

GAA
FOOTBALL
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP



GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

ÁTH CLIATH v DÚN NA nGALL
DUBLIN v DONEGAL



GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL
ÁTH CLIATH v GAILLIMH / DUBLIN v GALWAY

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Áth Cliath

Lúnasa 28 2011

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GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND MINOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL



ÁTH CLIATH v GAILLIMH

1.30 PM

REFEREE: Robert O'Donnell (Dún na nGall)

LINESMEN: Michael Rock (An Clár) (STANDBY REFEREE), Ciarán Branagan (An Dún)

SIDELINE OFFICIAL: Shaun McLaughlin (Dún na nGall)

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

GAA FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL



ÁTH CLIATH v DÚN NA nGALL

3.30 PM

REFEREE: Maurice Deegan (Laois)

LINESMEN: Michael Collins (Corcaigh) (STANDBY REFEREE), Rory Hickey (An Clár)

SIDELINE OFFICIAL: Barry Cassidy (Doire)

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 tóirín
ná faoin tráill.
Anoch t 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.



Dublin born soprano Fiona Murphy, who sings Amhrán na bhFiann today, has appeared on operatic and concert stages around the world. She is a graduate of University College Dublin and the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia.

Fiona is a regular artist with English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera Ireland and with the RTÉ Concert and Symphony orchestras at home. She has appeared on radio and television on numerous occasions including our own Late Late Show and The View. Fiona returns to Wexford Festival Opera this season starring in *Gianni Di Parigi* and will also feature in a solo recital during the festival.

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TEACHTAIREACHT AN UACHTARÁIN

A chairde uilig,

Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte chroíúil a chur romhaibh go léir chuig Páirc an Chrócaigh inniu agus Áth Cliath and Dún na nGall ag casadh le chéile ag déanamh a ndícheall áit a bhaint amach i gcoinne Chiarraí i gCraobh na hÉireann.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the footballers of Donegal, Dublin (Minor and Senior) and Galway today for what promises to be an occasion to remember.

The build-up to this game and the demand for tickets means we will have the sold out signs up at Croke Park for the first time this season and that says everything we need to know about the lure of the pairing for today's main event.

Dublin are no strangers to this stage of the Championship having pushed eventual All-Ireland champions Cork to the edge at the same stage 12 months ago.

Not only did they bounce back from that set back but they have returned as a better team annexing a Leinster title that eluded them last year after embarking on an Allianz League campaign that made everyone sit up and take notice.

Their quarter-final performance against Tyrone was of the top drawer variety and the challenge for them will be to put back to back performances of that quality together.

For all this they will need no reminding about the threat today's opposition pose.

These are exciting times for the Association in Dublin and the lure of Dublin football remains as potent as ever. In fact it's fair to state at this stage that it's biggest competition is now coming from hurling in the county and this is testament to the incredible work that has taken place. Any year that a county is represented in no fewer than five All-Ireland semi-finals has to be viewed as a good one and it has yet to run its full course.

Donegal arrive on the crest of a wave having ended their own 19-year wait for an Ulster title before overcoming the challenge of Kildare in the most dramatic fashion at the next hurdle.

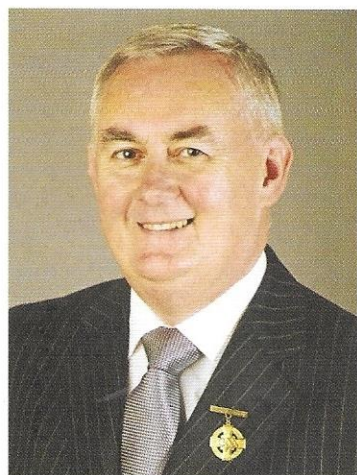
This team led by young captain Michael Murphy has caught the imagination of the Donegal public and indeed football supporters further afield.

Few counties display as much passion for football as Donegal and the numbers that they have brought with them to Croke Park today backs this up and in the process evokes memories of 1992.

The encounter possesses all the ingredients required for an intriguing duel.

In the Minor game today Dublin and Galway will do battle with a place against Tipperary in the final the prize on offer.

Best of luck to our players, coaches, backroom members, match officials, administrators and of course supporters



ahead of our two games today. I hope your visit to Páirc an Chrócaigh today is a memorable one.

A special word of thanks is due to our supporters who continue to attend our games in such large numbers and last week's attendance for the first football semi-final was a case in point.

We hope our ticket packages and pricing re-structure – twinned with the extra activity that we have organised for our All-Ireland series match day – has made a notable difference.

Thanks also to our partners Eircom, SuperValu and Ulster Bank for their continued support of the GAA Football Championship and the imagination and innovation that they bring to the promotion of our game.

Ar aghaidh len ár gluichí.

Críostóir Ó Cuana

**Críostóir Ó Cuana
Uachtarán
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael**



NA MUSCAEDÓIRÍ

LE MÁRTAN Ó CIARDHA

Ba chluiche sraithe in aghaidh Dhún na nGall a thug deis do Alan Brogan agus do Barry Cahill geansaí Bhaile Átha Cliath a chaitheamh don chéad uair i ngrád na sinsear. Bhí Cahill ar chlé sa líne leathchúil agus Brogan sna tosaithe ar an bhfoireann a bhuaigh ar na Conallaigh 2-10, 0-14 i Roinn 1 na Sraithe Náisiúnta ar Pháirc Parnell ar an 10ú Feabhra 2002.

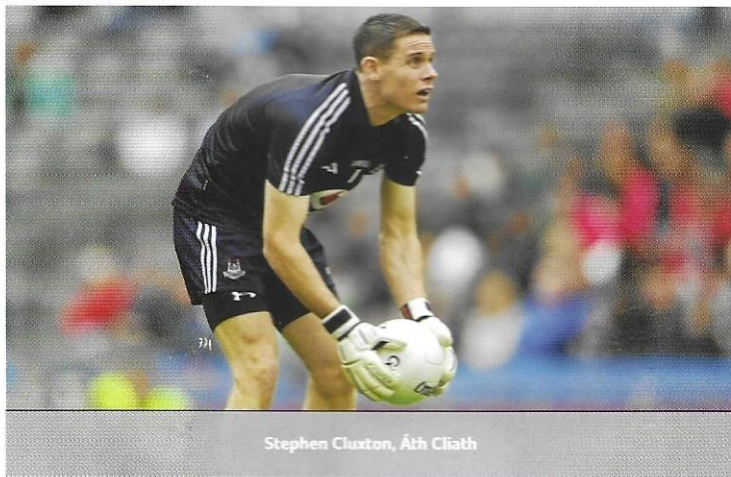
Bliain agus fiche d'aois a bhí Cahill agus é ina chaptaen ar an bhfoireann Faoi 21 a thug Craobh Laighean leo an bhliain chéanna sin, ach ar bhuaigh Gaillimh orthu i gCluiche Ceannais na hÉireann. An bhliain dar gcionn ba é Brogan an captaein ar an bhfoireann Faoi 21 a thug an chraobh go Baile Átha Cliath don chéad uair lena mbua ar Thír Éoghain.

Ba é an cluiche sin in aghaidh Dhún na nGall i 2002 an chéad uair ag Stephen Cluxton freisin imirt do Bhaile Átha Cliath sa tSraithchomórtas, ach bhí

dhá chluiche imrithe aigesan sa chúl dóibh i gCraobhchomórtas Laighean 2001 – in aghaidh Longfort agus Uíbh Fhailí. Chaill sé a áit nuair a tháinig chluiche ceannais an chúige in aghaidh na Mí agus sna chluiche cáilithe agus ¼ ceannais in aghaidh Shligigh agus Chiarraí, ach is é an chéad rogha mar bháireoir ó sin, agus

maraon leis an mbeirt eile baint nach beag aige leis an rath atá ar an bhfoireann a fhágann 7 mbonn de chuid Laighean an duine acu le 10 mbliana.

49 cluiche craoibhe atá imrithe ag an triúr acu le chéile ar fhoireann Bhaile Átha Cliath. Tá Cluxton agus Brogan



Stephen Cluxton, Áth Cliath

Muscaedóirí

Musketeers

deis

opportunity

cluiche cáilithe

qualifier

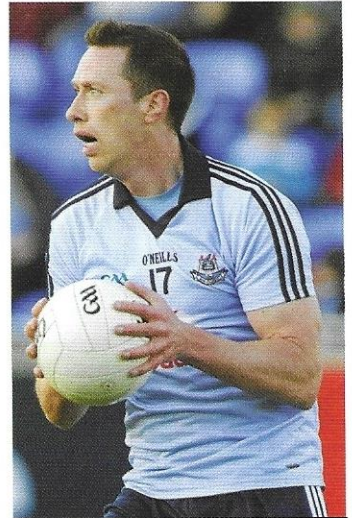
Your link to the language! : www.gaeilge.ie : Do nasc leis an teanga!

imithe chun páirce i ngach cluiche craoibhe a d'imir na 'Dubs' ón gcéad bhabhta de Chraobh Laighean 2002, ach amháin nuair a bhí an cúlbaire gortaíthe do chluiche in aghaidh na hIarmhí i 2004 (Bryan Murphy a ghlac a áit). Ní bréag an 'Triúr Muscaedóirí' a thabhairt orthu, 53 cluiche craoibhe imrithe do Bhaile Átha Cliath ag Cluxton, 52 ag Brogan agus 49 ag Cahill, a mbeadh cúpla ceann eile imrithe aige murach gortú 'cruciate' a bhain dó i 2003.

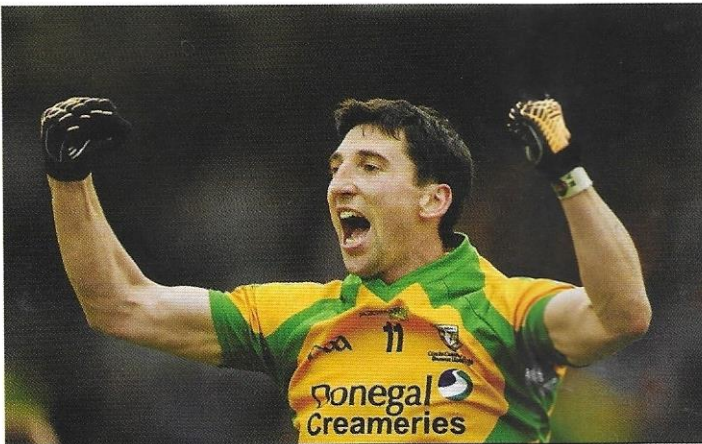
I gcomhthéacs bhabhta leathcheannais an lae inniu, ba chluiche stairiúil a bhí sa cheann sraithe idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Dún na nGall ar Pháirc Parnell i mí Feabhra

2002, mar gur ann a fuair Christy Toye agus Colm McFadden freisin deis imeartha i gcluiche comórtais dá gcontae féin don chéad uair. Tháinig siad ar an bpáirc mar ionadaithe, mar a tháinig go deimhin bainisteoir Dhún na nGall inniu, Jim McGuinness. Ar an bpáirc ó thús na himeartha an lá sin, agus uimhir 11 ar a dhroim, bhí Michael Hegarty, a chaith geansaí a chontae i ngrád na sinsear don chéad uair i mí Aibreán 2001, i gcluiche sa tSraith Náisiúnta in aghaidh Chiarraí.

Cosúil le 'Muscaedóirí' Bhaile Átha Cliath is beaga atá idir an líon cluichí craoibhe atá imeartha ag



Barry Cahill, Ath Cliath



Michael Hegarty, Dún na nGall

Hegarty, Toye agus McFadden dá gcontae dúchais – (44); (40) agus (37). Ach sé Ó hÉigearthaigh Chill Charthaigh amháin a d'imir sna cheithre chluiche ceannais a shroich Dún na nGall i gCúige Uladh ón mbliain 2002. Cosúil leis an mbeirt eile, fágann buanna Ard Mhacha i 2002, '04 agus '06 go raibh air fanacht go dtáinig an bhliain seo sular thug sé bonn sinsear a chúige leis. Nuair a d'éirigh sé as an imirt i 2009, cheap sé go raibh a sheans imithe, ach anois tá Michael Hegarty agus lucht leanta a chontae thar a bheith sásta gur ghlac sé le cuireadh a bhainisteora a theacht ar ais.

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A RENEWAL OF RIVALRIES

Nineteen years after Jim McGuinness and Pat Gilroy met as players, they renew their rivalry as managers of their respective counties

BY IAN O'RIORDAN, IRISH TIMES

Some of you may be too young to remember *The Captain's Table*, a special Championship series that ran in a popular Sunday newspaper up until the early 1990s.

The premise was simple: the two All-Ireland captains would sit down for lunch with a journalist, usually at some fancy hotel, for some honest talk about the upcoming final on the basis that everything was 'on the record' and which made for fascinating reading.

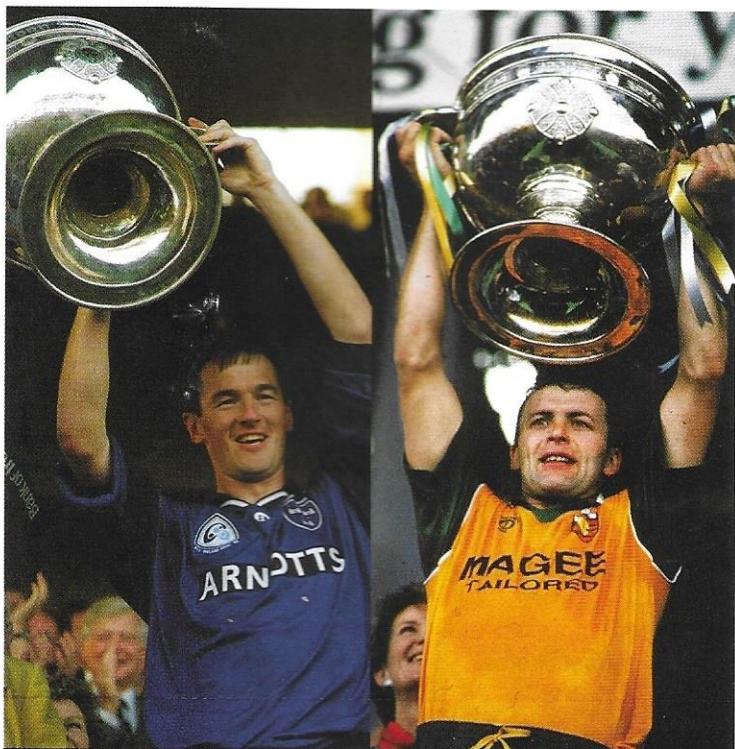
So, 19 years ago, Tommy Carr and Anthony Molloy sat down with the journalist, a certain Tom O'Riordan, to discuss Dublin's showdown with Donegal in the 1992 All-Ireland football final. Carr came across as a little uptight, obviously conscious of the hype surrounding Dublin, whereas Molloy appeared relaxed, conveying Donegal's fearlessness, and in the end fairly flummoxed the man sitting opposite him. After reading that it seemed there could be only one winner.

As it turned out it was close, and really could have gone either way, but Donegal ultimately triumphed 0-18 to 0-14 and the rest is Championship history: a first All-Ireland title for the men from the north-west, another blow for the football fortunes of the capital.

Dublin were back in the final two

years later, yet lost that one too, to Down, before eventually succeeding in 1995, with a narrow victory over Tyrone. No one could have predicted at that time that neither Dublin nor Donegal would be back in the All-Ireland football final in all the years since, although it hasn't been through lack of trying.

Which brings us to this afternoon's contest, with shades of 1992 providing an inevitable background, and while there's not yet an All-Ireland title at stake, a place in the final must be an equally coveted prize right now for both counties. Just like 1992 Dublin will again start as favourites, with clouds of hype gathering overhead,



John O'Leary, Dublin captain in 1995, left, and Anthony Molloy, Donegal captain in 1992



Dublin manager, Pat Gilroy

while Donegal will be undaunted, stepping into the unknown, just like they were 19 years ago.

Consider some further parallel lines: Dublin have been knocking on the door of an All-Ireland final for several years now, like they were in 1992, and have come through a tough provincial Championship to win back the Leinster title, like they did 19 years ago. Donegal seemed to come out of nowhere, winning back the Ulster title for the first time since, yes, 1992, when they also beat a hotly fancied Derry in the final.

However, it's the two men on the sidelines who provide perhaps the most relevant link to 1992: Pat Gilroy made his Senior debut for Dublin during the 1992

Championship, and although he didn't feature in the All-Ireland final against Donegal, he won't need any reminding of the clear and present danger of this afternoon's opposition.

Likewise Jim McGuinness first came into the Donegal Senior panel in 1992 as a young 19 year-old nicknamed 'Cher' because of his long black hair. Although he too didn't actually feature in the 1992 final he has an Ulster and All-Ireland medal from that summer and won't need any reminding either of the joys of beating Dublin in Croke Park.

Again, no one in 1992 could have guessed that these two men would someday go on to manage their counties. Gilroy got to win his All-Ireland in 1995, while McGuinness won nothing more with Donegal after '92,

and yet here they both are one victory away from turning back the clock on their own lives and the fortunes of their county.

But if Gilroy and McGuinness had sat down this week at The Manager's Table would it be as easy to decipher a potential winner?

Truth is they bring such similar strengths and attitude to their positions as manager that 1992 really is only a historical reference. Dublin's extra burden this afternoon is the inevitable hype, and yet all that seems to wash off Gilroy's back without him even noticing. In fact the joke in the newspaper business this week has been Dublin's almost contradictory build-up to this afternoon. The Dubs won't be deterred by hype despite helping to

Continued overleaf

draw the first sell-out crowd of the summer to Croke Park.

Indeed Gilroy appears to have developed an uncanny knack of dispersing the Dublin hype partly helped by staging his pre-match press conferences at 8.00am on the Friday morning, knowing full well that all Dublin journalists consider Thursday evening as the start of their weekend.

"The season begins now," said Dublin captain Bryan Cullen after their Leinster final win over Wexford. That came across as the message Gilroy has been drilling into them all

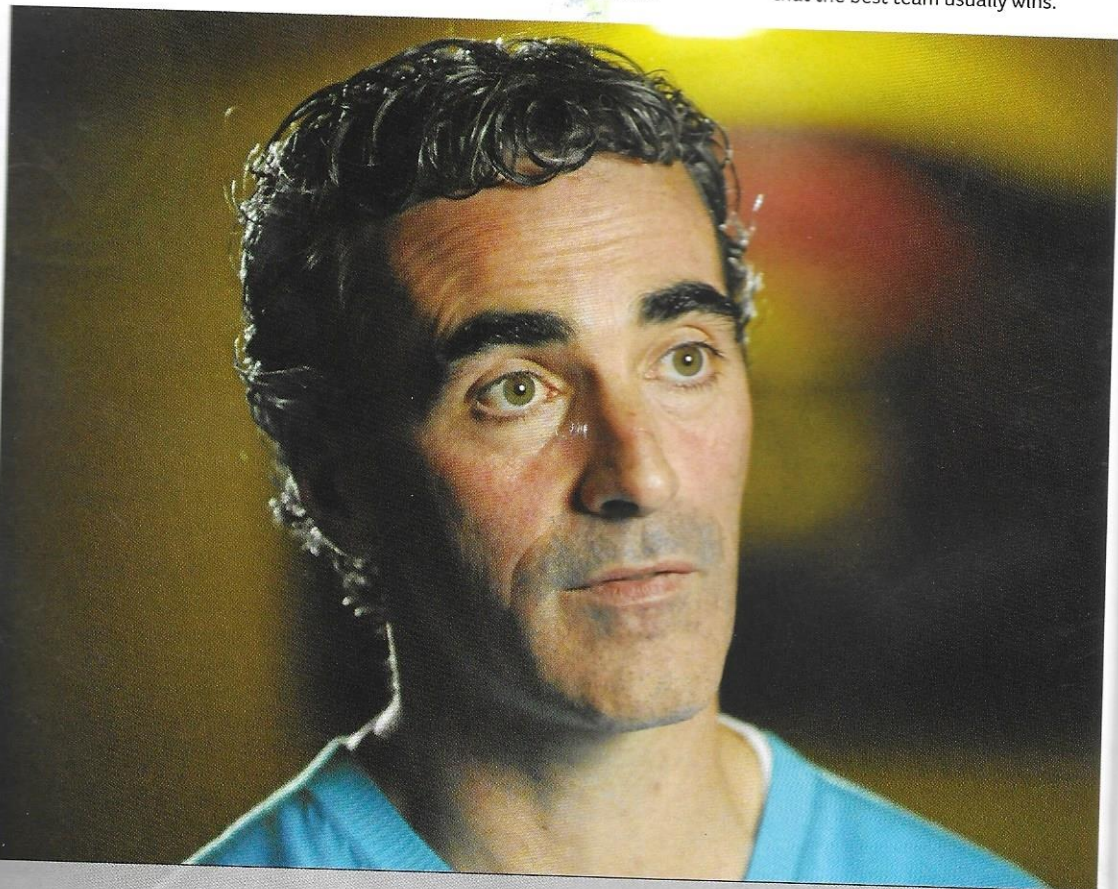
year and reflected in Dublin's comprehensive dismantling of Tyrone in the All-Ireland quarter-final.

For McGuinness, his debut season as Donegal manager has so far been marked by his unflinching belief in his team, partly fuelled perhaps by the regrets of not building on the success of 1992. He admitted this week that in the 2002 All-Ireland quarter-final defeat to Dublin, and the All-Ireland semi-final defeat to Armagh a year later - having played in both games - that Donegal "weren't honest with

ourselves" but had fooled themselves into thinking they were All-Ireland contenders.

"To me, that was living," McGuinness said, describing Donegal's incredible battle with Kildare in their All-Ireland quarter-final. No one was questioning the honesty of Donegal after that performance.

It's against that backdrop that Dublin face-off against Donegal this afternoon, for perhaps their first honest contest since 1992, and when it comes down to a game like that the best team usually wins.



Donegal manager, Jim McGuinness

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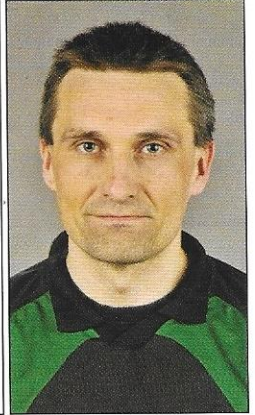
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SENIOR REFEREE

AN RÉITEOIR - MAURICE DEEGAN (Laois)

Maurice returns to Croke Park this afternoon having been on duty last month for the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship Qualifier clash between Tyrone and Roscommon. That was the Laois official's fourth outing in the 2011 campaign having earlier been the man-in-the-middle for the Donegal-Antrim, Meath-Louth and Donegal-Derry matches. A member of the inter-county panel for 10 years, Maurice also has experience of the Metropolitans this season having officiated at the Dublin-Mayo Allianz League tie back in February. That was one of four fixtures he controlled in the League. Three years ago he refereed the Senior final between Kerry and Tyrone.



MINOR REFEREE

AN RÉITEOIR - ROBERT O'DONNELL (Dún na nGall)

Robert returns to GAA Headquarters this afternoon having taken charge of the Allianz League Division III final between Limerick and Waterford last year, which was his debut at Croke Park. He has been a member of the inter-county panel for seven years and today he makes his debut in the 2011 GAA Football All-Ireland Minor Championship. The Donegal official was on duty in the Allianz League earlier this season when he refereed the Roscommon-Carlow and Derry-Sligo ties while the Derry-Queen's University McKenna Cup game also came under his jurisdiction. His last outing at Minor level was last year's quarter-final clash between Longford and Galway.








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FINAL DROUGHT TO END FOR DUBLIN OR DONEGAL

Donegal or Dublin will bridge 19 or 16-year gaps respectively since they last appeared in an All-Ireland final with victory at Croke Park today

Last weekend Kerry recorded their seventh GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final victory in eight years, but Dublin have to go back twice as far for their last success at the penultimate stage, which was in 1995 when they defeated Cork by a goal.

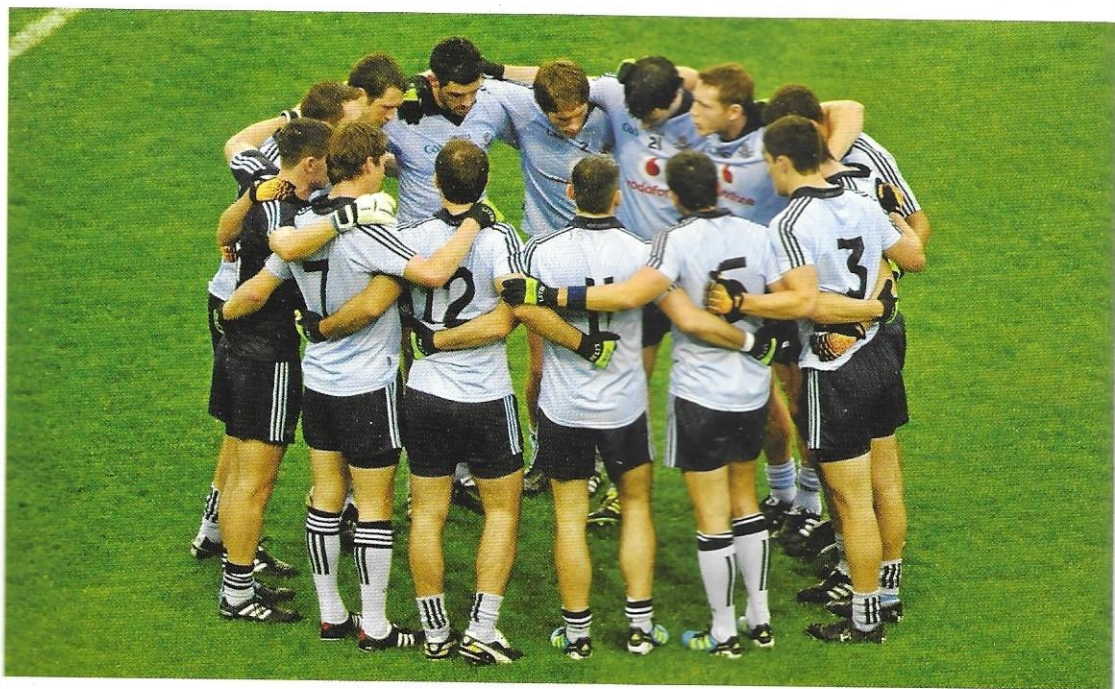
This is unprecedented in the history of the Metropolitans as since their first semi-final win over Cavan (1891), the previous longest period without a win in the last four was the 13 years between 1942 and '55.

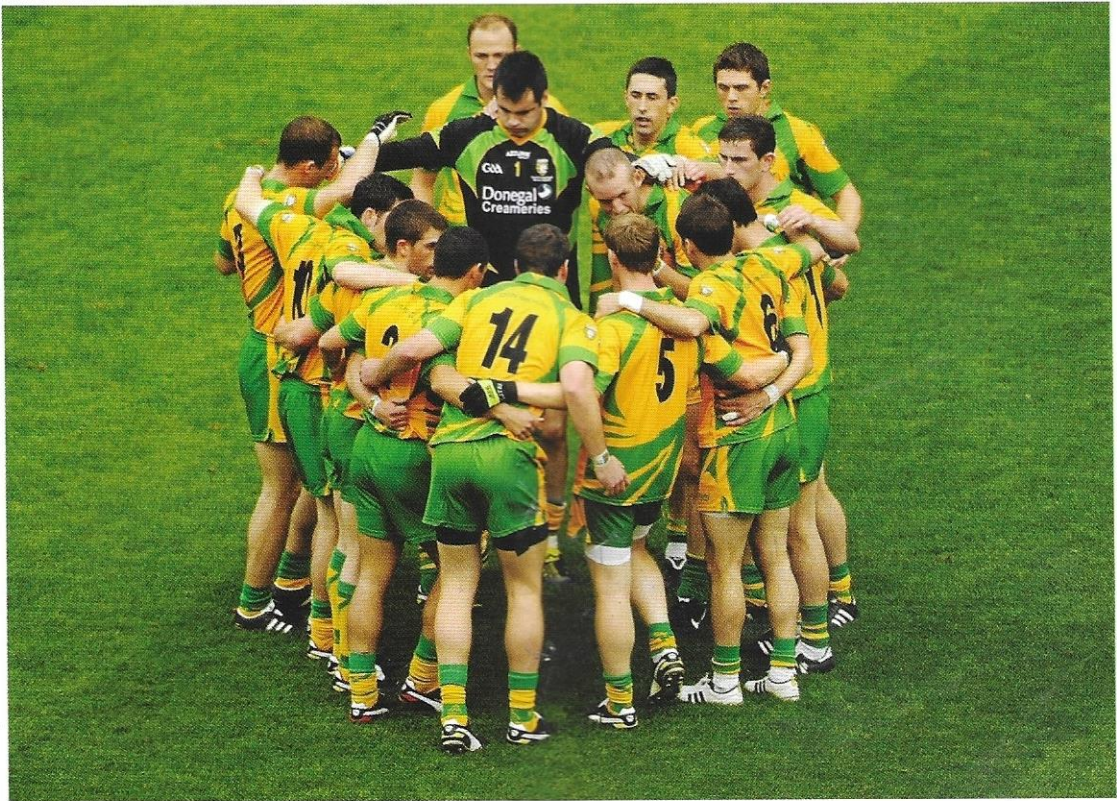
Donegal are attempting to bridge an even longer gap (19 years) as they have been absent from action on the third Sunday in September since 1992 when they defeated the Liffesiders to take their only title. It is certain that neither side will be lacking incentive for this afternoon's encounter.

Both counties' form has fluctuated this season. In the Allianz League the capital side enjoyed an unbeaten run to the final where they lost to Cork by the narrowest of margins while that same afternoon Donegal won the

Division II title with a win over Laois. The foundations for Championship success had been well laid.

A cohesive defensive plan served Donegal well as the Anglo-Celt Cup returned to the north-west for the first time since the glory year of 1992. The Ulster champions have conceded just a single goal in five outings and with their opponents having been restricted to an average of just under 10 points per game they are proving to be a tremendously difficult side to beat.





Dublin didn't quite fire on all cylinders as they regained Leinster honours, but still had enough in the tank to get past Laois, Kildare and Wexford. The defence hasn't been quite as parsimonious as Donegal's but the attacking threat posed by Diarmuid Connolly, Alan Brogan and younger brother Bernard has kept them on the right side of the

scoreboard. That trio's match-up with Frank McGlynn, Neil McGee and Karl Lacey could be decisive to the outcome.

Dublin's quarter-final win over Tyrone was generally regarded as the best performance of Pat Gilroy's reign and the seven-point winning margin in no way flattered them. Donegal's victory

over Kildare at the same stage was less eye-catching, but the northerners' steely determination to grind out a result eventually saw them through.

The last time these sides met, nine years ago, it took a replay to separate them. It could well be that close again.



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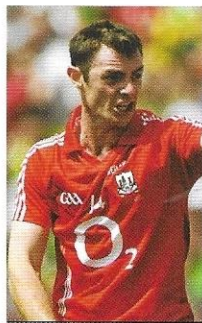


2011 TOP TEN SCORERS

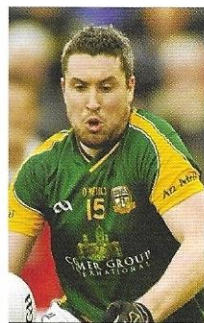
	SCORE	TOTAL
Ben Brosnan (Wexford)	0-32	32
Colm Cooper (Kerry)	1-24	27
John Doyle (Kildare)	2-21	27
Donncha O'Connor (Cork)	4-14	26
Cian Ward (Meath)	4-12	24
Ciarán Lyng (Wexford)	1-21	24
Cillian O'Connor (Mayo)	1-19	22
Donie Shine (Roscommon)	1-19	22
Martin Clarke (Down)	2-16	22
Daniel Goulding (Cork)	2-16	22
Seán Cavanagh (Tyrone)	2-16	22



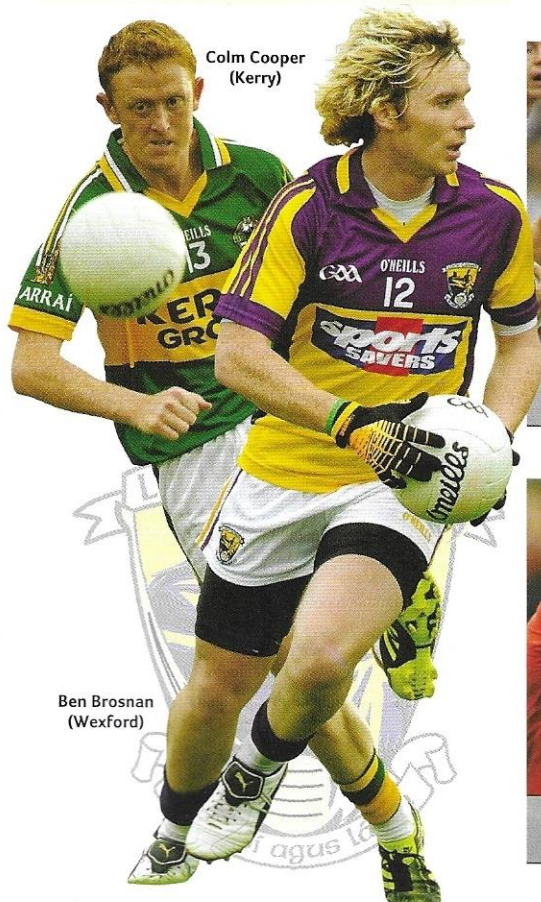
John Doyle
(Kildare)



Donncha O'Connor
(Cork)

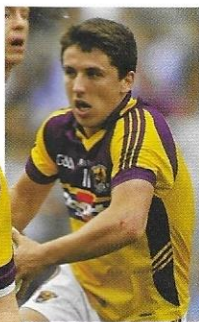


Cian Ward
(Meath)

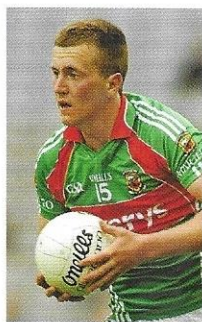


Colm Cooper
(Kerry)

Ben Brosnan
(Wexford)



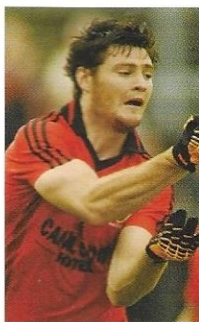
Ciarán Lyng
(Wexford)



Cillian O'Connor
(Mayo)



Donie Shine
(Roscommon)



Martin Clarke
(Down)



Daniel Goulding
(Cork)



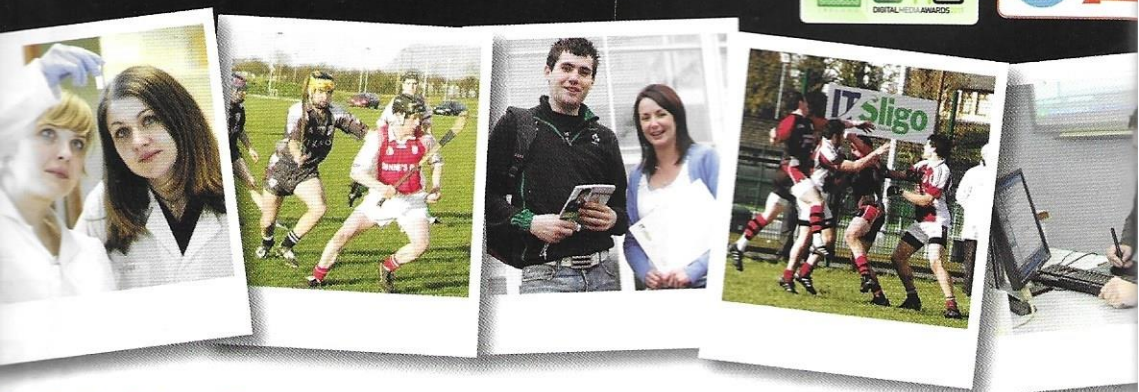
Seán Cavanagh
(Tyrone)

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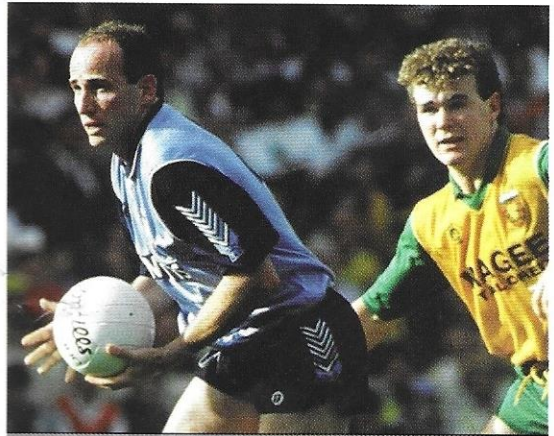
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1992	Donegal	0-18	0-14	Dublin
2002	Dublin	2-8	0-14	Donegal
REPLAY	Dublin	1-14	0-7	Donegal



Tommy Carr, Dublin, takes on Tony Boyle, Donegal, in 1992

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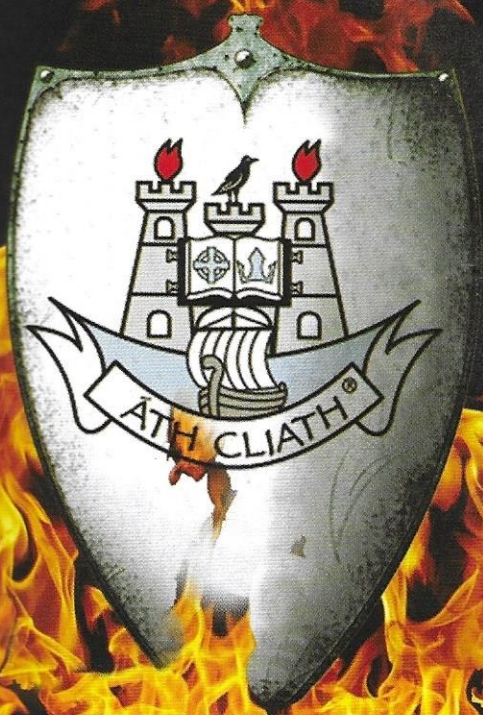
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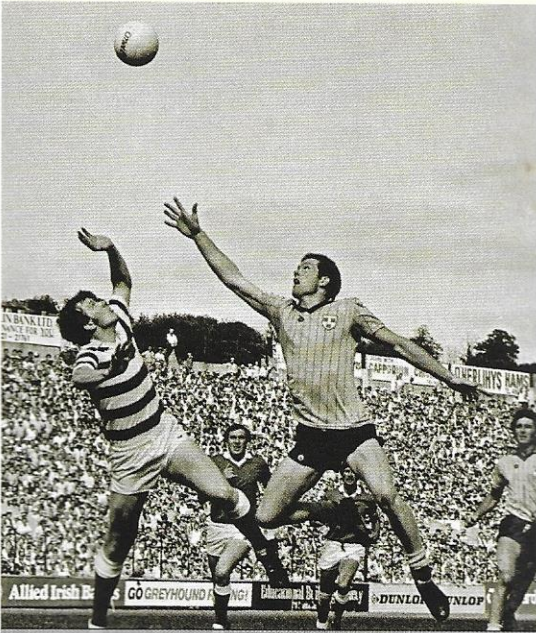


Full coverage of
DUBLIN v DONEGAL
Monday in **The Irish Times**

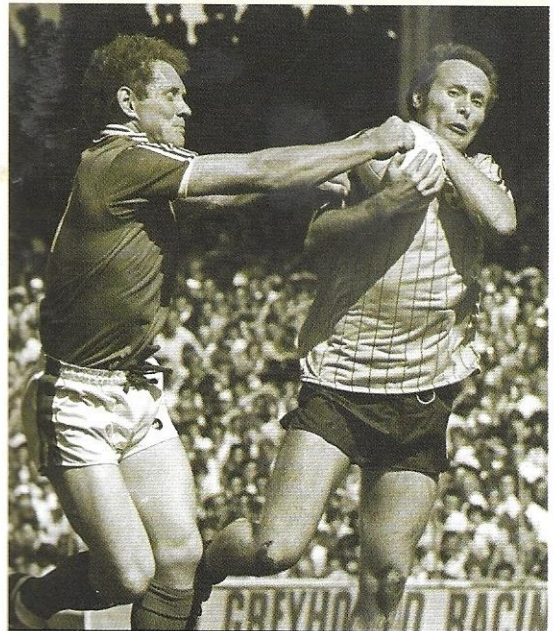
DUBLIN SEMI-FINAL RECORD

1891	Dublin	3-7	0-3	Cavan
1892	Dublin	1-9	1-1	Roscommon
1901	Dublin	1-12	0-3	Antrim
1902	Dublin	4-16	1-6	Armagh
1904	Dublin	0-8	1-4	Mayo
1907	Dublin	1-5	0-2	Monaghan
1908	Dublin	1-8	0-2	Antrim
1910	Dublin	3-5	0-2	Antrim
1912	Dublin	2-4	1-1	Roscommon
1920	Dublin	3-6	1-3	Cavan
1921	Dublin	2-8	2-2	Monaghan
1922	Dublin	2-5	0-0	Monaghan
1923	Dublin	1-6	1-2	Mayo
1924	Dublin	0-6	1-1	Cavan

1932	Kerry	1-3	1-1	Dublin
1933	Galway	0-8	1-4	Dublin
1934	Dublin	3-8	0-6	Kerry
1941	Kerry	0-4	0-4	Dublin
REPLAY	Kerry	2-9	0-3	Dublin
1942	Dublin	1-6	1-3	Cavan
1955	Dublin	0-7	1-4	Mayo
REPLAY	Dublin	1-8	1-7	Mayo
1958	Dublin	2-7	1-9	Galway
1959	Kerry	1-10	2-5	Dublin
1962	Kerry	2-12	0-10	Dublin
1963	Dublin	2-11	0-7	Down
1965	Kerry	4-8	2-6	Dublin
1974	Dublin	2-11	1-8	Cork



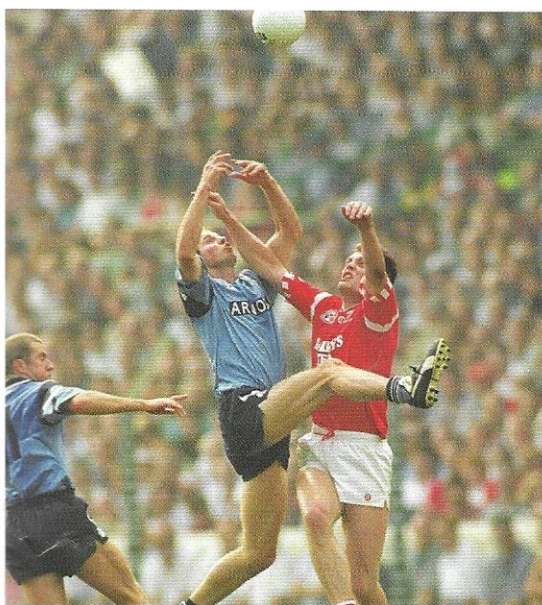
Barney Rock, Dublin, contests a high ball with Cork goalkeeper Michael Creedon in 1983



Noel McCaffrey, Dublin, in action against Jimmy Burke, Mayo in 1985

Continued on page 23

1975	Dublin	3-13	3-8	Derry
1976	Dublin	1-8	0-8	Galway
1977	Dublin	3-12	1-13	Kerry
1978	Dublin	1-16	0-8	Down
1979	Dublin	0-14	1-10	Roscommon
1983	Dublin	2-11	2-11	Cork
REPLAY	Dublin	4-15	2-10	Cork
1984	Dublin	2-11	0-8	Tyrone
1985	Dublin	1-13	1-13	Mayo
REPLAY	Dublin	2-12	1-7	Mayo
1989	Cork	2-10	1-9	Dublin
1992	Dublin	3-14	2-12	Clare
1993	Derry	0-15	0-14	Dublin
1994	Dublin	3-15	1-9	Leitrim
1995	Dublin	1-12	0-12	Cork
2002	Armagh	1-14	1-13	Dublin
2006	Mayo	1-16	2-12	Dublin
2007	Kerry	1-15	0-16	Dublin
2010	Cork	1-15	1-14	Dublin



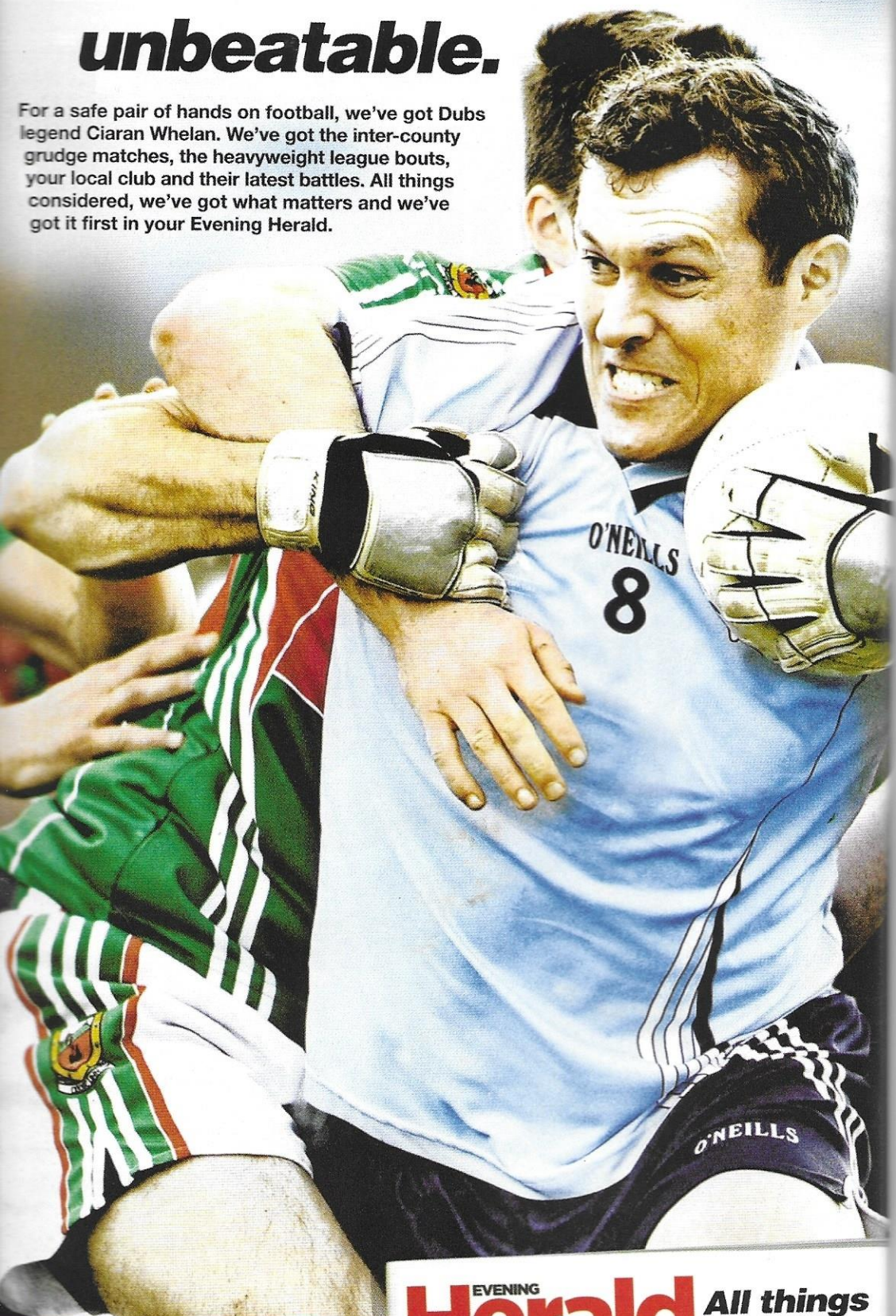
Brian Stynes, Dublin, contests a high ball with Liam Honohan, Cork, in 1995



Bernard Brogan, Dublin, in action against Michael Shields, Cork, in 2010

He's still unbeatable.

For a safe pair of hands on football, we've got Dubs legend Ciaran Whelan. We've got the inter-county grudge matches, the heavyweight league bouts, your local club and their latest battles. All things considered, we've got what matters and we've got it first in your Evening Herald.



WHELAN ON FOOTBALL

EVENING
Herald All things considered



THE DUBLIN FOOTBALL PANEL

Back (L-R): Paul Conlon, Michael McCarthy, Ross McConnell, Eoghan O'Gara, Paul Casey, Paul Brogan, Kevin Nolan, James McCarthy, Eamonn Fennell, Craig Dias, Barry Cahill, Bernard Brogan, Diarmuid Connolly, Declan Lally, Darragh Nelson, Michael Fitzsimons, Michael Savage, Seán Murray

Front (L-R): Ger Brennan, David Henry, Rory O'Carroll, Bryan Cullen, Stephen Cluxton, Tomás Quinn, Paul Flynn, Alan Brogan

CAN DUBLIN CRACK SEMI-FINAL CODE?

Dublin's season has been a cause for great optimism, but many questions remain unanswered going into today's semi-final against Donegal

FRANK ROCHE, EVENING HERRING

Dublin footballers have contested four All-Ireland Senior semi-finals over the past decade. The cumulative scoreline reads Combined Opposition 4-60, Sky Blue Crusaders 4-55 - a combined differential of five measly points. And Dublin, for all the blood and sweat expended in those four semi-finals, have ended all four bathed in tears.

Maybe this propensity for finishing on the wrong end of a late August thriller explains why quite a few Dublin diehards are still approaching today's Donegal D-Day with a vague sense of fatalism.

Of course they know that Donegal, based on their workaholic traits and space-clogging stratagems not to mention their decorated CV for 2011, will make life suffocating in the extreme for Diarmuid Connolly, the Brogans *et al*.

And of course they still think - logically - that their team will ultimately possess too much firepower for Jim McGuinness's lean, mean machine.

But what has logic got to do with Dublin footballers within tantalising reach of the Holy Grail? These same fretful devotees fear - even on a subconscious level - that the worst will materialise this afternoon because, well, that is what happens to Dublin

teams when they approach this giddy stage of the race for Sam.

It almost makes 'logical' sense that an unfancied Donegal will do unto Pat Gilroy's men what an unfancied Donegal, managed by Brian McEniff, did unto Paddy Cullen's alleged champions-elect all the way back in 1992.

It is the job of management to remove players from all such pre-match speculation based on past events because, basically, it's not worth a curse.

Dublin have enough negative semi-final baggage without harking back Ray Cosgrove's free-off-the-post against Armagh (2002), or Mayo's miracle comeback from seven points adrift (2006), or that close-but-no-cigar two-point defeat to Kerry (2007) or even their most recent summer defeat-snatched-from-the-jaws-of-victory routine, when coughing up a five-point lead to Cork 12 months ago.

True, that Cork heartbreaker spawned as much by fourth quarter fatigue as indiscipline in the tackle, has some relevance because the vast majority



today's team also played that day. It was also the one semi-final overseen by Gilroy.

But today is different for a variety of reasons. Twelve months ago, you had a coming Dublin team – emboldened by their journey of discovery through the ‘back door’ – facing an All-Ireland rival whose time had finally arrived.

That Cork team had lost their fill of semi-finals and finals (exclusively to Kerry, it must be said) but this is a first semi-final for McGuinness as manager, and a first semi-final too for most of his players.

Dublin must hope and pray that they aren't a modern-day version of Armagh nine years ago, coming to Croker with a blanket defence and a gathering momentum.

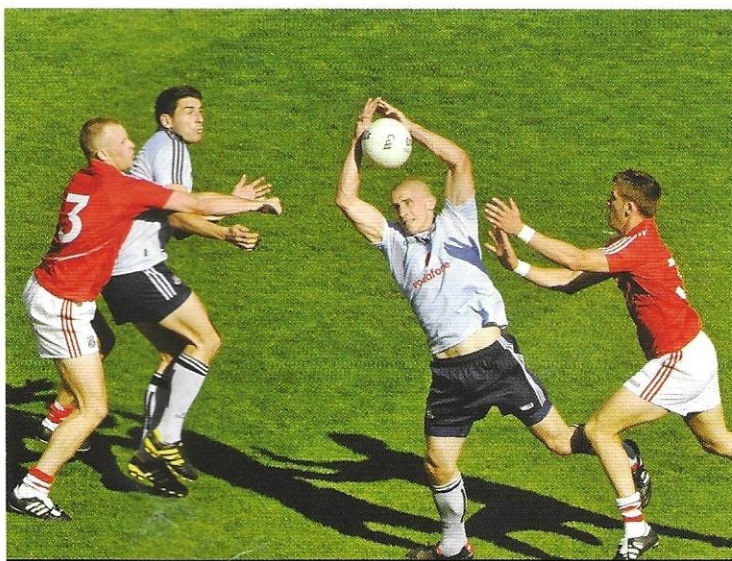
In terms of momentum, though, it would be hard to match the adrenalin-shot of confidence that Dublin gained from their quarter-final *tour de force* against Tyrone.

This performance seemed different to all those earlier quarter-final victories – against Donegal in '02, Westmeath in '06, Derry in '07 and even Tyrone last year – that predated their fateful semi-final exits.

For the first time since the inception of the Qualifier system, Dublin actually carried the gait of All-Ireland champions while winning a straight knockout match in August.

You got the sense that here was a team whose time has finally come as they overwhelmed a once-great Tyrone team whose time has clearly gone.

They seem to tick all the right boxes. They are neither too old nor too callow, possessing a solid blend of gung-ho youth and battle-hardened



Eoghan O'Gara, Dublin, catches a ball ahead of team-mate Bernard Brogan and Cork players Michael Shields, left, and Eoin Cadogan in 2010

experience. In their tackling and their tigerish pursuit of turnovers, they also reveal a hunger now bordering on the ravenous. Certain players, previously unheralded, have developed in mighty leaps and bounds: Paul Flynn being a case in point.

Even such admirable qualities, in isolation, are rarely sufficient to land Sam. The most eye-catching feature of Dublin's last-eight display was the finesse in their football – the quick and accurate foot-passes from midfield and the half-back line, picking out inside forwards who were fully expecting such sharp, early delivery.

This maximised the space in which Diarmuid Connolly and the Brogan brothers, Alan and Bernard, could go to town on their one-time nemesis. All three said finishers, by the way, have the priceless Kerry-esque ability to score off either foot ... and so on the good days you are left

scratching your head in confusion as to which is the ‘weaker’ one.

But, this being Dublin – the Capital of Hype – it behoves us to end with several caveats of caution.

The county (whatever about Gilroy's evolving team) has a boom-to-bust history that makes you believe we are currently experiencing a mere soft landing here in post-Tiger Ireland.

So as the Dublin diehard takes his seat today, all manner of worries will clog up his thoughts. What happens if Connolly doesn't shoot the lights out? Which is the true form guide – Tyrone or Wexford? Has the team already played its All-Ireland final, two rounds early? Can they figure a way through the Tír Chonaill maze? Can they really, belatedly, crack the semi-final code?

So many questions. Not long now for the answers.

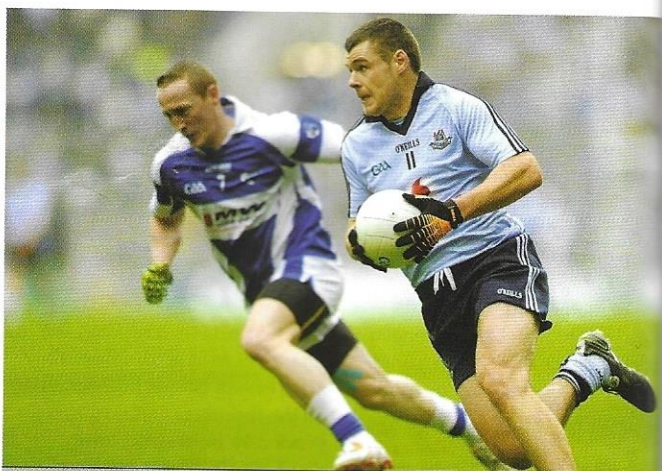
DUBLIN ROUND BY ROUND

PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH
CROKE PARK

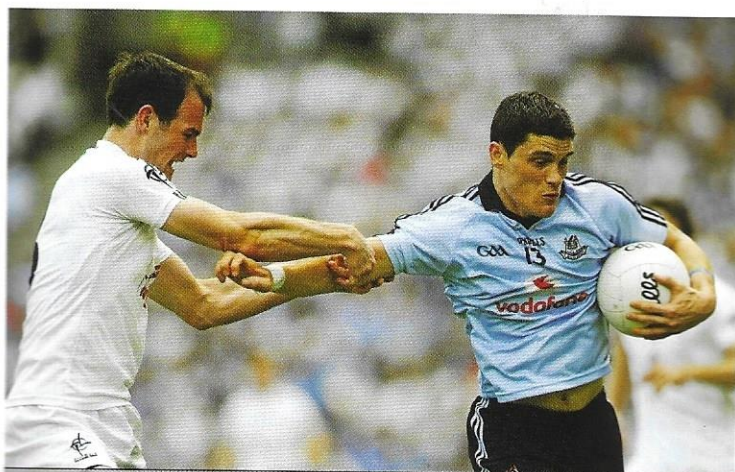
Trace Dublin's progress to today's All-Ireland semi-final with a round-by-round guide to their 2011 Championship campaign to date

June 5 – Dublin 1-16 Laois 0-11

An eight-point margin at the end of 70 minutes barely did justice to Dublin's dominance at O'Moore Park. Home goalkeeper Eoin Culliton was the outstanding performer for the losers and without his efforts the margin would easily have soared into double figures. Diarmuid Connolly beat him in the opening half as the Metropolitans turned over leading by 1-7 to 0-5. Laois notched three without reply on the restart, but their comeback was quickly snuffed out as Dublin replied with seven white flags of their own to end any lingering doubts as to the game's outcome.



Kevin McManamon, Dublin, in action against Peter O'Leary, Laois



Diarmuid Connolly, Dublin, in action against Michael Foley, Kildare

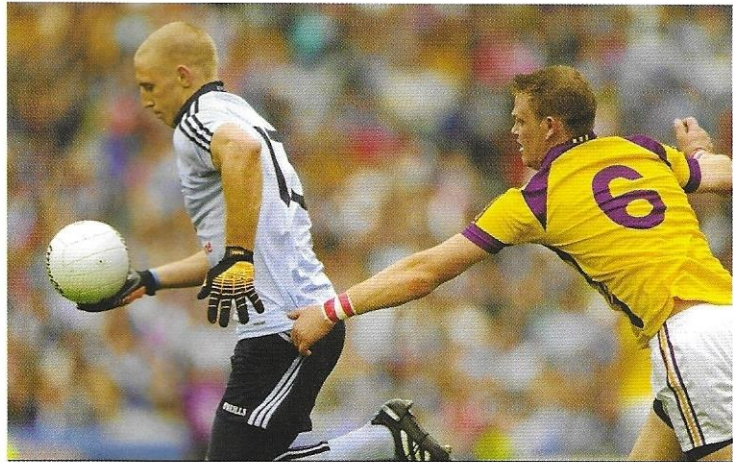
June 26 – Dublin 1-12 Kildare 1-12

A controversial finish to a game. Dublin appeared on course to win comfortably for most of the afternoon. Six points in front at change of ends, Dublin still led by four with just two minutes remaining. However, a goal and a point for the Lilywhites brought them level and a replay looked the most likely outcome. A long punt forward towards Bernard Brogan yielded a free for the Dubs much to the chagrin of the Kildare supporters. Brogan converted the kick for the winning score but the winners knew they had ridden their luck a little.

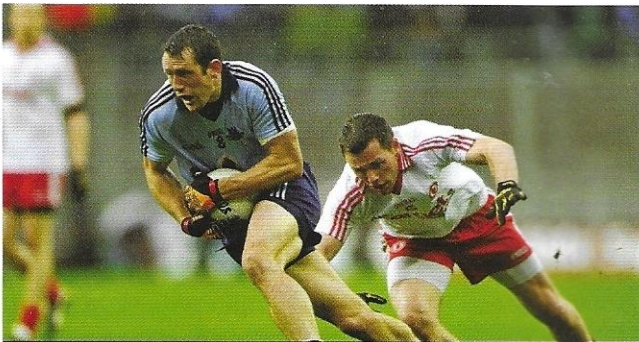
July 10 – Dublin 2-12 Wexford 1-11

For three-quarters of an hour Wexford looked the more likely winners as Dublin performed well below par. At the break they led by the narrowest of margins but Redmond Barry's goal shortly after the restart suggested the Model County were about to bridge the gap back to their last title in 1945, but a fortuitous goal for the Liffesiders turned the tide.

James McCarthy found the net with a quality strike to make it 2-10 to 1-8 for Dublin and subsequently they kept just out of reach of the gallant Slaneysiders.



Eoghan O'Gara, Dublin, in action against David Murphy, Wexford

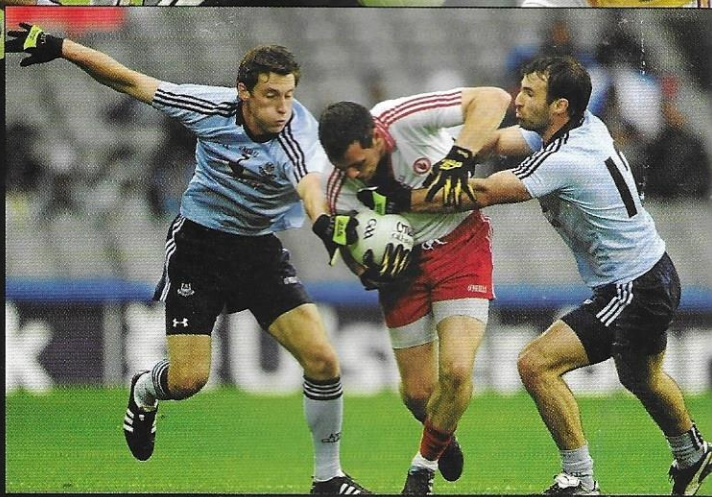
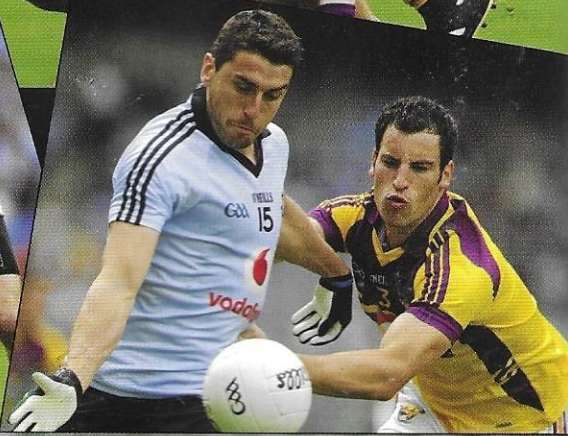
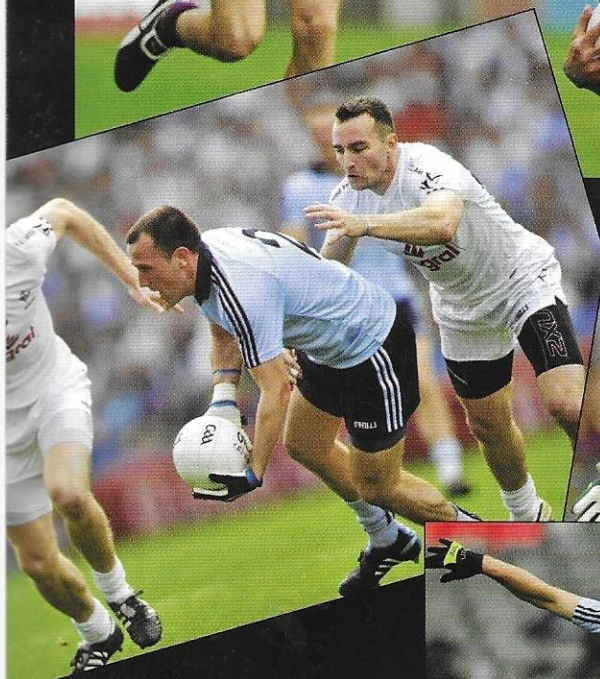
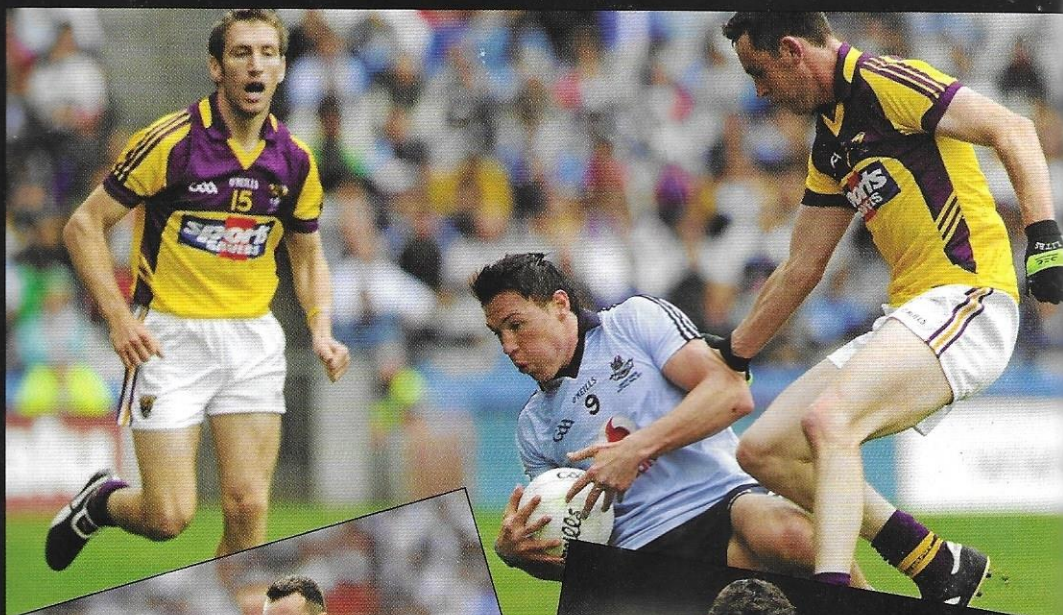


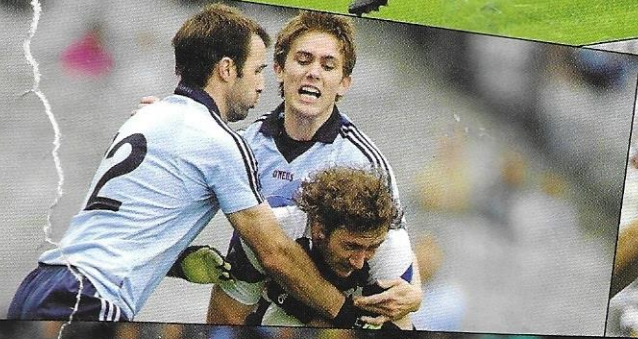
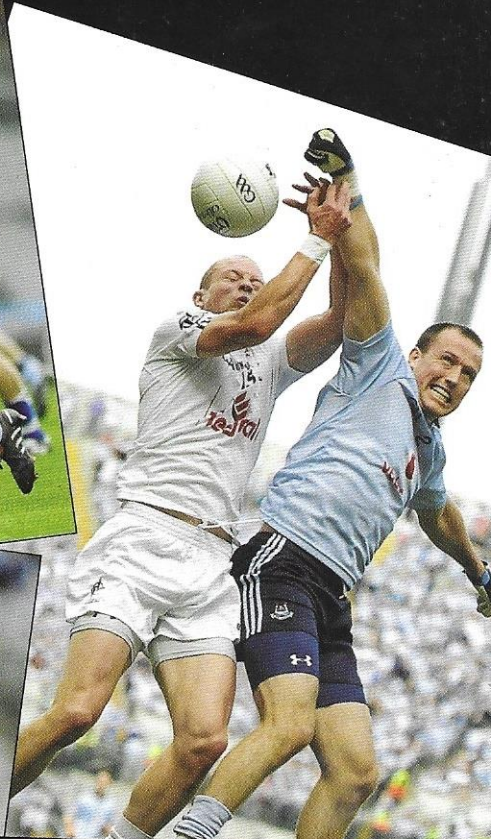
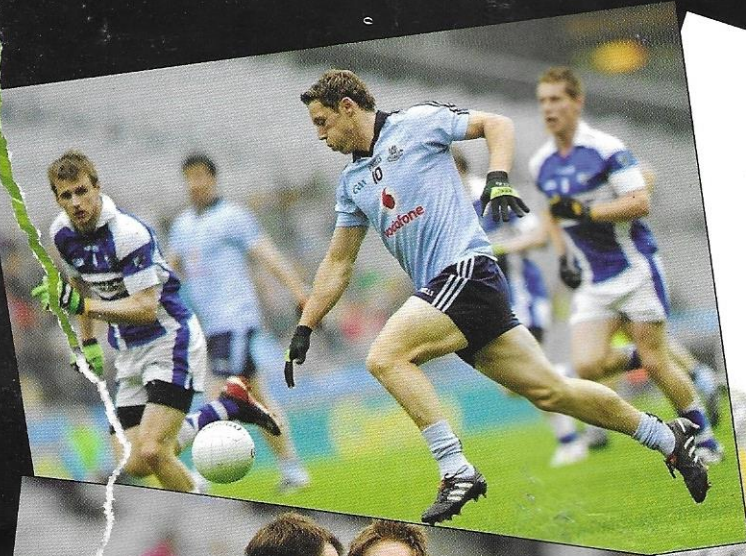
Denis Bastick, Dublin, in action against Conor Gormley, Tyrone

August 7 – Dublin 0-22 Tyrone 0-15

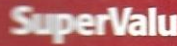
After nearly a month's inaction many wondered whether Dublin might be a tad ring-rusty against a Tyrone side that had played the previous two weekends. The doubters needn't have worried as the Metropolitans gave their most complete display of Pat Gilroy's reign. Diarmuid Connolly gave an outstanding display scoring seven points from play off both feet. He was ably supported in the scoring stakes by Bernard and Alan Brogan who between them matched Tyrone's total. An interval lead of five points was extended to eight on the restart and the only real surprise was that the winners failed to register a goal.

	5/6	26/6	10/7	7/8	Total
Bernard Brogan	0-5	0-6	0-3	0-5	0-19
Diarmuid Connolly	1-3	---	---	0-7	1-10
Alan Brogan	0-3	0-2	0-3	0-3	0-11
Stephen Cluxton	0-3	0-2	0-1	0-2	0-8
Paul Flynn	---	1-1	0-1	0-2	1-4
Bryan Cullen	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-4
James McCarthy	---	---	1-0	---	1-0
Denis Bastick	---	---	0-1	0-1	0-2
Tomás Quinn	0-1	---	---	---	0-1
Ross McConnell	---	---	0-1	---	0-1
Kevin McManamon	---	---	0-1	---	0-1
Barry Cahill	---	---	---	0-1	0-1
Graeme Molloy (Wexford)	---	---	1-0og	---	1-0og





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13. ALAN BROGAN A. Ó Brógáin <i>St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh</i>	14. DIARMUID CONNOLLY D. Ó Conghaile <i>St. Vincent's</i>	15. BERMRD BROGAN B. Ó Brógáin <i>St Oliver Plunketts/Eoghan Ruadh</i>

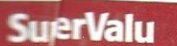
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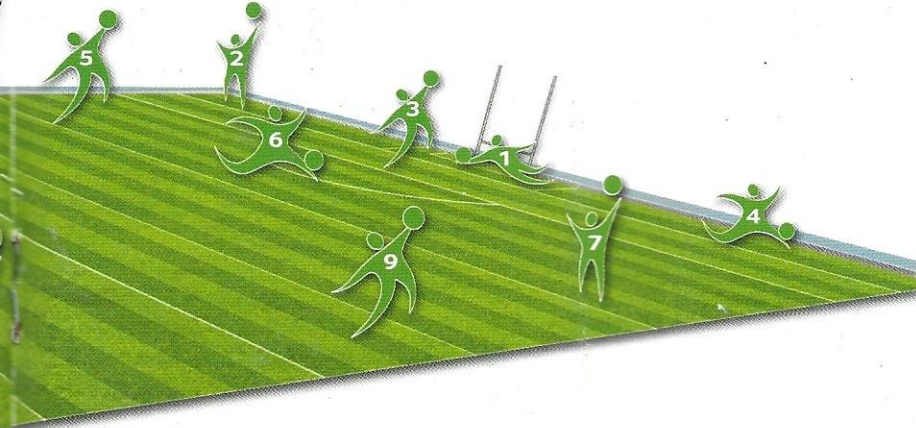
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10. MARK McHUGH M. Mac Aodha <i>Cill Chartha</i>	13. PADDY McBREARTY P. Mac Breairtaigh <i>Cill Chartha</i>	

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Bun Crannacha

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P. Mac Breairtaigh
Cill Chartha

14. MICHAEL MURPHY

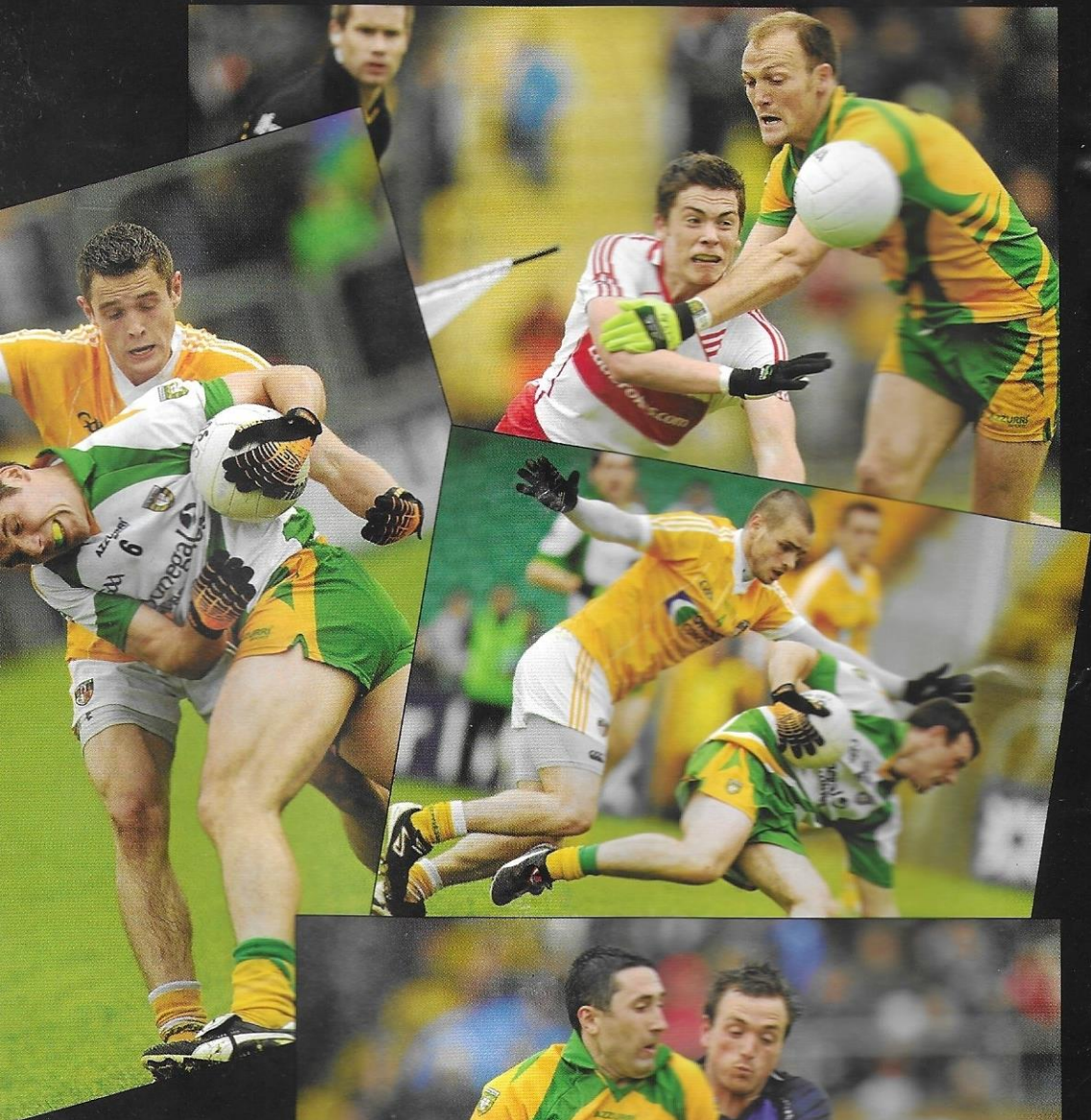
M. Ó Murchú (Capt.)
Gleann Súilí

15. COLM McFADDEN

C. Mac Pháidín
Naomh Micheál

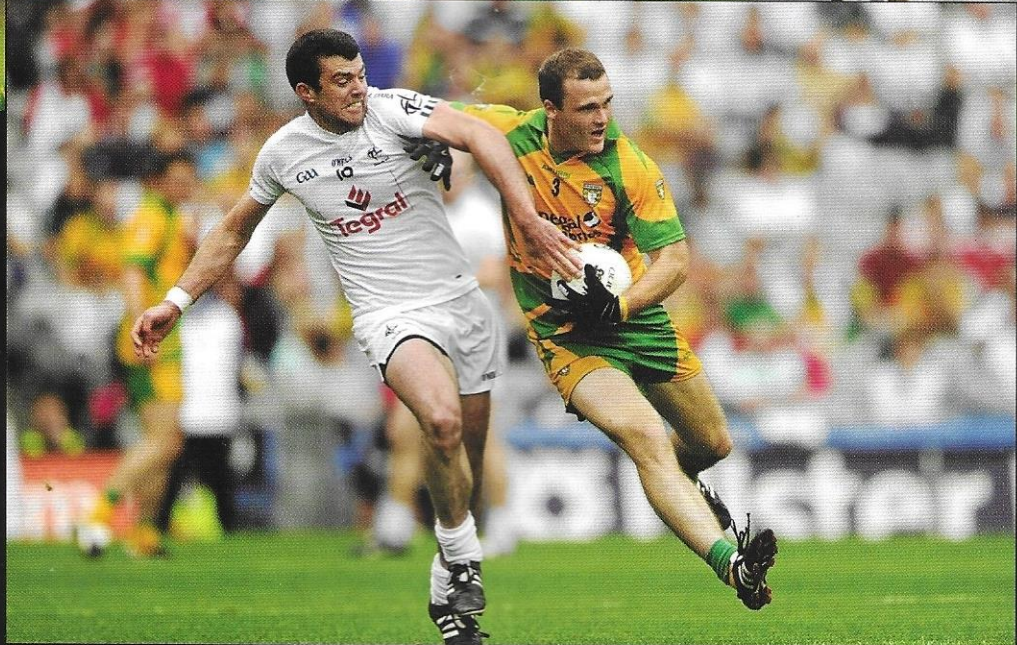
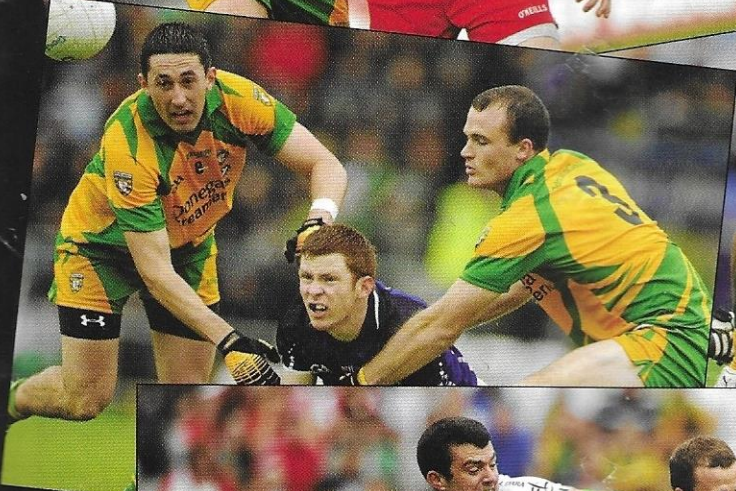
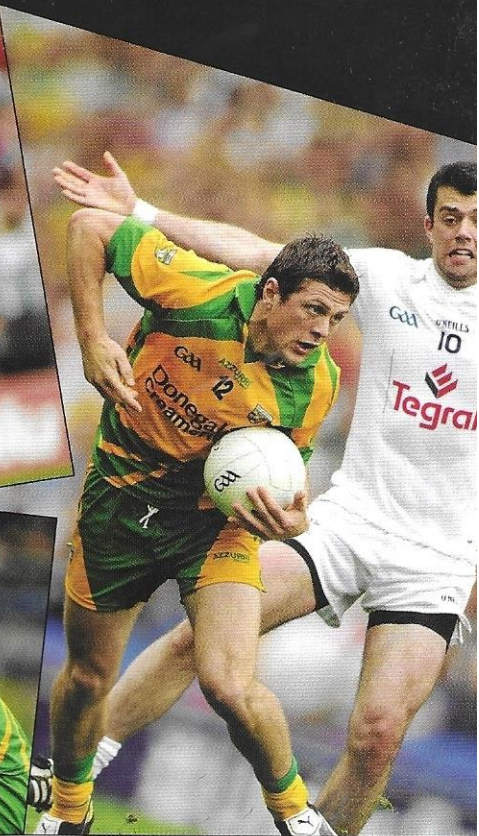
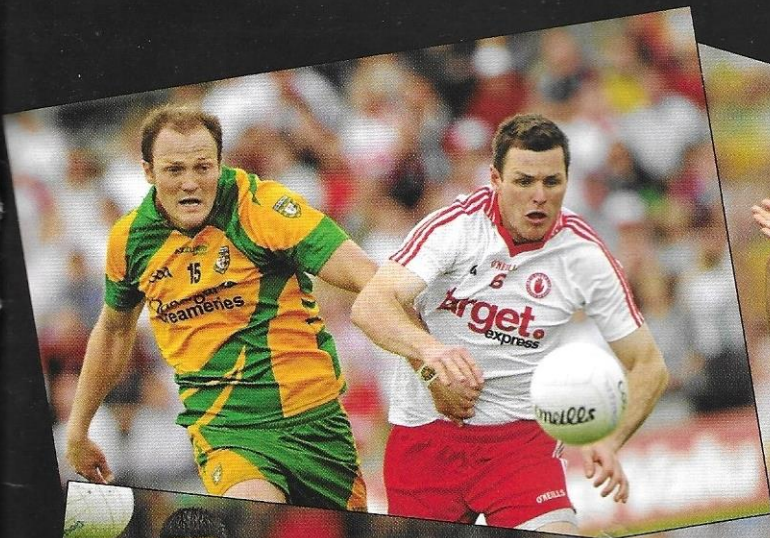
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D. Noctúir
Na Cealla Beaga
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C. Ó Tuathaigh
Naomh Micheál
25. **Kevin Rafferty**
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Naomh Adhamhnain
26. **Leo McLoone**
L. Mac Cluain
Naomh Conaill

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DÚN NA NGALL





DONEGAL ROUND BY ROUND



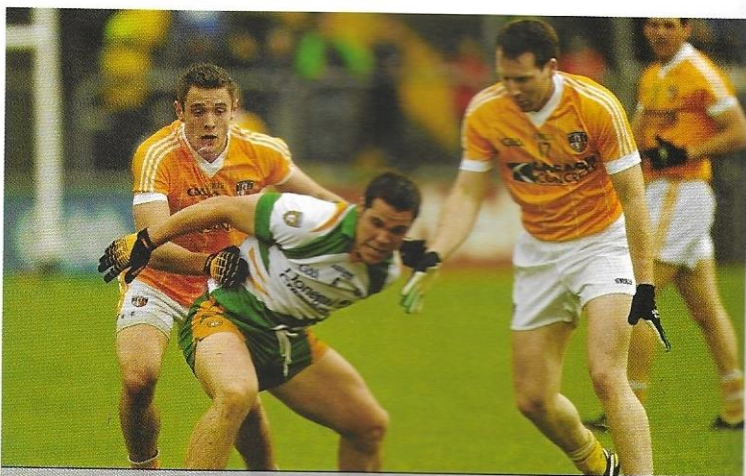
Trace Donegal's progress to today's All-Ireland semi-final with a round-by-round guide to their 2011 Championship campaign to date

May 15 – Donegal 1-10 Antrim 0-7

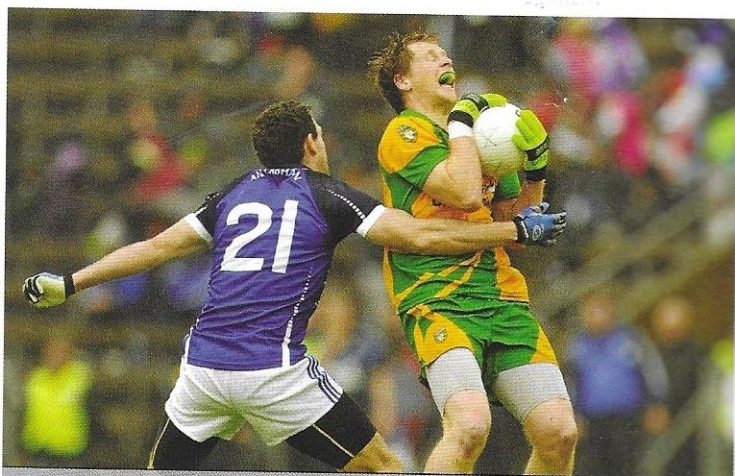
Not the greatest introduction to the Ulster campaign as Donegal and Antrim played out a forgettable 70 minutes at Ballybofey.

The attendance of 7,000 witnessed a game dominated by defences with little attacking football to set the pulses racing.

The hosts led by double scores at the change of ends (0-6 to 0-3) and still enjoyed a three-point advantage when Mark McHugh had the game's only goal in injury time.



Kevin Cassidy, Donegal, in action against Mark Sweeney and Kevin Brady, Antrim



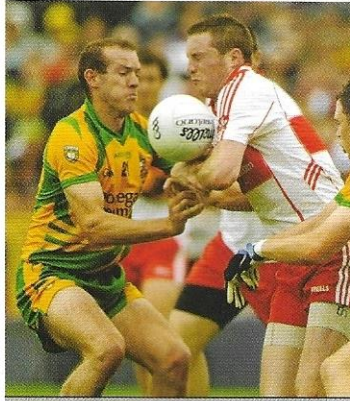
Anthony Thompson, Donegal, in action against Micheál Lyng, Cavan

June 12 – Donegal 2-14 Cavan 1-8

Initially at Kingspan Breffni Park another war of attrition appeared to be in the offing, but after each side lost a player in the opening quarter, the extra space improved the spectacle. Paddy McBrearty's goal early in the second quarter pushed Donegal clear as the visitors turned over 1-6 to 0-3 ahead. Rory Kavanagh's goal in the third quarter effectively ended the contest with the lead going out to 11 points by the 50th minute. Thereafter Cavan battled hard but made little headway into the deficit.

June 26 – Donegal 2-6 Tyrone 0-9

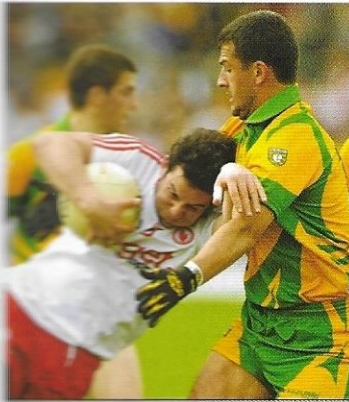
Just 17 scores in 70 minutes, which was one less than at Ballybofey in the Preliminary Round, but this was a far superior contest. Defences on both sides had the better of the argument throughout so goals would be crucial. The opening half was devoid of them as Tyrone turned over leading by 0-6 to 0-4. It appeared the game wouldn't see a green flag flutter at all until Colm McFadden struck four minutes from time for the lead. Tyrone sourced an equaliser but four minutes into injury-time Dermot Molloy grabbed the winning goal.



Joe Diver, Derry, in action against Neil Gallagher, Donegal

July 30 – Donegal 1-12 Kildare 0-14 (aet)

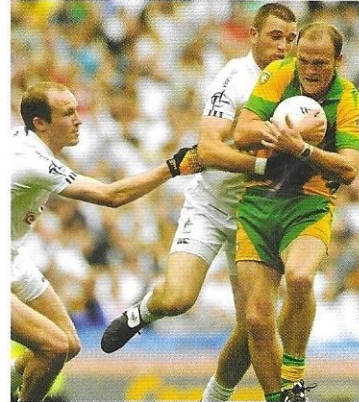
Probably the season's most absorbing match as Donegal and Kildare battled it out for more than 90 minutes before the Ulster side sneaked it by the narrowest of margins. Initially, Kildare had the better of matters and enjoyed a small interval advantage, but the introduction of Christy Toye 12 minutes from time appeared to be the decisive move as he goaled within seconds of taking to the field. However, the Lilywhites clawed their way back to parity force extra-time and then moved into a three-point lead. Donegal responded through Michael Murphy and Toye before Kevin Cassidy lofted over the winner in injury time.



Davy Harter, Tyrone, in action against Frank McGlynn, Donegal

July 17 – Donegal 1-11 Derry 0-8

Back in 1992 Donegal won their fifth provincial crown with victory over Derry so it was a case of déjà vu as the Oak Leaf County were again overcome as that 19-year gap was bridged. Little divided the sides in a tense opening half which ended with the teams deadlocked at 0-5 apiece. The game's only goal arrived shortly after the restart when Michael Murphy was fouled for a penalty and the captain duly converted the kick. Colm McFadden and Michael Hegarty extended the advantage with points leaving Derry with too much ground to make up.



Colm McFadden, Donegal, in action against Daryl Flynn, Kildare

	15/7	12/6	26/6	17/7	30/7	Total
Colm McFadden	0-2	0-5	1-1	0-4	----	1-12
Michael Murphy	0-3	0-1	0-2	1-2	0-3	1-11
Paddy McBrearty	----	1-3	0-1	----	0-1	1-5
Dermot Molloy	0-1	0-2	1-0	----	0-1	1-4
Mark McHugh	1-1	----	----	----	0-1	1-2
Ryan Bradley	0-2	----	----	0-1	0-1	0-4
Kevin Cassidy	----	0-1	0-1	----	0-2	0-4
Christy Toye	----	----	----	----	1-1	1-1
Rory Kavanagh	----	1-0	----	----	0-1	1-1
Kevin Rafferty	----	0-1	0-1	----	----	0-2
Anthony Thompson	----	----	----	0-2	----	0-2
Michael Hegarty	----	----	----	0-2	----	0-2
Adrian Hanlon	0-1	----	----	----	----	0-1
Lee McLoone	----	0-1	----	----	----	0-1
Raúl Lacey	----	----	----	----	0-1	0-1

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE

By breaking down mental barriers, Jim McGuinness has taken Donegal from the depths of despair to a first Ulster title in 19 years and the threshold of a second All-Ireland final appearance

BY CHRIS McNULTY, DONEGAL NEWS

When Jim McGuinness ascended to the throne in Donegal last summer some friends said he was mad.

Donegal had just bowed out of the Championship following a hammering by Armagh in Crossmaglen. Morale was low; belief was non-existent.

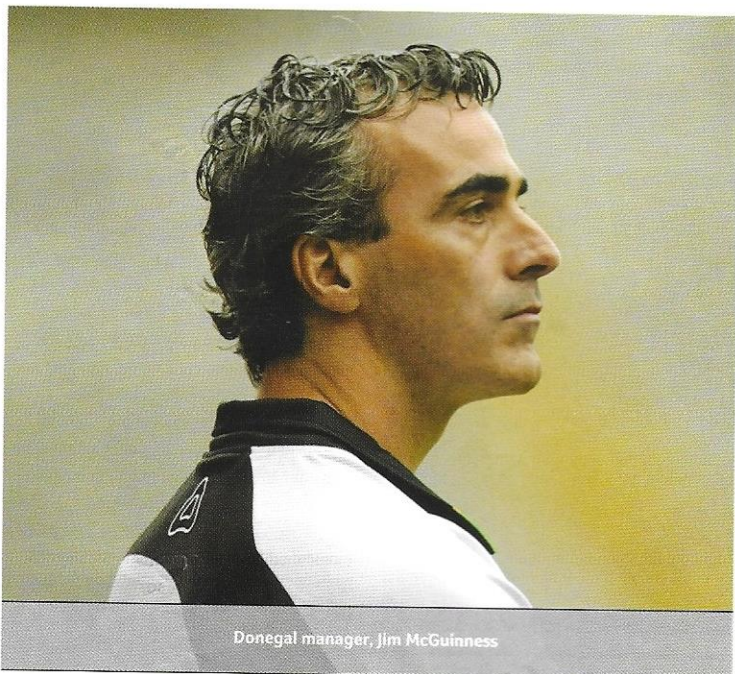
The county's footballers had lost their appeal; the buzz was gone. Kevin Cassidy was the first player to declare that he was retiring, moving on to let a new crop take the baton. John Joe Doherty ended a two-year tenure as manager two days later.

At a meeting of the county committee some weeks later, Jim McGuinness - the only candidate to succeed Doherty - was ratified. As he took to the floor on a balmy Ballybofey evening, it was clear that McGuinness believed, even then that even the Bluestacks had lost their imposing presence.

The big Glenties man had thrown his hat into the ring twice previously. Shunned from interviews in 2007 and '08, he carefully considered his options last summer before declaring his interest. The path was finally paved for McGuinness, who had guided the county's U21s to an unlikely All-Ireland final last spring.

The evening of his ratification, he laid down a marker.

"At the top of the agenda will be



Donegal manager, Jim McGuinness

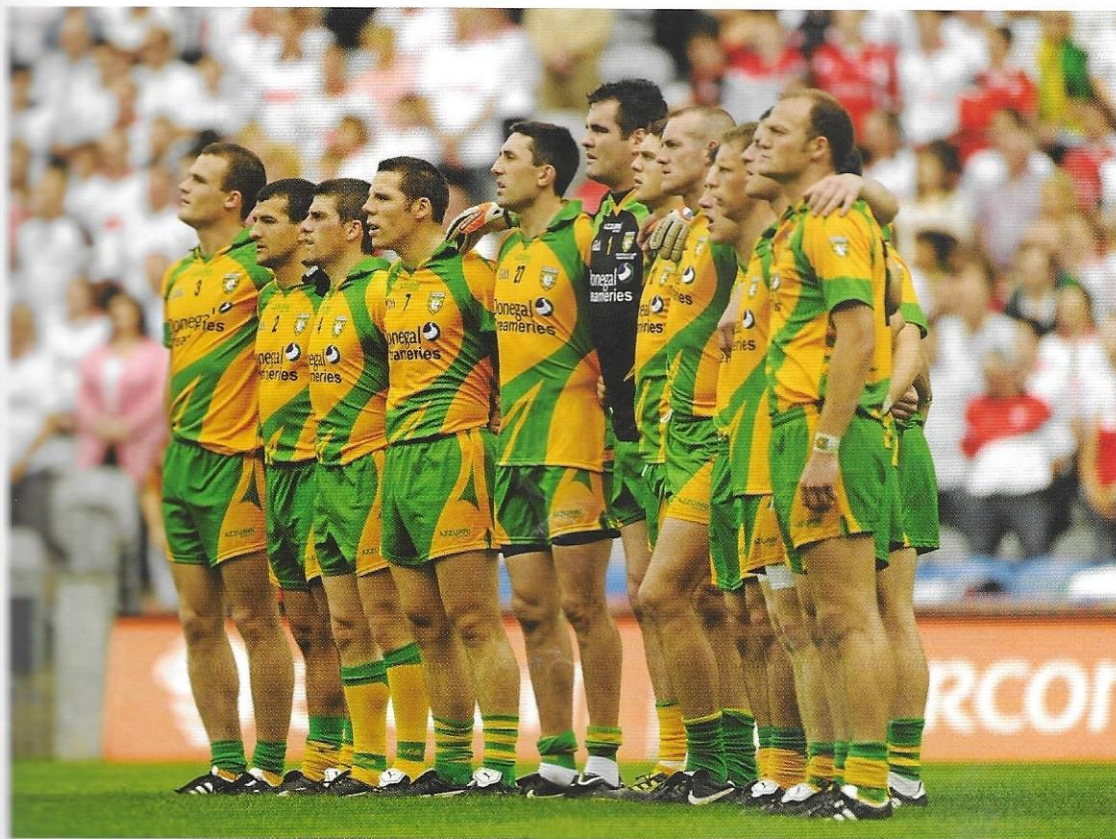
getting the team back playing for the jersey, getting pride back in the jersey, hunger, good football then get them to enjoy playing the football and working hard for each other. We need to get a spark back into it," he said.

"Between the media and the general public, this team has taken serious flack, but if we can get a situation where the players are respected by the supporters and back where they belong - loved by their own supporters - we will have achieved a lot." Donegal football was ailing last

summer after taking another battering.

McGuinness met the panel in a hotel in Downings and told them they could win an Ulster Championship. The room fell silent. Some agreed; others weren't so sure. It didn't take long for them to come around.

A student of psychology and sports science, McGuinness had a plan in place. Central to his blueprint was the presence of two long-term foot soldiers of Donegal. Michael



Hegarty had walked into the sunset after Donegal were annihilated by Cork in the 2009 quarter-final, but McGuinness coaxed him back. Ditto Kevin Cassidy.

"When this man called to me, I learned that you don't say no to Jim McGuinness," said Cassidy.

How McGuinness has taken Donegal from the depths of despair to the dizzy heights of a first provincial title in 19 years and on the threshold of an appearance in just a second-ever All-Ireland final is down to a sea change across the board. The biggest barrier he has broken is Donegal's mental block.

John Joe Doherty observed last year after he parted ways with the squad,

"There was also a problem that was ingrained in the team, a problem I felt I inherited - a mental weakness. For some strange reason when the fight was put up to us we folded. We seemed to run from the challenge."

Donegal have risen from the ashes this year and the hills are alive again. The county is awash with green and gold and this afternoon an exodus of up to 30,000 Donegal folk will have made their way to the capital.

If indeed the devil is in the detail, then McGuinness must have a direct line to Satan himself. His meticulous preparation sees what Martin McHugh believes to be "the fittest ever team to leave Donegal" taking to the stage this afternoon. He has believed in each one of his players

from the off, when they remarkably came from eight points down to draw their opening Allianz League game with Sligo in February to their last visit to Croke Park when Cassidy's mammoth point shot down Kildare.

For the first time in many a long year, a united Donegal has appeared. As if to illustrate the point, each player and the management wears a band on their wrist, each stitched with the message 'GP. 20. MA'. Its meaning has yet to be revealed. It may never be, but it's a bond that has bound the class of 2011 like no other.

Once more, Donegal believes.

WE'RE ON THE SAME TEAM

I respect my children's efforts, their coaches, the referee and their opponents

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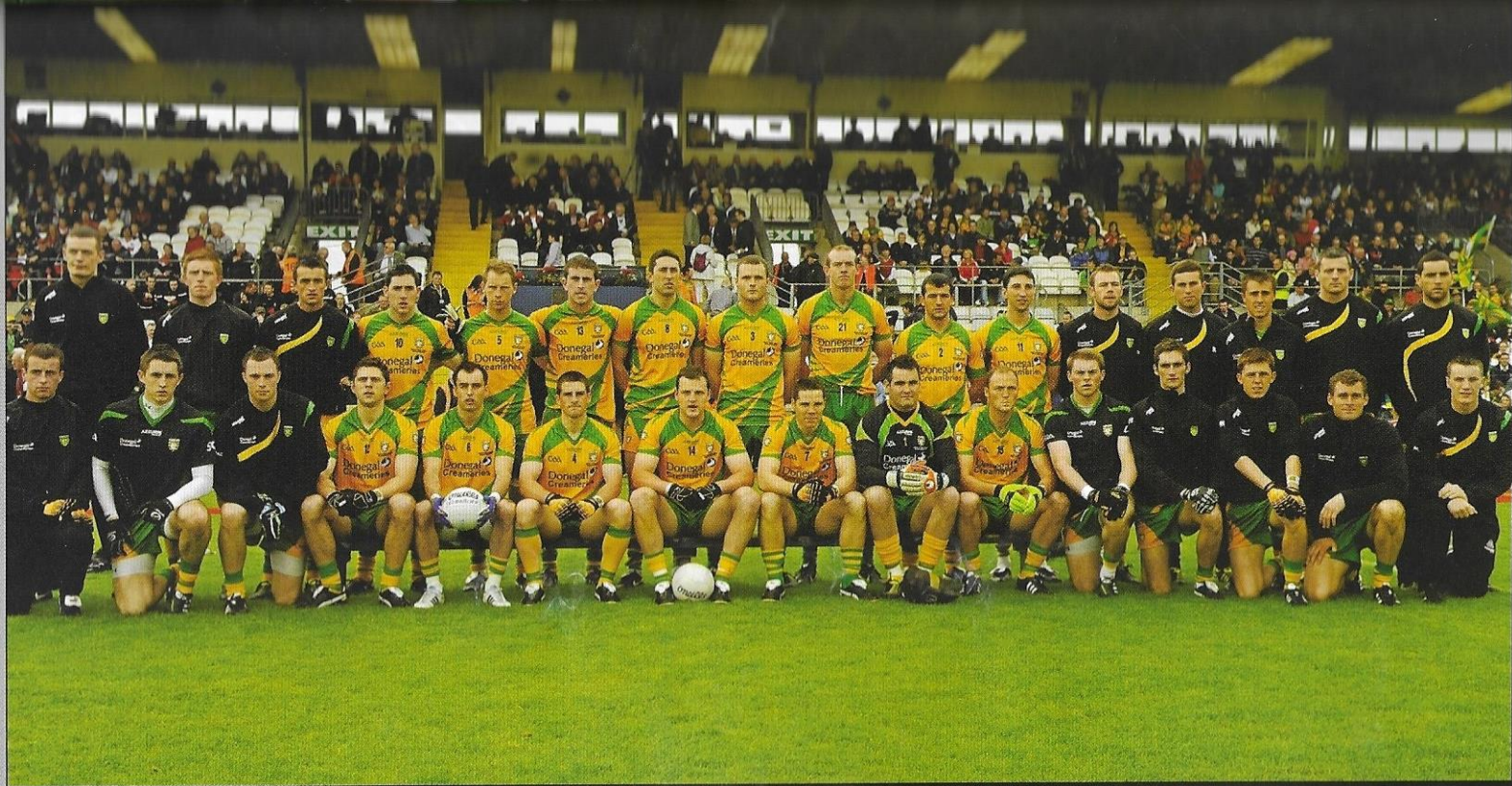


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THE DONEGAL FOOTBALL PANEL

Back (L-R): Kevin Rafferty, Daniel McLaughlin, David Walsh, Mark McHugh, Anthony Thompson, Paddy McBrearty, Rory Kavanagh, Neil McGee, Neil Gallagher, Frank McGlynn, Michael Hegarty, Peter Boyle, Michael Boyle, Thomas McKinley, Christy Toye, Darragh Gallagher

Front (L-R): Owen Waide, Stephen Griffin, Martin McElhinney, Ryan Bradley, Karl Lacey, Paddy McGrath, Michael Murphy, Kevin Cassidy, Paul Durcan, Colm McFadden, Dermot Molloy, Marty Boyle, Jason Noctor, Eamon McGee, Leo McLoone

TORTAS+NACHOS+QUESADILLAS
BEANS+CHIMICHANGAS+ENCHILADAS
TORTAS+NACHOS+QUESADILLAS+BURRITO
BEANS+CHIMICHANGAS+ENCHILADAS+SOUPS+FAJITAS
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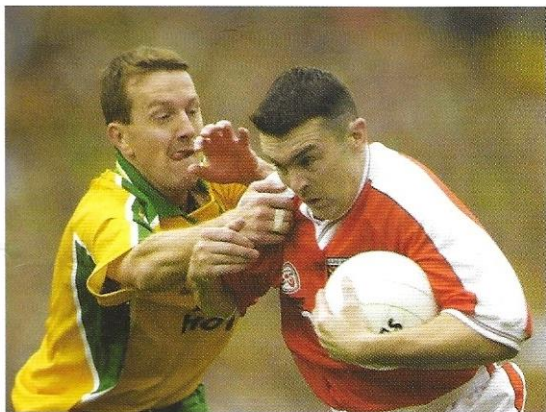
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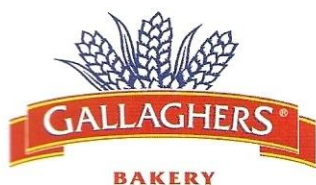
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DONEGAL SEMI-FINAL RECORD

1972	Offaly	1-17	2-10	Donegal
1974	Galway	3-13	1-14	Donegal
1983	Galway	1-12	1-11	Donegal
1990	Meath	3-9	1-7	Donegal
1992	Donegal	0-13	0-9	Mayo
2003	Armagh	2-10	1-9	Donegal



Oisín McConville, Armagh, in action against Raymond Sweeney, Donegal, in 2003



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2011 GAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARD

LEINSTER

Preliminary Round

Kildare	0-12	0-5	Wicklow
Laois	0-10	0-9	Longford
Wexford	2-16	0-8	Offaly

Quarter-finals

Kildare	0-16	0-10	Meath
Dublin	1-16	0-11	Laois
Wexford	1-24	0-15	Westmeath
Carlow	0-14	0-13	Louth

Semi-finals

Dublin	1-12	1-11	Kildare
Wexford	4-12	0-10	Carlow

Final

Dublin	2-12	1-12	Wexford
--------	------	------	---------

MUNSTER

Quarter-finals

Cork	1-23	0-11	Clare
Kerry	2-16	0-11	Tipperary

Semi-finals

Kerry	1-26	3-9	Limerick
Cork	5-17	2-8	Waterford

Final

Kerry	1-15	1-12	Cork
-------	------	------	------

ULSTER

Preliminary Round

Donegal	1-10	0-7	Antrim
---------	------	-----	--------

Quarter-finals

Derry	1-18	1-10	Fermanagh
Armagh	1-15	1-10	Down
Tyrone	1-13	1-11	Monaghan
Donegal	2-14	1-8	Cavan

Semi-finals

Derry	3-14	1-11	Armagh
Donegal	2-6	0-9	Tyrone

Final

Donegal	1-11	0-8	Derry
---------	------	-----	-------

CONNACHT

Quarter-finals

Roscommon	3-21	1-11	New York
Leitrim	1-10	0-10	Sligo
Mayo	0-19	2-10	London (aet)

Semi-finals

Roscommon	2-12	0-6	Leitrim
Mayo	1-12	1-6	Galway

Final

Mayo	0-13	0-11	Roscommon
------	------	------	-----------

ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINALS

Donegal	1-12	0-14	Kildare (aet)
Kerry	1-20	0-10	Limerick
Mayo	1-13	2-6	Cork
Dublin	0-22	0-15	Tyrone

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL

Kerry	1-20	1-11	Mayo
-------	------	------	------

QUALIFIERS

Round 1

Offaly	1-18	1-10	Monaghan
Down	1-13	1-12	Clare
Longford	2-16	0-11	Cavan
Meath	5-8	2-8	Louth
London	0-15	0-9	Fermanagh
Laois	2-16	0-11	Tipperary
Wicklow	1-18	0-16	Sligo
Antrim	0-16	1-7	Westmeath

Round 2

Limerick	3-13	0-15	Offaly
Down	1-16	1-8	Leitrim
Kildare	3-16	0-10	Laois
Tyrone	1-17	0-15	Longford
Armagh	0-19	2-13	Wicklow (aet)

Meath	0-11	0-10	Galway
Antrim	1-13	2-9	Carlow
Waterford	1-17	0-13	London

Replay

Armagh	2-9	0-10	Wicklow
--------	-----	------	---------

Round 3

Down	3-13	0-10	Antrim
Kildare	2-11	0-14	Meath
Limerick	0-14	0-9	Waterford
Tyrone	2-13	0-13	Armagh

Round 4

Cork	2-20	0-14	Down
Limerick	1-18	1-17	Wexford
Kildare	0-19	0-13	Derry
Tyrone	3-19	1-14	Roscommon

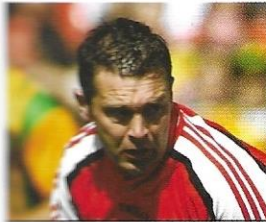
LEINSTER



SEMI-FINALS 2000-2011

2000	Kerry	2-11	2-11	Armagh				
REPLAY	Kerry	2-15	1-15	Armagh (aet)				
	Galway	0-15	2-6	Kildare				
2001	Galway	1-14	1-11	Derry				
	Meath	2-14	0-5	Kerry				
2002	Kerry	3-19	2-7	Cork				
	Armagh	1-14	1-13	Dublin				
2003	Tyrone	0-13	0-6	Kerry				
	Armagh	2-10	1-9	Donegal				
2004	Mayo	0-9	0-9	Fermanagh				
REPLAY	Mayo	0-13	1-8	Fermanagh				
	Kerry	1-17	1-11	Derry				
2005	Kerry	1-19	0-9	Cork				
	Tyrone	1-13	1-12	Armagh				
2006	Kerry	0-16	0-10	Cork				
	Mayo	1-16	2-12	Dublin				
2007	Cork	1-16	0-9	Meath				
	Kerry	1-15	0-16	Dublin				
2008	Kerry	1-13	3-7	Cork				
REPLAY	Kerry	3-14	2-13	Cork				
	Tyrone	0-23	1-14	Wexford				
2009	Cork	1-13	0-11	Tyrone				
	Kerry	2-8	1-7	Meath				
2010	Cork	1-15	1-14	Dublin				
	Down	1-16	1-14	Kildare				
2011	Kerry	1-20	1-11	Mayo				

SEMI-FINAL TOP SCORERS 2000-2011



Oisín McConville
(Armagh)



Colm Cooper
(Kerry)



Cian Ward
(Meath)



Bernard Brogan
(Dublin)

2000	Oisín McConville (Armagh)	1-9*
2001	Pádraic Joyce (Galway)	0-5
2002	Mike Frank Russell (Kerry)	1-6
2003	Oisín McConville (Armagh)	1-5
2004	Colm Cooper (Kerry)	0-6
	Paddy Bradley (Derry)	0-6
2005	Stephen O'Neill (Tyrone)	1-4
2006	Mike Frank Russell (Kerry)	0-6
	Conal Keaney (Dublin)	1-3
2007	Donncha O'Connor (Cork)	0-6
	Declan O'Sullivan (Kerry)	1-3
2008	Colm Cooper (Kerry)	1-8
2009	Cian Ward (Meath)	1-4
2010	Bernard Brogan (Dublin)	1-7
2011	Colm Cooper (Kerry)	1-7

*extra time played

PROVINCIAL PROWESS RE-ESTABLISHED IN 2011

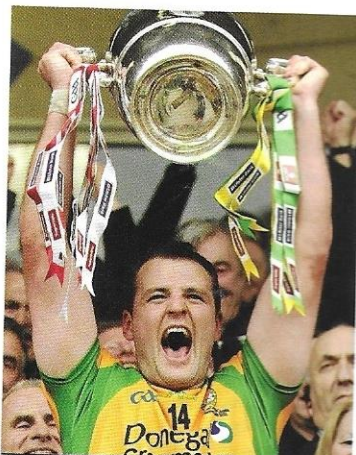
For the first time since the inception of the All-Ireland Qualifiers, all four provincial winners have made it to the semi-finals of the Championship

What a difference a year makes. Last August there was much discussion in GAA circles about how the GAA Football All-Ireland Qualifiers had devalued the provincial Championships and there were suggestions that perhaps the powers that be might change to something along the Champions League format.

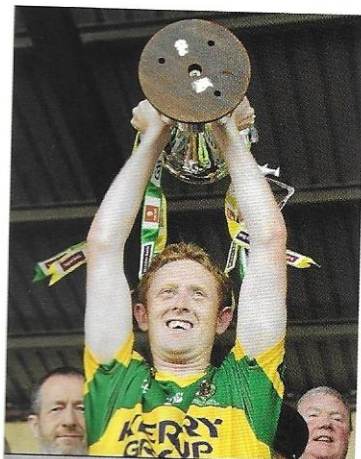
Such talk hasn't been heard this year and perhaps the biggest reason for the silence is the fact that for the first time since their introduction in 2001, not one team from the Qualifiers has made it to the semi-final stage.

When Meath, Tyrone, Kerry and Roscommon all departed the race at the quarter-final stage 12 months ago, it was the first time that the penultimate round of the GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship didn't have at least one team that had qualified via the traditional route. It had never happened previously, although it was a close run thing in 2008, when only Cork of the four provincial title-holders qualified for the semi-finals as Dublin, Armagh and Galway all took their leave in the previous round.

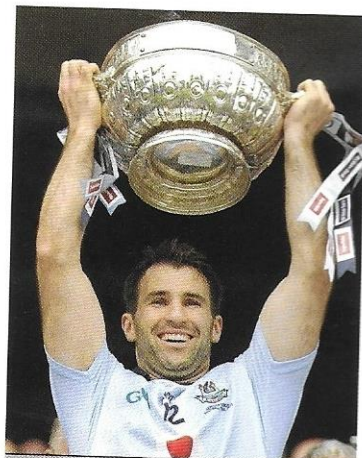
A re-jigging of the Qualifiers was also suggested and it is still a suggestion with some merit. The plan was that the four provincial champions would play each other as they had traditionally done with the two winners qualifying



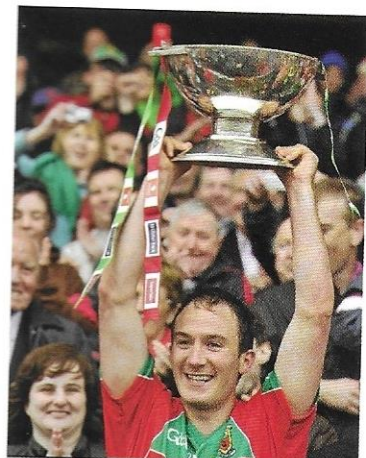
Donegal captain, Michael Murphy



Kerry captain, Colm Cooper



Dublin captain, Bryan Cullen



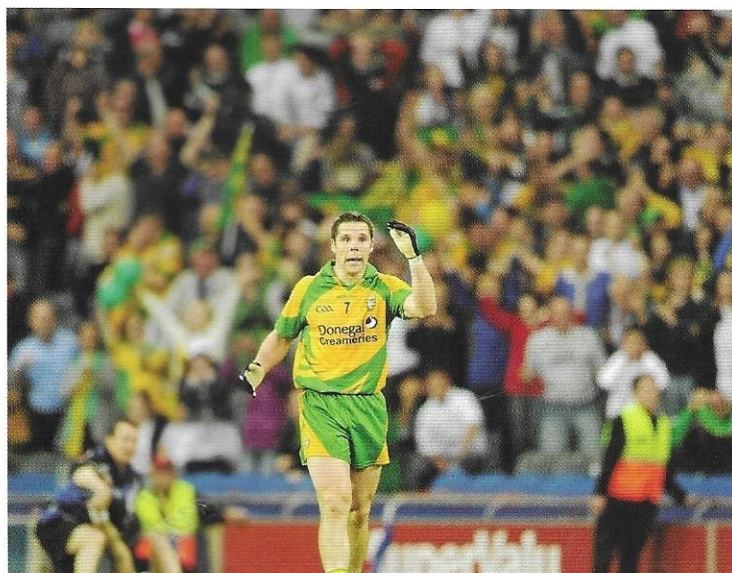
Mayo captain, Alan Dillon

for the semi-finals and the two losers playing the last two teams standing after the Qualifiers were extended by another round. If the time constraints can be overcome, and that's a big if, this is a suggestion that may find traction.

Still, as we've heard a lot recently, we are where we are, and that is for the first time since 2000 (Kerry played Armagh and Galway faced Kildare) all four semi-finalists have won their respective provincial titles. Is it a sign of things to come or will the Qualifiers reassert themselves and grab the lion's share of the penultimate berths? In truth the answer is probably somewhere in the middle.

Had Cork defeated Mayo as widely as expected it would have meant that just one of the four semi-finalists had come through the non-traditional route and this is a situation that has already happened twice since 2001. In 2002 only Connacht winners Galway failed to make it to the last four, while in '06 it was Ulster winners Armagh who were the odd men out.

Many have pointed to the time lag



Kevin Cassidy celebrates kicking what proved to be the winning point for Donegal against Kildare

between winning the title and playing in the quarter-final as being a huge factor in the demise of many of the provincial champions, although Dublin's four-week break before facing Tyrone didn't do them any harm a couple of weeks ago as the

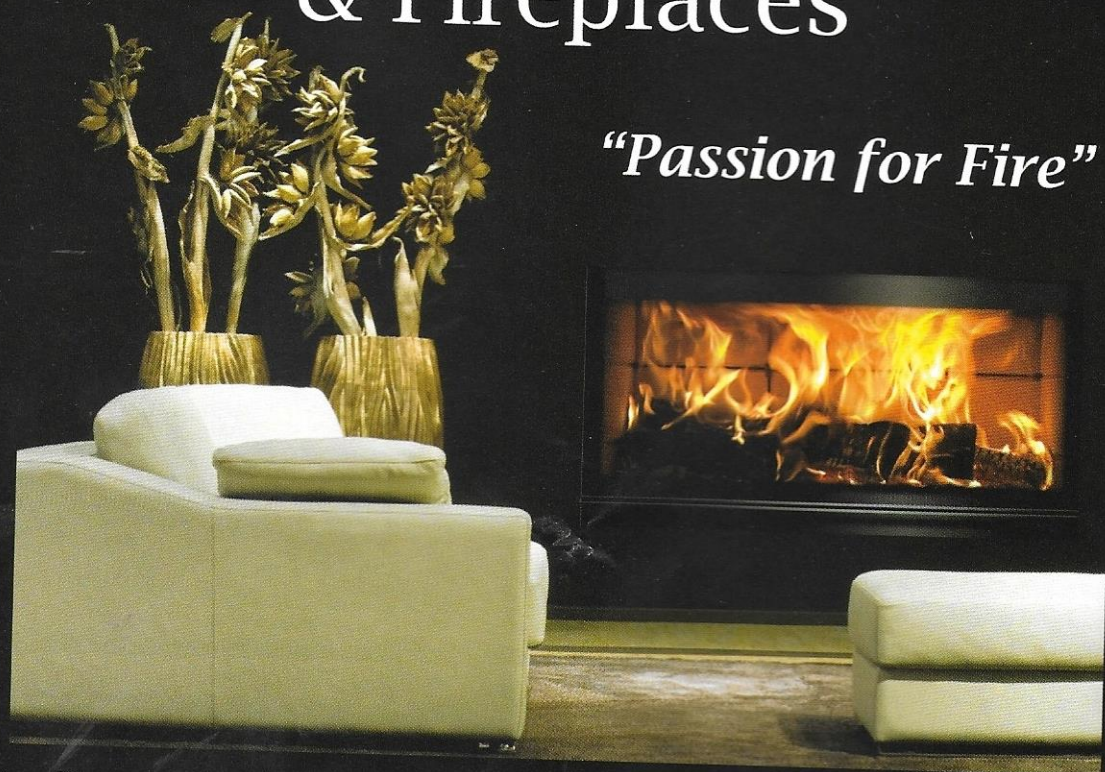
Metropolitans swept to a comprehensive victory.

The table below shows how all the provincial title winners have fared over the past decade since the introduction of the Qualifiers.

YEAR	LEINSTER	ULSTER	MUNSTER	CONNACHT
2001	Meath	Tyrone	Kerry	Roscommon
	Runners-up	q/f losers	s/f losers	q/f losers
2002	Dublin	Armagh	Cork	Galway
	s/f losers	Winners	s/f losers	q/f losers
2003	Laois	Tyrone	Kerry	Galway
	q/f losers	Winners	s/f losers	q/f losers
2004	Westmeath	Armagh	Kerry	Mayo
	q/f losers	q/f losers	Winners	Runners-up
2005	Dublin	Armagh	Kerry	Galway
	q/f losers	s/f losers	Runners-up	q/f losers
2006	Dublin	Armagh	Cork	Mayo
	s/f losers	q/f losers	s/f losers	Runners-up
2007	Dublin	Tyrone	Kerry	Sligo
	s/f losers	q/f losers	Winners	q/f losers
2008	Dublin	Armagh	Cork	Galway
	q/f losers	q/f losers	s/f losers	q/f losers
2009	Dublin	Tyrone	Cork	Mayo
	q/f losers	s/f losers	Runners-up	q/f losers
2010	Meath	Tyrone	Kerry	Roscommon
	q/f losers	q/f losers	q/f losers	q/f losers

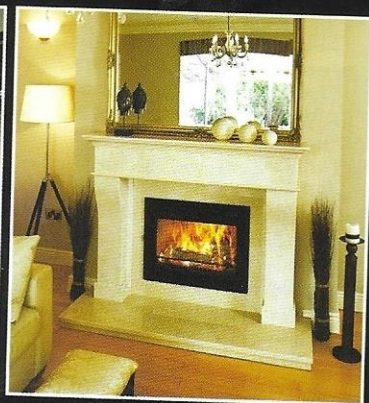
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POTENT ATTACK COULD SWING IT FOR DUBLIN

Dublin's attack has racked up 8-78 in five Championship outings this year, making them favourites to reach a first Minor final since 2003

Having secured a place in the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Minor Championship final a couple of weeks ago, Dublin's footballers attempt to make it an U18 double as they face Galway in today's semi-final.

Twelve months ago the Corribiders hit 5-8 against Cork at this stage and failed to reach the final. That was a score that would have won every semi-final in the last decade bar one.

The Connacht finalists face a stern challenge in the shape of a Dublin team that has looked hugely impressive en route to today's semi-final. Leinster honours were annexed

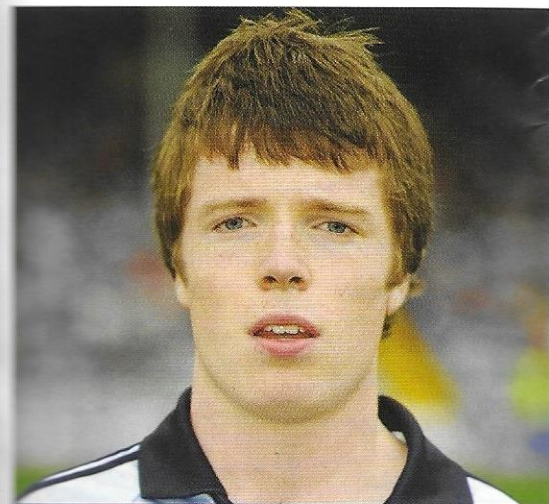
with winning margins ranging from five to 19 points as Westmeath, Longford, Kildare and Meath were vanquished. In the quarter-final against Cork, Dessie Farrell's charges dominated the opening half before cruising to an eight-point victory over last year's beaten finalists.

Dual stars Ciarán Kilkenny and Cormac Costello, along with Gavin Ivory and Scott Fulham, have been prominent in a potent attack that has racked up 8-78 in five outings - an average of more than 20 points per game. Defensively Dublin have coughed up just 2-38, or less than nine points a game.

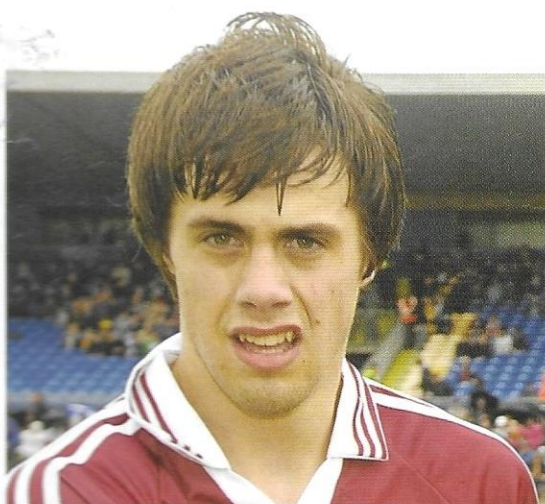
Galway impressed in qualifying for the

Connacht final with wins over Sligo and Leitrim, but they managed a paltry six points against Roscommon in the decider at Dr. Hyde Park. It was looking bleak again when they fell 0-1 to 0-5 behind Cavan in the quarter-final but Seán Moran's goal ignited a revival. Six second-half points from Shane Walsh completed the comeback as the Breffni side was overcome by 1-9 to 0-9.

The sides haven't met at Minor level since the 1994 semi-final when Galway won by 1-12 to 0-12. They will be hoping to repeat that result against a Dublin side widely tipped to go all the way.

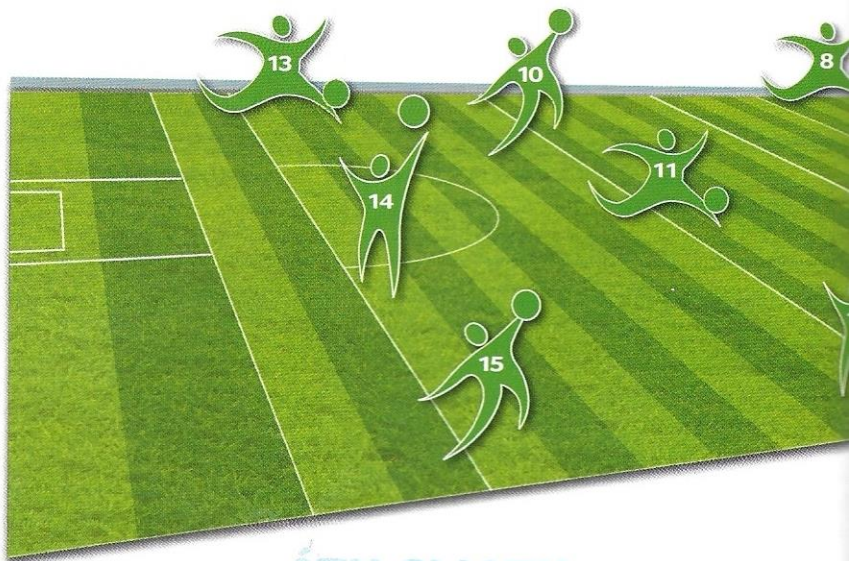


Dublin captain, Robert McDaid



Galway captain, James Shaughnessy

DATHANNA:
Gorm is Dubhgorm



ATH CLIAITH

FIR IONAIÐ

- 16. **Lee Stacey**
L. Stacey
Na Piarasaigh
- 17. **Eoghan Boyne**
E. Ó Baoithín
St Sylvester's
- 18. **Ronan Noonan**
R. Ó Nuanáin
Ballymun Kickhams
- 19. **David Byrne**
D. Ó Broin
Naomh Olaf
- 20. **Andrew O'Brien**
A. Ó Briain
Ballymun Kickhams
- 21. **Eoin Archbold**
E. Mac Giolla Easpaig
Ballymun Kickhams
- 22. **Kevin Kindlon**
C. Kindlon
Castleknock
- 23. **Conor Meaney**
C. Ó Maonaigh
St. Sylvesters
- 24. **CJ Heapes**
C. Ó hEapaí
Raheny

1. ROSS O'HANLON

R. Ó hAnluain
Clontarf

2. GRAHAM HANNIGAN

G. Ó hAnnagáin
Castleknock

3. ROBERT McDAID

R. Mac Daibhéid (Capt.)
Ballyboden St Enda's

4. RUTHERSON REAL

R. Real
Raheny

5. ERIC LOWNDES

E. Lowndes
St Peregrine's

6. JOHN SMALL

S. Ó Caoilte
Ballymun Kickhams

7. JACK McCAFFREY

S. Mac Gafraidh
Clontarf

8. PATRICK O'HIGGINS

P. Ó hUiginn
Raheny

9. EMMET Ó CONGHAILE

E. Ó Conghaile
Lucan Sarsfields

10. CORMAC COSTELLO

C. Mac Coisdealbha
Whitehall Colmcille

11. CIARÁN KILKENNY

C. Mac Giolla Chainnigh
Castleknock

12. GAVIN IVORY

G. Ó hUidhrín
Raheny

13. SCOTT FULHAM

S. Fulham
St Anne's

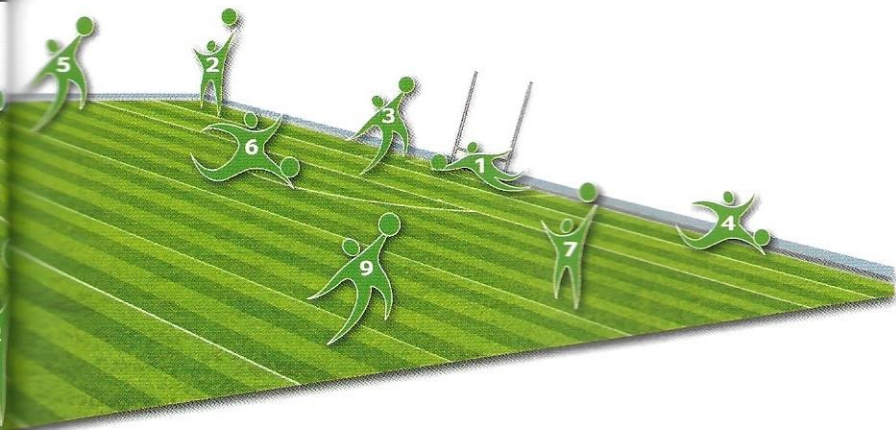
14. PAUL MANNION

P. Ó Mainnín
Kilmacud Crokes

15. DAVID CAMPBELL

D. Mac Cathmhaoil
Kilmacud Crokes

ROGHNÓIRÍ Dessie Farrell (Bainisteoir), Noel McCaffrey, Philip McElwee, Alan McNally



DATHANNA:
Marún is Bán



GAILLIMH

1. CONNOR GLEESON

C. Ó Glasáin

Dún Mór Mhic Éil

2. ADRIAN NOLAN

A. Ó Nualáin

Cill Fhir Iarainn

3. JAMES SHAUGHNESSY

S. Ó Seachnasaigh (Capt.)

Beál Átha na Slua

4. EDWIN MURRAY

E. Ó Muirí

Cill Ainnin

5. EOIN WALSH

É. Breathnach

Maigh Cuilinn

6. CONOR CUNNINGHAM

C. Ó Cuinneagáin

Corafinne

7. CATHAL MULRYAN

C. Ó Maoilriain

Seamróige Cortúin

8. SHANE MAUGHAN

S. Ó Macháin

Naomh Micheál

9. GEARÓID CANAVAN

G. Ó Canabháin

Bothar na Trá/Cnoc na Cathrach

10. SEÁN MORAN

S. Ó Moráin

Baile Clár na Gaillimhe

11. SHANE WALSH

S. Breathnach

Cill Choirín/Cluain Bheirne

12. PATRICK GLYNN

P. Ó Fhloinn

Dún Mór Mhic Éil

13. GEARÓID ARMSTRONG

G. Ó Labhraí Traen

Bothar na Trá/Cnoc na Cathrach

14. IAN BURKE

I. de Búrca

Corafinne

15. CONOR RABBITTE

C. Ó Coinnín

Cill Choirín-Cluain Bheirne

FIR IONAIÐ

16. Darren McDonnell

D. Mac Domhnaill

Réalta Thuama

17. Thomas Comer

T. Ó Ciaragáin

Baile Liam

18. Ger Gibbons

G. Mac Giobúin

An Clochan

19. Liam Silke

L. Ó Síoda

Corafinne

20. Tom Curran

T. Ó Curraoin

Bearna

21. Shane Geoghegan

S. Mac Éochagáin

Óran Mór/Mearaí

22. Johnny Kelleher

S. Ó Céileacháir

Óran Mór/Mearaí

23. Garry Kelly

G. Ó Ceallaigh

Baile Liam

24. Charlie Timon

S. Ó Tiomáin

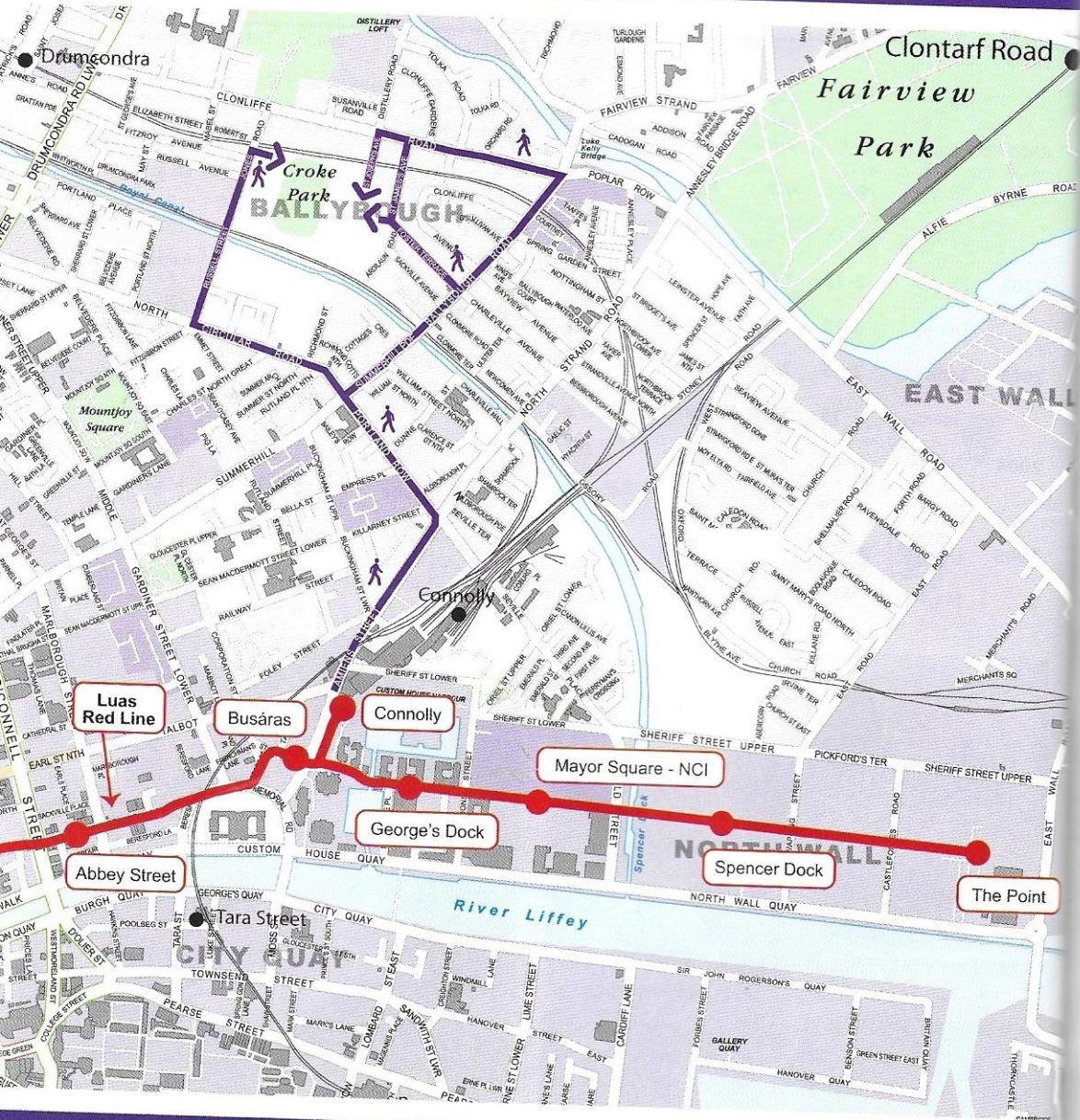
Bearna

ROGHNÓIRÍ Tommie Joyce (Bainisteoir), John Concannon, Terry O'Regan, Michael Culhane

LUAS

WALKING ROUTE TO CROKE PARK

Approximately 15 minutes walk





GAA GO GAMES EXHIBITION GAMES

DONEGAL FAMILY MAKE IT 5/5

Today marks a memorable achievement for the Kelly family, from Tooban, Co. Donegal, as Denver Kelly takes to the field in today's Go Games Exhibition. He becomes the fifth member of his family to take part in the Go Games Exhibitions at Croke Park between 2007 and 2011.



Above (circled) is Leanne Kelly in the All-Ireland Hurling final last year.

Sarah played at the All-Ireland Hurling semi final - Waterford vs Limerick 2007

Georgie played at the All-Ireland Hurling final - Kilkenny v Tipperary 2009

Karen played at the All-Ireland Hurling semi final - Limerick v Tipperary 2009

Leanne played at the All-Ireland Hurling final - Kilkenny v Tipperary 2010

Denver to play at All-Ireland Football semi final - Donegal v Dublin 2011.



We wish all players and teachers the very best of luck today in the half time exhibition.

Today's referees are: Jamie Lynch, St. Dallon's P.S., Warrenpoint, Co. Down and Lauren Cole, St. Dallon's P.S., Warrenpoint, Co. Down

DAVIN STAND END

BOYS' FOOTBALL - DONEGAL

- Patrick Hernandez, Scoil Mhuire, Newtownforbes, Co. Longford
- Peter Duggan, Bennettsbridge Mixed N.S., Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny
- Colum Prendiville, St Aidan's N.S., Kilmanagh, Co. Kilkenny
- Denver Kelly, St Mura's N.S., Tooban, Burnfoot, Co. Donegal
- Shane Doherty, Kilmacrennan N.S., Co. Donegal
- Aaron Carrigy, St Mel's N.S., Ardagh, Co. Longford
- Ian Moore, Grangecon N.S., Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow
- Jack Bellamy, Kilcoole N.S., Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow
- Johnny Kelly, Naomh Eoin S.N., Partarlinton, Co. Laois
- Denis Harrington, Rath N.S., Portlaoise, Co. Laois

BOYS' FOOTBALL - DUBLIN

- Conor Dunne, Cappagh N.S., Rhode, Co. Offaly
- James Dunne, Walsh Island N.S., Co. Offaly
- Darragh Gibbons, St Colmcille's S.N.S., Knocklyon, Co. Dublin
- Seán Ryan, St Fiachra's S.N.S., Beaumont, Co. Dublin
- Conor Tierney, St Mary's P.S., Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh
- Shea Geraghty, Lurgan Model, Lurgan, Co. Armagh
- Kevin Forde, St Patrick's B.N.S., Rathangan, Co. Kildare
- Aran Teahan, St Patrick's B.N.S., Rathangan, Co. Kildare
- Dermot Coughlan, Annagh N.S., Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare
- Seán McManamon, Holy Rood P.S., Watford, England

DINEEN/HILL 16 END

GIRLS' FOOTBALL - DONEGAL

- Dara Morahan, St Patrick's N.S., Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
- Eadaoin Nig Uidhir, Gaelscoil Ultain, Co. Monaghan
- Leah Grimes, St Joseph's N.S., Dundalk, Co. Louth
- Kate Keenan, St Mary's N.S., Knockbridge, Co. Louth
- Chantelle Lynam, St. Brigid's N.S., Ballynacargy, Co. Westmeath
- Chloe Duffy, Tang N.S., Ballymahon, Co. Longford
- Cara Doherty, St Colmcille's P.S., Claudy, Co. Derry
- Katie Bellew, Scoil Naomh Eoin, Navan, Co. Meath
- Amy Ni Chuinn, St Fiachra S.N.S., Beaumont, Co. Dublin
- Caitlín Kelly, St Mary's P.S., Killyclogher, Co. Tyrone.

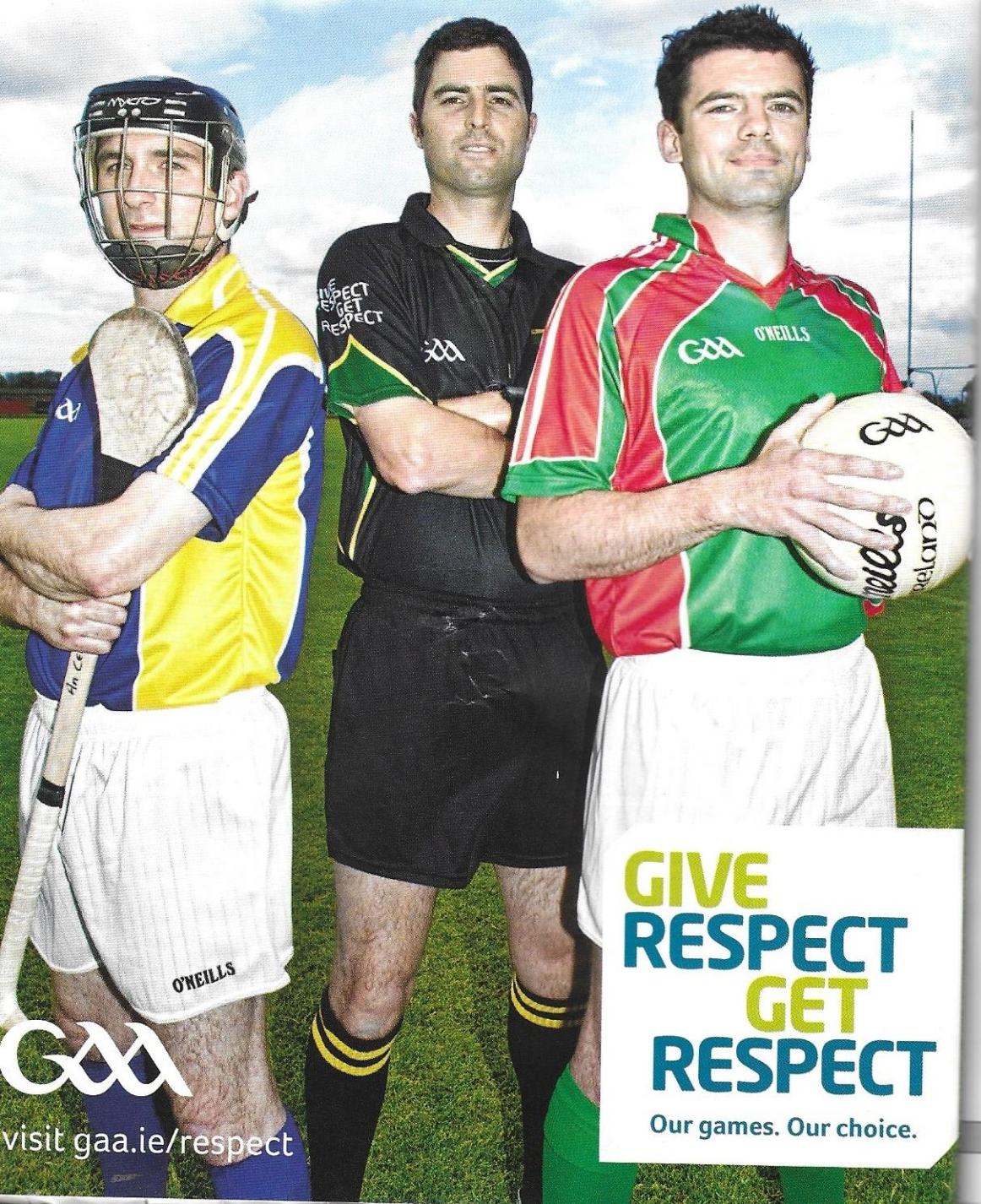
GIRLS' FOOTBALL - DUBLIN

- Leanne Kiernan, St Anne's N.S., Bailieborough, Co. Cavan
- Bronagh McKenna, St Mary's P.S., Cabragh, Co. Tyrone
- Megan O'Reilly, Killinkere N.S., Virginia, Co. Cavan
- Roisin Kelly, Kilmymshall, Bunclody, Co. Wexford
- Sophie McCabe, Bree N.S., Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
- Kayleigh Magee, Tattygar P.S., Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh
- Aoibhinn Murphy, St Ronan's P.S., Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh
- Emma Ni Chleirchin, Gaelscoil Ultain, Co. Monaghan
- Katie Hannigan, Rathangan N.S., Rathangan, Co. Wexford
- Danielle O'Leary, Holy Trinity N.S., Donaghmede, Co. Dublin

WE'RE ON THE SAME TEAM

We respect our opponents, our coaches,
the referee and our games.

ARE YOU ON OUR TEAM?



**GIVE
RESPECT
GET
RESPECT**

Our games. Our choice.



visit gaa.ie/respect

GAA ACTIVITIES

Keep up to date with the latest news and information from the GAA's various activities

ASAP PROGRAMME GETS NEW NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The new National Coordinator for the ASAP (Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention) Programme, Colin Regan, has taken up his position and is available to all Clubs for advice and support in the area.

As per the GAA's Strategic Vision and Policy Action Plan 2009-2015 all Clubs are required to put in place a Drugs and Alcohol policy.

A number of ASAP information evenings will be held around the country over the autumn and winter months, details of which will be released at a later date.

The ASAP manual provides a step-by-

step guide to drawing up a Club Drug and Alcohol policy while a sample policy is also available directly to Clubs (see below for contact details).

To date over 1,500 Clubs have ASAP officers in place. If your Club doesn't and you would like some support in putting someone in place, again contact Colin Regan (087-2945705 / colin.regan@gaa.ie) or your county ASAP officer for assistance and advice.

LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

August 20 will be a day well remembered in the Ladies Gaelic world as 2010 champions Dublin took on the five in a row greats from Cork in what was the match of the Championship so far.

Dublin were ahead comfortably with

10 minutes to go but the Rebels then took over and registered seven unanswered points in the closing stages to advance to the semi-final against Laois on a score-line of Dublin 3-10 to Cork 2-14. Kerry play Monaghan in the other pairing. For fixture information please visit www.ladiesgaelic.ie

CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION

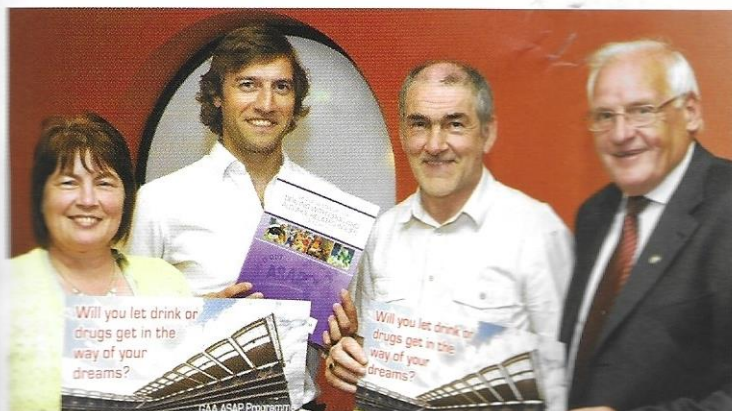
The All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final in association with RTÉ Sport sees Wexford facing arch rivals Galway on Sunday, September 11 at Croke Park as part of a triple header of All-Ireland Camogie finals.

Both sides met in the 2010 decider with Wexford edging ahead to claim their first title since 2007, while in this year's Irish Daily Star League decider, it was the Model County who once again took the honours.

In the Intermediate decider Antrim take on last year's beaten finalists Wexford and Waterford take on Down in the Premier Junior final at noon. For more information please check out www.camogie.ie.

DRUMRAGH GREAT SOLO RUN

Tyrone GAA club Drumragh Sarsfields set off on August 27 on a 115 mile solo run to reach Croke Park in time for today's match.



Pictured at the recent Tyrone ASAP Club information evening were Mary Connolly, Tyrone GAA Health and Well-Being Committee, Colin Regan, National Coordinator ASAP Programme, Mickey Harte, Tyrone Football manager, and Cuthbert Donnelly, Tyrone ASAP officer

Continued on page 61



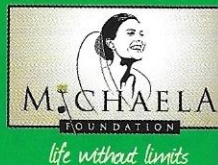
THE GREAT SOLO RUN

CLANABOGAN
OMAGH

CROKE PARK
DUBLIN

AUGUST 27TH & 28TH 2011

In association with



1 BALL, 30 HOURS, 115 MILES, 150 RUNNERS, 36,000 SOLOS
Droim Ratha Na Sarséil sincerely thank the following, without whom, our epic task, this weekend, to Solo a Size 5 O'Neills football non-stop, from our home at Clanabogan, outside Omagh to Croke Park, Dublin, would not have been possible.

TITLE SPONSOR



TODDS LEAP HAS A WIDE RANGE OF FUN GROUP EVENTS THAT WILL GET THE HEART POUNDING. FROM HEN PARTIES TO GAA CLUB TEAM BUILDING DAYS YOU WILL HAVE A DAY YOU WILL NEVER, EVER FORGET.

SPECIAL PACKAGES AVAILABLE FOR GAA CLUBS.

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Special Word of thanks goes to
Brian McKenna, Sedennan, Omagh

Associate Sponsors

Lir Chocolates, Peter McAleer Insurance, Robert Roberts Group, CDE Global, Rocwell, Classic Service Station, Fyffes, KPF Contracts, Costcutter Ballygawley, Arch Aid Design, Ciara McCabe Physio and finally

The hardworking committee of The Great Solo Run, Níl dlí ar an riachtanas. "The Michaela Foundation", was founded to mark the life of Michaela McAreavey, nee Harte, who died 10th January 2011.

We ask you to support the Michaela Foundation where you can.

themichaelafoundation.com

greatsolorun.net



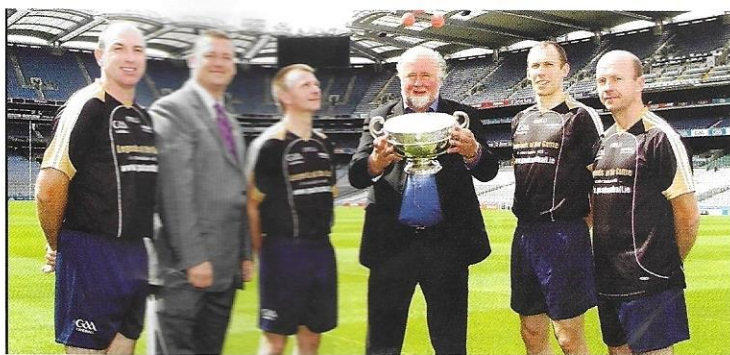
The event, sponsored by Todd's Leap, saw 150 of the Club's members solo a ball for three-quarters of a mile before hand-passing the ball on in relay fashion to the next person through the night. Some 30 hours and approximately 36,000 solos later, the last runner will arrive here in Croke Park today.

The event's aim was to raise money for the Club's ongoing developments as well as the newly formed Michaela Foundation, which was founded to mark the life of Michaela McAreavey, née Harte.

Speaking about this achievement Uachtarán Chumann Luthchleas Gael Críostóir Ó Cuana said: "Projects like this are indicative of the sterling work, energy, and ingenuity of our volunteers at Club level across the length and breadth of this island and overseas."



facility in the local area. There are also plans to play a Hurling/Karsa game against a local Ethiopian team. The group of approximately 60 people will travel to Ethiopia from Ireland for 12 days and will cover Addis Ababa, Tigray, and Aksum. If you wish to get involved in this project please contact: **Playing For life**, Gilttown, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare. Tel: 045 482479 Email: info@playingforlife.ie www.playingforlife.ie



PLAYING FOR LIFE

Having been selected as the GAA Charity of the year for 2011, **Playing for Life** is looking for volunteers to join their GAA heroes on a trip to Ethiopia in January of next year.

With your help, **Playing for Life** would like to bring a group to Ethiopia in an effort to build a school and sports

GAA HANDBALL

The M Donnelly GAA Handball All-Ireland 60x30 Championships reach an exciting climax in the month of September with four consecutive weekends now to follow the All-Ireland Championship action.

On Saturday, September 3, on the eve of the Kilkenny v Tipperary hurling decider at Croke Park, an army of GAA Handball enthusiasts will converge on Abbeylara, Longford, for the All-Ireland Men's Senior final which will see either Dublin's Eoin Kennedy or Mayo's Dessie Keegan take on either Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy or Wexford's Barry Goff. One week later will be the Men's Senior Doubles semi-finals in Williamstown with the Ladies All-Ireland Senior decider involving Kerry's Ashley Prendiville and Maria Daly. That will then be followed on Saturday, September 17 in Williamstown by the Men's Senior doubles final.

A VENUE FOR EVERY EVENT

Winner Best Conference Events Venue – Event Industry Awards 2011

Croke Park was recently voted Best Conference Events Venue at the Event Industry Awards. The judging panel, made up of key industry players, decided on Croke Park based on the venues constant innovation, response to a changing market, green credentials and client testimonials. The awards were a double celebration for Croke Park with stadium caterers, Fitzers Catering, getting the gong for the Best Event Caterer.

The iconic venue is host to events from across the events industry spectrum throughout the year. When it comes to making a statement and stirring the soul, no other venue in Ireland comes close. The facilities are world class, the conference team is vastly experienced and, with 87 meeting rooms and 8 conference suites, the conference centre can accommodate events of any size. In the last decade, Croke Park has become one of the country's leading conference venues.



Croke Park Conference Sales Team



- Iconic venue – sense of occasion to events such as award ceremonies and gala dinners
- Inspirational backdrop - home to Gaelic games
- First stadium in the world to receive BS 8901 certification for sustainable event management
- 5,000 sq m of function, conference and exhibition space
- 87 meeting rooms - breakout rooms aplenty for seminars and training courses
- 'Team Building & Time Out' – Stadium Tour; GAA Museum; SKYLINE Tours – 2012
- Location - easily accessible, near the city centre with lots of free car parking
- Luxury affordable accommodation onsite - 4 star accommodation at The Croke Park Hotel
- Naughty & Nice Christmas Parties – early booking offers until end August
- Day Delegate Rates from €40 per person

www.crokepark.ie/conference-centre

TRÁTH NA gCEIST

All of the answers to today's quiz can be found in your match programme



Q1. Robert O'Donnell is the referee for today's Minor Match. What county is he from?

Q2. What was the score when Donegal and Dublin met for the first time in 1992?

Q3. What county did Dublin beat when they won their last semi-final in 1995?

Q4. Who scored Dublin's goal against Laois in the Leinster quarter-final?

Q5. Who scored Donegal's goal against Antrim in the Ulster preliminary-round?

Q6. Who came on as a sub for Donegal to score a goal against Kildare?

Q7. What county did Donegal play in their first ever All-Ireland semi-final in 1972?

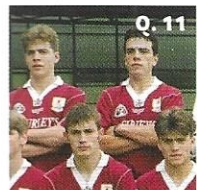
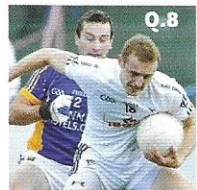
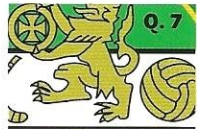
Q8. What was the lowest score recorded in the 2011 GAA Football Senior Championship?

Q9. What was the last year that a GAA Football All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final went to a replay?

Q10. Who is the manager of the Dublin Minor footballers?

Q11. When did Dublin and Galway last meet in the Minor Championship?

Q12. Who won the Ulster Minor Championship in 2011?



FREAGRAÍ

A1. Donegal (Page 13). **A2.** Donegal 0-18 Dublin 0-14 (Page 19). **A3.** Cork (Page 23). **A4.** Diarmuid Connolly (Page 28). **A5.** Mark McHugh (Page 36). **A6.** Christy Toyne (Page 37). **A7.** Offaly (Page 43). **A8.** Wicklow 0-5 v Kildare (Page 44). **A9.** Kerry v Cork 2008 (Page 45). **A10.** Dessie Farrell (Page 51). **A11.** 1994 (Page 51). **A12.** Cavan (Page 54)

CROKE PARK SAFETY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

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

Safety and General Information

Supporters are asked to respect the fact that they are entering and leaving the stadium through residential areas.



Safety Notice

In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.



The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid further injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardai, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the HSE. The full co-operation of supporters is requested to avoid serious injury and to ensure that games can be enjoyed without resource to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing action from all vantage points.

Together we can ensure that the Croke Park experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

Smoking Policy

Croke Park now operates a No Smoking policy except in designated areas of the ground.



Medical Assistance

First Aid Centres are located in the following areas:

Davin Stand/Cusack Stand Level 3:	Section 312
Hogan Stand Level 3:	Section 333
Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 701
Davin/Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 724
Dineen/Hill 16 Cusack Side:	Section A
Medical Centre:	Hogan Players Tunnel



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

Lost Children

Lost children will be brought to the above First Aid Centres.



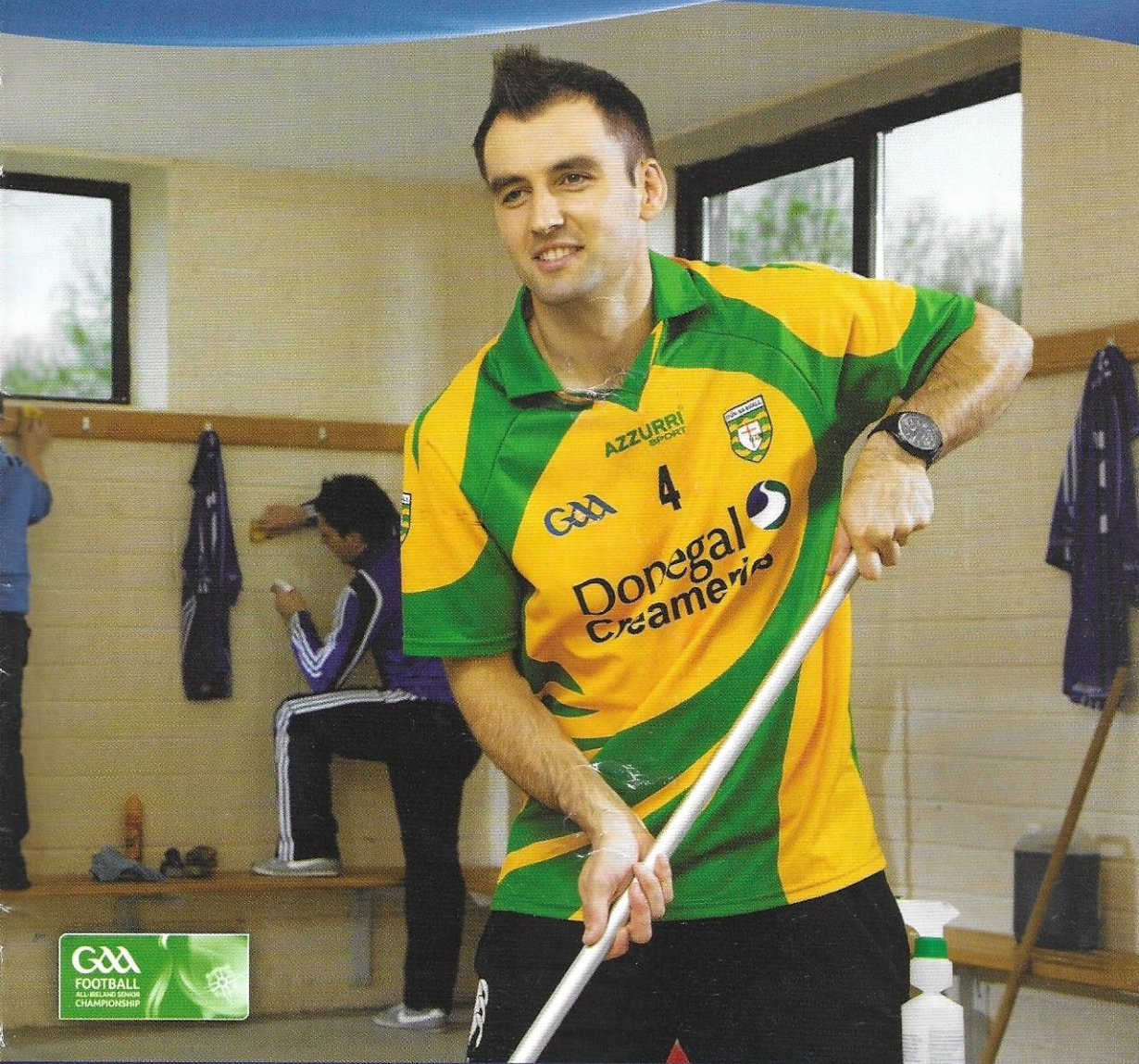
Cúl Green

Supporting a Greener Croke Park

Please play your part by co-operating with the Cúl Green initiatives at the Stadium and using the recycling stations provided. Log onto www.culgreen.ie and make a pledge today.



Take part in Ulster Bank GAA Force.
Because helping your club matters.



Help for what matters

 **Ulster Bank**



Register at ulsterbank.com/gaa

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GAA Football Championship

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Having a fun match day? Enter our Ultimate GAA Experience competition and soon you and your family could be having the best match day you've ever had! This specially created prize includes Premium level tickets to the All-Ireland Final, 4 star accommodation, dinner for 4 and all your family's transfers to and from the match – a day where you'll all truly experience more.

Simply log on to experiencemore.ie/competition to be in with your chance to win.

terms & conditions apply

