Derry 0-12	Donegal 0-8
1996	May 5	Croke Park	Derry 1-16	Donegal 1-9
2007	April 22	Croke Park	Donegal 0-13	Mayo 0-10

## N.F.L. ROLL OF HONOUR

**Kerry (18):** 1928, 1929, 1931, 1932, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1982, 1984, 1997, 2004, 2006.

**Mayo (11):** 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1949, 1954, 1970, 2001.

**Dublin (8):** 1953, 1955, 1958, 1976, 1978, 1987, 1991, 1993.

**Meath (7):** 1933, 1946, 1951, 1975, 1988, 1990, 1994.

**Cork (5):** 1952, 1956, 1980, 1989, 1999.

**Derry (5):** 1947, 1992, 1995, 1996, 2000.

**Down (4):** 1960, 1962, 1968, 1983.

**Galway (4):** 1940, 1957, 1965, 1981.

**New York (3):** 1950, 1964, 1967.

**Laois (2):** 1926, 1986.

**Tyrone:** 2002, 2003.

**Cavan:** 1948.

**Longford:** 1966.

**Monaghan:** 1985.

**Roscommon:** 1979.

**Offaly:** 1998.

**Armagh:** 2005.

**Donegal:** 2007

# Great White Hopes

By **JOE WOODS**

## Gary White

Gary White made an impressive National Football League debut for Kildare under the Omagh lights on Sat. 2nd Feb. 2008 in the division one, round one, drawn encounter with Tyrone.



His many talents have been in evidence from an early age. In 2004 at the age of 17 he was one of the stars of the Kildare team that reached the Leinster minor final.

The following year he helped Sarsfields win the Kildare senior championship title. He scored two points, one of which was a brilliantly struck '45, in the replayed final against St. Laurence's. Gary followed this up in '05 with a county minor championship medal. In the final he gave an outstanding display which gained him the man of the match award. Seven months previously he lined out at left half forward on the Kildare side that defeated Westmeath in the Leinster minor league decider at Carbury.

Last year he was a county under-21 medal winner with the 'Sash'.

Gary has also represented Kildare at under-21 level in 2006, '07 and '08.

His grandfather, the legendary Paddy 'Boiler' White, was one of Kildare's greatest ever footballers. In 2000 he was chosen at centre half forward on Kildare's millennium team. He has also received the Kildare G.A.A. hall of fame award. With his club Sarsfields he won 5 S.F.C. medals.

When Mícheál Ó Muirheartaigh made his first live radio broadcast on St. Patrick's Day 1949 the 'Boiler' was the wearer of Leinster's number 11 jersey in the Railway Cup final at Croke Park against Munster.

Don't bet against Mícheál commentating on some big game at Croke Park in the not too distant future that features the 'Boiler's' grandson, Gary White in the Lilywhite jersey.

## Alan Smith

With 17 minutes remaining in Kildare's first league match of 2008 at Healy Park, Omagh, Kieran McGeeney revealed his trump card. It was Alan Smith.

The 21-year-old used his pace and intellect to set up what could yet be hailed as Kildare's most important league goal of 2008. This significant contribution in his first league appearance is just a further manifestation of the innate football class of the Sarsfields tyro.

Alan's playing career has followed a similar route to that of Gary White's, two years on the county minor team, three years on the county under-21 team.

He played in the 2004 Leinster minor final against Laois. In '05 he won a Leinster minor league medal before completing the senior and minor county championship double with the 'Sash'. Last year he added a county under-21 medal to his collection.

With more than a few drops of 'blue' blood in his veins (his father Tom hails from Laois), it is inevitable that Alan Smith will be a regular performer.

Alan is a cousin of the former Laois football star Tommy Smith.

## Tom Corley

Three days before his 22nd birthday Thomas Corley completed a notable Leinster treble. On Sunday 3rd December 2006 at O'Moore Park, Portlaoise, he donned the number 1 jersey in the Leinster club final.



He won his first Leinster medal at the same venue on May Day 2004 when guarding the net for the Kildare team that defeated Dublin in the replay of the under-21 final. A second was secured two months later, as the reserve keeper, on Kildare's



junior team that overcame Dublin at St. Conleth's Park in the provincial decider.

Tom was also between the posts at Croke Park when Kildare failed by two points (0-13 to 0-11) to the city side in the replay of the 2005 Leinster under-21 final.

He has also splendidly protected the Moore's net in their county senior final triumphs of 2006 and '07. In 2002 he was a panel member when Moorefield beat Sarsfields in the county final.

Tom delivered the goods, yet again, in his league debut in Omagh last month.

### Mark Scanlon

Eighteen days before celebrating his 18th birthday, Mark Scanlon was in sparkling form for his club Round Towers in their county senior final victory over Kilcock on Sunday 21st September 2003 at St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge.

In that same year's Leinster minor league decider he partnered James Kavanagh at midfield on the Kildare team that beat Laois who subsequently won the All-Ireland crown.

Mark, who is a final year degree student of Exercise & Health at Waterford I.T. represented his county at under-21 level in 2004, '05 and '06 before making his National League debut against Armagh at Newbridge last year.

His exploits in the under-21 grade were rewarded with both Leinster (2004) and Kildare (2006) medals.

On Sunday 25th February 2007 Mark scored his first league point for Kildare after a fantastic solo-run from his wing back berth against Derry at St. Conleth's Park.

This Kildare colleges senior championship medal winner with St. Joseph's Academy, Kildare town, experienced his first taste of Leinster senior championship fare when sprung from the bench against Meath at Croke Park last May.

### Ken Donnelly

Ken Donnelly made his National League debut and also scored a point after replacing Johnny Doyle at St. Conleth's Park in the

60th minute of Kildare's round six game against Waterford on Sunday 21st March 2004.

The previous year he made four senior championship appearances for the Lilies. His first was at Mullingar on Sunday 25th May when he came on against Longford in the Leinster quarter-final. He also came on against Meath in the semi-final and Laois in the final. He got his first start in the subsequent All-Ireland qualifiers match against Roscommon at Portlaoise.

Ken scored 1-2 in Ellistown's 1999 Junior A championship final victory over Ardcrough. A year later he was top scorer with a 1-4 return when Ellistown had one point to spare against Ballyteague in the 2000 county intermediate final at Sarsfields Park. To complete a memorable afternoon he was also awarded the man of the match trophy.

Other important medals in Ken's collection include Jack Higgins Cup (1999) and county under-21 B (2000 and 2001).

His father Martin and his uncles Paddy, Brendan and Jack all played for Ellistown against Carbury in the 1972 Kildare senior final.

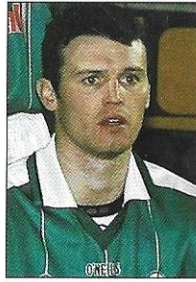
Jack Donnelly will go down in history as one of Kildare's greatest ever footballers. This 1965 All-Ireland under-21 medal winner received public acknowledgement of his wonderful service to the Lilywhite cause when being chosen at right half forward on Kildare's millennium team in 2000.

Yes, Ken has got the perfect pedigree.

### Morgan O'Flaherty

With a county senior final winning captain as father, a Leinster club medal winning uncle and a Kerry grandfather it was always a strong possibility that Morgan O'Flaherty would distinguish himself as a footballer.

His father Denis captained Raheens to



victory in the 1978 Kildare county senior football final. He also sampled success in the deciders of '73 (panel member), '76 and '79. At minor level Denis won back-to-back county titles (1971 and '72) while in the under-21 grade he captured a county souvenir in '74. He also helped the Caragh-based club win 3 Leinster Leader Cups.

Morgan, a brother of Denis, was a member of the Raheens panel that took possession of the Dermot Bourke in 1981. He lined out at centre half forward in their Leinster club final victory over Portlaoise in 1982 at Athy.

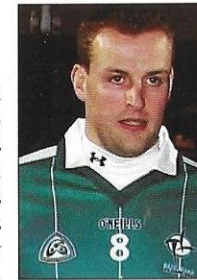
Young Morgan, who made his league debut in Omagh on 2nd February 2008, impacted hugely on Carbury's Aldridge Cup final victories of 2003 and 2004.

### Pádraig Mullarkey

Featuring in his 24th National League match and his first since being introduced as a substitute against Laois in round 7 at Portlaoise on Sunday 9th April 2006, Pádraig Mullarkey scored his first-ever league goal for Kildare against Tyrone. Its significance could yet assume a more elevated status. Irrespective of future happenings this Omagh three pointer on Saturday 2nd February 2008 was a tremendous point earner for Kildare.

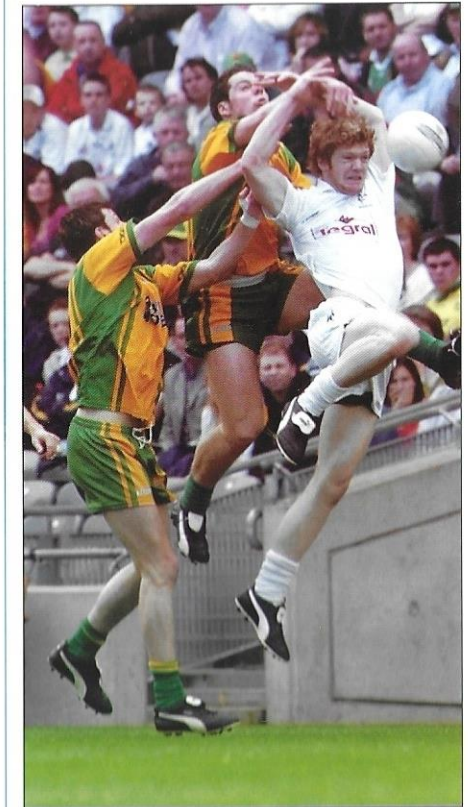
Pádraig obtained his first league start against Meath on Sunday 9th April 2000 in a round 7 match at Newbridge when he donned the number 4 jersey. His first point in the league was scored in Ballina against Mayo on Sunday 9th March 2003.

Also in '03 he produced a massive display for Round Towers in the Kildare county



senior final against Kilcock. Although operating at midfield he made the entire arena his stage. A feature of this performance was his powerfully struck goal after a dazzling solo run straight through the Kilcock defence. He went home victorious with the added bonus of the man of the match trophy.

In his pre-Towers days, Pádraig won a Jack Higgins Cup, county junior A, county intermediate and 2 county under-21 B championship medals with Ellistown. With Kildare he has won Leinster senior (as a panellist) and O'Byrne Cup medals.



*Tomas O'Connor of Kildare goes up for the ball with Kevin Cassidy and Christy Toye of Donegal in the NFL semi final at Croke Park.*



# Football Miscellany

By JOE WOODS

## Hail Unique Mary!

Mary Donnelly, Kildare's dynamic P.R.O., is unique amongst the officers of the County Board, both past and present, in that she is the only ever officer in the history of Kildare G.A.A. with three sons, all of whom have played football for the county.

In recent years Ken and Murt have attained senior inter-county status following promising underage careers in the Lilywhite jersey.

Mary's youngest son, Michael, represented Kildare in the 2006 Leinster minor championship.

All Kildare gaels wish both Murt and Michael a quick return to full health following recent injuries.

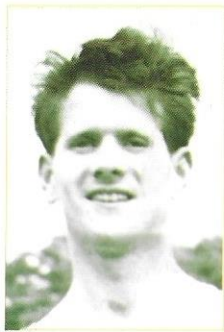
## Pat Buckley's Finest Half-hour!

In their first ever competitive clash, Kildare defeated Donegal by 3-7 to 0-11 at St. Conleth's Park, Newbridge, on Sunday 23rd October 1966 in the Gaelic Weekly tournament semi-final.

With Ollie Crinnigan absent through injury the new Kildare selectors, Matt Murray, Art Aspell, Ollie Reilly, Larry McCormack, Toss McCarthy and Jim Clarke picked Straffan's Tony Kane as goalkeeper for this match.

At half-time they replaced him with Pat Buckley, a son of the three times All-Ireland medal winner Mick and an uncle of All-Star 'Nuckser'.

The Sarsfields man was Kildare's hero in the second half against a goal-hungry Donegal attack. Displaying alertness, agility and anticipation, he made numerous vital saves that Gordon Banks would have been thrilled with, three months previously in the World Cup final at Wembley Stadium.



In his first five minutes alone between the posts Pat brilliantly saved three rasping shots that seemed destined for the back of the Kildare net. Thereafter he continually denied the Donegal strike-force.

Kildare's goals were put away by Leo Long, Brian Judge and Pat Nally. Kevin Kelly was top scorer with five points while Jack Donnelly raised the Lilies other two white flags.

In the Gaelic Weekly final two weeks later at Croke Park, Mayo, the conquerors of Kerry in the other semi-final, comfortably defeated Kildare.

However, the semi-final will always be remembered as Pat Buckley's finest half-hour.

His son Fintan captained the 1987 Leinster title winning Kildare minor team.

## Jobs For The Boys!

When Kildare beat Cavan in the 1928 All-Ireland final all of the umpires and linesmen were members of the G.A.A.'s Central Council. The chosen six were Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan (Kerry), W. P. Clifford (Limerick), J. J. Callinan (Tipperary), S. T. O'Brien P.C. (Mayo), P. Brennan (Sligo) and C. Flynn (Leitrim).

The referee was Alderman Tom Burke from Drogheda.

Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, greeted the players before the throw-in. The rival captains, Bill 'Squires' Gannon and Jim Smith, then had the privilege of bending their knees to kiss the episcopal ring!

## On A Train Bound For Croker!

On Sunday 30th September 1928, 26 special trains departed from all parts of the country for that afternoon's All-Ireland football final. A total of 12,778 fans availed of the 'specials' which served Dublin's four railway stations, Amiens Street, Broadstone, Westland Row and Kingsbridge.

At Newbridge 382 people boarded one of the trains but the record was set in Cavan town where 800 fans managed to get on board.

## FOOTBALL MISCELLANY continued

## Donegal's Kildare Medal Winner

Donegal's Rory Kavanagh is the holder of 2 Kildare county football championship medals. In 2001 he lined out at midfield for NUI Maynooth who defeated Confeby by 5-11 to 0-5 at Leixlip's Radley Park in the county under-21 A final. Also on that successful college side were Marc Ó Sé (Kerry), Alan Dillon (Mayo), Ross Munnely (Laois) and Dublin's Barry Cahill and Alan Brogan.

Rory added a county under-20 medal to his collection when the students beat Clane by 2-14 to 1-8 in the 2002 decider. Once again his talents were deployed in a midfield berth. Dillon also collected his second Kildare medal when operating at right half forward for the 'blow-in' side. Bernard Brogan, a brother of Alan, featured at left half forward.

Last year Rory Kavanagh helped Donegal win their first ever National League title. On the losing Mayo team in the final was his old college mate Alan Dillon.

## A First For Columba

The first Donegal man to win an All-Ireland senior football championship medal on the field of play was Columba McDyer who played on the winning Cavan team against Kerry in the famous Polo Grounds, New York, final of 1947.

Columba's father, Alex, lined out in Donegal's first ever championship game against Derry in 1906. It was a disappointing start for Donegal who lost by 0-18 to 0-2 in Derry. Donegal didn't participate in the Ulster S.F.C. again until 1919.

In 1940, '41 and '42 Columba McDyer represented Donegal in the Ulster senior football championship. Ironically, the former St. Eunan's College student had his championship aspirations dashed in each of those years by Cavan.

He won back-to-back Railway Cup medals with Ulster in 1942 and '43 when his teammates included John Joe O'Reilly and Simon Deignan. The Glenties man in the course of his working life spent time in Sligo, Cavan, Dublin and Mayo before returning home to take up a teaching post in the late 1950s.

His spell in Cavan saw him declare for his old adversaries. He teamed up once

again with O'Reilly and Deignan. All three were on board when Cavan won the only All-Ireland senior football final staged outside of Ireland. The employment opportunity that materialised in Cavan for Columba McDyer granted him the chance of a lifetime. He accepted it with both feet in the Polo Grounds.

## Kildare's Greatest Scoring Season

Since the G.A.A.'s Centenary Year of 1984, Kildare's best National Football League scoring season was 1989/90 when they amassed the massive overall tally of 28-134 from ten outings. This represented an average of 21.8 points per game.

The chief marksmen were Declan Kerrigan (8-31), Jarlath Gilroy (4-20) and David Fennin (6-8). The highest total score recorded in any one game was 4-25 against Kilkenny at Nowlan Park on Sunday 4th February 1990. The best individual feat was 3-5 by Declan Kerrigan against Carlow at Athy on Sunday 4th March 1990.

In the league quarter-final Cork beat Kildare by 4-10 to 4-5 at Portlaoise with Shay Fahy (2-2) and Larry Tomkins (1-5) emerging as the rebel's chief strikers!

## Manus Boyle's Final Flings!

The scoring of nine points by Manus Boyle in Donegal's 1992 All-Ireland final victory over Dublin maintained his incredible final day scoring tradition.

In the All-Ireland Vocational Schools final of 1984 he notched 2-1 as Donegal beat Longford by 3-9 to 2-3 to take the crown for the first time.

When Donegal drew with Kerry at Tuam in the 1987 All-Ireland under-21 final (1-7 to 0-10) Manus sent over four points.

At Hyde Park in Roscommon town in the replay the Killybegs man was in majestic scoring form. He accounted for 1-7 of Donegal's 1-12 tally. Kerry could only muster 2-4 in reply.

Also on that Donegal All-Ireland under-21 winning team were John Joe Doherty, John Cunningham (captain) and his brother Barry, Tommy Ryan and Barry McGowan, all of whom were members of the 1992 All-Ireland senior winning panel.





## Happy Kildare Supporters in Omagh after Tyrone match



For up-to-date Kildare G.A.A. News visit the Kildare website at  
**kildaregaa.ie**

# An Scuab Nua!!

Sea! A léitheoir, cheannaigh tú Clár Oifigiúil ag an ngeata agus anois tá nótaí déanta agat ar na h-athruithe a deineadh ar an dá fluireann, tá na píosaí suimiúla léite agat agus tá tú ag féachaint ar an 'little bit of Irish' ar eagla na h-eagla go mbéadh rud eigin suimiúil ann! Lean ort, A Chara. Ní saothar in aisce a bheidh ann!

Tamall maith de bhlianta ó shoin, bunaíodh Coiste fé leith igCill Dara chun Cláracha a chuir ar fail do na Cluichí tábhachtaí sa Chontae. (An Coiste Chumarsáide a tugadh air ar dtús ach, níos a déanaí, bronnadh An Coiste Chaidrimh Poiblí air, in ómós, is dócha, do'n gCathaoirleach, An t-Oifigeach Chaidrimh Poiblí) Dob'é an Cathaoirleach Chontae a dh'ainmnigh an Coiste agus bíodh athruithe ar an gCoiste ó bhliain go bliain. De réir a chéile, ámhach, mar a tharlaíonn go minic, bhí na Cathaoirligh sásta go raibh an Coiste ag obair go maith agus, le blianta beaga anuas, is beag athrú a deineadh air. I ndáiríre is iad na Cathaoirligh is mó a athraíodh. Fuair ceann amháin árdú céime nuair a toghadh mar Cathaoirleach ar an gCoiste Chontae é, tá duine eile 'na Rúnaí Chontae (an céad Ban-Chathaoirleach a bhí againn) agus anuraídh d'éirigh fear óg as an bpost agus, táim ag rá libh, is annsan a thosnaigh an sport ceart!

Ní nach ionadh, ós rud é go raibh na Cathaoirligh ag athrú agus na gnáth-baill ann go buan is beag smacht abhí ag aon Chathaoirleach ar obair an Choiste ach gach aoine ag obair ar a chonlán féin gan bhuíochas d'aoine eile! Bhí go maith is ní raibh go h-olc! go dtí gur tháinig an 'Scuab Nua' ar an bhfód. Bhí ár gcéad chruinniú againn timpéall mí ó shoin agus bhí an Cathaoirleach Nua ana-chiúin ar fad! "Ag éisteacht agus ag foghlaim" a dúirt sí agus bhí, dar ndóigh, tuairimí éagsúla ag na gnáth-bhaill tar éis an chruinnithe - 'No problem', 'Soft Touch' 'Easy Going' agus mar sin de! Ach, faraor, 'Ní mar síltear, bítear!' Bhí an tarna chruinniú againn aréir agus, má's ag foghlaim a bhí ár mBean Uasal an chéad oíche bhí 'Árd-Chéim Oiliúna' bainte amach aici idir an dá linn! Ach, má bhí sí tapa ag foghlaim bhí sí seacht n-uaire níos tapúla ag múineadh! Má cheap aoine gur 'Soft Touch' a bhí inti níorbh' fhada gur

dúisíodh as a geodhladh iad! Leagadh síos na bun-rialacha igeúpla focal agus ar shlí nár fhág aon amhras ar aoine cad as a bhéadh sé, nó sí freagrach amach as seo agus, níos tábhachtaí fós, níor fhágadh aon amhras orainn, ach comh beag, cé a bhéadh freagrach as na h-órdaithe! Bhí an Captaen ar an ndroichead agus an long fé lán-tseol!

Ach, mar adeir an tsean-fhocal, 'Ní bhíonn saoi gan lucht' agus, indeire an lae dhein an bhean bhocht botún beag amháin! Nó, b'fheidir nár botún é ach gur chreid sí gur 'Harmless ould craythur' ab'ea an Gaeilgeoir! Cinnte, thug sí órdú dhom an t-alt seo a scríobh 'Aréir nó níos túisce' ach, seachas sin, thug sí 'saoirse an Chontae' dom mo rogha rud féin a dhéanamh!!!

Tá seans maith ann nach mbeidh an 'little bit of Irish' sa chéad chlár eile ach, mura mbeidh, bígi ag faire amach do na cártaí puist ó Siberia nó An Mol Thuaidh (má bhíonn an t-ádh liom!) N'fheadar fé cúrsaí puist I Guantanamo Bay ach táim cinnte nach bhfuil aon Oifig an Phuist san Áit Thíos!

Slán Tamall (fada! déarfainn)

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## 2007 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Div. 1 Final: Sunday 22 April  
Donegal 0-13 Mayo 0-10

Semi-finals: Sunday 15 April  
Donegal 1-13 Kildare 1-11  
Mayo 2-10 Galway 1-12

*All the above matches were played at Croke Park*

## Kildare's Overall Top 20 NFL Scorers

1983/84–2007 incl. (24 seasons)

Total in Points	Player	Scores
213	John Doyle	9-186
166	Niall Buckley	3-157
139	Declan Kerrigan	12-103
135	Tadhg Fennin	10-105
126	Pádraig Brennan	6-108
108	Paul McLoughlin	3-99
99	Jarlath Gilroy	15-54
95	Martin Lynch	9-68
61	Johnny McDonald	2-55
52	Larry Tompkins	5-37
52	Karl O'Dwyer	2-46
46	Brian O'Donovan	2-40
43	Noel Donlon	4-31
43	Liam Miley	6-25
43	Tom Harris	5-28
38	Paul McCormack	3-29
38	Derek McCormack	1-35
37	Paul Gravin	2-31
34	Colm Moran	3-25
34	Brian Nolan	5-19

Please note: (a) scores obtained by some of the above players prior to the 1983/84 season are not included in the list; (b) scores obtained by players in the current season (2008) are not included.

## IT'S A FACT!

Donegal have never defeated Kildare in Newbridge in League or Championship football.

## It's Derry Next

Kildare's next league outing will be away to Derry on Saturday night 15th March. It will be the 15th meeting of the counties in the National League. Derry have emerged as victors on eight occasions while Kildare have taken the points from four encounters. The other two matches finished level.

In their last league meeting a year ago at St. Conleth's Park, Kildare won by 0-10 to 0-7. Their last league clash on Derry soil saw the home boys record an 0-11 to 0-9 victory at Celtic Park on Sunday 5th March 2006. In the only other Celtic Park showdown, on 4th February 1996, Derry narrowly overcame the Lilies by 1-6 to 0-7.

Ominously for Kildare a victory on Derry soil has never been achieved despite travelling to the Oakleaf county on seven occasions. The best result was an eight points all draw at Ballinascreen on Sunday 15th November 1998.

In championship football the counties have met only once. It was an All-Ireland qualifier match at Celtic Park two years ago which also saw Derry gaining the verdict on a scoreline of 1-17 to 0-11.

## ANSWERS TO THE KILDARE-DONEGAL QUIZ

1, Martin McHugh. 2, Ken Doyle. 3, Matt Gallagher. 4, Pat Fitzgerald. 5, Anthony Molloy. 6, Kerry. 7, 2006. 8, 2005 (beat Wicklow and Westmeath). 9, Tony Boyle. 10, Martin Lynch. 11, Galway. 12, Laois. 13, Donegal. 14, Tadhg Fennin. 15, P. J. McGowan. 16, Blessed and Obsessed. 17, Brendan Devenney. 18, Emmet Bolton. 19, Donegal v Tyrone, 2007 Ulster championship. 20, The Ulster first round replay against Cavan.

Wishing all Kildare G.A.A. teams the best of luck in 2008

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