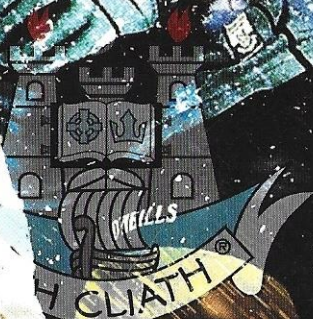


EirGrid GAA Football
U21 All-Ireland
Championship
Semi-Final

Páirc Breffni Kingspan, An Cabhán
Aibreán 15 2017



ÁTH CLIATH V DÚN NA nGALL



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EIRGRID GAA FOOTBALL U21 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

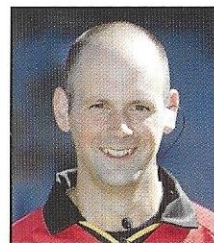
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ÁTH CLIATH v DÚN NA nGALL



An Réiteoir: James Bermingham (Corcaigh)
Linesmen: Pádraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha) (STANDBY REFEREE), Eamon O'Grady (Liatroim)
Sideline Official: Martin Conroy (Tír Eoghain)

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



An Réiteoir:

James
Bermingham
(Cork)

In his fourth year as a member of the inter-county panel, this will be the Leaside referee's first All-Ireland semi-final in the grade. Today the Bride Rovers clubman is having his first outing in the EirGrid U21 Championship since March 2015 when he took charge of Tipperary versus Clare. The 35-year-old had three outings this season in the Allianz League; at the Gaelic Grounds for Limerick and Westmeath; at Arklow for Wicklow and Wexford; and most recently at Dungarvan for the Limerick-Waterford tie. Bermingham's first assignment of the year was in the McGrath Cup for another Limerick-Waterford fixture at Lemybrien.



AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN

Sinne Fianna Fáil,
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua
Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn
Faoi mhóid bheith saor.

Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta
Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa
bhearna baoil
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun

báis nó saoil
Le gunna scréach faoi
lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig
Amhrán na bhFiann.



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MESSAGE FROM THE SPONSOR

A Chairde,

On behalf of all at EirGrid I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Breffni Park, Cavan for the meeting of two fantastic teams, Dublin and Donegal, in the EirGrid GAA Football U21 All-Ireland semi-final.

Over the course of the season, this competition has seen some great matches with immensely talented young players. The provincial deciders have provided the perfect example of how exciting this championship can be. This is just one of the many reasons that we at EirGrid are proud to support the EirGrid GAA Football U21 All-Ireland Championship.

Today's pairing of Dublin and Donegal epitomises all that is good in this championship. Both sets of players have shown tremendous levels of skill and commitment to date in reaching this stage of the competition. The two counties showed true character in both provincial finals. Dublin scooped the Leinster final for the fourth time-in-a-row and Donegal beat a hard working Derry side in the Ulster final making them champions for the first time since 2010.

2017 marks the third year of EirGrid's sponsorship of this competition and it is one we are immensely proud of. The level of talent we have seen in the competition so far has been tremendous and I have no doubt that today will be another special day on the pitch. At EirGrid we want to recognise and celebrate the talent in this competition and so this year we have introduced an EirGrid U21 Player of the Province Award.

At the end of the championship we will also recognise the 21 best players of the



competition through the EirGrid 21 U21s award programme. These players will be chosen by our ambassador, Tyrone's Seán Cavanagh, in conjunction with the Gaelic Writers' Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes this competition the success that it is; all in the GAA, the Leinster and Ulster councils, referees and officials, and particularly the team here in Kingspan Breffni Park who have the pitch and grounds in such good condition.

Equally, we want to thank each and every supporter here this afternoon, not only for coming along to cheer on the teams, but for the continuous support you give the players, be it as a family member, a friend, a club coach, or a team-mate, as they aim to reach the pinnacle of the U21 championship. Finally, I want to extend our very best wishes to both squads and management teams here today. It promises to be a memorable encounter.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Fintan Slye
CEO EirGrid

MIONÚIR AN LAE INNÉ

Le Mártaín Ó Ciardha

Bhíodh scéal sa timpeall fadó faoi thurasóir a cheannaigh pionta leanna sa tabhairne i gCiarraí agus nuair a bhí sé ag comhaireamh na soineála a bhí ina phóca maidin lá arna mháireach thug sé faoi deara go raibh bonn Chraobhe na hÉireann tugtha dó in áit píosa airgid – b'shin chomh fairsing is a boinn sa Ríocht!

An bailliú atá déanta cheana féin ag na peileadóirí atá ag seasamh an fhóid don chontae i gCraobh Peile Faoi 21 na bliana seo a chur an scéal sin i gcuimhne dom – is iad mionúir Chiarraí seaimpíní na hÉireann le trí bliana anuas agus bhí 17 bonn sa ngrád sin ag na peileadóirí a bhuaigh ar Chorcaigh i gCluiche Ceannais Faoi 21 na Mumhan ar Pháirc Uí Rinn cúpla seachtain ó shin agus dornán eile acu ag na hionadaithe. Ach. b'sin an chéad chraobh Faoi 21 Cúige ag Ciarraí ó 2008.

D'imir Brian Ó Beaglaóich i gCraobh Shinsireach na bliana seo caite in aghaidh an Chláir.

Tháinig Michael Daly na Gaillimhe ar an bpáirc Dé Domhnaigh seo caite ar ndóigh ina mbua ar Chill Dara i gCluiche Ceannais Shraithe Roinn 2 ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh agus tá taithí na sinsear freisin ag ógánach Mhaigh Cuilinn, Peadar Ó Cuaig.

Is ar fhoirne na Gaillimhe a bhuaigh Craobhacha Chonnacht 2015 & '16 agus a chuaigh chomh fada le Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann anuraidh atá an fhoireann faoi 21 seo bunaithe. Bhí Dessie Ó Conghaile ar an dá fhoireann agus na peileadóirí Gaeltachta, Rónán Ó Beoláin, Liam Ó Ceallaigh agus Colm Ó Braonáin ar fhoireann 2015.

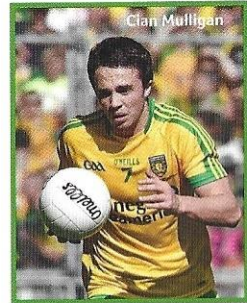
Tá Craobh Faoi 21 Laighean buaite ceithre huairte as a chéile ag Áth Cliath, éacht nár

déanadh riamh roimhe sa gcúige, rud a fhágann go bhfuil trí bhonn anois ag an gcosantóir Eoin Murchan as na Fianna.

Tá péire an duine ag na comh-chaptaein Con Ó Ceallacháin agus Cillín Ó Shea, mar atá ag Declan Monaghan agus ag beirt Ráth Éanaigh, Seán McMahon, agus Brian Howard.

Tar éis dóibhsan críochnú mar tháinistí i gCúige Uladh le trí bliana anuas, bhuaigh Dún nan Gall an chraobh ansiúd níos luaithe an tseachtain seo nuair a bhí farasbarr 13 cúilín acu ar Dhoire i gcluiche ceannais leataobhach.

Tá a mbainisteoir, Declan Bonner, ag múnlú na foirne seo ó bhí siad faoi bhun 16 bliain agus bhí an chuid is mó acu ag imirt nuair a bhaineadar Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann i ngrád na mionúr amach i 2014, nuair a bhuaigh Ciarraí orthu – an báireoir Danny Rogers, na cosantaóirí Eoghan Bán Gallagher, Tony McLeneghan, chomh maith le Micheál Caroll, Stephen McBrearty, Lorcán Connor, Ethan O'Donnell agus Cian Mulligan.



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FOUR COUNTIES DETERMINED TO MAKE THEIR MARK

By Fintan O'Toole

Having collected All-Ireland minor crowns for the last three years, there was no shortage of expectation surrounding the Kerry U21 footballers at the outset of 2017.

Jack O'Connor was fully aware of it. He's stockpiled enough experience to understand the demands placed on Kerry teams. Having steered Kerry himself to two of those minor triumphs, he had witnessed first hand the talent available.

"We were under a bit of pressure," admitted O'Connor, after their EirGrid Munster U21 final against Cork.

"Everybody's talking up this team but you still have to go out and perform."

Kerry had targeted that meeting with Cork from a long way out, figuring the draw would pan out in that fashion. Kerry did stumble at times against Clare and Cork were pushed to the wire by Limerick, but the Munster decider was a traditional pairing.

Kerry were ready and hit full speed in comparison to last year's reversal in Tralee. A 16-point win was a perfect expression of the talent in this team.

Twenty of the 21 players they used that night in Páirc Uí Rinn have All-Ireland minor medals and seven have tasted Hogan Cup glory. The only player to miss out on those minor glories was towering full-forward Matthew O'Sullivan and after being hindered by injury woes, his haul of 1-1 against Cork indicated his capabilities.

It doesn't always work out neatly that minor and U21 victories correlate, like last year's U21 kingpins Mayo achieved following on from their 2013 minor win. But that hasn't doused the anticipation that this Kerry team will be a major challenger.

They've reached the All-Ireland series today yet find themselves sharing a stage with three other counties who will not lack ambition.

It's only seven months since Galway suffered at the hands of Kerry in an All-Ireland arena. There's been a couple of players who have graduated rapidly from that minor game. Kerry's dynamic centre-forward Seán O'Shea was the winning captain, Galway's sharpshooter in attack Robert Finnerty was on the losing end last September.

Galway have journeyed the long route in Connacht to reach this point. They were tested by Leitrim, hit the heights to take out the reigning champions Mayo and then survived an extra-time examination against Sligo.

They have a wing-back in Cillian McDaid who is in superb form and a midfield lynchpin in Michael Daly, sprung from the bench by Kevin Walsh for the senior side last Sunday to sweep over two points in the Allianz League Division 2 final.

Galway's team may not have the serial minor winners of Kerry but have built up enough momentum to be in a buoyant mood going out today. Toppling Mayo will place Jack O'Connor on his guard, as he pointed out last weekend

his belief that Mayo would be a major force after the sides played a challenge game earlier this year.

Similar to Kerry, the Donegal camp have had plenty of hope invested in them before this championship commenced. Since a team powered by Michael Murphy came out of the province in 2010, Donegal U21 sides have found only hardship and disappointment in Ulster.

In the 2013 and 2014 finals they came up short against Cavan, while Tyrone edged them out by a point in the 2015 decider. This spring has been different. Donegal have had to deal with a fixture pile-up as their quarter-final went to a replay and their semi-final was postponed.

But after getting the job done at the second attempt against Tyrone, they have looked powerful and ruthless. Cavan in last Wednesday week's semi-final and Derry in last Monday night's final were both dispatched on a 3-17 to 0-13 scoreline. They possess an array of players who can cut open defences like Lorcan Connors, Michael Langan, Michael Carroll and Jamie Brennan.

Donegal lost to Kerry in the corresponding minor decider in 2014 and are backboned by players nursing the hurt of that game.

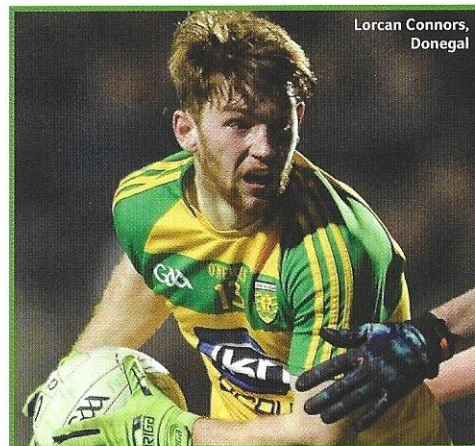
A couple of products of last year's side that reached the All-Ireland minor semi-final have bolstered their challenge further.

If Donegal have found emerging from their province tricky, for their opponents today, the difficulty has been getting past this semi-final hurdle over the last two years. Dessie Farrell saw a star-studded Dublin team anchored by Jack McCaffrey, Paul Mannion and Cormac Costello rout Roscommon in an U21 final in 2014.

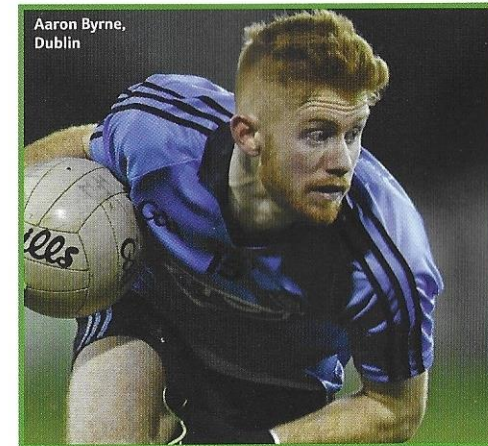
Since then Dublin have maintained their high standards in Leinster, completing an U21 four-in-a-row last month when they stormed past Offaly. But All-Ireland semi-finals have been troublesome, Tipperary and Mayo edging them the last two years.

Eleven players who saw game time last April in Tullamore when Dublin were knocked by a late Conor Loftus point for Mayo, are still involved this spring. Using Leinster as a springboard will be their goal and they possess a pair of exceptional forwards in Con O'Callaghan and Aaron Byrne that could enable them to achieve that.

Four counties set then for two semi-finals in the last U21 football championship. There'll be plenty determined to make their mark in Ennis and Cavan today.



Lorcan Connors,
Donegal



Aaron Byrne,
Dublin



ÁTH CLIATH

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Dessie Farrell (Bainisteoir)
Mick Galvin
Philip McElwee
Alan McNally

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Declan Bonner (Bainisteoir)
Anthony McGrath, Gary Boyle,
Cristeoir Ó Broin, Pat Shovlin,
Michael McGrath

DÚN NA nGALL



1 **Evan Mac Cumascaigh**
EVAN COMERFORD
Ballymun Kickhams

2 **Darren Ó Broin**
DARREN BYRNE
Raheny

3 **Cillian Ó Sé (JC)**
CILLIAN O'SHEA
Kilmacud Crokes

4 **Eoin Ó Murcháin**
EOIN MURCHAN
Na Fianna

5 **Déaglán Ó Manacháin**
DECLAN MONAGHAN
Clontarf

6 **Seán Mac Mathúna**
SEÁN McMAHON
Raheny

7 **Cian Ó Murchú**
CIAN MURPHY
Thomas Davis

8 **Aindriú Ó Foghlú**
ANDREW FOLEY
Clontarf

9 **Tomás Ó Sionnaigh**
TOM FOX
Kilmacud Crokes

10 **Glenn Ó Raghallaigh**
GLENN O'REILLY
Na Fianna

11 **Aaron Ó Broin**
AARON BYRNE
Na Fianna

12 **Brian Ó hIomhair**
BRIAN HOWARD
Raheny

13 **Críostóir Sallier**
CHRIS SALLIER
Thomas Davis

14 **Conn Ó Ceallacháin (JC)**
CON O'CALLAGHAN
Cuala

15 **Dónall Ó Briain**
DAN O'BRIEN
Kilmacud Crokes

17. **Seán de Cléatún**
SHANE CLAYTON
Ballyboden St Enda's

18. **Stiofán Mac Gabhann**
STEPHEN SMITH
Skerries Harps

19. **Darren Ó Gáibhín**
DARREN GAVIN
Lucan Sarsfields

20. **Aaron Mac Uileagóid**
AARON ELLIOT
Ballymun Kickhams

21. **Aindriú Mac Gabhann**
ANDREW MCGOWAN
Kilmacud Crokes

22. **Colm Basquel**
COLM BASQUEL
Ballyboden St. Enda's

23. **Beircheart Ó Seibhleáin**
BEN SHOVLIN
Kilmacud Crokes

24. **Darragh Ó Spealáin**
DARRAGH SPILLANE
Cuala

FIR IONAID

16. **Evan Ó Faoláin**
EVAN WHELAN
Trinity Gaels

FIR IONAID

16. **Pádraig Ó Broin**
PADDY BYRNE
Naomh Columba

1 **Dónal Mac Ruairí**
DANNY RODGERS
An Clochán Liath

2 **Conchúr Ó Muircheasáin**
CONOR MORRISON
Naomh Adhamhnáin

5 **Dáire Ó Baoill**
DÁIRE Ó BAOILL
Gaoth Dobhair

8 **Mícheál Ó Cearrbhail**
MICHAEL CARROLL
Gaoth Dobhair

10 **Seimí Ó Braonáin**
JAMIE BRENNAN
Bun Dobhain

13 **Lorcán Ó Conchúir**
LORCAN CONNORS
Na Dunaibh

3 **Ciarán Mac Giolla Easpaig**
CIARAN GILLESPIE
Gaoth Dobhair

6 **Antoin Mac Leannacháin (JC)**
TONY McCLENAGHAN
Bun a Phobail

9 **Mícheál Ó Langáin**
MICHAEL LANGAN
Naomh Mícheál

11 **Niall Ó Domhnaill**
NIALL O'DONNELL
Naomh Adhamhnáin

14 **Cian Ó Maolagáin**
CIAN MULLIGAN
Gaoth Dobhair

17. **Dónall Mac Maonghail**
DANNY MONAGLE
Carn Domhnaigh

18. **Stionfán Mac Breartaigh**
STEPHEN McBREARTY
Cill Chartha

19. **Stionfán Mac Meanman**
STEPHEN McMENAMIN
Aodh Rua, Cúl na gCuirridín

20. **Críostóir Mac Lochlainn**
CHRISTY McLAUGHLIN
Malainn

4 **Eoghan Bán Ó Gallchoir (JC)**
EOGHAN BÁN GALLAGHER
Na Cealla Beaga

7 **Breandán Mac Comhail**
BRENDAN McCOLE
Naomh Náille

12 **Ethan Ó Domhnaill**
ETHAN O'DONNELL
Naomh Conaill

15 **Caolan Mac Congail**
CAOLAN MCGONIGLE
Bun Crannacha

21. **Niall Ó Fríil**
NIALL FRIEL
Gaoth Dobhair

22. **Christian Ó Cnáimhsí**
CHRISTIAN BONNER
Na Rossa

23. **Rúairí Mac Giolla Cheara**
RORY CARR
Naomh Adhamhnáin

24. **Adam Mac an Fhíle**
ADAM NEELY
An Clochán Liath

UNDER 21 FOOTBALL BOWS OUT AT THE TOP

By Arthur Sullivan

Farewell then, U21 inter-county football. Not everyone in attendance at Kingspan Breffni Park and Cusack Park will realise they are very much watching the end of an era but today's EirGrid GAA Football All-Ireland U21 Championship semi-finals will be the third and second last games played at the grade before it fades into memory.

The passing of Motion 5 at the GAA's Annual Congress in Carlow last year spelled the end for this competition, which will be replaced from the 2018 season on by an U20 All-Ireland Championship with drastically different parameters to the competition that many GAA supporters have known and loved for the past 54 seasons.

There will still be U21 club football, U21 ladies football and U21 hurling at all levels, but the understandable desire on the part of the GAA to introduce meaningful reform that would specifically combat the overloading of elite level football players in the 18-21 age bracket meant this competition came into the firing line.

More significant than the actual age-range change are the new rules which will govern the U20 grade. First of all, the competition will take place from June to August and not the traditional February to April. Most significant of all is the rule that any player named on a senior team list for a senior championship game will be ineligible to participate in the U20 championship. That change above all others means that we are truly approaching the end of an era because

up until now, in many inter-county set-ups, there has been a strong connection between the county senior and U21 panels.

Last year's debate was a lively one, with GAA Ard Stiúrthóir Páraic Duffy arguing passionately in favour of change. The motion passed narrowly, just about gaining the necessary two-thirds majority with 68.6 per cent of the vote. Its successful passage, along with the similar minded motion to change the minor grade to an U17 grade, led to a palpable 'buzz' in the room. Change was in the air.

It's interesting then to look back to the Annual Congress that introduced U21 football and hurling back on Easter Sunday (April 14), 1963 – 54 years to the weekend. On the eve of the Congress, Peadar O'Brien surmised in the *Irish Press*: "Tomorrow's GAA Congress at the Gresham Hotel, Dublin could be one of the quietest ever."

The motion that proposed the U21 grade got little attention in the newspapers in the build-up or the aftermath – the delegates were reportedly more animated by the fact that the replayed Railway Cup hurling final between Munster and Leinster was due to be played around the corner from the Gresham, at Croke Park, at 5pm rather than anything on the Congress Clár. "Fortunately for hurling lovers, there was nothing of a contentious nature in the 40 motions and the agenda was completed at 4.50," says the report of the proceedings in the *Irish Independent*.

There is something strangely fitting and apposite about the fact that on the day the U21 grade was introduced, of far more interest to the delegates that had just introduced it was a Railway Cup match.

For many decades now, U21 football has commanded infinitely more importance and attention in the GAA world than the Railway Cup – how many of the Gresham delegates could have believed such a thing possible back then? An indicator perhaps that it may not be possible to appreciate and recognise the true significance of a change such as the one upon us until many years down the line.

Like it was in April 1963 with the fledgling U21 competition, we don't know how successful the U20 format will be. That all remains to be seen. Certainly though, we can reflect on that 1963 decision as a largely unqualified success. The All-Ireland U21 Football Championship developed into one of the most popular and exciting competitions on the calendar. Indeed, its essential characteristics – midweek, floodlit football, four provincial champions advancing to the All-Ireland semi-finals, a generally open and competitive nature – meant it retained considerable affection with the viewing public while the senior grade took something of a PR battering in recent years.

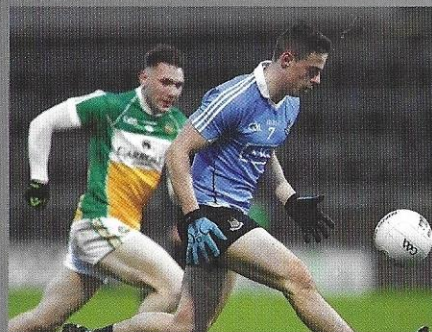
With that in mind, the denouement of this year's competition is an entirely fitting one. It's difficult to recall a more thrilling and deserving semi-final quartet than Donegal, Dublin, Galway and Kerry, the four sides who do battle in Cavan and Ennis this afternoon.

All four counties have produced minor players of extraordinary quality over the past three years and they were all dominant and deserving champions in their provinces this year. A curious thought perhaps – and today's games will make or break the point – but it's as if the U21 competition is burning brightest just before it fades out altogether. Perhaps that's the precise reason why its time has come. It is now so high in quality that it has served its essential purpose, as envisaged in 1963 – player development.

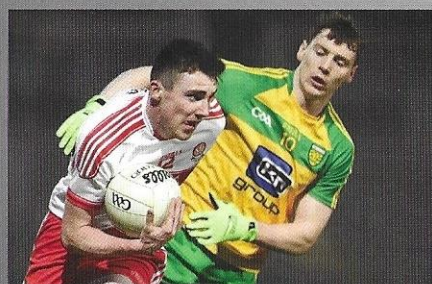


U21 FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD 2017

	Westmeath	2-8	0-12	Meath
	Wexford	1-18	0-8	Carlow
	Louth	1-13	0-9	Wicklow
	Dublin	2-14	0-6	Westmeath
	Longford	2-6	0-10	Kildare
	Offaly	1-6	0-6	Wexford
	Laois	2-13	1-8	Louth
	Offaly	2-9	2-8	Laois
	Dublin	2-10	0-9	Longford
	FINAL Dublin	2-14	0-8	Offaly



	Monaghan	2-14	0-16	Antrim
	Cavan	2-19	0-4	Fermanagh
	Derry	3-10	1-11	Monaghan
	Armagh	2-13	0-12	Down
	Tyrone	0-14	0-14	Donegal
	Donegal	0-18	1-9	Tyrone (replay)
	Derry	0-21	1-15	Armagh
	Donegal	3-17	0-13	Cavan
	FINAL Donegal	3-17	0-13	Derry



	Kerry	1-17	2-8	Clare
	Limerick	0-16	0-14	Tipperary
	Cork	2-10	0-10	Limerick
	Kerry	1-18	0-7	Waterford
	FINAL Kerry	2-16	0-6	Cork



	Galway	4-10	2-12	Leitrim
	Sligo	1-13	0-13	Roscommon
	Galway	2-13	1-10	Mayo
	FINAL Galway	3-20	2-14	Sligo



ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS 2000-2016

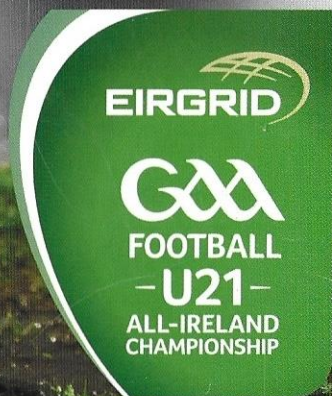
2000	Portlaoise				
	Limerick	1-8	1-6	Westmeath	
2001	Carrick-on-Shannon				
	Tyrone	1-10	0-6	Galway	
2002	Longford				
	Mayo	0-11	0-7	Meath	
2003	Parnell Park				
	Tyrone	0-14	1-2	Cork	
2004	Cavan				
	Dublin	1-13	1-9	Tyrone	
2005	Ennis				
	Galway	0-17	2-6	Kerry	
2006	Sligo				
	Tyrone	1-9	0-9	Mayo	
2007	Thurles				
	Dublin	3-10	1-7	Waterford	
2008	Salthill				
	Armagh	1-19	2-10	Cork	
2009	Mayo	1-13	1-7	Kildare	
	Limerick				
2010	Galway	0-17	1-11	Cork	
	Navan				
2011	Down	2-7	0-9	Dublin	
	Cavan				
2012	Mayo	1-12	0-14	Tyrone	
	Limerick				
2013	Cork	2-13	2-13	Laois	
	Limerick				
2014	Cork	1-7	0-8	Laois	
	Roscommon				
2015	Portlaoise				
	Cork	0-13	0-12	Armagh	
2016	Nenagh				
	Kerry	1-9	1-7	Mayo	
2017	Navan				
	Kildare	1-10	0-10	Down	

Extra panel members not included on teamsheet:

Donegal -
Ciaran Gibbons, Cieran Diver, Colm Kelly,
Conor Doherty, Daniel Clarke, Daniel Gallagher,
Gavin Mc Bride, Jason Mc Gee, Mark Coyle,
Michael Lynch, Naoise O Baoill

The future is bright. We all have a part to play.

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Dublin and Tribesmen provide shocks

SEAN
McGOLDRICK

Dublin 1-13

Donegal 0-9

BREFFNI PARK

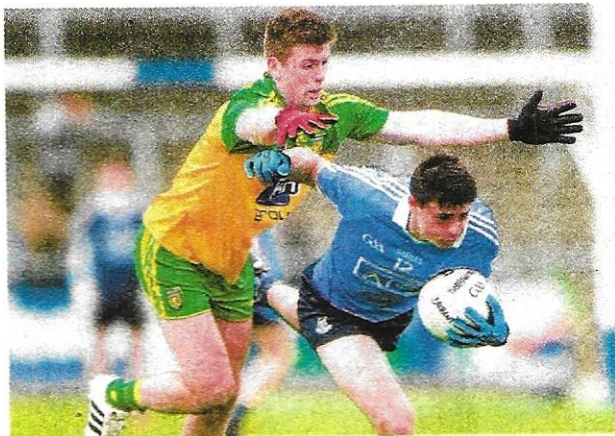
DESPITE having their star performer Con O'Callaghan blacked-carded after just four minutes, Dublin comfortably overcame the challenge of Donegal to secure a place in the All-Ireland U21 final in front of 2,422 fans at Kingspan Breffni Park.

Perhaps Donegal's grueling schedule finally caught up with them; the Ulster final was only played last Monday night while five of the team featured regularly for Donegal in the recent Allianz League.

There was a sense of irony in the fact that Donegal fell victim to a game plan which was originally road-tested by Jim McGuinness when the two counties clashed in the 2010 All-Ireland U-21 final.

Ultimately, Dublin's 13-man massed defence was far more effective than Donegal's version while there was much more purpose and method to the Dubs' counter-attacks, which repeatedly found gaps to exploit.

Apart from a brief spell early in the second half, Donegal looked lethargic. It was scarcely credible that a team which had hit 3-17



Dublin's Brian Howard in action against Eoghan Bán Gallagher of Donegal

in each of their previous two games only managed six points in normal time.

With Dublin centre forward Aaron Byrne a constant thorn in the Donegal rearguard, Dessie Farrell's charges led 0-5 to 0-1 with five minutes left in the first half. And though Donegal narrowed the gap to a point early in the second half, that was as good as it got for Declan Bonner's side.

Dublin were already on their way to the final when centre back Sean McMahon hit a smashing goal eight minutes from the end after Darragh Spillane — son of former Kerry star Mick Spillane — and Cian Murphy created the chance.

One wonders at times do team managers at this level take themselves too seriously or are they merely trying to confuse everyone.

There were four changes in personnel on the Donegal

team — but only three players lined out in the positions they were named in, while two players featured who weren't mentioned in the official programme.

Nine of the Dublin team lined out in the positions they were listed in. They made two pre-match changes in personnel but only one of them was announced; and one of their substitutes, who was introduced and subsequently black-carded in the final minute, was incorrectly named in the programme.

Scorers — Dublin: A Byrne 0-4 (2f); S McMahon 1-0; C Murphy, G O'Reilly, C Sallier 0-2 each; C O'Callaghan (f), D Byrne, A McGowan 0-1 each; Donegal: M Langan 0-4 (2f); N O'Donnell 0-2; S McBrearty, M Carroll, E O'Donnell 0-1 each. Dublin: E Comerford; D Byrne, C O'Shea, E Murchan; C O'Callaghan, S McMahon, C Murphy; A Foley, B Howard; T Fox, A Byrne, G O'Reilly; D Gavin, C Basquel, D O'Brien. Subs: C Sallier for O'Callaghan (BC, 5); A Elliott for Foley (22), D Spillane for Fox (38);

A McGowan for O'Reilly (48); T O'Sullivan for Sallier (57); S Clayton for Basquel (61). Donegal: D Rodgers; B Cole, S McMenamin, C Morrison; D O Baoill, C Mulligan, E Gallagher; J McGee, T McClenaghan; S McBrearty, M Coyle, M Carroll; J Brennan, L Connor, M Langan. Subs: C Doherty for Coyle (16); N O'Donnell for McBrearty (24); E O'Donnell for Connor (38); R Carr for Mulligan (43); C McGonigle for McClenaghan (52) S McBrearty for O Baoill (56). Referee: J Bermingham (Cork)

Galway 2-14

Kerry 2-10

CUSACK PARK

MIDFIELDER Peter Cooke led the way as Galway outclassed Kerry to book a final date with Dublin. The Tribesmen built on a superb start to dispatch the red-hot favourites and while Kerry rallied in the second-half, they were unable to deny an impressive Galway team.

Scorers — Galway: P Cooke 0-5 (3f); C Brady, D Conneely 1-0 each; S Kelly, M Daly 0-2 each; K Molloy, C McDaid, C D'Arcy, R Finnerty, P Mannion 0-1 each. Kerry: K Spillane 0-4 (3f); M O'Sullivan, J Kiely 1-0 each; S Ryan (2f), M Flaherty 0-2 each; C Geaney (f), S O'Shea (f) 0-1 each.

Galway: R O Beolain; L Kelly, S O Ceallaigh, R Greene; K Molloy, D McHugh, C McDaid; P Cooke, C D'Arcy; S Kelly, M Daly, P Mannion; R Finnerty, E Finnerty, D Conneely. Subs: C Brady for Mannion (41), M Boyle for R Finnerty (54), C Brennan for D'Arcy (56), E Lee for McDaid (60).

Kerry: S Ryan; TL O'Sullivan, J Foley, T O'Sullivan; B O Beaglaioich, B O Seanachain, G White; A Barry, B O'Sullivan; B Barrett, S O'Shea, M Flaherty; K Spillane, M O'Sullivan, C Geaney. Subs: M Burns for Barrett (29), R O Se for O Seanachain (41), J Kiely for S O'Shea (45), J Morgan for White (55), D O'Brien for O Beaglaioich (60). Referee: B Cawley (Kildare).