

# ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Div. 2 - Round 2

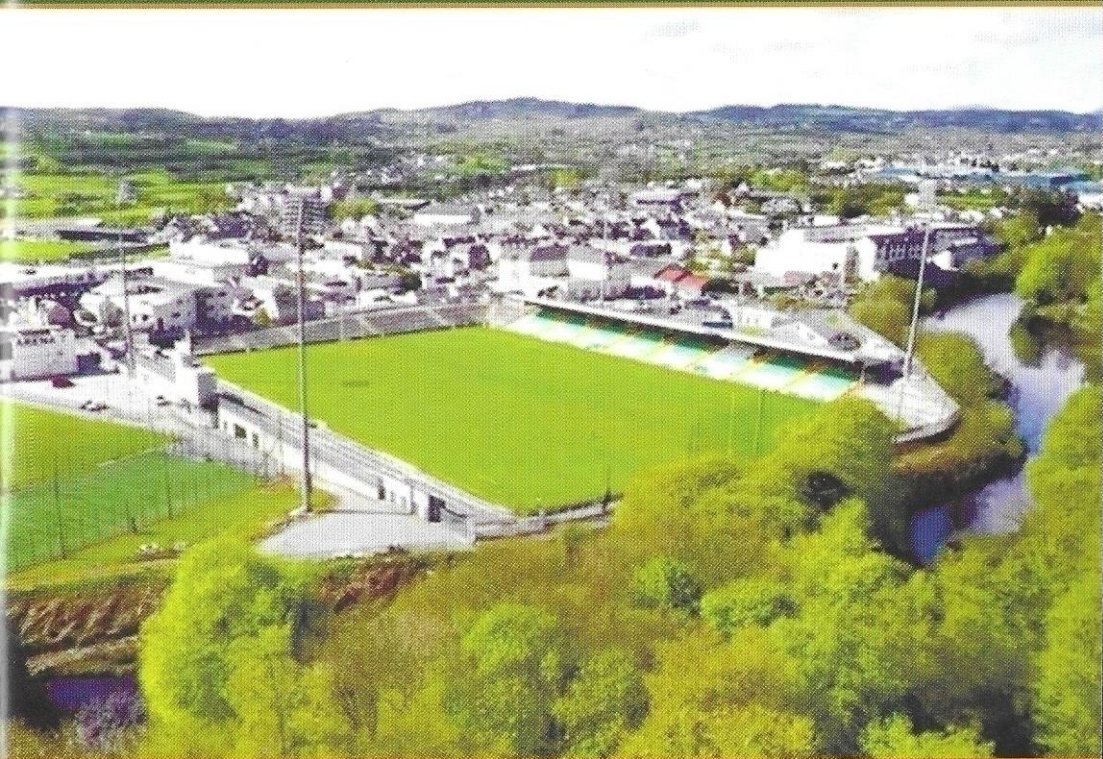


Dún na nGall

v

An Mhí

7.00 i.n.



Dé Sathairn, 2ú Feabhra 2019

I bPáirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill, Bealach Féich

Clár Oifigiúil: €3.00





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## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chuir roimh gach duine anseo go Páirce Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill tráthnóna inniú chuig an cluiche i roinn a dó de'n srath naisiúnta sa pheil idir Dún na nGall agus an Mhí. Tá fáilte speisialta roimh na hOifigí, lucht banaistíochta, na himreoirí agus lucht tacaíochta CLG an Mhí. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh sult agus taitneamh as an turas go Dún na nGall.

As Chairman of CLG Dhun na nGall I welcome you all here tonight, and a special welcome to all the followers of the Meath team, I hope you enjoy our hospitality. Tonight's game promises to be another exciting encounter, as has been traditional between Donegal and Meath over many years. Both teams enjoyed a win in their first match last weekend, and this will add to the intensity in what should be a good game of football.

An in-depth analysis into our game has taken place over the winter months, and four new rules were recently passed by Central Council and are being tested in the National Leagues. I acknowledge the work of the Review Committee and I believe the changes, which generated great debate and discussion, show that we are not afraid to tweak and change rules to potentially enhance an already attractive and intense game. Today's game, which has the up-to-date addition of sports science back up, requires a very dedicated lifestyle and any squad member not willing to buy into this lifestyle doesn't stay on board too long. We must recognize that the players and backroom members are very dedicated and unselfish in their time in attempting to reach the highest standards possible. Please recognize that when things are not going well on the field during a game is when your team needs the greatest support.

I would like to acknowledge the great work carried out during the week by the MacCumhaill Park Committee in getting the pitch into playing order after a week of all kinds of weather; well done.

A special mention to all our sponsors and business partners who are working with us towards both our games and infrastructure developments in a tough financial time of the calendar year. We have all age groups in both hurling and football involved in a detailed plan of development, as well as our dedicated Scor members, and this requires much modern planning and budgetary detail. Please support those that support the GAA in our county.

This week the Donegal GAA community was devastated by the deaths of four young men from the Cloughaneely and Gaoth Dobhair GAA club areas. We remember John Harley, Sean Harkin, Michael Roarty, and Daniel Scott, and their dear heartbroken families tonight, with a minute's silence before the start of the game. The GAA in Donegal are committed to supporting the clubs and the families in the weeks ahead, with the assistance of our Health and Wellbeing Committee, and the professional members associated with the Committee. May they Rest In Peace.

In conclusion we ask you all to abide with the event stewards and those with children please take those few minutes extra before leaving the ground after the conclusion of tonight's game. Adh mor oraibh agus tabhair aire.

*Is mise le meas,*  
**Mick McGrath,**  
Cathaoirleach Bord an Condae

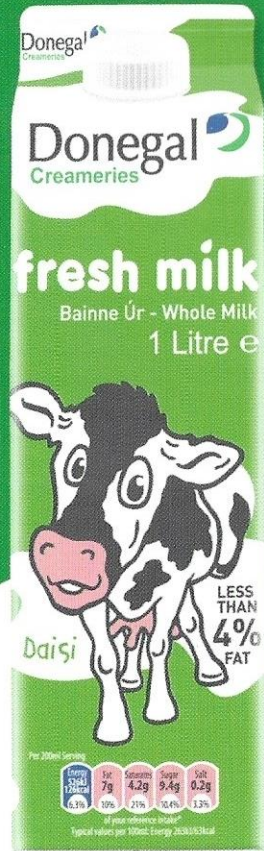
### Acknowledgements:

The Seán Mac Cumhaill's club wish to express their thanks to all who contributed to today's programme and running of events. To all the sponsors for taking advertisements out and to our club members who gave up their time to ensure the game goes off without incident. An event of this magnitude requires a large support base and we thank all those who have helped. Many thanks go to all those who contributed to this programme: Peter Campbell and Tom Comack (Donegal Democrat), Gerry McLaughlin, Ryan Ferry (Donegal News), Fr. Seán Gallagher, Chris McNulty (Donegal Sport Hub), Geraldine Diver and Sammy Wasson of Impacto Print.



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## Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil  
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,  
Buíon dár slua  
Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn.  
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,  
Seantír ár sinsir feasta  
Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráil  
Anocht a théim sa bhearna baoil,  
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil  
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar  
Seo libh canaigí Amhrán na bhFiann.



Andrea Long is from Ballybofey and is a Primary Teacher in Scoil Mhuire, Stranorlar. She has a great love of music and dance and is musical director of local choirs as well as the children's choir in Scoil Mhuire, Stranorlar. Andrea also performs in musicals in the local Balor Theatre and has represented her local Seán MacCumhaill club in Scór. She is honoured to be representing her County today by singing Amhrán na bhFiann at her local club.

## GROUND REGULATIONS

- All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Ground Regulations and to the Rules and regulations of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.
- Fireworks, smoke canisters, gas- horns, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the ground and any person in found to be in possession of such an article or container may be refused entry or ejected from the ground
- The consumption of alcohol is not permitted within the ground and spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground.
- The unauthorized climbing of any structure, walls or buildings in this ground strictly forbidden.
- Unnecessary noise from the use of radio sets, gas-horns and behavior likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind, including foul or abusive language, is not permitted in any part of the ground.
- Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any object the pitch.
- Unauthorized persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play.
- Any person who fails to comply with the instruction from a Garda or Steward may be ejected from the ground.
- In general, the right of admission is reserved to the Ground Management.
- The Ground Management reserves the right to refuse admission to or eject any person who refuses to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
- Any person who remains in or obstructs a gangway or circulation area may be ejected from the ground.
- The Ground Management reserve the right for it's 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.
- All persons in the grounds are reminded of their obligation under Section 18(3) of the Fire Services Act 1981 to ensure that their behaviour does not present a danger from fire to anyone using the grounds.

**TODAYS REFEREE**

**Referee: Jerome Henry (Mayo)**





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## Donegal GAA legend laid to rest in Meath

BY TOM COMACK (Donegal Democrat/Peoples Press)



Donegal and Meath lost a GAA giant of a bygone era last September following the death of Paddy Coyle, in Co Meath.

Paddy Coyle, who played for Donegal in the 1950s and was a multiple championship winner with Gaoth Dobhair, passed away on September 6 at the Woodlands Nursing Home in Navan.

The late Paddy Coyle was originally from Lunnagh, Derrybeg, where he was affectionately known as Paddy Owen Coyle.

The last surviving member of his family he was a teacher by profession. He served for years as headmaster of Yellow Furze National School in Co. Meath and prior to that he spent some years teaching in Kentstown, also in Meath. He was married to Clare, who sadly passed away in 2009.

Paddy Coyle will be forever remembered for his contribution to GAA football not only at local level but also at a county level.

He was a member of the Gaoth Dobhair three in-a-row championship team of 1953, '54 and '55.

In the 1953 final against Carndonagh in Letterkenny he played centre half-back. Gaoth Dobhair held on to a slender one point win, 1-5 to 1-4 over the Inishowen team.

In the other two finals, he played right half-forward which was his favourite position.

In 1954 final, he scored a great goal in their 3-6 to 0-5 win over Donegal Town in Ballybofey.

And the following year, 1955, he was on the scoresheet once again in their 1-7 to 0-5 final win over St Eunan's in Glenties.

He had the distinction of playing for clubs in three counties, Donegal, Erin's Hope in Dublin, Navan

O'Mahony's and Seneschalstown in Co. Meath. He also played with the Four Masters in Coventry.

From 1950 until 1955 he played for the county senior team. He was the captain of the Donegal team which won the Ulster Junior Championship title in 1952.

Two years later he figured prominently in Donegal winning the Ulster title again when they had a victory over Tyrone in the final.

Apart from his success with the Gaoth Dobhair team, the late Paddy Coyle won a county minor championship with Dungloe in 1949, and a Warwickshire Junior Championship with the Four Masters club in 1956.

He won three Meath Senior Championships - 1959, '60 and '61 - with Navan O'Mahonys. Paddy's late brother, Bernard Coyle, was also a prominent footballer.

He was the father of Meath football stars Colm and Pádraig Coyle. On moving to teach in Meath he became active in energising the Seneschalstown club, especially at underage level.

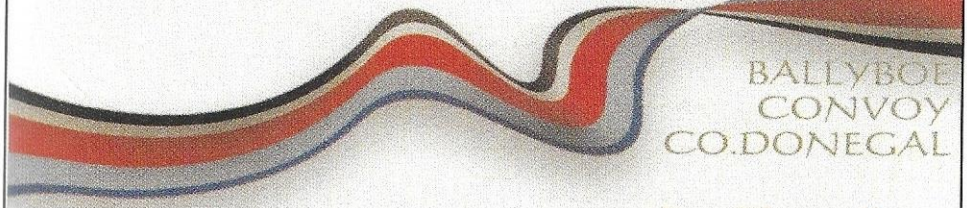
He had a huge influence on the football careers of his sons. Colm went on to capture three All-Ireland medals amongst a host of other achievements, both in a playing and managerial capacity.

His son, Pádraig also represented his county with pride and is one of the top officials on the refereeing circuit at the moment.

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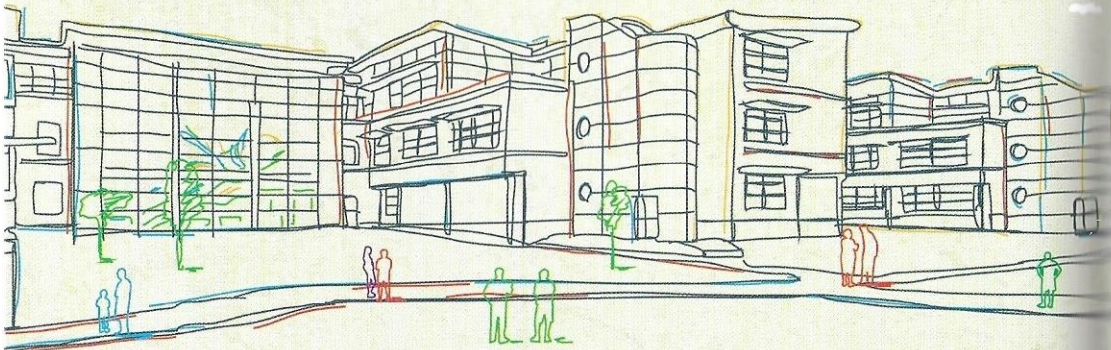
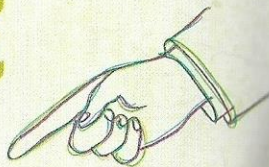
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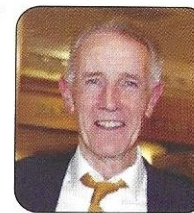
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## “Michael Lafferty-one of Donegal’s greatest gladiators!”

by GERRY McLAUGHLIN



When he was young and truly magnificent Michael Lafferty, had the gravitas and grace of a Greek god.

In ancient Rome he would have been a centurion, a leader of men, a man who grew in the heat of battle and always led from the front for his own Sean MacCumhaill's and Tir Conaill.

There is no doubt that he is one of Donegal's greatest gladiators, a tall man of presence and charisma who graced Sean MacCumhaill Park for over 20 years and was one of the county's greatest Gaelic athletes.

Lafferty was an outstanding midfielder, endless stamina, great vision and could inspire his comrades with a catch, a tackle or even a gesture.

And those who soldiered with him say he was the real deal, their captain, their leader, their mentor and their teacher.

But like all great warriors he knew how to celebrate when the battle was over.

Heads turned when Lafferty came into a room for he had and has that je ne sais quoi pas, that can neither be bottled or bought.

It's a gift given by the gods in quiet moments.

And if there must be winners and losers in life then Lafferty is a winner.

His record for club county and province is clear evidence that he has "fuil an bhua go smior ann".

Lafferty played senior club football for Sean MacCumhaill's for 20 years, from 1971 when he won a county club championship medal at the age of 17 to 1991 and in between he won another county medal in 1977.

He played senior football for Donegal from 1973 to 1990 after making his debut on the minor team in 1970.

In that period, he won three Ulster titles in 1974 when he was midfield with Martin Carney and in 1983 when he captained the team from centre back.

Lafferty was part of Donegal's greatest ever half backline that year that also included Michael Carr and Brendan Dunleavy.

And he won another Ulster medal at the age of 35 in 1990.

In between, Lafferty played in an Ulster final in 1979 under his great friend Sean O'Donnell, where Donegal were beaten by a very strong Monaghan side.

He also won a few Railway Cup medals with Ulster in the mid 1980s.

And he was growing into a natural mentor in 1990 when Donegal won their third Ulster title.

But he was a valued leader much earlier along with Tom Conaghan for Four Master and with the legendary U-21 team that won the county's first All-Ireland title back in 1982.

That team was full of leaders, young men with strong opinions so it took an even stronger man to mould them.

And this he did quietly, without fuss, was a great tactician and could make the right switch in a heartbeat.

Lafferty was back again in 1992 when he was one of the Four Horsemen Of The Apocalypse along with Brian McEniff, Anthony Harkin and Seamus Bonar as they took Donegal to the pinnacle of Paradise.

His role in that victory was central.

But he wasn't finished there as he went on to manage his neighbouring Glenfin to a Donegal and Ulster Intermediate title in 2001.

Since 1977 he has been a valued History and Geography teacher in Abbey VS and has schooled some real legends like Joyce McMullin, Seamus Meehan, Barry Monaghan, Karl Lacey, Barry Dunnion and Paul Durcan.

Sylvester Maguire once said that when Lafferty got up to say something in the dressing room, you always listened because he always had something to say.

And you knew that he knew what he was talking about.

There was no palaver, no needy ego because he was and is the real deal

Definitely one of Tir Conaill's greatest gladiators.



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with best wishes to the Donegal team

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## TWELFTH ENCOUNTER

Fr. Seán

The first League meeting of Dún na nGall and An Mhí was forty five years ago – on February 17, 1974 in Ballyshannon. It was in Division 2A of the League, with the winners almost assured of promotion to Division 1B. It was a game Dún na nGall should have won but lost by a point 0-8/0-7. Dún na nGall's tale of woe included a disallowed Martin Carney goal, a Séamus Bonner screamer hitting the post, Paul McGettigan and Mickey Lafferty going close and, above all, Neilly Gallagher and Martin Carney missing close-in free kicks near the end.

### DÚN NA NGALL:

Donal Monaghan  
Brian McEniff (0-1)

Alan Kane:

Pádraig McShea  
Anthony Gallagher

Andy Curran:  
Finian Ward:

Michael Lafferty (0-1) and Paul McGettigan:

Martin Carney  
Hughie McClafferty

Séamus Bonner (0-2)  
Neilly Gallagher (0-2)

Joe Winston (0-1):  
Séamie Granaghan.

**Subs:** Kieran Keeney and Paddy McDyer.

Pauric McShea had a great game for Dún na nGall: Lafferty and McGettigan were on top at midfield: Carney was the best of the forward line.

### An Mhí:

M. Collins  
M. Mahon

F. Carbury:

J. Quinn  
K. McConnell

P. Murray:  
P. Reynolds:

K. Rennicks (0-1) and P. O'Brien:

P. Cromwell  
P. Farrelly (0-1)

M. Kerrigan (0-1)  
G. Farrelly (0-1)

D. Murtagh (0-3):  
M. Fay (0-1).

**Subs:** K. Mooney, P. McManus.

Dún na nGall and An Mhí have met in the League on eleven occasions in all:

1	17 Feb 1974:	An Mhí	0-8	Dún na nGall	0-7	Béal Átha Seanaidh
2	6 Nov 1988:	Dún na nGall	0-15	An Mhí	1-6	Bealach Féich
3	1 Apr 1990:	An Mhí	2-12	Dún na nGall	0-13	Cluain Eois
4	2 Dec 1990:	An Mhí	1-11	Dún na nGall	0-10	An Uaimh
5	5 Mar 1995:	Dún na nGall	0-13	An Mhí	0-11	An Uaimh
6	4 Feb 1996:	Dún na nGall	0-10	An Mhí	2-4	An Uaimh
7	2 Feb 1997:	An Mhí	0-13	Dún na nGall	0-8	Bealach Féich
8	30 Nov 1997:	An Mhí	1-8	Dún na nGall	1-8	Béal Átha Seanaidh
9	27 Mar 2010:	Dún na nGall	1-12	An Mhí	0-10	Bealach Féich
10	13 Mar 2011:	Dún na nGall	0-15	An Mhí	0-9	An Uaimh
11	9 Mar 2014	Dún na nGall	1-12	An Mhí	1-12	Bealach Féich

Dún na nGall won 4

An Mhí won 4

Drawn 3

Martin McHugh scored 0-9 in both the 1988 and April 1990 matches.

Michael Murphy scored 1-6 in the 2010 game and 0-6 in both the 2011 and 2014 games.

Patrick McBrearty, Ryan McHugh and Martin O'Reilly played on the Donegal Vocational Schools' team that beat Meath 2-6/0-6 in the 2011 All-Ireland semi-final.

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### Last League Meeting – 2014

Dún na nGall played An Mhí in the fourth round of the 2014 National Football League Division 2 in Seán Mac Cumhaill Park on March 9, 2014. An Mhí started strongly and led by 0-6 to 0-1 after 20 minutes. Dún na nGall fought back then with a Frank McGlynn goal but Mickey Newman's goal restored the Royal supremacy and An Mhí led by 1-7 to 1-5 at half-time. They stretched that lead to four points at the beginning of the second half but Dún na nGall stormed back with five points in-a-row to make it 1-10 to 1-9 for the home team after 16 minutes. Éamonn Wallace and Mickey Newman made it 1-11 to 1-10. Michael Murphy equalised. Graham Reilly put An Mhí ahead four minutes from time but Michael Murphy equalised with the last kick of the game from a free.

#### Dún na nGall:

Éamonn McGee	Paul Durcan:	Neil McGee	Frank McGlynn (1-0):
Anthony Thompson	Leo McLoone	Rory Kavanagh and Martin McElhinney:	Ryan McHugh:
Mark McHugh	Christy Toye (0-2)	Odhrán Mac Nialluis:	
Colm A. McFadden (0-3)	Michael Murphy (0-6)	Dermot Molloy (0-1),	

**Subs (used):** Neil Gallagher – Darach O' Connor - Karl Lacey – David Walsh.

**Manager:** Jim McGuinness.

#### An Mhí:

Mickey Burke	Paddy O' Rourke:	Kevin Reilly	Eoghan Harrington:
Seán Curran (0-1)	Donal Keogan	Bryan Menton and Shane O'Rourke (0-1):	Damien Carroll (0-1):
Donncha Tobin	Andrew Tormey (0-2)	Dalton McDonagh:	
Brian McMahon (0-1)	Stephen Bray (1-4)	Mickey Newman.	

**Subs (used):** Graham Reilly (0-1) – Padraic Harnan – Eamonn Wallace (0-1) – Mark O'Sullivan – Séamus Kenny – D. Bray.

**Manager:** Mick O'Dowd.

**Referee:** Pádraig Hughes (Ard Mhacha).

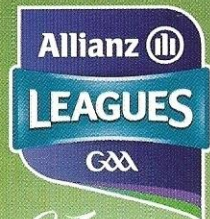
The last Championship game between An Mhí and Dún na nGall was in Navan in the 2017 qualifiers – Dún na nGall won 1-15/1-14.

### Paddy Coyle 1931 – 2018

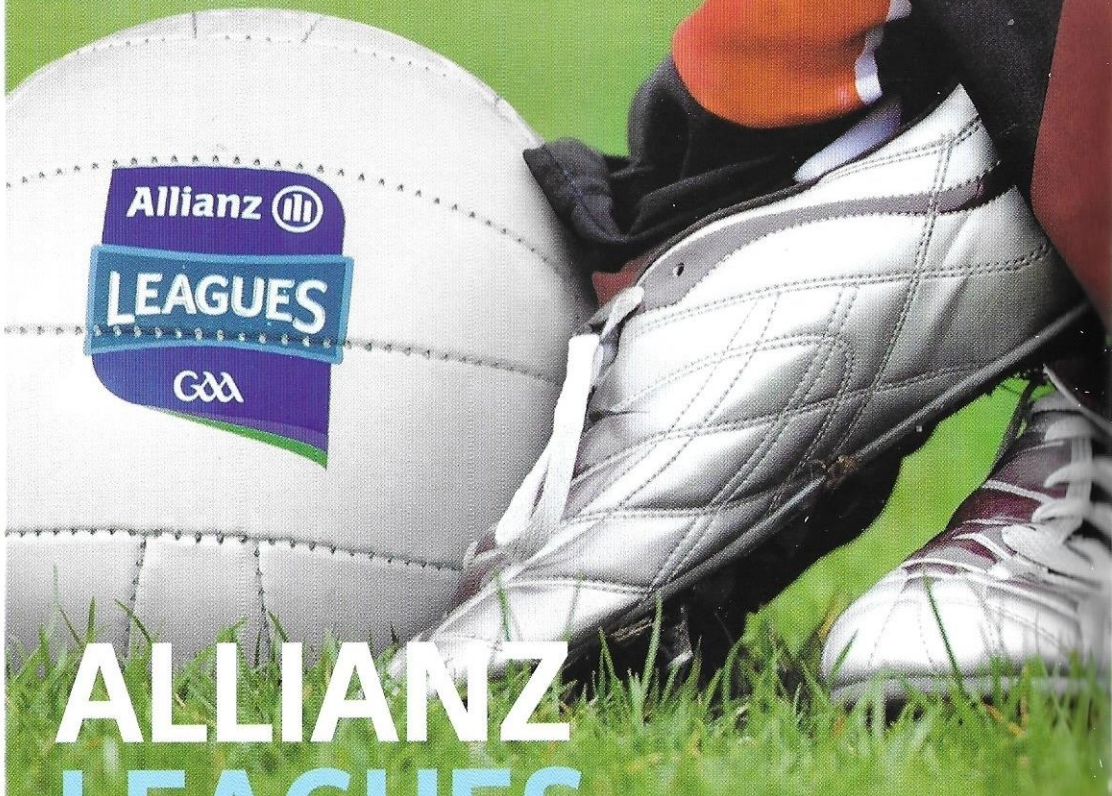
To-day's is the first Dún na nGall-An Mhí clash since the death of Paddy Coyle in Navan on September 6, 2018. Paddy Coyle was a Gaoth Dobhair man who went to County Meath as a Primary School Teacher. He taught in Kentstown and in the Yellow Furze N.S. where he was Principal.

Paddy Coyle played for the Gaoth Dobhair minor team in the County final of 1948. They lost to St. Eunan's. In 1949 Gaoth Dobhair didn't field a minor team and Paddy played for archrivals Dungloe in the County final. They beat St. Eunan's, who protested, claiming that Paddy had played for Gaoth Dobhair in the Senior Championship of that year. The protest was lost. Paddy played for Donegal in the Ulster Minor final of 1949 when they lost to Armagh. He was a key member of the Gaoth Dobhair team that won the Donegal Senior Football Championship three-years-in-a-row 1953-'54 and '55. When he transferred to County Meath he was on the Navan O'Mahony's team that won the Senior Championship in 1959, 1960 and 1961 (part of the O'Mahonys' five-in-a-row). He played with Seneschalstown in Meath as well and with Erin's Hope in Dublin and Four Masters





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in Coventry (winning a Warwickshire Junior Championship medal in 1956).

Paddy's sons Colm and Pádraig played for Meath, Colm winning All-Ireland S.F.C. medals in 1987, 1988 and 1996.

Paddy made his Dún na nGall debut in the Ulster Senior Football Championship replay against Down in Letterkenny in 1950 – Down won. He was an ever-present in Dún na nGall's great 1951-52 League campaign when Dún na nGall won the Dr. Lagan Cup before losing to Corcaigh in the National League semi-final. He was on the Dún na nGall Junior team that won the Ulster Junior Football Championship final in May 1952. Dún na nGall then decided to field their strongest team in the Ulster Senior Championship and Paddy played in the 1952 Senior Championship against Antrim and so was ineligible for the All-Ireland Junior semi-final against Meath – Meath won the replay. Paddy went on to win a second Ulster Junior Football Championship medal in 1954 (losing to Kerry in the All-Ireland final) and played in the 1955 Ulster Senior Championship and National League.

In these 2019 burn-out days it is interesting to note Paddy Coyle's schedule in 1952:

- 9 March 1952... Dr. Lagan Cup v Armagh (Final)
- 16 March 1952... Dr. Lagan Cup v Armagh (replay)
- 23 March 1952... N.F.L. ¼ v Sligo
- 30 March 1952... Ulster J.F.C. v Fermanagh
- 6 April 1952... N.F.L. ½ v Cork
- 20 April 1952... Ulster J.F.C. v Cavan
- 27 April 1952... Dr. McKenna Cup v Tyrone
- 4 May 1952... Ulster J.F.C. Final v Tyrone
- 18 May 1952... Dr. McKenna Cup v Tyrone (replay)

Thug Paddy Coyle seirbhís ar dóigh do Ghaoth Dobhair, do Dhún na nGall, do Chumann Uí Mhathúna, do Bhaile an tSeanascail agus don Mhí. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

### Centurions

Paddy McGrath (before 2019 N.F.L.)

Debut: 30 May 2010 in S.F.C. v An Dún Bealach Féich (came on as sub).

Full debut: 26 June 2010 in S.F.C. v Ard Mhacha. Crois Mhic Linnáin.

	McKenna Cup	N.F.L.	S.F.C.	
2010	-	-	2	2
2011	3	6	6	15
2012	2	6	7	15
2013	-	4	5	9
2014	-	-	6	6
2015	2	7	6	15
2016	3	8	6	17
2017	-	7	5	12
2018	-	2	6	8
	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>99</b>

Martin McElhinney (before 2019 N.F.L.)

Debut: 7 January 2007 in Dr. McKenna Cup v UUJ. Béal Átha Seanaidh (came on as sub).



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Full Debut: 14 January 2007 in Dr. McKenna Cup v Antrim. Casement Park.

	McKenna Cup	N.F.L.	S.F.C.	
2007	2	-	1	3
2008	-	2	-	2
2011	-	8	6	14
2012	-	4	7	11
2013	-	7	5	12
2014	-	7	6	13
2015	3	8	6	17
2016	1	7	6	14
2017	-	3	5	8
2018	1	1	1	3
2019	4			
	<b>11</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>101</b>

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# Dún na nGall



**1**  
Seán Ó Peatáin  
Shaun Patton  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*



**2**  
Conchur Ó Muircheasain  
Conor Morrison  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*



**4**  
Eoghan Bán Ó Gallchóir  
Eoghan Ban Gallagher  
*Na Cealla Beaga*



**3**  
Breandán Mac Cumhaill  
Brendan Mc Cole  
*Naomh Náille*



**5**  
Caolán Mac an Bháird  
Caolan Ward  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*



**7**  
Riain Mac Aodha  
Ryan Mc Hugh  
*Cill Chartha*



**6**  
Éamonn Ó Dochartaigh  
Eamonn Doherty  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*



**8**  
Aodh MacPháidín  
Hugh McFadden  
*Na Cealla Beaga*



**9**  
Mícheál Ó Longaín  
Michael Langan  
*Naomh Mícheál*



**10**  
Niall Ó Domhnaill  
Niall O'Donnell  
*Naomh Adhamhnáin*



**11**  
Ciarán Mac Thomáis  
Ciaran Thompson  
*Naomh Conaill*



**12**  
Caolan Mac Congaill  
Caolan Mc Gonagle  
*Bun Crannacha*



**13**  
Mairtín Ó Raghallaigh  
Marty Reilly  
*Seán Mac Cumhaill*



**14**  
Mairtín Mac Giolla Chainnigh  
Martin Mc Elhinney  
*Naomh Mícheál*



**15**  
Jamie Ó Braonáin  
Jamie Brennan  
*Bun Dobhráin*

## Fir Ionaid

16 Marc Antaine Mac Fhionnghaile	Mark Anthony Mc Ginley	Naomh Mícheál	21 Pól Ó Braonáin	Paul Brennan	Bun Dobhráin
17 Leo Mac Giolla Uain	Leo Mc Loone	Naomh Conaill	22 Oisín Ó Galláin	Oisín Gallen	Seán Mac Cumhaill
18 Deasún Mac Aoidh	Jason Mc Gee	Cloch Cheann Fhaola	23 Eoin Mac Aodha	Eoin Mc Hugh	Cill Chartha
19 Stíofán Mac Meanman	Stephen Mc Menamin	Aodh Rua,	24 Lorcán Ó Conchubhair	Lorcan Connor	Na Dunaibh
		Cúil na nCuirridín	25 Ciarán Ó Duibhir	Ciaran Diver	Bun an Phobail
20 Peadar Ó Mocháin	Peadar Mogan	Naomh Náille	26 Antoin Mac Leannacháin	Tony Mc Clenaghan	Bun an Phobail

Captain: Aodh MacPháidín - Hugh McFadden

	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45	Saor	Ciceanna
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# An Mhí



**1**  
Andriu Ó Colgáin  
Andrew Colgan  
*Domhnach Mór Cill Dhéagláin*



**4**  
Rónán Ó Riain  
Ronan Ryan  
*Druim Samhraidh*



**2**  
Séamus Ó Maoiléimhin  
Seamus Lavin  
*Naomh Peadar Dun Bóinne*



**3**  
Conchur Mac Giolla  
Conor McGill  
*Rath Tó*



**5**  
Séamus Mac on tSaoi  
James McEntee  
*Currach Átha*



**6**  
Dónall Mac Eochagáin  
Donal Keogan  
*Rath Coinnig*



**7**  
Néill Ó Cathain  
Niall Kane  
*Gaeil Baile Shiomóin*



**8**  
Briain Ó Mantáin  
Bryan Menton  
*Domhnach Mór Cill Dhéagláin*



**9**  
Seán Mac on tSaoi  
Shane McEntee  
*N. Peadar Dun Bóinne*



**10**  
Cillian Ó Súilleabháin  
Cillian O'Sullivan  
*Magh nAilbhe*



**11**  
Bericheart Ó Braonáin  
Ben Brennan  
*Naomh Colmcille*



**12**  
Graham Ó Raghallaigh  
Graham Reilly  
*Naomh Colmcille*



**13**  
Dáire Caimpion  
Darragh Campion  
*Scrin*



**14**  
Mícheál Nuaman  
Michael Newman  
*Cill Maignheann*



**15**  
Tómas Ó Raghallaigh  
Thomas O'Reilly  
*Bhulf Tón*

## FIR IONAID

16 Marc Ó Braonáin	Marcus Brennan	Ó Mathúna	22 Seán Tóibín	Seán Tobin	Gaeil Baile Shiomóin
17 Mícheál de Búrca	Michael Burke	Maigh Dearmhaí	23 Íason Ó Scoláí	Jason Scully	Sean Caisleáin
18 Gabhan Mac Aodha	Gavin McCoy	N. Peadar Dun Bóinne	24 Seamus Ó Caoinleáin	James Conlon	Naomh Colmcille
19 Seán Ó Gallachóir	Shane Gallagher	Gaeil Baile Shiomóin	25 Brín Mac Mathúna	Bryan McMahon	Rath Tó
20 Éatan Ó Daimhín	Ethan Devine	Na Fianna	26 Dónall Mac Coinn	Daniel Quinn	Baile na Breacraighe
21 Eoghain Ó Loingsigh	Eóin Lynch	Maigh Dearmhaí			

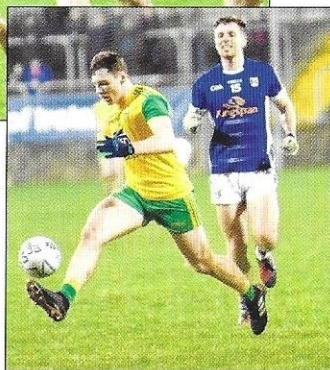
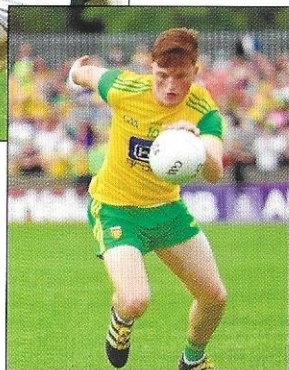
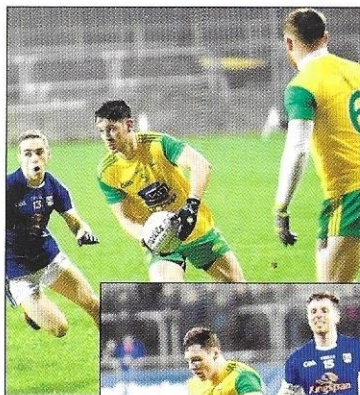
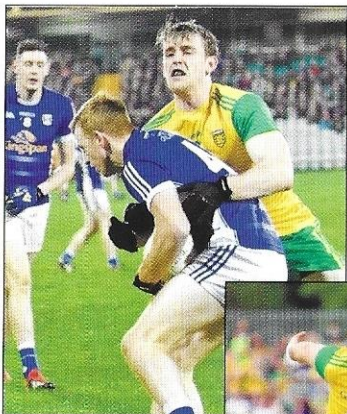
Captains: 8. Briain Ó Mantáin agus 6. Dónall Mac Eochagáin

	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachaí	45	Saor	Ciceanna
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## Donegal in action

Photography Geraldine Diver



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## Brennan hitting the heights again after brilliant 2018

with Peter Campbell, Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat



It can take some time to establish yourself in a county jersey, but in the case of Bundoran's Jamie Brennan, it hasn't taken long.

His star has been on the rise for some time, playing a major role at minor and U-21 level, winning Ulster medals at both age groups.

Also a talented hurler, Brennan could just as easily be playing with the Donegal caman wielders.

He was one of the stars of Donegal's minor success in 2014, which took the county all the way to the All-Ireland minor final, before losing out narrowly to Kerry.

U-21 success came in 2017 when Donegal, under Declan Bonner, won an Ulster final played at the Athletic Grounds, Armagh, and who will forget the part played by Brennan in creating the goal which turned the tie in favour of Donegal. He got on the ball close to the half-way line before taking the ball on soccer style to the 13m line before 'crossing' to Lorcan Connor to fire to the Derry net. The goal came just before half-time and Donegal went on to win by 3-17 to 0-13.

It was an U-21 side that included many of his teammates today, players like Conor Morrison, Stephen McMenamin, Brendan McCole, Eoghan Bán Gallagher, Jason McGee, Michael Langan, Caolan McGonagle, Niall O'Donnell and Tony McClenaghan. And but for Gaioth Dobhair's involvement in the All-Ireland club semi-final, the names of Michael Carroll, Dáire Ó Baoill and Cian Mulligan would be added to that list.

Just goes to show how those minor and U-21 winning teams are now morphing into the Donegal senior squad.

Jamie Brennan's transformation to senior status is now complete. And it has come about through hard work and dedication. Brennan is now a powerful athlete and his direct style is troubling every defence he comes up against.

Early in his senior career, he was forced, at times, to plough a lone furrow up front and it proved difficult, because he didn't have the physical presence to win his own ball. But not now. Brennan is becoming the complete player, not just as a forward, but under the present Donegal

management, he is working all over the field sometimes deep in his own defence.

His scoring stats are improving year on year. In 2018 in the Dr McKenna Cup and League, he was clearly Donegal's second top scorer, amassing a grand total of 3-15, behind Patrick McBrearty, who notched 1-50.

Then in the championship he followed up with 1-7 in the Ulster championship and 0-7 in the Super 8s - an overall scoring total for 2018 of 4-29 - a very good year.

He has hit 1-10 in this year's Dr McKenna Cup (second behind Michael Langan with 0-18) and he has continued that positive trend with 0-3 in his opening National League game on Sunday last

against Clare in Ennis.

Even though he got those scores last week, his reaction was that his own game was not as good as it could be. "Overall, I was a wee bit sloppy in the way I was playing. I was forcing a few balls. So I will have to look at that for the next day and be a bit smarter," said Brennan after the game on Sunday.

"We look to win every game and we knew it would be a dogfight down here. Hopefully we can push on now; we have two big games and then a break," said Brennan.

"It will be nice to get into Ballybofey (to play Meath)," says Brennan, who said he was enjoying his football at the moment. "The games are coming thick and fast, with the IT (Sligo) too. It's all about getting minutes under your belt and it will stand to you in the long run. So, touch wood now, I stay injury free and enjoy it as well."

And Brennan had a warning to those players that have to come back into the squad, when asked if he was looking forward to having Michael Murphy and Patrick McBrearty back alongside him in the forward line. "Definitely. But every man is fighting for his position here and hopefully no man will just hand the jersey back so there will be a good bit of competition within the squad."

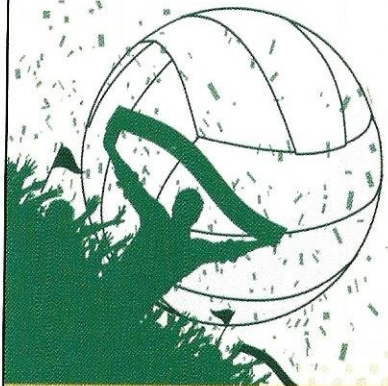
It would take a brave man to take the jersey of Brennan in his present form!



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## West Donegal Tragedy

By Chris McNulty, Donegal Sport Hub

The bells tolled slowly and solemnly, from morning through afternoon, at three Churches, in three neighbouring parishes in west Donegal on Thursday.

The funerals of the four young men, killed in a horrific road traffic accident last Sunday night, brought the areas to a standstill.

The deaths of Mícheál Roarty from Dunlewey, John Harley from Falcarragh, Sean Harkin from Falcarragh and Daniel Scott, from Gortahork sent shockwaves through communities and clubs.

Mícheál Roarty was a member of the Gaoh Dobhair GAA club and has featured at senior and senior reserve level.

In 2011, Roarty was on the Donegal Vocational Schools squad that won the All-Ireland, playing alongside the likes of Ryan McHugh and Patrick McBrearty.

John Harley was Cloughaneely's player of the year in 2017 and had served a time as captain of the Pairc Naomh Fionnan club. He was man of the match when Cloughaneely won the Donegal Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta title against Glenfin in 2017.

Daniel Scott played underage and senior football with Cloughaneely and was set to move to Denmark to begin a new job next week.

Shaun Harkin was a member of the Cloughaneely

golf club and had also played soccer and Gaelic football at school in Pobolscoil Chloich Cheannfhaola, while he, too, had an attachment to the Cloughaneely GAA club.



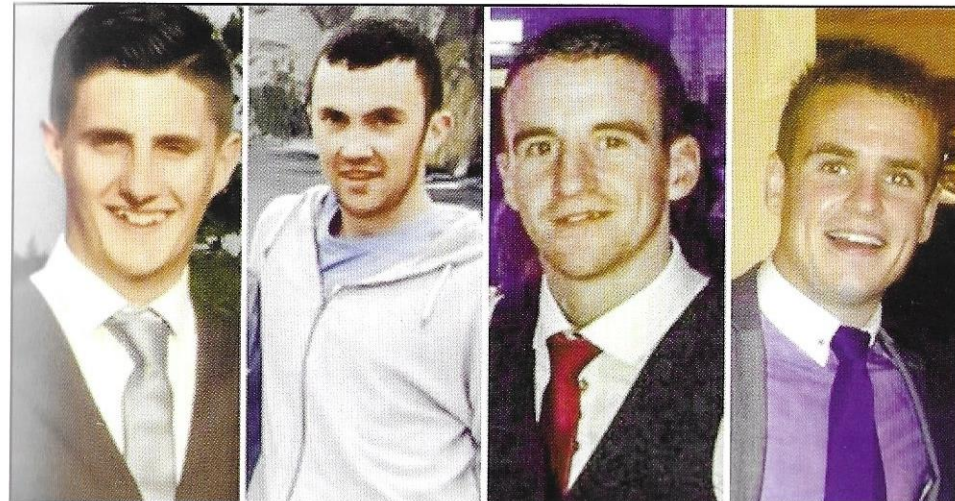
"It is beyond belief," was how Fr Seán Ó Gallchóir, PP Gortahork, put it. "It is just unexplainable, people are bewildered by the whole thing. It is so hard for all of us that such a tragedy could happen."

Clubs, as they do in times of such tragedies, rallied around and provided a source of comfort to both the bereaved and the bemused.

Those haunting Church bells that rang out through a frozen January Thursday will live in the memory.

That black cloud will hang for some time and, for some, may never truly fade, but there can be comfort and consolation from the memories of four young men described by Cllr Seamus Ó Domhnaill, Donegal GAA's Central Council delegate, as 'the perfect example of fine members of the community'.

Ar dheis De go raibh a n-anamacha.





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*Best wishes to the Donegal Team*

## Taking Donegal to the next level

By Chris McNulty, Donegal Sport Hub

DURING Dublin's run to four successive All-Irelands, Stephen Rochford came closer than anyone to clipping their wings.

Rochford's Mayo were within a point of Dublin in the All-Ireland finals of 2016 and 2017 and only losing after a replay in the 2016 version.

When Rochford stepped down as Mayo's manager in August, it was natural that he would have no shortage of suitors, but few – even Rochford himself – expected him to send up in Donegal.

Declan Bonner's initial phone call raised Rochford's intrigue and a couple of meetings in Sligo confirmed that his appetite had been sufficiently whetted to take on the role of head coach at the Ulster champions.

"It was an easy decision because Donegal are one of the top teams out there," Rochford says.

"It wasn't something I had thought about. I spoke to Declan a few times over the course of the year. When these things come in, you have thoughts of being involved with some team or the other.

"I wanted to be involved with a team and that team happened to Donegal.

"Donegal is a great football county and there is a great sense of appetite in the group to improve and learn.

"They're the key ingredients for a formula to progress and I'm looking forward to being a part of it."

Rochford has a three-hour commute from his home in Ballinrobe, in south Mayo, to Donegal's training base in Convoy.

Donegal, then under Jim McGuinness's management were the last team to beat Dublin in the Championship.

Many of the players from the 2014 semi-final are still key spokes on the Donegal wheel.

Since bowing out of the Sam Maguire race following a 'Super 8' defeat to Tyrone,

Bonner has talked of having to take Donegal 'to the next level'.

Rochford is someone Bonner believes can help that push.

"He's an excellent coach and he's an exciting addition," Bonner said of the appointment. "He knows what's there and he's excited, too. We hope to bring it to the next level. We need to step it up."

The 40-year-old's passion is coaching. Rochford took Corofin to an All-Ireland club title in 2015 before leaving to take up the Mayo job.

After losing to Kildare in Newbridge in a highly-charged qualifier last summer, Rochford looked set to remain in Mayo and even had a new backroom team, in the form of Peter Ford and Shane Conway, ready to begin.

However, Rochford stepped down citing that 'the desired level of support for me as manager was not forthcoming from the executive committee'.

Rochford said: "I'm on record saying about my disappointment with how Mayo ended for me. That's water under the bridge for me. My focus now is all about Donegal and helping Donegal to progress to the next level.

"After Mayo, I had committed to being involved with an inter-county team.

"The opportunity came from Declan with a coaching role.

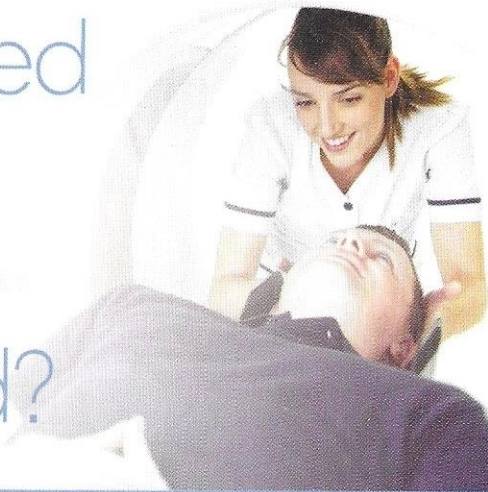
"The call came through, we sat down and it was an easy decision because Donegal are one of the top teams out there.

"They have a lot of quality footballers and I feel I have something to offer. Declan thought likewise. The opportunity to work with these guys was the carrot that was too big to turn down."





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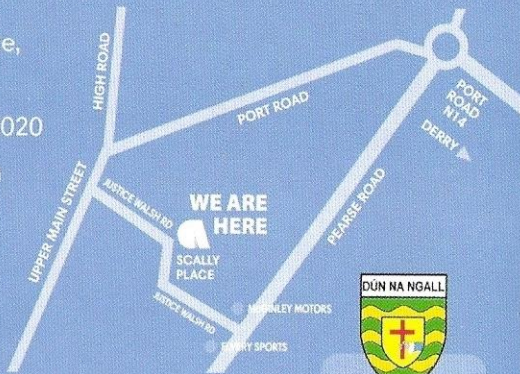


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## DOHERTY SEEKING PROMOTION

by Ryan Ferry, Donegal News

Donegal defender Eamonn Doherty expects Division 2 to be fiercely competitive in 2019. Doherty and his teammates got the campaign off to a positive start with a hard-earned win over Clare last Sunday. Today's opponents Meath also came through a battle against Tipperary, while the other two games in the second tier – Kildare v Armagh and Fermanagh v Cork – both ended in draws. That indicates that there won't be much between the teams in the second tier, and Doherty just hopes that Donegal can secure enough league points to leave themselves in contention for promotion in March. "All the teams are very, very competitive. Nothing is going to be easy," said the St Eunan's clubman, who lined out at left half-back in Ennis. "We were competitive last year in Division 1 and we just came out the wrong side of a few tight, tight games, and I think it's going to be the same this year again. "Hopefully now we can squeeze a few more points out of the next few games and be up towards the top half of the table coming into the last game or two." Doherty has been part of the Donegal panel since 2013, and he was one of the most experienced men in the matchday squad last week. Six of the subs had no previous league experience at all, while only eight members of the first XV in Clare, started the Super 8's clash with Tyrone last August. There was a youthful feel to the team bus, and that is

likely to continue for a few weeks, with Frank McGlynn, Patrick McBrearty, Michael Murphy, and the Gaoth Dobhair contingent all currently unavailable. Doherty said: "There are big, big changes. "We usually play cards on the way down, and we were even worried without a few of them older bucks, would we have enough to play. We did manage to get eight or nine together. "Frank (McGlynn) and Michael (Murphy) and those boys were sitting at home, and there were a few more with them. "The way it is now, these young bucks are putting in the shift, and Frank, Michael, and all the older lads are going to have to get up to pace because these young fellas deserve their game time as well." It took a stunning late point from Patrick McBrearty to separate Donegal and Meath in their last meeting in the championship in 2017. The Royals will be out to avenge that defeat, and Doherty, who is a teacher in St Eunan's College, is expecting a stern test against Andy McEntee's team. "We played Meath a few times even in friendlies during the last few years, and they have always been tough, tough opposition. "They would fancy themselves highly in Leinster, so that's where they are going, and they have targets themselves. "We'll just get the bodies right. It was a tough physical game (against Clare). We'll get back together during the week and focus on Meath on Saturday.



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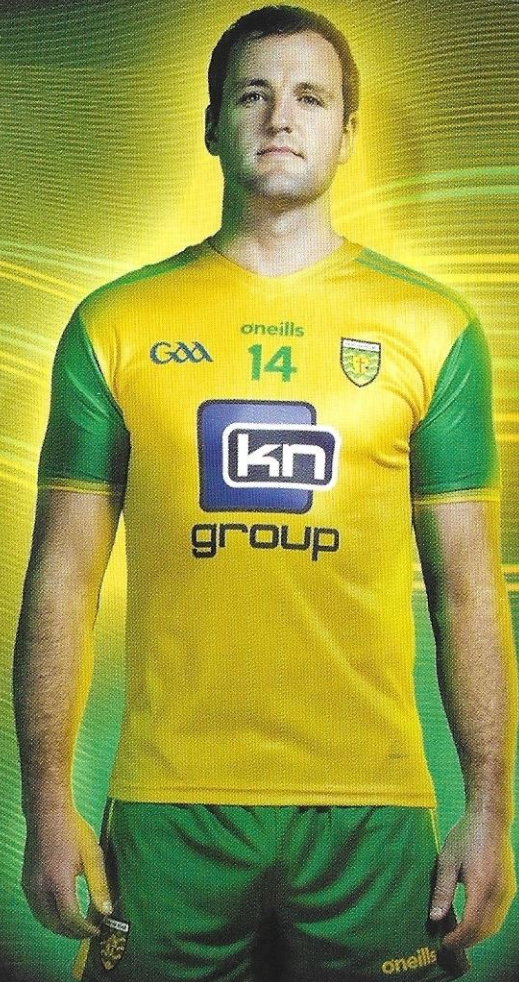
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# Donegal strike late to add another

DONEGAL ..... 1-13  
MEATH ..... 0-14

BY RYAN FERRY

DONEGAL staged a stirring second half comeback to defeat Meath on Saturday night and collect two valuable points.

It wasn't looking good for the first hour of the match, as Meath appeared to be the fitter and sharper team, and they established a four-point lead.

However, just like last week in Clare, Declan Bonner's inexperienced men didn't panic, and they forced their way back into the match.

Caolan McGonagle netted a fortuitous goal, and that brought the home side to within one point of their opponents.

Meath were excellent up until that point, but they couldn't live with Donegal in the closing exchanges.

Ciaran Thompson levelled proceedings, and late points from Eoin McHugh and Jamie Brennan sealed the victory.

It was a bitterly cold night in Ballybofey for the match, and there was some doubt if the fixture would go ahead, but the pitch passed an inspection an hour beforehand.

Donegal manager Declan Bonner made three changes from the team that defeated Clare six days previously, with Martin McElhinney, Martin O'Reilly, and Mark Anthony McGinley coming in for Paul Brennan, Jason McGee, and Shaun Patton, who dropped out.

There were poignant scenes before the match as tributes were paid to Shaun Harkin, John Harley, Daniel Scott, and Micheal Roarty who tragically died last week, and a minute's silence was impeccably observed.

Meath arrived in Ballybofey with confidence after a good opening day win over Tipperary.

However, they were slow starting against Donegal, and Bonner's team dominated their kick-outs and possession early on.

Jamie Brennan notched the home side's first score, and Ciaran Thompson curled over a beauty in the fifth minute.

Mickey Newman settled the Royals with a free, before Shane McEntee levelled matters after a



Donegal's Martin McElhinney in possession against Meath.

fine team move. Donegal lost their way and over elaboration saw a number of promising attacks break down.

Meath were more clinical and they moved two in front after Darragh Campion and Niall Kane found their range.

Bonner's side were having great difficulty in breaking down their well-drilled opponents, although Thompson did get through to score Donegal's first point in 13 minutes.

Campion found the space to pop

over another point, before Martin O'Reilly converted a mark after receiving a pass from Michael Langan.

However, Donegal were really struggling to contain Meath's runners, and dangerous wing-back James McEntee popped up to score a point.

Michael Langan reduced his side's deficit to one point with a wonder score in the 23rd minute.

However, they couldn't build on that effort and Meath's other marauding wing-back Kane drove forward to kick his second point of the match.

Thompson landed a tricky free for Donegal, before they had a goal chance in the 30th minute but Michael Langan blazed wide off his weaker left foot after he left his marker for dead.

Bonner's side did draw level when Thompson kicked a free, but they were constantly over-run at the back, and Ethan Devine nudged Meath back in front, and they led by the minimum at the break.

Donegal kept their opponents waiting in the cold after half-time, and they started the second half quickly

with Niall O'Donnell curling over a free after Jamie Brennan was fouled.

However, Meath were sharp and they responded with scores from Bryan Menton and Newman (free).

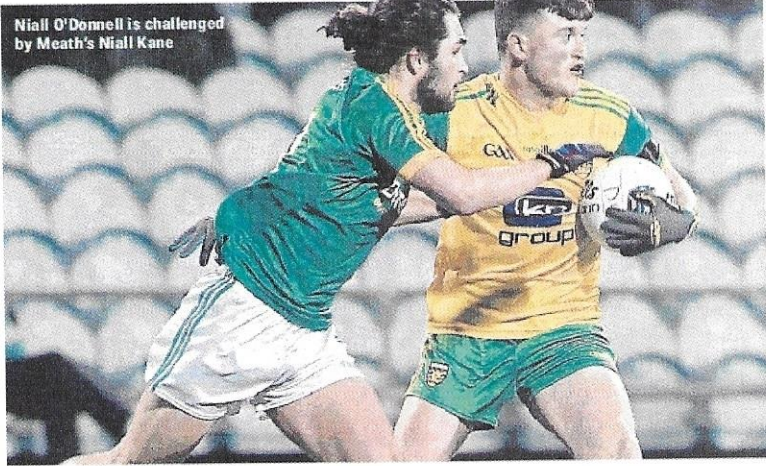
Donegal's passing wasn't crisp, but Meath's was and they pressed home their dominance with points from Shane McEntee and Newman.

That left the home team four points in arrears, although Niall O'Donnell did slot over from an acute angle off his left foot.

James McEntee and



Donegal's Ciaran Thompson is closed down by Meath's Donal Keogan.



Niall O'Donnell is challenged by Meath's Niall Kane



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# vital two points to the board

O'Donnell (free) traded points, but Meath weren't passing up many opportunities and Caolan landed another superb effort in the 54th minute.

Donegal needed a goal to get them back into the match and one fortuitously arrived in the 59th minute.

There was little on as Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher held possession so he decided to punt the ball in towards the edge of the square, where Hugh McFadden was positioned.

McFadden couldn't collect and neither could the Meath defence, and the onrushing Caolan McGonagle forced the ball through the legs of Andrew Colgan and into the net.

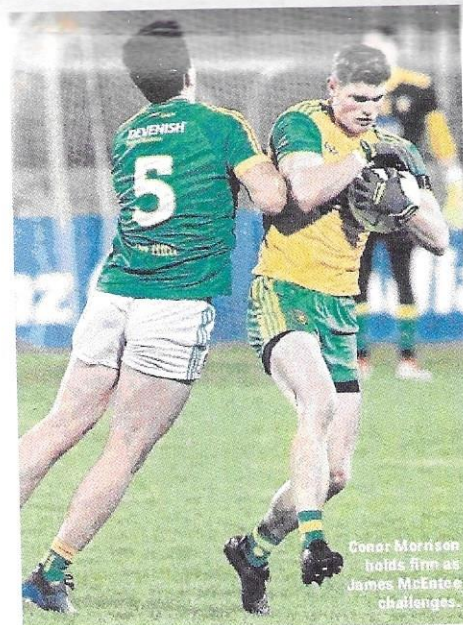
That was a huge lifeline for Donegal, and they drew level when Ciaran Thompson curled over in the 61st minute.

Donegal had all the momentum at that stage, but they couldn't take advantage and kicked three bad wides.

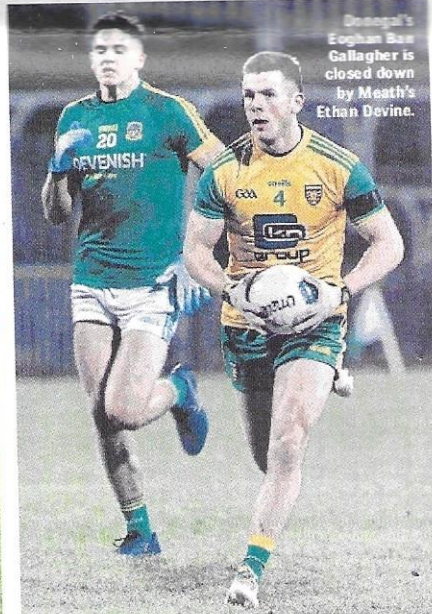
Meath ran out of steam and Bonner's men finished strongly. Eoin McHugh came off the bench to fire over a great point off his left foot.

Donegal then played keep ball for long periods of the allocated injury-time before Jamie Brennan lofted over an insurance point, and Bonner's side survived one last attack before holding on for victory.

Donegal's Hugh McFadden runs away from Meath's Ben Brennan.



Conor Morrison holds firm as James McEntee challenges.



Donegal's Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher is closed down by Meath's Ethan Devine.

## THE GAME AT A GLANCE

WITH RYAN FERRY IN MACCUMHAILL PARK

### MAN OF THE MATCH

Caolan McGonagle (Donegal) The big Buncrana man had a great outing and scored the crucial goal. However, there was much more than that to his game as he made a timely block and was also good in the aerial exchanges. Ciaran Thompson and Caolan Ward impressed as well, while Stephen McMenamin was good off the bench. Meath had fine displays from James and Shane McEntee, Darragh Campion, and Niall Kane.

### THE WHISTLER

It was a clean game of football and Jerome Henry only brandished one yellow card, and even that was a slightly harsh one to Donal Keoghan. There were some questionable calls, but all in all, the Castlebar referee had a good outing.

### TURNING POINT

It looked like Donegal were on course for defeat before Caolan McGonagle bundled in a goal in the 59th minute. It was a fortunate break, but Meath failed to score after that and the home side kept their composure.

### TALKING POINT

Donegal's new-look team showed fantastic character to come back and grab two points from a game that appeared gone. They did struggle for large periods of the game, and that is sure to be a worry for the management team. But it's worth remembering that Meath were pretty much at full tilt. Declan Bonner will be happy with how the team are doing, and the likes of Brendan McCole and Caolan McGonagle are really grasping their opportunity, and that could lead to selection headaches for the Donegal bainisteoir down the line.

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Donegal will aim to make it three wins from three games when they travel to take on Tipperary in Thurles next Sunday.

## TEAMS

Donegal: Mark Anthony McGinley; Caolan Ward, Brendan McCole, Conor Morrison; Eoghan 'Ban' Gallagher, Ryan McHugh, Eamonn Doherty; Hugh McFadden, Caolan McGonagle (1-0); Ciaran Thompson (0-5, 2fs), Martin McEhinney, Michael Langan (0-1); Niall O'Donnell (0-3, 2fs), Jamie Brennan (0-2), Martin O'Reilly (0-1, 1m). Subs: Leo McCone for Langan (Half-time), Jason McGee and Stephen McMenamin for O'Reilly and McEhinney (45 mins), Eoin McHugh (0-1) for Doherty (67 mins), Paul Brennan for O'Donnell (75 mins).

Meath: Andrew Colgan; Seamus Lavin, Conor McGill, Ronan Ryan; James McEntee (0-2), Donal Keoghan, Niall Kane (0-2); Bryan Menton (0-1), Shane McEntee (0-2); Ben Brennan, Darragh Campion (0-3), Ethan Devine (0-1); Bryan McMahon, Mickey Newman (0-3, 2fs), Thomas O'Reilly. Subs: Cillian O'Sullivan for Brennan (Half-time), Graham Reilly for Devine (47 mins), James Conlon for McMahon (55 mins), Jason Scullion for Campion (67 mins), Mickey Burke for Newman (72 mins).

Referee: Jerome Henry (Mayo)



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