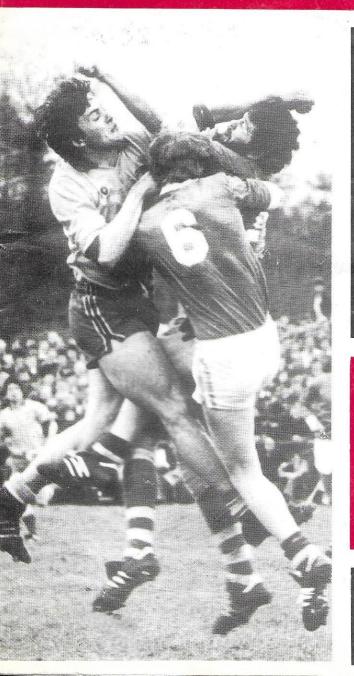


# FORD-G.A.A. OPEN DRAW



Fr. Tierney Park,
Ballyshannon
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1985

# DONEGAL v LAOIS

3.00 p.m.

**CHALLENGE MATCH:** 

**Donegal Minors** 

V

Donegal Voc. Schools

1.30 p.m.

SOUVENIR MATCH PROGAMME 50p



# FÁILTE

The Aodh Ruadh G.A.A. Club joins with Donegal County Board C.L.G. in extending a céad míle fáilte to the Laois team and their supporters. A special mention is in order for the loyal band of supporters who stuck with the Donegal county senior team during the ups and downs of the recently completed Division II National Football League campaign.

The Aodh Ruadh Park Committee welcomes this first inter-county championship fixture for many years to Fr. Tierney Park. The Committee thanks all those who have taken

grounds advertisements, the 'Donegal Democrat' staff, those who have contributed to the programme at very short notice and the firms who have advertised in the programme.

G.A.A. followers are urged to give continued support to those loyal individuals and businesses who give much needed financial support to G.A.A. activities through their sponsorship and advertising.

Gerard McDermott, Aodh Ruadh P.R.O., Programme Editor.

#### COVER PHOTO-

"It takes three to tango" as Anthony Molloy (left) tangles with Eoin "Bomber" Liston and John Higgins (No. 6) during last year's Centenary Open Draw game between Kerry and Donegal.

## Forthcoming Inter-County Fixtures

MARCH 31 or APRIL 7

DR. McKENNA CUP Donegal v. Derry

APRIL 14

U-21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP Donegal v. Armagh

MAY 10

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP Donegal v. Derry

MAY 19

SENIOR & MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP Donegal v. Down

MAY 22

JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP Donegal v. Derry

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# Laois Introduce New Faces

Although one rung lower in the National Football League ladder, Laois have lately had a lot in common with their opponents of today, Donggal

While Donegal were ensuring themselves of another season in Division II in their play-off against Louth last Sunday, Laois were likewise engaged at Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow, in a Division III relegation tussle with Wicklow, which they also won.

#### By MICHAEL DALY

This is where the similarity between the sides ends. Laois P.R.O., Pat Delaney, confides they know little to nothing about contemporary Donegal football.

However, he adds, they have "far from fond memories of a wet and wintry day in Longford when our Under-21's were defeated by Donegal in the 1982 All-Ireland Under-21 Championship semi-final".

Accordingly, the Laois view is that today they will meet a Donegal side backboned by those same All-Ireland winning players. This assumption is correct and it follows that, as far as Laois are concerned they are pitted against formidable opposition.

Laois's preparation has been far from ideal. Their only meeting to discuss rather than train for today's game was held last Tuesday evening. Emerging from that meeting both players and officials agreed that Laois would treat this clash as a forum for experiment.

Conscious of the fact that neighbours and Leinster Championship opponents, Carlow, have made it to the quarter-finals of the National League, which affords Carlow ideal preparation for the Championship, Laois now intend to introduce some new faces, hopefully tempering new talent for their 1985 Championship campaign.

To Donegal-based observers, Laois are an unknown quantity. However, here in Meath they have proved a force to be reckoned with in the last year.

In last year's Centenary Cup, Meath were lucky to beat Laois by a three-point margin. This proved Meath's most difficult game even



Sean Dempsey (Laois)

though they eventually won the competition outright.

Again playing Meath, it was in the Leinster Championship semi-final of 1984 that Laois really showed their worth. On the day they played some marvellous football only to be thwarted in the dying minutes by a brilliant Colm O'Rourke goal.

Re-assuring for Donegal is the news that Laois's best player that day and one of their stars for a number of years, midfielder John Costelloe will not line out on Sunday because of his recent emigration to America.

Despite this set-back Laois are not without star players, the Browne brothers Colm and Gerry and solid corner back Michael Drennan have all done their stint on the inter-provincial circuit.

Team manager Kieran Brennan, a county and Leinster veteran, is an experienced reader of the game, while his assistant, Bill Phelan has also proven his calibre having guided reigning county champions, Portlaoise to three county titles and a prestigious All-Ireland Club title in 1982

Michael Daly is Gaelic Games correspondent with the "Meath Weekender"

#### Brendan Dunleavy—Superstar

There were few Donegal fans who didn't sit glued to their television sets cheering on Brendan Dunleavy in the "Milk Superstars" event which was recently screened on RTE.

Brendan did Donegal proud as he qualified from his heat for the final and then finished a very creditable fifth. The event was won by canoeist Alan Bates from Enniskillen who went on to finish second in the World Superstars final.

#### By TOM DALY

Since taking part, Brendan has been extolling the virtues of the "Superstars" competition which he sees as an important milestone in the development of sport in Ireland.

"I enjoyed taking part as it is rare for a Gaelic footballer to get an opportunity to pit his skill and athleticism in a competitive setting against athletes from different sporting backgrounds", he said.

There are those who will wonder if being a Gaelic footballer was a hindrance to him in such a varied competition but Brendan maintains that it wasn't.

"The most important attributes required for the "Superstars" are upper body strength and speed. The water sports participants would have a slight edge in this regard but I don't think it is significant.

"I would have liked more time to prepare as I had only four weeks prior notice of the event, but then that applied to everybody. Fortunately I had a lot of stamina work done and it was a matter of working on the cycling and the weight-lifting techniques. I even practiced the basketball".

Today, Brendan will be one of the men Donegal will be looking for to for inspiration and a place in the next round of the Open Draw Championship. Brendan feels that the Open Draw idea has great possibilities but that it is threatened with disaster because some counties have opted out.

Brendan, although based in Dublin, still plays for his home club, Sean MacCumhaills with whom he won a Senior County Championship in 1977. He has picked up many honours in the game including Ulster Championship, Sigerson Cup, Leinster and All-Ireland Club Championship medals.

An Open Draw Championship medal would go down very well in the Dunleavy collection and there can be no doubt that Brendan will be going all out to produce another superstar performance today against Laois.



Brendan Dunleavy being interviewed during the Milk Superstars by RTE's Jimmy Magee.

## QUIZ

- 1—Name the Laois-born player who played senior football and hurling for Donegal in the '60's.
- 2—Name the cup presented to the winners of the All-Ireland Minor Football Championship.
- 3—What was unusual about Donegal winning the McKenna Cup in 1965?
- 4—Since the Railway Cup started in 1927, how many titles have Ulster won?
- 5—What club won the Donegal Senior Football Championship in Centenary Year, 1984?
- 6—Name the Laois players who played against Ulster in the 1985 Railway Cup football game in Croke Park.
- 7—Name the winners of the Special Centenary Cup Hurling Competition (1984). Who were runners-up?
- 8—Who captained Donegal to win the 1984 Vocational All-Ireland Football Championship?
- 9—Name Donegal's three All-Stars.
- 10—Who captained Donegal to win the All-Ireland U-21 Football Championship in 1982?
- 11—What year was the record attendance at an All-Ireland Senior Football Final?
- 12—What is the highest recorded score in an inter-county Senior Hurling Championship match?
- 13—Name the only Donegal man to referee an All-Ireland Senior Football Final.
- 14—Name the Sligo player to have the second highest scoring total of all time in an intercounty Football Championship match.

- 15—Name the Tyrone player who scored 5-11 in a Dr. Lagan Cup match in 1956.
- 16—Name the only G.A.A. player to win three Texaco Football Awards.
- 17—Only two goalies have won Texaco Hurling Awards. Who are they?
- 18—How many Ulster Junior Football Championships have Donegal won?
- 19—Has Donegal ever won an Ulster Senior Hurling Championship?
- 20—When did Laois last win the Leinster Senior Football Championship?
- 21—Name the Kilkenny handballers who won seven All-Ireland Senior Handball Singles Championships in a row.
- 22—What counties did the following former handballers represent: 1—Paddy Downey; 2—Joey Maher; 3—Seamus McCabe; 4—Tom McGarry.
- 23—What county has won the greatest number of All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championships? How many have they won?
- 24—Name the Donegal inter-county player who plays for Walterstown (Co. Meath).
- 25—What counties did the following footballers and hurlers represent (dual stars):
  1—Lar Foley; 2—Denis Coughlan; 3—Micheal "Babs" Keating; 4—Des Ferguson?

Quiz compiled by P. J. Buggy. Remember Aodh Ruadh Quiz takes place each Tuesday night. See "Donegal Democrat" for details.

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	DONAL REID Red Hugh's	and the same of th	SEANIE McENIFF Bundoran		
	BRENDAN DUNLEAVY Sean MacCumhaills	6	PAURIC FARRAGHER Four Masters		
	MICHAEL CARR Kilcar	7	BARRY CUNNINGHAM Killybegs		
	ANTHONY MOLLOY Ardara	8	PAURIC GALLAGHER Naomh Brid		
	MICHAEL LAFFERTY Sean MacCumhaills	9	JOHN BOYLE Killybegs		
	JOYCE McMULLAN Four Masters	10			
	EUNAN GALLAGHER Aodh Ruadh	1/			
	MICHAEL GALLAGHER Naomh Columba	12			
	MARTIN McHUGH Kilcar	13			
	SEAMUS BONNER Civil Service				

Referee: Damien Campbell (Fermanagh)

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No.

FIRST HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
DONEGAL	8	Ÿ.	10 10 10 10 M	
LAOIS				100

Challenge game:
Donegal Minors
vs.
Donegal Voc. Schools

SECOND HALF	GOALS	POINTS	WIDES	45's
DONEGAL				
LAOIS				

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#### **Too Close For Comfort**

By JOHN BROMLEY ("Donegal Democrat")

Donegal head into the Open Draw competition secure in the knowledge that they have retained their Division II National Football League status for another season. But they came too close for comfort to dropping back into Division III and the relief of avoiding that fate is tempered with disappointment that such should have been the position.

Everybody knew it was going to be tough in Division II and that there were going to be no easy matches. Yet Donegal proved that they were just as good as any of the other teams in the Division and the disappointment stems from the fact that they still ended up having to play off with Louth last Sunday to avoid relegation.

Perhaps we were also lulled into overambitious expectations by the encouraging start. The first game away to Roscommon produced a valuable away point, which could have been two but for the "slow" watch of Offaly referee, Jody Gunning and a fine piece of acting by Dermot Earley. However, a draw was all Donegal deserved in a match which showed them that they could expect a much tougher brand of football in Div. II.

The situation began to look even brighter two weeks later at Ballyshannon when the players came into the match against Mayo with a point to prove after the American trip dispute and turned in a dashing, determined performance to score a convincing eight-points victory.

A week later though, things began to turn sour. Donegal travelled to Tullamore in confident mood, particularly considering that Offaly hadn't fared too well in their opening games. However, in the opening half they paid they former All-Ireland champions too much respect and trailed 1-6 to 0-3 at half-time. They caught themselves on in the second half but had left too much to do and lost by two points.

On the following Sunday there was a home game against Monaghan at Ballybofey but this proved the most comprehensive defeat of all. Donegal started well and went four points up in the first eight minutes but Monaghan took over after that and were not flattered by the four points they had to spare at the end. For the first time relegation rather than promotion was spoken of.

However, depressing thoughts were pushed to one side in the excitement generated by the visit of All-Ireland finalists Dublin to Ballybofey the next weekend. Donegal rose to the occasion with a brave performance but a lapse in concentration allowed Barney Rock in for a goal two minutes from the end to give the Dubs a two-point win.

That left Donegal going into the Christmas break knowing that they really had a fight on their hands to avoid relegation. Of the two games remaining the first, against Louth, seemed on form to be the easier, even though it was in Dundalk. Donegal, however, turned in a pathetic display to lose a game in which they led by a point with seconds remaining. Louth equalised from a free just on time, which was moved in after Brendan Dunleavy argued, and added two more in injury time.

Most supporters were now resigned to Division III but the following Sunday at Ballyshannon they were pleasantly surprised by a spirited performance which completely overwhelmed promotion-chasing Wexford. That win combined with Louth's defeat by Dublin resulted in the play-off which gave Donegal their escape route from relegation.

So Donegal are still in Division II and it is true that over the past couple of seasons the team have shown that they play better in the summer than in the winter but the unavailability of several established players exposed the worrying lack of reserve strength and there are a few positions, particularly in attack, where new players are needed, if Donegal are to make an impact at national level.

## Win £25

You could win £25 in the Aodh Ruadh Park Committee's match programme draw if the number on the front of this programme corresponds with the number which will be announced at half-time during the Donegal v. Laois game.

You can claim your prize by presenting your winning programme at the Committee Room after the game.

# Gary Gets His Chance

Every Donegal supporter will wish Noel McCole a speedy recovery from his recent unfortunate injury. Since Noel made his county senior debut in the replay of the 1974 Ulster Championship final, he has given sterling service to his native county.

For his understudy, Gary Walsh from Aodh Sunday's game will mark a milestone in his career. This will be the first time that he starts an important game for the county senior team. He played in last year's Ulster Senior Championship v. Armagh replacing the injured McCole during the game and did a similar role when Noel was injured in last Sunday's game against Louth.

Gary won county minor and U-21 championship medals with Aodh Ruadh in 1981 and '82. He has been first choice goalie for the club senior team since 1982. He has vet to win a county senior football championship medal but has high hopes for Aodh Ruadh in

He must have created some sort of record in 1983 when he played for his county in minor, U-21, junior and senior. Gary won an Ulster



Garv Walsh

Minor League medal in 1982 and a senior medal as understudy to Noel McCole in 1983.

The future for Gary Walsh seems bright and when Noel McCole, finally, hangs up his boots, he should play for his county for many years. To date 1985 has been a good year for him.

Shrewd Donegal-born coach Michael Breslin installed him as captain of Sligo Regional College senior team and Gary obliged by leading his team to a historic win in the Higher Education Division II League final against Trinity.

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THE COMMUNICATION CORD by By Brian Friel

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# Donegal's Proud Record In Railway Cup

When Ulster won the 1983 Railway Cup final, five Donegal men were part of that victorious panel, while another Donegal man, Brian McEniff, was manager of the team. For the record, Michael Carr, Michael Lafferty and Martin McHugh started the final, Tommy McDermott came on as a sub. and Des Newton was also a member of the panel. This is the most recent in the line of a number of fine achievements by Donegal men in the Railway Cup series.

#### By P.J. BUGGY

This competition commenced in 1927 and Donegal were represented by Charlie McDyer on that historic occasion. Charlie from Kilraine, Glenties, played full back against Munster and ended up on the losing side by 1-8 to 3-1.

When Ulster finally won their first Railway Cup in 1942 the records show that Donegal was represented by Hudie Beag Gallagher from Gweedore, while Aodh Ruadh Ballyshannon's "Red Jack" Gallagher was a sub. Columba McDyer, a native of Donegal, was also on the team, but was representing Cavan at the time.

One of Donegal's biggest representations on an Ulster Railway Cup team was in the 1967 final, when they were defeated by Connacht by 1-9 to 0-11. The following Donegal men played in that final: Seamus Hoare (St. Eunans), Bernard Brady (Bundoran), P.J. Flood (Pettigo), Michael McLoone (Aodh Ruadh, Ballyshannon), Mickey Griffin (Round Towers, Dublin), and Sean Ferriter (St. Eunans).

Seamus Hoare with four medals won in 1964, '65, '66 and '68 is the Donegal player with the highest number of medals.

Ballyshannon's Martin Carney played in Railway Cup finals with three teams. He failed to win medals with Ulster in 1975 and Connacht in 1982 but won his only medal when the Combined Universities played in and won their only Railway Cup in 1973.

### Ford-GAA Open **Draw Football** Competition

The 1985 Ford-GAA Open Draw competition has been organised as a result of the very successful Centenary Open Draw competition which was held last year.

This year 28 teams have entered for the football competition, the absentees being Down, Dublin, Kildare and Offaly.

Because of the withdrawals it has been necessary for a preliminary round to be played. Four games are being played today, March 3, and the winners will go into the draw for the first round proper which will take place on March 10. The second round is fixed for March 31, the quarter-finals for April 15, the semifinals for April 21 and the final is on May 5.

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#### **QUIZ ANSWERS**

1, The late Des Houlihane from Mountmellick. He won Lagan Cup medals with Donegal in '65, '66 & '67. 2, The Tom Markham Cup. 3, They won it on a walk-over as Cavan scratched from the final. 4, Seventeen (Leinster have eighteen). 5, Four Masters (Donegal Town). 6, Mick Drennan, Gerry and Chris Browne. 7, Winners - Cork; runners-up, Laois. 8, Patrick Gallagher (Ardara). 9, Brian McEniff, Donal Monaghan and Martin McHugh. 10, Brian Tuohy (Aodh Ruadh). 11, 1961, Down v. Offaly (90,556). 12, Nicky Rackard scored 7-7 for Wexford v. Antrim in the 1954 All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park. 13, Sean O'Cinneide from

Dungloe, who refereed the 1962 final between Dublin and Galway. 14, Surprise, not Micky Kearns. Mattie Hoey scored 3-8 v. London in 1978 at Sligo, 15, Frankie Donnelly. The match was played in Pomeroy against Fermanagh. 16, Jack O'Shea (Kerry), 1980, 1981, 1984. 17, Ollie Walsh (1967), and Noel Skehan (1982). 18, Five - 1930, 1933, 1939, 1952 and 1954, 19. Yes they have won three - 1906, 1923 and 1932. 20, 1946. They defeated Kildare by 0-11 to 1-6, 21, J. J. Gilmartin (Kilkenny) - 1936 to 1942 inclusive. 22, 1, Kerry; 2, Louth; 3, Monaghan; 4, Limerick, 23, Dublin have won 26 (including the 1984 title). 24, Paddy Carr. 25, 1, Dublin; 2, Cork; 3, Tipperary; 4, Dublin.

#### JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

Laois won the 1973 Junior All-Ireland Football final defeating London by 0-12 to 1-8. This was the last Junior Championship played until the competition was revived in 1983. Portlaoise's Eamon Whelan captained that team to victory.

#### CLASSIC CLASH

The Centenary year senior championship final in Laois saw the classic clash of a small rural club, Ballyroan with the established town side, Portlaoise. In a keenly contested final it ended up all square, requiring a replay to record eventual victory for Portlaoise.

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