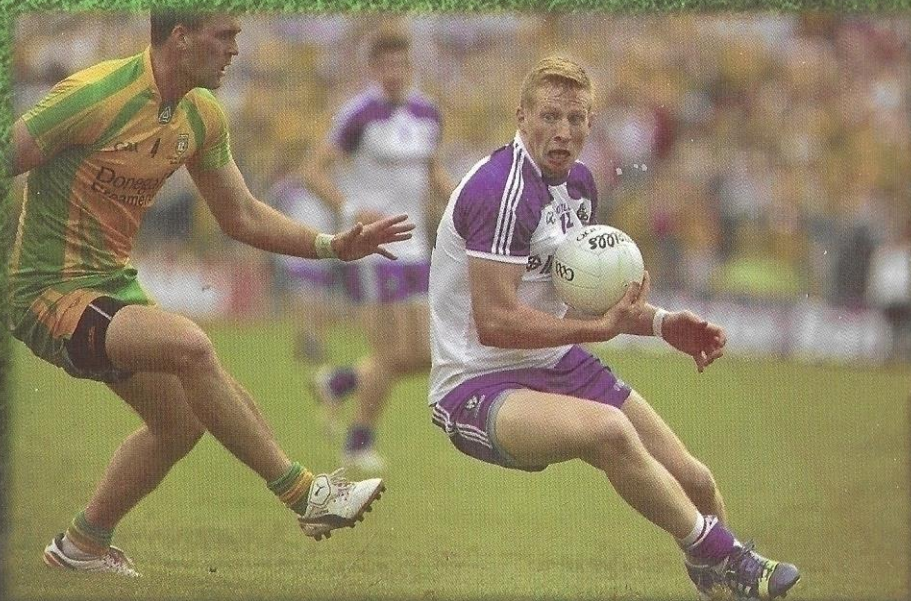


ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE



# Dún na nGall v Muineachán



Sunday 2nd March 2014  
O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny

Clár Oifigiúil €3

# GOOD LUCK

## Dún na nGall

from the

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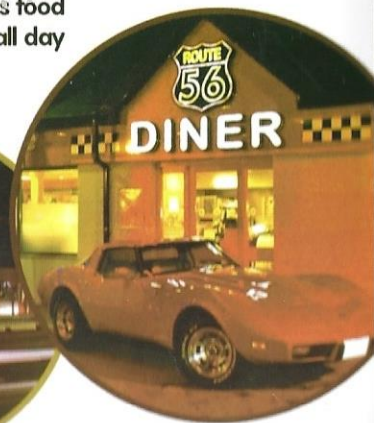


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## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Ar son Bord na Condae CLG Dhún na nGall, ba mhaith liom fáilte a romhaibh go léir anseo inniu go Páirc Uí Dhomhnaíll, Leitir Ceanainn.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon to O' Donnell Park, Letterkenny for our first home game of the 2014 Allianz National Football League. I also extend a warm welcome to the Monaghan team, management, officials and supporters for what promises to be a great tussle between the reigning Ulster Senior Football Champions and the champions of 2011 and 2012.

On behalf of Bord na Contae, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Donegal people at home and abroad who gave tremendous support to the Donegal Senior Football Team in 2013

and hopefully we can rely on your support again for this league campaign and forthcoming championship.

Finally, I hope that you enjoy this afternoon's game and may the best team win.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an chluiche agus go mbeidh turas slán sábháilte ag lucht leanúna an Mhuineachán agus Dhún na nGall agus iad ag pilleadh na bhaile.

Is mise le meas,

*Seán Ó Duinnín.*

Seán Ó Duinnín,  
Cathaoirleach.





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St. Eunan's GAA club are delighted to once again host an Allianz National Football League Game in O'Donnell Park.

We would like to welcome the supporters, officials, management and players from Monaghan here today.

Thanks to all our club members for having the grounds in such good condition after all the recent bad weather, especially to Vincent McGlynn and Connie Maguire and their able deputies.

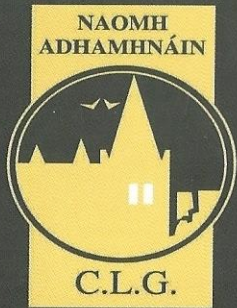
A warm welcome once again to Jim, his management team and the Donegal players, especially our own club men Rory Kavanagh and Eamonn Doherty. Welcome also to Co. Chairman Sean Dunnion and all the members of the Co. Executive and finally to all the great Donegal supporters, we hope you will cheer your team to an important victory today.

**Paul McGovern**  
**PRO Naomh Adhamhnain**

Catriona McIntyre, Club Naomh Adhamhnáin will sing Amhrán na bhFiann at Dún na nGall v Muineachán match.

**Buíochas:**

*Match Programme produced and edited by Paul McGovern (PRO, Naomh Adhamhnáin). I would like to thank the following people for their help in putting together today's match programme: Charlie Collins (Talking Sport); Fr. Seán Ó Gallchoír; Ciaran O'Donnell, Peter Campbell, Tom Comack and Alan Foley (all Donegal Democrat); Chris McNulty (Donegal News); Colm Shalvey (Northern Standard); Ed Byrne (PRO, Dún na nGall); Noel Duffy (PRO Mhuineacháin) and also to my club mates Anne Forde and Seán Boyle. Thank you to Patrick "Patch" Curran and the staff of Donegal Printing for all their help in putting together the programme and finally I would also like to thank all our advertisers who make this programme possible.*



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## Kavanagh Looking for Win on Home Turf

BY Chris McNulty (Donegal News)



HAVING played over 100 games for Donegal now there is very little that fazes Rory Kavanagh these days.

The St Eunan's ace still expects the heart to skip a beat this afternoon when he bursts out the doors of O'Donnell Park and onto the pitch he's grown up on.

This meeting with Monaghan, a crunch clash that is a repeat of the 2013 Ulster final, will be the eighth occasion on which Donegal have played at the Letterkenny venue since 2007. When Kerry lost here in March 2007, it was the first time in three decades that senior inter-county football was played at the Cathedral Town ground. It is now known as the home ground of the Donegal senior hurlers and it hosts its share of big club championship games.

From his house at The Maples, Kavanagh looks down on the ground. "It's a place that is very close to my heart," he says. "I've been heading out there since I played in the Under-8s. Playing for the county anywhere is a massive honour,

but running out with Donegal at O'Donnell Park is an extra special moment. When you're running out on home soil in front of your home fans, it means a little bit more, for sure. Hopefully we can put in a good display in Letterkenny."

The veteran forward-cum-midfielder, now 31, admits that he gave his future some consideration over the winter months. A troublesome hamstring niggled away and the questions began circling. Back he came. "It's something I think a wee bit more of because I'm at a different phase of life now," he says. "I'll try and plough on, see where this year takes us and assess it after that again. I just take it game-by-game now and I'll see how the injuries treat me. I'm feeling great again now. I did a lot of work with the physio's on the hamstring and I feel it getting stronger every night I go out on the pitch."

A few weeks ago his wife, Kathryn, gave birth to a baby girl, Zoe and life has got busier for the couple. "She's doing great, but it's some change. All of a sudden there is this wee person that you're responsible for."

Kavanagh sits in on St Eunan's executive committee meetings as a representative

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*Good Luck Donegal in 2014*

of the senior players. His eyes were opened at a recent sitting when the club discussed their plans for the visit of Monaghan; a game that will stretch the compact venue's capacity. "I was down at an executive meeting a couple of weeks back and they were talking about the number of people they're expecting to be at the game. I couldn't believe the amount of work that goes into staging a game. From people selling tickets, to stewards at the car park and in the stand, to people making tea and sandwiches, it's such a big operation. Everyone in the club really has rallied around, though and they always do a great job.

"It's exciting for everyone to be looking forward to holding a big game like this."

Inter-county football was once no stranger to these parts. The seven-acre site at Sallaghagrane was bought for the princely sum of £300 in 1937 and on the day of its opening O'Donnell Park played host to two inter-county games: A hurling match between Donegal and Antrim preceding a football meeting between Donegal and Armagh.

In the 2009 publication 'The GAA, A People's History' there is a two-page photograph of a game taking place in O'Donnell Park circa 1940. The Letterkenny landscape is much different than it is now. Not just the absence of the Ballymacool housing development and the Aura Leisure Centre, but O'Donnell Park itself is quite the changed animal,

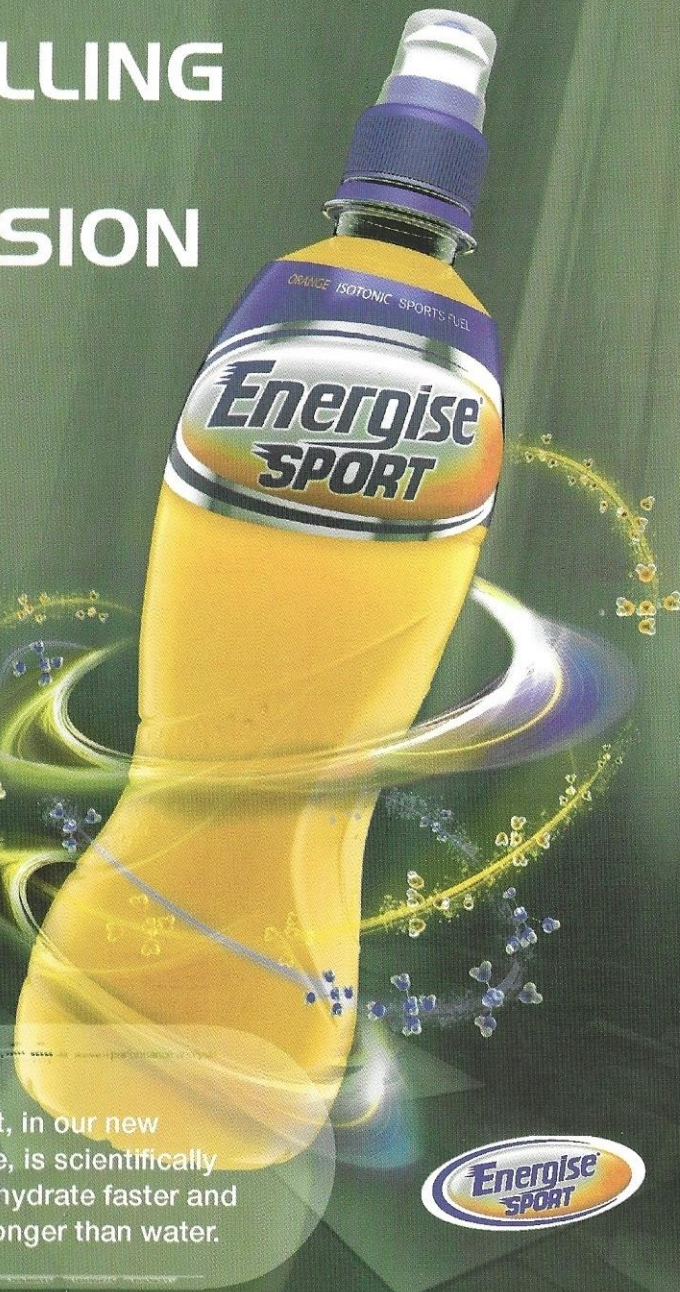
too. There is only a modest form of a clubhouse behind the goal and the 2,500-seater stand at the time was but a distant dream; one that was made possible by then Minister for Sport, Dr. James McDaid and a hard working committee. "It's a great boost to the club to have the county team back playing there again," Kavanagh says. "It's testament to all the hard work that had been done. We train there during the summer and the people around the club really couldn't do enough to help you. We owe these people a lot; the people who have worked so tirelessly to get the ground inter-county status. The pitch is in superb shape and the addition of the stand has really taken it up a level. I love playing there."

With two wins from two games, Donegal come into the game in fine fettle - and Kavanagh hopes they take another step towards promotion.

"We've had a couple of good weeks at training now and it's been great to get a couple of full sessions under my belt," he says. "We had two very important away wins and hopefully we can do the business again. It's been very positive so far and we just need to keep doing what we've been doing. It's step-by-step and every game between now and Derry in May we want to show improvement."

*\* Chris McNulty is the Gaelic Games Correspondent with the Donegal News*

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## THE NINETEENTH!



Fr. Seán

Muineachán are becoming a bit of a bogey team for Dún na nGall. They have beaten Dún na nGall in their last five competitive encounters:

2013	S.F.C.	Muineachán	0-13	Dún na nGall	0-7
2013	Dr. McKenna Cup	Muineachán	3-16	Dún na nGall	1-5
2008	S.F.C.	Muineachán	0-16	Dún na nGall	0-15
2007	S.F.C.	Muineachán	2-12	Dún na nGall	1-7
2005	Dr. McKenna Cup	Muineachán	2-15	Dún na nGall	0-12

Dún na nGall's last victory over Muineachán came in their last League meeting ten years ago when Dún na nGall won by 3-6 to 1-11. It seems that that game was the eighteenth League match between the two counties:

1.	12 Nov 1950	Muineachán	3-3	Dún na nGall	1-5
2.	19 Sept 1954	Dún na nGall	3-1	Muineachán	1-3
3.	5 Dec 1954	Dún na nGall	2-4	Muineachán	1-4
4.	9 Oct 1955	Muineachán	3-12	Dún na nGall	0-10
5.	30 Sept 1956	Muineachán	4-6	Dún na nGall	2-9
6.	20 Oct 1957	Dún na nGall	2-6	Muineachán	1-8
7.	5 Oct 1958	Dún na nGall	0-7	Muineachán	0-5
8.	21 Mar 1971	Muineachán	2-7	Dún na nGall	1-6
9.	6 Feb 1972	Dún na nGall	1-7	Muineachán	0-10
10.	4 Feb 1973	Dún na nGall	3-7	Muineachán	0-5
11.	3 Feb 1974	Dún na nGall	1-11	Muineachán	1-6
12.	8 Dec 1974	Dún na nGall	1-6	Muineachán	0-7
13.	14 Nov 1982	Dún na nGall	1-7	Muineachán	1-5
14.	6 Nov 1983	Muineachán	1-9	Dún na nGall	0-8
15.	25 Nov 1984	Muineachán	0-11	Dún na nGall	0-7
16.	13 Mar 1988	Muineachán	1-5	Dún na nGall	0-4
17.	12 Feb 1989	Dún na nGall	1-6	Muineachán	0-5
18.	15 Feb 2004	Dún na nGall	3-6	Muineachán	1-11

Dún na nGall won	10
Muineachán won	7
Drawn	1

## 2004

The last League clash ten years ago in Ballyshannon was a memorable match!

- Dún na nGall scored 1-2 in the final minutes to wipe out a four-point deficit and win by a point. 'Seventh commandment violated', cried The Follower!
- Brendan Devenney scored 3-1.
- Adrian Sweeney got a straight red and Niall McCready was sent off for two yellow cards. Jason Hughes and Paul Finlay were also sent off.
- Dún na nGall tried a new goalkeeper, to take over from Tony Blake. Yes, it was Paul Durcan's debut and he is still there, 113 games later.
- Éamonn McGee, Christy Toye and Colm A. McFadden were also on the Dún na nGall team as well as current mentor, Paul McGonigle.
- Brian McEniff and Colm Coyle were the 2004 managers.

### Dún na nGall:

Éamonn McGee  
Shane Carr

### Paul Durcan:

Raymond Sweeney  
Barry Monaghan

Niall McCready:  
Kevin Cassidy:

John Gildea (0-1) and Paul McGonigle:

Christy Toye (0-1)

Michael Hegarty

Brian Roper:

Colm A. McFadden

Adrian Sweeney (0-2)

Brendan Devenney (3-1).

**Subs (used):** Noel McGinley, John Haran, Brendan Boyle, Stephen McDermott (0-1), Barry Dunning.

### Muineachán:

JP Mone  
Dermot Duffy (0-1)

P. McElroy:  
James Coyle  
J Conlon

Edmund Lennon:  
Vinny Corry:

Jason Hughes and Eoin Lennon:

Dick Clerkin  
Thomas Freeman (0-1)

Paul Finlay (0-3)  
Raymond Ronaghan

Damien Freeman (1-4)  
G McQuaid.

**Sub:** Dessie Mone (0-2)

## 1950

It appears that the first League meeting of the two counties was in the Dr. Lagan Cup final of 1950 in Irvinestown. On that day, my native Gaoth Dobhair had five players on the Dún na nGall team – Hughie Tim Boyle, Barney Coyle, and three from my own townland Cotteen – the Gallagher brothers, Micí Rua and Willie, and Antoin Rodgers. The three are still alive and well.

At centre half-back was the great, legendary Jim 'the Natch' Gallagher from Ballyshannon who passed away before Christmas 2013, God rest his soul. Ballyshannon's other great Gallagher, Red Jack, was top-of -the-left while two of St. Eunan's all-time greats, Peadar McGeehin and Joe Carroll, wore the number 7 and 8 jerseys, respectively. Ardara's still-alive-and-well Frankie Brennan was at right-half forward with the two famous 'blow-ins', McGettrick and Wickham, in the full-forward line. Charlie Campbell from Dungloe took

over from Michael Mellett between the posts and Donegal's Jack McMullan and Bundoran's Séamus Kane completed the fifteen:

Jack McMullan	Charlie Campbell:	
Séamus Kane	Hughie Tim Boyle	Barney Coyle
	Jim Gallagher (0-1)	Peadar McGeehin
	Joe Carroll and Michael J Gallagher	
Frankie Brennan	Willie Gallagher (1-1)	Antoin Rodgers
Seán McGettrick (0-2)	Tom Wickham	Jack Gallagher (0-2).

### Muineachán:

	J Duffy	
P McQuaid	Ollie O'Rourke	M McCaffrey
B Duffy	J Rice (capt) (1-0)	M Moyna
	B McKiernan (0-1) and Hughie McKearney (0-1)	
M McCormack (1-0)	T Moyna	B Shortt
T Clarke (1-0)	E McDonald	P O'Rourke (0-1)

It was a marvellous Dún na nGall performance and they were a bit unlucky that two softish goals gave Muineachán their one and only Dr. Lagan Cup final success. The teams were level 1-2/1-2 at half-time but Muineachán were ahead by 3-3 to 1-5 at full-time (though the 'Democrat' score-by-score account credited Dún na nGall with 1-6!).

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## Hungry Monaghan Take Donegal's Ulster Crown

Courtesy of The Donegal Democrat



**Monaghan** 0-13  
**Donegal** 0-07

The Donegal three-in-a-row dream died a death in Clones as Monaghan proved much too strong, playing Donegal at their own game. With Kieran Hughes putting on a display that will be difficult to match this year, the Farney men were on top from the first whistle as Donegal struggled to match their intensity. The heat wave forecast did not arrive in Clones and conditions were as near as perfect as you would hope for. There was some hope for Donegal supporters as they reached the half-time whistle only three points adrift, 0-5 to 0-2, but that was as close as Donegal would get.

Hughes was on fire in the second half and apart from the introduction of Neil Gallagher, who gave Donegal a lift, the reigning Ulster and All-Ireland champions were clutching at straws. Gallagher was near his best for the remainder of the game with some majestic fielding. They did have two half chances of goals in the 52nd and 54th minutes but when they went wide of the posts, so too did any hopes of a comeback.

The first half was a disaster for Donegal, losing Mark McHugh after nine minutes

after a clash with Stephen Golligly. By that stage they were four points in arrears as Darren Hughes (47 secs), Rory Beggan, Conor McManus and Padraig Donaghy had fired over Monaghan points. The traffic was just all one way with Monaghan pulling everyone back inside their own 45 when not in possession and then breaking at speed. It was working a treat and a full 32 minutes had elapsed before Colm McFadden had Donegal's opening score, a pointed free. Rory Kavanagh did have a point awarded by an umpire earlier but it was knocked off after the intervention of linesman Cormac Reilly - it was that sort of day for Donegal. There was further hope when Frank McGlynn came forward to finish a good move started by Paul Durcan just before the break.

The second half was the Kieran Hughes Show. He had three points on the board inside ten minutes, with Ryan McHugh getting the only response for Donegal. Colm McFadden (free) and Dessie Mone traded points before Frank McGlynn and Michael Murphy saw goal efforts go just wide of the posts. Colm McFadden and Rory Kavanagh did get points to reduce the deficit to two, but that was as good as it got. Monaghan pulled away and they could relax when substitutes Christopher McGuinness and Tommy Freeman added

points. Donegal simply had no answer to the Monaghan hunger. The fact that their inside trio of McBrearty, Murphy and McFadden did not score from play is a telling fact. It was a poor finale to Donegal's great run in Ulster under Jim McGuinness, winning ten matches in a row.

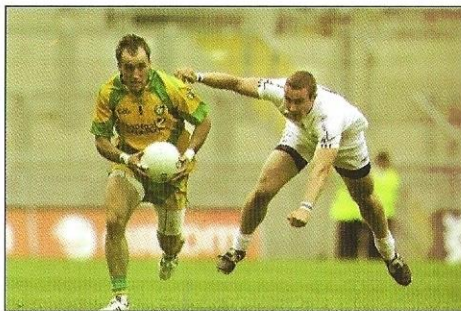
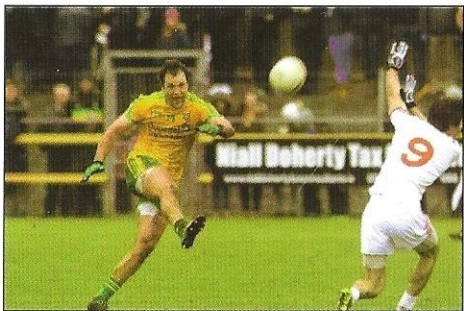
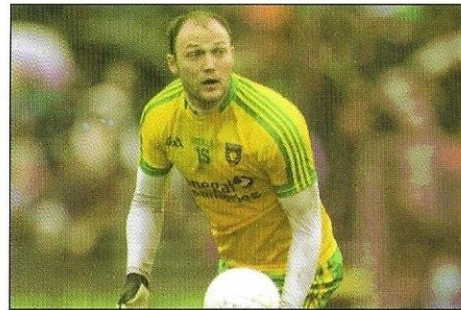
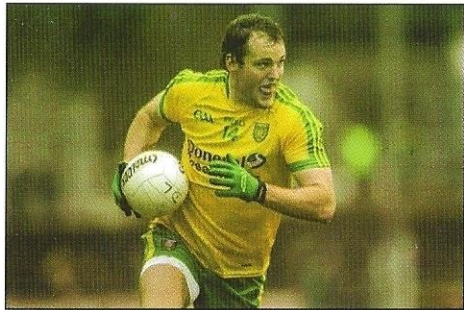
They have to pick up the pieces as they face Laois next weekend with a place in the quarter-finals in Croke Park at stake.

**Donegal:** Paul Durcan; Paddy McGrath, Neil McGee, Eamon McGee; Anthony Thompson, Karl Lacey, Frank McGlynn (0-1); Rory Kavanagh (0-1), Ryan Bradley; Martin O'Reilly, Leo McLoone, Mark McHugh; Patrick McBrearty, Michael Murphy, Colm McFadden (0-4,4f). Subs.,

David Walsh for M McHugh 9 mins; Neil Gallagher for O'Reilly 22 mins; Ross Wherity for McLoone 33 mins; Ryan McHugh (0-1) for Walsh h-t; Martin McElhinney for Bradley 64 mins.

**Monaghan:** Rory Beggan (0-2, f, 45); Kieran Duffy, Drew Wylie, Colin Walshe; Vincent Corey, Neil McAdam, Dessie Mone (0-1); Owen Lennon, Darren Hughes (0-1); Paul Finlay, Stephen Gollogly, Dermot Malone; Pdraig Donaghy (0-1), Kieran Hughes (0-3), Conor McManus (04,4f). Subs., Gavin Doogan for Gollogly 9; Dick Clerkin for Doogan 51; Christopher McGuinness (0-1) for Malone 64; Tommy Freeman (0-1) for McManus 71.

**Referee:** David Coldrick (Meath).



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# Donegal Dún na nGall

Manager: Jim McGuinness

## O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny

2.00pm

## Dún na nGall v Muineachán

### Referee:

Barry Cassidy (Doire)

### Stand By:

Noel Mooney (Cill Dara)

### Linesman:

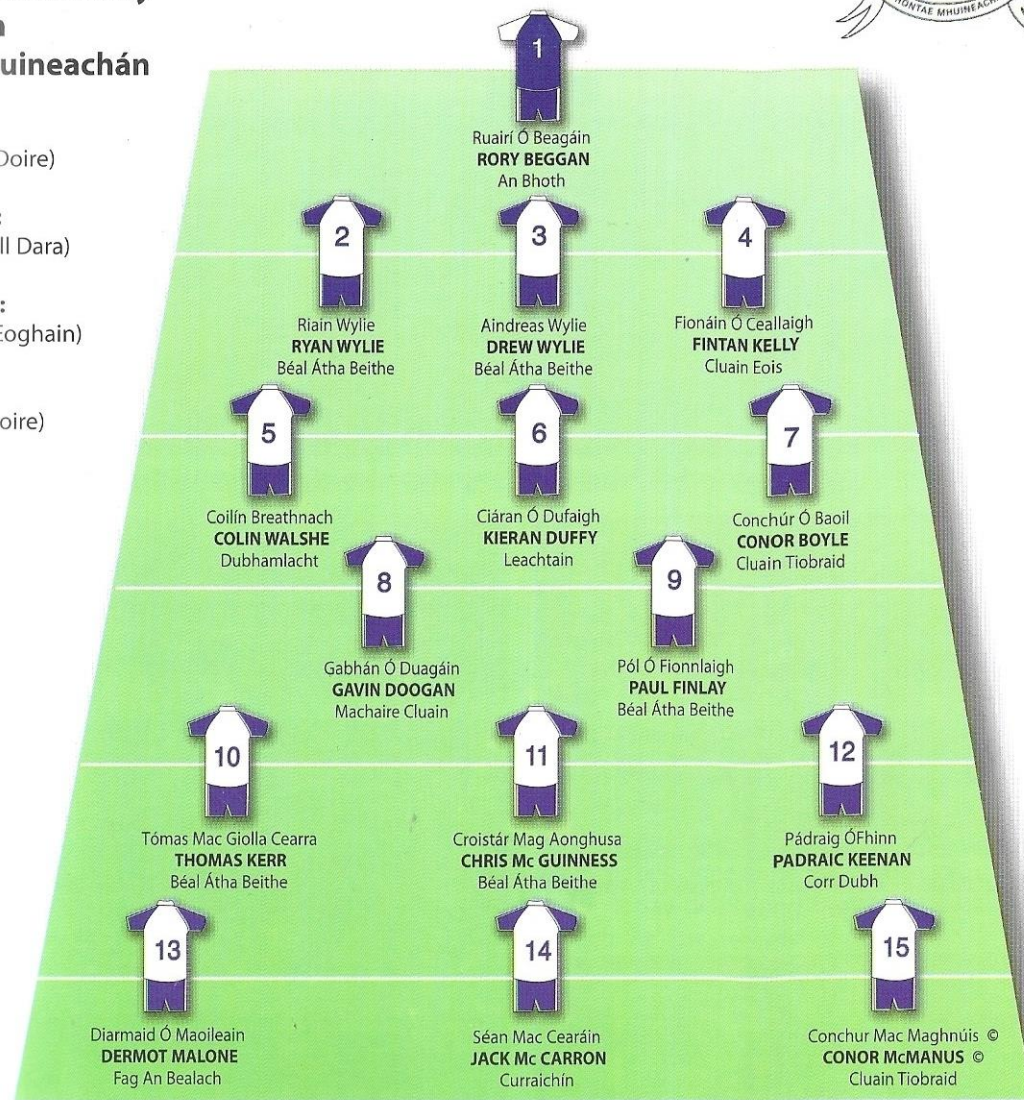
Sean Hurson (Tír Eoghain)

### Sideline:

Dan Mullan (Doire)

# Monaghan Muineachán

Manager: Malachy O'Rourke



### FIR IONAD

16. Mícheál Ó Baoil, **MICHAEL BOYLE**, An Tearmann. 17. Darach Ó Conchúir, **DARACH O'CONNOR**, Bun Crannacha. 18. Déaglán Breathnach, **DECLAN WALSH**, Málainn. 19. Éamonn MacAoidh, **EAMONN McGEE**, Gaoth Dobhair 20. Gary Mac Pháidín, **GARY Mc FADDEN**, Gleann Súilí. 21. Aodh MacPháidín, **HUGH McFADDEN**, Na Cealla Beaga. 22. Leon Mac Thomáis, **LEON THOMPSON**, Naomh Conaill. 23. Lúcas Ó Cianaigh, **LUKE KEANEY**, Na Ceithre Máistir. 24. Máirtín Ó Raghallaigh, **MARTIN O'REILLY**, Seán MacCumhaill. 25. Niall Ó Gallachóir, **NEIL GALLAGHER**, Gleann Súilí. 26. Pádraig Mac Breartaigh, **PATRICK McBREARTY**, Cill Chartha.

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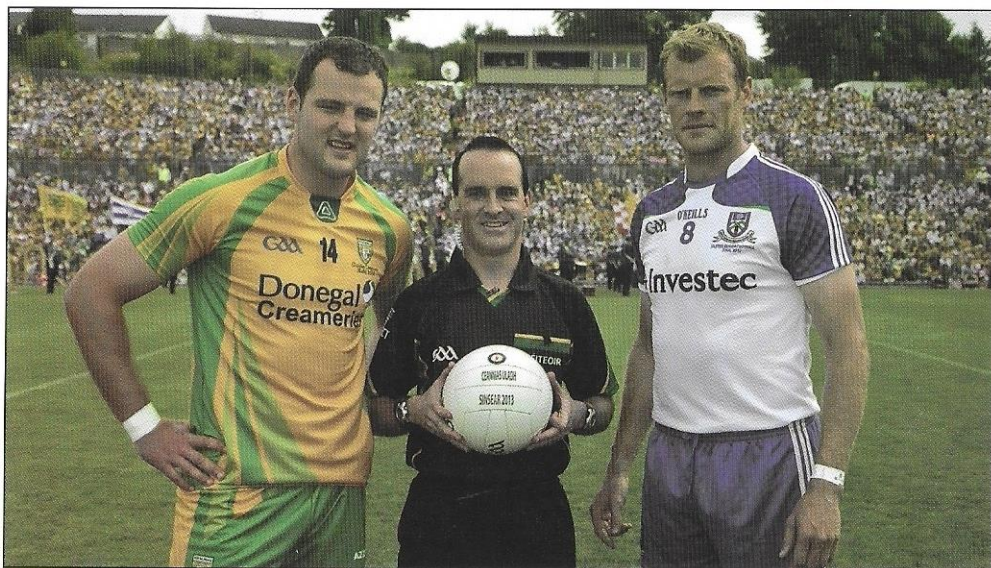
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### SUBSTITUTES:

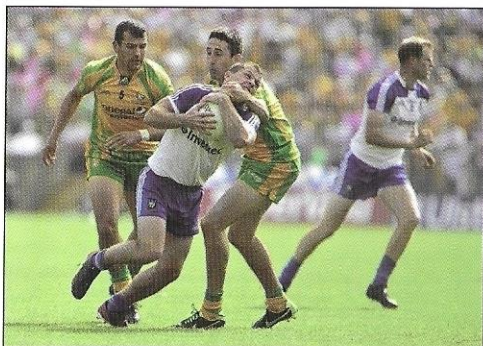
16. Gearoid Mac Gafraidh, **GERARD Mc CAFFREY**, Scairbh Na gCaoirch. 17. Deasún Mocháin, **DESSIE MONE**, Cluain Tiobraid. 18. Conchúr Ó Gealagáin, **CONOR GALLIGAN**, Cláirsigh Mhuineacháin. 19. Carl Ó Conaill, **KARL O'CONNELL**, Tigh Thalainn. 20. Uinseann Ó Comhraí, **Vinny Corey**, Cluain Tiobraid. 21. Eoin Ó Lionnáin, **OWEN LENNON**, Leachtain. 22. Stíofán Mac an Ghallóglaigh, **STEPHEN GOLLOGLY**, Carraig Mhacaire Rois. 23. Seán Ó Ciara, **SHANE CAREY**, An Bhoth. 24. Risteard Ó Cléirchín, **DICK CLERKIN**, Curraichin. 25. Seán Mac Gabhainn, **SHANE SMYTH**, Cláirsigh Mhuineacháin. 26. Ciarán Mac Aodha, **KIERAN HUGHES**, An Bhoth

Manager: **MALACHY O'ROURKE**

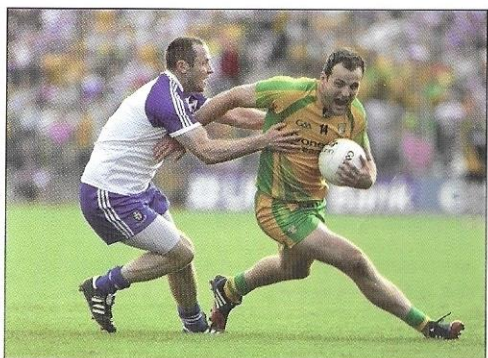
Dath: Bán agus Gorm



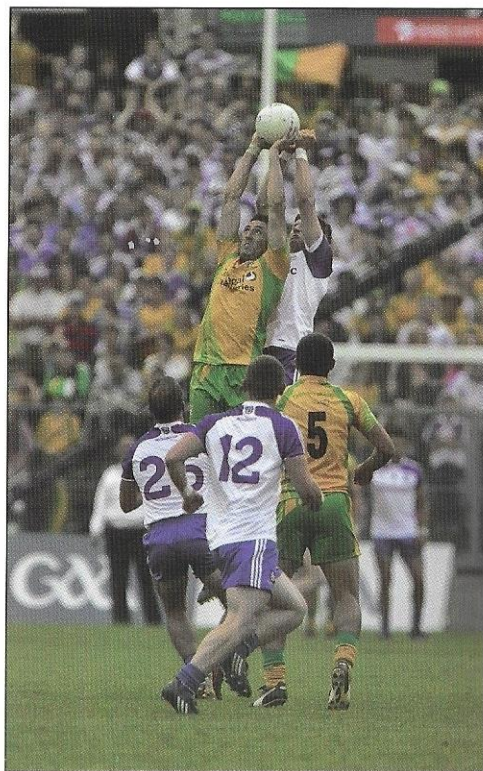
Michael Murphy, Donegal, David Goldrick, Referee & Eoin Lennon, Monaghan prior to the start of the Ulster Final



Padraig Donagh, Monaghan is stopped in his tracks



Michael Murphy and Vincent Corey



Ulster Final Donegal v Monaghan



## The Rehearsal Continues

By Charlie Collins Talking Sport.

It's easy to understand why many Donegal supporters will be coming to O'Donnell Park today with revenge very much on their minds. It was at the hands of today's opponents in July last year that the first cracks appeared in the dream to retain Sam Maguire. Having beaten Tyrone and Down it was perhaps taken for granted by too many that Monaghan would be just another step on the way to a third Ulster title and another crack at All Ireland glory. However on their home patch Monaghan had other ideas and the rest is history. So today is a chance for our lads to show Monaghan that they have not forgotten, or is it, I wonder. Perhaps not in the bigger scheme of things in 2014. A win of course will be important but only in the context that it will add two more points to the four already collected in Laois and Galway. In terms of the bigger picture today's game is just another rehearsal for bigger days ahead in the summer. Promotion back to Division One would be a nice bonus but Jim Mc Guinness is well aware that in terms of 2014 the real challenges will come from late May and beyond, starting with Derry in Celtic Park. Everything that happens beforehand will be in preparation for that match and the Championship games that follow.

We have already seen a number of bonuses in the McKenna Cup and two league games played so far. Karl Lacey and Mark Mc Hugh are fit are injury free, Christy Toye has returned to playing, Martin Mc Elhinney is looking good in midfield, and Murphy, Mc Fadden and McBrearty are all scoring. Add to that the options provided by Ryan Mc Hugh,

Hugh Mc Fadden, Odhran Mc Niallais, Darrach O'Connor and a few others and the hand of the manager would appear to have been strengthened at this early stage. The next six weeks is perhaps a key period in terms of the months ahead. Five games in six weeks is a demanding schedule which will decide the ups and downs of the league season. Today's game will be followed by Meath in McCumhaill Park next week then a trip to Down the following week. Two home wins will leave Donegal sitting pretty and close to promotion. Then after a one week break its home to Louth and away to Armagh in the final game on Sunday 6th April. By that stage the Management team will be hoping for a fully fit squad and have a good idea what their preferred starting 15 would be. However when games come quickly like that, injuries are hard to avoid and produce setbacks for some and of course opportunities for others to catch the Manager's eye. While these League games will have our attention in the coming weeks its fair to say that seeing Donegal in Croke Park will be the priority for all of us. If that turns out to be the case few will be talking about what happened back in March and April.

The rehearsal for all that continues here today at O'Donnell Park and of course it would be great to beat Monaghan to avenge that defeat in Clones. However as we all know rehearsals are important when it comes to getting it right when the curtain opens. As that famous Corkman from another code once said, fail to prepare, prepare to fail.

## 20 questions on Donegal and Monaghan



(with Peter Campbell, Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat, Donegal People's Press)

- 1 What Monaghan man was elected Uachtaran of the GAA in 2000?
- 2 What club in Donegal holds the distinction of having the most All-Stars?
- 3 Who was Monaghan's first All-Star and in what year?
- 4 What Donegal player won Sigerson Cup medals with UCD in 1975 and 1978?
- 5 What Monaghan club side defeated Killybegs in the final of the Ulster Club Championship in 1991?
- 6 What Monaghan club won three Ulster Club senior championship wins in-a-row in 1978-1980?
- 7 What club won the Donegal Senior Gaeltacht title in 2013?
- 8 Who captained Donegal to the Nicky Rackard Cup win last year?
- 9 Martin McHugh is the only Donegal man to captain Ulster to Railway Cup success. In what year?
- 10 What Monaghan man played a vital role for Glenswilly in their success in Donegal in recent years?
- 11 Pat McEnaney is probably the highest profile referee of recent years. With what Monaghan club is he associated?
- 12 A Donegal player has captained a team to win the Sigerson Cup on three occasions. Name the players and the years?
- 13 Monaghan, like Donegal, have won the National Football League (Division One) on one occasion. In what year?
- 14 Two Monaghan players were named as All-Stars in 2013. Name them?
- 15 Current Monaghan player Tomas Kerr's father also played for Monaghan. What was his Christian name?
- 16 The Donegal-Monaghan Ulster final of 1979 had an unusual occurrence at the start of the game. What was it?
- 17 What Donegal player was sent off when Donegal and Monaghan met in the 1988 National League quarter-final in Omagh?
- 18 How many Ulster senior titles do Donegal now have?
- 19 What is the name of the GAA pitch in Monaghan Town?
- 20 Who was the first captain of a Donegal county team to lift a trophy in Croke Park?

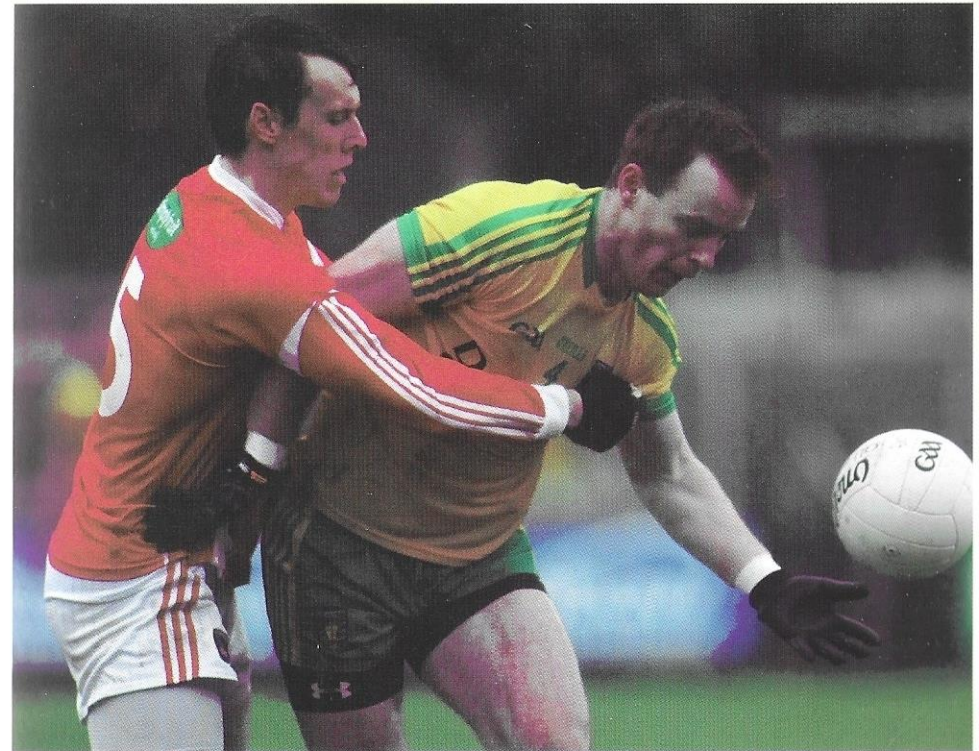
### Highlights on TG4

Highlights of today's game can be seen on TG4 tomorrow night, on the GAA 20-14 programme, in its usual 8:30pm timeslot. The programme will also feature the best of the Derry-Westmeath, Kildare-Tyrone, Mayo-Kerry, Dublin-Cork, and Armagh-Meath games, as well as the Fitzgibbon Cup final. Sin GAA 2014, oíche amárach, ag 8.30, ar TG4!

## Éamonn Doherty Looks Forward to 2014



By Alan Foley (Donegal Democrat)



The shrill of Maurice Deegan's full-time whistle following the 2012 All-Ireland final was still floating in the Drumcondra air as Éamonn Doherty and his brother Padraig jumped around the Cusack Stand of Croke Park with delight.

Donegal had just won their second All-Ireland championship and having seen so much disappointment down the years when supporting Mayo, the county of their father PJ, the brothers could celebrate. Even dad, as bittersweet as it

was, wasn't as disappointed as usual. "I remember looking down at the pitch and seeing Rory Kavanagh and being so happy for him but thinking to myself that I'd love to be part of it," Éamonn Doherty recalls of that famous fourth Sunday in September.

Doherty, still only 23 and a maths teacher at Scoil Mhuire in Bunrana, is already one of the most decorated footballers in the county. Despite his tender age he's won four RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta Senior

Football Championships alongside the likes of Kavanagh at St Eunan's, and as many All-County Football League Division One titles since making his debut only days after his 17th birthday.

St Eunan's had famously been hammered 5-6 to 1-8 in the 2007 championship first round, first leg at Davy Brennan Memorial Park against a Naomh Conaill side who had also defeated them after a replay to lift the 2005 championship. The Letterkenny team, under the management of Brendan Kilcoyne, had also lost the 2006 decider to Gaoth Dobhair and were at a sink or swim stage of their existence. Doherty played as a senior for the first time and recalls a John Haran and a certain Jim McGuinness partaking in an all-afternoon dingdong. St Eunan's ran out convincing 1-14 to 1-5 winners to prevent themselves from being painted into the corner in the championship and won the play-off 2-7 to 1-6. If ever a result might've altered the course of a dynasty, it was the day Doherty made his debut. St Eunan's won three championships before anyone else even saw the glint of silverware on the Dr Maguire Cup.

The third of those three wins, against Naomh Conaill on a score of 0-13 to 0-7 in 2009, was McGuinness' swansong, while Doherty, by then three years a senior, had yet to lose a championship tie.

Within three months the pair would meet again as McGuinness, now the Donegal U-21 manager, put a panel together for the first time ahead of the

2010 season in what proved to be Ireland's worst winter since 1947. "The weather was really bad that winter and we did a lot of work at the Aura Centre in Letterkenny," Doherty says. "It was so thorough and a real eye opener as to the standards you have to set yourself." Right from the start, Jim told us we'd win the Ulster title and someone – I can't recall who – giggled when he said it. Jim said 'mark my words' and he was right. We had the belief right from the start."

Donegal won their Ulster U-21 and then came within a lick of Cavan Dulux from winning an All-Ireland U-21 championship. Even though the journey from the Aura Centre to Breffni Park concluded with a shade of disappointment it's not something that is looked back upon with regret. "All the memories of that team and year are fond," Doherty says. "We went further than we would ever have believed and almost won the All-Ireland. Up to 12 of that panel ended up playing senior football for Donegal and another two who might've have emigrated so it proved how important that group was. We still see plenty of one another."

Whilst Michael Murphy, Leo McLoone, Declan Walsh, Antoin McFadden, Mark McHugh, Dermot Molloy, Paddy McGrath, Daniel McLaughlin and Thomas McKinley all ended up with the Celtic Cross, Doherty was still persevering with St Eunan's. Last April he was on the phone with McGuinness. Just days after being added to the panel, he was fast-tracked to play against Dublin in what proved to

be Donegal's climatic fixture in Division One. It was one of those afternoons when there were so many incidents it took a bit of time to collate them that evening. Doherty, somewhere in there, inadvertently collided with Pdraig Hughes, which forced the referee to be stretchered off in the second half. "I spoke to him afterwards and told him I was sorry," Doherty says. "He was fine."

Coming in late last season was a dream come true for someone who harboured hopes like Doherty. He might've checked in as the plane was about to taxi on the runway but he didn't want to miss his flight. "It was tough last year trying to play catch-up with no real pre-season under my belt," he adds. "But I will just give it my all in each training session and

hopefully the break will come." "We've had a good pre-season. It was hard going at times but when you get that under your belt it puts you in a position where you can enjoy your football and that's where we are at now."

"We have made a decent start to the league with wins away to both Laois and then Galway and we'd love to keep that run going against Monaghan, who are definitely one of the top teams in the division and one that will be very well supported. "As a Letterkenny man, it's great to have the match at O'Donnell Park and having been involved against Tyrone in the Dr McKenna Cup match in January I know the great atmosphere the ground can create. I'm sure it'll be just the same against Monaghan."

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# Allianz GAA Football National League



Pos	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Points
1	DONEGAL	2	2	0	0	44	24	4
2	MONAGHAN	2	1	0	1	34	22	3
3	DOWN	2	1	0	1	27	25	3
4	MEATH	2	1	1	0	35	43	2
5	LAOIS	2	1	1	0	26	36	2
6	ARMAGH	2	0	1	1	27	29	1
7	LOUTH	2	0	1	1	27	30	1
8	GALWAY	2	0	2	0	35	46	0

**POS** Position      **L** Lost                      **A** Against                      **P** Played  
**D** Drawn              **W** Won                      **F** For

# 2013 Lifetime Dedication Award – Connie Maguire



By Paul McGovern & Sean Boyle



In March, 2013 the St. Eunan's club bestowed the honour of a Lifetime Dedication Award on club stalwart, Connie Maguire for over 40 years of unswerving dedication to the Black & Amber.

Connie originally hailed from Glenties with whom he won County Minor (1962) and a County Junior medal (1964) as well as losing a replayed county Senior final to the great St. Joseph's side in 1965. He also won an Ulster Minor League medal in 1963 playing at full forward as Donegal defeated Down.

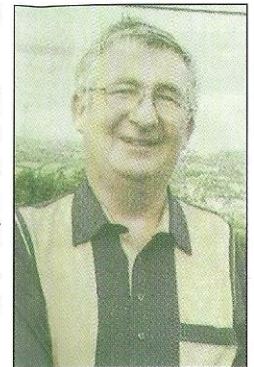
Connie was appointed to the ESB in Letterkenny in 1967 and soon joined the St. Eunan's Club. He was a member of the Senior Championship winning side of 1969 but was already beginning to make his presence felt in the administration side of the games. He was a selector for the Ulster winning Donegal team of 1972, our county's first ever Ulster SFC title.

He was elected Club Secretary in 1979 and stayed in the post until transferred to Cloughaneely in 1981, where he also became club secretary. He returned to Letterkenny and St. Eunan's in 1984 and once again took up the Secretary's role before moving to the Chairman's seat. He served on many sub committee's for the county board and was elected County Development Officer 1988 and has also served as Chairman of the County Hearings committee.

In 1990 he was appointed a trustee of O'Donnell Park and at that time, Connie was already plotting the redevelopment of O'Donnell Park into the grounds you see here today. Indeed Connie cites the development of the new pitches and stand and the return of Inter-County games as the most satisfying aspect of his time involved with St. Eunan's.

Still heavily involved in the club's development committee, Connie rarely passes a day without a visit to the Park to take care of some wee job or to investigate another idea to enhance the facilities even further.

And so it was fitting that in 2013 we recognised the Lifetime Dedication of an adopted son of Letterkenny and St. Eunan's, Mr. Connie Maguire.



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## Clerkin Now A Loyal Green and Gold Man

By Tom Comack (Donegal Democrat/ Peoples Press, Highland Radio)



It most definitely was Donegal's gain and Monaghan's loss when young Garda recruit Sean Clerkin was posted to Donegal. That was over three decades ago, in March of 1983. Sean is from Three-Mile-House in the Farney County. He was steeped in GAA tradition and the Sean McDermott's club. His first posting was to Moville.

"Three-Mile- House is three miles from Monaghan and the Sean McDermott's club is sandwiched between three big club's Monaghan Harps, Ballybay and Scotstown. We never won much during my years playing with the club," explained Sean.

For a number of years after moving north he continued to tog out in the yellow and white of Sean McDermott's. It was not until he was transferred to Bunrana, in 1989, that the regular commutes back to Three Mile House got too much and Sean threw his lot in with Bunrana. And so began his long and fruitful association with Donegal football which continues right up to the present day.

No more than his playing days with his native Sean McDermott's, Sean and Bunrana didn't really set off any tremors on the Donegal football landscape. "I played for Bunrana for four years until I

took over as manager of the seniors in 1993 and I didn't enjoy any great success with the club during those days. I think we may have won a Division Three league but that was about the height of it."

But that all changed once Sean donned the manager's bib. It was when he took up coaching that his true talent came to the fore. In his first year in charge, Division Three in the Donegal All-County Football League was conquered and Bunrana were promoted to Division Two.

The Intermediate Championship was won by the club for the first time in 1995. And in 1996, the big breakthrough was made and the Division Two title and promotion to Division One was won. "We had the nucleus of a good team that time. Paul and Stephen McGonagle began to emerge. Dermot McColgan also arrived on the scene. They were a really good young side, but a combination of emigration and the loss of Dermot McColgan with the formation of Muff saw the team break up."

After his stint with the Bunrana seniors, Sean dropped back down to underage football and began to build again. He managed the club's minors to a first



Donegal Minor Championship in 2000. They beat St Eunan's in the final. When the club won a first U-16 championship in 2001 Sean Clerkin was also calling the shots. They defeated Naomh Conaill, in the U-16 decider.

He managed his adopted club to Intermediate success again in 2013 and he was at the helm again last season when Bunrana once more celebrated minor championship success.

His coaching genius was not confined to just Bunrana. Among his other great triumphs is guiding Donegal to Ulster Minor Championship success in 2006. It was a team that included today's Donegal seniors Michael Murphy, Leo

McLoone, Martin McElhinney and Declan Walsh.

He has also managed Donegal at U-21 and U-16 and was a senior mentor in the late 1990's when Declan Bonner was Donegal boss. And over the last 25 years Sean has been a shining light on the Donegal GAA horizon.

It's all proof that it was most definitely a case of Monaghan's loss and Donegal's gain the day Garda Sean Clerkin was sent north to uphold law and order. From a true blue and white Monaghan man to a green and gold Donegal man, the transformation has been completed and completed a long time ago!

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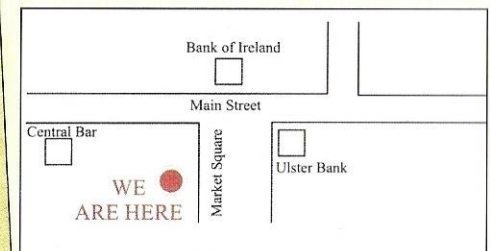
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## The View from Monaghan

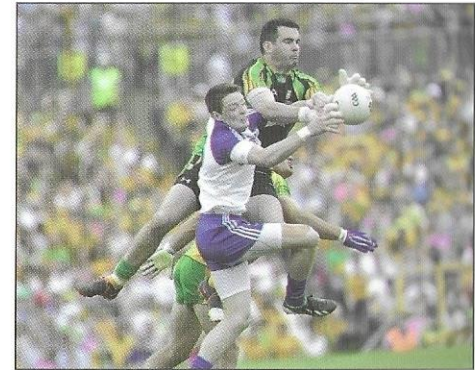
by Colm Shalvey

In the three weeks since the last round of the 2014 Allianz National Football League, anticipation has steadily built for today's showdown between in-form Ulster rivals Donegal and Monaghan in Letterkenny.

On paper, this is arguably the biggest game in Division Two this year, bringing together last year's Ulster finalists and two of the favourites for promotion. Monaghan sprung a surprise in Clones last July to win their first provincial senior title in 25 years and end Donegal's three-in-a-row bid. That continued Monaghan's excellent record against Donegal in recent years, but Malachy O'Rourke's side are under no illusions about the challenge waiting for them today.

Having placed limited emphasis on the league under Jim McGuinness, it has been a different story this time for Donegal, who have fielded strong teams in their convincing wins over Laois and Galway. Monaghan were pegged back in the second half by Down in an opening-round draw, but they tore Meath apart last time out.

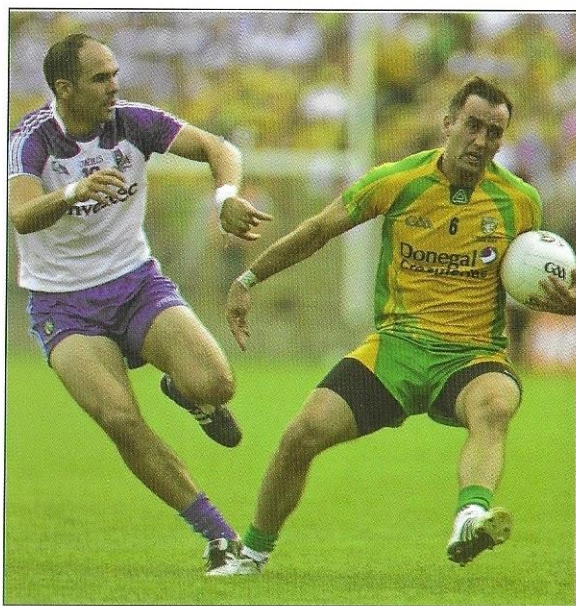
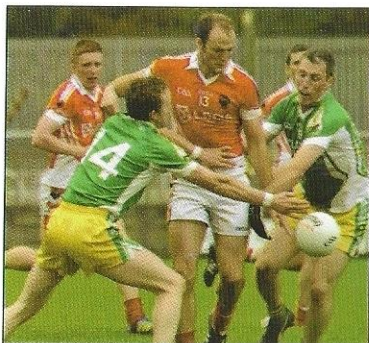
Donegal will be gunning for a third straight victory today and a psychological step forward in defeating Monaghan for the first time since a dramatic league game in 2004, when Brendan Devenney completed his hat-trick late on to help steal a result for the hosts at Ballyshannon.



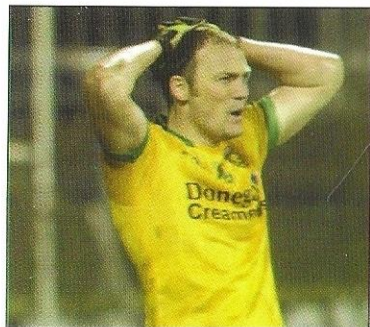
*Paul Durcan and Conor McManus*

Donegal have 2012 Footballer of the Year Karl Lacey back in action after his injury struggles, while Colm McFadden, Michael Murphy and Paddy McBrearty have all hit the ground running in attack. Monaghan have slowly been returning to full strength with several established players making their way back from injury, although Darren Hughes may play no part in the league and newcomers like Thomas Kerr, Ryan Wylie, Pádraic Keenan and Conor Boyle have nailed down places so far.

The winners of today's match will be well placed to go up to Division One – which would be a quick return to the top flight for Donegal and a second consecutive promotion for Monaghan – and there is every chance that these counties will cross sword again before the year is out.



Karl Lacey and Paul Finlay



## The Legendary Peadar Mc Geehin - St. Eunan's And Donegal

By Sean Boyle



The legendary Peadar McGeehin made his senior football championship debut for Donegal in 1949. Peadar made it a winning start to an illustrious 10 year inter-county career with a 2-06 to 0-08 victory over Down here in Letterkenny that day. He played 14 Ulster senior championship games for Donegal until he called it a day after the 1959 defeat by Cavan. In those days that was an exceptionally long and representative inter-county career.

During this distinguished inter-county football career, Peadar won a Dr. Lagan Cup medal with Donegal in 1952 beating Armagh in the final by 2-06 to 1-04 at Clones on March 16th. This was the first time Donegal won the All-Ulster Dr. Lagan Cup Competition. (They previously won it in 1936 and 1937 but only 5 and 4 teams participated in those years). Consequently Donegal booked an All-Ireland National football league semi-final place in Croke Park. This was to be the first time for a Donegal team to play in Croke Park and Peadar McGeehin played at left half-back for his county on that historic day in 1952. Three other St. Eunan's players also played on the Donegal team that day, they were Conn Halpin in goals, Peadar Dawson at full-back and Charlie (Bovril) Collins at left half-forward. The great Jim (Natch) Gallagher, Ballyshannon was the Donegal captain that day. Donegal scored 7 times that day (all points) with their opponents Cork scoring just 6 times but alas 3 were goals. Peadar won an Ulster Junior football championship with Donegal in 1954 beating Tyrone in the provincial decider by 1-07 to 0-08 at Irvinestown on 30th May (the last time Donegal won the Junior title). Donegal beat Galway by 3-09 to 1-07 in the

All-Ireland semi-final but lost to the mighty Kingdom, Kerry by a 2 goal margin, 3-06 to 1-08 in the All-Ireland final.

With his beloved club St. Eunan's, Peadar won 3 county Senior football championships and 4 All-County Senior leagues.

He was a member of the history making St. Eunan's team that won the County Senior Football Championship for the first time ever in 1948 beating Gaoth Dobhair in the final by 1-07 to 2-01. Gaoth Dobhair were going for an all-time record of 5 senior county championships in row. He was selected to the GAA Centenary year 1984 Donegal team. Peadar was inducted into St. Eunan's distinguished "Hall of Fame" in 1998 – only the 3rd footballer to be awarded the "Fame". Peadar held many positions within St. Eunan's club off the field down the years and managed the club senior football team to the county title in 1983 after a gap of 11 years and trained the Championship winning teams of 1967 & 1969.

The great late Jim "Natch" Gallagher described Peadar as the greatest "skin and bones" player he ever played with or against. The body may have been razor sharp but it was the heart and mind that was in the man that made him one of Donegal's greatest footballers. That heart never failed him, representing St. Eunan's and Donegal on the field of play and the once that it did, it took with it, one of the greatest brains in Gaelic football, leaving his wife Anne and family to carry on which they did and do.



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## Donegal beat Ulster champions

DONEGAL ..... 2-11  
MONAGHAN ..... 0-10

BY CHRIS MCNULTY AT O'DONNELL PARK

AN hour before throw-in, Fergus McGee, the public address announcer at O'Donnell Park, confirmed to patrons that the 2,700 seats in the stand had all been occupied.

By the time Barry Cassidy got proceedings underway, 6,500 spectators had taken station for a repeat of last year's Ulster final, expecting fireworks.

As League attendances go, it was impressive. Remember, only three years ago 7,385 turned up to Ballybofey to watch Donegal defeat Antrim in Jim McGuinness's first Championship game as the Donegal manager.

In last year's provincial decider, Monaghan laid the blocks early on with a blistering start, going five up before Donegal got a sniff of a score.

Goals by Odrhrán MacNiallais and Colm McFadden saw Donegal take a strong grip here as Donegal returned to the top of Division 2, having made way for Down overnight. MacNiallais drilled home just seven minutes in and when McFadden netted eleven minutes later Monaghan were consigned to defeat.

Donegal were dominant in the first-half here, but could have been further ahead than the six points at half-time. They made an uncharacteristic amount of unforced turn-overs and did kick a couple of needless wides, but that is not to take away from what was a comfortable afternoon on which they were very impressive in spells. Given that they operated against the elements for an hour, it was certainly not too shoddy to have posted a seven-point win over the Ulster champions.

MacNiallais was superb while Ryan McHugh delivered another reminder of his talents. Both are players of some re-

## MATCH STATS

## DONEGAL v MONAGHAN

2	Goals	0
11	Points	10
7	Wides	11
1	45s	1
16	Frees awarded	12
2	Frees scored	4
2	Short efforts	5
0	Black cards	0
1	Yellow cards	2
0	Red cards	0
ATTENDANCE 6,500		

finement who slot quite nicely into Jim McGuinness's jigsaw, with the Donegal boss surely encouraged again by another fine display by his side to continue their unbeaten League form.

Donegal had been in form - posting away wins in Laois and Galway in their opening two fixtures - coming into this, their first home League game of the year, with a healthy points difference of +20.

McGuinness kept faith with the team that started three weeks ago in Salthill, rewarding the likes of Martin McElhinney, Christy Toye and Dermot Molloy - as well as McHugh and MacNiallais - for good recent performances.

They were to the fore as Donegal took command of things early on in a clear indication that this was a side meaning business.

Barry Cassidy played a good advantage after involvement by McHugh and Rory Kavanagh,

Donegal's Karl Lacey in action against Monaghan.

and it was captain Michael Murphy who off-loaded to the scampering MacNiallais. With the sea parting before him, the in-form Gaoth Dobhair man galloped on before unleashing a powerful effort beyond Rory Beggan.

It was a purposeful start by Donegal, still bruised by the excruciating memories that have lingered from Clones last July.

In the 18th minute, Donegal netted a second goal. While Molloy will be awarded the assist, McHugh deserves a fair dollop of credit, too, for it was from a magnificent pass by the Kilear man that Donegal carved open the Farney rearguard.

Molloy took receipt of possession out on the left, before bursting in at a tight angle to lift across goal where the waiting McFadden turned home to open up a six-point lead.

Donegal were dominant by now but could perhaps have been a little more economical in attack.

That said, they were well on top, particularly in the physical stakes, where Kavanagh, McElhinney, Toye and Murphy gave Donegal a powerful foothold in the middle third.

McElhinney kicked a fine point from just shy of the '45 after the St Michael's man had sold a clever side-step to deceive his man and set up MacNiallais for a well-worked score.

Monaghan began with seven of the team that started last year's final, with Kieran Hughes coming in as a late inclusion having not been named in the side,

but Malachy O'Rourke's team couldn't recover from the set-backs of conceding those goals.

All-Star McManus was the sole scorer for the visitors in the first half and the Clontibret ace tucked over a late brace to leave the goals between them at the interval, 2-4 to 0-4.

Donegal might have had a third major in the 42nd minute, but Rory Beggan was out to smother from Leo McLoone after he was played in by a neat tap-over pass by sub Darach O'Connor, on his League debut.

In a show of the renewed depth at McGuinness's disposal, O'Connor was on in a triple substitution that included Neil Gallagher and Patrick McBrearty.

MacNiallais had hit another fine effort just prior to that and McBrearty landed an excellent brace of points, both of them from long range.

Fintan Kelly and Jack McCarron popped over two inside a minute, but Donegal were suffocating the supply lines to the now starved McManus inside.

To supplement McBrearty's pair of points, captain Michael Murphy hit his only score of the afternoon with a 50th minute free and McFadden polished off a fine move that involved McBrearty, Neil McGee and Anthony Thompson.

Monaghan did break the seal open, but Dermot Malone failed to get any conviction on his shot, with a tame effort easily saved by Paul Durcan, only for the referee to deem the 'keeper to have been outside the 13m line and McCarron was presented with a 'gimme' of a free.

Goalkeeper Beggan, from a '45, Dessie Mone and McManus clipped over for Monaghan late on, but this one was never in doubt.

Donegal had another sight of goal in the closing moments, but they went for the juggular with McLoone, O'Connor, McFadden and McGlynn all involved in a goal-mouth game of pinball that Mon-

aghan eventually survived, though McGlynn limped off with an injury that was not thought to be serious by the management.

MacNiallais fittingly finished well, setting up Declan Walsh's point and then adding the cherry himself, funnelling forward to take his tally to 1-3 and firmly scrawl his name upon the page marked: 'First XV'.

Ryan McHugh's was another contribution of some note, Martin McElhinney showed up well again and Rory Kavanagh performed well until his withdrawal.

DONEGAL: Paul Durcan; Karl Lacey, Neil McGee, Ryan McHugh; Frank McGlynn, Leo McLoone, Anthony Thompson; Rory Kavanagh (0-1), Martin McElhinney (0-1); Mark McHugh, Christy Toye, Odrhrán MacNiallais (1-3); Colm McFadden (1-2, 1f), Michael Murphy (0-1, 1f), Dermot Molloy. Subs: Neil Gallagher for Kavanagh (42 mins), Patrick McBrearty (0-2) for Toye (42 mins), Darach O'Connor for Molloy (42 mins), Martin O'Reilly for McElhinney (63 mins), Declan Walsh (0-1) for McGlynn (69 mins).

MONAGHAN: Rory Beggan (0-1, 1'45); Ryan Wylie, Drew Wylie, Fintan Kelly (0-1); Colin Walshe, Kieran Hughes, Conor Boyle; Gavin Doogan, Paul Finlay; Thomas Kerr, Chris McGuinness, Padraic Keenan; Dermot Malone, Jack McCarron (0-2, 1f), Conor McManus (0-5, 3f).

Subs: Padraig Donaghy for Kerr (26 mins), Dick Clerkin for Finlay (half-time), Karl O'Connell for Keenan (half-time), Dessie Mone (0-1) for Boyle (42 mins), Vinny Corey for R.Wylie (52 mins).

Booked: Donegal - Michael Murphy (39 mins); Monaghan - Colin Walshe (58 mins), Padraig Donaghy (64 mins).

REFEREE: Barry Cassidy (Derry).

