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CORK'S ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE TITLE — PA FINN'S FINEST HOUR



It's been a remarkable year for Pa Finn. Not only did he maintain his wonderful record of never losing a final in which he has been involved as manager, but in doing so he also helped Cork to a fabulous 20th All-Ireland senior camogie title.

Although immersed since boyhood in the traditions of the GAA, the Cork camogie boss rates the experience of winning this year's Foras na Gaeilge-sponsored senior final with the red and white as the best he's ever had in sport. Words like 'magical' and 'marvellous' are how the former St Finbarr's hurler and coach described his emotions soon after helping the Leesiders to success. As a result, the county now lie second in the pecking order, six wins short of Dublin in the roll of honour.

"When I was with hurling clubs I

got a great kick out of winning. This was different though - it was a county side and it was my first time with a camogie team. It was marvellous especially when you were playing in a stadium like Croke Park. It was the best ever as far as I am concerned," said Pa. Sweet indeed, but sweeter still considering this was only Pa's second season with the team. He came on board at the start of 2001, a decision he arrived at only after lengthy deliberation. Although he could draw on many years experience of managing hurling teams, camogie was a sport with which he had no previous involvement.

"I had no knowledge at all of camogie, it was always hurling for me. I said I would think about it. Before I knew it I was nominated, so I left my name go forward and made the decision afterwards." The transition from hurling to camogie was easily made, but success had to wait. He reflects dolefully on his first year at the helm, and in particular the failure of his side to overcome Tipperary at the penultimate stage of the All-Ireland series. "On a personal note last year was very disappointing for me because I thought we were a better team than Tipperary. The couple of times we met in the league we had played well. That day in Mullingar (All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary) I felt that the referee was disappointing. In Limerick (for the replay) I don't think we were good enough. We just did not perform on the day. We did for

three-quarters of an hour and then things just went haywire." But Pa left Limerick that day with a clear idea of what had to be done, what changes needed to be made. "After that [the defeat to Tipperary] I felt we needed to get more people in - especially players. We also needed a physical trainer."

This season both of these requirements were met. Firstly, Jim McCarthy was brought on board around April or May to put the girls through their paces. "He had all the attributes", Pa says, and he made a major contribution to the team's improved physical preparation. Secondly, the league was used to experiment with new players and different positions. "We did not go for the league. I adopted the approach if we get there, well and good. We used it to blood players and to try them out in other positions and it benefited us. Gemma O'Connor, for example, was playing centre-field, half-forward, corner-forward and we suddenly decided we would put her half-back and she was absolutely superb all year through."

Caomhe Harrington slotted in, Joanne O'Callaghan and Emer Dillon too. You could see the build-up of a very good team coming through. But the league was never our major competition. We were working towards an All-Ireland. I also felt with the four additions to the panel that we had no fear. Tipperary could not have improved that much from last year as they had more or less the same panel of players. The four players we got strength-

ened our team enormously." It was evident from Cork's very first championship outing against Limerick that they had the making of a side to challenge if not end Tipperary's dominance of recent years. Pa sensed it too. "I was very confident going up to the All-Ireland, I really and truly felt we had the team to win it. People said to me afterwards that we were lucky in the first half. We weren't - we held Tipp at bay, it was 1-6 to 1-5 in their favour. We had missed an awful lot of scores, but I felt we were well over them. Fiona (O'Driscoll) was in magnificent form. Since she came back to us after the league you could see the determination was there. They were all up for it."

Pa Finn may have been vital to the instilling of that drive, determination and belief, yet he remains modest in his assessment of his achievement, forever wary of inflating the importance of his role. No adherent to the cult of the manager, he believes that a disproportionate emphasis is often put on the contribution of the manager, mostly at the expense of the players. It is, he stresses, the players who do all the work after all.

"Success comes from the teams and not because of the coach. You cannot tell a great hurler how to hurl. You can talk to him. You can motivate him a small bit. It is all about the people themselves. If you are a good player you are always going out to win. They all say to me you have a great record but I know it is the players that make you. The girls were brilliant that way. There is



no bitchiness. They always gave me great respect and whatever I asked them to do, they did it - no cribbing."

The building of such a strong panel spirit made the drafting of teams and panels a difficult one for Finn. All the girls had made sacrifices, yet only 15 of the extended panel could start. Breaking the bad news was the part Pa liked least. "If there has to be a downside to it all, then the worse part for me is naming teams and panels. You can only name a certain amount of players and you are leaving five people out. You know they worked as hard as everybody else. Some might have played in the league and Munster championship. That to me is very hard. This year we had to name 25 - we had 30 on our panel."

"You have to look after these players and make them as important as your number one. This is where you build up your team spirit. If you involve everybody they are all happy and they will always be fighting for their place. You must have the same respect for them all. That is how it works."

Pa is better equipped than most to understand the vagaries of sport. Not only is his family steeped in Cork's proud hurling tradition, but his own involvement with St. Finbarr's began as early as the age of ten.

"I came up through the ranks, played junior and then senior

for 11 years. I won one senior county in 1965 and packed up that same year. I did not play Munster club, I retired after the county final. I played most of the time at half-back, centre-field or half-forward. My best position was half-back. I played with Cork in 1958, but I got injured and had my appendix out and did not play again with the county until 1964. I never really made the grade as such. I was a sub in the Cork team that were beaten by Clare in the Munster championship. I played league and tournaments.

"All my family are heavily involved in hurling. My brother Mossie played with the Barr's from 1948 to 1964. He was on the Cork team, he captained them in 1956, and he was on the 1952 team that won the All-Ireland. He was a magnificent hurler, way better than me. "My other brother Mick (RIP) was involved in the Barr's all his life. My nephews Ger and Brian Cunningham, and Tim Finn won a few counties with the Barr's and of course Ger was the Cork keeper and was an U21 hurling selector last year. My sons, Cormac won minor, intermediate and senior with the Barr's and Kevin was sub-goal-keeper to Ger. My father captained the Barr's in 1919 and won a couple of county medals."

Given that deep-rooted history of family involvement, Pa was



"YOU HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THESE PLAYERS AND MAKE THEM AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR NUMBER ONE. THIS IS WHERE YOU BUILD UP YOUR TEAM SPIRIT. IF YOU INVOLVE EVERYBODY THEY ARE ALL HAPPY AND THEY WILL ALWAYS BE FIGHTING FOR THEIR PLACE. YOU MUST HAVE THE SAME RESPECT FOR THEM ALL. THAT IS HOW IT WORKS."

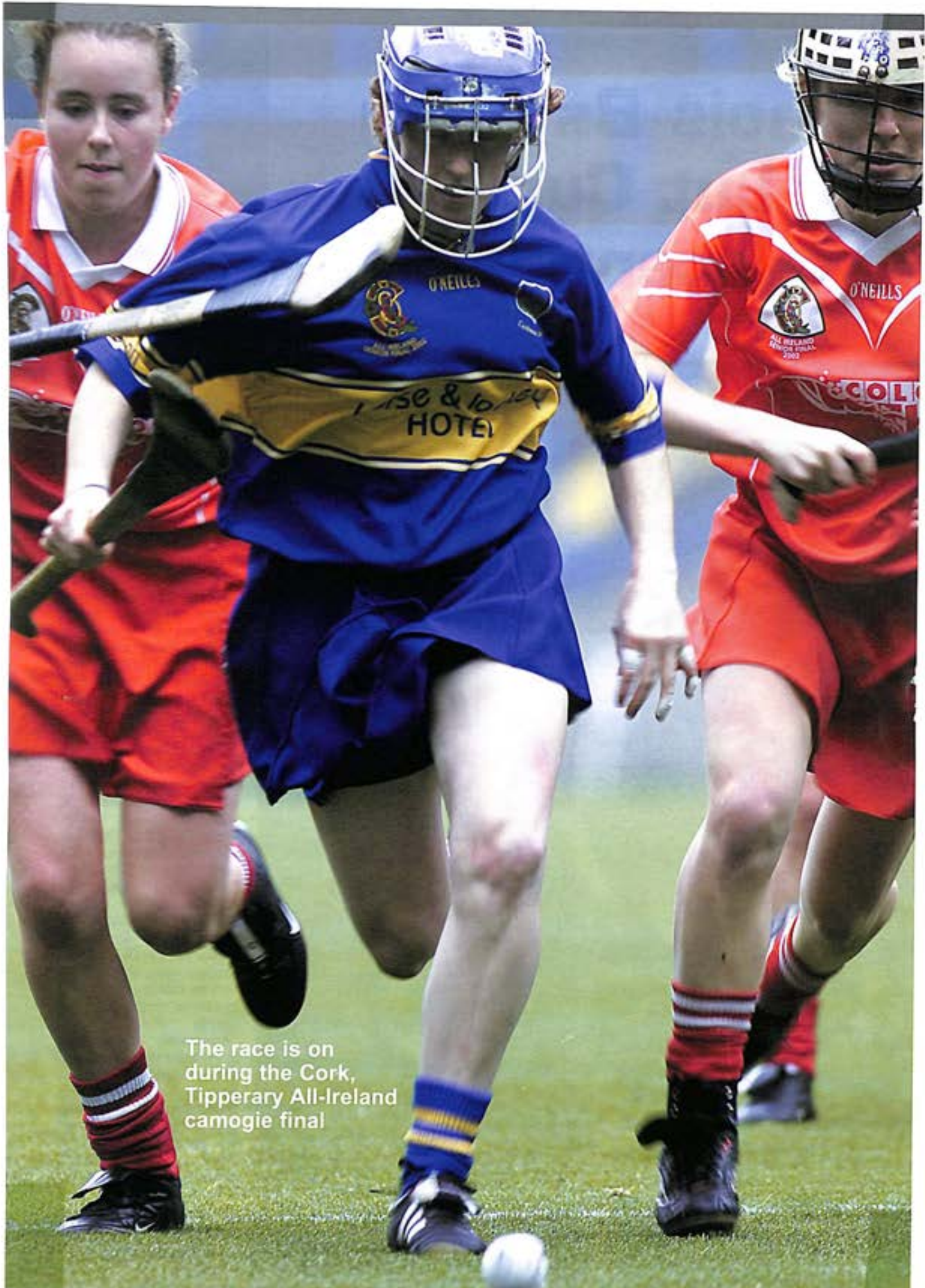
unlikely ever to have walked away from the game when his playing days came to an end. Although he took a short break, by the mid-1970s he was back involved, this time as a coach. "In 1976 I got involved with the Barr's hurlers. I coached them in 1977 when we won the

County, Munster and All-Ireland with players like Jimmy Barry Murphy, Charlie McCarthy, Gerald McCarthy, Denis Burns and Donal O'Grady). I was involved with them up to 1980. Then Gerald McCarthy took over from me and they went on to win county finals in 1980, '81, '82 and 1984."

Although a staunch Barr's man, when he returned from a second short break, it was as trainer to another Cork team, Kilbrittain, a junior side who he assisted to intermediate ranks. He was also involved with St Catherine's when they won an Intermediate championship. More recently, in 1999 and 2002, he coached Castletyons to Junior and Intermediate titles.

As for next year, what does it hold for Pa Finn? "I have not yet decided my own future with Cork camogie. I will take my time about making the decision. My wife Nora wants me to keep going. She is enjoying it more than I am and got a great kick out of winning the All-Ireland. She has been involved in hurling all her life with Glen Rovers. Her father, Mick O'Keeffe was with them for years and years. We are going away for a few weeks holidays. I will make my mind up in my own time."

No matter what Pa decides, one thing for sure is 2002 will long remain etched in his memories of a marvellous sporting career. ■



The race is on during the Cork, Tipperary All-Ireland camogie final



Linda Mellerick applies the gas against Tipp

Putting Punch into Cork camogie

Cork camogie and Punch Industries have a relationship going back 70 years and it is proving to be more successful as time goes by.

The Punch brand has a long tradition of support with the Cork County Camogie Board dating back to 1932. In that year, the company donated the 'The Science Cup' which was played for in the Cork County Senior Championship for the next 70-years before being put into the antiques cabinet for safekeeping. This year Punch Industries Ltd, as well as providing a new cup for the competition called 'The Punch Shoe Care Cup', also sponsored the championship, thereby maintaining a long-standing link with the Board.

The Punch Shoe Care brand is also the sponsor of the Cork Junior Camogie team, who proudly wore the Punch Shoe Care Logo in Croke Park on All-Ireland day on the 15th of September.

This year Punch Industries Ltd announced their sponsorship of the Senior Cork Camogie team with the Colour Catcher brand. Speaking at the announcement, Tricia Olden, Marketing Manager for Punch Industries Ltd said, "Our commitment to the Cork Senior Camogie Team

inextricably links Colour Catcher with one of the most skilful female sports in the country. We are very excited that our sponsorship deal will have a long-term role to play in raising the profile of camogie in Ireland. Colour Catcher is proud to sponsor the Cork Senior Camogie Team and is committed to ensuring that they will continue to evolve into the most successful and high profile camogie team in Ireland."

Punch Industries Ltd believe that the Senior Cork Camogie team are an ideal fit with the personality and qualities of the Colour Catcher brand - these are women who lead very busy lives - juggling their work or studies with their sporting activities and social lives.

Sports jerseys and clothing are notoriously difficult items for washing due to their mixture of bright colours. One Colour Catcher sheet in every wash traps loose dyes and prevents them from discolouring the entire wash. With Colour Catcher the Cork colours are in safe hands and the team are guaranteed to look their best both on and off the

pitch.

"We are delighted with the positive feedback we have received since taking on the sponsorship of the Cork Camogie Team. Our agreement takes us up to the end of August next year but we hope this will be a long-term partnership."

These players are not only ambassadors for the game of camogie and their county they are fast becoming Colour Catcher ambassadors," commented Tricia Olden following Cork's recent All-Ireland win in Croke Park.

And what a win it was thanks to hat trick of goals from Fiona O'Driscoll and one from Una O'Donoghue as the Rebel girls powered to a 4-9 to 1-9 win over reigning champions Tipperary. Obviously the sponsorship worked as a lucky charm.

The story of Punch Industries is an intriguing one. The company was established in 1851 and owes its existence to

the energy and foresight of a young woman named Abigail Punch. In 1851, Abigail Punch turned her discerning taste for tea into a thriving business, first in retail and later expanding into the importation and wholesaling of tea. From these humble roots, a business has grown to become one of Ireland's leading private companies that today still bears her name, although the company ceased its involvement in the importation of tea in the 1980's.

Around the turn of the 20th century, another family member named George Punch was inspired by a favourite pair of boots to produce boot polish and dubbin locally. He soon found a wider market and the business prospered. In 1922, the Punch family built its first factory on the site of a disused mill in the village of Glanmire, Co Cork. In 1985, the company moved to its present location, a 50,000 sq. ft plant in Little Island.

Today, Punch Industries Ltd is one of Ireland's most established indigenous companies. Employing a total of 400 staff worldwide, it produces a wide range of shoe care, fabric care and household cleaning products from its factory in Little Island, Co. Cork. All research, design, development and production for its Irish, UK, European and Worldwide markets are also handled from its Cork base. Punch Industries is the No. 2 shoe care company in the world and No. 1 in the Irish market.

The company ethos is development through innovation, with research and development a primary focus. Its dedicated research facility at Little Island has an ongoing brief to create and develop innovative products for the shoe care and fabric care market. Investment of this nature has borne fruit for the company, particularly with its 'Colour Catcher' brand.

Consumer research had identified the need for a "preventative" product to stop colour runs in the washing machine.

This was an innovative approach as most products of this type deal with fabric runs after they happen. Two years of research preceded the launch of Colour Catcher onto the Irish market in 1995, followed by its launch in the UK, France, Italy, Spain and in 2002 the USA. The success of Colour Catcher has earned the company two export awards and is truly becoming a global brand.







Put the team's colours in safe hands.

Colour Catcher is a unique in-wash product that prevents colour runs in mixed colour washes. To make sure your team's colours give a top performance every time, use Colour Catcher. The proof is on the sheet!

★ FREE SAMPLE VOUCHER



PROUD SPONSORS OF CORK CAMOGIE

Send this voucher with your name, address & tel. no. for a FREE SAMPLE of Colour Catcher Sample. Marketing Dept. Punch Industries Ltd, Little Island, Co. Cork.

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QUEENS OF THE SPORTING SCENE



Fiona O'Driscoll (Cork), left, and Marcella Heffernan (Mayo) ... proudly display their Vodafone Player of the Month Awards.

Marcella Heffernan and Fiona O'Driscoll are not only champion competitors in their respective sports of Ladies football and camogie but also contributed rich chapters to the past year's successful come-back stories in Gaelic Games.

Marcella played an outstanding role in Mayo's return to the top in the All-Ireland senior championship after the heart-break of a dramatic late, late defeat by Laois in the 2001 final. Fiona bounced back superbly with Cork after taking a rest from camogie to prove a glittering star when helping to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to the Leaside after four years.

And both also saw out the year on a high note as winners of the Vodafone All Stars Players of the Month Awards for ladies football and camogie at a lunch at Croke Park in November.

Marcella completed a great family double as her sister, Christina, who also helped Mayo to regain the All-Ireland title in 2002, was winner of the Ladies football Player of the Month award in 1999.

That late Laois win in 2001 deprived Mayo of a treble of All-Ireland senior titles and not unexpectedly proved a bitter disappointment for the players.

"I was really depressed after that defeat. It took a lot out of me. I just did not feel like going out much for months", Marcella told me.

"People say football is just a game. But it is

much more to those who train so hard and put in so much work and effort over the year. The defeat was certainly a great disappointment."

But what a change last October! Mayo made it four title wins in five years and talented full forward Marcella Heffernan played such a regal role in forging out the one point win over Monaghan in a keenly contested final that she was named Player of the Match.

There could hardly be a better way to celebrate a birthday than that-Marcella was 24 on the day of the final.

She was particularly pleased that goalkeeper Denise Horan was to the fore in forging out the latest Brendan Martin Cup success.

A last minute error on a kick-out led to the late Laois winning point in the 2001 final.

"Denise took a lot of criticism after that final. But really it was not her fault. All of us made mistakes during the match. Otherwise we would not have found ourselves in the position that arose coming up to the end."

EXCELLENT SAVE

Marcella went on to signal out Denise for special praise for a splendid save right at the end. She showed courage and alertness in rushing out to expertly collect a dropping ball, clear her lines and save the day for the Connacht county virtually on the final whistle.

Like the gifted Mayo forward, Fiona O'Driscoll, who has been one of the out-

standing personalities in the sport for some years, has plenty of cause to recall with pride her All-Ireland senior final against defending champions and giants of recent seasons Tipperary.

"I took a rest from camogie early in the year and did not play in the National League. It gets harder to keep up training and maintain match play as one gets older."

"However, coming up to the championship I began to realise that I would not have this time back again and that one should make the most of the opportunities while one can," the Cork ace explained.

"I was lucky to regain my place in the county side, but I certainly did not anticipate in my wildest dreams that I would be playing in an All-Ireland final in September and would win another medal and an award such as this Vodafone trophy"

The Fr. O'Neills club player certainly could hardly have expected that the final would prove such a personal triumph. She finished top scorer with 3-4 to boost her tally for the season to a whopping 9-12.

And, as if that was not enough, Fiona, like her Vodafone Player of the Month companion was not unexpectedly, named the Player of the Match after her starring role in the win over the Premier County, which earned her a sixth All-Ireland senior medal.

Marcella Heffernan and Fiona O'Driscoll



Christina Heffernan ... All-Ireland title winning captain and a former Player of the Month Award winner.

each started out in their respective sports at an early age.

LOCAL SCHOOL

"I started playing football at the local National School and with my home club, Hollymount. I then went on to Ballinrobe Community School where I continued to play the game. I was lucky enough to win four All-Ireland medals during my school days," reflects Marcella.

Such was the potential she displayed during her schooldays that she was called up to the Mayo senior team at only 15 and made her championship debut against London at McHale Park, Castlebar.

In her early days in the senior grade Marcella played in defence, first at full back and later at centre half back, but in more recent times she has been turning on the style as a forward.

"I enjoyed playing in defence especially at centre half. But I have settled down in attack and enjoy playing there. If I score that's a bonus, but the important thing is that we win at the end of the day."

Marcella Heffernan has reaped a rich harvest at the sport. She now has three All-Ireland senior medals and her collection also

includes interprovincial and National League souvenirs. In addition, she has three All Stars awards.

Fiona has also enjoyed much success in her sport. In addition to her six All-Ireland senior medals she has won a splendid total of seven National League souvenirs.

The brilliant Cork star's father is a keen enthusiast of Gaelic games and her three brothers all played hurling and football. So there was a strong emphasis on the sports as Fiona grew up.

She received a good foundation in the skills of camogie from teachers during her schooldays and won her place in the Cork minor team while at school in Middleton.

HISTORY-MAKER

Then in 1995 Fiona earned a place in the history books when she led University of Limerick to their only Ashbourne Cup success so far.

She still vividly recalls the day she saw her first inter-county camogie game.

"My father brought me to a Cork-Limerick game at St. Finbarr's Ground here in Cork and I was greatly impressed that day by Sandy Fitzgibbon, of Cork."

"My first All-Ireland final was one between

Kilkenny and Cork and Angela Downey (Kilkenny) made a big impression on me that day."

In hurling, the camogie giant speaks highly of John Fenton, who led Cork to the Centenary Year All-Ireland senior title in 1984 and won a second national championship medal in 1986.

"John worked for some time near our home and he used to call to our house. I got to know him well and I greatly admired his skills on the hurling field."

Jack O'Shea, who won so many honours with Kerry and also wore the Ireland jersey with distinction in the International Test series, is top of O'Driscoll's list in football.

Marcella Heffernan also has her favourites. "I always looked up a lot to my sister, Christina, who is two years older than me. Cora Staunton is another player I have always admired."

"As for players from other counties, I greatly admire Elish Gormley, of Tyrone."

The polished Mayo full forward also had a word of sympathy for Monaghan and Judy Grennan and Niamh Kindlon in particular.

"I appreciate how the Monaghan players felt after their one point defeat in the All-Ireland final last October."

"As for Judy and Niamh, they are great players and great leaders on the field of play."

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

When I asked Marcella to name the players she admired most in the men's game, she had little hesitation in siding with Seamus Moynihan and D. J. Carey. She spoke highly of both players and paid a special tribute to Carey for the way he made such a splendid come-back in the past year after a lengthy absence from inter-county hurling.

Camogie introduced radical new changes a few years back that saw teams increased from 12-a-side to 15-a-side and the enlargement of the pitch to the full hurling and football size.

Fiona O'Driscoll is enthusiastic about the changes.

"The striking of players has greatly improved. A half back can now get plenty of distance into a puck. That was not possible in the 12-a-side game."

"I think the game has benefited over-all from the moves. The development was also probably necessary if camogie is to be accepted into the G.A.A. fraternity."

The Camogie Association, incidentally, is not a member of the G.A.A. as such.

Fiona is very interested in coaching. She is coach at Colaiste Choilm, Ballincollig, where she is a P.E. teacher.

What are the ambitions of the latest Vodafone All Star Player of the Month award winners?

Marcella has her eyes on further All-Ireland glory.

"I would like to go on from the latest title success to make it three All-Ireland titles in succession in 2004. I can't really say why this is an ambition, but it is still something I would like to achieve."

Fiona's big hope is that her club, Fr. O'Neills, in East Cork will soon win the county senior title.

"We appeared in four finals in the past five years and also in one semi-final and lost them all."

"The club has not so far won the championship."

An impressive haul that includes six All Ireland senior championships, a Gael-Linn Inter-Provincial, an Ashbourne Cup and a host of inter county honours – Fr O'Neill's finest Fiona O'Driscoll continues to take it all in her stride.

BY MARY NEWMAN MCCARTHY

Fiona O'Driscoll

Camogie star with her feet on solid ground

Coming from an area steeped in gaelic games it was inevitable that Fiona O'Driscoll would at some stage take up hurling.

The eldest and only girl in the family of Sean and Joan with three brothers Eric, Vincent and Brian said in her own words "I had very little choice but to pick up the hurley, join in and get involved."

Fiona recalled when we met for a chat how she and her brothers spent the summer months visiting cousins just three miles away and here they would join in with Dick and Ray O'Neill as they spent many hours re-enacting hurling games.

At the time there was little camogie in the national school but when the Fr O'Neill's camogie club were short for an under 16 game, young O'Driscoll who's brothers were good hurlers with the club was called upon to stand between the posts to make up the numbers.

"At the time I was only nine or ten and I remember the ball flying past me continuously," laughed Fiona.

The experience did not turn her off and having got a foot inside the door Fiona was there to stay. "The following week we played Killeagh and that day I remember Dolores Joyce and Breda Kelly all lining out against us, I think we lost that one as well."

Fiona was retained between the posts and spent a few years in goal but the yearning to play out field was rewarded and she finally persuaded coaches Aileen Barry and Pat O'Donoghue to give her a chance in the forward line.

"I loved the freedom out field and once I got out of goal I made my mind up to give it my best shot"

Years later in 1990 Fiona was to bring her goal-keeping skills to the rescue of the Cork junior side when regular goalkeeper Rose Desmond was injured during their Munster semi-final into the breach stepped Fiona as the side advanced comfortably to a Munster final.

"It was a relief to hear the full time whistle and when the final came round, I was back out field with Marie O'Brien taking over between the posts."

If there was little camogie action at national school level, secondary education at St Mary's High School Middleton was the perfect choice as here camogie was big on the agenda.

Killeagh's Ann Leahy and Betty Joyce were very much to the fore in coaching the school team and it was here that a Munster Senior Championship medal was won. St Mary's lost out at the All Ireland semi final stage to a Thomastown team, that included Jillian Dillon and Una Murphy who would later go on to become stars with Kilkenny.

1986 was the year when a little youngster from Ballymacoda made her debut on the national stage when she was runner up in the Cork Feile

na Gael skills competition to Bishopstown Edel Murphy. As Edel's club Bishopstown were representing Cork in the Feile, the rules did not allow her participate in the skills so Fiona represented the county in the national skills competition in Clare.

The year was to be a memorable one on the club scene when Fr O'Neill defeated neighbours Cloyne to take the Intermediate title just one year after being crowned Junior A champions with Fiona again very much to the fore.

By the following year Fiona O'Driscoll had progressed onto the Cork minor team but was unlucky to lose out to Galway in an exciting contest where just two points divides the sides at the finish. The following year a late Brigid Mullally goal saw Kilkenny snatch the title from Cork's grasp with three minutes remaining and so ended Fiona's minor days minus the illusive All-Ireland medal, years later Fiona would again cross paths with many of her opponent's from those days. Mary Moran was somebody who in her minor days made a lasting impression.

"Mary's love for the game is very obvious and I remember attending a coaching school of excellence under Mary's guidance when I was a minor player, she would have been somebody whom I looked up to."

Fiona made progress to the Cork Junior side in 1989 and again it was heartbreak as the Munster champions led Galway by two points thanks to a cracking Fiona O'Driscoll goal, but with two minutes remaining Galway's Emer Hardiman palmed to the net to end Cork's dream.

In the interim Fiona was making a name for herself as a forward who in the twinkle of an eye would punish a defender, Fr O'Neill's were working hard to establish themselves in the senior grade and Fiona O'Driscoll was one to keep a close eye on.

1992 saw the arrival of several new faces on the Cork Senior panel, amongst them the physical education student at University of Limerick who made her debut against Kilkenny in the National league.

Fiona recalls that Irene O'Keeffe and Denise Cronin were also new to the panel and slotted in well with the more established players. The county had been without a senior All Ireland since 1983 and having won the

national league in 1991 there was a great determination in the panel.

Coach Joe McGrath and his back room team of former player's Marion Sweeney, Miriam Higgins, and Marie Mackey set about ending Kilkenny's reign. In an exciting semi final played in Ballinlough Cork edged out the champions to set up a final meeting with Wexford.

On a day when Sandy Fitzgibbon led Cork back to the victory rostrum Fiona O'Driscoll introduced herself to Croke Park contributing 1-3 to Cork's tally as she at last collected the coveted All-Ireland medal. "No words can describe my feelings that day at the final whistle, many of us were making our debut on the senior team but for many years of heartbreak was finally ended."

The following year Cork retained the Nation league title and went on to retain the All-Ireland defeating Galway in the final with Fiona contributing 0-3 on All-Ireland day.

1994 saw Kilkenny crush Cork's hopes of making it three in a row as Fiona O'Driscoll was forced to sit out the start of their semi-final clash in Ballinlough with an ankle injury but made a half-time appearance as Kilkenny turned the tables on a 4-9 to 2-12 scoreline.

Cork hosted Ashbourne cup 1995 and it came as a shock to many to see the hosts U.C.C. defeated in the opening round by University of Limerick.

No surprise though to see captain Fiona O'Driscoll lead by example as her side took their first Ashbourne title with Fiona being named as player of the tournament.

Team mates on that University of Limerick team included Sinead Millea and Miriam Holland from Kilkenny, Carmel Hannon of Galway, and Tipperary's Paula Bulfin who marked Fiona in this year's All-Ireland final.

Fiona had the distinction of being President of the C.C.I.A. from 1995 to 1998 something which she claims came about because of her lobbying for University of Limerick to be allowed compete in the Ashbourne competition.

"Thomond and N.I.H.E. amalgamated and we worked hard to be allowed compete in Ashbourne and I was a delegate to C.C.I.A. 1994 was the first year we competed in the competition and it was a great honour to be elected president, it gave me a great insight into administration"

With the Ashbourne cup medal firmly



Fiona O'Driscoll on the right celebrates Cork's All-Ireland win with captain Una O'Donoghue

tucked away thoughts turned firmly to Fr O'Neill's as the club continued their quest for a senior B county title. All through their campaign Mary Kenefick and Fiona O'Driscoll combined as the opposition continued to fall. In the final against St Finbarrs the duo again worked the oracle notching up vital goals as the Ballymacoda side took their first senior title.

"That was very special to us and it was a great day for Ballymacoda of course we also gained promotion to senior status and we eagerly looked forward to challenging those teams already there"

Amongst the sides that O'Neill's would come face to face with was Bishopstown a side that without doubt broke the hearts of the Ballymacoda girls on no fewer than four occasions.

Without doubt losing four county finals is something that still hurts.

In 1997, '98 and '99 Fr O'Neill's lost to Bishopstown while in 2001 having knocked Bishopstown out at the semi final stage it was Cloughduv who ended their dream in the final.

"It's a regret to have lost so many county finals, in 1999 I was coach to the team and it broke my heart but the warm homecoming we got from the locals made us realise just how much the club means to everybody and that homecoming is a memory I treasure and sure who knows

maybe it's not too late to win one yet"

Despite a busy camogie schedule ladies football is another big interest and it is here that the county senior championship medals have been won, the holder of two Laois senior, four Cork junior and one Leinster club championship medals one suspects Fiona would trade them all for the illusive Cork camogie championship medal, if any player deserves one she surely does.

With such a busy playing agenda one suspects that leisure time is precious and indeed it is given that the Colaiste Choilm based P.E. teacher has got camogie off on a firm footing since she joined the teaching staff in Ballincollig three years ago. The season gone by has seen under her guiding influences the first camogie title come to the school with the Cork colleges 2nd year B championship, the Junior C championship and the Intermediate B title all achieved.

Also very involved at club level Fiona is coaching the Under 12 side this year. She also coached her clubs under 18 team to a county final in 2000 where she came head to head with her county team mate Denise Cronin who was

coaching Glen Rovers. "It was funny because that day we played together in the National league against Galway the same day and then later that evening were in direct opposition below in Carrigrohilly, unlucky for me Denise had the last laugh but it was a great game"

At the beginning of 2002 the Cork county board set up a juvenile camogie committee who's brief is to organise under age camogie from under 12 to 16 level. Fiona O'Driscoll is the child welfare and liaison officer while also holding the position of registrar. With such a busy schedule the inevitable question arises why?

"I genuinely thought that I would have a lot of time on my hands given that I would almost certainly not to be playing inter county therefore I got involved with the new juvenile board. I have enjoyed the experience enormously and have come in contact with so many people from the many clubs."

Indeed Fiona has proven to be a wonderful officer and having dealt with her on many occasions myself at my own club level she has always been very honest and helpful.

Cork losing the national league semi final to Limerick was in many respects a blessing for it told Fiona O'Driscoll that just maybe she could do something to help put the county back on their winning ways.

"That day the old longing to be involved in the action was still there and I decided to give it a go and give it my best shot"

Certainly showing little ill effects from her national league lay off Fiona announced her return with a stunning performance against Limerick in the opening game of the championship contributing nine points to Cork's tally.

Against Antrim it was a similar story with 3-4 on the score sheet at the final whistle, in the semi final against Galway it was a similar story but without doubt the crowning glory was saved for Croke Park on All Ireland day when Cork stopped Tipperary's quest for four in a row helped in no small way by a hat trick of Fiona O'Driscoll goals and two points. The scores helped settle Cork at vital stages and set the scene for victory.

Earlier in the season somebody paid tribute to Fiona in an article and announced her retirement from inter county camogie. When contacted to organise an interview Fiona's words to me were: "Ah sure wait a while Mary, the hunger may just come back, don't write me off just yet."

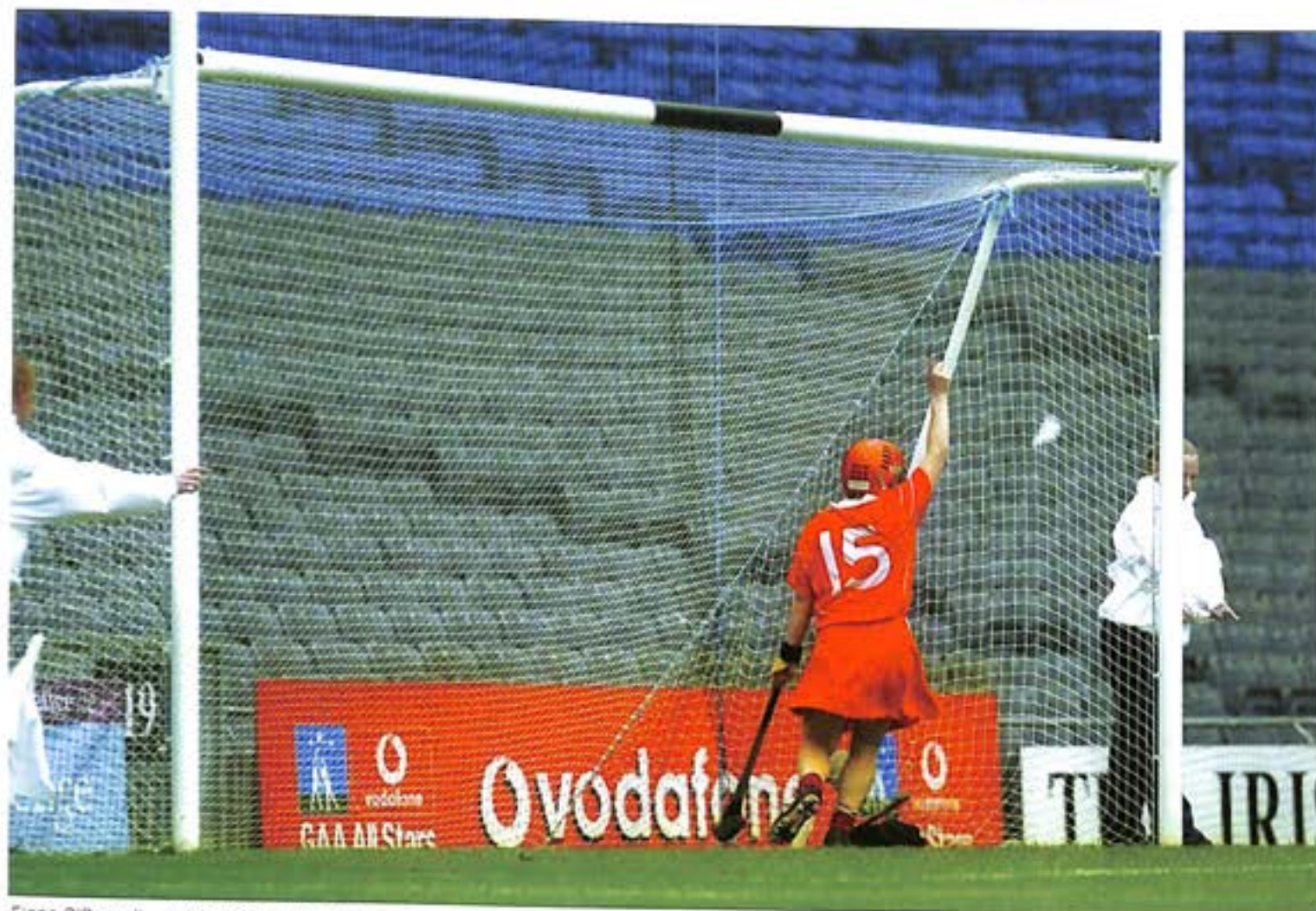
How I have recalled those words since, as the honours continue to be made to one of Cork's finest camogie stars.

R.T.E. Player of the Match, the Morans Silverspring's Hotel G.A.A. Personality of the month for September, Jury's Hotel Dublin camogie September award are just some of the plaudits to date.

By the time this goes to print many more will have paid tribute to Fiona but for now I will just sign off by saying:

"Sure Fiona at last I have got my interview and one with a happy ending, here's hoping you're back to stay." Cheers!

WHAT A COME-BACK



Fiona O'Driscoll ... celebrates a Cork score.

ASIXTH All-Ireland senior medal, scorer of a hat-trick in Croke Park on All-Ireland day, leading championship scorer and Vodafone player of the Year, plus numerous other awards well that is how Cork's Fiona O'Driscoll celebrated camogie in the past year.

How often have we heard the saying 'good goods come in small parcels' well that saying I feel very much pertains to Cork's star forward Fiona O'Driscoll, who while small in stature, makes the Cork scoreboard look very big at times and especially in the past year.

Complete elation and pure joy is how this great forward described winning this year's All-Ireland Foras na Gaeilge Final when Cork beat Tipperary who were chasing for a fourth title on the trot. However, as with the Armagh footballers the main ingredient for Cork was probably the hunger, not having won a senior title since '98 - a long time for a Cork side.

Earlier in the year, Fiona took a break during the National League, but as she witnessed her native county been beaten by Limerick in the semi-final, she chanted afterwards to fellow

players Linda Mellerick, and Eithne Duggan, Fiona felt the longer she stayed out, the harder it would be to get back and so she delighted Cork people and manager Pa Finn when she made her welcome return to the red and white of Cork for the championship in July.

Some people may have fancied Limerick this year, having reached the League Final where they were beaten by Galway, but when Cork met Limerick in the opening round of the championship, it soon became evident who was thinking of a trip to headquarters in September.

The eve of the All-Ireland saw Cork sample the great new Croke Park soil and then it began to hit Fiona how massive and great this new establishment really was, the years of work that people had put in really hit home and with the match the following day the excitement really began to hit our players and there may even have been a hint in the air yes we can do it.

For most players of Gaelic Games, their dream must be to play in Croke Park, to score a goal or a point is great but to score a hat-trick of goals and then to walk those famous

steps of the Hogan Stand, can there be anything better? Well for Fiona, to win another All-Ireland for Cork would be great.

Modest Fiona does not look on her victory as a personal sixth All-Ireland but as a victory for Cork Camogie and indeed the many awards that came her way while very proud to accept such she feels it is more important that camogie is being recognised by the wider audience now.

However, at the same time Fiona very much treasures each medal and award she has got over the years.

While Fiona was achieving a sixth senior medal, Jacqui Frisby, of the Carrickshock club in Kilkenny, was playing in Croke Park for her first time and making major history.

Camogie and hurling are synonymous with Kilkenny, and therefore it was difficult for many people to believe that the Black and Amber had never won or even reached a junior All-Ireland Final until this year.

KILKENNY'S TURN

September 15th 2002 proved a historic day for the Carrickshock club as Jacqui became the second captain in less than a fortnight as

Kilkenny's Minor captain Michael Rice brought home the All-Ireland Minor trophy.

It is often said winning your first All-Ireland medal is the sweetest and it certainly was a very special Autumn for the Frisby clan. While Jacqui was aiding Kilkenny on to their first victory, her Dad, Dick, was on the sideline plotting Cork's downfall with his co-selectors.

Add to that her cousin Tom was on the victorious minor Kilkenny hurling panel the week previous to the camogie final! Very much a year to recall for the seventeen year old school girl from St. Brigids, Callan.

Alane and Limerick always bring to mind one name and that surely must be Mackey. How proud Mick Mackey would have been as he watched his grand-daughter Claire lift the All-Ireland Minor 'B' trophy when Limerick defeated first time All-Ireland finalists Offaly down in Leahy Park, Cashel.

It was very much a family occasion with Dad Ger a selector and Mum Vera there to lend a big hand too. Vera, was on the first Limerick team to win a junior All-Ireland back in '77 and last year some twenty four years later her daughter Claire won her first Minor All-Ireland and she made Limerick history in 2002 when she took the Corn Aofie back to Alane for the second time.

Claire is very much a player of the future and following Limerick seniors very impressive year reaching the League final and accounting very well for themselves in the championship it may not be too long before Claire is seen wearing the Limerick senior team.

CORK MINORS

While Cork were looking for the senior title, they were also very intent on holding onto their All-Ireland Minor title and this they did against a fancied Galway side. Both these sides knew each other very well from their colleges matches and while there was good camogie in the game, the marking was a very tight nature which at times meant that we did not see some of the great skills that some of these young players have.

However, one player did stand out from the others on the day and that was Brigue Corkery who was also introduced at half time in the junior All-Ireland final and almost won the match for the Leedsie girls on the day.

Her speed and work rate in the Minor final were brilliant and it was easy to see why she was the recipient of the Player of the match award.

To play for your county has to be a very proud achievement for a camogie player, but it is even greater pride to be selected to play for your province. Since 1956 the Gael-Linn Inter Provincial Championship has been played with very little exceptions. Originally for senior players it was opened to both senior and junior in 1975 with Munster winning the first junior title in that year.

This year the senior title went to Munster while a strong Ulster side took the junior trophy. Played on one day, it gives players a great opportunity to meet up for the day, however, it is probably fair to say that it needs to be given much more respect by some counties and players.

Some players would give anything to be asked to wear their provincial colours, but at times when selected players do not turn up on the day it is not fair to have denied other players a place on the team. Neither is it fair to

selectors or the press core who often are left making many changes at the last moment.

However, I feel it is a very worthwhile competition and all it needs is maybe to be steered in a different direction.

OFF THE FIELD ACTIVITY

While the activity on the fields was of a high skills level, there was plenty of worthwhile activity off the field too. The first ever National Camogie P.R.O. Seminar was held in Páirc an Chríogaigh drawing a large number of players, as well as administrators, the draws were made for the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi-finals on R.T.E. Television for the first time ever on The Sunday Game.

It was also the first time that camogie was recognised by Uachtarán na hÉireann Mary Mc Aleese in the Annual Youth Sports Awards in Árás an Uachtaráin.

CENTENARY

With the media paying more attention to camogie nowadays, it is up to all of us to market the game as we should remember each time we go out to play we are marketing camogie.

With the centenary of 2004 now only around the corner, we must all endeavour to do our utmost to bring the game to as wide an audience as possible. We have a great product, - the oldest Gaelic game for females in this country and an extremely skillful game.

RECORDS OF THE YEAR

All-Ireland Senior Foras na Gaeilge Final:

Cork 4-09 Tipperary 1-09

All-Ireland Junior Final:

Kilkenny 2-11 Cork 2-08

All-Ireland Minor 'A' Final:

Cork 1-11, Galway 1-05

All-Ireland Minor 'B' Final:

Limerick 5-07 Offaly 0-02

All-Ireland Club championship Final:

Pearces, Galway 2-13 St. Ibars, Wexford 1-05

Gael-Linn Interprovincial Championship

Senior: Munster 7-23 Ulster 0-11

Junior: Ulster 1-11 Leinster 1-13

National League Finals

Div. 1 Final: Galway 6-06 Limerick 1-07

Div. 2 Final: Offaly 3-18 Laois 2-06

Ashbourne Cup

Ashbourne Cup Final: U.C.C. 1-11 WIT 1-04

Ashbourne Shield Final: U.I. 1-12 Athlone 1-0-07

All-Ireland Post Primary Schools:

Senior 'A' Colleges Final:

St. Mary's Charleville 4-16 Portumna

Community Sch. Galway 1-09

Senior 'B' Colleges Final:

Mercy, Waterford 2-08 Mercy, Ballinasloe 2-05

All-Ireland Junior 'A' Colleges Final:

St. Mary's Charleville 4-10 Coláiste Brides,

Enniscorthy 4-08

All-Ireland Junior 'B' Colleges Final:

Loreto Fermoy 7-12, Scoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe 2-07.

Feile na nGael:

Div. 1 Final: Oulart the Ballagh, Wexford 2-05

: Davitts, Galway 0-01

Div. 2 Final: Newmarket on Fergus, Clare: 3-

02: Kinnitty, Offaly 0-0

Div. 3 Final: Bellaghy, Derry 3-01: Loughgheed,

Antrim 0-01

Killmacud Crokes All-Ireland Sevens:

Div. 1 Final: Granagh Ballingarry, Limerick 8-

15: Pearces, Galway 4-11

Div. 2 Final: Shinrone, Offaly 2-07,

St. Laurences, Kildare 2-01



Jacqui Frisby ... successful captain for Kilkenny.



DEC.

2002

Picture shows Marion McCarthy (right) performing one of her first duties as the new chairperson of the Cork County Camogie Board - making a presentation to Sheila Golden, outgoing chairperson, for her long and dedicated years of service at the recent convention in the Doughcloyne Hotel. Sheila Golden was afterwards elected President.

Sheila takes over as president

A WELL attended Cork County camogie convention at the Doughcloyne Hotel saw Marion McCarthy from the St Finbarr's club take over the role of chairperson, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Outgoing chairperson Sheila Golden was honoured with the role of President. Outgoing fixture secretary Mary Bugler assumes the role of vice chairperson while registrar Kay Dunne agreed to another term in the role.

Their will also be a change in the backroom teams on the inter county scene with former All-Ireland senior captain Sandy Fitzgibbon elected to the senior selection committee. Sandy will work with last years coach and selector Pa Finn and a representative from County champions Cloughduv.

A change also to the junior selection committee with Tracy Sheehan coming on board joining outgoing Oliver Hallihan and a representative from champions Carrigaline.

Victorious minor selectors John Cronin and John Quinn were again returned and will be joined by Milford's representative, while the winning combination at intermediate level Sheila Golden, Kay Dunne and Pat Murray were again returned unopposed.

Delegates were pleased with the running of the game in the county in the season gone by and one has only to look at the trophy cabinet to see why.

Three All-Ireland titles, five Munster championships, new sponsors and a senior county championship sponsored for the first time.

One has to say that camogie in Cork is certainly on a firm footing.

This was something Mrs Golden, in her final address to convention, had to com-

ment on: "Everybody worked hard in the year gone by and the rewards came our way. We had great cooperation from all quarters and everybody worked hard. Compliments must go to the players, and mentors of our inter county teams who had great success while I compliment the clubs for continuing to produce such talent."

In what was at time an emotional occasion many delegated paid tribute to Sheila for her work for camogie amongst them two former County Board presidents Nora Newman Glen Rovers and Mary Moran St Finbarr's. Both acknowledged Sheila's wonderful work as an administrator and wish her well in her retirement.

Secretary Pat Murray reported on the activities within the county with special mention made to the successful year on the playing fields. Mr Murray also complimented the juvenile board on completing their programme of fixtures and wished both boards success in the coming season.

It was an emotional night also for Marion McCarthy as she assumed the role of chairperson.

"Sheila Golden will be a hard act for me to follow, but I hope I will do your faith in me proud," said Marion. She thanked her club St Finbarr's and the delegates for nominating her. Before proceedings closed made a presentation to Sheila Golden on behalf of the clubs and county board.

The full list of officers elected was as follows Hon President; Sheila Golden, Chairperson; Marion McCarthy, Vice Chairperson; Mary Bugler, Secretary; Pat Murray, Treasurer; Mary McSweeney, Registrar; Kay Dunne, PRO; Mary Newman McCarthy,

Last week's Camogie Convention saw Marion McCarthy taking the Chair vacated by Sheila Golden, who was elevated to President - a richly deserved honour for a lady who worked very hard in the last number of years, as did many other Officers involved in the Camogie Board.



CORK CAMOGIE BOARD

President:	Sile Golden	Inniscarra
Chairperson:	Marion McCarthy	St. Finbarrs
Vice-Chairperson:	Pat Murray	Bishopstown
Hon-Sec:	Mary McSweeney	Bandon
Register:	Kay Dunne	Ballincollig
P.R.O.:	Mary Newman-McCarthy	Glen Rovers
Fixture Secretary:	Mary Bugler	Valley Rovers

JUVENILE BOARD

Chairman:	Pat O'Riordan	Ballygarvan
Vice-Chairperson:	Mairead Uí Mhaoileoin	Blackrock
Secretary:	Con Hayes	Inniscarra
Treasurer:	Leslie Ahern	Fr. O'Neills
P.R.O.:	Tim Buckley	Inniscarra

THE SMILE OF A CHAMPION!



Una O'Donoghue, Cloughduv who captained the Cork Senior Camogie team in their All-Ireland final victory over Tipperary.



Kilkenny - All-Ireland junior camogie champions in 2002



The Cork panel which lost to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland junior camogie final

Success all round for camogie's golden girls

Without doubt the year gone by has been one of the counties most successful in modern times with the annexing of Cork's first fifteen a side senior All Ireland title, and a second successive win at minor level

Three Munster titles found their way Leeside, Ashbourne success for U.C.C., St Mary's Charleville and Loreto Fermoy in colleges competitors.

Championship success for Cloughduv, Milford, Carrigaline and Cobh at adult level while under age championship success came to Milford, Cloughduv, and Ballinascorthy while a host of clubs enjoyed league success.

Off the field of play sponsorship played a big role with the senior county championship being sponsored for the first time, while new names came to the fore as sponsors for our county teams.

These were but a few of the stories to hit the headlines through a busy 2002.

INTER COUNTY SCENE

SENIOR TEAM

Pa Finn, Rose Desmond and Cloughduv's representative Kathleen Healy were joined by Jim Mc Carthy as the senior selectors set about bringing the O Duffy cup Leeside for the first time in four years.

National league defeat at semi final stage to Limerick did not cause major upset as plans were laid for championship action. Fiona O'Driscoll rejoined the panel following a break from League action and announced her return by contributing 0-9 to the score sheet in a one sided opener in Pairc Ui Rinn.

The long trip North took little effect as Cork easily accounted for Antrim and now the stage was set for a meeting with Galway whom many had tipped as championship dark horses following their national league success. On a day when Cork looked fitter and sharper the league champions had no answers and so it was mission accomplished as a place in the final was secured.

Cork observed, as champions Tipperary outclassed Kilkenny in

BY MARY NEWMAN MCCARTHY

the second semi final and the final piece of the jigsaw was now complete, a chance to settle old scores and what better place than Croke Park as Tipp strove to make history and make it four in a row.

Behind the scenes preparation went smoothly with the team receiving a major boost as Colour Catcher came on board as team sponsor.

On the training ground the panel went through their paces in a relaxed atmosphere and one sensed their determination.

In a break from tradition the panel accompanied by the junior team visited Croke Park on Saturday and this helped in no small way to get the focus right.

In a game that will forever live in the mind's eye Cork turned in a sparkling performance to take the title. Trailing at half time by two points Cork's sparkling second half display was one to relive over and over. The contribution of Fiona O'Driscoll notching up 3-2 rightly earned her the player of the match award but truly on the day it was the superb team effort that helped win the day.

For the younger players such as Jennifer O'Leary, Emer Dillon, Jemma O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan and Ger Casey it was a first senior All Ireland medal.

Linda Mellenick and Eithne Duggan signalled the end of their days in the Cork jersey as they

bade goodbye to the inter-county scene and there have been no better servants to the game in Cork. Hopefully we will see them in action in the Glen Rovers and Bishopstown colours for many seasons ahead.

INTERMEDIATE

At the time of going to press the Intermediate team have made it to the All Ireland final and will meet Antrim following good victories over Down and Dublin.

JUNIOR TEAM

Failure to retain the Nation league title failed to deter the junior side who set their sights of success under the guidance of former senior Inter county player Marion Mc Carthy Lillian Zinkant, and Oliver Hallihane.

The Munster campaign saw old adversaries Tipperary and Cork meet in the Ragg on final day, as Cork turned the tables and stripped the home side of their provincial and All Ireland crowns. The word was Cork looked All Ireland material.

Another journey north faced Cork as the juniors headed to Derry and led superbly by captain Nora Ahern they passed the test to book their place in Croke Park.

Kilkenny provided the opposition on a day when victory eluded Cork by the narrowest of margins as failure to perform in the opening half proved the stumbling block for the side.

MINORS

The minor team brought the Munster and All Ireland titles to Leeside and in doing so made it back to back titles. Once again John Cronin, Ann Watson and John Quinn worked the oracle with a great group of players who totally outclassed All Ireland champions Tipperary to take Munster honours before defeating Derry to book a final meeting with a strong Galway side.

In the final spurred on by the surging solo runs from Breige Corkery Cork forged ahead to add title number twelve to the counties impressive tally at this level. Breige Corkery's display saw her unanimously named "Player of the Match".

Cork's dominance at minor level is due in no small way to the wonderful work being put in by the clubs and schools and this years



Cork All-Ireland U-16 Champions 2002: Back: Julie Sheehy (Milford), Sile Burns (Rockbawn), Patricia O'Sullivan (Carrigaline), Michelle Hegarty (Glen Rovers), Ciara McKenna (Eire Og), Anna Geary (Milford), Emer Watson (Milford), Marguerite Nyhan (Newcestown), Rena Buckley (Inniscarra), Catriona Myers (St Finbarrs), Denise Twomey (St Catherine's), Lisa Healy (Milford), Edwina Waters (Ballyhea), Marie O'Neill (Watergrasshill) and John Cronin, trainer. Front: John Quinn, selector, Valerie McCormack (Kildorrery), Marian Murphy (Kilbrittain), Sarah Downing (Courcy Rovers), Noreen Mulcahy (St Catherine's), Elaine O'Riordan, captain (Milford), Margaret McCarthy (Inniscarra), Breige Corkery (Cloughduv), Catriona Foley (Rockbawn), Mary Coleman (Ballyhea), Emma Dunne (Cloughduv) and Ann Watson, selector



Cork: All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions

victory augurs well for further success at junior and senior level in the years ahead.

The county board, were indebted to Barry's Tea who sponsored the county minor team in their All Ireland campaign

UNDER 18

The under 18 team have qualified for the Munster semi final and a semi final meeting with Waterford following an opening round victory over Limerick.

CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION ON THE HOME FRONT

SENIOR

On the senior scene a new era dawned when Punch Industries came on board to replace the Science Cup with the Punch Shoe Care Cup.

Champions Cloughduv who had to survive a stiff opening round test from divisional side Carbery regained their composure and defeated Barryroe and Fr O'Neills to make it to the final.

Last seasons senior B champions St Finbarrs turned in excellent displays and showed great heart and commitment to book their place in the final leaving Eire Og, Imokilly and pre championship favourites Carrigrohoun in their wake with Orla O'Sullivan, Ellen Clifford and Valerie Maher all catching the eye.

Paire Uí Rinn was once again the wonderful setting as two totally committed teams served up a close final. Ciara Cronin was the heroine grabbing two Cloughduv goals to help them retain their title.

Stephanie Dunlea, Aoife Murray and Orla O'Callaghan excelled in defence while up front captain Una O'Donoghue and Marie Corkery led by example. Following another impeccable display Breige Corkery again went home with the "Player of the match award"

Cloughduv easily accounted for Waterford champions St Ann's as they set out in quest of Munster championship honours and advanced to a final meeting with Cashel, however on the day they had no answer to their opposition and the Cork standard bearers made their exit from the Munster stage

Fr O'Neills put the disappointment of championship behind them to take the 2001 senior league title defeating Courcy Rovers in an exciting final with Fiona O'Driscoll playing a leading role.

SENIOR B

In Senior B Milford got it right at the third time of asking. They put the heart break of losing three finals behind them to defeat Ballygarvan after a replay. In the first game it took an Emer Watson injury time goal to bring the sides level but in the replay turned in a class performance with Anna Geary, Regina Curtain and Emer Watson to the fore.

For Milford marvellous success at under age level culminated with their first senior title and promotion to senior A grade for the season 2003 where they will certainly be a force to be reckoned with.

JUNIOR A AND B GRADES

Another club to make wonderful strides were Carrigaline participating in Junior A for the first time. They qualified for a final meeting against a Sarsfields side who had defied all the pre championship predication with heart warming performances to book the place on merit in the decider.

On the day Carrigaline were crowned champions with captain Emma Green, Trisha O'Sullivan and Sandra Moran performing superbly. Earlier in the year Carrigaline had laid the foundations for success by participating in

and taking the 2001 Junior A league title at the expense of St Vincents.

JUNIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP

UNDERAGE

With the ever growing interest at under age level the move to have a separate committee organise under age activities was something that was long needed, as the workload is now shared and it helped competitions run smoothly.

A special A.G.M. saw Pat O Riordan from the Ballygarvan club assume the position of chairman, and one of the Boards priorities was to endeavour to reorganise competitions in all grades.

The under 12 grade was divided into 'A' and 'B' and here in a close 'A' final just one point separated Ballinhassig and Douglas at the finish as Ballinhassig dethroned the champions with good displays from Amy O Riordan, Catriona Collins and Katie Murphy.

Buttervant emerged victorious in the B section with a victory over Aghabullogue with Elaine Lombard helping them to take honours.

Two new competitions at under 14 level with a 'C' grade and a twelve a side competition have been organised.

As expected Feile champions Douglas were crowned under 14A champions defeating Ballygarvan in the final thanks to skilful play from Olivia Tobin and Catherine Hussey.

St Catherines with Deirdre Twomey to the fore took the under 14 b league title edging out Ballincollig in an exciting final.

Just one point separated Blarney from Na Piarasigh as they took the inaugural under 14 C title while in the twelve a side Kildorrey were far too strong for Charleville.

Milford continued their dominance at under

16 A level as they strolled to their fourth championship title in a row with a victory over St Catherines who along with Eire Og, Rockban, Glen Rovers and Carrigaline had been promoted to A for the championship following good league campaigns.

Milford's dominance was confirmed as they romped home to retain their league title with ease against Ballinhassig. Cloughduv inspired again by Breige Corkery aided by young Aoife Cronin added the under 16 b championship title to their senior crown with a two point winning margin over Ballygarvan.

St Catherines with 12 of the side who took honours the previous season retained the U16 b league title with a comfortable victory over Eire og helped by Cork minors Denise Twomey and Noreen Mulcahy.

Cork minor Brid O'Neill helped Watergrasshill take Under 16 C league honours against Buttervant, while the twelve a side under 16 league competition was won by Dungourney who defeated Tracton in the decider with Johanna Lane and Nicola Nagle and Ann Marie Hennessy all on target for the winners.

At the time of going to print Watergrasshill await to meet the winners of Newcestown and Blackrock to decide the destination of the under 16 c championship title.

Ballinascarty had too much strength for Tracton when the sides met in the championship final at twelve a side.

The divisional committees continue to play a huge part in promoting under age camogie competitions within their own areas on a league basis. These competitions can only help keep the interest of the young players alive and the divisions of Muskerry, Carrigrohoun, Seandun and Imokilly are to be applauded for their efforts. During the winter months many of the divisions organise indoor tournaments within their areas and this helps keep the interest alive through the bad weather.

In other under age activities Douglas defeated Ballygarvan in a cracking Cork final of Feile na Gael and represented Cork in the national finals in Antrim

Blackrock's Cait Kelleher took the Cork skills title and travelled to Antrim for the national skills competition.

COLLEGES ACTION

Cork and Munster Colleges competitions were again action packed as honours came to many of the counties schools.

Munster Colleges recorded a clean sweep of All Ireland victories with five titles coming to the province, St Marys Charleville retained the All Ireland Senior A title with a victory over Portumna while their Junior A side made it a double, recording a final win over Colaiste Brid Enniscorthy in a thrilling final. Mercy Waterford defeated Ballinasloe to take the senior B as Loreto Fermoy crowned themselves in glory by taking the All Ireland colleges B title defeating Mercy Ballinasloe. The All Ireland sevens title adorned the cabinets of St Marys Charleville to round off another successful year under the guidance of Vincie Harrington and Ann Marie O Keeffe.

Munster titles came to Charleville who won the first years competition defeating Ursalines Thurles who went on to take the first year plate

defeating St Marys Macroom. St Pats Shannon fell in the senior final while the junior A, Intermediate league and Munster sevens were amongst the vast array of Munster silverware captured.

Sacred Heart Clonakilty had success at Senior b level taking league honours, while the Junior A plate also found a home in Clon. Loreto Fermoy defeated Presentation Thurles in the Munster Junior b championship final while Mercy Waterford had a win over Bandon.

In Cork Colleges competition St Marys Charleville, Coachford Carrigaline Community College, Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig, Loreto Fermoy, and Blarney all enjoyed championship successes.

THIRD LEVEL

Cork Institute of Technology hosted Ashbourne Cup 2002 and under the guiding influences of former Cork senior star Miriam Deasy hosted a wonderful weekend of colleges camogie.

U.C.C. and Waterford Institute of Technology battled it out in a final hosted by the City Division at their wonderful Ballinlough complex with the Cork representatives, under the guidance of former Cork hurler John Considine, taking the honours. Cork players Elaine Burke, Rachel Moloney, Ger Casey, Sarah Hayes, Una O'Donoghue, Joanne O'Callaghan and Criona Harte were joined by Tipperary's Emer McDonnell and Una O'Dwyer as U.C.C. captured their 31st Ashbourne Cup title.

The Cork Colleges of Further Education, an amalgamation of St John's College, Cork College of Commerce and Scoil Stefan Naofa participated for the first time in the Purcell Cup. Under the guidance of Bertie Og Murphy and Ann Hanley they made it to the final where despite putting in a spirited display they had to give way to a stronger Carlow I.T. side.

SCIATH NA SCOIL

As always Sciath na Scoil provided us with plenty of camogie action and we congratulate the winners, and commiserate and say well done also to the losers, and once again our gratitude to the unsung heroes - the teachers and parents, without whom the competitions would not be possible. In the C 1 Ovens took their first Sciath na Scoil Division 1 title at the expense of holders Douglas in a low scoring contest. Erin Corkery's goal was enough to see her side take the title with Margaret O Herlihy and Lea Doyle to the fore.

Appalling weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the teams as the competitions ran foul of the weather. It was an all Bishopstown clash as neighbouring schools St Catherine's and Scoil Spiorad Naomh met in the C2 final.

Dungourney took C3 honours as captain Carolyn Motherway led by example contributing 2-3 to her sides tally as they defeated Goggins Hill. Ballinora defeat Maria Assumpta Ballyphehane to take the C4 title, with a goal from Deirdre Cronin enough to secure victory as Aoife Mc Grath and captain Orla Murphy excelled.

The DC 1 title went to Carrig na bhFear who were victorious over Belgooley. DC 2 to Ballygarvan who defeated Berrings as Michelle

Dunne and Aine Moynihan starred.

The DC 3 crown was annexed by Kilcredin over Ballyheda, while DC 4 saw Aghabullogue get the measure of Gael Scoil Uí Riada while Ballinadee had a DC 5 victory over Clonpriest with Orla Twomey grabbing two goals.

The Sciath na Scoil committee also organised very successful indoor competitions and here Cloughroe took the honours at the Neptune stadium defeating Milford in an exciting final. Forty-six schools in all participated in the successful indoor competitions which was run on a league basis.

Twenty-six teams contested the mini sevens and victory went to Dungourney who also had the distinction of having one of their player's Carolyn Motherway chosen to play in Croke Park on All Ireland hurling final day.

Plaudits must go to all the players, teachers and mentors who work tirelessly to promote the various competitions at national school level. It is here that many of the players get their first taste of camogie and the hard work being put in has seen many stars emerge to go to enjoy further success.

AWARDS

Several players in the county were the recipients of awards following on the All Ireland successes. For Breige Corkery it was a special year being named as player of the match in the county senior championship final, the All Ireland minor final and also being chosen by the sponsors Punch Industries as their Cork player of the junior All Ireland final.

Fiona O'Driscoll was honoured by being named as R.T.E. player of the All Ireland final and also received The Silver Springs Morans Hotel Cork G.A.A. personality of the month award for September, a similar award from Jury's Hotel/Independent newspapers Dublin, quickly followed for a player who was undoubtedly Cork's Player of the Year.

Fiona also received the Vodafone Player of the Year Award. Jemma O'Connor received The Star Newspaper Young Camogie Player of the Year Award.

Jennifer O'Leary was named as the Celtic Cross 96/103 F M September winner while Emer Dillon received the Acton Hotel Carrigrohoun supreme sports award. Ger Casey was honoured by sponsors Colour Catcher as their player of the senior All Ireland final.

PASSING OF PRESIDENT

In early December the county board mourned the passing of it's President Lillie 'Sullivan from the Ballincollig club. A native and staunch Kilkenny woman Lillie was a tremendous worker for Cork camogie and was one of the founders of the Ballincollig camogie club. Just three years in office when she passed away Lillie was very proud when elected for her term of office as President of the county board. She is sadly missed by all in Cork camogie circles.

The game continues to flourish in the county and as we look back on the year 2002 it was a truly great one for Cork camogie, here's hoping the year ahead is even better.

Review 2002

by Mary Newman

Treble All Ireland glory sets up new record for county's camogie stars

IN a county that has set many records, and has been almost continuously been to the fore in camogie circles, the capturing of Senior, Intermediate and Minor All Ireland titles in 2002 is another first for Cork's finest.

Starting the year things did not seem to be going well as the senior side were now entering their fourth season without a title, and with Tipperary determined to create their own record and make it four in a row a huge task faced the Cork back room team. Undaunted coach Pa Finn from St Finbarr's remained at the helm and with Rose Desmond and Kathleen Healy joining him as selectors they set a target of reaching Croke Park on September 14.

Coach Finn said: "We used the national league to bring in a lot of new younger players, and with the success at minor level continuing it gave us a great foundation. We had a panel of 30 players and every one of them got a chance to prove themselves, it also meant that even though we had several injuries at different stages of the season we always had plenty of players available".

Certainly Cork's National league campaign was not an impressive one, and losing out to Limerick at the semi-final stage it looked as if a final appearance was a distant hope.

The attitude of the players was tremendous, and it helped when Fiona O'Driscoll decided to resume her inter-county career after taking a break for the national league: "I went to the league semi-final and I felt I still had something to offer so I decided to give it another go" said a very modest Fiona when I spoke to her recently. Contributing nine points in Cork's opening championship game against Limerick, Fiona brought back the buzz to the forward line that had been missing through the league campaign.

Another big plus was the arrival of St Nick's minor football coach Jim McCarthy onto the camogie scene. Joining the backroom team for the championship campaign he introduced new fitness methods which had a huge bearing on the ultimate result.

"The players were fantastic and that was important, if you do not get the players respect and attention you are wasting

your time, however, the girls were determined to succeed and that was half the battle". Determined is something that was very obvious with this Cork senior side no more so that the efforts of one Linda Mellerick who defied all the odds to battle back to make her last inter county appearance in Croke Park. A serious leg injury in early June saw the Glen Rovers star sidelined with her leg encased in plaster, but she set herself a target and was determined to be back if Cork made it to the final: "I was heartbroken when the accident happened. However, I just kept going and tried to keep myself as fit as I could. When the plaster came off I worked extra hard and thank god the selectors kept faith in

junior and minor level and gave her first All Ireland medal. In August she led her club Cloughduv to their second senior county championship title in a row.

For long serving Eithne Duggan from Bishopstown All Ireland final day signalled the end of a marvellous inter county career that has yielded four All Ireland senior medals and also saw her become the only player from her club to captain Cork to senior All Ireland honours in 1998.

Stephanie Dunlea, Mary O'Connor, Paula O'Connor, Vivienne Harris, and Caoimhe Harrington all added to their list of honours with top class performances that helped in no small way as the rebels totally outclassed

Fitzgibbon will be a wonderful addition as Pa Finn plans his campaign to retain the O'Duffy Cup.

It's expected that Kathleen Healy will again be the nomination of county champions Cloughduv while Rose Desmond had retired as a selector. Jim McCarthy has indicated he will not be involved this season as he already has a heavy commitment to club activities.

If the seniors brought the county a long awaited adult crown the minor team got the show on the road on August weekend brushing aside the challenge of Galway to make it back to back minor titles. From the first game in the Munster championship this Cork side were fancied to go



Intermediate captain Hilda Kenneally receives the All Ireland trophy from Pat Rafferty, National Camogie President. Below, Cork u-16s (minor) All Ireland Champions 2002.

charges. "We had to work extra hard to retain our title this year. Having seen Galway play in the under 14 blitz last year and this year we knew they would be in the final. We really made a huge effort and all the praise must go to the players. Every one of the 24 on the panel was superb and credit must go to their clubs for the wonderful sup-

such as Derry, Antrim and Down but once Cork got over their opening game defeating Derry confidence began to grow. Dublin proved stiff semi-final opposition, but three late goals saw Cork book a place in the final.

Suddenly on the verge of making history by being the only county to take Senior, Intermediate, and Minor ti-



me. It was a great experience to finally defeat Tipperary and regain the O'Duffy Cup" said an elated Mellerick in the aftermath of Cork's success.

Amongst the heroines of the hour were three players making their senior debuts Emer Dillon, Joanne O'Callaghan, Jemma O'Connor, while Ger Casey, Elaine Burke, Jennifer O'Leary, and Una O'Donoghue were playing in their first senior All Ireland final. A dream come true was how captain Una O'Donoghue described the experience of leading her county to its 20th All Ireland senior title.

For O'Donoghue it also brought an end to the personal heartbreak of losing out at

their opponents.

Tipperary's long serving coach Michael Cleary had no complaints. "On the day Cork were hungry for success they were very determined and came at us from the off. Even when we led we were never able to put them away and when they came at us we had no answer to them".

Cleary's analysis adequately sums up the Cork performance more determined, hungry for success and a never say die attitude were the hallmarks of this team that only deservingly got out of the year what they put in.

In the season ahead Eithne Duggan and Linda Mellerick will no longer grace the playing fields, new selector Sandy

all the way.

Under the guidance of John Quinn John Cronin and Ann Watson Cork have enjoyed huge success at minor level. Winning four All Ireland titles in five years has ensured a continuous stream of players coming through which has helped enormously in Cork recording success at adult levels and indicated the strength of the game in the clubs, colleges and primary schools through the city and county.

Cork led from the start and made the highly fancied Galway side look very ordinary. Star of the show was Breige Corkery who was named as Player of the Match.

Coach John Cronin was full of praise for his young

port they gave them."

Indeed praise must go to John Cronin who has been involved with Cork minor teams since 1997, the capturing of four titles in the interim is down in no small way to his dedication to the task in hand. Already plans are well under way for a defence of the title.

While the disappointment of losing the junior title by the narrowest of margins hurt deeply, several members of that panel turned their thought to the intermediate championship under the eagle eyes of Pat Murray, Sheila Golden and Kay Dunne.

It was always going to be a hard championship to win given the strength of counties

titles in the same season, Cork gave it their all. Ably led by captain Hilda Kenneally they cast aside the tag of underdogs.

to take the counties second intermediate title. For Hilda Kenneally it signalled the end of her inter county career that has seen her take Junior, Intermediate and Senior honours.

Added to the three All Ireland titles Cork made it a clean sweep of provincial titles taking the senior, Intermediate, Junior, Minors and Under 18 Munster crowns.

Without doubt 2002 will be remembered as one of Cork most successful on the camogie fields. Don't bet on 2003 being even better.



15 September 2002; Cork panel. Cork v Tipperary, Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final, Croke Park, Dublin. Picture credit.

Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

A VERY SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM

By Mary Newman

As 2002 dawned Cork were entering the counties fourth year without winning a senior All Ireland title as Tipperary's thoughts were turning to make it four in a row.

Coch Pa Finn from St Finbarr's remained optimistic as he faced his second season at the helm and with Rose Desmond and Kathleen Healy joining him as selectors began the process of seeking out new talent. During the National league a lot of new younger players were introduced and given the success at minor level that the county has enjoyed there was plenty of talent at the selector's disposal. Thirty players were chosen and every one of them got a chance to prove themselves through what was a rather relaxed National league campaign. Reaching the league semi final Cork lost out comprehensively to Limerick and it now confirmed that a lot of work needed to be done if the O'Duffy cup was to return to Leeside. A big asset to Cork preparations was the return to inter county action of Fiona O'Driscoll who decided to resume her inter county career after taking a break for the national league. Contributing nine points in Cork's opening championship game against Limerick Fiona brought back the buzz to the forward line that had been missing through the league campaign while her experience was also vital given the amount of younger players who were making finding their feet at senior level. The arrival of St Nick's minor football coach Jim Mc Carthy onto the camogie scene joining the backroom team for the championship campaign was a big help. Introducing new fitness methods which had a huge bearing on the ultimate result Jim brought a breath of fresh air to the training camp with his relaxed but firm manner which was an instant hit with the girls. Determined is something that was very obvious with this Cork senior side no more so that the efforts of one Linda

Mellerick who defied all the odds to battle back to make her last inter county appearance in Croke Park. A serious leg injured in early June saw Linda sidelined with her leg encased in plaster, however undeterred she set herself a target and was determined to be back if Cork made it to the final. There were many heroines of the hour no more so than three players making their senior debuts Emer Dillon, Joanne O'Callaghan, Jemma O'Connor, while Ger Casey, Elaine Burke, Jennifer O'Leary, and Una O'Donoghue were playing in their first senior All Ireland final. A dream come true was how captain Una O'Donoghue described the experience of leading her county to their twentieth All Ireland senior title.

For O'Donoghue it also brought an end to the personal heartbreak of losing out at junior and minor level and gave her first All Ireland medal, the year was a good one for Una who in August led her club Cloughduv to their second senior county championship title in a row.

For long serving Eithne Duggan from Bishopstown and Glen Rovers Linda Mellerick All Ireland final day signalled the end of marvellous inter county careers that have seen Eithne win four and Linda take six All Ireland senior medals. Both also saw captained Cork to senior All Ireland honours and have been wonderful servants to the game. Stephanie Dunlea, Mary O'Connor, Paula O'Connor, Vivienne Harris, and Caoimhe Harrington all added to their list of honours with top class performances that helped in no small way as the

rebels totally outclassed their opponents.

A team is only as good as it substitutes and this was brought home in no small way by the performance of Rachel Maloney and Orla O'Sullivan when introduced in Croke Park while the contributions of Aoife Murray, Denise Cronin, Sarah Hayes, Catherine Corkery, Cora Keohane, Rosalie Holland, Ciara Healy, Sinead Buckley, Criona Harte, Linda O'Connell, Sheila Burns, Colette Desmond and Marie Watson were invaluable in a season which began on a cold, miserable March afternoon in Kilkenny and ended

with the glorious setting sunshine over Croke Park on September 15th.

Tipperary's coach former All Star hurler Michael Cleary in praising his opponents had this to say as

we met in the tunnel after the final whistle "Mary, I must be very truthful even though it pains me to have to admit it but on the day Cork were hungry for success they were very determined and came at us from the off,

even when we led we were never able to put them away and when they came at us we had no answer to them, I am very disappointed but I congratulate Cork they are worthy winners and we salute them."

Indeed salute them the people of Cork did as on their return on Monday night the team were greeted by large crowds first at the traditional stop in Mallow where large gatherings paid tribute to the heroines with special cheers reserved for the north Cork girls and later in the city as the team were paraded in an open top bus to South Mall.

Indeed a nice gesture in Mallow station was the one which went unnoticed and unreported amongst all the hype and excitement it was that of the Newtownshandrum senior hurlers. Even though bitterly disappointed at losing their county senior final the previous day to Blackrock several of the side were there on the platform to greet the Cork girls and more importantly their own Paula O'Connor and Caoimhe Harrington. The Green and Gold flag of Newtownshandrum was held proudly aloft on the platform with the O'Connor brothers and Pat Mulcahy amongst the large contingent nice gesture lads and well done.

In the season ahead Eithne Duggan and Linda Mellerick will no longer grace the inter county playing fields, new selector Sandy Fitzgibbon will join force with Pa Finn as he plots another campaign to retain the O'Duffy cup. It's expected that Kathleen Healy will again be the nomination of county champions Cloughduv while Rose Desmond had retired as a selector. Jim Mc Carthy has indicated he will not be involved this season as he already has a heavy commitment to his own club activities. A new year now has dawned and an even bigger effort will be required as Cork bid to come of age and make it title number twenty one the road ahead is an even tougher one but for now lets just savour the moment as we salute the gallant All Ireland Senior Camogie champions for 2002..... Cork



Fine style from
Una
O'Donoghue.

EMER AND ELAINE STRIKE A DOUBLE FOR MILFORD

Their selection as joint winners of a Corkman/Kostal Sports Star award is the icing on the cake for Milford girls Elaine O'Riordan and Emer Watson, who enjoyed a year of remarkable success on the camogie front in 2002. During it, Elaine captained the Cork minor team to All-Ireland glory, and won All-Ireland senior and junior Colleges medals with St. Mary's of Charleville.

And Emer shared in all of those triumphs, as well as collecting another All-Ireland medal with the county intermediate team when, according to selector Sheila Golden, the manner in which she combined so well with her sister Maria - a Corkman/Kostal award winner in 2001 - in attack was a key factor in Cork's success, not least in the final against Antrim.

Sheila, who is chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board, went on to say that Emer was absolutely outstanding during the course of the minors march to the top, and she

was winning her second All-Ireland medal at this level, having also been involved the previous year when Maria skippered the team and mother Anne served

as a selector to make it a particularly memorable occasion for the Watson family. Cork minor team coach John Cronin of Cloughduv was fulsome in his praise for the contributions made by both Emer and Elaine as Derry and Tipperary were smoothly dispatched en route to the All-Ireland decider where Galway proved a much tougher nut to crack.

"We started very well in the final, but Galway came back at us strongly in the second-half, and we were put to the pin of our collar to hold out for a 1-11 to 1-6 win in the end.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the parts played by Emer and Elaine were instrumental in ensuring our survival, and I have no hesitation in saying that they both have the potential to make it to the very top in the near future." If pressed, I would plump for Emer to make the quicker graduation to senior inter-county ranks because she has an advantage over Elaine in terms of physical strength.

"Her greatest attribute in my book is her tremendous opportunism, and when presented with the merest whiff of a chance, you could almost put your house on it that she will turn it into a score.

"She certainly proved a trump card for us last year, and the fact that she commanded a lot of attention from the opposing defences made it so much easier for our other forwards to prosper," he said. John contends that Elaine O'Riordan also has what it takes to become an established member of the Cork senior team in the years ahead, and he cites her immense versatility as one of the most vital weapons in her armoury.

"Elaine is equally at home in defence and attack, but she is also a very keen competitor, and the tougher the going gets in a game, the more likely it is that you will see the best of her.

"As well as that, she has great positional sense, and her uncanny ability to

read the game is bound to stand her in good stead as she attempts to make her mark at a higher level down the road," he said. Vincent Harrington from Carrigrohoid, who was in charge of the St. Mary's teams that brought senior and junior All-Ireland honours to the Charleville College for the second consecutive year was also quick to heap the plaudits on the two 16-year old camogie starlets from Milford.

"Emer is a forward of real class while I would describe Elaine as having the heart of a lion, and they both possess an ideal temperament which makes them a pleasure to work with." Indeed, Elaine is so determined that she would be capable of succeeding in any sport, and, apart from her camogie achievements, she won an All-Ireland u-16 medal with Cork in Ladies football last year." Looking back on St. Mary's' double All-Ireland triumph, Vincent said that the seniors win came as no great surprise as the team was very strong, containing the bulk of the players who were involved in the 2001 victory. "As things turned out, they won all of their matches fairly comfortably, including the final against Portlanna, but the juniors had it much harder and their success was probably a bit more satisfying on that account.

"The final against Enniscorthy, for instance, was a real cracker, and, with team captain Emer doing most of the scoring, we led by nine points at one stage only to find ourselves behind by a point with time running out." But Emer capped a splendid individual performance by scoring three late points to pull the game out of the fire for us. "Elaine had a great match as well, starting at midfield before moving to centre-back where she was playing a major role in limiting Enniscorthy's progress near the end," revealed Vincent. All in all, an unforgettable year for Emer Watson and Elaine O'Riordan, two names likely to be grabbing the camogie headlines for a long time to come.



Gemma O'Connor, Cork, in action against Philly Fogarty, Tipperary. Cork v Tipperary, All-Ireland Camogie Final, Croke Park, Dublin.

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DEC. 2002

CAMOGIE REVIEW OF THE YEAR WITH MARY NEWMAN MCCARTHY

THREE All-Ireland titles, a clean sweep of provincial titles, plus numerous colleges and third-level successes, marks 2002 as a successful season for Cork.

The winning of Cork's first 15-a-side senior All-Ireland title, a second successive win at minor level and the intermediate crown, won against all the odds, were amongst the headlines.

Ashbourne success for UCC, All-Ireland college titles for St Mary's Charleville and Loreto Fermoy...

Yes, without doubt, the ladies certainly did the Rebel County proud in 2002.

Pa Finn, Rose Desmond and Cloughduv's representative Kathleen Healy were joined by Jim McCarthy as the senior selectors set about bringing the O'Duffy Cup Leaside for the first time in four years.

Despite relinquishing their National League title at the semi-final stage, the selectors continued to lay their plans for the championship.

Fiona O'Driscoll rejoined the panel following a break and her contribution of 0-9 underlined her importance in a one-sided opener in Pairc uí Rinn against defeated league finalists Limerick.

Cork easily accounted for Antrim and the quarter-final with National League champions Galway followed a similar pattern as Cork set out to stop Tipperary making it four-in-a-row.

Behind the scenes, preparation went smoothly with the team receiving a major boost with Colour Catcher coming on board as team sponsor.

The final lived up to all pre-match expectations as Cork turned in a sparkling performance to take the title.

Trailing at half-time by two points, Cork's second half display was one to remember. Fiona O'Driscoll's contribution of 3-2 rightly earned her the Player of the Match Award, but it was a superb team effort that carried the day.

For the younger players such as Jennifer O'Leary, Emer Dillon, Jemma O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan and Ger Casey, it was a first senior All-Ireland medal.

And stalwarts Linda Mellerick and Eithne Duggan signalled the end of their days in the Cork jersey.

There have been no better servants to the game in Cork.

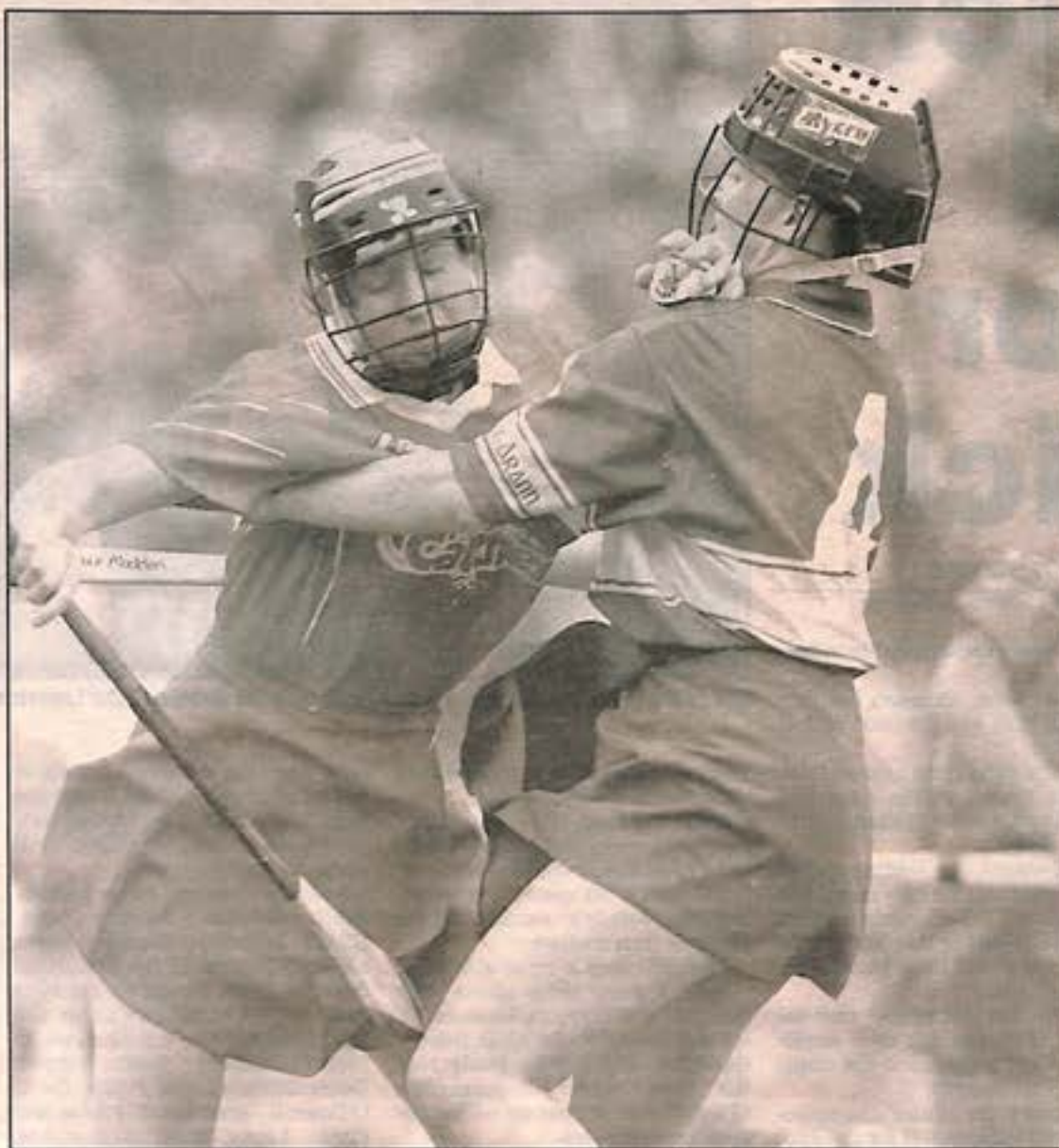
Many of the intermediate side put the disappointment of losing the junior final behind them and had victories over Down and Dublin.

Confounding the experts, Cork made all the running in an exciting final to beat the holders Antrim.

Having won a great Munster championship, Cork juniors failed to make a clean sweep of All-Ireland titles when a below par first half display left them a mountain to climb in the second. Kilkenny took their first junior crown by the narrowest of margins.

The minor team brought the Munster and All-Ireland titles to Leaside for the second year in succession.

Once again, John Cronin, Ann



Cork's Una O'Donoghue collides with with Claire Madden of Tipperary during the All-Ireland final last year.

Ladies do Cork proud

Watson and John Quinn worked the oracle with players who out-classed All-Ireland champions Tipperary to take Munster honours before defeating Derry to book a final meeting with Galway.

Breige Corkery's powerful display saw her named Player of the Match.

Cork's dominance at minor level is due to the wonderful work of the clubs and schools. This augurs well for further success at junior and senior level.

The county board, were indebted to Barry's Tea who sponsored the county minor team in their All-Ireland campaign.

The U-18 team again went all the way and took the Munster crown, defeating Tipperary in a one sided

contest.

On the local scene, Punch Industries came on board to replace the Science Cup with the Punch Shoe Care Cup as the County Board broke new ground with a sponsor coming on board for the championship.

Champions Cloughduv, who had to survive a stiff opening round test from divisional side Carbery, regained their composure and defeated Barryroe and Fr O'Neills to make it to the final.

Last season's senior B champions St Finbarrs turned in excellent displays and showed great heart and commitment to book their place in the final leaving Eire Og, Imokilly and pre-championship favourites Carrigdhoun in their wake.

Two totally committed teams served up a close fought final.

Ciara Cronin was the heroine grabbing two Cloughduv goals to help them retain their title.

Stephanie Dunlea, Aoife Murray and Ora O'Callaghan excelled in defence, while up front captain Una O'Donoghue and Marie Corkery led by example.

Breige Corkery went home with the Player of the Match award.

Cloughduv easily accounted for Waterford champions, St Ann's, as they set out in quest of Munster Championship honours, but they had to answer to Tipperary champions Cashel in the decider.

Fr O'Neill's put the disappointment of the championship behind them to take the 2001 senior league title, defeating Courcy Rovers in an exciting final with Fiona O'Driscoll playing a leading role.

Milford put the bitter disappointment of losing three finals behind them to defeat Ballygarvan after a replay to take the senior B title.

In the first game, it took an Emer Watson injury-time goal to bring the sides level but in the replay Ballygarvan had no answer to the Milford side as Regina Curtin, Marie Watson and Anna Geary excelled.

For Milford marvellous success at under age level culminated with their first senior title and promotion to senior A grade for the season 2003 where they will certainly be a force with which to be reckoned.



Camogie player Denise Twomey, St Catherine's, who won an All Ireland intermediate medal with Cork, All Ireland colleges with Fermoy, Munster junior championships with Cork u-16 and u-18 and county championship with St Catherine's, pictured holding the u-16 county cup at St Catherine's GAA and Camogie Club's dinner at the Middleton Park Hotel.



All-Ireland senior camogie medal winner, Eimear Dillon of Ballygarvan, who became the first woman ever to be awarded the Carrigdhoun GAA 'Personality of the Year' award in 2002.



DEC. 2002

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

All-Ireland Senior Camogie Finalists 2002



TIPPERARY SENIOR CAMOGIE TEAM THAT PLAYED CORK IN THE ALL-IRELAND FINAL AT CROKE PARK
Back row (l-r): Suzanne Kelly, Therese Brophy, Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Joanne Ryan, Noelle Kennedy, Claire Madden, Jovita Delaney. Front row: Angie McDermott, Deirdre Hughes, Clara Gaynor, Paula Bulfin, Sinead Nealon, Una O'Dwyer (captain), Emer McDonnell. Mascot: Maeve Delaney.

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Semi Finalists 2002



TIPPERARY INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE TEAM 2002
Back row (l to r): Brendan Murphy (trainer), Linda Grogan, Fiona Loughnane, Niamh Connolly (captain), Moira Ryan, Triona Hennessey, Patricia O'Halloran, Una O'Rourke, Helen Breen, Melissa Stapleton, Helen Grogan, Jenny O'Halloran, Mairead Morrissey, Marie G. O'Dwyer, Bernie O'Dowd (selector). Front row: Aine Mulcahy, Paula Ryan, Sarah O'Brien, Mary Looby, Geraldine Kinnane, Linda Breen, Michelle Shortt, Meadh Corcoran, Mary Rose Ryan, Trisha Ryan, Deirdre McDonnell, Lorraine Bourke, Sharon Ralph, Martin Browne (manager). Missing from photograph Jill Horan.

CELTIC ROSS WEST CORK SPORTS STAR AWARDS



SEPTEMBER: Jennifer O'Leary, Barryroe and Cork, camogie.

8. Jennifer O'Leary (Barryroe): Cork's magnificent achievements on the camogie fields this season as they swept all before

them at all levels could not be ignored and we had no hesitation in picking Jennifer as a star of the season. She follows in the footsteps of another great Barryroe girl, Cora Keohane, in bringing back an All-Ireland senior medal to her native parish.

That final against arch-rivals, Tipperary, was one of the great hurling games of the past season and Jennifer had an outstanding game at wing forward, scoring three points. It was her second season on the Cork team, losing last year in the semi-final to Tipp.

A product of the Barryroe club and the local primary school, she won her first All-Ireland medal with Clonakilty Convent of Mercy, went on to star with the Cork minor, u.16 team for two years, winning All-Irelands in 1998 and 1999, intermediate All-Ireland in 2000, a Munster u.18 medal in 2001 and the big one this year in senior.

This year also she won several sporting awards for her achievements and she a worthy Top Ten nominee.

All-Ireland Camogie Final

By Gerry Slevin

Between July 10th 1999 and September 15th 2002, Tipperary were unbeaten in senior championship camogie. A total of fifteen successive matches saw victories achieved over Kilkenny (four times), Cork (three), Clare, Wexford and Down (two each), Galway and Dublin (one each). But the 16th hurdle proved to be one too many and on September 15th, the curtain finally fell on a glorious reign, when Cork exacted revenge for those three defeats, in the All Ireland final.

Maybe in hindsight, too much was made of the four-in-a-row goal, with an extra burden placed on the girls, whose chief ambition for that September afternoon was to defeat Cork and win the O'Duffy Cup.

At the same time, it was a motivating factor for a team that had won three-in-a-row and a team requires some extra incentive in order to keep up the momentum. But it didn't come off and there can be no excuses offered. Indeed none were, Cork's entitlement to the trophy after three years of Tipp dominance, being freely acknowledged. A sad ending nonetheless, but nothing to be ashamed of or indeed to be too cut up over, because in the past three years these magnificent hurlers have provided us with such exquisite performances, such great memories, through which they succeeded in raising the whole image of camogie to a height never previously experienced.

Two early rounds in Semple Stadium against both Dublin and Wexford, saw very easy victories, that against Wexford especially so, when Tipp were geared up for quite a tussle having had to play very well a year earlier in order to beat them. Tipp were in the All-Ireland semi-final before they realised it and after



Senior camogie player, Clara Gaynor, photographed with young Tipperary fan, Orla Prout from Ardcroney, following Tipperary's victory over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final at Limerick.

Cork had brushed aside Galway's challenge in Limerick's Gaelic Grounds, Tipp went into action against a Kilkenny side that relied on the physical in their bid to atone for that huge All Ireland final loss of the previous year.

Tipp were ready for them and held them scoreless in the second half, having defended so well when playing into a strong first half wind. The final pairing was the one everyone wanted, Tipp and Cork, and as soon as that final whistle sounded at the end of the Tipp-Kilkenny game, the preparations were under way in both camps. This was a game not to



Tipperary Mascots... Michaela Graham and Meadh Delaney captured in a happy mood prior to the Tipperary Dublin championship game.

be missed, one not to be taken lightly, and nothing was left to chance by way of preparation.

Una O'Dwyer was honoured with the captaincy this year, the fourth successive Cashel player in that role, and like her predecessors Maedhbh Stokes, Jovita Delaney and Emily Hayden, she took to it splendidly, a model in terms of leadership qualities. Michael Cleary at the helm in the off-field deliberations, spared neither himself nor the girls in ensuring that everyone was in peak condition, both mentally and physically. There was a confidence in the camp that the Cork challenge would be successfully met.

Their opponents were analysed in as far as it was possible to do so, with a huge respect for the quality of the opposition voiced both by Michael (and his commentators Biddy Phillips and Jim Madden) and the players themselves.

In several instances there was an intimate knowledge of the quality of opponents, through friendships built up in third level academies and when it all came together in the throes of an All-Ireland final, the occasion was expected to explode into one of sheer camogie splendour.

The first half saw Tipp go on top early, Eimear McDonnell's goal providing the inspiration in what was an exciting and well-contested match. Cork began to come more into it in the second quarter and the first of Fiona O'Driscoll's three goals shortly before halftime, placed some question marks over the Tipp defence, a sector that didn't look as comfortable as in previous matches.

Half time saw Tipp with a one point lead, 1-6 to 1-5 and two early second half points seemed to suggest that the champions were on their way again. Not so.

The Cork surge emerged, and between the second and the twenty second minutes of the half, Tipp's fate was sealed beyond redemption. Three Cork goals in a seven minute period broke the hearts of the gallant Tipp lassies and while the Tipp challenge remained sustained and invigorating, we were never going to experience the come-back we saw a year earlier in that amazing semi final replay against the same opposition in Limerick. Now, it would be Cork's turn to claim the spoils and no one could deny their entitlement to them.

We thought that this hunger about



Horse & Jockey Hotel once again sponsor Tipperary Senior Camogie Team... Tom Egan presents a cheque to the captain of Tipperary Senior Camogie Team, Una O'Dwyer, prior to the All-Ireland semi-final. Also in picture is Margaret Skehan, chairperson of Tipperary Camogie Board and Rose Mannion (right), Treasurer of Tipperary Camogie Board.

which we hear so much nowadays in every sport, was still present in the Tipp system in abundance. It was there but, unfortunately for Tipp, it was in even greater abundance in the Cork girls and no blame to them for that. Over the past two years, Cork had suffered badly at the hands of Tipp and it goes without saying that there comes a time when the Cork system kicks back and with a vengeance. That September afternoon was the time chosen and the O'Duffy Cup was theirs for the twentieth time.

Tipp tears were profuse, understandably so. The loser takes a back seat on All-Ireland final day and players can only slink away while the victors gain the plaudits. Such it is with sport.

Tipp had their days in the sun in 1999, 2000 and 2001 and will have them again. They have given us so many memorable outings in that time, and probably the highest tribute that

can be paid to them is that, they have been chiefly instrumental in giving the game a higher and more widespread profile because of the way in which the skill elements have been addressed and presented.

Last year in the Year Book we claimed that hurling was a beautiful game when played by women. Nothing has happened to change that view and we look forward eagerly to Tipp's return to the top of the ladder.

It was Christy Ring who said hurling was only half dressed without Tipperary. In truth it can now be said that such has been the impression made by Tipperary on the camogie scene over the past four years, the game needs Tipperary for its future well-being.

For the record Tipperary were beaten by 4-9 to 1-9, having led by 1-6 to 1-5 at the interval.

The teams were as follows:

Cork: Ger Casey, Joanne O'Callaghan, Eithne Duggan, Stephanie Dunlea, Paula O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Gemma O'Connor, Vivienne Harris, Elaine Burke, Linda Mellerick, Emer Dillon, Jennifer O'Leary, Una O'Donoghue, Caoimhe Harrington, Fiona O'Driscoll.

Subs: Rachel Moloney for Burke, Orla O'Sullivan for Harrington. Also: Aoife Murray, Sarah Hayes, Denise Cronin, Catherine Corkery, Ciara Healy, Rosarie Holland, Sinead Buckley, Cora Keohane.

Tipperary: Jovita Delaney, Paula Bulfin, Una O'Dwyer, Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon, Clara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Suzanne Kelly, Angie McDermott, Philly Fogarty, Noelle Kennedy, Joanne Ryan, Emer McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes, Claire Grogan.

Subs: Emily Hayden for McDermott, Louise Young for Nealon. Also: Louise Ryan, Sheena Howard, Trish O'Halloran, Helen Breen, Niamh Connolly, Lena Woods, Anna Woods, Lorraine Bourke.

Referee: Eileen Lawlor, Westmeath.



Final Thoughts... Michael Cleary, Biddy Phillips and Jim Madden prior to the All-Ireland final.



Senior camogie player Claire Grogan meets President Mary McAleese prior to the All-Ireland final against Cork. Also included is Deirdre Hughes and Emer McDonnell.



I'm Innocent... Jean Hayden pleading her innocence as she is being escorted from the bus on the arrival of the Tipperary team to the Horse & Jockey by Garda Henry Delaney (Thurles Branch).

nane (1-1), Sarah O'Brien, Sharon Ralph, Marie Morrissey, Linda Breen, Una O'Rourke, Marie Gerard O'Dwyer, Jenny O'Halloran.

In a very competitive All-Ireland intermediate semi-final played in the county camogie grounds on Sunday September 29th, Tipperary and Antrim were all square at the final whistle by Tipperary 3-7 to Antrim's 2-10. The replay was at Dunloy on October 20. Tipperary were without the services of Triona Bonnar, Meadh Corcoran and Helen Grogan and with the long journey to Antrim facing them Tipperary had a mighty hill to climb. Tipperary led at the interval by a point. In the second half Antrim went three points in the lead but Tipperary came back to draw level. A last minute free to Antrim gave them the point which sent them into the All-Ireland final on a scoreline of 0-11 to 2-4.

Tipperary Team: Paula Ryan, Tricia Ryan, Helen Breen, Mary Rose Ryan, Deirdre McDonnell, Trisha O'Halloran, Niamh Connolly, Lorraine Bourke, Aine Mulcahy, Michelle Shortt, Moira Ryan, Melissa Stapleton, Geraldine Kinnane, (0-2), Linda Grogan (0-1), Mary Looby (0-1), Sarah O'Brien, Sharon Ralph, Mairead Morrissey, Fiona Loughnane (1-0), Linda Grogan, Una O'Rourke, Jenny O'Halloran, Jill Horan (1-0).

MUNSTER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

After Tipperary's All-Ireland Junior victory in 2001, a complete new squad had to be found and they commenced their journey in defence of this title on Monday May 6th in Roanmore, Waterford against Waterford. After a poor performance in the league campaign a lot of work had gone into this unit in the meantime and it was proof of the pudding on the May Bank Holiday Monday with a convincing victory over Waterford by 3-13 to 0-3.

Tipperary Team: J. Horan (Clonoulty/Rossmore), I. Spillane (Fethard), G. Greed (Bournea), T. Ryan (Toomevara), L. Breen (Drom/Inch), H. Costigan (Bournea), U. O'Rourke (Kilruane McDonagh), A. Mulcahy (Burgess), M. Ryan (Clonoulty/Rossmore), A. Deane (Kilruane McDonagh), M. Stapleton (0-4) (Drom/Inch), S. Gleeson (Moycarkey/Borris), T. Maxwell (Toomevara), F. Loughnane (1-6) (Templemore), G. Kinnane (1-3) (Drom/Inch), A. Heffernan (Clonoulty/Rossmore), B. Bourke (Gaels), C. Doran (1-0) (Clonoulty/Rossmore), C. Cantwell (Moycarkey/Borris), C. Ryan (Clonoulty/Rossmore), C. Kirwan (Moneygall), L. Gleeson (Burgess), E. Ryan (Moneygall), J. Kirwan (Moneygall).

On Saturday June 29th in the county camogie grounds, the team made a brave attempt to retain the Munster junior title. Tipperary led by 1-3 to 1-2 at the interval. Cork went into a three-point lead in the second half but a fine goal by Geraldine Kinnane brought Tipperary level. However instead of Tipperary getting inspiration from this score it was Cork who charged ahead and added five unanswered points from Tipperary to leave Cork Munster



Templemore U-14 Camogie Champions 2002 . . . Back: Elaine Bourke, Alison Donnelly, Sarah Nolan, Marie Ryan, Michelle Lawlor, Kate Lyons, Deirdre Kiely, Yvonne Geary, Emma Taylor, Siobhan Murphy, Ailish Egan. Front: Deirdre Brennan, Maria Eviston, Siobhan Bourke, Sharonagh Bourke, Catriona Maher, Ciara Johnston (capt), Eimear Scully, Ailish O'Connell, Nora Costigan, Sarah Hennessy, Sean Johnston (manager/trainer).



Gaels County Junior 'B' champions . . . Back: William Maher, Natasha Ivors, Breda O'Neill (capt), Emma Williams, Emma Maher, Ruth Maher, Mairead Britton, Mary Connolly, Ann Noonan, Eimear Shelley, Natalie Scott, Ann Williams. Front: Nigel Cleere (coach), Ann-Marie O'Neill, Cathy Walters, Breda Burke, Stacey Cleere, Mairead Maher, Sharon Holohan, Joe Williams. Missing: Natasha Scott, Sandra Molloy.



Tipp girls shine in U.S.A. 2002

Congratulations to Muireann O'Donoghue (left) and Catherine Burke (right) who won North American camogie medals with San Francisco Shamrocks in September.



Junior Champions by 1-12 to Tipperary 2-4.

Tipperary Team: Jill Horan, Imelda Spillane, Caroline Greed, Trisha Ryan, Una O'Rourke, Helena Costigan, Linda Breen, Mary Ryan, Aine Mulcahy, Fiona Loughnane (1-2), Melissa Stapleton, Sarah Gleeson (0-2), Alice Deane, Libby Twomey, Geraldine Kinnane (1-0), Julie Kirwan, Alma Heffernan, Breda Bourke, Caroline Kirwan, Cathy Doran, Eimear Ryan, Eileen Ryan, Cathriona Cantwell, Marie G. O'Dwyer, Theresa Maxwell.

TIPPERARY MINOR TEAM

Unfortunately another year has passed by without success at minor level. This is one of the most important competitions in our camogie calendar, but since 1996

with the exception of one Munster title in 2000 Tipperary have failed miserably in this grade. To keep up the momentum at adult grades we must be achieving success at underage level.

The Munster and All-Ireland Minor Championship have got two grades 'A' and 'B'. Tipperary are graded in the 'A' section in Munster along side Cork while the 'B' teams in Munster comprise of Clare, Limerick and Waterford. The 'A' and 'B' teams all take part in the 'A' Championship in Munster separating Tipperary and Cork until the Munster 'A' final should they reach this stage, the other counties if they are not successful against Tipperary or Cork at this stage they compete in the 'B' Munster Championship.

On April 13th Tipperary had a compre-

hensive victory over Clare. This game was played in Whitegate, Clare. Right from the start Tipperary were in command throughout the field and ran out easy winners by 10-13 with Clare failing to raise a flag.

In the Munster final played in Dr. Mannix Park, Charleville on May 4th Tipperary went down badly to a far superior Cork unit. Cork who were in complete control throughout the game went away convincing winners by 8-16 to 2-11.

Tipperary Team: Joanne Nolan (Silvermines), Elaine Bourke (Templemore), Danielle O'Connell (Cashel), Fiona O'Dwyer (Cashel), Ciara Johnson (Templemore), Noelle Greene (Drom/Inch), Noreen Ryan (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Julie Kirwan (Moneygall), Katie Kennedy (Lorha), Michelle Shortt (0-2) (Drom/Inch), Claire Grogan (0-6) (Cashel), Noreen Flanagan (0-1) (Holycross/Ballycahill), Eimear Ryan (1-1) (Moneygall), Cora Hennessey (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Mary Ryan (1-1) (Moneygall), Roseanne Kenneally (Drom/Inch), Triona Dunne (Toomevara), Marie Jones (Moneygall), Mairead O'Donoghue (Silvermines), Nora Kinnane (Drom/Inch), Margaret Fryday (Knockavilla/Donaskeigh), Marie Costigan (Bournea), Marian Devaney (Silvermines),

Michelle Coffey (Toomevara), Elaine Hough (Lorha).

U-14 COUNTY TEAM

Tipperary U-14 county team travelled to Inniscarra, Cork on Saturday May 25th for a blitz tournament hosted by Cork countyboard. This was Tipperary's third consecutive year taking part in this tournament and they had mixed luck on all occasions. Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick and Wexford were the other participants. As there are no competitive competitions for U-14 teams in Munster this is a great initiative by the Cork camogie board and it is also good preparation for our future U-16 teams. Tipperary were under the management of Biddy Phillips, Sheila Delaney and John Langton.

Tipperary Team: Ciara Johnston, Siobhan Bourke (Templemore), Ailish Langton, Mairead Luttrell, Ciara Heffernan (Slievenamon), Mary Bradshaw, Elaine Young, Michelle Dunne, Christine Dunne, Aoife McLoughney, Deirdre Grace (Toomevara), Fiona Ryan (Shannon Rovers), Roseanne Quirke, Deirdre Ryan, Ciara O'Sullivan, Alison Lonergan (Cashel), Michelle Kirwan, Louise



Portroe Intermediate League winners 2002 . . . Front: Marie Sheedy, Dawn Ryan, Elaine Ryan, Jenny O'Halloran, Carol Creamer (capt), Sinead Kennedy, Karen O'Brien, Patricia Hogan, Sabrina White, Elaine Flynn. Back: Pat O'Connor (trainer), Sheena Richardson, Breda Slattery, Geraldine Conroy, Patricia O'Halloran, Niamh O'Brien, Josephine Fennessy, Corina Lawlor, Breda Quigley, Claire Madden, Michelle Conroy, Nessa O'Driscoll, Brendan Kennedy (selector). Missing: Tracey McLoughlin, Darren Gleeson (selector).



Clonoulty Rossmore Intermediate Champions . . . Back: Fr Peter Brennan (coach), Noelle O'Dwyer, Cara Ryan, Cora Hennessey, Noreen Ryan, Una Ahearne, Susan Maher, Cathy Doran, Mary Ryan, Moira Ryan, Bernadette Ryan, Elaine Sadlier, Joan Doran (selector). Front: Bridget Ryan, Helen Campion, Marie Devane, Alma Heffernan (capt), Triona Burke, Ann-Marie Ryan, Aine Heffernan, Catriona Fitzgerald, Jill Horan, Donna Ryan, Mairead Heaney.

O'Brien (St. Cronan's/Roscrea), Linda Fanning (Holycross/Ballycahill), Maura O'Regan (Moycarkey/Borris), Theresa Shortt, Siobhan McGrath, Eileen Harty, Tara Murray (Drom/Inch), Tracy Hanrahan (Kilsheelan).

On Saturday June the Tipperary U-14 team travelled to Carrigaline to take part in the Colleges camogie blitz.

In the first game against hosts Cork, Tipperary were defeated by two points, they then faced Kilkenny, who were strongly fancied and the Tipperary girls gave a creditable performance scoring 1-1 to Kilkenny's 2-3. The third game was against a very strong and skilful Galway side. Galway emerged winners by 2-10 to Tipperary 1-2. The final game saw them pitted against Limerick. In a closely fought encounter Limerick emerged winners by one goal.

Tipperary Team: Roseanne Quirke, Sarah Morrissey, Eileen Harty, Ciara O'Sullivan, Ailish Langton, Elaine Young, Ciara Heffernan, Siobhan Bourke, Patricia McGrath, Ciara Johnston (Capt), Theresa Shortt, Tracy Hanrahan, Siobhan McGrath, Alison Lonergan, Louise O'Brien, Deirdre Ryan, Fiona Ryan, Aoife McLoughney, Christine Dunne, Linda Fanning, Deirdre Grace, Niamh Enright, Fiona Kennedy, Emma McLoughney, Tara Chadwick, Michelle Kirwan, Helena Ryan.

FÉILE NA nGAEL NATIONAL FINALS

Once again Templemore U-14 'A' county champions represented Tipperary in the Féile Na nGael championship. Templemore travelled to South Armagh club Ballymacnabb on the week-end of June 20th /23rd.

While Templemore accounted well for themselves and reached the semi-finals they had to encounter the Galway champions Davitt's and were unfortunately defeated by 1-3 to 0-2.

CLUB AFFILIATION

Twenty nine clubs affiliated to the county board in 2002. Tipperary were pleased to welcome the two new clubs New Inn and Ballybacon / Grange who affiliated to the County. The following are the clubs who affiliated in 2002.

Cashel, Toomevara, Burgess, Templemore, Drom / Inch, Moneygall, Moycarkey / Borris, Slievenamon, Shannon Rovers, Kilsheelan, Holycross/Ballycahill, Gaels, Bournea, Clonoulty/Rossmore, Annacarty, St. Rita's/Fethard, St. Cronan's / Roscrea, Knockavilla / Donaskeigh, Portroe, New Inn, Ballybacon/Grange, Newport, Kilruane McDonagh, Silvermines, Carrick Swans, Kildangan, Cahir, Lorha, Thurles.

The following is a list of winners and runners-up for championship and leagues during 2002 camogie season.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR NATIONAL LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

Both the senior and junior county teams unfortunately did not do so well in their respective National League games in 2002. Their first games were on February 24th against Galway played in the county camogie grounds.

In atrocious weather conditions the juniors went down to Galway by 5-8 to 1-3.

In the senior game Tipperary were without the services of Deirdre Hughes, Ciara Gaynor, Teresa Brophy, Jovita Delaney and Sinead Nealon, but nevertheless the players available gave a good performance, but Galway took the points by 1-10 to 2-4.

On March 10th Tipperary junior team suffered a huge defeat by Cork on the scoreline of Cork 2-16 Tipperary 0-4. This game was played in Ballincollig, Cork.

On March 24th both the senior and junior teams travelled to the Monageer/Booleavogue GAA Grounds to play Wexford. Here Tipperary had mixed luck with the juniors going down by 3-6 to 0-2 and the seniors having their first win by 4-7 to 2-6. This was the junior's last game in the series and with no points secured it was a disappointing start to the season.

On April 14th Tipperary seniors suffered another defeat at the hands of Cork in Ballincollig Cork. This was a real cracker of a game as one would expect from those two rivals and sides were level with just minutes remaining. However, three unanswered points from Cork saw them advance to the National Senior League semi-final with full points in their section by defeating Tipperary on the score-line Cork 0-14, Tipperary 1-9.

On April 21st a disappointing performance by Tipperary's senior squad on home ground against Kilkenny saw them bow out of the National League competition. The final score of 2-11 to 0-3 tells its own story and they now realised that to defend their All-Ireland title an input greater than the previous year was required. This was Tipperary's last game in the league and with just points from the Wexford game Tipperary made their exit from the league campaign.

Tipperary Team: Jovita Delaney, Paula Bulfin, Una O'Dwyer, Julie Delaney, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Theresa Brophy, Suzanne Kelly, Angie McDermott, Noelle Kennedy, Emily Hayden, Joanne Ryan, Lena Woods, Eimear McDonnell, Trisha O'Halloran, Claire Madden, Niamh Connolly, Fiona Loughnane, Sheena Howard.

first round of the Munster senior championship played in Bishopstown, Cork on Saturday June 8th by 1-7 to 0-8. This competition is confined to teams in Munster and does not have any impact on the All-Ireland senior championship.

Tipperary Team: Jovita Delaney, Paula Bulfin, Una O'Dwyer, Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Theresa Brophy, Emily Hayden, Angie McDermott, Suzanne Kelly, Noelle Kennedy, Joanne Ryan, Eimear McDonnell, Philly Fogarty, Claire Grogan, Sheena Howard, Deirdre Hughes.

MUNSTER INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

This game was played as a curtain raiser to the senior game in Bishopstown on June 8th. Here again Tipperary went down to Cork by 3-4 to 1-9. Tipperary looked good at the interval and lead by 0-7 to 0-1. Playing with a strong breeze in the second half Cork took full advantage of this, but credit to Tipperary they battled all the way and it was only in injury time that Cork took the lead and finished with one point to spare. Again this competition like the senior does not interfere with the All-Ireland competition.

Tipperary Team: Sarah O'Brien, Sharon Ralph, Mary Rose Ryan, Patricia Ryan, Niamh Connolly, Triona Bonnar, Linda Breen, Jenny O'Halloran, Mairéad Morrissey, Mary Ryan, Fiona Loughnane, Lena Woods, Libby Twomey, Linda Grogan, Deirdre Quigley, Sarah Gleeson, Jill Horan, Derbhla Maher.

Cashel Camogie Club 2002

By Ann Moloney



Cashel Senior County and Provincial Champions – Back row (left to right): Ann Moloney (club secretary), Michael J. O'Dwyer (selector), John Grogan (coach), Helen Grogan, Claire Grogan, Helen Breen, Danielle O'Connell, Libby Twomey, Orla Fahy, Mairéad Morrissey, Philly Fogarty, Meadh Stokes, Derbhla Maher, Claire Marie Fogarty, Linda Grogan, Ann Horan, Martin O'Dwyer (manager), Timmy Moloney (selector), Geraldine Hickey. Front row: left to right: Martin Browne (club chairman), Julie O'Dwyer (club treasurer), Julie McGrath, Una O'Dwyer, Claire Ryan, Emily Hayden, Paula Bulfin (captain), Marie G. O'Dwyer, Kaiffee Moloney, Jovita Delaney, Fiona O'Dwyer, Triona Bonnar, Jillian Bulfin, Mary Jane Maher.

Cashel Camogie Club won their fifth senior camogie title in-a-row by defeating Toomevara. Cashel's defence of the title began with an away fixture to Drom/Inch who had always been a hard team to beat. However, on this day Cashel ran out convincing winners and never let Drom/Inch get into their rhythm. After receiving a walk over from Templemore our next fixture was against Toomevara in Cashel. Toomevara started this game the better and led by two points at half time. The second half got under way and in this half Cashel dominated to run out seven points winners.

Our next game was due against Burgess and again we received a walk over. This walk over ensured us full points and set up a County Final appearance against Toomevara.

Played in the County Camogie Grounds, Toomevara came out with guns blazing. Cashel backs were defending well and cut their scores to a minimum. However, our forwards were finding it hard to get on top. This half was score for score and at half time the sides left the field on level terms. The second half was more of the same with both sets of backs giving little away. With two minutes to go Toomevara led by a point, however a long delivery by Jovita Delaney landed on Marie O'Dwyer's stick to give Cashel a well earned victory.

DEFENCE OF MUNSTER TITLE

Cashel's defence of their Munster title was a home venue against previous bogey team Grannagh/Ballingarry in a Munster

quarter final. Both teams knew how hard a game this was going to be and Cashel set out with a never say die attitude. After only ten minutes Claire Grogan had two goals in the Grannagh net. This was the start we needed. However, Grannagh had other ideas and with Eileen O'Brien in fine form and was on top of her game from play and placed balls. Despite this, Cashel went into the break with a three point lead. The second half started and both sides gave it everything. Midway through the first quarter Grannagh had brought the Cashel lead back to a point. However, Cashel's backs were giving nothing away and with Triona Hennessy and Paula Bulfin and Helen Breen on top aided by Emily Hayden at midfield Cashel were holding their own. With three minutes to go Cashel led by two points due to some inspirational play by Libby Twomey and Linda Grogan, then disaster struck, Grannagh took the lead through a goal from Vera Sheehan. However, quick thinking from Cashel's goalie Danielle O'Connell spotted Philly Fogarty on her own half-back line and she took the ball the length of the field to level the game again. Tense moments and from the Grannagh puck-out Cashel came on the attack again to take the lead through a Claire Grogan point. Once again Grannagh came back again to level the game, Cashel still dug deep and a succession of points from Libby Twomey and Jovita Delaney put Cashel on the way to victory on one of the best games played this season.

Cashel's next game was away to Newmarket-on-Fergus in a Munster semi-final. In this game Cashel ran out convincing winners to set up a Munster Final at home against Cloughduv, Cork Champions. This game was played in super conditions with many of Cork's All-Ireland winning squad on view. This would have given Cork slight favouritism. However, the Cashel girls were not giving up this title and with super performances all round with back Kaiffee

O'Connell, Meadh Stokes, Una O'Dwyer, Mairéad Morrissey, Triona Hennessy and Denis Fitzgerald hounding the Cork forwards Cloughduv had only one point to show at half-time. At midfield Emily Hayden and Paula Bulfin were awesome while in the forwards Helen Grogan, Jovita Delaney, Linda Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Libby Twomey and Claire Grogan really clicked as a unit and fought hard for one another. Our subs on the day could do little wrong either when introduced. Irene Dwan, Claire Marie Fogarty, Fiona O'Dwyer, Marie O'Dwyer and Claire Ryan all did their bit for us to run out convincing winners and set up an All-Ireland semi-final appearance against Pearces of Galway.

The All-Ireland semi-final was played in Cashel, we started the better side and after ten minutes we had a two point lead. Then a couple of decisions went against us, one was a score by Claire Grogan which was waved wide and second was a wide ball for Pearces which was given as a score. This seemed to set us back on our stride and at half time we trailed by three points.

The second half was much the same and with Claire Grogan in scoring form we reduced the lead to a point when disaster struck against the run of play. Resulting from this, Pearces scored to put four points between us again. Cashel were starting to find their rhythm and threw everything at the champions but couldn't find a way to the back of the net. In the end Cashel were defeated by a fine team who went on to lift the title with a comprehensive victory over Wexford Champions, St Ibars. Cashel can be proud of themselves, they represented their Club, County and Province with pride and gave it their best shot. A small thing could have won it for them but it was not to be. Each player from one to thirty can be thanked for their efforts and be proud of their performance and dedication to Cashel Camogie Club.



Paula Bulfin, captain, Cashel's Senior Camogie team, celebrates receiving the Munster Senior Cup.

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Last year's All-Ireland junior champions elevated to intermediate ranks travelled to Clonduff, Co. Down on September 1st to compete in the first round of the intermediate All-Ireland championship series. We played Down, who had competed in the senior championship but failed to secure points, and were allowed to take part in the intermediate championship.

Tipperary mastered the poor conditions better than Down and used the strong breeze to their advantage much more productively by fighting hard at all times and thus laid the foundation for their victory in the first half.

Once they got the early scores in the second half, their confidence soared while in contrast Down's dropped and Tipperary ran out clear winners by 2-10 to 0-5.

Tipperary Team: Paula Ryan, Trisha Ryan, Mary Rose Ryan, Deirdre McDonnell, Triona Bonnar, Helen Breen, Niamh Connolly, Melissa Stapleton, Aine Mulcahy, Trisha O'Halloran, Moira Ryan, Helen Grogan, (0-1) Michelle Shortt, Mary Looby, (0-3), Linda Grogan (1-1), Geraldine Kinnane (0-1), Fiona Lough-



Tracy Millea: joining Cashel.

Sinead Millea, employed as a teacher in Clonmel, will forsake her title-winning colleagues in the St Brigid's Ballinacorney Club in the pursuit of further honours with Cashel King Cormac's camogie club for the coming year.

RESULTS

U-12 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP

Drom/Inch 5-5, Templemore 1-0
Toomevara 5-6, Clonoulty/Rossmore 1-1

COUNTY FINAL

Toomevara beat Drom/Inch

U-12 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Moneygall 3-3, Slievenamon 0-0

U-12 'C' CHAMPIONSHIP

Lorrha 1-0, Bournea 0-1
Portroe 3-0, Newport 0-0
Moycarkey 1-0, Knockavilla/Donaskeigh 0-1
New Inn 4-1, Drom/Inch 1-0

COUNTY FINAL

Moycarkey/Borris beat Portroe

U-12 'A' LEAGUE FINAL

Toomevara 4-4, Drom/Inch 1-1

U-12 'B' LEAGUE FINAL

Slievenamon 1-1, Burgess 0-2

U-12 'D' LEAGUE SEMI FINAL

New Inn 1-2, Thurles 1-0

U-14 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP

Drom/Inch 11-5, Portroe 0-0
Templemore 4-6, Silvermines 1-1

COUNTY FINAL

Templemore 4-1, Toomevara 1-1

U-14 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP

Slievenamon 3-4, Burgess 3-1
St. Cronan's/Roscrea 3-3, Slievenamon 2-0
Clonoulty/Rossmore 4-5, Moneygall 2-0
Burgess 3-2, Cashel 1-0
St. Cronan's/Roscrea 2-6, Cashel 0-2
Burgess 8-7, Moneygall 1-0
Slievenamon 3-1, Clonoulty/Rossmore 0-3

COUNTY FINAL

Slievenamon 5-3,
St. Cronan's/Roscrea 3-3

U-14 'C' CHAMPIONSHIP

Kilsheelan 3-3, Annacarty 0-0

Knockavilla/Donaskeigh 1-2, Carrick Swans 0-0
Holycross/Ballycahill 3-3, Newport 0-0
Moycarkey/Borris 1-2, Holycross/Ballycahill 0-2

COUNTY FINAL

Shannon Rovers 4-9, Moycarkey/Borris 1-0

U-16 'C' LEAGUE FINAL

Kilruane McDonagh 3-4,
Knockavilla/Donaskeigh 1-1

U-16 'A' SEMI FINALS

Drom/Inch 5-9, Silvermines 0-3
Cashel 6-9, Templemore 2-7

U-16 'B' COUNTY

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
Clonoulty/Rossmore 3-7, Burgess 1-5

U-16 'C' COUNTY

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
Holycross/Ballycahill 5-11,
Shannon Rovers 4-4

U-18 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP

Drom/Inch 3-8, Bournea 2-4
Cashel 0-10, Bournea 2-4
Drom/Inch 0-13, Toomevara 1-3

U-18 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMI FINALS
Burgess 4-4, Slievenamon 1-3
Moneygall 4-4, Holycross/Ballycahill 1-1

COUNTY FINAL

Moneygall 1-5, Burgess 1-3

JUNIOR 'A' LEAGUE

Kildangan 5-8, Lorrha 2-14
Annacarty 4-2, Ballybacon/Grange 0-0
Bournea 11-12, Slievenamon 0-0

JUNIOR 'A' LEAGUE FINAL

Holycross/Ballycahill 1-9, Drom/Inch 1-6

JUNIOR 'B' LEAGUE

Gaels 4-8, Annacarty 1-1
Kildangan 10-5, Newport 1-2
Burgess 3-6, Lorrha 1-1
Ballybacon/Grange 3-1, Kilsheelan 1-1
Bournea 4-5, Burgess 1-9

JUNIOR 'A' CHAMPIONSHIP

Holycross/Ballycahill 5-7,
St. Cronan's/Roscrea 1-0
St. Cronan's/Roscrea 4-1,
Drom/Inch 3-4

JUNIOR 'B' CHAMPIONSHIP

SEMI FINALS

Gaels 4-12, Bournea 2-11
Annacarty 4-4, Lorrha 0-5

COUNTY FINAL

Gaels 0-10, Annacarty 1-4

INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE

Portroe 5-7, Moneygall 2-1
Silvermines 4-13, Kilruane 0-3
Fethard 5-13, Knockavilla/Donaskeigh 0-1
Moycarkey/Borris 5-7, Clonoulty/Rossmore 6-6
Silvermines 5-2, Moneygall 1-9
Portroe 2-7, Kilruane McDonagh 1-5
St. Rita's/Fethard 4-4, Moycarkey/Borris 1-2

INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE FINAL

Portroe, St. Rita's/Fethard

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Portroe 2-3, Silvermines 0-4

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI FINALS

Moneygall 3-13, Kilruane McDonagh 2-2
Clonoulty/Rossmore 3-7, Portroe 0-4

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Clonoulty/Rossmore 4-9, Moneygall 1-9

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Cashel 3-11, Toomevara 2-6
Drom/Inch 2-11, Burgess 3-5
Toomevara 10-10, Burgess 0-4
Drom/Inch 5-12, Templemore 3-7
Toomevara 3-10, Drom/Inch 2-13

COUNTY FINAL

Cashel 1-11, Toomevara 0-12

U-18 COUNTY FINAL 2001

Cashel 3-13, Toomevara 1-3

DEC. 2002



Rachel Maloney and Sarah Hayes, who were both members of the Cork senior camogie team who won the All-Ireland this year, pictured with Cork player Colin Corkery at the recent under age awards night in Ballinspittle.



BATTLE: Cork's captain Una O'Donoghue and Limerick's Pauline McCarthy battling for possession during the All Ireland senior camogie championship. Picture: Richard Mills.



Kara Higgins, player, St Catherines Camogie Club, Bridget Cotter club PRO, and Aisling Cotter, player, with trophies won by the club, pictured at the club's annual dinner at the Middleton Park Hotel.

Cork football star Colin Corkery scooped the Jurys Supreme Sports Star of the



TOP HONOURS: The group of monthly award winners, including Supreme Sports Star 2002 award winner Colin Corkery (front left), and Fergal Somers (centre left), general manager of Jurys Hotel, Cork, at the Jurys Sports Stars awards. Picture: Richard Mills.

JAN. 2003

Camogie

by Mary Newman

Combined Cork side confident of Purcell cup semi-final spot

Cork Colleges of Combined Education WTT 6-7 6-3

Cork Colleges of Combined Education 6-10 Tipperary Business College 0-1

Cork Colleges of Combined Education 6-9 UCC 1-0

CORK Colleges of Combined Education, under the guiding influences of Peter Coady and Ann Hanley, have to-date recorded three victories in Division two of the Higher Education Colleges League and are just one game away from a semi-final place.

A combination of students from St John's College, Cork College of Commerce and Stiofan Naofa last season under the guiding eye of mentor Bertie Og Murphy defied all the odds to make it to the Purcell Cup final where despite losing out to a strong Carlow side, sowed the foundations for further advancement.

Their league campaign got under way against Waterford Institute of Technology where a tough encounter saw 12 goals scored before the Cork girls came away with a four point victory 6-7 to 6-3.

Two early goals from Ellen O'Herrily laid the foundation for success and with Donna Bracken and Rachel Myers also contributing to the goal tally, Cork were in the driving seat.

A Waterford rally led by Clare Grogan yielded three goals but with Jenny Duffy and Mairead O'Sullivan on the mark, Cork held their nerve to win.

Again travelling away to their second game where Tipperary Business College were hosts, Cork turned in a superb display. The Tipperary girls had no answer.

With Intermediate Inter county player Linda Dorgan dominant at centre back, ably supported by Sinead Kelly and Marie Smiddy at centre field, the Tipp team found it hard to get through the Cork defence.

Cork held the upper-hand from the start and with

Rachel Myers, Donna Bracken, Grace O'Regan and Jenny Duffy on target, they dominated from the start.

When the Tipperary side did manage to breach the Cork defence they met with stern resistance from a defence where goalkeeper Jemima Crowley made excellent saves and the O'Regan twins, Moira and Aine, held a tight reign on their markers.

A fine team performance signalled another good result and set up a local derby meeting with UCC's second string where again, the combined side held all the aces.

Played in atrocious weather conditions, the combined side were more determined and played well to achieve victory. Early scores seem to be the hallmark of the team's successes to date and again against UCC they did not disappoint with Linda Dorgan Rachel Myers and Jenny Duffy obliging.

The strength of the side was in their defence. Laura Davis Linda Dorgan Joanne O'Keefe and Aine O'Regan were the back bone of UCC and they worked hard but found

the going tough against a combined side for which Ellen O'Herrily up front was in sparkling form, contributing 4-1 to her side's tally.

For UCC, Suzanne Deasy performed heroically.

And so the stage is set for the final league game in the section on Thursday when Tralee Institute of Technology travel to Cork.

With both sides on level points having won all their games, and only one team going through to the semi-final, it's now a case of all or nothing for both teams.

Coach Peter Coady knows the task ahead is a big one but has confidence in his charges. "We are determined to make it to the semi final and it would be a big boost if we go through to meet Galway IT in the Purcell Cup next week. Preparations are going well and hopefully we will do enough to secure a win but Tralee will be strong and we have to be at our best to advance."

Certainly it promises to be an interesting clash as the top two strive to book a semi-final place.

Ballygarvan show their class

Ballygarvan 5-10 Cloughduv 1-2

by Mary Newman

SARAH O DONOVAN was to the fore with a personal contribution of 3-4 as Ballygarvan totally outplayed Cloughduv in the under 18A championship quarter-final at Ballygarvan.

The home side made all the early running and setting the pace led 3-6 to 0-2 at the interval, with Orla O'Riordan Catriona Kelly and Suzanne Lynch all getting on the score sheet.

Breege Corkery kept Cloughduv in contention with two first half points.

From the restart Ballygarvan kept the pressure on the Cloughduv defence and with Trisha O'Donovan, Caoimhe Dillon and Sarah O'Donovan again prominent there was no way back for Cloughduv. To their credit they battled on and were rewarded with a Breege Corkery goal but on the day it was the stronger Ballygarvan who advanced.

JAN. 2003

Cloughduv GAA victory celebration



Sheila Golden, cathaoirleach, Cork Camogie Board, addressing the large gathering at Cloughduv Hurling and Camogie Clubs' victory celebrations at the Abbey Hotel, Ballyvourney. Also pictured are—from left—Denis Canty, chairman, Fr. Tim O'Sullivan, P.P., and Kathleen Healy.

(Picture: O'Sullivan Photo, Macroom)

MAJOR CAMOGIE CHANGE

In a new departure, the 2003 Senior All-Ireland Camogie Championship will be played on a league basis.

A meeting on Saturday in Croke Park decided on the major break with tradition with the new-style championship beginning in June.

Two sections of four counties will participate on a league basis with the top two teams in each section qualifying for the semi-finals which are scheduled provisionally for August 23-24.

The League sections are: Section one: Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Antrim

Section two: Tipperary, Limerick, Dublin, Wexford.

Camogie's heroines show the way

by Mary Newman

CHAMPIONS Cloughduv did not have it all their own way in their opened with divisional side Carbery and only barely made it through. However, they quickly upped the pace and were strong enough to defeat Barryroe and Fr O'Neills to book another final spot.

The 2001 senior B champions St Finbarrs turned in excellent displays and showed great commitment to book their place in the final leaving Eire Og, Imokilly and pre-championship favourites Carrigrohane in their wake as Valerie Maher, Clare and Colette Kirby and Linda O'Connell all impressed with their never say die attitude.

Ciara Cronin was the toast of Cloughduv as her two goals help them retain their title. Stephanie Dunlea, Aoife Murray and Ora O'Callaghan excelled in defence while up front captain Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Buckley and "Player of the match" Breige Corkery, broke the hearts of the Barrs.

Cloughduv easily accounted for Waterford champions St Ann's in the opening Munster club championship game, but failed miserably in a Tipperary champions Cashel in a one sided provincial decider.

Fr O'Neills put the disappointment of championship behind them to take the 2001 senior league title defeating Courcey Rovers in an exciting final with Fiona O'Driscoll and Mags Finn playing key roles.

In Senior B Milford put the heart break of losing three finals behind them to defeat Ballygarvan after a replay. It took an Emer Watson injury time goal to bring the sides level the first day, but in the replay they



Milford, the Senior B Camogie Championship team which defeated Ballygarvan in the replay at Ovens.

turned on the style with Anna Geary, Regina Curtin and Emer Watson leading the way.

For Milford continued success at underage level culminated with their first senior title and promotion to senior A grade for the season 2003. Another club to make wonderful strides were Carrigaline. Participating in Junior A for the first time they qualified for a final meeting against a Sarsfields side who had come from no where to book the place on merit in the decider.

Carrigaline captain Emma Green, Jackie O'Keeffe and Sandra Moran performed superbly as they took the title last won by the club in 1954.

Earlier in the year Carrigaline had laid the foundations for success by participating in and taking the 2001 Junior A league title at the expense of St Vincents.

Junior B Championship
THE return of Mary O'Connor to her home club Killeagh following four years with Limerick's Grenagh-Ballingarry was a huge boost to the East Cork club as they set out in quest of Junior B honours. Experiencing little difficulties led by the Cork star they faced Rockban at the final hurdle and once again there was no stopping Killeagh as they made a welcome return to the victory rostrum.

Pat O'Riordan from the Ballygarvan club assumed the position of chairman and one of the committee's priorities was to endeavour to reorganise competitions in all grades.

The under 12 grade was divided into 'A' and 'B' and here in a close 'A' final just one point separated the sides as Ballinhassig dethroned the

champions Douglas with good displays from Amy O'Riordan, Catriona Collins and Katie Murphy. Butervant took the U12 B title defeating Aghabullogue.

Two new competitions at under 14 level with a C grade and a 12 a side competition been organised.

Douglas were crowned under 14A champions defeating Ballygarvan in the final. St Catherines, with Deirdre Twomey to the fore, took the U14 B league title edging out Ballincollig in a thrilling clash.

Just one point separated Blarney from Na Piarsaigh as they took the inaugural under 14 C title while in the 12 a side Kildorrey were far too strong for Charleville.

Milford continued their dominance at U16 A level, taking a fourth championship title in a row with a victory over St Catherines

who, along with Eire OG, Rockban, Glen Rovers and Carrigaline, had been promoted to A following good league campaigns.

Milford's dominance was confirmed as they romped home to retain their league title with ease against Ballinhassig. Cloughduv, with Breige Corkery again the driving force, added the Under 16 B championship title to their senior crown with a two point winning margin over Ballygarvan.

St Catherines, with 12 of the side who took honours the previous season, retained U16 B league title with a comfortable victory over Eire og helped by their Cork minors duo of Denise Twomey and Noreen Mulcahy.

Cork minor Brid O'Neill helped Watergrasshill take U16 C league honours against Butervant, while the 12 a side under 16 league competition was won by Dungourney who defeated Tracton as Johanna Lane and Nicola Nagle and Ann Marie Hennessy all sparkled.

Watergrasshill and Newcestown met to decide the destination of the under 16 C championship title, the Hill led with minutes to go, but a last minute goal from Anita Coughlan saw the determined Newcestown side take the title. Ballinascarty had too much strength for Tracton when the sides met in the under 16 championship final at 12 a side. In other club under age activities Douglas defeated Ballygarvan in a cracking Cork final of Feile na Gael played at St Finbarrs, and represented Cork in the national finals in Antrim. Blackrock's Cait Kelleher took the Cork skills title and travelled to Antrim for the national skills competition.

St. Ibar's came within touching distance of All-Ireland

John Furlong

WHILE VICTORY wasn't St. Ibar's in last year's All-Ireland senior Club camogie final, the Wexford district club has further underlined the fact that they are not too far away from actually attaining greatness in the sport, having already won the national Club football title twice in recent times.

The Ibar's retained their county senior camogie championship title by a single point in the decider, at Wexford Park on Sunday 11th August, when defeating a very gallant Oulart-The Ballagh 1-11 to 1-10 for the second year running. It was their eighth success of the kind.

Oulart played very well in the first-half, and deservedly led 1-6 to 0-6 at the interval, and seemed to be heading for their very first senior championship title when leading by 1-10 to 1-9 with eight minutes to go.

But a point from Jackie O'Connor and a Kate Kelly strike with two minutes remaining secured victory for St. Ibar's.

St. Ibar's then opened the defence of the Leinster senior Club championship title with a trip to Rath, County Offaly, to play the Leinster junior Club champions, Drumcullen, in the semi-final on Sunday 25th August.

Having led 3-5 to 0-2 at the break, the senior title holders advanced to the final on a 5-8 to 1-4 scoreline, with scores by

2002

THE GAA YEAR

Michelle Hearne (4-3), Jackie O'Connor (1-0), Kate Kelly (0-2), Esme Murphy (0-2) and Michelle Murphy (0-1).

They hosted Kilkenny champions Graigue-Ballycallan in final, at Hollymount on Sunday 2nd September, and it was the visitors who led by 1-4 to 0-5 at the interval.

St. Ibar's were a much better side on the restart, and once they took the lead after ten minutes (0-9 to 1-5), they went from strength to strength, and sealed victory with 3-1 in the closing eight minutes, to clinch victory by 4-10 to 1-7.

For the All-Ireland series, the Wexford women made the long journey north, to play Keady in County Armagh in the Club semi-final, which was played at Derrynoose on Sunday 13th October.

St. Ibar's had accumulated a 2-6 to 0-5 lead at the interval, and eventually won on a 5-8 to 1-9 scoreline, to book their place in their very first All-Ireland final, with scores from Michelle Hearne (2-0), Kate Kelly (1-4), Michelle Murphy

(1-1), Mag Kelly (1-1) and Jackie O'Connor (0-2).

It was off to Ballinasloe, County Galway, for the All-Ireland showpiece, on November 3rd, when they faced defending

champions Pearses, of Galway.

St. Ibar's started the game in a very determined fashion and matched their more fancied opponents early on, with the sides level on 0-3 apiece after 14



Edwina Roche, with the Leinster senior Club camogie trophy, following St. Ibar's final win in September. (Pic. Conor Nolan).

minutes.

The challengers played a lot better on the restart, and at times they outplayed their opponents, but the Pearses, who had won the last two Club titles, were not about to throw away their chance of claiming the title for the third time in a-

row, and achieved that feat on a 2-13 to 1-5 scoreline.

The Ibar's have been left to reflect upon the concession of 2-4 without reply in the latter stages of the first-half.

Great credit is due to all concerned with the team, the players, sponsors,

supporters, and team management of Deirdre Hearne, Fr. Donal Bernie and Sean Kelly, for their dedication throughout the year.

All concerned with the club will be hoping for another chance at going a step further in 2003.

Where the other prizes went

Senior 'B' C'ship

HAVING WON the senior championship on eight occasions, Rathnure won their very first county senior 'B' championship on Sunday 11th August at Wexford Park, when defeating Monageer-Booleavogue by 3-10 to 1-8.

Rathnure had mustered a 0-8 to 0-2 interval lead, and they made sure of victory with second-half goals from Evelyn Quigley, Jean Hayden and Laura Murphy.

Senior 'A' League

Oulart-The Ballagh made amends for their championship final loss to St. Ibar's when accounting

for the same opposition at Ferns on Sunday 17th November in the senior 'A' league final by 3-5 to 2-3.

Oulart led by 2-4 to 1-1 thanks to goals courtesy of Caroline Murphy and Una Leacy, with Kate Kelly replying for St. Ibar's, and the winners added a third in the second-half through Ursula Jacob to run out worthy winners.

Senior 'B' League

Buffers Alley captured the county senior 'B' league title with victory over Duffry Rovers, in Ferns on Saturday 12th October, by 3-8 to 1-7. The sides were level on 0-4 each at the interval.

Buffers Alley sealed victory on the restart with

goals courtesy of Ann Cousins, Linda Burke and Frances Doran, to capture their very first senior 'B' title and their first title in the senior grade since 1994.

Intermediate

Glynn-Barntown made amends for their loss in the 2001 county intermediate final when defeating Blackwater by 5-13 to 0-3 in last year's final at Oylegate on Sunday 18th August.

The Wexford district women laid the foundations for victory in the first-half, at the end of which they led 3-6 to 0-1, with Aoife Barron netting a hat-trick of goals in the space of 15 minutes to put them on the road to victory and promotion to the senior grade for 2003.

Junior 'A'

Faythe Harriers beat Rathnure 3-7 to 4-2 in the junior 'A' championship final, on Sunday 1st September at Killurin, to make up for their defeat in the 2001 decider.

Faythe Harriers led 3-2 to 2-2 thanks to two goals by Mary Beary, and with the sides level at 3-5 to 4-2 with ten minutes remaining, two late points by Tanya Healy and Laura Byrne secured victory and promotion to the intermediate grade for the Wexford town side.

The Harriers retained the junior league title with a 2-1 to 0-5 victory over a gallant Bannow-Ballymitty side after extra-time in the final, on Sunday 27th October, at Piercestown.

The sides had finished level at the end of normal

time (Faythe Harriers 1-1 to 0-4), but a goal by winning captain Laura Byrne secured victory for the Harriers, as they completed the league/championship double.

Junior 'B'

After losing at the same stage in '01, Oylegate-Glenbrien captured the county junior 'B' championship with victory over Rapparees by 6-3 to 2-4 at Monageer on Saturday 14th September last.

Oylegate trailed 1-1 to 2-2 at the interval, but they hit five goals after the restart (two by Mary Murphy and one each by Tina Connelly, Natalie Dempsey, and Laura Dagger) to ensure all their hard work gained a merited reward.

St. Mac Dara

JAN. 2003



The senior camogie panel

Cannon, Eoin Kirby and Chris Guckian in the backs and a goal from Paul Teehan after 25 mins injected new life into Mac Dara's. The second half continued with long periods of Carlow dominance but the Templeogue lads never gave up the chase. Robert Newe in goal seemed to break the Carlow hearts as he denied them certain scores with two brilliant point blank saves. Mac Dara's found a new lease of life. Chris Green, Prionsias MacFlanachada and Alan Healy began to find the range up front and with time ticking away, Mac Dara's had pulled themselves back level. Brian Malee was switched to centre forward with immediate effect. Malee fielded the ball and tore through the Carlow defence to put the ball over the bar to give Mac Dara's the lead for the first time in the match. In the last minute it was Malee again who pumped in a long ball to Alan Healy who turned and buried the ball in the Carlow net. The whistle went and history was made. Tommy Lyons later presented medals to the team in the knowledge that the future of football in Dublin is looking good.

Camogie:

Continuing the great tradition of camogie in St Mac Dara's Community College, the current academic year has seen increased participation on the part of the students. Over 50 girls have signed up for the Junior and Senior panels in the hope that a Dublin Title can be achieved in the

future. Both teams have tasted great wins over St Josephs, Lucan, Colaiste Chillian, Clondalkin and draws against Colaiste Iosagain, Stillorgan, and Santa Marie, Ballyroan.

The teams draw on the talents of many skillful players some of whom have represented Dublin at underage - most notably Helen Cosgrove and Fiona Faulkner. There are, without doubt, other players who will follow the same road - Orla Maher, Aisling Leanne, Vanessa Whelan, Marianna Evoy to name but a few.

Many of the players in the school also play at club level with St Judes in particular, Thomas Davis and Ballyboden St Endas supplying the bulk.

Both teams are organised and trained by teacher Siobhan O'Dwyer, herself a camogie player with Ballyboden St Endas Senior A Team and the Dublin Senior Team, assisted by Mary Joyce (St Judes).

Community involvement in the development of camogie in the school has also been essential. Local Building Contractors "Martin Brothers Construction" have very generously sponsored both teams. Without this sponsorship, and indeed a contribution from NST Group Travel Specialists, the task of entering two teams for competition would have been very difficult. This academic year Orwell Credit Union and in particular St. Judes GAA Club have given much needed support. Also the girls themselves have been involved in a considerable amount of fund raising.

Camogie players need support

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Camogie latest

I OFTEN ask myself the question, 'Is camogie moving forward?' In reality, yes — the organisation celebrates its centenary in 2004, but when it comes to competing with our male counterparts, we are left far behind.

Why? It is very hard to know where to lay the blame. But I believe at national level, camogie is at a real crossroads. Bringing the game to 15-a-side was a major step forward, but we need more than eight counties partaking in the All-Ireland senior championship. Especially, when only four of these (Tipperary, Cork, Kilkenny and Galway) have a realistic chance of winning the competition.

In contrast to the hurling championship where many counties can produce the goods, camogie has a very tired look about it, and despite this year the championship being run on a league basis, it probably still will produce the same top four teams when it comes to semi-final stage.

That is not good enough, and does not give the game the profile it deserves. For camogie to flourish, it needs imagination. For instance, staging important inter-county matches while in the next field the hurlers/footballers are playing to a packed arena just is not on. This is hardly promoting the game.

What needs to be done, starting at club level, is hurling and camogie to be staged side by side (might be pushing it — but why not the boys as the curtain-raiser and the girls to follow). Let the significance dictate.

This way, there is a greater chance of more media attention — one reporter can adequately cover the two matches.

We have always said that marketing and sponsorship go hand in hand in this modern day of sport, and a decent sponsor is urgently required nationally.

However, before the game can sparkle at the top level, we need to look at our own membership at club level. Where are all these people when it comes to supporting our county teams? Last summer, Cork played Limerick in the first round of the senior championship in Páirc Uí Rinn. There was a mere sprinkling of families and friends in the stand. Where are all these people — players/administrators — that belong to one of the 50 odd clubs in Cork?

If we do not support ourselves, how can we expect others to come on board?

Presently, there are on-going talks between the GAA and Camogie with view to a merger. In my view, this alliance is critical to the growth and development of the sister sport.

There are huge demands on players, especially at inter-county level. We have come to expect only the best from them and they rarely balk. Camogie is as skilful and entertaining as any sport, but is not being properly sold.

Everyone acknowledges that the game of hurling is enjoying a glorious era. Camogie should be booming too. First, though, we must help ourselves.

Is there anything as precious as a senior All-Ireland camogie medal?

By Máire Uí Scoláí.

Prior to Christmas 2002 a phone call was made to my house informing me of a senior All-Ireland camogie medal that was found in the Athboy town of County Meath. We know a Dublin player won the medal and all the finder of this precious item wants to do is unite it with its owner. If any reader know of someone who lost such they may contact me at: 01 2849805 or by e-mail at: maier@gofree.indigo.ie. This medal is in very good order and particularly with the centenary coming up next year all players would love to have all their medals for this occasion so we are hoping to unite both the medal and the player in the near future.

Off the Field Round Up Activity:

While the months of November and December don't offer a lot of intercounty activity except for the delayed All-Ireland Intermediate Final which turned out to be a game of a very high standard between the defending Champions Antrim and the champions of 2000 Cork who won the game with two points to spare, other camogie activity goes ahead in these dark months! Prior to that Pearses of Galway took their third title in a row in great style when they defeated first time All-Ireland finalists St. Ibars/Shelmalier of Wexford. It was possibly fitting that Pearses would take the O'Carroll Cup on this occasion as they celebrate their 25th anniversary this year. Maybe they might transfer some of this wonderful club talent to the county this coming season and thus assist Galway in bringing the O'Duffy Cup Shannon Side. Who knows?

Off the field activity is usually fairly brisk in the winter months and it is the famed St. Vincents club of Dublin that we turn to.

firstly. Back in 1998 the girls of the 'Vinny's' reached their first and only All-Ireland Club final where alas Limerick's Granagh

Ballingarry beat them. Since then their senior success has dwindled somewhat but things are gradually changing and there is much talk about the ever growing and improving juvenile section. This is a club that do things in style and their juvenile camogie presentation prior to Christmas had no less a sports star than Niall Quinn present their medals to all the juvenile camogie teams.

Prior to Niall playing the big ball he had made the headlines as a super minor Dublin hurler and indeed this is how Juvenile Camogie Director Denise O'Neill (nee O'Leary) introduced the big fellow on

the day. The packed hall rose to the occasion and the atmosphere was great with many happy families and parents there to witness this great occasion. It is easy to see where this club expect to be in possibly about five years time, probably knocking at senior championship glory again. The club tasted victory at under 11, U12, U13, U14, U15 and U16 in either League and or Championship. No mean achievement for any club.

Not only did the club and Juvenile Director Denise, the former well-known Dublin player put on a great afternoon, but each child was given a souvenir coloured programme to bring home. The first autograph on most programmes that evening was Niall Quinn who after the formalities were over was in hot demand by all the young folk!

Southside of Dublin the Dalkey based Cuala club ran a most successful first ever indoor Tournament over the winter months and prior to the Christmas break the finals were held amid the usual hustle and bustle of Christmas activity. An inter club Tournament, it involved a round robin event with two age groups, U14 and U11. At the start of the competition all players were given county names and they remained on those teams throughout the competition. On the Final night the presentations were made by the Honorary President of the Dublin Camogie Board Kay Timmins whose daughter Patricia is the holder of five senior All-Ireland medals with her native Dublin. Patricia's daughter Sinead now plays with the Cuala Club, thus



Kay Timmins, Dublin Camogie Board Honorary President, presents Kate McDonald with her Player of the Year award. Pamela Howard, former Dublin All-Ireland winner, oversees the award.

keeping the game alive in the family.

For Nerissa Seix, who won an award for the most improved player it was also a case of another generation, as her Aunt Patricia plays with the Intermediate Camogie team and she is also a mentor with this team. Another mentor with this team is Bernie Kehoe, niece of the late Sophie Brack who played for Dublin. On the night the former Uachtarán of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael Phyllis Breslin also popped her head in together with club member Sheila Wallace who nowadays is better known as the Association's Director General who works in Croke Park. The night was rounded off with party games and plenty to eat.

This tournament while aimed at improving the skills of camogie and keeping the girls together over the winter months also held enjoyment as a very important aspect of it and to this no child with home without a memento of this occasion. While the winners and runner's up received their medals, which were sponsored by M.M.L., each girl went home with a very nicely designed certificate.

The other awards were: Player of the Year - Kate McDonald; Most Improved Player - Nerissa Seix; Most Consistent Player - Sorcha de Barra.

A day in Áras an Uachtaráin...

Áras an Uachtaráin was the place seven lucky camogie players found themselves prior to Christmas. Uachtarán na



On a visit to Áras an Uachtaráin prior to Christmas, *l/r: Jennifer O'Leary (Cork), Breige Corkery (Cork), Mary Leacy (Wexford), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Máire Uí Scoláí (National PRO), Mary McAleese, Katie McDonald (Derry) and Ciara Lucey (Dublin)*

hÉireann Mary McAleese and her husband invited twenty five Underage sports Bodies to the Áras in recognition of their wonderful achievements on the field of sport. The lucky seven were Cork players: Breige Corkery, Jennifer O'Leary, Dublin player Ciara Lucey, Wexford player Mary Leacy, Galway player Aislinn Connolly, Tipperary player Claire Grogan, and Derry player Katie McAuley. As National P.R.O I was also invited along to this great occasion where players of all sports got a wonderful chance to mingle and discuss their sport with other sporting bodies.

Among the invitees was Catherine Mc Kiernan of Irish Athletics fame, who played camogie in Cavan during her school days and prior to making her name on the athletics track. Catherine still has a great love for camogie and has often said she would like to get involved again. With her on this occasion was her eighteen months old daughter Deirbhile.

The compare for the afternoon was none other than the legendary Jimmy Magee. Brian Carthy of R.T.E was also there as were Kilkenny star D.J. Carey and Armagh captain Kieran McGeeney and many more Irish sporting legends.

Year ahead...

Now that the new year is upon us, other players will be thinking is it going to be our year to lift silver ware of some sort, while Cork will be thinking can they hold on the elusive O'Duffy Cup. Time will tell and as the National League kick starts on February 23rd with four Division one games that day involving Cork v Galway, Kilkenny v Wexford, Tipperary v Dublin and Antrim v Derry, while eleven Division 2 encounters will go ahead on the same date. March this year will also see Congress elect a new president who will lead Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael into it's next century.



Winners all right: Captains of the victorious St Vincent's Juvenile camogie teams with their great haul of trophies being congratulated by former Republic of Ireland soccer international and Dublin hurler Niall Quinn. Back l/r: Grainne Brennan, Amy Copeland, Niall Quinn, Hannah Smith. Front l/r: Clare Donnelly, Jacqui Twohig, Ashling Fogarty, April Fagan

Cork sides commended for their magnificent All-Ireland treble

A YEAR, which saw Cork sweep the board taking no less than five provincial titles, was reviewed by delegates at the Munster Camogie Convention in Lawler's Hotel Waterford.

The large gathering heard secretary rose Malone's comprehensive report outline the successes on the playing fields with particular praise for Cork who took three All-Ireland titles in senior, intermediate and junior. Limerick was also complimented on annexing the Minor B All-Ireland title for the second year in a row.

While a large portion of the meeting was taken up discussion reports from the various counties the main highlight of the day were the championship draws for the competitions. While the senior and intermediate draws are held on a separate basis to the All-Ireland competitions main interests were on the junior and minor grades.

Last season Cork took back to back minor titles and the focus will now be firmly on

making it three in a row. If that ambition is to be achieved Cork will have to overcome the challenge of last year's 'B' champions Limerick who they will meet in their opening game. With home advantage Limerick will be hopeful of getting one over on the Leesiders. The winners will face Waterford in the semi-final while Clare will play host to Clare.

Having lost out in the All-Ireland junior final last season following their great success in Munster cork are determined to go one better in 2003, they will travel to meet Waterford in what will be a semi-final game and on previous form should have enough in hand to make it through.

Tipp and Limerick should be an interesting preliminary round game with the winners meeting Clare in the second semi-final junior selectors Tracy Sheehan, Ollie Hallihan and Tom Kiely expressed reasonable satisfaction at the draw but are approaching their opening

Camogie scene with Mary Newman

game with caution.

Already they are making plans and will hold a trial game at the North Mon field, Knocknaheeney, on Sunday morning next, February 2 at 10.45am and clubs are asked to send along their players for same.

The under-18 championship will see Cork travel to Limerick with Tipp taking on Clare and the winners meeting Waterford.

While the senior and intermediate championship has no bearing on the All-Ireland never the less counties are always determined to take the spoils. The senior draw has Cork at home to Clare while Tipp and Limerick will meet in Tipp. At Intermediate level Cork and Tipp meet with the winners meeting Limerick in the final.

A notable feature of the championships is that Clare and Waterford sought and

were granted regarding to junior grade however to give the players game they were granted permission to participate in the senior championship with the same team.

Certainly the addition to junior level of Clare will strengthen the competition and brings what very strong contender for honours into the grade something which can only augur well for the game.

With another very busy season about to begin on February 23 when the first nation league games commence counties are now busy preparing.

At colleges level big games at the weekend are the Senior B and Junior A Munster finals. In an all-Cork clash Coachford Community College and Presentation Bandon meet in the senior B final. Defeated last season by Waterford Bandon backboned

by the experienced Colette Desmond Sarah O'Donovan and Marguerite Nyhan accounted for Ennis Cashel and Scariff on their way to Saturday's decider.

Coachford coached by Rob Lotty had good victories over Carrigaline, Thurles and Kilfinnan. Amongst he stars of the Coachford line out are Joan Twomey, Emma O'Keeffe, Mary Ennaguess and Louise Roche, certainly victory is well within their reach but with the disappointment of last year still in their minds Bandon will be very determined to make no mistakes this time out.

All-Ireland champions St Mary's, Charleville, with the talented Anna Geary, Shannon Brosnan and Sinéad McAuliffe in their side should retain their title against Nenagh. They accounted for Mercy Waterford in what was their opening semi-final game and, again under the guiding influences of Vincent Harrington and Ann Marie O'Keeffe, it will take a might

side to deny them.

Nenagh came through a tough semi-final game before defeating Loreto Fermoy, Fiona Kennedy, Marie Sheedy and Ann Marie O'Brien all performed well on the day and will again need to repeat the performance if Charleville are to be denied.

On the club front two games this weekend both on Sunday in the Under 18 A championship Aghbullogue play host to Rock ban in Coachford at 12noon while Courcy Rovers will have Newcestown as visitors with a 3.30pm start.

Fixtures:

Saturday, February 1 — Munster Senior B Colleges final: Coachford Community College v Presentation Bandon; Coachford, 2pm.

Munster Junior A final: St Mary's Charleville v Nenagh; Dolla, 2pm.

Sunday, February 2 — Under 18 A County Championship: Aghbullogue v Rockban; Coachford, 12 noon; Courcy Rovers v Newcestown; Courcy Rovers, 3.30pm.

Portmarnock Community School

PORTMARNOCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL - CAMOGIE

Portmarnock Community School has had many successes in camogie in recent years. The influence of the local Naomh Mearnog club is evident in the skill and dedication

of the players on the school team. A Junior and Senior team were entered to contest the League and Championship in Camogaiocht Colaiste Atha Cliath, 2001-02. The Junior team was composed of many talented young players, unfortunately they were unsuccessful in the competitions but they played well against some strong opposition.

Meanwhile, the more experienced Senior team set out to retain their League and Championship titles. The League campaign started in October and

in the Northside League 2002-03. The Junior Team played well suffering only one defeat to date. Sincere thanks must go to the students who have eagerly participated in all games. The skill at Junior and Senior level bodes well for the future of camogie in the school.

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PORTROE

CAMOGIE

The a.g.m. of Portroe Camogie Club was held on last Saturday night with a disappointing crowd in attendance. The three officers were unopposed and will hold office for the coming year. Chairperson: Nessa O'Driscoll; Secretary: Nollaig O'Halloran; Treasurer: Lily O'Brien. The Chairperson gave a brief outline on events during the year. A letter was read from Claire Madden requesting a transfer to Fr. O'Neill's Club in Cork, while the club and her team-mates are disappointed at this move, but they fully understand and accept her move. Claire has given great service to the club down the year's and also at county level winning three All-Irelands for Tipp in a row and bringing great pride and honour to the parish. Claire will be sorely missed by her club mates. We wish her the best of luck in Cork. The secretary gave a detailed account of all matters played by all age groups last year.

despite adverse weather conditions and tough competition the girls progressed to win the North side League Division A. The League Final was postponed while the Championship got underway in February. Portmarnock commenced the Championship with a preliminary round and overcame some stiff competition to reach the final. The 'A' Finals pairing was a repeat of previous year and the opposition was Loreto High School, Beaufort, Rathfarnham in both League and Championship. Despite playing well the League title was lost to Loreto Beaufort in a close match. In the Championship Final a week later another nail biting match was played with the spoils going to Portmarnock this time. It is a great achievement for the girls to retain the O'Duffy Cup.

Credit must be paid to Naomh Mearnog G.A.A club and the camogie coaches for their assistance. In particular to Mrs. Eileen Bernard and Mrs. Denise McConnell from the club for their help throughout the years. Despite some of the key Senior players finishing their second level education last June the former Junior players have ably filled their boots and the Senior team are currently unbeaten



Camogie champions of Dublin. Front, l/r: Orlaith O'Daly, Aisling Smith, Orla McLoughlin, Catherine McGill, Caoimhe O'Callaghan, Theresa McConnell, Cathriona Power, Dearbhla Crowe, Fionnla Rooney, Niamh Taylor. Back, l/r: Fiona Nerrick, Grainne Molloy, Sarah Neville, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Siobhan Bernard, Aisling Murphy, Rebecca Fennelly, Lisa Cahill, Mowena Conway, Lorraine O'Conner, Mairead Carthy, Niamh Byrne



Managing Director of KOSTAL, Michael Genster presents Una O'Donoghue, from Cloughdun, the captain of the Cork senior camogie team with her award at the 2002 *The Corkman*/KOSTAL Sports Star Awards, in association with Springfort Hall. Other recipients were Paula O'Connor, Newtownshandrum; Ger Casey, Inniscarra; Joanne O'Callaghan, Cloughdun; Stephanie Dunlea, Cloughdun; Caoimhe Harrington, Newtownshandrum; Sile Burns, Rockban; Criona Harte, Inniscarra; Sinead Buckley, Aghabullogue, Maria Watson, Milford; Catherine Corkery, Cloughdun and Aoife Murray, Cloughdun who was represented by Conor O'Callaghan.

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Milford girls Elaine O'Riordan (left) and Emer Watson, who jointly received their 2002 *The Corkman*/KOSTAL Sports Star Awards, in association with Springfort Hall Hotel for their camogie endeavors, from Paul Walsh, General Manager, Springfort Hall and Michael O'Muircheartaigh, MC for the presentation ceremony.



Marie O'Neill, captain (left) and Denise Twomey, vice-captain of the Loreto junior B camogie team with the All-Ireland and Munster trophies won last year.

Picture Denis Minihane



Mary Newman representing the Senior Camogie Team; Finbarr McCarthy, 96FM and *Inside Cork*, Fiona O'Driscoll, of the successful Cork Camogie Team 2002, and her parents Joan and Sean at Jury's Supreme Sportstar Awards Banquet 2003.



Rachel Myers and Valerie Maher, St. Finbarr's, and Shelia Crowley Aghabullogue, all members of the 2002 All-Ireland Cork Intermediate Camogie team at Cork City Hall.

New style camogie format

By Gerry Slevin

As the Tipp senior camogie team sets off in June, endeavouring to reclaim the O'Duffy Cup, which had such a successful and happy time in the Premier County from 1999 to 2002, they will have to contend with a new championship arrangement which sees the competition to be played on a league basis.

Eight teams will participate in the restructured championship, the teams divided into two groups, with the top two teams in each qualifying for the All Ireland semi finals.

The groupings look somewhat lop-sided, three of the game's 'big guns', Cork, Kilkenny and Galway slotted into Group One, a group that is

completed with Antrim. Tipp have Dublin, Wexford and Limerick to contend with in Group Two.

It will be a very important season for Tipp camogie in the wake of the disappointment of last year, followed by the resignation of the back room team, led by manager Michael Cleary.

Into the breach has stepped former Tipp and Cashel star Raymie Ryan, and it will be interesting to see what the handing over of the baton means in terms of Tipp's immediate future as a major camogie force.

But before the championship arrives, there is the National League to be involved in, so hopefully,

heady days are ahead for Tipp camogie, days made all the more enticing because of the availability to Raymie of all the panel that played in the 2002 championship.

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Championship revamped

Maire Uí Scolai
Camogie

THIS year's All-Ireland senior championship has been completely restructured and for the first time will be played on a league basis.

It will feature two groups

of four teams, with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the semi-finals.

"I think it is a great idea," said Dublin manager PJ Donoghue. "Hopefully, it will do a lot for the game."

Group 1: Cork, Galway, Antrim, Kilkenny.
Group 2: Tipperary, Dublin, Wexford, Limerick

Change to camogie c'ship format 'crazy' says coach

By Mary Newman

CORK camogie coach Pa Finn this week described as 'crazy' the decision to change the format of this year's All-Ireland camogie championship to a league system.

In what is a new departure, the 2003 Forais Na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship will be played on a league basis.

A meeting of camogie chiefs at Croke Park on

Saturday last decided on a major break with tradition, which will see the new format begin in June.

Two sections of four teams will participate on a league basis with the top two in each section qualifying for the semi-finals which are provisionally scheduled for August 23/24.

The draws for the semi-finals will be made at a later date on completion of the two sections.

While the thinking

behind the move is seen as an effort to help the weaker counties Cork coach and selector Pa Finn expressed surprise at the Central Council's decision to change the format of the championship.

"Only two years ago we brought in a back door system and last season it worked to perfection as Cork and Tipperary were seeded and did not meet until the final," he said. "I do not think this new format will do anything for

the weaker counties and I think it's a crazy decision. The championship has a special magic and even with a back door system the day arrives when it is all or nothing. Now you play three matches and are counting the points to ensure qualification for the semi-final."

While Coach Finn expressed his disappointment he never the less is looking forward to another busy season ahead: "The new format will be

another challenge and we will look forward to the one it will present, however we will have to be ready and on our guard to avoid any slip up as now an off day could prove costly."

Games are scheduled to begin in early June with the All Ireland champions Cork paired in a group with National league champions Galway. The sides will meet in the opening game, to be played in Cork in what is

a tough opener for the champions. Following this Cork will travel to play last year's defeated semi-finalists Kilkenny and they must also travel the long journey north to meet Antrim.

All in all a very busy inter county season lies ahead something which the various selection committees will no doubt be sitting down to discuss in the coming weeks as thoughts turn to resuming training.

City Hall honour for camogie, Glen and Nicks teams

A VERY pleasant function at City Hall on Thursday last saw Lord Mayor Alderman John Kelleher honour Cork's Intermediate camogie team who captured the All Ireland title and the victorious Glen Rovers and St Nicks premier minor county championship double winning sides with a civic reception.

"Tonight I want to honour your success and in particular, I am delighted to see so many young players in your midst.

"Sport is very important

and it gives us a good outlet. I want to pay tribute to the camogie players of Cork who brought three All Ireland titles to the county in a season where their male counterparts had not much success.

"Let's hope the lead you have given will help ensure a more prosperous season in 2003," he said.

Paying tribute to the minor players from St Nicks and Glen Rovers, Lord Mayor Kelleher said: "As we all know it is very hard to win a county champi-

onship title but you have taken two titles and to do so in both codes is a marvellous achievement. I, on behalf of the city, congratulate you."

He also extended his sympathy to the club following the recent and tragic death of club member Emmett Neville.

Cork Camogie team captain Hilda Kenneally thanked the Lord Mayor and City council for the reception and also paid tribute to her team and the team's mentors.

Glen Rovers and St Nick's Underage chairman Liam Martin also expressed his thanks for the great honour it was to be invited to City Hall.

"We had a great year and tonight is wonderful for the team to be honoured," he said.

Later in the evening, the Lord Mayor then made presentations of Cork Crystal to captains Hilda Kenneally, Donal Cronin and Shane O' Donoghue to honour their teams' achievements.

ST FINBARRS CAMOGIE

The club AGM will take place in the club on Wednesday 5th February at 8pm, all welcome. Underage (U-11) Indoor Training takes place every Thursday night from 6pm to 7pm. New and Old members welcome, any queries contact Deirdre on 021-4310297.

BALLINHASSIG CAMOGIE

Ballinhassig Camogie Club held their Victory Dinner Dance at Bawnleigh House Hotel with over three hundred guests present. Special guests on the night were Cork Senior players Captain Una O'Donoghue and Fiona O'Driscoll. On the night medals were presented to the U-11 and 13 SouthEast winners by Fiona O'Driscoll and Una O'Donoghue presented the U-12 County Team with their medals.

Special presentations were made to Mairead Holland who played on the Cork junior team and Marian Mc Carthy who was a selector.

Following the meal a very enjoyable Disco was held keeping everyone entertained until the early hours.

Senior camogie team back in training

by Marion Graham

Under the new management of Raymie Ryan Tipperary Senior Camogie team will commence training on Saturday morning next in preparation for the league campaign. Tipperary's first game in the League will be against Dublin on February 23rd at a Tipperary venue.

Raymie called a meeting with the players on December 30th and got a very positive response from them with twenty-three out of last years panel of twenty-six in attendance. Everybody have given a firm commitment to him for the coming season and thankfully nobody mentioned the word "retirement".

In addition he has added Meadbh Corcoran (Moycarkey/Borris), Jill Horan, Moira Ryan (Clonoulty/Rossmore) and Trish Ryan (Toomevara) to the panel. As the League goes on more players will be called for training in a build up to finalise the panel for the championship which will commence in June.

We wish Raymie, his team and selectors, Conor Ryan and Marion Graham good wishes for the coming year and hope that the O'Duffy Cup will once again find a resting place in the Premier County in 2003.

The following players were asked to attend training on Saturday morning at 10. a.m in the County Camogie Grounds. Doreen Hughes, Noelle Kennedy, Trish Ryan, Lena Woods, Anna Woods, Suzanne Kelly, Louise Young, Grainne Shanahan (Toomevara), Louise Ryan (Hollycross/Ballycahill), Jovita Delaney, Emily Hayden, Una O'Dwyer, Philly Fogarty, Paula Bulfin, Claire Grogan (Cashel), Michelle Shortt, Joanne Ryan, Julie Delaney

(Drom/Inch) Moira Ryan, Jill Horan (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Claire Madden, Trish O'Halloran (Portroe), Sinead Nealon, Sheena Howard, Therese Brophy, Eimear McDonnell (Burgess), Angie McDermott (Cappawhite), Meadbh Corcoran (Moycarkey/Borris), Ciara Gaynor (Kilruane McDonagh), Niamh Connolly, Lorraine Bourke (Templemore).

MUNSTER COUNCIL CONVENTION

On Sunday last in Lawlor's Hotel, Dungarvan, Munster Council held their Convention. The following Officers were returned unopposed: Chairperson: Marie Kearney (Cork); Vice-Chairperson: Kathleen Coffey (Limerick); Secretary: Rose Malone (Cork); Treasurer: Marie Casey (Cork); Registrar: Maura Sheedy (Clare); P.R.O: Marion Graham (Tipperary); Delegate to Central Council: Rose Malone (Cork); Delegate to Central Council Fixtures Committee: Marion Graham (Tipperary).

No Motions were put forward by any County so the meeting had time to discuss in length many issues, mainly the future alliance with the G.A.A. The Chairperson also outlined the difficulties facing Senior players with the present Code of Ethics relating to the players Anti Doping Test which will be implemented this year in the All-Ireland Senior Championship series. Every County must appoint a Liaison Officer for the Anti Doping Test, such a position will have to be given serious consideration, if players should be proved positive it could have serious repercussions.

Many of the medicines listed which could prove a player

positive are on sale over the counter and players must be very careful taken any form of a pain killer. This was a major cause for concern and was discussed in great detail.

The following pairings were made for championship games in Munster, dates for those games will be made at the next meeting of Munster Council on Wednesday night February 19th at 8.30 pm in Cahir House Hotel.

Fixtures: Senior Championship: Cork V Clare; Tipperary V Limerick. Intermediate Championship: Cork V Tipperary; Winners V Limerick in Final. Junior Championship: (A) Tipperary V Limerick; Clare V winners of A; Waterford V Cork. U/16 A Championship: (A) Limerick V Cork; Winners of A V Waterford; Clare V Tipperary. U/18 Championship: (A) Tipperary V Clare; Winners of A V Waterford; Cork V Limerick. Senior Club Championship: (A) Waterford Champions V Limerick Champions; Cork Champions V winners of A; Tipperary Champions V Clare Champions.

BURGESS:

Indoor training with Nora Cremin, for u/14's and upwards will commence on this Thursday at 8 p.m. It will last for one hour. This is a great opportunity to gain some fitness before the start of the season. All participants should be logged out for 8.

Commiserations to St. Mary's Secondary School on their defeat to Charleville in the Junior Munster Final in Dolla on Saturday. There was a sizeable contingent from Burgess involved and they all did us proud.

In the Diary

TOMORROW Munster Senior B Colleges Camogie Final Coachford College v Presentation Bandon, Coachford 2pm

BANDON will hope to put the disappointment of last year's provincial defeat to Mercy Waterford behind them when they travel to Coachford tomorrow. Their challenge will be headed up by inter-county players Colette Desmond and Sarah O'Donovan.

They will also look to Cork minor Marguerite Nyhan.

Her expertise at this level could prove vital.

They have already accounted for Ennis, Cashel and had five-goals to spare over Scariff in the semi-final.

Coachford, on home sod, will give it their all. They will have their stars in captain Joan Twomey, Emma O'Keeffe and Louise Roche and will throw everything at their south-east opponents.

En route to this ultimate stage they accounted for Carrigaline, Thurles and Kilfinane.

When Bandon and Coachford met earlier in the season in the league, Coachford came out on top by a big margin. However, Bandon should reverse that result this time. The experience of Desmond, O'Donovan and Nyhan is the key.

Verdict: Presentation Bandon.

TOMORROW Munster Junior A Colleges Camogie Final St Mary's Nenagh v St Mary's Charleville, Dolla, Nenagh, 2pm

SUCH IS Charleville's record at college's level, that their appearance in finals is almost expected. When one looks at the array of talent on view, it is difficult to see them being halted — Anna Geary, Mary Coleman, Edwina Waters, Sinead McAuliffe, Fiona Chawke and Shannon Brosnan. Geary is a huge asset. This season she will be in her fourth year playing with the county minor side.

Nenagh, who are facing a tough battle in this assignment, are managed by Ger Duffea. However, like any team from the Premier County, they will not give up too easily, and playing at home will be a huge advantage. They will look to players of the caliber of Anne-Marie O'Brien, Marie Sheedy, Tracy McLoughlin and Fiona Kennedy.

They recorded a good victory over Loreto of Fermoy to get to this final.

It is difficult to see Charleville being denied another Munster title.

Verdict: St Mary's Charleville.

THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Munster camogie finals

Camogie

by Mary Newman

TWO Munster colleges camogie finals will be played on Saturday: St Mary's of Charleville, will defend their provincial and All-Ireland junior A titles, while in an all-Cork match, Coachford and Presentation Bandon will vie for the senior B title.

Last year, Bandon were beaten in the final by Waterford but seem a better side this year.

In their path to the final, Bandon have been impressive: with inter-county experience, they will be confident of taking the title.

Colette Desmond, Marguerite Nyhan, Margaret Murphy, Sarah O'Donovan, and Orla Coughlan should give Bandon the advantage.

In their victories over Ennis, Cashel, and Scariff, Bandon showed they mean business.

If their coach, Sinead White, can keep her side focused, a Munster title is within Bandon's reach.

Coachford will be equally determined, and, under the guiding influence of Rob Lott, they are able. Captained by the inter-county intermediate player, Joan Twomey, they beat Carrigaline, Presentation Thurles, and Kilfinnan to reach the final.

Emma O'Keeffe, Louise Roche, and Mary Enneigh have performed well for them. Coachford are a balanced side, but it will take a determined effort to prevent Bandon getting it right this time.

Charleville's junior A side will defend their title in Dolla, and it will take an exceptional side to stop them. Defeating Mercy Waterford in the semi-final, Charleville's strength in every position of play was evident.

With inter-county players, Anna Geary, Sinead McAuliffe, and Edwina Waters expected to lead the way, Nenagh face an uphill challenge.

In their semi-final with Loreto, of Fermoy, Nenagh had to call on all of their resources to win narrowly.

Ann Marie O'Brien, Marie Sheedy, and Tracy McCarthy know that, on Saturday, they will have to repeat that performance if they are to dethrone the champions.

Both games are at 2pm on Saturday, with the Bandon-Coachford game to be played in Coachford, while Charleville and Nenagh will play in Dolla.

Camogie finals on the menu

I GOT an email from Robaird Lott a few days ago asking me to mention that there are two Munster colleges camogie finals on next Saturday.

Presentation Bandon meet Coachford College in the senior 'B' final at Coachford. The throw-in is at 2pm.

Bandon boast two of the Cork intermediate panel, Sarah O'Donovan and Colette Desmond, amongst their ranks and are considered to be the favourites although, home advantage may help the Coachford girls cause an upset in

this decider.

The second final is the junior 'A' final between reigning All-Ireland champions, Charleville and St Mary's Nenagh.

This is fixed for Dolla with the throw-in again at 2pm.

The work of people like Vincent Harrington and Anne Marie O'Keeffe has established Charleville as Ireland's best camogie playing school.

Next Saturday should see them add another Munster title to their every expanding role of honour.

Senior A Final:	Fermoy	v	Charleville
Sen A League:	Coachford	v	Fermoy
Int A Final:	Macroom/Rathkeale	v	Scariff
Int B Final:	Killenaule	v	Lismore
Junior A Final:	Nenagh	v	Charleville
Junior B Final:	Bandon	v	Borrisoleigh
Junior C Final:	Coláiste Choilm	v	Lismore
Sevens A Champs:	Charleville	bt	Fermoy
Sevens B Blitz:	Wed 23 rd April @ Newtownshandrum		
First Year Blitz:	Wed 7 th May @ Kilfinane		

Nenagh girls determined to atone

by GERRY SLEVIN



Michelle Dunne (Kilruane MacDonagh), Sinead Quinlan (Burgess); Deirdre Kavanagh (Burgess) prepare for Saturday's Munster Final. Pic. B. Delaney.

The "hiding" received by St Mary's, Nenagh from arch rivals, St Mary's, Charleville in last year's Munster colleges junior "A" camogie final is not something that rests easily with Ger Dullea's charges and it is little wonder that the opportunity of exacting revenge is being welcomed in the Nenagh establishment.

That occasion presents itself on Saturday out in Dolla (2pm) and while conscious of the enormous task facing his players, Ger, in understated "spake", true to his Cork roots, says he hopes Nenagh will perform a bit better this year!

But no matter how one looks at it, the task facing Nenagh is huge, considering the stranglehold Charleville has had on colleges competition, senior and junior, for several years past.

Shannon and Fermoy fell to Nenagh in earlier rounds and in preparation for Saturday's clash, they have played a number of worthwhile challenge games.

"We have about seven of last year's team", says Ger, "and I think the girls are playing a lot better this year, playing with more confidence".

It was in '92 that Nenagh last won the junior title, going on to take All Ireland honours while the seniors won provincial and national titles in '94 and 2000. These years aside, Charleville have been the game's queenpins and Nenagh only have been capable of beating them, or pushing them hard.

Joanne Nolan, Silvermines

captains the team, Mary Ryan from Moneygall (grand daughter of former GAA President Seamus O'Riain) is Vice-Captain and there is a good sprinkling from several surrounding clubs, many names included that are familiar to hurling fans like Aoife McLoughney, Shannon Rovers, daughter of twice selected All Star hurling goalkeeper, Pat, Marie Sheedy, Portroe, daughter of John, Orla Williams, Kilruane, daughter of Paddy.

Panel: Orla Williams (Kilruane), Marian Hogan (Burgess), Marie Sheedy (Portroe), Deirdre Kavanagh (Burgess), Michelle Dunne (Kilruane), Joanne Nolan, capt (Silvermines), Mary Ryan (Burgess), Breda O'Meara (Toomevara), Tracey McLoughlin (Portroe), Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Ann Marie

O'Brien (Burgess), Sinead Quinlan (Burgess), Fiona Kennedy (Silvermines), Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers), Mary Cremin (Burgess), Siobhan Kennedy (Toomevara), Aoife Ryan (Burgess), Ciara Ryan (Silvermines), Stephanie Madden (Burgess), Eimear Dwan (Burgess), Niamh Kinane (Toomevara), Elizabeth Darcy (Burgess), Niamh Flannery (Burgess), Ann Marie Finn (Burgess), Anne Dwan (Kilruane).

Ger Dullea has no illusions about the task facing his charges and he readily appreciates the strength of Charleville, which appears to be reprised year after year.

Still, he has prepared his own team as well as has been possible and he is confident that nothing will be spared in Nenagh's bid to reclaim the provincial crown.



Team Coach, Ger Dullea with vice-captain, Mary Ryan (left) and captain, Joanne Nolan. Pic. B. Delaney.

Decisive weekend as colleges' titles are up for grabs

CAMOGIE this coming weekend will again be dominated by the younger playing members as Munster Senior A and Junior B College's finals and the Purcell Cup competitions are on the fixture sheet. Cork colleges also hold their Intermediate A championship final.

A week after retaining their junior A title the girls from St Mary's Charleville will be aiming to retain their senior crown against Senior B champions Loreto Fermoy on Saturday in Fermoy at 2p.m.

Both sides boast a host of inter-county players with the Watson's Marie and Emer, Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan prominent for Charleville while the Twomey's Denise and Deirdre, Noreen Mulcahy and will be to the fore for Loreto.

In their path to the final Charleville defeated Sacred Heart Clonakilty while Fermoy recorded a good victory over St Mary's Nenagh. Last year was a wonderful one for Loreto taking the Senior B title and gaining promotion to A grade, and they have made huge strides in reaching the A final in their first year in the grade. However, the biggest test awaits, and given the strength of the All Ireland champions the task may be too much to ask of the Loreto girls.

Bandon will aim to put the disappointment of losing the Senior B final behind them when they entertain Borrisoleigh in Brinney on Saturday also at 2pm in the Munster

Junior B final. Bandon's Marguerite Nyhan, Lucy Hawks, Deirdre Coomey and Colleen Long will be hoping they will be victorious this time out. Borrisoleigh are a strong side who will call on Marie Ryan, Triona Dunne and Laura Young to help bring the title back to Tipperary.

In the Cork Colleges intermediate A final also on Saturday in Aghada St Als led by Cork minor Rena Buckley and twin sister Mary with team mates Veronica Russell and Grace Mulqueen face a St Mary's Middleton side who are backed by Angela Walsh, Gearoidin Kearney and Catherine O'Shea.

Saturday is a big day for the students from the Cork colleges of Combined Education when they head to Tralee in search of Purcell Cup glory. Losing out to Carlow I T in last year's final the Cork student from St John's College/Cork College of Commerce and Stiofan Naofa are determined to get it right this time out. Coached by Peter Cody the team is a balanced one with Inter county players Linda Dorgan, Rachel Myers and Ellen O'Herlihy leading their quest for glory Ann Hanley who is selector to the side is hopeful of success.

The side is a well balanced one and impressive displays from Sinead Kelly and Aine O'Regan at midfield and with Jackie O'Keeffe, Laura Davis, Grace O'Regan and Jenny Duffy all performing well victory is well within reach.

FEB 2003

MUNSTER COLLEGES

CAMOGIE 2003

SENIOR B FINAL

SAT 1ST FEB @ COACHFORD 2pm

COACHFORD COLLEGE

V

BANDON

REF: TRACEY SHEEHAN

MUNSTER COLLEGES SENIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP 2003

1st Round:

Bandon	7-8	Col. Mhuire, Ennis	3-2
Coachford	2-10	Carrigaline	0-3
Cahir	2-4	Kilfinane	6-6

Quarter Final:

Cashel	3-6	Bandon	3-13
Templemore	0-1	Scariff	0-8
Kilfinane	3-4	Roscrea	2-2
Ursulines, Thurles	2-2	Coachford	4-11

Semi Final:

Kilfinane	2-1	Coachford	6-14
Bandon	4-7	Scariff	1-5

Coláiste Na Toirbhirte, Bandon

[Red Jersey, Navy skirt]

1. Janice O' Neill	16/7/87	Newcestown
2. Sarah-Louise Ryan	27/10/86	Courceys
3. Michelle Barron [C]	4/4/85	Newcestown
4. Anita Coughlan	16/2/86	Newcestown
5. Evelyn Crowley	21/4/86	Newcestown
6. Lorraine Holland	24/9/85	Newcestown
7. Marguerite Nyhan	12/3/87	Enniskeane
8. Maeve O' Sullivan	2/7/84	Kilbrittain
9. Deirdre Coomey	23/1/88	Ballinhassig
10. Margaret Murphy	9/1/87	
11. Sarah O' Donovan	10/10/84	Ballygarvan
12. Orla Coughlan	24/2/87	Enniskeane
13. Coleen Long	3/2/88	Newcestown
14. Colette Desmond	28/11/84	Newcestown
15. Lucy Hawkes	27/3/88	Valley Rovers

SUBS:

16. Miriam Fullam	26/3/84	Kilbrittain
17. Edel Horgan	27/8/86	Newcestown
18. Áine Crowley	16/3/85	Bandon
19. Lisa O' Mahony	17/3/86	Valley Rovers
20. Áine O' Sullivan	8/6/86	Kilbrittain
21. Alison Wholihan	20/3/85	Bandon
22. Breda Tuohy	5/4/88	Ballinhassig
23. Orla O' Regan	19/10/87	Kilbrittain
24. Trisha O' Donovan	27/8/86	Ballygarvan

SELECTORS:

Sinéad White

Coachford College

[Black Jersey, Black skirt]

1. Emma O' Keeffe	24/2/84	Inniscarra
2. Mary Healy	30/4/85	Inniscarra
3. Mairéad Enneguess	24/1/86	Aghabullogue
4. Orla McSweeney	16/12/85	Aghabullogue
5. Niamh O' Connell	1/3/85	Aghabullogue
6. Joan Twomey [C]	7/7/84	Aghabullogue
7. Máire O' Leary	20/12/84	Aghabullogue
8. Michelle O' Regan	8/1/85	Inniscarra
9. Fiona Buckley	29/9/86	Aghabullogue
10. Ciara Murphy	2/7/85	Aghabullogue
11. Mary Buckley	12/9/84	Aghabullogue
12. Margaret McCarthy	13/1/86	Inniscarra
13. Margaret Cosgrave	23/4/87	Inniscarra
14. Emma Healy	23/9/87	Aghabullogue
15. Louise Roche	4/10/87	Aghabullogue

SUBS:

16. Ann O' Mahony	10/7/86	Inniscarra
17. Edel O' Sullivan	14/9/85	Inniscarra
18. Christine Hogan	20/9/84	Aghabullogue
19. Caitriona O' Connell	14/10/86	Inniscarra
20. Christine Cosgrave	23/4/87	Inniscarra
21. Claire Hogan	4/11/85	Inniscarra

SELECTORS:

Tena Carroll
Lotty

Charleville brush Nenagh aside in retaining their crown

St Mary's, Charleville
St Mary's, Nenagh

4-13
3-2

by Mary Newman

ALL-Ireland Junior A Colleges camogie champions Charleville retained their provincial crown in emphatic fashion in Dulla on Saturday when brushing aside the challenge of St Mary's, Nenagh.

With Anna Geary leading the way, the holders led 3-8 to 1-0 at the break, Aoife McLoughney being on target for a Nenagh side who, despite good play from Marion Hogan and captain Joanne Nolan, always struggled to stay with their more illustrious opponents in the opening half.

In the second half, Nenagh showed more determination and by the mid-

way stage, thanks to goals from Mary Ryan and McLoughney, had cut the deficit to eight points - 3-10 to 3-2. However, it was now that Charleville really showed their class and finishing stronger in the closing quarter with a Mary Coleman goal and points from Sinéad McAuliffe (2) and Anna Geary, they comfortably retained their crown.

Scorers for Charleville: A. Geary 2-2, S. McAuliffe 0-6, A. Watson 1-1, M. Coleman 1-1, F. Morrissey 0-3.

Nenagh: A. McLoughney 2-0, M. Ryan 1-2.
ST. MARY'S CHARLEVILLE: S. O'Connor; M. Broderick, E. Potter, S. Carroll, S. O'Mahony, E. Waters, F. Chalke, A. Geary, S. Brosnan, M. Coleman, S. McAuliffe (capt.), M. McCarthy, F. Morrissey, T. Shanahan, A. Watson. Subs: S. O'Leary for M. Broderick, M. O'Mahony for E. Potter, S. Sexton for S. Carroll.
ST. MARY'S NENAGH: O. Williams; M. Hogan, M. Sheedy, D. Kavanagh, M. Dunne, J. Nolan, M. Ruan, B. O'Meara, T. McLoughlin, M. Ryan, A.M. O'Brien, S. Quinlan, F. Kennedy, A. McLoughney, M. Cremin.

Referee: P. Mooney (Clare).

Coachford CC
Col. Na Toirbhirte, Bandon

4-7
0-4

AN inspirational display from Aghabullogue's Mary Buckley, who contributed 2-4, helped Coachford Community College capture the Munster Colleges Senior B Championship title at the expense of pre-match favourites Coláiste Na Toirbhirte, Bandon at Coachford on Saturday.

First half goals from Buckley and Louise Roche laid the foundations for victory and helped Coachford enjoy an interval lead of 2-4 to 0-4.

Colette Desmond and Sarah O'Donovan were on target for Bandon with two points apiece but their side was finding the going tough against the Coachford defence where

Mary Enneguess and captain Joan Twomey excelled.

On the resumption, Sarah O'Donovan converted two 45-metre frees to cut the deficit as Bandon applied the pressure, but the Coachford defence held solid against the early Bandon revival, with Orla McSweeney in particular denying Miriam Fullam with a timely intervention.

Ciara Murphy and Sarah O'Donovan exchanged points before Emma Healy further extended Coachford's lead with a point. And now playing with authority, Coachford continued to pressurise the Bandon defence and when Margaret Cosgrave hand-passed to the net for the third goal, the die was cast. Now dominant in all sectors, Coachford had the finishing line in sight. Mary Buckley added her second

goal with minutes remaining and despite good play from the hard-working Colette Desmond and Maeve O'Sullivan, there was no way back for Bandon.

Scorers for Coachford - M. Buckley 2-4, M. Cosgrave, L. Roche 1-0, E. Healy, C. Murphy, M. McCarthy 0-1.

Bandon - S. O'Donovan 0-6, C. Desmond 0-2.

COACHFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE: E. O'Keeffe; M. Healy, M. Enneguess, O. McSweeney, N. O'Connell, J. Twomey (capt.), M. O'Leary, M. O'Regan, F. Buckley, C. Murphy, E. Healy, M. Cosgrave, M. Buckley, L. Roche. Subs: C. Cosgrave for M. Healy, E. O'Sullivan for L. Roche, A. O'Mahony for C. Murphy, C. Hogan for M. Cosgrave, C. O'Connell for M. O'Leary.

COLÁISTE NA TOIRBHIRTE BANDON: J. O'Neill; S. Ryan, L. Holland, A. Coughlan, M. Nyhan, M. Barron (capt.), E. Crowley, M. O'Sullivan, D. Coomey, M. Murphy, S. O'Donovan, O. Coughlan, M. Fullam, C. Desmond, L. Hawkes.

Ref: T. Sheehan (Mayfield).

Camogie fixtures

Saturday Colleges Senior B Final
Coachford Community College v Presentation, Bandon, in Coachford, 2 pm
Junior A Final
St Mary's, Charleville v Nenagh, in Dulla, 2 pm

Sunday

Under 18 championship
Aghabullogue v Rockbawn, in Coachford, 12 noon
Newcestown v Courcey Rovers, at Courcey Rovers, 3.30 pm

CAMOGIE

ULSTER COLLEGES SEMI-FINALS

CLAIRE QUINN was the St Patrick's Maghera hero in Saturday's Ulster senior schools senior 'A' championship semi-final, her two goals helping them overcome a stiff challenge from St Patrick's Keady on a 3-6 to 2-2 scoreline. Meanwhile, St Mary's Magherafelt stroled to their 11th senior final in a row following an easy 4-7 to 0-0 semi-final victory over St Columba's Portlerry.

St Patrick's Maghera 3-6 (C. Quinn 2-2, C. Kearney 1-0, K. Cusnahan 0-2, B. Kidd, B. Convery 0-1 each), St Patrick's Keady 2-2 (C. Kinsella 1-2, A. Lennon 1-0).

St Mary's Magherafelt 4-7 (R. McDonald 2-1, A. Lavery 1-2, K. McAuley 1-1, M. Lynch, L. O'Kane, G. Mulholland 0-1 each), St Columba's Portlerry 0-0.

Coachford hockey team move on to meet Leinster

Coachford/Aghabullogue/Rylane

COACHFORD College overcame Coláiste Na Toirbhirte, Bandon on Saturday in the final of the Munster Colleges Senior B camogie championship. The game took place on Aghabullogue's superb new playing pitch which made playing camogie a joy to watch.

Right from the start Coachford looked the more prepared of the two teams. Emma O'Keeffe in goal made an early save to settle herself and her defenders. Mary Buckley who played centre forward was brilliant

throughout the game and scored a total of 2-4 for Coachford. It was Coachford's ability to hit the target that would eventually come as their strong point. Coach Rob Lotty had his team well prepared and he wasn't going to take any risks with the side from Bandon.

Mary Enneguess who comes from a family steeped in camogie tradition played a flawless game at full back. Her ability to clear the ball in little more than a few seconds saw the majority of the game taking place in her opponents

half. Sahara Donovan was best for Bandon but her total of four points had all come from frees. Goal of the game came from Margaret Cosgrave early in the second half. She used her quick pace to outclass her markers and hand passed the ball to the net. Coachford will now go on to meet the Leinster champions on March 8th in the All-Ireland semi final. This is the furthest the camogie club has ever gone and if the same preparation is installed by Rob Lotty they might well go all the way.



A delighted Coachford team cheering their captain Joan Twomey as she holds up the cup following their victory over Bandon in the Munster Colleges Senior B Camogie final at Coachford. Picture: Richard Mills.

Brilliant Buckley so lethal for Coachford

Coachford College 4-7
Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon 0-6

By JOHN HORGAN
in Coachford

IT WAS as emphatic as it gets for Coachford in the final of the Munster Colleges' Senior 'B' camogie Championship on Saturday.

This was their first trophy at this level and how richly deserved it was as they were far superior to their West Cork rivals.

Coachford's win was further embellished by some outstanding individual performances and none more so than Mary Buckley on the 40, who tormented the Bandon defence all afternoon and scored 2-7.

Joan Twomey proved to be an inspiring captain at centre-back with Margaret McCarthy, Ciara Murphy and Margaret Cosgrave also contributing handsomely.

And behind them goalkeeper

Emma O'Keeffe handled with authority all through.

Superbly drilled by coach Rob Lotty, Coachford, save for a spell in the opening sequences, were the dominant side despite the brave efforts of Sarah O'Donovan at centre-forward who did the bulk of their scoring and whose accuracy from the dead ball was first class.

For coach Lotty it was a just reward for the work he is putting in on the ground in the Mid Cork school and there wasn't a more delighted individual when the last whistle sounded.

"It was a great victory for us and it makes up for previous disappointments. They are a great bunch of girls, totally committed and each and every one of them has done the school proud today" he said.

"Since we began this year we

have had 25 training sessions and 10 games and everything came right today.

"They are a very tenacious lot and they wanted this trophy very badly. We have now got six teams in the school and a win like this will do wonders for the game.

"Our next step now is try and go further in the All-Ireland and we'll give that a right go as well."

Coachford led 2-4 to 0-4 at the break, the goals arriving in the 24th minute from Margaret McCarthy and Louise Roche in the 30th.

The writing was on the wall as they trooped off at the break and when the tenacious Cosgrave burst through shortly after the resumption for goal number three it was a done deal.

Lorraine Holland, and Michelle Barron at the back for Bandon tried to stem the Coachford tide but it was all to no avail.

Coachford were worthy champions and it's not over yet.

● Meanwhile, just a few short words on the ground this game was played on. It's Coachford's new complex and it's without doubt one of the finest venues in this county. Banked on all four sides it has to be seen to be believed and is an absolute credit to everyone involved.

Scorers

Coachford: M Buckley 2-6 M Cosgrave 1-0, L Roche 1-0, M McCarthy 0-1

Bandon: S O'Donovan: 0-4f, C Desmond 0-2

COACHFORD: E O'Keeffe, M Healy, M Ennequess, M Sweeney, N O'Connell, J Twomey, M O'Leary, M O'Regan, F Buckley, C Murphy, M Buckley, M McCarthy, M Cosgrave, E Healy, L Roche.

Subs: E O'Sullivan for Roche, C Cosgrave for Healy, C O'Connell for O'Leary, A O'Mahony for M Cosgrave, C Hogan for Murphy.

BANDON: J O'Neill, S L Ryan, M Barron, A Coughlan, E Crowley, L Holland, M Nyhan, M O'Sullivan, D Coomey, M Murphy, S O'Donovan, O Coughlan, C Long, C Desmond, L Hawkes.

Referee: T Sheehan.

Cork girls lift trophy for seventh year running

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN
in Dolla

St Mary's Charleville 4-13
St Mary's Nenagh 3-2

THERE was no fear of any upset in Dolla on Saturday, when St Mary's, Charleville, trounced the home side in the Munster Post Primary Schools' Junior A camogie final.

Such is their dominance in this competition it was also no surprise to see the Cork girls lift the trophy for an unbelievable seventh year in-a-row.

Inspired by the outstanding Anna Geary at midfield, who also bagged two great goals and two points, the Cork school played with the strong breeze in the first-half, and were full value for their interval lead of 3-8 to 1-0.

Along with Geary's brace of goals in that opening period, Aine Watson struck for the opener after just three minutes of play.

And with Edwina Watters and Fiona Chawke battering down the hatches in the half-back line, Nenagh's only score came from their best player Mary Ryan.

Charleville did not relent upon the restart and had excellent displays from Mary Coleman, captain Sinéad McAuliffe and Fiona Morrissey.

Coleman, playing at wing-forward, scored their fourth goal, while full-forward Aoife McLoughney got the better of her marker on two occasions, to score both of Nenagh's second-half goals.

For Geary, Coleman, Waters and McAuliffe it will be a busy week.

On Saturday next they line out with Charleville's senior team in the Munster A final against Loreto.

Scorers Charleville: A Geary 2-2, S McAuliffe 0-6 (0-4 frees), M Coleman 1-1, A Watson 1-1, F Morrissey 0-3.

Nenagh: A McLoughney 2-0, M Ryan 1-2.

Charleville: S O'Connor; M Broderick, E Potter, S Carroll; S O'Mahony, E Watters, F Chawke; A Geary, S Brosnan; M Coleman, S McAuliffe (capt), M McCarthy, F Morrissey, T Shanahan, A Watson.

Subs: S O'Leary for M Broderick (40 mins), M O'Mahony for S Carroll (45 mins), S Sexton for E Potter (47 mins).

Nenagh: O Williams; M Hogan, M Sheedy, D Kavanagh; M Dunne, J Nolan (capt), M Ryan; B O'Meara, T McLoughney; M Ryan, A M O'Brien, S Quinlan; F Kennedy, A McLoughney, M Cemin.

Referee: P Mooney (Clare).

Coachford's goal-den victory

Coachford 4-7
Bandon 0-6

COACHFORD COLLEGE defeated a fancied Presentation, Bandon side in the Munster Colleges Camogie Senior B final at Coachford on Saturday last and were full value for their victory.

The essential difference was the Muskerry school's ability to score goals at vital junctures.

The Carberry side started well with Desmond angling over a good point on the run. Mary Buckley, who scored 2-4 on the day, converted a 45 for Coachford. Desmond added a second but was well marshalled after that by the tenacious Mairéad Ennequess. Margaret McCarthy equalised after a good clearance from Mary Healy.

Bandon keeper Janice O'Neill was unable to stop the irrepressible Mary Buckley from scoring her first goal in the 13th min.

The vital moment in the game came on the 29th minute — Marguerite Nyhan's long clearance was caught by keeper Emma O'Keeffe who promptly found the stylish Niamh O'Connell with her intelligent clearance. O'Connell passed the sliotar to Emma Healy who lobbed the ball into the Bandon square. Michelle Barron was pressurised by Louise Roche and the Coachford girl dispatched the ball to the net. At half time the score was 2-4 to 0-4 in Coachford's favour.

Bandon improved after the resumption with Sarah Donovan converting two 45s.

The game was over as a contest

when the nifty Margaret Cosgrave hand passed a Michelle O'Regan clearance to the net. Buckley added her second goal and Coachford were crowned champions.

Coachford now meet Leinster champions on Saturday, March 8, in the All Ireland semi-final.

Scorers Coachford: M Buckley (2-4, 0-4 frees) M Cosgrave (1-0), L Roche (1-0), M McCarthy, C Murphy, E Healy (0-1 each).

Bandon: S. Donovan (0-4 45's), C. Desmond (0-2).

COACHFORD: E O'Keeffe, M Healy, M Ennequess, O. McSweeney, N. O'Connell, J. Twomey (C), M. O'Leary, M. O'Regan, F. Buckley, C. Murphy, M. McCarthy, E. Healy, M. Cosgrave, M. Buckley, L. Roche. SUBS: C. Cosgrave for M. Healy, E. O'Sullivan for L. Roche, A. O'Mahony for C. Murphy, C. Hogan for M. Cosgrave, C. O'Connell for M. O'Leary.

BANDON: J. O'Neill, S. Ryan, L. Holland, A. Coughlan, M. Nyhan, M. Barron (C), E. Crowley, M. O'Sullivan, D. Coomey, M. Murphy, S. Donovan (0-4 45's), Orla Coughlan, M. Fullam, C. Desmond (0-2), L. Hawkes.

FEB. 2003

Coachford claim senior B title as St Mary's, Charleville retain their junior A crown

COACHFORD 4-7
BANDON 0-6

Camogie Scene

with Tim Buckley and Mary Newman

COACHFORD College defeated a fancied Presentation, Bandon side in the Munster Colleges Camogie Senior B final at Coachford on Saturday last and were full value for their victory.

The essential difference between the contestants was the Muskerry school's ability to score goals at vital junctures and that each forward contributed on the scoresheet whilst Bandon relied heavily on Colette Desmond to score. Goalie Emma O'Keefe also had a superb game for Coachford making a superb save on 29 minutes and another on the stroke of half time. These saves were crucial for Coachford as they were playing against the sun and into a stiff breeze.

After a tense ten minutes start Coachford got into their stride and put their stamp on the game. Margaret McCarthy's work rate in the forward line was awesome winning and distributing great ball. Mary Buckley was on target hitting equally from left and right. Joan Twomey played captain's role and kept Bandon's star Sarah Donovan scoreless from the field of play.

The Carberry side started well with Desmond angling over a good point

on the run. Mary Buckley, who scored 2-4 on the day, converted a forty five for Coachford. Desmond added a second but was well marshalled after that by the tenacious Mairéad Ennequess. Margaret McCarthy powerhouse of the Coachford forward line equalised after a good clearance from Mary Healy.

Bandon keeper Janice O'Neill was unable to stop the irrepressible Mary Buckley from scoring her first goal in the 13th minute. The vital moment in the game came on the 29th minute, Marguerite Nyhan's long clearance was caught by keeper Emma O'Keefe who promptly found the stylish Niamh O'Connell with her intelligent clearance.

O'Connell passed the sliotar to Emma Healy who lobbed the ball into the Bandon square. Michelle Barron was pressurised by Louise Roche and the Coachford girl dispatched the ball to the net. Mary Buckley pointed a 40 metre free to bring the



A delighted Joan Twomey making her acceptance speech after Coachford Community College won the Munster Colleges Senior B Final in Coachford on Saturday last.

score at half time 2-4 to 0-4 in Coachford's favour.

Bandon improved after the resumption with Sarah Donovan converting two forty fives but Coachford's captain Joan Twomey, the most impressive performer on the pitch, steadied her squad.

Orla McSweeney made a vital block to deny Miriam Fullam, who was bearing down on Emma O'Keefe. Donovan converted the '45' but Coachford's response was a point from

Ciara Murphy and another from Emma Healy.

In effect the game was over as a contest eight minutes into the second half when the nifty Margaret Cosgrave hand passed a Michelle O'Regan clearance to the net, giving the home side an unsailable lead.

Buckley added her second goal and Coachford, with Fiona Buckley, Edel O'Sullivan, Christine Cosgrave and Máire O'Leary dominant in the

latter stages, were crowned champions.

Sarah Donovan, Maeve O'Sullivan, Deirdre Coomey and Michelle Barron tried hardest for Bandon but had no answer to the goalscoring power of the Coachford full forward line.

Coachford now meet Leinster champions on Saturday, March 8 in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Scorers — Coachford: M Buckley (2-4, 0-4 frees) M

Cosgrave (1-0), L Roche (1-0), M McCarthy, C Murphy, E Healy (0-1 each), Bandon: S Donovan (0-4 45's), C Desmond (0-2).

Teams — Coachford: E O'Keefe; M Healy, M Ennequess, O McSweeney; N O'Connell, J Twomey (captain), M O'Leary; M O'Regan, F Buckley; C Murphy, M McCarthy, E Healy; M Cosgrave, M Buckley, L Roche. Subs: A O'Mahony for C Murphy 20 minutes, C Hogan for M

Cosgrave 24 minutes, C O'Connell for M O'Leary 25 minutes, C Cosgrave for M Healy 30 minutes, E O'Sullivan for L Roche 41 minutes.

Bandon: J O'Neill; S Ryan, L Holland, A Coughlan; M Nyhan, M Barron (captain), E Crowley; M O'Sullivan, D Coomey; M Murphy, S Donovan, Orla Coughlan; M Fullam, C Desmond, L Hawkes.

ST CHARLEVILLE 4-13
ST MARY'S, NENAGH 3-2

ALL-Ireland champions St Mary's, Charleville, retained their Munster Colleges Junior A crown at the expense of St Mary's, Nenagh, on Saturday last in Dolla.

The holders led at the break 3-8 to 1-0 thanks to the sharp shooting of Anna Geary and Aine Watson who contributed three first half goals between them. In the opening half, Fiona Morrissey, Mary Coleman and Sinéad McAuliffe were all on target with points.

Through that opening half Nenagh fought hard to get into the game but met with stern resistance from a well marshalled Charleville defence. Aoife McLoughney did breach the Charleville rearguard and struck for the Tipp girls opening score with a

well-deserved goal.

From the restart Nenagh again worked hard but it was Charleville who remained in front as Fiona Morrissey and Mary Ryan swapped points. Nenagh's Mary Ryan had her side's second goal when did well from an acute angle and with Aoife McLoughney repeating the feat it was now 3-10 to 3-2.

Now Charleville upped the pace and with Sinéad McAuliffe adding three points the advantage was consolidated once again. Mary Coleman had added their fourth goal before the impressive Anna Geary had the final say with a point to bring proceedings to their conclusion on a day when the champions retained their title with confidence.

Teams — Charleville: S O'Connor; M Broderick, E Potter, S Carroll; P O'Mahony, E Waters, F Chawke; A Geary, S Brosnan; M Coleman, S McAuliffe, M McCarthy; F Morrissey, A Shanahan, A Watson. Subs: S O'Leary for M Broderick, M O'Mahony for E Potter, S Sexton for S Carroll.

Nenagh: O Williams; M Hogan, M Sheedy, D Kavanagh; M Dunne, A Nolan, M Ruan; B O'Meara, T McLoughney; M Ryan, AM O'Brien, S Quinlan; F Kennedy, A McLoughney, A Cremin. Referee: P Mooney (Clare).

ST Mary's Charleville will be aiming to retain their senior A crown against last season's senior B champions Loreto, Fermoy, on Saturday in Fermoy at 2pm.

Both sides boast a host of inter-county players with the Watsons — Marie and Emer — Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan prominent for Charleville while the Twomeys — Denise and Deirdre — and Noreen Mulcahy will be to the fore for Loreto.

Charleville defeated Sacred Heart Clonakilly in their semi final outing while Fermoy had a victory over St Mary's Nenagh.

Loreto are the reigning Senior B all Ireland champions and having gaining promotion to A grade and they have made huge strides in reaching the A final at the first time of asking.

Given the strength and pedigree of the Charleville side a huge task lies ahead if Fermoy hope to succeed however the confidence gained last season will stand them in good stead and they are determined to give it their all.

Certainly a victory is not beyond their reach but it will take a huge effort to deny the girls from the highly successful and much admired Charleville.

FEB 2003

MUNSTER SCHOOLS CAMOGIE

The Junior Camogie team's quest for a Munster Schools title ended in disappointment at the semi-final stage on Friday last in Rosegreen (Cashel) when they were beaten by a very good Lismore team. The margin of eight points does little justice to Bortissokane efforts as the clinching second goal for Lismore came in the last minute at the end of a classic counter-attack when Bortissokane were camped in Lismore's half. There is no doubt that Lismore deserved to win. Physically bigger than the younger Bortissokane team, they resisted ever effort mounted by the Tipp girls to get through for the vital scores. Bortissokane can be very proud of the strides taken this year and with all but two of the panel under age again next year hopes are high.

Bortissokane lined out as follows: Antoinette King, Laura Tierney (capt.), Ann Cordial, Karen Seymour, Michelle Ryan, Andrea Davis, Emma McLoughney, Lorraine Davis, Vanessa Austin, Amanda Burke, Fiona Ryan, Melissa Austin. Subs used: Lisa Larkin, Joanne Stack, Marion Ryan.

Camogie

St Patrick's, Maghera powered to their eighth Com Eirínear camogie title in Ederdock on Saturday morning in what proved a one-sided Ulster Schools Junior A final against first-timers St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon. Maghera won 11-3 to 2-0. Maghera corner-forward Flannia O'Doherty was executioner-in-chief with four well-struck goals, while full-forward Maria McCullough grabbed three.

There were also strong performances from Aileen McKenna, Claire Quinn. The defence was also in great form.

Dungannon's inexperience was evident but Maria and Shauna Jordan, Niamh Gavin, Emma McElain and Lorna Canavan all worked very hard to stem the flow of scores.

Maghera led by 6-1 to 0-0 at half-time with O'Doherty and Maria McCullough among the goals.

They continued to fire home scores during the second half — but Kerry Scullion and Shauna Jordan did give the huge home support something to cheer about with two goals for the Academy.

St Patrick's, Maghera: G Boyle, C Bradley, L Glass, L McCullough, S Cassidy, I Cashman (0-1), M Bradley, A McKenna, J O'Hare (1-0), E Bradley (1-1), C McLellan, C Quinn (capt) (1-1), F O'Doherty (4-0), M McCullough (3-0), B Doherty (1-0). Subs: C O'Hara for C Bradley, S Murphy for C Quinn. St. Patrick's, Dungannon: L O'Connor, M McDonnell, G McCann, L McDonnell, T Lynn, N Devlin, S Raftery, M Jordan, D Campbell, K Scullion (1-0), N Gavin, M Jordan, A Campbell, C McNally, S Jordan (1-0). Subs: A O'Neill for G McCann, C Jordan for K Scullion, E McElain.

Eire Óg's Ellen O'Herlihy who plays for the Cork Combined Colleges outfit.



Sick worry for Bandon before final

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN
School's Junior B Camogie

PRESENTATION Bandon meet St Joseph's Borrisoleigh in the Munster Post Primary School's Junior B camogie final at Brinny tomorrow.

However, with five of her team going home sick during the week, coach Sinéad White will have to endure a few worrying moments before the throw-in time of 2pm.

"We are hoping that we will have a full recovery. Otherwise we will be in big trouble," she said.

Bandon have never won a camogie final in the modern era. This is the tag they bring with them into tomorrow's game, and uppermost in their mind will be getting over the disappointment of losing last Saturday's Munster Senior B final.

Half the team that were in action last week will be lining out again, and White is certain to use the defeat as a huge motivating tool.

"Last week we had a very young team, so I am hoping we will be more balanced this time. We will be going all out to try and capture the first title for these girls."

Cork minor Marguerite Nyhan will line out at half-back and Orla Coughlan will be another who Bandon will look to for experience. With them will be Janice O'Neill, Deirdre Coomey, Margaret Murphy, Colleen Long, Luck Hawkes and sub Breda Tuohy from last weekend's clash. A sister to former Tipp hurling leader Tommy Dunne, Triona is captain of Borrisoleigh. She was a member of last year's Tipp minor panel, as was goalkeeper Rosanna Kenneally.

Cork Colleges to go one better

THIS weekend is devoted to the Purcell Cup and Shield, hosted by Tralee IT for the first time.

In the Cup semi-finals on Saturday, UUJ play St Pat's, Drumcondra in Connolly Park at 1pm.

Cork Combined Colleges meet Mary Immaculate College of Limerick in Ballyheigue at 3pm with the final taking place in Kerins O'Rahilly's on Sunday at 3pm.

The Cork side were defeated at the final hurdle 12 months ago, but having learned from that experience, they will be formidable contestants this time.

And with players like Marie Smiddy from Killeagh, Jenny Duffy and Rachel Myers from St Finbarr's, Eire Óg's Ellen O'Herlihy, Linda Dorgan from Grenagh and Joanne O'Keeffe, who won a Junior A medal with Carrigaline in 2002, they will fancy their chances.

However, there is a even sprinkling of big names on the Limerick side that have proved their worth down through the years — Suzanne Kelly has won three All-Ireland senior medals with Tipperary; Linda Grogan, Galway trio Carmel Hannon, Veronica Curtin and Elaine Kerins; Máire Fleury from Offaly; Limerick's Sharon O'Shaughnessy; Orla Barry, Isla Dineen, Aoife Dillon, Ann Marie Fleury and Deirdre Daly from various Cork clubs.

In the Shield semi-finals on Saturday Tralee IT clash with Carlow IT in Kerins O'Rahilly's at 1pm, while GMIT are



Jenny Duffy of St Finbarr's, is one of the key players in for Cork Combined Colleges.

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN
Purcell Cup and Shield

up against Limerick IT in Páirc na nGael at 3pm.

Carlow are in the Shield having lost nine of last season's team and will look to Kilkenny stars Catherine Doherty and Catriona Ryan to get them back on track.

Tralee, who have only one native, Jackie Murnane, on their side, but have the likes of Karen Foley, Mary Murphy, Deirdre O'Reilly, Esther Power (all Cork clubs), and Catherine Creed from

Limerick to see them through.

The second semi-final sees last season's Limerick county captain Vera Sheehan as manager of the Limerick IT side.

Her inter-county colleagues Eileen O'Brien, Joanne Clifford and Marie Keating along with Barryroe's Mary Keohane will be the players to look out for here.

The GMIT panel consists mainly of students from the Clare/Galway region. The Shield final precedes the Cup final on Sunday in Kerins O'Rahilly's at 3pm.

Mary's should prevail in final

TOMORROW'S Munster Post Primary Senior A camogie final sees no less than nine of last year's winning All-Ireland Cork minor team in action, writes Theresa O'Callaghan. Five of the St Mary's Charleville team and four from Loreto in Fermoy will square up when the sides meet at the Fermoy GAA grounds at 2pm.

You could make that 10, when you consider that Edwina Waters from Ballyhea was selected on the All-Ireland team but did not start.

Valerie McCormack, Noreen Mulcahy, Denise Twomey and Marie O'Neill will head up the Fermoy challenge, while Charleville's big guns will be Emer Watson, Elaine O'Riordan, Anna Geary, Mary Coleman and Lisa Healy.

Understandably, with so much talent on view, St Mary's coach Vincent Harrington will not be taking anything for granted. "Loreto are a fine side, you would have to respect them," he warned. They have 11 of last year's All-Ireland Senior B team. In the Munster 7-a-side, we both got to the final, so that shows how strong they are."

Fermoy, trained by Ger Holland, will also be well aware of what they are up against. Charleville, who are the All-Ireland title-holders, have 10 of last season's team in their lineup and with the exception of the injured Sharon Lenihan, they will be at full strength.

Lenihan picked up a knee injury with Milford in the 2002 senior B county final.

The outcome will not be as decisive as their other victories, but Charleville should keep their record intact.

Camogie fixture

SUNDAY
Cork College's Intermediate A camogie final: St Mary's Midleton v St Als, Aghada, 2pm.

Bravery not enough for gallant Nenagh girls

St Mary's Charleville 4-13 St Mary's Nenagh 3-2

By Gerry Slevin

Nenagh knew they were up against it and when their Charleville rivals eased into a 1-5 to 0-0 lead after fifteen minutes, it seemed a question of how much would separate the teams three quarters of an hour later.

Fourteen points was the eventual margin but Nenagh were far from being disgraced and in coming up against their great rivals, they were meeting a team brimful of confidence and having the physique and the skills to match it.

Yes, St Mary's Charleville as expected, captured yet another Munster Colleges junior 'A' camogie title on Saturday and not even the long journey up to Dolla failed to dampen their enthusiasm.

The country's greatest camogie nursery seems to have a plethora of outstanding players coming on stream year after year and the Nenagh girls for all their bravery just hadn't the wherewithal to curb the present brigade. They were behind 3-8 to 1-0 at half time, Aoife McLoughney's goal at the start of the second quarter, lifting the siege somewhat only to see it's value wiped out within a minute when Charleville struck back for a similar score.

The visitors were very strong down the middle and the Nenagh back line was put under severe pressure.

That 3-8 interval score would have been far greater but for the display of Orla Williams between the Nenagh posts and the Kilruane lass was to continue in the same vein in the second half, bringing off a string of magnificent saves.

FINE GOAL

Charleville added two early second half points before Nenagh struck for a fine goal in the 8th minute. A well directed line ball from Michelle Dunne was added to by Aoife McLoughney and while Charleville responded with two points, it was to Nenagh's credit that they never gave up. Following a converted 45 by Mary Ryan (Moneygall) in the 14th minute, the best score of the hour emerged just on the three quarter mark when Mary



Some of the St. Mary's players Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Michelle Dunne (Kilruane), Marie Sheedy (Portroe), Aoife Ryan (Burgess), Brid O'Meara (Toomevara), Joanne Nolan (Silvermines), Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers). Picture Bridget Delaney.

soloed through and sent a blistering shot from twenty metres out to notch Nenagh's third goal.

There was never any doubt about the end result but Nenagh gave it everything and had to be satisfied with a Mary Ryan point from a free eight minutes from time, while the visitors came for a fourth goal and in the end were worthy winners.

Having a strong wind advantage helped Charleville's first half cause but wind or no wind, the cold truth is that there was never going to be any result other than a decisive Charleville victory.

NO ASPERSIONS

That isn't to cast any aspersions on their Nenagh opponents, who lacked nothing in commitment. But in overall strength, slickness and scoring ability, they could not match their great rivals, whose stranglehold on the competition looks like being continued well into the future.

No blame to Orla Williams between the Nenagh posts while in front of her, Marie Sheedy, Michelle Dunne and Joanne Nolan did everything possible to curb the flow of Charleville's attacking play.

Farther out, Tracey McLoughlin, Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Aoife McLoughney and Fiona Kennedy were best.

Charleville has been a centre of camogie excellence for several years now and Saturday showed up a number of Cork and Limerick stars of the future. Elaine Potter, Edwina Waters, Anna Geary, Mary Coleman, Sinead McAuliffe, Fiona Morrissey, Aine Watson are names that will be heard of again on camogie's playing fields.

SCORERS

Scorers for Charleville were, A. Geary 2-2, S. McAuliffe 0-6 (2 frees), A. Watson 1-1, M. Coleman 1-1, F. Morrissey 0-3. Nenagh's replies came from A. McLoughney 2-0, M. Ryan

1-2

ST MARY'S CHARLEVILLE: Sinead O'Connor, Marie Broderick, Elaine Potter, Sinead Carroll, Sarah O'Mahoney, Edwina Waters, Fiona Chawke, Anna Geary, Shannon Brosnan, Mary Coleman, Sinead McAuliffe capt, Michelle McCarthy, Fiona Morrissey, Tina Shanahan, Aine Watson.

Subs - Siobhan O'Leary for Broderick, Mary O'Mahoney for Carroll.

ST MARY'S, NENAGH: Orla Williams (Kilruane), Marion Hogan (Burgess), Marie Sheedy (Portroe), Deirdre Kavanagh (Burgess), Michelle Dunne (Kilruane), Joanne Nolan capt, (Silvermines), Mary Ryan (Burgess), Breda O'Meara (Toomevara), Tracy McLoughlin (Portroe), Mary Ryan (Moneygall), Ann Marie O'Brien (Burgess), Sinead Quinlan (Burgess), Fiona Kennedy (Toomevara), Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers), Mary Cremin (Burgess).

Subs - Aoife Ryan (Burgess) for Hogan, Siobhan Kennedy (Toomevara) for Cremin.

Referee: Pauline Mooney, Co. Clare.

Bandon girls capture first Munster title

Coláiste na Toirbhíre, Bandon
St Joseph's, Borrisoleigh

1-10
2-1

BANDON put the disappointment of last weekend's Munster Senior B final behind them as they gave a powerful display to capture their first Munster Junior B Colleges camogie title.

Bandon took the game to their opponents with Margaret Murphy (3), Coleen Long and Breda Twohy all pointed to open up a five point lead.

Triona Dunne opened the Tipperary girl's account with a pointed 45 in the 21st minute but with Margaret Murphy replying the Cork girls led 0-6 to 0-1 at the interval.

On the restart Orla Coughlan and Coleen Long extended their lead with points. With their half back line of Marguerite Nyhan, Lucy Hawkes, and Orla O'Regan superb, Bandon closed down the Borrisoleigh attack, while the vital goal came 12 minutes into the half from Deirdre Coomey.

Borrisoleigh continued to press and forced Janice O'Neill in the Bandon goal to bring off a good save before Emma O'Meara and Michelle Coffey finally breached the Bandon defence with late goals in the 25th and 27th minute.

Margaret Murphy and Coleen Long had insurance points to Bandon give their first major title.

Scorers, Coláiste na Toirbhíre, Bandon: M Murphy 0-5 (0-2 frees), C Long 0-3, D Coomey 1-0, B Twohy, E Coughlan 0-1 each.

St Joseph's, Borrisoleigh: E O'Meara, M Coffey 1-0 each, E Dunne 0-1.

COLAISTE NA TOIRBHÍRE, BANDON: J O'Neill, A Nyhan, S Walsh, F Deasy, M Nyhan, L Hawkes, O O'Regan, O Coughlan, D Coomey, B Twohy, M Murphy, C Long, D Lee, D O'Sullivan, L O'Sullivan. Subs: C Hurley for D O'Sullivan, S Ryan for A Lee, D Hegarty for L O'Sullivan.

ST JOSEPH'S, BORRISOLEIGH: R Kenneally, M Ryan, G Ryan, J O'Brien, E O'Meara, M Bradshaw, K Lyons, T Dunne, E Tracey, S Young, E Young, J Carey, Marie Coffey, Michelle Coffey, L Young. Subs: O Ryan for Marie Coffey, G Purcell for L Young.

Referee: D Daly (Sarsfields).

Camogie

Holders St Patrick's, Maghera claimed a record ninth Uistur Colleges' Senior Camogie title in Edendork on Saturday - but it took a goal from bustling centre-forward Gemma Heaney ten minutes for the end to edge home against St Mary's Magherafelt by 2-4 to 2-2 in a typical derby final pairing. Maghera dominated general play and held out to move on to nine titles in 16 seasons.

St Patrick's: E O'Doherty, N Bradley, A Mullin, M McManus, J Kelly, C Cushman (capt), C Quinn, A Ward (0-3 frees), B Convery, C Quinn, G Heaney (1-0), A O'Kane, B Kidd, C McCloy (1-1), C Kearney.

Subs: J Quinn for A O'Kane, N Kelly for B Kidd.

St Mary's: H O'Neill, C Higgins (capt), S Heaney, K Higgins, R Lennon, M Kelly, B McLernon, J McVey, K McCoy, A Lavery (0-1 free), C O'Boyle (0-1), K McAuley, A Wilkinson, R McDonald (2-0), C McAteer.

Subs: L Mooney for K Higgins, G Mulholland for R Lennon, K Lavery for G Mulholland (48), E Kelly for M Kelly.

Referee: L Fay (Tyronne).

■ St Louis, Ballymena made it four Fr Davies Cup titles in five years, completely overpowering surprise finalists St Malachy's, Castletewellan 9-3 to 0-0 in Edendork on Saturday.

St Louis, Ballymena: N Graham, N Neeson, C Kearney, O McIntyre, R Graham, B McKiney (captain), K Convery, S Agnew, S Wilson, K Crossley (1-0), E McCann (3-1, 0-1 free), S McAleese, S McAleese (1-0), T McAleese (2-1), B Clarke (2-1).

St Malachy's: A Cunningham, L Smyth, B McCullough, J Brannagan, K McMullan, B Morgan, B Rose Morgan, C Cunningham (capt), P Trainor, O McMullan, K O'Higgins, J Brannagan, M McPolin, U O'Prey, J Trainor.



The Coachford team, with coach Rob Lotty and captain Joan Twomey after they beat Bandon in the Munster Colleges Senior B Camogie final at Coachford.

Picture: Richard Mills.

FEB 2003

MUNSTER COLLEGES

CAMOGIE 2003

SENIOR A FINAL

SAT 8th FEB @ FERMOY 2pm

ST. MARY'S, CHARLEVILLE

V

LORETO, FERMOY

REF: COLETTE O' MAHONY

St. Mary's, Charleville

[Sky Blue Jersey, Navy skirt]

1. Natasha Murphy	18/9/86	Kilmallock
2. Amy Morrissey	17/9/85	Ballyhea
3. Amy McCarthy	12/1/84	Granagh / B.Garry
4. Catriona Noonan	1/5/84	Granagh / B.Garry
5. Lisa Healy	7/4/86	Milford
6. Edwina Waters	20/3/87	Ballyhea
7. Karen O' Leary	7/9/85	Ballyhea
8. Anna Geary	28/7/87	Milford
9. Elaine O' Riordan	26/8/86	Milford
10. Mary Coleman	4/8/87	Ballyhea
11. Aoife Sheehan [C]	7/8/84	Granagh / B.Garry
12. Aisling O' Brien	5/7/85	Granagh / B.Garry
13. Emer Watson	7/7/86	Milford
14. Maria Watson	13/5/85	Milford
15. Sinéad McAuliffe	28/1/87	Ballyagran

SUBS:

16. Leonie Boyce	4/11/85	Granagh / B.Garry
17. Fiona Geary	3/9/86	Granagh / B.Garry
18. Christine O' Shea	23/5/86	Granagh / B.Garry
19. Fiona Chawke	16/7/87	Granagh / B.Garry
20. Fiona Morrissey	21/7/88	Granagh / B.Garry
21. Aine Watson	7/4/88	Milford

SELECTORS:

Ann Marie O' Keeffe
Vince Harrington

Loreto, Fermoy

[Red Jersey, Red skirt]

1. Valerie McCormack	15/2/86	Kildorrery
2. Aisling Cotter	24/9/84	St. Catherine's
3. Marie Twomey	6/8/86	St. Catherine's
4. Ciara Lynch	18/9/88	Kildorrery
5. Andrea Mangan	6/10/85	St. Catherine's
6. Noreen Mulcahy	26/2/86	St. Catherine's
7. Niamh Barry [C]	13/9/84	St. Catherine
8. Michelle McAteer	27/4/86	Watergrasshill
9. Marie O' Neill	28/12/86	Watergrasshill
10. Orla Cotter	27/7/88	St. Catherine's
11. Sharon Moroney	11/6/84	Watergrasshill
12. Noreen O' Farrell	9/1/87	Watergrasshill
13. Patricia Carroll	5/4/86	Castleyons
14. Denise Twomey	10/5/86	St. Catherine's
15. Ciara O' Driscoll	11/1/86	Castleyons

SUBS:

16. Katie Barry	22/10/85	Kildorrery
17. Tracy Barry	11/8/86	St. Catherine's
18. Katie Kelleher	17/7/85	Castleyons
19. Mary Aherne	17/5/85	St. Catherine's
20. Deirdre McCurtain	16/9/85	Fermoy
21. Bridget Forde	23/9/85	Watergrasshill
22. Laura Cronin	13/11/86	Watergrasshill
23. Claire O' Farrell	9/7/87	Watergrasshill
24. Elaine O' Leary	13/9/86	Watergrasshill
25. Helena O' Neill	28/12/86	Watergrasshill
26. Aoife Gardiner	14/2/87	Watergrasshill
27. Orna Neville	6/9/88	St. Catherine's
28. Deirdre Twomey	2/3/89	St. Catherine's
29. Aileen Hogan	18/10/88	St. Catherine's

SELECTORS:

Ger Holland

St Mary's take intermediate title

St Mary's Midleton
St Aloysius

2-3
1-1

by Mary Newman

MIDLETON coached by former Fr O Neills player Helen O'Connell and Marie Normile took the Cork colleges Intermediate championship title at the expense of St Aloysius on Saturday in Aghada.

Midleton can thank their excellent defence who had to withstand tremendous second half pressure from a determined St Als who despite trailing never gave up.

Midleton took an early lead with a well struck Nicola Nagle goal and it helped them settle. Gearoidin Kearney had pointed a 15th minute free before St Als Rena Buckley opened with a point, but this was to be her side's only score of the first half. Midleton, enjoying plenty of possession, were quick to grab any chances that came their way, and nine minutes from the break Angela Walsh sent a low struck free to the net. Now dominant Midleton came in search of more. Kearney and Katie Ahern added points to leave them ahead at the break 2-3 to 0-1.

With their defence ably led by captain Gearoidin Kearney, who had by now switched back to strengthen the rearguard, and Catherine O'Shea magnificent, Midleton again settled quickly into the second half. St Als came out determined. Veronica Russell, Mary Buckley and Margaret O'Herlihy worked hard to bring them into the game. Ten minutes into the half Rena Buckley struck for a goal and from here on they worked hard but found



St Mary's Midleton captain Gearoidin Kearney, referee Jack McGrath and St Als, Cork captain Amy Hayes prior to the Cork Colleges Intermediate Camogie final last Saturday in Aghada.

the going tough against a determined Midleton. The master move by the shrewd Midleton mentors, which saw Captain Gearoidin Kearney operating in defence for the second half, was paying dividends as she showed great experience and calmness under pressure.

Up front the Midleton forwards were now being held by the much improved St Als de-

fence but they had done enough to maintain their lead.

For St Aloysius Rena Buckley, Amy Hayes and Margaret O'Herlihy tried to the finish while Midleton captain Gearoidin Kearney, Angela Walsh, Caroline O'Driscoll and Kerina Richards were superb.

Midleton: C O'Driscoll, B Cullinane O'Shea, K Fitzpatrick Richards O'Connell, A M Hen-

nessey Walsh McCarthy Kearney capt., A M O'Keeffe Lane Ahern, N Nagle, C Murphy, Subs C Motherway for J Lane, E O'Brien for J McCarthy.

St Als: S Ni Riain, J Clare Buckley Russell, A Hayes, G Mulqueen, Cullinane, Buckley, O'Herlihy Hosford, R O'Sullivan Cullinane, A Murphy O'Riordan, C McCarthy. Sub N Long for C McCarthy.

Bandon win Munster crown

Colaiste Na Toibhirte Bandon 1-10
St Joseph's Borrisoleigh 2-1

by Mary Newman

COACH Sinead White could hardly contain her delight at her side's capture of their first Munster colleges title on Saturday last in Brinney. The Bandon side turned in superb performance and put the disappointment of losing the Senior B final behind them.

"Over the last eight year we have worked so hard to promote the game in the school and this win will do us the world of good. So many people have helped us to reach our goal, the school were fully behind us as were all the pupils and parents, while our sponsors Macs Toys ensured both the senior and junior team were well toggled out."

A tremendous defensive display from Bandon saw them contain their opponents to just one point in the opening half Marguerite Nyhan, Frances Deasy and Lucy Hawks all performing admirably. Bandon got a good start with a Margaret Murphy point and as Colleen Long, Breda Tuohy and Murphy all adding further point Bandon extended their lead.

Borrisoleigh goalkeeper Rosanna Kennelly brought off two excellent saves as Bandon kept the pressure on. Triona Dunne had the Tipperary sides first score a pointed 45, but Marguerite Murphy added two points as Bandon held 0-6 to 0-1 intervals.

Orla Coughlan and Colleen Long added Bandon points early in the second half and 10 minutes into the half Deirdre Coomey had Bandon 1-8 to 0-1 ahead when

she finished to the net.

Colleen Long added a point, but still Borrisoleigh worked to try and cut the deficit as they forced Janice O'Neill to bring off a good save before they added two goals from Emma O'Meara and Michelle Coffee. Bandon replied with a point from the hard working Marguerite Murphy to give them a well deserved victory.

Colaiste Na Toibhirte, Bandon:

J O'Neill, A Nyhan, S Walsh, F Deasy, M Nyhan Hawks, O'Regan, O'Coughlan Coomey, B Tuohy, M Murphy Long, A Lee, D O'Sullivan, L O'Sullivan. Subs: C Hurley for D O'Sullivan, S Ryan for A Lee, D Hegarty for L O'Sullivan.

St Joseph's Borrisoleigh:

R Kennelly, G Ryan, J O'Brien, E O'Meara, M Bradshaw, K Lyons Dunne, E Tracey, S Young, J Carey, M Carey, Marie Coffee, Michelle Coffee, L Young. Subs: O'Riordan for Marie Coffee, G Purcell for L Young.

Referee: Dave Daly.

Loreto crushed in final

St Mary's Charleville 6-9
Loreto Fermoy 0-9

Holdings and All Ireland champions St Marys Charleville retained their Munster Colleges senior A title in emphatic fashion against Loreto Fermoy. With the Watson sisters, Anna Geary, Elaine O'Riordan and Christine O'Gorman dominant Fermoy had no answer to the Charleville side that on this display will be favoured to retain their All Ireland crown.

CAMOGIE

PURCELL CUP, Semi-finals: Mary I, Limerick 5-7, Cork Colleges of Further Education 1-1, UUJ 4-12, St Patrick's Drumcondra 2-2.

PURCELL SHIELD, Semi-finals: Tralee IT 1-9, Carlow IT 1-8, Limerick IT 2-9, GMIT 3-5.

MUNSTER COLLEGES SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP Finals: Senior A: St Marys Charleville 6-9, Loreto Fermoy 0-9, Junior B: Presentation Bandon 1-10, St Joseph's Borrisoleigh 2-1, Inter B final: St Marys Midleton 2-3, St Als Cork 1-1.

ULSTER COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIP Finals: Senior A: St Patrick's Maghera 2-4, St Marys Magherafield 2-2, Senior B: St Louis Ballymena 9-3, St Molachy's Castlewellan 0-0.

UUJ record Cup victory

UUJ
Mary Immaculate College

1-7
0-1

by Mary Newman

UUJ won the Purcell Cup camogie title with nine points to spare over a disappointing Mary I in Tralee yesterday. On Saturday, UUJ had recorded a comprehensive 4-12 to 2-2 semi-final victory over St. Patrick's, Drumcondra whilst Mary I had set the stage for the final with a similar victory over the Cork Colleges of Further Education on a 5-7 to 1-1 scoreline.

Marie McNaughton's first-half goal helped UUJ to an interval lead of 1-3 to 0-0 with Finola Carroll, Jane Adams and Paula McAtamney all contributing to their tally. On the turnover, Mary I tried to stay with their opponents who in truth, had too much strength for the Limerick college. Mary I's only response was a solitary point.

Scorers for UUJ: M. McNaughton 1-0, J. Adams 0-3, P. McAtamney 0-2, L. McCrickard, F. Carroll 0-1 each.

Mary Immaculate - D. Fitzpatrick 0-1.

UUJ: C. Doherty, O. Donnelly, M. Graham, J. McAlenen, F. Hasson, M. McAuley, G. McGoldrick, J. Adams, C. McGourty, A. Tohill, F. Carroll, L. McCrickard, M. McNaughton, P. McAtamney, S. Kelly.

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE: M. Kelly, S. Kelly, J. O'Halloran, A. Dillon, A.M. Fleming, S. O'Shaughnessy, M. Crean, O. Hannon, E. Kerins, D. Daly, V. Curtin, D. Fitzpatrick, L. Grogan, M. Ref: B. Nugent (Offaly).

Limerick IT 6-5
Tralee IT 3-9

IN the Purcell Shield Final Limerick IT defeated Tralee IT. Elaine Gallery, with two goals and Aoife Murray with one, set the foundations for victory as Marie Keating contributed 3-1 to the Limerick side's tally.

Scorers for Limerick - M. Keating 3-1, E. Gallery 2-0, E. O'Brien 0-4, A. Murray 1-0. Tralee - L.B. Byrne 1-5, C. Carroll 0-3, C. Cummane, O. Curtin 1-0 each, K. Foley 0-1.

Camogie

UUJ delivered on their huge potential - lifting their second Purcell Cup title in three seasons in Tralee yesterday afternoon as they saw off a star-studded Mary I side from Limerick with an easy 1-7 to 0-1 victory.

UUJ won because they had a better all-round team and successfully closed down the threat posed by Suzanne Kelly, Carmel Hannon and Veronica Curtin.

Both UUJ and Mary I had wide margins of victory in Saturday's semi-finals with the Shore Road girls beating St Pat's Drumcondra by 4-12 to 2-2 with goals from Jane Adams, Maria McNaughton, Fionnuala Carr and Susan Kelly.

Mary I scored a 5-7 to 1-1 victory over Cork Colleges, with Veronica Curtin bagging 3-4 of the total.

However, Jordanstown were much more focussed as a team in the final and Maria McNaughton scored a very important goal just a couple of minutes before the break to double their advantage at that stage.

After the break, the half-forward line of Fionnuala Carr, Jane Adams and Paula McAtamney pinned the game down in the Limerick half of the pitch and along with a superb defence and Aileen Tohill won with plenty to spare.

The Shield final was a thrilling high-scoring game eventually won by the other Limerick side (IT) by 6-5 to the home side's (Tralee IT) 3-9.

MUNSTER COLLEGES SENIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP 2003

Quarter Final:

Clonakilty	4-2	Mercy, Waterford	1-7
Loreto, Fermoy	9-14	Borrisoleigh	0-1
St. Pat's, Shannon	w/o	Nenagh	

Semi Final:

Charleville	5-12	Clonakilty	0-5
Nenagh	4-3	Fermoy	7-13

MICE go down without a squeak

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN
Purcell Cup round-up

UUJ 1-7
MICE Limerick 0-1

MYSTERIOUSLY, MICE failed to make any impression in yesterday's Purcell Cup final, more especially as they had a convincing 5-7 to 1-1 win over a fancied Cork Combined Colleges side in the semi-final.

UUJ, with county stars Fiona Carr, Jane Adams and Paula McAtamney in splendid form, took the game to their opponents from the outset. They led 1-3 to 0-0 at half-time and never allowed the Limerick college make any inroads into this one-sided contest.

Meanwhile Limerick IT had a comfortable win over Tralee IT in the Purcell Shield final (6-5 to 3-9).

Vera Sheehan made it a memorable weekend for the Sheehan household when yesterday she managed Limerick IT to Purcell Shield victory 24 hours after her sister Aoife successfully captained St. Mary's, Charleville against Fermoy.

"It is a great win because some of these players have never won any sort of a medal. It is also a fantastic boost to the college," Vera Sheehan said.

LIT came from two points down in the closing stages to win by five, thanks to a late goal from Marie Keating. The Limerick county player was in tremendous form, hitting a hat-trick for the winners.

Elaine Gallery was another to impress with a pair of goals, while Aoife Murray opened their scoring after Tralee IT went into an early lead of 1-2 to 0-0.

In addition, the switch of centre-forward Eileen O'Brien as an extra defender late in the game proved to be instrumental in taking the spoils.

CAMOGIE CRACKER: Emer Watson scored one of the finest goals ever seen in schools camogie for St Mary's Charleville in their 6-9 to 0-5 demolition of Loreto Fermoy. Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Watson's goal was one of the best ever

St Mary's Charleville 6-9
Loreto Fermoy 0-5

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN
At Fermoy

THERE is no substitute for class.

That was the underlying theme that emerged in Fermoy on Saturday in the Munster Colleges senior A camogie final.

The winners' excellence was clearly illustrated by one of the finest goals ever to be seen at a schools match.

With a mere flick of the hurley and showing sublime skill, Emer Watson beat off two players to deftly crash an unbelievable drive to the roof of the Loreto net.

Her sister Maria scored two goals, while inspirational captain Aoife

Sheehan bagged another.

Understandably, Fermoy boss Ger Holland was bitterly disappointed with the scoreline.

"Charleville got off to a brilliant start with four goals after 15 minutes.

"They have set the standard and all we can do is try and come to meet it."

And yet you could not say that Loreto were poor. They fought tooth and nail in the heavy conditions and never grew despondent.

Goalkeeper Valerie McCormack, full-back Marie Twomey and centre-back Noreen Mulcahy tried everything to thwart the multi-talented St Mary's forward line.

And at midfield Marie O'Neill and full-forward Denise Twomey threw down the gauntlet.

But Charleville are blessed with talent, are quick thinking and have almost a decade of unrivalled experience.

Constantly being driven on by mentors Vincent Harrington and Ann Marie O'Keefe, the players respond magnificently.

Their six forwards could grace any inter-county team. The hard-working duo of Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan make up one of the finest midfield pairings, and they have a resolute half-back line of Lisa Healy, Edwina Waters and Karen O'Leary.

According to O'Keefe their forthcoming clash with Coláiste Brígid will seriously test her side.

"They beat us in the junior grade

in 2000, and we will have more or less the same players.

"We will have to travel too, which is a big plus for the Wexford side. Nevertheless, we will work hard over the next four weeks."

Scorers for Charleville: E Watson 3-0, M Watson 2-1, A Sheehan 1-2, A Geary 0-3, S McAuliffe 0-2, A O'Brien 0-1.

Scorers for Fermoy: N Mulcahy (pen, 65m) and D Twomey (frees) 0-2 each, M O'Neill 0-1.

CHARLEVILLE: N Murphy, A Morrissey, A McCarthy, C Noonan, L Healy, E Waters, K O'Leary, A Geary, E O'Riordan, M Coleman, A Sheehan (capt), A O'Brien, E Watson, M Watson, S McAuliffe.

FERMOY: V McCormack, A Cotter, M Twomey, C Lynch, A Mangan, N Mulcahy, N Barry (capt), M McAteer, M O'Neill, O Cotter, S Moroney, N O'Farrell, H O'Neill, D Twomey, C O'Driscoll.

Subs: T Barry for A Cotter (28 mins), P Carroll for S Moroney (54 mins).

Referee: C O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).

Bandon win with style

Presentation Bandon 1-10
St Joseph's Borrisoleigh 2-1

WHEN the chance finally presented itself, Presentation Bandon were overjoyed to accept the Munster Junior B Colleges trophy at Brinny on Saturday, writes **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**.

Having lost the senior "B" final a week earlier, and with over half the team again involved, the pain of losing would have been too much to bear.

But, there was never any fear, and considering that Borrisoleigh got their two goals in the closing minutes, they were well on top over the hour.

"We are over the moon," said a delighted coach Sinéad White.

"It was a very wet day and the match was delayed 45 minutes as the Borrisoleigh bus broke down.

"It was difficult to keep the girls focused for this period, but they never lost concentration.

"I am particularly pleased for our generous sponsors McToys of Bandon."

With Lucy Hawkes and Orla O'Regan outstanding in defence, and Orla Coughlan's intelligent play at midfield, the Cork school led by six points at the break.

And then the all-important goal arrived mid-way through the half from centre-field player Deirdre Coomey to

give them an unassailable lead of 1-10 to 0-1 approaching the final moments.

Only for the bravery of Rosanna Kenneally in the Borrisoleigh goal, Bandon would have had a wider margin of victory.

Scorers for Bandon: M Murphy 0-5, D Coomey 1-0, C Long 0-3, O Coughlan and B Tuohy 0-1 each.

BANDON: J O'Neill, S Walsh, L Hawkes, L O'Sullivan, A Nyhan, M Nyhan, O O'Regan, D Coomey, O Coughlan, C Long, M Murphy, B Tuohy, A Lee, F Deasy, D O'Sullivan.

Subs: S Ryan for A Lee, A M O'Mahony for L O'Sullivan, D Hegarty for D O'Sullivan (all 55 mins).

BORRISOLEIGH: R Kenneally, M Ryan, G Ryan, J O'Brien, E O'Meara, M Bradshaw, K Lyons, T Dunne, E Treacy, S Young, E Young, J Carey, Marie Coffey, Michelle Coffey, L Young.

Referee: D Daly (Mayfield).

Walsh is the star

St Mary's Midleton 2-3
St Al's 1-1

after a brilliant solo effort.

Buckley secured the entire St Al's tally, with their goal coming five minutes from time.

THIS Cork Colleges Intermediate A final played at Aghada on Saturday turned out to be a battle supreme between midfielders Angela Walsh of Midleton and St. Al's Rena Buckley.

Walsh had a hand in almost all of Midleton's scores, setting up Nicola Nagle for the opening goal after just 60 seconds and in the 18th minute she superbly split the Al's defence to crash to the net

Scorers for Midleton: N Nagle and A Walsh 1-0 each, G Kearney 0-2 (0-1 free), K Ahern 0-1.

Scorers for St Al's: R Buckley 1-1 (0-1 free).

MIDLETON: C O'Driscoll, B Cullinane, C O'Shea, C Murphy, K Fitzpatrick, K Richards, C O'Connell, A M Hennessy, A Walsh, L McCarthy, G Kearney (capt), A M O'Keefe, J Lane, K Ahern, N Nagle.

Subs: C Motherway for J Lane (35 mins), E O'Brien for N Nagle (45 mins).

ST AL'S: S Ni Riain, J Clair, M Buckley, V Russell, A Hayes (capt), G Mulqueen, M T Cullinane, R Buckley, M O'Herlihy, V Hosford, R O'Sullivan, J Cullinane, A Murphy, R O'Riordan, C McCarthy.

Sub: N Long for C McCarthy (50 mins).

Referee: J McGrath (Carrigaline).

St Mary's make it eight titles in nine years

St. Mary's, Charleville
Loreto, Fermoy

6-9
0-5

by Tom Higgins

HOLDERS St Mary's, Charleville had a convincing victory over Loreto, Fermoy in the Munster Colleges Senior 'A' camogie final at Fermoy on Saturday.

St Mary's had the game in safe keeping after only 14 minutes when the led 4-3 to 0-2.

Denise Twomey opened the scoring for the losers in the opening minute but after Maria Watson levelled matters within a minute it was all St Mary's in the opening quarter. Goals from Maria Watson, Emer Watson (2) and Aoife Sheehan put the winners in the driving seat and although the tempo dropped in the second quarter the

holders, who were seeking their eighth title in nine years, turned over leading 4-4 to 0-3.

Loreto put on the pressure at the beginning of the second half, with their star player Marie O'Neill playing well at centre-field, but found a very solid St. Mary's defence hard to breach.

Although they added a further two points to their tally in the opening seven minutes, once St Mary's upped the tempo once more it was only a case of how much they would win by.

Scorers: St. Mary's: E. Watson 3-0, M. Watson 2-1, A. Sheehan 1-2 (0-1 free), A. Geary 0-3, S. McAuliffe 0-1, A. O'Brien 0-1.

Loreto: N. Mulcahy 0-2 (0-1 *30, 0-1, penalty), D. Twomey 0-2 (0-1, free), M. O'Neill 0-1.

ST. MARY'S: N. Murphy; A. Morrissey, A. McCarthy, C. Noonan; L. Healy, E. Waters, K. O'Leary; A. Geary, E. O'Riordan; M. Coleman, A. Sheehan (capt), A. O'Brien 0-1; E. Watson, M. Watson, S. McAuliffe.

LORETO (FERMOY): V. McCormack; A. Cotter, M. Twomey, C. Lynch; A. Mangan, N. Mulcahy.

N. Barry (capt), M. MacAteer, M. O'Neill; O. Cotter, S. Moroney, N. O'Farrell; H. O'Neill, D. Twomey, C. O'Driscoll. Subs: T. Barry for A. Cotter (28th minute), P. Carroll for S. Moroney (54th minute).

Referee: Ms. C. O'Mahony (St).

St Mary's, Midleton
St Aloysius

2-3
1-1

ST MARY'S Midleton, captured the Cork Colleges Intermediate A Championship title with a five point victory over St Al's at Aghada on Saturday.

First half goals from Nicola Nagle and Angela Walsh helped the east Cork girls enjoy a 2-3 to 0-1 half time lead, their points coming from captain Gearoidine Kearney 0-2, and Katie Ahern, to which St Al's Rena Buckley replied.

On the turnover St Al's looked much sharper but met stern resistance from a determined St Mary's defence where Gearoidine Kearney, Catherine

O'Shea and Caroline O'Driscoll excelled.

Ten minutes into the half Rena Buckley goal for St Al's and their followed a hectic 20 minutes where despite play swinging from end to end both sides failed to register a score thanks in the main to excellent defences.

Scorers: St. Mary's Midleton: N. Nagle 1-0, A. Walsh 1-0, G. Kearney 0-2 (0-1 free), K. Ahern 0-1.

St. Aloysius: R. Buckley 1-1.

ST MARY'S MIDLETON: C. O'Driscoll, B. Cullinane, C. O'Shea, K. Fitzpatrick, K. Richards, C. O'Connell, AM Hennessey, A. Walsh, J. McCarthy, G. Kearney, AM O'Keefe, J. Lane, K. Ahern, N. Nagle, C. Murphy. Subs: C. Motherway for J. Lane, E. O'Brien for J. McCarthy.

ST ALOYSIUS, MIDLETON: S. Ni Riain, J. Clair, M. Buckley, V. Russell, A. Hayes, G. Mulqueen, MT Cullinane, R. Buckley, M. O'Herlihy, V. Hosford, R. O'Sullivan, J. Cullinane, A. Murphy, R. O'Riordan, C. McCarthy. Sub: N. Long for C. McCarthy.

Referee: Jack McGrath (Carrigaline).

FEB.

2003

Cup time at UCC

by Mary Newman

UCC play hosts to the most prestigious and oldest camogie competition at the weekend when Ashbourne Cup comes Leaside. Last year CIT successfully hosted the competition and this year it's the turn of UCC to repeat the performances and high standards which were attained last year.

Ashbourne Cup has a special aura and a legions of camogie players have made their names playing in what is without doubt one of the association's exciting competitions.

Weather conditions have always dictated matters on Ashbourne weekend and have sometimes played a part in many sides downfall. Let's keep the fingers crossed that the weekend ahead will be kind to the legions of students who will travel to Cork.

The hosts are holders of the Ashbourne having wrestled the title from the grasp of Waterford Institute of Technology in an exciting final in Ballinlough last year.

Ironically this year's draw has again pitted the same teams together and they will meet at the semi-final stage in what is sure to be the game of the weekend at the Farm on Saturday at 12.30 with the second semi-final University of Limerick against UCD at 2.30 at the same venue.

UCC are holders and firm favourites to retain their crown and take their 31st Ashbourne title. They field a strong side which is a who's who of inter-county players. Cork captain Una O'Donoghue will feature prominently in attack a will her inter county team mate Rachel Moloney, while Cork seniors Ger Casey, Sarah Hayes, Sinéad Buckley, Rosalie Holland, Joanne O'Callaghan will feature strongly in defence. Tipperary's Una O'Dwyer captains a side that can call on her county team mate Emer McDonnell, Kilkenny's Lizzie Lyng and Elaine Alward and Angela Kenneally.

Waterford I T captured their first Ashbourne title in 1999 and repeated the feat in 2001. They are determined to make amends for last season and go all the way this time out. Cork's Catherine Corkery is joined by Tipperary's Trisha O'Halloran, Helen Breen and Wexford's Kate Kelly as they plot their campaign.

The second semi-final should be an evenly contested affair with plenty of inter county tal-

Prestigious Ashbourne in Cork this weekend

Camogie

ent also on display in both sides.

Cork senior Jennifer O'Leary and Intermediate star Jean O'Sullivan spearhead the University of Limerick challenge while Tipperary's Deirdre McDonnell will be joined by Eileen Morgan from Douglas as UCD in quest of honours.

The Ashbourne shield semi-finals take place in Brinney on Saturday with Cork Institute of Technology meeting St Marys Belfast, Paula O'Connor and Orla O'Sullivan will led the Cork I T as they seek to make the big break through and reach their first Ashbourne Shield final. In the second semi-final Athlone I.T. meet NUIG.

It promises to be a hectic weekend of college's camogie not to be missed.

Ashbourne Fixtures as follows

Saturday Feb 15th
Ashbourne Cup semi-finals
UCC v WIT at The Farm 12.30
University of Limerick v UCD at the Farm 2-30
Ashbourne Shield semi-finals
Cork I T v St. Mary's Belfast Brinney 12.30
Athlone I T v NUIG. Brinney 2.30
Sunday Feb 16th
Ashbourne Finals
Ashbourne Cup final: Mardyke 2.30pm
Ashbourne Shield Final: Mardyke 1pm.

Ashbourne Cup to be broadcast on RTÉ

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Ashbourne Cup

ASHBOURNE 2003, being hosted by UCC this weekend, received a major boost with the news that the finals on Sunday will be recorded and shown on RTÉ's *Sports Monthly* programme on Saturday, March 1.

With teams of the caliber of UCC, WIT, UCD and UL involved in the last four, there will be plenty of action for viewers to look forward to. The Cork College are the holders and they will be very keen to put back-to-back titles come Sunday.

First though they will have to deal with the might of WIT.

For UCC's Una O'Donoghue and her colleagues are determined to take the silverware: "UCC have not achieved back-to-back titles in recent times, and it would be nice to do it in the same year that we are hosting the competition," she said.

Joining her in their star-studded line up are Una O'Dwyer, Emer McDonnell (Tipp); Lizzie Lyng (Kilkenny); Meadhbh Nash (Limerick); Ger Casey, Cliona Harte, Sara Hayes, Rachel Moloney, Joanne O'Callaghan, Sinéad Buckley, Rosalie Holland and Ciara Healy.

Caoimhe Harrington, Síle Nic Coitir, and cousins Deirdre McDonnell and Eileen Morgan will head up the UCD challenge against UL.

The Limerick side are strong contenders again this year with names like Niamh Bowles, Róisín Corcoran, Niamh Harkin, Orla Kilkenny, Áine Kelleher, Jennifer O'Leary and Amanda O'Regan.

In the Shield, CIT will be hoping that their performances so far this season will have improved sufficiently to make an impression. One of the stalwarts of the team is Paula Goggins who will line out in goal. She says: "We are hopeful that our game plan will come together for us."

Paula O'Connor, Mairéad Kelly, Amanda Murphy and Emer O'Farrell will have to impress if they are survive.

CAMOGIE — St Brigid's College senior camogie team bowed out of the Championship, when they were defeated by Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy, in the Leinster Final. St Brigid's fought hard in the first half and trailed by four points at half-time. Unfortunately, Enniscorthy stepped up a gear in the second half and were deserved winners.

Best for St Brigid's was full back Gráinne Brennan, who played excellently for the entire hour. Enniscorthy, who have contested the final for the last eight years, had excellent players in Mary Lacey, Ciara O'Connor and Ursula Jacobs.

St Brigid's: Leandra Pollard, Aileen Cunningham, Gráinne Brennan, Leza Cahill, Kay Ryall, Phena Heffernan, Terese Muldowney, Jaqui Friaby, Julianne Woodcock, Aoife Neary (0-2), Mairéad Luttrell, Ann Marie Phelan, Patricia O'Neill, Laureana Murphy, Linda Sweeney. Subs: Aisling Pollard, Michelle Moloney, Jennifer Dalton, Elaine O'Shea, Sheila Kelly, Nicola Grace, Ailish Kenneally, Ami Woodcock, Maria Barry and Fiona Phelan.

Barryroe

CAMOGIE

Our camogie club is thriving at present and competing in all competitions from senior A down to under 12. Several members of the team represented Cork over the year, with Cora Keohane, Rosalie Holland and Jennifer O'Leary winning All-Ireland senior medals, Ann Marie Fleming an All-Ireland Intermediate medal, Marie Moloney and Emer O'Regan winning Munster Intermediate medals, while Elaine McCarthy and Geraldine Collins played on the Cork Junior All-Ireland team that were narrowly beaten in the All-Ireland final. Jennifer O'Leary recently won the Celtic Ross September Sports Award and also the Bandon Opinion Award and recently was invited by President McAleese to attend a sports function in Aras An Uachtarán in Dublin.

SATURDAY

Ashbourne Cup: UCC v WIT, 12.30pm, UL v UCD 2pm (Both in The Farm)

Ashbourne Shield: AIT v NUIG, 12.30pm, CIT v St Mary's Belfast, 2pm (Both in Brinney)

SUNDAY

Ashbourne Cup final, 2.30pm, Mardyke.

Ashbourne Shield final, 12.30pm, Mardyke.

Inter-county stars pave way as sparkling UCC

UCC
UCD

1-10
0-6

by Therese O'Callaghan

UCC rose to the challenge splendidly in the Mardyke yesterday securing back-to-back Ashbourne Cup titles.

Powered by inter-county stars from Tipperary, Kilkenny and Cork, they led from start to finish, combining superbly like any well-drilled club team, and were led brilliantly by their outstanding captain Una O'Dwyer.

After some scary moments on Saturday in the semi-final against WIT, the Cork girls were slow to settle again in the final, but powered on by Rachel Maoney and Criona Harte, the nerves were gradually replaced by focus and determination. UCD, who had a much tougher assignment in their se-

mi final against UL, were never overawed by the might of the Cork side and took the game to their opponents from the outset. However, they were not as balanced up front and relied totally on Caoimhe Harrington.

She was the only player who made any hand of a resolute Cork defence, while their defence, despite the best efforts of Ailbhe Kelly, who was named Player of the Tournament, and Elaine Dermody, were stretched by a slick-moving UCC outfit.

Of this, Ciara Healy, Emer McDonnell, Criona Harte and Lizzie Lyng were in flying form. Between them they bagged the entire winning tally. Noelle Doran, daughter of Wexford hurler Tony, was very solid too in the UCD goal. But it was at centre-back where they held this game together — O'Dwyer showing why she is the

holder of three All-Ireland senior medals with the Premier County. Her hard-hitting, but fair, tactics formed the basis of their interval lead of 14 to 0-2. Her inter-county colleague Emer McDonnell made her contribution crashing a 19th-minute penalty to the corner of the net.

Upon the resumption, UCC had to defend resolutely playing into the teeth of a strong wind. Lucky for them, they had shaken off the cobwebs and played their best camogie over the final 30 minutes.

Scorers for UCC: Emer McDonnell 1-2, C Healy 0-5 (0-4f, 0-1 45m), C Harte 0-2, L Lyng 0-1.

UCD: C Harrington 0-4 (frees), N Harrington and N Maher 0-1 each.

UCC: G Casey, J O'Callaghan, S Buckley, L Burke, R Holland, U O'Dwyer (capt), S Hayes, R Moloney, E Aylward, L Lyng, U O'Donoghue, A Kenneally, C Harte, C Healy, E McDonnell. Subs: B Aylward for L Bourke (58 mins).

UCD: N Doran, S O'Grady, D Corcoran, S Kelly, S Treacy, A Kelly, E Dermody, C O'Loughlin, F Cullen, L Mahony, N Harrington, N Maher, N O'Connor, C Harrington, S Daly. Subs: S Nic Colair for N Harrington (40 mins), D McDonnell for S Kelly (52 mins).

Referee: B Nugent (Offaly).

Semi-finals: UCC 1-14 (C Healy 1-6, E McDonnell 0-4, L Lyng and C Harte 0-2 each) WIT 0-4 (L Young 0-3, E Quigley 0-1). UCD 2-5 (N O'Connor 2-0, C Harrington 0-4, L Mahony 0-1) UL 0-7 (S Ryan 0-4, J O'Leary 0-3).

FEB. 2003

Mixed fortunes in Ashbourne finals

UCC
UCD

1-10
0-6

THERE was mixed fortunes for Cork students over Ashbourne weekend as UCC retained their Ashbourne Cup title while the brave bid by an understandably upset CIT side to take the Shield failed.

In the semi-final UCC disposed of WIT 1-14 to 0-4, while UCD defeated UL 2-5 to 0-6. In the shield semi-finals NUIG had a runaway victory over Athlone IT while CIT did likewise to St Mary's Belfast.

In Sunday's finals holders UCC led 0-2 to 0-1 with ten minutes to the break and it

was here that the game turned. Ciara Healy won possession and evading the defence managed to win a penalty which was expertly converted by Emer McDonnell.

U.C.C.: G Casey, O'Callaghan, S Buckley, L Bourke, O'Dwyer, S Hayes, R Holland, R Moloney, E Aylward, L Lyng, U O'Donoghue, A Kenneally, C Harte, C Healy, E McDonnell. U.C.D.: N Doran, S O'Grady, D Corcoran, S Kelly, A Kelly, S Treacy, E Dermody, C O'Loughlin, F Cullen, L Mahony, N Harrington, N Maher, N O'Connor, C Harrington, S Daly.

N.U.I.G. 3-8
C.I.T. 1-5

Despite the trauma of the weekend the student from Cork Institute of Technology

turned in brave performance in their quest for Ashbourne Shield honours.

Caroline Murray got NUIG off to a good start with a point but the determined CIT girls took the lead thanks to two Mairead Kelly points. Galway took the lead with points from Lourda Kavanagh, Lizzie Glennon and Caroline Murray but it was CIT who finished the half stronger with a Paula O'Connor point. In that opening half CIT squandered several good chances that did little to help their cause.

On the turn over NUIG got

points from Kavanagh, Glennon and Aoife Lane to lead 0-7 to 0-3 and they looked in control. However CIT's Emer O'Farrell cut the deficit to just one point as she billowed the Galway net. But three NUIG goals from Caroline Murray and Laura Linnane (two goals) broke CIT's hearts.

C.I.T.: P Goggin, C Harrington, A Murphy, E Carroll, A M Rafferty, L Murphy, S Buckley, M Kelly, E O'Farrell, K Mc Carthy, P O'Connor, G McNamara, H Keohane, A Coughlan, C O'Sullivan.

N. U. I. G.: R Lynch, S Regan, P Kelly, M Maher, M Keane, D Murphy, C Glynn, C Murray, N Houlihan, N Connolly, L Kavanagh, L Linnane, C McMahon, A Lane, L Glennon.

Easy for Aghabullogue

Aghabullogue
Barryroe

4-6
0-2

TWO goals from Ciara Murphy one in each half helped Aghabullogue to victory over Barryroe and advance to a semi-final meeting against Milford in the under 18 A championship in Barryroe.

Three points in a row from Mary Buckley settled the Mid Cork side, and once Murphy grabbed their opening goal the result looked on the cards. Mary Buckley's added a second goal just before the break as Rosemary Dineen pointed for Barryroe.

Aghabullogue continued to dominate thanks in the main to excellent defensive play where Joan Twomey, Maura

o Leary and Rosanne Crowley were superb. Up front Aghabullogue kept the pressure on the Barryroe defence, and further goals from Ciara Murphy and Jill Crowley finished the game as a contest.

Aghabullogue now meet Milford on Sunday next in a semi-final game timed for Milford at 2.30

Aghabullogue: N Moynihan, R Crowley, M O Leary, K O Leary, J Twomey, O Mc Sweeney, D Murphy, N O Connell, F Buckley, L Roche, M Buckley, E Healy, M Crowley, C Murphy, J Crowley.

Barryroe: E White, E Barry, P Moloney, J Drake, N Keohane, C A Donovan, N Driscoll, E O Regan, C Dineen, R Dineen, L Gannon, S Donovan, M Moloney, L Whelton, M Mc Carthy.

Referee: F O Callaghan Newcestown

UCC aim for 31st title

CAMOGIE: UCC play host to Ashbourne Cup and Shield competitions this weekend.

UCC, the holders, will be endeavouring to take a record 31st Ashbourne Cup title.

They field a strong side but WIT will surely test them to the limit. Last year, the sides met in an exciting final in Ballinlough with UCC coming out on top.

Cork captain Oonagh O'Donoghue is joined by her inter-county team-mates, Rachel Maloney, Criona Harte and Ciara Healy in the UCC forward division while Cork seniors Rosalie Holland, Sinead Buckley, Sarah Hayes and Ger Casey will feature prominently in defence. UCC are captained by Tipperary's Oonagh O'Dwyer whilst Emer McDonnell,

Lizzie Lyng and Elaine Alward are amongst a host of inter-county stars in the UCC side.

However, WIT will not be overawed by UCC's strengths.

Cork senior Catherine Corkery will be joined by Wexford duo Helena Jacob and Kate Kelly whilst other inter-county players on the WIT side include Trish O'Halloran, Helen Breen and Louise Young.

The second semi-final will be an evenly contested affair as University of Limerick take on UCD.

Cork Senior, Jennifer O'Leary, will be joined by Amanda O'Regan and Jean O'Sullivan.

In the Ashbourne Shield semi-finals, Cork Institute of Technology meet St. Mary's Belfast, and in the second semi-final Athlone IT will play against NUIG.



Oonagh O'Donoghue: Cork's captain is in a strong UCC side to face WIT.

Colaiste Bride's title

Colaiste Bride (Enniscorthy) 4-9, St. Mary's (Callan) 0-3: A tonic start in the form of a classic point from captain Ciara O'Connor set the tone for Colaiste Bride as the Enniscorthy girls took the Leinster Senior camogie title in considerable style on Sunday last.

Goals followed in due course, with St. Mary's of Callan rocked by three-pointers from Una Leacy and Mary Breen. Also in on the scoring act were Ursula Jacob, Louise Codd, Sarah Darcy and Olivia Murphy.

The Enniscorthy side has now contested the provincial decider eight years in a row, winning the trophy on six occasions during that glorious period. The team, under coach Elva Moriarty, must now prepare for an All-Ireland semi-final showdown with Charleville of Cork.

Borris first to win title

Borris VS
St. Rynagh's CS

0-6
0-3

HISTORY was created in Thomastown on Sunday when Borris VS won the Leinster College 'B' camogie title for the first time beating St. Rynagh's of Banagher.

Borris has the distinction of being the first Carlow school to win this competition in its first year.

Borris against the wind opened the scoring with a point from Fiona Byrne after three minutes, she added a second from a free.

Alongside Ann Marie Ralph she controlled the mid field area for the remainder of the half.

St. Rynagh's levelled with frees in the 15th and 18th minutes and Byrne again displayed why she is Carlow's best young player, when a St. Rynagh's free rebounded off the cross bar, was cleared by the Borris defence and Fiona coolly slotted it over from 40 metres.

Good team work by the Borris forwards resulted in a great point from play by Eilish

Meaney in the 20th minute and both teams traded further points from frees to leave the half time score 4-3.

The second half was a tough, tense affair and the Borris defence stood firm against numerous St. Rynagh's attacking movements, Mary-Rose Foley in the Borris goal gave an outstanding performance.

Fiona Byrne pointed a free and Borris' final score was a wonderful point from 14 year old Emma Ryan.

Borris contest the All Ireland semi final against the Connaught winners on March 8, in Carlow.

Borris: Mary Rose Foley, Kellie Dalton, Jeanne Brennan, Amie Murphy (Capt), Catherine Kavanagh, Brid Doran, Gillian Nolan, Fiona Byrne, Ann Marie Ralph, Eilish Meaney, Debbie O'Neill, Emma Ryan, Laura Smyth, Majella Kelly, Niamh Murphy, subs Maura Bambrick, Nicola Quinn, Maura Gallahue, Sarah Dowling, Lydia Treacy, Siobhan Canavan, Roisin Byrne, Catherine Hughes, Catherine Walsh, Teresa Meaney, Mary Dalton, Noelle Griffith.

Its elementary for the deadly Watson sisters!

Mary Newman reports on yet another great win for St Mary's, Charleville

ST MARY'S, CHARLEVILLE... 6-9
LORETO, FERMOY... 0-5

HOLDERS and All-Ireland champions St Mary's, Charleville, retained their Munster Colleges senior A title in emphatic fashion and in the process made it an eight-in-a-row of provincial titles as they Loreto, Fermoy, on Saturday last.

Three goals from Emer Watson plus two from sister Marie and one from Aoife Sheehan saw the champions hold all the aces. Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan were superb in what was in theory an all round team effort and one has to wonder will anybody stay with the Cork stars.

Fifteen minutes into the game Charleville led 4-3 to 0-2, Denise Twomey having opened the Fermoy scoring with an early point. The Charleville response was swift and once Marie Watson had replied with a Charleville point they proceeded to put Fermoy under pressure.

Goals from Marie and Emer Watson (two) and Aoife Sheehan set the tempo for what was to follow as the champions turned over 4-4 to 0-3 ahead at the break.

Loreto came out determined for the second half but despite good play from the hard working Marie O'Neill and Denise Twomey they found the Charleville defence hard to breach.

Two Loreto points inside ten minutes of the restart cut the gap but in reality it was always going to be a battle as Charleville had done enough in the opening period to ensure their title remained safe.

Further goals from the Watsons brought proceedings to their conclusion long before Colette O'Mahony full-time whistle.

Teams — St Mary's, Charleville: N Murphy; A Morrissey, A McCarthy, C Noonan, L Healy, E Waters, K O'Leary, A Geary, E O'Riordan, M Coleman, A Sheehan (captain), A O'Brien, E Watson, M Watson, S McAuliffe.

Loreto, Fermoy: V McCormack; A Cotter, M Twomey, C Lynch, A Mangan, N Mulcahy, N Barry (captain), M McAteer, M O'Neill, O Cotter, S Moroney, N O'Farrell, H O'Neill, D Twomey, C O'Driscoll. **Subs:** T Barry for A Cotter, P Carroll for S Moroney.

Referee: Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarrs).



St Mary's, Charleville captain Aoife Sheehan proudly displays the Munster Colleges Senior A cup after the school picked up their eighth title in a row when beating Loreto, Fermoy last Saturday.



Aisling O'Brien, St Mary's, tries to evade the challenge of Loreto's Noreen Mulcahy during the Munster Colleges Senior A final on Saturday.

MIDLETON..... 2-3
ST ALS..... 1-1

By Tim Buckley

SENIOR A Volleyball All-Ireland champions and Cork Colleges Senior B Ladies Football Champions St Mary's, Midleton, deservedly added the Cork Colleges Intermediate Camogie Cup to their collection on Saturday when they overcame a youthful St Aloysius, Cork side in a wet and windy Aghada.

The physically stronger Midleton side looked impressive throughout, making better use of the difficult playing conditions. St Aloysius fielded a very young side with two first years among the starting fifteen.

From the throw-in, Midleton got into their stride and got off to the best possible start. Inside

the first minute, the pacy Angela Walsh sent in a speculative shot which dropped short. Nicola Nagle, corner-forward for Midleton, was at hand to rattle the St Als net.

For the next 15 minutes, it became apparent Midleton were the stronger with age advantage. Angela Walsh was a tower of strength at centrefield and the tussle between herself and the skilful Rena Buckley, St Als, was a joy to watch.

Only magnificent play from Mary Buckley, Veronica Russell, Amy Hayes and Grace Mulqueen stopped St Als from being completely overrun in that opening quarter.

Gearóidín Kearney pointed a free for Midleton in the 14th minute. The pressure being exerted by Midleton was bound to yield results and this happened when A Walsh

crashed the ball to the back of the St Als net after a good run from centrefield to the 20 metre line in the 18th minute.

A Walsh again in the 20th minute won the ball on the '40 out near the sideline, sent a lovely pass into Katie Ahern who quickly dispatched the ball over the bar from directly in front of goal.

It took St Als all of 27 minutes to get a point on the scoreboard when R Buckley pointed a 30 metre free. The ever dangerous Gearóidín Kearney replied with a point on the stroke of half time to bring the score 2-3 to 0-1 in favour of St Marys.

The second half saw St Als come out of the traps a much improved team. St Als surged forward in search of scores. But the excellent defensive work of all six St Mary's backs, particularly Catherine O'Shea, Karina Richards

and 'keeper Caroline O'Driscoll saw that they only conceded one goal in the 26th minute of the half when R Buckley palmed to the net after one of her customary solo runs.

Crucially for St Als, Midleton failed to score in the second half and this gives the young St Als team with two of the team in their 1st year great confidence going forward to next year's competition.

Scorers — Midleton: N Nagle, A Walsh (1-0 each), G Kearney (0-2, 0-1 free), K Ahern (0-1).
St Als: R. Buckley (1-1, 0-1 free).

Teams — Midleton: C O'Driscoll; B Cullinane, C O'Shea, C Murphy; K Fitzpatrick, K Richards, C O'Connell; AM Hennessy, A Walsh; L McCarthy, G Kearney(C), AM O'Keefe; J Lane, K Ahern, N Nagle. **Subs:** A Lane, M Long, E O'Brien (for N Nagle 45mins), A Cronin, L Hyde, M Ahern, A Broderick, C Motherway (for J Lane 35 mins), M O'Riordan.

St Als: S Ni Riain (Inniscarra); J Clair (Inniscarra); M Buckley (Inniscarra); V Russell (St Finbarrs); A Hayes (St Finbarrs)(C); G Mulqueen (Douglas); M T Cullinane (Ballinacorney); Rena Buckley (Inniscarra); M O'Herlihy (Eire Og); V Hosford (St Finbarrs); R O'Sullivan (Douglas); J Cullinane (Ballinacorney); A Murphy (St Vincents); R O'Riordan (Inniscarra); C McCarthy (St Finbarrs). **Subs:** T Murphy, S Hoare, M Murphy (St Finbarrs), K Mohally (St Finbarrs), O Ring (Cloghduv), N Long for C McCarthy (50 mins) (St Finbarrs).

Referee: Jack McGrath (Carrigaline).

Charleville and Bandon set sights on All-Ireland

By RIOBARD LOTTY

Colleges Camogie

ST MARY'S, Charleville as and Pres, Bandon are busy preparing for their All-Ireland Junior A and B semi-finals fixed for this Saturday.

Vince Harrington is the Charleville coach and can rely on inter-county stars of the calibre of Anna Geary, Shannon Brosnan, Mary Coleman, Edwina Waters and team captain Sinéad McAuliffe to maintain the school's magnificent record at this level.

Their opponents, Coláiste Bride of Ennis-corthy are bolstered by players from former Féile champions Oulart the Ballagh and will rely on Una Leacy and Clara Storey to dethrone the reigning champions.

Bandon contest their first ever junior semi-final with St. Fergal's, Rathdowney having to travel to Bandon for a 2pm start.

Bandon have an excellent side and their facile victory over Borrisoleigh in the provincial decider grants them the favourites' mantle to qualify for the All-Ireland final.

Coach Sinéad White will hope Lucy Hawkes and Anna Nyhan defend competently and that Deirdre Coomey and Margaret Murphy deliver the scores against Leinster champions Rathdowney.

● **Cork Colleges U14 trial:** The following players are requested to attend a trial at Nagle Rice School, Doneraile on Sunday March 2 at 11am.

Michelle Lee, Eimear Murphy, Tracy O'Reilly (Buttevant), Sinéad Daly, Sarah Foley (Carrigrohane), Joanne Herlihy, Melissa Jones, Fiona O'Connell, Michelle O'Connor, Aisling Thompson (Charleville), Niamh Given, Tracey Roche, Sharon Sheehan, Niamh Walsh (Doneraile), Grace Carr (Fermoy), Sarah Coleman, Máiread Foley (Glanmire), Amanda Flaherty (Youghal), Carolyn Motherway, Denise O'Leary, Ella Ryan (Midleton), Denise O'Regan, Katie Duane (Pres, Mitchelstown), Elaine Collins, Ann Crowley, Deirdre Crowley, Eileen Foyle (Mount Mercy).

FIXTURES SATURDAY MARCH 1 All-Ireland Junior A semi-final: St Mary's, Charleville v Coláiste Bride, Ennis-corthy at Feenagh, 2.30pm.

All-Ireland Junior B semi-final: Presentation, Bandon v St. Fergal's, Rathdowney at Bandon, 2pm. **SUNDAY MARCH 2 Cork Colleges U14 camogie trial:** At Nagle Rice, Doneraile, 11am.



Edwina Waters, St Mary's, shows great poise as she strikes this ball under pressure from Loreto's Tricia Carroll.



Champions once again . . . The victorious St Marys, Charleville, celebrate after 6-9 to 0-5 triumph over Loreto, Fermoy last Saturday. The Watson sisters — Emer and Marie — accounted for five of their side's six goals.

FEB.

2003

Pres grab title by point

By RIOBARD LOTTY
Colleges Camogie

Presentation, Lismore 3-4
Colaiste Choilm 4-0

PRESENTATION from Lismore overcame their disappointment at losing the intermediate final to Killenaule when they were crowned as the champs of the inaugural Munster Colleges Junior C camogie by virtue of a last minute point scored by Tanya Morrissey.

Played at the impeccable Pilmore grounds and refereed by Tracey Sheehan, the game provided an entertaining spectacle - with extra time required to separate the sides.

Maria Lucey and Claire Carroll were instrumental in setting up Susan Donovan for the opening goal and would have increased their lead but for the acrobatics of Lismore keeper Aisling O'Brien. Laura Buckley, who contributed 2-3 in all, equalised with a 21m free and added a point shortly after.

The Ballincollig side rallied and Ciara McSweeney's deft flick to the net after rounding Janette Moloney put two points between the contestants. Buckley added two points and Jenny Houlihan finished Edel Ormonde's clearance to the net to leave Colaiste Choilm trailing by a goal. Ciara McSweeney duly answered her team's call by equalising to take the tie into extra time.

Both schools attempted to dictate the pace of the game but it was Laura Buckley's second goal which ignited the Lismore supporters. Coach Evelyn Quinlivan was delighted when Colaiste Choilm captain Susan Donovan scored the equaliser but could do little to prevent Morrissey from snatching the winning score in the dying moments of extra time.

RESULTS

Munster Junior C
Plate:
Glennmire 8-2 Árd Scoil, Dungarvan 0-0; Bruff 4-4 Scoil Pól Kilfinane 3-1;
Cork Colleges Intermediate B:
Nagle Rice, Doneraile 3-1 Presentation, Mitchelstown; St Mary's Macroom 4-13 Blarney 0-0;

Coláiste masters in Munster camogie

BANDON'S Colaiste na Toirbhirte emerged victorious against St. Joseph's Borrisoleigh to gain their first provincial junior camogie title on Saturday at Brinny.

Coached by Sinéad White, the Carbery side took full advantage of the breeze in the opening quarter by scoring five points without reply with Margaret Murphy and Colleen Long finding their shooting ranges.

Indeed, only for the brilliance of Tipperary minor

Bandon college take the title

By RIOBARD LOTTY
Colleges Camogie

goalkeeper Rosanna Kenneally, the game as a contest could have been over before half time.

Emma Treacy, Triona Dunne and Mary Bradshaw tried valiantly to contain the excellent half backline of Orla O'Regan, Marguerite Nyhan and Anna Nyhan but, on the rare occasion when the sliotar found a path through, Lucy Hawkes cleared any immediate danger.

Triona Dunne converted a

45 for Borrisoleigh but Breda Tuohy cancelled out that score with a point from an acute angle.

Bandon withstood a brief Borrisoleigh revival early in the second half and keeper Janice O'Neill deftly swept aside an effort from Elaine Young with Lisa O'Sullivan clearing her lines. Orla Coughlan, Colleen Long and

Deirdre Coomey maintained the pressure in the central positions and when captain Coomey billowed the Tipperary net, the cup was destined for its new home in Bandon.

Two late consolation goals from Emma O'Meara and Michelle Coffey put a better complexion on the score.

Bandon now meet Leinster Champions Presentation, Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final at Brinny on March 1.

RESULTS

Munster Senior A Final: St. Mary's, Charleville 6-9 Loreto, Fermoy 0-5

Cork Intermediate A Final: St. Mary's, Midleton 2-3 St. Al's, Cork 1-1;

Munster Intermediate B Final:

Scoil Ruain, Killenaule 3-4 Presentation, Lismore 1-2

Cork Junior B Semi Final: Mercy, Clonakilty 2-4 Coachford College 2-3.

FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12

Munster Junior C Final: At Pilmore, 11.30am, Colaiste Choilm v Presentation, Lismore.

Kilbrittain Notes

'keeper to finish in the net. Soon afterward, Cathriona Deasy flicked a long clearance to the net for a picture score and from then on the home team never looked back. The half-backs and midfielders kept the forwards well supplied and the seashiders added another 1-5 per Marian Murphy (0-5) and Cathriona Deasy (1-0) from free and play. Half time score 2-5 to 0-2. On the turnover, Eire Og put on the pressure with the sun and breeze to their backs, but they failed to get through the local backs, though keeper Amanda Desmond had to clear a few tricky situations. In the final quarter, the black and amber girls again upped the tempo with centre-back Eilish O'Sullivan getting two points and winger Marian Murphy scoring 1-1 to leave the final score 4-8 to 0-3. While the game was evenly contested outfield, the home team made more use of their chances from frees and play. Referee David Nolan (Courceys) did a great job and earned praise from winners and losers. Team: A. Desmond, M. O'Brien, A. O'Rourke, J. O'Donovan, A.M. O'Mahony, E. O'Sullivan, E. O'Donovan, M. O'Sullivan, M. Fulham (capt.), O. O'Regan, M. Murphy, N. O'Mahony, D. Hegarty, C. Deasy, A. O'Sullivan, K. O'Sullivan.

CAMOGIE

A place in the county semi-final against Valley Rovers was the prize at stake when the Kilbrittain/Timoleague under 18 team met Eire Og at dry and sunny Timoleague on Sunday last. Playing with the sun and breeze in the first half, the home team were quickly on the scoreboard when a long ball from Marian Murphy deceived the otherwise safe Eire Og

ST FINBARR'S GAA

Camogie Section:

Officers & committee elected at recent AGM
President: Harriet Carey, Chairperson: Claire Barry, Vice Chairperson: Ger O'Connor, Secretary: Deirdre Clarke, Treasurer: Marion McCarthy.
Committee: Toinette Santry, Claire Kirby, Colette Kirby, Ellen Clifford, Mary Moran, Triona Fitzpatrick, Niamh McCarthy, Colette O'Mahony & Barbara Ann Corcoran.
U-11 Indoor Training Every Thursday Evening 6 to 7pm;
Ladies Committee AGM: President: Rita Ahern, Chairperson: Kitty Hurley, Vice/Chairperson: Noelle Sweeney, Secretary: Sheila Barrett; Treasurer: Catherine O'Brien;

CIT go close in final but lose out

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Ashbourne Shield final

NUIG	3-8
CIT	1-5

IT WAS only in the last quarter that CIT lost their way in this hugely entertaining Ashbourne Shield final.

With only one point separating the sides after 45 minutes of play a late burst from the Westerners ended the Cork girls' interest in this competition.

Manager Miriam Deasy was very proud of her side's achievement in getting to the final.

"We watched NUIG yesterday and knew that they had very good hurlers all over the field. We were expecting a tough game and that is what we got."

"A lot of the girls are moving on and this is their last year with the college."

"They have already won a Purcell Cup and maybe an Ashbourne Shield today might have been too much."

"We have come a long way and are delighted that the club is going so well."

Considering that NUIG scored 5-18 in their semi-final win over Athlone, CIT did well to contain them.

But in the end it was the strength of Deirdre Murphy, Lourda Kavanagh and Caroline Murray that made the difference.

Nevertheless, the Cork girls were right in there up to the end.

Paula Goggins was very dependable in goal. Mairead Kelly, Emer O'Farrell and Paula O'Connor tried their best to stem the tide in CIT's favour.

Scorers for NUIG: L. Linnane 2-0, C. Murray 1-2, L. Kavanagh 0-3 (0-2 frees), L. Glennon, C. O'Sullivan and A. Lane 0-1 each.

Scorers for CIT: E. O'Farrell 1-1, M. Kelly 0-1 (45m) and P. O'Connor 0-2 (frees) each.

NUIG: R. Lynch, S. Regan, M. Maher, P. Kelly, M. Keane, D. Murphy (capt), C. Glynn, C. Murray, N. Houlihan, N. Connolly, L. Kavanagh, L. Linnane, L. Glennon, A. Lane, C. McMahon.

Subs: S. Mannion for N. Houlihan (17 mins), N. Sheehan for N. Connolly (11), C. Mullan for N. Sheehan (58 mins), L. Roche for M. Keane (59 mins).

CIT: P. Goggins, C. Harrington, A. Murphy, E. Carroll, A. M. Rafferty, L. Murphy, S. Buckley, M. Kelly, E. O'Farrell, K. McCarthy, P. O'Connor (capt), G. McNamara, H. Keohane, A. Coughlan, C. O'Sullivan.

Subs: S. Quinn for C. O'Sullivan (12 mins).

Referee: J. McLeish (Offaly).

Semi-finals: NUIG 5-18 (C. McMahon 3-1, A. Lane and L. Glennon 1-4 each, L. Kavanagh 0-4, C. Mullan and N. Connolly 0-2, N. Houlihan 0-1 AIT 3-2 (D. Carey 2-0, N. Bergin 1-0, M. Glynn and A. Hillary 0-1 each).

CIT 7-7 (P. O'Connor 3-0, G. McNamara 1-1, H. Keohane, E. O'Farrell and K. McCarthy 1-0 each, M. Kelly 0-6) St Mary's Belfast 1-3 (C. Pickering 1-0, D. Burke 0-3).
 ● Louise Young of UL was the winner of the Poe Fada.

O'Dwyer the UCC heroine

UCC
UCD1-10
0-6

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Ashbourne Cup final

UNA O'DWYER has for years plotted the downfall of Cork camogie with her native Tipperary, but at the Mardyke she was the heroine as she superbly led UCC to their second Ashbourne Cup title in a row yesterday.

The Cashel native is a born leader, and her experience came to the fore on both days, as the Cork students were in the grip of WIT and again under pressure against UCD in the final.

After a very lukewarm opening 30 minutes in the semi-final, they were expected to settle much earlier against the Dublin girls, but due in no small way to the strength of their opponents, they were at sixes and sevens for most of the opening half. In fact, only for an expertly executed penalty from Emer McDonnell, UCC could have been under severe pressure at the break when they led 1-4 to 0-2.

However, they upped the tempo considerably in the second half and psychologically it proved very important when Clara Healy pointed soon after the restart.

Healy, along with the industrious Criona Harte were very much to the fore on the UCC score sheet.

Harte in particular was playing a blinder, covering from all over the field.

During this first half the Cork girls played with the wind, and owed much to the excellence of Ger Casey in goals, a sterling full-back line, and at half-back where

flankers Rosalie Holland and Sara Hayes, along with O'Dwyer, did much to steady the ship.

Rachel Maloney turned in one of her finest performances at midfield and at wing-forward the lively Lizzie Lyng was always a thorn in the UCD side — her second-half point a marvellous solo effort after splitting the defence straight down the middle.

In the full-forward line McDonnell, Healy and Harte threw down the gauntlet, stretching the Dublin rearguard to its limits.

UCD, though, despite coming out on the wrong end of a seven-point difference, provided much sterner opposition to the UCC side than they might have expected.

On the Saturday, they excelled to beat off a fancied UL team, and once more in the final lived up to their own UCD cry — Unity, Confidence and Desire.

They relied too much on Caoimhe Harrington in attack, but in Ailbhe Kelly, who was named Player of the Tournament, and Elaine Dermody they had real quality players. However, the day belonged to the hosts, UCC.

Both on and off the field, they deserve the plaudits.

Scorers UCC: Emer McDonnell 1-2, C. Healy 0-5 (0-4f, 0-1 45m), C. Harte 0-2, L. Lyng 0-1.

Scorers for UCD: C. Harrington 0-4 (frees), N. Harrington and N. Maher 0-1 each.

UCC: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, S. Buckley, L. Burke, R. Holland, U. O'Dwyer (capt), S. Hayes, R. Moloney, E. Aylward, L. Lyng, U. O'Donoghue, A. Kenneally, C. Harte, C. Healy, E. McDonnell.

Subs: B. Aylward for L. Bourke (58 mins).

UCD: N. Doran, S. O'Grady, D. Corcoran, S. Kelly, S. Treacy, A. Kelly, E. Dermody, C. O'Loughlin, F. Cullen, L. Mahony, N. Harrington, N. Maher, N. O'Connor, C. Harrington, S.



TIPP TOP: UCC captain Una Dwyer about to strike the ball, pursued by UCD's Sharon Daly in the Ashbourne Cup final at the Mardyke.

Picture: Brian Loughheed

Daly.

Subs: S. Nic Coitir for N. Harrington (40 mins), D. McDonnell for S. Kelly (52 mins).

Referee: B. Nugent (Offaly).

Semi-finals: UCC 1-14 (C. Healy 1-6, E. Mc-

Donnell 0-4, L. Lyng and C. Harte 0-2 each) WIT 0-4 (L. Young 0-3, E. Quigley 0-1).

UCD 2-5 (N. O'Connor 2-0, C. Harrington 0-4, L. Mahony 0-1) UL 0-7 (S. Ryan 0-4, J. O'Leary 0-3).

UCC turn it around in the second-half

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

After-match quotes

UCC manager Seamus Coffey: "It was two second-half performances over the weekend that won us the cup."

"But we got it going when it mattered and did some good scoring — 1-14 on Saturday and 1-10 today. That is a good tally at this time of year and in difficult conditions."

"Although, it must be said that

the pitches were in great order.

"I had to give them a pep talk at the interval both days."

"We were very slow to start."

"All I said to them was that it was up to them."

"They were the players on the

field and that they still had 30 minutes left."

"They responded well."

"They knew the challenge on both days was being well laid out to them but they went out and stood up to it."

UCC captain Una O'Dwyer: "This is my last year with UCC so I am delighted to lead them to

back-to-back titles."

"I will be going out in style."

"It was very tough out there. UCD had the wind in the second half so it was pressure all the time."

"It was backs to the wall stuff for us but we were able to slot over the points while keeping them at bay."

"I am thrilled. This is a great UCC team," O'Dwyer added.

FEB. 2003

Camogie Chat...

THE weekend saw U.C.C. retain their Ashbourne Cup crown and make it title number thirty one as they defeated W.I.T. in Saturday's semi final before dealing with the challenge of a determined U.C.D. side in Sunday's final.

By **MARY NEWMAN**

While Cork celebrate a U.C.C. success the victory was also lauded in Tipperary and Kilkenny with Una O'Dwyer, Emer Mc Donnell and Lizzie Lyng all to the fore.

N.U.I.G. took the Ashbourne Shield but not before defeating a brave G.I.T. side who despite the tragedy which unfolded for them on Friday night turned in a heroic performance to reach the final.

Bouquets to the U.C.C. backroom team for a superbly organised event and in particular to G.A.A. officer Eamonn Ryan, Des Cullinane, Padraic Kelleher and Damien Reidy just to mention a few who helped make the Ashbourne weekend a pleasant one for myself and the many visitors to The Farm, Brinney and the Mardyke.

Its National league action on Sunday next as the 2003 campaign begins with a visit from Galway in both Senior and Junior, a meeting between the current senior league champions and the All-Ireland holders is one to whet the appetite.

Since last year Linda Mellerick and Eithne Duggan have retired while panel members Rosalie Holland and Sinead Buckley will shortly depart the country in connection with their studies, the Cork backroom team has also changed with Sandy Fitzgibbon joining Pa Finn and Kathleen Healy on the selection committee.

Galway are always tough especially early in the year when conditions are not always to Cork's liking, but Cork won easy back in August so the visitors with Lourda Kavanagh Ashling Connolly, Tracy Laheen and Michelle Glynn to the fore will come with all gun's blazing in search of victory, Buttevant is the venue with a 2.45 p.m. start.

At 1 p.m. in Ballyhea the Junior's side from both counties open campaign and here Cork will be determined to atone for defeat at the hands of Galway in last years knock out stages.

On the local scene on Sunday at 3p.m. Aghabullogue fresh from their Under 18 'A' quarter final victory over Barryroe travel to Milford to take on the champions while in the semi final of the 'B' competition Valley Rovers will entertain Kilbrittain in Brinney.

News on the grapevine tells me that a big inter-county transfer was recently sanctioned with Tipperary star and three times All-Ireland medal winner Claire Madden joining Fr O Neills. Claire got married to former Sarsfields/Glanmire player Paul O'Callaghan and settled in Whitegate, she will be a huge asset to O'Neill's who under the captaincy of Fiona O'Driscoll seek their first senior county championship title.

Tonight will see a resumption of the monthly meetings of the juvenile board at 8p.m. in the Secondary School Blarney.

Clubs are reminded that the County Board Lotto resumes on Monday night next when the fortnightly meeting takes place at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, with a €1,600 jackpot on offer clubs are asked to return tickets without delay.

Other County Board news to hand is that it is hoped to have the web site up and running this weekend, a trial run promised this week will tell a lot so keep the fingers crossed!

Seandún recently held their A.G.M. where outgoing chairperson Marion Mc Carthy handed power the reigns to Mairead Uí Mhaoileoin from Blackrock, with Tracy Sheehan elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Niall Mc Loughlin and Pat Murray were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The division will once again organise competitions for the under 11, 13 and 15 age groups within the city in what have been tremendously successful competitions.

First round of league takes off

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**

Inter-county Camogie

THE inter-county camogie season gets underway on Sunday with the first rounds of the National League taking place nationwide.

Locally, Cork will be at home to Galway in Division One and Division Two.

Twelve months ago, Cork senior manager Pa Finn did not put as much emphasis on winning the league and was rewarded with their first All-Ireland title in four years.

He is once again going to use this campaign as a stepping-stone to later in the season. "We will obviously be going out to win every match, but without any fuss. If we lose one here or there, it will not be the end of the world," he said.

And with his side preparing for a holiday in Lanzarote next Thursday, they will hope they have enough in the can to take their first two points.

He will be planning without Eithne Duggan and Linda Mellerick. Emer Dillon has been released because of hockey commitments and Denise Cronin is out through injury. College students Rosalie Holland and Sinead Buckley, who were involved in the Ashbourne last weekend, are unavailable for the championship, therefore they will not be considered for selection.

Expected to be in the lineup and fresh from their Ashbourne success are Una O'Donoghue, Joanne O'Callaghan, Ger Casey, Ciara Healy, Sara Hayes and Rachel Moloney. Newcomers Brieghe Corkery, Jean O'Sullivan and Nora Ahern should also be in the running.

Galway too will be relying on their third-level players, most notably Caroline Murray, Lourda Kavanagh, Aine Hillary and Ailbhe Kelly. Olivia Forde has retired while Sharon Glynn has yet to make up her mind about the new season.

For Cork's Division Two clash selector, Tracy Sheehan says that they have been overwhelmed with the commitment shown during recent training sessions. "We had 60 players who turned up for trials, and we have narrowed that down to 30. That was the most difficult job so far," she said.

The more familiar faces will be Ellen Clifford, Amanda O'Regan, Róisín Corcoran and Catriona Kelly.

The Division One game is in Buttevant with a 2.45pm start, while the Division Two game will have a 1pm throw-in at Ballyhea.

Grading is top of the agenda

By **TIM BUCKLEY**

Juvenile Camogie

Ballincollig, Blackrock, Enniskeane, Newcastleown, Courcey Rovers, Cloghduv and Aghabullogue.

Grade B: Section 2 - Cobh, Mallow, Carrigaline, Na Piarsaigh, Killeagh, Youghal, Buttevant, Watergrasshill and Bishopstown.

Grade C: Section 1 - Ballinascorthy, Sliabh Rua, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Rockban, Clonakilty, Ballinora and Blarney.

Grade C: Section 2 - Newtownshandrum, Erins Own, Dungourney, Kilshannig, Fr. O Neills, St. Fannahans, Charleville and Sarsfield.

12-a-side Grade: St. Vincents, Bandon, Brian Dillons, Grenagh, Millstreet, Tracton, Castletyons, Mayfield, Kildorrery and Barryroe.

The grading of teams will take place during the last week of June and the first fortnight of July.

The knockout stages will take place during the last week of June and the first fortnight of July.

The grading of teams resulted as follows:

Grade A: St. Catherine's, Ballinhassig, Douglas, Milford, Ballyhea, Glen Rovers, Ballygarvan, St. Finbarrs and Inniscarra.

Grade B: Section 1 - Éire Óg, Valley Rovers,

CAMOGIE

National League: Division One: Cork 2-12 Galway 3-9, Kilkenny 2-6 Wexford 1-11, Antrim 0-7 Derry 1-10, Tipperary v Dublin - off (to be played March 15). Division Two: Cork 0-7 Galway 4-8, Kilkenny 2-2 Wexford 1-6, Clare 4-7 Down 2-8, Kildare 3-12 Laois 1-2, Louth 0-2 Cavan 2-2, Antrim 1-1 Derry 1-7, Meath 0-2 Roscommon 2-1, Tipperary v Dublin - off (to be played March 15), Wicklow w/o Carlow scr. Waterford w/o Tyrone scr.

Cork: U18 Championship semi-final: Milford 6-8 Aghabullogue 0-4.



ALL SMILES ON THE NIGHT: Therese O'Callaghan with Linda Mellerick of the Cork Senior camogie team at the launch party. Picture: Neil Danton

Late Moloney score earns Cork a point

Cork 2-12
Galway 3-9

by **Therese O'Callaghan**

CORK'S Rachel Moloney foiled Galway of victory with a sensational equaliser National Camogie League Division One at a windswept Buttevant yesterday.

In a pulsating game, the Connacht side with Therese Mahon most impressive produced a new dimension to stay with the All-Ireland champions, and when the final whistle sounded, their boss Mike Kennedy was clearly the happier of the two managers.

Cork started the brighter and the Leesiders' full-forward line were in great form in the opening 30 minutes with Orla O'Sullivan and Ciara Healy shooting two spectacular goals in the 15th and 23rd minute respectively. Fiona O'Driscoll, playing at left corner-forward, hit five marvellous points in that spell of dominance.

However, Galway who were playing into a very stiff breeze, never let their opponents build too much of an ad-

vantage, due to some splendid point taking from Veronica Curtin. Then a goal from Orla Kilkenny three minutes from the break, gave her side the lift they badly needed before heading for the dressing-room.

On the restart, the Westerners were quickly into their stride. Within minutes Aine Hillary stroked a 40 metre free towards goal which left a stunned Ger Casey to sheepishly pick the sliotar from the back of the net as it became a two point game.

Galway introduced Denise Gilligan - best remembered for her goal scoring exploits in their last All-Ireland win in 1996 - and with her first touch, she expertly finished a long delivery from Martina Harkin for her sides's third goal.

Cork were then kept scoreless from the 41st to 55th minute, until sub Brieghe Corkery narrowed the gap to one point.

Then came Moloney's heroics as she ensured that Cork will depart for a week's holiday in Lanzarote on Thursday with one point in the bag.

Scorers for Cork: F O'Driscoll 0-6 (0-1f), O O'Sullivan 1-1, C Healy 1-0, R Moloney (0-1 45m) and J O'Leary 0-2 each, B Corkery 0-1.

Galway: A Hillary 1-2 (1-1 frees), O Kilkenny 1-1, D Gilligan 1-0, V Curtin 0-3, A Connolly, M Glynn and S Tannion 0-1 each.

CORK: G Casey; J O'Callaghan, L O'Connell, S Dunlea; S Hayes, M O'Connor, G O'Connor; R Moloney, E Burke; U O'Donoghue (capt), C Harrington, J O'Leary; O O'Sullivan, C Healy, F O'Driscoll.

Subs: B Corkery for O O'Sullivan (40 mins), N Ahern for G O'Connor (52 mins), V Harris for E Burke (54 mins), J O'Sullivan for L O'Connell (55 mins).

GALWAY: L Curry; M Haverly, R Broderick, M Harkins; A Kelly, T Laheen, R Glynn, A Hardiman, A Hillary; C Murray (capt), M Glynn, S Tannion; A Connolly, V Curtin, O Kilkenny.

Subs: T Maher for A Hardiman (24 mins), D Gilligan for S Tannion (43 mins), L Leahy for A Kelly (inj 46 mins), R Leahy for A Connolly (56 mins).

Referee: E Browne (Tipperary).

Galway 4-9

Cork 0-7

ORLA CURTIN was the heroine for Galway in a National League Division Two tie at Ballyhea yesterday, shooting a hat-trick of goals in the 38th, 40th and 49th minute.

In a rather lack-lustre opening half, the home side were restricted to three points while Galway helped by a Cathy Bowes goal were full value for

their five point advantage.

Cork, despite introducing four substitutes at the break, and Amanda O'Regan playing well at centre-back, could never break the dominance of the stronger Galway side. They were always in trouble, especially with Curtin, Brenda Hanney and Emma Kilkelly causing havoc up front.

Scorers for Galway: O Curtin 3-3, C Bowes 1-0, E Kilkelly 0-3, M Flanagan 0-1, S Keane and S Griffin 0-1 each.

Cork: A O'Regan 0-3 (0-1f, 0-1 45m), M Jagoe, S O'Donovan, M Deasy and S Kelly 0-1 each.

GALWAY: S Eamer; L Flynn, S Cahalan, N Lawless; C Glynn, A Doherty, Sinead Keane; S Griffin, N Gavin; Susan Keane, C Bowes, M Flanagan; O Curtin, B Hanney, E Kilkelly.

Subs: M Finnerty for N Gavin (50 mins), D Burke for Susan Keane (53 mins), C Glennon for A Doherty (55 mins), L O'Brien for C Glynn (58 mins).

CORK: E Clifford; M O'Donovan, R Corcoran, S A O'Halloran; S Douglas, A O'Regan, K Buckley; M O'Connell, R Buckley, M Holland, C Kelly, M Jagoe; B Maher, M Deasy, S O'Donovan.

Subs: M Hegarty for K Buckley, S Kelly for M O'Connell, M Buckley for M Holland, C Barrett for B Maher (all h/t).

Referee: V McNamara (Clare).

Finn is furious with Cork side

Cork
Galway

2-12
3-9

CORK manager Pa Finn had a stern message for his charges after yesterday's National League Division One game at Buttevant.

"Enjoy your holidays because it will be hard grind when you get back."

The Cork team are departing to Lanzarote on Thursday for a week's holiday as a reward for winning last year's All-Ireland final, leaving only three days to get into shape for their next league outing against Kilkenny.

However, Finn was not over the moon with his side's display.

They completely lost their shape in the second half, allowing the visitors dominate and only for a late equaliser from Rachel Moloney, they would have gone home empty handed.

"We were very poor," Finn said.

"Too many of our players were not applying themselves and our first touch was way off."

"We will get back to two nights' training once the holiday is over."



**Sports
Writer**

**Therese
O'Callaghan**

Cork played well in the opening half, albeit aided by a strong breeze and with two great goals from Orla O'Sullivan and Clara Healy, led by 2-7 to 1-5 at the break.

However, unbelievably and inexcusably, they completely fell away in the closing 30 minutes.

Only for resolute defending from Mary O'Connor and Stephanie Dunlea they would have been in deeper trouble.

But, Galway would have to be credited for producing one of their best performances in years, and it was no surprise to find their boss Mike Kennedy in jubilant mood.

"I am very happy because we are building up a team again. The girls showed a fighting spirit and I am delighted with the new players."

Cork, who were fielding six of last weekend's Ashbourne Cup side — Ger Casey, Joanne O'Callaghan, Sara



STAY BACK: Cork's Briege Corkery tussles with Galway's Martina Harkin in their NCL division one match at Buttevant yesterday.

Picture: Neil Danton

Hayes, Rachel Moloney, Una O'Donoghue and Healy — plus Caoimhe Harrington who lined out with UCD and Jennifer Leary of UL, produced the goods for the first half, but ran out of steam later in the game.

It was then that the Westerners really got into their stride with Aine Hillary, Caroline Murray, Veronica

Curtin and sub Denise Gilligan in tremendous form.

Scorers for Cork: F O'Driscoll 0-6 (0-1f), O O'Sullivan 1-1, C Healy 1-0, R Moloney (0-1 45m) and J O'Leary 0-2 each, B Corkery 0-1.

Scorers for Galway: A Hillary 1-2 (1-1 frees), O Kilkenny 1-1, D Gilligan 1-0, V Curtin 0-3, A Connolly, M Glynn and S Tannion 0-1 each.

CORK: G Casey, J O'Callaghan, L O'Connell, S Dunlea, S Hayes, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, R Moloney, E Burke, U O'Donoghue (capt), C Harrington, J O'Leary, O O'Sullivan, C Healy, F O'Driscoll.

Subs: B Corkery for O O'Sullivan (40 mins), N

Ahern for G O'Connor (52 mins), V Harris for E Burke (54 mins), J O'Sullivan for L O'Connell (56 mins).

GALWAY: L Curry, M Haverly, R Broderick, M Harkin, A Kelly, T Laheen, R Glynn, A Hardiman, A Hillary, C Murray (capt), M Glynn, S Tannion, A Connolly, V Curtin, O Kilkenny.

Subs: T Maher for A Hardiman (24 mins), D Gilligan for S Tannion (43 mins), L Leahy for A Kelly (in) 46 mins, R Leahy for A Connolly (56 mins).

Referee: E Browne (Tipperary).

Half-time substitutions unsettle young Cork team

Galway
Cork

4-9
0-7

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**

National Camogie League

IT WAS a disappointing start to the Division Two league for Cork at Ballyhea yesterday.

Showing great promise early on in the game, they were rocked by a

splendid goal from Cathy Bowes five minutes before break, to leave the half-time score 1-5 to 0-3.

But, in a strange move, Cork introduced four substitutes at the interval, and it did appear to have an unsettling effect on the team.

With only Amanda O'Regan, Sally Ann O'Halloran and Rena Buckley making any shape, they slowly lost their grip on proceedings.

Orla Curtin, who will surely have not gone unnoticed to the Galway senior selectors present in the crowd, broke the hearts of the Cork girls with her three well-taken second-half goals.

These scores effectively killed off the game as a challenge. And it was the maroon and white that collected the points in this round one game.

Scorers for Galway: O Curtin 3-3, C Bowes 1-0, E Kilkelly 0-3, M Flanagan 0-1, S Keane and S Griffin 0-1 each.

Scorers for Cork: A O'Regan 0-3 (0-1f, 0-1 45m), M Jagoe, S O'Donovan, M Deasy and S Kelly 0-1 each.

GALWAY: S Eamer, L Flynn, S Cahalan, N Lawless, C Glynn, A Doherty, Simad Keane, S Griffin, N Gavin, Susan Keane, C Bowes, M

Flanagan, O Curtin, B Hanney, E Kilkelly.

Subs: M Finnerty for N Gavin (50 mins), D Burke for Susan Keane (53 mins), C Glennon for A Doherty (55 mins), L O'Brien for C Glynn (58 mins).

CORK: E Clifford, M O'Donovan, R Concoran, S A O'Halloran, S Douglas, A O'Regan, K Buckley, M O'Connell, R Buckley, M Holland, C Kelly, M Jagoe, B Maher, M Deasy, S O'Donovan.

Subs: M Hegarty for K Buckley, S Kelly for M O'Connell, M Buckley for M Holland, C Barrett for B Maher (all f/t).

Referee: V McNamara (Clare).

Cork seniors hold Galway

THERE were mixed fortunes for Cork as the county's senior and junior teams opened their national league campaigns on Sunday last.

The senior side shared the points with league champions Galway in an exciting clash in Buttevant while in the junior game the stronger Galway were always in control.

Cork 2-12
Galway 3-9

Cork enjoyed good possession in an opening half where aided by the strong wind they put the league holders under pressure. By the mid-way stage the sides were level at

three points each, then Cork hit the front thanks to the alert Orla O'Sullivan who finished Fiona O'Driscoll's long free over the line to the net. Cork enjoyed their best spell for the next quarter as Fiona O'Driscoll and Rachel Moloney fired over points before Ciara Healy struck for goal number two.

Galway rallied with a Veronica Curtin point and when Orla Kilkeny goalied four minutes from half time it gave them the boost they needed as Cork finished the half strong with points from O'Sullivan and O'Driscoll.

On the resumption it was Cork who grabbed the opening point

thanks to the lively Fiona O'Driscoll, but two in reply from Sandra Tannion and Orla Kilkeny kept Galway in touch as Jenny O'Leary added Cork's tenth point. Aided by the strong wind Galway were now winning plenty of possession and when Ame Hillary and substitute Denise Gilligan grabbed goals in the ninth and 14th minute the league champions hit the front.

Michelle Glynn stretched their advantage to two points with 10 minutes remaining and Cork looked to be in trouble.

It was now that the All Ireland champions needed something special and the steadying influences of Fiona

O'Driscoll and Mary O'Connor showed. O'Connor helped set up a Cork move that finished with substitute Breege Corkery pointing, and in the dying seconds Rachel Moloney confidently pointed after good inside work from O'Driscoll had helped Cork hold possession.

Cork: G Casey, J O'Callaghan, L O'Connell, S Dunlea, S Hayes, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, R Moloney, E Burke, U O'Donoghue, C Harrington, J O'Leary, O O'Sullivan, C Healy, F O'Driscoll Subs B Corkery for O O'Sullivan, J O'Sullivan for L O'Sullivan, V Harris for E Burke N Ahern for G O'Connor, **Galway:** L Curry, M Haverly, R Broderick, M Harkin, A Kelly, T Laheen Glynn, A Hardiman, A Hillary, C Murray, M Glynn, S Tannion, A Connolly, V Curtin, O Kilkeny Subs T Maher for A Hardiman, D Gilligan for S Tannion, L Lally for A Kelly, R Lally for A Connolly.

Cork schools aim for colleges glory

SATURDAY next is an important one for the pupils of St. Marys Charleville and Presentation Bandon when both schools will be hoping to reach the All Ireland College's finals in Junior A and B.

Holders Charleville are under no illusions as to the task ahead when they meet Colaiste Brid.

Always tough opponents, the Wexford side will be bolstered by the inclusion of young senior goalkeeper Ciara Storey who is the daughter of former All Ireland winning senior Wexford hurler Martin Storey, while Una Leacy is daughter of former All Ireland camogie Margaret. They will be hoping to turn the tables on a St Marys side who defeated them in narrowly in last season's nail-biting All Ireland final.

Cork minors Anna Geary and Mary Coleman will have other ideas as the Charleville girls face up to what will be their toughest hour this season. Coached to perfection by Vincent Harrington and Ann Marie O'Keefe, despite having lost the services this season of Lisa Healy, Emer

Watson and Elaine O'Riordan, they will be favourites to reach the final.

Captained by Limerick's Sinead McAuliffe, they have talented performers in Sarah Sexton, Shannon Brosnan and Edwina Waters and will be going all out to maintain the North Cork academy's magnificent record.

For Bandon it is a huge occasion contesting their first All Ireland colleges semi-final when they entertain St Fergal's Rathdowney in Bandon at 2pm. In capturing their first ever Munster title Bandon showed they are a formidable outfit and it will take a good side to stop them reaching the final.

Coached by Sinead White they are strong in all sectors with Marguerite and Anna Nyhan Luck Hawks solid in defence while up front Deirdre Coomey, Margaret Murphy are capable of troubling any defence. In their six-point Leinster championship victory over Presentation Wexford, Rathdowney had a good hour from Emer Delaney, Emer Moynihan and Marion O'Grady and



Challenge: Cork minor Anna Geary from Milford.

they will be looking for another big performance from their trio.

Fixtures

Saturday March 1st All Ireland junior A Colleges semi final St Marys Charleville v Colaiste Brid Feenagh 2.30 All Ireland Colleges Junior B semi Final Presentation Bandon v St Fergal's Bandon 2pm.
Sunday Cork Colleges under 14 Trial game Nagle Rice College Doneraile 11am

Galway too strong

Galway 4-9
Cork 0-7

CORK opened well with points from Sarah O'Donovan and Miriam Deasy as Orla Curtin opened the Galway account with a seventh minute point.

Cathy Bowes gave Galway the half time advantage when she struck for their opening goal six minutes from the break and when Orla Curtin added a point Galway led 1-5 to 0-3 at the short whistle.

Inside ten minutes of the restart Galway showed their superiority when Orla Curtin struck for two goals. A point from O'Regan was followed by one from Marion Jaego, but two in succession from Emma Kilkelly, Susan Keane and Orla Curtin quickly followed by Orla Curtin's third quashed any chances of a Cork revival.

Cork: E Clifford, M O'Donovan, R Corcoran, S A O'Halloran, S Douglas, A O'Regan, K Buckley, M O'Connell, R Buckley, M Holland, C Kelly, M Jaego, B Maher, M Deasy, S O'Donovan Subs M Hegarty for K Buckley, S Kelly for M Holland, C Barrett for B Maher, L Burns for S Douglas, M Buckley for M O'Connell



Galway's Maresse Flanagan puts Cork's Marie O'Connell under pressure as she tries to lift the sliotar during their Junior league game in Ballyhea on Sunday last.

FEB.

2003

NEW LOOK CHAMPIONSHIP

The race for the All-Ireland senior camogie championship will take on a new format this year. The straight knock-out system that has been a permanent feature of the championship will be replaced by a League plan.

Eight counties, representing all four provinces, will compete in two groups. Each county in each group will have three games and the top two teams from each group will go forward to the All-Ireland semi-finals proper.

Should three teams in either or both group finish on equal points on top of the group a play-off will take place to decide the issues.

The first team drawn will have a bye to the last four, while the other counties will meet for a place in the semi-finals.

Cork, who are holders of the All-Ireland crown, Galway, Antrim and Kilkenny will compete in one group, and Tipperary, who have been such an exciting force in the championship in recent times, Dublin, Wexford and Limerick will take part in the other group.

The draw for the semi-finals will take place at the end of the group matches.

The championship is due to start at the end of June and each county will have a game every second week under the group plan. The All-Ireland semi-finals have been arranged for Saturday August 23, with the final on September 21.

The draw for the group matches is:

Group 1

Cork v Galway, Antrim v Kilkenny.
Second Round: Galway v Kilkenny, Antrim v Cork.
Third Round: Kilkenny v Cork, Galway v Antrim.

Group 2

Dublin v Limerick, Tipperary v Wexford.
Second Round: Limerick v Tipperary, Wexford v Dublin.
Third Round: Dublin v Tipperary, Limerick v Wexford.

The first named team will have home advantage.

The draw has resulted in some very appealing and crowd-pulling matches and all the indications are that the system will boost interest in the sport in general.

The fact that all the counties will be guaranteed extra games under this new arrangement is a step in the right direction. The more competitive matches the better the prospects of any team or county building up strength.

So this is an imaginative move by the Camogie Association and developments will be watched with interest.

If it proves as successful as some of the earlier changes made by the Association it will prove very beneficial for the sport in general.

Although the All-Ireland senior inter-county championship was only launched in the 'Thirties the Camogie Association has a history stretching back right to 1904. That's the year the organisation was launched and so next year the Association will celebrate its Centenary and so will prove a memorable occasion for the Association.

The first All-Ireland senior final was for the 1932 title and was decided at the Galway Sportsfield on July 30, 1933. Dublin beat the home county by 3-2 to 0-2.

The campaign for the All-Ireland title followed the same pattern as in hurling and football—provincial championships and the All-Ireland series proper.

That arrangement persisted down through the years until the 1973 Congress. That was the first Congress held outside of Dublin and delegates agreed to a proposal to run the senior All-Ireland championship on the open-draw principle.

The opening games in the open-draw championship were played in 1973 and then in 1976 the arrangement made possible the first-ever senior decider featuring teams from the one province. Kilkenny won that history-making game with Dublin.

The Association has increased teams from twelve players to fifteen some years

aback and also decided to increase the playing area to the same size as for football and hurling.

Those changes have also benefited the game in general.

Dublin dominated the senior football championship for many years and won an amazing ten titles in succession between 1957 and 1966 inclusive.

They head the Roll of Honour with 26 titles, but their last was as far back as 1984. That was surprisingly enough, also the county's first title win in eighteen years.

Only seven counties in all—Cork, Kilkenny, Antrim, Wexford, Galway and Tipperary are the others—have inscribed their names on the All-Ireland senior championship Roll of Honour.



Claire Grogan (Tipperary) — jumps highest in last year's All-Ireland final.

Camogie and ladies football groups in GAA unity plan

by Therese O'Callaghan

YESTERDAY was a historic day in Croke Park as four presidents attended the launch of a scheme which aims to integrate the Ladies Football and Camogie Associations with the GAA.

President Mary McAleese, GAA chief Sean McCague, Ladies football Association head Pat Rafferty and Camogie Association leader Walter Thompson lent their support to the ambitious project.

The scheme, which will run from March until October in eight coun-

ties — Limerick, Tipperary, Galway, Roscommon, Tyrone, Down, Laois and Wexford — will highlight the various challenges the merger poses.

The counties involved will then aim to provide solutions ahead of closer liaisons between the three associations in a national context. A report will be presented to the three congresses in 2004.

Speaking at the launch, President McAleese said: "It is such a lovely joy to be part of this memorable day. Gaelic Games have entered an era of sophistication, composure

and confidence, which is truly remarkable. An unashamedly proud amateur sport, it is driven by the highest professional values and its aspiration is to keep getting better and better."

"Naturally, it now looks to areas where fresh synergies can be released and this obvious alliance is one of those. It will not be an easy road and will take a lot of faith and trust in each other."

Mr McCague welcomed the initiative, saying all three associations had shown their desire to go forward as a united force in the pro-

motion of their shared ideas. He added: "This can best be achieved through a concerted effort on all our parts."

"We share common goals and ideals and there is already significant crossover in our activities on the ground in terms of shared facilities along with coaching and games promotion strategies."

He said such integration had already effectively taken place in many clubs around the country.

Incoming president Sean Kelly said this was an ideal opportunity for the GAA to broaden their out-

look towards curtain-raisers for their games.

He said it would test the will of those advocating this project but was confident of its success through the co-operation of all involved.

The process will be monitored by a steering committee in each county. These will consist of two representatives from each association.

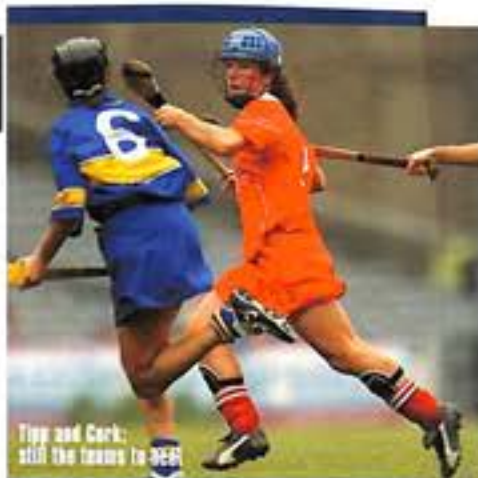
The Camogie Association celebrates its centenary next year. The Ladies Gaelic Football Association was established in 1974 and has experienced phenomenal growth since its inception.

CAOIMHE SETS SIGHTS ON RETURN TO THE SUMMIT

Liz Cleary speaks with Cork's Caoimhe Harrington about the Camogie year ahead and weighs up the prospects of those lining up to deny the Leesiders a second successive All-Ireland title

The 2003 Camogie Championship may be a long way off, but already players and supporters have one eye on how the spoils will be shared in late summer. Recent seasons have thrown up a number of teams that appear possessed of the skill, determination and appetite required for success, but which have yet to prove their mettle by taking home any silverware. And then there is Cork, the recently crowned champions who will be looking to consolidate their position and defend a title it had taken them so long to regain. For a while there it appeared that Tipperary had claimed the O'Duffy Cup as their own. Winning three All-Irelands in a row just a year after turning senior, the women from the Premier established themselves with ease among the game's aristocracy. But last year they were ousted by a hungry and talented Cork side that finally made the breakthrough to beat the reigning champions in the final. So this year, the table has turned on the Leesiders: this year, it is they who have everything to lose and the rest who will act as willing challengers. The question facing this Cork side is whether they will be able to copper-fasten their hold on Camogie's biggest prize and dominate in a manner the women from Tipperary have done in recent times. Only time will tell of course, but Cork are hopeful. Caoimhe Harrington was one of Cork's most influential players last year. Drafted into the forward line along with Jenny O'Leary and Emer Dillon, the young trio were an attacking force to be reckoned with. Caoimhe, a final year physiotherapy student in University College Dublin, is optimistic that the Cork team can capitalise on its success and look forward to another good season. When the team regroups in early March, it will face many challenges – none more so than the retirement of the highly skilled, hard working forward, Linda Mellerick. She was highly instrumental in Cork's victory and will be sorely missed. Her boots will be difficult to fill but Caoimhe takes solace from the success the county has enjoyed at under age level: "There's great depth in Cork camogie. We have had some good wins at minor and Under 16 recently so there's definitely some good stuff coming through. The team will be hoping to build on the very good under age set up we have in the county." Recent under age wins for Cork includes last year's All-Ireland minor championship and this will surely provide a fertile recruiting ground for the selectors when they start to rebuild the team for the coming year's championship. Cork will also be hoping that some of the more effective tactics employed last year can be

put to similar effect again. The management had a good understanding of what the girls needed. With large numbers of the panel involved in colleges' camogie at a competitive level, fitness was never a major problem. Training was consequently tailored to concentrate on skills. "In training, ball work became more of a focus, we did a lot of speed work and concentrated on quick movement of the ball. Basically it was match orientated", Harrington points out. The approach worked well for the team and while at this stage there is still a degree of uncertainty about exactly what shape the management team will take, the girls are secure in the knowledge that Pa Finn will still be involved as will former Cork stalwart, Sandra Fitzgibbon. As defending champions Cork will surely feel that they have more to lose than any other but will also feel that after three years in the proverbial wilderness they do not want to experience that kind of frustration again. So from where will their biggest challenge come? Obviously Tipperary will be a threat. Not only do they have a wealth of talented players but they may also have that extra hunger this year. No team that has enjoyed the sort of success that Tipperary has will take kindly to playing second fiddle, particularly to their Munster neighbours and fiercest of rivals. Kilkenny and Galway will also have to be watched. While the former have always been classed among the giants of Camogie, Galway are a team that many believe have yet to reach their full potential. Although Cork beat them comprehensively early last year, the score-line belied their potential. Galway were missing quite a few of their central players that day and still displayed some obvious seeds of promise. Limerick too could be in a position to cause some upsets this season. Although maybe unlikely champions, with few senior clubs in the county, they have some highly effective and talented players to choose from. With Granagh-Ballingarry were All-Ireland club champions back-to-back in 1998 and 1999 and also All-Ireland seven-a-side winners in 2002, that particular club provide highly experienced players to the young county side. For the moment, however, there is only talk of summer. The stage now is occupied by students, many of whom are sure to feature prominently when the inter-county season picks up. Perhaps, then, the Ashbourne Cup for Colleges is the best place to start mapping the season ahead. A trip to Cork, where this year's competition is being held, will provide as good a guide as there is to the talent on offer for the coming year. And for those that fancy a flutter, maybe this is the place to look first before placing that bet.



Tipperary and Cork: still the teams to beat

"There's great depth in Cork camogie. We have had some good wins at minor and Under 16 recently so there's definitely some good stuff coming through. The team will be hoping to build on the very good under age set up we have in the county."
Caoimhe Harrington



HB FEBRUARY 2003 38

Cork schools camogie sides in full training for Junior A, B semi-finals this weekend

St Mary's, Charleville and Presentation, Bandon are busy preparing for their All-Ireland Junior A and B semi-finals fixed for this Saturday.

Vince Harrington, the Charleville coach, can rely on intercounty stars of the calibre of Anna Geary, Shannon Brosnan, Mary Coleman, Edwina Waters and team captain Sinéad McAuliffe to maintain the school's magnificent record at this level. Their opponents, Coláiste Bríde, Enniscomorthy are bolstered by players from former Féile champions Oulart a' Ballagh. Bandon contest

their first ever Junior semi-final with St. Fergal's, Rathdowney having to travel to Bandon for a 2pm start.

Trial
Cork Colleges U14 trial The following players are requested to attend a trial at Nagle Rice School, Doneraile on Sunday at 11am:

Michelle Lee, Eimear Murphy, Tracy O'Reilly (Buttevant), Sinéad Daly, Sarah Foley (Carrigrohane), Joanne Herlihy, Melissa Jones, Fiona O'Connell, Michelle O'Connor, Aisling Thompson (Charleville), Niamh Given, Tracey Roche, Sharon Sheehan, Niamh Walsh (Doneraile), Grace Carr (Fermoy), Sarah Coleman, Máiréad

Foley (Glanmire), Amanda Flaherty (Youghall), Carolyn Motherway, Denise O'Leary, Ella Ryan (Midleton), Denise O'Regan, Katie Duane (Pres, Mitchelstown), Elaine Collins, Ann Crowley, Deirdre Crowley, Eileen Foyle (Mount Mercy).

FIXTURES:

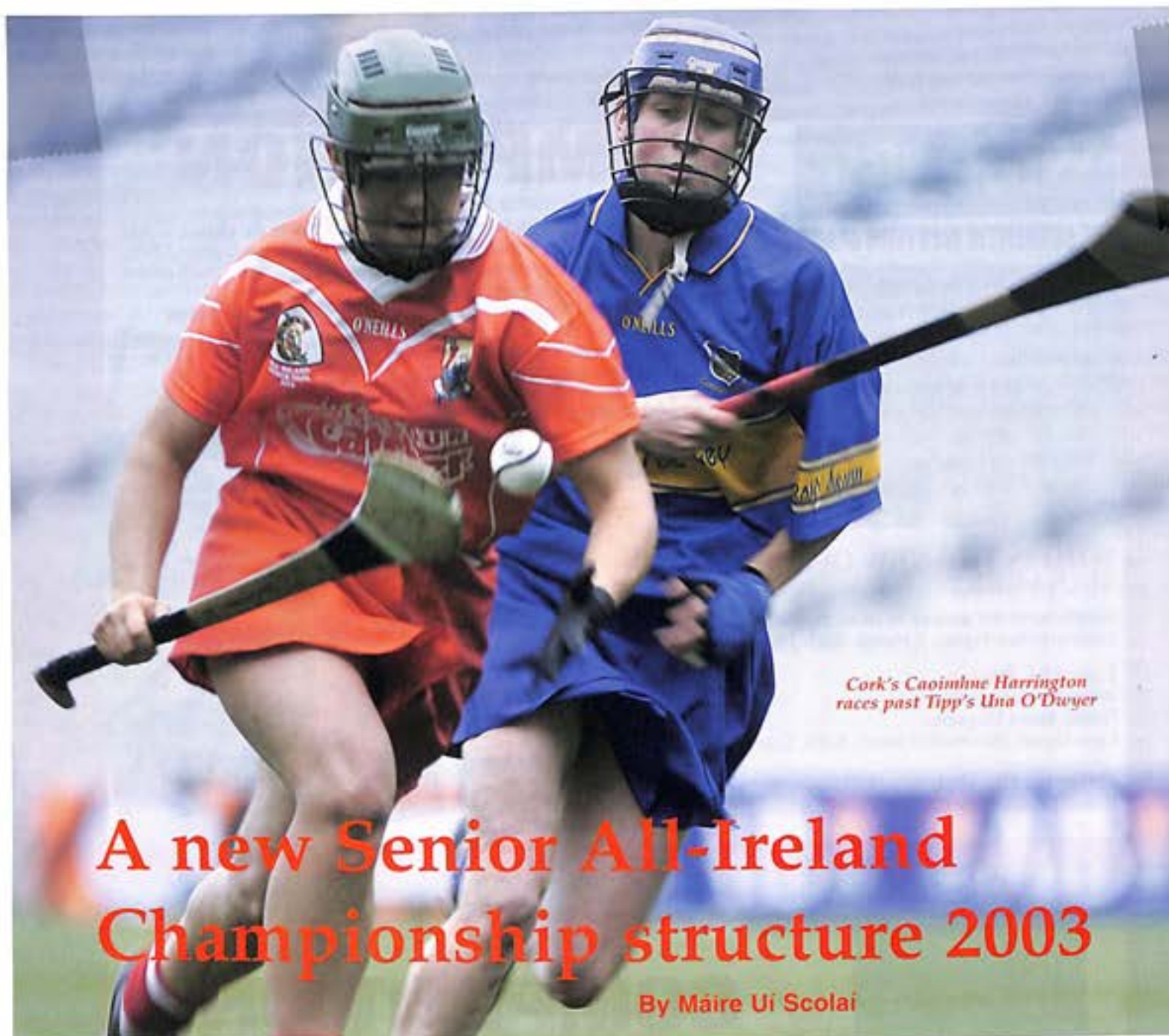
All-Ireland junior A semi-Final: St. Mary's, Charleville v Coláiste Bríde, Enniscomorthy Saturday 1st March @ Feenagh, 2.30pm All-Ireland junior B semi-Final: Presentation, Bandon v St. Fergal's, Rathdowney Saturday 1st March @ Bandon, 2pm Cork colleges Under 14 camogie trial Sunday 2nd March @ Nagle Rice, Doneraile, 11am.

O'Leary wins sports title

by Sara O'Donovan

A MEMBER of the Cork senior Camogie team has been named as the Celtic Ross West Cork Sports Star of 2002. Jennifer O'Leary won the monthly award for September following Cork's victory over Tipperary in the All Ireland final. When her name was announced as the overall winner at the recent Celtic Ross West Cork Sports Star Awards, she revealed that it was "very unexpected".

A Physical Education student at the University of Limerick, at 19 Jennifer is one of the youngest ever recipients of the award. She has played camogie at all levels on the Cork team and is a leading player with her club, Barryroe. According to Jennifer, the recognition shows "how much camogie has come into the limelight."



Cork's Caoimhe Harrington races past Tipp's Una O'Dwyer

A new Senior All-Ireland Championship structure 2003

By Máire Uí Scolai

When our counties renew rivalry at the end of this month in the National League it will be the start of another long season for many with just a few reaping silverware at the end of the year, but many could perhaps look at the form of some of our weaker counties such as Offaly, Laois and Limerick in last year's League, and who knows with a revamped senior championship structure perhaps a new name may appear on the O'Duffy Cup next September or even take a step nearer to the famous Cup. Many counties are already adopting this League format to their own championships believing that the more games players get the better, sharper and fitter they will become. Among the counties adopting this style are Wexford and Dublin.

ALL-TICKET AFFAIR

For a long number of years the senior camogie championship was played on an open draw system while in the last number of years a back door system was introduced and thus it gave counties a second bite at the cherry. However, this year it has been decided to play the championship on a League basis and it will culminate with the final on September 21st in the first all-ticket only final. The championship will begin on the last weekend of June 28th/29th with two matches every weekend until the semi-finals on August 23rd/24th. The format will consist of two groups of four as follows:

- Cork
- Antrim
- Galway
- Kilkenny

- Group 2 will consist of:
- Tipperary
 - Wexford
 - Dublin
 - Limerick

Each team will have three games and it will be played on a home and away basis. The top two teams from each group will go through to the semi-finals. Should more than two teams finish on equal points a play off would take place.

It will be interesting to see how this system will work, but the Dublin manager P.J. Donoghue is very much in favour of such a change. It is his opinion that it may very well help the weaker counties and thus give the stronger counties probably more challenging matches, thus being of benefit to all sides. "It is the best camogie news I have heard for sometime, it is very welcomed in Dublin," was P.J.'s reaction.

Dublin will face Limerick in Dublin in their first outing and last year's All-Ireland finalists Tipperary will host Wexford. The opening encounters in the other group are Antrim hosting Kilkenny, while Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland champions Cork will host National League champions Galway. That could be a very interesting tie, but like all the other fixtures League performance will to a

degree play a part in the first rounds maybe.

Round 2:

- Galway v Kilkenny
- Limerick v Tipperary
- Antrim v Cork
- Wexford v Dublin

Round 3:

- Kilkenny v Cork
- Dublin v Tipperary
- Galway v Antrim
- Limerick v Wexford

This new format will certainly give the general public many more matches to see by lengthening the series and it would be great to see lot more supporters attending all camogie matches.

National League

With the National League kicking off on the twenty third of this month, no fewer than fourteen matches will take place on that date. National League Division 1 champions Galway, who recently started back to intercounty recently will have to travel to take on the All-Ireland champions Cork. Galway would very much like to make up this season for the bad championship season they had last year and they would be anxious to get off to a good League campaign. However, Cork who lost their crown last season will be very anxious to try and put in a better League show this season. Division 2 champions Offaly have a bye on that date, but last year's runners up Laois will travel to see the Lilywhites.

DUGGAN PK. BALLINALSLOE HOST INTERNATIONAL CAMOGIE/HURLING MATCH

The west of Ireland sees enough of rain and wind, but amid the grey wintry weather Duggan Pk. Ballinasloe recently played host to a very rare match when children from the Aldesha Refugee Camp in Palestine played camogie for the first time ever. These boys and girls were in Galway at the invitation of the Galway/Palestine Support Group and Dermott Connolly of Béal Átha na Slua Camogie club got the idea of inviting them to the famous town for a day.

The children aged U14 tried out many sports on the day but for many of the children including the local children the crowning moment came when they stepped out in Duggan Park to play probably the first ever international match played there in either hurling, camogie or football. The event went off great and thanks to people like Joni

Traynor and Jeanette Kelly, who with her twin daughters Aine and Siobhán the kids did not go hungry during the day. The teams truly had an international flavour with the Béal Átha na Slua girls playing along side girls and boys from Palestine. According to club member Dermott some of the children "took to the game very well



Cork celebrate their 2002 championship win

and it was great to see them enjoying the sport and the day so much."

The referee for the famous match was Michael Ward. As a memento of the occasion, the children were given hurling sticks and sliotar to bring back to Bethlehem, so who knows that maybe when that part of our world sees quieter times we may well see camogie played there! The event attracted a lot of media attention and was recored on National Television, so well done to Dermott and the Béal Átha na Slua Camogie club.

National League Fixtures:

Feb. 23rd: (First named has home advantage) Div. 1: Cork v Galway; Kilkenny v Wexford; Tipperary v Dublin; Antrim v Derry. Div. 2: Cork v Galway; Kilkenny v Wexford; Tipperary v Dublin; Antrim v Derry; Clare v Down; Meath v Roscommon; Kildare v Laois; Louth v Cavan; Waterford v Tyrone; Wicklow v Carlow.



Girls from Cumann Camogaíochta Béal Átha na Slua in back row with Palestinian children in front row, at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe. Included are back row, first left, Khaleed Ajamich; second left, Joni Traynor; last on back row, Michael Ward (referee). Front, far right, Dermot Connolly (coach)



FEB. 2003

GEMMA O'CONNOR CAMOGIE Cork



AT JUST 17, Gemma O'Connor played in the new and cavernous Croke Park for the first time last September in the All-Ireland senior camogie final and gave an exhibition of defensive play well beyond her years.

Star-studded Tipperary were going for four-in-a-row, but in an assured defensive display in which all six Cork backs played their part, it was the all O'Connor half-back line that really broke the back of the Tipperary challenge. Gemma was not in the least overawed at having to mark the mercurial Philly Fogarty, who was eventually moved to full-forward.

She was also on the Cork junior side that won the National Junior League, then the intermediate team that won the Munster crown, before her big promotion. She also holds an All-Ireland minor medal to round off her winning collection.

Camogie Chat with Mary Newman

THE clash of champions in the seasons opening National League game finished honours even as holders Galway showed they will be no push over when the next sides meet come championship on July 5.

Despite trailing by five points at the interval Galway held their composure and led Cork with three minutes remaining on the clock, the introduction of Breige Corkery saw the Cloughduv youngster narrow the gap to just one and with just seconds left Rachel Moloney rescued Cork with a last gasp point. Many were anxious after the game, but given that it's early season and having spoken to Sandie Fitzgibbon I am sure that she and her fellow selectors will be using the league to experiment and sure didn't we lose last year's league semi-final to Limerick and we all know what happened after that.

A not so pleasant opener for the Junior's who were comprehensively beaten by Galway, failure to take the limited chances which presented themselves cost Cork dearly as the physically stronger Galway girls rose to the challenge with confidence to take the two points on a day when Cork's Amanda O'Regan had an outstanding hour at centre back.

Congratulations this week to Cork senior players Jennifer O'Leary and Gemma O'Connor, on Friday evening Jennifer was named the 103 F.M./Celtic Ross Hotel sports personality for 2002. At Monday night's County Board meeting Chairperson Marion McCarthy brought the good news that Gemma has been named as the *Irish Examiner* young camogie player of 2002, well done to both who are worthy recipients. Here's hoping Fiona makes it three in a row on Friday night in Silversprings.

Apologies to Jack Mc Grath and his Carrighoun committee for my non attendance at their A.G.M. Re-elected to the position of Chairman Jack will be joined by Noreen Quinn Courcy Rovers as Vice Chairperson while Joan O'Riordan from Ballygarvan will act as Secretary. This progressive Division will hold competitions in Under 11, 13 and 15 while the Carrighoun Cup will again be contested by the 21's.

Grading was the big item on the agenda last Monday night with Eire Og and Newtownshandrum dropping down from Senior A to B. Valley Rovers were successful in their application for regarding from Senior B to Junior A, while Brian Dillon's will be joined in the junior B grade by Glen Rovers second string.

Milford with Emer Watson notching up 4-2 were to strong for Aghbullogue in the Under 18 A championship semi final and will now meet Newtownshandrum in the final on March 15.

On Saturday in Feenagh at 2.30 holders St Marys Charleville will once again cross paths with Colaiste Brid in the All Ireland colleges Junior A semi final. Last season Charleville had to call on all their reserves to defeat the Leinster standard bearers and this time out Ciara Storey (daughter of Martin) and Una Leacy are sure to test the character of the North Cork girls who will look to Sarah Sexton and Sinead Mc Auliffe to lead the way.

In the Junior B semi final it's a big day for Presentation Bandon when they entertain St Fergal's Rathdowney at 2pm. Having taken their first provincial title with a big victory over Borrisoleigh Sinead White will be looking for a repeat performance from her charges.

Juvenile camogie

THE Cork Juvenile Camogie Board's first meeting of the year took place in Blarney last Thursday night writes Tim Buckley.

The main business of the meeting was grading of teams for the under-16 league. League games will start on March 8. There will be no game on St Patrick's weekend to allow for the running off of the Divisional under-16 Blitz.

It is hoped all league games will have been played by May 4. The knock-out stages will take place during last week of June and the first fortnight of July.

Grading of teams was as follows:

Grade A — St. Catherine's, Ballinhassig, Douglas, Milford, Ballyhea, Glen Rovers, Ballygarvan, St. Finbarrs and Inniscarra.

Grade B — Section 1: Eire Og, Valley Rovers, Ballincollig, Blackrock, Enniskeane, Newtown, Coursey Rovers, Cloughduv and Aghabullogue.

Grade B — Section 2: Cobh, Malin, Carrigaline, Na Piersaigh, Killeagh, Youghal, Buttevant, Watergrasshill and Bishopstown.

Grade C — Section 1: Ballinascorney, Slieve Rua, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Rockbawn, Clonsilla, Ballinora and Blarney.

Grade C — Section 2: Newtownshandrum, Eire Own, Duncormey, Kilshannig, Fr. O'Neill, St. Fannahans, Charleville and Sarsfield.

Grade (12-a-side): St. Vincents, Bandon, Brian Dillon's, Grenagh, Millstreet, Tracton, Castlelyons, Mayfield, Kildorrery and Barryroe.



Camogie board tribute to Claire O'Herlihy.

CLAIRE O'Herlihy's involvement with camogie in Limerick began about 14 years ago when she brought her daughters Katie and Joan to underage camogie training with Patrickswell.

Within a short space of time Claire joined Suzanne Enright and Yvonne Lynch in the underage management team and began to help with training and matches.

These teams had many a successful outing, the highlight being the Feile Na nGael, which was held in Limerick in 1993 and '94.

Claire quickly progressed through the ranks of the club and became club secretary and club delegate to the County Board. She brought with her to this job her sense of profes-

sionalism an organisation. The briefcase she invested in and passed on to her successor still holds the club's documentation and correspondence.

It wasn't long before Claire came to the attention of the Limerick County Board and in December 1995 she was approached to take an officer's position and within 24 hours she agreed to go forward as assistant secretary/fixtures secretary.

On December 12 Claire was elected as assistant secretary and also as delegate to Munster Council. Claire very soon put her own professional stamp to this position, she introduced the computer to Limerick camogie. Gone were the days of hand written fixture's lists and camogie correspondence, the laborious and tedious written work was now a

thing of the past.

In December 1996 Claire was elected as County Secretary and again as delegate to Munster Council. The following year she held her positions and was also elected as delegate to National Congress. Claire continued working in these roles for a number of years travelling the county and country to meetings, matches, finals, fundraisers, award ceremonies and conventions representing the county in a most professional and dignified manner.

In December 2000 Claire made one of the toughest decisions of her camogie career, she decided to take a break as secretary to the County Board and as delegate to Munster Council and Congress.

In her letter of resignation she explained she was taking a break for

personal reasons. She thanked all her camogie friends for the wonderful years. She asked that Limerick camogie keep up the high standards set by its predecessors and that all members continue to treat each other with the respect and support they deserve. Her final words in this letter were: "Be nice to each other and think of the greater good first".

In her years as officer Claire had many achievements, she began the county schools competition, she was involved with the county teams, she initiated under-age county training, negotiated deals with county trainers and management and became involved with divisional board's camogie awards.

Even when Claire retired she continued to work hard behind the scenes as motivator and

adviser. She always encouraged people to come forward and become involved, she believed in giving everybody a job thus ensuring that things would run smoothly.

When great camogie people passed on, most recently Mike O'Brien and Helen Sheehy/Fitzgerald, Claire once said, "Limerick's loss is heaven's gain".

Claire passed away peacefully in the early hours of last Friday at Milford Hospice, may she rest in peace.

Over the last few days her friends came from all over the country and from across the water to say their good-byes. Claire, you have now passed on to a higher place to meet with your friends who have gone before you, sadly it is now our turn to say, "Limerick's loss is yet again heaven's gain".

Managerless seniors suffer

KILKENNY 2-6 WEXFORD 1-1
John Furlong

WEXFORD BEGAN the National Senior camogie League with a loss to Kilkenny at Thomastown on Sunday.

County Chairman Jack O'Brien took temporary charge of Wexford, who are still managerless. They played with the advantage of the breeze in the first-half, but it was Kilkenny who led 0-2 to 0-0 after eight minutes.

Wexford were awarded a penalty in the tenth minute, but Aine Codd's effort went agonisingly wide, and Kate Kelly also squandered two '45s. In fact, Wexford had 14 wides alone during the opening period.

Kilkenny, with a second point by Aoife Neary on 25 minutes, broke 0-3 to 0-0 ahead at half-time.

Kilkenny had another point before Michelle Hearne goalied to end Wexford's impasse, and leave just a point separating the sides after 37 minutes.

Kilkenny then hit two goals, the first by Mairead Costello on 42 minutes, and a second by Jackie Frisby five minutes later, to increase their lead to seven points (2-4 to 1-0).

Kilkenny enhanced their lead with a couple of points, before substitute Mary Leacy grabbed a consolation score for Wexford in the final minute.

Wexford will obviously be disappointed to have started the league on a losing note, but they showed some potential against Kilkenny, and things can only get better.

Kilkenny - Katrina Ryan, Ciara Kerrihan, Kelly Long, Bridget Grennan, Elaine Aylward, Mairead Lawlor, Claire Delaney, Lizzie Lyng, Edel Maher, Pauline Comerford (0-2), Mairead Costello (1-0), Marie O'Connor, Catherine Doherty, Aoife Neary (0-4), Jackie Frisby (1-0).

Wexford - Margaret Darcy (St. Martin's), Bernie Holohan (Rathnure), Emma Carroll (St. Ibar's), Claire O'Connor (Rathnure), Evelyn Quigley (Rathnure), Aine Codd (St. Martin's), Catherine O'Loughlin (Monageer-Boalavogue), Michelle O'Leary (Rathnure), Kate Kelly (St. Ibar's, capt.), Bridget Curran (St. Ibar's), Orla Hernan (Monageer-Boalavogue), Aoife O'Connor (Rathnure), Elaine Holohan (Rathnure), Michelle Hearne (St. Ibar's, 1-0), Mag Kelly (St. Ibar's).

Subs: Mary Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-1) for Bridget Curran; Aisling Moran (Oulart-The Ballagh).

Referee - Aine Derham (Dublin).



Coláiste Bríde's junior camogie crew celebrate completing a Leinster 'A' championship four-in-a-row, and rare senior/junior Double, with victory over Loreto, Kilkenny, in last Thursday afternoon's final at Carlow. (Pic: Rory Kellett).

Coláiste Bríde complete Double in some style

COLÁISTE BRÍDE 4-9 LORETO, KILKENNY 0-3
Ronan Fagan

COLÁISTE BRÍDE'S junior camogie stylists virtually resembled The Untouchables at a bitterly cold, and overcast Carlow last Thursday afternoon, as they coasted to a first Leinster 'A' championship four-in-a-row.

The victory, which was borne out of an unquenchable desire, also helped complete an historic senior/junior Double for a school, which is driven towards its goals, and diligently prepared, by its passionate coach Elva Moriarty, whose record of achievement over several seasons simply has to be appreciated.

Having talent-laden squads helps a lot, but harnessing same, and keeping that talent focussed has been a task she has taken on with great happiness.

Players like captain Jacqui Codd at full-back, Olivia Murphy at right half-back, Sarah Darcy in midfield, and Una Leacy up-front demonstrate their manager's determination through their conviction on the field.

And last week's famous win could have been achieved in more emphatic fashion, considering Coláiste Bríde operated in second-gear for much of the hour; had they hit top revs, Loreto might actually have been victims of a whitewashing. The Kilkenny side's complete haul of three points was harvested by centre-back Eileen Fitzpatrick, who would almost certainly have been denied those scoring opportunities by an Enniscorthy side in full flight.

But Coláiste Bríde will appreciate the necessity to hit top-gear next day, in both the senior and junior All-Ireland semi-finals, when St. Mary's of Charleville, the standard-setters of schools camogie, will once more try to block their path to ultimate glory. However, I fancy that if Coláiste Bríde are actually in the right frame-of-mind, it will be the Rebels whose dreams will be dashed.

While the Loreto forwards drew a blank, they asked lots of questions of the Coláiste Bríde backs, but were continually harried and hassled, with Ciara Storey being very sturdy between the posts, while captain Jacqui Codd gave an awesome display in the no.3 shirt, and she was closely rivalled by the aforementioned Olivia Murphy for 'player of the match'. They were ably assisted by Anna Murphy, Tracey Breen, Aine Devereux and Siobhan Cullen, while at midfield, Stacey Redmond and Sarah Darcy always held an edge.

The attack posed a serious threat for the most part, and while it mustered only a point in the first quarter, the forwards posed plenty of problems for their black-and-amber clad rivals.

Tracey McCormack accounted for that opening score, when she took a strong shoulder before firing over in the fourth minute.

Emma Moran rushed in from the left corner to finish a rebound to the net from an original attempt by Una Leacy in the 15th minute, and make it 1-1 to no-score.

While Sarah Darcy, one of five members of the school's victorious senior team who were again on duty, tagged on a point following a great solo burst, before the Cathedral town girls gained a tremendous boost in the 19th minute, when Jacqui Codd's free from 70 metres sailed all the way to the Kilkenny net.

This scoring blitz continued with a further goal seconds later from Katie Murphy, after she combined brilliantly with Rathnure's Emma Moran,

while Una Leacy, who had a hand in many of Coláiste Bríde's scores, found the range from a 21st minute free, to leave Kilkenny floundering (3-3 to 0-0).

The outstanding Eileen Fitzpatrick finally got Loreto on the scoresheet five minutes before the break. The Freshford ace added a 34th minute point, although Tracey McCormack came agonisingly close to resuming with a goal for Coláiste Bríde, when her shot rattled the crossbar ten seconds into the new half.

Following an exchange of points between McCormack and Fitzpatrick (free), Loreto failed to again find the target, despite threatening on a few further occasions, including once when Fitzpatrick tried to catch Coláiste Bríde out with a firmly hit low strike from a close-in free.

The champions, meanwhile, compounded their lead with the addition of a further 1-5. Leacy, Darcy and Leacy again stretched the difference to 3-7 to 0-3 with 49 minutes gone, before Una Leacy established a massive 16

point gap with a well executed 51st minute major.

It was left to the latter and Síona Nolan to conclude the scoring with a point apiece, before Brendan Williams, the Loreto coach and member of the competition's organising committee, presented the trophy to Jacqui Codd, to the jubilant cheers of her fellow panelists, and hardcore supporters.

Coláiste Bríde - Enniscorthy - Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh), Anna Murphy (Monageer-Boalavogue), Jacqui Codd (Duffry Rovers, capt., 1-0), Tracey Breen (Rapparees), Olivia Murphy (Monageer-Boalavogue), Aine Devereux (Oulart-The Ballagh), Siobhan Cullen (Oulart-The Ballagh), Stacey Redmond (Oulart-The Ballagh), Sarah Darcy (Monageer-Boalavogue, 0-2), Tracey McCormack (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-2), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 1-4, 0-1 free), Síona Nolan (Monageer-Boalavogue, 0-1), Katie Murphy (Rathnure, 1-0), Mary Gahan (Monageer-Boalavogue), Emma Moran (Oulart-The Ballagh, 1-0).

Subs: Louise O'Leary (Rathnure); Aisleen Doyle (Rapparees) for Mary Gahan; Maeve Frayne (Rathnure); Hannah Doran (Oulart-The Ballagh); Johanna Breen (Monageer-Boalavogue); Kelly O'Connor (Rathnure); Willina Carr (Rathnure); Sara Nolan (Rapparees); Kerri Dunne (Oulart-The Ballagh); Christine Fortune (Oulart-The Ballagh); Ciara Garaphy (Shamrocks); Stacey McCormack (Oulart-The Ballagh).

Loreto, Kilkenny - Noelle Corrigan, Rita Coady, Lisa Quigley, Amy Hennessy, Marie Anderson, Eileen Fitzpatrick (capt., 0-3, 2 frees), Annie Doyle, Siobhan Fahy, Jean Delaney, Carol Karvanagh, Aine Fahy, Niamh O'Donoghue, Siobhan Magner, Catherine Maher, Grace Dunphy.

Referee - Jack O'Brien (Wexford).

Gretta's late strike sinks champions

WEXFORD 1-6 KILKENNY 2-2
John Furlong

WEXFORD BOUNCED back in the closing stages of last Sunday afternoon's National Junior camogie League divisional derby, and eventually edged the verdict against the reigning All-Ireland junior champions courtesy of a late pointed free from Gretta Heffernan.

Wexford got off to an ideal start with a goal in the opening minute. A shot by Gretta Heffernan was saved by Kilkenny goalie, Liz Doran, but the rebound fell to Glynn-Barnstown's Catherine McNaughton, who on her debut made no mistake from close range.

Wexford added to their advantage with a pointed '45 by Heffernan in the third minute. The winners were then hit with a double injury blow, as both Mary Walsh and Michelle Jordan were unable to continue, and Josie Dwyer and Ciara O'Connor took over.

Kilkenny finally opened their account with a 20th minute point by Aine Fahy, to which Wexford replied with a second personal point by Gretta Heffernan (free), after a foul on Una Leacy, and that left the purple-and-gold leading 1-2 to 0-1 at the interval.

Kilkenny began the second-half with a goal from Lorraine Murphy after five minutes, which was followed four minutes later by a well-taken point after a solo run by Mary Leacy for Wexford, to put

two points between the sides (1-3 to 1-1).

While Aoife O'Connor stretched the gap with a 45th minute point, Kilkenny soon hit back with a Gillian Meaney goal, and a point by Grainne Daly, which put Kilkenny into the lead for the first-time (2-2 to 1-4).

Wexford, to their credit, never gave up, and they deservedly equalised with seven minutes left courtesy of a point by Mary Leacy.

The decisive moment arrived in the final minute, after Una Leacy was fouled, and Gretta Heffernan slotted over the resultant free to give the Slaneysiders a well deserved victory.

Wexford - Emma Barnes (Faythe Harriers), Tracey McCormack (Oulart-The Ballagh), Aisling Moran (Oulart-The Ballagh), Niamh O'Connor (Rathnure), Michelle Jordan (Oylegate-Glenbrien), Colleen Atkinson (Oulart-The Ballagh), Karen Atkinson (Oulart-The Ballagh), Mary Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 0-2), Mary Walsh (Blackwater, capt.), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh), Gretta Heffernan (Oylegate-Glenbrien, 0-3), Aoife O'Connor (Duffry Rovers 0-1), Catherine McNaughton (Glynn-Barnstown 1-0), Elaine Howlin (Bannow-Ballymitty), Roisin Howlin (Bannow-Ballymitty).

Subs: Ciara O'Connor (Rathnure) for Michelle Jordan; Josie Dwyer (Ferns St. Aidan's) for Mary Walsh; Joanne Kearns (Duffry Rovers) for Roisin Howlin; Louise Stafford (Bannow-Ballymitty) for Elaine Howlin; Caroline Murphy (Oulart-The Ballagh), Marie Laffan (Glynn-Barnstown).

Referee - Damian Noble (Dublin).



Coláiste Bríde's Tracey McCormack out-paces Loreto's Rita Coady in last Thursday afternoon's Leinster Schools Junior 'A' camogie championship final at Carlow. (Pic: Rory Kellett).

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Coláiste Bríde centre-forward Una Leacy races clear of Loreto's Lisa Quigley during the Leinster Schools Junior 'A' camogie championship final, at Carlow on Thursday afternoon last. The Enniscorthy girls completed a provincial four-in-a-row. (Pic: Rory Kellett).

Cork open camogie league campaign with gritty draw

By Mary Newman

DEFENDING league champions Galway proved a stern test for All-Ireland champions Cork when the sides opened their national league campaigns in Buttevant on Sunday last. In the junior league Cork were never in the same league as Galway as they suffered a heavy defeat in their league opener in Ballyhea.

The senior side shared the point with league champions Galway and were thankful for a late point to do so.

CORK 2-12 GALWAY 3-9

AIDED by the strong wind in the opening half Cork took the game to Galway from the throw in. Fifteen minutes into the game the sides were level at three points each then.

Enjoying plenty of possession Cork worked hard to avail of every opportunity and when Orla O'Sullivan finished Fiona O'Driscoll's long free to the net the All-Ireland champions began to enjoy their best spell. Fiona O'Driscoll and Rachel Moloney added points.

Then when Ciara Healy netted Cork's second goal with eight minutes to go to the interval they were two goals to the good and looking comfortable.

Galway though replied with a Veronica Curtin point and that was quickly followed by an Orla Kilkenny goal four minutes from half time which was a welcome one to a side who looked to be struggling.

Cork kept their advantage to turn over 2-7 to 1-5 ahead thanks to points from O'Sullivan and O'Driscoll.

O'Driscoll opened the second period with a Cork point but two in reply from Sandra Tannion and Orla Kilkenny kept Galway in touch as Jenny O'Leary added Cork's tenth point.

Aided by the strong wind, Galway were now beginning to get to grips with their hosts and when Aine Hillary and substitute Denise Gilligan struck for goal in the ninth and 14th minutes the league champions had gained the upper hand.

Michelle Glynn stretched their advantage to two with ten minutes remaining and now it was Cork who were struggling. Holding their heads Cork came in search of scores and kept the Galway defence under pressure with young substitute Breege Corkery pointing with confidence.

With the second last puck of the game Rachel Moloney won possession and pointed to level matters after good inside work from Fiona O'Driscoll had helped Cork hold possession.

The Cork selectors were reasonably pleased with their side's performance but its early days yet. The All-Ireland-winning side and their backroom team are today (Thursday) jetting off to Lanzarote for a

week's break and no doubt will return refreshed to take on Limerick on March 8.

Teams — Cork: G Casey, J O'Callaghan, L O'Connell, S Dunlea, S Hayes, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, R Moloney, E Burke, U O'Donoghue, C Harrington, J O'Leary, O O'Sullivan, C Healy, F O'Driscoll. **Subs:** B Corkery for O O'Sullivan, J O'Sullivan for L O'Sullivan, V Harris for E Burke, N Ahern for G O'Connor.

Galway: L Curry, M Haverty, R Broderick, M Harkin, A Kelly, T Laheen Glynn, A Hardiman, A Hillary, C Murray, M Glynn, S Tannion, A Connolly, V Curtin, O Kilkenny. **Subs:** T Maher for A Hardiman, D Gilligan for S Tannion, L Lally for A Kelly, R Lally for A Connolly.

GALWAY 4-9 CORK 0-7

A DISAPPOINTING performance saw the Cork junior side have no answer to the stronger Galway in the junior game in Ballyhea.

Sarah O'Donovan and Miriam Deasy had early Cork points and the indications looked promising. Orla Curtin opened the Galway account with a seventh minute point and in a lively opening half Cork kept the pace with a Galway side who were more physical opponents. Amanda O'Regan and Marese Flanagan swapped points before Emma Kilkelly and Flanagan with points gave the visitors the lead.

Cathy Bowes increased that advantage when she struck for the games opening goal six minutes from the break and with Orla Curtin adding a point Galway led 1-5 to 0-3 at the break.

Within ten minutes of the restart Galway had put the game out of Cork's reach with Orla Curtin grabbing two goals and now Cork were in big trouble.

Amanda O'Regan with some excellent long range striking was superb at centre back and tried to rally a struggling Cork. A point from O'Regan was followed by one from the hard working Marion Jaego but two in succession from Emma Kilkelly and Susan Keane had the result sealed before Orla Curtin's third goal.

Cork substitute Sinead Kelly swapped a point with Marese Flanagan in the closing stages of a game where failure on three occasions to take goal chances cost Cork dearly.

Cork: E Clifford, M O'Donovan, R Corcoran, S A O'Halloran, S Douglas, A O'Regan, K Buckley, M O'Connell, R Buckley, M Holland, C Kelly, M Jaego, B Maher, M Deasy, S O'Donovan. **Subs:** M Hegarty for K Buckley, S Kelly for M Holland, C Barrett for B Maher, L Burns for S Douglas, M Buckley for M O'Connell.

Referee: Fintan McNamara (Clare).



Members of the Cork Senior Camogie team and All-Ireland champions, including captain Una O'Donoghue and coach Pa Finn, at Cork airport on their way to Lanzarote for a week's holiday. Picture: Richard Mills

Charleville get final new look

MUNSTER Junior A champions St Mary's Charleville, have made sweeping changes to their side ahead of tomorrow's All Ireland post primary schools semi-final against Coláiste Bríde Enniscorthy at Feenagh.

From the team that won provincial honours four weeks ago, joint managers Vincent Harrington and Gerard O'Donovan have completely re-jigged their lineout with a whole new full-back line coming into play. Gone from the starting 15 are Marie Broderick, Elaine Potter and Sinead Carroll, while Sarah Sexton, Siobhán O'Leary and Mary O'Mahony get their opportunity to impress.

Positional changes see Edwina

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN
Camogie

Waters and Fiona Chawke reverting to full and corner-back respectively, with Sarah O'Mahony and newcomer Sexton filling the centre and wing-back slots. Tina Shanahan who played at full-forward in the Munster final will lineout at half-back.

Harrington says the changes will give a more balanced look to his team: "Enniscorthy have good quality players all over the field. We have brought in three new girls and made a good few switches to try and counteract that."

"We are expecting a very tough game. They have eight of last year's team and we have seven."

Also with seven of the Wexford minor team on parade, they will

provide Charleville with their greatest challenge in quite some time. Ciara Storey, daughter of Martin, Jackie Codd and Una Lacey will be the players who should cause the most problems.

The Cork school will also be hoping that their outstanding duo of Anna Geary and Edwina Waters will be fully recovered from flu by the 2.30pm throw-in.

Meanwhile, in the junior B All-Ireland semi-final Presentation Bandon will be looking to qualify for their first ever final when they host St Fergal's Rathdowney at 2pm. Fresh from a decisive provincial win over Borrisoleigh. They showed that in Lucy Hawkes, Marguerite and Anna Nyhan, Deirdre Coomey and Margaret Murphy they have the potential to go one step further.

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Cork winners Paidi O'Brien, cycling; David Condon, horse racing and Gemma O'Connor, camogie, with Ton y Leen.

Examiner Junior Sports Stars 1997

OF THE 17 awards winners who gathered in Jury's Hotel, Waterford six years ago, Damien Duff has entered the nation's hearts as the hero of the 2002 World Cup, having progressed from under-age success to become one of the cornerstones of the new Republic of Ireland era under his mentor Brian Kerr.

Kerry footballer Noel Kennelly has added an All-Ireland medal from the Kingdom's success in 2000 to his Examiner award of 1997 while Clare's John Reddan captained the Banner to their first All-Ireland MHC title six years ago and has become a mainstay of the senior hurling side.

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Camogie: Sinead O'Callaghan

St Mary's, Charleville is renowned as a camogie hothouse and teacher and coach Vincent Harrington has guided the fledgling careers of many an All-Ireland winner.

O'Callaghan excelled at all grades and won All-Irelands at every level, helping St Mary's to junior and senior schools titles in 1996 and 1997 before captaining the winning side in 1998. She was also winning All-Ireland senior medals for Cork in 1997 and 1998 and then an Ashbourne Cup double with UCC in 2000 and 2002.

"Sinead was a very good forward with great mobility and very good reader of the game," Harrington said. "She was a leader of the attack, even then. She's got a very good job in computers over in England now, though, and I'd say she's left the glory behind her."



Whitechurch NS girls, winners of the Sciath na Scoil Indoor Camogie Competition played at Neptune Stadium.

Pic: Mike English



WINNER: Treasa McCarthy, a member of the victorious Cork U18 2002 camogie team, receives her award from Sheila Golden, president of the Cork Co. Camogie Board at the Inniscarra Camogie Club annual dinner.



GOLDEN MOMENT: Rena Buckley (Cork U16 and U18 camogie teams) and Margaret McCarthy (Cork U16, U18 and intermediate team) receive their awards from Sheila Golden, president of the Cork Co. Camogie Board at the Inniscarra annual dinner.