

ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Dún na nGall v Gaillimh



Dún na nGall v Doire

DÚN NA NGALL



Sunday 4th February 2018

O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny

Hurling at 12:30pm • Football at 2:30pm



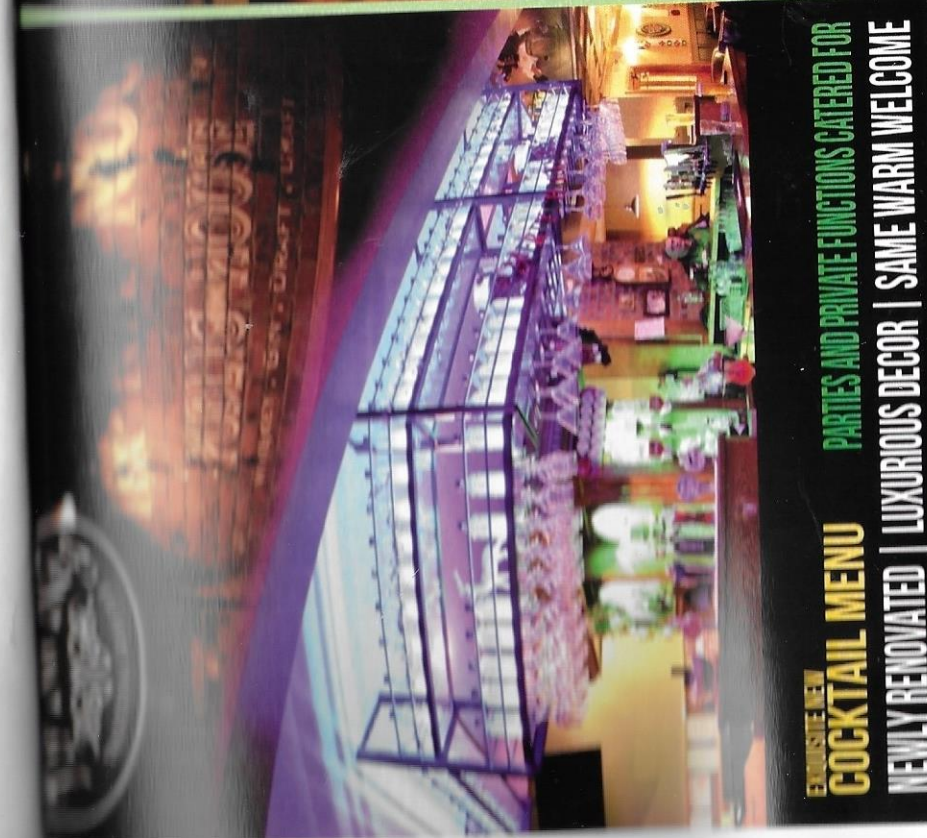
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Mar chathaoirleach úr de CLG i nDún na nGall fearaim fáilte mór uí Cheallaigh roimh achán duine go Páirc uí Dhomhnaill i Leitir Ceanainn. Mòlaim arís an lucht oibre go leir i gclub Naomh Adhamhnaín a doibrigh go dian chun ár gcead cluiche sa bhallé den Seasúr a chur i lathair anseo inniú.

A new year brings new management and many new additions to the Donegal playing panel. In what is a very competitive Div. 1, we welcome all the travelling personnel from Galway here today. Our last meeting was a heavy defeat for us in Sligo, and we hope we can compete somewhat closer and more intense today. Likewise, I welcome the hurlers from Derry, and I'm sure you will all join with me in wishing our Football manager Declán Bonner and our Hurling manager Micky McCann a fruitful 2018 on the field of play in both the National Leagues and our forthcoming championships. We extend a warm welcome to the travelling supporters from Galway and Derry to Letterkenny today as well.

Please show your appreciation to all our underage players in their few moments of excitement and display between our County games today.

On behalf of all our GAA family in Donegal I wish our sincere condolences to the Mc Dermott family on the tragic and sad news of the loss of Noel last weekend. Noel was a tremendous member of the local St Eunan's Club who host today's game and was always involved since boyhood in its workings on and off the field.

May He Rest In Peace.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuiochas a ghabháil ar ár lucht tacaíochta go leir i gCiarraí an tseachtain seo caite agus arís an seo inniu. Iarraim oraibh uilig bhur dtacaíocht a thabhairt don ár bhfoireann óg nua.

Micheál MacCraith

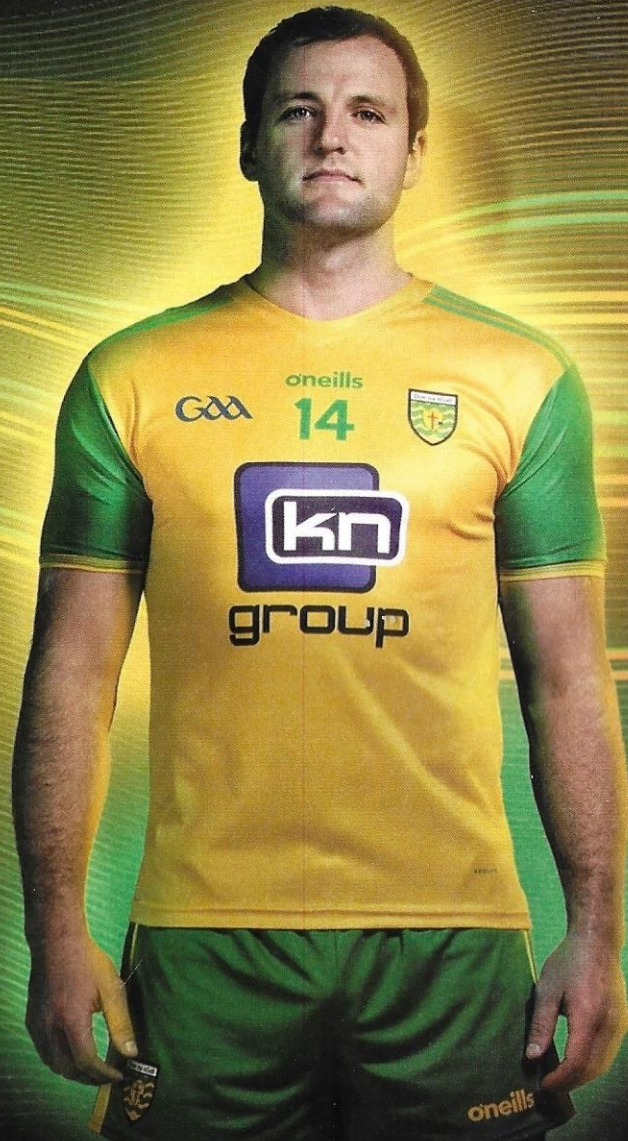
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Tá lúcháir orainn agus ar mhuintir Leitir Ceanainn go bhfuil cluiche mór mar seo sa pháirc inniu. Tá fáilte speisialta roimh fhoireann na Gaillimhe, a n-oifigigh agus a lucht leanúna. Cuireann muid fáilte fosta roimh fhoireann Iománaíochta Dhoire agus a lucht leanúna.

Tá a lán oibre déanta ag oifigigh an chlub ag ullmhú don lá inniu agus tá súil againn go mbeidh gach duine sásta le himeachtaí an lae.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a thabhairt do oifigigh CLG Dhún na nGall ar son cead a thabhairt dúinn

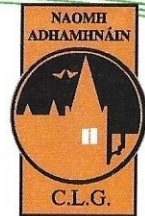
Buíochas:

Today's Match Programme produced and edited by Paul McGovern (PRO, Naomh Adhamhnáin).

GRMA to all those that have contributed to the match programme: Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat); Charlie Collins, Alan Foley and Chris McNulty (Donegal Sport Hub); Ryan Ferry (Donegal News); Fr. Seán; Cathal Mac Grianna Cathaoirleach, Naomh Adhamhnáin; Fergus Mac Aoidh; Oifigeach na Gaeilge; Paddy Flood; Christy Gillespie; CLG Naomh Columba & CLG Cill Chartha; Seamus Finnerty (OCR, Gaillimh); Conor Nicholl (OCR Dhoire); Billy Eoss (Tuam Herald); Michael McMullan (Derry Post) and Donegal County PRO, Ed Byrne. Thank you also to all our sponsors and advertisers, who make this publication possible.

Special thanks to the staff at Donegal Printing for all their help and work putting together today's programme and to Geraldine Diver as always for her great photographs.

Amhrán na bhFiann will be sung by Catriona MacIntyre. Catriona has represented Naomh Adhamhnáin in Scór Síneair for several years winning numerous county titles.



an cluiche mór seo a bheith againn i bpáirc Uí Dhónaill. Fáilte speisialta roimh Mhícheál Mac Craith an Cathaoirleach nua-thofa CLG Dhún na nGall. Buíochas fosta do na Gardaí Síochána agus do na seirbhísí otharchairr.

D'oibrigh Pól Mac Samhráin, Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí an chlub go dícheallach ag eagrú an leabhar seo. Beidh Feargus Mac Aoidh Oifigeach na Gaeilge CLG Naomh Adhamhnáin i mbun cúrsaí cumarsáide inniu.

Ádh mór oraibh uilig.

Cathal Mac Grianna,
Cathaoirleach
CLG Naomh Adhamhnáin

Noel McDermott – A Tribute

Last weekend, we lost one of the great unsung heroes of our club and the GAA when Noel McDermott lost his life aged just 43 in a tragic accident whilst out pursuing his other hobby, cycling.



Noel was a valued member of our club, St. Eunan's and also Errigal Cycling Club. On days like today you wouldn't see Noel watching the match – he'd be too busy in the car park here in O'Donnell Park directing cars to an open parking spot, keeping the traffic flowing and making sure no-one was blocked in and then keeping an eye on things for patrons who were here for the match – away from the limelight – not here to be seen to be here, but here to help. Just three years ago he was a very deserving and popular recipient of our Club Person of the Year award. Quiet and unassuming but reliable and always on hand, travelling up from his beloved adopted home in Brinlack for home games, bib on, out to the car park. Noel was a gentleman in every sense of the word – one of those people that no-one has a bad word on, himself and his brother Brian "Barney" as good club men as you would ever hope to find.

So, it is with heavy hearts we said a sad farewell to Noel this week. His loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him and is immeasurable to his wife Afric and their three beautiful children Hannah, Aibhinn and Neil and their wider circle of family and friends. Gone too soon.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

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2017 All-Ireland Football Qualifier Rd. 4 Donegal Well Beaten by Galway Donegal 0-14 Galway 4-17



DONEGAL'S 2017 season ended in humiliation at Markievicz Park as they were trounced by Galway in Round 4 of the qualifiers.

Rory Gallagher's team started reasonably well but a second quarter collapse killed their chances when they were outscored by 3-5 to 0-2. Kamikaze defending, and a midfield malfunction left Donegal trailing by eleven points at the break. Gallagher made changes to try and turn things around, but that ultimately did more harm than good, as he used up his permitted substitutions by the 42nd minute.

Donegal would then lose Michael Murphy and Martin McElhinney to black cards and couldn't replace them. At that stage, it looked like things couldn't get any worse for 13-man Donegal, but there was still time for their best player on the day – Patrick McBrearty – to miss a penalty. Galway had a man sent off themselves in the 54th minute, but they coasted to victory, and wrapped up the most convincing of victories in injury-time when Danny Cummins fired to the net.

A large crowd arrived at the Sligo venue for 7pm, but the throw-in was delayed as the Cork-Mayo match went to extra-time and Sky Sports dictated that the game in Sligo be pushed back by 15 minutes.

Galway came into the encounter on the back of a disappointing result in the Connacht final against Roscommon.

However, they showed no ill-effects of that loss in Sligo, as they registered the first two scores from a Sean Armstrong free, and a fine point from Shane Walsh. Donegal soon got on the scoreboard through two Michael Murphy frees, but Galway were sharp and Armstrong helped himself to a point from play and a free. It was a good even contest at that stage and McBrearty fisted over, before Murphy scored a fine free. McBrearty nudged Donegal in front with a lovely point in the 16th minute, but that was as good as it got for Donegal....

Two minutes later, Armstrong beat Kieran Gillespie down the line, and fed Ian Burke, who squared the ball to Heaney to palm home. Heaney added a point to Galway's tally, before McBrearty felt he should have been awarded a point, but the umpire signalled a wide after a moment's hesitation. The Tribesmen moved down the field quickly and Murphy reacted quickest when Shane Walsh's effort hit the post.

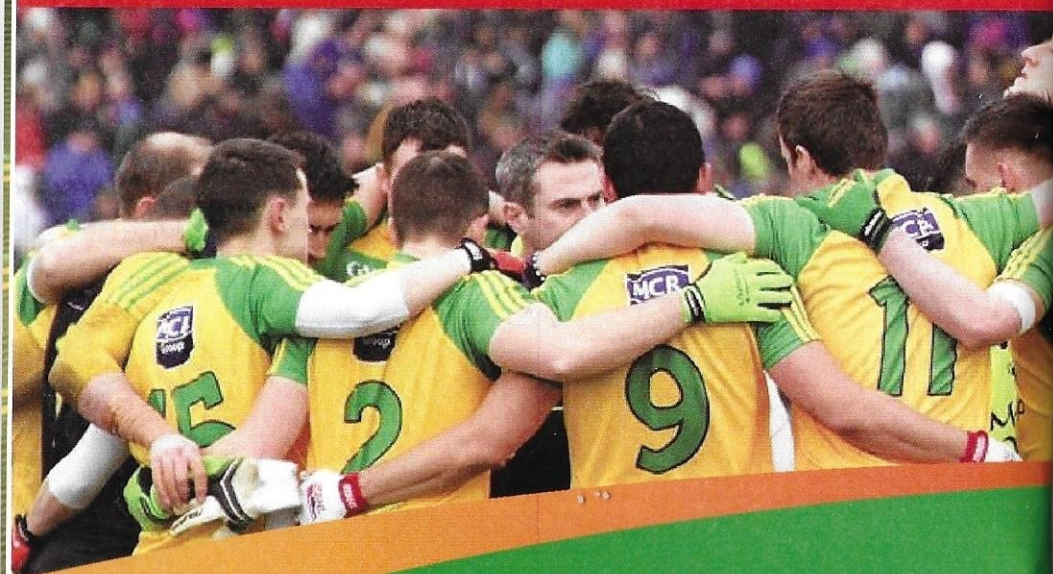
However, the Donegal captain miscued his pass back to Mark Anthony McGinley and the goalkeeper tripped the onrushing Tom Flynn and a penalty was awarded. McGinley was shown a black card and replaced by Aodh Ruadh's Peter Boyle, but Liam Silke sent the spot-kick low to the corner of the net.

Paul Conroy curled over another shot from distance, and while Murphy converted a '45', it was still all one-way traffic. Galway were dominating the Donegal kick-out, and the lively

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Ian Burke notched another point, before Michael Daly was denied a goal by a good save from Boyle. Damien Comer slotted over in the 35th minute, before Galway swooped for goal number three in the 37th minute.

Caolan Ward cut out a ball into Burke but couldn't clear the danger and Conroy and Armstrong linked up before Heaney slotted into the net for the second time. Substitute Martin McElhinney scored with his first touch but dismal Donegal trailed by 11 points at the break.

Galway carried on from where they left off in the second half with Heaney, Armstrong and Gary O'Donnell all pointing. Martin O'Reilly came on and made an immediate impact, but Donegal were then reduced to 14 men when Murphy picked up a black card, and Gallagher had already used all his subs. McBrearty did notch a point, but Donegal then went down to 13 players when McElhinney suffered the same fate as Murphy.

Michael Daly popped over, before McBrearty smashed a shot against the crossbar. The Kilcar man did score a point in the 52nd minute, and he was fouled two minutes later by Declan Kyne which earned the Galway full-back a second yellow card and a red.

Michael Langan curled over, and Donegal were awarded a penalty in the 58th minute when Martin O'Reilly was fouled by Cathal Sweeney. However, McBrearty's penalty was saved by Bernard Power, and the Galway keeper also stopped the rebound. O'Reilly fired over a second point, but Galway had so much space and Eamonn Brannigan and Armstrong kept the scoreboard ticking over. McBrearty landed two late points, but O'Donnell and Brannigan cancelled those out, and Donegal's misery was compounded when Cummins notched an injury-time goal.

This isn't the first time that Donegal have exited the championship with a whimper in recent years, and when they're poor, they're generally very poor. However, two embarrassing defeats in the space of five weeks is just not good enough.

Galway were the team that arrived in Sligo with the questionable temperament, but it was Donegal who left looking like the soft touch.

DONEGAL: Mark Anthony McGinley; Caolan Ward, Neil McGee, Kieran Gillespie; Eoghan Barr (Gallagher), Ryan McHugh, Paddy McGrath; Jason McGee, Michael Murphy (0-4, 3fs, 1-45); Frank McGlynn, Eoin McHugh, Mark McHugh; Patrick McBrearty (0-6, 2fs), Jamie Brennan, Hugh McFadden. Subs: Peter Boyle for McGinley (26 mins Black Card), Michael Langan (0-1) for Brennan (35+1 mins), Martin McElhinney (0-1) for McGlynn (35+2 mins), Karl away for Gillespie (Half-time), Claran Thompson and Martin O'Reilly (0-2) for McFadden and E. McHugh (42 mins).

GALWAY: Bernard Power; Eoghan Kerin, Declan Kyne, Cathal Sweeney; Gary O'Donnell (0-2), Gareth Bradshaw, Liam Silke (1-0, 1 pen); Paul Conroy (0-1), Tom Flynn; Shane Walsh (0-1), Michael Daly (0-1), Johnny Heaney (2-2); Sean Armstrong (0-6, 4fs), Damien Comer (0-1), Ian Burke (0-1). Subs: David Wynne for Sweeney (60 mins Black Card), Eamonn Brannigan (0-2) for Walsh (61 mins), Danny Cummins (1-0) for Daly (63 mins), Michael Meehan for Comer (68 mins), David Walsh and Cillian McDaid for Bradshaw and O'Donnell (70+2 mins)

Referee: Anthony Nolan (Wicklow).

Best of luck to Donegal from the Mt Errigal Hotel

DEXTER'S Gourmet Burger Menu

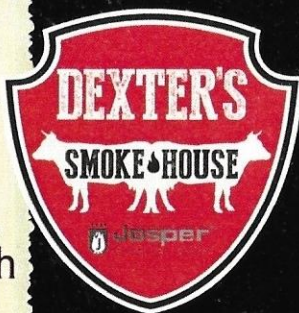
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Dún na nGall v Gaillimh – An Stair

Fr Seán



It appears that the first meeting of Dún na nGall and Gaillimh was in Sligeach on August 28, 1932. It was a Hurling match, the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship semi-final. The teams were level at half-time but Gaillimh won by 6-8 to 2-5. In those days of innocence, the match was refereed by Brother Lucien of Ballyshannon, who was Cathaoirleach of the Dún na nGall County Board in 1931! The teams were:

GAILLIMH: P. Corcoran, capt.; M. Kelly, M. Burke, M. Burns, R. McTigue, L. Head, P. Brien, M. Fahy, J. Gilligan, F. Fahy, M. Morgan, J. Darcy, H. Dillene, M. Staunton, and H. Barrett.

DÚN NA NGALL: C. Haughey, J. Mullen, J. Clooney, M. Walsh (cap.), J. Campbell, A. Gallagher, J. Daly, P. Mulcahy, M. O'Sullivan, D. O'Donnell, J. McDevitt, L. Kilmartin, J. McDermott, D. McGinley, B.L., and Jim McFadden.

The 'Donegal Democrat's conferring of a degree on the Dún na nGall full-forward seems to indicate that lawyers were a cut above the rest then too.

1954

The first competitive football meeting between the two counties was in Béal Átha Seanaidh on August 22nd, 1954 in the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship Home semi-final. The Junior Championship was prestigious in those days. The County's Junior team was the County's 'B' team, although delicate balancing acts were required at times if the Senior team was viewed as 'no-hopers'. Dún na nGall's Junior team of 1954 included two of the county's greatest ever half-backs – 'Cookie' Boyle of Dungloe and Peadar McGeehan. Dún na nGall gave 'a delightful exhibition of football' and won by 3-9 to 1-7. The gate was £400; there was thunder and lightning in the first half: the crowd gave a rousing reception to the Pomeroy Accordion Band, who were short some of their members who were confined to bed following the savage baton attack by the R.U.C.' the previous week; and Seán Slevin was fear a'tt at a great celebratory céill in the Abbey, Béal Átha Seanaidh, that night. The teams were:

Dún na nGall:

Jackie McDermott (Ballyshannon);
Ray Bryson (Gweebarra); Frank O'Donnell (Carrick); John Smith (Carndonagh);
Hugh Boyle (Dungloe); Jim 'Cookie' Boyle (Dungloe); Peadar McGeehan (St. Eunan's) (Capt);
Hughie Doyle (Gaoth Dobhair) & Matt Regan (Ballyshannon);
James McEneaney (St. Eunan's); Conal McCauley (Dunkineely); Dom Murray (Gweebarra);
Freddy Doyle (Gaoth Dobhair); Frank Farrelly (St. Eunan's); Willie Gallagher (Gaoth Dobhair);
John Anon (Dunbeg) (Gaoth Dobhair).

Gaillimh:

John O'Donnell (Dunmore);
P. Collins (Moyle); T. McDonnell (Army); M. Greally (Newbridge);
M. Conroy (Moyle); T. Higgins (Fr. Griffin's); B. Mahon (Dunmore);
E. O'Sullivan (Guerrin); F. Dunleavy (Fr. Griffin's);
A. Kelly (Dunmore); M. McDonagh (Ballygar); L. Manning (Ballinasloe);
R. Colman (Dunmore); T. O'Toole (Clonbur); Gabriel Collieran (Moyle).

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Incidentally the Dún na nGall Senior Championship team of 1954 was: Charlie Campbell; Pearse Dawson Colm Toland, Barney Coyle; Hughie Tim Boyle, Joe Carroll, Michael J. Gallagher (Rua); Frankie Brennan and Frank McCready; Cormac Breslin, Des Gallen, Terry Keoghan; P.J. Burke, Ted Kenneely, Felix Gallagher.

1967

In the history of Páirc an Chrócaigh, as in life, there are instances, momentous in memory... Darby's goal... Mulligan's goal... Sheehy chipping Cullen... Neilly's penalty... It was April 2, 1967. It was the National Football League semi-final. It was Gaillimh's three-in-a-row team. It was Dún na nGall's three-in-a-row- Lagan Cup team. It was the first Senior competitive game between the counties. It was the 25th minute of the first half. Dún na nGall were leading the champions a merry football dance! Democrat says. It was 2-1 to 0-4 for Dún na nGall. Micky McLoone raced in with the ball, gave it to Des Houlihan, who, although hauled to the ground within the parallelogram, finished the ball to the Galway net for what appeared to be a perfectly-taken goal. Democrat said. Referee Éamonn Moules, sixty yards out (Democrat said), consulted his umpires, disallowed the goal and awarded a penalty. Neilly Gallagher squared up to take the kick. Éamonn Moules stopped him and placed the ball again. As Neilly was about to run up, the wind moved the ball. Neilly bent down and took it back out to the spot. Éamonn Moules gave a free out. Fussiness and letter of the lawism. And an injustice to one of the shyest, most gentle men ever to have worn the green and gold.

Seán Ferriter and Neilly Gallagher scored the first half Dún na nGall goals. Dún na nGall led by 2-3 to 0-5 at half-time. Michael McLoone's point after ten minutes of the second half was Dún na nGall's last score. Gaillimh added on a goal by Frank Canavan and four points in the last twenty minutes to win a thrilling match by 1-10 to 2-4.

Dún na nGall had another gripe. Democrat said that Liam Sammon refused to come off when Mick Reynolds was sent on and that Gaillimh played with sixteen men until John Dunne persuaded Liam to come off!

Dún na nGall:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| John Hannigan | Seamus Hoare | Paul Kelly |
| Brendan Dowling | Bernard Brady capt | Anton Carroll |
| | P.J. Flood | |
| | Frankie McFeely (0-1) | Declan O'Carroll |
| Des Houlihan | Seán Ferriter (1-0) | Neilly Gallagher (1-0) |
| Michael McLoone (0-3) | Seán O'Donnell | Jim Quigley |

Subs: Séamie Granaghan

Gaillimh:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Enda Colleran capt | Johnny Geraghty | John Bosco McDermott |
| John Donnellan | Noel Tierney | Cóilín McDonagh |
| | Seán Meade | |
| | Jimmy Duggan (0-1) and | Pat Donnellan (0-1) |
| Cyril Dunne (0-4) | Mattie McDonagh | Séamus Leydon |
| Liam Sammon | Frank Canavan (1-0) | John Keenan (0-3) |

Subs: Martin Newell, Mick Reynolds.

Two things about the Gaillimh line-out. The great, great Mattie was on the forty as he had been in 1954 against Dún na nGall. And Seán Meade went on to play for Dún na nGall in 1969.

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Wishing Donegal all the best on Sunday

TWELFTH MEETING

Today's is the twelfth League meeting between Dún na nGall and Gaillimh. It is the first Páirc Uí Dhónaill League meeting between the counties. The previous results were:

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|--------------|------|--------------|------|--------------------|
| 1. | 1966-67 | Gaillimh | 1-10 | Dún na nGall | 2-4 | B.Á.C. |
| 2. | 1985-6 | Dún na nGall | 2-8 | Gaillimh | 1-10 | Béal Átha Seanaidh |
| 3. | 1987-8 | Dún na nGall | 0-11 | Gaillimh | 2-5 | Tuaim |
| 4. | 1998-9 | Gaillimh | 0-13 | Dún na nGall | 0-12 | Tuaim |
| 5. | 1999-2000 | Gaillimh | 0-14 | Dún na nGall | 0-7 | Bealach Féich |
| 6. | 2000-1 | Gaillimh | 0-12 | Dún na nGall | 0-12 | Tuaim |
| 7. | 2002 | Gaillimh | 0-9 | Dún na nGall | 0-7 | Béal Átha Seanaidh |
| 8. | 2003 | Gaillimh | 1-18 | Dún na nGall | 1-8 | Tuaim |
| 9. | 2008 | Dún na nGall | 1-12 | Gaillimh | 1-11 | Bealach Féich |
| 10. | 2009 | Gaillimh | 1-16 | Dún na nGall | 0-12 | Gaillimh |
| 11. | 2014 | Dún na nGall | 1-16 | Gaillimh | 0-12 | Gaillimh |

Gaillimh won 6
Dún na nGall won 3
Drawn 2

Neil McGee has played in the last six Dún na nGall – Gaillimh encounters (three League, three Championship). Declan Bonner scored two points in the drawn League match on December 6, 1987 and he was manager when Dún na nGall lost to Gaillimh on November 15, 1998 and on November 14, 1999.

GAILLIMH'S LAST MATCH HERE

Gaillimh's last League match in Dún na nGall was in Bealach Féich on Saturday night 17 March 2008. Gaillimh came as Division 1 table – toppers and swept into a 0-4/0-1 lead against the League Champions. Dún na nGall fought back and led by 0-9 to 0-6 at half-time. They made it 0-11 to 0-6 at the beginning of the second half. Gaillimh had Damien Burke sent off then but fought back to 0-11/0-9. There were two goals scored in a frantic 56th minute – Brian Roper first and Michael Meehan then. Michael Meehan added a point – 1-11/1-10! Ryan Bradley and Cormac Bane exchanged points – 1-12/1-11 – and Pádraic Joyce's last kick-of-the-game, a free kick, was well-fielded by Neil Gallagher and Brian McIver's men survived. (Was it Pádraic Joyce's free-kick? Alan Foley on Sunday reckoned it was Declan Meehan; Alan Foley on Tuesday reckoned it was Cormac Bane; Chris McNulty on Monday reckoned it was Pádraic Joyce! Over to you, Edmond Brennan!!)

Karl Lacey's switch on to the highly-influential Pádraic Joyce was a game – changer. Rory Kavanagh and Brian Roper starred for Dún na nGall while Joyce, Clancy and the Meehans were the pick of Liam Sammon's team.

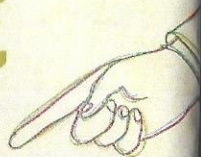
Dún na nGall

Karl Lacey Na Ceithre Máistrí
Frank McGlynn Gleann Fhinne
Neil Gallagher Gleann Súilí
Kevin Rafferty Naomh Adhamhnáin
Colm McFadden (0-4) N. Mícheál
Subs: Barry Monaghan Na Ceithre Máistrí, Christy Toye N. Mícheál, Ciarán Bonnar Gleann Súilí, Stephen McDermott Gleann Fhinne.

Paul Durcan Na Ceithre Máistrí
Neil McGee Gaoth Dobhair
Éamonn McGee Gaoth Dobhair
Rory Kavanagh (0-1) Naomh Adhamhnáin
Michael Hegarty Cill Chartha
Brian Roper (1-1) Aodh Ruadh
David Walsh (0-2) N. Bríd.

Niall McCready Aodh Ruadh
Kevin Cassidy Gaoth Dobhair
Naomh Adhamhnáin

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Gaillimh

Adrian Faherty Baile Chláir na Gaillimhe

Kieran Fitzgerald Cora Finne Finian Hanley Bóthar na Trá/Cnoc na Cathrach Damien Burke, Cora Finne
Garry Sice Cora Finne Niall Coyne Carna-Caiseal Darren Mullahy (0-2) Baile an Mhuínn
Paul Geraghty Gleann na Madadh Niall Coleman Anach Cuain

Eddie Hoare N. Micheál Pádraic Joyce (0-3) Cill Fhir Iarainn Declan Meehan Caltra
Matthew Clancy (0-2) Uachtar Ard Michael Meehan (1-3) Caltra Fiachra Breathnach Leitir Mór.
Subs: Marc Lydon Maigh Cuilinn, Barry Cullinane Baile Chláir, Gareth Bradshaw Maigh Cuilinn, Cormac Bane
(0-1) Cathair Liostráin, Paul Conroy N. Séamus.

Referee: Aidan McAlynn (Doire)

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| | | | | | | |
|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1974 | Gaillimh | 3-13 | Dún na nGall | 1-14 | (semi-final) | B.Á.C. |
| 1983 | Gaillimh | 1-12 | Dún na nGall | 1-11 | (semi-final) | B.Á.C. |
| 2003 | Dún na nGall | 0-14 | Gaillimh | 1-11 | (quarter-final) | B.Á.C. |
| 2003 | Dún na nGall | 0-14 | Gaillimh | 0-11 | (quarter-final) | Caisleán an Bharraigh |
| 2009 | Dún na nGall | 0-14 | Gaillimh | 0-13 | (Qualifier) | Sligeach |
| 2015 | Dún na nGall | 3-12 | Gaillimh | 0-11 | (Qualifier) | B.Á.C. |
| 2017 | Gaillimh | 4-17 | Dún na nGall | 0-14 | (Qualifier) | Sligeach |

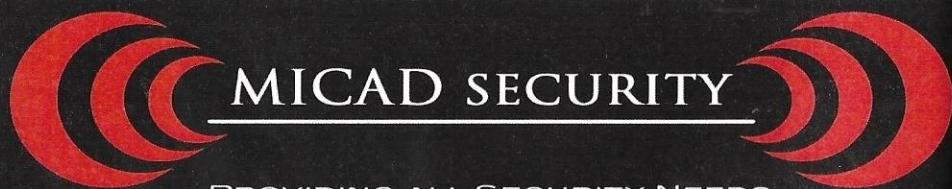
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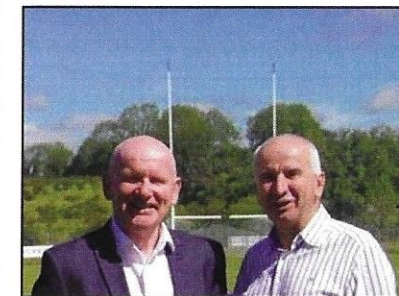
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Declan Bonner Relishes Tough Challenges Ahead

By Charlie Collins
(Donegal Sport Hub / Donegal Daily)



Inter-County football is now a Life Choice for all involved. Earlier this week Donegal Senior Team Manager Declan Bonner sat down and talked to Charlie Collins about the challenge ahead for himself, his back-room team and in particular the players who will represent the county at Senior level in 2018. They began with a quick look-back to the narrow defeat in Kerry last Sunday.



Charlie Collins: Given the performance in Kerry for no reward, does that mean that the game with Galway becomes even more important or with only three home games in the campaign was it always going to be key one in terms of the League in any case.

Declan Bonner: No, not really, we have already set out our stall in terms of where we want to be and how to get there and at this stage it's a work in progress and will be for a while to come. It was disappointing to lose the way we did in Kerry, but we have to move on and learn from it, and this week we have to prepare for Galway and our sole aim will be to win the game and move on again.

CC: Games will now be coming thick and fast, all sure to be very competitive, including a Dr. Mc Kenna Cup final against Tyrone, so is it an opportunity to give the panel members game time in a testing environment?

DB: There's no substitute for that environment for players and we were aware that once the League got going it was going to be one tough challenge after another and that's something we welcome, you'll really only see if someone is up to it in those type of circumstances. The Mc Kenna Cup was useful in terms of seeing how certain players would react and in reaching the final there were many positives for us. It's a learning curve for many of the new faces in the squad, a useful test and reintroduction for some of those returning and with our May Championship date with Cavan closer than you'd think all these things are important.

CC: Many of the younger squad members are lads that you have worked with at Minor and Under 21 level, lads that you seem to be confident can make that difficult step up to Senior level, because we know it isn't always a given that that will happen.

DB: It is important that I do know them but not only for their ability on the pitch but also for their mental strength and ability to handle the many challenges a County senior player will now face on and off the pitch. We have to try and identify any potential weaknesses they may have and help them to deal with those also as well as trying to improve the things they are already good at. Another plus for us is the contribution of the older lads who are training with these lads while they prepare themselves for a return to action and that too has been important in what we have been working at.



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CC: Has becoming a successful senior inter-county player now become as much about the mental strength someone brings to the table, in fact is it now about making a life choice?

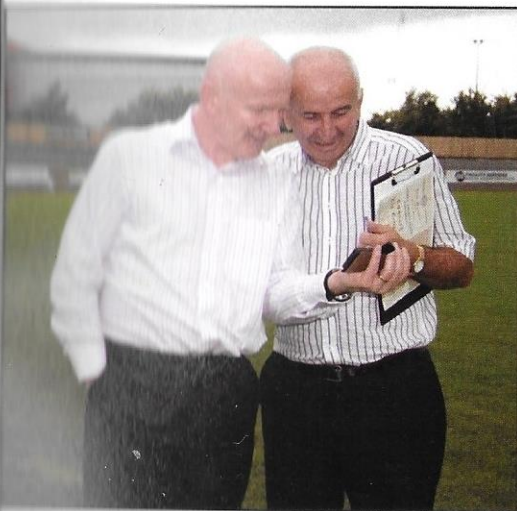
DB: It is, talent is only part of the package required now, I've seen lads with loads of talent come through to a certain stage but then unable to go on to make it because of XY or Z. For example, we got back late from Kerry last night and the boys were in the gym this morning getting the bodies ready for the challenge of Galway next Sunday. At this level it's now a real professional set-up and you've got to live that life if you want to succeed. Our group really want to improve themselves and are prepared to work hard on all aspects of their development both on and off the pitch.

CC: And is the same dedication required from the manager and his back-room team Declan if the success hoped for is to be achieved.

DB: Without a doubt, at senior level it's now a 24/7 job, even as we were travelling back on the bus from Kerry last night our focus had already turned to today's game against Galway, organising video sessions to have a look at them and discussing other issues, like injuries, the training schedule for this week given that Sigerson Cup and other College competitions will be a factor for some players, media commitments, and all of those plus other things have to be dealt with in the most professional way possible, the management team must set the standard that they expect in return for the squad.

CC: So, one down and six to go in the league and that includes three home games we will be hoping to win if we are to have any chance of surviving in Division One plus a Dr. McKenna cup final all to be contested before that May date with Cavan in the Championship.

DB: Naturally we want to stay in Division One if possible, but it won't be the end of the world if we don't. We are trying to change our style of play of the last few years and trying to find out which players will hold their hands up for places in the championship squad and those things take time with so many new people involved at this level. It's a great privilege to wear a Donegal jersey and these players know that and also know how passionate Donegal people are about their County team.



The next three months are important in terms of game time and we intend to be competitive in every game we play, but ultimately the one that means the most is Cavan in May and every decision we make between now and then will have to do with winning that first championship game of 2018, I doubt if anyone will be surprised by that. Mind you a win in O'Donnell Park today will be received with open arms.

Declan Bonner was in conversation with Charlie Collins of Donegal Daily / Donegal Sport Hub

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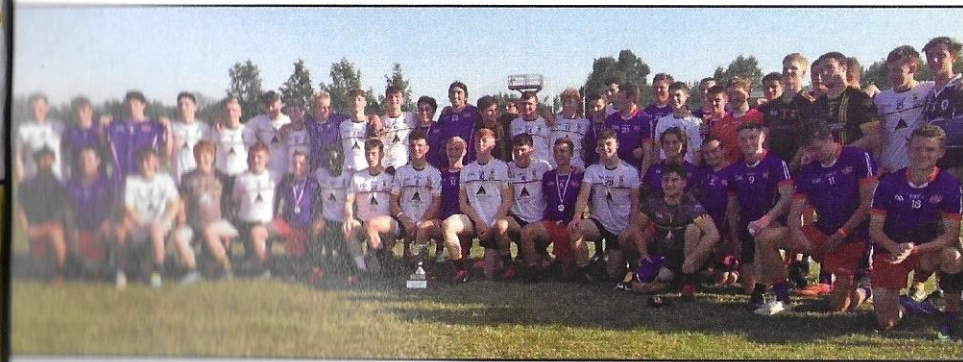
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Best of luck to Declan & boys in 2018

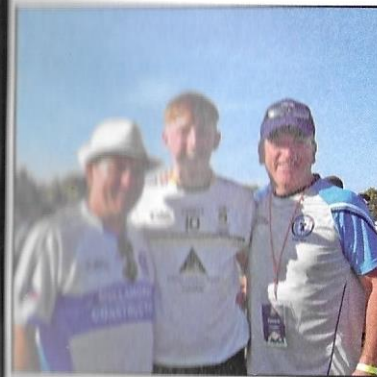
St. Eunan's Minors Make History in the USA



St. Eunan's & US GAA Minor Teams

On St. Patrick's Day, the St. Eunan's GAA Club Minor Football team was invited to the USA to compete in the annual Continental Youth Championships (CYC's) that were due to take place in Buffalo, New York during the last week of July – the first time the championships would take place outside of the usual strongholds of NYC, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia or San Francisco and St. Eunan's would be the first Irish team ever to compete.

It was a huge undertaking and could not have been done without the support of the parents, the club, county youth board as well as the many sponsors that helped out, including: Cllrs. Ciaran Bregan, Michael McBride, James Pat McDaid, Gerry McMonagle, Liam Blaney and Jimmy Kavanagh. Leas-Cheann Comhairle Pat The Cope Gallagher also contributed and great support was received from the Dept. of the Taoiseach and Donegal County Council. Local company, Pramerica Systems Ireland was also a great help organising transport for the team on both sides of the Atlantic. MICAD Security and Brian McCormick Sports were also invaluable in helping kit out the team for the trip.



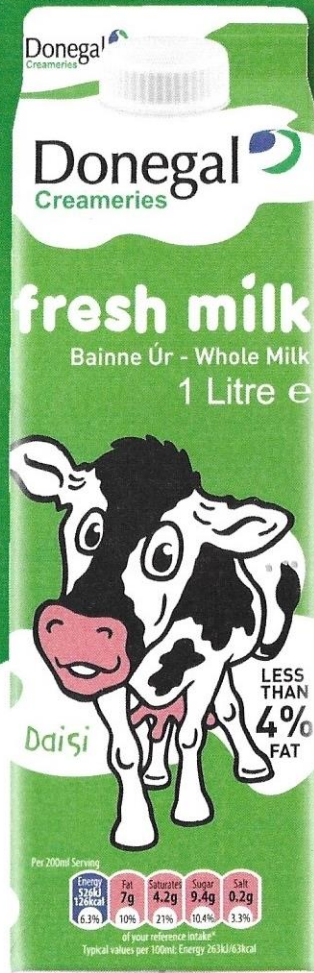
Louis Bradley (Delco Gaels, PA), Louis Haxson & Ben Bradley (DG, PA)

The lads departed the Mount Errigal Hotel on Sunday, July 23rd after a good breakfast kindly put up by main sponsors of the minor football team, Terry & Loretto McEniff.

The trip of a lifetime lay ahead of the boys that would include a trip to the world-famous Niagara Falls and a local Minor League baseball game featuring the hometown Buffalo Bisons that were taking on the

Good luck
to the Donegal team in the 2018
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Donegal Creameries

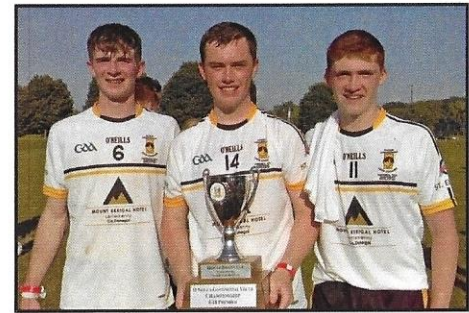


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Durham Bulls, the Bulls were made famous in the Kevin Costner and Susan Sarandon hit film of the late 1980's, Bull Durham.

There was of course the matter of some hurling and football games to be played as well against the New York and USGAA (rest of the USA) All-Star teams. The lads performed really well, winning all 3 football games to take home the Oliver Briody Cup. The hurlers, despite several footballers having to join their ranks, won one, drew one and lost one game - losing the final to a dubious last-minute penalty.

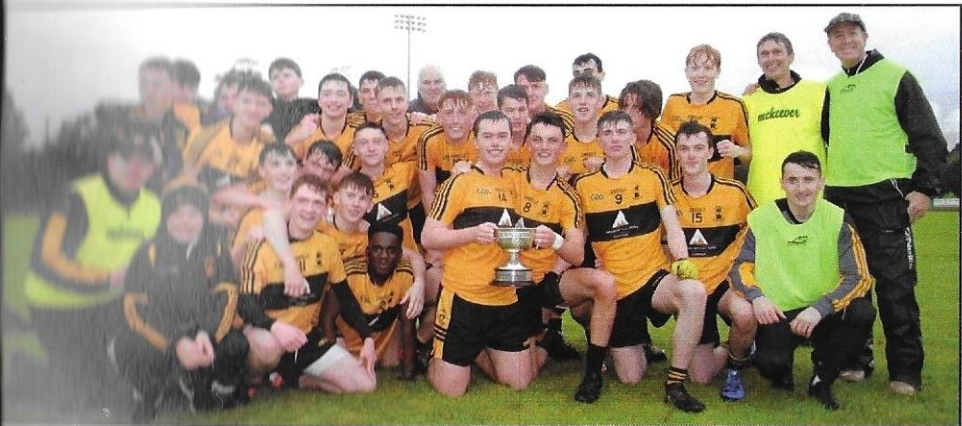


Matthew McGovern (14), Aaron Deeney (6) & Niall Hannigan (11) with The Oliver Briody Cup

Great camaraderie was enjoyed between the Eunan's lads and the American players after the match with jersey's shorts and socks being swapped for keepsakes.

The hurlers had lost their county final after a replay to Bunrana before travelling to the USA with the Minor Football Championship due to get underway upon the team's return. The lads were drawn into a group with Ardara, Four Masters and Malin in the new All-County format that was piloted in 2017.

The boys won their group games convincingly and the quarter-final draw threw up a meeting with St. Naul's. After a slow start they raised their game to score another good win and move on to a group game rematch in the semi-final with Ardara, who had knocked out neighbours and reigning champions N. Conaill in the q-finals. On a windy Friday night in The Banks the St. Eunan's boys turned in a brilliant first half performance against the wind to go in leading by a point at the break and a barrage of scores early in the second half saw them advance to a Co. Championship Final meeting with Kilcar. The Michael Molloy led side had seen off MacCumhail's in impressive fashion in the q-final before winning a semi-final derby against league winners N. Columba.

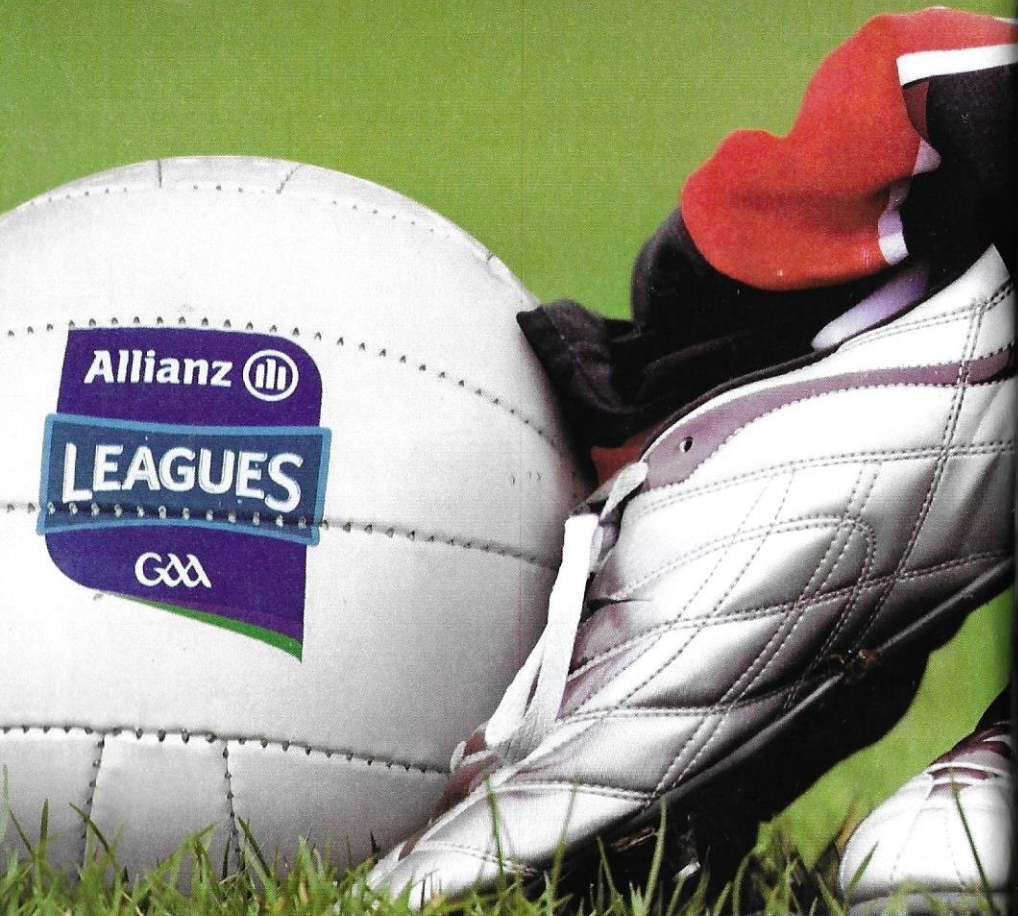


2017 Minor Co. Champions Div. 1



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The Cathedral town lads started brightly taking an early 2-03 to no score lead but Kilcar had a purple patch midway through the first half that saw them reply with 1-03 of their own to narrow the gap to a goal. There were to be four minutes added time at the end of the first half and St. Eunan's took full advantage scoring a further 2-02 in injury time to turn a 3-point lead into an 11-point lead at the short whistle and virtually seal the win. They controlled the second half and eventually won by 5-11 to 1-07 to seal one of the most convincing runs to a Co. Minor Championship title in recent memory. No doubt the trip to Buffalo bonded the players into a tight unit and was of enormous benefit to them for the championship. They had to wait 11 weeks for the Ulster Tournament to come around and unfortunately were drawn against holders Burren (Co. Down) in the preliminary round. The boys turned in a gritty performance highlighted by Ronan McGeehin's penalty save to win an absorbing contest by 1-07 to 0-7. Next up was pre-tournament favourites Clann Eireann (Armagh) who had won the Paul McGirr competition (U16) two years earlier. Once again, the boys turned in a tough performance to win after extra-time 1-13 to 0-11. That set up a semi-final clash with Enniskillen Gaels on a heavily sanded pitch and it proved a game too far for the boys as they just never got going and kicked too many scoreable chances wide before going down by 3-points 2-09 to 1-09. Enniskillen would go on to lift the title.

But it was a great year for the players with some great memories created and many now move into the adult football ranks in 2018 and we wish them well. Many of the team that won the Paul McGirr in 2016 return and hopes will be high that they can also claim the Minor crown and once again go on to represent Donegal in Ulster, though the likes of MacCumhailles and N. Columba, Killybegs and others will also have aspirations of landing the Minor title in 2018.



Brian, Eoin & Ronan McGeehin with the Oliver Briody Cup

St. Eunan's Panel: Ronan McGeehin, Jerome Angel-Atuahene, Ciaran McCloskey, Anthony Gallagher; Ryan Hilferty, Michael McGroary, Peter McEniff; Patrick McColgan (c), Aaron Deeney; Louis Hasson, Niall Hannigan, Eoin McGeehin; Conor O'Donnell, Matthew McGovern (c), Oisín Purdy; Eoin O'Boyle, James Kelly, Darragh Morrison, Conor McWalters, Cormac Finn, Sean Ryan, Oisín McGarvey, Seán Breen, Shane Maguire, Brendan Horgan, Cormac O'Kane, Ciaran Daffan, Patrick Tobin, James Tourish, John O'Donnell.

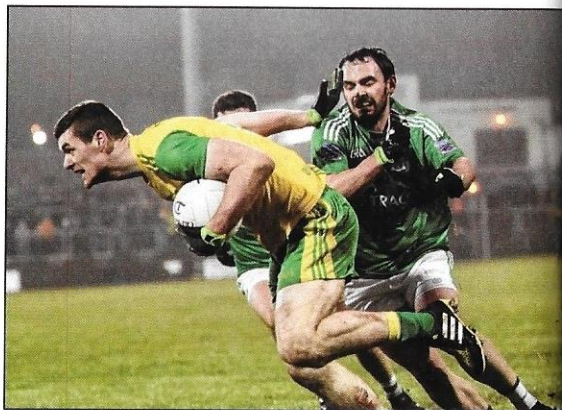
Management: Brian McGeehin & Paul McGovern; Mentors: Conor Gibbons and Andrew McGovern (Goalkeeping Coach); Medical: Declan Nee & Garrett McDaid.



The 3 Mammies. Emer McGeehin, Elaine McGovern & Anne Marie Hannigan at the CYC's

Caolan Ward Wants to Establish Himself in 2018

By Ryan Ferry



Caolan Ward Photo by Geradline Diver

THERE won't be commemorative DVDs of Donegal's 2017 season on sale any time soon, but for Caolan Ward it was a campaign of solid progression.

After starring for Donegal at minor and Under 21 level, it seemed like a seamless transition for Ward to step up to senior grade. However, he had to bide his time, and sat on the bench for most of the 2016 season. His time did arrive last year when he started at full-back in the league opener, and while he missed a few outings through injury, he still featured eight times for the county, and performed well.

"Personally, I was very happy to be part of the team, and to get a good run in the league and the championship," said Ward.

"I had a good season last year, but it's going to be even tougher now. I can't look back at the past – I have to keep building for 2018. You look at the boys that have returned to the panel and the new players that have been brought in, and you have a couple of lads vying for every position. I need to keep looking at my own performances and try to be better than I was last year."

Rory Gallagher had good faith in Ward, but the St Eunan's man was starting back at square one when Declan Bonner took the reins. They hadn't crossed paths before and Ward realised that he would have to fight to establish himself once again.

"I had never worked under Declan before, so I do think that you start with a clean slate. The signs have been positive, and we have been back in the gym since November, and the pitch since December, and everything has gone very well. There's a great professional set-up there at the moment, and everything has been positive. We're looking at the bigger picture and trying to adapt our game. Hopefully that will stand to us down the line."

Donegal welcome Galway to Letterkenny today, and they are hoping things go better than they did when they last met in Sligo back in July. The Tribesmen won on a score line of 4-17 to 0-14 on a harrowing day for Ward and his teammates, and the defender says they do have a point to prove when the sides are reacquainted with each other this afternoon.

"It will be in our minds, and I think we have to use that as fuel for motivation. It's never nice to lose a game but to do it in the manner that we did against Galway meant that there were

lots of hard questions asked over the winter. The league gives us a chance to put things right, and we will be trying to win the game. Last year the National League possibly blew up our expectations of the summer ahead, and unfortunately things didn't pan out the way we had hoped," said Ward

"It's not going to be easy this year, but we have got to look at winning our home games in the league, and possibly getting a draw or a win away as well to be sure of retaining our Division 1 status. You want to be playing against Kerry and Dublin and Tyrone because it's more competitive. The aim is to get points on the board early and build on it week on week."

While Donegal lost to Kerry in O'Donnell Park last year, Ward impressed at full-back.

He has been trained and nurtured by St Eunan's, so it's extra special when he gets to line out for his county at his home ground.

"I made my league debut against Kerry last year, and to do that in O'Donnell Park in front of a big crowd was a really proud moment. The opportunity to play there again is something I'm really looking forward to. The club is working hard at all levels, and we have five players on the senior panel at the minute which is very pleasing. Our record in O'Donnell Park hasn't been great, and that is something that we will have to rectify because home games are must-win this year."

Donegal will also have home games against Kildare (in Ballyshannon) and Mayo (in Ballybofey) whilst they must travel to Dublin, Tyrone and Monaghan having already travelled to Kerry for last week's opening game of the campaign. Certainly, Ward's assumption that the home games are crucial looks justified with a tough away schedule for Bonner's charges and any points gained on their travels will be a huge bonus in the bid to retain Div. 1 football for 2019.

An advertisement for Logo2Go, an embroidery and print specialist. The ad features the company logo, contact information, and a 'Work Man Deal' offer. The deal includes 3 X Polo Shirts and 1 X Hoodie, all with front breast logos, for only €75+ VAT. The offer is available in 10 different colors and sizes from XS to 5XL. The background shows several polo shirts in different colors (black, grey, green) and a hoodie.

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1967 County Senior Football Champions – St. Eunan's



Controversy raged in 1966 and for only the second time, the Donegal Senior Championship Final wasn't played between St. Joseph's and MacCumhaills. 1968 was also controversial and saw perhaps the strangest chain of events ever to hit the Senior Championship with some teams playing two quarter-finals AND two semi-finals before St. Joseph's ultimately won out! For more details, check out *The Story of the Donegal Senior Football Championship 1919 – 2001* by Fr. Seán Ó Gallchóir.

Sandwiched in between was the 1967 Championship which was run off without (much) controversy and boasting what was described by many as perhaps two of the greatest ever county finals with St. Eunan's defeating the mighty St. Joseph's after a replay. 2017 marked the 50th Anniversary of this titanic game and so it is fitting that we remember the giants of yesteryear in today's match programme with so many names from both teams acknowledged legends of Donegal football.



1967 County Senior Champions - St. Eunan's

Back Row (L to R): R. McAuley, P. O'Donnell, J. Gallagher, J. Blake, J. Hannigan, B. McDaid, P. O'Donnell, S. McRory, F. Gallagher, S. McEntee, M. Henry, P. McGeehin.
Front Row (L to R): T. McDevitt, S. Bonner, N. O'Donnell, J. Reilly, H. McBride, S. Kelly, T. McMorow, S. Ferriter, S. Hoare, J. Larkin, A. Gallagher, J. Winston (seated).

The Championship then, as now, was played in sections or groups with the teams playing each other home and away. The resulting quarter-final pairings were:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| St. Eunan's 3-10 | Na Piarsaigh 0-06 |
| Dungloe 2-10 | Gaoth Dobhair 0-10 |
| St. Joseph's 3-13 | Glenties 2-09 |
| MacCumhaills 3-07 | Clann na Gael 1-11 |

St. Eunan's overcame MacCumhaills (0-11 to 0-07) and St. Joseph's defeated Dungloe (2-05 to 0-04) to set up a final showdown that was eagerly anticipated with All-Ireland Club Champions St. Joseph's going in as favourites.

The first game, played in the rain finished 1-10 to 0-13 and people wondered could the replay live up to that standard? By all accounts it did with the Cathedral Town men emerging deserving winners by 1-13 to 1-09.

St. Eunan's: Seamus Hoare; Hughie McBride, Mick Henry, James Larkin; Fionn Gallagher, John Hannigan, Noel O'Donnell; Seán Ferriter, Seán McEntee; Pat O'Donnell, James Gallagher, Anthony Gallagher; Joe Winston, Jackie Duffy, Tony McDevitt.

St. Joseph's: Alan Kane, Liam McDaid, Bernard Brady, Brian McEniff; Ciaran Dolan, Brendan Dowling, Michael Pat Daly; Josie Boyle, Declan O'Carroll; Seamie Granaghan, Maurice McShea, Danny McHugh; Thomas Quinn, Peter Quinn, Michael McLoone.

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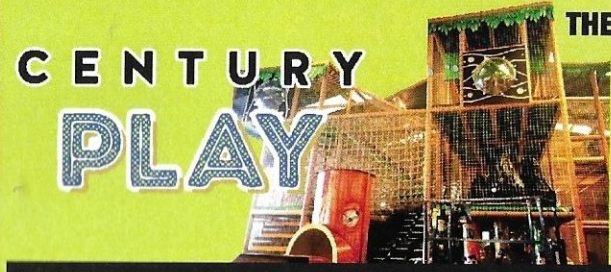
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1983 All-Ireland Semi-Final

All-Ireland Final Place Dream Ended by Galway

by Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat)



1983 Donegal Team

| | |
|---------|------|
| Galway | 1-12 |
| Donegal | 1-11 |

THE DREAM HAS ENDED. The long awaited first All-Ireland Senior Football Final appearance has once more eluded Donegal. At Croke Park on Sunday they once more faced the cold harsh reality of semi-final defeat when they went under to Connacht champions, Galway, in a nerve-ridden game in which neither side did themselves justice.

This was Donegal's third All-Ireland semi-final, and this was the closest they have come to making the big breakthrough. The margin of defeat could not have been narrower and almost in spite of themselves this was a game that Donegal could have won.

They could make excuses and point to the measure of luck which Galway enjoyed, such as the soft goal seven minutes from time which gave them the lead for the first time since the 12th minute and a point from a free which should never have been awarded in the first half as well as some other questionable decisions by referee 'Weeshie' Fogarty, but in the final analysis were, to quote that well-worn cliché, the authors of their own misfortune.

This was a game that was there for the taking. Galway had the craft and experience, but they were certainly no great shakes. However, Donegal never played to anything like their potential and while they led for most of the game and looked like they might hold for victory until Galway got their goal they never looked comfortable or like gaining command of the game.

While not really impressive, Donegal more than held their own in the first half and had they been able to convert more of their possession into scores it might have given them the confidence so badly needed. However, having played with the aid of a fickle diagonal breeze their half-time lead of three points looked far from secure.

And in the second half, although Donegal continued to lead until the 27th minute of the half, their lead always looked tenuous as Galway got more and more on top at centrefield.

As it was, the Connacht side shot 12 wides in the second half when they adopted a policy of shooting from long range rather than trying to work the ball in. In the same period Donegal did not register a single wide.

THE LEAD

Early points from Gay McManus and Stephen Joyce had Galway ahead. Donegal got their first point in the 10th minute when a Joyce McMullin shot was deflected to Donal Reid who pointed from 40 yards.

Martin McHugh side-line kick was punched over by Seamus Bonar and Bonar put Donegal ahead after good work by Reid and Brendan Dunleavy.

Donegal went four ahead on 15 minutes when Tommy McDermott fielded at midfield and found Michael Lafferty. The team captain, in turn, found Michael Carr, whose effort for a point came back off an upright to Kieran Keeney, who blasted to the net.

Stephen Joyce cut the lead to three and Brian O'Donnell got in for another point on 20 minutes.

Martin McHugh restored the three-point lead from a free and while Val Daly pointed after Tom Naughton won a lucky free, a point from Joyce McMullin left it 1-6 to 0-6 in favour of Donegal at the break.

Within 30 seconds of the restart Martin McHugh increased the lead from a free, but Brian O'Donnell replied for Galway. McHugh restored the four points advantage in the 44th minute.

However, points from Gay McManus and Richie Lee cut the lead but McHugh left them two points in it once more with a delightful point with the outside of his left.

Peter Lee went forward to point in the 57th minute before disaster came with eight minutes left. Stephen Joyce's '45' went short to the unmarked Val Daly, who was on the edge of the penalty area. The Galway man has so much space that he could afford to fumble his catch, pick up the ball again and then turn to his left and hit the ball into the wide open left-hand side of the Donegal goals. McCole was standing at the right post, saw the ball too late and was equally late with his despairing dive.

Whether or not Joyce's '45' was mishit or whether Daly's shot finding the Donegal net was

bluke are matters of opinion, but the fact remains that Daly should never have been given the room he had in a dead ball situation.

Two minutes later Galway were reduced to 14 men when Peter Lee was carried off with a head injury.

Stephen Joyce increased the Galway lead but in a spirited finish Donegal added points from Tommy McDermott and a McHugh free after McMullin was fouled, but it was not enough.

SCORERS - Donegal: Martin McHugh 0-5; Kieran Keeney 1-0; Seamus Bonar 0-2; Joyce McMullin, Donal Reid, Michael Carr and Tommy McDermott 0-1 each.

Galway: Val Daly 1-1; Stephen Joyce 0-4; Brian O'Donnell, Gay McManus 0-2 each; Peter Lee, Richie Lee and Tomas Tierney 0-1 each.

DONEGAL: Noel McCole; Tommy McDermott, Martin Griffin, Des Newton; Brendan Dunleavy, Michael Lafferty, Michael Carr; Anthony Molloy, Paul McGettigan; Donal Reid, Charlie Mulgrew, Joyce McMullin; Martin McHugh, Seamus Bonar, Kieran Keeney. Subs., Pdraig Carr for Reid; Fintan Lynch for Keeney.

Galway: Pdraig Coyne; Johnny Hughes, Stephen Kinneavy, Mattie Coleman; Pat O'Neill, Peter Lee, Seamus McHugh; Brian Talty, Richie Lee; Pdraig Kelly, Val Daly, Brian O'Donnell; Tom Naughton, Gay McManus, Stephen Joyce. Subs., Tomas Tierney for Kelly; Willie Joyce for Talty; Michael Brennan for Naughton.

REFEREE: Weeshie Fogarty (Kerry).

GOOD LUCK DONEGAL FROM ALL THE STAFF AT

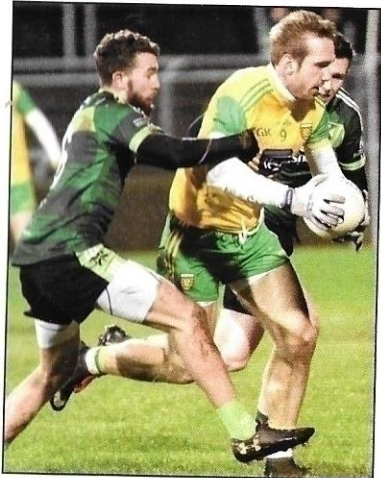


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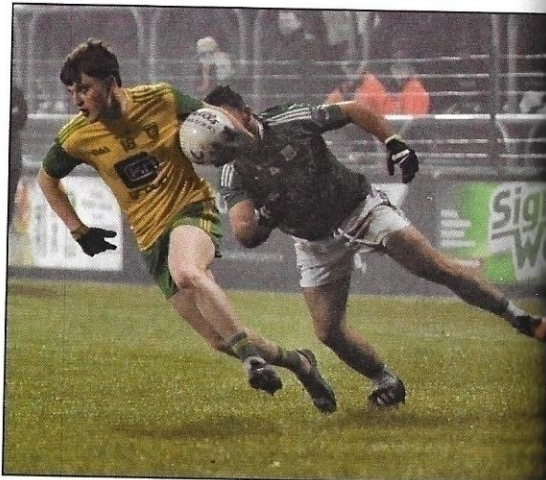


Dublin's Paddy Andrews comes under pressure from Donegal's Frank Mc Glynn and Odhran MacNiallis in the All-Ireland Senior Championship Quarter-Finals at Croke Park.

Photos by: Geraldine D.



Nathan Mullins.



Niall O'Donnell.



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FIR IONAD

16 (GK) Seán Ó Peatáin, **SHAUN PATTON**, Naomh Adhamhnáin. 17 Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh, **EAMONN DOHERTY**, Naomh Adhamhnáin. 18 Darrach Ó Conchubhair, **DARRACH O'CONNOR**, Bun Cranncha. 19 Stíofán Mac Breartaigh, **STEPHEN MC BREARTY**, Cill Chartha. 20 Ciarán Mac Fhionnghaile, **CIARAN MC GINLEY**, Cill Chartha. 21 Marc Mac Aodha, **MARK MC HUGH**, Cill Chartha. 22 Micheál Ó Cearrbháil, **MICHEÁL CARROLL**, Gaoth Dobhair. 23 Caoimhín Mac Breartaigh, **KEVIN MC BREARTY**, Na Ceithre Máistir. 24 Conchur Ó Muireasáin, **CONOR MORRISON**, Naomh Adhamhnáin. 25 Breandán Mac Cumhail, **BRENDAN MC COLE**, Naomh Náill. 26 Pól Ó Braonáin, **PAUL BRENNAN**, Bun Dobhráin.

Bainisteoir: Deaglán Mac Cnáimhsí. **Maor Fóirne:** Antoin Mac Craith. **Roghnóir (1):** Pól Mac Congail. **Roghnóir (3):** Gearóid Ó Baoill. **Medic (1):** An Dr. Caoimhín Ó Móráin. **Medic (2):** Cathal Ó hEileas. **Maor Uisce (1):** Carl de Léis. **Maor Uisce (2):** Seán Mac Giolla Cholan. **Rúnaí Contae:** Aidín Uí Ghlóiláin. **Cathaoirleach Contae:** Micheál Mac Craith

Dathanna: Glas agus Oir

Galway Gaillimh

Manager: Kevin Walsh



Referee: Pádraig Hughes (Droichead Mhacha)

Hand By Referee: Pádraig Reilly (An Mhí)

Linesmen: Pádraig Ó Mullain (An Mhí)

Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)

Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)

Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)

Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)

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Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)

Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)

Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)

Umpire: Joseph Corcoran (An Mhí)



16 Ronán Ó Beoláin, **RONÁN Ó BEOLÁIN**, Micheál Breathnach. 17 Seán Ó Labhraí-Traen, **SEÁN ARMSTRONG**, Bóthar na Trá/Choc na nGall. 18 Pádraic Ó Cúinneagáin, **PADRAIC CUNNINGHAM**, Ath Cinn. 19 Ceinín Ó Dorchaí, **CEINÍN D'ARCY**, Cathair Liosgreáin. 20 Seán Ó Duáin, **JOHNNY DUANE**, Naomh Séamus. 21 Ciarán Ó Dugáin, **CIARÁN DUGGAN**, Anach Cuain. 22 Eoin Ó Fionnagáin, **EÓIN FINNERTY**, An Creagán/Magh Locha. 23 Tomás Ó Fhloinn, **THOMAS FLYNN**, Baile Atha'n Rí. 24 Pádraig Mac Aodha, **BARRY MC HUGH**, An Creagán/Magh Locha. 25 Garraí Ó Domhnaill, **GARY O'DONNELL**, Realta Thuama. 26 David Ó Gaoithín, **DAVID WYNNE**, Maigh Cuilinn.

BAINISTEOIR: Kevin Walsh. **Maor Fóirne:** Brian Silke. **Roghnóirí:** Brian Silke & Seán Conlon. **Medic:** Dr. Enda Devitt & Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh. **Kit Man:** Peter Lee. **Maor Uisce:** Peter Lee & Conor Keary. **Rúnaí Contae:** Seán Ó hÉidhín, Gearóid Ó Ceallaigh

Dathanna: Marúin & Bán/Maroon & White

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North Board J.F.C. Finalists 1972: Back: M. Gannon, P. Lee, M. Judge, P. Creaven, T. Conlisk, P. Murphy, P. Cradock, J. Cradock, T. Cradock, J. Dooley. Front: J. J. Higgins, D. Judge, P. Mulroe, L. McHugh, V. Judge, P. J. Dooley, John J. Higgins, E. Monahan, L. Bane, S. Moran.

*Caherlistrane 1972 North Galway Junior Divisional Champions 1972.
Damien Judge, 2nd from left, front row.*



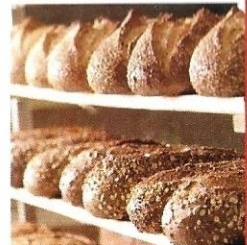
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Test Your GAA Knowledge - 20 questions

Peter Campbell (Sports Editor Donegal Democrat)

- 1 Have Galway more All-Ireland wins at football or hurling?
- 2 Donegal and Galway drew in the All-Ireland football quarter-final in 2003 in Croke Park. Where did the replay take place?
- 3 Name the Galway man who was part of the Donegal panel which won the Ulster senior football title in 1983?
- 4 Donegal and Galway met in the All-Ireland semi-final in Croke Park in August 1983. What famous sporting achievement took place on that day?
- 5 When did Galway last win the National Football League?
- 6 Donegal's one and only National Football League Division One title came in what year?
- 7 Who was top scorer in the All-Ireland Football Championship in 2017?
- 8 Who defeated Galway in the Connacht Championship final in 2017?
- 9 Who were the two Donegal players to win a Hogan Cup with St. Jarlath's of Tuam in 1994?
- 10 Who was captain of that winning St. Jarlath's team in 1994?
- 11 Another Donegal man won two Hogan Cup medals with St. Jarlath's in 1982 and 1984. Name him?
- 12 Who captained Kilcar to the Dr. Maguire success in 2017?
- 13 How many Ulster senior titles have Donegal won?
- 14 Dublin won three in-a-row All-Ireland titles in 2017. Who were the last team to achieve that and in what years?
- 15 Galway manager Kevin Walsh was in charge of what other Connacht county?
- 16 In what years was Declan Bonner first in charge of Donegal seniors?
- 17 Who was manager of Donegal when they were promoted to Division One of the National League in the 1980s?
- 18 Galway's last All-Ireland senior championship win was in 2001. Who did they defeat in the final?
- 19 Where would you be if you were playing in St. Conleth's Park?
- 20 How many All-Stars did Brian Mullins (father of Nathan) win?

Answers on page 72



2017 U16 Girls Co. Champions - St. Eunan's

Donegal County Champions in Scór na nÓg 2017/2018



- Rince Foirne: Naomh Adhamhnáin
- Amhránaíocht Aonair: Naomh Conaill – Leah Mac Innes
- Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht: Cloich Cheann Fhaola – Conor Ó Gallchoir
- Bailéad Ghrúpa: Naomh Adhamhnáin
- Léiriú Stáitse: Gleann tSúilí
- Ceol Uirlise: Bun a' Phobail
- Tráth na gCeist: Naomh Columba

| An méid a ghlac páirt i ngach comórtas in sna babhtaí leath cheanna | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Comórtas | Bun a' Phobail | Ailt a' Chorráin | Gleann Fhinne | lomlán | lomaitheolaíocht |
| Rince Foirne | 4 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 9 |
| Amhránaíocht Aonair | 7 | 9 | 11 | 27 | 2 |
| Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht | 4 | 7 | 8 | 19 | 1 |
| Bailéad Ghrúpa | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| Léiriú Stáitse | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| Ceol Uirlise | 5 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 5 |
| Rince Seit | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tráth na gCeist | 7 | 6 | 11 | 24 | 9 |
| lomlán ag gach ionad | 30 | 33 | 49 | 112 | 38 |
| | | | | - Lán lomlán | |

Some clubs had their own internal competitions prior to the semi finals in the county.

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Semi-final 1 in Bun a' Phobail: | 9 clubs |
| Semi-final 2 in Ailt a' Chorráin: | 8 clubs |
| Semi-final 3 in Gleann Fhinne: | 13 clubs |
| lomlán - Total: | 30 clubs |

Total number of clubs in Donegal is 40. 30 clubs (75%) took part. Apologies from 4 clubs (10%). 6 clubs (15%) made no contact. Entries ranged from one per club (only two clubs did this) to six per club. Most clubs had 3 - 4 acts each.

FÉILE PAN CHEILTEACH The International Pan Celtic festival will take place this year in Letterkenny from 3rd – 8th of April, 2018. This will be a celebration of Celtic cultures, traditions and languages with Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany and Ireland participating.

County Final in Ballintra: 6 took part in each category except Léiriú with 5, Solo singing with 7 and Tráth na gCeist with 7. The seven were in these competitions as we have a rule in the county that if 10 or more take part in a semi final, three go through to the final. Naomh Adhamhnáin's ballad group reached the Ulster Final of Scór na nÓg and the Tráth na gCeist team from Naomh Columba are straight through to the All Ireland finals.



Tráth na nÓg Ballad Group - County Champions - St. Eunan's

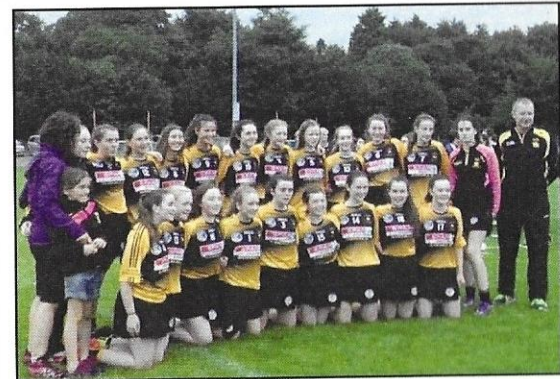


Céili Dancers County Champions - St. Eunan's



Ulster U16 Squad Shane O'Donnell & Pádraig McGettigan

Photo by Johnny MacGettigan



U16 Camogie Final Winners - St. Eunan's

Scór Sinsir 2018 dates

First Semi-final:

Date: Friday 23rd of February
Venue: Muff at 7.30pm

Second Semi-final:

Date: Saturday 24th of February
Venue: Glenties Community Centre
Time: 7:30pm

County Final:

Date: Friday 2nd of March
Venue: Glenfin
Time: 7:30pm

Ulster Semi-Finals

- Saturday 10th of March: Donegal venue - Burtonport
- Donegal, Armagh, Cavan & Tyrone taking part.
- Sunday 11th of March: Antrim, Derry, Down, Fermanagh & Monaghan in Belfast. Donegal will need to provide adjudicators.

Ulster Final:

24th of March 2018, Silverbridge, Co. Armagh

All Ireland Final:

14th of April 2018, Sligo IT



1978 Co. Minor Champs St. Eunan's



Naomh Columba - Donegal Senior Football Champions 1978

Back Row L-R: Conal Gillespie, Seamus Boyle, Pat John McIntyre, Sean Gara, John McGinley, Sean Gavigan, Paddy J McGinley, Michael Donavan, Kevin McGinley, Sean Burke, Michael Breslin, Bernard McIntyre, Michael Hegarty, Cathal Doogan, Paddy Beag Gillespie, Jimmy Beag Cunningham.

Front Row L-R: Colm Ward, Michael Gallagher, Francie Cunningham, Des Daly, Rory McNelis, Michael O McIntyre, John James McLaughlin, Padraig Carr, Seamus Carr, Dinny Gara, Finian Ward.



Dr. Mc Guire Cup Presentation 1978

Referees Needed



While the debate rages over fixtures and the plight of the club player due to the demands of inter-county teams on players, there is another threat looming that poses equally as much threat to the playing of our games – a lack of referees!



Over the last number of years, the number of active referees in the county has declined significantly, to the point where some underage matches have had to be postponed because a referee was needed to ref an adult game instead on the same day. Many clubs have referee's listed – each club is required to have a minimum of two – but many of these listed are in fact inactive. The result is that a small number of referees are overworked, some doing 5 or 6 games per week. Another issue arising because of this is that clubs are seeing the same referee over and over again, and we all know familiarity breeds contempt! The truth is that referees also would prefer to be visiting different venues and different teams on a regular basis, but the severe shortage is not making that possible.

So, ask yourselves these questions: Does your club even have one genuinely active referee (never mind two!)? Is your club actively recruiting either former players or those that have had to give up due to injury into refereeing? Is your club actively

recruiting Young Whistlers – a great pathway into adult refereeing?

Refereeing is a great way to stay involved in our games either when you've retired from playing or decided that you no longer want to play but would like to remain involved.

In recent years, local referees James Connors, Siobhan Coyle and Mickey Mulhern have refereed in the USA at the Continental Youth Championships with other referees - including James and Siobhan - also being involved in big games in Croke Park.

Please use your club social media platforms, e-mail lists, community notices etc. to get the message out that more referees are needed.

If you are reading this and are interested in taking up the whistle, you can contact your club secretary or County Referees Administrator.

The Donegal / Galway Connections in the GAA And Educational World



Many students from Donegal attended Coláiste Einde in Galway City. Others went to St. Jarlath's Secondary School in Tuam. A significant number from Donegal attended UCG over the years. People came from Galway to work in Donegal and Donegal people went to Galway to work. The western seaboard and the islands also united us. Bhí ár dteanga dúchais lárnach fosta ins an cheangal idir Dún na nGall agus Gaillimh. Seo cuid de na daoine go bhfuil baint acu leis an dá chontae.

Joseph Sweeney

Joseph Sweeney from Gortahork went to Coláiste Einde and qualified as a National School Teacher. He settled in Ballygar Co. Galway and was involved with Ballygar GAA club and the County Board in Galway. He contributed enormously to community life in Ballygar in teaching and in Gaelic Football.

Martin Kelly

Martin Kelly came from Ahascragh, Co Galway to teach in Falcarragh and Gortahork National Schools. His first love was Hurling and he played Hurling for Donegal. His sons Louis, Paul and Kieran played Inter-County football with Donegal and club football with Cloughaneely. Paul also played for Ulster and his daughter Celine played Inter-County Camogie. His other three sons Tony, Paddy and Adrian played club football with Cloughaneely. His grandson played Inter-County football with Dublin and his great grandson Niall Kelly played with Meath. Another great grandson, Ryan plays underage football with Gweedore.

Damien Judge

Damien Judge came from Caherlistrane in Galway and won County Senior Championship with St. Eunan's in 1983. He was also a member of the Donegal team that won the Ulster Senior Championship in 1974.

Frank Rushe

Frank Rushe from Mount Bellew won a Senior County Championship with St. Eunan's in 1983. He first played with Donegal in 1978 and played in the Ulster Final in 1979. Frank also won Ulster Senior Championship in 1983. Prior to coming to Donegal, Frank won an All-Ireland U21 Championship with Galway in 1972.

John Coleman

John Coleman a Dunmore Mc Hales Clubman from 1979-1995. He won a County Senior Championship in 1983. He played with Galway from 1982-1990. He was a sub on the Galway team that defeated Donegal in the All-Ireland Semi-final in 1983. Dunmore Mc Hales have won the Galway Senior Football championship on 15 occasions. John is involved in Football Management with St. Eunan's since 2001, managing teams at U14, U18 and U21 and Junior. His children Michael, Mark and Sinéad have played with St. Eunan's.

Jack Mahon

Jack Mahon a Dunmore Mc Hales clubman. Teacher and a Gaelic Football writer. He was a member of the Galway All-Ireland winning team in 1956. His wife was a native of Laghey, Co Donegal. Jack was a frequent visitor to Donegal as his sister Peggy lived in Milford. Peggy was married to Danny McGettigan, a solicitor. Their son Johnny and wife Kathleen are valued members of the St. Eunan's club where their children Seán, Áine and Pauric are playing members.

Barney Winston

Barney was a coach with St. Eunan's teams in the 1970's. He coached an U12 team to a County Championship in 1972. He was also involved in a coaching capacity with various other teams. While teaching in Gort Vocational School and Gort Community School, he coached various

school teams. He made a significant contribution to training and coaching young players in both schools in Gort.

Nellie Cannon

Nellie Cannon left Magheraarty, Co Donegal to work in Galway. It was there that she met and married Michael Daly. Their son Val played Inter-County football with Galway. We remember him as the Galway player who scored an important goal against Donegal in the All-Ireland Semi-final in 1983. Val Daly also managed Galway and now his son also named Val is a member of the Galway Senior Panel.

Frank Dooley

Frank Dooley is a native of Galway City. He was a St. Michael's club man in Galway. He came to Donegal to teach in the early 70's. He taught in Stranorlar Vocational School and Letterkenny Vocational School. He is a member of the Sean Mac Cumhail's club in Ballybofey. He coached teams in both schools. He was secretary of the County Vocational School's Board in Donegal. He was a County Board Referee in Donegal from 1981-2000 and he was also the Referee's Administrator in Donegal for a number of years. Galway can be proud of Frank Dooley's contribution to Education and to Gaelic Football matters in his adopted county.

Enda Mannion and Michael O'Malley

Enda and Michael came to Letterkenny from Na Piarsaigh, Ros Muc. Michael O'Malley won a Hogan cup in 1984 with St. Jarlath's, Tuam. Enda and Michael worked closely with James Train and Gary Coll in the founding of CLG Gaeil Leitir Ceanainn club. Both men served in various Officer and Coaching capacities and were instrumental in the Club's purchase of land at Glebe, Letterkenny for the development of Páirc na nGael Clubhouse facilities.

Richard Conneely

Richard Conneely is a past member of Claggan GAA Club in Galway. He has made a great contribution to his adopted Club CLG na nDúnaibh in coaching and administration over a long number of years.

Pat Curley

Pat's home club in Galway was Kiltormer. Kiltormer won the All-Ireland Club Hurling Final in 1992. Their most famous player was Conor Hayes. Pat played under age Hurling with the club. Coming to Donegal, he was involved with the Roger Casement Club from 1976-1983. Since the foundation of the Milford GAA Club, Pat has been involved in coaching, as Secretary and as Chairperson. He was also a County Board Referee in Donegal. His sons Pauric and David are leading members of the Milford Club who now play in Division 1 of the All County League.

Seán Meade

Seán Meade was the winner of 3 All-Ireland football titles with Galway in 1964/65/66. This Ballinasloe native came to work in Ballyshannon with the ESB in the late 1960's. He played with Aodh Rua Ballyshannon and St. Joseph's. He won a Donegal Senior Championship with St. Joseph's in 1970. He also played with Donegal the same year. His daughter Grace played with the Donegal Senior Ladies.

Joe Mc Monagle

Joe Mc Monagle Letterkenny, Mount Bellew and Gartan. Joe was a teacher in Mount Bellew Agriculture College. He was very involved in the Mount Bellew/Moy Lough GAA club. He was a Selector with Galway U21 teams. He trained and managed teams in the Agriculture College in Mount Bellew and with the club. Over a period of 40 years he dedicated much time to the College and to the Club.

Kate and Luke Keeney

Kate and Luke are members of the Four Masters GAA Club in Donegal. Their grandfather Tom Dillon was an outstanding member of the Galway Senior Football team who won the All-Ireland in 1956.

The above are some of the many personalities who contributed to the Donegal and Galway GAA scene.

A Football Education in Galway – John Haran

By Alan Foley



1994 St. Jarlath's

When a 12-year-old John Haran first walked through the echoing corridors of St Jarlath's College in Tuam, the framed pictures of the legendary teams of yesteryear dotted the walls. If those walls could talk, the stories they'd tell could fill many an evening. By then, the Galway secondary school had won the Hogan Cup on 10 occasions, a record that has since stretched to 12.

Haran grew up in Hawthorn Heights in Letterkenny, an estate that literally is in the shadows of St Eunan's College. However, when his father Seamus told him "if there's football in you St Jarlath's will get it out of you," John, in September 1989, made the decision to follow the path down the N17 his older brother Eamon had made a year beforehand.

Despite their successes in the Hogan Cup, St Jarlath's last victory in the competition came in 1984 with another Letterkenny native, Leslie McGettigan, on board. And having also lost the inaugural final in 1946, were beaten finalists in 1990, 1992 and 1993. During those years, Eamon Haran and Ronan Dillon from Letterkenny possessed hard luck stories, as did Falcarragh's Alan McFadden.

Life, though, was simple for John Haran.

"You heard the stories about all the teams that had gone before," he says. "As a boarder you

went to school, studied, trained, played football and talked football. Football was life. I just stuck with it, made friends, got used to it and soon loved it.

"It was boarding for seven nights and then you'd get home once a month for a long weekend. Most of the club football at home around this time was played in the summer so I can't recall ever missing too much with St Eunan's at the various underage levels."

By the time the 1993/94 school year came around, St Jarlath's were moulding a considerable team. It was a team so good in fact, it would provide the backbone for the Galway senior panel who would go on to win Sam Maguire in 1998 and again in 2001, losing the 2000 final against Kerry in a replay played on October's first Saturday.

"There were some exceptional footballers there looking back," Haran adds. "Just look at the fact that Michael Donnellan was Footballer of the Year in 1998, Declan Meehan in 2001 and Padraic Joyce, well, was Padraic Joyce."

Tomás Meehan, John Divily and John Concannon would also star for Galway as the West was awakened, having learned their trade in Tuam. Another Letterkenny native and St Eunan's forward, Kevin Winston, had come to St Jarlath's after his Junior Cert.

The 1994 Connacht final couldn't have been a more local affair, with St Jarlath's overcoming St Patrick's College from "across the wall" in Tuam before St Mel's College from Longford were defeated in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In the final, which took place in Longford, at Pearse Park, with Haran lining out at wing-forward, St Jarlath's were in imperious form, brushing aside the challenge of St Patrick's College from Maghera, Co Derry, on a 3-11 to 0-9 score line. Padraic Joyce, as captain, lifted the trophy after the most comprehensive of wins.

"There was big pressure on you when you went to St Jarlath's," Haran adds. "There was a big history there to contend with, but they were good times."

"In 2014, we had our 20-year reunion and it was great to meet up with everyone again. We're on a Wassap group but there was more talk on it this week about Man United playing Spurs than Donegal's game with Galway!"

This afternoon Haran, now the St Eunan's club vice-chairman, will be at O'Donnell Park, perhaps selling tickets and greeting supporters from both Galway and from Donegal.

After the Hogan Cup, Haran would go onto make his senior debut for St Eunan's in 1995 and this is the first season the O'Donnell Park club will be without his services since. With Donegal, Haran's standout moment came at Croke Park in the 2003 All-Ireland quarter-final when he kicked the equalizing point against none other than Galway.

Brian McEniff's Donegal, relegated from Division 1 and beaten by Fermanagh in Ulster, upset the form book in the replay at MacHale Park, winning 0-14 to 0-11. Haran left Croke Park having exchanged jerseys with Tommy Joyce and came home from Castlebar with Declan Meehan's. He still has both at home, describing them as "prized possessions."

St Jarlath's and St Eunan's certainly benefitted from the education picked up from a youngster who took to the road before his teens. Haran's father Seamus – all those years ago – was right: St Jarlath's certainly did get the football out of him.

Galway aim to build on Tyrone win

By Billy Coss, Tuam Herald



THEY were watched by a total attendance of over 201,000 in Croke Park last August so it's easy to understand why Mayo v Kerry and Tyrone v Dublin are the stand-out games in Round 2 of the Allianz Football League this weekend. The repeats of the 2017 All-Ireland semi-finals were played last night, with Castlebar and Omagh hosting those high-profile fixtures.

Fresh from their morale-boosting opening day win over the Red Hands, Galway will renew acquaintances with Donegal in another repeat match-up from last year's championship when the Tribesmen won a Round 4 qualifier by 4-17 to 0-14 at Markievicz Park.

Damien Comer's goal after 15 seconds provided a dream start to his Galway captaincy last Sunday and handed the Tribesmen all the early impetus against Tyrone. They never trailed on a day when their appetite for battle was spot on and the virtues of commitment, endeavour and honesty trumped the silky skills of the game.

Darren McCurry's red card in the opening half hardly helped Tyrone's cause, not to mention the absence of the Cavanagh brothers - the now-retired Sean and his club-tied younger brother Colm - and their struggles were summed up by paltry statistics like three points from play and eight wind-assisted wides before the break on a difficult day at Tuam Stadium.

Maybe not the perfect performance from a Galway perspective either, but a hard-earned and confidence-generating result nonetheless and one they'll look to build on as they make the lengthy trek north.

Declan Bonner returns for his second spell in charge of the Tir Chonaill men and his charges will, no doubt, be out for revenge after events in Sligo last summer and points after leaving Killarney with a 2-18 to 3-14 shoot-out defeat.

The talismanic Michael Murphy was a high-profile absentee against Kerry, as were the vastly-experienced Neil McGee, Frank McGlynn and Paddy McGrath.

Donegal have been boosted by the return of Odhrán Mac Niallais and Leo McLoone, however, and such has been the changing of the guard that the duo, along with Ryan McHugh, were the only survivors from the All-Ireland SFC final starting XV against Kerry some three and-a-half years ago.

A footballer who came off the bench that day has elevated his game to elite level and getting to grips with Donegal's marquee forward Paddy McBrearty is sure to top Kevin Walsh's 'to do' list today.

Their selection in Kerry had a fresh, youthful look about it with starters Stephen McMenamin, Eoghan Bán Gallagher, Tony McClenaghan, Cian McGonagle, Jamie Brennan and sub Stephen McBrearty all graduates from the Donegal minor team that reached the All-Ireland final in 2014.

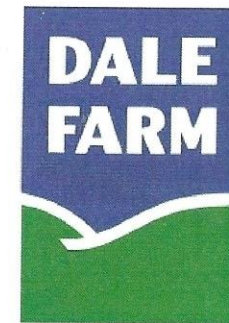
Sean Andy Ó Ceallaigh's long-awaited competitive debut at full-back was a qualified success for Galway on Sunday, while two more of last year's U-21 side in Peter Cooke and Sean Kelly got more valuable game-time at this level under their belts.

Injuries restricted the involvement of Padraic Cunningham, Adrian Varley, Tom Flynn and Johnny Heaney in January's Connacht FBD League but all four played their part on Sunday and on a further positive note, Gary O'Donnell and Sean Armstrong made their first appearances of 2018 during the closing stages.

Michael Daly (dislocated kneecap), Danny Cummins (knee) and Fiontán Ó Curraoin (broken leg) remain on the long-term absentee list, while Walsh must continue to plan without his Corofin contingent until after their All-Ireland club campaign comes to an end.

Galway may travel with less pressure after last Sunday's superb result on home soil but will be intent on continuing their solid start back in Division 1. Despite last weekend's defeat in Killarney there were plenty of positives to draw on from a Donegal perspective and they'll be hell-bent on collecting the points, especially with a trip to Croke Park coming down the track in six days' time.

Their last league clash came in Donegal's 1-16 to 0-12 success at Pearse Stadium in 2014 but Galway lead the league head-to-head record with six wins and two draws from 11 meetings.



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Galway - Tom Flynn



Galway - Eamonn Brannigan

Kilcar 1993 - Galway Connection



Kilcar 1993 Donegal Senior Football Champions

In 1993 Seamus Gallagher was manager of the Kilcar Senior team as well as being owner of the Blue Haven. He brought the former Galway minor Padraig Howley to Kilcar to act as bar manager. He quickly established himself as full forward on the Kilcar team and proved himself very accurate from both placed balls and from play. He played no small part in Kilcar winning the championship that year defeating a powerful Killybegs team who were going for a three in a row in the final. Kilcar would eventually narrowly lose out to Errigal Ciaran of Tyrone after a replay in the Ulster club semi-final. Although he was to play for one year only, the popular Howley still retains close ties with Kilcar and was at many of their games this year as they regained the Senior title for the first time since 1993.

Padraig Howley is standing second from the left back row.

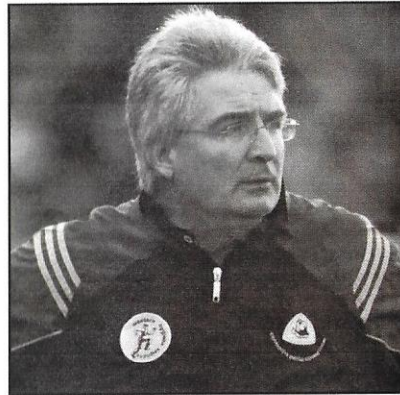
Paul Mc Gettigan

– Donegal & Galway

By Cathal Mac Grianna



Paul Mc Gettigan was born in Letterkenny, on October 1956, a son of Cora and James 'Gouldie' Mc Gettigan. He showed great football ability from an early age. He was coached by his father James, Peadar Mc Geehin, John Hannigan and Hugh Mc Govern among others. He won a County Juvenile Championship in 1972 and 3 County Minor Championships in a row from 1972 to 1974.



He attended Castlemartyr Secondary Boarding School in Cork from 1971 to 1973 and then transferred to Franciscan College, Gormanstown after his Intermediate Certificate. His brother Jimmy was starting in first year in Gormanstown that same year. It was in Gormanstown College that he came under the influence of Joe Lennon, an All-Ireland winner with Down in 1960, 1961 and 1968. Joe was a great coach and Paul benefited greatly from his coaching. He teamed up with many outstanding College footballers in Gormanstown including Denis Ogie Moran of Kerry. They won the All-Ireland Colleges Hogan Cup in 1973 beating St. Jarlaths, Tuam in the final. Gormanstown College reached the Hogan Cup final the following year but St. Jarlath's were victorious on that occasion. On the Gormanstown team of 1973 was another St. Eunan's player, Paddy Tunney. Paddy would be a team mate of Paul's on the 1983 St. Eunan's team and Paddy had a distinguished teaching career in St. Eunan's College from where he recently retired.

After the Leaving Certificate he enrolled in University College Galway where he studied Commerce for 3 years. During that time he played with UCG in two Sigerson Cup Finals. Paul continued to play for St. Eunan's and Donegal winning U21 Championships with St. Eunan's in the mid 70's. His first Senior game with Donegal was in October 1973. This was a National League match against Leitrim in Carrick-on-Shannon. He was 17 years of age. He remembers the late Séamus Bonner bringing him from Gormanstown College to the match. He continued to play Senior Football with Donegal from 1973 to 1976 winning the Ulster Senior Championship with Donegal in 1974 and two County Senior Championships with St. Eunan's in 1972 and later in 1983.

In 1977 he was dropped from the Donegal panel without explanation. It was a humiliating time for Paul because of the media coverage it created. The selectors deemed him not good enough to play for Donegal at a time when he was the only

Donegal man selected to play for Ulster for the Railway Cup. Paul remembers well how difficult it was when he was in college in Galway travelling to Donegal for training and matches. The bus service was poor, and he was depending on hitching lifts. He says that he was on the road all hours of the day and night. His total exclusion from the Donegal panel for the championship game against Derry was extremely hurtful for him. The only explanation was that the selectors were not happy when he arrived some minutes late for the Mc Kenna Cup Final against Fermanagh in Omagh. He didn't start in the Mc Kenna Cup Final but came on as a sub with 10 minutes to go. Donegal lost 1-08 to 1-07.

Paul stresses that he was a committed St. Eunan's and Donegal player but at that stage he decided to move to Galway. He was working for the Health Board in Galway and his work brought him to Ballinasloe. He became a member of the St. Grellan's GAA club in Ballinasloe. St. Grellan's won 2 County and Connacht Championships in 1979 and 1980. In 1980 St. Grellan's were defeated in the All-Ireland Club Championship final by St. Finnbar's of Cork.

Paul enjoyed his years with St. Grellan's in Ballinasloe. He also became a regular member on the Galway Senior team and on occasions playing midfield with his brother-in-law Jimmy Duggan. Jimmy Duggan was an eighteen year old member of the Galway All-Ireland winning team of 1966. It wasn't a successful time for Galway County football in those years. This was Roscommon's golden time in Connacht. Paul enjoyed playing County football with Galway. He was made very welcome by the Galway players but it wasn't the same as playing with Donegal his native County. "Your County is your County," he said himself.

He transferred from St. Grellan's to Corofin and enjoyed more success both as a player and later as a coach. Corofin was his wife's home club. He managed Corofin Minors and Seniors. He was the Manager when Corofin won the All-Ireland Club title in 1998. Corofin has enjoyed a lot of success in both Galway and Connacht.

Brian McEniff invited Paul back to play for Donegal in early 1983. It was difficult for Paul to return as he was unhappy with how things worked out earlier with Donegal but he felt no animosity towards Brian McEniff. He regarded Brian McEniff as a great manager and motivator, a player's man. He understood that I was a student in earlier years. He also understood the practicalities of travelling from Galway. It was easier to come back when Brian was in complete charge. 'I would do anything for Brian McEniff'; Paul says. Donegal won the Ulster Championship in 1983 with Paul at midfield. This win gave Paul great satisfaction. To win with your own County is special. Paul was also a member of the St. Eunan's Senior Championship winning team of 1983.

Paul now lives in Salthill, Galway with his wife Geraldine. They have two grown up children. Having initially studied Commerce in UCG, he then studied Law in the Kings Inn. He now is a practicing Barrister on the Western Circuit. Paul is a regular visitor to Letterkenny where his mother and father still live.



**NOTRE DAME SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM
'94 NEW ENGLAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS**

Front Row, L to R: Pascal Brogan, Colin Harvey, Jim Dowling, Barry Kirwin, Aiden Leksler, Cyril Hughes Des Newton
Back Row, L to R: Jim McGuinness, Gerard O'Connor, Asst. Mgr., Paul O'Dowd, Dermott Duggan, Noel Hegarty, Paul McGovern, Andy Faulkner, Morgan Duggan, John Timolty, Mike Kearns, Martin Harvey, Vice Captain, Eugene Harper, Captain, Paul Campbell, Manager, Paddy McDevitt, Chairman

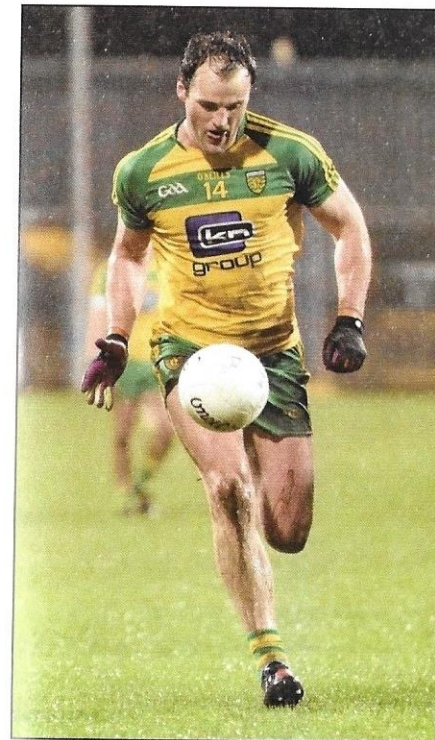
1994 Notre Dame Boston, New England Senior Football Champions.

Included are: Jim McGuinness (N. Conaill), Noel Hegarty (N. Columba), Paul McGovern (St. Eunan's), Pascal Brogan (Four Masters) and Des Newton (Urris).

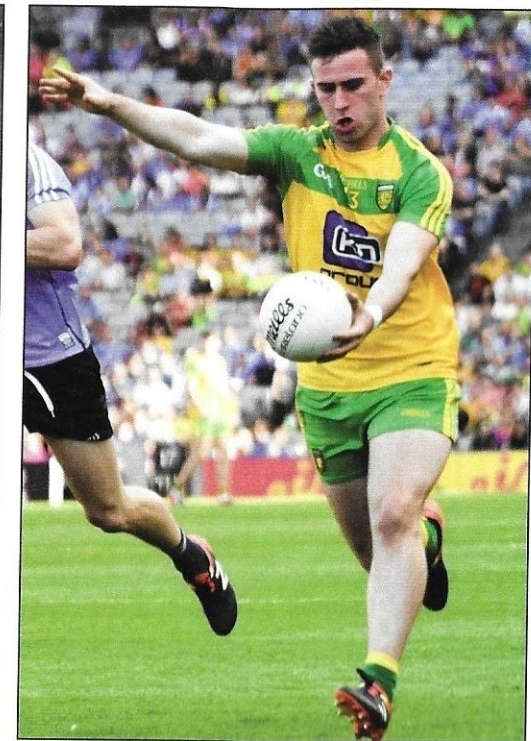


St. Eunan's - 1983 Donegal Senior Football Champions

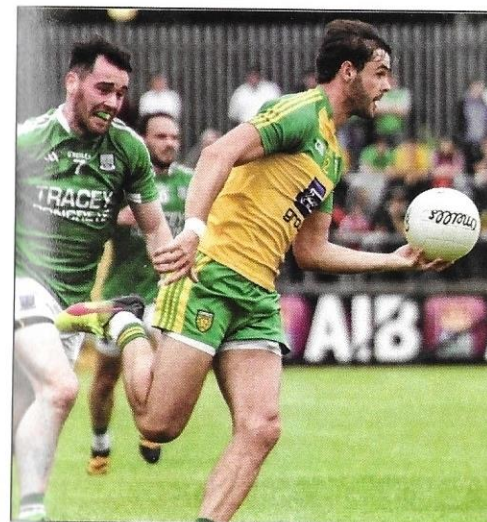
Included are Paul McGettigan (Corofin & St. Grellan's) 4th from right, back row and Damien Judge (Caherlistrane, Co. Galway) 2nd from right, back row. Damien was inducted into the St. Eunan's GAA Hall of Fame on January 23rd, 2015.



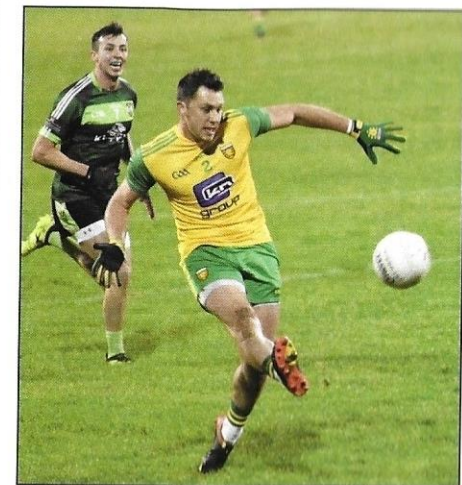
Michael Murphy in action during the Alliance League. Photos by Geraldine Diver



Patrick McBrearty.



Odhran MacNiallais.



Paul Brennan.

Naomh Colmcille Reflect on Historic Year – Aim to Build on it

By Chris McNulty (Donegal Sport Hub)



N Colmcille courtesy of Evan Logan

Naomh Colmcille made a journey of little more than 10k to the Ulster Junior Club final, but an important pitstop had to be made.

The history of the Naomh Colmcille club is one of survival for most of the narrative. Survival in the face of tough economic times in a deprived border area in east Donegal and survival, more so, in the face of weeks, months and years of underachieving.

Ryan McKinley was a late appointee to a job coveted by few last winter.

Naomh Colmcille had suffered the double indignity of relegation in both the League and the Championship in 2016. For all intents and purposes, having reached an Intermediate final in 2015, which they lost heavily to Bundoran, they were back at square one. There were no crystal balls around Newtowncunningham, St Johnston, Killea or Carrigans that predicted what lay in store. Predicting history that has yet to happen is an impossible exercise, after all.

Their history is important around those parts. And the value of James Dowds can neither be overstated nor forgotten. A founder member of the club, he had been in ill health for some time. Players visited him on the day they defeated Red Hugh's to win the Donegal Junior Championship final. The pictures of Willie Gillespie, the team captain, and others, alongside James in his hospital bed with the McCloskey Cup have become treasured images. By the time Naomh Colmcille were lining up for the Ulster final against Belnaleck of Fermanagh at Celtic Park, their founder member had passed to his eternal rest.

And as they headed for the biggest evening in the club's history, they paused to reflect. Gerard Curran, a veteran of the side, made the suggestion: 'We'll take a run up to the grave,' he ventured.

"30 of us got out and went up to the grave," McKinley said after Matthew Crossan's goal saw that night become the club's greatest hour. "That shows how much he meant. This will go back on the grave tonight. Only for James Dowds, there would be no club."

Naomh Colmcille's season looked doomed when they drew with St Mary's of Convoys to miss out on promotion, but a subsequent Championship quarter-final win over Moville ignited a fire that raged from one year into the next. There remained an aching sense of 'what if' from their derailed promotion bid from Division 4, but the addition of the McCloskey Cup for the first time in seven years quelled the hurt.

A voyage to an Ulster title, while losing James Dowds in an emotional time, hoisted them to unparalleled heights. In a perverse sort of way, missing out on one of the promotions slots has perhaps given them the desired wake-up call. "Usually Christmas and New Year is time to take the foot off, but this year was different," Gillespie said. "We trained on New Year's Day and we just kept going over Christmas. We just went to get ourselves ticking along. We knew how big of a deal it was."

As they prepared to head for Scotland to face Dunedin Connollys, the British champions, Ricky Hegarty pulled a wry smile in Castlefin one night as they prepared for training. Robert Emmets, whom they'll face in Division 4 of the League this year, were gathering for pre-season.

Hegarty said: "Ryan came to us late, but we got into it straight away. We started off with a seven-week programme in the gym and got out on the field. Those seven weeks really helped get the team together and got us all on the one page."

"I know from playing with Ryan the passion that he has for the club. He has carried that into management. It's not hard to get behind a man who wears his heart on his sleeve."

They played 11 Championship games and it only came to a halt when goals by James Dennehy and John F Daly fired Knocknagree to victory in Mullingar.

Having ground out a win in Edinburgh on the mouth of Christmas, backed by a big traveling crowd, Naomh Colmcille took their latest scalp. McKinley's men went to the well and back - pushing even employers to the brink. Gillespie said: "It's all down to the boys and Ryan. The hard work has been there. Boys have taken off work, I'd say some must be on the verge of the sack at this stage, including myself! It's all down to commitment. Everyone has bought into everything." Gillespie said the club was 'on top of the world' after the Ulster final but was clear they couldn't become one hit wonders.

He said: "Next year, the priority will 100 per cent be getting out of Division 4. We know we're a good team - now we have to prove it."

The Gweedore Team of 1953 Donegal Senior Football Champions

Gaoth Dobhair 1-05
Carndonagh 1-04



*Back Row: Left to Right: Hughie Coyle, Hughie Tim Boyle, Cormac Óg Breslin, Joe Boyle, Paddy Carr, Eddie Gillespie, Connie Mór McBride, Seán Gallagher, Charley O'Donnell, Paddy McGee, Francie Mooney, Johnnie Breslin, Gene Mc Ginley.
Front Row: Left to Right: Connie (Ned) Mc Bride, P.J. Gallagher, Patrick Coyle, Nonnie Gallagher, Bernard Coyle, Michael James Gallagher, Antoin Rodgers, Micheál Carr, Charley Bonner.*



Adrian Shields receiving his Special Recognition for Volunteers Award

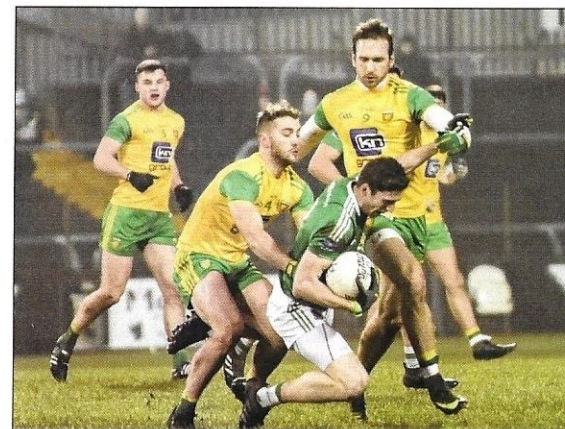
at the Annual Donegal Sports Star Awards last weekend from former World Snooker Champion, Ken Doherty.

1954 Donegal - All-Ireland Junior Final



The Donegal Junior Team that played in the All Ireland Junior Final in Croke Park in 1954 against Kerry. They defeated Galway in the All Ireland Semi-final in Ballyshannon but were defeated in the final by Kerry. Kerry played in their normal colours of green and gold and Donegal wore the Ulster jerseys that day.

*Back row left to right: Jackie McDermott Ballyshannon, Dom Murray Dungloe, John Smith Carndonagh, Jim (Cookie) Boyle Dungloe, Hughie Coyle Gaoth Dobhair, Willie Gallagher Gaoth Dobhair, Frank Farrelly St. Eunan's, Tommy Sweeney Dunkineely, Matt Regan Ballyshannon, Johnny McGinley Gaoth Dobhair (Chairman).
Front row left to right: Hugh Daly Ballyshannon (Secretary), Joe Winston St. Eunan's (mascot), Frank O'Donnell Kilcar, Colm McCauley Killybegs, Peadar McGeehin St. Eunan's, Paddy Coyle Gaoth Dobhair, Raymond Bryson Castlefin, James McGettigan St. Eunan's, Hugh Boyle Dungloe.*



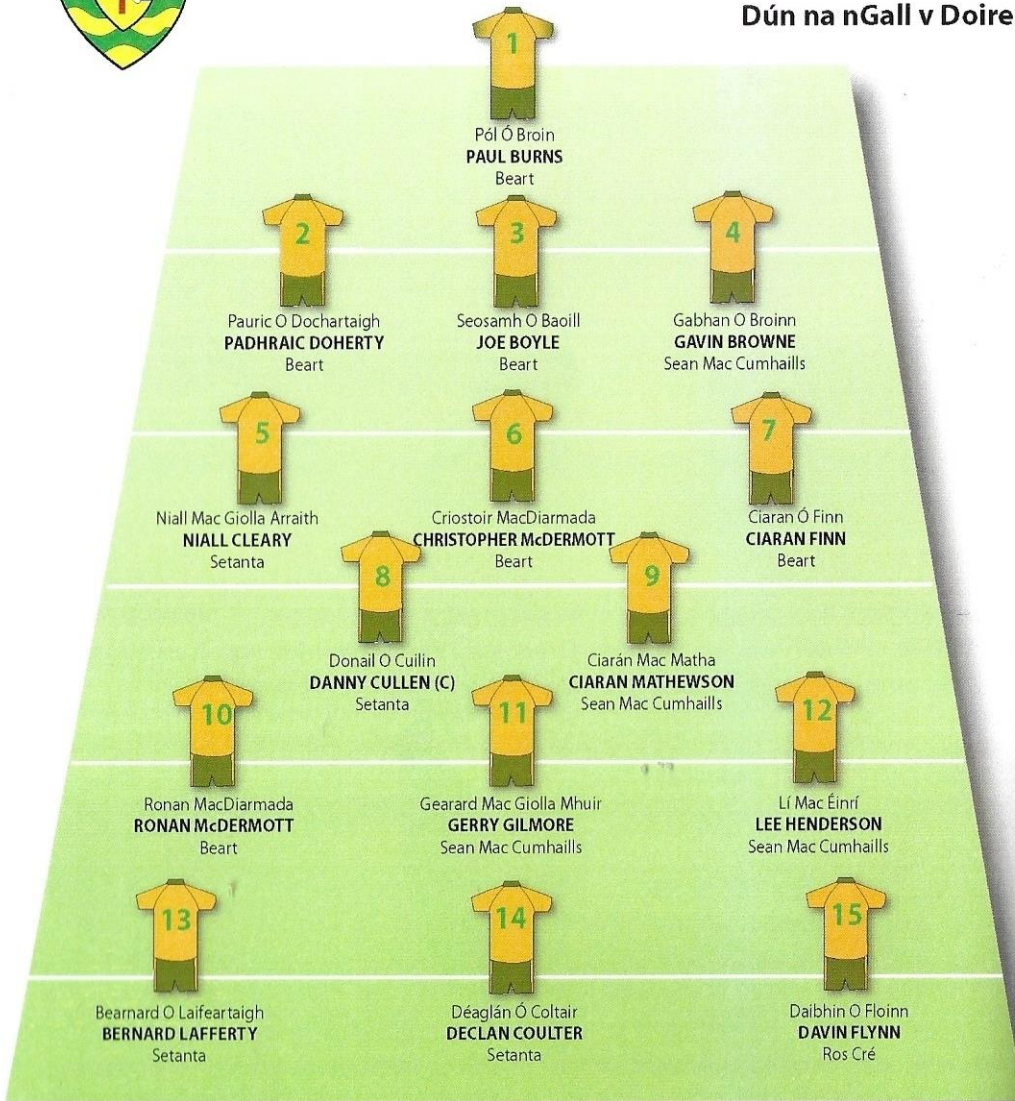
Stephen McMenamin & Nathan Mullins.



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Manager: Mickey Mc Cann

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FIR IONAD

16 (GK) Diolun Ó Laifeartaigh, **DYLAN LAFFERTY**, Sean Mac Cumhailis. 17 Stíopháin Mac Giolla Easpaig, **STEPHEN GILLESPIE**, Beart
18 Somhairle Ó Dochartaigh, **SAM DOHERTY**, Bun Cranncha. 19 Marcas Ceallachán, **MARK CALLAGHAN**, Setanta. 20 Caoimhin Ó Cathmoill, **KEVIN CAMPBELL**, Setanta. 21 Caoimhin Ó Caollaí, **KEVIN KEALY**, Naomh Adhamhnáin. 22 PJ Mac Cearáin, **PJ Mc CARRON**, Bun Cranncha. 23 Saerbhreachach Mac Bhrí, **JUSTIN Mc BRIDE**, Setanta. 24 Pól Ó Tuairisc, **PAUL TOURISH**, Bun Cranncha.
25 Caolán Mac Diarmada, **CAOLAN Mc DERMOTT**, Beart. 26 Padraig Mac Liam, **PATRICK WILSON**, Bun Cranncha.
27 Marcas Ó Dúda, **MARK DOWDS**, Beart. 28 Máirtín Ó Cnáimhsí, **MARTY BONAR**, Setanta. 29 Marcas Catháin, **MARK KANE**, Setanta

BAINISTÍOCHT: Bainisteoir: **MICKEY MC CANN**, Maor Fóirne: **PAUL CAMPBELL**, Roghnóir (1): **GABRIEL O KANE**, Roghnóir (2): **SEAN MURPHY** Medics: **COLUM O NEILL**, **FRANK FOGARTY**, Kit Man: **ANTHONY COYLE**,

Maor Uisce/Camán (F & H): **ANTHONY COYLE**, **SEAN MURPHY**, **MARTIN MC GRATH** Cathaoirleach Contae: **FRANKIE DOHERTY**

Dathanna: Glas agus Oir

Derry Doire

Manager: Colm McGurk



Referee

Kevin Brady
(An Lú)

Stand By Referee

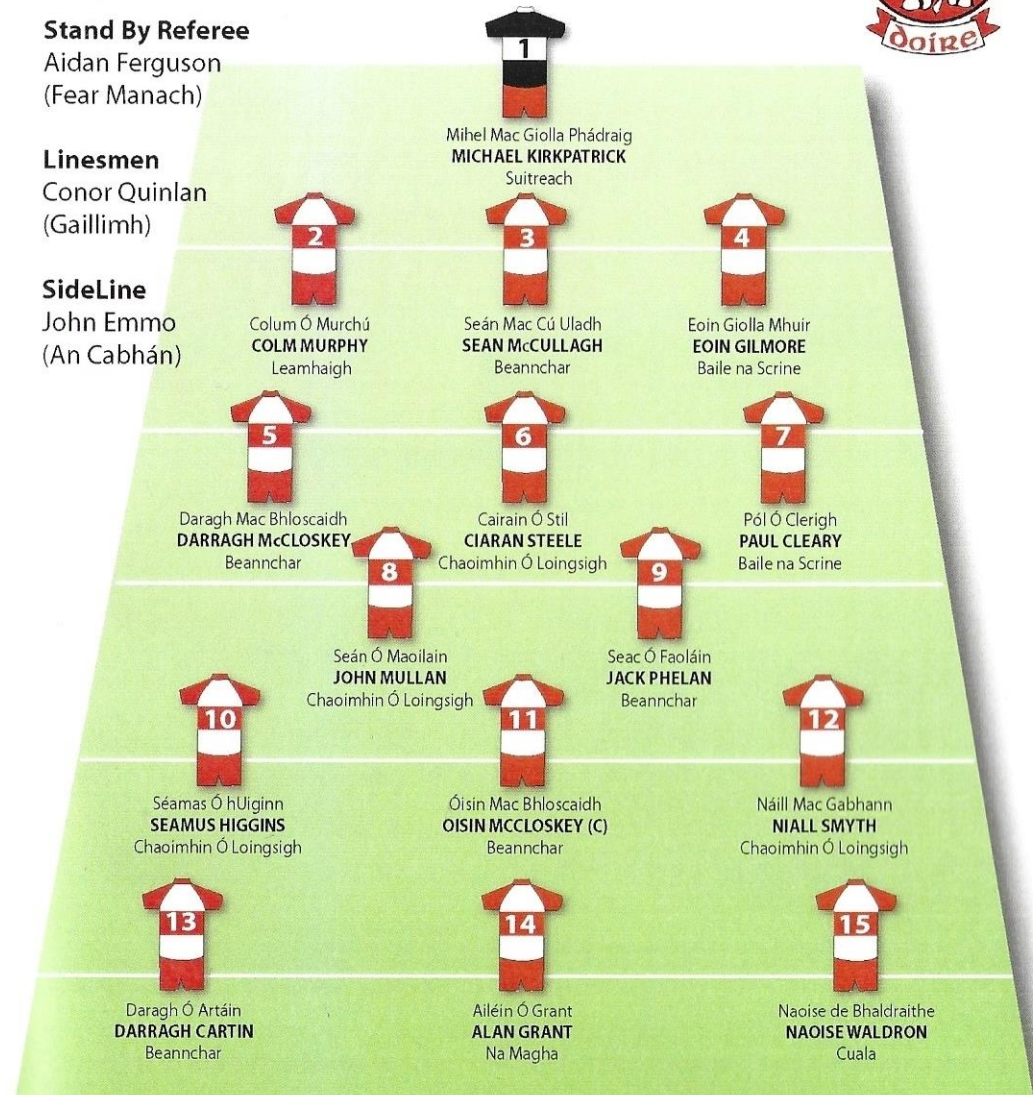
Aidan Ferguson
(Fear Manach)

Linesmen

Conor Quinlan
(Gaillimh)

SideLine

John Emmo
(An Cabhán)



FIR IONAD:

16. Conchur Mac Criostail, **CONOR McCHRISTAL**, Leamhaigh. 17. Tomas Mac Aidh, **THOMAS MAGEE**, Eoghan Rua
18. Breandán Ó Coigligh, **BRENDAN QUIGLEY**, Na Magha. 19. Ciarán Ó Leogáin, **CIARAN LAGAN**, Eoghan Rua
20. Aodhan Ó Dónaill, **AODHAN O'DONNELL**, Na Magha. 21. Tadhg Mac Raing, **TIM RANKIN**, Na Magha
22. Odhrán Mac Iomhair, **ODHRAN McKEEVER**, Chaoimhin Ó Loingsigh. 23. Liam Ó Murchú, **LIAM MURPHY**, Leamhaigh
24. Odhrán de Bhaldrathea, **ODHRAN WALDRON**, Cuala. 25. Criostoír Ó hInnéirí, **CHRIS HENRY**, Leamhaigh
26. Padraig Ó Tornóir, **PATRICK TURNER**, Suitreach

BAINISTÍOCHT: Bainisteoir: **COLM MCGURK**, Maor Faoinne: **KEVIN KELLY**, Kit Man: **HARRY McDERMOTT**, Physio **CATHERINE KELLY**
Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán



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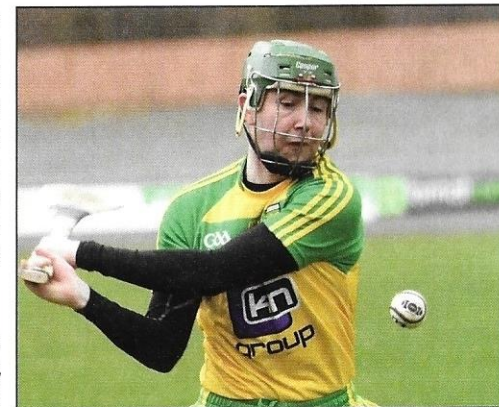
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Donegal Aim to Emulate Derry Hurling Success

By Paddy Flood



In the last decade Donegal and Derry have crossed paths more often in hurling. For many years, the two counties operated at different levels of the sport. While Derry have always competed at the elite level of Ulster hurling, winning Ulster titles and frequently mixing with the giants of the game, Donegal traditionally played in the lower reaches of league and championship.



Since 2006, however, Donegal v Derry has become a more regular fixture at all grades, largely due to improvements in Donegal hurling. At senior level, Derry captured

their first Nicky Rackard in 2006, beating Donegal 5-15 to 1-11 in Croke Park. They had to wait until last year for their next success, overcoming Armagh 3-23 to 2-15. Derry will now play in the Christy Ring Cup for 2018, hoping to go one better than 2015, when Kerry beat them in the final to prevent their return to the Liam McCarthy championship. Following breakthrough successes in the Lory Meagher (2011) and Nicky Rackard (2013) Cups, when Donegal achieved its greatest win in hurling by overcoming Roscommon in a high scoring classic to win the Nicky Rackard, Donegal has played Derry a number of times in the Ulster Championship, including a close affair in 2016 in Celtic Park, where only a late rally by the Oak Leaf men prevented a major shock. At underage level, Donegal county board made a long-term decision to play at the elite level in Ulster, with the aim of producing young players capable of playing top class hurling. As a result, young Donegal and Derry players have become used to seeing each other's jerseys on the playing field. In 2017, a talented Derry team broke Antrim's stranglehold on the Ulster U21 Hurling Championship, beating Donegal on the way. Both senior sides today feature many players from those teams.

The two counties achieved major successes in 2017, with Derry's Nicky Rackard success and Donegal's promotion from Division 3 of the AHL. Today's home team spent 2015 and 2016 in this grade of hurling and hope to gain from the experience of continuing to play in Division 2. Donegal's new manager Micky McCann and Derry's leader Collie McGurk are building new teams following the retirement of some veterans, so hurling supporters in both counties will be very interested to see how the young newcomers will perform. With Derry winning the Ulster Under 21 Championship and Donegal completing a three in a row of All Ireland Under 21C championships, each manager has talent to build on. On top of that, both counties have enjoyed great success at club level this year, with Donegal champions Setanta winning the Ulster Junior Championship and Slaughtneil continuing

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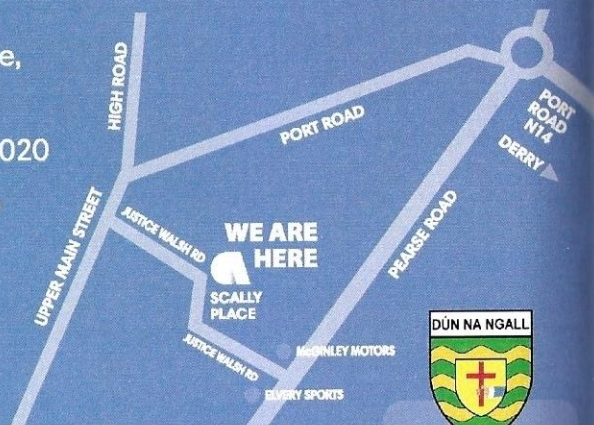
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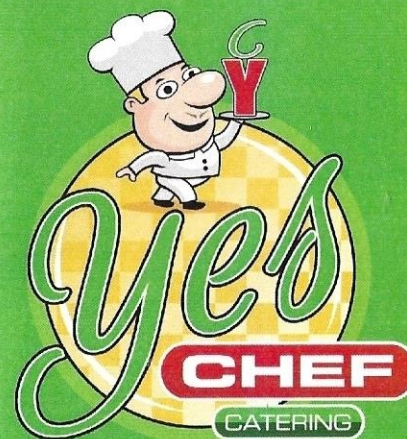
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their domination of the Ulster Senior Championship. It is particularly encouraging for both counties that each of these fine teams has to work very hard to win their own county titles, indicating a reasonably healthy club scene. Despite this, it is a concern that not enough clubs are competing at senior championship level. Of course, due to club commitments, the hurlers of Setanta and Slaughtneil have been unavailable to their county managers and both squads will receive a major boost when these players return to their respective county colours after gruelling club campaigns against top class opposition, something that is sure to be of benefit to both counties as the season grinds on towards championship.

Micky McCann and his management team will hope that a good display can produce a result at home. Experienced campaigners such as Danny Cullen, Lee Henderson, Declan Coulter and Davin Flynn can lead the way. Derry manager McGurk will expect that under 21 players such as John Mullan and Eamonn Magill, along with Nicky Rackard winners Oisín and Darragh McCloskey, will help his team get a good start in their push for promotion.

Our club was very fortunate to have dual star Chrissy McKaigue as the special guest at our annual Minor Board Presentation night a few weeks ago and he gave a great insight into what it takes for a club to be successful on all fronts. Our club, St. Eunan's would like to take this opportunity to wish Slaughtneil well in their upcoming All-Ireland semi-finals in both Hurling (v Na Píarsaigh, Feb. 10th) and Football (v Nemo Rangers, Feb. 24th).



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Donegal Senior Hurlers. Photos by Geraldine Diver



Setanta, Donegal Senior Hurling Champions 2017 & Ulster Junior Club Champions 2017.



Slaughtneil Senior Hurlers - Ulster Champions 2017. They will take on Na Piarsaigh, Limerick in the All-Ireland Club semi-final next Saturday, February 10th in Parnell Park, Dublin with a 2pm throw-in.

Derry Aim to Kickstart Season

By Michael McMullan - County Derry Post



DERRY'S young guns couldn't have asked for a tougher opener that last week's visit of Down, but Breandan Quigley's late goal gave an air of respectability to the scoreboard and hope for brighter days ahead.

Next up for the Oakleifers is a trip to Letterkenny to face a Donegal side that succumbed to ten point defeat against Mayo in Castlebar.

Both teams will be desperate to get a win on the board in their second games with the losing team likely to find themselves propping up the league table on Sunday evening.

Picking up points will be vital and selector Kevin Kelly was in upbeat mood following Derry's clash with Down last Sunday.

"We have to regroup but those players said to us after the game they wanted more training to put things right and that shows they are taking responsibility and we need that from those players," Kelly pointed out.

"There is no need to be downhearted. Yes, we can be disappointed. Like anyone we want to win and we all want to see Derry winning but if it doesn't happen we have to shift our focus to what we can do to make sure we win the next day."

With the Christy Ring Cup as the main focus down the tracks, getting new players bedded into the squad is another priority.

New goalkeeper Michael Kirkpatrick will have a game under his belt and Derry will take confidence from aspects of their play on Sunday.

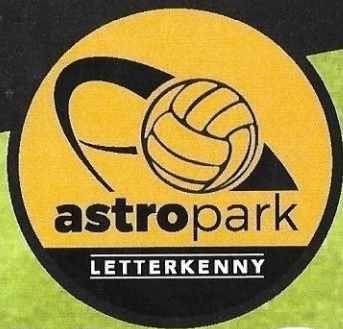
Darragh McCloskey and Ciaran Steele are likely to lead the defence, with his brother skipper Oisín McCloskey, John Mullan and Niall Smyth needing to secure possession at midfield.

Alan Grant has stepped into Ruairi Convery's role as chief scorer and the Na Magha man will again need to be on song.

"At the end of the day, we have to go out there and try to win every game. If that is good enough to win the league, then it is good enough to win the league" said Kelly.

Derry will need to pick up points and today's local derby is an opportunity to get back on track.





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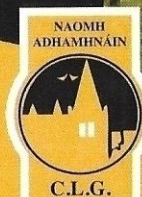
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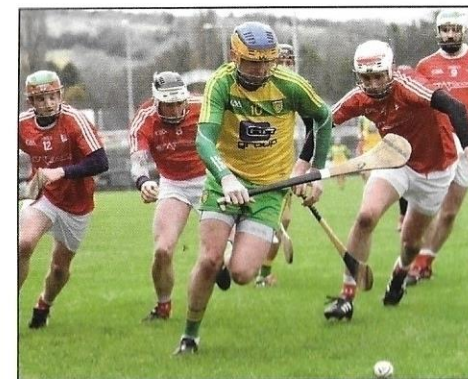
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Derry captain Oisín McCloskey.
Photo: Margaret McLaughlin



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Donegal v Louth 2017



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GROUND REGULATIONS for O'Donnell Park



1. All persons entering O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny are admitted only subject to the following Ground Regulations and to the Rules and Regulations of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations. Any person who fails to comply with these Ground Regulations may be refused entry or removed from the ground.
2. Fireworks, smoke canisters, gas-horns, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles and other similar articles or containers, including anything, which may be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the stadium.
3. The consumption of alcohol is not permitted within the ground and spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the stadium.
4. The unauthorized climbing of any structure, walls or buildings in the ground is strictly forbidden.
5. Unnecessary noise such as that from the use of radio sets, gas-horns and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind, including foul or abusive language, is not permitted in any part of the ground.
6. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object onto the pitch.
7. Unauthorized persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play at any time before, during or after the games.
8. The Ground Management reserve the right to refuse admission or to eject any person who refuses to be searched where such a search is deemed necessary.
9. A person may not obstruct a gangway, stairwell or circulation area at any time. Standing is not permitted for Health and Safety reasons at the back of the Stand.
10. All persons entering or in the ground are reminded of their obligation to ensure that their behaviour does not present a danger from fire or other occurrence to anyone using the premises.
11. Smoking is not permitted in the Main Stand. Smoking Areas are located at the back of the Stand.
12. The Ground Management reserve the right for its servants or agents to remove from the ground any person who does not comply with the Ground Regulations or whose presence in the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.
13. All spectators are asked to follow the instructions of Stewards at all times.

ANSWERS: 1, Football (9 in football, 5 in hurling); 2, McHale Park, Castlebar; 3, Frank Rushe; 4, Eamon Coghlan won World Championship 5,000m in Helsinki; 5, 1980-81; 6, 2007; 7, Cillian O'Connor (Mayo) with 3-66 scored over 10 matches; 8, Roscommon; 9, John Haran and Kevin Winston; 10, Padraic Joyce; 11, Leslie McGettigan; 12, Patrick McBrearty; 13, Eight (1972, '74, '83, '90, '92, 2011, 2012, 2014); 14, Kerry ('84-'86); 15, Sligo; 16, 1998-2000; 17, Tom Conaghan; 18, Meath; 19, Newbridge, Kildare; 20, Two (2).

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GAA - ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 1

McBrearty impresses as Donegal lose at home to Galway

DONEGAL 0-14
GALWAY 1-12

BY RYAN FERRY

FOR the second week in a row, Donegal were left cursing the fine margins of Division 1 football as they lost by a point to Galway in O'Donnell Park on Sunday.

Donegal weren't at their best in the first half, but Patrick McBrearty kept them in contention, although Galway led by two at the break thanks to Eamonn Brannigan's goal.

Bonner's men got back on level terms as they impressed after the resumption, and went in front in the 42nd minute.

However, Donegal could only muster two more points against a defensive Galway side.

The visitors hit the front in a tense finish with Sean Armstrong curling over in the 69th minute, and Donegal couldn't find a leveller at the death.

That means that Donegal's poor record in O'Donnell Park continues, and the senior footballers have only won twice at the Letterkenny venue since 2002.

Donegal lost their first league match against Kerry last week, but it was an encouraging display from Bonner's young charges.

Galway arrived in O'Donnell Park with confidence after defeating Tyrone in their opener. They made a fast start to proceedings with Damien Comer pointing after 22 seconds, and Paul Conroy quickly tagged on another.

Patrick McBrearty got Donegal off the mark with a free, but Johnny Heaney quickly cancelled that out.

Kerry GAA legend Pat Spillane wrote on the morning of the match that Patrick McBrearty was the in-form forward in the country at the moment, and the Kilcar man showed his class with a free, and then a brilliant curling effort from play after a super pass from Martin O'Reilly.

The sides were level after 15 minutes, but Donegal fell behind when they conceded a sloppy goal.

Stephen McBrearty made a good tackle on Peter Cooke, however Declan Kyne retrieved possession, and the Donegal defence suddenly opened up.



Galway's Damien Comer in action against Donegal Tony McClenaghan and Leo McLoone.

The corner-back fed the ball inside to Eamonn Brannigan, who coolly slotted past Peter Boyle and into the net.

Galway could have had another goal six minutes later, when Comer was allowed to bully his way through, but his shot went over the bar.

Patrick McBrearty was Donegal's go-to man and he kicked a fantastic point from past the 45 metre line, and then curled over a free from an acute angle.

Comer was causing havoc at the opposite end and he earned a free which Shane Walsh converted.

Walsh kicked another from play after a poor kick-out from Peter Boyle, but Patrick McBrearty fired over a free in the 31st minute.

The Donegal defence was under pressure and Walsh converted another free after Gareth Bradshaw was fouled by Ryan McHugh.

That left the Tribesmen four points ahead, but Donegal finished the half strongly with good scores from Paul Brennan and Stephen McBrearty and were still in contention at the break.

Stephen McBrearty pointed 41 seconds after the restart, but Donegal were fortunate not to concede a goal one minute later.

A defensive mistake allowed Galway through, and Johnny Heaney fist-ed across goal. Comer slapped the ball towards goal, and Boyle did well to tip over.

Galway couldn't handle Patrick McBrearty and he helped himself to

another brace to level matters.

The same player then nudged Donegal ahead with a free, and the corner-forward was almost through for a goal, but he couldn't control a pass from his brother Stephen.

Walsh responded with a great point from play, but he then spurned a goal chance after more sloppy play from Bonner's defence.

The tension started to rise as the teams battled it out, and Walsh put Galway back into the lead.

Donegal's attacking play was too slow and ponderous, but Ryan McHugh equalised with a magnificent outside-of-the-boot effort.

Bonner and his management team were incensed in the 61st minute when the referee Pdraig Hughes

gave a soft free against Odhran MacNiallais, which Walsh converted.

The home side were struggling to create opportunities but Mark McHugh did set up Ciaran McGinley in the 66th minute and the Kilcar man fisted over.

It was all to play for in a frantic finish, but Galway moved into the ascendancy when Sean Armstrong curled over a beauty in the 69th minute.

Galway had chances to kill off the game, and Donegal also had opportunities to level but Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher dropped a shot short, and Hugh McFadden's effort from distance went wide.

Hughes' full-time whistle blew seconds later to resign Donegal to a second league defeat, and with Dublin on

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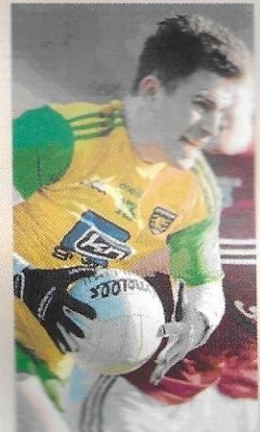
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THE GAME AT A GLANCE

WITH RYAN FERRY IN O'DONNELL PARK

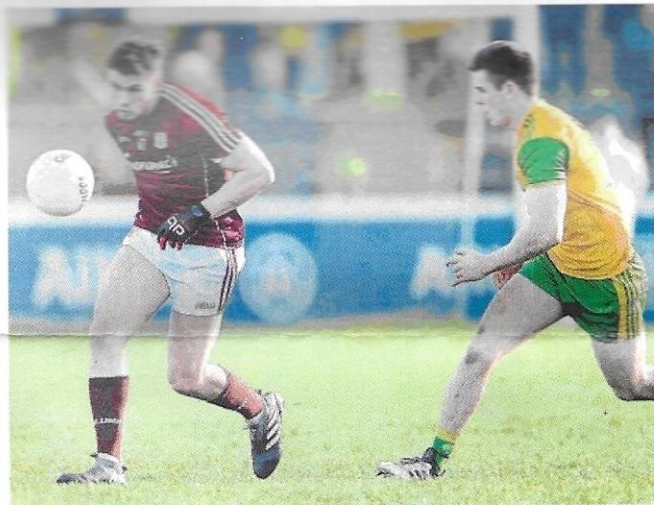


Donegal's Peter Cooke gets the ball away against Donegal's Ryan McHugh.

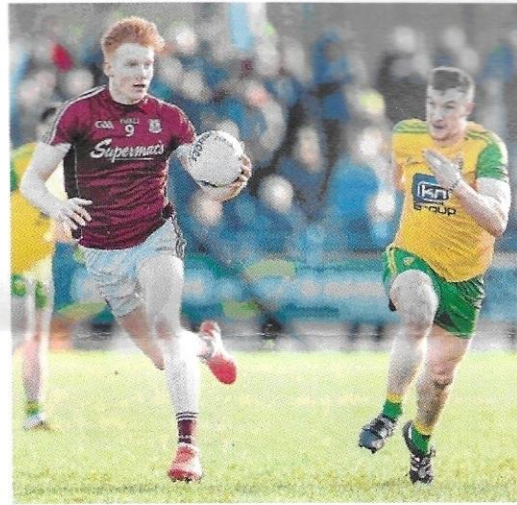


MAN OF THE MATCH

Patrick McBrearty-McBrearty, pictured above, is in real hot form at the minute and he was excellent once again for Donegal on Sunday. He gave Declan Kyne a torrid time and struck nine points. Shane Walsh was the key man for Galway, while Damien Comer also had his moments.



Galway's Shane Walsh in action against Donegal's Eoghan ban Gallagher.



Galway's Peter Cooke looks for options as Leo McLoone closes in.

THE WHISTLER

The Donegal supporters were far from impressed by Padraig Hughes' performance, as he gave Galway two soft frees in the second half which had a big bearing on the match. He also pulled the play back to book Sean Armstrong in injury-time even though Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher was able to continue on with possession.

TURNING POINT

Donegal played some excellent football at the start of the second half and outscored their opponents by four points to one to hit the front. However, Shane Walsh then scored a fabulous effort which got Galway going again and Bonner's team lost their attacking traction.

TERRACE TALK

It was another game which offered plenty of positives to Declan Bonner, but encouraging signs won't keep you in Division 1. It was a close encounter which Donegal could have won, but they struggled to create scoring opportunities, and at the moment, Patrick McBrearty is carrying too much of a workload. It's going to be a battle to stay up, and it's hard to see them getting anything from their trip to the capital next week. Kildare and Monaghan are the other counties that look like they will be in relegation trouble, so defeating them is a must if they are to retain their top flight status.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Donegal will look to get some sort of result from their game with All-Ireland champions Dublin next Saturday in Croke Park.

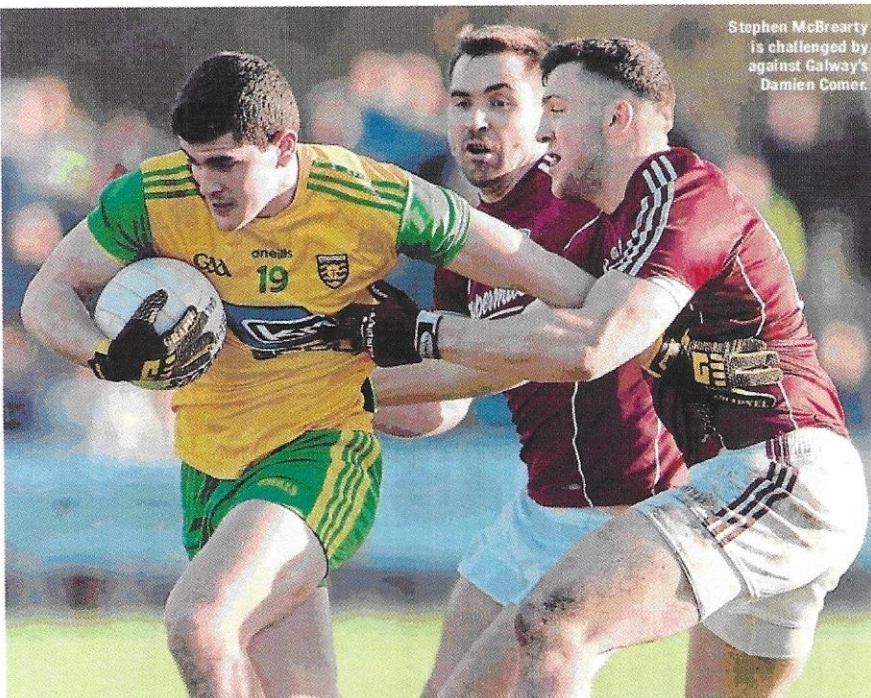
the horizon next week, Bonner's side certainly have a battle on their hands to stay up in Division 1.

TEAMS

Donegal: Peter Boyle; Stephen McMenamán, Caolan Ward, Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher, Tony McClenaghan, Paul Brennan (0-1), Ryan McHugh (0-1); Leo McLoone, Hugh McFadden; Stephen McBrearty (0-2), Odhrán Mac Niallais, Caolan McGonagle; Martin O'Reilly, Patrick McBrearty (0-9, 6fs), Darach O'Connor. Subs: Eamonn Doherty for McClenaghan (24 mins), Niall O'Donnell and Claran Thompson for O'Reilly and McGonagle (Half-time), Mark McHugh for Doherty (54 mins), Claran McGinley (0-1) for S.McBrearty (61 mins), Kevin McBrearty for Thompson (72 mins Black Card).

Galway: Rusiri Lavelle, Declan Kyne, Seán Andy Ó Ceallaigh, Eoghan Kerin; Sean Kelly, Cathal Sweeney, Gareth Bradshaw; Paul Conroy (0-1), Peter Cooke; Shane Walsh (0-6, 4fs), Johnny Heaney (0-1), Eamonn Brannigan (1-0); Patrick Sweeney, Damien Comer (0-3), Adrian Varley. Subs: Padraic Cunningham for Varley (50 mins), Thomas Flynn and Gary O'Donnell for Patrick and Cathal Sweeney (60 mins), Sean Armstrong (0-1) for Cooke (62 mins), Johnny Duane for Ó Ceallaigh (65 mins).

Referee: Padraig Hughes (Armagh).



Stephen McBrearty is challenged by Galway's Damien Comer.

GAA - ALLIANZ NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE DIVISION 2B

DONEGAL 4-17
DERRY 2-9

BY RYAN FERRY

It was a historic Sunday for the Donegal hurling team as they recorded a rare victory over Derry at O'Donnell Park.

Donegal were the better side in the first half, and Ronan McDermott's goal helped them into a 1-8 to 1-5 lead at half-time. However, Davin Flynn also missed a penalty and Mickey McCann's team should have been further ahead.

Donegal were the better side in the first half, and Ronan McDermott's goal helped them into a 1-8 to 1-5 lead at half-time. However, Davin Flynn also missed a penalty and Mickey McCann's team should have been further ahead.

The home outfit steadied up in the second half and further goals from Declan Coulter and Bernard Lafferty meant that the game was over as a contest with twenty minutes still to play.

Davin Flynn hit a fourth goal for the home side, and while they conceded a late three-pointer, it mattered little in the end, as Donegal picked up their first ever win in Division 2B.

Donegal lost their league opener to Mayo seven days earlier, but it was a disrupted weekend as Setanta were in action on the Saturday in the All-Ireland Club semi-final.

The men from the Cross were fully focussed for the Derry encounter, and Donegal registered the first score from Claran Matthewson.

Derry also lost their league opener to Down, but Alan Grant got them off to the start with a free.

Donegal looked lively and the hosts started over three distances, but then disaster struck when the visitors hit a goal in the eighth minute.

Noelce Waldron played a clever diagonal ball into Alan Grant, who powered past Christopher McDermott, and drilled the sliotar into the top corner of Paul Burns' net.

McCann's charges responded well to that setback with Gerard Gilmore and Lee Henderson (free) scoring points.

Bernard Lafferty also dissected the posts even though he could have gone for goal, but Donegal did earn a penalty in the 15th minute.



Donegal's Stephen Gillespie in possession against Derry.
PICTURES: DONNA EL ASSAAD

Historic first for Donegal

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quickly cancelled that out.

Derry were without all of their Slaughtineil contingent, and while Grant converted two frees, they were struggling to really impose themselves on the game.

Henderson and Grant (free) traded scores, before Declan Coulter almost got through on goal, but he was hooked at the crucial moment.

Henderson notched a brilliant free from the right wing to help Donegal into a three-point lead at half-time, but after missing a penalty and regis-

tering nine wides, it was clear that they should have been even further in front.

Donegal continued to dominate proceedings at the start of the second half with Ronan McDermott pointing, while Henderson was on target with a free and a '45'.

The home side could have scored a goal in the 47th minute when Ronan McDermott found Matthewson with a great pass, but his shot hit the crossbar and went over the bar.

That was a let off for Derry, but Declan Coulter made no mistake seconds later when he got on the end of Bernard Lafferty's miscued shot and blasted to the net.

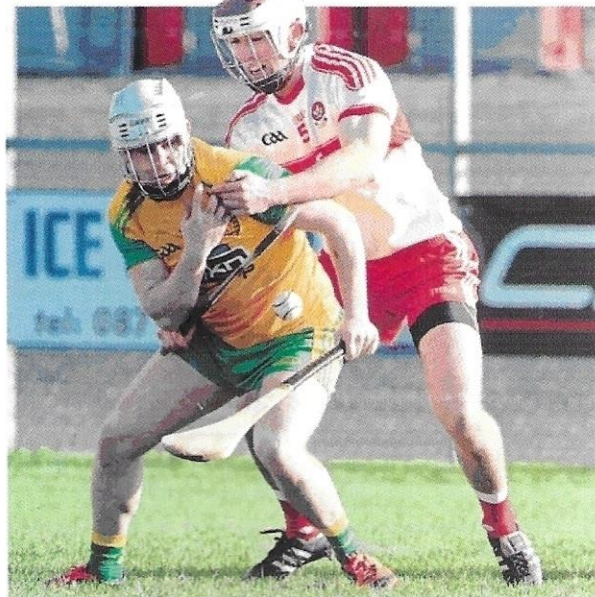
That put Donegal nine points ahead, and while Grant scored a sideline ball and a free, the Oak Leaf county were still very much second best.

McCann's team swooped for their third goal in the 52nd minute with that man Ronan McDermott once again providing the assist for Bernard Lafferty to raise a green flag.

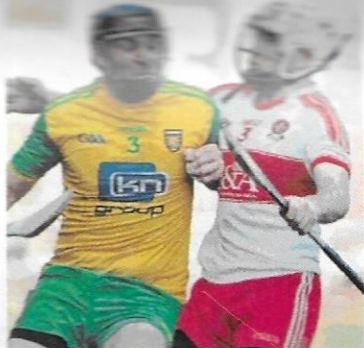
Grant hit back with a free, but Hen-



Davin Flynn takes possession as the opposition close in.



Donegal's Bernard Lafferty and Derry's Darragh McCloskey battle for possession.



Donegal's Joe Boyle holds off the challenge from Derry's Sean McCullagh in O'Donnell Park.



Stephen Gillespie gets the pass away

hurlers

person nailed two more placed balls, and his Sean MacCumhaill's clubmate Matthewson was also on target.

Donegal were enjoying themselves and Flynn rifled a ball into the goal, while substitute Kevin Campbell found his range.

Paul Cleary scored a '65' for Derry, but their defence was under big pressure and Gilmore and Coulter extended Donegal's advantage.

John Mullan did give the travelling Derry support something to cheer about with a goal late on, but it was Donegal's day, and they will look to kick on from this performance in the coming weeks.

TEAMS

Donegal: Paul Burns; Pádraig Doherty, Christopher McDermott, Stephen Gillespie; Joe Boyle (0-1), Niall Cleary, Gavin Browne; Danny Cullen (0-1), Ciaran Matthewson (0-3); Ronan McDermott (1-1), Gerard Gilmore (0-2), Lee Henderson (0-6, 5fs); Bernard Lafferty (1-1), Declan Coulter (1-1), Davin Flynn (1-0). **Subs:** Kevin Campbell (0-1) for Lafferty (59 mins), Sam Doherty for Flynn (67 mins), Dylan Lafferty for Burns (68 mins), Justin McBride for Cullen (69 mins).

Derry: Michael Kilpatrick; Colm Murphy, Sean McCullagh, Eoin Gilmore; Darragh McCloskey, Ciaran Steele, Paul Cleary (0-2, 1'65"); John Mullan (1-0), Jack Phelan; Seamus Higgins, Oisín McCloskey, Niall Smyth; Darragh Cartin, Alan Grant (1-7, 6fs, 1 sideline), Naoise Waldron. **Subs:** Breandan Quigley for Waldron (43 mins), Liam Murphy for Steele (52 mins), Odhran McKeever for Cartin (57 mins).

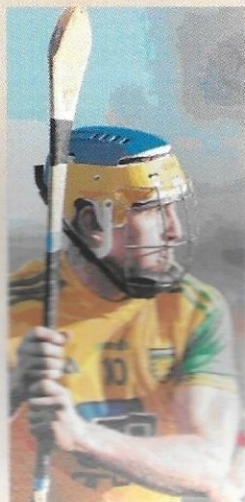
Referee: Kevin Brady (Louth).

Donegal's Paul Burns and Pádraig Doherty were the main scorers in a thrilling but hard-fought match in O'Donnell Park.



THE GAME AT A GLANCE

WITH RYAN FERRY IN O'DONNELL PARK



MAN OF THE MATCH

Ronan McDermott: The Donegal wing-forward, pictured above, put in a tireless display, bringing a huge amount of energy to the Donegal team. He scored 1-1 and also set up two goals. Danny Cullen oozed class for Donegal from midfield, while Ciaran Matthewson and Bernard Lafferty were very lively.

The standard is rising all the time

BY GERRY MCLAUGHLIN

Donegal's talented team captain Danny Cullen played a huge role in yesterday's historic victory over Derry in the NHL Division Two B tie in Letterkenny yesterday.

It was their first ever victory in this division and their first ever victory over the Oak Leafers in a competitive match.

And Cullen elegantly ran the show from midfield, spraying pin point passes, reading the play and accelerating away from players like a Mercedes car before landing a killer point.

"This is a really big win for us and it was a great team performance from all the lads.

"Derry have beaten us so many times in the past so it was just so good and so very important for us to get that victory over them.

"We could have played better in the first half although we went behind to an early goal which they took very well.

"Alan Grant took it very well.

"But we came back pretty strong and took the game to them.

"And the back line took control after that and I thought they restricted the Derry attack very well.

"The likes of Joe Boyle and Christopher McDermott are two of the most solid hurlers to come out of Donegal ever.

"They were both very solid and Stephen Gillespie also made a big difference.

"But I thought our whole unit

Donegal Hurling manager Mickey McCann.



was very good".

Donegal took control in the second half and drove on for victory.

"We hadn't won a match in this division and have had some uncomfortable experiences against Derry.

"So it was vital that we get this win after losing to Mayo and we now have a tough away tussle with Wicklow".

And the deadly striking power of Declan Coulter, Davin Flynn and Bernard Lafferty who all hit second half goals was the catalyst for a relatively easy victory.

"Yes the three boys really came into it after the space opened up for

them in the second half.

"I am just delighted for all of them".

Danny is now in his 12th year in the Donegal jersey and yesterday's win makes up for some sadder experiences in O'Donnell Park.

"Yes it does mean an awful lot to push Donegal hurling forward, a lot of work has been done in recent times and the standard is rising all the time which is great to see".

"Now we need to try and get a few more results but we know that Derry were understrength so that puts it in perspective".

THE WHISTLER

The one-sided nature of the match meant it wasn't that difficult game to officiate. Kevin Brady's biggest decision was to award Donegal a penalty in the first half, and that was the right call.

TURNING POINT

Alan Grant's goal put Derry in a good position and when Davin Flynn missed a penalty, Mickey McCann and his management team might have feared the worst. However, they got back on track when Ronan McDermott's 19th minute goal put them four ahead, and they never relinquished their lead after that.

TALKING POINT

Derry were missing a large chunk of their 2017 Championship panel, but this was still a very impressive win for Donegal. The manner of victory will give them a lot of confidence, and they do have a lot of firepower. Mickey McCann will be hoping that this triumph will push his side on and ensure that they retain their Division 2B status. On this evidence, they will be in with a good chance, as Derry were woeful and won't pick up too many points.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Donegal hurlers return to action on Sunday February 18 when they travel to take on Wicklow