

GAA
FOOTBALL
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP

CRAOBH PEILE SINSEAR NA HEIREÁNN

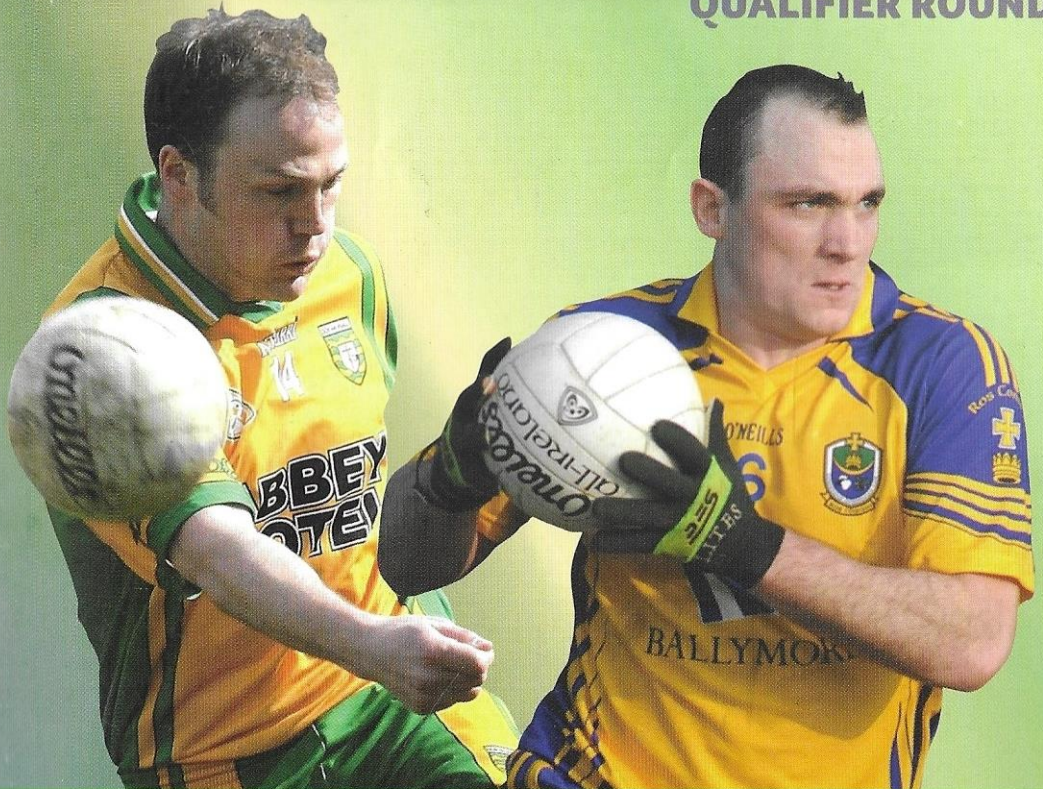


DÚN NA nGALL v ROS COMÁIN
DONEGAL v ROSCOMMON



Páirc Mac Giolla Chomhail, Béal Féich / McColl Park, Ballybofey, 19 July, 2008

QUALIFIER ROUND 1



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CRAOBH PEILE SINSEAR NA hÉIREANN



Páirc Mac Giolla Chomhaill, Bealach Féich. 19 Iúil, 2008

5.00pm **Dún na nGall v Ros Comáin**

Réiteoir: John Bannon (An Longfort)
Linesmen: Pádraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha) (STANDBY REFEREE)
Martin Higgins (Fear Manach)
Sideline Official: Michael Leyden (Liatroim)

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

AN RÉITEOIR: John Bannon (An Longfort)



John brings a wealth of big game experience to his refereeing nowadays. He took charge of the All-Ireland senior finals of 1998 and 2002. He is also a former AIB All-Ireland club final referee and refereed the 2007 National League Division I decider between Donegal and Mayo.

A member of the Legan Sarsfields club, Bannon is a former player and won county championship medals at Senior "B", intermediate and junior.

He was on duty earlier in the Allianz National League, and was also the man-in-the-middle at the Wicklow-Kildare Leinster senior championship first round tie at Croke Park in May.

Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil,
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua
Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta
Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.



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CRAOBH PEILE SINSEAR NA hÉIREANN



FIRST ROUND QUALIFIERS

19 Iúil, 2008

Páirc na nGael, Luimneach @ 7.00 i.n.

LUIMNEACH

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AN MHÍ

Cúil	Cúilíní
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Páirc an Phiarsaigh, An Longfort @ 7.00 i.n.

AN LONGFORT

Cúil	Cúilíní
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LAOIS

Cúil	Cúilíní
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Droichead Nua @ 7.00 i.n.

CILL DARÁ

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AN CABHÁN

Cúil	Cúilíní
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Páirc Uí Chonchúir, Tulach Mhór @ 7.00 i.n.

UÍBH FHAILÍ

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AN DÚN

Cúil	Cúilíní
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Páirc na nGael, Droichead Átha @ 7.00 i.n.

AN LÚ

Cúil	Cúilíní
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TÍR EOGHAIN

Cúil	Cúilíní
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Ard Fhionáin @ 3.00 i.n.

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

Cúil	Cúilíní
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AN IARMHÍ

Cúil	Cúilíní
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Páirc Mac Giolla Chomhaill, Bealach Féich @ 5.00 i.n.

DÚN na nGALL

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ROS COMÁIN

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Páirc Naomh Tighearnach, Cluain Eois @ 3.00 i.n.

MUINEACHÁN

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DOIRE

Cúil	Cúilíní
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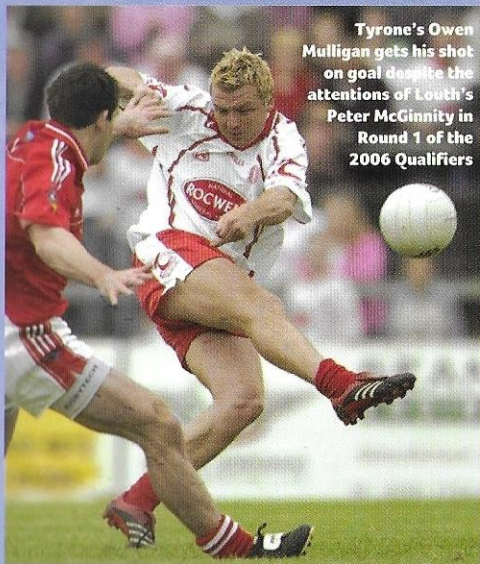


FIRST-ROUND QUALIFIERS PROVIDE EXCITING FARE

The All-Ireland Qualifier senior football championship was inaugurated in 2001 and each year the first round games provided some exciting encounters, good scores and fine individual displays, as well as many exciting talking points

DRAW

Over the seven seasons so far a total of 57 opening round games were played and only two went to replays—and after extra time had been played in each match.



Tyrone's Owen Mulligan gets his shot on goal despite the attentions of Louth's Peter McGinnity in Round 1 of the 2006 Qualifiers

The first draw came as early as the inaugural year. Wexford entertained Westmeath at Wexford Park and well into added time points by right full forward Joe Fallon and left full forward Ger Heavin brought the visitors level and sent the tie into extra time.

As the extra time was drawing to a close Westmeath were a point clear, but Wexford

won a free and left half back Leigh O'Brien showed a cool nerve and accuracy in sending over the bar to tie the scores at 1-19 each. That was his tenth point of the game, eight from frees and one from a "45". Westmeath won the replay at Mullingar by 1-16 to 1-8.

HALF-BACKS

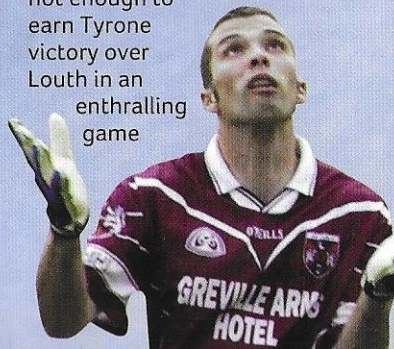
In 2004 it was a tale of two half backs in sending the meeting of Louth and Antrim at Drogheda to extra time.

Centre half Sean Kelly looked to have earned the Glensmen their ticket to the next round when he set the seal on a great run by putting them ahead by a point with time almost up. But up popped right half Derek Shevlin to bring Louth level at 1-9 for the Wee County to their opponents 0-12.

Louth went on to win by 2-13 to 0-14.

ENTHRALLING

Owen Mulligan scored a superb 2-6 at Páirc Tailteann in An Uaimh in 2006 but that was still not enough to earn Tyrone victory over Louth in an enthralling game



John Keane, (An Iarmhí) in action against Willie Carley (Loch Garman) in the 2001 qualifiers



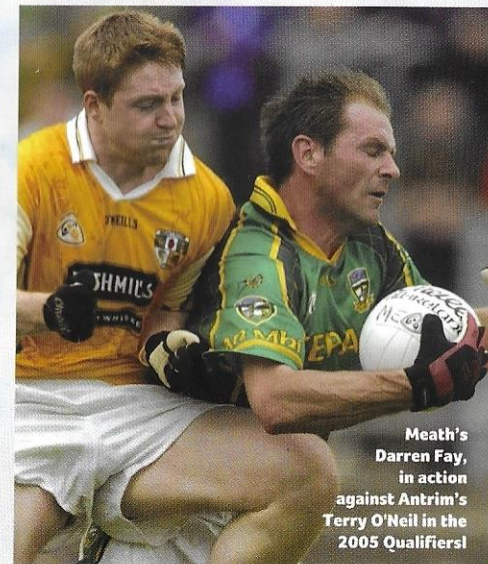
Mulligan delivered a ten minutes scoring blitz of 2-2 coming up to the interval to help his side to a commanding 2-7 to 0-6 lead at the break.

Victory appeared assured for the O'Neill County at that stage but Louth rallied well after the change of ends. They steadily whittled down their deficit and in the second minute of added time left half forward Mark Stanfield found his way through to the Northern net to tie the scores at 2-13 each.

The exchanges continued to be keen in extra time, and as the period was coming to a close, left full forward Mulligan again captured the limelight by shooting the equalising point to bring the scoreline to 2-16 each and bring the tie to a replay.

GOALS TALLY

Mulligan certainly stamped his name on the game,



Meath's Darren Fay, in action against Antrim's Terry O'Neil in the 2005 Qualifiers!

finishing with his superb scoring haul. Tyrone won the replay by 1-12 to 1-7 at Omagh, where Mulligan provided a brace of points.

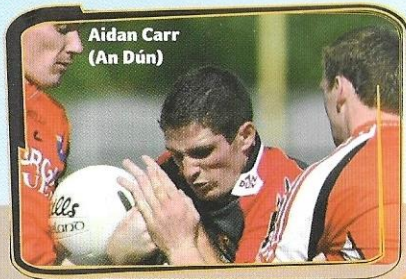
Mulligan's two goal barrage against Louth in the drawn game, brings into focus that Meath have the distinction of having recorded the highest goals tally in a first round tie.

Meath struck in rich on the goals scale on a visit to Casement Park against Antrim. Left full forward Stephen Bray had to retire injured coming up to half-time, but by then he had played a big part in getting Meath into winning mood by helping himself to 2-1.

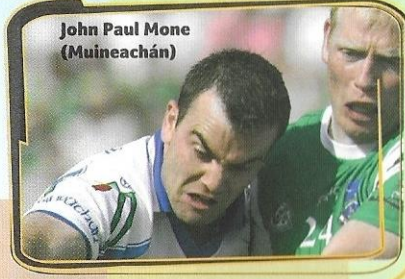
Right full forward Graham Geraghty 1-4, left half forward Peadar Byrne 1-2 and Joe Sheridan, who went in as a substitute for Bray, 1-2, were the others on the goals standard for the Royals in their decisive 5-12 to 0-13 win.



Ronan Sweeney
(Cill Dara)



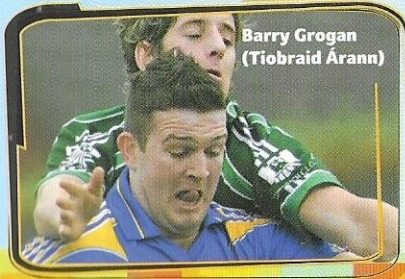
Aidan Carr
(An Dún)



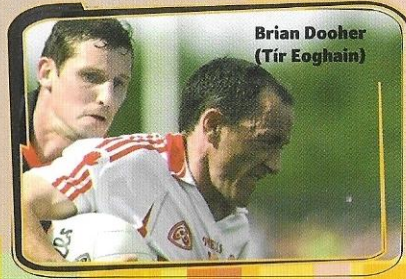
John Paul Mone
(Muineachán)



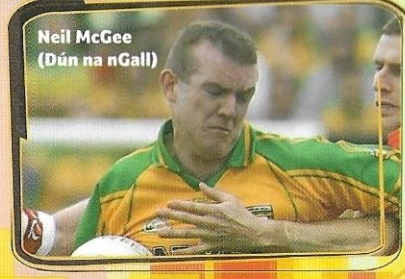
Johnny McCarthy
(Luimneach)



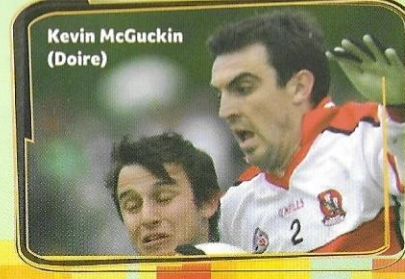
Barry Grogan
(Tiobraid Árann)



Brian Dooher
(Tír Eoghain)



Neil McGee
(Dún na nGall)



Kevin McGuckin
(Doire)

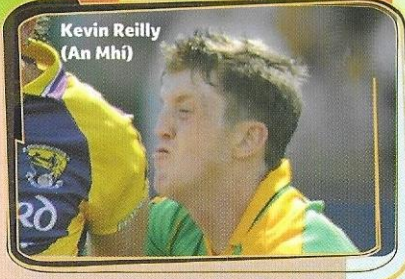
OPENING SHOTS



Ciarán McManus
(Uíbh Fhailí)



Conor Devaney
(Ros Comáin)



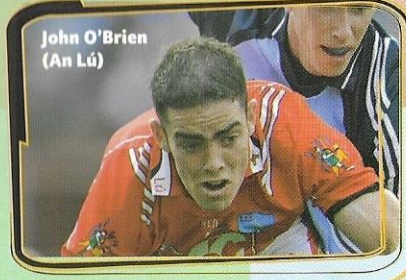
Kevin Reilly
(An Mhí)



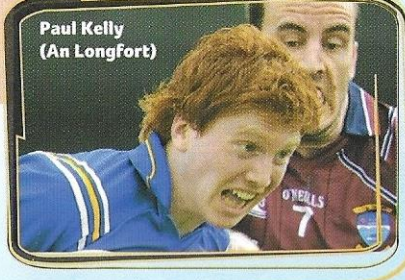
Lorcan Mulvey
(An Cabhán)



Francis Boyle
(An Iarmhí)



John O'Brien
(An Lú)



Paul Kelly
(An Longfort)



Ross Munnely
(Laois)



IT HAPPENED IN FOOTBALL

Failing To Score

In the early years of the championship, because of the presence of 42 players on the pitch, teams ending the hour scoreless was not unusual. In fact, the first campaign (1887) produced the first-ever hour in which one side failed to register and to present-day followers the teams involved sound an unlikely pairing...Kilkenny and Cork. And it was the Rebels that ended up failing to score.

In the first round at Dungarvan the Kilkenny defence was impregnable and the "Cats" won by what they scored – 0-4. Cork would know better days. On that historic occasion each county was represented by their county champions – Kilmacow and the Lees.

Double Event

When the draws were made for the first provincial championship in 1888 Laois didn't exactly impress when losing to eventual champions Kilkenny without registering a score. The following year it appeared that Laois were given an impossible task in that they would face two counties on the same afternoon and without protest the O'Moore county duly undertook this arduous duty at Inchicore on October 13th.

At 1pm the Midlanders faced Wicklow in the semi/final and, represented by Portlaoise (or Maryborough as it was then known), they duly won the match by 0-9 to 0-4. Having taken little more than an hour's rest Laois then went back on the field of play to take on Louth in the provincial decider. It was a tight contest, but Laois just edged it by 0-3 to 0-2. Alas, the following week at the same venue Laois repeated their feat of the previous year when failing to score against Tipperary (3-6) in the All-Ireland final.

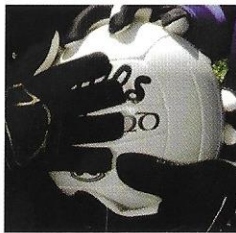
Umpire Dismissal

Players being ordered off the pitch for misdemeanours great or small is nothing new in field sports. It has happened in every generation. But there was an unusual dismissal at an All-Ireland junior semi/final in 1935. The game was between Tipperary and Offaly and the match appeared to be running along expected lines until the referee became dissatisfied with the conduct of one of the umpires and stopped the game; amid catcalls and cheers the offending umpire was dismissed. The replacement umpire, according to all reports, gave every satisfaction and the game proceeded to an end without any further dismissals.

Big Money

With ongoing inflation, receipts at intercounty football and hurling matches which appear satisfactory at the time, can appear to be very poor just a decade or more later.

Even allowing for the changes over the years and in the light of the sums generated by high-profile games in the current campaign, the receipts at the 1907 Offaly-Meath Leinster semi/final appear paltry. However, the "Freeman's Journal" in its report of that game at Jones's Road had its own ideas about what constituted a good gate as it stated "with a gate of £24 no fault could be found with the attendance at yesterday's senior football semi/final between Offaly and Meath". At six pence a head the receipts represented an attendance of 1,040!



THESE MEN KNOW HOW TO WIN



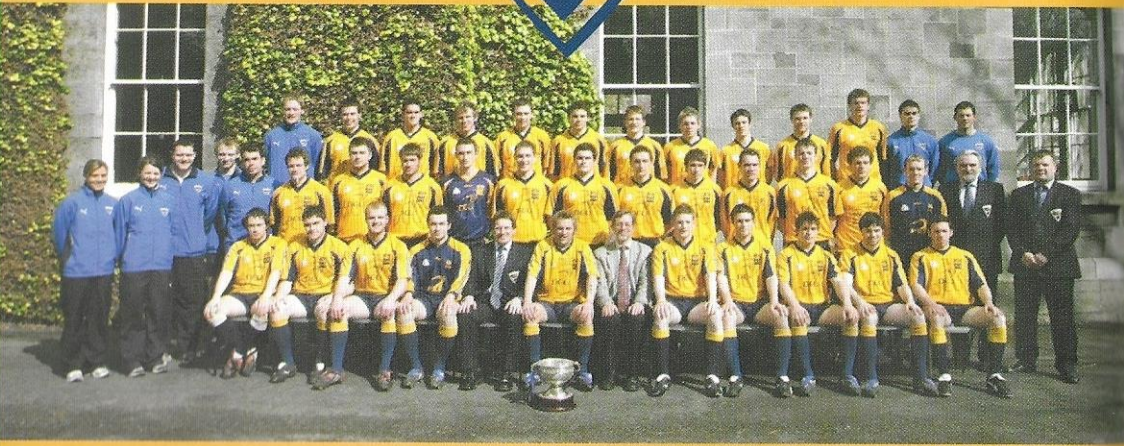
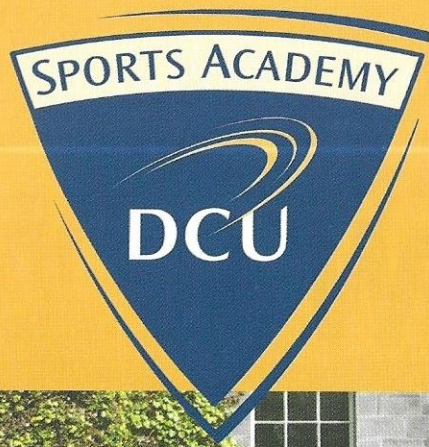
Between them Pat Spillane and Charlie Redmond have won 10 All-Ireland titles, 6 League titles, 19 Provincial titles, 12 All Star awards.

... Oh, and one of them is also a member of the GAA Team of the Century.

And they're on our winning team.



get the edge in Kerry



Good luck to our academy members and graduates involved in this year's championship!

For further information on the DCU GAA Academy:

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Director

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Dublin City University
Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath



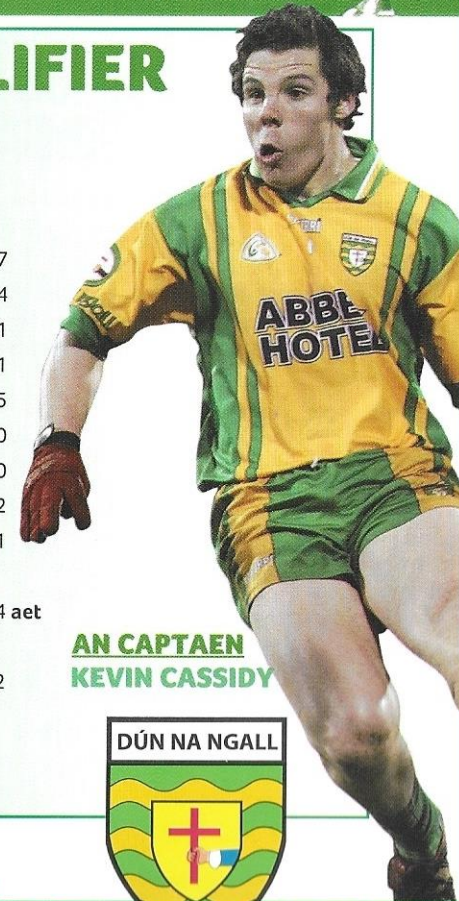
CRAOBH PEILE SINSEAR NA hÉIREANN



DONEGAL'S QUALIFIER RECORD

2001	Enniskillen	Donegal	0-15	Fermanagh	1-6
	Droichead Nua	Donegal	1-16	Kildare	1-17
2002	Croke Park	Donegal	1-13	Meath	0-14
2003	Ballybofey	Donegal	1-17	Longford	1-11
	Ballybofey	Donegal	0-16	Sligo	0-11
	Croke Park	Donegal	2-19	Tipperary	0-15
	Clones	Donegal	3-15	Down	2-10
2004	Clones	Donegal	0-12	Fermanagh	1-10
2005	Aughrim	Donegal	0-16	Wicklow	0-12
	Breffni Park	Donegal	1-10	Cavan	1-11
2006	Enniskillen	Donegal	0-11	Fermanagh	0-8
2007	Carrick-on-Shannon	Donegal	1-16	Leitrim	1-14 aet
	Mullingar	Donegal	1-13	Westmeath	1-8
	Omagh	Donegal	1-7	Monaghan	2-12

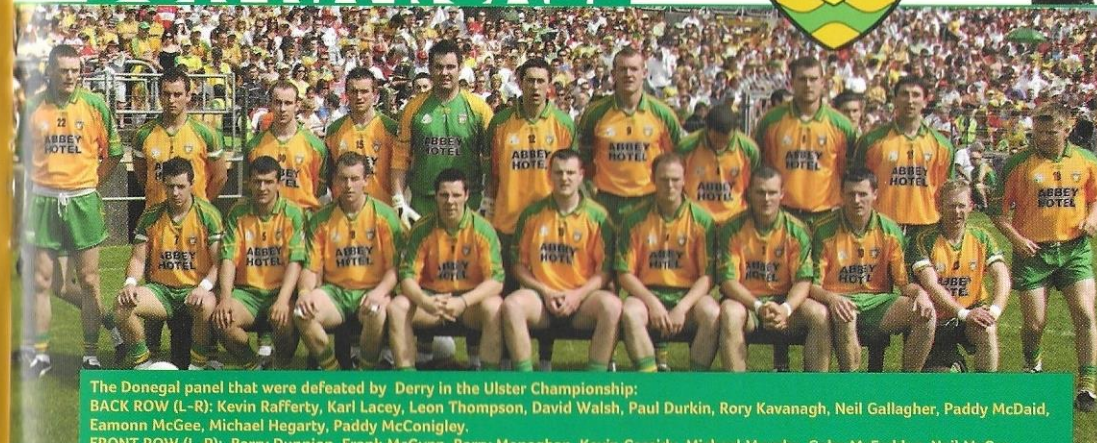
Played 14 – Won 10 Lost 4



AN CAPTAEN
KEVIN CASSIDY



DÚN NA nGALL



The Donegal panel that were defeated by Derry in the Ulster Championship:
BACK ROW (L-R): Kevin Rafferty, Karl Lacey, Leon Thompson, David Walsh, Paul Durkin, Rory Kavanagh, Neil Gallagher, Paddy McDauid, Eamonn McGee, Michael Hegarty, Paddy McConigley.
FRONT ROW (L-R): Barry Dunnion, Frank McGynn, Barry Monaghan, Kevin Cassidy, Michael Murphy, Colm McFadden, Neil McGee, Christy Toye, Brian Roper.

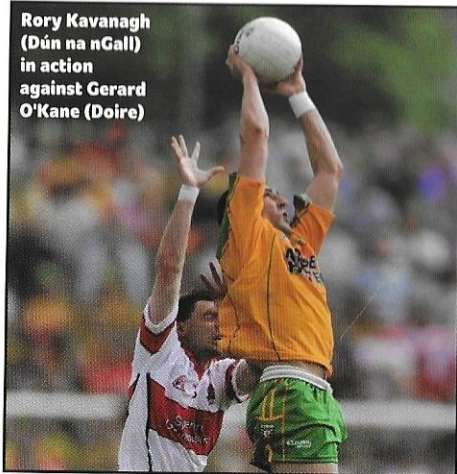
DONEGAL DEFENDING THE PERFECT FIRST ROUND RECORD

Donegal return to senior football championship action after their losing start against Derry in Ulster in early June against a background of the perfect record in Round 1 of the All-Ireland Qualifiers.

They beat Fermanagh at Enniskillen in the inaugural year of the series in 2001 by 0-15 to 1-6. Since then they have scored first round wins over Longford in 2003, Wicklow in 2005 and Leitrim by 1-16 to 1-14 last year at Carrick-on-Shannon. In the other years they did not make their initial appearance each season until later rounds.

Donegal gave their supporters much hope for a winning show as a result of a good first half against Derry at Ballybofey in their initial appearance of the year in the Ulster championship.

They conceded a goal after twelve minutes,



Rory Kavanagh (Dún na nGall) in action against Gerard O'Kane (Doire)

but took that set-back in their stride, prompted by midfielders Neil Gallagher and Kevin Cassidy, and Rory Kavanagh and Colm McFadden in attack.

Donegal had a goal from a penalty by Michael Murphy and led at the break by 1-7 to 1-4, although that position was aided by poor finishing by Derry. The home side was still well in the hunt early in the second half when good general play earned them a lead of 1-9 to 1-5.

However, the National League champions then came more into the picture and, while Donegal continued to strive valiantly, Derry had the edge and finished with two points to spare—1-14 to 1-12.

Colm McFadden contributed seven points to the Donegal effort. Murphy took his penalty opportunity with some style, while Kavanagh, Gallagher and team skipper Cassidy, and defender Karl Lacey all were hard workers.

Victory alone is concrete, but this was still an encouraging display by Donegal and one that indicates they still have much going for them starting this return to the Qualifier action.

2008 ULSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

1st June. Ballybofey:

Donegal 1-12; Derry 1-14.

Scorers: Colm McFadden 0-7, Michael Murphy 1-1, Rory Kavanagh 0-1. David Walsh 0-1. Kevin Cassidy 0-1, Barry Monaghan 0-1.

LAST FIVE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

2008: Donegal 1-12; Derry 1-14.

2007: Donegal 1-7; Monaghan 2-12.

2007: Donegal 1-13; Westmeath 1-8.

2007: Donegal 1-16; Leitrim 1-14.

2007: Donegal 1-7; Tyrone 2-15.



DAVID WALSH (Dún na nGall)

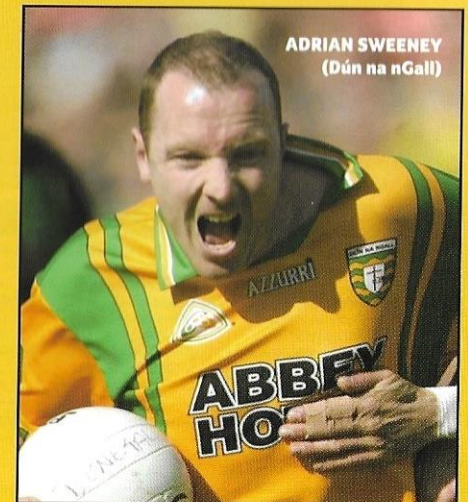
A GOLDEN MEMORY FROM THE QUALIFIERS

A Donegal gave a sparkling display when defying a late Meath rally to forge out a 1-13 to 0-14 win in a All-Ireland Qualifier fourth round tie at Croke Park in 2002. A goal in the 31st minute from right half forward Christy Toye helped the Ulster county to an interval lead of 1-7 to 0-6.

They went five points clear soon after the restart, but the Royals bounced back strongly and as the game neared a conclusion were only a point adrift.

However, Donegal continued to play with poise in the concluding minutes and team captain and centre half forward Michael Hegarty won possession from a Meath kick-out to punch over a valuable point and leave his side winners.

Adrian Sweeney was an inspiration in attack for Donegal with his clever play and finishing that yielded four points. Toye highlighted a first-class performance with the so-valuable goal.



ADRIAN SWEENEY (Dún na nGall)



DÚN na nGALL

DATHANNA: Uaithne, Ór is Bán

1 PAUL DURCAN P. Ó Dúrcáin (Na Ceithre Máistrí)		
2 EAMON McGEE E. Mac Aoidh (Gaoth Dobhair)	3 NEIL McGEE N. Mac Aoidh (Gaoth Dobhair)	4 KARL LACEY C. de Léis (Na Ceithre Máistrí)
5 FRANK McGLYNN P. Mag Fhlíonn (Gleann Fhinne)	6 BARRY MONAGHAN B. Ó Mannacháin (Na Ceithre Máistrí)	7 KEVIN CASSIDY C. Ó Caiside (Capt.) (Gaoth Dobhair)
8 NEIL GALLAGHER N. Ó Gallchóir (Gleann tSúilí)		9 RORY KAVANAGH R. Ó Caomhánach (Naomh Adhamhnáin)
10 KEVIN RAFFERTY C. Ó Raifeartaigh (Naomh Adhamhnáin)	11 DAVID WALSH D. Breathnach (Naomh Bríd)	12 STEPHEN GRIFFIN S. Ó Gríofa (Naomh Naille)
13 COLM McFADDEN C. Mac Phaidín (Naomh Mícheál)	14 RYAN BRADLEY R. Ó Brolcháin (Bun Cranaigh)	15 MICHAEL MURPHY M. Ó Murchú (Gleann tSúilí)

FIR IONAD

(16) MICHAEL BOYLE M. Ó Baoill (An Tearmann)	(19) SHANE McGOWAN S. Mac Gabhann (Bun Dobhair)	(22) MARK McGOWAN M. Mac Gabhann (Naomh Adhamhnáin)	(25) MICHAEL HEGARTY M. Ó hÉigeartaigh (Cill Chartha)	(28) MICHAEL DOHERTY M. Ó Dochairtaigh (Na Ceithre Máistrí)
(17) PADDY McCONIGLEY P. Mac Conaiglaigh (Gael Fhanáda)	(20) DECLAN WALSH D. Breathnach (Malainn)	(23) CHRISTY TOYE C. Ó Tuathaigh (Naomh Mícheál)	(26) KEVIN McMENAMIN C. Mac Meanman (An Tearmann)	(29) BRIAN ROPER B. Ó Roipear (Aodh Ruadh Béal Átha Seanaigh)
(18) NIALL McCREADY N. Mac Riada (Aodh Ruadh Béal Átha Seanaigh)	(21) JOHNNY GALLAGHER S. Ó Gallchóir (Aodh Ruadh Béal Átha Seanaigh)	(24) LEON THOMPSON L. Mac Tomáis (Naomh Connall)	(27) CONALL DUNNE C. Ó Doinn (Naomh Adhamhnáin)	(30) BRENDAN DEVENNY B. Ó Duibheannaigh (Naomh Adhamhnáin)

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Brian Mac Íomhair (Manager), Michael Ó Ceallaigh.

	1ADH LEATH	2ADH LEATH	IOMLÁN
CÚIL			
CÚILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
45M			
SAOR CICEANNA			

	1ADH LEATH	2ADH LEATH	IOMLÁN
CÚIL			
CÚILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
45M			
SAOR CICEANNA			

ROS COMÁIN

DATHANNA: Buí is Gorm



1 GEOFFREY CLAFFEY G. Mac Laithimh (Caisleán Riabhach)		
2 PADDY O'CONNOR P. Ó Conchúir (Ail Finn)	3 DAVID CASEY D. Ó Cathasaigh (Mainistir na Buille)	4 SEAN McDERMOTT S. Mac Diarmada (Capt.) (Gaeil an Iarthair)
5 DAVID KEENAN D. Ó Cianáin (Naomh Bearraí)	6 GARY COX G. Mac an Choiligh (Naomh Faithleach)	7 STUART DALY S. Ó Dálaigh (Mícheál Laithimh)
8 MICHAEL FINNERAN M. Ó Finnthrinn (Naomh Dominic)		9 KAROL MANNION C. Ó Mainín (Naomh Bríd)
10 MARK O'CARROLL M. Ó Cearúill (Naomh Bríd)	11 DAVID O'GARA D. Ó Gadhra (Gaeil Roscomáin)	12 JOHN ROGERS S. Mac Ruairí (Béal na mBuillí)
13 CATHAL CREGG C. de Creag (Gaeil an Iarthair)	14 SENAN KILBRIDE S. Mac Giolla Bhríde (Naomh Bríd)	15 GERARD HENEZHAN G. Ó hÉaneacháin (Caisleán Riabhach)

FIR IONAD

(16) DARREN LENNON D. Ó Lionnáin (Clann na nGael)	(19) DAVID HOEY D. Ó hÉochaidh (Naomh Aodáin)	(22) MICHAEL KILLILEA M. Mac Giolla Léith (Castlereau)	(25) CONOR DEVANEY C. Ó Dubhánaigh (Cill Bríd)	(28) DEREK CONNELLAN D. Ó Connalláin (Cill Mór)
(17) ADRIAN MURTAGH A. Ó Muireartaigh (Naomh Faithleach)	(20) EAMON TOWEY E. Ó Tuathaigh (Naomh Cron)	(23) SEAMUS O'NEILL S. Ó Néill (Cill Bríd)	(26) ENDA KENNY E. Ó Cionnaith (Caisleán Riabhach)	(29) DONAL SHINE D. Ó Seidhin (Clann na nGael)
(18) ANTHONY McDERMOTT A. Mac Diarmada (Cil Bríd)	(21) JOHN WHYTE S. de Faioite (Na Piarasaigh)	(24) BRIAN HIGGINS B. Ó hUiginn (Ail Finn)	(27) FRANKIE DOLAN P. Ó Dualláin (Naomh Bríd)	(30) JOHNNY DUNNING S. Ó Duinnín (Clann na nGael)

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Mícheál Ó Riain (Manager), Donal Mac Casarlaigh.

INDIVIDUAL FEATS

The top return in the 2007 All-Ireland Football Qualifiers was John Doyle's 1-8 for Kildare against Roscommon in the opening round at Hyde Park. However, that return was insufficient to garner the Lily White a place among the top ten (eleven) since the inauguration of the qualifiers in 2001.

Mattie Forde (Wexford)	2-10	v Offaly @ Wexford Park	(2004)
Frankie Dolan (Roscommon)	0-13*	v Kildare @ Portlaoise	(2003)
Paddy Bradley (Derry)	2-7	v Longford @ Pearse Park	(2006)
Stephen O'Neill (Tyrone)	2-7	v Monaghan @ Croke Park	(2005)
Steven McDonnell (Armagh)	3-4	v Limerick @ Hyde Park	(2003)
Frankie Dolan (Roscommon)	0-12*	v Offaly @ Mullingar	(2003)
Declan Browne (Tipperary)	1-9	v Carlow @ Thurles	(2003)
Hugh McElroy (Monaghan)	1-9	v London @ Clones	(2005)
Michael Reidy (Limerick)	1-9	v Cavan @ the Gaelic Grounds	(2002)
Daithi Regan (Meath)	2-6*	v Fermanagh @ Enniskillen	(2004)
Eoin Mulligan (Tyrone)	2-6*	v Louth @ Navan	(2006)



MATTY FORDE
(Loch Garman)

QUALIFIER RECORDS...2001-2007

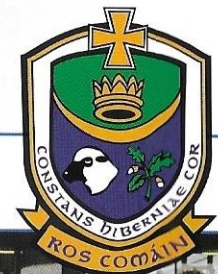
MATCHES	WIN-LOSS	%	MATCHES	WIN-LOSS	%		
Kerry	4	4-0	100	Cork	6	3-3	50
Dublin	7	6-1	86	Longford	13	6-7	46
Tyrone	10	8-2	80	Carlow	9	3-6	33
Derry	19	15-4	79	Clare	9	3-6	33
Armagh	8	6-2	75	Offaly	9	3-6	33
Westmeath	15	11-4	73	Cavan	10	3-7	30
Donegal	14	10-4	71	Kildare	10	3-7	30
Fermanagh	15	10-5	67	Limerick	10	3-7	30
Meath	15	10-5	67	Wicklow	8	2-6	25
Laois	11	7-4	64	Down	9	2-7	22
Sligo	13	8-5	62	Wexford	9	2-7	22
Mayo	8	5-3	62	Tipperary	6	1-5	17
Galway	7	4-3	57	Antrim	7	1-6	14
Louth	15	8-7	53	Leitrim	7	0-7	0
Monaghan	12	6-6	50	Waterford	6	0-6	0
Roscommon	10	5-5	50	London	5	0-5	0

ROSCOMMON'S QUALIFIER RECORD

AN CAPTAIN
SEAN McDERMOTT

2002	Dungarvan	Roscommon	3-19	Waterford	3-11
	Castlebar	Roscommon	2-8	Mayo	0-20
2003	Hyde Park	Roscommon	0-14	Cork	1-10
	Carrick-on-Shannon	Roscommon	2-9	Leitrim	1-11
	Mullingar	Roscommon	1-20	Offaly	1-15 aet
	Portlaoise	Roscommon	1-18	Kildare	0-19 aet
2004	Croke Park	Roscommon	0-13	Dublin	1-14
2005	Drogheda	Roscommon	0-10	Louth	0-11
2006	An Uaimh	Roscommon	0-9	Meath	1-19
2007	Hyde Park	Roscommon	1-13	Kildare	2-13

Played 10 – Won 5 Lost 5



ROS COMÁIN



The Roscommon panel that were defeated by Galway in the Connacht Championship:
BACK ROW (L-R): Seamus O'Neill, Karol Mannion, John Rodgers, Geoff Claffey, Paddy O'Connor, Marc O'Carroll, Senan Kilbride, David Keenan
FRONT ROW (L-R): Jonathan Dunning, Conor Devaney, Sean McDermott, David Hoey, Cathal Cregg, Gary Cox, Donnie Shine.



ROSCOMMON HOPING FOR LONG AWAITED FIRST ROUND WIN

Can Roscommon bounce back from their Connacht senior football championship defeat by Galway in May to record their first win in the All-Ireland Qualifiers since as far back 2003 when they beat Kildare by 1-18 to 0-19 in extra time at Portlaoise in Round 4?

Only time will tell but that was a good series for Roscommon. The Kildare win was their fourth of the Qualifiers and earned them a place in the quarter-finals, in which they scored three goals against Kerry but still lost a high scoring match by 1-21 to 3-10 at Croke Park.

Roscommon got off to a slow start against Galway at Pearse Stadium in last month's season debut before an attendance of 11,000. They trailed by 0-5 to no score after nineteen minutes.

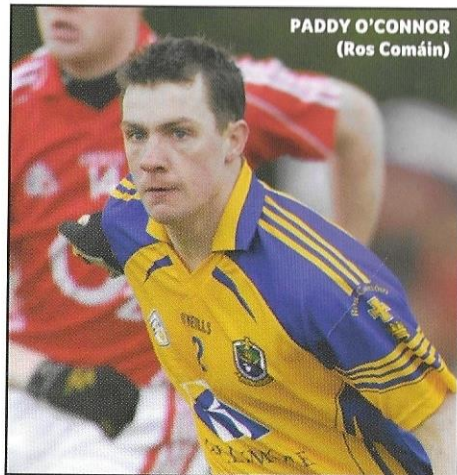
A minute later they had their opening score, a

point, and came more into the picture as a result of good work at midfield by Seamus O'Neill and Karol Mannion. They were back in the hunt at the interval when they trailed by 0-4 to 0-6.

The visitors might have been even better placed but for some good saves by Paul Doherty in the Galway goal. However, the Tribesmen started the second half in determined fashion with three points and backed by the breeze.

Roscommon had a defender dismissed by the referee after forty-three minutes and Galway continued to press on with flair and style to finish decisive winners by 2-16 to 0-6.

O'Neill and Mannion, first in attack and later at midfield, were solid workers for Roscommon. Donie Shine, captain of Roscomon's 2006 All-Ireland minor title-winning team, showed some nice touches in attack, while Senan Kilbride, top scorer, and Cathal Clegg in attack also caught the eye.



PADDY O'CONNOR (Ros Comáin)



DAVID O'GARA (Ros Comáin)

2008 CONNACHT SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

18th May. Pearse Stadium:

Roscommon 0-6; Galway 2-16.
Scorers: Senan Kilbride 0-3, Ger Heneghan 0-2, Karol Mannion 0-1.

LAST FIVE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

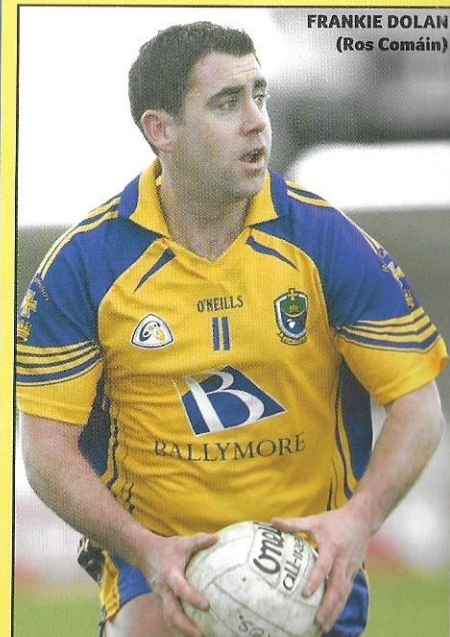
- 2008: Roscommon 0-6; Galway 2-16.
- 2007: Roscommon 1-13; Kildare 2-13.
- 2007: Roscommon 2-5; Sligo 0-13.
- 2006: Roscommon 0-9; Meath 1-19.
- 2006: Roscommon 1-8; Galway 3-7.

A GOLDEN MEMORY FROM THE QUALIFIERS

A power-packed performance from Frankie Dolan, who hit twelve points, eight from frees, coloured Roscommon's 1-20 to 1-15 extra time win over Offaly at Mullingar in a thrilling All-Ireland Qualifier third round game in 2003.

This game provided good passages of football, excellent scores and a pulsating ending to normal time, with Offaly scoring a late goal two minutes from the end of normal time, which found the teams level at 1-13 each.

Seamus O'Neill, who had a splendid game at midfield, scored the last point of the first period of extra time to put Roscommon clear at the break by 1-18 to 1-13. They went on from there for a well-merited success.



FRANKIE DOLAN (Ros Comáin)

An Bóthar Cam

Sna sean-laethanta do bheadh deireadh le feachtas craoibhe na gcontaethe a bheidh ag dul chun páirce an deireadh seachtaine seo. Tá an cúl doras ann anois agus is iomaí contae a bhí buíoch don chóras 'nua' le blianta beaga anuas. Tá súil againn le hocht gcluiche den scoth sa bhabhta cáilithe peile inniu agus ag deireadh an lae beidh thiar ar bhríonglóidí imreoirí agus lucht leanúna na neasóirí.

Ceap na húdair go mbeadh Doire agus Muineachán ag tabhairt aghaidh ar a chéile i gluiche leathcheannais Uladh i mblain. Bhí tuairimí eile ag Fear Manach, áfach, a chloí an bheirt acu agus siad fir Séamus McEaney agus Paddy Crozier ag bheidh i ngleic um thráthnóna. Beidh trí fhoireann eile ó Chuige Uladh san iomaíocht freisin. Bíonn dóchas gach bliain ag lucht leanta Thír Chonaill roimh thus an Chraobhchomórtais. Beidh buntáiste bhaile acu in aghaidh Ros Comáin agus ceaptar go rachaid Na Conallaigh ar aghaidh. Beidh ar mhuintir An Chabháin taisteal go Droichead Nua, áit a bheidh iar-laoch Uladh, Kieran McGeeney, ag fanacht leo. Bhain An Lú geit as Thír Eoghain cúpla bliain ó shoin. Beidh siad deacair a chloí i nDroichead Átha an babhta seo freisin ach ceaptar go mbeidh na Tuaisceartaigh ró-ghlic dóibh ag deireadh an lae.

Bhí an-mhí-adh ar Luimneach nach raibh an lámh in uachtar acu ar Chorcaigh i ggraobhchomórtas na Mumhan. Beidh deis eile acu anois dul níos faide sa rás do Sam. Ní bheidh sé éasca, áfach, mar siad fir na Mí - An Contae Ríoga - a bheidh ag teach chucu. Tá súil le sár-iomaíocht sa chluiche seo agus tá sé deacair an toradh a mheas. Tá sé deacair a chreidiúint freisin go raibh Na Ríogaigh deich gcúilíní chun tosaigh ar Loch Garman nuair a chasadar ar a chéile i ggraobhchomórtas Laighean. Siad Na Carmannaigh atá i gcluiche ceannais Laighean agus fir Colm Coyle ar bhealach an chúl dorais inniu. Ní dócha go

bhfuil ríméad orthu do turas ó dheas ach, cé go dtroidfidh fir Mickey Ned go fóchmhar, le leithéidí Stephen Bray, agus Graham Geraghty ag na Laigheannaigh ceaptar go mbeidh siad ró-láidir dona Muimhneigh.

Níl amhras ná go raibh deis iontach ag An Iarmhí na Dubs a chloí i gcluiche leathcheannais Laighean. Chuireadar an-chuid scóranna amú an lá sin. D'imríodar peil den scoth, áfach, agus níl deireadh lena bhfeachtas craoibhe go fóill. Tá fadhbanna móra ag Na Tiobradaigh le gortuithe - Séamus Grogan agus Aidan Foley ar lár agus John Evans, Mark Peters agus Kevin Mulryan gortuithe freisin. Tá siad sa bhaile, ceart go leor, ach tá an-chuid laochra cróga le scil, luas agus neart ag Tomás Ó Flatharta ina fhoireann. Tá an-thaithí ar na laethanta móra acu freisin agus beidh sé sin tabhachtach go leor um thráthnóna. Tá fonn mór ar fhir An Chontae Príomha dul níos faide sa chraobhchomórtas i mblain ach ceaptar go mbeidh fir na Iarmhí ró-láidir agus ró-sciliúil dóibh an babhta seo.

Níl Craobh Uladh buaite ag An Dún ó 1994 agus bhí an-dóchas sa chontae i mblain. Chuir Ard Mhacha stop leo, áfach, ach níl deireadh leo go fóill. Tá trí chluiche craoibhe imeartha acu anois - dhá cheann in aghaidh Thír Eoghain - agus níl ach ceann amháin imeartha ag a gcéilí chomhraic um thráthnóna - An Contae Dilis. Sháraigh an Iarmhí iad i gcúige Laighean agus bhíodar dona go leor. Le leithéidí Benny Coulter agus Dan Gordon agus an méid taithí atá acu i mblain, ní féidir dul in aghaidh na Tuaisceartaigh sa chluiche seo. Cad faoi An Longfort agus laochra Laoise? Beidh sé deacair foireann Luke Dempsey a chloí inniu. Bhí Laois go dona in aghaidh Loch Garmain agus ní raibh ach cúl idir An Longfort agus An Iarmhí. Le Brian Kavanagh ar an bhfoireann beidh siad in ann na scóranna a aimsiú.

Tá féasta peile in ann dúinn gan amhras. Tá súil againn go mbeidh an aimsir cineálta agus an imirt cróga, sciliúil. Bainigí taitheamh as.

BIGGEST WINNING MARGINS

2001-2007

27pts	Parnell Park	Dublin	3-24	London	0-6	(2004)
23pts	Portlaoise	Kerry	5-15	Wicklow	0-7	(2002)
19pts	Walsh Park	Armagh	2-21	Waterford	0-8	(2003)
18pts	Carrick-on-Shannon	Tyrone	1-22	Leitrim	0-7	(2002)
17pts	Portlaoise	Kerry	2-15	Fermanagh	0-4	(2002)
	Tullamore	Offaly	4-15	London	0-10	(2003)
16pts	Aughrim	Wicklow	2-22	London	2-6	(2002)
14pts	Croke Park	Dublin	3-17	Sligo	0-12	(2001)
	Croke Park	Tyrone	3-15	Laois	2-4	(2004)
	Casement Park	Meath	5-12	Antrim	0-13	(2005)
	Dr Cullen Park	Limerick	2-15	Carlow	0-7	(2005)
13pts	Portlaoise	Laois	1-19	Clare	1-6	(2002)
	An Uaimh	Meath	1-19	Roscommon	0-9	(2006)
	Pearse Park	Longford	1-23	Tipperary	1-10	(2006)
12pts	Carrick-on-Shannon	Dublin	1-13	Leitrim	0-4	(2004)
	Clones	Monaghan	2-18	London	1-9	(2005)
	Mullingar	Westmeath	0-20	London	0-8	(2006)
11pts	Portlaoise	Meath	1-15	Laois	0-7	(2002)
	Hyde Park	Armagh	4-10	Limerick	0-11	(2003)
	Parnell Park	Derry	2-16	Wexford	2-5	(2004)
	Portlaoise	Cork	3-13	Sligo	0-11	(2005)
10pts	The Gaelic Grounds	Westmeath	0-17	Limerick	0-7	(2001)
	Wexford Park	Derry	3-10	Wexford	0-9	(2003)
	Croke Park	Donegal	2-19	Tipperary	0-15	(2003)
	Celtic Park	Derry	0-25	Cavan	2-9	(2004)
	Croke Park	Tyrone	2-14	Monaghan	1-7	(2005)
	Clones	Monaghan	2-19	Wicklow	3-6	(2006)
	Celtic Park	Derry	2-13	Mayo	1-6	(2007)

100% RECORDS

Four teams have 100% records in the qualifiers but only one will be making an appearance this season. Kerry's perfect (4-0) record will be under threat in round three, but Leitrim (0-7), Waterford (0-6) and London (0-5) all went straight into the Tommy Murphy Cup this year and thus will have to wait another 12 months before attempting to win their first match of the series.

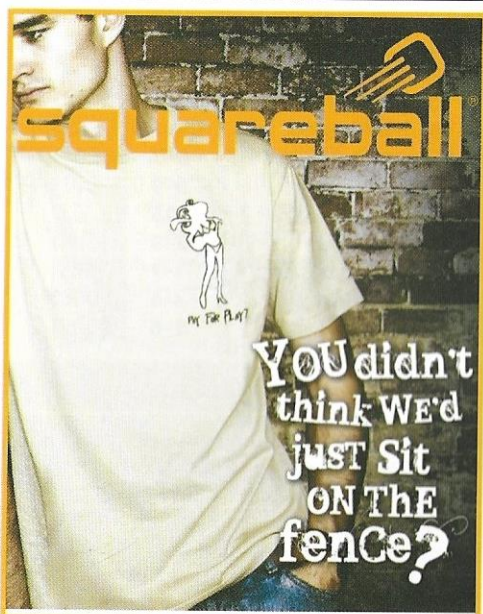
QUALIFIER SUCCESS

The qualifiers have been running for seven years and only once has a team that played in the series not appeared in the All-Ireland Final. Galway set the standard in 2001 by winning Sam Maguire after coming through the qualifiers while Kerry (2002) and Armagh (2003) both got to the final in the following years. The year 2004 was the only one which saw none of the qualifier sides make it to final day. Since then Tyrone (2005) and Kerry (2006) have won the title having lost a match, while Cork made it to the final last year having lost in the provincial series

An bhfuil a fhios agat . . .

SCORES APLENTY

For the first ten years of the championship only one county – Armagh – had managed to put 20 scores on the board in an hour when they racked up 3-17 against Antrim in the first round at Lurgan. But in 1897 Wexford set a new standard of attacking excellence when they amassed 2-24 in the opening round at Jones's Road against Wicklow. It could have been 27 scores but for a discussion at the interval when Wicklow claimed that a Slaneyside goal should have been disallowed. The Garden county eventually threatened to walk off the field until Wexford intervened and asked the referee to disallow the disputed goal that had given them the lead when playing into a strong wind. It wasn't a reckless move as in the end they cruised to a 2-24 to 0-5 win.



CHAMPIONSHIP COLLECTION COMING SOON
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Wexford's 26 scores against Wicklow would not be equalled in any 60-minute game, or indeed, in any 80-minute game. But Kerry set a new record for a game of 70 minutes duration with 31 scores (4-27) in 1978 against Waterford. That record was equalled by Mayo in 2004 when they hammered New York by 3-28 to 1-8 at Gaelic Park.

The record number of scores for any team in the All-Ireland qualifiers is 27 which occurred when Dublin thrashed London at Parnell Park four years ago by 3-24 to 0-6.

QUICK START

Quick scores following the throw-in are a regular occurrence in matches these days with many teams opening their account within 60 seconds of the off. Perhaps one of the quickest scores ever recorded was in an All-Ireland Final when Cavan took on Kildare in 1935. There had barely been ten seconds played when the Breffni county's M.J. McGee had the umpire reaching for the white flag. However, that score wasn't a preview of a feast of high scoring. Indeed, there were just 15 more scores in the remaining 59 minutes as Cavan went on to record their first win over the Lily Whites by 3-6 to 2-5.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

As the All-Ireland qualifier series continues to mature it is inevitable that teams who previously met in the series will be drawn again, and this year's opening round threw up three such meetings. The meeting of Kildare and Cavan at Droichead Nua is an exact replica of their encounter a couple of years ago when the home side won by 1-18 to 1-13. Louth and Tyrone also met that year, but the initial game (2-16 all) was staged at An Uaimh due to the Wee county not having a ground capable of hosting the occasion. Tyrone won the replay at Omagh by 1-12 to 1-7. The third repeat this year is Tipperary and Westmeath who clashed at Thurles in the opening round in 2005. The visitors eked out a 0-12 to 1-8 win three years ago.

NEW ENCOUNTERS

Since the inception of the All-Ireland Qualifiers seven years ago, many counties whose paths had not previously crossed found themselves in opposition for the first time and the opening round of eight matches has always thrown up at least one new pairing.

- Of the eight matches being played today, just one (Donegal v Roscommon) is a first-ever Senior Football Championship confrontation. And it was the same last season when Donegal and Leitrim was the only opening round tie between two counties that had not previously been in opposition.
- Many would assume that the first year of the qualifiers (2001) would throw up the greatest number of debut match ups in the opening round, but in that inaugural year just three of the eight matches – Antrim v Limerick, Carlow v Waterford and Louth v Tipperary – were between teams meeting for the first time.
- However, in 2002 all but one of the first round matches were between sides that had not previously been in opposition. The seven debut ties on that occasion were – Tyrone v Wexford, Longford v Down, Roscommon v Waterford, Westmeath v Antrim, Wicklow v London, Louth v Monaghan and Limerick v Cavan.
- In 2003 five of the eight matches were first-time encounters as Derry took on Wexford, Donegal met Longford, Armagh travelled to Waterford, Offaly hosted London and Monaghan faced Westmeath. Twelve months later no fewer than six of the eight opening-round contests

featured initial encounters in the shape of Fermanagh v Tipperary, Carlow v Down, Clare v Sligo, Derry v Wicklow, Longford v Monaghan and Antrim v Louth.

- And the 2004 scenario was repeated the following year as six further unique contests were staged with Donegal taking on Wicklow, Meath playing Antrim, Longford facing Sligo, Louth encountering Waterford, Tipperary hosting Westmeath and Monaghan versus London. In 2006 there were five 'first timers' with Westmeath v London, Sligo v Down, Longford v Waterford, Monaghan v Wicklow and Antrim v Clare.

However, as the past couple of years have shown with just a single new fixture in the opening round each time, the days of unique pairings in the opening round may be coming to an end. That fact should not detract from what has been an innovative addition to the championship.

GRASSED

In the best ordered games there are occasional hold-ups due to several different causes – injuries, disputes, etc. However, the Monaghan-Dublin All-Ireland semi/final of 1921 at Dundalk was held up for a considerable time by an unusual happening...the ball was lost! According to reports the game was proceeding without incident until a Dublin forward, in attempting to score, drove his shot clear out of the grounds into an adjoining field. The Monaghan 'keeper nipped over the fence to retrieve the ball which had landed in a huge area of long grass, but was unable to locate it. He was soon joined by other players and a number of spectators and after several minutes quite a large crowd was searching for the missing ball. It was eventually found and the game restarted, but more than ten minutes had been spent in the search, which left the 1921 semi/final with the distinction of being the only one to be delayed by a lost ball!

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LAST LEAGUE MEETING...2006

Donegal 0-14 Roscommon 1-9

The paths of Donegal and Roscommon have never crossed in the Senior Football Championship and it is a couple of years since they last met in the league. On that occasion both sides were chasing promotion with each winning five of the six matches they had played to date and at Hyde Park it was very much a winner takes all with the victor guaranteed promotion. This ensured there was a championship-like intensity to this clash and although the final scoreline suggests a close contest, in truth the visitors were always the likely winners after they dominated the opening half.

Making good use of the strong breeze Donegal raced into a 0-9 to 0-1 lead after 25 minutes with Michael Hegarty contributing four points from play and by the change of ends they were ten to the good (0-10 to 0-2). Ger Heneghan raised both flags for the hosts. It seemed a lost cause, but credit to Roscommon for having a go and in the third quarter they hit seven points without concession as Seamus O'Neill, Heneghan and Karol Mannion all hit the target. However, early in the fourth quarter the visitors lofted over a couple of insurance points and the goal required came too late to make a game of it.

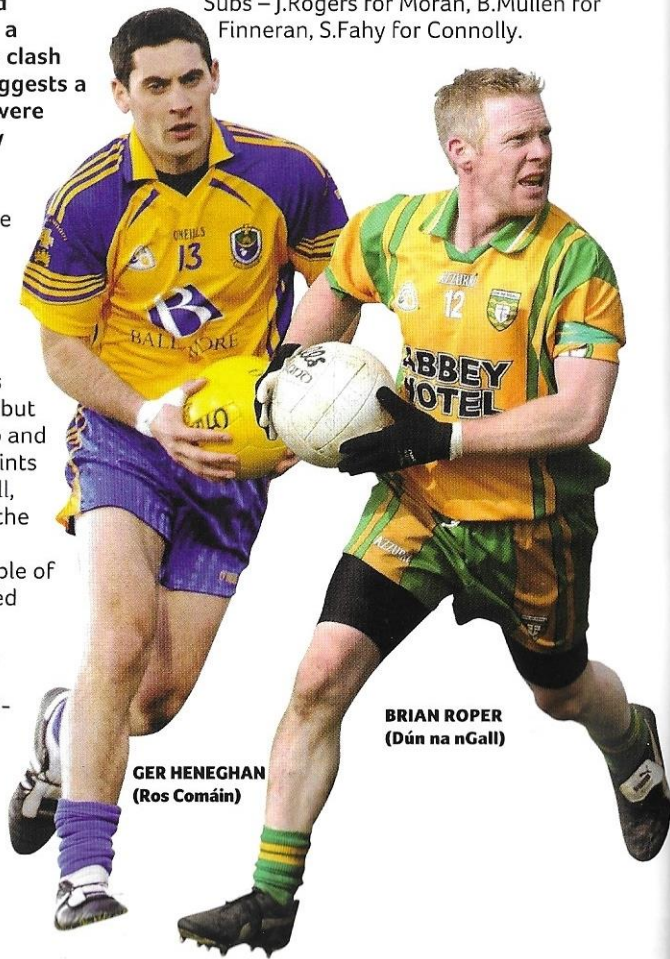
Donegal scorers: M.Doherty 0-4, M.Hegarty 0-4, C.Toys 0-2, B.Boyle 0-1, K.Cassidy 0-1, A.Sweeney 0-1, B.Dunnion 0-1.

Roscommon scorers: G.Heneghan 0-5, J.Rogers 1-0, S.O'Neill 0-2, B.Higgins 0-1, K.Mannion 0-1.

Dún na nGall – M.Boyle, F.McGlynn, P.Campbell, K.Lacey, D.Diver, D.McGee, K.Cassidy, B.Boyle, N.Gallagher, C.Toys, M.Hegarty, C.Dunne, B.Roper, A.Sweeney, M.Doherty. Subs – B.Dunnion for Sweeney, S.Friel for Roper.

Ros Comáin – G.Claffey, J.Nolan, D.Casey, S.McDermott, S.Daly, J.Whyte, P.O'Connor, S.O'Neill, M.Finneran, P.Moran, K.Mannion, B.Higgins, E.Kenny, M.Connolly, G.Heneghan.

Subs – J.Rogers for Moran, B.Mullen for Finneran, S.Fahy for Connolly.



GER HENEGHAN (Ros Comáin)

BRIAN ROPER (Dún na nGall)



The Qualifiers Like a Box of Chocolates

Talking Balls on squareball.com

So. Tis that time of the year again. Used to be the Championship ye looked forward to every summer – hats, flags, headbands, lukewarm fizzy orange and warm mars bars. That Forrest Gump said his mammy toul' him the Qualifiers was like a box of chocolates – you never knew what you were gonna get. And you know what? He was right!

Longer summers, more fixtures and more second chance Saturday nights. May mean nothing to Couch Potato Ireland, but to the real fan the Backdoor means a trip. . . into the unknown.

How else would ye get the Dubs out of Dublin? We're lovin' it - the traffic mayhem for people that have never been beyond the Red Cow in years; leavin' it too late to get anywhere on time. Last year we had one oul' lad from out round Belmullet wandering the streets of Derry with a slice of turf in each pocket. He'd been there years back leavin' a relative to the boat, and having lived the bachelor life returned to do what he should have done seventy years or more ago with the young wan he loved and lost.

We heard of a cupla lads pitchin' up in Carrick on Shannon a few years back. In them days Páirc MacDiarmada was one of those rustic county grounds that turns up in the pages of Sportsfile's A Season of Sundays - some craggy oul' fella peering out of the 'box office' looking for your eight euro admission or, jaze, whatever you can give him.

BUCKETFULS

This Qualifier night there was little Season of Sundays romance. Bucketin' rain and, on the pitch, two teams warming up. Around them

local firemen in full disaster response kit - coats, helmets - the works. Scooping up buckets of water. With each bucketful they would amble to the sideline, pour out the rainwater and return to the original puddle seconds before the water ran back. Eleven minutes gone, with Leitrim ahead by a goal to a point, the ref abandoned the match.

The bright lights of Carrick beckoned. After a feed in a newly opened Italian restaurant where 'the vegetables of the day were spuds,' our intrepid gaelic-cultural-backdoor tourists learned of the Moon River - a floating-cabaret-cum-shebeen - that plied its trade up and down the Shannon in the early hours. With fully functioning bar, boom-chick-a-boom musician and a motley crew of stranded Tyrone supporters and desperadoes - the Moon River was where it was at. No sign of Audrey Hepburn right enough. . . but sure you can't have it all.

That Forrest Gump fella was right. . . with the Qualifiers, you never know what you're gonna get. . . but sure it'll be a great day out.

For more tales of all things Gaelic and Athletic read Talking Balls on www.squareball.com

SIMILAR LINE UP

Comparing the 16 teams in today's opening round of the qualifiers and the sides that constituted the opening round of the inaugural year (2001) shows that ten (Limerick, Louth, Laois, Cavan, Down, Louth, Tyrone, Westmeath, Roscommon and Monaghan) teams appeared on both occasions. Meath, Kildare, Offaly, Tipperary, Donegal and Derry who appear this season were replaced by Wexford, Waterford, Antrim, London, Carlow and Wicklow seven years ago.



GOAL-LESS GAMES

Of the 161 games played in the All-Ireland Qualifier series since their inception in 2001, 30 have failed to produce a goal. Last year five matches – Westmeath v Longford, Louth v Limerick, Derry v Armagh, Meath v Fermanagh and Cork v Louth – failed to see the green flag raised. That compares to five the previous year, although it should be noted that there were 25 qualifier games that season. The year

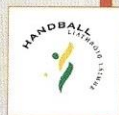
2002 produced the fewest goal-less games with just two (Laois v Carlow and Westmeath v Fermanagh) failing to register a major.

YEAR	MATCHES	GOAL-LESS MATCHES	%
2001	24	4	16
2002	25	2	8
2003	24	4	16
2004	23	3	13
2005	24	7	29
2006	25	5	20
2007	16	5	31

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Even after the rules regarding playing players from other than the county champions were changed, most county selections tended to be heavily weighed with representatives from the winners of the domestic championship. By the mid 1890s, however, all the leading counties were glad to avail of the services of players from other clubs in the county. But Arravale Rovers of Tipperary stayed with the old system when they took their first title in 1894 and wins over Waterford and Limerick (who had defeated Kerry by 25 points) qualified the Premier representatives for the All-Ireland final with Meath's Pierce O'Mahony's (who availed of the services of players from other clubs).

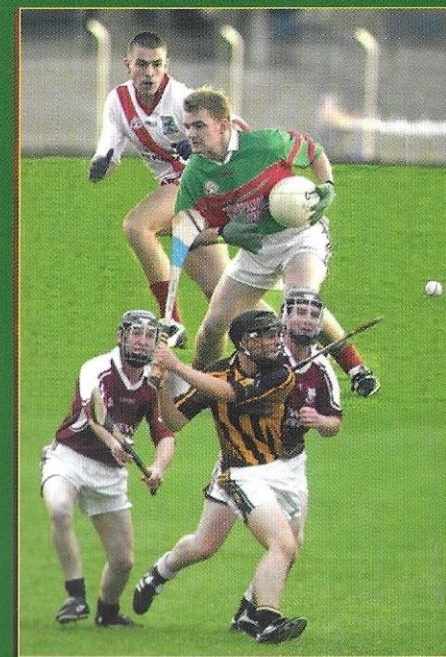
In the first football final to be staged at Jones's Road the 17 Arravale players came from behind in the second period to win by 0-4 to 0-3. Arravale never again contested an All-Ireland final, but in 1895 they bid a great farewell as the last 17-a-side team to take top honours.

AT THE VENUE

Of the eight venues being used for today's opening round of the qualifiers, seven have been used previously with only Ardfinnan making its debut as a host on the qualifier scene. Prior to today's games 32 grounds have hosted qualifiers with the number of games played at each venue as follows:

St.Tiernach's Park, Clones	17
Croke Park	14
O'Moore Park, Portlaoise	13
Casement Park, Belfast	8
Páirc Tailteann, An Uaimh	8
Dr Cullen Park, Carlow	7
Dr Hyde Park, Roscommon	7
Cusack Park, Mullingar	7
Cusack Park, Ennis	6
Páirc MacDiarmada, Carrick-on-Shannon	6
Kingspan Breffni Park, Cavan	6
County Grounds, Aghrim	5
Brewster Park, Enniskillen	5
Markievicz Park, Sligo	5
Pearse Park, Longford	4
Wexford Park	4
McHale Park, Castlebar	4
Páirc An Iuir, Newry	4
St.Conleth's Park, Droichead Nua	4
The Gaelic Grounds, Limerick	4
O'Raghallaigh's Grounds, Drogheda	3
Parnell Park, Dublin	3
Semple Stadium, Thurles	3
Celtic Park, Derry	3
Fraher Field, Dungarvan	2
MacCumhnaill Park, Ballybofey	2
Walsh Park, Waterford	2
The Sports Field, Clonmel	1
Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney	1
Healy Park, Omagh	1
O'Connor Park, Tullamore	1
Pearse Stadium, Salthill	1

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CÚINNE NA nÓG

Tráth na gCeist

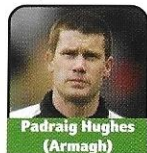
Seven questions to test your knowledge of happenings in all grades of the provincial football championships this year.

1. Name the runners-up in the Munster and Ulster under-21 football championships.
2. Who won the Connacht junior football title?
3. What is the official name of the venue where the first senior football championship game of the year was played?
4. Who refereed the opening game of the Ulster senior football championship at Casement Park between Cavan and Antrim—Derek Fahy (Longford), Michael Hughes (Tyrone) or Jimmy White (Donegal)?
5. Who scored the first goal of the senior football championship?
6. Name Kerry's All-Ireland Under-21 football title winning captain.
7. What county won the second senior football provincial championship game of the season?



SPOTLIGHT ON REFEREES

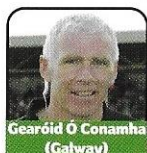
How expert are you on referees? Listed below are six football referees who have been on senior championship duty this season and six of this year's senior championship games. The object of the exercise is to match the referee with the appropriate game.



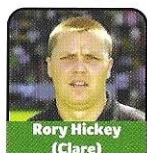
Padraig Hughes
(Armagh)



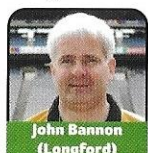
Joe McQuillan
(Cavan)



Gearóid Ó Conamha
(Galway)



Rory Hickey
(Clare)



John Bannon
(Longford)



Aidan Mangan
(Kerry)

Waterford v Clare

Leitrim v New York

Limerick v Tipperary

Wicklow v Kildare

Meath v Carlow

Galway v Roscommon

Champions All This Year So Far

This six question feature centres exclusively on winners of titles this year so far.

Name the winners of the Sigerson Cup in the Higher Education senior football Championship.

1. Who won the O'Byrne Cup in senior football?
2. Tyrone or Meath won the Ulster minor football League title in May. Your choice!
3. Down won the Dr. McKenna Cup. True or false?
4. The Hogan Cup was captured by what side earlier this year?
5. Who won the Connacht Under-21 Football title?

FREAGRAÍ

Tráth na gCeist 1. Tipperary and Derry. 2. Roscommon. 3. Pearse Park in Longford. 4. Jimmy White. 5. Alan Mangan (Westmeath) from a penalty after seven minutes against Longford. 6. Killian Young. 7. Leitrim in New York. 8. Irish team on the day that Westmeath beat Longford earlier. Spotlight The Referees Padraig Hughes—Leitrim v New York. Joe McQuillan—Galway v Roscommon. Gearóid Ó Conamha—Meath v Carlow. Rory Hickey—Limerick v Tipperary. John Bannon—Wicklow v Kildare. Aidan Mangan—Wicklow v Kildare. Champions All This Year So Far 1. U.I. Jordanstown, Belfast. 2. Dublin. 3. Tyrone. 4. True. 5. St. Patrick's, Dungannon, winners of the All-Ireland Colleges' senior football title. 6. Mayo.

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