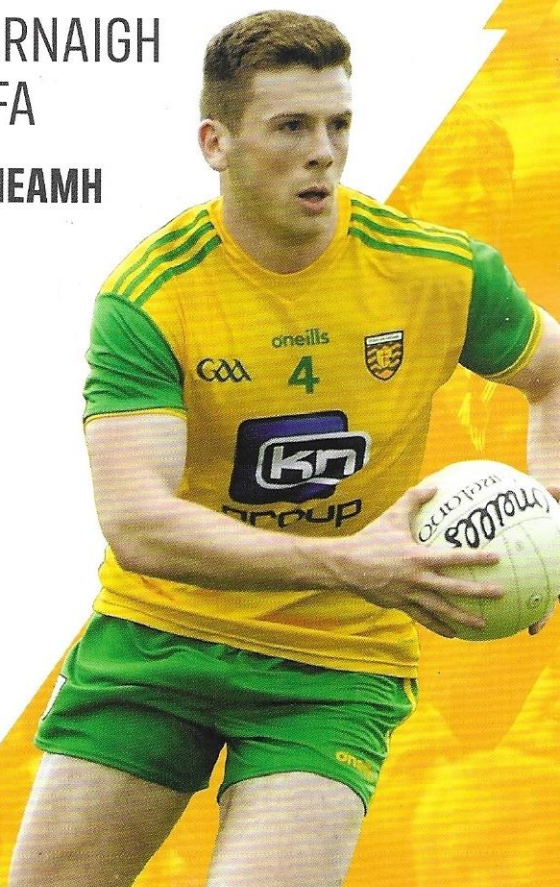
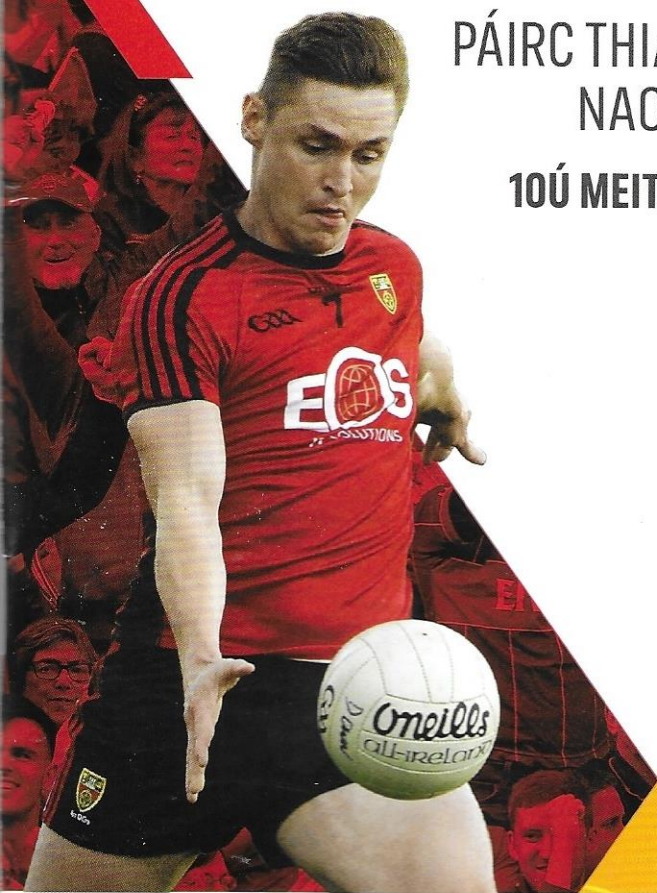


ULSTER
2018

SENIOR FOOTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIP

CRAOBH PEILE ULADH
AN DÚN
— V —
DÚN NA NGALL

PÁIRC THIARNAIGH
NAOFA
10Ú MEITHEAMH



€3/£3 | CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL

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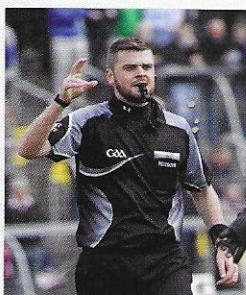
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FIXTURES & OFFICIALS

SUNDAY 10TH JUNE | ST TIERNACH'S PARK

EIRGRID ULSTER GAA FOOTBALL UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI FINAL

AN DÚN v DOIRE 2.00PM (Extra time & finish on day if required)



Referee

Conor Dourneen (An Cabhán)

Standby

Pat Clarke (An Cabhán)

Linesman

Martin Conroy (Tír Eoghain)

Sideline Official

Mark Dorrian (Dún na nGall)

Umpires

Gerry Sheridan, Michael Lee, Joe McQuillan and Thomas O'Keefe

CONOR DOURNEEN (AN CABHÁN)

Conor (25) from County Cavan will oversee today's Minor Championship tie between Donegal and Monaghan. Hailing from the Ballinagh club, Conor joined the Ulster Panel in 2013 and has been on the National Support Panel for the past three years.

He has refereed at all levels in Cavan, taking charge of the Intermediate Championship Final in 2015 and the 2016 U21 Championship Final. To date in Ulster, Conor has handled several Minor League fixtures as well as McKenna Cup and Ulster Club ties. He refereed the Ulster Minor Football Championship game between Donegal and Monaghan earlier this year.

Conor has also donned the white coat having umpired at three Ulster Senior Football Finals and the 2015 All Ireland Senior Final in Croke Park between Dublin and Kerry.

ULSTER GAA FOOTBALL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI FINAL

AN DÚN v DÚN NA NGALL 4.00PM (Extra time if necessary)



Referee:

Anthony Nolan (Cill Mhantáin)

Standby:

Joe McQuillan (An Cabhán)

Linesman:

Sean Lavery (Aontroim)

Sideline Official:

Anthony Marron (Muineachán)

Umpires:

Damien Byrne, Peter Casey, Patrick Doyle and Donal O'Keefe

ANTHONY NOLAN (CILL MHANTÁIN)

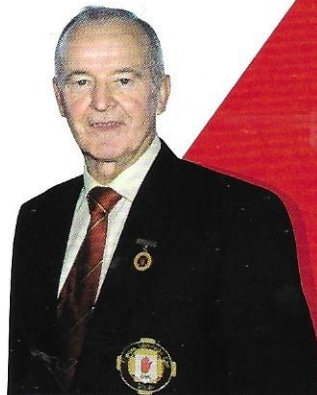
A member of the intercounty panel since 2013, the Baltinglass clubman returns to St Tiernach's Park for the first time since April 2014 when he took charge of the Monaghan-Galway Allianz League tie.

The 38-year-old has already been on championship duty this year as the Cork-Tipperary Munster Semi-Final was played under his jurisdiction. Among his four league assignments this season was Donegal versus Mayo at Ballybofey as well as the Division 1 final.

His last match involving Down was also in the league in February 2015 when they took on Kildare at Newbridge. This is his first ever Ulster SFC tie.

REAMHFHOCAL

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur roimh na foirne agus an lucht leanúna a tháinig go Páirc Thiarnaigh Naofa inniu ó'n Dún agus ó Dhún na nGall. Molaim go hard gach duine a chuidigh leis na himreoirí seo thar na mblianta le ullmhú le himirt ag an ardchaighdeán spóirt seo.

Welcome to the 2018 Ulster Senior Football Championship Semi Final. We are in the middle of a much more condensed format this year with the Ulster Final scheduled for 24th June. 8 games over a six week period as our players, officials and spectators enjoy another championship season.

This second Semi Final fixture sees Down and Donegal meet here in St Tiernach's Park, Clones. Both counties will be delighted to be back at this stage. Down defeated Antrim in the quarter final and are looking to build on their 2017 Ulster Final appearance while Donegal are remarkably, in their eighth consecutive Ulster Semi Final. They were impressive in First Round and Quarter Final victories over Cavan and Derry respectively and will be looking to return here for the 24th June decider.

Today sees another opportunity for a special exhibition skills game at half time. As part of the Ulster GAA's Disability Inclusion programme, we have the St Gerard's School and Support Services, Belfast team and Donegal Dynamo's team involved. Please join with me in giving them all a special welcome and lots of encouragement as they entertain us in today's half time exhibition game.

We also have an Eirgrid Ulster GAA Football Under 20 Championship Semi Final between Down and Derry. This competition has given us some great displays already and we look forward to another enthralling game.

In Ulster, we have an extremely competitive inter-county championship and as evidenced today again, every team

can take to the field in a given game with a well grounded hope of success in that fixture. It is testament to our county panels that such a focus and drive underpins their participation and their quest for success.

In 2018, Cancer Focus has been chosen as the charity for Ulster GAA. Cancer Focus is a local cancer charity working since 1969 to reduce the impact of cancer on people's lives. They provide care and support services for cancer patients and their families.

I acknowledge and thank all the Ulster Council and Muineachán GAA personnel involved in hosting today's games. Everyone plays their part; supporters and stewards, medics, match officials and players, sponsors, local authorities, media, County Boards and Provincial Council.

I also wish all four teams, their County Boards and management every success in their respective outings today and the match officials whose role should never be overlooked.

Finally, to you the supporters. Your support, attendance and attention is highly valued and we hope the experience of today will encourage you to join us again at some stage over the summer before the 2018 winners of the Ulster Senior Football Championship will be confirmed.

Micheal Ó hÓsain

Micheal Ó hÓsain
Uachtarán Chomhairle Uladh

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Amhrán na bhFiann

Caitríona Sherlock is a music student at UCD and has been singing since age seven. In 2013 and 2017 she won the All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil. She has competed in Scór for numerous years representing Scotstown in Ballad Group and Solo Singing, obtaining medals for each. In 2016 she sang Amhrán na bhFiann at the Ladies All Ireland Football Final in Croke Park.

CLÁR AN LAE

SUNDAY 10TH JUNE



- 1.39pm** An Dún amach ar an bPáirc
1.42pm Doire amach ar an bPáirc
1.50pm Oifigigh an Cluiche amach ar an bPáirc
1.52pm Toss
2.00pm Tús an Cluiche: An Dún V Doire
2.32pm Half Time / Leath Am
An Dún to leave the field immediately on half time whistle
Doire to leave the field once An Dún have cleared the field
2.33pm Entertainment / Siamsa
2.43pm Start of Second Half / Tús an dara leath
3.17pm End of Game / Críoch an Chluiche

If the Under 20 Game finishes in a draw, two periods of 10 minutes each way shall be played. If still level after extra time, two periods of five minutes each way shall be played. If still level, free taking competition will ensue as outlined on Page 29.

(If Extra Time is required in the Under 20 Game, see right)

- 3.33pm** Both County Secretaries to present Team Lists in Referees room
3.39pm An Dún amach ar an bPáirc
3.42pm Dún na nGall amach ar an bPáirc
3.45pm Oifigigh an Cluiche amach ar an bPáirc
3.50pm Toss
3.53pm Paráid (An Dún closest to the perimeter & Dún na nGall on the inside)
3.58pm Amhrán na bhFiann
4.00pm Tús an Cluiche: An Dún V Dún na nGall
4.38pm Half Time / Leath Am
An Dún to leave the field immediately on half time whistle
Dún na nGall to leave the field once An Dún have cleared the field
4.39pm Cluichí Exhibition
4.49pm End of Exhibition Game
4.50pm Presentation of Medals
4.53pm Start of Second Half / Tús an dara leath
5.32pm End of Senior Game / Críoch an Chluiche Shinsir

If the Senior Game finishes in a draw, two periods of 10 minutes each way shall be played. If still level after this extra time, a replay will take place.

*** If Extra Time is required in the Under 20 Game***

- 3.25pm** Start of First Period of Extra Time
3.36pm End of First Period of Extra Time
3.39pm Start of Second Period of Extra Time
3.50pm End of Extra Time
3.52pm Both County Secretaries to present Team Lists in Referees room
3.54pm An Dún amach ar an bPáirc
3.57pm Dún na nGall amach ar an bPáirc
4.00pm Oifigigh an Cluiche amach ar an bPáirc
4.04pm Toss
4.07pm Paráid
4.13pm Amhrán na bhFiann
4.15pm Tús an Cluiche: An Dún V Dún na nGall
4.53pm Half Time / Leath Am
4.54pm Cluichí Exhibition
5.04pm End of Exhibition Game
5.05pm Presentation of Medals
5.08pm Start of Second Half / Tús an dara leath
5.46pm End of Senior Game / Críoch an Chluiche Shinsir

AMHRÁN NA BHFIANN

Sinne Fianna Fáil

A tá fé gheall ag Éirinn,
buion dár slua

Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn,
Fé mhóid bheith saor.

Sean tír ár sinsir feasta

Ní fhagfar fé'n tiorán ná fé'n tráil

Anocht a théam sa bhearnna bhaoil,

Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil

Le guna screach fé lámhach na bpiléar

Seo libh canaídh Amhrán na bhFiann.

YOUR SAFETY

Please note the following regulations. We ask for your full co-operation with stewards and other volunteers who are doing their best to ensure you enjoy the match. If you fail to co-operate it may be necessary to refuse you entry or, if inside the stadium, to ask you to leave.

Please do not bring anything into the stadium that can be used as a weapon or that will cause interference with others. This includes fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, flaggpoles, banners. We do not allow alcohol in the ground. We ask you not to climb onto walls, stands and other buildings. Likewise, we ask you to refrain from making unnecessary noise that will annoy other spectators near you. That includes the likes of air horns or radios.

Please do not use foul, abusive or offensive language. There are families and children present. We ask you not to enter the field of play during or after the game for health and safety reasons. Occasionally we may be required to search patrons entering the ground. If you refuse to be searched you may be refused entry. Please do not obstruct gangways or stairwells etc. Also, please do not engage in behaviour that may cause a fire or other dangerous event.

The Officers on duty reserve the right to remove you from the ground if you do not comply with these simple regulations. Our intention is simply to ensure that all our supporters can enjoy the match.

FIRST AID

First Aid is provided at today's venue with ambulances located behind the Gerry Arthurs' Stand and at the corner between the Eastern and Pat McGrane Stand.

LOST CHILDREN

Children who have become separated from their parents/guardians should be brought to the designated First Aid Points.

SAFETY NOTICE

We have established this policy for health and safety reasons, to avoid serious injury or death. We thank you for your co-operation.

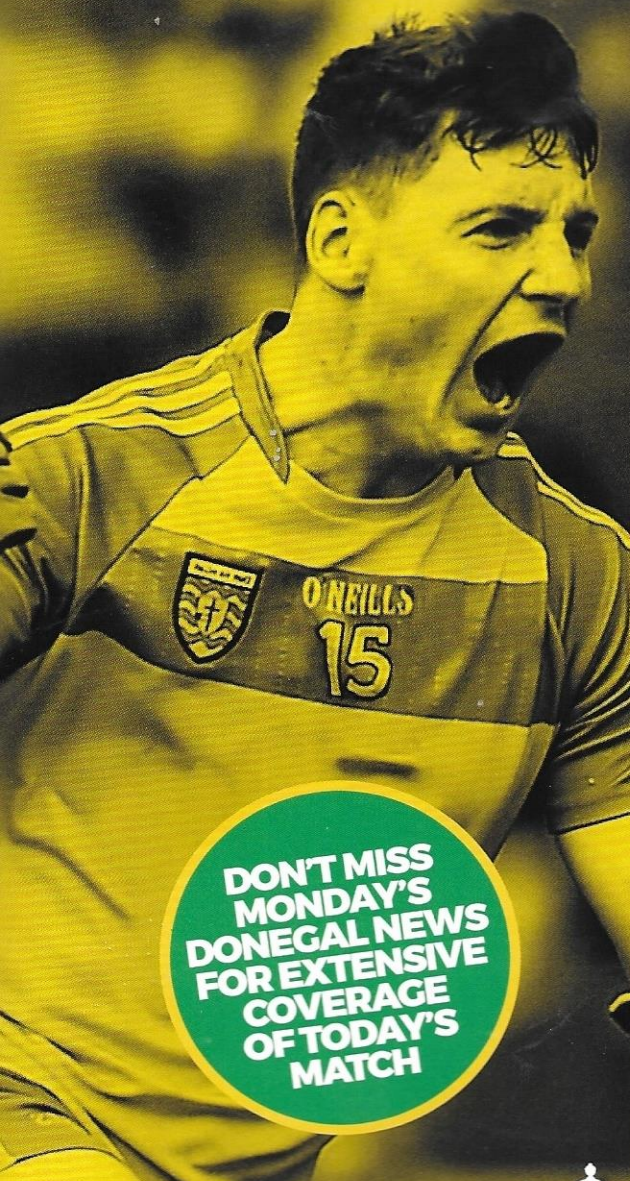


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DERRY PEOPLE
DONEGAL NEWS
EVERY MONDAY & FRIDAY

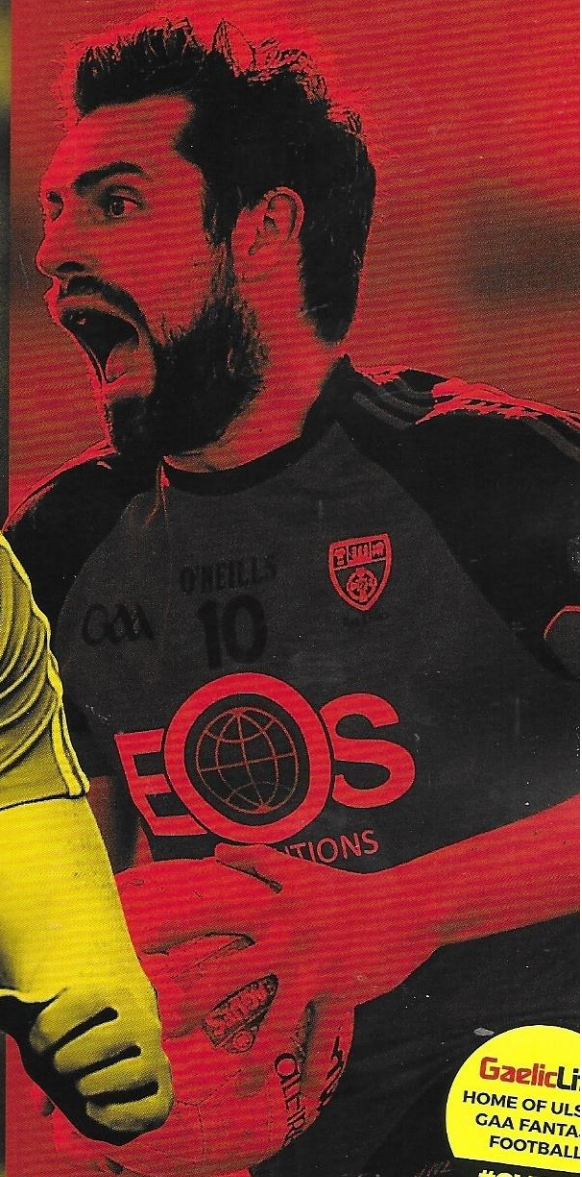
**EXTENSIVE GAA
COVERAGE**



**DON'T MISS
MONDAY'S
DONEGAL NEWS
FOR EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE
OF TODAY'S
MATCH**

GaelicLife

**PROVINCE WIDE
EVERY THURSDAY**



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FOOTBALL
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FOR **GAA & ULSTER**

ANTRIM · ARMAGH · CAVAN · DERRY · DONEGAL · DOWN · FERMANAGH · MONAGHAN · TYRONE

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BERNIE MHC GIOLLA BHRÍDE



Bernie Roarty mar is fear aithne uirthi sa cheantar. Tá thar feiche blain caite ag Bernie il CLG Ghaoth Dobhair ag déanamh obair dheoch. Thosaigh sí nuair a bhí a cuid páistí beag agus iad ag tosnú ag imirt Peil Gaelach agus tá si ann ó shin.

Thóg sí rol leis an Bhingo ag an am sin agus tá foireann de thart ar dosaen ann anois agus idir a chéile eagraíonn

said agus ritheann said an Bingo sa chlubtheach ach an Déardaoin ó cheann ceann na bhliana.

Bhí sí ag cuidiú le linn Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta agus bíonn sí ar lámh do ócáidí ar bith eile atá a reáchtáil sa chlub.

Tá sí pósta ar Eoghan agus tá beirt mhac acu, Eoghan agus Pól.

PÁDRAIG MAC FHIONNGHAILE



Packie Ownie mar is fear aithne air sa cheantar. Bainteach le CLG Ghaoth Dobhair mar imreoir agus mar oibrí dheonach ó 1961 i leith. Bhí sé mar Bhainisteoir ar fóirne faoi aois ó 1976 go 1982 agus mar bhainisteoir ar fóine sinsear ar féidh roinnt tréimhsí ó 1984 go 1998.

Bhí sé ar Choiste Feidhmeannais an Chlub ó 1983 go 2016 agus é ag feidhmiú ar féidh roinnt tréimhsí mar Chathaoirleach, Leas Chathaoirleach agus Oifigeach Forbartha gan trácht ar é bheith mar Iontaobhaí an Chlub agus bhí sé ar an Choiste Tógála an Chlubtheach a d'oscáil go hoifigiúil i 1984.

Tá sé ar foireann an Bhingo agus tá sé iontach páirteach in bailiú airgid don chlub tré an Club Céad agus an Lotto.

Ar lá cluichí bíonn sé i gcónaí ar fáil agus ag obair go dícheallach.

Pósta ar Chaitlín agus tá cúigear teaghlaigh acu, Adrian, Pádraig, John, Caroline agus Máire.

Tá CLG Ghaoth Dobhair fíor bhuíoch don bheirt thuasluaite agus do gach duine a oibríonn go deonach don chlub ó cheann ceann na bliana.



Patrick McBrearty shrugs off Cavan's Padraig Faulkner.

UNDER 20 PREVIEW

DERRY V DOWN | BY NIALL GARTLAND

GaelicLife

IT wasn't hard for manager Conor Deegan to know where Down needed to improve after edging a shoot-out against Antrim in the Ulster Championship U20 Quarter Final. The Mourne men scored all 4-15 of their overall tally from play but conceded a worrying 3-13 at the other end of the pitch.

A BBC report called it a 'refreshingly open' game, but if they don't shore up their defence they could pay the ultimate price in today's semi-final clash against a star-studded Derry. Conscious of their poor recent record at minor level, Deegan believes nerves took hold as their defensive plans went out the window against the Saffrons. They're now 60 minutes away from their first Ulster Final appearance at this grade since 2008, if you imagine for a second that this is the same competition as the now-defunct U20 championship.

"It certainly wasn't planned to be a shoot out which is what it developed into. It happens on any given day. Guys switch off, it was the first championship win that group had had in four attempts, so it was a big deal for them and there were probably nerves. Many factors went into it but we'd like to think that we learnt from it".

Derry, meanwhile, inflicted a shock victory over red hot favourites Donegal in a memorable opening round encounter at the weekend.

The likes of Jude McAtamney, the McWilliams brothers Oisín and Lorcan, Conor Doherty, Conor McCluskey and Pádraig McGrogan bring with them a wealth of experience, but Donegal whipped Cavan in the preliminary round and were already being touted as potential All-Ireland winners.

As it happened, Derry battled back after conceding two first-half goals to squeeze past their neighbours by a single point.

The result served as personal vindication for their manager Mickey Donnelly. Some had queried the wisdom of bringing outside managers into the county - Donegal native Paddy Campbell manages the U17s as well - but the Tyrone man says his players shouldn't be dragged into the debate.

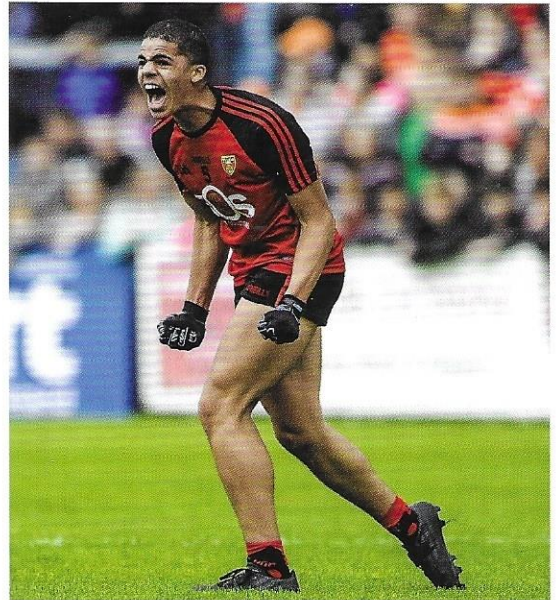
"From a very selfish point of you that might affect you but you can't expect it to motivate the lads. You put in the

hours and hope you get the rewards. It worked out for us against Donegal and it mightn't work out the next day, that's the way it is".

The entire Down forward line made the scoresheet against Antrim, with Conor McCrickard contributing 2-2 and Owen McCabe weighing in with 1-4. The leading scores usually get their names up in lights but Deegan wouldn't be surprised if as many as half a dozen of his team graduate to the senior ranks.

"To win games is great, to perform is great, but ultimately we want to produce players who can step up. We're confident that there are five or six that can make the step up very quickly. Athletically they're ready, physically they're not far away, and we've some very fine footballers as well".

Conor McCluskey and Pádraig McGrogan have already played senior football for Derry this year, and both were involved in the county's run to the All-Ireland Minor Final last year. The Oak Leafers have the pedigree and should prevail if they don't lose the run of themselves after their win over Donegal.



Down's Finn McIlroy

LAOCHRA AGUS ÉACHTAÍ CLG DHÚN NA NGALL

LE FERGUS MAC AOIDH AGUS PÁDRAIG Ó CONNACHÁIN

Bhí go leor laochra Gael ag Dún na nGall síos fríd na blianta. Tá dearmad déanta ar roinnt de na hainmneacha ar nós na míanta ama agus tá ainmneacha eile i mbéal an phobail go dtí an lá inniú. Ar an 7ú Meitheamh 2016, bronnadh Saoirse Chontae Dhún na nGall (an t-onóir is airde sa chontae) ar Antóin Ó Ludhóg mar aitheantas ar a chuid ranniocaiocht do Peil Ghaelach i gContae Dhún na nGall. Bhí seo go hiomlán tuillte ag an fhear uasal seo a bhfuil suim mhór aige inár dTeanga agus ár gcultúr chomh maith lenár gcluichí. Ar an lá a bronnadh an onóir mór seo ar Antóin, dúirt sé go raibh sé ag smaoineamh ar na fir go léir a d'imir sé leo ins na 80í agus na 90í.

Ar ndóigh, beidh áit speisialta i gcónaí i nDún na nGall do na foirne agus na bainisteoirí a bhain corn Sam Mag Uidhir i 1992 agus i 2012 chomh maith le na foirne a bhain craobh Uladh thar na blianta. Beidh stádas Laochra acu seo go deo ach bhí cuid mhór foirne agus imreoirí eile a rinne na ndicheall gan corn nó bonn do chineál ar bith a bhaint. Bhí cuid mhór foirne maith i nDún na nGall agus neart peileadóirí den scoth ón gcontae nár bhain corn Sam Mag Uidhir agus bhí cuid acu nach bhfuair deis ariamh imirt i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Bhí na himreoirí seo ina laochra fosta ach is annamh a luaitear a n-ainmneacha.

Tá go leor, leor eile a rinne sar obair ar son an CLG i nDún na nGall. Tá neart acu seo inár measc go foill agus cuid eile acu ar shlí na fírinne. Síos fríd na blianta, bhí peileadóirí (fir agus mná), iománaitheoirí, imreoirí camógaíochta, bainisteoirí, oiliúnóirí, oifigí agus lucht tacaíocht do'n chead scoth againn inár gcondae.

Bhí blianta fada ann nuair nach raibh Dún na nGall ag an leibhéal is airde agus is iad na daoine a choinnigh ár gcluichí beo le linn na blianta crua sin a rinne an obair is tábhachtaí inár gcondae ó thaobh an Chumann Lúthchleas Gaeil. Tá aitheantas speisialta tuillte ag na fir agus na mná a raibh an fhís acu talamh a cheannacht, ár bpáirceanna a fhorbairt, seomraí feistis a chur ar fáil agus an taos óg a chothú le linn na mblianta sin nuair nach raibh morán aird ar chluichí Gaelach sa chondae. Ba choir dúinn áit a choinneal inár smaointí agus inár gcroí do na fíor laochra seo fosta. Gan iad, ní bheadh ár gcluichí san áit mhaith ina bhfuil said sa chondae inniú.

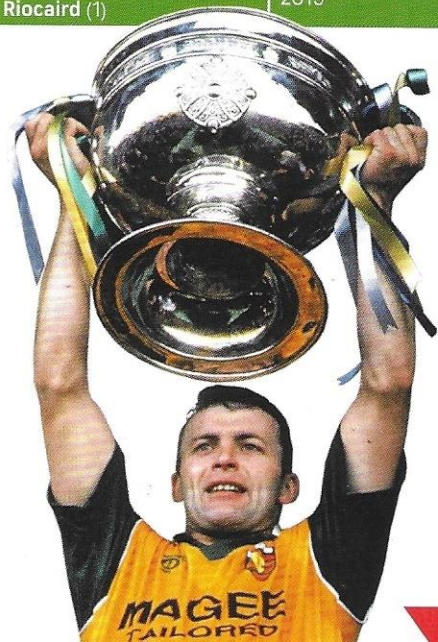
I measc ár n-éachtaí is mó i nDún na nGall, tá said seo atá leagtha amach thíos.

Peil Ghaelach

Craobh Peile Sinsearach na hÉireann (2)	1992, 2012
Craobh Peile Sinsearach Uladh (8)	1972, 1974, 1983, 1990, 1992, 2011, 2012, 2014
Craobh Peile Faoi-21 na hÉireann (2)	1982, 1987
Craobh Peil Mionúrach Uladh (6)	1956, 1985, 1991, 1996, 2006, 2014
Sraithchomórtas Peile Náisiúnta (1)	2007
Corn Dochtúir Mac Cionnaith (11)	1963, 1965, 1967, 1975, 1985, 1991, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2010, 2018
Corn Dochtúir Uí Lagáin (4)	1952, 1965, 1966, 1967

Iománaíocht

Craobh Iomána Sinsearach Uladh (3)	1906, 1923, 1932
Craobh Sóisearach Uladh Iománaíochta (6)	1947, 1948, 1972, 1989, 2001, 2003
Chorn Labhrai Uí Mheachair (1)	2011
Corn Nicoláis Mhic Riocaird (1)	2013





AN DÚN DOWN

Manager: **Conor Deegan**



An Dún



AN DÚN/SUBSTITUTES

16. Jack Hazard Sabhail 17. Ronan Fegan Boireann 18. Cathal Gorman Seamrogi an Iuir
19. Liam Kerr Boireann 20. Taylor Loudan RGU Dun Phadraig 21. Aaron Magee Cumann Pheadair Naofa
22. Reece Martin Droichead Mhaigh Eo 23. Jack McCartan An Ghleann 24. Ruairi McCormack Cumann Pheadair Naofa

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	45	Saor	Ciceanna
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Iomlán						





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DERRY DOIRE

Manager: Mickey Donnelly



DOIRE/SUBSTITUTES

16. Ryan Scullion Baile na Scríne 17. Aaron Bradley Baile na Scríne 18. Anton Tohill An Suaitreach 19. Eoghan Concannon Baile Stíl 20. Eoghan Bradley Baile Stíl 21. Marty Bradley Baile na Scríne 22. Hugh McGurk Leamhaigh 23. Ruairi Rafferty Droim Sorn 24. Brian Cassidy Sleacht Néill

	Cúil	Cúilín	Seachai	45	Seor	Ciceanna
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Iomlán						



OFFICIAL SPONSORS

ULSTER FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

FORMAT TO CHANGE FROM 2020

Changes are to be introduced to the Ulster Senior Football Championship from 2020. The Ulster GAA Competitions Control Committee have decided that from that year teams which play in the Preliminary Round will be exempt from playing in the province's opening fixture for two years. The change will mean that just five counties will be included in the Preliminary Round draw for the 2022 Championship and the championships thereafter.

Ulster GAA Provincial Secretary Brian McAvoy explained the rationale for the change saying; "For many years the draw for the Ulster Championship has been conducted on the basis that all nine counties entered the bowl at the outset and the first two teams drawn played in the Preliminary Round. There was a time when the draw worked on a two-year cycle and there were indeed occasions when a county had to play in the Preliminary Round for four consecutive years."

"In my Annual Report to the Ulster Convention in January I highlighted the fact that Ulster was the only province that operated a 'straight' draw and that each of the other provinces had some 'conditions' attached to their Football Championship Draw.

"This in itself was not a valid reason for change but a close study showed how the Championship draw 'favoured' some counties over others when it came to Preliminary Round appearances. Cavan for example have played in the Preliminary Round on seven occasions since the millennium, while Derry have been drawn to play in it on just two occasions.

"While some may validly argue that this is just the luck of the draw, the statistics paint a picture which shows that teams which contest the Preliminary Round have a very poor record when it comes to actually winning the Ulster title. On only four occasions has a team that played in the Preliminary Round gone on to win the Ulster title; Cavan in 1945, Armagh in 2005 and Donegal in 2011 and 2012."

The decision of the Ulster Competitions Control Committee is not retrospective, so nine counties will be included in the draw for the 2019 Ulster Championship. The two counties which are drawn to play in the Preliminary Round will not feature in the Preliminary Round draw for the 2020 and 2021 Championships. Seven counties will be included in the Preliminary Round draw for the 2021 Championship and from the 2022 draw onwards just five counties will be included in the draw for the Preliminary Round game.

Brian McAvoy said; "It will come as no surprise that counties prefer not to be playing in the Preliminary Round and while some counties will in all probability continue to be 'favoured' by the draw more than others, this change will hopefully add some measure of equilibrium to the statistics. While there is no ideal figure, a two-year exemption strikes the correct balance as a one-year exemption was unlikely to bring about much meaningful change, while a three-year exemption would result in just three counties being in the Preliminary Round draw and this would significantly increase the prospect of repeat pairings."

YEAR	GAME	WINNER
2018	DONEGAL V CAVAN	DONEGAL
2017	MONAGHAN V FERMANAGH	MONAGHAN
2016	FERMANAGH V ANTRIM	FERMANAGH
2014	TYRONE V DOWN	DRAW TYRONE
2013	CAVAN V ARMAGH	CAVAN
2012	CAVAN V DONEGAL	DONEGAL
2011	DONEGAL V ANTRIM	DONEGAL
2010	DERRY V ARMAGH	ARMAGH
2009	FERMANAGH V DOWN	FERMANAGH
2008	ANTRIM V CAVAN	CAVAN
2007	CAVAN V DOWN	DOWN
2006	CAVAN V DOWN	DOWN
2005	FERMANAGH V ARMAGH	ARMAGH
2004	TYRONE V DERRY	TYRONE
2003	MONAGHAN V ARMAGH	ARMAGH
2002	CAVAN V DONEGAL	DONEGAL
2001	FERMANAGH V DONEGAL	DRAW FERMANAGH
2000	FERMANAGH V MONAGHAN	FERMANAGH

	PLAYED	WON
ANTRIM	3	0
ARMAGH	4	3
CAVAN	6	2
DERRY	2	0
DONEGAL	5	4
DOWN	4	2
FERMANAGH	6	4
MONAGHAN	3	1
TYRONE	3	2

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ULSTER SCHOOLS ST COLUMBA'S STRANORLAR



Situated on the banks of the River Finn, St Columba's as it now stands was founded in 1968. It is a co-educational school under the trusteeship of CEIST with a student cohort of around 900 students.

The school participates in Gaelic games for boys and girls in football, camogie and hurling. In the last academic year, we entered boys football teams in U14.5, U16.5 and U18.5 and in hurling we entered in U14.5 and U16.5. For girls we entered in U14, U16 and U20 in football and Senior Camogie.

In 2018 our senior boys' team reached the final of the Markey Cup and were narrowly beaten by Carndonagh Community School in an extremely hard fought and entertaining final.

Two players from this team, Oisín Gallen and Paddy Dolan, both received Ulster Schools All-Stars. This was the first time any school in Donegal received two awards in the

same season. The same group of players, with the same management team of Kenneth Byrne and Mark Cannon, won the Arthurs Cup in 2016 beating Holy Cross Strabane in the final at Celtic Park.

Our U14.5 boys team, managed by Steven O'Reilly, brother of Donegal senior player Marty O'Reilly, and Mark Anthony McGinley, Donegal senior goalkeeper, were beaten in the final of the McDevitt Cup.

This team then went on to win the county title, beating a strong Rosses Community School team in the final. Our U13.5 team competed in the Faul Cup and reached the semi-final, losing out to the eventual winners De La Salle Belfast.

The school has the former All-Star and Donegal All-Ireland winner, Martin Gavigan, on its teaching staff along with current Donegal goalkeeper Mark Anthony McGinley, both of whom are involved in coaching and managing of teams

in the school. Past pupils Frank McGlynn, Marty O'Reilly and Stephen McMenamin are all part of today's Donegal panel.

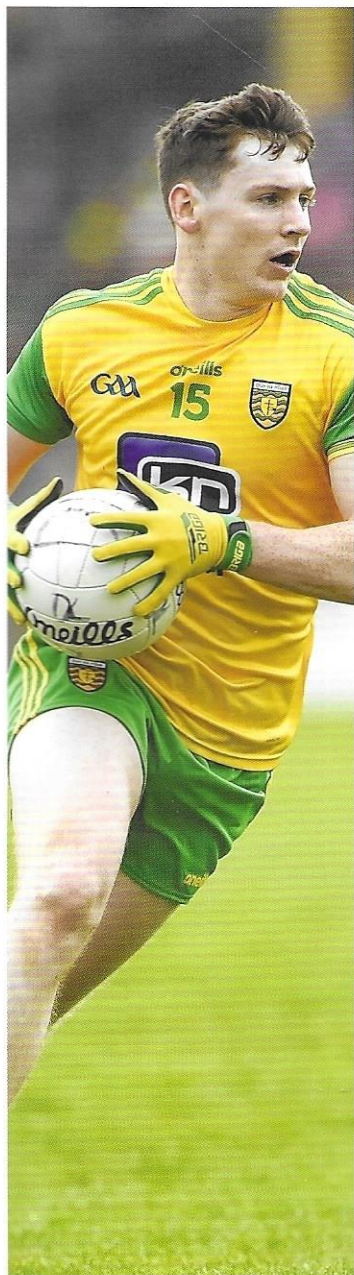
2018 has being an extremely successful year for hurling in St Columba's, with the school winning the U16.5 Maguire Shield against a combined Letterkenny schools team. Last month, the U14.5 squad were winners of the Br Mallon Shield, defeating a strong Castletwellen side in the final. Both teams were managed by Ciara Coulter, who is sister of current Donegal senior hurler, Danny Cullen, and wife of Declan Coulter, former Armagh and current Donegal senior hurler.

We would like to wish Frank, Marty and Stephen all the best in today's game. Donegal abú!

SENIOR PREVIEW:

DONEGAL V DOWN

BY PAUL MCCONVILLE
THE IRISH NEWS



Jamie Brennan on the move.

WHEN Tyrone ended Donegal's Ulster Championship campaign at the semi-final stage last year, it brought a remarkable run by the Tir Chonaill men to an end. That nine-point reverse by the Red Hands - who would go on to retain the Anglo-Celt Cup with victory over Down in the final - was the first time since 2010 that Donegal had failed to reach the Ulster Final.

Donegal had contested six straight provincial finals since 2011, winning three but the last time they failed to reach the decider, before last year, was 2010. The team that prevented them doing that was Down, who would go on to reach the All-Ireland Final that year only to lose to Cork.

The Mournemen's victory in 2010 was the last inflicted on Donegal outside of an Ulster Final until they lost to Tyrone last year. It was a game low on quality but high on drama as both sides led at crucial moments before Down edged it in extra-time, inspired by mercurial Mayobridge forward Benny Coulter who bagged 1-9.

Donegal did make a lightning start to the match with Dermot Molloy and Conall Dunne pouncing for early goals which helped them to a 2-3 to 0-7 half-time lead. But Down rallied in the second half and levelled on the 70-minute mark to take it to extra-time where Coulter's goal proved crucial in a 1-15 to 2-10 victory for James McCartan's side.

Only Kevin McKernan and Darren O'Hagan, who came on as a substitute, remain on the Down panel from that day while Michael Murphy, Neil McGee, Frank McGlynn and Paddy McGrath are the surviving

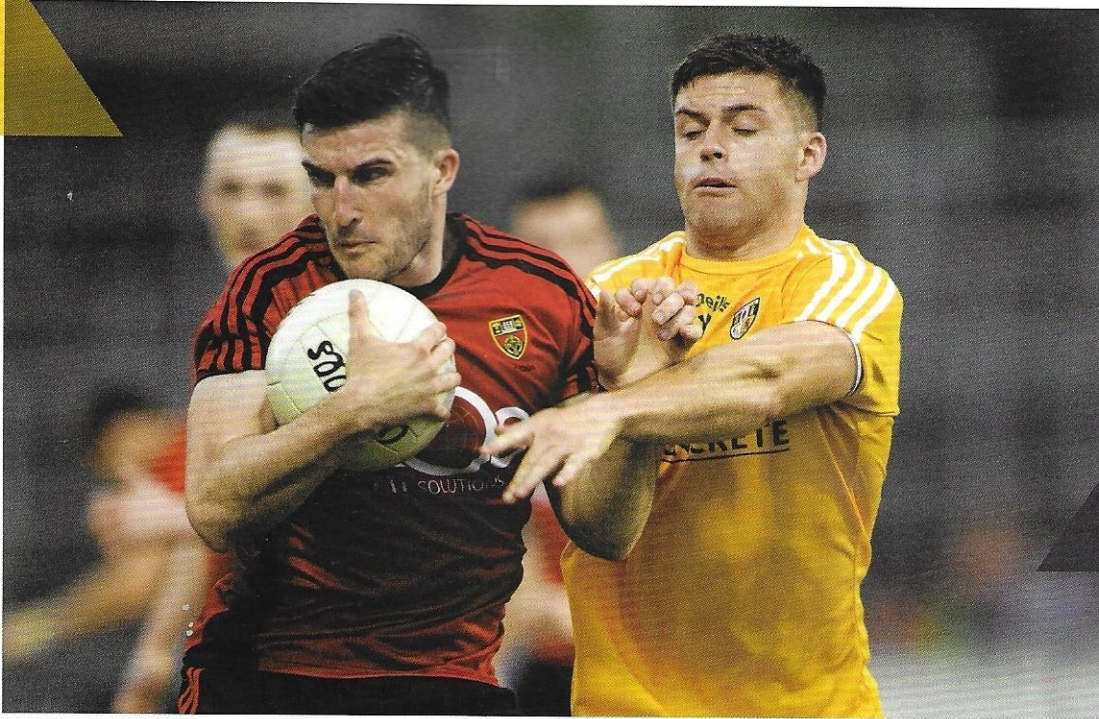
Donegal players from that day in Ballybofey.

But that's been as good as it's got for Down in the Championship against Donegal in recent times as both counties' fortunes have radically diverged. The Mournemen did make it to an All-Ireland quarter-final two years later, but they lost to a Mayo side which would eventually be seen off in the All-Ireland final by Jim McGuinness's Tir Chonaill side.

Donegal gained some semblance of revenge over Down earlier that year when they defeated the Mournemen in 2012 Ulster Final. Their 2-18 to 0-13 win also put paid to the notion that they were a boring, functional side who were happy to eke out low-scoring victories (they had famously lost the previous years All-Ireland semi-final to Dublin 0-8 to 0-6).

They had to call upon their attacking prowess that day to see off Down, although one of their two goals did come from the unlikely source of corner-back McGlynn. Down looked like they may enjoy two-point lead at half-time before Leo McLoone popped up with a goal just before the break to edge the holders in front at the interval. That set them up for the kind of third-quarter surge which was a devastating characteristic of Jim McGuinness's Donegal team.

Points from Mark McHugh and Michael Murphy stretched the lead before McGlynn plundered a 50th minute goal and Donegal never looked back from there. Down had been hampered by injuries to Allstar forwards Benny Coulter and Danny Hughes, but there was no stopping a rampant Tir Chonaill side that day



Niall McParland holds tight to possession from Patrick McBride.

who had added an attacking swagger to the defensive solidity perfected in McGuinness's first season in charge.

All-Ireland success followed and another final appearance came in 2014 as Donegal continued to be ever-presents in Clones on Ulster Final day too during that period. In fact they met Down again, this time as reigning All-Ireland champions, in the 2013 Ulster semi-final which was a much more attritional affair than the previous year.

It finished 0-12 to 0-9 to Donegal, with the champions always able to keep a determined Down side at arm's length. Michael Murphy and Colm McFadden did most of the damage, combining to supply 10 of Donegal's 12-point total.

They helped the Tir Chonaill men into a two-point interval lead, Donal O'Hare keeping Down in touch with a few pointed frees and although the Mournemen improved in the second half, they were never able to reel in their opponents who kept the scoreboard ticking over thanks to long range efforts from Murphy and McFadden. However, they could not manage a hat-trick of Ulster titles as Monaghan enjoyed a six-point victory in the final.

Although there will be many new faces on both sides today, the likes of Murphy, Paddy McBrearty and the McHughs remain from those tussles earlier in the decade while the Down panel has seen a much higher

turnover of players in the same period.

Donegal have managed to add some exciting young talent, as evidenced in their preliminary round victory over Cavan in which Cian Mulligan, Ciaran Thompson and Michael Langan starred. They comfortably saw off neighbours Derry in the quarter-final, although Down can perhaps take heart from the 16 points the Oak Leafers managed to put on the scoreboard.

Down were as good as they had to be against a limited Antrim side in their quarter-final in Newry. A black card denied them the experience and guile of Kevin McKernan in the second half of that match and the Burren man will be central to any success the Mournemen hope to enjoy today.

Caolan Mooney may not be afforded the same space against he enjoyed against the Saffrons while full-forward Connaire Harrison had a relatively quiet game against and can make a nuisance of himself on the edge of the square today. It may be Down's best hope, but as Fermanagh proved in the dying seconds of last week's semi-final against Monaghan, it can be mighty effective.

Containing Donegal will be Down's biggest challenge, though, and for all their eager young stars, the likes of Murphy and McBrearty are still to be feared. An unlikely final pairing of Down v Fermanagh may please the neutrals, but what's more likely is that Rory Gallagher enjoys an intriguing reunion with Donegal.

THE STATS **GaelicLife**



AVERAGE SCORE



AVERAGE GOALS SCORED



AVERAGE GOALS CONCEDED

TOP SCORER



PADDY MCBREARTY
0-46



DONAL O'HARE
2-21

THE FIXTURES

SAT 19TH MAY | SFC QUARTER FINAL | 7.00PM



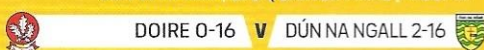
SUN 20TH MAY | SFC QUARTER FINAL | 4.00PM



SAT 26TH MAY | SFC QUARTER FINAL | 7.00PM



SUN 27TH MAY | SFC QUARTER FINAL | 4.00PM



SUN 13TH MAY | SFC FIRST ROUND | 4.00PM



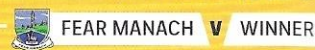
SEMI-FINAL

SUN 3RD JUNE | 2.00PM



FINAL

SUN 24TH JUNE | 2.00PM



REPLAY SUN 1ST JULY

SEMI-FINAL

SUN 10TH JUNE | 4.00PM



REPLAY SUN 17TH JUNE

ULSTER GAA PUT REFEREE HEALTH TOP OF AGENDA

In February 2018, Ulster GAA held their free referee health checks at a specially arranged mobile clinic at the Tyrone GAA Centre in Garvaghey.

This annual initiative offers the opportunity for all referees on the provincial panel to avail of a full screening health check free of charge.

Speaking at the clinic, Ulster GAA President Michael Hasson said: "The health and wellbeing of all our members is very important and we continue to promote healthy living and lifestyles to our membership, especially players and officials, who are obviously the most active".

"The focus of our games is usually on the players but recent research has shown that some referees are covering similar distances to players in our top games.

A referee needs to run the length and breadth of the pitch throughout a full game so these checks are essential".

"These health checks give our referees a clear picture of their medical position at the start of the new season and the opportunity to get any health concerns checked out".

The mobile clinic health checks were facilitated by the team from 3fivetwoGroup.



Pictured from the left are: Conor McGourty (Ulster GAA Player Welfare Officer), Jim O'Rourke (Ulster Referees Secretary), Jim Murray (Ulster Referees Chairman), Niall McKenna (Referee), Stephen Donnelly (Ulster Games Administration Manager) and Michael Hasson (Ulster GAA President) pictured with Kerry & Frances from 3fivetwo Group at the Ulster Referees Health Checks.

BBC SPORT NI

Listen to today's game live via bbc.co.uk/sportni and on BBC Radio Ulster 1341MW.



Next up: The Final – Sunday 24th June
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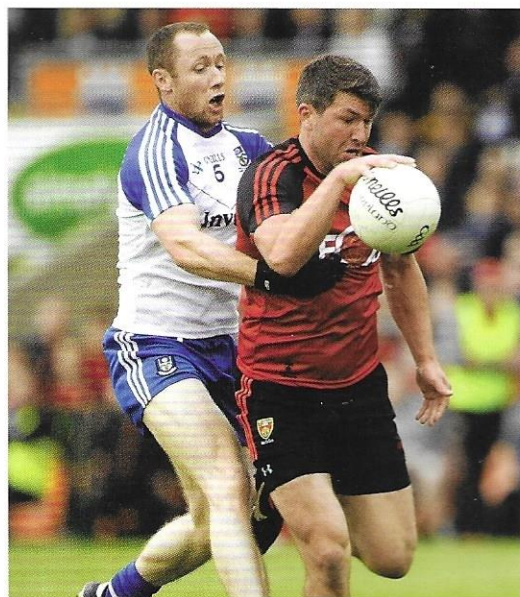
Programme times are subject to change

SEMI FINALS | THE PAST DECADE

The last ten years has seen all nine Ulster counties reach the last four of the Ulster Senior Football Championship. In fact, only Cavan have failed to reach a provincial senior decider in that period. 2016 was unique in that both semi-finals required a replay while 2014 is the only other year that a semi-final has required a second day out. Today Fermanagh appear in their fourth semi-final since 2008, and return to the venue of their only victory in that period (read more on Page 40). On the other hand, Monaghan are appearing in an Ulster Semi Final for the seventh consecutive year. The two sides last met at this stage in 2010 when Monaghan came out on top by seven points.

The full record for the last 10 years reads as follows:

	PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST
ANTRIM	2	1	0	1
ARMAGH	4	1	1	2
CAVAN	4	0	1	3
DERRY	4	1	0	3
DONEGAL	8	6	1	1
DOWN	5	2	0	3
FERMANAGH	3	1	0	2
MONAGHAN	9	5	2	2
TYRONE	7	4	1	2



Peter Turley escapes the clutches of Vinny Corey in the 2017 USFC Semi Final.

2017

Tyrone	1-21	Donegal	1-12	Clones
Down	1-14	Monaghan	0-15	Athletic Grounds

2016

Donegal	1-11	Monaghan	0-14	Kingspan Breffni
Donegal	0-17	Monaghan	2-10	Kingspan Breffni (R)
Tyrone	0-16	Cavan	3-07	Clones
Tyrone	5-18	Cavan	2-17	Clones (R)

2015

Monaghan	1-20	Fermanagh	0-13	Kingspan Breffni
Donegal	1-09	Derry	0-10	St Tiernachs Park

2014

Donegal	3-16	Antrim	0-12	Clones
Monaghan	0-14	Armagh	0-14	Clones
Monaghan	1-18	Armagh	1-13	Clones (R)

2013

Donegal	0-12	Down	0-09	Kingspan Breffni
Monaghan	1-10	Cavan	0-12	Clones

2012

Down	1-14	Monaghan	1-13	Athletic Grounds
Donegal	0-12	Tyrone	0-10	Clones

2011

Derry	3-14	Armagh	1-11	Clones
Donegal	2-06	Tyrone	0-09	Clones

2010

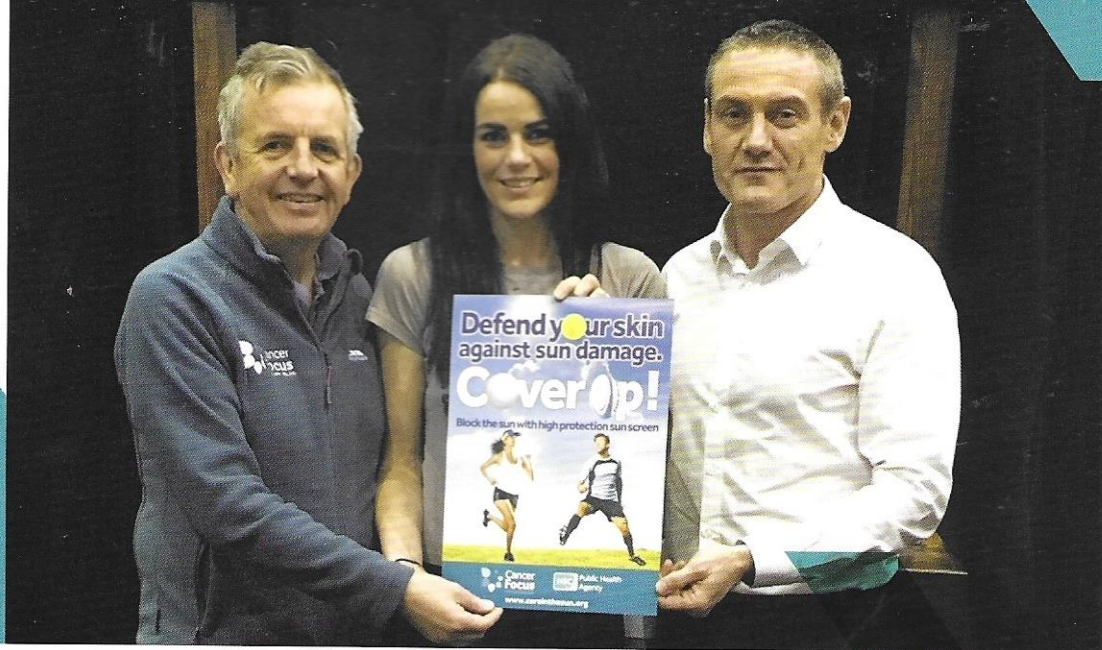
Tyrone	0-14	Down	0-10	Casement Park
Monaghan	0-21	Fermanagh	2-08	Kingspan Breffni

2009

Tyrone	0-15	Derry	0-07	Casement Park
Antrim	0-13	Cavan	1-07	Clones

2008

Fermanagh	1-11	Derry	1-09	Healy Park
Armagh	1-11	Down	0-10	St Tiernach's Park



Gerry McElwee, Head of Cancer Prevention at Cancer Focus, is pictured supporting the work of Ulster GAA's Health and Wellbeing programmes with Maura McMenamin and Ciaran McLaughlin, Ulster GAA.

CANCER FOCUS TEAMS UP WITH ULSTER GAA

Established in 1969 to reduce the impact of cancer in our community, Cancer Focus NI has enjoyed a long-standing and fruitful partnership with Ulster GAA over the years, which it is looking forward to developing over the next 12 months.

The charity, which began life as the Ulster Cancer Foundation, is striving towards a future where we can eliminate cancer, and in the meantime, envision a future where cancer is a manageable disease with a greatly reduced impact on our society.

Based at Eglantine Avenue in Belfast, Cancer Focus NI provides care and support services for cancer patients and their families across Northern Ireland, funds cancer research and offers programmes to raise awareness of cancer and how to prevent it.

Campaigning for improvements in the diagnosis of cancer and cancer treatments is also another important strand of our work.

Our 'Keeping Well' programme delivers a range of services right into the heart of communities across Northern Ireland, including schools, sports venues and shopping centres while our three "Keeping Well" vans provide health checks, information and support to groups and individuals.

Cancer Focus NI started its partnership with the Ulster Council over a decade ago, through health awareness training days for Ulster Council coaches. Since 2008, the Championship has been used as a vehicle for skin cancer awareness, where we have distributed sunscreen and information at games. In 2010 we launched the smoke-free Ulster Championship and in 2017, we were selected as Ulster GAA's cancer services provider.

Also last year Ulster GAA was one of our pilot groups for the 2017 UV Index Monitor programme as part of our "Care in the Sun" campaign. We hope to extend this programme with Ulster GAA in 2018. We also sit as a partner alongside Ulster GAA and others on the Farm Families programme, which has been well received by GAA clubs, particularly in rural areas.

As we approach Cancer Focus NI's 50th anniversary, we hope this partnership with Ulster GAA is well supported by the community. We look forward to continuing to work hand-in-hand with Ulster GAA to raise awareness and vital funds.

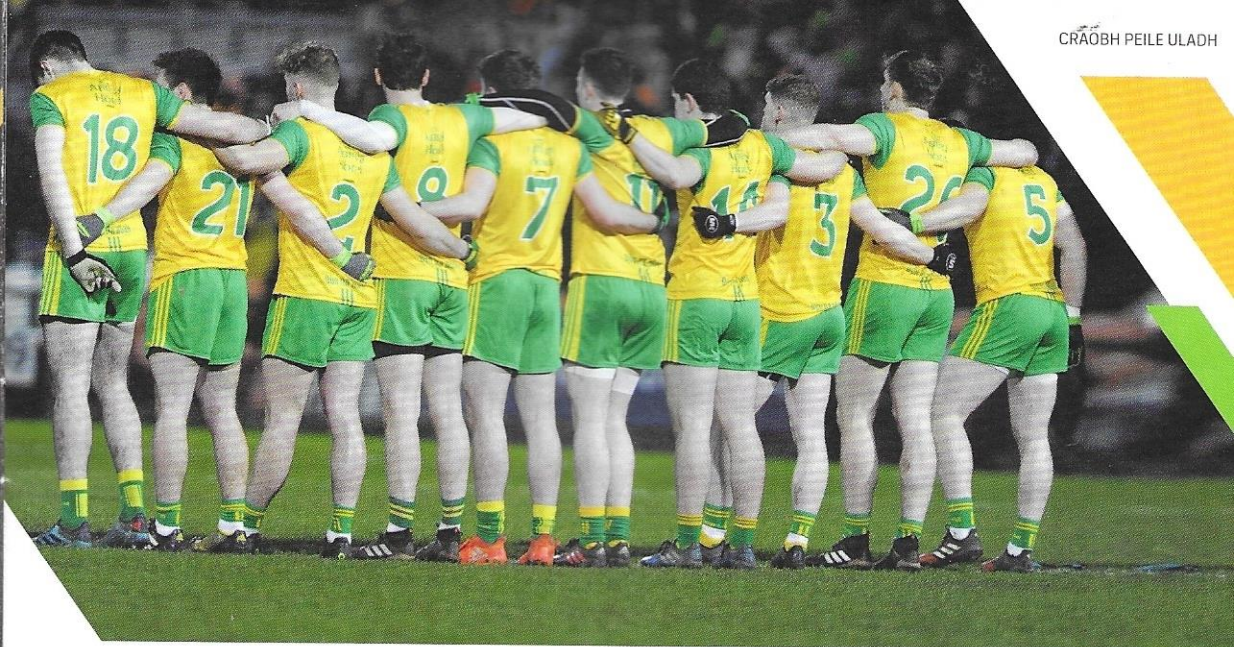




UNDER 20 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINISH ON THE DAY PROTOCOL

Ard Chomhairle instructed at their meeting on February 23rd 2018, that relevant games that finish level after normal playing times should be completed as follows:

- **PHASE 1:** Proceed to Extra time as provided for in T.O Cuid II (two periods of ten minutes each way)
- **PHASE 2:** If teams are still level, an additional two periods of five minutes each way will be played.
 - There shall be a maximum time space of five minutes between the end of the first phase of Extra Time and the beginning of the second phase.
 - The Half Time interval in the second phase of Extra time should not exceed five minutes.
- For the purposes of Riail 2.6 (a) (f) "Players in Extra Time" - Rules of Specification T.O Cuid II, Phase 2 of Extra Time shall be considered an extension of the initial "Extra Time" provision rather than as a new period of Extra Time (e.g. a team reduced to 14 players because of a sending off during the playing of the first phase of Extra Time must start Phase II with only 14 players etc.)
- **PHASE 3:** If still level, a "Free taking competition" to decide the outcome:
 - Each team will nominate 5 free takers for the competition and indicate to the referee in which order (1 to 5) the free takers will take the frees
 - The 5 players above must be chosen from players who have participated in the game, either in normal time or in Extra Time.
 - Players who receive a red card in Hurling or Football, and players who receive a black card in Football, in normal time or Extra Time are not permitted to participate in the free-taking competition.
 - The Referee will decide which end the free taking competition should be played into.
 - He will toss a coin in the presence of the two captains to see which team will have the option of going 1st.
 - The Referee will ensure two goal umpires are in place at the end in which the competition is being played into.
- Frees will be taken by each of the five players from a position of their choosing on the 65m line (Hurling) or from approximately the centre of the line marking the semi-circle (33m) in Football. Frees in football may be taken from the hands or off the ground.
- In Hurling, frees shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of T.O 2017 Cuid II - Rules of Set Play Riail 2.5 (a) and (b) and Rules of Foul Play 4.24, 4.25 and 4.27. Breaches of these provisions will render frees null and void and they cannot be retaken.
- In football, frees shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of T.O 2017 Cuid II Rules of Set Play - Rule 25 and Rules of Foul Play 4.23, 4.24 and 4.26. Breaches of these provisions will render frees null and void and they cannot be retaken.
- Frees will be taken for points only, with no goalkeeper / defenders facing the free-takers.
- Only the players involved in the free taking competition, as well as the Referee Linesmen and two umpires are permitted on the pitch - in football all players (9) to be at midfield and behind the semi-circle being used for the free kicks; in hurling all players (9) to be on or around the 45m line behind the 65 from which the frees are being taken
- All other players, managers, officials, backroom personnel etc should be at their designated sideline area, and off the field of play when the free-taking competition is taking place.
- The game is awarded to whichever team scores more of their 5 frees.
- If still level then sudden death frees to be taken using the same 5 players in order (i.e. first sudden death free is taken by the player who took the first free for each side, 2nd sudden death free if required to be taken by the player who took the 2nd free and so on).
- If a player scores in sudden death and his direct opponent misses, the game is awarded to the team of the player who has scored.
- The sudden death element will continue until such time as there is a definite outcome (i.e. returning to the first player(s) and repeating the sequence again if required)



DONEGAL PEN PICS:

Name	Club	Age	Height	Weight
Paddy McGrath	Ard an Rátha	28	5ft 10	13st
Caolan McGonagle	Bun Cranncha	21	6ft 3	14st
Darach O'Connor	Bun Cranncha	21	5ft 7	12st
Patrick McBrearty	Cill Chartha	23	6ft 0	15st
Ryan McHugh	Cill Chartha	22	5ft 9	11st
Jamie Brennan	Realt na Mara	20	5ft 9	13st
Mark McHugh	Cill Chartha	26	5ft 10	12st
Neil McGee	Gaoth Dobhair	31	6ft 2	14st
Frank McGlynn	Gleann Fhinne	30	5ft 10	13st
Michael Murphy	Gleann tSúilí	27	6ft 2	15st
Martin O'Reilly	Seán Mac Cumhaill	24	5ft 10	12st
Eoghan Bán Gallagher	Na Cealla Beaga	21	5ft 11	13st
Hugh McFadden	Na Cealla Beaga	23	6ft 3	14st
Caolan Ward	Naomh Adhamhnáin	24	6ft 3	13st
Eamon Doherty	Naomh Adhamhnáin	26	6ft 0	14st
Mark Anthony McGinley	Naomh Micheál	27	6ft 1	14st
Martin McEhinney	Naomh Micheál	28	6ft 1	13st

Name	Club	Age	Height	Weight
Ciaran Thompson	Naomh Conaill	22	6ft 1	14st
Cian Mulligan	Gaoth Dobhair	20	5ft 11	12st
Paul Brennan	Realt na Mara	26	6ft	13st
Conor Morrison	Naomh Adhamhnain	20	5ft 11	12st
Brendan McCole	Naomh Naillie	19	5ft 11	13st
Conor Morrison	Naomh Adhamhnain	22	6ft	12st
Tony McClenaghan	Bun na Phobail	22	6ft 2	14st
Ciaran McGinley	Cill Chartha	29	6ft 2	14st
Jamie Brennan	Realt na Mara	22	5ft 9	12st
Leo McLoone	Naomh Conaill	29	6ft	14st
Niall O'Donnell	Naomh Adhamhnain	19	5ft 9	13st
Michael Langan	Naomh Micheal	21	6ft 2	14st
Stephen McMenamin	Aodh Rua	21	6ft	13st
Stephen McBrearty	Cill Chartha	22	6ft	14st
Shaun Patton	Naomh Adhamhnain	22	6ft	13st
Odhran MacNaillais	Gaoith Dobhair	26	6ft	13st
Nathan Mullins	Naomh Ceangail	28	6ft 1	13st



AN DÚN DOWN

Manager: Eamonn Burns



AN DÚN/SUBSTITUTES

16. Shane Harrison Glás Droimmáin 17. David McKibbin Áth Bhriain 18. Sean Dornan Caisleán an Mhuillín 19. Ronan Millar An Ghleann 20. Ryan McAleenan Cumann Pheadair Naofa 21. Shay Murnin Cluain Daimh 22. Conor McGrady RGU Dún Phadraig 23. Ruairi Wells Áth Bhriain 24. Jonny Flynn Loch an Oiléain 25. Niall Madine Sabhail 26. Conor Poland Cloch Fhada

	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachair	45	Saor	Ciceanna
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Iomlán						





OFFICIAL SPONSORS



DONEGAL DÚN NA NGALL

Manager: Declan Bonner



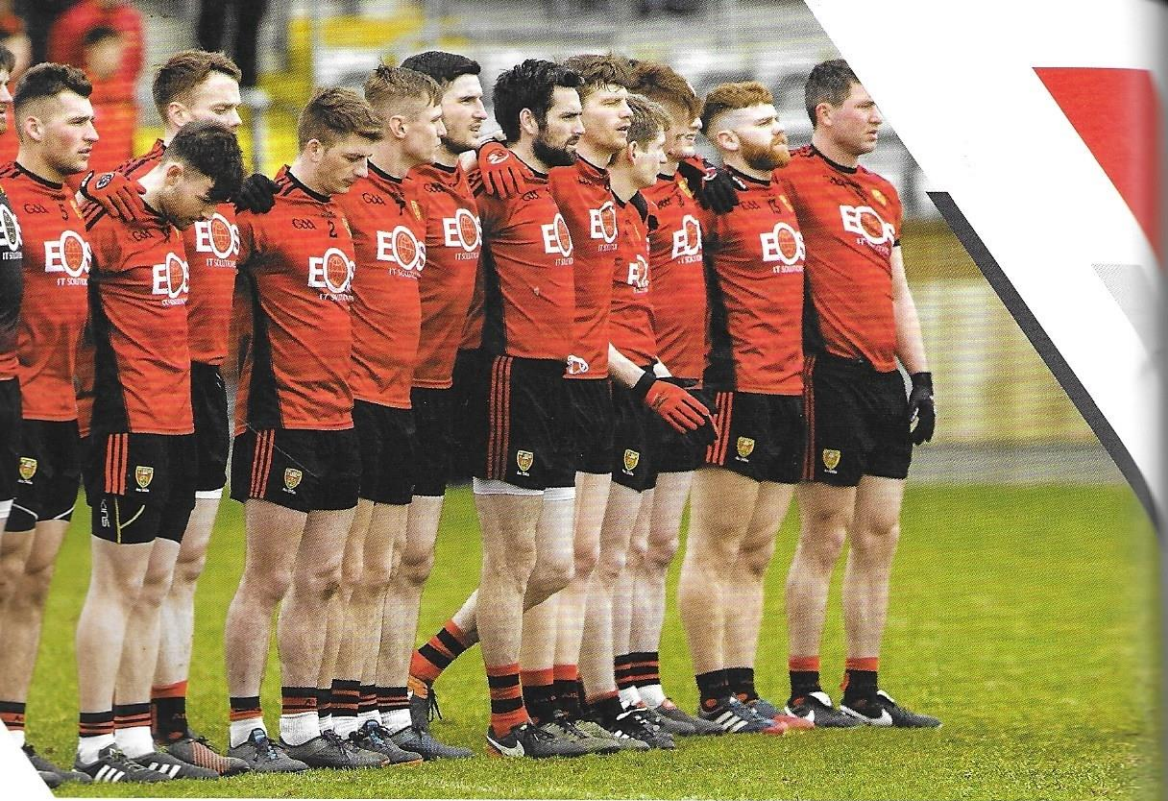
DÚN NA NGALL/SUBSTITUTES

- 16 **Mark Anthony McGinley** Naomh Mícheál 17 **Stephen McMenamin** Aodh Rua, Cuil Mhic gCuirridín
 18. **Eamonn Doherty** Naomh Adhamhnáin 19. **Mark McHugh** Cill Chartha 20. **Daire Ó Baoill** Gaoth Dobhair
 21. **Caolan McGonagle** Bun Crannacha 22. **Ciaran Thompson** Naomh Conaill
 23. **Ciaran McGinley** Cill Chartha 24. **Conor Morrison** Naomh Adhamhnáin
 25. **Cian Mulligan** Gaoth Dobhair 26. **Darrach O Connor** Bun Crannacha

	Cúil	Cóirín	Bealach	45	Seis	Cloisne
1AD Leath						
2AD Leath						
Ionáir						



OFFICIAL SPONSORS



DOWN PEN PIGS:

Name	Club	Age	Height	Weight
Niall McParland	Glenn	26	6ft 1	13st 7
Marc Reid	Bryansford	22	6ft 3	14st 5
Shane Harrison	Glasdrumman	25	6ft 3	14st
Benny McArdle	Annaclone	30	6ft 1	13st 7
Kevin McKernan	Burren	30	6ft	14st
Darren O'Hagan	Clonduff	27	5ft 10	12st 6
Colm Flanagan	Castlewellan	28	5ft 10	12st 5
Anthony Doherty	RGU Downpatrick	23	6ft 1	13st 6
Caolán Mooney	Rostrevor	25	6ft 2	13st 6
Daragh O'Hanlon	Kilcoo	24	5ft 11	13st
Peter Turley	RGU Downpatrick	32	6ft 2	15st
Connaire Harrison	Glasdrumman	28	6ft	14st
Niall Donnelly	Tullylish	25	6ft 1	14st
Conor Poland	Longstone	27	6ft 1	13st 7
Ronan Millar	Glenn	22	5ft 11	13st
Conor Maginn	Bryansford	30	5ft 10	12st 5
Ryan Johnston	Kilcoo	24	6ft	13st 6

Name	Club	Age	Height	Weight
David McKibben	Bryansford	27	6ft	13st 6
Shay Millar	Glenn	25	6ft	12st
Donal O'Hare	Burren	26	5ft 10	12st 5
Sean Dornan	Castlewellan	23	6ft 1	13st 6
Jonny Flynn	Loughinisland	24	6ft 1	13st 6
Ruairi Wells	Bryansford	23	6ft 2	13st 2
Aaron Morgan	Kilcoo	24	6ft	12st 5
Conor McGrady	RGU Downpatrick	23	6ft 2	13st
Shay Murnin	Clonduff	22	6ft 1	12st 8
Johnny Bell	RGU Downpatrick	22	6ft	12st 5
Conor Francis	Bredagh	22	6ft	13st 3
Ryan McAleenan	Warrenpoint	26	5ft 10	12st 5
Stephen McConville	Clonduff	21	5ft 11	12st
Shane Murray	Darragh Cross	23	5ft 11	12st
Darren McElhinney	Rostrevor	23	5ft 11	12st 5
Jerome Johnston	Kilcoo	25	5ft 10	12st 6



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DID YOU KNOW?



We are more than a Sporting and Cultural Association, we are a grassroots volunteer driven movement focused on making the communities which we serve better places.



250,000

Approx. 250,000 spectators in total attended major Ulster GAA controlled fixtures in 2017.

90,000

Active players of Gaelic Games



126,000

Over 126,000 spectators attended the Ulster Football & Hurling Championships in 2017.



40,000

Spectators approximately attended the 2018 Bank of Ireland McKenna Cup.

250,000

Members of the GAA in Ulster

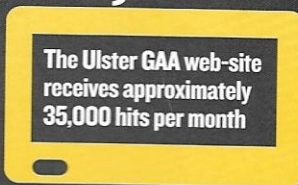
15,000

In 2017 15,000 GAA members took part in Ulster GAA Health and Wellbeing initiatives.



35,000

The Ulster GAA web-site receives approximately 35,000 hits per month



85%

As a grassroots community based not for profit organisation, Ulster GAA reinvests approx 85% of its income to grassroots development at County and Club level.

28,000

Children were coached as part of the Foundation and Key-stage 1 Schools programme in 2016.

60%

of sports attendances on the island of Ireland comes from the GAA

15,000

In 2017 approximately 15,000 games were organised and played within the Province of Ulster.



40,000

Facebook followers

42%

of volunteering on the island of Ireland comes from the GAA.

350

delegates attended the O'Neills Ulster GAA Coaching and Games Conference Annually.

45,000

Approximately 45,000 spectators attended the 2017 Ulster GAA Club Championship.



69,000

Twitter followers



1 MINUTE WITH PADDY MCGRATH

Club: Ard an Rátha

Favourite Position: Corner Forward

Favourite Pitch: Pearse Memorial Park

Hobbies: Gardening

Childhood hero: Damian Diver

Best Player you have played with:
Michael Murphy

Best Player you have played against: Pdraig Joyce

Best game you have been involved in: All Ireland Final 2012

Best trainer within the squad:
Between Eoghan Ban and Eamonn Doc

Worst trainer within the squad:
Between Mark Anthony and Shaun Patton - Goalkeeper!

Best motivator within the squad:
Big Hughie

Any superstitions: None

Favourite Song: Mumford & Sons, Swabe Wal - There will be Time

Favourite Film: The Lion King

Favourite Holiday Destination: Australia

Favourite Meal: Watching My Wife Stephanie cooks

Best advice ever received:
You get out of it, what you put into it.

Biggest influence on career:
My Mum Marian

Club Volunteers of note:
John McDonnell, Columba Diver and Patrick Lamy

Song you listen to before big games: Recently Tobymac - I just need you

Most important skill: Tackling

Biggest Strength in your game:
My attitude

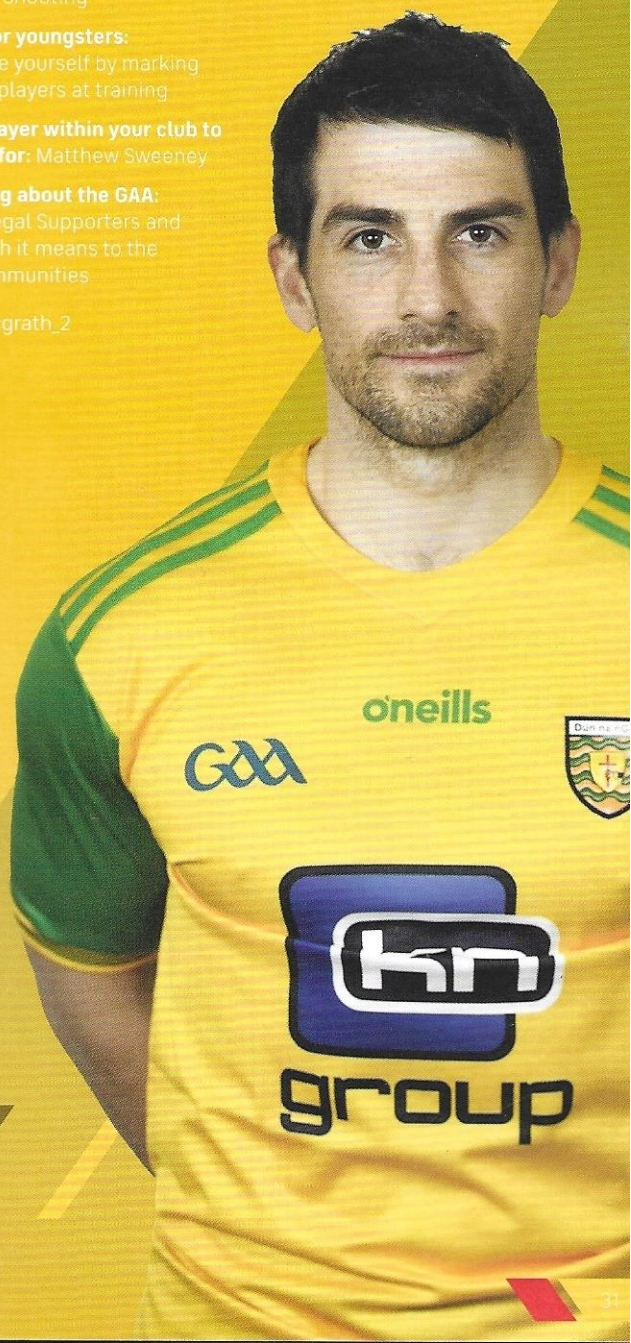
Area of your game you would like to improve: Shooting

Advice for youngsters:
Challenge yourself by marking the best players at training

Young Player within your club to look out for: Matthew Sweeney

Best thing about the GAA:
The Donegal Supporters and how much it means to the local communities

 @mcgrath_2





Valuing the Volunteer



TOM HOGAN RGU DOWNPATRICK

Never one to seek the lime light, any visitor to Pairc Tomas Ruiseil in Downpatrick for Club Games will be familiar with the quiet man doing the gate, Tom Hogan.

An avid follower of Gaelic games going back to breakthrough days of the 60's, Tom was, by his own admission, more of a follower of the County team but he got the club bug in the 1990's when RGU were in their pomp.

Spurred on by the involvement of his Uncle Oliver (Morgan) Tom entered the fray with the Hoops and has been working tirelessly since.

Tom does the gate at every home match and over the past few years has been helping out at Pairc Esler and in Ballycran on match days manning the ticket booths. At away club games he dons a new persona and does the match reports for the Down Recorder.

Tom is also an ever present at the Club lotto every Sunday and is part of the furniture in the count room as the tickets are checked. Every pound and every ticket is scrutinised and when the numbers are drawn his first words are invariably "that'll never be won'.

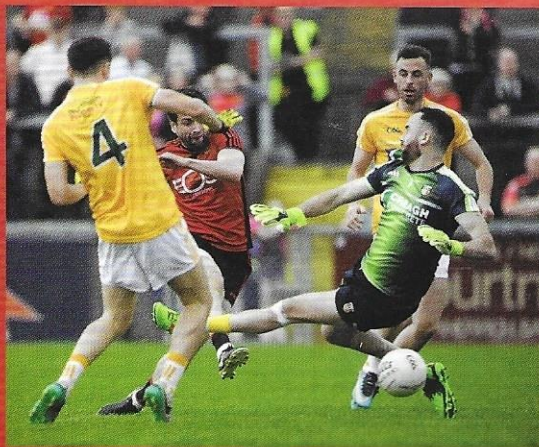
He has also dragged his wife Bridget into club duty now and she makes all the sideline flags and has made some great banners for the Hoops.

RGU have always appreciated the work that volunteers like Tom Hogan do as he fully understands how the work that he does impacts on the future generations.

RGU honoured Tom in 2011 with the Clubman of the year award which really humbled him and also spurred him on to do more, particularly when he became President of RGU, using his office to raise money for local charities.

It must be noted that the work of volunteers like Tom, within Down, that allows for clubs and counties to function, as without their invaluable input the GAA would not be what it is today. From those that bought and sowed the seeds of our pitches, to the people behind the scene who have the team kit washed every week, to those who make the tea after the matches/ meetings, we are truly indebted.

It is you and your free time that you unselfishly give, that is the backbone of our organisation and it is the example that we wish our children to endeavour to follow – TRUE GAELSI!



Kevin McKernan slots in the all important goal against Antrim in the Quarter Final.



An Dún

1 MINUTE WITH NIALL MCPARLAND

Club: Glenn John Martins

Favourite Position: Centre Half Back

Favourite Pitch:
St Tiernach's Park Clones

Hobbies: Pitch and putt

Childhood hero: Dan Gordon

Best Player you have played with:
Benny Coulter

Best Player you have played against: Peter Harte

Best game you have been involved in: Down v Monaghan Ulster
Semi Final 2017

Best trainer within the squad:
Darren O'Hagan

Worst trainer within the squad:
Ryan Johnston - too busy looking in
the mirror!

Best motivator within the squad:
Kevin McKernan

Any superstitions:
Wear compression shorts

Favourite Song: Ed Sheeran Perfect

Favourite Film:
Remember the Titans

Favourite Holiday Destination:
Croatia

Favourite Meal: Carbonara

Best advice ever received:
Do not get too high with the highs
and too low with lows: Matthew
Fitzpatrick

Biggest influence on career:
John Kennedy

Club Volunteer of note:
Fiona Murphy

**Song you listen to before big
games:** Colly Fla's playlist

Most important skill: Tackling


Biggest Strength in your game:
Tackling

**Area of your game you would like to
improve:** Shooting

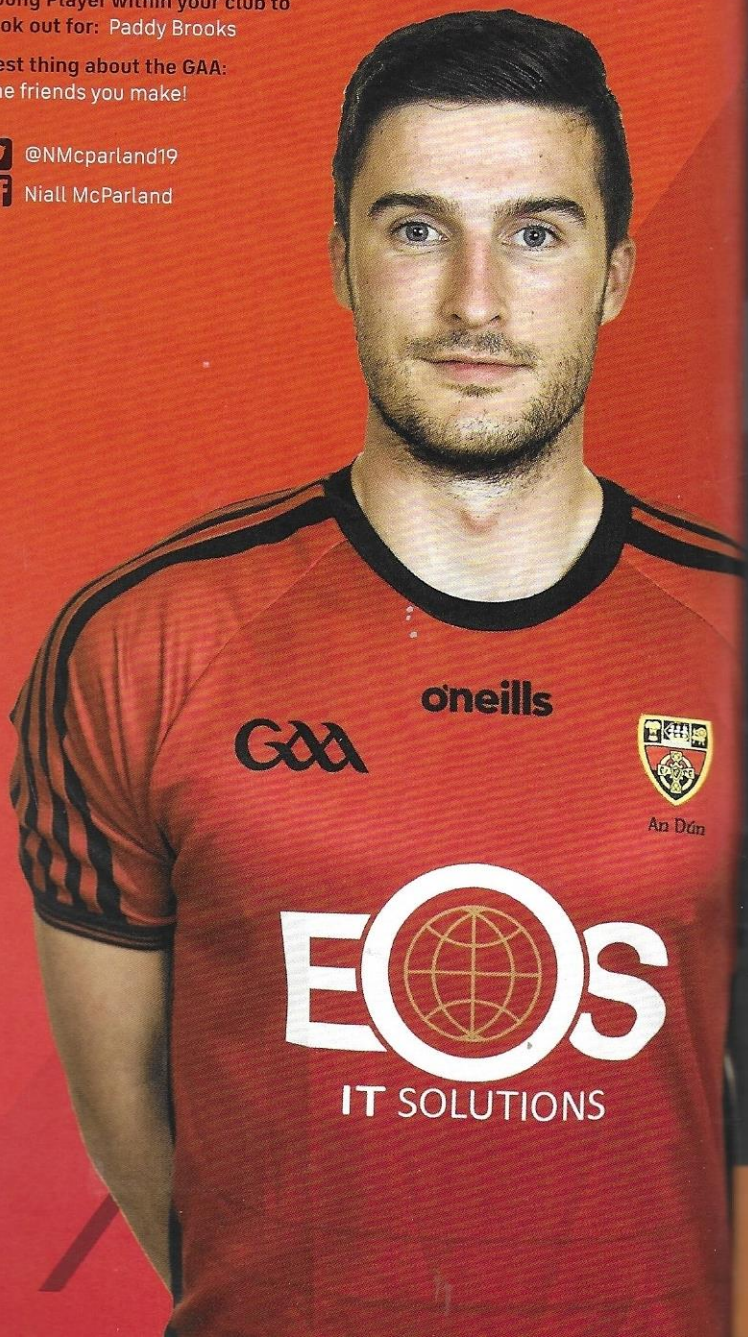
Advice for youngsters: Listen to
coaches and always work hard!

**Young Player within your club to
look out for:** Paddy Brooks

Best thing about the GAA:
The friends you make!

 @NMcparland19

 Niall McParland



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Monday
**Cheese
& Onion**



Tuesday
**Mango
Chicken
Tikka**



Wednesday
**Meat
Feast**



Thursday
**Nacho
Chicken
Salsa**



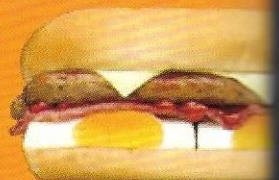
Friday
**Fiery
Tuna**



Saturday
**Pepperoni
Pizza**



Sunday
**All Day
Breakfast
Mega Melt**





FOUNDATION HURLING COURSE - PHYSICAL DISABILITY

**HAVE YOU A PHYSICAL DISABILITY?
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY?
WOULD YOU LIKE A GAA CERTIFIED COACHING QUALIFICATION?
FREE COURSE, ACCOMMODATION & MEALS.**

Ulster GAA are offering a free Hurling Foundation Course for anyone with a physical disability. This is the standard GAA award, the only difference being that the course will be delivered using novel and unique coaching methods to assist the participants in delivering the practical elements of the award.

The Foundation Award is the introductory award for coaches of Gaelic Games. The course is aimed at beginner coaches and will enable participants to assist a coach in the organisation of activities to develop hurling.

THE FOUR MODULES ARE:

- Introduction to Games
- Skill Development
- Movement Skills
- Coaching Children, Youths and Adults

BY THE END OF THIS COURSE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Assist a coach in organising a programme of games and skill development activities appropriate to each participant's needs and abilities
- Identify the skills of hurling
- Assist a coach in organising progressive activities (drills and fun games) to develop five key skills
- Assist a coach in organising progressive activities to develop movement skills appropriate to Gaelic Games
- Assist a coach in organising and managing players for an effective practice session
- Build rapport, observe, analyse, explain, provide demonstration and positive feedback to players.

DATE - 2nd July (6-10pm) & 3rd July (9am-5pm)

VENUE - University of Ulster, Jordanstown

COST - Free (Accommodation & meals provided)

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER 16.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT PAUL CALLAGHAN
E: paul.callaghan.ulster@gaa.ie T:0035386 8066166



DONEGAL- THE PAST DECADE

2018

USFC R1 Donegal 2-20 Cavan 1-15
USFC QF Derry 0-16 Donegal 2-16

2017

USFC QF Donegal 3-19 Antrim 1-09
USFC SF Tyrone 1-21 Donegal 1-12
AIQ R2A Donegal 0-12 Longford 0-07
AIQ R3A Meath 1-14 Donegal 1-15
AIQ R4A Donegal 0-14 Galway 4-17

2016

USFC QF Donegal 2-12 Fermanagh 0-11
USFC SF Monaghan 0-14 Donegal 1-11
USFC SF R Donegal 0-17 Monaghan 2-10
USFC FINAL
Tyrone 0-13 Donegal 0-11
AIQ R4B Cork 1-15 Donegal 0-21
AI QF Dublin 1-15 Donegal 1-10

2015

USFC R1 Donegal 1-13 Tyrone 1-10
USFC QF Armagh 0-08 Donegal 2-11
USFC SF Derry 0-10 Donegal 1-09
USFC FINAL
Monaghan 0-11 Donegal 0-10
AIQ R4B Donegal 3-12 Galway 0-11
AI QF Mayo 2-13 Donegal 0-11

2014

USFC QF Derry 0-11 Donegal 1-11
USFC SF Donegal 3-16 Antrim 0-12
USFC FINAL
Donegal 0-15 Monaghan 1-09
AI QF Donegal 1-12 Armagh 1-11
AI SF Donegal 3-14 Dublin 0-17
AI FINAL Kerry 2-09 Donegal 0-12

2013

USFC QF Donegal 2-10 Tyrone 0-10
USFC SF Donegal 0-12 Down 0-09
USFC FINAL
Monaghan 0-13 Donegal 0-07
AIQ R4 Laois 0-08 Donegal 0-14
AI QF Mayo 4-17 Donegal 1-10

2012

USFC R1 Cavan 1-10 Donegal 1-16
USFC QF Donegal 2-13 Derry 0-09
USFC SF Donegal 0-12 Tyrone 0-10
USFC FINAL
Donegal 2-18 Down 0-13
AI QF Donegal 1-12 Kerry 1-10
AI SF Donegal 0-16 Cork 1-11
AI FINAL Donegal 2-11 Mayo 0-13

2011

USFC R1 Donegal 1-10 Antrim 0-07
USFC QF Cavan 1-08 Donegal 2-14
USFC SF Donegal 2-06 Tyrone 0-09
USFC FINAL
Donegal 1-11 Derry 0-08
AI QF Donegal 1-12 Kildare 0-14
AET
AI SF Dublin 0-08 Donegal 0-06

2010

USFC QF Donegal 2-10 Down 1-15
AIQ R1 Armagh 2-14 Donegal 0-11

2009

USFC QF Antrim 1-10 Donegal 0-12
AIQ R1 Donegal 2-13 Carlow 1-06
AIQ R2 Donegal 0-13 Clare 1-07
AIQ R3 Donegal 2-13 Derry 0-18 AET
AIQ R4 Donegal 0-14 Galway 0-13
AI QF Cork 1-27 Donegal 2-10



Neil McGee bursts out of the defence against Cavan.

LOOKING BACK

2010 ULSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

QUARTER FINAL IN BALLYBOFEY

DONEGAL 2-10 DOWN 1-15 (AFTER EXTRA TIME)

Down edged out Donegal by two points after a marathon tussle in Ballybofey that needed extra time to separate the sides. Benny Coulter pounced late in extra time with the defining score, firing to the net after Neil Gallagher had been dispossessed.

It had all started so well for Donegal, finding the net themselves twice in the opening 20 minutes, first through Dermot Molloy and then Conall Dunne. That put them four points ahead, 2-01 to 0-03, but Down finished the half the better with points from Martin Clarke and Danny Hughes narrowing the gap to two.

They could even have went in ahead at the break, but Benny Coulter's late effort was deflected onto the post and out for a '45.

Michael Murphy grabbed his only score of the game shortly after the restart, but Down controlled the remainder of the game, eventually getting level in the 59th minute thanks to Clarke and Hughes again.

DONEGAL

D Molloy 1-3, C Dunne 1-0, R Kavanagh, D Walsh, M Murphy, A Hanlon, M McHugh, C McFadden, E Wade 0-1 each

David Walsh edged the home side again once more before Coulter levelled with a wonder score with only two minutes remaining.

That was only the start of a frantic finish, with Dan Gordon seeing his goal bound effort saved by Paul Durcan. Martin Clarke duly slotted the resulting '45 to put Down ahead before Rory Kavanagh equalised with the last kick of normal time (2-07 to 0-13).

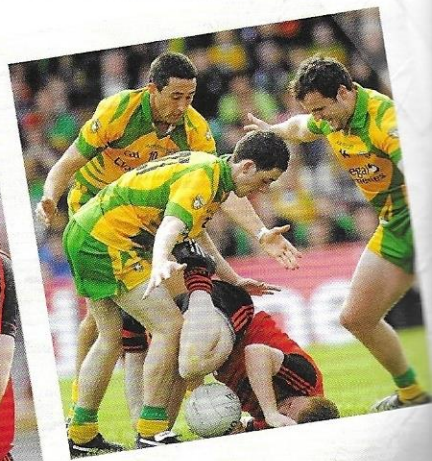
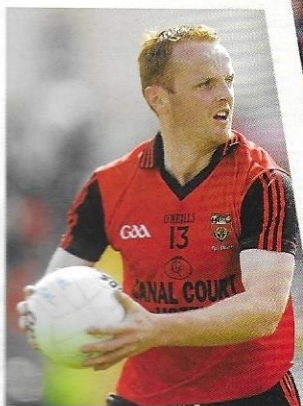
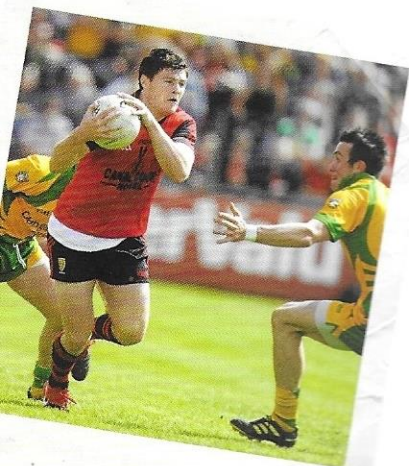
Extra time was a cagey affair, with both sides taking a more cautious approach. Down went ahead through Coulter and Hughes, before Mark McHugh and Colm McFadden replied.

Then came the decisive moment of the game, when Down broke at pace to see Coulter find the net. And despite a few nervy moments late on, the Mournemen held on while Donegal were left to rue their 16 wides over the 90 minutes.

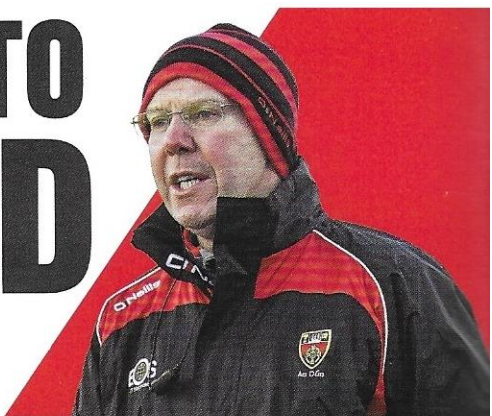
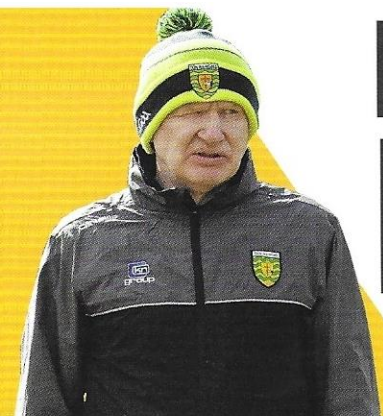
Attendance: 12,000 / **Referee:** Joe McQuillan

DOWN

B Coulter 1-4, D Hughes 0-4, M Poland, M Clarke 0-3 each, J Clarke 0-1.



HEAD TO HEAD



DECLAN BONNER DONEGAL SENIOR FOOTBALL MANAGER

We are delighted to be here at St Tiernach's Park for today's Ulster Semi Final with Down.

Games have come thick and fast in this year's Championship, and we're looking forward to another tense and hard fought encounter this afternoon.

Two games into the championship, I know that we're far from the finished article. While we've had pleasing aspects in both the Cavan and Derry games, we've plenty of room for improvement and have been working hard in training to address that.

The whole group is looking forward to meeting the challenge Down will mount today. Beaten Ulster finalists last year, Down come into this semi final on the back of a good quarter final win over Antrim.

Recent results in Ulster, and indeed in other provinces, show just how unpredictable Championship football can be and we will be doing everything in our power to ensure that we return here in a fortnight's time for the Ulster Final. It will not be easy or straightforward, but nothing worth winning ever is.

I must pay tribute to the Donegal supporters who have given us such tremendous support in Mac Cumhaill Park and Celtic Park in previous rounds. Your support means so much to our team and the atmosphere you create gives everyone a lift. More of the same today, please.

I would also like to thank the players for all the commitment and effort they have shown to Donegal football not just this season, but over many, many years.

I also appreciate the support from our team mentors, backroom staff, medical personnel, county board and our sponsors, KN Group and The Abbey Hotel.

Dún na nGall Abú.

EAMONN BURNS DOWN SENIOR FOOTBALL MANAGER

Today Down are back in an Ulster Senior Football Semi Final and we meet opponent's in Donegal who are experienced campaigners and who have in recent times had the better of us at this level.

The fact that our Under 20's are also centre stage today gives the double bill an impetus for Down fans, in recent years we have not had too many days like today. We hope that by the end of the evening two Down teams will be preparing for a return to Clones on Ulster Final day.

The players have worked hard from our Quarter Final win over Antrim, the effort made by the players and the members of the management and backroom teams has been tremendous in preparing for today.

We have had the disappointment of relegation but today is Championship and hopefully we will deliver a performance that takes us to an Ulster Final. Over the years there have been many great Championship battles between Down and Donegal and I have no doubt that today will be a similarly tough encounter with youthful exuberance facing the experience of many campaigns.

I hope that we can give the Down supporters something to smile about and take them back to Clones on the 24th June. To my former playing colleague Conor Deegan and the Down Under 20's I hope that you can begin the day well for us, I wish you all well, you are the next generation of footballers to wear the Red and Black, be proud and enjoy the day.

As always as a Team and Management we appreciate the support given to us by our Team Sponsors EOS IT Solutions and our Associate Sponsors, we are indeed grateful for the contribution that they make to Down GAA.

The County Board have supported us at all times and we hope that today we can give the loyal Down supporters something to be proud of as we try to get the better of Donegal. Let us hang out our brightest colours today and let the Red and Black be flying high this evening.



An Dún



OBITUARY

WILLIAM SMITH (RIP)

The world of Down GAA lost one of its favourite sons when we learned of the sudden death of William Smith last week. We knew him as William or William James to those with longer memories, a man who always gave of his very best for his Club and his County.

William epitomised the GAA as the Give All Association for he himself gave all to his Club and his County, more than anyone could have asked.

The history books of Down GAA will record that William served his County as a member of The South Down Committee and then as Vice Chairperson and later as South Down Chairperson.

Prior to that William had a keen interest in the then vibrant Down GAA Youth Board being a delegate back in 1981. On Coiste Banisti, William served as Vice Chairperson, as delegate to the Ulster Council and for the past four years as Irish and Cultural Officer.

Serving on Ulster Council led William to enjoy friendships with

people from other Counties but also to fight the corner for the Clubs of Down to ensure that they got their entitlements and their representation when the need was there.

There is no doubt that his love for all things Irish and for our Culture in particular meant that the post of Irish and Cultural Officer was a post made for William.

Scór was where William was happiest, he enjoyed the Competitions at all level within Down and then at Provincial Level, he enjoyed the friendships he made, friendships that took him throughout Ireland to Provincial and National Finals.

As Irish and Cultural Officer he oversaw All Ireland Titles being won in Solo Singing twice and in Ballad Group twice, his record in the annals of Scór in Down will not be easy surpassed.

Yet there is one moment that gave him the greatest pride of all and that was when Niamh McDowell from his own Club was crowned All Ireland Scór na nÓg Champion in 2017. I do not think there was a prouder man in the Waterfront Hall when the result

was announced and Glasdrumman had an All-Ireland Champion.

Glasdrumman was so important to William, it was his parish, it was where he was from and it was his Club, the Club he played for, the Club he served as a committee member and as a Chairperson. The Club where he oversaw the development of a new ground and Clubrooms, a Club where he had pride in his place. The people of Glasdrumman were William's people, here he had built a successful business, created jobs and at all times looked out for the good of his community.

We in Down GAA have lost a good friend, a decent man who served his County and served it well.

William was indeed the epitome of all that is good about the GAA, he gave of his time, he sought no reward, he chose to try and make a difference and to so many people he achieved just that.

To Aileen his wife, to Aidan, Eugene, Therese, Caroline, Aisling and his grandchildren we extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathies on the loss of a husband and father.

Ar Dheis Dé go raib a anam.

GAA for ALL



Ulster GAA, through our 'GAA FOR ALL' programme, provide the opportunity for everyone to play our games. The aim of the Ulster GAA Disability Inclusion Programme is to work in partnership with other agencies and organisations to enhance the physical health and wellbeing of people with a disability, whilst simultaneously promoting social inclusion through participation.

In Northern Ireland 21% of people have a disability or long term condition which limits their day-to-day activities. However only 15% of people with a disability take the recommended level of exercise compared to 38% of people who have no disability. (NI Census 2011).

Ulster GAA has developed a GAA FOR ALL coaching resource to support coaches, parents, teachers and volunteers. We hope to enable them to establish sessions that are inclusive, stimulating and fun for children and adults with a disability who would like to play Gaelic games. The coaching cards show various games and activities that will help the participants to improve their Fundamentals, hurling and football skills while assisting them to play through use of modified games. It also gives guidelines and information to help establish a safe and effective environment.

Ulster GAA also have a provincial wheelchair hurling team who compete in the national wheelchair hurling league and championship annually. Anyone with a physical disability or impairment are encouraged to get in touch to find out more about the sport.

For further info contact:

shane.mccann.ulster@gaa.ie or visit www.ulster.gaa.ie/coaching

ST GERARD'S

Joseph McCrudden
Ciaran Lynn
Matthew McCormack
Tony Trainer
Eammon McGauley
Golden Oforha
Owen Donnelly
Eoin Scullion
Joe Saunders
Marc McDonnelly
Sean Og Turner

DONEGAL DYNAMO'S

Donie Carr
Joe Friel
Damien Gallagher
David Gallagher
Kieran Gallagher
John Gettins
John Meehan
Jack Monaghan
Brian O'Donnell





An Gleann, Doire receive their All Ireland Rine Foirne award from John Horan, Uachtarán CLG and Anton Mac Gabhann, Cathaoirleach Naisiunta Scór.

ALL-IRELAND SUCCESS FOR DERRY AND TYRONE AT SCÓR SINSEAR FINALS 2018

Comghairdeas mór le Ualtár ó Gréachain, An Gleann, Doire agus Dearbhla Scallon ó An Goirtín, Naomh Pádraig, Tír Eoghain who have all been crowned All-Ireland Champions after outstanding performances at the Scór Sinsir All Ireland Final in Sligo IT on Saturday.

The two All-Ireland titles come to Ulster courtesy of Watty Grahams Glen success in winning the Rince Foirne category and Dearbhla Scallon from the Gortin St Patrick's GAA Club claiming the top accolade in the Amhránaíocht Aonair category.

The full list of winners from the 2018 All-Ireland Scór Sinsir Finals are:

RINCE FOIRNE

Watty Grahams Glen
Doire

LÉIRIÚ STÁITSE

Luimneach
Feenagh/Kilmeedy

AMHRÁNAÍOCHT AONAIR

Dearbhla Scallon
Gortin St Patrick's
Tír Eoghain

CEOL UIRLISE

Maigh Eo
Aghamore

AUTHRÍSEOIREACHT

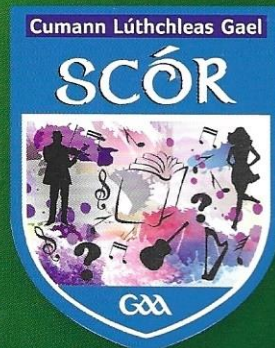
Breandán Mac Gabhann
An Mhí - Cleann Na nGeal

RINCE SEIT

Maigh Eo
Aghamore

BNILÉAD GRÚPA

Carbery Rangers
Carraig





ULSTER SCHOOLS

ST JOSEPH'S NEWRY



GAA has been prominent in St Joseph's for 60 years, going back to 1958 when the school first opened its doors to the young men of Newry.

We have had some famous past pupils in our time, from Northern Ireland's Pat Jennings, who played midfield in the early 1960's to Down's Tommy McGovern (Burren) and Paddy Kennedy (Glenn) who lined out for the school in the 1970's.

In more recent times we have had the likes of Ronan Murtagh (Ballyholland Harps) and Niall Madine (Saval) represent both our school & the county with distinction. With regards staff, Down legend Pete McGrath, famous for managing the 1991 and 1994 All Ireland winners, taught with us for a while as well as current county players Niall McParland (Glenn) and Niall Donnelly (Tullylish) who were members of our support staff a few years back.

During the last four decades there have been three constants on the St. Joseph's GAA field; Mr Feargal Rodgers (Castlewellan), Mr Pat McParland (Ballyholland Harps) and Mr Fintan Doyle (Granemore, Armagh).

Up until 2013 the school was involved in the Down Vocationals Schools' football, with limited success. But in more recent years several factors have contributed to GAA success within the school.

The formation of the new Ulster Schools GAA body, along with an upgraded school field opened in September 2013 and with the addition of some new staff, Mr Martin Mallon (Brocagh, Tyrone), Mr Michael Agnew (Culloville, Armagh) and Mr Damien Brady (Shane O'Neill's, Armagh), we have managed to win three Ulster titles in the last 5 years.

2013/2014 was our most successful year to date with regards Gaelic football, the school won both the U16.5 Faul Cup & the U15.5 Nagle Cup

in the same year. In addition to that, the school was also awarded the Irish News GAA Secondary School of the Year 2014, along with the Newry & Mourne Post Primary Team of the Year 2014. These were the last titles that Mr McParland and Mr Doyle won before they both retired in 2017.

We have had to wait a few years for our next title, but that came about in April of this year, when our Year 9's, coached by Mr Mallon and Mr Agnew, assisted by Mr Rodgers and Mr Brady, won the U13.5 Mallon Cup after a thrilling match against St Killian's College, Garron Tower.

All in all, sport in St Joseph's is thriving right now and along with our successful Gaelic teams, we have had equal success in the local soccer & golf competitions, something that we as a school are so proud of, but for the majority of our staff, GAA is our first love.



DOWN- THE PAST DECADE



2018

USFC QF Down 1-18 Antrim 0-14

2017

USFC QF Down 0-15 Armagh 2-07

USFC SF Down 1-14 Monaghan 0-15

USFC F Tyrone 2-17 Down 0-15

AIQ R4B Monaghan 1-24 Down 1-16

2016

USFC QF Monaghan 2-22 Down 0-09

AIQ R1B Down 3-17 Longford 2-24 AET

2015

USFC QF Derry 0-12 Down 0-11

AIQ R1B Wexford 2-16 Down 2-11

2014

USFC R1 Tyrone 2-11 Down 3-08

USFC R1R Down 0-12 Tyrone 3-11

AIQ R1B Down 4-18 Leitrim 0-09

AIQ R2B Down 0-11 Kildare 1-18

2013

USFC QF Derry 1-15 Down 2-17

USFC SF Donegal 0-12 Down 0-09

AIQ R2 Derry 0-13 Down 1-05

2012

USFC QF Down 2-10 Fermanagh 1-08

USFC SF Monaghan 1-13 Down 1-14

USFC F Donegal 2-18 Down 0-13

AIQ R4 Down 1-13 Tipperary 0-11

AI QF Mayo 3-18 Down 2-09

2011

USFC QF Armagh 1-15 Down 1-10

AIQ R1 Clare 1-12 Down 1-13

AIQ R2 Down 1-16 Leitrim 1-08

AIQ R3 Antrim 0-10 Down 3-13

AIQ R4 Down 0-14 Cork 2-22

2010

USFC QF Donegal 2-10 Down 1-15

USFC SF Tyrone 0-14 Down 0-10

AIQ R2 Down 1-14 Longford 1-10

AIQ R3 Offaly 1-10 Down 1-12

AIQ R4 Sligo 0-10 Down 3-20

AI QF Down 1-16 Kerry 1-10

AI SF Down 1-16 Kildare 1-14

AI F Cork 0-16 Down 0-15

2009

USFC R1 Fermanagh 0-13 Down 0-10

AIQ R1 Down 1-16 London 1-07

AIQ R2 Down 2-09 Laois 0-07

AIQ R3 Wicklow 1-15 Down 0-17



Anthony Doherty moves away from Matthew Fitzpatrick.

12 GAA

Dominant Donegal let loose on Mournemen



Ulster SFC semi-final

DONEGAL 2-22

DOWN 1-12

Alan Foley

St Tiernach's Park

Down supporters at St Tiernach's Park in Clones began to fear the worst when their team lost 10 of their opening kick-outs in yesterday's one-sided Ulster SFC semi-final against Donegal.

And so it would prove. The victors were utterly dominant from start to finish and, if anything, the 13-point margin between the counties does a disservice to Declan Bonner's side, who will go into the Ulster final as red-hot favourites in a fortnight against Fermanagh. Down can only hope the qualifier draw is a kind one given the sharks lurking there at present.

Goals from Leo McLoone and man-of-the-match Jamie Brennan arrived either side of the break in front of a crowd of 12,051 as Donegal began both halves with statements of intent.

In the first they racked up 1-8 before Down managed so much as a point. In the second

they mustered 1-4 without reply.

And much of this was without their three-time All-Star Neil McGee, who was given a straight red card in the 14th minute.

"We started well, there is no doubt we did," said Bonner. "We got scores on the board and the threat was coming from all over the park and the lads are playing with that bit of freedom. You would have to say that Down didn't put the challenge to us.

"We can only look after ourselves and play what is put in front of us and I thought we did adapt and had 10 scorers from all over the park."

The variation in Donegal's attacks was breathless at times. Right from the throw-in, their football was refreshing and Paul Brennan's point after just 80 seconds was the conclusion of a flowing and patient move that outfoxed Down, who lined up with 14 men behind the ball with Connaire Harrison a lonely figure at the other end of the pitch.

Not that lonely, though. McGee and Harrison were booked by Anthony Nolan in the early stages for an off-the-ball incident. Then, with Donegal 0-4 to 0-0 up, Harrison and his own teammate Darren O'Hagan collided with one another by the stand at the Pat McGrane side and McGee fell on top of the Down full-forward, leading with his knee.

Nolan, who consulted with linesman Sean Laverty, opted to send off the Donegal full-back, who will now be sus-

pending for the final.

Eventually, Hugh McFadden would drop back in from midfield with Murphy slotting back and Caolan Ward tasked with handling Harrison.

But the changes at the back for Donegal weren't as relevant, with their attack so impressive. McLoone's goal arrived on 22 minutes and owed a lot to his quick-thinking, slotting past Marc Reid as the ball cannoned down off the upright after Ciaran Thompson had shot for a point.

That made the score 1-7 to 0-0 and Ryan McHugh's sweet effort with the outside of the boot moments later showed the gulf in class.

Down couldn't get out of their half as Donegal smothered the midfield.

In the 26th minute Down finally got a white flag waving through Caolan Mooney and their finish to the half was credible, with Harrison, Donal O'Hare, and Conor Maginn all on the mark. Peter Turley had a glorious goal chance but dithered and ended up fluffing a punch wide.

Again, Donegal began the second half with intent and Murphy popped over a fine score. Patrick McBrearty, who would finish the afternoon with six points, kept things ticking over and Jamie Brennan's goal on 45 minutes heaped on the misery.

Reid had little option from the tee, despite his team's numerical advantage, and went long from a kick-out. Murphy was on hand to gather at mid-

field and Thompson set McHugh away and he selflessly set-up Brennan to score Donegal's second goal for a 2-16 to 0-7 lead.

Donegal were creating goal chances at will and, if anything, they were overplaying. Brennan was unlucky not to add a second goal as he hit the butt of the post as Reid came from his line. Then, Stephen McMenamin somehow only slapped over with Odhran MacNiallais and Brennan creating the chance. Brennan, ably assisted by Murphy and McFadden, probably should've done better than a point. One of the few bright sparks for Down came in the 75th minute with a well-taken Niall Donnelly goal to reduce the margin of the drubbing.

But there was no complaints from the Mourne men.

"When McGee went off, they're a very experienced side, they know how to play with 14 men," said Down boss Eamonn Burns.

"They're well organised up the field and they leave two men up the field who are very potent so they handled that situation quite well. I'm not going to stand here and say it's not going to be difficult to get players up for the qualifiers, it is going to be difficult but that's our job."

Scorers for Donegal: J Brennan 1-3; P McBrearty (3f) 0-6; M Murphy (3f) 0-5; L McLoone 1-0; P Brennan, R McHugh 0-2 each; C Ward, C Thompson, S McMenamin, M McHugh 0-1 each.

Scorers for Down: N Donnelly 1-1 C Harrison, D O'Hare (3f) 0-4 each; C Maginn 0-2; C Mooney 0-1.

DONEGAL: S Patton; P McGrath, N McGee, E Gallagher, C Ward, P Brennan, F McGlynn; H McFadden, M Murphy; C Thompson, R McHugh, L McLoone; P McBrearty, M Langan, J Brennan.

Subs: D Ó Baoill for Langan (44), O Mac Niallais for McLoone (49), C Mulligan for Thompson (49), S McMenamin for Gallagher (54), M McHugh for McGlynn (58), E Doherty for P Brennan (65).

DOWN: M Reid; C Flanagan, B McArdle, A Doherty; D O'Hagan, N McParland, C Mooney; P Turley, N Donnelly; K McKernan, C Maginn, S Millar; D O'Hare, C Harrison, R Millar.

Subs: R Johnston for R Millar (b/c, 21), R Wells for McParland (h/t), S Doman for S Millar (b/c, 36), D McKibben for Turley (55), J Flynn for McKibben (b/c, 66).

Referee: A Nolan (Wicklow).

GOOD DAY:

Michael Murphy was pipped by some to the man-of-the-match award but played a monumental role in taking his team over the line.

They placed Niall McParland on Michael Murphy and after Murphy took a chunk of McParland while gathering a ball at that end of the first quarter, he didn't want to know.

Donegal have been racking up the scores; 2-20 against Cavan, 2-16 against Derry, 2-22

Eirgrid Ulster U20 Football Championship semi-final: Derry 2-17 Down 2-15

Derry fight back for final spot

From Sean Mahoney
in Clones

DERRY completed the mother of all comebacks to set up an Ulster U20 final showdown with Armagh.

The Oak Leaf found themselves 10 points down after the Mourne lads had blitzed them with two stunning first half goals.

But that never-say-die attitude that served them so well against Donegal was produced again in spades as Oisín McWilliams, his twin Lorcan and the powerful Callum Brown rose to the occasion.

Derry manager Mickey Donnelly was relieved and annoyed but extremely proud of his players.

"I just said to them and I am not going to tell them any lies, but I am angry, I am cross and I am hurt and they are going to get a kick in the ass all week but they were brilliant in the second half," said Donnelly.

"Seven points down at half-time and then they got three points straight away to the second half and you would have thought that was curtains.

"But just to stay in the game and the patience they showed, I don't think we regained the lead until the 53rd minute and

I am just immensely proud."

Down's two goals in a five-minute spell left Derry shell-shocked and trailing by seven points at the break.

It was a thrilling contest played at breakneck speed but it was the young Mourne men who set the pace with Aaron Devlin, Daniel Guinness and Owen McCabe the main threats.

Liatróim's Conor McCrickard opened the scoring with two converted frees and they were 3-1 ahead when Lorcan McWilliams and Aaron Devlin traded frees.

Oisín McWilliams scored the first point from play on 11 minutes and his twin Lorcan levelled the score before Ben McCarron put the Oak Leafers ahead.

Down's nippy Guinness and the busy Lorcan McWilliams kept the scoreboard ticking over before Lavery landed the first Down goal on 18 minutes, following sharp passing from Devlin and Aaron Magee.

Only five minutes later and Down bagged the second goal and it was another slick, sweeping move which was finished to the net by Devlin.

And the Mourne men pressed home their advantage with further scores from Magee, McCrickard and Guinness to take a 2-8 to 0-7 half-time lead.

MATCH STATS

Down: D Ross, B Gallen, Finn McLroy, A Lynch, C Cox (0-1), O McConvey, S Annett, L Middletown, J Connery, O McCabe (0-1), P Lavery (1-1), D Guinness (0-2), A Devlin (1-3, 0-1 free), C McCrickard (0-3, 0-3 frees) Aaron Magee (0-1)
Subs used: J McCartan (0-1) for Devlin (41), L Kerr (0-2) for Middletown (43'), G McKibben for Magee (52), R Fegan for Connery (63);
Yellow cards: McConvey (17) and black card (57), J McCartan (59);
Red cards: McConvey (59) – yellow and black cards.

Derry: O Hartin, S McKeever, D Rafferty, E Concannon, J McAtamney, C McCuskey, P McGrogan, C Brown (1-0), O McWilliams (0-4), C Doherty (0-1, 0-1 free), S Downey, B McCarron (0-4, 0-1 free), M McGrogan, L McWilliams (1-7, 1-0 pen, 0-6 frees), D Cassidy; **Subs:** C McShane (0-1) for Concannon (27'), M Bradley for Grogan (49), A Bradley for Doherty (63), E Bradley for O McWilliams (63); **Yellow cards:** McCluskey (22), L McWilliams (55)

Referee: Conor Doureen

Donnelly a proud man as Down are left devastated

Down continued the second half as they finished the first with a flurry of points from Conor Cox, Devlin and Lavery and with a 10-point lead they looked unstoppable.

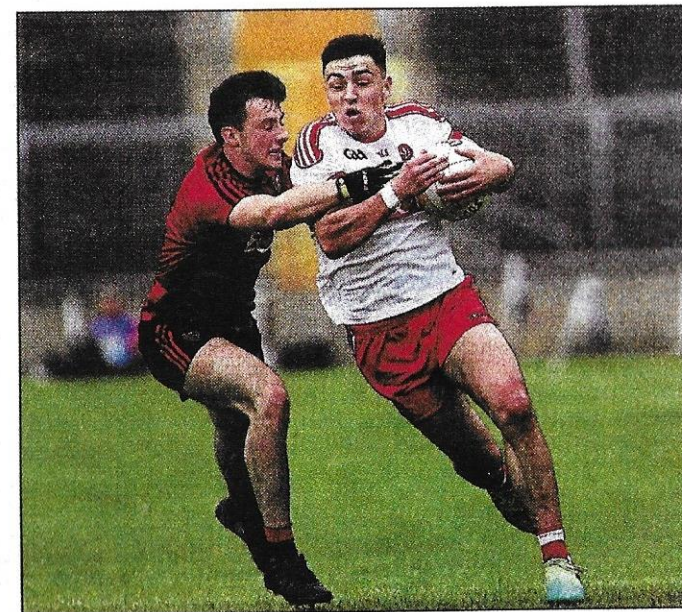
Both keepers, Derry's Grant Martin and Down's Barron Ross pulled off brilliant saves

within 30 seconds of each other but Derry lit the fire for their comeback when Lorcan McWilliams converted a penalty.

Points followed from Derry's Oisín McWilliams, before the strong Brown won a long ball at the edge of the square and hammered brilliantly into the net.

Down's substitute Jack McCartan fisted a point with his first touch but the Mourne men's thirst for goals proved costly as they were shut down by the hard working Derry defence.

Ben McCarron closed the gap and Oisín McWilliams levelled before McCarron's free edged Derry ahead with 47 minutes played. Guinness equalised for Down but it was the Oak Leafers that had momentum and belief and



■ **STICKING TIGHT:** Derry's Ben McCarron tries to get away from Down's Jude McAtamney at Clones **Picture:** Seamus Loughran

McCarron's fisted point followed by Conor Doherty converted free set Derry on their way.

Down were also reduced to 14 men when Oisín McConvey, who picked up an early yellow card, received a black card

Liam Kerr pulled back two points but Derry's Conleth McShane made sure of victory with his late point.

Down assistant manager to Conor Deegan, Mickey Walsh said his players lacked big

game experience and insisted they will take valuable lessons from defeat.

"Derry minors played in an All-Ireland final last year and an Ulster minor final the year before and you can't beat that experience and maybe our boys froze and were thinking of the finish line," said Walsh.

"But they have to learn from this and be sure the next time they are in a big game that they don't make the same mistakes."