

Best wishes and every success to Brian and the Boys on Sunday

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Ba mhaith liom "Faire na Fáilte" a chuir roimh gach duine go Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill inniu. Fáiltim go speisialta roimh na peileadoirí, na h-oifigí agus lucht leanúna Chill Dara atá linn inniu. Tá míle fáilte roimh ár lucht leanúna féin atá anseo ó gach aird den tír. Tugaim míle buíochas díbh as an tacaíocht a thug sibh don fhuireann le ceithre mhí

On behalf of Coiste Chontae Dhún na nGall I welcome you all here to-day. I extend a special welcome to the footballers, officers and supporters from Kildare. In welcoming Kildare I particularly welcome your team manager Mick O'Dwyer. Mick has graced the playing fields, as a player and manager for many a year. I thank him for the great work

that he was done for Association for so long. What a year! "Is it true?" Yes, we are the All-Ireland champions. In this historic year we want to welcome all our followers to Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill to our first competitive match after the All-Ireland. I want to thank you sincerely for all the support you have given us this last four months. I ask you to continue to give our history makers that marvellous support and give them a rousing welcome when they appear on the pitch to-

At the start of a new campaign it is only fitting that I wish our team manager Brian McEniff every success in the forthcoming



league series. I thank him for agreeing to stay on for another year. He deserves great honour and credit for his tremendous work in bringing Sam to Donegal. Indeed all our panel of players, trainer, and mentors deserve our thanks for the magnificent effort and work they have put in to achieve our ultimate goal, that of All-Ireland champions. I wish them all

the best in to-day's match.

As a curtain raiser to-day, we have the Senior Hurling League final between Burt and Naomh Mura. Both of these clubs are the leading hurling clubs in the county, having already met in this year's County Final. The stronger Burt team were victorious on that occasion but if the young Naomh Mura team play like they did that day we could be in for a shock. If Sunday's match is anything like the County Final we are in for a cracker.

A special word of thanks to Co. P.R.O. Ken Dooley for all his fine work in preparing to-

day's programme.

Beir bua agus beannacht. Niall MacCumhaill, Cathaoirleach Coiste Contae C.L.C.G.

AN REITEOIR

SÉAMUS PRIOR, Leitrim

Séamus played his football with his native Aughnasheelin in Co. Leitrim where he was regarded as a very useful forward. Since taking up refereeing he has become well-known, not only in Connaught and the North-West generally, but also nationally, being the All-Stars referee to the U.S. last year and refereeing the Senior All-Ireland Football semifinal in 1988 between Monaghan and Cork.

He also handled the Minor All-Ireland Football final in 1987 between Cork and Down.



BUIOCHAS

A special word of thanks to the many people who contributed articles and items, for their time I thank you most sincerely.

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- County Board P.R.O., Ken Dooley.



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Fáilte a Chill Dara

Le: PÓL Ó GALLCHÓIR, Raidió na Gaeltachta

Is é seo an ceathrú uair do fhoirne an lae inniu castáil ar a chéile san tSraith Náisiúnta Peile agus níl ach beirt imreoirí ó fhoireann '92 Thír Chonaill a d'imir sna cluichí ar fad.

Chas na foirne ar a chéile ar an Droichead Nua i 1986 agus bhí an lá leis an fhoireann baile le ceithre phoinnte. B'iad Barra Ó Cuinneagáin agus Déaglán Ó Cnáimhsí a bhí i lár páirce an lá sin, agus bhí Seoighe Mac Maoláin ag imirt mar leath thosach.

An bhliain dár gceann, chas na foirne ar a chéile i mBéal Átha Féich agus bhain na Conallaigh le seacht bpoinnte. Bhí Déaglán Rua ag imirt sa choirneál ar an lá sin agus Mac Maoláin mar leath thosach arís.

Chas na foirne ar a chéile arís i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i gcluiche leath cheannais na sraithe in 1991 agus bhí an lá le Cill Dara le aon phoinnte amháin. Bhí Déaglán Rua ar an daichead slat an lá sin agus Mac Maoláin sa choirneál. Tá rud amháin aisteach faoi na cluichí ar fad. Scóráil Tír Chonaill cúl agus deich bpoinnte i ngach cluiche.

Inniu cuireann muid tús le bliain eile agus le feachtas eile. Tá an Sam bainte againn, ach tá tábhachtach do na himreoirí agus don lucht tacaíochta go mbeadh muid ag imirt sa Roinn is airde agus caithfidh muid baint go rialta le sin a chinntiú.

Anois caithfidh muid súil siar ar an bhliain pheile seo. Seo chugaibh deich gceist bunaithe ar na cluichí i bpeil shinsir a himríodh in 1992 amháin agus ag fágáil cluichí dushláine agus cluiche an lae inniu as an áireamh — mar sin an tSraith, Corn Mhic Cionnaith agus an Chraobh in 1992.

- 1. Cé mhéid cluiche a d'imir Tír Chonail i mbliana?
- 2. Ainmnigh an bheirt a d'imir i ngach cluiche?
- 3. Cén cluiche nár imir Gearóid Breathnach ann?
- 4. Chaill Máirtín O Gaifeacháin cluiche amháin cén cluiche?
- 5. Cén t-imreoir arb é cluiche ceannais na hÉireann an taon chluiche ar imir sé i mbliana?
- Chaill Antoin Ó Luag cluiche amháin fosta cén ceann?
- 7. Cén cluiche amháin nár imir Máirtín Mac Aodha ann?
- 8. Scóráil Antoin Ó Baoill i ngach cluiche ach amháin cluiche amháin. Cén cluiche?
- Cén cluiche Craoibhe nár imir Barra Ó Cuinneagáin ann?
- 10. Chaill Máirtín Ó Shoibhleáin dhá chluiche Craoibhe. Cén dá chluiche?

Níl na freagraí agam díbh inniu — ach beidh ar Dhiallann Fómhair maidin Dé Máirt seo chugainn ar Raidió na Gaeltachta ag 11.02. Glaoigh isteach leis an freagraí agus beidh £50 ag dul don chéad duine leis na freagraí cearta. Glaoigh orainn 075-31244 Dé Máirt seo chugainn.

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REPORT TO TACKSON'S FOR POST MORTEM

Good luck to both teams

Open up on the open draw

By: CLEM RYAN (Head of Sport CKR FM)

Firstly I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Donegal players, mentors and supporters on the county's mangificent achievement this year. I think that it's fair to say that no one (not even the defeated Dubs) begrudged Donegal its All-Ireland title — not just from sentiment, but for the admirable style and clinical performance in the final which banished any ideas of a title won by default or any of the myriad excuses advanced by the "chosen few" who might deem Sam their preserve.

I suppose that at this juncture some consideration of the Open Draw is apt. Even the most implacable must agree that the Open Draw has in the last two seasons invigorated the interest and the action in Munster and Leinster. Who can forget the marvellous Meath/Dublin saga of '91; the shock and sheer goodwill engendered by Clare's Munster final victory this year, not forgetting, of course, the waves of football madness which swept Kildare prior to this year's Leinster football final

But, I am not a proponent of the Open Draw because of the oft quoted "it helps the weaker counties" (although, it does enhance the chances of Cork and Kerry, who according to Clare supporters, at least, are now in the above category). The Open Draw should be universal in national G.A.A. championships simply because inherent in the concept is that all teams are treated equally. The "traditional" closed seeded draw favours the stronger counties because by keeping them apart in the earlier rounds it minimises the risk to which they should be exposed. And, ultimately, all competitions should be decided on the playing field (notwithstanding disciplinary sanctions) and not in the boardrooms.

But, I would go further and argue the case for the Open Draw to be on a national basis. The advantages include the breaking up of the monotonous provincial pairings; greater scope for surprises; added interest etc. What would be wrong with Cork/Kerry; Down/Donegal; even Dublin/Kildare All-Ireland finals. Should not the two best teams, on current championship form, in the country contest the All-Ireland final?

All-Ireland final? Yes, there would still be lop-sided contests. But, the All-Ireland would then be truly a national championship with all teams competing on equal terms regarding the draw, if not from geographical, population or resource considerations.

There would be a less predictable air than that which currently prevails in the current Provincial system which in a National context is inequitable. Instance the case in Connacht football where two games (only one game in hurling) can put a county in the All-Ireland semi-final, as opposed to that which pertains in Leinster and Ulster. Hardly fair? (The latter could still be retained as separate competitions).

And what of the new National league structure. Space does not permit me to deal with it in detail. But, is it as bad as is being made out? Many point to clashes between Kerry and Kilkenny in Section C as a case in point. But, why not? Kilkenny football fortunes cannot sink much lower. The weaker counties, perpetually in the ghettos of Division 3 and 4 will be afforded invaluable experience against the "big guns" — e.g. Sligo against Dublin, Carlow against Donegal, Westmeath against Down. It makes for novel pairings, and I'm predicting some interesting results. I don't think that the traditional format has done anything to the football fortunes, progress or interest of teams in the lower Divisions. In that respect, I welcome the new experiment.

Finally, may I wish the very best to our own Kildare team today. We, at CKR 97.3/97.6 FM, the Voice of Leinster, are broadcasting the game live throughout Leinster. Greetings to our colleagues in Highland Radio. And, finally to Donegal, we look forward to your visit to our area on November 1 when the footballers of Carlow will be your hosts. We at CKR will again be on duty that day. To all the spectators and listeners, here's to a great game and more of the thrills of '92 to date. Comhgairdeas le Dún na nGall. Tréaslaimid uile le bhúr n-éacht i mbliana.

Táimid i gCill Dara, dar ndoigh ag tnúth le Sam a bhaint díbh i '93 agus b'fhéidir ag am seo an bhliain seo chughainn go mbeidh an bhróg ar an chos eile. Beir bua agus go néirí libh go léir.

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'MAN OF THE MATCH' AWARD

Changed times for Donegal

By: CIARAN O'DONNELL, Derry Journal

Eighteen months ago, Kildare and Donegal met in the National League semi-final at Croke Park. Despite leading by seven points at half time and looking certain to coast to a victory which would have buried the Ulster side's hoodoo of nine previous semi-final disappointments, five National League and four Championship. Donegal were defeated by three points 1-10 to 0-7.

In the aftermath of that defeat, there were calls for the resignation of Donegal team boss, Brian McEniff. But times have surely changed.

That defeat of the then reigning Ulster champions was a devastating blow to the Tir Conaill supporters who were confident of the Donegal senior side qualifying for their first ever national final.

It is now ironic that it was Dublin, the side Donegal defeated in such great fashion in last month's All-Ireland, that defeated Mick O'Dwyer's adopted county in the subsequent final.

But the tenth semi-final defeat is nothing more than water under the bridge for all the county's G.A.A. folk now. After striving for over a century for some sort of recognition at national level, the Donegal senior team were rewarded with the biggest prize of all when they returned home with Sam Maguire.

While some will see today's National League game as a return to the porridge table, there is no way this Donegal team are going to surrender their unbeaten tag (in competitive games) they have been carrying now since the begining of June, when their memorable championship run commenced.

Donegal's first game of last year's League campaign was an away tie against Antrim. Very few Donegal supporters made the trip across the border for that game, but today's match is expected to attract up to 10,000.

Sam Maguire, the most sought-after piece of silverware in the North-West, will be on display in MacCumhaill Park today when Kildare and Donegal take the field.

More often than not, teams who win the All-Ireland championship fail to make a big impression in the corresponding National League series.

But Donegal, like Brian McEniff, owe today's opponents and Mick O'Dwyer one. That score should be settled later this afternoon. Changed times.

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Frank McFeely 'A truly remarkable rise to stardom'

By HUGH O'DONNELL

Only a year in senior inter-county football, and at midfield for but half of that period, yet today Donegal's youthful Frank McFeely is hailed as the heir apparent to Mick O'Connell. His has been a truly remarkable rise to stardom and one which personifies the great football resurgence in his native county.

A product of St. Columb's College, Derry, where his uncle, Very Rev. A. C. McFeely, now parish priest of Strabane, was President, Frank made the Donegal minor team in 1961.

Some great performances with his home club, MacCumhaill's, followed and in April '62 he joined his elder brother, Brendan, on the county senior team. Frank's debut was against Armagh in the Dr. McKenna Cup; he played at right full forward.

Donegal lost and their next outing was in June against Derry in the Ulster Championship. For this game McFeely changed corners but again Donegal were beaten.

From June to September last, Donegal remained inactive in inter-county competition. Then came the Dr. Lagan Cup competition and Donegal were on the march. Leading

them was the tall, young man from Ballybofey, Frank McFeely, who by now was playing at midfield.

The Dr. Lagan Cup semi-final against Tyrone put the final seal of greatness on McFeely. In this game he was unbeatable and when Donegal met Down in the final two weeks later, the Ballybofey man repeated his performance and outclassed all that the mighty Mournemen could put against him.

Croke Park saw him star on March 17th, and twentyfour hours later it hailed him again when he led Donegal in a mighty rally against All-Ireland champions. Kerry.

Six days later McFeely was back again, this time starring for the Combined Universities; and so in the space of eight days he thrilled Croke Park a third time.

What a pity Mick O'Connell was missing from the Kingdom line-out. It would surely have been a clash of giants. But this clash will come; for Frank McFeely has arrived at the top in Gaelic football and there he will stay for many a day.

-(Courtesy of 'Gaelic World' 1963)



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WISHES CONTINUED SUCCESS TO DONEGAL

From The Outside Looking In

By MICHAEL DALY,

Sports Editor, Donegal Democrat

In the course of my travels up North each Sunday I go through some interesting towns and villages in Fermanagh and further afield. Most recently going through Lisnaskea I encountered an unusual phenomenon, a Union Jack flying lazily beside a green and gold flag.

Thinking about flags and emblems is one thing, writing about them another, but the vision remains firmly fixed in my mind... two traditions sitting side by side on two telegraph poles, an unusual midfield partnership if ever there was one on Lisnaskea's main street.

It made me think also of a writer for the Belfast Telegraph John Campbell, who keeps the gaelic games scene well covered in a paper whose main sales wouldn't come from that side of the house. But the bould Mr. Campbell was the only writer that I know in Ulster who predicted Donegal would win the Ulster Championship . . . and make the All-Ireland. If memory serves me right he faltered only at the last hurdle, opting for Dublin to beat them in the final.

Last week the coverage of Donegal football in the Belfast and Donegal based papers yet again underlined the value of winning an All-Ireland football final. And last Monday saw another significant step for the nationals (Dublin in particular) with reports and photos on the Donegal county final in both the *Irish Press* and *Irish Independent*. Never before, and unless 'Sam' returns to Donegal next year, perhaps never again will the Donegal club scene get coverage such as that from the Dublin-based dailies.

Today Donegal will probably struggle against Kildare, the National League really is small potatoes in comparison with the Championship. What arrogance to say that. I remember thinking the same thing about Cork and Meath teams who went into hibernation after 'Sam' success only to emerge after Christmas to save Division One status.

But to do so in Donegal would put us in great peril. Probably the most important stepping stone to Donegal's long overdue All-Ireland success was the attainment and

retention of Division One status. Regular meetings with the teams then regarded as the top of the pops in gaelic football was a vital part of learning to live with and ultimately beat the best in the land.

For Donegal to squander the opportunity to go into the semi-finals and secure Division One status next year would be a very real failure. It's imperative that this team, through its inevitable re-structuring period continues to get opportunities to play at the highest level in the league. Prospective replacements for present players considering retirement must be measured in games against quality opposition such as Kildare and Cork and not in the confines of an uncompetitive Division Two. That would be disastrous.

Donegal will be tempted, and forgiven by most, if they rest on their laurels until Christmas, but surely better to make the effort now and all but secure the Division? Thoughts go back to the attitude of Burren's Paddy O'Rourke after the '91 All-Ireland final. In the middle of all the excitement he started talking about the prospect of meeting Armagh the following June in the Championship. It was a surprising thought perhaps as he looked down into the Sam Maguire but one year later Down, a much younger team than Donegal, were sitting watching an All-Ireland final, their season ended abruptly by Derry.

What lessons Donegal can learn from Down's defeat are obvious. Certainly the team are entitled to a break, a holiday in Florida has been mentioned, and why not, but there will be more success if the sights are firmly focussed between now and Christmas, and not in mid-February when fire-brigade action could be required.

Today Donegal are the envy of outsiders from Ulster and elsewhere looking in. All of them, however, are genuinely pleased for the men from the North West, pleased for a victory for the 'smaller men' and that's terrific, but euphoria slips by very quickly and before it does Donegal should decide to work damn hard now to keep a certain Samuel tucked away in the hills!

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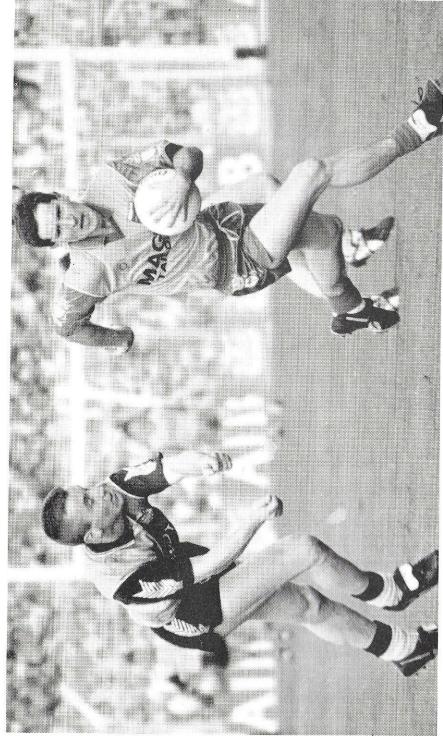
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North West Radio and Donegal — Symbiosis in Action

By: NIALL DELANEY, North West Radio

It began with a stuttering performance in Breffni Park, and ended with Molloy taking silverware as September drew to a close.

For North West Radio, it began with frustrated technicians trying "to get a line" from Cavan, and ended with microphone levels being pushed to the limit when McEniff addressed the multitude in The Diamond.

It's been a fantastic year obviously for the G.A.A. in Donegal and consequently a fantastic year for North West Radio. Donegal's success and North West Radio's step by step coverage has been the perfect example of a symbiotic relationship; a mutually beneficial affair that led to new heights in both spheres of life.

The station has revelled in Donegal's success and ensured broadcasting barriers were broken in the field of local radio. For us, it was also a long summer of hard work and exhileration at success. We broadcast every Donegal game along the way live, and both our trips to Croke Park were also new experience in themselves.

Two specially organised nights of broadcasting prior to the All-Ireland semi-final and Final pushed our resources to the limit; there were link-up with New-Zealand, Brazil, Argentine, Philadelphia and Britain, the Donegal people of the World communicating their fanaticism for victory.

And of course there was much more to come. Almost nine hours of uninterrupted broadcasting on Monday, 21st September,

1992, when Donegal's heroes travelled from Connolly Station to The Diamond. From the euphoris in Sligo, through the masses in Bundoran and Ballyshannon.

Incidentally, a new cassette of the fateful night in local radio broadcasting is now available in record shops locally and from North West Radio. The cassette costs £4.99, with contributions going to the Donegal Football Supporters Club.

The perfect momento of a perfect day, we look on it as our "War of the Worlds" contribution to local broadcasting.

"Donegal Welcomes Sam" - it's a must.

Incidentally, one confession must be made at the end. It was during the Donegal-Cavan replay at Ballybofey, and the usual scramble for after match interviews had begun.

Resource being scarce, North West Radio's team included one not entirely versed in the finer points of the game. He was asked to get Matt Gallagher, the man of the match to the commentary box, to say a few words.

Thinking quickly on his feet, he grabbed the Donegal Number Three and ushered him in. With seconds to go onto air, it was discovered that we didn't have the heroic Matt at hand but Cavan's Gerry Sheridan. He and Matt had switched jersey's after the final whistle.

For our friend, he doesn't have much trouble recognising Matt now....

SEAMUS LAFFERTY

(BUTCHER)

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BACK TO BASICS

By: CHARLIE COLLINS (Highland Radio)

It's hard to believe that it's already time for the start of the National Football League campaign. Of course, Donegal's team and supporters have never before gone the distance in the All-Ireland series and usually have spent most of August and certainly all of September looking forward to the beginning of the National League. In the past Brian McEniff has often made reference to the fact that the demand for success in the league has made it difficult in terms of trying out new players during the winter.

Having won the All-Ireland last month most counties would be allowed the opportunity of having a quiet League campaign, at least up until Christmas. However given the fact that this season's quarter-finalists will make-up Division One of the 1993-94 seasons the pressure to succeed is again on the top counties. Donegal will hardly relish the prospects of having to work hard in the four games before Christmas to set up a comfortable base for the three games in the New Year and thus ensure Division One football next season.

However, surely Brian McEniff must be allowed to try out some new players with a view to next year's championship. He will of course be expected to include his fringe players in the next four games, and give well earned rests to several of the more experienced players.

Donegal are All-Ireland champions and their demanding fans will want a repeat of their Croke Park performance, which may be asking too much. Kildare travel to face the champions and need no greater motivation than to be the first team to beat them and their team manger will have reminded them of that I am sure for the last couple of weeks.

The interest in Donegal senior team has never been greater and the demands on the players these last few months, particularly these last few weeks have been intense. The way they have handled themselves has been a credit to G.A.A. in the county. We all tend to forget sometimes that they have lives away from football, which is unfair of us. Few teams have taken league points away from MacCumhaill Park, Kildare may find it difficult to do so today.

Best wishes to Donegal on Sunday

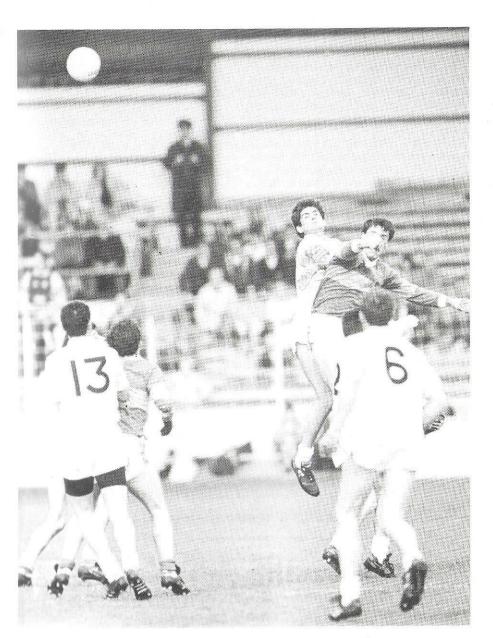


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Flashback... Michael Gallagher going high with Martin Lynch of Kildare in the 1991 League semi-final won by Kildare in Croke Park. (Photo: Michael O'Donnell)

DUN na nGALL

- **GARY WALSH:** (Burren). 27-years-old. 6'3''. Accountant.
- **BARRY McGOWAN:** (Killybegs). 26-years-old. 6'0''. E.S.B. Worker.
- MATT GALLAGHER: (Naomh Brid). 30-years-old. 5'10''. Publican and Snackfoods Retailer.
- NOEL HEGARTY: (Naomh Columba). 23-years-old). 6'0''. Factory Worker.
- **DONAL REID:** (Red Hughs). 30-years-old. 5'10". Creamery Representative.
- MARTIN GAVIGAN: (Ardara). 28-years-old. 6'0". Teacher.
- MARTIN SHOVLIN: (Naomh Ultan). 30-years-old. 5'10". Technician.
- **ANTHONY MOLLOY:** (Ardara). 30-years-old. 6'2''. E.S.B. Worker.
- BRIAN MURRAY: (Civil Service). 28-years-old. 6'3''. Garda.
- JOYCE McMULLAN: (Four Masters). 30-years-old. 5'9". Insurance Agent.
- **MARTIN McHUGH:** (Kilcar). 30-years-old. 5'7''. Sales Representative.
- **TOMMY RYAN:** (Termon). 25-years-old. 5'11''. Company Representative.

- **DECLAN BONNER:** (Na Rossa). 27-years-old. 5'10''. Factory Worker.
- TONY BOYLE: (Dungloe). 22-years-old. 5'11''.
- JAMES McHUGH: Kilcar). 28-years-old. 5'7''. E.S.B. Worker.
- PAUL CALLAGHAN: (Burt). 21-years-old. 6'1''.
- JOHN CUNNINGHAM: (Killybegs). 25-years-old. 5'11". Carpenter.
- **PAUL CARR:** (Four Masters). 30-years-old. 5'11''. Accountant.
- **BARRY CUNNINGHAM:** (Killybegs). 26-years-old. 6'0''.
- MICHAEL GALLAGHER: (Civil Service). 29-years-old. 6'1''. Carpenter.
- MANUS BOYLE: (Killybegs). 26-years-old. 5'10''. Sales Representative.
- CHARLIE MULGREW: (St. Eunan's). 31-years-old. 5'10''. Sales Representative.
- JOHN JOE DOHERTY: (Naomh Columba). 24-years-old. 5'10''. Factory Worker.
- **SYLVESTER MAGUIRE:** (Aodh Ruadh). 29-years-old. 6'0''. Student.

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5
D. O MAOILDEARG
(Donal Reid, Red Hughs)

M. O GAIBHEAGHAIN S. S. O DOCHARTAIGH
(Martin Gavigan, Ardara) (J. J. Doherty, N. Columba)

A. O MAOLMHUAIDH (Anthony Molloy, capt., Ardara) 9

B. Mac CUINNEAGAIN
(Barry Cunningham, Killybegs)

10

11 M. Mac AODHA

S. Mac MAOLAIN

S. Mac AODHA (James McHugh, Kilcar)

(Martin McHugh, Kilcar)

(Joyce McMullan, F. Masters)

D. O CNAIMHSI

A. O BAOILL

M. O BAOILL

15

(Declan Bonner, Na Rossa)

(Tony Boyle, Dungloe)

(Manus Boyle, Killybegs)

SUBS.: 16, P. O Ceallachain (Paul Callaghan, Burt); 17, P. Mac Giolla Chearra (Paul Carr, Four Masters); 18, T. O Riain (Tommy Ryan, Termon); 19, C. O Maolchraoibhe (Charlie Mulgrew, St. Eunans); 20, M. Mac Chrosain (Mark Crossan, St. Eunans); 21, S. Mac Uidhir (Sylvester Maguire, Aodh Ruadh); 22, M. O Gallachoir (Michael Gallagher, Civil Service); 23, S. Mac Aonghusa (Jim McGuinness, Naomh Conaill); 24, B. O Muiri (Brian Murray, Civil Service); 25, M. O Seibhleain (Martin Shovlin, Naomh Ultan).

Manager: Brian McEniff (Bundoran)

Selectors: Naul McCole (Dungloe); Michael Lafferty (MacCumhaills);

Seamus Bonner (Civil Service) Trainer: Anthony Harkin (Milford).

DÚN NA nGALL	Cúil	Cúiliní	Seacha	45m	Saor C.
1ú Leath					
2ú Leath					
Iomlán					

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S. Mac SHAMHRAIN (Sean McGovern, Athy)

D. O MAOLAIN

(David Malone, Raheens)

10
D O CIARAGAIN
(Declan Kerrigan, Johnstown Bge.)

N. O BUCHLAIGH

B. O FACHAIGH

(Niall Buckley, Sarsfield)

(Brian Fahy, Leixlip) 15

13
P. O LOCHLAINN
(Paul McLaughlin, Clane)

14 M O LOINSIGH (Martin Lynch, Clane)

S. Mac DOMHNAILL
(Johnny McDonald, Naas)

SUBS.: 16, C. O'Beirne (Christy Byrne, Castlemitchell); 17, S. O Fionn (John Finn, Clane); 18, S. O Crochtun (John Crofton, Sarsfield); 19, P. O Donalaigh (Paul Donnelly, Castlemitchell); 20, L. O Maolaoidh (Liam Miley, St. Laurences); 21, B. O Nualainn (Brian Nolan, Sarsfields); 22, I. O Giolla Rua (Jarlath Gilroy, Ballymore).

Manager: Mick O'Dwyer.

Selectors: Tony Keogh, John Crofton.

CILL DARA	Cúil	Cúiliní	Seacha	45m	Saor C.
1ú Leath					
2ú Leath					17/1, 100
Iomlán					

KILDARE

PAUL McLOUGHLIN: Age 26, height 6'2", weight 13 st. His eleventh season with Clane club and tenth with Kildare. He is an army officer.

GERO GANNON: Aged 26. Commenced his playing career in goal at schools level. From the last line of defence he has won all honours open to him at underage level. Auctioneer.

DAVY DALTON: Age 28. Representing the county at all levels. Received an All-Star nomination in 1991. County Council Official. PETER McCONNON: Age 23. Has been one of the outstanding players at underage level for his club. He has represented his county at all levels. Garda.

GLEN RYAN: Age 21. Represented his club and county at all levels, winning numerous awards at club level. Student.

ANTHONY RAINBOW: Age 20. Represented Kildare at Minor, Under 21 and Senior levels. Student.

SEAN McGOVERN: Age 26. Member of the county senior football team for the past seven seasons. Veterinary Surgeon.

NOEL DONLAN: Round Towers. Has represented Kildare at minor, under 21 and senior levels. Garda.

NIAL BUCKLEY: Age 19. Captain of the successful county minor team in 1991. Midfielder on the successful county u-21 team in 1992. Apprentice Electrician.

DECLAN KERRIGAN: Age 27. Represented Kildare at all levels winning Leinster Minor Award in 1983. County Footballer of the Year award 1986. Insurance Official.

BRIAN FAHY. Aged 21. Very successful dual player at underage level winning honours at u-14 and u-16 in both hurling and football. Farm Manager.

MARTIN LYNCH: Age 22. All-Star award winner 1991. Holder of county S.F.C. 1991. Won the First National Building Society/The Nationalist and Leinster times All-Star award 1992. Student.

JARLATH GILROY: Age 23. Won Leinster M.F.C. honours in 1987. Member of the county senior football team since 1988. Student.

JOHNNY McDONALD: Age 23. Won Leinster u-14, 16, minor and Colleges u-15, All-Ireland Colleges 14, South Leinster u-14, u-16 and S.F.C. 1990 with his club.



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5

6

7

LIAM BURNS (capt.)

DARREN McDERMOTT

SHEAMUS GRANT

8 9
ANDREW WALLACE DONAL CAMPBELL

10 11 12 RONAN McLAUGHLIN EUGENE SHERRY IVOR DOWDS

13 14 15
PETER DOYLE PAT CARLIN MICK McCARTHY
SUBS. 16 Henry Doyler 17 John Frield 18 Kovin Grant: 19 Kovin Barr: 20

SUBS.: 16, Henry Doyle; 17, John Friel; 18, Kevin Grant; 19, Kevin Barr; 20, John O'Brien; 21, Roger Doyle; 22, Damien Mullen; 23, John Wallace; 24, Dominic Murray; 25, Dermot Brown.

NAOMH MURA

Colours: Maroon and White

1 JOHN BOYLE

2 3 4
SIMON ROBINSON KIERAN TONER DONAL WALKER
5 6 7
JAMES BOYLE JOHN McDERMOTT (capt.) KIERAN DOHERTY

JOHN B. DOHERTY SEAMUS DOHERTY

10 11 12 A.N. OTHER PAUL CRAIG JOE CRAIG

13 14 15
A.N. OTHER JAMES MALONE PAUL McGRATH

SUBS.: Donal Doherty, Seamus Craig, Sean Hegarty, Peter McGonigle, Brendan Boyle, Benny Green, Aidan McGrory, Francis Craig, Michael Green, Adrian Robinson, Cathal Doherty, Paul McGrory, Patrick Boyle, Oliver Green, Patrick Porter, Joseph Doherty, Bernard Hegarty, Paul Brown, David Robb, Simon McGrory.

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League Trials

By ANNETTE O'DONNELL, Donegal Democrat

Last week another eminent colleague spoke of the "County Championship at last". This week it's a case of "The League — already?!"

No sooner had 'Sam' got accustomed to the hectic year that lies ahead of him than he has to be cast aside for the day-to-day, or rather week-to-week workings of the fixture list.

The question now is — can 'Sam' be put aside? Can he be taken care of by someone else while the team get on with the more mundane matter of the League? Or should he?

No team in the country will feel the grind of the League harder than Donegal over the coming weeks. Their public awaits any appearance of a Donegal player in a green and gold strip. The public should be kept waiting in one sense.

Expectations will be the harder test of the coming weeks and months, and the psychological training that was laid down in July and August should be continued now more than ever. Players on the All-Ireland winning panel need this game like another tour of the county. They won't be playing to optimum level this afternoon and it would be unreasonable of anyone to expect that today or for the next while. That said, the momentum of the last few weeks and the self-belief they now have in themselves should ensure a performance worthy of any Donegal side.

But what can the League do for Donegal now, other than act as a chore?

While it seems a case of too much too soon for players, manager and mentors

alike, the League can, and must, be capitalised on as soon as possible.

Expectations are big, to say the least, not only among supporters but undoubtedly in the Donegal camp as well. If Donegal do not finish in the top two placings they go to Division Two. Strange but true. Not winning the League will hardly be a source of major disappointment in the Hills, but Division Two is not something we wish to savour just yet.

What is unreasonable and unwise is to expect the All-Ireland side to carry us into safe placings in this Division.

There is a wealth of talent in them thar Hills at present. Talent that has to be tried, tested, nurtured and acknowledged. Talent that is only too willing to knock the big names off pedestals and onto sideline benches.

This is how it should be, and the quest for keeping 'Sam' would be futile otherwise.

It is that quest — far-fetched as it may seem to some — which must remain and prosper in this county.

The burden of being the first has to be eased off the shoulders of the Final Fifteen and become treasured memories as opposed to a major intrusion on their lives.

With the help of the League players to carry out this task and to keep Donegal football where it is at present (and where it belongs) can be found.

What will be most interesting this afternoon will be the crowd. How many of the 30,000 that pledged their allegiance to the green and gold will scramble for League seats in loyalty to their Croke Park heroes?

The buck doesn't stop there . . .

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Coping with success

From: RICHARD KELLY Sports Editor, B.B.C. Radio Foyle

As a Donegal man I was more than pleased to respond to Ken Dooley's request to conjure up a few words for today's match programme.

"Choose your own theme," he said.

Decent man, Ken! What's left to say about Brian McEniff and his superb team.

Hey, enough of that line of thinking. A new campaign begins today. There's another mountain to climb; another story to be told.

To use an old cliche, life will never be quite the same for Brian and his men again.

In all sports they love to down the champions and the winners of the Sam Maguire are no exception.

Plaudits and good media mileage come with victories over the All-Ireland champions. Donegal will discover now that even the poorest of opposition lift their

game.

The challenge, henceforth, takes on a new dimension. Learning to live with success demands I suspect a different approach; a new set of rules apply. A different mentality is at work.

Brian McEniff says he remains as Donegal manager not because they're All-Ireland champions but because he believes they're good enough to retain the title.

After an arduous, physically demanding offensive, the class of '92 will surely have to recharge their batteries.

Which is why today's contest with Kildare is I suspect no more than a winding down.

The great test now is to show how champions can play but also to know that the title won't be at stake until the Summer of '93.

ALL SPORTS

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Prop: DONAL MONAGHAN

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WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT

Best wishes to Donegal team.

Number one around Prosperous and Kildare - Gero Gannon

RICHARD WHELAN, Kildare P.R.O.

Born in Dublin on 19th August, 1971. Christened Gerard Oliver Francis Gannon. Attended National School at Scoil An Linbh Iosa, Prosperous, Naas, Co. Kildare. Attended C.B.S. Naas for Secondary Education.

Presently employed in Oliver Reilly and Associates, Auctioneers and Valuers, Prosperous, Naas, Co. Kildare, a company began by his grandfather Oliver Reilly, who in his day played football with Clane, he was also a Kildare selector on various Kildare teams, including the All-Ireland under 21 winning side of 1965. His uncle Seán Reilly played in defence on that successful Kildare under 21 side of 1965. Co-incidentally Sean Reilly played for the other half of the Caragh Parish - Raheens where he won Senior Football Championship medals in 1964, 1968 and 1973.

Club: CARAGH

Achievements To Date In Football:

Gero played with the Caragh Club from childhood, winning under 10, under 12, under 14 and under 16 medals with them. While attending Naas C.B.S. his football career was also noteworthy. He, with his team mates, reached the Leinster Colleges Senior Football Championship Final, but on that occasion Carlow C.B.S. took the honours. He also won a J.F.C. "B" medal with Caragh in 1987.

In 1988 Gero's team, Caragh qualified for the Kildare Minor Football Final against Leixlip. Gero first came to prominence for Kildare in the under 21 Leinster Championship last season when he again wore the number one jersey against Wicklow, who were successful on that occasion with a margin of four points to spare. Gero was subsequently picked for a Kildare Senior XV Challenge in a game against Armagh.

1992 is his most successful year to date. He was chosen to represent the county at under 21 level for the championship. The side's first game was against reigning champions Meath at Navan. Their second was against Laois in Carlow and the Leinster Final was in Tullamore versus Dublin who failed to raise a green flag, indeed one of his saves in this game was superb at a vital stage and more than anything assured him of a place on the county senior football championship team. He was co-opted onto the senior football panel from that very night and has shown his worth since in each game. He was a substitute on the Kildare Senior Panel who played Galway at Johnstownbridge on the same night as that Under 21 provincial win.

Since then he has played a host of challenge games but the most important contest was in the Leinster Senior Football Championship. His first outing was against Wicklow. He was also net minder in the semi-final against Westmeath. Such was his excellent displays in those games that he appears to have a distinguished career ahead of him.

Gero's life long ambition has bene fulfiled as he always dreamed of being the Kildare senior goalkeeper. His parents Ger and Breda encouraged him and his two brothers Jeoffrey and Luke to play Gaelic Games from an early age and Gero's constant practice has indeed paid off. When Gero is not training with the county panel, he utilises every spare moment at St. Farnan's Park, Prosperous, home of his club Caragh. Gero has two sisters, Charlotte and Lisa, who played with the Caragh under 12 team in her day. This season has been a particularly busy one for him. As well as being in the last line of defence for the county under 21 and senior teams he keeps goal for Caragh at Junior level. St. Farnan's at under 21 level and Geraldines in the County Senior Football Championship.





Kildare's difficult assignment

By: PAUL O'MEARA of the Leinster Leader

Kildare could hardly have been assigned a more difficult assignment than today's game against Donegal in the opening round of the National Football League.

Apart from the fact that Donegal are the new All-Ireland champions following their victory over Dublin, it has always been very difficult to win at Northern venues and this game should be no exception.

Kildare may be hoping to capitalise on whatever after effects that the post All-Ireland victory celebrations have brought on the Donegal players but they will conscious that enough time has passed since the final for some normality to be restored.

Both counties played their respective county finals last weekend and supporters in either county are now looking ahead to the league programme which has Kildare and Donegal alongside Cork, Cavan, Longford, Leitrim, Tipperary and Carlow.

This season Kildare reached their first Leinster final for fourteen years before going down to Dublin on a 1-13 to 0-10 scoreline despite a great second half display by the Lilywhites.

On their way to the decider Kildare first tournced Wicklow in a game that was moved from St. Conleths Park, Newbridge, to Croke Park at the eleventh hour. The Lilywhites were less impressive against Westmeath in the semi-final but still won comfortably.

Since the Leinster Championship campaign Mick O'Dwyer has appinted two new selectors to replace the four he nominated after he arrived in Kildare two years ago. John Crofton, the regular full back last season and Tony Keogh, a former selector with a formidable club record in Kildare, are the new selectors.

They have had just one game since taking over. A challenge game in Newbridge saw some new players introduced to the Kildare jersey and Meath were beaten.

But players and supporters will be very much aware that much work needs to be done if Kildare are to have a successful campaign this season.

In 1991 Kildare reached the NFL final which they lost by 2 points to Dublin. In the semi-final that year they had just a point to spare over Donegal at Croke Park. A repeat result would do nicely!

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Wishing Brian, Anthony and the Lads well in the League campaign.

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Donegal seek revenge

By: ADRIAN LOGAN, U.T.V. Sport

After the glory of September and Croke Park it's back to the basics today with the first round of the Royal Liver National League.

Donegal have scarcely had time to draw breath and it will be interesting to see how Brian McEniff's team react to it all this afternoon. A bumper crowd will ensure a warm welcome for the All-Ireland champions and of course in the opposition camp a man who knows all about All-Ireland titles as a player and indeed a manager, the great Mick O'Dwyer. As far as the league goes Donegal and Kildare will remember their last meeting for different reasons. That was the league semi-final on April 21st at Croke Park. It was a day Donegal could and should have won. Kildare eventually winning with a late come back before losing in the final to Dublin.

Interesting to note that year that Dublin lost to Donegal here at Ballybofey 2-11 to 1-9. The first match of the season and Paddy Cullen's first game in charge. A small point to note Paddy lost his first game to Donegal and as it turned out earlier this week he suffered the consequences for losing the last also against Donegal.

Since those games it's been all one way traffic for this magnificent Donegal squad... culminating in that never to be forgotten All-Ireland victory last month. A victory fashioned from pure football and a game that will live long in the memory.

Kildare meanwhile are still working to make the breakthrough. This year again beaten at a crucial stage losing to Dublin in the Leinster final. It seems certain their time

is just around the corner.

Back to today and after all the celebrations it may be difficult for Donegal to concentrate on the task in hand. Kildare will come as ever under Mick O'Dwyer properly prepared and there's little doubt the Lilywhites would dearly love to put one over on Donegal. But I can well remember the Donegal players and Mr. McEniff trudging off Croke Park beaten two seasons in the League semi-final. If nothing else about Brian McEniff he doesn't forget. The memory of Croke may be just enough to lift his team to success. Either way expect a good game from two footballing sides.

When the game's over Donegal can start celebrating again... and few would begrudge

them that indulgence.

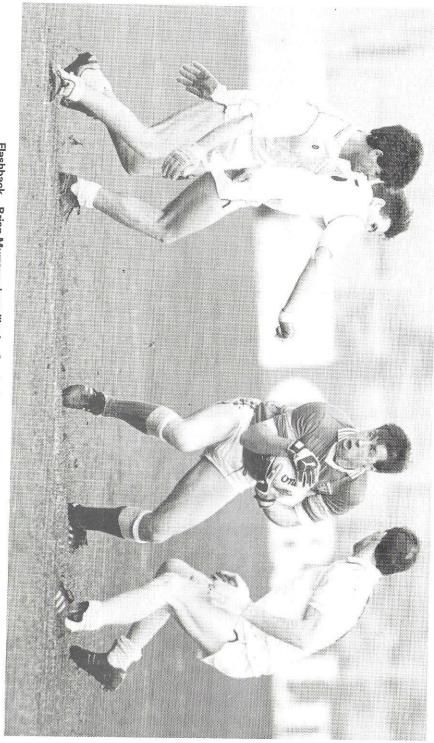


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Le: SÉAMUS de FAOITE (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

Ní shíleann aon duine ar feadh bomaite go bhfuil obair fhurast romhe Dhún na nGall inniu. Measaim go dtiocfadh leis an chluiche seo a bheith ar cheann chomh deacair agus a bhí acu go dtí seo mar tá mé den bharduil gur deirigh foireann Chill Dara a sharú i gcomórtas ar bith. Tá traidisiún taobh thiar de na "Lily Whites" agus tá siad ag teacht go Páirc Sheáin Mhic Cumhaill agus fios acu nach leor aon rud ach an bhua a fháil ar bhuaiteoirí Craobh Ceannais na hÉireann. Dhéanfaidh siad a míle dícheall mar a dhéanann i gconaí. Leoga, imríonn siad peil ghlan ghasta atá suntasach le amharc air.

Tá caighdéan ard i gconaí le cosaint ag na buaiteoirí. Bíonn gach duine ag dréim le éacht mhór uathu. Tá sé coimhthíoch againne i nDún na nGall a bheith sa suíochán tiomána. Labhair muid ar fea fada go leor ar bhuanna contaethe eile. Bhí éad orainn leo le blianta.

Tá an taoide indiaidh tiompú agus tá an aisling fíor anois. Bíodh sin mar atá, caithfidh muidinne dul san iomaíocht le Cill Dara agus ní dhánfaidh aon rud ach bua gnoithe.

Bhí Cill Dara ar barr minic go leor agus tá fios a ngnó acu. Bhí roinnt blianta loma acu

ach tá feabhas ag teacht ar chursaí anois leis an fhear ón Ríocht ag an stiúr. Níl siad ag teacht le cluiche peile amháin a imirt, ach fosta lenar gcuid mórtais a bhaint asainn má tá siad ábalta a bheith uaibhreach ina ngaisce. Nuair a maharcann muid ar gcúl ar a n-iarrachtaí go dtí seo, tá fhios agaibh cad atá ar intinn agam. Beidh gach súl in Éirinn ag féachaint orthu. Beidh luacht leanúna neodrach na peile ag guí gach rath orthu. Tá freagra againne dóibh — go díreach mar a rinne muid ceansú agus sainniú ar na "Dubs" an mhí seo caite - is fearr do na "Lily Whites" a bheith ar a bhfaichill.

Ní thig a rá nach bhfuil Dún na nGall chomh maith le cách anois. Tá an mhuintir is fearr againn, is muid is fearr agus is é mo mheas umhal féin gur againn atá an foireann is fearr.

Cuireann muid fáilte roimh Chill Dara, a n-oifigigh agus fáilte speisialta roimh Mhícheál Ó Duibhir. Beidh áthas orthu muid a imirt agus beidh muidinne mar a gcéanna. Tá súil agam go mbeidh an bua ag an fhoireann is fearr agus tá fhios againn i dTír Chonaill cé a gheobhaidh an bhua sin.

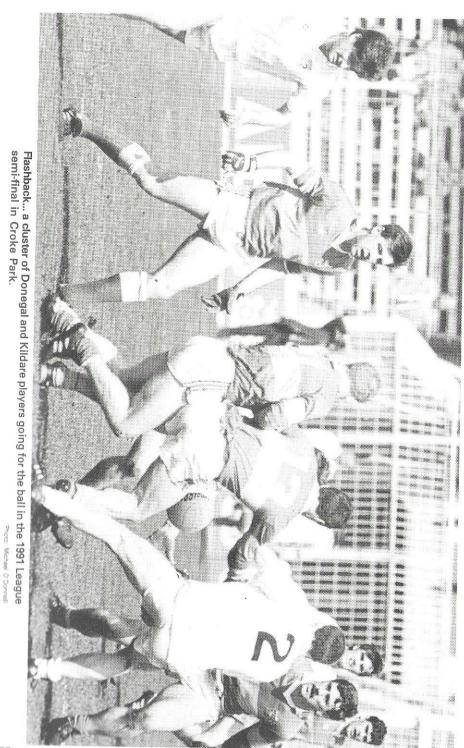
The "Lily Whites" once shone, but this time we can be whiter than white.



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"NO. 1 IN DONEGAL"



Let us sing the "pslam Maguire"

By: FRANK GALLIGAN (BBC Radio Foyle)

Forgive me, I know the title seems odd but as a boy growing up in Carrigart and Downings my hunger for reading material was sated only when a travelling salesman managed to persuade my mother that whatever about the benefits of life assurance when "himself" was no longer about her chances of a "wee policy" with The Man Above would be greatly enhanced if she were to purchase The Bible and 'The Lives of The Saints". She did, God bless her, and I took to the reading with an intensity matched only by those close encounters of the Fourth Kind which were the stuff of Downings v Gweedore matches in the 1960's. I took a particular liking to the Psalms, especially those I found somewhat bewildering but which managed to evoke for a young boy something of the magic of his own place. I always think of the following as being the Donegal psalms. "The mountains skipped like rams and the little hills like lambs." (114/41); "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters." (107:23).

As Anthony Molloy lifted the Sam Maguire on a day on which the ordinary senses of sight, sound, touch and smell seemed inadequate as a means of expressing sheer joy a sixth sense motivated me to check my store of Psalms for Sam, if you're with me so far. For Anthony himself: "Thou hast ascended on high...." (68/18) and "I will lift my eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." (121:11) For the team: "They go from strength to strength." (84:71) for the supporters: "Thou feedest them with the bread of tears." (80:21)) And last by no means least, Brian McEniff: "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart." (55:21) A final word on the travelling salesman: he hailed from the County Kildare and the covers of his books were a glorious white! "Consider the lilies of the field....."

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Congratulations and continued success to Brian and the lads from Seamus and Ann Marie.

Best wishes to the Donegal team for the coming season

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"DONEGAL"

By: ROY CURTIS, Daily Star

As referee Tommy Sugrue demanded a final ceasefire, she rose to acclaim men at least 35 years her junior.

For two hours she had crouched beneath the Croke Park press box, a stooped, greying figure of, perhaps, three score and ten.

For those two hours, she clutched her green and gold favour as if it were a direct line to the heavens — or maybe an invisible force controlling the scoring boots of Manus Boyle.

Now, at last, she loosened her grip, turned to her younger companion and allowed her emotions run free rein.

The women of Tir Chonaill sobbed uncontrollably.

Donegal had done it.

On the other side of the perimeter fencing, Anthony Molloy crumpled to the turf. Immediately the skipper was smothered by exultant well wishers.

Donegal had done it.

Brian McEniff hovered across Croke Park, adrenaline pumping, heart pummelling against his chest wall. His eyes shone brighter than the Malin Head lighthouse.

Donegal had done it.

The Canal End was a frenzied kaleidoscope of green and gold. A picture postcard of pure joy.

Donegal had done it.

In front of the celebrating sea of supporters, stood Dublin's Paul Clarke and Paul Curran. Ashen faced they looked on. Spectators at their own funeral.

Hill16 lay silent. Fans funnelled quietly away from a party which was no longer theirs, but rather a grim testimony to Dublin's failure.

Donegal had done it.

A month on and McHugh's artistry, Bonner's surging runs, Gallagher's stubborn defiance, Boyle's unerring accuracy survive as vivid portraits of a wonderful afternoon.

But, for this reporter, nothing captured the moment like the weeping of a frail, 70 year-old woman.

Tears of joy that acted as a microcosm for an entire county's feeling.

At last, at long, long last, Donegal had done it.

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IRELAND

DONEGAL AND TENNENT'S A WINNING



TENNENT'S

COMBINATION

NATIONAL **FOOTBALL** EAGUI m ('91/'92) **ANALYSIS**

By Peter Campbell (Donegal Democrat,

	Antrim	1					
Manus Boylo		Luigiord	reimm	Wicklow	Roscommon	Dublin	Totals
Martin Malling	sub. U-3	0-2	0-3	1-2	0-1	0-4	1-15
war ill wengn	0-2	0-1	0-1	1	0-5	0-3	0-12
Declan Bonner	<u>1</u> ω	0-1	0-3	1	1		1 1 1
Tommy Ryan	2	3					1-/
Subscate M.	0-1	0-2	<	1	0-3	1	0-6
Sylvester Maguire	0-2	1-0	<	0-1	dils	1	3
Tony Boyle							
Jovce McMullan				-	0-0	0-1	0-5
Mod- M-Ci			ı	1	<	1	1-1
Wark WcShane	<	ı	1		0-5	2	3 .
Donal Bonner	0-2	`		•	7-0	-	0-3
Brian Murray		•					0-2
Pormalay				1	0-1	sub.	0-1
Daily MicGowan	sub.]	1	0-1	1		2
Paul Carr	`	2		-			Ç-
Padraia Proces		0-1	<	<	<	<	0-1
adialy brogan	<	<	<	0-1	<	<	0-1
✓ = playe	= played but didn't score.	dn't scor	e.	_ = d	didn't play.	.`	
));)!!	A STATE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN						

and conceded 5-31. didn't play.

Donegal scored

a total of 4-58

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