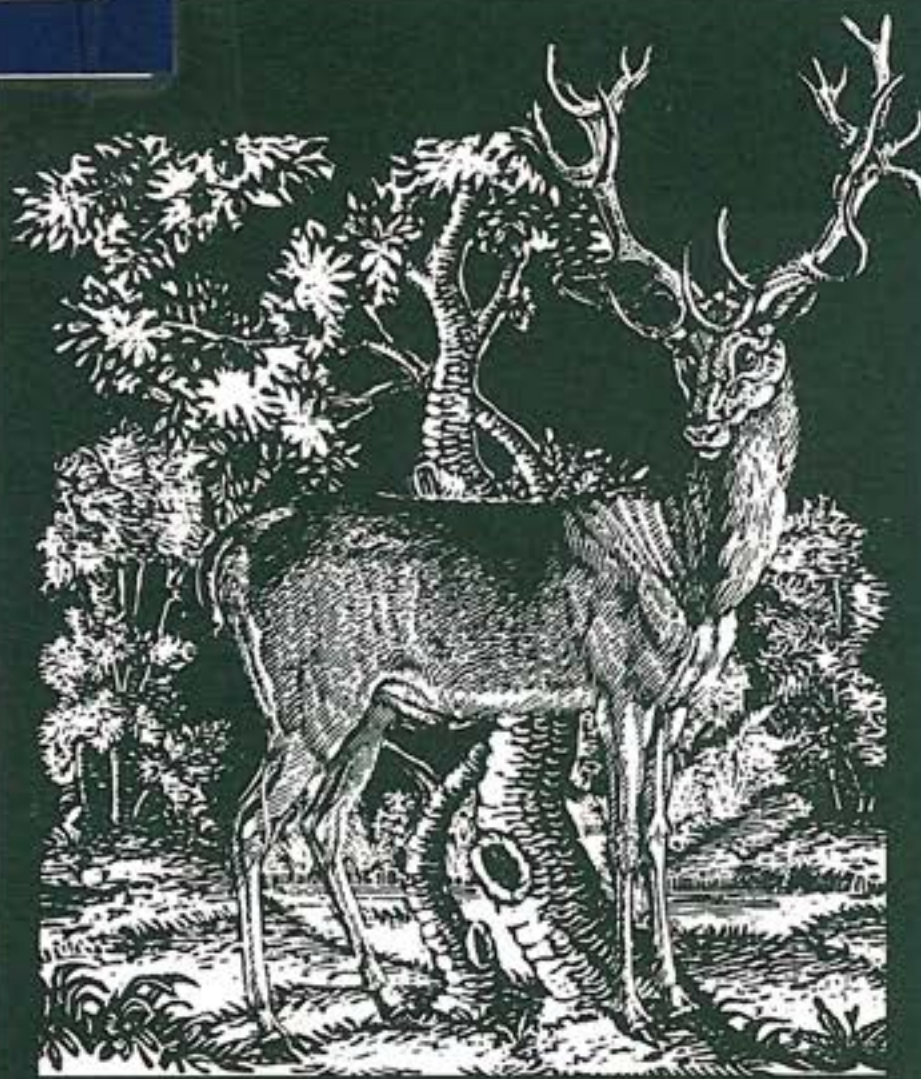


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AUG 2000

All-Ireland Minor 'B' Camogie Final

Super Laois turn on the style

REPORT BY: KEVIN CORRIGAN

Laois9-14
Tyrone2-1

SUPER Laois assured their place in the camogie history books when capturing the inaugural All-Ireland Minor 'B' title at an immaculate O'Connor Park, Tullamore on Saturday last.

An astounding thirty four points separated the sides at the final whistle, and was a fair reflection on the amazing gap in standard between these two counties.

Apart from the opening stages when Tyrone gave

them some food for thought, Laois were in control throughout this game. Their defence were spectators for almost the entire hour but when Tyrone exerted pressure in the opening quarter, they were equal to the task.

Aileen O'Loughlin and Emma McEvoy were outstanding at midfield and did as they wished against a beleaguered Tyrone pairing.

And the scoreline, is perhaps the best was of describing Laois' attacking performance. Up front the O'Moore County were superbly sharp. They took a sequence of quality scores, and some of their approach play was delightful. The statistic that just a solitary point came from a free shows just how potent the Laois attack was.

All six players up front played their part but when Laois look back on this win in years to come, the performances of a couple of players will be spoken of with particular reverence.

Wing half forward, Eilish Dowling was the player of the match. The Carmoss player was small in stature but by God she was big in heart, and a giant in terms of skill and stick work. Eilish scored 5-1, and her opportunism in front of goal was a joy to behold. She caused damage



Mary Cleary heads upfield.

on the wing in the first half, in the second half when moved to full forward, she was positively lethal.

Grace Weston was also a match winner. The scorer of 3-2, she struck terror into the Tyrone defence every time she gained possession. Louise Mahony played a captain's part on the wing, striking six wonderful points, Sinead Lanham

took her chances well, and full forward Catriona Phelan also made her presence felt.

There was a carnival atmosphere surrounding this final, due to the vocal backing of both counties' supporters, and the presentation by the camogie body.

It was Tyrone who made the better start. Less than a

minute had elapsed when a Susan McCann sideline went straight to the net to give Tyrone a dream start. Playing with wind advantage in the first half, Tyrone looked like they would make a game out of it. They tore into every challenge with passion and determination and the more skilful Laois side were not given a second to breathe.

Tyrone penned Laois back in their own half for the opening three minutes, but significantly Laois' first attack was a decisive one with Sinead Lanham finding the net from close range after a Grace Weston shot dropped short.

However, Tyrone were battling terrifically hard and they regained the lead less than a minute later with

The scorers

Laois: Eilish Dowling 5-1, Grace Weston 2-3, Sinead Lanham 2-2, Louise Mahony 0-6 (one free), Mary Cleary 0-2.

Tyrone: Susan McCann 1-1 (sideline and free), Cathy McNally 1-0.

The teams

LAOIS: Elaine Mahony; Caroline Bermingham, Ciara Lanigan, Aine Lawlor; Orla Ryan, Sarah Cuddy, Anna Campion; Aileen O'Loughlin, Emma McEvoy; Eilish Dowling, Mary Cleary, Louise Mahony; Grace Weston, Catriona Phelan, Sinead Lanham. Subs - Patricia Dunphy (for Caroline Bermingham), Fiona Delaney (for Orla Ryan).

TYRONE: Lynda McCauley; Grainne O'Neill, Frances Bigley; Julie Mullin; Madonna Ryan, Sinead McGroary, Ciara Murtagh; Carolyn Bell, Shauna McGonigal; Laura Herron, Susan McCann, Shauna Hagan; Joanne O'Neill, Donna Darcy, Kerry Scullion. Subs - Catriona McNally (for Grainne O'Neill), Jackie McCauley (for Madonna Ryan).

Referee - Liam Davitt (Westmeath).



Sarah Cuddy clears a rare Tyrone attack.



Anna Campion displaying sure footing against Tyrone.

AUG. 2000

All-Ireland Minor 'B' Camogie Final

to capture All-Ireland title



Laois Minor Camogie panel prior to their All Ireland win at O'Connor Park, Tullamore.

flying colours, and Grace Weston's 22nd minute goal put Laois firmly in the driving seat. Laois dominated the remainder of the half, but were guilty of some bad misses. Eilish Dowling hit the side netting, and Laois also hit four wides, but the manner in which they were penetrating the Tyrone defence - They looked like getting goals every time they attacked - suggested that it would not be long before the floodgates open.

A Grace Weston point gave Laois a 3-4 to 1-1 half time lead, and while a betting man would happily have put his life savings on a Leinster win, few foresaw the avalanche of scores that came in the second half.

Playing devastating attacking camogie, Laois were totally rampant. Just fifty six seconds had elapsed when Eilish Dowling had the ball in the net for a second time. At half time Tyrone, obviously aware of the threat of the Laois attack, moved wing forward Laura Herron to corner back, and while Herron battled bravely, it was like asking a paper bag to stop the path of a hurricane.

A full ten minutes had elapsed before Tyrone got the ball past the half way line. In the mean time, Laois had chalked up scores with alarming ease. Louise Mahony pointed twice, Mary Cleary scored a fine point and Eilish Dowling and Grace Weston got in for goals to put Laois 6-7 to 1-1 ahead.

Tyrone were clearly a beaten team at this stage as some players began to drop their heads, but Laois did not ease off. Weston and Mary Cleary pointed before a point shot by Eilish Dowling dropped into the Tyrone net. Louise Mahony scored the point of the match from the right wing in the 16th minute. Sinead Lanham added a point when she could have went for goal, Mahony scored Laois' only point from a placed ball in the 22nd minute, and Lanham got in for a goal two minutes later.

There were loud cheers when Tyrone finally opened their second half scoring with a scrambled goal from substitute, Cathy McNally in the 26th minute, but it was too little too late and Laois finished with a flourish. Louise Mahony and Grace Weston pointed and Eilish Dowling's fifth goal was the final action of the match.

a Susan McCann free. Indeed, Susan McCann was shaping up as a potential match winner at this stage. Tremendously skilful, she caused Laois fierce problems in those opening minutes, but crucially Aileen O'Loughlin and Emma McEvoy took control at midfield.

An opportunist Eilish Dowling goal in the eight minute gave Laois a lead which they never looked like surrendering. Dowling, Sinead Lanham and Louise Mahony added points for the Laois girls, but Tyrone were still battling hard.

Unfortunately for the northerners they missed

some chances which they could ill afford to. Susan McCann went for goal from a free when taking her point would have been a more sensible option, and she also missed a scoreable free moments later.

For a period Tyrone turned the screw but the Laois defence passed with



Laois captain Louise Mahony holds the cup aloft.



Aileen O'Loughlin sends in this ball for Laois.

AUG.
2000

All-Ireland title for Laois Camogie

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Ca
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Page 9

Laois'
Millennium
Cycle tour
Page 20

Junior
Ladies go
down to
Kildare
Pages 6-7



■ Oulart-The Ballagh captain Clare Sinnott receives the Under-14 Shield from Anne O'Brien, Secretary of the Co. Camogie Board, after their league final success.

Galway stand between Tipp and another final place

By Gerry Slevin

Two years ago when Tipp stepped into senior ranks following success in the '97 All Ireland Intermediate final, it was the girls from Galway who deprived them of a place in the All Ireland final. Last year their paths didn't cross as Tipp moved on to take their first senior title. Kilkenny knocked out Galway in the quarter final but the Connacht girls are back one step nearer this year, having overcome Limerick in the quarter final and Saturday sees them bidding to dethrone the All Ireland champions in Parnell Park, Dublin.

This match, part of the double bill, with Cork and Wexford opening proceedings in the first semi final at 5pm, will have a 6.30pm start, both games having been moved to an evening setting from an afternoon one because of the Dublin/Kildare

ing and exciting circumstances last September.

'98 winning captain Maedhbh Stokes has yet to start a championship game this season and Saturday could well be the day for this to happen. Maedhbh came on late in the

there against Galway. Claire Grogan who came on just before half time in the semi final will probably be given a substitute's role once more and the corner forward berth likely to go to Grainne Shanahan or Niamh Harkin.

AT THEIR BEST

Tipp will need to be at their very best if their hopes of staying in contention for the millennium title are to remain alive. Galway have a very experienced line-up with fine players in Olivia and Anne Broderick, Tracey Laheen, Pamela Nevin, Therese Maher, Aine Hillery, Colette Nevin, Veronica Curtin, Anne Forde and of course Sharon Glynn who notched 2-6 in the league semi final.

Having put Tipp to the pin of their collar in that game, they are confident they can exert themselves even further for this most important clash and nothing less than a fully committed showing from the All Ireland champions will suffice if victory is to be achieved.

But Tipp know what they are up against and they have prepared well and there is a confidence in the camp that the experience of last year along with a greater degree of fitness levels all round, will see them through to their second successive final.

SILVERMINES
Silvermines scored a comprehensive 7-5 to 2-4 win in the first round of the Junior A championship against Cashel in the Ragg on Sunday last. The entire team contributed to this win. Silvermines played against the breeze in the first half - scores were level at half-time. Mary Coughlan showed great courage in getting a goal in the second half after which Silvermines settled and scored more freely. Scores were Maire (4-1), Joan (2-1), Mary (1-0) and Aileen (0-3). Well done to all and a special well done to our goalie Siobhan.

Our U16's will play Moneygall in the first round of the championship on Thursday, 10th in Dolla.

TOOMEVARA
Senior: Well done to our senior girls last Tuesday evening on their fine win over Drom-Inch in the semi-final. Not anticipating the fixture, the Toome' girls turned in a gritty display on the night to reach yet another senior final. Once again Cashel will provide the opposition in the final which is fixed for August 19th.



Team manager Michael Cleary and selector Jim Madden.

Leinster SFC final replay in Croke Park.

Tipp and Galway met in the league semi final in the Ragg with Tipp edging home in extra time. That put an end to Galway's league interest while Tipp went on to lose narrowly to Cork in the final before concentrating their attentions on the championship.

NOT TESTED

In truth, they haven't been tested so far in the premier competition, both Down and Clare in turn providing rather feeble opposition. But it will be an entirely different story on Saturday, Galway extremely determined to dethrone the champions and Tipp bidding to retain a title they won with such accomplishment and in nail bit-

league final against Cork and she also made a late appearance in the quarter final against Clare.

Coach Michael Cleary is hopeful the Kilsheelin native who plays with Cashel will be there from the throw-in on Saturday.

There are no other injury worries and while a team had not been finalised at time of writing, the defence will probably be the same as for the Clare game. Therese Brophy has made the transition from centre forward to wing back with ease and no little accomplishment while at the other end, Noelle Kennedy looked far more at home in the centre than the corner when moved there against Clare. She will probably start

Underdogs aiming to shock Cork

DAVID MEDCALF

Staff reporter

THE WEXFORD camogie team has every excuse to approach Parnell Park more in dread than anticipation on Saturday (5.15 p.m.). The record of recent seasons against Cork has been dismal, to put it at its kindest, and the Rebel girls will start the All-Ireland semi-final as the strongest of favourites.

Repeated drubbings by the Leesiders have marked the decline of Model camogie from a proud ranking as one of the top teams in the country as recently as 1994 when they reached the All-Ireland final. They ended the nineties barely hanging on to their senior status, overtaken by the likes of Galway, Tipperary and Limerick.

The latest manager called in to reverse the tide is Seamus Murphy of Rathnure, who has no illusions about the enormity of the task facing his team at the weekend. After all, he had to stand on the sideline at Paire Uí Rinn in Cork a few months ago as his side was demolished 4-12 to 0-8 in the National league.

Daunting prospects

He refuses to be negative about the daunting prospects for the Parnell Park re-match, this time in the supercharged atmosphere of the championship. 'You have to go up with one thing in mind, but that is to win,' he insists. 'The mood in the camp is good after the win against Dublin.'

But he does not need reminding that some of Cork's best known players played only a peripheral part in proceedings at Paire Uí Rinn. Lynda Mellerick only came on in the second-half and Fiona O'Driscoll watched the entire game from the substitute's bench, but with superb young players such as Caoimhe Harrington coming up through the ranks, the Rebels are not short of replacement talent.

In looking back at the league encounter, it is sobering to consider that a margin of 15 points actually represented an improvement (!) on previous form. It is also worth noting that, for the spring campaign, Murphy was able to call on the services of Aine Codd (St. Martin's), Michelle O'Leary (Rath-

nure), Aoife O'Connor (Rathnure), Tina Bergin (St. Martin's), Barbara Sluuds (Oylegate) and Emma Carroll (St. Ibar's).

All six are no longer available, through a combination of summer emigration and illness. Such wholesale defections, though they may be inevitable, underline the recurrent problems besetting Wexford camogie at Senior level. The current manager has been given a hard grounding in the facts of sporting life since calling his first squad session in January.

Preparations for Saturday's big game have been affected not only by changes of personnel but also by the difficulty of setting up a regular pattern for training. The availability of practice pitches and the demands of clubs are only a small part of the problems facing the boss and his co-selectors Peggy Kelly and Noel Ryan.

The fact is that camogie is now playing second fiddle to football when it comes to being the premier women's sport in the county. Last weekend, a number of the best Wexford camogie players were involved with their football clubs in important championship games.

The likes of Rose Mary Breen, along with the St. Ibar's/Shelmallers quintet of Michelle Murphy, Michelle Hearne, Laura Corrigan, Sandy Carr and Kate Kelly are all top-class performers with the big ball. No-one begrudges them their alternative achievement but it does lead to complications.

Other members of the camogie panel are dual stars in some other sense. For example, Bunclody forward Paula Rankin picked up a major shoulder injury in a

collision with a goalkeeper while going for a goal in a hockey match. That was in April and the dislocation was so bad that she did not expect to be ready for the camogie championship.

As a result, she booked her holidays in Lanzarote, only to find that her powers of recuperation were more effective than she thought. She appeared at centre half-forward against Dublin but she will only be available for the Cork match if a suitable flight can be found to bring her back from the Canaries in time.

Big worry

The other big worry surrounds Claire O'Connor who tore ankle ligaments in the victory at Oylegate. She was still dependent on crutches early last week, but the gutsy defender and the team mentors are confident that the Rathnure girl will be ready to line out in the corner.

Psychologically, the one great plus for Wexford is the ease of the manner in which they dismissed Dublin. The likes of Aoife Druhan (Bunclody) and Aoife O'Connor (Duffry Rovers) showed up well on their senior championship debuts.

Meanwhile, Rose Mary Breen (Monageer), Fiona Dunne (Oulart) and Avis Nolan (Monageer) all looked very sharp after being out of senior action for some time.

'Beating Dublin by such a margin has given us hope,' commented Orla Hernan. 'We are looking forward to the game with Cork now, though they have thrashed us loads of times in the past.' The trick will be to stay positive in Croke Park, to play like contenders and not to act scared.

On 'Breaking Ball'

IN PREPARATION for next Saturday's All-Ireland Senior semi-final clash with Cork at Parnell Park, 'Breaking Ball' will feature Wexford players Lennie Houlihan, the captain of the team, and her twin sister Bernie on the programme to be broadcast on RTE 1 on Friday next at 8.30 p.m.

The piece was filmed at their place of work, the Ferrycarrig Hotel, while the girls also displayed some of their camogie skills at the Oylegate pitch.

■ The All-Ireland Junior camogie championship semi-final between Laois and Cork, played last Monday at Mountrath, was refereed by Wexford's Jack O'Brien (Buffers Alley).

AUG 2000

Harris erasing horrible memories of 1999

VIVIENNE HARRIS has unfinished business to take care of in this year's All-Ireland camogie semi-final.

A year ago to the day, in Parnell Park, it all went horribly wrong. She left with that empty feeling as her Cork side was ditched out of the All-Ireland series.

On Saturday she will return to the same venue — different opposition, Wexford — but this time will be more memorable as another member of the family gets his

spoke in. Father and daughter are selector and captain respectively.

Sport is a cruel master. Twelve months of rehabilitation has not dulled the pain of that grey day in Dublin.

"It was a disaster. It is still there in the back of my mind. I suppose the only good thing is that we have learned from the defeat and we won't take anything for granted. A pack of the ball can change the whole game."

The 21-year-old, however, does

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN

not find any greater pressure having her father involved.

"Even when he wasn't a selector, he would tell me what I was doing right or wrong. He leaves me to play my own game," says Harris.

Pat Harris played hurling and football with Nemo Rangers around the time of Dinny Allen and Brian Murphy.

"It's great having Vivienne there. She was very young when she started off. My son was playing a Féile match with St Vincents in Bishopstown."

"We were out supporting him — it was then that she was asked to train with the Bishopstown team," he reveals.

She has not looked back since that day. Three county medals are her prized possession and a place in this month's county final.

Although Pat does admit to be-

ing nervous before big games, it is no different to when he was not officially involved.

"I get nervous anyway, even sitting in the stand watching the match. It is a lot more tense when you have someone involved, so you could say I get nervous for Vivienne too," he adds.

The big question now that remains to be answered — will there be reason for celebration in the Harris household come Sunday night?

A Parnell Park Pearl

Next Saturday will see the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland semi-finals going ahead in Parnell Park.

Tipperary, All-Ireland champions will be up against Galway, while Cork will face up to Wexford.

The Westerners under Tony Ward are looking very good this year, having already collected a first senior Gael-Linn title in 26 years. They beat Limerick in the All-Ireland quarter-final and will come up against stiff opposition when they meet Michael Cleary's Sliabh an mBan girls.

Wexford under manager Seamus Murphy will be severely tested by Cork who overcame Kilkenny by a single point in a tremendous quarter-final.

Wexford, who are without the services of Aine Codd and Michelle O'Leary — both in Boston for the Summer — overcame a disappointing Dublin side who will play Cork in the intermediate championship on Sunday.

Cork will be hoping to make up for the disappointment of their senior hurlers, and the O'Connor household in particular will be hoping that Paula can pick up an All-Ireland medal, to add to the one won by her brother Ben last year.

There is one family in Galway hoping for a double this year, they are the Broderick's, Kevin and Ann, senior hurler and Camogie players respectively.

Galway have a fine side this year and with Tracey Lahean in defence, Veronica Curtin and Therese Maher up front, we should expect a fine tussle between themselves and Tipperary.

Both these sides can boast of strong full forwards, Galway have played Sharon Glynn there with a lot of effect so far this year. However, if troubled they may bring her to midfield.

Tipperary have last year's Eireann Player of the Year Deirdre Hughes, a player who can be quiet for long periods of a game and then make a telling difference in a split second.

This match has all the hallmarks of being a close and exiting affair, as was their league semi-final meeting which Tipperary won after extra time. It is a very difficult one to call, but Galway might just shade it.

The second semi-final will see Wexford up against the favourites Cork, who will be very determined to make up for last year's disappointment in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Last Saturday Laois entered the history books when they won the inaugural All-Ireland minor B title with victory over Tyrone.

The minor A All-Ireland saw Galway take their first Corn Tailteann since 1997.

FORAS NA GAEILGE

The Cross border body responsible for promotion of the Irish language throughout the island of Ireland.



Veronica Curtin will give the Tipperary defence plenty of problems on Saturday

Cork forwards waiting to hear

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN

THE Cork senior camogie selectors have delayed naming their side to play Wexford in tomorrow's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland championship semi-final in Parnell Park.

Most concern centres on their scoring lines who, as a unit, are under-performing.

Against Kilkenny, the introduction of super-sub Clara Healy swung the game narrowly in Cork's favour, while they relied heavily on Fiona O'Driscoll for her point scoring.

Cork's rearguard is their strength and is almost certain to be the same at the quarter-final. Cora Keohane will be between the posts with the familiar trio of Denise Cronin, Eithne Duggan and Mags Finn in front of her.

The half-back line of Sarah Hayes, Mary O'Connor and Captain Vivienne Harris should stay as well.

Linda Mellerick looks poised for one of the midfield berths, with the possibility of Ursula Troy getting the nod for the second spot.

In the forward line, Fiona O'Driscoll and Sinead O'Callaghan have done enough to hold on to their places.

But with Clara Healy and Rachel Moloney pressing hard for inclusion, the remaining four positions will be chosen from Healy and Moloney, Una O'Donoghue, Paula O'Connor, Caoimhe Harrington and Elaine Burke.

Meanwhile, Wexford will have to plan without regular full-back Avis Nolan, who broke her wrist in a football game last Monday.

Doubt also surrounds the availability of Paula Rankin who is out of the country on holidays, but it is expected that she could be back in time for the 5.15pm throw-in.

Otherwise their line-up will be the same as against Dublin — when the inside forward line of Michelle Murphy, Kate Kelly and Aoife O'Connor amassed 3-10 of their impressive 4-12 tally.

Camogie Semi-Final

FOLLOWING their dramatic win over Kilkenny in the last round, Cork hit the road again when they travel to Dublin and a semi-final meeting with Wexford at 5.15pm on Saturday next. This will be followed by the second semi-final featuring Tipperary and Galway at 6.30pm.

Cork showed real battling qualities in winning the last time out, and will fancy their chances of making it back to the Final, and while they will not underestimate the challenge from Wexford they should not really trouble Cork if recent form is any guide.

Coach Tom Nott will have emphasised the need for caution but they are to experienced and have too many good players to slip up at this stage.

Also, they will be keen to join the junior team who, by virtue of their fine win over Laois have already secured a final

Connolly stars as Galway minors prove too strong for Wexford in decider

Aug.

2000

Galway 2-9
Wexford 0-3

Following the disappointment of the last two years when the Galway minor camogie team lost out to Cork by one point on both occasions, they recaptured the All-Ireland title on Saturday last in Tullamore in much easier fashion than they had expected.

Even though the first score came from Wexford's Caroline Murphy Galway had already spurned chances and when Emma Kilkelly put the sides level at one point each on five minutes the Galway girls never looked back.

With Susan Earner bringing off two excellent saves in the Galway goal and captain Roisin O'Connor and Darrelle Coen commanding full-back and centre-back respectively, Wexford could not find a way through.

A fine run from Camogie Association Player of the Game Aislinn Connolly set-up Cathy Bowes for Galway's second point on eight minutes and Connolly added another point shortly afterwards.

At this stage, Galway were totally in control and when a long ball from Shauna Murphy found wing-forward Deirdre Burke inside the Wexford defence, she shot their first goal. Any Wexford attempt to come back into this game even at this stage was thwarted by the dominance of the Galway backs and midfielders Shauna Murphy and Nicola Gavin.

Close to half-time Galway's second goal came from Cathy Bowes when she kicked to the net after a long clearance from Darrelle Coen. Galway now



CHAMPIONS . . . the Galway minor camogie team which defeated Wexford in the All-Ireland final at Tullamore. Back row, left to right: Maresse Flanagan, Edel Pierce, Shauna Murphy, Aoife Doherty, Roisin O'Connor (captain), Michelle Raymond, Deirdre Burke, Catherine Moran. Front row: Emma Kilkelly, Rebecca Lally, Nicola Gavin, Aislinn Connolly, Cathy Bowes, Durrelle Coen, Susan Earner, Lorraine Lally.

introduced Katherine Glynn for Rebecca Lally before Lorraine Lally was denied a goal by an excellent save from the Wexford 'keeper Ursula Jacob. At half time, Galway playing against the breeze, led by 2-3 to 0-1.

The expected Wexford comeback in the second half never materialized and Galway's Lorraine Lally extended the lead when she pointed and this score was added to shortly afterwards by an Emma Kilkelly point after wing-back Aoife Doherty broke through the Wexford defence.

Wexford did have a goal chance midway through the half but 'keeper Susan Earner and Roisin O'Connor cleared and the excellent Michelle Raymond and Catherine

Moran were always on top. Aislinn Connolly pointed two frees to extend the Galway lead to 2-7 with Wexford failing to score until the 22nd minute of the half when Clara O'Connor pointed a free and 'keeper Ursula Jacob found the target after she was moved out the field. However, this was too little too late for Wexford. Subsequently Galway introduced sub Gemma Kelly with time running out. She quickly made her mark by shooting

two excellent points to help Galway capture their eighth minor title.

On the day this was a great team performance from 'keeper Susan Earner to corner forward Cathy Bowes. Captain Roisin O'Connor accepted the Cup and thanked everyone involved, the management team, the County Board and players. Later on at the reception for the teams the Camogie President, Pat Raftery presented Aislinn Connolly with the Player of

the Match.

Galway: Susan Earner, Catherine Moran, Roisin O'Connor, Michelle Raymond, Edel Pierce, Darrelle Coen, Aoife Doherty, Shauna Murphy, Nicola Gavin, Deirdre Burke, Lorraine Lally, Aislinn Connolly, Rebecca Lally, Emma Kilkelly, Cathy Bowes. Subs: Katherine Glynn, Gemma Kelly, Maresse Flanagan, Anne-Marie Hayes, Pam Huban, Miriam Kerins, Sarah Donoghue, Catriona Kelly and Niamh Hanney.

Camogie

An injury time point from a 45 by Swatragh full-forward Paula McAtamney levelled a thrilling Ulster club quarter-final against Liatroim Fontenoy's (1-12 to 2-9).

The result provides Comhairle Uíadha with a fixtures headache for the replay. With Down scheduled to play an All-Ireland Intermediate semi-final next weekend the replay could go ahead on August 26 or 27. But that will not please Derry, a week ahead of their All-Ireland final in Croke Park, in which seven Swatragh players are involved.

Liatroim Fontenoy's: J Brown, E O'Higgins, M O'Higgins, A Morgan, C McGovern, D Mullan, R Cunningham, S McGovern (0-1 free), B Gallagher, C McCrickard (0-2 frees), M Murray (0-4, 0-3 frees), L McCrickard, E McCrickard (2-0), C McGovern (0-1), L Quinn (0-1).

Swatragh: M McAtamney, A McGuckin, C Scullion, J McKeagney, Bernice O'Loughlin, G Maguire (0-1 free), P McKenna, A O'Loughlin, B McGuckin, C McNicholl, A Tohill, M O'Kane, M Kirkpatrick, P McAtamney (1-11, 0-9 frees), D O'Doherty.

Subs: U Mullan for M Kirkpatrick, N O'Hagan for B McGuckin
Referee: Catherine McAllister (Antrim)



Colette Nevin, Ann Forde, Carmel Hannon, Ann Broderick, Olivia Broderick who are all survivors of Galway's 1996 All-Ireland senior camogie triumph.



VICTORY JOY . . . Galway minor captain Roisin O'Connor accepts the first All-Ireland camogie title of the Millennium after their victory over Wexford.



Cluichí Leathcheannais na Sinsear, 2000, sa Chamógaíocht

**Corcaigh
v
Loch
Garman**

5.15 i.n.

**An
Ghaillimh
v
Tiobraid
Árann**

6.30 i.n.

**faoi urraíocht ag
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An Ghaillimh 4-13
Lulmeach 1-06

Corcaigh 2-10
Cill Chainnigh 1-12

Tiobraid Árann 4-15
An Clár 0-05

Loch Garman 4-12
Áth Cliath 0-04

The four counties involved in the Semi-Finals today have experienced contrasting fortunes in the long history of Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear, a competition which was inaugurated in 1932.

Corcaigh atá chun tosaigh ar na contaetha eile. Corcaigh has contested thirty-three of the sixty-eight Finals played to date and, with nineteen titles, is second in the Roll of Honour. It contested and won its first Final in 1934. Roimhe sin a bhain An Ghaillimh an Cluiche Ceannais amach amach. An Ghaillimh reached the inaugural Final of 1932 and the second in the following year, and contested ten Finals in all. The county had a long wait until 1996 before it brought Com Ua Dubhthaigh to Cúige Connacht for the first time.

Loch Garman, like Corcaigh, won the first final which it contested but, with the dominance of Áth Cliath in Leinster, had to wait until 1968 to make its historic breakthrough. In all, Loch Garman won three of the eight Finals which it reached. d'Fhan Tiobraid Árann ar Chluiche Ceannais deiridh an chéid chun an corn a bhuachaint. 1949 saw Tiobraid Árann in the Final for the first time and, having suffered disappointment on seven occasions in all, raised the cup with pride after the last Final of the last millennium.

Corcaigh agus Loch Garman last met in a Semi-Final in 1997 with Corcaigh going on to win the Final. An Ghaillimh agus Tiobraid Árann last met in 1998 with An Ghaillimh reaching the Final only to be defeated by Corcaigh.

Beidh fonn ortha uilig an chéad Chluiche Ceannais den mhílaois nua a bhaint amach. Sár-chluichí go raigh eatarthu inniu.

Na Buaiteoirí, Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear
Áth Cliath (26), Corcaigh (19), Cill Chainnigh (12),
Aontroim (6), Loch Garman (3),
An Ghaillimh (1), Tiobraid Árann (1)

Corcaigh

Tomás Nott (Bainisteoir)
Pádraig Ó hEarchaí
Róis Uí Mhaca
Aingel Uí Shiocháin

An Ghaillimh

Tony Mac an Bháird (Bainisteoir)
Áine Ní Bholgáir
Pádraig Mac Giollamh

Loch Garman

Seamas Ó Murchú (Bainisteoir)
Peigi Ní Cheallaigh
Nollaig Ó Riain

Tiobraid Árann

Micheál Ó Cléirigh (Bainisteoir)
Brid Mhic Philib
Seamas Ó Madáin

Na Foirne Bainistíochta

Teachtaireacht ón Uachtarán



Pádraigh Ní Raifeartaigh

Cuirimse fíor-chaoin fáilte roimh chách chuig Cluichí Leathcheannais na hÉireann de Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear, agus go háirithe, fearaim mór-tháilte roimh ár gcairde dílse ó Fhoras na Gaeilge atá linn um thráthnóna. Táimid go mór faoi chomaoín ag Foras na Gaeilge, príomh-urraí an Chumann. Táimse cinnte de go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as imeachtaí an lae inniu. Imreoirí den chéad scoth a bheidh ar an bpáirc, agus táimid ag tnúth le sár-chluichí idir Corcaigh agus Loch Garman agus idir An Ghaillimh agus Tiobraid Árann.

Is mór ar fad againn é an tacaíocht a thugann Coiste Átha Cliath, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, dúinn i gcóir agus gabhaim buíochas faoi leith le foireann Pháirc Pharnell as ucht a rinneadar ar ár son don lá inniu. Gabhaim buíochas chomh maith le Coiste Camógalocta Átha Cliath agus leo siúd ar fad ó na Clubanna atá ag obair go dian, mar is gnáthach dóibh, ar an ócáid seo.

Tá súil againn go mbeidh tráthnóna taitneamhach againn uilig.

Pádraigh Ní Raifeartaigh

Corcaigh v Loch Garman



An Ghaillimh v Tiobraid Árann



Na Maoir Chvúil & Na Maoir Líne

Cuirtear fáilte is fiche roimh na Réiteoirí, Seán agus Áine, atá i bhfeighil na gCluichí Leathcheannais inniu.

Seán Ó Muiriosá is a member of the camógaloctha club in Durlas Éile and he played hurling for Naomh Mhuire, Clusain Meala. Réiteoir oile atá i Seán agus a chuid déanta ag gach leibhéal den Chumann aige. Seán refereed the All-Ireland Junior Championship Finals in 1997 and 1999 and the All-Ireland Senior Championship Final in 1998. He has refereed at all Inter-County and Inter-Provincial grades.

Ionadaí: Miriam Uí Cheallacháin Uilbh Fháighle

Aine Derham plays her camógaloctha with Cumann Celtic, Áth Cliath, and, like her colleague, Seán, has refereed at every level of the Association. She has been in charge of the Senior All-Ireland Championship Final on four occasions. Chomh maith lena cuid saothair i mbun na feadóg, blonn Áine gnóthach i gcóir riaracháin. Áine is a former Rúnaí and Cisteoir of Coiste Átha Cliath and served on Lárchoiste na Réiteoirí.

Ionadaí: Seán Ó Piondaí, Cill Dara.

Go n-éirí go geal leo uilig inniu.

Cúl: S. Uí Dhubháil, S. Ní Dhubháil,
C. Ní Bháin, S. Ní an Ghail (Tiobraid Árann)
Líne: M. Ní Cheallacháin (Uilbh Fháighle),
S. Ó Piondaí (Cill Dara)

Cúl: G. de Búrca, P. Ní Chóirín,
C. Ní Eodáin, M. Ní Nuanáin (Áth Cliath)
Líne: E. Ní Ámáil (An Dún),
S. Ó Piondaí (Cill Dara)

Na Cluichí amach anseo Forthcoming Fixtures

An Craobhchomórtas Idircheannach

Lúnasa (August)

13 An Cluiche Ceathrúcheannais
Corcaigh v Áth Cliath
Naomh Fionnbharr, Corcaigh, 12.30 i.n.

20 Na Cluichí Leathcheannais
Aontroim v Lulmeach
Páirc Mhac Easmainn, Béal Feirste, 1.30 i.n.

An Dún v Corcaigh/Áth Cliath

Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear agus an Sóiscar de Foras na Gaeilge

Meán Fómhair (September) Páirc an Chrócaigh

03 Sinsear 3.30 i.n.
Corcaigh/Loch Garman
v
An Ghaillimh/Tiobraid Árann

Sóisear 1.30 i.n. Corcaigh v Doire

17 An Craobhchomórtas Idircheannach
An Cluiche Ceannais

Bígi linn

Cuirtear fáilte roimh
na Meáin
Chumarsaíde
atá i láthair
agus gabhtar
buiochas leo.

Highlights of today's
matches will be
shown on the
"Provincial Game"
on
Irish Multi Channel
on next
Wednesday/Thursday
8.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Na Mionúir, 2000

Tréaslaítear leis na
Mionúir a bhain
Cluichí Ceannais na
hÉireann amach le
déanaí:
Mionúir A
An Ghaillimh
Loch Garman
Mionúir B
Laois, Tir Eoghain.
Tréaslaítear leis na
buaiteoirí:
An Ghaillimh
Laois
(a bhuaidh Craobh
na hÉireann don
chéad uair ariamh).

Focal buióchais

Gabhhtar buíochas ó chroí le Coiste Átha Cliath, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, a chuir Páirc Pharnell ar fáil dúinn agus a chabhras go mór linn leis an réamhuilmhúchán. Táimid go mór faoi chomaoín ag Coiste Camógalocta Átha Cliath chomh maith, ag na clubanna éagsúla atá ag cabhrú linn inniu agus ag na himreoirí óga atá páirteach in obair an lae inniu.

Gura fada buan iad uilig



An Ghaillimh

Marúin agus Bán

Foras na Gaeilge



ar chúl (á chúl): C. Ní Mhuir, L. O'Connell, R. Ní Bhradair, Á. Ní an Bháird, T. Ní Mheachair, T. Ní Laidin, Á. Ní Bhradair, O. Ní Bhradair, F. Ní Gheachair, S. Nig Fhloinn, L. Ní O'Connell, P. Ní O'Connell, M. Nig Fhloinn, Á. Ní Argáin.

chean tsaigh (á chúl): E. Ní O'Connell, D. Ní O'Connell, O. Ní O'Connell, R. Nig Fhloinn, Á. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, M. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, Á. Ní O'Connell, F. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell, Á. Ní O'Connell, K. Ní O'Connell.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1 Fiona Ní Gheachair Fiona Gethery Davitts | 2 Tracy Ní Laidin Tracy Laidin Na Piarasigh | 3 Áine Ní Bhradair Ann Broderick, Davitts Captain | 4 Pamela Ní O'Connell Pamela Ní O'Connell Mullagh |
| 5 Martina Ní Ábhartach Martina Haverly Na Piarasigh | 6 Oilibhe Ní Bhradair Olivia Broderick Davitts | 7 Áine Ní Ighille Aine Hilary Na Piarasigh | 8 Ailbhe Ní Cheallaigh Ailbhe Kelly Davitts |
| 9 Cairméal Ní Annáin Cairméal Hannon Na Piarasigh | 10 Colette Ní O'Connell Colette Ní O'Connell Cappetaggie | 11 Treasa Ní Mheachair Theresa Maher Shamrocks | 12 Sandra Ní Thanaidheáin Sandra Tannan St Thomas |
| 13 Veronica Ní Cuirtin Veronica Curtin Craughwell | 14 Sharon Nig Fhloinn Sharon Glyn Na Piarasigh | 15 Áine Ní Gíollannáth Ann Forde Na Piarasigh | 16 Fiona Ní Éalaithe Fiona Healy, Craughwell |
| 17 Orla Ní Gíolla Cháinnigh Orla Kienney, Na Piarasigh | 18 Imelda Ní Oibicín Imelda Hobbes, Mullagh | 19 Cearúilín Ní Mhuirí Caroline Murray, St Thomas | 20 Rita Ní Bhradair Rita Broderick, Davitts |

6

2000

Foras na Gaeilge

Tiobraid Árann

6orm agus Órga



ar chúl (á chúl): S. Ó Madáin (Roghdaí), M. Ní Eardáin, C. Ní O'Connell, P. Bhuáin, L. Ní O'Connell, M. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell, T. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, K. Ní Eardáin, S. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, K. Ní O'Connell, L. Ní O'Connell.

chean tsaigh (á chúl): M. Ó O'Connell (Bainisteoir), D. Ní O'Connell, M. de Stok, G. Ní O'Connell, F. Ní O'Connell, E. Ní O'Connell, Á. Ní O'Connell, J. Ní O'Connell, E. Ní O'Connell, U. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, B. Ní O'Connell (Roghdaí).

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|--|--|--|---|
| 1 Jovita Ní Dhuibhshláine Jovita Delaney, Holycross Captain | 2 Siobhán Ní Cheallaigh Suzanne Kelly Toomevara | 3 Úna Ní Dhuibhir Una O'Dwyer Cashel | 4 Clár Ní Mhadáin Claire Madden Portroe |
| 5 Sinéad Ní Nialláin Sinéad Heaton Burgess | 6 Clara Nig Fhloinnbhairr Clara Gaynor Kilvane McDonagh | 7 Treasa Ní Bhróithe Theresa Brophy Burgess | 8 Eimilé Ní Eideáin Emily Hayden Cashel |
| 9 Aingeal Ní Diarmada Angela McDermott Knockavilla Kickhams | 10 Filimín Ní Fhógartaigh Philly Fogarty Cashel | 11 Noelle Ní Chinnéide Noelle Kennedy Toomevara | 12 Gráinne Ní Sheanacháin Gráinne Shanahan Toomevara |
| 13 Eimhear Ní Domhnaill Emer McDonnell Burgess | 14 Deirdre Ní Aodha Deirdre Hughes Toomevara | 15 Caitríona Ní Aonghusa Caitríona Hennessy Drom and Inch | 16 Laoighse Ní Ráin Louise Ryan, Holyross |
| 17 Mádhbh de Stók Madhbh Stokes, Cashel | 18 Niamh Ní Eardáin Niamh Harkin, Drom and Inch | 19 Clár Ní Ghrugáin Claire Grogan, Templemore | 20 Siobhán Ní Ráin Joanne Ryan, Drom and Inch |

7

Gaeilge

Loch Garman

Conra agus Órga



ar chúl (á chúl): O. Nig Eanáin, L. Ní Bhráin, O. Ní O'Connell, M. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell, M. Ní O'Connell, M. Ní O'Connell, R.M. Ní O'Connell, L. Ní O'Connell, A. Ní O'Connell.

Seir (á chúl): A. Ní O'Connell, A. Ní O'Connell, L. Ní O'Connell, F. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, P. Ní O'Connell, E. de Búrca, M. Ní O'Connell.

chean tsaigh (á chúl): E. Ní O'Connell, F. Ní O'Connell, B. Ní O'Connell, E. Ní O'Connell.

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| 1 Michelle Ní Eathair Michelle Heame St. Ibar's | 2 Orla Ní Iarnáin Orla Hannon Monageen/Boolevogue | 3 Aislin Ní Nualláin Aislin Nolan Monageen/Boolevogue | 4 Clár Ní Chonchubhair Claire O'Connor Rathmure |
| 5 Laura Ní Chorráigín Laura Corrigan St. Ibar's | 6 Fiona Ní Dhuinn Fiona Durne Oulart/Ballybeg | 7 Róis Máire Ní Bhráin Rose Marie Breen Monageen/Boolevogue | 8 Eibhlín Ní Choiligh Evelyn Quigley Rathmure |
| 9 Sandra Ní Gíolla Chearra Sandra Carr St. Ibar's | 10 Aoife Ní Dhrúacháin Aoife Druhan Buncloy | 11 Paula Ní Ráin Paula Rankin Buncloy | 12 Eibhlín Ní Uallacháin Lennie Houlihan, Rathmure Captain |
| 13 Aoife Ní Chonchubhair Aoife O'Connor Duffy Rovers | 14 Cait Ní Cheallaigh Kate Kelly St. Ibar's | 15 Michelle Ní Mhurchú Michelle Murphy St. Ibar's | 16 Mairéad Ní Cheallaigh Mag Kelly, St. Ibar's |
| 17 Linda Ní Bhroin Linda Byrne, Buncloy | 18 Orla Nig Eanáin Orla Cahan, Monageen/Boolevogue | 19 Briainín Ní Uallacháin Bernie Houlihan, Rathmure | 20 Éadaoin de Róiste Edwina Roche, St. Ibar's |

5



Corcaigh

Dearg agus Bán

Foras na Gaeilge



ar chúl (á chúl): M. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell, L. Ní O'Connell, E. Ní O'Connell, E. Ní O'Connell, P. Ní O'Connell, U. Ní O'Connell, G. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, R. Ní O'Connell, E. de Búrca, L. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell.

chean tsaigh (á chúl): B. Ní O'Connell, D. Ní O'Connell, S. Ní O'Connell, M. Ní O'Connell, U. Ní O'Connell, M. de Búrca, M. Ní O'Connell, M. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, C. Ní O'Connell, F. Ní O'Connell.

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Córa Ní Cheocháin Cora Kichane Ballyroe | 2 Denise Ní Chróinín Denise Cronin Glen Rovers | 3 Eithne Ní Dhuagáin Eithne Duggan Bishopscourt | 4 Mairéad Ní Fhinn Mags Finn Fr. O'Neill's |
| 5 Sorcha Ní Aodha Sarah Hayes Courcey Rovers | 6 Máire Ní Chonchubhair Mary O'Connor Grangah/Ballygarry, Lismore | 7 Béibhíonn Ní Earchall Vivienne Harris, Bishopscourt Captain | 8 Ursula Ní Throithigh Ursula Troy Newtownshandrum |
| 9 Linda Ní Mhaoligheiric Linda Mullick Glen Rovers | 10 Sinéad Ní Cheallacháin Sinéad O'Callaghan Bishopscourt | 11 Fiona Ní Dhrisceoll Fiona O'Driscoll Fr. O'Neill's | 12 Paula Ní Chonchubhair Paula O'Connor Newtownshandrum |
| 13 Úna Ní Dhoenachú Una O'Donoghue Claghduv | 14 Caoimhe Ní Arrachtáin Caoimhe Harrington Newtownshandrum | 15 Elaine de Búrca Elaine Burke Valley Rovers | 16 Gearóidín Ní Chathasaigh Geradine Casey, Inniscarra |
| 17 Máire de Búrca Mary Burke, Glen Rovers | 18 Clara Ní Éalaithe Clara Healy, Bishopscourt | 19 Sile Ní Annáin Jill Hannon, Glen Rovers | 20 Rút Ní Chathasaigh Ruth Cahalan, Bishopscourt |

First meeting of Cork and Tipp in decider

AUG. 2000

Cork 3-13
Wexford 1-5

Tipperary 2-11
Galway 1-8

THE All-Ireland senior hurling final may be an all Leinster affair but two Munster counties, Cork and Tipperary, will hold centre stage in the forthcoming All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

It will be an historic first ever meeting between the two counties in a senior All-Ireland camogie decider. The game will also be a repeat of this year's National League Final which Cork won.

Cork had simply far too much skill and craft for a game but limited Wexford team at Parnell Park. After their quarter final victory over Kilkenny, Cork were red-hot favourites to progress to their 34th final and any illusions Wexford might have harboured, were shattered.

Despite recording eight wides, Cork were totally dominant during the opening period, leading by the break.

Early points from Elaine Burke, Ciara Healy, Linda Mellerick and Fiona O'Driscoll helped Cork settle quickly before Una O'Donoghue blasted home a fine opportunist goal after eight minutes.

Nine minutes later, Elaine Burke rounded her marker to fire home an unstoppable effort into the top corner.

On her first full start for the county, former super sub, Ciara Healy was a constant threat to Wexford with her deft stickwork at full forward.

She had already helped herself to a couple of fine points before she pounced for Cork's third goal after 43 minutes. Mary O'Connor's surging run through the heart of the Wexford defence set up the opportunity and Healy's finish into the top corner was exemplary.

It had taken Wexford 30 minutes before Aoife Druhan managed to register their first point on the stroke of half time. They only added a single point from Michelle Murphy before Evelyn Quigley blocked down an attempted clearance from Cork keeper, Cora Keohane to score Wexford's only goal nine minutes from time.

Scorers, Cork: C. Healy 1-3, E. Burke 1-2, U. O'Donoghue 1-0, F. O'Driscoll 0-5 (0-3 frees), L. Mellerick 0-2, S. O'Callaghan 0-1. Wexford: E. Quigley 1-0, K. Jacob 0-2, A. Druhan, M. Kelly, M. Murphy 0-1 each. Cork: C. Keohane, D. Cronin, E. Duggan, M. Finn, S. Hayes, M. O'Connor, V. Harris, U. Troy, L. Mellerick, S. O'Callaghan, F. O'Driscoll, C. Harrington, U. O'Donoghue, C. Healy, E. Burke.

WEXFORD: M. Hearna, D. Hernan, S. Carr, B. Holohan, L. Corrigan, F. Dunne, R. Breen, E. Quigley, L. Holohan, A. Druhan, K. Kelly, M. Murphy, A. O'Connor, M. Kelly, H. Jacob. Subs: E. Roche for Murphy, L. Byrne for B.

Holohan, Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary).

CHAMPIONS, Tipperary had to draw on all their considerable resources of skill and stamina before repeating their League semi-final victory over Galway.

A crucial goal midway through the third quarter from Noelle Kennedy proved decisive in turning the game in Tipperary's favour.

Ann Forde's goal late in the opening half had enabled Galway to go in level, 1-7 apiece at the interval following a fiercely contested opening half.

Tipperary, who were never led over the hour, edged in front again soon after the break courtesy of a pointed free from corner forward, Caitriona Hennessy.

Veronica Curtin soon replied with an equaliser for Galway and midfielder, Cannel Hannon then spurned two glorious opportunities of giving the Westerners the lead before Galway suffered a cruel body blow.

Scorers, Tipperary: N. Kennedy 1-3 (1-1 frees, 1-45), C. Hennessy 0-4 (0-2 frees), E. McDonnell 1-0, P. Fogarty 0-2, D. Hughes, C. Grogan 0-1 each. Galway: S. Glynn 0-4 (0-2 frees, 2-45s), A. Forde 1-0, V. Curtin 0-2, A. Kelly, C. Nevin 0-1 each.

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Grogan, T. Brophy, E. Hayden, A. McDermott, P. Fogarty, N. Kennedy, G. Shanahan, E. McDonnell, D. Hughes, C. Hennessy. Sub: C. Grogan for Shanahan.

GALWAY: F. Gothery, T. Laheen, A. Broderick, P. Nevin, M. Haverly, D. Broderick, A. Millar, A. Kelly, C. Hannon, C. Nevin, T. Maher, S. Tannian, V. Curtin, S. Glynn, A. Forde. Subs: D. Kilkenny for Glynn, C. Murray for Tannian, L. Hobbin for Hannon. Referee: A. Derham (Dublin).

Cork 0-12
Dublin 1-7

A superb contribution of 11 points from Rachel Moloney paved the way for Cork's victory over Dublin in the Intermediate Camogie Championship at St. Finbarr's yesterday.

Cork: R. Moloney 0-11 (0-5 frees, 0-2-45s), M. Ennequess 0-1.

Dublin: L. O'Hara 1-0, S. Ni Chaitir 0-2, I. Kirwan, S. Crosby, L. O'Hara, C. Gray, C. Brannigan.

CORK: G. Casey, C. Giltinan, J. Hannon, J. O'Callaghan, R. Cahalan, E. Dillon, M. O'Connell, V. O'Keefe, S. Morley, O. O'Sullivan, M. Corkery, R. Moloney, M. Ennequess, L. Murphy, C. Corkery. Subs: S. Buckley for G. Giltinan, N. Bowles for C. Corkery.

DUBLIN: S. Power, S. Byrne, A. Cullen, G. Noonan, A.M. Gray, D. O'Leary, C. Boyle, V. Treally, S. Ni Chorchrae, S. Crosby, L. O'Hara, E. Brannigan, S. Ni Chaitir, C. Gray, I. Kirwan. Subs: C. Murphy for S. Ni Chaitir, E. Ring for L. O'Hara.

Referee: R. Kelleher (Limerick).



Wexford captain Lennie Holohan and Vivienne Harris of Cork shake hands under the watchful eye of referee John Morrissey before Saturday's All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-final in Parnell Park. Lennie and her twin sister Bernie featured on RTE's 'Breaking Ball' programme on the previous evening.

A thriller for camogie enthusiasts

THE die has been cast, the bets have been laid and now all that's left is for the fat horses to leave the paddock and sing. The All-Ireland senior camogie finalists were decided last Saturday.

Put aside the Purple/Gold, and the Maroon/White, it is the Red/White and Blue/Gold which will see the millennium off to a colourful start.

Hundreds of All-Ireland medallists from decades past will watch their counties from the stands while measuring the temperament, trust and touch of a new generation.

And in the dugouts, former greats - Tipp's Michael Cleary and Cork's Angela Sheehan - will relive the heat of the battle.

Cork and Tipperary will enter the All-Ireland arena encountering one another for the first time in a national championship decider.

They have met once before this year in the national league final with the honours falling to the Rebel County. They met too last year in the same competition. Cork annihilated the Premier County in an embarrassing trouncing at Semple Stadium. That defeat weighed heavily on their psyche, temporarily eroding their self-confidence. But the ghost of Thurles was eventually drowned by the Liffey a little over three months later, when captain Meadhbh Stokes raised the O'Duffy Cup aloft.

So, on the first Sunday in September camogie enthusiasts can expect an absolute thriller in Croke Park by the defending All-Ireland champions and the reigning national league holders.

The Cork selectors have scoured the county for new talent this season and have unearthed young

VIEW FROM THE GROUND with THERESE O'CALLLAGHAN

light and skilful dynamics particularly in the forward area. It's a new era and it had to be done. Una O'Donoghue and Caoimhe Harrington were on the periphery last year.

Delighted

Bishopstown's Ciara Healy has delighted with her match-winning scores all season, re-iterating the fact, that at times, inexperience can be a blessing. Elaine Burke made her senior championship debut against Kilkenny a few

weeks back, while panellist Rachel Moloney is also threatening for inclusion.

On the morning of the All-Ireland these young players will carry the burden of history, when they stroll around the plush sod of Croke Park to prepare for the deafening noise of later in the afternoon, and the challenge of commitment that awaits them.

Expectations will be high, they always are. Failing is never an option for Cork.

In fact, the Cork following will



be looking for a double delight on the 3 of September.

In a repeat of last year's All-Ireland junior final, the Rebel County will square up once again to Derry. Cork won 12 months ago, but true to his word, Derry manager Dominic McKinley - former Antrim hurler and manager - vowed to be back.

A year later, he has fulfilled that promise and with most of his starting 15 still available they certainly will put it up to a Cork side appearing in its 14th final.

Meanwhile, in a new innovation, the All-Ireland champions of 25 years ago will be introduced to the crowd at the interval between senior and junior game. This year the moment belongs to the ladies of Wexford, who captured the 1975 title, which should also bring the memories flooding back to the loyal Cork followers.

Rebels crush poor Wexford challenge to make the final

Cork 3-13
Wexford 1-5

IT would appear the Cork senior camogie team are back on track after their 1999 sabbatical.

On Saturday evening in Parnell Park the Rebels eased their way into their 34th All-Ireland final.

"It was a good win," said coach Tom Nott.

"We were in control the whole time and took our scores well. Our inside-forward line supplied all

three goals, - Una O'Donoghue, Ciara Healy and a great effort from Elaine Burke."

Wexford were completely disorientated not helped by the absence of the injured Avis Nolan and Paula Rankin who was out of the country on holidays.

This game won't have done Cork's preparations for the big day any good. All they could do on Saturday was beat the team put out in front of them. If the opposition happened to be considerably weak,

By THERESE O'CALLLAGHAN

no blame can be attached to the Leesiders. However, there is a real danger that they will now hit Croke Park without a stiff semi-final test.

All-Ireland champions, Tipperary who will provide the final opposition had a much tougher game from Galway in the second semi-final of the double header.

According to Nott, his charges will have to be at their best to topple the holders.

"We will have to up our game. Tipperary looked sharp, and when Galway put it up to them, Tipp dug deep to hold out."

"Emer McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes and Noelle Kennedy were in top form," he added.

Also of concern to the Cork coach is the much-talked about dimensions of Croke Park.

"Cork need room and I would be

concerned about the restrictions. I believe they have made it a bit wider and longer, but I'd prefer to be playing on its maximum size," commented Tom.

Meanwhile, the Cork selectors will take note of a super performance from panellist Rachel Moloney who scored all of Cork's 12 points (0-9 from play) in their three point victory over Dublin in the All-Ireland Intermediate Championship quarter-final played at St Finbarrs yesterday.

ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE Underdogs hit by too many pre-match casualties

Cork march on as Wexford produce too little too late

DAVID MEDCALF

in Parnell Park

Cork 3-11, Wexford 1-5: A late surge could not disguise the fact that Wexford were a long way second best in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior camogie semi-final at Parnell Park on Saturday evening.

By the time mighty Cork registered their first wide, through full-forward Clara Healy, they already had 1-4 on the electronic scoreboard, to Wexford's zero. The game was into its second quarter before Seamus Murphy's team conjured up a shot on target, a tame effort from Helena Jacob caught with disdainful ease by goalie Cora Keohane.

When the underdogs finally recorded their opening score, from the hurl of Bunclody wing-forward Aoife Druhan a matter of seconds before half-time, the Rebels were 13 points to the good.

The final margin was 14 points, as beleaguered, if plucky, Wexford adapted to the pace of the game and Cork eased off ever so slightly after the break.

The chances of the challengers springing a surprise were dealt a quadruple blow before ever a ball was struck in anger. First, defender Claire O'Connor from Rathnure failed to shake off the effect of an ankle injury picked up in the quarter-final against Dublin.

Full back Avis Nolan was another casualty,



■ The vanquished Wexford squad. Back row (l to r): Edwina Roche, Michelle Jordan, Linda Byrne, Bernie Holohan, Rose Mary Breen, Helena Jacob, Mag Kelly, Michelle Hearne, Kate Kelly, Lennie Holohan (capt.), Laura Corrigan. Front row (l to r): Fiona Cullen, Evelyn Quigley, Aoife Druhan, Aoife O'Connor, Fiona Dunne, Orla Hernan, Michelle Murphy, Sandy Carr.

sporting an elaborate hand bandage and sling after being wounded playing football. Her Monageer club colleague Orla Gahan was not available as a replacement, because she too suffered damage playing with the larger ball.

And to put the tin hat on it, listed centre-forward Paula Rankin failed to find a suitable flight home from her holidays in the Canary Islands.

In the circumstances, it was scarcely surprising that proceedings began with Cork, beaten All-Ireland finalists of last year, looking by far

the more fluent outfit. They rattled off four points in the first seven minutes, before adding two goals, to be out of sight before the match was a quarter hour old.

The first goal was frustrating for keeper Michelle Hearne, who did so well to lay a hurl on the shot from Una O'Donoghue but could not prevent it crossing the line. However, there was nothing she could do to prevent the second, a sparkling solo effort from Elaine Burke, which went rocketing into the top left corner.

The one-sided nature of the game was under-

lined by the casual ease with which the leaders clocked up three points in the 23rd minute, to prompt fears of a procession.

It seemed that they were gathering every ball that fell anywhere near centrefield, driving forward with purpose, secure in their control of the silothar.

In contrast, though Lennie Holohan twinkled pleasingly, she was the only Wexford player who looked any way authoritative going forward, giving their markers the air of wolves policing lambs.

The only obvious

first-half successes for the Leinster champions were Oulart's Fiona Dunne and, most refreshingly, Sandy Carr. The Ibar's midfielder was called on to fill in at the heart of defence for the absence of Avis Nolan and she responded with an inspirational mixture of strength, skill and bravery.

She continued to produce the goods after the interval and, eventually, those around her began to raise their game to similar heights as a chastening evening came to a close.

Granted, the leaders temporarily extended

BIG MATCH STATISTICS

| CORK | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| | GOALS | PTS | WIDES | FREES | 45s |
| FIRST HALF | 2 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| SECOND HALF | 1 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 3 | 13 | 15 | 12 | 1 |

| WEXFORD | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| | GOALS | PTS | WIDES | FREES | 45s |
| FIRST HALF | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| SECOND HALF | 1 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 0 |

their advantage to 19 points (3-12 to 0-2) with the assistance of a third goal, a fine effort from Clara Healy.

During this spell of continuing adversity, all the losers could muster was a 50-yard strike from Lennie Holohan. But the closing ten minutes showed that Wexford, disrupted and occasionally disjointed, still had some spirit in the tank as they signed off with a pleasing show of defiance.

Morale was raised by Evelyn Quigley whose brilliant block on Cora Keohane rippled the net, after the keeper caught a long distance strike from Michelle Hearne, now operating at midfield.

Then the points began to flow, one thrashed over by Kate Kelly to crown a great second-half performance, and two from another St. Ibar's forward, pacy Michelle Murphy, shaking off the effects of a nasty head injury.

It was a rousing conclusion but, without a

settled side, they never truly looked like creating an upset as Cork marched on to a date with holders Tipperary who hijacked them in last season's Croke Park decider.

Cork: Cora Keohane; Denise Cronin, Eithne Duggan, Mags Finn; Sarah Hayes, Mary O'Connor, Vivienne Harris; Ursula Troy, Linda Mellerick (0-2); Sinead O'Callaghan (0-1), Fiona O'Driscoll (0-5, 2 frees, 1 '45), Caoimhe Harrington; Una O'Donoghue (1-0), Clara Healy (1-3), Elaine Burke (1-2).

Wexford: Michelle Hearne; Orla Hernan, Emma Carroll, Bernie Holohan; Laura Corrigan, Fiona Dunne, Rose Mary Breen; Evelyn Quigley (1-0), Elaine Holohan (0-1); Aoife Druhan (0-1), Kate Kelly (0-1), Michelle Murphy (0-2); Aoife O'Connor, Mag Kelly, Helena Jacob, Subs. - Linda Byrne for B. Holohan, Edwina Roche for M. Kelly.

Referee: John Morrissey (Tipperary).

Manager says changes needed

WEXFORD camogie manager Seamus Murphy greeted Saturday's defeat in Dublin by Cork with a mixture of frustration and pride.

The pride was inspired by the manner in which his girls, after chasing shadows for 50 minutes, still had the will to rattle off a few scores at the end of the afternoon.

But the Rathnure man made it clear that he and fellow selectors Peggy Kelly and Noel Ryan will expect a few changes, if they are to return to action next season. Preparations for the All-Ireland quarter final were heavily disrupted by club championship fixtures in both camogie and football.

Murphy makes no secret of the fact that he likes winning but his chances of being on the winning side last Sat-

urday were slim. Against a team that had 13 of last year's beaten All-Ireland finalists, he had a team with just six of the Senior crop of 1999 in action. There has been no continuity.

The manager pointed out that even in the period since Wexford played Cork in the national league a few months ago, there had been massive disruptions in his panel.

Emma Carroll, Avis Nolan, Paula Rankin, Aine Codd, Tina Bergin, Aoife O'Connor (Rathnure) and Michelle O'Leary, who all took part in that fixture, were unavailable for various reasons at the weekend.

Also missing were Barbara Sludds and Claire O'Connor.

Camogie Results

All-Ireland Senior championship semi-final: Cork 3-13, Wexford 1-5.

Under-18 championship Roinn 1, preliminary round: St. Ibar's 2-6, St. Martin's 0-2.

Oulart-The Ballagh 3-18, Bunclody 0-0.

Under-18 championship Roinn 2 preliminary round: Ferns 3-6, Faythe Harriers 1-3.

Junior 'A' championship quarter-final: Cloughbawn 4-6, Buffers Alley 4-4; Glynn-Barntown 8-11, St. Martin's 0-1.

Junior 'B' championship quarter-final: Bannow-Ballymitty 2-7, Oylegate 0-0.

north bedecked in their new logood poloshirts.

Following a facile win over Galway in the quarter final, this will be a firmer test. Limerick crossed swords with Antrim in the league earlier this year and only secured a win with a late score.

This is a young Limerick team captained by Deirdre Sheehan and ably supported by her sister Vera, Eileen O'Brien, Mary Lonergan, Jean Culhane and Michelle Casey.

Career Decisions International's managing director, Miriam Magner-Flynn a former county player, said she saw a great future for this team and hoped the sponsorship would raise the profile of Limerick camogie players.

Brother Philip Power, coach to the side, has worked hard this year on the girls' skill levels and hopefully this will bear fruit on Sunday.

● Limerick Intermediate camogie team head north this weekend to Casement Park in Belfast, to take on Antrim in the All Ireland semi final on Sunday.

Buoyed up by their new lucrative sponsorship deal with Career Decisions International, the girls will be travelling

AUG 2000

Noelle's goal sets up Tipp for another All Ireland final

STIFF GALWAY CHALLENGE RESISTED

TIPPERARY 2-11 GALWAY 1-8

It was tough, it was exciting and from a Tipp viewpoint it was probably a game that went a long way towards according them the recognition they deserve.

Going into Saturday's All Ireland senior camogie semi final against Galway, Tipp, though proud and worthy holders of the O'Duffy Cup were not considered outside the county. One splendid hour in Dublin's Parnell Park on Saturday night changed that and though the interval position looked shaky enough for the champions, Galway having forced parity, a four minute spell early in the second half was the defining period in this splendidly contested game.

1-7 each it was at half time, Tipp having been on top for most of the first half. However, a rare defensive error let Galway through for a goal and in the nine minutes immediately following the resumption, each side could manage only a point apiece. There it was, nicely poised at 1-8 each but then followed three Galway wides. Crucial misses they were, but let it be said, sent out under the pressure of a leech-like defence.

Then in the 13th minute of the second half, a long range free from Noelle Kennedy was parried by Galway keeper Fiona Goherly over the line for the game's crucial score.

trasted starkly with the disappointment and frustration of their victims, who in the end had to concede to a better side, with sights definitely set on retaining the All Ireland title.

A fine crowd attended, Tipperary clubs playing their part in the promotion of the game through the organisation of large groups of young players, mostly in blue and gold apparel. With Galway hurlers in action next day against Kilkenny, understandably, travellers from the West were many and Parnell Park an ideal starting point to the week-end activities.

Cork easily accounted for Wexford in the first semi final which preceded it, making for an all-Munster final on September 3rd.

Tipp's self-belief was a very important asset in this victory. In coming up against Galway they were meeting a side that had forced them into extra time in the league semi final before Tipp, in the Ragg, eventually came through. This time, Tipp called the shots from the start and using only two in the full forward line, with Deirdre Hughes out, operating on the wing, pressure was immediate-



Tipperary panel and mentors pictured prior to their impressive victory over Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, at Parnell Park, Dublin on Saturday evening. Back row l. to r.: Michael Cleary (manager), Philly Fogarty, Sheena Howard, Joanne Ryan, Therese Brophy, Suzanne Kelly, Claire Madden, Claire Crogan, Maedbh Stokes, Noelle Kennedy, Philly Fogarty, Louise Ryan and Jim Madden (selector). Kneeling - Biddy Phillips (selector), Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Grainne Shanahan, Caitriona Hennessy, Deirdre Hughes, Jovita Delaney (captain), Emily Hayden, Elmeare McDonnell, Angela McDermott, Una O'Dwyer, Niamh Harkins and Paula Bulfin.

MCDONNELL GOAL

Then in the 8th minute, Angie McDermott at mid field released a long ball which Emer McDonnell latched on to. She

Piarsaigh girl, Sharon Glynn from whom so much was expected, was being well marked by Una O'Dwyer and her anticipated scoring input was being confined to points from placed balls.

Tipp attack, Caitriona Hennessy tried to catch out the Galway defence, going low with a close-in free. The shot was saved but not cleared away suf-

Ciara Gaynor in the centre. Veronica Curtin pointed for Galway in the 39th minute. The sides were level again, for the third time, and the tension was

Galway substituted midfielder Carmel Hannon with Imelda Hobbins.

1999 All Ireland winning captain Maedhbh Stokes, not



The pain of it! - anxious moments for two of Tipp's back room team, Michael Cleary and Biddy Phillips.

on Saturday night such was the intent of Galway as written in their every move. However, the sheer grit of the Tipp lassies, exemplified so admirably by Una O'Dwyer, Sinead Nealon and Ciara Gaynor in defence and augmented by the tenacity of Suzanne Kelly, Therese Brophy and Claire Madden, not to mention the coolness and leadership given between the posts by Jovita Delaney, was a sheet anchor on which this Tipp victory was founded. Emily Hayden and Angie McDermott made a splendid mid field partnership, working enthusiastically and so effectively throughout. Noelle Kennedy led the attack with razor-sharp acuteness. Philly Fogarty and

E. McDonnell 1-0, P. Fogarty 0-2, D. Hughes, C. Grogan 0-1 each.

Galway's replies came from S. Glynn 0-4 (2 frees, 2 45s), A. Forde 1-0, V. Curtin 0-2, C. Nevin, A. Kelly 0-1 each.

Tipp had five wides, three in the first half, to Galway's total of eight, four in each half.

Galways were awarded five frees in each half, Tipp received five in the first and eight in the second and each side conceded two 45s.

TIPPERARY --- Jovita Delaney, capt, (Cashel), Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara), Una O'Dwyer (Cashel), Claire Madden (Portroe), Sinead Nealon (Burgess), Ciara Gaynor (Kilruane), Therese

AUG 2000

Cork's great display

THE week gone by has without doubt been a tremendously successful one on the Inter-County scene for Cork Camogie.

The junior side set the ball rolling with a great victory over Laois to book a place in the Junior All-Ireland final and when one considers that the county is fielding a completely new team to last year this is a great achievement.

The Cork senior team defeated Wexford 3-13 to 1-5. The senior team's defeat of Wexford was never in doubt as from the throw in Cork dominated.

Points

Following early points from Elaine Burke, Linda Mellerick, Ciara Healy, and Fiona O'Driscoll and a Una O'Donoghue goal in the eight minute set the trend for what was to follow.

Cork continued to set a blistering pace during the first-half. A second goal from Elaine Burke had Cork looking comfortable long before the half-time whistle.

On the resumption the pace continued with the league champions totally in control.

A third goal from full-forward Ciara Healy had sealed the result long before Wexford's Evelyn Quigley goaled after blocking down a clearance from Cora Keohane.

Cork: C. Keohane, E. Duggan, D. Cronin, M. Finn, S. Hayes, M. O'Connor, L. Mellerick, V. Harris, U. Troy, S. O'Callaghan, F. O'Driscoll, C. Harrington, U. O'Donoghue, C. Healy, E. Burke.
WEXFORD: M. Heaney, S. Carr, B. Holohan, L. Corrigan, F. Dunne, R. Breen, E. Quigley, L. Holohan, A. Druhan, K. Kelly, M. Murphy, A. O'Connor, M. Kelly, A. Jacob, F. John Morrissey

Tipp have to dig deep

Tipperary 2-11
Galway 1-8

ALL-IRELAND champions Tipperary had to dig deep to see off a tenacious Galway side in the second semi-final at Parnell Park.

The sides were tied at the interval, 1-7 apiece, and were evenly matched in the opening minutes of the second half.

A Noelle Kennedy goal mid way through put Tipp in the driving seat and a couple of points in the closing quarter sealed victory.

At intermediate level, Cork qualified for a semi-final meeting with Down when they had two points to spare over Dublin at St Finbarrs last Sunday, 0-12 to 1-7.

Rachel Moloney was the star of the show, contributing eleven points.

Cork led by one point in injury time when an effort from Moloney, 65 metres from goal, sailed between the posts to set up a semi-final meeting with Down next Sunday at the northern venue to be announced.

Barryroe in final after only their second year in senior grade



Eithne Duggan: Her experience with the Cork senior team will be a big advantage as Bishopstown bid to retain their county title against Barryroe.

Bishopstown set for another title

THE County Senior Championship final takes centre stage on Friday evening as county champions Bishopstown, seeking their fourth title in a row, take on a young Barryroe side.

The holders will go in as firm favourites to retain their title following an impressive passage to the final. In their opening game Carighdounn pressed the champions for long periods before a strong rally in the last quarter saw them through. The clash with Fr O'Neills failed to live up to pre-match expectations, but despite this the holders made it through with two points to spare.

In the semi-final against Cloughduv, Bishopstown showed their class when coming from behind at half time they proceeded to give an exhibition and ran out easy winners.

Backboned by their inter-county players, whose experience is invaluable, it's hard to see the champions not retaining their title.

However Barryroe are a young side full of determination. In their opening

Cork rise to the task

CORK defeated Laois in a thrilling junior semi-final at Mountrath.

The sides were tied at 1-3 apiece at half-time but two early second half points from Jenny O'Leary put Cork in control.

Goals from Mary Eneguess and Deirdre O'Reilly sealed victory.



Cork keeper Cora Keohane: Barryroe's last line of defence.

game a close encounter with Glen Rovers saw them with two points to spare and set up a meeting with Seandun, where for stages of the game Barryroe looked out of proceedings. However their trump card, ace forward Jenny O'Leary, rallied the side with a vital goal to book a semi-final meeting with Newtownshandrum and it was here that the Barryroe team shone.

The determination to reach their first final was

evident from the word go and if they show the same hunger for success on Friday, it could well trouble the champions.

Its a wonderful achievement for Barryroe to reach the final in only their second year in senior grade, theirs has been a steady progression from under-age level with championship honours at under-14, 16, 18 and juniors coming into the club.

Two years ago the Senior B title was annexed and

now the ultimate prize is just one hour away. Coached by Tony McCarthy and Martin Moloney the young Barryroe side is backboned by inter-county senior goalkeeper Cora Keohane, Rosalie Holland, Ger Collins and Jenny O'Leary, who are intent on giving it their all against the strong Bishopstown side.

Their strength lies in Ciara Healy, Eithne Duggan, Sinead O'Callaghan and Ruth Cahalan.

Camogie Fixtures

FIXTURES

FRIDAY

AUGUST 18

Senior County Championship final - Bishopstown v Barryroe, Cloughduv, 7.15pm.

SUNDAY

AUGUST 20

Senior B Championship - Milford v Watergrasshill at Mounabbey 2pm.

U-14 B league semi-final: Eire Og v Kildorrey at Mounabbey 3.30pm.

All-Ireland intermediate championship semi-final: Cork v Down, Down venue to be named.

RESULTS

FORAS NA

GAEILGE

ALL-IRELAND

SNR S/Fs

Cork 3-13 Wexford 1-5; Tipperary 2-11 Galway 1-8.

All-Ireland

intermediate

quarter-final

Cork 0-12 Dublin 1-7.

Leinster club

semi-final

Camross (Laois) 2-9 St Munnas (Westmeath) 0-7.

Westmeath MC

Delvin 1-4 Rahamney 2-1.

Camogie tops the bill

AUG 2000

CORK COUNTY CAMOGIE BOARD SENIOR 'A' COUNTY FINAL

Friday 18th August 2000

Barryroe

v

Bishopstown

at Fr. O'Driscoll Park,
Cloughdubh

Time: 7.15pm

Price: £1.00

they have defeated Glen Rovers, Seandun, Newtownshandrum, and improved with each outing, reserving their best display for their semi-final win over the North Cork girls in which they produced a fabulous second half performance.

The same could be said of holders Bishopstown, who accounted for Carrigdhoun, Fr O'Neills, and Cloughdubh in the semi-final, and like their opponents, played brilliant camogie in that game.

They are a vastly experienced squad, are clear favourites to win their fourth title in a row.

Barryroe, though, will prove a handful as they are a young and talented outfit - many of whom have tasted success at colleges' level, and the motivation of winning their first title is a powerful one.

It really is a case of the experience of Bishopstown against the youthful exuberance of Barryroe, and while the West Cork girls are certain to make a huge effort, Bishopstown's craft and experience gives them an edge.

With the game on a high right now and with plenty of talented players on both sides, it should attract a good crowd as the contestants and indeed the Board are deserving of support, bearing in mind the outstanding run of victories they have enjoyed to date.

Which brings me nicely to the inter county victories over the week-end. The seniors, as expected, saw off the challenge of Wexford. However, coach Tom Nott was certainly not happy with the second half showing.

Tipperary will provide the opposition in the final on the first Sunday in September, and a big improvement will be required if the champions are to be dethroned. That is a game which, along with the junior final, we will be looking at closely in the coming weeks.

The Cork intermediate team, meanwhile, maintained their good run with a fine win over Dublin, and now face a long trip to Newry and a semi-final meeting with Down next Sunday.

All this success has placed a huge burden on the County Board, and next week we get the views of county chairperson, Sile Golden, as they face a

hectic few weeks of activity.

Bishopstown aim to grab fourth title

THE final of the Cork's Senior camogie Championship will be played at Cloughdubh tonight when Bishopstown, seeking their fourth title in-a-row, take on a Barryroe side in search of their first.

It's a dream come true for Barryroe as it's only their second year competing in the senior grade.

A young side, their path to the final included wins over Glen Rovers, Seandun, and a fancied Newtownshandrum side.

They may be young but they are not lacking in experience.

Cora Keohane is the county Senior goalkeeper, while Rosalie Holland, Geraldine Collins and Jenny O'Leary, have all played for Cork.

The foundation for Barryroe's success has been masterminded by coaches Martin Moloney and Tony McCarthy, who have guided the club side to victory at under age, Junior and Senior B Championship successes.

And, though they are well and truly up against it tonight they won't go down without a major battle.

Bishopstown for their part are a superb outfit with the experience of Cork Senior players Eithne Duggan, Vivienne Harris, Sinead O'Callaghan and Ciara Healy.

Having taken the last three titles they know what it is like to face into a County final and that experience is bound to tell.

Captained by Derbhilla Quigney, the side has been further strengthened by the recent acquisition of former Tipperary player Niamh Boner.

Barryroe up for it
FRIDAY night will be a special night for Barryroe as they contest their first county senior camogie final against holders Bishopstown in Cloughdubh at 7.15pm, with Betty Joyce as referee.

In reaching the final,

Four-in-a-row for impressive Bishopstown

BISHOPSTOWN, the champions and raging hot favourites to make it four county titles in-a-row, against the minnows from Barryroe who were appearing in their first ever final.

In the end the old order prevailed and the cup went back to the Cork city suburb but the real winner last night was the game of camogie.

Justice

The final scoreline of 2-13 to 1-4 did scant justice to the marvellous effort of the west Cork girls who really put it up to their much vaunted opponents.

The Town contingent are seasoned campaigners and this was the essential difference in the end after a contest that more than lived up to expectation.

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN

It was 1-7 to 1-3 at the interval and as the champions trooped off for the half-time cuppa they realised they were going to have to call on all their great wealth of experience garnered over the past four years.

To be fair to them the response was just what one would expect from a great side and as the minutes counted down there was always only going to be one result.

The victors will do Lee-side proud in the Munster club championship and the vanquished will surely have another day in the future to stake their claims.

See page 30.



UNSTOPPABLE: Bishopstown forward Niamh Bonner racing goalwards past Barryroe's Ann-Marie Fleming.

Picture: Denis Minihane



Bishopstown goalkeeper Rose Desmond comes off her line to challenge Barryroe forward Jennifer O'Leary in the Cork County camogie championship final.

Picture: Denis Minihane

Bishopstown too crafty for a gallant Barryroe effort

Bishopstown 2-13
Barryroe 1-4

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN

IT WAS no great surprise that Bishopstown won their fourth senior camogie county title last evening at Cloughduv.

In fact they were supposed to win by a country mile.

But what did raise a few eyebrows was the nature of the challenge presented by the so-called minnows Barryroe.

Cheered on by the huge West Cork following, their first-half performance looked as if their remarkable millennium camogie odyssey was going to hit new heights.

They showed unbelievable character and maturity in matching the Town and within five minutes of the

re-start were level 1-4 apiece.

However, they had given their all. Bishopstown's overall supremacy came to fruition with some splendid point-taking, sealed by a Sinead O'Callaghan goal two minutes from full time.

Player of the match Ciara Healy was in superb shooting form. Sinead O'Callaghan's darting runs and the opportune Caroline Kenny eventually wore down the Barryroe defence.

Rose Desmond was solid in goal with their defence en bloc coming to terms with the fearless Marie Maloney and Jenny O'Leary, who between them scored all of 1-4,

and Ger Collins, who battled throughout.

However, Cork captain Vivienne Harris, who covered every inch of the Cloughduv sod, firing over three important points midway through the second half, spared a thought for the losers saying: "We were four or five years waiting to win a county and look at us now. Barryroe are a very young team who put it up to us for three quarters of the game tonight."

"We weren't surprised with their challenge and I'm sure they will be back," she said. "We will now aim to do well in the Munster Club Championship. We have never won a provincial title. It would be nice to do well and also we will be playing the Tipperary winners."

COUNTY CAMOGIE FINAL

Toomevara seek to break Cashel's three-in-a-row bid

By Gerry Slevin

The strong friendships built up between Toomevara and Cashel members of the Tipp senior camogie team -- between them they supplied eight of the team that started last Saturday's All Ireland semi final -- will be, temporarily, set aside on (this) Saturday, when the two teams met in the county senior final at Littleton (7pm).

That this important game should be played so close to the All Ireland final on September 3rd might seem strange, but it seems that the game should have been played by the end of July in order to pave the way for the Munster club championship.

Cashel are not alone holders of the title, they are seeking their third in a row. In '98 they defeated Toome in the semi final and last year in the final, so Saturday's game is a repeat of last year's decider, both teams having come through their semi final outings with a fair degree of conviction, Cashel against Templemore and Toome against Drom 'n Inch.

Whereas Toome had a dominance in the '90's, winning six titles, Cashel more or less ruled the roost in the previous decade and they have a proud achievement indeed in having contested all bar one of the last fifteen finals. The only one they missed

out on was in '96 when Toomevara and Drom 'n Inch were there.

EXPERIENCE ABOUNDS

Experience certainly abounds in both teams, Toome looking to Deirdre Hughes, Noelle Kennedy, Suzanne Kelly, Grainne Shanahan of the present Tipp senior side and also able to avail of the services of such as Nora Dwan, former Tipp keeper, Mary Rose Ryan who captained St Mary's Nenagh to All Ireland colleges success in April as well as several others whose talents were honed in the famed Nenagh nursery.

Jovita Delaney, Una O'Dwyer, Philly Fogarty, Emily Hayden will be to the fore in Cashel's three in a row bid, as will Paul Bulfin, a sub on the Tipp team. Maedhbh Stokes, who led Tipp to its first All Ireland title last September and who has been plagued by injury

so far this season, will be hoping to impress the Tipp mentors sufficiently as to her wellbeing and a possible inclusion in the All Ireland final line-up.

Cashel also have Triona Bonnar, of the famed hurling clan, and herself a very successful player in Tipp teams of varying grades.

HIGH STATUS

The ingredients are there for a thrilling game. Tipperary's high status at the moment, will certainly add to the occasion, this being the first ever county senior final in the wake of All Ireland senior success.

Cashel are entitled to be favourites but their great rivals Toome have little regard for such an accolade when it doesn't apply to themselves and they will be more than anxious to deprive them of it and in the process, regain the glory that was theirs in the not too distant past.

AUG 2000

Aug. 2000

Bishopstown

Barryroe

Cora Keohane (1)

Anne Sheehy (2)

Mary Sheehy (3)

Eileen Carroll (4)

Ann Marie Fleming (5)

Rosarie Holland (6)

Eilish O'Regan (7)

Karen McCarthy (8)

Isla Dineen (9)

Eimear O'Donovan (10)

Elaine McCarthy (11)

Geraldine Collins (12)

Jennifer O'Leary (13)

Josephine Cahalane (14)

Marie Moloney (15)

Subs:

Sharon Keohane (16)

Linda McCarthy (17)

Deirdre Walsh (18)

Paula O'Leary (19)

Eleanor Griffin (20)

Helen Keohane (21)

Emer O'Regan (22)

Rosemary Dineen (23)

Carol Dineen (24)

Louise Gannon (25)

Dearbhla Quigney (2)

Ruth Cahalan (3)

Aine Buckley (4)

Ciara Enright (5)

Eithne Duggan (6)

Jean O'Sullivan (7)

Vivienne Harris (8)

Sheenagh Morley (9)

Sinead O'Callaghan (10)

Aine White (11)

Brid Sheehan (12)

Caroline Kenny (13)

Ciara Healy (14)

Niamh Bonner (15)

Subs:

Orla Kelly (1)

Sinead White (17)

Denise O'Brien (18)

Maria Aylward (19)

Sinead Kelly (20)

Sinead O'Donoghue (21)

Maria Monahan (22)

Lynda O'Mahoney (23)

Trish Doyle (24)

Spirited Barryroe fail to wrest title from four-time champs Bishopstown

Bishopstown
Barryroe

2-13
1-4

by Mary Newman

HOLDERS Bishopstown retained their title and made it four-in-a-row of Senior Camogie County Championships thanks mainly to a tremendous second-half display against a spirited Barryroe side at Cloughduv last night.

Barryroe set the early pace with points from Jenny O'Leary and Marie O'Leary inside eight minutes. Eleven minutes into the game, Ciara Healy pointed to open the Bishopstown scoring. O'Leary replied for Barryroe and two points from Healy in the 18th and 22nd minute had Bishopstown on level terms.

Caroline Kenny gave the champions the lead two minutes from full time when she finished to the net after Cora Keohane had saved her first attempt for

goal. Jenny O'Leary pointed for Barryroe to leave them trailing four points to 1-3 at the break.

From the throw-in Bishopstown stretched their lead with a Sinead O'Callaghan point, then came the vital break Barryroe needed when Marie Moloney evaded the Bishopstown defence to finish superbly to the net.

Spurred on by the goal, Barryroe came in search of the lead but poor shooting saw them squander three scoring chances in a row.

Seizing the opportunity Bishopstown rallied and with Ciara Healy and Vivienne Harris dominating they took over. Seven points on the trot had the title secured before Sinead O'Callaghan's 23rd minute goal. Ciara Healy and Aine White added points and the title was retained.

Credit must go to a young Barryroe side who tried to the end in a game

where champions' greater experience proved decisive.

Scorers Bishopstown: C. Healy 0-7 (0-2 free), S. O'Callaghan 1-1, C. Kenny 1-0, V. Harris 0-3 (0-1 free).
Barryroe: M. Moloney 1-1, J. O'Leary 0-3 (free).
BISHOPSTOWN: R. Desmond, D. Quigney, R. Cahalane, A. Buckley, C. Enright captain, E. Duggan, G. O'Sullivan, V. Harris, S. Morley, S. O'Callaghan, A. White, B. Sheehan, C. Kenny, C. Healy, N. Bonner.
BARRYROE: C. Keohane, A. Sheehy, M. Sheehy, E. Carroll, A.M. Fleming, R. Holland, E. O'Regan, K. McCarthy, Isla Dineen, E. O'Donovan, E. McCarthy, G. Collins, J. O'Leary, J. Cahalane, M. Moloney.
Referee: Betty Joyce (Killaigh).

● The Cork intermediate team play Down this evening in Ballyholland at 7pm as they strive to seek a place in the All Ireland Intermediate Championship final.

Having recorded a two-point victory over Dublin last weekend the Cork girls will look to scorer in chief Rachel Moloney, Jenny O'Leary, and captain Ger Casey.

Camogie

Jim Nelson's attendance at each of Rossa's championship games this season paid dividends for Keady on Saturday evening as the Armagh champions shocked the Belfast side by 4-6 to 3-6 to claim a place in the provincial decider next month.

Keady scorers: Deirdre Connolly (1-1), Mairead Murray (1-0), Collette McKeever (1-0), Colleen Conway (1-0), Kelly Anne Hughes (0-3), Helena Murray (0-1), Michelle Murray (0-1).
Rossa scorers: Jane Adams (2-6), Deirdre Heatley (1-0).
Referee: Ben Fox (Down).



BORN TO RUN: Bishopstown forward Niamh Bonner racing goalwards past Barryroe's Ann Marie Fleming in the Cork County Senior Camogie Championship final at Cloughduv.

Picture: Denis Minihane

Fourth win for Town

IT was the night the girls decked in maroon and white came to Town.

In fact, it was last Friday night when Bishopstown landed their fourth senior camogie title on the trot. They arrived in Cloughduv with a formidable reputation and left with it intact.

The same can be said of their gallant opponents Barryroe.

Decked out immaculately in their new sporting gear that will not be put away for too long, the babes of West Cork won the hearts of many.

The underdogs defied the odds, overwhelming their challengers in the opening 30 minutes.

Ger Collins, Marie Moloney

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**

and Jenny O'Leary drew gasps of admiration from the huge crowd as they almost caught the camogie world off guard. But, their luck ran out, or more likely, Bishopstown's ran in.

They shoved the juggernaut into full throttle when it mattered most.

It was a memorable night, highlighted by the salute of the champions to one of their most cherished supporters.

Bishopstown club stalwart Con Begley was greeted by the entire team prior to the presentation of the cup to captain Ciara Enright.

Crumlin big test for Boden

A PARNELL Park Pearl is in store next Sunday morning as the Donnycarney venue hosts the Dublin Senior Championship final, (11.0). Taking the stage at HQ will be the holders, Ballyboden St. Enda's, against Crumlin, who are enjoying a wonderful season.

Crumlin's form has been remarkable given that at the close of last term things were so bleak that they were considering not entering the Senior "A" ranks at all.

Now, however, they lead the League and they are the only unbeaten side in the city.

Crumlin's golden year was 1985 when they secured the All-Ireland Club title. Still playing from those days are Cathy Walsh, Ruth Lyons and Joanne Courtney. The team has been considerably strengthened by the signing of the three

CAMOGIE

By **NIALL SCULLY**

Walsh sisters from Thomas Davis, Anne, Ailish and Marion, while Catherine Boyle, Sinéad Elliot and Niamh Kearney are also proven assets.

It's their first appearance in the Blue Riband since 1989, and it's the first time the sides have met on centre-stage. Boden, making their third successive appearance in the final, will start as favourites.

They had the longer route, being pushed all the way by Erin's Isle before going to a replay and extra time against St. Vincent's in the semi-final.

For Boden, Ciara Conway is solid in goal, and they have sound defenders in Roisin Kearney, Slobhan O'Dwyer, Sorcha Farrelly and Orla Smyth.

The midfield duo, Fiona Ni Chorcraoin and Sarah Crosbie are formidable, and their attack contains the likes of captain, Irene Kirwan, Sile Nic Coitir, Eimear Ring and Darcelle Doran.

If Boden win, it will round off a terrific year for the club, who already have collected their first Dublin Senior Ladies Football crown.

Ballyboden St. Enda's (from): C Conway, F Hughes, G Browne, S Dwyer, S Nic Coitir, J O'Sullivan, A Campbell, M Cronin, N Smith, S Crosbie, T Ni Riachadair, E Ring, R Kearney, C Blair, D Dolan, S Farrelly, G Concoran, F Concoran, O Smith, I Kirwan, N Regan, S McNeela, G McNeela.

Crumlin (from): S Elliot, S Hanks, J Courtney, F Kearney, N Kearney, A Maguire, A Walsh, E Walsh, M Walsh, R Lyons, C Boyle, C Walsh, J Kelly, G Flynn, L Cahill, S Coulfield, R NiNeachtain, S Fogarty, V Morris.

FIXTURES

SUNDAY: Parnell Park (11.0): Dublin Sen A C'ship final: Ballyboden St. Enda's v Crumlin.

MONDAY: Phoenix Park (7.0): Sen B C'ship: Kilmacall Crokes v Good Counsel, Jen A C'ship: Erin's Isle v Noyah Meenagh, Raheny v Uilleann Gacill.

Henderson's late point saves Down

Cork 2-9
Down 1-12

A POINT by Joan Henderson two minutes from full-time gave Down a second bite of the cherry in the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship semi-final in Ballyholland Co. Down on Saturday.

An entertaining opening half saw the sides level 1-6 apiece after goals from Marie Corkery and Moya McGinn.

Cork opened the second half with a point from substitute Mary Enneguise, but with a point from Colleen Hynds, Down levelled. Rachel Maloney goalied to stretch the Cork advantage but four points from Hynds, all from frees, kept Down in contention for Henderson to shoot the equaliser.

The sides will meet again on Saturday next at a Cork venue to be decided.

Scorers: Cork: R. Maloney 1-6 (3 frees), M. Corkery 1-0, R. Cahalan, C. Corkery, M. Enneguise 0-1 each; Down: C. Hynds 0-6 (frees), C. Mulholland 0-3 (2 frees), M. McGinn 1-0, C. McGovern 0-2, J. Henderson 0-1. **CORK:** G. Casey (capt), J. O'Callaghan, R. Holland, C. Giltinane, J. Hannon, R. Cahalan, L. O'Connell, V. O'Keefe, S. Morley, C. Corkery, A. O'Regan, M. Corkery, R. Maloney, J. O'Leary, D. O'Sullivan. Subs: M. Enneguise for O'Sullivan.

DOWN: T. McGowan, D. Kelland, P. Greene (capt), Clare McGovern, R. Cunningham, M. Murray, B. Gallagher, J. Henderson, Clara McGovern, C. Hynds, C. Mulholland, M. McGinn, K. Fagan, C. McGrath, A. Fearon, Sub: C. Gourty for M. McGinn.

Ref: C. O'Hara (Antrim)

In the second semi-final Limerick recorded a 4-5 to 2-10 victory over Antrim at Casement Park.

In the Cork County Senior B Championship, Millford recorded a comprehensive 6-5 to 1-0 victory over Watergrasshill yesterday.

Cork duo have a hectic weekend

Cork 2-9
Down 1-12

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**

Whatever aches and pains Bishopstown's Sheena Morley and Ruth Cahalan awoke to on Saturday morning, they were quickly forgotten about as they embarked on the long journey to Newry to compete in the All-Ireland Intermediate camogie semi-final.

The pair, who played a big part in the 'Town's county final win on Friday night had to switch mode as they made the long journey north.

"We left Cork by bus at ten o'clock,

and after a few stops arrived in Ballyholland two hours before the seven o'clock throw-in," explained Ruth.

"I suppose we were tired after the night before and the long journey too probably took its toll as we relinquished a three point lead for Down to draw level," she added.

In a very enjoyable game the sides were very even throughout.

Marie Corkery's goal in the opening

half was quickly negated by a timely flick from Down's Moya Maginn, which led to the teams going in at the break 1-6 each.

Cork sub, Mary Enneguise was quick to impress after the interval, and with a Rachel Moloney major, it looked as if the visitors were on course for a victory.

However, the accuracy of free taker Colleen Hynds kept the Mourne County in touch.

In a tremendously exciting finish, Joan Henderson showed nerves of steel to slot over the equaliser.



Ruth Cahalan: Tough few days.

Joan hits late point to rescue Down girls

Cork 2-9
Down 1-12

CORK'S challenge for a place in the All-Ireland Intermediate championship final remains on course after an equalising point from Down's Joan Henderson two minutes from full-time denied the Leesiders at Ballyholland on Saturday last.

An entertaining opening half saw the sides deadlocked at the interval 1-6 apiece.

A Marie Corkery goal 20 minutes into the opening half had Cork ahead.

Two minutes later Colleen Hynes' cross was met superbly by Corkery who finished to the net. Spurred on by this Down equalised on the stroke of half-time with a point from Cathy Mulholland.

A point from substitute Mary Ennequess lifted Cork. Colleen Hynes replied for Down but a Rachel Moloney goal saw Cork hit the front.

With their defence under constant pressure Cork's backs were against the wall. Cathy Mulholland kept Down in touch with four pointed frees.

With two minutes on the clock Joan Henderson shot the all important score to give the Down another chance.

CORK: G. Casey (c), J. O'Callaghan, R. Holland, C. Gilpinane, J. Hannon, R. Cahalan, L. O'Donnell, V. O'Keefe, S. Morley, C. Corkery, Aine O'Regan, M. Corkery, R. Moloney, J. O'Leary, O. O'Sullivan.

DOWN: Y. Mc Gowan, D. Kelland, P. Greene (c), C. Mm Gowan, R. Cunningham, M. Murray, B. Gallagher.

J. Henderson, C. Mc Gowan, C. Hynes, c. Mulholland, M. Maginn, K. Fagan, C. McGrath, A. Fenton.

Scorers: Cork: R. Moloney 1-6 (0-3 frees), M. Corkery 1-0, Ruth Cahalan, M. Ennequess, Catherine Corkery 0-1 each.

Down: Colleen Hynes 0-6 (all frees), Cathy Mulholland 0-3, (0-2 frees), Moya Maginn 1-0, Ciara Mc Gowan 0-2, Joan Henderson 0-1.

Milford have the power

Milford 6-5
Watergrasshill 1-0

MILFORD recorded a good victory over Watergrasshill in the Senior B Championship at Glanane on Sunday.

Totally in control throughout the opening half the North Cork girls led 5-3 to 0-0 at the interval with goals from Emer O'Friel, Emer Watson, Lelia Long, Liz Linehan and Imelda Sexton.

A sporting Watergrasshill side tried to the end and were rewarded with a goal 20 minutes into the second-half. A second goal from Liz Linehan gave Milford an unassailable lead.

Eire Og advanced to the Under 14 B league final when they recorded a 4-4 to 1-0 victory over Kildorrey. Emer O'Driscoll's contribution of 1-2 along with goals from Trisha Murphy (two) and Marion Glavin set the mid Cork side up for a final against Ballyhea.

Battling Barryroe put up great fight against the champions



Ciara Enright, the Bishopstown captain, receives the trophy from Sile Golden chairperson Cork County Board after the final.

Experience tells for Bishopstown

Bishopstown 2-13
Barryroe 1-4

BISHOPSTOWN retained their Cork County Championship title and made it four-in-a-row thanks mainly to a tremendous second-half performance against a young Barryroe side at Cloughduv on Friday.

Barryroe settled quickly with points from Jenny O'Leary and Marie Moloney within eight minutes.

Ciara Healy opened the Bishopstown scoring 11 minutes into the half with a point.

Healy and O'Leary had exchanged points before two in the 18th and 22nd minute from Healy had Bishopstown back on level terms.

Bishopstown took the lead when Caroline Kenny hit a fine goal.

Keeping in touch Barryroe's Jenny O'Leary converted a free to leave just two points between the sides at the interval 1-3 to 0-4.

From the resumption Bishopstown extended their lead with a Sinead



Ciara Healy who won the player of the match is congratulated Derek McCarthy.

O'Callaghan point but three minutes later Marie Moloney had Barryroe back on level terms with a superb goal.

Gaining confidence Barryroe again came in search of the lead but faulty shooting saw them hit three wides.

Let off the hook Bishopstown responded and with inter-county players Viv Harris, Sinead O'Callaghan, and Ciara Healy showing great leadership they hit the front.

Seven points in succession had killed the Barryroe challenge before Sinead O'Callaghan's goal two minutes from full-time. Healy and Aine White added points to round off the scoring on a night when the greater experience of the holders proved crucial.

Credit to the young Barryroe side who made the champions work hard particularly in the opening half, but on a night when the chips were down the craft and experience told.

Speaking to Bishopstown captain Ciara Enright after the game she felt that throughout their championship campaign Bishopstown had been slow to settle in the first-half.

"Coach Bernard Olden had drilled into us tonight that if we gave Barryroe a good start we were in trouble," said Enright.

"They did trouble us in the opening half but Derbhilla Quigley did a great marking job on Jenny O'Leary and that limited their scoring ability. We knew that we would have to hold Jenny if we were to beat them," said Enright.

Fixtures

Tonight
Senior B Championship: Valley Rovers v Aghbullogue at Ovens 7.30pm.

Saturday
All-Ireland Intermediate semi-final replay: Cork v Down at Ballincollig. time to be arranged.

Sunday
Senior B Championship: Eire Og v Kilbrittain at Newcestown 3.30.

Rovers are facing a tough hour

THE Senior B championship continues in the coming week with Valley Rovers and Aghbullogue meeting tonight in Ovens at 7.30.

Valley Rovers with Cork senior Elaine Burke, Marie Hurley and Liz Bugler will face a tough hour against an Aghbullogue.

Inter-county junior players Louise Murphy and Mary Ennequess will lead the Aghbullogue challenge.

On Sunday Eire Og and Kilbrittain clash in Newcestown.

Kilbrittain will be hoping to get their quest for honours off to a good start.

They will look to Cork senior Miriam Deasy, Val O'Keefe and Mary Sexton to lead the way.

Already this year the sides met in the league with Kilbrittain taking the honours.

They face an Eire Og side who with a mixture of youth and experience who will test last year's finalists.

Rejuvenated Down pose threat to Rebels

CORK and Down stage a repeat of the 1998 All-Ireland Intermediate camogie final in Ballyholland tonight for a place in this season's decider, writes Therese O'Callaghan.

Down, who won the title for the first time two years ago in Paire Uí Rinn, will have a much-changed side tonight.

Mairin McAleenan, their most talented forward over the years, is out with a recurring knee problem, while midfielder Jenny Braniff is holidaying for the summer in Australia.

A change in management too sees former Derry hurling goalkeeper Pádraig O'Mianain at the helm. Since taking over at the start of

this season, the commitment and enthusiasm of the Mourne County has been rejuvenated.

They put up a powerful display against Tipperary in the opening round of the senior championship, only to miss out narrowly.

Cork's Aine Kelleher and Aine O'Regan will be back in contention for places in

the Rebel lineout. Fresh from their two-point win over Dublin last Sunday, the team is expected to be similar to that which lined out six days ago, although centre-back Emer Dillon is unavailable for this clash.

Rachel Moloney, if she can reproduce her scoring form, will be crucial to Cork's chances of victory.

Representatives from last night's county final will also be among the selection - Sheena Morley and Ruth Cahalan of Bishopstown and Barryroe's Jenny O'Leary and Rosalie Holland.

A close game is in prospect with Cork pressing for a third All-Ireland final appearance of the year.

All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship semi-finals: Down 1-12 Cork 2-9, Antrim 2-10 Limerick 4-5

Down grab a draw but Antrim pay for missed chances

DOWN may have been under-strength for Saturday's All-Ireland Intermediate semi-final in Ballyholland but they deserved the draw which Joan Henderson's point two minutes from time gained.

Short of players like Jennifer Braniff and Malrin McAleenan all summer, they then lost captain Donna Mullan (holidays) and Deirdre Savage (injured) on Saturday. But he can be proud of the players who fielded and worked very hard for this result.

The excellent Pauline Greene moved to full-back, captaining the side with Deborah Kelland and Majella Murray also starring in defence. Joan Henderson had a good hour at midfield and deservedly shot the equaliser, while Colleen Hynds' frees during the

second half were accurate and necessary. The sides were all square at the break after an entertaining first half. Rachel Maloney's free taking put Cork into an early lead and a goal in the 20th minute from Marie Corkery seemed to put some daylight between the teams.

However two minutes later, Moya Maginn delightfully flicked a centre from Colleen Hynds to the Cork net and it lifted the home side to equalise on half-time with a point from Cathy Mulholland.

Rachel Maloney, who scored all Cork's total in the quarter-final against Dublin, looked as if she was destined to play a key role in the semi-final as well when she shot her side's second goal.

But Down responded well and Colleen Hynds scored five points dur-

ing the second half, keeping her side in touch for Henderson to shoot the equaliser near the finish.

A 21-yard free deep into injury time which Sinead McMullan drove just over the bar could have rescued Antrim's All-Ireland Intermediate aspirations at Casement Park yesterday, but over-elaboration and the failure to close down Eileen O'Brien and Vera Sheehan cost the Saffrons a place in next month's final.

Anne McKee got Antrim off to a great start when she seemed to mis-hit a 21-yard free, but still managed to dip her shot under the bar in fourth minute.

However O'Brien and Sheehan were running at the Antrim defence and a long ball from the former was blocked down for Sheehan to find the net in the

15th minute.

Ten minutes later Sheehan did it again, although Ciara McKinley mis-judged her shot and saw it bounce agonisingly over the line.

The crucial score however came in the 56th minute when Eileen O'Brien robbed Ciara McKinley 50-yards out, soloed to the 21 and sent an unstoppable shot to the net.

Two minutes later, Grace McMullan grabbed an Antrim goal, but despite eight minutes of added time, the Saffrons could get no closer and bowed out of a championship they were good enough to win.

Antrim: C McKinley, H Healy, B McCollum, S McMullan (0-1 free), C Gault, M Barry, C McKinley, R Duffin, C Higgins (0-2, 0-1 free), G Connolly, G McMullan (1-1), J Adams (0-2), A McKee (capt) (1-3), O Elliott, C Doherty.

Subs: K O'Neill (0-1) for G Connolly (33 mins). **Limerick:** B O'Brien, R Collins, B O'Brien, M Nash, M Neville, P McCarthy, K Burke, M Lonnegan, D Sheehan (capt), E O'Brien (1-3) J Cullinane, M Casey, P Cronin (0-1) V Sheehan (3-1), D Fitzpatrick.

Subs: A Lane for P Cronin (52mins), A White for D Fitzpatrick (56).

Referee: Aoife Woods (Armagh). **Cork:** G Casey, J O'Callaghan, R Holland, C Gilheon, J Hannon, R Cahalane (0-1), L O'Connell, V O'Keefe, S Morley, C Corkery (0-1), Aine O'Reagan, Marie Corkery (1-0), Rachel Maloney (1-6, 0-3 frees), Jennifer O'Leary, Orla O'Sullivan.

Subs: M Enneggess (0-1) for O'Sullivan (ht). **Down:** T McGowan, D Kelland, P Greene, (capt), C McGovern, R Cunningham, M Murray, B Gallagher, J Henderson (0-1), C McGovern (0-2), C Hynds (0-6, all frees), C Mulholland (0-3, 0-2 frees), M Maginn (1-0), K Fagan, C McGrath, A Fearon.

Subs: Catherine McGourty for M. Maginn (38). **Referee:** Catherine O'Hara (Antrim).

It's an all-Munster affair

FORAS NA GAELIGE

The Cross border body responsible for promotion of the Irish language throughout the island of Ireland.

The first Sunday in September promises to be a sea of colour as the red and white of Corcaigh meet Tiobraid Aranns blue and gold.

Corcaigh overcame Loch Gorman in a rather one sided All Ireland Foran na Gaeilge Semi Final on a 3-13 to 1-05 scoreline in Parnell Park.

Corcaigh who were very determined to visit Paire an Chroaigh again, began in a determined mood with an Elaine Burke free within 2 minutes, followed by a goal in the tenth minute from Una O'Donoghue and again in the 17th from Elaine Burke.

Although Cork dominated in all sectors, Kate Kelly playing at centre forward for the unavailable Paula Rankin of Wexford put in a great performance throughout the hour.

Cork were ahead 2-08 to 0-01 at the break, Wexfords point coming from Aoife Druhan.

When Cork got their 3rd goal from Ciara Healy early in the second half, it made life more difficult for the South East girls.

A late goal from Evelyn Quigley gave the Wexford fans something to cheer about, and quite possibly her father Dan who captained Wexford to victory in 68' had a smile on his face, but it was never going to be enough to thwart the Cork machine.

Tipperary who overcame Galway on a 2-11 to 1-8 were highly motivated by manager Michael Cleary and like Cork had the ball over the bar in the second minute with a Caitriona Hennessy free. An Emer McDonnell goal in the 10th minute gave the crowd of over 3,000 a lot to cheer for, but at that stage Galway were full of fire and Ann Forde delighted the Westerners with a goal to leave the sides level 1-07 each.

A free in the 2nd minute after the restart from Caitriona

Hennessy had Tipp ahead, but the 10th minute saw the sides level again at 1-08 each when Veronica Curtin sent over a fine Galway point, however it was to be Galways only point of the second half.

A Noelle Kennedy goal from a long range free in the 13th minute gave Tipp great inspiration and seemed to knock Galway.

Galway made a number of changes including Orla Kilkenny for Sharon Glynn at full forward. Sharon was finding it tough throughout from Una O'Dwyer who had a superb game.

Galways Therese Maher had a fine game also and particularly in the second half.

The first Sunday of September will see these two sides face each other for the first time ever in an All Ireland final.

All Ireland Intermediate Championship Quarter Final
Cork 0-12 Dublin 1-07

Corks Rachael Maloney who was a sub for the seniors on Saturday scored all of Corks 12 points, while Dublin's goal came from Louise O'Hara in the second half. Cork now meet Down in the All Ireland.

Fixtures: AUG 20th

All Ireland Intermediate Championship Semi Finals

Down v Cork

Antrim v Limerick - in Casement Park, Belfast



Will Tipperary be celebrating again come September?

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First Game 12.00 pm

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This event is supported by Sports Lottery Fund - Millennium Festival and Banbridge District Council

All-Ireland Camogie Senior Championship Semi-Finals At Parnell Park

Cork 3-13
Wexford 1-5
Cork: C. Keohane, D. Cronin, E. Duggan, M. Finn, S. Hayes, M. O'Connor, V. Harris, U. Troy, L. Mellerick 0-2, S. O'Callaghan 0-1, F. O'Driscoll 0-5, C. Harrington, U. O'Donoghue 1-0, C. Healy 1-3, E. Burke 1-2.

Wexford: M. Heurne, O. Herman, S. Carr, B. Holohan, L. Corrigan, F. Dunne, R. Breen, E. Quigley 1-0, L. Holohan, A. Druhan 0-1, K. Kelly, M. Murphy 0-1, A. O'Connor, M. Kelly 0-1, H. Jacob 0-2. Subs: E. Roche for Murphy, L. Byrne for Holohan.

Tipperary 2-11
Galway 1-8
Tipperary: J. Delaney, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, E. Hayden, A. McDermott, P. Fogarty 0-2, N. Kennedy 1-3, G. Shanahan, E. McDonnell 1-0, D. Hughes 0-1, C. Hennessy 0-4. Sub: C. Grogan 0-1 for Shanahan.

Galway: F. Gothers, T. Laheen, A. Broderick, P. Nevin, M. Haverly, O. Broderick, A. Hillaty, A. Kelly 0-1, C. Hannon, C. Nevin 0-1, T. Maher, S.

Tannian, V. Curtin 0-2, S. Glynn 0-4, A. Forde 1-0. Subs: T. Hobbin for Hannon, O. Kilkenny for Glynn.

Last Friday night, August 18 was a big night in the sporting life of Barryroe when the camogie team took on the might of Bishopstown in the senior county final at Cloughduh. Victorious over Glen Rovers, Seandun and Newtownshandrum in their path to the final they had generated tremendous support throughout the parish and beyond. From the throw-in, Barryroe went right on the offensive and within a few minutes full forward Josephine Cahalane with a beautiful overhead pull had the ball in the net only for play to be called back for a free which Jennifer O'Leary pointed. Keeping up the pressure, Marie Moloney was through a few minutes later with only the goalie to beat when she was again called back for a free which Jennifer pointed. Barryroe held this two point lead up to the 11th minute when Bishopstown got their first point. A point from Marie Moloney maintained Barryroe's advantage, before county player C. Healy, with two pointed frees drew level at twenty minutes, and a few minutes later another inter-county player, but not from Cork, C. Kearney, sent in a piledriver which Cora Keohane saved brilliantly but she evaded the Barryroe backs to find the net from the rebound. A pointed free by Jennifer O'Leary left Barryroe trailing by two points at the short whistle and were desperately unlucky with a number of chances which went narrowly wide. Inter county player Sinead O'Connor from North Cork, opened Bishopstown's account with a point on the resumption but a few minutes later the darling of the crowd, Muriel Moloney, needed her way through the back to send a beauty to the net and the Barryroe roar responded. For the next ten minutes Barryroe controlled the play and nearly had the ball in the net on two occasions and the crowning heart-break came when Jennifer

O'Leary got possession some forty yards outfield and raced through the defence before letting fly a bullet which, unfortunately struck the upright and glanced out wide. From this run of bad luck it was hard to sustain the momentum and once Bishopstown got their nose in front, the power of all their inter-county players, led by the forceful Ciara Healy at full-forward, saw them through for their fourth county in a row on a score which in no way reflected the general run of the play. For Barryroe, they can hold their heads high, a very young team, with only four of them over twenty, all of them natives of the parish and coming from a 'One Parish' they can now boast of being the best parish camogie team in Co. Cork since Bishopstown had players from all over Munster, including their recent signing, the Bownier girl from Cashel, to strengthen their team. The after match talk in Cloughduh on Friday night was that the girl had played in the Tipperary county championship and if that's the case the Cork Co. Board will have some explaining to do because in any other sport, such an indiscretion would carry a two year suspension for the offending club. If Camogie is to develop and prosper throughout rural Ireland this must be kept out of it because in the words of Matt The Thresher it should be played for the sake and the love of the parish and the little village.

Down fall to Rebels

DOWN'S All-Ireland Intermediate dreams only died during the final five minutes of an interesting semi-final in Ballincollig on Saturday, Cork beating the Mourne girls 2-13 to 2-4.

It will be an all-Munster showdown on September 17.

Marie Corkery cracked home a Cork goal in the opening 20 seconds and by the 20th minute the home side were 1-4 up, with Down yet to register a score.

However the visitors amazingly had drawn level before half-time. Claire McGrath opened Down's account with a 23rd minute goal.

Catherine McGourty and Majella Murray pointed immediately and Ciara McGovern shot a second goal on the half-hour, only for Rachel Maloney to point a '45' and give Cork a 1-6 to 2-2 advantage for the second half.

Cork took control in the third quarter and Down could not repeat their first half comeback. Jenny O'Leary's 25th minute goal sealed the issue.

Cork scorers: J O'Leary (1-2), M Corkery (1-0), R Maloney (0-5), C Corkery (0-2), E Dillon (0-1), A O'Regan (0-1), J Hannon (0-1), O O'Sullivan (0-1).
Down scorers: C McGrath (1-0), C McGovern (1-0), M Murray (0-2), C McGourty (0-1), C Hynds (0-1).
Referee: B Phillips (Tipperary).

Why success proves costly

IN AN article earlier this year, I looked back on a wonderfully successful decade for Cork camogie. Now as the new decade enters its ninth month, the trend has been maintained with success to report on all fronts.

By **FINBARR MC CARTHY**

To date, the National League titles in senior and junior have been won, and on the first Sunday in September, both these teams will be in Croke Park endeavouring to complete a league and championship double as they face Tipperary and Derry respectively in the All-Ireland finals.

County Board chairperson, Sile Golden, has, along with players and officials, spent the year travelling the country - and further afield even, as the juniors had to undertake a trip to London for the All-Ireland quarter final.

All this success has come at a price, resulting in an enormous drain on the Board's limited finances.

Sile explains: "Apart from two games, all our championship matches have been away from home, and in the league, we had a trip to Down with two teams. We have already one overnight in Dublin for the senior semi-final, while the unexpected but welcome win by our juniors meant a trip to London, and now with the All-Ireland weekend coming up, our resources are stretched to the limit. But the success we're having is brilliant, and whatever the cost, we will cope somehow."

She agrees that the game in the county is in a very healthy state, and all these wins will continue to raise the profile and encourage more girls to play the game.

Sile paid tribute to the Board's sponsors, ACC Bank. "They have been with us for a number of years now, and we are grateful for their support, and in particular that of Liam Harte, who has been extremely helpful and appreciates our difficulties more than most as he is involved in promoting the game in his own club."

In an effort to reduce the cost of the week-



County Board chairperson, Sile Golden.

end, the Board have embarked on two fund raising ventures, which they hope will be well supported. This will surely prove to be the case, knowing the Cork public.

The first is an attractive draw with over 20 prizes. Tickets cost just £1 each, and are available from all camogie clubs, players and Board officers. The draw will take place on Monday, September 11, giving all ample opportunity to support the venture.

The second initiative is one they have undertaken with some reluctance, as Sile explains. "We have written to all the GAA clubs in the county; it is something we have not done for a while, but this is an exceptional year, and we felt it necessary to seek their support. In the past, they have been magnificent, and despite the many calls on clubs, we would appreciate any contribution they feel they can make."

The players, too, will play their part in the fund raising, as they appreciate more than most what has been done for them all year. Undoubtedly though, the best way they can repay the Board is by recording a historic double "double" for the county!

Despite the financial constraints, the Board remain undaunted, and Sile is adamant everything possible will be done to achieve victory. Most of the arrangements are already in place. Sile again: "We are nearly ready; the hotel is

booked, the gear for the two teams and officials is in order, and in the coming days, we will finalise our travel arrangements, thereby leaving everyone free to concentrate on the main job in hand."

The big question is can both sides win their respective doubles? Sile is confident. "I suppose of the two, the juniors face the toughest task, as it is in effect our third team against Derry's first. But they are a good squad and will certainly give it their best shot. As for the seniors, they have been excellent all year, and will be determined to maintain their dominance over Tipp. Even though the latter are All-Ireland champions, if Cork can repeat the form shown against Kilkenny, I expect them to win - but it will be tough."

So financial worries aside, it will be a confident Cork contingent that heads for Croke Park on Saturday week. They have enjoyed a fabulous year so far, and with the minor hurlers and footballers to follow them, let's hope they get the month of September off to the best possible start. I have a feeling they will.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Board's All-Ireland fund, Sile Golden can be contacted at 021-7337136, or the PRO, Mary Newman, can be reached on 021-4397710. Alternatively, contact Finbarr McCarthy at Inside Cork.

Cork too strong for Down

Cork 2-13
Down 2-4

CORK proved too strong for Down in the semi-final replay of the All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship, at Ballincollig on Saturday.

A Marie Corkery goal plus points from Catherine Corkery, Jenny O'Leary and Emer Dillon gave Cork a 1-4 to 0-0 lead 20 minutes into the game. Down settled with a goal from Catherine McGourty and points from Majella Murray, and McGourty kept them in contention before a Ciara McGovern goal.

Rachel Maloney's point in injury-time gave Cork a 1-6 to 2-2 first-half lead.

On the resumption, Cork added three points from Rachel Maloney, Amanda O'Regan and Jill Hannon.

Scorers: Cork: R. Maloney 0-5 (1 free), J. O'Leary 1-2, M. Corkery 1-0, C. Corkery 0-2, E. Dillon, Amanda O'Regan, J. Hannon, O. O'Sullivan 0-1 each; Down: C. McGourty 1-1, C. McGovern 1-0, M. Murray 0-2 (1 free), C. Hynds 0-1.
CORC: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, R. Holland, C. Giltinan, J. Hannon, R. Cahalane, L. O'Connell, E. Dillon, S. Morley, C. Corkery, Aine O'Regan, O. Sullivan, J. O'Leary, M. Corkery, R. Maloney. Subs: Amanda O'Regan for Aine O'Regan.

DOWN: T. McGowan, D. Kelland, D. McMillan, C. McGowan, R. Cunningham, P. Greene, B. Gallagher, J. Henderson, M. Murray, C. Hynds, C. McGovern, C. McGourty, K. Fagan, C. McGrath, M. McGinn. Subs: A. McFerrin for K. Fagan.

Casey the herione for Cork

Cork 2-13
Down 2-4

CORK goalkeeper, Ger Casey, will be remembered for her acts of heroism after Saturday's All Ireland Intermediate camogie championship semi-final replay in Ballincollig, but could just as easily have been the villain.

An untypical error by Cork's number one which resulted in total misjudgment of the flight of the sliotar left Down back into the game. However, Ger is a superb goalkeeper and a brilliant double save soon after the restart, when Cork led by just the minimum proved she was back to her best. "I was told at half-time to put the goal behind me, and then when I had to save soon into the second-half, I got my confidence back," said a relieved Casey.

Cork had to battle very hard for this well earned victory. After a lightning start with a goal and a point from sisters Marie and Catherine Corkery inside the opening five minutes, they let the visitors back into the game with 2-2 scored within a 10-minute spell. With three points between the teams, Cork forward Orla O'Sullivan fired a ground shot passed Down keeper, Therese McGowan, who to be fair had an outstanding afternoon between the posts for the visitors.

The return of Emer Dillon to centre-field, powered by a very solid backline supplying plenty of ball upfront where Marie and Catherine Corkery, Orla O'Sullivan and Rachel Maloney were in top form tacking on further points.

The final will now be an all Munster affair between Cork and Limerick.

COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

Slow scoring Toome eventually pay the price

Cahsel retain title in thriller

Cashel 1-10, Toomevara 2-6

by GERRY SLEVIN

The sigh of relief that greeted the final whistle and the knowledge that there were no injuries to hinder preparations for Sunday week's All Ireland final, was almost palpable in Littleton on Saturday evening. At the same time the sheer joy of the Cashel team and supporters, and the contrasting disappointment of the Toomevara contingent, clearly showed that while there will be unity of purpose in Tipp's bid to retain the national title, the club ideal and all it stands for, continues to remain strong.

Eight of the team expected to play against Cork were in action in sunny Littleton on Saturday evening and a huge attendance saw friendships put aside as both teams set out to uphold the honour of their respective clubs.

Cashel, seeking their third title in a row managed to survive by the least of margins and though it was so close in the end, there was no denying Cashel's right to the title in what was a very sporting and keenly contested decider.

While Toome might have snatched it in the end -- and Deirdre Hughes almost did it with a great shot that just whizzed over instead of under the bar -- when they look back on the game, they will readily see that their failure to make sufficient impression in the first half, was their undoing in the end.

SUPERIOR SIDE

At half time Cashel led 1-6 to 0-2 and looked the superior side, settling in very quickly and putting the Toome defence under extreme pressure. Inter county keeper Jovita Delaney was a serious threat in attack and Philly Fogarty too was very impressive. Indeed it was this duo that combined for Philly to rattle home the game's first goal in the 20th minute.

Two Noelle Kennedy points was all Toome could manage in the half, one of them from a free, and the wisdom of playing



Toomevara Senior camogie team which lost by a solitary point to Cashel in the County Final at Littleton. Back row (l. to r.): Siobhan Cusack, Mary Rose Ryan, Kathleen Kennedy, Catherine Byrne, Nora Dwan, Suzanne Kelly, Lena Woods (capt.), Louise Young. Front: Marie McCarthy, Tricia Ryan, Grainne Shanahan, Deirdre Hughes, Noelle Kennedy, Miriam Maxwell and Anna Woods.

At the other end, what Una O'Dwyer was to Cashel, Suzanne Kelly was to Toome and she consistently averted danger with her positional sense and effective clearances. However the two pronged threat of Delaney and Fogarty

to get into the game quickly to have any hope of recovery, although two early points from Norma Coffey (free) and Philly Fogarty didn't do their morale any good.

COME BACK BEGAN

The come-back began when Deirdre Hughes weaved her

Una O'Dwyer was coming out to clear, she was penalised for over carrying. Another Noelle Kennedy point followed.

The game's temperature had risen considerably by now and while Philly Fogarty got a point back for Cashel, shades of Tipp's All Ireland semi final

Still Toome attacked and a huge Noelle Kennedy centre saw Una O'Dwyer come safely through, and with it the final whistle.

There was more excitement built into the last quarter than many an entire competition and though Toome will no doubt



IMMORTALITY: Celine Doody, Feohanagh and Vincent Hayes, Kanturk, who were married in Feohanagh Church. Picture: Rose Baker



Ballygarvan, who were the eventual winners of the Declan Crowley perpetual memorial cup at the recent Ballinhassig under 10 camogie tournament in Ballinhassig.

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2000



Suzanne Kelly gets in a clearance for Toomevara.

Deirdre Hughes on the half forward line instead of farther in was found to be unsound. While Anna Woods was giving it everything at mid field and winning a lot of possession, the Cashel inside defence line and Una O'Dwyer in particular was 'cleaning up' and Toome seldom looked like piercing the sector.

was causing serious problems for the Toome defence as a whole and Cashel's seven point interval margin was no more than they deserved.

For the second half, Noelle Kennedy moved to mid field in a swap with Louise Young. It was a move that suited both players very well. Toome had

way through in the 8th minute and with some help from Siobhan Cusack, the ball ended up in the Cashel net. Then Lena Woods was fouled and Noelle Kennedy's shot was deflected out for a 45 which she sent straight and true between the uprights.

Another Toome attack and as

win over Galway emerged when a long Noelle Kennedy free ended up in the Cashel net. Two points between the teams, twelve minutes remaining -- only twenty five minutes each half were played -- and everything to play for.

Cashel's dynamic centre forward Anne Barry was fouled going through and while most were under the impression that Norma Coffey's free was true, her shot was waved wide.

TOOME ATTACK

Louise Young at the other end, set up a Toome attack, soloed through and was fouled. No problem to Noelle Kennedy again, the margin reduced to a point. Noelle was all over the place and in endeavouring to help out her defence, she dropped the ball under pressure, thereby providing Jovita Delaney with an opportunity to pick up and point, an opportunity she did not spurn.

With added time being played Grainne Shanahan sent in a fine centre which Deirdre Hughes grabbed and with Cashel backs swarming all over her, she unleashed a powerful shot, that saw the ball skim over and not under the bar, its preferred destination.

bemoan their ill luck, especially in the closing minutes, they will have to concede that, all round, Cashel were the better team. Toome should have been far more productive in the first half and the fact that they came back so well thereafter, showed that they had the wherewithal to deprive Cashel of their third in a row title. They just didn't put it together in the first half, and it probably cost them dearly.

Ably led by Maedhbh Stokes, Cashel had superb performances from Una O'Dwyer, Kaiffe Moloney and Anne Marie Fitzgerald in defence, Emily Hayden and Paula Bulfin at mid field and up front, Jovita Delaney, Philly Fogarty, Anne Barry.

Suzanne Kelly was brilliant in the Toome defence with best support coming from Mary Rose Ryan and Kathleen Kennedy. Anna Woods worked extremely hard at mid field, with Louise Young faring better when moving to the attack in the second half. Noelle Kennedy popped up everywhere in a bid to turn the tide Toome's way and her free taking again was spot-on. Grainne Shanahan came more into the game in the second half and Deirdre Hughes likewise with Siobhan Cusack also working very hard.

SCORERS AND TEAMS

Scorers for Cashel were P. Fogarty 1-3, J. Delaney, N. Coffey (2 frees) 0-3 each, A. Barry 0-1.

For Toomevara, N. Kennedy 1-5 (3 frees, 1 54) and D. Hughes 1-1 replied.

CASHEL --- Sandra Ricken, Michelle Kennedy, Una O'Dwyer, Anne Marie Fitzgerald, Maedhbh Stokes (capt), Helen Breen, Kaiffe Moloney, Emily Hayden, Paula Bulfin, Triona Bonnar, Anne Barry, Philly Fogarty, Norma Coffey, Jovita Delaney, Libby Twomey.

TOOMEVARA --- Nora Dwan, Trisha Ryan, Mary Rose Ryan, Miriam Maxwell, Catherine Byrne, Suzanne Kelly, Kathleen Kennedy, Anna Woods, Louise Young, Deirdre Hughes, Noelle Kennedy, Grainne Shanahan, Leri Woods (capt) Siobhan Cusack, Marie McCarthy.

Referee --- John Pender, Westmeath.



Emily Hayden (Cashel) and Anna Woods (Toomevara) in balletic motion.

South East under-age camogie



Mary Hurley, Chairperson, South East Camogie Board, seen presenting the under 11 South East Camogie trophy to Niamh O'Reilly, captain, Eire Og, whose team defeated Courcey Rovers in the final played at Ballinhassig.



Courcey Rovers, who were defeated by Eire Og 2-1 to 2-0 in the South East Under 11 Camogie Final at Ballinhassig.

AUG 2000



Tipperary captain '98
Meadhbh Stokes

Cork captain '98
Eithne Duggan

Cc

capable

Hurling may have an all-Leinster All-Ireland final this year but next Sunday's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie final is an all-Munster affair between reigning champions Tipperary and traditional giants Cork.

Not since 1994, when Kilkenny defeated Wexford by 2-11 to 0-8, have two counties from the same province met in an All-Ireland Senior Camogie final and one has to trace back to 1980 for the last all-Munster decider which saw Cork overcome Limerick after a replay.

Sunday's game marks the first ever meeting between Cork and Tipperary in an All-Ireland final and the expected attendance of over 10,000 - not to mention the thousands watching on television - are bracing themselves for what promises to be a classic encounter.

As champions, Tipperary will carry a considerable weight of expectation but Cork too have their fair share of admirers, having won the dress-rehearsal that was the National League final earlier this year. Tradition strongly favours the Leesiders who, with 19 All-Ireland titles to their name, are second only to Dublin who top the roll of honour with 26. Tipperary, who have contested eight All-Ireland finals, only made the breakthrough last season when they edged out favourites Kilkenny in thrilling circumstances.

The aforementioned National

Cork

History will be made at Croke Park on Sunday week when Tipperary and Cork meet in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie final for the first time. Randal Scally previews a contest which has all the makings of being a classic.

of dethroning Tipp

**FORAS
NA GAELIGE**
The Cross border body
responsible for promotion of
the Irish language throughout
the island of Ireland.

League final, played in June, provided a tasty appetiser for Sunday. After an evenly-contested first half, Cork grabbed the initiative early in the second half when Fiona O'Driscoll scored the opening goal. When O'Driscoll added a second goal, it seemed that the Leesiders would run out comfortable winners but Tipperary put in a spirited late rally and were rewarded with a goal from Deirdre Hughes. However, it wasn't enough to save the All-Ireland champions from a three-point defeat, 3-7 to 1-10. It was Cork's sixth National League success on the trot.

Tipperary, who are managed by former county hurling star Michael Cleary, had little time to reflect on that defeat as they played Down in the first game of the All-Ireland Championship in early July. Despite having a number of injury worries, Tipp emerging facile winners on a 1-14 to 0-1 scoreline. The champions led by 0-5 to 0-0 at half-time and they sealed the issue early in the second half when Noelle Kennedy goaled from a free. Interestingly, one of Down's better performers on the day was Tipp native Joan Henderson who happens to be a second cousin of Tipperary captain Jovita Delaney.

On July 22, Tipperary chalked up another comfortable win when they accounted for neighbours Clare by 4-15 to 0-5. That victory earned them a semi-final meeting with 1996 All-Ireland winners Galway at Parnell Park. Tipp had needed extra-time to see off the challenge of the Westerners in the National League semi-final, so another close contest was anticipated.

The sides were level at 1-7 each at half-time and they remained deadlocked throughout the third quarter. The turning point eventually arrived in the 45th minute when Noelle Kennedy goaled from a 55 metres free which sent Tipp on their way to a 2-11 to 1-8 victory.

Cork first entered the championship spotlight when they squared up to arch-rivals Kilkenny in an eagerly-awaited quarter-final tie at Nowlan Park. The game provided the Leesiders with an opportunity to avenge the heartbreaking semi-final defeat they suffered at the hands of the same opposition in 1999.

Kilkenny looked the better side in the opening half and, thanks to a goal from Catherine Doherty, led by 1-7 to 1-3

at the interval. Cork brought themselves back into contention early in the second half when a goal from midfielder Linda Mellerick reduced the deficit to the minimum.

Thereafter, the sides were level on five occasions but the revenge-hungry Leesiders were not to be denied with Ciara Healy's injury-time point giving them a thrilling 2-10 to 1-12 victory.

If the Kilkenny game had been close, Cork's semi-final clash with a youthful Wexford side at Parnell Park couldn't have been more one-sided. Dominant in almost every sector of the field, Cork had built up a commanding 2-8 to 0-1 lead by half-time with Una O'Donoghue and Elaine Burke notching the goals. Wexford managed a late goal through Evelyn Quigley but Cork still coasted into their 35th All-Ireland Senior final on a 3-13 to 1-5 scoreline.

The intrigue attached to Sunday's game is added to by the fact that both teams are packed with All-Ireland medal holders. Tipperary have matured significantly since making the breakthrough last year and their semi-final victory over Galway bears testament to this. They could have panicked when the game was finely poised with a quarter of an hour remaining but instead they showed tremendous composure and went on to achieve a six-point win. They possess many talented performers throughout their side including the versatile Ciara Gaynor, prolific scorer Noelle Kennedy and last season's Eireann Player of the Year, Deirdre Hughes.

Cork, who won five All-Ireland crowns throughout the 1990s, have arguably the strongest panel in the game at the moment and will look to players such as Linda Mellerick, Ursula Troy and captain Vivienne Harris for inspiration. Another player who Tipperary don't need to be reminded about is Fiona O'Driscoll who put a whopping 2-7 past them in the National League decider.

For Tipp to defeat Cork, they must smash a major psychological barrier which has undoubtedly contributed to their National League final defeats of 1999 and this year. It should be a thriller but Cork - last champions in 1998 - look to have the greater all-round balance and experience to relieve Tipp of the coveted O'Duffy Cup. Verdict: Cork.



IN ACTION: Cork's Ciara Healy chases down her opponent during their Munster camogie championship match against Limerick last year. Picture: News-Pic's

Six head to Croker

By **BERNIE CROWLEY**
Gates Reporter

THE Bishopstown Camogie Club players have done themselves and their club proud this year, having helped Cork's senior and junior teams to the All-Ireland camogie finals in Croke Park next Sunday.

Their day in the spotlight was hard-earned, with the dedicated girls putting in a season of exceptionally hard training with the Cork side and the Bishopstown club under the guidance of coach Pat Murray.

Bishopstown's Vivienne Harris, who has the honour of captaining the senior team this year, played a central role.

Joining her on the big day will be her talented Bishopstown colleagues Eithne Duggan, Ciara Healy and Sinéad O'Callaghan.

All of these players have firmly made their mark at county level, with each of them playing significant roles in the senior team's wins over old rivals Kilkenny and Wexford.

Skilful Ruth Cabalan is also a vital member of the Cork panel, boosting the Bishopstown presence.

Another up-and-coming star is young Jean O'Sullivan, a member of the Cork junior team that defeated Limerick and Tipperary earlier in the year.

Jean and her team-mates will be hoping to repeat the success of their predecessors on Sunday.

Having won the All-Ireland junior title in 1999, the Pat Murray-coached Cork juniors were required to field a completely new team this year and were not even expected to come out of Munster.

It is, therefore, a remarkable feat for Pat Murray to have got his young charges to the All-Ireland final, where they will face a formidable Derry side.

This should prove to be a closely contested match as Derry only lost by a point to Cork in last year's decider.

With so many Bishopstown players and mentors involved in the double trip to Croker, a large number of Bishopstown club members will be travelling to Croke Park next Sunday to cheer on both Cork teams in their efforts to bring the All-Ireland titles to Cork.



THREE OF THE BEST: Elaine Burke, Ciara Healy and Una O'Donoghue who will get their first taste of senior championship action at Croke Park on Sunday.

Tipp put faith in Grogan

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**

echo.ed@echo.ie

FOURTEEN-year-old Clare Grogan has won a starting place in the Tipperary line-up for next Sunday's All Ireland senior camogie final.

She will play at left-corner forward to the exclusion of Grainne Shannon.

Caitriona Hennessy moves out to wing-forward in the only positional switch from the team that greatly impressed against the Tribeswomen three weeks ago.

Otherwise, manager Michael Cleary has kept faith with his semi-final team. Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer and Clare Madden and captain, Jovita Delaney. Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy will complete the half-back line, while Emily Hayden and Angle McDermott will form the midfield partnership.

Noelle Kennedy will be at the heart of the attack, flanked by Philly Fogarty and Caitriona Hennessy. The inside line of Emer McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes and Clare Grogan complete their formation.

Meanwhile, Derry have announced a very strong team in an effort to topple the Rebel County in a repeat of last year's All-Ireland junior final.

Twelve of the 1999 side will once again be on duty next Sunday.

Aileen Tohill (sister of Anthony) leads them in attack with last season's captain Mary O'Kane at the edge of the square.

Three top the senior team

YOUTH will be served with three young Corkonians being added to the roster of eligible All-Ireland camogie champions.

Wearing jersey numbers 13, 14 and 15, Elaine Burke, Ciara Healy and Una O'Donoghue will get their first taste of senior championship action at Croke Park, and will also be the youngest full-forward line that Cork has shipped out in a while.

Ciara 18 and Elaine and Una both 19 are looking forward to the biggest day of their sporting career.

So far it has been a memorable season for Ciara. Not only did she make her senior championship

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**

Camogie Correspondent

debut against Kilkenny last month, but she also provided the winning point to pip their rivals and retained her place for the semi-final, bagging 1-3 against Wexford.

"It's going to be a nerve-racking experience," said Ciara. "But I am going to enjoy it. I played at Croke Park on last year's junior team, but I really don't know what to expect."

Elaine Burke sings a similar tune. She got the call-up to start against the Cats on July 22nd, scored one point, and hit 1-2 at the penultimate stage of the championship.

She was a member of last season's

victorious junior team, which she considers to be a great advantage as she sets out for GAA headquarters.

"At least I have an idea what to expect. It's important to relax and try not to think too much about the day," she said.

Una O'Donoghue is back on the team, recovered from injury.

"You can talk about it all you want, but it will be so different on the day. There is always the fear that you won't play well, but I hope to do my usual preparations and not worry too much," said Una.

All three girls played minor camogie together and all are great friends. It would be a dream shared should all three take gold together.



Cork camogie coach Tom Nott was not pleased with his side's second-half performance and warned against complacency.

Leesiders looking for a double

SUNDAY next in somewhat unfamiliar and indeed unique roles Cork senior and junior camogie teams head to Croke Park. The junior team go in as reigning All-Ireland junior champions back with a complete new line-out defending the crown, whilst the senior team are in the role of challengers. The juniors have reached Croke Park against all the odds given that the county is fielding a complete new side to the one which took All-Ireland honours last season. When a county wins the junior title the players are automatically graded Intermediate. In their path through Munster Cork defeated Limerick to qualify for a final meeting with a fancied Tipperary side. In that game it took extra-time before Cork ran out victors on a 3-15 to 4-9 scoreline. The contribution of 2-6 from Jenny O'Leary in that game was one of the outstanding moments of an enthralling contest.

The side travelled to London for the All-Ireland quarter-final where they recorded a comfortable win. Laois provided the semi-final opposition and again showing tremendous character and determination Cork ran out victors 3-9 to 1-5. On Sunday they meet Derry in the final.

Captain of the side is Christine O'Gorman from the Milford club who was a member of the All-Ireland winning Cork minor team last year. Coach Pat Murray is under no illusions regarding the task ahead: "Derry will go in a firm favourite to take the title given that it's their second year in a row in the final."

"We're a young side but nevertheless determined to succeed."

"This is a second final appearance in a row for the experienced Derry side. In the Ulster final they defeated Antrim to set up a semi-final meeting against a Roscommon side they met at the same stage last season."

Looking comfortable throughout Derry ran out winners 1-18 to 1-6.

Coached by Dominic McKinley the former Antrim hurler, Derry this year opted to participate in the senior national league to gain extra experience and meet stronger opposition, and coach Mc Kinley expressed satisfaction with the team's performance against senior opposition. After last year's defeat by Cork Mc Kinley vowed to bring his side back to Croke Park and take the title. Now within one hour of fulfilling his ambition he is reasonably confident of victory.

Aileen Tohill, who is a sister of footballer Anthony, captains the Derry team.

Blaithne Ivors who last season lined out with Tyrone but has transferred her allegiance to Derry lines out in defence.

Former St Patrick's Magheragh player Susan McAleen, is back home having qualified as a physiotherapist in Liverpool whilst Paula McKenna is another addition to a panel that on paper looks stronger than last year.

Cork have taken the All-Ireland junior title six times. For Derry it's been 1978 when the county took its second title on that day at the expense of Cork.

The only other occasion that the title went to Derry was in 1969 when they again defeated Cork.

Rebels must fight hard to retain title

THE meeting of Cork and Tipperary is a repeat of the National League final, where Cork having trailed for much of the game put in a tremendous last quarter to retain their title.

In the path to Sunday's final Cork had a stern test from a Kilkenny side who knocked them out at the semi-final stage last year. Again having been forced to trail for a long period in that game, Cork's second half performance was the telling factor.

In both games the introduction of substitute, Clara Healy, was one of the turning points and it came as no surprise to see Healy in a starting role for the semi-final against Wexford. Cork never looked troubled and led from the throw in, however coach Tom Nott was not pleased with the side's second-half performance and warned against complacency.

Selector Rose-Mackey Keane from Glen Rovers said: "We're meeting the All-Ireland champions and will have to be at our best to win, we cannot expect to only perform in the second half and get away with it, our preparations have gone well and we're ready for Sunday."

The Senior squad are captained by Vivienne Harris from the Bishopstown club. Having led the side last year she will be hoping to go one better this year and bring back the O'Duffy cup.

Coach to the side is Tom Nott who is a member of the Cork GAA coaching panel involved in coaching the schools in the county. Selectors to the side are Rose Mackey-Keane, Glen Rovers, Angela Sheehan, Watergrasshill and Pat Harris, Bishopstown.

Tipperary in their path to Sunday's final defeated Down in their opening game, before disposing of the Clare challenge at the quarter-final stage. In the semi-final they came up against a Gal-

way side who had taken them to extra time in the league semi-final. A goal from Noelle Kennedy mid-way through the second half turned the game in the champions favour and they ran out 2-11 to 1-8 winners.

Winning their first title last season the holders are going to be tough to dethrone. The main threat to Cork will come from sharp-shooter Noelle Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes, and Emer Mc Donnell.

The side is captained by goalkeeper Jovita Delaney from the Cashel club and coached by former Inter county senior hurling star Michael Cleary, who himself is no stranger to Croke Park, having won Senior All-Ireland medals in 1989 and 1991.

Speaking from his business premises in a busy Thurles on Saturday evening last, Michael Cleary told me about the thrill he has got from his involvement with the camogie team since 1999. "Last year was a novelty to be involved just as coach, but this year I am also a selector and manager and whilst that places an extra burden the effort that the girls make is superb."

"I would have to say that my eyes have been opened since I became involved with camogie, nothing is too much trouble for the players."

"For me my greatest thrill was to represent Tipperary as an Inter County Hurler but I'm just as proud to be involved with the girls in preparation for an All-Ireland Camogie final."

"Cork are a good side with a solid defence, Denise Cronin, Mags Finn, Eithne Duggan are all seasoned campaigners who will not give way easily. I felt that in the league final we should have put Cork away in the first-half, but sloppy shooting saw us shoot eleven wides and we paid for them in the final," he added.



Clara Healy is a great find for Cork camogie.

Call us



Keep up to date with all the camogie news with your Evening Echo. Ring Mary Newman McCarthy on 021 397710 or 087 2668905 with your camogie information.

Amanda's debut at Croke Park was as a team mascot when she was just two years



Members of the Cork senior camogie team training in Parc ui Rinn last night.

Twice times lucky for teen

WHEN the Cork junior team runs onto the pitch at Croke Park on Sunday, one team member will hardly remember the last time she set foot on the hallowed turf.

Cork defender, 18-year-old Amanda O'Regan may not recall the events of 1984 but sitting in the stand will be two people who watched Amanda, as a two-year-old line out as a mascot to a Cork Junior camogie team who were meeting Cavan.

On that day, Amanda's mother Christine was a member of the team who brought back-to-back jun-

Mary Newman McCarthy meets with Cork defender Amanda O'Regan

ior All-Ireland titles to the county and in the process collected her second All-Ireland medal.

In the stand's Christine's husband Mick kept a proud but watchful eye on his daughter who was decked out in full camogie gear.

Meet the players who will be bidding to

Vivienne Harris: Bishopstown, Vivienne who is captain of the side is the holder of three All-Ireland senior championship medals and was selected as Player of the Game in the 1997 All-Ireland senior final, holds four senior championship medals with her club as well as a Senior B championship medal.

Vivienne was the All-Ireland Feile Na nGael skills winner in 1992. She won her first senior All-Ireland medal in 1995 also holds national league and Gael Linn honours. She has represented Ireland in the sport of kick boxing where she has won several honours. Vivienne is the holder of Munster championship medals at senior and minor level.

Cora Keohane: Barryroe, Cora is the holder of two All-Ireland medals. Cora was the first player from the Barryroe club to play on a Cork senior team, has also won Ashbourne Cup honours with UCC and junior and intermediate championship medals with her club as well as interprovincial honours with Munster.

Denise Cronin: Glen Rovers, Denise captained Cork to All-Ireland senior title in 1995, is the holder of five All-Ireland

senior, Denise also holds four All-Ireland club championship, one All-Ireland sevens medals, National league and Gael Linn honours as well as nine Cork senior county championship medals and is actively involved at under-age level with her club where she coaches the under 13 and 14 teams.



Mags Finn: Fr O Neill's. Has given tremendous service to the Fr O Neill's club. Mags is in her eleventh season with the Cork senior side. Among her collection of honours are senior All-Ireland medals in '92, '93 and '95. She has won Gael Linn at senior and junior levels, and Munster senior and junior medals.

Sinead O'Callaghan: Bishopstown. Has among her collection All-Ireland junior medal in 95, has also won colleges medals at senior and junior levels as well as Munster and Gael Linn honours. Played her club camogie in Limerick up to last year when she transferred her al-

By MARY NEWMAN MCCARTHY
at Pairc Ui Rinn

legiance to the Bishops town club in Cork.

Fiona O'Driscoll: Fr O Neill's. Fiona captained UL to victory in the Ashbourne cup in 1995 has also captained the combined colleges in 1995 and is the holder of a Purcell cup medal as well as five All-Ireland senior, National league, Gael-Linn and Munster honours. Former Uachtaran of C.C.I.A. and is the holder of a junior All-Ireland ladies football medal won in 1995.

Mary O'Connor: Grenagh -Ballingarry, Limerick. The holder of two All-Ireland senior medals working in Limerick where she is a member of the Grenagh Ballingarry side with whom she has won senior championship medals and All-Ireland Club championship medals. Qualified with a sports leadership degree from Colaiste Stiophain Naofa and is sports officer at Mary Immaculate.

Linda Mellerick: Glen Rovers. The only Cork player to lead the county to All-

Ireland senior honours on two occasions when she led the county to victory in 1993 and 1997. The holder of All-Ireland honours at senior, junior, minor, club championship and All-Ireland sevens. Linda has also captained her province to Gael Linn honours, rholds senior and intermediate county championship medals and has been selected as player of the year in 1993 as well as taking a Jurys Hotel monthly sports star award. Was honoured by Eir-cell as The Camogie Player of the year in 1996.



Caolmhe Harrington: Newtownshandrum. In her third year on the senior panel, also played in the 1997 junior final, holds numerous honours with St Mary's Charleville including All Ireland colleges senior and seven-a-side and Ashbourne honours with UCC.

Elaine Burke; Valley Rovers: First year on the Senior Panel, was a member of

the All-Ireland winning junior team last year, also won an Ashbourne Cup and higher education league medal with UCC.

Ciara Healy: Bishopstown. The youngest member of the panel, has earned herself the tag of super sub after being introduced at vital stages in the national league final and championship opener versus Kilkenny where she produced vital scores in both games.

Ciara is also an accomplished squash player and has represented Ireland on the international stage. The holder of four senior county championship medals.

Jill Hannon: Glen Rovers. This is her first year on the senior panel. Played on last year's All-Ireland winning junior team. Holds National league and honours and captained the under 18 side to provincial title in 1996.

Ger Casey: Inniscarra. Was selected as Player of the Game in last year's All-Ireland Junior final, the holder of Ashbourne Cup and Higher Education honours with UCC is in her first year on the senior panel.

Ruth Cahalan: Bishopstown. Cap-

old, her second appearance at the ground is as a defender on the junior side



Right, senior selector, Rose Mackey-Keane. Above, the Cork junior team at their final training session

Two-year-old Amanda having savoured the atmosphere at Croke Park later attended the post match function for the four teams at the Montrose Hotel where she promptly fell asleep, missing the presentation ceremony where Christine received her All-Ireland medal.

All-Ireland medals are not new to the O'Regan household.

Amanda's father Mick, who is chairperson of Douglas camogie club, won a minor football All-Ireland medal in 1974.

And, while Amanda hopes to emulate her mum on Sunday, she already has a minor medal under her belt which she won in 1998.

A member of the Douglas club since she was five, she's now joined on the clubs junior team by

younger sister Louise who is also making her mark having lined out with the Seandun U-15 team this year.

Having attained an excellent Leaving Cert the sports-loving former Cork mascot is as yet undecided regarding a career.

Amanda said: "Right now all that is important is Sunday final and I will think about it after that." Let's hope that this time the memories of her day in Croke Park remain for the Cork defender who hopes to add to the family collection on Sunday.

bring the All-Ireland glory to Leeside

senior panel in '95, Miriam holds three senior All-Ireland, three senior national league, Gael-linn and Munster underage and senior honours. She is employed as sports officer at the Cork Institute of Technology where as a student she won an All-Ireland ladies soccer medal.

Ursula Troy: Newtownshandrum. A past pupil of the very successful St Mary's Charleville sides. This is her fourth year on the senior team, played in the junior decider in 1997. She holds senior All-Ireland, national league, Munster senior, junior, and colleges medals as well as Gael-Linn and colleges seven a-side and championship honours.

Mary Burke: Glen Rovers. Holds junior and intermediate All-Ireland medals with Limerick as well as Senior with Cork. Is in her third year on the Cork panel, employed with the TSB Bank in Cork. She is the holder of two senior county championship medals with her club Glen Rovers.

Paula O'Connor: Newtownshandrum. Came on as a substitute in 1998 final. Is a sister of Cork inter-county hurling twins Ben and Jerry

O'Connor and daughter of Bernie who also wore the Cork jersey. A student at CIT where she is a studying sports management.

Eithne Duggan: Bishopstown. Became the first player from her club to lead a Cork senior team to All-Ireland senior glory in 1998. A physiotherapist by profession Eithne returned to university and is now employed at EMC in Cork. The holder of All-Ireland senior medals, national league, Gael-linn and Munster championship honours at senior and minor as well as four Cork county senior championship medals.

Una O'Donoghue: Cloughduv. Second year on the senior panel, played a major part in Cork's National league victory. Has already played in three All-Ireland finals at different grades, a member of the intermediate team who contested the All-Ireland final in 1998

and the junior side who reached Croke Park in 1997 and the minors of 1996.

Sarah Hayes: Courcy Rovers. The first player from her club to play on a Cork senior team, came to prominence following good displays with the minor side in 1998. Was selected as player of the All-Ireland minor final 1998, also on the intermediate side who contested the 98 final. The holder of All-Ireland minor senior national league, provincial honours at senior, minor and intermediate grade as well as championship honours with her club.

Rachel Moloney: Courcy Rovers. Another player who played in last year's junior final, in her second year on the panel is the holder of All-Ireland minor and Junior medals as well as Senior and Junior National league.

Marie Corkery: Cloughduv. Played at centre back in last year's junior success is also the holder of National league honours at Senior and Junior level as well as Interprovincials

Selectors

Pat Murky: Bishopstown. It's Pat's first year as a selector this year as he represents his club who won the county

championship last year, has done tremendous work for camogie within his club and county. Pat manages to find time to act as a public representative being a member of Cork corporation.

Pat has represented the Lord Mayor as deputy at the camogie finals but he is otherwise engaged now as a selector.

Angela Sheehan: Watergrasshill. Better known as Angela Higgins, is the holder of All-Ireland junior medal in 1973 and four All-Ireland senior medals in '78, '80, '82 and '83. Angela manages to combine a busy schedule of teaching in Cobh, playing a little with the Watergrasshill junior squad and being a mother of three. Angela's family are all involved with the Watergrasshill club with sister Mairead being club secretary.

Rose Mackey-Keane: Glen Rovers. Rose is in her fifth year as a selector with the side, played with Glen Rovers where

she led the club to junior county championship honours in 1983, Rose has one daughter Orlagh and one son Cathal, is also employed with national Seaways.

Trainer Tom Nott: Tom has given tremendous service both to the GAA and Camogaiochta over a long number of years, was coach to the very successful Cork teams in the 80's when they won four All-Ireland titles.

He returned in 1995 and has guided Cork to the title again in '95 and '97. He is the county school coach in hurling, football and camogie for the Cork GAA board.



SUPPORT: Eithne Duggan, from Bishopstown in Cork City, will be getting great support from her partner, Neilus, in the run up to the All-Ireland Camogie final on Sunday next. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

SEPT.

2000

Men who cheer on their women

BY CLAIRE O'SULLIVAN

echo.ed@eecho.ie

THEY are the men behind the women — partners who are supporting their loved ones' bids for All-Ireland glory.

Camogie stars and their partners are on tenterhooks as Sunday's All-Ireland Senior final between Cork and Tipperary looms.

The women have been training hard all summer and are determined to keep the slithar down their end of Croke Park.

Their partners have seen little of them recently with many of the women training for an hour and a half five or six nights a week.

“She's got a sense of balance in her life but will be edgy in the run-up to the game.

Eithne Duggan, from Bishopstown, a full-back on the team, said that she's very fit at this stage of the year.

"I'm looking forward to Sunday but it will be a tight game. They're a great side who are playing to retain the O'Duffy Cup," she said.

Her partner of the past 18 months, Neilus Fitzpatrick, will be travelling to the game to cheer her on.

"I go to most of the games. Eithne's a great player and it's brilliant watching her in action. She's got a good sense of her balance in her life but will be a bit edgy in the run-up to the game.

"I might be better keeping more of a distance than usual," said Neilus.

Mags Finn's fiancée, Sean O'Sullivan, from Ballyclough, has already experienced an All-Ireland day with Mags.

"We'll have to pamper her over the next couple of days. I'll be extra thoughtful but give her a bit of space," said Sean.

"I don't play a lot of sports myself but at this stage after five years together, I'm an active supporter. The mileage on my car is evidence of that," he said.

Ciara's decision changed sporting career forever

by Brendan Larkin

TWO years ago, Ciara Healy made a decision that was to change her sporting career forever.

A highly talented under-age camogie player with Bishopstown, Ciara was also very proficient at squash. So good, in fact, she was an international player at 15 and enjoyed a lot of travel, the highlight being a trip to Brazil with the Irish team in 1997. Trying to cope with the pressures of two different codes and school, something had to give. She had little difficulty in choosing camogie, but it wasn't easy turning her back on what could have been a glittering career.

From both a club and county point of view, Ciara made the correct decision. Already the holder of four county senior camogie championship medals with Bishopstown, Ciara plays in her first All-Ireland senior final with Cork on Sunday against Tipperary, hoping to add to her medal haul, which is impressive. Apart from the county medals won with her club, she's an All-Ireland medallist with Cork at minor and junior level and as she said herself, a senior medal would sit nicely with the other two.

"There was never any doubt which sport I would choose when the choice had to be made," said the 18-year-old student at Mount Mercy Convent, on the Model Farm Road.

While Ciara will be playing in first senior final next Sunday, she is no stranger to Croke Park. Last year she figured prominently with the Cork juniors defeating Derry in the final and will be hoping to continue in that winning vein. Both counties will contest the junior final again on Sunday, but Cork will field a complete new team.

Winner of National League medals at junior and senior level in the one day, Ciara made her senior championship debut this year against Kilkenny in the opening round.

In a never to be forgotten match in Nowlan Park, Cork looked to be heading for a drubbing when the home side raced into a 1-4 to 0-1 lead early in the first half. But the Leesiders recovered well and after she was introduced as a second half sub, Ciara wrote her name into the history books by scoring the match winning point in injury time. "It was a marvellous feeling to score that point. We were heartbroken last year when Kilkenny scored a last-minute goal to beat us by a point, so it was great to reverse the result.

"The fact we are both champions will add to the occasion, and that fact Bishopstown will play Cashel in the Munster club championship the following week, it would be the perfect tonic for the club if Cork could beat Tipp."



Ciara Healy: plays in first All-Ireland senior final with Cork on Sunday.

●The Cork team includes four players who will be playing in their first senior final, Sarah Hayes, Elaine Burke, Ciara Healy and Una O'Donoghue.

CORK: Cora Keohane (Barryroe); Denise Cronin (Glen Rovers); Eithne Duggan (Bishopstown); Mags Finn (Fr O'Neills); Sarah Hayes (Courcy Rovers); Mary O'Connor (Glenagh-Ballyvaughan); Vivian Harris (Bishopstown, Capt); Ursula Troy (Newtownshandrum); Linda Mellerick (Glen Rovers); Sinead O'Callaghan (Bishopstown); Caoimhe Harrington (Newtownshandrum); Fiona O'Driscoll (Fr O'Neills); Elaine Burke (Valley Rovers); Ciara Healy (Bishopstown); Una O'Donoghue (Cloughduv). Subs: Jer Casey (Innisearra); Paula O'Connor (Newtownshandrum); Mary Burke (Glen Rovers); Rachel Moloney (Courcy Rovers); Jill Hannon (Glen Rovers); Marie Corkery (Cloughduv); Miriam Deasy (Kilbrittain); Ruth Cahalan (Bishopstown); Lisa Kelleher (Newtownshandrum).



Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final is an opportunity for Tipperary to prove that last year's success was no fluke. And what better way to prove it than to beat age-old rivals Cork, as Ciara Gaynor tells **Diarmuid O'Flynn**

ASUNNY SUNDAY morning in Dublin, it is 11.30 and Ciara Gaynor is only just out of bed. Rubbing the sleep from her eyes, she greets you at the door and offers tea.

Ciara, however, desists. A week to go to the All-Ireland camogie final, where she will figure at centre-back for reigning champions Tipperary, yet here she is, trying to get her head together after being out half the previous night, more than half the night, in fact, traipsing the streets of Dublin.

As well as guarding route one through the Tipperary defence, a job she does exceptionally well, Ciara Gaynor is also a member of the Garda Síochána, due to graduate in November this year. Saturday night was the sixth of seven gruelling nights on the graveyard shift, 10pm to six in the dawn, and even on someone as fit as the Kilruane native, it takes its toll. Not that she's complaining, you could never imagine this upbeat lass complaining.

"I'm not the kind of person who could spend the rest of my life sitting behind a desk," she says, and, with that boundless athletic energy, you know it. "In this job, there's so much variety, you get out and about, meeting people all the time, and I enjoy that."

All through this year however, she's been working double shifts. Her official duties, with the force, her other commitment, to the Tipperary camogie team. Three times a week, up and down for training.

"It's hard alright, hard because there's a lot of travelling. But I'm lucky enough that there are three or four more girls up here in Dublin with me, and we take turns driving down. Claire Madden is here, Therese Brophy, Angie McDermott, a few girls in college early on in the year. One of the girls in the house here, Maria Harkins, was on the panel as well, so that was handy also. It is, I suppose, tough enough. But still, it would kill me to miss a training session".

That simple statement says so much about Ciara Gaynor, and why she's an All-Ireland winning athlete.

She grew up surrounded by hurling, in a hurling house, in a hurling parish, in a hurling county. Her father, Len, played at the very top, with a pair of All-Ireland senior medals, captaining Munster to Railway Cup honours; Kilruane McDonaghs, her home parish, won All-Ireland club honours in 1986 - coached, but not incidentally, by dad. So, the influence was all around. But that, by itself, isn't enough.

For those who make it to the top, the most important ingredient comes from within. And Ciara Gaynor's heart is in camogie. "I love it," she says, simplest explanation of why she puts such effort into an amateur sport. "This year, for the first time, we're getting some expenses from the County Board, for travelling up and down, and that's great. But even if we weren't, I would still be doing it. I love it, that's all."

Occasionally, love bears fruit, and last year, against all the odds, Ciara and



No you don't: Tipperary defender Ciara Gaynor shackles Kilkenny's Sinead Millea, in last year's camogie final.

Guardian of Tipp's honour

her Tipperary team-mates struck gold. All-Ireland gold as, for the first time, the girls from hurling's Premier County planted the blue-and-gold flag at the pinnacle of camogie.

From early in the season, Cork were raging hot favourites for that All-Ireland, but when they stumbled before Kilkenny in the semi-final, the girls from Nore side instantly assumed that mantle. Tipperary meanwhile had quietly come through the other side of the draw, the softer side, and no-one gave them a chance. Not a sliver.

Earlier in the season, they had met Cork in the National League final, and were shattered, picked up and shaken like a rag doll by the then reigning All-Ireland senior camogie champions, flung derisively aside.

"That was devastating, really," Ciara volunteers now. "I don't know what happened, I think we weren't mentally prepared for it, we thought it would be a bit handier than it was, and everything just went wrong for us. When that happens against a team like Cork, when they get you on the run at all, they don't let up. You're gone." And

they were. But not for long. The All-Ireland championship final made amends. More than made amends.

STILL, THERE'S something missing. Athletes strive for gold, and when they get it, that's great. But they also want something less tangible - respect. Respect especially from their peers. Left over from last year, there's still something niggling. Tipperary, goes the knock, won a fluke sort of All-Ireland, a soft All-Ireland.

Ciara doesn't wear that. "We can only play the teams that are put up against us. Last year, we had to play Clare, we had to play Down, and we played Kilkenny. Those were the teams we met, they were the teams we had to beat, and we couldn't beat any other teams to win the All-Ireland final. And we did that."

Kilkenny beat Galway, and they beat Cork, two strong teams, admittedly, but we beat them in the final. I don't know what else we could have done, but we're not given too much credit

for that. But it doesn't matter to me anyway - I've an All-Ireland medal in my back pocket now, so I don't mind. They can say what they like."

They can, and they do. And it leaves Tipperary with only one option, on Sunday. "This year, we have to go out and prove that last year was no fluke, that we are the best team in Ireland".

The opponents? Why, Cork, of course - who else? One thing though, it won't be like last year's league final debacle. This is a different Tipp side.

"The personnel are more or less the same, with only a couple of changes to the panel," says Ciara, "but definitely, we're a better side this year. We're more confident than we were last year. I wouldn't say we're cocky, definitely not cocky, but we did get a lot of confidence from last year."

"That was one thing the team probably suffered from, lack of confidence. If you look at Clare, at Anthony Daly for example, he was a bit cocky, but I think you need that, to compete at this level. This year, we're definitely more confident, a bit more sure of ourselves, a bit more sure of our hurling, and

we're playing that way. Michael Cleary has done a great job with us, he's absolutely fantastic."

So, a better contest in store? "Well there is. We played them in the League final this year, and they only beat us by a goal. Not a lot in it. It won't be plain sailing, they're too good a team. We do respect them, they're a very good side. But we don't fear them. To get that All-Ireland title, we have to beat them".

The rivalry isn't as intense as it is in the hurling, however. Ciara, in fact, has a soft spot for Cork, loves the place and the people, their friendliness and humour.

Her direct opponent on Sunday, Fiona O'Driscoll, is a girl for whom she has the height of respect, both as player and person. But, for all that undoubted friendliness, for all that smiling demeanour, there is a tough competitive streak in this talented daughter of Tipperary.

When the chips are down - and the chips will be down on Sunday - Ciara Gaynor will be there. Guardian of the peace. Guardian of the lines.

Close affair for Croker

CORK and defending champions Tipperary line-out in Sunday's All-Ireland Foras na Gaeilge final at Croker Park with a close encounter on the cards.

The Tipp selectors have made one change from their semi-final victory against Galway by bringing in 14-year-old Clare Grogan for Grainne Shanahan at left corner-forward with Caitriona Hennessey moving out to left half-forward from the corner.

Cork stick with the same 15 from their semi-final victory over Wexford, but

CAMOGIE By MAÍRE UÍ SCOLAI

make a number of positional changes.

Left half-forward Caoimhe Harrington moves to centre forward in a switch with Fiona O'Driscoll while Una O'Donoghue and Elaine Barker switch corners in attack.

When the two met in the National League final in May, Cork pulled away with a goal from super-sub Ciara Healy, but Cork manager Tom Nott is predicting a close affair in

Cork's 34th All-Ireland final.

"These are two very even teams, and there will be very little in it in the end. Tipperary have very skilful players, and their younger girls have blended in well."

In a match that promises everything, could we be looking at our first All-Ireland final draw in 19 years?

The All-Ireland Junior final brings together defending champions Cork and Derry in a repeat of last year's final, which Cork won.

| SATURDAY |
|--|
| Sillorgan: All-Ireland Kilmacud Crokes 7s |
| SUNDAY |
| ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR FINAL |
| Croke Park - Cork v Derry, 1.40, J. Pender (Kildare) |
| ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL |
| Croke Park - Tipperary v Cork, 3.35, A. Doherty (Dublin) |
| SELECTIONS |
| TIPPERARY - J. Delaney, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, E. Hayden, A. McDermott, P. Fogarty, N. Kennedy, C. Hennessey, E. McDonnell, D. Hughes, C. Grogan, Subs: L. Ryan, M. Stokes, G. Shanahan, J. Ryan, N. Harkin, S. Howard, H. Kelly, P. Butler |
| CORK (Sen) - C. Keoghane, D. Cronin, E. Duggan, M. Finn, S. Hayes, M. O'Connor, V. Harris, U. Troy, L. Mullen, S. O'Callaghan, C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll, E. Barker, C. Healy, U. O'Donoghue, Subs: G. Casey, P. O'Connor, M. Burke, R. Moloney, J. Hannon |
| DERRY - A. O'Leary, S. McEneaney, G. Maguire, B. Mciver, K. McDonald, C. Doherty, S. Convery, S. McCaul, A. O'Loughlin, A. Toland, P. McTamney, A. Kealey, C. McVicholl, M. O'Kane, K. Rafferty, Subs: C. Scollin, M. Mullins, A. O'Kane, R. Molloy, P. McKenna |
| CORK (Jr) - O. O'Callaghan, S. Buckley, J. O'Callaghan, A. Kelleher, S. Convery, E. Doherty, C. O'Gorman, V. O'Keefe, M. O'Connell, C. O'Reilly, A. O'Regan, J. O'Leary, E. O'Flynn, A. O'Regan, L. Murphy, Subs: I. Dineen, D. O'Reilly, Z. MacDonnell, J. O'Sullivan, M. Ennis, G. O'Sullivan |

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Cork seek Camogie double

SEPTEMBER is the month when the destination of the various All-Ireland titles is decided, and for three of the four Sundays, Cork teams will grace Croke Park in a bid to reach the promised land.

The County's assault on these titles begin next Sunday when the Junior and Senior Camogie teams face Derry and Tipperary respectively in All-Ireland Finals, and of the two the Juniors task is far more difficult, as it is Cork's third team against their opponents first.



by
Finbarr McCarthy



96 & 103FM SPORT

All Munster pairing in Senior decider.

A SHORT few months ago all the talk was of a Cork v Tipperary Hurling Final, well the games greatest rivals do meet, but at stake is not the Liam McCarthy Cup, but the O'Duffy Cup, silver symbol of supremacy in the Camogie C'chip, as Cork bid to dethrone the Champions.

It is their second major meeting this year, because back in May they contested the National League Final, and Cork maintained their dominance over the Premier county with a stirring second half fightback to retain the title for the sixth year in a row, so round one to the Rebels.

In fact, Tipperary have yet to beat Cork in a major game at Senior for sometime now, and while to do so for the first time is a huge incentive, there must be nagging doubts as to their ability to achieve this, especially in view of the happenings in the League Final, where they led by eight points and still lost.

That said, they are worthy Champions and were impressive in defeating Galway in the Semi-Final, and no doubt will have learned from that League Final.

Coach Michael Cleary has made a huge difference and they are no longer dependent on Noelle Kennedy and Deirdre Hughes, they are now a well balanced outfit, and have excellent players in Una O'Dwyer, Jovita Delaney, and Emer McDonnell.

This is a vastly experienced Cork team, with All-Ireland winners in every line, and the introduction of the younger players to the side this year has brought a freshness that every team needs to maintain their momentum, and for that, the selectors must take credit, while in Coach Tom Nott they have a highly knowledgeable and experienced mentor who hates to lose, a great trait to have on the big day.

Cora Keohane is a reliable "cúl baire", and in front of her Eithne Duggan, Denise Cronin, and Mags Finn are as good a full back line as there is in the game, and know what is required at this level.

The half back trio of Sarah Hayes, Mary O'Connor and Captain Viv Harris were excellent against Kilkenny, and while Hayes will be appearing in her first Final, her colleagues will be of great benefit to her as both are in great form right now, and O'Connor's second half display in Nowlan Park was awesome, as her strength and innate hurling ability were crucial in Cork's eventual comeback.

With the game now on a full size pitch and fifteen a side, mid-field has added significance and

whoever gets a grip here could go a long way to deciding the outcome, and Cork have an excellent pairing.

Ursula Troy's workrate against Kilkenny was phenomenal and she covered every blade of grass in Nowlan Park, and will do likewise in Croke Park. Linda Mellerick is in superb form right now and if any player has a passion and desire to perform on the big stage then it is the Glen Rovers star, because I have yet to see her play poorly in a major game, and it is hard to see this pair been outplayed on Sunday. If they are Cork will be in trouble, but I sincerely doubt that it will happen.

Given that they will win the midfield battle, they have the forwards capable of translating that dominance into scores, and the Tipperary defence will need to be at their best to contain a fairly potent attack.

Fiona O'Driscoll is as effective as ever, Sinead O'Callaghan's form in the County Final was excellent and a repeat will do, while Caoimhe Harrington's strong and forceful play is an important part of the team's make up.

The remainder of the attack will likely consist of some of the younger brigade, Una o Donoghue and Elaine Burke have impressed all year, while Ciara Healy has added a new dimension to the side, and her point scoring ability is a decided asset, as demonstrated to good effect with a superb winning point in the Kilkenny game.

Like Sarah Hayes, it will be a first All-Ireland for this trio, and a big ordeal, but with the wealth of experience around them they have the talent and more importantly the proper attitude to allow them concentrate on the task in hand, and all three can make telling contributions over the hour.

Cork have plenty of alternatives and options, with a very such talented bench.

Cork were the warmest of favourites for last year's title, but that late Kilkenny goal denied them. Since then, they have been driven by a desire to return to centre stage and reclaim a title they have won six times in the last eight years. The fact that it is their Munster rivals who provide the opposition only adds to that desire.

As I have stated already, mid-field holds the key, because if Cork can get a grip here they have the talent in attack to get the scores and thus pave the way to victory.

It sounds simple, but you never win an All-Ireland easily, and Tipperary are a proud County that they will fight tooth and nail to retain their crown,



Camogie sisters: Joan and Ora O'Callaghan, who will line out for Cork in the All-Ireland Final at Croke park on Sunday. Pic: Ger Bonus.

and the fact that they to have quality forwards should make for a classic encounter.

Finals are always difficult to call, but I have been impressed by Cork's attitude and approach all year. They realise they face a tough task, but at the end of the day their big match experience, hurling craft and tremendous belief in their own ability will be crucial and should see them collect the County's twentieth title in this special year.

Derry seek revenge.

THE fact that the Cork Juniors are back in the Final for the second year in a row is testament to the strength of the game in the County right now, reinforced further by the win in the Intermediate Semi-Final over Down on Saturday last, but they face huge task against a Derry side who lost by a point in last year's decider.

Coach Pat Murray has done a wonderful job in moulding this side together and his in-depth knowledge of players in the County is one of the major factors in this team's success.

To reach the Final, they defeated Limerick, won a thrilling Munster Final in extra-time over Tipperary, then overcame London and Laois and have improved with each outing.

Jenny O'Leary and Catherine Corkery are top class forwards, Emer Dillon and Amanda O'Regan are also quality players, while the O'Callaghans, Joanne and Ora, have plenty of experience. All in all, there is a nice balance to the team, helped by a wonderful spirit and they will not surrender the title easily.

Former Antrim hurler Domnic McKinley is the Derry Coach, and he vowed after last year's defeat they would be back stronger then ever, and true to his word here they are, Aileen Tohill is the captain, while Susan McAleen and Paula McKenna are additions to last year's panel.

They had an easy path to the Final and are confidently expected to win this one but, as Counties have found to their cost in the past, Cork are never easi-

ly beaten, and a surprise could be on the cards.

Sunday is going to be a momentous day for the Camogie teams from Cork and we wish all players and mentors the best, as they endeavour to begin a winning sequence that hopefully will continue with the Minor Hurlers and Footballers in the coming weeks.

Referring briefly to the Intermediate win over Down, it was an excellent display. Maire Corkery, Jill Hannon, Linda O'Connell and, in particular, Goalkeeper Ger Casey, who made a number of brilliant saves, were instrumental in the victory. Limerick provide the opposition in the Final on September 17, which is going to be some day.

inside Sport

IN recent years the exploits of hurlers from then famous barony of Imokilly, have been well documented and deservedly so, but long before the hurlers made the breakthrough camogie players from the division had left and continue to leave an indelible mark on the national scene.

One such player is Fr O'Neill's Mags Finn, a winner of All-Ireland senior medals, National League medals, inter-provincial medals, Munster Championship medals and hoping on Sunday to add another All-Ireland medal to an already impressive array of trophies.

Despite all the success, and a few heartaches along the way, the appetite and enthusiasm still remains. "Yes, I am looking forward to it, more so then ever in view of what happened last year, training doesn't get any easier, but as you get nearer the horizon you make the most of the big days."

When asked what keeps her going, Mags had a simply reply: "I just love the involvement, the training, the craic and the banter amongst the players, and when you had the success we have had makes it all that easier."

All which suggests there is great spirit in the team and she readily agrees. "Incredible really. When we play one other in club games we give it a right lash, but once the Cork jersey

goes on, it's a total team effort from everyone, the fact that we have been together a while is a big help, but the younger players brought in this year have also been wonderful and it is that spirit that helps us going."

That spirit is something I can testify to, as on two occasions on team holidays after All-Ireland wins (with money raised by the players themselves), that spirit manifested itself, helped in no small way by Mags herself, be it paragliding, jet-skiing and other such adventures - she was always first in line, a sort of a free spirit if you like.

Mags has enjoyed a great day in her career, the best was "beating Kilkenny in the 1993 final, very sweet as is any victory over your greatest rivals." If that was the best, the answer to the next question, what was the worst, is short and to the point - "not winning a senior county medal with Fr O'Neills."

Looking back on this year's campaign, she recalls with pride the win over Kilkenny in the

Mags: wired for success

By FINBARR MCCARTHY OF 96FM

first round. "It was nail-biting stuff, and the fact that it was in Nolan Park, with a last minute point made it all the sweeter and the importance of it all was brought home to me when at the finish I heard the Cork supporters singing 'The Banks' in the stand, it gave me a lump in my throat."

As the discussions evolve, we recall great Cork victories, the defeats, the holidays in Tunisia and the Canaries, and Mags is not slow to express her views on a game she plays with passion few can match.

She is a big fan of the fifteen-a-side, but to improve the game "the advantage rule must be introduced to make it more appealing to players and spectators alike." She is disappointed that a lot of former players no longer follow the game, "even though you would see them at hurling and football games," but agrees that the profile of the game is now much higher - "coverage in papers, TV and radio has helped but you

could always do with more."

Away from camogie, Mags is, for a female, uniquely employed. She takes up the story. "I am employed as an EIT with the ESB and I am based in the Aghada Power Station, and I really enjoy it as it is a great place to work." Helped no doubt by the fact that her boyfriend Sean, himself a great GAA supporter, is also employed there.

There is tremendous interest in sport in this place, especially on Monday morning when the discussion revolves around the weekend games "and boy if you had a bad game, you would know about it soon enough." Not that Mags has had too many bad games down the years, and many a forward has come away well chastened after an hour in her company.

Looking ahead to Sunday's final, she is conscious of the threat Tipperary pose to Cork's ambitions. "They are, after all, the All-Ireland champions, and under Michael Cleary they have developed



into a well balanced and skillful side. With a huge tradition behind them they were bound to come good."

That said she is confident, but not over confident that Cork can win. "What we must do is play for the full sixty minutes, we beat them

in the league final with a strong second-half showing, but that won't do on Sunday, it's All Ireland final day, both teams will be up for it and the team that wants it the most will win, but we have focused on the championship all year and we

remain focused, our preparation has gone well and Tipperary will need to be at their best to beat us."

See also: Page 36 for Finbarr McCarthy's preview of the weekend's big games

SEPT 2000

Nott the driving force on Cork's glory trail

by Brendan Larkin

IF All-Star awards were given to coaches of successful teams, Tom Nott would surely have picked up at least three.

In a career that spans 20 years, Nott has been coach to the Cork senior camogie team and in that period he took the county to nine All-Ireland finals, winning seven of them.

Cork are on the glory train again next Sunday when they take on Tipperary in this year's final of the O'Duffy Cup - their fourth in six years - and Tommy is an enthusiastic about this one as if it were his first.

The fact that it's Tipperary who are providing the opposition and they are the defending All-Ireland champions, only adds to the excitement of the occasion, and he is expecting a battle royal between these two great Munster rivals.

The Leesiders are the current National League champions, having beaten Tipperary in this year's final to record their sixth title win in a row, but Tommy reckons this will count for nothing on Sunday as both teams were short a few players for that final because of third level exams.

Looking back over previous All-Ireland winning teams, Tommy feels the present Cork side is as good as what has

gone before. "It's unfair to make comparisons as every team has its own strengths and weaknesses but if you push me I'd have to say the present squad of players are an exceptional bunch."

"Sunday's will be their fourth final appearance in six years, and while there have been a few new faces added, the talent continues to come through, and that is all down to the tremendous work being done at club level throughout the county."

"Coupled with that, we have broken with tradition in recent years by bringing in players from the intermediate team who we felt would in time, make the senior side."

"The idea behind that was to introduce them to our training methods and style of play so that when they did eventually progress on to the senior squad, they were well accustomed to the routine."

"An instance of that is that five of this year's intermediate team were in training with us, and it has been expected

that such an arrangement was hugely influential in their winning their All-Ireland title recently. The tremendous rivalry that has built up between Tipperary and Cork at male level has spilled over to the ladies. Both love playing and beating each other, but we have one up on them in that they have yet to beat us in the championship and intend to maintain that record against them on Sunday."

After the defeat by Kilkenny in last year's semi-final by a last minute goal, the draw paired both counties together in the first round this year, in Nowlan Park.

History shows that Cork turned the tables on the Cats with a dramatic last minute victory which pleased their coach no end.

"The display by Cork in the last 20 minutes of that match was one of the best I've seen in all my years being involved, but we have to play like that for 60 minutes on Sunday if we are to have any chance of beating Tipp."

"Sunday is going to be a huge occa-



Tom Nott: confidence in present squad.

sion for all of us. You never get used to All-Ireland final day. Every final brings its own uniqueness to it. A number of our players will be playing in their first senior decider but having won minor and junior titles, I'm hoping they can cope with the pressure of a senior final.

"You can be the greatest camogie player in Ireland but you must have the temperament for the big occasion. I feel all our players have that vital ingredient."

"What encourages me most was the way they responded when Kilkenny put it up to us. We fell seven points behind early on, but kept our composure, picked off our scores and produced that great second-half fight back. That's the hallmark of a very good team."

● Fourteen-year-old schoolgirl, Claire Grogan has been named in the Tipperary team. Daughter of former Tipperary hurler John Grogan, she has figured as a sub in recent outings but is named at left corner forward for Sunday.

TIPPERARY TEAM: J. Delaney (Cashel), S. Kelly (Toomevara), U. O'Dwyer (Cashel), C. Madden (Portroe), S. Nealon (Burgess), C. Gaynor (Kilruane), T. Brophy (Burgess), E. Hayden (Cashel), A. McDermot (Knockavilla), P. Fogarty (Cashel), N. Kennedy (Toomevara), C. Hennessy (Drom-Inch), E. McDonnell (Burgess), D. Hughes (Toomevara), C. Grogan (Templemore), subs. L. Ryan (Holycross), M. Stokes (Cashel), G. Shanahan (Toomevara), J. Ryan (Drom-Inch), N. Harkin (Ido), S. Howard (Burgess), H. Kiely (Drom-Inch), P. Bulfin (Cashel).

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Cork seek All-Ireland

CAMOGIE

The dominant force on the senior camogie scene during the last decade, Cork will be hoping to consolidate their position as the leading power in the game in modern times by claiming the first All-Ireland of the new millennium at the expense of holders Tipperary in Croke Park next Sunday.

Victory over Galway in the final two years ago

earned Cork a fifth title in the nineties.

And they are now just seven behind Dublin, who head the Roll of Honour with 26 to their credit, the last of which was achieved in 1984.

Cork were foiled in their bid for the three-in-a-row when they went under narrowly to Kilkenny at the semi-final stage last year.

It was never going to be easy to put that bitterly disappointing defeat behind them, but, under the stewardship of long-serving team coach, Tom Nott, the players have bounced back in great style.

Already Cork have captured the National League crown this season, staging a late rally to get the better of Tipperary in the final.

AVENGED

Their opening game in the championship saw them pitted against Kilkenny, and again they put in a strong finish to avenge the '99 defeat at the hands of the Nore side girls.

Wexford were easily dispatched in the semi-final, and hopes are high that Cork will continue on their winning way when they renew rivalry with Tipperary, who are coached by

former All-Ireland hurler Michael Cleary, in the eagerly-awaited showpiece.

But Tipperary, crowned champions for the first time last year, won't be easily dethroned, and, as was the case in the league final, the expectation is that there will be precious little between the sides at the finish of what promises to be a cracking encounter.

Cork will be captained by Vivienne Harris of the Bishopstown club, and she will be hoping to follow in the footsteps of clubmate Eithne Duggan, who led Cork to All-Ireland glory in '98.

Other members of the present team to have lifted the O'Duffy Cup are Linda Mellerick and Denise Cronin of Glen Rovers, both of whom have five All-Ireland senior medals to their credit.

Add in Mags Finn of Fr. O'Neill's, who has shared in four of Cork's previous triumphs, and it becomes obvious that the team isn't lacking in experienced players.

The panel is completed by Bishopstown's Sinead O'Callaghan, Ruth Cahalane and Ciara Healy, Caoimhe Harrington, Ursula Troy, Paula O'Connor and Lisa Kelleher of Newtownshandrum, Cora Keohane of Barryroe, Emer Dillon of Ballygarvan, Elaine Burke of Valley Rovers, Rachel Moloney and Sarah Hayes of Courcy Rovers, Marie Corkery and Una O'Donoghue of Cloughduv, Miriam Deasy of Kilbrittain, Ger Casey of Inniscarra, Fiona O'Driscoll of Fr. O'Neill's, Mary Burke and Jill Hannon of Glen Rovers, and Mary O'Connor who plays with Granagh/Ballingarry in Limerick.

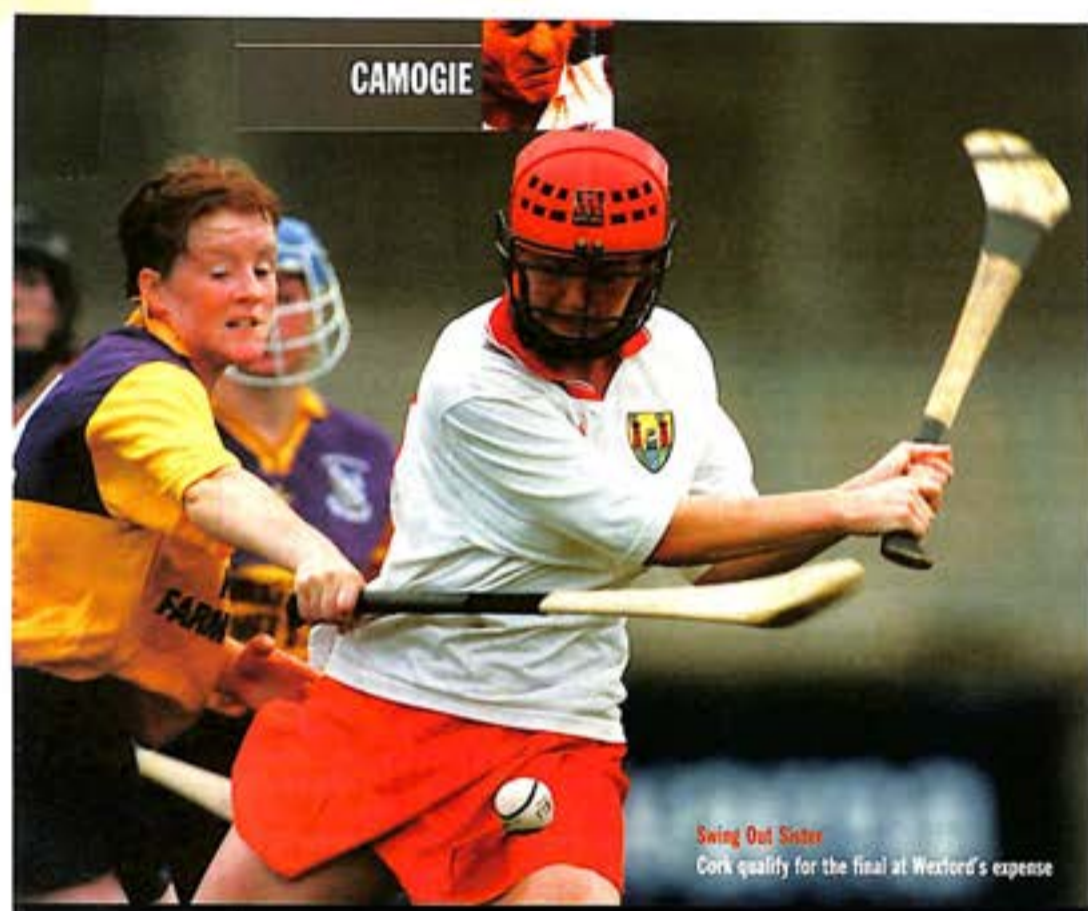
The selectors are Rose Mackey-Keane of Glen Rovers, Angela Sheehan of Watergrasshill Pat Harris of Bishopstown and Tom Nott.

Cork are also involved in the junior final on Sunday against Derry.

It's a repeat of the '99 decider which Cork won, but, considering that the Rebel county has been forced to field a completely new side from last year, Derry will be going in as fairly warm favourites this time.

Nevertheless Cork, captained by Christine O'Gorman of Milford, have shown encouraging form when accounting for Limerick, Tipperary, London and Laois en route, and it's hardly beyond the bounds of possibility that they can upset the odds and register a seventh title win at this level.

— Noel Horgan



Swing Out Sister
Cork qualify for the final at Wexford's expense

The Auld Enemy

CORK AND TIPP MEETING IN AN EAGERLY-AWAITED CLASH OF THE ASH...SOUND FAMILIAR? IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN THIS SEPTEMBER IN THE ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL, AS THERESE O'CALLAGHAN REPORTS

For the first time in the history of the modern game of camogie, Cork and Tipperary will contest the Foras Na Gaeilge All Ireland senior final on the first Sunday in September in Croke Park.

It will be Cork's 34th appearance at GAA headquarters - they already have 19 titles under their belt - while Tipperary will be back in Dublin 12 months after their first ever win last September. Prior to that memorable day, the Premier County had contested seven finals, without actually having won a title. But that is history now. The 1999 statistics are safely set in the annals of camogie.

The die was cast for the 2000 showdown in Parnell Park on August 12th. A crowd estimated at 3,000 enjoyed the perfect atmosphere. The pitch looked in excellent condition, lined and flagged expertly.

However, the double header of both semi-finals in one venue sparked a lot of comment, particularly from the southern teams involved. The idea, they agreed, was favourable in so far as that both of the penultimate stages were housed under the one roof. But in view of the fact that all four of the participating teams (Cork, Wexford and Tipperary, plus the Tribeswomen from the West) were from outside of Dublin, a more central venue might have been more realistic.

Nevertheless, it was a colourful occasion with four gallant teams fighting for the last two places. First up was the clash of Cork and Wexford. The Red and White, of course, were the favourites to advance in this tie, having got the fright of their lives against Kilkenny in their previous round game. A point from sub, Ciara Healy, at the death proving to be their saviour on the first Saturday in July in Nowlan Park.

And after last year's summer of discontent, Cork were heeding none of the favourites tag, and emerged in Parnell Park full of hunger with a job to be done. Cork led comfortably at the break and the Model County, rocked by the absence of Avis Nolan and Paula Rankin, failed to deliver. The Leesiders' young inside forward line answered the call with a goal each from Una O'Donoghue, Ciara Healy and Elaine Burke - all championship debutantes this season. Cork were never in trouble and ran out easy winners.

The second semi-final was billed as the match of the day. Galway, who earlier in the season representing Connaught had won the interprovincial series, were tipped by many as the dark horses of this year's campaign. However, Tipperary had a lot to prove as All Ireland champions.

This game did not disappoint as both sides went on to serve up a cracking con-

test. The teams were level at half-time, but it was in the closing 30 minutes that Tipperary upped the tempo and pulled away from the Westerners. Galway battled hard to stay with their opponents, but despite a brilliant second half performance from centre-forward Therese Maher had to yield in the end to the title holders - Emer McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes, Catriona Hennessey and Noelle Kennedy all serving notice of their scoring ability. The Premier County had six points to spare at the end of a hectic hour of camogie, and are back in the final, just 60 minutes away from deciding their destiny for the new Millennium.

The big question is can Cork wrench the O'Duffy Cup away from their grip? There is no doubt that this will be an epic final. Both teams hurl well against each other and both are littered with talented players. Remember, too, that last year's influential Tipperary captain, Meadhbh Stokes, has not played any part in their last two championship wins. If she can recover from a niggling thigh injury, her availability would strengthen the central diamond area of the field.

When Cork and Tipp met in the National League final last May, they were level with seven minutes remaining on the clock. The Blue and Gold had led by six points at the interval, but in the end the result went Cork's way with two late goals from Fiona O'Driscoll and sub Ciara Healy.

Championship, though, is a different ball game. The Premier County will be well tutored by former inter-county hurler, Michael Cleary, who is no stranger to the big day in Croke Park himself. They will arrive in the capital as champions, but also in the knowledge that it will take a super effort to defeat their bogey team. They have never beaten Cork in a championship decider and will know that this is possibly the greatest chance they will ever have of putting one over on the Rebels.

Meanwhile, GAA headquarters will be awash with Red and White on the 3rd September. Derry and Cork will contest the All Ireland Junior final in a repeat of last season's decider - that time the title came south, but with the majority of the Derry team available to coach, Dominic McKinley (former Antrim hurler and manager), again this year, they will be out for revenge. Cork, on the other hand, are a very young team. Eight of their starting lineout are prodigies of the 1999 All Ireland minor win.

Whoever will emerge victorious, one thing is for sure, the four teams battling it out for supremacy will be worthy participants and should produce two great All Ireland finals. ○

Rebels rising from the ashes

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

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CORK are back. From the ashes of defeat against Kilkenny last August, they are making their place alongside defending champs Tipp in this year's All-Ireland senior camogie final.

Smart money would go for the raw. There is nothing between these two sides, which suggests encounters are in for a right good one on Sunday afternoon. What's new though with Cork and Tipp clashes? It is the first time in the modern

game that these two counties will meet in an All-Ireland senior camogie final. It will be Cork's 34th appearance with 15 unsuccessful trips, while the Premier County will be back at GAA headquarters 12 months after their first ever win.

Prior to that day Tipperary had contested seven finals without ever winning the Holy Grail.

But that is history now, the 1999 statistics are safely set in the annals of camogie.

The scene was set for the new millennium showdown in Parnell Park on August 12th.

Played on a perfect pitch, the crowd was treated to a double header involving Cork and Wex-

ford, and Tipperary and Galway. The Model County never troubled the Leesiders.

The day served as preparation though for championship debutantes Caoimhe Harrington, Elaine Burke, Ciara Healy and Una O'Donoghue with full-forwards Burke, Healy and O'Donoghue supplying all three major scores.

It was a day too that the experienced Linda Mellerick, Vivienne Harris and Fiona O'Driscoll all played their part.

Tipperary and Galway was billed as the match of the day. It did not disappoint as both sides went on to serve up a cracking contest. The teams were level at half-time, but it

was in the closing 30 minutes that Tipperary, boosted by the impressive Clara Gaynor, upped the tempo and pulled away. Emer McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes, Caitriona Hennessy and Noelle Kennedy all serving notice to the big Cork following that day of their scoring ability.

So, the scene is set. Next Sunday's game will not be one for the faint hearted. The big question is will Cork rise once more and take their place amongst the greats or will Tipperary be home to the O'Duffy cup for another 12 months.

Rumour has it that the Premier County is quite willing to hold on to the silverware for another year. They have come a long way since

last September, and we must remember too that they have reached next Sunday's final without the services of last season's influential captain, Meadhbh Stokes who is recovering from injury.

When Cork and Tipperary met in the National League final last May, they were level with seven minutes remaining on the clock.

The Blue and Gold had led by six points at half-time (in fact, the interval score of 0-7 to 0-1 was a true reflection of a poor Rebel side), but in the end Cork did enough to claim the title.

A fortuitous goal from Fiona O'Driscoll and a splendid shot from sub Ciara Healy gave the Leesiders a

six point lead coming in the final few minutes.

However, Tipperary lentened and when Deirdre Stokes goalied in injury time the melting pot.

There were no further goals. Cork held on to take the championship, as we all know from the final. The final was a well-tutted inter-county hurler Cleary who is no stranger to the occasion in Croke Park.

They will arrive in the final as champions but also in the edge that they have in this present Cork team level.



Sinead Millea of Kilkenny battles with Ursula Troy of Cork in the All-Ireland camogie quarter-final earlier this year.

SEPT. 2000

Camán Cork, you can do it

By THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

Camogie correspondent

MINUTES to go at Parnell Park last year and Cork appeared to have done enough to see them through to another All-Ireland senior final.

Yes, it looked certain they would hang on.

But Kilkenny won a free just 40 metres out and Sinead Millea's shot dipped all the way to the net.

The final whistle that day encapsulated the most joyful and the most painful moments in last year's championship.

For Cora Keohane, Cork's number one goalkeeper, 12 months of rehabilitation has just about dulled the pain of that grey day in Dublin.

"It was an absolute disaster," said Cora.

"It's hard to know what went wrong, but you just have to put these things behind you."

This year, though, it is business as usual.

The humiliation has relented. If anything, it has inspired Cora to be stronger: "Personally, this year has gone very well."

"I feel the team is a lot more experienced heading for Croke

Park than we did in our first year in 1997. Now, I like to think that I know more of what it is all about. Sub-keeper Ger Casey is a great help. She is a good keeper and keeps me on my toes."

"Croke Park will be much different this time. In fact, I think it might help that the stand is gone. Sometimes I feel it can be in the way of seeing a high ball."

"To be able to see a clear sky will make it look like any ordinary pitch."

"We are a different team this year. Fiona O'Driscoll is the main experience in the attack. Our backs have been excellent

all season, and have saved us a lot especially when we haven't played well."

"But, this is make or break time now. We all know how good Tipperary are, they frightened us in the league final."

"If I had a bet I wouldn't know who to put it on - it would have to be each way."

But the number one custodian concluded, "We are well able to do it, but on the day it will be hell for leather."

● SEE: Tomorrow's Weekend Sports Special for all the latest final news.



Cora Keohane: Ready to play her part for Cork.

SEPT 2000

Hard graft sees Finn in her fifth final

by Damien Irwin

SPORTING prodigies by their nature break into adult competition at a young age, learn the trade quickly and go on to fashion a glorious career often finishing prematurely. The premature finish is usually to do with diminishing physical powers and an inability to cope with them. Mags Finn was never a sporting prodigy. A good sportswoman, yes. On her day a very good performer but not a headline maker - not a prodigy.

She served her apprenticeship to Cork camogie rather than took it by storm. She won her place on merit at the age of 21 and lost it two years later. It took a mountain of effort and four years on the sideline to win it back.

You have to be bloody minded to hang in that long for your next chance.

The second coming has been of a much longer duration than the first. Five years on the trot now and still in the first team. And winning years too. The second longest serving player after the mercurial Linda Mellerick. Linda Mellerick - now there's a prodigy.

Would she have hung around on the sidelines for four years in patient expectation and heel kicking? Who can know the answer to that. It's a question that's never asked of prodigies.

Mags Finn remembers well the disappointment.

"Things were going reasonably well in my first two years. I was on the team beaten by Kilkenny in 1989 in the All-Ireland final and beaten again by them the following year. In '91 I was dropped for the semi-final and my place was taken by Liz Towler from Bishopstown. We were good friends - had travelled to America together the previous summer.

"It's harder when it's a friend. It complicates things. You can't really hope they'll have a loss of form. Easier if you don't really know the person. Easier again if you don't particularly like them. But that was patently not the case here."

As Cork ended their nine year mini famine by recapturing the O'Duffy cup in 1992 it was still Liz Towler in possession.

"There were sixteen medals - twelve players and four subs. I was number eighteen. The county board got us copies of the medal but....."

Her recital trails off showing what a replica medal means to a competitive player. Not an awful lot. Not a real medal at all. A medal that requires an explanation to the grandchildren. "Yes it's an All-Ireland medal but not an official one."

"What do you mean Grammy?"

Cork retained the All-Ireland in the

following year and this time Mags Finn did manage to get a winners medal - one of the sixteen but not a players medal.

It was another two years playing second fiddle before she found her way back into the business end of things. Because Liz Towler gave up camogie and decided to concentrate instead on international soccer. So the motto is: "If you can't beat them outwait them."

Jacking it in during these wilderness years was never an option.

"I actually really enjoy training. There's great crack. My social life is built around sport especially at this time of the year. Like last Friday I went to see Sars play Erins Own in Minor hurling. On Saturday morning I had training with Cork. On Saturday afternoon I went to see the Cork Intermediates play against Down and on Sunday I went to a hurling game and a football game. Not everybody's idea of a social life I know, and my brother's girlfriend had a great laugh at it. As for biding my time on the Cork sideline, I never really thought about giving up. And if the team is playing well what can you do but wait? What you're hoping for is maybe that you're the first sub in defence."

Admirable stoicism but then she is not a girl to get carried away in victory or defeat.

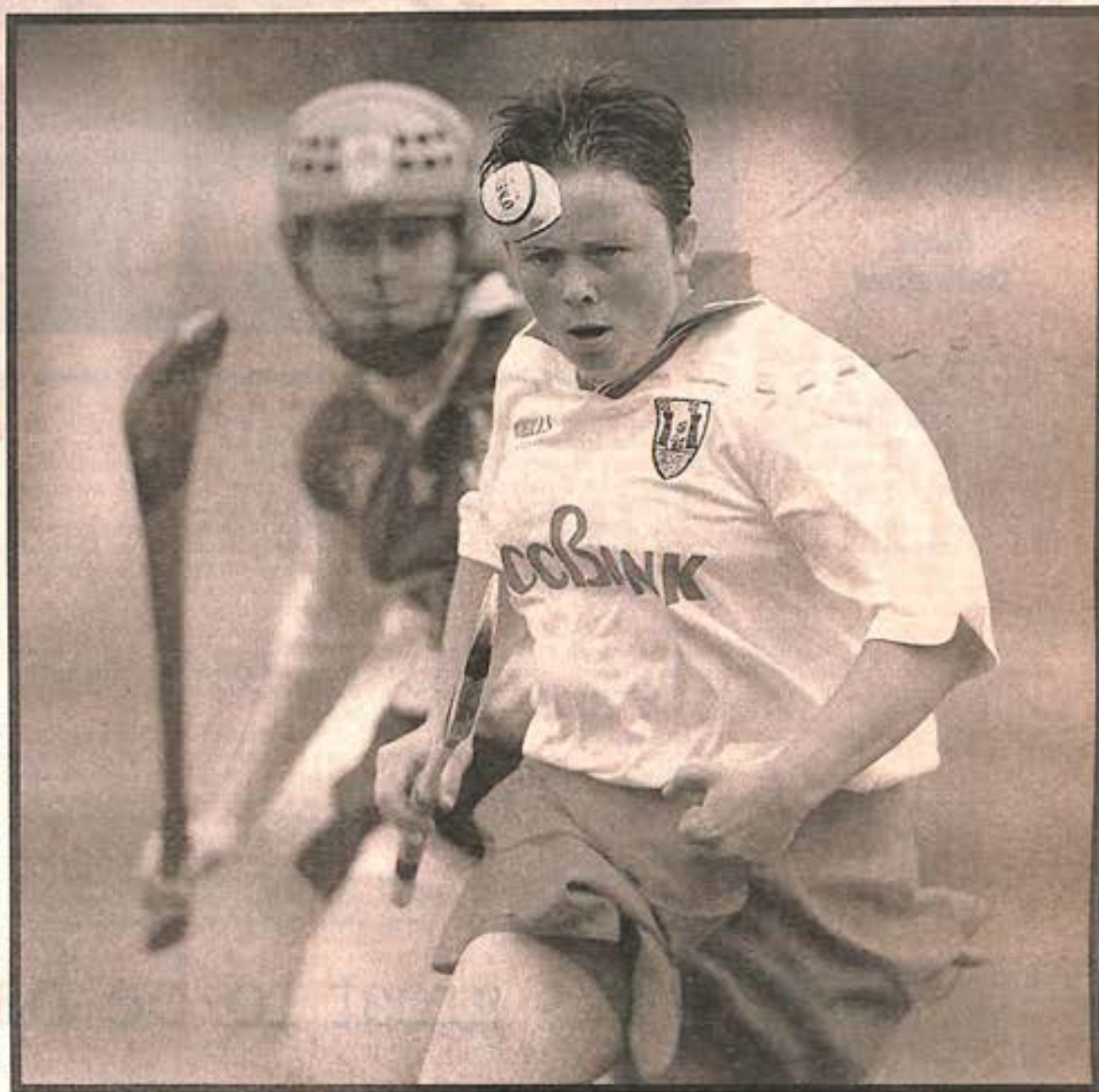
"Even if we win a close and important match my first reaction after the final whistle is not to run around shouting but I'd feel relief and happiness. And calmness."

Not that it's all sweetness and light. Opposing forwards would speak about her as a tough bit of stuff, very determined and able to hurl too, while her fellow defenders have heard her aim some colourful language in their direction if they weren't doing their stuff.

But generally calm nevertheless. Well able to see the lighter side of life. Well able to run around like a mad thing in her work overalls for television and a piece on Breaking Ball. The self confidence to not care that the piece might look a bit madcap.

"In the clip they wanted it to be a bit funny and they had me running around in overalls with tins of paint in my hands. I know it'll probably look very silly but I don't mind that and anyway if it makes another few people watch the match on Sunday then it's worth it."

Raising the profile of camogie. Everybody even defenders want recognition. For themselves and for the game they play. You can't have one without the other. Equality has been slower to come in sport for women than in other areas. Things have improved. Equality though looks a little way off yet.



Eyes on the prize: Mags Finn will not be taking her eye off the ball in Sunday's camogie final.

Sunday is shop window time again. One day a year for camogie. Live screening of the final is in it's third year and it has definitely increased the popularity of the game but there are strong indications that the much younger game of women's football with it's impressive showing is winning the ratings war.

"No doubt about it women's football has made great strides. Some of the point taking would show up the lads. And it's

not even thirty years old yet as a game. They get an awful lot of sponsorship from Bank of Ireland to promote the game as women's football comes under the umbrella of the GAA.

Is there pressure on to produce a worthy final?

The fact that the game is going out live can be a pressure for players. Bigger audience means greater glory or greater disaster and at the defensive end of it

mistakes are magnified more. "Let me put it this way. If I go out and miss an easy ball, I won't be thinking 'Oh my God they all saw that on TV' I'll be thinking of getting to the ball first and if she gets there first I'll be thinking of damage limitation. And as for camogie needing a good game on Sunday, sure every sport loves a good final but if the final score is two points to one in our favour then that'll do very nicely."

Cork to provide toughest test yet for Tipperary

by Michael Ellard

TIPPERARY coach Michael Cleary reckons that his historic All-Ireland championship winning side will face the ultimate test of their capabilities tomorrow at Croke Park when they face Cork in camogie's National showpiece.

Last season Tipperary sprung a major surprise by defeating Kilkenny in the final to register the Premier County's first All-Ireland senior title. It was a fairytale achievement after seven previous losing final appearances. But coach Cleary believes that his side will have it all to do again on this occasion if they are to record back-to-back successes.

"Quite simply, our opponents Cork, are a really great team and they are particularly strong down the middle, bolstered as they are, by such outstanding exponents of the game as Eithne Dug-

gan, Mary O'Connor, Linda Mellerick, Fiona O'Driscoll and Ciara Healy.

"Overall they are a very talented side and we will certainly have to play out of our skins to match them," said the former great Tipperary forward.

But Cleary said, "if we play well then who knows what might happen. Remember that just 15 months ago Cork beat us by 29-points in the league. That was an infamous day for Tipperary camogie. But our girls came back to win the All-Ireland and this season gave Cork a tremendous game in the final of the league, losing by three points.

"I am convinced that tomorrow's final will be a right close game and we are certainly going to give it one almighty go, and as I said previously, if we play to the peak of our powers, then we will certainly be in there with a big shout."

The impressive Ciara Gaynor, Emer

McDonnell, Deidre Hughes, Caitriona Hennessy and Noelle Kennedy will spearhead a determined bid to hold onto the celebrated O'Duffy Cup, but as coach Michael Cleary said, "it will take a tremendous team-effort from us to retain the championship title."

A quartet of stylish, young Cork players Sarah Hayes, Oonagh O'Donoghue, Ciara Healy and Elaine Burke will be hoping to strike gold on this, their first All-Ireland senior final appearance.

Hayes will be in the Cork half back line while O'Donoghue, Healy and Burke form the Rebels full forward line and all will have important roles to play.

The sides, as Michael Cleary pointed out, met earlier in the season in the League decider and it took extra time to resolve the issue with Cork winning by 3-7 to 1-10.

In their opening championship en-

counter Cork fashioned a thrilling one point victory over Kilkenny and followed that up with a comprehensive semi-final triumph over Wexford.

On the other side of the coin Tipperary eliminated Down, Clare and Galway on their triumphant march to a second successive final appearance.

This is the first time in the modern game that these two counties meet in an All-Ireland senior camogie final. It will be Cork's 34th appearance and on this occasion the Leaside girls will be seeking a 20th title win for the county. It will be Tipp's eighth final. Even though Tipperary go in as reigning champions, Cork apart from their four debutantes, are vastly more experienced at this level of the game and that could prove decisive in determining the outcome of an All-Ireland final that has a wonderful ring of expectation about it.



Linda Mellerick: her strength down the middle will give Tipp trouble.

'HURLING' COUNTIES GRAPPLE FOR CAMOGIE'S ULTIMATE PRIZE

IT HAS been a long two years since Cork claimed their last All-Ireland title.

To any other side, one year without an All-Ireland final appearance would not merit an outpouring of public grief, but this is not just any camogie-playing county.

In 1998, Cork took the O'Duffy Cup back to the Leeside for an amazing 19th time. By contrast, in this afternoon's All-Ireland final, they face a Tipperary side who celebrated their very first title while their Cork rivals were taking a forced leave of absence from Croke Park last September.

A second year without success is not an option for the Rebel ladies.

But midfield general, Linda Mellerick, believes that her team is even better equipped now to handle the biggest test in the game. "We are possibly a better balanced side now. We have brought on a lot of great younger players and, mixed with the experience of the rest of the team, it is a lethal combination," says Mellerick.

"In the past, we used to rely perhaps too much, on Lynn Dunlea up front. But Lynn is in Australia now so we have had to cope without her. Now we have three or four players in our forward line that are capable and confident of getting the scores for us."

According to Mellerick, Cork are well prepared for the test that now faces them.

"Before the semi-final we were under a lot of pressure because most of the players were still involved in the county championship. But in the last couple of weeks we have been able to concentrate fully on the final and it has been great. There is a great buzz and urgency about the players and we are

Out of the ordinary

They set their gaelic games' standards high in the Rebel county where nobody can recall who comes second



Foras na Gaeilge

confident about today's game." But the Cork woman doesn't dare underestimate her opponents.

"This Tipperary side is very impressive and they have improved dramati-

cally in recent years. If there was an award for most improved side, Tipperary would win it, no contest. They are great all over the pitch - their back-line is their strongest point and they have very quick forwards, too. Michael Cleary and Colm Bonnar have done tremendous work with Tipperary."

And Mellerick insists that the

League final of last year was a once-off freak that will have no bearing on today's events. In that clash, her Cork team hammered Tipperary by 9-19 to 2-4.

"It will never happen again. Even while we were playing the match, we knew that it was not a true reflection of Tipperary. We scored five goals very

REBEL ROUSER: Linda Mellerick says it's time to bring some more silver back to Cork



early on and Tipperary gave up after that. And, of course, they went on to win the All-Ireland while we went out."

With the chance of a sixth All-Ireland medal in front of her, the Glen Rovers star has put any thoughts of retiring out of her head. Originally planning to retire after Cork's victory in 1997, Mellerick has continued playing, and winning.

"When you win you think you can go on forever. And after we lost last year I toyed with the idea again but I still had the desire to keep playing so I couldn't leave."

"There is no point in retiring if you still have the desire because you will be retired long enough after that."

JOANNE LITTLE

Tipperary sparkle with thoughts of retaining the All-Ireland crown

BY JOANNE LITTLE

TIPPERARY MAY have just one All-Ireland title under their belts but they have already developed a taste for it.

After last year's narrow victory over camogie giants Kilkenny, the Premier County's premier ladies face another dominant force in today's battle for the All-Ireland crown - Cork.

While Tipperary's last taste of glory in the O'Duffy Cup was also their first, Cork are part of the camogie elite with 19 wins. They are also the reigning League champions, having beaten the Tipperary girls in the final earlier this year. But Tipp are not frightened by the prospect.

One of the stars of the Tipperary side plotting Cork's downfall is Deirdre Hughes, the current Eiricell Player of the

Year, and she is eager to repeat last year's success.

"The big day is just ahead of us now and we are well-prepared and feeling confident. It has come around very quickly for us but hopefully we will be bringing the cup back home with us again," says Hughes.

The Toomevara ace dismisses any talk that Cork are not the team they once were and is sure that her team will have to be at their very best to defeat them.

"This Cork side is just as good as they ever have been, if not better. We have never beaten them before so they have that slight advantage over us. It will be a very tight game."

"But we feel a lot less pressure now that we finally won the title and I can't say how fantastic it feels to be playing for so long and then feature in two All-Ireland finals in two years. It is unbelievable."

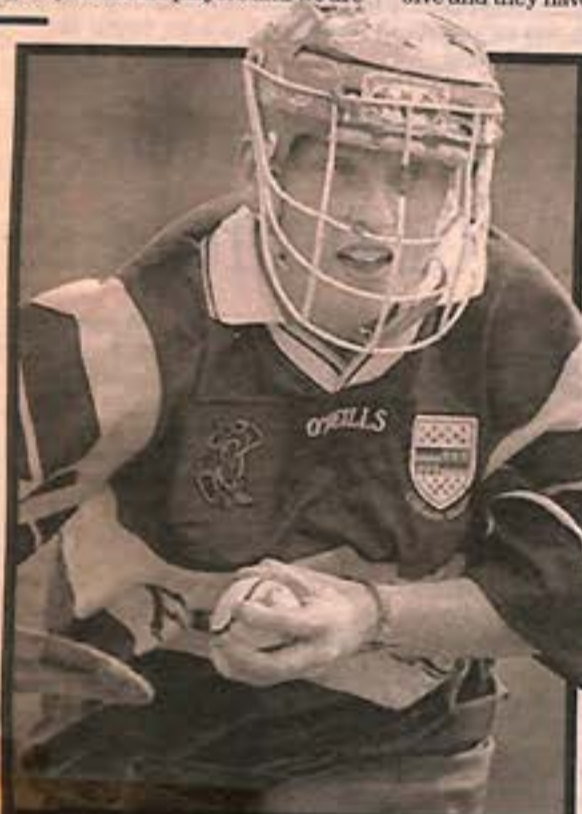
Hughes is unsure what the decisive factor was when the run of bad luck in All-Ireland finals was finally ended.

"We have received a lot of help from outside and from our management team. Michael (Cleary) and Colm (Bonnar) have great work for us and it probably counted for a lot when it came to the final against Kilkenny last year," says Hughes.

Now Hughes believes that her team can become a real force.

"I don't know about dominating in the way Cork and Kilkenny have done but we will certainly be challenging for future All-Irelands. We are a young team and we have the potential to be a really great side."

"We just have to go out and beat Cork now. They have been our bogey side for so long and a win against them would be a tremendous boost for us and for the county."



EAGER FOR REPEAT: Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes

Moloney ready for big game call-up

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN

echo.ed@examiner.ie

CORK have named the same starting 15 for Sunday's Foras Na Gaeilge final against Tipperary in Croke Park having beaten Wexford in the semi-final.

They were further boosted by the news that Rachel Moloney will be among the official substitution list.

Moloney will be ready for action if the Cork attack requires a power surge as her capacity to pick off a point from limited possession could prove crucial in what looks certain to be a close encounter.

Championship newcomers Elaine Burke, Ciara Healy and Una O'Donoghue all remain intact in the full-forward line.

Caoimhe Harrington is named at centre-forward with Fiona O'Driscoll on the wing, but it is likely that these players will switch before throw-in.

Sinead O'Callaghan completes the half-forward trio.

Custodian Cora Keohane is between the posts with Eithne Duggan holding down the full-back position.

Corner-backs are Denise Cronin and Mags Finn.

Captain Vivienne Harris will play at left-half back, Mary O'Connor is at centre-back with Sarah Hayes wearing number five.

Linda Mellerick and Ursula Troy are named at midfield.

Meanwhile, in the opening game at GAA headquarters, Cork will be looking for their seventh All-Ireland Junior title when they take on Derry in a repeat of last year's final.

However, while the northern team is almost identical to last season's line out, the Leesiders - having won the 1999 decider - are forced to field a completely new outfit this year.

Sixteen-year-old Christine O'Gorman from the Milford club will lead this young side from the left-wing back position.

Fellow club players, Sinead Buckley and Joanne O'Callaghan from

Cloghduv will front Ora O'Callaghan in goals.

Completing the fullback line is Aine Kelleher.

Joining O'Gorman is Sinead Corkery and Emer Dillon who will hold down the centre-back placing. The centre-field pairing is Valerie O'Keeffe and Marie O'Connell.

Catherine Corkery, Aine O'Regan and Jennifer O'Leary form the half-forward line.

Inside, Eimear O'Friel, Amanda O'Regan and Louise Murphy complete the line out.

The junior game begins at 1.40pm with a 3.30pm start for the senior final. Both games will be crackers and fans are encouraged to grab their places early.

SEPT

2000

'99 leader still stokes the Premier County

Last year's winning captain won't let the fact that she's a substitute today ruin probably her last All Ireland camogie final. **Enda McEvoy reports**

THEY announced the starting 15 after training in Semple Stadium on Monday night and Meadhbh Stokes wasn't on it.

A Tipperary camogie team without Meadhbh Stokes? Without the woman who's been a stalwart for the county since 1987, the woman who, a year ago today, captained them to their first ever All Ireland senior title? Sounds strange. But it's true.

Blame it on the night earlier in the summer when she sustained what felt like a hamstring injury, but turned out to be a damaged sciatic nerve in her back. A brief appearance in the All Ireland quarter-final against Clare apart, the ailment has confined Stokes to the subs' bench in the interim.

She didn't expect the Tipp management to change a winning team this week. She was right not to. "Disappointing, but not surprising," she reflects. "Purely for myself I hope I'll come on at some stage against Cork, which isn't to wish that any of the other girls will do badly. I know it's a cliché, but the result is the most important thing."

If Meadhbh Stokes feels bad, Michael Cleary sounds heartbroken. "Having to leave out Meadhbh, who in terms of leadership single-handedly carried that team last year, is awful," the Tipperary manager says. "As a captain she's the best I've ever dealt with. Male or female. She's got this ability to say the right thing at the right time. Tipperary wouldn't be in the All Ireland today - wouldn't have won the All Ireland last year - without Meadhbh Stokes."

She in turn wouldn't have

led them to glory had it not been for her upbringing in Kilsheelan, halfway between Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir. There were four Stokes children: Mairead, Liam - who went on to hurl for Tipperary in the mid-1980s, Diarmuid and Meadhbh. "Being the youngest it was a case of not being able to beat them, so you had to join them. By hurling with them."

Meadhbh duly did, perfecting her first-time striking with long solo sessions hitting the sliotar against the back wall of the house like her dad instructed her to. "Come in when you've done it a hundred times," Billy Stokes would command. His way of keeping her out of his hair.

No current inter-county camogie player has been more intimately acquainted with the bad times than Meadhbh Stokes. Tipperary were festering in junior ranks when she made her debut at 17. She was five years on the county team before they won the All Ireland championship in the grade, and another five years before they emerged from intermediate.

As a result, she says, she never thought in terms of senior All Irelands. "Definitely not. It took us so long to win junior that we thought we'd get through intermediate pretty quickly, but we struggled there again. Once we won intermediate in 1997 we were able to think about the possibility of winning a senior All Ireland some time down the road. But I didn't imagine I'd still be around by then. I'm extremely lucky that I was."

Not only was she around



Last chance: 'This year is probably it for me,' says Meadhbh Stokes. *PHOTO: Lorraine O'Sullivan*

when Tipperary faced Kilkenny this day last year, she was the captain. Even though it was the first All Ireland senior final for the Tipp ladies, nothing about the occasion caught them unawares. Drawing on his own experience, Cleary had taken his charges through

the preliminaries beforehand. The 13 or 14 steps from the dressing rooms up onto the pitch, the band, the handshakes with the president.

"So we didn't get side-tracked by any of that and were able to concentrate totally on the match. It was only

when the final whistle went that we didn't know what to do."

The celebrations featured a garda escort back to Tipperary on the Monday and a turnout of thousands of supporters in the spilling rain. The subsequent round of awards and

presentations kept the players busy throughout the winter and well into the spring.

Like other camogie players of a certain age (30 in her case), Stokes has spent "absolutely thousands of pounds" of her own money in petrol and physio bills over the years. In the past five years she's lived in Carlow, Tullamore - a three-hour round trip to training - and now Kilkenny, where she works as a lecturer with Teagasc. Had she been a hurler, she points out, those expenses would have at least been covered.

Not that she envies her younger team-mates their lot. "Now that camogie has

become more serious in Tipperary, there are far heavier demands on the players. When I was starting out it wasn't as serious. Maybe that's why I've lasted as long as I have."

While live TV coverage of the All Ireland final and the introduction of 15-a-side matches on full-sized pitches has been a big help, camogie's profile still isn't what it should be, Stokes contends. "Look at how popular ladies' football has become. Yet it's only been around for 25 years. Camogie has been around for four times that. The game should be doing better."

Tipperary's first sub for midfield or defence, Meadhbh

Stokes will almost certainly sample the action at some stage of the proceedings this afternoon. If she doesn't, she won't complain. Frankly, she can't. Last hurrah or not today, she's enjoyed a terrific innings.

"This year is probably it for me. I've been running from one injury to the next. But I've got far more out of camogie than I ever imagined I would. I'll always have the medal from last year. And this year I've already won a county championship medal and am a sub in the All Ireland final. You'd have to be happy with that."

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Cork ace Mellerick standing test of time

by Brendan Larkin

SHE won't admit it - what woman would - but age is catching up on Linda Mellerick.

One of the greatest exponents of camogie Cork has ever produced, the Glen Rovers star is finding the going a little tougher now after 20 years at the top, but nevertheless is relishing the opportunity of competing in her 11th All-Ireland final on Sunday.

Linda's collection of medals is awesome, and includes five All-Irelands, two of them as captain in 1993 and 1997, 15 Munsters, nine NHLs, numerous Gael Linn medals with Munster as well as Player of the Match in two All-Ireland finals.

Now a highly successful business woman owning a Fast Food Take Away outlet at St. Lukes Cross, Linda is as enthusiastic about Sunday's final as if it were her first.

After the 1998 All-Ireland final win, Linda hinted it was her last in the Cork jersey. She wanted to devote more time to building up her new business, but when the new season came around, she was surprised that she still had the appetite to continue playing.

"I found I still had the passion for the game and with a number of new faces breaking into the team, it was important to have the experience around to help them along," said Linda.

"The passion for camogie is as great as ever and as long as I have it, I'll continue to play, but I must admit it is getting harder. I'm as nervous about this final as I was about my first, and that's a good sign. I want to win this one as much as

the others. It's as if I was starting again.

"I got a tremendous buzz out of beating Kilkenny in the championship. I've been involved in some epic games with them. They are the best, so when you beat them there is great satisfaction. They'll say the same about Cork."

"That win over them was hugely important for us with so many newcomers on the team."

"We had lost some of the greatest players ever to play for Cork in Sandie Fitzgibbon, Paula Goggins, Lyn Dunlea and Therese O'Callaghan and many thought it would take a couple of years to get back to the top."

"However there is a huge depth of talent in the county. The selectors have filled the gaps more than adequately and in the match against Kilkenny the newcomers got a first hand glimpse of what camogie is all about at this level."

"It was very much a learning process for them and they came through it with flying colours. They showed the benefit of it in the semi-final against Wexford and it's bound to stand for them for Sunday's final."

"However there is still plenty of room for improvement. I've no worries about our defence, they've been through it all before and are very experienced."

"Midfield will have to deliver more while our inside forwards must put away the chances when they come. It took us a long time to get the better of Kilkenny, and we certainly cannot afford to give Tipperary a seven point start on Sunday and expect to catch them like."

"Tipperary have never beaten Cork in the senior championship and we want to preserve that record. In the league final



Linda Mellerick: delighted at competing in her 11th All-Ireland final.

between us earlier in the year, they led by five points at one stage but we rallied to win. There must be some doubt in the back of their minds about their failure to win that game and hopefully that will work in our favour."

"However we won't be reading too much into that league win. I know Tipp celebrated last year's All-Ireland win in style, enjoyed a well earned holiday abroad and didn't put too much emphasis on the National League."

"Championship is what it's all about and you can take it Tipp won't give up their title easily, certainly not to Cork."

"This will be the first All-Ireland final between two Munster teams. Tipperary are the champions, we are the league winners. What more can you ask for. It should be a great occasion for camogie."

Whatever way it goes on Sunday, Linda Mellerick has left an indelible mark on the game in Cork and her records will surely stand the test of time.

New-look Cork face tough test from Derry

A COMPLETE new starting 15 defend Cork's junior All-Ireland camogie crown when they meet Derry in what is a repeat of last year's final.

When a county wins the Junior All-Ireland the players are automatically graded intermediate, therefore the Cork side is a young one. In their path through Munster, Cork recorded a comfortable victory over Limerick in the opening round, before defeating a fancied Tipperary side 3-15 to 4-9 in a Munster final that went to extra time to decide.

A quarter-final victory over London set up a semi-final meeting with Laois where once again showing tremendous character and determination, the young Cork side ran out victors in a 3-9 to 1-5 scoreline.

Facing an experienced Derry side tomorrow, Cork are under no illusions at the task ahead.

In the Ulster final Derry defeated Armagh before recording a twelve point victory over Roscommon in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Coached by former Antrim hurler Dominic McKinley, the team has been strengthened this season by the inclusion of Blanaid Ivors who has transferred her allegiance from Tyrone.

Former St. Patrick's Maghera player Susan McLean is another addition to the side having returned home from Liverpool whilst upfront the Derry danger player will most definitely be the outstanding Mary O'Kane.

The Derry side will be captained by Aileen Tohill who is a sister of All start footballer Anthony.

Cork are led by Christine O'Gorman who was a member of last years All-Ireland winning minor team.

CORK: Iv Derry JC final: O. O'Callaghan (Cloughduv), S. Buckley (Idol), J. O'Callaghan (Idol), A. Kelleher (Newtownshandrum), S. Corkery (Cloughduv), E. Dillon (Ballygarvan), C. O'Gorman (Milford), I. O'Leary (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), M. O'Connell (Iniscarra), C. Corkery (Cloughduv), A. O'Regan (Courcy Rovers), J. O'Leary (Barryroe), E. O'Neil, (Milford), A. O'Regan (Douglas), L. Murphy (Aghabullogue).
Subs: I. Dineen (Barryroe), D. O'Reilly (Milford), Z. McDonald (Cloughduv), J. O'Sullivan (Bishopstown), M. Ennequess (Aghabullogue), M. Bowles (Newtownshandrum), M. Holland (Ballynashig).

Cork will Nott lie down to big rivals

“For the first time this year, I said to myself as we trained in Pairc Uí Rinn that we are going to win this one. The players were beginning to get it together and play as a unit.”

IN September of 1999 it looked as if Cork's championship powers had receded and it was Tipperary and Kilkenny who battled for honours in the final.

However, one man who did not agree was Tom Nott, who since his involvement six years ago with Cork has only lost two championship matches.

Nott believed in their potential and now 12 months later feels that they are going to win the first All-Ireland of the new millennium.

At last Monday night's press conference, the Cork senior camogie trainer was in unusually relaxed in the run-up to the final.

We were there to discuss Cork's chances against defending champions Tipperary in tomorrow's decider at Croke Park.

“For the first time this year, I said to myself last week as we trained in Pairc Uí Rinn that we are going to win this one. The players were beginning to get it together and play more as a unit.”

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**

Camogie Correspondent

However Tom agrees with the general view that Tipperary will give them a good run for their money.

“They are the champions. We have to knock them off their pedestal, and there is no denying that they will be hard to beat.

“We will have to play well, and play for the full 60 minutes. Four of our forwards have never played in an All-Ireland senior final before, so we will be relying on our more experienced players to pull us through.

“I suppose our biggest problem to date is that we are too slow to settle into the games.

“We expect to get two or three goals and then to win. That doesn't work anymore and won't work against a team like Tipp. We will have to play from start to finish and keep firing for the whole game.

“On the whole, I am confident that we can win. We have a right good chance in a fifty/fifty game,” concluded the Cork manager.



BOSS: Tom Nott, Cork camogie team's coach feels they will win.

Camogie line-up

Elaine Burke; Valley Rovers is a member of last seasons Junior winning side. First year on senior team and holds Ashbourne Cup and League Honours with U.C.C.

Lisa Kelleher; Newtownshandrum, captained U.C.C. to Ashbourne victory and also holds

colleges honours with Charleville.

Miriam Deasy; Kilbrittan is the holder of two All-Ireland Senior medals. She also works as a Sports Officer at C.I.T.

Pat Harris, first year acting as a team selector and is father of captain Vivienne Harris.

SEPT

2000

Jovita Seeks Ultimate Honour

By John Guiton



Jovita Delaney, captain (Holycross).

Jovita Delaney started the nineties on a high note by winning an All-Ireland minor medal with Tipperary. Now a decade later she hopes to put the icing on the cake of an illustrious career by captaining the Premier County to national glory on Sunday.

When we chatted last week Jovita was straight to the point. “It's a fabulous honour to be captain, but right now I'm not thinking too much of the role. We go out as a team and each player has a responsibility”, she said.

A teacher at Tarbert Comprehensive School, Jovita has enjoyed a fruitful career in the Blue and Gold. “The nineties brought us great success, it was really enjoyable” she said.

The last year or two has been a most exciting time for Jovita. Well accustomed to a forward role for most of her career she made a big move last season by taking over the goal-keeping position. However she has taken to it like a duck to water. “It's a difficult position, make no mistake about it, but it has gone well for me, and I hope things will go well on the big day”, Jovita added.

She is happy with the way the team has performed in the championship but she is quick to point out that “it's all down to Sunday”

Jovita added - It would be wonderful to put two titles back-to-back but we face a huge task. Cork are a very good side and they fancy their chances. It should be a great game.



IN THE FINALS: The Cork Junior Camogie team who will play in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park next Sunday. Pictured with the team are selectors Kay Dunne, Kathleen Healy and Pat Hayes and trainer Pat Murray.

Champions Tipperary can overcome Cork challenge and retain title

When Tipperary ended its hurling famine in 1989 with victory in the All-Ireland final, there were some outside the county who questioned the merit of that achievement as Tipp had beaten Antrim in the final and not one of the traditional counties.

No one could doubt the quality of their championship success two years later when en route to the title they overcame Limerick, Cork, Galway and then arch rivals Kilkenny in the decider.

Remarkably in the camogie world there was a similar reaction to last year's historic breakthrough for Tipperary when they beat Kilkenny in the final to record their first senior title.

There were some - again outside the county - who believed that Cork were the best team last year and unluckily lost to Kilkenny in the semi-final. Until Tipperary beat Cork on their way to an All-Ireland title, the victory loses some of its gloss, the doubters claimed.

That, of course is nonsense. Tipperary played some of the best camogie in the championship to make a glorious breakthrough for the game in the county.

Cork, meanwhile, were caught by a late sucker punch by Kilkenny who were rightly installed as hot favourites to claim another title. But they fell to the tremendous passion and determination of a Tipp team intent on making history.

Tipp could do no more than that. Cork didn't make the final, Kilkenny did, and Tipp were too good for them.

But if there are still those who believe that an All-Ireland title is somewhat diminished because it didn't include a win over Cork, then they get their opportunity this Sunday to see if Tipp can achieve that feat.

The neighbouring counties meet in the All-Ireland final for the first time with a huge amount at stake for both teams. This year's Croke Park showdown will definitely bring the best two teams in the country face to face with the O'Duffy Cup the prize for the winners.

Cork, one of the great forces in the game, are chasing their 20th title. Tipp the new kids on the block, are after their second and the coveted two in a row.

It's obvious in what direction tradition points but that will have no bearing when the two teams take the field for the 3.30 pm throw-in. Tradition favoured Kilkenny last year when they were seeking their 13th championship but Tipp overturned the form book in some style.

All that will really matter is the current form of both sides and if they can reproduce it on the day. The two teams have had a somewhat similar run to the final with only one real test each. That came for Cork in the quarter-final when they squeezed past Kilkenny by just a single point, 2-10 to 1-12.

Their semi-final against Wexford was a cakewalk in much the same way that Tipp's had been against Down twelve months ago.

Tipp's first two games this season also produced facile wins, hammering Down by sixteen points, 1-14 to 0-1, and Clare by twenty two, 4-15 to 0-5. The first time they had to dig deep was in the semi-final win over Galway when it was only in the final quarter that they finally pulled clear.

In recent head to heads, the advantage lies with Cork. Last year's league final provided one of the darkest days in Tipp camogie when Cork annihilated them in Semple Stadium. In the aftermath of that disaster, Tipp made two significant changes - former hurling star Michael Cleary was brought on board to the backroom team and this year's captain Jovita Delaney took over in goal.

Cleary took over as manager this year but still couldn't prevent Cork repeating their 1999 success in this year's league final. Yet Tipp ran their rivals close and put up a very encouraging performance.

So on that form there's little between the sides and a cracking game can be expected on Sunday. There's a tremendous hunger in the Tipp camp to retain their title and that can be a key ingredient to power them to victory.

Double All-Ireland winner Cleary has also instilled a great self-belief among the players. They are confident in their own ability and take the field fully aware of their own capabilities. The side's progress in ten years has been immense, from a struggling junior side trying to make the grade, to All-Ireland senior champions looking for a second successive title.

And key members of the team have been there as the Tipp progression saw them jump from grade to grade until finally reaching the top. Those who have toiled over many years to reach this level want to stay there now.

Tipperary have a well balanced team that could prove a crucial element on Sunday. The defence has a very solid look to it and can soak up pressure when things aren't going well for the forwards and much of the play is concentrated at their end.

Yet it's seldom that the Tipp attack falters as it's full of some of the top players in the game and scoretaking has been a feature of the side in recent years.

And linking backs and forwards is one of the most dynamic midfield pairings in the game, the west Tipp duo of Cashel's Emily Hayden and Knockavilla Kickham's Angie McDermott. They are the engine room of the side with their forceful play providing plenty of scoring opportunities for the forwards. But this Sunday they could meet their greatest test yet against the Cork partnership of Linda Mellerick and Ursula Troy. Mellerick in particular has been a stalwart of the side for years and orchestrated the team's performance in the semi-final win over Wexford. The midfield battle could decide the final.

From goalkeeper out, the Tipp defence has a solid feel. The goal-keeping slot has been an achilles heel for the team in the past but since Boherlahan-Dualla native Jovita Delaney took over between the posts, the transformation has been huge.

As a recognised outfield player for her club, her reading of the game is second to none and her clearances and distribution allied to her ball-stopping abilities make her a vital member of the side. Directly in front of her at full back is her Cashel team mate Una O'Dwyer who is having an outstanding season, while in the corners, the North pair of Toome's Suzanne Kelly and Portroe's Claire Madden are ever reliable.

Two household surnames in Tipp hurling are again represented in the half back line with Sinead Nealon from Burgess and Kilruane's Ciara Gaynor, daughters of Donie and Len respectively. Gaynor is a powerful centreback on whom much will depend while Nealon and Burgess colleague Theresa Brophy are speedy and hard-tackling defenders on the wings.

If Hayden and McDermott can establish a foothold at midfield then Tipp have the forwards capable of taking advantage. In Noelle Kennedy the team has a consummate hurler whose running from deep and point scoring have played such an important role in Tipp's rise to the top. If the Toome girl plays well then the team usually does and a repeat of her Croke Park display twelve months ago would provide Tipperary with a great boost.

Inside her in the full forward line is club colleague Deirdre Hughes and together they form one of the most lethal attacking partnerships in the game. If the flame-haired Deirdre hits top form then she can really burn the Cork defence.

One of the most improved players in the Tipp line up is Cashel teenager, Philly Fogarty who has now made the wing forward berth her own.

Like Fogarty, Drom-Inch's Catriona Hennessy on the other wing came on in last year's final and made a huge impression, slotting over two vital frees, including the winning scores. She has now relieved Kennedy of some of the free-taking duties - and pressures that go with the job - and is equally accomplished at taking scores from play. In the corner is Emer McDonnell who has a goal scoring ability that has proven crucial for the side on many occasions in the past.

Teenage sensation Claire Grogan from Templemore who at fourteen years of age looks already to be one of the most exciting prospects in the country, comes into the team a corner-forwards following her introduction as a sub in the semi-final.

With manager Michael Cleary repeatedly stressing the strength of the Tipperary panel, it is encouraging to see the options he retains on the bench. They include Meadhbh Stokes, who captained the side to All-Ireland glory last year and then Cashel to its third successive county crown this year and still she cannot get on the first fifteen.

There's little doubt that Cork will fully test the mettle of this Tipperary side but the mantle of champions sits comfortably on the Tipp girls' shoulders and they get the vote to keep the O'Duffy Cup bedecked with blue and gold for another year.



Cashel's proud captains - Meadhbh Stokes who led Tipperary to the county's first senior All-Ireland title last year, and Cashel colleague Jovita Delaney who hopes to emulate that success when she captains the team in Sunday's decider against Cork.

Captain Jovita is last line of defence

Boherlahan-Dualla's Jovita Delaney is sixty minutes away from the greatest achievement of her illustrious camogie career.

Her silverware collection is already impressive. She has five county championship medals with her club Cashel, a large array of Munster medals and a highly prized All-Ireland set of minor, junior, intermediate and senior.

Next Sunday she hopes to add another medal but will also have the honour of accepting the Cup if Tipp retain the title.

Delaney accepts how much an honour that would be for herself and her family but dismisses any notions of personal glory.

"It doesn't matter that I'm captain. The important thing is that the team win" said the unassuming Delaney who can become the second successive Cashel club member to lift the O'Duffy Cup after Meadhbh Stokes made history twelve months ago.

the defence. But following the rout by Cork in last year's league final, she was drafted into goal and immediately proved to be an immediate success. She is brilliant under the dropping ball and her clearances regularly turn defence into attack.

Her imposing presence is also a tremendous confidence boost to her defence. Jovita still plays in the full back line for her club, and last week helped Cashel to their third county title in a row, but she is very much number one in the number one jersey for Tipperary.

"I'm the last line of defence now and there are times when I would prefer to play outfield" she says.

But she has settled into the position and with her Cashel team mate Una O'Dwyer now filling Jovita's old berth at full back, she is confident of the strength of the defence in front of her.

"The back line is one of our

also accomplished at tennis and basketball and only took up camogie in secondary school. But coming from a hurling mad family, with three brothers also playing the game, she took to it with a passion until it became her number one sport and she now has the medals to prove it.

She is fully aware of the challenge facing Tipperary on Sunday to win two titles in a row. She rates Cork highly and predicts it will be a close game between two evenly matched sides.

And with some people saying that Tipp have to beat Cork in the championship to prove they really are the best, there will be an extra edge to the game.

But a key factor in Tipperary's preparation for the big game is the input of manager Michael Cleary. The former All-Star has earned the respect of all the team as he brings his own

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Key members of the Tipperary team in Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final against Cork - full back Una O'Dwyer (Cashel), corner back Suzanne Kelly (Toomevara) and midfielder Emily Hayden (Cashel).



Looking for their second All-Ireland camogie title in Croke Park on Sunday will be Toomevara's Deirdre Hughes; Claire Madden from Portroe and Noelle Kennedy from Toomevara.

"It's a great honour to be captain and it would be a dream come true to retain the title but we have fifteen players on the team and subs as well" she says as she deflects the attention away from her own position.

Up to fifteen months ago Jovita was one of the key outfield players on the Tipp team, a commanding presence in

strongest sectors but we are strong throughout the field. Emily Hayden and Angie McDermot are flying in midfield and that will be a crucial area on Sunday. The attack is also in great form with Deirdre Hughes and Noelle Kennedy class players" says the captain.

An all-round sportswoman, Jovita is

philosophy to training.

"He has given us a great belief in our own ability and that is very important for us" says Jovita as she prepares to lead her team out onto Croke Park on Sunday.

"We have a difficult task against Cork but I believe we can do it" she adds.

Reports: Michael Heverin Pictures: John Kelly

Cork clash to provide Croke Park classic

Tipperary couldn't have asked for a harder test than Cork as they seek their second successive All-Ireland crown.

It's the first final meeting between the counties and has an appeal all of its own - the two neighbouring counties meeting in Croke Park for the ultimate prize.

The clash is an intriguing one between two counties with such different backgrounds. Tipp may be champions but they are still just in their third year back in senior ranks and last year's title was their first in the seventy year history of the game.

Meanwhile Cork are one of the powerbases of camogie. With nineteen titles, they are second only to Dublin (26) in the roll of honour but while the Dubs were the dominant force throughout the 50's and 60's their last title was back in 1984 while Cork's glory days are of more recent vintage with five titles in the 90's, including two in a row in '97 and '98 before Tipp made their breakthrough last year.

So Cork are looking for their third title in four years and will probably start slight favourites after dismissing Kilkenny in the quarter final and trouncing Wexford in the semi-final.

According to selector Biddy Phillips, who has been involved with Tipperary teams for fourteen years, the final could be a classic such is the intense rivalry between Cork and Tipp.

It was Biddy who brought Tipp to their first title last year and now makes up the selection team with Michael Cleary and Jim Madden.

She has considerable knowledge of Cork's game and identifies midfield general Linda Mellerick, defenders Denise Cronin and Eithne Duggan and forward Fiona O'Driscoll as key

members of the side.

"Both sides are extremely skillful and there will be little between them. The first touch and whoever is first to the ball could be crucial. In the end it could be fitness that will tell" says the Thurles woman who was one of the stalwarts of camogie in the county throughout the 90's.

If fitness does decide the issue then Tipp might well have the edge because Michael Cleary's regime has the players at the top of their game and they looked as strong towards the end of their bruising semi-final win over Galway as they had at the start. It was apparent that as the Galway girls flagged, the Tipp players looked as fresh as ever.

A somewhat fortuitous goal from a Noel Kennedy free tipped the scales in Tipp's favour in the semi-final but they pressed home their advantage in the closing stages in impressive style to win comfortably.

Reaching successive senior finals makes a major change in Tipperary's fortune. While Dublin, Cork and Kilkenny were dominating the women's game, Tipp were struggling to impose themselves and their years of heartbreak saw them lose seven All-Ireland finals.

The last of those was in 1984 and the game went into a decline in the county after that latest disappointment. It needed to be revived at root and branch level and that's just what happened.

Initially the concentration was on the minors and it reaped dividends in 1990 with the county's first All-Ireland camogie title in any grade - and the minors repeated that success in '92 and '93.

The first adult breakthrough didn't have to wait long after the minors with an All-Ireland junior title in

1992. The progress continued and the next significant event was winning the intermediate title in 1997 - akin to reaching the Holy Grail for Tipp as it meant a long-awaited return to senior status.

Two years later and the first All-Ireland title was achieved and now the team is on the verge of another significant achievement - putting two national crowns back to back.

Survivors from that junior winning team in 1992 are Claire Madden, Meadhbh Stokes, Deirdre Hughes, Sinead Nealon and Jovita Delaney while Noelle Kennedy came on as a sub in the win over Galway.

Cork won the senior title on the same day in Croke Park and their team included Linda Mellerick, Fiona O'Driscoll and Denise Cronin - all of whom will be in action again this Sunday.

Keeping such key players as Hughes, Nealon, Delaney, Stokes, Madden and Kennedy together played a crucial role in Tipp's emergence as a major camogie force and provides the team with a continuity and range of experience that could be vital in the white heat atmospheres of Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.

Biddy Phillips acknowledges the importance of so many fine players coming to the fore throughout the last decade and the part they played in Tipp's rebirth while the promotion of the game in schools in areas such as Nenagh, Cashel, Templemore and Borrisoleigh was also a significant factor.

All those years of development will now be put to the test again as Tipp strive for another first - the chance to retain the title and confirm their billing as the best team in the country. It's a prize well within their range.

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READY FOR ACTION - Suzanne Kelly, Noelle Kennedy, Deirdre Hughes and Grainne Shanahan (all Toomevara).

By John Guiton

Before ever reigning champions Tipperary and Cork do battle in next Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final, at Croke Park, the eagerly awaited glamour final is shrouded in history. For a start it's the first ever meeting between the sides in the final since the introduction of the championship Open Draw in the seventies. But far more important, from a Tipperary perspective, is the mouth-watering prospect of a historic two-in-a-row.

Billed as one of the most intriguing finals in years it brings together in the battle for the ultimate prize the National League finalists of 2000. Cork pipped Tipperary by three points in



Up on their toes in training for the All-Ireland final.

that game, and held intact their unbeaten record against their rivals since Tipperary graduated to the senior ranks in 1998.

Little did we think as we sat in the Grand Hotel in Malahide, on a Sep-

tember evening ten years ago, after losing the Junior All-Ireland to Kildare that the county was destined for so much success before the end of the decade. The hard work of players, mentors and administrators was rewarded with All-Ireland titles in all four grades, minor, junior, intermediate and senior. Indeed, two members of the current senior squad, team captain Jovita Delaney and Sinead Nealon, have the distinction of winning All-Ireland medals in all grades.

Now at the pinnacle of greatness Tipperary have every intention of staying there. However, in their history-making bid they face, arguably, their stiffest test over the two-year campaign. With the bulk of last year's side available the champions will need to be even more potent to clear the final hurdle.

Both teams have had impressive paths to the final. Cork took the scalps of last year's finalists Kilkenny and Wexford, while Tipperary have accounted for Clare, Down and Galway. There is a tendency to look back at the league final clash between the sides when assessing the chances of the teams on Sunday next. However, Tipperary selector Biddy Phillips is not inclined to place too much emphasis on the result of that game. "There was

only a puck of the ball in it at the end and were pleased to have played so well without a few regular players. Both teams have done a great deal of preparation since, and the All-Ireland final will be another matter entirely", said Biddy.

Biddy regards Cork as a very skilful side with vastly experienced players of the calibre of Linda Mellary, Fiona O'Driscoll, Eithne Duggan and Denise Cronin to mention but a few.

"They'll really be

have responded magnificently according to Biddy Phillips. The side's performance in the second half of the All-Ireland semi-final epitomised that gutsy approach, she said.

As always, Tipperary will be relying to a great extent on the vastly experienced Jovita Delaney, Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Noelle Kennedy and Deirdre Hughes to mention but a few.

However, the side as a unit has a stamp of class about it, and a major talking point is the presence on the panel of 14-year-old Claire Grogan. The young lady really proved her worth when she scored a point as a substitute in the All-Ireland semi-final.

So, Biddy Phillips has appealed to Tipperary folk to turn out in great numbers to support the team. "They have given us great enjoyment already, and they deserve every support they can get. Our thanks to our loyal supporters and to our sponsor, Mr Tom Egan, Horse & Jockey Inn, for their huge support", Biddy stated.

Win, lose or draw, the Tipperary team will return by coach from Dublin to Horse & Jockey Inn on Monday evening next arriving at approximately 8.30 p.m. They will then travel to Cashel for a reception hosted by the local club.



Michael Cleary (manager).

Grogan gets call up

by Noel Dundon

TIPPERARY have made one change in the side to face Cork in Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park. Into the starting line-up at corner-forward comes fourteen year old Templemore sensation Claire Grogan, daughter of former Tipperary senior hurling star John, for her first start of the season.

Grogan has been impressing in recent weeks in training and made a significant impact when introduced in the semi-final clash with Galway. Now, she has been handed the opportunity to play the biggest game of her life while not even in her mid teens.

The unlucky one to lose out is Toomevara's Grainne Shanahan but she is sure to play some part in Sunday's decider while last year's All-Ireland winning captain Meadh Stokes is also amongst the substitutes.

The team was announced on Monday evening last in Semple Stadium after the squad had been put through their paces by former Tipperary All-Star, coach Michael Cleary (Nenagh Eire Og) and selectors Biddy Phillips (Thurles) and Jim Madden (Portroe).

The team is—

Jovita Delaney
Cashel

Suzanne Kelly
Toomevara

Una O'Dwyer
Cashel

Claire Madden
Portroe

Sinead Nealon
Burgess

Ciara Gaynor
Kilruane MacDonagh's

Theresa Brophy
Burgess

Emily Hayden
Cashel

Angela McDermott
Knockavilla Kickhams

Philly Fogarty
Cashel

Noelle Kennedy
Toomevara

Cathriona Hennessy
Drom-Inch

Eimer McDonnell
Burgess

Deirdre Hughes
Toomevara

Claire Grogan
Templemore

Substitutes — Louise Ryan (Holycross); Meadh Stokes (Cashel); Grainne Shanahan (Toomevara); Joanne Ryan (Drom-Inch); Niamh Harkin (Drom-Inch); Sheena Howard (Burgess); Helen Kiely (Drom-Inch); Paula Bulfin (Cashel).

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND FINAL:-

Tipperary Chase Back-to-Back Titles

SEPT 2000



Five of the six Cashel players who are members of the Tipperary panel for Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final against Cork in Croke Park - Philly Fogarty, Una O'Dwyer, Jovita Delaney, Meadhbh Stokes and Paula Bulfin. Missing is Emily Hayden. Full preview and more pictures on Tipp's bid to retain their All-Ireland crown

allirelandcamogiefinal tipperaryvcork

Today, Croke Park, 3.30pm
Live, Network2, 3pm
Referee: A Derham (Dublin)

IF CAMOGIE'S new millennium begins even half as auspiciously as the old one ended, Dublin 3 visitors are in for a whale of an afternoon. Last year's showpiece attracted over 12,000 spectators, Tipperary and Kilkenny produced a thriller that soldered thousands more to their TV screens, and the day ended with a new name on the O'Duffy Cup. Is it too much to expect the same? Probably. But not too much to hope for.

Labouring horribly in the image department in comparison with ladies' football in recent years, camogie finally appears to know where it's going, a purpose that can be traced back to the report of a development committee established in 1997.

Among the recommendations were a merger between the Camogie Association, which remains an independent body, and the GAA; an overdue change

ing to 15-a-side games played on full-size pitches; a relaxation in the dress rules to allow for shorts; a drive to ensure a 20 per cent membership growth over the next five years; and playing fixtures as curtain-raisers to major hurling matches.

The 15-a-side experiment is set to become permanent at a special congress next month, while on-going discussions about a tie-up with the GAA ("alliance", rather than "merger", is the word favoured by the camogie people) may result in white smoke by the end of the year. The skirts stay, though.

Tipperary's confidence as champions is worth a couple of extra points to them. They led handsomely early on in the National League decider in May before Cork hit back to win by 3-7 to 1-10, but they learned their lesson and found a second wind when Galway threatened in the All Ireland semi-final at Parnell Park — a lucky goal from a Noelle Kennedy free helping them to win.

By coincidence it was an

equally fortuitous goal by Linda Mellerick that did the damage for Cork in a spellbinding quarter-final against Kilkenny. Mellerick and co thereafter had altogether too much craft for Wexford in the semi-final.

Central battles should swing it today. Caoimhe Harrington and Fiona O'Driscoll on Ciara Gaynor and Sinead Nealon in Tipp's half-back line. Emily Hayden on evergreen Linda Mellerick at midfield. Noelle Kennedy against Cork centre-back Mary O'Connor. And, perhaps most critically, Eithne Duggan on Deirdre Hughes, the destroyer of Kilkenny a year ago. Lynn Dunlea's absence may be decisive. Tipperary by a point.

CORK: C. Keohane; D. Cronin; E. Duggan; M. Finn; S. Hayes; M. O'Connor; V. Harris; U. Troy; L. Mellerick; S. O'Callaghan; C. Harrington; F. O'Driscoll; U. Burke; C. Healy; U. O'Donoghue.

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney; S. Kelly; U. Dwyer; C. Madden; S. Nealon; C. Gaynor; T. Brophy; E. Hayden; A. Hayden; P. Fogarty; N. Kennedy; C. Hennessy; E. McDonnell; D. Fogarty; C. Gragan.

Enda McEvoy



Charlie Buckley, Dennehy's Cross Bar, presenting fleeces to Orla Kelly, Ciara Healy, Ciara Enright, Jean O'Sullivan and Vivienne Harris.

Bishopstown top their county

THE Bishopstown senior camogie team are the dominant team in Cork camogie circles.

Captained this year by Ciara Enright, the team recently won their fourth Senior A Cork County Championship in a row, when they defeated Barryroe by 2-13 to 1-3 at Cloughduv.

Bishopstown won this title for

the first time in 1997 and the team is overjoyed to have four titles under their belt.

They now go on to represent Cork, when they meet Tipperary. Sponsors Dennehy's Bar, Dennehy's Cross, Cork, are ensuring that the girls will be well kitted out on the day.

Captain Ciara Enright and some

of her team-mates are pictured here receiving a new set of fleece jackets from Dennehy's Bar.

Pat Murray, public relations officer of Bishopstown Camogie Club, is delighted with the team's success to date.

"As under-age coach in the club, I am particularly pleased to see that most of the team have come

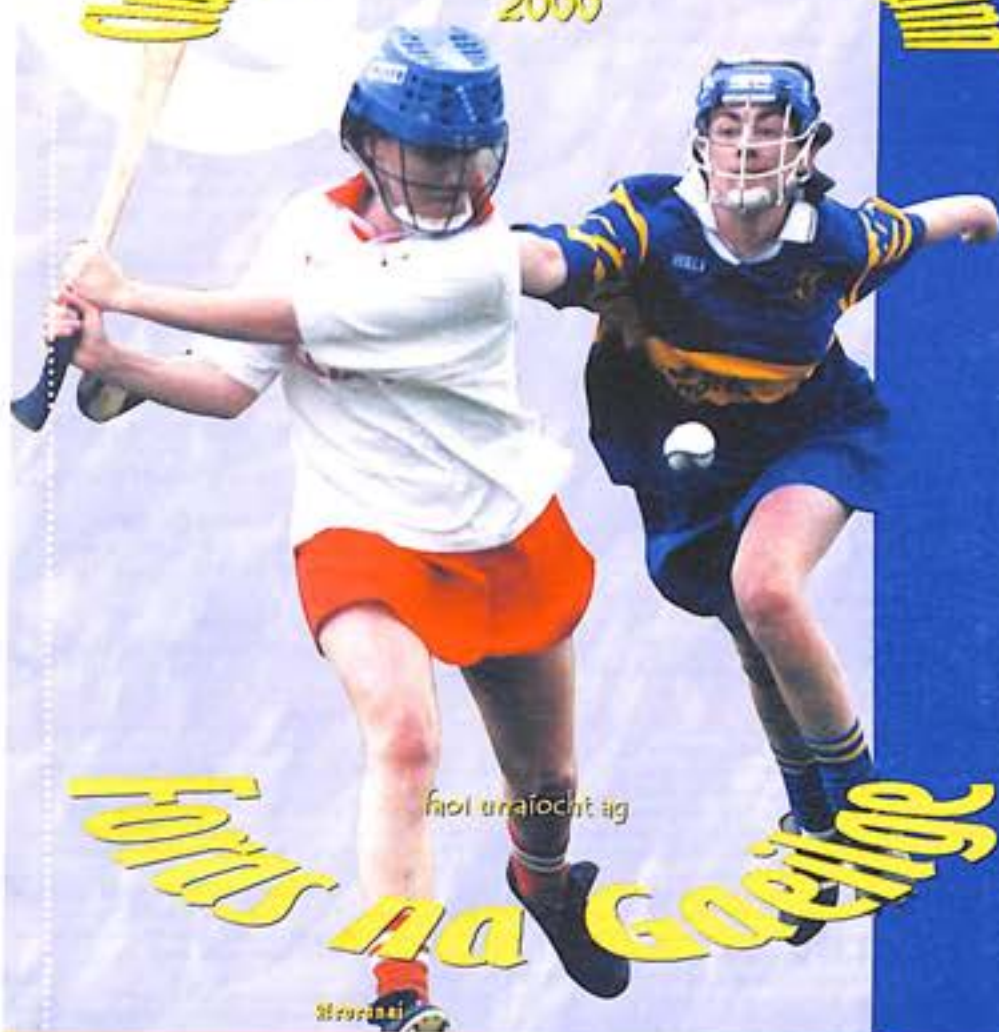
up through the under-age ranks in the club, with some of them having been under my tutelage since they were eight years old.

"These include current Cork senior captain Vivienne Harris, her fellow Cork seniors Ciara Healy and Eithne Duggan and current Cork intermediate Sheena Morley," he said.

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael



Cluiche Ceannais na nGael 2000



Páirc an Chrócaigh - 03 Meán Fómhair 2000 - Clár Oifigiúil - Luach £2.00

Focal an Uachtarán



Pádraighín Ní Ráifeartaigh

Cuirimse fíor-chroí fáilte roimh chách chuig Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann de Chraobhchomórtas na Sinsear agus na Sóisear. Is breá linn é sibh uilig a bheith anseo, idir ár geuid aoidheanna speisialta, na foirne, na Réiteoirí agus na Maoir, lucht leanúna na bhfoireann agus lucht leanúna na camógaíochta i gcoitinne. Go raibh an-lá agabh uilig. Táimse cinnte de go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as imeachtaí an tráthnóna inniu.

Today is an historic occasion for Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael, the first Cluiche Ceannais of the Millennium and, indeed, the first time ever for Corcaigh and Tiobraid Árann to meet in an All-Ireland Senior Championship Final. We welcome back the Junior teams from Corcaigh and Doire. Táid ag leanúint i mbliana mar a chríochnaigh siad an sean-mhílaois. Go n-éirí go goal leis na foirne atá páirteach i gCluiche Ceannais an lae inniu.

For the second year, the Twenty-Five Year Jubilee Team will be honoured. Is mór agam é fáilte a chur roimh Loch Garman a bhuaigh Corn Ua Dubhthaigh sa bhliain 1975. Déanaim comhghárdeachas ó chroí leo.

Táimid go mór faoi chomaoín ag **Foras na Gaeilge**, príomh-urraí an Chumann. Fearaim fáilte roimh R.T.É. agus rompu uilig a bhaineann leis na meáin chumarsáide a chuireann an chamógaíocht ós comhair an phobail.

Is mór ar fad againn é an tacaíocht a thugann Cumann Lúthchleas Gael dúinn i gcónaí agus gabhaim buíochas faoi leith le foireann Pháirc an Chrócaigh.

Go mbaine sibh spórt agus taitneamh as imeachtaí an lae.

Pádraighín Ní Ráifeartaigh
Uachtarán

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1.40 l.n. | Clár an Lae Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear: Corcaigh v Doire An Réiteoir: Seán Ó Piondair, Cill Dara |
| 3.05 l.n. | Foireann Iubhail Loch Garman, 1975. |
| 3.20 l.n. | An Taoiseach ag teacht i láthair. |
| 3.30 l.n. | Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear: Corcaigh v Tiobraid Árann An Réiteoir: Áine Derham, Áth Cliath |
| 4.00 l.n. | Camógaíocht Idirbhunscoileanna. Is é Banna Ceoil Ard Aodhna a bheidh ag seinm |

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear

Áine Derham
Áth Cliath

Don chúigiú huair atá Áine i bhfeighil na feadóige ag Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear. As well as four Senior Finals, Áine has refereed at all levels of the Association including the Finals of all national competitions. Imríonn sí a cuid camógaíochta le Cumann Celtic, Áth Cliath.

Ionadaí: Miriam Uí Cheallacháin
Uibh Fáighle

Na Maoir Chúil

Gráinne de Búrca, Paula Ní Cholmáin,
Caitríona Ní Éideáin, Máire Ní Nuanáin
(Áth Cliath)

Na Maoir Líne

Miriam Uí Cheallacháin, Uibh Fáighle
Eibhlín Ní Ámaill, An Dún.



Seán Ó Piondair
Cill Dara

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear



Cuirtear fáilte faoi leith roimh Sheán agus ó i lár baill don chéad uair ag Cluiche Ceannais de Chraobhchomórtas. Although refereeing his first Championship Final, Seán is an experienced Réiteoir who has officiated at every level of competition, including this year's Senior National League Final. d'imir sé lómánaíocht agus Peil le Enfield agus Rathmoylan. He has also coached his club's Camogie teams to county League and Championship success.

Ionadaí: Seán Ó Muiriosa, Tiobraid Árann

Na Maoir Chúil

Maria Nic Cristín, Dearbhla Nic Boghain,
Karen Ní Raghallaigh, Ruth Ní Threasaigh
(Cill Dara)

Na Maoir Líne

Seán Ó Muiriosa
(Tiobraid Árann)
Ailseon Uí Leathlobhair
(Iarmhidhe)

Skirting the Issue

le

Rossa ó Sioradáin, Researcher, Breaking Ball

Breaking Ball has covered every round of the championship up to and including today's final. From the seven Treacy sisters of Kildare to the Holohan twins of Wexford, we have sought out those that dedicate themselves to achieving that one Goal, bringing honour and success to their respective counties. One thing that has struck me is the level of commitment that I have observed in those that we have featured, training up to six nights a week between club and county. This single-minded pursuit of success is humbling to us mere mortals that find it difficult to make it to the gym more than once a fortnight!

During the course of researching pieces for Breaking Ball I have witnessed first-hand the level of admiration that is felt, from one end of the country to the other, of the skill that is on display week in week out. That is what sticks out in people's minds when thinking of camogie, skill. This pursuit of excellence is self-evident to anyone who has taken the time to follow this year's championship.

As in the men's game, the usual suspects are ever present, Cork, Tipp, Kilkenny and Galway, any of whom could have won this year's championship. Sadly (from my own point of view) Dublin no longer dominate as they have in the past. It has been heartening to see the progress made in such counties as Down and Limerick (particularly at club level). We ourselves have seen how the game is developing at National School level, in tandem with the hurling development programme, in Mayo. The future would appear to be bright.

However, camogie faces the same problems that all Gaelic games face in this "playstation" age.

The skills on display today came about because those playing have been playing since they were old enough to hold a hurl. Getting children out from behind the games console onto the games field is the battle that faces all sport, not just Gaelic games.

Breaking Ball will continue to cover the camogie championship for as long as Breaking Ball is around and it is our fervent hope that we might do justice to those involved. We hope that we can spread the word as to the standard of competition that exists. We at Breaking Ball are optimistic and continue to be impressed by those that are involved in the running of the game, not only the very obviously talented players and coaches.

It has been a pleasure covering this year's championship and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have taken part in the programme, they have been a credit to their counties, their sport and, most importantly, themselves.

Up the Dubs!!!

The stuff that dreams are made of...

Elsie Mhic Óda (Bhreatnach), Foireann Iubhaile Loch Garman

Looking back to the year 1975 conjures up many memories for me, many happy, one sad. It was the year that I fulfilled my dream of winning an All-Ireland medal with Wexford. There with me was my younger sister, Dorothy, and team mates from my beloved Buffers Alley, Bridie Doran (nee Jacob), Margaret Leacy (nee O'Leary), Maggie Hearne, Kathleen Tonks and selector, Willie Corcoran. Pat O'Gorman and Martin Lancaster, R.I.P., were the other members of the management team. Sadly, my mother never got to see us winning as she passed away that year.

Peeling bells and local wit

The draw for the championship pitted Wexford against Clare, who won the Junior All-Ireland the previous year. The match was fixed for the 13th July, venue, Ennis. Some of us decided that we should make the journey the day before, thus keeping us fresher for the match. On the Saturday afternoon, the blue flat was packed and I was joined by team mates Bridie Jacob and Kathleen Tonks. Dorothy, my sister, who was not on the team then, came for the craic. She ended up by doing umpire for the match. Betty O'Sullivan, a very good friend of mine from Kilworth, and now living in Clarinbridge, took the opportunity to visit her future in-laws, the Davorens of Corofin.

We had booked into a B&B in Ennis and, having eaten dinner, we retired for a good night's rest. Well, talk about proper rest the night before a match! The B&B was situated near the Cathedral and a local chipper. The peals of the church bell rang out every hour and, in between, the wit of the locals drifted into our rooms. So much for being well rested by travelling the day before.

Tonks, as she is affectionately known, was our goalkeeper and, during the second half, she got injured, hitting her head off the post. She was removed to hospital and Maggie Hearne replaced her. Mary Furlong, now Mary Codd, mother of Wexford's Paul, came on as a sub near the end of the match and scored a vital goal to put us ahead. A defender, who shall remain nameless, claims she scored the equalising point for Clare when the ball bounced off her hurley and went over the bar! The match ended level.

The replay took place in Enniscorthy the following Sunday, Wexford coming out winners on a scoreline of 3-7 to 3-5. I scored the equalising point and Kit Codd got the next one.

A semi-final place against Dublin was our reward. Having played well with Wexford Juniors, Dorothy was now picked on the team at corner back, with Bridie Doran moving to centre forward where she scored some vital scores in this match and the final. Na Fianna Grounds at Mobhi Road was the venue and, although we came out winners by 3-4 to 0-2, it was much closer than the scoreline suggested.

ar lean, leathanach 37

Foireann Loch Garman, 1975

1
Caitlin Tonks
Kathleen Tonks, Buffers Alley

2
Mairéad Uí Laitheasa
Margaret Leacy, Buffers Alley

3
Gretta Nic Eochaidh
Gretta Kehoe, Cloughbawn/Adamstown
Captaen

4
Brid Uí Dhúbhail
Bridget Doyle, Cloughbawn/Adamstown

5
Doireann Bhreatnach
Dorothy Walsh, Buffers Alley

6
Brid Ní Mhurchú
Breda Murphy, Cloughbawn/Adamstown

7
Eibhlín Uí Ghormáin
Eileen O'Gorman, St. Mary's, Enniscorthy

8
Éilís Bhreatnach
Elsie Walsh, Buffers Alley

9
Cáit Mhic Óda
Kit Codd, Cloughbawn/Adamstown

10
Brid Ní Dheoráin
Bridie Doran, Buffers Alley

11
Mairéad Ní Eathairn
Maggie Heame, Buffers Alley

12
Mairéad Ní Mhórdha
Peig Moore, St. Brigid's, Kilrush

Na hIonadaithe

- | | |
|--|--|
| 13. Mairéad Ní Dheoráin (Mairéad Darcy, St. Mary's) | 16. Bríde Ní Mhórdha (Bernie Murphy, St. John's) |
| 14. Máire Furlong (Mary Furlong, Cloughbawn/Adamstown) | 17. Bríde Ní Eathairn (Bridie Fox, St. Brigid's) |
| 15. Siobhán Ní Mhurchú (Joan Murphy, St. Mary's) | 18. Máire Ní Sheoinín (St. Patrick's, Campile) |

SEPT 2000

The All-Ireland Final against Cork was now seven weeks away. In the meantime, my club, Buffers Alley, won the County Senior Final for the second time. This was the beginning of a glorious era for the club, winning seventeen county seniors in all, fourteen of them in a row. We played in seven consecutive All-Irelands, winning five. Our record four in a row still stands, a phenomenal achievement for the club.

Gretta Kehoe from Cloughbawn Club was our captain for the All-Ireland. On the Saturday before the match, Gretta married a Kilkenny man, Ray Quigley. Her sisters, Bridget Doyle and Kit Codd, along with Margaret O'Leary were attempting to win their third All-Ireland medal. Mary O'Leary, a very skilful corner forward, was Cork's captain.

We went into the game as complete outsiders. It had been anticipated that Cork, playing in their sixth successive final, of which they had won four, would prove far too experienced for us. But, despite having wasted many first-half chances, we were still level at half-time, and were well in command right through the second half, although not until the closing stages did we notch the clinching scores. There were wonderful scenes of celebration after the final whistle blew. I will forever treasure the memory of meeting my family and all the delighted Wexford supporters after our great victory. To play on a winning All-Ireland team alongside my childhood idol, Margaret O'Leary, was the stuff that dreams are made of.

Brian Cody, who was later to become Elsie's husband, was corner back on the Kilkenny team which won the All-Ireland Hurling Final in 1975.

Foireann Chorcaí, 1975

1
Deirdre Ní Shurtáin
Deirdre Sutton, Glen Rovers

2
Máire Ní Choistín
Marie Costine, Cloyne

3
Nuala Ní Sheoinín
Nuala Jennings, U.C.C.

4
Síle Uí Mhuireagáin
Sheila Morgan, Canovoe

5
Máire Ní Uallacháin
Mary Whelton, South Pres.

6
Muireann Ní Cárthaigh
Marian McCarthy, South Pres.

7
Pádraigín Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh
Pat Moloney, Killaugh

8
Brínnín Ní Coistín
Bernie Costine, Cloyne

9
Máire Ní Laoire
Mary O'Leary, Watergrasshill
Captaen

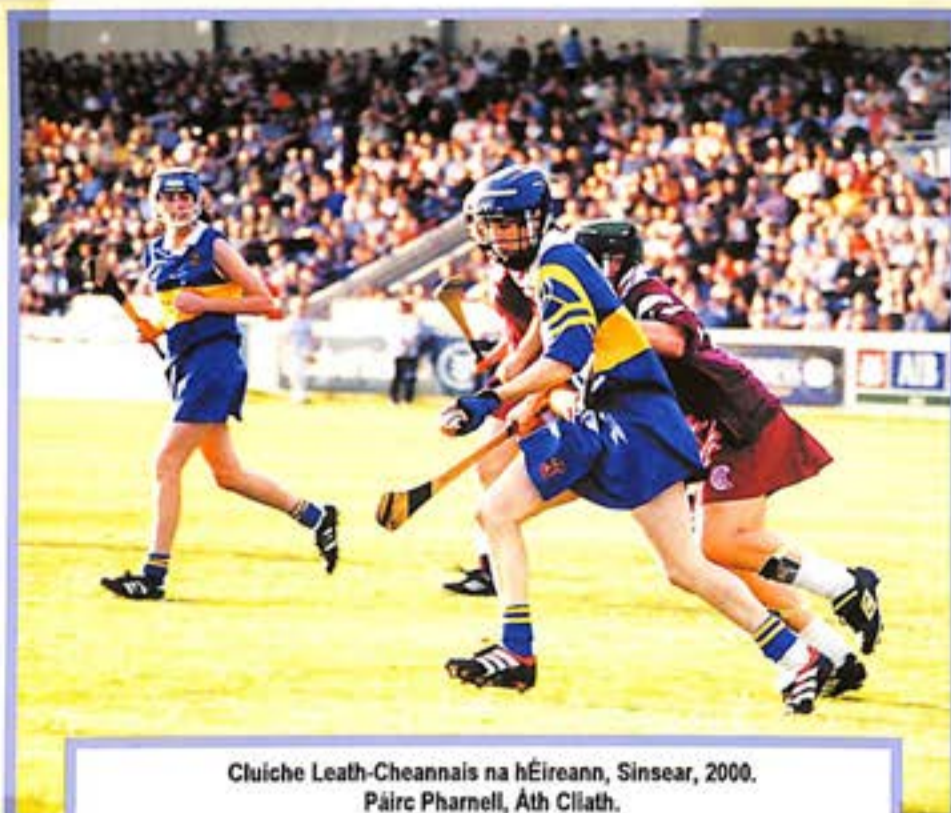
10
Cáit Ní Riordáin
Cally Riordan, U.C.C./Youghal

11
Neans Ní Dhrisceoil
Nancy O'Driscoll, Éire Óg

12
Máire Ní Suibhne
Marion Sweeney, Killaugh

Na hIonadaithe

- | | |
|---|---|
| 13. Mairéad Ní Thuama (Margo Twomey, Canovoe) | 14. Cáit de Londras (Cathy Landers, Killaugh) |
| 15. Seosaimhín Ní Thuathail (Josie Knowles, Cloyne) | 16. Bhal Ní Giolla Phádraig (Val Fitzpatrick, Old Als.) |



Cluiche Leath-Cheannais na hÉireann, Sinsear, 2000.
Páirc Pharnell, Áth Cliath.

Úna Ní Dhuibhir, lán-chúl Thiobraid Árann, ag teacht de ruathar amach.

Doire



1
Eibhlín Nic Raghallaigh
Aileen Crilly
Glen

2
Siobhán Nic Fhirléinn
Susan Mc Erlean
Greenlough

3
Gráinne Nig Uidhir
Gráinne Maguire
Swatragh

4
Bláithín Nic Iomhair
Bláithín McIvor
Ballinderry

5
Caitríona Nic Domhnaill
Cathy McDonald
Greenlough

6
Clár Ni Dhochartaigh
Claire Doherty
Slaughtneil

7
Siobhán Nic Ainmhíre
Siobhán Convery
Lavey

8
Shauna Nic Camhail
Shauna McCaul
Dungiven

9
Áine Nic Lochlainn
Anna O'Loughlin
Swatragh

10
Eibhlín Ni Thuathail
Aileen Tohill, Swatragh
Captaen

11
Póilín Nic an Tiompánaigh
Paula McAtamney
Swatragh

12
Aisling Ni Chadhlá
Aisling Kealey
Dungiven

13
Clár Nic Nicaill
Claire McNicholl
Swatragh

14
Máire Ni Chatháin
Mary O'Kane
Glen

15
Karen Ni Raifeartaigh
Karen Rafferty
Bellaghy

IONADAITHE

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 16. Clár Ni Scolláin | Claire Scullin | Swatragh |
| 17. Martina Ni Mhaolchalláin | Martina Mulholland | Lavey |
| 18. Eibhlín Ni Chatháin | Aileen O'Kane | Slaughtneil |
| 19. Róisín Ni Mhaolmhuaidh | Róisín Molloy | Glen |
| 20. Paula Nic Cionaoith | Paula McKenna | Swatragh |

An Bainisteoir

Dominic Mac Fhionnlaioch
(Dominic McKinley)

SEPT

DÓIRE



ar chúil, ó chlé: M. Ni Chatháin, M. Ni Bhrolaigh (Leas-Bainisteoir), C. Ni Dhochartaigh, K. Ni Rachtáire, S. Nic Ainmhíre, S. Nic Fhirléinn, C. Ni Chatháin, P. Nic Luadh, C. Ni Scolláin, P. Nic Cionaoith, S. Nic Scolláin, C. Nig Eocháin, R. Ni Mhaolmhuaidh, C. Nic Domhnaill, D. Mac Fhionnlaioch
chun tosaithe, ó chlé: A. Nic Raghallaigh, G. Nig Uidhir, B. Nic Iomhair, C. Nic Nicaill, A. Ni Thuathail, Captaen, P. Nic an Tiompánaigh, A. Ni Chatháin, S. Nic Camhail, A. Ni Chadhlá, C. Nic Colgan, M. Ni Mhaolchalláin, Á. Nic Lochlainn

Corcaigh has now reached its fourteenth All-Ireland Junior Championship Final and has won the title on six occasions - 1973, '80, '83, '84, '96 and '99. Bhúadar Craobhchomórtas na Mumhan ocht n-uair déag. The Juniors would like to set the ball rolling for a possible treble for Corcaigh this year - Senior, Intermediate and Junior All-Ireland Championship titles. Their opponents, Tiobraid Árann, Luimneach agus Doire, respectively, will be anxious that such a record is not achieved.

Na Bainisteoirí agus na Rognóirí

Corcaigh

Pádraig Ó Muirthe (Pat Murray)
Bainisteoir
Cait Uí Dhuinn (Kay Dunne)
Caitlín Uí Éalaithé (Kathleen Healy)
Pádraig Ó hAodha (Pat Hayes)

Doire

Dominic Mac Fhionnlaioch
(Dominic McKinley)
Bainisteoir
Mairéad Ni Bhrolaigh (Margaret Brolly)

Na Cluichí Leathcheannais, 1999.

Corcaigh 3-13 Laois 1-05

Doire 1-18 Roscomáin 1-6

2000

Sóisir DHOIRE



An Captaen
Eibhlín Ni Thuathail
Michael Davitt's, An Suaitreach

Tá Aileen ag imirt ar fhoireann na Sóisear le trí bhliain anuas agus tá Sraithchomórtas Náisiúnta na Sóisear buaite aici. She has represented Cúige Uladh in the Gael Linn Interprovincial Championship at both Senior and Junior levels and won a Junior medal this year. Mór-stór de bhonn atá aici lena club agus lena scoil. She has won four County Championship, five County League, and Ulster Colleges medals. She also holds Cúige Uladh under-eighteen medals.

Glen

Aileen Crilly
1 Junior National League medal and 1 Junior Gael Linn medal. Bhuaigh si Comórtas Ghael Linn i mbliana. She coaches the under-age teams in her club.

Mary O'Kane
1 Junior National League and 1 Senior and 1 Junior Gael Linn medal with Cúige Uladh. Máire has represented her county at Minor, under-eighteen and Junior level. Bhí si ina captaen ar an bhfoireann i 1999.

Róisín Molloy
1 Junior National League medal and 1 Junior Gael Linn medal d'imir si ar an bhfoireann idir-chontae ag leibhéal na Sóisear agus na Mionúr.

Naomh Pádraig, Ballinderry

Bláithín McIvor
2 Junior Gael Linn medals. Bhuaigh si i 1998 agus 2000 iad. She has represented Cúige Uladh at Senior and Junior level. She holds two Ulster Colleges medals.

Erin's Own, Lavey

Siobhán Convery
1 Junior Gael Linn and 1 Junior National League medal. Bhuaigh si Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde agus Sraithchomórtas C.C.I.A. lena hollscoil, U.U.J. She has represented Doire at Minor level and Cúige Uladh at Senior level.

Martina Mulholland
2 Junior Gael Linn, 1 Junior National League and 1 Comórtas Puirseil, C.C.I.A. medal. She has represented Cúige Uladh at Senior level. She coaches the Juvenile teams in her club.

Slaughtneil

Aileen O'Kane
1 Junior National League and 1 Junior Gael Linn medal. She has also won Ulster Colleges medals. Bhuaigh si le Naomh Pádraig, Machaire Fíolta iad.

Claire Doherty
1 Junior National League medal. Represented the Cúige Uladh Senior team in Gael Linn, 2000. Bhuaigh si Comórtas Puirseil, C.C.I.A. i mbliana chomh maith.

Naomh Columba, Greenlough

Kathy McDonald
1 Junior National League and 1 Junior Gael Linn medal. d'imir si lena contae, Doire, ag leibhéal na Mionúr chomh maith.

Susan McErlean
1 Junior Gael Linn medal. Bhuaigh si Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.U.J., 1993. Won three C.C.I.A. Leagues and a Combined Universities medal. d'imir si lena contae ag leibhéal na Mionúr leis.

Dungiven

Shauna McCaul
1 National Junior League and 2 Junior Gael Linn medals. d'imir si le Mionúr Dhoire chomh maith. An accomplished Handballer, she has also won 1 All-Ireland under-15 and 2 Ulster under-15 Handball medals.

Aisling Kealey
1 Junior Gael medal. Has represented her county at Minor level. Is i seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na sóisear di. She has won All-Ireland Handball and Football medals.

Wolfe Tone, Bellaghy

Karen Rafferty
1 Junior National League and 2 Junior Gael Linn medal. Ba mhór aici é bonn de chuid an Chraobhchomórtais a chur leo.

Sóisir DHOIRE

Michael Davitt's, Swatragh

Gráinne Maguire
1 Junior National League and 1 Junior Gael Linn medal. Has won six County Championship and League medals with her club and an Ulster Junior Colleges medal. Is oiliúnaí ins na bunscoileanna i.

Anna O'Loughlin
1 Junior National League medal, 1 Junior and 1 Senior Ulster Colleges medal, and Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde and Comórtas Puirseil at University level. Won All-Ireland Scór in 1999 for Ceolúrlis Aonair.

Paula McAtamney
County Championship and League medals with her club. Roghnáidh ar fhoireann na sinsear ó Chúige Uladh don Ghael Linn i mbliana i. She won many titles in Coláistí Uladh with her school, St. Patrick's, Maghera. Tá suim aici sa pheil agus i ngalf.

Claire McNicholl
1 Junior National League medal. Represented Cúige Uladh in the Senior Gael Linn competition. Holds many awards for athletics, including long-distance running.

Claire Scullin
1 Junior National League and 1 Junior Gael Linn medal. Comórtas Puirseil medal with Queens University, Béal Feirste. Has won Championship and League medals with her club.

Paula McKenna
1 Junior National League medal. Bhuaigh si Sraithnáisiúnta na Sóisear i 1999. She also holds Ulster Colleges medals and is successful at athletics.



Corcaigh

Deary

1
Ora Ni Cheallacháin
Ora O'Callaghan
Cloughduv

3
Siobhán Ni Cheallacháin
Joanne O'Callaghan
Cloughduv

4
Áine Ni Chéileachair
Áine Kelleher
Newtownshandrum

2
Sinéad Ni Bhuchalla
Sinéad Buckley
Cloughduv

5
Sinéad Ni Chorca
Sinéad Corkery
Cloughduv

6
Éimhear Dhiolún
Emer Dillon
Ballygarvan

7
Cristín Ni Ghormáin
Christine O'Gorman, Milford
Captaen

8
Valerie Ni Chaoimh
Valerie O'Keefe
Kilbrittain-Timoleague

9
Máire Ni Chonaill
Marie O'Connell
Inniscarra

10
Caitriona Ni Chorca
Katherine Corkery
Cloughduv

11
Áine Ni Riagáin
Áine O'Regan
Courcey Rovers

12
Sinéad Ni Laoire
Jennifer O'Leary
Barryroe

13
Éimhear Ni Fhrighil
Eimear O'Friel
Milford

14
Amanda Ni Riagáin
Amanda O'Regan
Douglas

15
Laoighse Ni Mhurchú
Louise Murphy
Aghabullogue



ar chúl, ó chlé: Á. Ni Ríogáin, M. Ni Aodáin, S. Ni Cheallacháin, S. Ni Chorca, S. Ni Bhuchalla, E. Dhiolún, D. Ni Raghallaigh, E. Ni Fhrighil, N. Ni Bhuagh.
sa lár, ó chlé: C. Uí Dhuinn (Roghndóir), C. Uí Éalaithe (Roghndóir), I. Ni Dhuinn, M. Ni Chonaill, Á. Ni Chéileachair, V. Ni Chaoimh, S. Ni Shuilleabháin, A. Ni Ríogáin, M.B. Enneguess, P. O'Modha (Roghndóir), P. O'Muirthe (Bainisteoir), chun tosaigh, ó chlé: S. Ni Laoire, L. Ni Mhurchú, C. Ni Chorca, C. Ni Ghormáin, Captaen, Z. Nic Domhnaill, D. Ni Cheallacháin.

CORCAIGH agus DOIRE

I gCluiche Ceannais na Sóisear

Previous meetings in the Championship Final

Junior League and Championship double?

Tá Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear bainte amach faoi cheathair ag Doire. As it happens, Doire met Corcaigh in its three previous Junior Final appearances, 1969, 1978 and 1999. Doire won the first two of those Finals while Corcaigh was successful last year.

Corcaigh is seeking to add the Championship title to the League title which it won already this year when defeating Cill Dara in the Final.

Sa chás céanna a bhí Doire i 1999. Doire had defeated Loch Garman in the League Final and came to Páirc an Chrócaigh in search of the double. Cúilín amháin a bhí idir iad agus an éacht sin.

The League and Championship double has been achieved by only four other counties: An Ghaillimh, 1985; Cill Dara, '89, '90, Ardmhacha, '93, agus Aontroim, '97.

Na Torthaí

| | | | |
|----------------|------|----------|-----|
| 1969: Doire | 4-2 | Corcaigh | 2-4 |
| 1978: Doire | 3-4 | Corcaigh | 1-4 |
| 1999: Corcaigh | 1-13 | Doire | 2-9 |

An Bainisteoir

Pádraig Ó Muirthe
(Pat Murray)

IONADAITHE

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 16. Isla Ni Dhuinnin | Ilsa Dineen | Barryroe |
| 17. Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh | Deirdre O'Reilly | Milford |
| 18. Zelig Nic Domhnaill | Zelig Mac Donnell | Cloughduv |
| 19. Sinéad Ni Shuilleabháin | Jean O'Sullivan | Bishopstown |
| 20. Máire Brid Enneguess | Mary Bridget Enneguess | Aghabullogue |

Sóisir CHORCAÍ

An Captaen
Cristín Ni Ghormáin
Milford

Tá Craobhchomórtas na Mionúir agus Sraithchomórtas na Sóisear buaite le Corcaigh ag Cristín cheana féin. She has also won a Senior All-Ireland Colleges medal with her school, Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luirc. She has represented Cúige Mumhan at Junior Gael Linn level and won the All-Ireland Community Games with her club in 1996 and 1997. Cuireann sí suim sa mharcfocht agus sa pheil Ghaelach.

Cloughduv

Ora O'Callaghan
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal. Cuireann sí suim i gcurai spóirt i gcoitinne. Has won many awards in athletics, basketball and Gaelic football.
Sinéad Buckley
1 Junior National League medal. Has represented Corcaigh at Minor level. Imríonn sí le C.I.T. chomh maith. Is peileadóir leis í.
Sinéad Corkery
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Junior National League medal. Holds several County titles with her club. Imríonn sí lena scoil, St. Mary's, Macroom. Suim sa pheil Ghaelach aici.
Joanne O'Callaghan
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Junior National League medal. She has won 15 All-Ireland medals in athletics and won a place on the u-16 Irish panel in hockey.
Catherine Corkery
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Junior National League medal. Bhí sí ina captaen ar fhoireann na Mionúir, 1998. Imríonn sí peil Ghaelach.
Zelig Mac Donnell
Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar an bhfoireann di. Has won many County titles with her club. Holds 20 All-Ireland medals in athletics and was Schools Athlete of the Year in 1995.

Milford

Eimear O'Friel
Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di. Won Senior and Junior All-Ireland Colleges medals with Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luirc. Plays tennis and football.
Deirdre O'Reilly
First year on the Junior team. Won All-Ireland Community Games with her club in 1996 and has many County honours. Imríonn sí peil Ghaelach le Corcaigh chomh maith.

Ballygarvan

Emer Dillon
2 All-Ireland Minor Championship medals and 1 Junior National League medal. Player of the Match in the 1999 Minor Final. Imríonn sí hacai. Selected on u-16 Irish team in 1999.

Inniscarra

Marie O'Connell
d'fuir sí le Mionúir Chorcaí agus imríonn sí le U.C.C. chomh maith. Cuireann sí suim i gcurai lúthchleasa. Holds several Munster and National medals for the 400m event.

Barryroe

Jennifer O'Leary
2 All-Ireland Minor Championship medals and 1 Junior National League medal. All-Ireland Colleges medal with Sacred Heart, Clonakilty. d'fuir sí leis na Bunscoileanna sna Mini Sevens i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i 1995. Imríonn sí hacai agus cispheil chomh maith.

Isla Dineen
Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di. Won All-Ireland Colleges medal with Sacred Heart, Clonakilty, in 1999. Reached the Munster Hockey League Final with her school this year. Cuireann sí suim sa snámh.

Bishopstown

Jean O'Sullivan
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Junior National League medal. Imríonn sí lena scoil, Mount Mercy College. Also plays hockey with her school and holds a Munster Senior A medal.

Kilbrittain-Timoleague

Valerie O'Keefe
d'fuir sí le foireann na Mionúir cheana féin agus imríonn sí le C.I.T. Was the 1998-99 Camogie Bursary Recipient in C.I.T. She also plays racketball, tennis and soccer.

Douglas

Amanda O'Regan
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Junior National League medal. Bhain sí an tríú háit amach ins na Seileanna, Féile na nGael, 1996. Won All-Ireland medals for Irish Dancing and has represented Corcaigh in basketball.

Newtownshandrum

Áine Kelleher
2 All-Ireland Minor Championship medals and 1 Junior National League medal. Bhí sí ina captaen ar an bhfoireann i 1999. Won 2 Senior and 2 Junior All-Ireland Colleges medals with her school, Naomh Mhuire Rath Luirc. Imríonn sí cispheil. Participates in athletics.

Courcey Rovers

Áine O'Regan
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal, 1998. Pan Celtic Senior B Camogie Player of the Year, 1999, and Club Player of the Year, 1999. Tá sí tugtha don snámh agus don mharcfocht chomh maith.

Aghabullogue

Louise Murphy
1 National Junior League medal. Represented Corcaigh at Minor level and also plays with C.I.T. where she was selected Camogie Player of the Year for the 1999-2000 season. Imríonn sí peil Ghaelach agus sacar chomh maith.

Mary Bridget Enneguess
Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di. Has represented her county at Minor and under-18 level. Won Corcaigh Senior Colleges medal this year with her school, Coachford Community College. Imríonn sí cispheil agus peil Ghaelach.

SEPT 2000

Tiobraid Árann



ar chúil (ó chlár): M. Ó Cléirigh (Bainisteoir), L. Ní Chadhlá, S. Ní Iomhair, S. Ní Riain, T. Ní Bhróithe, S. Ní Cheallaigh, C. Ní Mhadáin, C. Ní Ghrugáin, M. de Stóc, N. Ní Chinnéide, F. Ní Fhógartaigh, L. Ní Riain, S. Ó Madáin (Roghnoir).
chun tosaigh (ó chlár): B. Mhic Philib (Roghnoir), S. Ní Nialláin, C. Nig Fhionnbhair, G. Ní Sheanacháin, C. Ní Aonghusa, D. Ní Aodha, J. Ní Dhubhshláine, Captaen, E. Ní Eadáin, E. Ní Dornáil, A. Ní Diarmada, U. Ní Dhubhair, N. Ní Earcháin, P. Bhulfin.

Sinsir Thiobraid Árann



An Captaen
Jovita Ní Dhubhshláine
Cashel

Tá Jovita ag imirt le foireann Thiobraid Árann le haon bliain déag anuas. Tionchar an-mhór a bhí mar chúlbaire aici i 1999 nuair a chéad bhuaidh Thiobraid Árann Corn Ua Dubhthaigh. As well as her Senior Championship medal, she holds Gael Linn Senior and Junior medals, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior and 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal, as well as All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges medals. Imríonn sí cispheil chomh lena cuid camógaíocht.

CASHEL

Méadhbh de Stóc: 13th season.
 Méadhbh is the longest-serving member of the team. Captaen na foirne a bhí inti i 1999. She was the first Tiobraid Árann captain to accept Corn Ua Dubhthaigh. 1 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior and 3 Gael Linn medals. Méadhbh is interested in Basketball and Cross-country running.

Úna O'Dwyer: 4th season.
 1 Senior and 1 Intermediate All-Ireland Championship medal, 1 Junior All-Ireland Championship and 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal. Imríonn sí le U.C.C.

Emily Hayden: 4th season.
 1 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior and 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal, and Gael Linn Senior and Junior medals. Her interests include soccer, Ballroom Dancing and Deep Sea Diving.

Philomena Fogarty: 3rd season.
 1 Senior All-Ireland Championship and 1 Gael Linn medal. d'imir sí ar foireann idir-choitae na Mionúir agus na Sóisear chéana féin. Munster and County Championship medals.

PORTROE

Claire Madden: 11th season.
 1 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior and 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal. Boinn Ghael Linn ag an dá leibhéal aici. All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges medals.

KILRUANE McDONAGH

Ciara Gaynor: 4th season.
 1 Senior and 2 Intermediate All-Ireland Championship medals, 2 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Gael Linn medal. Cuireann sí suim sa mharcáocht.

KNOCKAVILLA KICKHAMS

Angela McDermott: 2nd season.
 1 Senior All-Ireland Championship, 1 Junior Gael Linn and 2 Ashbourne Cup medals with U.C.C. d'imir sí le Sóisear agus Mionúir an Chontae. Interested in swimming and football.

HOLYCROSS/BALLYCAHILL

Louise Ryan: 3rd season.
 1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal. d'imir sí le foireann na Mionúir, na Sóisear agus faoi 18. She represented Cúige Mumhan at Junior Camogie level and Senior A Hockey.

Sinsir Thiobraid Árann

TOOMEVARA

Deirdre Hughes: 11th season.
 "Rogha Imreora na Bliana, 1999" a bhí inti. 1 All-Ireland Senior, 1 Intermediate and 1 Junior Championship medal, 6 Senior and 2 Junior Gael Linn medals. Imríonn sí hacaí le Cúige Mumhan.

Noelle Kennedy: 9th season.
 1 Senior, 1 Intermediate and 1 All-Ireland Junior Championship medal. Boinn Ghael Linn ag an dá leibhéal aici. All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges medals.

Gráinne Shanahan: 2nd season.
 1 All-Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor Championship medal. Boinn buaite ag leibhéal na Sinsear agus na Sóisear i gcomórtais na nIarlunscóileanna aici. She holds three All-Ireland Racquetball medals.

Suzanne Kelly: 6th season.
 1 All-Ireland Intermediate and 1 All-Ireland Minor medal. Bhuaidh sí Féile na nGael lena club. Won a Comórtas Puirseil medal with Colaiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach.

TEMPLEMORE

Claire Grogan: 1st season.
 Cuireann sí suim sa chéad bliain ar foireann na Sinsear di. Has already won 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal. Cuireann sí suim san Iománaíocht agus sa Pheil.

BURGESS

Sinead Nealon: 10th season.
 1 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, and 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal as well as 1 Gael Linn Senior and Junior medal and 1 Ashbourne with W.I.T. Cuireann sí suim sa snámh.

Therese Brophy: 3rd season.
 1 All-Ireland Senior and 1 Intermediate Championship medal, 2 All-Ireland Minor Championship medals, 1 Junior Gael Linn 2 Ashbourne medals with U.C.C. Interested in poetry, Irish Dancing and fencing.

Emer McDonnell: 3rd season.
 Imreoir eile a d'imir ag leibhéal na Sinsear, na Sóisear agus na Mionúir atá inti. 1 Senior, 1 Junior and 1 Minor All-Ireland Championship medal, and 1 Senior Gael Linn medal. Boinn na n-Iarlunscóileanna chomh maith aici. Cuireann sí suim sa mharcáocht.

DROM AND INCH

Caitriona Hennessy: 4th season.
 1 All-Ireland Senior, 1 Intermediate and 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal. Bhuaidh sí boinn de chuid Ghael Linn ag leibhéal na Sóisear. Interested in football, mountain climbing and Irish Dancing.

Niamh Harkin: 3rd season.
 1 All-Ireland Senior, 1 Junior and 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal. Bhuaidh sí comórtas na Scileanna i bhFéile na nGael, 1996.

Joanne Ryan: 1st season.
 Has represented Tiobraid Árann at Minor and Junior level. Selected for Cúige Mumhan for the Junior Gael Linn competition. d'imir sí lena club i bhFéile na nGael.

Corcaigh



ar chúil (ó chlé): M. Ní Chorca, S. Ní Cheallacháin, L. Ní Mhaolghairic, E. Ní Dhuagáin, E. Ní Dhioláin, P. Ní Chonchubhair, U. Ní Throithigh, G. Ní Chathasaigh, C. Ní Éalaithe, R. Ní Mhaolomhnaigh, E. de Búrca, L. Ní Chéilleachair, S. Ní Annáin.
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): B. Ní Earchai, D. Ní Chroinin, S. Ní Aodha, M. Ní an Déisigh, Ú. Ní Dhonnchú, M. de Búrca, M. Ní Chonchubhair, M. Ní Fhinn, C. Ní Cheocháin, C. Ní Arrachtáin, F. Ní Dhrisceoil.

Sinsir CHORCAÍ



An Captaen Béibhíonn Ní Earchai Baile an Easpaig

Is í seo an séú bhliain do Bhéibhíonn bheith ag imirt dá contae. She is her team's captain for the second successive year and has led her county to two National League titles. She has won All-Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championship medals. Tá boinn Ghael Linn agus Idirlub na hÉireann chomh maith aici. Féile na nGael Skills winner, 1991. She has represented Ireland at the sport of kick boxing.

GLEN ROVERS

Linda Mellerick: 19th season.
Ina captaen i 1993 agus 1997 nuair a bhuaigh Corcaigh Craobhchomórtas na Sinsir. Is the only player to have led Corcaigh to success on two occasions. Ina captaen ar fhoireann na Mumhan sa Ghael Linn. "Player of the Year" on two occasions. 5 Senior All-Ireland Championship and 6 Senior National League medals, as well as All-Ireland Junior, Minor, Club, Gael Linn and Colleges medals.

Denise Cronin: 9th season.
5 Senior All-Ireland Championship and 6 Senior National League and 4 All-Ireland Club Championship medals. Ina captaen i 1995. One of three players to lead her county to the Championship and League double. Coaches the Juvenile teams in her club.

Mary Burke: 3rd season.
1 Senior All-Ireland Championship medal with Corcaigh and 1 Intermediate and Junior All-Ireland Championship medal with Luimneach.

Jill Hannon: 1st season.
d'fuar si ar fhoireann idir-chontae na Sóiscar i 1999. 1 Junior All-Ireland Championship medal. Captained the under-18 team to provincial success in 1996.

BARRYROE

Cora Keohane: 4th season.
2 All-Ireland Senior Championship medals as well as Senior National League and Gael Linn medals. Bhuaigh si Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C. She was the first player from the Barryroe Club to represent Sinsir Chorcaí.

CLOUGHDUV

Una O'Donoghue: 2nd season.
1 Senior National League medal. Chuir si go mór le foireann U.C.C. nuair a bhuaigh Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde agus Sraithchomórtas C.C.I.A. i 1999.

COURCEY ROVERS

Sara Hayes: 2nd season.
1 Senior National League medal in her first season in 1999. 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal. Bhuaigh si bonn Ghael Linn le Cúige Mumhan.

Rachel Moloney: 1st season.
1 All-Ireland Junior and 1 All-Ireland Minor Championship medal and 2 National Senior League medals. Bhuaigh si Craobh Choláistí na Mumhan leis an bPobal Scoil i gCionn tSáile.

Sinsir CHORCAÍ

BISHOPSTOWN

Eithne Duggan: 6th season.
3 All-Ireland Senior medals as well as Senior National League and Gael Linn medals. Bhi si ina captaen ar fhoireann Chorcaí i 1998 nuair a bhuaigh si Craobhchomórtas na Sinsir. Was the first member of her Club to captain Corcaigh.

Sinead O'Callaghan: 5th season.
2 All-Ireland Senior Championship medals, All-Ireland Junior Championship, Senior National League and All-Ireland Senior Colleges medals with Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luirc. Bhuaigh si Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde agus Sraithchomórtas C.C.I.A. le U.C.C.

Clara Healy: 2nd season.
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship and 1 Junior National League medal. Scoláire i mbliain 5 i Mount Mercy atá inti agus imríonn si hacaí lena scoil chomh maith.

Granagh/Ballingarry, Luimneach

Mary O'Connor: 4th season.
2 All-Ireland Senior Championship medals and Senior National League medals. Iar-oifirínal le foireann na Mionúr. She is a Sports Officer in Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach.

INNISCARRA

Geraldine Casey: 1st season.
1 All-Ireland Junior Championship medal won in 1999 when she was selected as "Player of the Match". Bhuaigh si Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C. Cuirtear fáilte roimpi don

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM

Ursule Troy: 4th season.
2 All-Ireland Senior Championship and 2 Senior National League medals. Bhuaigh si Craobhchomórtas na Sóiscar chomh maith agus Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C. All-Ireland Colleges medals with Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luirc.

Paula O'Connor: 3rd season.
1 All-Ireland Senior Championship medal, won in her first senior season in 1998. Tá Craobhchomórtas Ghael Linn buaite chomh maith aici. Has studied for a degree in Sports leadership.

Caoimhe Harrington: 3rd season.
1 All-Ireland Senior Championship medal, won in her first senior season in 1998. National Senior League and Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde (U.C.C.) medals. Bhuaigh si Craobhchomórtas na gColáistí, Sinsir agus Sóiscar, le Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luirc.

FR. O'NEILL'S

Mags Finn: 12th season.
4 All-Ireland Senior Championship and 6 Senior National League medals. Bhuaigh si boinn de chuid Ghael Linn ag leibhéal na Sinsir agus na Sóiscar.

Fiona O'Driscoll: 9th season.
5 All-Ireland Senior Championship medals. Senior National League and Gael Linn medals. "Player of the Tournament", Gael Linn, 1999. Bhuaigh si Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde with Coláiste na hOillscoile, Luimneach. Coached Corcaigh Minor teams. Is a Trainee Coaching Tutor in N.C.T.C. for the Association.

VALLEY ROVERS

Elaine Burke: 1st season.
1 All-Ireland Junior Championship medal. Bhuaigh si Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C. Go n-éirí lei ar fhoireann na Sinsir.



Na Mionúir 'A' 2000

An Ghaillimh

Marún & Bán



Foireann na Gaillimhe – an eighth All-Ireland Minor title for the county

ar chúil, ó chlé: S. O'Brien (Roghndóir), C. Breatnach (Banisteoir), M. N. Fadhagh, V. N. Ghabhin, S. N. Ruarc, N. N. Annachán, C. N. Fhlann, R. N. Chonchubhair, P. N. Uáin, E. N. Agadán, A. N. Dhocharaigh, Á. M. N. Aodha, S. N. Dhoonchú, E. N. Pharras, A. N. Chonghaile, S. N. Mhurchú, M. N. Charrachán, M. N. Fhlannagáin, R. N. Mhaolaidh, R. O. Conghaile (Roghndóir)
chun tosaigh, ó chlé: L. N. Mhaolaidh, N. N. Ghabhin, S. N. Chathán, G. N. Cheallagh, E. N. Golla Cheallagh, E. N. Tharadheán, C. N. Bhuagh, C. N. Cheallagh, M. N. Réamonn, C. N. Mhóráin, S. N. Shaorai, D. de Búrca, D. N. Chathán, C. N. Connubh



Loch Garman

Corcra & Órga



Foireann Loch Garman – seeking a second All-Ireland Minor title

ar chúil, ó chlé: C. N. Mhurchú, M. N. Laitheasa, R. N. Dhoonchú, M. N. Annac, Á. N. Dheoráin, S. N. Laore, D. N. Óda, A. N. Ógáin, C. N. Golla Phádraig, S. N. Mhaonagh, L. N. Óda, Á. M. N. Cheallagh, N. N. Bhrian
chun tosaigh, ó chlé: L. de Búrca, M. N. Mhachán, D. N. Réamonn, S. N. Dhubhir, U. Jacob, C. N. Chonchubhair, A. N. Bheorán, M. N. Anluán, C. N. Eochaidh, A. N. Mhaolruanaigh, C. N. Lochlainn, N. N. Scoil

Na Mionúir 'B' 2000

Laois

Gorm & Bán



Foireann Laoise – the first team to bring an All-Ireland title to Laois

ar chúil, ó chlé: L. N. Dhun, S. N. Earchal, S. Phlémeann, S. Lanham, S. N. Chuidithe, G. Uastrun, F. N. Dhuibhláine, C. N. Lonagáin, A. Champion, M. N. Chléirigh, N. N. Bheirg, E. N. aodhbhuil, K. N. donchubhair, C. N. Fheoras, E. Saomar, P. N. Dhoonchaidh
chun tosaigh, ó chlé: A. N. Corrao, T. N. Ionsaigh, T. N. Ghacháin, L. N. Mhathura, E. N. Mhathura, O. N. Rian, E. N. Dhubhláin, Á. N. Leathlobhair, C. N. Fhaolán, A. N. Lochlainn

Tír Eoghain

Dearg & Bán



Foireann Thír Eoghain – the first team from the county to reach an All-Ireland Minor Final

ar chúil, ó chlé: L. N. Amhalat, G. N. Néill, S. N. Ógáin, S. N. Ruari, M. N. Rian, L. N. Eanáin, C. N. Golla Mhaol, S. N. Mhaoláin, L. N. Chailín, S. N. Amhalat
sa lár, ó chlé: P. N. Dhorcaí, D. N. Dhorcaí, S. N. Anna, P. N. Bheaglaigh, M. N. Shurtáin, S. N. Ágáin, E. N. Néill, S. N. Néill
chun tosaigh, ó chlé: E. N. Craith, P. N. Shurtáin, A. N. Dháilagh, C. N. Mhureartaigh, C. N. Uilagh, L. Gidnew, R. N. Róibín

"Storing up wonderful memories"

Órla Ryan
(Ní Shiocháin)

Good luck to Derry, Cork and Tipperary in today's finals. I hope you all get great satisfaction out of today's games and that you retain wonderful memories of your big day.

I have very close connections with Cork and Tipperary – my father, Seán, was from Cork, and my husband, Jack, is from Tipperary, and I have had the pleasure of playing against both counties myself.

Being in Croke Park always brings back so many memories for me – all memorable – mostly happy, but some sad. I can still remember when I was a child, accompanying my father into Croke Park. For the first few years I didn't understand the rules of the game and I mostly looked forward to the band coming on at half time. Then when the match was over I really felt I came into my own because, while I was waiting for him to be ready – and that usually took a couple of hours – I had my hurley with me and I used to hit a ball against the wall under the Hogan Stand. Unknown to myself at the time, I was getting wonderful practice at the skills of the game.

I remember the great Kathleen Mills giving me her hurley after her last All-Ireland Final – those were the days when you were allowed on to the pitch after a match!!!! I never thought at that time that I would replace Kathleen on the Dublin team.

I was picked to play for Dublin when I was sixteen, and I consider myself very lucky to have played on such a wonderful team with such marvellous camogie players. I won the first three camogie finals in which I played, very happy memories for me, but I lost the fourth after a replay. That loss was to Antrim – a wonderful team – but it remains to this day one of my sad memories of Croke Park. It was a huge win for Antrim at the time, and a very popular one, as Dublin had dominated camogie for so many years previous to that.

Croke Park holds a special place in the hearts of so many people – from the many young people who play in the mini matches at half time (some of my relatives have been lucky enough to be there), to the senior players who line out on All-Ireland Final Day.

I consider myself lucky to have been involved in Croke Park all my life – initially because of my father's position – then as a player – and now as a spectator. The first was no problem, a child enjoying herself – the second part was wonderful, plenty of ups and downs but always great satisfaction – and the third part, that of spectator, is one of marvellous entertainment. However, did I tell you that I have three children, and that all of them play hurling, football and camogie. Maybe I should revise that comment that being a spectator is marvellous entertainment. I think I should add that I also find it nerve-wracking, but I also feel a huge sense of pride that my family, Naoise, Shane and Feargal, now get as much satisfaction from playing as Jack and I did, and that they are now in the process of storing up wonderful memories for themselves to pass on to their own children. Isn't that what it's all about?

For those of us lucky enough to play in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day – whether we win or lose – the memories of the dressing room before the match – the nervousness, the encouragement – at last being allowed on to the pitch – marching behind the Artane Boys Band – the exhilaration of winning or the devastation of losing – socialising with the opposition afterwards – those memories will last a lifetime, and at some stage we will all be able to look out on Croke Park and say with great satisfaction – WE WERE THERE.



An Clúdach

Sraithchomórtaí na hÉireann,
2000
An Cluiche Ceannais

Ursúil Ní Throithigh, Corcaigh, in iomaíocht le Noelle Ní Chinnéide, Tiobraid Árann.

Ba ag muintir Chorcaí a bhí an bua.

An scor:

Corcaigh 3-07
Tiobraid Árann 1-10

CLUICHE LEATH-CHEANNAIS NA SÓISEAR

Laois v Corcaigh



Sinéad Ní Laoire, Corcaigh, ad déanamh ar chúil Laoise sa Cluiche Leath-cheannais