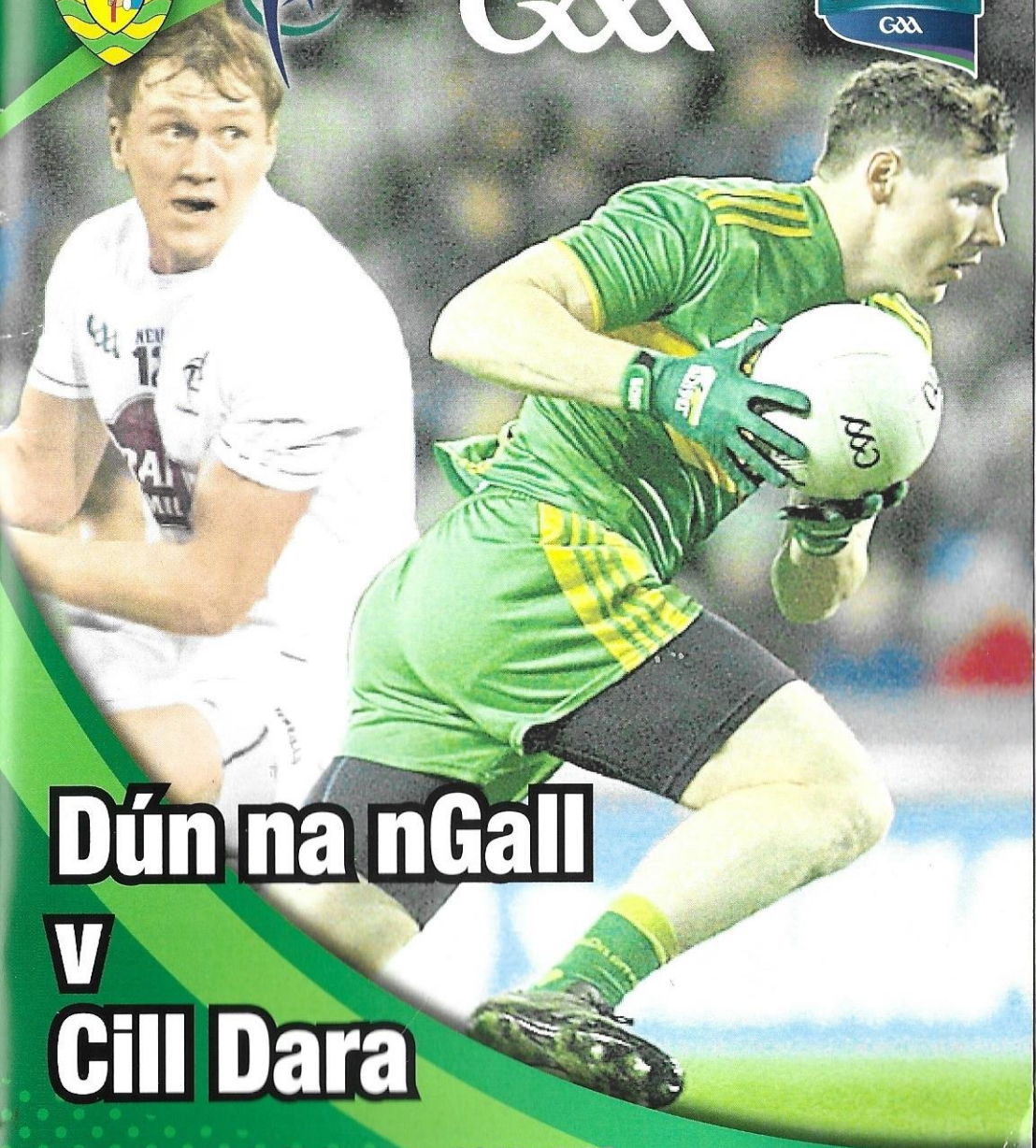


ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Roinn 4 - Babhta 1



Dún na nGall v Cill Dara

Sunday, 25th February, 2018, 2:00pm

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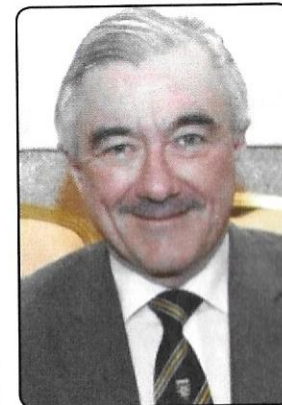
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Foreword

Ar son CLG Dhún na nGall , ba mhaith liom fáilte mór uí Cheallaigh a chur roimh achán duine anseo inniú go Pairc an Athar Uí Thighearnaigh Béal Átha Seanaidh. Ba mhaith liom mo chomhghairdeas a ghabhadh ar mhuintir Aoidh Ruaidh as ucht an obair den scoth atá fos ag dul ar aghaidh anseo chun na haiseanna a fheabhsú agus an phairc a dhéanamh réidh don chluiche inniú.



On behalf of CLG Dhun na nGall I would like to welcome you all here today to the Fr Tierney Pk Ballyshannon. I would congratulate the continued hard work of the Aodh Ruadh Club in their upgrading of facilities and having the grounds ready for today's match.....

In conclusion I recognise the great encouragement which our young county players are being given by Donegal supporters. As always our players, both young and experienced, are giving tremendous commitment and hopefully we will reap the rewards for this as the season progresses.

Mar fhocal scor, aithním an moladh iontach atá tugtha go dtí seo do na h-imreoirí óga ónár lucht tacaíochta, agus an sar ghealltanais atá curtha isteach ag na peileadoirí go dtí seo. Beidh tairbhe leis an taithí seo sa toadhcháil. Ni neart go cur le chéile.

Is mise le meas,

Michéal MacCraith

Cathaoirleach

The Man in the Middle Today:

David Gough from the Slane club in Co. Meath is the referee for today's game. His four umpires are father Eugene, brother Stephen, uncle Terry and cousin Dean, who have assisted him with every game since he started.

Gough has played football in his county since the age of 7. He has a Hogan Cup medal with St Pat's of Navan from 2001, a county U21C title with his club, a Trench Cup medal and a Division 2 League title with St Patrick's College in Drumcondra. Gough was introduced to refereeing by Tom Fitzpatrick, the games promotion officer at Drumcondra. After leaving college Gough began a refereeing course in Meath. He began refereeing in late 2007.

Gough's first competitive inter-county fixture was a 2011 O'Byrne Cup match between Offaly and UCD on a wet Wednesday night in Rhode. He received a high 95 per cent from referee assessor, Joe Moynagh in Louth.

Gough refereed the 2015 All-Ireland Senior semi-final between Dublin and Kerry, the 2013 All-Ireland Under-21 Football Championship final between Galway and Cork, the 2014 National Football League Division 2 final between Donegal and Monaghan, the final of the 2015 O'Byrne Cup between Dublin and Kildare and the 2015 All-Ireland Minor Football Championship Final.





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'That game' when a Kevin Cassidy wonder point broke Kildare hearts

By Michael Daly, Editor, Donegal Democrat

On a warm Saturday evening in late July 2011 Donegal and Kildare met in an All Ireland Championship quarter-final in Croke Park which will live long in the memory for Donegal supporters, and will probably always haunt dyed-in-the-wool Kildare fans.

It was what many people just call the 'Kevin Cassidy game'.

Donegal, having finally made the breakthrough again in Ulster after 19 years in the wilderness, came into the quarter-final with a new hardness, a new belief, a system and a manager (Jim McGuinness) who radiated quiet confidence.

Kildare, managed by an old foe of Donegal, Kieran McGeeney, had been at this stage before, battle-hardened too, they and McGeeney had a Mayoesque streak of bad luck running around them when it came to hard luck/nearly made it stories.

Much as they wanted to be nice to Donegal, the general consensus among the pundits was that Donegal would give it a go and ultimately lose to a big, robust, well trained/coached Kildare. There was a suspicion too in some quarters that the 'party boys' mentality hadn't entirely left Donegal, but that was wrong. It wasn't until the following September of 2012 when Michael Murphy took Sam from the hands of Liam O'Neill that the doubters finally conceded that this Donegal squad were on a mission.

Ironically, the focal point of Donegal's memorable win on July 30th 2011 in Croke Park, Gaoth Dobhair's Kevin Cassidy, would play no part in Donegal's journey to joy in 2012, dropped from the panel by manager Jim McGuinness. Looking back at Cassidy's outrageous effort to win the game in extra-time against Kildare, it never leaves you. You think of memorable scores in any sport, the most recent by Johnny Sexton against France, and at some stage Cassidy's point will come up in conversation.

The game finished, after extra-time, in a one point win for Donegal, 1-12 to 0-14.

Writing for the Sunday Independent July 31st edition, a section of Dermot Crowe's report as the game reached its climax in extra time, captures the taut excitement of a titanic struggle:

"A point from Emmet Bolton after first period scores from Ronan Sweeney, Gary White and Alan Smith gave them (Kildare) a 0-14 to 1-8 lead and with eight minutes left they looked almost home. Karl Lacey, outstanding all



evening, had kicked Donegal's sole extra-time reply and his side were switching forwards in and out in a desperate attempt to find some new spark to ignite them.

"Michael Murphy provided it with two scores, one from a free, despite not starting the match due to a hamstring injury and clearly not 100 percent fit. But he came on in the first half of normal time and finished with three critical points. "With time almost up, Christy Toye kicked the equaliser, and then with one final push Kevin Cassidy claimed the headlines with a superb

strike from out the field. Kildare didn't have time to recover and collapsed to the floor at the final whistle, distraught at the remarkable late twist."

Scorers

Donegal: C Toye 1-1, M. Murphy 0-3 (1f), K. Cassidy 0-2, P McBrearty, R Kavanagh, M McHugh, R Bradley, R Bradley, D Molloy, K Lacey 0-1 each.

Kildare: E O Flaherty 0-6 (4f), A. Smith 0-2, P. O'Neill, E. Callaghan, J. Kavanagh, R. Sweeney, G. White (1f), E. Bolton 0-1.

Donegal: P Durcan; F McGlynn, N McGee, P McGrath; A Thompson, K Lacey, K Cassidy; N Gallagher, R Kavanagh; M McHugh, M Hegarty, R Bradley; P McBrearty, D Walsh, C McFadden. Subs: M Murphy for McBrearty (26), E McGee for McGrath (26), M McElhinney for Gallagher (ht), D Molloy for Hegarty (41), C Toye for McFadden (58), C McFadden for Molloy (et), K Rafferty for McElhinney (et), N Gallagher for Rafferty (et), D Molloy for McFadden (et), P McBrearty for bradley (et).

Kildare: S Connolly, A MacLochlainn, M Foley, H McGrillen; E Callaghan, E Bolton, M O'Flaherty; J Doyle, D Flynn; P O'Neill, B Flanagan, R Kelly; E O'Flaherty, T O'Connor, J Kavanagh. Subs: A Smith for O'Connor (41); O Lyons for MacLochlainn (61), R Sweeney for Flanagan (61); M Conway for O'Neill (65), G White for Doyle (70), F Dowling for J Kavanagh (et), J Doyle for E O'Flaherty (et), B Flanagan for Kelly (et).

Referee: D Coldrick (Meath).

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"Best wishes to the Donegal Team"

Patrick McBrearty's on fire - your defence is

by Creegan Alcock

Kilcar man Patrick McBrearty is having a really good league, scoring 26 points for Donegal in three games, nine of those from play. His brother Stephen is second joint top scorer with five points - and that's from two full starts and as a sub against Kerry. Donegal have ten different scorers in those three games. Donegal have scored 3-43 and conceded 3-52.

Collated Donegal scores from three games:

Patrick McBrearty 0-26 (26) (17 f)	
Odhran MacNiallais 1-2	Stephen McBrearty 0-5
Tony McClenaghan 1-0	Darach O'Connor 1-0
Ryan McHugh 0-3	Jamie Brennan 0-3
Paul Brennan 0-1	Ciaran McGinley 0-1
Leo McLoone 0-1	Mark McHugh 0-1

January 28th: Kerry 2-18 Donegal 3-14

Played in Killarney, Donegal deserved to leave the Kingdom with at least a point from an entertaining game.

Donegal outscored Kerry in the last 10 minutes of the first half, going in at the break trailing 1-8 to 0-8 and down to 14 men with Nathan Mullins red carded after 20 minutes.

In the second half Donegal instantly scored a goal to level the game and from there both teams traded the lead multiple times with Donegal scoring two more goals in the second half, the final one from Darach O'Connor. Sadly it wasn't to be on the day for Donegal, conceding a point that should not have stood as the Kerry player took two bounces before shooting.

DONEGAL: Mark Anthony McGinley; Eoghan Bán Gallagher; Caolan Ward, Stephen McMenamin, Tony McClenaghan (1-0), Paul Brennan, Leo McLoone; Hugh McCadden, Nathan Mullins; Martin O'Reilly, Ryan McHugh, Caolan McGonagle; Jamie Brennan (0-1), Odhrán Mac Niallais (1-2), Patrick McBrearty (0-10, 8f). Subs., Peter Boyle for McGinley 16; Niall O'Donnell for J Brennan ht; Ciaran Thompson for McGonagle 43; Stephen McBrearty (0-1) for O'Reilly 46; Jason McGee for McLoone 66; Darach O'Connor (1-0) for McGee 70.

February 4th: Donegal 0-14 Galway 1-12

Played in O'Donnell park, Letterkenny, Galway took control of the game early with Damien Comer scoring on 21 seconds for the visitors. Patrick McBrearty picked up from where he left off against Kerry, scoring six points in the first half. Donegal would finish the half well with two points scored to send both team into the break with the score being Donegal 0-8 to Galway's 1-7

In the second half both teams traded early scores and in the 42nd minute of the game Donegal took the lead but they wouldn't be able to hold it and Galway would win

the game at the end. Patrick McBrearty and his brother Stephen dominated the scoring for Donegal with 0-11, 0-9 from Patrick.

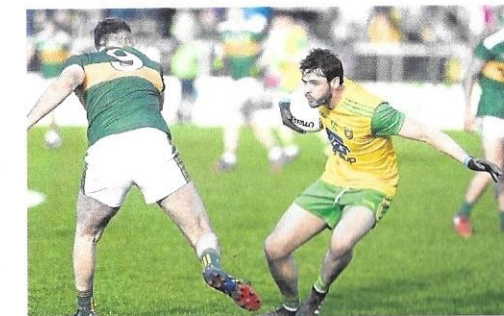
DONEGAL: Peter Boyle; Stephen McMenamin, Caolan Ward, Eoghan Bán Gallagher; Ryan McHugh (0-1), Paul Brennan (0-1), Tony McClenaghan; Leo McLoone, Hugh McCadden; Stephen McBrearty (0-2), Odhran Mac Niallais, Caolan McGonagle; Patrick McBrearty (0-9,6f), Darach O'Connor, Martin O'Reilly. Subs., Eamonn Doherty for McClenaghan 24; Niall O'Donnell for McGonagle; Ciaran Thompson O'Reilly, both ht; Mark McHugh for E Doherty 53; Ciaran McGinley (0-1) for S McBrearty 61; Kevin McBrearty for Thompson beard 72.

February 11th: Dublin 0-20 Donegal 0-15

After a promising start Donegal allowed Dublin to reel off five unanswered points, Dublin led 0-11 to 0-5 at half-time and one sensed this would be a comfortable win for the Metropolitans.

Donegal were hugely improved in the second half, the introduction of Michael Murphy as Donegal closed in on Dublin promising a grandstand finish but a ring rusty Murphy missed two chances, one with his first kick of the ball and Dublin underlined their strength, stretching out to win by five points.

DONEGAL: Peter Boyle; Tony McClenaghan, Caolan Ward, Eoghan Bán Gallagher; Ryan McHugh (0-2), Eamonn Doherty, Mark McHugh (0-1); Nathan Mullins, Hugh McCadden; Odhran MacNiallais, Stephen McBrearty (0-2), Ciaran Thompson; Jamie Brennan (0-2), Patrick McBrearty (0-7,3f), Leo McLoone (0-1). Subs., Caolan McGonagle for Mullins 25; Niall O'Donnell for Thompson 42; Michael Murphy for MacNiallais 56; Ciaran McGinley for M McHugh 65; Martin O'Reilly for S McBrearty 69; Michael Carroll for R McHugh 72.



Odhran MacNiallais in action against Kerry in Killarney, the Gaoth Dobhair man has scored 1-2 to date in the league.



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Kildare playing well too - but no wins from three

By Michael Daly, Editor, Donegal Democrat

Free taker Kevin Feely top scorer so far for Kildare

Kildare have scored 2-40 and conceded 4-43 in three outings.

Results to date are as follows:

Dublin 2-17 Kildare 2-10

Monaghan 1-10, Kildare 0-12

Kildare 0-18, Tyrone 1-16

Collated Kildare Scorers from three games:

Kevin Feely 0-14 (13 fs)

Paul Cribbin 0-5

Luke Flynn 1-0

Eamonn Callaghan 0-3 (3fs)

Mark Donnellan 0-2 (1f),(145)

Neil Flynn 0-1 (1f)

Cian O'Donoghue 0-1.

Daniel Flynn 1-3

Ben McCormack 0-4

Niall Kelly 0-3

Fergal Conway 0-2

Paddy Brophy 0-1

Peter Kelly 0-1

Total: 2-40 (0-19 from frees/45s).

Like Donegal, Kildare have played some fine football in their three outings, like Donegal, they have nothing but admiring glances to show for it; they too have played three and lost three, two of those games by just one point, which adds further spice to the importance of this game in Ballyshannon.

Basically, both teams are in or very close to last chance saloon country, and defeat today, surely will mean a sojourn in Division 2. Kildare have scored 2-40 and conceded 4-43 in their three outings.

January 28th: Dublin 2-17 Kildare 2-10

They had the toughest opener imaginable on January 28th, losing by seven points to Dublin, but they and other teams would have been heartened by the fact that they scored two goals against the Dubs - debutant Luke Flynn with an early three pointer and Daniel Flynn with a very late goal that somewhat took the bad look off the final tally. Dean Rock and Brian Fenton goals on 45 and 46 minutes killed the game, although worth noting too that Kildare had led 1-6 to 0-7 at half-time.

Kildare Scorers: Daniel Flynn 1-02, Luke Flynn 1-00, Eamonn Callaghan 0-03 (3fs), Kevin Feely 0-02 (2fs), Neil Flynn 0-01 (1f), Paul Cribbin 0-01 & Mark Donnellan 0-01 (1f).

February 4th: Monaghan 1-10, Kildare 0-12

The crucial score of the half came in the 30th minute when Monaghan's Conor McCarthy beat Mark Donnellan for a goal and a point from Dessie Ward sent the visitors into the break with a 1-01 lead: Half time: Monaghan 1-06, Kildare 0-05.

Kildare got off to a flying start in the second half kicking three points in the opening minutes from Kevin Feely and Ben McCormack (2) to reduce the deficit to a point.

Niall Kearns and Conor McManus pointed from frees in the 52nd and 55th minute to put Monaghan back into a two point lead but Kildare were back level again when substitutes Paddy Brophy and Niall Kelly kicked two excellent points from play and with seven minutes left to play it looked like either team could win this game.

A free from Monaghan's Conor McCarthy in the 65th minute put the visitors back in the lead, Kildare battled hard in the closing stages but couldn't get the much needed score to get back level and Monaghan went on to win the game on a narrow margin of 1-10 to 0-12.

Kildare scorers: K Feely(3fs), P Cribbin, B McCormack 0-3 each; N Kelly 0-2, P Brophy 0-1.

February 11th: Kildare 0-18, Tyrone 1-16

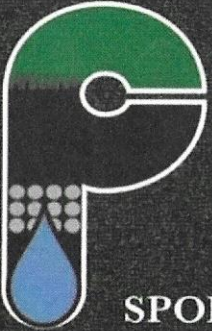
Mattie Donnelly was the hero for Tyrone as his 75th-minute effort secured a crucial victory over Kildare in a thrilling contest in Newbridge. It was a game that could have gone either way as the teams were level on seven separate occasions but Tyrone did just enough to see it out.

Tyrone goaled in the 28th minute as Lee Brennan won a nice ball inside from Cathal McShane and took advantage of Kildare indecision to drive past Mark Donnellan. Connor McAliskey also had another goal chance when a poorly directed Mark Donnellan kickout went straight to him but he had to be content with a point as Tyrone held a single-point interval lead at 1-8 to 0-10.

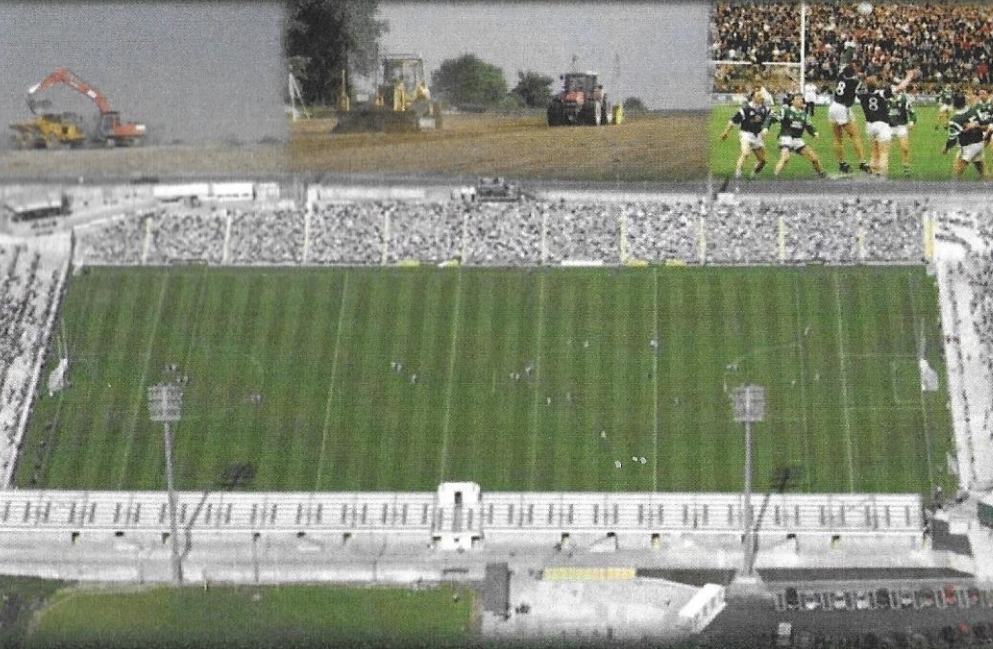
A brace of Feely frees and a barnstorming Cian O'Donoghue score saw Kildare go ahead as the game reached melting point, Tyrone hit back once more with two brilliant efforts from Donnelly and Darren McCurry bringing the sides level at 0-17 to 1-14 with ten minutes remaining.

Kildare levelled in the 72nd minute but there was late drama however, with Donnelly kicking a superb effort for Tyrone on the far sideline to hand his team the vital victory.


Kildare scorers: Kevin Feely 0-9 (0-8fs), Fergal Conway 0-2, Mark Donnellan 0-1 (0-1 45); Peter Kelly 0-1, Cian O'Donoghue 0-1, Niall Kelly 0-1, Paul Cribbin 0-1, Ben McCormack 0-1, Daniel Flynn 0-1.



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Aodh Ruadh keeps its “development” momentum

An active and energetic club in its promotion of all gaelic games activities, Aodh Ruadh CLG has also managed to maintain a high level of development activity.

Since 1980 the club has been a key sponsor of community and other employment schemes in its own local area and also for a range of community and voluntary organisations in south Donegal.

This has allowed the club, through its very active Park/Development Committee to maintain a steady stream of physical development initiatives, as well as a full coaching programme in the six primary schools in the club area.

In recent years key projects which have been successfully completed include:

- Two new sand-based playing fields at Páirc Aodh Ruaidh, across the road from here at Fr Tierney Park;
- The installation of new floodlighting
- The completion of a toilet block;
- The completion of a hurling/rebound wall.

Substantial work has already been undertaken on the development of a running

track/fitness trail which will be 1/3 of a mile in length. It is expected that this project will be completed to a very high standard later this year.

The club is over two years into a five year programme to effectively “rebuild” the Fr Tierney Park.

In 2016 new terracing was completed on the “Hospital End” of the grounds. Over the past year new retaining walls have been built on the school side of the grounds and a new section of spectator terracing is being brought into use today for the first time. That aspect of the development will be completed later this year.

Towards the end of 2017 Aodh Ruadh was allocated substantial funding under the Sports Capital Scheme to provide a new playing surface at the Fr Tierney Park. The club is currently looking at options to provide the match funding to fully finance this project and that will determine progress with this work in 2019.

By the end of 2020 Aodh Ruadh visualises a modernised, well organised facility here which will serve the club, local community, schools and colleges and the county for the next 50 years.



Dún na nGall v Cill Dara – An Stair

By Fr. Seán

It seems that to-day's game is the fifteenth League meeting of Dún na nGall and Cill Dara. Cill Dara have won eight of the previous fourteen meetings, Dún na nGall have won four, with two draws - in Ballyshannon in 1996 when Tony Boyle scored 1-5 of Dún na nGall's 1-8 and in Letterkenny in 2011, when Cill Dara scored 1-1 in the last minute.

1	2 Nov 1986	Cill Dara	2-11	Dún na nGall	1-10	An Droichead Nua
2	8 Nov 1987	Dún na nGall	1-10	Cill Dara	1-3	Bealach Féich
3	21 Apr 1991	Cill Dara	0-14	Dún na nGall	1-10	Páirc an Chrócaigh
4	19 Oct 1992	Dún na nGall	1-9	Cill Dara	0-6	Bealach Féich
5	21 Nov 1993	Cill Dara	1-10	Dún na nGall	0-7	An Droichead Nua
6	27 Nov 1994	Cill Dara	1-11	Dún na nGall	1-8	Bealach Féich
7	2 Apr 1995	Dún na nGall	1-16	Cill Dara	0-11	Cluain Eois
8	25 Feb 1996	Dún na nGall	1-8	Cill Dara	0-11	Béal Átha Seanaidh
9	2 Mar 1997	Cill Dara	1-14	Dún na nGall	1-7	An Droichead Nua
10	15 Apr 2007	Dún na nGall	1-13	Cill Dara	1-11	Páirc an Chrócaigh
11	2 Mar 2008	Cill Dara	0-12	Dún na nGall	0-11	An Droichead Nua
12	7 Mar 2010	Cill Dara	1-17	Dún na nGall	1-9	An Droichead Nua
13	27 Feb 2011	Dún na nGall	0-8	Cill Dara	1-5	Leitir Ceanainn
14	2 Feb 2013	Cill Dara	2-14	Dún na nGall	1-13	Páirc an Chrócaigh

- Dún na nGall and Cill Dara have met twice in the National Football League semi-final. In 1991 Cill Dara won but lost to Baile Átha Cliath in the final 1-9/0-10. In 2007 Dún na nGall won and beat Maigh Eo 0-13/0-10 in the final. Frank McGlynn came on as a substitute for Neil McGee during the 2007 semi-final.
- Cill Dara were Dún na nGall's first competitive opponents after the winning of Sam in 1992. Declan Bonner scored a point that day. Declan also scored a point in the first Dún na nGall v Cill Dara League match in 1986 when he lined out at midfield alongside Barry Cunningham.
- Dún na nGall and Cill Dara have met twice in the Senior Football Championship. Cill Dara beat Dún na nGall 1-17/1-16 in An Droichead Nua on June 30, 2001.
- Dún na nGall beat Cill Dara 1-12/0-14 in the 2011 quarter-final in bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Cassidy!

1966

The first competitive Dún na nGall – Cill Dara match was in 1966. The 'Gaelic Weekly Cup' for beaten provincial finalists seemed to have had official recognition that year. Cill Dara had lost to An Mhí 1-9/1-8 in the Leinster final. Dún na nGall lost to An Dún 1-7/0-8 in the Ulster final.

Dún na nGall were unhappy that the match was moved from Béal Átha Seanaidh to An Droichead Nua where it was played on October 23, 1966.

This star-studded Dún na nGall team of 1966 should have been the first Dún na nGall team to bring the Anglo-Celt Cup to the County. They won the Dr. Lagan Cup in 1965, 1966, 1967. They won the Dr. McKenna Cup 1963, 1965, 1967. P.J. Flood, Seán Ferriter and Frankie McFeely were on Ulster's Railway Cup-winning team of 1963: Séamus Hoare, Bernard Brady and Seán Ferriter on the winning Ulster team of 1964: Hoare, Brady, Ferriter and Paul Kelly on the 1965 winning team; Hoare, Kelly and Flood on the victorious 1966 team; Hoare, Brady, Neilly Gallagher and Declan O'Carroll (on as sub) on the Ulster team that won in 1968. And six of the Dún na nGall men played on the losing Ulster team in the 1967 final – Hoare, Brady, Flood, Micky McLoone, Micky Griffin and Ferriter (on as sub). Seán O'Donnell and Brian McEniff played for Ulster too (did John Hannigan?). A teamful of Railway Cup men when it was a most serious competition!!

Anyway, Dún na nGall were short six of their Ulster final team (Fionn Gallagher, Paul Kelly, P.J. Flood, Michael McLoone, Des Houlihan and Pauric McShea) when they travelled to An Droichead Nua and played well but lost 3-7/0-12.

Cill Dara

	A. Kane	
S. Cash	L. Molloy	Joe McTeague
Jimmy Cummins	Mick Carolan	Joe Doyle
	Pat Mangan	Jack Donnelly
B. Judge	Pat Nally	Liam Gleeson
Tom Keogh	Leo Long	Kevin Kelly

Subs: P. Buckley, T. Walsh, M.O 'Connor.

Dún na nGall

	Séamus Hoare	
Brendan Dowling	Bernard Brady	Hughie Brennan
Seán O'Donnell	John Hannigan	Antoin Carroll
	Seán Ferriter	Micky Griffin
Declan O'Carroll	Frankie McFeely	Neilly Gallagher
Séamie Granaghan	John Bonner	Tony McDevitt

Subs: Brian McEniff and Dónal Scannell.

1996

Cill Dara's first and only League game in Béal Átha Seanaidh was played on 25 February 1996.

Glen Ryan was centre half-back on the Cill Dara team, managed by Dermot Earley. P.J. McGowan was the Dún na nGall manager. Dún na nGall had plenty of possession in the first half but only led by 1-2 /0-4 at half-time. Cill Dara were on top for the next 20 minutes and went 0-11/1-4 ahead. But Dún na nGall, led by home ground boys Murray and Roper along with McGowan and Tony Boyle, fought back and equalized with a Tony Boyle free deep into injury time to qualify for the quarter-finals of the League.

Dún na nGall

	Gary Walsh	
John Cunningham	Matt Gallagher	Mark Crossan
Damien Diver	Noel Hegarty	Martin Shovlin
	Brian Murray	James Ruane (0-1)
Éamonn McMenamin	John Bán Gallagher	Paddy Hegarty
John Duffy	Tony Boyle (1-5)	Brian Roper (0-1)

Subs: Barry McGowan (0-1) for McMenamin / Manus Boyle for Duffy / John Gildea for Gallagher.

Cill Dara

	Christy Byrne	
Seán O' Rourke	Davy Dalton	Séamus Dowling
Fergus Aspell (0-1)	Glen Ryan (0-2)	Ken Doyle
	Niall Buckley (0-4)	Martin Murray
Paul McCormack	Johnny McDonald (0-3)	Tom Brennan
Eddie McCormack	David Fennin	Noel Donlon (0-1).

Subs: Martin Lynch for Fennin / John Whelan for Brennan.

Ref: Tommy McDermott (Cavan).

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“The Park” - Our Very Own Field of Dreams

By Gerry McLaughlin

All we ever called it was “The Park” and it was our very own special field of dreams, growing up in the 1960s.

It was the first place I saw my childhood hero Mickey McLoone, the Bobby Charlton of Ballyshannon and Donegal, in the white of St Joseph’s running through defences like a rattlesnake at a tablecloth.

Of course he also did it in the green and gold of Donegal and my dad was friendly with his dad Phil in the ESB that made the connection even better.

I was first brought to the “Park” on the back of a Honda 50 to see Donegal crucify Fermanagh “who could not kick snow off a rope” according to my father.

And I remember playing my first match for Rockfield NS against one of the many Brothers teams in 1966 and captaining the most illegal ever Rockfield NS team to a south Donegal primary schools title four years later.

In those years the late great Terry McDermott was the gunvor with cap and stick as accessories and smart assed kids engaged him in verbal volleyball at their peril.

In 1972 our cup overflowed when my big brother Liam and I were on the Aodh Ruadh U14 team that beat Four Masters by a point in a south Donegal final.

The great “Red Jack” Gallagher, Jim “Natch” Gallagher and Sean Slevin were advising us at half times and we felt like kings.

“The Park” has always been special to those of from in and around the oldest town in the world.

In 1975 we were part of a Pottery team that beat the gardai in a great Nine-A-Side final on a magical evening.



So it is a place that I always associate with triumphs and I can’t remember too many bad days with Fermanagh hurlers there either as we usually got the better of Donegal in the early to mid 1980s.

At a much higher level, I remember a very young Martin Carney, who was like Jesus Christ Superstar and a smiling young cherub called Martin McHugh, with fire in his

heart, ice in his blood and magic in his boots.

This field of dreams is full of other great Donegal heroes like Brian McEniff, P J Flood, Sean Ferriter, John Hannigan, Sean O’Donnell, Martin Griffin, Anthony Molloy, Seamie Granaghan, Alan Kane etc who seemed like giants when were young.

It was also the pitch where De La Salle played some epic colleges matches and you had great view of “The Park” from the old third year and first year classrooms in that great old Gaelic alma mater on the Rock.

And Donegal teams love playing here also and haven’t been beaten here since 2009 when Dublin got a bit cheeky.

And we all know the goals at the Rock Home end were and are still the scoring goals.

When you were taking a shot at the Belleek end of the ground, you had to hit a football or strike a sliothar with a bit more force as the ball seemed to dip at the last minute.

Today, Kildare come to the famous “Park” on the edge of the western world and it’s a very democratic park, as clay from Bundoran was brought to help in its construction in the early 1950s.

And the ghosts of all those Gaelic greats from in and around the “Town” will be nodding quietly at the Bridgend in memory of some great green and golden moments in “The Park”, our greatest field of dreams!

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CAOLAN WARD
NAOMH ADHAMHNÁIN

4
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STEPHEN MC MENAMIN
AODH RUA, CÚIL NA NCUIRRIDÍN

5
RIAIN MAC AODHA
RYAN MC HUGH
CILL CHARTHA

6
PÓL Ó BRAONÁIN
PAUL BRENNAN
BUN DOBHRAÍN

7
ANTOIN MAC LEANNACHÁIN
TONY MC CLENAGHAN
BUN A PHOBAIL

8
AODH MAC PHÁIDÍN
HUGH MC FADDEN
NA CEALLA BEAGA

9
ODHRÁN MAC NIALLAIS
ODHRAN MAC NIALLAIS
GAOTH DOBHAIR

10
ÉAMONN Ó DOCHARTAIGH
EAMONN DOHERTY
NAOMH ADHAMHNÁIN

11
LEO MAC GIOLLA UAIN
LEO MC LOONE
NAOMH CONAILL

12
MARC MAC AODHA
MARK MC HUGH
CILL CHARTHA

13
PÁDRAIG MAC BREARTAIGH
PATRICK MC BREARTY
CILL CHARTHA

14
MÍCHEÁL Ó MURCHÚ
MICHAEL MURPHY
GLEANN TSUILLÍ

15
JAMIE Ó BRAONÁIN
JAMIE BRENNAN
BUN DOBHRAÍN

SUBSTITUTES:

16. (GK) Peter Boyle, Peadar Ó Baoill, Aodh Ruadh B.A.S.; 17. Frank Mc Glynn, Proinsias Mac Fhloinn, Gleann Fhinne; 18. Neil Mc Gee, Niall Mac Aoidh, Gaath Dobhair; 19. Niall O' Donnell, Niall Ó Dornhaill, Naomh Adhamhnáin; 20. Martin Mc Elhinney, Mairtín Mac Giolla Chainnigh, Naomh Mícheál; 21. Caolan Mc Gonigle, Caolan Mac Congail, Bun Crannacha; 22. Ciarán Thompson, Ciarán Mac Thomáis, Naomh Conaill; 23. Martin O' Reilly, Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh, Seán Mac Cumhaill; 24. Cian Mulligan, Cian Ó Maolagáin, Gaath Dobhair; 25. Nathan Mullins, Nathan Ó Maoláin, Naomh Uinseann, B.A.C.; 26. Dáire Ó Baoill, Dáire Ó Baoill, Gaath Dobhair.



Kildare Cill Dara

Bainisteoir: Cian O'Neill
Selectors: Ronan Sweeney and Enda Murphy

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MARK DONNELLAN
MAIGH NUAD

2
PEADAR O CEALLAIGH
PETER KELLY
TEACH DHA MHILE

3
DAITHÍ O HAOLÁIN
DAVID HYLAND
ATH Í

4
MÍCHEÁL Ó GRÁDA
MICK O' GRADY
CILL DROICHID

5
CIAN O'DONNCHÚ
CIAN O' DONOGHUE
CLAONADH

6
EOIN O DÚGHAILL
EWIN DOYLE (C)
NÁS NA RÍOGH

7
SEÁN O BROIN
JOHNNY BYRNE
FIODH ALUAINE

8
CAOIMHÍN Ó FICHEALLAIGH
KEVIN FEELY
ATH Í

9
TOMÁS MOOLICK
TOMMY MOOLICK
LEIM AN BHRADÁIN

10
FEARGAL O CONBHUI
FERGAL CONWAY
CILL DROICHID

11
NIALL O CEALLAIGH
NIALL KELLY
ATH Í

12
PÓL Ó CROIBÍN
PAUL CRIBBIN
DROICHEAD BAILE SHEAIN

13
BEIRCHEART MACCORMAIC
BEN MCCORMACK
NA SAIRSEALAIGH

14
DÓNALL Ó FLOINN
DANIEL FLYNN
DROICHEAD BAILE SHEAIN

15
PÁDRAIG Ó BRÓITHE
PADDY BROPHY
CILL DROICHID

SUBSTITUTES:

16. Aaron O'Neill, Áron Ó Néill, Caibre; 17. Keith Cribbin, Ceitheach Mac Róibín, Droichead Baile Sheain; 18. Chris Healy, Críostóir Ó hÉilí, Teach dha Mhíle; 19. Cathal McNally, Cathal Mac an Fhailí, Droichead Baile Sheain; 20. Jimmy Hyland, Seamus O hAoláin, Baile Thaidhg; 21. Mark Hyland, Marcus O hAoláin, Ath í; 22. Kevin Flynn, Caoimhín Ó Floinn, Cill Droichid; 23. David Slattery, Daithí O Slathara, Confaí; 24. Mark Sherry, Marcas Mac Searraigh, Teach dha Mhíle; 25. Fionn Dowling, Fionn O Dulaing, Crocha na Greine.

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Scór Sinsir champion Caitriona to sing Amhrán na bhFiann

Caitriona Solan, from CLG An Clochan Liath is the current Donegal county champion and the Ulster champion in Scór Sinsir solo singing. Caitriona has won the Donegal County final on five occasions and last year was her first year as Ulster champion. Caitriona had the honour of singing Amhrán na bhFiann before the Ulster senior football final in Clones last year. She has an interest in all genres of music but is first and foremost a



Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua
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Ní fhágfar faoin tóirán ná faoin tráil
Anocht a théim sa bhearna baoil,
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil
Le gunnascreách faoi lámhach na bpiléar
Seo libh canaigí Amhrán na bhFiann.



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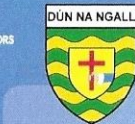
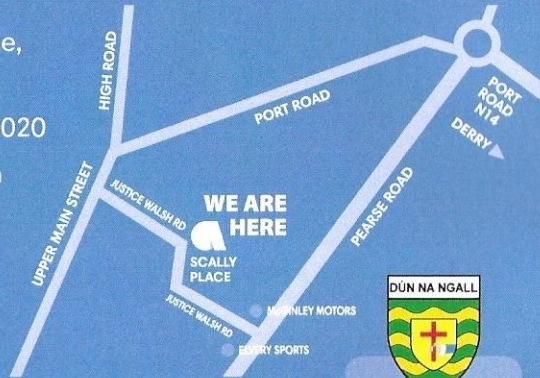
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QUIZ time - a Donegal and Kildare mix!

By Ryan Daly

- Donegal won the 2012 All Ireland final, defeating Mayo. Who was the match referee?
- In the 1992 All Ireland final victory Manus Boyle was Donegal's top scorer, what did he score in total?
- In 1956 Donegal won their first Ulster Minor Championship, they defeated Armagh by 2-5 to 0-6. Who did they defeat in the two earlier rounds to get to the final?
- Name the famous Kerry forward who scored his last ever championship point in the 1991 All Ireland semi-final against Down?
- Who did Down beat in the 1991 All Ireland final?
- Christy Toye scored a very important goal in the 2011 All Ireland quarter final victory over Kildare, what is Christy's home club?
- Name the now Donegal senior team member who was top scorer in the 2016 Ulster Minor Football championship?
- Name the Donegal All Ireland winner in 1992 who finished his club playing career in Kildare?
- Who are the 2017 Kildare senior football champions?
- The Donegal Club Championship is played for the Dr Maguire Cup, what cup is presented to the Kildare senior football champions?
- Dermot Earley Junior won an All Star with Kildare, what county did his dad, the late Dermot, and his uncle Paul win All Stars with?
- Donegal's first competitive (league) outing after winning the 1992 All Ireland final was against what team?
- What's the name of the GAA ground in Newbridge?
- Who is Kildare's top scorer so far this year in the Allianz Football League?
- Who are the current Allianz NFL champions?
- Who did they beat in the final?
- Name this Kildare club team manager?
- Who is this Kildare senior player?
- Name the Donegal player scoring this goal?
- Name this Donegal player?

Q.17



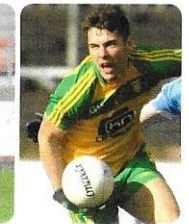
Q.18



Q.19



Q.20



- Brian Murray
- Maurice Deegan
- Derry and Down
- Fat Spillane
- Meath
- St Michael's
- Niall O'Donnell of St Eunan's, scoring 2-13 in the Ulster minor championship.
- Kerry
- Moorefield
- The Dermot Burke Cup
- Roscommon
- Kildare
- St Conleth's Park
- Kevin Feely
- Kerry
- Tyrone
- Tyrone last Saturday night
- Martin McElhinney scoring against
- Kildare's Niall Kelly
- Martin McElhinney
- Michael Carroll

Quiz Answers:

Good luck Donegal from all at

TJ HUGHES

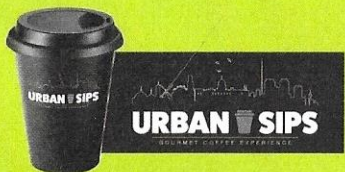
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Patrick McBrearty, standing up and standing out for Donegal in NFL

By Peter Campbell, Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat

"I hope he stays injury free until September," says a football supporter to me last week. He was talking about Patrick McBrearty of Kilcar, who has been the stand-out player for Donegal throughout 2017 and he has started in the same vein this year.

You might think that the supporter was thinking that Donegal were going to make it to the All-Ireland final, but there was a more selfish reason. "We need him to be fit for Kilcar when the club championship starts!"

Well, let's hope that he does stay fit and we always keep our fingers crossed that he might be needed by Donegal in September.

But whatever lies ahead for the man from

Park in the last league game against Dublin was a case in point. He is becoming a more rounded footballer by the day.

Hard to believe that today's game in Fr. Tierney Park, Ballyshannon will be his 91st outing for the county. If you factor in an injury free run, the championship game against Cavan will be his 95th game and depending on Donegal's run this summer, he could be close to his 100th game for the county before the year is out.

But in any case, McBrearty should reach that milestone early next year, which will make him the youngest ever centurion for the county. He will be 25 in

August! Michael Murphy reached the 100 mark when he

was 26 (his birthday is also in August), so

McBrearty should make the 100 mark one year ahead of Murphy - a remarkable achievement!

All around the country he is known as Paddy, but early on in his career (and that is going

back to underage

with club and Coláiste na Carraige) we checked

with his proud mum, Carol,

and she said his name is Patrick. And we are happy to abide by that.

But whatever name he is called, he is enjoying a remarkable career. An Ulster Championship winner at 18; an All-Ireland winner after just turning 19. And a Donegal Club Championship winner at 24, bridging that 24 year gap for Kilcar (he was just born when Kilcar won that championship in 1993).

For everybody's sake we hope that Patrick keeps injury free and continues to entertain both for club and county. At present he is regarded as the top forward in Ireland.

Long may it continue!



Curris, he has been a real leader for his club and county over the past 12 months or so.

He was Donegal's most consistent performer in what turned out to be a poor championship in 2017. And when Donegal's interest was ended by Galway in the final Qualifier round in Markievicz Park, Sligo, McBrearty took on his duties as the Kilcar captain with a zeal that surprised many.

Not someone to stand on ceremony, he cut away from the Co. final parade a little early, such was his eagerness to get on with the show. Indeed, it could be argued strongly that his appointment as captain of his club has given him a new impetus. He is now looking for more work on the field, and his pass for the goal chance for Jamie Brennan in Croke

'Fortress Fr Tierney' - an unhappy hunting ground for NFL raiders

By Michael Daly, Editor, Donegal Democrat

This is Donegal's 24th league game in Ballyshannon's Fr Tierney Park since the turn of the century.

They have won 14, lost seven and drawn 2. Dublin 3 wins, Kerry 2, Galway and Offaly are the only teams to get the better of Donegal here since 2000.

It's ten years, 2009, since Donegal lost here and on that day they really should have had at least taken a league point from a spirited display against a Pat Gilroy managed Dublin side. Played on a wicked day on March 8th, 2009, Dublin won by two points, 0-13 to 1-8. Gilroy had to throw in all his big guns by the finish, among them Jason Sherlock, Bryan Cullen and Alan Brogan, to ensure victory - Dublin's first in the league after defeats by Galway and Tyrone.

Donegal, well out of it by half-time, were inspired by second half sub and local Aodh Ruadh clubman Brian Roper and their goal came from one of the many forgotten men of that time, Conal Dunne.

Donegal boss John Joe Doherty, without key men Neil Gallagher and Barry Monaghan, was disappointed, wishing his side had shown a little more composure in the final minutes when they drew level. Fast forward to 2018 and that reaction has a familiar ring to it, Donegal desperately unlucky not to get a win in Kerry, less unlucky perhaps in losing to a good Galway team in Letterkenny and one wouldn't know how to read the most recent defeat to Dublin, a game where Dublin were tested, but responded well to the test.

So, arriving here today to a ground he knows so well, Declan Bonner finds himself and his team with lots of admirers, but no points. Ironically enough, a year ago a young Donegal side who were expected to lose games, were winning them and maybe gave a false sense of their actual progression - something the ultimately disappointing subsequent 2017 championship run underlined.

A stone's throw from the Rock Hospital, the birthplace of internationally acclaimed rocker Rory Gallagher, many good teams came here full of hope only to find Donegal at their best in this iconic old ground. In the past some Donegal county managers, in need of a win, were known to express a preference for having this venue pencilled in for 'must win' games.

So, with their back against the wall, and hopefully a nearby Atlantic breeze at their back at the right time, maybe today's venue could well be the perfect setting for the first and very badly needed league points of 2018.

The results at Fr Tierney Park since 2000 are as follows:

2000:	March 26th, Kerry 2-16, Donegal 0-14 November 26th, Donegal 2-14, Louth 1-10
2001:	Feb 25th, Dublin 0-11, Donegal 0-8
2002:	Feb 24th, Galway 0-9, Donegal 0-7 March 9th, Donegal 1-12, Cork 0-9
2003:	Feb 9th, Dublin 1-10, Donegal 0-9 March 9th, Kerry 1-12, Donegal 0-8
2004:	Feb 15, Donegal 3-6, Monaghan 1-11 April 4th, Donegal 3-15, Carlow 0-5
2005:	March 27th, Offaly 1-11, Donegal 0-13 April 3rd, Donegal 3-11, Cork 1-7
2006:	Feb 5th, Donegal 0-11, Leitrim 1-8 April 4th, Donegal 3-16, Longford 0-9
2007:	Feb 25th, Donegal 0-9, Dublin 0-5
2008:	April 6th, Donegal 1-14, Laois 2-8
2009:	March 8th, Dublin 0-13, Donegal 1-8
2010:	Feb 14th Donegal 3-11, Laois 0-5
2011:	April 3rd, Donegal 1-17, Antrim 1-8
2012:	March 18th, Donegal 0-17, Mayo 1-7
2014:	March 30th, Donegal 1-19, Louth 3-7
2015:	March 1st, Donegal 0-12, Cork 1-8
2016:	Feb 7th, Donegal 2-14, Cork 1-7
2017:	March 26th, Donegal 1-11, Monaghan 1-11

This is a 'four pointer' - Donegal boss Declan Bonner

By Ryan Ferry (Donegal News)

Donegal manager Declan Bonner says that today's game with Kildare is a 'four-pointer'.

Neither side have picked up anything from the opening three rounds of the league, and the side that loses in Fr Tierney Park will probably be looking at Division 2 football in 2019.

There have been many encouraging signs for Bonner over the past month, and there is a good vibe surrounding the county team at present.

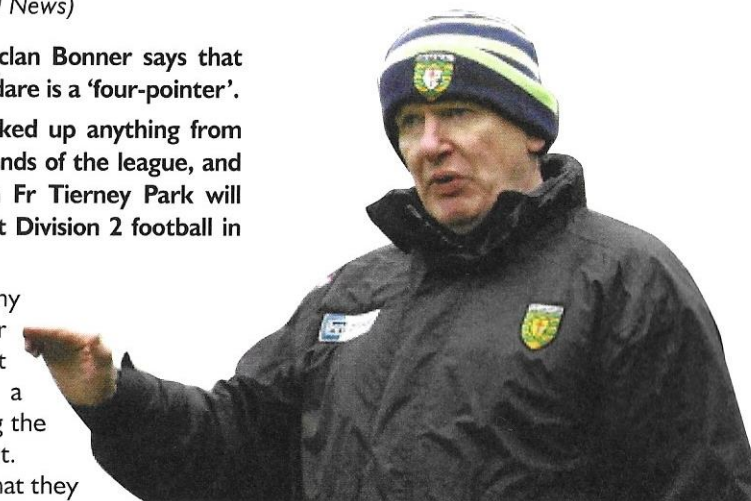
However, he knows that they can't afford to lose to Kildare.

"It's a massive game and it's one that we have to win, that's just the way it is. "We have probably played the three in-form teams in the country in Kerry, Galway, and Dublin, but it's still disappointing that we haven't got anything on the board. "There have been a lot of positives and the younger lads are improving with every game. We're getting some of our more senior men back in as well now and that will help us. "This week's game is a four-pointer, and we'll be doing everything we can to try and get the win."

Kildare had a rest last weekend but Donegal were in action in the Dr McKenna Cup final, and won the pre-season competition for the first time in eight years.

While it was nice to collect the silverware, it was the return of Frank McGlynn, Martin McElhinney, and Neil McGee to the playing field, as well as the impressive performances from youngsters such as Conor Morrison and Dáire Ó Baoill that were particularly pleasing for the Na Rossa clubman.

With those players all pushing hard for inclusion now, and Cian Mulligan also starring for Gaioth Dobhair in the Ulster Under 21 Tournament Final last Sunday, there is



serious competition for places.

Bonner said: "I'm going to have headaches down the line, but that's what you want to see.

"I want a squad of thirty plus players and every one of those players fighting to be in the first 15, or 21, or matchday squad.

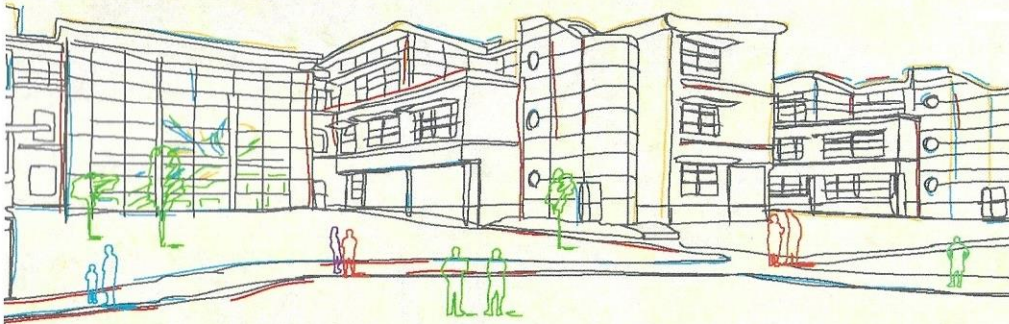
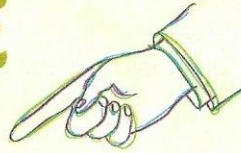
"You can see these boys coming back now, and it's going to get very competitive." Like Donegal, the Lillywhites failed to pick up any points from the opening three rounds of the league.

However, Bonner was still impressed by Cian O'Neill's outfit in their games against Monaghan and Tyrone, and he is anticipating a tough battle.

"We know exactly the challenge they are going to bring. They are a very strong, psychological side and they have some brilliant footballers. We will need to be at our very best to win that game.

"But it's a challenge we're looking forward to. I said at the start of the campaign that it wouldn't be the be-all and end-all if we did go down but now that we're here, and with the football we are playing, we want to get results and points in the league, and we do want to remain in Division 1."

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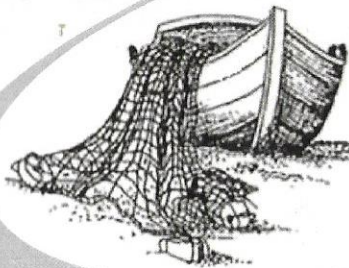
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Donegal PRO Ed Byrne and the Kildare link

By Frank Craig

Current Donegal PRO Ed Byrne hails from the Midland County and May have divided loyalties at the weekend!

Byrne, a Castledermot native, moved to Killybegs in 2003 after meeting his wife Emer, a Port Town native, in Aer Lingus Dublin where they both worked.

They have four children Karen, Shane, Dara and Grace. Byrne's home club is a dual club - Castledermot - in the very south of the county. The club had a number of players represent Kildare at senior level including Paddy Martin (All Ireland SFC Winner 1928), Paddy Byrne (LSFC medal winner 1936), both relatives of Byrne, John (Boots) Kelly and more recently Damian Hendy - player and selector under Kieran McGeeney. Since Ed joined the local Na Cealla Beaga club he has served as Club Secretary and County Board Delegate.

He became Co Fixtures Secretary in 2011 and in '14 became the County PRO.

Ed recalls being fixtures secretary in 2011 when Donegal took on Kildare in Croke Park and that now famous Quarter Final. It was one of the best and most exciting games

played in recent years on Jones Road. The big prize was a meeting in the semi final against Dublin.

Byrne recalls: "I remember that morning, carefully picking out clothes, choosing a grey

top and trying to fit in as a neutral!

"I had arranged to sit with some killybegs lads and friends from Castledermot in the lower Hogan at the time.

"I smoked at the time, a bad habit I've now kicked, so at half time of extra time I went for a quick puff at the rear of the stand.

"It had tuned chilly so I picked up my coat that I had not worn all day forgetting all about who I was with. I pulled on the coat...

to this day I still recall being slagged by the

Kildare ones as right bang on the front of the coat was the Donegal crest! So much for being careful about what to wear!

Right after that was Kevin Cassidy's point. You knew as that ball left his foot it was going over the bar and the rest as they say is history.

"I hope today's game is just as exciting. Who will win today? Unusual for me I know, but some things are better left unsaid as some of those Castledermot friends are here again today! I'll be keeping quiet and keeping neutral!"



Ed Byrne in the Grey Top and Eunan Travers Laghey in the Donegal Gear

Bank of Ireland Dr. McKenna Cup Final Review

Donegal end Tyrone reign as Dr. McKenna Cup champions with good win in Armagh

Donegal 1-16

Tyrone 1-12

A cold but still night in Armagh saw Donegal take their first silverware with Declan Bonner back at the helm as manager, and while both Donegal and Tyrone fielded experimental teams, it was interesting to note that Tyrone introduced some season campaigners to rescue this one.

However, not even the introduction of Peter Harte and Mattie Donnelly, whose wonder point a week earlier in St Conleth's Park broke Kildare hearts, would turn this game in Tyrone's favour.

Tyrone had some of their big guns on the bench, while Patrick McBrearty and Ryan McHugh were not togged for Donegal. Tyrone had 13 changes from the league game against Kildare while Donegal had nine from their encounter with Dublin.

In front of 4,287 the first half was a really open affair. The first four points were shared, Daire O'Baoill and Ciaran Thompson for Donegal with Conal McCann and Kieran McGeary pointing for Tyrone.

Marty O'Reilly created an opening for Martin McElhinney to point and O'Baoill added his second to put Donegal two clear. But Tyrone hit back with Conal McCann breaking the Donegal defence to set up Harry Loughran to slide home a goal and the lead on the 7th minute.

But Donegal then took a grip. A good ball from Mark McHugh found Ciaran Thompson, who released Martin McElhinney and the St. Michael's man chipped the advancing Mickey O'Neill.

Paul Brennan, Martin O'Reilly (free) and Odhran Mac Niallais with a long range effort had Donegal five clear by the 15th minute - 1-7 to 1-2.

Darren McCurran and Ronan O'Neill (free) pulled two back but a poor clearance by Mickey O'Neill saw Martin O'Reilly point on 30 minutes.

Cathal McCarron came forward from full-back to show the Tyrone forwards the way but that was matched by veteran Frank McGlynn for Donegal.

On the stroke of half-time Ronan O'Neill pointed his second free to leave it 1-9 to 1-6 in favour of Donegal at the break.

Declan McClure and Niall O'Donnell traded early points before three Ronan O'Neill points had Tyrone level. The cavalry were on the field by this stage with Matthew Donnelly and Peter Harte for Tyrone and Michael Murphy for Donegal.

The Donegal response came from Niall O'Donnell, who hit two great points to edge Donegal two clear once more. Eamonn Doherty made a great block on Cathal McShane and Caolan McGonagle had another block before Harry Loughran followed another O'Neill free to cut the lead to one with 12 minutes left.

But Donegal came again with Paul Brennan hitting a great point and Nathan Mullins won a free for Michael Murphy to make it a three point lead again, 1-15 to 1-12.

There was deadlock in the final 13 minutes until Donegal broke and Stephen McMenamin was fouled by Matthew Donnelly for Murphy to hit the insurance point. Donnelly was shown a second yellow and red.

Scorers - Donegal: Martin McElhinney 1-1; Michael Murphy 0-3,2f; Niall O'Donnell 0-3; Martin O'Reilly 0-2,1f; Daire O'Baoill 0-2; Paul Brennan 0-2; Frank McGlynn, Odhran Mac Niallais, Ciaran Thompson 0-1 each.

Tyrone: Ronan O'Neill 0-6,6f; Harry Loughran 1-1; Cathal McCarron, Declan McClure, Conal McCann, Darren McCurry 0-1 each

DONEGAL: Shaun Patton; Stephen McMenamin, Conor Morrison, Frank McGlynn; Eamonn Doherty, Paul Brennan, Daire O'Baoill; Odhran Mac Niallais, Hugh McFadden; Ciaran Thompson, Martin McElhinney, Mark McHugh; Caolan McGonagle, Stephen McBrearty, Marty O'Reilly. Subs., Niall O'Donnell for S McBrearty 24; Michael Murphy for McElhinney 41; Nathan Mullins for O'Reilly 45; Caolan Ward for McGlynn 53; Brendan McCole for McGonagle 64; Neil McGee for Doherty 70

TYRONE: Mickey O'Neill; Aidan McCrory, Cathal McCarron, Brendan Burns; Michael Cassidy, Ronan McNabb, Kieran McGeary; Pdraig Hampsey, Ben McDonnell; Declan McClure, Harry Loughran, Conal McCann; Darren McCurry, Ronan McHugh, Ronan O'Neill. Subs., Matthew Donnelly for McClure; Cathal McShane for Cassidy, both 40; Peter Harte for McGeary 42; Hugh Pat McGeary for McCrory 50; Conor Meyler for McDonnell 53; Niall Sludden for Loughran 60

REFEREE: Barry Cassidy (Derry).



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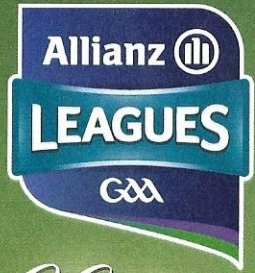
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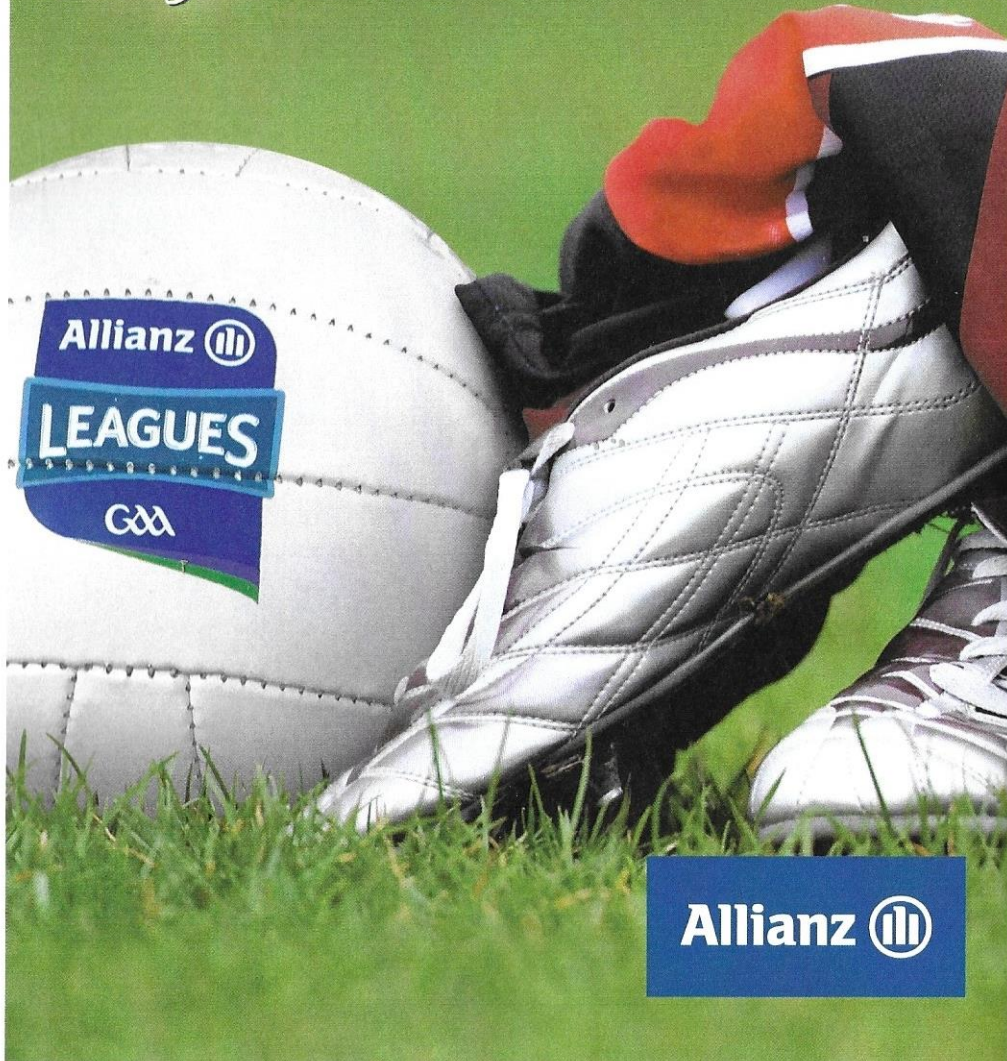
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Host club Aodh Ruadh have some 'net gains' with county keepers

By Michael Daly, Editor, Donegal Democrat

Ballyshannon has a proud history of producing 'county' players, and occasionally the locals like to joke that a large number of the 1992 panel that won the county's first All Ireland were in fact born in Ballyshannon.

The fact that the Rock Hospital, which is just across the road from today's venue, was one of the maternity hospitals for south Donegal in the 1960's and players from other clubs in the south of the county were born there, has been known to get lost in the telling of that claim...

However, what cannot be disputed is the Aodh Ruadh club's contribution to county and province and where the Erneside club has a real claim to fame is in terms of goalkeepers.

Today, subject to selection or injury, another Aodh Ruadh goalkeeper, Peter Boyle, will be in goals for Donegal. Boyle was thrown in at the deep end shortly into the Donegal v Kerry game when Mark Anthony McGinley picked up an injury after 17 minutes.

Hardly a veteran, he's no novice either. He was first drafted into the senior squad in 2016 by then manager, Rory Gallagher, and he was in goals when Donegal won the Ulster under-21 championship under Jim McGuinness.

A recognised shot stopper, Boyle has tremendous length to his kickout. Having played against Kerry, he retained his place against Galway and Dublin.

He comes from a club who have a knack for producing good goalkeepers.

In 1972 and 1992 when the county won a first Ulster title and a first All Ireland championship title respectively, the men in nets were from Ballyshannon.

Alan Kane was the man in nets for Donegal in the early 70s; he made his championship debut in 1970, against Antrim, and played 8 championship games for Donegal. He was goalkeeper in the breakthrough final in 1972 when the county won its first ever Ulster Senior Football Championship title, defeating Tyrone 2-13 to 1-11.

He continued in goals for 1973 and played in the drawn Ulster final against Down in 1974, the sides finishing 1-14 to 2-11. In the replay Noel McCole was in goals and he



Alan Kane

went on to make 17 championship appearances over the next ten years, his final game in the 1984 championship against Armagh.

McCole had taken over in 1974 from a Ballyshannon man, and served with distinction for ten years, but his place in the number 1 jersey was taken by another Ballyshannon man, Gary Walsh, who would play for the county for the next eleven years, his debut in 1985 against Down and his final game, also against the Mourne men in 1995.

Gary, known by one and all as 'Big George', with 30 championship appearances, is second only to Paul Durcan, who, like Walsh, enjoyed eleven years in goals for the county.

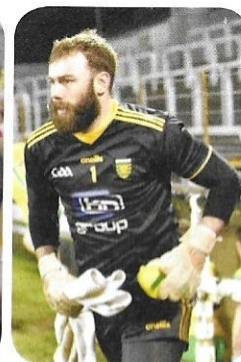
With the change in the championship structure, Paul had an impressive 52 appearances when he finished playing to further his career in the Middle East. Walsh and Durcan of course, achieved the ultimate, All Ireland medal winners in 1992 and 2012.

There are at other levels, from minor to junior, several other Aodh Ruadh men who have served Donegal as goalkeepers. Sean McHugh like Kane and Walsh, has a hand in history, as he was Donegal's goalkeeper when the county won their first Ulster Minor Championship final in 1956, defeating Armagh by 2-5 to 0-06. In three championship games McHugh conceded only one goal.

Whatever the future holds for Peter Boyle, what is certain he's not short of tradition and that winning habit in key games, thanks to his home club, Aodh Ruadh.



Gary Walsh



Peter Boyle

Ground Regulations for Fr Tierney Park, Ballyshannon

All persons entering Fr Tierney Park, Ballyshannon 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.

Alcohol: The consumption of alcohol is not permitted within the ground and spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground.

Safety: The unauthorised climbing of any structure, walls or buildings in the ground is strictly forbidden. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object onto the pitch.

Access: A person may not obstruct a gangway, stairwell or circulation area at any time.

Field of Play: Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play at any time, before, during or after the games.

Ground Control: 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.

Smoking: Permitted only in designated areas of Ground - Signposted in each of the 4 corners of grounds. Please respect this policy.

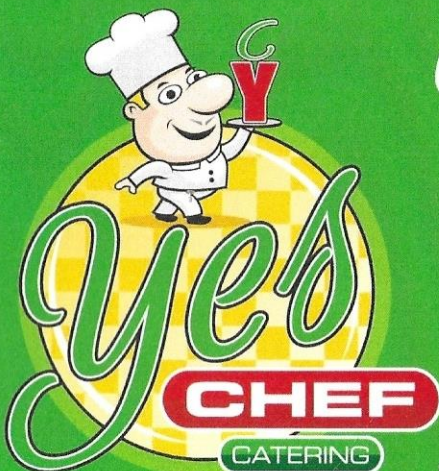
Stewards: All spectators are asked to co-operate with Stewards at all times.

Defibrillator: Located & signposted at changing rooms.

Exits: New exit to main road at stand side of grounds; Exit behind "old" scoreboard will bring you in direction of town centre & Belleek road & N15/by-pass.

Today's Match Programme: Programme produced by Park/Development Committee, Aodh Ruadh GAA club. Contributors: Michael Daly, Tom Daly, Ryan Daly, Gerry Mc Laughlin, Peter Campbell, Frank Craig, Ed Byrne, Ryan Ferry, Fergus Mc Gee, Fr Sean O Gallachoir, Creegan Alcock.

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Three goals conceded but first league win for Bonner's men

DONEGAL 1-15
KILDARE 3-7

BY RYAN FERRY

DONEGAL made life difficult for themselves against 14-man Kildare in Fr Tierney Park on Sunday, but they managed to hold on and get their first win of the league campaign.

Kildare scored an early goal, but faced an uphill challenge when their captain Eoin Doyle was controversially sent off in the 17th minute.

Declan Bonner's Donegal struggled in the first half, but two late Patrick McBrearty points left them trailing by just a point at the break, with the breeze supporting them in the second period.

They raised their game after the resumption, and twice looked to have the match won, but goals from Niall Kelly and David Slatery kept Kildare in contention.

A tortuous goal from Ryan McHugh sent Donegal on their way to victory, and while the visitors did return their deficit to two points at the death, Bonner's side managed to weather the storm, and collect a first win in Division 1.

Both sides came into the game without a league point to their name and there was a nervousness about the game in the early exchanges.

Donegal were playing into a strong breeze and they had trouble adjusting to it, and kicked three early wides.

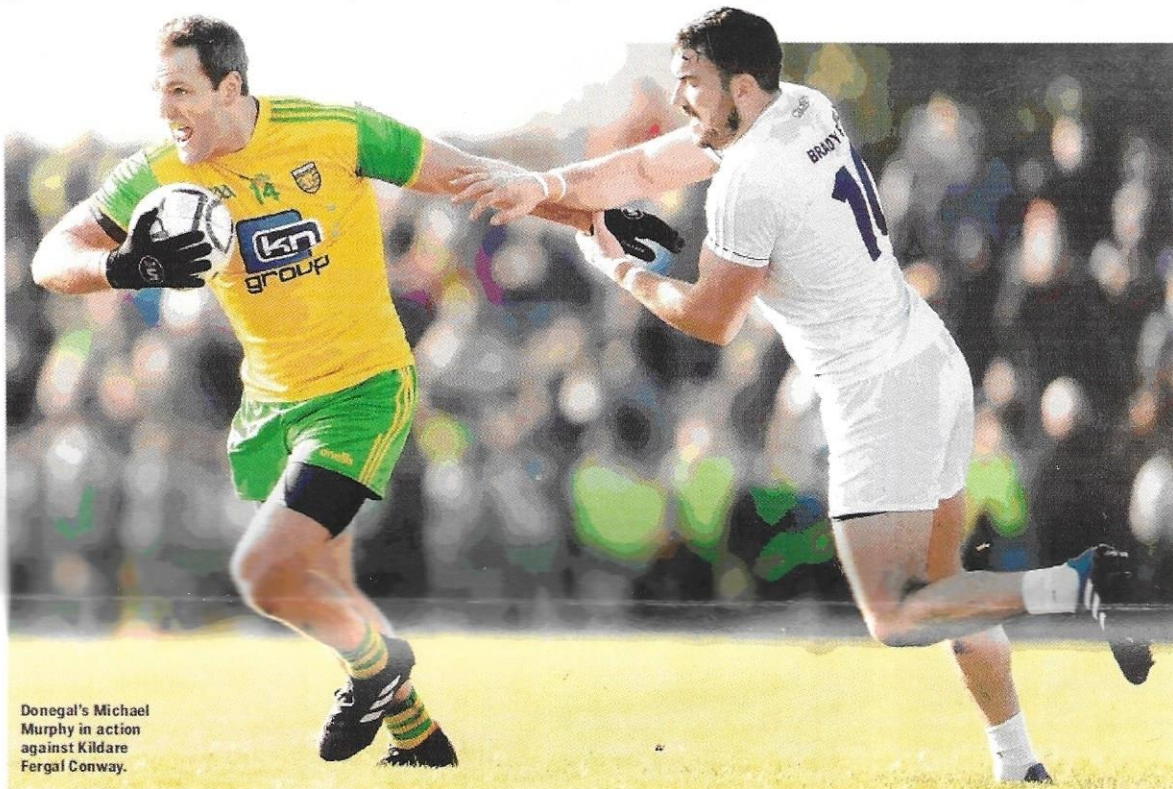
Kildare were working hard defensively, but their forward line weren't really firing until the eighth minute when they swooped for a goal.

Kevin Feely was allowed to catch a kick-out unopposed, and Kildare moved possession quickly with Ben McCormack and Tommy Moolick combining, before the play was switched inside to Daniel Flynn, who fired low to the net.

Odhhran Mac Niallais responded immediately with a point for Donegal, but Feely quickly cancelled that out with a free.

Donegal were fortunate that they didn't concede a second goal when Paul Brennan lost possession and the visitors broke through.

McCormack passed inside to Flynn, who fired home again. However, the



Donegal's Michael Murphy in action against Kildare Fergal Conway.

referee David Gough disallowed it for a square ball, which was a huge call.

Hugh McFadden landed a fine score from play, before Gough came to centre stage once again, when he gave Doyle a second yellow card and a red for not wearing his gum shield.

Johnny Byrne and Michael Murphy (free) traded scores, before Feely put three points between the sides again in the 25th minute.

Donegal were flat and were struggling to break down a resolute Kildare, even with an extra man.

Patrick McBrearty, in particular, was not making his usual impact, but the corner-forward found his form again deep in the half, and fistied over two points which meant Bonner's side just

trailed by the minimum at the break.

Kildare kept Donegal waiting on the pitch before the start of the second half, but the play didn't have the desired effect as Donegal started strongly with Murphy scoring from play.

Kevin Flynn replied with a good score for Kildare, but the home side started to get on top and landed points from Jamie Brennan, Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher, and Niall O'Donnell in quick succession.

When Patrick McBrearty converted a free in the 43rd minute to put Donegal three ahead, it appeared that Bonner's men were going to cruise to victory.

However, Cian O'Neill's Kildare had other ideas and they brought them-

selves back onto level terms thanks to a well-worked goal, with Niall Kelly drilling low to the net.

That was a setback for Bonner's side, and Kildare hit the front when Fergal Conway curled over.

Donegal didn't panic and points from Ryan McHugh (2), Murphy, and McBrearty, but them three ahead once again.

However, there was a sense of déjà vu, as the Lillywhites broke through the Donegal defence with another sweeping move, and Peter Kelly passed the ball to David Slatery, who palmed to the net.

Hugh McFadden slotted over from distance, before Donegal scored a goal of their own, although there was more

than a hint of fortune with it.

Ryan McHugh picked up the ball on the left hand side of the pitch, and was going for a point. He undercooked his shot, but Kildare goalkeeper Mark Donnellan lost his bearings and the ball dropped into the net.

At that juncture, Donegal knew that as long as they didn't concede a goal that they would win the game. However, they did have another nervous moment when Keith Cribbin almost got through, and the home side just about scrambled clear.

Daniel Flynn and Kevin Feely did kick late scores, but Donegal held on to get a crucial victory, which gives them a fighting chance of staying up in Division 1.

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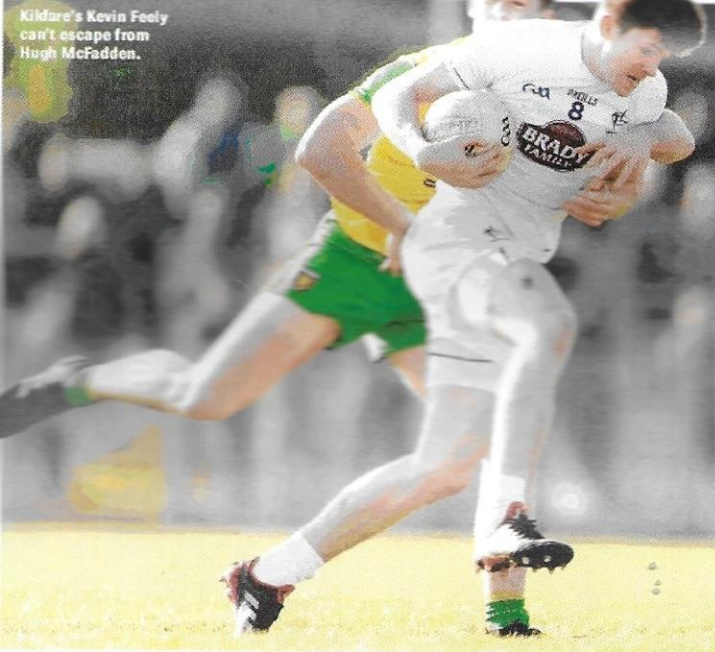
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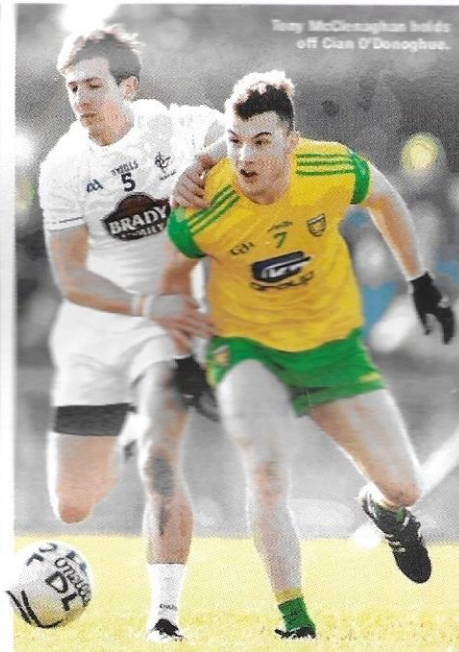
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Kildare's Kevin Feely can't escape from Hugh McFadden.

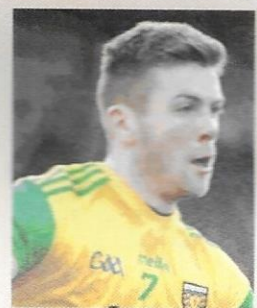


Tony McClenaghan holds off Cian O'Donoghue.



THE GAME AT A GLANCE

WITH RYAN FERRY IN FR TIERNEY PARK



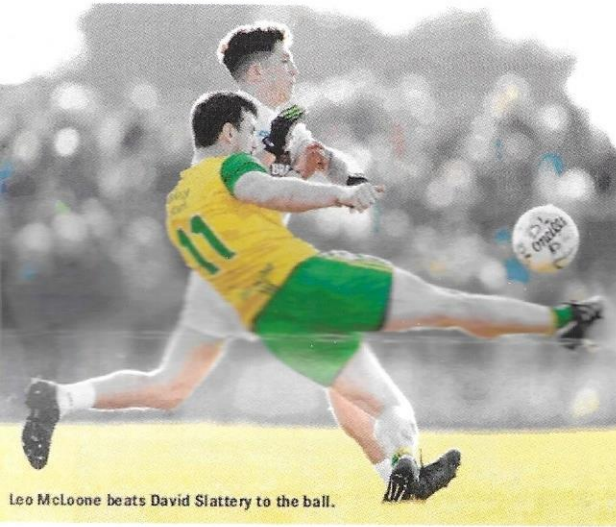
MAN OF THE MATCH
Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher: While most of his teammates were lethargic in the first half, Gallagher, pictured above, was really sharp and made some great tackles. He added a point in the second half and was always keen to get on the ball.

THE WHISTLER
David Gough was the centre of attention in Ballyshannon. He took advice from his umpire to disallow a Kildare goal for a square ball, and that was a decision that you rarely see. The Meath referee also sent off Eoin Doyle, and that was a significant moment in the match. He issued the second yellow card because Doyle was not wearing a gum shield, and while that is a bookable offence, Kildare manager Cian O'Neill was not happy to see his man get the line.

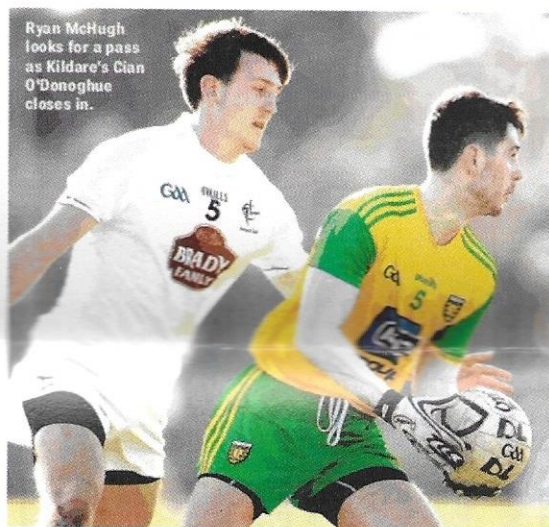
TURNING POINT
The red card to Eoin Doyle was a huge moment in this game. It meant that Kildare had to play for almost an hour with 14 players. Despite their numerical disadvantage, they still caused Donegal plenty of problems, and there may have been a different outcome if they had their full quantity.

TALKING POINT
This was Donegal's poorest performance of the season so far, yet it was the one in which they claimed their first victory. There was an air of expectancy in Fr Tierney Park, and that led to a flat atmosphere, and a flat first half from Donegal, when they struggled to impose themselves on the game. They were better after the break, but the manner in which they were cut open by Kildare is very worrying. The Lilywhites hit the net three times, had a goal disallowed, and created another chance. It's unlikely that Donegal will stay up if they are as open at the back in their remaining three league games

WHAT'S NEXT?
Donegal will hope to make it back-to-back wins when they face Tyrone in Healy Park next Saturday night.



Leo McLoone beats David Slattery to the ball.



Ryan McHugh looks for a pass as Kildare's Cian O'Donoghue closes in.

TEAMS

Donegal: Shaun Patton; Paul Brennan, Caoian Ward, Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher (0-1); Eamon Doherty, Stephen McMenamin, Tony McClenaghan; Hugh McFadden (0-2), Leo McLoone; Mark McHugh, Odrán Mac Niallais (0-1), Ryan McHugh (1-2); Patrick McBrearty (0-4, 1f), Michael Murphy (0-3, 1f), Jamie Brennan (0-1). Subs: Niall O'Donnell (0-1) for McClenaghan (Half-time), Neil McGee for Ward (50 mins), Stephen McBrearty for Brennan (55 mins), Caoian McGonagle for M. McHugh (60 mins), Ciaran Thompson for Mac Niallais (65 mins), Nathan Mullins for O'Donnell (69 mins),

Kildare: Mark Donnellan; Peter Kelly, David Hyland, Mick O'Grady; Cian O'Donoghue, Eoin Doyle, Johnny Byrne (0-1); Kevin Feely (0-3, 3fs), Tommy Moolick; Fergal Conway (0-1), Niall Kelly (1-0), Paul Cribbin; Ben McCormack, Daniel Flynn (1-1), Keith Cribbin. Subs: Paddy Brophy for McCormack (25 mins), Kevin Flynn (0-1) or O'Donoghue (Half-time), David Slattery (1-0) for P. Cribbin (55 mins), Chris Healy for Kelly (60 mins), Fionn Dowling for Conway (65 mins), Mark Cherry for Moolick (69 mins).

Referee: David Gough (Meath).

Brennan delighted to secure points

BY RYAN FERRY

JAMIE Brennan admitted that Donegal's performance against Kildare was 'patchy' at times but he was glad to finally get some league points after three defeats.

Brennan, pictured below, and his teammates didn't play to their potential, but they still did enough to see off the Lilywhites.

"It's always good to get a victory, and it was important to get two points on the board. The first two could be the hardest two," said Brennan.

"We made tight work of it today and we were patchy at times, but it was good to get over the line in the end."

The first half was frustrating for Brennan, as Donegal played against a strong breeze and couldn't kick the ball inside.

He was usually going away from goal when he got possession, but it was a dif-

ferent story in the second period.

"They were covering the ground very well, and it was hard to get any space.

"But they only had 14 men, and they tired a bit in the second half, and it was easier to get the ball inside then."

Donegal threatened to pull away from their opponents on a couple of different occasions, but they couldn't kill off Kildare, and that set up a nervous finale.

Brennan said: "We seemed to be able to get on top of them for spells, but then we conceded a few goals, and that knocked us back.

"We just had to dig deep, and thankfully things went our way."

The Bundoran clubman said he wasn't feeling any ill effects from the thundering shoulder he received from Peter Kelly.

"I got up

quickly. I didn't want to show any weakness at all - you just have to keep going. No, it wasn't too bad. It looked worse than what it was."

Brennan was rested for last week's McKenna Cup Final, and he was eager to make an impression on Sunday when he returned to the team, as he says there are a lot of players vying for starting berths.

"There's savage competition for places there. You just look at the boys that weren't tagged out today - Cian Mulligan, and Michael Langan.

"We're nearly at full-strength, and everybody is working hard in training to get a jersey.

"The championship is only around the corner, so we're not far away from the important stuff.

"You just have to keep working hard, and if you're given the opportunity, you just have to represent Donegal to the best of your ability.

"We have a massive four-pointer against Tyrone now next week. It's going to be a big game, and hopefully we can build on this and get the win down there as well."

