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May
2006

Cork



Cork captain Joanne O'Callaghan raises the National Camogie League trophy aloft after her side had defeated Tipperary at Thurles. Picture: Des Barry

Cronin puts win down to defence

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie League final

AS always a gentleman, Cork manager John Cronin was readily available and willing to give his thoughts immediately after the game.

"It was as we expected it to be a tough one, as always they give you nothing soft, anything you get from Tipperary you earn.

"We played well in the second half and that's really what won it for us in the end.

"I suppose looking back we did not play at all well and to be honest we were poor at times but we finished strong and that was pleasing.

"Looking back at the statistics Tipp failed to score a point from play and that's a tribute to our defence.

"I thought they hassled, chased and upset the Tipp forwards and never allowed them settle. Mary O'Connor and Amanda O'Regan were superb and our changes at half time worked once again.

"Briega loves the midfield role and she worked very hard when moved there for the second half. We are thrilled to take the county's 13th league title and we will now turn our attention to Wexford who we meet in the first round of the championship on Saturday week next.



Cork's Anna Geary brings the ball out of defence against Tipperary in the National Camogie League final at Thurles. Picture: Des Barry

THREE REASONS WHY CORK WON

1. Mary O'Connor and Amanda O'Regan.

Both players gave sterling performances. In the first half, when many Cork players were finding the going tough, it was these two who stood tall. Long clearances, breaking up attacks, working hard and chasing back were key elements of their game. It is difficult for a corner-back to play a sweeping role but O'Regan did just that, at times breaking into the

middle and covering her teammates pulled further out. O'Connor's experience was a telling factor.

2. Jovita Delaney. The Tipperary goalkeeper didn't have one of her better days. Cork scored 1-1 as a direct result of her hesitancy in clearing. Credit the Cork forwards for their pressure forcing Delaney to take her eye off the ball, but even when afforded space, many of the Tipp clearances fell to Cork players.

3. Cork Switches: The switches made at half-time by the Cork mentors had a huge outcome on the result. The switch of Anna Geary to her favoured position of left half-back and Corkery to centre-field were important factors in Cork's improved second-half performance. Rena Buckley helped steady the ship when introduced. Emer Dillon also got more involved when switched to centre-forward three quarters of the way through.

decider

No classic but
Cork's second
half show is
enough to win



LINDA
MELLERICK

Cork 2-7
Tipperary 2-5

IT may not go down as one of the greatest National League finals. Indeed it certainly won't go down as one of the many epics these two have provided over the years.

But that won't bother Cork. They woke up this morning as National League Champions for 2006 and for now that's all that matters.

The outcome hung in the balance right to the final whistle and for that reason alone it kept an edge to the game.

Tipp were first off the mark, a dubious free converted by Emer McDonnell.

Looking nervous and jittery Cork were finding it hard to settle. The first 10 mins saw the rebels gaining possession around the half-forward line but overcarrying and needless hand-passing took precedent over the direct hurling they are more accustomed to.

Cork's first score, after 13 minutes, came from a Jennifer O'Leary free, again harshly awarded against Tipperary full-back Una O'Dwyer.

Angela Walsh, using strength and speed converted two minutes later.

Both sides were finding it hard to convert possession into scores. McDonnell was winning on her wing but tended to lose her footing or run into trouble.

As time went on it was the Blue and Gold that began to look the more dangerous.

Cork were beaten at centre-field where Philly Fogarty and Trish O'Halloran controlled matters. A huge supply was heading into the Tipp forward line and Cork would have found themselves in deeper trouble at the break had it not been for magnificent performances from Mary O'Connor and Amanda O'Regan.

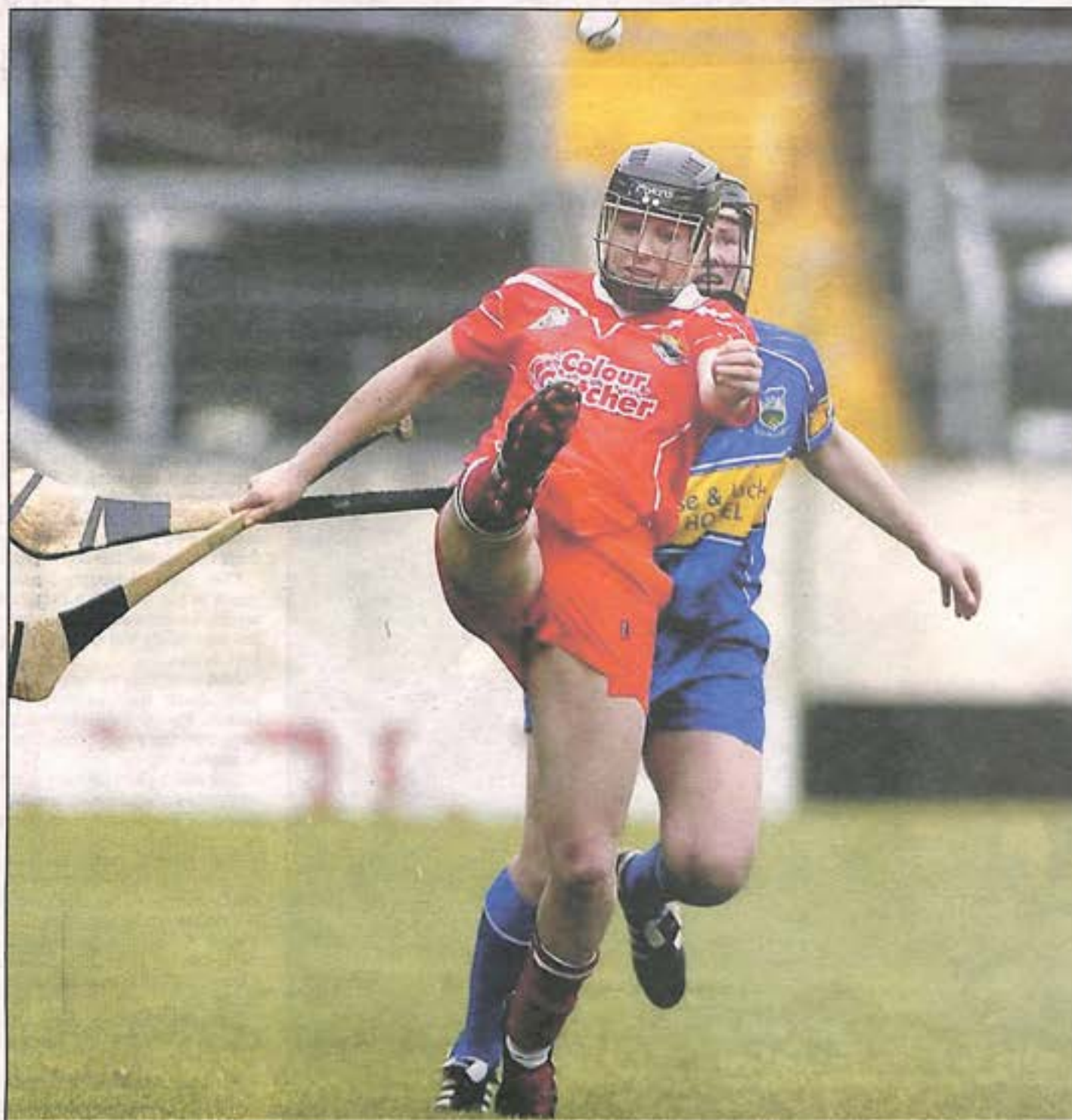
The supply paid off for Tipp after 16 minutes when Geraldine Kinnane rounded Catriona Foley and hit low across the face of the goal to allow Emily Hayden pull home.

Two points from O'Leary, one from a free, brought Cork level again. 23 minutes.

Apart from O'Regan, Cork were vulnerable in the full-back line and got caught again. Joanne Ryan, who began to drift further out the field, won possession on the sideline. She struck into Hayden who lobbed, with excellent precision, a high ball in over the head of Joanne O'Callaghan where Geraldine Kinnane was waiting in behind to connect first time giving Aoife Murray little chance.

An Angela Walsh point was cancelled out by a Claire Grogan free and it was Tipp who were happiest entering the dressing room, leading by three points.

Cork had it all to do. Three points was a



Angela Walsh, Cork, kicks the sliothar away under pressure from Trish O'Halloran, Tipperary.

Picture: SPORTSFILE

small deficit but too many players weren't up to scratch. O'Connor, O'Regan, O'Leary and Walsh the few Cork players performing well.

Credit the Cork mentors once again for good positional and personnel switches at the break which led to a major second-half improvement.

Rena Buckley came in at right half-back, replacing Rachel Moloney at centre-field, Corkery moved out to the centre and Anna Geary switched wings, now operating at left half-back.

Buckley's introduction added more stability and Geary and Corkery both upped a gear.

Cork got the perfect start, compliments of a Jovita Delaney goalkeeping error. A short puck out to Gemma O'Connor was sent in high. Delaney had plenty of time to gather and clear but took her eye off the ball and dropped it at the feet of the intruding Elaine Burke who took full advantage of the gift.

A heavy downpour at half time had yet to let up and players began to lose their footing in the slippery conditions.

Tipp began to play with more fluency but were pushed back time and again with the

Cork defence improving as the game wore on. Mary O'Connor was colossal in her pivotal centre-back position and O'Regan did incredible covering from a corner-back position. Tipp brought on Jill Horan hoping her speed and accuracy would test O'Regan but it was the Cork girl who won the battle, shadowing her opponent particularly well. It was noticeable that as the Cork players improved, Tipp's performance slackened. Two points by Emer Dillon and O'Leary and two pointed frees from Claire Grogan gave Tipp a one-point advantage with 14 minutes left on the clock.

Apart from their two goals Tipp weren't converting from play.

A goal was always going to separate the sides in the second half and it came after 18 minutes. A long clearance by O'Regan went in high over the entire Tipp defence. The first player on to it was the lightning fast O'Leary who gathered on the run. Still with a bit to do she soloed five or six steps before eyeing the far corner and lashing to the net.

With two points always a dangerous advantage Tipp pushed hard. They opted to run for goal with three minutes of normal

time left on the clock when points would possibly have earned them a draw. Cork had three gilt-edged chances to put the game beyond reach but hit wide on each occasion.

On the stroke of full-time Grogan won a free. Referee John Pender looked to be telling her she had to score direct. Grogan struck. As McDonnell reached up to grab the sliothar the final whistle blew. The fact that the sliothar hit the back of the net didn't matter. Cork were National League Champions and on the balance of play thoroughly deserved to be so.

Scorers for Cork: J O'Leary 1-4 (0-1), E Burke 1-0, A Walsh 0-2, E Dillon 0-1

Tipperary: C Grogan 0-4 (F's), E Hayden and G Kinnane 1-0 each, E McDonnell 0-1 (F).

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan (Capt), C Foley, A O'Regan; A Geary, M O'Connor, B Corkery; G O'Connor, R Moloney; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, S O'Donovan, E Burke.

Subs: R Buckley for R Moloney (half time), E Watson for E Burke (51mins).

TIPPERARY: J Delaney; S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, M Tynan; S Nealon, J Kirwan, M Shortt; P Fogarty (Capt), T O'Halloran; C Hennessy, E Hayden, C Grogan; E McDonnell, G Kinnane, J Ryan.

Subs: J Horan for C Hennessy (half time), L Bourke for J Ryan (49min).

Lucky 13 as Cork tame Tipp

Cork 2-7
Tipperary 2-5

Mary O'Connor, Semple Stadium

CORK defeated Tipperary in a very poor National Senior Camogie League final at Semple Stadium, Thurles, yesterday, to secure their 13th title.

There were only rare glimpses of the spectacular skills normally associated with the sides, mainly through Cork's Jennifer O'Leary and dual star Angela Walsh.

Tipperary got the scoring underway with a point from a free in the second minute from Claire Grogan while it took Cork 11 minutes to finally respond with a free from Jennifer O'Leary. This seemed to settle Cork and then Angela Walsh pointed from play to put Cork in front for the first time.

However, this was short-lived and from the puck-out Tipp captain Philly Fogarty passed the ball to Geraldine Kinane who spotted goal poacher Emily Hayden at the edge of the square. Aoife Murray had no chance as Hayden blasted the ball to the back of the net.

It took Cork another ten minutes to level the scores with two points from Jennifer O'Leary, one from play and the other from a free.

Again Tipp rallied, this time Cora Hennessy passed to Emily Hayden who in a role reversal fed Geraldine Kinane and the Drom-Inch player gave Tipp their second goal.

Claire Grogan added to this lead a minute later to put four points between the sides. However just before the break Angela Walsh took on the Tipp defence, tearing through and sending the ball high and over the bar. The score at half time read Tipperary 2-2 Cork 0-5.

The second half was all Cork, the introduction of Rena Buckley in place of Rachel Moloney worked well for them. Two minutes into the second



Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray under pressure from Tipperary forward Geraldine Kinane as Cork full back Catriona Foley closes in during the National Camogie League final in Thurles.

Picture: Des Barry

half Elaine Burke levelled the scores when she took advantage of a rare mistake by Jovita Delaney to put the ball in the back of the net.

The sides exchanged points, Claire Grogan pointing from a free with Emer Dillon getting Cork's score from play. Tipp were feeling the pressure as Claire Grogan and Philly Fogarty

could both be found deep in defence. Midway through the half Grogan again put Tipp back in front with a point from a free. This time Jennifer O'Leary pulled the sides level for the fourth and final time in the game.

With barely ten minutes left on the clock O'Leary sneaked inside the Tipp defence to score Cork's second goal. A

free from Claire Grogan brought it back to two points between the sides but Tipp were never able to catch up after this despite their best efforts.

TIPPERARY: J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, M Tynan, S Nealon, J Kirwan, M Shortt, P Fogarty, T O'Halloran, J Ryan, C Hennessy, C Grogan (0-5 all frees), E McDonnell, E Hayden (1-0), G Kinane (1-0).

Subs: G. Byrne for C. Hennessy, Lorraine Bourke for Joanne Ryan.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan, B Corkery, M O'Connor, A Geary, G O'Connor, R Moloney, U O'Donoghue, A Walsh (0-2), J O'Leary (1-4, 0-2 frees), E Dillon (0-1), S O'Donovan, E Burke (1-0).

Subs: R Buckley for R. Moloney, E Watson for Elaine Burke.
Referee: John Pender (Kildare)

Cork squeeze past Tipp

O'Leary in sparkling form as Rebelettes claim another league title

TIPPERARY 2-5
CORK 2-7

BY MAÍRE UÍ SCOLAI

CORK added the National League to their All-Ireland title when they defeated great rivals Tipperary 2-7 to 2-5 in Semple Stadium yesterday.

Level on five occasions, it was a thrilling final played immediately after the Munster hurling championship match between Tipperary and Limerick.

With the Tipperary hurlers (senior and intermediates) having won, the pressure was on the camogs to create a rare treble in Semple Stadium.

However, despite the brilliance of Tipp's Claire Grogan, it was the Rebels who showed more hunger on the day.

Mary O'Connor, Briege Corkery, Caitríona Foley and Mary O'Connor picked up their second National League title within a week, having won a Football medal last week with Cork and now are well and truly in the history books.

Tipperary got the better start with a point from a Claire Grogan free after a minute while it took Cork 12 minutes to get their opening score when Jennifer O'Leary sent over the first of her four frees.

Tipperary though, who have never beaten Cork in a league final, went a goal up after 15 minutes when Emily Hayden doubled on a fine pass from Joanne Ryan.

Tipp then looked to be in control when they added a second goal through Gillian Kinnane



Cork's Angela Walsh

However, Cork's Angela Walsh had the last say of the first half with a point with two minutes of the remaining to leave Cork trailing 0-5 to Tipperary's 2-2 at the break.

On the restart the Premier County introduced Jill Horan however, Horan's introduction was not enough to curb a hungry Cork side where the half back-line of Amanda O'Regan and Mary O'Connor were outstanding.

It was Cork who got the dream start with an Emer Dillon goal just after the restart to level the game for the third time, Cork 1-5 Tipperary 2-2.

That goal settled Cork and despite a lot of Tipperary pressure it was Cork who made the better use of the long ball into the forward line with Jennifer O'Leary goaling on 45 minutes.

Both sides fought hard for the next quarter of an hour with points exchanged and while they levelled on two further occasions, it was Cork who held out to win their 13th League title.

TIPPERARY: Jovita Delaney, Susanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Marie Tynan; Sínead Nealon, Julie Kirwan, Marie Shortt; Philly Fogarty, (cpt) Trish O'Halloran; C Hennessy, E Hayden (1-0), C Grogan (0-5); E McDonnell, G Kinnane (1-0), J Ryan.

Subs: J Horan for C Hennessy halftime, L Bourke for J Ryan 49mins.

CORK: Aoife Murray; Joanne O'Callaghan, (cpt) Caitríona Foley; Amanda O'Regan; B Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary; G O'Connor, Rachel Moloney; Una O'Donoghue, Jennifer O'Leary (1-4), Angela Walsh (0-2); Emer Dillon (1-1), Sarah O'Donovan, Elaine Burke.

Subs: E Watson for E Burke 51mins.
Ref: J Pender, Kildare

MAY
2006

MAY 2006



LEFT: Cork captain Joanne O'Callaghan raises the National Camogie League trophy. Above: Angela Walsh, left, and Emer Dillon celebrate victory.

Champs again



**NATIONAL LEAGUE
champions for the 13th
time!**

Securing their 13th title and their first since 2003, Cork became National League Champions for 2006 in Semple Stadium, Thurles yesterday afternoon.

Defeating arch rivals Tipperary by two points in a closely fought encounter keeps the rebels ahead of Tipp in the confidence stakes as both teams eye each other closely for the championship ahead.

This was Cork's third meeting with Tipp in the past month and they can now boast four consecutive victories.

From a Cork point of view these wins will have a significant effect as they try to keep the blue and gold down.

Cork begin the defence of their All-Ireland crown in two weeks time when they take on



LINDA
MELLERICK

Wexford at home.

They are now the only team capable of winning the league and championship double.

Cork set out at the beginning of the year to win every game put before them. To date they have faltered just once, in a league outing against Kilkenny.

They more than made up for that defeat when they lifted the league title yesterday afternoon. There is still plenty of work to be done as Cork are not yet championship-ready and manager John Cronin is fully aware of this.

But work at it they will. Cork are as hungry for success as they were 12 months ago. Winning back-to-back titles is uppermost in their minds.

For now they are afforded a 24-hour reprieve as they settle back and enjoy their defeat of Tipp and their newly crowned status of National League champions.

See pages 39 to 41.

Geary's joy at first win

By MARY NEWMAN

Player reaction

ANNA GEARY, who was picking up her first senior national league medal, was enjoying the moment, sheltering under her mother's umbrella as Joanne O'Callaghan received the league trophy from new president Tipperary woman Liz Howard.

"I'm thrilled, it's a great win for us and it's important to keep the upper hand on Tipperary, it went down to the wire and there was only two points in it at the end.

"We set out at the start of the year to win the league. It's been 2003 since Cork won it and we are determined this year to sweep the board and hopefully retain the All-Ireland.

"Losing to Kilkenny in the league made us sit up and take a look at ourselves and we had to beat Tipperary three weeks ago to stay in contention, when we did this we knew they would be all out for revenge today but we were edging for this final and there was nobody going to stop us taking it.

"We are delighted to win it and now we will start thinking about championship which is in two weeks."

Turning Point

JOVITA DELANEY'S goalkeeping error a minute into the second half which brought Cork level. Cork were never going to lose after this. Sixteen minutes later Delaney again cleared directly into the hands of O'Leary who pointed, bringing Cork level for the third time.

Referee Watch

JOHN PENDER from Kildare helped contribute to a game which never really excited the crowd. Indecisiveness and needless whistle blowing lent to a stop-start game which inhibited any real flow of hurling. A poor performance.

Top player

A DIFFICULT choice between Mary O'Connor and Amanda O'Regan, but O'Connor just about shaded it.

This must surely go down as one of her best performances in the Cork jersey. Read the game intelligently, broke up attacks, drove long clearances up the field and steadied her teammates from her crucial centre-back position.

Entertainment

NOT the best of games. Lacked excitement throughout. The crowd of approximately 1,000 who stayed on to watch failed to help matters with little or no vocal support from the home crowd. 6/10

SportsRound-up

Camogie

MUNSTER SCHOOLGIRLS JUNIOR A PLATE - Final (at Thurles): Ursuline Convent, Thurles 1-7 St Mary's, Nenagh 0-9.

Mary Ellen O'Donovan will represent Cork in Féile na nGael skills competition.

(2006-05-24)

Mary Ellen is Cork Skills Champion

>> By Mary Newman

>>

>> A perfect performance from Ballygarvan's Mary Ellen O'Donovan ensured she was crowned Cork Féile na nGael skills winner for 2006 and will represent the county in the All Ireland skills competition at National Feile Na Gael. Grace O'Callaghan from the Ballinhassig club was second while Inniscarra's Joanne Casey was third. Well done to the three girls on a super display and indeed to all competitors who had to brave the wet weather conditions on Tuesday evening.

Fiona seals a tough victory

By MARY NEWMAN

U16 camogie

Cork 2-11
Limerick 1-5

THE scoreline may suggest a runaway victory for Cork U16 camogie players in this All-Ireland championship meeting with Limerick on Saturday, in Ballyagran, but this is far from true.

It was just seven minutes from full-time before victory was secured over a determined and gritty Limerick side who stuck to their task diligently and will be very disappointed by the score-line. Niamh Mulcahy had Limerick ahead with a pointed free inside three minutes, but five unanswered points gave Cork the lead, the fifth a superb long range strike from the skilful Claire Keohane.

Just when Cork thought they were in for a stroll in the park Limerick hit back, Annette McAuliffe reacting quickest rifling the sliotar to the net after Niamh Mulcahy's 45 metres free struck the post and came back into play.

Limerick applied the pressure and were quickly back on level terms thanks to a Naomi Carroll point and now it was Cork who looked to be in trouble. Holding their composure as their defence absorbed strong Limerick pressure they got a much needed boost two minutes to the break when Catriona Collins first timed a ground shot past Marie Galvin after the Limerick keeper had denied Sinead O'Callaghan with a good save.

Within eight minutes of the restart Niamh Mulcahy had twice exchanged points with Claire Keohane and Catriona Collins and, with their defence coping with strong Limerick pressure, Cork grew in confidence. Collins and Sinead O'Callaghan had put five points between the sides by the third quarter but still Cork could not shake off the challenge posed by Limerick as Judith Mulcahy cut the deficit to four points with 12 minutes remaining.

Play swung from end to end with both goalkeepers busy. Dawn



Limerick's Karen Mullane chases down Cork's Aisling Thompson during their All-Ireland Under-16 Camogie Championship Final clash in Ballyagran, Co. Limerick, yesterday.

Picture: Press 22

O'Keeffe twice coming off her line clearing to safety, while Marie Galvin dealt smartly as Cork searched for scores.

Again it was a ground shot that finally beat Galvin, Fiona O'Connell pushing the ball ahead quickly before whipping past the keeper. Now somewhat flattered by the score-line, Cork finally killed off any hopes Limerick had of a late revival

with points from the excellent Claire Keohane and the hard working Catriona Collins.

With two games remaining against Clare and Tipperary, Cork's hope of reaching the semi-final remain firmly on course.

CORK: D O'Keefe, C O'Neill, M Foley, M O'Donovan, L O'Shea, M Walsh, E Harrington, E Kelleher, F O'Connell 1-2 (1'45), R de Faite, C Keohane (0-5), A Thompson, D O'Callaghan, S O'Callaghan (0-1), C Collins 1-3

(0-1 free)

Subs: J Lynch for S O'Callaghan (40 mins), R Finn for M Foley (50 mins), N O'Donovan for R De Faite (54 mins), L Cunningham for C O'Neill (56 mins), N Dilworth for D O'Callaghan (58 mins).

LIMERICK: M Galvin, A Mc Namara, A McAuliffe, A Hogan, S Heaney, R Rea, K Mulcahy, J Mulcahy (0-1), S Enright, N Carroll (0-1), N Mulcahy (0-3 (free)), M Fitzgerald, A Carroll, Annette McAuliffe, (1-0), J O'Connor.

Ref Eamonn Browne Tipperary.

Cork's 13th National League title

(2006-05-14)

CORK added the National League title to their All-Ireland victory of last year when they defeated their great rivals Tipperary 2-7 to 2-5 in Semple Stadium yesterday (Sunday). Level on five occasions it was a thrilling final played immediately after the Munster hurling championship match between Tipperary and Limerick. With both the Tipperary hurlers and the Intermediates having won their matches the pressure was on the girls to create a rare treble in Semple Stadium but despite the brilliance of Claire Grogan for Tipperary it was the Rebels who showed the more hunger on the day.

Tipperary got the better start with a Claire Grogan free after just a minute and a half and while it may have taken Cork twelve minutes to open the scoring, when Jennifer O'Leary sent over the first of her four frees it seemed it might just be the Rebels day. However, Tipperary who have never beaten Cork in a League final were in a hungry mood and they went a goal up midway thanks to Emily Hayden following a fine pass from Joanne Ryan.

However, it was Cork who had the last say of the first half with an Angela Walsh point with two minutes of the half still remaining, it still left Cork trailing 0-5 to Tipperary's 2-2 at the break.

On the restart of the second half, the premier county introduced Jill Horan who has been out of the country for sometime in an effort to take their third National League title. However, that was not enough to curb a hungry Cork side where the half backline of Amanda O'Regan and Mary O'Connor were outstanding. It was Cork however who got the dream start with an Elaine Burke goal just after the restart to level the game for the third time, Cork 2-2 Tipperary 1-5.

That goal settled Cork and despite a lot of Tipperary pressure it was Cork who made the better use of the long low ball into the forward line on several occasions.

Both sides fought hard for the next quarter of an hour with points being exchanged on both sides and while they levelled on two further occasions it was Cork who held out to win their thirteenth League title.

Tipperary: Jovita Delaney; Susanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Marie Tynan; Sinéad Nealon, Julie Kirwan, Marie Shortt; Philly Fogarty, (cpt) Trish O'Halloran; C Hennessey, E Hayden, C Grogan; E Mc Donnell, G Kinnane, J Ryan.

Subs: J Horan for C Hennessey halftime, L Bourke for J Ryan 49mins.

Scorers: 2-5 E Hayden, G Kinnane 1-0 each, C Grogan 0-5f

Cork: Aoife Murray; Joanne O'Callaghan, (cpt) Caitriona Foley, Amanda O'Regan; B Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary; G O'Connor, Rachel Moloney; Una O'Donoghue, Jennifer O'Leary, Angela Walsh; Emer Dillon, Sarah O'Donovan, Elaine Burke.

Subs: E Watson for E Burke 51mins.

Scorers: 2-7 J O'Leary 1-4 (0-4f) E Burke 1-0, A Walsh 0-2, E Dillon 0-1.

Referee: J Pender, Kildare.

2006
May



Gala

Gala All Ireland Senior Championship

(2006-05-16)

Gala CEO Tom Keogh and Liz Howard, President of the Camogie Association with players from the 6 counties participating in the Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship



Croke Park

Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship –

Everything and More in 2006

The Camogie Association announced its first commercial sponsorship of the All Ireland Senior Championship in Croke Park today (16th May) when it signed a two year deal with Gala, Ireland's fastest growing convenience retailer. The launch was attended by John O' Donoghue T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. The Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship starts on Saturday 27th May.

Liz Howard, recently elected President of Cumann Camógaíochta, welcomed the sponsorship: "This joint venture between the Camogie Association and Gala heralds a new era in terms of commercial sponsorship for our Association. Commercial sponsorship is essential to grow our sport. It opens up exciting new prospects both for the Championship and Gala who have 70 outlets in the competing counties. So there is a natural fit between the two. The Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship has a nice ring to it."

Gala CEO, Tom Keogh is confident that the Camogie sponsorship is an excellent strategic fit with the company's expansion plans: "Camogie is one of the top female sports in Ireland. Many of Gala's customers and staff play, or have played, Camogie. As convenience retailers, our stores are at the heart of communities across Ireland – as is the sport of Camogie. I hope that our support will help ensure a strong future for one of Ireland's great sports."

John O'Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism said: "I am delighted to launch the Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship in this, the 75th year of the competition. Through the commitment of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, camogie has grown to become one of the most popular and widely played female sports in Ireland and I am delighted that the sport has benefited from the Government's Special Budget Measures for Camogie and Women in Sport over the past two years."

Giving everything to the further development of a beautiful game

Gavin Cummiskey talks to Mary O'Connor about her 'dream job'

Every day Mary O'Connor slips into her jeep for a new destination. And yet she always ends up at The Farm, the UCC training pitches utilised by both Cork's camogie and women's football panels.

As a regional development co-ordinator for the camogie association, O'Connor has been spreading the gospel through

trying to compete with the ladies' football, we're just offering another opportunity for women to play sport.

"It's going very well, we have four clubs set up already. Three of the four have been set up in north Kerry, which already has strong hurling roots. We are also planning to set up a camogie club in Tralee town."

O'Connor hails from Killeagh GAA club, also the home base of master craftsman Joe Deane, and she plays her football for Inch Rovers.

The championship starts on

Saturday week when the defending champions are out against Wexford in Pairc Uí Rinn. O'Connor, of course, is one of five players who will attempt to repeat the magnificent achievements of 2005.

Imagine it: A double, double. She cites a rising Kilkenny as the main obstacle this time.

"It does make it easier to play when you are winning. There were a lot of years when Cork hurling and football were being regularly beaten. I think when we won last year the fact that we had experienced so many defeats

made it all the more sweeter."

Regina Curtin and Elaine O'Riordan won All-Ireland medals in football last year but they join the other five camogie players on dual status. It is an extinct endeavour at the elite end of the men's game but the women of Cork are willing to sacrifice for a few years yet.

"Everything revolves around football and hurling," explains O'Connor. "You miss out on family occasions like christenings, holy communions, weddings, but that is the priority in the lives of the seven Cork

players at the moment.

"But it is difficult. You are training six nights a week and you've got to try and get your club in as well. As I said, when you are winning it makes it

Senior championship gets first sponsor

The camogie association yesterday announced its first sponsor of the All-Ireland senior championship when it signed a two-year deal, worth a six-figure sum, with retailer Gala.

Although the marketing of camogie is a daunting task and four hours of driving can sometimes be clocked up when she rolls into The Farm, it is a

dream job.

"I have my office in Limerick Institute of Technology but I'm dealing with people from every county, and because we are dealing with people who work on a voluntary basis most of time you have to meet them in the evening time."

She took a detour yesterday to come up to Dublin for the Gala All-Ireland camogie championship launch at Croke Park. Then training at The Farm. Then home, sleep before starting all over again. It's that time of year again.

MAY 2006



At Croke Park for the announcement that retailer Gala is to be the first commercial sponsor of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship were, from left: Tipperary's Philly Ryan, Gala chief executive Tom Keogh and Kilkenny's Lucinda Gahan.

Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

MAY

2006

Gala occasion as minister welcomes camogie investment

by Jim O'Sullivan

JUST 10% of women in Ireland are participating regularly in sport and physical activity said Sports Minister John O'Donoghue yesterday.

He was speaking at the launch of the expanded 2006 All-Ireland senior camogie championship and the announcement of the Association's first commercial sponsor, the convenience retailer Gala.

Welcoming the sponsorship, Mr O'Donoghue said it was clear that in the 75th year of the competition, camogie had grown to become one of the most popular and widely played female sports in the country. "The pioneers who organised the first game in Páirc Tailteann in 1904 would be very

proud of the continuing popularity of their beloved sport" he said.

Saying that in the past the important role of women in supporting, administering and playing sport had been overlooked, the Minister said that the link between participation in physical activity and sport and the enhancement of health and quality of life had been clearly established.

The Government recognised this through the increase in funding for sport in general from €17m in 1997 to over €243m. Additional funding to the Irish Sports Council in 2006 includes €1.5m to assist in the development of hurling and camogie on a nationwide basis. And, so far this year the Camogie Association has received almost €360,000.

Newly elected President Liz Howard remarked that Gala — who have 200 stores nationally and employ over 3,000 people — were community-based, just like the Camogie Association. "We will work together to promote both of us and progress each other," she commented.

The sponsorship (featuring a 'substantial' six-figure investment) is for an initial two-year term, she pointed out. It heralded a new era in terms of commercial sponsorship which was vital to their future development.

She stressed the importance of government funding by pointing out that it had enabled them to appoint three new full-time development officers — dual Cork All-Ireland and National League medal-winner Mary O'Con-

nor being one of them — who were now fully operational.

GAA President Nicky Brennan was amongst the guests — who included Sports Council Chief Executive John Treacy, Ladies Football Association CEO Helen O'Rourke and Gala CEO Tom Keogh. He said he fully supported the decision to pair the All-Ireland Under-21 hurling final with the final of the Gala Camogie championship in Croke Park, on September 10.

This year the camogie senior championship will be played on a round-robin basis for the first time — guaranteeing each of the six teams five games.

The first round will be played on May 27 with Cork v Kilkenny, Galway v Tipperary and Limerick v Kilkenny.



READY FOR ACTION: (l-r) GAA President Nicky Brennan, Minister for Sport John O'Donoghue, Camogie President Liz Howard and Gala CEO Tom Keogh at the launch of the Gala Senior Camogie Championship

May 2006

Camogie: National League Final

Craftier Cork quench Tipp's title ambitions

Camogie league final

Cork 2-7
Tipperary 2-5

By Gerry Slevin
At Semple Stadium
Photos by Bridget Delaney

A somewhat strange refereeing decision deprived Tipperary of a late late snatched victory over their great rivals Cork in Sunday's camogie senior National League final in Semple Stadium. Well into added time and two points behind, Tipp were awarded a free from about thirty metres out. Claire Grogan, who had already lofted over five points, four of them from frees, clearly knew that a repeat exercise would be of no use. She nodded and pointed to a colleague as though to indicate that she was aiming for her. The Cashel girl then took the free, dropped the sliotar into the hand of team captain Philly Fogarty who turned and struck it. But as she was so doing - and the ball ended up in the net! - referee John Pender sounded the long blast and stretched out his arms. Game over!

It took a brief moment for everyone to realise that, in fact, he had concluded the game, leaving people in both camps wondering what the point of awarding the Tipp free was, if he was not to allow it to mean anything. Had he told Claire that the shot she was about to take was the final puck of the game, then okay, but he didn't do that.

That said, Tipp could have little to complain about because they lost out to a craftier, indeed hungrier Cork side that capitalised on a tonic early second half goal and whose defence in particular was very sturdy, keeping Tipp attacking threats down to a minimum.

It was not the most inspiring of Tipp-Cork meetings, there being a lack of fluidity in the play although there were some fine passages and good scores. Each side began with ten of their 2005 All Ireland final lineouts and it was Tipp who had the better of things in the first half. In fact it took Cork all of twelve minutes to open their scoring account, an eleven minute gap created between Claire Grogan's opener in the first from a free, after Eimear McDonnell was fouled soloing though, and Jennifer O'Leary's leveller. With centre back Julie Kirwan and mid fielder Philly Fogarty landing plenty of ball into the Tipp attack, more scoring opportunities should have been availed of, but players found themselves running into cul de sacs when quicker delivery to better placed colleagues might have paid better dividends.

Cork's centre forward Angela Walsh took on the Tipp defence shortly after



Geraldine Kinane gets first to the ball against Cork in the League Final at Semple Stadium. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

Jennifer O'Leary's equaliser to edge the visitors ahead but it was a short-lived lead because Emily Hayden finished a Ger Kinane centre to the Cork net. Two O'Leary points kept Cork there before a fine move involving Emily Hayden and Ger Kinane in reverse saw the Drom-Inch girl slam home Tipp's second goal.

It was no more than Tipp deserved and Claire Grogan (free) and Angela Walsh exchanged points, leaving Tipp with a 2-2 to 0-5 interval lead.

The fact that Tipp had failed to score any points from play in that half was ominous and for the second half Jill Horan came on for her first appearance since last year's All Ireland final, replacing Cora Hennessy.

The rain that had threatened but held off throughout the day eventually arrived during the half time break and it made things difficult for the second half, a half that didn't get off to a good start from a Tipp perspective. A long free from Mary O'Connor became Jovita Delaney's ball but she fumbled it, right into the path of Elaine Burke who tapped it home to level up matters. Claire Grogan did restore Tipp's lead from a free in the 5th minute and by the 8th, Emer Dillon had brought parity for the fourth time with an exchange of points between Claire Grogan (free) and Jennifer O'Leary keeping the game very much alive for both teams.

While Jill Horan received a lot of possession her shooting let her down, evidence of her long lay off from the game, and with Tipp failing to capitalise on scoring opportunities, Cork took up the challenge, their confidence beginning to improve. Out of defence, time after time came Amanda O'Regan and Mary O'Connor clearing their



Tipperary captain Philly Fogarty gets ready to set up a Tipperary attack against Cork. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

lines with authority and when Jennifer O'Leary gave Jovita Delaney no chance with an unstoppable shot, twelve minutes remaining, the fat was in the fire. Try as Tipp did, all they could manage for the remaining minutes was a Claire Grogan point from a free nine minutes from the end.

It wasn't to be Tipp's day and the final whistle, premature though it might have been, gave Cork their 13th league title.

One would have to say that the same drive that was so evident against Kilkenny was missing from this Tipp performance. Granted, Cork

were a much stronger and more committed outfit but far too few Tipp players reached their normal standard and one felt, throughout the second half, that fitness levels in the Cork camp were much higher.

Scorers - Cork: J. O'Leary 1-4 (0-1 free), A. Burke 1-1, A. Walsh 0-2.

Tipperary: C. Grogan 0-5 (4 frees), E. Hayden and G. Kinane 1-0 each.

Cork: Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan (captain), Caitriona Foley, Amanda O'Regan, Brid Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary, Gemma O'Connor, Rachel Moloney, Una



Marie Tynan bursts out of the Tipperary defense with the ball safely secured. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

O'Donoghue, Angela Walsh, Jennifer O'Leary, Emer Dillon, Sarah O'Donovan, Elaine Burke. Sub: Emer Watson for Elaine Burke.

Tipperary: Jovita Delaney, Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Maria Tynan, Sinead Nealon, Julie Kirwan, Michelle Shortt, Philly Fogarty (captain), Trish O'Halloran, Cora Hennessy, Emily Hayden, Claire Grogan, Eimear McDonnell, Geraldine Kinane, Joanne Ryan. Sub: Jill Horan for Cora Hennessy, Lorraine Bourke for Joanne Ryan. Referee: John Pender, Kildare.

NOTE: Tipp's selection complement has been completed with the appointment of Maureen Connolly to join Paddy McCormack (Manager), Martin Burke and Dinny Ryan. Maureen (nee Maher), from the Templemore club and originally from Burgess captained Tipp in the 1979 All Ireland final when defeated 2-3 to 1-3 by Antrim. Her daughter Niamh has won All Ireland medals as a member of the Tipp panel in 2001, '03 and '04, along with doubling up with a junior medal in '01.

May 2006

Cork and Tipp ahead of pack as senior camogie starts up again

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogie

AFTER many years of working with Foras Na Gaeilge the Camogie Association announced its first commercial sponsorship of the All-Ireland Senior Championship in Croke Park last Tuesday when it signed a two-year deal with Gala, Ireland's fastest growing convenience retailer.

The launch was attended by John O'Donoghue TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, players and the newly-elected president of the association Liz Howard. The Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship starts on Saturday May 27 and Cork are one of the first teams out as they take on Wexford on Leeside.

Six counties compete in this year's senior championship: Cork, Tipperary, Wexford, Galway, Limerick and Kilkenny.

It really does look as if it'll be Cork and Tipp again this year. Galway may cause an upset. Kilkenny, despite beating a very off-form Cork (who had just returned from holiday) in the league, were well beaten a week later by Tipp and I don't envisage a serious threat from them in the championship.

Limerick shouldn't be competing in the A league or championship. Their league display against Cork was pitiful to say the least.

Cork, with a hugely experimental side ran out victors on a scoreline of 4-16 to 0-2. That in itself speaks volumes.

Wexford continue to produce lively competitiveness but in reality they don't have the balance to take honours.

I wonder if Tipperary still have it. Certainly the loss of Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy and Deirdre Hughes can't be underestimated. You cannot lose three big names like that without strong players coming in.

Tipperary doesn't have strength-in-depth. Looking at the subs bench last Sunday there was no one you could look at and say 'They should bring her on, she'll make an impact'.

Cork doesn't look to have too much to play around with either, particular up front. Only two of the six forwards performed in the league final. The mentors were slow to make changes here but again they didn't have a lot of options.

Emer Watson was introduced but I still think it'll take another year or so for her to grow accustomed to playing at senior inter-county level.

Orla Cotter is an exciting player with an incredible future. I would have given her a run to see how she weathered the storm. Maybe a league final was not the time though and the mentor's changes worked so we can't argue.

Elaine O'Riordan is another who impresses me - a lot to learn yet, but she has years ahead of her.

The fact that the association has a new sponsor won't impress or mean anything to the competing counties. They won't see a cent of it. Apart from being lucky enough to get your hands on an All-Ireland medal (which doesn't hold much value in monetary terms), the money goes behind the scenes.

Years ago a Sunday night après match banquet was the norm. This was a nightmare for the losing side. I remember losing many finals to Kilkenny.

Of course by the time we managed to defeat Kilkenny in a final this custom was abandoned so I never did get my revenge off the field.

In line with the GAA the camogie association switched the post-match banquet to Monday lunchtime where all four teams (junior and senior) met for a lavish meal and presentation of medals. It was always a mad rush to make the train home but it was a great day (well it felt that way because Cork were very successful).

Now that custom has also been done away with and there is no lunch, no medal presentation and nowhere that opposing players meet, chat and shake hands. It's a pity as the official side added to the importance of it.

To be fair the cost of hiring out Croke Park for All-Ireland final day is frightening. People aren't always aware of the hidden costs. It's all irrelevant at the end of the day really. Winning the All Ireland is all that matters.

The very best of luck to Cork as they begin the journey!

Sponsors and new structures to raise public profile of camogie

By JOHN REDINGTON

Camogie news

"WELL, I suppose defending an All-Ireland is what every captain likes to do," admits Cork skipper Joanne O'Callaghan at the launch of the senior camogie championship.

A new competition structure, a new sponsor, a new president at the helm and an All-Ireland final double-header with U21 hurling, the 2006 edition of the O'Duffy Cup went off with a bang in Croke Park.

The game's rising profile in the consciousness of the nation was evident in the first-ever commercial involvement in the competition.

Cumann Camógachta president Liz Howard welcomed Tom Keogh, CEO of sponsors Gala, at a function also attended by Minister for Sport & Tourism John O'Donoghue and GAA President Nicky Brennan as well as players from the competing counties.

"Our first commercial sponsorship heralds a new era in the development of our sport," Howard said.

"And with 70 outlets in our competing counties, Gala are a natural fit in that we can promote each other."

Keogh was confident that camogie sponsorship was an excellent fit with the conveniences store chain's expansion plans.

"We're opening another 40 outlets this year alone and, as many of our staff and customers play camogie, we can move in tandem with the game's expansion," he said.

"Our stores are at the hearts of communities across Ireland, as is the game of camogie, and I hope our support will ensure a strong future for one of Ireland's great sports."

Nicky Brennan added to the occasion by revealing that this year's All-Ireland U21 hurling final will be the curtain-raiser to the senior camogie decider.

"It's only right that camogie and hurling should combine for a big September Sunday in Croke Park," he said.

"It brings two strands of Gaelic games closer together and I strongly support this process of integration. However, I think it is equally important that camogie retains its own identity."

"I hope the benefits of the government-funded hurling initiative under our Director of Hurling spills over to camogie," he said.

"We already have a camogie input in our hurling development structures through Mary O'Connor and we see these sort of initiatives as vital to the progress of both sports."

O'Connor, however, is far better known as one of the first women dual All-Ireland medallists and, as one of the three full-time development co-ordinators employed under the Government-funded camogie development initiative.

"Outside of Cork and the other traditional counties, the game is making huge strides with new clubs being formed in places like Kerry and Mayo," she says.

"And there is a big interest in women's sport in this country. We get bigger crowds turning up at the All-Ireland camogie final than turns up at the women's FA Cup final in England."

Cork has been a particular beneficiary.

"Of course success breeds success and the county team's victory last year has huge boost to the game's development at club and underage level in Cork," she says.

"They're the shop window that youngsters want to see and, when it's going well, the profile is raised at all levels throughout the county."

Back to this year's championship which begins on this day next week. O'Callaghan is aware of the expectations weighing on the Cork side's shoulders.

"Favouritism may be nice but it puts a lot more pressure on us too," she says. "This year will be tougher championship to win because everyone has to play each other in the round robin and a lot of other teams are coming on at the moment."

"We'd a good win in last Sunday's national league and, hopefully, that will be a boost for us but there was only a puck of a ball between ourselves and Tipp."

And there is also the challenge laid down by Rebel hurlers and ladies footballers.

"When you see all the other Cork teams doing well, it puts pressure on us to perform," admits O'Callaghan. "It's a great incentive for us. We don't want to feel left out but, then again, our success last year means that everyone else wants to beat us."

Flying Fahy scores smashing winner in ding-dong final

Camogie

Kilkenny B.....2-8
Dublin B.....2-7

A TERRIFIC point deep in injury-time from flying wing-back, Aine Fahy earned Kilkenny a thrilling victory in this ding-dong National Camogie League final (Division B) in Dublin on Saturday.

The camogie kittens have produced some terrific results during the campaign, but this effort beat the lot. Fortunes swayed to and fro, but in a nerve-testing and tingling finish

young Fahy became the heroine of the hour.

She collected the ball on her own half-back line. She raced up the field on a during solo run before she rifled over the winning point from the right wing when in full flight and without catching the ball. It was a score worthy of deciding what had been a smashing game, the first B final ever.

Dublin were good, but they came up just short. The winners started with points during the opening 90 seconds from Claire Aylward (free), following a

foul on Ann Marie Phelan, and Catherine Doherty.

Turned tables

By the 13th minute Dublin had turned the tables, via a point from Julie Draper and a goal from Muireann O'Gorman. Another point from Niamh Taylor kept the losers flying.

The goal was the big score during the first half. Although they scored more times than their opponents, Kilkenny still found themselves 1-4 to 0-6 behind at the break.

were in front. Edwina Keane goaled after receiving a perfectly weighted pass from Catherine Doherty.

Again Dublin showed top class fighting qualities. They bounced back, and a point from Louise O'Hara followed by a 45th minute goal from Muireann O'Gorman put them back in front (2-5 to 1-6).

They did better than that. With less than 10 minutes remaining Ciara Duggan extended that lead with a point.

sides fought tooth and nail for the honours.

Kilkenny sneaked a point through a Claire Aylward free following a foul on Therese Muldowney, Dublin replied through Eimear Brannigan.

With less than 90 seconds of normal time remaining, Kilkenny drew level. Ann Marie Phelan got through for a palmed goal after the opening was engineered by Marie Dargan.

While the winners had stars aplenty, none shone brighter than Mairead Costelloe, Therese Muldowney and Pauline Comerford.

The scorers

Kilkenny - Claire Aylward (0-6, five frees); Edwina Keane, Ann Marie Phelan (1-0 each); Catherine Doherty, Aine Fahy (0-1 each).
Dublin - Muireann O'Gorman (2-1); Julie Draper (0-2, frees); Niamh Butler, Emily Dargan, Elaine O'Shea, Aoife Gorey, Sharon Rafter, Linda Brennan, S. Byrne, L. Murphy, Brannigan (0-1 each).

The teams

Kilkenny B - Brid Aylward, Any Butler, Mairead Costelloe, Emer Lyng, Rosain Fennelly, Aine Fahy, Pauline Comerford, Phoebe Hefferian, Therese Muldowney, Julie Ann Woodcock, Lucinda Gahan, Claire Aylward, Miriam O'Keefe, Ann Marie Phelan, Catherine Doherty, Subs - Edwina Keane, Kelly Ann Cotterell, Marie Dargan (used), Laura Kavanagh, Niamh Butler, Emily Dargan, Elaine O'Shea, Aoife Gorey, Sharon Rafter, Linda Brennan, S. Byrne, L. Murphy, Brannigan.

Dublin B - E. Butler, E. O'Meara, A. McCluskey, S. Hanks, A. Fitzpatrick, C. Power, J. Murphy, A. Walsh, Aisling Brogan, Fanning, S. Ryan, J. Draper, E. Brannigan, C. Durkan, M. O'Gorman, L. O'Hara, N. Taylor, Subs - S. Cotter, S. Hursey, G. Flynn, S. Connors, S. Curran, A. Griffin, A. Jordan, C. Lacey, E. Ryan. Meanwhile, in the under-16 A All-Ireland championship, Kilkenny scored a big 6-9 to 2-4 win over Dublin.

Scorers:

Kilkenny - Michelle Quilty (3-0); Edwina Keane (2-2); Ruth Bergin (1-1); Marie Dargan (0-3); Katie Power, Sinead Kelly, Sarah Walsh, Amy Maher.

Dublin - E. Butler, E. O'Meara, A. McCluskey, S. Hanks, A. Fitzpatrick, C. Power, J. Murphy, A. Walsh, Aisling Brogan, Fanning, S. Ryan, J. Draper, E. Brannigan, C. Durkan, M. O'Gorman, L. O'Hara, N. Taylor, Subs - S. Cotter, S. Hursey, G. Flynn, S. Connors, S. Curran, A. Griffin, A. Jordan, C. Lacey, E. Ryan. Meanwhile, in the under-16 A All-Ireland championship, Kilkenny scored a big 6-9 to 2-4 win over Dublin.

Great comeback sees Tipperary U16s defeat Galway

Championship
2nd Round

Tipperary 3-06
Galway 2-06

By Rose Mannion
At Killimor

Tipperary's under 16 camogie squad were highly praised as 'the best Tipperary team to wear the Blue and Gold' by their manager John O'Donnell as he congratulated the girls for their sheer grit and spirit as they overcame a seven point deficit against Galway on Saturday last in the second round of the Championship which was played in Killimor.

Going in at half time with Galway very much in the driving seat on a five point lead and looking confident and in control, this Tipperary side came back in the 12th minute of the second half and left the Galway side stunned and looking for answers as to how they could have let Tipperary gain control and go on to record victory with three

points to spare on the final whistle. With five points to their good at the start of the second half, Galway were quick to add a further two points while it was in the 12th minute before Tipp responded. Within a minute of the puckout Tipp were in possession and another point reduced the Galway lead again but it was Tipp's goal just minutes later that set their mood to follow up with another point. As the Tipp supporters got behind the side, it was in the 8th minute of playing time that brought the equaliser. As the ball was worked down field once more, a general melee up in the forward line resulted in a goal and now Tipp who had stepped up a gear and recorded the deficit by another point. It was clear their spirit and determination was in full swing. Galway were unable to manage anything further other than a dying seconds point before the final whistle.

Lining out without the services of their Captain and goalie Christine Kenneally, without Bonnie Kennedy, Aine Brisbane, Sinead Cahalan, Sarah Kennedy and Anne Marie Ryan, this squad have been

plagued with injury after getting off to a late start to the season after the County Board found it difficult to get them a manager. However, despite the fact that this team looked as if everything was running against them, no stone has been left unturned in their preparation and their managerial team of John O'Donnell, Patsy Carroll and Lar O'Brien, have enlisted the help with coaching skills, of Senior County Manager Paddy McCormack, of Paudie Butler and Donal Kelly all who are giving of their time freely and willingly. Substitute goalie Aisling Whelan was also unlucky when she sustained a serious ligament injury which necessitated in her removal to the bench in the first half.

The side will go on now to play Limerick in the County Pitch at the Ragg on May 27th in the next round.

Tipperary panel and team scorers:

Aisling Whelan, (Toomevara) Geraldine Stapleton (Silvermines), Sheena Ryan (Knockavilla), Maria Ryan (Kilruane), Tracey Flanagan (Clonoulty), Fiona Young (0.1) (Toomevara) Niamh O'Connell (Knockavilla),



Tipperary under 16 panel and managerial: Front row L to R. Debbie Hickey, Ethna Moran, Laura Reid, Lea Bergin, Catriona Walsh, Sheena Ryan, Aisling Whelan, Aoife Daly, Tracy Flanagan, Mary Gleeson, Niamh Kelly, Patsy Carroll. Back: Karina Doherty, Lar O'Brien, Sarah Kirwan, Sandra Dunne, Geraldine Stapleton, Sarah Dwyer, Fiona Young, Sharon Hayes, Margaret Collins, Niamh O'Connell, Eimear Shanahan, Emy Louise Coffey, Marian Ryan, Maria Ryan, John O'Donnell. Photograph: Rose Mannion

Mary (Slievenamon) Sharon Kennedy (Portroe), Sarah Hayes (Cashel), Catriona Reid (Burgess), Lea Bergin Walsh (0.2) Moycarkey (Roscrea), Aoife Daly Marian Ryan (3.0) (Shannon Roscrea) Sandra Dunne (Toomevara), Debbie (Drominch) Margaret Hickey (Newport), Sara Collins (Thurles) Sarah Kirwan (Moneygall), Dwyer (0.3) (Hollycross), Karina Doherty (Newport), Emy Louise Coffey Ann Marie Ryan (Newport), (Toomevara), Niamh Kelly Aine Brisbane (Toomevara)

Sinead Cahalan (Shannon Rovers). Subs used: Sarah Kirwan for Margaret Collins, Niamh Kelly for Maria Ryan, Karina Doherty for Aisling Whelan (injured). Referee: Dave Daly (Cork).

MAY

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SENIORS ARE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

A GREAT victory for the senior team who took the counties thirteenth national league title defeating Tipperary on Sunday last. Tipperary led 2-2 to 0-5 at half time after an opening half which failed to live up to pre match expectations. Emily Hayden and Ger Kinnane had first half Tipperary goals in the sixteenth and twenty seventh minutes.

Cork worked hard and

kept in touch thanks to points from Angela Walsh and Jennifer O'Leary as they kept pace. Cork made some changes at the break bringing on Rena Buckley who did not start because of injury. Briege Corkery moved to mid field to replace Rachel Moloney while Anna Geary went to her more familiar right half back position Rena Buckley going to the left.

The moves benefited Cork and they began to

grow in confidence. At centre back and corner back respectfully Mary O'Connor and Amanda O'Regan were superb through the entire game as they constantly put the Tipperary forwards under pressure. Two minutes into the second half Jovita Delaney gathered but failed to hold a long ball into the square and quick as a flash Elaine Burke had it in the net. The goal settling Cork and right

through the second half they kept the pressure on it was level twice until the nineteenth minute when Jennifer O'Leary finished beautifully to the net to give Cork the lead. Clare Grogan narrowed the gap to two with a pointed free but Cork held their composure to run out worthy winners.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman

Douglas and Iniscarra must meet again

DOUGLAS and Inniscarra served up a thrilling Cork camogie Feile Na N-Gael final on Monday last but they must do it all again as it ended all square. It was a tough week for both teams as they reached the concluding stages. Inniscarra had defeated Valley Rovers on the previous Tuesday and knocked out Glen Rovers in Thursday's semi final. Douglas defeated Ballinhassig before defeating Milford in the semi final. It was back to the action on Monday night and it was Douglas who raced into an

early lead to lead by four points at the break. On the turn over Inniscarra's Ellen Finnegan goals before Laura Mc Carthy had it all square. Jessica Kavanagh hit back with Douglas goal and three points without reply had six between the sides. Inniscarra showed great resolve to fight back a goal from Joanne Casey leading the way which was followed by a Claire Sheehan goal with parentally the last puck of the game both teams are to be complemented on a tremendous game, the replay is be awaited with interest.

UNDER 16 ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

TWO more points in the round robin series for the Cork under 16 team as they carved out a hard earned victory against Limerick on Saturday.

Niamh Mulcahy pointed a free inside three minutes

to give Limerick the lead but five Cork points in a row gave them the upper hand. Limerick hit back to within a point Annette McAuliffe finished Niamh Mulcahy's forty five metres free to the back of the net

after it had that struck the post and came back into play.

Naomi Carroll had Limerick level but two minutes to the break Catriona Collins first timed a ground shot to the net after the

Limerick keeper saved well from Sinead O Callaghan.

Two Niamh Mulcahy points inside eight minutes of the restart were answered by Clare Keohane and Catriona Collins. Collins and Sinead O'Callaghan

pointed to extend the Cork lead to five points with fifteen minutes remaining. Judith Mulcahy had the deficit down to four points as Limerick came in search of a goal but it was Fiona O'Connell who finished to

the Limerick net as Cork finally killed the Limerick challenge Cork added two further points before the full time whistle to seal a good victory.

Memorable year for College of Further Education

CORK Colleges of Further Education are celebrating a superb year in camogie.

They recently won the Fr. Maher third level colleges camogie shield, defeating Carlow IT by 2-7 to 0-0 in the final.

The team is made up of the amalgamation of three colleges, Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, St. John's College and the College of Commerce.

They lost to St. Pat's by 3-5 to 2-4 in the trophy competition, but improved steadily in the shield competition, seeing off the challenges of Tipperary IT and Dublin IT en route to the decider.

Coach Cian O'Brien wasn't surprised by their success, comment-

By PJ AHERN

Camogie

ing: "They are a great bunch of girls. They showed fantastic commitment. It was very tough on some of them because their colleges are based in the city centre and training was held in Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa on Tramore Road, but they still attended the training sessions," said O'Brien.

"We had a wealth of experience and talent in our side with many inter-county players on the panel as well as a whole host of skilful club players," he added.

Those who played a major part in their success included Waterford

star Mary Burns, Limerick's Ide Ahern and local players Noelle Collins, Catriona Myers and Caroline McCarthy.

O'Brien paid a special tribute to Cork star Linda Dorgan.

"She was the backbone of the side. If anyone deserved a winner's medal on the team she certainly did. She was magnificent and she inspired us."

Cian also reflected on the performance of goalkeeper Aoife Finnegan in the final.

"We led 1-5 to 0-0 at the break and played the second half in the worst weather possible, but Aoife was in outstanding form. She pulled off some incredible saves in the last ten

minutes. If it wasn't for her the game could have turned against us."

O'Brien prepared the side for the competition by organising challenge games against local secondary schools and playing league games.

The players also availed of the gym facilities in Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa.

O'Brien is rather new to the job at the tender age of 20, but there is no doubting his ability as a coach.

The Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa student says that despite his age the players respected his authority and his instructions as he guided them on their path to glory.

O'Brien is quick to acknowledge

the role of Bertie Óg Murphy in the team's success, commenting that none of the success would have been possible without Bertie Óg's input.

"Bertie Óg is the heart and soul of the camogie outfit."

"Without him we wouldn't have done much. He set up the whole thing and he got me involved in coaching the side last year," added O'Brien.

O'Brien and the College of Further of Education Camogie team is already focusing on next year's challenge, the third level camogie trophy.

And on the evidence of this year's performances another rewarding campaign is on the cards.

Celebrations all round as Borris VS enjoy becoming the first Carlow side to claim an All-Ireland camogie crown



BORRIS MAKE HISTORY

Up until 2006, Carlow had never won an All-Ireland camogie title. Borris Vocational School contested their second All-Ireland junior camogie final in a row this year. It was second time lucky writes Cian O Raghallaigh.

AS SCHOOL CAPTURES ALL-IRELAND TITLE

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also played her part when introduced as a substitute.

Orla Bambury and Mairead O'Donoghue were the primary mentors this season and Mary Smyth's influence was also crucial. She was keener, though, to emphasise the dedication of her colleagues, her own players and the clubs.

"It's been fantastic. They were wonderful children and there was never any hassle. Orla did a great job and Mairead did all the administration work outside of her teaching hours such as making phone calls to organise buses to matches. The clubs (Myshall, Ballinkillen, St

Mullins, Leinster Rangers, Paulstown and Black and Whites) have been very supportive during the years and we are grateful to them for that," she says.

Orla Bambury's arrival to the school proved a vital ingredient in the team's performances. The Kildare inter-county camogie player joined the staff in September 2004.

By winning the competition, the team will be playing in the senior colleges 'A' competition in the 2006/2007 school year. Success, Mary says, does not depend on where you are from. Instead it is about self-belief. That coupled with some excellent team work on the sideline has given the Borris Vocational School team a place in the history books.

It is an accomplishment of which they can all be proud. Over the last number of years the Armagh footballers did just that, beating Kerry to win their first All-Ireland final. Westmeath did likewise when they accounted for Laois to bring the Leinster title home for the first time. A county team who wins something gains recognition quite easily. The achievements of a school team can, however, often go unrecognised. Winning an All-Ireland senior title is a milestone for anyone. Being part of the first All-Ireland winning team is something which both players and management at Borris Vocational School can be immensely proud.



Niamh Quirke and Eleanor Brennan battle with two Gort CS players

Celia Culleton (Mount Leinster Rangers)
Niamh Quirke (Myshall)
Emma Carroll (Black and Whites)
Margaret Simpson (Young Irelands)
Annie Tracey (Myshall)
Ann Murphy (Mount Leinster Rangers)
Eleanor Brennan (Black & Whites)
Catriona Geoghegan (Ballinkillen)
Lisa Lillis (Barrow Rangers)
Aine Doran (Black & Whites)
Leanne Doyle (Ballinkillen)
Zoe Foley (Myshall)
Collette Malone (Mount Leinster Rangers)
Gillian English (Ballinkillen)

Team m
Mairead O



women behind the successful Borris side, l/r: Orla Bambury, Mary Smyth and Mairead O'Donoghue

Borris VS: Anne-Marie Lennon (Black & Whites)
Aoife Jordan (St Mullins)
Grainne Nolan (Mount Leinster Rangers)
Michelle Kelly (Mount Leinster Rangers)
Jennifer Skelton (Mount Leinster Rangers)
Eileen Murphy (St Mullins)
Theresa Ralph (Mount Leinster Rangers)
Sinead Kelly (Black and Whites; captain)



The All-Ireland Colleges Junior B trophy is presented to Borris captain Sinead Kelly

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Tipperary Camogie Supporters Club 2006 Membership



Pictured at the launch of the 2006 Tipperary Camogie Supporters Club Membership Scheme in May by RTE Sports Commentator Micheal O Muircheartaigh. Back Row (L to R) - Martin Bourke (PRO), Tom Egan (Treasurer), Sean Fogarty (Munster Council Chairman), Jean Hayden (Treasurer), Donie Shanahan (Chairman Tipperary GAA), Stephen Fitzgerald (Tipperary Camogie Chairperson), Martin O'Dwyer. Front Row (L to R) - Michael Cleary (Chairman), Meadhbh Stokes (Secretary), Deirdre Hughes (Senior Captain), Miriam O Callaghan (Camogie President), Micheal O Muircheartaigh.

On Wednesday night 24th at 8.30pm in the Horse & Jockey Hotel, Tipperary Camogie Supporters Club will launch its 2006 membership scheme. Since the inception of the club in 2002 it has gone from strength to strength and have carried out numerous fundraising activities to provide whatever financial support was necessary to ensure the continued success of the senior camogie team who make huge sacrifices in terms of time, travelling, effort and commitment to ensure that Tipperary remain on top of the Camogie world.

Since the team made the break through at All Ireland senior level for the first time in 1999-Tipperary having failed on seven previous occasions-they have gone from strength to strength and hold the distinction of having played in the last seven All Ireland finals winning five, their only defeats being in 2002 and 2005. In addition the team has won two Munster titles and in 2004 made a clean sweep by winning all three major titles, Munster, All Ireland

and National League. The team success does not come about by chance and is a reflection of the enormous time, effort, sacrifice and commitment they are prepared to make each year over an eight month period, starting in early February and ending in mid September on All Ireland Final day.

Needless to say with such activity over a long period of time there is a cost involved and it is the aim of the supporters club to ensure that no player is out of pocket and the funds are there to provide players with travelling expenses, to look after physio and medical expenses and to provide after matches and after training meals. As well as looking after these basic and necessary expenses the supporters club have acknowledged the tremendous success, honour and pride that this group has brought to the Premier county by fundraising for three week long sun holidays that have taken place in the last five years, Lanzarote, Gran Canaria and to Florida in early 2004.

While the supporters club main aim is to cater for the senior team, other teams have also benefited and in 2005 presentations were made to the Ursuline school in Thurles contesting the All Ireland senior colleges final, the Tipperary minor team for Munster and All Ireland final and the Tipperary U-18 team for Munster final.

As this is a major fundraising venture undertaken by the club an appeal goes out to the people of Tipperary for support which can be done by way of attendance on the night, and becoming a member by forwarding subscription of €20 to any of the following officers or committee

Chairperson - Meadhbh Stokes; Secretary/PRO - Martin Bourke; Treasurers - Tom Egan, Jean Hayden; Committee - Stephen Fitzgerald, Kathleen Hughes, Martin O'Dwyer, Sean Fogarty, Michael Cleary, Tony O' Sullivan, Noel Ryan, Donie Shanahan, Jim Hayden, Joan Harkin

O'Connor's camogie crusade starts brightly

by Jim O'Sullivan

CORK'S dual All-Ireland medallist Mary O'Connor has no divided loyalties as far as her playing career is concerned.

The rivalry with neighbours Kerry provides a similar motivation for the ladies' football team to the one it does in the men's game. However, it's a very different story in relation to her camogie activities.

In her professional life, she is dedicated to promoting the game in the Kingdom.

She is one of three Regional Development Co-ordinators appointed by the Camogie Association, and while her brief is for Munster and South Leinster, the establishment of a club structure in the Kingdom has been given priority.

"You put your energies into every county but one of our goals was to get camogie up and running in Kerry," she explains.

"We went in there in January and had a fun day and it went on from there. We visited club areas and we targeted North Kerry because obviously hurling is very strong there. We felt if we could clubs working in North Kerry we felt we could progress to the rest of the county."

There are now three clubs in the area - Causeway, Ardfer/Kilmoyley and Abbeydorney/Lixnaw. And she takes pride in the fact Laune Rangers have another "up and running" in the heart of Kerry football, Killorglin. In the longer term, they will be targeting Tralee, on the basis that a town with such a big population should have the capacity to sustain "at least" one club.

Working in tandem with the county board, foundation coaching courses have been organised and, under the guidance of vice-chairman Jerome Conway, training courses have been held for club officers.

"There would be parents who would be enthusiastic but wouldn't have a knowledge of the game," O'Connor added. "Maurice Leahy, who is the GPO (Games Promotion Officer) down in Kerry, has been fantastic and we have got the girls coming to training twice a week."

Even more encouraging is the fact each of the clubs set up has at least 50 girls registered from under-12 down to under-six.

"That's a good start - girls playing in the sport who had never played."

But she accepts this will only be deemed a success if the same numbers are still playing this time next year.

O'Connor was one of five dual players who shared in Cork's All-Ireland camogie win over Tipperary and the first success in the ladies' football senior championship. This year seven girls are involved in both panels.

"What was the key to our success last year was that both managements communicated. It meant that players came to each inter-county match fresh. Training sessions were tailored for our needs which was very important. As well as that, girls were equally committed. I don't think any of them would have picked one game above the other."

In recent weeks, she picked up National League medals in both codes, admitting that the success against Meath in football had been especially fulfilling.



Mary O'Connor: helping to set up a camogie club structure in Kerry.

"We were under a lot of pressure. Meath really put it up to us, but in the second half we showed our character. Our experience of being in the All-Ireland final last year stood to us. Over the final few minutes we didn't panic. We knew what time was on the clock and kept taking our scores. In the camogie final last week we went in at half-time down against Tipperary, but at start of the second half we got a goal which brought us into it. After that, we worked really hard."

"The National League was a hard slog for us. It had a new format as well. We won't know until later when the championship gets under way how much it takes out of us."

CAMOGIE: All-Ireland junior championship Carlow: 2-13; V. Crean 1-9 (1-5f), A. M. Ralph 1-0, N. Quirke 0-4
Laois: 2-6; S. Moylan, C. Mansfield 1-0 each, T. Bennett 0-3, D. Quigley 0-2, L. O'Callaghan 0-1
Derry: 10-17; A. Wilkinson 3-3, C. O'Kane 3-2, A. O'Kane 2-0, S. Cassidy 1-4, C. McCloy 1-2, G. Mc Goldrick 0-5 (0-3f), A. Laverty 0-1
Cavan: 1-1; M. Brady 1-1
Down: 4-12; C. Mc Gouty 2-2, K. O'Higgins 1-2, K. Gribben 1-0, C. McCrickard 0-3, J. Braniff 0-2, C. Mulholland 0-2, M. Mc Aleenan 0-1
London: 1-2; S. Mc Mahon 1-0, S. Deasy, A. M. O'Dwyer 0-1 each
All-Ireland U16 championship Galway v. Clare, postponed. Dublin: 4-14; A. O'Leary 2-0, K. Farrell 1-2, S. Forde 1-1, S. Cowan, R. Costelloe, A. Brogan 0-3 each, A. Morgan, A. Walsh 0-1 each
Offaly: 1-7; S. Flannery 1-5, M. Morkam 0-2

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Rising star

Ronan Judge

ONE of Clare's bright young camogie stars will hope her recent run of success continues next weekend. Colaiste Muire student Fiona Lafferty was part of the successful Munster side who recently beat Leinster in Portmarnock to claim the All-Ireland Colleges title. It was the latest big match for the Kilnamona club woman who last Sunday contributed two points to Clare's defeat of Down in the Junior Camogie 2B play off. On Sunday, May 7, Fiona will be part of the Clare panel that will take on Offaly in the league final.

Munster player Fiona Lafferty from Kilnamona, a student in Colaiste Muire, Ennis, who was part of the team who won the All-Ireland Colleges Inter-Provincial Final beating Leinster.
Photograph by Yvonne Vaughan (2598866)



Chasing league honours in Navan

by SEAMUS HAYES

PAIRC TAILTEANN in Navan will be the venue this Sunday for the division II camogie league final in which Clare will take on Derry. The Northern outfit beat Offaly in the semi-final on Sunday and they will start as slight favourites to lift the title against a Clare side, which is unbeaten to date in this competition.

"While the championship is our target, we would love to win league honours and now that we are in the final we will be making every effort to bring home the title," said Clare mentor Francie Mahon this week.

The Éire Óg man has been a member of the management team for a number of years and helped steer the side to two All-Ireland finals in the past three years.

He was the only member of that selection committee (Michael Maher and Helen Murphy stepped down) to allow his name forward for another term and he is now joined by Eugene McMahon (Kilmaley) and Mickey Murphy (Clooney).

"We have a similar panel to last season. Erica Minogue hasn't returned yet due to exams but we expect that she will be back in the squad in the next week. Deirdre Murphy, last year's captain, is a major doubt for Sunday's game due to a hamstring injury which forced her to miss the semi-final," Francie explained.

Incidentally Deirdre played for Clooney in the intermediate semi-final last week, lining out at full forward from where she scored three points.

Clare may not include her in the starting line up this week, but they are likely to have her in the squad and may call her into action should the need arise.

The experienced Cathy Hally is the team captain this year and the Wolfe Tones club woman will line out at centre back.

There is no shortage of experience in the side which will include all star Catherine O'Loughlin at full forward and Deirdre Corcoran at full back.

Their starting line up is also expected to include players like Sharon McMahon (Newmarket), Sarah Donnellan (Kilkishen), Laura Linnane, Claire McMahon, Claire Commene, Jane Scanlan and the Lafferty sisters, Fiona and Siobhan.

"We haven't played Derry in recent times but we met them a few years back and my memory is of a strong side physically. We have been doing well in recent times. We weren't beaten in the league last year but lost out when deducted points due to a technical error. Our only defeat in competitive action last year was in the All-Ireland final and that was after a replay. We are unbeaten to date this year," said selector Mahon.

Clare's next championship outing will be on the weekend of May 27/28 when they will play Westmeath. The championship is on a league basis this year and Clare are grouped with Westmeath, London (June 25) and Down (July 9).

"We have trained hard since



■ Clare camogie players Cathy Halley (captain), Claire McMahon, Claire Commene and Catherine O'Loughlin will feature prominently in Sunday's division II league final against Derry. Below: Marie O'Looney and Fiona Lafferty with sports physiotherapist Edel Maher.

Photographs by Kieran Clancy/PicSurf



■ Claire McMahon and Catriona McMahon (above) and Jane Scanlan (right) are expected in the starting line up on Sunday.



the middle of February, meeting twice a week and at weekends. We have played a number of challenge games also and we are looking forward to Sunday's final. We know that it won't be easy but the girls have worked

hard and deserve success," added Mahon.

This is the fourth time in this campaign that Clare will come up against Ulster opposition so they are well versed of the style of Ulster play at this stage.

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Lafferty to the rescue

AFTER a number of near misses in the past couple of years, Clare camogie captured National honours at Paire Tailteann in Navan on Sunday, when their junior team won the division 2 league title.

It was a hard earned win for the Clare girls against a physically strong Derry side, but it was a victory the Banner outfit deserved.

Clearly unlucky not to have won league honours last season, they were determined to bring home the honours this time out.

They were unbeaten in the competition last year, but a technically resulted in four points being deducted from their tally and this cost them a place in the decider.

They enjoyed a great run in the championship, but lost out after a replay at the final hurdle. This was the third time in three years that they suffered this fate in the championship.

In the current season, they have shown that they were determined to atone for those disappointments and they deserved their narrow win in this league final, in front of a disappointing attendance.

Clare had the better of

the first half exchanges and deserved their five point advantage at half time, when the score stood at 1-9 to 1-4. Claire McMahon from Kilmaley was their goal scorer, crashing a 20m free to the net.

The Kilmaley girl was the team's top scorer finishing with a tally of 1-6, while Fiona Lafferty with three points and Sarah Donnellan with two completed the winner's tally.

Any hopes Clare supporters had of an easy victory facing into the second half were quickly dispelled, as Derry struck for two early second half goals from Claire McCoy and Katie McAuley.

From here on it was point for point, but Fiona Lafferty and the impressive Sarah Donnellan sent over vital scores in the closing minutes, to seal a memorable victory for Clare.

After the game newly elected camogie president, Liz Howard, presented the cup to captain Cathy Halley, who led by example for Clare and was outstanding throughout.

Jane Scanlan had a fine game in the full back line while, elsewhere, Laura Linnane, Sara Donnellan and Claire McMahon stood out.



■ Above: Sarah Donnellan holds onto possession despite her opponent's efforts. ■ Left: Camogie president, Liz Howard, presents the Division 2 League Cup to Clare captain, Cathy Halley. ■ Right: Clare's Fiona Lafferty under pressure from Derry captain Claire Doherty.

Photographs by John Quirke



THE BREAKDOWN

CLARE

TEAM: Denise Lynch (Cloonay-Quin), Jane Scanlan (Clarecastle), Deirdre Corcoran (Cellbridge), Jane O'Leary (Newmarket), Siobhan Lafferty (Kilmaley), Cathy Halley (Wolfe Tones), Marie Whelan (Clarecastle), Laura Linnane (Athenry) and Sinead McMahon (Newmarket); Aoife Ryan (Newmarket); Fiona Lafferty (Kilmaley), Sarah Donnellan (Kilkishen); Catherine O'Loughlin (Kilmaley), Claire Commene (Corofin), Claire McMahon (Kilmaley).

SUBS: Marie O'Halloran (Kilmaley) for Ryan (43 mins); Edel Keating (Corofin) for Whelan (59 mins).

SCORERS: C. McMahon 1-9; F. Lafferty (0-3) S. Donnellan 0-2.

REFEREE:
A Lawlor, Westmeath



DERRY

TEAM: C. O'Kane; A. O'Kane, J. Carey, K. Pickering; K. Lavery, C. Doherty, C. Cusnihan; G. McGoldrick and B. Convery; K. McAuley, D. McCann, A. Lavery, J. Kelly, C. McCloy, S. Cassidy.

SCORERS: Claire McCoy 2-1; Katie McAuley 1-2 A. Lavery (0-2) G McGoldrick and D. McCann (1-1) each.

Success on the do

camogie division 2 national league final

Lafferty's late, late point wins the day



Clare 1-14 Derry 3-07

At Páirc Tailtean, Navan



CLARE camogie has known its fair share of heartache over the past number of years.

But the pain of All-Ireland final defeats was eased considerably in Navan on Sunday when a national title was brought home to the county.

It should have been an easy victory for the Banner ladies – they led by eight points in the second half, but had to withstand a storming finish by the northerners to claim a precious national title.

In the end it was Fiona Lafferty from Kilnamona who won the day – her last gasp point won the day and was the cue for Clare camogie to celebrate its first ever national league success.

It was a dramatic finale, but one that Clare should have been able to spare themselves.

All because, they dominated this game from the start and should have had enough in reserve to win pulling up.

Clare were again forced to line out without their talisman, Deirdre Murphy, who has been plagued by injury in recent months.

However, they made light of their captain's absence in the first half and sprinted away from the Derry girls.

Kilmaley's Claire McMahon was the star of the show – her brother Diarmuid was a scoring sensation for Kilmaley in the senior championship on Saturday, she was the same for Clare 24 hours later.

She scored 1-6 in the first half, the goal coming from a 21-yard free in the 20th minute.

Clare led by eight, but a Derry goal from Clare McCloy meant they only trailed by 1-9 to 1-4 at half-time.

Further pointed frees by Claire McMahon after the break did restore Clare's eight point advantage, but they were the cue for a storming closing quarter by the Derry girls.

Goals by Claire McCloy and Katie McAuley helped reel Clare in and the game was level going into the final moments.

Clare were looking at another replay to go with their two All-Ireland finals experiences of recent years.

That they were spared this was down to Fiona Lafferty.

Her late point was worth its weight in National League gold.

matchdetails

Clare

Denise Lynch (Kilmaley), Jane Scanlan (Clarecastle), Deirdre Corcoran (Ballyboden), Jane O'Leary (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Soghán Lafferty (Kilmaley), Cathy Hiley (Truagh), Marie Whelan (Clarecastle), Laura Urmann (Wolfe Tones), Sharon McMahon (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Aoife Ryan (Newmarket-on-Fergus), Fiona Lafferty (Kilmaley) (0-3), Sara Donnellan (Kilshen) (0-2), Catherine O'Loughlin (Kilmaley), Claire Cosmanne (Corofin), Claire McMahon (Kilmaley) (1-9). Subs: Marie O'Halloran (Kilmaley) for Ryan, Edel Keating (Corofin) for Whelan.

Derry

C. O'Kane, A. O'Kane, J. Carey, K. Pickering, K. Lavery, C. Doherty, C. Guinness, G. McGoldrick 0-1, B. Convery, K. McAuley 1-2, D. McCann 0-1, A. Lavery 0-2, J. Kelly, C. McCloy 2-1, S. Cassidy.

Referee: A. Lawlor (Westmeath)



Above: Clare girls celebrate their league final victory over Offaly in Navan. Below: Claire McMahon was the Banner's heroine and player of the match as her haul of 1-9 helped Clare to success. Photographs by John Quirk.



Looking ahead

Joe Ó Muircheartaigh

FRANCIE Mahon has soldiered with Clare camogie for a few years now.

He's known the savage disappointment of being on the wrong end of results on All-Ireland final days.

Worse still, final defeats against Galway and Dublin in 2003 and 2005 came after replays.

However, Francie and his team have paid their final dues and reward finally came their way with that last gasp point from Fiona Lafferty, just when it looked as if another replay might be in store.

It made for a relieved Francie after the game: "I tell you, we were worried when the second Derry goal went in. They had a purple patch for a time in the second half, coming back from eight points down to draw

level," he told *The Clare People*.

"But, thankfully we got the point in the end to win it. It would have been terrible to lose this game, because we dominated it for so long. At half-time we were six up, but I would have liked to be a few more ahead.

"Then we went eight points up and we looking good until Derry had that great period.

"I'm just relieved we won it – winning this title is very important for Clare camogie, it's another step for us on the road to try and win the All-Ireland title. The All-Ireland is what we want," added the Clare manager.

Clare are due to be in All-Ireland action on May 28 against Westmeath. But this game could be brought forward to avoid a clash with the Clare/Cork Munster senior championship game.

Wexford boss has brought his side a long way

FOR Willie Carley manager and coach to the Wexford camogie team, who play Cork in the All-Ireland camogie series on Saturday at 3.30pm in Páirc Uí Rinn, the job is something of a busman's holiday.

By MARY NEWMAN
Wexford view

As the Wexford GAA board's hurling coaching development officer, he is hugely enthusiastic about his role with the Wexford ladies. "Having been involved in hurling all my life and with six sons all playing, the job is probably and unusual one for me alright."

"Two years ago I was kind of roped into helping out and to be honest I am really enjoying it."

He comes with a good pedigree and a glance at the CV shows his involvement in the late 80s as coach to the county minor hurling side for two years.

While they did not win any honours it was a huge sense of pride to see 12 of his charges involved when the Wexford senior took the MacCarthy Cup in 1996, among them Liam Dunne and Martin Storey.

Now the wheel has come full circle and Martin Storey's daughter Ciara is a member of the senior camogie panel.

Having played his hurling with the famous Wexford town club Faythe Harriers, the move to the Glynbarnstown club came with relocation and he was soon involved given the six sons' involvement with the various teams.

A busy man, Willie was also coach last year to the Wicklow senior hurling team and with huge commitments was certainly not expecting to be ever back involved in camogie again.

"I had helped out in 1994-95 but had big commitments with hurling and took a back seat. Last year I was approached to get involved by Alan Ahern with the county camogie team and I thought long and hard about it, I would not get involved with any other hurling club in the county as my sons play with

the club here and I would not coach a team to play against them so it seems good move and I was only to pleased to lend a hand."

A very young, progressive camogie side, Wexford have built on the success of Oulart-the-Ballagh's five Féile Na nGael wins in-a-row and the huge success of college side Coláiste Bhríde.

In 2004 just the width of the cross bar denied them a place in the senior All-Ireland final, again last year Tipperary had to withstand a fierce late rally to hold them at bay in a semi-final where Wexford forgot to perform in the first half.

"We seem to freeze on the big occasion for about 30 minutes, I really don't know what it is, last year we had everything right for us and going into the game we thought this is it, we felt confident and relaxed but it was a disastrous first half."

"To be fair the girls rallied and their second half display was awesome."

Again just one score separated the sides at the finish and it was Tipperary who went to Croke Park as Wexford were left to wonder just what did they have to do.

The new-look format to the league for 2006 was something that helped improve the game with every county getting more games and a chance to play the better teams.

"In the end the two top teams still made it to the league final but the other counties got to meet those teams and it can only help to play against the best."

This year Carley has to plan without eight of last year's panel, five players have gone abroad and are travelling around the world, another is out of the country working while two others are married and have young babies and the commitment was to much.

"We have had to bring younger players into our set-up this year but they have fitted in nicely."



Wexford camogie manager Willie Carley is a dedicated boss who has brought his side a long way in a short time.

"Cork have already defeated us in the national league but on the day the scoreline did not reflect the game."

"I am really looking forward to Saturday and the challenge it brings."

He is delighted to be travelling to Páirc Uí Rinn to meet the national league and All-Ireland champions on home soil.

"I know it's funny but I think we are more relaxed away from home we would be under more pressure at home and the journey down helps to bond the team. We will be under no pressure on Saturday and I am confident we will give a good account of ourselves."

A good judge of hurling and camogie he sees Galway and Kilkenny as huge threats this year.

"I know Tipperary are not gone away and I certainly am not under estimating Cork but the standard is hard to maintain and I think the other counties are catching up, this year's championship more than any other is wide open and I have a sneaky feeling about those two."

Hurling and camogie go hand in hand in this man's world and he is delighted to see next Saturday's games played in Páirc Uí Rinn.

"It's good to see the All-Ireland camogie championship being afforded proper recognition and being played at such a venue. I am a bit disappointed with the attitude to camogie within the GAA overall, mostly it's only token gestures and I for one am not happy with this."

"I am forever pushing for more but we should be fighting harder we need more profile to let people see this great game of ours."

When the dust settles after Saturday's clash it's upwards and onwards irrespective of the result we have games against Tipperary, Galway and Limerick to come and I am hoping that we will progress to the semi-finals and who knows what might happen there."

Given that he has shared his prediction about Galway and Kilkenny and in effect put his neck on the line one get the sneaky feeling he may just be already plotting their down fall before a sliotar is picked.

Inniscarra prove too strong for Douglas

By PJ AHERN

Féile na nGael camogie final

Inniscarra	3-02
Douglas	0-02

BONFIRES were burning brightly in Inniscarra to welcome home their newest Féile na nGael County Camogie Champions last night.

At the second time of asking, Inniscarra prevailed by defeating Douglas in a thrilling replay, in Ballincollig.

Unlike the first game, where Inniscarra had a poor start and needed an injury time goal to rescue them, this time they were quickest out of the blocks and they raced into an early eight-point lead.

Points from player of the match Joanne Casey and Claire Sheehan set them on their way with a point each before a brace of goals stunned Douglas.

The shock of Inniscarra's start, forced Douglas to settle themselves and they hurried hard to end the siege on their goal.

A Kathrina Mackey free put Douglas on the scoreboard, and while the remainder of the first half was hard-fought, chances were few and far between.

Douglas erected a blanket defence in their area to prevent Inniscarra's ravenous forwards from adding to their lead.

However, Inniscarra's Laura McCarthy did find a gap in the Douglas defence and she exploited it to set up Claire Finnegan to tap home from the edge of the square to give the champions a healthy advantage at half-time (3-2 to 0-1).

As expected, in the second half, Douglas ran at the Inniscarra defence but Inniscarra stood firm.

Kathrina Mackey, Lauren Jackson and Rachel Baxter fought hard to try find some glimmer of hope and while Douglas were awarded a penalty which Ailín O'Donovan slotted over the bar, it was obvious they were fighting a losing battle to hold on to their crown they have held for so long.

Inniscarra will now go into the national Féile na nGael finals, which are hosted in Cork next month.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 1-1, L McCarthy 1-0, C Finnegan 1-0, C Sheehan 0-1.
Douglas: K Mackey and A O'Donovan 0-1 each.

INNISCARRA: E O'Donovan, S Buckley, E Finnegan, A Twohig, M Collins, R O'Mahony, L McCarthy, E McCarthy, A Ni Bliain, C Sheehan, H Corcoran, A O'Connor, E Kingston, C Finnegan, J Casey.

Subs Used: L Burke for H Corcoran.
DOUGLAS: A O'Donovan, S Bevan, E O'Sullivan, P Mackey, R Casey, S Duggan, K Mackey, C Lynch, C Shille, D Cotter, A O'Donovan, E Shine, R Baxter, J Kavanagh, S Dempsey.

Subs Used: L Jackson for S Dempsey.
Referee: O Webb (Tramore)

Title decider could be another cracking game

WEDNESDAY
Cork Camogie Féile Na nGael Final Replay
Douglas v Inniscarra
Ballincollig 6.30pm

A WEEK ago it took a goal with practically the last puck of the game from Claire Sheehan to bring Inniscarra level and deny Douglas the title, now its back to Ballincollig

as they meet again to decide the destination of the Cork Féile Na nGael title for 2006.

It was Douglas who raced into an early lead that they held to the break as they turned over four points ahead.

Inniscarra's fought hard and came storming back into the game thanks to an Ellen

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

Finnegan goal before Laura McCarthy pointed to bring the sides level. Jessica Kavanagh hit back with a Douglas goal and they hit three points without reply as they opened up a six point lead.

Inniscarra showed great resolve and determination fighting back, a goal from Joanne Casey leading the way which was followed by a Claire Sheehan last gasp equaliser.

Now its back to the drawing board, last time out Inniscarra went in as raging favourites given their victory

when the side had met in the league earlier in the season. Douglas showed plenty of determination and quickly cast that favourites tag to one side, they are determined to hold on to their title and it showed last time out.

This evening expect another close call and don't rule out extra time.

MAY 2006



Rena Buckley is back to full fitness after a shinsplint injury and regains her place at right half back for the game against Wexford tomorrow.

Balance is in Cork's favour

SATURDAY
All-Ireland Senior Division 1A
Championship first round tie,
Cork v Wexford,
Páirc Uí Rinn 3.30pm

CORK and Wexford will meet for the fourth time in two years as the Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie A championship begins this Saturday.

Under the new round-robin format, which is the same for both league and championship, all teams play each other once and the top two head into the final.

The demands that this places is that counties will line out almost every other week in a hectic schedule.

Cork have home venue for their opening tie.

In their league outing against the same opposition on the April 30, where they ran out winners by 2-9 to 0-5.

Despite the 10-point winning margin, Cork did not have it all their own way, a goal and a point in injury-time from Emer Watson and Emer Dillon respectively putting a distance between the sides not always evident during the course of the hour.

Cork have named a full-strength squad for Saturday.

Aoife Murray once again holds the number one spot. Captain



Joanne O'Callaghan, Catriona Foley and Amanda O'Regan resume the same positions they held in the league final a fortnight ago.

Rena Buckley is back to full fitness after a shin-splint injury and regains her place at right half-back. The dependable Mary O'Connor remains in her pivotal centre-back role and she is flanked on her left by Anna Geary. Geary will be quite happy starting out in her more favoured position at left-half.

Briege Corkery and Gemma O'Connor are at midfield. Without doubt these two, on their day, would wipe the field with any opposition put in front of them. They haven't clicked as a unit yet this year; when they do it'll be a joy to watch.

The Cork mentors have named the same inside six as started the league final and they will be hoping for better performances in many cases.

There was little or no spark evident and it was Jennifer O'Leary and Angela Walsh who carried the day.

Twelve months ago Cork met Wexford in the second round of the championship and gave a powerful



Anna Geary will be starting in her favoured left half-back position against Wexford on Saturday and is likely to play a pivotal role for Cork.

display. It heralded the beginning of the 'turnaround'. Up to then Cork had been playing poorly and were very much aware of this. From that afternoon, July 16, Cork were a different side and two months later they lifted the O'Duffy cup in Croke Park as All-Ireland Champions.

Selector Lillian Zinkant is hoping for much of the same this coming Saturday.

"Hopefully we'll reach the level we did last year", she said.

"The pressure of third-level exams is off us now. We had a really good session last night and the girls are raring to go."

They won't have it easy against a strong Wexford side. But Cork should have the all-round balance to take the points in what is a crucial opening first round for them.

CORK TEAM: A. Murray; J. O'Callaghan (Capt); C. Foley; A. O'Regan; R. Buckley; M. O'Connor; A. Geary; B. Corkery; G. O'Connor; U. O'Donoghue; A. Walsh; J. O'Leary; E. Dillon; S. O'Donovan; E. Burke.

Upgrade could suit Cork's title aspirations

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

SATURDAY,
All-Ireland Senior B
Championship,
Cork v Wexford,
Páirc Uí Rinn 130pm

CAMOGIE has a new competition this year with the upgrading of the Intermediate championship to Senior B status, five counties will battle it out for the All-Ireland crown in the new grades in its inaugural year.

Cork, Wexford, Galway, Tipperary and Kilkenny will all compete in one group with four going to semi-final stage.

Cork participated in the league and lost out narrowly to make the closing stages, but overall they gave a good account of themselves and indeed can deem themselves a little unlucky not to have made the semi-final stages. Losing out narrowly to Dublin in the last minute of their opening game ultimately cost them dearly.

In the league Cork also lost out to Kilkenny and they will be wary of the challenge which they will pose in the group, on a more positive note are the league victories recorded over Wexford, Tipperary and Galway.

In all three games Cork performed well and with continued co-operation between the two selection committees regarding the availability of players who would be fringe players on the A panel this Cork B side could go a long way.

Come championship it is a different story and league form goes out the window. Players tied up by exams are now returning to form and while the players available to the selectors will be determined by those who will be used by the Senior A team in the main game of the day, with both selections committee working together, the senior B side should be a strong one.

Linda O'Connell is definite non-starter following a recent injury playing football, while Emer O'Farrell injured in the junior league final with her club should be recovered.

Marie and Catherine Corkery, Emer O'Sullivan, Marie O'Neill and Miriam Deasy have all performed well through the league campaign and should be available for selection.

Wexford will be in a similar position to Cork, as they will be dependant on the players available from their Senior A squad, they have however named two separate panels and Stacey Kehoe will be expected to lineout in her customary position in goal, while Ciara Storey, daughter of All-Ireland winning captain Martin Storey, Aisling Moran, Sharon Kehoe, Ciara O'Connor and Tina Bergin will be in their starting 15, again a lot will depend on the first team and the players that they require.

They did not have a good league campaign, losing out to Kilkenny Dublin Tipperary before losing their last game to Cork by 10 points, however, as they will be expecting to field a stronger line out on Saturday we can expect them to put up a stronger challenge but on paper Cork should have enough strength to get the first game in the inaugural series off to a winning start.

May 2006

RENA AIMING TO DELIVER ON THE DOUBLE AGAIN FOR CORK



MARY WHITE

QUIET and unassuming probably best describes Inniscarra's Rena Buckley who last September became Cork's first female dual All-Ireland senior champion medal holders at the tender age of 18.

Almost 12 months down the line and Buckley has added dual National League medals to her ever growing medal collection.

Buckley took up camogie because her older brother Jerry was always pucking the ball around at home.

"There always seemed to be hurleys hanging around the place so we just picked them up and liked it," said Rena.

The 'we' being twin sister Mary and father Tim.

Under the influence of Paul Olden, school principal in Berrings National School, Buckley got involved in school camogie and hurling activities.

"Paul was big into hurling and camogie and it was great to have such enthusiasm in the school. We won two Sciath na Scol titles and it was great to have such excitement."

From there it was a natural progression to join the Inniscarra club in which neighbour Carmel O'Donovan was hugely involved.

"Carmel was a member of the club and many of the girls from school were playing with the club so we got involved as well."

"We had a very good team, but Milford had superb teams and I think it was four underage finals we lost to them."

"We did win the Muskerry U15 championships and it was great to win something with the club," she added.

Rena continued to progress and was by now travelling to school to the famous camogie nursery of a St. Aloysius where her mother Helen was on the teaching staff.

Coached in St Al's by the late James Hurley, Rena won county junior, intermediate and senior B titles as well as Munster colleges honours.

Rena quickly made it onto the Cork colleges U14 team, playing for two years and picking up an inter-county medal.

Amongst the stars of the team were Brieger Corkery, Anna Geary, Denise Twomey and Catriona Foley.

Progression to the Cork minor team was natural and in 2002 and 2003 the minors blazed a trail of glory with Rena to the fore.

"It was fantastic to win an All-Ireland camogie medal and to repeat it a year later was a dream come true."

All the while Buckley was also playing football as well.

"I never had to make a serious choice as there was never a conflict of interest. All the training is hard sometimes, but its enjoyable as well."

The holder of football All-Ireland honours from U14 to senior with the county and at club level with Donoughmore, she achieved the ultimate dream in 2005 when Cork



Cork camogie and football star Rena Buckley has had an amazing 12 months.

Buckley is the dual in the crown

won both the camogie and ladies football titles.

In 2003 Buckley received the call to join the county junior camogie side. Honours eluded Rena, but it was inevitable, given her displays during Inniscarra's championship campaign, that the senior call would follow and it came in 2004.

"I was only out of minor the year before, but I fitted in easily with the girls. I knew most of them from minor or from the club games and the more established players were very welcoming."

Losing the camogie All-Ireland final in 2004 stands out in her mind.

"I really did not realise what an unbelievable experience it would be, the whole day seemed to go over my head. Nerves played a huge part but last year it was different, having played in 2004 I knew what to expect

and was definitely more relaxed.

"First time out was such an experience I was happy to be there and for me the occasion took over. I was disappointed we lost, but last year nothing but victory was my mind."

Having held Fiona O'Driscoll in high esteem and as a role model along with Irene O'Keeffe and Linda Mellerick, Rena Buckley was delighted to see O'Driscoll come on board with the team.

"She is a wonderful motivator and a great inspiration."

The year has been a busy one for Buckley, the small matter of college in UCD where she is studying physiotherapy has slightly restricted training with the panel.

"I travel home at weekends to train with Cork and Inniscarra. I trained in Dublin with the College for the Ashbourne and also train on

my own. It's worked out okay."

Sunday's opening game with Wexford in the Gala All-Ireland Championship is another new challenge as Buckley and her team-mates find themselves in the unfamiliar role of defending an All-Ireland crown.

"It was tremendous to win it, but now the pressure is on to retain the title. We are going all out to defend our crown and are determined to make a good start on Saturday."

"We have already met in the league but that will count for little come championship. Wexford are a young side and they are always stick opponents. We know what we must do."

Given such a positive attitude from one of their youngest defenders, the defence of the crown is in safe hands.

Cork girls put down an early marker

by Máire Uí Scolai

TWENTY-FOUR hours before the Cork hurlers began their All-Ireland championship defence in impressive fashion, their camogie counterparts were also laying down a marker for the season ahead.

The defending league and All-Ireland champions beat Wexford 1-10 to 1-5 at Páirc Uí Rinn and, like John Allen's side, appear the team to beat in 2006.

Though without three of last year's all-conquering selection, the hosts started in blistering fashion with a Jennifer O'Leary point and a Elaine Burke goal firing them ahead after three minutes. Kate Kelly battled to keep the Model County girls in touch but by the break the Munster champions were six points clear (1-5 to 0-2).

With five minutes left, Wexford's Kaitriona Parrock pounced for her side's only goal to cut the gap to five points. Emer Dillon and Ursula Jacob exchanged scores, but there was to be no let-up by the champions, who next face Kilkenny on June 24.

The Cats were due to play Limerick on Saturday but the game was postponed as the pitch was unplayable due to the weather.

Meanwhile, Galway, upset that their tie against Tipperary was moved from Pearse Stadium, had plenty of reason to celebrate on Saturday. Sharon Glynn's side produced the shock of the opening weekend by defeating the Premier County 1-12 to 2-6 in Portumna.

Glynn, whose side won only one National League game, said: "It is great to beat weaker teams, but any day you can beat Tipperary or Cork in a championship match is very, very good."

With Orla Kilkenny leading by example, Galway were in free-scoring mood, and were ahead 1-8 to 0-1 at the break — Veronica Curtin with a goal moments before the break.

But Tipp refused to lie down and a goal from Geraldine Kinnane and a Philly Fogarty point had them back in the fight after 10 minutes.

Despite 2004 All-Ireland winning captain Joanne Ryan nipping in for a late consolation in injury time, Galway held out for a historic win.

In the Senior B championship, Cork overcame Wexford 4-16 to 0-4, All-Ireland junior champions Dublin defeated Antrim 0-15 to 0-5 while Waterford — with Áine Lyng scoring a hat-trick — hammered Armagh 5-11 to 1-8.

The Under-16 championship also resulted in wins for Clare over Galway (4-8 to 0-4), Armagh overcame Kildare 3-8 to 1-7, Meath defeated Down (4-8 to 2-1) and Laois beat neighbours Carlow (2-8 to 2-1).

Senior b side face stern test

ANOTHER new look competition this year as the counties battle it out for the Senior Division 1 B All Ireland Champions crown which in effect is the Intermediate championship upgrades in status. In this competition five teams Cork Wexford, Galway Tipperary and Kilkenny compete in one group with four going to semi final stage.

Cork lost out narrowly failing to make the closing stages of the league and while the players available to the selectors will be determined by the players who will be used by the Division 1 A team with proper negotiations between both selections committee the Division 1 B side should be a strong one for championship. Linda O'Connell is defiant non starter following a recent injury

playing football while Emer O'Farrell, injured in the junior league final with her club, should be recovered. Marie and Catherine Corkery, Emer O'Sullivan, Linda Dorgan and Miriam Deasy have all performed well through the league campaign. Wexford will be in a similar position to cork as they will be dependant on the players available from their Senior division 1 A squad.

Stacey Kehoe will be expected to line out in her customary position in goal while Ciara Storey, Aisling Moran, Sharon Kehoe, Ciara O'Connor and Tina Bergin should be amongst their starting fifteen, but, again a lot will depend on the first team and who they require.

Cork skills champion

A PERFECT performance from Ballygarvan Mary Ellen O'Donovan ensured she was crowned Cork feile Na NGael Skills Winner for 2006 and will represent the county in the All Ireland skills competition at National Feile Na Gael. Grace O'Callaghan from the Ballinhassig club came second while Inniscarra's Joanne Casey was third. Well done to the three girls on a super display and indeed to all competitors who had to brave the wet weather conditions on Tuesday evening last.

Camogie chat

With Mary Newman

FIXTURES
SATURDAY MAY 27TH
GALA SENIOR ALL-IRELAND
CHAMPIONSHIP
Cork v Wexford
Páirc uí Rinn 3-15

SATURDAY MAY 27TH
SENIOR B ALL-IRELAND
CHAMPIONSHIP
Cork v Wexford
Páirc uí Rinn 1.30PM

MAY 2006

CORK OPEN DEFENCE OF TITLE

A BIG weekend both for the camogie players and hurlers as they open the defence of their respective All Ireland crowns in what will be a busy sporting weekend for followers of gaelic games in Cork.

Wexford travel to Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday for the opening game in the Gala Senior All Ireland championship while the Senior B team also take on Cork in the opening round of the new Senior B championship.

A new sponsor for the Senior championship this season with the announcement that Gala, the convenience retailer, have come on board as sponsors and this augurs well for a good championship.

Cork seniors are sponsored by Punch Industries and will be sporting the Colour Catcher logo again this year for the senior A team, and the county received a further boost recently when the county board signed a deal with G.E. Health Care who will sponsor the Senior B squad. Credit to the companies concerned for coming on board and supporting our national game for women - so often sponsorship is so hard to come by and these companies are to be applauded and hopefully camogie players everywhere will show them support in the season ahead.

In the senior championship six teams will participate in one group in a round

robin basis with the top four teams going through to compete in the semi-finals. Cork Wexford, Galway Tipperary Kilkenny and Limerick all battling it out for those elusive semi final spots.

Just four weeks ago Cork and Wexford met in the league semi-final with Cork recording a victory in a lack lustre game where they did just enough to book their place in the league final. This time out Wexford will provide stiffer opposition though. Over the last two years they have built a young team - last year they failed at the All Ireland semi-final stage to Tipperary but only narrowly, a dismal first half not helping their cause. They have plenty

of young talent - Kate Kelly, Una Lacey, Ursula Jacob and Aine Codd are amongst their stars and they will be determined to go one better this year with their players a year older and wiser. Against Cork in the league semi-final they were minus the services of the Lacey sisters Mary and Una and they will be a huge asset on Saturday. Since last season they have lost eight of their panel but they are focused and determined to go a step closer than last year.

Cork also have changes since last year - Stephanie Dunlea has retired, Rosalie Holland is out of the country and into the side have come Catriona Foley while Sarah O'Donovan and

Angela Walsh both introduced as substitutes in last years final have been commanding starting roles through the league.

Cork showed plenty of determination against Tipperary in the league final as they battled to stay in a contention. Joanne O'Callaghan captains the team and she will be driving her side on from her customary position in the Cork defence. Exams will be over now for most of the panel and with the focus firmly on the championship expect a much improved performance from the champions.

Cork open defence of All-Ireland camogie title

by Mary Newman

VICTORY in the senior league final over Tipperary last week will be put firmly to the back of the minds as Cork open the defence of their All Ireland title on Saturday next in Páirc Uí Rinn. A new sponsor for the competition this season with the announcement that Gala have come on board augurs well for a good championship.

Six teams will participate in one group in a round robin basis with the top four teams going through to

the semi-finals. Cork Wexford, Galway Tipperary Kilkenny and Limerick all battle it out for those elusive semi-final spots.

Over the last two years Wexford have built a young team. Last year they failed at All Ireland semi-final stage to Tipperary but only narrowly. They have plenty of young talent Kate Kelly, Una Lacey, Ursula Jacob and Aine Codd and they will be determined to go one better this year.

Another new look competition this year as the counties battle it out for the Senior Division 1 B All Ire-

land champions crown which in effect is the Intermediate championship upgrades in status. In this competition five teams Cork Wexford, Galway Tipperary and Kilkenny compete in one group with four going to semi-final stage.

Cork lost out narrowly, failing to make the closing stages of the league, and while the players available will be determined by the players who will be used by the Division 1 A team with proper negotiations between both selections committee the Division 1 B side should be a

strong one. Linda O'Connell is a definite non-starter following a recent injury while Emer O'Farrell should be recovered. Marie and Catherine Corkery, Emer O'Sullivan, Elaine O'Riordan, Linda Dorgan and Miriam Deasy have all performed well through the league.

Fixtures
Saturday, Gala Senior All-Ireland Championship Cork v Wexford Páirc uí Rinn 3.15pm.
Saturday, Senior B All Ireland Championship Cork v Wexford Páirc uí Rinn 1.30pm.



■ Back row from left: Laura Curtis, Sarah Carroll, Siofra Donnellan, Ruth Levey and Ellen Horgan. Front from left, Carol Toomey (coach), Eimear Fitzmaurice (water girl), Aisling Corbett, Emma Hastings, Donna Ryan, Tara Finn, Claire Vaughan (capt.), Aileen Hogg, Grainne Burns (coach).

CLONLARA National School were winners of the INTO mini-sevens camogie title recently.

They started their campaign with victories over Kilmurry and Sixmilebridge to

qualify for the finals and they secured a final meeting with Feakle, by accounting for both Ballycar and Kilnamona.

The final was a very close affair and remained scoreless at the break. Feakle start-

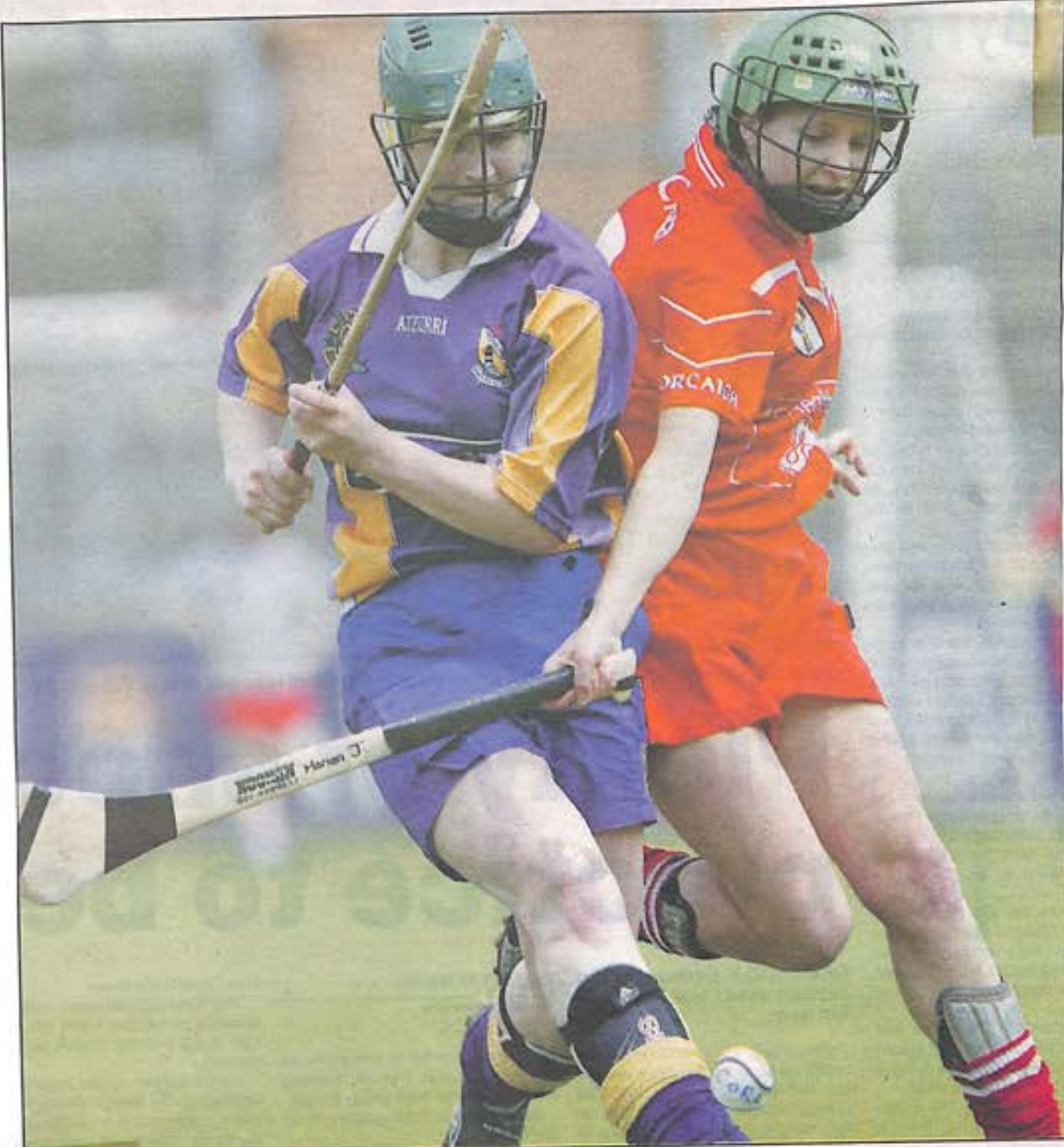
ed the second half well and things looked good for them when they went a point in front. But a very determined and spirited Clonlara team got the all important goal with two minutes left to seal victory.

CAMOGIE

Gala All-Ireland Senior Championship: Cork 1-10 Wexford 1-5, Galway 1-12 Tipperary 2-6, Limerick v Kilkenny (Off).
Gala All-Ireland Senior B Championship: Cork 4-16 Wexford 0-4, Galway v Tipperary (Off).
Gala All-Ireland Junior Championship Group A: Roscommon 2-7 Kildare 0-4, Waterford 5-11 Armagh 1-8.
Group B: Meath v Tyrone (Postponed), Antrim 0-5 Dublin 0-15.
Group C: Cavan v Offaly, (Postponed), Laois 1-3 Derry 3-14.
U16 All-Ireland Championship Group One: Galway 0-4 Clare 4-8, Tipperary 4-9 Limerick 1-5.
Group Two: Kilkenny 6-9 Wexford 3-3.
U16 B All-Ireland Championship Group One: Derry 4-10 Tyrone 1-3.
Group Two: Down 2-1 Meath 4-8.
Group Three: Armagh 3-8 Kildare 1-7.
Group Four: Carlow 3-7 Laois 2-1.
Cork:
Senior League s.f. (2005) St Finbarr's 3-13 Courcy Rovers 1-5; SL: St Catherine's 2-5 Newcestown 1-1; Valley Rovers 4-12 Newcestown 0-4; Douglas 2-10 Carrigaline 1-4; St Finbarr's 2-7 Aghabullogue 1-7; Milford 4-10 Ballygarvan 0-4; Eire Og 6-9 Valley Rovers 3-4;
U18A Championship: Eire Og 3-9 Buttevant 0-3; JAL: Killeagh 1-13 Watergrasshill 0-4; **U14L:** Ballygarvan 2-9 Milford 1-1; Eire Og 3-8 St Finbarr's 1-0; Ballygarvan 2-5 Glen Rovers 0-4; Eire Og 5-4 Bishopscourt 3-0; **U12AL:** Valley Rovers 3-0 Eire Og 2-0; Valley Rovers 1-0 Glen Rovers 1-0.

MAY 2006

Elaine rouses



EAMONN MURPHY

Cork
Wexford

1-10
1-5

DESPITE wasting in the region of 20 good chances, 16 of which were waved wide, Cork opened their Gala All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship campaign with a win on Saturday.

Despite their carelessness the Rebels, assisted by an early poacher's goal by Elaine Burke, grabbed control of the game early on, running up a 1-5 to 0-2 lead against the wind by the break that never looked likely to be overturned.

The extra class and experience of John Cronin's side contrasted sharply with the youth and lack of big game know-how of the Wexford team; a handful of their players ranged from 15 to 18, including Stacey Redmond and Ciara Storey, daughter of senior hurling legend Martin Storey who roared on the yellowbellies.

Briege Corkery and Gemma O'Connor are still developing as a midfield pairing but their zest and ball-winning abilities, backed by a half-back line that yielded little, gave Cork the ideal platform for victory.

And while the management will be disappointed with the forwards' shooting, all 1-10 came from play with five of the forwards getting on the score sheet, seven players in total, including Anna Geary, who was magnificent at left wing-back in the second-half.

Looking at the bigger picture this year the side will play more games than ever to reach an All-Ireland final, with the top two teams from the league system making it to Jones' Road in September.

At this early stage, form is arguably not a pressing concern given the win was secured quite comfortably.

Cork asserted themselves in the first minute, Jennifer O'Leary pouncing on a neat flick on by Angela Walsh after a fine drilled clearance by Rena Buckley, and clipping it over the bar with typical class.

Then came the goal; Elaine Burke as opportunistic as ever, stealing in ahead of D'Arcy at the edge of the square after Sarah O'Donovan intelligently arrowed the sliothar into the danger zone.

A Kate Kelly free opened Wexford's account in the sixth minute but Cork were utterly dominant in the opening quarter, Briege Corkery lording it in midfield, forming an energetic, athletic partnership with Gemma O'Connor.

The Rebels were utterly profligate however, wracking four bad wides in succession, though one of Angela Walsh's two shots certainly have raised a white flag after sneaking inside the near post.

Eventually Walsh lofted a point, using her football skills to boot the sliothar over the bar on the run.

After a frustrating nine minutes in which they hit another five wides, Briege Corkery eventually pushed them 1-3 to 0-1 ahead with a monster point following a quick sideline.

Though nine to one ahead on the wides count, Cork were only 1-2 ahead on the

Wexford's Lorraine O'Connor and Cork's Marian Jagoe go for the ball in the the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship game on Saturday. BELOW: Ball and hurley knocked out of the hands of Wexford's Una Lucey by Cork's Gemma O'Connor. Picture: Gerard Bonus



Top Player

Briege Corkery

Briege is a whirl of perpetual motion, passion and drive from start to finish in both codes, and Saturday highlighted this. She linked play, swept from half-back to half-forward winning the sliothar and distributing it intelligently and also landed a huge point before half-time.

Her partnership with Gemma O'Connor is blossoming and both covered every blade of grass.

Ref watch

A disappointing and unnecessarily fussy display from Tipperary's John Morrissey, who blew the whistle far too often breaking up the play and making it difficult for the teams to hit their stride.

MAY 2006

the Rebels



Cork's Sarah O'Donovan breaking away from the Wexford's defence. BELOW: Wexford's Josie Dwyer kicks the ball out of danger after losing her hurley. Picture: Ger Bonus

scoreboard and Wexford slowly forced them back, their half-backs clearing well and supplying the inside line.

Kate Kelly dispatched a 45 in the 22nd minute after her initial shot was mis-hit but deflected off Aoife Murray.

Cork's full-back were tenacious and unyielding however: Joanne O'Callaghan brilliantly hooking Ursula Jacob as she burst toward Aoife Murray's goal; Amanda Regan throwing her body in front of Jacob's powerful shot from the left just after.

The Rebels maximised their opportunities in the run up to the break.

Jennifer O'Leary finding her range again, neatly sidestepping her marker after Elaine Burke found her in space.

Wing-back Anna Geary pounced on Emma Carroll's fluffed clearance (though the corner-back had done extremely well to find the space to hit the sliothar in the first place), and when Bridget Carroll dropped a shot from a very pointable position on the right just short, Cork held a commanding 1-5 to 0-2 half-time lead.

The home side got the perfect start to the second half when Elaine Burke swivelled, threw off her marker and arrowed a fine point over her shoulder.

Wexford, though, continued on from the last 10 minutes of the first half and didn't allow Cork the space to impose themselves on the game.

Cork's extra class and experience though meant the result was never really in doubt. Kelly sent a free straight and true to bring the gap back to 1-3, but Cork's reply was instant — Angela Walsh used her pace to burst through the middle and hand passed it to Emer Dillon who nonchalantly flicked the sliothar over.

The excellent Josie Dwyer, superb when moved to wing-forward, linked similarly with Ursula Jacob in response.

Cork were making unnecessarily hard work of it, but Jennifer O'Leary rasped a ferocious shot that D'Arcy was forced to parry over and Una O'Donoghue clipped a neat effort from the right.

Credit to Wexford keeper Mags D'Arcy, as her handling was excellent, coolly catching a number of Rebel efforts that dropped short.

Wexford deservedly narrowed the margin of defeat in the closing 10 minutes, impressive sub Katrina Parrock finishing well to the keeper's right and the lively Ursula Jacob grabbing a second point, though Emer Dillon got her third before full-time.

In the end the performance leaves John Cronin and his management team with plenty to think about but most importantly two points in the bag.

Scorers for Cork: E Burke 1-1, E Dillon 0-3, J O'Leary 0-2, B Corkery, U O'Donoghue, A Geary, A Walsh 0-1 each.



Wexford: K Kelly 0-3 (0-2 frees, 0-1 45), K Parrock 1-0, U Jacob 0-2.

CORK: A Murray, J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; B Corkery, G O'Connor; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, S O'Donovan, E Burke. **Subs:** E Watson for O'Donovan (45), C Desmond for Walsh (52).

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy; A Nolan, M Leacy, E Carroll; S Redmond, A Codd, C Storey; S Nolan, O Hernan; R-M Breen, K Kelly, B Curran; U Leacy, U Jacob, J Dwyer. **Subs:** K Parrock for Breen (41), M Kelly for S Nolan (52), G Heffernan for Curran (56), B Holohan for A Nolan (57).

Match Stats CORK / WEXFORD

Goals: 1 / 1
Points: 10 / 5
Wides: 15 / 4
45s: 0 / 2

Top Scorer: Elaine Burke (1-1)

Conditions: Despite early morning showers and two matches in succession the pitch held up well, under a strong breeze that favoured Cork in the second half.

Entertainment Value: 4/10

MAY 2006

Cork run riot over Wexford

Cork 4-16
Wexford 0-4

THE result of the opening game in Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday in this Senior B All-Ireland championship clash between Cork and Wexford was a forgone conclusion from as early as the 15th minute, as Cork led 2-5 to 0-1.

Before the break they had stretched their advantage further, as they dominated in all sectors. Wexford did manage three points in the closing stages of the half but it was Cork who went to the dressing rooms 2-7 to 0-4 ahead and comfortable at that.

On the resumption, it was more of the same, as Cork simply outclassed and outplayed their younger opponents.

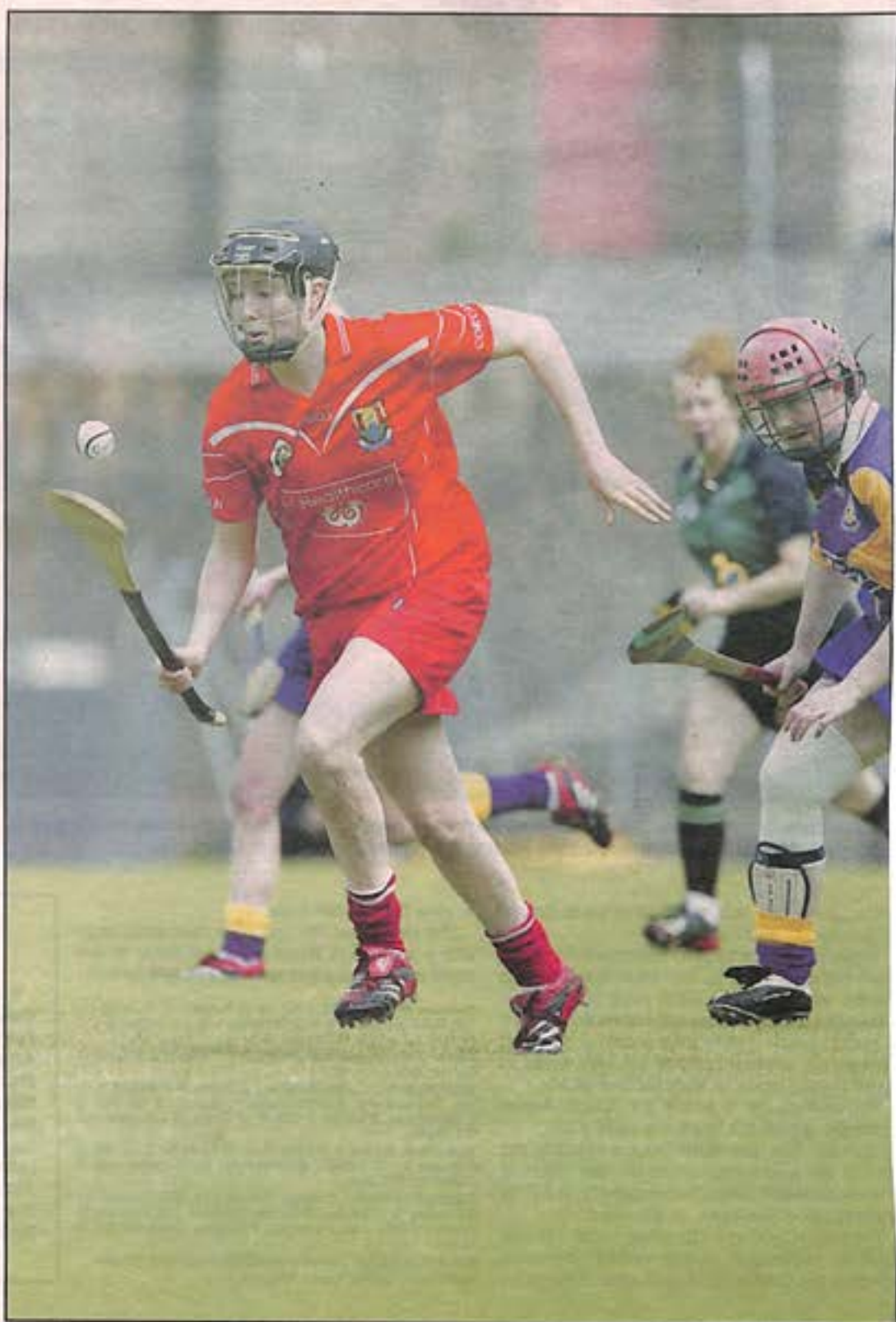
To be fair Wexford did show plenty of enthusiasm but with two of their starting 15 lining out the following day with the county's U16 side, in their championship clash with Kilkenny, it gives an indication just how much they were out of their depth against a strong Cork side, the majority of whom have had inter-county experience at adult level.

Inside six minutes of the start Catherine Corkery had set up Marion Jagoe for the game's opening goal and eight minutes later, when Emer O'Farrell finished from close range after Miriam Deasy spotted her unmarked on the edge of the square, Cork were calling the shots and making all the running.

Cork points from Deasy, Marie O'Neill, Jean Lucey, Corkery and Jagoe were replied to by Lorraine O'Connor as Wexford struggled to contain the lively Cork attack.

They rallied in the closing stages and points from Ciara Garahy and O'Connor (2) saw them close the gap but Cork finished stronger Catherine Corkery pointing with ease before Rosemary Kelleher's half time whistle sent them to the dressing room with Cork leading 2-7 to 0-4.

The second half was a nightmare from a Wexford perspective, as Cork continued their bombardment on their defence, five points without replay saw the gap widen before Miriam Deasy grabbed a well deserved goal with 12 minutes remaining. Those 12 minutes were soul destroying for the young Wexford side, who despite playing second fiddle in all sections of the field



Cork's Marie O'Neill solos with the ball before passing to a teammate during the All-Ireland Senior B Camogie Championship clash against Wexford at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Gerard Bonus

By MARY NEWMAN
Senior B camogie

continued to contest every ball, inevitably these were won by the superior Cork side as Emer O'Farrell, Marie O'Neill and Marian Jagoe all added points.

With five minutes to the finish Marion Jagoe flicked the ball to the net to further extend Cork's advantage and the final say was with substitute Ger Collins who pointed on a day when the

strength and experience of the home side was evident from the throw in.

Wexford, with two of their starting fifteen U16 could take little from a game that failed to excite those who arrived early to Páirc Uí Rinn.

Meanwhile Cork, with games against Tipperary, Kilkenny and Galway still to come, will be confident of making it to the semi-final stage on this display.

CORK: G Harrington, A. M Fleming, L Hawkes, D Hayes, T Roche, J Duffy (0-1), E O Sullivan, M Corkery, L Dorgan, M Jagoe (2-1), M O'Neill (0-4), J. Lucey (0-1), C Corkery (0-2), M Deasy (1-1), E O Farrell (1-5: 1-3 play 0-2 frees).

Subs: M O Donoghue for D Hayes (46mins) C Deasy for J Lucey (48mins) G Collins (0-1) for C Corkery (50mins) T Murphy for E O Farrell (54mins)

WEXFORD: Stacy Kehoe, S Nolan, C Atkinson, N O Connor, N Lambert, Sharon Kehoe, K Atkinson, L O Connor (0-3: 0-1 f 0-1 45" 0-1 play) D Ryan, S Carr, E Moran, T Bergin, L O Leary, B Murphy, Shelly Kehoe

Subs: C Garahy (0-1) for E Moran (23mins) K Dunne for B Murphy (19/5)
Referee: R Kelleher Limerick

A victory tarnished by sloppy shooting

JOHN CRONIN
(Cork)

NATURALLY John Cronin was more satisfied with the win than the performance in the aftermath of his side's opening round victory.

"Happy with the win but not happy with the overall play; we were very dead and we should have been out of sight at half-time. We had a lot of bad wides, a mix of terrible wides and others that barely missed the posts as well.

"We have to be scoring more with the possession we had. Definitely we'll have to work on that, it's a game we never looked like losing but it's disappointing to have left them in to it. A win is a win though and we'll take it."

At half-time the management had hoped to see the Rebels sharpen their shooting and while they shot three less wides he felt they didn't make full use of the strong wind.

"We told them to improve their shooting but to hit five points with the wind was very disappointing."

The new format means this year's campaign will be particularly arduous, Cork slated to play the other top teams, and an All-Ireland final should they finish in the top two of the league. On the back of the win over Tipp in the league final and looking ahead perhaps John is looking for his side to peak in September?

"It's a long season now and that might take its toll so we'll have to work very hard. This time last season we hadn't started, but it takes a long time to get going and we have to plan for a longer season this year."

"We've a month break now but at the same time the club championship is starting now and we have to work around that and hope we don't get any serious injuries, but that's part of it too."

Easy for Clare

Clare 3-11
Tipperary 2-3

CLARE made a winning start in the first round of the U-16 camogie championship in the rain at Newmarket-on-Fergus on Sunday. The team lined out with many positional changes from the game against Cork two weeks ago.

Carl Kaiser at full forward had an early goal and Clare led at half time by 1-5 to 0-3 for Tipperary. Carina Rosengrave finished off some good play with a goal and she had a further goal within ten minutes of the restart.

Roisin McMahon was playing well at wing forward with Aine O'Brien and Shona Enright prominent also. Aisling Dillon, Carol O'Leary and Susan Vaughan played well in the Clare defence. Tipperary scored two goals at the finish but Clare had a margin on hand. Clare's next match will be against Galway on May 27.

Scorers for Clare were Carina Rosengrave 2-2, Aine O'Brien 0-5, Carl Kaiser 1-0, Shona Enright 0-1, Roisin McMahon 0-1, Roisin O'Brien 0-1 and Triona Kelly 0-1.

Camogie treatment slammed by Molloy

by Therese O'Callaghan

WHILE Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael are celebrating the start of the Gala All-Ireland senior championship today, Galway find themselves homeless after being kicked out of Pearse Stadium, where they were due to play their hugely attractive first-round tie against Tipperary.

PJ Molloy, who has had a long and fruitful association with the GAA and is a current selector with the Galway camogie team, is livid at the treatment they have received.

They heard on local radio that the Connacht SFC game between Galway and Sligo (cancelled at the same venue last Sunday due to the weather) had taken their place at the county grounds.

"I never realised until now how shabbily the girls are being treated," said Molloy, who won All-Ireland

medals alongside current county hurling manager Conor Hayes.

"It is pointless shying away from the issue or being polite about it. The big thing missing in Galway is co-operation between the GAA and camogie.

"We secured Pearse Stadium last Christmas for our match against Tipperary, and then we are just thrown out a few days before our biggest game of the championship and nobody even bothers to tell us. No consultation whatsoever. We are very disappointed with the utter disrespect for camogie.

"I am involved with GAA all my life. In my club (Athenry) there is a fantastic show of equality, and I see why with the work that is being done by women.

"But this week it saddens me so much to see what has happened. The girls are very poorly treated and camogie gets awful bad press in Galway. We always play second fiddle,

have to settle for secondary pitches, and there is little hope of us ever getting the use of county grounds for training.

"We are delighted with the goodwill of some people. The likes of Gort CS where we are training, and Portumna who at late notice came to the rescue to give us the use of their facilities for today's game. But, most of the time we are begging for pitches. It is on-going hard slog. How can this be right?

"We all like to be made feel good. All we are asking for is respect."

Despite their poor league form, Molloy is looking forward to this afternoon's clash. They received a drubbing when the teams last met. Ironically, Galway had to concede home venue as bad weather meant no grounds could house the tie.

Elsewhere Cork meet Wexford at Páirc Uí Rinn, while Limerick take on Kilkenny at Mungret.

WYCHERLEY (Kinsale): On May 25, 2006, at the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork NORA-MAY (nee Lynch) beloved wife of Gearóid (Gerry), Camp Hill and mother of Kate, Helen, Paul, Niamh, Geraldine and Elizabeth. Sadly missed by her loving husband, children, mother, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, relatives and friends. RIP. Lying in repose at Gabriel and O'Donovan's Funeral Home, Kinsale. Removal on this (Friday) evening at 7pm to St. John the Baptist Church, Kinsale. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Saturday) at 11am. Funeral afterwards to St. Elin's Cemetery.

Three reasons why Cork won

1. The opening goal: For a young Wexford side travelling down to Leaside the opening quarter was always going to be vital, and while Cork's wastefulness kept them in Wexford's sight for most of the game, the opening goal was a big blow. Coming after only two minutes with Sarah O'Donovan and Elaine Burke pouncing on Wexford hesitancy, psychologically as well as on the scoreboard it left the visitors with a gap to bridge from the off.

2. Dominance in midfield and defence: Cork's midfield didn't always win clean possession (in the opening half they allowed Wexford

win too many puck outs and clearances uncontested) but their tenacity and fire meant their opponents never had time to settle and pick out passes. With the rearguard hooking, blocking and harrying the Wexford forwards, and clearing the sliothar with authority, they were never going to concede much.

3. Sheer class and experience: Reigning league and All-Ireland champions, with a number of dual football players boasting the same achievement, Cork had too much class, experience and confidence and never looked in danger of losing.



Cork's Elaine Burke is tackled by Wexford's Avis Nolan in the All-Ireland Championship game

MAY 2006

Cork crowns its Féile Na nGael queen

A PERFECT performance from Ballygarvan's Mary Ellen O'Donovan ensured she was crowned Cork Féile Na nGael skills winner for 2006 and will now have the honour, if she wishes, of representing the entire county at the National Féile Na nGael.

Because Cork is hosting the national competition this year — and every Cork club will have the opportunity to participate — Mary Ellen must decide whether to play for Ballygarvan or line up in the All-Ireland, though all that's irrelevant for the moment as she celebrates her county crown.

A first year pupil at Christ King Secondary School, Turners Cross, Mary Ellen is a member of the school's first year Camogie team.

Mary Ellen has already proven she's a player to watch, and has been turning in superb displays at centre back for the Ballygarvan Under 14s. At Under 16 level, she's lined out at wing back and has also played in goal for the Under 18s.

A prominent member of the Ballygarvan Féile Na nGael panel, she's one of the driving forces behind the club's quest for their first national title.



Féile Skills winner Mary Ellen O'Donovan

In other results from the Cork Féile Na nGael, Grace O'Callaghan from the Ballinhassig club came second, while Inniscarra's Joanne Casey was third.

Organisers have congratulated all three girls on giving superb displays, of which their clubs can be proud. They've also congratulated all other competitors who had to brave wet weather which played havoc with fixtures in the competition all week.



Col Choilm camogie team at the Col Choilm awards night, Ballincollig.

Picture: Cillian Kelly

Shauna swoops to conquer for Patrick's victory

St. Patrick's NS, Whitechurch 2-0
Ballygarvan 0-0
(AET)

IT took extra-time to decide yesterday's low-scoring Allianz Sciath na Scol DC1 final in Páirc Uí Rinn, writes **PJ AHERN**.

With the game keenly poised after it finished scoreless at the end of normal time, St. Patrick's NS, Whitechurch finally broke the deadlock with Shauna Brickley inspiring her side to victory by scoring and creating a goal in both halves of extra-time.

Despite the game been a low-scoring affair with opportunities a rarity, this was a memorable decider.

The high-calibre camogie on offer truly left the supporters guessing until the end.

The high-tempo start was maintained throughout with Whitechurch's Shauna Brickley and Ballygarvan's Anne Keohane both creating chances to open the scoring early on.

Brickley and Gemma Cahill were prominent from the outset, and Ballygarvan's Avril Collins was in top form throughout, keeping Whitechurch at bay.

The best chance of normal time came from Ballygarvan's Sarah Quilligan, who unleashed a ferocious effort from long distance, only to be held at bay by Whitechurch keeper, Laura Crowley.

As the game ticked down to extra-time both sets of defenders were on top with little clear-cut opportunities in front of goal.

At the start of extra-time it appeared that a replay would be re-

quired to decide the final but Shauna Brickley set up Niamh O'Leary who batted home from close range to finally open the scoring.

In the second half, Brickley decided the outcome with a goal which she deserved for her outstanding contribution in this DC1 final.

Scorers for St. Patrick's NS Whitechurch: N O'Leary 1-0, S Brickley 1-0.

ST PATRICK'S NS, WHITECHURCH: L Crowley, D Fitzgerald, J Russell, C Smiddy, C Horgan, R O'Sullivan, C Forde, S O'Connell, S Brickley, K McAuliffe, R Coleman, N O'Leary, G Cahill, K Murphy, A Murphy.

BALLYGARVAN: E Quinn, A Collins, H Clarke, A Broughan, A French, L McCarthy, E Short, A Walsh, A Keohane, E O'Connell, S Quilligan, R O'Halloran, A Flynn, J Lynch, K O'Donovan.

Referee: J Kelly.



Shauna Brickley of St Patrick's NS Whitechurch shoots for goal past Holly Clarke of Ballygarvan during their Sciath na Scol DC1 final tie. Picture: Cillian Kelly

O'Connell seals win for Rathduff

Rathduff 2-2
Inch 1-1

RATHDUFF left it late before beating Inch in an entertaining Allianz Sciath na Scol C5 final at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday, writes **PJ AHERN**.

Inspired by captain Ellen O'Sullivan and Elaine Buckley, Rathduff started brightly and went a goal up inside the first minute, Christine Walsh scoring after a goalmouth scramble.

Inch replied with a point through their star player Kate Murphy.

The irrepressible Murphy turned in a top class display for Inch. She orchestrated their attacks, feeding Sarah Treacy and Becky Fitzgerald, to test Rathduff's defensive resolve.

Rathduff asserting heavy pressure on Inch, but the east Cork side grabbed the lead against the run of play when Kate Murphy blasted a free to the net.

Inch led by one point at half-time 1-1 to 1-0.

In the second half, Rathduff upped the ante and captain Ellen O'Sullivan-Burrows registered a point to level.

The game seemed destined to in end in a draw, with both sides hurling each other to a stand still, but in the dying moments Maria O'Connell decided the issue with a goal and a point to send Rathduff's supporters into raptures.

Scorers Rathduff: M O'Connell 1-1, C Walsh 1-0, E O'Sullivan-Burrows 0-1.

Inch: K Murphy 1-1.

RATHDUFF: S Flaherty, E Buckley, E O'Sullivan-Burrows, M Jones, K Donovan, E Buckley, L O'Farrell, M O'Connell, C Walsh.

INCH: K Manning, M Draddy, J Barry, A McCarthy, L Treacy, B Fitzgerald, N Fitzgibbon, K Murphy, S Treacy.

Referee: M Burns.



Inch's Kate Murphy and Rathduff's Kate Donovan in action during the Sciath na Scol C5 final. Picture: Cillian Kelly / News Digital

MAY 2006



Ballinspittle's Caron O'Reilly gets away from Belgooly's Jillian O'Leary in the DC2 final. Picture: Cillian Kelly/News Digital

Ballinspittle ease past Belgooly

Ballinspittle 3-3
Belgooly 0-2

BALLINSPIITTE took the honours against Belgooly in a keenly contested Allianz Sciath na Scol DC2 final in a rain sodden Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday, writes **PJ AHERN**.

The game was very much in the balance with both sides producing splendid camogie.

Belgooly were on top from early on. Belgooly's danger woman, Rebecca Murphy was once again her side's most productive forward as she co-ordinated attacks from the half-forward line.

Murphy put Belgooly into a two point lead and her side appeared to be in a comfortable position. Ballinspittle broke Belgooly's hold on the game through a speculative Aisling Maloney effort that ended in the net (1-0 to 0-2).

Ballinspittle pushed home their dominance by taking full advantage of their chances in front of goal, while they also kept their opponents scoreless.

Caron O'Reilly was in inspired form as she scored a goal and set up Aoife Keating's goal by floating a free high into the box.

While Aisling Maloney continued to make an impact by adding two

further points.

Notable performances came from Clara Edmonds, Rachel Sheehan and Kate O'Regan.

Belgooly gave it their all in the but unfortunately for them Ballinspittle held out for the victory.

Scorers for Ballinspittle: A Moloney 1-2, C McCarthy 1-0, A Keating 1-0, J Crowley 0-1.

Belgooly: K Corridan 0-2.

BALLINSPIITTE: A O'Sullivan, S O'Mahony, A Keating, E Hannon, A McCarthy, C O'Reilly, A Moloney, J Crowley, J Ryan, D McGregor, T Collins, J Mulcahy.

BELGOOLY: S Kiely, J McAuliffe, R Sheehan, C Kelleher, C O'Callaghan, K Corridan, A Allen, J O'Leary, C Edmonds, R Murphy, K O'Regan, E Coleman, C Sexton.

Referee: C Lyons.

Casey masterclass crowns Coachford

Coachford College 2-16
St Mary's, Charleville 2-4

COACHFORD completed a clean sweep by defeating arch rivals Charleville in the Cork Colleges First Year A final at Ballyanley yesterday, writes **ROB LOTT**.

The Avondhu school started well with Sinéad O'Flynn scoring the opening point after a long clearance from Sharon Curtin.

Sloppy defending allowed U14 Limerick player Colette Kelleher ghost past the defence and belt the sliothar high to the Coachford net.

Indeed, the Munster Champions conceded another goal, again from

Kelleher, and an upset looked probable. Captain Aine O'Connor rallied her players when switched to midfield with Rosey O'Mahony resuming her normal centre back role.

Both players began to supply Aoife Barry-Murphy and Joanne Casey and Coachford began to claw their way back. Casey opened the Muskerry school's account.

She then proceeded to give a scoring display that, in the words of coach Ger Donovan, demonstrated every skill in the game.

Frees from each sideline, a point from seventy yards, another from the left at high speed from the hurley and finished with a sweeping ground stroke that Alannah Walsh

had to deflect over the bar meant the Coachford side went in one point ahead at half time.

On the resumption, Donovan changed tactic again an curbed the influence of Casey.

Kate Keane and Sarah Dore began to improve but their efforts were unhinged when supersub Rachel Manley broke past Laura O'Donnell to flick the ball to the net.

This score proved the springboard for the Coachford forwards to open up. Aine O'Connor, now operating at full forward, converting three superb points with Noelle Buckley, another substitute, adding another point.

The full backline of Emily

O'Donovan, Eimear and Laura McCarthy defended well and cleared regularly.

Maeve Hennessey added another Coachford point, Laura Burke added a goal and Aoife Barry Murphy managed to break through and slot over another point.

Colette Kelleher responded for Charleville but Casey fittingly ended the game with a tally of ten points. Both schools have players involved in the All-Ireland U14 blitz this Saturday, June 3 at Ballyanley.

Scorers for Coachford: J. Casey 0-10 (0-5 f), L. Burke 1-0, R. Manley 1-0, A. O'Connor 0-3, M. Hennessey 0-1, A. Barry Murphy 0-1, N. Buckley 0-1.

Charleville: C. Kelleher 2-2, S. O'Flynn 0-2.



Ballinspittle's Ailis McCarthy (with cup) and team-mates celebrating after their victory over Belgooly in the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí, Round DC2 Girls' final at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Picture: Neil Danton



St Patrick's GNS players celebrating after defeating Spioraid Naomh, Bishopstown, in yesterday's C2 camogie final at the Sciath na Scol in Páirc Uí Rinn and, right, St Anthony's celebrating their victory over Midleton in the H1 boys final.

Pictures: Cillian Kelly/News Digital



Rathduff's Kate Donovan clears under pressure from Inch's Kate Murphy in the C5 final at yesterday's Sciath na Scol.

Picture: Cillian Kelly

After a blistering opening 20 minutes, which saw the champions lead 2-2 to 0-0 at the short whistle, they produced an even more scintillating performance in the second-half to crush the challengers.

Louise Kelly, Ruth Hayes and goalscorer Amy O'Hea were best for Spioraid Naomh.

Scorers for St. Patrick's GNS: M Ring 2-2, D Carroll 1-2, R O'Mahony 1-0, E Porter 1-0.

Spioraid Naomh: A O'Hea 1-0.
ST PATRICK'S GNS: N Navey, A Costello, K Henry, S Ring, J Manning, R Crowley, A McCarthy, D Carroll, M Ring, K Ruddy, A O'Rourke, C Condon, R O'Mahony, K O'Leary, E Porter.

SPIORAID NAOIMH: G Kelleher, L Twomey, K Finn, D Sheehan, T Horgan, S Clifford, N Butler, A O'Sullivan, A O'Hea, R Hayes, M Desmond, L Kelly, G Hickey, R O'Riordan, P Finn.
Referee: J Kelly.

St Patrick's NS Whitechurch Ballygarvan **2-0**

0-0 (aet)

ST PATRICK'S NS, Whitechurch required extra-time to defeat Ballygarvan in a thrilling Allianz Sciath

na Scol Rionn DC1 final.

Shauna Brickley proved to be the hero as she scored a goal and set up Niamh O'Leary to finally break the deadlock after the game remained scoreless after normal time.

In a game where the camogie was of the highest quality, it became a battle of stamina. The two sets of supporters were tortured, with Ballygarvan's Sarah Quilligan and St Patrick's Kate McAuliffe going closest to finding the solitary score needed in normal time.

But as time ticked down, extra-time was required and Brickley stepped up to lead her side to glory.

Scorers for St. Patrick's, Whitechurch: N O'Leary 1-0, S Brickley 1-0.

ST PATRICK'S NS: L Crowley, D Fitzgerald, J Russell, C Smiddy, C Horgan, R O'Sullivan, C Forde, S O'Connell, S Brickley, K McAuliffe, R Coleman, N O'Leary, G Cahill, K Murphy, A Murphy.

BALLYGARVAN: E Quinn, A Collins, H Clarke, A Broughan, A French, L McCarthy, E Shortt, A Walsh, A Keohane, E O'Connell, S Quilligan, R O'Halloran, A Flynn, J Lynch, K O'Donovan.
Referee: J Kelly.

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■ The Clare panel which defeated Derry. Back L-R: Rachel Lynch, Claire Arthur, Áine McCormack, Deirdre Corcoran, Fiona Lafferty, Marie Whelan, Denise Lynch, Siobhán Lafferty, Jane Scanlon, Elaine Gallery, Helen McMahon, Aine O'Brien and Edel Keating. Front: Stephanie Taaffe, Sharon O'Loughlin, Catherine O'Loughlin, Sharon McMahon, Laura Linnane, Aoife Ryan, Sarah Donnellan, Claire Commene, Cathy Halley (Capt), Jane O'Leary, Deirdre Murphy and Marie O'Halloran.

Photograph John Quirke

Gameon

with Finbarr McCarthy



May award for outstanding dual player

THE 96/103 FM GAA Sports star of the month in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel winner for May is outstanding dual Camogie and Ladies footballer Mary O'Connor from Killeagh.

It was a special month for Mary as Cork completed a Senior National League double with wins over Tipperary in Camogie and Meath in football and in both games she played important roles in fact in the Camogie win she was in the view of many the player of the match.

Mary has rendered both sides wonderful service in particular Camogie as she has been a key player for the team in the last few years in the centre-back role.

Recently she has taken on a new position as one of the Regional Development Officers for Camogie with responsibility for promoting and developing the game in areas of the county that are a bit behind the rest and as usual she will relish the job and Camogie should benefit immensely from her efforts.

Coming from a family immersed in the GAA particularly the Killeagh club Mary is a worthy winner and will be presented with the award on Thursday next.

CORK COLLEGES RETAIN TITLE

A WONDERFUL day's camogie in Ballyanley on Saturday last as the Cork Colleges camogie committee hosted their annual James Hurley memorial under 14 tournaments. Ten teams battled in out in the sweltering sunshine as games began at 10.30 and were played continually through the afternoon. Credit must go to all the young participants from the ten teams representing their counties and colleges who turned in splendid performances in all games.

Four teams emerged from their respective group to make it to the semi finals where Kilkenny defeated a fancied Tipperary side 2-2 to 0-1 while the Cork Colleges had to battle to the finish before defeating Galway 1-4 to 1-1 in a thrilling contest.

Tiredness was beginning to catch up on all participants as the blazing sunshine sapped the energy by the time Cork College and Kilkenny faced each other in the final. Kate Harrington gave Cork Colleges an early lead with a well taken point inside the first minute and from the puck out Cork Aileen O'Donovan again put the Kilkenny defence under pressure as she struck for the games opening goal.

With their defence closing down the Kilkenny attack at every opportunity and their mid field well on top Cork again won the battle thus

ensuring a steady supply to their forward division who put then Kilkenny defence under enormous pressure, by the mid way stage captain Joanne Casey had extended the lead with a pointed free to give Cork the half time advantage 2-1 to no score.

On the resumption Kilkenny again attacked but time out of number they were repelled Tessa Hawkes in the Cork goal dealing efficiently with anything that came her way while her defence continued to hold the upper hand. With the heat beginning to have effect players grew noticeably tired this was reflected on the score board Cork adding just two points to their tally Maria Reidy and substitute Sarah Harrington on target. Kilkenny did have a penalty oppor-

tunity but Tessa Hawkes dealt efficiently with the challenge to clear her lines as the Cork Colleges ran out deserving winners after a tremendous day's camogie.

In an exciting plate final Clare recorded a victory over Waterford on a 2-3 to 1-0 score line.

After the game Joan and Jim Hurley parents of the late James Hurley presented the magnificent trophy to Cork Colleges captain Joanne Casey.

All credit to the Cork Colleges for organising such a marvellous event but special mention must go to Rob Lotty who once again came up trumps; everything was first class only something we have come to expect from Lotty so again, congratulations to all concerned!

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman



Cork Colleges Camogie player Cherell Naughton takes a break to play with her nephew Ryan during the Cork colleges tournament in Ballyanley.

CORK LOSE OUT TO CLARE

CLARE laid the foundations for victory with a superb opening thirty minutes which in the end enabled them record victory in Cork in the Munster intermediate in Coachford on Friday night championship. By virtue of the grading rule which prohibits the holders of provincial Intermediate medals taking part in the competition Cork were

always going to be weakened and they had a battle from the throw in against a physically stronger Clare side. Clare led 0-11 to 0-2 at the half time whistle all but seven of the scores coming from play as Clare Mahon, Deirdre Murphy Elaine Gallery and Sarah Donnellan found the range as the Cork inside line struggled again the stronger

Clare defenders.

Cork made changes for the second half and they began to play with confidence and get on top. Orna Neville and Marie Corkery coming into the game as Cork began to gain the upper hand. Five points without reply inside fifteen minutes of the restart one from Marie Corkery and four from Sarah Downing had the gap down to four

and suddenly it was Cork who dictating matters twice forcing Denise Lynch in the Clare goal to be at her best. Clare Mc Mahon and Sinead Buckley exchange points before Elaine Gallery extended the lead to five.

As Cork continued to pressurise the Clare defence they had be at their best to hold them at bay. With the game heading into injury

time Elaine Gallery grabbed the goal that ultimately put light between the teams as she somehow squeezed the ball past Gillian Harrington who had performed superbly through the hour. In the eight minutes of injury time that followed Caroline Motherway and Gallery swapped points but the goal had effectively killed the spirited Cork challenge.

Former camogie player climbs Mt.Everest

(2006-05-20)

THE Cuala club based in Dalkey Co.Dublin can be very proud of the achievements of one of it's former players Patricia Mc Guirk who reached 8.650 m on Mount Everest. While she may not have reached the top, she surely was the camogie player on the highest spot this week.

Along side Clare O'Leary and Grania Willis who both summited on previous occasions she becomes Ireland's third female climber to ever reach such a high. Well done and a safe journey back to Dublin.



At the Féile na nGael launch were from left, Sheila Golden, president Cork Camogie Board; Marian McCarthy, chairwoman Cork Camogie Board; County Mayor Cllr Micheal Creed; Nicky Brennan, GAA President; Tracey Sheehan, chairwoman Juvenile Camogie Board and Peter Dennehy, secretary Cork Handball Board.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

GOOD START TO GALA ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

A GOOD start as the senior team opened the defence of their All Ireland crown with a victory over Wexford on Saturday last in Pairc Ui Rinn. An early goal helped settle Cork and through the first half they enjoyed ample possession and had added five points to their tally but failed to convert many chances that came their way. Cork led 1-5 to 0-2 at the interval with points Jennifer O'Leary, Angela

Walsh, Brieghe Corkery and Anna Geary; Kate Kelly pointed twice as Wexford battled against the strong Cork defence where the six defenders as a unit were superb.

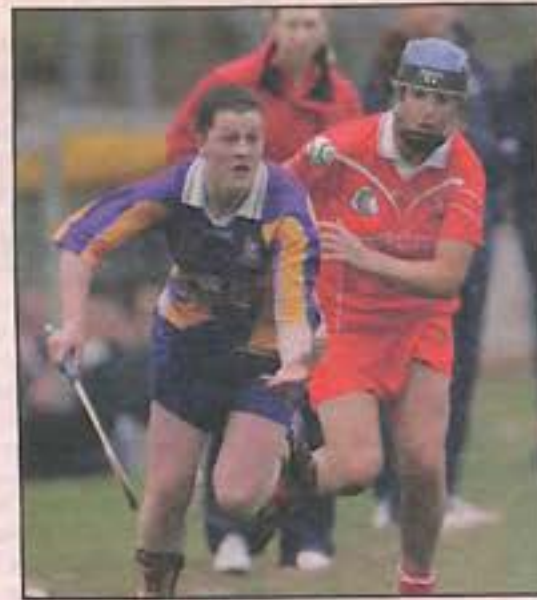
Through the second half Cork again enjoyed plenty of possession but again the shooting was off target. Twice the sides swapped points before Jennifer O'Leary and Una O'Donoghue extended the lead to seven points. With

four minutes remaining Wexford substitute Catriona Parrock finished to the net before Emer Dillon and Ursula Jacob had late points.

It was a game where Cork always held control and never looked in danger but never the less the shooting of seventeen wide over the hour will be a concern. The performance of the defence and the mid field pairing of Gemma O'Connor and Brieghe

Corkery was superb, with a lot of players just finished exams cork will be reasonably pleased and they will look ahead to the next challenge which will be posed by Kilkenny on June 24.

Elsewhere in the group Galway defeated Tipperary while the Kilkenny Limerick game had to be postponed due to weather conditions, let's hope that the last time this year that has to happen!!



All Ireland Senior A Camogie Championship

Cork's Emer Dillon and Wexford's Emma Carroll battle for possession during their tie last week in Pairc Ui Rinn.

Picture: Neil Danton / News Digital

Senior B team record good win

FROM the throw in Cork always held the upper hand on a young inexperienced Wexford side in the All Ireland Senior B game which preceded the main game in Pairc Ui Rinn. Fifteen minutes into the game Cork led 2-5 to 0-1 and by the break had stretch their advantage further. First half goals from Marion Jagoe and Emer O'Farrell set the foundations for victory early in the game. Wexford added three points in the closing stages of the half as Cork led 2-7 to 0-4.

Through the second half Cork con-

tinued to dominate as Wexford battled hard but found the going hard again a strong Cork side. Five points without replay saw the gap widen before a Miriam Deasy goal finished the game as a contest with twelve minutes remaining. Five minutes from full time Marion Jagoe grabbed Corks fourth goal before substitute Ger Collins pointed. Wexford with two of their starting fifteen under 16 were never in contention against a Cork side who will meet stiffer tests in their remaining games against Tipperary, Kilkenny and Galway.

Cork Feile title for Inniscarra

WELL done to Inniscarra who were crowned Cork Feile Na NGael champions in an exciting replay on Wednesday last. Sometimes replays do not live up to expectations but this was not the case as again two determined sides battled it out for the title.

Early points from Joanne Casey and Claire Sheehan settled Inniscarra

and gave them an early lead. Setting the pace Inniscarra had two goals from Laura McCarthy and Joanne Casey to extend their advantage. Douglas worked hard and battled to get back into the game and putting the Inniscarra defence under pressure opened their account with a Katrina Mackey pointed free. Solid Douglas defending helped

hold the Inniscarra attack at bay but when Laura McCarthy set up Claire Finnegan for goal number three Inniscarra went to the dressing room leading 3-2 to 0-1.

From the start of the second half Douglas applied pressure but solid defending kept them at bay, time out of number Inniscarra broke up and cleared attacks as the Douglas

forwards came in search of scores. Ailin O'Donovan pointed from a penalty for Douglas second score but they needed goals and the Inniscarra defence were in no mood to concede. To their credit Douglas did hold the Inniscarra attack for the second half but the foundations for victory had been sown thanks to an excellent first half display.

Barry points the way for Rathcormac NS



Rathcormac's Shannon Mulhall gets past Ballinadee's Jessica McCarthy and Nicole McCarthy to take on keeper, Carol Moloney during their Sciath na Scol Rionn DC3 final. Picture: Ger Bonus

Allianz Sciath na Scol Rionn DC3 final

Rathcormac NS 1-4
Ballinadee NS 0-0

By PJ AHERNE
Sciath na Scol

A STRONG second half performance enabled Rathcormac to see off the challenge of Ballinadee NS in the Allianz Sciath na Scol DC3 final in Pairc Ui Rinn yesterday.

Ballinadee had the better of the opening exchanges but despite some great penetration their efforts on goal was to prove fruitless and Rathcormac's Chloe O'Flynn punished them by opening the scoring with a point.

O'Flynn went close to adding a second point but her show went wide. Rathcormac's Jennifer Barry and Sarah Keane were the main reason behind their domination as they lit the

fuse on the majority of attacks. Meanwhile Ballinadee's Naomi McCarthy and Ciara Fenton were proving to be difficult threats to snuff out but they couldn't prevent their side from trailing at the break (0-1 to 0-0).

Rathcormac's confidence grew in the second half, and with three consecutive points from Jennifer Barry they could start the celebrations.

The win was completed by a well-taken Shannon Mulhall goal.

Scorers for Rathcormac NS: S Mulhall 1-0, J Barry 0-3, C O'Flynn 0-1.

RATHCORMAC NS: C Noonan, M Dooley, E Cashman, S Mulhall, K Power, J Barry, S Keane, C O'Flynn, M O'Sullivan, R Howard.

BALLINADEE NS: C Moloney, M Keane, E Kingston, C Sweetnam, J McCarthy, A O'Sullivan, N McCarthy, C Fenton, C Crowley, E Keane, N McCarthy.

Referee: T Hallinan (Whitechurch).

JUNE
2006



Ann McGrath, principal St Mary's in Macroom, pictured with Distinguished Past Pupil Award recipient Brieghe Corkery.



Joan and Jim Hurley present Cork Colleges captain Joanne Casey with the trophy in memory of their son the late James Hurley

JUNE 2006

Double



Féile twins Laura and Helen Leahy from St Catherine's.

Twins are set to give opponents a torrid time

VISITING teams to Cork for Féile Na nGael this weekend will be excused if they imagine tiredness, plus the long journey south may have given them double vision.

A closer look will tell them that yes there are twins playing and an extraordinarily amount of twins at that.

Out in Douglas the twin force of the Mackeys has already been felt by many a team, as the girls continue to make marvellous strides on the camogie playing fields.

Already the holder of Féile honours won in 2005, they will participate in division one in a section where they are joined by Valley Rovers, Thomastown and Thurles.

Cork Féile champions, Inniscarra will be striving to take their first division one national title and they will be

By MARY NEWMAN

Féile Camogie Twins

hoping the Finnegan twins, Ellen and Clare will again weave their magic.

Already, Inniscarra have looked impressive taking the Cork title and the twins will be hoping to brush aside the challenges posed by Ballycastle, Ballinhassig and Sixmilebridge this weekend.

Also in division one the Dowling twins, from Glen Rovers, Alison and Erica will be enjoying Féile for the first time.

Mother Maria is the club's children's officer and she will no doubt be keeping a close eye on her own girls performances against Wexford side, St Martin's, Milford and St John's, Dublin.

Teams competing in the division Two competition will not be without its share of twins.

Kate and Sarah Harrington line out for Fr O'Neill's.

They had a great role model in neighbour, Fiona O'Driscoll and indeed they themselves are making their mark on the inter county scene.

Both play on the Cork U14 Colleges team.

In divisions five, the Neville twins, Danielle and Edwina will be hoping to emulate the feat of their brother Craig, who won a Division two Féile medal with Carrigaline in 2002.

Brian Dillon's will also have twins playing with them this weekend.

The Dooley sisters, Jane and Claire line out in the division three competition.

Both won Sciath Na Scol medals with Gael Scol Gort Alainn, Mayfield last year.

Jane was selected to represent Cork in the primary game last year at half-time of the All-Ireland final in Croke Park.



Sarah and Kate Harrington who will play with Fr O'Neill's.



Carrigaline twins Danielle and Edwina Neville.



Twins Claire and Jane Dooley who feature for Brian Dillons.



The Austin twins from St Finbarr's Danielle and Simone.



The Mackey twins Katriona and Pamela from Douglas

JUNE 2006

trouble



Ellen and Clare Finnegan who will be playing for Inniscarra in the Féile finals.

Now playing with St Angela's School, they will be to the fore as Brian Dillon's chase honours in division three.

Gillian and Louise O' Riordan are identical twins on the Bishopstown Féile squad for the second year in-a-row.

They are sure to cause identity problems for their opposition.

Holder of Seandún U11B league with their club, both girls are first year students in Mount Mercy College.

Both play on the school team and they also played in the Sciath Na Scol finals with Scoil an Spioraid Naomh.

The only boy, girls twin combination representing Cork clubs are avid sailors.

They are James and Lisa O' Brien from Monkstown. This weekend they will be keeping their feet firmly on the ground.

They will be striving to bring double glory to Passage.

Both are pupils at St Peter's Community School, Passage West and are related to the famous sailor Harold Cudmore.

Twins, Laura and Helen Leahy are the youngest members of the St Catherine's

Féile team. They are just 12 years-of-age. Both girls are in fifth class in Ballynoe National School. Both are members of St Catherine's U12 and U14 camogie teams.

Visiting camogie teams to Cork also report a large amount of twins.

There are many a brother and sister, and indeed in some clubs, two or three sisters and brothers all anxiously counting the minutes to the Féile weekend.

Just imagine the tension in these houses.

During the Féile parade tomorrow be sure to keep an eye for all our Cork Féile Camogie twins.



James and Lisa O'Brien who will feature for Passage.



Erica and Ashling Dowling who play with Glen Rovers.



Gillian and Louise O'Riordan from Bishopstown.

DOUGLAS: Ciara Lynch

The honour of leading the Féile parade will fall to holders, Douglas who are defending their crown and their captain Ciara Lynch is already the holder of an All-Ireland Féile medal won in 2005. Ciara is a member of the Cork U14 team she is also the holder of U14 B league honours and U11 and U13 Seandún medals with Douglas. A lover of sport, she also enjoys playing soccer.



BRIAN DILLON'S:

Lucy Bradfield Played Sciath Na Scoil camogie with St Patrick's National School and is now playing camogie in St Angela's. Plays at U14, U16 and U18 with her club. She also finds time to help out training the U8 team in the club. Also played in last year's Féile and represented the club at the Cork skills competition.



AGHABULLOGUE: Laura Hayes

Laura is a 2nd year student in Coachford Community College. Laura also played on the Aghabullogue Féile team of 2005 and is a member of the Aghabullogue U16 camogie team she also enjoys playing basketball. Laura's grandfather, Eugene Hayes, was a former treasurer and long-serving member of Aghabullogue GAA club.



ROCKBÁN: Colleen Foley

Colleen comes from a family steeped in camogie and hurling tradition. Her father Dan Joe won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal with Cork. She is a member of the Cork College's U14 team and played in Féile last year. Sister Mairéad and Catriona are intercounty camogie players. Catriona is a member of the Cork senior team while Mairéad is on the U16 team.



GLEN ROVERS:

Sinead Gallen Glen Rovers are captained by Sinead Gallen, a pupil at St. Aidan's Community college. Sinead played Sciath Na Scoil camogie with Scoil Oilibeir, played on the Glen team that reached the semi-final of division one last year. She is a member of her club's U16



Douglas captain Maire O'Mahony and players celebrate their win over St Vincent's in the camogie division one final at Féile na nGael last year.

and U18 teams. A keen sportsperson, Sinead is also interested in horse riding, football and basketball. Her mother, Rosalie O'Brien, played with Glen Rovers the second year Féile was held in Cork in 1976 and has related many happy memories from that event to Sinead and her teammates.

BALLINCOLLIG:

Alison Coughlan Alison plays camogie with Colaiste Choilm in Ballincollig and played on the team that won the Senior C All-Ireland this year. Also the holder of a Senior Munster Colleges and League medals, she is a member of the Cork Colleges U14 team. The name Coughlan is synonymous with GAA and camogie in Ballincollig and Alison is fourth generation to don the green and white of Ballincollig. Her father, grandfather and great-grandfather all played and hold county medals with the Ballincollig club. Féile coach Myra Coughlan-Hogan is her aunt, while grandfather is famous Cork soccer legend, John Coughlan.



CARRIGALINE:

Jessica Field Jessica was also a member of last year's Carrigaline Féile team that lost out in division two to eventual winners Ballycastle at the semi-final stage. This 13-year-old is a pupil in Carrigaline Community School. She



also lists soccer among her hobbies and her ambition is to play for the Cork senior camogie team.

PASSAGE:

Natasha O'Sullivan A pupil in St Peter's Community School, Passage West, Natasha is the holder of Sciath Na Scoil camogie and football medals won with Star Of the Sea National School, Passage West, and is the holder of Munster College sevens medals.



INNISCARRA:

Aine Ni Riain Aine comes from a well-known GAA family. Her father Bob is PRO of the Cork GAA board. Aine won Sciath Na Scoil medals with Cloghroe NS and captained the indoor camogie team which won the 5th class title in 2003/4. Also a holder of U12A county championship and Muskerry U11 and U13 medals, she is a pupil at St Aloysius.



ÉIRE ÓG:

Katie McCarthy Katie has won honours from U12 to U18 at county championship level with Éire Óg. She is a current member of the Senior B team.



Meet the captain at this year's Féile

By MARY NEWMAN

Féile leaders

FÉILE NA nGAEL is something that lives in the mind long after the event.

The excitement coming up to it when you wonder will I make the panel, am I good enough, will our club make it to Féile this year or is another club going to pip us at the post and have the honour of representing Cork.

Again this year the Under 14 camogie players from the Cork clubs are an elite group, they have the honour of playing in Féile Na nGael and represent-

ing their club in their home county, not for them the nightmares or the worry about are we going to win our counties title and be the representatives.

Not everyone gets to play in Féile and if you are lucky enough to be one of those players who will be part of it savour the moment, enjoy the lead up and the training, the new gear and the excitement of visiting teams and their players coming to stay in your home. It will be the majority of young camogie player and hurlers first experience of inter county competition, friends will be made that will last you a lifetime and who knows maybe some day you will meet on a bigger arena.

Katie plays her schools camogie with Coachford College and is also a member of the current Cork Colleges U14 team. This is her second year on the Éire Óg Féile team

SARSFIELDS:

Karen Comerford A member of the Sarsfields team that won the U16D championship title in 2005, Karen was a member of the club's Féile team in 2005. She was voted Player of the Year with Riverstown NS in 2005 and is a keen sports person.



ST FINBARR'S: Lisa O'Connell

A pupil in Mount Mercy Secondary School, Lisa is part of two well-known St Finbarr's families. Her

father Bill has both hurling and football county medals with the club and has been involved with coaching both underage and senior teams. Her grandfather Billa is a well-known comedian in Cork. Her grandfather Pat Loughed won county senior honours with the Barrs as well as successfully coaching Barrs senior football teams to county and All-Ireland success.



ERIN'S OWN: Ciara Murphy

Ciara's house backs onto the Erin's Own pitches at Caherlag and she has been playing camogie with the



he ns



To captain your club team is an honour and twenty seven young Cork Camogie players will proudly march behind their clubs banner and lead their teams mates and club mentors through the streets of Cork in the Féile parade on Friday evening when they be presented with a special Féile pendant to mark the occasion.

Recently I caught up with these youngsters every one of them looking forward to the event and hope they will be amongst the lucky ones to lead their respective team to Féile glory.

Join me now as we meet the Cork Féile Camogie captains for 2006.

club since she could hold a hurley. She is a second year student at St Aloysius College, Carrigtwohill, and enjoys camogie, football and soccer. Clara played at midfield for Erin's Own in last year's Féile

SLIABH RUA: Aisling Coleman

Aisling is currently in first year in Kinsale community play both in goal and outfield and played between the posts last year on the team that reached the U16C County final. Aisling's grandmother Sheila Coleman (nee Kelleher) played for Cork in the 1943 All-Ireland senior final when they lost out to Dublin.



Kate O'Brien
Plays camogie with St Angela's Secondary School and recently won a first year championship medal with them. Is also the holder of a Sciath na Scol medal with Gaelscoil Mhachan. Kate is a member of the Douglas Gymnastics Club and has All-Ireland medals with them.



COURCEY ROVERS:

Celia O' Driscoll
Celia played on the Ballinspittle Primary School team and was on the Panel of Kinsale Community school team that were runners-up in the Munster Colleges competitions this year. A member of the team that won the U16 Cork County B League in 2005. She was named U12 Camogie Club player of the year in the same year; she is a member of the Cork U14 panel.



YOUGHAL:

Robyn Healy
Plays centre forward on the Féile team. She is a student at Loreto Convent, Youghal, where she is a member of the junior and senior camogie teams. Robyn also plays basketball and is a member of the school basketball team.



FR O'NEILL'S: Yvonne Murphy

Represented the club in the in the Skills Competition recently for the second year after winning the club competition. Played Sciath Na Scol with Kilcredan national school and is a pupil in St Mary's High School, Middleton. The third generation of her family to play with Fr O'Neill's, her grandfather Phil Aherne was involved in setting up the club, and her mother and aunt, twins Bridget and Margaret Aherne, both played with the club.



VALLEY ROVERS: Tessa Hawkes

Second year playing in the Féile. Tessa is a pupil in Colaiste na Toibhirte, Bandon and is a member of this year's Cork colleges U14 team. She has won U12B league honours with her club and U13 Southeast honours. Is goalkeeper of the Féile team and is also a member of the club's U14, U16 and U18 teams.



ST CATHERINE'S:

Nicola O'Donoghue
Nicola comes from a strong GAA background; her father Patsy O'Donoghue captained St Catherine's hurling team to victory



Douglas players celebrate their win over St Vincent's in the camogie division one final at Féile na nGael last year.

when they won the intermediate county final in 1994. A first year student in Loreto College, Fermoy she plays on U14 U16 and U18 teams in St Catherine's.

BALLYGARVAN:

Laura O'Callaghan
Laura is a second year pupil at Carrigaline Community School where she is a member of the camogie team. She plays full-back on the U14 team, a position she also held in last years féile team. She also plays at U16 level with Ballygarvan.



MILFORD: Ciara Meaney

This is Ciara's second year playing in féile. She is the holder of an U14 B league medal with the club as well as Avondhu U13 and U15 A medals. Also plays basketball and football and lines out at centre-back on the team.



BALLINHASSIG: Michelle Kelleher

Michelle attended Ballyheda NS where she won a Sciath Na Scol medal. She is also the holder of Southeast medals as well as an U12 county championship medal won in 2005.



NEWTOWN: Rosie Ryan

Newtown's captain comes from a strong gaelic games background. Her uncle Joe Ryan won the Féile Skills title 24 years ago in 1982, while her brother was a member of the Newtownshandrum hurling team that won the premier county hurling title in 2005.



WATERGRASHILL:

Diana Kelleher
A first year student in Colaiste Chroí Naofa, Carrignavar, where she is a member of the camogie team.



Diane captains the team from her familiar role as goa keeper. She was a member of the Cork Primary Schools team in 2005 and played in last year's Féile with Watergrashill.

BISHOPTOWN:

Maebh Scannell
Playing in Féile for the second year, Maebh is a first-year student in Mount Mercy College, where she plays to senior level. She previously played with Scoil An Spioraid Naoimh in Sciath Na Scol finals. She captained her club to win the Seandún U11B league in 2003.



KILLEAGH: Claire O'Connor

Second year playing Féile for Claire; she is the holder of a division three Féile medal won last year. She is a pupil in Aloysius, Carrigtwohill where she plays camogie and hockey. She is the holder of U14 league honours with Killeagh.



DIVISION 1
Section A Milford, Dublin (Naomh Jude), Glen Rovers & Wexford (St. Martins)

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Milford v Dublin, Milford - Ref: Mike O' Kelly; 2.00pm Glen Rovers v Wexford, Glen Rovers - Ref: Dave Daly

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Freemont, Milford Feile Official: Ann Watson 10.30 Milford v Wexford Ref: Mossie Butler; 11.30 Glen Rovers v Dublin Ref: Mossie Butler; 12.45 Milford v Glen Rovers Ref: Mossie Butler; 1.45 Wexford v Dublin Ref: Mossie Butler

Section B Inniscarra, Antrim (Ballycastle), Ballinhassig & Clare (Sixmilecross)

Friday 16th June 2006
 2.00pm Inniscarra v Antrim @ Ballyanley - Ref: Donie Forde; 2.00pm Ballinhassig v Clare, Ballinhassig - Ref: Sean Ryan

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Inniscarra (Ballyanley) Feile Official: Con Hayes 10.30 Inniscarra v Clare Ref: Donie Forde; 11.30 Ballinhassig v Antrim Ref: Irene O'Keeffe; 12.45 Ballinhassig v Inniscarra Ref: Donie Forde; 1.45 Clare v Antrim Ref: Irene O'Keeffe

Section C Douglas, Tipperary (Thurles), Valley Rovers & Kilkenny (Thomastown)

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Douglas v Tipperary @ Douglas Ref: Mary Byrne; 3.00pm Valley Rovers v Kilkenny, Innishannon/Brinney Ref: J Desmond

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Douglas Feile Official: Eileen O' Mahony; 10.30 Douglas v Kilkenny Ref: Cathal Egan; 11.30 valley Rovers v Tipperary Ref: Cathal Egan; 12.45 valley Rovers v Douglas Ref: Cathal Egan; 1.30 Kilkenny v Tipperary Ref: Cathal Egan

Section D Ballygarvan, Limerick (Ballygran), Courcy Rovers & Galway (Ardrahan)

FEILE NA nGAEL CAMOGIE FIXTURES

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Ballygarvan v Limerick, Ballygarvan Ref: Denis Dineen; 4.00pm Courcy Rovers v Galway, Ballinas-pittal Ref: Barry O' Sullivan

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Ballygarvan Feile Official: Anne Byrne 10.30 Ballygarvan v Galway Ref: Peter Downey; 11.30 Courcy Rovers v Limerick Ref: Peter Downey; 12.45 Courcy Rovers v Ballygarvan Ref: Peter Downey; 1.45 Galway v Limerick Ref: Peter Downey

DIVISION 2
Section A Eire Og, Down (Ballycran), Fr O'Neill's & Kildare (Naas)

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Eire Og v Down, Owens Ref: Peter Downey; 2.00pm Fr O'Neill's v Kildare, Fr O'Neill's Ref: Noreen Mulcahy

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Fr O'Neill's (Ballymacoda) Feile Official: Margaret Hyde 10.30 Eire Og v Kildare Ref: Noreen Mulcahy; 11.30 Fr O'Neill's v Down Ref: Noreen Mulcahy; 12.45 Fr O'Neill's v Eire Og Ref: Noreen Mulcahy; 1.45 Kildare v Down Ref: Noreen Mulcahy

Section B Passage West, Laois (Camross), St Catherine's & Roscommon (four roads)

Friday 16th June 2006
 2.00pm Passage West v Laois, Passage Ref: Cathal Egan; 2.00pm St Catherine's v Roscommon, Conna Ref: Kevin O'Connor

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: St. Catherine's, Conna Feile Official: Marie Clancy 10.30 Passage v Roscommon Ref: Mary Byrne; 11.30 St Catherine's v Laois Ref: Mary Byrne; 12.45 St Catherine's v Passage Ref: Mary Byrne; 1.45 Roscommon v Laois Ref: Mary Byrne

Section C Blackrock, Westmeath (Loughlin Gaels), Ballincollig &

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Blackrock v Westmeath, Blackrock Ref: David Nolan; 2.00pm Ballincollig v Armagh, Ballincollig Ref: Hilda Kenneally

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Blackrock Feile Official: Mairead Ni Mhaoleoin 10.30 Blackrock v Armagh Ref: David Nolan; 11.30 Ballincollig v Westmeath Ref: David Nolan; 12.45 Ballincollig v Blackrock Ref: David Nolan; 1.45 Armagh v Westmeath Ref: David Nolan

Section D Killeagh, Offaly (Kinnity), Rockban & Derry (Ballinscreen)

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Killeagh v Offaly, Killeagh Ref: 2.00pm Rockban v Derry, Whitechurch/Carrignavar. Denis O'Leary

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Killeagh Feile Official: Sheila Spillane; 10.30 Killeagh v Derry Ref: Denis O'Leary; 11.30 Rockban v Offaly Ref: Denis O'Leary; 12.45 Rockban v Killeagh Ref: Denis O'Leary; 1.45 Derry v Offaly Ref: Denis O'Leary

Division 3
Section A Bishopstown, Carlow (Mount Leinster Rangers), Brian Dillon's & Wicklow (Glenealy)

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Bishopstown v Carlow, Bishopstown Ref: Mary Moran; 2.00pm Brian Dillon's v Wicklow, Brian Dillon's Ref: Tracy Sheehan

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Brian Dillon's Feile Official: Mary O'Sullivan; 10.30 Bishopstown v Wicklow Ref: Dave Daly; 11.30 Brian Dillon's v Carlow Ref: Dave Daly; 12.45 Brian Dillon's v Bishopstown Ref: Dave Daly; 1.45 Wicklow v Carlow Ref: Dave Daly

Section B Newtownshandrum, Monaghan (Castleblaney), Watergrasshill

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Newtownshandrum v Monaghan, Newtownshandrum Referee: Mossie Butler; 2.00pm Watergrasshill v Carrigaline, Watergrasshill Referee: James Birmingham

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Newtownshandrum Feile Official: Angle Doyle 10.30 Newtownshandrum v Carrigaline Ref: Mike O'Kelly; 11.30 Watergrasshill v Monaghan Ref: Mike O'Kelly; 12.45 Watergrasshill v Newtownshandrum Ref: Mike O'Kelly; 1.45 Monaghan v Carrigaline Ref: Mike O'Kelly

Section C Sliabh Rua, Waterford (Lismore), St Finbarrs & Erins Own

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Sliabh Rua v Waterford, Riverstick Ref: Mary McSweeney; 2.00pm St. Finbarrs v Erins Own, St Finbarrs Ref: Billy Dillon

SATURDAY JUNE 17
 Venue: Riverstick Feile Official: Colette Harrington 10.30 Sliabh Rua v Erins Own Ref: Mary McSweeney; 11.30 St Finbarrs v Waterford Ref: John Desmond; 12.45 St Finbarrs v Sliabh Rua Ref: Mary McSweeney; 1.45 Erins Own v Waterford Ref: John Desmond

Division 4
Group Section: Youghal, Erin Go Braith, Sarsfields, Meath (Rathoath), Aghabullogue.

FRIDAY JUNE 16
 2.00pm Youghal v Erin Go Braith, Youghal Ref: Morgan Conroy 2.00pm Sarsfields v Meath, Sars Ref: Danny O'Neill

SATURDAY JUNE 17
COACHFORD (2 pitch venue)
 Feile Official: Josephine (Jo) Healy 10.30 Aghabullogue v Youghal Ref: Don O'Leary; 11.15 Erin Go Braith v Sarsfields Ref: Willie Barrett; 12.00 Meath v Aghabullogue Ref: Don

O'Leary; 12.45 Youghal v Erin Go Braith v Meath Refs: Willie Barrett; 2.15 Aghabullogue v Sarsfields Ref: Danny O'Neill; 3.00 Youghal v Meath Ref: Willie Barrett; 3.45 Aghabullogue v Erin Go Braith Refs: Danny O'Neill

All Matches 15 Minutes Per Half 5 Minutes Half Time
 This Section is run on a league basis with the top two teams playing the Division 4 Final. In the event of teams tied on the same points the scores for/against rule will apply.

SEMI FINAL DRAWS:

Division 1
 Winners Section 'C' v **Winners Section 'A' venue: Buttevant Time: 6.30 Ref: Mossie Butler or Ballinlough Time: 7.30 Referee: Colette O'Mahony
 Winners Section 'B' v Winners Section 'D' venue: Ballinlough Time: 6.30 Referee: Colette O'Mahony

** Winners of Section 'A' will determine venue of Buttevant or Ballinlough

Division 2
 Winners Section 'B' v Winners Section 'D' venue: Watergrasshill Time: 6.30 Referee: James Birmingham
 Winners Section 'C' v Winners Section 'A' venue: Ballincollig Time: 6.30 Referee: Peter Downey

Division 3
 Winners Section 'A' v Winners Section 'C' venue: Ballinlough Time: 5.30 Referee: Cathal Egan
 Section 'B' have bye to final

Division 4
 Top two teams will play in final on Sunday

Feile Na nGael Finals
Division 2 At Páirc Uí Rinn Time: 12 Noon Referee: Peter Downey
Division 1 At Páirc Uí Rinn Time: 1pm Referee: Colette O'Mahony
Division 4 At Páirc Uí Chaoimh Time: 10.30am Referee: Tracey Sheehan
Division 3 At Páirc Uí Chaoimh Time: 11.30pm Referee: Cathal Egan



At the Rochestown Park Hotel for the 96/103 FM GAA Sports Star of the Month Mary O'Connor, Cork Camogie and Ladies Football star. Included in Picture 1 to 4, Gerry O'Sullivan, VC, Cork County Board; Michael Dolan, Chairman, Cork County Board; Marion McCarthy, Chairperson, Cork Camogie Board and Liam Lally GM, Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture, Tony O Connell Photography.

Finbarr McCarthy 96/103 FM in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel, presenting the GAA Monthly Sports Star Award to May Winner Mary O'Connor, Cork Camogie and Ladies Football star. Included in Picture 1 to 4, Gerry O'Sullivan, VC, Cork County Board; Michael Dolan, Chairman, Cork County Board; Marion McCarthy, Chairperson, Cork Camogie Board and Liam Lally GM, Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture, Tony O Connell Photography.

May a special month for dual star Mary O'Connor

MARY O'Connor Cork Camogie and Ladies Football star is the May winner of the 96/103 FM GAA Sports star of the month award in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel.

It was a special month for this outstanding dual star as Cork collected a senior national league double in both codes.

In Camogie Cork defeated old rivals Tipperary in Thurles and Mary was considered by many to be the player of the match in the centre-back position.

Mary has been a key figure for the Camogie team in recent years and won an All-Ireland medal last year, along with a first senior medal in Ladies Football.

In the Ladies football Final Meath were the victims in a thrilling decider and once again the Killeagh girl played a crucial role as Cork retained the title. Mary also won an All-Ireland medal with Cork last year.

Recently Mary has taken up a new position within the Camogie Association as a Regional Development Officer as she works to promote the game in some of the lesser known counties.

Mary has given both codes, particularly Camogie outstanding service over a long number of years and is a worthy winner of the award for May.

She was presented with the award at a lunch on Thursday last attended by family and friends, including Cork senior Camogie captain Joanne O'Callaghan.

Marion McCarthy chairperson of the Cork Camogie Board said "it was great to see Mary been honoured as she has made a wonderful contribution to the Camogie team over the years, in fact she could very well be considered one of the unsung heroes of the team and an important member as we embark on the job of retaining our All-Ireland title. I would also like to thank both 96/103 FM and the Rochestown Park hotel for their continued support of this award scheme".

County GAA Board Chairman Mick Dolan also paid tribute to Mary who he said, "In an era when the dual star is fast disappearing it is great to see that a player of your ability and skill getting due recognition, and hopefully it will be the first of many such awards as the

season evolves".

Rochestown Park Hotel's Anthony Savage congratulated Mary on winning and it said "we are only delighted to maintain our support for the award scheme which goes from strength to strength, and in congratulating Mary, it is wonderful to see another honour heading to East Cork, and I would like to wish Mary and her Camogie and ladies football team continued success in the coming months".

Also in attendance were Mary Newman Camogie correspondent for 96/103 FM, Jerry O'Sullivan Vice-Chairman Cork County Board, John Cronin Cork senior Camogie manager, John Cashman and Barry O'Mahoney of 96/103 FM and Tommy Seward of Killeagh GAA club.

Mary now joins the previous winners in the race for the overall award which will be presented at a Gala banquet in December with GAA President Nicky Brennan as the guest of honour.

KILKENNY camogie was in crisis last night only a week before they face All-Ireland champions, Cork in the Gala All-Ireland senior championship. Up to eight of the Cats' top players have been dropped from the senior squad. In an unprecedented move, the team management dropped the players from St Lachtain's (Freshford), the All-Ireland club champions for the past two years, after they missed training on Wednesday night. In a 'club versus county' stand off, the St Lachtain's players were involved in a challenge match against Toomevara (Tipperary) in direct opposition to county squad training. The Kilkenny

panel has been training on Wednesday and Friday evenings since January 19, but the St Lachtain's club organised a challenge match for this week. The management team of former Kilkenny goalie, Bobby Jackman, former All-Ireland senior camogie star, Ann Downey, Dermot Fennelly and Tom Doherty tried to have the friendly fixture changed, and even offered to play a county panel versus St Lachtain's game instead, but the move was spurned. Management then axed the St Lachtain's players, and the move received the backing of the Camogie Board.

JUNE 2006

JUNE 2006



The Douglas team celebrate making it three in-a-row at Páirc Uí Rinn yesterday.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

Captain Ciara full of pride at win

DOUGLAS captain Ciara Lynch was overcome with emotion:

"No words can describe how I feel. This is my second Féile medal but I am thrilled to be captain, we were underdogs and had to battle to win all our games yesterday but we knew we could do it and I am so proud."

11-year old Claire Shine looked a bit bewildered by all the excitement around her but spoke confidently.

"I was a little nervous at the start but the older girls helped me and then it was just brilliant, this my first Féile and I am really delighted to get a medal."

Just seconds earlier I had witnessed Claire lovingly look at the coveted Féile medal. One gets the feeling it will not be her last.

Coach Ger Sheehan was dripping wet after his side had done the now customary drenching of the coach.

He said: "We knew we did not do ourselves justice in the Cork Féile final and were determined to reverse that result, in the league we lost out to Inniscarra by seventeen points but we knew we had a good team and we motivated them."

"We told them after that Cork final defeat that we had lost the battle but we would win the war, this is our club's greatest win and I am thrilled."

Fellow selector Tina Sheehan said:

"This is a team of mixed age groups from 11 to 14. We have a great U12 team who just won the county championship, we will be back for more."

Emma Dineen, Inniscarra trainer, said: "Our performance was not up to the required standard, we should have done better, I suppose they were tired, the few days does take a lot out of players but we are not offering any excuses Douglas were the better team, we have the conclusion of the league to come and if we meet there we will hopefully give a better account of ourselves."

Jessica makes it a treble for Douglas

Douglas
Inniscarra

2-3
1-2 By MARY NEWMAN
Division One camogie

IT MAY not have been the classic that we all predicted but that troubles Douglas little as they captured their third All-Ireland Féile na nGael division one camogie title in a row.

They confidently brushed aside the tag of underdogs to defeat Cork Féile champions Inniscarra.

Three weeks ago it took a replay to separate these teams before Inniscarra were crowned county champions but no mistakes this time out as a determined Douglas side made all the running from the throw in.

As the minutes ticked away were waited for Inniscarra to ignite and show some of the touches we had seen through that Cork Féile and indeed through their league campaign to date but on this occasion they were never allowed to settle and as the Douglas girls' confidence grew the expected Inniscarra challenge never materialised.

Three minutes into the game Douglas set the trend, eleven-year old Claire Shine striking a good ball into the square for Jessica Kavanagh to finish the net. Three minutes later Kavanagh was again the heroine, the simplest of ground strokes proving effective as Douglas increased their lead.

It took a super save from Aine O'Donovan to deny Inniscarra their opening score ten minutes into the game and with the Douglas half backline of Rebecca Casey,

Pamela Mackey, and Sinead Duggan controlling matters Inniscarra found the going tough.

They found the net three minutes later after O'Donovan had denied them a certain goal, Ellen Finnegan gathering to send the clearance to the back of the net.

Katharine Mackey, working tirelessly in midfield, steadied the Douglas nerves with a point before Joanne Casey pointed an Inniscarra free to leave just the goal between them at the break.

Again through the second half we wait for the game to ignite but regrettably it didn't happen as both team looked tired and exhausted, the strains of the last two days games finally catching up, just three score in the second half about summing up proceedings.

The impressive Katrina Mackey pointed a Douglas free before O'Donovan again had to be at her best to deny Inniscarra and minutes later Katrina Mackey had to stand firm to block and clear a close in free from Joanne Casey.

Entering injury time Joanne Casey pointed a free but immediately Mackey replied with the insurance point to stretch her side lead to four and ensuring no way back for the Cork champions.

Credit to Douglas who despite having won two Féile titles in a row came into this final as underdogs. They were focused and determined from the throw in and showed that the saying 'champions die hard' certainly applies.

Their defence was superb in par-



Douglas coach Ger Sheehan celebrates this club's three-in-a-row at the Féile na nGael finals at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

ticular their half back line who closed down the threat posed by Inniscarra's danger players Joanne Casey and Claire Sheehan who both had troubled Douglas in the county final. Katrina Mackey at mid field was inspirational working back to help out in defence and driving forward at every opportunity and she got ably assistance from captain Ciara Lynch.

Young Aine O'Donovan despite her small stature stood tall in goal and displayed a confidence beyond her years while corner forward Claire Shine took to this challenge of playing in such a big occasion at her ease again showing a confidence that comes from winning.

And so the good times continue

for Douglas but spare a thought for a gallant Inniscarra who battled hard to get into the game and by qualifying for this Division one final showed that the game of camogie is certainly alive and well in the rebel county as the day and glory rightfully belonged to Douglas.

DOUGLAS: Aine O'Donovan, S. Bevan, E. Sullivan, E. Shine, R. Casey, P. Mackey, S. Duggan, K. Mackey (0-3, 0-1 frees), C. Lynch (capt.), L. Jackson, Aileen O'Donovan, R. Baxter, D. Cotter, C. Shine, J. Kavanagh (2-0) **INNISCARRA:** E. O'Donovan, M. Collins, A. Twohig, E. McCarthy, S. Buckley, E. Kingston, A. Ni Rinne (capt.), R. O'Mahony, A. O'Connor, L. Burke, J. Casey (0-2 frees), C. Sheehan, E. Finnegan (1-0), L. McCarthy, C. Finnegan.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers)



Claire Shine of Douglas seen receiving the Player of the Match award from Tracey Sheehan of the Cork Camogie Board after the recent U12 A League final against Valley Rovers in Ballinhassig. Picture: Howard Crowley

Douglas Shine to win County final

Douglas 4-5
Valley Rovers 2-0

DOUGLAS deservedly came out triumphant in the U12A Camogie County Final at Ballinhassig against Valley Rovers, writes EOLAN ALLEN.

Claire Shine, who would go on to win the Player of the Match Award showed her capabilities from the start with some dangerous balls into the Valley Rovers goal area.

Douglas went into a three point lead on eighteen minutes with Shannon Dempsey opening the scoring and Shine adding two further points.

Although they were largely on the defensive, Rovers kept battling away. Tessa Crowley would have pushed Shine close for player of the match as she put in a magnificent performance, mastering the art of defending with some fine brave block downs and excellent hooking.

Laoise McCarthy and Aoife Cummins were also battling hard for Valley Rovers and made life difficult for Douglas while goalkeeper Shauna O'Connell made a fine stop from a Rebecca Cotter effort.

Claire Shine got a vital goal shortly before half-time to pull her side ahead. Shine added a further point from a thirty metre restart just before the half-time whistle to give her side a 1-4 to 0-0 cushion.

Shannon Dempsey added her second point within a minute of the restart and the game finally went beyond Valley Rovers reach with Rebecca Cotter showing a great predator instinct around the edge of the square to strike two superb goals in a crowded area.

The never say die attitude of the Innishannon team was to be finally rewarded with two superb goals in the final quarter of an hour. Aoibhinn O'Callaghan produced a superb strike from fifteen metres out for the first while Connie Hawkes made a superb burst to set up Niamh Glavin who finished off superbly.

Aisling Fox also got in the goal scoring act for the victors raising the green flag in between the two Valley Rovers goals to complete her sides account.

Scorers for Douglas: R Cotter 2-0, C Shine 1-3 (0-2 30s), A Fox 1-0, S Dempsey 0-2.

Valley Rovers: A O'Callaghan and N Glavin 1-0 each.

DOUGLAS: S O'Mahony; D Bevan (c), A Peate, K O'Meara; J Leo, F Sexton, S Kavanagh; C Hickey, C Duggan; C Shine, A Bermingham, A Fox; R Cotter, S Dempsey, E McCarthy.

Subs: J Sexton for Leo 39, A Hourihane for O'Meara 49, E Sisk for McCarthy 52.

VALLEY ROVERS: S O'Connell; V Buckley, M Barry, A Kilduff; L McCarthy, T Crowley, S O'Leary; A Cummins, O Ryan (c); C Hawkes, N Glavin, J Callanan; A O'Callaghan, J.M. O'Leary, Meg O'Sullivan.

Subs: Molly O'Sullivan for Buckley 45, V Crowley for Meg O'Sullivan 47, L O'Sullivan for O'Callaghan 51.

Referee: D Daly (Sarsfield's).



Aileesha bags a treble for Sars

By PJ AHERN
Páirc Uí Chaoimh

Sarsfields 5-0
Rathoath 4-0

DESPITE a late surge from Rathoath, Sarsfields held on to win the Coca Cola Féile na nGael Division Four camogie title in Páirc Uí Chaoimh yesterday.

With seven minutes remaining, Sarsfields enjoyed a three-goal advantage but a two-goal blast by Rathoath's Aisling O'Reilly along with a further green flag from Orla McDonnell ensured the champions were sweating until the final whistle sounded.

Both sides gave a demonstration of ground hurling as they moved the ball swiftly along the deck in a game, which displayed all the positives of camogie. In a tense encounter it was Sarsfields who got to the best start when Aileesha McElhinney poked the ball past Rathoath's Lauren Canavan from close range.

She repeated the trick soon after when in a similar movement which saw the champions work the ball into the square before the McElhinney to full advantage to fire a goal from the edge of the square.

It wasn't all one way traffic though as Rathoath's Aisling O'Reilly, was proving a very sticky forward from the start and she ensured that Sarsfields didn't disappear over the horizon when she struck for a goal just before half-time to leave her side trailing by three points (2-0 to 1-0).

In the second half, Sarsfields rocketed out of the blocks and swiftly put distance between them and their opponents. Laura Barry's work ethic had been tremendous throughout the game and she was rewarded with a goal. Edel Meaney also got in on the act with another goal before McElhinney wrapped up her hat-trick.

The game appeared to be over as a contest when Sarsfields stretched three goals clear but Rathoath found a second lease of life and laid siege to their opponents' goal, yielding three goals. But it was too little too late.

The performances of Edel Meaney, Niamh O'Callaghan, Nicole Hickey and Eimear O'Connell ensured Sarsfields crossed the threshold to victory.

Scorers for Sarsfields: A McElhinney 3-0, L Barry and E Meaney 1-0 each.

Rathoath: A O'Reilly 3-0, O McDonnell 1-0.

SARSFIELDS: M Costello, K Comerford, N Hickey, S Gaffey, E Meaney, A O'Callaghan, E O'Connell, L Barry, R Crowley, O Keane, N O'Callaghan, B O'Mahony, A McElhinney, S Gaffey, M O'Leary.

Subs: A O'Kelly-Lynch for B O'Mahony, O Keane for R Long.

RATHOATH: L Canavan, C Fagan, D Vogelaa, K King, S Ryan, A O'Reilly, N Leonard, S Dowd, O McDonnell, C Laffey, A O'Brien, K Whelan, C Collins, K McCabe, E Murphy.

Subs: E McGill for C Collins.

Referee: M O'Kelly.



Left: Ciara Lynch, captain of the Douglas team collects the cup from Liz Howard, national president Board. Right: Na Piarasigh captain Keith Buckley with the Christy Ring trophy.

Cork duo taste Féile glory

DOUGLAS and Na Piarasigh celebrated more top flight Féile na nGael success at the weekend writes MARK WOODS.

Douglas claimed their third consecutive first division camogie title by accounting for Inniscarra in the final, while Na Piarasigh captured their sixth grade A hurling title with a narrow win over St Mary's, Athenry.

Jessica Kavanagh was the Douglas star, scoring both goals in their 2-3 to 1-2 victory.

Na Piarasigh, captained by Keith Buckley, hung on for

a 1-5 to 1-4 success against Galway opponents, the Cork side winning the coveted Christy Ring trophy in the process.

Cloyne captured the division five title at the expense of Kerry's Kenmare/Kilgarvan.

In camogie Sarsfields edged out their Meath opponents by 5-0 to 4-0 to take the division four title.

It was the 36th year of the popular tournament, which has grown spectacularly since its inception in 1971.

SEE pages 37, 38, 44 and 45.

Rathcormac 1-4
Ballinadee 0-0

VERY little separated these sides in an exciting DC3 final until Shannon Mulhall struck for the only goal at the three-quarter stage. Prior to this, Ballinadee fought tooth and nail, but couldn't translate any of their possession onto the scoreboard.

Rathcormac, on the other hand, can be thankful to the accuracy of Chloe O'Flynn and the excellent Jennifer Barry, who amassed four points between them.

The southeast girls played their heart out. With a limited panel, they did very well to stay with their more illustrious opponents and Ciara Sweetnam and Naomi McCarthy in particular trying very hard.

Rathcormac were well served by captain Katie Power. They also had tremendous players in Maeve Dooley and Rebecca Howard.

Scorers Rathcormac: S Mulhall 1-0, C O'Flynn and J Barry 0-2 each.

RATHCORMAC: C Noonan; M Dooley, E Cashman; S Mulhall, K Power; J Barry, J Cahill; S Keane, C O'Flynn; M O'Sullivan, R Howard. **Subs:** N Quirke, J Lane, J Walsh, S Quirke, D Connolly, M Hazelwood, E O'Leary, K Browne.

BALLINADEE: C Moloney; M Keane, K Gurney; C Sweetnam, J McCarthy; A O'Sullivan, Naomi McCarthy; C Fenton, C Crowley; E Keane, Nicole McCarthy. **Subs:** E Kingston, R McCarthy.

Referee: T Hallihan (Whitechurch).

St Columbas 2-1
Cloghroe 0-0

ONE goal, two goals, it didn't matter what the winning margin was in this C1 final. The crowds were out in force to see if Cloghroe could dethrone hot favourites and title holders St Columbas. But, once again, it was the Douglas team who reigned supreme, despite getting nothing easy though from a dogged mid Cork side who were forced to defend heroically from the outset.

However, their guard was breached midway through the first-half when corner-forward Cloadagh Duggan weaved her way through to hand pass the ball past Caitlin Looney. Despite being a goal down, the Cloghroe girls battled away bravely. They continued the fight after the resumption, but with Aine O'Donovan spraying plenty of ball to the inside forward line, it wasn't long before the classy Claire Shine made her presence felt.

The scorer of a lovely point, she drove the St Columbas advantage home when her wonderfully struck shot rifled the roof of the net mid way through the second half — thus giving the champions a comfortable 2-1 to 0-0 scoreline. Cloghroe tried desperately hard to get on the scoreboard, and in Christine and Jessica Neville, Niamh McCarthy and Hayleigh Corcoran they certainly have stars for the future.

Douglas, too, are rich in style with Lauren Murphy in defence amongst those shining out.

Scorers St Columbas: C Shine 1-1, C Duggan 1-0.

Cloghroe: C Looney; N Lombard, O Coleman, N Barrett; C Neville, A Twohig, C Byrne; H Corcoran, T Nelligan; J Neville, N McCarthy, F Cambridge, B Hinds, B R McClusker, S Kavanagh. **Subs:** H Buckley, L O'Neill, J Barry, G Collins, B Masterson, A Ivers, N O'Connell, O Worth, M O'Connell, L Geaney, J Braun.

ST COLUMBAS: S O'Mahony; S Kearney, A Peate, D Bevan; M Murray, R Baxter, L Murphy; L Brown, E Shine; A O'Donovan, A Twohig, C Hickey; C Shine, B Butler, C Duggan. **Subs:** N Barber, N O'Dwyer, R Butler, V Straub, R Cahalane, A Bermingham, S O'Mahony, F Sexton, A Cheresheva.

Referee: D O'Kelly (Christi Ri).

CAMOGIE

Gala Championship:
Cork 2-11 (E Burke 1-2, S O'Donovan 1-6, E Dillon 0-3, J O'Leary 0-3, U O'Donoghue, G O'Connor, A Walsh, 0-1 each) **Kilkenny 1-7** (E Keane 1-1, B Mulcahy, J Frisby 0-2 each, S Millea, E Fitzpatrick 0-1)

Tipperary 1-14 (E Mc Donnell 1-3, C Grogan 0-7 (0-6F), E Hayden, J Ryan 0-2 each) **Wexford 1-8** (K Parrock 1-0, K Kelly 0-5 (0-4F), B Furlong, A Codd, M Hearne 0-1 each)

Galway 5-17 (V Curtin 2-5, B Kerins 1-3, A M Hayes 1-1, J Gill 1-0, L Kavanagh 0-4, A Hilary, B Hanney, C Kelly 0-1 each) **Limerick 1-5** (N Mulcahy 1-1, E O'Brien 0-3, A Sheehan 0-1)

Senior 'B' Championship:
Cork 3-6 (M Watson, 1-2 D Twomey 1-1, E O'Farrell 1-0, O Cotter, 0-2, M Corcoran, 0-1)

Kilkenny 0-8 (C Aylward 0-6, M O'Keefe, 0-2, C Doherty 0-1)

Tipperary 5-7 (D Dunne 2-1, C Creed 2-0, A Mc Loughney 1-3, E Ryan, N Flanagan, A Loneragan 0-1 each)

Wexford 1-12 (S Kehoe 1-1, C O'Connor 0-7 (0-6F, 0-14S), S Nolan 0-2, A Ryan 0-1)

Junior Championship: Waterford 4-8 (A Lyng 2-0, K Kelly 1-6, R Heylin 1-0, N Morrissey, E Hannon 0-1 each)

Kildare 3-9 (S O'Carroll 2-1, M Treacy 1-0, L Keatley 0-3, C Flanagan 0-2, M Murtagh, R Gorman 0-1 each)

Clare 7-14 (C O'Loughlin 3-1, K Rosengrave, E Gaffery 2-2, each, L Linnane 0-4, F.C. Commans 0-3, F Lafferty, M O'Halloran 0-1 each)

Dublin 10-21 (S Ryan 5-2, N Taylor 2-4, J Draper 1-2, E Brannigan, A Griffin 1-1 each, S Curran, C Durkan, L O'Hara 0-3 each, C Lucey 0-2)

Meath 0-3 (A Donnelly 0-3)

Derry 1-7 (K Mc Auley 1-3, A Laverty 0-2, A Wilkinson, B Convery 0-1 each)

Offaly 0-6 (M Moloney 0-2, M Davis 0-2 (0-1F), E Dermody, N McCabe 0-1 each)

Armagh 2-8
Roscommon 1-7
U16 All-Ire Championship:
Down 8-9
Westmeath 2-12

JUNE 2006



Harris calls it a day



Viv retires from county scene

ONE of Cork's finest exponents of camogie over the last 10 years, Vivienne Harris, has formally announced her retirement from the senior inter-county game after 11 years at the top.

Viv, as she is affectionately known, came on as a second half substitute in the 1995 All Ireland triumph over Kilkenny as a mere 16 year-old and proceeded to win five All-Ireland medals in a glittering career.

Now at just 27 years of age she has decided to call it a day which will disappoint her many admirers and inter-county team-mates.

Is it premature? Many would say yes! Most players at 27 are in their prime and playing the best camogie of their careers.

But as the saying goes; one has to look at the mileage on the clock more so than the year of the car.

Viv began playing camogie at 10 years of age when she was 'spotted' by Bishopstown guru Pat Murray while out 'pucking' around in Bishopstown GAA pitch while her brothers played a football match.

Her first memory of camogie is the night she turned up for her first training session with Bishopstown as she explains.

"We had a challenge match, I can't remember who it was against. I saw a good bit of the ball that night and had no problems picking it up but every time I went to strike the ball I missed — and I wasn't even being hooked!"

Vivienne certainly had no problems after that as she was selected on every inter-county grade available beginning with the Cork U16's.

As previously mentioned, Viv began her senior career at 16 years of age.

I remember when she joined the panel. She was quiet, unassuming and didn't say much for a couple of years. (She more than made up for it afterwards).



LINDA MELLERICK

I marked Viv many times in training and indeed came up against her in club championship once too often for my liking.

She was one of the toughest opponents I met. For such a slight girl her balance and strength was incredible. This is possibly attributed to her many years involved in Thai-boxing.

Viv had an amazing international kick boxing career over a seven / eight year term during which she represented Ireland numerous times and won the 'Anglo Irish Ladies Bantamweight' title.

Viv has fond memories of this period of her life.

"The balance between camogie and boxing was great. You didn't get fed up doing one sport over and over.

"Thai boxing requires a completely different fitness level but it definitely made me much tougher, faster and stronger on the field."

Viv's most disappointing camogie moment was when Cork lost the '96 All-Ireland final to Galway.

"To this day I don't know how we lost that final. No team came within 10 points of us that year, we were flying. At half time, I remember we were up about seven points and lost by four. I was gutted after it. Back then camogie wasn't as popular as it is now but I couldn't look anyone in the eye for weeks afterwards, not even strangers who wouldn't have had a clue who I was. I was very disappointed and felt I had let everyone down."

Of course, her greatest moment had to be avenging that defeat which Cork did in '97.

Viv gave a towering performance on the day which earned her the 'Player of the Match' award.

"Yep, my most memorable moment

would be winning that All-Ireland. After the previous year's heartache it was unbelievable to beat Galway."

I suppose the question everyone wants to know the answer to is; Why retire? "After 11 years it's not easy to keep going. Going back to college at night didn't help". (Viv is currently completing an honours business degree).

"I spent the last few years coming in from work and heading straight out the door to go to training or college almost every night of the week. It's even more difficult when you're supposed to be in two places at once both on the pitch and college. Now I just want to spend some time at home and not have to run around all the time. I also plan to go on my first real summer holiday this year".

As with every player there comes a time when you feel burned out. You're tired and just don't have the drive anymore. Other aspects of your life take over and you realise that playing sport at the top level just isn't for you anymore.

Viv will continue to play for her club St. Finbarr's in the coming year and take it from there.

She names Sandy Fitzgibbon as her favourite player and considers it an honour to have played alongside her. (Sandy retired in 1997).

When one looks back on one's career, a lot of memories come flooding to the surface. One aspect not a single player will forget is the person or people who played such a huge role / had a big influence on their career.

Viv is no different. She singles out her parents as always being there for her and having the greatest influence on her career.

"From when I started playing they travelled to almost every training session and game I ever played, both for club and county. Without them I probably wouldn't have had the sporting career I had. I owe them a big thank you."

So it's the end of an era!

Viv has no regrets, just great memories. Her final words: "I'd like to wish the Cork team every success in this year's championship."

Vivienne Harris: "My most memorable moment would be winning the All-Ireland in 1997. After the previous year's heartache it was unbelievable to beat Galway. From when I started playing they travelled to almost every training session and game I ever played, both for club and county."

"Now I just want to spend some time at home and not have to run around all the time."

Rebel girls

Kilkenny
fail to
claw back
Cork's lead



LINDA
MELLERICK

Cork 2-10
Kilkenny 1-7

WHILE often criticised for not scoring enough goals, Cork's ability to grab two in 20 minutes in the opening half of this All-Ireland Senior A championship second round tie against Kilkenny in Callan on Saturday was the deciding factor.

In a lively first half it was Cork who looked the most impressive. While not scaling any great heights they displayed some good passages of play which were fast and open. However a total of six wides disappointed some promising moves with over elaboration and needless hand passing the order more so than direct shooting.

In a warm and humid half with no breeze evident Kilkenny battled hard and Cork certainly knew they had opposition. The one switch Cork made before the game moved Elaine Burke to full-forward and Sarah O'Donovan to the wing.

Ever-alert Burke was on hand to bat in once Catriona Ryan had blocked on the line after eight minutes. Una O'Donoghue and Angela Walsh then pointed to put Cork ahead 1-4 to 0-2 with 16 minutes played.

Anna Geary was the pick of the defence, particularly in the opening half, recovering well and clearing all which came her way. With play a little quieter down her wing Joanne O'Callaghan dominated. Mary O'Connor came more into the game as it wore on, particularly in the second period, when Kilkenny controlled for long periods.

Gemma O'Connor and Breige Corkery worked hard at centre field but found it diffi-



Cork's Catriona Foley and Emer Dillon in an aerial tussle with Kilkenny's Kiara Kinahan and Sinead Millea during their Gala All-Ireland Senior A championship second round tie at Locke Park, Callan.

cult to gain control with half forward Bridget Mullally falling back and playing as a third midfielder for Kilkenny. Corkery entered the game with a rib injury which certainly hindered her performance.

The lightning-fast Jenny O'Leary opened the play considerably up front alongside O'Donoghue who is back on form.

Twenty eight minutes in Cork looked to be coasting when Sarah O'Donovan caught a high ball in from Angela Walsh after a great O'Leary run and hand passed to the net.

A 2-5 to 0-2 advantage at the break giving Cork a very healthy lead.

It was obvious that Kilkenny were going to get the upper hand for some period of the

game but when they did they held on to it for longer than expected and gave Cork a fright. The introduction of Edwina Keane at half time made a huge impact as she took Cork on with sheer strength and speed.

With the rain now teeming down Cork tapped over their sixth point and looked to be heading home. But for the next 15 minutes it was all Kilkenny. Keane and Dargan hit over two.

Then came one of the most magnificent goals ever scored. Catching the ball forty yards out and pushing aside three Cork defenders Keane drove towards goal. From 20 yards out and with a melee of players in front of her she pinpointed her shot with in-

credible precision to find possibly the only gap available to her and hit the bottom left hand corner of the net.

Elaine Burke gave the perfect response scoring a great point from the puck out and it seemed to put a halt to Kilkenny's gallop.

Emer Dillon, starved of the ball inside in the corner, was brought out to right half forward and her two long range scores in the last five minutes showed how much Cork need her to be involved.

While its now four points out of four for Cork with Limerick next on the list on July 8th and a home match against Galway on the 15th they still have work to do. One wonders if Kilkenny had their full compliment of

Elementary for dear Watson as Cork turn it around

Cork 3-6
Kilkenny 0-9

THEY were a point down with seven minutes to go but Cork dug deep to score 2-1 and take two points in Saturday's Gala All Ireland senior B second round tie in Callan, Kilkenny, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Poor shooting from both sides meant that neither could really get a grip on the game leaving the outcome hanging in the balance until the 53rd minute when Marie Watson billowed

the far side netting with an unstoppable shot to give Cork breathing space. Linda Dorgan batted in a second two minutes later when Kilkenny keeper Brid Aylward blocked and Cork were home and dry.

It didn't look that way in the first half with Cork playing second fiddle to the Cats for most of the 30 minutes. In a physical game each score was worked hard for and it was Kilkenny who made most of the openings.

They led three points to nil after 21 minutes. In fact Cork didn't register a score until the 26th when Marie

Corkery, who had an excellent game, throughout pulled across the square to sister Catherine who struck to the roof of the net.

This was a blow to the cats coming up to half time who had dominated the half but now found themselves level.

Further points from Emer Watson (Cork) and Miriam O'Keefe and Claire Aylward (Kilkenny) left Cork trailing by a point at the break.

Cork stood up to Kilkenny in the second period with Elaine O'Riordan, Orla Cotter, the Watsons and the afore-

mentioned Corkery giving it all they had. Cork were now in control and could have pushed Kilkenny three points behind after 10 minutes but for some poor shooting.

Edwina Keane who made such a huge contribution when introduced in the Senior A game tried to break through the Cork defence but they stood firm.

Kilkenny managed to only score a point from play in the second half but three further points from frees gave them a one point advantage with 53 minutes played on the clock.

Up stepped Watson and Dorgan with those two goals and it was game over.

Scorers for Cork: E Watson 1-2, C Corkery 1-0, L Dorgan 1-0, O Cotter 0-1(f), M O'Neill 0-1, M Watson 0-2.

Kilkenny: C Aylward 0-5 (f's), C Doherty 0-2, M O'Keefe 0-2.

CORK: G Harrington; A M Fleming, E O'Riordan, D Hayes; L O'Connell, J Duffy, E O'Sullivan; L Dorgan, O Cotter; J Lucey, M Corkery, E O'Farrell; C Corkery, M O'Neill, E Watson.

Subs: M Watson for J Lucey (15min), S Corkery for D Hayes (55 min) M Jagoe for C Corkery and T Roche for E O'Sullivan (60min).

KILKENNY: B Aylward; A Butler, E O'Shea, E Lyng; R Fennelly, P Comerford, N Butler; L Gahan, P Heffernan; C Aylward, M O'Keefe, C Doherty; L Kavanagh, B Neary, E Darnoddy.

topple Cats

Cork are favourites to win in Munster

By MARY NEWMAN

Camogie

TONIGHT

Munster Junior c'chip final

Cork v Clare

Newmarket-on-Fergus, 7.30pm

CORK and Clare meet this evening in Newmarket-on-Fergus to decide the destination of the Munster Junior championship trophy.

This is a competition which only goes to provincial level but both sides will give it their all in quest of honours.

Clare are very focused on going all the way this season at junior All-Ireland level, having lost out in last year's decider to Dublin. Cork, by virtue of their status as a senior county, no longer can compete for All Ireland junior honours. Therefore it is the county's only chance of junior silverware.

This is Clare's second team and they have built it around their U18 squad, the side have prepared with the counties first team and have gained valuable experience in that set up.

They recorded a good victory over Tipperary in their opening round game and they will be boosted by home advantage this evening.

Goalkeeper Caroline Brigdale from the St Joseph's club and full-back Aimee McInerney who captained the minor winning team of 2004 back are two of the stronger players, the Kaiser sisters, Iris at corner-back and Ruth at centre-forward, are promising young players, while Aoife Ryan, Louise Hayes Helen McMahon are experienced and should give good leadership to what is a young panel.

Ellen Sloan captains the team and will line out at centre back. Cork defeated Waterford to reach tonight's decider. They to will be very much dependant on their young players but have plenty of experience through their panel.

Marie Corkery captains the side and is joined by senior panelist Orla Cotter, Sinead Corkery and Emer Watson, while Eimear O'Sullivan, Linda Dorgan, and Catherine Corkery all have plenty of inter-county experience.

On the balance to date Cork should have enough power and experience to gain the upper hand in vital areas and should have enough strength to take the title.

CORK PANEL: Eimear White, Barryroe Anne-Marie Fleming, Barryroe, Sinead Corkery, Cloughduv, Tina Roche, Aghbullogue, Julia-Ann Kingston, Tracton, Emer O'Sullivan, Ballinhassig, Louise O'Regan, Douglas, Marie O'Donoghue, Ballincollig, Marie Corkery, (capt.) Cloughduv, Jean Lucey Cloughduv, Orla Cotter, St Catherine's, Hazel O'Regan, Clonakilty, Catherine Corkery, Cloughduv, Linda Dorgan, Grenagh Clodagh Deasy, Valley Rovers, Michelle Browne, Mallow, Caroline Moherway, Dungourney, Aine Watson, Milford, Trish Murphy, Inniscarra, Emer Watson, Milford, Eileen Morgan, Douglas, Shauna Cunningham, Youghal, Deirdre Cooney, Ballinhassig, Lea Weste, Ballincollig, Trish Harrington, Sliabh Rua.



A Camogie Championship encounter at John

Picture: P.J. Browne

players (some were caught up in an internal row) what the final result would have been.

Scorers for Cork: E Burke 1-2, E Dillon 0-3, S O'Donovan 1-0, U O'Donoghue 0-2, A Walsh 0-1, G O'Connor 0-1, J O'Leary 0-1 (f).

Kilkenny: E Keane 1-1, J Frisby 0-2, B Mullally 0-2 (0-1f), S Millea, E Fitzpatrick 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray; J O'Callaghan, C Foley, A O'Regan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, A Geary; J O'Connor, B Corkery; U O'Donoghue, A Walsh, J O'Leary; E Dillon, E Burke, S O'Donovan.

Subs: R Moloney for A Walsh (42 min), O Cotter for B Corkery (55min), C Desmond for E Burke (56min).

KILKENNY: C Ryan; K Kinahan, A Fahy, K A Cottrell; E Aylward, S Millea, E Fitzpatrick; T Muldowney, J A Woodcock; L Lyng, B Mullally, M Dargan; A Neary, A M Phelan, J Frisby.

Subs: E Keane for E Aylward (h/t), C Doherty for A Neary (53min).



Cork's Anna Geary and Kilkenny's Bridget Mullally challenge for this high ball during their Gala All-Ireland Senior A Camogie Championship clash.

Picture: P.J. Browne

Aftermatch comments

CORK manager John Cronin was content with another two points in the bag but was disappointed with aspects of Cork's play. "Kilkenny put it up to us. It was our ability to get the two goals that was the difference." Queried as to how he felt when Kilkenny took the game to Cork and things got close during the second half he replied: "Well, that's Kilkenny for you. They play great hurling and they're getting stronger all the time. Kilkenny will win an All Ireland faster than any of them I can tell you. They play fast hurling,

typical Kilkenny hurling." And the overall team performance? "Our defence played well enough. It was hard for the midfielders to control with Bridget Mullally playing as a third midfielder. "We could have played a bit more direct up front. We're not really scoring enough. "We need to be taking scores from further out and having the confidence to do so. We'll practice all of this in the coming weeks," he said. Cork captain Joanne O'Callaghan echoed her manager's words. "We're delighted we came out on the

right side of this but there's improvement needed. "I don't know if it was because all week the talk has been about the 8 Kilkenny players dropped off their panel that took our focus but we didn't seem to be really and truly motivated. "They really came at us in the second half. I wonder if they had their full panel how things would have worked out, you never know. "But we held firm when needed and we're happy. We'll work on what's needed before the next game against Limerick on July 8."

JUNE

2006

Gala championship wins for as well as double as senior 'B' victories

(2006-06-26)

A TIP top goal from 2005 Tipperary All-Star Emer Mc Donnell two minutes into injury time gave Tipperary their first win in this year's Gala All-Ireland championship when they overcame Wexford 1-14 to 1-8 in Wexford Park.

Playing with a stiff wind in the opening half the 2005 beaten All-Ireland finalists got off to a good start with an Eimear Mc Donnell point after just seven minutes. Both sides were seeking their first championship win of the season and it was tough and close fought in the opening half with both defences playing a tight game, in particular the Premier county where full-back Una O'Dwyer was in fine form. Wexford were unfortunate to lose left full-back Emma Carroll after just five minutes when she suffered an apparent ankle injury.

The introduction of young rising Wexford star Katrina Parrock just before the break did make a difference to the Wexford attack with the result that they sent over their opening point just a minute later from Brona Furlong to leave it Tipperary 0-9 to 0-1 for Wexford at the break.

Playing with wind advantage Wexford showed much more determination in the second half and in a bid to change things introduced Michelle Hearne at the break and despite Claire Grogan sending over her fifth free of the day just after the throw in the Wexford half back Áine Codd sent over the home side's second score of the day - a fine free. The pace was up to championship fever now as both sides exchanged points before Wexford's Katrina Parrock got the opening goal of the match midway to leave it Tipperary 0-14, Wexford 1-4.

Wexford followers got behind their team then with the result that Wexford had Tipperary almost rattled as with one minute into injury time only a goal separated the sides, Tipperary 0-14, Wexford 1-8. Wexford had the chance to draw the game but an Una Leacy ball went wide and with that went Wexford's chance of some glory. Instead the ball broke loose down the field where the waiting Eimear Mc Donnell was out on the right wing to blast home a superb goal to ensure a Tipperary victory which sets them up nicely now for their next game against Kilkenny on July 8th who fell to the All-Ireland champions Cork in Callan 2-11 to 1-7.

Kilkenny who had to field without the Freshford players felt the pinch as Cork showed why they are All-Ireland champions and National League champions this year. However, it was the home side who got the better side with a Jacqui Frisby point after just fifty seven seconds, but then they apparently went to sleep as they only recorded one other first half point from Brigid Mulally at the half way stage.

In between Cork got to grips with the game and an early Elaine Burke goal spelt danger for the Cats. A long ball into the forward line where the sharp Burke was waiting gave the Rebels their first goal to leave it Cork 1-2, Kilkenny 0-1. Kilkenny were struggling, but Cork's centre back Mary O'Connor was in top form while Cork were also commanding the midfield spot where Gemma O'Connor was superb.

Cork's second goal arrived just before the half time whistle when Angela Walsh sent in a fine ball to the waiting Cork full-forward Sarah O'Donovan who smashed it to the Kilkenny net to give the Leaside ladies a half time lead of 2-5 to Kilkenny's 0-2.

Kilkenny's backroom team then introduced teenager Edwina Keane with effect at the break and by

the ninth minute she increased the Black and Amber scoreboard to three points. However, not satisfied with that she scored a fine goal after a great solo run midway to leave it Cork 2-5, Kilkenny 1-4, the other Cat's point having come from a Sinéad Millea free.

However, after that Cork sent over four unanswered points in the space of eleven minutes while Kilkenny had to wait until two minutes from the end for their next point a Jacqui Frisby point with the final score of the day coming from Brigid Mulally for the Cats, but in between Emer Dillon sent over Cork's final point to set them up nicely for their next Gala outing on July 8th against Limerick in Limerick.

As expected Galway maintained their unbeaten run in the Gala championship when they easily disposed of Limerick 5-17 to 1-5 in Killimor in the third championship game of the day. Three first half goals from Veronica Curtin (2) and a second minute goal from Ann Marie Hayes easily put the call beyond Limerick as Galway led 3-10 to 0-4 at the break. Limerick rallied somewhat in the second half with a Niamh Mulcahy goal midway but in reality, Limerick were never anywhere near Galway in this championship game.

Meanwhile there was double joy for Cork when their senior 'B' side also defeated Kilkenny 3-6 to 0-9 also in Callan. Two first half goals from Denise Twomey and Emer O'Farrell within the space of three minutes killed off any dream the Cats had of a win. There was a hectic finish to the Wexford V Tipperary 'B' championship game as with two minutes of normal time remaining the sides were equal, Wexford 1-12, Tipperary 3-6. However, two late late goals from Deirdre Dunne and Aoife Mc Loughney who also sent over the final point one minute into injury time shocked Wexford who simply had no time to answer back, with Tipperary making it a double victory day, 5-7 to Wexford's 1-12.

Waterford, first time winners of the National League Division three final recently maintained their unbeaten championship run with a dramatic late goal from Roisin Heylin when they defeated Kildare 4-8 to 3-9 in Walsh Park in the All-Ireland junior championship.

Details:

Gala senior c'ship:

Cork: 2-11: E Burke 1-2, S O'Donovan 1-0, E Dillon 0-3, J O'Leary 0-3f, Ú O'Donoghue, G O'Connor, A Walsh, 0-1 each

Kilkenny: 1-7: E Keane 1-1, B Mulally, J Frisby 0-2 each, S Millea, E Fitzpatrick 0-1f.

Tipperary: 1-14: E Mc Donnell 1-3, C Grogan 0-7 (0-6ff), E Hayden, J Ryan 0-2 each.

Wexford: 1-8: K Parrock 1-0, K Kelly 0-5 (0-4f), B Furlong, Á Codd, M Hearne 0-1 each.

Galway: 5-17: V Curtin 2-6, B Kerins 1-3, A M Hayes 1-1, J Gill 1-0, L Kavanagh 0-4, Á Hilary, B Hanney, C Kelly 0-1 each.

Limerick: 1-5: N Mulcahy 1-1, E O'Brien 0-3, A Sheehan 0-1.

Senior 'B' c'ship:

Cork: 3-6: M Watson, 1-2 D Twomey 1-1, E O'Farrell 1-0, O Cotter, 0-2, M Corcoran, 0-1.

Kilkenny: 0-9: C Alyward 0-6, M O'Keeffe, 0-2, C Doherty 0-1

Tipperary: 5-7: D Dunne 2-1, C Creed 2-0, A Mc Loughney 1-3, E Ryan, N Flanagan, A Lonergan 0-1 each.

Wexford: 1-12: S Kehoe 1-1, C O'Connor 0-7 (0-6f, 0-1'45), S Nolan 0-2, A Ryan 0-1.

Junior c'ship: Waterford: 4-8: Á Lyng 2-0, K Kelly 1-6, R Heylin 1-0, N Morrissey, E Hannon 0-1 each.

Kildare: 3-9: S O'Carroll 2-1, M Treacy 1-0, L Keatley 0-3, C Flanagan 0-2, M Murtagh, R Gorman 0-1 each.

Clare: 7-14: C O'Loughlin 3-1, K Rosengrave, E Gallery 2-2, each, L Linnane 0-4 F, C Commane 0-3 F

Lafferty, M O'Halloran 0-1 each.

London 1-0, R O'Neill 1-0.

June 2006

CAMOGIE *world*



with
Olhausen

by Maire Ui Scolai

GALA ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Camogie Association announced its first commercial sponsorship of the All Ireland Senior Championship in Croke Park when it signed a two year deal with Gala, Ireland's fastest growing convenience retailer. The launch was attended by John O'Donoghue T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. The Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship started on Saturday 27th May.

Liz Howard, recently elected President of Cumann Camógaíochta, welcomed the sponsorship: "This joint venture between the Camogie Association and Gala heralds a new era in terms of commercial sponsorship for our Association. Commercial sponsorship is essential to grow our sport. It opens up exciting new prospects both for the Championship and Gala who have 70 outlets in the competing counties. So there is a natural fit between the two. The Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship has a nice ring to it."

Gala CEO, Tom Keogh is confident that the Camogie sponsorship is an excellent strategic fit with the company's expansion plans: "Camogie is one of the top female sports in Ireland. Many of Gala's customers and staff play, or have played, Camogie. As convenience retailers, our stores are at the heart of communities across Ireland as is the sport of Camogie. I hope that our support will help ensure a strong future for one of Ireland's great

sports."

John O'Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism said: "I am delighted to launch the Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship in this, the 75th year of the competition. Through the commitment of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, camogie has grown to become one of the most popular and widely played female sports in Ireland and I am delighted that the sport has benefited from the Government's Special Budget Measures for Camogie and Women in Sport over the past two years."

Six counties compete in this year's Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship; Tipperary, Wexford, Galway, Limerick, Kilkenny and defending champions Cork.

DERRY ARE ULSTER CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2006

Derry were average enough during the second half of the Ulster Junior final in Ballybofey - but their first half performance was breath-taking, suggesting that there might well be celebrations in Croke Park in September if they can replicate that opening half-hour.

Derry 5-13

Down 2-7

They started the game at breakneck pace and maintained that momentum through until half-time mixing it with some brilliant close skills and lightening breaks that delivered three goals and a host of points. That pace

understandably slackened after the break, but Alisha Wilkinson still kept running and that speed helped her find the net on two more occasions completing her hat-trick.

In a whirlwind start Derry were four points up inside the opening 60seconds and the writing was on the wall for Down. Theresa McGowan picked the sliothar out of her net after nine seconds, Katie McAuley racing through to give her no chance. Theresa almost conceded a second goal but Sinead Cassidy picked up the clearance at shot over. Down looked to be coming back after 10 minutes though when they pulled the deficit back to 1-2 to 0-3, but three points in succession from Sinead Cassidy (2) and Aileen Lavery were followed by an 18th minute goal from Denise McCann who found the corner at her second attempt.

The killer blow was struck right on the half-time whistle when Alisha Wilkinson picked up a sideline cross and shot Derry's third goal.

Although Wilkinson had the sliothar in the net after 30 seconds of the second half, Derry seemed to adopt a more cautious approach during the third quarter with Grainne McGoldrick playing a sweeper role in front of Mairin McAleenan at full-forward.

McAleenan did hand-pass a 35th minute goal, but was closed out for most of the game. Wilkinson completed her hat-trick of goals in the 58th minute - and there was still time for Catherine McGourty to pick up a late consolation goal for Down directly from a free in a highly entertaining opener on the Ballybofey menu.

Derry - Claire O'Kane, Helena Kelly, Catherine Pickering, Ciara Cushnahan, Kate Lavery, Claire Doherty capt., Jane Carey, Grainne McGoldrick 0-3 frees, Aileen Lavery 0-5, 0-4 frees, Breige Convery, Katie McAuley 1-1, Denise McCann 1-1, Sinead Cassidy 0-3, Claire McCloy, Alisha Wilkinson 3-

0.

Down - Theresa McGowan, Deborah Kelland, Moya Maginn, Ann Morgan, Karen McMullan, Fionnuala Carr 0-2, 0-1 free, Orla Maginn, Jennifer Braniff 0-1, Ciara McGovern, Kelly O'Higgins, Cáitríona McCrickard, Cathy Mulholland, Catherine

McGourty 1-2 frees, Máirín McAleenan 1-2, Karen Gribben. Subs: Naomi Morgan for C McCrickard (h.t.), Fiona Duff for O Maginn (52), Claire Convery for C Mulholland (55), Angeline Fearon for K O'Higgins (57).

Referee - Tommy McIntyre (Antrim).



Derry's Katie McAuley landed 1-1 in the Ulster final

June 2006

7-A-Side Division 4 a big hit!

(2006-07-02)

THE first ever National League Division 4 7-a -side Tournament proved a big hit with the four participating counties, Donegal, Mayo, Louth and the eventual winners Monaghan. Played in Truagh, Monaghan on Saturday. Mayo's Sinéad Muldoon wrote herself into the Mayo camogie history books when she became the first Mayo lady to score a goal in their opening match against Donegal which they won 2-4 to Donegal's 0-1. However the Cup remained in Monaghan following their defeat of Louth 2-7 to 3-3 in a most exciting final.

Designed to assist the weaker counties, they all went home with much extra experience and can now look forward to their next outing on September 23rd when they will step up to twelve a -side and by then it is expected to have further counties participating in the event.

The final between home side Monaghan and near neighbours Louth proved a nail biting experience as the game ended all square at the end of normal time. Time was almost up, with Monaghan winning by a goal when Louth's Elizabeth Mc Nulty burst through for the levelling goal, the ball was pucked out and with that went the whistle. Extra time saw Monaghan prove the better side, when top scorer Marie Grennan sent over a point on the resumption. A goal one minute from the half time whistle from Paula Mc Quillan put the home side ahead at half time in extra time, 2-7 to Louth's 2-2.

Battling hard both sides missed scoring opportunities in the second half and Louth sent over their final point from Lizzie Butterly late in the game, but try as they might the leveller was not to be theirs on the day and so Monaghan became the first ever winners of the Seven A-Side Division 4 League title.

For one Monaghan family it proved a big sporting weekend. The Finnegan sisters, goalkeeper Rosita and sister Shauna played with Clontibret in the championship final during the week, then lined out the club's football team as well. Played all day Saturday only to turn around on Saturday night to line out with Clontibret footballers again. Not content with that, Shauna who is captain of the U16's took her place yesterday (Sun) when the county's U16's failed narrowly to Tyrone. They sure are what sport is all about.

Antrim may have lost their U16 game to a stronger Kilkenny side, but it was not because of Marissa Mc Gourty who scored a hat trick of goals. Then she was only continuing a family story as her brother Conor scored 4-6 in this year's Ulster Minor Hurling final while he also scored 1-5 in the Ulster Minor Football semi-final as well.!

National League, 7-A-Side Division 4 Final
Monaghan: 2-7: M Grennan 1-5 (0-1f, 0-1'45), P Mc Quillan 1-0, S Finnegan 0-1.
Louth: 3-3: E Mc Nulty, L Butterly 1-1 each, K Kenny 1-0, A M Keane 0-1f.

U16 All-Irl c'ship:
Waterford: 6-10: A Sullivan 2-4, P Jackman 2-3, M Russell 1-0, S Kiernan 0-2, C A Power 0-1.
Carlow: 1-0, C Mc Cabe 1-0.

Cork: 1-11 N Dilworth 1-1, C Collins 0-4 (0-1f), F O'Connell 0-3 (0-2f), A Thompson 0-2, D O'Callaghan 0-1
Tipperary 2-4: L Reid 1-2, B Kennedy 1-0, E Shanahan, C Walsh 0-1 each.

Saturday 1st July 2006 was a fantastic success. All four teams enjoyed the experience of competing at a National level and Monaghan were amazed to become the first ever National League Division 4 winners. They were so amazed in fact that they forgot to go out and celebrate but maybe that is for the best. Below are the results from the day.

Sat 1st July
National League Division 4 Blitz
Rd1
Monaghan 3-02 v 0-06 Louth
Mayo 2-04 v 0-01 Donegal
Rd2
Louth 7-08 v 0-00 Donegal
Monaghan 1-01 v 0-02 Mayo
Rd3
Monaghan 11-03 v 0-00 Donegal
Louth 7-08 v 0-00 Mayo
Final
Monaghan 2-07 v 3-02 Louth (result after extra time)

Congratulation to everyone who took part in making this day a great success. We now look forward to the Championship blitz which will be held on the 23rd September, venue to be advised.

The intercounty schedule forgets club commitments

WITH the senior inter-county A and B squads in action today in Callan, Kilkenny club commitments had to take a back seat.



LINDA MELLERICK

With the new inter-county format introduced this year (one round robin group), games are at a premium with the Cork sides in action almost every second week for a number of months.

This causes huge problems for local county boards trying to run off their own local championships.

In our eagerness to promote camogie across the country and improve competitiveness one wonders if the 'club', which is the bread and butter of our sport has been forgotten about and treated merely as an afterthought.

The one preliminary round between Muskerry and Carbery kicks-off this year's championship on Monday June 26, but I now hear that this may be postponed due to the number of players being involved with the Cork U16 team, who play the All-Ireland championship first round the following Saturday. With senior club players getting younger and younger it's not just the senior inter-county fixtures which causes problems.

The following week is where the action really begins with no fewer than five games listed.

Aghbullogue v Fr O'Neill's — Sat July 1st
Cloughduv v Finbarrs — Sat July 1st
Milford v Barryroe — Sat July 4th
Inniscarra v Ballygarvan — Tue July 4th
Kilbrittain v Courcey Rovers — Thur July 6th

There is no way back for a divisional side defeated in the preliminary round so it'll be a long summer for the loser.

Muskerry went out at the preliminary stage last year whereas Carbery were defeated in the semi-final by Inniscarra.

If the 2005 clash between Cloughduv and St Finbarr's is anything to go by then Saturday July 1 is the pick of the games down for decision. A point separated the sides at the final whistle with eventual champions Cloughduv taking the spoils. It's a hard one to call.

Aghbullogue accounted for themselves very well last year reaching the quarter final and also losing to Cloughduv.

I fancy them to take Fr O'Neill's who have taken a major step back, mainly due to retirements, since they

last took the title in 2003.

2005 finalists Inniscarra and Ballygarvan will be an interesting encounter. Just how Ballygarvan cope with their new found senior A status will be worth seeing.

Certainly they are a team who despite a team full of stars can play well below par at times and they won't get many second chances at this level. I'll tip Inniscarra for this one but only just and on the basis that they are seasoned campaigners with County final appearances behind them.

Milford will win against Barryroe and Courcey Rovers must be favourites against Kilbrittain after their 4-9 to 1-10 advance against the same opposition 12 months ago.

Elsewhere, around the County local championships are hotting-up with the fixture schedule already causing friction in places like Kilkenny. Apparently eight members of Freshford, All-Ireland club champions, lined out in a club challenge game last week in preparation for their forthcoming championship. They had been advised by the inter-county management team that they were not to play in this game ahead of their clash with Cork today. They went against this and also missed inter-county training which led to the eight players being dropped ahead of today's game. As of last evening this row had not been resolved. Only if the teams lineout at 1pm will we know if it was resolved.

Finally many congratulations to Douglas Feile team who became All Ireland champions for the 3rd year in a row. I have to admit I'm a huge fan of their commitment and dedication out there. The rewards are coming fast and furious.

Hard luck to Inniscarra who did themselves proud in reaching the final.

Also congrats to Sarsfields who defeated Ratoath of Meath in the Division 4 final. This was the first year this division was introduced and well done to those who saw the need for it. It's all about getting young girls involved regardless of ability and finding a grade which holds their interest.

O'Loughlin returns as Wexford bid to atone for first-round defeat

by Tom O'Neill

IT'S a busy day for the Gala All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship as champions Cork take on Kilkenny in Callan Park, while Galway travel to Limerick and Wexford meet Tipperary.

Wexford bid to capitalise on Galway's win over Tipperary in the first round and also make amends for their own opening-round defeat.

All-Star Catherine O'Loughlin and Brona Furlong will play, having missed the first round of the championship due to exams and a broken finger respectively. Corner-forwards Ursula Jacob and Josie Dwyer will both undergo fitness tests but have been named on the starting 15.

Tipperary are looking to get back on track following their surprise defeat by Galway. Having lost Deirdre Hughes, Noelle Kennedy, Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy this year through retirement, Tipp struggled in their first

outing in the championship, but Cora Hennessy and Claire Grogan should make a positive impact if they line out tomorrow.

Cork welcome back All-Star midfielder Rachel Moloney while Kilkenny will be without eight panelists, all dropped from the panel following difficulties between their club, Freshford, and the county team management. Freshford are reigning All-Ireland club champions.

Galway meet Limerick today, having added Lorraine Lally to the panel, but Marion Geoghegan is out for the year following a horse-riding accident.

Limerick will be striving for a strong performance against Galway. Michelle Casey, captain of the Limerick team, is carrying an injury but hopes to be fit to play.

This game will take place in Killimor GAA pitch at 3pm, the Galway County Board having moved camogie championship games out of Pearse Stadium.

Rebels hang on for win as Clare pile on pressure

Cork
Clare

3-11 By PJ AHERN
3-09 All-Ireland U16 Camogie Championship

CORK just about edged out Clare in a magnificent advertisement for the game of camogie in the All-Ireland U16 Championship in Buttevant last night.

A first-half hat-trick of goals from Cork's Sinead O'Callaghan ensured Clare chased the game for the majority of the night.

Clare so nearly stole the victory at the end but they were firstly denied by a breathtaking save from keeper Dawn O'Keeffe, who went full stretch to deny Rosie McMahon and then her defence stood firm as they faced an constant bombardment of frees and pressure but Marie Walsh, Mairead Foley and Leanne O'Shea never melted in the blistering heat

of the championship.

In a very open and entertaining first half, Clare raced into a four-point lead with a goal and a point coming from the hurley of Carina Rosengrave, but once she was quelled, Cork settled with Sinead O'Callaghan tearing Clare apart.

Barring another point from Carina Rosengrave, Cork were in total dominance and it was illustrated as they put 3-4 on the board. Fiona O'Connell and Claire Keohane weighed in with a couple of sublime efforts (3-4 to 1-2).

The decisive battle for the balance of power in the game came on the 45 line in both Cork and Clare halves as the half-backs and half-forwards

jostled for dominance.

Neither side was fully in control of midfield but when Cork got forward it was the half-forward line which caused the damage as they ran at Clare at pace.

The Banner similarly caused concerns when they attacked and they drew fouls which Clare's Aine O'Brien duly converted and she helped herself to 1-5 during the course of the hour.

Clare's Aine O'Brien reduced Cork's seven point advantage to three points at the break with her dead ball accuracy (3-5 to 2-5).

In the second-half, Cork stretched their lead back to six points once more with a brace of points from Catriona Collins and a Fiona O'Connell point but resilient Clare fought back once more.

Clare reeled Cork back in with a

goal from Carol Kaiser, who finished to the net after Stephanie Moloney ran through the heart of the Cork back-line.

Clare got to within one point of their opponents with points from O'Brien and Patricia O'Loughlin.

A crucial spell which saw Cork rattle off scores through Fiona O'Connell and Sinead O'Callaghan gave them a cushion of three points heading into the home straight.

Clare threw everything at Cork during that period but an Aine O'Brien free was cancelled out by a Catriona Collins effort at the other end.

Clare attacked but Cork stood strong and while injury time seemed endless Cork held out courtesy of great goalkeeping and defiant defending.

Cork's victory would not have

been possible had it not been for the contributions of Ella Kelleher, Eimear Harrington, Christine O'Neill and Aisling Thompson.

Cork have now won all three of their championship games and with a trip to Tipperary to come, they must surely have done enough to secure a semi-final berth.

Scorers for Cork: S O'Callaghan 3-2, F O'Connell 0-4 (0-2), C Collins 0-3 (0-2), C Keohane 0-2.

Clare: A O'Brien 1-5 (1-5), C Rosengrave 1-2, C Kaiser 1-1, P O'Loughlin 0-1.

CORK: D O'Keeffe, C O'Neill, M Foley, M O'Donovan, L O'Shea, M Walsh, E Harrington, E Kelleher, F O'Connell, R De Faoite, C Keohane, A Thompson, D O'Callaghan, C Collins, S O'Callaghan.

Subs: J Lynch for R De Faoite, R Finn for M O'Donovan.

CLARE: S Vaughan, A M McMahon, A Dillon, O Keane, S Reidy, A O'Shea, K Lynch, A O'Brien, R McMahon, S Enright, S Moloney, R O'Brien, C Rosengrave, C Kaiser, M Clune.

Subs: P O'Loughlin for M Clune.

Referee: M Conroy (Waterford).

Ulster championship reports

(2006-06-29)

Down Senior camogie final:

Liatroim Fontenoys 5-12 Ballycran 3-4

2004 Camogie All-star Máirín McAleenan picked up a remarkable 20th Down Senior championship medal on Wednesday evening when she helped Liatroim Fontenoys to their 16th title in succession.

And the veteran forward proved her worth with a vintage performance of score-taking.

In the first half, she shot 2-4 as the Fontenoys more or less secured the win by leading Ballycran 3-6 to 0-2 at the turn-over.

The Ards' side fought hard and scored three goals during the second half - 2 from Nicola Braniff and another from Audrey Kelly - but there was no denying McAleenan and she went on to record 3-9 to mark a historic milestone in her playing career.

Winning Liatroim Fontenoys team: Lisa McCrickard, Clare McGovern, Corinne Cunningham, Eimear O'Higgins, Karen McMullan, Lisa Quinn, Gráinne O'Higgins, Roseleen McCann, Ciara McGovern, Sinéad Brackenbury, Cáitríona McCrickard 0-2, Kelly O'Higgins 0-1, Ann Morgan 1-0, Máirín McAleenan 3-9, Gráinne Kelly.

Subs: Niamh O'Higgins 1-0, Denise O'Prey, Claire Malone, Janine Kelly, Aisling Murray, Brona Morgan, Elaine Kelly, Róisín Cunningham, Majella O'Reilly, Maureen O'Higgins.

Ballycran scorers: Nicola Braniff 2-1, Audrey Kelly 1-0, Catherine McGourty 0-3.

Armagh Senior camogie final: Keady 3-12 Mullaghbawn 0-4

Keady collected their third Armagh title in succession with a power-packed second half at Madden.

They led by 0-5 to 0-1 at the break after a great effort from outsiders Mullaghbawn, but second half goals from Michelle Murphy, Máiréad Doyle and Colleen Conway secured the club's ninth title - all accumulated since 1993.

Keady: Michelle Murphy 1-5, Máiréad Doyle 1-3, Colleen Conway 1-0, Claire Kinsella 0-4.

Mullaghbawn: Orla Smyth 0-4.

Séamas Mac Giolla Fhinnéin

Rebels' run continues

by Máire Uí Scolai

CHAMPIONS Cork maintained their unbeaten run in the Gala All-Ireland Championship by defeating Kilkenny 2-11 to 1-7 in Callan on Saturday.

Goals from Elaine Burke and Sarah Donovan helped the Rebels to a nine-point interval lead, (2-5 to 0-2). Kilkenny sprung teenager Edwina Keane on the restart and she made an instant impression with a point within 60 seconds.

Midway through the half the sensation scored a wonder goal after a tremendous solo run. Cork, though, were never threatened and hit five unanswered points to seal the win.

At Wexford Park, the hosts were beaten by Tipperary 1-14 to 1-8. Backed by a strong win the Premier County were eight ahead at the break (0-9 to 0-1). Points from Aine

Codd, Kate Kelly and a goal from Katrina Parrock narrowed the gap but disaster struck for Wexford as corner forward Emer McDonnell fired home a brilliant goal in injury time for Tipp's first win.

As expected Galway maintained their unbeaten run, crushing Limerick 5-17 to 1-5 in Killimor.

Three first-half goals from Veronica Curtin (2) and Ann Marie Hayes had Galway ahead 3-10 to 0-4 at the break.

There was double joy for Cork as their senior B side also defeated Kilkenny 3-6 to 0-9 in Callan. First-half goals from Denise Twomey and Emer O'Farrell within the space of three minutes decided the outcome.

Tipperary also defeated Wexford in the B championship, late goals from Deirdre Dunne and Aoife McLoughney helping them to a 5-7 to 1-12 win.

Cork Colleges score third blitz victory

Jack McGrath, on behalf of Neville Jewellers, presented the new set of jerseys to victorious Cork captain Joanne Casey (Cork Colleges captain).



CORK Colleges Camogie panel won their third consecutive All Ireland U14 Intercounty blitz at Ballyanley.

Ten teams participated, including Tipperary, Clare, Offaly, Kildare, Limerick Colleges, Galway, Cork, Waterford and Kilkenny. The key to their success, according to selector Cathal Egan, was the defence, which only conceded five scores over six games.

Tessa Hawkes, Laura McCarthy, Alison Coughlan, Rosie O'Mahony, Ena Coughlan, Amanda Walsh, Colleen Foley,

Claire Meaney, Donna O'Leary, the Mackey twins and star captain Joanne Casey were prominent throughout the day.

Coach Prionsias Creedon was delighted with his charges, stating that after 22 training sessions, four blitzes and many challenge games, the amount of effort and commitment shown by the players was phenomenal. Neville Jewellers also came on board and sponsored a new set of jerseys whilst pledging support for Cork Colleges competitions for the forthcoming season.

Sars' camogie girls finish the job at Feile

THIS year's Division Four All-Ireland Féile camogie competition belonged to the Sars U-14 team.

They scored 24 goals and seven points and only conceded six goals and five points throughout the entire competition.

The club hosted the Ratoath club from Meath for the weekend.

On Saturday, Sars proved goals win matches by defeating Ratoath 1-4 to 2-5.

On Sunday, Sars played Erin Go Bráth from Birmingham, Youghal and Aghabullogue, creating a unique record for themselves by not conceding any scores in any of the three matches.

Due to the structure of the fourth division, on



The victorious Sars 2006 Féile All-Ireland camogie champions with mentors Seamus Comerford, Bryan O'Leary and Valerie O'Leary in the dressing room after presentation of the trophies.

Sunday morning, captain Karen Comerford, led out her team to face the might of Ratoath again, this time in the final. Everyone involved

with Sars knew that the team had not played to their full potential on Friday.

Nicole Hickey, Rita Crowley, Niamh O'Callaghan, Eimear O'Connell, Ailsha McElhinney and 11-year-old Alannah O'Kelly-Lynch, made sure Ratoath didn't settle into the game.

However, with only five minutes remaining and Sars with a four-goal lead, were made sweat it out as a late surge from Ratoath resulted in three goals in as many minutes, but the Sars girls didn't panic and held on bravely to record a historic victory.

In her acceptance speech, Karen Comerford thanked mentors Seamus, Bryan, and Valerie O'Leary.

Sars team: Meadhbh Costello, Karen Comer-

ford (c), Nicole Hickey, Sarah Gaffey, Edel Meaney, Aisling O'Callaghan, Eimear O'Connell, Laura Barry, Rita Crowley, Orlaith Keane, Niamh O'Callaghan, Barbara O'Mahony, Alleesha McElhinney, Sinéad Gaffey, Megan O'Leary, Roisin Ryan, Caoimhe Crowley, Marie O'Mahony, Orla O'Sullivan, Edel Barry, Laura Brennan, Lisa Fitzgerald, Rachel Long and Alannah O'Kelly-Lynch.

Orla Quinn was unlucky not to be on the panel as she sustained an injury two weeks before Féile.

Other players who were involved in the earlier stages were: Sarah Doyle, Sadhbh Kelleher, Ciara O'Rahilly, Kelly Cronin, Roisin Egan-O'Neill.

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Pictured at the National Féile na nGael Banquet were Tony O'Mahony, Chairman Cork Bord Na nÓg; Mo Durkan, Coco Cola; Nicky Brennan, CLG Uachtaráin; Liz Howard, National President of Camogie Association and Michael McSweeney, secretary Cork Bord Na nÓg.

Three in a row for Douglas

DOUGLAS retained their Féile Na nGael Division 1 camogie title and made it three in a row as they overcame the tag of underdogs to defeat Cork Féile champions Inniscarra in Páirc Uí Rinn on Sunday last. The scorching heat of Friday and Saturday as teams from all over Ireland and indeed one from Birmingham battled it out to reach the finals was replaced by a strong wind and at times heavy rain and this certainly made conditions hard for the young and by now tired camogie players.

Inniscarra were crowned county champions three weeks ago as they defeated Douglas and it had taken a replay before they gained the upper hand, on Sunday they met a determined Douglas side who dictated terms from the start.

Claire Shine set up Jessica Kavanagh for the games opening score and three minutes later Kavanagh was again in the thick of the action as Douglas increased their lead.

It took a good save from Aine O'Donovan to hold off the Inniscarra

challenge but they had their opening score ten minutes into the game after O'Donovan had again done well Ellen Finnegan gathering and send the ball to the net.

Katharine Mackey working hard in mid field had a Douglas point before Joanne Casey pointed an Inniscarra free to leave just the goal between them at the break.

Again the second half lacked enthusiasm as both team looked tired and exhausted, the strains of the last two days games finally catching up, just three score in the second half tells the story. Katrina Mackey pointed a Douglas free before O'Donovan again saves well to deny Inniscarra and minutes later Katrina Mackey had to stand firm to block and clear a close in free from Joanne Casey.

Entering injury time Joanne Casey pointed a free but immediately Mackey replied with the insurance point to stretch her side lead to four and ensuring no way back for the Cork champions. Credit to Douglas who despite having won two Féile

titles in a row came into this final as underdogs, they were focused and determined from the throw in their defence was superb in particular their half back line, Katrina Mackey at mid field was tremendous working back to help out in defence and driving forward at every opportunity assisted by Captain Ciara Lynch.

Aine O'Donovan excelled in goal and while eleven year old Claire Shine showed plenty of confidence. Well done to a galling Inniscarra who battled hard to get into the game.

It's a tribute to Cork camogie that both finalists in Division 1 the most prestigious under age camogie competition Féile Na nGael came from the rebel county.

Well done also to the Féile organising committee for another hugely successful event and to every club who participated a huge well done, Féile is all about enjoyment and participation and for the players from the twenty nine Cork clubs it was a wonderful opportunity to take part in one of Gaelic games greatest under age competitions, many clubs when they were out of the running for a qualifying place stood aside their stronger players to give the younger members of their panel a chance to play and these mentors are to be applauded for giving everybody a chance to participate.

Next time Féile comes to Cork it will probably be these girls and boys children who will participate.



Douglas' Ciara Lynch, collects the Christy Ring trophy from Liz Howard, National President Camogie Association and Michael McSweeney, secretary Cork Bord Na nÓg, as Douglas take their third All-Ireland Féile Na nGael Finals recently.

Picture: Gera

CONGRATULATIONS

WELL done to Douglas who took the Under 12 A league title with a victory over a gallant Valley Rovers side. Rockbawn and St Vincent's will have to meet again after they finished all square in the under 12 B league final. Plenty of action this weekend for the young players

on Saturday in Ballinlough in the Under 12 C final its Buttevant against Newtownshandrum at 11am followed by the Under 12 twelve a side Final Ballinascarty meeting Castletown at 12.30 with the Under 12 'D' Final at 2pm between Bride Rovers and Millstreet.

ALL IRELAND ACTION RESUMES

A BUSY few days ahead on the inter county scene as both Cork senior teams travel to Callan on Saturday in the Gala All Ireland Championship it's a meeting with Kilkenny at 1pm while the Senior division 1 B game has Cork and

Kilkenny in action at 2.45. On Monday the Under 16 teams resume their All Ireland quest when they meet Clare in Buttevant at 7.30pm. On Wednesday the junior team travel to Clare for a Munster Junior final date with the home side.

Camogie teams to fight another day after final ends in draw

by Mary Newman

A BUSY week of four U-12 camogie finals ended with all but one decided — St Vincent's and Rockban will meet again to decide the U-12 B crown.

Rockban 1-0
St Vincent's 1-0

There'll be another day out for these two committed sides after their game ended square.

Rockban: A Wolfe, A Murphy, K Howard, J Russell, R O Sullivan, S O Connell, N Coleman

Cahill, C Forde, S Brickley, L Crowley (1 goal), C Murphy Walsh, E Kelly, J Mulcahy, Subs: A Cafferkey for E Kelly, E Carr for J Mulcahy, S Russell for C Murphy.

St Vincent's: H Hennessy, S Higgins, C Anderson, K Heaphy, A Waters, M Roddis, L Corkery, N Crean, S Carroll, A Nonscan, E Russell, A Harris, A Wilson, L Connolly (1 goal), A Twomey.

Referee: G Sheehan (Douglas).

Buttevant 2-2
Newtownshandrum 2-0

Buttevant's Karen Spratt was named Player of the Match in this U-12 C final.

Buttevant: E Buckley, MC O Keffe, A Barrett, M Donovan, P Walsh, S Cronin, L Curtin.

C Burden, R Harrington, K O Callaghan, K Spratt (2-1), A Curtin, N Kennedy, S Hunter, E Madigan (0-1) Sub: K Cronin for S Hunter (half-time).

Newtownshandrum: S Slattery, L Hooper, A Ryan, J Curtin, B Ryan, K Coughlan, A Twohill, S Moloney (1-0), D Cagney, R Twohill (1-0), C Gallagher, E O Connor, K Clifford, A Bryne, C Watson. Subs: N Howe for B Ryan (injured, 23 mins), B Ryan for N Hawk (35 mins).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

Ballinascarty 3-0
Castletelyons 0-1

Ballinascarty made the early running in the U-12 twelve-a-side final, and went on to claim the game.

Caoimhe Conran was rightfully named Player of the Match following a superb performance in Castletelyons' goal and is certainly a name to watch out for in the years to come.

Millstreet 2-2
Bride Rovers 0-1

Millstreet notched up an historic first after being crowned U-12 D champions in their inaugural year of the D competition.

Muireann Murphy was fittingly named Player of the Match and

made history as the first Millstreet camogie captain to ever bring home the coveted county championship honours.

Millstreet: L Daly, E Cronin, L Dennehy, J Dunne, R O'Brien, A Barry, K Murphy, O Kieley, K Sheehan, S O Sullivan, M Murphy (1-2), K O Keffe, M Buckley, A Buckley, E Twomey (1-0). Subs: L O'Reilly for E Twomey (37 mins), ME O'Connor for M Buckley (40 mins).

Bride Rovers: A Cashman, C Murphy, J Johnson, A O Leary, L O Sullivan, E Cashman, L Friel, J Barry (0-1), C O Flynn, R Howard, J Cahill, M Hazelwood, E Toomey, S Mulhail, K O'Connor. Subs: S Quirke for E Toomey (35 mins), K Brown for L Friel (43 mins).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).

Cork capture Munster crown

Cork 1-11
Clare 1-3

ANOTHER provincial title in the bag as Cork beat Clare to take the Munster Junior Camogie Championship crown in Newmarket on Fergus last night.

Superior in vital areas, Cork possessed too much skill and were that bit sharper, their ability to pick off score vital to their cause.

Playing with composure, Cork held the upper hand from the throw-in.

Through the opening 30 minutes Cork were in command, their midfield pairing of Orla Cotter and Marie O'Donoghue dominant while their defence, superbly led by captain Marie Corkery, kept Clare's best efforts at bay.

Such was their dominance in defence that it was eight minutes before the full time whistle before Clare recorded their only score of the second half and by then Cork were well on their way.

Orla Cotter, ably assisted by Linda Dorgan, Catherine Corkery and the excellent Michelle Brown, enabled Cork open up a four point interval lead, 0-7 to 0-3.

Marion O'Brien, Maria Rafferty and Louise Hayes on target for the home side as they struggled to get to grips with the tight marking Cork defenders.

Cork again made all the running after the restart.

Clodagh Deasy pointed inside two minutes as the Leesiders dominance in vital areas continued and, with their inside line enjoying plenty of supply, the scores continued to flow.

Michelle Brown had three points without reply before she struck for a well take goal eight minutes from full time.

Two minutes later Clare were thrown a brief life line when Marie Rafferty grabbed a goal but Linda Dorgan replied with a point and Cork ran out worthy winners.

Munster chairperson Eamonn Brown presented Cork captain Marie Corkery with the provincial trophy.

CORK: E. White, D. Hayes, A. M. Fleming, T. Roche, A. Watson, M. Corkery (captain), L. O'Regan, M. O'Donoghue, O. Cotter (0-3), J. Lucey, L. Dorgan (0-2), H. O'Regan, M. Browne (1-3), C. Corkery (0-2), C. Deasy (0-1).

Subs: T. Murphy for T. Roche, D. Cronin for M. O'Donoghue, O. Coughlan for H. O'Regan, L. Weste for C. Deasy.

CLARE: C. Bridgale, A. Tracy, A. McInerney, I. Kaiser, H. Guinnane, E. Solan, H. McMahon, L. Hayes, M. O'Brien (0-1), L. Treacy, R. Kaiser, S. Hoey, M. Rafferty (1-2), S. Donlon, A. Ryan.

Subs: S. Lee for R. Kaiser, J. Moloney for I. Kaiser, E. Hennessy for A. Ryan, A. Kelly for S. Donlon.

Referee: E. Browne (Tipperary).



Cork hurler Joe Deane, with Kevin O'Callaghan, co-ordinator and Rena Buckley and Cathriona Foley who refereed in the Coiste Oliuna, fifth class Go Games hurling blitz at Pairc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

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Killeagh pair shoot for Cork Rose glory

By LOUISE ROSEINGRAVE

EAST Cork roses are perfecting their party pieces ahead of the Cork Rose final in Rochestown this weekend.

In a unique twist, both entrants hail from the small village of Killeagh and face stiff competition from more than 20 entrants from all over the county.

All-Ireland championship dual GAA star Angela Walsh and fellow Killeagh contender, Susan Nagle, an Aer Lingus customer service agent, are gearing up for action at Rochestown Park Hotel tomorrow night.

Angela, who claimed All-Ireland medals for Cork in both ladies football and camogie last year, will be showing off her twinkle toes with an Irish dance routine from Riverdance.

"Everyone wanted me to solo the ball for my performance piece but, with the dress and everything, I couldn't bring myself to do it" said Angela.

The 20-year-old is busy coaching GAA summer camps and plans to return to the University of Limerick in September to complete her course and become a PE teacher. She hasn't put much thought into what might happen if she is to become the Cork Rose.

"I've no idea. I'm just taking this week by week," she laughs.



Vying for the title of Cork Rose this year are two nominees from Killeagh, Angela Walsh, left, and Susan Nagle, right.

Meanwhile, Susan Nagle, aged 23, jumped at the opportunity to represent Cork in Tralee.

"It's something I always wanted to do so I'm thrilled to take part," she said.

As a customer service agent with Aer Lingus at Cork Airport, sports-mad Susan has had cut back her involvement with Glenbow Athletics, due to shift work.

"The hours can be quite varied but I'm having a ball so far. The girls are a great bunch and I'm really excited about tonight," she said. If she were to take the tiara for Cork, Susan's chosen charity is the Irish Cancer Society. "I lost my dad to cancer two years ago, so I would definitely dedicate a lot of my time to raising funds for cancer research," she said.

Walsh's goal seals victory

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By MARY NEWMAN

U12 twelve-a-side

Ballinascarty 3-0
Castleyons 0-1

THE participants in the U12 twelve a side final had to work that bit harder with the big pitch taking its toll towards the end of an exciting 50 minutes.

Again both teams strove hard for glory but in the end the stronger Ballinascarty girls were crowned champions. From the off they were focused on the task in hand, Niamh O'Donovan setting the foundations for victory with a goal inside six minutes.

With the Ballinascarty girls making better use of the open spaces they quickly extended their advantage Clare Condon getting their second goal as they increased their lead which they held to the half time whistle.

From the start of the second half Castleyons showed more determination and inside the opening minute Melissa O'Sullivan had pointed to open their account. Working hard, Castleyons enjoyed plenty of possession but found the Ballinascarty defence impassable, Liz Hurley at full-back marshalling her troops superbly, ably assisted by Megan Aherne and Catherine McCarthy.

One of the busiest players on the pitch was the Castleyons goalkeeper Caoimhe Conran who was called on several times through the 50 minutes to bring some superb saves as her side battled to stay in the game.

Eventually, with one minute left on the clock Ballinascarty did find a way past Conran as Emma Walsh snatched goal number three which finally signalled victory for Ballinascarty after a tough hour's camogie.

Caoimhe Conran was rightfully named as player of the game following a superb performance in the Castleyons goal and she is certainly a name to watch out for in years to come.

BALLINASCARTY: E Keating-Piper, M Aherne, L Hurley, C McCarthy, L Mc Carthy, H Cullinane, C Condon, E Walsh, N O'Donovan, N Redmond-Collins, C Fitzgerald, A. Lordan.

Subs: N O'Brien for L Mc Carthy (28mins), E Flynn for C Fitzgerald (thru), G Crowley for A Lordan (38mins) B McCarthy for N O'Donovan (45mins).

CASTLEYONS: C Conran, C Murphy, M O'Sullivan (captain), C Maye, D O'Flynn, D Walsh, R Tobin, M Barry, M McNulty, S O'Sullivan, A Fennedy, R Murphy.

Sub: B Conran for D Walsh (22 mins).



Castleyons Melissa O'Sullivan and Ballinascarty's Niamh O'Donovan clash during their U12 Camogie County Finals clash in Ballinlough.

Picture: Cillian Kelly

Muireann stars in historic Millstreet win

Millstreet 2-2
Bride Rovers 0-1

THE first time camogie has organised a county U12 D competition and a first camogie county championship title for Millstreet, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Just four years in existence there, camogie has gone from strength to strength in an area more renowned for the footballing prowess of its men.

On Saturday the girls from Millstreet showed they are equally at home with hurling as they gave a show of tremendous craft and determination in a historic win.

The smaller Millstreet girls were

more than able for the task in hand, many more than capable of picking and carrying the sliothar while their striking was also magnificent and a credit to their mentors.

Emer Twomey got the games opening goal when she finished well to the net in a packed goalmouth, Jennifer Barry replied with a well struck Bride Rovers point, to which Muireann Murphy quickly replied.

Millstreet had to absorb a lot of pressure as Bride Rovers search for a goal but credit the Millstreet defence who never panicked and just did the simple things right clearing their line and keeping the ball moving quickly on the magnificent Ballinlough surface.

Millstreet possessed one ace in the

pack their captain Muireann Murphy and she stood tall working hard from her position in the half forward line coming forward helping out her mid fielders ensuring a steady supply of ball to the Millstreet inside line.

It was Murphy who extended the Millstreet lead early in the second half and it was as good a goal as any that has been seen at city division headquarters. Winning possession on the 30-metre line she steadied and shot high to the roof of the net.

Bride Rovers worked themselves to a stand still but never managed to break the strong hold the Millstreet defence had, time out of number they attacked only to be repelled by a determined defence where Laura Den-

nehy and Alana Barry stood tall.

It was fitting that the final say of this superb final should go to Muireann Murphy who without question was player of the match, and also created history to become the first Millstreet camogie captain to bring home county championship honours.

MILLSTREET: L Daly, E Cronin, L Dennehy, J Dunne, R O'Brien, A Barry, K Murphy, O Kiely, K Sheahan, S O'Sullivan, M Murphy (1-2) C. K O Keefe, M Buckley, A Buckley, E Twomey (1-0).

Subs: L O'Reilly for E Twomey (37mins), M E O Conor for M Buckley (40mins).

BRIDE ROVERS: A Cashman, C Murphy, J Johnson, A O'Leary, L O'Sullivan, E Cashman, L Friel, J Barry (0-1), C O'Flynn, R Howard, J Cahill, M Hazelwood, E Toomey, S Mulhall, K O'Connor.

Subs: S Quirke for E Toomey (35mins), K Brown for L Friel (43mins).

Referee: Ger Sheehan (Douglas).



Glasheen Girls School team at Hurling by the Lough.

Picture: Kieran Boyde



Togher Girls School team at Hurling by the Lough.

Picture: Kieran Boyde

UNDER 16 ENSURE SEMI-FINAL SPOT

A TOUGH third round clash against Clare before victory was secured by the Under 16 team, a hat trick of first half goals from Sinead O'Callaghan proved decisive as Cork called on all their resources to record victory. It took a breath taking late save from goalkeeper Dawn O'Keeffe to ensure victory. Cork travel to Tipperary on Sunday next for their final game in the round robin series but with three victories under their belts a semi final place is secured.

Championship BEGINS

A HECTIC few weeks of camogie begins on Saturday with the Tower View Developments Senior county championship getting underway. First into the action on Saturday are Aghbullogue who meet Fr O'Neills in Bishoptown at 7.30pm on to Sunday and it's Cloughduv against St Finbarrs at 12 noon at a venue to be announced, on Tuesday and it's a double header in Coachford Inniscarra against Ballygarvan at 6.45 followed by Milford against Barryroe at 8pm. Thursday's its Kilbrittan meeting Courcy Rovers in Brinny at 8pm. In the Senior B championship Ballinhassig and Carrigaline meet on Thursday also in Brinny at 6.45.

Feile title for sarsfields

LAST week somebody decided to omit my piece about Sarsfields and their marvellous achievements in Feile. This week we salute the Riverstown girls who took the division four Feile Na nGael title and in doing so ensured a second title for Cork well done to all concerned on a great display and to my friend Orlaith Keane a special well done.

Congrats

CONGRATULATIONS to county board registrar Kay Dunne and her husband Terry who celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary on Saturday night last, a wonderful achievement and a great celebration enjoyed by all their friends, well done to you both.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman

CORK STAY ON TRACK

BOTH Cork senior teams travelled to Kilkenny on Saturday last and recorded victories over the home side in crucial All Ireland championship games.

Cork's ability to grab two goals in the opening half of the Gala All Ireland Senior championship enabled them to be ahead at the full time whistle.

Cork looked impressive through the hour Elaine Burke at full forward and Sarah O'Donovan on the wing both benefiting from the positional move.

Burke grabbing the opening goal inside eight minutes before Una O'Donoghue and Angela Walsh pointed twice to put Cork ahead 1-4 to 0-2 after sixteen minutes.

Anna Geary, Joanne O'Callaghan and Mary O'Connor were well in control in defence while Gemma O'Connor and Breige Corkery worked hard at centre field.

Two minutes to the break Sarah O'Donovan hand passed to the net to open up a 2-5 to 0-2 advantage at the break.

Cork started the second half well pointing to extend their lead but Kilkenny rallied and suddenly it was all Kilkenny, a superb goal from Edwina Keane had them back in contention.

Cork responded well, Elaine Burke scoring a great point from the puck out.

Emer Dillon benefited from her move to right half forward with two long range points in the last five minutes and it ensures Cork stayed on course for their second victory. A meeting with Limerick is next on July 8.

Cork trailed by a point with seven minutes to go in the senior division 1 B game but a strong finish ensured they took the two points on offer in the All Ireland senior B second round tie.

Goals from Watson and Linda Dorgan rallied Cork and despite strong Kilkenny pressure Cork held out to record a vital victory.



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael members including: Liz Howard, President of the Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, Nicholas Brennan, GAA President, Frank Murphy, Sec Cork County Board, Diarmuid Gowen, Youth Officer County Board, Shiela Wallace, Director General at a reception in the Lord Mayor's Chambers, City Hall, Cork.

Picture: Billy MacGill

CAMOGIE National League 7-A-Side Division 4 Final

Monaghan: 2-7, M. Grennan 1-5 (0-11, 0-1'45), P. Mc Quillan 1-0, S. Finnegan 0-1, Louth: 3-3, E. Mc Nulty, L. Buttery 1-1 each, K. Kenny 1-0, A. M. Keane 0-1.

U16 All-Ireland C'chip:

Waterford: 6-10, A. Sullivan 2-4, P. Jackman 2-3, M. Russell 1-0, S. Kiernan 0-2, C. A. Power 0-1.

Carlow: 1-0, C. Mc Cabe 1-0.

Cork: 1-11, N. Dilworth 1-1, C. Collins 0-4 (0-15), F. O'Connell 0-3 (0-21), A. Thompson 0-2, D. O'Callaghan 0-1.

Tipperary 2-4, L. Reid 1-2, B. Kennedy 1-0, E. Shanahan, C. Walsh 0-1 each.

Clare: 0-13, A. O'Brien 0-5 (0-35, 0-2'45), K. Rosegrave 0-3, C. Kaiser 0-2, S. Enright, P. O'Loughlin, S. Moloney.

Limerick 3-4, N. Carroll 2-1, J. Mulcahy 1-0, J. O'Gorman 0-2, N. Mulcahy 0-1.

Tyrone: 3-4, M. Mc Ardle, J. Canavan, L. Casey 1-0 each, M. Campbell 0-3, A. Jordan 0-1.

Monaghan 3-1, A. Green, D. Mc Kenna, R. Lynch 1-0 each, E. Mc Elroy 0-1.

Meath: 5-7, E. Managan 4-3, C. Troy 1-0, N. Doyle 0-3, A. Doyle 0-1.

Westmeath 3-4.

Kilkenny: 9-15.

Antrim 4-6.

Tower View Developments SC:

Aghabullogue 8-14, Father O'Neills 0-1, St. Finbarrs 1-9, Cloughduv 1-7, SL:

Bishoptown 2-10, Valley Rovers 4-1, Inniscarra 4-9, Kilbrittan-Timoleague 3-9.

JBL: Grenagh 3-5, Castleknock 1-4.

All-Ireland U-16 C'chip: Cork 1-11.

Tipperary 2-4.



The Sars U14 Camogie Team were winners of the first ever Vienna Woods Youth Award as a result of winning this year's All Ireland Feile Competition.

JUNE 2006

July 2006



Fr O'Neill's Mary Kenefick and Fiona O'Driscoll battle with Bishopstown's Eithne Duggan and Melanie Treacy during the 1999 final.

Teams gear up to battle it out for historic cup

THIS weekend the Cork Senior Camogie championship gets under way. Since the competition's inception in 1932 16 names have been engraved as holders of this prestigious title. Eleven clubs, three divisions, one university and one school have garnered the honour of lifting the trophy.

No matter how many titles are won the first always remains special and in 1932 a group of school girls made history taking the Science Cup for the first time when the pupils from St Aloysius became the inaugural winners. In 1933 Nora Kelleher carried the trophy in triumph as Muskerry took what was to be their only title. Kitty Cotter led Mayfield to their crown in 1935 and in 1936 there were new champions as UCC led by Lil Kirby defeated Hillside.

Lee Hosbery were led by Mary Valley to the first of their successes in 1937, again in 1938 new champions climbed the victory rostrum when the Old Aloysian's

Past pupils were crowned under the captaincy of Renee Fitzgerald, the club would later go

on and add 14 more titles to their collection. Nineteen-forty-seven heralded

success for another divisional side when Imokilly defeated

Fiona O'Driscoll was a winner with Fr O'Neill's in 2003.

Lee Hosbery.

Imokilly in later years added a further five titles. Mary Delea led Blackrock to glory in 1948 when the Rockies proved to strong for the champions Imokilly as they brought the first of two titles to the famous club.

In 1950 it was Glen Rovers' year as Siobhan O'Brien led her side to victory over Blackrock, Glen went on to add a further 21 titles and lead the roll of honour with the most titles to their credit. We had to wait until 1969 before another new name was added to the roll of honour and it was again past pupils who were creating their own bit of history when Mary Crowley led the South Pres, girls to title number one, in later year's two more titles were added.

Again a big gap until 1977 when Mid Cork were to the fore with the emergence of Eire Og as champions led by Marion McCarthy (Reck).

The Ovens girls have added to their achievements on three other occasions.

It was the turn of the title to go again to East Cork when Breda Landers led Killeagh to their first in 1980, four more titles followed. A big gap between 1980 and 1997 before new champions emerged when Eithne Duggan led Bishopstown to the first of their four county championship successes.

In less than two year's we again had new champions when Stephanie Dunlea held the trophy aloft for the girls from Cloughduv.

They retained the title the following year and added title number three in 2005.

Fiona O'Driscoll finally put all the heartbreak of losing four finals behind her as she led Fr O'Neill's to success in 2003 while Carrighoun became the first divisional side since Imokilly to take honours in 2004.

Mary Newman looks ahead to the Cork County Senior Camogie Championships and considers the prospects of the teams involved.

NOW that the school books have been shoved to one side, college exams are a distant memory the thoughts of senior clubs turn this weekend to the start of the Tower View Developments Senior Camogie County Championship.

A senior county championship medal is a coveted possession for camogie players in every club.

Many great clubs have, through the years, failed narrowly to achieve their aim while a legion of great players have never achieved the dream.

This weekend it all begins in earnest with the first ball to be thrown in on tomorrow evening.

There was a new format last year with the clubs meeting in round one and the winners progressing to round three while the losing teams were drawn to meet the divisional sides in round two.

The same format is in existence this season and the divisional sides Muskerry and Carbery open this year's championship when they will meet in the only preliminary round game.

The winners will progress to round two while the losing side will be the only team to make their exit from the championship.

Aghabullogue face Fr O'Neill's after a number of impressive league wins.

They are boosted this year by the return of several players, including Joan Twomey, Emma Healy, Abby Lehan and will enter this contest in upbeat mood.

Fr O'Neill's sought re-grading but were unsuccessful at the start of the season.

They are going through a bit of a transition, with older players retiring and younger ones now coming on stream.

However, they still have strong performers in Val O'Sullivan and Nora Ahern.

The meeting of Cloughduv and St Finbarr's is without doubt one of the games of the championship.

This is the third year the sides have been paired together in the championship and to date Cloughduv hold the upper hand.

The Barrs are tipped by many to take this year's crown.

The Togher outfit is trained by former hurling star and current St Finbarr's club chairman Gerald McCarthy and they are a strong all round side.

Inter-county players Gemma O'Connor, Ellen Clifford and Linda O'Connell form the backbone of the team.

Last season they were boosted by the inclusion of former Bishopstown star Vivienne Harris and this season they have secured the services of Galway forward Claire Speilmann who impressed with Galway in the Ashbourne Cup.

She is a huge asset to their forward division as they seek their

Clubs gear up for holy grail

Cloughduv v Barrs first round clash should be cracker

first county title.

Cloughduv are county champions but will be only too aware of just how close the Barrs have pushed them in the past.

They have lost the services of the Dunlea sisters, Lynn and Stephanie, and Ciara Cronin since last year but have six players on the Cork senior panel. Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Una O'Donoghue, Brieghe Corkery and Sinead Corkery, and will be focused and ready for the challenge.

Newly promoted to senior A ranks, Ballygarvan will take to the field on Tuesday evening for their first game and a meeting with last year's beaten finalists Inniscarra.

A young side, Inniscarra were hugely disappointed to lose to Cloughduv last year and will be going all out to make amends.

Ballygarvan have plenty of talent in their line-out. Emer Dillon and Sarah

Ballygarvan's Emer Dillon seen here in Carrighoun colours.

O'Donovan are members of the Cork senior team while Catriona Kelly and Jennifer Brown and Deirdre Daly are top class performers.

Inniscarra also have inter-county stars in their ranks. Rena Buckley is hugely influential while Marie O'Connell, Niamh Dilworth, Fiona O'Connell and Trisha Murphy will be to the fore as they aim to go one better this year.

Thursday night sees an all Carbery clash between neighbours Kilbrittan/ Timoleague and Courcsey Rovers.

Last season Courcsey Rovers turned in a good championship campaign and expect the same this season.

They are strong and determined outfit. Rachel Moloney, Sara Hayes, Sarah Downing will spearhead the Ballinasplittie side's quest.

Kilbrittan/ Timoleague were promoted to the A grade last year and gave a good account of themselves.

Miriam Deasy, Val O'Keeffe and Eimear



July 2006



Cloughduv's Briege Corkery challenges Barr's Gemma O'Connor in last year's quarter-final. They will clash again in the first round of this year's championship.

FIXTURES

TOMORROW
Senior A Championship: Aghabullogue v Fr O'Neills in Bishopstown at 7.30pm.
SUNDAY JULY 2
Senior A Championship: Barrs v Cloughduv noon, venue to be confirmed.
MONDAY JULY 3
Senior A Championship: Muskerry v Carbery in Riverstick at 7.30pm.
Tuesday July 4
Senior A Championship: Inniscarra v Ballygarvan in Coachford at 6.45pm; Milford v Barryroe in Coachford at 8pm.
THURSDAY JULY 6
Senior B Championship: Ballinhassig v Carrigaline in Brinny at 6.45pm.
Senior A Championship: Kilbrittain v Courcy Rovers in Brinny at 8pm.

O'Sullivan are all good championship campaigners and new coach John Desmond will have his side well prepared for the challenges ahead.

Milford and Barryroe meet for the third year in-a-row. The bragging rights have so far gone to Milford.

On paper it would be hard to argue with that not happening again this year.

Many tipped them for honours last season and it took a replay to separate them from the eventual

winners, Cloughduv, at the semi-final stage.

They are a year older and wiser and certainly the experience gained will stand to them.

Emer and Marie Watson, Anna Geary, Regina Curtin and Elaine O'Riordan are class players and Milford will be fancied to again be thereabouts come the concluding stages of the championship.

Barryroe will be looking to former Cork senior Cora Keohane and Ger Collins to guide the younger players in a side which always performs well in championship.

They has shown a lot of promise in the past, reaching the county final four years ago.

They have yet to deliver but maybe this will be their year.

It is always hard to predict the strength of divisional sides.

Imokilly, Carrigdhoun, Seandun, and Avondhu will watch anxiously as they await the defeated first round teams in round two.

Last season Seandun gave a good account of themselves and were unlucky not to make it to the semi-finals. If they can improve on last year's display they are well capable of causing an upset.

Amanda O'Regan was not available last year and her inclusion will be a boost while Clara Healy and Niamh Goulding bring plenty of experience to the side.

Muskerry lost the services of the Aghabullogue players last year but also performed well. Linda Dorgan captains a side which will include Cork senior Catriona Foley, Ellen O'Herlihy, Erin Corkery, Liah West and Mairead Foley.

Avondhu will field a young side but camogie is strong in the division and expect them to turn in a good hour.

Carrigdhoun were champions two years ago but struggled to repeat the performances last year.

Losing the Ballygarvan players will hamper their campaign but they have plenty of talent at their disposal. Marion Jagoe, Lucy Hawkes, Trisha Harrington, Gillian Harrington and Eimear O'Sullivan, all hold senior county championship medals won in 2004 and they will hope to repeat that feat.

A feast of camogie lies ahead. Be sure to catch some of the action.



Courcy Rovers' Cork star Rachel Moloney.

July 2006



Fr O'Neill's full-back Liz Sweetman clears her lines.

By MARY NEWMAN

Senior camogie championship

Aghabullogue 6-14
Fr O'Neill's 0-1

THERE'S no disputing the result of this one, as Aghabullogue totally dominated from the throw-in to record a well deserved victory in the opening game of The Tower View Developments senior camogie championship at Bishopstown last Saturday evening.

Conceding three goals inside the opening nine minutes left Fr O'Neill's with a fight on their hands from the start as the Aghabullogue inside line of Máiréad Twomey, Abbie Lehane and Louise Murphy exposed gaps in the Fr O'Neill's defence.

Stronger and fitter, the mid Cork girls dominated in all areas. Their captain Tina Roche superb at centre-back, drove her side forward while at mid field the hard working Brid Twomey and Niamh O'Connell were lively and full of running.

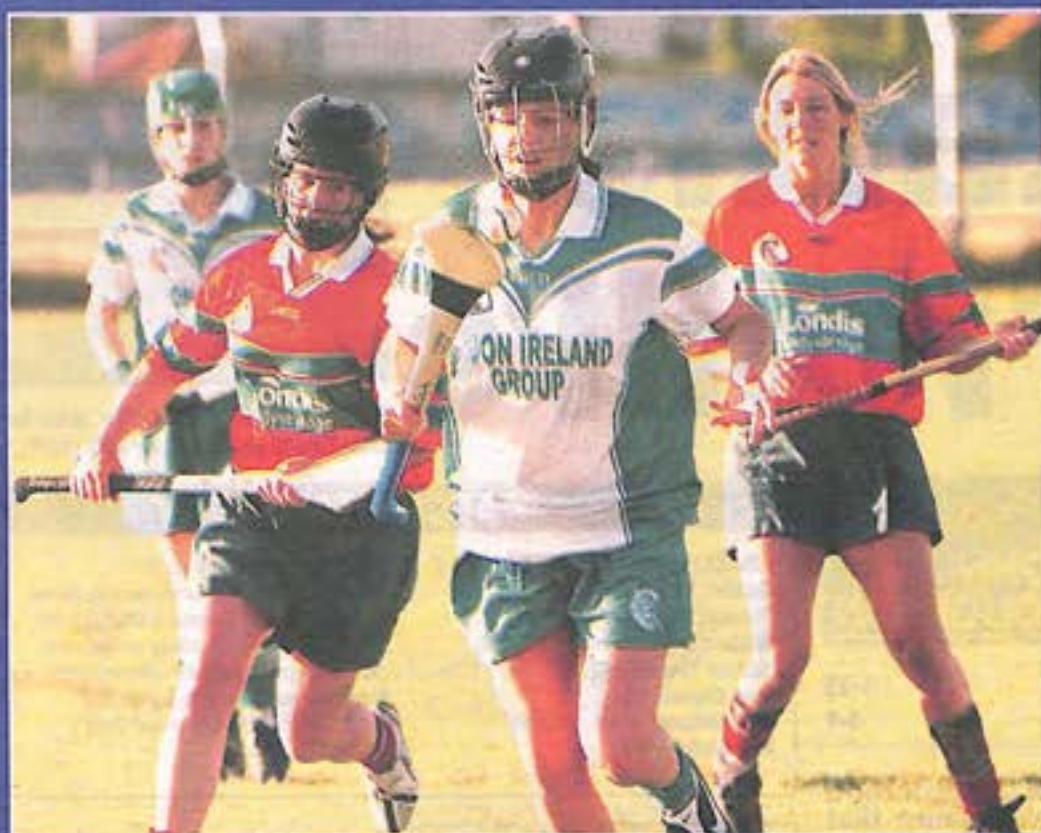
Fr O'Neill's battled to stay with their opponents but despite getting the ball forward they failed to get on the score-sheet while Aghabullogue continued to pile the pressure on an over worked O'Neill's defence.

Aghabullogue picked off some superb points as they stretched their advantage to 4-5 before Nora Ahern pointed for O'Neill's.

Niamh O'Connell had added two points to the Aghabullogue tally before referee Cathal Egan blew the half-time whistle and in truth the game by now was over as a contest.

To be fair, from the start of the second half Fr O'Neill's

Bullogue blast past O'Neill's



Aghabullogue's Sheila Crowley makes a solo run through midfield against Fr O'Neill's in the Tower View Developments Senior Camogie Championship at Bishopstown.

Picture: Larry Cummins

showed plenty of determination and with Nora Ahern now operating in the centre-back role they began to gain more possession and indeed for the opening ten minutes managed to contain the Aghabullogue attack.

Eventually the pressure again began to tell, Louise Murphy pointed before the same player batted the ball to the net for Aghabullogue's fifth goal.

Their tally of 14 points told its own story, 11 in all coming from play, they have excellent forwards in Louise Murphy and Máiréad Twomey skilful and fast while Abbie Lehane's

strength is a major asset in the full forward line.

In defence they seldom put a foot wrong, playing no nonsense hurling clearing their lines quickly and efficiently.

Two years ago Aghabullogue were senior B champions and they have worked hard. Since they elevated to senior they have built a strong panel and on the basis of this performance keep and eye out for them to be there or thereabouts come the grand finale.

For Fr O'Neill's it was not their night coming up against a super Aghabullogue side to whom they had no answers,

they now face a tricky back door meeting with city divisional representatives Seandun whom they lost out to at the same stage last season.

Aghabullogue: N Moynihan, L Ronan, J Twomey, Marian Twomey, S Buckley, T Roche (C), S Crowley, B Twomey (0-1), N O'Connell (0-7: 0-3 frees: 0-4 play), E Healy (0-1), C Murphy, D Twomey, L Murphy (2-5), A Lehane (2-0), Máiréad Twomey (2-0).

FR O'NEILL'S: C Coleman, M Harrington, L Sweetnam, M O'Brien, C Day, U Day, C Ahern, K O'Sullivan, C O'Leary, C O'Donoghue, N Ahern (C), (0-1 45m free), D O'Leary, F O'Keeffe, C O'Keeffe, K Ahern. Subs: V O'Sullivan for M Harrington (20 mins), Y O'Keeffe for C Coleman (h/t), S Kearney for M O'Brien (h/t), A Griffin for C O'Donoghue (50mins), P Kenneally for D O'Leary (51 mins).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Barrs advance to round three as O'Mahony strikes late on

St Finbarr's
Cloughdub

1-9
1-7

By LINDA MELLERICK
In Ovens

THIS was the way St Finbarr's wanted this one to go, claiming victory with a goal six minutes from time and gaining sweet revenge for their narrow defeat to the same opposition 12 months ago.

In incredible heat the crowd were treated to a game that kept even the neutral on tenterhooks.

Sinead Buckley opened the scoring for Cloughdub after two minutes and it is interesting to note that it was to be Cloughdub's only score from play until the 43rd minute. The west Cork side settled first and did most of the running with Breige Corkery creating a lot of openings but shooting from difficult angles failed to register a score.

Gemma O'Connor hit hard and direct from 35 yards to level two minutes later as the Barrs came more and more into the game. Showing some great passages of sharp, fast hurling, a succession of three wides failed make any impact on the score board however.

Vivienne Harris and Gemma O'Connor were dominating around the middle of the field feeding a plentiful supply but Cloughdub were tenacious at the back with Sinead Corkery and Joanne O'Callaghan in particular shining.

With the close rivalry evident both sides were guilty of a number of wides as neither quite got a grip on the game.

With play fast and the pulling hard the Barrs led by only four points to two after 19 minutes despite dominating for periods and it was then that Cloughdub upped the tempo again.

They ran at the Barrs defence and tried to draw them out of position but Jenny Duffy and Lynda O'Connell stood firm.

An Una O'Donoghue free and Rachel Myers points saw the Barrs enter the break 0-5 to 0-3 ahead.

When the Barrs' Collette O'Mahony pointed three minutes in, one felt that the game would now open up. Not so! For the next 13 minutes it was all Cloughdub as they pegged back their three point defi-

cit to go level with their city opponents after 16 minutes.

The Barrs began to lose their grip around the middle of the field and with Cloughdub winning frees and O'Donoghue converting, it stood at seven points apiece, with seven minutes of normal time left.

Both sides gave it their all in energy-sapping heat and an O'Mahony free edged the Barrs in front again.

A goal was always going to be the deciding factor and it was stalwart O'Mahony who obliged. A Lynda O'Connell free was added to by Gemma O'Connor.

O'Mahony caught on the edge of the square and his hand passed to the left of Aoife Murray to the delight of the city support.

The remaining minutes were played with tremendous excitement as Cloughdub fired

everything at their opposition. A minute into injury time Joanne O'Callaghan stepped up to take what looked to be an insignificant free from 40 yards far out on the wing. As time stood still, she billowed the back of the net to a stunned St Finbarr's side.

The crowd roared as both sides fought passionately with the Barrs trying to hold on to their one-point advantage. Clare Spellman finalised the outcome with a point on 63 minutes and with it came the final whistle.

St Finbarr's now advance to round three with Cloughdub heading to round two and a chance to re-enter through the back door.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: C O'Mahony 1-3 (0-3f), C Spellman 0-2, G O'Connor, O O'Sullivan, R Myers 0-1 each, V Harris 0-1 (f).

Cloughdub: U O'Donoghue 0-6 (0-5 f), J O'Callaghan 1-0 (f), S Buckley 0-1.

ST FINBARR'S: E Clifford; C Barrett, C Kirby, C Harrington; L O'Connell, J Duffy, M McCarthy; V Harris, B Maher; R Myers, G O'Connor, C Kirby, C Spellman, O O'Sullivan, C O'Mahony.

Subs: M Collins for C Barrett (51mins).

Cloughdub: A Murray; O O'Callaghan, Sinead Corkery, Siobhan Corkery; J O'Callaghan, E Dunne, B Corkery; M Corkery, A Buckley; U O'Donoghue, S Buckley, J Lucey; K Corkery, S Lucey O McCarthy.

Dilworth seals the Rebel victory

Cork
Tipperary

1-11
2-4

SUBSTITUTE Niamh Dilworth ensured Cork finished their games in the round robin series of the All-Ireland U16 Championship with a victory as she grabbed a late goal against Tipperary at The Ragg yesterday.

Cork already qualified for the semi-final stages by virtue of three earlier victories and led at half-time 0-7 to 0-4 after a tight opening 30 minutes. Their dominance at midfield helped ensure a steady supply to their inside line. In the

opening half Cork's Fiona O'Connell pointed three frees, while Aisling Thompson, Catriona Collins also got on the scoresheet. Laura Reid and Emer Shanahan were on target for Tipperary.

By the three-quarter stage Cork looked to be coasting after points from Catriona Collins and Aisling Thompson had stretched their advantage but they were hit with a double blow when Laura Reid and Bonnie Kennedy had the home side level with two goals inside four minutes.

Cork introduced Dilworth to their attack and she immediately proved her worth, pointing with five minutes

remaining to steady the nerves before finishing effectively to the net to ensure a table-topping victory for the visitors, defeat for the home side ending their interest in the competition.

CORK: D O'Keeffe (C) C O'Neill, M Foley, M O'Donovan, L O'Shea, M Walsh, E Harrington, E Kelleher, F O'Connell (0-3 frees), R De Faoite, C Keoghane A Thompson, (0-2) D O'Callaghan (0-1), C Collins (0-4), S O'Callaghan. Subs: R Finn for M O'Donovan (h/t), N Dilworth (1-1) for C Keoghane (40mins), J Lynch for R De Faoite (45mins).

TIPPERARY: C Kennedy, S Stapleton, S Ryan, T Flanagan, F Young, N O'Connell, S Hayes, S Dwyer, A Brislane, C Walsh (0-1) M Ryan, E Shanahan (0-1), B Kennedy (1-0), S Kirwin, L Reid (1-2). Subs: S Butler for C Walsh (h/t), N Kelly for S Dwyer (h/t).

Referee: M Conroy, Waterford.

July 2006

Erin's late point clinches victory



LINDA MELLERICK

Muskerry 4-7
Carbery 3-9

WHAT a thriller!

An Erin Corkery point three minutes from time sealed victory for Muskerry in this enthralling Cork County Senior Championship preliminary round tie in Riverstick last evening.

With seven goals and 16 points scored you dare not blink for fear of missing some action.

Behind by six points at half-time and not showing signs of pulling the deficit back, it is hard to believe that Muskerry produced four goals and three points in the second half to knock Carbery out of this year's championship.

With rain incessantly pouring down in humid conditions the wide open field led to an open fast game. While the standard may not have been the best, the passion on display was a credit to both teams.

Carbery looked to have the more skilful players. Both teams did their fair share of attacking but it was Carbery who were capitalising. They were able to convert 85% of their opportunities in the opening period whereas Muskerry struggled and had to work a lot harder for scores. Colette Desmond caused problems in possession and looked as if she would be the difference between the sides.

The Carbery defence were playing well — hooking, blocking, hasting and giving Muskerry no time on the ball. Goalkeeper Martina O'Brien was busy and cleared her line on numerous occasions.

Fifteen minutes in the score stood at four points to three in favour of Carbery. Muskerry failed to score from the ninth to the 27th minute and that summed up their total tally for the first 30 minutes.

Carbery, on the other hand, grew in stature as the half wore on and hit points in the 20th, 28th and 29th



Carbery's Sinead O'Brien and Muskerry's captain Linda Dorgan battle for possession during the County Senior Camogie Championship in Riverstick.

Picture: Richard Mills

minute which saw them pull away. When Sharon Whelton goaled two minutes into injury-time after Muskerry failed to clear their line it looked as if the night would belong to the west Cork side.

But what a second half we were treated to. What a transformation! From the throw-in it was like watching a different game. Within eight minutes Muskerry were a point ahead.

They threw everything at Carbery who didn't know what hit them. Denise Cronin was doing huge work in the middle of the field, ably assisted by Leah Weste in the half-back line. A 21 yard free was rocketed to the net by Linda Dorgan after three minutes. Ellen O'Herlihy hit over a 45.

Dorgan, who was magnificent, scored her second three minutes later and when the same player hit

a long ball in from the centre of the field O'Herlihy connected on the bounce to put Muskerry four points clear. It was incredible stuff and Carbery were stunned.

Whelton steadied the ship when Carbery finally got to attack after 12 minutes giving her side a much needed point. Dorgan pointed again, Desmond hit over a 45.

Carbery composed themselves, gained possession again and ran at the Muskerry defence. Whelton was once again to the rescue as she soloed from centre-field leaving players in her wake to score a wonderful goal and bring the sides level.

Their joy was short-lived and they were dealt a major blow when from the puck-out Dorgan gathered and a long ball in, initially blocked by keeper O'Brien, was hit home by O'Herlihy again and once more Muskerry led by three.

It wasn't over yet. With eight minutes remaining Aoife Deasy levelled it with the game's seventh goal and it was now all or nothing as both sides gave it all they had.

It looked to be heading for a draw and on the run of play no side deserved to lose, but Corkery had the final say to clinch a thriller.

Scorers for Muskerry: L. Dorgan 2-2, E. O'Herlihy 2-2 (0-11, 0-1 45), M. O'Herlihy 0-2 (1st), E. Corkery 0-1.

Carbery: S. Whelton 2-3, A. Deasy 1-0, C. Long 0-2, C. Desmond 0-2 (0-1 45), O. Coughlan and H. O'Regan 0-1 each.

Muskerry: T. O'Donnell; C. McKenna, C. Foley, M. Foley; L. West, M. O'Donoghue, L. Murphy; D. Cronin, E. Kelleher; C. O'Leary, L. Dorgan, E. O'Herlihy; E. Corkery, V. Mulcahy, M. O'Herlihy.

Subs: C. McCarthy for M. O'Donoghue (half time), E. Casey for M. O'Herlihy (52 min).

Carbery: M. O'Brien; A. Coughlan, R. Desmond, A. Coughlan; C. O'Mahony, H. O'Mahony; S. O'Brien; C. Long, F. Crowley; H. O'Regan, O. Coughlan, J. Brennan; S. Whelton, A. Deasy, C. Desmond.

Subs: C. O'Mahony for F. Crowley (47 min), H. Coughlan for O. Coughlan (56 min).

Buckley set for an Inniscarra title bid

A DOUBLE-HEADER takes place in Coachford this evening in the Tower View Developments Senior camogie championship. First into the action at 6.45pm are last year's defeated county finalists Inniscarra, who take on senior debutantes Ballygarvan, writes Mary Newman.

Victors in last year's senior B championship, Ballygarvan face a tough hour against an Inniscarra side determined to make amends for last year's defeat at the hands of Cloughduv and they are focused for their first season in the higher ranks.

Cork senior players Emer Dillon and Sarah O'Donovan will lead their challenge and they have very good performers in former Cork junior Catriona Kelly, who captains the side. They welcome back Amanda Murphy, who recently returned from abroad.

They were boosted recently when they defeated St Catherine's in the 2005 Senior B league decider and they go in to tonight's clash in confident mood. Inniscarra are a strong side and having made it to last year's final will be aiming to go one better this year.

Senior inter-county star Rena Buckley is joined by Cork U16 players Fiona O'Connell and Niamh Dilworth. Both have been turning in superb performances on the inter-county stage recently and if this pair can repeat these performances for Inniscarra the Ballygarvan defence will have to be at their best to contain them.

At 8pm it will be the third year in a row that Barryroe and Milford meet in the first round. On each occasion Milford have come out on top and Barryroe will no doubt be determined to reverse these results.

Over a number of years the sides were underage rivals, always playing out close encounters. Many years ago they met in the senior B final, Barryroe coming out on top to gain promotion to A grade. Twelve months later Milford joined them and since then it has continued to be close between the sides.

Last year's champions Milford were installed as favourites to take the honours but they failed to make it to the final, losing out in replay to Cloughduv.

Again this year many have installed them as favourites and it's hard to argue with this tag. They have class performers in captain Regina Curtin, the Watson sisters Emer, Maire and Aine, and Cork seniors Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan.

Barryroe, since promotion to senior grade seven years ago, have always been good campaigners, but they have failed to make the predicted breakthrough. Cora Keohane and Ger Collins have plenty of experience on the inter-county scene but they have lost several players since last year, including Rosalie Holland, who was full-back on the Cork senior team and has emigrated for the year while Carol Dineen, Rosemary Dineen, Louise Gannon and Josie Cahalane are not playing this year.

Munster title for juniors

CORK defeated Clare to take the Munster Junior Camogie Championship crown on Wednesday last in Newmarket on Fergus. Cork's ability to pick off score was vital as they held the upper hand from the throw in.

With the mid field pairing of Orla Cotter and Marie O'Donoghue in control and their defence led by captain Marie Corkery they held the upper hand on the Clare attack. With Orla Cotter Linda Dorgan, Catherine Corkery and

Michelle Brown on target Cork opening held a four point interval lead 0-7 to 0-3, and through the second half Cork made all the running Clodagh Deasy pointing inside two minutes, Michelle Brown had three points without reply before she struck for a goal eight minutes from full time.

Clare were thrown a brief life line when Marie Rafferty grabbed a goal but with Linda Dorgan pointing Cork remained in control to take the title.

TOWER VIEW DEVELOPMENTS SENIOR CHAMPIOSHIP

A BUSY week in the Tower view Developments Senior county championship with first round games starting proceedings on Saturday night last.

A strong display from Aghbullogue ensuring their place in round three as they defeated O Neills who now face a back door meeting with Seandun on July 19.

A late Colette O'Mahony goal ensured St Finbarrs consigned county champions Cloughduv to a back door meeting with Carrigrohane. A similar

fate for last years county finalists Inniscarra who now meet Avondhu as Sarah O'Donovan blasted in five goals to ensure a championship victory for debutants Ballygarvan.

Muskerry and Carbery played out a thriller before Muskerry edged Carbery out of the championship by the narrowest of margins in the only preliminary round game, Muskerry now meet the losers from the Kilbrittan / Courcy Rovers game which goes ahead tonight (Thursday) in Brinney.

UNDER 16 THROUGH TO SEMI-FINAL

THE Cork under 16 team recorded another fine victory defeating Tipperary to ensure themselves of an All Ireland semi final spot again Dublin on July 16, despite going into the game already qualified for the semi final the incentive to finish top of the group was Corks priority.

Substitute Niamh Dilworth was the player who ensured that was possible grabbing a late goal two minutes from full time. In a tight opening thirty minutes cork led at the half time whistle 0-7 to 0-4 their dominance at mid field vital. Fiona O'Connell pointed three frees, while Aisling Thompson and

Catriona Collins also got on the score sheet. Cork looked to be coasting to victory with points from Catriona Collins and Aisling Thompson but they were put under pressure when Laura Reid and Bonnie Kennedy had the home side on level with two goals inside four minutes.

Dilworth was introduced to the attack and she immediately proved her worth pointing with five minutes remaining to steady the nerves before finishing effectively to the net to ensure a table topping victory for the visitors, defeat for the home side ending their interest in the competition.

Milford girls turn in flawless display

By MARY NEWMAN

Senior camogie championship

Milford 3-17
Barryroe 0-4

PROVING their tag of championship favourites is merited, Milford turned in a flawless display against a spirited Barryroe side in Coachford last evening.

Few will argue with this result as they were stronger in all sectors. They played a no nonsense brand of hurling, skilful and fast they never put a foot wrong.

Despite striking 17 points, they were at times guilty of bad shooting hitting 16 wides in all over the hour.

By the half time whistle they had two goals and eight points on the score board as we awaited Barryroe to open their account.

Early goals from Marie Watson and impressive full forward Julie Sheehy giving Barryroe the worst possible start and Milford the best possible start.

To their credit, they battled to get into contention but Milford, with the ability to pick off points, had stretch the game before the half time whistle.

On the turn over, Milford held their dominance despite the best efforts of Jennifer O'Leary who worked tirelessly to get her side into the game.

Ann Marie Fleming, who worked hard in defence, and goalkeeper Eimear White, who stood strong under severe Milford pressure, impressed with their excellent and confident handling.

Certainly were it not for the



Barryroe's Anne Marie Fleming racing away in possession from Milford's Eilish Horgan during the County Senior Camogie Championship in Coachford last night.

Picture: Richard Mills

latter Milford would have been much further ahead.

Ger Collins registered Barryroe's opening score early in the second half but by the time Jennifer O'Leary twice found the range, Emer Watson had struck for Milford's third goal in between points from Emer O'Friel and the Watson's Marie and Emer.

On this display Milford will be hard to beat and certainly when the draws are made for

round three a lot of teams will be holding their breaths.

Barryroe will have to pick themselves up and face Imokilly in the back door game.

They stuck to their task and certainly never lacked in either spirit or heart and contested every ball to the full-time whistle.

They can hold their heads up with pride and still have another bite of the cherry in this year's championship.

MILFORD: E. Lenihan, T. McLoughlin, E. O'Riordan, D. Hayes, A. Watson, A. Geary (0-1), S. Sexton, E. O'Friel (0-2), D. O'Reilly (0-1), E. Horgan (0-2), E. Conroy (0-2), A. Thompson, M. Watson (1-3), J. Sheehy (1-2), E. Watson (1-4).
Subs: R. Curtin for S. Sexton (inj 32mins), A. Dillon for T. McLoughlin, S. O'Reilly for E. Horgan (43mins), S. Linehan for D. Hayes (44mins), L. Healy for M. Watson (55mins).
Barryroe: E. White, D. Collins, A. M. Fleming, L. McCarthy, N. O'Driscoll, E. O'Regan, E. Carroll, K. McCarthy, I. Dineen, C. Keohane, P. Moloney, J. O'Leary (0-3), G. Collins (0-1), E. McCarthy, S. O'Donovan.
Subs: C. Fleming for E. McCarthy (half-time), M. O'Brien for D. Collins (half-time).
Referee: C. Egan (Glen Rovers).

O'Donovan hits five past Inniscarra

Ballygarvan
Inniscarra

6-7
2-11

A DEFENSIVE nightmare for Inniscarra but a superb result for Ballygarvan as they advance to round three.

The opening game on the double bill in Coachford last evening had all the ingredients of a thriller: last year's county finalist against new kids on the block, last year's Senior B champions Ballygarvan. At the finish the difference between the sides was Ballygarvan's ability to finish to the net, Sarah O'Donovan grabbing five goals while Emer Dillon helped herself to one.

Eight minutes into the game, 16-year-old Niamh Dilworth had Inniscarra on level terms after she struck a low ground shot to the net. Sarah O'Donovan had given Ballygarvan the early advantage plucking the ball from the air before hand-passing past Orla Murphy in the Inniscarra goal. Gaining the upper hand, Inniscarra began to dictate matters and with Rena Buckley and Trisha Murphy driving them forward they opened up a five-point advantage.

Twice inside as many minutes Ballygarvan were gifted goals, the first after Catriona Kelly floated a long ball to the square which the keeper caught and dropped for O'Donovan to guide the net; the second almost a repeat only this time it was the in-rushing Emer Dillon who availed of the defensive error. In between, two Inniscarra points from Sinead Ní Riann and Rena Buckley was little reward for the hard work and effort put in against a Ballygarvan defence who were now gaining the upper hand and it was Ballygarvan who turned over leading 3-4 to 1-8.

Ballygarvan got the second half off to the perfect start, O'Donovan grabbing a goal after Catriona Kelly's free struck the post and came back into play. With the game slowly slipping from their grasp, Inniscarra upped the tempo and were unlucky not to grab the goal the so desperately needed when Rena Buckley hand-passed wide with only Rosanne Byrne to beat.

Driven on superbly by Buckley, Inniscarra came at Ballygarvan, and when Claire Moloney flicked a super shot in the margin was down to four points.

But a fifth O'Donovan goal meant that now Inniscarra face a second chance meeting with Avondhu.

BALLYGARVAN: R. Byrne, D. O'Mahony, A. Moynihan, D. Crowley, A. Murphy, J. Browne, N. Hallahan, V. Browne, E. Dillon (1-3), 0-1 free, A. Browne, C. Kelly (0-2 free) (C), D. Daly, M. Murphy, S. O'Donovan (5-1), S. Lynch (0-1).

INNISCARRA: O'Murphy, S. McCarthy, E. O'Mahony, R. McCarthy, A. Kavanagh, M. O'Connell, Y. Twomey, R. Buckley (0-4), 0-1 free, T. Murphy (0-1 free), F. O'Connell (0-2), S. Ní Riann (0-2), M. Cosgrove, C. Moloney (1-0), N. Dilworth (1-2), M. Buckley. Sub: A. Punch for R. McCarthy (25mins).

Referee: M. Butler (Buttevant).

Camogie season hotting up

by Mary Newman

It's been an extremely busy week of camogie action, with four games decided in The Tower View Developments Senior County Championships and one game decided in the Senior B Championships.

Muskerry 4-7
Carbery 3-9

An Erin Corkery point three minutes from full-time gave Muskerry victory in the senior county championship preliminary round tie, with seven goals and sixteen points scored in a thrilling contest. Muskerry were behind by six points at half-time but produced four goals and three points in the second half and managed to knock Carbery out of the championships in the process.

Muskerry: T. O'Donnell, C. McKenna, C. Foley, M. Foley, L. West, M. O'Donoghue, L. Murphy, D. Cronin, E. Kelleher, C. O'Leary, L. Dorgan, E. O'Herlihy, E. Corkery, V. Mulcahy, M. O'Herlihy.

Subs: C. McCarthy for M. O'Donoghue (half-time), E. Casey for M. O'Herlihy (52 mins).

Carbery: M. O'Brien, A. Coughlan, R. Desmond, A. Coughlan, C. O'Mahony, H. O'Mahony, S. O'Brien, C. Long, F. Crowley, H. O'Regan, O. Coughlan, J. Brennan, S. Whelton, A. Deasy, C. Desmond.

Subs: C. O'Mahony for F. Crowley (47 mins), H. Coughlan for O. Coughlan (56 mins).

Courcey Rovers 1-7
Kilbrittan/Timoleague 1-7

Both sides will have to meet again after Sara Hayes brought Courcey from the death with a late point to secure a draw. Courcey can count themselves lucky as Kilbrittan dominated from the throw, leading 1-4 to nil before Courcey's Rachel Moloney pointed for their opening score in the 17th minute. Courcey slowly managed to cut the deficit but still trailed by four points at the break.

Courcey Rovers: A. O'Brien, C. O'Brien, L. Kelleher, G. Twomey, C. O'Neill, M. O'Donovan, S. O'Regan, S. Hayes (1-2), 1-1 free, C. O'Regan, N. Collins, S. Quinn, S. Downing, S. Moloney, U. Quinn, R. Moloney (0-5), 0-3 free.

Referee: C. O'Mahony (St Finbarrs).

Milford 3-17
Barryroe 0-4

Milford were stronger in all sectors and defeated Barryroe to advance. First half goals from Marie Watson and Julie Sheehy gave Milford an lead at the interval as Barryroe battled to get into contention. Milford had the ability to pick points and were always comfortable, managing to hold the upper hand through the second half. Jennifer O'Leary worked tirelessly to get Barryroe into contention and

Ann Marie Fleming worked hard in defence while goalkeeper Eimear White was outstanding and couldn't be faulted.

Milford: E. Lenihan, T. McLoughlin, E. O'Riordan, D. Hayes, A. Watson, A. Geary (0-1), S. Sexton, E. O'Friel (0-2), D. O'Reilly (0-1), E. Horgan (0-2), E. Conroy (0-2), A. Thompson, M. Watson (1-3), J. Sheehy (1-2), E. Watson (1-4).
Subs: R. Curtin for S. Sexton (injured, 32 mins), A. Dillon for T. McLoughlin, S. O'Reilly for E. Horgan (43 mins), S. Linehan for D. Hayes (44 mins), L. Healy for M. Watson (55 mins).

Barryroe: E. White, D. Collins, A. M. Fleming, L. McCarthy, N. O'Driscoll, E. O'Regan, E. Carroll, K. McCarthy, I. Dineen, C. Keohane, P. Moloney, J. O'Leary (0-3), G. Collins (0-1), E. McCarthy, S. O'Donovan.
Subs: C. Fleming for E. McCarthy (half-time), M. O'Brien for D. Collins (half-time).

Referee: C. Egan (Glen Rovers).

Ballygarvan 6-7
Inniscarra 2 1-1

Ballygarvan availed of the chances that come their way to secure victory over last season's defeated finalists, Inniscarra. Sarah O'Donovan grabbed five goals while Emer Dillon scored one. Niamh Dilworth had Inniscarra level with an eighth-minute goal after Sarah O'Donovan gave Ballygarvan the early advantage.

Ballygarvan: R. Byrne, D. O'Mahony, A. Moynihan, D. Crowley, A. Murphy, J. Browne, N. Hallahan, V. Browne, E. Dillon (1-3), 0-1 free, A. Browne, C. Kelly (0-2 free), D. Daly, M. Murphy, S. O'Donovan (5-1), S. Lynch (0-1).

Inniscarra: O'Murphy, S. McCarthy, E. O'Mahony, R. McCarthy, A. Ka-

vagh, M. O'Connell, Y. Twomey, R. Buckley (0-4), 0-1 free, T. Murphy (0-1 free), F. O'Connell (0-2), S. Ní Riann (0-2), M. Cosgrove, C. Moloney (1-0), N. Dilworth (1-2), M. Buckley. Sub: A. Punch for R. McCarthy (25 mins).

Referee: M. Butler (Buttevant).

Ballinacorney 4-11
Carrigaline 1-5

Ballinacorney took the points in this Senior B Championships clash. Sinead O'Callaghan and Catriona Collins combined for the game's opening goal in the first five minutes while O'Callaghan also had the game's second goal eight minutes from half-time. Laura Thompson had three first half points for Carrigaline though Ballinacorney lead 2-4 to 0-3. Caroline O'Keefe and Sinead O'Callaghan exchanged goals as Carrigaline battled to stay in contention but it was Ballinacorney who held the advantage at full-time.

Ballinacorney: S. McCarthy, A. O'Riordan, M. Collins, M. Fleming, C. Fleming, M. Holland, E. O'Regan, E. O'Sullivan, D. Cullinane, C. Holland, D. Cooney, K. McCarthy, T. Holland, S. O'Callaghan, C. Collins.

Subs: D. O'Brien for M. Fleming (half-time), C. Reynolds for E. O'Regan (38 mins), A. O'Leary for D. Cullinane (43 mins), C. Finn for C. Fleming (53 mins), E. O'Brien for S. O'Callaghan (55 mins).

Carrigaline: A. Kiely, D. D. Leary, A. Collins, G. Harrington, M. Barry, S. Cotter, P. O'Keefe, M. Conlon, M. Moran, G. O'Keefe, C. O'Keefe (1), C. Fitzgerald, L. Thompson (0-5), 0-3 free, J. O'Keefe, U. O'Farrell.

Subs: H. Egan for A. Collins (43 mins).

Referee: W. Barrett (Aghabullogue).

CAMOGIE

Gals All-Ireland Senior Championship

Wexford 2-7 (U. Leary 1-1, K. Parrock 1-0, K. Kelly 0-4 (0-3), B. Curran, M. Heame 0-1 each) **Galway 0-10** (L. Kavanagh 0-7 (0-2), 0-5), V. Curtin, V. Curtin, B. Kerins, S. Gannon 0-1 each).

Tipperary 1-7 (C. Grogan 1-1 (1-0 penalty, 0-1), C. Hennessy, E. McDonnell 0-2 each, T. O'Halloran, L. Burke 0-1 each) **Kilkenny 0-4** (E. Fitzpatrick 0-2, M. Dorgan 0-1, J. Kennedy 0-1).

Cork 2-10 (C. Desmond 2-0, J. O'Leary 0-5 (0-3), A. Walsh 0-3, G. O'Connor, U. O'Donoghue 0-1 each) **Limerick 0-6** (E. O'Brien 0-4 (0-3), S. McAuliffe, A. Sheehan 0-1 each).

Senior 'B' c'ship:

Kilkenny 2-9 (L. Kavanagh, J. Nolan 1-0 each, C. Aylward 0-6 (0-1), 0-2), B. Neary, P. Heffernan, A. Gorey 0-1 each) **Tipperary 2-9** (D. Dunne 1-5 (0-3), 0-1), M. Lutterall, 1-1, N. Flanagan 0-2, A. McLoughney 0-1).

Wexford 2-7 Galway 0-13.

Tower View Developments Senior County Championship: - Milford 3-17 Barryroe 0-4; Kilbrittan 1-7 Courcey Rovers 1-7; Ballygarvan 6-7 Inniscarra 2-1; Muskerry 4-7 Carbery 3-9.

Tower View Developments Senior B championship: - Ballinacorney 4-11 Carrigaline 1-5.

Local derby tie should be a cracker

TONIGHT
Co SCC

Kilbrittain / Timoleague v
Courcey Rovers
Brinny 8pm

THE meeting of neighbours Kilbrittain / Timoleague and Courcey Rovers is sure to attract a big crowd to Brinny this evening for the Tower View Developments Senior Camogie Championship. Last year was Kilbrittain's first season in the higher ranks and they acquitted themselves well, taking the senior league trophy at the expense of Barryroe.

They welcome back three players to their panel this year; Maeve O'Sullivan, Siobhan Sexton and Valda Smith and this has helped to strengthen their panel.

Inter county player Miriam Deasy will be the one Courceys player to be keeping a close eye on. Former club stalwart Mary Brennan is a selector with Barry O'Sullivan while John Desmond is in charge of the coaching.

Courcey will go in as favourites given the inter county strength in their panel.

Rachel Moloney and Sara Hayes are members of the Cork senior squad while last season they lost out narrowly to St Finbarr's and they will be focused on putting one over on their neighbours. Former Newtownshandrum player Lisa Kelleher who led UCC to Ashbourne cup success has transferred to the club and she is a huge asset while they welcome back several players who did not play last season including former Cork Junior player Aine O'Regan.

TONIGHT
Senior B Championship
Ballinhassig v Carrigaline
Brinny 8.45pm

The format of the senior B championship is a round robin with teams in two sections playing off on a league basis, the top two in each section contesting the semi-finals. An all south east meeting in the opening game as Ballinhassig and Carrigaline opens proceedings in Brinny at 8.45pm.

Ballinhassig are a strong side who have good performers in Cork player Eimear O'Sullivan, while Cork U16 Catriona Collins and Sinead O'Callaghan are both playing superbly at inter county level at the moment.

The side is captained by Maggie Collins whose father Kieran won senior county championship medals with Nemo Rangers.

Carrigaline are always strong championship campaigners and they are a side who have been building steadily over a number of years. Ann Kiely, Laura Thompson, Muireann Conlon, Clodagh Fitzgerald and Caroline O'Keeffe have plenty of experience and should not be overawed by a meeting with their divisional partners.



Christine O'Neill in action for Courcey Rovers in last night's Senior Camogie Championship game in Brinny.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Courceys come back to earn draw

Courcey Rovers
Kilbrittain / Timoleague

1-7 By MARY NEWMAN

Senior camogie championship

COURCEY ROVERS will be the first to admit that they got out of jail with this one.

A nail-biting finish earned them a second bite of the cherry in the Tower View Developments Cork Senior camogie championship in Brinny last night.

Kilbrittain will understandably be disappointed having led from the start only to be caught at the finish line when Sara Hayes' equaliser earned Courcey a deserved replay.

Deserved for the spirited manner in which they fought back but 20 minutes into the game one would be forgiven for wondering if Courcey's were going to make any shape at all.

Kilbrittain, leading 1-4 to no

score, were making all the running. Emer O'Sullivan, superb at centre back, mopped up any pressure Courceys applied.

Val O'Keeffe lorded it at mid field with Miriam Deasy scoring a trademark Deasy goal evading the defence and blasting to the net inside 13 minutes, three O'Keeffe opening points and one from Danielle O'Sullivan put them seven points ahead.

Courceys brought senior inter county player Rachel Moloney to centre forward in a direct switch with sister Shirley and the switch worked for both players. Rachel, now leading the Courcey attack and more importantly tying up the influential Emer O'Sullivan, while Shirley continued to do trojan work in the inside line.

Rachel Moloney pointed for Courcey's opening score on the

17th minute, Marion Murphy replied two minutes later but Courceys, led by the impressive Sara Hayes, were now beginning to grow in confidence.

Slowly Courceys cut the deficit Rachel Moloney striking three points and Sara Hayes one in between Miriam Deasy replied but this was to be Kilbrittain's last score from play as suddenly they lost their composure.

Courceys trailed by four points at the break and it remained so to the three quarter stage Rachel Moloney narrowing the margin in the 17th minute with the first score of the half. Val O'Keeffe pointed to put Kilbrittain four points ahead and with their defence continuing to soak up the pressure, it looked as if they would be safe, but credit Courceys and Sara Hayes who struck a perfect 45m free all the way to the net.

Now it was all Courceys. Rachel Moloney was narrowly wide from

play before Hayes shrugged aside the Kilbrittain defence to shoot confidently over the bar for the equaliser.

Courceys had a chance to win it but it would have been an injustice given the opening half display from a dogged Kilbrittain side.

Sara Hayes, Rachel and Shirley Moloney and the superb Christine O'Neill can take much credit for the Courceys fight back.

Kilbrittain will know that on another day a similar start will have to be maintained if victory is to be attained.

KILBRITTAIN / TIMOLEAGUE E O'Regan, C Deasy D Coughlan, A O'Sullivan, M O'Sullivan, Eimear O'Sullivan (c) Elish O'Sullivan, V O'Keeffe (0-4) 0-2 (free), L Kavanagh, Marion Murphy, Mary Murphy D O'Sullivan (0-1) C Deasy, M Deasy (1-2), S Sexton

SUBS M Moloney for L Kavanagh (56mins)
COURCEY ROVERS: A O'Brien, Cora Murphy, L Kelleher, G Twomey, C O'Neill, M O'Donovan, S O'Regan, S Hayes (1-2; 1-1 free), Claire Murphy (c), N Collins, S Quinn, S Downing S Moloney, U Quinn, R Moloney (0-5; 0-3 free)

Referee: C O Mahony St Finbarr's

Ballinhassig too strong for Carrigaline

Ballinhassig
Carrigaline

4-11
1-5

BALLINHASSIG never looked in danger of losing the points on offer in this round robin Tower View Developments Senior B camogie championship clash in Brinny last night.

Never the less they had to fight hard against a dogged Carrigaline side who despite losing can take heart from the spirited and disciplined performance of their players.

Youth was very much to the fore as Cork U16 players Catriona Collins and Sinead O'Callaghan played a huge part in Ballinhassig's victory, O'Callaghan setting up Collins for the games opening goal inside five minutes before grabbing the second herself after good work by Denise Cullinane eight minutes from half time.

Carrigaline's Laura Thompson kept her side in contention with three first half points but it was Ballinhassig who held the

By MARY NEWMAN
Senior B camogie

lead 2-4 to 0-3 on the turn over.

Carrigaline made the early running in the second half and they had Ballinhassig in sight with two pointed Laura Thompson frees before Catriona Collins replied to stretch the margin to six points.

Caroline O'Keeffe matched Sinead O'Callaghan's seventh minute goal as Carrigaline battled to stay in touch it

was to be their last score as the fitter Ballinhassig began to gain the upper hand, points from Deirdre Coomey, Collins (4) and Eimear O'Sullivan had them on the home straight before a long Deirdre Coomey shot found it was to the net.

A well deserved victory for Ballinhassig who now face a tough second round game against St Catherine's at Glen Rovers on Tuesday night. Carrigaline could be a much improved side come their second out-

ing against Valley Rovers on July 24.

BALLINHASSIG: S McCarthy, A O'Riordan M Collins (c), M Fleming, C Fleming, M Holland E O'Regan, E O'Sullivan, D Cullinane, C Holland D Coomey K Mc Carthy T Holland, S O'Callaghan C Collins
SUBS: D O'Brien for M Fleming (7/1), C Reynolds for E O'Regan (38mins) A O'Leary for D Cullinane (43mins) C Finn for C Fleming (53mins), E O'Brien for S O'Callaghan (55mins)

CARRIGALINE: A Kiely, D O'Leary, A Collins, G Harrington, M Barry, S Cotter P O'Keeffe, M Conlon, M Moran, G O'Keeffe, C O'Keeffe (1 goal), C Fitzgerald, L Thompson (0-5; 0-3 free) J O'Keeffe, U O'Farrell

SUB H Egan for A. Collins (43mins)
Referee: W Barrett Aghabullogue