



85

1997

All-Ireland

Final



Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann sa Chamósaíocht



níl aon chluiche mar do chluiche réim

Bígí Linn

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh
ar an Domhnach, 07 Meán Fómhair, 1997
(07 September, 1997)

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear: 3.30 i.n.
Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear: 1.45 i.n.

Cead Isteach

Ardán Ó hÓgáin amháin a bheidh ar oscailt
(The Hogan Stand only will be open)

Daoine Fásta: £7.00
Scoláirí: £3.00
Páistí: £1.00

Carrechlós (Carpark): Clonliffe College.

ΤΑ ΚΡΑΟΒΗΧΟΜΟΡΤΑΣ
ΝΑ ΣΙΝΣΕΑΡ
ΠΑΟΙ ΥΡΡΑΪΟΧΤ ΔΣ

 **Bord na Gaeilge**

Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Camogie Final

Rebels *with a Cause*

Last Year's Defeat Major Spur

By P.J. Fulkam



Denise Gilligan of Galway being pursued by Paula Goggins and Eithne Duggan both of Cork in last year's Championship Final.

The All-Ireland Bord na Gaeilge Championship final takes place on September 7th in Croke Park. It brings a repeat of last year's final when Galway and Cork cross swords. It should be an interesting final producing lots of fire power. There is no doubt that Cork are delighted to get another crack at the champions. Some would say that Cork did not play to form last year. However, it was Galway's day and they deserved their win. It is true that they did not register a score for the final quarter of the match, while, during that time Cork notched off two points and missed four placed balls from scorable positions. Both sides have been playing well since then. Cork collected their third National senior league title on the trot. They disposed of Galway in the league semi-final 0-17 to 1-10. However, league and

championship are a different ball game. Cork defeated Galway in the league final last year, but the Connacht County were a different team in the Championship.

In the run up to the final Galway went on a scoring spree against Armagh and came up against old rivals Kilkenny in the semi-final played at Loughrea. Midfielder Sharon Glynn played a major role in her team's victory scoring a personal tally of 2-12, 1-10 of which were from frees. Little separated the sides at any time during the first half. Kilkenny paraded a new look side with quite a number of young players. Their trainer Tom Ryan said prior to the match it was like starting all over again and that it could take two years before Kilkenny would figure in a final.

However they were playing well in the first half until a goal from



Fiona O'Driscoll (Cork) clearing up field against Wexford in the All-Ireland Semi Final 1997.

the stick of Ann Forde gave Galway a 1-6 to 0-5 lead at the break.

Second half goals by Ann Downey along with some well taken points by Sinead Millea kept Kilkenny in touch until the end of the third quarter when the champions stamped their authority on proceedings. Final score: Galway 4-14 Kilkenny 2-11. Scorers: Galway: Sharon Glynn 2-12, Denise Gilligan and Ann Forde 1-0 each, Imelda Hobbins and Dymphna Maher 0-1 each. Kilkenny: Ann Downey 2-1, Sinead Millea 0-6, Marina Downey 0-3, Margaret Commerford 0-1.

Cork's campaign started with a comprehensive win over Clare 3-13 to 1-9. Their opponents in the semi-final were Wexford who had accounted for Limerick 1-11 to 0-7. In the semi-final it was Cork who were the masters from start to finish with their scoring ace Lynn Dunlea notching off 2-9. Wexford were very disappointing and trailed 1-10 to 1-3 at the break. Cork wanted that place in the final and they really showed it. Final score: Cork 3-22 Wexford 1-7. Scorers: Cork: Lynn Dunlea 2-9, Linda Mellerick 1-1, Fiona O'Driscoll 0-4, Irene O'Keefe and Vivienne Harris 0-3 each. Sinead O'Callaghan and Denise Cronin 0-1 each. Loch Garman: Aine Codd 1-1, Fiona Dunne 0-4, Michelle O'Leary 0-2.

The Rebel County have overcome the loss of goalie Kathleen Costine, Paula Goggins and last year's captain Therese O'Callaghan who have retired. Cora Keohane has taken up the position in goals and is giving a good account of herself.

Galway too, are short three of last year's team: Ann Broderick, Carmel Hannon and Carmel Allen who have gone to the States.

Trainer Tony Wark emphasised that his squad are young. The oldest is 27 and the youngest 17. This final is sure to attract a much larger attendance than last year.

The sides seem to be evenly matched and parade a host of stars such as Galway's Sharon Glynn, Imelda Hobbins, Martina Harkin, Olivia Broderick, Olive Costelloe, Veronica Curtin and goalie Louise Curry who had a great game in the Final last year. Playing well for Cork are Vivienne Harris from the Bishopstown Club who are the new Cork champions, Denise Cronin, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick, Lynn Dunlea and Fiona O'Driscoll.

This Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Championship final for the coveted 'O'Duffy Cup' should be a very close affair. The Champions may find the 'Leesiders' a handful this time.

Galway Panel: Louise Curry, Olive Costello, Olivia Broderick, Tracey Laheen, Pamela Nevin, Gretta Maher, Sharon Glynn, Dymphna Maher, Martina Harkin, (Capt), Imelda Hobbins, Veronica Curtin, Ann Forde, Denise Gilligan, Therese Maher, Olivia Coen, Cora Curley, Fiona Ryan, Helan Ryan, Emer Hardiman.

Cork Panel: Cora Keohane, Denise Cronin, Eithne Duggan, Mary O'Connor, Vivienne Harris, Mags Finn, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick, Fiona O'Driscoll, Irene O'Keefe, Lynn Dunlea, Sinead O'Callaghan, Hilda Kenneally, Mary Kenneally, Miriam Deasy, Eileen Buckley Ursula Troy, Stephanie Dunlea, Lisa Kelleher, Linda O'Sullivan, Emer O'Sullivan.



Martina Harkin (An Ghaillimh) keeps a close eye on Sandie Fitzgibbon (Corcaigh).

Camogie Countdown

5
DAYS
TO GO

Swansong for super Sandie



Linda Mellerick will captain Cork against Galway in next Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final.

Mellerick is hoping for a fourth medal

By BRENDAN LARKIN

TWO years ago Linda Mellerick captained the Cork senior camogie to their 17th All-Ireland title with a comfortable win over Kilkenny.

On Sunday next the Glen Rovers star hopes to repeat that feat when she leads her colleagues into this year's final against the defending champions Galway.

Like her club colleague Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda has signified her intention to retire from the game she has graced with distinction, at the end of this season.

"It would be brilliant to go out on a winning note but Galway are going to be very difficult to beat on Sunday.

"Last year we destroyed them in the league final and were expected to complete the double when we met in the championship final, but on the day we completely underestimated them and paid the price.

"I felt we weren't properly focused in that final, but there will be no repeat of that on Sunday I can assure you.

"This year we have introduced a couple of new players in Hilda Kenneally, Cora Keohane and Sinead O'Callaghan and they have settled in well.

"We have already beaten Galway in the league this year but not as convincingly as we did last year.

"That won't count for anything on Sunday however. They are the defending champions and won't have any fear of Cork.

"We are expecting Galway to come at us right from the throw-in hoping to get a couple of early scores against our new goalkeeper Cora Keohane.

"If we can contain the early pressure and not concede too many scores early on, I'm convinced we can regain the title.

"One of the weaknesses in our game in recent years has been our lack of concentration at crucial stages. It's something we have been working on and hopefully it won't happen on Sunday", said captain.

Linda first made her senior championship debut in 1985 and went on to lose three All-Ireland finals, before success eventually came her way.

WIN or lose in next Sunday's All-Ireland final, Cork senior camogie star Sandie Fitzgibbon will call it a day after 16 years playing with the county.

The Glen player is to Cork camogie what Kathleen Mills was to Dublin and Angela Downey was to Kilkenny, and it's going to be very difficult to replace Sandie when she finally departs the scene at the end of this season.

"I've enjoyed a marvellous innings but there comes a time in every sportsperson's life when it's time to bow out. My time has finally come.

"It would be brilliant to go out on a winning note. Galway shocked us in last year's final and that was partly our own fault.

Chance

"We had beaten them decisively earlier in the season in the final of the National League, and were probably too cocky going into the All-Ireland final against them.

"On Sunday next we are getting the chance to make amends but it's going to be very difficult as Galway will feel that that what they did last year they can achieve again.

"Many felt that with the retirement of Kathleen Costine, Therese O'Callaghan and Paula Goggins that Cork would be down for a year or two, but the newcomers have blended in superbly and won't let the side down on Sunday.

"With nine of last year's team still available there is plenty of experience in our team, and if we settle quickly



Sandie Fitzgibbon who plans to retire from inter-county camogie after Sunday's final against Galway.

BRENDAN LARKIN

and get a couple of early scores, I feel we will be in with a great chance of regaining the title", she said.

Sandie began her camogie career at the

tender age of nine years. It was obvious from early on that she was an exceptional talent as she graduated to the club's senior team at the age of 14 years.

From there it was onto the various Cork teams, minor, junior and finally the senior

side at 18 years. This is her 13th All-Ireland senior final and as she says herself "it would be nice to go out in a blaze of glory with a round half-dozen All-Ireland medals".

Her sporting career has not been confined solely to camogie.

Sandie is also a basketball player of repute and has won several national titles with Tralee and Blarney as well as numerous international awards.

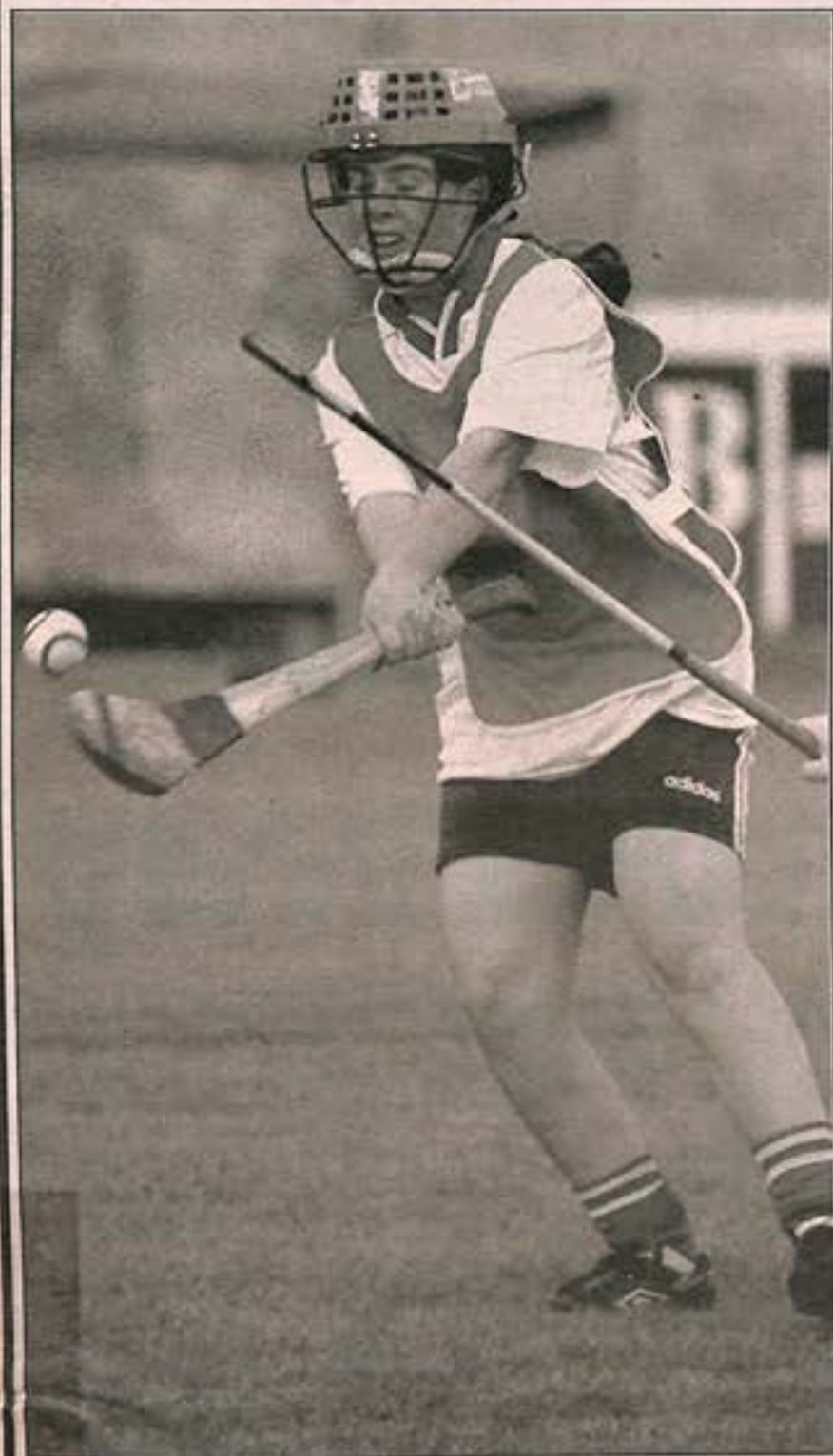
An All-Ireland win on Sunday would be the icing on the cake.

Camogie Countdown

4
DAYS
TO GO

Duggan was the ideal replacement for Breda when she retired.

Eithne fitted in just like a glove



WHEN Breda Kenny retired as full back in 1994, the Cork camogie selectors didn't have far to look for a replacement.

By BRENDAN LARKIN

It's a specialised position on any team but Bishopstown's Eithne Duggan fitted in like a glove, as if she was made for it.

"I had been a sub on the team in 1994, and when the chance came to become a first team member I jumped at it.

"Naturally I was a little apprehensive. I had never played in that position before, but when Miriam Higgins suggested I give it a try, I didn't hesitate", said Eithne who is a qualified physiotherapist by profession.

Daughter of former Cork senior hurling player Phil Duggan (Grenagh and Bishopstown), Eithne played a crucial role at full back in her initial appearance in a senior final in 1995 when Cork won the O'Duffy Cup for the 17th time.

Recently along with her inter-county colleague Vivienne Harris, she was outstanding with her club when they won the county senior championship for the first time in their history, a feat that will automatically make her captain of the county team for 1998.

"Last year's All-Ireland final defeat by Galway was a shattering experience. We were favourites to win on the strength of a huge victory over them in the National League final, but on All-Ireland day we didn't perform.

"It's great to be getting a second chance and I'm glad it's Galway again. We can have no excuses this time round.

"Naturally they will be out to prove that last year's win over us was no flash in the pan, but we are well prepared on this occasion, and know what is needed to regain the title.

"It's going to be very hard, Galway are the champions, are a very strong,

physical team, and won't give up their crown easily.

"Captaining my club to their first ever senior county victory recently was something very special. It would be brilliant to add an All-Ireland medal to that next Sunday", said Eithne.

The newly crowned county champions Bishopstown are well represented on the team for Sunday's final.

Apart from Eithne Duggan at full back, Vivienne Harris will be at midfield where she was hugely influential in the semi-final against Kilkenny.

She made her senior debut at the tender age of 16 years and already has one senior All-Ireland medal.

Vivienne joined the Bishopstown club after being spotted playing hurling on the sideline during

the course of an under-age game between the Town and St. Vincents.

"I had gone to watch my brother play with Vincents and was tipping around on the sideline when Pat Murray asked me if I would be interested in playing camogie.

"Naturally I jumped at the idea and haven't looked back. To win county, Munster and All-Ireland medals in the one year would be brilliant", she said.

Cork's last All-Ireland victory was in 1995 when Glen Rovers star Denise Cronin led the team to victory. Linda Mellerick will be hoping to repeat that feat on Sunday.

"Naturally I was a little apprehensive. I had never played there before, but I said I would give it a try"

Bishopstown's Eithne Duggan: The daughter of former Cork hurler Phil has a crucial role to play for Cork in defence.



Eithne Duggan is hoping to pick up an All-Ireland medal in next Sunday's final with Galway.

Cork girls ready for Galway

CORK girls prepare for their All-Ireland senior camogie final with Galway at Croke Park on Sunday and tonight we begin our countdown to the big day with a feature on Page 32.

Don't miss our unbeatable coverage all this week with photos and profiles of all the stars who will be hoping to bring the Cup back to Cork.

Tonight we look at the careers of Sandie Fitzgibbon and Linda Mellerick, who say they will both retire after Sunday's game.



Vivion Harris in training for the clash with Galway

Camogie's big guns set to clash

SUNDAY'S Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park will see the clash of the big guns when Lynn Dunlea of Cork lines out against Sharon Glynn of Galway.

Dunlea and Glynn will be hoping to repeat their semi-final performances when they notched 2-9 and 2-12 respectively.

The match is a repeat of last year's decider when Galway came out on top and is the fifth time the two counties have contested the senior final.

PJ FULLAM REPORTS

Galway are appearing in their eleventh final while Cork are appearing in the 32nd.

Cork have already stolen a march on the holders who they defeated in the semi-final by 0-17 to 1-10 on their way to the League title.

In the All-Ireland semi-final, Galway defeated old rivals Kilkenny by 4-14 to 2-11, while Cork easily accounted for Wexford 3-22 to 1-7.

Galway manager Tony Ward says his side are well prepared for the match: "The work is all done. We may have taken Cork by surprise last year and they are certain to be ready for us this time."

Cork manager Tom Knott has great respect for Galway. "Things did not go right for us on the day last year, but we have added some young stars to the team this year."

Cora Keohane, who plays for UCC, has played well in goals all through the League, while another newcomer, Sinead O'Callaghan, won an All-Ireland Senior Colleges medal with St Mary's Charleville this year.

BETTER BALANCED

Kilkenny captain Marina Downey, who has played against Cork in the League Final and Galway in the Championship semi-final, says that Cork "are the better balanced side and if they can hold Sharon Glynn, they will win the All-Ireland."

The Junior Final also involves Cork, who are the holders, and they take on National Junior League holders, Antrim.

Antrim will be seeking their first All-Ireland, their only other appearance in a Junior decider was in 1981.

The only link with that squad is their goalkeeper Karen Coyle.

The team is trained by Jim Nelson, who managed the Antrim Senior hurlers when they reached the All-Ireland hurling final in 1989.

Camogie Countdown

3
DAYS
TO GO

Cora ready for field of dreams

WHEN the Cork camogie selectors sit down tonight to pick their team for Sunday's All-Ireland final against Galway, the name of Cora Keohane will be top of the list.

The Barryroe girl took over in goal after the long serving Kathleen Costine retired at the end of last year's campaign, and while she will obviously be nervous going into her first senior final, she has experience of playing in Croke Park before.

As a 12-year-old she took part in the INTO mini game that is played at half-time in the senior final, and which has become a permanent feature of activities on All-Ireland final day.

Fanatic

Cora, who is pursuing a career in Food Science at UCC, was first introduced to Camogie by her father who is something of a hurling fanatic in the West Cork Club.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be back in Croke Park on a Cork senior team when I first played in that under-age mini-match eight years ago.

"It's every player's dream, both men and women, to run out on to Croke Park in an All-Ireland final and I can't wait to return there on Sunday.

"Already this year, Cork has won two of the three titles

Keohane chasing the treble



Cora Keohane ready for Galway.

By BRENDAN LARKIN

available to them, the National League and the Munster championship.

"It would be a tremendous feat if we could complete the treble but we are only too well aware of the challenge Galway pose to our ambitions.

"I wasn't involved last year, but from reports it would appear as if Cork under-estimated Galway and paid the price.

"This time round we won't

make the same mistake. Our preparations have gone well and if we get the breaks, I'm confident the cup will come back to Cork again", she said.

Meanwhile, the selectors have just one injury worry ahead of Sunday's final. The experienced Fiona O'Driscoll is suffering from tendonitis and has been unable to hold a hurley in training.

Selector Rose Keane is adamant that Cork must put last year's defeat out of their minds on Sunday. "That is water under the bridge. All that matters now is this year's final.

Booster

"We have a league win over Galway already this year which is a confidence booster, but that won't count on Sunday.

"The championship is the one that matters and we're expecting Galway to come out with all guns blazing just like they did last year, but we are ready for them on this occasion".

Fellow selector Angela Sheehan said the new players they brought in at the beginning of the season have blended well and will give a good account of themselves.

"We have no problems in psyching the girls up for this final. Last year's defeat was a bitter disappointment," said Angela.



Fiona O'Driscoll is Cork's only injury worry for next Sunday's All-Ireland final.

Commitment is the name of the game

ion
n Larry Tompkins management of the m, he talked about a e side of the line, he players whose lives otball — everybody ther side.
t looking for the first would put the sport t of work, beer and

all would be Larry of player. This week rling and football as ion teacher in Portool, she will either am, or head to Cork raining, depending if there's Cork train-back into the car ead back to Portlaothers would do the to, but as committed

as they are, it's doubtful. People as dedicated as Fiona O'Driscoll are rare to find.

Joe McGrath knows. He first came across O'Driscoll in 1991 when she was a 16-year-old on the fringes of the Cork senior camogie team. He coached her to the next two All-Ireland camogie titles, and then in 1995, to the All-Ireland junior ladies football title. O'Driscoll, he believes, is "a gem".

"There are four things I stress in my coaching — skill, teamwork, physical fitness and attitude. Fiona excelled in all four areas. In both codes, she was very good at running into open space, and at supporting team-mates under pressure. If a team-mate messed up, she wouldn't bawl them out of it. She'd encourage them, and tell them 'hard luck'. A super girl, and a super player."

Although she's not yet 24, O'Driscoll's career is an exceptional tale, with talent, discipline and approach the main themes.

When she went to college at University of Limerick, she had never played football, but within three years was on the Cork county team.

In fact, she played football for Cork before playing for her club. When she did start playing for her club, it involved travelling 35 miles either way from her native Ballymacoda to Glanworth.

In 1995, she became women's answer to Teddy McCarthy, by winning an All-Ireland senior camogie medal and a All-Ireland junior football medal in the same year.

This year, she's been in flying form, scoring four points in the All-Ireland semi-final win over Wexford last month. And although she's carrying a hand injury which has prevented her from holding a hurl in a fortnight, she's determined to do 'a Gary Kirby' and play in Sunday's All-Ireland.

"It's sad that girls of her calibre are not recognised the way hurlers and

male footballers are," says McGrath. True, because while everybody knows about McCarthy's achievement in '90, Brian Corcoran's dual status and Kirby's courage, few know who Fiona O'Driscoll is.

The low profile, however, does not bother her. "I'd like the sport itself to get a higher profile, and I wouldn't mind running out onto Croke Park with 60,000 people shouting. But, as an individual, I couldn't cope with being built-up every week before a game and then been torn to shreds on the Monday morning. I know the lads probably get more out of it — with a higher profile, they may have an advantage going for a job interview. But I'm happy to be a camogie player."

Such an approach is consistent with her philosophy to teaching. For all her achievements and competitive spirit, winning is something which she does not stress as a physical education teacher.

"When I'm coaching teams after school, I have a big thing that they should respect referees. Some people might think I'm a bit laid-back in having that kind of approach, and I'm fierce competitive myself, but when I'm coaching kids, it's about playing more than winning. Don't get me wrong — if you're coaching a team and they're out training two or three nights a week, there's going to be an element of competition and a desire to win. But my thing would be, if you prepare properly, train properly and give 100 per cent on the day, that will do me."

That's why she was so disappointed about last year's All-Ireland final loss to Galway. "We did try our hearts out on the day, but we didn't do ourselves justice. The Monday after the game was an awful feeling."

Hand injury or not, Fiona O'Driscoll will do her best to ensure she's not experiencing the same feeling next Monday.

Roles reversed as ladies tussle for top camogie crown

Holder Galway aim to retain All-Ireland title against ex-champs

by Tom Higgins

THE first Sunday in September is traditionally All-Ireland senior hurling final day, but due to the change this year in the Guinness hurling championship the Ladies will have centre stage at Croke Park Sunday next.

In a repeat of last year's Bord na Gaelige All-Ireland senior camogie final Cork will be endeavouring to recapture the crown, which they won in 1995, when beating Kilkenny, while the holders Galway will be hoping to record their second win.

Twelve months ago Cork were hot favourites to win their 18th title and looked good at half time when they led 1-9 to 1-6, when playing against the wind.

However a goal by Denise Gilligan in the 33rd minute put the sides level, and another two minutes later by Martina Harkin for the Westerners, gave the girls in maroon the confidence they needed. The turning point of the game was an excellent save by outstanding goalkeeper, Louise Curry from Lynn Dunlea.

Still the holders came back in the final 10 minutes and had numerous chances to save the game from frees, but with Lynn Dunlea and Fiona O'Driscoll off target Galway held out to win by two points to end a 64 year wait to lift the O'Duffy Cup.

Cork, who are National League champions, know they will have a difficult task to dethrone the champions, but they travel with a good deal of confidence, having trained very hard for the game.

This year's Cork team will show a number of changes, with Kathleen Costine, Paula Goggins and Therese O'Callaghan

Linda O'Sullivan in action during a training session with the Cork squad.



having announced their retirement.

Denise Cronin, who played in the half-forward line 12 months ago now occupies the right back position left vacant by Paula Goggins in the All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford and is a very versatile player, while Cora Keohane replaces Kathleen Costine between the posts. Sinead O'Callaghan has also proved very versatile in both the League and All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford proved a

tremendous success.

But in recent games they seem to reserve their best camogie for the second half and this was particularly noticeable in the League final against Kilkenny and the All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford. Against Kilkenny they led 3-4 to 0-7 at the break but had a tremendous second half to come out on top on a score line of 4-12 to 0-9. Then against Wexford they were again very lethargic until a goal by Lynn Dunlea shortly before the break gave them

a 1-10 to 1-3 advantage.

But in the second period they once more got back into their rhythm and were easy 2-22 to 1-7 victors.

They know on Sunday they must play their best camogie from the start if they are to win. However, if Sharon Glynn is on song for the wearers of the maroon they would not want to concede too many frees as she scored 1-10 from played balls in their 4-14 to 2-11 success over Kilkenny in the

semi-final. In fact Cork will be seeking to make it a double as their Juniors, who will be seeking their sixth title, play Antrim in the final as a curtain raiser to the big game. Cork are the holders of the title having beaten Roscommon 6-5 to 2-7 last year while this will only be a second final for Antrim as they were beaten by Clare 3-2 to 0-7 in their only other appearance in a final in 1981. Galway will have three changes from last year's starting twelve.

Ann Broderick, Carmel Hannon and Veronica Curtin will be missing and they will be replaced by Tracy Laheen, Gretta Maher and Ann Forde.

They will again travel as outsiders but this does not really trouble them as they feel that they can cause another upset. "Cork beat us in the League semi-final in Loughrea by 0-17 to 1-10 and we know they are ready for use after last year. They know more about our play and having beaten us in the League will be confident. But they beat us by a big margin in the League in 1996 and looked what happened in the final," said mentor Tony Ward, who went on to say that whichever side plays best on the day will win.

Galway had a big win over Kilkenny in the semi-final winning by 4-14 to 2-11 with Sharon Glynn, at centre back, last year's captain Imelda Hobbins, and this year's captain Martina Harkin in excellent form. Denise Gilligan was injured for that game but is back to form and the star of last year's decider is sure to provide a lot of problems for the Cork defence.

They will be relying on these players in particular to left the side and if they play up to form Cork will find it hard to get into their stride. "We know Cork are determined to make up for last year's defeat but we are equally determined to hold on to the title. It should be tight game with little in it at the end" concluded Tony Ward.

GALWAY: L. Curry, O. Costello, O. Broderick, T. Laheen, P. Nevin, D. Maher, S. Glynn, G. Maher, M. Harkin (capt), I. Hobbins, D. Gilligan, A. Forde. Subs: O. Coen, V. Curtin, Aine Hillery, T. Maher, F. Ryan, E. Hardiman, H. Ryan, A. Hardiman.

Denise truly values championship medals

by Kieran Shannon



Denise Cronin: trains six nights a week.

IF she was listening to the 'experts', there'd be no way she'd be doing it.

With the All-Ireland senior camogie final less than seventy-two hours away, she should be putting her feet up, relaxing, and getting focused for Sunday. Denise Cronin though knows she'll have plenty of other time to do that. So tonight she'll make her way up to the new Glen Hall, and coach her club's U-13 team, just like she did last Thursday and the Thursday before.

Denise Cronin is barely 26, but she talks of herself as part of "a generation of players" who weren't coached the basics of the game in a structured manner. To this day, she still finds herself learning different things from senior coach Tom Nott.

"You might have known how to pick the ball, and how to hit it, but people of my age didn't get the same type of coaching as those who went to a school did. Tom will teach you how to block it down, how to hook - things you should be taught at a basic level, really, but things I missed out on."

That's no poor reflection on her earlier coaches, mind. After all, her own mother was her first coach. "She never played it herself, but she used to love watching it on the

telly," says Denise. "My older brothers had no interest in sport, but I had, so I got a hurley from my cousin, used to hit the ball around with mum, and then play on the green with other kids."

Mrs Cronin has done some job. Denise came on to the Cork panel in 1990, and after two years as a substitute, won an All-Ireland medal in her first year as a starter. Cork successfully retained their championship in '93, and won it again in '95, with Denise as captain. Throw in the fact she's won nine county medals with Glen Rovers, captained Munster, and won several National League titles, and you're talking about a star.

Joe McGrath, who coached Cork in the back-to-back campaigns of '92 and '93, certainly thinks so. "Denise has it all - hunger, heart, hurling and a good head. She's fast and tenacious. And she's tough as nails. She's not afraid of contact. I've seen her go through with the ball and into tackles and blow people away."

An exceptional talent so, yet few people in the GAA world know who she is. "I wouldn't be known in my own club by a few people, I'd say," she laughs modestly, which would make you wonder is it worth training six nights a week. She believes it is. As sociable

and amicable a person she is, the night-club scene is not one which she misses.

"I haven't gone out on a Friday or Saturday night in three months, and I'd say the last time I went out was the night of the Wexford game. I'll go out after Sunday's Galway game, but generally, I see no point in running around a field six nights a week if you're going to go out every night for a few drinks."

Instead, it's about winning All-Ireland medals. "You'll always maintain that you could have a few more, but I'm not doing bad at three. I was very lucky that I won an All-Ireland my first year starting on the team. And I think last year was the hardest thing, to be walking out of Croke Park without a medal. It's then you realise what an All-Ireland means to you."

She's confident that last year's defeat can be avenged this Sunday. Her form is good going into the game, even though she is playing at corner-back this season rather than her customary midfield role. And she's happy with the mood in the camp. "Cork teams are well-prepared these days. Ten years ago, it was nearly harder to get off the Cork team than get on it, but now youth is always given a chance."

Camogie Countdown

2
DAYS
TO GO

Fitzgibbon and Mellerick will be hoping to retire on a winning note

Cork to avenge final defeat



Cora Keohane will be hoping to keep the Galway forwards at bay on Sunday.

SUNDAY'S All-Ireland senior camogie championship final between defending champions Galway and Cork is a repeat of last year when the westerners caused a huge upset.

By **BRENDAN LARKIN**

This is a very experienced Cork side with nine of last year's team still available.

Team captain Linda Mellerick and Sandie Fitzgibbon, both of whom announced earlier in the week that they would be retiring from the game at the end of the season, will be keen to go out on a winning note.

A log depends on how the newcomers perform. Playing in an All-Ireland final for the first time is a huge ordeal for any player, but all three are eagerly looking forward to the match.

Coach Tom Nott will have cautioned his defenders in particular not to allow themselves to be pulled out of position like what happened in last year's final.

They denied the Leeside girls a league and championship double.

Cork went into that final the hottest of favourites after they had beaten Galway in the National League final by six goals, but on a day when the tactics of the underdog paid a rich dividend, the then reigning champions paid a heavy price for underestimating their opponents.

That defeat hurt Cork deeply, but on Sunday they get the perfect chance to make amends when they again face the girls from the west in the O'Duffy Cup final, and hopes are high that at they can lift their 18th title.

Lost

Since last year's defeat Cork have lost the services of seasoned campaigners goalkeeper Kathleen Costine, corner back Paula Goggin and midfielder Therese O'Callaghan.

Many felt that their departure would result in Cork being down for a couple of seasons, but such is the strength of camogie in the county at the moment, the selectors were able to pick up ready-made replacements in Cora Keohane and Sinead O'Callaghan.

They both played in the league final against Kilkenny which Cork won, and the selectors haven't changed much from that winning side for the championship final on Sunday.

WITH the county double engaged at Croke Park on Sunday, the Cork junior camogie team is assured of plenty of support as they endeavour to retain their All-Ireland crown when they play Antrim in the final.

It's a measure of the enormous strength of camogie in the county that Cork juniors have made it back to the All-Ireland final for the second successive year.

As champions they have had to field a complete new team, but according to County Board Chairperson

By **BRENDAN LARKIN**

and selector Sheila Golden, "the county is awash with talent at the moment."

"Already this year our minors were beaten in the All-Ireland final but we have high hopes of our juniors and seniors."

"The strength of camogie in Cork is at an all time high. There are now 51 clubs playing the game and an enormous amount of work is being done, particularly at grassroots level."

CORK TEAMS FOR SUNDAY

Senior Team

Cora Keohane, Barryroe, Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers, Eithne Duggan, Bishopstown, Maeve Finn, Fr O Neills, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Glen Rovers, Vivien Harris, Bishopstown, Mary O'Connor, Killeagh, Linda Mellerick, Glen Rovers (c), Fiona O'Driscoll, Fr O Neills, Sinead O'Callaghan, Ballygran, Lynn Dunlea, Cloughduv, Irene O'Keefe, Inniscarra.

Junior Team

Sandra Ricken, St Vincents, Sabrina Buckley, Brian Dillons, Cliona Meaney, Inn-

iscarra, Muireann Harrington, Newtownshandrum, Lisa Kelleher, Newtownshandrum, Emer O'Sullivan, Kilbrittan, Caoimhe Harrington, Newtownshandrum, Ursula Troy, Newtownshandrum, Tina Roche, Aghbullogue, Elenor Kenneally, Newcestown (c), Una O'Donoghue, Cloughduv, Cliona Harte, Inniscarra.

All Ireland junior final: Cork v Antrim 1.45 p.m.
Bord Na Gaelige All-Ireland senior final: Cork v Galway 3.30 p.m.

Juniors aiming to retain title

"It's important we have a continuous flow of players for our inter-county teams in order to maintain our status as one of the leading counties in the country", says Sheila.

Great

Cork's path to the final includes a marvellous semi-final win over Galway in Loughrea and they will probably go into Sunday's final as favourites as a result.

Their team will include two sets of sisters, the Harringtons, Caoimhe and Mui-

reen; the Kellehers, Lisa and Helen, while Eleanor Kenneally has her sister Hilda playing on the senior side.

Sandra Ricken (St Vincents) is an excellent goalkeeper while Ursula Troy and Cliona Harte won't let the side down.

Preparations have gone well for Cork under the watchful eye of coach Denis Dineen from the Ballinora club, and it's a tribute to his expertise that the county are back in their second successive junior final with a complete new team.

Cork Senior and Junior Camogie

ON Sunday next Cork Senior and Junior Camogie teams head to Croke Park in quest of a double when they take on reigning champions Galway in the Senior Final and Junior National League Champions Antrim in the Junior game.

Firstly we look at the junior team and when one considers that last year the county won the Junior All Ireland and that all the girls who played in that final are now graded Intermediate the county are now fielding a completely new side it's a marvellous achievement to be in the final. On their way the team defeated Limerick in the opening round of the Munster Championship, in an exciting encounter they went on to defeat a fancied Tipperary side to take the Munster title. Galway having won the Junior title in '95 were expected by many to reach the final this year however in a top class game at Loughrea the Cork Juniors were in excellent form and emerged victorious on a 3-11 to 4-7 scoreline. The pace and excitement of the game was one to savour with the lead changing hands on numerous occasions. However the Cork side showed true determination and reached the final against an Antrim side who are Junior National League Champions. The sides already met in the National League Semi Final when Antrim won 5-6 to 2-12. Cork know that a repeat of the display in this game will not suffice if they are to bring the Irish Press Cup back to Leeside on Sunday next. The Antrim side are a tough, physical one whose game is a possession and running one. Cork will have to curtail their danger

woman Carol O'Doherty who scored 3-1 in the league encounter. They also have excellent players in Gretta McMullen, Carol O'Doherty and goalie Karen Coyle who had a marvellous game in the League Semi Final. They are trained by former Antrim hurler Jim Nelson who will have his side in top shape for the big day. The Cork team are coached and trained by Ballinora man Denis Dineen who will need no introduction to camogie and GAA fans. Denis also trained the victorious Junior team last year and what an achievement it would be to take a second title. The team are on average a very young side, built around the Minor and U18 teams of the last three years. They are captained by Eleanor Kenneally from the Newtown Club.

The Seniors face a mighty task when they take on the All Ireland champions Galway. It's an unusual scenario to have a Cork Senior Camogie team going into an All Ireland Final against the champions especially when one considers that Cork have won 17 senior titles the first in 1934 when a team captained by Muskerly lady Kitty Delea defeated Louth in the final. The last title to come to Cork was in 1995 when Denise Cronin from Glen Rovers led Cork to victory over arch rivals Kilkenny. In last year's encounter hot favourites Cork suffered a crushing 2 points defeat at the hands of their opponents. On Sunday next Galway who in the process took the county's first Senior All Ireland title amid tremendous scenes of jubilation, a sight Cork will not want to see repeated.

Galway are a strong side with players from

All Ireland club champions Pearses, Davitts, Shamrocks, Craughwell and Mullagh. They are captained by Martina Harkin, team also includes Sharon Glynn who caused all sorts of problems for the Kilkenny defence in their semi final encounter scoring 1-12 of her sides total of 4-14. Also on the panel for Sunday's Final are Dymphna Maher, Pamela Nevin and Denise Gilligan who scored 2 goals at vital times either side of half time last year. The Cork defence will have to keep a firm grip on her to avoid a repeat performance. In last year's final Cork led at half time 1-9 to 1-6 and were looking good however Galway hit with three goals in ten minutes to knock Corks momentum however if the Cork side had recovered quicker it may have saved the day. Galway failed to score in the final sixteen minutes of the game but Cork whose free taking on the day left them down and did not avail of the many chances that came their way, especially in the final quarter. This year the sides have already met in the National League Semi Final with victory going to Cork, however when one considers that last year Cork destroyed Galway in the League Final and the roles were reversed in Croke Park League form counts for little.

For Sunday's clash Cork are led by Glen Rovers players Linda Mellerick (See Pen Pictures). The side is coached by Tom Nott who has been at the helm since 1995. In their path to the final they had a tough opening game against a Clare side who put it up to Cork and made them fight hard for their victory, in the semi final they had a

comfortable victory over Wexford, in their path to the final which will be the fifth time the sides have clashed Galway had victories over Armagh and Kilkenny. With the counties having met already in this year's minor final and with the cup having gone west there is no way that Cork are going to stand by and let it happen again. Following on the Junior teams marvellous display in Loughrea the Senior side will be full of determination with revenge for last year the big incentive.

Cork Senior Selectors

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, 83. Angela manages to combine a busy schedule if teaching in Cobh, playing a little with the Watergrasshill junior squad and being a mother to two daughters and one son. Angela's family are all involved with the Watergrasshill Club with sister Mairéad being Club Secretary.

Tom Nott, Na Piarsaigh - Tom has given tremendous service to the GAA and Camogie in Cork over a number of years was coach to the teams in the 80's when they won four Senior titles. Tom returned in '95 and guided the county to victory. He is the county schools coach in hurling, football and camogie for the Cork GAA Board.

Rose Mackey-Keane, Glen Rovers - Rose is in her third 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 and one son who was born 10 days before last year's All Ireland Final.

Cork Senior Captain Linda Mellerick, Glen

Rovers

Linda captained Cork for the second time today in Croke Park. She previously led the county to victory over today's opponents in the 1993 decider. The holder of All Ireland medals at Minor, Junior, Senior, Club and Sevens. She has also captained her province to Gael-Linn honours. Was honoured in 1988 with selection on the Rest of Ireland team. Led the county of National League honours this year. Has also been honoured by National Irish Bank as Player of the Year in '93. Won a Jury's Award for the month of September also in that year. A past pupil of St Patrick's, Cork where she won an All Ireland Colleges medal. Linda captained Glen Rovers in 1996 to a historical 7th Cork Senior County Championship title in a row. She is the holder of Intermediate, Senior, County, Championship as well as Munster honours at Junior, Minor, Colleges, Senior and Club levels. Captained Cork in 1993 National League Final when it was played on an experimental 15 a side.

Cork Senior Camogie Team Pen Pictures

Cora Keohane, Barryroe - First year on the senior panel, she is the first player from the Barryroe Club to play on a Cork Senior team. The holder of Ashbourne Cup honours with UCC. She also holds Junior and Intermediate Championship medals with her club.

Eithne Duggan, Bishopstown - Recently captained her club to its first Cork Senior County Championship title, is the holder of All Ireland Senior medal won in 1995. Also holds Munster Senior, Minor and National League honours. Eithne has also played in Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde with Coláiste na hOllscoile, Ath Cliath. A physiotherapist by profession. Is daughter of well known former Cork and Bishopstown stalwart Phil Duggan.

Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers - Denise captained Cork to its last All Ireland senior title in 1995, is the holder of All Ireland Senior, Club and Sevens medals, National League and Gael-Linn honours as well as 9 Cork Senior County Championship medals. Captained Munster to Gael-Linn honours.

Mags Finn, Fr O'Neills - Has given tremendous service to the Fr O'Neills Club who contested their first Senior County Final earlier this year, amongst her collection of honours are Senior All Ireland medals in '92, '93 and '95, Gael-Linn at Senior and Junior levels, and Munster Senior and Junior medals. Employed as an electrician.

Vivienne Harris, Bishopstown - Won her first Senior County Championship medal recently. Vivienne was a Féile na nGael skills winner in 1992. Won her

first Senior All Ireland medal in 1995 also holds National League and Gael-Linn honours. Is also a former Munster Youths Sports Star Awards winner.

Sandra Fitzgibbon, Glen Rovers - A superb athlete who is an example to all young players, her commitment to her club Glen Rovers and to Cork is second to none is ranked amongst the greats of camogie. Holds numerous honours including three All Ireland Minor medals, ten Cork Senior County Championship medals, All Ireland Senior, Club and National League as well as Gael Linn honoured. Was the first player from Glen Rovers to captain a Cork Senior team to All Ireland success in 1992. Has been honoured with National Irish Bank Player of the Year Awards in '92 and '95.

Lynn Dunlea, Cloughduv - Holds All Ireland Senior medals, National League and Gael-Linn honours. Has also received Jury's awards on two occasions. Is iar-scolaire Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach. Is a sister of Stephanie who is also a member of the panel today. Holds championship honours at Junior, Intermediate and Senior grades.

Irene O'Keefe, Inniscarra - Captained her club Inniscarra to the Senior B Championship title last season. Is the holder of three Senior All Ireland medals also holds National League, Gael-Linn and Munster honours. Was the recipient of the Player of the Game Award in the 1992 Final.

Sinéad O'Callaghan, Ballyagran, Limerick - Has amongst 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. Plays her club camogie in Limerick.

Fiona O'Driscoll, Fr O'Neill's - Fiona captained Coláiste na hOllscoile, Luimneach to victory in the Ashbourne Cup. Has also captained the combined colleges in 1995. Is the holder of a Purcell Cup medal as well as All Ireland Senior, National League, Gael-Linn and Munster honours. Was involved with the Cork Minor team who reached this year's All Ireland Final.

Mary O'Connor, Killeagh - Second year on the senior panel. Played in last year's final. Is the holder of National League, Munster Senior and Junior medals. Was coach to the Cork Minor team who reached this year's All Ireland Minor Final. Mary also acted as a selector with the Minor team.

Hilda Kenneally, Newtown - Played a major role in the winning of the Junior All Ireland title last season. Also holds Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior, Gael-Linn at Senior and Junior level. A

member of a very sporting family. Brother Pat captained Cork Senior Hurlers in 1994, whilst sister Eleanor captained the Cork Junior team today in their quest for All Ireland honours.

Mary Kenefick, Fr O'Neills - Mary won Junior All Ireland last year. Holds two Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior medals as well as Junior, Intermediate and Senior B Championship medals. Mary has also played with Waterford Regional Technical College.

Miriam Deasy, Kilbrittain - Joined the senior panel in '95. Miriam holds one Senior All Ireland, three Senior National League, Gael Linn and Munster Under age and Senior honours.

Eileen Buckley, Aghabullogue - Played a big part in the Junior All Ireland win in '95. Was selected as Junior Player of the Year for the '95 season. Eileen holds 2 Munster Junior Championship, Gael-Linn, Senior National League, as well as a Junior and Intermediate Championships with Aghabullogue.

Stephanie Dunlea, Cloughduv - A sister to Lynn, Stephanie holds Ashbourne Cup honours with UCC. Has also played with the combined universities team. Holds All Ireland Senior, Gael Linn and Munster honours.

Linda O'Sullivan, Ballinhassig - Also played a part in last seasons Junior success. Holds Munster Junior and Under U18 honours, Senior National League and Gael-Linn honours. First year on the Senior Panel.

Ursula Troy, Newtownshandrum - A past pupil of the very successful St Mary's, Charleville sides Ursula has a busy day today as she plays in the Junior Final before the Senior game. A student at UCC she holds Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior and Colleges medals. As well as a Junior Gael-Linn and Colleges Seven a Side and Championship honours. A niece of Fr Bertie Troy who guided the fortunes of Cork Senior Hurling teams in the 70's.

Lisa Kelleher, Newtownshandrum - Also a busy lady today Lisa lines out in the Junior Final. Has won Ashbourne Cup honours at UCC Munster Colleges at Senior and Junior as well as All Ireland Colleges Seven with St Mary's Charleville. Is a sister to Helen who is also on the Junior panel today.

Emer O'Sullivan, Kilbrittain - Also on the panel for the first time this season Emer will be playing in the Junior Final today against Antrim. The holder of Munster Junior Championship as well as Championship honours with her club.

Cork Junior Panel Pen Pictures

Sandra Ricken, St Vincents - Sandra holds

Goalmouth action from the Glen Rovers V Inniscarra Camogie Championship. (Pic: Mike English)



Teams in quest for double

Munster honours at Junior and U18 level. She also has won an U18 Championship as well as U14 League honours. A pupil of Terence McSweeney Community College where she won 7-a-side colleges medal. Sandra is also a member of the Cork U18 and Junior as well as Munster Tennis teams.

Cliona Meaney, Inniscarra - A student at Cork Institute of Technology. Cliona's mother Ann won a Junior All Ireland medal in 1977 with Limerick. Brother Liam Meaney has also won the Cork colours. Uncle Bob Honohan is a well known Cork GAA official. She is a cousin to Cork Senior Footballer Liam Honahan. Holds Munster Junior Championship and captained her colleges ladies soccer team to colleges All Ireland title in '96/'97.

Caomhe Harrington, Newtownshandrum - Has won numerous honours with St Mary's, Charleville amongst her collection are 2 All Ireland Senior Colleges, 2 All Ireland Junior Colleges, 3 All Ireland Seven-a-Side Colleges, 4 Munster Senior Colleges, 3 Munster Junior Colleges, 8 Cork Colleges Senior. Is a sister to Muireann who is also on the Cork team today.

Ursula Troy, Newtownshandrum - Ursula is also on the Senior Panel for today's final. She is a student at UCC. She holds Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior, Cork

Colleges and Gael-Linn honours. Is a niece of Fr Bertie Troy who guided Cork hurlers in the '70s.

Sabrina Buckley, Brian Dillons - Played in the Minor All Ireland Final with Cork. Holds Munster Minor, Junior, U18 honours as well as Sciath na Scoil with St Patrick's, Gardiner's Hill where she is a student.

Criona Harte, Inniscarra - A pupil at St Aloysius, Criona won a Senior B Championship medal with Inniscarra last year. She also has amongst her collection Munster Junior, U18 and Gael-Linn honours. Won 2 Sciath na Scoil Camogie medals with Cloghroe National School.

Lisa Kelleher, Newtownshandrum - Lisa is also on the Senior panel for today's final, a 3rd year student at UCC she is joined on today's Junior Panel by her sister Helen. Lisa is the holder of an Ashbourne Cup medal as well as Munster Junior and Senior, a Colleges All-Ireland and Cork Colleges Championship honours.

Niamh O'Regan, Brian Dillons - Holds Junior and U18 Munster honours, Munster and Cork Colleges as well as Gael-Linn medals. Employed at Dovetron Electronics.

Tina Roche, Aghabullogue - A student at UCC she has amongst her collection Munster Junior and U18, Cork Féile na nGael, U16 County Championship, and Cork Colleges Championship honours.

Muireann Harrington,

Newtownshandrum - A sister to Caomhe, Muireann is a 1st year student at UCC. She holds 3 All Ireland Seven-a-Side, 2 All Ireland Senior Colleges, 1 Junior All Ireland Colleges, Munster Senior Colleges, Munster Junior Championship and Cork Colleges Championship honours.

Emer O'Sullivan, Kilbrittain - Also a member of the senior panel today, Emer holds U18 and Junior Munster Championship as well as Intermediate County Championship with the Kilbrittain Club.

Sinéad Buckley, Aghabullogue - A student at Coachford Community College, Sinéad was also on the Cork Minor team this year which contested the All Ireland Final. She holds Munster Minor and Junior honours. As well as Cork Féile na nGael medals. Also a keen badminton player with the Coachford Club.

Karen Riordan, Glen Rovers - The holder of a Senior County Championship medal, also holds Munster U18 and Junior, Intermediate Cork Colleges with St Aidans Community College where she is a Leaving Cert student. Is the only girl to have played in a Roinn A Hurling Sciath na Scoil Final where she won a medal with Scoil Oilibheir primary school.

Helen Kelleher, Newtownshandrum - A teacher in Dunderrow NS, Kinsale. She holds Munster Junior and Senior honours with St

Mary's Charleville, as well as All Ireland Seven-a-Side. Won a Purcell Plate medal with Mary Immaculate in 1994. Has also played on combined colleges team. Also won an inter colleges football medal in '94 with Mary Immaculate. Sister to Lisa also on the team.

Karen O'Sullivan, Killeagh - Has won a Munster Intermediate Colleges medal with St Mary's Middleton where she is a Leaving Cert student. Has also played in All Ireland Volleyball Final with her school who lost out to Greystones. This Karen has also lined out with the boys having won medals in the East Cork Championship and League at U14 level.

Nora Ahern, Fr O'Neill's - Won a Senior B Championship last season. Holds Munster Inter Colleges with St Mary's Middleton, Munster Junior, and like Karen has also represented her school in the Volleyball All Ireland Finals. A Leaving Cert she is also interested in Gaelic Football.

Emma Harte, Glen Rovers - Holds Senior County Championship and Munster Club honours, as well as Junior League and Munster Junior Championship. A trainee Accountant, Emma sits her exam on the Monday after the All Ireland Final. Also the holder of an All Ireland Club Championship with Glen Rovers. Father, Patsy Harte played Minor Hurling and Football with Cork Minors to Munster honours in 1959

and also lined out with Cork senior side.

Geraldine Casey, Inniscarra - Also played in this years All Ireland Minor Final. Geraldine holds Senior B Championship, as well as Munster Junior and Minor and Sciath na Scoil with Clonakilty NS. Has also represented Munster in Hockey. A pupil at Sacred Heart, Clonakilty.

Una O'Donoghue, Cloughduv - Won a Cork Colleges Championship with Convent Macroom in '95 and '96 also holds Munster Colleges Intermediate as well as Munster Minor won this year. Was also on the Cook Minor side which lost All Ireland Minor Final this year.

Sarah Hayes, Courcy Rovers - Aged 15 Sarah played in last years Féile na nGael Final where her club were narrowly defeated by Templemore. Played in this years Minor Final. She holds Munster Minor, Junior U18 and Cork Féile medals with her club as well as Divisional medals.

Eileen Twohig, Newtown - A Receptionist at Bons Secour Hospital Cork. Is a past pupil of Coláiste na Toibhirte, Bandon is the holder of Junior and Intermediate Championship honours with her club as well as Munster Junior Championship with Cork.

Valerie O'Keeffe,

Kilbrittain - Holds Intermediate and Junior County Championship honours with her club as well as Junior Munster honours.

Cora Murphy, Courcy Rovers - A student nurse Cora attended the Convent, Kinsale where she won an Intermediate Colleges medal. Also amongst her collection are U16 League and Championship, U18 Championship and Junior County Championship with her club as well as a Munster Junior Championship medal.

Cork Junior Captain - Eleanor Kenneally, Newtown

Eleanor Kenneally captains the Cork junior team in today's All Ireland Final. She will be hoping to bring a second All Ireland medal to the Kenneally household in 12 months and follow her sister Hilda who was a member of last years successful Cork side and is a member of the Senior Panel who face Galway in today's Final. Eleanor is employed as a Medical Secretary at the Innishannon Medical Centre. She is an all round sports person and is the holder of All Ireland medals in Ladies Football at Junior Level with Cork. She also holds one club All Ireland Football medal at Senior, one club All Ireland Seven-a-Side and two junior National League

Football medals. Eleanor is present Chairperson of the Newtown Camogie Club and amongst her honours won with the club are Intermediate and Junior County Championship. She also holds a Munster Colleges medal, and a Munster Junior medal when she captained the Cork side to victory over Tipperary. Also an accomplished Hockey player with the Bandon club where she has won Munster Minor Cup medals. A sister to Pat Kenneally who captained the Cork Senior Hurlers in 1995.

Cork Junior Selectors

Sile Golden, Inniscarra - Sile is the Chairperson of the County Board. A former Intercounty player Sile played in the All Ireland Senior Final in 1968. She holds Munster Senior and Junior and Club medals as well as Gael-Linn honours. Is also the holder of Senior County Championship medals with South Presentation Past Pupils.

Kay Dunne, Ballincollig - Is the registrar of the County Board. Is a holder of County Senior Championship honours with South Pres Past Pupils and a former team mate of fellow selector Sile Golden. Is a selector on the Munster Junior Selection Committee.

Denis Dineen, Ballinora - Is returning to Croke Park today with a new Junior team following on the marvellous achievement of last year when he coached the Cork Juniors to All Ireland glory, is also coach to the Ballinora club team.



Martina Harkin (An Ghailimh) agus Margaret Finn (An Corcaigh)

HOGAN STAND

YOUR WEEKLY G.A.A. MAGAZINE

FRIDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 1997

Vol. 7, No. 36 (329)

 **Bord na Gaeilge**
Camogie Finals



£1.50
Ireland & U.K.
\$5 U.S.A.

ISSN 0791-7244

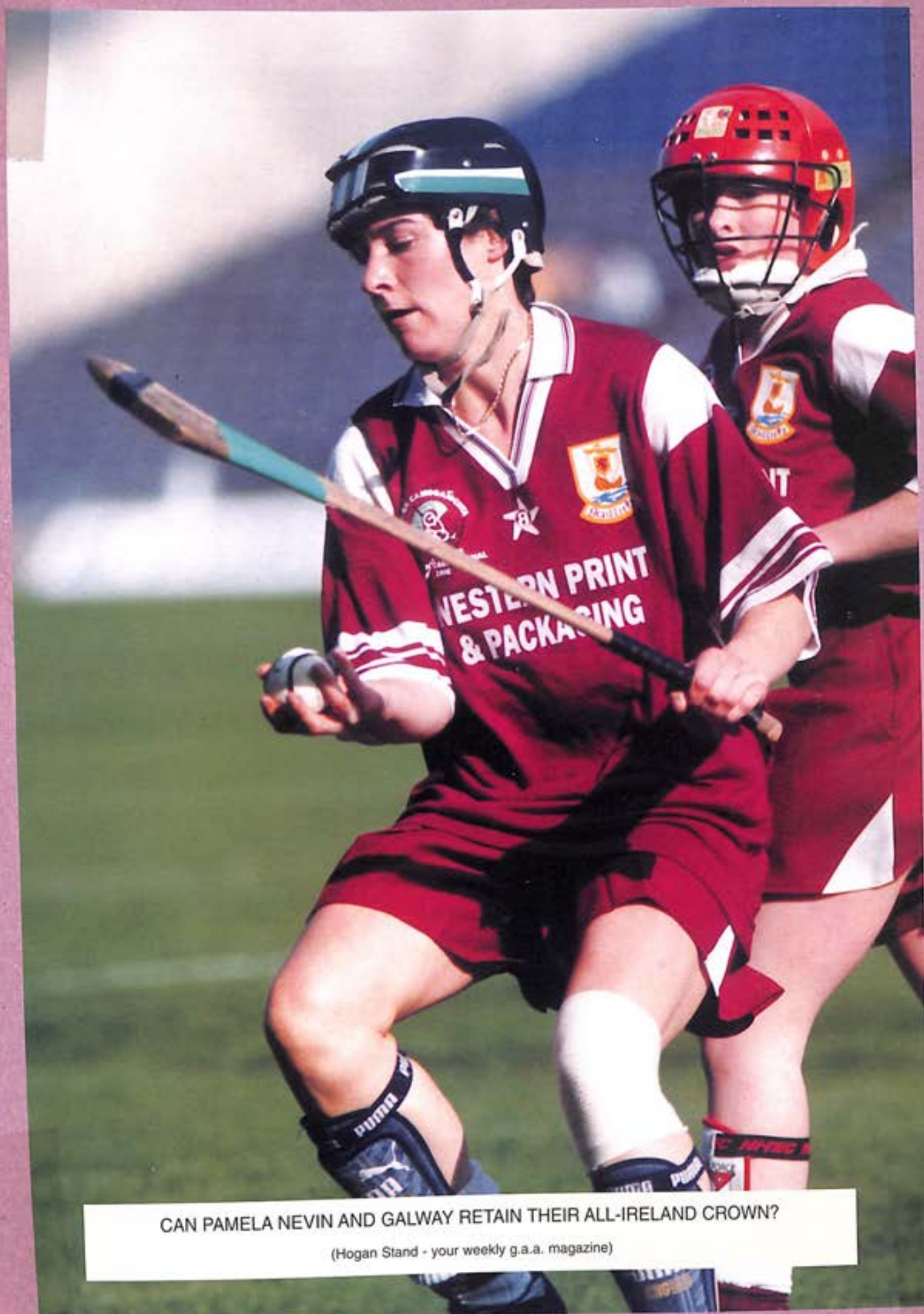


9 770791 724065

Bank of Ireland

Football Championship


GUINNESS
HURLING
CHAMPIONSHIP



CAN PAMELA NEVIN AND GALWAY RETAIN THEIR ALL-IRELAND CROWN?

(Hogan Stand - your weekly g.a.a. magazine)

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR & JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINALS

On Sunday next all roads lead to Croke Park for the All-Ireland senior and junior finals. In the Bord na Gaeilge senior championship An Ghaillimh and Corcaigh meet in a repeat of last year's final. It will be the side's fifth meeting in an All-Ireland senior final. An Ghaillimh are appearing in their 11th. They contested the inaugural 1932 final when defeated by Ath Cliath, a fate they also suffered the following year. Corcaigh are appearing in their 32nd final and lie next to Ath Cliath on the honours list with 17 titles, the first on their first appearance in 1934.

Corcaigh are national senior league champions, bringing their total to seven. An Ghaillimh have one.

Sunday's game is sure to produce good fare, there is no doubt that Corcaigh are delighted to get another crack at the champions. Some would say Corcaigh did not play to form last year. Nevertheless it was An Ghaillimh's day and they deserved their win. Corcaigh's trainer Tom Nott says, "things did not go right on the day. The

ball did not roll in our favour. Galway are a good side," said Tom. "We have a fifty fifty chance."

Tom is not unduly worried by the loss of three players from last year: goalie Kathleen Costine, Paula Goggins and last year's captain, Therese O'Callaghan. "We have brought on some young talent who are blending in well," says Tom. "Cora Keohane is playing well in goals, she plays with UCC. Another player who is well in contention for a place on the first twelve is Sinead O'Callaghan who was a member of the St Mary's Charleville team that won the All-Ireland senior colleges title this year." The Cork trainer has great respect for An Ghaillimh. "We are hoping for a good game, and that things will work out right this time."

The man at the helm in An Ghaillimh trainer Tony Ward is also missing three players from last year's team: Ann Broderick, Carmel Hannon and Carmel Hannon. "We have a young team emphasised Tony, "the youngest is 17 and the oldest is 27. Since we won the All-Ireland last year, camogie is on a high. We train three or four times per week," said the man who hopes to guide An Ghaillimh to retain the title.

Earlier this year, Corcaigh collected their third National Senior League title on the trot. In the semi-final they accounted for Sunday's opponents 0-17 to 1-10. However, league and championship are different ball games. Corcaigh defeated An Ghaillimh in the league final last year, but the Connacht county were a different team in the championship.

In the run up to this final, An Ghaillimh went on a scoring spree against Ardmhacha and came up against old rivals Cill Chainnigh in the semi-final, played at Loughrea. Midfielder Sharon Glynn played a major role in her team's victory, scoring a personal tally of 2-12, 1-10 of which were from frees.

Little separated the sides at any time during the first half, until a goal from An Ghaillimh's Anne Forde gave them a lead of 1-6 to 0-5 at the break. Second half goals by Ann Downey, along with some well

taken points by Sinead Millea, kept Cill Chainnigh in touch, until the third quarter when the champions stamped their authority on proceedings to run out winners on a score of 4-14 to 2-11.

Corcaigh's campaign started with a comprehensive win over An Clar 3-13 to 1-9. Their opponents in the semi-final were Loch Garman who had accounted for Luimneach.

In the semi-final, it was Corcaigh who were the masters throughout, with their scoring ace Lynn Dunlea notching off 2-9. Corcaigh wanted that place in the final and really showed it. Final score: Corcaigh 3-22, Loch Garman 1-7

This final is sure to attract a large attendance. The sides seem to be evenly matched and parade a host of stars such as An Ghaillimhs Sharon Glynn, Imelda Hobbins, Martina Harkin, Olivia Broderick,

Oliver Costelloe, Veronica Curtin and goalie Louise Curry. Playing well for Corcaigh are Vivienne Harris from the Bishopstown club who are the new county champions.

Denise Cronin, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick, Lynn Dunlea and Fiona O'Driscoll.

This Bord na Gaeilge senior championship final for the coveted O'Duffy Cup should be a close affair.

An Gaillimh Panel - Louise Curry, Oliver Costelloe, Olivia Broderick, Tracey Laheen, Pamela Nevin, Gretta Maher, Sharon Glynn, Dympha Maher, Martina Harkin, captain, Imelda Hobbins, Veronica Curtin, Anne Forde, Denise Gilligan, Therese Maher, Olivia Coen, Cora Curley, Fiona Ryan, Helen Ryan, Emer Hardiman.

Corcaigh Panel - Cora Keohane, Denise Cronin, Eithne Duggan, Mary O'Connor, Vivienne Harris, Mags Finn, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick, captain, Fiona O'Driscoll, Irene O'Keeffe, Lynn Dunlea,



History makers... the Galway side which captured the county's first ever Senior All-Ireland camogie title in 1996. Front, left to right: Carmel Hannon, Veronica Curtin, Imelda Hobbins, Martina Harkin, Dympha Maher, Denise Gilligan, Mascots: Karen Kennedy and Ciara Ward. Back, left to right: Ann Broderick, Pamela Nevin, Louise Curry, Oliver Costelloe, Sharon Glynn, Olivia Broderick.



Cork's Vivienne Harris and Sharon Glynn of Galway will renew acquaintances in next Sunday's senior final at Croke Park.



An Reiteoir na Saisear Ma...



Cork's Mary O'Connor.

Kenneally, Mary Kennefic, Miriam Deasy, Eileen Buckley, Ursula Troy, Stephaine Dunlea, Lisa Kellagher, Linda O'Sullivan, Emer O'Sullivan.
An Reiteoir: Brid Mhic Philib, Tiobraid Arann.

Cork will be dually engaged in Croke Park on Sunday. The Leesiders are the holders of the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Championship. They made it to the final this year by disposing of old rivals Galway in the semi-final. They will come up against Antrim who are the newly crowned national league champions. They recorded an overwhelming victory over London in the championship quarter final and accounted for the Leinster champions, Carlow, in the semi-final. For the past two years, Antrim have been beaten at the semi-final stage by Roscommon on both occasions by the minimum score. They are going all out this year to bridge a 16 year gap since their only appearance in an All-Ireland junior final in 1981 when they lost to Clare. Their goalkeeper Karen Coyles is the only link with the 1981 squad.

The team is trained

by Jim Nelson. Jim was manager of Antrim senior hurlers when they reached the All-Ireland hurling final of 1989.

Antrim are a sharp outfit. However, Cork will not surrender the title easily and will be hoping to make it a double on the day. They have a large panel of young players blended with experience. Both camps are quietly confident.

Cork panel - Sandra Ricken, Cliona Meaney, Sabrina Buckley, Muireann Harrington, Lisa Kellager, Emer O'Sullivan, Caoimhe Harrington, Ursula Troy, Tina Roache, Niamh O'Regan, Criona Harte, Ger Casey, Sinead A Buckley, Elaine Burke, Elenora Kenneally, Cora Murphy, Helen Kellagher, Valerie O'Keeffe, Louise Flemming, Elaine Twohig, Emma Harte, Karen Riordan.

Antrim panel - Karen Coyles, Grainne Connolly, Maureen Barry, Sinead McMullan, Claire McGarry, Tara Lundy, Brenda McCollom, Ciara McGarry, Donna Brogan, Brona McCurry, Denise O'Boyle, Grace McMullan, Caitriona Higgins, Carla Doherty, Una Elliott, Donna McLaughlin, Karen Convery, Elaine Dowds, Deirdre Cuning.

Referee - Mary Connor, Louth.

Domhnach 7 Mean Fomhair 1997

i Pairc an Chrocaigh Cluiche Ceannais na Soisear

Corcaigh v Aontroim 1.45 i.n.

Reiteoir: Marie Ui Chonchubhair, An Lu

Bord na Gaeilge Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear An Ghalliamh v Corcaigh 3.30 i.n.

Reiteoir: Brid Mhic Philib, Tiobraid Arann.



Reiteoir: Brid Mhic Philib, Tiobraid Arann.



The Galway senior team warms up before the '96 final.

VIVIENNE HARRIS

NAME: Vivienne Harris

DATE OF BIRTH: 31/12/78

HEIGHT: 5'6"

WEIGHT: 8 and a half stone

CLUB: Bishopstown

COUNTY: Cork

NOTABLE SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS: (GAELIC) All-Ireland camogie medal - 1995; Three National League medals - 1995, 1996, 1997; Gael Linn Junior and Senior medals; Munster Youths Sports Star Award; Senior A&B Championship medals with Bishopstown; Under 14 All-Ireland Feile na nGael Skills winner.

(OTHER): Kickboxing - Ladies Anglo Irish Bantamweight Thai-Boxing Champion. Soccer - Munster interprovincial medal.

INTER-COUNTY DEBUT: 1995 against Clare (midfield).

TOUGHEST OPPONENT: Ann Downey.

FAVOURITE GROUNDS: Christy Ring Park (Cork).

HOBBIES: Kickboxing, soccer

FAVOURITE POSITION: Midfield

FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Sandie Fitzgibbon, Angela Downey.

INFLUENCES ON YOUR CAREER: Dad and Mum.

THE HIGH POINT OF YOUR CAREER TO DATE: Winning All-Ireland in 1995.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing last year's All-Ireland.

OTHER PLAYERS WITH A PROMISING FUTURE: Eithne Duggan, Sinead O'Callaghan, Mary O'Connor, Tricia Doyle.

WAYS OF IMPROVING THE GAME: The advantage rule has to be brought in.

DISLIKES ABOUT THE GAA: They don't support the camogie enough.

DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES INVOLVED IN GAELIC GAMES: Miah Dennehy (uncle).

PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET: Future employer.

FAVOURITE PERSONAL SAYING OR TERM OF ABUSE: Whatever

PET HATES: Cats

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Reggae and dance music.

FAVOURITE FILM: Kickboxer

IDEAL DATE: George Clooney

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED: As a good but fair player.



PlayStation PLAYER PROFILE



Cork camogie star Vivienne Harris.

THE SHOOTING STARS PREPARE

IT HASN'T been the easiest of weeks for Sharon Glynn.

Fresh from returning from a hospital bed where she had undergone treatment for a back injury, Galway's cricket-scoring camogie-star was hoping for a quiet build up to her county's All-Ireland final clash with Cork. Instead, it took a few words from Kilkenny captain Marina Downey to propel her firmly back into the limelight.

Commenting on the defending champions prospects Downey stated that Cork "are the better balanced side and if they can hold Sharon Glynn, they will win the All-Ireland".

Mere hyperbole? Just examine the facts. In Galway's first championship outing against Armagh, the player scored 2-14. In the semi-final against Kilkenny, she blazed over 2-12. If ever one person carried the hopes of a county into an All-Ireland final then it's the gifted midfielder.

When Cork sharpshooter Lynn Dunlea recorded 2-9 in her county's semi-final victory over Wexford, the headlines immediately zoomed in on the battle between the two. Galway versus Cork stripped down to its essence - an individual shoot-out between the two headline grabbers.

Galway's own self-styled DJ Carey however takes it all in her stride. A veteran at the age of 22, the others on the panel refer to her as 'Mammy'.

Since making her senior intercounty debut in a league game in 1990 (incidentally against Cork), she has come to bear the ever-increasing burden of expectation with cheerful resignation. It wasn't always that way though.

"There was a time when I used to get hot and bothered about it but not anymore," she says. "When you win you're everybody's hero. Win you lose they tend to blame you a bit more."

"It does put on a bit of extra pressure but I don't take much notice. I know that even if things don't go right for me I will score five or six points."

Any other player would say maybe a point or two, Glynn says five or six. In almost any other mouth, the words would sound recklessly arrogant. With Glynn, it's the simple truth.

As for the added pressure of enter-



PHILIP LANIGAN

ing Croke Park as All-Ireland champions she is philosophical. "I suppose there is a little more pressure on us this year. We are going back to Croke Park as All-Ireland champions so we have a lot to live up to."

After upstaging raging hot favourites Cork in the final last year, it's going to be even more difficult. "They reckon that we caught them on the hop last year. They certainly didn't play up to scratch and I'm sure that they will be trying a few different things this time. On the whole though I think we fully deserved to win."

So how does her much-vaunted scoring nemesis feel? Lynn Dunlea's semi-final exploits ensured she would share centre-stage along with her illustrious opponent.

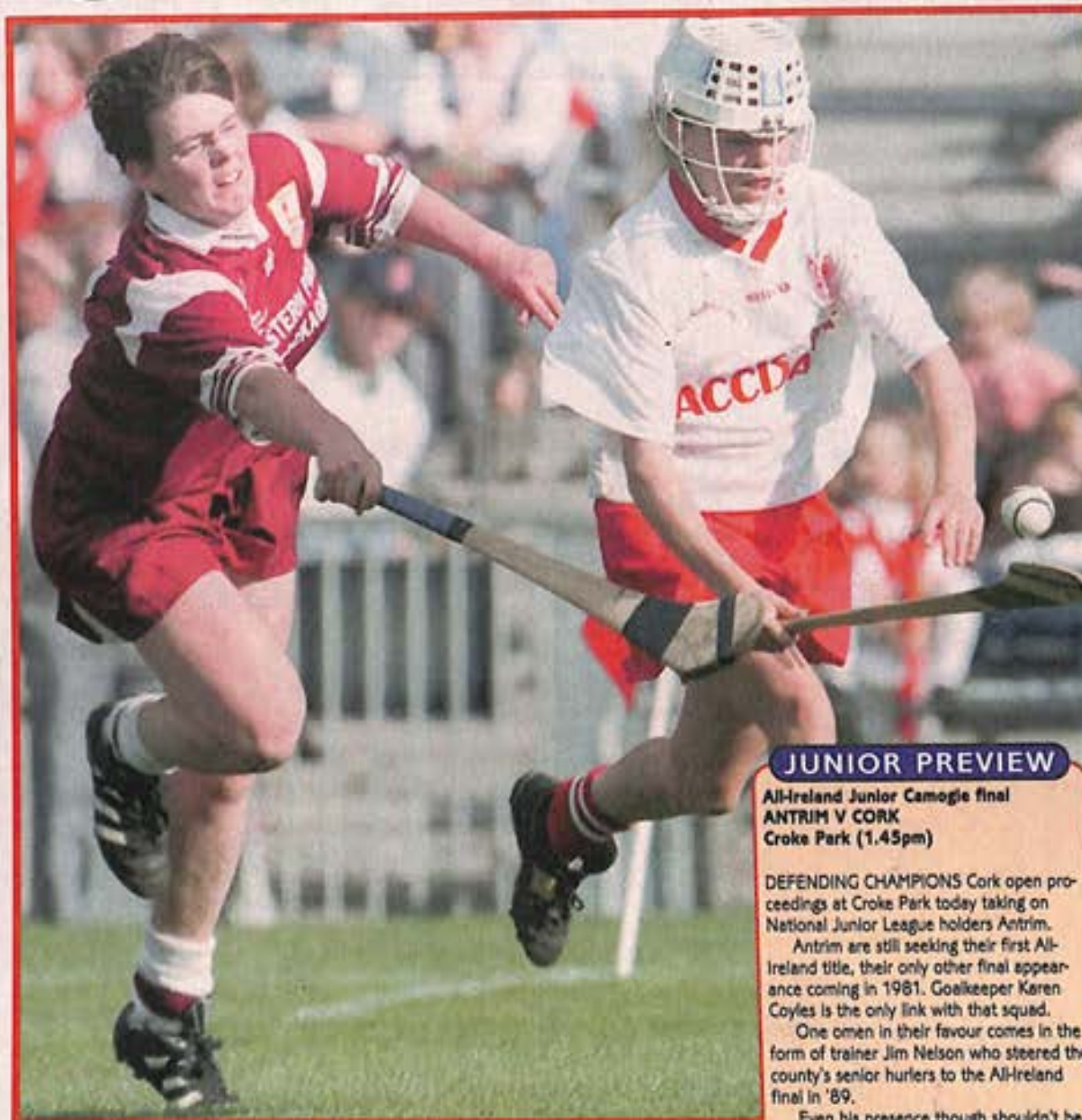
It's a situation she also appears to be unfazed by.

"It's a team effort," she insists. "A lot of other players scored in the match against Wexford so hopefully it will be the same against Galway. I had a great tally that day but the next day could be completely different."

Prompted as to whether she is ready for the fact that she will almost certainly be marked out for special attention she replies: "I think I'm ready for anything".

Twelve months ago Cork were red-hot favourites for the title. Despite nine final appearances, opponents Galway had yet to win an All-Ireland and after a 15-point drubbing by Cork in the league final three months earlier it looked ominous for them. Instead, it was Cork who failed to perform on the day, a fact which still galls Dunlea.

"Last year we were bitterly disappointed to leave it behind us. We may have been complacent going in and we just didn't play at all. I think that has made us even more hungry this year."



Sharon Glynn of Galway is out of hospital and fully focused on the task ahead of her today

This year they gained a measure of revenge in the league semi-final when they beat Galway 0-17 to 1-10.

Glynn however only has to cast her mind back to last year for comfort. "When we played them in the league they were flying fit and playing well. I don't think they improved for the final. We, on the other hand, had plenty of room for improvement which worked in our favour in the end."

Her confidence however is tempered by a deep respect for her opponents. "Everytime you play Cork you have to be worried."

While the focus then is fixed firmly on Glynn versus Dunlea, the likely scenario is that the final result will be decided by a goalkeeping error or a goalmouth scramble. Even if it is, you can bet that the two top scorers will be at the heart of it.

SENIOR PREVIEW

All-Ireland Bord na Gaelige Senior Camogie final
CORK V GALWAY
Croke Park (3.30)

THE EAGERLY awaited All-Ireland Bord na Gaelige Senior Camogie Championship final takes place at Croke Park today.

It brings together Galway and Cork in a repeat of last year's event. Though the Westerners carried off the title 12 months ago tradition still favours their opponents. While Galway appear in their 11th final, Cork enter their 32nd.

En route to the final the Munster kingpins defeated Clare by ten points and overwhelmed Wexford 3-22 to 1-7 in the semi-final. Meanwhile, Galway beat Armagh 5-23 to 1-6 and recorded a 4-14 to 2-11 semi-final victory over Kilkenny.

In that game midfielder Sharon Glynn played a major role in her team's victory with a personal tally of 2-12. Lynn Dunlea was the star of the show in Cork's semi-final tie notching up 2-9.

According to Galway manager Tony Ward: "All the work is done for this final. We may have taken Cork by surprise last year and they are sure to be ready for us. The winning of the All-Ireland last year has put camogie on a high in Galway."

Cork manager Tom Nott admits that his side are determined to avenge that defeat. "Things did not go right for us on the day last year and we have brought some young stars onto the team. UCC's Core Keohane has given a good performance all through the league in goals. Another newcomer is Sinead O'Callaghan who won an All-Ireland medal with St Mary's Charleville this year," said Nott.

Kilkenny captain Marina Downey who has played against Cork in the League final and Galway in the Championship semi-final says that Cork "are a better balanced side and if they can hold Sharon Glynn they will win the All-Ireland".

Galway, as champions, carry the tag of favourites but Cork look to have the necessary class and hunger to gain revenge.

JUNIOR PREVIEW

All-Ireland Junior Camogie final
ANTRIM V CORK
Croke Park (1.45pm)

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS Cork open proceedings at Croke Park today taking on National Junior League holders Antrim.

Antrim are still seeking their first All-Ireland title, their only other final appearance coming in 1981. Goalkeeper Karen Coyle is the only link with that squad.

One omen in their favour comes in the form of trainer Jim Nelson who steered the county's senior hurlers to the All-Ireland final in '89.

Even his presence though shouldn't be enough to stop Cork recording at least one half of what would be an historic double.

CORK: S. Nicks, C. Meaney, S. Buckley, M. Harrington, L. Kelleher, U. Troy, E. O'Sullivan, T. Roche, E. Kenneally (capt), C. Harris, C. Harrington, O. O'Donoghue. Subs: G. Casey, H. Kelleher, S. Buckley, E. Harris, V. O'Keeffe, N. Aherne, C. Murphy, K. O'Riordan.
ANTRIM: K. Coyle, B. McNeill, M. Connolly, S. McMullan (capt), M. Barry, B. O'Neill, D. O'Boyle, M. McMullan, A. McKim, G. McMullan, C. Higgins, D. Harteley, Subs: C. Doherty, H. Healy, O. Elliot, G. Connolly, C. McGarry, J. Adams, U. Cuthbertson, C. Nelson.
REFEREE: M. Connors (Louth)

GALWAY: L. Curry, O. Costello, O. Broderick, T. Lahan, P. Nevin, G. Maher, S. Glynn, D. Maher, M. Harkin (capt), I. Hobbins, D. Gilligan, A. Forde. Subs: O. Coan, V. Curtis, T. Maher, A. Hillary, P. Ryan, E. Hardiman, M. Ryan, A. Hardiman.
CORK: C. Keohane, E. Duggan, D. Cronin, S. Fitzgibbon, M. Finn, L. McElrick (capt), V. Harris, M. O'Connor, S. O'Callaghan, P. O'Driscoll, I. O'Keeffe, L. Dunlea. Subs: M. Keefe, H. Kenneally, E. Buckley, H. Deasy, S. Dunlea, U. Troy, L. Kelleher, L. O'Sullivan.
REFEREE: B. Phillips (Tipperary)

Cork camogie's captain fantastic

Even though Cork captain Linda Mellerick has won three All Ireland Camogie championships her dedication to the cause shows no sign of flagging as she faces into today's final in Croke Park, as **Ronan Goggin** finds out

LINDA Mellerick loved soccer. Had been fanatical about it all her life. But for most of her first year spent in Secondary school at St Patrick's, Gardiner's Hill, Cork, sporting recreation meant following the school's senior Camogie team, at that time one of the strongest forces in Munster.

At the beginning, she didn't play herself. Just enjoyed soaking up the smell of victory which was then in abundant supply for the school.

Then one day, just as she was thinking of joining a soccer club, she arrived home with news of a new departure. "I came home from school and told my mother 'I'm going to play hockey tomorrow'. I didn't even know what Camogie was." After Mellerick had discovered what exactly Camogie was, it became her staple diet for the duration of her school years.

In St Patrick's other pre-occupation's were pushed aside so that Camogie ruled. There were boys, too, but only as a complement to the main action.

A camaraderie that was formed in school developed and stuck. "We were extremely close," says Mellerick, "we used talk about Camogie morning, noon and night."

John Ring is Business Studies teacher in St Patrick's. And on the pitch that is shared with the Brian Dillon's club nearby, he brought the girls to train. Religiously.

"Every day he trained us. And if there was no training we went home sulking."

Mellerick soon settled upon a style that would characterise her for the remainder of her career. The long, dashing solo run forward that sliced defences apart, the roving around the field that made selection in any given position a pointless exercise for selectors.

"There was no position for Linda," recalls John Ring, "she'd run anywhere." Mellerick won three Munster Colleges Championships with St Patrick's.

The second of these was

played against great rivals North Pres while she was sitting her Leaving Cert, and John Ring remembers the game.

"It was a tremendous game. Pres were the favourites. Linda was instrumental in the victory," he says. There was one major incident, though, that still stands out.

"I remember, it had been a very close game, and Mellerick had been all over the place. Pres got a 30-yard free. And when the Pres player lifted the ball to strike it Mellerick had run up to block her down even before she had a chance to hit it."

"She had been back the required distance from where the free was taken. I've never seen anyone do something like that. She was a real winner."

St Patrick's lost the All-Ireland Colleges final that year, and Mellerick was devastated. So much so that she repeated her Leaving Certificate just so that she

6
As soon as we left school everybody left. But for me Camogie was always No. 1

could have another crack at winning the title the following year.

She grabbed the winning goal against St Al's in the Munster Colleges final of 1986, but again St. Patrick's lost out in the All-Ireland decider.

By that time, however, Mellerick had other things going on. She had already broken through to the inter-county scene and represented her county for the first time in a 1985 national league game. She was just 17 years of age.

The All-Ireland colleges defeat of 1986 brought down

the final curtain to a life of close companionship at school. While her club career would ultimately yield more success, nothing could replace the enthusiasm for the game that was held together by school.

They had been in it together through class room lectures, corridor chit-chats and lunch time scandal mongering. And now it was over. The transition from school to life after school was made more difficult by the bond that had been forged during Mellerick's teenage years.

There was no John Ring to lead them anymore, girls began to indulge in boys and late nights out, and many of them stopped playing Camogie altogether. Not Mellerick, though. Because she just loved it too much. She carried on playing on the same field in Mayfield. But this time for Brian Dillons.

"As soon as we left school and John Ring stopped training us everybody left. Maybe if he had stayed they might have stayed," she says, with a notable hint of nostalgia. "At 17 people started drinking, but for me Camogie was always No. 1."

Her commitment to the game has never been in question. During the period that came immediately after completing school, she recalls travelling to sparsely attended training sessions in Mayfield from her home in Passage West, a journey of some 10 miles. Some times she trained on her own.

The cause had always been of greater importance than any prevailing conditions, and she continued with her task regardless, making defences suffer whenever she decided to charge at them with one of her surging gallops.

When she chose to join Glen Rovers after two years with Brian Dillons, an avalanche of medals began to arrive. With the Glen, she won seven consecutive Cork county championships, five Munster championships and three All-Ireland titles.

Her inter-county career

was less fruitful until the Kilkenny duck was broken in 1992. Mellerick, in fact, competed through seven years from 1985 onwards without winning an All-Ireland title.

Kilkenny and the Downey sisters were queens of the era, and would not easily relinquish their crown. The victory in 1992 paved the way, however, for, deserved success.

"We knew we had to beat them once to overcome the psychological barrier, and we've dominated them ever since," she says. Today, Mellerick will line out to face a much improved Galway team that caught Cork napping in last year's final.

"We weren't mentally right. We had hammered them in the league final and we were complacent going into the game. Our mental attitude was all wrong."

So a victory today, then? Not quite. She has learned to be cautious. "Being psychologically right doesn't mean we're going to win, and they (Galway) have improved a lot." Linda Mellerick is still only 29-years-old, though her association with Cork Camogie seems to stretch back to the beginning of time.

As the big boys prepare to entertain 65,000 in next week's hurling final, a modest 15,000 will show up to see if Mellerick can captain Cork to their third Camogie title since 1992. But the spectator difference doesn't seem to bother her.

Actually, she asserts the positive and gives the impression that 15,000 is quite enough. "But you'd be amazed at the number of people who follow it even if they don't go to Croke Park," she says.

She has dedicated herself to Camogie since she was 13-years-old. She never misses a training session. Hasn't had anything other than Lucozade all summer. There's far more to worry about than spectator numbers.

Like the cause. Always more important.

All-Ireland glory awaits eager Keohane

by Tom Higgins

IT is everyone's ambition to win an All-Ireland senior medal but when you are trying for your first time, and endeavouring to become to first in your parish to do so the incentive is immense.

Such is the position of Cora Keohane of the Barryroe Club, who will line out in goal for the Cork senior camogie team against Galway in the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland final at Croke Park on Sunday.

Cora came into the side this season when Kathleen Costine, who has been

between the posts for the previous few years, decided to retire following last year's final defeat by the Westerners.

"I had my first outing with the seniors in the League against Tipperary when we fielded a very much under-strength side and left in six goals, which was not a good beginning. However since then things have gone much better and the winning of this year's National League title against Kilkenny was really the incentive we needed," she says.

"We also won the Munster Senior Championship against Clare recently," says the 21-year-old who is going into

her final year in Food Processing Engineering in U.C.C.

Cora has been playing camogie since she was about six years old.

"The first time I played in goal was in the I.N.T.O Skills Sevens during the interval of an All-Ireland Senior final when I was 12. Since then I have won Junior A and B County medals with my club in 1993 and 1995 and last year we took the Intermediate championship."

"I was also on the Ashbourne Cup team that brought the trophy back to Cork after a long absence in the 1995-96 college year."

Asked what she thought of their chance of winning the title this confident young lady replied: "Some of the players on the side had to wait six or seven years to win their medal and here am I hoping to succeed at the first attempt."

"We have trained very hard for the final — in fact we have been training all year — and if our concentration is right I believe we can pull it off, but it won't be easy as Galway, the champions, will not give up their title easily. We won the League title but the All-Ireland is the one we all really want to win," she says.



Cora Keohane: 'We can pull it off'.

Cork will start favourites to regain title from Galway

by Tom Higgins

TOMORROW is Ladies Day at Croke Park with Cork taking on the holders, Galway in the Bord na Gaeilge senior camogie final, and the Rebels opposing Antrim in the Junior decider.

Twelve months ago, Cork travelled to Dublin as hot favourites to retain the O'Duffy Cup — which they won the previous year against Kilkenny.

But it was the wearers of the Maroon who created a surprise by coming out on top by two points, 4-8 to 1-15, with a superb second half display, to gain their first title in 64 years, after having contested nine previous finals.

Cork will be anxious to make up for that setback, however, as they were considered to have played poorly on that occasion.

After leading 1-9 to 1-6 at the break, when playing against the wind, they lost their way in the second half and although they tried to come back in the final ten minutes it was too late.

With Kathleen Costine, Paula Goggins and Therese O'Callaghan having announced their retirement, Cork will have two new faces on this year's side.

Cora Keohane takes over between the posts from Costine, while Sinead O'Callaghan will play in the half forward line.

This means that the Selectors have to make a number of positional changes.

Denise Cronin drops back from the half forward line to take Paula Goggins' place at right back.

Irene O'Keeffe, who came on a substitute in last year's final and has played in a previous decider, regains her position in the half forward line.

Mary O'Connor, who was at centre half forward twelve months ago, moves back to centre field, to take the berth left vacant by Therese O'Callaghan.

Linda Mellerick, who captained the team when they defeated Galway 3-15 to 2-8 in 1993, will again skipper the side and will be hoping to repeat that performance.

She has already led Cork to National League and Munster Senior honours this year so she will be hoping to lift her third trophy.

The only injury worry was Mary O'Connor

but she was found fit to play on Thursday night.

Cork will again start favourites, having already defeated the Westerners in the League in Loughrea by 0-17 to 1-10.

But championship camogie is totally different and they know they will face a difficult task.

Galway also make three changes from their starting twelve of last year with Ann Broderick, Carmel Hannon and Veronica Curtin giving way to Tracy Laheen, Gretta Maher and Ann Forde — the latter taking the place of Curtin who is on the substitutes bench.

The Galway side is back-boned by member of the All-Ireland club champions Pearsons and will face the game with confidence.

Martina Harkin captains the side whose main strength seems to be down the middle.

And with Sharon Glynn in top form in the semi-final win over Kilkenny, she could create a lot of problems for the Cork

side.

It looks an intriguing decider, and whichever of the sides plays best on the day should win. Cork look the more balanced side and may just about shade it in what looks a close game.

Like last year, Cork will be seeking a double as their Juniors, who are the reigning champions, face Antrim, the National Junior League champions.

The sides met in the League semi-final with the northerners coming out on top but the Rebels have shown much improved form since then and will fancy their chances.

They have a young and enthusiastic side who have really proved their worth on their way to the decider.

They defeated Limerick in the first round and then disposed of Tipperary in the Munster final.

When they travelled to Loughrea to face Galway in the semi-final, few gave them a chance against a strong Western side.

However a superb display from Newtownshandrum's Caoimhe Harrington, who scored 2-9, gave them a one point victory, 4-7 to 3-11, after they had been a point down at the break, 2-5 to 1-7.

It was a truly remarkable performance as after last year's success Cork had to turn around and find a totally new side.



Cork's Vivienne Harris in training for the All Ireland decider tomorrow.

Tomorrow they will be relying on the likes of Caoimhe Harrington who was the star of St Mary's Charleville success at both Senior and Junior College's level over a number of years, Inniscarra Cliona Harte and captain Eleanor Kenneally from Newcestown to get the winning scores.

Antrim, will be seeking their first

title at this level, having competed in one final in 1981 when they were beaten by Clare.

They have been training hard under the watchful eye of former Antrim manager Jim Nelson who was in charge of the Northern team when they were beaten by Tipperary in the 1989 All-Ireland senior final.



Linda Mellerick: "Being psychologically right doesn't mean we're going to win, and Galway have improved a lot" APPHO

Cork to savour sweet revenge

Cork's defeat to Galway in last year's final was a cruel and unusual loss. This year will be different, says **Enda McEvoy**

**Bord na Gaeilge All Ireland Senior Camogie Final
Cork v Galway
Croke Park, 3.30**

IT WAS inevitable that Galway would make the breakthrough sooner rather than later. It was by no means inevitable that they would do so last year. Cork, frankly, should have taken the 1996 crown.

Consider this. Cork dominated the first half and were eight points to the good, and cruising, when they conceded a point and a sloppy goal

shortly before the interval. Then they returned from the break to discover that the referee had awarded Galway a point the umpires had signalled wide. Throw in the rake of late frees the holders drove wide from either flank and it is not difficult to conclude that their two-point defeat was a freakish result.

Galway triumphed in 1996 without what beforehand had appeared the *sine qua non* of a stormer from Sharon Glynn. Given Vivienne Harris's flowering this season for

Cork, Galway require Ms Glynn to be at her dashing, dominant finest.

This afternoon's affair is bound to be close, certain to be exciting and likely to be a classic if the referee tries to avoid overworking the pea in her whistle. With a rebel yell, revenge for Cork.

**Bord na Gaeilge All Ireland Junior Camogie Final
Antrim v Cork
Croke Park, 1.45**

Antrim are trained by Jim Nelson. That's good enough for us.

All Ireland Under-21 HC semi-finals

**Derry v Galway
Markievicz Park, 2.0**

The presence of Eugene Cloonan, Kevin Broderick, Vinny Maher and Alan Kerins should guarantee them success here.

**Cork v Wexford
Dungarvan, 3.30**

Cork have the skill, Wexford the strength. A toss-up, but Cork's hurling should see them through.

**All Ireland IHC semi-final
Derry v Galway
Markievicz Park, 3.30**

A non-cakewalk win for Galway.

O'Connor fit for camogie final

THE Cork Senior camogie team to face Galway in the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland final at Croke Park on Sunday was officially announced last night.

The hold up in naming the team was a niggling doubt about one of the players, Mary O'Connor, but she was found to fit to play.

The team is: C Keohane; E Duggan; D Cronin, S Fitzgibbon, M Finn; Linda Mellerick (capt), Mary O'Connor, V Harris; S O'Callaghan, F O'Driscoll, I O'Keefe; L Dunlea, Subs: M Kenneally, H Kenneally, E Buckley, M Deasy, S Dunlea, U Troy, L Kelleher, L O'Sullivan.

Cork juniors: S Ricken; S Buckley; C Meeney, L Kelleher, M Harrington; U Troy, E O'Sullivan, T Roche; E Kenneally, C Harle, C Harrington; U O'Donoghue.

Cork bank on new team

by **Brendan Larkin**

IT'S a testament to the strength of camogie in the county that Cork can field a completely new team for this year's junior championship and still reach the final for the second year in a row.

On Sunday they put their junior title on the line against Antrim at Croke Park, where the seniors of Cork and Galway will do battle for the O'Duffy Cup following the junior final.

According to selector Sheila Golden, the juniors have prepared just as hard as the seniors and it would be a marvellous achievement if they could bring off the double.

"Already this year our minors were in the All-Ireland final but they failed to Galway. Because we won the junior title last year we've had to field a completely new team, but there is such an abundance of talent around the county the selectors were fortunate to get another very good squad together, equally as committed as the last."

"We know very little about Antrim apart from the fact that they won this year's National junior league. They have never won the All-Ireland championship but their league success will make the very difficult to beat", said Sheila.

Cork will have the highly-talented Sandra Ricken in goal, along with the Harrington sisters from Newshandrum Caoimhe and Muireen, and Eleanor Kenneally, sister of former Cork senior hurling captain Pat from Newcestown.

Team coach Denis Dineen has moulded this side into potential champions, similar to what he did last year.



● **TITLE TRAIL**...the Antrim camogie squad which takes on Cork in the All-Ireland final on Sunday

Saffrons have to forget Croke to take home title

ANTRIM on paper look a stronger team and panel than Cork for Sunday's final in Croke Park.

Any ordinary meeting between the teams would normally result in a clear-cut victory for the Saffrons. However, this will be no ordinary game.

Firstly, it is an All-Ireland final and only two of the Antrim players have previous experience of such an occasion.

Mary Ceenolly had a winning debut in the 1979 senior final, while Karen Coyles was not as lucky two years later in Antrim's one and only appearance in a junior decider.

By contrast most of the Cork line-out has played in minor or colleges' All-Ireland finals though none of them in Croke Park.

Another factor has been the tragic death of Dan McMullan earlier this week. This is bound to impact on his two daughters. Although Jim Nelson is waiting until Sunday to make a final decision on his starting 12 in view of the death, it looks probable the players involved will want to play.

An All-Ireland final normally drains players. Grace and Mary McMullan have come through a traumatic week. Only they alone will know if they can take up the challenge.

Antrim looked shaky without Grace after she departed the semi-final stage with a broken toe, but the big plus was that the substitute grabbed enough scores to see their side through.

Niamh O'Reagan again fails to make the All-Ireland final line-out for Cork. Like a year ago, a late injury causes the problem.

Lisa Kelleher and Ursula Troy are double booked on Sunday. They will dash off after the junior game to join the panel of substitutes for the senior game.

In attack Eleanor Kenneally and Caoimhe Harrington will make life difficult for the Antrim wing-defenders.

However, Antrim's main advantage is their experience gained particularly at Ashbourne Cup level.

While they have spluttered to some of their championship victories - at times showing a lack of concentration - midfield is a strong line, defence has been quite tight all year, while the attack really only got it right for the National League final.

There was a title at stake then as on Sunday and Jim Nelson will have his players focussed to the task in hand.

Antrim have the potential to be champions but so too did Down in the

All-Ireland Junior Camogie final at Croke Park (Sunday 1.45): Antrim v Cork

league final.

With improved concentration, they can realise their potential and Cork will have to wait for the senior final to get near the silverware.

Mary Black (Armagh) (junior medallist in 1993) thinks Antrim should win.

"It might sound silly but they will have to forget they are playing in Croke Park. I think we did not do ourselves justice there in '93. We were much better in the replay.

"There is too much made about

getting to play in Croke Park, you tend to lose concentration because of where you are."

Sarah McNicholl (Derry junior medallist 1978) said "I tipped Antrim from the start of the championship.

"I have no doubts about their ability, as long as they concentrate on the game. You have to be disciplined to take in the atmosphere but still do the job. The atmosphere is much better if you finish the job."

Bonnie McGreevy (Down junior medallist 1991) said "It was always

going to be a case of whoever could beat Antrim would win the All-Ireland. They have been the best junior side this year.

"When we won, we drew on the footballers' success of the week before. Antrim can draw on their past. Remember that we all wish them success."

Cork: S Ricker, C Meaney, S Buckley, M Harrington, L Kelleher, U Troy, E O'Sullivan, T Roche, E Kenneally, C Harle, C Harrington, O'Donoghue.

Glynn is main threat to Cork

LAST year the goal-scoring opportunism of Denise Gilligan and Martina Harkin paved the way for Galway's historic first O'Duffy Cup triumph.

The result was celebrated widely within the county and further afield but many who knew what had been happening at underage level since the early 80s were less surprised. In fact, their wonder was why it took the westerners so long to make the breakthrough at senior level.

One of the problems was that they produced so many good players in such a short time that different managements tended to chop and change teams which led to some players giving less than 100 per cent commitment to the panel.

Last year, things just seemed to fall into place on the day. The goals before the break pulled them back into a

game they were in danger of losing and the green flags in the second half took them ahead of Cork and gave them the confidence to hold on.

Both sides show a number of changes in personnel from last year for Sunday's re-match.

Only Linda Mellerick remains of what looked like an invincible midfield. In comes Mary O'Connor and Vivienne Harris - Harris taken back from the attack.

The Leaside defence looks strong with Sandie Fitzgibbon in the pivotal centre-half position.

Up front Sinead O'Callaghan is preferred to Stephanie Dunlea but Stephanie's sister Lynn and Fiona O'Driscoll carry the main threat.

Galway have a new full-forward in

Ann Forde from Na Piarsaigh. She brings to five the number of players on the side from last season's club champions.

The most formidable though is centre-fielder Sharon Glynn who, apart from scoring 2-12, dominated the semi-final game with Kilkenny.

Tracey Laheen - again from Na Piarsaigh, is the new centre-back but otherwise it is an experienced line-out.

Cork's main problem will be in breaking down the midfield partnership of the Maher sisters and Sharon Glynn - particularly Glynn.

Cork know they were good enough to win last year and they bounced back to win the National League final in June. Many pundits reckon they are psychologically ready for the

challenge and that the 'revenge' factor is a big motivation.

Galway seemed to coast during the league, but remember this also happened a year ago. They did have a tougher semi-final than did Cork but are they as hungry as a year ago?

My vote goes to Cork to restore the "old order" but they will have to curtail Sharon Glynn if they hope to reclaim the Cup.

Galway: L Curry, O Costelloe, O Broderick, T Lashan, P Nevin, G Maher, S Glynn, D Maher, M Harkin (capt), I Hobbs, D Galligan, A Forde. Subs: O Coen, V Curtin, T Maher, A Hickey, F Ryan, E Hardiman, H Ryan, A Hardiman.

Cork: C Keohane, E Duggan, D O'Connell, S Fitzgibbon, M Finn, L Mollerick (capt), V Harris, M O'Connor, S O'Callaghan, F O'Driscoll, I O'Keefe, L Dunlea. Subs: M Kenefick, H Kinneally, E Buckley, M Dewey, S Dunlea, U Troy, L Kelleher, L O'Sullivan.



SISTERS ALL ... members of the Galway camogie panel, from left, Helen and Fiona Ryan, Colette and Pamela Nevin; Therese Dymyna and Gretta Maher.

Glynn down in the dumps over timing of injury and is doubtful to face Cork

—by Claran Tierney—

IT IS perhaps a bit disconcerting for a team to rely so much on one player, but the Galway girls would obviously be far happier to have a fully-fit Sharon Glynn on board when they run onto the Croke Park pitch for Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final.

Sharon is something special, a gifted free-taker and a strong force in midfield who is capable of dominating games. A regular senior since the age of 15, she has to make a tough decision tomorrow (Friday) evening about whether or not she can play.

Glynn has been receiving physiotherapy treatment all week, since spending all of last week in hospital in Ballinasloe, and the prognosis is not good. She has not even lifted a hurley in the last two weeks, which is hardly an ideal preparation for this repeat of last year's gripping final. If she does play, she will be defying medical advice and may cause herself long-term damage. If she doesn't, she cannot bear to think about what she will do on Sunday — because she has never been a substitute in her life.

"I could not bear to be in Ireland, not to mind Croke Park, if I cannot play in the final," said the Pearces midfielder, who claimed that she had contemplated leaving the country this weekend. "I have never in my life been a sub yet and I could not bear to think what it would be like to watch from the stands."

Glynn has been disgusted by the timing of her chest and lung problems, after

playing in every single game for Galway so far this year. "I am winded just from walking to the front gate of the house and the timing of this is pathetic," she said.

She claimed that Galway had come on "by leaps and bounds" since Cork beat them in the League and admitted that it would probably be an even tougher match than last year, when Galway escaped with a two point win.

It is going to be a hectic day at the Maher household just outside Loughrea, as

sisters Dymyna, Gretta, and Therese, are all involved in the camogie team. Meanwhile, brother Vinny will be playing with the U-21 hurlers in Sligo and John has a training session with the county U-14s.

"Hurling and camogie are in the blood, as a couple of my uncles played for Galway as well," said Dymyna yesterday. "We are sick listening about hurling all summer and the family are coming up to Croke Park to support us. It's an unfortunate clash,

though, as Vinny would have liked to have seen us in the final."

Dymyna revealed that she was unhappy that she had not made more of an impact against Kilkenny in the semi-final and the ten point hammering by Cork in the '93 final, her first year as a senior, was still fresh in her mind.

"Cork will always be really fit, whereas Kilkenny are a more physical side," said the 21-year old student. "I think we are more confident this time around, as we were the underdogs going into the final last year."

She also revealed that she had built up an almost telepathic understanding with Sharon Glynn over the past couple of years, with the result that she was anxious to see Glynn retain her place for Sunday's game.

Martina Harkin (23) has been honoured with the captaincy this year. Another member of the all-conquering Pearces side, who also won the '96 All-Ireland, she enjoyed the taste of success and has no intention of settling for one senior inter-county title.

"Last year's final was like a dream come true for us and we cannot wait to get back to Croke Park," she said. "We had nothing to lose and Cork thought that we would be a push-over, but it should be a lot different this time around."

With Glynn herself estimating that her chances of playing are "less than 50%", it is bound to be a stiff test for the champions. With or without her, they will have to show plenty of character if they are to see off a fired-up Cork side on Sunday.



Key players ... team captain Martina Harkin and Olivia Broderick.

Same Winning Score

Three Senior teams and two Junior teams had the same winning scoreline in All-Ireland Finals. In some instances, the score of their defeated opponents was also repeated. Mar seo a leanas tharla:

Na Sinsir

1949: Áth Cliath	8-06	Tiobraid Árann	4-01
1951: Áth Cliath	8-06	Antrim	4-01
1972: Corcaigh	2-05	Cill Chainnigh	1-04
1973: Corcaigh	2-05	Antrim	3-01
1983: Corcaigh	2-05	Áth Cliath	1-06
1987: Cill Chainnigh	3-10	Corcaigh	1-04
1989: Cill Chainnigh	3-10	Corcaigh	2-06

Na Sinsir

1974: An Clár	3-02	Áth Cliath	3-00
1981: An Clár	3-02	Antrim	0-07
1973: Corcaigh	4-04	An Ghaillimh	1-04
1980: Corcaigh	4-04	Tír Eoghain	1-04

No goal for the winners

On two occasions only, both in Cluiche Ceannais na sinsear, the winning team scored points only. The finalists were the same on both of those occasions.

1976: Cill Chainnigh	0-06	Áth Cliath	1-02
1985: Cill Chainnigh	0-13	Áth Cliath	1-05

Corcaigh v An Ghaillimh i gCraobhchomórtas na Sinsear

Na Captáin

1939	Corcaigh 6-01	Renee Fitzgerald
	An Ghaillimh 1-01	Peg Morris
1940	Corcaigh 4-01	Lil Kirby
	An Ghaillimh 2-02	Peg Morris
1993	Corcaigh 3-15	Linda Meclerick
	An Ghaillimh 2-08	Deirdre Costello
1996	An Ghaillimh 4-08	Imelda Hobbins
	Corcaigh 1-15	Therese O'Callaghan

Na Buaiteoirí go dtí seo

Sé chontae a bhuaigh Corn Ua Dubhthaigh go dtí seo:

Áth Cliath (26) — 1932, '33, '37, '38, '42, '43, '44, '48, '49, '50, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55, '57, '58, '59, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '84.

Corcaigh (17) — 1934, '35, '36, '39, '40, '41, '70, '71, '72, '73, '78, '80, '82, '83, '92, '93, '95.

Cill Chainnigh (12) — 1974, '76, '77, '81, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '94.

Antrim (6) — 1945, '46, '47, '56, '67, '79.

Loch Garman (3) — 1968, '69, '75.

An Ghaillimh (1) — 1996.

Injury to star player casts cloud over Galway hopes of retaining camogie title

—by Ciaran Tierney—

THE hunger built up over 63 lean years may have been satisfied on a glorious September afternoon last year, and yet the Galway senior camogie team are just as keen to retain the All-Ireland title when they return to Croke Park to take on Cork again on Sunday (3.30 p.m.).

Gone is the element of surprise from this repeat of last year's final, when the Galway girls lifted the title for the first time in history, and the consensus in the county is that they will have to be in top form to see off Cork for the second year running.

But their preparations have been hampered this week by a serious injury worry over star player Sharon Glynn, who spent all of last week in hospital with a chest complaint in Ballinasloe and was still unable to train at the time of going to press this morning.

Glynn, who has been receiving physiotherapy treatment since the weekend, is expected to decide on whether or not she can play tomorrow night (Friday). If able, she may have to take pain-killers — and defy medical advice — before lining out against Cork.

Her loss would be a huge blow to Galway. Although still only 22, she has starred for the county's senior team for seven years now and is regarded as the mother figure of the team.

Glynn produced a one-woman demolition job against Kilkenny in the semi-final, scoring 2-12 against the Leinster side. Her free-taking from all angles and general play in midfield have swung many a key match in Galway's favour.

But team manager Tony Ward pointed out yesterday that fit again Denise Gilligan and teenage sensation Therese Maher were waiting in the wings to boost the Galway attack, if necessary.

Therese's sisters, Dymphna and Gretta, are both strong performers in midfield, although both would obviously rather line-out on either side of Glynn, with whom they have built up a great understanding in recent years.

Gilligan, who scored a couple of decisive goals in last year's final, and Veronica Curtin — who missed a number of training sessions because of the Leaving Certificate in June — will both have important roles to play against the Cork girls on Sunday.

Gilligan could take the short range frees and Pearses defender Tracey Laheen, who starred alongside Pamela Nevin and Olive Costello against Kilkenny last month, can take long range frees. "Tracey would go through iron for Galway," said the manager.

Laheen is virtually the only new recruit to a side which has the benefit of tasting ultimate

success last year. The likes of captain Martina Harkin, 1996 captain Imelda Hobbins, and full-forward Anne Forde also remember the lean years when the Galway seniors were never taken seriously by the big guns of Cork and Kilkenny.

Cork have certainly changed their tune since Galway beat them by two points in Croke Park last September. "Things did not go right for us on the day last year, but we have added some young stars to this year's team," said Cork manager Tom Knott yesterday.

Into the Munster side come goalkeeper Cora Keoghane and young star Sinead O'Callaghan, while team lynchpin Lynn Dunlea — who scored 2-9 against Wexford in the semi-final — is bound to cause huge problems for Galway.

There is a great balance to the Cork side, with Linda Mellerick and Sandie Fitzgibbon looking solid in midfield, Dunlea a potent force in attack, and Mary O'Connor a solid presence at centre-back.

Cork were hardly tested when they saw off Wexford by 3-22 to 1-7 in last month's game, but they also have the benefit of a recent 0-17 to 1-10 victory over Galway in the National League to boost them.

History also favours the Leesiders. This will be their 32nd final compared to Galway's 11th, of which Galway have only won one. Cork have dominated camogie throughout the 1990s and enjoyed a ten point win over the Galway girls in the 1993 All-Ireland Final.

"Cork will be more prepared for us this year and they have a better team," admitted the Galway manager. "While we deserved our win last year, we



Watching brief ... Galway camogie selectors John Keane and Madge Kennedy.

did catch them on the hop for 10 or 15 minutes. They had already beaten us by 15 points in the League final last year."

Ward was keen to point out that the Galway defence had played well against Kilkenny and he claimed that Glynn would "bring the leg of the hospital bed with her" if there was any way at all she could play in Sunday's decider.

"It is going to be a tough battle for us, as nobody expected anything of us last year," said the man who guided Galway to their first ever senior success at this level. "But I believe that the players still have the hunger."

Camogie has gone from strength to strength in Galway

since Ward took over the county team in '94 and, while last year's All-Ireland win was sensational, he claimed that they were not satisfied with just one senior title.

"Tony Ward has given us heart, attitude, and determination, and we said that if we beat Kilkenny then this is our year," said current captain Martina Harkin. "Last year was a great experience for us and we cannot wait to get to Croke Park on Sunday."

It is a mammoth task for the women from the west, particularly as Cork are hell-bent on avenging last year's defeat in the final, but the Galway girls are perfectly prepared for another taste of glory.

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear

An-Réiteoir go deo atá i mBrid Mhic Philib, agus an-taithí ar an réiteoireacht ag gach leibhéal aici. Cuirtear fáilte roimpi agus Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear faoina cúram chéad uair di.

Biddy has refereed at all levels within her county and province as well as at national level. She has previously been in charge of All-Ireland Finals at Inter-Provincial, Junior, Minor and Post-Primary levels, and of Senior and Junior National League Finals. This is her first Senior Championship Final.

Tá Biddy ina ball de Lár-Choiste na Réiteoirí agus is í An Cisteoir ar a Coiste Contae féin. Is Oiliúnaí agus roghnóir í leis na foirne ina Club féin, Charles Sarsfields, agus le foirne an Chontae.

Ionadaí: Áine Derham, Áth Cliath.

CLUICHE CEANNAIS NA SÓISEAR

Máire Uí Chonchubhair is an experienced Réiteoir who has, like the senior réiteoir, Biddy, refereed at all levels within her county and province and at national level. Ní hí seo an chéad uair di bheith i bPáirc an Chrócaigh agus í i gceannas ar Chraobhcluiche na Sóisear.

Mary refereed the Junior Championship Final in 1991. She was in charge of the first Intermediate Championship Final in 1992, and refereed her second in 1995. Is ball de Lár-Choiste na Réiteoirí chomh maith í.

She is involved in administration in her own Club, Naomh Áine, and has held the positions of Cathaoirleach and Cisteoir of her Coiste Contae. Ina theannta sin uilig, is imreoir den scoth í Máire. Among her collection of medals is an All-Ireland Junior Championship one which she won in 1982 when An Lá won its first All-Ireland title.

Ionadaí: Seán Ó Muireasa, Tiobraid Árann.



Brid Mhic Philib
Tiobraid Árann



Máire Uí Chonchubhair
An Lá

Réiteoirí faoi leith

Ceist againn oraibh — could you name All-Ireland Senior medal holders who also refereed All-Ireland Senior Finals and who were also Uachtaráin Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael?

Freagra: Ba iad ná Éilís Ní Spealáin, Aontroim; Neans Uí Mhuirí, Aontroim, agus Máire Uí Loinsigh, Muineacháin, a bhuaidh boinn le hÁth Cliath. Éilís Ní Spealáin was the first All-Ireland Senior medal holder to referee an All-Ireland Senior Final. Máire Ní Mhoráin, an All-Ireland Senior medal holder with Corcaigh, is also a former Uachtarán. She was appointed on more than one occasion to referee Senior Finals, but, as it happened, Corcaigh reached the Final on each of those occasions.

CAMOGIE: rule changes needed to boost status

Ward's marvels at the ready

Cliona Foley

TONY WARD has heard it all before but it still gets right up his nose.

Nationally he would be as unknown as his rugby namesake is famous, but in Galway hurling circles he's immediately recognised as the man who managed them to their historic first senior camogie title last September after nine previous failed attempts.

But he still gets it in the neck. An elderly man sat in beside him at a funeral on Wednesday evening. "Unbelievable, just constantly knocking the girls. In his eyes hurling's a man's game and there'd be absolutely no changing his mind," Ward explained with a sigh.

Sporting sexism comes in even smaller parcels.

Ward was giving a hand at the Joe Cooney School of Hurling a few weeks back and a little lad, his eyes wide with innocence, asked him straight up at the public Q & A session: "But do you not be ashamed, training girls like?"

The Galway senior boss has a simple reply. "Look, I trained with men's club teams and the county juniors, and the commitment from women is equal, if not better."

The New Inn man jokes that he got involved purely by chance. A sub on the Sarsfields team which won their first All-Ireland club title in 1992, he got roped in by then manager Cyril Farrell when Galway reached the senior camogie final in 1993.

"Cyril wanted a big selection committee involved so I agreed. Then in 1994 myself and Colette Kennedy went for the job and I got it and I absolutely love working with them, they're brilliant."

Ah yeah, but it's 'wemin'. Tony, sure they don't train like the men and haven't the same speed and skills, blah, blah, blah.

"They just amaze me," is Ward's impassioned reply. "They'd die for one another on a pitch. I don't know what it is, women in a group, they get so close, so clannish. God help you if you do something to one of them because they'll die for their teammates but then, put them out in club games against one another and they'd tear one another's hair out. They're just so competitive, it's very peculiar," he laughs.

He is equally passionate

about the skill level which should embellish today's Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland finals at Croke Park.

"People have no idea! Sharon Glynn scored a point in Loughrea in the semi-final against Kilkenny, from way back under the stand and I'm not joking. DJ Carey wouldn't be in it. I'm not knocking DJ mind, he's a great player, but these girls are shooting into smaller, lower and narrower posts and people forget that."

"All these women can hit it left and right, carry it, tackle, the only real difference is that there's less contact but otherwise there's no difference and their commitment is just as good."

Ward should know. He's had Galway training four times a week in the run-up to today's huge rematch against Cork, including Sunday mornings at 9.0. "You'd want to have seen them last Sunday, we trained for two hours in torrential rain and there wasn't a word out of them."

Last year 10,235 people attended the gala finals, which produced some fantastic, fast-moving action but if camogie wants to expand its coverage and promotion, how can it attract bigger crowds?

First up, there's got to be some rule changes. Throw out a lot of the technical fouls that constantly interrupt the game's flow with disconcerting regularity. Hockey did it and radically improved its speed and flamboyance and camogie is potentially a far more exciting spectacle.

Sandie Fitzgibbon, Cork's five-time senior winner who plays her last game in the county colours today after an amazing 20-year stint, would definitely like to see contact allowed, though she is not sure if that should involve the equivalent of the male 'shoulder'.

"It's supposed to be non-contact but it's not," she explained. "Now, some referees are more lenient than others, and are letting it flow but that's no good if it's not controlled. If contact was allowed, and outlined very clearly, then you'd know what to expect and be far less frustrated and there'd be far less stoppages."

A fulltime PRO for Central Council and possibly others regionally, are among Fitzgibbon's other suggestions, as one who is constantly frustrated by the ongoing lack of equal media coverage.

But she has seen, as evi-

denced by last year's Galway/Cork thriller, huge improvements also.

"We were always encouraged to ground hurl, but now the kids can field brilliantly, they have all the aerial skills because they're starting at 10 or 11 and that has made the game really fast and exciting."

The wheels are moving, but still creak along at an agonising pace.

Ireland's top camogie stars still haven't seen the inside of the New Stand's modern dressing rooms, despite the fact that they have been in use by the men now for two summers.

Players are still identified by their male relations. Anne Forde is Eanna Ryan's sister, the Mahers are sisters of Galway senior Vinny, etc.

Still, Galway's Dymphna Maher, whose sister Gretta also plays in midfield today, has qualified in toxicology from Athlone RTC and recently went for an interview in the food science area in Ballina where she saw that women are finally getting the benefits long associated with male Gaelic stardom.

"Yeah, I think maybe my sporting achievements impressed them and helped me, and sure isn't it time that happened," she said delightedly about starting her new job next week.

You will not argue with any of them if you go to Croke today, where Cork and Antrim contest the junior final in a mouthwatering doubleheader.

The shooting of Lynn Dunlea and towering Sharon Glynn, the upfield clearances of Fitzgibbon and Linda Mellerick, the fielding of Fiona O'Driscoll and Veronica Curtin, the dashing solo flights of Mary O'Connor and Denise Gilligan... the skills are all there and the passion unquestionable.

Galway's Sharon Glynn, who scored 2-12 (a point more than the whole Kilkenny team in their semi-final!) was hospitalised last week with a lung muscle infection. Cork's O'Driscoll, who won football and hurling medals within weeks of each other in 1995, has a hand injury but both will play and that says it all.

Galway (Senior): L. Curry, D. Costello, D. Broderick, T. Lahern, P. Nevin, G. Maher, S. Glynn, D. Maher, M. Harkin, I. Hobbins, D. Gilligan, A. Forde.

Cork (Senior): C. Keohane, E. Duggan, D. Cronin, S. Fitzgibbon, M. Finn, L. Mellerick, V. Harris, M. O'Connor, S. O'Callaghan, F. O'Driscoll, I. O'Keefe, L. Dunlea.

Antrim (Junior): K. Coyle, B. McNeill, M. Connolly, S. McMullan, M. Barry, B. O'Neill, D. O'Boyle, M. McMullan, A. McKee, G. McMullan, C. Higgins, D. Healey.

Cork (Junior): S. Ricken, C. Meeney, S. Buckley, M. Harrington, L. Kelleher, U. Troy, E. O'Sullivan, T. Roche, E. Kennaally, C. Harre, C. Harrington, D. O'Donoghue.

An Chéad Chluiche Ceannais, 1932

Áth Cliath agus An Ghaillimh a bhí in iomaíocht lena chéile sa chéad Chluiche Ceannais. That first All-Ireland Final was played in An Ghaillimh. Corn Ua Dubhthaigh was accepted by the Áth Cliath captain, Máire Gill, who was, at the time, Uachtarán Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael.

Peggy Morris from Headford captained An Ghaillimh.

An scór a bhí ann ag an deireadh ná: Áth Cliath 3-2, An Ghaillimh 0-2.

Ar chomhscór

The first Senior Final which ended in a draw was between Áth Cliath agus Corcaigh in 1942. Áth Cliath a bhí chun tosaigh san athchlúiche. Aontroim agus Áth Cliath a chríochnaigh ar chomhscór i 1967. Aontroim, in winning the replay, ended a ten-in-a-row sequence of All-Ireland titles for Áth Cliath.

Corcaigh was again involved in a replay in 1974, this time against Cill Chainnigh. The Noreiders went on to win their first All-Ireland title. In 1980 and 1982 two consecutive finals ended in a draw. Gan amhras, bhí Corcaigh san iomaíocht ar an dá ócáid. Corcaigh defeated Luimneach in the 1980 replay, but lost to Cill Chainnigh in that of 1981.

Críochnaíodh Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear ar chomhscór faoi dhó, i 1989 agus i 1993. An Ghaillimh was involved in both of those Junior Finals. Cill Dara won the first replay and Ardinhacha the second.

Triocha bliain ag fás

Craobhchomórtaí na Sóisear began in 1968. Today's final is the thirtieth one at this level. An Dún agus Corcaigh a bhí ann sa chéad Chluiche Ceannais amach. An Dún won the inaugural title. Moira Caldwell and Mary Heelan captained An Dún agus Corcaigh, respectively.

Captaein den seoth

Tá áit faoi leith ag Máire Nic Giolla, Áth Cliath, i scéal na gCluichí Ceannais, agus í ina céad chaptaen ar bronnadh Corn Ua Dubhthaigh uirthi. Máire again led the county to success in 1933.

Kitty Delea, Josie McGrath, then a schoolgirl,

who was later to become Mayor of Cork, and Kitty Cotter led Corcaigh to their first titles in 1934, '35 and '36. Kitty and Joan Cotter were the first sisters to win All-Ireland medals.

Trí as a chéile a bhí ann arís nuair a d'imigh Corn Ua Dubhthaigh ó thuaidh don chéad uair ariamh. Marie O'Gorman, St. Teresa's, Béal Feirste, became the first winning captain from Cúige Uladh when Aontroim won its first title in 1945. Her clubmates, Marjorie Griffin, a native of Ennis, and Celia Quinn, completed the three-in-a-row.

d'Fhan Corn Ua Dubhthaigh cois Life ó 1948 go dtí 1967 nach mór. Aontroim amháin a sciob lei é i 1950 agus i 1979. Kay Mills, Áth Cliath, won her record 15 senior All-Ireland medals during that period.

Loch Garman, on its first appearance in the Final in 1968, won its first title, and Mary Walsh, St. Ibar's, became her county's first victorious captain.

Nuair a chéad-bhuaidh Cill Chainnigh an corn in 1974, ba í Teresa O'Neill, St. Paul's, a bhí ina captaen. Her sister, Helena, also won her first All-Ireland medal, while twin sisters, Angela and Ann Downey, won the first of their 12 senior All-Ireland medals each.

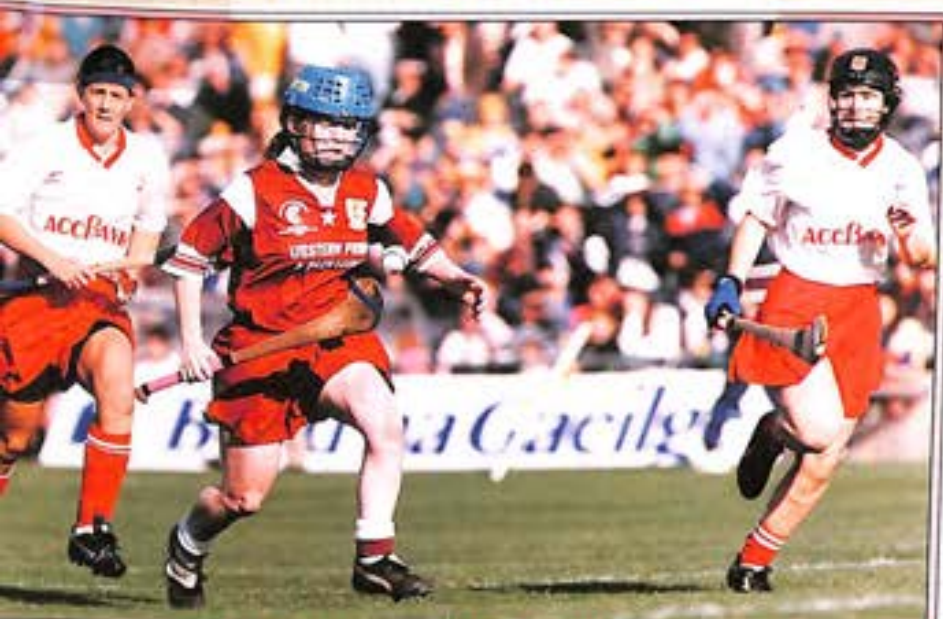
Idir Chill Chainnigh agus Corcaigh a bhí an corn go dtí 1996, ach amháin d'Aontroim i 1979 agus d'Áth Cliath i 1984. Having contested the first final in 1932, An Ghaillimh waited for 64 years for its first senior All-Ireland victory. Imelda Hobbins, Mullagh, became the first captain to bring Corn Ua Dubhthaigh to Cúige Chonnacht.

An Chéad Chluiche Ceannais i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, 1934

Corcaigh agus An Lú a bhí in iomaíocht lena chéile nuair a chéad-imríodh Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Corcaigh won the first of its 17 titles and, with victories in 1935 and '36, became the first Contae to win three titles in a row. Ba iad Kitty Delea agus Rose Quigley na captaein ar Chorcaigh agus ar An Lú, faoi seach.

An Scór:

Corcaigh 4-3, An Lú 1-4.



Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann, 1996

e Ní Ghiollagáin, An Ghaillimh, agus an shliotar ina seilbh aici, á leanúint ag Póilínín, ar chlé, agus ag Eithne Ní Dhuagáin, Corcaigh.



Cumann

**Camógaíochta
na nGael**

Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann



sa Chamógaíocht

Tá Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear faoi urraíocht ag

Sé de Bláir's
Ardrúnal

Bord na Gaeilge

Clár Oifigiúil

LUACH
£1.50

Craobhchomórtas
na Sinsear agus na Sóisear
Páirc an Chrócaigh
07 Meán Fómhair, 1997

Teachtaireacht ón Uachtarán

Is le fonn a chuirimse fáilte romhaibh uilig, idir ár gcuid
aidheanna speisialta agus ár loch leanúna uilig, go Páirc an
Chrócaigh ar ócáid Chluichí Ceannais na hÉireann. Go mbaine
sibh ceol as imeachtaí an lae.

Is mór ar fad againn é a Soilse, Máire Bean Mhic Róibín,
Uachtarán na hÉireann, agus a fear chéile, Nioclás Uasal Mac
Róibín, a bheith linn. Le linn di bheith in oifig, bhí Uachtarán na
hÉireann thar a bheith dílis do na Cluichí Ceannais sa
Chamógaíocht. Guimíd gach rath agus séan uirthi féin agus ar a
clann ins na blianta atá rompu amach.



*Máire Bean Mhic Róibín,
Uachtarán*

A special welcome is extended to our four teams, An Ghaillimh agus Corcaigh seniors and
Aontroim agus Corcaigh juniors, their mentors and County Board Officers. We look forward to
two excellent matches. All of these players have given much of their time and energy in
preparing for Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann, and we thank them and all of the teams which
participated in the Championships for the enjoyment and entertainment which they provide for
us. Go n-éirí go geal leo siúd agus leis Na Réiteoirí agus na maoir inniu.

Táimid go mór faoi chomaoín ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael as ucht a chuid tacaíochta leis na
blianta beaga anuas agus as ucht Páirc an Chrócaigh a chur ar fáil dúinn.

Gabhaimid fíor-bhuíochas le Bord na Gaeilge a bhfuil Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear faoi
urraíocht aige. Is mór ar fad againn é nase a bheith eadrainn féin agus eagra a bhíonn ag
saothrú de shíor ar son na Gaeilge.

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear

Ag casadh ar a chéile don tarna bliain as a chéile atá Corcaigh agus An Ghaillimh. Bliain stairiúil
don Ghaillimh a bhí ann anuraidh nuair a b huaidh an contae Corn Ua Dubhthaigh don chéad uair
ariamh. The counties are meeting for the fifth time in an All-Ireland Senior Final, with Corcaigh
contesting its 32nd Senior Final and An Ghaillimh its 11th. Corcaigh, with 17 Senior titles, lies
second to Áth Cliath in the titles list, while An Ghaillimh cherishes its history-making first title
of 1996. Corcaigh won its first title on its first appearance in the Final in 1934, the year in which
the Final was played in Páirc an Chrócaigh for the first time.

Corcaigh, too, is contributing to recent history-making events. Is í seo an triú Cluiche Ceannais
faoi urraíocht ag **Bord na Gaeilge**, agus bhí Corcaigh páirteach i ngach ceann díobh. An scór
céanna a bhí ag na buaiteoirí san dá cheann roimhe seo.

1995: Corcaigh 4-08 Cill Chainnigh 2-10

1996: An Ghillimh 4-08 Corcaigh 1-15

Corcaigh atá chun tosaigh ar an nGaillimh go dtí seo i 1997. The Leesiders won their seventh
Senior National League title during the year and defeated today's opponents in the semi-final.
Eight of the team scored in that meeting. Ba é an scór a bhí ann ná:

Corcaigh 0-17 An Chaillimh 1-10

Líon an-mhór de scóranna a bhí ann sa Chraobhchomórtas i mbliana. The two semi-finals
alone, between Corcaigh agus Loch Garman and An Ghaillimh agus Cill Chainnigh, yielded a
total of ten goals and 54 points. Ar na himreoirí a bhí chun tosaigh sa Chraobhchomórtas i
geoitinne bhí Sharon Glynn, An Ghaillimh, agus 4-26 aici, maille le Lynn Dunlea, Corcaigh, agus
2-14 aici siúd. Go raibh cluiche an lae inniu ar chomhcheim leis na cluichí eile a bhí againn i
mbliana.

Na Cluichí Leathcheannais, 1997

Corcaigh 3-22 Loch Garman 1-07
An Ghaillimh 4-14 Cill Chainnigh 2-11

Foireann Aontroma

1. **Karen Coyle, Ruan Óg.** She has represented Aontroim at Minor, Junior and Senior level. d'Imir sí le foireann Uladh. She holds a National Junior League medal, 2 Ulster Senior Championship, 3 Ulster Junior Championship, Maguire Cup and County Championship medals. d'Imir sí i gCluiche Ceannais na Sóisear i 1981.

2. **Brenda McNeill, Ruan Óg.** d'Imir sí le Mionúir agus Sóisear Aontroma. She won a C.C.I.A. Combined Colleges medal in 1992, and also has 1 National Junior League and 1 County Championship medal and 2 Ulster Junior Championship medals.

3. **Mary Connolly (nee McMullan), Loughgiel Shamrocks.** She has been playing for Aontroim for 21 years and has been selected for Cúige Uladh since 1979. Carn mór de bhoinn atá aici. Her collection includes 3 Ulster Colleges medals with Loreto, Coleraine; 8 County Championship, 5 Maguire Cup, 6 Ulster Senior Championship medals and 1 National Junior League medal.

4. **Sinéad McMullan, Cúchullain, Captaen.**

5. **Maureen Barry, O'Donovan Rossa.** She has represented Aontroim at Minor, Junior and Under-18 level, and has also represented Cúige Uladh. She holds Ashbourne and C.C.I.A. League medals, a National Junior League medal and 3 Ulster Junior Championship medals. Imríonn sí Liathróid Láimhe.

6. **Bronagh O'Neill, Deirdre.** d'Imir sí le Mionúir, Sóisear agus Sinsir Aontroma maille le Cúige Uladh. She won an Ashbourne medal with Queen's University, 3 Ulster Junior Championship medals and 1 National Junior League medal. She also plays Handball.

7. **Denise O'Boyle, Geraldines.** Is duine eile í a d'imir le Mionúir, Sóisear agus Sinsir Aontroma agus le Cúige Uladh. She is the holder of a Féile na nGael and Ashbourne medal, 3 C.C.I.A. League and 3 Ulster Championship medals, and 1 National Junior League medal.

8. **Majella McMullan, Cúchullain.** Is deirfiúir le Sinéad í. She has played for Aontroim at Under-14, Minor and Junior levels as well as for Cúige Uladh. She holds 3 Ulster Junior Championship and 2 County Championship medals, 1 Ulster Club Championship and 1 National Junior League medal.

9. **Anne McKee, Cúchullain.** Tá sí ag imirt leis an bhfoireann seo le cúig bhliain anuas. She has also represented Contae Aontroma at Minor and Junior level. Stór de bhoinn atá aici. As well as 1 National Junior League medal, she holds 1 Ulster Club Championship medal, 3 Ulster Junior Championship and 2 County Championship medals.

10. **Grace McMullan, Loughgiel Shamrocks.** Grace is a sister of Mary Connolly. She has played at Minor, Under-18, Junior and Senior level for Aontroim. d'Imir sí le foireann Uladh chomh maith. She has won 5 County Championship medals and 1 Ulster and 1 National Junior League medal.

11. **Caitriona Higgins, Loughgiel Shamrocks.** Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di ach d'imir sí cheana féin leis na Mionúir. She has represented Cúige Uladh at Junior level. She holds 3 Ashbourne and 4 C.C.I.A. League medals as well as a Minor, Junior and Senior County Championship medal. Cuireann sí suim sa pheil agus sa rince Gaelach.

12. **Deirdre Heatley, O'Donovan Rossa.** Ón gcliaibhán atá scileanna na camógaíochta inti. Her mother, Éilís McCamphill, won an All-Ireland Senior medal with Aontroim in 1956. Deirdre has represented her county at Minor and Senior level and has played for Cúige Uladh. Carn an-mhór de bhoinn atá aici féin. She is a Féile na nGael Skills winner, and holds a National Junior League, Senior County Championship and Ulster Club Championship medals, 3 Ulster Junior Championship, 1 Ashbourne and 2 C.C.I.A. medals. She also plays golf.

AONTROIM



Ar chúl (ó chlé): S. Mac Néill, D. Ní Bhaoill, S. Ní Mhaoldáin, captaen, A. Ní Mhórdha, B. Ní Colaim, M. Ní Mhaoldáin, G. Ní Mhaoldáin, B. Ní Néill, T. Ní Giolla Fhiondaín, Ú. Ní Uileagóid, S. Mac an Chroisín.

Chun tosaigh (ó chlé): Ú. Ní Bhrádaigh, M. Uí Chonghaile, C. Ní Fhearaigh, D. Ní Éalaithe, K. Ní Giolla Chomhaill, K. Ní Néill, C. Ní Dhocharaigh, M. de Barra, S. Ní Adaim, Á. Ní Aoidh, C. Ní Dhomhnaill.

Ag filleadh ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh ar lá na gCluichí Ceannais atá foireann Aontroma don chéad uair ó 1981 í leith nuair a bhain an Chontae Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear amach don chéad uair ariamh. Aontroim has six senior All-Ireland Championship titles, the last of which was won in 1979, the 75th anniversary of the founding of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael. Defeated by An Clár in the Junior final of 1981, Aontroim is to-day seeking its first Junior Championship title. Goalkeeper Karen Coyle is the only member of the team who played in their last final. Ba mhór ar fad aici é bonn Uile-Éireann a bhuachaint ar an ócáid seo.

Is í seo an chéad uair d'Aontroim agus do Chorcaigh casadh ar a chéile i gCluiche Ceannais na Sóisear. These two counties met on only two occasions in a Senior Championship Final, those of 1956 and 1973. Cailíní Aontroma a bhí chun tosaigh ar an gcéad lá agus cailíní Corcaí ar an dara ceann.

An-bhliain go deo a bhí ag Aontroim go dtí 1997. A first National League title went to the

county when it defeated neighbours, An Dún, by 5-12 to 3-16 in the Junior Final. Three points (5-12 to 3-16) separated Aontroim and to-day's opponents, Corcaigh, in the semi-final. Aontroim would like to emulate the feat of Cill Dara agus Ardmhacha which are the only counties to have won the Junior League and Championship in the same year. An Dún a bhí thíos ar arís i gCraobhchomórtas na Sóisear i gCúige Uladh. The Ulster champions went on to defeat London in the All-Ireland quarter-final and Ceatharlach in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Aontroim will hope that it is a case of third time lucky for them after two years of coming so close to the Junior Final. Chasadar ar Roscomáin ins na Cluichí Leathcheannais i 1995 agus 1996.

Both semi-finals went to a replay with Roscomáin winning each one by a single point. Ba mhór acu é corn an *New Ireland* a bhreith abhaile le i mbliana.

An Cluiche Leathcheannais, 1997:

Aontroim 2-11 Ceatharlach 1-8

Foireann Aontroma

13. **Carla Doherty, Geraldines.** Tá sí ag imirt leis an bhfoireann seo le ceithre bhliain anuas. She has played at Under-14, Minor, Under-18 level for Aontroim. d'Imir sí le foireann Uladh chomh maith. She is the holder of 3 Ulster Junior Championship, 2 Ulster minor Championship, 1 Ulster Minor, 1 Ulster Senior Club Championship, 1 Minor County medals as well as 1 Combined Purcell Cup medal. Cuireann sí suim sa cheol traidisiúna Gaelach.

14. **Hannah Healy, Deirdre.** Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di. She has represented Aontroim at Under-14, Minor and Under-18. She holds County Junior and Ulster Under-14 and Minor Championship medals. Is imreoir de chéad scoth í Liathróid Láimhe í agus carn de bhoinn buaite aici.

15. **Oonagh Elliot, Cúchullain's.** She has been playing with Aontroim for four years and has also played at Under-14, Minor and Under-18 level. She is the holder of 2 Senior County Club Championship, 1 Ulster Senior, Under-16, Under-14 and 3 Ulster Junior Championship medals.

16. **Gráinne Connolly, O'Donovan Rossa.** d'Imir sí lena contae ag leibhéal na Mionúir, faoi-14 agus faoi-18. Carn mór de bhoinn atá aici. Her collection includes 1 Ashbourne and Combined Universities, 1 Meachair Shield, 3 C.C.I.A. League medals as well as 3 Ulster Junior medals, 1 Ulster Under-16 League and Championship medals. Imríonn sí Liathróid Láimhe.

17. **Claire McGarry, Loughgiel Shamrocks.** She has represented Aontroim at Minor and Junior level. d'Imir sí le sóisear Chúige Uladh chomh maith. Her collection of medals includes 5 County Senior and 2 Minor Championships, 7 Senior Leagues, 3 All-Ireland Colleges League, 1 Ashbourne, 2 Ulster Championship and 1 National Junior league.

18. **Jane Adams, O'Donovan Rossa.** Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di ach d'imir sí cheana féin leis na Mionúir. She has 1 National Junior League, 1 Ulster Junior Championship medal and 2 Under-16 Ulster Championship medals. She helped her team to win Féile na nGael in 1995. She is also an accomplished Handball player.

19. **Ursula Cuthbertson, Loughgiel Shamrocks.** Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di ach d'imir sí cheana féin faoi 18 agus leis na Mionúir. She holds 2 County Championship medals, 1 Ulster and 1 Féile na nGael medal. She is interested in football and in coaching camogie teams.

20. **Ciara Nelson, O'Donovan Rossa.** Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na Sóisear di. She has represented Aontroim at Minor and Under-18 levels. She holds a Maguire Cup and an Ulster Junior Championship medal. Is imreoir den scoth at Liathróid Láimhe í.

SINÉAD McMULLAN Captaen

Tá Sinéad ag imirt le Foireann Aontroma le h-aon bhliain déag anuas. She has played at Minor, Junior and Senior Inter-County level.

Roghnaíodh ar fhoireann Uladh í. Sinéad was selected as her county's Féile Skills representative in 1984.

She is the holder of 1 Minor County Championship medal, 2 Senior County Championship, 1 Ulster Club Championship and 1 National Junior League medal and 3 Ulster Junior Championship medals.



Foireann Chorcaí

1. Sandra Ricken, S. Vincent's. Is scoláire scoile i bPobal Scoil Terence McSweeney í. She has represented Corcaigh at under-18 level. She has won Munster Championship honours at both under-18 and Junior level. She also represents Corcaigh agus Cúige Mumhan at under-18 and Junior level in tennis.

2. Clíodhna Meaney, Inniscarra. Is scoláire san Institiúid Teicneolaíochta i gCorcaigh í. She comes from a well-known Camogie and G.A.A. family. Her mother, Ann Honahan, won an All-Ireland Junior Championship medal with Luimneach in 1977, while her brother, Liam, and cousin, Liam Honahan, also wear the Corcaigh colours. Is neacht le Bob Honahan í. She holds a Munster Junior Championship medal.

3. Sabrina Buckley, Brian Dillons. Is scoláire scoile i Scoil Naomh Pádraigh í lena bhuaidh sí Sciath na Scol, Corcaigh. She has already played in an All-Ireland Final this year, the Minor against An Ghaillimh. She has won Minor, Junior and under-18 Munster Championship medals.

4. Muireann Harrington, Newtownshandrum. She is a first-year student at Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh. Tá an-chuid de bhoinn buaite cheana féin aici. She holds 2 All-Ireland Senior Colleges medals 1 All-Ireland Junior and 3 All-Ireland seven-a-side Colleges medals, as well as Cork and Munster Junior Championship medals. Is deirfiúir le Caoimhe í.

5. Lisa Kelleher, Newtownshandrum. Tá an tríú bliain bainte amach i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh aici. Lisa and her sister, Helen, are the second set of sisters on the panel. Lisa is also on the senior panel. She holds an Ashbourne Cup medal. All-Ireland Junior and Senior Colleges and County Championship medals.

6. Ursula Troy, Newtownshandrum. Duine eile atá ag freastal ar Cholaiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, i Ursula. She holds Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior

Championship and Gael Linn inter-provincial medals. Her uncle, Fr. Bertie Troy, guided the Corcaigh hurlers to All-Ireland victory.

7. Emer O'Sullivan, Kilbrittain. Tá curtha go mór le dul chun cinn a club féin aici. She helped her club to win the Intermediate County Championship. She also holds under-18 and Junior Munster Championship medals.

8. Tina Roche, Aghabullogue. Tina is another member of the panel who is a student of U.C.C. Gan amhras, beidh sár-fhoireann ag an gColáiste sin i mbliana. She has won under-16 County Championship, Cork Féile na nGael and Munster under-18 and Junior Championship medals.

9. Eleanor Kenneally, Newcestown, Captaen.

Eilleanóir Ní Chinnaolaigh Captaen



Ba mhór ar fad ag Eleanor é bena Uile-Éireann a bhuachaint inniu le cur leis an gceann a bhuaidh a deirfiúir, Hilda, i 1996. Hilda is on the Senior panel this year, so the girls are hoping for a double victory for Corcaigh. Tá líon mór de bhoinn cheana féin aici. She has won Intermediate and Junior County Championship, Munster Junior Championship and Munster Colleges Championship medals. She is, at present, Cathaoirleach of her Club.

Cuireann Eleanor suim i gcúrsaí spóirt i gcoitinne. She is an accomplished hockey player with the Bandon Club with which she has won Munster honours. She has won All-Ireland Junior honours with Corcaigh in football. Her brother, Pat, captained the Cork Senior hurlers in 1995.

Eleanor is a medical secretary at the Innishannon medical centre.

CORCAIGH



Ar chúl (ó chlé): U. Ní Throithigh, S. Ní Bhuachalla, G. Ní Chathasaigh, U. Ní Dhonnchú, C. Ní Mhaonaigh, C. Ní Airt, N. Ní Riagáin, M. Ní Arrachtáin, N. Ní Eathairn K. Ní Shuillrabhdín. Chun tosaigh (ó chlé): E. Ní Thuathaigh, C. Ní Mhurchú, V. Ní Chaoimh, S. Ní Aodha, L. Ní Chéileachair, K. Ní Riordáin, L. Ní Chéileachair, S. Ní Bhuachalla, S. Ricken, T. de Róiste, E. Ní Chinnaolaigh, Captaen, E. Ní Shuilleabháin, C. Ní Arrachtáin, E. Ní Airt.

Bhain Corcaigh an chéad Cluiche Ceannais agus an dara ceann de Chraobhchomórtas na Sóisear amach i 1968 agus i 1969. Bhuadar an Craobh don chéad uair i 1973. Four more titles were added in 1980, 1983, 1984 and 1996. Corcaigh also won the All-Ireland Senior Championship title in 1973, 1980 and 1983, a Senior and Junior double not achieved by any other county. Tá deis ag muintir Chorcaí cur lena stór inniu agus an dá Craobh bainte amach acu. Nancy O'Driscoll, the captain of the victorious Junior team of 1973, went on to lead the Senior team to All-Ireland success in 1978. She was the first player to captain her county to All-Ireland victory in different grades. Bhain Cally Riordan gradam faoi leith amach i 1973 chomh maith. Cally won Senior and Junior medals on the same day and was first person to do so.

Ait go leor, nárbh é an scór céanna a bhí ann ar an gcéad dá ócáid a bhuaidh Corcaigh Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear.

1973: Corcaigh 4-4 An Ghaillimh 1-4

1980: Corcaigh 4-4 Tír Eoghain 1-4

For the second year in succession, Corcaigh is contesting both finals. The victorious Junior team of 1996 moved on to Intermediate status so this year's team is a completely new one to that of last year. Mar sin, mór-éacht atá déanta ag an bhfoireann seo agus Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann bainte amach aici. Should Corcaigh win to-day, it will become the only county to retain the Junior title on more than one occasion.

Corcaigh, appearing in its thirteenth Junior final, has contested more finals at this level than has any other county. Corcaigh shares the lead with An Ghaillimh in the Roll of Honour. Tá Craobh na hÉireann buaite faoi chúig ag an dá chontae araon.

Le linn dóibh bheith ag triall ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh i mbliana, bhuaidh muintir Chorcaí ar Thiobraid Árann i gCluiche Ceannais na Mumhan agus ar an nGaillimh sa chéad chéim eile. Beidh fonn an-mhór ortha tús maith a chur leis an lá dá gcontae féin.

An Cluiche Leathcheannais, 1997:

Corcaigh 3-11 An Ghaillimh 4-7

10. Criona Harte, Inniscarra. She is a pupil of St. Aloysius school, an institution renowned for its Camogie history. Tharraing an-chuid d'iarscoláirí na scoile sin cáil ar an gcamógacht laistigh agus lasmuigh den chontae. Criona is already following in their footsteps. She has already won 2 Sciath na Scol medals with Cloghroe primary school, County Championship, Munster Junior and under-18 and Gael Linn medals.

11. Caoimhe Harrington, Newtownshandrum. She has won numerous honours with Scoil Mhuire, Rath Luirc. Her collection includes 2 All-Ireland Senior Colleges, 2 All-Ireland Junior Colleges and 3 All-Ireland seven-a-side Colleges medals. Ba mhór aici é ach bonn Uile-Éireann an duine a bheith aici féin agus ag a deirfiúir, Muireann, agus iad ag filladh ar Chorcaigh.

12. Úna O'Donoghue, Kilbrittain. Imreoir eile í Úna atá ina scoláire sa chlochar i Maigh Chromtha. She played in the All-Ireland Minor Championship Final against An Ghaillimh this year. She holds Munster Colleges, Minor and Intermediate medals.

13. Geraldine Casey, Inniscarra. Is scoláire ag Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa, Cloich na Coillte, í. She played in this year's All-Ireland Minor Final. While attending Clonakilty primary school, she won a Sciath na Scol medal. She has also won County Championship and Munster Championship Junior and Minor medals. Imríonn sí bac le Cúige Mumhan.

14. Helen Kelleher, Newtownshandrum. Má tá an-chuid scolairí ar an bhfoireann, tá múinteoir ina measc chomh maith. Helen teaches in Dunderrow primary school and is a past pupil of Scoil Mhuire, Rath Luirc, with which she won Munster Championship Senior and Junior Colleges medals. She went on to represent Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach, in C.C.L.A. competitions. Bhuaidh sí bonn don pheil leis an gColáiste.

15. Sinéad Buckley, Aghabullogue. Is scoláire sa Phobal Scoil, Áth an Chóiste, i. d'Imir sí ar fhoireann na Mionúr le Corcaigh i mbliana. She holds Cork Féile na nGael and Munster Junior and Minor Championship medals. She plays badminton with the Coachford Club.

16. Emma Harte, Glen Rovers. Tá bonn Uile-Éireann buaite aici cheana féin lena club sa Chraobhchomórtas Idirclub. She also holds County and Munster Championship medals. Her father, Patsy, played Senior and Minor hurling and Minor football with Corcaigh. A trainee accountant, Emma has to sit an examination tomorrow. Go raibh an t-ádh lei.

17. Valerie O'Keeffe, Kilbrittain. Tá curtha go mór le dul chun cinn a club féin aici. She contributed significantly to her club's success in the Intermediate and Junior County Championships. She holds a Munster Junior Championship medal.

18. Nora Ahern, Fr. O'Neills. Is scoláire Ardeistimeireachta i Scoil Mhuire, Mainistir na Corann, í, lena bhuaidh sí Craobh na Mumhan. She represented her school in the All-Ireland Volleyball final. As well as her Colleges medals, she holds a County Championship Senior B medal.

19. Córa Murphy, Courcy Rovers. Is iarscoláire den chlochar i gCionn tSáile í. She won an Intermediate Colleges medal with her school and also holds an under-18 County Championship and Munster Junior Championship medal. She is now a student nurse.

20. Karen Riordan, Glen Rovers. Is scoláire Ardeistimeireachta i scoil Naomh Aogán í. She has won a County Senior Championship medal with her club and is also the holder of Munster Championship under-18 and Junior medals. Bhuaidh sí bonn de chineal eile le linn di bheith sa bhunscoil. Karen was the only girl on the Scoil Oilibhéir hurling team which won the Roinn A Sciath na Scol final.



AONTROIM

Dathanna: Cróch agus Bán

Ionadaithe:

- (13) Cearúil Ní Dhochartaigh
Carla Doherty
Geraldines
- (14) Siobhán Ní Eolaithe
Hannah Healy
Deirdre
- (15) Úna Ní Uileagóid
Donagh Elliot
Cúchullain's
- (16) Gráinne Ní Chonghaile
Grainne Connolly
O'Donovan Rossa
- (17) Clár Ní Fhearraigh
Claire McGarry
Loughiel Shamrocks
- (18) Sínead Ní Adain
Jane Adams
O'Donovan Rossa
- (19) Ursula Ní Caibbeirín
Ursula Cuthbertson
Loughiel Shamrocks
- (20) Cara Ní Neighill
Cara Nelson
O'Donovan Rossa

(1)
KAREN NÍ GIOLLA CHOMHAILL
Karen Coyle
Ruan Óg's

(2)
BREANDA NÍ NÉILL
Brenda McNeill
Ruan Óg's

(3)
MÁIRE UÍ CHONGHAILE
Mary Connolly
Loughiel Shamrocks

(4)
SINÉAD NÍ MHAOLÁIN
Sinéad McMullan
Cúchullain's
Captan

(5)
MÁIRÍN DE BARRA
Maureen Barry
O'Donovan Rossa

(6)
BRONAGH NÍ NÉILL
Bronagh O'Neill
Deirdre

(7)
DENISE NÍ BHAOILL
Denise O'Boyle
Geraldine's

(8)
M AJELLA NÍ MHAOLÁIN
Majella McMullan
Cúchullain's

(9)
ÁINE NÍ AOIDH
Anne McKee
Cúchullain's

(10)
GRÁINNE NÍ MHAOLÁIN
Grace McMullan
Loughiel Shamrocks

(11)
CAITRÍONA NÍ UIGINN
Caitriona Higgins
Loughiel Shamrocks

(12)
DEIRDRE NÍ EITHLIGH
Deirdre Heatley
O'Donovan Rossa



CORCAIGH

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

Ionadaithe:

- (13) Gearáidín Ní Cheithosaigh
Geraldine Casey
Inniscarra
- (14) Leán Ní Cheileachair
Helen Kelleher
Newtownshandrum
- (15) Sínead Ní Bhuachalla
Sinéad Buckley
Aghabullogue
- (16) Emma Ní Airt
Emma Harle
Glen Rovers
- (17) Valerie Ní Chaoimh
Valerie O'Keefe
Kilbrittain
- (18) Nóra Ní Eathain
Nora Aherne
Ft. O'Neill's
- (19) Cara Ní Murchú
Cara Murphy
Courcy Rovers
- (20) Karen Ní Riordáin
Karen O'Riordan
Glen Rovers

(1)
SANDRA NÍ RIOCAIN
Sandra Ricken
St. Vincent's

(2)
CLÍODHNA NÍ MHAONAIGH
Clíodhna Meaney
Inniscarra

(3)
SAIDHBHRÍN NÍ BHUACHALLA
Sabrina Buckley
Brian Dillons

(4)
MUIREANN NÍ ARRACHTÁIN
Muireann Harrington
Newtownshandrum

(5)
LISA NÍ CHEILEACHAIR
Lisa Kelleher
Newtownshandrum

(6)
URSULA NÍ THROITHIGH
Ursula Troy
Newtownshandrum

(7)
EIMHEAR NÍ SHUILLEABHÁIN
Eimear O'Sullivan
Kilbrittain

(8)
TINA DE RÓISTE
Tina Roche
Aghabullogue

(9)
ELLIONÓIR NÍ CHINNAOLAIDH
Eleanor Kenneally
Newcestown
Captan

(10)
CRÍONA NÍ AIRT
Criona Harle
Inniscarra

(11)
CAOIMHE NÍ ARRACHTÁIN
Caoimhe Harrington
Newtownshandrum

(12)
ÚNA NÍ DHONNCHÚ
Donagh O'Donoghue
Cloughduv

CORCAIGH



Ar chúl (ó chlé): B. Ní Earchaí, E. Ní Dhuagáin, C. Ní Cheogháin, M. Ní Chonchubhair, S. Ní Cheallacháin. Chun tosaigh (ó chlé): D. Ní Chróinín, I. Ní Chaoimh, L. Ní Dholanléibhe, L. Ní Mhaoilgheiric, captaen, M. Ní Fhinn, S. Ní Giobáin, F. Ní Dhrisceoil.

AN GHAILLIMH



Ar chúl (ó chlé): E. Ní Argadáin, E. Ní Mhairtín, M. Ní Fhloinn, A. Ní an Bháird, Á. Ní Argadáin, L. Ní Chamhráí, T. Ní Laithín, G. Ní Mheachair, O. Ní Choistealbha, T. Ní Mheachair, S. Ní Fhloinn, O. Ní Chadhain. Chun tosaigh (ó chlé): C. Ní Annáin, D. Ní Ghiollagáin, A. Ní Loinscigh, C. Ní Dhuibhghíolla, C. Ní Cnámhín, Á. Ní Giollarnáth, P. Ní Cnámhín, I. Ní Oibicín, M. Ní Eardáin, captaen, O. Ní Bhruadair, Á. Ní Bhruadair.



Gabhtar buíochas le **Bord na Gaeilge** as ucht na hurraíochta

CORCAIGH

AN GHAILLIMH

Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán

Dathanna: Marún agus Bán

Ionadaithe:

- (13) Máire Chiallaí
Mary Kennick
Fr. O'Neill's
- (14) Hilda Ní Chionnóiláin
Hilda Kennelly
Newcestown
- (15) Eibhlín Ní Bheocháin
Eileen Buckley
Aghabullogue
- (16) Miriam Dheiseach
Miriam Deasy
Kilbrittain
- (17) Stiofáin Ní Dhoineilíbhí
Stephanie Dunlea
Cloughduv
- (18) Ursula Ní Theathigh
Ursula Tray
Newtownshandrum
- (19) Lise Ní Chéilleachair
Lisa Kelleher
Newtownshandrum
- (20) Linda Ní Shuilleabháin
Linda O'Sullivan
Ballynassig

- (1) **CÓRA NÍ CHEOCHÁIN**
Cora Keohane
Barryroe
- (2) **EITHNE NÍ DHUAGÁIN**
Eithne Duggan
Bishopstown
- (3) **DENIS NÍ CHRÓINÍN**
Denise Cronin
Glen Rovers
- (4) **SANDRA NÍ GIOBÚIN**
Sandie Fitzgibbon
Glen Rovers
- (5) **MÁIRÉAD NÍ FHINN**
Mags Finn
Fr. O'Neill's
- (6) **LINDA NÍ MHAOILGHEIRIC**
Linda Mellerick
Glen Rovers
Captain
- (7) **BÉIBHINN NÍ EARCHAÍ**
Vivienne Harris
Bishopstown
- (8) **MÁIRE NÍ CHONCHUBHAIR**
Mary O'Connor
Killeagh
- (9) **SINÉAD NÍ CHEALLACHÁIN**
Sinéad O'Callaghan
Ballygran
- (10) **FIONA NÍ DHRISCEOIL**
Fiona O'Driscoll
Fr. O'Neill's
- (11) **IRENE NÍ CHAOIMH**
Irene O'Keefe
Inniscarra
- (12) **LYNN NÍ DHOINHLÉIBHE**
Lynn Dunlea
Cloughduv

- (1) **LAOISE NÍ CHAMHRAÍ**
Louise Curry
Na Píarsaigh
- (2) **OLIBHE NÍ CHOISTEALBHA**
Olive Costelloe
Sarsfields
- (3) **OILIBHE NÍ BHRUADAIR**
Olivia Broderick
Davitts
- (4) **TRACY NÍ LAITHÍN**
Tracey Laheen
Na Píarsaigh
- (5) **PAMELA NÍ CHNÁIMHÍN**
Pamela Nevin
Mullagh
- (6) **GRETta NÍ EARCÁIN**
Gretta Maher
Shamrocks
- (7) **SHARON NÍG FHLOINN**
Sharon Glynn
Na Píarsaigh
- (8) **DYMPHNA NÍ MHEACHAIR**
Dymphna Maher
Shamrocks
- (9) **MARTINA NÍ EARCÁIN**
Martina Harkin
Na Píarsaigh
Captain
- (10) **IMELDA NÍ OIBICÍN**
Imelda Hobbins
Mullagh
- (11) **DENIS NÍ GHIOLLAGÁIN**
Denis Gilligan
Croughwell
- (12) **ÁINE MHCÍ GILLARNÁTH**
Anne Forde
Na Píarsaigh

Ionadaithe:

- (13) Oibhe Ní Chodhain
Olivia Coen
Mullagh
- (14) Veronica Ní Cuirín
Veronica Curtin
Croughwell
- (15) Treasa Ní Mheachair
Theresa Maher
Shamrocks
- (16) Áine Ní Irle
Aine Hillary
Na Píarsaigh
- (17) Fíona Ní Ríain
Fiona Ryan
Shamrocks
- (18) Eimhear Ní Argadáin
Emer Hardiman
Mullagh
- (19) Léan Ní Ríain
Helen Ryan
Shamrocks
- (20) Áine Ní Argadáin
Aine Hardiman
Mullagh

Gabhtar buíochas le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael a chuir Páirc an Chrócaigh ar fáil dúinn

Sinsir Chorcaí

1. Cora Keohane, Barryroe. Is í seo an chéad bhliain ar fhoireann na sinsear di. She is the first player from the Barryroe Club to play with Sinsir Chorcaí. She won an Ashbourne Cup medal with U.C.C. She holds Junior and Intermediate Club Championship medals.

2. Eithen Duggan, Bishopstown. Is í seo an triú bliain leis na Sinsir di. She captained her club to its first Senior Club Championship title. She also holds 1 All-Ireland Senior Championship medal and Munster Senior, Minor and National League medals. A physio-therapist by profession, she is the daughter of former Bishopstown and Corcaigh stalwart Phil Duggan.

3. Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers. Bhí sí ina captaen ar Chorcaigh i 1995 nuair a bhuaidh siad Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear. She has won All-Ireland Senior Club and seven-a-side and National League medals. She captained Cúige Mumhan to Gael Linn success.

4. Sandie Fitzgibbon, Glen Rovers. Is imreoir den chéad scoth í. She holds All-Ireland Senior, Junior, Minor, Colleges and Gael Linn Championship medals. She is the recipient of two National Irish Bank Awards. Sár imreoir i sa Chispheil.

5. Mags Finn, Fr. O'Neill's. Is leictreoir í. She has among her collection of medals Club and County, Gael Linn Senior and Junior, Munster Senior and Junior Championship and All-Ireland Senior Championship.

6. Linda Mellerick, Glen Rovers. Captaen.

7. Vivienne Harris, Bishopstown. Is í seo an triú bliain di ar fhoireann na Sinsear. She won her first Senior Club Championship medal recently. A Féile na nGael skills winner in 1992, she has also won All-Ireland Senior Championship, National League and Gael

Linn medals. She is a Munster Sports Star Award recipient.

8. Mary O'Connor, Killeagh. Bhí sí ina hoiliúnaí agus roghnóir ar fhoireann na Mionúr a bhain Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann amach i mbliana. Her second year on the senior team, she is the holder of National League and Munster Senior and Junior medals.

9. Sinéad O'Callaghan, Ballyagran, Luimneach. Is í seo an dara bliain di ar fhoireann na Sinsear. She won All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges medals with Scoil Mhuire, Rath Luirc and National League and Munster Junior Championship medals.

10. Fiona O'Driscoll, Fr. O'Neill's. She was trainer to the Cork Minor team which reached the All-Ireland Final this year. She captained Coláiste na hOllscoile, Luimneach, and the Combined Colleges teams to success in 1995. Is imreoir den chéad scoth í.

11. Irene O'Keeffe, Inniscarra. Is í seo an seachtú bliain di leis na Sinsir agus d'imir sí leis na Sóisir agus na Mionúir. She captained her club to Senior B honours last season and was the recipient of the Player of the Match Award in 1992.

12. Lynn Dunlea, Cloughduv. She holds Gael Linn, All-Ireland Senior Championship and National League medals. She has received the Jurys Award on two occasions. Is iar-scoláire de Choláiste Mhuire gan Smál, Luimneach, i.

13. Mary Kenefick, Fr. O'Neill's. d'imir sí leis an gColáiste Réigiúnach Teicneolaíochta i bPortláirge. A winner of an All-Ireland Junior Championship medal last year she also has Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior Championship and Intermediate and Senior B Club Championship medals.

14. Hilda Kenneally, Newcestown. d'imir sí ar fhoireann Shóisearach Chorcaí anuraidh, nuair a bhuaidh Corcaigh an Craobhchomórtas. She also holds Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior Championship and Gael Linn Senior and Junior medals. Her brother Pat captained the Cork senior hurlers in 1994 and her sister Eleanor is the captain of the Cork Junior team today.

15. Eileen Buckley, Aghabullogue. Cosúil le Hilda d'imir sí leis na Sóisear anuraidh. She was recipient of the Junior Player of the Match Award last year. She has numerous medals including Munster Junior Championship, Gael Linn, Senior National League and Junior and Intermediate Club Championship medals.

16. Miriam Deasy, Kilbrittain. An triú bliain ar fhoireann na Sinsear di. She holds All-Ireland Senior Championship, Senior National League, Gael Linn and Munster Senior and Junior medals.

17. Stephanie Dunlea, Cloughduv. A holder of Corn Púirséil and Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde medals, she played on the Combined Universities team. She also holds Senior County, Munster Club Championship and All-Ireland Senior Championship medals. Is deirfiúir i le Lynn.

18. Ursula Troy, Newtownshandrum. Tá sí ar fhoireann na Sóisear inniu. Is scoláire i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, í. She holds Senior National League, Munster Senior and Junior Championship and Gael Linn medals.

19. Lisa Kelleher, Newtownshandrum. Cosúil le Ursula, tá Lisa ag imirt ar fhoireann na Sóisear inniu. She won an Ashbourne Cup

medal with Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh. She is the holder of All-Ireland Junior and Senior Colleges and County Championship medals.

20. Linda O'Sullivan, Ballinhassig. Bhí sí ina lán-tosach ar fhoireann na Sóisear anuraidh nuair a bhuaidh Corcaigh an Craobhchomórtas. She also holds Munster Junior and Under 18 Championship, Senior National League and Gael Linn medals.

Linda Ní Mhaolghéiric,

Captaen

Bhí Linda ina captaen ar Chorcaigh i 1993 nuair a bhuaidh Corcaigh Craobhchomórtas na hÉireann. Bhí



Corcaigh agus An Ghaillimh in iomaíocht lena chéile ar an lá sin. Linda also captained Glen Rovers when the club won its historic 7-in-a-row Corcaigh Senior Championship in 1996. She is a past pupil of St. Patrick's, Corcaigh, where she won an All-Ireland Colleges medal.

Linda was the recipient of the National Irish Bank Award in 1993, and she received the Jury's Sports Award for September in the same year. Linda was a member of the 1988 "Rest of Ireland" team.

Among her collection of medals she has All-Ireland Minor, Junior, Senior and Club Championship medals together with an All-Ireland seven-a-side medal.

Is captaen den chéad scoth í agus ba mhór ar fad aici le glacadh le Corn Ua Dubhtaigh inniu.

SINSIR NA GAILLIMHE

1. Louise Curry, Na Piarraigh. Is í seo an dara bliain ar fhoireann na Sinsir di. Louise holds an All-Ireland Senior Championship medal, an Intermediate Championship medal, which she won with Áth Cliath, Gael Linn medals with Cúige Laighean, and an All-Ireland Club Championship medal with Na Piarraigh. Chuir sí lena stór le linn di bbeith ina scoláire sa Choláiste Réigiúnach Teicneolaíochta i bPortlárige. She won 3 Purcell Cup, C.C.I.A. League and Combined Colleges medals.

2. Olive Costello, Sarsfields. She has won an All-Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor medal with An Ghaillimh as well as Senior and Junior national League medals. Bhuaidh sí a thuilleadh le linn di bbeith ar scoil agus ag an Tríú léibhéil. She holds 4 Senior and 1 Junior All-Ireland Colleges Championship medals, wn with Naomh Rafael, and a Pucell Cup medal.

3. Olivia Broderick, Davitts. Is iar-scoláire de Choláiste na hOilscoile, An Ghaillimh, í. While a student, she won Comórtas Mhic Giolla Bhide with U.C.G. Prior to this she has won 4 Senior and 2 Junior All-Ireland Colleges medals with Naomh Rafael. She holds 1 All-Ireland Senior Championship medal and 2 All-Ireland Club seven-a-side medals.

4. Tracey Laheen, Na Piarraigh. Bhí sí ar fhoireann na Gaillimhe a bhian Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann amach i 1993. She has won an All-Ireland Senior Championship medal and an All-Ireland Club Championship medal as well as a Féile na nGael medal. Ghnóthaigh sí bonn Uile-Éireann sa sacar chomh maith.

5. Pamela Nevin, Mullagh. Iar-scoláire eile de chuid Naomh Rafael í lenar bhuaidh sí seach: mbotin Uile-Éireann ar fad. She also holds an All-Ireland Senior Championship, All-Ireland Club Championship, Senior National League and All-Ireland seven-a-side medal.

6. Gretta Maher, Shamrocks. Bhí sí ina captaen ar fhoireann na Mionúr a bhuaidh Craobhchomórtas na hÉireann i 1994. She has also won 1 All-Ireland Junior Championship, 1 Junior Gael Linn and 1 Junior National League medal. Her sister, Dympna, plays on the opposite wing in midfield.

7. Sharon Glynn, Na Piarraigh. Is iar-scoláire de Naomh Cuan, Gallach, í lenar bhuaidh sí Craobh Chonnacht leis na Sinsir agus na Sóisir. She holds 1 All-Ireland Senior Championship, 1 National Senior League, 1 All-Ireland Club Championship and 1 All-Ireland seven-a-side medal. She has also won an All-Ireland soccer medal.

8. Dympna Maher, Shamrocks. Mór-charm de bhoinn atá cruinnithe aici ó bhí sí ar scoil. She is the holder of 4 All-Ireland Senior Colleges Championship medals, 2 All-Ireland Colleges seven-a-side medals and 1 Gairmscoileanna medal. She also holds 1 All-Ireland Senior Championship and 1 Senior National League medal.

9. Martina Harkin, Na Piarraigh. Captaen.

10. Imelda Hobbins, Mullagh. Beidh cuimhne go deo ar Imelda agus í ar an gcéad chaptaen a thóg Corn Ua Dubhthaigh abhaile go Cúige Connacht. She had now added an All-Ireland Senior Championship medal to her considerable store. She won 5 All-Ireland Senior and 2 All-Ireland Junior Colleges medals with Naomh Rafael, and All-Ireland Championship medals at Minor, Junior and Club level. Bhí sí ar fhoireann na Gaillimhe a bhuaidh Sraithchomórtas na Sinsir i 1994.

11. Denise Gilligan, Craughwell. She won the Player of the Match award for her performance in the 1996 Senior Final. As well as her Senior All-Ireland medal, she also holds a Junior and Minor Championship, a Junior Gael Linn and a National League medal. Tá dhá bhon de chuid na nGairmscoileanna chomh maith aici.

12. Anne Forde, Na Piarraigh. Bhí sí ina ball de fhoireann na Gaillimhe a bhuaidh Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear i 1985. A former Féile na nGael Skills winner, she has since added an All-Ireland Minor, Junior and Senior Championship medal, a Senior and Junior National League medal and an All-Ireland Club seven-a-side medal to her collection.

13. Olivia Coen, Mullagh. Is iar-scoláire de Ghairmscoil Naomh Bríd í lenar bhuaidh sí bonn Uile-Éireann. She won 5 All-Ireland medals with her school and captained the team in 1995. She has also won an All-Ireland Senior Championship and an All-Ireland Club Championship medal.

14. Veronica Curtin, Craughwell. Bhí sí ar an duine ab óige anuraidh, agus sé bhliain déag slánaithe aici, nuair a bhuaidh An Ghaillimh an Cluiche Ceannais. She has won All-Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor Championship medals and was the Player of the Match in both the Minor and Junior Finals of 1994. Veronica has a special association with Corn Ua Dubhthaigh as, earlier this year, she brought the cup on behalf of An Ghaillimh to Cill a 'Bhaile, Contae Mhuigheo, the birthplace of Seaghan Ua Dubhthaigh. A commemorative plaque to Seaghan was unveiled in the local primary school. Ba mhór ag iar-imreoirí Mhuigheo agus ag Veronica casadh ar a chéile ar an ócáid stairiúil sin.

15. Therese Maher, Shamrocks. Tá bonn Uile-Éireann buaite cheana féin i mbliana aici agus í ina captaen ar fhoireann na Mionúr a bhuaidh Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann. She is a sister of Gretta and Dympna. She has won 5 All-Ireland Colleges medals and an All-Ireland Junior Volleyball medal.

16. Áine Hillary, Na Piarraigh. Is iar-imreoir le foireann na Mionúr agus na Sóisear í. She is the winner of an All-Ireland Senior Championship, All-Ireland Club Championship and Féile na nGael medal.

17. Fiona Ryan, Shamrocks. Is cúpla iad Fiona agus Helen. Should An Ghaillimh win today, the sisters will join Peg agus Kathleen Dooley, Aontroim, agus Angela agus Ann

Downey, Cill Chainnigh, as All-Ireland Senior medal-winning twins. Fiona already holds an All-Ireland Junior Championship, a Senior and Junior National League, and a Junior Gael Linn medal. Tá dhá bhonn Uile-Éireann de chuid na nGairmscoileanna maille le bonn C.C.I.A. aici.

18. Emer Hardiman, Mullagh. She was honoured by An Ghaillimh in 1991 as her county's Camogie Player of the Year. Tá Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear buaite lena contae aici. She also holds All-Ireland Colleges and Vocational Schools medals.

19. Helen Ryan, Shamrocks. An leathchúpla, ba mhór ar fad aici é go mbeadh bonn an duine aici féin agus ag Fiona inniu. Helen has already won an All-Ireland Junior Championship and National Senior League medal as well as Colleges and Vocational Schools medals.

20. Ann Hardiman, Mullagh. Is iar-scoláire de chuid Naomh Rafael í. She is the holder of All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges medals as well as All-Ireland Senior, Junior and Club Championship medals.

Martina Ní Earcáin, Captaen.

Bhí Martina ina leaththosach ar fhoireann na Gaillimhe a bhuaidh Corn Ua Dubhthaigh i 1996. Ins an ionad céanna atá sí i mbliana.

As well as her Senior All-Ireland Championship medal, Martina won an All-Ireland Junior Championship medal with An Ghaillimh in 1994. Bhí sí ina leaththosach ar an ócáid sin chomh maith. She played on the An Ghaillimh team which drew with Ardmhacha in the Junior Final of 1993. Bhí an bua ag Ardmhacha san athcluiche. She was on the Na Piarraigh team which won Craobhchomórtas Idirclub na hÉireann for the first time in 1996. Martina served on An Lárchoiste Oiliúna and qualified this year as a Level 1 Coach.

Beidh fonn uirthi Corn Ua Dubhthaigh a bhreith ar ais go dtí Cathair na dTreabh le.



Focused Cork take title back from Galway

IT WILL not be remembered as the greatest All-Ireland camogie final ever played, but the satisfaction for Cork in winning their 18th title, before a crowd of 10,212 at Croke Park yesterday, was unmistakable.

Weathering a storm of Galway onslaughts in the closing 10 minutes had been an achievement in itself. Avenging last year's defeat by Galway was sheer joy for the team — and for the supporters it was a delight to watch the skills of goalkeeper Cora Keohane, defenders Denise Cronin and Sandie Fitzgibbon, garnished by the delicate scoring touches of Lynn Dunlea.

Dunlea, the schoolteacher from Cloughduv, gave an exhilarating performance of sharp-shooting, striking all but five points of the winning tally.

The timing of her scores in the second half was as crucial as the points themselves, as they staved off a threatened Galway storm. The best example of this came in the seventh minute of the second half after Denise Gilligan smashed home Galway's first goal, leaving only three points between the sides.

Dunlea added a second to take the good out of that Galway goal and was on the mark again inside the last five minutes when the defiant Galway women got the deficit down to four points with a goal from substitute Veronica Curtin.

It was not surprising that one of the best players on the field, Galway's Sharon Glynn, supplied the chances for both goals with well-taken long frees. Glynn struggled

CORK 0-15
GALWAY 2-5

Pat Roche

to find her best form in midfield following a recent bout of muscle strain which required hospitalisation. Galway's challenge suffered drastically as a result.

Afterwards, Kilkenny's 12-time medal winner, Angela Downey said she thought it had been a slow-paced match and a poor game, but Cork deserved to win.

The pace of the Cork defence had increased after Galway introduced young Theresa Maher as a replacement for her sister, Greta in the third quarter.

That pace reached boiling point in the closing minutes when Maher was denied a goal by the forever-alert Cork goalkeeper Keohane.

Denise Cronin and Sandie Fitzgibbon were also to the fore in frustrating the stubborn Galway players.

Anxiety for the Cork defence was something that did not seem likely after Dunlea stretched Cork's lead to double scores, 0-14 to 1-4, almost 20 minutes into the second half.

"We threw it away in the first half," claimed Galway manager Tony Ward. "We have no excuses, we never played as good as we can," he added.

The manager was no doubt referring to a number of factors, not least the fact that his key player, Glynn, had an untypical

tally of six first half wides.

Galway, playing against the wind in the first half, felt they needed a goal badly when they dropped five points into arrears. It did not help morale when a Glynn free, driven in low from an over ambitious distance, was blocked and cleared by Eithne Duggan. Another free went wide.

There was some doubt about the Galway star's fitness levels, but Ward said: "She was fit enough to play."

Cork players agreed that it was fitting for their Glen Rovers captain, Linda Mellerick to do the honours and lift the Cup in the presence of President Mary Robinson.

There was hardly a weak link in the Cork side. A point within the first 30 seconds from a free by Dunlea inspired early confidence. While Cork were putting scores on the board to build up to a 0-9 to 0-3 interval lead, Galway were piling up their wides and running up cul de sacs.

The last point of the first half was a classic by Mary O'Connor. The strike was off her left side as she was in full flight 50 yards out.

On the day, Galway could not quite equal that sort of panache. Vivienne Harris's contribution for Cork was also stylish and influential.

CORK: C Keohane, E Duggan, D Cronin, S Fitzgibbon, M Finn, L Mellerick, V Harris (0-4, three frees), M O'Connor (0-1); S O'Callaghan, F O'Driscoll, I O'Keefe, L Dunlea (0-10, four frees). **Subs:** E Buckley for O'Callaghan, 60 mins.

GALWAY: L Curry, D Costelloe, O Broderick, T Lashen, P Nevin, G Maher, S Glynn (0-3, two frees), D Maher, M Harkin, J Hobbs, D Gilligan (1-0); A Forde (0-1). **Subs:** V Curtin (1-1); for Hobbs 20 mins; T Maher for G Maher, 40 mins; A Hickey for Harkin, 63 mins. **Referee:** B Mhic Pháille (Tipperary).

Cork captain Linda Mellerick lifts the Bord na Gaeilge Cup after the All-Ireland in Croke Park yesterday. — (Photograph: Matt Browne/Sportsfile)



'Rebels' bounce back to All-Ireland glory

By SAMANTHA
McCAUGHREN

CORK's camogie team weren't going to have the rug pulled from under them a second time.

They were back in Croke Park yesterday to face reigning champions Galway in a rematch of last year's All-Ireland final.

Twelve months ago Galway left Cork players and fans speechless with a surprise victory. The southerners had gone in as the hot favourites but left with their heads hung low.

Yesterday in front of 10,000 fans they took the O'Duffy Cup on a 0-15 to 2-5 scoreline.

The taste of victory is not unfamiliar to Cork. They have reached the final 32 times and taken the title on 19 occasions.

President Mary Robinson, in Croke Park on one of her last engagements before she finishes her term on Friday, handed over the cup to Cork captain Linda Mellerick.

Avid GAA fan Taoiseach



● Cork's Sandie Fitzgibbon raises her camogie stick in triumph after yesterday's victory

● Full report: Sports Supplement

Bertie Ahern was also in attendance.

On accepting the cup, Linda spoke of the previous year's disappointment. "We swore we'd walk up the steps this year," she told the crowd.

After the game delighted Cork star Denise Cronin

said there would be big celebrations and she was planning to "hit the town" last night.

"We've been waiting all year for this," she said. "We were devastated last year and it was a major shock."

But yesterday she couldn't keep the smile off her face. "What a difference a year makes," she said triumphantly.

Cork girls reign supreme

CORK.....0-15
GALWAY.....2-5
THAT famous Rebel Yell resounded around Croke Park again yesterday as Cork battled their way back to the top of camogie's pile once more.

Exact sweet revenge for last year's senior final defeat by history-making Galway, Cork established themselves as the undisputed queens of the '90s with their fourth title this decade.

They had their outstanding defence, centre-forward Vivienne Harris and full-forward Lynn Dunlea to thank for withstanding a fantastic late Galway rally to clinch the O'Duffy Cup for the 18th time.

But ultimately Dunlea — top-scorer on ten points and a deserved 'Woman of the Match' — was the difference between the sides.

Dunlea the key to stopping Galway



Cliona Foley Reports

ranged attack, improved their options considerably.

Herself, Therese Maher and Anne Forde were involved in several last-gasp attacks which drew some thrilling, match-saving clearances from Cork 'keeper Cora Keohane and her defenders as the game went into injury time.

But ultimately the four-point margin disguises Cork's overall dominance, particularly that of brilliant half-backs Denise Cronin, Sandie Fitzgibbon and Mags Finn.

They stood firm against all manner of switches, including Denise Gilligan to centre-forward early on, and never panicked.

Even after winning her sixth senior title, brilliant veteran Fitzgibbon was adamant that she would now retire. But captain Linda Mellerick, who had threatened the same beforehand, grinned that she's keeping her own options open.

In contrast, Galway's young side consoled themselves that they should get more chances in future. As midfielder Sharon Glynn, 22, said: "If I can get to as many All-Ireland finals as Sandie and Linda by the time I'm finished, then I won't be complaining."

Big-hitting Glynn, who rained down massive 60 and 50m frees on the Cork goalmouth in the second half with lethal effect, was obviously regretting their 13 wides (six from her frees). But really she had no reason to feel guilty.

The Na Piarasigh woman,

who collapsed at training last Monday week, was only released from hospital last Sunday night after a week's tests for a lung problem.

She hadn't held a hurl for a fortnight, only played with the aid of painkillers, still suffered badly with her breathing yet, despite being marked by speedy Mary O'Connor, still made an heroic contribution.

Galway half-backs Tracy Laheen and Pamela Nevin were also outstanding, keeping Fiona O'Driscoll and Sinead Callaghan scoreless in two marvellous tussles.

Three straight scores from Glynn gave Galway their only lead (0-3 to 0-2) after 11 minutes. Then a point and three successive frees from teenage star Vivienne Harris, 19, gave Cork a vital cushion.

GREAT CLEARANCE

Dunlea's free-taking gave them a 0-9 to 0-3 half-time lead, though their defenders had to make a great clearance off the line from a low Glynn free just before the break.

Galway hit back when Anne Forde got on the end of another huge Glynn free six minutes after the restart, and the bounce beat 'keeper Cora Keohane to end in the net.

But then five scores in a row from Dunlea, who was lucky to escape a booking after a rash, high challenge on Olive Costello, pulled them safely clear again.

SCORERS — Cork: L. Dunlea 0-10 (5, 1, 3, 1), V. Harris 0-4 (3), M. O'Connor 0-1. Galway: A. Forde, V. Curtin 1-1 each, S. Glynn 0-3 (2).

CORK — C. Keohane; E. Duggan; D. Cronin, S. Fitzgibbon, M. Finn; L. Mellerick (capt), V. Harris, M. O'Connor, S. O'Callaghan, F. O'Driscoll, I. O'Keefe, L. Dunlea.

GALWAY — L. Curry; O. Costello; O. Broderick, T. Laheen, P. Nevin, G. Maher, S. Glynn, D. Maher, M. Harkin (capt), I. Hobbins, D. Gilligan, A. Forde. Subs: V. Curtin for Hobbins (25 mins), T. Maher for G. Maher (40 mins), A. Hillary for Harkin (64 mins).

REF — B. Phillips (Tipperary).

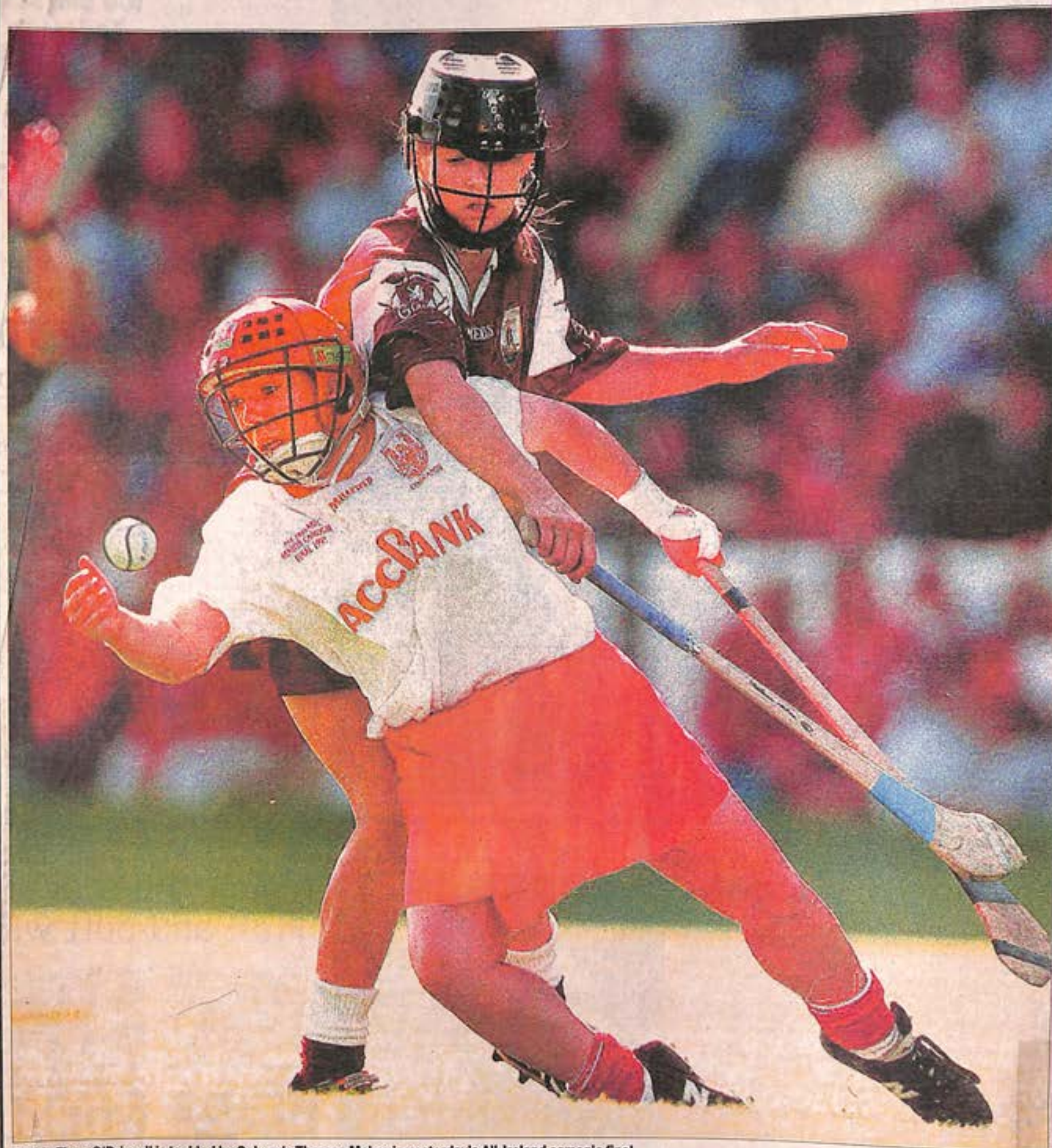


THE REBEL YELL... the Cork bench celebrates victory in yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final
Pic: Martin Nolan



VANQUISHED... the Galway team who lost their All-Ireland camogie title to Cork at Croke Park on Sunday. Back row (left to right): Tracey Laheen, Olive Costello, Louise Curry, Gretta Maher, Pamela Nevin, Sharon Glynn. Front row: Dymphna Maher, Anne Forde, Martina Harkin, Imelda Hobbins, Olivia Broderick, and Denise Gilligan.

Cork show champion



Cork's Fiona O'Driscoll is tackled by Galway's Theresa Maher in yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final

Picture: INPHO

class

Lynn Dunlea inspires the Leesiders with haul of ten points

Cork
Galway
0-15
2-5

by Jim O'Sullivan

It might have been different against alternative opposition. But, Cork were so motivated by what had happened to them 12 months ago against Galway that they were never going to lose yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park.

That was the way it appeared for three-quarters of the game, until Galway's challenge was belatedly boosted with the first of two goals early in the second half. After that, it required some powerful play in defence and the continuing inspiration of Lynn Dunlea to overcome it.

Dunlea was the star performer scoring ten points, divided between play and frees. Ultimately, however, it was a save in injury time by 21-year-old debutante goalkeeper Cora Keohane which guaranteed Cork's 18th title.

Played in front of an enthusiastic attendance of 10,212, which included President Robinson, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and GAA president Joe McDonagh, the first half was noteworthy for a comprehensive Cork display against the wind. Scores were level three times in the opening 11 minutes. Galway, champions last year for the first time, led briefly for the only time, at 0-2 to 0-1. Sharon Glynn at midfield was the player to whom Galway looked for guidance, however, after a recent illness which severely limited her training, her influence was to prove negligible - especially when she was off target with a number of frees.

In general play, she was frequently upstaged by Mary O'Connor, who had been moved into the centre to mark her. Cork didn't take long to gain a grip, playing more forcefully all over the field and invariably showing a greater 'hunger' to win possession.

In particular, Cork were exerting more pressure in attack and, importantly, they had the free-taking expertise - through Vivienne Harris outfield, and Lynn Dunlea closer towards goal - to fully capitalise on Galway fouling. The result was that they gradually opened up a gap and sustained it with more impressive teamwork.

Sandy Fitzgibbon was quick to make a mark at centre-back, team-mate and captain Linda Mellerick was consistent on the left flank and the forwards continued to work hard to make openings, with Lynn Dunlea always threatening. Pamela Nevin was excellent on the left wing for Galway.



Jim O'Sullivan

Cork's high work-rate earned them a lot of ball from broken play around midfield and an ability to maximise their return from frees saw them lead by four points by the 23rd minute. In sharp contrast, Galway's inaccuracy, with Sharon Glynn missing several chances, undermined their challenge.

By the break, they had accumulated ten wides, while Cork turned over, in a fairly comfortable position leading 0-9 to 0-3.

Galway came close to goaling immediately after the resumption through substitute Veronica Curtin. But following a Glynn free in the 36th minute, Denise Gilligan scored with a shot which caught the Cork 'keeper off guard. It cut the lead to three points, but, Cork's Lynn Dunlea replied with two points.

The game was now entering its most competitive phase and, while Galway did look more threatening in attack, benefitting from the introduction of Veronica Curtin at centre-forward, Cork's defence held firm. Denise Cronin did some marvellous work on the right, Eithne Duggan was solid at full-back and the experience of Sandy Fitzgibbon and Linda Mellerick (winning their sixth and fourth medals, respectively), was proving invaluable as Galway continued to press forward.

Cork were seven points clear when Galway produced their second goal, through Veronica Curtin, in the 55th minute, but, again Lynn Dunlea restored Cork's psychological advantage with an invaluable point from play.

With the game still delicately balanced, almost fanatical covering by the Cork backs prevented a probable goal when a pass from Curtin to another substitute Theresa Maher was intercepted. But, Cork supporters had to endure almost five minutes of extra time, during which Cora Keohane brought off that vital save from Theresa Maher. That was in the 61st minute and from then until the final whistle, Cork remained in control.

Scorers: Cork - L. Dunlea 0-10 (0-5 frees); V. Harris 0-4 (0-3 frees); M. O'Connor 0-1.
Galway: V. Curtin 1-1; S. Glynn 0-3 (0-2 frees); D. Higgins 1-0; A. Forde 0-1.

CORK: C. Keohane; E. Duggan; D. Cronin; S. Fitzgibbon; M. Finn; V. Harris; M. O'Connor; L. Mellerick (capt.); S. O'Callaghan; F. O'Driscoll; I. O'Keefe; L. Dunlea. Sub: E. Buckley for O'Callaghan (59th minute).
GALWAY: L. Curry; O. Costelloe; O. Broderick; T. Lehen; P. Nevin; G. Maher; S. Glynn; D. Maher; M. Harkin; I. Hobbins; D. Gilligan; A. Forde. Subs: V. Curtin for Hobbins (25th minute); T. Maher for G. Maher (41st); A. Hillary for Harkin (63rd).

Referee: Biddy McPhillips (Tipperary).

● The victorious Cork team will arrive at Kent station at 7.50 p.m. and parade to the ACC Bank on the South Mall.

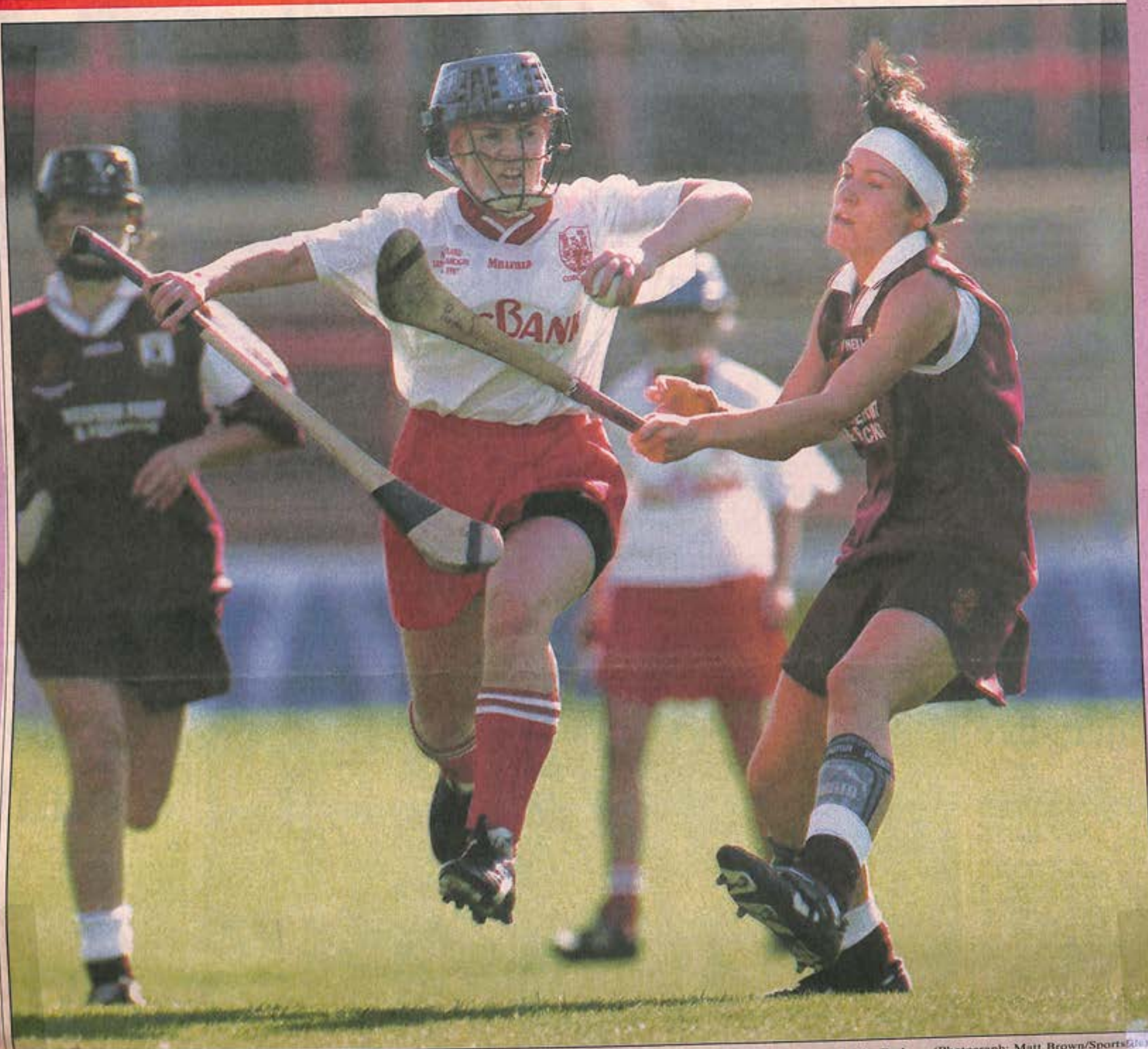
See page 22

That winning feeling . . .



● We've done it . . . Cork captain Linda Mellerick is overjoyed after her side defeated Galway yesterday in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park.

Pictures: Martin Nolan



**Antrim
celebrate
in style**

ANTRIM..... 7-11
CORK..... 2-10

ANTRIM's women, coached by their men's former manager Jim Nelson, lit up Croke Park with a series of spectacular goals to win their first All Ireland junior camogie title yesterday.

They already have six senior titles, the last in 1979, and on yesterday's evidence, particularly their brilliant forwards, the county should be back contesting a premier title in the near future.

JUNIOR FINAL
By CLIONA FOLEY

Reigning champions Cork, fielding a completely new team from last year, simply had no answer to midfielders Denise O'Boyle and Bronagh O'Neill or dashing forwards like Grace McMullan (2-3), Caitriona Higgins (3-2), Deirdre Heasley (2-0) and roving wing-forward Anne McKee, whose free-taking was impeccable.

Higgins put McMullan through to goal after just 15 seconds and it was one-way traffic up to half-time, when Antrim led 4-7 to 0-4.

SCORERS — Antrim: C Higgins 3-2, G McMullan 2-3, D Heasley 2-0, A McKee 0-4 (all free), D O'Boyle 0-2 (1 free). Co. Wick: C Harrington 1-4 (2 free, 1'30), N Aherne 1-1, C Harle 0-3 (2 free), D O'Donoghue and U Troy 0-1 each.

ANTRIM — K. Coyle; B. McNeill; M. Connolly; S. McMullan (capt); M. Barry; B. O'Neill; D. O'Boyle; C. McGarry; A. McKee; G. McMullan; C. Higgins; D. Heafley. Subs: G. Connolly for M. Connolly (45 mins), O. Elliot for C. McGarry (48 mins).

CORK — S. Ricken; G. Meaney; S. Buckley; M. Harrington; L. Killefer; U. Troy; E. O'Sullivan; T. Roche; E. Kennedy (Capt.); G. Hahel; C. Harrington; G. O'Donoghue. **Subs:** H. Killefer for Meaney (15 mins); N. Ahern for Kennedy (33 mins); V. O'Keefe for Roche (60 mins).

REF — Mr O'Connor (6.04PM)

Rebels with a cause make no mistake this time round

by Tom Higgins

THE mood of the players in the Cork dressingroom after yesterday's Bord na Gaeilge senior All-Ireland triumph over Galway was ecstatic as they collected their 18th All-Ireland title.

Twelve months ago the girls from the West created a major upset when beating the reigning champions Cork, so the Rebels had a score to settle.

"After last year's defeat we were being written off and we needed this win very badly," said captain Linda Mellerick.

She also captained the side when they defeated the wearers of the Maroon in 1993.

"We came here today with a will to win, and to make up for last year and we proved successful".

Centre back Sandie Fitzgibbon, who was collecting her sixth All-Ireland senior medal, and who had her usual solid game commented: "This was my last game for Cork and I am going out on a winning note. Today's victory was as sweet as all the others".

Twelve months ago Cork felt that it was a case of them throw-

ing away victory rather than Galway winning so they had a point to prove.

In doing so, they can thank young Sharon Keohane in goal in no small way for their win as she brought off a brilliant save from substitute Tracy Maher a minute into injury time, which lasted almost five minutes.

She said: "I saw her coming so I decided to come out and meet her and it came off my foot. It is great to win an All-Ireland medal in the first year you are on them."

"You have to lose one to win one is an old saying and I am absolutely thrilled," was Mary O'Connor's reaction.

Imelda Hobbins who captained Galway victory last year was gracious in defeat.

"I am disappointed. We had our chances and if we played as well in the first half as we did in the second we could have won."

"Cork had the luck we had last year but we are a young team and will be back".

Galway team manager Tony Ward said: "I don't begrudge Cork their win. They were the better team on the day and deserved their win."

"We had our chances and proved that last year was no fluke. You have to be as gracious in defeat as you are in victory".

Galway captain Sharon Glynn vowed that Galway would be back.

"I had pain killing injections before the game and apart from a shortness of breath at times I felt fine."

"I had been in hospital up to last Sunday and hadn't handled a hurley until today."

"They were treating me for a collapse lung. We are a young team, our oldest player is 26 and I myself am 22."

"We will definitely be back and I look forward to winning more All-Ireland senior medals," was her reaction.

Minister for Education Micheal Martin attended the game, as did Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and President Mary Robinson, who was performing her last official duty.

Mr Martin later congratulated the Cork side. "It was a very enjoyable game, very keenly contested and I thought Sandie Fitzgibbon's and Linda Mellerick's experience saw them through in the end," said the Minister.



Cork's camogie captain Linda Mellerick raises the senior All-Ireland Cup

Picture: INPHO

Antrim girls trounce Cork to capture first All-Ireland junior title

Cork
Antrim

2-10
7-11

by Tom Higgins

ANTRIM collected their first All-Ireland Junior camogie title in the curtain raiser to the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior final at Croke Park yesterday.

The Northerners, whose only previous appearance in the final was in 1981, when they went under to Clare, totally outplayed Cork. The latter won the title twelve months ago,

which meant they had to field a totally new side.

The ball had hardly been thrown in when Grace McMullan raced though to give Cork's Sandra Ricken no chance from close range.

Although Caoimhe Harrington opened the Cork scoring with a point a minute later, they could not stem the Antrim tide, as they laid siege to the Cork goal, with their forwards running at the Cork defence and their backs keeping a tight grip on the Cork forwards.

After four minutes, Cork were 2-1 to 0-1 down, as Antrim began to score at will. Sandra

Ricken blocked down a long range free from Denise Boyle and Caitriona Higgins was on hand to hit the rebound home.

At half time the game was over as a contest with the physically stronger Antrim leading 4-7 to 0-4, despite shooting seven wides to three for Cork, and these were from frees. Just one of Cork's scores came from play, a Criona Harte effort.

With wind assistance in the second half Cork improved, but Antrim's excellent passing, Aine McKee's deadly free-taking, Grace McMullan picking off of both goals and points,

they never looked like being troubled, despite some excellent scores by Cork.

Scorers — Antrim: C. Higgins 3-2, G. McMullan 2-3, D. Heatley 2-0, A. McKee 0-4 (0-3 frees), D. O'Boyle 0-2 (0-1 free), Cork: C. Harrington 1-4 (0-2 frees, 0-1 "30"), N. Ahern 1-1, C. Harte 0-3 (0-2 frees), U. Troy 0-1, O. O'Donoghue 0-1.
CORK: S. Ricken; C. Meaney; S. Buckley, M. Harrington, L. Kelleher; U. Troy, W. O'Sullivan, T. Roche; E. Kanneally (capt), C. Harte, C. Harrington; D. O'Donoghue. Subs: H. Kelleher for C. Meaney (15th minute); N. Ahern for E. Kanneally (33rd minute); V. O'Keefe for T. Roche (59th minute).
ANTRIM: K. Coyle; B. McNeill; M. Connolly, S. McMullan, M. Barry; B. O'Neill, D. Doyle, C. McGarry; A. McKee, G. McMullan, C. Higgins; D. Hurley. Subs: E. Elliott for M. McMullan (37th minute); G. Connolly for M. Connolly (43rd minute).
REFEREE: M. O'Connor (Louth).

Young Keohane savours the day

By Mary Hannigan

OH, THE agony and the ecstasy, the pain and the joy after yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final in which Cork beat Galway by 0-15 to 2-5.

A stroll across the Croke Park pitch, to just under the New Stand, and it felt like you were walking into a wake. Family and friends everywhere, attempting to console inconsolable Galway players.

Back under the Hogan Stand, a very different atmosphere. Hugging and whooping and dancing and singing as the players of Cork watched Linda Mellerick accept the O'Duffy Cup, the county's third senior camogie title in five years.

You can always tell by their faces just how much an All-Ireland winner's medal means to a player, but Cora Keohane, Cork's outstanding young goalkeeper, tried to put the feeling into words.

"It just means the world to me. It's my first year and I'm just grateful to have made some kind of contribution to the team. We put in loads of work and I can't imagine what it would be like to lose. Every-

thing's worthwhile now, training in the rain, giving up a social life, it's just brilliant."

"It means the world to me. I'm so lucky, Linda Mellerick waited six or seven years to win an All-Ireland — I've won in my very first final."

Keohane had succeeded in breaking Galway hearts throughout much of the second half, pulling off a string of outstanding saves that denied them the goals they desperately needed to narrow Cork's lead. There was one incident late in the game when half of the Galway team seemed to take a shot at her in the space of a few seconds. She saved them all.

"The big scramble around the goal? Yeah. When you see the shot you just hit like mad, hit like mad and it goes away eventually," she said.

You'd a blinder. "Ah stop, it was scary. I can't even remember half of it now, it's just brilliant it's over. The tension in goals," she sighed. "You have to concentrate all the time — but I prefer when there are balls coming in on you, because at least you're involved and it's easier to concentrate, it's worse when you're just watching all the time."

Across the pitch, a distraught Sharon Glynn, Gal-

way's magnificent number seven, was trying to hide the pain by paying tribute to Cork. "We gave it everything but Cork were by far the better team on the day and deserved their win, we have no excuses. Lynn Dunlea was on song today, she scored everything she stood over. I missed three or four frees, and in the second half we seemed to have three goal opportunities, wide open, but we just couldn't score."

Glynn, Galway's hero in the semi-final when her tally of 2-12 helped them to victory over Kilkenny, only came out of hospital last Sunday evening after collapsing at training the Monday before.

"I had a lung and chest infection, ah, just a few problems around there. I had some painkilling injections this morning, the left shoulder, all my left side was very sore. But that wasn't to blame."

"We'll be back though," she continued. "We're a very young side and every year you get up here makes a difference, gives you a bit of experience. This is only our third All-Ireland, we'll probably be a different outfit next time. Hopefully I'll have a few more medals in the bag by the time I'm Linda Mellerick or

Sandie Fitzgibbon's age. But, today anyway, none of those things mean anything, we're going home, we haven't won."

Meanwhile, Lynn Dunlea, scorer of nine of Cork's points, wore a glazed expression of delight. "When the final whistle went and the crowd started to cheer I was literally in a daze and I don't think I want to come of it for a while," said the primary school teacher from Coachford.

"Our defence was rock solid, they were fantastic, especially in the final 10 minutes when Galway threw everything at us. That was when we had to knuckle down and Cora, Eithne, Sandie, Denise and Mags stood solid and nothing got past them. They're why we're standing here celebrating now."

So are you back to school tomorrow? "No, school is actually closed, which is marvellous." Why? "There are religious courses going on, God bless them." So the senior infants of Coachford will have to wait another day to congratulate Ms Dunlea on her third All-Ireland winners' medal.

The O'Duffy cup returns

CORK are Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie champions for the 18th time.

At Croke Park yesterday they made up for the disappointment of being surprised by Galway twelve months earlier by coming out on top against the Connacht champions by 0-15 to 2-5.

Cork were undoubtedly the better side but the wearers of the Maroon made them fight hard for their victory, to prove that last year's victory was no fluke.

It was a tough game, between two sides who were

By TOM HIGGINS

very determined, and it was the Rebels' skill which proved the deciding factor in the finish.

Cork laid the foundations for their win in the opening half, when their forwards were very much on top, and anytime it looked as they might get through for a goal the Galway backs were inclined to foul. But Cork had excellent free takers in Lynn Dunlea, who accounted for ten points of her sides total, and Vivienne Harris who

got two of her four points from long range frees.

Galway relied a lot on Sharon Glynn to get their scores from frees but she was well marked by Killeagh's Mary O'Connor.

After Cork had led by 0-9 to 0-3 at the break Galway had a superb goal from Denise Gilligan in the 36th minute, which brought the holders back into it.

A long range free from Glynn dropped into the square when Gilligan got her hurley to it to guide it past Cora Keohane, who brought off some superb save during the course of the game.

Juniors are well beaten

By TOM HIGGINS.

THE Cork Junior camogie side could not emulate their seniors when they faced Antrim in the final which preceded the big game at Croke Park yesterday.

Cork, who won the title twelve months ago, and under rule had to find a totally new side, were never in this game against a physically stronger and much more skilful Northern side, who had been re-graded from Senior, were beaten by 7-11 to 2-10.

It was obvious from the throw in, when Grace McMullan raced through the Cork defence to score goal for the girls for The Glens, within thirty seconds, that

Cork faced a tough task and with Mary Connolly, captain Sinead McMullan and Maureen Barry dominating at centre field for Antrim it began to become one way traffic.

In fact after only four minutes Cork were 2-1 to 0-1 down, the Cork score coming from a Caoimhe Harrington free, and from then to the break the Cork defence were under severe pressure as Antrim, who were collecting their first title in this grade, peppered the Cork

goal picking off some excellent points and goals to lead 4-7 to 0-4 at the interval. So dominant were Antrim was the fact that they shot nine wides in this period compared with three for Cork and these wides were from frees.

Cork introduced Helen Kelliher for Eleanor Kennelly in the second half and with the aid of a swirling wide upped their game. Although they did get some excellent scores both from frees and from play the game was over as a contest midway through the first half.

"They are a very young team and will learn."

This time it's tears of joy for the Cork girls

Revenge is sweet for rebel rousers

LAST year, the members of the Cork team 'cried all day' on their return home from Dublin after losing to Galway in the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie final.

"It was the longest journey I ever made. You didn't want to get home," said Linda Mellerick.

It will be a very different journey home tonight for Linda and her team-mates after Cork turned the tables on the Westerners in Croke Park yesterday.

Captaining Cork to victory over Galway for the second time, she told jubilant supporters after receiving the trophy that she had delighted to lead a "proud and gallant team."

Afterwards, she insisted that she was making no decision about her future - unlike Sandie Fitzgibbon, who revealed on the field that she intended sticking with her decision to retire.

Linda commented: "we needed this victory. We are going to have some celebrations."

"This victory was hard earned. Players didn't spare themselves; they went in with their bodies to block down the ball and win it back."

"We were seven points up before we left them back in it. But, we were never going to give in. Our backs did tremendous work, all of them."

Top scorer Lynn Dunlea, celebrating her fourth medal win, felt that they had laid the foundations for their victory in the first half, when they opened up a lead of six points. "I thought our backs were gallant under pressure in



Cork girls celebrate their sides's victory over Galway in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park yesterday.

By JIM O'SULLIVAN

the second half. But, after what happened last year against Galway, we weren't going to be caught."

"We came here to win. We were totally focused."

"The cheering from our supporters was superb. It meant a lot. When the final whistle sounded, I could hardly believe we had won. I was in a daze."

Midfielder Mary O'Connor (20),

was delighted to be bringing back a medal to Killeagh after Marian Sweeney had won seven previously. "I will never forget last year. People say you have to lose one before you win one. All I can say is that it was worth the wait."

Marking Sharon Glynn, regarded as the mainstay of the Galway team (but who was hospitalised recently), she said she was more than aware of her reputation. "But, today, I felt I was on top," she added.

Sandie Fitzgibbon, winning her

sixth medal, intends quitting. "I said I would and I am," she remarked.

"It was great to win, but, not as sweet as in 1982, or when we beat Kilkenny in 1995. But, they are all 'sweet'."

Manager Tom Nott - involved in his sixth winning final - praised his players for their commitment, saying they had been 'geared up' to play Galway from a long time back. "I thought our backs were brilliant. They blocked and hooked and put the Galway forwards under pressure

all the way through. Our forwards also worked very hard the same way, blocking and harassing their opponents, forcing them to big clearances over the sideline. At the end of the day, the team got its just reward."

Debutant goalkeeper Cora Keohane, a 21 year-old UCC student was proud of her achievement in being the first player from Barryroe to win a medal.

"Some of the players had to wait a long time to win one. Look at me, winning one in my first year."

Amazing Grace puts Antrim back on the map

All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final from Croke Park

Antrim7-11 Cork2-10

AMAZING Grace! The skilful Grace McMullan yesterday led Antrim camogie back from the junior backwoods at the end of one of the most dramatic weeks in her life.

Following the death of her father at the start of the week - an event marked by a minute's silence before yesterday's match - Grace has guided Antrim to All-Ireland success.

Her presence was immediately stamped on the game against Cork when she took a pass from Loughgiel team mate Catriona Higgins and crashed home a goal inside 10 seconds.

And she went on to dominate - but then so did all of her team particularly the forward line.

Catriona Higgins, Ann McKee and Deirdre Heatley lifted their games to equal the occasion and all of them had bagged scores by the end of the opening quarter.

In defence Brenda McNeill and Maureen Barry really excelled as did Bronagh O'Neill and Denise O'Boyle in midfield.

Sadly their partner all year Majella McMullan went over on her ankle in a morning warm-up and had to be replaced before the start by a competent Claire McGarry.

Jim Nelson the Antrim manager said afterwards: "We couldn't believe it when we found out Dublin bookies had Antrim as 2/1 outsiders."

"Today we started well, we played well and were always in control. The events of the past week strengthened us as a team."

The loss of Majella McMullan before the start was a tough



● STAR TURN ...Grace McMullan

blow for the player but Claire McGarry took her chance very well."

That opening goal by Grace McMullan set Antrim on their way and when a long free from Denise O'Boyle was batted out to Catriona Higgins in the fourth minute, a second goal was a formality.

The third came from Deirdre Heatley after an excellent run by Ann McKee. Confidence then spread throughout the Antrim side resulting in further major scores.

Catriona Higgins' effort at a point dipped under the bar in the 28th minute and Antrim went in 4-7 to 0-4 ahead at the break - only one of Cork's scores coming from play.

Grace McMullan made a brilliant 50 yard run on the restart for Deirdre Heatley to fire home a fifth goal.

Caolinhe Harrington, from a 15-yard free, and substitute Emma Harte lifted Cork momentarily with goals in the

ninth and 13th minutes, but significantly Denise O'Boyle responded with a quick point after each goal.

Grace McMullan then hit goal No 6 at the three-quarter stage and a minute later Oonagh Elliott and Ann McKee combined to provide Catriona Higgins with the opening for her third and Antrim's seventh green flag score.

The emotion was tangible at the final whistle and the President of the camogie association Phyllis Breslin hit the right chord by stating that Antrim had been too long away from the sunshine of Croke Park on All-Ireland day.

She then presented Dunloy's Sinead McMullan with the New Ireland Cup.

For Mary Connolly, the trip up to the presentation brought back memories. She became the first player to follow a senior medal (in 1979) with a junior.

Perhaps this current Antrim squad can rebuild the bridge in search of the O'Duffy Cup.

Antrim: K Coyle, B McNeill, M Connolly, S McMullan (capt), M Barry, B O'Neill, D O'Boyle (0-2), C McGarry, A McKee (0-4, all frees), G McMullan (2-3), C Higgins (3-2), D Heatley (2-0).

Subs: G Connolly for M Connolly (44 mins), O Elliott for C McGarry (46 mins), C Doherty for D Heatley (56 mins).

Cork: S Ricken, C Meaney, S Buckley, M Harrington, L Kellegher, U Troy (0-1), E O'Sullivan, T Roche, E Kinnelly (capt), C Harte (0-3 - 0-2 frees), C Harrington (1-4), O O'Donoghue (0-1).

Subs: H Kelleher for C Meaney (15 mins), E Harte (1-1) for E Kinnelly (33 mins), V O'Keefe for T Roche (57 mins).

Ref: M O'Connor (Louth).

Best is yet to come, says Cork captain

by Jim O'Sullivan

THE future of Cork camogie is assured, declared the captain of the victorious senior team last night after they returned with the O'Duffy Cup for the 18th time.

Quite apart from their own success in beating Galway, Linda Mellerick said it had been a tremendous achievement for the junior selectors to bring a completely new team to the All-Ireland final. And, while they had lost to a more experienced Antrim side, 13 of the panel are under 18 for next year.

It was a sentiment echoed by the President of the Cork Camogie Board, Mary Moran, at the teams' homecoming last evening.

Lord Mayor Dave McCarthy complimented all the voluntary workers involved in the promotion of camogie, saying that without them, there would be 'no Cork clubs, and no Cork teams.'

Auxiliary Bishop John Buckley, apologising for his inability to attend the games - he explained he had a prior commitment, a bowling match - said the senior team had given a display 'rarely seen in Croke Park.' Likewise, Liam Harte, on behalf of the team's main sponsors, ACC Bank,

said everybody was proud of the way the teams performed.

Cork County Board Chairman Brian Barrett said that the effort put into the preparation of all the Cork camogie teams this year had been 'phenomenal.' And, he pointed out that while full-forward Lynn Dunlea had played a vital role, scoring ten points, a grand-aunt Kitty Dunlea, was the first person to captain a winning Cork camogie team, back in 1934.

He also paid a special tribute to Sandie Fitzgibbon on winning her sixth All-Ireland senior medal.

Linda Mellerick told the assembled crowd, outside the offices of ACC on the South Mall, that pride had driven on the senior team in Croke Park on Sunday. "Confidence was at an all-time low after last year's defeat. We lost three players through retirement and to make things worse, we were beaten in the first round of the National League."

"But, Tom Nott, our trainer, never lost faith in us and, slowly but surely, we built up a new spirit. I said it in Croke Park and I repeat it, he was the 'back-bone' behind our victory."

Later, players and officials attended a reception given by Examiner Publications.



Cork captain Linda Mellerick gets a kiss from her nephews Terry and David Tett on the team's arrival at Kent Station last night. Picture: Dan Linehan.

Cork girls return to top table

THE joy on the faces of the Cork team after they had beaten Galway in the senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday was clearly visible.

They had come to Dublin with only one mission - to make up for last year's surprise defeat by the Westerners and to bring the O'Duffy Cup back to Cork for the 18th time.

Their feelings were echoed by 21 year old goalkeeper Cora Keohane who had a superb game.

"I just can't believe winning an All-Ireland medal in my first final. It's a dream come true.

"Some of the girls had to wait years and here am I succeeding at my first attempt," she said.

Revenge is so sweet for the Leesiders

By TOM HIGGINS.

"Every one of the 12 played their part at vital times. We had no stars. It was a great team effort" said selector Angela Sheehan.

It was a special moment for two players in particular, captain Linda Mellerick and Sandie Fitzgibbon, both of whom played their last games with the county.

Lynn Dunlea was Cork's top scorer, contributing 0-10 of their 0-15, with 0-5 coming from frees.

But the best player on view was Vivienne Harris from the Bishopstown club. She worked herself to a standstill in the middle of the pitch, where Cork dominated for long spells.

The victorious team will arrive back in Cork at 7.50 tonight for a parade through the city and a reception at the Echo office in Academy St.



Thumbs up from Cork Captain Linda Mellerick as she goes up to receive the cup.

CAMOGIE GIRLS COME BACK IN TRIUMPH TO CITY



Cork captain Linda Mellerick celebrates with the team at Kent Station.

Picture: Dan Linehan

Linda's mighty army

SCORES turned up at Kent Station to give the victorious Cork camogie team a rousing welcome home on their return from their All-Ireland triumph.

The Leesiders' victory over Galway in the All-Ireland Final at Croke Park by 0-15 to 2-5 gave

GAA fans in the county a much needed boost after a season to forget.

It was also sweet revenge for Cork, having suffered a shock defeat at the hands of the Tribeswomen in last year's contest.

Last night Cork captain Linda Mellerick led her

troops triumphantly on their victory parade down Patrick Street. They waved to cheering well-wishers from an open-top bus.

From their lofty perch, the girls were already thinking ahead - about keeping the trophy in Cork again next year.



Annie Twomey, Principal St Patricks girls school, making a presentation to pupil Linda Mellerick who captained the Cork camogie team to All-Ireland glory. Also included is school coach John Ring.

Luckless Galway surrender crown

Cork 0-15 :: Galway 2-5

—by Claren Tierney—

AFTER the unrestrained joy of last year, the Galway senior camogie team could hardly have experienced a greater contrast in emotions as they trooped off the Croke Park pitch after relinquishing their All-Ireland title to a clinical Cork side on Sunday.

Just 12 months after they shocked Cork by winning the O'Duffy Cup for the first time ever, the agony of the Galway girls was compounded by the realisation that they had come so close to retaining their coveted title. And they were left to ponder what might have been.

If only star player Sharon Glynn was fully fit, then the cup might have come back across the Shannon for the second time. The midfield dynamo was only a pale shadow of her normal self, slower to the ball, and far less potent from frees, as the injury which kept her out for two weeks obviously took its toll.

If only the forwards had not been so wasteful in the first half, when a litany of ten wides compared very unfavourably with Cork's total of two. It did not help, either, that Glynn had to account for their entire interval tally of just three points.

And if only young substitute Therese Maher had a little more luck in the second half, when she powered her way towards the Cork goal on a number of occasions. She had a couple of fine shots blocked

down and was desperately unlucky to have a controversial free awarded against her when she appeared to be fouled 20 yards from goal.

For all their genuine gripes, however, Galway did not deserve to beat a Cork side which proved far more economical in attack and who, in Vivienne Harris and Lynn Dunlea, possessed two players with far greater ability to put points on the board.

The first half was a nightmare for the Galway forwards, who wasted countless chances while Harris and Dunlea set about doing the damage at the other end.

Glynn had three points on the board within 11 minutes, including a good effort from play, but it was a glaring indictment of the Galway attack that they did not score again in the 20 remaining minutes before half-time.

The Galway defence gave away a number of early frees, which Dunlea and Harris duly converted, although Galway goalkeeper Louise Curry made the first of a series of brilliant saves to deny a low drive from Cork captain Linda Mellerick after five minutes.

Pamela Nevin was the real revelation of the first half. A rock in defence for Galway, she was the county's best performer throughout the hour thanks to a series of excellent clearances from the danger zone.

Tracey Laheen, Olive Costello — who had the difficult task of dealing with the threat posed by Dunlea, and Curry also worked hard in a Galway defence which made life very hard for the Cork forwards.

But for their efforts, Galway could have been a lot further behind by the interval, although Dunlea, with a total of four first half frees, and Harris, with three long-range efforts, took their chances well.

As the game progressed it was clear that the Galway forwards were struggling to make an impact and few among the 40-500 attendance were



Clash of the captains Galway's Martina Harkin launches an attack despite the best efforts of Cork's Linda Mellerick during Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final

surprised when Veronica Curtin was brought on for the bitterly disappointed Imelda Hobbins after 25 minutes. Curtin soon began to make an impact in a part of the field where Cork's Sandie Fitzgibbon was rampant for much of the first half.

Glynn was desperately unlucky to have a low free cleared off the line by Cork defender Denise Cronin before she shot a short range free uncharacteristically wide of the target. Even though she was not firing on all cylinders, it would have been unthinkable for Galway to operate without her all-important presence in midfield.

Mary O'Connor ended the first half exchanges with a point from play in injury time and it looked grim for Galway as they trailed by 0-9 to 0-3 at the break. Both sides upped the tempo after the interval and Anne Forde was unlucky to place a brilliant through ball from Glynn just wide of the target two minutes into the second half. But then Curry had to make an excellent reflex save to deny Sinead O'Callaghan at the other end.

The goal Galway were crying out for came five minutes after the break, when Glynn floated a wonderful free into the danger zone for Denise Gilligan to double on it and plant the sliotar expertly in the back of the net.

It was a spectacular score, but the on-form Dunlea replied in the best possible fashion with a point for Cork directly from the puck-out. She added another excellent point from play four minutes later.

The introduction of Therese Maher added versatility to the hugely disappointing Galway attack, although three points in succession from Dunlea had Cork seven points ahead with seven minutes to go.

Suddenly, Galway sparked

into life. Denise Gilligan prompted a great save from the excellent Cora Keohane, following good work by Maher, and Cork were desperately lucky when a bombardment of shots from Gilligan, Curtin, and Glynn were all blocked down at point-blank range.

The Cork goal was living a charmed life before Glynn floated another fine free towards the Cork goal for Curtin to blast it expertly to the net with five minutes left on the clock.

Once again, however, Dunlea responded perfectly to an excellent Galway goal by sending over a quick point almost immediately. With Nevin playing inspirational stuff in defence, Galway certainly troubled Cork with a rousing late comeback.

Young Maher — surely a star of the future — tormented Keohane with a couple of brilliant strikes towards the target, but the Cork goalkeeper coped admirably with them and Galway could only manage an Anne Forde point from a barrage of late pressure.

Nevin, Curry, Laheen, the injury-stricken Glynn, and the two young substitute forwards were the best performers for a young team who are surely capable of bringing further glory back to Galway in the future, even if they were short on luck on Sunday.

Cork: C. Keohane; E. Duggan; D. Cronin; S. Fitzgibbon; M. Finn; L. Mellerick; V. Harris (0-4, 3 frees); M. O'Connor (0-1); S. O'Callaghan; F. O'Driscoll; I. O'Keefe; L. Dunlea (0-10, 4 frees); Sub: E. Buckley for O'Callaghan (59 mins).

Galway: L. Curry; O. Costelloe; O. Broderick; T. Laheen; P. Nevin; G. Maher; S. Glynn (0-3, 2 frees); D. Maher; M. Harkin; I. Hobbins; D. Gilligan (1-0); A. Forde (0-1); Subs: V. Curtin (1-1) for Hobbins (25 mins); T. Maher for

G. Maher (40 mins); A. Hillery for Harkin (60 mins); Referee: B. McPhillips (Tipperary).

Galway camp have no complaints as Cork back on top

—by Claren Tierney—

THE wheel had gone full circle. Last year, as Imelda Hobbins became the first Galway woman ever to lift the O'Duffy Cup, the Cork players were virtually inconsolable as they looked on from the pitch in despair.

But the traditional power had their way on Sunday, as Cork claimed the cup for the fourth time in six years and the 18th in their history. Their smooth satisfaction was a far cry from the scenes of wild abandon last year.

This time the dejected Galway girls were in need of consolation, their pain magnified all the more by the realisation that they could have won this disappointing final. And yet, as the dust settled, there was plenty of hope to be garnered for the future of camogie in the county.

This was a young Galway team, with teenage subs like Therese Maher and Veronica Curtin who could — and should — become real stars for the next decade. Gone is the inferiority complex, inevitable after many years of failure, which was finally banished last year.

"I told the other players that we lost the battle, but the war had just begun," said defiant team captain Martina Harkin afterwards. "We were definitely caught

on the hop. We were probably living on a dream since 1996 and the better team won on the day."

Harkin was keen to point out that the average age of the Galway team was 21 years, whereas the Cork girls had years of experience behind them.

"We were probably inexperienced on the day and it took us a long time to come through in the forwards," she said. "Cork were the hungrier team, whereas we only showed our hunger in the second half. I was so proud of the dedication we showed this year and I know that we will be back in Croke Park in the near future."

She admitted that the injury worry over Sharon Glynn, who was not fully fit after a two week lay-off, had obviously been a psychological boost to the Leesiders. And she hoped that team manager Tony Ward would remain at the helm, to guide the team to their third final in a row next year.

"We gave it everything but Cork were by far the better team on the day and they deserved their win," admitted a hugely disappointed Glynn.

"I had some painkilling injections this morning and all my left side was very sore. But we have no excuses and that wasn't to blame," she added.

Star player is top of her class



Teaching and camogie are Lynn Dunlea's loves writes Jill O'Sullivan.

FRESH from a stunning all-Ireland victory, champion camogie player Lynn Dunlea is back in the classroom.

The national school teacher was the backbone of the Cork side when they clinched victory in the clash with Galway.

"I love both camogie and teaching," she said.

Lynn first picked up a hurley when she was nine — and hasn't looked back since.

She's a woman who follows through on early ambitions.

Since she first felt the weight of a sliothair, Lynn has been determined to be the best at camogie — and she's achieved that.

Her earliest career ambition was to be a teacher "of some sort — whether of secondary, primary or physical education."

And she's managed to roll two of those positions into one, holding down a full-time primary school job in Coachford and a hectic coaching schedule with various junior teams.

Recently dubbed "lethal Lynn", and "queen of Camogie", the woman from Carrigadrohid doesn't accept any such lofty titles for herself.

Aftermath

In the aftermath of the Cork all-Ireland win, she praised team effort, rather than her own ten-point contribution, for bringing victory to the Leesiders.



Lynn Dunlea, right, with All-Ireland team captain Linda Mellerick proudly shows off the cup off to kids at Lynn's school in Coachford.

Her passion for the sport is obvious, so does it grate with her that media attention is scanty at best?

"We can't complain about newspaper coverage of the build-up and the aftermath to the all-Ireland," she said.

"The sport would of course really benefit from more television coverage. But RTE can get crowds of 65,000 for the mens' GAA games — we get about 10,000," she said.

However the 24-year-old added: "I'm very proud to play

this Irish sport. Getting good at a game and getting honours in it really helps you to focus yourself," she said.

"You're only as good as your last game — that keeps your feet on the ground. And the fact that you need to be committed to the sport helps you become a more rounded person."

The reward for Lynn's huge reserves of talent, stamina and dogged determination is on display to all — the All-Ireland O'Duffy cup is touring schools for the next couple of weeks.



Cork camogie goalie Cora Keohane.

Sport's little gems

EVERY now and again sport throws up a gem — a character who glories in the excitement and colour of a game and can put the experience into words in an engaging way.

Cora Keohane, the outstanding young goalkeeper on the All-Ireland winning Cork camogie team gives every indication of being just such a personality.

Here are a few quotes from her, given after the final:

Sliotar

"When you see the sliotar you just hit like mad, hit like mad and it goes away eventually."

Quite an enlightened defensive philosophy, I'd say.

"Ah stop, it was scary. I can't even remember half of it now, it's just brilliant it's over. The tension in goals. You have to concentrate all the time but I prefer when the sliotar is coming in on you, because at least you're involved."

I have a feeling we'll be hearing plenty from and about Cora.

Lynn Dunlea is an established star and not bad on quotes: "When the final whistle went and the crowd started to cheer I was literally in a daze and I don't want to come out of it for a while," she said.

THE HEROINES RETURN



Members of the Cork camogie team with captain Linda Mellerick holding the All-Ireland trophy aloft on the open-top bus as they made their way through the city centre last night.

Picture: Dan Linnahan

All-Ireland Camogie Day

Tá Lá na Mban bPáirc an Chrócaigh buailte linn arís! "Ladies before gents" was the nature of things on the first Sunday in September in Croke Park this year. With the Hurling Final put back, the "Camógs", as the women of camogie are affectionately known in our Northern Counties, did the honours in setting the scene for the All-Ireland Finals. The Final which was a repeat of last year's final brought about a true clash of champions - the National League Winners Cork versus the All-Ireland title holders Galway.

While Cork may have felt that Galway stole a march on them last year, they were determined that a similar disaster would not occur in 1997, and with many hours of training and preparation behind them they combined a blend of the experienced players like Linda Mellerick, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Lynn Dunlea, Vivienne Harris and Eithne Duggan with newcomers Cora Keohane who plays for UCC and Sinéad O'Callaghan who won an All-Ireland Senior Colleges medal with Charleville, earlier in the year.

Galway had a young talented team in 1996 and were equally determined that "Corn Ua Dubhthaigh" would cross An Sionainn two years in a row thus proving that '96 was not a fluke win! This lively team was the success story which was the result of umpteen hours of dedicated coaching and training at underage level and many of the stars were former "Féile na nGael" participants. Stars of '96 Final Sharon Glynn and young Denise Gilligan of Croughwell can always be relied upon to perform well and this year was no exception.

The game on the whole lacked lustre an anti-climax after an exhilarating skill filled if one sided junior between Aontroim and Corcaigh. Corcaigh's determination and free taking accuracy paid off in an otherwise slow moving colourless final. Their stars were led by "Player of the Match", Vivienne Harris, Bishopstown, who scored 4 points from play.

Bhí sár chluiche ag an cúlaí nua Cora Ni Cheochán (Ballyroe) — murach í bhéadh cúpla cúl breise ag an Ghaillimh ós na tosailhe óga láidre ÁINE Mhic

Giollarnáth (Na Píarsaigh) agus Veronica Nic Cuirtin (Croughwell).

Sharon Glynn's recent illness in hospital took its toll and while she shone at midfield showing strong skills she seemed lacking in energy towards the end, when one thought An Ghaillimh might once more snatch a win.

Corcaigh, once again gave a demonstration of excellent team work and expe-



By BRÍDÍN UÍ MHAOLAGÁIN

rience that will serve as an example of glorious Camogie for generations to come. Scór: Corcaigh 0-15; Gaillimh 2-5

The Junior team from Corcaigh were overwhelmed by the style, skills and fitness of the superb team ó Co Aontroima. The Antrim Girls under the expert guidance and management of Jim Nelson gave a display of team-work and skills second to none. Which augurs well for great Camogie in Antrim Comghaireas dos na Cailíní "Cróch agus Bán" a rinne gaisce na gcamóg bPáirc an Chrócaigh!

Scór: Aontroim 7-1; Corcaigh 2-10

Family connections abound on the Antrim Team! Sinéad MacMullan Antrim's Captain is a member of the famous Dunloy hurling family. She and sister Majella, skilful left winger, and cousins Anne McKee and Deirdre Cunningham admit to having few other interests — camogie and hurling!

Few could have realised or known that super sharp shooter Grace McMullan and sister Mary Connolly of Loughgiel played bravely having buried their father Dan during the previous week. Ar dheis Dé go reibh a nam.

The single most welcome, appreciated and generous happening in the

Camogie World remains the sponsorship of the All-Ireland championship by "Bórd na Gaeilge" - nár laga Dia cad. It does indeed remind us of our responsibilities towards the promotion of ár dteanga dúchais- an Gaeilge "Beautiful beyond words" - and our culture side by side with our native games. Mar chuid den urraíocht is féidir leis na fóirne teacht le chéile ar an lá dár gcionn agus ceiliúradh a dhéanamh, dteannta a chéile.

Talking of the "Bórd na Gaeilge" Sponsorship reminds one of the famous interview with Séan Bán Breathnach at the Olympic Games in Atlanta when Séan, seeing Michelle Smith under pressure, began to interview her Mara deir Michelle - Banríon órga na dtonn - "Is teanga álainn i an Ghaeilge agus is bréa liom í a úsáid chomh minic agus is féidir" as Gaeilge to the utter dismay of the other journalist present! I hope that our players will cherish the language and even if they only have the "Cúpla Focail" that they will use them as often as possible.

Now in its 22nd year the Kilmacud seven-a-side has gone from strength to strength aided by generous sponsorship by Whirlpool. This year was no exception with teams participating from Clubs in every part of the country with Toomevara, Tipperary, taking the honours.

This has become a great social occasion when one can wander around from game to game and renew acquaintance with many old friends made down through the years. Despite the keen rivalry on the field of play it is always heartwarming that off the pitch the friendships always endure.

New York young Ireland's club once again, hosted and won the International seven-a-side Camogie Tournament. USA Camogie President Kathleen McDonagh has promoted this summer tournament since 1994 and has attracted teams from Boston, Toronto, L.A., San Francisco, Philadelphia, Louth, Waterford and several student teams working abroad.

Bail Ó Dhia ar an obair, a Chaitlin Beidh toradh do shaothar le feisint ins na bleanta atá Romhainn. Tá tacaíocht iomlán tuillte ag ár gcairde chamógaiochta thar lear i Sasana agus Meiricea.



Cork camogie players Linda Mellerick, Eithne Duggan and Lynn Dunlea with coach Tom Nott at the launch of the Cork County Board Members Draw.

Camogie World

Bord na Gaeilge

by PJ Fulham

Cork secured their 18th All-Ireland senior camogie championship title when they avenged last year's defeat by Galway in the Bord na Gaeilge Championship final in Croke Park, before an attendance of 10,300. The champions could not match the standard or determination of the Rebels, who were out to prove a point. After ten minutes it was evident that a Cork victory was on the cards. Their staunch defence led by Sandy Fitzgibbon excelled. Goalie Cora Keohane playing in her first All-Ireland brought off some great saves at vital moments. Centre field's Vivienne Harris and full forward Lynn Dunlea caused huge problems for Galway's rearguard.

Galway's Sharon Glynn, on whom her team depended a lot on, may not have been fully recovered from a recent illness. Nevertheless, she got lots of possession but not the huge score she usually registers. She managed three points, two from frees and one from play all in the first ten minutes of the first half. There is no doubt that Galway were disappointed with their performance. They are a good young side with a good future ahead of them.

Cork will have to find replacements for Sandie Fitzgibbon and Linda Mellerick who have announced their retirement, but afterwards Linda said as she held the O'Duffy Cup, "I'll keep my options open." The Rebels are now just eight All-Ireland titles behind Dublin who hold the record with twenty six.

This was the third year for Bord na Gaeilge to sponsor the All-Ireland senior championship. Cork have appeared in all three and won two. Among the guests of honour attending the match were President Mary

Robinson who was officially attending her last All-Ireland final, the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Minister for Education Michael Martin. Galway's second half goals by Denise Gilligan and Veronica Curtin came as a result of Sharon Glynn deliveries, but each time it was Cork who hit back. Lynn Dunlea gave a star performance, having a personal tally of ten points, six from frees.

Cork led by 0-9 to 0-3 at the break and within 45 seconds of the resumption, Denise Gilligan had the sliotar in the Cork net. Cork were seven points clear when Galway produced their second goal on the 55th minute. It was again Cork's Lynn Dunlea who replied with a point. One minute into injury time Cora Keohane brought off a vital save from Therese Maher and from then until the final whistle Cork remained in control.

Final score: Cork 0-15 Galway 2-5

Scorers: Cork - Lynn Dunlea 0-10, Vivienne Harris 0-4, Mary O'Connor 0-1.

Galway - Veronica Curtin 1-1, Denise Gilligan 1-0, Sharon Glynn 0-3, Anne Forde 0-1.

Cork team - Cora Keohane, Eithne Duggan, Denise Cronin, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Mags Finn, Linda Mellerick, Vivienne Harris, Mary O'Connor, Sinead O'Callaghan, Fiona O'Driscoll, Irene O'Keefe, Lynn Dunlea. Sub - Eileen Buckley for S O'Callaghan.

Galway team - Louise Curry, Olive Costelloe, Olivia Broderick, Tracey Laheen, Pamela Nevin, Gretta Maher, Sharon Glynn, Dymphna Maher, Martina Harkin, Imelda Hobbins, Denise Gilligan, Anne Forde. Subs - Veronica Curtin for I Hobbins, Therese Maher for Gretta Maher, Aine Hillary for M Harkin.

Referee - Biddy Phillips, Tipperary.

Antrim collected their first All-

Ireland junior title in the curtain raiser to the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior final. The Northerners, whose only previous appearance in a junior All-Ireland final was in 1981 when they went under to Clare. They totally outclassed Cork the holders. The ball had hardly been thrown in when Grace McMullan raced through to give Cork's Sandra Ricken no chance from close range. Caoimhe Harrington opened Cork's account with a point minutes later, but it was Antrim that done most of the attacking. At half time the game was over as a contest with Antrim leading 4-7 to 0-4. They continued to hold the upperhand in the second half.

Final score: Antrim 7-11 Cork 2-10

Scorers: Antrim - Caitriona Higgins 3-2, Grace McMullan 2-3, Deirdre Heatley 2-0, Anne McKee 0-4, Denise O'Boyle 0-2.

Cork - Caoimhe Harrington 1-4, Nora Ahern 1-1, Criona Harte 0-3, Ursula Troy and Oonagh O'Donoghue 0-1 each.

Antrim team - Karen Coyles, Brenda McNeill, Mary Connolly, Sinead McMullan, Maureen Barry, Bronagh O'Neill, Denise O'Boyle, Claire McGarry, Anne McKee, Grace McMullan, Caitriona Higgins, Deirdre Heatley. Subs - Oonagh Elliott for M McMullan, Grainne Connolly for M Connolly.

Cork team - Sandra Ricken, Cliona Meaney, Sabrina Buckley, Muireann Harrington, Lisa Kelleher, Ursula Troy, Eimear O'Sullivan, Tina Roache, Eleanor Kenneally, Criona Harte, Caoimhe Harrington, Oonagh O'Donoghue.

Subs - Helen Kelleher for C Meaney, Nora Aherne for E Kenneally, Valerie O'Keefe for T Roache.

Referee - Mary Connor, Louth.



LEFT: Linda Mellerick, Captain Cork Senior Camogie Team which won the All-Ireland photographed with other team members Vivienne Harris, Eithne Duggan, Tom Nott, Coach; John Ring, School Coach and Annie Twomey, Principal.

(Pic: Mike English)

They're laughing by the Leaside as Cork take back O'Duffy Cup

Cork captured the O'Duffy Cup for the eighteenth time with a convincing win over reigning champions, Galway at Croke Park. The platform for Cork's success was created by an outstanding defence. Centre-back, Sandie Fitzgibbon had a superb game and received excellent support from Denise Cronin, Mags Finn and Eithne Duggan.

Lynn Dunlea was the star of Cork's attack. Her tally of ten points included some excellent strikes from play. Cork were in control throughout the first half but Galway hit back with two goals in the second half. In a thrilling final quarter, Galway launched a series of all out attacks. Cork's new goalkeeper, Cora Keohane brought off a number of top class saves to thwart their efforts.

Antrim turned in a magnificent display to claim the All-Ireland Junior Championship title. Denise O'Boyle, Grace McMullan and Anne McKee played superb camogie. They created and finished a series of chances to win the cup in style. On this showing, Antrim are destined for an early return to the senior ranks. A very young and inexperienced Cork side were on the receiving end but they will learn from the outing and return in the future.

Clare and Tipperary, the counties which contested the All-Ireland Hurling Final, renewed acquaintance in the final of the

All-Ireland Intermediate Championship, on Sunday 21st. September. The rivalry between the girls of these Munster counties was as keen as ever.

The All-Ireland Intermediate Championship was inaugurated six years ago to bridge the significant gap between junior and senior grades. Many counties who won the All-Ireland Junior championship had found themselves out of their depth in the senior grade and fell away quickly. Now junior champions have the benefit of the Intermediate grade to assist their progress and prepare them for camogie at the highest level.

Over the years, Clare and Tipperary have experienced senior camogie. Of the two, Tipperary made the greater impact. They reached the final of the All-Ireland Senior Championship on six occasions but, unfortunately, failed to bring home the O'Duffy Cup.

Tipperary have enjoyed success in the present decade. They captured the All-Ireland Junior Championship title in 1992 and won the All-Ireland Minor title in the 1990, 1992 and 1993. Many of the present team are products of those great minor sides. Tipperary can draw on three great camogie nurseries, St. Mary's, Nenagh, Cashel Community and Our Lady's, Templemore, who have turned out excellent players in recent years.

Clare brought the New Ireland Cup west of the Shannon in 1974,

1981 and 1986 and won the All-Ireland Intermediate title in 1993 and 1995. Their opponents in 1995 were Tipperary and the winning margin was a single point.

Both counties have impressed this season. Clare ran Cork close in the All-Ireland Senior Championship. At one stage in the second half the sides were two points adrift with Clare applying strong pressure on the Cork goal. However, the siege was lifted and Cork worked the ball down field where they scored two goals in quick succession. A goal for Clare might have changed the position of the game. A few weeks later they ran Cork to three points in the Munster Championship.

Tipperary tore holes in the Cork defence in the opening round of the National Senior League. They ran up the impressive total of 3-10 against Kilkenny in a subsequent round of the League. In the Intermediate Championship, they looked a class ahead of Cork's second string and had seven points to spare over a good Armagh side.

Tipperary have a well-organised defence which contains good individuals in Sinead Nealon, Suzanne Kelly, Emily Hayden and Claire Madden. Ciara Gaynor, Maeve Stokes and Therese Brophy win their share of possession in midfield. Deirdre Hughes is a match-winner at full-forward. Noelle Kennedy,

Catriona Hennessy and Jovita Delaney make up a forward division in which each player contributes scores.

Clare's semi-final result against Down speaks volumes for their capabilities. The Munster side ran up a very impressive total of 5-14 against the Ulster County who fancied their chances of going the whole way. Marie Collins, Orla Slattery and Debbie McDonagh are outstanding figures in the Clare defence. Moire McMahon, Sinead O'Brien and Edel Arthur form an excellent midfield. Up front Clare look to Noelle Comyns, Catherine O'Loughlin and Deirdre Murphy to get scores.

The Galway minor team were impressive winners over Cork in the All-Ireland Final at Pairc Uí Rinn last month. A tentative Cork side allowed the visitors take the initiative, the more



GALWAY - 1997 ALL-IRELAND MINOR CHAMPIONS.

settled quickly and had six points on the scoreboard before Cork opened their account. Cork were chasing the game all through.

Galway had marvellous players in the two wing centre-fielders, Veronica Sweeney and Therese Maher. Veronica won the Player of the Match Award. She was completely on top of a variety of opponents throughout the hour. She helped back in

defence and forward to aid the attack when the occasion arose. Therese showed lovely style.

This was Galway's seventh success in the all-Ireland Minor championship. Cork are still in the lead with eight titles but only just. At the rate which Galway are turning out top class young players it looks likely that the positions on the honours list may be reversed shortly.

Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland Camogie Final

Rebels

Return To Glory

By P.J. Fullam

Cork Ladies Avenge Last Years Defeat - Emphatically



Cork secured their 18th All-Ireland senior Camogie Championship title when they avenged last years defeat by Galway in the Bord na Gaeilge Championship final in Croke Park before an attendance of 10,300. The champions could not match the standard or determination of the Rebels, who were out to prove a point. After ten minutes it was evident that a Cork victory was on the cards. Their staunch defence led by Sandy Fitzgibbon excelled. Goalie Cora Keohane playing in her first All-Ireland brought off some great saves at vital moments. Centre fields Vivienne Harris and full forward Lynn Dunlea caused huge problems for Galways rear guard.

Galways Sharon Glynn on whom her team depended a lot on may have been fully recovered from a recent illness. Nevertheless she got lots of possession but not the huge score she usually registers, she managed three points, two from frees and one from play all in the first ten minutes of the first half. There is no

doubt that Galway were disappointed with their performance. They are a good young side with a good future ahead of them. Cork will have to find replacements for Sandie Fitzgibbon and Linda Mellerick who have announced their retirement, but afterwards Linda said as she held the O'Duffy Cup "I'll keep my options open". The 'Rebels' are now just eight All-Ireland titles behind Dublin who held the record with twenty six.

This was the third year for Bord na Gaeilge to sponsor the All-Ireland senior Championship. Cork have appeared in all three and won two.

Among the Guests of honour attending the match were President Mary Robinson who was officially attending her last All-Ireland final, the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Minister for Education Michael Martin.

Galways second half goals by Denise Gilligan and Veronica



Concentration etched on the faces of Lynn Dunlea (Cork) and Tracey Laheen (Galway) as they race for the ball.

Curtin came as a result of Sharon Glynn deliveries, but each time it was Cork who hit back. Lynn Dunlea gave a star performance having a personal tally of ten points, six from frees.

Cork led 0-9 to 0-3 at the break and within 45 seconds of the resumption Denise Gilligan had the shot in the Cork net. Cork were seven points clear when Galway produced their second goal on the 55th minute. It was again Corks Lynn Dunlea who replied with a point. One minute into injury time Cora Keohane brought off a vital save from Therese Maher and from then until the final whistle Cork remained in control. Final Score: Cork 0-15 Galway 2-5

Score: Cork, Lynn Dunlea 0-10, Vivienne Harris 0-4, Mary O'Connor 0-1
Galway: Veronica Curtin 1-1, Denise Gilligan 1-0, Sharon Glynn 0-3, Anne Forde 0-1.

CORK TEAM: Cora Keohane, Eithne Duggan, Denise Cronin, Sandie Fitzgibbon, Mags Finn, Linda Mellerick (Capt), Vivienne Harris, Mary O'Connor, Sinead O'Callaghan, Fiona O'Driscoll, Irene O'Keeffe, Lynch Dunlea. Sub: Eileen Buckley for S O'Callaghan.

GALWAY TEAM: Louise Curry, Olive Costelloe, Olivia Broderick, Treacey Laheen, Pamela Nevin, Gretta Maher, Sharon Glynn, Dymphna Maher, Martina Harkin (Capt), Imelda Hobbins, Denise Gilligan, Anne Forde. Subs: Veronica Curtin for I Hobbins, Therese Maher for Gretta Maher, Aine Hillary for M Harkin.

Referee: Biddy Phillips, Tipperary.

Antrim collected their first All-Ireland junior title in the curtain raiser to the Bord na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior

final. The Northerners whose only previous appearance in a junior All-Ireland final was in 1981 when they went under to Clare. They totally outclassed Cork the holders. The ball had hardly been thrown in when Grace Mc Mullan raced through to give Corks Sandra Ricken no chance from close range. Caoimhe Harrington opened Cork's account with a point minutes later but it was Antrim that did most of the attacking. At half time the game was over as a contest with Antrim leading 4-7 to 0-4. They continued to hold the upper hand in the second half.

Final score: Antrim 7-11 Cork 2-10.

Scorers: Antrim Caitriona Higgins 3-2, Grace Mc Mullan 2-3, Deirdre Heatley 2-0, Anne McKee 0-4, Denise O'Boyle 0-2.

Cork: Caoimhe Harrington 1-4, Nora Ahern 1-1, Criona Harte 0-3, Ursula Troy and Oonagh O'Donoghue 0-1 each.

ANTRIM TEAM: Karen Coyle, Brenda McNeill, Mary Connolly, Sinead McMullan (Capt), Maureen Barry, Bronagh O'Neill, Denise O'Boyle, Claire McGarry, Anne McKee, Grace McMullan, Caitriona Higgins, Deirdre Heatley. Subs: Oonagh Elliott for M. McMullan, Grainne Connolly for M Connolly.

CORK TEAM: Sandra Ricken, Clodhna Meaney, Sabrina Buckley, Muireann Harrington, Lisa Harte, Caoimhe Harrington, Oonagh O'Donoghue. Subs: Helen Kelleher for C Meaney, Nora Ahern for E Kenneally, Valerie O'Keeffe for T Roache.

Referee: Mary Connor, Louth.

Victorious Cork Captain Linda Mellerick holds aloft the O'Duffy Cup.

All-Ireland Football Final 1997