



ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ROINN I SEMI-FINAL

CIARRAÍ v ROS COMÁIN

ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ROINN I SEMI-FINAL

ÁTH CLIATH DÚN NA nGALL

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Áth Cliath
Aibreán 10 2016

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ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN I SEMI-FINAL 2.00 PM

CIARRAÍ v ROS COMÁIN

An Réiteoir: Pádraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha)
 Linesmen: David Gough (An Mhí) (STANDBY REFEREE),
 Anthony Nolan (Cill Mhantáin)
 Sideline Official: David Murnane (Corcaigh)
 Umpires: Dessie McDonnell, Martin Moley, Dermot Hughes, Pat McGeough

In the event of a draw, extra-time will be played



ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE ROINN I SEMI-FINAL 4.00 PM

ÁTH CLIATH v DÚN NA nGALL

An Réiteoir: Maurice Deegan (Laois)
 Linesmen: David Coldrick (An Mhí) (STANDBY REFEREE),
 Fergal Kelly (An Longfort)
 Sideline Official: Garrett Whelan (Cill Mhantáin)
 Umpires: John Flynn, Richard Oxley, Seán Langton, Kevin O'Brien

In the event of a draw, extra-time will be played

CLÁR AN LAE

AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN

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

13:40	CIARRAÍ amach ar an bpáirc	15:40	ÁTH CLIATH amach ar an bpáirc
13:42	ROS COMÁIN amach ar an bpáirc	15:42	DÚN NA nGALL amach ar an bpáirc
13:45	Oifigigh an chluiche amach ar an bpáirc	15:45	Oifigigh an chluiche amach ar an bpáirc
13:50	Coin toss	15:55	Coin toss
14:00	Tús an chluiche	15:58	Amhrán na bhFiann
14:37*	Leath-am	16:00	Tús an chluiche
14:38*	RESPECT Exhibition Go Games	16:37*	Leath-am
14:52*	Tús an dara leath	16:38*	RESPECT Exhibition Go Games
15:30*	Críoch an chluiche <i>If first semi-final goes to extra-time, second semi-final throws-in at 16:30</i>	16:52*	Tús an dara leath
		17:30*	Críoch an chluiche

* depending on 'added time'

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FAOI BHEALACH

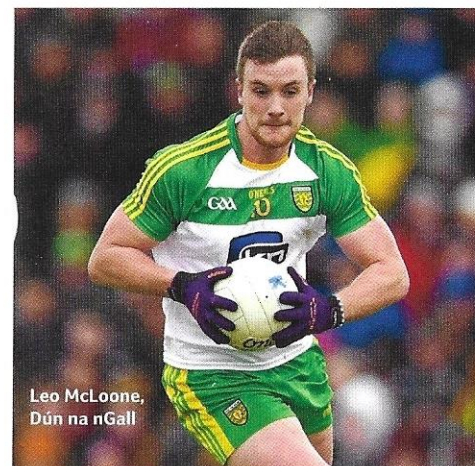
le Mártaín Ó Ciardha

Le deich mbliana anuas tá Cluiche Ceannais Roinn 1 Shraithe Peile Allianz buaite eatarthu seacht n-uair ag Áth Cliath (4), Chiarraí (2) agus ag Dún na nGall (1), rud a fhágann gur beag an t-ionadh go mba le éachtaí Ros Comáin a bhain an chuid ba mhó de scéalta an tséasúir 2016 go dtí seo.

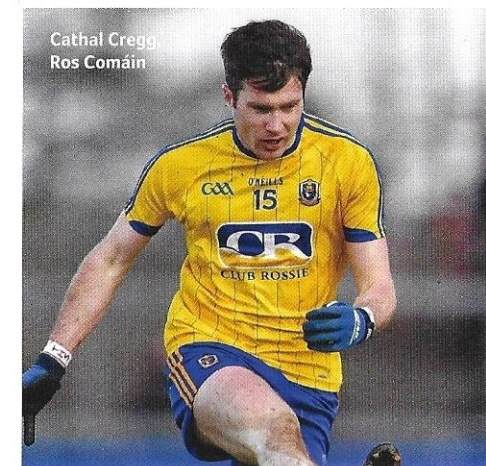
Ar ais i mbabhta leathcheannais don chéad uair ó 2002, tá buaite ag Ros Comáin sna réamhbhabhtaí ar Chiarraí i gCill Áirne, ar Dhún na nGall i Leitir Ceanainn agus ar Chorcaigh i bPáirc Uí Rinn. Ar tharla sé riamh cheana i stair na sraithe go ndeachaigh foireann chomh fada seo tar éis dóibh

an dá chluiche a d'imir siad ag baile a chailleadh? Ní áirím go raibh orthu taisteal go contaetha eile faoi dhó (Páirc Sheáin Mhic Dhiarmada agus Páirc an Phiarsaigh, Longfort), nuair a bhí Páirc de hÍde faoi uisce.

Iomaíocht thar a bheith géar atá feicthe againn sna céad bhabhtaí sin. Thug 6 phointe sraithe áit do Dhún na nGall i mbabhtaí leathcheannais an lae inniu, bhí an t-iomlán céanna ag Corcaigh, a thit síos go Roinn 2 – torthaí cluichí aonaracha i bhfad níos tábhachtaí anois ná a bhíodh, mar a fheicfidh muid freisin ar ball.



Leo McLoone,
Dún na nGall



Cathal Cregg,
Ros Comáin

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EARTHU

between them

BEAG AN T-IONADH

it is little wonder

NÍ ÁIRÍM

never mind

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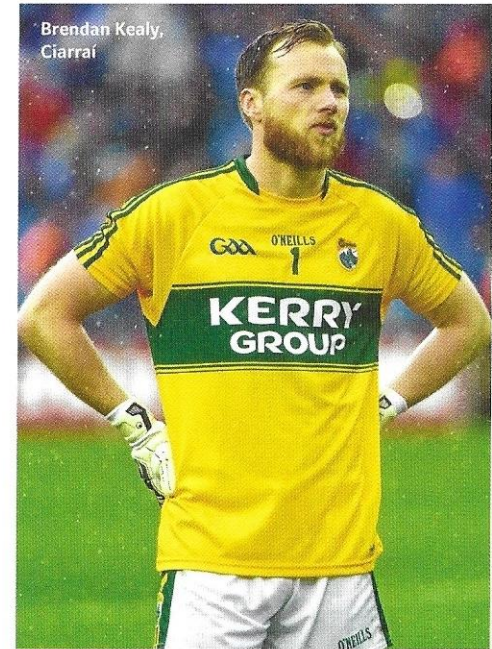
Tuigean Ros Comáin sin go maith. Chríochnaigh siad féin agus Co. na Mí ar chomhphointí i Roinn 2 na bliana seo caite, ach ba iad Ros Comáin a thuill an t-ardú céime a bhúiochas do na cúl a scóráil Cathal Cregg agus Senan Kilbride nuair a d'imir siad a chéile an t-am seo anuraidh (2-10 go 0-14). Gan na scóranna sin, ní bheadh deis faighte ag Ros Comáin a bheith anseo inniu.

Seo an chéad uair ag Ciarraí ar ais i mbabhta leathcheannais na Sraithe ón mbliain 2012 nuair a bhuaigh Maigh Eo orthu de chúilín i gcluiche ina raibh gá le am-breise.

Bhí athruithe móra ar thosaithe Chiarraí ón am sin nuair a bhuaigh siad Corcaigh sa réamhbhabhta deireanach de chomórtais na bliana seo Dé Domhnaigh seo caite, ach tá na cúlaithe mórán mar a bhí – Brendan Kealy fós idir na postaí, Shane Enright agus Marc Ó Sé sa líne lánchúil agus Peter Crowley agus Killian Young lasmuigh dóibh.

De na 32 contae a bhí san iomaíocht sna 4 roinn i Sraith Allianz na bliana seo, is iad Áth Cliath amháin a fuair an bua i ngach cluiche a d'imir siad, rud a fhágann deis acu príomhroinn an chomórtais a bhuanach don 4ú huair as a chéile. Go deimhin níor chaill Áth Cliath aon chluiche sraithe ó fuair Ciarraí an ceann ab fhéarr orthu i gCill Áirne ar an gcéad lá de Mhárta 2015.

I gcomórtas na Craoibhe ba iad Dún na nGall ba dheireanaí a fuair an bua ar Áth Cliath (cluiche ceathrú ceannais 2014), ach is beag seastacht atá le imirt na gConallach i Sraithchomórtas na bliana seo. Bhíodar ar bharr an tábla tar éis dóibh an bua a fháil ar Mhaigh Eo i mBabhta 3 nuair a fuair Leo McLoone cúl deireanach san



imirt i mBealach Féich. Ach, chailleadar na ceithre chluiche a d'imir siad ina dhiaidh sin agus tráthnóna Dé Domhnaigh seo caite bhí siad féin agus Maigh Eo ar 6 phointe sraithe an taobh. Táid anseo inniu a bhúiochas do McLoone agus do chruinneas Michael Murphy an lá siúd ar Pháirc Mhic Cumhaill.

Bhain rud amháin ar leith le iomaíocht na réamhbhabhtaí i Roinn 1 na Sraithe Náisiúnta Peile Allianz i mbliana agus b'sin nár chríochnaigh oiread agus ceann amháin de na 28 cluiche a himríodh ar chomhscór. Níor tharla sin cheana ó 2010. Anois cén uair go deireadh ar chríochnaigh na foirne ar chomhscór i mbabhta leathcheannais?

Fágfaidh mé freagra na ceiste sin fút féin!

IOMLÁN

total

COMHPHOINTÍ

equal points

A BHUÍOCHAS

thanks to

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DUBLIN'S DOMINANCE STILL THE BIG ISSUE

By Arthur Sullivan

When the Allianz Football League Division I semi-finals took place at Croke Park this time last year, an article in the official match programme for the double header posed a simple question - 'Who can stop Dublin?'

Twelve months on, and that question is more pertinent than ever. Dublin's dominance has known no bounds this spring. Jim Gavin's side have broken new ground by winning all seven of their regulation games, the first time any county has achieved that feat in the top tier since the league was reconstituted in 2008.

At the league semi-final stage last year, Dublin were the obvious form team. They had won three games in a row to banish memories of a shaky start and book their place in the knock-out phase.

They basically haven't let up since. Of the 16 league and championship games they have played since arriving at Croke Park for last year's semi-final against Monaghan, Dublin have won 15 and drawn one, that being the famous draw with Mayo in last year's All-Ireland semi-final. Of their last 19 league and championship games, it's 18 wins and one draw.

That astonishingly hot streak has taken in another sweep of trophies to add to the already bulky recent haul - they are league, Leinster and All-Ireland champions, after all - and when one looks at the Gavin era as a whole, the scale of their modern dominance becomes very apparent.

Gavin was appointed as Dublin manager on

October 1, 2012 and since then, Dublin have essentially lost just one game of significance - to today's opponents, Donegal, in the 2014 All-Ireland semi-final. That year's All-Ireland crown is the only major title Gavin has missed out on, as his haul of two All-Irelands, three Allianz League titles and three Leinster titles attests to.

Dublin's tendency over the last few seasons has been like that of the great beasts of nature, to blossom just as spring reaches its highest point. From 2013-15, they perfected the art of winning games just as the league was coming to a close, saving their best performances for the semi-finals and finals at Croke Park. Mayo, Tyrone, Cork (twice), Derry and Monaghan, who Dublin have beaten in semi-finals and finals over the last three years, can attest to that.

What's been different this year has been their capacity to extend the dominance to the murky early rounds of February. The usual qualifications that might be applied to all other counties appear to no longer apply to Dublin.

The early season difficulties that come with the fatigue of being All-Ireland champions? Not a problem, as Kerry, Mayo and Monaghan were all swatted away in the early rounds.

The long list of absentees that is so indicative of a team having just come out of winter hibernation? Again, not a problem when you can simply slot in squad players of the quality of Cormac Costello, Paul Mannion, Michael Fitzsimons, and all the rest.

Hell, you can even announce that two All Star

defenders - Rory O'Carroll and Jack McCaffrey - won't be available to you for the rest of the year and look as if it hasn't affected you in the slightest. This is the reality of the Dublin football team in 2016, a superpower the like of which hasn't been seen in decades.

Dublin certainly cast a long shadow ahead of today's semi-finals, but they are not the only story.

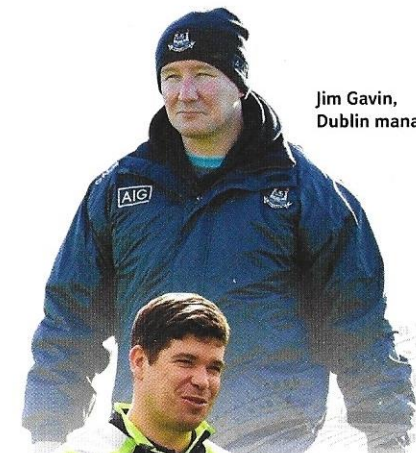
Roscommon's presence at Croke Park is a marvellous reflection of the strides they have made. Just five years ago, Roscommon were a Division IV team and now they find themselves in the top four ranked sides in the country.

Their four-game winning streak in Division I, which included away wins against Kerry, Cork and Donegal, was the feel-good story of the spring. It has softened memories of last season's bitter summer campaign and has prompted more than a few people to revisit John Evans' famous 'All-Ireland' comments of last spring with a bit more sympathy.

Donegal, for the second season in a row, are back in the semi-finals even though, like last year, they appear to be somewhat bemused by that fact themselves. The league has not been a priority for Donegal teams of recent years and given the surreally cavalier manner with which Rory Gallagher greeted his side's semi-final defeat to Cork last year, it will be interesting to see his side's approach today.

Finally, we come to Kerry, who are back in a league semi-final for the first time since 2012. The Kingdom have stuttered through the league since Éamonn Fitzmaurice took over, so this is a significant breakthrough for them. With five wins in a row, their form is excellent and leaves them well positioned for an assault on the major honours over the next few weeks and months.

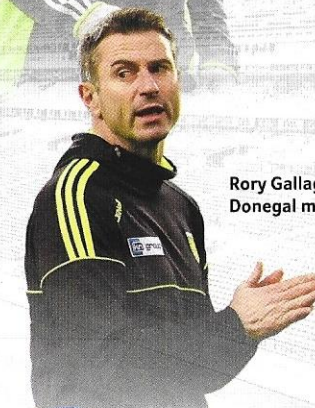
They appear to be learning from the best.



Jim Gavin,
Dublin manager



Éamonn Fitzmaurice,
Kerry manager



Rory Gallagher,
Donegal manager



Fergal O'Donnell and Kevin McStay,
Roscommon managers

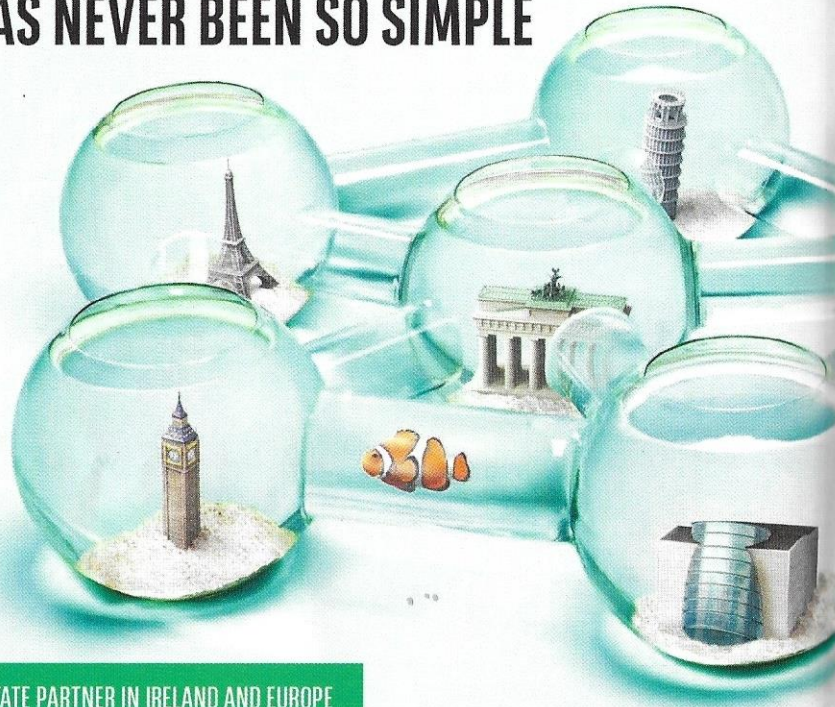


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Good Luck Today to
Roscommon in the
Division 1 League
Semi-Final

1980 REVISITED:

KERRY EDGE ROSSIES FOR THREE-IN-A-ROW

Roscommon face Kerry for the second time in just over two months in the Allianz Football League today, having not met in a competitive game for 13 years prior to the Rossies' famous Round 2 win on February 7. There was a time in the not-too-distant past, of course, when Roscommon and Kerry regularly met at the business end of the competition.

They clashed in the 1974 final, with Kerry winning after a replay, and then in the knock-out stages in 1977, '79 and '80, as well as the All-Ireland semi-final in 1978, before their rivalry reached a climax when they collided in the All-Ireland final on a windy day at HQ in September 1980.

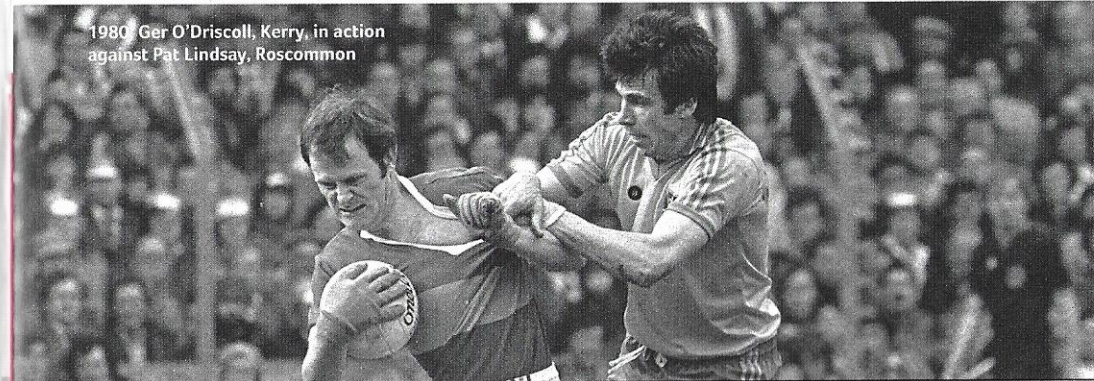
Roscommon famously snatched a goal inside 35 seconds. Seán Walsh's free was intercepted by the late Dermot Earley, who drove a long ball upfield to Tony McManus. The Clann na nGael virtuoso sold John O'Keeffe a beautiful dummy and set off on a run through the heart of the Kerry defence before offloading to John 'jigger' O'Connor, who hand-passed the ball to the back of the net.

When Earley won the resultant kick-out and fed Séamus Hayden, the Rossies were four clear and a shock was on the cards. However, this was the height of the 'Golden Years' and the Kingdom used all their experience to work their way back into the game. Pat Spillane cut through the Rossies' defence and set up Mikey Sheehy, who hit 1-6 on the day, for a spectacular fist goal in response.

Kerry nudged ahead for the first time at the start of the second half when Sheehy nailed a free. While it was a scrappy game with 64 frees – Mick O'Dwyer later described it as a "rough, untidy and fractious affair" – it was flecked with moments of genius from a talented Roscommon attack, including a brilliant 'jigger' O'Connor shot, which was spectacularly saved by Charlie Nelligan.

Kerry, though, had too much class and scores from Spillane, Jack O'Shea and Ger Power complemented Sheehy's haul to see Mick O'Dwyer's charges to a 1-9 to 1-6 win, and their third successive All-Ireland title.

1980 Ger O'Driscoll, Kerry, in action against Pat Lindsay, Roscommon



KERRY PATH TO THE SEMI-FINAL



January 30, Croke Park	Dublin	2-14	Kerry	0-14
February 7, Killarney	Roscommon	0-14	Kerry	1-10
February 28, Newry	Kerry	0-22	Down	0-6
March 6, Tralee	Kerry	1-13	Donegal	1-8
March 13, Castlebar	Kerry	2-13	Mayo	0-14
March 27, Clones	Kerry	1-17	Monaghan	1-9
April 3, Tralee	Kerry	0-20	Cork	1-12
TOTAL SCORED 5-109	TOTAL CONCEDED 5-77			

SCORERS Colm Cooper 0-18, Barry John Keane 0-16, Bryan Sheehan 0-16, Alan Fitzgerald 0-12, Darran O'Sullivan 0-10, Johnny Buckley 1-5, Donnchadh Walsh 1-5, David Moran 1-4, Stephen O'Brien 1-4, Brendan O'Sullivan 0-6, Peter Crowley 1-2, Kieran Donaghy 0-3, Tommy Walsh 0-2, Marc Ó Sé 0-2, Conor Cox 0-1, Paul Murphy 0-1, Mark Griffin 0-1, Fionn Fitzgerald 0-1.

ROSCOMMON PATH TO THE SEMI-FINAL



January 31, Kiltoom	Monaghan	2-10	Roscommon	1-9
February 7, Killarney	Roscommon	0-14	Kerry	1-10
February 28, Páirc Uí Rinn	Roscommon	4-25	Cork	3-10
March 6, Longford	Roscommon	1-12	Down	0-6
March 13, Letterkenny	Roscommon	1-19	Donegal	0-17
March 27, Roscommon	Mayo	1-11	Roscommon	1-7
April 3, Carrick-on-Shannon	Dublin	1-13	Roscommon	1-12
TOTAL SCORED 9-98	TOTAL CONCEDED 8-77			

SCORERS Ciaráin Murtagh 4-27, Fintan Cregg 0-22, Cathal Cregg 2-9, Conor Devaney 0-11, Senan Kilbride 2-2, Enda Smith 0-7, Niall Daly 0-5, Cian Connolly 0-4, Diarmuid Murtagh 1-1, Conor Daly 0-3, Donie Shine 0-3, Neil Collins 0-1, David Murray 0-1, Cathal Shine 0-1, Ian Kilbride 0-1

Allianz Football League Roinn I Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIFF	POINTS
DUBLIN	7	7	0	0	8-89	4-73	+28	14
KERRY	7	5	0	2	5-109	5-77	+32	10
ROSCOMMON	7	4	0	3	9-98	8-77	+24	8
DONEGAL	7	3	0	4	8-84	6-78	+12	6
MAYO	7	3	0	4	5-86	7-89	-9	6
MONAGHAN	7	3	0	4	6-83	7-91	-11	6
CORK	7	3	0	4	9-89	9-105	-16	6
DOWN	7	0	0	7	2-60	6-108	-60	0

LEAGUE MEETINGS 1970-2016

1970/71 NOVEMBER 15, TRALEE	Kerry	4-11	Roscommon	2-10
1972/73 OCTOBER 29, ROSCOMMON	Kerry	0-9	Roscommon	0-8
1973/74 OCTOBER 28, TRALEE	Kerry	1-14	Roscommon	2-5
MAY 19, CROKE PARK (F)	Kerry	1-6	Roscommon	0-9
MAY 26, CROKE PARK (R)	Kerry	0-14	Roscommon	0-8
1974/75 FEBRUARY 2, ROSCOMMON	Kerry	1-9	Roscommon	0-9
1975/76 DECEMBER 7, TRALEE	Kerry	3-11	Roscommon	2-8
1976/77 APRIL 3, CROKE PARK (S/F)	Kerry	2-13	Roscommon	0-8
1978/79 APRIL 1, CROKE PARK (Q/F)	Roscommon	1-12	Kerry	1-11

1979/80 MARCH 23, LIMERICK (Q/F)	Kerry	1-8	Roscommon	1-5
1980/81 NOVEMBER 2, TRALEE	Kerry	1-6	Roscommon	0-9
1981/82 NOVEMBER 22, ROSCOMMON	Roscommon	0-9	Kerry	0-6
1985/86 NOVEMBER 10, ROSCOMMON	Kerry	0-5	Roscommon	0-4
1986/87 NOVEMBER 16, TRALEE	Kerry	0-12	Roscommon	0-9
1990/91 OCTOBER 21, KILLARNEY	Kerry	0-18	Roscommon	2-7
1998/99 NOVEMBER 1, ROSCOMMON	Roscommon	0-11	Kerry	0-10
1999/00 MARCH 5, TRALEE	Kerry	1-8	Roscommon	0-9
2000/01 FEBRUARY 25, ROSCOMMON	Roscommon	0-11	Kerry	1-5
2003 FEBRUARY 9, TRALEE	Kerry	2-11	Roscommon	0-4
2016 FEBRUARY 7, KILLARNEY	Roscommon	0-14	Kerry	1-10

AN RÉITEOIR PÁDRAIG HUGHES, ARMAGH (Kerry v Roscommon)



The 38-year-old Crossmaglen Rangers club man is in his 11th year on the inter-county panel and returns to the penultimate round of the Allianz League after an absence of two years as in 2014 he was the man-in-the-middle for the Derry-Mayo semi-final. However, Pádraig has been a regular at Croke Park in recent seasons and in February he handled Dublin's tie with Monaghan at the venue. Roscommon will also be familiar to the Orchard County official as he was in Letterkenny last month for Donegal's game with Roscommon. His last outing involving Kerry was last year's Munster final in Killarney.

KERRY v ROSCOMMON LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD 1970-2016



CIARRAÍ



ROGHNÓIRÍ

ÉAMONN FITZMAURICE (BAINISTEOR),
Diarmuid Murphy, Mikey Sheehy,
Pádraig Corcoran, Liam Hassett

1 Briain Ó Ceallaigh
BRIAN KELLY
Killarney Legion

2 Marc Ó Sé
MARC Ó SÉ
An Ghaeltacht

3 Marc Ó Grifín
MARK GRIFFIN
St Michael's-Foilmore

4 Seán Mac Ionrachaigh
SHANE ENRIGHT
Tarbert

5 Peadar Ó Cruaigh
PETER CROWLEY
Laune Rangers

6 Aodhán Ó Mathúna (C.)
AIDAN O'MAHONY
Rathmore

7 Fionn Mac Gearailt
FIONN FITZGERALD
Dr. Crokes

8 Ciarán Mac Donnchaidh
KIERAN DONAGHY
Austin Stacks

9 Daithí Ó Moráin
DAVID MORAN
Kerins O'Rahillys

10 Seán Ó Buachalla
JOHNNY BUCKLEY
Dr. Crokes

11 Pól Ó Murchú
PAUL MURPHY
Rathmore

12 Donnchadh Breathnach
DONNCHADH WALSH
Cromane

13 Darran Ó Súilleabháin
DARRAN O'SULLIVAN
Glenbeigh/Glencar

14 Colm Cuipeir
COLM COOPER
Dr. Crokes

15 Stiofán Ó Briain
STEPHEN O'BRIEN
Kenmare

FIR IONAIÐ

- 16. Breandán Ó Caoláí
BRENDAN KEALY
Kilcummin
- 17. Briain Ó Siocháin
BRYAN SHEEHAN
St Mary's
- 18. Cillian de Siún
KILLIAN YOUNG
Renard

- 19. Aléin Mac Gearailt
ALAN FITZGERALD
Castlegregory
- 20. Pádraig Ó Conchúir
PÁDRAIG O'CONNOR
Killarney Legion
- 21. Barra Seán Ó Catháin
BARRY JOHN KEANE
Kerins O'Rahillys
- 22. Seán Ó Laighin
JONATHAN LYNE
Killarney Legion

- 23. Breandán Ó Súilleabháin
BRENDAN O'SULLIVAN
Valentia
- 24. Micheál Ó Géibheannaigh
MICHAEL GEANEY
Dingle
- 25. Tomás Breathnach
TOMMY WALSH
Kerins O'Rahillys
- 26. Donnchadh Ó Dálaigh
DENIS DALY
St Mary's

ROGHNÓIRÍ

KEVIN McSTAY, FERGAL O'DONNELL
(BAINISTEORÍ),
Liam McHale, David Casey,
Stephen Bohan



ROS COMÁIN

1 Séafra Mac Laithimh
GEOFFREY CLAFFEY
Castlerea

2 Seán Mac Diarmada
SEÁN McDERMOTT
Western Gaels

3 Néill Ó Coileáin
NEIL COLLINS
St Brigid's Castleknock

4 Néill Mac an Airchinnigh
NIALL McINERNEY
St Brigids

5 Daithí Ó Muirí
DAVID MURRAY
Pádraig Pearses

6 Seán Puircéil
SEÁN PURCELL
Boyle

7 Seán Maoluála
SEÁN MULLOOLY
Strokestown

8 Niall Ó Dálaigh
NIALL DALY
Pádraig Pearses

9 Cathal Ó Seighin
CATHAL SHINE
Clann na nGael

10 Fiontán de Creag
FINTAN CREGG
Elphin

11 Ciarán Ó Muireartaigh (C.)
CIARÁIN MURTAGH
St Faithleachs

12 Conchúbar Ó Duibheannaigh
CONOR DEVANEY
Kilbride

13 Diarmuid Ó Muireartaigh
DIARMUID MURTAGH
St Faithleach's

14 Seanán Mac Giolla Bhríde
SEANAN KILBRIDE
St. Brigid's

15 Cathal de Creag
CATHAL CREGG
Western Gaels

FIR IONAIÐ

- 16. Dáire Ó Máille
DARREN O'MALLEY
Michael Glaveys
- 17. Briain Ó Muireartaigh
BRIAN MURTAGH
St Faithleach's
- 18. Daithí Ó Cianáin
DAVID KEENAN
St Barry's

- 19. Donal Ó Seighin
DONIE SHINE
Clann na nGael
- 20. Gearóid Mac Pháidín
GARY PATTERSON
Michael Glaveys
- 21. Seosamh Mac Diarmada
JAMES McDERMOTT
Roscommon Gaels
- 22. Seán Mac Mánaís
JOHN McMANUS
Roscommon Gaels

- 23. Niall Mac Giolla Rua
NIALL KILROY
Fuerty
- 24. Ronán Ó Dálaigh
RONAN DALY
Pádraig Pearses
- 25. Ronán de Staic
RONAN STACK
St Brigid's
- 26. Tomás Ó Corcráin
TOM CORCORAN
Strokestown

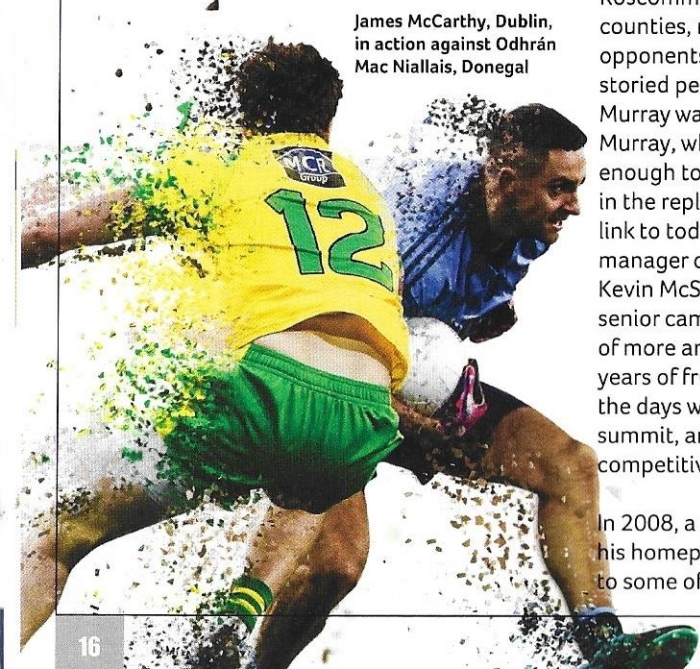
WHERE THERE'S SPIRIT, THERE'S HOPE

By Dermot Crowe, *The Sunday Independent*

The Allianz Football League has been enriched by the spirited contributions of Roscommon who, to the surprise of everyone but themselves, and possibly even themselves, arrive in Croke Park today as their province's sole representatives in the semi-finals.

Before the campaign started, with a home match against Monaghan in Kiltoom, they were privately optimistic about opening on a winning note. Even with some players recovering from injury, that hope was founded on a solid pre-season training programme but the start they wished for eluded them. When Conor McManus exploited a lapse from a short Roscommon kick-out, the defeat which resulted would test a county regarded, along with Down, as favourites for the drop.

James McCarthy, Dublin, in action against Odhrán Mac Niallais, Donegal



With Kerry to come on the road a week later, the portents looked anything but positive. Within the camp, though, they remained confident of picking up points and the victory in Kerry that followed transformed their season. It appeared to catapult Kerry's too. From there, Kerry have built a smooth winning momentum and are getting stronger. Their run of five straight victories has helped raise the mood after losing the opening two rounds and dimmed the memory of the bitter disappointment of last September's All-Ireland final defeat to Dublin. They will present a much more thorough examination of Roscommon's credentials now than they managed in Killarney in early February when beaten by a point.

Roscommon's football history is, like most counties, modest in comparison to their opponents this afternoon and their most storied period of the 1940s when Jimmy Murray was in his pomp has long passed. Murray, who died at 90 in 2007, lived long enough to see their minors triumph over Kerry in the replayed All-Ireland final of 2006. The link to today's team is in Fergal O'Donnell, the manager of that minor side, who along with Kevin McStay has jointly managed the current senior campaign. Those Roscommon die-hards of more ancient vintage have endured long years of frustration and longing for a return to the days when Roscommon were at football's summit, and periods when they were scarcely competitive.

In 2008, a year after Murray's passing, I visited his homeplace of Knockcroghery and talked to some of those who had known him. Murray

captained their All-Ireland winning teams in 1943 and '44, and ran a pub in the village in which the football from the '44 final was hanging from the ceiling. The October before he died, the successful minor team had stalled at his pub on the way home in recognition of the eternal bond between all generations of Roscommon players. He was too weak at that time to attend the match.

My impressions of Roscommon are influenced by the team of the late 1970s which ultimately reached and lost the 1980 All-Ireland final to Kerry. That final was a dreadful eyesore and did not show Roscommon in a good light, for the team that had been plugging away in the years leading up to that could play ball. They were stylists and some of the later teams had that too. There has also been the impression of a county that often was its own worst enemy, with controversies popping up from time to time, one more ludicrous than the next.

On that visit to Knockcroghery, I met Canon Peadar Lavin, who was a selector with Murray in the 1970s when they won a Connacht minor title. He supported Roscommon passionately all his life.

"I think one of the most important things in a team is spirit," the Canon said, admitting that at the time they were "really down".

Roscommon may not be the done deal, and could well find a backlash from Kerry in Croke

Park today, but they are in a better place now than when Jimmy Murray left them. They have the spirit. And when you have that, there's hope.

But all counties are in the slipstream of Dublin, who have breezed through this year's league and are strong favourites to win a fourth Allianz League title in a row. Eoghan O'Gara made his comeback against Roscommon last weekend, extending their already abundant choice of selection options. Even with Rory O'Carroll and Jack McCaffrey unavailable, they remain the front-runners for league and championship.

Donegal bowed out last year at this stage. In losing to Cork they conceded four goals. If there is one issue Jim Gavin might be a little restless over - and we're clutching at straws, admittedly - it may be their lack of ruthlessness when goal chances come their way. If that shortcoming is corrected then pity the team that's standing in their way. Donegal scored seven points when they played Dublin in Croke Park recently and will need something more adventurous to have any chance of causing an upset.

Seán McDermott, Roscommon, and Barry John Keane, Kerry, contest a high ball



Half Time 0-11

ÁTH CLIATH



ROGHNÓIRÍ

JIM GAVIN (BAINISTEOR),
Declan Darcy, Mick Deegan,
Shane O'Hanlon

1 Stiofáin Cluxton (C.)
STEPHEN CLUXTON
Parnells

2 Pilib Mac Mathúna
PHILIP McMAHON
Ballymun Kickhams

3 Seán Ó Cúipeir
JONNY COOPER
Na Fianna

4 Daibhéid Ó Broin
DAVID BYRNE
Naomh Olaf

5 Séamus Mac Cárthaigh
JAMES McCARTHY
Ballymun Kickhams

6 Eric Lowndes
ERIC LOWNDES
St. Peregrine's

7 Seán Ó Caoilte
JOHN SMALL
Ballymun Kickhams

8 Brian Ó Fiannachta
BRIAN FENTON
Raheny

9 Donncha Bastic
DENIS BASTICK
Templeogue Synge Street

10 Pól Mac Floinn
PAUL FLYNN
Fingallians

11 Pádraig Mac Aindriú
PADDY ANDREWS
St. Brigid's

12 Ciarán Mac Giolla Choinnigh
CIARÁN KILKENNY
Castleknock

13 Dean Mac Concharraige
DEAN ROCK
Ballymun Kickhams

14 Diarmuid Ó Conghaile
DIARMUID CONNOLLY
St. Vincent's

15 Bernard Ó Brógáin
BERNARD BROGAN
St. Oliver Plunkett's/Eoghan Ruadh

FIR IONAIÐ

16. Mícheál Sabhaois
MICHAEL SAVAGE
St Vincent's

17. Tomás Ó Brádaigh
TOMÁS BRADY
Na Fianna

18. Seán Mac Cárthaigh
SHANE CARTHY
Naomh Mearnóg

19. Seán Mac Cárthaigh
SHANE B. CARTHY
St Vincent's

20. Cormac Mac Coisdealbha
CORMAC COSTELLO
Whitehall Colmcille

21. Darren Ó Dálaigh
DARREN DALY
Fingal Ravens

22. Mícheál Mac Síomóin
MICHAEL FITZSIMONS
Cuala

23. Pól Ó Mainnín
PAUL MANNION
Kilmacud Crokes

24. Caoimhín Ó Briain
KEVIN O'BRIEN
Naomh Mearnóg

25. Eiméid Ó Conghaile
EMMET Ó CONGHAILE
Lucan Sarsfields

26. Cian Ó Súilleabháin
CIAN O'SULLIVAN
Kilmacud Crokes

W 11

Y=7

Half Time 0-6

ROGHNÓIRÍ

RORY GALLAGHER (BAINISTEOR),
Jack Cooney, Maxi Curran,
Brendan Kilcoyne



DÚN NA nGALL

1 Marc Antoine Mac Fhionnghaile
MARK ANTHONY MCGINLEY
Naomh Mícheál

2 Pádraig Mac Craith
PADDY McGRATH
Ard an Ratha

3 Néill Mac Aoidh
NEIL MCGEE
Gaoth Dobhair

4 Eamon Mac Aoidh
EAMON MCGEE
Gaoth Dobhair

5 Rian Mac Aodha
RYAN McHUGH
Cill Chartha

6 Carl de Léis
KARL LACEY
Na Ceithre Máistrí

7 Ciarán Mac Giolla Easpaig
CIARÁN GILLESPIE
Gaoth Dobhair

8 Ruairí Caomhánach
RORY KAVANAGH
Naomh Adhamhnáin

9 Odhrán Mac Niallais
ODHRÁN MAC NIALLAIS
Gaoth Dobhair

10 *18 Martin Reilly*
Marcas Mac Aodha
MARK McHUGH
Cill Chartha

11 Máirtín Mac Giolla Chainnigh
MARTIN McELHINNEY
Naomh Mícheál

12 Proinsias Mac Fhloinn
FRANK McGLYNN
Gleann Finne

13 Pádraig Mac Breartaigh
PATRICK McBREARTY
Cill Chartha

14 Mícheál Ó Murchú (C.)
MICHAEL MURPHY
Gleann Súilí

15 Leo Mac Giolla Úain
LEO McLOONE
Naomh Conaill

FIR IONAIÐ

16. Peadar Ó Baoill
PETER BOYLE
Aodh Ruadh BAS

17. Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh
EAMONN DOHERTY
Naomh Adhamhnáin

18. Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh
MARTIN O'REILLY
Seán MacCumhaill's

19. Críostóir Ó Tuathaigh
CHRISTY TOYE
Naomh Mícheál

20. Aodh Mac Phóidín
HUGH McFADDEN
Na Cealla Beaga

21. Eoghan Bán Ó Gallachóir
EOGHAN BÁN GALLAGHER
Na Cealla Beaga

22. Coilm Mac Phóidín
COLM McFADDEN
Naomh Mícheál

23. Stiofáin Mac Breartaigh
STEPHEN McBREARTY
Cill Chartha

24. Caolán Mac Congail
CAOLÁN MCGONAGLE
Bun Cranncha

25. Caolán Mac an Bháird
CAOLÁN WARD
Naomh Adhamhnáin

26. Mícheál Ó Cearrúil
MICHAEL CARROLL *Jack O'Dea*
Gaoth Dobhair

DUBLIN PATH TO THE SEMI-FINAL



January 30, Croke Park	Dublin	2-14	Kerry	0-14
February 6, Castlebar	Dublin	0-9	Mayo	0-7
February 27, Croke Park	Dublin	1-14	Monaghan	0-16
March 5, Croke Park	Dublin	2-14	Cork	2-10
March 12, Newry	Dublin	1-15	Down	1-7
March 26, Croke Park	Dublin	1-10	Donegal	0-7
April 3, Carrick-on-Shannon	Dublin	1-13	Roscommon	1-12
TOTAL SCORED 8-89	TOTAL CONCEDED 4-73			

SCORERS

Dean Rock 1-30, Cormac Costello 1-20,

Diarmuid Connolly 3-4, Paddy Andrews 1-8, Kevin McManamon 0-6, Philly McMahon 1-2, James McCarthy 1-1, Paul Flynn 0-3, Ciarán Kilkenny 0-3, Emmet Ó Conghaile 0-2, Shane Carthy (St Vincent's) 0-2, Tomás Brady 0-1, Paul Mannion 0-1, Denis Bastick 0-1, Bernard Brogan 0-1, Jonny Cooper 0-1, Brian Fenton 0-1, Conor McHugh 0-1, John Small 0-1.

DONEGAL PATH TO THE SEMI-FINAL



January 30, Newry	Donegal	3-15	Down	0-7
February 7, Ballyshannon	Donegal	2-14	Cork	1-7
February 28, Ballybofey	Donegal	1-14	Mayo	1-12
March 6, Tralee	Kerry	1-13	Donegal	1-8
March 13, Letterkenny	Roscommon	1-19	Donegal	0-17
March 26, Croke Park	Dublin	1-10	Donegal	0-7
April 3, Castleblayney	Monaghan	1-10	Donegal	1-9
TOTAL SCORED 8-84	TOTAL CONCEDED 6-78			

SCORERS

Michael Murphy 1-30, Patrick McBrearty 1-25,

Odhrán Mac Niallais 1-9, Ryan McHugh 2-3, Leo McLoone 1-2, Martin O'Reilly 1-1, Anthony Thompson 0-3, Martin McElhinney 1-0, Ciaran Thompson 0-2, Frank McGlynn 0-2, Rory Kavanagh 0-2, Eoin McHugh 0-2, Neil Gallagher 0-1, Christy Toye 0-1, Eamon McGee 0-1.

AN RÉITEOIR MAURICE DEEGAN, LAOIS (Dublin v Donegal)



Deegan's fourth outing of the 2016 Allianz League campaign takes the O'Moore County referee to Croke Park having previously taken charge of matches at Páirc Uí Rinn (Cork v Mayo), Kingspan Breffni Park (Cavan v Armagh) and Dr. Hyde Park (Roscommon v Mayo). He also took charge of the Division II decider last year (Roscommon v Down) and the Division I final in 2012 (Cork v Mayo). Although Cork's Conor Lane was in charge of the most recent clash of Dublin and Donegal last month, Deegan was the referee when the sides met in February last year at GAA Headquarters.

Allianz Football League Roinn I Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	DIFF	POINTS
DUBLIN	7	7	0	0	8-89	4-73	+28	14
KERRY	7	5	0	2	5-109	5-77	+32	10
ROSCOMMON	7	4	0	3	9-98	8-77	+24	8
DONEGAL	7	3	0	4	8-84	6-78	+12	6
MAYO	7	3	0	4	5-86	7-89	-9	6
MONAGHAN	7	3	0	4	6-83	7-91	-11	6
CORK	7	3	0	4	9-89	9-105	-16	6
DOWN	7	0	0	7	2-60	6-108	-60	0

LEAGUE MEETINGS 1990-2016

1989/90 MARCH 4, BALLYBOFEY

Donegal 1-10 Dublin 0-9

1990/91 OCTOBER 7, BALLYBOFEY

Donegal 2-11 Dublin 1-9

1991/92 APRIL 4, CAVAN (Q/F)

Dublin 3-6 Donegal 1-10

1992/93 MAY 2, CROKE PARK (F)

Dublin 0-9 Donegal 0-9

MAY 9, CROKE PARK (R)

Dublin 0-10 Donegal 0-6

1993/94 NOVEMBER 7, BALLYBOFEY

Donegal 0-11 Dublin 0-7

1994/95 NOVEMBER 13, CROKE PARK

Donegal 0-12 Dublin 1-8

1998/99 FEBRUARY 28, BALLYSHANNON

Donegal 1-8 Dublin 0-9

1999/00 MARCH 5, PARNELL PARK

Dublin 1-11 Donegal 0-11

2000/01 FEBRUARY 25, BALLYSHANNON

Dublin 0-11 Donegal 0-8

2002 FEBRUARY 10, PARNELL PARK

Dublin 2-10 Donegal 0-14

2003 FEBRUARY 9, BALLYSHANNON

Dublin 1-10 Donegal 0-9

2005 MARCH 20, PARNELL PARK

Dublin 1-11 Donegal 0-13

2007 FEBRUARY 25, BALLYBOFEY

Donegal 0-9 Dublin 0-5

2009 MARCH 8, BALLYSHANNON

Dublin 0-13 Donegal 1-8

2012 MARCH 24, CROKE PARK

Dublin 2-16 Donegal 0-13

2013 APRIL 7, BALLYBOFEY

Donegal 1-10 Dublin 0-13

2015 FEBRUARY 7, CROKE PARK

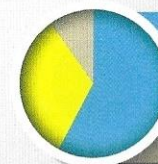
Dublin 2-10 Donegal 0-11

2016 MARCH 26, CROKE PARK

Dublin 1-10 Donegal 0-7

DUBLIN v DONEGAL

LEAGUE HEAD-TO-HEAD 1990-2016



Dublin Wins - 11

Donegal Wins - 6

Draws - 2



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2011 REVISITED:

DUBLIN ESCAPE FROM HELL WITH VICTORY

In his recent memoir *Until Victory Always*, Jim McGuinness described how he came up with his infamous plan to beat Dublin in the 2011 All-Ireland semi-final at a weekend training camp in Redcastle.

"We floated the idea of bringing every single player on the field into our half to try to lure them out," McGuinness wrote four years later. "We knew it would cause outrage. But we decided that we didn't care what anyone else thought."

When the ball was thrown in, every Donegal forward abandoned their position and sprinted back into their own half, forming a yellow wall and inviting Dublin to attack them. Dublin declined the invitation and 10 minutes passed without a score; 25 minutes had elapsed by the time Ryan Bradley kicked the opening score from play for Donegal.

Donegal led by 0-4 to 0-2 at the break and were 0-6 to 0-3 clear by the 44th minute when Colm McFadden kicked a free from a tight angle. When Dublin lost Diarmuid Connolly to a red card in the 57th minute, it looked like the game was up for Pat Gilroy's charges, but Bernard Brogan kicked a point from a free two minutes later and created the Dubs' first score from play for Kevin McManamon on the hour mark to level matters.

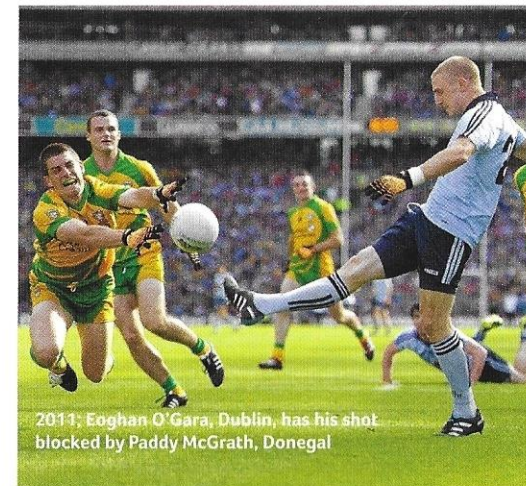
After their incredible defensive effort, Donegal simply had nothing left to give. Bryan Cullen and Brogan applied the daggers in the closing stages and Dublin staggered over the line, winning by 0-8 to 0-6, having kicked just two points from play in the entire game.

It was like nothing we had seen before; the reaction was unprecedented, too. "This was the game from Hell," Colm O'Rourke said on RTÉ afterwards. His colleague on the Sunday Game couch, Pat Spillane, went one step further: "There's people going to the Hague for war crimes, and some of the coaches nowadays should be going for crimes against Gaelic football."

Between them, Dublin and Donegal would win the next three All-Ireland titles. It may not have been memorable, but it was unforgettable.

Dublin Scorers: B Brogan 0-4 (0-4f), S Cluxton 0-2 (0-1f, 0-1 45), K McManamon 0-1, B Cullen 0-1.

Donegal Scorers: C McFadden 0-4 (0-2f), R Bradley 0-1, K Cassidy 0-1.



2011; Eoghan O'Gara, Dublin, has his shot blocked by Paddy McGrath, Donegal

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THE GAME OF NUMBERS

Average number of players used in group stages: 33.5

Average number of players used by semi-finalists 2013-15
 2013: 31 2014: 35 2015: 30

by Brian Murphy

For established top flight forces, the Allianz League offers managers an opportunity for experimentation, to use the seven group games to test the depth of the resources available to them and to survey the quality of talent coming through from underage teams.

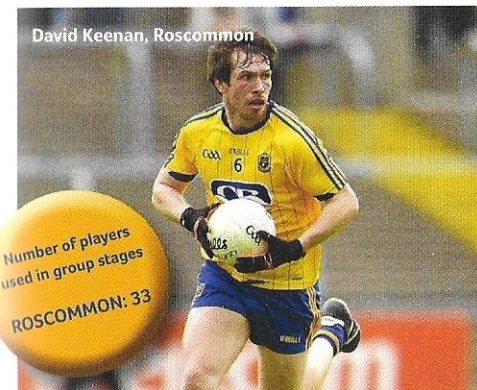
For Roscommon, who were negotiating unfamiliar terrain in the top tier with a new management team and a relatively young side this year, theirs was a unique set of circumstances which made the process of assessing options without jeopardising their competitiveness in a cut-throat environment a tricky one for joint managers Fergal O'Donnell and Kevin McStay to negotiate.

Overall, it was a feat they managed admirably. With a place in today's semi-finals all but assured, David Keenan, Donie Shine and Tom Corcoran were all handed seasonal debuts against Dublin last Sunday, bringing to 33 the number of players given game time in a campaign that yielded impressive wins over Kerry, Donegal and Cork.

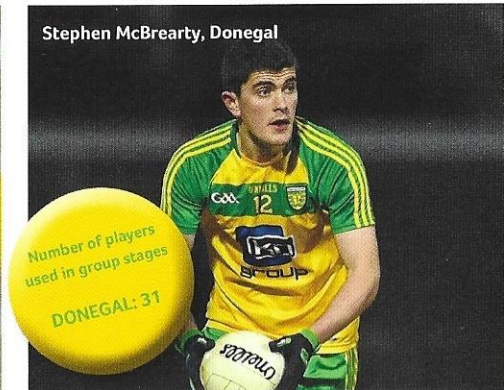
While the experimentation took place largely around the edges, the Rossies achieved those results by sticking with a knot of seven key players – Seán McDermott, Neil Collins, Niall McInerney, David Murray, Fintan Cregg, Ciarán Murtagh and Cathal Cregg – all of whom have started every game so far.

In his first campaign as Donegal manager last year, Rory Gallagher used 29 players over the course of the seven group games, although he did rely hugely on a core of 12 experienced players who had featured prominently under his predecessor, Jim McGuinness. After an impressive opening night win over Down, Gallagher acknowledged the need to invigorate the panel with some fresh legs and new blood.

“Since I got involved myself at the end of 2010, only really Ryan (McHugh) and Odhrán (Mac Niallais) have broken into the established fifteen,” the Fermanagh native said. “We are genuinely looking for another eight fellas from the underage teams coming through.”



David Keenan, Roscommon



Stephen McBrearty, Donegal

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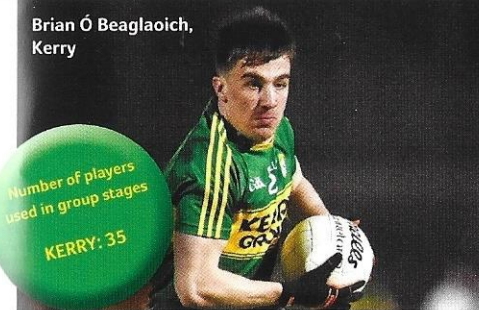
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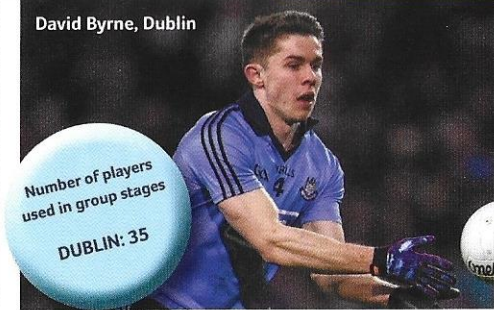
Brian Ó Beaglaoich,
Kerry

Number of players
used in group stages
KERRY: 35



David Byrne, Dublin

Number of players
used in group stages
DUBLIN: 35



With a group of talented young players that reached an All-Ireland minor final two years earlier at his disposal, Gallagher began the process against Down by giving game time to three of the side that lost to Kerry in Croke Park in 2014. Micheál Carroll, Stephen McBrearty and Caolán McGonagle featured in a comprehensive win in Newry, while fellow graduates of the 2014 minor side, Eoghan Bán Gallagher and Ciarán Gillespie debuted against Cork and Dublin respectively.

Between them, they made 12 appearances over the course of the campaign. By the time Donegal lost to Monaghan last Sunday, Gallagher had looked at 31 players in total, adding a back-up layer to a squad perceived by some to be too thin to withstand the rigours of All-Ireland assaults year on year.

While we are on the subject of that 2014 All-Ireland minor final (for the record, Kerry won by 0-17 to 1-10) it's worth seeing how many of the Kerry team that day graduated to the senior side this spring. Brian Ó Beaglaoich, full-back two years ago, started on opening night against Dublin in Croke Park and made one subsequent start, while Tom O'Sullivan and Barry O'Sullivan (both Dingle) have each made a substitute appearance.

While that may seem to be a paltry return from Kerry's first All-Ireland minor winning team in 20 years, the reality is that such is the competition for places in Kerry, if just one or two of that side break into the senior panel on a regular basis over the next few years, it will be considered a decent return.

The fact that Kerry manager Éamonn

Fitzmaurice used 35 players over the course of the group stages is evidence of just how stiff the competition is. Fitzmaurice was short a swathe of his more experienced players for the opening defeats to Dublin and Roscommon and cast his net widely, before the return of multi All-Ireland winners Marc Ó Sé, Kieran Donaghy, Bryan Sheehan and Colm Cooper in Round 3 against Down kick-started an impressive five-game winning run. Interestingly, Mark Griffin, Shane Enright, Paul Murphy, Donnchadh Walsh and Stephen O'Brien have started all seven games so far.

Inevitably, given their vast resources, Dublin and Kerry have used the most players so far this year, Jim Gavin also bringing to 35 the number he has looked at this spring when Eoghan O'Gara, Robert McDaid, Kevin O'Brien and Conor McHugh played in last Sunday's win over Monaghan, the first time since the 2008 restructure that a team has won all seven group games.

In the four Allianz League campaigns he has overseen, Gavin has been consistent in his overall selection policy: 35 (2013), 36 (2014), 36 (2015) and 35 (2016). However, the consistency of Dublin's performances and the depth of their resources is remarkable when you consider the extent to which Gavin has changed his side from game to game, with not one Dublin player starting all of their seven games.

David Byrne (Naomh Olaf) has been one of the big beneficiaries this spring, the 21-year-old starting the first six games in defence, while Michael Fitzsimons looks best placed to fill the gap left by Rory O'Carroll at full-back, starting five games at No. 3 and coming on as a sub against Cork and Donegal.

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CROKE PARK CELEBRATES 1916

1916
2016
Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain Centenary Programme

The GAA is calling on members from all of its clubs and members of the public to join us at Croke Park on Sunday, April 24 for the Association's national 1916 Commemorative Event.

The show, which will take place after the Division I and II Allianz Football League finals, will present the story of Ireland in a theatrical production that will include the best elements of Irish cultural entertainment.

It will highlight the role of Gaelic Games and the GAA in the story of Ireland from the earliest

days to the revolutionary period and right up to the present day.

The event has been produced in conjunction with Tyrone Productions and will be directed by Ruán Magan.

"This promises to be a very special event for Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. It is an opportunity for the wider membership of the Association to come together to acknowledge a day of national significance and we are pleased to host such an event at Croke Park," said Uachtarán CLG Aogán Ó Fearghail.



CROKE PARK SAFETY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

- 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.
- The management reserves the right of admission.
- The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
- All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
- Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
- The following are not permitted:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behavior constitutes a trespass to property.
 - Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
 - Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
 - Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
 - Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
 - 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 Gardaí, 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 313
Hogan Stand Level 3:	Section 333
Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 702
Davin/Cusack Stand Level 7:	Section 724
Dineen/Hill 16 Cusack Side:	Section A
Medical Centre:	Hogan Players Tunnel



Lost Children

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



Please play your part by co-operating with the Greener On and off the pitch initiatives at the Stadium and using the recycling stations provided. Please log onto www.crokepark.ie/about/sustainability for further information.



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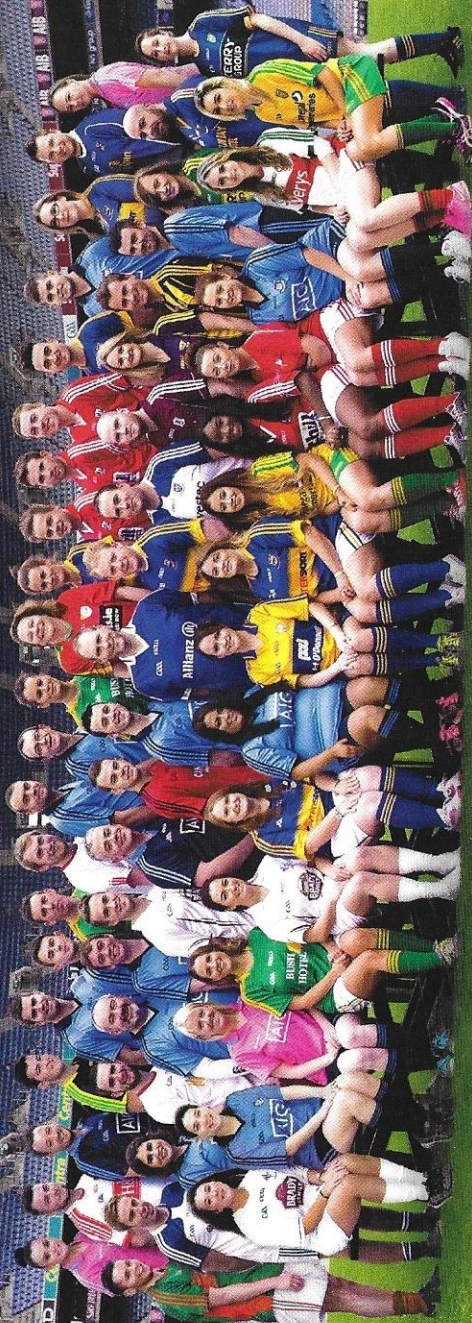
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Dismal Donegal blown away by blue whirlwind

Rampant Dublin extend unbeaten run to 21 games as latest masterclass exposes limitations of outdated blanket defence

MARTIN BREHENY



DUBLIN	1-20
DONEGAL	0-13

ALLIANZ NFL DIVISION 1 SEMI-FINAL

THIS was a historic occasion as possibly the last ever NFL semi-final but it can't lay any other claim to fame on a day when Dublin functioned with trademark efficiency and Donegal imploded.

It was certainly the last semi-final for the foreseeable future after the recent decision to grant the top two teams direct access to the final from next year on but that system applied between 2008 and 2011, only to be changed in 2012.

Yesterday's two semi-finals did nothing to support the case that the top four should be given a chance to win the Division 1 title as both the third and fourth-placed sides were beaten by 10 points.

Roscommon's suffering against Kerry wasn't a real surprise, given that they are still in the relatively early stages of development and not yet equipped to cope with such experienced opposition in Croke Park.

Donegal's demise was altogether different. They are one of the most battle-hardened outfits in the game, yet were ripped apart by opponents who looked as if they had plenty in reserve if the occasion demanded.

UNSUSTAINABLE

Donegal will try to shrug it off under the 'League isn't a priority' excuse but that's unsustainable this time. They got away with it after being hit for 4-11 by Cork in last year's League semi-final but the circumstances are altogether different now.

Their Ulster Championship opener against Tyrone was in mid-May last year, whereas their first outing this year (v Antrim or Fermanagh)

is scheduled for June 12, affording them plenty of time to streamline their preparations even if they reached the League final.

The reality of yesterday's game is one of Dublin posing a test for which Donegal had no answers to even the most basic questions. Jim Gavin's men didn't have to do anything special to establish a superiority that would have been far more marked on the scoreboard except for some desperate defending that prevented a few goals.

Bernard Brogan's 28th-minute drive for goal was blocked by Rory Kavanagh; Paul Mannion's shot drew an excellent save from Mark Anthony McGinley in the 44th minute and Johnny Small's goal-bound effort was diverted over the bar by Neil McGee a few minutes later.

Dublin's only goal came in the opening minute of the second half when Brogan finished expertly off a perfectly-weighted footpass by Philly McMahon. It underlined most emphatically that vision, supported by skill and accuracy, can crack the best defensive codes.

Ultra-tight security has been at the core of Donegal's game for the past five years but there are clear signs that it's beginning to disintegrate.

The manner in which McMahon was allowed to thread his pass through to Brogan was as surprising as the amount of space the ace finisher found as he bore down on the Donegal goal.

Donegal's policy of packing their defence and working off counter-attacks looks jaded now. Opponents have not only worked it out, they are actually feeding off it.

Hence no fewer than five Dublin defenders scored yesterday, happily showing their shooting skills while pursuing Donegal forwards who had funnelled back into their own half.

That play-book has seen its best days and while it might continue to take Donegal a certain distance in the Championship it won't help re-establish contact with Sam Maguire.

They might have been happy with

how it worked for the first half-hour yesterday, a period in which they restricted Dublin to a four-point lead (0-9 to 0-5) while playing against the strong wind. By half-time, Dublin were five points ahead (0-11 to 0-6).

They had to face the wind on the restart but that mattered little, once Brogan pounced for the early goal. Donegal enjoyed a productive spell midway through the half, scoring three quick points, but it wasn't long before Dublin regained control.

They outscored their increasingly frustrated opponents 0-5 to 0-2 in the last 15 minutes, by which stage the tempo had dropped to challenge game proportions.

DWINDLING

Donegal's woes were vividly illustrated by Michael Murphy's dwindling influence, best characterised by his inaccuracy. He kicked five wides in the second half, including a free from no more than 35 metres.

Donegal need Murphy to be on his game to have any chance against the better opposition but with James McCarthy ever-present by his side, the Donegal captain found it very difficult to make an impact.

Patrick McBrearty was the only Donegal forward to really test a Dublin defence where McCarthy and Cian O'Sullivan were consistently impressive. Brian Fenton did well at midfield while man-of-the-match Ciaran Kilkenny, Paul Flynn and Brogan caused serious problems for the Donegal defence. Mannion, Dean Rock and Paddy Andrews had their moments too.

All this without Kevin McManamon, Diarmuid Connolly or Eoghan O'Gara being on the match-day panel, which shows just how much attacking talent Gavin has at his disposal.

Dublin scored 1-20 yesterday without ever being on full throttle. They looked so comfortable in the second half that it must have been deeply disillusioning for Donegal, who had

MATCH STATISTICS

WIDES
Donegal 12 (5 first half)
Dublin 4 (3)



MAN OF THE MATCH

Ciaran Kilkenny (Dublin)

He was central to Dublin's early advances, operating

most effectively across the half-forward line. The Castleknock man kicked three points in the first half and maintained a high workrate in the second half.

TALKING POINT

What does Donegal's future hold? They can take no positives from this awful performance, which extended their losing run to five games.

MAGIC MOMENT

Precision and accuracy will unlock any defensive system. Philly McMahon's pass to Bernard Brogan just after half-time was in perfect, as was the strike to the Donegal net.

fares better in the group clash with Dublin two weeks earlier.

Ultimately, they came up six points short in that game but they kept it alive for much longer than they did yesterday.

It was very depressing for Donegal, who not only slumped to their fifth successive defeat but also looked like a side that had run out of ideas.

In contrast, Dublin were energetic and enterprising as they extended their unbeaten run in League and Championship to 21 games.

That's quite an achievement and with the prospect of becoming the first county since Kerry in 1971-74 to win four successive League titles now a real possibility, they will have added motivation in the final.

Quite simply, everything is going their way these days as they continue to build an empire which is likely to accumulate a whole lot more riches.

As for Donegal, this was the worst possible pre-Championship send-off they could have got. Indeed, they might have been better off to have missed the semi-final cut rather than be subjected to such a demoralising defeat.

SCORES - Dublin: D Rock 0-5 (3ts, 1'45), B Brogan 1-2, C Kilkenny 0-3, P Andrews, P Mannion 0-2 each, J McCarthy, P McMahon, J Small, C Costello, J Cooper, E Lowndes 0-1 each.
Donegal: P McBrearty 0-8 (5f), M Murphy 0-4 (4f), McElhinney 0-1.

DUBLIN - S Cluxton 7, P McMahon 7, J Cooper 7, D Byrne 7, J McCarthy 7, C O'Sullivan 8, J Small 7, B Fenton 8, D Bastick 7, P Flynn 8, D Rock 7, C Kilkenny 9, P Mannion 7, P Andrews 7, B Brogan 8. **Subs:** C Costello 6 for Andrews (45), E Lowndes 6 for Bastick (48), M Fitzsimons 6 for McMahon (52), Shane B Carthy 6 for Flynn (61), K O'Brien 6 for Cooper (61), Shane Carthy for O'Sullivan (66).

DONEGAL - MA McGinley 7, P McGrath 6, N McGee 6, E McGee 5, R McHugh 6, K Lacey 6, C Gillespie 6, R Kavanagh 6, O MacNiallais 5, M O'Reilly 5, M McElhinney 6, F McElhinn 5, P McBrearty 8, M Murphy 5, L McLoone 5. **Subs:** S McBrearty 5 for O'Reilly (14), C McGonagle 5 for MacNiallais (50), C McFadden 5 for McElhinney (52), E Gallagher for McLoone (67), C Toye for Kavanagh (67), J O'Brien for Gillespie (71).

REF - M Deegan (Laois)

ATTENDANCE

31,324

WHAT'S NEXT

Dublin play Kerry in the League final in Croke Park next Sunday week. Donegal's next outing will be against Antrim or Fermanagh in the Ulster quarter-final on June 12.