#### ALLIANZ FOOTBALL LEAGUE

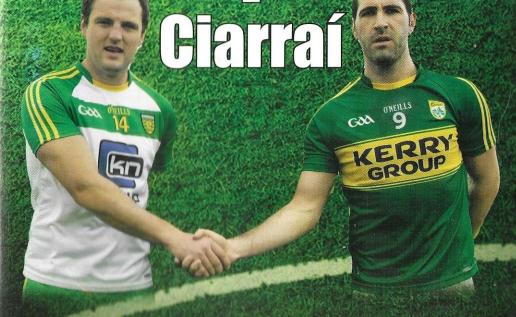








# Dûn na nGall



Sunday 5th February 2017 O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny Football at 2pm





#### FOCAL ÓN CATHAOIRLEACH



Ar son Bord na Condae CLG Dhún na nGall, ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir anseo inniu go Páirc Uí Dhomhnáill, Leitir Ceanainn.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon to this exciting opening fixture of the 2017 Allianz National Football League Division 1 in O' Donnell Park, Letterkenny. I also extend a warm welcome to the Kerry players, team management, officials and supporters for what promises to be a very competitive game between our respective counties.

On behalf of Bord na Condae and all the Gaels of Donegal at home and abroad, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the five players who have retired from Senior inter-county football since the end of the 2016 season.

Colm Anthony Mc Fadden, Eamon Mc Gee, Rory Kavanagh, Christy Toye and David Walsh have been immense servants to their county over the past 15+ years at Minor, U21 and Senior levels and we owe them a great debt of gratitude for their huge contributions to the success that we have enjoyed particularly since 2011.

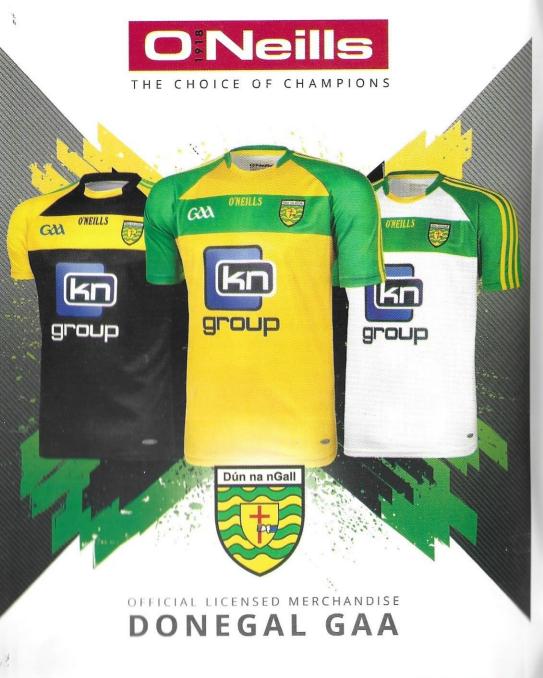
Finally, I hope that you enjoy this afternoon's game and may the best team win.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an chluiche agus go mbeidh turas slán sábháilte ag lucht leanúna Chiarraí agus Dhún na nGall agus iad ag pilleadh na bhaile.

Is mise le meas,

Sean Ó Duinnin,





#### Fáilte go Leitir Ceanainn



Cuireann fo-chumann Naomh Adhamhnáin fáilte romhaibh inniu go Páirc Uí Dhonaill i Leitir Ceanainn. Tá lúcháir orainn agus ar mhuintir Leitir Ceanainn go bhfuil cluiche mór mar seo sa pháirc inniu. Tá fáilte speisialta roimh fhoireann Chiarraí, a n-oifigigh agus a lucht leanúna. Bhí lúcháir an mhór orainn i Márta, 2007 nuair a tháinig foireann Chiarraí anseo don chluiche sraithe. Ní raibh cluiche sraithe i Leitir Ceanainn le tamall fada go dtí an lá sin. Bhí muintir Dhún na nGall breá sásta leis an lá sin. Tá maorgacht ag baint le foireann sinsir Peil Ghaelach Chiarraí

Tá a lán oibre déanta ag oifigigh an chlub ag ullmhú don lá inniu agus tá súil againn go mbeidh gach duine sásta le himeachtaí an lae. Tá siopa úr tae tógtha agus réidh don lá inniu. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a thabhairt do oifigigh CLG Dhún na nGall ar son cead a thabhairt dúinn an cluiche mór seo a bheith againn i bPáirc Uí Dhonaill. Buíochas fosta do na Gardaí Síochána agus do na seirbhísí otharchairr.

D'oibrigh Pól Mac Samhráin, Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí an chlub go dícheallach ag eagrú an leabhar seo. Beidh Feargus Mac Aoidh Oifigeach na Gaeilge CLG Naomh Adhamhnáin i mbun cúrsaí cumarsáide inniu.

Ádh mór oraibh uilig.

Cathal Mac Grianna CLG Naomh Adhamhnáin

#### **Buíochas:**

Today's Match Programme produced and edited by Paul McGovern (PRO, Naomh Adhamhnáin).

GRMA to all those that have contributed to the match programme: Peter Campbell, Ciaran O'Donnell and Tom Comack (Donegal Democrat); Charlie Collins, Alan Foley and Chris McNulty (Donegal Sport Hub); Harry Walsh (Donegal News); Fr. Seán; Cathal Mac Grianna Cathaoirleach, Naomh Adhamhnáin; Fergus Mac Aoidh, Oifigeach na Gaeilge; Kieran Kelly; Geraldine Diver; CLG Gaoth Dobhair & CLG Na Cealla Beaga; Jason O'Connor (Kerry); John O'Leary (OCP, Ciarral); Eoin McGarvey and last but not least Anne Forde. Thank you also to all our sponsors and advertisers.

Special thanks to the staff at Donegal Printing for all their help and work putting together today's programme and to Geraldine as always for her great photographs.

Amhrán na bhFiann will be sung by Caitriona MacIntyre. Caitriona has represented Naomh Adhamhnáin in Scór Sinsear for several years winning numerous county titles.



### MICHAEL MURPHY SPORTS & LEISURE

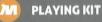
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#### A New Dawn in the Making for Donegal

By Charlie Collins (Donegal Sport Hub)





As we look forward to today's opening National League game with Kerry much has changed since we last saw the Donegal Senior football team in action in last year's All Ireland Quarter-Final against Dublin. The retirements of Colm Anthony McFadden, Eamonn McGee, Rory Kavanagh, Christy Toye and David Walsh and the decisions of Anthony Thompson, Leo McLoone and Odhrán Mac Niallias to step away at least for the immediate future, means that we will see a much-changed Donegal squad in 2017.

However, that doesn't mean that a much-changed team will be running out come championship time later this year, unless of course a few of our talented younger players prove to the manager between now and then that he cannot start without them.

We have good options in the battle for the Goalkeeping position, Mark Anthony McGinley is in possession but Michael and Peter Boyle will be pushing hard to get his starting spot. In defence Paddy McGrath, Neil McGee, Karl Lacey, Frank McGlynn, and the McHugh brothers Mark and Ryan give us a solid base to work with, while Ciaran Gillespie will have learned much for last years' experience at the highest level. Hopefully Neil Gallagher can put his injury issues behind him, he was badly missed last year, and in Martin McElhinney and Hugh McFadden there is good support available in that key midfield area. In attack Team Captain Michael Murphy will lead the way with Patrick McBrearty, Marty Reilly and Eoin McHugh in support. That gives us our starting 15 of McGinley, McGrath, McGee, Gillespie, Ryan McHugh, Lacey, McGlynn, Gallagher, McFadden, Mark McHugh, McElhinney, Eoin Mc Hugh, McBrearty, Murphy and Reilly. Still loads of talent and experience in that team and plenty of talent in reserve as well.

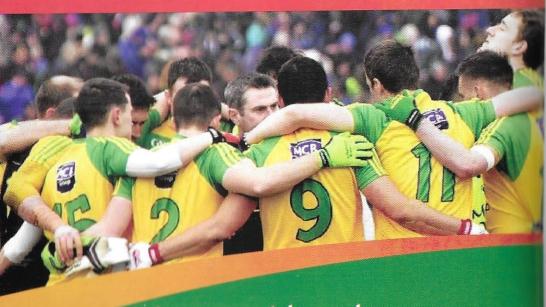
A number of younger players have already pulled on the Senior jersey and like Ciaran Gillespie will be the better for it in 2017. Some names that spring to mind are Michael Carroll, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Ciaran Thompson, Darrach O Connor, and Stephen McBrearty, while others like Michael Langan. Jason McGee, Rory Carr, Steven McMenamin, Tony McClenaghan, Ethan O'Donnell and Conor Morrison have shown enough to suggest they could make the step up. Easier said than done mind you and not everyone does it successfully.

Retaining Division One status will again be the first challenge in 2017, the fact that we have four home games will be a help in achieving that goal but with Dublin, Tyrone and Monaghan the other visitors after today and away trips to Roscommon, Cavan and Mayo to come nothing can be taking for granted. The reality is of course, that whatever

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happens in the league will soon be forgotten when June comes around. Giving his younger panellists game time in the League will be key for Rory Gallagher, he showed last year that it's something he's not afraid to do, and, enough is already known about those in his squad who have been around the block a few times and don't need to be flat out in February and March.

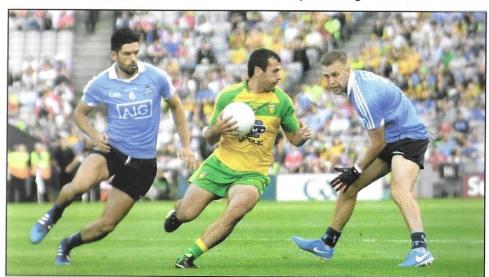
Watching Donegal over the next few months and beyond without the five retirees will indeed be strange but all good things must come to an end. If we could find five like them in the next few years we will be in good shape and a new dawn will become a bright future.



Michael Murphy. Photo: Geraldine Diver



Ryan McHugh. Photo: Geraldine Diver



Frank McGlynn in action for Donegal in last year's All-Ireland Championship Q-Final v Dublin. Photo: Geraldine <u>Diver</u>

Best of luck to Donegal from the Mt Errigal Hotel

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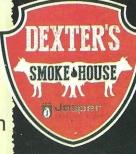
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#### **Twenty First** Fr Seán



Today's is the twenty first League meeting of Ciarraí and Dún na nGall. Ciarraí won their first meeting in 1965. They have met nineteen times since 1988. Dún na nGall won the first three of these clashes. Ciarraí then won eight-in-a-row before Dún na nGall stopped the rot with their three-in-a-row successes 2005-2008. Ciarraí have won four of the last five meetings and so lead 13-7. The home team has won each one of the last eight League meetings between the counties. The scores were:

The second of the last eight League meetings between the countries. The scores were.						
1965	Ciarraí 3-10	Dún na nGall 1-8	Páirc an Chrócaigh			
1988	Dún na nGall 1-10	Ciarraí 0-11	Trá Lí			
1989	Dún na nGall 0-11	Ciarraí 0-10	Béal Átha Seanaidh			
1990	Dún na nGall 1-12	Ciarraí 0-12	Béal Átha Seanaidh			
1994	Ciarraí 0-11	Dún na nGall 0-9	Trá Lí			
1995	Ciarraí 0-14	Dún na nGall 0-10	Béal Átha Seanaidh			
1995	Ciarraí 1-10	Dún na nGall 1-8	Tuaim			
1995	Ciarraí 1-11	Dún na nGall 0-6	Béal Átha Seanaidh			
1996	Ciarraí 2-9	Dún na nGall 2-7	Trá Lí			
2000	Ciarraí 2-16	Dún na nGall 0-14	Béal Átha Seanaidh			
2001	Ciarraí 0-14	Dún na nGall 0-9	Cill Áirne			
2003	Ciarraí 1-12	Dún na nGall 0-8	Béal Átha Seanaidh			
2005	Dún na nGall 1-10	Ciarraí 1-9	Bealach Féich			
2007	Dún na nGall 1-15	Ciarraí 0-13	Leitir Ceanainn			
2008	Dún na nGall 1-8	Ciarraí 1-7	Bealach Féich			
2009	Ciarraí 2-13	Dún na nGall 0-11	Trá Lí			
2012	Ciarraí 2-16	Dún na nGall 1-8	Cill Áirne			
2013	Dún na nGall 1-12	Ciarraí 0-6	Bealach Féich			
2015	Ciarraí 2-13	Dún na nGall 2-11	Trá Lí			
2016	Ciarraí 1-13 Dún na nGall 1-8		Trá Lí			

#### **AN CHÉAD CHLUICHE - 1965**

The first Senior competitive meeting between Dún na nGall and Ciarraí was at Páirc an Chrócaigh In the National Football League (Home) semi-final on April 11, 1965. Dún na nGall had qualified for the semi-final by winning the Dr. Lagan Cup for the first time since 1952. They had beaten Fear Manach (here in Páirc Uí Dhónaill), Ard Mhacha, Doire, An Dún and Doire (sna Cearna sa chluiche ceannais).

This great Dún na nGall team of the mid-sixties didn't play to their full potential in the semi-final but they did give Ciarraí a good run for their money. The tough Dr. Lagan Cup semi-final and final matches of the previous two Sundays had taken their toll: Ciarraí lost the toss but played with the breeze in the first half and the wind fell in the second half: and Dún na nGall conceded two soft goals... Bíonn cead cainte ag fear caillte na himeartha!..

It was nip-and-tuck for the first twenty minutes but then J.J. Barrett's opportunistic goal swung things Clarral's way. Clarral led by 1-8 to 0-3 at half-time. After two minutes of the second half Dave Geaney scored Ciarraí's second goal. John Hannigan's goal at the end of the third quarter raised Dún na nGall hopes but Ciarraí responded immediately and Mick O'Dwyer's goal sealed the deal as Ciarraí went on to win 3-10/1-8.

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Best of Luck in 2017

Dr Mick Loftus of Maigh Eo refereed. The attendance was 19,773. Dr Jim Brosnan was the Ciarraí manager; Columba McDyer Dún na nGall's manager. Seán O' Donnell had a great game for Dún na nGall with Paul Kelly and Mickey McLoone also starring.

#### Ciarraí

Teddy Bowler:

Donie O' Sullivan
Paudie O' Donoghue
Mick Morris (capt):

Denis O' Sullivan
Jerdie O' Connor
Séamus Murphy:

Pat Griffin (0-1) and Mick Fleming

Bernie O' Callaghan (0-5)
Mick O' Dwyer (1-0)
Dave Geaney (1-0):

Joe Joe Barrett (1-0) Vincent Lucey (0-3) Seán Burrows (0-1).

#### Dún na nGall

Séamus Hoare:

John Dan McMenamin Hughie Travers Paul Kelly:
Seán O'Donnell Bernard Brady Brendan McFeely (capt):

Seán Ferriter and Frankie McFeely:

Declan O'Carroll P.J. Flood (0-2) Frankie Campbell (0-1): Michael McLoone (0-3) John Hannigan (1-0) Des Houlihane.

Subs: Antoin Carroll, Tony McDevitt (0-2), Fionn Gallagher.

Gaillimh beat Ciarraí in the League (Home) final 1-07 to 0-08 and beat Nua Eabhrach on aggregate in the two-legged National Football League final. Hughie Coyle from Gaoth Dobhair was on the Nua Eabhrach team.

On the morning of the Ciarraí v Dún na nGall match, the All-Ireland final of the Post Office Football Championship was played in Islandbridge. Castlebar beat Lifford 1-11 to 2-07, despite the best efforts of Pat Connaghan, James Gallagher, Cormac Óg Breslin and company.

#### 2007

It is ten years since Ciarraí's last League appearance in Páirc Uí Dhónaill on March 25th, 2007. Dún na nGall beat Ciarraí 1-15 to 0-13. On the beer after! Allegedly! Legendary!

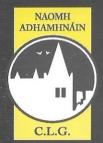
It was an enthralling encounter. Dún na nGall were magnificent. Brendan Devenney gave a virtuoso, scintillating display, reminiscent of the County final of 1999. Fog delayed Ciarraí's flight but they swept into a 0-08 to 0-03 lead. Cassidy's goal and 'Star' Donaghy's injury swung the game Dún na nGall's way. Ciarraí led 0-09 to 1-05 at half-time but Dún na nGall commanded the second half to win by 1-15 to 0-13.

#### Dún na nGall

Paul Durcan: Neil McGee Paddy Campbell Karl Lacey: Paddy McConigley Barry Monaghan Barry Dunnion: Neil Gallagher (capt) and Kevin Cassidy (1-0): Christy Toye Rory Kavanagh (0-1) Brian Roper: Colm A. McFadden (0-3) Brendan Devenney (0-7) Ciarán Bonner (0-3). Subs: Michael Hegarty (0-1), Kevin McMenamin, Adrian Sweeney, Éamonn McGee.

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#### Ciarraí

Diarmuid Murphy:

Marc Ó Sé Tom O'Sullivan Tomás Ó Sé (0-2) Aidan O' Mahony

Mossie Lyons (0-1): Pádraig Reidy:

Dara Ó Sé (0-2)

and Tommy Griffin:

Bryan Sheehan (0-1) Declan Quill (0-4)

Séamus Scanlon Kieran Donaghy

Donncha Walsh: Mike Frank Russell (0-3).

Subs: Seán O'Sullivan, Paul Galvin, Darren O'Sullivan, Brendan Guiney.

Dún na nGall got over their festivities and went on to win the National Football League for the first time. And on the same day as the Dún na nGall v Ciarraí match, Michael Murphy led St. Eunan's College to victory in the final of the McLarnon Cup.

#### **ANURAIDH**

The last League meeting of Dún na nGall and Ciarraí was in last year's fiercely – contested match in Trá Lí, with two red cards, two black cards, six yellow cards, melees and mauls, Neil McGee's bloodied nose etc. Ciarraí won 1-13/1-8.

#### Ciarraí

Brian Kelly:

Marc Ó Sé Peter Crowley (1-0)

Mark Griffin Aidan O' Mahony

Shane Enright: Fionn Fitzgerald:

Kieran Donaghy

Bryan Sheehan (0-8):

Donnchadh Walsh (0-3):

Denis Daly Darren O'Sullivan

Paul Murphy Alan Fitzgerald

Stephen O'Brien.

Subs: Pádraig O' Connor, Colm Cooper (0-1), Barry John Keane (0-1), Johnny Buckley, Brendan O' Sullivan, Aidan Walsh.

#### Dún na nGall

Peter Boyle:

Eamonn Doherty Eoghan Bán Gallagher

Neil McGee Ryan McHugh

Paddy McGrath: Anthony Thompson:

Rory Kavanagh

Michael Murphy (1-4):

Martin O'Reilly Odhrán Mac Niallais

Hugh McFadden Patrick McBrearty (0-3)

Eoin McHugh: Leo McLoone.

Subs: Éamonn McGee (blood), Martin McElhinney, Neil Gallagher (0-1), Christy Toye.

Referee: Eddie Kinsella (Laois)

#### SLÁN

Dún na nGall's two 'most-capped' players, Colm Anthony McFadden (173) and Christy Toye (163) have said farewell. As have Éamonn McGee (154), Rory Kavanagh (146), and David Walsh (92). Slán agaibh, beannacht oraibh, buíochas daoibh.

And a more permanent 'slán' to the late Harry Blake, one of the great gentlemen of the St. Eunan's club, who played for St. Eunan's in the County finals of 1955, 1956 and 1958. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.



#### Neil McGee – A Donegal Constant

By Chris McNulty (Donegal Sport Hub)



THE company has changed utterly but as Neil McGee makes the scenic drive 'around the back of Errigal' to training, the aim remains the same. It has been a winter of change in Donegal. Eight of last year's panel have stepped off the carousel.

His brother Eamon, Christy Toye, Colm McFadden, Rory Kavanagh and David Walsh have retired, Anthony Thompson is unavailable, while Leo McLoone and Odhrán Mac Niallais haven't returned for 2017.

It has left some gaping holes for Rory Gallagher, the Donegal manager, to fill, but McGee insists that Tir Chonaill have plenty of causes for optimism, despite the deluge of departures.

"Most of them were expected," he says. A couple of them could have stayed on, no bother, but you kind of knew that it was going to happen with most. The bulk of last year's starting team are still there. A lot of boys who have been there for a couple of years on the panel and have bided their time. They're developing well and we have a good batch here. There is no doubt about the quality that we have. You can see it in training. Some of them just need to prove themselves at senior level. These boys have a lot to offer. Time will tell. Last year we had the likes of Eoin McHugh come in and nail down a spot, Kieran Gillespie broke through too. We have plenty of quality coming."

"I still have a full car load with me. It's strange not having the boys, but I've Cian (Mulligan), (Micheál) Carroll and (Kieran) Gillespie now. It's changed a lot. I'm one of the older players now. You never think about that when you come in. Things change so quickly. When you come in, you're looking up to the older players and then, all of a sudden, it's you."

Not that he ever thought of walking away.

"I was always coming back," says the teak-tough full-back, a triple All-Star. As long as the body is good and I still feel in good shape, I'll stay about. It was important that a few of us stayed on. There is serious experience in that dressing room."

McGee still winces at talk of the last two Ulster finals. Donegal lost to Monaghan by a point in the 2015 final and they left Clones last July cursing another Anglo Celt that got away when a late trio of points by Sean Cavanagh, Peter Harte and Ciaran McGeary tipped the scales in Tyrone's favour.

### Good luck to the Donegal team in the 2017 Allianz National Football League!

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McGee says: "Ulster was there for us last year. We were in control for 50 minutes and it was all going to plan. We gave away a few soft points. Tyrone probably just showed they wanted it more. We did want it badly though. We let it slip. That's two years now we've been unlucky in the final. Rory has been unlucky as a manager so far – he could very easily have won two Ulster Championships. We've come out of two finals now thinking we should have won them. That's down to us. We should have got over the line. Looking back now, the margins in those games were very small. We made too many playing errors. We were set up well tactically, but we just didn't do what we should have."

McGee believes that Donegal – who begin their Allianz League campaign against Kerry in Letterkenny this Sunday – will be back contesting for silverware this summer. He says: "There's no reason we won't be challenging. Our target this year is to win Ulster. That's our prime target. We want to get to the August Bank Holiday and we want to get there the quickest way. Getting there through Ulster is the way to go. Ulster means everything. We're hoping for another title."

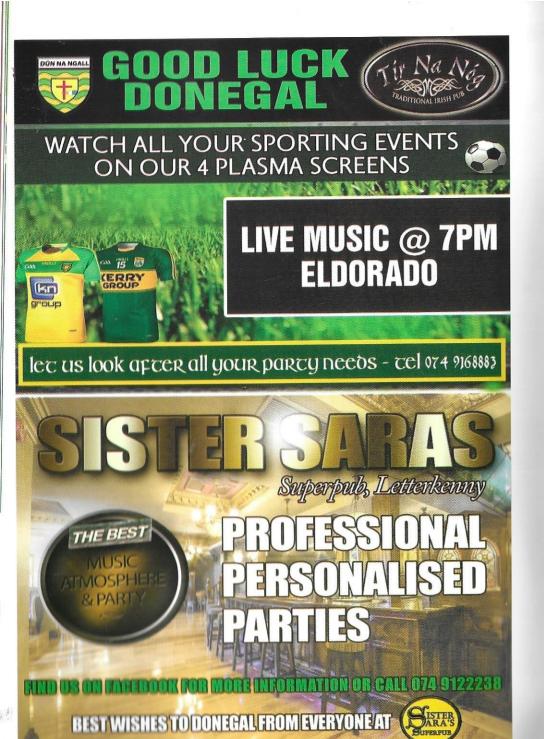
Ten years ago, McGee was still a fresh-faced member of a Donegal panel that won the county's first and, to date, only, Division 1 title, only for them to make a tame Ulster exit at Tyrone's hands in a semi-final. McGee says: "It's all about Championship. It's a pity that the League wasn't more important.

"Ten years ago, we hadn't won much. Donegal hadn't won a thing since 1992 and hadn't ever won a League. I think now, the League gives a truer reflection than it did back then. Like, we won the League and were flying. That's what we thought. We were lucky to beat Armagh and then we got hockeyed against Tyrone. Now, the top four in the League will usually be there or thereabouts in the Championship."

A red card against Fermanagh last year meant that McGee missed the drawn semi-final encounter with Monaghan and the replay won by Donegal. It broke a remarkable 11-year sequence and a run of 51 Championship games.

He says: "It was hard watching. The second game wasn't too bad because I felt that we were always the better team and weren't going to lose. The first game was absolute torture.

"I was never used to watching Championship games. It wasn't easy. I didn't even realise after the draw that I'd be okay for the final if we made it until someone said it to me in the tunnel."



# A Toye's Own Story - Donegal Says Goodbye to a Legend

By Alan Foley, Donegal Sport Hub

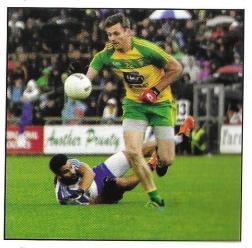


AS the dusk set in over Drumcondra on the last Saturday in July 2011, Donegal manager Jim McGuinness summoned Christy Toye from the bench 58 minutes into the All-Ireland quarter-final against Kildare.

A claustrophobic encounter was deadlocked at 0-7 apiece.

In 2009, with Donegal spluttering out of Ulster against Antrim, Toye ruptured an Achilles tendon in a drab qualifier against Clare. A pin could be heard drop in Ballybofey as he was stretchered from the field.

Twenty-five months passed without Toye's name appearing on a Donegal team sheet. He watched on in 2010 as Armagh decimated



Donegal from the championship in Crossmaglen. McGuinness, appointed that summer, was left to pick up the pieces. He wiped the slate clean, although Toye, who returned, didn't feature in 2011's Division Two or Donegal's first Ulster championship win in 19 years.

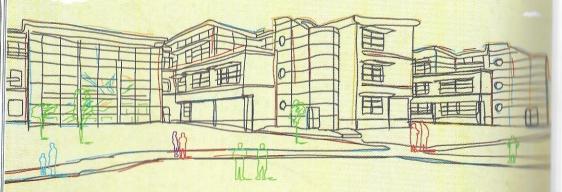
Darting straight towards Hill 16 against Kildare from the sideline, Toye, who had barely broken stride, was located by Frank McGlynn in a pocket of space. With his first touch, Toye drove past Shane Connolly just 25 seconds – a second for every month out - after his introduction.

As darkness fell – adding to the theatrics of the occasion – it evolved into a matter of whose heart would beat the longest. Toye levelled the scores in injury time in the second period of extra-time; the prelude to Kevin Cassidy's dramatic long-range winner with virtually the last kick of the game. Donegal had come through an epic, 1-12 to 0-14.

It was, in many ways, the second coming for Toye. A year later, this time on 61 minutes having replaced Leo McLoone, Donegal were four points up against Kerry in the All-Ireland quarter-final when Toye was once more thrown into the fray. Again, it took just 25 seconds for Toye to make an impact, slotting over at the Davin Stand side as Donegal overcame Jack O'Connor's side 1-12 to 1-10. Toye provided that valuable edge of experience against Cork and then against Mayo late in the 2-11 to 0-13 All-Ireland final victory of 2012.

Having had to pull out of the end of season team holiday to Dubai, Toye contracted trigeminal neuralgia – a rare facial nerve disorder previously known as 'suicide disease' – and spent five months in his bedroom at home in Creeslough. Toye and Donegal's tarot cards looked bleak following a 4-17 to 1-10 drubbing against James Horan's Mayo in the

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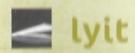
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2013 All-Ireland quarter-finals. McGuinness's future was questioned; many claimed Toye didn't even have that much. Nicknamed 'Magnus' after the former world's strongest man – Icelandic Magnús Ver Magnússon - because of his bench-pressing abilities, a different type of strength was required from Toye.

To the surprise of many, Toye was named at centre-field for Donegal's first outing of Division Two against Laois at O'Moore Park in February 2014. Seventy minutes later he was picking up the man of the match award after Donegal's 2-19 to 1-9 win. If there is such a thing, then this was Toye's third coming. That showed signs that Donegal and Toye's ailments were receding but it took until the Ulster final, where McGuinness's team overcame Monaghan 0-15 to 1-9, for the all-clear.

"This time last year I wasn't even playing and to be back here and playing and winning is very pleasing and is a humbling experience to be honest," Toye said as he grasped the Anglo-Celt Cup.

"I always had the hunger to play again and thankfully Jim showed faith in me, kept me in the panel and allowed me to be involved." That was important to me and I appreciated it and what the medical team did for me too. They were all brilliant and thankfully they got me back to fitness."

Donegal went on to defeat Armagh and then shocked Dublin to reach a second All-Ireland Final in three years, with Paul Durcan's save from Diarmuid Connolly and Toye's introduction perceived as the turning points in that 3-14 to 0-17 All-Ireland semi-final win. Donegal went on to lose to Kerry in the final but Toye's place had long since been etched in history. Like many of his contemporaries - the ones Eamon McGee calls the 'tracksuit ravers - Toye's career finished more laden than some might have ever expected. Himself included.

No player has ever scored as many championship goals at Croke Park. As a teenager, Toye was a Croke Park goalscorer against Meath in a 2002 qualifier and Armagh in the All-Ireland semi-final loss a year later. He slapped home an early goal against Cork in the 2006 All-Ireland quarter-final. And following that gamechanger against Kildare in 2011, there was a fifth against Galway in 2015 following a slap-down from clubmate Colm McFadden.

In all Toye, who is 33, made 163 appearances for Donegal before current manager Rory Gallagher broke the news last month that the clock had finally stopped on his and St Eunan's Rory Kavanagh's inter-county careers. "They're big losses in experience," said Gallagher. "It's been outrageous; the commitment they've given to Donegal. We have been very fortunate with all of these players.

"Christy and Rory are two of a kind. We've become so accustomed to seeing them in training and in games. They owe no-one anything and they've enjoyed their careers, especially the last few years."

Today, against Kerry in Letterkenny, it's something of a new dawn with new faces flooding into the senior panel from the successes at minor and under-21 level.

Some familiar faces are there no more and few gave the level of commitment as Toye between 2001 and 2016. Now the last chapter has been written.

There was never a dull moment in that particular Toye story.

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# Only for Bridie Gallagher Ye Would Have Never Been Heard' - Joe Keohane

By Tom Comack, Donegal Democrat/People's Press



Donegal and Kerry had to wait 100 years before they met for the first time in senior football.

That first meeting was in the 1984 Centenary Cup in Ballybofey and a star-studded Kerry side, that went on to beat Dublin in the All-Ireland final later in the year, proved far too strong for the locals. Donegal were in Division Three of the National Football League at the time and a few weeks later won promotion to Division Two.

But Donegal have come a long way since that March afternoon in Ballybofey.

And they have come even further since legendary Kerry full-back, the great Joe Keohane, quipped to a Donegal business man a couple of years earlier in a Tralee Hotel – "only for Bridie Gallagher, Donegal would never be heard of."

Another Kerry legend, the great Paidí O'Shea, relayed the story to me many years later in the early hours of a June Bank Holiday weekend in his hostelry in Ventry. The story goes that Paidí was drinking coffee one morning with Joe Keohane, on a break from doing business in a nearby Cash and Carry.

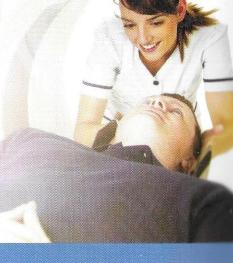
"It was the back end of the year" said Paidí. "I had been over in the Cash & Carry and while they were awaiting a delivery, to fill my order, I decided to go across the road to the Imperial Hotel and have a cup a coffee. Joe Keohane was there before me and as soon as I went into the bar he beckoned me to join him. We were chatting for a few minutes when this commercial traveller from Donegal came in and started chatting to the barman and bumming about Donegal and that they were the coming team."

"They had won the All-Ireland U21 final a few weeks earlier and your man kept going on about the team and that Donegal were going to be the team of the future. The more he went on the more I could see Joe get agitated until he shouted up at your man "only for Bridie Gallagher ye would never have been heard about."

Since that morning in the Autumn of 1982, Donegal have won another All-Ireland U21 title. Ironically, they defeated Kerry, in a replay, in the 1987 final. Donegal have been crowned All-Ireland Vocational Schools champions on six occasions, defeating Kerry in a couple of those finals.

In the intervening years, too, Donegal won a first senior All-Ireland Final in 1992, ironically, again made up by and large by the 1982 and '87 All-Ireland U21 teams. The Sam Maguire Cup was back in Donegal again in 2012, after Jim McGuinness masterminded All-Ireland triumph number two, defeating Kerry in the All-Ireland quarter-final along the way. Donegal also won a Division One league title in 1987.

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What do you think of that Joe Keohane?

For those of you from a younger generation here in O'Donnell Park, Joe Keohane was one of the outstanding full-backs of his time and was one of the early GAA legends.

He was a five-time All-Ireland winner in a career that spanned two decades from 1936 until 1949. For most of those years, too, he was the first-choice Munster full-back and was a member of two Railway Cup winning teams.

Bridie Gallagher was born and reared in Creeslough and was known as the 'Girl from Donegal'.

Bridie was widely regarded as Ireland's first 'International female pop star' when she first emerged on the entertainment scene in the 1950s.

Sadly, Joe Keohane, Bridie Gallagher and Paidí O'Shea are no longer with us. Ar dhéis Dé go raibh a anamacha.



St. Eunan's U14 Boy's Football - 2016 Co. Championship Winners. They defeated Termon in the Final by 3-09 to 2-06.



Colm "The Gooch" Cooper pictured a number of years ago on a visit to St. Eunan's College where he conducted a training session with the young students.



Niall O'Donnell receiving his Ulster Minor Final Man of the Match Award



#### Donegal v Kerry O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, March 2007

Report by Peter Campbell, Donegal Democrat



Inter County Football returned to O'Donnell Park in 2007 and today's visitors, Kerry were the opposition on that historic day. Fittingly, it was St. Eunan's star player Brendan Devenney who took the Man of the Match honours on the day for a Donegal team that featured 9 players that would go on to claim Celtic Crosses in 2012 including the recently retired Rory Kavanagh (St. Eunan's), Colm McFadden and Christy Toye (both St. Michael's) and Eamon Magee (Gaoth Dobhair).

Donegal 1-15 Kerry 0-13

Devenney Shines for Donegal as Inter County Football Returns to O'Donnell Park Donegal all but secured their place in the League semi-final with a magnificent display against Kerry in O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, on Sunday.

For true grit and determination as well as some great scores - especially from full-forward Brendan Devenney - Donegal recovered from a poor start to be very worthy winners.

Kerry started well and led by 0-8 to 0-3 after 20 minutes but they lost full-forward Kieran Donaghy to injury and thereafter Donegal began to find their feet to be just a point adrift at the break.

In the opening quarter, Donegal seemed all at sea trying to cope with Donaghy, pulling players back to cover and in doing so gave Kerry so much space.

In the second half Donegal just took over with Brendan Devenney giving a virtuoso display at full-forward and by the final whistle he had tacked on six points alongside his one from the first half.

Kerry had three points on the scoreboard by seven minutes with Declan Quill and Mike Frank Russell causing problems for Neil McGee and Karl Lacey. Colm McFadden showed the way for Donegal with two good points but Dara O Se, Quill and Bryan Sheehan edged Kerry five clear.

Donegal had a number of goal chances between the 26th and 30th minutes. Ciaran Bonner put Brian Roper through but his effort was blocked by Diarmuid Murphy and the Kerry 'keeper did the same two minutes later when Rory Kavanagh released Roper. On both occasions, Brendan Devenney was available for a pass which could have provided a goal.

It looked as if Donegal just couldn't beat the Kerry custodian as he denied Brendan Devenney on 30 minutes but three minutes later the goal that Donegal needed arrived.

Christy Toye delivered long and when the ball broke Colm McFadden worked it in along the 13m line and found Kevin Cassidy on his shoulder and he thundered the ball to the roof of the net from 12 yards.

Points were shared by Dara O Se and Colm McFadden in the remaining minutes as Kerry led 0-9 to 1-5 at the break. Indeed, the McFadden free, after he was fouled by Tom O'Sullivan, could well have been a penalty as the St. Michael's man seemed to be well inside the area when fouled.

Brendan Devenney put Donegal on terms inside thirty seconds of the restart and Declan Quill and Ciaran Bonner traded scores before Tomas O Se struck twice to put Kerry two clear with 46 minutes gone.

It was then that Donegal got their game together with Devenney pointing and substitute Michael Hegarty levelling before Devenney turned Marc O Se inside out to put Donegal into the lead for the first time with one of the points of the game.

Devenney added to the lead before Declan Quill had Kerry's final point with seven minutes left. But Donegal finished very strongly with Devenney hitting two more points in the 32nd and 38th minutes while in between Ciaran Bonner also struck two to leave Donegal very convincing winners at the end. The only trouble the Donegal defence had to deal with in the final quarter was a deflection off Neil Gallagher's knee which saw Paul Durcan saving well.

Donegal now have a full complement of ten points from their five games and they travel to Limerick next week while they have Fermanagh at home in the final game in two weeks' time.

Apart from Man of the Match Devenney, Donegal had excellent performers in Paddy Campbell, Paddy McConigley, Rory Kavanagh, Ciaran Bonner and Colm McFadden.

Dara O Se did everything he could for the Kerry cause while Declan Quill and Aidan O'Mahony also played well.

**DONEGAL:** Paul Durcan; Neil McGee, Paddy Campbell, Karl Lacey; Paddy McConigley, Barry Monaghan, Barry Dunnion; Neil Gallagher, Kevin Cassidy (1-0); Christy Toye, Rory Kavanagh (0-1), Brian Roper; Colm McFadden (0-3,1f), Brendan Devenney (0-7,3f), Ciaran Bonner (0-3). Subs: Michael Hegarty (0-1) for Roper; Kevin McMenamin for McFadden; Adrian Sweeney for Toye; Eamon McGee for Monaghan.

**KERRY:** Diarmuid Murphy; Marc O Se, Tom O'Sullivan, Mossie Lyons (0-1); Tomas O Se (0-2), Aidan O'Mahony, Padraig Reidy; Dara O Se (0-2), Tommy Griffin; Bryan Sheehan (0-1,f), Seamus Scanlon, Donnchadh Walsh; Declan Quill (0-4,2f), Kieran Donaghy, Mike Frank Russell (0-3), Subs: Sean O'Sullivan for Donaghy; Paul Galvin for Walsh; Darren O'Sullivan for S O'Sullivan; Brendan Guiney for T O Se.

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(Laois)

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Kerry Ciarraí



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Róghnóirí: Mikey Sheehy (Austin Stacks), Padraig Corcoran (Dingle), Llam Hassett (Laune Rangers), Maurice Fitzgerald (St Marys).

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Adrian Shields accepts the Club Ground of the Year Award for 2016 from Co. Treasurer Ciaran Kelly at the Annual Awards Banquet. Photo: Geraldine Diver

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Ryan Hilferty and Eóin McGeehin pictured at the ir recent graduation in NUI Galway. They were conferred with the Dermot Earley GAA Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action. They completed this course during Transition Year.

# Pat the Cope Gallagher



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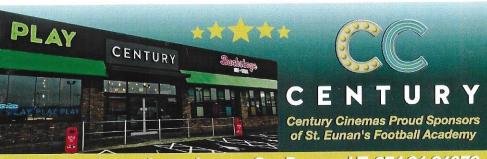
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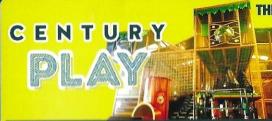
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#### **80 Years Ago: The Opening of** O'Donnell Park

Kieran Kelly







The present St. Eunan's GAA club was officially formed on the 19th February 1930 at a meeting consisting of 'representatives of An Garda, Tirconaill Mental Hospital and former members of the GAA in the town' with the view to reform the old St. Eunan's club and take an all liabilities and assets of the former club. This original short-lived club had been formed in 1927 following the amalgamation of the Letterkenny Rovers and Geraldines clubs but folded due to financial difficulties in 1928. At the inaugural meeting, Mr. D.F. Hyan was elected chairman and Anthony Gallagher from Sallaghgraine was chosen as the club captain. The committee chose as their colours 'black jerseys with amber hoops and black stockings' and they approached the Asylum Hospital Committee for the use Their field for matches. The first match for the new St. Eunan's Club took place on 2nd Such 1930 on the grounds of the Asylum Hospital (St. Conal's), losing to Killygordon 110 3 points. A year later, the club secured the hiring of a playing field in Glencar Mrs. Margaret Kelly of Bomany where they played their matches until 1937. After



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renovations to the grounds, this field became known as 'Gaelic Park, Glencar' and even hosted the Ulster Junior Football Final in 1933 between Donegal and Derry, the home team winning on a scoreline of 3-7 to 1-3.

In 1931, St. Eunan's first success came. The hurling team won the Derry People Cup that year while a new club in the town also made its bow. "St. Pat's" were formed in April 1931, with former Letterkenny Rovers player Frank Larkin their star player. The first match between the town rivals took place on 24th May 1931 at Gaelic Park, Glencar a venue that was shared between the clubs. St. Eunan's achieved moderate success in their early years, winning the Minor Championship at Rashedoge in 1932 and their hurling team winning the Championship of the Northern Area in October 1933.

However, the club soon wanted a permanent residence rather than hiring a pitch each year and under the chairmanship of John Crumlish and through the tireless work of club secretary John Hourihane, they bought a 7-acre field that was formerly part of the Boyd estate in Sallaghgraine for £300 from the Urban District Council and called it "O'Donnell Park", after the former Bishop of the Diocese, Patrick O'Donnell.

At the official opening of 'the county's premier Gaelic stadium' on 2nd May 1937, the Derry Journal reported: "Yesterday, Donegal added yet another glorious chapter to the annals of its unswerving allegiance to the games of the Gael, when to the accompaniment of a triumphal celebration, the like of which the North has rarely seen, the O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, came into official existence. The occasion was an historic one for the county, and in a special way for the Cathedral Town, where was born the enlightened thought that the time was opportune, and conditions favourable, for the acquisition by the GAA of a playing field that would be worthy, in the fullest sense, of the great national and cultural purpose for which it would be utilized."

At 2p.m. on that historic day, before an estimated crowd of 6,000 people, the Bishop of Raphoe, Rev. William McNeely performed an official blessing ceremony on a specially meeted platform followed by addresses from Rev. D. Molloy, Chairman of the County Hoard and William Boyle, Chairman of the Urban Council before Mr. Padraig McNamee, President of the Ulster Council officially declared the park open.

Following the addresses by the invited dignitaries, Antrim hurlers defeated Donegal by 5.5 to 2-2 and Armagh defeated the Donegal footballers 2-5 to 1-7. The day may have ended in defeat for the county, but St. Eunan's GAA Club finally had a fitting and permanent home to call their own.

Kleran Kelly is author of "Letterkenny: Where the Winding Swilly Flows" and Chairman of the Letterkenny Historical Society

# FOIREANN GHAOTH DOBHAIR DIVERS HYUNDAL MAINTAN

Foireann Ghaoth Dobhair a bhain Craobh Peile faoi 21 Dhún na nGall 2016.



## Donegal Clubs Enjoy Underage Ulster Success



Iwo Donegal clubs tasted success in Ulster competition this past season with Killybegs becoming the 3rd Donegal winners of the Ulster Óg Sport Gael 7-a-side (U15) crown in the last 4 seasons in September while St. Eunan's claimed victory in the Spirit of Paul McGirr tournament in Dromore, Co. Tyrone that is recognised as the Ulster championship for the U16 age grade.

#### Killybegs Win Óg Sport Title

The Killybegs U15 Óg Sport Gael team created history for their club by clinching the Ulster championship on Saturday the 3rd of September 2016 in Aughnamullen Co Monaghan. Managed by Dermot "Slua" Boyle and assisted by Marty McGing the team had already claimed both Southern Regional and County Championships in the week's prior defeating an excellent Naomh Conaill team in both finals. Placed in a group along with Fermanagh's Enniskillen Gaels, Down's Longstone and Tyrone's Carrickmore, the boys won the first two games before going down to Carrickmore but having done enough to qualify for the "A" semi-final where they met Monaghan side Latton. A beamus Og Byrne goal proved crucial in the second half and the boys held on for a 105 to 0 06 victory to set up a rematch with Carrickmore. In the final Karl Gallagher's point taking and a brilliant injury time save by Corey Byrne coupled with an all-round team performance saw the boys claim the title with a 0-10 to 0-08 victory which led to great celebrations and a great home coming into Killybegs late that evening. As a



result of winning the title, the 2017 Ulster Finals will now take place in Eamonn Byrne Park, Fintra, Killybegs in September 2017. The team on Ulster final day was: Corey Byrne, Eoin Mc Ging, Cillian Gildea (c), Patrick Dowd, Timmy Gorrell, Seamus Óg Byrne, Charlie Breslin, Karl Gallagher, Conor Cunningham and Ross Connelly.

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Wishing Donegal all the best in the year ahead



#### St. Eunan's Win Spirit of Paul McGirr

After completing a League and Championship double in Donegal, St. Eunan's travelled to Dromore in Tyrone in mid-November for their opening game in the Ulster U16 championship, The Spirit of Paul McGirr and a game against Fermanagh champions Derrygonnelly. The lads ran up a big score to advance to a semi-final meeting with pie tournament favourites O'Donovan Rossa, Magherafelt (Derry) who had defeated last year's winners Clann Eireann from Armagh in their quarter-final. After a close first half the Black & Amber once again – as they had so often done all year – turned it on in the 2nd half to score another convincing victory on a score of 4-13 to 1-05. This set them up for a Final meeting on December 3rd with St. Peter's Warrenpoint (Down) who had defeated Tyrone champions Killeshil in the other semi-final. Once again, the game was close at half-time with Darragh Ellison netting a first half goal for St. Eunan's to give them the advantage at half-time 1-06 to 1-02. They pulled away in the 2nd half once again with Man of the Match Michael Gallagher (3), Conor "Duck" O'Donnell and Patrick Tobin (penalty) adding further goals to make a final score of St. Eunan's 6-10, St. Peter's, Warrenpoint 1-06.





Mune O'Donnell and Michael Gallagher in action for St. Eunan's U16's in their Ulster Spirit of Paul McGirr semi-final v O'Donovan Rossa, Magherafelt



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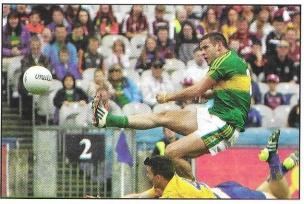
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#### Wind of Change in the Kingdom

By Jason O'Connor (Freelance Journalist, Killarney)



WHILE the winds of change appear to be blowing in the Kingdom, the old adage of the more things change, the more they stay the same' appears to true in terms of the general expectations of the county's followers in what might well become a transitionary 2017. While the departures of Marc O Sé and Aidan O'Mahony might raise questions about how Kerry's defence will line up their decision to step aside



Shane Enright (Photo: Paddy White)

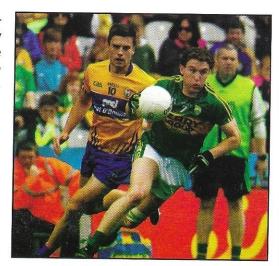
before the year begins in earnest does offer Eamon Fitzmaurice sufficient time to plan how the Kingdom's rear-guard might look in the coming year. With Kieran Donaghy committing to another year despite indications to the contrary in the aftermath of last year's campaign, it gives Fitzmaurice an extra consideration for attack while everyone awaits. Colm Cooper's decision on his inter-county future once Dr Crokes' All-Ireland Club Championship campaign concludes.

Indeed, with Kerry represented in all three of the All-Ireland Club Championship grades it means that Stephen O'Brien' (Kenmare Shamrocks) and Darran O'Sullivan (Glenbeigh/Glencar) will miss out on the early part of the campaign. Into this vacuum however come options from a pretty glorious era at Minor level for Kerry in the form of three consecutive Tommy Markham Cup winning teams. The first of those All-Ireland winning teams got the better of Donegal in 2014 as part of the novel Senior and Minor double header the same day in Croke Park. Brian Ó Beaglaoich is probably the most famous graduate from that class in terms of making an impression on the senior ranks to soon but it's a player just to miss on the three-in-a-row winning years, Jack Savage, who has been perhaps one of the standouts in Kerry's provincial warm-up success in Minister's McGrath Cup.

Famon Fitzmaurice will be unlikely to get too carried away with such a success. Kerry won the 2013 staging in his first year as senior manager before enduring a pretty torrid beautice campaign that saw them just avoid relegation on the final day thanks in no small part to the outcome of the corresponding Donegal vs. Dublin fixture the same

day! In making the long trip northwest up the Wild Atlantic Way, Kerry have a bit of a hoodoo to overcome in facing Donegal on home turf. One has to go back to 2003 for Kerry's last victory on Tir Chonaill soil as their last trip up here also ended in defeat four years ago, contributing to the aforementioned rough ride in the Allianz League that year. This particular encounter will take place in the aftermath of a pretty fiery affair in Tralee's Austin Stack Park last year, one that saw repercussions afterwards for both sides from the powers that be.

Fitzmaurice was keen to downplay any potential residue from that match in advance of today's renewal



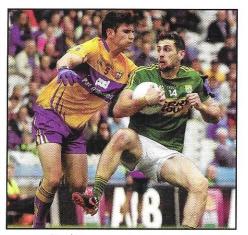
Tadhg Morley (Photo: Paddy White)

and with some of the protagonists from last year no longer involved it might well be the case. One thing that Kerry can be sure of is with four Ulster teams in Division One this year they are likely to be tested physically although in getting home advantage for both the Monaghan and Tyrone games they will feel they might have got a big break there. St Patricks Weekend will be one that will be watched with interest though by the county as Dublin make the trip down to Tralee with the question of whether or not their two-year winning run across all competitions will be on the line after the opening four games of the League?

Should the Dubs stay undefeated until then it will offer Kerry the opportunity to match their feat of March 2015 on home soil and become the first side to beat the back-to-back All-Ireland Champions in a competitive encounter in the intervening period. No All-Ireland title will be decided that night in Tralee but it might give Kerry a greater indication of where they lie in the overall scheme of things. The county will be expected to go through the direct route again in the Championship, the only caveat in Munster being Cork's shock defeat to Tipperary in last year's Semi-Final meaning the Rebels don't get a bye into the semi-finals this year and will have to start off with a First Round encounter before a potential re-match with the Premier County in the semi-final. If another Old Firm Munster Final comes to pass, the potential for it to be played at a newly re-opened and redeveloped Pairc Ui Chaoimh will add maybe an extra layer to a rivalry that has been dominated by the Kingdom since their last Championship defeat to Cork back in 2012.

On the managerial front a small but significant change was made in the selector's

ranks with the revered Maurice Fitzgerald replacing Diarmuid Murphy and entering the inter-county sideline for the first time. Fitzgerald pretty much shunned the limelight following his departure from inter-county football in 2001 but leading his club St Marys Cahersiveen to the All-Ireland Intermediate Club title last year brought him into prominence once more and he is likely to apply a lot of traditional thought to the ever-changing nature of the inter-county game. Returning to the League and with no Semi-Final stage this year, the margin for error will be a lot less for all concerned in terms of ambitions for making the League Final.



Paul Geaney (Photo: Paddy White)

Kerry will want simply to get off to a better start to the opening two matches in the League, only once since Fitzmaurice took over as manager have they won either of their opening two games, Derry in 2015, and they will want something not only from this but also the visit of Mayo next Saturday night to Tralee in order to achieve that aim. The addition of some of Jack O'Connor's U-21 charges for this particular period will be an aid but Kerry much like Donegal with their own retirements will probably see today as an opportunity to find out what some of their prospects are like in the heat of battle.



Rival Captains Michael Murphy (Donegal) and Bryan Sheehan (Kerry) shake hands before their League meeting in Austin Stack Park last year with Referee, Rory Hiuckey of Clare.

(Photo: Joe Hanley)

# Go Wild Atlantic Way in Donegal





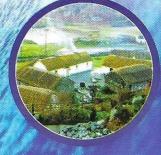




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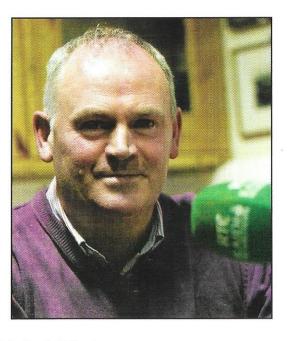
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#### Séamus Mac Géidigh

Cathal Mac Grianna



D'imigh Séamus Mac Géidigh uainn go tobann Dé Luain, 4 Iúil 2016. Tháinig an bás go gasta agus é amuigh ag siúl sa tráthnóna ina bhaile dhúchais, An Ardaí Bheag. Chuir bás luath Shéamuis isteach ar gach duine a raibh aithne acu air agus bhí aithne leitheadach air ó cheann ceann na tire agus meas mór ag gach duine air. Crothnófar Séamus i bpáirceanna peile Dhún na nGall, i gCúige Uladh, agus ar fud na hÉireann uilig. Is mór ar mbrón nach bhfeicfidh muid é ag siúl isteach an geata go Páirc Ul Dhónaill inniu. Tá pictiúr inár nalgne dó féin agus a mhála dubh ar a ghualainn ag tarraingt ar láthair an phreasa. Ní raibh a leithéid le fáil agus é imbun craolacháin. Thug sé cuntais beo cruinn ar chluichí clubanna agus



Contae. Bhí sé fhéin agus a chara Hughie linn i dtólamh.

Hor Ghael a bhí ann a raibh a chroí san áit cheart. Fear garach, dílis don teaghlach, don dureideamh, don teanga agus don chultúr a bhí ann. Bhí faill agus am ag Séamus do gach duine. D'oibrigh sé go deonach i gceantar Ghort a Choirce agus leoga, d'fhág sé lorg a láimhe ar mhórchuid de choistí deonacha Chloich Cheann Fhaola. Ní raibh chámh falsa ina chorp. Bhí sé fosta ar choiste na Gaeilge CLG i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Inniu agus muid anseo a chrothnú, tá muid ag smaoineamh ar a bhean chéile, Dolores, agus ar a theaghlach, Éadaoin, Póilín agus Dónal. Tá muid ag smaoineamh fosta ar cheannaire RTÉ, RnaG, Edel Ní Chuireáin, ar an fhoireann in RTÉ, RnaG sna Doirí Beaga, daoine a d'oibrigh go dúthrachtach dó agus leis.

Beidh a phictiúr crochta sa láthair craolacháin anseo i bPáirc Uí Dhónaill ón lá seo amach. Ní dhéanfar dearmad do Shéamus anseo.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

Photo: Eoin McGarvey

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#### Quiz

- 1. What county has played in an Alllreland football semi-final but have not won a provincial title?
- 2. How many Ulster titles have Donegal?
- 3. Which Kerry family have the most All-Stars?
- 4. How many Donegal football championships have St. Eunan's?
- 5. Who was leading scorer in the 2016 All-Ireland football championship?
- 6. Name the GPA/GAA Footballer and Hurler of the Year for 2016?
- 7. Ulster recently won the Interprovincial football title (Railway Cup). Who was their captain?
- Who are the only county in Ireland in football or hurling who have a 100% success rate in All-Ireland finals?
- Who captained the Donegal Masters to the All-Ireland Shield title recently?
- 10. Who was Donegal's top scorer in the 2016 Championship?
- 11. What Kerry club won the Munster Club championship before Christmas?

- **12.** Who is the new manager of the Cavan senior footballers?
- **13.** What famous footballer is the new CEO of the Gaelic Players' Association?
- **14.** What was the margin of victory when Donegal defeated Kerry in the All-Ireland quarter-final in 2012 on their way to All-Ireland glory?
- **15.** Who was the first winner of the Gradam Sheamuis Mhic Geidigh for Player of the Donegal Club Championship in 2016?
- **16.** What county has lost the most All-lreland football finals?
- **17.** What is the name of former Donegal All-Ireland winner, Donal Reid's autobiography?
- **18.** What is the name of the trophy awarded to the winners of the International Rules Series?
- 19. Who sponsors Hawkeye in Croke Park?
- **20.** What county defeated Donegal minors in the All-Ireland semi-final of 2016?

Answers on page 55



St. Eunan's U16 Girls who defeated Milford in the Co. Championship Final



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#### St. Eunan's Claimed a 2nd enior Championship in 1956





This weekend the St. Eunan's Club held their Annual Presentation Night for 2016 and used the occasion to mark the 60th anniversary of their 2nd County Senior Football Championship win.

St. Eunan's had claimed a 1st ever title in 1948 they defeated mighty Western Division champions Dobhair who were chasing a 5th title

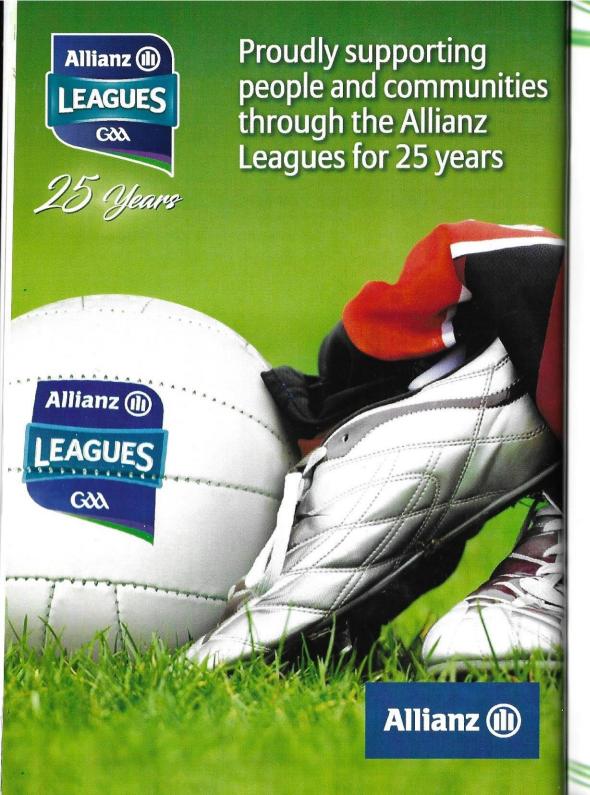


Peadar McGeehin 1956

in a row. They won that day on a score of 1-07 to 2-01 with former great Seán Curran netting a second half goal to seal the win in a typically close encounter.

It signalled a first golden age for the St. Eunan's club in terms of competing at the top table of Donegal football over the next twenty years. Further finals were reached – and lost – in 1949 (Gaoth Dobhair claimed revenge!); 1950 – the final against Donegal Town that was never played; 1951 (Ballyshannon); 1952 (Killybegs) and 1955 (Gaoth Dobhair again!) and 1958 (to Dungloe after a replay). League titles did come the way of St. Eunan's during the '50's in 1952, 1954, 1957 & 1958 and our sole Senior Championship in the 1950's was won against Ballyshannon in 1956.

Captain Peadar McGeehin, Seán Curran, Conn Halpin, and a young James "Gouldie" McGettigan remained from the history makers of 1948. Gone were 1948 captain Jim "Tune" McGlynn and fellow St. Eunan's Hall of Fame player Pearse Dawson, Paddy McGeehan, Charlie Boyle and Eamon McMenamin. St. Eunan's had won 3 minor Championships in a row in the late '40's into 1950 and these players were now breaking through into the Senior ranks at O'Donnell Park as that 2nd, elusive title was sought. Hall of Fame players Seamus Hoare, Seamus McCann, Harry Blake and John Hannigan were joined by Noel O'Donnell, Michael Ronaghan, John Charles Duffy, Francie McLaughlin, James Larkin and a young Seosamh Halpin along with transfers Joe Carroll and Tommy



Ryan (father to All-Ireland medal winning son of the same name in 1992) in the senior team as the '50's rolled on.

They began their 1956 campaign in the Eastern Division against rivals Erin's Hope (Ballybofey & Stranorlar) winning both the home and away games that would see them advance to a meeting with Inishowen's Carndonagh in the quarter-final – a game they would win on a score of 1-07 to 0-03. This set up a semi-final with archrivals Gaoth Dobhair who'd won the day in the 1955 Final. This time the Black & Amber would not be denied as they saw off the reigning champions by 3-08 to 1-08. That set up a repeat of the 1951 final against Ballyshannon. This time St. Eunan's would hold off the Ballyshannon challenge and bring a 2nd Senior Championship back to the Cathedral Town on a score of 0-08 to 1-02.

Many of these great names not only represented St. Eunan's with great distinction but also Donegal and we were delighted to remember their exploits at this year's Presentation Night.

#### The 1956 team:

		Conr	ı Halpin	
	Seamus McCann	Peadar McGeehin (c)		Michael Ronaghan
John Hannigan		Joe Carroll		Noel O'Donnell
	Seosamh Halpin		John Charle	s Duffy
	Harry Blake	Seán Curran		Tommy Ryan
Francie McLaughlin		James N	1cGettigan	Francis Cannon

Subs: Jack McDonagh, James Larkin and Patrick Peoples.







Aithriseoireacht: Conor Ó Gallchóir -Cloich Cheann Fhaola

Scór na nÓg: In Scór na nÓg, this year 2016/2017, a total of 28 clubs took part in Donegal with capacity attendances at all three semi-finals and the county final. The current Scór na nÓg county champions are outlined below.

Rince Foirne: Naomh Adhamhnáin Amhránaíocht Aoife Lennon - Bun Aonair: Cranncha

Althriseoireacht:

Conor Ó Gallchóir

– Cloich Cheann

Fhaola

Cool Uirlise: Léiriú Stáitse: Baileád Ghrúpa:

Tráth na gCeist:

Gaoth Dobhair Gaoth Dobhair

Roibeard Eiméid Naomh Columba



Tráth na gCeist: Naomh Columba

Comhghairdeas leo go léir.

Conor Ó Gallchóir – Cloich Cheann Fhaola and Naomh Columba will represent Donegal in the All Ireland finals in Belfast on the 11th of February. Ádh mór orthú agus go néirigh go geal leo.

Scór Sinsir: The focus now turns to Scór Sinsir and below are the details of the county semi-finals and final.

First semi-final:

Friday 10th February in Drimarone at 7.00pm

Second semi-final: Friday 17th February in

Muff at 7.00pm

**County Final:** Saturday 25th February

in Glenswilly at 7.30pm

#### **OUIZ ON PAGE 49**

ANSWERS: 1. Fermanagh (they reached the semi-final in 2004 through the back door); 2. Eight (1972, '74, 113, '90, '92, 2011, 2012, 2014); **3.** The Spillanes (Pat, Tom and Mick) with 13. (The O Sés (Darragh, Tomas and Marc) have 12, but if you add uncle Paidi, they have 17); 4. 15; 5. Dean Rock with 1-58; 6. Lee Keegan and Austin Gleeson; 7. Eoin Donnelly of Fermanagh; 8. Kerry (they played in one hurling final in 1891, winning it); Gerard McGrenra, Glenswilly; 10. Patrick McBrearty with 0-29 (he was joint fourth overall); 11. Dr. Crokes; 12. Mattie McGleenan (former Tyrone forward); 13. Dermot Earley; 14. Two points (1-12 to 1-10); 15. Michael Murphy; 16. Kerry with 22 (they have won 37!); 17. Confessions of a Gaelic Footballer; 18. The Cormac McAnallen Trophy: 19. Specsavers: 20. Galway.



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#### Donegal Claim Second U21 Crown

By Paul McGovern







Donegal claimed a first, historic All-Ireland U21 crown in 1982 when they defeated Roscommon in Carrick-on-Shannon and hopes were high that the class of 1987 under PJ McGowan could deliver a second crown to Donegal.

The team was backboned by many of those that had won the Ulster Minor crown under Jimmy White in 1985 and Jimmy along with Joe "Dodo" Winston formed McGowan's management team in 1987.Captain John Cunningham, his Killybegs team mates Barry Cunningham, Barry McGowan, John "Bán" Gallagher and Conor White along with Tommy Ryan, John Joe Doherty, Danny Gallagher, Diarmaid Keon, Luke Gavigan and Dermot Ward were among those that had risen from that Minor team in '85 but the undoubted star of the team was a man in his last year at U21 level who was also starting to get noticed for his performances at Senior level - a certain Manus Boyle.

Donegal began that '87 campaign with a home game against Fermanagh in Ballyshannon and scraped through to a semi-final on a score of 2-07 to 2-06 with many recalling a Fermanagh "wide" in the first half that most everyone in the ground agreed was in fact a score. Luke Gavigan was given his marching orders in the second half but not before he had found the back of the Fermanagh net twice in the space of three minutes in the first half

The narrow victory had set up a quarter-final against reigning Ulster Champions Derry (and a repeat of the 1986 Ulster U21 final) in Bellaghy – a game that was switched late in the day from Magherafelt – a fact that was unknown not only to many supporters

but also to some of the players in the days before mobile phones and social media! Cormac McGarvey was involved in an accident en-route to the match and his delay meant his starting berth went to John Joe Doherty while Brian Mór Gallagher also arrived in Magherafelt unaware of a change of venue to Bellaghy – fortunately just 7 miles away and he arrived in time to line out at midfield. Glen's Paddy Hegarty replaced the suspended Gavigan in attack. Both Glen men were in the team to stay. Donegal started on fire - the aforementioned Manus Boyle netted after barely 3 minutes to set this hungry Donegal team on their way to a famous victory. Barry Cunningham and Tommy Ryan also found the Derry net as Donegal held firm against a stiff 2nd half breeze to run out winners 3-05 to 1-07.

Next up for Donegal were Armagh in Lurgan. By this time, Donegal were warming to the Idea of an Ulster title and once again they faced a stiff breeze in Armagh. This time they would face the elements in the first half with the intention of limiting a Jarlath Burns led Armagh team to a minimum amount of scores. The hosts led by 1-05 to 0-02 at the short whistle but once talisman Manus Boyle found the back of the Armagh net early in the second half there was only going to be one winner. Armagh registered a single point in the second period as Donegal advanced to an Ulster Final with Monaghan. Danny Gallagher had taken over between the posts after David Meehan suffered a broken arm in a club game and he too would remain No. 1 for the rest of the year.

Monaghan awaited a Donegal team in the Ulster Final that was to be played in livinestown and on the day Donegal played well enough but failed to make their superiority count where it mattered – on the score board. They couldn't put the Farney men away and their 3-point lead in the closing stages evaporated when Monaghan bundled home a goal to force a replay. Donegal wouldn't be denied in the replay with Paddy Hegarty getting the goal in a 1-11 to 0-08 win.... Donegal were Ulster U21 Champions for the 2nd time!

The Ulster win for PJ McGowan's charges set up an All-Ireland semi-final with Laois. Laois had navigated through Leinster just as they had done in 1982 and once again they would meet Donegal in their bid for the All-Ireland title. In a tense, close game a single point separated the sides at the end with the green and gold of Donegal prevailing just as they had done in 1982, this time the score was 1-07 to 1-06 (0-05 to 0.04 in 1982) with Glenfin's Dermot Ward grabbing the Donegal goal.

The might of Kerry, no less, would be Donegal's opponents in the 1987 U21 All-Ireland Linal with Tuam chosen as the venue. Donegal supporters travelled in their thousands hoping to see another All-Ireland title. On the day Donegal didn't do themselves justice and were happy to get out of Tuam with a draw courtesy of a late Manus free. Donegal 1 07, Kerry 0-10. Captain, John Cunningham got the Donegal goal from the penalty spot but the general feeling on the day was that Kerry had left this one behind them.

The replay was set for 3 weeks later in Dr. Hyde Park and Donegal were determined to put up a better display – they felt they had the beating of this Kerry team if only they turned up on the day. Kerry were led by Mick Galwey who would go on to a glittering

#### ALL-IRELAND UNDER-21 FINAL

#### GLORIOUS TRIUMPH FOR DONEGAL

DONEGAL played their way into history at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon, on Sunday when they proved themselves the best Under-21 footballers in Ireland by giving Kerry an exhibition in skillful football and determination. Taking the best that the mighty Kerry could throw at them, Donegal turned on the style in the aird quarter of the game and completely frustrates







#### **Donegal will lift** the Sam Maguire predicts P. J.

rugby career with Munster and Ireland and who had picked up an All-Ireland Senior medal the previous September as a member of the Kerry squad that defeated Tyrone in the All-Ireland final. Donegal would have to deal with Galwey if they were to beat Kerry! Manus Boyle had won rave reviews in the media both locally and nationally following the drawn game but he gave a glimpse of what was to come in 1992 with an imperious display that saw him notch an impressive 1-07 out of Donegal 1-12 tally in the replay as they turned in a performance of a team that believed that they could not be beaten. Manus took home Man of the Match honours – as he would do again in 1992 against Dublin (with 9 points out of 0-18) but this title was won not by 15 players but with a squad as the team took shape throughout the campaign.

The team of 1992 was made up largely of the two teams that took home the Tadhq Ó Cléirigh Cup in 1982 & 1987 and we are delighted to remember that historic team of 1987 in today's match programme.

The team that defeated Kerry was: Danny Gallagher, John Joe Doherty, John Connors, Thomas Maguire; Diarmaid Keon, John Cunningham, Paul Carr; Barry Cunningham, John Bán Gallagher; Paddy Hegarty, Tommy Ryan, Barry McGowan; Dermot Ward, Manus Boyle, Luke Gavigan. Subs: David Meehan, Seamus Ward, Cormac McGarvey, Brian Mór Gallagher, Conor White, Joey McDermott, Peter MacIntyre, Seamus Doohan and Emmet Golden.



1957 County Senior Football Champions, Dungloe, they defeated Ballyshannon in the Final on a score of 0-12 to 1-04.

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#### **ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE - ROUND 1**

Young Donegal side put up valiant effort but Kerry team very strong in all departments

### FORWARD POWER THE DIFFERENCE

PETER CAMPBELL

sport@donegaldemocrat.com Twitter: @dgldemocrat

Donegal went down by three points but the margin flattered them as Kerry left O'Donnell Park as worthy winners.

Kerry ..... 2-17

Fielding a very young side, Were further Donegal hampered with Neil McGee crying off habors the start because of a turning bug.

Kerry's ambitions to do well in the league were obvious by their team selection, and they started really well with their atrong forward line giving Honegal many headnehea

I wit minds from full-forfaul Geaney, was mnough to give Kerry a denerved white y in the end.

Before figure, Donegal never lanked like winning, has how they finished will

brought in to replace McGee as youthful home

side were 0-4 to 0-1 behind after 15 minutes, newcomer Jack Savage striking twice.

Kerry lost Shane Enright to injury after 8 minutes, and Donegal got back in the contest thanks to a great run from Marty O'Reilly, which drew a penalty on 22 minutes. Michael Murphy despatched with aplomb to the bottom

The goal put Donegal ahead 1-2 to 0-4, but Kerry struck back immediately with Paul Geaney goaling and Donnchadh Walsh pointing. It was a measure of how good Kerry were in the opening half. They dominated the midfield and were particularly strong in attacking down the Aura side of the ground.

In the last ten minutes of the opening half, Kerry five unanswered points to one from Michael Murphy to leave it 1-11 to 1-5 at the break.

Donegal had the opening two points of the second half, Patrick McBrearty converting a free after a good run by Eoin McHugh. and Ciaran Thompson having a great effort deflected just over the crossbar.

But Kerry cancelled those with three of their own. Paul Brennan converted for Donegal but then Paul Geaney struck for a second goal on 45 minutes to have them 2-14 to 1-8 ahead.

The nine point margin was a winning one, although to Donegal's credit, they kept going to the very end. Michael Murphy and Eoin McHugh kept Donegal on the front foot and there were some great points from Darach O'Connor (2), Ciaran Thompson, McBrearty and Michael Murphy, although they never looked like getting on terms.

Jason McGee had claims for a penalty while Stephen McBrearty had an effort at goal well blocked in a frantic finish.

There will be positives to take from the result, but there are also many things to work on. Winning ball at midfield, especially from their own kick-outs, will be top of their list this week as they prepare to travel to Roscommon.

Caolan Ward, Eoghan Ban Gallagher, Martin O'Reilly, Eoin McHugh and Ciaran

Thompson were to the fore while Patrick McBrearty and Michael Murphy again accounted for a big portion of the scores.

It could be a difficult league for Donegal, given the large number of young players involved. However, they will have to learn and loarn quickly, as all the teams in the top flight are going all out for league success.

The encouraging thing for Donegal will be their final tally of 1-17 with nine different scorers. That total would be enough to win many matches. But they will also have to consider Kerry't tally, which could have been much greater. Donegal also landed a number of efforts in the hands of Brian Kelly, which is always disappointing.

The home support were not happy with some of the malla by referee, Maurice Deegan, who seemed to give Kerry the 50-50 calls, although it should be said it wasn't a factor in the result.

Donegal have three more mamma at home, but they are all slifficult. But for now, they will have to regroup and hope that they can build on this display for next week.



Donegal's Stephen McBrdarty has his goal-bound shot blocked by Kerry's David Moran during the National League Div 1 in O'Donnell Park, Photo Thomas Gallagher INDD060217 Donegal v Kerry TG17

#### **MATCH FACTS**

DONEGAL: Mark Anthony McGinley: Paddy McGrath, Caolan Ward, Eoghan Ban Gallagher; Paul Brennan (0-01), Ryan McHugh (0-01); Frank McGlynn; Jason McGee, Hugh McFadden; Ciaran Thompson (0-03), Michael Langan, Martin O'Reilly (0-01); Patrick McBrearty (0-04,3f), Michael Murphy (1-03, 1-0 pen, 3f), Jamie Brennan. Subs., Eoin McHugh (0-01) for McGlynn (25); Conor Gibbons (0-01) for Langan (42): Darach O'Connor (0-02) for J Brennan (48); Eamonn Doherty for McGrath (49); Ethan O'Donnell for O'Reilly (58); Stephen McBrearty for McFadden (60)

KERRY: Brian Kelly; Jason Foley, Mark Griffin, Shane Enright; Peter Crowley, Killian Young, Tom O'Sullivan (0-01); David Moran (0-01), Tadhg Morley: Jonathan Lyne (0-01), Paul Murphy (0-01), Donnchadh Walsh (0-02): Jack Savage (0-03,1f), Paul Geaney (2-04, 0-2f), James O'Donoghue (0-03), Subs., Jack Barry (0-1) for Enright (8); Michael Geaney for Lyne (49); B J Keane for O'Donoghue (52); Brendan O'Sullivan for Murphy (58); Conor Geaney for Savage (60): Barry O'Sullivan for Walsh (66)

REFEREE: M Deegan (Laois)

FREES: Donegal 13 (6 in first half). Kerry 18 (10 in first half).

WIDES: Donegal 3 (3). Kerry 7 (5).

YELLOW CARDS: Donegal Hugh McFadden 59. Kerry David Moran 41 **BLACK CARDS: Kerry Jack Barry 72** 

**RED CARDS: None:** 

#### MAN OF THE MATCH

Paul Geaney with 2-4 has to get nod, although David Moran and James O'Donoghue also played well. Martin O'Reilly, Eoin McHugh and Ciaran Thompson stood out for Donegal.

Maurice Deegan didn't use much whistle, with just 31 frees in entire game. That said, Kerry seemed to get frees easier than Donegal.