

127

12
n.

25

135
g/m²



Ref no: 405431612

ALER~ROWNEY

st suitable for line and wash



406 x 305mm

Made by Daler~Rowney, Bracknell, England
www.daler-rowney.com

D
P
P
D
H

DEC. 2004
to
MARCH 2005

Triumphant Tipp prove their class as Cork girls sent packing



Elaine Burke, Cork, in action against Clara Gaynor, Tipperary.

Ray McManus/SPORTSFILE

Tipperary 2-11
Cork 0-9

Tipperary's sensational women of the moment wrote themselves into the history books yet again yesterday when beating arch-rivals Cork by a surprisingly large margin in the Centenary All-Ireland senior camogie final.

Not only will they be forever remembered for winning in this special anniversary year, but also

for taking their fifth title in six consecutive final appearances, prompting goalscoring captain Joanne Ryan to justifiably quip that the O'Duffy Cup was "going home".

Whatever about hurling – and some Tipp fans were still dizzy from their U21 mortification a night earlier – someone should stick up a road-sign pronto to celebrate the fact that the Premier county is certainly the undisputed 'Home of

Camogie' right now, and all other contenders can only read Tipperary's statistics and weep.

Ten of this side were playing when they won their first senior in 1999. On that exact same day, five years ago, Claire Grogan was in Mosney, winning a Community Games medal with Templemore.

Yesterday the Cashel senior star was out before 24,567 fans in Croke Park, coolly walloping over seven frees from all angles

and distances in her massive 0-9 All-Ireland final tally.

As she insisted afterwards that Tipp's backs were the real stars of the show, it was virtually impossible to believe that this composed wing-forward, who has just started her primary school teaching studies in 'Mary I' in Limerick and wakes up this morning with a fourth All-Ireland senior medal under her belt, is just 18.

The scoreline was perhaps a

little flattering because Cork actually pushed them possession-wise for long periods and scored as many points (five, though only one from play) as them in the second half.

The Rebelettes simply didn't have the forwards to penetrate their granite-like defence, and at the other end Tipp got on top in the half-forward line and bagged those vital goals – one in each half – and could even afford to miss an early first-half penalty.

Early on it looked like Cork's women might just repeat their 2002 victory, particularly with Gemma O'Connor and Vivienne Harris dominating midfield, and centre-forward Emer Dillon scoring 0-2

from play off Ciara Gaynor.

When Cork's goalie, Aoife Murray saved an Emer McDonnell penalty ten minutes after throw-in, things looked very promising indeed for a Cork double.

Ten minutes later the sides were level and Tipp had not yet scored from play. Then quicksilver Deirdre Hughes, the only current player who made the 'Team of the Century', pounced as only she can in a goalmouth and suddenly things looked very different.

On one of the few occasions in the match that Jill Horan got away from marker Joanne O'Callaghan to lay on a long ball to the square, Murray came

off her line early to block it and when it spilled loose in a huddle, a hand grabbed it, defenders saw that terrifying flash of Hughes' trademark blue helmet and the net bulged.

Two frees from Grogan and a super point from play from Emer McDonnell quickly gave Tipp a five-point (1-6 to 0-4) lead at half-time, turning to take the wind advantage.

Cork, to their credit, rallied again on the re-start and their topscorer Jennifer O'Leary (0-4) and Una O'Donoghue combined to leave just three points between the sides after 42 minutes and their efforts to break down the implacable Tipp full-back line of Suzanne Kelly,



Tipperary's captain, Joanne Ryan lifts the O'Duffy cup.

Pat Murphy/SPORTSFILE

Player of the Match Una O'Dwyer and Julie Kirwan, saw Elaine Burke and Anna Geary drafted in.

Cork's big problem was an inability to score from 40 or 50 yards out to open up the half-backs, something Tipperary did very effectively on the opposite 45m line.

Then came shades of déjà vu and last year's final when Cork were hit with a second goal; this time started by a clever flick from McDonnell to put captain Ryan through to finish after a brilliant solo. With six points between them, Cork had a huge mountain to climb in the final quarter and, as Tipp's confidence grew, it became insurmountable.

Grogan scored from both play and frees, and McDonnell picked off her second point to go nine points clear.

When Cork got a 20m free with six minutes left and opted to go low for the goal they needed the sliotar came flying back out at them with such haste that they immediately knew their dreams of a 21st title celebration and a men's and women's double were well and truly ended.

Cliona Foley

Report courtesy of the Irish Independent

SCORES

Tipperary: C Grogan 0-9 (7fs), J Ryan and D Hughes 1-0 each, E McDonnell 0-2.

Cork: J O'Leary 0-4 (3fs, 1'45), E Dillon 0-2, G O'Connor 0-2 (1f), U O'Donoghue 0-1.

Tipperary: J Delaney 9; S Kelly 9; U O'Dwyer 9; J Kirwan 7; S Nealon 7; C Gaynor 7; T Brophy 8; A McDermott 7; P Fogarty 6; N Kennedy 8; J Ryan (Capt) 8; C Grogan 8; E McDonnell 7; D Hughes 7; J Horan 6. Subs: P Biffin for Fogarty (57), G Kinane for Horan (61), E Hayden for Hughes (61).

Cork: A Murray 7; J O'Callaghan 8; S Dunlea (Capt) 7; R Holland 6; P O'Connor 6; M O'Connor 6; R Moloney 6; V Harris 8; G O'Connor 9; R Moloney 6; E Dillon 7; J O'Leary 7; U O'Donoghue 7; E Watson 5; C Desmond 5. Subs: E Burke for Watson 5; C Desmond 5. Subs: E Burke for Watson (37 mins), A Geary for Desmond (41).

Ref U Kearney (Armagh).

DEC.
2004

O'Connor's Rebel tour de force

Máire Uí Scolai

WHEN Cork star Gemma O'Connor heard of her All Star award on Saturday night she was far from the CityWest Hotel, in fact she got word of her award in far off Liberia.

O'Connor who had a great season in the red and white of Cork was among three Rebels players included in the 2004 All Star.

A packed CityWest Hotel enjoyed the inaugural All Star banquet where Minister for Finance Brian Cowen was the guest of honour and presented the 15 All Stars with their awards.

Midfielder O'Connor is currently on a six-month tour of duty with the Irish army and in her absence her award was accepted by her mother Geraldine.

Hoping for good news Gemma rang her mother in CityWest on Saturday night and Geraldine reported that "when I told her of the great news I could hear the shouts of glee in the background, she was simply delighted to be chosen for her award".

However, the night belonged to Foras na Gaeilge champions Tipperary who topped the bill with six award winners.

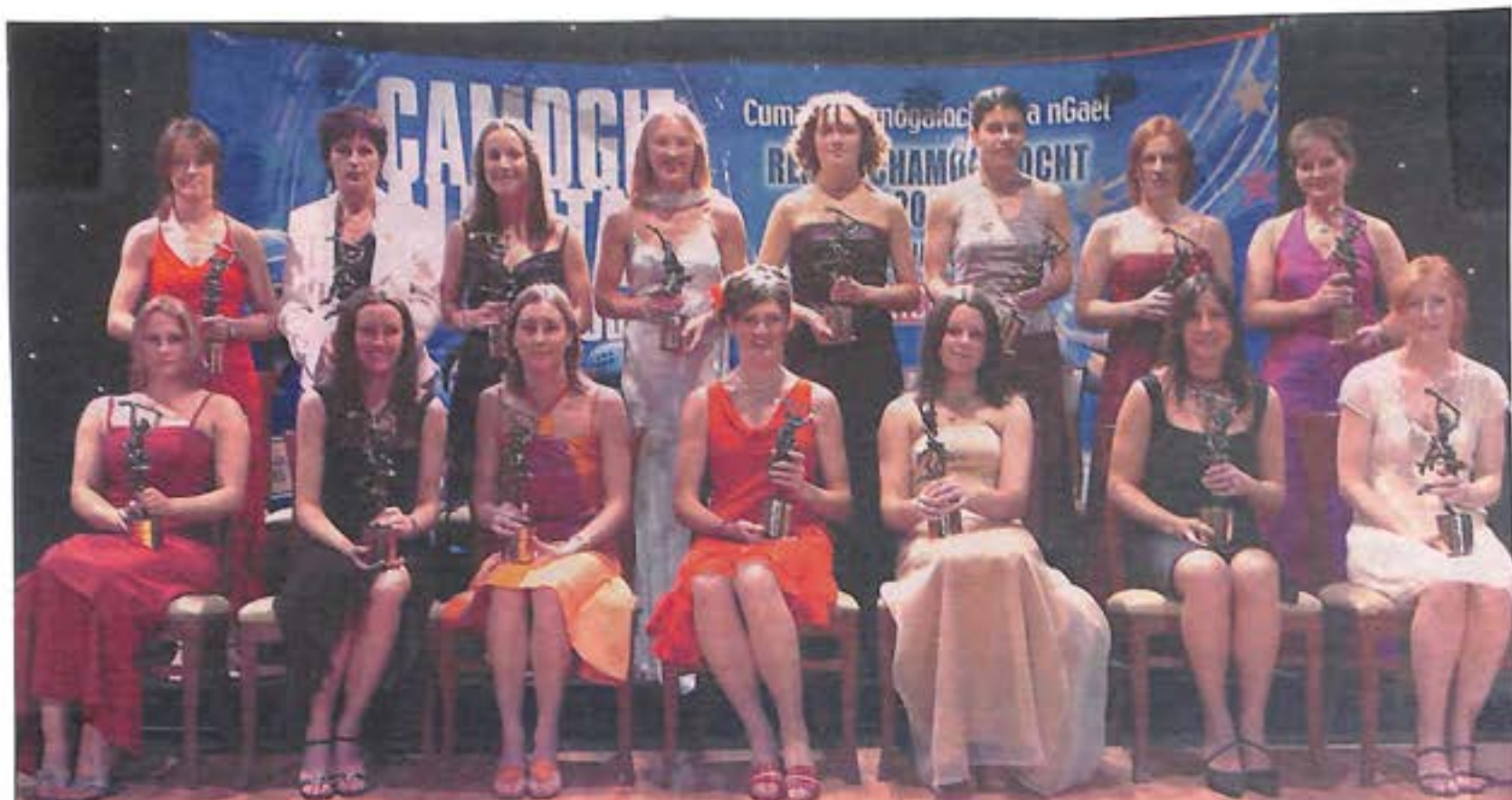
For full-back Una O'Dwyer it was the icing on the cake. The talented defender swept the boards this season with the following awards; Texaco, Vodafone, Mitsubishi and the player of the match in this year's All-Ireland final.

The other Premier County players to receive the first ever All Star awards went to Claire Grogan, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy and Suzanne Kelly.

For Tipperary's full-forward Deirdre Hughes it was the end to a perfect season as not only did she win her fifth senior All-Ireland medal, but she was the only present day player to be chosen on the 'Team of the Century' earlier this year.

All Star team: Aoife Murray (Cork), Suzanne Kelly (Tipperary), Una O'Dwyer (Tipperary), Aine Codd (Wexford), Mary Leacy (Wexford), Ciara Gaynor (Tipperary), Therese Brophy (Tipperary), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork), Máirín McAleenan (Down), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Anne-Marie Hayes (Galway), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary), Sinéad Millea (Kilkenny).

International Player of the Year: Annette McGeeney (Roscommon and Sligo IT College).
Young Player of the Year: Stephanie Gannon (Galway).



The 2004 Camogie All Star team. BACK: Kate Kelly (Wexford), Geraldine O'Connor, representing her daughter Gemma (Cork), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork), Máirín McAleenan, (Down), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Ann Marie Hayes (Galway), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary) and Sinéad Millea (Kilkenny). FRONT: Aoife Murray (Cork), Suzanne Kelly (Tipperary), Una O'Dwyer (Tipperary), Aine Codd, (Wexford) Mary Leacy (Wexford), Ciara Gaynor (Tipperary) and Therese Brophy (Tipperary). Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

Munster get lion's share of camogie Allstar awards

by Máire Uí Scolai

AS expected, Munster dominated the first Camogie All-stars in association with O'Neills, which were announced on Saturday night.

Tipperary, who enjoyed the hat-trick of championship, League and Munster championship topped the poll with six awards. First Tipperary player on stage was corner back Suzanne Kelly who was hotly followed by full-back Una O'Dwyer.

This award marked what has been a great year for Una as she was awarded the Texaco, Vodafone, Irish Times Mitsubishi, Irish Star and was also named the RTE player of the match in this year's All-Ireland final.

The remaining Premier county awards went to star forward Claire Grogan and Deirdre Hughes, which rounded off a great year for her as she was named on the team of the century, thus becoming the only present day player to be awarded such a great honour.

Cork and Wexford got



Full-back Una O'Dwyer won an Allstar award.

three All-Stars each — Rebel keeper Aoife Murray was joined by midfielder Gemma O'Connor, who is presently in Liberia on a tour of duty with the Irish Army for six months. However, she did not have to wait too long to find out the good news.

Her Mother Geraldine accepted the award on her behalf. A phone call from Liberia before the night was too old from Gemma herself allowed her mum to give her the good news.

The third Cork All-Star

went to attacker Jennifer O'Leary, who had her best game of the championship possibly in this year's All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford.

Wexford's three All-Stars were Aine Codd, Mary Leacy and Kate Kelly.

The remaining awards went to Galway where Anne Marie Hayes, niece of former full-back Conor Hayes, won Galway their first award while Kilkenny's Sinéad Millea was also selected. The only Ulster player to feature was Down's Máirín McAleenan.

Young Player of the Year went to Galway minor winning keeper, Stephanie Gannon. The first International award to Annette McGeeney of Sligo IT.

Camogie All-Stars: A Murray (Cork), S Kelly (Tipperary), U O'Dwyer (Tipperary), A Codd (Wexford), M Leacy (Wexford), C Gaynor (Tipperary), T Brophy (Tipperary), K Kelly (Wexford), G O'Connor (Cork), J O'Leary (Cork), M McAleenan (Down), C Grogan (Tipperary), A M Hayes (Galway), D Hughes (Tipperary), S Millea (Kilkenny).

International Player of the year: A McGeeney (Roscommon and Sligo IT College).

Young Player of the Year: S Gannon (Galway).

Six of the best for Tipperary

ALL-IRELAND champions Tipperary have six players on the first ever camogie All-Stars team, which was announced last night in CityWest Hotel.

Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy, Claire Grogan were joined by Deirdre Hughes, who earlier this year was chosen on the Team of the Century.

Defeated All-Ireland finalists Cork had three players honoured; goalkeeper Aoife Murray, midfielder Gemma O'Connor and forward Jennifer O'Leary.

League finalists Wexford also took three places, defenders Aine Codd, Mary Leacy and midfielder Kate Kelly.

The only Ulster player, Máirín McAleenan from Down, took the centre forward spot, while Ann Marie Hayes, niece of former Galway full-back Conor was chosen at right corner forward, with Sinéad Millea keeping the Kilkenny flag flying at left corner-forward.

Camogie All-Star Team: A Murray (Cork), S Kelly (Tipperary), U O'Dwyer (Tipperary), A Codd (Wexford), M Leacy (Wexford), C Gaynor (Tipperary), T Brophy (Tipperary), K Kelly (Wexford), G O'Connor (Cork), J O'Leary (Cork), M McAleenan (Down), C Grogan (Tipperary), A M Hayes (Galway), D Hughes (Tipperary), S Millea (Kilkenny).
International Player of the Year: A McGeeney (Roscommon and Sligo IT College).
Young Player of the Year: S Gannon (Galway).

CAMOGIE

Munster Colleges, Senior B championship quarter-finals: Nenagh 3-8 Borrisoleigh 4-3; Clonakilty 4-12 Christ King 4-6. **Intermediate A league semi-final:** Borrisoleigh 4-4 Borrisokane 2-4. **Intermediate B championship semi-final:** Laurel Hill 3-2 Blarney 2-4. **C championship semi-final:** Mallow 7-7 Kiltinane 0-2. **U16/12 A championship semi-final:** Cobh 5-0 Corbally 3-0. **B championship semi-final:** Millstreet 6-6 North Pres 0-3; Newcastlewest 3-7 Bruff 0-9. **Junior A semi-final:** Scariff 2-1 Bandon 0-2. **B quarter-finals:** Ennis 3-8 Coachford 2-5; Cashel 1-1 Mercy Waterford 3-4. **Junior C:** Laurel Hill 4-2 Ballingarry 0-1; Kinsale 3-4 Col Choilm 2-3. **First Year:** Cashel 5-4 Thurles 1-3. **Cork Colleges: Senior B quarter-final:** Carrigaline 2-9 Christ King 2-7; St Als 4-7 Bandon 2-3. **Intermediate A semi-final:** Midleton 1-5 Col Choilm 1-4. **Junior C quarter-final:** Glanmire 0-6 Midleton 2-6. **U16/12A:** Col Eoin 3-6 North Pres 1-0.



Aine Codd prevents Tipperary's Emily Hayden from making progress in this year's first division National League final in Kilkenny's Nowlan Park. (Pic. Jim Campbell).



DEC.
2004

Allstar salute for Cork's Gemma

HONOURED in her absence.

By **JOHN HORGAN**
Camogie Focus

That was Cork senior camogie star Gemma O'Connor at last Saturday night's glittering All-Star banquet at the City West Hotel.

The St Finbarr's midfielder was one of three Cork girls selected on this year's

ABOVE: Cork Allstar winners, from left, Aoife Murray, Geraldine O'Connor, representing daughter Gemma and Jennifer O'Leary at the 2004. Right: Gemma who is currently in Liberia with the Irish Army.

team but she was unable to be present at the awards ceremony.

She is currently on a tour of duty in Liberia with the Irish army and her mother Geraldine was on hand to accept her richly deserved award.

Cloughduv's Aoife Murray received an All-Star for her outstanding contribution in goal during Cork's march to the All-Ireland final where they lost to Tipperary.

Barryroe's Jennifer O'Leary was also chosen for her role at wing-forward in the red and white colours.

All-Ireland champions Tipperary dominated the winners list, receiving six awards, while there was also recognition for Galway, Wexford and Down.



Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen, pictured alongside Miriam O'Callaghan (r), President of Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael and Suzanne Kelly of Tipperary.



Wexford ace Mary Leacy in action against fellow All-Star Clara Gaynor (Tipperary) during last May's National League Division 1 final in Kilkenny. (Pic. Jim Campbell).



The 2004 Camogie All-Star team, back from left, Kate Kelly, Wexford, Geraldine O'Connor, Cork, representing her daughter Gemma O'Connor, Jennifer O'Leary, Mairin McAleenan, Down, Claire Grogan, Tipperary, Ann Marie Hayes, Galway, Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary and Sinead Millea, Kilkenny. Front, from left, Aoife Murray, Cork, Suzanne Kelly, Tipperary, Una O'Dwyer, Tipperary, Aine Codd, Wexford, Mary Leacy, Wexford, Clara Gaynor, Tipperary and Therese Brophy, Tipperary. Citywest Hotel, Dublin. Picture: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

DOUBLE FOR VALLEY ROVERS

VALLEY Rovers added the Junior A league title to their championship crown to make it a memorable year for the Innishannon club. Earlier in the year Valley Rovers took the county championship title and it they were very determined go to add the league title to their impressive haul as they faced a determined Douglas side.

Majella McCarthy helped the county champions hold a slender

one point advantage at the break after grabbing an early goal. Mary Harrington has a Douglas goal before the break but Elaine Burke with two points edged the county champions ahead before the half time whistle while Amanda O'Regan pointed for Douglas.

On the resumption Douglas battled to get on level terms but they had to contend with good defensive play from a disciplined Valley Rovers defence. Up front Valley Rovers held the upper hand with Elaine Burke and Liz Bugler edging them further ahead with points. Amanda O'Regan pointed a Douglas free but Elaine Burke and Liz Bugler again had points for Valley Rovers to maintain the advantage. Douglas threw everything at the Valleys defence in quest of victory but with the double now in their sights Valley Rovers held firm to record a historic double.

UNDER 18 CHAMPIONSHIP REACHED CONCLUSION

Milford booked their place in the under 18 A championship final after the recorded a good victory over St Catherine's. Eire OG's impressive season continues as they booked their place in the B Final defeating St Finbarr's, in the C semi final there were wins for Kilbrittan and Killeagh.

CLOUGHDUV RETAIN TITLE

CLOUGHDUV retained the Junior Shield title edging out neighbours Aghbullogue but they had to call on all their experience in a close contest. Aghbullogue led at the break 1-6 to 1-3 but a superb second half display ensured victory.

Marie Noonan had Aghbullogue in the lead with two early points but an Eileen Bradley goal edged Cloughduv into the lead. Marie Noonan replied with an Aghbullogue goal and thanks to her accuracy from frees Aghbullogue stayed in contention as she notched up three inside the closing quarter of the half. Catherine Corkery and Jean Lucey contributing three between them for Cloughduv but it was

Aghbullogue who held the upper hand at the break.

From the start of the second half Cloughduv set about cutting the deficit and they had it down to just two points thanks to a Jean Lucey point before Eileen Bradley put them in front with her second goal. Abbey Lehané pointed to keep Aghbullogue in contention and Marie Noonan and Catherine Corkery exchanging points both sides worked hard for supremacy. With the game heading into injury time Cloughduv won a vital free which Catherine Corkery pointed with seconds remaining was enough to see Cloughduv retain their crown but not before a close call.



Cork All Star award winners, Aoife Murray, Geraldine O'Connor, representing her daughter Gemma and Jennifer O'Leary. Picture: SPORTSFILE

THREE ALL STAR AWARDS FOR CORK

THE announcement of the first Camogie All Stars on Saturday evening last saw Cork annex three awards, as expected National league and All Ireland champions Tipperary picked up six accolades with Cork and Wexford getting three each while Galway, Kilkenny and Down had one.

Three awards was probably a true reflection on a year where failure to make it to the national league final and a disastrous All Ireland final defeat at the hand of Tipperary saw the senior side finish the year empty handed.

Aoife Murray who had a splendid year in the Cork goal through the national league and championship campaign was named in goal and was a worthy recipient edging out Tipperary's Jovita Delaney.

Gemma O'Connor who is presently in peach keeping duty with the Irish troops in Liberia was represented by her mother Geraldine who accepted the award on behalf of the St Finbarr's mid fielder who seldom put a foot wrong during 2004. The third Cork recipient was impressive corner forward Jennifer O'Leary from the Barryroe club. A stylish attacker Jennifer has been consistently Cork top scorer during the season and was the only Cork forward to make the All Star team.

Tipperary's six All Stars went to Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Clara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Claire Grogan and Deirdre Hughes but a surprise omission was Jill Horan who had a tremendous first season in the Tipp colours and indeed also impressing in the Cork county championship in the colours of U.C.C.

Wexford while not taking any major trophies continued to make huge strides and this was certainly reflected with three All Stars. Aine Codd, Kate Kelly and Mary Lacey are names to watch out for.

Kilkenny's Sinead Millea has without been one of the counties most consistent players in the last number of seasons and this was recognised with selection. Galway's Ann Marie Hayes ensures a family tradition was maintained following in the footsteps of her famous uncle Conor Hayes as she picked up the counties first camogie All star. There were plenty of celebrations in Down with Mairin McAleenan who lined out at forward in the All Ireland junior final against Cork a surprise choice on the team.

Also named on the night was the International player of the year and that was Roscommon's Annette Mc Geeney while the Young Player of the Year was Sinead Gannon from Galway.



Jennifer O'Leary of Cork is presented with her All-Star award by Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen TD, and Miriam O'Callaghan, President of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, at the 2004 Camogie All-Star Awards. Citywest Hotel, Dublin. Picture: SPORTSFILE

96/103FM ROCHESTOWN PARK SPORTS AWARDS

The county board officers enjoyed a very pleasant evening at the Rochestown Park on Monday last when the 96/103 Fm Sports Star for 2004 was announced. Earlier in the month the board had been honoured with the award for December and chairperson Marion McCarthy represented the county as Ben O'Connor was named as the overall winner. It was great to see a great captain honoured and on behalf of everybody associated with Cork Camogie congratulations to Ben and the O'Connor family on a marvellous achievement.



Camogie Recipients Jenny Murphy, St Finbarr's, Cork; Mairéad Kelly, Galbally, Limerick; Guest of Honour Irish International Hockey Player Rachel Kohler; and Brenda Hanney, Killimor, Galway; at the Cork Institute of Technology Sports Bursaries, held at the Gresham Metropole Hotel, Cork City. Picture: Neil Danton / News Digital 086 828 9239 / 021 484 0230

DEC 2004



Tipperary All-Star award winners (l. to r.) — Therese Brophy, Una O'Dwyer, Ciara Gaylor, Deirdre Hughes, Suzanne Kelly and Claire Grogan at the 2004 Camogie All-Star Awards, Citywest Hotel, Dublin. Picture: Brendan Meehan/SPORTSFILE

Camogie — by Marion Graham

Tipperary tops with six All-Stars

TIPPERARY'S great camogie year was reflected handsomely in the selection of six players on the inaugural All Stars team in association with O'Neills, announced at a banquet on Saturday night in City West Hotel, Dublin.

Having received eleven nominations it was fair to say that Tipp would achieve a handsome figure when the selection team moved in to action. So it was; four defenders and two forwards being honoured for their contribution to a great camogie season in its centenary year.

For full back Una O'Dwyer, it was the icing on the cake. The talented defender swept the boards this season with the following awards — Texaco, Vodafone, Mitsubishi and the player of the match in this year's All-Ireland Final. The other Premier County players to receive the first ever All-Star awards were Claire Grogan, Ciara Gaylor, Therese Brophy and Suzanne Kelly. For Tipperary's full forward Deirdre Hughes, it was the end to a perfect season as not only did she win her fifty senior All-Ireland medal, but she was the only present day player to be chosen on the Team of the Century earlier this year. They received their statuettes, which were sculpted by Tipperary town native Jarlath Daly, from Brian Cowan T.D. Minister for Finance.

Several hundred people gathered in the popular Saggart venue for the event that marked the end of a highly successful camogie centenary year. Tipperary's strong contingent was led by County Board chairperson Stephen Fitzgerald and also included team manager Raymie Ryan and his co-selectors Marion Graham and Conor Ryan.

GAA President Sean Kelly was also present as

was the GAA's Patron Archbishop Dermot Clifford.

Prior to the commencement of the banquet, the forty-five All Star nominees from fifteen counties entered the vast banqueting hall, (each bearing a rose) to a standing ovation from those present.

Presenters for the evening were Michael Lyster (RTE)

and Mairead Ni Ghormain (BBX).

All were welcomed by Camogie President, Miriam O'Callaghan, who in thanking all associated with the organisation of the glittering event paid special tribute to Liz Howard for her attention to detail which ensured that the evening was an enjoyable one for all.

Tipp had eleven nominees in all, the unlucky ones being Jovita Delaney, Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon, Eimear McDonnell and Jill Horan.

A memorable ending indeed to a memorable year for camogie. Tipperary's six All Stars was no more than might be expected from a county that has given the game a new

impetus in recent years.

Roll on the second century and a continuance of Tipp's great contribution to the game at all levels.

CAMOGIE FIXTURES:

U-18 'A' County Final next Saturday in The County Camogie Grounds at 12 noon — Cashel v. Drom & Inch.



Josie Knowles has given 36 years of her life as sacristan in Ballintotas church. "If I wasn't getting up on a Sunday morning to come down here it just wouldn't be like Sunday," she says.

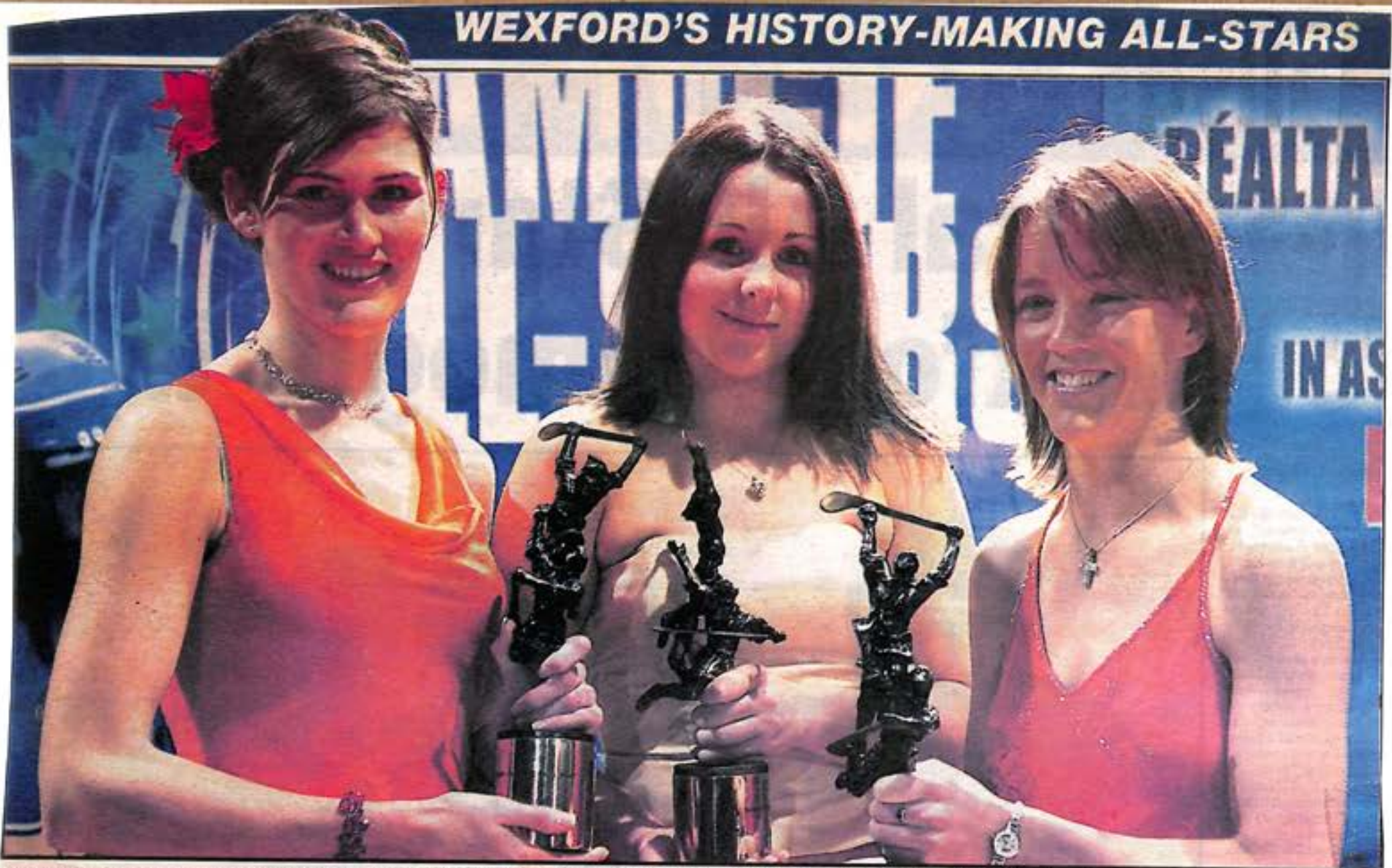
Josie Knowles has given 36 years of her life as sacristan in this church. "If I wasn't getting up on a Sunday morning to come down here, it just wouldn't be like Sunday," she says. She first took the job when she had a young baby and another on the way. "I was very young, only two years married. I wouldn't have had a clue what the job entailed but you just pick it up as you go along. You'd have other visiting priests and the bishop and that was a daunting task for someone young. I was a very outdoors, sporty type of person and when the bishop would be coming I'd have to wear a skirt and I'd have to go looking for one."

"In all my years, I can't think of any cranky priest. They all had their different styles and they were all very human," she says, adding that as her children got older she could rely on them to open or lock up for her. Her sons are now in their 30s and Dominic Knowles is manager of Ballintotas FC. "The safest job in football," says Jerry Smyth, secretary of the soccer club and a 1986



All smiles at the recent Texaco Sportstars of the Year awards ceremony... Tipperary's Camogie full-back Una O'Dwyer pictured after being presented with her award by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD and Texaco Country Chairman Paul Martin.

WEXFORD'S HISTORY-MAKING ALL-STARS



Wexford's three representatives on the first-ever camogie All-Stars (l-r) Áine Codd, Mary Leacy and Kate Kelly at last Saturday night's award banquet in Dublin Citywest hotel. (Pic. Brendan Moran/SPORTSFILE).

Our All-Star Heroine's



Mary Leacy of Wexford is presented with her All-Star award by Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen TD, and Miriam O'Callaghan, President of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, at the 2004 Camogie All-Star Awards. Citywest Hotel, Dublin.



Kate Kelly of Wexford is presented with her All-Star award by Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen TD, and Miriam O'Callaghan, President of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, at the 2004 Camogie All-Star Awards. Citywest Hotel, Dublin.



Áine Codd of Wexford is presented with her All-Star award by Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen TD, and Miriam O'Callaghan, President of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, at the 2004 Camogie All-Star Awards. Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

Camogie All-Star Awards

GERALDINE O'Connor (on behalf of her daughter Gemma) (top right), Jennifer O'Leary (bottom right) and Aoife Murray (below) collect their All Star awards from Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen TD, and Miriam O'Callaghan, President of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael, at the 2004 Camogie All-Star Awards. Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

Pictures: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE



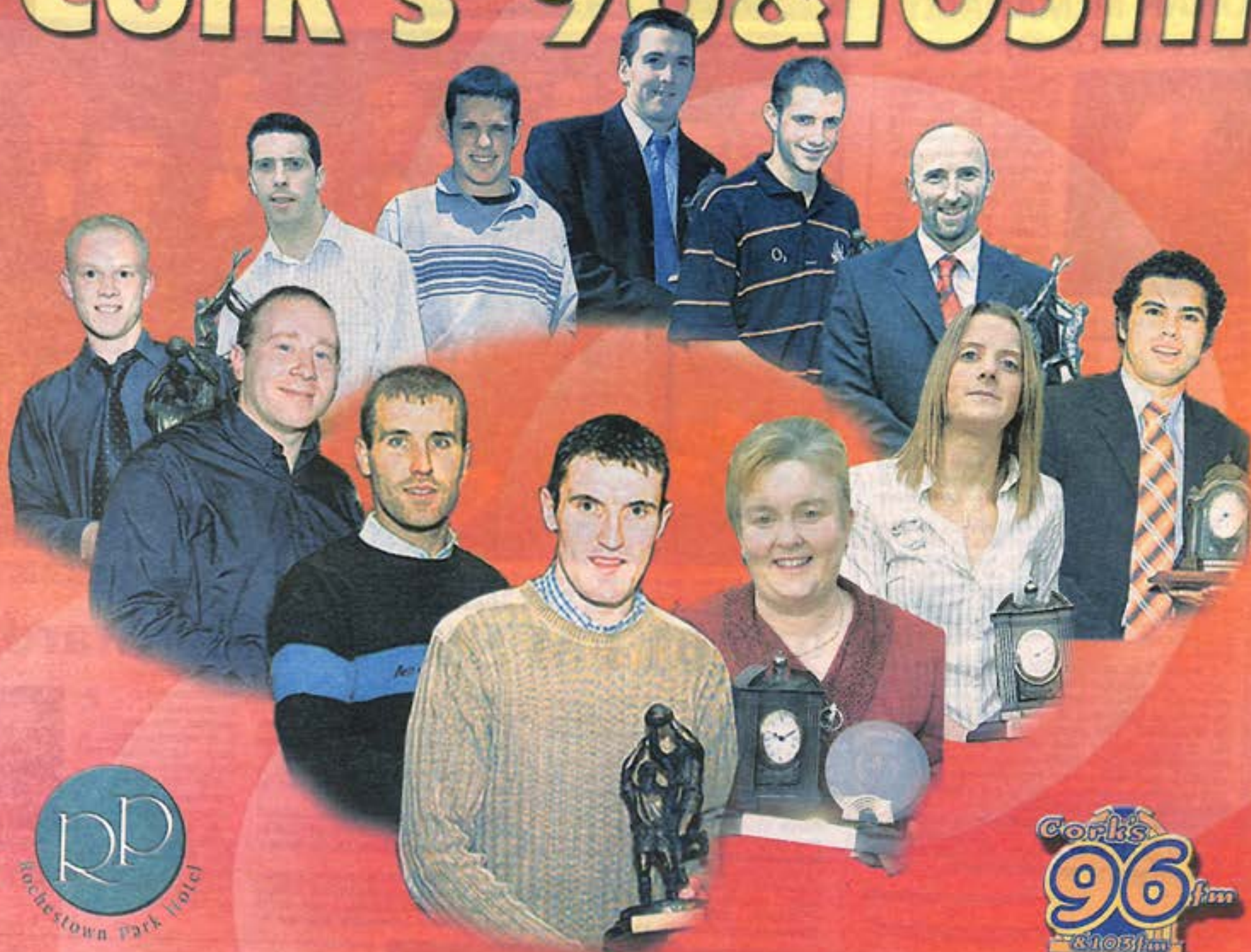
Cork Camogie Board

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

Juvenile Board

Chairman:	Tracy Sheehan	Mayfield
Vice-Chairperson:	Kathleen Healy	Cloughdubh
Secretary:	Mary O'Sullivan	Brian Dillons
Treasurer:	Bina O'Callaghan	Cloughdubh
P.R.O:	Ann Marie Healy	Cloughdubh
Registrar:	Evonne Long	Ballygarvan

Cork's 96&103fm



Inside
CORK

GAA Sports Star Awards

CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

96/103 FM - ROCHESTOWN PARK AWARD

ON Monday last the Cork Camogie Board were honoured by being named the December winners of the 96/103 FM Sports award in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel.

The award was presented in recognition of the Boards outstanding contribution to the association's centenary year celebrations the highlight of which was the capturing of the Junior All-Ireland title, it was accepted on the board's behalf by Chairperson Marion McCarthy who of the many people who have contributed down through the years to making Cork camogie the strong entity it is today



The Cork Camogie Board Officials who were named the December winners of the 96/103 FM Sports Star Award in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel.
Picture: Ger Bonus

UNDER 18 CHAMPIONSHIPS REACH SEMI'S

IT'S a busy weekend for the under 18's with competitions at semi-final stage all down for decision on either Saturday or Sunday.

In the 'A' championship Milford will host St Catherines, while in the 'B' semi-final St Finbarrs are in action in

Togher against Eire OG.

Neighbours Kilbrittan are up against Barryroe in the 'C' semi-final while Ballinascarty have to make the journey to Killeagh in the second semi-final.

CONVENTION TIME

COUNTY convention take place this evening in Paire Uí Rinn at 7.30p.m.

There will be just one election for officer ship with the outgoing Runai Pat Murray facing opposition from Tina Sheehan of the Douglas club.

Also on the agenda is the election of selectors for the inter-county teams while there are ten motions down for discussion.

Camogie honoured



Cork Camogie Board

Camogie Centenary Year was marked in fine style by a vibrant and efficient Board, a Gala Banquet, a fabulous Senior county final and most important of all the Junior team win the All-Ireland title in Croke Park with a emphatic win over Down.

honour their contribution to Camogie's Centenary Year in which they played a huge part. Highlighted by the winning of the All-Ireland Junior title under the inspirational captaincy of Valerie O'Keeffe who was present.

Board Chairperson Marion Mc Carthy accepted the award and in doing so paid tribute to all who had made the year such a success especially her fellow officers who worked tirelessly on a number of specific events.

The Centenary Banquet



Marion McCarthy, Chairperson of Cork Camogie Board, who were December winners.

was an outstanding success, at which former officers, winning captains and coaches were suitably honoured.

Liam Lally General Manager of the Rochestown Park Hotel said he was delighted that Juliet and the Camogie Board were been honoured and congratulated the recipients on their achievements, and wished them further success in the future.

He also announced that such has been the success of the awards scheme that his fervent wish was for it to

continue and the Rochestown Park Hotel would be only too delighted to remain involved.

County Board Chairman Jim Forbes congratulated the winners and said both sports were making a wonderful contribution to the association in Cork and thanked them for their ongoing work, and like everyone was really looking forward to next week's dinner at which the overall winner will be announced.

Also in attendance was PRO John Motherway, John Cashman 103 FM's big match commentator, Eddie Lyons and Bob Honohan Inside Cork, Sile Golden Camogie Board President, Nora Newman Vice-President and Linda Mellerick Camogie ambassador for Cork in Centenary Year.

It's all systems go for Monday's Banquet and once again our thanks to all who participated in our quiz on Sunday and congratulations to those lucky enough to win tickets to join us, along with GAA President Sean Kelly and comedian Jon Kenny at what promises to be a great night, to bring the first year of the awards to fitting conclusion.



Camogie officials - Mary Newman, Mary Bugler & Noreen Daly enjoy the December lunch.

DEC. 2004

To complete the list December's award went to the Cork Camogie Board to



Camogie officials Pat Murray, Valerie O'Keeffe, Kay Dunne and Marion McCarthy celebrate Camogie's success in December.

CAMOGIE

February 5th-6th: Purcell Cup Queen's Belfast
15th: Ashbourne Cup Waterford IT
27th: National League Division One: Dublin v Cork; Kilkenny v Tipperary Division Two: Dublin v Cork; Kilkenny v Tipperary
March 6th: Division One: Galway v Antrim; Wexford v Limerick; Division Two: Galway v Antrim; Wexford v Limerick; Cavan v Waterford; Wicklow v Roscommon; Offaly v Cork; Westmeath v Meath
13th: Division One: Cork v Kilkenny; Tipperary v Limerick
Division Two: Cork v Kilkenny; Tipperary v Dublin; Galway v Kildare; Wicklow v Cavan; Armagh v Laois; Clare v Down; Carlow v Down
20th: Division One: Antrim v Wexford; Limerick v Galway
Division Two: Antrim v Wexford; Limerick v Galway; Dublin v Offaly; Roscommon v Cavan; Waterford v Westmeath
27th: Division One: Kilkenny v Dublin; Cork v Tipperary
Division Two: Kilkenny v Dublin; Meath v Tipperary; Carlow v Armagh; Derry v Down; Laois

v Clare; Kildare v Limerick
April 2nd: Pan Celtic Tournament, Tralee
8th-9th: Annual Congress, Cork
April 10th: Galway v Wexford; Antrim v Limerick; Division Two: Offaly v Tipperary; Waterford v Roscommon; Meath v Cavan; Westmeath v Wicklow
17th: Playoffs Kilkenny v Offaly; Wexford v Kildare; Clare v Armagh; Down v Carlow; Laois v Derry; Meath v Waterford; Roscommon v Westmeath
May
1st: Division One semi-finals
15th: Division One League Final; Division Two League semi-finals
29th: Division Two League Final
September 18th: Senior/Junior All-Ireland Camogie Finals



The Tipperary team which defeated Cork in the 2004 Camogie Final

Back (L-R): P. Ní Allúráin, D. Nic Dhomhnaill, L. Ní Bhraoin, A. Nic Dhiarmada, S. Ní Cheallaigh, N. Ní Chinnéide, T. Ní Bhróithe, C. Ní Ghrúagáin, S. Ní Chiarbháin, C. Nic Fhionnbhair, M. Ní Chorcoráin, L. de Siún, F. Ní Fhógartaigh, J. Ní Dhubhshláine.

Front (L-R): (l-r): E. Ní Riain, G. Ní Choinneáin, N. Ní Chonghaile, P. Ní Bhuilfin, D. Nic Aodha, E. Ní Eideáin, S. Ní Nialláin, J. Ní hÓráin, Ú. Ní Dhuibhir, E. Nic Dhomhnaill, L. de Búrca, S. Ní Nualláin, S. Ní Riain (Capt).



Victorious captains meet after 27 year gap. 1976 captain Mary Barrett congratulates 2003 captain Paul Bullin when the Munster Senior Cup was brought to the Premier County after a lapse of 26 years.

Killeagh take u-18 camogie crown

Killeagh 4-7
Kilbrittan/Timoleague 4-6

by Mary Newman

KILLEAGH had to withstand a late rally from a determined Kilbrittan/Timoleague side before being crowned under 18 C camogie county champions on Saturday.

A goal from the impressive Eanna O'Neill at the midway stage helped Killeagh get back into the game after they had fallen five points behind. Killeagh had been first to score thanks to a Noelle O'Donovan point but with Marion Murphy and Orla O'Regan putting three points on the scoreboard, Kilbrittan dictated matters. They continued to do so with Aidleen Breen getting the game's opening goal 12 minutes in before O'Neill rallied Killeagh with her goal. From here to the half-time whistle

it was nip and tuck as Kilbrittan extending their advantage thanks to points from Marion Murphy and Orla O'Regan. But Killeagh dug deep and three points without reply from Noelle O'Donovan, Joanne Mc Carthy and Lisa Rohan had the sides level 1-5 at the interval.

Marion Murphy pointed a free to edge Kilbrittan ahead on the resumption but Eanna O'Neill gave Killeagh the lead for the first time in the game as she finished to the net. Noelle O'Donovan pointed to stretch the lead but Kilbrittan rallied and were back on level as Marion Murphy struck 30 metres free to the net.

For 11 minutes the sides battled to gain the lead and we had to wait until nine minutes from full time before a flurry of goal decided the outcome.

Niamh Loughlin finished to the net following good work by the Killeagh attack and from the puck out they grabbed their fourth goal thanks to Caoimhe

Harnedy. Noelle O'Donovan added a point and there looked no way back for Kilbrittan.

Showing tremendous fighting spirit they continued to apply the pressure and inside a minute they had the deficit down to a point. Marion Murphy finished a penalty to the net and from the puck out again won possession and Danielle O'Sullivan finished to the net, however this time there was time for no more as Killeagh gladly celebrated at the final whistle. For Kilbrittan it was heart-break having come so close to almost snatching a draw.

Killeagh: A Hegarty, A M O'Neill, C O'Brien, A Murray, L Rohan, M Hegarty, A Fitzgerald, K Walsh, C Walsh, N O'Donovan, N Loughlin, J A Mc Carthy, C Harnedy, E O'Neill, P Fitzgerald

Kilbrittan: A Desmond, V Smith, A M O'Mahony, J O'Donovan, T O'Sullivan, M Murphy, D Hegarty, A O'Sullivan, E O'Mahony, D O'Sullivan, O. O'Regan, F Whelan, A O'Regan, A Breen, K O'Sullivan. Sub: S Hurley for E O'Regan

Referee: C Egan Glen Rovers

CAMOGIE APPOINTMENT:

Former Tipperary minor hurling coach Paddy McCormack will be in charge of the Tipperary camogie team next year as they defend their all-Ireland and National League titles.

The Thurles Sarsfields man was appointed at the Tipperary Camogie Convention in Thurles yesterday, having retired as Tipperary minor hurling coach last September.

He takes over from former hurling star Raymie Ryan of Cashel, who retired after last September's grand slam by Tipperary of national senior camogie titles.

Officers elected: chairman: Stephen Fitzgerald, vice-chairperson: Biddy Phillips, secretary: Joan Harkin, treasurer: Rose Mannion, PRO: Marion Graham.

Milford outclass title challengers

Milford 9-12
Ballyhea 0-3

FIVE in a row for Milford as they retained their under 18 A camogie county championship title against a spirited Ballyhea side. Leading at half time 5-5 to 0-2 Milford showed their class with two goals from Cliona Galvin and one each from Ashling Thompson and Emer and Aine Watson. Mary Coleman and Edwina Waters pointed for Ballyhea.

In the second half Milford's Ashling Thompson grabbed three goals and Emer Watson one. Edwina Waters added a point to the Ballyhea tally.

Milford: R Finn, A Finn, E O'Riordan, M Broderick, S Carroll, L Healy, Sarah Sexton, A. Geary, T MC Loughlin, J Lynam, J Sheehy, A Watson, C Galvin, E Watson, A Thompson. Sub: T O'Mahony for A. Geary, O'Mahony for A Watson, C Curtin for E Watson, Siobhan Sexton for S Carroll, D Watson for M Broderick.

Ballyhea: L Meaney, V Hennessy, S O'Leary, O Carroll, H O'Brien, E Waters, Maria Walsh, Michelle Walsh, S Mc Inerney, R Waters, M Cole, R Garvey, N Morrissey, L Mc Carthy, A Cox, Sub: M C Waters for L Mc Carthy Referee: Mr M O'Halloran, Churchtown



Lady Mayoress Ann Martin with St Finbarrs and Cork senior camogie player Private Gemma O'Connor at a reception at City Hall for the 92nd Infantry Battalion, prior to their departure to Liberia.

Picture: Neil Danton / News Digital

Rampant Eire Óg complete major double

Eire Óg 0-7
Aghabullogue 0-2

Eire Óg continue to grab the headlines for all the right reasons as they added the Under 18 B camogie county championship title to their under 16 A county success by defeating their Mid Cork neighbours Aghabullogue.

The new champions set about their task from the throw in, and despite fielding seven of their under 16 side, were the stronger team.

Four pointed frees from Margaret O'Herlihy and one from Eric Corkery helped Eire Og enjoy an interval advantage 0-5 to 0-2. Louise Roche and Ann Scully pointed to keep Aghabullogue in touch. From the start of the second half Aghabullogue continued to work hard and pressed for the equaliser, but a disciplined Eire Og defence held the upper hand with keeper Lisa Marie

O'Mahony always in control of her defence there was no way through for Aghabullogue.

In attack Eire Og did everything right, and with Catriona O'Leary and Margaret O'Herlihy picking off points, they extended their lead, but more importantly from their point of view, continued their dominance. Aghabullogue worked to the finish, but on the day the stronger Eire Og held out to record a memorable double for the Ovens club and give seven of their players a unique double in Camogie Centenary Year.

Eire Óg: L M O'Mahony, C McCarthy, S Gleeson, M Corkery, C McKenna, L Murphy, E Kelleher, C McKenna, S Desmond, A Desmond, M O'Herlihy, C O'Leary, C O'Keefe, E Corkery, A McCarthy. Sub: C Purcell for C O'Keefe, A McCarthy for A McCarthy C O'Keefe for C Purcell.

Aghabullogue: N Moynihan, E O'Callaghan, M Twomey, K O'Leary, M O'Sullivan, M Ennaguass, D Murphy, F Burke, J Crowley, A Twomey, E Healy, A Scully, M Healy, L Roche, M Rohan. Sub: G Sullivan for M Rohan. Ref: Mr K Creedon



President Mary McAleese presenting a camogie all-star trophy to Gemma O'Connor, from Co Cork, when she visited Camp Clara, where the Irish troops serving in the UNMIL mission in Liberia have their base.

Pictures: Maxwells

O'Connor crowns great year with top manager award

by Jim O'Sullivan

JACK O'CONNOR'S remarkable achievement in leading Kerry to National League, Munster and All-Ireland football championship titles in his first year in charge last night earned him recognition as the 'Manager of the Year' by the Munster Council. And, on a night when the inaugural Munster hurling and football Allstars were honoured, the individual awards went to Ronan Curran and Tomás Ó Sé, also members of the respective teams.

The recipients of the Hall of Fame awards were Tom Cheasty from Waterford and Eamonn Young of Cork.

The Waterford Crystal-sponsored awards were presented by GAA president Sean Kelly and Munster Chairman Sean Fogarty at the South Court Hotel in Limerick last night. Additionally, referees who handled provincial finals over the past year were honoured, while the former chairman of the Council, Christy Cooney, who will be a candidate for the GAA presidency next

year, received a special presentation.

Interestingly, while Tomás Ó Sé was the journalists' choice as the Vodafone Allstars 'Player of the Year', it was the first time for Ronan Curran to be picked for one of the individual awards ahead of Seán Óg O hAilpin, who made a clean sweep of the GPA, Texaco and Vodafone awards.

Suzanne Kelly from Tipperary won the camogie award, Cork's Juliet Murphy was chosen for ladies football and, for the first time since the inception of the scheme, the handball award went to a female - Maria Daly from the Ballymacelligott club in Kerry.

PJ Ryan from Limerick, a former Chairman of the Council and currently a member of both the Central Council and the GAC, won the award for distinguished service in administration. Fr. Pat Moran OSA was honoured for his contribution to Coaching and Schools GAA, while Paddy Cronin from Cork, who officiated the 1967 Munster senior and the 1976 All-Ireland minor finals, took the refereeing award.



Cork hurling Allstar Wayne Sherlock and camogie player of the year Suzanne Kelly of Tipperary at last night's Munster Council GAA awards in the South Court Hotel, Limerick.

Picture: Press 22

Former Waterford goalkeeper Ned Power, who also earned a reputation as a coach, received a Special Merit Award. And, not surprisingly, Kilmurry-Ibrickane were chosen as the Club of the Year.

Award winners: Hurler of the Year

- R. Curran (Cork); Footballer of the Year - T. Ó Sé (Kerry); Camogie Player of the Year - S. Kelly (Tipperary); Ladies Footballer of the Year - J. Murphy (Cork); Handballer of the Year - M. Daly (Kerry).

Distinguished Service Awards: Administration - PJ Ryan (Limerick); Coaching & Schools GAA - Fr. P. Moran (Waterford); Media - M. Morrissey (RTE); Refereeing - P. Cronin (Cork); Manager of the Year - J. O'Connor (Kerry); Club of

the Year - Kilmurry-Ibrickane (Clare); Special Merit - N. Power (Waterford); Hall of Fame, Football - E. Young (Cork); Hurling - T. Cheasty (Waterford).

Munster Hurling Stars: B. Cummins (Tipperary); W. Sherlock (Cork); P. Maher (Tipperary); T.J. Ryan (Limerick); R. Curran (Cork); K. McGrath (Waterford); S. Óg O hAilpin (Cork); E. Kelly (Waterford); O. Moran (Limerick); D. Shanahan (Waterford); M. Walsh

(Waterford); B. O'Connor (Cork); J. Mullane (Waterford); S. Prendergast (Cork); E. Kelly (Tipperary).

Munster Football Stars: D. Murphy (Kerry); T. O'Sullivan (Cork); D. Kavanagh (Cork); T. Stack (Limerick); T. Ó Sé (Kerry); S. Lucey (Limerick); S. Moynihan (Kerry); D. O Sé (Cork); J. Quane (Limerick); D. Russell (Cork); J. Galvin (Limerick); E. Brosnan (Kerry); C. Cooper (Kerry); D. Browne (Tipperary); M.F. Russell (Kerry).

KILLEAGH

KILLEAGH 4-7 KILBRITTAN 4-6

All the drama was packed into the last minute of an exciting under 18 C county final at Na Piarasigh on Saturday as Killeagh just held on to take the honours.

There was little between the sides through out the contest with the winners stamping their authority on proceeding with nine minutes remaining before a late, late Kilbrittan rally almost saw them almost snatch it at the death.

It was level at the break 1-5 each after an Eanna O'Neill goal at the mid-way stage helped Killeagh claw their way back from a five point deficit despite having scored the game's opening point from Noelle O'Donovan.

The opening quarter belonged to Kilbrittan as the impressive Marion Murphy and Orla O'Regan fired over three points in succession before Aidleen Breen found the net for the game's opening goal.

An early Marion Murphy pointed free edged Kilbrittan ahead on the resumption but 13-year-old Eanna O'Neill gave Killeagh the lead for the first time in the game with a ground shot to the net which gave Amanda Desmond in the Kilbrittan goal no chance.

Piling on the pressure Noelle O'Donovan pointed but Kilbrittan rallied to get back on level with Marion Murphy firing a superbly struck 30 metres free to the net. For 11 minutes the sides battled to gain the upper hand and with neither conceding little it was scoreless and extra time looked very much on the card.

Suddenly it sprung to life. Niamh Loughlin finished to the net following good work by the Killeagh attack and from the puck-out they again applied the pressure and when Caoimhe Harnedy repeated the drill Killeagh looked home and dry, for good measure Noelle O'Donovan pointed and now with the gap at seven points it was only a matter of playing down the clock but Kilbrittan had other ideas.

Marion Murphy blasted a penalty to the roof of the Killeagh net and from the puck-out Danielle O'Sullivan bore down on goal and finished confidently with style.

We held our breath as Ann Hegarty again pucked-out but this time it was to be the last set with referee Cathal Egan blowing full-time much to the relief of the Killeagh contingent but spare a thought for a gallant Kilbrittan who certainly played their part in an exciting contest.

KILLEAGH: A Hegarty, A M O'Neill, C O'Brien, A Murray, L. Rohan 0-1, M. Hegarty, A Fitzgerald, K. Walsh 0-1, C Walsh, N O'Donovan 0-4, N Loughlin 1-0, J.A. Mc Carthy 0-1, C Harnedy 1-0, E O'Neill 2-0, P Fitzgerald.

KILBRITTAN: A Desmond, V Smith, A.M. O Mahony, J O'Donovan, T O'Sullivan, M Murphy 2-4, D Hegarty, A O'Sullivan, E O'Mahony D O'Sullivan 1-0, O. O'Regan 0-2, F Whelan, A O'Regan, A Breen 1-0, K O'Sullivan, Sub: S Hurley for E O'Regan.

Ref: C Egan Glen Rovers

MILFORD

MILFORD 9-12 BALLYHEA 0-3

The titles continue to roll in for Milford as they retained their under 18A county championship title with ease against a spirited Ballyhea side and in the process made it five in a row.

Seldom were they troubled as they led at the break 5-5 to 0-2 and they never looked in danger of relinquishing the hold on the title.

Two goals from Cliona Galvin and one each from Ashling Thompson and Emer and Aine Watson saw them in cruise control.

Mary Coleman and Edwina Waters pointed for Ballyhea as they valiantly tried to keep in touch with the more experienced Milford side several of whom had earlier in the year lined-out in the senior county final.

Through the second half Milford continued to set the pace with Ashling Thompson grabbing three goals and Emer Watson one there was never any way back for Ballyhea. Edwina Waters added a point to the Ballyhea tally but the day belonged to Milford.

MILFORD: R Finn, A Finn, E O'Riordan, M Broderick, S Carroll, L Healy, Sarah Sexton, A. Geary, T MC Loughlin, J Lynam, J Sheehy, A Watson 1-2, C Galvin 2-3, E Watson 2-3, A Thompson 4-4, Subs T O'Mahony for A Geary, O'Mahony for A Watson, C Curtin for E Watson, Siobhan Sexton for S Carroll, D Watson for M Broderick.

BALLYHEA: L Meaney, V Hennessy, S O'Leary, O'Carroll, H O'Brien, E Waters 0-2, Maria Walsh, Michelle Walsh, S Mc Inerney, R Waters, M Coleman 0-1, R Garvey, N Morrissey, L Mc Carthy, A Cox, Sub: M C Waters for L Mc Carthy.

Ref: Mr M O'Halloran Churchtown

EIRE OG

Eire Og 0-7 Aghabullogue 0-2

Eire Og added the Under 18 B County Championship title to their under 16 A County success as they defeated their Mid-Cork neighbours Aghabullogue in a county final where they always held the upper hand at Coachford yesterday.

The new champions, fielding seven of the side that defeated Douglas in the Under 16 A final, were the stronger and better balanced and set the pace from the throw-in.

The accuracy of Margaret O'Herlihy was vital as she slotted over four frees in the opening half to help her side enjoy a half time lead of 0-5 to 0-2. Erin Corkery contributing a fifth Eire Og point as Louise Roche and Ann Scully pointed to keep Aghabullogue in contention.

Aghabullogue gave it all to get on level terms from the start of the second half but a well organised and disciplined Eire Og defence held them at bay.

Ann Scully, Emma Healy and Louise Roche worked hard but there was no way through for Aghabullogue with Catriona Mc Kenna, Lisa Marie O'Mahony and Siobhan Gleeson all on full alert for the Eire Og rear guard.

In attack Eire Og seldom put a foot wrong and with Catriona O'Leary and Margaret O'Herlihy picking off a point each they extended their lead as they continued to hold the upper hand and maintain their advantage. Aghabullogue tried to the finish but on the day the stronger determined Eire Og were not going to give best as they recorded a memorable double for their club to give seven of their players a unique double in camogie centenary year.

EIRE OG: L M O'Mahony, C McCarthy, S Gleeson, M Corkery, C Mc Kenna, L Murphy, E Kelleher, C McKenna, S Desmond, A Desmond, M O'Herlihy 0-5, C O'Leary 0-1, C O'Keefe, E Corkery 0-1, A Mc Carthy, Subs C Purcell for C O'Keefe, A McCarthy for A McCarthy C O'Keefe for C Purcell.

AGHABULLOGUE: N Moynihan, E O'Callaghan, M Twomey, K O'Leary, M O'Sullivan, M Ennaguess, D Murphy, F Burke, J Crowley, A Twomey, E Healy, A Scully 0-1, M Healy, L Roche 0-1, M Rohan, Sub G Sullivan for M Rohan.

Ref: Mr K Creedon



The Green and White Shield is the newest Camogie All-Ireland County Championship. The top camogie team from each of the four Limerick divisions compete for this coveted trophy that is now two years old and named after your favourite magazine!



Joe Lyons presents The Green & White Shield to Sarah Mann, captain of 2004 winners Patrickswell N.S.



Usnagry N.S. captain Judith Mulcahy and Patrickswell N.S. captain Sarah Mann pictured with referee Patsy Coffey

This year's final was a repeat of the first ever final (in 2003). Holders, Usnagry N.S., were defending their title against challengers, Patrickswell N.S., City Champions. It was a very close match and scoring chances were few and far between—in fact there were only three scores in the game. They came from Erica Bally (0-1) for Patrickswell; Usnagry responded with a goal from Karen Murphy. The winner was a goal for Patrickswell, kicked to the net by Sarah Carey. The final score was: Patrickswell 1-1, Usnagry 1-0.

Patrickswell N.S. lined out for the team photo as follows: Back Row (l. to r.) Fiona Ryan, Tanika Delee, Sarah Mann, Erica Bally, Sarah Carey, Katie Murphy, Laura Dore, Nicole Lynch, Mary Ellen Hart, Front Row (l. to r.) Nicola Dundon, Lisa Bustin, Jessica Kinly, Samantha Reidy, Emily Bustin, Amy Carroll, Orla Ryan



Usnagry N.S. runners-up in the 2004 Green & White Shield



Patrickswell N.S. Green & White Shield winners 2004

ONE Camogie story closes and another opens.. Máire Uí Scolai, National PRO

CENTENARY year may be at a close calendar wise but the year gone by has just opened up many wonderful avenues for Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael. This time last year a very ambitious programme of events was drawn up by a fine centenary committee to celebrate the oldest female Gaelic Sport, the organisation in this country, the programme provided for both young and old with a variety of events, games and functions held over the year.

When ever a team of the century is announced or even a county team huge interest is aroused and so began the year with the picking of the team of the century in the CITYWEST Hotel in February. Attended by almost 1,000 people it was one of the most glittering occasions of the year. It proved to be the perfect start to the season and much attention was given to the event. Tipperary's red haired Deirdre Hughes was the only present day player to be chosen on the team. The brilliant Hughes further went on to win a Munster championship medal, a first National league medal and then crowned

centenary year for herself with her fifth senior All-Ireland medal in mid September.

TIPPERARY

This great Tipperary team first came to prominence in 1999 when the then manager Michael Cleary took over and the rest became a fairy tale story as the Premier girls appeared in every All-Ireland final since that year conceding one final in 2002 to the old enemy Cork. When Michael bowed after the 2002 All-Ireland defeat his position went to his former team mate Raymie Ryan who guided the players to two Munster championship titles, the first title in twenty six years and then recorded the hat-trick in centenary year of Munster championship, National League and Foras na Gaeilge championship.

However, the Cashel club man decided in the late Autumn that he would call it a day, while some players were sorry to hear the news they all fully realised just how much commitment he put into the game. With many other counties now on the fringes of success,

many will be watching to see who takes over from Raymie and also will any of those great Premier girls call it a day.

ON THE FRINGES

The other county who hit the headlines this year was Wexford, they met Tipperary in both the League final and the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi-final. While they suffered defeat on both occasions, the gap was very narrow and the heart-break on players faces afterwards was plain to be seen. With a bit more work, they are a team of the future. Many of these players came through the famed Coláiste Bride team of Enniscorthy who won back to back All-Ireland colleges titles this year and also the five in a row Oulart the Ballagh Féile na nGael winning team.

Cork, Galway, Kilkenny are very much hot footing it with Limerick, Dublin, Antrim and Derry with much work to do, but Galway having won both the Intermediate and Minor All-Ireland titles this year could well be a force next season.

CENTENARY EVENTS

The competitive aspect of the game is very important but this year the centenary celebrations took centre stage in many areas. All units of the almost 90,000 strong Association were strongly encouraged to stage an event and thus recall the year. One day was designated to Lá na gClub, and on September 19th at the All-Ireland finals the winners were proudly announced over the public address system in Croke Park. The outright winner came from Wexford, St. Martins of Wexford, home of the great senior intercounty player Áine Codd who proudly accepted the very generous AIB cheque. Second place went to Millford of Cork who represented the county in the Munster championship this year, only losing by two points to the Limerick champions Granagh-Ballingarry in the Munster final.

Other major events was the issuing of two stamps from An Post to commemorate the year. The stamps depicted the four counties with the most All-Ireland titles; Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny and Antrim. Other events at a National Level included the re-enactment of the 1904 first public game in Páirc Tailteann, Navan. This was played on the very date, July 17th and created a great sense of occasion when Meath intercounty players took to the long black skirts, and white blouses and played a most entertaining game.

The same day, one hundred very lucky children were chosen to form a

human 100 on the hallowed turf of Páirc Tailteann in what was a great scene for many in the stand.

A Golf Classic earlier on saw a host of famed sports people, female and male take to the lovely Gowran Club in County Kilkenny. Among those there on the day were: Niall Quinn, Séan Kelly and many former camogie players like Antrim's Maeve Gilroy.

SEPTEMBER 19TH 2004

Possibly the highlight of the year was September 19th when the Senior and Junior All-Ireland finals went ahead in Croke Park. The highest attendance at a female sporting occasion this year together with almost 25,000 pleased Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael. To have had the privilege of being there on All-Ireland day in centenary year was something special. Watching from a high, there were some wonderful moments such as when 16-a-side game took place. The two teams comprised of one child from each of the thirty-two counties and it was a joy to see them proudly show of their camogie skills on the day. Other events on the day included the 2,500 children who formed the human 100 as well the letter CEC, for the Crest. The torch to light the way for the next century was carried into headquarters by Stephanie Gannon, the Galway minor goalkeeper who had a great year. She won her first All-Ireland Minor medal, was awarded the player of the match award and then won the first ever Poc Fada in the Cooley

Mountains.

The year finished up on the playing fields with St. Lachtain's of Kilkenny defeating the reigning All-Ireland champions Granagh-Ballingarry of Limerick. The same day Liatroim Fontenoy's of County also took their first ever title when they defeated Four Roads of Roscommon in the Junior Final.

To crown the year, the first ever All-Star team was chosen and a glittering night was had by all in early December.

Live television coverage of the 2004 All-Ireland semi-finals for the very first time was a major boost and together with the Finals in September meant that over 300,000 people watched the games on television. The fact that almost 25,000 attended this year's finals meant that Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael had the highest attendance in this country at a female sporting event..

The oldest female Gaelic Sporting organisation has a great future and can enter the next century very proudly. It has truly been a great year for the Association and the founding members of 1904 can be thanked for having such great initiative back in those early days of 1904 when it was not as easy as today to go about business or indeed to even be involved in sport. We owe them a lot, but were they alive in 2004 they would have seen a great reward for their hard work back at the start of the last century.

Here's to the next camogie century*



Role of Honor

Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Final: Tiobraid Árann 2-11, Corcaigh 0-9

All-Ireland Junior championship Final: Corcaigh 4-5 An Dún 2-4

All-Ireland Minor CEA, Championship Final: An Ghaillimh 3-16 Cill Chainnigh 2-6

All-Ireland Minor CEB, Championship Final: Aontroim 1-9 Roscomáin 0-3

Sraith Náisiúnta Roinn 1: Tiobraid Árann 3-10 Loch Garman 2-9

" " Roinn 2: Cill Dara 2-11 Laois 2-6

Craobh Cluiche Ceannais Sinsear na gClub: St. Lachtain's Cill Chainnigh 2-8 Granagh-Ballingarry, Luimneach 0-7

Craobh Cluiche Ceannais Sóisear na gClub: Liatroim Fontenoy's, An Dún 4-13 Four Roads, Roscomáin 0-8

Gael-Linn Interprovincial championships:

Na Sinsear: Mumha 1-16 Conacht 1-9

Na Sóisear: Mumha 1-20 Ulaidh 1-9

Coca Cola International Final: Éire 10-18 An Bhreatain 1-3.

Texaco Award: Úna O'Dwyer, Tipperary, Vodafone Player of the Year Úna O'Dwyer.

dressing room. But this was no ordinary dressing room – it was the Taj Mahal of dressing rooms. I almost felt compelled to remove my shoes and pad about in barefoot reverence.

We warmed up in an indoor area, complete with fake grass. With twenty-eight of us in a small room sending sliotars flying, it felt like being involved in some sort of violent human pinball game. Whether it was the occasion or the claustrophobia, suddenly everyone was shouting. Several players spoke at length. There were frequent references to 2002, with fiery-eyed old hands assuring the young wans that that wasn't something we wanted to experience.

I suddenly realized where Tipp's hunger came from. It wasn't about adding another trophy to an already bulging cabinet; it was about performing to a level that justifies seven months of preparation. As Player of the Match Una O'Dwyer would say on The Sunday Game, if a better team beats us, we have no problem with that. It's when we disappoint ourselves that the trouble begins.

At 3:12pm, we were ready to go out. As we stood in the dressing room, arms around each other, the tension reached its summit. With the usually



rather calm and stoical Raymie Ryan roaring with mildly scary intensity, Joanne Ryan led us onto the field. There was a shrill, surround-sound blast of feminine screams as we took the field and sprinted across for our photo. Gazing around at the 25,000-strong crowd, one had the distinct feeling of a Cheerio at the bottom of a bowl: one wrong move, and you'd be eaten alive.

As the ball was thrown in, a sort of giddy rush came over me and didn't let up for the duration of the match. Though I wasn't playing, the nerves were almost unbearable – possibly because there was nothing I could do. Each of the subs was acting in a similar manner, waving their arms wildly as if to propel the players along. Halftime was a bit of a comedown. I itched in my seat, longing to puck around on the hallowed sod, but unable because of the various centenary displays on the field – kids wielding pompoms and whatnot. Of course, the second half more than made up for that. We relived Joanne Ryan's superb goal three or four times on the big screen, as we had with Dee Hughes' first half strike.

When those final blessed whistles sounded, we stormed the pitch, swept

up quickly in a crowd of supporters. (Camogie supporters exist! Who knew?) After much lepping about and posturing with the cup, we retired to the dressing room where hijinks ensued. (If Raymie appeared to be sweating profusely during his TV interview, it was as a result of his being doused liberally in water by certain panel members.) We revelled in the live interviews, giving resounding cheers for every other comment. Back at the hotel, Marty Morrissey ushered us into our dinner before conducting some more interviews. (That's me in the background, beaming uncontrollably.) Though jovial and friendly, Marty is somewhat disappointing in the flesh – I thought he'd be shorter.

The TV coverage turned out to be fascinating – it's not often that you get to relive some of your proudest moments in slow motion. We watched The Sunday Game over dinner. My table faced away from the screen, which resulted in a row of us doing a perfect impression of a dysfunctional family by gluing our eyes to the screen, plates resting on knees.

The long night of revelry incorporated many tired and emotional

All Ireland Camogie Final Tipperary vs Cork Sinead Nealon and Ciara Gaynor celebrate at the final whistle

chats, not the least of which I had with the other subs. We agreed on one thing: being a sub is bittersweet. It really is that old cliché about being so near, and yet so far away. There isn't a single sub who feels indifferent about not reaching the first fifteen. Having said that, I'm proud of what the panel has achieved. We concurred that, even though in 'weaker' counties we could be team players, it's better to make the first thirty in Tipperary than the first fifteen anywhere else.

Monday night's homecoming was an experience. As we sat on the lorry in the Horse & Jockey, an endless conveyor belt of jerseys, hurleys and corner shop receipts came up and down the row, waiting to be autographed. At first I considered this to be great fun, but pretty soon I began to hate the sight of my own name. And this after just one day of pseudo-celebrity status! Spare a thought for Tom Cruise ...

The Ragg, where we wound up that night, was terrific. Drom & Inch gave a rapturous homecoming to Joanne, Geraldine and the rest of us. A rather sizeable crowd turned out and, as our open-topped bus drove past the bonfire, fireworks went off overhead. I wasn't around for the last few homecomings, but apparently Drom really raised the bar on this one. The experienced players, used to this adulation, were keen to impress on newcomers just how singular an experience it all is. Consequently I found myself in the middle of the stage, while the real stars lurked in the shadows, grinning away.

So ended my first All-Ireland experience. There are a lot of aspects of the day that will stick in my mind, but especially this quote from a sheet of inspiring words we were given on the bus journey up. It's a (possibly paraphrased) line from Al Pacino's character in Any Given Sunday: "Life is a game of inches. So is hurling." Amen to that •

Camogie

Much to my disappointment, stumbling out of bed at 7am on Sunday 19 September did not feel remotely like the dawn of an All-Ireland final. It was just another early morning, another excuse to feel grumpy. The entire panel was in similar mood, and aside from a few stirring games of I Spy, the journey from the Horse & Jockey to Dublin passed without incident.

However, any sense of anticlimax I felt was quickly dispersed as we approached Croker. The tension heightened that extra notch as, to get in the right frame of mind, we listened to My Way – the uplifting Sinatra version, sadly, not the Sid Vicious cover. As soon as we arrived, we headed into the

All Ireland Camogie Final Tipperary vs Cork
Joanne Ryan lifts the cup



Juniors Crown Centenary Year

By Mary Newman

Centenary year was one of mixed fortunes in the county with pride of place going to the juniors who took Provincial and All-Ireland titles, also celebrating a successful season were the under 14 girls from Douglas who were crowned Feile Na Gael All-Ireland champions while at colleges level three Cork schools took provincial honours.

On the club scene divisional side Carrigdhoun made the breakthrough to take their first Senior County title while Aghbullogue, Valley Rovers, Tracton and Ballyhea all took county titles at adult level.

Under age championship success came to EireOg, Clonakilty, St Catherines and Carrigaline while a host of clubs enjoyed league victories.

Sinead O Callaghan from the Ballinhassig club took the Cork Feile Na Gael Skills title.

Cork were honoured with four players chosen on the Camogie Team of the Century while at colleges level four players were named on the Colleges All Star team.

Cork's Mary Moran launched her fourth book *The History of Munster Camogie*.

These were but a few of the success stories to hit the headlines through a busy 2003.

Intercounty Scene:

Under a new management team headed by Coach John Considine hopes were high that centenary year was going to see the O'Duffy cup return Leaside.

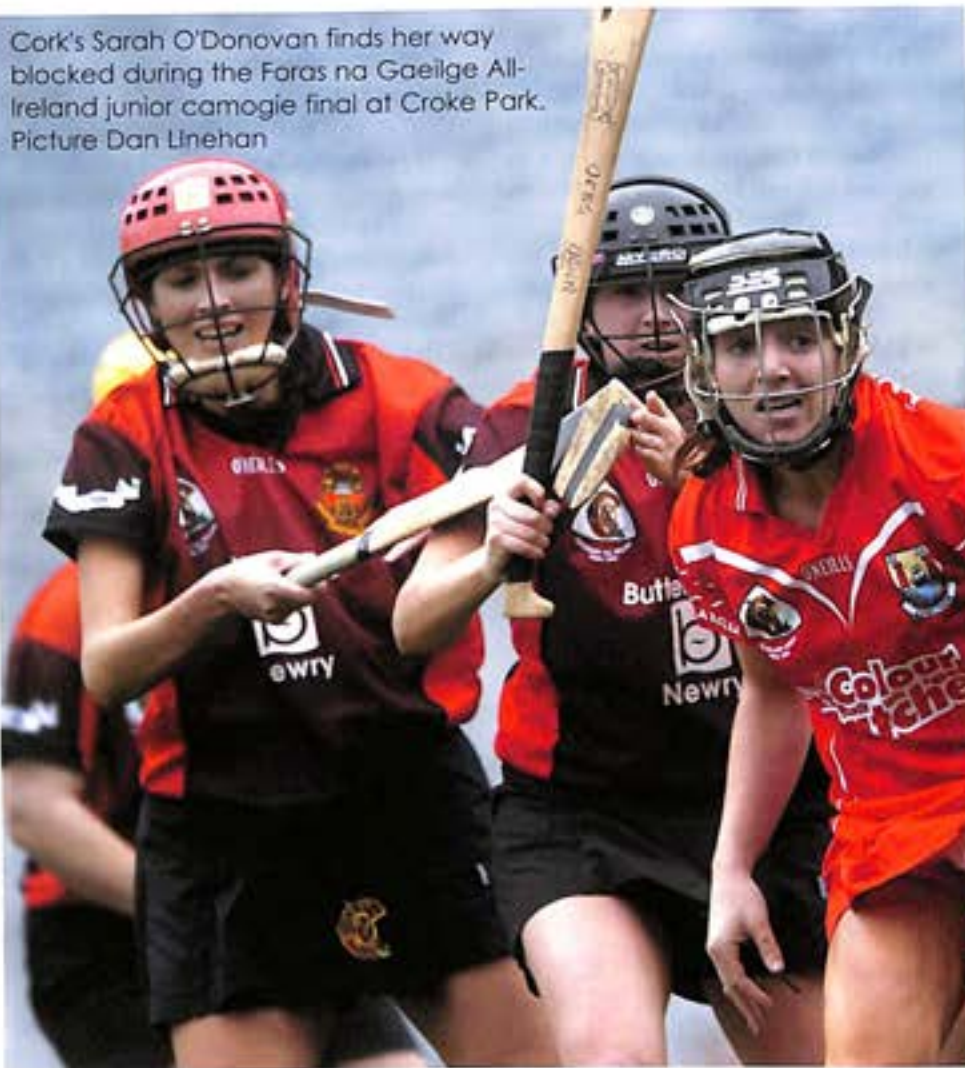
The failure to make the knock out stages of the National league was not seen as a huge set back as preparations continued for championship.

In the Munster Final Cork had to give way to Tipperary but again one sensed everything was being geared towards the open draw and the All-Ireland campaign.

Once again the championship was played on a league format and Cork qualified comfortably for the semi-final where they met Galway.

The game was very much one way traffic and certainly this was a cause of concern give the hard test Tipperary had received

Cork's Sarah O'Donovan finds her way blocked during the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland junior camogie final at Croke Park. Picture Dan Linehan



from a Wexford side that almost stole it at the death.

Another thriller was on the cards as Cork hoped to get the upper hand over Tipperary who were aiming for back to back titles.

What transpired can only be described as a disaster as Tipperary proceeded to brush Cork aside to claim their fifth title.

The game once again failed to live up to its pre-match expectations as Cork were crushed by a very determined Tipperary side.

Certainly there is a huge amount of work to be done if the glory days are to be rekindled.

INTERMEDIATE

There was no joy for the Intermediate team who had to give way to a stronger Galwayside in the opening round of

the championship.

JUNIOR

Despite failing to make the play off stages of the league the Junior side worked hard under the coach Lillian Zincaut and faced the Munster champions Clare in a confident mood and successfully made it to the Munster final where they totally outclassed Limerick to book a semi-final meeting with Wexford.

A tough hour was endured before a place on Croke Park was booked but such was the determination of this team nobody was surprised at the result.

Facing a Down team in the final who were the counties first choice squad was a big job but undaunted Cork approached their task with the same diligence they had displayed all year.

Going into the contest minus three players who had opted to line out with the senior panel Cork gave one of the best displays seen in junior final in years.



To single out any one of the side would be doing the team an injustice but the performance of Amanda O'Regan at centre back was a pleasure to watch and she was rightfully named as Player of the Match.

Much credit for the victory has to go to coach Lillian Zincaut who has proved once again she has the Midas touch when it comes to guiding team to success; she was joined by fellow selectors Marie

Clancy and Liz O Mahony and they are to be congratulated on a job well done.

MINORS

There was huge disappointment for the minor side that having recorded a comprehensive opening round victory over Waterford lost out at the semi final stage to Clare on a miserable night for hurling where

despite failing to score a point Clare advanced on a 3-0 to 2-2 score line.

A tendency to go for goals costing Cork early at the full time whistle.

Under 18

The under 18 competition only goes to provincial level and here Cork retained their title with ease recording a good victory over Waterford side that made huge strides for the game in their county by defeating Tipperary at semi final stage.

Championship Action on the Home Front

There was a major boost for camogie in the county with O'Leary Brothers Builders coming on board to sponsor the County Boards adult championships for 2004 with Mr. Bob O Leary formally launched the sponsorship at a pleasant function in Paire Uí Chaoimh and so the scene was set for the year.

Again several names were mentioned as potential champions, many felt St Finbarrs were ready for the breakthrough while U.C.C., Cloughduv, Inniscarra, newly promoted Milford, Divisional side Carrigdhoun and holders Fr O Neills were all hotly fancied.

After some exciting clashes four teams remained on course to lift the title.

Last years senior B champions Milford edged out favourites Inniscarra, and in an all divisional clash Carrigdhoun defeated Imokilly to make it to their first final.

Pre-match predictions all pointed at the strength of Carrigdhoun who were back-boned by senior 'B' clubs Ballinhassig, Ballygarvan and Carrigaline, with junior clubs Valley Rovers and Tracton also making vital contributions.

With both teams contesting their first final the atmosphere was electric and Paire Uí Rinn was buzzing with anticipation.

From the throw in the action was non stop with the lead changing hands continuously, at the finish it was Carrigdhoun who had their nose's ahead after a classic which finished 6-11 to 5-11.

Both teams must be complimented for the marvelous display of camogie served up. Carrigdhoun captain Catriona Kelly was a popular choice as selection for the Gerald Mc Carthy sponsored Player of the Match award.

As a divisional side Carrigdhoun were ineligible to contest the Munster club cham-

pionship and it was Milford who headed into this arena as Cork's representatives.

Defeating the Waterford champions in their opening round they faced champions Granagh-Ballingarry in the Munster final and here they came so close only losing out in the closing stages of another thrilling contest.

Senior B

In senior 'B' Ballygarvan were hugely fancied to be crowned champions and given their marvellous contribution to the Carrigdhoun success one could not argue with that tag.

They duly made it to the final where Aghabullogue who had lost out in the 2003 provided the opposition.

With former Cork minor hurling coach Mort Murphy at the helm Aghabullogue proceeded to tear the form books to shreds to take the title, Louise Murphy earning herself the Player of the Match award. Aghabullogue are now promoted to senior grade for 2005 where they will be a welcome addition.

JUNIOR 'A' AND 'B' GRADES

In the junior 'A' grade Valley Rovers defeated newly promoted Killeagh to be crowned champions. Lucey Hawke's turning in an inspirational performance to be named player of the match.

In the junior 'B' grade once again only clubs with only one team participated in the competition as any club with a second team played in a junior 'B' shield competition.

Ballyhea had a superb year taking the junior 'B' league and championship crowns but it was heartbreak for Tracton who provided the opposition in both finals.

In the championship final former Cork minor Mary Coleman rightfully earned herself the player of the match award.

At the time of writing Aghabullogue have booked their place in the junior shield final where they will meet Cloughduv.

The county board organised an interdivisional under 21 tournament in conjunction with its centenary celebrations and Muskerry captained by Grenagh's Jenny Vaughan defeated Carrigdhoun in the final.

Under Age

The ever growing interest in camogie at under age level was again very evident as the juvenile board under the chairmanship of former county secretary Tracy Sheehan-

Murray set about the task of organising competitions for the Under 12 to 16 age groups.

At under 12 there were three grades A, B and C and once again there was no shortage of excitement.

In the 'A' grade Inniscarra were crowned champions as they defeated holders Douglas on a 4-2 to 3-1 score line.

Valley Rovers again emerged victorious in the under 12 B section as they retained their crown defeating Ballygarvan by the narrowest of margins.

A goal from Sinead Dilworth was enough to see Rockban take the honours in the 'C' grade defeating Mallow.

St Catherine's with three goals from Ciara Kearney took the under 12 twelve a side title.

Competition at Under 14 level again proved very competitive in all grades.

Douglas retained the under 14 'A' league defeating Inniscarra in a thrilling final.

Milford sailed past every opposition to be champions in the 14 'B' league.

Clonakilty retained the 14 'C' title while in the twelve a side Cloughduv defeated Newcestown.

There was a new name on the under 16 'A' championship trophy as Milford were denied six in a row at semi final stage by Eire Og.

The MidCorkside completed a tremendous year taking the title after a replay with Erin Corkery and Margaret O Herlihy performing heroically.

Clonakilty took the under 16 'B' county title defeating Glen Rovers in an exciting final.

The Less than 16 'C' championship title has at the time of writing to be decided between Killeagh and Bride Rovers.

Carrigaline recorded a victory over Blarney in the twelve a side competition to become county title holders.

In the 16 'A' league Douglas retained their title while in the 'B' grade title had not yet been decided, it rests between Eire Og, Mallow or Ballincollig.

Rockban were 'C' league winners, Erins Own defeated Charleville in the curtain raiser to the senior county final as the twelve a side league titles were decided.

In other under-age activities Douglas made it three in a row of Cork Feile Na Gael title and represented Cork in the national finals in Kildare where they turned in a superb display to be crowned National Feile Champions, a wonderful achievement

for which they are to be heartily to be congratulated.

Sinead O Callaghan Ballinhassig took the Cork skills title and represented the county in Kildare.

The juvenile board are to be congratulated on their work in the continued promotion of under age camogie within the county.

DIVISIONAL ACTION

A huge amount of work is going on promoting the game with competitions organised in all the divisions but the hard working committees.

In Muskerry Eire OG took the under 15 'A' title at the expense of Ballincollig, the Under 15 'B' title going to Grenagh.

At Under 13 'A' level Eire Og completed

'B' and under 13 'B' titles while Milford continued their successful journey taking the under 13 'A', at the time of going to print the under 15 'A' title has to be decided.

Carrigdhoun also ran successful under-age competitions and to date Valley Rovers and Ballinhassig have made it through to the Under 11 and under 13 finals while Courcey Rovers have booked their place in the Under 15 final where they will meet the winners of the Ballygarvan v Ballinhassig semi-final clash.

COLLEGES ACTION

Cork and Munster Colleges competitions saw provincial honours come to many of the counties schools unfortunately there was lit-



Elaine Burke going past Galway player Lixie Flynn during the All Ireland semi-final senior camogie championship match. Picture Dan Linehan

tle joy on the All Ireland scene as St Marys Charleville lost out to holders Colaiste Brid in a replay while Carrigaline had to give way to St Raphael's Loughrea in the Senior B semi-final and Bandon lost out at the same stage to Athenry in the Junior 'A'.

Better news for Charleville who were crowned All Ireland sevens champions Munster titles came to Charleville who won the senior 'A' crown while Carrigaline added the 'B' title.

The Munster Junior 'A' championship was won by Bandon while Scariff from Clare took the 'B' crown.

In Cork College's competition Bandon, Fermoy, St Aloysius, Buttevant and Christ the King all enjoyed championship success.

Third Level

U.C.D. hosted Ashbourne Cup 2004 and made it to the final where they had to give way to a University of Limerick side that captured their second title.

The All Ireland Fresher's title was won by U.C.C. who were denied a double by UL, who captured the league crown.

SCIATH NA SCOIL

Sciath Na Scoil as always proved to be a huge success where our younger players get their first taste of competitive action.

We are indebted to the many teachers who give of their time to make the competition the success that it is.

Amongst the schools who took titles were St. Columbus Douglas, Scoil Eoin Innishannon, St. Michaels Upper Glanmire, Scoil Barra Ballincollig, Scoil Iosagain, Blarney.

Clonpriest, Scoil an t-Athair Tadgh Carrigaline, Ballyheda and Coachford.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

In what was a hugely successful celebration

of the games centenary clubs through the county held many events, fun days, tournaments, walks, bags packing, long pucks, short pucks were but a few of the events to mark a successful La Na Club on April 11th Centenary year celebrations were launched at a gala banquet at the City West Hotel where four Cork players Sandie Fitzgibbon, Marie Costine, Pat Maloney and Linda Mellerick being chosen on the Centenary Team of The Century.

At Colleges level four Cork players were named on the Colleges All Star team Anna Geary, Rena Buckley, Elaine O Riordan and Breige Corkery.

Cork chose Linda Mellerick as their camogie Ambassador and she proved to be a wonderful choice fulfilling her duties throughout the county with the same enthusiasm she had put into her performances on the playing fields.

The County Board held many events, and among those that stand out was the naming of a Cork Feile Na Gael All Star team for 2004, the county boards participation in the St Patrick's Day parade where two players from each club walked in their club colours behind the camogie banner.

The juvenile board honoured centenary year by naming a player of the match in all

their finals and this certainly added to the occasion for the youngsters.

Without doubt the grand finale of the Corks celebrations was the Centenary Banquet when close on five hundred camogie people past, and present came together at the Rochestown Park Hotel to celebrate one hundred years of camogie.

Former county board officers and All Ireland winning captains were suitable honoured with a presentation on the evening and it was wonderful to see the longest surviving captain Josie McGrath who led the county to Senior glory in 1935 in attendance to cut the centenary cake with All Ireland winning junior captain Val O Keffe.

As the year draws to a close we await the naming of the first camogie All -Stars to be announced at a banquet in early December where seven Cork players have been nominated.

A pleasant surprise at the close of the year was the Cork Camogie Board been chosen as the winner of the Rochestown Park / 96 and 103 FM GAA sports award for the month of December to honour the games centenary year this was certainly a fitting way to being the curtain down on what has been another extraordinarily busy camogie year in the county.

Photo Parade

Dec. 2004



Crecora Camogie Club U16 County Championship and League Winners 2004.

Back Row Left to Right: Stephanie Anketell, Teresa Corbett, Jennifer Fitzgerald, Judy Burke, Gillian Glynn, Maria O'Connor, Brenda Hogan, Leanne Donohue, Deirdre Regan, Laura Mangin, Darina McCarthy.

Front Row Left to Right: Sinead McLaughlin, Siobhan Burke, Leshia Horgan, Paula Burke, Clodagh Carmody, Una O'Connor, Mairead O'Connor, Sandra McDermott, Aileen McMahon.



OUR GAMES

AR gCLUICHÍ FÉIN

Camogie 2004: A hundred not out.....

MÁIRE UÍ SCOLAI, NATIONAL CAMOGIE PRO

NOT many female organisations reach a hundredth birthday but when the women of 1904 played the first public camogie match in Meath's Páirc Tailteann they sowed very strong seeds that bore fruit to their testimony as Cumann Camógaloichta na nGael now is an almost 90,000 strong Association.

This dream centenary year could never have been so good were it not for the very many voluntary people who over the years gave generously of their time and still continue to do so. A vibrant Centenary committee was set up and in 2003 they came up with an elaborate plan to celebrate the year in style. November 2003 was an important calendar date as a packed Croke Park witnessed the Centenary Plans being unveiled to the public and so began the roller coaster.

Picking any team is always a source of interest to all concerned and so it was when the team of the century was announced in the City West Hotel in February of this year. Probably the

largest attendance ever at a Camogie function, a crowd of 1,000 people witnessed one of the greatest nights in the history of Camogie.

TEAM OF THE CENTURY

GOALKEEPER

Eileen Duffy O'Mahony, Dublin.
Eibhlís Ní Dhubhthaigh, Áth Cliath

FULL BACKS

Liz Neary, Eibhlís Ní Náraithe, Loch Garman.
Marie Costine O'Donovan, Máire Nic Oistín, Cill Chainnigh.
Mary Sinnott Duignan, Máire Shionóid, Corcaigh.

HALF BACKS

Sandie Fitzgibbon, Sandra Nic Globhúin, Corcaigh.
Bridie Martin McGarry, Brid Ní Mháirtín, Cill Chainnigh.
Margaret O'Leary Leacy, Máiread Ní Laitheasa, Loch Garman.

CENTRE FORWARDS

Máiread McAtamney Magill, Kathleen Mills Hill, Máiread Nic an Tiompánaigh, Caitlín an Mhullinn, Aontroim, Áth Cliath.

HALF FORWARDS

Linda Mellerick, Pat Moloney Lenihan, Úna O'Connor, Linda Ní Mhaolghaileir, Pádraigín Ní Mhaolomhaigh, Úna Ní Chonchubhair, Corcaigh, Áth Cliath.

FULL FORWARDS

Sophia Brack, Deirdre Hughes, Angela Downey Browne, Sadhbh Ní Bhric, Deirdre Nic Aodha, Aingeal Ní Dhúnaigh, Áth Cliath, Tiobraid Árann, Cill Chainnigh.

From February onwards county Boards, Provincial Councils, Colleges Bodies all held events to celebrate the year in style. National Centenary events included a Golf Classic in Gowran Park, Kilkenny, An Post issued two stamps, R.T.É screened a documentary programme through their popular programme Breaking Ball. Prior to that we had the live television coverage of the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi-finals for the very first time ever. TG4 showed the Downey twins on Laochra Gael. Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcast a documentary in November. July 17th saw a re-enactment of the 1904 game in Páirc Tailteann. Many double headers were also played. A shinty /Camogie Compromise



The Camogie Team of the Century, back row from left, Sheila Wallace, Ard Stiurthoir, Cumann Camógaloichta na nGael, Liz Neary, Kilkenny, Marie Costine O'Donovan, Cork, Mary Sinnott Dinan, Wexford, Bridie Martin McGarry, Kilkenny, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Cork, Margaret O'Leary Leacy, Wexford, Linda Mellerick, Cork, Marian Carolan, on behalf of the late Kathleen Mills Hill, Dublin, and Mary Fennelly, on behalf of Angela Downey Browne, Kilkenny, and front row, from left, Eileen Duffy O'Mahony, Dublin, Máiread McAtamney Magill, Antrim, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D., Miriam O'Callaghan, Uachtarán, Cumann Camógaloichta na nGael, Úna O'Connor, Dublin, Nancy McCarthy, on behalf of the late Sophie Brack, her sister, Pat Moloney Lenihan, Cork, and Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary, at the Cumann Camógaloichta na nGael centenary celebrations at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

game also went ahead in October, September 19th 2004:

Possibly the highlight of the year was September 19th when the Senior and Junior All-Ireland finals went ahead in Croke Park. The highest attendance at a female sporting occasion this year with almost 25,000 pleased Cumann Camógaloichta na nGael. There were some wonderful moments such as when a 16-a-side game took place with one child from each of the thirty-two

counties. Other events on the day included the 2,500 children who formed the human 100 as well the letter 'C' for the Crest. The torch to light the way for the next century was carried into headquarters by Stephanie Gannon, the Galway All-Ireland Minor goal-keeper, who had a great year. She was awarded the player of the All-Ireland Minor Final and then won the first ever Poc Fada in the Cooley Mountains.

To round off the year on the playing front

the first ever International Competition took place involving the USA, Britain and Ireland, the final of which went ahead in Croke Park between Ireland and Britain ahead of the first Australia v. Ireland International Rules test match.

December 4th saw a return trip to the City West Hotel for the announcement of the first ever All-Star team. A truly remarkable year. Cumann Camógaloichta na nGael can proudly look forward to the next century with their heads held high.

Dec

2004

Millstreet Camogie celebrations

MILLSTREET Camogie Club had reason to celebrate at a victory function hosted in the Wallis Arms Hotel. On the playing fields, the club basked in double glory by blazing a path to outright triumph in the inaugural Avondhu U13/15 Camogie Finals. Showing a refreshing brand of dedication and skill, Millstreet surpassed their own wildest expectations on serving up exemplary performances to overcome St Fanahan's of Mitchelstown and Charleville.

Those successes merited a celebration function, and present at the function to laud the Millstreet successes were Cork Camogie senior captain Stephenie Dunlea and Avondhu Board Chairman John Barry.

Millstreet Vice Chairperson Joan Casey thanked all associated in the outstanding success of the club during the past year.

Apart from the Under 13/15 triumphs, the under 11 team reached the semi-finals of the Avondhu League and won the Inniscarra blitz competition.

Avondhu Chairman John Barry spoke on the popular growth of camogie and commended Millstreet on completing double wins in the inaugural season to the newly formed underage North Cork camogie division.

Millstreet Community School Michael McCarthy added his congratulations and thanked the input of the young players to school teams. Thanks were extended to O'Leary Butchers and Instyle for their kind sponsorship.

The triumphant Millstreet under 13 team was Katie Togher, Louise Lyons, Aine O'Callaghan, Helen O'Keeffe, Niamh O'Connor, Karen Murphy, Kayleigh Sheahan, Anna Jean O'Reilly, Aoife Fraser, Ann Carroll, Sinead Casey, Michelle Fitzgerald, Danielle Walsh, Katie Kelleher, Anne Marie Flynn and Muireann Murphy.

And the successful u15 team was Louise Buckley, Ellen Cronin, Aine O'Callaghan, Máiread Moynihan, Louise O'Connell, Mary Keane, Siobhán Tarrant, Bláithnaid O'Donoghue, Ciara Moore, Sinead Casey, Fiona O'Donoghue, Geanina Taylor, Aoife Fraser, Deirdre Looney, Clíodhna O'Callaghan, Katie Kelleher, Aoife Moynihan, Laura Healy, Christina Twomey and Danielle Walsh.

CAMOGIE REVIEW

AS THE action on the playing fields takes a break, we can look back on the recent juvenile and senior board conventions where the clubs throughout the city and county gathered to review centenary year activities.

Reviewing the senior convention the big talking point was the reduction in the number of selectors on the senior committee from five to three.

Elected to guide the fortunes as Cork go in search of a much needed Senior title were last year victorious Junior coach Lillian Zincent from Sarsfields and John Cronin who over the years has guided the county to five All Ireland minor titles, they will be joined by a nominee from county champions Carrigrohoun and tipped for that position is Ballygarvan's Ollie Hallihan.

Lillian Zincent did not seek re-election to the junior committee and outgoing Liz O Mahony will be joined by Willie O'Regan Clonakilty and a representative from county champions Valley Rovers.

Sile Golden and Kay Dunne were re-elected Intermediate selectors and they are joined by Pat Murray.

A new minor selection committee was also elected as the three outgoing John Cronin, Ann Watson and John Quinn not seeking another term.

Former Cork senior hurler Denis Burns from Rockban and Rose White from Blackrock will guide the fortunes of the minors along with a representative from county champions Eire Og.

The under 18 selectors are Ann Marie Healy and Sile O'Brien.

Efficient chairperson Marion Mc Carthy from the St. Finbarrs club was returned unopposed for her third term in office and certainly the game in the county has continued to go from strength to strength under her guidance. Marion is joined by the outgoing officer board of vice chairperson Mary Bugler, treasurer Mary Mc Sweeney, secretary Pat Murray who had to hold off the challenge of Tina Sheehan from



Donoughmore's Juliet Murphy, centre, is presented with the Lucozade Sport / Irish Independent Ladies player of the month award for November by Tom Cronin, Lucozade Sport, and Geraldine Giles, President of Ladies Football, Croke Park, Dublin.

Picture: Damien Eagers / SPORTSFILE

Douglas to retain his position. Kay Dunne is the board's registrar, while yours truly continues as PRO.

The general purposes committee elected to assist with the smooth running of the board's affairs is Noreen Daly, Kathleen Healy, Sile O'Brien, Christine O'Regan and Clare Donegan.

Convention looked back on a very successful season with all competitions in league and championship except the senior league completed on schedule.

December 2004; The 2004 Camogie All-Star team, (back from left) Kate Kelly, Wexford, Geraldine O'Connor, Cork, representing her daughter Gemma O'Connor, Jennifer O'Leary, Mairin McAleenan, Down, Claire Grogan, Tipperary, Ann Marie Hayes, Galway, Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary and Sinead Millea, Kilkenny. (Front from left), Aoife Murray, Cork, Suzanne Kelly, Tipperary, Una O'Dwyer, Tipperary, Aine Codd, Wexford, Mary Leacy, Wexford, Clara Gaynor, Tipperary and Therese Brophy, Tipperary. Citywest Hotel, Dublin. Pictures: Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE

The juvenile board again conducted their affairs in a very professional manner under the guidance of former senior board secretary Tracy Sheehan who took over the chairmanship in early March. Tracy and her officer board worked hard to ensure all competitions reached their conclusion and it's a tribute to their efforts that only one league competition has to be concluded.

Tracy continues in the Chair and she is once again joined by Cloughduv's Kathleen Healy as vice chairman.

Outgoing secretary Mary O Sullivan did not seek re-election to the position and it will be filled by Eileen O'Brien who becomes the first member of then Sliabh Rua club to hold a position on the county board.

The treasurer's job is again in the capable hands of Bina O Callaghan from Cloughduv, while Yvonne Lane from Ballygarvan retains the position of registrar. Ann Marie Healy is once again the board's P.R.O.

Former secretary Mary O Sullivan was elected to the general purposes committee

where she joins Paddy Cullinane from Dungourney, Andrew O' Farrell Carrigaline. It's good to see new members joining the general purposes committee no more so that All Ireland junior winning goalkeeper Ellen Clifford from St Finbarrs and Mallow's Esther O'Leary.

The year ahead will be an extremely busy one for young under age players with Cork hosting Feile Na nGael in June but no doubt the juvenile board will join forces with the senior committee to ensure everything runs smoothly.

It seems like only yesterday we were looking forward to centenary year and now it's been and gone I would like to thank everybody for their help and assistance through what a has been a roller coaster year. To all the staff at Inside Cork for their help with the camogie column and especially to all the clubs whose help has as always been tremendous.

Here's wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2005.

U-18 A, COUNTY FINAL:

Cashel Goals Are Decisive

Cashel3.11
Drom-Inch1.13

After a thriller of a contest Cashel captured the 2004 U-18 A, county final with a 4 point victory over Drom-Inch. This game was full of excitement with a very high standard of camogie on display. Michelle Shortt was first off the mark for Drom-Inch with a point after just two minutes. A minute later Claire Grogan levelled proceedings. Michelle Shortt who posed a constant threat then went on a solo-run before pointing once again. Then in the 6th minute a snap shot by Mary Hassett was blocked over the bar by Cashel goalkeeper Danielle O'Connell. Soon after Claire Grogan registered two more points one from play and one from a free. The game was opening up to be real end to end stuff with both teams keenly contesting every ball.

The next score came from Drom-Inch's Ciara Johnson with a free from near the sideline. Then in the 11th minute a mix-up

in front of the Drom-Inch goal ended with Alison Loneragan finding the back of the net. Drom-Inch responded with a free from Therese Shortt but less than a minute later Cashel struck again with a goal from Patrice Ryan. Drom-Inch needed a score and Michelle Shortt duly obliged with a point. However at the other end Claire Grogan showed her class when she worked her way through the Drom-Inch rearguard and fired the ball over the bar. Julie McGrath then got her name on the scoresheet - a point to increase Cashel's lead. The scores continued to come with a pointed free from Ciara Johnson and another point from Claire Grogan.

Just before the break Siobhan McGrath escaped from her marker lost her hurley but cunningly kicked the ball over the bar for a point for Drom-Inch. At half time Cashel led 2.6 to 8 points.

The half time break did the Drom-Inch girls a world of good as they

emerged after the break more fired up and immediately scored 1.3 without reply. The first two points coming from Therese Shortt and Ciara Johnson before Therese used her speed to get past her marker and bury the ball for a fine goal.

A minute later Therese pointed to give Drom-Inch a two point lead. However Cashel refused to fall away and soon after had two points from Alison Loneragan and Marie Horan, while for the opposition Michelle Shortt got her 4th point from play. Both teams continued to battle hard with Sarah Morrissey having a fine game for Cashel while Drom-Inch's Kristina Kenneally and her marker Fiona O'Dwyer were having a superb duel. The last 10 minutes saw Cashel giving an excellent display producing a goal and three points to turn a 1 point deficit into a 5 point lead. It started with a point from Rita McGrath then two in quick succession from Claire Grogan. With time ticking away Drom-

Inch pressed forward for a goal but it was Cashel who raised a green flag with Marie Horan finding the net. Drom-Inch went searching for a score. Therese Shortt found Michelle in space who made no mistake in shooting over the bar to leave 4 points between the sides. The final whistle then blew to signal the end of a truly compelling game of camogie.

It was a game Drom-Inch looked liked winning at times but full credit to Cashel who got three vital goals at key stages in the game. All of their forwards can be delighted with their performances especially Claire Grogan, Patrice Horan, Marie Horan and Alison Loneragan. While Sarah Morrissey and Ciara O'Sullivan also gave fine displays. For Drom-Inch Michelle and Therese Shortt were hugely involved in all of their team's attacking play and scored some great points. While Ciara Johnson worked hard at midfield



Tipperary camogie star Jovita Delaney married Thomas Heaphy, Lisnaw, Co Kerry in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Boherlahan with the Tipperary team providing the guard of honour.

DEC 2004



Camógaíocht: Céad Bliain Ag Fás

Camogie's centenary year began with a huge bash in CityWest Hotel with the announcement of the team of the century, writes national camogie PRO Máire Uí Scolaí. The year ended with another glittering affair in the same hotel when the first ever camogie All-Star team (pictured above) was announced earlier this month.

When the pioneers of 1904 stepped out onto the royal turf of Meath's Páirc Tailteann, they could never have dreamt of the great impact that game would have, or how one day it would spawn an Association numbering almost 90,000 members. The oldest female Gaelic sports organisation in the country can look back at a year that truly put camogie on the map both here and abroad.

The fact that camogie is now so much in the public domain is down to a lot of hard work carried out over the years by many people. However, as we all know times change, people move on, and so we must always be ready to meet new challenges. That is exactly what Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael is going about. A most enthusiastic and energetic committee have been travelling the country with a new planning and strategic programme plan. This is the blueprint for the Association until 2008 and involves all aspects and units of the Association.

For some it will mean many changes, for others it will mean moving on to step two having already made it to the first rung of the ladder. Things will not change overnight,

just like it took Tipperary all those years before they finally laid their hands on the elusive O'Duffy Cup.

Centenary events

This season, as in every other, the games were of the utmost importance, but so too were the many centenary celebrations held around the country. All units of the Association were strongly encouraged to stage an event to mark our centenary year. One day was designated Lá na gClub, and on All-Ireland finals day the winners were proudly announced over the public address system in Croke Park. The outright winners were the Wexford club St Martins, home of the great senior intercounty player Áine Codd who proudly accepted the very generous AIB cheque. Second place went to Milford of Cork who represented the county in this year's Munster championship, before losing by two points to the Limerick champions Granagh-Ballingarry in the Munster final.

Another major event was the issuing of two stamps by An Post to commemorate the year. The stamps depicted the four counties with the most All-Ireland titles, namely,

Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny and Antrim. Other events at a national level included the re-enactment of the first public game which held at Páirc Tailteann, Navan on 17 July 1904. This game was played 100 years later to the very day and created a great sense of occasion when Meath intercounty players took to field in long black skirts and white blouses and played an entertaining game. The same day, 100 lucky children were chosen to form a 'human 100' on the hallowed turf of Páirc Tailteann in what was a great scene for many in the stand.

A golf classic saw a host of famed sports people, female and male, take to the fairways of the lovely Gowran Club in County Kilkenny. Among those that played on the day were Niall Quinn, Séan Kelly and former camogie players like Antrim's Maeve Gilroy.

Live television coverage

This year's All-Ireland semi-finals were televised live for the first time and provided a major boost to the game. The combined television audience for the semi-finals and the All-Ireland finals in September was more than 300,000. It was a resounding

success for both the Association and the national broadcaster. The fact that almost 25,000 attended this year's finals meant that Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael enjoyed the highest attendance at a female sporting event in the country this year.

All-Ireland Finals Day

The highlight of the year was 19 September when the senior and junior All-Ireland finals were held in Croke Park. To have had the privilege of being there on All-Ireland day in centenary year was special indeed. Watching from on high, there were some wonderful moments such as the 16-a-side game where two teams, comprised of one child from each of the 32 counties, took the field for an exhibition game. It was a joy to see them proudly show off their camogie skills in the magnificent surroundings of Croke Park.

Other events on the day included the 2,500 children who participated in a pageant on the pitch and formed the 'human 100' as well the letter 'C' for the crest. The torch to light the way for the next century was carried into headquarters by Stephanie Gannon, the Galway minor goalkeeper. Stephanie enjoyed a great year; she won her first All-Ireland minor medal, received the player of the match award, and then won the first ever camogie poc fada in the Cooley Mountains.

Tipperary's Treble

Centenary year was a date that many counties targeted to win some major silverware. The ultimate trophy owners were Tipperary, who won their second consecutive Munster senior championship title by defeating Corcaigh. They then went on to defeat Loch Garman in the Division One league final, a title Tipperary had not won since the league's inaugural year of 1976-77. However, their crowning glory came on 19 September when they won their fifth

Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland title.

Four very eager teams took to the field on that September Sunday hoping to enter the history books as All-Ireland winners in centenary year. On the day there was no denying as to who the winners were. A very hungry Rebel County side showed the girls from the County Down how best to play camogie in the junior decider, while the Tipperary stars shone too brightly for the Cork girls in the senior final.

It seemed that no matter what Cork tried that day they were not going to succeed as

The oldest female Gaelic sporting organisation has a great future and can enter the next century proudly

the Premier County were firing on all cylinders. From full-back Úna O'Dwyer to full-forward Deirdre Hughes (the only present day player to be selected on the team of the century) there was no denying Tipperary another All-Ireland title.

The following month Tipperary tried to pull off another All-Ireland title when they took on Galway in the All-Ireland intermediate final in Semple Stadium. However, Galway showed the greater hunger and the Western girls took their first intermediate title, their second All-Ireland title of the year as they already won the All-Ireland minor A title in August when they defeated a fancied Kilkenny side.

Coca Cola International Competition

An international competition was often spoken of over the years and it seems most

fitting that centenary year should witness the inaugural event. Wednesday 13 October was a red letter day in the history of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael as Britain and the USA teams both flew into Dublin Airport to take part in the first ever Coca Cola International Competition. The travelling team, and their Irish hosts, were wined and dined in the CityWest Hotel that night.

Competition got under way the following day and the final, featuring Ireland versus Britain, was played in Croke Park ahead of the first International Rules test between Australia and Ireland. The scoreline might have been rather lop-sided, but as an event it put camogie on a worldwide pedestal. It is a competition with a bright future and despite both cost and travel, it is likely to attract teams from more countries over the next couple of years.

To round off the year on the playing fields the club championships finals took centre stage when the four provinces were represented with Liatroim Fontenoys of Down defeating Roscommon's Four Roads in the junior final, while Granagh-Ballingarry of Limerick were beaten by first time finalists St Lachtain's of Freshford, Kilkenny.

The oldest female Gaelic sporting organisation has a great future and can enter the next century very proudly. It has truly been a great year for the Association. The founding members of 1904 can be thanked for having taken such a great initiative back in those early days when it was not as easy to go about the business of establishing a sports body, or even to be involved in sport, as it is today. We owe them debt of deep gratitude. Were they alive in 2004 they would have seen a great reward for the hard work they put in at the start of the last century. Here's to the next camogie century.



Youngsters taking part in Camogie's centenary celebrations



Úna O'Dwyer, Tipperary, in action against Elaine Burke, Cork.

TIPPERARY UNDERLINE SUPREMACY

Reigning champions Tipperary careered their way to a fifth All-Ireland senior camogie crown in six years when they demonstrated too much firepower for Cork in a cracking centenary year decider at Croke Park on a 2-11 to 0-9 scoreline.

Played in front of a passionate and record crowd of 24,569 fans, the game was a predictably fast-flowing affair with Tipp's ability to snatch vital scores at opportune times key to their eventual victory.

In this respect, Deirdre Hughes' success in latching onto a dangerous lobbed centre by Jill Horan in the 19th minute and thereafter a classy Joanne Ryan goal fourteen minutes into the second half proved all-important.

The game began at a hectic pace and there was no let-up until the final whistle.

However the defending champions, with Claire Grogan in outstanding form up front, proceeded to force the pace throughout, leaving an embattled Cork side relying for long periods on wreaking damage from quick counter-attacks.

Although Cork's half-back line impressed in augmenting their team-mates' advances on the Tipp goal, a fine point by Gemma O'Connor helped edge the red and whites into the lead by the odd point in three inside.

Cork were the more energised lot as the second half got underway with the wind-backed Tipp side labouring as they attempted to get off the blocks.

Jenny O'Leary helped the Rebel County cause with

an unerring free less than one minute after the restart in a fast-paced start to the second half.

Cork pushed forward in search of another point to put further pressure on the leaders who found themselves very much on the back foot in the early minutes after the restart.

Then Suzanne Kelly was forced to make a timely clearance after a long free by the aforementioned O'Leary dropped dangerously into the square.

Cork continued to move the sliothar well.

Jenny O'Leary continued to reflect the new verve and drive from the Cork ladies when driving over another free to leave just a goal between the sides (1-6 to 0-6) after just seven minutes of the second half.

But Tipp held firm and when Claire Grogan rifled over her sixth point - from a Rosarie Holland knockdown - the Cork deficit was stretched to four points once again.

The aforementioned Grogan had an opportunity to narrow the gap just moments later but her free drifted narrowly wide.

The pendulum continued to swing from one end of the field to the other with one team and then the other threatening to grab the game by the scruff of the neck only for them to see the initiative rested from their grasp.



The successful Tipperary senior camogie squad



The Cork squad which battled to the bitter end against Tipperary in the senior final

Desmond

Referee - U Kearney (Armagh)

GALWAY MAKE HISTORY

Rock solid Sinead Keane of Galway proved to be the difference between Galway and Tipperary as the Tribeswomen won their first ever All-Ireland Intermediate championship title 1-10 to Tipperary's 0-4 in Semple Stadium in October.

Playing against a stiff opening first half wind Galway had to wait until three minutes before the break to register their opening point but after that they found their shooting boots. In contrast Tipperary's three first half scores were frees from Eimear Ryan while the Premier county who tasted defeat at this stage for the last two years were hoping to make it title number having won their first in 1997.

While, Tipperary headed into to the break leading 0-3 to Galway's 0-1 one sensed that they possibly said

good bye having survived a late Galway challenge for goals just before the interval.

But, Galway who are making great strides to reach the glory days of 1996 again sprung fast into action by the fourth minute of the second half when Caroline Kelly sent over the first of three second half points. Despite Tipperary's rapid fire point from Ger Kinnane which left the sides level at 0-4 each it proved to be the Premier County's final score.

Wind advantage and smart changes in the second half is what possibly won this game for Galway. Even the first half introduction of senior All-Ireland medallist Jill Horan to midfield did not lift the Tipperary spirits.

With player of the match Sinéad Keane in top form at left half back, Tipperary could not get past her and so it turned to Galway's day at the races as they added a further four points before their all important goal came. It started with the great Susan Keane who found Brenda Hanney right on queue to fire home the only goal of the match with just three minutes remaining.

The Galway sideline knew the Corn Uí Phuirséil was heading across the Shannon for the first time.



The Cork junior squad celebrate their All-Ireland win over Down

Galway - S Eamer; C Moran, S Cahalan, L Flynn; R O'Connor, R Glynn, S Keane; C Glennon, L Lally; B Kerins, B Hanney, A Lynskey; C Kelly, AM Hayes, E Kilkenny. Subs - C Bowes for Kerins; S Keane for E Kilkenny; M Flanagan for C Kelly.

Tipperary - S O'Brien; D

McDonnell, H Breen, M Looby; M Corcoran, J Kirwan, M Shortt; M Luttrell, J Delaney, G Kinnane; E Ryan, J O'Connor; M Ryan, S Ryan, D Ryan. Subs - J Horan for M Luttrell, C Hennessy for J O'Connor; C Johnston for S Ryan.

Referee - A Derham (Dublin)

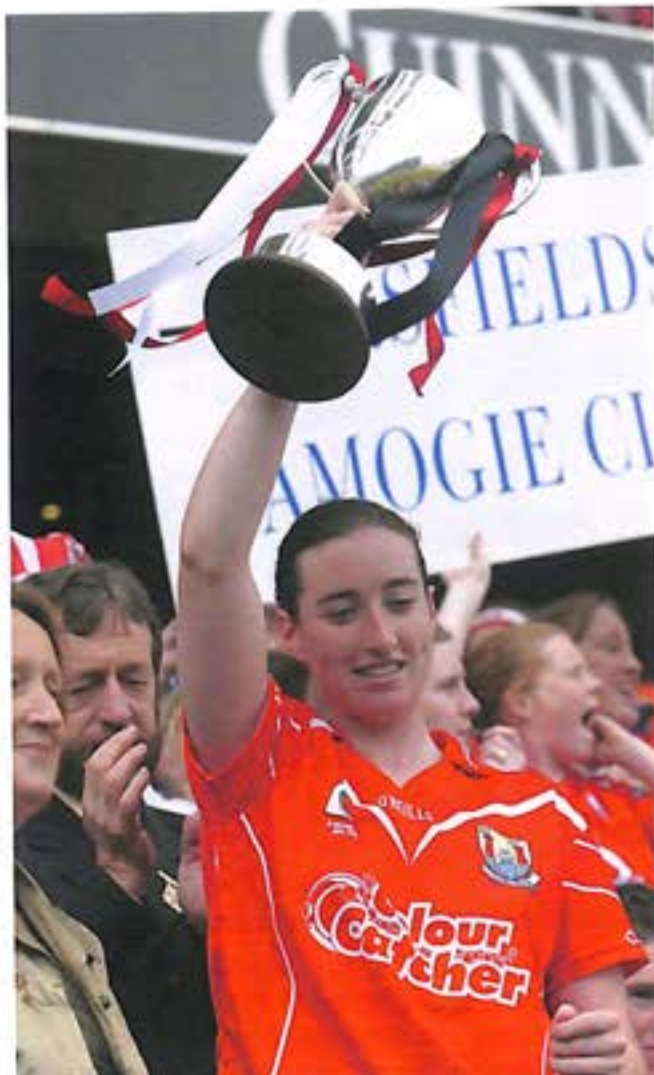
JUNIOR CONSOLATION FOR CORK

There was some consolation for Cork at Croke Park on Sunday, September 19 when the county's junior camogie team defeated Down in an exciting All-Ireland final. Final score, Cork 4-5 to Down's 2-4

Down goalkeeper Teresa McGowan pulled off a great save in the third minute, only to be beaten when Marian Jagoe goaled from the rebound. Cathy Mulholland replied with a similar score for Down after seven minutes and Mairin McAleenan added a



Tipperary captain Joanne Ryan lifts the All-Ireland senior camogie trophy after her side's win over Cork



Cork's Valerie O'Sullivan raises the All-Ireland junior cup aloft

second within minutes.

But Cork recovered well and goals from Eimear O'Farrell and Elizabeth Bulger helped them to a 3-3 to 2-4 interval lead.

Amazingly, the Mourne County failed to score in the second half as Elaine O'Riordan and Amanda O'Regan shut up shop at the back for Cork. The Rebels sealed victory with a fourth goal from Bulger and two pointed frees from Valerie O'Keeffe.

Cork - E Clifford, G Kearney, E O'Riordan, N Goulding, J Browne, A O'Regan, M Holland, V O'Sullivan, V O'Keeffe 0-5, M O'Connell, S O'Donovan, E Bulger 2-0, E O'Farrell 1-0, M Deasy, M Jagoe 1-0. Subs - M Hegarty for Goulding, J Duffy for Bulger, G Collins for O'Donovan

Down - T McGowan, C McGovern, M Maginn, A Morgan, D Kelland, P Green, K Murray, J Braniff, L McCrickard, F Duff, M McAleenan 1-1, C McGourty 0-2, F Carr, C Mulholland 1-0, K Gribben 0-1. Subs - O Maginn for Morgan, B Gallagher for Duff, M McPoinn for Gribben, A Fearon for Mulholland

Referee - E Lawlor (Westmeath)

DEC
2004

'It is a great honour to be Chairman in a year when we saw our senior team win their fifth All-Ireland in sixth years. They are a marvellous group of players. I don't think there are words good enough to express the motivation and dedication that these players have. It is a marvellous achievement,' commented Co. Board Chairman Stephen Fitzgerald at their County Convention on Tuesday night last December 7th.

The Chairman also acknowledged the work and commitment by the management team and all those associated with the team. He also acknowledged the achievement of the intermediate side who got to the All-Ireland but whom he said were unlucky to come up against a very good Galway side.

The Chairman also acknowledged their sponsors including, A Sportsman's Dream, Horse & Jockey and also O'Neills for their generous sponsorship throughout the year. Further more the Chairman paid tribute to the work of Michael Cleary and all on the Supporters Club Committee who have continued to raise fund.



Lil Daly, Gretta Byrne and Terry Foley members of Mahon Golf Course

Cork camogie comrades celebrate achievements

By BRIAN FENTON

Camogie news

THE Cork County Camogie Board recently celebrated their 100th anniversary with a centenary dinner dance. Gretta Byrne, Lil Daly and Terry Foley all received awards in recognition of their services as treasurer of the board at different stages. The three women have been friends for years, having played camogie with Old Als' Camogie Club in their younger

days. Together they won six County Championships up to 1961 and Lil Daly was honoured with the Cork captaincy in 1955. The club is now defunct, but the three are striving to keep their ties with Old Als' alive, and have been members of the Old Als' Golf Society for the

past 12 years. They have continued to be great friends and their sporting activities are now with Mahon Golf Club. In fact, Gretta was Lady Captain in 2002 and Terry is lined up as the incoming Lady Captain for 2005. People say that 'sport makes for lasting friendships', and these three charismatic ladies are living proof that this holds true.

CAMOGIE COUNTY CONVENTION

Chairman reflects on a successful year

Addressing the delegates Mr. Fitzgerald acknowledged their significant contribution and the work carried by the clubs, supporters and volunteers throughout the year. He also thanked the referees but added that he would like to see more ladies involved.

With regard to the Minor and U18 performances, the Chairman said that he felt it was disappointing for this County to have exited these competitions in the manner in which they did. However he said that they had to move on and focus on the coming year.

CONGRESS

The following are the list of officers and coaches who were elected at the meeting.

Chairman, Stephen Fitzgerald (returned unopposed), Vice Chairman Biddy Philips and Eamon Browne nominated, Biddy Philips elected on a vote of 39 Votes to 17.

Secretary Joan Harkin (returned unopposed), Treasurer there were four nominees for this position including, Rose Mannion, Mossie Finn, Margaret Kennedy and Biddy Philips. Both Margaret Kennedy and Biddy Philips with drew, Rose Mannion was elected on a vote of 31 votes to 25.

Registrar, there were two nomi-

nees for this position Biddy Philips and Bernie O'Dowd, Biddy Philips was elected on a vote of 39 votes to 17 votes.

PRO: Marion Graham was returned unopposed to the position. Geraldine Kinane was elected to the new position of Assistant PRO unopposed.

Munster Delegate; Margaret Skehan was elected unopposed.

Senior Coach; Paddy McCormack was elected unopposed.

Intermediate/Junior Coach - As it was felt that the same girls would be involved in both teams it was decided to amalgamate the position. Sheila Delaney was elected in March.

U-18 Coach - Seanie Johnston was elected unopposed.

U-16 Coach - Pat McLoughney was elected unopposed.

The Fixtures Committee for the coming year are as follows;

Sally Duggan, John Harkin, Margaret Kennedy, Stephen Fitzgerald, Suzanne Kelly, Joe Williams, Seamus O'Brien

The Development Committee for the coming year are as follows: Rose Mannion, Bernie O'Dowd, John O'Connor, Liam Mannion, John Harkin, Lar O'Brien, Margaret Skehan.

Referees Committee - It was decided to allow the referees committee to elect a chairperson, secretary and form a committee themselves which would report back periodically to the County Board.

Eamon Browne was nominated to go forward on behalf of the County Board as Chairperson of the Munster Council.

A number of motions were discussed at the County Convention the following is a brief note on each.

Board Votes For Changes In Method Of Appointing Selectors

A motion put forward by St. Rita's Club in Fethard asked that the County By-law number 20 be amended to read, 'That a separate selection committee shall be appointed for each Inter-County grade in which the County Board decides to enter a team. Each committee shall consist of three people with the coach to be appointed at the AGM, selectors to be appointed in consultation between the coach and the executive committee. Selectors to be submitted for ratification no later than the Adjourned Convention.' After much discussion for and against this motion it

was left to the floor where it was decided to move in favour of the motion. This meant that only coaches were appointed at the AGM on Tuesday night with selectors to be ratified at the Adjourned AGM in January.

By-Law 42

There is to be no change to By-Law 42 after it was voted it against by a majority 30 votes to 13.

The motion put forward by the Cashel Club asked that this by-law be amended to read, 'That at least one lady be involved, Coach, Selector or Liaison Officer on all County panels for obvious reasons.' Again the discussion was left open to the floor and then to put the vote. The result was as above.

Grading Committee

A Grading Committee to grade all teams and competitions is to be formed, it was decided at the Convention.

The change is as a result of a motion put forward by the Annacorney Club. The motion read, 'That the County Board Officers and Fixtures Secretary form a grading committee to grade all teams and competitions. Again a discussion weigh up the pros and cons.

The motion in favour was carried.

Combinations

A motion requesting that combinations of teams to compete in the senior county championship in the county be allowed, was carried by a majority.

The motion put forward by the Burgess Club read as follows, 'For the advancement and development of the senior county championship in Tipperary that two teams of either Senior B, Intermediate, Junior A, Junior B be allowed to form a combination team to participate in the senior A championship as a pilot system for the coming year 2005. The two clubs forming the combination team may continue to participate in their own individual championship at their own level with their own clubs. The newly formed combinations team is not to include a team that has won a county senior championship in the past five years.

Assistant PRO

Established

A motion put forward by Drom-Inch Club requesting, 'The position of Assistant PRO' be established was passed unanimously by the Board.

Limerick Camogie 2004

Holding It's Own But No Room For Complacency

by Noel O'Connor

22 Clubs affiliated in 04 namely Abbey Gaels, Abbey Sansfield, Adare, Ahane, Ballyagran, Ballybrown, Blackrock, Bruff, Creora, Croagh Kilfinn, Feenagh-Killeedy, Galbally, Granagh Ballygarry, Killeedy, Kilmullock, Knockaderry, Milford, Murroe, Boher, Na Piarasigh, Newcastlewest, Patrickswell, Tournafulla.

The Age groups competed in were U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, Adult (U21 was discontinued 4/5 years ago for lack of interest). 10 Clubs fielded in all age groups, 1 entered 5 - 6 Clubs fielded in 4 age groups, 2 in 3 - 2 clubs entered 2 age groups, 1 club fielded in one age group only. 20 Clubs had adult teams, 14 fielded at U18, 16 at U16, 18 at U14, 18 at U12 while surprisingly only 14 clubs fielded U10 teams.

The County Board organised 32 competitions (take a bow Joe Hickey!) - 30 were completed. The U18 'A' League was not played, the novice championship met the same fate! 30 out of 32. Ain't bad! The various winners were: Championships, Senior A, Granagh Ballygarry Senior B, Killeedy, Intermediate Granagh Ballygarry, B. Intermediate Shield Knockaderry, Junior A, Newcastlewest, Junior B, Murroe-Boher, U18A, Granagh Ballygarry, U18B, Creora, U16A, Newcastlewest, U16B, Creora, U16C, Tournafulla, U14A, Ahane, U14B, Galbally, U14 Shield Blackrock, U12A, Ballyagran, U12B, Na Piarasigh, U12C, Galbally, U12A, Plate Abbey Sansfield, U12B, Plate Blackrock, Féile na nGael (U14) Ahane, U10 Blitz Ballyagran, Leagues Div 1, Killeedy, Div 2, Adare, Div 3, Milford, U18B, Creora, U16A, Ballyagran, U16B, Creora and Na Piarasigh tied after 3 games and extra time. Agreed to share the title. U14A Ahane, U14B Newcastlewest, U14C, Galbally. It was an annus mirabilis for many clubs, Creora Among Them, the League Div 1, Div 3 and Junior 'B' Championship. Successes of Killeedy, Milford and Murroe Boher respectively were particularly celebrated (a rare win for Killeedy over Arch-rivals, Granagh Ballygarry in the Final) while Tournafulla made huge efforts at underage. And of course the outstanding Granagh Ballygarry Seniors reached another All Ireland Final Intercounty Teams fielded were Senior, Intermediate (All Ireland Championship) Intermediate (Munster Championship) Junior (Munster Championship) U16A, U14. After a promising National League Div. Campaign, the Seniors

underperformed in the Championship hitting rock bottom v Wexford (1-4 to 6-17) at Wexford Park in Rd 1. Their Cup of sorrow overflowed when they lost to Galway (2-11 to 1-15) later in the year in the All Ireland Intermediate Quarter Final (Galway won out). The Intermediate (Munster) Team (The Seniors minus the ineligible Vera Sheehan, Pauline McCarthy, Eileen O'Brien) captured Munster Championship honours.

The Juniors winners over Waterford in the Munster Semi, lost heavily to Cork eventual All Ireland Champions in the final. Often annihilated in the 'A' grade the U16's shocked Tipperary (3-7 to 2-7) at the Ragg in Munster semi final. Disappointingly, failing to take scoring chances they lost to Clare (who surprised Cork in the Semi) in the final (3-7 to 4-7). The U14's played various Blitzes while we failed to field an U18 Team. The dedicated mentors who worked so hard for success were Senior/Intermediate John Lacey, Jack Dillon, John White, Sheila Treacy, Mike O'Connor, Phil Casey, (Liaison) Miriam Murphy (First Aid), Junior Tom Hennessy, TJ. Moloney, Grace McCarthy, Mary Herbert, U16 Tom Hennessy, TJ. Moloney, Annette Heffernan, Grace McCarthy, U18 Tom Hennessy, TJ. Moloney. (It was a very busy year for Tom and TJ, who led ULL to Ashbourne success) U14 Carmel Bourke, Peggie Bourke.

Off the Field with coffers perilously low, Finance had priority, hardworking Treasurer Mary Herbert her assistant Grace McCarthy, Miriam Magner Flynn, Olive Sheehan, Joe O'Donnell, Eamonn Falahee did Trojan work. A Bag-Pack at the Parkway - A Dog Night at the Markets Field, A Bucket collection at the Limerick v. Cork Munster Senior Hurling Championship game 'Gates Taken' with consistency Brought in much needed cash. Quality Hotels came on board with generous Sponsorship for the County Senior Team, and for the first time ever the major championships were sponsored. The generous benefactors who went where no man had gone before were Hunt Technology (Senior) Plessey Foods Services, (Intermediate) John Flavin Corner Bar (Junior 'A') Pat Smith Engineering (Under 16). Limerick Camogie appreciates their support.

And whatever the rewards accruing to the Sponsors (Don Flynn, Tom Magner (Plessey) John Flavin, Marie Hunt, Pat Smith

Camogie Champions 2004



Ahane U14 County & Féile Winners 2004



Newcastle West U16A County Champions 2004



Granagh Ballygarry County & Munster Senior Champions 2004

Superb Centenary Year for KILNAMONA CAMOGIE CLUB

2004, the Centenary year of camogie proved to be an outstanding one for Kilnamona camogie club with the re-capturing of the senior county title after a lapse of five years. We went on to win our first ever Munster Club title defeating the Waterford champions, St. Anne's, but unfortunately were defeated in the All-Ireland Semi-final by Down champions, Liatroim-Fontoney's, who incidentally went on to capture the All-Ireland title.

The senior team were in action in early March in the league where they had wins over St. Joseph's, Truagh, Wolfe Tones and Clarecastle to set up a final meeting with old rivals Newmarket. This turned out to be a cracking match with the sides evenly matched throughout. However, Newmarket pulled away with five minutes to go and were victorious by a margin of two points. Knowing that we were so close and yet so far, made us train even harder for the championship. In the championship - run on a league basis, we defeated Tulla, Clarecastle, Sixmilebridge and then beat St. Joseph's in the semi-final to reach our first county final in three years.

Cusack Park was the venue and Newmarket the opposition on an ideal day for camogie on 8th August. As was expected beforehand the final was very closely contested with some superb passages of play from both sides. With five minutes left on the clock, Newmarket were ahead ten points to five and looking to be on the road to victory. However, a storming last five minutes and three minutes of injury-time produced 1-2 from Kilnamona to no reply from Newmarket, to leave the teams deadlocked at full time, with 1-7 to Kilnamona to 0-10 points to Newmarket. A ten minutes aside extra time had yet to be faced. However, after their late rally in ordinary time, Kilnamona took to extra time with all guns blazing and scored three additional points with no response from Newmarket. It was a joyous occasion for the club when Ann Keane accepted the cup on behalf of the team.

Great credit for the success of the senior team has to be accredited to their management team of Gerry Rynne, Margaret Lafferty, Martin Lafferty and Rita Clancy.

The club was also honoured to have five players on the county junior team, who unfortunately after a superb year in 2003, were defeated by Cork in the opening round of the championship. Cork went on to capture the All-Ireland title. Kilnamona were represented by Catherine O'Loughlin (captain), Anne Keane, Marie O'Halloran and the Lafferty sisters, Siobhán and Fiona.

Catherine O'Loughlin also captained the Munster team to success in the Inter-provincial competition when they defeated Leinster in the final.

UNDER-18 'A':

Having captured the U-18 'A' title in 2003, with such a young team we set about retaining this title in 2004. We defeated Truagh, Newmarket, Tulla and Ogonnell and are now waiting to play the county final against Newmarket. These girls have been together since U-14 level and have given hours of dedication and commitment to training. If we play the camogie which we are capable of, we can complete the U-18/senior double in 2004. The U-18 team is trained by Margaret Lafferty and Catherine O'Loughlin.

We had six players from the club representing the county at U-18 level - Siobhán Lafferty (captain), Bernadette Mullins, Siobhán Connane, Fiona Lafferty, Edel O'Brien and Jacinta O'Grady. The Clare team were defeated by Tipperary in the opening round of the championship, but the future is bright as the majority of the team are underage again next year. All six of the Kilnamona players are U-18 again next year. Catherine O'Loughlin assisted with the training of this team.

MINOR (U-16 'A'):

We reached the semi-final of the U-16 'A' by defeating Ogonnell and Tulla. However, eventual winners, Newmarket, defeated us in a closely fought semi-final played in Ballyliffe.

One of the highlights of the camogie year in Clare was undoubtedly the success of the U-16 team capturing their first ever U-16 'A' Munster Championship defeating no less teams than Cork in the semi-final and Limerick in the Final. This was a brilliant breakthrough for Clare camogie and should ensure further success in the coming years.

Kilnamona were well represented on the team with Fiona Lafferty (who scored 1-5 in the Munster final), Stephanie Taaffe, Corina Rosengrave and Caitriona Power.

Margaret Lafferty was a member of the backroom team in what was a superb achievement in the Centenary year of camogie.

Indeed, Margaret Lafferty has given many hours of service to camogie at all levels in the club, and has been the guiding force behind the huge success the club had at both underage level over the last number of years and this year at senior level. She has given many hours of time and effort to bringing the club to the level at which it is at present.

UNDERAGE:

We participated in the U-11 ground camogie tournament, held over a number of days, during July and August. We defeated Kilkishen in the final round on a scoreline of 2-0, to receive the division two cup. Great thanks is due to Brid Glynn and Margaret Lafferty for looking after the team.

Well done to Ann-Marie McMahon who came third in the county Féile na nGael U-14 Skills competition.

Also to Orla Greene and Christina Glynn who represented the club in the U-11 skills match during the interval of the intermediate camogie final played in Cusack Park.

The club would like to thank the trainers and coaches of all the teams, for the hard work and hours of commitment they gave unselfishly to the club during the year. We would also like to thank our sponsors, particularly Michael and Angela O'Halloran, James Lafferty and Alan Cummins for their generous assistance during the year. The club acknowledges the hard work of secretary, Rita Clancy, for the endless hours she has given during the year both at club and county level.

As we put a close to 2004 we look back on what was a superb centenary year for camogie and the club and we look forward to 2005.



L-r: Ciara Storey,



KILNAMONA U-11 CAMOGIE TEAM

Back, l-r: Margaret Lafferty, Siobhán Garrhy, Christina Glynn, Orla Greene, Eimer Crowe, Aisling McInerney, Roisin Rouine, Aoife Smith, Brid Glynn.

Front, l-r: Sinead Quinn, Aoife Keane, Lily Guilfoyle, Ciara Cotter, Sarah Cotter, Claire Taaffe, Ruth Crowe, Katie McCreanor.

Lafferty leads charge as Clare claim first Munster camogie crown

Clare.....4-7
Limerick.....3-7

It's a long time since the Munster minor A camogie championship final, provided such excitement, and, not surprisingly, the rejoicing that followed Clare's first ever provincial win in Charleville on Saturday was matched by similar levels of disappointment in the Limerick camp.

After beating Cork in the semi-final, confidence was high in the Banner County and, with Fiona Lafferty in sensational form at full-forward, Limerick were under severe strain early on. Scores against the wind were at a premium while their defence was having trouble coping with the Clare attack. Goals arrived in the 18th and 31st

minutes from Danielle Sheedy and Lafferty, while the green and white replies came mainly from placed balls.

The Banner County were in the driving seat, 2-4 to 0-3, at the interval.

Limerick clawed their way back into the game, but a second goal from Sheedy left them with a mountain to climb entering the closing quarter.

Substitute Aisling McAuliffe threw Limerick a lifeline with a goal, but Clare, with inspirational play from captain Amy McInerney and Jennifer Moloney, were unyielding. Green flags were swapped by Maire Rafferty and Niamh Mulcahy, but there was no denying Clare their day in the sun. Well done to all involved.

Scorers for Clare: F. Lafferty 1-5; D. Sheedy 2-1 and M. Rafferty 1-1.

Limerick: N. Mulcahy 1-4; A. McAuliffe and M. O'Connell 1-0 each, E. Mullane 0-2 and F. Dore 0-1.

Clare: S. Vaughan; I. Kaiser, A. McInerney (captain), A. Garry, C. O'Leary, E. Solan, J. Moloney, L. Hayes, M. O'Brien, A. Treacy, E. Hennessy, L. Fahy, M. Raftery, F. Lafferty, D. Sheedy, Subs: M. Kelleher for J. Moloney; A. M. Fitzgerald for E. Hennessy, S. Regan for A. Treacy.

Limerick: S. Moynihan, L. Herbert, S. Collins, Fitzgerald, N. Heffernan, M. O'Connell (captain), Dore, N. Mulcahy, C. Lane, C. O'Shea, E. Mullane, Geary, C. Davis, F. Morrissey, E. Nash. Subs: McAuliffe for C. Lane; S. Kennedy for S. Moynihan (inj.)

Referee: M. Conroy (Waterford).

KILLEAGH HOLD OUT AT FINISH

ON Saturday at Na Piarsaigh Kilbrittan and Killeagh contested the under 18 C final with Killeagh having to withstand a tremendous late Kilbrittan rally before taking the title.

There was little between the sides through the sixty minutes with Killeagh pulling away with nine minutes remaining before Kilbrittan rallied to almost snatch it.

It was level at the break 1-5 each after an Eanna O'Neill goal helped Killeagh recover from a five point deficit despite having got an early point from Noelle O'Donovan. Kilbrittan held the upper hand with the impressive Marion Murphy and Orla O'Regan scoring three points in succession before Aidleen Breen grabbed the games opening goal. Marion Murphy pointed a free to edged Kilbrittan ahead on the resumption but Eanna O'Neill gave Killeagh the lead for the first time in the game. Applying the pressure Noelle O'Donovan pointed but Kilbrittan fought back to level with Marion Murphy striking a superbly thirty metres free to the net. For eleven minutes it was scoreless but then came all the action. Niamh Loughlin finished to the net and from the puck Killeagh again applied the pressure with Caoimhe Harnedy striking for their fourth goal, Noelle O'Donovan pointed and now with the gap at seven points Killeagh were coasting towards the title. Kilbrittan had other ideas and refusing to die Marion Murphy blasted a penalty to the roof of the Killeagh net, from the puck out Danielle O'Sullivan bore down on goal and finished confidently with style. However time was not on their side as referee Cathal Egan blow full time on the puck out much to the relief of the Killeagh. Certainly the game has continued to make huge strides in Killeagh and all credit to all the mentors on a tremendous year.

DEC. 2005



Scariff Community College, All Ireland Junior Champions 2004 - Back row l-r: Sinead Durack, Catherine McNamara, Barbara Burke, Mairead Scallan, Clara O'Leary, Lisa Donnellan, Eibhlin Bowler, Sarah Myles, Lorraine Lynch. Middle row l-r: Laura Brody, Clara McDermott, Aisling Kelly, Sinead Flaherty, Roisin Loughnane, Mairead Dooley, Niamh O'Connor, Michelle Dooley, Susan Vaughan, Sandra Counihan. Front row l-r: Edel O'Grady, Triana Kelly, Lisa Chapman, Louise Hayes, Marian O'Brien (Captain), Aisling Treacy, Amanda Flaherty, Roisin O'Brien, Ann-Marie Fitzgerald.



Clare Minor Camogie Team, Munster Champions 2004 - Back row l-r: Caitriona Power, Stephanie Tanze, Marian O'Brien, Danielle Sheedy, Amy McInerney (Captain), Lisa Fahy, Clara O'Leary, Jennifer Moloney, Sinead O'Loughlin, Lorraine Lynch, Muireann Kelleher, Avril O'Dea, Jane Seaward, Stobhan Lee, Susan Vaughan, Roisin Kennedy. Front row l-r: Erin Hennessy, Marie Rafferty, Fiona Lafferty, Louise Hayes, Aisling Treacy, Hazel McMahon, Aisling Garry, Ellen Solan, Mimi Flynn, Iris Kaiser, Ann-Marie Fitzgerald, Corina Rosengrave, Enid O'Loughlin, missing from picture: Stephanie Regan.



Kilmaley Intermediate Championship Camogie Team 2004 - Back row l-r: Patrick Lynch (trainer), Emma O'Driscoll, Denise Lynch, Grace Ryan, Marie Hehir, Michelle Frawley, Rachel Maher, Edel McDonald, Aine O'Sullivan, Ann Leyden, Patricia O'Brien, Emily Lafferty & son Dean, Eugene McMahon (trainer). Front row l-r: Edel Griffey, Dymphna Killeen, Clare McMahon, Helen McMahon, Stobhan White (Captain), Michelle O'Looney, Edel Maher, Aida Griffey, Mascots Megan & Caoimhe White.

Scariff reach Munster final

Scariff CC 2-2
Presentation, Bandon 0-2

SCARIFF Community College qualified for the Munster junior A colleges camogie final when they proved too strong for Bandon at Bodyke last week.

In the provincial final, which will not take place until February, they will play St Mary's from Nenagh or St Mary's from Charleville.

The foundations for this latest victory were laid in the opening half

when the East Clare outfit managed to score both their goals.

Tricia Kelly gave them the lead with the opening goal after ten minutes following a pass from Roisin O'Brien.

Ann Marie Fitzgerald had their second goal from a free and she followed this with a point, also from a free before the visitors had their only score of the half, leaving the half-time score at 2-1 to 0-1.

The second-half was a rather dogged affair with defences on top. Scariff's point in this half came from

Mairead Dooley.

This was a tremendous team effort by the winners for whom the half-back trio of Roisin Loughnane, Sinead Durack and Amanda Flaherty excelled.

Scariff: Susan Vaughan; Edel O'Grady, Eibhlin Burke, Sinead Flaherty; Roisin Loughnane, Sinead Durack, Amanda Flaherty; Clara McDermott, Aisling Kelly; Roisin O'Brien, Lisa Donnellan, Mairead Dooley; Tricia Kelly, Mairead Scallan, Ann Marie Fitzgerald.

Sub: Sarah Myles.



At the homecoming in the House & Jockey, captain Joanne Ryan with captain of Tipperary 1932, Elsie O'Dwyer (Fethard) also in the picture Marion Graham.

Jan. 2005



The Camogie team of the Century, back row from left, Sheila Wallace, Ard Stiurthoir, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, Liz Neary, Kilkenny, Marie Costine O'Donovan, Cork, Mary Sinnott Dinan, Wexford, Bridie Martin McGarry, Kilkenny, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Cork, Kathleen Mills Hill, Dublin, Linda Mellerick, Cork, Marian Carolan, on behalf of the late Kathleen Mills Hill, Dublin, and Mary Fennelly, on behalf of Angela Downey Browne, Kilkenny. Front from left, Eileen Duffy O'Mahony, Dublin, Mairead McAtamney Magill, Antrim, An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, T.D, Miriam O'Callaghan, Uachtaran, Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael, Una O'Connor, Dublin, Nancy McCarthy, on behalf of the late Sophie Brack, her sister, Pat Moloney Lenihan, Cork, and Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary, at the Cumann Camogaiocht na nGael centenary celebrations at the Citywest Hotel, Dublin.

Centenary celebrations dominate year

Mary Newman
takes a look back at
a wonderful year for
camogie in Cork

It was a busy Centenary Year on the camogie front as the county junior team took Provincial and All-Ireland titles. There was also plenty of action on the club and college scene as everybody set about celebrating one hundred years of our national game for women.

Inter county:
Hopes were high that centenary year was going to see the O'Duffy Cup return Leeside but that was not the case. The senior side failed to make the play off stages of the National league but preparations were good for championship. In the Munster Final Cork had to give way to Tipperary but everything was being geared towards the open draw and the All-Ireland campaign. Cork hoped to get the upper hand over Tipperary in the final but the expected thriller failed to materialise as Tipperary proceeded to brush Cork aside to claim their fifth title in six years.

INTERMEDIATE
There was no joy for the Intermediate team who had to give way to a stronger Galway side in the opening round of the championship.

Junior
Coach Lillian Zinchant and her fellow selectors left no stone unturned in their quest for an Junior All Ireland title and they faced the Munster champions Clare in a confident mood and successfully made it to the Munster final where they totally outclassed Limerick to book a semi-final meeting with Wexford. A tough hour was endured before a place on Croke Park was booked.

Facing a Down team in the final was a big job but Cork gave one of the best displays seen in a junior final in years and outclassed and outplayed Down to claim the title. All credit to a wonderful group of players who will go on to achieve much more in the future.

Minor
There was huge disappointment for the minor side that having recorded a comprehensive opening round victory over Waterford lost out at the semi final stage to Clare on a miserable night for hurling where despite failing to score a point Clare advanced on a 3-0 to 2-2 score line.

Under 18
The under 18 competition only goes to provincial level and this year there was certainly plenty of surprises as Waterford continued their steady improvements by defeating Tipperary to qualify for the counties first Munster final in the grade. Despite that victory they had to give way to a stronger Cork in the final.

Championship Action
There was a major boost for camogie in the county with O'Leary Brothers Builders coming on board to sponsor the County Boards adult championships for 2004. After some hectic games divisional side Carrigrohoun faced Milford as both contested their first senior county final. After a thrilling contest where the lead changing hands continuously it was Carrigrohoun who had their noses ahead at full time, 6-11 to 5-11. Carrigrohoun captain Catriona Kelly was a popular choice as selection for the Gerald McCarthy sponsored Player of the Match award.

Aghabullogue, who had lost out in 2003, provided Ballygarvan's opposition in the Senior B final and with former Cork minor hurling coach Mort Murphy at the helm Aghabullogue took the title, Louise Murphy earning herself the Player of the Match award.

In the junior 'A' grade Valley Rovers defeated newly promoted Killeagh to be crowned champions, Lucey Hawke's turning in an inspirational performance to be named player of the match.

Ballyhea had a superb year taking the junior 'B' league and championship crowns but it was heart-break for Tracton who provided the opposition in both finals. Mary Coleman rightfully earned herself the player of the match award in

the championship decider. Aghabullogue had to give way to Cloughdun who made it back to back victories in the junior shield while Castlemagner took the thirteen a side junior title. The county board organised an interdivisional under 21 tournament in conjunction with its centenary celebrations and Muskerry captained by Grenagh's Jenny Vaughan defeated Carrigrohoun in the final.

Under Age: Juvenile chairperson Tracy Sheehan-Murray and her hard working committee set about the task of organising competitions for the Under 12 to 16 age groups.

In the under 12 'A' grade Inniscarra were crowned champions as they defeated holders Douglas on a 4-2 to 3-1 score line.

Valley Rovers again emerged victorious in the under 12 B section as they retained their crown defeating Ballygarvan by the narrowest of margins while Rockban take the

ban were 'C' league winners, and Erins Own defeated Charleville in the curtain raiser to the senior county final as the twelve a side league title was decided.

In other under-age activities Douglas made it three in a row of Cork Feile Na Gael title and represented Cork in the national finals in Kildare where they turned in a superb display to be crowned National Feile Champions, a wonderful achievement for which they are to be heartily are to be congratulated. Sinead O'Callaghan Ballinhasig took the Cork skills title and represented the county in Kildare. The juvenile board are to be congratulated on their work in the continued promotion of under age camogie within the county.

Colleges
Cork and Munster Colleges competitions saw provincial honours come to many of the counties schools unfortunately there was little joy on the All Ireland scene as St Marys Charleville lost out to holders Colaiste Brid in a replay while Carrigaline had to give way to St Raphael's Loughrea in the Senior B semi-final and Bandon lost out at the same stage to Athenry in the Junior 'A'.

Charleville were crowned All Ireland sevens champions and also won the senior 'A' crown while Carrigaline added the 'B' title.

The Munster Junior 'A' championship was won by Bandon.

In Cork College's competition Bandon, Fermoy, St Aloysius, Butervant and Christ the King all enjoyed championship successes.

Third Level U.C.D. hosted Ashbourne Cup 2004 and made it to the final where they had to give way to a University of Limerick side that captured their second title. The All Ireland Fresher's title was won by U.C.C. who were denied a double by UL, who captured the league crown.

SCIATH NA SCOIL Sciath Na Scoil as always proved to be a huge success where our younger players get their first taste of competitive action. Amongst the schools who took titles were St. Columbus Douglas, Scoil Eoin Innishannon, St. Michaels Upper Glanmire, Scoil

Barra Ballincollig, Scoil Iosagain Aghada, Clonpriest, Scoil an t-Athair Tadgh Carrigaline, Ballyheda and Coachford.

Centenary Celebrations
In what was a hugely successful celebration of the games centenary clubs through the county held many events, fun days, tournaments, walks, bags packing, long pucks, short pucks were but a few of the events to mark a successful La Na Club on April 11th Centenary year celebrations were launched at a gala banquet at the City West Hotel where four Cork players Sandie Fitzgibbon, Marie Costine, Pat Maloney and Linda Mellerick being chosen on the Centenary Team of The Century.

At Colleges level four Cork players were named on the Colleges All Star team Anna Geary, Rena Buckley, Elaine O'Riordan and Breige Corkery while three cork players Gemma O'Connor Aoife Murray and Jennifer O'Leary were named as Camogie All Stars.

Linda Mellerick was the counties Camogie Ambassador and she proved to be a wonderful choice fulfilling her duties throughout the county with the same enthusiasm she had put into her performances on the playing fields.

The County Board held many events among those that stand out was the naming of a Cork Feile Na Gael All Star team for 2004, the county boards participation in the St Patrick's Day parade where two players from each club walked in their club colours behind the camogie banner, while a player of the match award in all the under age county finals certainly added to the occasion for the youngsters.

Without doubt the grand finale of the Cork celebrations was the Centenary Banquet when close on 500 camogie people came together at the Rochestown Park Hotel.

Former county board officers and All Ireland winning captains were suitably honoured with a presentation on the evening.

It was wonderful to see the longest surviving captain, Josie McGrath who led the county to senior glory in 1935, in attendance to cut the centenary cake with All Ireland winning junior captain Val O'Keefe.

The grand finale of Cork's celebrations was the Centenary Banquet

honours in the 'C' grade defeating Mallow. St Catherines took the under 12 twelve a side title.

Competition at Under14 level again proved very competitive in all grades.

Douglas retained the under 14 'A' league defeating Inniscarra in a thrilling final. Milford sailed past every opposition to be champions in the 14 'B' league. Clonakilty retained the 14 'C' title while in the twelve a side Cloughdun defeated Newcestown.

There was a new name on the under 16 'A' championship trophy as Milford were denied six in a row at semi final stage by Eire Og.

The Mid Cork side completed a tremendous year taking the title after a replay with Douglas. Clonakilty took the under 16 'B' county title defeating Glen Rovers in an exciting final. The under 16 'C' championship title was won by Killeagh who defeated Bride Rovers.

Carrigaline recorded a victory over Blarney in the twelve a side competition. In the 16 'A' league Douglas retained their title, Rock-



SLIOTAR AGUS CAMAN



By **Séamas Mac Giolla Fhinnéin**

ONEILL'S CAMOGIE ALL-STARS

Máirín McAleenan's selection as the only Ulster representative on the first ever O'Neill's Camogie All-Stars team has been warmly greeted by the sport in the province.

Máirín was the only Junior-graded player selected on the team announced at a Gala Banquet in the CityWest Hotel and not surprisingly dominated by All-Ireland champions Tipperary with six Awards.

She has played almost all her camogie in the centre-forward slot for her club Liatroim Fontenoy's, Down and Ulster - an inter-county career that began almost two decades ago with back-to-back Ulster minor successes in 1985-6.

She made the provincial side the following year and - apart from an anterior cruciate ligament operation that kept her on the sidelines for almost two full seasons a couple of years ago - she has been a permanent fixture in each team as leader of the attack.

Typically she fought back after the operation to trouble defences at every level with her pace, skill and finishing.

This year Máirín was in the Down team that picked up the Ulster Junior crown for the first time in 13 seasons and they just missed out on the All-Ireland title losing to Cork in Croke Park.

Her first half goal in that game was of

the highest quality and probably convinced the selectors of her claims for inclusion as an All-star.

Her coach at club level Paul McStravick was delighted for the Downpatrick-based Irish-medium teacher.

"She has a very high level of skill and fitness but never puts herself above the needs of the team. I have seen her do things this year with a sliotar that most inter-county hurlers would struggle with. That's the reason why we are All-Ireland Junior club champions."

That feat was achieved last month with a 4-13 to 0-8 victory over Four Roads of Roscommon and Máirín hit eight of those points.

"When you coach a team, you are naturally rooting for your own player to get the recognition she deserves. I can tell you this was not a token Ulster player on an All-star team - she was consistently the best centre-forward that I saw this year."

"And players from Tipperary and elsewhere were coming over and congratulating her. That tells a lot about the esteem in which she is held by her peers."

The other three Ulster nominees - Derry teenager Katie McAuley, Antrim captain Edel Mason and Down full-forward Fionnuala Carr - were all out of luck in a team that features 6 Tipperary, 3 each from Cork and Wexford and one each from

Kilkenny, Galway and of course Down.

The 2004 O'Neill's Camogie All Star Team reads: Aoife Murray (Cork), Suzanne Kelly (Tipperary), Una O'Dwyer (Tipperary), Aine Codd (Wexford), Mary Leacy (Wexford), Ciara Gaynor (Tipperary), Therese Brophy (Tipperary), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork), Máirín McAleenan (Down), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Anne-Marie Hayes (Galway), Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary), Sinéad Millea (Kilkenny).

International Player of the year: Annette McGeeney (Roscommon and Sligo IT College)

Young Player of the Year: Stephanie Gannon (Galway)



JAN.
2005

A look back at Camogie in 2004

With players and officials still enjoying a well earned rest over the next few weeks we will review a very busy season gone by.

Centenary year was one of mixed fortunes in the county with pride of place going to the junior team who took Provincial and All-Ireland titles, also celebrating a successful season were the under 14 girls from Douglas who were crowned Feile Na Gael All-Ireland champions while at colleges level three Cork schools took provincial honours.

On the club scene divisional side Carrigdhoun made the breakthrough to take their first Senior County title while Aghbullogue, Valley Rovers, Tracton, Ballyhea, Castlemagner and Cloughduv all took county titles at adult level.

Under-age championship success came to Eire Og, Clonakilty, St Catherine's and Carrigaline while a host of clubs enjoyed league victories.

Sinead O Callaghan from the Ballinhassig club took the Cork Feile Na Gael Skills title.

There was also some good news off the playing fields, with four being a popular number as Cork were honoured with four players chosen on the Camogie Team of the Century, while four more players were honoured with selection on the Colleges All-Star team and four of the county senior side picked up All-Star awards as Mary Moran launched her fourth book "The History of Munster Camogie".

In December in recognition of our contribution to Centenary Year, the Cork Camogie Board were honoured with the 96/103 FM monthly award in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel, which was a tremendous boost at the end of a long and demanding season.

These were but a few of the stories to hit the headlines through a busy 2004 so sit back and enjoy the memories with me.

Inter county Scene:

New Coach John Considine and his fellow selectors Síle O'Brien, Mairead O Callaghan, Seamus Coffey and Mary Kenefick had high hopes that O'Duffy Cup would return to Leeside after a lapse of three years.

The National League was used by the management to try out new faces and it was not seen as a huge set back when the team failed to make the final as all the focus was on the championship.

In the Munster Final Cork had to give way to Tipperary but with the open draw and the All-Ireland campaign just around the corner there seemed little alarm.

Once again the championship was played on a league format and Cork qualified comfortably for the semi-final where they met Galway who provided little opposition as Cork cruised to the final.

Given the hard test champions Tipperary had received from an up and coming Wexford side in their semi-final it was certainly a worry that Cork had yet to be tested but hopes were high of getting the upper hand over a Tipperary side who were aiming for back to back titles.

What transpired can only be described as a disaster as Tipperary proceeded to brush Cork aside to claim their fifth title.

The game once again failed to live up to its pre-match expectations as Cork were crushed by a very determined Tipperary side.

Certainly there is a huge amount of work to be done if the glory days are to be rekindled.

The team over the last three years has lost some great servants none more so than Linda Mellerick, Fiona O Driscoll, Eithne Duggan and Denise Cronin all players who wore their hearts on their sleeve for Cork, now the time has come for new leaders to emerge and take up the mantle and drive forward.

At the recent county convention the selection committee was reduced from five to three and last years victorious junior coach Lillian Zinchant was elected as was John Cronin who has guided the county to no fewer than five All-Ireland minor titles they will be joined by a representative from county champions Carrigdhoun who I am led to understand many be Ballygarvan's Ollie Hallihan.

All three are vastly experience and hopefully they will get the response that is needed from the players to bring a much needed twenty-first title Leeside.

INTERMEDIATE

Always a hard grade to field in given the strength of several of the counties fielding first choice panels and there was little success for the Intermediate team who had to give way to a stronger Galway side in the opening round of the championship.

JUNIOR

Despite failing to make the play off stages of the league the Junior side worked hard under the coach Lillian Zinchant and faced the Munster champions Clare in a confident mood and successfully made it to the Munster final where they totally outclassed Limerick to book a semi-final meeting with Wexford.

A tough hour was endured before a place in Croke Park was booked but such was the determination of this team from the very start of the season that it was no surprise they had reached their goal.

Facing a Down team in the final who were the counties first choice squad, was a big job but undaunted this spirited group approached their task with the same diligence they had displayed all year.

Going into the contest minus three players who had opted to line out with the senior panel Cork gave one of the best displays seen in a

junior All-Ireland final in years.

To single out any one of the side would be doing the team an injustice but the performance of Amanda O'Regan at centre back was a pleasure to watch and she was rightfully named as Player of the Match.

Much credit for the victory has to go to coach Lillian Zinchant who has proved once again she has the Midas touch when it comes to guiding a team to success; she was joined by fellow selectors Marie Clancy and Liz O Mahony and they are to be congratulated on a job well done.

Special mention much go to a wonderful panel of players who did the county proud both on and off the playing fields, ably led by inspirational captain Valerie O'Keefe they flew the Cork flag with dignity and were a credit to their clubs and families.

MINORS

There was huge disappointment for the minor side that having recorded a comprehensive opening round victory over Waterford lost out at the semi-final stage to Clare on a miserable night for hurling where despite failing to score a point Clare advanced on a 3-0 to 2-2 score line.

A tendency to go for goals cost Cork dearly at the full time whistle but no doubt as another season dawns the motivation will be as strong as ever to get back to the top.

I cannot leave the minor grade without paying tribute to selectors John Cronin, Ann Watson and John Quinn who decided to retire at convention.

The trio had guided Cork to five All-Ireland minor titles and certainly deserve a huge thank you, they more than any one set the foundations on which the county has reaped huge rewards.

CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

Under 18

The under 18 competition only goes to provincial level and this year there was certainly plenty of surprises.

Cork received a walk over from Limerick on the morning of their semi-final meeting and were straight into the final, but there was plenty of celebrations as Waterford continued their steady improvements by defeating Tipperary to qualify for the counties first Munster final in the grade.

Despite that victory they had to give way to a stronger Cork in the final.

Well done to Cork on a great win and all credit to the hard working officials in Waterford who have great hopes for the game in a county where a lot of good work is in progress.

MUNSTER CLUB C/SHIP

In the nineties Munster club championship titles were the norm for Cork representatives but sadly it's been 1996 since a Cork club name has appeared on the Munster roll of honour.

This year hopes were high that the trend would be reversed.

As a divisional side Carrigdhoun were ineligible to contest the Munster club championship and it was Milford who headed into this arena as Corks representatives.

Defeating the Waterford champions in their opening round they faced champions Granagh-Ballingarry in the Munster final and here they came so close only losing out in the closing stages of another thrilling contest.

The Munster champions later lost out to Freshford in the All Ireland club championship final.

And so ends another inter county season where one All Ireland camogie title found it way Leeside last hope that 2005 brings further glory.

JAN 2005

Championship Action on the Home Front

THIS week we continue our look back on 2004 and certainly it was a hugely successful one on the local scene as the game received a major boost with O'Leary Brothers Builders coming on board to sponsor the County Boards adult championships.

Bob O'Leary joined the county board officers and the captains from all the senior clubs and divisions as the sponsorship was formally launched at a function in Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

It's a first for Cork camogie and one which everybody involved in the games promotions was hugely grateful to O'Leary Brothers and in particular Bob O'Leary for coming on board.

At the launch, Bob expressed delight at his company's involvement and told the large gathering that he is hugely conscious of how important sport is to the young people of Cork.

Potential champions as always was the main talking point and certainly there was no shortage of favourites as Centenary Year got into its full swing.

Many felt St Finbarrs were ready for the breakthrough and, given the inclusion of inter-county star Vivienne Harris to their ranks, 2004 looked to be the year for them.

UCC, Cloughduv, Inniscarra, newly promoted Milford, divisional



side Carrigdhoun and holders Fr O'Neills were all hotly fancied and after some exciting clashes four teams remained on course to lift the title.

2003 senior 'B' champions, Milford, edged out favourites Inniscarra in a thriller, and in an all divisional clash Carrigdhoun defeated Imokilly after a tough hour to make it to their first final.

Pre-match predictions all pointed at the strength of Carrigdhoun who were backboned by senior 'B' clubs Ballinhassig, Ballygarvan and Carrigaline, with junior clubs Valley Rovers and Tracton also making vital contributions.

County finals are always special and with both teams contesting their first final, the atmosphere was electric and Pairc Ui Rinn was buzzing with anticipation.

From the throw in the action was non stop with the lead changing hands continuously, but at the finish it was Carrigdhoun who had their nose's ahead after a classic which finished 6-11 to 5-11.

Those present were treated to a marvellous exhibition of camogie with those who chose to stay away the losers.

Carrigdhoun captain Catriona Kelly was a popular choice as selection for the Gerald Mc Carthy sponsored Player of the Match award.

Senior B
No sooner had the excitement of the senior championship subsided than it was on to the Senior 'B' and

once again we had plenty of thrillers.

Ballygarvan were hugely fancied to be crowned champions and given their marvellous contribution to the Carrigdhoun success, one could not argue with that tag, they duly made it to the final where Aghabullogue, who had lost out in the 2003, provided the opposition.

With former Cork minor hurling coach Mort Murphy at the helm, Aghabullogue proceeded to tear the form books to shreds to take the title, Louise Murphy earning herself the Player of the Match award. Aghabullogue are now promoted to senior grade for 2005 where they will be a welcome addition.

Junior 'A' and 'B' Grades
In the junior 'A' grade, Valley Rovers defeated newly promoted Killeagh to be crowned champions, Lucey Hawke's turning in an inspirational performance to be named player of the match.

In the junior 'B' grade, once again only clubs with only one team participated in the competition as any club with a second team played in a junior 'B' shield competition.

Ballyhea had a superb year taking the junior 'B' league and championship crowns, but it was heart-break for Tracton who provided the opposition in both finals.

In the championship final, former Cork minor Mary Coleman rightfully earned herself the player of the match award. Cloughduv and Aghabullogue

battled it out in the final of the junior shield with Cloughduv retaining their crown.

The county board organised an inter-divisional 'Under 21' tournament in conjunction with its centenary celebrations with Muskerry, captained by Grenagh's Jenny Vaughan, defeated Carrigdhoun in the final.

The 'Under 18' competitions coming under the umbrella of the senior board saw Milford retain their 'A' title while Eire Og rounded off one of their most successful years adding the Under 18 'B' crown to their Under 16 'A' championship crown.

Killeagh also added another title as they took the Under 18 'C' title with a late rally over Kilbrittan.

Under Age
The ever growing interest in camogie at under age level was again very evident as the juvenile board under the chairmanship of former county secretary Tracy Sheehan-Murray set about the task of organising competitions for the 'Under 12' to '16' age groups.

At 'Under 12' there were three grades A, B and C and once again there was no shortage of excitement.

In the 'A' grade Inniscarra were crowned champions as they defeated holders Douglas on a 4-2 to 3-1 score line.

Valley Rovers again emerged victorious in the Under 12 'B' section as they retained their crown defeating Ballygarvan by the narrowest of margins.

A goal from Sinead Dilworth was enough to see Rockban take the honours in the 'C' grade defeating Mallow.

St Catherine's with three goals from Ciara Kearney took the Under 12 twelve a side title.

Competition at 'Under 14' level again proved very competitive in all grades.

Douglas retained the Under 14 'A' league defeating Inniscarra in a

thrilling final. Milford sailed past every opposition to be champions in the 14 'B' league.

Clonakilty retained the 14 'C' title while in the twelve a side, Cloughduv defeated Newcestown.

There was a new name on the Under 16 'A' championship trophy as Milford were denied six in a row at semi final stage by Eire Og.

The Mid Cork side completed a tremendous year taking the title after a replay with Erin Corkery and Margaret O'Herlihy performing heroically.

Clonakilty took the Under 16 'B' county title defeating Glen Rovers in an exciting final.

The Under 16 'C' championship title was won by Killeagh as they defeated Bride Rovers.

Carrigaline recorded a victory over Blarney in the twelve a side 'Under 16' competition to become county title holders. In the 16 'A' league, Douglas retained their title.

Rockban were 'C' league winners, Erins Own defeated Charleville in the curtain raiser to the senior county final as the twelve a side league 'Under 16' title was decided.

In other under-age activities, Douglas made it three in a row of Cork Feile Na Gael title and represented Cork in the national finals in Kildare where they turned in a superb display to be crowned National Feile Champions, a wonderful achievement for which they are to be heartily congratulated.

Sinead O'Callaghan Ballinhassig took the Cork skills title and represented the county in Kildare.

The juvenile board are to be congratulated on their work in the continued promotion of under age camogie within the county.

Next week we will take a visit to the various divisional while we will also look back at the schools and colleges that made the headlines and review the hugely successful centenary celebrations.

CORK'S RUN FOR ASIA

AN IMPORTANT WORD TO ALL CAMOGIE PLAYERS, MENTORS, CLUBS, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, RETIRED OR ACTIVE. COME OUT ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT NEXT AT 7.30PM AND SUPPORT CORKS RUN / WALK FOR ASIA. ITS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT A WORTHY CAUSE, SO COME ON AND LETS ALL DO OUR BIT.

We continue our look back at 2004 and this week its to the divisions, colleges and schools we turn our attention.

Divisional Action
A huge amount of work is going on promoting the game in all the divisions with many organising competitions in different age groups to the county board.

Out in Mid Cork Eire OG took the Muskerry under 15 'A' title at the expense of Ballincollig, the Under 15 'B' title was captured by Grenagh.

At Under 13 'A' level Eire Og continued their impressive run by completed the double defeating Inniscarra. Ballincollig annexed the Under 13 'B' title at the expense of Blarney who went on to take the Under 11 'A' defeating Rockban while the Under 11 'B' title also went to Eire Og.

In Seandun there was no shortage of action with Glen Rovers engraving a new name on the Under 11 'A' trophy for the first time in four years as they defeated Douglas to be crowned champions while there was also celebrations in Toghur as St Finbarrs captured the under 11 'B' title also defeating Douglas.

In Avondhu Millstreet in only their second year in competition took the under 15 'B' and under 13 'B' titles while Milford as always showing plenty of strength took the under 13 'A'.

Carrigdhoun always to the forefront of under age activities once again ran successful under-age competitions and it was a most successful season for Ballinhassig who took the Under 11 'A' they made it clean sweep adding the under 13 and Under 15 titles, Courcy Rovers were crowned under 11 'B' champions.

Imokilly ran successful competitions at under 12 and 14 with Fr O' Neills defeating

Killeagh in the under 12 final while Erins Own held off the challenge of Cobh to take the under 14.

There were plenty of indoor activities in all the divisional with successful tournaments held from under 8 year upwards and certainly the divisional competitions have helped enormously in preparing the players for county board competitions.

Colleges
Cork and Munster Colleges competitions saw provincial honours came to many of the counties schools unfortunately there was little joy on the All Ireland scene as St Marys Charleville lost out to holders Colaiste Brid in a replay while Carrigaline had to give way to St Raphael's Loughrea in the Senior B semi-final and Bandon lost out at the same stage to Athenry in the Junior 'A'.

Better news for Charleville who were crowned All Ireland seven's champions Munster titles came to Charleville who won the senior 'A' crown while Carrigaline added the 'B' title.

The Munster Junior 'A' championship was won by Bandon while Scariff from Clare took the 'B' crown.

In Cork College's competition Bandon, Fermoy, St Aloysius, Buttevant and Christ the King all enjoyed championship successes.

UCD hosted Ashbourne Cup 2004 and made it to the final where they had to give way to a University of Limerick side that captured their second title.

The All Ireland Freshers' title was won by UCC who were denied a double by UL, who captured the league crown.

Sciath Na Scoil as always proved to be a huge success where our younger players get their first taste of competitive action.

We are indebted to the many

teachers who give of their time to make the competition the success that it is.

Amongst the schools who took titles were St. Columbus Douglas, Scoil Eoin Innishannon, St. Michaels Upper Glanmire, Scoil Barra Ballincollig, Scoil Iosagain Aghada, Clonpriest, Scoil an t-Athair Tadgh Carrigaline, Ballyheda and Coachford.

centenary celebrations

In what was a hugely successful celebration of the games centenary clubs through the county held many events, fun days, tournaments, walk's, bags packing, long pucks, short pucks were but a few of the events to mark a successful La Na Club on April 11th. Centenary year celebrations were launched at a gala banquet at the City West Hotel where four Cork players Sandie Fitzgibbon, Marie Costine, Pat Maloney and Linda Mellerick being chosen on the Centenary Team.

At Colleges level four Cork players were named on the Colleges All Star team Anna Geary, Rena Buckley, Elaine O'Riordan and Breige Corkery. Cork chose Linda Mellerick as their camogie Ambassador and she proved to be a wonderful choice fulfilling her duties throughout the county with the same enthusiasm she had put into her performances on the playing fields.

The County Board held many events, and among those that stand out was the naming of a Cork Feile Na Gael All Star team for 2004, the county boards participation in the St Patrick's Day parade where two players from each club walked in their club colours behind the camogie banner.

The juvenile board honoured centenary year by naming a player of the match in all their finals and this certainly added to the occasion for the young-

sters.

Without doubt the grand finale of the Corks celebrations was the Centenary Banquet when close on five hundred camogie players past, and present came together at the Rochestown Park Hotel to celebrate one hundred years of camogie in Cork.

Former county board officers and All Ireland winning captains were suitable honoured with a presentation on the evening and it was wonderful to see the longest surviving captain Josie Mc Grath who led the county to Senior glory in 1935 in attendance to cut the centenary cake with All Ireland winning junior captain Val O'Keefe.

As the year drew to a close three Cork players were chosen on the first camogie All-Stars team Aoife Murray, Gemma O'Connor, and Jennifer O'Leary all being duly recognised for their contributions through the season.

A pleasant surprise at the close of the year was the Cork Camogie Board been chosen as the winner of the Rochestown Park Hotel and 96/103 FM GAA sports award for the month of December to honour the games centenary year.

This was certainly a fitting way to bring the curtain down on what has been another extraordinarily busy camogie year in the county.

With the playing season still a few weeks away many clubs will now be holding their AGM's and as the news come to hand from the various clubs we will keep you posted.

Amongst the events to look forward to in 2005 will be the National Feile Na NGael to be held in Cork on the weekends of June 16/17/18, while National Congress will be held in Cork in early April.

Double for Eire Og

ALL the plaudits go to Eire OG who on Sunday last added the Under 18 b championship title to the under 16 A crown won in tremendous fashion recently. The new champions fielding seven of the side that defeated Douglas in the Under 16 A final were the stronger and better balanced and set the pace from the throw in. Margaret O Herlihy's accuracy from frees helped her side gain the upper hand as she contributed four points in the opening half with Erin Corkery contributing a fifth Eire Og point to help their side enjoy a 0-5 to 0-2. Aghabullogue found the going tough against he strong Eire OG

FIVE IN A ROW FOR MILFORD

THE titles continue to mount up in Milford as they retained their under 18 A county championship title with ease to make it five in a row. In control in all sectors they led 5-5 to 0-2 at half time and through the game never looked in danger of relinquishing their hold on the title.

Two goals from Cliona Galvin and one each from Ashling Thompson and Emer and Aine Watson saw them in cruise control.

Mary Coleman and Edwina Waters pointed for Ballyhea as they valiantly tried to keep in touch with the more experienced Milford side several of whom had earlier in the year lined out in the Senior county champions final.

Through the second half Milford their dominance with Ashling Thompson grabbing three goals and Emer Watson one there was never any way back for Ballyhea. Edwina Waters added a point to the Ballyhea tally but the day belonged to Milford.

defence but Louise Roche and Ann Scully pointed to keep them in contention.

Aghabullogue threw everything at Eire OG in a bid to get back on level terms but a well organised and disciplined Eire Og defence held them at bay. In attack Eire Og continued to pressurise the Aghabullogue defence with Catriona O'Leary and Margaret O Herlihy picking off a point each they extended their lead to hold the upper hand. Aghabullogue tried to the finish but on the day the stronger determined Eire OG were not going to be denied as they recorded a memorable double for their club to give seven of their players a unique double in Camogie Centenary Year. All credit to the Mid Cork club on a marvellous achievement and certainly without doubt the victories area tribute to a hard working back room team in the club. Con Malone, Paddy Corkery and Rose Malone are amongst those who through good time and bad have kept the famous red and yellow colours flying and now they are reaping the rewards well done to all.

SEANDUN UNDER AGE TOURNAMENT

ON SUNDAY last the young under 10 players from the city clubs gathered in Ashton to participate in their Christmas Centenary y youngsters from Douglas, Glen Rovers, St. Vincent's, Bishopstown, Passage, Blackrock participated in four hours indoor camogie and certainly the day was a huge success with a surprise visit from Santa who presented all the young participants with medals as a memento of their participation. Well done to the organiser Seandun secretary Mairead Uí Mhaoileoin.

FONTENOY'S CLAIM ALL-IRELAND GLORY

The Liatroim Fontenoy's GAA club in Down is one of the oldest units in the county and one of the most famous, but unusually it is the honours gathered by their camogie side that has propelled the area to national stardom.

This year will live long in the memories of all involved with Liatroim Fontenoy's as their camogie team won the Junior Club Championship final at the expense of Roscommon side Four Roads. It was their first national honour at this level.

The Liatroim club have completed the league and championship 'double' for the 13th successive season in the Mourne County, and have taken 23 league titles in total since their first in 1977. The club have also won 18 consecutive championship titles, which is an amazing achievement at any level in the game.

One man, who has helped build the club with his generous sponsorship, is local businessman Martin O'Higgins, who sponsors the jerseys for the Ladies side. Martin was present at Parnell Park, Dublin in October when that historic win was secured and he admitted that is a tremendous feeling to witness the occasion.

"Indeed it was a great achievement for the girls to win an

All-Ireland title. For any team in any grade or code, it is an honour to win at such a level," enthused Martin. "The camogie club have a huge reputation and their latest honour demonstrates how strong a team they are and will continue to be."

Leitrim Fontenoy's club was founded in 1888 by the McAleenan brothers (Ballymaginthy) and J. L. Savage (Backaderry) and took its title from the celebrated Battle of Fontenoy fought in Belgium in 1745, which resulted in victory for a combined Irish/French army over the English. The club's first taste of success came in 1905 when the SFC was annexed for the first time and fifteen years later, they added their second title, however the club have failed to succeed at senior level ever since.

In the 1930's a camogie team was set up in the rural area but as was the mentality of the people of that time, it was frowned upon for ladies to be involved in such a sport and the team was soon abandoned. 20 years later the ladies of



Liatroim Fontenoy's camogie side celebrate their All-Ireland junior club final success

JAN. 2005

BUSY YEAR AHEAD

TWO thousand and five promises to be a busy year on and off the playing fields as the county will host National Congress and Feile Na nGael.

Two huge undertakings and no doubt Chairperson Marion Mc Carthy will have both on her agenda for discussion on Monday next. Congress will be held in the Blarney Park Hotel on the weekend of April 8/9 and it's certainly a great honour for Cork to be hosting such a prestigious event in recognition of the City of Culture.

Feile Na nGael was last held in Cork in 1978 and having travelled the length and breadth of the country is now returning on the weekend of June 18/19/20.

While Cork did host a scaled down Feile at short notice during the foot and mouth scare this time round its for real and will entail an enormous amount of work.

Its a huge undertaking which will

involve teams travelling from thirty one counties where they will be hosted by a similar number of Cork clubs but no doubt clubs and individuals will not be found wanting for what is one of hurling and camogie's greatest celebration of gaelic games for the younger generation.

After a recent meeting of clubs to discuss the senior championships a proposal will be put to the floor on Monday next to introduce a back door system to the senior C'chip.

The proposal which is expected to get the go ahead will see the losers of the first round playing the divisions in round two with the winners then going on to round three to meet the winner's of the first round. For the senior 'B' championship the suggested proposal will be to play the championship on a round robin format of two sections with four teams emerging to contest the semi-finals, certainly exciting times

ahead for the clubs in the county.

Thoughts are now also turning to the national league which starts on February 27 when Cork seniors and juniors travel to meet Dublin. The following week the juniors meet Offaly and again it's an away trip.

March 13 and 27 are again double headers and this time round Cork play hosts to Kilkenny and Tipperary.

All going well the senior semi-final take place on the weekend of May 1 with the junior semi-final scheduled for May 14 with the senior final on May 15 and the junior on May 29.

Selection committees will be busy in the coming weeks putting their panels together for what is a busy league schedule.

MUNSTER CONVENTION

MUNSTER convention takes place on Sunday next in Limerick and with Chairperson Marie Kearney completing her three term of office there will be an election for the position.

Cork president Sile Golden and inter-county referee Eamonn Browne from Tipperary are seeking election and we extend best wishes to Sile in her quest.



Four Tipperary girls who played for Munster in the Inter-Provincial Colleges Camogie competition played in Naomh Mearnóg grounds Dublin in April. Julie Kirwan, Joanne Nolan, Michelle Shortt and Mary Ryan. Eimear Ryan was also selected but was unavailable. In the semi-final, Munster defeated Ulster and in the final they defeated Leinster to become Inter-Provincial champions 2004. Following the Inter-Provincial games, Mary Ryan was selected on the Colleges All-Star team and this team were presented with their awards at a function in Croke Park. In October, this team defeated Scotland in the first Shinty/Camogie International which was played in Rathoath in County Meath.

Charleville defend Munster title

COLLEGE'S action is well under way and on Saturday next holders St Marys Charleville put their Munster Senior Colleges 'A' title on the line when they face Mercy Waterford in the provincial decider in Newtownshandrum at 2p.m.

Backboned by Anna Geary, Elaine O Riordan, Emer and Aine Watson, Charleville will be

expected to retain their title.

They had a big victory over Fermoy in their semi final while Mercy disposed of the challenge of Scariff, it's a big occasion for the Waterford side who have made huge strides reaching their first Senior 'A' decider and with the game continuing to make steady progress in the county it is another step

in the right direction but going in against an exceptionally strong Charleville this time out it may be a bridge too far for them.

The senior 'B' final is an all Tipperary clash between Nenagh and Ursalines Thurles at the Ragg at 2pm, while in the Intermediate 'A' final Lismore meet Borrisoleigh in Borrisoleigh at 1pm.

CLASH OF THE SAINTS

THE Cork colleges Intermediate 'A' Final on Tuesday in Castlemartyr at 11.45am promises to be a cracker with St. Marys Middleton spearheaded by Ella Ryan and Caroline Motherway taking on the girls from St. Marys Macroom who can call on Cork senior Breige Corkery, former Cork minor Emma Dunne and Eire Og duo Muireann and Erin Corkery.



Tipperary/Limerick Association Presentation. Tom Long, Chairperson of the Tipperary/Limerick Association making a presentation to Paul Bulfin, Angie McDermot and Claire Grogan on behalf of Tipperary senior team towards their holiday fund.



From left: Caitriona McCrickard, Sinead O'Prey, Kelly O'Higgins and Nuala Magee celebrate the club's historic victory



Tipperary camogie star Suzanne Kelly with her mother Susan at Toomevara Camogie Buffet Dinner Dance.

Mallow emerge victorious in keenly contested clash

Mallow
Rathkeale

2-8
1-8

LAST year's defeated finalists Mallow were made to fight to the finish to win the Munster Colleges Intermediate C Camogie final last Friday in Charleville but in extra time were

full value for their victory. The essential difference between the two evenly matched teams was Mallow's Michelle Browne's ability to score from frees at vital junctures. Mallow got off to a great start with a goal from Karen Finnegan. When one of Michelle Browne's frees hit off the

cross bar and into the net Mallow seemed well on their way going into the break 2-3 to 0-5.

Rathkeale, however, had other ideas and Cora Moloneaux hit form and Mallow were forced to pull out all the stops and considered themselves lucky to finish the game level

at 2-5 to 1-8.

Mallow re-established their authority in extra time with two points from Kathryn Coakley and one from Browne.

Next Saturday, January 29, will be a busy day for Munster colleges camogie with the following finals

down for decision: Sen A Cham final Charleville v Mercy Waterford at Newtownshandrum 2pm, Sen B Cham final Nenagh v Ursalines Thurles or Clonakilty and Intermediate A League final Borrisoleigh v Blackwater Lismore in Borrisoleigh 1pm.

JERSEY: Navy & Sky Blue

Skirt: Navy

JERSEY: Black & Amber

Skirt: Navy

NAME	D.O.BIRTH	CLUB
1. Valerie Law	28/2/88	Mullinavat
2. Niamh Madden	19/7/89	Mooncoin
16. Sinead Aylward	30/6/88	Mullinavat
4. Regina Madigan	18/12/89	Mullinavat
5. Elaine Hutchinson	7/5/89	Gaultier
6. Jenny Simpson [Vc]	23/3/87	Ardkeen
7. Marita Aylward	3/12/87	Mullinavat
8. Lucinda Gahan	6/2/89	Mullinavat
9. Ciara Kehoe	12/5/87	Ardkeen
10. Miriam Frisby [C]	3/11/87	Mullinavat
11. Aine Lyng	15/10/87	Gaultier
12. Geena Hennebry	4/9/90	Mooncoin
13. Susan Finn	2/10/87	Ardkeen
14. Patricia Jackman	17/7/91	Gaultier
17. Christine Brennan	15/9/89	Ardkeen

SUBS:

18. Avril Delahunty	31/10/89	Mullinavat
19. Ann Marie Drohan	13/2/86	Ardkeen
21. Sarah Maddock	1/10/88	Mullinavat
22. Yvonne Murphy	2/6/88	Ardkeen

SELECTORS

John Brennan

NAME	D.O.BIRTH	CLUB
1. Fiona Chawke	16/7/87	Granagh/Bg
2. Sarah O' Mahony	24/6/87	Ballyagran
3. Elaine O' Riordan	26/8/86	Milford
4. Michelle Walsh	9/6/86	Ballyhea
5. Fionnuala Dore	11/7/89	Ballyagran
6. Aine Watson	7/4/88	Milford
7. Edwina Waters	20/3/87	Ballyhea
8. Anna Geary [C]	28/7/87	Milford
9. Lisa Healy	7/4/86	Milford
10. Shannon Brosnan	26/10/87	Ballyagran
11. Sinead Mculiffe	28/1/87	Ballyagran
12. Mary Coleman	4/2/87	Ballyhea
13. Christine O' Shea	23/5/86	Granagh/Bg
14. Emer Watson	7/7/86	Milford
15. Fiona Morrissey	21/7/88	Granagh/Bg

SUBS

16. Tina Shanahan	13/4/87	Newtown
17. Mary O' Mahony	19/7/88	Newtown
18. Sarah Sexton	28/6/88	Milford
19. Aisling Thompson	5/3/90	Milford
20. Maria Walsh	11/7/90	Ballyhea
21. Rosemary Rea	27/5/91	Ballyagran

SELECTORS

Ann Marie O' Keefe
Vincent Harrington
Ger O' Donovan

St Mary's show no mercy in rout

St Mary's, Charleville
Mercy, Waterford

5-12
0-1

by Therese O'Callaghan

THE anticipated became the inevitable in the opening 10 minutes of this Munster Colleges senior A final at Newtownshandrum on Saturday when danger ladies Mary Coleman and Emer Watson struck for the first three of their five-goal rush.

After Watson added another from a penalty in the 20th minute, the north Cork side's reign as college kingpins remained intact.

Lest it be forgotten, due to the weighted nature of the score sheet, this is an exceptional school team — the college has won 10 out of the last 11 provincial titles. On Saturday, they contest the Munster junior decider against Scariff of Clare.

Hence, one would have to feel sorry for the Waterford girls. The gulf in standards was already a significant factor, and losing key attacker Aine Lyng to injury at half-time was another major blow. At this stage, they trailed 4-5



St Mary's Aine Geary is chased by Mercy Waterford's Ciara Kehoe in the Munster Colleges senior A camogie final at Newtownshandrum. Picture Dan Lohan

to 0-1. When Watson completed her hat-trick four minutes after the interval, last year's All-Ireland finalist were safely through to yet another All-Ireland series.

In the B final, Ursulines of Thurles, under the direction of new Tipperary senior camogie selector Olivia Hogan, captured their first title at the expense of Nenagh side St Mary's at the Ragg. Winning by double scores, 2-10 to 1-5, two first-half goals by outstanding duo Ciara Johnson and Elaine Ryan were decisive.

Elsewhere, Blackwater Community School in Lismore ensured Waterford would not be bereft of silverware. They took the Intermediate A crown

after a thrilling tussle away to St Joseph's Borrisoleigh, 2-1 to 1-3.

Scorers — St Mary's: E Watson 3-3 (1-0 penalty), M Coleman 2-1, S McAuliffe 0-4 (0-2 frees), A Geary 0-2 (frees), F Morrissey and A Thompson 0-1 each.

Mercy: J Simpson 0-1 (free).

ST MARY'S: F Chawke; S O'Mahony, E O'Riordan, S Sexton; F Dore, A Watson, E Waters; A Geary (capt), L Healy; S Brosnan, S McAuliffe, M Coleman; A Thompson, E Watson, F Morrissey. Subs: C O'Shea for A Thompson, M Walsh for F Dore (both 44 mins), M O'Mahony for S McAuliffe (56 mins).

MERCY: V Law; N Madden, S Aylward, C Brennan; R Madigan, J Simpson, M Aylward; L Gahan, C Kehoe; M Frisby, A Lyng, E Hutchinson; P Jackman, S Finn, G Hennebry. Subs: A Delahunty for A Lyng (inj h/t), A M Drohan for A Delahunty (40 mins), S Maddock for G Hennebry (47 mins).

Referee: E Browne (Tipperary).

CAMOGIE

Saturday: Munster Colleges Senior A final: St. Mary's, Charleville v Mercy, Waterford, Newtownshandrum, 2pm; **Munster Colleges Senior B final:** St. Mary's, Nenagh v Ursuline's, Thurles, The Ragg, 2pm; **Munster Colleges Intermediate A final:** St. Joseph's, Borrisoleigh v Blackwater Community School, Lismore, Borrisoleigh, 1pm.
February 1: Cork Colleges Intermediate A final: St. Mary's, Midleton v St. Mary's, Macroom, Castlemartyr, 11.45am.
February 5: St. Mary's Charleville v Scariff, Scariff, 2pm.
Munster Schoolgirls Senior B camogie championship semi-final at Charleville: Ursuline Convent, Thurles 2-7 Sacred Heart College, Clonakilty 1-1 (Ursulines will meet St Mary's, Nenagh at The Ragg, Thurles next Saturday).

CAMOGIE

MUNSTER COLLEGES

Snr 'A' Final: St Mary's Charleville 5-12 (E Watson 3-3, M Coleman 2-1, S McAuliffe 0-4 (0-2F) A Geary 0-2, A Thompson, F Morrissey 0-1 each) **Mercy Waterford 0-1** (J Simpson 0-1) **Inter 'A' Final:** Blackwater Community School 2-1 (G Kenneally, A Welsh (Welsh) 1-0 each, N Morrissey 0-1) **St Joseph's Borrisoleigh 1-3** (L Young 1-0, T Dunne 0-3 (0-1F)). **Snr 'B' Final:** Ursuline's Thurles 2-10 (C Johnston 1-4 (0-3F), E Ryan 1-1, C Callan, L Kavanagh 0-2 each, G Clendenan 0-1) **St Mary's Nenagh 1-5** (A Mc Loughney 1-3 (0-1F), M Ryan, F Kennedy 0-1 each)

FEB. 2005

Munster camogie title for Ursulines

St. Mary's Secondary, Nenagh 1-5
Ursuline Convent, Thurles 2-10

THE painful memories of Ursulines fall from grace at the final hurdle in last year's final in Scariff have long since departed. But the lesson learned only came to fruition on Saturday last at The Ragg Camogie Grounds when the Thurles girls defeated St. Mary's, Nenagh, 2-10 to 1-5 in this year's Munster Colleges Senior 'B' final.

The huge attendance was treated to some excellent passages of play featuring the many lengthy aerial clearances and upfield deliveries from Sarah Ryan, Therese Shortt and Linda Fanning of Ursulines. Another feature of the Ursulines play was the pinpoint accuracy freetaking of Ciara Johnston.

St. Mary's had their stars in these areas as well with Mary Ryan, Joanne Nolan and Aoife McLoughney very much to the fore. At ground level the girls were stymied by the lush cover of grass on this beautiful pitch, unusual considering we are in the middle of Winter.

After two minutes play Ursulines nosed ahead when Ciara steered a free between the posts. Those early minutes saw good ball go into the inside forward line from Therese, Linda and Antoinette Kennedy but the Nenagh defence had Elaine Ryan, Laura Kavanagh and Siobhan Butler well under wraps.

With a good sprinkling of

Silvermines players on duty it was only a matter of time before their teamwork paid dividends for St. Mary's. On the eighth minute, despite the best efforts of Laura Medley, Patricia McGrath, Maire O'Regan and Sinead Shelly, the path was cleared for Aoife McLoughney to score the opening goal in their first raid into Ursuline territory, her forceful close in shot giving keeper Siobhan McGrath no chance.

A minute on, Aoife had a point, followed by another, before Elaine reduced the arrears for Thurles, soon to be stretched again as Mary picked off a beauty for St. Mary's. Ciara's successful free in the 18th minute plus a point by Laura Kavanagh, who doubled on Grace Clendennon's shot into the goalmouth had the teams on level terms. Ciara's goal in the 28th minute had Ursulines 2-4 to 1-4 in front at the break.

Fiona Kennedy was the first to have a flag raised in the second half when she pointed after three minutes. A free by Ciara in the 35th minute restored Ursulines' one goal lead. Team captain Kiera Callinan increased that by two points in the 41st and 57th minutes using her own shortened grip to great advantage. The strong tackling of Niamh O'Connell and Sarah Ryan reaped havoc on any attack which St. Mary's tried to set up and as time ticked away so, too, did the hopes and aspirations of St. Mary's.

By now Mary Rose Flanagan had joined the



Ursuline's captain Kiera Callinan receives the Munster senior 'B' Colleges Cup from Martin Bourke.

Picture: Bridget Delaney

fray and she was very involved in those last minutes as Grace pointed in the 58th minute followed by Ciara in the 60th minute and by Laura in injury time to leave Ursulines the merited winners on a 2-10 to 1-5 scoreline.

Amidst tumultuous applause, Martin Bourke, representing the Camogie administrators, presented the captain Kiera Callinan

with the winning trophy. The big smile on the face of coach Olivia Hogan manifested a job well done.

Ursulines — Siobhan McGrath, Laura Medley, Patricia McGrath, Maire O'Regan, Sarah Ryan, Ciara Johnston, Sinead Shelly, Therese Shortt, Linda Fanning, Antoinette Kennedy, Kiera Callinan (captain), Grace Clendennon, Elaine Ryan, Laura

Kavanagh, Siobhan Butler, Niamh O'Connell, Mary Rose Flanagan, Teresa Burke, Katie O'Gorman, Georgina Kennedy, Kate O'Dwyer, Danielle Campion, Nichola O'Brien, Elaine Cross, Therese Hern, Amy O'Gorman, Eimear Sheehan, Ciare Devey, Ashley Ryan, Laura English, Rachel Clegg, Olivia Flynn, Elaine Sweeney.



St Mary's Mary Ryan is chased by Ursuline's Michelle Shortt.

Picture: Bridget Delaney

FEB. 2005



Ursuline's Thurles defeated St Mary's Nenagh in the Senior 'B' Munster final at The Ragg camogie pitch. Front row (l to r.) — Ceire Deevey, Sinead Shelly, Kiera Callinan (captain), Elaine Ryan, Laura Kavanagh, Ciara Johnston, Linda Fanning, Therese Shortt, Siobhan McGrath, Antoinette Kennedy, Patricia McGrath, Amy O'Gorman, Kate O'Dwyer. Middle row — Olivia Flynn, Danielle Campion, Eimear Sheehan. Back row — Therese Burke, Ashley Ryan, Laura English, Mary Rose Flanagan, Niamh O'Connell, Siobhan Butler, Maire O'Regan, Grace Clendennon, Laura Medley, Sarah Ryan, Elaine Cross, Therese Hern, Rachel Clegg, Nichola O'Brien, Georgina Kennedy, Katie O'Gorman, Olivia Hogan.

Picture: Bridget Delaney

FEB. 2005

Mary's show no Mercy as they romp to victory



Mercy's Aine Lyng and St Mary's Edwina Waters contest the loose ball in the Munster Colleges Camogie Senior A final played in Newtownshandrum on Saturday. Picture: Brian Arthur/ Press 22

St Mary's, Charleville 5-11
Mercy Waterford 0-1

RUTHLESS St Mary's demonstrated a blend of skill and awesome firepower as they claimed their ninth Munster Colleges in a decade at Newtownshandrum on Saturday.

Any spectator who may have been late to the venue missed the blistering opening of St Mary's, as in the opening ten-minute spell they killed off the game as a contest.

Two goals from Mary Coleman, and one from Emer Watson, along with a Sinead McAuliffe point eased St Mary's into a ten point lead and Mercy never recovered.

In truth, Mercy, appearing in their first final, struggled to test St Mary's who on their day were a frightening package. The Charleville side has a massive feeder area and many of their players have played with both Cork and Limerick at the various levels, while also have the benefit of drawing on the talents of Granagh Ballingary (Limerick) and Milford, both of whom had such superb seasons last year.



PJ
Aherne

St Mary's were in determined from the first whistle as they played for each other, and were committed to every challenge and contested everything right until the very end, when other sides might have lifted their foot off the throttle.

Their defence, while not tested for the majority of the match, put in a solid performance, while 'keeper, Fiona Chawke enjoyed a quite day between the posts.

A number of players stood out from the St Mary's performance, Aisling Thompson was in excellent form during the first half as the majority of the play was channelled through her and she fed the forward line, and she used her pace and skill to torment the Mercy back-line and her wizardry with the stick allowed her to set up the likes of Watson to goal time and again.

Watson too was commanding in the full-forward line and helped herself to a handsome

return of 3-3, which included a penalty, which she so coolly dispatched to the net.

Captain fantastic, Anna Geary, along with Lisa Healy led the charge from midfield. There was simply no way back for the Mercy side, who, to their credit, plugged away for the entire contest.

Niamh Madde at wing back tried her best to shore up her leaking defence, while Miriam Frisby, and Clara Kehoe tried in vain to crack the St. Mary's rearguard but to no avail.

By the half-time break, St. Mary's led by 4-5 to 0-1 and one could feel for Mercy selectors who had a difficult job raising their teams spirits for the second half.

The second half was more of the same as the time ticked away, St Mary's continued to extend their lead.

The finishing margin could have been greater except for some wayward shooting and a fine performance from Valerie Law in the Mercy goal. Law for her part done well, she stuck to the basics and played safe in goal but even she couldn't prevent St Mary's as she was forced to endure wave after wave of attacks.

St Mary's now advance to the All-Ireland stages of the colleges competition and they

have some unfinished business to attend to as they lost out last year. For nine of the team this will be their last crack at glory as they are finishing school.

Perhaps this will come as a boost to rest of the sides next year, as St Mary's may be a weakened side but one only has to look at their bench to see the strength and depth of the side with more and more talented players emerging to continue St Mary's dominance of this competition.

Ger O'Donovan of St Mary's was thrilled sides performance but expected nothing less.

He said, "We're very impressed with the girls they have a lot of work put in to it all year. Last year we got to the final and were beaten and we were sorry all year. With a lot of our players leaving this year, we put in a huge effort and we hope to go one further than we did last year."

ST MARY'S, CHARLEVILLE: F. Clarke, S. O'Mahony, E. O'Riordan, F. Dore, A. Watson, E. Waters, A. Geary, L. Healy, S. Brosnan, S. McAuliffe, M. Coleman, A. Thompson, C. O'Shea, E. Watson, F. Morrissey. **Subs Used:** M. Walsh, S. Sexton, C. O'Shea.

MERCY WATERFORD: V. Law, N. Maddern, S. Aylward, R. Madigan, E. Hutchison, J. Simpson, M. Aylward, J. Gahan, C. Kehoe, M. Frisby, A. Lyng, G. Hennebry, S. Finn, P. Jackman, C. Brennan.

Referee: E. Browne (Tipperary)

Charleville retain provincial title

ST MARYS Charleville had little difficulty retaining their senior 'A' colleges crown as they effectively dealt with the challenge posed by Mercy Waterford on Saturday last.

Backboned by inter-county players Anna Geary, Emer and Aine Watson, Mary Coleman, Sinead Mc Auliffe and Fiona Morrissey the holders dictated the pace from the start.

Three goals in the opening ten minutes from Emer Watson and Mary Coleman indicated the strength of the Charleville challenge and when Emer Watson stuck a twentieth minute penalty to the net their was only going to be one result at the final whistle.

To their credit Mercy worked hard to keep pace with their talented opponents and despite trailing 4-5 to 0-1 at the interval they never gave up.

A third Emer Watson goal four minutes into the second half further stretched the lead and from here to the finish it was simply a matter of picking off points as

Charleville ran out convincing victors.

In the senior 'B' decider it was an all Tipperary clash with Ursulines Thurles talking their first title at the expense of St Marys Nenagh. There were celebrations in Waterford as Blackwater Community School Lismore took the Intermediate 'A' title edging out St Josephs Borrisoleigh by the narrowest of margins.

MUNSTER ELECT NEW CHAIRMAN

TIPPERARY'S Eamonn Brown was elected new chairman of Munster Council edging out Cork's Sheila Golden by the narrowest of margins as Cork's Marie Kearney stepped aside having completed her three year term.

Munster also elected Waterford's Morgan Burns as their new vice chairman. Cork's Rose Malone continues as provincial secretary and Mary Casey also from Cork once again will mind the finances as she has done so effectively in her role as treasurer.

DENIS AT THE HELM WITH MINORS

FORMER All-Ireland hurler Denis Burns from the Rockban club was ratified as coach to the county minor team.

This is Denis first season as a selector with the side but he is well versed in all aspects of coaching and this is another appointment which will hopefully reap huge benefits for the county.

Ollie Hallihan was also named by county champions Carrigdhoun as their representative on the senior selection committee, well known official Paddy Corkery is the Eire Og representative on the minor committee while Valley Rovers have named as Brendan Coleman as their

representative on the county junior selection committee.

Selection committee have been busy over the last number of weeks holding challenge matches and trials in their quest for new talent and with the senior and junior national leagues set to begin on the last Sunday in February its all systems go.

PURCELL CUP AND COLLEGES ACTION

It's another busy weekend for students with the Purcell Cup action over the weekend hosted by Queens University, while on Saturday St Marys Charleville travel to Scariff at 2p.m. to take on Scariff Community College in the Munster Junior 'A' Colleges final. Clubs are reminded that the County Board meetings are taking place in Pairc Uí Rinn at present with the next meeting on February 14th when the Board's lotto will also resume.

MACROOM WIN CLASH OF THE SAINTS

IN the Cork Colleges Final St Marys Macroom with Breige Corkery and Muireann Corkery leading the way had the edge over St Marys Midleton in an exciting clash on Tuesday last to take the title.



Fiona O'Driscoll joins the Cork Senior backroom team

JOHN AND FIONA TO LEAD TITLE QUEST

MONDAY night's county board meeting formally ratified the appointment of former Inter-County star Fiona O'Driscoll and former minor trainer John Cronin as trainer and coach respectively to the Cork senior team for the season ahead.

Both come into their appointments with vast experience Fiona following her retirement from the inter county scene after 2003 has been involved at both club and colleges level having guided the fortunes of Fr O'Neill's under-age sides, while she also coached Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig to honours.

John Cronin from the Cloughduv club is certainly no stranger to inter county having coached Cork minor teams to five All Ireland titles, this season John will also be a selector with the team and the appointment of both John and Fiona was welcomed by delegates and county board officials.

BOARD BRIEFS

Camogie selectors put in place

AT the Monthly Meeting of Tipperary Camogie Board, Selectors for all county teams were ratified.

In the bid to retain the All-Senior title and for another three in a row, the selectors appointed for Tipperary Senior team are: Martin Bourke (Templemore), Olivia Hogan (Kildangan).

Biddy Philips and Brian Lawlor will join Sile Delaney to take charge of the Junior and Intermediate team.

Niamh Harkin and Stephen Fitzgerald were appointed on the U-18 selection, while Paul Ryan, Paula Bulfin and Helen Kiely will assist Pat McLoughney in the U-16 team.

U-14 MEDAL PRESENTATION

FOLLOWING players were presented with a special medal for their participation in the Mini-game on Camogie County Final Day: -

Emma Mulqueen (Kildangan); Laura Stakelum (Thurles); Siobhan O'Neill (Annacarty); Niamh Larkin (Moneygall); Tracy Flanagan (Boherlahan); Emma O'Riordan (St. Cronans); Bethany Kennedy (Lorrha); Shauna Butler (Cashel); Mary Gleeson (Slievenamon); Claire O'Dwyer (Cahir); Marie Brennan (Templemore); Avril Fryday (Knockavilla); Ciara McCullagh

(Newport); Mary Rose Flanagan (Holycross); Laura Reed (Burgess); Christina Kenneally (Drom & Inch); Carol Prendergast (Kilsheelan); Marie Ryan (Kilruane); Aisling Carroll (Shannon Rovers); Teresa Burke (Clonoulty); Aine Brislane (Toomevara); Rachel Forde (Silvermines); Leanne Barrett (Cahir); Emma O'Connor (Nenagh); Olivia McCarthy (Ballylooby); Kate English (New Inn); Caitriona Walsh (Moycarkey); Patricia Greed (Bournea); Ashley Tiernan (Portroe); Stacy Hogan (Carrick Swans).

Votes of sympathy

A VOTE of sympathy was passed to the Kennedy family, Clonmel, the Connolly family, Boherlahan, Lupton family, Cummins family, Fethard, Vaughan family, Ballingarry, McCormack family, Fethard.

Browne leads Munster Council

ON Sunday last in the Clarion Hotel, Limerick, Tipperary man, Eamonn Browne, Knockavilla club was elected Chairperson of Munster Camogie Council when he defeated Sile Golden (Cork).

In his acceptance, Eamonn said he was proud to be part of this great province and hoped that in his three year term, he would put new ideas into place. He said Camogie is slipping a little in favour of other sports, he wil work hard, he said in the hope that Munster will continue to excel in the Association.

The following officers were re-elected: -

Chairperson: Eamonn Browne (Tipperary). Vice-Chairperson: Morgan Conroy (Waterford). Secretary: Rose Malone (Cork). Treasurer: Marie Casey (Cork) P.R.O: Marion Graham (Tipperary). Registrar: Jean Hayden (Tipperary). Delegate to Central Council: Rose Malone (Cork). Delegate to Fixture Committee: Marion Graham (Tipperary).

CAMOGIE

PURCELL CUP (inter-varsity): Queens Belfast 4-4 (K Gribben 1-2; M McDermott, S Coleman, B McDowell, 1-0 each; N McGowan 0-2) St Mary's 3-1 (G Coulter, A Murdock, B Murray 1-0 each; O Mullan 0-1). Garda 6-10 (G Gordon 2-0; D Fitzgerald, A Cullen 1-1 each; A Walsh, P Malcolmson 1-0 each; V Fitzpatrick 0-4; L Gleeson 0-3; L Young 0-1) IT Tralee 3-5 (C Doherty 3-0; C Commene 0-4; I Trant 0-1).

FEB 2005



Caption for Munster Council Officers photo: Officers elected at Munster Council Convention: Seated: Marie Casey (Treasurer), Josephine McNamara (President), Eamonn Browne (Chairperson), Jean Hayden (Registrar) Standing: Marion Graham (P.R.O.), Morgan Conroy (Vice-Chairperson), Rose Malone (Secretary).

Garda College in search of first Purcell Cup

GARDA COLLEGE Templemore are favourites to win their first Purcell Cup this weekend. They meet Tralee IT in Belfast today in the semi-final, while hosts Queens meet neighbours St Mary's in the other semi.

Cork junior captain Val O'Keeffe and team mate Liz Bulger lead the Gardai and All-Ireland senior medalists Louise Young and Sheena Howard of Tipperary also play.

Clare Commene (Clare) and Niamh O'Connor (Wexford) front the Tralee challenge. Irish international Eilish Shorte is St Mary's star player while Queens will look to Laura Lavery.

The Shield includes Limerick IT up against St Patrick's Drumcondra, while Sligo IT will face Athlone IT.

Elsewhere today St Mary's Charleville meet Scariff Community School in the Munster Colleges junior A final.

Queen's advance to Purcell decider

QUEEN'S player Laura Lavery celebrated her 21st birthday in great style when she helped host college Queen's overcome near neighbours St Mary's Belfast in yesterday's very exciting Purcell Cup semi-final, 4-4 to 3-1 in Queen's Belfast, writes Máire Uí Scolai. Ahead 2-4 to 1-0 at the break, two second-half goals from Bronagh McDonnell and Sharon Coleman were enough to steer Queen's into today's final against Garda, who overcame IT Tralee 6-10 to 3-5. Appearing in their first Purcell Cup final, Garda had good performances from Aoife Cullen, Jacinta Coleman, and captain Val Fitzpatrick.

The Shield Final will see Athlone IT face St. Patrick's Drumcondra who overcame Limerick 3-6 to 1-4, while Athlone defeated Sligo IT 5-10 to 2-6.

Louis Kikeel Down 0-2; Munster Colleges JC Finals. A final: St Mary's Charleville 1-15 Scariff CS Clare 1-0; B final: Colaiste Mhuire Emsie 3-4 St Flannan's Emsie 2-1.

Hot fancies Garda College win Purcell Cup for first time

by Therese O'Callaghan

GARDA COLLEGE are Purcell Cup camogie champions for the first time in the short three-year history of their club after beating host team Queen's University Belfast 1-16 to 1-0 in yesterday's final. The hot favourites had a convincing 6-10 to 3-5 win over Tralee IT in the semi-final, where

Louise Young at wing-forward and full-forward Aoife Cullen were in sparkling form.

Queen's overcame nearby St Mary's by six points to reach the final, and notwithstanding the work rate of goalkeeper Bronagh Keenan and Down player Karen Gribben, they were outclassed by a much stronger Templemore side.

The shield final went to Dublin college, St Pat's of Drumcondra who had just one point to spare — 1-3 to 1-2 — over last season's cup winners, Athlone IT.

St Mary's Charleville meet St Patrick's, Keady in the All Ireland Junior A Colleges semi-final after their respective victories over Scariff CS (1-15 to 1-1) and St Louis, Kilkeel

(5-9 to 0-2). Senior players Fionnuala Dore at centre back and Aisling Thompson who contributed a massive nine points from midfield were the powerhouses in the Cork Schools victory along with Michelle O'Connor — sister to rebel county stars Ben and Jerry — at wing back.

Maria Walsh top scored with 1-4 from play at full forward. Likewise the

All Ireland Junior B semi final is a Munster Ulster affair after Colaiste Mhuire (Ennis) triumphed over neighbours St Flannans 3-4 to 2-1.

Vital goals came from Carina Roseingrave, Emer Fahy and Sinead O'Halloran.

They will meet St Mary's, Magherafelt who disposed of Cross & Passion, Ballycastle, 6-7 to 2-1.

CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

CHARLEVILLE CROWNED MUNSTER CHAMPIONS

THE trophy cabinet at the famed camogie academy of St Mary's Charleville continued to grow last weekend as the Munster Colleges Junior "A" trophy joined the senior trophy captured a week earlier. Despite what the score line may suggest Charleville met stern resistance from a determined Scariff Community College before the provincial double was secured in an entertaining contest in Scariff last Saturday.

The opening half was even enough with the victors turning over five points to one ahead at the interval.

Two pointed frees and two from play

Ashbourne Cup

UCC continued their Ashbourne cup preparations last week end as they defeated Mary Immaculate Limerick at the Mardyke.

They now look forward to the weekend of February 19th/20th and a meeting with holder's University of Limerick.

This year Waterford I.T. are hosts for one of camogie's most prestigious competitions.

GARDA COLLEGE TAKE FIRST PURCELL CUP

THREE years ago Garda training college were participating for the first time in the Purcell Cup competition and in that short space of time they have certainly enhanced the competition.

Without doubt last weekend will go down in history as they took the famed trophy for the first

time. With inter county players such as Val O'Keefe, Louise Young, Liz Bugler and Sheena Howard the girls in blue went in as firm favourites to lift the crown and it came as no surprise when they defeated Tralee I.T. on Saturday to reach the final where they met hosts Queens University

who had defeated St. Mary's Belfast.

On Sunday Garda Colleges strength was very evident from the throw in as they ran out convincing winners on a 1-16 to 1-0 score line. A special mention to the Cork contingent that were part of the historic victory well done to all concerned.

Thompson and Lisa Fitzgerald to ensure the Junior title rests in the North Cork camogie academy with the senior title secured last weekend.

Star of the show for Charleville was fifteen year old Ashling Thompson whose contribution of nine points helped secure the title, aided admirably by Maria Walsh and team captain Lisa Fitzgerald.

Well done to all concerned for a splendid victory but especially to coach Vincent Harrington who has put so much into the game in Charleville.

Vincent who resides in Mid Cork makes the long journey daily to Charleville to take up his teaching duties, when the school day is over and many are heading home Vincent Harrington is busy preparing his charges in the quest of further glory.

Certainly the game of camogie is all the richer with dedication such as Vincent's.

COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR INTER COUNTY TEAMS

WITH just two weeks to go to the start of the national league the Cork Senior and Junior selection committees have been busy finalising their respective panels and have held several friendly games in preparation, likewise the minor selectors who this weekend hold their final trials as they come closer to naming their championship panel.

COUNTY BOARD MEETING

A reminder to clubs that the county board meetings continue in Paire Uí Rinn on Monday next with G.P.C. at 8pm and the meeting at 9 pm, when the county board lotto also resume and with a jackpot of €3000 it's certainly worth winning.

St Mary's on road to the double

By MARY NEWMAN

Munster Colleges camogie

St Mary's Charleville	1-15
Scariff Community School	1-1

FIFTEEN-year-old Ashling Thompson led the way with a contribution of nine points as St Mary's, Charleville added the Munster Colleges Junior A crown to the senior title annexed last weekend.

In doing so they ensured the college remained on course for an All Ireland double.

Despite the scoreline, the North Cork girls were made fight to the finish before the title was secured. At half-time, Charleville led 0-5 to 0-1. The accuracy of Ashling Thompson was evident in the early stages as the Millford youngster contributed four points, two from play and two from placed balls. Team captain Lisa Fitzgerald also got on the scoresheet, while Sinead Durack ensured Scariff kept in touch with a point.

Inside a minute of the restart, Charleville were reeling as Scariff's captain Ann Marie Fitzgerald rallied her side with the game's opening goal, now just one point separated the sides.

Digging deep, Charleville showed their class with Thompson firing over a point in reply to stretch her side's advantage to two. With their midfield duo of Thompson and Fiona O'Connell steadily gaining the upper hand it ensured plenty of supply to their inside line and here full-forward Maria Walsh knocked over two points without reply.

Thompson pointed a free and added one from play as the Charleville machine moved into full gear and now they were putting the Scariff defence under tremendous pressure.

Eventually the pressure began to tell on the Clare side and with ten minutes remaining Maria Walsh put the result beyond doubt when she struck for a goal. Charleville had threatened for so long to grab.

A trip north and a meeting with Ulster champions St Patrick's Keady, who defeated St Louis Kilkenny 5-9 to 0-2, now awaits them.

Charleville coach Vincent Harrington was pleased with his side's performance: "We certainly had a tough hour as Scariff really put it up to us. The scoreline suggests different but I was worried until we got the goal with around ten minutes remaining."

SCARIFF COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Susan Vaughan, Edel O'Grady, Sarah Myles, Sinead Flaherty, Roisin Loughane, Sinead Durack (0-1), Amanda Flaherty, Ciara McDermott, Ashling Kelly, Mairead Dooley, Lisa Donnellan, Roisin O'Brien, Ann-Marie Fitzgerald (C) (1-0), Mairead Scanlan, Triana Kelly. **ST MARY'S CHARLEVILLE:** Eileen Hanley, Orla Carroll, Rebecca Finn, Cliona Galvin, Rosemary Rea, Fionnuala Dore, Michelle O'Connor, Ashling Thompson (0-9, 0-4 f, 0-5 pl), Fiona O'Connell, Aine Geary, Rachel Waters, Lisa Fitzgerald (C) (0-2), Joanne Herlihy, Maria Walsh (1-4), Ashling McAuliffe. Subs: A MC Auliffe for J Herlihy, O. O Mahony for C. Galvin, F O Shea for F O Connell, V Hennessy for O Carroll.

Referee: Mr E Browne Tipperary.

Finn quits Galway camogie

GALWAY senior camogie boss Noel Finn has quit his post after the county board failed to ratify one of his selectors. Finn told the board on Monday he had no intention of continuing after one of his selectors was ousted.

It is the latest boardroom decision to rock the GAA in the county — in November the hurling board refused to ratify Mattie Murphy as senior team boss and Conor Hayes was reappointed for another term.

Finn, who was starting his second term as senior boss, changed his backroom team for the coming season and presumed the ratification of his two selectors, John Joe Donoghue and Ann Dolan, was a mere formality.

However, at Monday night's meeting attended by 62 voting officials and delegates, Ann Dolan's appointment was ratified but delegates then voted by about two to one to oppose Donoghue's ratification. Yesterday, Finn refused to discuss the matter pending a meeting with the Galway Camogie Board on Wednesday.

Finn's track record is impeccable. Two years ago he guided them to victory in the All-Ireland junior championship and league and last year led the intermediate side to an All-Ireland.

John Fallon

Macrooom snatch hard-won victory

by Mary Newman

St Mary's Macrooom	2-14
St Mary's Middleton	3-9

A HIGH-scoring entertaining contest brought the curtain down on the Cork Colleges' intermediate camogie championship as Macrooom, led by senior inter county player Breige Corkery, snatched victory from a determined Middleton side.

Middleton led at the interval 2-8 to 0-8, thanks to two goals from Evelyn Ronayne, and through the opening half, Macrooom played second fiddle as Middleton made all the running.

On the resumption, Macrooom steadily improved and began to wear down their opponents with Breige Corkery making driving runs forward from centre field where she had great support from Ellen Healy. A Macrooom goal from Niamh Cronin cut the Middleton lead, but with the sides exchanging points, Middleton continued to hold their advantage.

Evelyn Ronayne extended the lead to seven points as she struck for goal number three but with Erin Corkery, Noelle Corkery and Shelly Shine contributing points, Macrooom slowly began to eat into the Middleton lead. A Noelle Corkery goal with eight minutes remaining, plus excellent points from Erin Corkery, Noelle Corkery and Shelly Shine gave Macrooom victory in a hard fought contest.

For Middleton, Aoife O'Neill, Caroline Motherway Ciara Walsh and Evelyn Ronayne were superb while Erin Corkery, Breige Corkery and Emma Dunne were to the fore for Macrooom.

Macrooom: Aoife Cronin, Eva Dunne, Emma Dunne, Paula O'Riordan, Kerri Caldwell, Sarah Buckley, Nicola Barrett, Breige Corkery, O. Ellen Healy, Shelly Shine, Muirann Corkery, Lisa Mc Sweeney, Niamh Cronin, Erin Corkery, Noelle Corkery.

Middleton: Aoife O'Neill, Maureen O'Riordan, Brid Cullinane, Laura Hyde, Amanda Cronin, Catriona Daly, Claire Murphy, Clare Walsh, Noelle O'Donovan, Nicola Nagle, Carolyn Motherway, Ella Ryan, Joanne McCarthy, Evelyn Ronayne, Ann Marie Hennessy. Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers)

CAMOGIE

Purcell Cup final: Garda 1-18 (L Young 1-3, V O'Keefe 0-7, A Cullen, L Bugler 0-2 each, S Howard, J Gordon 0-1 each) Queens Belfast 1-0 (S Coleman 1-0). **Purcell Shield final:** St Patrick's Drumcondra 1-3 (C Coogan 1-0, M Morrissey 0-3) Athlone IT 1-2 (M Dunne 1-1, M Flannagan 0-1). **Ulster Junior Colleges Championship final:** St Mary's Moagherafelt 6-7 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 2-1. **B final:** St Pat's Keady Armagh 5-9 St

Three sisters who made history

TODAY, AFTER a great year for Irish women, we have delighted satisfaction in publishing a photograph from Wexford women's finest hour in 1975. It should be of equal pride beyond any doubt.

It shows three lovely sisters, formerly the Kehoe sisters of Clonleigh, Cloughbawn, on the sod of Croke Park on the day of Wexford's dramatic and totally unexpected win over Cork in the All-Ireland senior camogie final of 1975, September 20th to be exact.

From left to right they are Bridget (now Mrs. Phil Doyle of the fashionable Wexford delicatessen, La Cuisine), team captain, Gretta (now Mrs. Ray Quigley, whose Garda husband has seen to it that there were no race riots or large scale illicit share dealings in Oylegate and district), and Kit (now Mrs. Michael Codd, the wife of the extensive and well-informed farmer of Killiane Lodge).

The gorgeous little mascot, who may not have been entirely sure of her own, or the day's significance, is Kit's daughter, Sinéad.

Today Sinéad, still gorgeous, is a UCD graduate in food and agricultural engineering and married to Tom Dempsey, one of the greatest heart throbs to win an All-Ireland medal.



Wexford, All-Ireland senior camogie champions 1969: At rear (left to right): Margaret O'Leary, Joan Murphy, Annie Kent (sub), Bernie Murphy, Peggie Doyle (sub), Bridget O'Connor, Teresa Shannon (sub goalie), Ellen Shannon (sub), Ann Foley. In front - Mary Doyle, Carmel Fortune (sub), Mary Walsh, Brigid Doyle (captain), Cathy Power, Annie Kehoe, Peg Moore, Mary Shannon. (Not in picture - sub Eileen Allen).



Bridget, Gretta and Kit Kehoe, Cloughbawn, with a little dote, Sinéad. Its a photo from one of Wexford women's finest hour.



Bridget Doyle with two trophies in Croke Park - son Paul and the All-Ireland camogie cup.

FEB
2005

CamogieChat With Mary Newman

ASHBOURNE CUP TAKES CENTRE STAGE

WATERFORD Institute of Technology play host to camogie's oldest competition as eight teams participate in the Ashbourne Cup and Shield.

Without doubt Ashbourne camogie is one of the games most prestigious competitions and is the highlight of a college camogie players sporting career while an Ashbourne medal is one of the games most cherished possessions.

Preparations have been ongoing since last September and now the weekend has finally arrived and we look set for what promises to be feast of camogie.

On Saturday the semi-finals of both the cup and shield take place while the finals are down for decision

on Sunday.

Holders University of Limerick are determined to retain the title won in tremendous fashion last season but they will meet stern opposition from a fancied UCC side who are aiming for their thirty-second title. The sides met at the same stage last year with the Limerick students victorious and certainly there will be a determination to reverse that result by the UCC girls this time out.

Invariably colleges sport always seems to pit inter-county team mates on opposite sides and again this will be very much the case this weekend.

University of Limerick are captained by Cork All-Star Jennifer O'Leary and she is joined Amanda O'Regan who had a wonderful season last year as Cork took the All Ireland junior championship title. Tipperary's Siobhan Ryan, Galway's Orla Kilkenny and Cork junior Mary Buckley from Aghabullogue are all key players as UL go in search of title number three.

UCC have a host of inter-

county names in a line out that includes Cork seniors Emer Dillon, Ciara Healy, Rachel Moloney and Joanne O'Callaghan and they are joined by Kilkenny's Elaine Alward and Tipperary's Jill Horan as the 'College' seek their first title since 2003.

UCD will be spearheaded by Wexford's Mary Lacey as they face the challenge of Waterford IT, UCD lead the role of honour with thirty-four titles but its been 1988 since they last tasted victory.

WIT took their first title in 1999 and repeated the feat in 2001 and they will be very mindful as hosts of putting in a repeat performance as they strive for title number three.

The Ashbourne Shield competition is also down for decision and here Cork will be well represented as CIT meet UUJ in De La Salle grounds at 1p.m while Mary Immaculate meet NUIG at 11.30 at the Waterford Crystal grounds.

The finals are scheduled for Sunday in Ballygunner with the Shield final at 1p.m and the Ashbourne Cup

final at 2.30p.m.

Irrespective of the results the big winner is sure to be college's camogie and certainly there will also be huge after match interest as the Combined Universities team is named at the post final reception and here again there is sure to be huge excitement as this is a team that students take great pride in been named on.

As always Ashbourne weekend promises to be a memorable one for camogie.

NATIONAL LEAGUE COUNT DOWN

WITH just one week to go to the start of the National League campaign the Senior and Junior selection committees will be busy finalising their respective panels.

The league starts on Sunday, February 27 when both Cork teams travel to meet Dublin, the following week the Senior's have a rest while the Juniors are back on the road this time to Offaly.

March 13th and 27th are dates to keep free as followers will be treated to two exciting double headers as Cork play hosts to Kilkenny and then All-Ireland and National league champions Tipperary respectively.

All going well the Senior semi-final takes place on the weekend of May 1st with the Junior semi-final scheduled for May 14th and the Senior final on May 15th with the Junior decider on May 29th.

MINORS

THE minor selectors continued their search for talent as they held further trial games last weekend and they are set to announce their panel shortly. All credit to Denis Burns and his fellow selectors Paddy Corkery and Rose White for the efficient manner in which the trials were organised, we look forward to their first game which is a meeting with Waterford.



Garda college Camogie team who recently won the Purcell Cup for the first time

Ashbourne Cup fixtures

SATURDAY FEB 19th

ASHBOURNE CUP SEMI FINALS

UCD v WIT

UCC v UL

ASHBOURNE SHIELD

MARY I v NUIG @

CIT v UUJ @

Ballygunner Grounds 12.30pm

De La Salle 2.30pm

Waterford Crystal 11.30am

De La Salle 1pm

SUNDAY FEB 20th

ASHBOURNE CUP FINAL

ASHBOURNE SHIELD FINAL

Ballygunner Grounds 2.30pm

Ballygunner Grounds 1pm

UCC girls seek Ashbourne Cup revenge

WATERFORD IT host the JJ Kavanagh and Sons sponsored third level Ashbourne Cup competition this weekend.

Eight of the country's top colleges will be in action for honours.

Holders UL along with WIT, UCC, and UCD do battle for the cup while CIT, NUIG, UUJ along with Mary Immaculate College of Limerick contest the shield.

The Ashbourne competition is the oldest camogie competition in existence, celebrating 91 years. Rivalry is intense and the standard top class.

The match of the weekend must be the clash of last year's holders UL and UCC who meet in the semi-final tomorrow.

The Cork girls will be out to avenge the defeat they suffered at the

By LINDA MELLERICK

Ashbourne Cup

hands of UL last year. While having lost many of last year's panel, UCC can still boast talent in the calibre of Tipperary's Jill Horan, Lizzie Lyng of Kilkenny and Cork inter-county stars Joanne O'Callaghan, Emer Dillon and Rachel Moloney.

UL have Cork Allstar Jenny O'Leary, Aoife Sheehan and Meadhbh Nash of Granagh Ballingarry and Orla Kilkenny of Galway.

Throughout, UL have an abundance of talent and are in great scoring form having registered 3-21 in their quarter-final win over UUJ. They go into the competition as hot favourites to collect their third title.

Cork have a battle on their hands.

Former senior inter-county hurler Cathal Casey is one of the mentors leading UCC's challenge.

He is under no illusions as to the huge task his side are facing but is happy with the way preparations have gone.

Training has gone very well for us and the response has been superb. The standard in colleges' camogie is almost at inter-county level and we need to play at that level to match UL. They are favourites and I'm hoping that tag will put a little pressure on them.

Hosts Waterford will find the going tough in their semi-final with last year's beaten finalists UCD.

The Dublin college have been strengthened with the addition of

Wexford Allstar Mary Lacey, Catherine O'Loughlin and Emily Dermody.

Waterford field a young team, captained by Tipp's Patricia O'Halloran, but are well balanced and will be anxious, as hosts, to do well and reach the final.

Cork IT contests the shield and should advance against UUJ.

UUJ have talent at their disposal. Intermediate All Ireland medal winners Mairead Graham and Bernice McKinley of Antrim and Down's Catherine McGourty will ensure the Cork college, with Karen McCarthy and Samantha Quinn, earn their place in the final.

NUIG go into the other semi-final against opponents Mary I with a very strong outfit and are strongly

fancied to advance.

However Mary I have the excellent Claire Grogan from Tipp and the McMahon sisters, Sharon and Moira from Clare in their side and it is hard to see them easily cast aside.

The Ashbourne weekend is high on the A list in the College Calendar year. For those involved, this prestigious competition is the ultimate. A winner's medal holds pride of place in any player's home.

TOMORROW

Ashbourne Shield semi-finals: 11.30, NUIG v Mary I at Waterford Crystal Grounds; 1.00, Cork IT v UUJ at De La Salle Grounds.

Ashbourne Cup semi-finals: 12.30, WIT v UCD at Ballygunner GAA Grounds; 2.30, UL v UCC at De La Salle Grounds.

SUNDAY

Ashbourne Shield Final: 1pm, Ballygunner GAA.

Ashbourne Cup Final: 2.30, Ballygunner GAA.

UCC to bully off against title holders UL

by Mary Newman

THE focus is on the students this weekend as Waterford Institute of Technology hosts the Ashbourne Cup and Shield competitions. One of the game's oldest and most prestigious competitions, the Ashbourne Cup is the highlight of college sporting life and an Ashbourne medal is one of the game's most cherished possessions.

Huge preparations have been made by all concerned since term began in late September and the scene is now set for what promises to be feast of camogie. On Saturday

the semi-finals of both the cup and shield take place while the final is down for decision on Sunday.

Holders University of Limerick are hellbent on retaining the title but they will meet stern opposition from a UCC side who are aiming for their 32nd title. It's a repeat of last year's semi-final where the Limerick students came out on top but this time UCC are determined to reverse that result. Inter-county team mates in opposition will be the order of the day as University of Limerick are captained by Cork All Star Jennifer O'Leary and she is joined by Amanda O'Regan who last season

was influential in Cork's All Ireland junior championship success. Tipperary's Siobhan Ryan, Galway's Orla Kilkenny and Cork Junior Mary Buckley from Aghbullogue are all star performers for UL.

UCC have a host of inter-county names in a line out that includes Emer Dillon, Ciara Healy, Rachel Moloney and Joanne O'Callaghan and they are joined by Kilkenny's Elaine Alward and Tipperary Jill Horan.

UCD will be spearheaded by Wexford's Mary Lacey as they face the challenge of Waterford IT. The Dublin university heads the role of

honour with 34 titles but its been 1988 since it last rested in their hallowed halls. WIT took their first title in 1999 and repeated the feat in 2001 and they will be very mindful as hosts of putting in a repeat performance as they strive for title number three.

Whatever the outcome the, big winner is sure to be college camogie and certainly there will also be huge after-match interest as the combined universities team is named at the post-final reception.

The Ashbourne Shield competition is also down for decision and here Cork will be well represented

with CIT meeting UUJ in De La Salle grounds at 1pm while Mary Immaculate meet NUIG at 11.30 in the Waterford Crystal grounds. The finals are scheduled for Sunday in Ballygunner with the shield final at 1pm and the Ashbourne Cup final at 2.30pm.

Ashbourne Fixtures

Saturday Feb 19: Semi-finals UCD v WIT at Ballygunner 12.30; UCC v UL at De La Salle 2.30pm.

Ashbourne Shield: Mary Immaculate v NUIG, Waterford Crystal grounds 11.30am; CIT v UUJ, De La Salle, 1 pm.

Sunday, Feb 20: Final at Ballygunner grounds, 2.30pm; Ashbourne Shield final: Ballygunner grounds, 1pm.

Waterford IT host third level camogie showpiece

by Colm O'Connor

WATERFORD IT will host this year's Ashbourne Cup, the oldest camogie competition in existence.

The JJ Kavanagh sponsored event takes place this weekend.

A strong NUIG go into the Shield semi-final having narrowly lost to the hosts WIT in the Cup quarter-final. With players of the calibre of Susan Earner, Sinead Keane, Laura Linnane and Deirdre Murphy, they will be strongly fancied to win the Shield.

But Mary Immaculate College will also fancy their chances and they can call on the likes of Tipp star Claire Grogan and Moira McMahon of Clare.

WIT and last year's beaten finalists UCD will be battling it out for a place in the cup final. The latter are a much

stronger outfit with the addition of Wexford Allstar Mary Lacey along with Emily Dermody and Catherine O'Loughlin.

WIT will have a number of their victorious Freshers team in their side. Waterford are captained by Patricia O'Halloran of Tipperary and have a well balanced outfit in Helen Breen, Ger Kinnane, the Jacob sisters of Wexford and Susan Keane of Galway.

UCC will be very keen to avenge their defeat at the same stage last year when they meet holders UL. With players of the calibre of Tipp's Jill Horan, Kilkenny's Lizzie Lyng and Elaine Aylward and Cork stars Rachel Moloney, Joanne O'Callaghan and Emer Dillon, UCC will fancy their chances.

However, holders UL are in great form having defeated UUJ by 3-21 to

0-3 in the quarter final. And they will start as firm favourites to retain their title.

They have an abundance of talent in Jeanette Feighery of Offaly, Galway stars Orla Kilkenny and Aisling Connolly, Kilkenny's Edel Maher, Aoife Sheehan and Meadhbh Nash of Granagh/Ballingarry in Limerick.

Fixtures:

Sat, Feb 19: Shield semi-final: Mary Immaculate College v NUIG, Waterford Crystal Sports Centre, 11.30am

Cup semi-final: UCD v WIT, Ballygunner GAA Grounds, Waterford, 12.30pm.

Shield semi-final: UUJ v CIT, De La Salle GAA Grounds, 1pm.

Cup semi-final: UCC v UL, De La Salle GAA Grounds, 2.30pm.

Sun Feb 20: 1pm Shield final

2.30pm Cup final. Both games at Ballygunner GAA Grounds

More Ashbourne Cup joy for UL

UL made it back-to-back titles in the JJ Kavanagh Ashbourne Cup when they defeated UCD 0-12 to 1-4 in Ballygunner yesterday.

Brilliant defending from both sides, meant it was level at the break, UCD 1-3 UL 0-6, before Jennifer O'Leary sent over two frees for UL.

A further 45 from O'Leary spelled trouble for the Dublin College, who could not get past UL 'keeper Denise Lynch.

There was double joy for Limerick

as the Eamonn

Cregan-man-

aged Mary Im-

maculate Col-

lege (MIC)

won their first

ever Ashbourne

Shield when

they defeated

Cork IT by 2-7

to 2-4.

Cregan's

daughter Ciara

was the coach

and his niece

Eimear Cregan

was on the win-

ning team.



County Junior B camogie champions Castlemagner, pictured at the awards night.

Picture: Tarrar

CAMOGIE — Castlemagner: The progressive Duhallow representatives attained ultimate honours on capturing a county Junior B championship on overcoming Mallow, Castlelyons and Grenagh to a dramatic campaign. Team coach Paddy Coakley accepted the award.

FEB 2005

UL win Ashbourne Cup back-to-back

by Liz Howard
UL camogie team made history on Sunday when they won the Ashbourne Cup for the second successive year. They defeated UCD in Ballygunner. Mary I won the Ashbourne Shield when they disposed of CIT.

UL defeated UCC in an exciting and hard fought contest on Saturday in De La Salle grounds. This was the game of the tournament. Both sides played superb camogie. UCC had the upper hand in the first half with Tipperary star Jill Horan and Cork's Rachel Moloney in flying form.

However, UL brought Siobhan Ryan to midfield at the start of the second half. She won an amount of possession and distributed the ball well. UL capitalised on this and went on to claim a place in the final.

Burgess player Aine Mulcahy was also impressive for the Limerick side.

UCD had beaten WIT in the other semi-final. In this game Tipperary's Patricia O'Halloran gave an outstanding performance at midfield for WIT. Niamh Harkin from Drom-Inch who played at full-back for Waterford had a solid game. Helen Breen (Cashel) and Michelle Shortt (Upperchurch) were also on the team, while Maeve Moloney from Burgess was on the panel.

Many were of the opinion that UL would win the final easily but the power of Wexford stars Mary Leacy and Catherine O'Loughlin, Dublin player Ciara Lucy, kept the UL side at bay for a long period. It was the free taking of Cork's Jenny O'Leary that proved vital for the Limerick.

Good free-taking and their ability to withstand severe pressure from UCD in the last seven minutes paid dividends. Again Siobhan Ryan came to the

rescue, deep in defence in the closing minutes she made vital clearances. Aine Mulcahy grafted hard. Helena Costigan from Bournea was also on the panel.

Shield Final — Claire Grogan was the outstanding player for Mary I in both the semi final and final. Joanne O'Doherty (Donohill), Mary Coughlan and Teresa Timmons (Silvermines) Tara Johnson (Templemore) were also on the Mary I panel.

CIT had Tipperary representatives in Cora Hennessy (Clonoulty), Marguerite Ryan (Ballinahinch) and Noirin Egan (Drom-Inch). Cora scored a well taken goal in the final but it was Mary I's day. Other Tipperary players in action — Maria Tynan (Toomevara) played with NUIG. UCD did not give home club/county of players.

Ashbourne All-Stars — Tipperary representatives on the Ashbourne All-Star team are — Siobhan Ryan (UL), Jill Horan (UCC), Claire Grogan (Mary I) and Patricia O'Halloran (WIT).

Referee — Eamonn Browne one of the best referees in camogie took charge of the UL v. UCC game.

Behind the scenes — WIT hosted the Ashbourne and did an excellent job. Headed by Dr Sheila O'Donohoe she had a super team including Damien Young. Sinead Nealon. Sinead acquired sponsorship for the Ashbourne from J. J. Kavanagh & Sons. Waterford Crystal sponsored the Player of the Tournament which was won by Catherine O'Loughlin (UCD). Well organised and well run it was an enjoyable Ashbourne. The Ballygunner pitch and facilities are worth a visit. The pitch is perfect. De La Salle grounds were in good order too.

Cork colleges lose out on titles

IT WAS double heartbreak as both Cork Colleges returned home from the Ashbourne Cup and Shield competitions held in Waterford this weekend empty-handed.

UCC fell at the semi final stage to UL while CIT, after a tremendous 90 minute battle on Saturday in the semi-final couldn't find the reserves to take them that one step further.

Delayed by 40 minutes due to two periods of extra time in the shield semi final, UCC and UL finally took to a heavy pitch and the tension was evident.

The Cork College were quickest to settle and had the first score on the board after only two minutes. Orla Kilkenny replied for UL.

A strong swirling cross wind made life very difficult for free takers. UL had three wides before switching the task to the dependable Jenny O'Leary who mastered the art immediately. Rachel Moloney pointed two frees for UCC and by the 17th minute Cork were ahead by four points to two.

It was evident, however, from an early stage that once the UL forward line had possession they had the speed to split the UCC defence.

Jenny Feighery and Meadh Nash pointed to bring the sides level. Jill Horan pointed for UCC, Siobhan Ryan for UL. Moloney pointed a free for Cork and again Jenny O'Leary levelled it. It was tit-for-tat all through and the sides went in at the break level at 0-6 to 0-6.

UL started to pull away in the second period, their superb fitness and speed proving too much of a handful for the Cork side, despite the best efforts of Moloney who worked tirelessly throughout and Regina Curtin. O'Leary, Feighery, Nash and Kilkenny all hit over excellent points to UCC's one, a pointed free.



Despite scoring four points for UCC, Rachel Moloney still finished on the losing side.



Linda Mellerick

They led by five entering the final two minutes when a magnificent individual goal from Jill Horan for Cork narrowed the gap to two.

A final onslaught brought no rewards, however, and the Limerick side deservedly advanced to face UCD in the final.

In the preceding game a gallant CIT had to endure 90 minutes of a tough physical encounter against UUJ before grasping a winner on the stroke of full time in the second period of extra time. 60 minutes of

Camogie couldn't separate the sides.

CIT had led by four points to one at the break and looked to be the better at picking off scores from the limited chances that came either team's way.

This didn't continue, however, and they could only manage three in the second half to the Ulster College's six, the last coming right on the stroke of full-time.

Ten minutes a side of extra-time followed and two points a piece ensured they had to go at it again. Five minutes a side this time and it looked as if the game would nearly have to go to a penalty shoot out before super sub Aileen Coughlan pointed for CIT in the 10th minute

to secure a place in the final. Jenny Duffy was CIT's star performer, working like a Trojan and covering every inch of the pitch to ensure victory.

It was hard to see how CIT could recover in time to play the final just 24 hours later and indeed Saturday's heavy going took its toll as a tired College team lost out to Mary I on a score line of 2-7 to 2-4.

Mary I led at one stage by double scores, 2-6 to 1-3 but full credit to CIT who never gave up and pulled it back to leave just three points between the sides at the end.

UL defeated UCD in the final of the Cup by 0-12 to 1-4.

RESULTS

Ashbourne Cup semi-final Game 2: UL 0-12 UCD 1-5, UCC 1-7 WIT 0-6
Scorers: UL-O Kilkenny 0-2, J O'Leary 0-4 (0-15), J Feighery 0-2, M Nash 0-2, S Ryan, A Lyndskay 0-1 each.

Team: D Lynch, G Glynn, S O'Gorman, S O'Sullivan, E Cregan, A O'Regan, L Lally, S Ryan, E Maher, A Sheehan, M Nash, J O'Leary, J Feighery, A Mulcahy, O Kilkenny.

Subs: A Lyndskay for E Maher, A Connolly for A Sheehan
Scorers: UCC-R Moloney 0-4 (frees), J Horan 1-1, L Lyng and C Desmond 0-1 each.

Team: B Aylward, H Kenneally, C Dineen, J Browne, J O'Callaghan, R Curtin, E Aylward, R Moloney, E Dillon, L Lyng, C Healy, C Desmond, A Ryan, S O'Donovan, J Horan.

Ashbourne Shield Semi Finals Game 2: CIT 0-10 Mary I 1-14, UUJ 0-9 NUIG 1-8
Scorers: CIT - D Delaney 0-2 (frees), B Hanney 0-3, C Hennessy 0-2, J Duffy, U Daly and A Coughlan 0-1 each.

Team: G Harrington, E Carol, A M Raitica, E McCarthy, M O'Sullivan, M Kelly, K McCarthy, D Delaney, S Quinn, J Duffy, A Crowley, C Hennessy, U Daly, B Hanney, M Smiddy.

Scorers: UUJ - C McCourt 0-5 (0-3 frees, 0-1 45'), A Fearon, G McGoldrick, L McCrickard, M Graham 0-1 each.

Team: S Henry, J McVeigh, M Maginn, G O'Hanlon, M Graham, M Larkin, B McKinley, B Convery, L McCrickard, G McGoldrick, J Carey, C McGourty, A Lavery, A Fearon, M Kelly.

Ashbourne Shield Final: Mary I 2-7 CIT 2-4
Scorers: Mary I - M Jagoe 2-0, C Crogan 0-5 (0-4 frees, 0-1 45'), A M Hayes and K Farrell 0-1 each.

Scorers: CIT - B Hanney 1-2, D Delaney 0-2 (0-1 free), C Hennessy 1-0.

Ashbourne Cup Final: UL 0-12 UCD 1-4

Scorers: UL - J O'Leary 0-10 (0-9 frees), A Lyndskay and A Sheehan 0-1 each.

Scorers: UCD - C Lucey 0-4 (0-3 frees), E Dardmody 1-0.

FEB 2005



Pictured at the Valley rovers GAA dinner at the Munster Arms Hotel with the all Ireland Junior Cup, Munster Junior Cup, Cork Senior Championship Cup and the Carrigdown Cup were from left: Niall Murphy, coach camogie team; Liz Bugler, All Ireland junior medal winner and capt of the camogie team and Brenden Colman, Manager Valley Rovers camogie team.

Picture:Boyl

The girls had an even better season, with the Junior A players winning the league and championship titles, with the Under 12's also taking a county title.

Liz Bugler, Gillian Harrington and Lucy Hawkes were on the Carrigdhoun team which won the County senior title with all three players winning an All Ireland junior medal with Cork, while Elaine Burke was on the Cork senior panel.

Liz Bugler was on a national team which played Aussie Rules camogie against international opposition as part of the camogie centenary celebrations during the year.



Lillian Zinkant, selector Cork team, with Gillian Harrington, Liz Bugler and Lucy Hawkes who won All Ireland medals with Cork last year, pictured at the dinner.

Picture:Crowdy



Coláiste Bríde, winners of the Leinster Colleges senior 'A' camogie championship for a third year running after overcoming Loreto, Kilkenny in last Saturday's final at Carlow. Back row (l-r): Sharon Kehoe, Johanna Breen, Maeve Frayne, Siobhan Cullen, Bróna Furlong (capt.), Ciara Storey, Siona Nolan, Una Leacy, Olivia Murphy, Stacey Redmond. Front row (l-r): Yvonne Walsh, Anna Murphy, Vikki Murphy, Louise O'Leary, Lorraine O'Connor. (Pic: Karl McDonough).



'Player of the match' Siobhan Cullen clears Coláiste Bríde's lines in Saturday's provincial final. (Pic: Karl McDonough).

Bríde hold onto crown with dramatic late goal

COLÁISTE BRÍDE 4-4
LORETO, KILKENNY 2-8

A GOAL two minutes into injury-time edged Coláiste Bríde's hugely committed camogie queenpins to a third successive Leinster Colleges senior 'A' championship title in dramatic fashion at the expense of an extremely unfortunate Loreto, Kilkenny outfit, at the grounds of the Carlow Town Hurling Club on Saturday afternoon last.

Loreto's fully focussed charges displayed the more impressive credentials for much of the tie, and having reached the break leading by 2-5 to 1-3, the challengers strengthened their position with two unanswered points inside the opening minutes of the second-half.

But, while this was anything but a polished performance by Coláiste Bríde, it certainly lacked nothing in terms of honest endeavour, as they produced a huge-hearted effort. The reigning All-Ireland senior and junior champions basically refused to allow the provincial senior title slip from their grasp without

one bell of a fight.

And with six of last year's all-conquering senior contingent on board, they began to turn the screw in Saturday's big test midway through the second-half, when Oulart-The Ballagh colleagues Una Leacy and Ciara Storey goaled within four minutes of each other. Nevertheless, following an exchange of points, the Loreto crew looked set to shade the verdict as they defended a 2-8 to 3-4 lead. However, when the Kilkenny 'keeper allowed a shot slip from her grasp the holders took advantage, with Anna Murphy appearing to get the telling touch which forced the ball over the 'line for the decisive goal that eventually moved Coláiste Bríde to within 120 minutes of making it a hat-trick of senior All-Irelands.

Contested amid blustery conditions, the Kilkenny girls were very much the better team during the first-half, during when they enjoyed whatever advantage was acquiring from a very strong cross-wind.

They made a dream start, as full-forward Edwina Keane goaled in the second-minute. Team mates Eileen Fitzpatrick and Elaine O'Neill ('45) followed-up with a point apiece, to stretch the challengers into a 1-2 to no-score lead after 10 minutes.

Points in the 11th and 12th minutes from Una Leacy - the latter from a free - helped keep Coláiste Bríde in touch.

But after midfielder Siona Nolan had pointed a '45 in the 19th-minute to negate a further Kilkenny point, the Marble City outfit made considerable headway between the 24th and 26th minutes, as Eileen Fitzpatrick-goaled while Edwina Keane and Danielle Minogue each pointed, to establish a commanding 2-5 to 0-3 lead.

Gritty Coláiste Bríde, however, gained a significant boost on the stroke of half-time when Una Leacy, having been fouled herself, regained her composure to strike the resultant penalty to the net, and leave the green-white-and-gold in arrears by just five points (2-5 to 1-3) at the break.

Kilkenny strengthened their grip shortly after the resumption when Elaine O'Neill fired over 34th (free) and 36th minute points.

Coláiste Bríde then redoubled their efforts, and the ever reliable Una Leacy provided the ideal shot-in-the-arm when stroking home a pass from Ciara Storey for a second personal goal in the 41st minute, which reduced her side's deficit to 2-7 to 2-3.

They struck another major blow in the 45th-minute, when the in-rushing Ciara Storey followed-up excellent work by her colleagues to finish to the Loreto net.

The sides then battled it out for seven scoreless minutes before Elaine O'Neill fired Loreto into a two-point advantage (2-8 to 3-3). And with no further scores being registered during the remainder of normal time, it appeared as though the Kilkenny school was about to collect this silverware for the first-time since 2002, and fifth time in total.

But they had not

reckoned with the tenacity of Coláiste Bríde, who fought right through to the final whistle, and Una Leacy swung over a superb point a minute into added-time to maintain their hopes.

A minute later the Kilkenny netminder made a fatal error, which Anna Murphy pounced upon to find the net for an unforgettable goal. In fact, some

Kilkenny connections took issue with Wexford referee Jack O'Brien over that score, with shouts of 'square-ball' emanating from their infuriated supporters. O'Brien consulted with his umpires, who numbered a representative from either side, and both were unanimous in their opinion that the score should be allowed stand.

Kilkenny never let up, and they forced a couple of late frees, which they failed to get beyond Coláiste Bríde's half-back line, where Siobhan Cullen contributed a 'player of the match' performance for Ireland's finest.

Coláiste Bríde now meet Connacht champions Portlanna in the All-Ireland semi-final on February 26th. The school has another big date next Saturday, and again in Carlow, when they will seek to hold onto their Leinster junior crown, in an eagerly anticipated final against

Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny.

Coláiste Bríde: Enniscorthy - Vikki Murphy (Monageer-Boovalogue), Lorraine O'Connor (Oylegate-Glenbrien), Johanna Breen (Monageer-Boovalogue), Louise O'Leary (Rathnure), Stacey Redmond (Oulart-The Ballagh), Sharon Kehoe (Oulart-The Ballagh), Siobhan Cullen (Oulart-The Ballagh), Siona Nolan (Monageer-Boovalogue, 0-1 '45), Bróna Furlong (capt.), Anna Murphy (Monageer-Boovalogue, 1-0), Ciara Storey (Oulart-The Ballagh, 1-0), Yvonne Walsh (Monageer-Boovalogue), Maeve Frayne (Rathnure), Una Leacy (Oulart-The Ballagh, 2-3, 1-0 penalty, 0-1 free), Olivia Murphy (Monageer-Boovalogue).

Subs: Aileen Doyle (Rapparees) for Yvonne Walsh; Christine Fortune (Oulart-The Ballagh) for Maeve Frayne; Kerri Dunne, Hannah Doran, Aoife O'Connor, Shelly and Stacey Kehoe (Oulart-The Ballagh), Sara Nolan (Rapparees), Laura Hogan, Ciara Garahy and Jenni Fenlon (Monageer-Boovalogue), Sandra Carr and Emma O'Connor (Rathnure), Sinead Jordan (Marshallstown), Jacqui Codd (Duffry Rovers).

Loreto, Kilkenny - Sinead Walsh, Marie Anderson, Laoighseach Quigley, Carol Kavanagh, Aine Fahey, Danielle Minogue (capt., 0-1), Andrea Marnell, Eileen Fitzpatrick (1-1), Fiona Phelan, Elaine O'Neill (0-4, 1 '45, 1 free), Aine Connery, Siobhan Fahey, Maria Murphy, Edwina Keane (1-2), Michelle Mulhall.

Referee - Jack O'Brien (Wexford, Buffers Alley).

CAMOGIE

Cork Colleges trial game v Limerick on Sunday 27th Feb at Feenagh at 11.30am:
Bandon: Keane, Albhinn, Hawkes, Tessa, McCarthy, Katie, Blarney: Sheehan, Aileen, C. Phiaras: O'Callaghan, Caoimhe.
Carrigrohane: Moran, Maria, O'Keefe, Grainne, O'Leary, Dairde, Carrigrohane: O'Neil, Eanna, Charleville: Healy, Eimear, O'Callaghan, Dorina, Christ King: Jordan, Emma, O'Donovan, Aileen, Clonakilty: O'Donovan, Marie, Coachford: Kingston, Emma, McCarthy, Katie, O'Connor, Clara, Cobh: Smith, Chloe, Col Cholm: Buckley, Sarah, O'Callaghan, Brea: Scally, Aoife, McCarthy, Aoife.
Glennmire: Whoolley, Aisling, Kinsale: Hayes, Clara, Mallow: Fitzgerald, Leonie, Forde, Emma, Passage: Mackey, Catriona, Mackey, Pamela, St. Als: Crowley, Ellen, Youghal: Smiddy, Sandra.
Saturday: All-Ireland Colleges Senior A semi-final: St Mary's Charleville v St Pat's Maghera, Charleville, 11am.



County GAA Board Honours Deirdre - In recognition for her selection in the Camogie Centenary team. Deirdre received a presentation from County Board chairman Donal Shanahan.



Chairperson Stephen Fitzgerald making a presentation to Deirdre Hughes in recognition of her 'Player of the Centenary Team Award'.



Ciara Storey (Coláiste Bríde) battles for possession with Loreto centre-back Danielle Minogue. (Pic: Karl McDonough).



Coláiste Bríde captain Bróna Furlong gets to the ball ahead of Loreto, Kilkenny pair Fiona Phelan and Andrea Marnell during Saturday's Leinster senior camogie final. (Pic: Karl McDonough).



Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael
IN ASSOCIATION WITH O'NEILLS

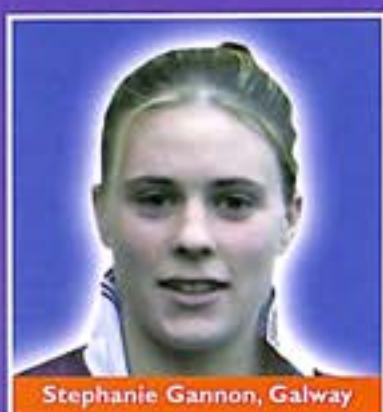
O'NEILLS



CAMOGIE ALL-STARS



Aoife Murray, Corcaigh



Stephanie Gannon, Galway

Young Player
of the Year



Suzanne Kelly, Tiobraid Árann



Una O'Dwyer, Tiobraid Árann



Aine Codd, Loch Gorman



Annette McGeeney, Sligo IT

International Player
of the Year



Mary Leacy, Loch Gorman



Ciara Gaynor, Tiobraid Árann



Therese Brophy, Tiobraid Árann



Kate Kelly, Loch Gorman



Gemma O'Connor, Corcaigh



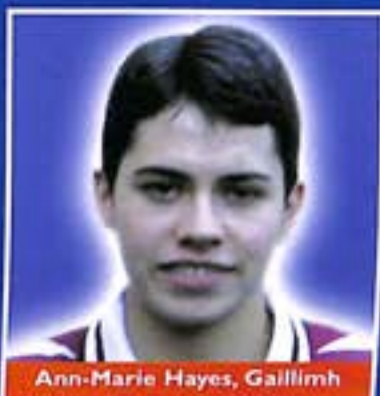
Jennifer O'Leary, Corcaigh



Máirín McAleenan, An Dún



Claire Grogan, Tiobraid Árann



Ann-Marie Hayes, Gaillimh



Deirdre Hughes, Tiobraid Árann



Sinéad Millea, Cill Chainnigh

2004

2004

National league campaign begins

by Mary Newman

CORK open their national league campaign with a trip to Blanchardstown as the senior and junior teams face Dublin on the double. Both backroom teams have been busy since mid January preparing for the season ahead. New senior selectors Lillian Zincent, John Cronin and Ollie Hallihan are joined by Fiona O Driscoll who has assumed the duties of trainer with John Cronin taking over the coaching and they have been busy playing several games as they countdown the weeks to the beginning of the league.

The team will be captained by Elaine Burke from county Carrigdhoun, while last year's captain Stephanie Dunlea, Vivienne Harris and Jennifer O Leary are sure to figure prominently. Through the league the selectors will no doubt be keeping an eye out and giving every opportunity to new talent to stake a claim to a first team place for the ultimate test come championship. While as yet the selectors have not named a starting 15 a definite non starter for the league campaign is mid fielder Jemma O Connor who is presently on overseas duty with the defence forces. There is also doubt regarding the availability of several of the panel because of

Camogie blitz next weekend

by Mary Newman

THE first under age camogie competition of the season takes place next weekend with the under 16 Interdivisional Camogie blitz in Ovens on Saturday next.

Over a number of years the blitz has proved most successful has been of huge benefit to the minor selectors as they make their championship prepara-

tions and certainly Denis Burns and his fellow selectors will be casting an eye with interest over next weekend's proceedings. The divisions are divided into two sections, with the top team from each section qualifying for the final with all games taking place on the same day its sure to be a test of endurance.

Holders Muskerry will be determined to retain their crown and

they will be boosted by the inclusion of players from the successful Eire Og side who were crowned county under 16 A champions in 2004. Imokilly will face the holders in their first game at 10am while Seandun face a stern test in their first game against Carrigdhoun. The second games have Imokilly in action against Carbery with Carrigdhoun meeting Avondhu. The final

games in the sections have Carbery facing up to Muskerry and Avondhu taking on the city representatives Seandun. Registration time for the teams is 9.20am, with the first games to starting at 10 am sharp. Games will be of thirty minutes duration with 15 minutes a side and the final 40 minute with 20 minutes a side, unlimited substitutions are also allowed.

forthcoming exams but selector Lillian Zincent is looking ahead with enthusiasm to the season ahead. "We will have to wait until later in the week regarding the availability of some of the girls who are currently studying for their leaving certificate. However we have a strong panel in training and we will be giving everybody an opportunity to stake a claim."

The junior selectors face the task of fielding a new line out following

the success of last year side that are now ineligible by virtue of their All Ireland success. Just like their senior counterparts they too have been busy in the search for new talent but they will be boosted by the availability of several players who have been regarded too junior. Again, exams may curtail several players partaking in the league but nevertheless Liz O Mahony and her fellow selectors Brendan Coleman and Willie O Regan are eagerly

looking ahead to another busy season and ultimately defending their All Ireland crown.

On Sunday week the Senior side have a rest while the Juniors are back on the road — this time it's a trip to Offaly. March 13 and 27 are dates to keep free as followers will be treated to two exciting double headers as Cork play hosts to Kilkenny and then All-Ireland and National league champions Tipperary respectively.

McGourty shows the way for Down

LAST weekend Catherine McGourty was the only Ulster player to make the Ashbourne Cup Allstar team and yesterday in Ballyholland she showed exactly why, with a top-drawer performance that saw Down beat neighbours Armagh by 3-10 to 0-5. Armagh opened brightly enough with two points from their minor player Collette McSorley, but the turning point came after 15 minutes when Cathy Mulholland bagged the first Down goal.

Two points each from McGourty and Fionnuala Carr saw the home side turn over with a 1-6 to 0-4 lead. McGourty hit an unanswered 1-3 midway through the second half and substitute Mairin McAleenan handpassed a late third Down goal. The only other Ulster side in action was Derry, also in the same section of Division Two as Down and Armagh. However, a goal from veteran Catherine O'Loughlin gave Clare a 1-11 to 0-4 win in Athleague.

In the same section a brace of goals each from Louise Mahony and Emily Dowling left Laois impressive 5-4 to 1-2 winners over Carlow, while in Division 2A Cork had little bother in beating Dublin.

It was a similar story in the only Division One game played, with Cork scoring 3-7 against Dublin's 0-4.

Down: C McGourty (1-6, 0-3 free), C Mulholland (1-0), M McAleenan (1-0), F Carr (0-2), L McCrickard (0-1 free), C McCrickard (0-1).

Armagh: C McSorley (0-5, 0-1 free), Clare: L Linnane (0-4), C O'Loughlin (1-0), D Lynch (0-3), F Lafferty, D Murphy (0-2 each).

Derry: K McAuley (0-3), K Lavery (0-1).

Laois: L Mahony (2-2), E Dowling (2-1), M Dowling (1-0), T Keenan, E Delaney (0-1 each).

Carlow: V Cean (1-2).

Cork Juniors: H O'Regan (0-6), M Coleman, O Coughlan (1-2 each), M Buckley (1-1), O Cotter (0-2), E Herley (0-1).

Dublin Juniors: H Cosgrove (1-0), J Hoary (0-2).

Cork Seniors: J O'Leary (0-5), S O'Donovan (1-1), D Twomey, P O'Connor (1-0 each), M O'Connor (0-1).

Dublin Seniors: K Blood (0-3), G McCuskey (0-1).

Camogie Pitch

By Seamus McAleenan

BOTH Ulster schools in the All-Ireland Colleges' senior semi-finals at the weekend suffered defeat.

St Patrick's, Maghera were always up against it when they took on St Mary's, Charleville in the A semi-final with the home side fielding six players with inter-county experience.

And those players certainly made a difference on the scoreboard with Cork senior Emer Watson finishing with 2-4 and Limerick star Sinead McAuliffe hitting seven points in a 4-15 to 0-0 win.

In the B grade, Cross & Passion Ballycastle put up a fighting display in Thurles against the local Ursuline Convent but went down by 2-8 to 2-3 with Emma Connor scoring a goal in each half for the north Antrim school. However, goals from Louise Kavanagh and Emer Ryan saw Ursuline through to a final next month with Mercy, Woodford who beat St Feargal's, Rathdowney by 2-7 to 1-3.

Charleville: E Watson (2-4), S McAuliffe (0-7), F Morrissey (1-3), M Coleman (1-0), A Thompson (0-1).

Thurles: L Kavanagh (1-1), C Johnston (0-4), E Ryan (1-0), T Shortt (0-2), A Kennedy (0-1).

Ballycastle: E Connor (2-0), S Kane (0-3).

Woodford: C Kelly (1-2), K Lyons (1-0), P Hayes (0-3), A Tuohy (0-2).

Rathdowney: S Fitzgerald (1-0), F O'Grady (0-3).

CamogieChat

With Mary Newman

National League Action Begins

COMPETITIONS for 2005 begin on Sunday with Cork making the journey to Blanchardstown as the senior and junior teams face Dublin.

There has been a change in personnel since last season in both selections committees with Lillian Zincent, John Cronin and Ollie Hallihan taking over the reigns at senior level and they are joined by Fiona O Driscoll who has assumed the duties of trainer with John Cronin taking over the coaching.

At junior level changes also as Liz O Mahony is joined by Brendan Coleman who

INTER DIVISIONAL UNDER 16 BLITZ

ON Saturday the under 16 Interdivisional Camogie blitz takes place in Ovens starting at 10am, the blitz has always signalled the start of under-age activities and is eagerly looked forward to.

No doubt the minor selectors will also be casting an interesting eye over proceedings as they sit down to finalise their panel.

The divisions are divided into two sections with the top team from each section qualifying for the final with all games taking place on the same day.

Holders Muskerry will be determined to retain their crown and they meet Imokilly in their first

game while Seandun's first game is against Carrigdhoun.

Imokilly are in action against Carbery with Carrigdhoun meeting Avondhu in round two, round three in the sections have Carbery facing Muskerry and Avondhu taking on the city representatives Seandun.

Registration time for the teams is 9.20am, with the first games to starting at 10 am sharp.

Games will be of thirty minutes duration with 15 minutes a side and the final forty minute's with two twenty minute half's, unlimited substitutions are also allowed.

represents county champions Valley Rovers and Willie O Regan.

For several weeks both committees have been busy seeking out new talent and preparing for a busy campaign ahead which will see the Juniors facing Offaly on March 7 and it's then on to March 13 and 27 Kilkenny first followed by All-Ireland and National league champions Tipperary travelling to Cork for two potentially exciting double headers.

Elaine Burke from county champions Carrigdhoun takes over the captaincy of the senior team and while there are no reported retirement's midfielder Jemma O'Connor is certain to miss the earlier stages of the campaign as she is presently on overseas duty with the defence forces.

Throughout the league the selectors will no doubt be keeping an eye out and giving every opportunity to up and coming players stake a claim to a first team place.

Examination commitments may restrict many of the panel's involvement in the campaign also but the selectors are looking ahead with enthusiasm to the season ahead. The junior selectors face the task of fielding a new line out following the success of last year's side that are now ineligible by virtue of their All Ireland win.

They have been busy in the search for new talent as they set out to build a strong side to defend their All Ireland crown but for the time being the main aim is making it to the closing stages of the national league for both sides.

BACK TO BACK TITLES FOR U.L.

UNIVERSITY of Limerick spearheaded by Cork's Jennifer O Leary and Amanda O Regan retained the Ashbourne Cup title with a final victory over UCD.

In a close contest on Saturday they defeated a UCC side that on the day had little complaints as the fitter and fast running UL side availed of their chances to book their place in the final.

There was heartbreak for CIT in the shield final as they lost out to Mary Immaculate College.

Having turned in a splendid performance in a semi-final that took two periods of extra time to separate them from UUJ tiredness finally caught up with CIT as the Limerick girls hung on to take the spoils.

CHARLEVILLE GO IN SEARCH OF FINAL PLACE

ST. MARY'S Charleville spearheaded by Anna Geary, Elaine O Riordan, Sinead McAuliffe, Aine and Emer Watson and Fiona Chawke will go in as favourites to book a place in the All-Ireland colleges final when they play hosts to St Patrick's Maghera in the semi-final on Saturday in Charleville at 11 am.

Camogie fixtures

Saturday, March 26
Inter-Divisional Under 16 Blitz in Ovens
All Ireland Senior 'A' Colleges Semi-final
St Mary's Charleville v St Patrick's Maghera in Charleville Ham.

Sunday, March 27
Junior and Senior National League
Cork v Dublin, Blanchardstown
Junior at 1 pm, Senior 2.30 pm.

First title for camogie girls



Loreto Wexford - won their first ever Leinster camogie title on Friday last.

Leinster camogie win for Loreto Wexford

LORETO WEXFORD won their first ever Leinster camogie title with a 1-4 to 1-2 victory over St. Brendan's, Birr, in the Under 16 'C' final played in St. James' Park, Kilkenny, on Friday last.

The game started brightly for the Wexford outfit with a point after only four minutes from centre forward Roisín Doyle.

This was followed up five minutes later with a delightfully slicked goal from Mary Sutherland after some good work by Katie Fitzhenry and Sinéad Parrock.

In the seventeenth minute full forward Roisín Cloake, who was causing the Birr defence all sorts of problems, scored a fantastic point from 40 yards.

Aoife Morrissey and Rita Carroll won the midfield battle over Kady

McKenna and Aoife Corrigan.

Loreto finished the half with a Roisín Doyle point from a free after Natalie Power had been fouled.

Birr got off to a great start in the second half when Bebhinn Kennedy opened their account with an inspirational point. She inspired this up with another point from a free in the 39th minute. Katriona Parrock who had been switched from goal to corner forward scored a point from a free after a foul on Helen Boggan. Birr fought back and were rewarded for their efforts when Kennedy goaled after a great individual effort.

The Offaly side tried in vain to get that winning goal in the dying minutes but resolute defending from Elaine

O'Connor, Grainne Fox, Julie Kelly, Sile Flynn, Aoife Waters and Roisín Barnes ensured the trophy went to the Slaneysiders.

Team captain Saoirse McGarrigle was clearly overjoyed as she collected the silverware and led the team in a rendition of the Purple and Gold.

Player of the match was Aoife Morrissey who dominated midfield and dropped back to help her defence in the dying minutes sweeping up possession.

Loreto Wexford: Katriona Parrock, St. Martins; Roisín Barnes, Faythe Harriers; Grainne Fox, Taghmon Camross; Elaine O'Connor, St. Martins; Aoife Waters, St. Martins; Julie Kelly, St. Martins; Sheila Flynn, Bannan Ballymitty; Rita Carroll, Glynn Barntown;

Aoife Morrissey, Taghmon Camross; Natalie Power, St. Ibars; Roisín Doyle, Glynn Barntown; Katie Fitzhenry, Faythe Harriers; Sinéad Parrock, St. Martins; Roisín Cloake, St. Ibars; Mary Sutherland, St. Martins.

Subs: Helen Boggan, St. Martins, for Power, Saoirse McGarrigle (captain), Faythe Harriers (for Fitzhenry, Mary Hayes, St. Martins, for Sinéad Parrock, Michelle O'Brien, St. Ibars, for Rita Carroll.

St. Brendan's Birr: Kate Ryan, Mary Claire Molloy; Máire Ryan, Grace Ryan; Caoimhe Kennedy; Leanne Scully; Grainne Hogan; Kady McKenna; Aoife Corrigan; Michelle Nagle; Emma Dunne; Michelle Glees; Bebhinn Kennedy; Amanda Murray; Shauna Walsh.

AGM appoints officials

BISHOPSTOWN Camogie Club held their AGM on January 13 and elected the following:

- Chairperson: Mary O'Hea
- Vice chairperson: Billy O'Sullivan
- Secretary: Phil Duggan
- Treasurer: Sheila McCarthy
- PRO: Joan Monahan
- PRG: Maria Monahan
- Committee: Eileen Crowley, Francis Bowen, Mary Egan, Donnocha Broderick.

Training has also resumed on a Saturday for the new season.

Under-nines to under-12s from 1pm to 2pm in the club hall while under-13s and under-14s train on the all-weather pitch at Mount Mercy Secondary School from 10.30am to 12pm.

The senior team also train on the Mount Mercy pitch from 11.30am to 1pm.

Depleted Cork take on Dubs in 2005 camogie league opener

ALL-IRELAND finalists Cork meet Dublin tomorrow in St. Peter's, Blanchardstown to launch the 2005 National Camogie League.

With the Rebel lady footballers entertaining All-Ireland champions Galway, the camogie side could be deprived of three of their dual stars — Briege Corkery, Regina Curtin and Angela Walsh.

However, with a panel of 35 to choose from, new boss John Cronin should still have plenty of firepower, with the promotion of Jennifer Browne, Amanda O'Regan, Sarah O'Donovan and Elaine O'Riordan from last September's winning junior side.

He will, nonetheless, be without captain Elaine Burke, who is out of the country, and Gemma O'Connor, serving with the army in Lebanon.

Dublin have failed to ignite in recent summers, but ac-

cording to experienced player Emer Brannigan, they have worked hard and prepared for this home tie.

"We are 100% focused for Cork. We are not looking beyond this weekend. A few young players have joined the panel and they will probably get a run out."

Elsewhere in Division Two, Down and Laois will have home advantage against Armagh and Carlow, whilst Derry will meet Clare in Athleague. Dublin and Cork's seconds will be the curtain-raiser at Blanchardstown.

Sharon Glynn, Galway's star forward in their only All-Ireland senior camogie triumph in 1996, looks set to take over the county side for the season. Glynn is one of four people nominated for the post, which became vacant a few weeks ago when Noel Finn quit after the county board refused to ratify one of his selectors.

Meanwhile, today in the All-Ireland A college's semi-final, St. Mary's Charleville should be too powerful for visitors St. Pat's Maghera. Mary Coleman, Anna Geary and Elaine O'Riordan are part of the star-studded collection.

Therese O'Callaghan and John Fallon

Cork girls too good for Dublin

CORK overcame a game Dublin in their opening National League Division One camogie game yesterday, winning 3-7 to 0-4 in Clann na nGael, Ringsend.

The turning point came when Cork keeper and 2004 Allstar Aoife Murray denied the Dubs a goal, while Denise Twomey and Paula O'Connor each goaled for the Leesiders. Sarah Donovan hammered the final nail in Dublin's coffin two minutes from time.

Cork's second side made it a double victory with a well-deserved 3-14 to 0-4 victory over Dublin in the Division Two curtain raiser. This game was never in any doubt, with Cork 1-1 up after less than two minutes.

Division two Cork players Mary Coleman and Edwina Waters also played for St. Mary's Charleville on Saturday as they defeated St. Pats Maghera in the Colleges All-Ireland semi-final.

Clare had a 1-11 to 0-4 victory over Derry in Athleague, Roscommon. The 2004 National League Division Two finalists Laois had a comfortable 5-4 to 1-2 win over Carlow, while the only other in Division Two game took place in Ballyhollad, Newry, where the 2004 All-Ireland junior finalists Down taught Armagh a lesson, winning 3-10 to 0-5.

Catherine McGourty was Down's top scorer with 1-6, while Collette McSorley was the Orchard county's only scorer.

CAMOGIE

National League Div 1: Cork: 3-7 (D. O'Donovan 1-1, S. Twomey, P. O'Connor 1-0 each, J. O'Leary 0-5 (0-3F), M. O'Connor 0-1) **Dublin 0-4** (K. Blood 0-3 (3F), G. McCloskey 0-1).

Div 2: Cork 3-14 (M. Coleman, O. Coughlan 1-2 each, M. Buckley 1-1, H. O'Regan 0-6 (0-6F), O. Cotter 0-2, E. Herlihy 0-1) **Dublin 1-2** (H. Cosgrove 1-0, J. Hoary 0-2 (0-2F)).

Laois 5-4 (L. Mahony 2-2, E. Dowling 2-1, M. Dowling 1-0, T. Keenan, E. Delaney 0-1 each) **Carlow 1-2** (V. Crean 1-2).

Clare 1-11 (C. O'Loughlin 1-6, L. Linnane 0-4, D. Lynch 0-3, F. Lafferty, D. Murphy 0-2 each) **Derry 0-4** (K. McAuley 0-3, K. Lavery 0-1).

Down 3-10 (C. McGourty 1-6 (0-3F), C. Mulholland, M. McAleenan 1-0 each, F. Carr 0-2, L. McCrickard, C. McCrickard 0-1 each) **Armagh 0-5** (C. McSorley 0-5 (0-1F)).

Colleges All-Ireland SC semi-finals
Senior A: St. Mary's, Charleville 4-15 (E. Watson 2-4, F. Morrissey 1-3, M. Coleman 1-0, S. McAuliffe 0-7 (0-6F), A. Thompson 0-1) **St. Pat's, Maghera 0-0**.

Senior B: Ursulines, Thurles 2-8 (L. Kavanagh 1-1, E. Ryan 1-0, C. Johnston 0-4 (0-4F), T. Shortt 0-2, A. Kennedy 0-1) **Cross and Passion, Ballycastle 2-3** (E. Connor 2-0, S. Kane 0-3 (0-2F)).

Mersey, Woodford 2-7 (C. Kelly 1-2 (0-1F), K. Lyons 1-0, P. Hayes 0-3 (0-1F), A. Tuohy 0-2) **St. Fergal's 1-3** (S. Fitzgerald 1-0, F. Grady 0-3 (0-3F)).

Young Cork overcome a hard Dublin effort

SENIOR TIE:

Cork 3-7
Dublin 0-4

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogie

A TOUGH physical encounter but Cork came away with the points in yesterday's Division 1 National Senior league tie with Dublin in Ringsend.

Known for their hard approach, Dublin were never going to make it easy for a young experimental Cork side.

It was only when Denise Twomey netted in the 17th minute of the second half that Cork began to pull away.

The first half saw little between

the sides with Dublin dipping the scales regarding possession. But Cork were the more capable of taking scores from the few chances that came their way.

They led at the break by the narrowest of margins, 0-4 to 0-3.

The switch of Jenny O'Leary out from the corner to wing forward paid dividends for Cork as too did the move of Mary O'Connor to centerfield and Rachel Moloney to half forward.

Twomey's goal opened the gates and two more from Paula O'Connor and Sarah O'Donovan gave Cork the

points.

Selector Lillian Zinkant was 'happy' with the win.

"It was a tough physical game and it's no harm for the new, younger players to experience that. It's what senior Camogie is about."

Scorers: Cork-J. O'Leary 0-5 (0-3F), D. Twomey, P. O'Connor and S. O'Donovan 1-0 each, M. O'Connor 0-1, C. Healy 0-1 Dublin-G. McCloskey 0-1, K. Blood 0-3 (0-2F).

CORK: A. Murray, J. Browne, S. Dunlea, R. Holland; J. O'Callaghan, A. O'Regan, N. Aherne; P. O'Connor, R. Moloney; C. Desmond, M. O'Connor, U. O'Donoghue; D. Twomey, S. O'Donovan, J. O'Leary.

Subs: C. Healy for C. Desmond, N. Bowles for D. Twomey, J. Twomey for N. Aherne, L. Hawkes for R. Holland, E. O'Farrell for U. O'Donoghue.

DUBLIN: E. Butler, S. Hank, A. McCloskey, G. Flynn; S. Cullen, E. Talbot, C. Lucey, L. O'Hara, G. McCloskey; A. Fitzpatrick, A. Farrington, E.

Brannigan; E. Reid, K. Blood, N. Taylor.

JUNIOR TIE

Cork 3-14
Dublin 1-2

THE preceding Division 2 game between the same two sides saw Cork run out convincing winners on a score line of 3-14 to 1-2.

With many of the players playing their first game together it was a welcome outing for the rebels.

Cork took the game to Dublin from the throw in. A goal in the 4th minute and a further 5 points by the 16th ensured the two points.

Cork revelled up front with Mary Buckley and Michelle Browne particularly impressive. Lynda O'Connell ruled the roost at wing back and ensured a plentiful supply.

Selector Liz O'Mahony was delighted with the performance, praising the girls' teamwork.

Scorers: Cork-M. Coleman 1-4, O. Cotter 1-3 (0-1F), M. Buckley 1-1, H. O'Regan 0-3 (0-3F), E. O'Herlihy, L. O'Connell and O. Coughlan 0-1 each.

Dublin: M. Cotter 1-0 (0-1F), J. Hoary 0-2.

CORK: F. Kileen; S. McInerney, M. O'Donovan, D. Hayes; E. O'Sullivan, E. Waters, L. O'Connell; O. Cotter, D. Coughlan, H. O'Regan, O. Coughlan, M. Buckley; E. O'Herlihy, M. Coleman, M. Browne.

Subs: E. Keane for E. O'Herlihy, C. Deasy for M. Browne, C. Long for M. Coleman, A. Kelleher for S. McInerney, N. Collins for O. Coughlan.



Coláiste Bríde captured the Leinster Colleges junior 'A' camogie championship crown for the sixth year in-a-row when overcoming Castlecomer Community School in Saturday's final at Carlow. (Pic: Karl McDonough).

O'Connor leads Bríde juniors to sixth Leinster title on the spin

Coláiste Bríde
..... 2-8
Castlecomer CS
..... 2-5
Ronan Fagan

AN OUTSTANDING personal display from midfielder Lorraine O'Connor inspired Coláiste Bríde's young marvels to a sixth successive outright victory in the Leinster Colleges junior 'A' camogie championship, when they tamed last year's All-Ireland 'B' runners-up, Castlecomer Community School, in Saturday afternoon's provincial decider at the grounds of Carlow CBS.

The concession of two easy goals during the second quarter appeared to have endangered the prospects of Coláiste Bríde's reigning All-Ireland champions extending their bid for back-to-back national crowns, when they slipped behind by 2-3 to 0-2 at the break.

But, they had dominated possession and territory to such an extent while playing against the strong wind during the first-half that, in truth, even while facing that seven-point deficit they were still considered plenty good enough to recover in the convincing manner which indeed they did during the second-half.

Coláiste Bríde, with five survivors from last year's all-conquering team on board, struck the first of their six wides moments before wing-forward Stacey Kehoe got them off-the-mark, when pointing into the wind in the third minute, after good work by Ciara Storey. The latter was one of four players on duty from the senior team which had held onto its provincial silverware a week earlier, with their final win over Loreto, Kilkenny.

Castlecomer had a very classy figure in full-forward Mairéad Corrigan, who levelled from a sixth-minute free forced by Aisling Cass.

For the next 11 minutes it was virtually all Coláiste Bríde, with the Kilkenny



Coláiste Bríde's outstanding midfielder Lorraine O'Connor gets to the ball ahead of Castlecomer's Aisling Cass during last Saturday's Leinster Colleges final in Carlow. (Pic: Karl McDonough).

goal coming under almost unrelenting pressure.

But the winners' superb work-rate during that spell was all to no avail, with Castlecomer actually being the next to score - with a goal.

Indeed, the red-green-and-yellow clad challengers lifted the siege to sting Coláiste Bríde in the 17th-minute, when Corrigan tapped the ball under the advancing 'keeper and to the town-end net, midfielder Noreen O'Keeffe having blocked an Enniscorthy puck-out before dispatching to Marie Dargan, who then gave Corrigan the telling pass.

Seconds later the Coláiste Bríde defence was again - and rather worryingly so - exposed, when Corrigan curled a pass to Dargan, who somehow wasted a fine goaling opportunity.

Nevertheless, Castlecomer continued to improve their position, with Corrigan added another pointed free in the 18th-minute (1-2 to 0-1).

Five minutes later Corrigan really tested Coláiste Bríde's resolve, when her strike from a '45 was allowed to tamely fly all the way to the net.

But, encouraged by selectors and supporters alike, the Bríde did not allow their heads drop as they maintained their composure. In addition to forcing a number of saves from the Castlecomer 'keeper, the holders also added three wides, before Ciara Storey - another of their more influential figures - ended their amazing scoring drought with a 24th-minute point (2-2 to 0-2).

Castlecomer fired their first and second wides of the day either side of Mairéad Corrigan seeing a stinging injury-time drive being touched over off a couple of Coláiste Bríde sticks at the expense of a point, to leave the five-in-a-row champions with plenty of work to do on the resumption (as they trailed by 2-3 to 0-2).

Well, Coláiste Bríde could not have wished for a better start to their salvage operation, as full-forward Louise Hore found the Castlecomer net within 50 seconds of the restart. Midfielder Ciara Garahy burst through and laid the ball off to the left, from where Hore cut the margin to four points.

Castlecomer competed

with plenty of enthusiasm during the second-half. But the tireless Lorraine O'Connor kept prodding Coláiste Bríde in the right direction, as points from the high rating Oylegate-Glenbrien player on 35 and 38 minutes (the latter from a free) narrowed her side's deficit to 2-3 to 1-4, shortly before team mate Ciara Garahy turned the tables decisively in favour of the Bríde.

The imposing Monageer-Boolevogue player was switched from midfield to full-forward for the second-half, and to very good effect, as she caused the Castlecomer defence lots of problems inside.

And when some wild pulling by Mairéad Corrigan paved the way for Coláiste Bríde captain Louise O'Leary to drop the ball in from a long range free, it led to a spot of pin-ball in the Castlecomer area, before the ball broke out to Garahy on the left edge of the square, from where she finished to the net with some venom on 40 minutes (2-4 to 2-3).

A minute later Louise O'Leary added a pointed free from long range. While opponent Corrigan

responded two minutes later with an identical score, there was no stopping Coláiste Bríde at this stage.

That said, the fact the Slaneysiders never managed to open-up a comfortable lead meant that Castlecomer retained very realistic ambitions of maybe sneaking a first-ever 'A' championship title right through to the third minute of injury-time.

But, Coláiste Bríde were more composed at the back during the second-half, and the defence leaked just one more score - a Marie Dargan point on 56 minutes - while their colleagues further up-field continued to ask questions of Castlecomer.

This good work led to Stacey Kehoe adding a second personal point in the 49th minute. Coláiste Bríde also forced a couple of '45s, both of which Lorraine O'Connor pointed, on 51 and 58 minutes respectively.

In what amounted to one last throw of the dice, Castlecomer switched goalie and captain Marie Therese O'Neill up-front in the dying stages, with Ciara Haughey taking over between the posts. Enniscorthy actually did likewise moments later, when 'keeper Sinéad Jordan was switched with wing-back Vikki Murphy, who is the netminder with the senior team.

The juniors will travel to meet Connacht opposition next month in the second-last test of their bid to hold onto the All-Ireland.

Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy - Sinéad Jordan, Annette Leacy, Hannah Doran, Jenny Fenlon, Vikki Murphy, Louise O'Leary, capt., 0-1 free), Aoife O'Connor, Lorraine O'Connor (0-4, 2 '45s, 1 free), Ciara Garahy (1-0), Stacey Kehoe (0-2), Ciara Storey (0-1), Emma O'Connor, Shelley Kehoe, Louise Hore (1-0), Laura Simmott.

Castlecomer Community School, Kilkenny - Marie Therese O'Neill (capt.), Ciara Haughey, Ann-Marie Walsh, Claire Dunne, Joanne Kelly, Maria Nolan, Mary Bergin, Eilish Cantwell, Noreen O'Keeffe, Sinéad Murphy, Rosemary Maher, Marie Dargan (0-1), Aisling Cass, Mairéad Corrigan (2-4, 1-0 '45, 0-3 frees), Michelle O'Keeffe.

Subs: Nicola Hennessy for Joanne Kelly; Aine Molloy for Mary Bergin.

Referee - Matty Curran (Carlow).

MARCH

2005

St Mary's cruise into All-Ireland decider

By LINDA MELLERICK

All-Ireland Colleges Senior A Final

St Mary's 4-15
St Pat's, Maghera 0-0

THE spectators might have felt the chill in the air but the weather and pitch conditions at Charleville GAA pitch last Saturday morning were near perfection as St Mary's convincingly advanced to the All-Ireland Colleges Senior A Final.

A point from Aisling Thompson within seconds of the throw in and six wides in six minutes told its own story of how dominant the Cork side were.

St. Pat's of Maghera must be complimented on their excellent ground hurling skills which were a joy to watch.

Charleville had the players in key positions that could pick the ball, make space and score. Emer Watson used all three skills time and again to finish the game with a personal tally of 2-4.

The first goal came in the 14 minute when, from 30 yards, Watson gathered, turned, soloed and hand passed to the back of the net.

The writing was on the wall from thereon in. Maghera did create openings but found no way through a solid defence in which Aine Watson and Elaine O'Riordan in particular were magnificent.

Fiona Morrissey, who had an excellent game throughout, Sinéad McAuliffe, Mary Coleman and Watson again picked off points and when Morrissey's long low drive from the wing hit the far netting on the stroke of half time there really was no way back for the Northern girls who now trailed by 3-4 to no score.

The second period continued in the same fashion as Charleville began to pick off points at will.

Indeed only for the steady goalkeeping of St. Pat's Ellis O'Doherty, the gap could have been a lot wider.

To their credit, Maghera never gave up and played with spirit to the final whistle. Watson again rattled the net, McAuliffe, Morrissey and Coleman kept the points going over as the game became mere shooting practice.

Anne Marie O'Keeffe, one of the three coaches involved with St. Mary's, was understandably very pleased with their days work.

"We're pleased with the result," said O'Keeffe.

"We had a lot of possession in the first half that didn't get converted into scores. One thing I was pleased about is that the girls didn't panic."

St. Mary's must now wait to see who their final opponents will be. The other semi-final between Leinster and Connaught has yet to be decided.

Scorers: St. Mary's - E Watson 2-4, S McAuliffe 0-6 (0-5), 0-1 '45), F Morrissey 1-3, M Coleman 1-1, A Thompson 0-1.

ST. MARY'S Charleville-F. Chawke; S O'Mahony, E O'Riordan, S Sexton; F Dore, A Watson, E Waters; A Geary (C), L Healy; S Brosnan; S McAuliffe, M Coleman; A Thompson, E Watson; F Morrissey.

Subs: C O'Shea for A Geary (in), M O'Mahony for S McAuliffe.

ST. PATRICK'S Maghera-E O'Doherty; B Scullion, L Glass, S Cassidy; B Toner, M McManus (C), C McMullan; P Murray, J O'Kane; A Wilkinson, F O'Doherty, C Quinn; S McDermot, I Cushman, A McKenna.

Subs: C Bradley for S Cassidy, R O'Kane for A Wilkinson, E Bradley for B Scullion, S Murphy for S McDermot.

A Bittersweet Experience

By Eimear Ryan

First published in The Nenagh Guardian Saturday September 25 2004

Much to my disappointment, stumbling out of bed at 7am on Sunday, September 19 did not feel remotely like the dawn of an All-Ireland final. It was just another early morning, another excuse to be grumpy. The entire panel was in similar mood, and aside from a few stirring games of I Spy, the journey from the Horse & Jockey to Dublin passed without incident.

However, any sense of anticlimax I felt was quickly dispersed as we approached Croke. The tension heightened that extra notch as, to get in the right frame of mind, we listened to My Way – the uplifting Sinatra version, sadly, not the Sid Vicious cover.

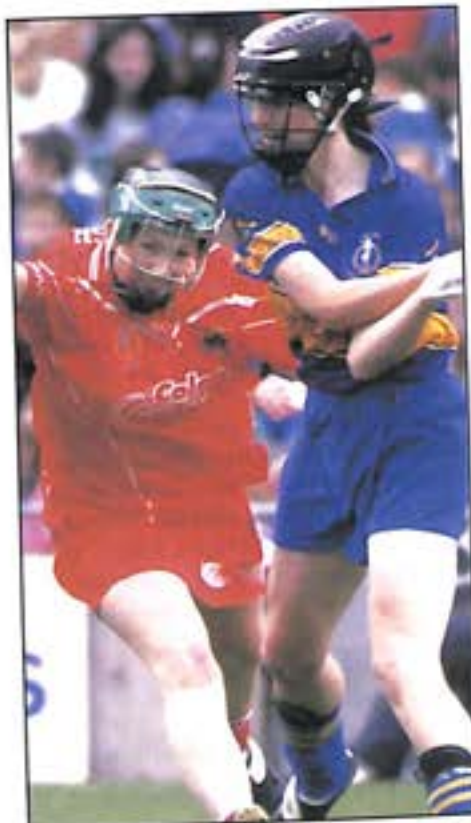
As soon as we arrived, we headed into the dressing room. But this was no ordinary dressing room – it was the Taj Mahal of dressing rooms. I almost felt compelled to remove my shoes and pad about in barefoot reverence.

We warmed up in an indoor area, complete with fake grass. With twenty-eight of us in a small room sending sliotars flying, it felt like being involved in some sort of violent human pinball game. Whether it was the occasion or the claustrophobia, suddenly everyone was shouting. Several players spoke at length. There were frequent references to 2002, with fiery-eyed old hands assuring the young wans that that wasn't something we wanted to experience.

I suddenly realized where Tipp's hunger came from. It wasn't about adding another trophy to an already bulging cabinet; it was about performing to a level that justifies seven months of preparation. As Player of the Match Una O'Dwyer would say on The Sunday Game, if a better team beats us, we have no problem with that. It's when we disappoint ourselves that the trouble begins.

At 3:12pm, we were ready to go out. As we stood in the dressing room, arms around each other, the tension reached its summit. With the usually rather calm and stoical Raymie Ryan roaring with mildly scary intensity, Joanne Ryan led us onto the field. There was a shrill, surround-sound blast of feminine screams as we took the field and sprinted across for our photo. Gazing around at the 25,000-strong crowd, one had the distinct feeling of a Cheerio at the bottom of a bowl: one wrong move, and you'd be eaten alive.

As the ball was thrown in, a sort of giddy rush came over me and didn't let up for the duration of the match. Though I wasn't playing, the nerves



Suzanne Kelly affects a long delivery against Cork in Croke Park. Photo: Bridget Delaney

were almost unbearable – possibly because there was nothing I could do. Each of the subs was acting in a similar manner, waving their arms wildly as if to propel the players along.

Halftime was a bit of a comedown. I itched in my seat, longing to puck around on the hallowed sod, but unable because of the various centenary displays on the field – kids wielding pom-poms and whatnot. Of course, the second half more than made up for that. We relived Joanne Ryan's superb goal three or four times on the big screen, as we had with Dee Hughes' first half strike.

When those final blessed whistles sounded, we stormed the pitch, swept up quickly in a crowd of supporters. (Camogie supporters exist! Who knew?) After much leaping about and posturing with the cup, we retired to the dressing room where hijinks ensued. (If Raymie appeared to be sweating profusely during his TV interview, it was as a result of his being doused liberally in water by certain panel members.) We revelled in the live interviews, giving resounding cheers for every other comment. Back at the hotel, Marty Morrissey ushered us into our dinner before conducting some more interviews. (That's me in the background, beaming uncontrollably.) Though jovial and friendly, Marty is

somewhat disappointing in the flesh – I thought he'd be shorter.

The TV coverage turned out to be fascinating – it's not often that you get to relive some of your proudest moments in slow motion. We watched The Sunday Game over dinner. My table faced away from the screen, which resulted in a row of us doing a perfect impression of a dysfunctional family by gluing our eyes to the screen, plates resting on knees.

The long night of revelry incorporated many tired and emotional chats, not the least of which I had with the other subs. We agreed on one thing: being a sub is bittersweet. It really is that old cliché about being so near, and yet so far away. There isn't a single sub who feels indifferent about not reaching the first fifteen. Having said that, I'm proud of what the panel has achieved. We concurred that, even though in 'weaker' counties we could be team players, it's better to make the first thirty in Tipperary than the first fifteen anywhere else.

Monday night's homecoming was an experience. As we sat on the lorry in the Horse & Jockey, an endless conveyor belt of jerseys, hurleys and corner shop receipts came up and down the row, waiting to be autographed. At first I considered this to be great fun, but pretty soon I began to hate the sight of my own name. And this after just one day of pseudo-celebrity status! Spare a thought for Tom Cruise ...

The Ragg, where we wound up that night, was terrific. Drom & Inch gave a rapturous homecoming to Joanne, Geraldine and the rest of us. A rather sizeable crowd turned out and, as our open-topped bus drove past the bonfire, fireworks went off overhead. I wasn't around for the last few homecomings, but apparently Drom really raised the bar on this one. The experienced players, used to this adulation, were keen to impress on newcomers just how singular an experience it all is. Consequently I found myself in the middle of the stage, while the real stars lurked in the shadows, grinning away.

So ended my first All-Ireland experience. There are a lot of aspects of the day that will stick in my mind (such as the repeated infliction of certain Bonnie Tyler 'classics' on the bus's passengers) but especially this quote from a sheet of inspiring words we were given on the bus journey up. It's a (possibly paraphrased) line from Al Pacino's character in Any Given Sunday: "Life is a game of inches. So is hurling." Amen to that.

Toomevara Camogie club

2004 has been a historic year for the camogie association celebrating its 100th birthday and the Toomevara camogie club in no small way has etched its way into the history books. Senior player Deirdre Hughes was selected as a member of the team of the century, the only current day player to be honoured. Her scoring prowess on the field has seen her receive numerous accolades and all involved in the club salute her achievements.

This year the club fielded teams in all grades from U12 to senior as a reflection of the strength of the club all teams competed in the A division of the competitions. Continuing the marvellous achievements of U12 panels of the last two seasons this year's team captained by Aoife Murphy were determined to maintain the winning record. The county title almost eluded the girls as they drew the final, however the replay saw them put in a flawless performance claiming the title in style. A wonderful bunch of players who will in no doubt grow in confidence and skill as they continue through the ranks of camogie. A special mention must go to Aoife Ryan only 10 years old this year as she had the honour of picking up her third county medal at this grade.

The U14 panel captained by Fiona Young had an early February return to training with the specific intent on representing Tipperary in Féile. This was achieved as we beat Drom & Inch in the final sealing our place in Féile 2004. In late June an enthusiastic travelling party headed for Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Both group games were won with ease and the girls faced their toughest test against previous Féile champions, Oulart in the quarter final. In a match that was played at a lightening pace and ferocious intensity victory eluded us, however, the girls played with such flair and passion that all present were exceptionally proud of their achievements. Féile proved to be a wonderful experience for the girls and was added to in no small way by the hospitality received from our host club Celbridge. Not content with their achievements in Féile the girls applied themselves to winning the county and more recently the league title completing a unique treble in this historic year. Siobhan 'Bonnie' Kennedy won the County Féile Skills competition, unfortunately due to the teams involvement she could not take part in the national competition.

Our U16 team captained by Mary Bradshaw just recently added the clubs seventh title this year. After a thrilling drawn game against old adversaries Drom & Inch, the girls produced a virtuoso performance in the replay claiming the title on a scoreline of 3-8 to 2-5. This has been a panel that has developed over the season into a well balanced unit. Throughout their group games they have displayed determination and commitment.

The junior team of 2004 was captained by Áine Shanahan, also maintained the clubs winning ways this season, thwarted by a focused Bournea side in the county final, the girls exacted their revenge in the recent league final claiming victory over the same opposition.

2004 also saw the club claim one of the most important county titles, for the past number of years the senior county title has eluded us. Although we have a fine record through the early 90s in recent years, narrow defeats were our lot. What can only be described as a colossal effort by players and management was made this year and the rewards were reaped on August 14th in Semple Stadium led by Trisha Ryan, the senior team overcame Drom & Inch in the county final. Subjected the three championship matches in one week the team went into the final as underdogs against the reigning champions. Undeterred by this an inspiring performance was produced to take the title. At this stage we could not afford to revel in our achievements as the Munster club championship followed two weeks later. All-Ireland club champions Granagh Ballingarry

were the opposition and in what was a fiercely contested game, Granagh's experience saw them snatch a two-point victory. Throughout the year the team was expertly guided by Jackie Meagher, Catherine Byrne, Donal Kelly and John Kennedy, a huge amount of gratitude is due to this group for the professional manner in which the team was prepared and in no small way to the confidence that was instilled in the players, we thank you all and look forward to seeing ye guiding the team to further titles.

The club once again played a vital role in Tipperary's Senior Camogie teams League, Munster and All-Ireland success with Louise Young, Noelle Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes and Suzanne Kelly donning the blue and gold. Lizzy Woods and Denise Ryan were part of the Intermediate team, Bonnie Kennedy, Fiona Young, Aine Brislane and Nessa Ryan represented Tipperary at U14. On the international scene, Therese Maxwell had the honour of representing Ireland in the recent competition against the USA and England. The continued coaching of Lena Woods and Nora Dwan of the U10s reflected the clubs commitment to underage development and maintaining the high standards achieved by our players.

Finally we hope that everyone will take the opportunity to join our special celebrations on December 28, in Thurles Greyhound Stadium as we hold a race night to raise funds for the club.



Toomevara senior camogie captain, Trish Ryan, is lifted shoulder high, following Toomevara's win in the county final.

Stephanie is manager's dream player

GREAT attitude, loves training, level headed and committed. Sounds like any manager's dream player. PJ Molloy — an All-Star and former Galway hurler — says Stephanie Gannon has all of the above and more. He is coach to the Athenry senior camogie team and admires these qualities in his star keeper.

"She's just like her uncle, Mattie Gannon, who played in goal for Athenry in the mid-80s. I put her into goals in a competition hosted by the Pearses club three years ago and she won Player of the Tournament. She was only 14 and was playing against the likes of Sharon Glynn."



Stephanie Gannon: star keeper for Athenry.

When you hear the name Athenry, you automatically think hurling and All-Ireland club titles. Three in the bag and another big date with Kilkenny champions James Stephens on March 17.

Stephanie lives half a mile from the playing pitch, so it is no surprise that it's almost like a second home to the recently turned 17-year-old. Especially since mum Phil and dad Liam are so actively involved in the club. This fourth year student at Athenry Vocational School simply adores hurling. Her babysitter, Nichola McGhee, introduced her to camogie — if there was a training session while she was being cared for, the tiny tot was brought along too.

Standing at 5ft 3in she is not exactly a giant. Yet, her capabilities have never been questioned. "She is very skilful and has a great hand," says Molloy. "Her puck outs are massive. I could see her becoming one of the best keepers in the country."

"I would love to win a senior county championship with Athenry and I hope Galway sort out their managerial problems and then we could concentrate on getting to an All-Ireland final," says Stephanie.

She doesn't have far to look either when she cites club heroes Eugene Cloonan and Therese Maher as her sporting idols.

Midge Glynn spotted Stephanie at an early age and has watched her hurl since U-10. Even then, she remembers this girl was somewhat special. "The Gannons are synonymous with hurling in Athenry, so this is no surprise. Stephanie is very focused and keen to succeed."

Interview: Therese O'Callaghan

MARCH 2005

CAMOGIE — Stephanie Gannon (Galway)

LAST YEAR Stephanie Gannon's goalkeeping skills won her a minor All-Ireland camogie medal, the Young Player of the Year award, and the inaugural Martin Donnelly Poc Fada camogie competition in the Cooley Mountains. Within two months of her minor triumph she won a second All-Ireland medal when Galway defeated Tipperary in the All-Ireland intermediate final. She also helped her Galway club, Sarsfields, to both a minor county title and their first All-Ireland Kilmacud Sevens senior title.



Winning ways: O'Sullivan lauds next generation of Irish sports stars



Irish rugby coach Eddie O'Sullivan with hockey winner Emma Stewart, from Armagh, and camogie winner Stephanie Gannon, from Galway, at the Irish Examiner National Junior Sports Star Awards in association with TV3 at the Maryborough House Hotel, Cork. See: Sport 24.

Picture: Des Barry

Irish Examiner/TV3 National Junior Sports Star Awards



Back row from left: Rory Byrne, Squash; George Kingston, Sailing; Kerril Wade, Hurling; Niamh Fahey, Ladies Football; Anthony Stokes, Soccer; Tom Murphy, Chief Executive Irish Examiner; Anne Marie Fenton, Swimming; Tony Leen, Sports Editor, Irish Examiner; Scott Kinevane, Basketball; Niall Doyle, Archery; Gerry McIlroy father of Rory McIlroy, Golf; Paul Marlow, Gaelic Football and Thomas Buckley, Road Bowling. Front: Colin Costello, Athletics; Davy Morris, Snooker; Eoin Morgan, Cricket; Stephenie Gannon, Camogie; Emma Stewart, Hockey; Robert Kearney, Rugby; Orla Hayes, Rowing and Rory Cleary, Horse Racing at the Irish Examiner National Junior Sport Star Awards in association with TV3 at the Maryborough House Hotel, Cork last night.

MARCH 2005

PERFECT NATIONAL LEAGUE START FOR CORK

CamogieChat
With Mary Heenan

TWICE trip to Dublin was a good one for the county senior and junior sides as they got their respective national league campaigns under way.

The juniors got the day off to the best possible start as they recorded a 3-14 to 1-2 victory.

Cork held the upper hand in the opening half and led at the break 2-10 to 1-2 and again throughout the second half the trend continued and such was Cork's strength that they held Dublin scoreless. Good performances from Mary Coleman, Orla Coughlan, Mary Buckley and Hazel O'Regan helped Cork maintain their dominance and gain two valuable league points.

In the senior game it was a much closer and a very physical contest.

A low scoring first half saw Cork leading at the break 0-3 at 0-2 despite Dublin having enjoyed the lion's share of possession throughout the thirty minutes.

On the resumption Cork upped the pace and their ability to pick off points proved crucial. Denise Twomey's goal seventeen minutes into the half finally helped Cork shake off the challenge of the home side and with Mary O'Connor and Sarah O'Donovan adding further goal the points were safely in the bag.

The national league action continues next weekend as the juniors again hit the road and make the journey to Offaly for a meeting with the home side, the seniors next game is at home to Kilkenny on March 13th.

CHARLEVILLE BOOK PLACE IN FINAL

ST MARYS Charleville experienced little difficulty as they advanced comfortably to the All Ireland Colleges Senior A final.

Maghera travelled to Cork hoping to reach the final but certainly the Charleville girls had other ideas and this was very evident from the throw in. Ashling Thompson had the games opening score within seconds of the start and despite shooting six wide in as many minutes Charleville held the upper hand as they displayed greater skill and experience.

Emer Watson's goal in the fourteenth minute gave Maghera a mountain to climb but to their credit they worked hard but found no way through the magnificent Charleville defence where Aine Watson and Elaine O'Riordan excelled. Charleville picked off points at every opportunity and when Mary Morrissey struck for goals they held a 3-4 to 0-0 half time advantage.

It was a similar story in the second half as Charleville continued to pick off points at will. Establish O'Doherty had a superb game in the St. Pat's goal denying Charleville on several occasions and to their credit Maghera never gave up. Emer Watson had a third Charleville goal before Sinead McAuliffe, Fiona Morrissey and Mary Coleman pointed to ensure no way back for the visitors. Charleville now await their final opponents as the second semi-final has yet to be decided.

The Charleville junior side must make the journey north next weekend for a meeting with Keady as they strive to emulate their senior counterparts and make it to the final.

BACK TO BUSINESS

CLUBS are reminded that it's back to business for the juvenile board this evening as they hold the first meeting of the year at the Mayfield club on Kerry road at 8 pm.

Muskerry retain title

MUSKERRY retained the under 16 interdivisional title as they defeated Seandun in the final of a highly entertaining tournament in Ovens on Saturday.

Earlier in the day Muskerry showed their determination by defeating Insabbly and Carbery as Lea Weste, Erin Corkery Margaret O'Hearthy and Fiona O'Connell all turned in impressive displays.

Seandun also showed they meant business with Leeann O'Shea, Roisin De Paolte Susan Konefick, Zoe Dunlop, Orla Ní Dhuille and Lythia Cunningham all to the fore as they defeated Carrigrohoun and Avondhu to book their place in the final. Denise Cronin gave Muskerry an early lead three minutes into the game with a point and with Lea Weste and Erin Corkery adding further points they stretched their advantage to three.

Seandun worked hard to stay in contention but found the going hard against a strong and well balanced Muskerry side. Two Niamh Dilworth goals midway through the half extended Muskerry's lead before Erin Corkery struck for goal number three and now Seandun had a huge task ahead of them.

Lea Weste and Margaret O'Hearthy extended the advantage with points before the break as Muskerry led 3-5 to no score. On the turn over Seandun continued to battle on but Muskerry held firm, and when Denise Cronin's long delivery ended in the Seandun net there was no way back for a game city side.

Erin Corkery's pointed to seal victory for Muskerry but credit is the Seandun girls who certainly deserved more from a final where they gave their all. Muskerry's Denise Cronin from the Ballincollig club was named as Player of the Tournament following tremendous performances.

Cork get campaign off to the perfect start

CORK got their senior and junior national league campaigns off to the perfect start recording two good victories over Dublin at the weekend.

The juniors who, by virtue of last year All Ireland success, were fielding a new team were boosted by the inclusion of several former senior and intermediate players who have been re-graded this year. They set the trend for the day with 3-14 to 1-2 victory.

Leading 2-10 to 1-2 at the break goals from Mary Coleman, Orla Coughlan and Mary Buckley settled the side. Dublin did manage to break

through the Cork defence and a goal from Mary Cotter and two Jolene Hoary points had them on the score board. Cork continued to dominate through the second half with Hazel O'Regan, Ellen O'Herlihy, Linda O'Connell and Orla Cotter all prominent they experienced little difficulty taking the points on offer. They travel to Offaly next weekend for a meeting with then home side in round two.

A slightly tougher opposition for the senior side who held a slender 0-3 to 0-2 half time advantage, good work through the opening half from

Jennifer O'Leary and Mary O'Connor saw Cork keep pace with a Dublin side who had points on the board from Karen Blood and Grainne McCluskey.

From the start of the second half Cork improved and with Ciara Healy and Jennifer O'Leary pointing it gave them an advantage. A goal from Denise Twomey 17 minutes into the half got Cork into their stride and with Paula O'Connor and Sarah O'Donovan adding to the tally with goals in the 20th and 30th minutes, Cork had the points safely stowed.

Muskerry defeat Seandun in under 16 decider

ONCE again the Under 16 inter divisional tournament signalled the return to under age camogie activities, and despite the cold wintry conditions on Saturday last all six participating divisional sides enjoyed a tremendously successful days camogie. Holders Muskerry went in as favourites to retain their title and with the sides divided into two groups it was Seandun and Muskerry who emerged to contest the final.

Seandun defeated Carrigdhoun in the opening game, Leeann O'Shea and Rachel O'Sullivan getting on the score sheet with Seandun goals while Sinead O'Callaghan and Orla Ni Dhonail swapped points.

Muskerry showed the tag of favourites was justified as they turned in a near perfect performance defeating Imokilly on a 3-3 to 0-1 score line. Erin Corkery, Margaret O'Herlihy, Denise Cronin and Fiona O'Connell all contributing scores as Grace Kearney replied Imokilly.

Carrigdhoun were more settled in

their second game and with Ursula Quinn, Catriona Collins and Jennifer Lynch impressing they record their first victory as they defeated Avondhu. Seandun made it two out of two with a 0-5 to no score victory over Avondhu, Niamh O'Donovan, Katie Hickey, Leeann O'Shea and Roisin de Faoite getting the vital scores to put the city girls into the final.

Imokilly also impressed in their second game and with Grace Kearney, Deirdre Twomey, Carolyn Motherway and Denise Leahy to the fore as they defeated Carbery on a 1-5 to 1-2.

Muskerry showed their strength again grabbing goal in their clash with Carbery. They led 3-5 to no score at half time in the opening half and through the second half despite failing to score Muskerry never looked in danger. Denise Cronin, Lea Weste and Margaret O'Herlihy all impressing as the holders booked their place in the final.

In the final Denise Cronin had the champions ahead three minutes into

the game with a point, and with Lea Weste and Erin Corkery adding two further points they stretched their advantage.

Seandun worked hard to stay in contention, but found the going hard against a strong well balanced Muskerry side. Two Niamh Dilworth goals midway through the half further extended the Muskerry advantage, and when Erin Corkery struck for number three Seandun had it all to do. Before the half time whistle Lea Weste and Margaret O'Herlihy extended the advantage with points to give their side a 3-5 interval advantage.

On the turn over Seandun battled as they did in the first half to get on the scoreboard but the tight marking Muskerry defence held firm, a long delivery from Denise Cronin ended in the Seandun net. Erin Corkery had the final say with a point to seal a satisfactory day for Muskerry. To seal a great weekend for Muskerry, Denise Cronin from the Ballincollig club was named as Player of the Tournament following tremendous performances.

Charleville never troubled in semi

Charleville 4-15
St Pat's Maghera 0-0

THE scoreline tells the story of Charleville's supremacy in the All-Ireland colleges senior "A" semi-final but it tells little of the efforts made by a Maghera side which, despite playing second fiddle, displayed excellent ground hurling skills. But they did not have the experience or skill of their opponents and, sadly, failed to register on the score board.

St Mary's were slow to settle and guilty of erratic shooting in the opening quarter which saw them hit six wides in as many minutes. A point from Ashling Thompson, within seconds of the throw, gave Charleville the early advantage and they had their first goal in the 14th minute from Emer Watson. From here on, it was evident that Maghera had it all to do and they found no way past the solid Charleville defence as Fiona Morrissey, Sinéad McAuliffe, Mary Coleman and Watson picked off points. Charleville grew in stature and when Fiona Morrissey's finished to the net on the half-time whistle there was only going to be one result with the score line 3-4 to 0-0.

Through the second half, Charleville continued to pick off points at will but to their credit Maghera never gave up and played to

the final whistle. Emer Watson had goal number three and with Sinéad McAuliffe, Fiona Morrissey and Mary Coleman gaining points, the game was well and truly over.

St. Mary's now await the winners from the other semi-final between Leinster and Connaught, yet to be decided.

Scorers: St. Mary's — E Watson 2-4; S McAuliffe 0-6 (0-5f, 0-1 45); F Morrissey 1-3; M Coleman 1-1; A Thompson 0-1.

St. Mary's, Charleville: F Chawke; S O'Mahony, E O'Riordan, S Sexton; F Dore, A Watson, E Waters; A Geary (C); L Healy; S Brosnan, S McAuliffe, M Coleman; A Thompson, E Watson, F Morrissey.
Subs: C O'Shea for A Geary (inj), M O'Mahony for S McAuliffe.

ST. MARYS READY FOR ALL IRELAND SHOW DOWN!!

St. Marys.....4-15

St. Pats, Maghera.....0-0

St. Marys turned on the style on Saturday last when they disposed of their northern opposition in Dr. Mannix G.A.A. field in Charleville. While the scoreline suggests a facile victory, St. Marys had to earn their win. St. Pats were a strong physical team with excellent ground hurling skills. The obvious difference between the sides was the ability of the Charleville side to convert possession into scores. It took some considerable time before they settled into their scoring pattern, being guilty of squandering some very easy opportunities and in the process notching up ten wides in the opening half. In particular the full forward line of Mary Coleman (1-0), Emer Watson (2-4) and Fiona Morrissey (1-3) demonstrated some excellent movement off the ball. Fiona Morrissey had her best game ever for the Convent and Emer Watson grows in stature with every outing where she is developing into a superb leader. The platform for many of these scores is to be found in defence where all players

contributed, but in particular outstanding displays from centre back Aine Watson, who delivered some superb passes to her offensive colleagues and full back Elaine O'Riordan who broke the heart of the Derry girls as she time and again cleared her lines.

It is still not clear who Charleville will face in the All Ireland Final which is fixed for Saturday, March 19th. What is certain is that no stone will be left unturned in their bid for glory at senior level. St. Marys junior team travel to Magherafelt next Saturday as they try to emulate their senior colleagues in the All Ireland Junior Final.

Team: Fiona Chawke, Sarah O'Mahony, Elaine O'Riordan, Sarah Sexton, Fionnuala Dore, Aine Watson, Edwina Waters, Lisa Healy, Anna Geary, Shannon Brosnan, Sinéad McAuliffe (0-7), Aisling Thompson (0-1), Mary Coleman (1-0), Emer Watson (2-4), Fiona Morrissey (1-3), Christine O'Shea for Anna Geary (injured), Mary O'Mahony for Sinéad McAuliffe, Aine Geary, Michelle O'Connor, Rosemary Rea.

Glynn new Galway camogie manager

THE latest managerial debacle in Galway is expected to reach a relatively harmonious conclusion tonight when Sharon Glynn is appointed as boss of the county's senior camogie side.

All three other candidates who were nominated for the post — including Noel Finn, who walked out of the job a few weeks ago after a row — have pulled out of the race, paving the way for the former star forward to take charge.

Glynn's appointment will bring to an end a messy episode for Galway camo-

gie which saw Finn quit after one of his selectors, John Joe Donoghue, was not ratified by the County Board.

Mike Kelly and Tony Ward, the team boss when they defeated Cork to win their only All-Ireland nine years ago, had also been nominated for the position.

Glynn, the star forward when Galway won their only All-Ireland senior camogie title in 1996, lost by just one vote to Noel Finn when the 2005 manager was appointed just before Christmas.

— John Fallon

● **CATS START WELL:** Kilkenny manager Séan Warren was a happy man following his side's triumphant League opener against the reigning All-Ireland and League camogie champions Tipperary (0-11 to 1-7) in Kilmanagh, Kilkenny.

Emer McDonnell's goal midway through the first half gave Tipp a one point interval lead, but an inspired Sinéad Millea and Imelda Kennedy turned the tables in the second half. Wexford also got their League campaign off to a winning start with a resounding 4-9 to 1-1 victory over Limerick. Michelle Hearne grabbed two of the goals.

Meanwhile, there was a major shock in the colleges Junior 'A' All-Ireland semi-finals when the 2004 All-Ireland champions Coláiste Bride of Enniscorthy were defeated 2-7 to 3-2 by Presentation, Athenry. Their final opponents will be St. Mary's Magherafelt who defeated St. Mary's Charleville, 2-3 to 1-3.



St Patrick's College, Maghera's Jacinta O'Kane gives chase to St Mary's Charleville's Anna Geary during their All-Ireland Colleges Camogie game played in Charleville. St Mary's won 4-15 to 0-0.
Picture: Brian Gavin/Press 22

MARCH 2005



ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL CAMOGIE TEAM



Calvin Culhane and James O'Brien.



**ST. MARY'S
SECONDARY
SCHOOL,
CHARLEVILLE,
WINNERS OF LAST
SATURDAY'S SENIOR
CAMOGIE ALL IRELAND
SEMI FINAL**



Ber Chawke and Ger Coleman.

Photos by Wm. Casey



Aimee and Jim Hourigan with Nora Dolan.



Geraldine Geary and Sr. Martina.



LIMERICK COUNTY CAMOGIE BOARD

SENIORS AND JUNIORS IN ACTION ON SUNDAY

Both the seniors and the juniors are away to Wexford in Round 1 of the NL on Sunday. It will be a difficult assignment for Limerick away to a resurgent Wexford. Supporters will not be too optimistic about their chances.

The seniors' last trip to the home of Fr Murphy of Boolavogue, Kelly the boy from Killane, Martin Story and the Rackards was memorable for all the wrong reasons, with the Slaneysiders, the most improved county team in camogie, annihilating the girls in green in the first round of the All Ireland Championship. However, it is generally agreed that Limerick hit rock bottom that day and we hope they have picked themselves up since then.

The juniors face an uphill battle too. Training has not been going well, with many of the most eligible players giving inter-county junior representation the thumbs down. All in all, these games will be major challenges for managers Ger Hegarty (senior) and Vera Mulcahy (junior), their selectors and their respective teams.

Inter-county U16 training
 Ready themselves for the Munster A Championship semi-final v Cork or Waterford in April, the U16s meet at Neville Park this Thursday at 6.30pm. There are plenty of good hurlers on the team and Peter Brosnan, John Lacey, Jack Dillon and Margaret Caulfield will leave no stone unturned to have their players in top shape for the expected clash with Cork in April as, barring a major surprise, Cork should beat Waterford in the semi.

Inter-county Colleges Challenge Blitz
 Limerick Colleges3-2
 Cork Colleges6-4
 Limerick hosted their Rebel counterparts at Adare last Sunday morning. After a disastrous start Limerick settle to win two of the four quarters. The scores were: Game 1, Cork 6-2 Limerick 0-0. Game 2, Cork 1-0 Limerick 2-2. Game 3, Cork 0-2 Limerick 0-0. Game 4, Cork 0-0 Limerick 1-0. The players demonstrated heart, determination, guts and a lot of individual skill, with all the panel trying hard and some showing expertise on a par with any of their opponents. Training continued on Tuesday at 6pm at Neville Park and a challenge v Tipperary is being negotiated for the

weekend and all involved look forward to the blitz at the end of April. Overall excellent work by the very committed Peter Brosnan (manager), his management team and the players. **Note:** a big bualadh bos to the Adare G.A.A. club most generous with their facilities.

Post Primary Schools All Ireland Senior A semi-final
St Mary's Charleville 4-15
St Pat's Magherafelt 0-0
 Limerick were well represented at Charleville last Saturday as St Mary's cruised to the final. Fiona Chawke, Sarah O'Mahony, Shannon Brosnan, Fionnuala Dore, Fiona Morrissey 1-3 and Sinead McAuliffe 0-7 were on the starting 15. Christine O'Shea was one of the subs.

Post Primary Schools Junior All Ireland semi-final
 St Mary's are to go north for Saturday's semi against the Ulster champions. Again Limerick are well represented on the North Cork School's 15, with Fionnuala Dore, Aine Geary, Lisa Fitzgerald, Aisling McAuliffe and Rosemary Rea all key players and Annette McAuliffe, Kerri Brosnan and Frances O'Shea on the subs' bench.

Post Primary Schools Limerick Junior A Championship semi-final
St Mary's Newport2-5
Colaiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale2-1
 Newport surprised the pundits and play SMI or Hazelwood in the final. The other semi-final is held up due to the Pre-exams at the Newcastle West second level. In the senior A championship there is another SMI v Hazelwood semi, with the winners to play Laurel Hill in the final.

All Ireland Colleges B. Semi Final

Ursulines Battle To Oust Ballycastle

Ursuline Convent, Thurles2-8

Cross & Passion College, Ballycastle2-3

The All Ireland Colleges Senior B Camogie semi-final was played at the Camogie Grounds, The Ragg on Saturday last and saw Ursuline Convent, Thurles qualify for the final following a well deserved 5 point victory over the Ulster representatives.

Played in bitterly cold conditions this was a well contested game with all players giving their best. Ursulines had first use of the elements and were quickly into their stride with points from Laura Kavanagh and Antoinette Kennedy. We had to wait until the 16th minute for the next score a point from a "45" by Ciara Johnston. In the 20th minute Stephanie O'Kane opened the Cross & Passion College account when she pointed a free. At this point Ursulines were defending resolutely as the visitors attacked in waves with Claire Dallat and team cap-

tain Suzanne McKeon being particularly prominent. However, Ursulines raised the siege and Ciara Johnston pointed a free which was followed in the 26th minute by a Laura Kavanagh goal. Cross & Passion hit back and Emma Connor finished to the net after the initial effort from Emma Connolly had been well saved by Ursuline keeper Siobhan McGrath. Ursulines were not to be upset and finished the half well with further pointed frees for Ciara Johnston and Therese Shortt. Half time - Ursulines (1-6); Cross & Passion (1-2).

With the wind in their favour Cross & Passion were expected to come at Thurles in the second half but they were rocked back on their heels in the 3rd minute when Elaine Ryan goaled. Stephanie O'Kane and Therese Shortt exchanged points from frees. In the 12th minute Emma Connor had her second goal following a spell of intense pressure. Now it was Ursulines turn to defend and this they did

with all backs and mid-fielders excellent. Even some of the forwards gave a hand out as Manager Olivia Hogan rang the changes. Niamh O'Connell and Mary Rose Flanagan had replaced Sinead Shelly and Siobhan Butler at this point also. In the 25th minute Ursulines broke upfield and when Laura Kavanagh was fouled Ciara Johnston pointed. Cross & Passion came downfield again but all they had to show for their efforts was another Stephanie O'Kane pointed free.

Final score Ursuline, Thurles (2-8); Cross & Passion, Ballycastle (2-3). In the final analysis a fine team effort from the Thurles girls was the difference and while the Ballycastle girls had a number of excellent performers they did not have the strength in depth. A concern for Thurles must be their low scoring rate from play. On Saturday 6 of their points came from placed balls. Admittedly conditions were difficult

but this is an aspect that will no doubt be addressed in the lead up to final. Ursulines opponents in the final will be Mercy Convent, Woodford (Galway) who defeated Rathdowney in the other semi-final also on Saturday last. This game is fixed for Saturday, 19th March with the venue yet to be announced.

Ursuline, Thurles: Siobhan McGrath, Drom Inch Laura Medley, Holycross Patricia McGrath, Drom Inch Maire O'Regan, Moycarkey Sarah Ryan, Holycross Ciara Johnston, Drom Inch, (0-4 frees) Sinead Shelley, Slievenamon Therese Shortt, Drom Inch, (0-2 frees), Linda Fanning. **Holycross,** Antoinette Kennedy, Drom Inch, (0-1), Kiara Callinan (Capt), Holycross, Grace Clendennen, Kinnity, Elaine Ryan, Moyne (1-0), Laura Kavanagh Emeralds (1-1), Siobhan Butler, Drom Inc.

Subs used: Niamh O'Connell, Knockavilla for Sinead Shelley, Mary Rose Flanagan, Holycross for Siobhan Butler.

Charleville unable to repeat the final trick

St Mary's, Magherafelt 2-3
St Mary's, Charleville 1-0

CHARLEVILLE'S hopes of making it to a 'final double' fell by the wayside as the school fell at the semi final stage of the junior All-Ireland championship last Saturday to a hungry Magherafelt team.

Charleville were the first to register a score after only three minutes when Aisling Thompson pointed from play. It was a further 10 minutes before Magherafelt pointed and it remained a point-a-piece for most of the first half.

St. Mary's Charleville played with the aid of the ferocious wind and were camped at times in the Magherafelt defence. But the northern side's tactical move proved decisive.

They moved their full forward back as an extra defender and Charleville could find no way through a bunched, physical back eight.

Fionnuala Dore pointed a beautiful long range free from 60 yards and it looked as if the half time score would read 0-2 to 0-1 in favour of the Cork side.

However, just before half time Magherafelt goaled and it couldn't have come at a better time. They now led by two points and were entering the second half with that huge wind at their backs.

Thompson registered the first score of the second period and again the game went back and forth as neither team gained control.

A bare pitch, with little grass, it suited Magherafelt's ground hurling skills. The northern side tapped over two points to lead by three.

With normal time up one felt that was it. But three minutes into injury time super-sub Annette McAuliffe goaled for Cork.

Straight from the puck out Magherafelt won a free; the ball looked to be going wide but came back out and was pulled first time into the back of the net.

It was heartbreak for Charleville. Still they had chances but again were denied by the exceptional goalkeeping and defensive work of the northern side.

Scorers: Annette McAuliffe 1-0, A Thompson 0-2 (0-1f), F Dore 0-1(f).

ST. MARY'S: Charleville: E Hanley, O Carroll, R Finn, C Galvin, R Rea, F Dore, M O Connor, A Thompson, F O'Connell, A Geary, R Waters, L Fitzgerald, J Herlihy, M Walsh, Aisling McAuliffe. **Subs:** Annette McAuliffe for J. Herlihy, O O'Mahony for R Waters, E Reidy for O Carroll.

National Camogie Leagues

Tipperary and Kilkenny Head To Head In Opening

On Sunday next in Kilmanagh Co. Kilkenny at 2.30 Tipperary play Kilkenny in the first leg of the Senior League and will be hopeful of a good start in their bid to retain the Senior League title.

Under new management Paddy McCormack, Olivia Hogan and Martin Bourke the team have been preparing since the beginning of February. Speaking to Paddy McCormack on Monday Paddy said "that they are hopeful for a good start to the league, but are refraining from selecting the team until later in the week". "Some of the girls" Paddy said had picked up a few injuries in the recent Ashbourne and Purcell Cup competitions, but will be hopeful that they will have cleared up by Sunday".

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE

Tipperary Junior camogie team will also play Kilkenny on Sunday this game is a curtain raiser to the Senior game and will be played also in Kilmanagh at 1 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Olivia Hogan and the Ursuline camogie team who defeated the Ulster Champions, Ballycastle on Saturday last in the Senior 'B' All-Ireland Colleges semi final. The All-Ireland final will take place on March 19th against the Connaught Champions, Woodford from Galway.

CLUB GRADING FOR 2005

U/12 A CHAMPIONSHIP - Toomevara, Drom/Inch

U/12 B CHAMPIONSHIP - Burgess, Slievenamon, Moneygall, Templemore

U/12 C CHAMPIONSHIP - Newport-Ballinahinch, Carrick Swans, Portroe, Lorrha, Moycarkey-Borris, Knockavilla, Thurles, Shannon Rovers, Kildangan, St. Cronan's, New Inn, Cahir, Nenagh, Brian Boru's, Boherlahan, Clonoulty, Silvermines, Cashel, Annacarty, Kilruane, Holycross, Moyle Rovers

U-14 A CHAMPIONSHIP - Slievenamon,

Knockavilla, Silvermines, Holycross, Templemore, Portroe, Cashel, Thurles, Kilruane.

U-14 C CHAMPIONSHIP - Annacarty, Shannon Rovers, Newport-Ballinahinch, Carrick Swans, Lorrha, Kildangan, Nenagh, Brian Boru's, Cahir, Boherlahan, Carrick Davins, Clonoulty, Moyle Rovers, New Inn, St. Cronan's, Moycarkey

U-16 A CHAMPIONSHIP - Drom & Inch, Toomevara, Cashel, Slievenamon, Knockavilla, Templemore

U-16 B CHAMPIONSHIP - Burgess, Moneygall, Thurles, Silvermines, MOycarkey, Holycross

U-16 C CHAMPIONSHIP - Newport-Ballinahinch, Carrick Swans, Moyle Rovers, Cahir, ST. Cronan's, Bournea, Annacarty, Portroe, Clonoulty, Lorrha, New Inn, Boherlahan, Kilruane, Shannon Rovers.

U-18 A CHAMPIONSHIP - Toomevara, Drom & Inch, Cashel, Slievenamon, Templemore,

Moneygall

U-18 B CHAMPIONSHIP - Newport-Ballinahinch, Silvermines, Holycross, Annacarty, Burgess, Moycarkey, Shannon Rovers, Knockavilla, Moyle Rovers, Clonoulty, St. Cronans, Thurles, Kilruane

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP - Cashel, Toomevara, Drom & Inch, Holycross, Burgess/Portroe

SENIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP - Burgess, Holycross, Moneygall + 2 Intermediate Finalists

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP Moneygall, Silvermines, Bournea, Clonoulty

JUNIOR A CHAMPIONSHIP Toomevara, Moycarkey, Kilruane, Portroe, Shannon Rovers, Templemore, Fethard, Drom & Inch

JUNIOR B CHAMPIONSHIP - Lorrha, Kildangan, Annacarty, Slievenamon, Carrick Swans, Newport, Thurles, KNOckavilla, St. Cronans, Burgess, Cashel.

MARCH 2005

LEAGUE CROWN FOR BALLINCOLLIG

A GREAT day for the Ballincollig club on Saturday last as they defeated reigning Under 16 A county champions Eire Og to take the under 16 B league title (2004). In a game that had plenty of goals in fact ten in all the lead changes hands continuously before Ballincollig were finally crowned champions. In the opening thirty minutes we had seven goals as Eire Og led 4-3 to 3-3 at the break and there was little between the sides as the score line indicates through the half.

Margaret O'Herlihy had pointed for Eire Og early in the first half but Fiona Kearney struck for a Ballincollig goal in reply. As Margaret O'Herlihy and Erin Corkery beat the Ballincollig defence to grab 1-1 apiece Eire Og gained the advantage. Denise Cronin pointed a Ballincollig free with eight minutes to the interval and inside two minutes a Noreen Bradley goal and a point from Fiona Kearney had just one point between the sides. Eire Og hit back with an Aoife Mc Carthy goal but Victoria St Ledger did likewise for Ballincollig. Play again swung to the other end with Kate O'Flynn finishing to the net and now Eire Og were four ahead. Denise Cronin pointed on the half time whistle to leave it 4-3 to 3-3 in favour of Eire Og. Inside two minutes of the restart Denise Cronin cut the deficit to two but Erin Corkery made it five with Eire Og's fifth goal. With Leah Weste having moving back into the Ballincollig defence it steadied her side and they kept the pressure on striking for two goal inside eight minutes Noreen Bradley and Denise Cronin finding the target. With victory in sight Ballincollig pressed on a pointed Cronin free stretched the lead to two points and despite severe injury time Eire Og pressure Ballincollig held on for a superb victory, well done to all concerned.



Division 2 Cork Team

KILKENNY ON THE DOUBLE

ON SUNDAY next Cork entertain Kilkenny in the senior and Junior National League, as yet a venue has to be confirmed for the ties. Last weekend Kilkenny opened their campaign defeated All Ireland champions Tipperary and they will travel to cork confident of putting one over on a Cork side who defeated Dublin in their opener. Cork juniors with two wins under their belt will be determined to make it three in a row and ensure themselves of a semi final spot.

Cork Juniors Continued League Run

FOR the second week in a row the county junior side recorded a good victory in the national league when they defeated Offaly in Rath. Ciara Healy who was recently regraded to play junior had a superb hour while Niamh Bowles, Orla Coughlan and Mary Buckley were all on the score sheet as Cork held the upper hand in the opening quarter opening up a good lead before Michelle Davis had the home side on the scoreboard pointing two frees. Offaly came more into the game and the Cork defence were under pressure as they applied severe pressure. Two Offaly goals inside as many minutes had them back in contention and with eight minutes to the break Offaly drew level and there it stayed 1-5 to 2-2 at the short whistle.

Both side showed fierce determination from the restart but the Cork defence held the threat from the Offaly attack at bay. Ciara Healy continued to cause the Offaly defence trouble up front and with centre fielder Orla Cotter pointing twice added to by points from Ellen O'Herlihy and Orla Coughlan Offaly were in trouble they were rewarded with two pointed frees from Michelle Davis but in a low scoring second half Cork had done enough to gain the two points on offer.

HEARTBREAK FOR CHARLEVILLE JNRS

HEARTBREAK for St Mary's Charleville as their quest to join their seniors in the All Ireland final fell narrowly short at the semi final stage of the junior A Colleges All-Ireland championship last Saturday. Home advantage was to prove decisive to the Antrim side as the Cork girls had to make the long journey north on Friday, but that is not to take from a Magherafelt side who showed fierce determination to book their place in the final. Charleville aided by the strong wind in the opening half enjoyed plenty of possession but the strong Magherafelt defence which was strengthened by dropping an extra player into their backline gave little away, twice Charleville looked to have breached the Magherafelt rearguard but were denied by the alert Magherafelt net minder.

Fionnula Dore pointed a long range free and with half time looming the score read 2 points to 1 in favour of Charleville. With minutes to the break Magherafelt grabbed a vital goal and it proved a huge boost as they turned over leading by 2 points and with a strong wind advantage to come.

On the resumption it was nip and tuck as the sides battled for supremacy, Magherafelt extending their advantage with two further points and led by three with time up on the stop watch. Charleville worked hard and a goal three minutes into injury time from substitute Annette McAuliffe looked as if it was enough to bring the replay back to Charleville. From the puck out Magherafelt won a free and despite looking to be going wide it somehow ended in the net back of the net. Disappointment for Charleville who's attention now turns to the forthcoming senior "A" All Ireland final.

Revenge is sweet for Cork girls

Cork 1-9
Offaly 2-4

CORK made the journey to Offaly and came home with the points and gained revenge for defeat at the hands of the same opponents in last season's junior national league in Rath Co Offaly on Sunday.

Ciara Healy, who was recently regraded to play junior, had a superb hour for Cork pointed in the second minute, and with Niamh Bowles, Mary Buckley and Healy adding points Cork held the upper hand in the opening 10 minutes.

Operating at full forward Ciara Healy showed her experience when she grabbed the game's opening goal in the 11th minute, and when Orla Coughlan pointed in the 16th minute it was all Cork.

Michelle Davis had the home side on the score-

board, pointing two frees, and with Offaly coming more into the game the Cork defence were under pressure as the home side mounted a wave of attacks. Two Offaly goals inside as many minutes had them back in contention and with eight minutes to the break Offaly drew level and there it stayed 1-5 to 2-2 at the short whistle.

faly defence trouble up front and with centre fielder Orla Cotter pointing twice, added to by points from Ellen O'Herlihy and Orla Coughlan, Offaly were in trouble. They were rewarded with two pointed frees from Michelle Davis but Cork had done enough.

Scorers-Cork: C Healy 1-2, O Coughlan 0-2, O Cotter 0-2, E O'Herlihy, Mary Buckley and N Bowles 0-1 each. Offaly: M Davis 0-4 (frees), S Sullivan and S Carroll 1-0 each.

Camogie reports Mary Newman

Both sides showed fierce determination from the restart and with Rosalie Holland, Lynda O'Connell and Niamh Bowles controlling the defence Cork held the threat from the Offaly attack at bay. Ciara Healy continued to cause the Of-

Cork: F Killeen; L Hawke's, R Holland, E O'Sullivan; N Bowles, E Waters, L O'Connell; D Coomey, O Cotter; H O'Regan, M Buckley, O Coughlan; M Coleman, C Healy, M Browne, Subs: D Hayes for E O'Sullivan, E O'Herlihy for M Browne, E Crowley for H O'Regan, A Kelleher for O Coughlan. Offaly: C Kelly; K Brady, L Corcoran, M Bergin; M Morkan, E Dermody, M Green; K Nugent, F Stevens; M Wyer, S Sullivan, S Carroll; C Green, M Davis, E Corcoran.

Ballincollig hold out to snatch victory over Eire Og

Ballincollig 5-5
Eire Og 5-3

Ballincollig gained the upper hand on reigning Under 16 A county champions Eire Og to take the under 16 B league title (2004). The county champions led at the break 4-3 to 3-3.

Margaret O'Herlihy pointed for Eire Og to open the scoring but Fiona Kearney replied with a Ballincollig goal. With Margaret O'Herlihy and Erin Corkery notching up 1-1 apiece, Eire Og regained their lead. The Eire Og defence held the upper hand on the Ballincollig attack until the 22nd minute as Denise Cronin pointed a free to cut the deficit and inside two minutes a Noreen Bradley goal and a point

from Fiona Kearney had just one point between the sides. Eire Og were rewarded with an Aoife Mc Carthy goal but Victoria St Ledger had one back for Ballincollig. Eire Og responded in the form of Kate O'Flynn who finished well to the Ballincollig net and again four points separated the sides. Denise Cronin pointed for Ballincollig on the half time whistle.

Inside two minutes of the restart Denise Cronin had just two points between the sides but Erin Corkery made it five with Eire Og's fifth goal. Both sides battled furiously but with Leah Weste having moved back into the Ballincollig defence, her side grew in stature. Two goals inside eight minutes swung the game in Ballincollig's favour, the first from Noreen

Bradley goal at the mid way stage and eight minutes later Denise Cronin picked up a long Leah Weste clearance before beating three defenders to finish to the net. Ballincollig drove on, a pointed Cronin free stretched the lead to two points and despite severe injury time Eire Og pressure the solid Ballincollig defence held on for a memorable victory.

Ballincollig: Ciara Mc Sweeney, Jenny Cotter, Claire O'Donovan, Aoife Cotter, Laura O'Leary, Maria O'Donoghue, Brea O'Callaghan, Denise Cronin (1-4), Danni Fenton, Fiona Kearney (1-1), Mag's O'Sullivan, Victoria St Ledger (1-0), Claire Ryan, Leah Weste, Noreen Bradley (2-0).

Eire Og: Lisa Marie O'Mahony, Siobhan Gleeson, Deirdre Twomey, Ciara O'Connor, Lorraine Murphy, Cliona Mc Carthy, Sarah O'Donovan, Claire Purcell, Katie McCarthy, Ella Kelleher, Margaret O'Herlihy (1-2), Ciara O'Keefe, Kate O'Flynn (1-0), Aoife McCarthy (1-0), Erin Corkery (2-1).

Charleville side suffer defeat

St. Marys, Magherafelt 2-3
St. Marys, Charleville 1-3

Heartbreak for St Marys, Charleville, as their quest to join their seniors in the All Ireland final fell narrowly short at the semi-final stage of the junior A Colleges All-Ireland championship last Saturday.

Home advantage was to prove decisive to the Antrim side as the Cork girls had to make the long journey north on Friday, but that is not to take from a Magherafelt side who showed fierce determination to book their place in the final.

Ashling Thompson gave the visitors an early lead with a point from play and in a close opening half it was 10 minutes before Magherafelt replied with a point and it remained deadlocked for most of the half.

Charleville, aided by the strong wind, enjoyed plenty of possession, but the strong Magherafelt defence, which was strengthened by dropping an extra player into their backline, gave little away. Twice Charleville looked to have breached the Magherafelt rearguard, but were denied.

Fionnula Dore pointed a long range free and with half time looming the score read 2 points to 1 in favour of Charleville. Within minutes Magherafelt grabbed a vital goal.

Ashling Thompson cut the deficit with a point on the resumption. With Magherafelt extending their advantage with two further points, Charleville grabbed a goal three minutes into injury time from substitute Annette McAuliffe, but Magherafelt goalied again.

St. Marys Charleville: E Hanley; O Carroll, R Finn, C Galvin; R Rea, F Dore, M O'Connor; A Thompson, F O'Connell; A Geary, R Waters, L Fitzgerald; J Herlihy, M Walsh; Ashling McAuliffe. Subs: Annette McAuliffe for J Herlihy, O O Mahony for R Waters, E Reidy for O Carroll.

Rebel girls claim victory in Offaly

Cork 1-9
Offaly 2-4

CORK had to do it the hard way in Rath, Co Offaly yesterday when they took on the home team in the National Junior Camogie league second round tie.

Senior panellist Ciara Healy, who had a magnificent game throughout, pointed for Cork in the second minute. Niamh Bowles, Mary Buckley and Healy again added points and when Healy, at full forward, netted in the 11th minute one felt

that Cork were going to run riot. Orla Coughlan pointed in the 16th minute and that was to be Cork's final score of the first half.

Michelle Davis pointed two frees for Offaly. For the remainder of the half the Cork defence were under severe pressure as attack after attack waved upon them. Despite coping well, Offaly still managed two goals in the 20th and 22nd minute.

Within eight minutes Offaly had drawn level and it stayed that way, 1-5 to 2-2 until the break.

The game was physical on a fine pitch

which allowed for excellent play.

Cork upped a level. They were the ones now applying the pressure but found scores hard to come by. At times the Offaly defence came out with the ball too easily.

Rosalie Holland, Lynda O'Connell and Niamh Bowles were dominant in defence. Deirdre Coomey and Orla Cotter worked like Trojans in the middle of the field and with Healy excelling up front Cork tapped over four further points, two coming from centerfielder Cotter.

Offaly could only hit over two frees in a

low-scoring second period and Cork went home with another two points in the bag.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 1-2, O Coughlan 0-2, O Cotter 0-2, E O'Herlihy, Mary Buckley and N Bowles 0-1 each.

Offaly: M Davis 0-4 (frees), S Sullivan and S Carroll 1-0 each.

Cork: F Killeen; L Hawke's, R Holland, E O'Sullivan; N Bowles, E Waters, L O'Connell; D Coomey, O Cotter; H O'Regan, M Buckley, O Coughlan; M Coleman, C Healy, M Browne. Subs: O Hayes for E O'Sullivan, E O'Herlihy for M Browne, E Crowley for H O'Regan, A Kelleher for O Coughlan.

OFFALY: C Kelly; K Brady, L Corcoran, M Bergin; M Morkan, E Dermody, M Green; K Nugent, F Stevens; M Wyer, S Sullivan, S Carroll; C Green, M Davis, E Corcoran.

Huge turnout for minor trials

FOR the past number of weeks Pat McLoughney and his selectors Paula Bulfin, Helen Kiely and Niamh Harkin have been quietly working away preparing a panel for the forthcoming Minor Championship. Approximately 100 girls showed enthusiasm tagging out on cold Saturdays morning hoping for a place on the panel but only a percentage eventually can be successful. The following girls were what Pat and his team eventually decided on — Christina Kenneally, Patricia McGrath, Therese Shortt, Antoinette Kennedy, Siobhan McGrath, Emer Shannah (Drom-Inch), Nora Costigan, Cathriona Maher, Ailish O'Connell (Templemore), Sarah Morrissey, Marie Horan (Cashel), Marie Dalton, Catherine Kelly (Annacarty), Marion Ryan Aioife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers), Karen Seymour, Marie Ryan (Kilruane McDonagh's), Niamh O'Connell, (Knockavilla-Donaskeigh), Fiona Young, Aine Brislane,

Laura Young, Siobhan 'Bonnie' Kennedy (Toomevara), Geraldine Stapleton (Silvermines), Tracy Flanagan (Boherlahan), Louise O'Brien (St. Cronan's), Deirdre Ryan, Sharon Hayes (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Ruth Barry (Burgess), Cathriona Welsh (Moynacree-Borris), Mary Gleeson (Slievenamon), Aioife Shinnors (Newport-Ballinahinch), Margaret Kirwan, Cliona Ryan (Moneygall).

COUNTY SENIOR TRAINING
In their bid to retain the Senior League Title Tipperary Senior Camogie Team continue training every Saturday morning. Their first game is on Sunday March 6th against Kilkenny at a Kilkenny venue and the following

Sunday they play Dublin at a Tipperary venue.

COUNTY BOARD MEETING POSTPONED

The monthly meeting of Tipperary Camogie Board due to take place on March 8th has been postponed until March 15th.

AFFILIATION FEES DUE

Affiliation Fees will fall due on April 1st and clubs should be preparing the paper work now fees are €1.50 for all U18's and €3.00 for adults.

REFEREES COURSE

A Referees Course will be held on February 25th, March 4th and March 11th for further information contact Margaret Kennedy Fixtures Secretary.

TIPPERARY PLAYERS TO THE FORE

Four Tipperary girls have been selected on the Ashbourne Cup All-Star Team 2005, they are Patricia O'Halloran, Siobhan Ryan,

Jill Horan, Claire Grogan. Congratulations girls you have once again done the County proud.

MORE ASHBOURNE CUP JOY FOR UL

THE 2005 JJ Kavanagh Ashbourne Cup and Shield are safely tucked away in Limerick for this season following UL's Cup victory of 12 to 1-4 over UCD in the final in Ballygunner on Sunday and MIC's victory over CIT (2-7 to 2-4) in the Shield Final.

It was the underdogs UCD who started the scoring with a Ciara Lucey free after two minutes. However, UL Captain fantastic Jennifer O'Leary soon showed her free taking accuracy and by the end of the first half had sent over 0-5 from frees, the other score coming from Galway player Aioife Lynskey.

However, UCD who were beaten by UL in last year's final were in no mood to let the Limerick side motor in top gear and so after twelve minutes it was UCD who got the only goal of the match. A close in free from Louise O'Mahony sailed across the square where a number of UCD players were ready to pounce but in the end it was Offaly player Emilie Darmody who got the final touch to the sliotar to leave it, UCD 1-2 to UL's 0-5.

Another Ciara Lucey free just before the break left it UCD 1-3, UL 0-6, Jennifer O'Leary having got the UL free three minutes from the half time whistle.

The second half saw a very determined UL team send over two rapid fire frees from the Cork 2004 All-Star Jennifer O'Leary, UL's midfield pairing of last year's captain Siobhan Ryan and Eimear Cregan,

niece of MIC Manager Eamonn, were in top form. However, if they were so was the UCD full-back and Wexford senior player Catherine O'Loughlin who time and time again denied both UCC shots in the semi-final and on Sunday was once again a thorn in the face of UL.

While the Dublin college battled hard in the second half, they could only manage one score from Ciara Lucey midway while UL further increased their score with two more Jennifer O'Leary frees, one a '45 and the second a free. The final score of the 2005 Ashbourne Final fittingly went to a Limerick player Aioife Sheehan.

There will be much partying in UL over the next few days as the camogie team have now got one up on the hurlers, they have never won back to back Fitzgibbon titles, so guess the girls will let the lads know that very quickly!!

UL — D Lynch; R Glynn, S O'Gorman, S Sullivan; A Mulcahy, A O'Regan, L Lally; S Ryan, E Cregan; A Sheehan, M Nash, J O'Leary; J Feighery, A Lynskey, O Kilkenny. Subs: A Connolly for A Lynskey; E Maher for M Nash. Scorers: J O'Leary 0-10 (0-9 frees), A Sheehan, A Lynskey 0-1 each.

UCD — L Condell; S O'Grady, C O'Loughlin, M Handrick; D Corcoran, M Leacy; C Leacy; C Flanagan, S Daly; L Mahony, C Hardiman, L Codd; S Moylan, E Darmody, E Moran. Scorers: C Lucey 0-4 (0-3 frees), E Darmody 1-0.

Referee: J O'Brien, Wexford.

Ashbourne Cup semi-finals —UL 0-12, UCC 1-7; UCD 1-5, WIT 0-6.

MARCH 2005

Cork made to work by impressive Kilkenny Camogie

Cork 2-10
Kilkenny 0-6

THE final score does not reflect a spirited performance of Kilkenny yesterday in the Senior National Camogie League second round tie played at St Finbarr's grounds writes LINDA MELLERICK.

Cork led throughout the game but could never quite pull away from a tenacious Kilkenny and it was only when Una O'Donoghue drove a well-worked goal into the back of the net with 12 minutes to go that Cork could breathe easily.

Cork found a gap in the 10th minute and captain Elaine Burke ran onto a breaking ball and struck an unstoppable shot past Ryan.

Kilkenny were beginning to exert pressure of their own but Mary O'Connor at centre-back and Jennifer Browne in the corner had them back-peddalling time and again.

O'Leary pointed a free. Sinead Millea hit over two frees for the Cats in the 16th and 18th minute. O'Donoghue and Mullally swapped points again and at the break it was 1-4 to 0-3.

Emer Dillon struck a magnificent point straight on the resumption as Kilkenny once again came out battling. Cork slowly began to get a firmer grip on the game. Breige Corkery worked like a Trojan at centre field. Dillon, who had moved further out the field, was more involved and grabbed another point in the 11th minute. Two points from Catherine Doherty and Millea again kept Kilkenny tipping away at Cork's heels. But they were always playing catch-up and needed a goal that they never looked like getting.

Scorers for Cork: J O'Leary 0-6 (0-3f), U O'Donoghue 1-1, E Burke 1-0, E Dillon 0-2, R Moleoney 0-1 (f).

Kilkenny: S Millea 0-4 (0-2f, 0-1p), B Mullally and C Doherty 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray; J Browne, S Dunlea, J O'Callaghan; R Buckley, M O'Connor, N Ahern; B Corkery, P O'Connor; E Dillon, S O'Donoghue, R Moleoney; E Burke, J O'Leary, U O'Donoghue. Subs: V Harris for P O'Connor.

KILKENNY: C Ryan; K Kinahan, J Dillon-Maher, D Minogue; B Grennan, M Costello, K Long; E Aylward, A Neary; L Lyng, I Kennedy, S Millea; C Doherty, M O'Connor, C Carey. Sub: S Costello for G Dillon.

Indoor camogie a big hit

THERE was great excitement in the Rochestown Sports Hall over the weekend when the finals of the schools indoor camogie took place, being the finale to a lengthy qualifying process which was previously held in Riverstick.

Teams of five battled it out in the sports hall to bring honour and glory to their school in the annual competition. After some very tight matches, with fine individual skill, the victors were Scoil Eoin, Innishannon, who defeated Carrigaline Girls School in Rionn B, while the girls from Ballygarvan continued the villages impressive run in all games by taking the A title, defeating Belgooly in the final.

Eamonn Kelly, organiser, presented the trophies to the winning teams, paying tribute to the players and teachers and to fellow co-ordinators and referees Michael Creedon, John Herlihy and Helen Kelleher.



Ballygarvan, who defeated Belgooly in the Rionn A final of the indoor schools camogie blitz in the Rochestown Sports Hall.

Loreto made to fight for victory



The Loreto Fermoy with their trophy.

Loreto Fermoy
St Als Cork

3-5
1-7

AFTER a barren run for a couple of years, Loreto Fermoy were made to fight to the finish to win the Cork Colleges Senior B Camogie final last Friday in the Barrs GAA and were full value for their win.

The essential difference between the two evenly matched contestants was Fermoy's ability to score goals at vital junctures. This game had everything; flair,

commitment, passion and every ball was contested.

St Al's got off to the better start with a point from Rachel O'Riordan and three from placed balls from Rena Buckley inside eight minutes.

The game then turned and Deirdre Twomey ran in 1-2 and goal from Grace Kearney in the 15th minute put Loreto in a strong position. A point from each side for the remainder of the half made the half time score 2-3 to 0-5 in favour of the Fermoy girls.

On the restart Fermoy seized the initiative when Deirdre

Twomey goaled inside the first minute leaving it all to do for St Al's. St Al's fought hard and threw everything at Fermoy. Sinead Ni Riain goaled from a rebound on the 15th minute reducing the deficit to four points. It looked like game on when a minute later Sinead Ni Riain drove inches wide.

The Fermoy goalkeeper and backs regrouped and held firm to record a satisfying four-point win.

Scorers for Loreto: D Twomey 2-3, G Kearney 1-0 and O Cotter 0-2 (frees)
St Al's: S Ni Riain 1-0, R Buckley 0-6 (0-2 45, 0-2 frees) R O'Riordan 0-1.

RESULTS

Munster Colleges Camogie results: Senior league: Clonsilla 4-7 Nenagh 1-10 (Extra Time); Junior C Qtr Finals Dromcollogher 4-7 Nagle Rice 4-2 (Extra time), Ballincollig CS 8-5 Colaiste an Phiar-saigh 4-8, Tulla 3-5 Laurel Hill 0-1, Kinsale 5-0 Colaiste Cholm 2-5; Junior B plate qtr final Carrig on Suir 2-6 Borrisokane 1-3; First year league Coachford 5-6 Thurles 0-1.

Cork Colleges Camogie results: Senior B Final Loreto Fermoy 3-5 St Als Cork 1-7; Senior B semi-finals Loreto 7-6 Carrigaline 3-1, St Als 1-10 Clonsilla 3-2; Intermediate C Colaiste Daibheid 7-9 Kanturk 1-2; Under 16's Qtr final Colaiste Daibheid 2-5 Crosshaven 2-2, Mallow 3-0 Cobh 2-1; Junior A final: Charleville 6-6 Bandon 2-8; Junior B semi-final Clonsilla 4-3 Carrigaline 2-0; Junior C Final Kinsale 4-1 Middleton 0-4; 1st yr league Charleville 9-8 Bandon 5-0, Carrignavar 7-4 Blarney 2-4, Carrigaline 5-4 Fermoy 3-1.

Rebels give full squad a run-out in easy win

Camogie

Cork 3-17
Kilkenny 1-6

THE junior game between these two counties saw Cork run out comprehensive winners writes LINDA MELLERICK.

From the outset Cork mastered their opponents in every section of the pitch and tapped over scores almost at will.

Hazel O'Regan pointed in the second minute and two further points in the third and sixth by Ciara Healy and Emer O'Friel respectively gave an indication of how the game was going to go.

Cork led by five points before Healy found the net in the 15th minute and when Mary Coleman thundered an overhead beauty into the roof of the net six minutes later the game was over.

To be fair, Kilkenny rallied and had their best period of the game with three points in the five minutes leading up to half time.

Despite this rally Cork remained in the driving seat, turning over 2-9 to 0-4 with Ciara Healy finishing the half with 1-4 to her credit.

Cork brought on five substitutes during the second period as they continue to try out emerging talent. Rather than weaken their cause, the substitutes, Clogadh Deasy, in particular, proved as strong as those who went before them.

Ann Dalton for Kilkenny was the only thorn in Cork's side as she strove to drive her team on.

But the game as such was a stroll in the park for Cork and when Deasy goal in the 31st minute it was only to further enhance their superiority.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 1-6, C Deasy 1-2, M Coleman 1-1, H O'Regan 0-3 (0-2), O Coughlan 0-2, E O'Friel, M Buckley and D Coomey 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: A Butler 1-1, K A Cottrell 0-2, A Dalton 0-2, H Murphy 0-1
CORK: F Kileen, L Hawkes, N Bowles, D Hayes, E O'Sullivan, E Waters, L O'Connell, D Coomey, O Cotter, Hazel O'Regan, O Coughlan, M Buckley, M Coleman, C Healy, E O'Friel. Subs: A Kelleher for E Waters, M O'Donovan for H O'Regan, E Keane for O Cotter, C Deasy for E O'Friel, C Long for M Buckley.

KILKENNY: L Dempsey, A Treacy, B Ryall, N Butler, P Hennessy, S Kennedy, A Fahy, A Butler, H Murphy, A M Phelan, A N Dalton. Sub: all.

Impressive Cork find the going easy against plucky Kilkenny side

Cork 2-10
Kilkenny 0-6

In a game that produced little excitement Cork always did enough to ensure the national league points were secured long before the full-time whistle.

Despite holding a four point interval lead, Cork never looked like losing this game. In defence they were well organised, and seldom when the need arose did they put a foot wrong. At midfield Breige Corkery and Paula O'Connor worked hard while up front captain Elaine Burke

led by example, firing home the opening goal after 10 minutes.

It was 16 minutes into the game before they had their opening score a pointed free from Sinead Millea two minutes late Millea repeated the feat but by now Cork led 1-2 to 0-2 boosted by captain Elaine Burkes goal and points from Jennifer O'Leary and Burke. Rachel Moloney and Una O'Donoghue had extended the advantage with points before the hard working Bridgid Mullally had one back as Cork led 1-4 to 0-3 at the short whistle.

Inside a minute of the restart Emer

Dillon had a Cork point, but Kilkenny had the lead down to a goal as Catherine Doherty and Sinead Millea pointed, but it was to be 15 minutes again before Kilkenny registered on the scoreboard while in the interim Cork's Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary ensured the lead was extended. Despite working hard Kilkenny failed to match their livelier opponents, and as Cork continued to enjoyed their dominance Una O'Donoghue was best placed to finished well to the net when Emer Dillon's pointed effort came back off the post.

Kilkenny did manage to win a

21st minute penalty, but Sinead Millea only managed to point, and this probably best summed up Kilkenny's afternoon, full of determination but just that bit off the pace. Jennifer O'Leary with three points without reply brought the curtain down on proceedings as Cork national league point tally reached four with just a meeting with the All Ireland champions Tipperary to come on April 17.

Cork: A. Murray, J. Browne, S. Dunlea, J. O'Callaghan, R. Buckley, M. O'Connor, N. Ahern, B. Corkery, P. O'Connor, E. Dillon, S. O'Donovan, R. Moloney, E. Burke (c), J. O'Leary, U. O'Donoghue Sub V Harris for M O'Connor

Cork get their claws into the cats

Cork 3-17
Kilkenny 1-6

THE County Juniors made it three out of three league victories and almost certainly and ensured themselves of a place in the closing stages of the national league following a splendid victory over Kilkenny.

From the throw in Cork held the upper hand and as early as the first minute led thanks to a pointed Hazel O'Regan free. The advantage was stretched to five points with Ciara Healy, Orla Coughlan and Emer O'Friel pointing before Ciara Healy blasted to the net from close range.

Kilkenny's Kelly Ann Cottrell opened their account with a point after 18 minutes but the Cork response was instant, Mary Coleman connecting superbly with an over head volley to the net from a Ciara Healy cross. At half-time, Cork held a 2-9 to 0-4 lead.

Hazel O'Regan again opened the scoring with a second half pointed free as cork held all the aces as Mary Buckley and Ciara Healy pointed to which Kilkenny replied with one from Ann Dalton.

Dalton increased the Kilkenny tally with a late point but it was Clogadh Deasy who had the final say with a well taken goal as Cork ran out convincing winners. With just one game remaining against Tipperary Cork have almost certainly done enough to advance to the latter stages of the competition

Cork: F Killeens, L Hawkes, N Bowles (c), D Hayes, E O'Sullivan, E Waters, L O'Connell, D Coomey, O Cotter, H O'Regan, O Coughlan, M Buckley, M Coleman, C Healy O'Friel Subs: A Kelleher for E Waters, M O'Donovan for E O'Sullivan, E Keane for O Cotter, C Deasy for E O'Friel, C Long for M Buckley.

Tipp battle back to beat Dublin

by Máire Uí Scolai

ALL-IRELAND champions Tipperary overcame a spirited Dublin by 2-9 to 1-5 in yesterday's top flight League outing at Semple Stadium.

The home side, who also hold the League crown, trailed by two points after Karen Blood and Edel Reid scored inside eight minutes. However an Emer McDonnell goal got the Premier girls back on track and helped them three points clear at the break (1-3 to 0-3).

Blood hit 1-1 in a whirlwind restart but once more McDonnell poached a goal followed swiftly by points from Joanne Ryan and Allstar Claire Grogan.

Tipperary will next face Cork, victors over Kilkenny yesterday. An Elaine Burke goal had them 1-4 to 0-4 ahead at the break. Another goal from Una O'Donoghue midway through the second period settled the affair at St Finbarr's (2-10 to 0-6).

In Division Two, Tipperary defeated Dublin 2-5 to 1-4 at Dr Morris Park, Thurles with Katie Kennedy and Mairéad Lutteral goaling for the undefeated home outfit.

Super sub Emer Haverty was the toast of Galway when she scored the winning goal with five minutes to go against Kildare in a very exciting 2-7 to 1-9 in Portumna. Derry had an easy 6-8 to 2-1 victory over Carlow thanks to second half goals from Aileen Lavery, Aishling Diamond and Caitríona O'Kane while Cork also made it a double victory with a 3-17 to 1-6 win over Kilkenny in Division Two. Ciara Healy was Cork's top scorer with 1-6.

National Camogie League

Division 1: Tipperary 2-9 (E. Mc Donnell 2-2, C Grogan 0-5, (0-2), J. Ryan 0-2) Dublin 1-5 (K. Blood 1-4, E. Reid 0-1);

Cork 2-10 (U. O'Donoghue 1-1, E. Burke 1-0, J. O'Leary 0-6 (0-4), E. Dillon 0-2, R. Moloney 0-1) Kilkenny 0-6 (S. Millea 0-4, C. Doherty, B. Mullally 0-1 each);

Division 2: Tipperary 2-5 (K. Kennedy 1-1, M. Loneragan 1-0, M. Shortt 0-2, A. Loneragan, C. Johnston 0-1 each) Dublin 1-4 (J. Healy 1-1, S. Kehoe, S. Curran, A. Jordan 0-1 each);

Cork 3-17 (C. Healy 1-6, C. Deasy 1-2, M. Coleman 1-1, H. O'Regan 0-3, O. Coughlan 0-2, M. Buckley, D. Coomey, E. O'Friel 0-1 each) Kilkenny 1-6 (A. Butler 1-1, A. Dalton 0-3, K. A. Costelloe, K. A. Cotterell 0-1 each);

Clare 3-7 (C. O'Loughlin 2-1, C. McMahon 1-1, D. Lynch 0-3, D. Murphy 0-2) Down 0-11 (C. Mc Gorry 0-8, K. O'Higgins 0-2, J. Branniff 0-1);

Armagh 0-9 (C. Mc Sorley 0-4 (0-4), P. Mc Avoy 0-4, C. Kinsella 0-1) Laois 5-3 (T. Keenan 2-3, M. Dowling, K. Cuddy, L. Mahony 1-0 each);

Carlow 2-1 (J. O'Brien 2-0, V. Crean 0-1) Derry 6-8 (A. Lavery 3-0, C. O'Kane 2-1, A. Diamond 1-2, G. McGoldrick 0-2, U. O'Kane, U. Mullin, S. Cassidy 0-1 each);

Galway 2-7 (M. Dunne 1-5 (0-2), E. Haverty 1-0, S. Murphy 0-1) Kildare 1-9 (B. Kennedy 1-4 (0-3), C. O'Reilly 0-3, C. Nolan, O. Bambury 0-1 each);

Munster Colleges Camogie - Senior League: Clonsilla 4-7 Nenagh 1-10 (AET);

Junior C quarter-finals: Dromcollogher 4-7 Nagle Rice 4-2 (AET); Ballincollig CS 8-5 Coláiste an Phiaraisigh 4-8; Tuila 3-5 Laurel Hill 0-1; Kinsale 5-0 Coláiste Chóilín 2-5;

Junior B Plate quarter-final: Carrick-On-Suir 2-6 Borrisokane 1-3;

First Year League: Coachford 5-8 Thurles 0-1;

Fixture: Munster Colleges Camogie - tomorrow, Junior A Plate Final: Nenagh v Coachford at Charleville, 1pm.

Ballincollig overturn the champions in a thriller

Ballincollig 5-5
Éire Óg 5-3

By MARY NEWMAN
Camogie

IT MAY have been the U16 B League final of 2004, but the commitment and determination shown by both Ballincollig and Éire Óg helped turn this clash into a ten-goal cracker in Ballincollig on Saturday last.

Its been a long season for Éire Óg having annexed the U16 A county title before Christmas but that in no way takes from Ballincollig's superb win as they gained the upper hand on the reigning county champs.

The goals came fast and furious in the opening half, seven in all as Éire Óg led at the break 4-3 to 3-3.

Margaret O'Hurlin opened the

scoring with an Éire Óg point but Fiona Kearney had Ballincollig in front with a goal inside two minutes.

With O'Hurlin and Erin Corkery causing problems for the Ballincollig defence — notching up 1-1 apiece — Éire Óg gained the upper hand and with their defence holding the threat posed by the Ballincollig attack, they remained in control.

Denise Cronin pointed a free in the 22nd minute to cut the deficit and suddenly Ballincollig sprung to life.

Inside two minutes Noreen Bradley had a goal and a point from Fiona Kearney to put just one

between the sides. Éire Óg showed just what had made them county champions as they responded superbly with an Aoife McCarthy goal, but in an instant, Victoria St Ledger had one back for Ballincollig.

No sooner had the cheering died down when Kate O'Flynn beat the Ballincollig defence to crash to the net and again four points separated the sides.

Denise Cronin had the last say with a Ballincollig point on the half-time whistle to leave it 4-3 to 3-3 in favour of Éire Óg.

Cronin started where she left off adding a point inside two minutes of the second half and again 'Collig had it down to two. As both sides battled for supremacy Erin Corkery kept

Éire Óg in the driving seat with her side's fifth goal.

Ballincollig's Leah Weste began to have a big influence having been moving back to help in the half-back line and operating between there and midfield where she did a huge amount of work.

With their defence coming under pressure, Éire Óg had to be at their best and here Marie O'Mahony and Deirdre Twomey excelled.

The pressure finally paid off for Ballincollig when Noreen Bradley beat the Éire Óg defence to goal at the midway stage. Eight minutes later, Denise Cronin picked up a long Leah Weste clearance before beating three defenders to finish to the net.

Now, with the title in sight,

Ballincollig drove for the finishing post and it was fitting that it was Cronin who pointed a free as they stretched their lead to two points.

Despite several minutes injury time, Éire Óg, try as they might, were unable to breach the solid Ballincollig defence who were not going to be denied their hour of glory.

BALLINCOLLIG: Ciara Mc Swenney, Jenny Cotter, Claire O'Donovan, Aoife Cotter, Laura O'Leary, Maria O' Donoghue, Brona O'Callaghan, Denise Cronin (1-4), Darrinka Fenton, Fiona Kearney (1-1), Mag's O'Sullivan, Victoria St Ledger (1-0), Claire Ryan, Leah Weste, Noreen Bradley (2-0).

ÉIRE ÓG: Lisa Marie O' Mahony, Siobhan Gleeson, Deirdre Twomey, Ciara O'Connell, Lorraine Murphy, Chloé Mc Carlin, Sarah O'Donovan, Claire Purcell, Katie McCarthy, Ella Kelleher, Margaret O' Hurlin (1-2), Denise Cronin, Kate O' Flynn (1-0), Aoife McCarthy (1-0), Erin Corkery (2-0).

MARCH 2005

Border country

THE men of Milford not only have Limerick-born wives, they also have Limerick mothers, natural enough for a Co Cork village only a mile and a half from the Limerick border.

Ann Watson, who played on the Limerick camogie team which won an All-Ireland club championship in 1975, married Milford man Tony Watson in 1983. "Nearly every woman married here in Milford is a Limerick woman. All the Cork men crossed the border to find wives. Our own boundary ditch is along the border," says the mum of four, whose three daughters "had a hurley in their hand as soon as they could stand".

About 10 years ago, Ann and Milford National School teacher Sheila Thompson started teaching local girls camogie skills, before entering them in Limerick schools' competitions and in community games in Cork. Success in Sciath Na Scol followed and Milford Camogie Club was set up in 1997.

"In the early 1990s, Newtownshandrum club got special leave to play with Limerick and we had to make a decision as to whether we'd do the same, but all the young ones here are dedicated to Cork — no way would they wear the green jersey. It would have been a lot easier for us if we had joined Limerick, in terms of distance, because if we travel to Barryroe or to Killeagh, it's 72 miles



Milford camogie players (from left) the captains of the Cork teams which won the All-Ireland under 16 camogie championships 2001-2003 - Maria Watson, 2001; Elaine O'Riordan 2002 and Anna Geary 2003; four captains of victorious Milford teams - Lelia Long, Emer Watson, Marie Broderick and Lisa Healy.

● **GRAHAM RESIGNS:** Tipperary Camogie County Board PRO Marion Graham has resigned.

Ms. Graham has given 23 years' unbroken service to the board, occupying many positions in both administration and also as a selector.

She said: "I can no longer work within the confines of Tipperary camogie," adding that she had made her decision after long and careful consideration.

She will continue to serve as Munster Council PRO.

from here — the same as going to Roscrea, where you'd have to go through two counties. Girls involved at county level have to do the 90-mile round trip to Cork twice a week."

But all the effort has paid off: the club has won every county title from under-12 to Senior B, as well as reaching the Féile Na nGael All-Ireland final in 1999 and the All-Ireland semi-final in 2000. And when Cork won their three-in-a-row All-Ireland Minor camogie matches in 2001-2003, the teams were captained by Milford girls: Maria Watson (2001), Elaine O'Riordan (2002) and An-

na Geary (2003).

And the tradition is set to continue, if recent successes are anything to go by — last Tuesday, the under-12 camogie team won the County Cork Sciath Na Scol competition at Neptune Stadium.

Indeed, if it wasn't for the girls of Milford, the juvenile GAA club couldn't field an under-12 team. "We need girls to field a team because there's a shortage of boys," says juvenile GAA chairman Jim O'Flynn. "The Liscarroll team had four or five girls in the football when they were under-14, but not anymore. When we played them at under-16 level,

Milford hammered Liscarroll, so they missed their girls."

But Milford's declining population is an issue for GAA. "Compared to a generation ago, there's only half the population living in Milford now. In the 1980s there used to be up to 170 pupils in the school, now it's down to 89. In

MARCH 2005

Cork Juniors Impress again

THIS was a third weekend in a row of league action for Cork juniors and following impressive displays over Dublin and Offaly away from home this time out it was a home tie and a meeting with a Kilkenny who lost out to Tipperary last week. From the start Cork looked very determined and a pointed Hazel O'Regan free gave them an early lead.

With Ciara Healy performing well at full-forward Cork settled and points from Healy, Orla Coughlan and Emer

O'Friel stretched the lead before Ciara Healy blasted to the net from close range as Cork dominated in all sectors.

Kilkenny's Kelly Ann Cottrell pointed after eighteen minutes but the Cork response ensured they would hold the upper hand as Mary Coleman connected superbly with an over head volley to the net from a Ciara Healy cross.

Twice the sides exchanged points as Kilkenny finished the half with points from Amy Butler and Kelly Ann

Cottrell but it was Cork who held a 2-9 to 0-4 interval lead.

Hazel O'Regan pointed a Cork free on the restart with Mary Buckley and Ciara Healy repeating the feat to which Kilkenny replied with one from Ann Dalton. Kilkenny did work hard to get into the game but could never match Cork's determination, they did get a goal back as Amy Butler beat the Cork defence at the midway stage but Cork quickly replied with four points in a row from Ciara Healy, Mary Coleman, Deirdre Coomey and substitute Clodagh Deasy.

Ann Dalton had a late Kilkenny point but it was Clodagh Deasy who had the final say with a goal as Cork ran out convincing winners.

Selector Liz O'Mahony was pleased with the sides display and now looks forward to their remaining game with Tipperary. "We played well and it's another two points secured, Tipp now await on April 21st and we will focus now on that."

UNDER 12 INDOOR CAMOGIE BLITZ

ON Sunday last Ballinhassig once again held a very successful under 12 indoor blitz in Riverstick writes Mary Newman.

After some hectic games Ballinhassig 'A' emerged to meet Ballinhassig 'B' in the shield final with the 'A' side coming out on top while in the plate final victory went to Ballygarvan. On Sunday next the action continues when it's the turn of the under 11's and certainly the Ballinhassig club are to be complimented on a superbly organised days camogie.

With Mary Newman



Congratulations to Jennifer O'Leary is the 96/103FM GAA Cork Sports Person of the Month for February. She is pictured receiving her Award at the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Ger Bonus

JENNIFER SCOOPS 96/103 FM AWARD

ANOTHER great week for camogie as Jennifer O'Leary from UL and Barryroe was named as the 96/103FM Sports Person of the Month for February.

On Friday last Jennifer became the first camogie player to be chosen and she accepted the award at a lunch in the Rochestown Park Hotel accompanied by her family and club representatives.

Chairperson Marion McCarthy and Secretary Pat Murray represented the County Camogie Board and Marion spoke highly of Jennifer's contribution to the game both at colleges, club and county level.

Jennifer was the unanimous choice of the judging panel following a tremendous Ashbourne Cup performance as she led UL to their third title contributing ten points out of twelve in an exciting final.

Earlier in the season Jennifer recorded another first when she was named on the inaugural Camogie all-star team, again congratulations and well done to a very worthy winner.



Jim Forbes, Chairman GAA County Board, Liam Lally, General Manager Rochestown Park Hotel, Jennifer O'Leary, February Winner, Marion McCarthy, Chairperson Cork Camogie Board at the 96/103FM GAA Cork Sports Person of the Month for February Award Lunch at the Rochestown Park Hotel. Picture: Ger Bonus

Well deserved honour for Jennifer

"I WAS shocked but delighted to get the phone call", the words of Jennifer O'Leary when accepting the 96/103FM GAA Sports Star of the month award for February in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel at the monthly presentation last Friday.

Jennifer was honoured for her outstanding display in the Ashbourne Cup final when leading her college University of Limerick to their second successive victory in this most prestigious of competitions on the Camogie calendar.

Camogie Board Chairperson Marion McCarthy said "it is a fitting honour for Jennifer who has been an outstanding player for both club and county over the years and the recipient of a Camogie All-Star back in December".

Liam Lally General Manager Rochestown Park Hotel was also full of praise for Jennifer saying he was "delighted that Camogie was being honoured and wish the Cork teams all the best in the coming season".

Jim Forbes Chairman Cork County Board congratulated Jennifer on her well deserved award and paid tribute to the Camogie Board for their wonderful contribution to the Association and he also thanked 96/103FM and the Rochestown Park Hotel for their continued support further enhanced by the decision of the Hotel to sponsor the Premier and Intermediate Hurling Leagues for the coming year.

Jennifer was accompanied by her family, and her father an avid Man United fan was in great form celebrating his birthday. Kathleen McCarthy Secretary Barryroe Camogie Club, Paddy Murphy Barryroe GAA Club, Pat Murray County Camogie Secretary also attended, as did Inside Cork and 96/103FM Camogie Correspondent Mary Newman.

John Motherway PRO GAA Board was especially proud as Jennifer is a relation of his, Declan Walsh from neighbouring Timoleague joined in the celebration as did Bob Honohan, Eddie Lyons and Jim Larkin from Inside Cork, the latter not to be impressed by his new nickname, which we will not print.

Elaine and Gemma from 96FM were also present and Liam Lally received a nice presentation of a montage of photographs from last December's gala banquet.

Jennifer now of course is in contention, along with January winner Michael Prout, for the overall award for 2005 and who knows come September she may along with her Cork colleagues be back in Croke Park bidding to win the All-Ireland title.

TWO OUT OF TWO FOR SENIORS

CORK never looked in any danger of losing this senior national league clash with a Kilkenny side who last weekend surprised champions Tipperary to take the points on offer, this time out it was Cork who had the points secured long before the full time whistle.

With Captain Elaine Burke finding the net inside ten minutes of the start Cork held the upper hand on a Kilkenny side who found it hard to break down a strong Cork defence.

Cork held a four point interval lead and were full value for it, Sinead Millea opened the Kilkenny scoring with a sixteenth minute point and two minutes later Millea repeated the feat as Cork led 1-2 to 0-2, points from Jennifer O'Leary and Burke stretching the advantage.

Rachel Moloney and Una O'Donoghue had extended the lead with points before the hard working Bridgid Mullally pointed for Kilkenny as Cork led 1-4 to 0-3 at half-time.

Inside a minute of the restart Emer Dillon had a Cork point but Kilkenny had the lead down to a goal quickly with Catherine Doherty and Sinead Millea pointing.

Cork's Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary ensured the lead was extended with points as Kilkenny struggled to keep in touch.

The game was effectively finished as a contest when Una O'Donoghue finished well to the net after Emer Dillon's effort came back off the post.

Kilkenny did win a penalty but Sinead Millea only managed to point.

Jennifer O'Leary had three points without reply as Cork used to victory. Focus of attention now switches to the meeting with League and All-Ireland champions Tipperary on Sunday, April 17 and with a home venue Cork will be confident of upsetting the champions and securing a place in the latter stages of the league.

Re-grading is essential for better future

I WAS asked to attend the Competitions Review Committee in Croke Park on January 22 last. I obliged and am now its secretary.

The objective is to "conduct a review of all competitions under the auspices of Ardchomhairle" which shall include the following: Review the format and structure of each intercounty competition; review the promotion and relegation to each competition; the grading and re-grading of players and counties and the criteria applied in respect of the same.

We are to submit a report to Ardchomhairle from which motions can be submitted to Annual Congress 2006.

There are four of us officially on the committee, with all four provinces represented.

The committee have now met for the second time and have agreed a process for this review which primarily involves widespread consultation with the camogie membership.

A questionnaire will be posted on the website during the middle of March so that all interested parties can express their opinions and contribute to the debate.

We are interested in the views of Managers and coaches, who are preparing teams for inter-county competitions, the players, administrators and officials.

The relevant data obtained will be compiled. A professional facilitator will organise and chair a workshop in May/June which will be designed to further hear people's views first hand and help the committee formulate recommendations for change.

We are hoping that with the help of the entire membership we can redesign structures fit for the modern game.

The team are committed to openness and transparency in their deliberations and intend to continually update the membership with a competitions committee report following every meeting.

The important point is that this is too important a task to be left to a few individuals.

Many people have issues with various aspects of our intercounty rules and regulations.

Re-grading of players is high on the agenda for junior counties who feel that the junior championship is now only an opportunity for strong senior counties to field second teams.

I tend to agree with this. We have this crazy structure

in place at the moment which allows any player who does not possess an All-Ireland senior medal (or intermediate) to play junior in the same year.

You could be one of the best players in the country, play senior for your county for 10 years and never win a medal. Our present system affords this player the opportunity to tog out every other week and run riot at junior level.

Last year, Wexford's first team (senior) played Kildare's first team (junior) in the junior Leinster championship. Wexford annihilated their opponents by 21 points.

The following week Wexford fielded the exact same team against Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior championship semi-final and could have won the game. Where's the reasoning in that?

Kildare were completely dejected.

It should be operated like the present club system. You play a senior championship game and you are graded senior and senior only for that sporting year.

At intercounty level that senior status should hold for a longer period of time.

It's areas like this which are open to the membership for debate. This is the chance to speak up.

The committee have begun to do some statistical analysis and while one might have always been aware of certain issues, seeing it in black and white certainly brings it home.

For example, I've mentioned before the fact that we need more quality teams at senior level. The same few counties compete seriously for honours year after year.

In the last 20 years only six counties competed in an All-Ireland senior final — Cork, Kilkenny, Tipp, Galway, Wexford, and Dublin.

In the last 10 years, only four counties have reached an All-Ireland senior final — Cork, Tipp, Kilkenny and Galway.

Frightening statistics.

What of the next 10 years? We need to bring on the junior and minor counties and change this. It all goes back to development. We need to create more games, more under age competitions.

I'm a firm believer though that you do not make change just for the sake of being seen to do so. We have to ensure quality as well as quantity. Sure we want more teams playing senior but not if they can't hold themselves at that level.

Let's see what we can do.



Linda Mellerick



Limerick stars Vera Sheehan and Rose Collins

WELL DESERVED AWARD FOR JENNIFER

THE February winner of the 96/103 FM GAA Sports Star of the month in association with the Rochestown Park Hotel is camogie player Jennifer O'Leary from Barryroe.

Jennifer is being honoured for her outstanding display in leading her college the University of Limerick to glory in the Ashbourne Cup the most prestigious trophy in third level camogie, on a par with the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups and some of the games most outstanding players have won this most sought after medal.

In the final Jennifer played a captains role scoring ten of her side's twelve points as UL retained the 'cup' and gave this talented player her second medal, who also is the holder of an All-Ireland senior medal and hoping I am sure to add to this in the coming season as Cork bid to wrestle the title from Tipperary.

Jennifer was the unanimous choice of the judging panel and she will be presented with her award at a lunch in the Rochestown Park Hotel on Friday.