



The Echo Player of the Match in the SE Systems Minor B Camogie Championship final, Emma McSweeney, is presented with her award by board vice chairman Padraic Treacy

Cork Camogie makes history by electing first male chairman at AGM

A busy season drew to its conclusion recently as Cork Camogie reflected on another hugely successful year when they held the county convention in Castle Road.

There was a large attendance of representatives from all the clubs and also in attendance were former national camogie president Hilda Breslin, Munster chairperson Christine Ryan, and Marie Kearney representing national president Brian Malloy.

As Cork look ahead to 2025, history was made at convention when the first male chairman of the Cork camogie board was elected as Mairead Donovan from the Ballincollig club stepped down as chair having served four years in the role.

Vice chairman Padraig Treacy from Nemo Rangers was elected to take over and to lead Cork camogie as chairman.

Padraig is a well-known figure in GAA circles and is an experienced official having served as chairman of the Nemo Rangers Hurling and Football Club.

He also held various other roles within the club and has also served on the Seandún camogie committee as an officer.

In 2024, he became an officer of the Cork Camogie County Board for the first time when he became the first male vice chairman of the board.

Darina Foley, from the Middleton club, who took over as the secretary's role in 2024, continues in the role with ex-

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

perienced official Mary McSweeney from the Bandon club continuing in the important role of treasurer.

Mairead Lynch, who has done a huge amount of work on the development side of Cork camogie, continues in the role of development officer, and the position of PRO has been filled by Brian O'Regan from the Douglas club and he replaces Dave Harris, who had to step down from the role mid-season due to work commitments.

Eileen O'Brien from Sliabh Rua, who came into the role of registrar in 2024, did not go forward for re-election. Here, Orla O'Regan from the Ballincollig, who was a member of the boards general purposes committee, is now the new county board registrar.

The General Purpose Committee consists of Marian McCarthy, St Finbarr's, Sheila Golden, Inniscarra, and Cork's delegate to Munster Council is Lillian Zinkant, Sarsfields.

Secretary Darina Foley, in a detailed report, spoke about the continued spread of the game while also speaking about the restructuring of the championship competition which took place in 2024.

Development officer Mairead Lynch reported on the inaugural Cork Personal Development programme started this year in association with UCC for the county U14 and U17 panels, which was a huge success.

The wonderful facility that is Castle Road continued to be improved and through 2024 the board did a lot of work on developing the facility further, with work continued on the pitch and on the dressing rooms with a further two rooms added which are now near to completion.

A big job for the season ahead will include the next project which will be the upgrading of the car park which will include levelling the surface, drainage, tarmacadam, and lighting.

This will again be a huge cost to the board, as will the plan to install floodlighting, but they will continue to push ahead to add to Castle Road and the superb facility it is.



Kate Dooley, Ballinora, receives the Player-of-the-Game award from Rory Noonan, chief sub editor at The Echo.

Picture: Jim Coughlan

SPORTS DIARY 2025

COMPILED BY
CAROL
KIRWAN

Camogie

FEBRUARY

- 1 Post Primary Senior semi-finals
- 2 All Ireland Minor Championships commences
- 8-9 Third Level Championships finals
- 15 Post Primary Senior final; National League commences

MARCH

- 29 National League Division 1B final; Division 3A semi-finals
- 30 All Ireland Minor A quarter-finals

APRIL

- 12 National League Division 3A final, Division 4 Final
- 13 All Ireland Minor A, B & C finals; National League Division One A & 2A finals
- 26-27 All Ireland Minor A, B & C finals

MAY

- 24 All Ireland U23 and All Ireland Senior championships commence

JULY

- 5 All Ireland Senior & Intermediate quarter-finals
- 12 U23 A final; All Ireland Premier Junior Championships semi-finals; Nancy Murray Cup final
- 26 All Ireland Senior Championship semi-finals
- 27 All Ireland Intermediate & Premier Junior Championship semi-finals

AUGUST

- 10 All Ireland Championship finals

NOVEMBER

- 29-30 All Ireland Club semi-finals

DECEMBER

- 13 All Ireland Junior Club Championship finals
- 14 All Ireland Senior & Intermediate Club Championship finals



Aoife Healy blocks down Dublin's Zoe Couch in last year's Glen Dimple All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at UPMC Nowlar Park. Picture: Inpho/Bryan Keane/G

Healy keen to help UCC end Ashbourne wait

CAMOGIE

■ Denis Hurley

Across the past two decades, UCC have been in nine Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup finals; unfortunately, ultimate glory has remained elusive in that time.

Having retained their league title, the Skull and Crossbones are again among the favourites as they begin their inter-varsity championship campaign with a derby clash against MTU Cork today.

Two years ago, Cork dual star Aoife Healy was part of the UCC team that made the final, losing narrowly to TU Dublin after extra-time. She would love to help the college end the long wait, though of course she knows that there are a few steps to be negotiated for that to materialise.

Coming in as league champions certainly gives Jerry Wallace's side a boost, she feels.

"I don't think UCC has won an Ashbourne since 2003," Healy says.

"The league is not something to be thrown away, really. It's a good learning curve for a team and for trying out new players and everything. It's definitely a good one to win, coming into the Ashbourne.

"UCC are always there or thereabouts. We've been in a few finals where we've lost by really small margins — when I was in first year, we lost the Ashbourne final by a point in extra-time.

"Those are the margins in the last few years for us, hopefully we'll get across the line this year or next year."

A camogie player with Aghada and a footballer with Cloyne, Healy also has O'Connor Cup commitments with UCC. Add in the county demands and her time is in big demand in the early part of the year.

"Definitely, this is the toughest time of the year," she says, "January-March, when the college season is at its height and the inter-county pre-season and leagues are starting off.

"It'll definitely be busy, but

I think we're trying to organise it quite well this year, where we're not over-loading anyone, and hopefully it'll all work out."

The theme of this year's Ashbourne is 'First-Class Rivals', highlighting how players from different counties play together under the college banner. Healy, a third-year environmental science student, certainly finds the benefits in that.

"It's great," she says, "there's such a wide variety of counties and players from different counties.

"You play against them and you wouldn't want to be marking them because they're so good, but you're glad of them on your college team then.

"It definitely brings you on, I would definitely agree with that."

Healy also has plenty of Cork colleagues for company in the red and black of UCC. Last year, retaining the All-Ireland title showed the maturity of the squad and she feels that dealing with such pressure will help to block out the noise around the possibility of the county winning three in a row for the first time since 1972.

"There's extra pressure when you've won it before, so being able to win it for the second time in a row puts real confidence into the team, especially for this year," she says.

"We know that we can win it after winning it the year before, so that kind of pressure shouldn't really be affecting us.

"Last year, there was talk of two in a row and whether we could do it again, but you can't let that come to the forefront of your game. It's something that you shouldn't really be trying to focus on.

"This year, especially, we're going to have to try to block that out and focus on ourselves and bettering ourselves again."

Cork and UCC star Aoife Healy at the launch of the Electric Ireland GAA Higher Education and Camogie Third Level Championships.
(Photo: Dan Sheridan/INPHO)



Healy focussed on next All-Ireland, not three-in-a-row bid

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

YOU won't hear Aoife Healy talk too much about winning the three-in-a-row this season, as All-Ireland senior camogie champions Cork aim to build on their back-to-back O'Duffy Cup wins.

The fact is that while Cork target a first three-in-a-row for the county since the early 1970s, Healy and her team-mates just want to win the next All-Ireland.

'It's something we would be striving for (the three-in-a-row) but it's not something you can have in the forefront of your mind going in to play matches,' Healy said.

'Our aim for 2025 is to win the All-Ireland. We're not looking at it being three-in-a-row or having won All-Irelands before.'

The current crop could become the third Cork camogie side to achieve the three-in-a-row, after the successes of 1934-36 and 1970-73. In the 2024 championship, Cork won every game and other than their All-Ireland final triumph over Galway (1-16 to 0-16), won every game by nine points or more. Healy and Co are ready to defend their crown, again.

'It drives a team on and it shows we are capable of winning back-to-back titles. For this year, we know we have done it before and even when the pressure was on to do it again, we did that. I think there is no doubt that we can do it,' Cloyne star Healy said.

'As a team, I think it's kind of kept us together. The whole set-up hasn't really changed all that much since our first All-Ireland win in 2022.'

'It's a different kind of pressure. You're less chasing another team and having goals at beating certain teams rather than goals of bettering yourself. It is a different way of training and a different mindset from it all really.'

Current boss Ger Manley replaced Matthew Twomey as manager for the 2024 season and made an instant impact.

'Ger has been with us for a few years. He was involved with Matthew so knows all of us as players. He knows our strengths and our potential. I think Ger is very good at communicating and talking to his players to get the most out of them,' Healy acknowledged.

'Last year, he brought up a lot of girls from the intermediates and younger girls up to even just training to get a feel of the set-up before bringing them up this year to be part of the panel. He has a good link with the minor managers and everything and brings the youth up to the senior set-up.'

First thoughts for Healy are on the colleges' competitions. She will line out for UCC in the Ashbourne Cup, a competition the Cork college haven't won since 2003.

'College can become quite stressful but it's great having a release in playing camogie and going into an environment where everybody is in the same boat. When you're playing, I feel like there is nothing going on in your mind. It's a great release and I think it's really important for people to have that when studying,' Healy added.

Aoife Healy was speaking at the launch of the Electric Ireland Camogie Third Level Championships and the Electric Ireland GAA Higher Education Championships.



The death has occurred of Mary Fennelly

Ennisnag, Stoneyford, Kilkenny

Mary Fennelly, Ennisnag, Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny.
(Former President of The Camogie Association of Ireland).

Peacefully, at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny on Monday, 13th January 2025.

Pre-deceased by her parents John and Josie.

Deeply regretted and sadly missed by her loving family, her sisters Brid (Myers) and Siobhán (Speers), her brothers Michael and John, sisters-in-law Margaret and Veronica, brothers-in-law Tom and Martin, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, relatives, neighbours and friends.

May Mary Rest in Peace



JOE Carroll will do everything he can to make sure Cork's dual players get the chance to shine for both the county football and camogie teams this season.

Libby Copplinger, Hannah Looney and Aoife Healy line out for both Cork senior teams, and as long as dual players want to play both codes, Carroll will accommodate their wishes.

'If anyone wants to play dual sports, isn't it a great thing that they can?' Carroll says.

'I've been speaking with camogie manager Ger Manley and we are both on the same page, that the players don't get overloaded and don't get overworked, and that they are fresh for the games that we need them. We will constantly talk to each other and we'll facilitate the players.'

'I've had Aoife Healy before, between the Cork minors and with UCC, and I do everything to accommodate her and she knows herself too when she needs a rest; that will be paramount to this because if they are out five, six nights a week, we won't see the best of them. We'll support them from both sides.'

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY



Cork players and management celebrate after defeating Kilkenny in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland intermediate camogie final at Croke Park
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork enjoy a fantastic season at intermediate level with double glory

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork's second adult camogie team played in Division 2B of the league.

This is a competition confined to counties with second adult teams and they began the season with a new management team in place, led by Donie Daly who had enjoyed a hugely successful tenure with Cork U16s.

With his management team in place, Daly set his sights high and, assembling a strong panel, they set about their national league campaign in early February.

Cork topped the group with four wins from five, beating Tipperary, Galway, and Kilkenny but surprisingly losing to Wexford in a game that they were expected to win easily.

Undeterred by the defeat, they dusted themselves down and after a superb display they beat Clare in their last game to secure their place in the final against Tipperary.

In a tough battle on a day when the wind had a significant impact and made it difficult for the players, Cork's defence proved to be the launching pad for victory as they ran out 0-13 to 0-10 winners to make it back to back league division 2B titles.

With focus shifting to championship Cork were drawn with Offaly, Galway, Clare, Westmeath, and Wexford.

After a tough campaign they won all five group games to secure a semi-final meeting with Offaly where they ran out winners with two goals to spare.

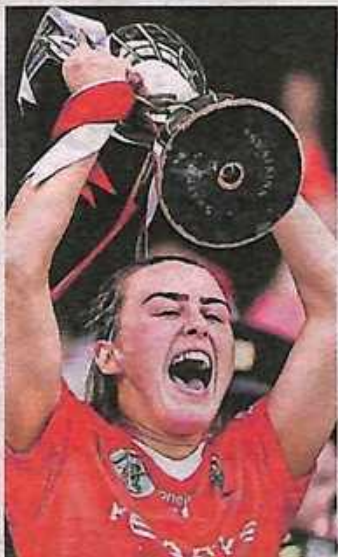
In the second semi-final Kilkenny and Galway had to go to extra-time before Kilkenny edged it after a thrilling contest.

The scene was set as Croke Park beckoned and Kilkenny were tipped by many to take the title which, no doubt, suited Daly and his side as they played it low key in the lead-up to the game.

It took a huge effort and sheer heart, guts, and determination as Cork captured the title.

It was a titanic battle and a game that went down to the wire before a point from substitute Fiona Nelligan three minutes into injury-time saw Cork win the county's fifth All-Ireland intermediate title.

To cap a superb season for



Cork captain Lauren Homan lifts the Jack Mills Cup after her side's victory over Kilkenny.

the intermediate side, six players were honoured with Soaring Star Awards.

Lauren Homan, Tara McCarthy, Emma Flanagan, Niamh O'Leary, Cliona O'Callaghan, and Aoife Barrett were worthy recipients.

It was a surprise not to see a Cork player named intermediate player of the year, with the award going to Kilkenny's Danielle Morrissey.

The intermediate grade has always been a huge one for players who come through from minor ranks, and while many won't make senior squads, it's a grade that is hugely beneficial for players to continue their inter-county career.

It is a huge disappointment and a surprise to see that the Camogie Association have decided not to allow second adult teams participate at intermediate level and to instead organise an U23 championship for counties such as Cork and all those who previously fielded second adult teams.

While they may see benefiting counties with only one adult team, it is doing nothing for player retention.

If a player is over 23 and is not up to senior inter-county standard her chance to represent her county on the inter-county stage at just 24 years of age is effectively over.

It seems the association is penalising counties that are working hard and are in a position to field two adult teams; the decision makes no sense.



UCC's Clodagh Finn and MTU's Aoife O'Neill tussle for the sliotar during the Ashbourne Cup at The Mardyke.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

UCC have too much power and strength for MTU in Ashbourne tie

UCC 1-18
MTU Cork 0-1

UCC launched their Ashbourne Cup campaign with an emphatic 1-18 to 0-1 victory over local rivals MTU Cork at The Mardyke on Tuesday night.

UCC started slowly with five wides inside the first six minutes from eight attempts, but a goal soon after from All-Ireland winner Clodagh Finn kickstarted an emphatic display by the home side.

That made it 1-3 to no score and UCC went on to finish comfortable winners, in a competition they are aiming to win for the first time since 2003.

There was no talk of titles by the college, who started three members of the Cork team that defeated Kilkenny in last year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie final.

Finn led the line with 1-7 tallied, and her evening started with a well-worked white flag in the third minute.

The forward then played Limerick's Sarah O'Brien through, but her goalbound shot was easily stopped by Chloe Lane.

Finn's second point was followed by O'Brien forcing the sliotar in off the post in the 18th minute.

The game's only green flag was raised seconds later and UCC were in front, 1-3 to no score.

Tipperary's Eimear Heffernan added a point from open play and a chance for a second goal of the half came from the puck-out but the ball was scrambled away.

CAMOGIE

■ Dylan O'Connell

UCC finished the half by rattling off 0-5 without reply with Finn and Anna Murphy splitting the posts twice during that run and Heffernan getting a point for a 1-9 to 0-0 half-time scoreline.

The home side made five changes for the restart, with Cork star Meabh Murphy going off injured.

The changes did very little to slow down the UCC attack as they hit 0-9 in the second half.

Orlaith Kelleher raised two white flags in quick succession and her Limerick teammate Liz Ann Boylan added a point after replacing Meabh De Burca.

Finn tacked on two more to her tally and Isobel Sheehan got one during a burst inside the final 10 minutes.

Orlaith Cahalane got MTU's only score from a free and the game finished with Orlaith Mullins finding the target for UCC.

Scorers for UCC: C Finn 1-7 (1f); L Ann Boylan, E Heffernan, E Murphy, O Kelleher all 0-2, S O'Brien, I Sheehan, and O Mullins all 0-1.

MTU Cork: O Cahalane 0-1 (1f).

UCC: C Buckley; M De Burca, A Walsh, M Murphy, M Ring, A Healy, L Ryan, E Heffernan, O Kelleher, E Dempsey, I Sheehan, E Murphy, A Hurley, C Finn, S O'Brien.

Subs: L Lehane for Buckley (HT); A Cashman for M Murphy (HT), LA Boylan for De Burca (HT), G Moloney for Dempsey (HT), O Mullins for Hurley (HT).

MTU Cork: C Lane; E O'Donovan, A O'Neill, S Hurley, E Wiggington-Barrett, A Barrett, J Mullins, T McCarthy, A Daly, E Dwyer, O Cahalane, M Conlon, A Hailan, A Sheppard, C Daly.

Referee: Andy Larkin (Ballygarvan).



UCC's Isobel Sheehan shoots from MTU's Eve Dwyer during the Ashbourne Cup at The Mardyke.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



UCC's Lisa-Ann Boylan tries to break past UCC's Ellen Baker and Ciara Hickey in their Ashbourne Cup game.
Picture: Jim Coughlan

UCC too strong for University of Galway in Ashbourne Cup

UCC 1-20
University of Galway 1-6

UCC continued their Ashbourne Cup campaign with a 1-20 to 1-6 victory over University of Galway at The Mardyke on Tuesday night, their second win in the competition.

Last week they destroyed MTU Cork, and they were too good for University of Galway. It is going to take a very good team to stop them on this form.

Cork star Clodagh Finn stole the show by tallying 0-8 to bring her total to 1-15 after two outings. That followed an emphatic victory over local rivals MTU Cork on opening night, while the University of Galway started with a 2-18 to 1-6 hammering of DCU. The home side picked up where they left off in the derby game with an early goal chance for Isobel Sheehan flashing just wide inside the first minute.

Finn followed up by splitting the posts from play and her second, from a free, gave UCC an early two-point lead.

Another brace by the Fr O'Neill's player gave the home side a 0-4 to no score advantage before Sabina Rabbittie opened the University of Galway's account.

Finn and Meabh Murphy combined seconds later to stretch UCC's lead to 0-6 to 0-1.

Then Galway won a penalty after a foul on Rabbittie and the forward's effort from the spot was stopped by Caoimhe Buckley. Orlaith Kelleher scored after UCC won the puck-out and the gap between the two teams widened when Liz-Ann Boylan hit the back of the net with a venomous strike in the 22nd minute. At 1-7 to 0-1, the home side were firmly in control even with Galway raising three white flags before the break.

CAMOGIE

■ Dylan O'Connell

UCC held firm and went into half-time leading 1-9 to 0-4 thanks to a late rally by Emma Murphy and Finn.

Boylan put over her only point within seconds of the restart and Sheehan got another as Galway scrambled to ignite a comeback. Suddenly it was 1-11 to 0-4 and UCC went up another level with a burst triggered by a Finn free. Tipperary's Eimear Heffernan and Meabh Ring were on target to pad a cushion that was growing bigger and bigger at the 40th minute.

Galway did get the next score, a well-worked goal from Rabbittie following a neat passing play. That made it 1-14 to 1-4, but there was no big finish as Miriam Murphy and Avril Cashman announced their arrivals with white flags, with Sheehan ending the proceedings from the 45.

Scorers for UCC: C Flynn 0-8 (3f); L Ann Boylan 1-1, I Sheehan 0-3, Miriam Murphy 0-2, Meabh Murphy, O Kelleher, E Murphy, E Heffernan, M Ring, A Cashman all 0-1.

University of Galway: S Rabbittie 1-2; L Kelly 0-3 (1f), C Dolan 0-1.

UCC: C Buckley; M De Burca, A Walsh, M Murphy, L Ryan, A Healy, M Ring, E Heffernan, O Kelleher, E Murphy, I Sheehan, L Ann Boylan, E Dempsey, C Finn, S O'Brien.

Subs: A Cashman for De Burca (25); G Murphy for Heffernan (47), Miriam Murphy for E Murphy (47), A Hurley for Dempsey (49), L Leanne for Buckley (53).

Galway University: L Freeney; E Baker, S Lyons, R Kelly, Ally Hesnan, T Fitzgerald, J Daly, N McPeake, O Rabbittie, C Hickey, L Kelly, T Canning, M Dillon, S Rabbittie, C Dolan.

Subs: K Coleman for Canning (40); C Kelly for O Rabbittie (50), E O'Connor for R Kelly (55).

Referee: Cathal McAllister (Aghada)



UCC's Isobel Sheehan gets away from UCC's Tiffany Fitzgerald in their Ashbourne Cup game at the Mardyke.
Picture: Jim Coughlan

Provincial underage camogie competitions have an early start date

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

It's an earlier than normal start for Munster camogie competitions with the U16 and minor competitions already underway. It is a busy weekend for Cork teams, with three games scheduled for tomorrow.

MINOR

The Munster Minor Championship gets underway for Cork when they host Clare in Castle Road tomorrow (2pm). Last weekend, Limerick defeated Waterford 2-12 to 1-10 in their preliminary round game. It was level at full-time, 1-9 a piece. Limerick won in extra-time to set up a semi-final meeting this weekend with champions Tipperary. Nine players from last season's Cork panel are available for selection this year — Saoirse Cunningham, Jess Murphy, Catherine Murphy, Rachel Murphy, Ava McAuliffe, Tara Goulding, Aoife Cottrell, Kate O'Sullivan, and Shauna O'Driscoll. The experience gained will be invaluable as they set out on the provincial and All-Ireland trail.



The Cork U16B camogie team who contest the Munster final against Tipperary tomorrow.

UNDER 16A

The U16A side will get their Munster campaign underway tomorrow when they travel to The Ragg for a semi-final meeting with Tipperary (1.30pm). Tipperary overcame Limerick in a preliminary round game last weekend, winning a close contest 0-10 to 0-9, as they stood

firm against huge pressure. Among the players who were to the fore for a balanced Tipperary side were Grace Cleary, Alice Butler, Ava Fanning, Sophie Moynihan, and Evanne Gleeson.

UNDER 16B

Cork took to the pitch last weekend and beat Clare 6-14 to 1-2. Keira Moloney, Teegan Murphy,

Kate Harvey, Lauren Cromwell, and Lucy Beecher were in top form as they set up a final meeting against Tipperary, who beat Limerick 1-10 to 2-4, in Castle Road tomorrow (12pm). Tipperary will look to Leah Delaney, Eimear Conroy, Eleanor Boland, Saoirse Butler, and Aine Callanan to lead the way.

Cork are the defending U16B provincial champions and will be hoping to retain their title in the first provincial final of the year.

CHAMPIONSHIP

With the provincial competition played separately to the All-Ireland series, the early start to the provincial competition gives mentors an opportunity to pre-

pare for what lies ahead. Championship gets underway for the minors on February 16 when Cork host Tipperary. On March 23, Cork are at home to Dublin and they travel to Kilkenny on March 17 for the final last group game. The quarter-finals are scheduled for March 30 with the semi-finals on the weekend of April 13/14. The final is scheduled for the weekend of April 26/27. The U16A championship begins on Sunday, April 9, with Cork away to Galway. On February 23 they host Kilkenny, and on March 9 they head to Dublin. They are away again on March 23 to Tipperary, with their final group game at home to Limerick on April 6. The semi-finals are scheduled for the weekend of April 19/21 with the final down for decision on the weekend of May 3/4. As the U16B All-Ireland championship only caters for counties with one U16 team Cork are not eligible to participate therefore Saturday's Munster final will be the last game for the U16B team.



Lily Murphy, Aine O'Donoghue and Jess Helbrow on the winning Munster Camogie Final Team with Colaiste na Toirbhirte, Bandon

SPORTS AWARDS



Aisling Cussen and Aoibheann Conway, both Colaiste Chóilín

Cork camogie star Emma Flanagan with Molly Casey (Rylane National School), Elise O'Donoghue (Aghabullogue National School), and Tara Kenneally (Coachford National School) at the relaunch of Macroom Credit Union's Coachford branch last



Lord Mayor of Cork, councillor Dan Boyle, with captain of the Cork U16s, Caoimhe Power; Méabh Cahalane, vice-captain of the senior side, and Niamh O'Leary, vice-captain the intermediate team, at a civic reception for the victorious Cork camogie teams in the atrium of City Hall. Picture: Darragh Kan

Civic reception for Cork camogie stars

The All-Ireland winning Cork senior camogie team were honoured this week at a celebratory civic reception at City Hall.

The event, hosted by Cork City Council, also honoured the victorious Cork intermediate and U16B camogie sides.

The seniors continued their achievements throughout 2024, when they secured their 30th All-Ireland senior crown, reaffirming their place as the most successful team in the history of the championship. This significant achievement was secured following the All-Ireland final triumph over Galway last August.

At the event, the Lord Mayor of Cork, councillor Dan Boyle, praised Cork halfback Laura Hayes and manager Ger Manley, who were awarded the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Camogie Player and Manager of the Year awards. As well as the side's 2024 PwC All-Star players; goalkeeper Amy Lee, corner-back Pamela Mackey, halfback Laura Hayes, centre-back Laura Treacy, midfielder Ashling Thompson, half-forward Saoirse McCarthy, full-forward Katrina Mackey, and

■ Rachel Lysaght

corner-forward Amy O'Connor.

The Lord Mayor noted that: "The success of our senior, intermediate, and underage teams can be attributed not only to their own skills, hard work, and dedication, but also to those who support them."

"Trojan work is undertaken by the County Board committee, volunteers, parents, and supporters, who are the lifeblood of the sport."

"I wish ongoing success to all for 2025 and far beyond."

While the senior camogie team were praised at the event for their ongoing commitment to the sport, they were not the only Cork players to bring home silverware in 2024.

The Lord Mayor of Cork and Cork City Council also honoured the Cork intermediate camogie team, whose All-Ireland win over Kilkenny, by a single point, saw captain Lauren Homan not only lift the Jack McGrath Cup but also be the championship's top scorer.

Additionally, the U16B camogie team were praised for claiming the Munster title last year.



Cork senior camogie players Amy O'Connor, Laura Hayes, and Méabh Cahalane, put one of the greyhounds through its paces at the launch of the 2025 Cork Camogie Night At The Dogs fundraiser, which takes place on February 15 at Cork Greyhound Stadium. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cork senior camogie team launch fundraiser night at Curraheen Park

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

The Cork senior camogie team will hold a 'Family Night at the Dogs' fundraiser in support of the Cork camogie players fund. The race night will take place at Curraheen Park on Saturday, February 15 when the team will be looking to raise funds towards their training costs and a training week they hope to have in April. In an appeal for support from companies and individuals they said: "We, the Cork senior camogie team, are looking for your support. On August 11 at Croke Park, we claimed a 30th All-Ireland senior camogie title for Cork."

"Our players show great dedication, commitment and give so much of themselves to represent our county. Every time we take the field, we strive to be active role models for every child and adult in Cork who dreams of playing for our county."

"We have had great success in our high-performance environment, and with success comes notable costs. We are now actively fundraising for the 2025 season."

"One of our fundraising events is a night at Curraheen Park. We would love if you, your company, or your organisation could donate to our fund."

"Your sponsorship donation will go towards a players' fund that will support the team throughout the coming year, and will help the funding of a well-earned high performance four-day training camp in Portugal this April. All money raised will be split between the training camp fund and player welfare expenses, like food, physiotherapy, medical costs, travel, and training expenses."

"We would be extremely grateful if we could count on your support."

Cork senior camogie team manager, Ger Manley, has added his support to the event and was full of praise for the effort that all the players put in last year and he knows they will put in this year.

"We're looking for companies to sponsor races or from people, any support we can get at all would be greatly appreciated," said Manley.

"And contribution we get will towards supporting the training fund for the year. This will be used in many ways, including cost like physios, food the players after training and lots of other hidden costs."

"We are also hoping to have a training camp abroad in April. They put in so much over the last couple of years and this is a chance for supporters or companies to show their support for the team who have won back-to-back All-Ireland championships."

"In fairness the camogie board do an awful lot for the team and we have to thank them, and others, for their support, but the costs of running an inter-county side are rising by the year."

"So I am appealing for anyone who can to sponsor a race, or buy a ticket and come along on the night to help these players have the best opportunity of having another good season," concluded Manley. The cost for individuals to go along on the night is €10 per ticket for a cause well worth supporting. If you require information or wish to support the team then email the fundraising committee members on: jennifermehigan@outlook.ie; meabhc928@hotmail.com or lauraaa.hayes@gmail.com. Ticket can be purchased at: <https://buy.stripe.com/eVa8zD8wG9w15ywcMX>



Newcestown camogie club members on the winning Munster final team at Colaiste na Toirbhirte last weekend were (from left): Róisín Wilson, Sarah Burrows, Karen O'Sullivan and Rachel Crowley with their coach Luke Meade.



Cork senior camogie team manager Ger Manley, with Amy O'Connor, Laura Hayes, and Meabh Cahalane, at the launch. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Libby Coppinger made her return to action for Cork last Saturday following her 2024 season-ending injury

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

LIBBY Coppinger is more conscious of her dual workload this season than in recent years, and there's a reason for that.

The St Colum's dual star missed the entire 2024 football and camogie All-Ireland championship campaigns after suffering a serious hamstring injury in the footballers' Munster round-robin win against Tipperary on May 4th.

She didn't realise at the time, but that injury – diagnosed as a grade three hamstring tear that required surgery – would end her season for county and club.

Last Saturday Coppinger lined out in a competitive game for Cork for the first time in 266 days as Joe Carroll's footballers beat Westmeath (3-12 to 0-5) in their Division 2 league opener at Páirc Uí Rinn.

She marked her return in style, rattling home two goals in the opening quarter as Cork raced out of the traps. Even though her comeback game was cut short late in the first half as she limped off with a dead leg after a knee into her quad, it felt good to be back.

This is what the Kealkill woman (28) was building towards since undergoing surgery on her hamstring on May 18th.

'That's what we do all the training for: to play,' she says, looking forward to a big year for the Cork football and the camogie teams.

The footballers, under new management, want to set the tone in the league and win promotion back to Division 1 ahead of the Munster and All-Ireland championships.

'Thankfully, my hamstring feels good, but I have to be a little bit more aware of it and the load on it'

The camogie team, under Ger Manley, is on top of the pile right now and targeting the three-in-a-row at All-Ireland level. Two-time camogie All-Star Coppinger (2022 and '23) is a rock in the Cork defence and will strengthen Manley's options this season.

Right now, the vastly-experienced Coppinger is determined to line out for both codes, but after last season's injury troubles she will keep a close eye on her workload.

'This year more than any year you are more conscious of that,' Coppinger admits.

'Thankfully, my hamstring feels good, but I have to be a little bit more aware of it and the load on it.'

'The (the dual decision) was definitely in the back of my mind but, as always, you don't really know which one you would pick over the other, and both managements are working really well together so that has helped. They are both aware of the injury and what I need to do.'

'It would have been hard to step away without having tried it. If it comes to a stage in the year when it's not possible, then I'll have to face that. Coming back, I want to give it a go. Please God, it will work out.'

Both camps want a fully-fit Coppinger as she strengthens both teams – lining out in attack for the footballers, and in defence for the camogie team

Libby keen to fly dual flag again for Rebels

Libby Coppinger made her return for the Cork footballers in the win against Westmeath last weekend.



– and she's eager to make up for lost time after her hamstring injury ended her 2024 season.

'I was lunging out for the ball, and overextended basically; that is a good example of

how you do this injury, when you hurt the tendon so high up towards the hip. I didn't have previous hamstring trouble or wasn't flat out sprinting, it was more about the position my body went in when it hap-

pened,' Coppinger recalls of how she suffered the injury in action against Tipperary's footballers.

The following day she was in with the Cork camogie set-up and although the Cork star

knew that she had injured her hamstring, she didn't realise the extent of it – that all became clearer after an MRI scan the following Thursday.

'That week at camogie training, I did a tiny bit of jogging

Meade urges Coláiste na Toirbhirte's camogie

Bandon school is one win away from All-Ireland camogie senior B final

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

FRESH from winning their first-ever Munster schools' senior B camogie title, Coláiste na Toirbhirte's trailblazers want to make an impact in the All-Ireland series.

The Bandon school takes on Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown from Kilkenny in an All-Ireland semi-final this Saturday at 1pm in Ballinaspittle. It's a huge occasion for the school and its history-chasing camogie team

– they are within one win of an All-Ireland final.

'It would be a huge achievement for the school if we were to qualify for the final,' says joint coach Jack Meade.

'Everyone dreams as a child of getting to an All-Ireland final. The girls have that within their grasp now. It is a great opportunity for them to realise their dreams. You're out in the back garden as a young girl, dreaming of being in an All-Ireland final so this is a massive

'It was the first time the school has won this Munster competition'

INSET: Coláiste na Toirbhirte coach Jack Meade.

opportunity for them.

'Obviously, it is a big test in playing a Kilkenny team in the semi-final but we must remember that we are the best team in our province so we shouldn't be fearing anyone going into a match like that.'

While Coláiste na Toir-

bhirte beat Limerick's Laurel Hill (4-7 to 0-9) in the Munster senior B final, Johnstown beat Presentation College of Wexford by 2-7 to 0-11 in the Leinster final, so both

have come through tough tests in their provincial finals. Shóna Cronin (Valley Rovers) scored a hat-trick in



the Bandon school's provincial final while captain Laura Sheehy (Kilbrittain-Timoleague) racked up 1-4 as their second-half goal burst made the difference. For Jack Meade, the Newcestown dual star, and Eoghan Minihane, it was very satisfying to watch their players deliver on the big day.

'It was the first time the school has won this Munster competition. Playing teams from Limerick, Tipp and Cork gave the girls great exposure and experience,' Meade says.

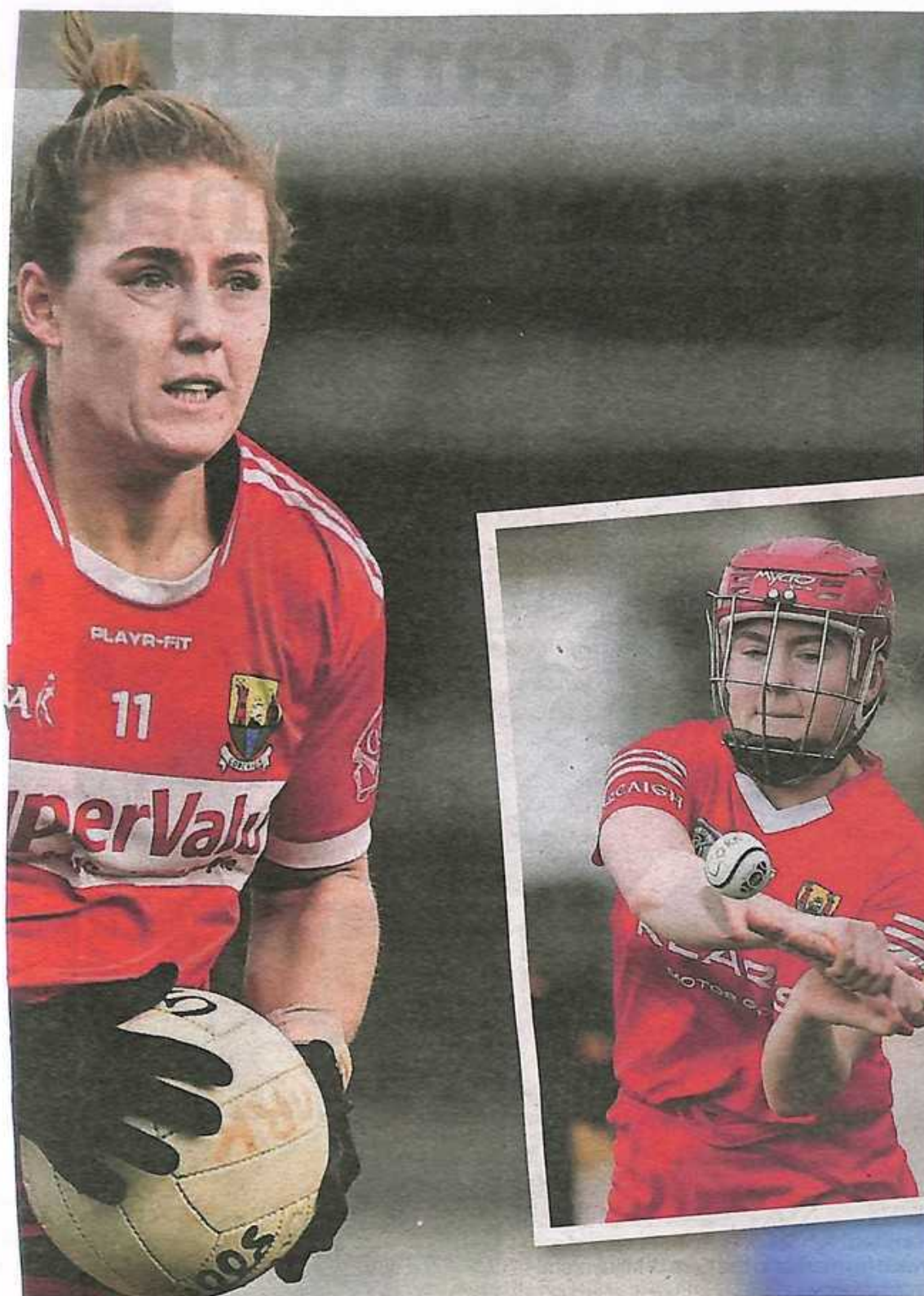
'To win it was a great reward. It has been a massive boost to the school. There's been a great feel-good factor in the school throughout the week. We decided to bring the girls back to

their old primary schools with the cup. That was really nice for them and they seemed to really enjoy that.'

The participation in camogie is rising every year and it is stories like this that make more girls want to play. Success breeds success.

'The promotion of women's sport and the lack of acknowledgement of women's success in sport is a big issue. For the girls to realise that their success can be acknowledged was a great thing as well. This was massive for the school and the girls themselves,' Meade says.

The group of Coláiste na Toirbhirte players has representatives from local clubs like Bandon, Kilbrittain-Timoleague,



Libby Coppinger scoring Cork's first goal against Westmeath in her comeback game on Saturday. (Photo: Paddy Feen)



INSET: All-Ireland winner Libby Coppinger is a two-time camogie All-Star.

and, again, felt pretty okay. With my lower hamstring I almost felt fatigue in it, but I took no notice, I was thinking it's great I am back running just a week later,' Coppinger recalls, and then came the

phone call that stopped her in her tracks: she was told she had suffered a grade three hamstring tear.

'That wasn't the news I was expecting because I didn't think the injury would be that

bad,' she says, and at that stage she was facing ten weeks out which put her camogie championship campaign into doubt. A meeting with consultant Dr Joe Jordan highlighted the seriousness of her injury.

'We did some tests, and I had way less power in my right leg compared to my left. He went through the MRI, and it was the tear in the tendon – it wasn't off the bone but it was so close to it, and there was no

tension in it anymore,' Coppinger recalls.

'He said you could potentially try to rehab it but it would nearly take as long as the surgery, and with the surgery you have a far better guarantee of coming back; that was his recommendation, because I played at the highest level you need to get this right.

'I had the surgery that Saturday (May 18th), so in two weeks I went from thinking I'll be fine, to facing ten weeks out, to five months from the surgery. It was a long road, but there are longer roads to take too so you need to be aware of that.'

Having had surgery, and facing five months on the sidelines, Coppinger's 2024 season was over. She had to watch on as the Cork footballers qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final, while the Rebels' camogie team defended their All-Ireland crown in August, beating Galway in Croke Park.

'There was a finality to it, the surgery took any humming and hawing out of it; my year finished there and then. It was hard. I have been very lucky in my whole playing career to not have had any major injury like this, so this was something new to deal with,' she says.

'I did fade away for a small bit, I just felt it would be better to stay away for a little while,

just to get my head around it, but everyone was so supportive; I got so many lovely messages.

'It hit at different stages. When you are told you need surgery, you focus on that. As the championship went on, you realise how much you miss it and how you would love to be out there training and playing with the girls.'

Coppinger had a front-row seat as Cork defended their All-Ireland title, and on All-Ireland final day Ger Manley made sure she got a jersey and fell part of the group; it's those gestures that eased the pain of missing out.

'We have a very close group and everyone did try to make me feel part of it, so it was definitely mixed emotions on All-Ireland final day, because you are delighted for the group, but watching from the stands is a lot harder than playing,' she says, but her comeback coincided with Cork's return to pre-season, which meant she could take her time with rehab and not rush.

Last Saturday, after over eight months without a competitive game, Coppinger was back with a bang for the Cork footballers, scoring two goals in her first game of what she hopes will be a long season in both codes.

trailblazers to grab their unique opportunity

Newcestown, Valley Rovers, Enniskeane and Courcy Rovers. The pieces of the jigsaw were there for Meade and Minihane to work with.

'There are big camogie clubs in the local area with plenty of talent. Just to nurture that and give the girls an opportunity to play, even at higher grades than they are used to, is massive. The talent is there, it's just about nurturing it really and giving the girls opportunities,' the Newcestown man points out.

'We have a great group of girls, they are excellent. We knew at the start of the year how much talent there was. It's just about giving them the opportunity. It's great for the

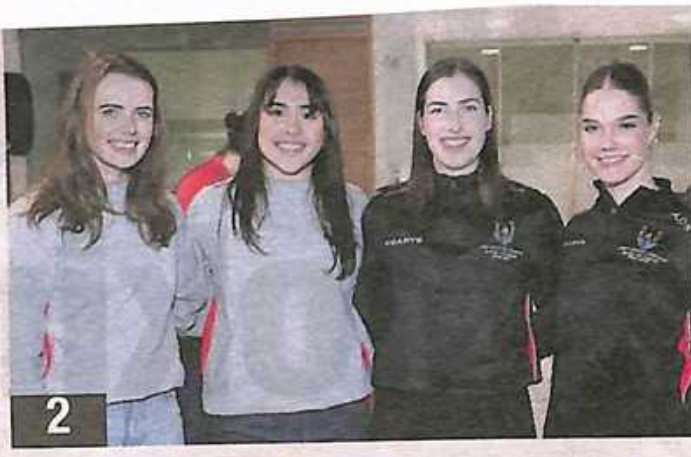
girls to see us in a different light and for us to see them in a different light. Then when you go back to the classroom, those relationships stick.'

Meade's right hand man Minihane is also a PE teacher in Coláiste na Toirbhirte. Both have enjoyed the coaching aspect of it and don't want the year to stop this weekend.

'It has been a great experience for us. The two of us would be more used to the male side of sport but camogie is a massive sport in the local area. We both enjoy coaching and we are really enjoying this journey too,' adds Meade, who hopes there are more big days out to come in this campaign, starting this Saturday in Ballinspittle.



Coláiste na Toirbhirte celebrate winning the Munster schools' senior B camogie title.



Civic reception for Cork camogie team

At a civic reception for the All-Ireland-winning Cork camogie team in Cork City Hall, were:

- 1. Jennifer Mehigan, Hannah Looney, and Amy O'Connor.
- 2. Méabh Cahalane, Clodagh Finn, Cliona Healy, and Aoife O'Neill.
- 3. Councillors Michelle Gould and Joe Lynch.
- 4. Garda Aoife Walsh and Chief Superintendent Tom Myers with councillor Honore Kamegni.
- 5. Seán McCarthy, Saoirse McCarthy, and Catherine McCarthy, Cork City Partnership.
- 6. Niamh Hartnett, Caoilin Hartnett, David Walsh, Cork City Council, and Carol Hartnett.
- 7. Cork camogie PRO Brian O'Regan and Cork camogie chairperson Padraig Treacy.
- 8. Captains Caoimhe Power (U16), Méabh Cahalane (vice captain), and Niamh O'Leary (vice captain, Intermediates).
- 9. Cork Chamber president Rob Horgan with Cork camogie player Amy O'Connor.
- 10. Abby Hicks, Naoise Hegarty, and Siún Carey.

Pictures: Darragh Kane





Aoife O'Neill, front, and Aisling Egan of St Finbarr's in action against Niamh Dilworth of Inniscarra during their SE Systems senior championship match at Castle Road. Picture: Dan Lineha

O'Neill inspired by O'Connor

As the Cork senior camogie team returned to training in the last few weeks, one player who will be hoping to make her mark this year is Aoife O'Neill.

The St Finbarr's star was Player of the Game in the county final as she helped her side to their first victory in the SE Systems senior decider since 2006.

A top-class defender, Aoife is comfortable playing in the half-back or full-back line, but her preferred option is the former. Now in her 20s, Aoife has been involved with Cork sides since she was 15, and will be hoping to play her part as Cork bid to retain their Munster and All-Ireland championship titles.

"I was 15 when I got called first to play with the U16 side," said O'Neill. "Then the next year I didn't get called for the minor team, my first year at minor age and I devastated."

"So you come back to the club and you work hard and I learned to like it more and enjoy it more. I actually did end up getting called the next year and starting away."

"We had a great season and we were the first year to win the minor All-Ireland and Munster in the same year. The girls in the year before me had won the All-Ireland but not the Munster championship."

"I think the team a few years after me did the double as well. People like Mike Boland and Jerry Wallace were top-class coaches and helped me a lot to develop as a player."

She then came out of minor and was playing with her club but it wasn't long before she got called up to the senior squad, at a time that the world stood still.

"We were straight up senior training in 2020, but that was the Covid year. So it was



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

kind of rough enough as we didn't know what to expect. I think five from my minor team was called under Paudie (Murray, then Cork senior manager) and we had no clue what to expect. Then we only got the first maybe month or two of training and then all restrictions came in and we had to go in our little groups of two or three out to the pitches and do our running."

"Then restrictions eased up and we came back as a group. And I remember we were training out at Tramore Park and the running there was disgusting and I was like 'do I even want this?', it was so hard."

"But it was class to be fair and then to be training with the older girls you had watched. It was like oh my God I'm training with these girls, I'm actually playing with them. Then you go marking them and you're like oh yeah that's why they are here."

"There is such a huge step up from minor to senior with Cork, with the club as well. But in particular at inter-county level there's a huge gap there and it's one that is an eye opener when you go in there first."

"I was only a little stick of a thing and you had the likes of Gemma O'Connor, she'd just throw me a shoulder and I'd be on the floor."

"So you kind of have to realise that you had to bulk up here and start going to the gym and the whole lot."

Her clubmate, O'Connor, was a player that she looked up to and still does to this day.

"When I was small and you get to know a few names of players and Gemma was one of them. I always wanted to play alongside her so bad."

"I remember it was the year before I got called up like properly onto the panel and Paudie would call us up for a few training sessions. Gemma used to bring me training, and I was like, 'Oh my God, I'm in Gemma O'Connor's car going Cork senior training'."

"She was so nice and telling me what to do and helping me out as I developed as a player."

The last two seasons have been magnificent for Cork and with two All-Ireland medals to her name, Aoife is hungry for more.

"I remember going up to the 2018 final and watching the girls and I was thinking how much I would love to be out there."

"Gemma got a late equaliser that day and Julia White then scoring the winning point, it was an unbelievable game."

"It was a long wait until 2023 to win it again and with the gap everyone wanted to win it so bad. When the final whistle blew, everyone was crying and hugging each other."

"Once you have one you want more, so it was a case of driving on and we were lucky enough to retain the title last year."

"You set out your goals at the start of the season and like the others we want to win the league, Munster and All-Ireland championships."

"That will be the aim again this year, but we know that all will be determined to take us down so it's up to all of us to up our game and hopefully drive on and have another successful season," concluded O'Neill.



The Cork U16A camogie team that defeated Tipperary and qualified for the Munster final tomorrow

Rebels book their place in Munster U16A final with win over Tipp

Cork 3-8
Tipperary 2-7
CAMOGIE
Mary Newman

Cork qualified for the Munster U16A camogie final overcoming Tipperary on Sunday in an exciting contest game played under lights on the astro turf in Fethard Town Park.

Cork looked in control of matters, but Tipperary staged a strong comeback, but it was not enough as Cork held firm to secure a four-point victory with the defence holding firm under strong Tipp pressure.

Cork had the advantage of a strong wind in the first half but Tipp opened the scoring with a Grace Cleary pointed free.

Rachel Morrison replied up with a point as Cork put pressure on the Tipperary defence.

Cork took the lead with Leah Ryan on target and in an evenly contested first quarter, Grace Cleary ensured Tipperary stayed in touch as she converted a free and with both defences having to work hard, the paced of the game was fast.

Cork began to gain the upper hand as the game continued and with Lea Mellouin and Stephanie Dwyer prominent.

Rachel Morrison struck a crucial blow for Cork as she finished to the net for the game's opening goal with the last puck of the half and at the interval, Cork held a six point lead, 1-05 to 0-02, but Tipperary had the wind advantage to come.

Cork extended their lead as they struck for two quick goals inside three minutes, Rachel Morrison with the first and Meabh Fitzgerald extending the lead, finishing to the net in a goal mouth scramble.

Tipperary responded, as Grace Cleary converted two frees in quick succession.

Lexi Manley and Grace Cleary traded scores and as the sides battled for dominance, Tipperary began to rally, Alice Butler landing a point before Grace Cleary

now operating closer to goal struck for a goal linking up well with Neasa Dwan as Tipperary cut the Cork lead.

Cork held a six-point advantage but Tipperary kept the pressure on and with Grace Cleary sending a 20-metre free to the net, the lead was down to three points. Again, Tipperary applied pressure, Cleary converted a free to put two points between the sides, but two late converted frees gave Cork breathing space as they held out to the final whistle.

Scorers for Cork: R Morrison 2-1, M Fitzgerald 1-0, L Manley 0-03 (0-3f), L Mellouin 0-02 (0-2f), S Dwyer, L Ryan 0-01 each.

Tipperary: G Cleary 2-6, (1-6 f's) A Butler (0-01) Cork: E O'Donoghue, M Keane, A Coleman, R Jones, C Hayes, G O'Connell, C Roche, S Gunn, S Kelleher, O Troy, L Ryan, L Mellouin, M Fitzgerald, R Morrison, S Dwyer.

Subs: A Bishop for S Kelleher, L Manley for S Dwyer, C Harte for S Gunn, R O'Mahony for R Jones, S Galvin for M Fitzgerald.

Tipperary: F Ahern; B Delaney, R O'Brien, A Fanning; E Gleeson, C Walsh, J Shanahan; N Dwan, B Woodcock; A Cahill, G Cleary, E McGrath; L Rabbitte, A Butler, L Hickey.

Subs: C Kennedy for E McGrath, A O'Connor for L Hickey, S Moynihan for L Rabbitte.

Referee: Daniel O'Donnell (Limerick).

BUSY WEEKEND AHEAD

The Munster U16A camogie final, Cork v Clare takes place in Fethard tomorrow, Sunday, at 5pm.

The Munster U16B final, Cork v Tipperary takes place on Monday, at 12 noon in Bishopstown. Pending the mid-week result of the postponed Munster minor championship game where Cork met Clare on Thursday evening the winners will meet Limerick in the Munster final on Sunday in Fethard, time TBC.

The losers will meet Tipperary in the shield final in Bishopstown at 2pm.



Molly Lynch, Izzy O'Regan, Aoife O'Neill, and Kate Wall celebrate after Cork's win over Kilkenny in 2023. Picture: Laszlo Geczo/Inpho



Aoife O'Neill receives the player of the match trophy from Mary Newman McCarthy after the SE Cork Senior Camogie Championship final. Picture: Dan Linehan



Amy O'Connor, Laura Hayes, Meabh Cahalane, all Cork Senior Camogie and Ger Manley, Cork senior camogie manager, at the launch of the 2025 Cork Camogie Night At The Dogs Fundraiser, which takes place on February 15, at Cork Greyhound Stadium, Curraheen Park.



FEBRUARY 3, 2025 by THE SAFFRONGAEL

Maeve Gilroy RIP

The death occurred on Friday of Maeve Gilroy, one of Antrim and Ulster's greatest ever camogie players.

The St Malachy's player made her inter-county debut for the Saffrons in 1952 and scored three points in the Ulster final defeat of Down as the team went through to contest the All-Ireland final against Dublin. They lost narrowly that year, 5-1 to 4-2, but Gilroy had established in the Antrim team where she would remain for the next 17 seasons.

She was already regarded as one of the country's best players when she scored two goals for Antrim against Dublin in the historic 1956 All Ireland semi-final, a match that prevented Dublin winning 19 All Ireland titles in a row. Antrim would go on to defeat Cork in the final and win the county's fourth O'Duffy Cup.

Gilroy was a goal-scorer and leading player on the first ever Queen's University Belfast team to defeat UCD, by a score of 3-1 to 3-0 in the Ashbourne Cup of 1959, but the cup went to UCD at the end of the round-robin series.

She featured in a total of eight All-Ireland senior finals in a variety of positions from full-forward through midfield and then defence in the second half of her inter-county career.

She was at centre-half back in the 1966 All-Ireland series for which she was presented with the Cúchulainn award, the equivalent of Player of the Year. Centre-half back was also her position a year later when she collected her second All-Ireland medal and later that autumn helped Ulster win the Gael Linn inter-provincial title for the first time.

Alongside her playing career Gilroy had become a top referee and took charge of the All-Ireland senior finals of 1961 and 1962 as well as numerous semi-finals. It's likely that she would have refereed more finals had she not been playing in them!

Her last appearance for Antrim in an All-Ireland final was at centre-half back in 1969 when they lost to Wexford by a margin of two points. By then she was already an established coach at club level and with Queen's University as well as a single figure handicapper in golf.

Maeve passed away on Friday at Park Manor Nursing Home and her funeral Mass will take place on TUESDAY at 12pmin St Matthias' Church Belfast.

Back L-R: Ita O Reilly, Winnie Kearns, Ethna Dougan, Deirdre O'Gorman, Maeve Gilroy, Moya Forde, Grace Connolly, Agnes Dillon.

Front L-R: Lil Forrester, Marion Cairns, Eilish Cunning, Madge Rainey capt, Chris Hughes, Margo O'Kane, Teresa Kearns.

Echo Women in Sport

March: Lauren Homan, camogie

Lauren Homan won *The Echo Women in Sport Award* in February after scoring nine points during Cork's 0-13 to 0-10 victory over Tipperary in the camogie National League Division 2B Final at Abbottstown. The Brian Dillon's club stalwart led the line for the Rebels on the day, and she finished her afternoon by being named Player of the Match.



Integral

This was just one part of a campaign that Lauren played an integral role in. She featured in five of the six games Cork played and scored 3-35, making her the division's top scorer. The 24-year-old did not stop there as won the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final last August when helping Cork beat old enemies Kilkenny in the decider at Croke Park.

August: Laura Treacy, camogie

To win one All-Ireland medal is special, but to go back-to-back is the sign of a great team. Laura Treacy made that a reality last summer at Croke Park and the Killeagh club-woman was honoured with *The Echo Women in Sport Award* last August.



What she did was basic on the day, and that is the most important thing.

Pushing

When Galway were pushing hard to draw level late on, Laura cleared ball after ball to ensure the Rebels retained their All-Ireland championship title by 1-16 to 0-16 score-line. A few months previously, this did not look possible as the Killeagh star was battling to stay fit over a persistent hamstring injury. Laura came back with a bang and played a key role in Cork's run to the All-Ireland final and nail-biting victory over Galway.

MARCH:
Lauren Homan.



AUGUST:
Laura Treacy.



October: Aoife O'Neill, camogie

With two senior All-Ireland medals, a minor title, and a senior club championship medal with her club St Finbarr's in her collection, Aoife O'Neill was given *The Echo Women in Sport Award* in October 2024.



This is just part of a story that started when she was seven years old and brought to training by her mother.

Revolution

Aoife quickly became part of a camogie revolution in Togher, a rise that started with a minor B trophy during the 2018-19 season. That whet Aoife's appetite for greater things and her first big award came in the form of the O'Duffy Cup in 2023. The Rebels retained the trophy last year and Aoife added a county championship medal to her collection when St Finbarr's defeated Sarsfields 1-16 to 0-12 at Castle Road.

OCTOBER: Aoife
O'Neill.



Laura takes top award



Finbarr McCarthy

Before a huge attendance Cork camogie star Laura Hayes was named as the overall winner of Cork's 96FM/C103 Sports Star of the year award in the Rochestown Park Hotel last Friday night.

The St Catherine's player enjoyed a fabulous season as Cork made it back to back All-Ireland senior titles and a 30th in total beating Galway in a thrilling final.

Laura was outstanding in every game and her pace, work rate and ability to hit some massive points crucial as Ger Manley's side showed their quality having earlier in the season won the Munster Championship.

"Humbled and absolutely delighted to be honoured especially when you see the list of winners here tonight - it's very special," was her reaction.

It was a fantastic season as Laura explained: "Very much so, we had a slow start to the league as we were a bit late returning to training but set our stall out by winning the Munster Championship and after that we focussed on the All-Ireland defence."

Cork eased through the group stages and going direct to the semi-final was important. "It was because as the group phase was every week almost, we had to tailor our training and then we had a good gap before the semi-final and we got a lot of hard work in for the Dublin game."

The final was a real battle: "It certainly was and that has been the case with Galway over the last few years - very little between us, and we just got over the line."

After the All-Ireland and the County Championship, Laura took some time off and did a bit of travelling. "Yeah after a long season, (I) decided to head off and relax but I'm paying for it now trying to make up for lost time in training."



At the Rochestown Park Hotel for the Cork 96FM C103 GAA Sports Awards were Finbarr McCarthy, 96FM; Frank Cogan, Donal Lehane Distinguished Career Award winner; Laura Hayes, overall winner; An Taoiseach Micheál Martin Guest of Honour; Eoin Downey, Kieran O'Driscoll Youth Award winner; Kieran McGeary CEO 96FM/C103 and Pat Horgan, Chairman Cork County Board. PHOTO: TONY O'CONNELL



Overall winner Laura Hayes with An Taoiseach Micheál Martin. PHOTO: TONY O'CONNELL

Before heading off on her travels Laura picked up a couple of other awards namely an All-Star and the Senior Camogie Player of the Year. She was "very nice surprised to get the POTY award as there are so many great players out there but thrilled really."

As for the 3 in a row her reply was: "well as Eoin (Downey) said earlier, why not?"

Cork camogie celebrates hat-trick of Munster wins

BY GER MCCARTHY

THREE Munster camogie titles made it a bank holiday weekend to remember for the Cork minors and U16s, including their West Cork representatives.

It was a hectic couple of days for manager Mossy O'Sullivan and the Cork camogie minors. The Rebels hosted Clare in a rearranged Munster semi-final in Charleville on Thursday evening. If successful, a scheduled provincial decider awaited in the Pethard Sports Complex, Tipperary, on bank holiday Monday.

Amid difficult weather conditions, Cork built a 1-4 to 0-2 interval lead over the Banner. Improving as the half progressed, Cork ran out 2-14 to 0-5 winners thanks to an even spread of scorers. Rachel Murphy (0-6), Ally Mulkerrins, Shona Cronin (1-1 each), Ava McAuliffe (0-3), Clara Murphy (0-2) and Aoife Cottrell (0-1) were on target for the winners. That outcome saw Mossy O'Sullivan's side qualify for a Munster camogie final showdown with Limerick.

Windy conditions made life awkward for both teams in Fethard on Monday afternoon. Limerick made full use of the elements in the opening half, leading 0-5 to 0-2 after quarter of an hour.

An Ally Mulkerrins goal helped Cork get back into

the game and the sides were level, 1-5 to 0-8, early in the second period.

A cracking end to an entertaining Munster decider saw Cork restrict Limerick to ten points and emerge two-point victors, 1-9 to 0-10. Rachel Murphy (0-5), Ally Mulkerrins (1-1), Aoife Cottrell (0-2) and Clara Murphy (0-1) scored for the newly-crowned Munster camogie minor champions.

Carbery's Meabh O'Brien (Enniskeane) is on this year's Cork minor panel. Shona Cronin (Valley Rovers) and Catherine Murphy (Kinsale) also celebrated their county's provincial triumph at the minor A grade.

That win came hot on the heels of Cork's U16A and U16Bs also lifting Munster camogie trophies last weekend.

The Rebels U16Bs faced Tipperary in Monday's Munster final at a windswept Bishopstown. Deirdre Twomey's young Cork side were celebrating at the final whistle following a comprehensive 3-17 to 1-1 win.



Kilbree's Leah McCarthy won a Munster U16A title with Cork.



Amber Bishop (Ballinascahy) and Cliona Harte (Barryroe) celebrate Cork's Munster camogie U16A victory over Clare.

Carbery's Breffni Kelly (Bandon) as well as Caoimhe Foley (Coursey Rovers) and Tara Hennessy (Valley Rovers) were on the victorious Cork panel.

Prior to last Monday's bank holiday double-header, the Cork camogie U16As got the county's triple-trophy haul off to a perfect start. The Rebels took on Clare and built an impressive 4-7 to 1-4 half-time lead. Maintaining a high tempo, Cork ran out convincing 6-12 to 2-6 winners with Leah Ryan (2-1), Cliona Harte (1-3), Léa Mellouin (1-2), Sarah Galvin,

Lauren O'Connor (1-1), Amber Bishop, Leah McCarthy, Lexi Manley and Ciara O'Regan (0-1 each) amongst their scorers.

The Carbery division's Leah McCarthy (Kilbree), Cliona Harte (Barryroe) and Amber Bishop (Ballinascahy) were part of the Cork U16As provincial success.

The 2025 Cork Camogie U17 development panel was announced last week - Clodagh Barry (Bandon), Laoise O'Driscoll (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) and Maria O'Donovan (Barryroe) will represent Carbery.

Minihane urges Bandon school to reflect on positives after All-Ireland heartbreak

Coláiste na Toirbhirte coach feels historic Munster success will soften the blow of All-Ireland schools' senior B semi-final loss

COLÁISTE NA TOIRBHIRTE 1-5
COLÁISTE MUIRE 2-7

MATTHEW HURLEY REPORTS

NOT to be for brave Coláiste na Toirbhirte in this All-Ireland senior B schools' camogie semi-final at rainy Ballinspittle on Saturday, but the Bandon school can take a lot from this campaign.

Munster champions for the first time, it had looked good for Coláiste na Toirbhirte at half time as they led 1-4 to 0-3, albeit having played with a sizable wind.

But an awesome second-half display from Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown of Kilkenny broke Bandon hearts – the Leinster champions outscored the West Cork team by 2-4 to 0-1 in the second period to advance to the All-Ireland final.

For coaches Jack Meade and Eoghan Minihane, this has been a memorable journey, including the famous Munster final win in Mallow, but their adventure ended last weekend.

'The girls have been fantastic all year. They were brilliant again today. Just a few small things here and there, and on another day we could have got over the line,' Minihane told *The Southern Star*.

'Look, we just got to remind the players of the win two



Coláiste na Toirbhirte's Caoimhe Craig coming out with the ball from Coláiste Mhuire's Aolbhe Bourke.

weeks' ago – they still have a Munster title under their belts. That's a super accomplishment so we just need to bring them back to earth and remind them of that.'

It's worth noting that the Bandon school hadn't reached these dizzy heights before, so these trailblazers have put Coláiste na Toirbhirte camogie on the map. To contest an All-Ireland semi-final, lead at half time in the semi-final and be level with ten minutes to go is still a great feat.

'It's the first time the school has got to the senior B All-Ire-

land series. It's a first Munster title at senior level as well. We're so proud of the girls, they were brilliant,' Minihane said.

'The whole school was behind them, the teachers, parents, friends. It's disappointing but it's something that they can take with them for the rest of their lives. They have a Munster medal with their school, with their friends. There's positives to look at definitely.'

This game sparked into life with two goal chances inside the opening three minutes. Johnstown threatened the goal first as Aolbhe Bourke's low shot just whizzed over the bar within the first minute. Down the other end, Valley Rovers' Shóna Cronin had a sight on the net but pulled her shot just wide.

The game went 11 minutes without a score as it turned scrappy in the wet conditions. Eventually, Coláiste na Toirbhirte captain Laura Sheehy converted a wonderful score from around 45 metres out after 12 minutes.

The Kilbrittain-Timoleague player grabbed the next two scores too, a free after 15 minutes and she rattled the net a minute later – Sheehy caught goalkeeper Mia Henderson off guard as her free sailed into the net. Coláiste na Toirbhirte now led 1-2 to 0-1.

Abigail Whitty pulled one point back for Johnstown on 18 minutes before another scoring lull.

Sheehy converted two more frees, which was sandwiched by a Taylor Corbett score for the Kilkenny school, to leave it



Coláiste na Toirbhirte's Laura Sheehy taking a free.

Coláiste na Toirbhirte's Niamh Cotter gets around Coláiste Mhuire's Catherine Kirby during the All-Ireland semi-final at Ballinspittle. (Photos: Paddy Feen)

a four-point margin at the short whistle, 1-4 to 0-3.

With the Leinster victors having the gust in the second spell, they stamped their authority on proceedings. Michelle Killeen converted a free just after the restart as Ciara Townsend and Corbett both struck over to close the gap to the minimum going into the last quarter. Killeen pointed another free and now all the momentum was with the Kilkenny girls.

In a tense few minutes, the game once again became a scrap as neither side gave an inch. The big score came on 53 minutes when Coláiste na Toirbhirte failed to clear their lines, Johnstown worked an opportunity and found Corbett in space – she buried a bullet past Aolbheann O'Driscoll, 1-7 to 1-4.

The West Cork school huffed and puffed but they could only muster a Cronin free for their efforts. They had only four shots on goal in the whole latter half, with none coming from play.

As the game trickled towards the end, an Orlagh Brophy free dropped short and fell into the net three minutes into added time to seal a five-point win for the Kilkenny school. Heartbreak for Coláiste na Toirbhirte, but they still did the whole of West Cork camogie proud and gave the region a

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Coláiste na Toirbhirte's Laura Sheehy was a real contender after her first-half display but Coláiste Mhuire's Taylor Corbett got the nod after getting 1-2 from play.

Star moment: Corbett's goal that gave the Kilkenny school the lead with seven minutes to go; great build-up and the finish was sublime.

Talking point: How both sides played against the wind. Johnstown got 0-3, all from play with eight attempts. Bandon got just 0-1 from four attempts, no shot from play.

What's next? Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown are into an All-Ireland final.

real bogst.

'There are many different clubs involved here and the girls are all going back to those clubs now where they'll be starting training again. Camogie is definitely in a good place in West Cork – there is real talent in the schools and the division, and it is trying to bring them together and get them all playing together. Hopefully then, bringing them on to the higher level and playing with the county,' Eoghan Minihane said.

Scorers

Coláiste na Toirbhirte: Laura Sheehy 1-4 (1-3f); Shóna Cronin 0-1f.

Coláiste Mhuire: Taylor Corbett 1-2; Orla Brophy 1-0f; Michelle Killeen 0-2f; Aolbhe Bourke, Abigail Whitty, Ciara Townsend 0-1 each.

Coláiste na Toirbhirte: Aolbheann O'Driscoll (Enniskeane); Eimear Hurley (Kilbrittain-Timoleague).

Katie Twohlg (Bandon), Jess Helbrow (Courcy Rovers); Meabh Browne (Enniskeane), Caoimhe Craig (Valley Rovers), Molly Hilliard (Enniskeane); Sarah Burrows (Newcestown), Eve O'Dwyer (Valley Rovers); Niamh Cotter (Bandon), Laura Sheehy (captain, Kilbrittain-Timoleague), Karen O'Sullivan (Newcestown); Anna Crowley (Kilbrittain-Timoleague), Shóna Cronin (Valley Rovers), Clodagh Barry (Bandon).

Subs: Aine O'Donoghue (Courcy Rovers) for A Crowley (50); Róisín Wilson (Newcestown) for M Browne (55); Eva Nagle (Kilbrittain-Timoleague) for K O'Sullivan (57).

Coláiste Mhuire: Mia Henderson; Ciara Joyce, Kayla Dwyer (captain), Emma O'Connor; Katie Dunphy, Lorraine Bergin, Orla Brophy; Sinead Kirby, Ciara Townsend; Lillian Cleere, Michelle Killeen, Catherine Kirby; Aolbhe Bourke, Abigail Whitty, Taylor Corbett.

Sub: Clea Whelan for E O'Connor (54).

Referee: Colm Ó Mochain.



Coláiste na Toirbhirte's Eve O'Dwyer on a solo run from Coláiste Mhuire's Sinead Kirby.



Clodagh Finn of UCC about to get a shot away in the Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup game against the University of Galway at the Mardyke last month. Picture: Jim Coughlan

TU Dublin in way as UCC target place in Ashbourne final



HURLING

Denis Hurley

The promotional tagline for this year's Electric Ireland Camogie Third-Level Championships is 'first-class rivals', highlighting how playing at college level brings one into contact with stars from other counties, with whom they would otherwise not play.

For former Kilkenny player and third-level camogie ambassador Miriam Walsh, the Waterford IT (now SETU Waterford) Ashbourne Cup win of 2015 remains a special memory and she was glad to have Cork's Laura Treacy on her team rather than against her for a change.

"We beat UL in the final," she says, "it was just a brilliant weekend."

"As they say, first-class rivals, you're kind of making unexpected friendships. You're playing with your rivals and playing against your friends so it's a fantastic competition."

"I was actually playing with Laura Treacy from Cork. She was centre-back on our team and I would have marked her a good bit against Cork, so we were great friends, myself and Laura. But then when you're playing against her with county it's different."

"But no, she was a tremendous leader and it was so good to play with Laura. I learned so much from her. And Meighan Farrell from Kilkenny, she was on our team as well and Trish Jackman from Waterford, so we had a strong team. It was very good."

"We won it in 2015 and we got to the final the following year. UL have been the strong campaigners really and TUD, so WIT haven't really been on the map since."

As mentioned by Walsh, her alma mater



Laura Treacy is cited by Kilkenny's Miriam Walsh as a prime example of how third-level players benefit from playing alongside stars from other counties. Picture: Larry Cummins

are not at the business end of this year's Ashbourne, which concludes this weekend with the semi-finals and final at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.

From a Cork point of view, UCC are involved, with wins over MTU Cork and the University of Galway in January earning them a direct passage to a semi-final spot.

That is against TU Dublin at 3pm today, following the other last-four tie, which sees the University of Limerick taking on the University of Galway.

Clodagh Finn has been in scintillating form for Jerry Wallace's side, scoring 1-7 in the big win over MTU in the Cork derby and then eight points a fortnight ago as Galway were seen off on a 1-20 to 1-6 scoreline.

Aside from the Fr O'Neill's star, fellow All-Ireland winners with Cork Méabh Murphy (Ballinora), Aoife Healy (Aghada), and Emma Murphy (Glen Rovers) are likely to be key if UCC are to end their long wait for the inter-varsity title.

Since claiming a 32nd title in 2003, UCC have been in eight finals but victory has proven elusive on each occasion. The most recent appearance in the decider was two years ago, when they lost by a point to TU Dublin in Belfield.



UCC and Cork star Aoife Healy will be key if they are to end a 22-year wait for the Ashbourne Cup. Picture: Inpho/Dan Sheridan

The final of the Ashbourne takes place tomorrow at 3pm.

In the second-tier Purcell Cup semi-finals today, UL take on SETU Carlow while Limerick's Mary Immaculate College do battle with Queens University of Belfast.

That final is tomorrow at 1pm, preceded by the Fr Meagher Cup final at 11am, with Ulster University or DCU meeting UL or Trinity College.

UCC SQUAD: Caoimhe Buckle (Inniscarra), Maedhbh de Búrca (Carrigtwohill), Abby Walsh (Scariff-Ogonnell-Clare), Méabh Murphy (Ballinora), Lorna Ryan (Clonoulty/Rossmore, Tipperary), Aoife Healy (Aghada), Meadhbh Ring (Aghabullogue), Eimear Heffernan (Knockalla-Donaskeligh Kickhams, Tipperary), Orlaith Kelleher (Croagh-Kilfinny, Limerick), Emma Murphy (Glen Rovers), Isobel Sheehan (Eire Og), Lizanna Boylan (Na Piarasigh, Limerick), Emma Dempsey (Glynn-Barnstown, Wexford), Clodagh Finn (Fr O'Neill's), Sarah O'Brien (Templeglantine, Limerick), Laura Leenane (Shannon Rovers, Tipperary), Aoife Hurley (St Catherine's), Avril Cashman (Youghal), Grace Moloney (Cashel King Cormacs, Tipperary), Orlaith Mullins (Sarsfields), Miriam Murphy (Silvermines, Tipperary), Eimear Duignan (Mallow), Anna Fahie (Cashel King Cormacs, Tipperary), Lily Fahie (Cashel King Cormacs, Tipperary), Onelia Whelan (Ring, Waterford), Cliona Dooley (Ballinora), Niamh O'Regan (St Catherine's), Sarah Murphy (Cork), Rebecca Grealish (Oranmore-Maree, Galway), E Fitzpatrick (Fr O'Neill's), Aine Devlin (Killarney, Kerry), Anna Hickey (Modeligo, Waterford), Erin O'Donnell (Oranmore-Maree, Galway).

Jacob determined not to be silenced by online abuse

NIALL McINTYRE

Ursula Jacob says "100%" she wouldn't be on social media if she was still playing inter-county camogie, referring to the online abuse players and personalities are exposed to.

The former Wexford star took a stand against keyboard warriors a couple of years ago, having been mocked and ridiculed after appearing on *The Sunday Game*.

The four-time All-Ireland winner highlighted the derision she received and was praised for calling out an ugly trend in modern society.

Social media platforms have a grim side, filled with hate, and Jacob says she's glad it wasn't a thing when she was at the peak of her career, empathising with current players in the firing line.

"You have these anonymous accounts, sitting at home, tweeting about how you're performing... most of them wouldn't get near Croke Park or Thurles," Jacob said at the launch of this season's *Laochra Gael*, which she features in tonight on TG4.

"If I was a player, I wouldn't be on social media. Now that I see the negative side of social media, I'm glad that I didn't have to worry about it at all when I was at the height of my career."

"You've enough to be doing, preparing for big games. If you make a mistake or if things go wrong you're disappointed in yourself anyway."

Mistake

"The last thing you need then on top of that is for it to be all over Twitter and Facebook straight away, highlighting the mistake."

"You see certain players getting a bit of heat. It's not right or fair."

"We're all human," she says. "I feel for the players who have to go through that and I just hope they have the proper support around them to deal with that."

"But the advice I would have for them is stay away from it. Don't give them any attention because they don't deserve it."

Jacob has since limited her use of social media, particularly before appearing on *The Sunday Game*, indicating the impact the comments can have.

"Some people said to me 'just come off social media', but I use social media for research, team news and all that kind of thing."

"My rule now is if I'm on the television, I just steer clear of social media."

"I probably shouldn't have to do that but it's just to protect me from a situation where it could get to you."

Jacob said her Wexford accent and appearance were regularly targeted, while her place on *The Sunday Game* panel was questioned simply because of her gender.

Ursula Jacob sits for a portrait during the launch of TG4's award-winning *Laochra Gael* series at the Light House Cinema in Dublin Sportsfile.

She says she has no issue with someone criticising her opinions on the game but the personal slant of the tirades left a sour taste.

"If it was on the pitch, I would never let someone bully me like that," she says.

"I'm not the only one who has got criticised on social media. The men on the panel beside me get it as well. But mine was more personal."

"It was always about me being a woman or my appearance or my voice. I can't change any of them," she adds.

"If they were criticising my knowledge of hurling then I would have taken it on board no problem. I'm as open to criticism as anyone else, but it wasn't."

"It's Ursula this Ursula that, she's from Wexford 'why is she talking about the men's game?' This kind of thing. So I wanted to stick up for myself."

The Oulart-The Ballagh woman says she thought long and hard about drawing attention to her experiences before eventually resolving that speaking up was the right thing to do, as it might help others.

Since then, she's been overwhelmed by the support she has received, hoping that it will convince people to "think before they type".

Online abuse is commonplace for players and referees, with the GAA and GPA teaming up for the 'In Their Boots' campaign in 2023, aimed at tackling the issue. Jacob hopes the detrimental effects of online hate will eventually dawn on people.

"The amount of people who have reached out to me since then in a positive way, saying 'fair play to you, keep up the good work'."

"It's nearly driven me on more. I hope it's made people realise in a small way that maybe it's not OK."

"I'm not naive enough to think it will stamp it out completely but, hopefully, it will make people think about it."

"It's tough for players nowadays if things go wrong for them in a game. You would worry for young players especially, given that social media is a big part of their lives."

"To a certain extent, you do have to accept that those people are out there, but my advice would be to turn a blind eye to it as best you can."

"I just try to tell myself that I'm on telly to talk about the game that I love, that I've been steeped in since I was five years old."



Cork enjoy weekend of inter-provincial wins

It was a very busy and successful weekend for Cork camogie as three Munster Championship titles were won with the minor, U16A, and U16B teams all enjoying success.

Cork 6-12 Clare 2-6
First into action was the U16A side who faced Clare in Fethard on Saturday.

Cork made the early running and pressurised the Clare defence from the throw-in and at half-time they held a commanding 4-7 to 1-4 lead.

On the turnover, Cork kept the pressure on and despite a spirited Clare challenge, they failed to narrow the gap and Cork added to their tally to run out 6-12 to 2-6 winners.

Cork had nine players on the scoresheet. Leah Ryan scored 2-1, Cliona Harte notched up 1-3, Lea Mellouin struck for 1-2, Ciara O'Regan and Lauren O'Connor had 1-1 each, while Amber Bishop, Sarah Galvin, Lexi Manley, and Leah McCarthy added points.

Full-forward and player of the match Leah Ryan scored 2-1.

Cork 3-16 Tipperary 1-1

The Cork U16B team controlled matters from throw-in on a wild and windy Monday on the Bishopstown all-weather pitch. Cork were in control all over and quickly hit the front with a Casey

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Lane goal.

As Cork piled on the pressure, Tipperary were battling to get past the Cork midfield and with Roisin Walsh, Aoibheann Lynch, Lily Buckley, Caoimhe Foley, and Gabrielle Smith all finding their range, Cork built up a comprehensive 2-13 to 0-0 interval lead as Tipperary struggled for scores.

On the resumption, Tipperary had the aid of the wind and hit their opening score with a Sarah-Jane Ormond point, but Cork were in cruise control with Saoirse Ryan, Buckley, Grace Keohane, Lynch, and Ellie O'Callaghan extending their lead before Mackenzie Simmons grabbed a late Tipperary goal. Roisin Walsh was named as Player of the Match following an impressive display all through.

Cork 1-9 Limerick 0-10

A superb second-half display saw the Cork minors get the upper hand on Limerick to win with two points to spare in the minor A final in Fethard.

Limerick led 0-8 to 1-3 at the interval, the Cork goal coming on 30 minutes when Ally Mulkerins cut the Limerick lead to two.



The Cork Munster U16A and U16B Camogie Championship winning squads



Cork Munster Minor Camogie Championship winners

Rachel Murphy, with two points, and Mulkerrins, with one, were keeping Cork in touch as Limerick opened up a five-point lead before Mulkerrins' goal, which was a huge boost to Cork, who were now turning to play with the aid of the strong wind for the second half.

Inside five minutes of the restart Cork were level thanks to points from Clara Murphy and Rachel Murphy, and they hit the front with an Aoife Cottrell pointed free a minute later.

Piling on the pressure, Cork stretched their lead with Cottrell and Rachel Murphy again find-

ing their range, but Limerick responded with free from Caitlin Ryan and Emma Mullins points to cut the lead to a point. With both sides battling hard, Rachel Murphy steadied Cork with a pointed free and from there to the final whistle it was backs to the wall as both de-

fences were under huge pressure, but Cork stood firm under enormous pressure to take the title and round off a superb weekend for Cork. Cork captain Rachel Murphy was named as Player of the Match having led by example with a superb display.

Cork U16 camogie team straight into championship action

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

It's all systems go for the Cork U16A camogie team this weekend.

Fresh from their recent Munster success, they face straight into championship action with a trip to Duggan Park Galway tomorrow (2pm).

A much earlier than normal start to the season with, unlike previous years when the U16 championship got underway after the state exams, now championship for U16s and minors get underway in February with the final scheduled to be played before the exams begin.

There is just one group of six teams graded U16A.

Cork are joined by Tipperary, Kilkenny, Galway, Limerick, and Dublin.

On February 23, they host to Kilkenny, on March 9 they are on the road again as they head to Dublin, and they are away again on March 23 to Tipperary with the last group game at home to Limerick on April 6.

The semi-finals are scheduled for April 19/21 with the final down for the weekend of May 3/4.

The top four teams will go to the semi-finals with the last two not progressing.

It's important to get a good start



The Cork squad who won the Munster U16A camogie title.

and that is exactly what manager Brendan Foley will be hoping for. Cork go into championship with an excellent Munster campaign under their belts.

They had to be at their very best to overcome the challenge posed by a strong Tipperary side in their opening game.

Cork were well in control but Tipperary hit back and testing the Cork defence to the limits, they had the Cork lead down to two points, but a strong finish saw

Cork hold out to advance on a 3-8 to 2-7 score line.

In the final, Cork were superb as they defeated Clare 6-12 to 2-6 to take the title.

It will be very pleasing for the Cork management that they had nine players on the scoresheet on the day.

Leah Ryan was on target with two goals and a point; Cliona Harte notched up a goal and three points.

Lea Mellouin struck for a goal

and two points, Ciara O'Regan and Lauren O'Connor had a goal and a point each, while Amber Bishop, Sarah Galvin, Lexi Manley, and Leah McCarthy all found the range with points.

Full-forward Ryan was a constant threat up front and it was no surprise to see her named as the player of the match.

First-round games are hard to predict, especially at U16 level, but Galway are always tough opponents and their manager Brian

Griffin and his back room team of Frank Gannon, Jacinta Melia, Kevin Connolly, TJ Skully, and Alisha McNamara will be as determined to get their campaign off to winning start.

It has been a tough week for the Galway GAA family with the untimely passing of former great Michael Coleman.

Michael's sister Ann wore the red and white of Cork and played at senior provincial and national league level and was also a

member of Glen Rovers during her time in Cork where she won county, provincial and All-Ireland honours.

Ann, along with her husband Joe O'Connell lost their lives in a tragic traffic accident in the USA in 2009.

All camogie and Gaelic games followers will I'm sure extend sympathy to the Coleman family in the passing of one of the GAA finest hurlers.

May Michael rest in peace.



Munster Camogie chairperson Christine Ryan presents Leah Ryan with the player of the match award after the Munster U16A Final



UCC's Clodagh Finn in action against Aine Keane of UL during the Ashbourne Cup final in Beken, Mayo. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

More heartbreak for UCC in Ashbourne Cup final as UL win by two

UL	3-10
UCC	2-11

ASHBOURNE CUP

■ Dylan O'Connell

UCC team have suffered another heartbreaking defeat in the Ashbourne Cup final, this time losing 3-10 to 2-11 to UL on Sunday at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence.

Clodagh Finn was the reason why the game was so close; the Cork star got her side back into the game by hitting 1-4 late on when UL were had a comfortable 3-8 to 1-7 lead.

It wasn't to be for a UCC side that went into the game looking for their first title since 2003 and end to a run of nine falls at the final hurdle in 21 years.

It finished in defeat, with the only consolation from a Cork point of view being the presence of Newcestown's Claire Kingston on the UL panel.

UCC struck first with a well-worked score on the right by Glen Rovers' star Emma Murphy. UL responded by going long with Sinead Farrell's puck-out and Mairead O'Brien managed to win the sliotar by the 45.

The half-forward laid it off for Caoimhe Lyons, who hit the back of the net with a venomous shot from a tight angle with just 90 seconds gone.

Sarah Corcoran then raised a white flag and Ziyann Spillane converted her first of four first-half frees and the Limerick side surged in front 1-2 to 0-1 by the fifth minute.

UCC tried to get themselves back in the game by creating a goal chance and their attempt ended with Liz Ann Boylan running into a wall by the edge of the square.

The would-be scorer then found Finn, and the Youghal native goaled with 11 minutes on the clock to make it 1-2 to 1-1.

The Cork star followed up by converting a free and the two

teams were level for the first time since throw-in.

Spillane edged UL back in front with a free and Murphy ensured parity. The Limerick side got two inside a minute after that, with Lyons getting one and Spillane hitting her third free.

Finn cut that back to 1-5 to 1-4, and any hope of an equaliser before the break was dashed by a quick fire goal and point by Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh and Spillane, respectively.

UL led 2-6 to 1-4 at the restart and Corcoran got things back underway before Murphy retaliated for the Cork side, making it 2-7 to 1-5.

The Limerick side got their next goal with a close range strike from Caoimhe Cahill and it extended their cushion to 3-8 to 1-5 at the 40th minute.

Finn kickstarted a rescue mission and got the gap down to a point, but UL's Aine Keane had the final say with a free in the dying seconds.

Scorers for UL: C Lyons 1-1; Z Spillane 0-5 (5f), C K Murtagh and C Cahill both 1-0, A Keane (2f) and S Corcoran both 0-2.

UCC: C Finn 2-7 (3f); E Murphy 0-4.

UL: S Farrell (Kilkenny); S Woulfe (Limerick); S Shanahan (Offaly); R Walsh (Waterford); J Hughes (Galway); A Keane; S Cunningham (Limerick); S Corcoran (Tipperary); A O'Sullivan (Waterford); C Cahill (Clare); C Keher Murtagh (Kilkenny); M O'Brien (Waterford); A Fitzgerald (Waterford); C Lyons (Limerick); Z Spillane (Clare).

Subs: K Ralph (Tipperary) for O'Sullivan (38); S Delaney (Laois) for O'Brien (47).

UCC: C Buckley (Cork); A Cashman (Cork); A Walsh (Clare); M Murphy (Cork); L Ryan (Tipperary); A Healy (Cork); M Ring (Cork); E Heffernan (Tipperary); O Kelleher (Limerick); E Murphy (Cork); I Sheehan (Cork); L Ann Boylan (Limerick); E Dempsey (Wexford); C Finn (Cork); S O'Brien (Limerick).

Subs: O Mullins (Cork) for Dempsey (HT); E Duignan (Cork) for Kelleher (46).



UL captain Jennifer Hughes lifts the cup after yesterday's Ashbourne Cup final win over UCC at the AirDome in Beken, Mayo Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Coláiste na Toirbhirte's Jess Helbrow is tackled by Michelle Killeen of Coláiste Mhuire's during the All-Ireland schools' camogie senior B semi-final at Ballinspittle on Saturday.

(Photo: Paddy Fee)

Crowd enjoy thriller as Keane guides UL to glory

Ashbourne Cup final

UL	3-10
UCC	2-11

Michael O'Connor

UL lived on their wits to retain the Electric Ireland Ashbourne Cup in thrilling circumstances at the University of Galway Connacht dome pitch yesterday.

UL, backed by a stiff wind, had the ball in the UCC net after two minutes from Caoimhe Lyons following Emma Murphy's opening score for UCC.

Sarah Corcoran and UL free-taker Ziyann Spillane added scores for UL.

The Cork college responded with a great goal from Clodagh Finn, and Finn equalised at the end of the first quarter.

Spillane added three second-quarter frees as Emma Murphy dragged back one for UCC before the talented Caoimhe Keher Murtagh scored one of the goals of the championship weekend for UL — leaving UCC 2-6 to 1-4 down against the wind.

UL midfielder Corcoran opened the second-half scoring before Emma Murphy, who was inspirational on the wing for UCC, pulled one back.

Spillane and Keher Murtagh combined to set up Clare senior forward Caoimhe Cahill for UL's third goal, and this appeared to be the end of the contest — 3-7 to 1-5.

No one told Finn. She hit five points to put UL on the back foot and narrow the gap to a goal.

But then up stepped the powerful figure of Aine Keane to drive over a 55th-minute free.

Finn responded with a 56th-minute goal to leave it a two-point game.

It was down to the minimum when Emma Murphy was on the mark, but Keane, from a narrow-angled free, kept the title in UL once more.

Scorers for UL: C Lyons (1-1), Z Spillane (Clare) (0-5), C Cahill, C Keher Murtagh (1-0 each), A Keane, S Corcoran (0-2 each).

Scorers for UCC: C Finn (2-7), E Murphy (0-4).

UL: S Farrell (Kilkenny), S Woulfe (Limerick), S Shanahan (Offaly), R Walsh (Waterford), J Hughes (Galway), A Keane (Galway), S Cunningham (Limerick), S Corcoran (Tipperary), A O'Sullivan (Waterford), C Cahill (Clare), C Keher Murtagh (Kilkenny), M O'Brien (Waterford), A Fitzgerald (Waterford), C Lyons (Limerick), Z Spillane (Clare).

Subs: K Ralph (Tipperary) for O'Sullivan, N Cuneen (Tipperary) for Fitzgerald, C Kingston (Cork) for Spillane, L O'Donnell (Clare) for Cahill.

UCC (Cork unless stated): C Buckley, L Ryan (Tipperary), A Walsh, M Murphy, A Cashman, A Healy, M Ring, E Heffernan (Tipperary), O Kelleher (Limerick), E Murphy, I Sheehan, L Boylan (Limerick), E Dempsey (Wexford), C Finn, S O'Brien (Limerick).

Subs: O Mullins for Dempsey, E Duignan for Kelleher, A Fahey (Tipperary) for Heffernan, G Moloney (Tipperary) for Boylan.

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).



UCC's Lizanna Boylan in action against Aine Keane of UL. Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile

Méabh Cahalane thrilled to captain the Cork senior camogie team this season

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

BACK in 1995, Castlehaven great Niall Cahalane was named captain of the Cork senior football team. Fast forward 30 years and his daughter Méabh will captain the Cork senior camogie team. The Cahalane dynasty is still producing leaders.

Méabh learned from her club, county champions St Finbarr's, before Christmas that she will lead Ger Manley's team this year. It was the perfect end to another great year.

In 2024, the Barrs won their first county senior camogie championship since 2006 while Méabh – involved in the Cork senior camogie panel since 2015 – was vice-captain to Sarsfields' Molly Lynch when Cork won the All-Ireland title as the Rebels made it back-to-back O'Duffy Cup triumphs. Now she will lead from the front, as Cork captain.

'It's a huge honour to represent my club, my family and I'm really looking forward to the challenge ahead,' Méabh told the *Star Sport Podcast*.

'It's something you dream of when you're a little girl training for camogie at U7, U8. To be named as Cork captain, it's a huge honour and something you work really hard for but there is such a special group there at the moment that there are so many leaders on the panel. It could be any one of them.'

'Every night at training, someone else stands up and there are always people speaking and offering advice.'

So, given her father Niall's football pedigree, will he give her some leadership tips?

'He offers the odd bit of ad-

vice alright!' she laughs.

'Whether I take it now or not sometimes is another story!'

'He would always encourage you to go out, try your best, work hard and try to be as good a player as you can everyday. You obviously take that advice on board. He's been there, done that.'

Méabh's sisters, Orlaith and Grainne, are also on the Cork senior camogie panel. Her brothers Damien and Jack are with the Cork senior hurlers, while Conor has just joined up with the footballers. This is a family steeped in GAA tradition and their successes drive one another on.

'It's really special. We're extremely fortunate that all of us enjoy it so much and we get so much out of it. Each one of us puts so much into it as well. You see the lads and the girls, the amount of work they put into it and the training and the hours,' Méabh explains.

'It was a great season for us last year (with Cork) and probably not so much the lads. Between all of us playing, there are some great days and some disappointing days but we are always there to support each other. It's really nice to have at home and we're just really fortunate to all be enjoying it so much.'

'When you have any sister involved or any sibling, it definitely makes it more special. It's a really proud moment for my mom and dad as well, and our grandparents.'

Back to the pitch, Cork are looking forward to their Division 1A national camogie league campaign getting underway when they face Waterford at home on Saturday, Febru-



Cork captain Méabh Cahalane at the launch of the Very Camogie Leagues this week. (Photo: James Crombie/INPHO)
INSET: The Cahalane sisters, Orlaith, Méabh and Grainne, lift the O'Duffy Cup after Cork's 2024 All-Ireland final win.

ary 22nd at 2pm. Surprisingly, Cork haven't won the Division 1A title since 2013. Kilkenny (5), Galway (4) and Tipperary have all won the league since.

'A league medal is a really good medal to have. It's not a medal that a lot of people in our group would have so we are looking at it. We'll take it game by game and it's as good a preparation for the championship as you can get,' the vastly-experienced Méabh explains.

'We played Waterford away last year. A really tough game (1-6 to 0-6). We'll be expecting nothing different this year. Ourselves and Waterford know each other really well at this

stage. It'll be interesting to see what they've done with their panel as well this year.'

The ultimate goal for this Cork camogie side, even so early in the year, is to win the All-Ireland for the third time in a row, a feat the Rebels haven't achieved since 1973. The panel is there. The experience is there. The confidence is there.

'It's a huge opportunity having got over the line in the last few years but we can't stay at the level we have been at in the last few years,' Méabh said.

'Galway really put it up to us in the final last year and it was probably our bench that came on and made the difference in

the end. There is nothing between the teams so we know the pack are chasing us, we have to go another level and we have to raise the bar again if we intend on getting back there.'

'There are a lot of games to play. There is a lot of training to be done. We know how hard we

have to work to get back there but I think everyone's intention is "that's obviously the goal." We have a lot to do before we get there.'

• Méabh Cahalane was speaking at the launch of the 2025 Very National Camogie Leagues.



POISED TO SHINE: Armagh's Ciara Hill, Galway's Aoife Donohoe, Cork's Meabh Cahalane, Tipperary's Caoimhe Maher, Kilkenny's Kellyann Doyle, Dublin's Niamh Gannon and Westmeath's Caoimhe McCrossan at yesterday's launch of the 2025 Very Camogie Leagues.
Picture: James Crombie/Inpho



Carrigaline girls Robyn O'Mahony and Zara Dillon have been selected for the Cork camogie U16 panel, with their proud coach Ricky O'Callaghan.

Free maths tuition a win win for young athletes



Dan Sheedy, The Tuition Centre, and Cork minor camogie players Jess Murphy, Shauna O'Driscoll, Rachel Murphy, and Anna Kearney. The centre has partnered with Cork Camogie to give athletes free online maths tuition, as part of its TeamUp programme. Picture: Brian Loughheed

TOP OF THE CLASS



Kilbree's Caoimhe Murphy (left) celebrates Mary Immaculate College's All-Ireland colleges' camogie Purcell Cup win with Louise Walsh from Tramore. Murphy and Mary I beat UL in the final on Sunday, 1-17 to 2-12. Murphy, playing at full forward, contributed her own scores as well as setting up the winning goal.

Saoirse will bring fans closer to the U16 All-Ireland action

THREE-TIME Camogie All-Star Saoirse McCarthy will provide exclusive pitch-side updates for the upcoming U16 Camogie All-Ireland Championship.

As this season marks the beginning of eir's three-year sponsorship agreement of the U16 All-Ireland championship with the Camogie Association, Courcy Rovers star McCarthy, an eir Ambassador, will bring fans closer to the action with pitch-side reporting to boost visibility.

The Cork camogie ace (pictured) will attend the newly-introduced Game of the Week – spotlighting one standout fixture each week from across all divisions – and provide exclusive updates via eir's social media channels and personally select the Player of the Match.

This will continue through to the U16 championship finals at the end of April and beginning of May 2025, where sponsors eir will also present Player of the Match awards.



Caoimhe Foley, dual player, celebrating the Munster win with the Cork U16B team. Right: Joey Gallagher, manager of the Cork minor camogie team, with the trophy after the team won the Munster finals.



Camogie star Aoife O'Neill with her parents Fionán and Maria O'Neill. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Laura Treacy, August winner, with her father Matty Treacy at The Echo Women in Sports Awards. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



BallinasCarthy camogie club ladies at the victory dinner dance which was held at the Castlefreake Hotel were (from left): Ciara Hayes, Mischa Pattwell, Aoife Kingston and Jane Twomey.



Cork's Tara Goulding is tackled by Tipperary's Clodagh Grimes and Leanna Coppinger during the Electric Ireland Minor A championship at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork held by Tipperary in lively minor camogie opener at Castle Road

Cork 1-11
Tipperary 3-5

It finished honours even in the opening round of the Electric Ireland Minor Championship in Castle Road as Cork and Tipperary got the campaign underway.

Tipperary, playing with the aid of the strong wind, had the dream start with two Caoimhe Stakelum goals inside three minutes of throw-in.

It took an excellent save from Tipperary keeper Danielle Butler to deny Cork an opening score and they had to wait until 10 minutes in before Catherine Murphy pointed to get Cork on the scoreboard.

With their defence working hard against the elements, Cork were winning a lot of possession but wayward shooting saw them hit six wides to Tipperary's one.

Ali Mulkerins cut the deficit with a goal on 22 minutes, finishing to the net after another Danielle Butler save.

Coming under pressure as the clock ticked towards half-time, Cork conceded frees and with Stakelum unerringly putting over three points, Tipperary extended their lead to hold a 2-3 to 1-1 half-time lead.

Cork started the second half well with points from Tara Goulding (2) and Rachel Murphy but with Lucy O'Brien and Stakelum responding, Tipperary maintained the advantage.

As Cork began to gain a grip it took a superb Butler save to again deny them a goal as she turned Mulkerins' shot over the bar. Shona Cronin and Rachel Murphy's points meant Tipp's lead was down to one. Tipperary were playing

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

with a sweeper and had Stakelum operating out. This caused Cork problems as she set up the move that saw Maeve Cunneen finish to the net to put Tipperary four clear with seven minutes remaining.

Cork kept working hard. Rachel Murphy pointed before it took another Butler save to again deny Cork as she turned Cronin's effort over.

Caoilainn Ryan had the lead down to a point before Cronin converted a 45 four minutes into injury-time.

With the sides deadlocked play continued, but despite two further minutes of added time neither side could find a winner.

Scorers for Cork: A Mulkerins 1-1, S Cronin 0-3 (0-1 45), R Murphy 0-3 (0-2 1), T Goulding 0-2, Catherine Murphy, C Ryan 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C Stakelum 2-4 (0-3 1), M Cunneen 1-0, L O'Brien 0-1.

CORK: A Kearney (Blackrock); A McGrath (Eire Og), L Ahern (Eire Og), S Cunningham (Eire Og), A Cagney (Mallow), A Cottrell (Ballinhassig), A Cussen (Ballinhassig), J Murphy (Blackrock), C Ryan (Newtownshandrum), R Murphy (Ballinora), Catherine Murphy (Kinsale), Clara Murphy (Eire Og); A Mulkerins (St Catherine's), T Goulding (Ballincollig), A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr).

Subs: M Lombard (Ballinhassig) for Cagney (inj 28), S Cronin (Valley Rovers) for Clara Murphy (h-t), K O'Sullivan (Midleton) for Mulkerins (50), M O'Brien (Enniskeane) for Catherine Murphy (58).

TIPPERARY: D Butler, M Loughnane, S McLoughlin, L Coppinger, C Grimes, E O'Donnell, E Ralph, R O'Meara, E Kennedy, C Stakelum, L O'Brien, ER McGrath, E Troy, C Cahill, M Cunneen.

Subs: I Carr for M Loughnane (40), I Kingston for E Troy (46), A Gaynor for L O'Brien (53), K Dowling for R O'Meara (55).

Referee: Fintan McNamara (Clare).



Cork's Ally Mulkerins closes in on Tipperary's Isobel O'Donnell.

CAMOGIE NEWS



Cork captain Méabh Cahalane at the launch of the 2025 Very Camogie Leagues. (Photo: James Crombie/INPHO)

Cork start Division 1 league campaign against Waterford

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

THE CORK senior camogie team get their 2025 season up and running in Páirc Uí Chaoimh this Saturday against Waterford (2pm throw-in) in Division 1A of the national league.

The Rebels haven't won the league title since 2013 and Ger Manley's side will be keen to break that duck with Kilkenny, Galway and Tipperary all winning it since. Cork will want to get their year off to a good start too with the All-Ireland three-in-a-row in their sights later this summer.

Waterford is the first of three home games for Cork as they also welcome Kilkenny (Saturday, March 8th) and Galway (Saturday, March 29th) to Leeside. They have to travel to Dublin (Saturday, March 1st) and Tipperary (Saturday, March 22nd) for the remaining league ties.

The league final, if Manley's side get there, will be in Croke Park on Sunday, April 13th. Cork will be led by newly-appointed captain Méabh Cahalane.

Rebels to host Limerick in All-Ireland senior opener

ALL-IRELAND champions Cork will begin their quest for the three-in-a-row with a home Glen Dimplex Senior Championship clash with Limerick on Saturday, May 24th.

Ger Manley's side will be the team to beat in the senior camogie championship, and they have discovered their opposition for the All-Ireland series. Cork have been drawn in Group 1 along with Tipperary, Limerick, Wexford and Clare, while Group 2 is stacked with Galway, Dublin, Waterford, Derry and Kilkenny.

Given that both Galway (2021) and Kilkenny (2020 and '22) have won All-Irelands in the last five years, and Waterford contested the 2023 final that Cork won, the Rebels have avoided the tougher group in this draw.

As well as the home game against Limerick, Cork will also play Clare on Lee-side (June 21st) with away games against Tipperary (May 31st) and Wexford (June 28th). The All-Ireland senior camogie final will be played on August 10th in Croke Park.



Cork camogie manager Ger Manley.

CORK TEAMS UP



Dan Sheedy, The Tuition Centre, and Cork minor players Jess Murphy, Shauna O'Driscoll, Rachel Murphy and Anna Kearney, as The Tuition Centre, Ireland's leading provider of online grinds, has partnered with Cork Camogie in the latest expansion of its TeamUp programme. The initiative gives young athletes and their parents access to free online and on-demand maths tuition from first year to sixth year of secondary school. (Photo: Brian Loughheed)



St Finbarr's Meabh Cahalane has been appointed Cork senior camogie captain for the 2025 season. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cahalane is delighted to be named as the new Cork camogie captain

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

In 1985 Castlehaven star Niall Cahalane was named captain of the Cork football team.

History repeats itself 30 years on as his daughter, Meabh, has been named captain of the Cork senior camogie team.

She was vice-captain last year and will have learned a lot from that experience as she officially takes the armband this season.

Cork will start their Division 1A National League campaign next Saturday against Waterford, throw-in 2pm, at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

She was delighted to be named captain, the first of the Cahalane siblings to be named a senior one for Cork.

"It's a huge honour for myself, my club, and for my family and obviously just a huge honour to be captain on behalf of all the girls, they're really special group, so yeah, delighted."

"I think Castlehaven on X put up a few pictures from when my dad was captain. So hopefully good things to come," said Meabh.

They didn't make the league final last year, missing out on ultimate honours and it was the only one of the three trophies they could win that they didn't.

They went on to win the Munster and All-Ireland championships, but Meabh said they were disappointed not to have made the league final last season.

"I think last year going into the league, we wouldn't have

overlooked it. We obviously prepared well for it and we were probably a bit disappointed that we didn't go a bit further."

"But you know we those tough games really stood to us over the season."

"We went into the Munster championship and had a few injuries that were back and then we gradually peaked at the right time and I suppose got another few players back along the way."

"We needed them all as the final against Galway at Croke Park was such a tough game. We've said it so many times that it just showed how strong our panel was. The players sprung from the bench that day had a huge impact."

"I suppose that was a credit to all the hard work that they've done all year and showed how important the panel is."

"We have a couple of new players in this year now and they will make it even more competitive in training and help to drive us on."

"They're all pushing the standards in training, they're not coming in playing catch up."

"You can even see they're well at the standard already. So there's huge competition for places every night of training, you're marking someone different and there's different challenges in that."



Libby Coppinger makes a welcome return to the Cork senior camogie squad this season, having missed most of last season through injury.

Cork seek end to 12-year wait for league crown

Therese O'Callaghan

Cork haven't won the national league since 2013. While it's no real concern as they've lifted the O'Duffy six times since, the back-to-back All-Ireland senior camogie champions would like to rectify that stat.

Division 1A begins tomorrow for Ger Manley and his charges with neighbours Waterford the visitors to SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh (2pm).

Down the line, the current standardbearers will have a three-in-a-row of All-Ireland titles in their sights. Wexford were the last team to do so in 2010-2012 but you have to go back to the early 70s for Cork (1970-1973 four-in-a-row).

For now though, the focus is on the first piece of silverware that is up for grabs.

Manley says the appetite is still there.

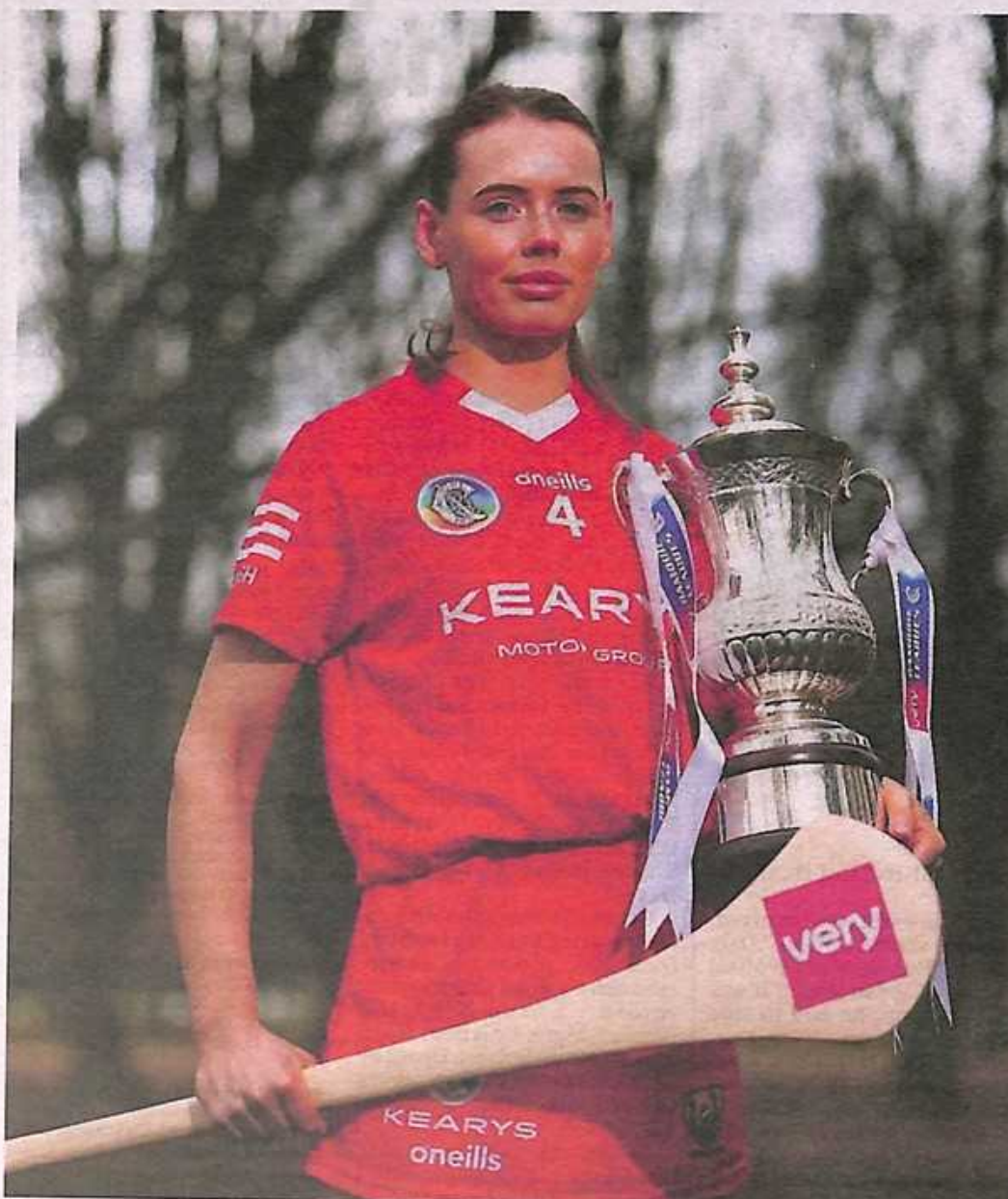
"The aim is to get back to the All-Ireland final," he said. "That's Cork's aim every year. It won't be a success unless we get to the final. It is early days but the girls are putting everything into it. The hunger seems to be there which is great."

"We were back training a bit earlier than we normally would, the girls wanted to come back. We have a good setup and things are going well. We are finding it difficult to get challenge matches but we've probably done more hurling than this time last year."

Competition for places remains a key ingredient.

"I've said it to the girls that the team will be picked on training. Girls returning now will have to get up to the level, fitness wise. We'll have a strong team out against Waterford," he said.

"Libby Coppinger is back from injury, Laura Treacy is there [on the panel], Ashling Thompson and Pamela Mackey. There will be a few missing but everybody is



THINKING BIG: Cork's Meabh Cahalane will hope to lead her team to league title success this year, to end an over decade wait for the much-desired silverware.
Picture: James Crombie/Inpho

back. They all want to play. "Cliona Healy and Katrina Mackey are injured — they are the only two out really from the panel."

Tipperary are the league champions, Galway crowned

before them, which proves Manley's point that all six teams in 1A are in with a shout.

"We want to win the league," he said. "Last year, we didn't not go out to win it."

"It is a very tough league this year, all the teams are competitive. We want to win every match. We will be a bit rusty because we haven't had a competitive match together. "We played Tipp in a chal-

lenge a couple of weeks back and we were very even, I thought they [Tipp] were very good."

Ultimately, getting back to the All-Ireland final is the objective and they will have last season's vice-captain Méabh Cahalane as their new leader.

"She is a great captain to have," Manley enthuses. "She got injured two weeks ago but she will be on the panel for the Waterford game."

"We've changed our backroom team as well. Dr Wesley O'Brien is coach and S&C, Gemma O'Connor, Adrian O'Sullivan [former Dublin manager], Seán Crowley, Brian Donovan, and Kyle O'Shea have come in."

"Hopefully it will all work out, they are all very focused. Last year we started very slow and the girls were worried."

"But we were able to find our feet."

"It's great to be in the Páirc. Hopefully the county board will push it on a bit and they seem to be."

CORK: Amy Lee (Na Píarsaigh); Meabh Murphy (Ballinora); Libby Coppinger (St Colum's); Pamela Mackey (Douglas); Izzy O'Regan (Ballygarvan); Laura Hayes (Killeagh); Hannah Looney (Killeagh); Aoife Healy (Aghada); Ashling Thompson (Milford); Ciara O'Sullivan (Newcestown); Kate Wall (St Finbarr's); Saoirse McCarthy (Courcey Rovers); Clodagh Finn (Fr O'Neill's); Siorcha McCartan (St Finbarr's); Orlaith Cahalane (St Finbarr's).

WATERFORD: Noelle Murphy (Gailltír); Rachel Walsh (Butterstown); Keeley Corbett Barry (De La Salle); Alannah McNulty (De La Salle); Bevin Bowdren (St. Annes); Lorraine Bray (Cappoquin, Capt); Kate Lynch (Gailltír); Tara Power (Tramore); Eimear O'Neill (Brickey Rangers); Beth Carton (De La Salle); Mairead O'Brien (Modeligo); Orla Hickey (Cappoquin); Abby Flynn (De La Salle); Niamh Rockett (St. Anne's); Maggie Gostl (De La Salle).

Division 1A fixtures, round 1 Saturday 2pm: Cork v Waterford, SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh (Liz Dempsey); Kilkenny v Galway, UPMC Nowlan Park (Donnacha O'Callaghan); Tipperary v Dublin, The Ragg (Ray Kelly).

■ Read your team-by-team guide to Camogie's top tier in Saturday's Irish Examiner

Integration 'a journey to be embraced, not feared'

Maurice Brosnan

The Steering Group on Integration (SGI) has released a statement ahead of Congress to spell out the strides made towards integration by 2027.

In 2024, the SGI announced the 2027 targeted date for the integration of the GAA, the Camogie Association and Ladies Gaelic Football Association.

The group is chaired by Mary McAleese. It has engaged with the Government, cross-association working groups and conducted a detailed facilities audit, as well as carrying out a research project of the One Club Model and an organisational design project with the object of delivering one staffing structure.

"The Gaelic Games Integration project is now well on course to deliver the support, hopes, and ambitions of the overwhelming majority of members of all three associations, which were emphatically expressed in the groundbreaking survey commissioned by the steering group," said McAleese.

"For them, integration guarantees the best, most dynamic, sustainable, and exciting future. When, in February 2024, we announced the vision statement for integration, we set a timeline which would lead to integration by 2027. We advised that there would be considerable work needed to align all the many moving parts, and that work has been ongoing ever since, and at pace."

The goal of 2027 has been criticised as too ambitious in places. It is envisaged there will be one president for the new GAA organisation (on a rotational basis) and one Congress.

"Moving from three separate associations to a unified, transformed GAA by 2027, is a complex process, but we continue to make progress towards the realisation of our goal — one club, one county, one province, one congress, one association," said Camogie president Brian Molloy.

"This unified structure will ensure that Gaelic games are supported and developed in an inclusive and equitable way for everyone."

Outgoing LGFA president Micheál Naughton stated that he has enjoyed his time as a member of the SGI while stressing a 'cautious' approach is required.

"At this juncture, I am almost ready to hand over the reins as Ladies Gaelic Football Association president, and it's a good time to reflect. As we move towards that one association, I wish everybody involved the very best as we continue on that remarkable and historic journey."

"It's a journey to be embraced, and not feared, but it's a journey that we must take with a cautious approach and with our eyes wide open on every step of the way."

Newcestown to meet Barrs in county senior camogie league

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

NEWCESTOWN will be the only West Cork representatives at senior level in the upcoming SE Systems adult camogie leagues.

The Carbery club will be in Group 2 with Blackrock, Inniscarra, Aghabullogue, Killeagh and county championship 2024 victors St Finbarr's. In the premier intermediate league, Courcey Rovers will compete in Group 2 with Enniskeneane joining them for a West Cork derby. Brian Dillons, Fr O'Neills, Watergrasshill and Na Píarsaigh are also in Group 2. Clonakilty will battle it out in Group 1 against Charleville, Ballinhassig, Ballincollig, Ballygarvan and Ballinora.

In the intermediate league, a local derby will take place between Kilbrittain/Timoleague and Ballinascorthy, the latter entering their first year at the intermediate grade. Midleton, Douglas, Sliabh Rua, Newtownshandrum and Valley Rovers make up the one-group league.

Finally, in the junior leagues,

Barryroe will compete at junior A level, Kilbree and Kinsale will test themselves at junior B while St Colum's and Bandon face off in junior C. Full fixture and venue details will be announced in due course.

Senior League — Group 1: Glen Rovers, Eire Óg, Sarsfields, St Catherine's, Ballyhea, Cloughduv.

Group 2: Blackrock, Inniscarra, Newcestown, Aghabullogue, Killeagh, St Finbarr's.

Premier Intermediate League — Group 1: Charleville, Ballinhassig, Ballincollig, Ballygarvan, Clonakilty, Ballinora. **Group 2:** Courcey Rovers, Brian Dillons, Fr O'Neills, Watergrasshill, Na Píarsaigh, Enniskeneane.

Intermediate League — Midleton, Douglas, Sliabh Rua, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Newtownshandrum, Valley Rovers, Ballinascorthy.

Junior League — A: Bride Rovers, Kildorrery, Barryroe, St Fanahans, Blarney, Buttevant, Banteer, Rockbeane. **B:** Kilbree, St Vincent's, Nemo Rangers, Kinsale, Grenagh, Kilworth, Milstreet, Cobh. **C:** Laochra Óg, Fermoy, Castlemartyr, St Colum's, Bandon, Carrigtwohill, Dungourney.



CELEBRATIONS Bal's county-winning heroes receive their medals



The Ballinascorthy intermediate camogie team that recently received their county premier junior medals at their dinner dance held in Courtmacsherry Hotel. Back from left, Ciara Hayes, Clara Crowley, Ella Cahalane, Michelle O'Driscoll, Maeve Kingston, Aolbhinn Ryan, Megan Ryan, Moira Barrett, Sarah Cahalane, Siofra Pattwell, Michelle Dullea, Kate O'Donovan and Kaela O'Driscoll. Front from left, Martina O'Brien, Mischa Pattwell, Rachel Cahalane, Grace Flynn, Aoife Kingston, Millie Condon, Orlaith Dee, Jane Twomey, Annie Condon and Sinéad McCarthy.

Holdes Cork draw Munster rivals in bid for three in a row

Camogie

Cian Locke

All-Ireland champions Cork will have three Munster rivals in their group when they begin their bid for a third title in a row in May.

Made at the weekend, the draw for this year's championship has Cork in Group 1 with Tipperary, Limerick, and Clare, as well as Wexford.

In Group 2, last year's runners-up Galway will face Dublin, Waterford, Derry, and Kilkenny.

On the opening weekend of the Glen Dimplex Senior Championship on May 24-25, Cork will face Limerick,

Galway will take on Dublin, Clare play Wexford, and Derry take on Kilkenny. Tipperary and Waterford are idle on the opening weekend.

This year's senior quarter finals take place in Croke Park ahead of the hurling semi-finals on Saturday, July 5, and Sunday, July 6.

The senior championship semi-finals take place in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, on Saturday, July 26.

In yesterday's Electric Ireland Minor Championship opener at Castle Rd, Cork and Tipperary drew 1-11 to 3-5.

Tipp got the perfect start with a brace of early Caoimhe Stakelum goals.

Ali Mulkerins had a Cork

goal on 22 minutes and they started the second half well, Tara Goulding pointing twice.

Maeve Cunneen scored Tipp's third goal to put them four points in front inside the final 10 minutes. But a string of points from Rachel Murphy, Shauna Cronin (2), and Caoilainn Ryan earned Cork the draw.

All-Ireland Senior Championship:
Group 1: Cork, Tipperary, Limerick, Wexford, Clare

Group 2: Galway, Dublin, Waterford, Derry, Kilkenny

All-Ireland Intermediate Championship:
Group 1: Westmeath, Meath, Offaly, Antrim

Group 2: Kildare, Kerry, Down, Carlow
Premier Junior Championship: Armagh, Laois, Louth, Roscommon, Tyrone, Wicklow.

new season," said Cork senior camogie manager Ger Manley ahead of Saturday's opener against Waterford.

There are a few changes to the panel: "Fiona Keating has stepped away along with one or two others but for the most part we are fine. A couple of other girls are not back training yet and we might be down one or two for the first couple of games but that will give others to stake a claim."

There is also a new coach. "Liam (Cronin) has gone with the Limerick hurlers so Adrian (O'Sullivan) has come in and it's going very well, he's an excellent coach and the girls are delighted with him."

As for the league what will the approach be? "Hopefully to try and win it while at the same time get game time into as many players as possible. We haven't won the league for a while now so we would like to rectify that."

Ashbourne Cup involvement has complicated matters but that is something every manager has to deal with. "We have a lot playing but that's no harm either as they are playing competitive games and that will sharpen them

up."

Waterford are first up with Ger's fellow Midleton man Jerry Wallace as their manager and they have been improving every year. All-Ireland runners-up to Cork two years ago, and Beth Carton, Alannah McNulty, Niamh Rockett and Keeley Corbett Barrett are all quality players.

Cork's starting 15 will be interesting but should include Amy Lee, Maeve Cahalane, Saoirse McCarthy, Emma Murphy, Laura Hayes and Orlaith Cahalane - plenty of experience and quality there.

The last time these sides met in SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh in the Munster Championship QF, Waterford won; Cork will want to make sure they do not repeat that result, and get their season off to a winning start.

Very Ireland National Senior Camogie League 1A

Cork v Waterford on Saturday in SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh at 2pm

"Yeah back at it with a few weeks now and looking forward to the



Marie Corbett, Munster Camogie presents Cork minor captain Rachel Murphy with the Munster Minor A trophy after her side's victory over Clare in the Munster Minor Championship

All-Ireland series starts at home to Tipperary

SUNDAY: All-Ireland Minor Championship Round 1, Cork v Tipperary, Castle Road, 2pm

An earlier than usual start for the Cork minor camogie team has already seen the Munster championship completed and thoughts now turn to the All-Ireland championship.

Cork get their campaign underway on Sunday when they meet Tipperary.

They play Dublin on March 2 and will meet Kilkenny in the last group game on March 16, with the quarter-finals down for March 30 and the semi-finals on April 13/14. The final is scheduled for the weekend of April 26/27.

It's a tough opener for Cork as they take on defending All-Ireland champions Tipperary.

They are a side that fell short by just four points to a very strong Limerick side in their recent Munster semi-final.

Cork had two points to spare over Limerick in a cracking Munster final and with little between these sides, we can expect a lively start to the All-Ireland campaign.

Tipperary contested the Munster B final and cruised to victory over Clare.

They have excellent players in Caoimhe Stakelum, who notched 3-13 in the B final; their midfield duo of Emma Kennedy and Issy Carr are hard-working and they will move the ball fast to their inside line where we would expect to see Stakelum at full-forward where she will be their target player.

Cork will need to try to cut off supply to this area where Maeve Cunneen also impressed at corner-forward in both provincial outings. In defence Eve Cleary and Sarah

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

McLoughlin have been to the fore.

With the Munster title secure, Cork are fully focused and with just three group games, there is little margin for error.

Manager Mossy O'Sullivan and his backroom team will go in happy that his side performed so well in the provincial championship.

Having recorded a comprehensive first-round victory over Clare, Cork had to dig out a victory against Limerick, but they showed huge maturity in doing so.

Trailing by two at the interval, Cork turned the tables with a superb second-half display.

Captain Rachel Murphy has been outstanding all throughout, leading by example, and she will be one of the big players for Cork as they go in search of the title.

Ally Mulherrins, Clara Murphy, and Aoife Cottrell will pose a threat to the Tipperary defence, but O'Sullivan will be looking for a bigger contribution from his other players, with only four of them on the scoresheet against Limerick.

The Cork defence got a severe test from Limerick but they stood firm. Tipperary will pose another big threat, but with players of the calibre of Avril Cagney, Laoise Ahern, and Aisling Cussen, the Tipperary attack can look forward to a hard hour.

In the other group game, Dublin are at home to Kilkenny in group two, Limerick can expect a tough hour when they host Galway, and Wexford are at home to Clare.



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy battles with Wexford's Sarah O'Connor. McCarthy will be a key player for Cork this year. Picture: Jim Coughlan

Cork aim for winning start against Waterford

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork will open their Very Camogie League Division 1A campaign at home to Waterford, at Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow (2pm).

It's Ger Manley's second season at the helm and a repeat of last season is one that any manager would be happy with.

Although league honours didn't come Cork's way, they did go on to win the Munster and All-Ireland championships in what was a superb season for the Rebels.

Cork will be among the favourites for the All-Ireland again this year, as they are every year, as they bid for three in a row. But that's easier said than done and there are a number of changes in the Cork backroom setup.

Coach Liam Cronin has linked up with the Limerick senior hurlers and Adrian O'Sullivan is in now as coach. Gemma O'Connor has joined the set-up as a selector, with Fiona O'Driscoll and Paul Ryan having to step down.

"We have a few changes from last year, Liam has gone to the Limerick senior hurlers, which is a bit disappointing, but it was a no-brainer for Liam," said Manley.

"He hoped to stay on, but he just couldn't manage both. But Adrian O'Sullivan is in, a very good coach also from Limerick. He's been involved with Dublin and Wexford and others, so he's been around the block a bit and is an excellent coach.

"He knows the camogie scene and Wesley O'Brien is back in as well which is another huge plus for us. He has huge experience with UCC, with clubs, and he's taking over a bit of coaching as well, so it's great to have him back.

"Fiona had to step away and Gemma came in and she has been excellent so far and has been through it all and knows what it's about. Sean Crowley is there as well and then we have a good share of those involved last year, so there is a nice blend of new faces and those from last year, which is important to have them for continuity."

The championship set-up has changed for 2025 and Cork's intermediate side, All-Ireland champions last year, are gone due to decisions made at national level.

Instead, they will have an U23 squad alongside the sen-



Cork camogie manager Ger Manley.

ior side and Manley will be involved with both come the championship. There is no league at U23 level.

"Danny Morrissey, Tadhg O'Riordan, Sean Lisk, and Amy O'Riordan are involved with the U23 side and we wanted a link to the senior side, so I will be doing that.

"They're doing a lot of the work really, but we needed that link and in fairness to the county board the change was put upon us fairly fast. We had a bit of a link with the intermediate side last year and it's needed again this year with the change.

"We have trained together a couple of times when the numbers have been tight. We did two great sessions there two weeks ago, which makes a huge difference.

"The players get to know what is required in training at senior level. When they look at Ashling Thompson, the Mackeys (Pamela and Katrina), Amy O'Connor, and others they get the chance to see what's involved.

"We're trying to make it very similar to the senior set-up, so yeah, it's working well. It's a pathway to the senior side. The intermediate team has been good for Cork, but has it been a pathway? I don't think it has really.

"But I think it's very important that there is a pathway and players get the chance to see that it's a big step up to senior level."

Looking to their opening game against Waterford Manley added: "We don't know where we're at to be honest. The girls have high standards among themselves and we will be competitive.

"We want to win every game and even in training in A v B ties they hate to lose. Waterford will be coming down with the aim of taking the points and we are no different. It's the first day out and hopefully the result will go our way."



President of the Camogie Association Brian Molloy presents The Camogie Association 2025 Sighle Nic an Ultaigh Distinguished Service Award to Mary Newman, Glen Rovers. Picture: INPHO/Tom Maher



President of the Camogie Association Brian Molloy presents the Camogie Association 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award for Cork to Sarsfields Lillian Zinkant.

Outstanding camogie volunteers honoured

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Two of Cork's outstanding camogie volunteers were honoured at an awards ceremony at Croke Park.

Sarsfields's Lillian Zinkant was presented with the Cork Camogie Volunteer of the Year Award and Glen Rovers's Mary Newman was the winner of the Camogie Association 2025 Sighle Nic an Ultaigh Distinguished Service Award.

Sighle Nic an Ultaigh is credited with guiding the path of camogie for 50 years.

The Sighle Nic an Ultaigh Award was inaugurated to acknowledge distinguished administrators of the association and Ms Newman joins the list of outstanding winners.

Mary's involvement with camogie goes back many years and she has been the driving force behind Glen Rovers for several decades.

In typical Mary fashion, her first thoughts weren't herself when she found out about the ceremony at Croke Park last Saturday night.

Instead, it was who she was going to get to cover for her at the Glen Rovers camogie academy session on Sunday morning as she was going to be in Dublin.

That epitomises Mary and her dedication to camogie as she puts others first and herself second all the time.

Holder of junior and senior county medals, it was in administration where Mary excelled. She has been secretary of Glen Rovers for more than 40 years and has doubled jobbed for many of those years.

A selector with many of the Glen Rovers sides that won county, Munster, and All-Ireland titles, she is actively involved in the club's academy and underage section, where she will be to the forefront of blitzes and street leagues. She was a selector with the Cork junior camogie side that won the All-Ireland title in 1984 and from there she became PRO of the Cork camogie board for 25 years.

She left her role as PRO of Cork camogie a few years ago and immediately became PRO of Glen Rovers Hurling Club, a position she holds to this day.

Ms Zinkant has also been involved in camogie all her life and has served her time in every facet of the club and county. A proud Sarsfields Camogie Club member, her playing career spanned more than

25 years.

She also wore the red jersey with pride and has acted as selector/mentor on numerous inter-county teams since she stopped playing. She scored four points in Sarsfields first senior county title win in 1989.

That's no great surprise as she used to battle against the great Teddy McCarthy out on the streets; he was a close neighbour of hers. She started playing with her club when she was 12 in the boys' team, when Sars were struggling for numbers. Lillian also lined out in an U14 East Cork final at centre-field with Teddy, which, unfortunately, they lost, but it's a great memory for her. She then progressed to play with the girls as they started to get numbers and played for several years, from aged 12, at U18 level.

She was on the Cork minor camogie team for three years, so was only 14 when she started playing (minor was U16 then) and she won two All-Ireland minor championships, in 1978 and 1979. Lillian went on to win three All-Ireland junior championships. Lillian was named the AIB Junior Camogie Player of the Year in 1993.

Her Cork junior career went on until 1996, when she won her last All-Ireland medal as sub goalkeeper. Lillian got involved as a selector in 1999 with the Cork junior team and she managed and coached them to All-Ireland success in 2004.

She was also a selector with the senior team in 2005 and 2006 and they did the double, winning All-Ireland titles in both years, but lost in the semi in 2007 as they bid for three in a row. She also coached the Sars U14 team in 2011 that won the county championship. Lillian went on to win a second U14 title, before adding two more at U16 and repeating the double-winning feat at minor level as well as a coach.

Lillian is a member of the Cork Camogie Board and is currently their Munster Council delegate and is also involved with fixtures at this level.

Mary and Lillian continue to be two supreme representatives for Cork camogie and no doubt will continue to be so for many years to come.



Cork's Aoife Cottrell lifts the U16A Cup after their win over All-Ireland win over Galway in 2023. Cottrell will be a key player for Cork minors against Tipperary on Sunday. Picture: Patrick Browne

Cork U16 A lose out after battling display against Galway

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Galway	1-9
Cork	1-7

A tough round one Eir U16A camogie championship trip to Duggan Park, Galway, saw Cork lose by two points.

It was a battle to the finish with Galway holding on to take the points in a game played in heavy and slippery under foot conditions.

Cork had the advantage of the wind in the opening half.

Cork settled quickly to open up a three-point lead with Stephanie Dwyer converting two frees, and one point from play from Lea Meillouin, and with their defence mopping up any Galway attack, Cork held their advantage.

It was 23 minutes in before Galway were on the scoresheet, Siofra Barry linking up well with two team-mates before pointing.

With both teams threatening goal chances, the respective defences held strong, but five minutes from the break Galway won



The Cork U16 team who played Galway on Sunday last

a penalty after Cara Giblin's effort was knocked away to Grace Bergin, who took a snap shot off ground, but referee Simon Redmond seemed to indicate the ball had been played on the ground and awarded a penalty against Cork which Roisin Coleman sent to the roof of net to

level the game. Meillouin responded with a superb pointed effort from an acute left angle to edge Cork back in front and at the break they held a 0-5 to 1-1 lead. Galway, with the wind advantage, tore into the second half and in an eight-minute spell they

hit six points without reply. Roisin Coleman, with three pointed frees, Amy Kenny, with two, and Siofra Barry with one as they piled on the pressure on Cork.

Cork continued to work hard and on 45 minutes and their first score of the second half.

Stephanie Dwyer pointing a 45, four minutes later, Roisin Coleman did likewise to maintain Galway's advantage, but Cork kept the pressure on and with Stephanie Dwyer pointing two frees, four points separated the sides.

Pressing hard, Cork found the

net with two minutes of added time played with Meillouin first-timing to the Galway net, but from the restart Cork conceded a free which Coleman slotted over to ensure Galway took the points.

Cork will meet Kilkenny, tomorrow at 2pm in Castle Road in round two. Last weekend, Kilkenny recorded a 1-16 to 2-11 victory over Limerick to get their campaign off to a winning start.

Scorers for Galway: R Coleman 1-5 (1-0 pen, 0-4 f's, 0-1 45), S Barry, A Kenny 0-2 each.

Cork: S Dwyer 0-5 (0-4 f's 0-145), L Meillouin 1-2.

GALWAY: E Murray, K Leen, L Hartigan, E Rabbitt, B Glynn, E Burke, R Sestak, S Feeney, S Barry, C Mullins, A Kenny, C Giblin, L Morgan, G Bergin, R Coleman.

Subs: K O'Sullivan for S Barry (51), C Fox for S Feeney (54), K Garrett for C Giblin (56).

CORK: C Hynes, M Keane, R Jones, A Coleman, C Roche, G O'Connell, C Hayes, O Troy, S Kelleher, S Dwyer, C Harte, L Meillouin, L O'Connor, L Ryan, L Hannigan.

Subs: S O'Rourke for S Kelleher (37), M Fitzgerald for L Ryan (40), L Manley for L O'Connor (43), R O'Mahony for M Keane (47), C O'Regan for C Harte (51), F Ronan for L Hannigan (59).

Referee: Simon Redmond (Dublin).

Glen Rovers stalwart wins prestigious camogie volunteer award

Daniel O'Neill

One Cork woman who has dedicated her life to camogie for her club and county won a major award last Saturday at Croke Park.

Mary Newman was presented with the Sile McNulty Award for Distinguished Service to Camogie, which recognises those who are dedicated to the sport and go the extra mile for their clubs.

The Camogie Association hosted its annual Media, Referee, and Volunteer Awards ceremony at the weekend, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals who have dedicated their time and talents to camogie throughout 2024. The event was a celebration of passion, commitment, and community, with Mary taking the top award.

Mary has been involved in the administration of Glen Rovers and Cork camogie for over 40 years. Fellow members have said that there wouldn't be a Glen Rovers camogie club, or certainly one as successful, were it not for Mary.



The Camogie Association 2025 Sighle Nic an Ulaigh Distinguished Service Award winner Mary Newman from Glen Rovers Cork with Uachtaran of the Camogie Association Brian Molloy. PHOTO: INPHO/TOM MAHER

It could be said that Mary's love of the game came from her mother, Nora who was also devoted to Glen Rovers. Like her mother, Mary became a 2023 Evening Echo Ladies Hall of Fame recipient for volunteerism.

She has been involved in both underage games and senior county finals, and has acted as secretary for the club for over 40 years, some of which she even double jobbed for. She is actively involved in the club's academy and underage section, the divisional

Seandun's juvenile board and as club delegate for the Cork county camogie board.

Mary was also a selector with the Cork junior camogie All Ireland winners of 1984 before becoming PRO of the Cork Camogie board for over 25 years. For her efforts she was awarded with a Cork Camogie volunteer of the year award by the national association. After leaving her position as PRO of Cork Camogie, she became PRO of Glen Rovers hurling club and still acts in the role to

this day.

She is dedicated to the team, and can be found at every match regardless of the weather. She is also a camogie correspondent with the 'Echo', and gives clubs as much coverage as she can.

Mary has also gained a reputation for being the first to answer a call for help in someone's personal life, regardless of their club colours. Club members have said that without her, the club would not be what it is today.



COMMITTED: Cork's Libby Coppinger blocks Nianh Rockett of Waterford on Saturday in the Very National League Division 1A win for Cork at SuperValu Pairc Ui Chaoimh. PHOTO: INPHO/LORRAINE O'SULLIVAN



SKY'S THE LIMIT: Mary I's Theresa Dore and Amy Burke with the Purcell Cup at a medal presentation ceremony at MIC Limerick. They beat University of Limerick in the final last month. Picture: Brian Arthur

'Heavy workload' but Shefflin embraces new role

Therese O'Callaghan

The appointment of Tommy Shefflin as the Kilkenny camogie manager is seen as a big step forward on Noreside.

It is his first time in the hot seat but the Ballyhale Shamrocks native, brother of Henry, is no stranger to Kilkenny's elite. During his tenure with Brian Dowling, the Cats claimed All-Ireland titles in 2020 and 2022.

However, the new boss says Kilkenny have fallen behind their competitors as they prepare for their first league outing at home to Galway in UPMC Nowlan Park today, 2pm.

"Since I started in 2020 with Brian Dowling, there are probably 18 or 19 girls gone. That's where we're at. Even from last year Grace Walsh, Miriam Walsh, Julianne Malone are gone," said Shefflin.

"Denise Gaule and Claire Phelan the year before. Anne Dalton over the years and the Farrells. We're after losing huge names but that's sport.

"There is a good crop of players coming through. They have been there or thereabouts in the minor. Loreto won the schools A and Johnstown won the B. But that takes time.

"It's a huge step up from minor to senior. We realise

where we are starting from and we understand that, we are away back down the pack.

"The six teams in 1A of the league, going by results from last year, Kilkenny are probably sixth in that group. But listen, we'll give it a go and hopefully we blood a few new players and get the experience of playing at that level.

"There are a good few girls who won All-Irelands with us in 2020 and 2022 and they're coming to that age where they have to be the leaders now — the likes of Laura Murphy, Michelle Teehan, Kellyann Doyle, and Aoife Norris.

"Mary O'Connell is back, she's a great addition. Again, she is at the age where she has to become a leader. These girls have won two All-Irelands in the last four or five years so it is their time now to take on the baton.

"Galway and Cork are above the rest. Looking at the All-Ireland, the levels they are at are huge. That is where the rest of us have to try and get to. In fairness to Waterford, Tipp and Dublin these teams are really pushing on.

"Five or six teams fancy themselves to have a right go at it. That's good because girls are pushing each other and the standard

is going higher and higher," he said.

Shefflin should know, having coached Piltown to senior county honours and Katie Power now having the distinction of captaining her county.

"The first time Piltown won a county championship in Kilkenny, be it men or women," he said.

"So it is great to go into a club like that. And for the girls to achieve that alone, it's brilliant for them. There are a good few Piltown girls involved with Kilkenny so that is how I got involved.

"Katie has been playing senior intercounty since 16 years of age and she's 34 now. It's a great honour for her to captain Kilkenny. What she has given to Kilkenny over the years and the injuries she's got, some massive blows and lost All-Irelands.

"She was captain of Piltown this year and she is probably the most high profile player there."

Taking the reins in Kilkenny is full on," said Shefflin.

"It's heavy going. Trying to arrange your backroom with stats guys and video analysis, physios, doctors, and nutrition. It's never ending.

"We have 13 or 14 of a backroom team and 40 on the panel, that is 53 or 54

people you have to stay in contact with. You have to make sure everything is in place and provide the best for the girls.

"I'm a hands-on fella and I like to be stuck in the middle of it doing the training. It's a heavy workload but that is the job I took on. At the end of the day, the satisfaction I get out of it is trying to provide the best for the girls.

"One thing for us going back in with Kilkenny this year was myself and Pat O'Neill were there for four years with Brian and many of those girls are still there. We know them inside out, we even know how they think. So we can focus on the girls we don't know that well."

They include Loreto Secondary School Leaving Certificate students Anna Doheny, Angela Carroll and Ciara Dunne.

"They'll have big futures, they were playing with their school and won the All-Ireland. We want to give them that experience of being around the girls and training. Hopefully later in the year we'll see more of them.

"There are 18 or 19 girls on the senior panel under the age of 23. There is a good crop, it is trying to get the mix right. We hope to be competitive in the league and see how girls go."



County-by-county guide: 2025 Very Camogie League - Division 1A

CORK

■ **Gaffer:** Ger Manley (second year).

■ **Backroom:** Wesley O'Brien, Adrian O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Connor, Seán Crowley, Brian Donovan, and Kyle O'Shea.

■ **Captain:** Méabh Cahalane, St Finbarr's.

■ **MIA:** 2024 victorious captain Molly Lynch, Niamh O'Callaghan (might return later in season), Hayley Ryan, and Fiona Keating.

■ **Fixtures:** Feb 22, Waterford (h); Mar 1, Dublin (a); Mar 8, Kilkenny (h); Mar 22, Tipperary (a); Mar 29, Galway (h).

■ **Players In:** Ava Fitzgerald, Méabh Ring, Niamh O'Leary, Méabh De Burca, and Lucy Kelly have come into the panel. Kelly picked up a cruciate injury and her availability will be reviewed.

■ **Back with a bang:** Cork chase three-in-a-row All-Ireland senior titles this summer. Such a feat hasn't been achieved since Wexford in 2010-2012. For Cork, you have to go back to the early '70s' four-in-a-row.

■ **Talking Point:** Backroom changes: S&C coach Wesley O'Brien, coaches Adrian O'Sullivan and Gemma O'Connor, selector Seán Crowley, GK coach Brian Donovan, assistant S&C Kyle O'Shea.

■ **Verdict:** As already men-

tioned, the three-in-a-row will be on the mind. Twins Pamela and Katrina Mackey, who began their senior careers in 2009 as 17-year-olds, and another of Cork's longest serving stars Ashling Thompson have long been the backbone of this Cork team, and they continue to be.

DUBLIN

■ **Gaffer:** Gerry McQuaid (third year) and Bill McCormack (second year).

■ **Backroom:** Michael McCullough, Mags D'Arcy, Jack Dunphy, John Sullivan, Seán Óg Grogan, and Rachel Doolin.

■ **Captain:** Niamh Gannon, St Judes.

■ **MIA:** Sinéad Nolan and Elyse Jamieson-Murphy.

■ **Fixtures:** Feb 22, Tipperary (a); Mar 1, Cork (h); Mar 8, Waterford (h); Mar 22, Galway (a); Mar 29, Kilkenny (h).

■ **Players In:** Katie McDonald and Hannah Leddy are new to the panel. Issy Davis returns from injury. Clare McNamara (Limerick), and Aoife Higgins and Eimear Hurley (both Cork) have transferred in.

■ **Back with a bang:** The same management team remains in place while Seán Óg Grogan and Rachel Doolin are added.

■ **Talking Point:** Last July's All-Ireland semi-final loss to Cork (4-17 to 0-9) must be put behind

them, it was the Dubs first semi-final appearance in seven years. They have to keep building.

■ **Verdict:** Dublin were Division 1B league champions last year. Tipperary Division 1A victors. This opening round clash away to the Premier County will give them a good indication of where they are at.

GALWAY

■ **Gaffer:** Cathal Murray (seventh full year).

■ **Backroom:** John Connor, Shane Sweeney, Damien Finnerty, and Philip Brennan.

■ **Captain:** Carrie Dolan (Clarinbridge).

■ **MIA:** Niamh Hannify. Unlikely to see any of the McGrath sisters from All-Ireland club champions Sarsfields. Niamh McPeake is injured.

■ **Fixtures:** Feb 22, Kilkenny (a); Mar 1, Waterford (a); Mar 8, Tipperary (h); Mar 22, Dublin (h); Mar 29, Cork (a).

■ **Players In:** Tegan Canning returns to the panel, so too Siobhán Gardiner who has

recovered from a cruciate injury. Jennifer Hughes is there too, the Carnmore player is fresh from captaining UL to a second consecutive Ashbourne Cup 3-10 to 2-11 victory over UCC. The winning side also included Aine Keane who was named Player of the Match.

■ **Back with a bang:** Boosted by the returning All-Ireland medalists Shauna Healy and Emma Helebert. Down native and 2024 All-Star Niamh Mallon will lead from the front in her second year with the Tribeswomen and her impact will be vital.

■ **Talking Point:** Unlike in Leinster, Munster, and Ulster, there is no provincial championship in Connacht. Therefore, it is imperative the maroon and white get as much as possible out of the league. That seems to be the approach, with Tipperary denying them three-in-a-row titles last year (1-13 to 0-15).

■ **Verdict:** In terms of competitiveness, they are never too far off the mark. Lost both national finals in 2024 by a mere single score.

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■ **Verdict:** In terms of competitiveness, they are never too far off the mark. Lost both national finals in 2024 by a mere single score.

KILKENNY

■ **Gaffer:** Tommy Shefflin (first year). Backroom: Jimmy Meagher, Pat O'Neill, Eamon Kennedy, Billy Cody, and Stephen Murphy.

■ **Captain:** Katie Power (Piltown).

■ **MIA:** Grace Walsh and Miriam Walsh, Roisin Phelan, Niamh Phelan, Emma Shortall, Grace Barcoe, Sarah Crowley, Emily McCarthy, Roisin O'Keeffe, and Julianne Malone.

■ **Fixtures:** Feb 22, Galway (h); Mar 1, Tipperary (a); Mar 8, Cork (a); Mar 22, Waterford (h); Mar 29, Dublin (a).

■ **Players In:** Mairead Kennedy, Lauren Ronan, Rachel Dowling, Niamh Crowley, Claire Doheny, Carlise Comerford, Emma Mulhall, and Ali Kennedy step up from intermediate. Angela Carroll, Ciara Dunne, Anna Doheny from minor. Ava Brett, Amy Cody, Maria Brennan, Aobha O'Gorman, and Sophie Holden are involved as well.

■ **Back with a bang:** Mary O'Connell's return after two years travelling is a shot in the arm. The talented attacker and All-Ireland winner will bolster confidence as they bid to make up for last year's disappointing exit to Dublin in the All-Ireland championship quarter-final.

■ **Talking Point:** Retirement of two greats in cousins Miriam and Grace Walsh — they featured on the Kilkenny team that bridged a 22-year gap in 2016. New management are preparing for their first season also with a squad in transition following the departure of Peter 'Chap' Cleere due to work commitments after one year in charge.

■ **Verdict:** A victory at home this afternoon in Nowlan Park is a tall ask against Galway but it would provide the ideal start.

TIPPERARY

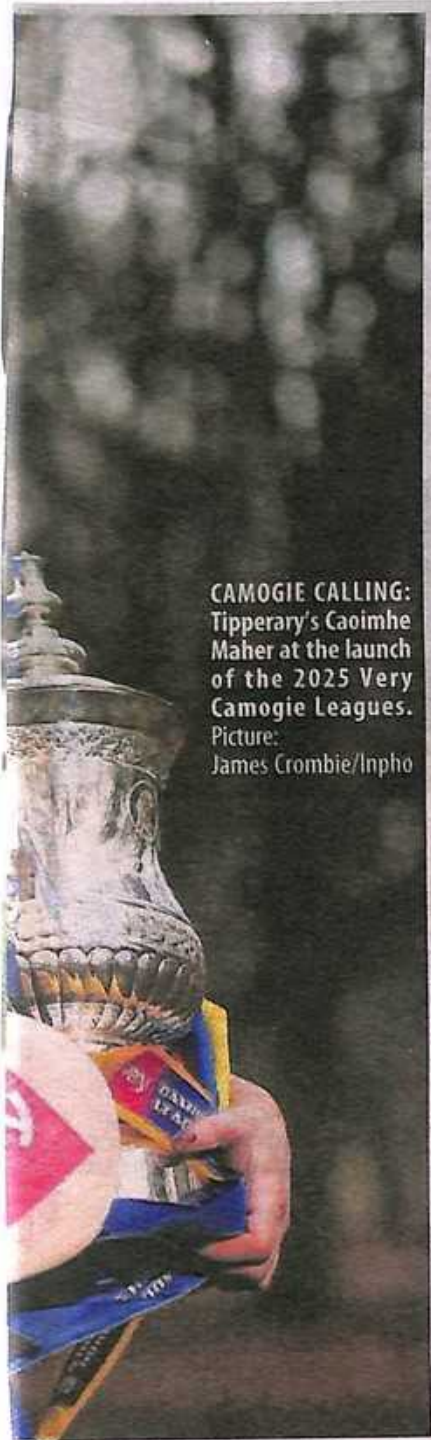
■ **Gaffer:** Denis Kelly (third year). Backroom: Michael Ferncombe, Kevin Moran, Eamon Corcoran, Dinny Ferncombe, Kate Bannon, Trish Hickey, Ciaran Hackett, Ciaran Boyle, Kevin Tobin.

■ **Captain:** Karen Kennedy (Thurles Sarsfields).

■ **MIA:** Nicole Walsh, Cáit Devane, Mary Ryan, Tess Ryan, and Ciardha Maher — these players depart having given so many years of outstanding service to the blue and gold. Eimear McGrath misses out with a cruciate injury.



Cork's Ashling Thompson.



CAMOGIE CALLING: Tipperary's Caoimhe Maher at the launch of the 2025 Very Camogie Leagues. Picture: James Crombie/Inpho

Renewed Maher a familiar driving force for Tipp

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Caoimhe Maher loves playing camogie and relishes being in the midst of the pressure cooker on the biggest days with Tipperary.

It helps that the joint vice-captain is wired to enjoy the lifestyle of a high-performance athlete. So she retains a compelling enthusiasm, 13 years removed from that first thrilling call-up to the senior panel having helped Tipp win their first All-Ireland minor title in 2011, and a week after celebrating her 30th birthday.

Maher admits that stepping away for a couple of years during covid was a vital piece in the jigsaw. The Burgess-Duharra playmaker was possibly getting a little stale, after combining studies and college camogie with everything else. The sabbatical renewed and re-invigorated her.

"At that time, I was living in Dublin," says Maher. "I finished college, was working for the first time. I had started out being with the group and travelling up and down. And to be honest, it just took a lot out of me, and having been involved for that many years, in that kind of ongoing cycle, it was just the right thing for me to do, to step away, to take a break, physically, mentally. Do other things."

"Unfortunately, I didn't get to do a whole lot, because covid was around but it did

do me the world of good because I came back from that break a completely different player. I got to spend time doing other things, other fitness things, things I would have never got the opportunity to do.

"So I came back from that really renewed in terms of, I knew that I wanted to come back. I knew it would be a challenge to come back, but I knew it was something I was ready to do, and that I was probably better equipped to give a good crack at as well having taken the break."

She returned this year with some familiar faces absent. All-Stars Mary Ryan, part of the squad since 2005, and Cáit Devane have retired. So too, Maher's teammates on the first Tipperary squad to win the All-Ireland minor championship in 2011, Nicole Walsh and Tess Ryan. Scoring machine Eimear McGrath is out for the season with a cruciate knee ligament, while skipper Karen Kennedy's long-standing shoulder issue will keep her out for most of the league. Karin Blair is also rehabbing a shoulder injury.

But that allows Denis Kelly and his backroom staff — which includes the returning Dinny Ferncombe to join his brother Michael after a year with Galway — to inculcate some newbies from the All-Ireland and Munster-winning premier junior and minor squads.

That integration was helped on Tuesday night, at a function where those teams received their medals, while the seniors were presented with their Very League Division 1A mementoes, having ended a 20-year famine in national competition with defeat of Galway.

"The girls that have retired have been a credit themselves, to the county, to all their families. You grow up playing camogie with those people, and it's different when they're not around anymore. But we just have to adapt," says Maher.

"Because it hasn't been that long, we'd still be referring back to them in training when we're cracking jokes and doing this and that, and kind of remembering stuff that we would have been doing together."

"So it'll be different, but ultimately, all it does is provide opportunities to new people, right? Unfortunately, we can't all be around for forever."

Tipperary get the defence of their title under way at The Ragg today (2pm) against last year's Division 1B champions Dublin.

"Ultimately, we know we're there or thereabouts. Yeah, we haven't got over the line yet, but we don't have to reinvent the wheel as such to get there. It's those small, little decisions being made that we can improve on," says Maher.



Waterford's Eimear O'Neill is tackled by Cork's Kate Wall during their Very National Camogie League Division 1A clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Hayes happy with winning start for Cork senior camogie side

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork got their Very National Camogie League Division 1A campaign off to a winning start at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday.

They were up against Waterford in a game they would have been expected to win and first half goals from Ciara O'Sullivan and Hannah Looney put them on the road to a deserved 2-10 to 0-8 win.

One of the key players in their win was centre-back Laura Hayes, who put in another outstanding display.

It is very early in the season but already Hayes is showing her importance to the team and will be one of the players they will look to come the championship.

Captain on the day Hayes was delighted with the win, and also to be playing at the Páirc.

"When you look at the torrential rain we've had for the last few weeks it was great to play on such a dry surface and the pitch was in great condition for us," said Hayes.

"So it was great to start off at the Páirc and probably redeem ourselves a bit from the last time we played Waterford here (when the Deise beat them in the Munster championship two years ago)."

The first half goals settled Cork and by half time they were well in control, and Hayes said they were happy enough at that stage.

"We were happy going in at half-time, for our first game in February it was where we'd want to be and our work rate was really high. But we in the second-half we are very disappointed with how we played. But to be fair I think Waterford upped it as well and the

wind was probably a factor too.

"It was kind of hard to judge, I didn't feel like we had it in the first half but you really felt it when against it then."

"But look it's the first game in February and I'm sure we'll improve from that in the weeks ahead. We're delighted to be back playing games again, and we'll look forward to a trip to Dublin now next Saturday which will be another tough challenge for us," concluded Hayes.

Another who was delighted to be playing down the Páirc was Player of the Game Saoirse McCarthy.

"You never really know what stage you are at this time of year," said McCarthy.

"It is just about sticking to your principles and try new bodies on the field. Everyone showed up today. You had two girls in Kate Wall and Ciara O'Sullivan who are coming back into the panel and they more than showed their worth, so I think it was brilliant to get the win and get the season started off."

Playing at the home of Gaelic games in Cork is something McCarthy and her cohorts appreciate.

"It is brilliant and having the families and children around after the game. It's brilliant to get out at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, it's where we belong. (County grounds are) where we should be playing week-in and week-out all over the country."

State of play in Division 1B

Division 1B fixtures, Round 2, Today 2pm:

Wexford v Clare, St Patrick's Park, Enniscorthy (B Nea); Westmeath v Down, Raharney (J Mullins); Limerick v Antrim, Ballyagran (B Kearney).

Clare, Limerick, and Antrim made positive starts to the Very Division 1B national league last weekend with respective victories over Westmeath, Down, and Wexford.

Limerick travelled to Clonduff and came away with a 1-13 to 1-5 result, they were quick to settle securing a 0-7 to 0-4 lead at the break with captain Caoimhe Costello contributing to the scoreboard.

Laura Southern grabbed the all-important goal in the second half while there were crucial inputs from Emily O'Halloran, Lizanna Boylan,

Donna Kenny, and Shauna Cunningham.

Joe Quaid's side look to continue their good form at home to Antrim today.

Clare, meanwhile, relegated in 2024, recorded a convincing 3-14 to 0-4 at home to Westmeath. This was an important starting point for John Carmody's charges as they look to regroup and try and reclaim their place in the top tier. Maintaining that form away to Wexford today will present their next challenge. The hosts have already lost by a narrow margin of 0-14 to 2-7 to Antrim.

In the final group game both Westmeath and Down are looking for their first league points.

Therese O'Callaghan

Cathriona Foley, Captain: Lorraine Bray (Cappoquin).

MIA: Vikki Falconer (due back for championship), Clodagh Carroll, Mairéad Power, Laoise Forrest, Róisín Kirwan, Niamh Curran, and Sarah Lacey. Goalkeeper Brianna O'Regan is recovering from injury.

Niamh Mallon of Galway.

ing from injury.

Fixtures: Feb 22, Cork (a); Mar 1, Galway (h); Mar 8, Dublin (a); Mar 22, Kilkenny (a); Mar 29, Tipperary (h).

Players In: Four of last year's minor team that lost the All-Ireland final to Tipperary are called up — goalkeeper Katelyn Gardner, defender Alex Healy and attackers Eimear

O'Neill and Maggie Gostl.

Back with a bang: Niamh Rockett commits for a 17th season alongside other newcomers Noelle Murphy (goalkeeper), Niamh Ahern, Molly Comerford, and Jordan Scholtz.

Talking Point: Former Cork player and All-Ireland medalist Dr Cathriona Foley is the new Déise sports performance coach, while another Cork native, Niall Collins (living in Dungarvan), has teamed up as coach.

Verdict: Waterford need a good run in the league to build confidence. A place in the final would be the initial aim.

Words: Therese O'Callaghan



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane shoots past Waterford's Kate Lynch during their league game on Saturday. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Fixtures: Feb 22, Dublin (h); Mar 1, Kilkenny (h); Mar 8, Galway (a); Mar 22, Cork (h); Mar 29, Waterford (a).

Players In: From last year's winning All-Ireland minor team Sarah Corcoran (captain and Electric Ireland POTY and mid-fielder on UL winning Ashbourne team), Caithlyn Treacy, Danielle Ryan and Lucy Purcell. Sophie Pembroke, Amy Quinlisk, Laura Leenane and Ciara Brennan from last year's All-Ireland winning premier junior team.

Back with a bang: Caoimhe Maher, Mairéad Eviston, Clodagh McIntyre and Róisín Howard are all set to go again.

Talking Point: Karen Kennedy and Karin Blair both had shoulder operations in the off season so aren't expected to feature in the league. Last year's top scorer Eimear McGrath is a massive loss having picked up a cruciate injury in the club championship.

Verdict: Fresh from their medal presentation after a hugely successful 2024 in senior (league title), minor, and premier junior (All-Ireland titles), the hope is that those wins will provide further momentum going forward.

WATERFORD

Gaffer: Jerry Wallace (second year).

Backroom: Mike Boland, Niall Collins, Dean Roche and



Cork supporters from Laocha Óg against at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Manley happy to get off to winning start in the league

It would have been a surprise had Waterford defeated Cork in their Very National Camogie League Division 1A clash on Saturday but manager Ger Manley was still happy to get over the line and off to a winning start.

"We were comfortable winners I thought, at no stage did they look like coming back into the game really," said Manley.

"I suppose we missed a few chances, we're a bit rusty, but that's expected in our first game."

Two first half goals were key scores for Cork as it put them well ahead by half-time and, despite having the wind it was always going to be tough for Waterford to recover from them.

"Yeah I suppose we were on top, the wind was quite strong but as I said we missed a good few opportunities, but that's expected, we're not going to be perfect at this time of the year."

"The time to be going well is April on really, but look we're delighted because we had no games as we couldn't get challenge ones."

"So it's the first game this team played together, we can't get matches and it's great to have a few matches now just to get us going."

Manley started with 10 of the All-Ireland team, with a number of players who came in impressing on the day.

REACTION

■ Rory Noonan

"I was delighted Libby Coppinger was back, I thought she was outstanding for someone that hadn't played in a long time, and the usual players all played well."

"I thought Ava Fitzgerald did well when she came on, Ciara O'Sullivan and Clodagh Finn as well. Look there is a strong panel there and we are trying to make it stronger and it's an important thing that we have a strong squad."

"There's a few disappointed they didn't get a game today and that's understandable, but we pick it on training and you could see the focus from the girls today."

"It's important that we have that focus and we will need it as the season goes on, but we will take the points today and have a look at where we can make improvements in the coming week."

"But the goals were key today and we probably had another three or four goal chances as well and had they gone in it would have been a different scoreline."

"I think the scoreline though didn't flatter us one bit and, as I said, we never looked in trouble and we're delighted with the win and drive on from here," concluded Manley.



Cork camogie coach Adrian O'Sullivan with manager Ger Manley. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cork's Ciara O'Sullivan scores the opening goal past Waterford goalkeeper Noelle Murphy during the Very National Camogie League Division 1A at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Goals are key in Cork's win

Cork 2-10
Waterford 0-8

Cork got their Very National Camogie League Division 1A campaign off to a winning start at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

The All-Ireland champions showed they mean business again this season as two first-half goals put them on the road to a deserved win.

Waterford are never an easy side to beat and made it tough but they found it difficult to live with the likes of Ciara O'Sullivan, Clodagh Finn, Sorcha McCartan, and Orlaith Cahalane in the Cork attack.

Behind them Laura Hayes put in a top-class display at centre-back, showing she isn't going to give up her Player of the Year title easily.

Cork were also boosted by the return of Libby Coppinger at full-back, a sight not too many full-forwards will be happy about.

They started with 10 of the side that took to the pitch for the All-Ireland final last year and with the likes of Meabh Cahalane, Laura Treacy, Amy O'Connor, and Katrina Mackey still to come back there will be plenty of competition for



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

places in the starting 15.

Chances were few early on, with Waterford having the first real openings, with one dropping short and another going wide.

It took until the fifth minute before Cork fashioned their first real opportunity to score. The familiar sight of Saoirse McCarthy taking off the wing and beating several players was followed by a pass to Orlaith Cahalane. She brushed off one defender but her shot on goal went narrowly wide.

It took until the eighth minute for Cork to open the scoring when Cahalane set up Sorcha McCartan to make it 0-1 to no score.

Two minutes later we had the game's opening goal when Hannah Looney played Ciara O'Sullivan in and she gave Noelle Murphy no chance of saving.

Cork were now starting to dominate possession and McCarthy got on the score

sheet to increase their lead before Beth Carton replied for the visitors.

Carton added another from a free to see only a goal between the sides at the end of the opening quarter.

McCartan added a point from a free before the impressive Clodagh Finn made it 1-4 to 0-2 after 17 minutes. McCartan missed a free but made up for it when she scored a magnificent point from distance after the restart.

It took a brilliant save from Murphy to deny Cahalane a goal, after some good build-up play from Finn and McCartan.

O'Sullivan added a point to her goal before the Rebels had their second green flag. Cahalane played Looney in and she kicked the ball to the net to make it 2-6 to 0-2. Kate Wall added a point for the last score of the half as the Rebels were well in control at the break, leading by 2-7 to 0-2.

With the slight wind at their backs for the second half Waterford reduced the deficit when Eimear O'Neill pointed from a free after 36 minutes.

Niamh Rockett added another from play, to make it 2-7 to 0-4 a minute later.

McCartan pointed from a 45 to put 10 between the sides as the running game of McCarthy was causing Waterford all sorts of problems at this stage and it was no great surprise she was named Player of the Game afterwards.

A point from Lorraine Bray made it 2-8 to 0-5 with 15 minutes left. McCarthy got her second of the afternoon, with Rockett replying at the other end.

Points from Rockett and Bray reduced Cork's with McCartan getting their last score of the tie to see the Rebels running out deserving winners.

Scorers for Cork: S McCartan 0-5 (0-3 f, 0-1 45), C O'Sullivan 1-1, H Looney 1-0, S McCarthy 0-2, C Finn, K Wall 0-1 each.

Waterford: B Carton (f), E O'Neill (f), N Rockett, L Bray 0-2 each.

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, L Coppinger, P Mackey; I O'Regan, L Hayes, H Looney; A Healy, A Thompson; C O'Sullivan, K Wall, S McCarthy; C Finn S McCartan, O Cahalane.

Subs: A Fitzgerald for A Thompson (48), M Ring for A Healy (50), C Mullins for C Finn (52), R Harty for K Wall (56), M Condon for C O'Sullivan (58).

WATERFORD: N Murphy; R Walsh, K Corbett Barry, A McNulty; K Bowdren, L Bray, K Lynch; T Power, E O'Neill; B Carton, M O'Brien, O Hickey; A Flynn, N Rockett, M Gosti.

Subs: I Heffernan for K Lynch, M Comerford for M O'Brien (both 50).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork's Clodagh Finn looks to go past Waterford's Alannah McNulty. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

McCarthy and Cork hit the ground running



FACE DOWN: Waterford's Alannah Hickey and Cork's SORCHA MCCARTAN during for the sliotar in the Very Camogie League Division 1A game at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Very Camogie League

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Saoirse McCarthy admitted to a sense of the unknown at the start of any season, but the all-action Cork star produced a typical top-notch performance as the All-Ireland champions got their Very Camogie League Division 1A campaign off to a strong start with victory over Waterford on Saturday.

After the first week of action in the top tier, they are top of the table with Galway, after last year's league and championship runners-up beat Kilkenny in Dunmore.

While Galway were pushed to the wire at Dunmore, Cork had it much more their own way at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh, where first-half goals from Ciara O'Sullivan and Hannah Looney ensured they took full advantage of their salubrious surroundings in The Páirc.

"You never really know what stage you are at," said McCarthy, who picked up the player of the match accolade after their 2-10 to 0-8 victory.

"It is just about sticking to your principles and try new

bodies on the field. Everyone showed up today. You had two girls in Kate Wall and Ciara O'Sullivan who are coming back into the panel and they more than showed their worth, so I think it was brilliant to get the win and get the season started off."

The heavy lifting was done in the first half as Cork led 2-7 to 0-2 at the interval following a dominant first half display. Waterford rallied at the start of the second half as Carton, Niamh Rockett, and Lorraine Bray all troubled the scoreboard but Cork were able to keep them at arm's length.

Playing at the home of Gaelic games in Cork is something McCarthy and her cohorts appreciate.

"It is brilliant and having the families and little kids around after the game. It's brilliant to get out in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, it's where we belong. [County grounds are] where we should be playing week in and week out all over the country."

Galway were due to play at UPMC Nowlan Park, which has been hosting Kilkenny games for many years as well as major national knockout league and championship fix-

tures, but rain forced a switch down to the road to Dunmore, where the visitors ground out an 0-13 to 0-11 win.

Kilkenny, under the management of Tommy Shefflin for the first time, led by four points early on and by 0-7 to 0-5 at half-time, but some crucial scores from team captain Carrie Dolan dragged Galway back into the game, and a late brace from Ailish O'Reilly secured the win.

"It's always going to be hard to come down to Kilkenny," manager Cathal Murray said on Galway Bay FM. "It wasn't our best performance but we had to dig it out there, lots of players put up their hands when the pressure came on, they showed great quality and spirit."

"The last few weeks have been a bit disjointed. We didn't go back as early as we might have. We had a lot of girls playing with University of Galway and with UL, the Sarsfields girls only just rejoined the panel a few weeks ago. Because of that, today was always going to be about spirit and about heart, and we got a good impact of the bench as well which I'm really happy with."

Dublin were the happier side at the Ragg after Aoife McKearney's late goal salvaged a 2-7 to 1-10 draw at the expense of reigning League champions Tipperary.

"We were in a great position going down the stretch with a three-point lead, so I'm disappointed with the result. But it's round one, so there are no panic buttons being pushed just yet," said Tipp manager, Denis Kelly.

"You want to win every match you can, but we're not as strong for the League this year as we were last year. We're down a couple of key players and of course Eimear [McGrath] is out for the year [with a cruciate] so we're going to be under the cosh a little bit for this League," he said, referring to the loss of Karen Kennedy and Karin Blair due to shoulder injuries and the retirements of Mary Ryan, Cáit Devane, Nicole Walsh and Tess Ryan.

In Division 1B, Clare produced a gritty second half comeback to defeat Wexford 2-9 to 0-14. Westmeath's first ever Division 1B game ended in defeat in Raharney, as Down emerged 2-11 to 1-5 winners.

Camogie star to join Cork City FC

SOCCER

■ Dylan O'Connell

All-Ireland winner Lauren Homan has swapped codes: The camogie star has moved to Cork City FC for the 2025 Women's Premier Division season.

This will be her second stint with the Rebel Army, 10 years on from when she first joined the club after a spell with Lakewood Athletic.

Homan goes to Turner's Cross after captaining Cork to an All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship victory last year. That medal joined two senior titles — in 2017 and 2018 — in a collection belonging to the Brian Dillon's club stalwart.

Homan joins Cork City on the back of a successful season that also saw the code breaker lead her county to victory in the Division 2B league final at Abbottstown.

The captain led by example, scoring 3-35 on the way to Dublin, where she picked up player of the match, after tallying nine points against a spirited Tipperary side. This transfer further builds links between Cork City and the GAA, a connection that includes current Republic of Ireland international Saoirse Noonan. The striker, who is top scorer this season with Celtic in the Scottish Women's Premier League, came close to winning a Celtic Cross in 2018 and 2020. Cork camogie legend Amy O'Connor never played in the Women's National League, despite being an underage Ireland international. She chose camogie. Homan's move is one of many announced by the club in the build-up to the opening game of the season, against Peamount United in Greenogue.

Clinical Clodagh fires Cork to Munster U17A glory

BY GER MCCARTHY

IT has been a positive start to the 2025 campaign for Cork camogie's minors and U17s ahead of this weekend's crunch Electric Ireland minor All-Ireland championship clash with Dublin at Castle Road. Mossy O'Sullivan's side will be anxious to maintain momentum gained from claiming an early season provincial title and All-Ireland group stage draw. The Rebels overcame Limerick 1-9 to 0-10 to capture the 2025 Munster camogie minor A trophy last month.

Shortly after that success, Cork were drawn alongside Dublin, Kilkenny and Tip-

perary in the opening phase of the All-Ireland. A Munster derby saw Cork welcome provincial rivals Tipperary to Castle Road. Two evenly matched teams couldn't be separated in a game that ended 1-11 to 3-5. Ali Mulkerrins (1-1), Shauna Cronin (0-3, 1 45), Rachel Murphy (0-3, 2f), Tara Goulding (0-2), Catherine Murphy and Caoil-

ainn Ryan (0-1 each) scored for the hosts. On the same weekend, Dublin suffered a chastening 4-16 to 0-7 defeat at home to Kilkenny. Naturally, both teams will be eager to register their first All-Ireland

group victory.

This year's Cork minors include Enniskeane's Meabh O'Brien as well as Valley Rovers' Shona Cronin and Kinsale's Catherine Murphy. Getting a place on the panel is a feat in itself considering how many players trialled. "We had 53 girls training with the (Cork) panel before Christmas," the Cork minor camogie manager Mossy O'Sullivan commented.

"Trials were held over a seven-week period before we brought the panel down to 30. I could have selected from over 100 players.

That's the level of enthusiasm and quality of players

we have in Cork right now. It has actually been a very hard job to let the quality of players go from our Cork panel. "I am lucky to have some great people working with me this year. Liam O'Connor, Clodagh Deasy, Joey Gallagher, Deridre Looney and Stephen O'Mahony as well as two new coaches Trevor Allen and Mike Ronan.

There is a great spirit in the camp. That is what it is all about." The positive vibes surrounding Cork camogie continued with the county's U17 development panel overcoming Limerick to win the Munster U17A shield final last weekend. Fethard Town Park in Tipperary was the venue for a provin-

cial decider in when a powerful display saw the Rebels register a 7-21 to 1-4 victory. Carbery's Clodagh Barry (Bandon), Laoise O'Driscoll (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) and Maria O'Donovan (Barryroe) are on the Cork U17 development panel for the coming year.

Barry made her presence felt against Limerick by contributing 1-4 of Cork's winning total. Maria O'Donovan chipped in with 0-2 on an afternoon where Gemma Classen (2-2), Eimear Fouhy (1-2), Abby Hicks (1-2), Naoise Hegarty, Éanna Duff, Sophie O'Sullivan, Erin Healy, Holly Fitzpatrick, Grace Hughes, Tara O'Neill and Darcy O'Brien also scored.



Bandon's Clodagh Barry helped Cork win the U17 Munster Shield final.

STAR Sport

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025

CIARA STRIKES

Newcestown star fires All-Ireland champs to Division 1A league win



Ciara O'Sullivan scores Cork's opening goal in their Very National League Division 1A home win against Waterford.

(Photo: Lorraine O'Sullivan / INPHO)

Dublin star takes study and sport in her stride

Daragh Ó Conchúir

When Aisling O'Neill was making a splash for Dublin in her breakthrough campaign back in 2022, the Castleknock tyro was navigating that attention, from the public and from opposition defenders, while heading into her Leaving Cert year.

O'Neill handled all that with aplomb, supported by her parents first and foremost, but also her mentors and teachers.

Because, as she became a go-to player at the age of 17, providing a real scoring threat to help alleviate some of the pressure on Aisling Maher and earning an All-Star nomination, she also knocked it out of the park in

her exams. That got her into TCD and she is currently in her second year studying medicine.

Work and ability combined have helped her flourish in both sectors of her busy life, but it hasn't all been straightforward.

After helping Dublin win Division 1B of the Very League last year, O'Neill's participation in the Glen Dimplex All-Ireland Championship, which saw the Dubs go one better than the quarter-final appearance of her debut campaign, was almost wiped out by injury.

"First round of the Championship, I tore my hamstring, which was obviously not ideal timing," she said.

"You've just gotten ready to go. That had me out til the All-Ireland quarter-final, when I came on.

"It was nerve-racking coming on not having played, but it's also so exciting.

"You're coming on in an All-Ireland quarter-final at Croke Park. You let that push you on. It was a great day."

The class shone through in the 19 minutes plus injury time that she had on the pitch in the momentous defeat of Kilkenny.

With the teams level coming down the stretch, Dublin scored the last four points to secure a deserved victory.



Dublin's Aisling Maher and Aisling O'Neill after winning Division 1B last year.

O'Neill slotted two of them, including an eye-of-the-needle effort that drew gasps of admiration from those in attendance.

All-Ireland champions Cork — today's opponents at St Peregrine's grounds (2pm) in round 2 of the Very League — were up next but O'Neill watched from the

sidelines once more. "The training before the semi, I dislocated my collarbone. That was me gone," she said.

"It was just a shoulder; there was nothing in it. I didn't see it coming and next thing, I was on the ground. That was more painful than the hamstring but neither of them was pleasant.

"Having put so much into coming back from the hamstring, which was a bad one [a 2cm tear], to then do the collarbone was so hard to take. I missed all the club championship. I went away for a while.

"So it's only in the last few months I've been taking impacts and now I'm fine but initially it was a thing, a little worry. More so than the hamstring. But it's all good now."

Now, there is more excitement about 2025, given that she is fully fit, while Dublin have begun the process of backing up a good season in positive fashion.



Cork's Libby Coppinger tussles with Waterford's Niamh Rockett during the Very National Camogie League Division 1A tie at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork can add to their opening day victory with win over Dublin

Cork should make it two from two when they face Dublin in the Very National Camogie League Division 1A in at St Peregrines GAA Club, Blakes-town tomorrow (2pm).

It's a game that Cork will be expected to win.

Last weekend they had an impressive win over Waterford at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh and, along with tomorrow's tie, was one they were expected to win.

Last year they had a comprehensive win over Dublin, but it should be a lot closer on this occasion.

Dublin lost to Galway by 1-2 to 0-13 and the latter will be one of the sides expected to be in contention for league honours at the end of March.

If Cork repeat their performance against Waterford, there is every chance they will make it two from two.

But they won't be taking anything for granted and this squad is very focused and won't underestimate Dublin.

Speaking ahead of the game Cork manager, Ger Manley, said: "Dublin are very strong and a very physical team, and it's going to be very different to the Waterford game."

"But the girls are very focused and I thought at times last week, especially in the first half, some of our play was very good and we will need to up that against Dublin."

Cork have a squad that has plenty of depth and Manley will be expected to rotate his team tomorrow as he tries to get game time into his players ahead of the championship in a few months time.

He said last week that the Waterford tie was their first real game of the season as they found it difficult to get challenge games in the previous weeks.

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

So the players will be a little bit rusty and it's going to take a few outings before Cork find their stride and start playing anywhere near the level they are capable of.

If anyone from the Dublin camp was at the Páirc last Saturday they would have left a worried person.

On the pitch Cork had the likes of Laura Hayes, Libby Coppinger, Izzy O'Regan, Ashling Thompson, Orlaith Cahalane, and player of the game Saoirse McCarthy, to name a few.

All were outstanding and what would have worried any Dublin person present was the talent sitting in the stand that didn't see game time and will be bursting to go tomorrow.

Watching on were the likes of team captain, Meabh Cahalane, Laura Treacy, Katrina Mackey, Amy O'Connor, and Orlaith Mullins.

All big names missing from the team and add in others like Ava Fitzgerald, Meabh Ring, Clare Mullins, and Rahel Harty who came on and it's clear that Manley has the type of headaches any manager wants.

The push for a starting spot within the squad is massive and once they get the jersey they don't want to give it up.

The Cork ladies football team are also playing tomorrow and Manley confirmed that he and their manager, Joe Carroll, have spoken about the dual players and who will be with each team for the games. This is most likely to be the only clash of the sides over the season with both sides in constant touch with each other to avoid clashes.

Cork v Dublin on Saturday in St Peregrines at 2pm

Having got their campaign off to a winning start at home last Saturday, Cork will be keen to get another two points on the board when they head up the motorway on Saturday.

Manager Ger Manley was pleased with the win. "We got off to a good start and never looked like losing after that; the game kind of petered out but job done and we move on."

A number of players are still out of action with injuries and coming back to training a bit later, but Ger is not really concerned. "Look that always happens at this time of the year, girls picked up knocks in the Ashbourne but we will manage that and monitor them in the coming weeks."

Dublin are next up and Ger will be taking nothing for granted. "We have had the edge over them in recent meetings but I believe they have a lot done and it could be a tough game with conditions being a bit difficult."

As to emphasise Ger's point Dublin drew with reigning league champions Tipperary in the Ragg last Saturday so they will be boosted by that result.

Tipp looked likely winners but Dublin kept battling away and eventually came away with a well deserved share of the spoils.

Eimear Hurley, Claire Gannon, Sarah Power, Sinead Wylde and Aisling Gannon all made important contributions to that draw.

Cork may be still without a few key players but the depth in the squad is very good right now and when you can call on Libby Coppinger, Amy Lee, Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy, Aoife Healy and Orlaith Cahalane, they should have enough to get the points on offer.

On Sunday in the All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship, Cork after drawing with Tipperary in Round 1 welcome Kilkenny to Castle Road, 2pm start here.



Manager Maurice O'Sullivan will be hoping for improvement in areas of Cork's game when they face Kilkenny tomorrow. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Cork have room to improve on Tipp draw for Cats' visit

TOMORROW

Eir All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship round two, Cork v Dublin, Castle Road, 2pm

Round two of the Eir All-Ireland Camogie Championship and a home game for Cork who host Dublin in Castle Road tomorrow.

With eight teams divided into two groups of four, the group winners will progress to the semi-finals with third and fourth in each group progressing to the quarter-finals.

Cork, with a difficult game against Tipperary under their belts, take on a Dublin side that lost comprehensively, 4-16 to 0-7, to Kilkenny in round one.

Cork were lucky to come away with a share of the spoils in their clash with Tipperary, a pointed 45 from Shauna Cronin minutes into injury-time ensuring it finished level 1-11 to 3-5 and no doubt manager Mossie O'Sullivan will be looking for an improved performance from his charges because he will know just how lucky Cork were to get a draw.

It took Cork a long time to settle into the game, something O'Sullivan will have worked to improve upon in training this week.

Inside three minutes of the start, Tipperary had hit Cork with two goals and this was a cushion they could fall back on all through the game as Cork played catch-up.

Another area where Cork will need to be careful of is conceding needless frees.

Tipperary hit them with three points in a row from placed balls just before the interval and again O'Sullivan will have worked on this during the two-week break since the Tipperary game.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork had some impressive displays, with half-time substitute Cronin looking sharp and contributed three points, two from play, and the difficult 45 which she confidently slotted over.

To their credit, the Cork's defence played well, especially in the first half when facing into a gale force wind, but wayward shooting saw them waste a lot of scoring opportunities.

Again, this is something that will have been worked on ahead of tomorrow's clash.

Captain Rachel Murphy, Ally Mulkerrins, Ava McAuliffe, Tara Goulding, and Caoilainn Ryan will spearhead the Cork quest for a first championship victory.

Dublin found the going hard against a strong Kilkenny side and trailed by 14 points at the break, and despite battling hard they could not get to grips with Kilkenny.

Manager Ambrose Curry will be looking for an improved display from his side but knows that Cork will provide another strong challenge to his charges.

In the other group game, the big clash is between Kilkenny and Tipperary where a win for the Cats would put them top with just one game to go against Cork, but having drawn with Tipperary, will be battling to get their first win.

The Eir U16A championship clash with Kilkenny was postponed due to weather conditions last weekend and a re-scheduled date was still to be confirmed at time of going to print, but Cork were hopeful it could be played this weekend.



Cork's Caoilainn Ryan is tackled by Tipperary's Ciara Cahill during the Electric Ireland Minor A Camogie Championship at Castle Road.



Cork camogie manager Ger Manley will be hoping to get more game time into his players. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Saoirse hails Rebels' fast start to new campaign

Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan scores Cork's first goal of the season as Rebels off to a flier

CORK 2-10
WATERFORD 0-8

BY KEVIN EGAN

SAOIRSE McCarthy has started the new season like she finished the last – the Courcey Rovers star was in top form as Cork began their Very Camogie League Division 1A campaign with an opening weekend win.

The three-time All-Star was named player of the match after the Rebels got their 2025 campaign up and running with an eight-point win against Waterford at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Newcestown's Ciara O'Sullivan and dual star Hannah Looney scored first-half goals that powered Cork into a 2-7 to 0-2 half-time lead, leaving Waterford facing an uphill battle in the second period. While the Déise did rally somewhat in the second half, Cork were never in danger of relinquishing their lead. 'You never really know what stage you are at,' McCarthy said afterwards.

'It is just about sticking to your principles and trying new bodies on the field. Everyone showed up today. You had two girls in Kate Wall and Ciara O'Sullivan who are coming back into the panel and they more than showed their worth, so I think it was brilliant to get the win and get the season started off.'

While the talk later in the

season will centre around Cork trying to win their third All-Ireland title in a row, right now Ger Manley's side is hoping to win a first Division 1A title in 12 years and they got out to the perfect start

'It's brilliant to get out in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, it's where we belong'

The Rebels raced out of the blocks and into a 1-2 to no score lead inside the opening ten minutes. Hannah Looney teed up Ciara O'Sullivan to fire home Cork's first goal from an acute angle. Beth Carton did fire over two quickfire points for Waterford but from there, Cork took control, scoring 1-5 without reply to take a commanding 11-point lead to the dressing room.

Sorcha McCartan fired over a pair of points while Clodagh Finn, O'Sullivan and Kate Wall all tagged on further scores. The second goal arrived when Looney managed to bundle the sliotar over the line, after good work by Orlaith Cahalane, as Cork enjoyed a stellar first half at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Playing at the home of Gaelic games in Cork is something Saoirse McCarthy and her cohorts appreciate.

'It is brilliant and having the families and little kids around after the game. It's brilliant to



get out in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, it's where we belong. (County grounds are) where we should be playing week-in and week-out all over the country.'

Waterford rallied at the start of the second-half as Carton, Niamh Rockett and Lorraine Bray all troubled the scoreboard but Cork were able to keep them at arm's length.

McCartan proved lively in front of the posts as Cork came through despite only registering three points in the second half. But the heavy lifting was all done in the first half, as Cork began their season on the front foot.

Next up for Cork is an away trip to Dublin this Saturday for a clash with the Dubs, who drew with defending league champions Tipperary, 1-10 to 2-7.

Scorers

Cork: S McCartan 0-5 (3f); C O'Sullivan 1-1; H Looney 1-0; S McCarthy 0-2; K Wall, C Finn 0-1 each.

Waterford: L Bray, E O'Neill (2f), B Carton (1f), N Rockett 0-2 each.

Cork: Amy Lee; Meabh Murphy; Libby Coppinger, Pamela Mackey; Izzy O'Regan, Laura Hayes, Hannah Looney; Aolfe Healy, Ashling Thompson; Ciara O'Sullivan, Katie



St Colum's Libby Coppinger made her comeback from injury for the Cork camogie team, having missed 2024 championship.

Ciara O'Sullivan watches her low show squeeze past the Waterford goalkeeper in Cork's Very National League Division 1A home win.

(Photos: Lorraine O'Sullivan/INPHO)



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy, named player of the match, races away from Waterford's Orla Hickey.

CAMOGIE DIVISION 1A

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cork	1	1	0	0	16	8	3
Galway	1	1	0	0	13	11	3
Dublin	1	0	0	1	13	13	1
Tipperary	1	0	0	1	13	13	1
Kilkenny	1	0	1	0	11	13	0
Waterford	1	0	1	0	8	16	0

Wall, Saoirse McCarthy; Clodagh Finn, Sorcha McCartan, Orlaith Cahalane.

Subs: Ava Fitzgerald for A Thompson (48), Meadhbh Ring for A Healy (50), Clare Mullins for C Finn (52), Rachel Harty for K Wall (56), Millie Condon for C O'Sullivan (59).

Waterford: N Murphy; R Walsh, K Corbett Barry, A McNulty; B Bowdren, L Bray (Capt), K Lynch; T Power, E O'Neill; B Carton, M O'Brien, O Hickey; A Flynn, N Rockett, M Gostl.

Subs: I Heffernan for K Lynch, M Comerford for M O'Brien (both 50). **Referee:** Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

Eviston looking at big picture

Very Camogie League

Kevin Egan

Next Saturday's clash of Galway and Tipperary will see two of the three unbeaten teams in Division 1A of the Very Camogie League go head to head, but according to Tipp centre-back Mairéad Eviston, who picked up the player of the match accolade in her team's 0-16 to 1-8 win over Kilkenny, the contest will be about much more than that for the Premier County.

The last four of the All-Ireland series has been something of a glass ceiling for Tipperary in recent years. They've reached the penultimate round six times in the last seven campaigns, but lost all six, including semi-finals in 2023 (versus Waterford) and 2024 (versus Galway) by a single point.

Next Saturday's road trip out west will be a chance for Denis Kelly's crew to continue to develop their mental readiness to shatter that ceiling, in the opinion of the Drom & Inch player.

"We get in to All-Ireland semis every year, so we know that we're there close enough. We just need to work on closing out games," said Eviston.

"Kilkenny came at us there in the last quarter and we just put our heads down and saw it out, so we just need to keep that attitude for the championship and keep the performances up."

Niamh Treacy and Caoimhe McCarthy also hurled very well for Tipp as they dominated the second and third quarters of their local derby battle, turning a 0-3 to 0-2 advantage in to a commanding 0-12 to 0-4 lead.

Caoimhe Keher Murtagh found the net from close range for Kilkenny on 52 minutes, but late points from Grace O'Brien and Róisín Howard ensured that Tipperary sealed a fully-merited win on Saturday, putting their disappointing draw to Dublin in round one behind them.

Denis Kelly said: "Yeah, we definitely righted a few wrongs from last week. Our work rate was very good, we came out on top in the rucks, and we worked on that a lot during the week. It's a pleasure when the things you work on come out during a match."

"We probably need to work on our shooting a little bit and some of our ball delivery wasn't brilliant, but conditions are still tough enough. There was a couple of goal chances that we turned down for points, but that'll come. It's early in the year."

"There's not much room for slippage after dropping the point the first day, so we need to go to Galway and grind out a victory. But it's a great test and we'll learn a lot about ourselves next weekend," he added.

While Tipperary have played both of their games in The Ragg, it'll be a welcome first home tie for Galway, who followed up their narrow victory over Kilkenny in round one with a 0-15 to 1-9 win over Waterford on Saturday.

Galway made a superb start at the SETU Waterford venue, to lead by 0-5 to 0-1 after hurling into the breeze for 10 minutes.

The home side responded well, however, holding Galway scoreless for 16 minutes and nudging their way in to the lead with a run of five unanswered points of their own.



ON THE RUN: Cork's Jess Murphy solos up the field surrounded by Dublin players in their Very Camogie League clash at Castle Road. Picture: David Creedon

Mairéad O'Brien's point and a goal from Gostl established a 1-7 to 0-7 lead for the Déise women at the interval and when Beth Carton split the uprights to extend that gap after half time, Waterford looked like they might have enough of a lead built up to hold on.

That wasn't the case, however, as Galway took over in terms of possession for the remainder of the half, and 31 minutes of play passed by before they scored again. By that time Galway had fired over eight in a row, with Carrie Dolan and Niamh Mellon leading the attack.

"Waterford attacked well from the half-back in the first half and we tried to replicate that," said Galway manager Cathal Murray.

"We were that bit better in the second half. We played in very good ball and we got control of the game in the middle third. In the first half we just struggled and weren't operating at the level that we'd like, and that's why we were behind."

The other unbeaten side are the All-Ireland champions, Cork, who cruised to a 0-20 to 0-10 win over Dublin at St Peregrine's.

The winners had nine

players register at least one point from play, with Sorcha McCartan leading the scoring charge with 0-8 (0-6f).

Laura Hayes, Aoife O'Leary, Clodagh Finn and Aoife Healy were also in impressive form for the Rebels, who were 0-13 to 0-2 ahead at half time and 0-18 to 0-5 in front with 10 minutes remaining, before Dublin came with a late rally.

Meanwhile, in Division 1B, Clare made it three wins out of three with a 1-10 to 0-11 win over Down.

Dervla Cosgrove's goal was the difference in Ballycastle, where Antrim edged out West-

meath by 1-9 to 0-9, and, in Enniscorthy, Jessie Morrissey and Joanne Dillon found the net for the home side against Limerick in the first four minutes.

Those goals gave the Model County a 2-1 to 0-6 half-time lead after playing into a diagonal breeze, and by the end they had extended that margin out to seven points, 2-11 to 0-10.

In Division 2A, Offaly are the only team on maximum points, with Mairéad and Grace Teehan their goal-scorers in their impressive 2-10 to 0-8 win over Derry at Owenbeg.

Kerry pair step down

Kerry County Camogie chairperson Anne-Marie Russell confirmed that the Kingdom's senior team manager Bryan Darcy and head coach Paul Lillis had stepped down from their roles on the eve of the second-round league clash with Meath, a game Kerry won 3-10 to 0-12. Mary I Purcell Cup winner Amy O'Sullivan scored 3-3 for the Kingdom. But there was no manager or coach issuing instructions on the sidelines, with the remaining two members of the management team, Aidan Boyle and Pete Young, directing operations.

"It is with regret that I can confirm that we will be appointing a new manager in the coming days after manager Bryan Darcy and head coach Paul Lillis stepped down on Friday evening," Russell said in a brief statement on Saturday night.

By Kevin Egan

CORK and Galway both made it two wins from two to in the Very Camogie league, but champions Tipperary are hot on their heels after recording an 0-16 to 1-8 local derby win over Kilkenny in what was undoubtedly game of the day in Division 1A.

A late Dublin goal had denied the Premier County an opening round win but they were in complete control of their neighbours at The Ragg, responding well to score three of the last four points when Caoimhe Keher Murtagh's goal after 52 minutes threatened to set Kilkenny up for a smash and grab win against the run of play.

Aoife Prendergast opened the scoring for the visitors and the contest was still evenly poised when Aobha O'Gorman split the uprights after 17 minutes, but Tipperary were clearly the superior side in the second and third quarters, scoring 10 of the next 12 points. The platform for their dominance was at midfield and half-back, where player of the match Mairéad Eviston, as well as Niamh Treacy and Caoimhe McCarthy, excelled.

When two Caoimhe Maher points helped to establish a four-point lead at the break, Denis Kelly's side would have felt they were in the driving seat. Two each from Grace O'Brien and Clodagh McIntyre made it 0-12 to 0-4 going into the final quarter, but a couple of frees from Prendergast kept Kilkenny in touch, while Laura Murphy was exceptional for the Cats, battling against the tide.

Aobha O'Gorman's strong run helped to set up the goal for Keher Murtagh but late points from Grace O'Brien and Róisín Howard ensured Tipperary sealed a fully-merited win.

Galway defied the breeze to make the stronger start at SETU Waterford, and after Carrie Dolan and Maggie Gostl traded scores, the Tribeswomen rattled off four points in as many minutes.

However, Waterford found their rhythm after that, holding Galway scoreless for 16 minutes and nudging their way into the lead with a run of five unanswered points.



HOOKED: Clare Doheny of Kilkenny up against Tipperary's Casey Hennessy

Tipp keep the pressure on early leaders

Mairéad O'Brien's point and a goal from Gostl established a 1-7 to 0-7 lead for the Déise women at the interval and when Beth Carton split the uprights to extend that gap after half-time, Waterford looked like they might have enough of a lead to hold on for an invaluable win.

But Galway completely took over in terms of possession for the remainder of the half and 31 minutes of play passed before Waterford scored again. By that time Galway had fired over eight in a row.

It was Ciara Hickey that finally nudged them into the lead with 25 minutes gone, but with that psychological barrier broken, two more from Dolan either side of one from Áine Keane gave them a

little bit of breathing room.

Beth Carton did reduce the margin to a single goal but a couple of missed frees proved costly for the home side and they eventually succumbed to a second successive defeat, 0-15 to 1-9.

At St. Peregrine's GAA club, Sorcha McCartan excelled as Cork moved through the gears in the second quarter to blow Dublin out of the water and a 0-20 to 0-10 victory.

The Rebels hit 10 without replay before half-time to lead 0-18 to 0-5 before Dublin doubled their tally in the last 10 minutes of play, giving themselves a little momentum ahead of next weekend's relegation battle with Waterford. Aoife McKearney scored six of their points.

CAMOGIE: Junior B PP All-Ireland final: Portumna CS v St Marys Charleville, Nenagh, 1pm.
Junior C PP All-Ireland final: St Dominics High School Falls Road v Gael-Choláiste Chill Dara, Castleblayney, 1pm.
Junior C PP All-Ireland final: St Plux X College v Laurel Hill Colaiste, Kiltale, 3pm.
Senior A PP All-Ireland final: St Patrick's Maghera v Presentation Convent, Castleblayney, 3pm.

VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 1A			
Dublin	0-10	Cork	0-20
Tipperary	0-16	Kilkenny	1-8
Waterford	1-9	Galway	0-15
VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 1B			
Down	0-11	Clare	1-10
Wexford	2-11	Limerick	0-10
Antrim	1-9	Westmeath	0-9
VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 2A			
Kerry	3-10	Meath	0-12
Derry	0-8	Offaly	2-10
Armagh	0-11	Carlow	1-9
VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 3A			
Louth	0-1	Laois	7-27
Wicklow	0-11	Tyrone	1-5
Kildare	1-10	Roscommon	0-13



Cork's Sorcha McCartan is chased by Dublin's Emma O'Byrne during their VERY Ireland National Division 1A tie in St Peregrine's, Blakestown. Picture: Moya Nolan

Sorcha leads the way in big win for Cork



CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Dublin 0-10
Cork 0-20

Cork made it two from two after their win over Dublin in their Very Camogie League Division 1A clash at St Peregrine's GAA Club, Dublin on Saturday.

From start to finish they were in control as they built on their win over Waterford a week ago.

This was a far more physical encounter than their first outing, which was expected by the Cork management.

Cork were simply too good for their opponents, with some outstanding performances from the likes of Sorcha McCartan, Laura Hayes, Niamh O'Leary, Clodagh Finn, Aoife O'Neill, and Aoife Healy. The first half could have been dubbed the McCartan show as the full-forward scored eight of Cork's first-half tally of 13 points.

Six were from frees as the Dublin defence was finding it difficult to hold the Cork attack, led by McCartan, with Kate Wall also working hard throughout.

The major concern Cork will have from this game are the injuries picked up by Izzy O'Regan and Ashling Thompson, the former the more serious of the two and she could be looking at a spell on the sidelines with a knee injury.

McCartan opened the scoring from a free in the first minute as Cork dominated



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane with Dublin's Emma O'Byrne and Kerrie Finnegan in hot pursuit. Picture: Moya Nolan

early on with the wind at their backs.

From the restart they were unlucky not to goal when Eimear Hurley saved well from Ava Fitzgerald. Hurley who plays with Cuala in Dublin, is the sister of the St Finbarr's and Cork intermediate keeper, Ciara.

Aoife McKearney had Dublin back on level terms from a free before Cork hit five without reply.

Emma Murphy put them back in front, before Saoirse McCarthy increased Cork's lead from a free.

McCartan got her second before it looked like Cork should have had a penalty.

Hannah Looney and Orlaith Cahalane combined to play Clodagh Finn in and it looked like she was pulled down. But the referee disagreed and waved the ball wide.

Finn scored from the restart with McCarthy adding another, to make it 0-6 to 0-1 after 10 minutes.



Cork's Laura Hayes and Dublin's Aoife Heffernan in action. Picture: Moya Nolan

Claire Gannon scored from long range for Dublin, but again Cork responded in style.

Three frees in a row from McCartan put Cork further ahead, as they making good use of the wind.

She added another and a sixth in a row for her to make it 0-11 to 0-2 after 24 minutes.

Finn rounded off the first-half scoring and Cork were well in control, 0-13 to 0-2 at half-time.

McKearney hit two early frees for Dublin, with McCarthy replying as the Dubs came more into the tie using the wind.

Cahalane and Wall replied to keep Cork well in control as they led by 0-16 to 0-4 after 40 minutes.

Gabby Couch and Aine Rafter pointed for the home side, with Ciara O'Sullivan and Meadhbh Ring replying for Cork.

Two late frees from McKearney, with a point from Isabel Davis in between, rounded off the scoring as Cork ran out deserving winners.

Scorers for Dublin: A McKearney 0-6 f, C Gannon, G Couch, N Comerford, I Davis 0-1 each.

Cork: S McCartan 0-8 (0-6 f), S McCarthy 0-3 (0-2 f), C Finn, C O'Sullivan 0-2 each, E Murphy, K Wall, O Cahalane, A Fitzgerald, M Ring 0-1 each.

DUBLIN: E Hurley; A Ryan, C Shanahan, E O'Byrne; C Gannon, K Finnegan, N Comerford; A Rafter, G Couch; A McKearney, S Wyld, A Heffernan; A O'Neill, E Moran, A Gannon.

Subs: R Ni Chathasaigh for A Heffernan (39), G Skelton for K Finnegan (44 inj), I Davis for C Shanahan (50), E Flanagan for E Moran (54).

CORK: A Lee; M Murphy, N O'Leary, P Mackey; I O'Regan, A Healy, L Hayes; H Looney, A Fitzgerald; E Murphy, K Wall, S McCarthy; C Finn, S McCartan, O Cahalane.

Subs: L Treacy for I O'Regan (8 inj), M Condon for A Healy (ht), O Mullins for C Finn, C O'Sullivan for E Murphy (both 38), A O'Neill for N O'Leary (47), R Hartly for K Wall (47), M De Burca for A Fitzgerald, A Thompson for H Looney (51), M Ring for A Thompson (56 head inj).

Referee: Joseph Mullins, Clare.



Cork's Tara Goulding and Dublin's Eile Caffrey battle for the sliotar at Castle Road. Pictures: David Creedon

Cork minors back on track with impressive display against Dublin

Cork 0-18
Dublin 0-4

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

A strong performance saw Cork record a vital first victory in the Electric Ireland All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship group stages at the excellent Castle Road pitch.

Shauna Cronin, with six frees, and captain Rachel Murphy, with 0-5 from play, led the way on the scoring front but Cork were never really troubled by a spirited but outclassed Dublin side.

From the throw-in, Cork hit the front through Murphy, followed by a Cronin free.

Cork settled quickly and it was evident early on that Dublin had a battle on their hands as the Cork team were on top in all sectors.

Ali Mulkerins and Meg Twomey stretched the Cork lead with points and with Cronin unerring from placed balls, Cork were six points in front before Dublin opened their account with a Chloe O'Shea point 10 minutes in.

Rachel Murphy and Eva Collis exchanged points but Cork, with their defence rock-solid, overpowered any attack Dublin threw at them.

Finishing the half strongly, Cork added points from Cronin, Murphy, and Caoilainn Ryan to hold a comfortable 0-10 to 0-2 lead.

On the restart it was more of the same as Cork controlled the game in all sectors.

Their defence continued

to hold the upper hand and as they stayed in control and outscored Dublin eight points to two, they were never troubled.

Tara Goulding, Cronin, Maebh O'Brien, Clara Murphy, and Rachel Murphy all added points as Cork were content to take every opportunity that came their way.

Dublin had points from an Eva Collis free and Abbie Kenny from play on a day when they could not match the strength of a focused Cork.

Scorers for Cork: S Cronin 0-6 f, R Murphy 0-5, T Goulding 0-2, M Twomey, A Mulkerins, C Ryan, M O'Brien, C Murphy 0-1 each.

Dublin: E Collis 0-2 (0-1 f), A Kenny, C O'Shea 0-1 each.

CORK: T O'Donoghue (Ballinora); S Donohoe (Blarney), L Ahern (Eire Og), S Cunningham (Erin's Own), A Cagney (Mallow), A Cottrell (Ballinacorney), A Cussen (Ballinacorney), J Murphy (Blackrock), C Ryan (Newtownshandrum); R Murphy (Ballinora, c), M Twomey (St Finbarr's), A McAuliffe (Castlemartyr); A Mulkerins (St Catherine's), S Cronin (Valley Rovers), T Goulding (Ballinacorney).

Subs: N Hosford (Rockbawn) for M Twomey (ht), M O'Brien (Enniskeane) for A Mulkerins (ht), M Lombard (Ballinacorney) for A Cagney (ht), C Murphy (Eire Og) for A McAuliffe (48), C Kelleher (Cloughduv) for J Murphy (50), E O'Connor (Newtownshandrum) for A Cussen (55), C Horgan (Slabh Rua) for T Goulding (55), C O'Sullivan (Ballinacorney) for S Cunningham (55).

DUBLIN: E Walsh; E Caffrey, S Dalton, R Nolan; R Verling, N Hyland, C Coffey; J Hanks, A O'Gorman; C McKenna, A Kenny, C O'Shea; R Cosgrave, K Kearney, E Collis.

Subs: E Reddan for A O'Gorman (39), E Ryan for C McKenna (40), R Kallio for R Verling (59).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork's Ava McAuliffe clears the ball from Dublin's Cara Coffey in their All-Ireland Minor Camogie Championship clash.

Rebels can maintain 100 percent record as Kilkenny next up

CORK 0-20
DUBLIN 0-10

BY MATTHEW HURLEY

CORK weren't pushed too hard as they made it back-to-back wins in Very Camogie League Division 1A with a comfortable ten-point victory away to Dublin in St Peregrine's GAA Club.

The Rebels go into their next game against Kilkenny this Saturday at 2pm in Páirc Uí Chaoimh in a really good position with only Cork and Galway with 100 percent records after the opening two rounds.

Ger Manley's team faces a Kilkenny side that has lost their two opening games, failed to reach an All-Ireland semi-final last year and have lost key names such as Grace Walsh and Miriam Walsh to retirement.

The Rebels won't be taking this game lightly though and, much like their wins against Waterford and Dublin, will be ruthless when needed. With tougher tests to come against league champions Tipperary and All-Ireland finalists Galway, it is important that Cork get the two points on Saturday.

Izzy O'Regan (knee) and Ashling Thompson (head) both went off injured against Dublin and could be doubts for the weekend, O'Regan in particular who was forced off after just eight minutes.

The good news for Manley is Libby Coppinger, Aoife Healy and Hannah Looney won't have ladies football commitments this weekend, meaning all three will be available.

In terms of their second league game, Sorcha McCartan was in flying form, scoring 0-8 as Cork led 0-13 to 0-2 at half-time. Emma Murphy, Saoirse McCarthy, Ava Fitzgerald and

Clodagh Finn all pointed in the first spell too as Cork looked in complete control.

Orlaith Cahalane and Kate Wall both added to the victor's impressive lead to make it 0-16 to 0-4 with 20 minutes left before substitutes Ciara O'Sullivan and Meadhbh Ring chipped in with scores.

Dublin did battle on and out-scored Manley's side 0-6 to 0-4 in closing stages but by then, Cork were home and hosed. Nine subs were made by Cork overall, giving those not in the starting team some valuable game time. Overall a good day's work but tougher tests lie ahead.

Scorers

Cork: Sorcha McCartan 0-8 (6f); Saoirse McCarthy 0-3 (2f); Clodagh Finn, Ciara O'Sullivan 0-2 each; Emma Murphy, Kate Wall, Orlaith Cahalane, Ava Fitzgerald, Meadhbh Ring 0-1 each.

Dublin: Aoife McKearney 0-6f; Claire Gannon, Gaby Couch, Niamh Comerford, Isabel Davis 0-1 each. **Cork:** A Lee; M Murphy, N O'Leary, P Mackey; I O'Regan, A Healy, L Hayes; H Looney, A Fitzgerald; E Murphy, K Wall, S McCarthy; C Finn, S McCartan, O Cahalane.

Subs: L Treacy for I O'Regan (8, inj); M Condon for A Healy (ht); O Mullins for C Finn (38); C O'Sullivan for E Murphy (38); A O'Neill for N O'Leary, R Harty for K Wall (both 47); M De Burca for A Fitzgerald (51); A Thompson for H Looney (51); M Ring for A Thompson (56, inj).

Dublin: E Hurley; A Ryan, C Shanahan, E O'Byrne; C Gannon, K Finnegan, N Comerford; A Rafter, G Couch; A McKearney, S Wyld, A Heffernan; A O'Neill, E Moran, A Gannon.

Subs: R Ni Chathasaigh for A Heffernan (39); G Skelton for K Finnegan (44, inj); I Davis for C Shanahan (50); E Flanagan for E Moran (54).

Referee: J Mullins (Clare).



Cork's Orlaith Cahalane and Dublin's Emma O'Byrne and Kerrie Finnegan in action in their VERY Ireland National Division 1A tie in St Peregrine's, Blakestown.
Picture: Moya Nolan

Manley: We coped well with their physicality and a small pitch

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

Cork picked up their second win in the Very Camogie Division 1A League with another impressive display as they defeated Dublin on Saturday.

A good first half, when they had the wind, set them up as they led by 0-13 to 0-2 at half-time.

Dublin did come back at Cork, but the Rebels never looked in any danger as they ran out winners by 0-20 to 0-10, with Sorcha McCartan Cork's outstanding player on the day, scoring eight points.

Manager Ger Manley was happy to make it two from two, but his first thoughts were on players that picked up injuries.

Izzy O'Regan had to go off after eight minutes with a knee injury and Ashling Thompson also had to leave the pitch, not long after coming on, with a head injury.

Of the two, Thompson's appeared to be less serious, but only time will tell on both, with O'Regan due to get a scan on her knee this week.

"Izzy hurt her knee there and hopefully it isn't the dreaded cruciate, we will arrange a scan during the week for her and we're hoping that she will be ok," said Manley.

"Ashling got a bad head injury and we have a few more small knocks. It was a tough game, tight pitch, but we knew it was going to be like that coming up.

"But I thought it was a very good performance from our players. Give Dublin credit they are putting a huge amount of work and look we are probably a small bit ahead of them.

"Today at times I thought we were very good, probably could have



Cork camogie manager Ger Manley was happy with the win over Dublin but is concerned about a couple of injuries that were picked up.

had a few goals. But if you look at the pitch, it's very tight and narrow but I thought we coped with it well, as well as their physicality, and the score line didn't flatter us."

With a number of changes from the Waterford game, and the sub they brought on Manley was happy to get game time into more players as they face tougher challenges in the weeks ahead.

"Yeah, that's what we are trying to do and look it's pretty hard as they all want to play and I thought we had some very good performance again today.

"Laura (Treacy) came back there when Izzy got injured and made a big difference in the half-back line. They're all going very well and hopefully we will have a few more back next week.

"The likes of Meabh Cahalane, Katrina Mackey, Amy O'Connor, and Cliona Healy, have yet to come back and hopefully we will be able to get some game time into them next week against Kilkenny."



Izzy O'Regan picked up a knee injury against Dublin and will be out for some time.
Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo

Cork should continue winning run against arch-rivals Kilkenny

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

Cork will be looking for their third win as they take on Kilkenny in the Very Camogie League Division 1A at Super-Valu Páirc Uí Chaoimh tomorrow, throw-in 2pm.

With comfortable wins over Waterford, and Dublin they will know the Cats will be a step up as they bid to keep their winning run going.

There has been a fierce rivalry between the two counties for longer than the current players have been around and no doubt it will continue long after them.

These are two counties that don't like losing to each other, they have massive respect for each other, but losing is a different matter.

Last season they clashed in the first round and it took a late surge by Cork to come out on top and it should be another close battle this time around.

Cork have started the league well and are already showing signs they won't be giving up their Munster or All-Ireland titles easily.

They are not near the levels they were at for those championships last year, nor do they want to be at this early stage.

They are starting to build nicely and will be aiming for an increase in their fitness levels and play with every game.

So far in the two ties, manager Ger Manley has used 24 different players and you can expect a few more will get game time tomorrow.

The likes of Meabh Cahalane, Cliona Healy, Amy O'Connor, and Katrina Mackey have yet to appear and they will be bursting to get going and get their chance to impress. This is a seriously

talented squad and competition in the match day panel is as intense as trying to get into the starting 15.

Against Waterford Libby Coppinger made a welcome return after a long injury layoff and will be expected to get more game time tomorrow, as will the likes of Laura Treacy, Millie Condon, and Ciara O'Sullivan.

Sorcha McCartan has made a superb start to the league and in that form, it's virtually impossible to stop her.

Add in others like Laura Hayes, Saoirse McCarthy, Meabh Murphy and it's difficult to see anything other than a Cork win.

There were several negatives to their win over Dublin and that was injuries picked up by Izzy O'Regan and Ashling Thompson.

O'Regan is set to be out for a spell and there will be a late call on Thompson to see if she is available for selection.

However, the Cats are coming just to make up the numbers and have plenty of quality players at their disposal.

They had a tough battle with Tipperary last weekend and they will stand to them for this one.

In the likes of Katie Power, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh, Aoife Prendergast, Laura Murphy, Aobha O'Gorman, Caoimhe Dowling, and Katie Nolan they have players that Cork will need to watch closely. It should be a highly entertaining game, with the odds slightly stacked in Cork to make it three from three.



Amy O'Connor is likely to feature for Cork on Saturday against Kilkenny.
Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile



Sorcha McCartan impressed for Cork against Dublin.

CAMOGIE DIVISION 1A

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cork	2	2	0	0	36	18	6
Galway	2	2	0	0	28	23	6
Tipperary	2	1	0	1	29	24	4
Dublin	2	0	1	1	23	33	1
Kilkenny	2	0	2	0	22	29	0
Waterford	2	0	2	0	20	31	0



Cork's Caoilainn Ryan breaks through the Dublin defence during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match between Cork and Dublin at Castle Road. Picture: David Creedon

Cork travel to Dublin looking for first win

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

It's back to championship action this weekend for the Cork U16 team which will head to Dublin tomorrow three weeks after their first-round clash with Galway.

Cork were due to meet Kilkenny on the last weekend of February but weather conditions saw that game postponed and it has been re-fixed for Saturday, March 15.

Cork lost to Galway in their opening game, 1-9 to 1-7, in a tough battle in which the hosts had just that little bit extra to get them over the line. They went on to decisively defeat Dublin in round two, 0-13 to 1-2.

In their first-round game Dublin lost to Tipperary, 3-9 to 0-8, and they will be anxious to get some points on the table.

Galway top the group with two wins from two, Tipperary are joint second with Kilkenny, both with one win from one game played, while Limerick, Cork, and Dublin are looking for their first win, with Limerick having narrowly lost to Kilkenny.

With just one group of six teams and the top four progressing to the semi-final it's important to get results to ensure one of those semi-final places is secured.

Each game from here on in will be close and nothing can be taken for granted. Galway, Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Limerick are all strong contenders and will be battling in each game to stay in the running.

Dublin, in their clash with Tipperary performed well, but the concession of three goals was their downfall.

At the break they trailed by two goals and in a close second half they matched Tipperary but, again, conceding a goal

proved costly.

In their meeting with Galway they were under immense pressure from a strong side that they found hard to break down.

Abigail Ryan, Isabelle Gilleran, Keelin Dwyer, and Erin Dunne are among those who have been to the fore to date, and manager Ruairi Martin will be anxious to get a result and keep his side in the hunt for a place in the last four.

Following an excellent provincial campaign, having been crowned Munster champions, Cork went into their opening game against Galway in a good place and it was disappointing to lose out in a hard game that will no doubt stand to Cork.

Cork had an excellent start and were in control as their defence held Galway scoreless for the opening 23 minutes.

The awarding of a penalty to Galway saw them cut the Cork lead just before half-time and with the strong wind in the favour for the second half Galway just about edged it, but no doubt Cork will have learned a lot from that outing and will be ready for whatever Dublin throw at them.

A concern for Cork must surely be that they only had two players on the scoresheet, Lea Meillouin contributing 1-2 from play, while Stephanie Dwyer hit five points from placed balls.

One-two is not a huge return from play and with one player contributing, the Cork management will demand a lot more if a place in the last four is to be secured.



Jess Murphy of Cork picks up the ball during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match between Cork and Dublin at Castle Road.

Homan turns to City after Cork senior camogie call never came

IN DEMAND: 'I thought I would be playing club camogie for the year but in January City reached out and I just took the opportunity,' says Lauren Homan. Picture: Ben Brady/Inpho

Andrew Horgan

Lauren Homan is determined to ensure that Cork GAA's loss is firmly Cork City Football Club's gain.

Despite captaining the Rebels' intermediate camogie team to All-Ireland glory in 2024 and winning a soaring star for her own performances in the process, Homan didn't receive the recall to the senior set-up that she felt she had earned.

In fact, the two-time All-Ireland senior camogie winner didn't receive any call whatsoever. "It's usually just before Christmas that they call girls up to the seniors and I didn't hear anything," said Homan.

"They call the girls in and have meetings so when I heard the meetings were held and girls from our intermediate All-Ireland winning team were approached and I hadn't heard anything I just put two and two together that that was my Cork camogie season at an end.

"I was quite disappointed. I feel like performance wise, I couldn't have done any more but look, everything happens for a reason, that's out of my control what happens and who is picked.

"I have never been reached out to, never been told why I haven't got the call-up or even given a training

session. It's just been complete silence once we won the All-Ireland, I haven't heard a thing. It's disappointing but sure look, you have to keep the head down and drive on.

"I thought I would be playing club camogie for the year but in January City reached out and I just took the opportunity and I'm enjoying it; that's the main thing."

As a quick side note, Homan also believes the decision to change the format of the camogie competitions is a "disgrace" with a number of players now missing the chance to represent their county.

The change to the structure means that Cork, along with all other counties who have a second team, can no longer enter the intermediate or junior All-Ireland championships.

The 25-year-old said: "I wouldn't have been able to play intermediate regardless because if you win it you have to take a two-year break but for the girls that could who are coming through the ranks and can play at a higher level but can't make the senior team, I thought it was a great stepping-stone.

"You have so many girls who have huge potential that are just playing with their clubs now. It's very dis-

appointing, it's backwards if you ask me."

Homan's passion for camogie remains, clearly, and while she looks forward to representing Brian Dillons in the club championship later in the year, her focus in the short-term is making an impact with Cork City.

The winger returns to the City squad after a seven-year absence, brought on by her Leaving Cert commitments before the Cork senior camogie management did come calling back in 2018.

In that time Homan has featured for her local club Lakewood Athletic, while a rigorous preseason schedule in the last few weeks has helped her regain her footballing rhythm. She also needed to rebuild her fitness having undergone minor surgery in recent months. But after eventually answering City's call to come training, she is ready to make an impact in her second spell at the club.

Her second competitive debut could come today when the Rebel Army travel to Peamount United for their Women's Premier Division season opener.

"I was a little bit hesitant at first because I didn't think I would be up to the standard, but I went training and sure look, I have been there since," laughed Homan.

Very Camogie League

Division 1A

Cork 0-20 Dublin 0-10; Tipp 0-16 Kilkenny 1-8; Galway 0-15 Waterford 1-9

Division 1B

Antrim 1-9 Westmeath 0-9; Clare 1-10 Down 0-11; Wexford 2-11 Limerick 0-10

Division 2A

Carlow 1-9 Armagh 0-11; Offaly 2-10 Derry 0-8; Kerry 3-10 Meath 0-12

Division 3A

Kildare 1-10 Roscommon 0-13; Laois 4-12 Louth 0-0; Wicklow 0-11 Tyrone 1-5



No way through:
Dublin's Sinéad
Wylde blocks
a shot from
Waterford's
Alannah McNulty

By Kevin Egan

Déise close in on safety after first-half blitz

WATERFORD took a huge step towards securing their Division 1A status in the Very Camogie Leagues yesterday, as they fired in three first-half goals to set up a 3-16 to 0-12 win over Dublin at Parnell Park.

While Dublin travel to Galway for their next game, it is their home tie against Kilkenny in the final round that now looks like a de facto relegation decider, though Waterford need at least a draw against their neighbours in round four to be fully safe.

There wasn't much between the sides in the opening 10 minutes in Donnycarney, when Niamh Rockett and Gaby Couch traded points. However, when Rockett got the faintest of touches on an Abby Flynn shot to send in the game's first goal after 16 minutes, Waterford never looked back.

Lorraine Bray added the second goal, getting the rub of the green when her shot from a point rebounded off the crossbar into goalkeeper Eimear Hurley and back over the line, but there was no luck attached to the third, when Flynn's vision and stickwork allowed her to pick out Mairéad O'Brien for a one-on-one finish just before the break.

Both sides enjoyed lengthy purple patches in the second half, with Rockett (who finished with 1-5) and Beth Carton (scoring 0-6 in total) building up their tallies as Waterford moved 3-12 to 0-7 in front, before Dublin emptied their bench and finally got their running game going. Aisling O'Neill, in particular, caught the eye with two excellent scores from play, giving their management food for thought ahead of their trip out west in a fortnight.

That will be a crucial game for Galway too, after champions Tipperary handed the Tribeswomen their

first defeat of the year in Kilbeacanty, 2-14 to 1-13.

It was a game of two halves in the South Galway venue, with 23 of the game's 30 scores arriving in the opening half.

Niamh Mallon and Caoimhe Kelly were in sharp form for the home side, who led by three points on a handful of occasions, but Grace O'Brien was ruthless from play and from placed balls, adding a stoppage time goal to her seven first half points to make it 1-11 to 0-11 at the interval.

The Tipp half-back trio of Mairéad Eviston, Caoimhe McCarthy and Sarah Corcoran were imperious after half-time, with Casey Hennessy also getting through a mountain of work in the middle third.

WELL DONE:
Waterford's
Niamh Rockett
receives her
player of the
match award

That platform allowed Tipp to starve the Galway forwards of possession, though the Maroons also tightened the screw in their own half of the field.

With nearly 25 minutes gone in the second half, just two Tipperary points and a Galway goal from Mairéad Dillon had been added to the scoreboard, but once Clodagh McIntyre hit the net for the visitors, the result was inevitable.

All-Ireland champions Cork continue to be the form team in the division with three wins from three games, but they got more of a challenge from Kilkenny than the 3-17 to 0-13 final score at Páirc Uí Chaoimh would suggest.

An excellent Aoife Norris save to deny Orlaith Cahalane, allied to early points from the Kilkenny midfield duo of Laura Murphy and Aobha O'Gorman, helped to establish an early 0-6 to 0-2 lead for the visitors.

Cahalane didn't miss when she got a second chance to hit the net and even though Kilkenny

stayed in the game up to half-time, for Cork to lead by 1-7 to 0-9 after struggling to hit the high notes felt like a missed opportunity for the Leinster county.

The next 20 minutes were a completely different story, with the Rebels adding 1-7 unanswered. Sorcha McCartan hit four points out of her 1-7 in that run, and once Saoirse McCarthy got the first of her two goals, Ger Manley's troops were out of sight and could coast to the finish line.

With no games in Division 1B this weekend, the top-of-the-table clash in Division 2A between Offaly and Meath at O'Connor Park looked like the big game of the weekend outside of the top flight.

In a battle between two sides that will be strong contenders for the All-Ireland Intermediate championship this year, six points from Clodagh Leahy and three from Fianait Dooley helped the Faithful County overcome the concession of 1-2 in the opening minutes and still record an 0-16 to 1-10 win.

Derry's 3-7 to 0-6 win over Armagh and Kerry overcoming Carlow's eight-point interval lead to edge a 0-15 to 2-8 thriller in Cullen Park, means those two counties are leading the hunt for the second final spot, with Offaly all but over the finish line.

VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 1A

Dublin.....	0-12	Waterford.....	3-16
Cork.....	3-17	Kilkenny.....	0-13
Galway.....	1-13	Tipperary.....	2-14

VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 2A

Offaly.....	0-16	Meath.....	1-10
Carlow.....	2-8	Kerry.....	0-15
Derry.....	3-7	Armagh.....	0-6

VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE DIV 3A

Roscommon...	4-10	Wicklow.....	1-10
Laois.....	3-9	Tyrone.....	2-8
Louth.....	1-2	Kildare.....	8-10



Power's love of game burns as bright ever

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

You know the song. Maybe you think you don't, but chances are, if Paul Simon's chorus is playing in the background, you'll hum along. Still crazy after all these years.

It is a little nostalgic, a little wistful, but primarily, it feels defiant. Time might take its toll, old friends may have moved on, but the flame still burns.

Sounds like Katie Power to this observer. It is a stupendous 17 years since she was called up to the Kilkenny senior camogie panel after a blue chip underage career that had yielded five All-Irelands at minor and U16 levels.

Power has been last one standing from the 2008 team for a while now. When Denise Gaule decamped to Australia in 2023, the Piltown star was the only one around from the following season. There have been quite a few injury battles in the latter part of her tenure, which make her endurance all the more remarkable. To that end, the 33-year-old is being given most of the League to clear up some niggles and freshen up after Piltown's history-making first county senior championship triumph elongated last year.

It was a result that led to the veteran being named Kilkenny captain for 2025. Anyone that knows her will not be surprised to hear that she has had to be persuaded to take a back seat early in the year. Sometimes, you need protecting from yourself, she acknowledges.

In 2019, Power broke her finger and then it began to dislocate all too frequently, but she played through the pain with the help of injections as Kilkenny reached the All-Ireland final. Just as she recovered, she suffered a broken kneecap that forced her to look on from the sideline as the Strikeywomen finally added a second All-Ireland in 2020, having suffered six final defeats.

She still feels the effects of that injury today as one of the two screws inserted in the joint broke and became embedded in the bone. It was determined that it would be the lesser of two evils to leave them in, but it can be uncomfortable at times.

Power was back on the pitch to earn her third senior All-Ireland in 2022, to go with those five underage medals and the intermediate club All-Ireland won in 2014. And still she ploughs on, this year with the armband, as one by one, those she has shared those highs and lows with have walked off into the sunset.

It isn't that the thought hasn't entered her head of doing likewise. But the draw of the hurley, the sliotar, the black and amber remains powerful. Consuming.

"There's obviously been great players down through the last ten years for Kilkenny but people come and go, and that's just sports, isn't it?" Power notes. "I'd probably be lying if I said giving up didn't enter my head, especially with the injuries, but that's a short term thing. More so if you're having a bad day, or you'd wake up in the morning and you'd be sore as a boil and you'd be saying: 'Why am I doing this to myself' And you'd see Gaule out in Australia, sunning herself!

"I feel like whenever your time is done, it's done forever. There won't be any going back on it, so I'm just gonna try get the best out myself and enjoy what I do while I can. I'd hate to look back then and say: 'Maybe I could have given another year.'

"Look, I would love to go off and do a bit of traveling, but there will be time to do that whenever the day comes that you're not going to be able to play the camogie."

Being captain is a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" that she appreciates. Though she doesn't want to get too wrapped up in the notion of it right now, she reckons it will mean more on an emotional level in time when she is in reflective mode.

Her leadership comes from her time served. There were some huge battles with Cork over the years and they cross swords again today at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh (2pm). Whatever happens, she is enthusiastic about the future.

"Kilkenny camogie haven't been up to at the top table at senior where we had been for 10 years or so. The panel is extremely young this year, there is a lot of girls after being brought in. I think that is exciting for the next couple of years."



Katie Power is wearing the armband this time around. Picture: Bryan Keane/Inpho

Very Ireland National Camogie League
Cork v Kilkenny on Saturday in SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh at 2pm

It's a case of contrasting fortunes for these age old rivals after two rounds; Cork with 4 points and Kilkenny yet to pick up a point.

Paul Shefflin's side are down a lot of experienced players with injuries and retirements and the defeat to Dublin in the championship - he wasn't the man-

ager then - was seen as a setback and it looks as if they have yet to recover.

Galway beat them in round 1 and while they tested Tipperary in the The Ragg last Saturday they just came up short.

Kilkenny will relish the trip to Leeside, and with good players in Caoimhe Dowling, Caoimhe Keher Murtagh, Aoife Norris, Kate Nolan and Steffie Fitzgerald, they will want to get a win as another defeat will see them mired in a relegation battle with 2 games remaining.

Cork were comfortable winners over Dublin with Sorcha McCartan bagging 0-8, while Saoirse McCarthy, Emma Murphy and Clodagh Finn also contributed to the scoreboard.

Manager Ger Manley was happy with the win on a tight pitch but concerned with the injuries picked up especially to Izzy O'Regan. "It's her knee hopefully not the dreaded cruciate; we will get her scanned during the week, while Ashling (Thompson) got a bang to the head but she look's okay."

Getting game time into players is important at this time of the year: "Very much so, Laura (Treacy) came on today for her first outing and was excellent while a few more Amy (O'Connor), Katrina (Mackey), Meabh (Cahalane) and Clions (Healy) have yet to come-back but some might be available next week."

Kilkenny may be point-less but Ger is expecting a tough game. "For sure we all know what Kilkenny teams bring and they will be determined to get a win to kick start their year, but

we will be just as keen to maintain our momentum."

The depth in the squad is important even without a few players and Libby Coppinger played football last weekend and should be available this week; add in Laura Hayes, Orlaith Cahalane, Hannah Looney and Meabh Murphy and it's hard to see Kilkenny denying Cork a 3rd win.

The key game in the group will be the meeting of Tipperary and Galway on Saturday; if Galway win it would reduce the holders Tipp's chance of reaching the final, as they drew with Dublin in round 1, and a Cork win would then make the last couple of game interesting.

The top two will contest the final and the picture will become a lot clearer after the weekend games.



Cork's Meabh Cahalane breaks out of defence past Kilkenny's Aobha O'Gorman, during their Very Camogie League Division 1A clash, at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Picture: David Keane

Cork fire three goals to see off Kilkenny

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

Cork 3-17
Kilkenny 0-13

Cork made it three wins from three after they beat Kilkenny in their Very Division 1A clash at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh. As expected they got a battle from the Cats and were lucky to be in front at half-time, as the visitors played the better camogie for long periods of the first half. Cork were slow to settle and would be the first to admit that performance was nowhere near the high standards they expect of themselves. Kilkenny can take credit for some of that with some superb tackling and score-taking as they gave Cork no time to settle.

The second half was a different affair with Saoirse McCarthy, Hannah Looney, and Millie Condon leading by example as Cork ran out deserving winners.

Laura Murphy put Kilkenny in front and her midfield partner, Aobha O'Gorman, doubled their lead in the second minute.

The Cats were fast to settle and went further in front through Aoife Prendergast, before Cork had their first scoring chance. A great ball from Sorcha McCartan played Orlaith Cahalane in, but Aoife Norris saved superbly to deny her a goal.

McCartan got Cork off the mark after seven minutes with Kate Wall adding their second from the restart.

A free from Prendergast put two between the sides as the visitors led by 0-4 to 0-2 after 10 minutes.

Kilkenny kept piling on the pressure and O'Gorman landed another point to put three between the sides and Steffi Fitzgerald increased their lead. Cork started to wake up and Cahalane made sure with her second goal attempt, giving Norris no chance to make it 0-6 to 1-2. Prendergast and McCarthy exchanged frees before Cahalane pointed to level it after 21 minutes.

Wall got her second point to put the Rebels in front for the first time as Cork started to move the ball with more accuracy.

McCartan extended their lead from a free before Murphy hit back with a magnificent point from distance for Kilkenny. A long ball in from Murphy fell dangerously around the square and after a scramble, Amy Lee took the ball off the line to deny the Cats a goal.

McCartan pointed for Cork, with



Cork's Laura Treacy keeps possession as Kilkenny's Aoife Prendergast closes in.

Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh replying just before half-time to see the Rebels lead 1-7 to 0-9 at the break.

Cahalane got the first score of the second half as Cork upped their game.

McCartan added another before Emma Murphy scored, while on as a blood sub for Wall.

McCartan added another from a free and repeated the feat in the 43rd minute as Cork now led by 1-12 to 0-9.

Katrina Mackey announced her return to action with a point before a magnificent solo goal from McCarthy put the result beyond doubt. Clodagh Finn added a point as Cork led by 2-14 to 0-9 with 12 minutes remaining.

Niamh Deely got Kilkenny's first score of the second half after 50 minutes with Asha McHardy adding another.

McCarthy, with her second goal, McCartan, and Ava Fitzgerald were among the late scorers for Cork as they ran out deserving winners after a stern test.

Scorers for Cork: S McCarthy 2-1 (0-1 f), S McCartan 0-7 (0-4 f), O Cahalane 1-2, K Mackey, K Wall 0-2 each, C Finn, A Fitzgerald, E Murphy 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: A Prendergast (0-2 f), L Murphy (0-1 45) 0-3 each, A O'Gorman, C Keher Murtagh 0-2 each, S Fitzgerald, N Deely, A McHardy 0-1 each.

CORK: A Lee, M Murphy, P Mackey, M Cahalane, H Looney, L Treacy, L Hayes, A Thompson, M Condon, S McCarthy, K Wall, C O'Sullivan, O Cahalane, S McCartan, C Finn.

Subs: K Mackey for C O'Sullivan, E Murphy for K Wall (bs) (both 38), E Murphy for M Condon (40), A Fitzgerald for K Wall (48), O Mullins for O Cahalane, R Harty for H Looney (both 55).

KILKENNY: A Norris, M Teehan, T Fitzgerald, C Phelan, N Deely, C Dowling, D Quigley, L Murphy, A O'Gorman, M O'Connell, S Fitzgerald, K Doyle, C Keher Murtagh, L Green, A Prendergast.

Subs: C Doherty for M O'Connell (ht), A McHardy for A O'Gorman (44), A Brett for M Teehan (45), S Dwyer for A Prendergast (51).

Referee: Ray Kelly, Kildare.

Waterford record first win, O'Regan blow for Cork

Camogie

Kevin Egan

Division 1A of the Very National Camogie League feels like it has split into two sections with two rounds to go, with Cork, Tipperary and Galway hunting final spots while Kilkenny, Waterford, and Dublin are in the relegation mix.

Waterford have the advantage in the battle to avoid the drop after they capitalised on top-of-the-ground conditions in Parnell Park to record their first win of the season, 3-16 to 0-12 over Dublin.

Déise manager Jerry Wallace said his team are exactly where they planned to be, heading into the fortnight's break.

"We knew that we had Cork and Galway, the two best teams in the country at the moment, up first," said the Midleton native.

"We said that we'd get a few nuggets out of those, and we got what we wanted, we didn't get destroyed by anyone, and we had today's game targeted. We were fresh, disciplined, ready to go and the players came here with the right frame of mind."

Waterford rode their luck a little with their first two goals, initially when Niamh Rockett tried to catch Abby Flynn's shot but instead deflected it past Eimear Hurley in the Dublin net, then again when Lorraine Bray shot for a point only to see the sliotar rebound off the crossbar, into Hurley and back over the goal line.

Their third goal was well crafted, with Flynn picking out Mairéad O'Brien for a close-range finish, and Waterford continued to score freely, led by Rockett (1-5) and Beth Carton (0-6).

"We wanted to play our own game today, to move the ball quickly through the lines and play positively, and we got a good return from that," Wallace explained. "We said that improving our efficiency was key, not to pull the trigger until the score was on."



Cork's Laura Treacy keeps the ball as Kilkenny's Aoife Prendergast closes in during their Division 1A clash at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Picture: David Keane

Right: Dublin's Claire Gannon tackles Waterford's Orla Hickey at Parnell Park.

Picture: Leah Scholes

At the other end of the table, champions Tipperary gave themselves a huge shot in the arm in advance of what's sure to be a titanic battle with Cork at The Ragg in a fortnight, Clodagh McIntyre's goal clinching a 2-14 to 1-13 win over Galway in Kilbeacanty.

It was a game of two halves in the South Galway venue, with 23 of the game's 30 scores arriving in the opening half.

Niamh Mallon and Caoimhe Kelly helped Galway to start



well and lead by three, but Grace O'Brien added a stoppage time goal to her seven

first-half points to make it 1-11 to 0-11 at the interval. The workrate, as particu-

larly illustrated by the outstanding half-back trio of Mairéad Eviston, Caoimhe McCarthy, and Sarah Corcoran, as well as the Casey Hennessy around the middle third, really pleased Tipp manager Denis Kelly.

"We started slowly and gave Galway a bit too much room so when we picked it up midway through the first half, we got back on level terms and then that goal was a sucker punch," Kelly said.

"At this time of year, when the ball hits the ground there will be a lot of rucks, you want to come out on top of those. We turned them back towards their own goals a few times when they were coming out from their own goal, that was very pleasing to see."

It was also a game of two halves at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh, where Kilkenny were well in contention at the break, 1-7 to 0-9 adrift, but were blown away in the next 20 minutes before falling to a 3-17 to 0-13 loss to Ger Manley's All-Ireland champions.

"We settled in the second half, we worked hard, but Kilkenny are a different level to what we've played already. They're doing great work, but we showed that we have quality in there, we got three great goals and defensively we were sound," was Manley's take on Cork's win.

Orlaith Cahalane's goal undid Kilkenny's fast start, while Saoirse McCarthy hit the net twice after half-time to ensure that the Rebels have now won their three games by a double-digit average margin.

"We were probably a bit leggy in the first half because we trained hard this week, but now we have two weeks, we can work hard and then give them a few days coming into the game. Tipp are very different up in The Ragg, but that game will stand to our girls."

However, Manley confirmed Izzy O'Regan will play no more inter-county camogie in 2025 following a cruciate ligament injury sustained in last weekend's victory over Dublin.

Divisions likely to opt out of camogie championship

It could be the end of the road for Cork divisional camogie sides in the senior club championship.

Recent winners Seandún, Carbery, Imokilly, Muskerry, champions back in 2007, and Carrigdhoun will not be able to field teams this season due to a rule passed down from the Camogie Association.

This is not a Cork Camogie Board ruling but came from headquarters following a query from a Cork club.

The rule states that: "Any player who plays a higher-graded championship is not eligible

CAMOGIE

Rory Noonan

thereafter to play in a lower-graded league or championship in the same year. This applies to all graded competitions; eg, adult and underage A, B, and C competitions."

Graded

As such any player who plays on a divisional team at a higher grade, is not permitted to play at the lower grade with their club as they would

be 'graded' as a senior player.

Cork were granted a derogation for one year only, in 2024, from this rule.

So under the rule, if a player decided to play at divisional level, the likes of St Vincent's Amy O'Connor or Brian Dillon's Niamh O'Leary, they couldn't return to club duty afterwards.

Clubs and divisional representatives were informed by the board at a meeting this week and at least one division has already informed players they won't be entering the championship this season, with all others expected to follow.

Rebels have the edge as Cats remain pointless in league

VERY CAMOGIE LEAGUE
DIVISION 1A

CORK
KILKENNY

3-17
0-13

Despite playing well for long periods, Kilkenny fell to a third successive defeat in the Very Camogie League when going down to All-Ireland champions Cork at Paire Uí Chaoimh on Saturday afternoon.

As expected Cork got a battle from the Cats and were lucky to be in front at half time, as the visitors had played much the better camogie for long periods of the first 30 minutes.

Kilkenny raced into an early advantage and before Orlaith Cahalane netted for Cork the Cats looked the better side with Steffi Fitzgerald, Aobha O'Gorman and Aoife Prendergast standing out for the visitors.

But the second half was a different affair with the likes of Saoirse McCarthy, Hannah Looney, and Millie Condon leading by example as Cork ran out deserving winners in the end.

Laura Murphy put Kilkenny in front and her midfield partner, Aobha O'Gorman, doubled their lead in the second minute.

The Cats were fast to settle and went further in front through Aoife Prendergast, before Cork had their first real scoring chance.

A great ball from Sorcha McCartan played Orlaith Cahalane in, but Aoife Norris saved superbly to deny her a goal.



Despite a good battle Kilkenny fell to old foes Cork in the latest round of the senior camogie league PICTURES: LEAH SCHOLES/INPHO

McCartan got Cork off the mark after seven minutes with Kate Wall adding their second from the restart.

A free from Prendergast put two points between the sides as the visitors led by 0-4 to 0-2 with 10 minutes gone.

PRESSURE

Kilkenny kept piling on the pressure and O'Gorman landed another to put three between the sides.

Steffi Fitzgerald increased their lead as the Cats were playing the better camogie at this stage.

Cork then started to wake up and Orlaith Cahalane made sure with her second goal attempt, this time giving Norris no chance to save, to make it 0-6 to 1-2.

Prendergast and Saoirse McCarthy exchanged frees before Cahalane pointed to level it after 21 minutes.

Wall got her second point to put the Rebels in front for the first time as Cork started to move the ball with more accuracy.

McCartan extended their lead from a free before Murphy hit back with a magnificent point from distance for Kilkenny.

DANGEROUS

A long ball in from Murphy fell dangerously around the square and after a scramble, Amy Lee took the ball off the line to deny the Cats a goal.

McCartan pointed for Cork, with Caoimhe Keher Murtagh replying just before half-time to see the Rebels lead by 1-7 to 0-9 at the break.

Cahalane got the first score of the second half as Cork visibly upped their game, no doubt after some strong words at the break from their management team.

McCartan added another before Emma Murphy scored, while on as a blood sub for Wall.

McCartan added another from a free and repeated the feat in the 43rd minute as Cork now led by 1-12 to 0-9.

Katrina Mackey announced her return to action with a point before a magnificent solo goal from Saoirse McCarthy put the result beyond doubt.

Clodagh Finn added a point as Cork now led by 2-14 to 0-9 with 12 minutes remaining.

Niamh Deely got Kilkenny's first score of the

second half after 50 minutes with Asha McHardy adding another.

McCarthy, with her second goal, McCartan and Ava Fitzgerald were among the late scorers for Cork as they ran out deserving winners in the end after a stern test from their opponents.

While disappointed with the result, Kilkenny manager Tommy Shefflin will have seen plenty of positives especially in how they performed in the first half. While they need to start getting points on board, all is not yet lost for them - even if relegation looks a big possibility.

The Cats will return to action with a home tie against Waterford in a fortnight's time where a victory now looks a must.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Cork - Saoirse McCarthy (2-1 (0-1 free); Sorcha McCartan (0-7, 0-4 free); Orlaith Cahalane (1-2); Katrina Mackey, Kate Wall (0-2 each); Clodagh Finn, Ava Fitzgerald, Emma Murphy (0-1 each).

Kilkenny - Aoife Prendergast (0-3, 0-2 frees); Laura Murphy (0-3, 0-1 45); Aobha O'Gorman, Caoimhe

Keher Murtagh (0-2 each); Steffi Fitzgerald, Niamh Deely, Asha McHardy (0-1 each).

Cork - Amy Lee; Meabh Murphy, Pamela Mackey, Meabh Cahalane; Hannah Looney, Laura Treacy, Laura Hayes; Ashling Thompson, Millie Condon; Saoirse McCarthy, Kate Wall, Ciara O'Sullivan; Orlaith Cahalane, Sorcha McCartan, Clodagh Finn. Subs: Katrina Mackey for C O'Sullivan, 38 mins; Emma Murphy for Wall, 38 mins; Emma Murphy for Condon, 40 mins; Ava Fitzgerald for Wall, 48 mins; Orlaith Mullins for O Cahalane, 55 mins; Rachel Harty for Looney, 55 mins.

Kilkenny - Aoife Norris (Piltown); Michelle Teehan (James Stephens); Tiffanie Fitzgerald (Young Irelands).

Ciara Phelan (Dicksboro); Niamh Deely (James Stephens), Caoimhe Dowling (Dicksboro), Danielle Quigley (O'Loughlin Gaels); Laura Murphy (O'Loughlin Gaels), Aobha O'Gorman (Dicksboro); Mary O'Connell (Clara), Steffi Fitzgerald (Young Irelands), Kellyann Doyle (Piltown); Caoimhe Keher Murtagh (Rower Inistioge), Laura Greene (O'Loughlin Gaels), Aoife Prendergast (Dicksboro). Subs: Claire Doherty (St Brigid's) for O'Connell, h/t; Asha McHardy (Dicksboro) for A O'Gorman, 44 mins; Ava Brett (St Brigid's) for Teehan, 45 mins; Sophie O'Dwyer (James Stephens) for Prendergast, 51 mins.

Referee - Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Aoife Prendergast stood out for the Cats



Tommy Shefflin will be hoping for better fortunes when his side play Waterford in their next game

The Cats will return to action with a home tie against Waterford in a fortnight's time where a victory now looks a must

Galway suffer first defeat as Tipp are tops

Tribeswomen pay the price for poor second-half display

GALWAY	1-13
TIPPERARY	2-14

EANNA O'REILLY
IN KILBEACANTY

GALWAY suffered their first defeat of this year's National Camogie League when a strong Tipperary side overcame the Tribeswomen for the third consecutive year in this competition, when a poor second-half display cost Cathal Murray's charges in Kilbeacanty, as the visitors deservedly claimed the spoils.

After a strong opening quarter, Galway's challenge faded, and they struggled to keep pace with a lively Tipp outfit. Playing with the wind in the opening half, the home side made a promising start, with the first three points of the game, as Máiréad Dillon, Niamh Mallon, and Ailish O'Reilly raised white flags inside the opening four minutes.

Tipp's Grace O'Brien pointed two frees in response, before the lively Caoimhe Kelly struck two points from the left wing, to leave Galway ahead by 0-5 to 0-2 after 11 minutes.

The visitors stayed in touch with scores from Jean Kelly and O'Brien (free), but Galway cancelled those out with Caoimhe Kelly's third point and an excellent score from Áine Keane from the right wing. However, Denis Kelly's charges dominated the next 10 minutes, outscoring the home side by 0-4 to 0-1.

With Caoimhe Maher deployed in a withdraw role, Tipp began to win more ball in the middle third, while their full-forward line also caused problems for Galway. Róisín Howard and O'Brien (0-3, two frees) made their dominance count on the scoreboard, while Olwen Rabbittie replied with a good score at the other end.

With 25 minutes played, the sides were tied at 0-8 apiece, and the remainder of the half was very evenly contested. The teams went point-for-point, with Carrie Dolan (0-2, 0-1f) and Mallon tallying for Galway. O'Brien added a '45 for Tipp,

while wing-backs Caoimhe McCarthy and Sarah Corcoran struck two impressive long-range efforts.

The visitors got a major boost shortly before half-time, when a long delivery broke off Tipp forward Mary Bourke, into the hand of O'Brien, who blasted a shot past Sarah Healy to the net. Galway were behind for the first time in the game, as the sides went into the interval with Tipp leading by 1-11 to 0-11.

Playing with the wind in the second-half, the visitors soon went on the attack, with a shot on goal from Maher drawing a terrific save from Sarah Healy. At the other end, Dillon got onto a long delivery from Olwen Rabbittie and impressively fired to the net. This goal failed to spark the Tribeswomen, however, and they failed to score again for the next 20 minutes.



"WE HAVE TWO BIG GAMES COMING UP IN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS, AND WE'LL KNOW WHERE WE ARE AFTER THAT"

During the same period, Tipp added 1-2 to their tally and left the home side chasing the game. Tipp's half-back trio became dominant, with centre-back Máiréad Eviston in particular, having an excellent second-half.

O'Brien pointed two frees, before Clodagh McIntyre made a pacy run and cut through the Galway defence before firing a low shot to the net.

Galway found themselves five points down late in the second-half after a poor 20-minute spell. The home side repeatedly wasted possession by taking on long-range shots into the wind which dropped into the hand of Tipp 'keeper Laura Leenane. Galway were also guilty of overplaying the ball on numerous occasions

and drawing pressure on themselves in possession.

Dolan (free) and Olwen Rabbittie tallied injury time points, either side of O'Brien's eighth free for Tipp, as the contest petered out. Overall, Denis Kelly's charges were deserved winners and maintained their unbeaten start to the league.

Galway struggled with Tipp's pacy full-forward line, while their midfield and half-forward lines were dominated by the visitors in the second-half. On the day, the Tribeswomen's strongest performers were Ciara Hickey, Emma Helebert, Olwen Rabbittie, Niamh Mallon, Máiréad Dillon, and Caoimhe Kelly (first half).

After the game, Murray was disappointed with the result and was hoping that lessons would be learned before Galway's round four clash with Dublin on Saturday week, March 22.

"There are definitely a few things we'll have to look at from today," he said. "We were outworked for a long time. We created scoring chances, but we just didn't take them, and we gave away two soft goals as well. It's important to learn from this today. We did some things well, but we didn't kick on after Máiréad's [Dillon] goal, which was disappointing."

"I think we dropped five balls into the [Tipperary] goalie's hand in the second-half. These are the things we have to learn from. Dublin in two weeks is going to be another big game, and hopefully we'll improve from today."

"Overall, we're reasonably happy with the progress during the league so far. We've given game time to a lot of players and training is going well. Aoife Donohue is back to full training at this stage and Siobhán Gardiner isn't far behind her. We have two big games coming up in the next three weeks, and we'll know where we are after that," he said.

Galway: Sarah Healy; Shauna Healy, D Higgins, R Hanniffy; E Helebert, C Hickey, K Manning; A Keane (0-1), O Rabbittie (0-2); S Rabbittie, A O'Reilly (0-1), C Dolan (0-3, 0-2f); M Dillon (1-1), N Mallon (0-2), C Kelly (0-3). Subs: AM Starr for S Rabbittie (46mins), N



Niamh Mallon goes on the attack for Galway as Tipperary's Eimear Loughman gives chase.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL GOUGH



Mairead Dillon gets her shot away as Caoimhe McIntyre closes in.

Niland for O'Reilly (52mins), T Canning for Keane (57mins), A Kelly for Manning (58mins).

Tipperary: L Leenane; J Bourke, E Loughman, C Quirke; C McCarthy (0-1), M Eviston, S Corcoran (0-1); C Hennessy, N Treacy; C McIntyre (1-0), M Bourke, R Howard (0-1); J Kelly (0-1), G O'Brien (1-10, 0-8f, 0-1'45), C Maher. Subs: L Purcell for Treacy (44mins), E Heffernan for Bourke (48mins), N Cunneen for Kelly (48mins), E Cunneen for Hennessy (61mins).

Referee: Brian Kearney (Kildare).

DIVISION 1A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Cork	3	3	0	0	5-47 (62)	0-31 (31)	9
Tipperary	3	2	1	0	3-40 (49)	4-28 (40)	7
Galway	3	2	0	1	1-41 (44)	3-34 (43)	6
Waterford	3	1	0	2	4-33 (45)	2-37 (43)	3
Dublin	3	0	1	2	2-29 (35)	4-46 (58)	1
Kilkenny	3	0	0	3	1-32 (35)	3-46 (55)	0

Rd 4 (March 22): Galway v Dublin, Kilkenny v Waterford, Tipperary v Cork.



Cork's Clodagh Finn battles with Kilkenny's Ciara Phelan, during their Very Camogie League Division 1A clash at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.
Picture: David Keane

Manley happy with win but concerned about Cork's slow start

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

Cork senior camogie side made it three from three in the Very Division 1A National League following their win over Kilkenny.

It took a quality second half showing to ensure they came out on top by 3-17 to 0-13, with Saoirse McCarthy getting two of the goals and Orlaith Cahalane the other.

Manager Ger Manley was happy to keep the winning run going but also confirmed that Izzy O'Regan is out for the rest of the season with a cruciate ligament injury.

"I thought we'd a very good second-half and once we settled after the first 15 or 16 minutes we did okay," said Manley.

"Kilkenny are a very good side and there is nothing between us really and in the first half, in particular, when we needed it I thought Orlaith Cahalane was outstanding. She kept us in touch, but look that's what you get, we made a few changes and we coped well with their play.

"Everybody did well and worked hard, but Kilkenny are a different level to the teams we played already so we knew it was going to be a tough challenge.

"This was a step up from the previous two matches. You could see it early on, it took us a while to settle, but once we did we managed the game very well then.

"Thompson (Ashling) had a great second-half there as did Laura Tracey. Mackie (Katrina Mackey) came on and it was good to see her back and I thought she did very well. Kate Wall did well, as did others, and the big thing for me was to get some game time into them.

"We still needed to win and I thought we were deserving winners in the end."

Cork were deserving winners but Manley said the players expect high standards of each other and would be far from happy with their start.



Cork's Laura Hayes breaks past Kilkenny's Kellyann Doyle.
Picture: David Keane

He put it down to a few factors, including that they may have been slightly out in their timing for the warm-up.

"We will have to look at that, our time coming out on to the pitch, we just need to sort that out. We are delighted to be down here (SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh), the surface is really good.

Tough

"I would have hated to have played Kilkenny in a tight pitch like the one last week in Dublin. It was a tough game and you can see Kilkenny are doing great work but look we still showed we have quality.

"Saoirse got two great goals and Orlaith got a super one in the first half and we probably could have had one or two more. But we'll take the win and prepare for Tipperary now."

Manley also confirmed Izzy O'Regan's injury and said he was devastated for her.

"I was devastated for her when we found out it was her cruciate. She's been a mainstay of the team since I've been involved and it's just so unfortunate for her.

"She can play anywhere and is a special player. We already lost Lucy Kelly to a similar injury so it's another blow to the squad."



Cork's Meabh Cahalane breaks out of defence past Kilkenny's Aobha O'Gorman at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.
Picture: David Keane

Cahalane delighted to be back and keep Cork winning run going

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

Cork continued their winning run in the Very Division 1A National League with a 3-17 to 0-13 win over Kilkenny at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

It was a good win in the end but for long stretches of the first half the Cats played the better camogie, but in the end Cork's class came through.

They outscored their opponents by 2-10 to 0-4 in the second half to emerge as comfortable winners.

It was another step up for the Rebels and follows on from wins over Waterford and Dublin already.

Captain for the season, Meabh Cahalane, made her return to the starting line-up and they needed her tenacity and leadership in defence early on.

Meabh was delighted to be back on the pitch as she recovered from a slight injury that ruled her out of the first two games.

"Yea delighted to be playing, that's what it's all about at this time of year, getting in as many games as you can and unfortunately I missed the first two games, but it was good to be back for today and it was a good, tough encounter with Kilkenny," said Meabh.

Turning to their performance, which overall was superb, but they had a very poor start by their standards and were it now for a goal from her sister, Orlaith, they could have been behind at half time.

"We went in at half time and we weren't happy either individually or collectively and we kind of worked out what we

needed to do and the main thing that we really needed to do was just to work harder.

"We had to tray and get on the ball and get it up to our forwards as much as we could. So you know, I felt like we kind of come took control of it there in the second-half.

"Laura Treacy swept up a lot of ball at the back and you know, we worked it out and finished strongly.

"Kilkenny are a quality side and we knew this was going to be a tough challenge it was always going to be a tougher challenge than the last two games.

"Kilkenny are an extremely physical team and they play really direct. So that probably is something different than we've come up against so far as this year.

"Tipperary probably play a similar style so it's good to have that game going into another tough battle against them in two weeks time.

"We have two more tough games left in the league so it's good to have three wins at this stage. You could see players coming on today to make a difference, Katrina Mackey came on as did Emma Murphy and others to all play their part in the win.

"The bench are coming in and having an impact every week so that's good for us. There is a lot of competition at training and the next two games will tell a lot," concluded Meabh.



The Cork team before playing Kilkenny in the Very Camogie League Division 1A game, at Páirc Uí Chaoimh
Picture: David Keane

Semi-final spot on the line for Rebels and Cats in table-topping clash

The Cork minor camogie team head to MW Hire Dunmore, Kilkenny tomorrow at 2pm for a top-of-the-table clash in their last game of the round robin series in the Electric Ireland All-Ireland camogie championship.

Both sides are on level points at the top, having won and drawn a game each.

Tipperary are on their heels in second place having lost out to Kilkenny.

With two groups of four teams, the group winners will progress straight to the semi-finals with the third and fourth in each group progressing to the quarter finals so the battle is on for the top spot.

Tipperary take on Dublin and will be expected to win that game and that would put them on five points, they will be hoping that Cork and Kilkenny ends in a draw and they it would all come down to scoring averages, but both Cork and Kilkenny will be having none of that and they will be going flat out for a win that will see them top the group and straight into a semi-final.

Cork had an 0-18 to 0-5 win over Dublin to record their first win having drawn with Tipperary.

Last weekend, Kilkenny had to battle to the finish to get a draw with Tipperary so indications are that little is between Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny.

Cork have been going well and with a win and a draw to their credit. They will push to get over the line and book their place in the last four.

Captain Rachel Murphy leads a determined squad against Dublin. Cork had eight players on the score sheet, something that pleased manager Mossie O'Sullivan.

Shauna Cronin has been unerring form placed balls and this is something that is vital for any side.

Rachel Murphy, Tara Goulding, Ali Mulkerrins, and Caoilainn Ryan have been performing well.

Against Dublin, the Cork defence whilst not over worked, did well to contain anything Dublin threw at them.

Kilkenny looked to have done enough against Tipperary, but a long-range pointed Caoimhe Stakelum free from



Cork's Ava McAuliffe attacks the Dublin goal during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match at Castle Road.
Picture: David Creedon

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

way back in her own half drew the game with the final puck to earn Tipperary a draw.

Ona Kennedy, Rachel Phelan, Ciara O'Shea, Aisling O'Sullivan, and Emily Phelan are big players for Kilkenny and David Maher will be pushing them to the limits to secure the semi-final spot.

On Sunday last, the Cork U16 camogie team got their bid for a place in the last four back on track having lost out in their first game to Galway they overcame Dublin 2-11 to 0-8 to go into third place in the table behind Galway and Kilkenny.

At half time, Cork led 0-6 to 0-3 and two second half goals from Lea Melliouin ensured they stayed in front with Leah Ryan, Leah Hanigan, Cliona Harte, Lexi Manley, Stephanie Dwyer, Meabh Fitzgerald, and Sophie Gunn all on the score sheet.

Cork play Kilkenny today in Castle Road at 2pm in the game that was postponed due to weather three weeks ago.

Kilkenny with two wins from two games are going well.

They recorded a 1-16 to 2-11 victory over Limerick to get their campaign off to a winning start and they followed it up with a 1-10 to 0-6 win over Tipperary.

Also today, Tipperary meet Limerick and both will need a result to stay in the hunt.



Cork's Avril Cagney clears the ball out of defence as she is closed down by Dublin's Abbie Kenny during the Electric Ireland Minor Championship match at Castle Road.
Picture: David Creedon

'Saoirse is a brilliant hurler,

Cork boss full of praise for two-goal hero Saoirse McCarthy after latest league win

CORK 3-17
KILKENNY 0-13

BY GER MCCARTHY

TWO Saoirse McCarthy goals ensured Cork's unblemished Very Camogie Division 1A League record remains intact following victory over Kilkenny at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Leading by one point (1-7 to 0-9) at the interval, a resurgent

Cork made it three Division 1A League wins in as many outings thanks to a much-improved second half performance.

Outscoring their opponents 2-10 to 0-4 after the break, a brace of goals from Courcye Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy and Orlaith Cahalane's 1-2 ensured the Rebels stayed top of the table.

'Saoirse is just a brilliant hurler,' Cork manager Ger Manley told The Southern Star.

'Her first goal today really kicked off the game. She's got that ability to just take off. She's a great finisher as well.'

'Saoirse is up in Dublin at the moment so we don't see as much of her but, clearly, she is looking after herself. When she gets back down to Cork to be able to work full-time with us again, she is only going to get better.'

There are two games to go in the round-robin section of this year's league with Cork travelling to second-placed Tipperary next. Third-placed Galway visit

'Libby Coppinger has a broken finger, but we hope to have her back in action in the next three or four weeks'

Leeside on March 29th by which time Manley and his players will hopefully have secured a league final berth.

'Those two games will be similar to last year's final round of league fixtures and will be two tough games for us again,' Manley added.

'Tipperary beat us down the park and Galway beat us above in Athenry. Look, that's why we set out to win our first three league games this year and we have.'

Alas, it isn't all good news. Injuries to key players, including Izzy O'Regan and St Colum's Libby Coppinger, means Manley will have to chop and change his



Injured: Libby Coppinger.

line-up over the coming weeks.

'It is hugely disappointing to lose Izzy O'Regan to a cruciate ligament injury,' Manley said.

'I don't know what it is with the cruciates because we lost Lucy Kelly to the same injury earlier in the year. Izzy's probably been one of our most consistent players since I have been involved.'

'Libby Coppinger has a broken finger, which is also unfortunate, but we hope to have her back in action in the next three or four weeks.'

Last Saturday, Kilkenny settled quickly and were ahead

Cork camogie side in a good place right now

Three games in and the Very Division 1A camogie league table couldn't read any better for Cork.

They top the table on nine points, with three wins out of three and have a plus scoring average of 39.

Over the course of the first three games they have improved with every outing. Manager Ger Manley said recently that they found it hard to get challenge games pre-season, so until the league started he didn't really know where they were at.

That says a lot about the respect other counties have for Cork, in that they don't even want to play them in a challenge game, not to mind a competitive one.

For now, Manley can be happy with progress to date, but knows there is a long campaign ahead, if Cork are to retain their Munster and All-Ireland championship titles.

They could have been defending the league title as well, bar an off day in Galway where they left their shooting boots back home in Cork.

It was one of those games where little or nothing went right for the Rebels and the players are well aware of that.

Like all sides, they are not at their best just yet, but are already playing with a confidence that is going to make them hard to beat.

Across the three games so far more than 30 players have been given game time and there are others yet to make their first appearance of the season.

The likes of Katrina Mackey and Meabh Cahalane returned for the Kilkenny clash and others, like Amy O'Connor and Cliona Healy, have yet to make an appearance as they are overcoming injuries.

There have been a few pleasing parts to Cork's games and among them has been their ability to adapt to differ-

CAMOGIE

■ Rory Noonan

ent styles of camogie, while not deviating from their own.

Their league opener against Waterford was a great game of camogie, with Cork doing most of the damage in the first half.

But their second game against Dublin was a different affair. On a narrow and short pitch it was a far more physical encounter.

The Dubs were far stronger than Waterford in that respect and put it up to Cork, but, again, the Rebels responded and didn't allow the small pitch or the players to bully them in any way.

They stood up when they had to and let Dublin know they weren't going to be pushed around in any way.

It was double scores in the end and that encounter will have brought them on a lot for the final two league ties against Tipperary and Galway.

Their last outing was against Kilkenny and for most of the first half Cork were outplayed and outclassed.

A goal kept them in touch and with a strong last few minutes Cork led by a point at half time.

After the break they started to play the type of camogie they are capable of and won well in the end.

So after three games Cork are playing with a confidence that you need to win.

Of course, it hasn't been all positives and the loss of Izzy O'Regan to a cruciate ligament injury is a massive blow to Cork. A versatile defender, she will be missed over the coming months.

But with Laura Treacy and Cahalane back, and a few others to follow, Cork can look forward to the coming weeks full of confidence.

she is only going to get better'

thanks to early Laura Murphy, Aobha O'Gorman and Aoife Prendergast scores. Orlaith Cahalane was denied a goal by Kilkenny goalkeeper Aoife Norris shortly after.

Cork kept pressing and reduced the deficit to a single point once Sorcha McCartan and Kate Wall found their range. Kilkenny's response was swift as Prendergast and O'Gorman frees plus a fine Steffi Fitzgerald point made it 0-6 to 0-2 just past the quarter-hour mark.

Creditably, despite being unable to settle into their usual rhythm, the hosts hit back when Cahalane fired into the net. The same player raised a white flag after Aoife Prendergast and Saoirse McCarthy had exchanged frees.

Then, a free-flowing Cork hit the front for the first time thanks to Kate Wall. The opening half concluded amid a welter of excitement as Amy Lee cleared off her goal-line. Two Sorcha McCartan scores handed Cork a 1-7 to 0-9 lead after Laura Murphy and Caoimhe Keher-Murtagh pointed at the opposite end.

The Rebels were far more clinical once play resumed. Sorcha McCartan (two frees), Orlaith Cahalane, Emma Murphy and Katrina Mackey raised consecutive white flags during a dominant spell. Next, Saoirse McCarthy put the seal on yet another eye-catching performance by billowing the net.

Unable to stem the tide, Kilkenny pulled a couple of points back via Niamh Deely and Asha McHardy. There would be no denying a rampant Cork however, as McCarthy netted her second and match-clinching goal late on.

Scorers
Cork: S McCarthy 2-1 (1f); S McCartan 0-7 (4f); O Cahalane 1-2; K Wall, K Mackey 0-2 each; C Finn, A Fitzgerald and E Murphy 0-1 each.
Kilkenny: A Prendergast (2f), L Murphy (1f) 0-3 each; C Keher-Murtagh, A O'Gorman 0-2 each; N

OUR STAR

Saoirse McCarthy has carried her superb form from 2024 into the current campaign. 0-2 against Waterford, 0-3 against Dublin and 2-1 against Dublin means the Courcye player poses a scoring threat.

Deely, S Fitzgerald, A McHardy 0-1 each.
Cork: A Lee, M Murphy, P Mackey, M Cahalane; H Looney, L Treacy, L Hayes; A Thompson.

M Condon; S McCarthy, K Wall, C O'Sullivan; O Cahalane, S McCartan, C Finn.

Subs: K Mackey for C O'Sullivan (37), E Murphy for M Condon (40), A Fitzgerald for K Wall (49), R Harty for H Looney (55), O Mullins for O Cahalane (55).

Kilkenny: A Norris; M Teehan, T Fitzgerald, C Phelan; N Deely, C Dowling, D Quigley; L Murphy, A O'Gorman; M O'Connell, S Fitzgerald, K Doyle; C Keher-Murtagh, L Green, A Prendergast.

Subs: C Doherty for M O'Connell (ht), A McHardy for A O'Gorman (44), A Brett for M Teehan (45), S Dwyer for A Prendergast (52).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare)



Saoirse McCarthy scored two goals for Cork against Kilkenny.



Izzy O'Regan's injury is a huge blow to Cork as they bid to retain Munster and All-Ireland titles. Picture: INPHO/Laszlo Geczo



Katrina Mackey, in action against Galway's Emma Helebert, made a welcome return to the Cork side against Kilkenny. Picture: INPHO

Shona stars as Cork guarantee home All-Ireland semi

GER McCARTHY rounds up the latest Cork camogie

WEST Cork's representatives enjoyed another positive weekend lining out for the Cork camogie and ladies' football minor and U16 inter-county panels.

Cork concluded the group stage of their 2025 Electric Ireland Minor A All-Ireland Camogie Championship with a rousing 3-10 to 1-13 victory away to Kilkenny on Sunday.

Mossy O'Sullivan's side were coming off a 13-point victory over Dublin and a draw with Tipperary. Their opponents, also on four points after their opening two matches, were unable to stop the Rebel juggernaut. As a result, Cork finished

top of their group and sealed an All-Ireland semi-final on home soil.

Enniskeane's Meabh O'Brien, Kinsale's Catherine Murphy and Valley Rovers' Shona Cronin are the Carbery camogie representatives on this year's minor panel. Cronin is enjoying a phenomenal year and top scored with 2-3 to send the Rebels into the last four. Catherine Murphy added a point on an afternoon Clara Murphy (1-1), Rachel Murphy (0-3), Tara Goulding and Ava McAuliffe (0-1 each) completed the winners' total.

A day before the county's minors triumphed, Cork's U16As

registered their second win in the group stages of the 2025 Eir All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship at home to Kilkenny. Castle Road was the venue for the Rebels' 4-13 to 1-8 defeat of the Cats.

Carbery's Cliona Harte (Barryroe), Leah McCarthy (Kilbree) and Amber Bishop (Ballinascorthy) were part of a Cork squad that trailed at the interval before producing a barnstorming second half display in which Inniscarra's Léa Meillouin (3-0) was named Eir Player of the Match.

Meabh Fitzgerald (1-2), Stephanie Dwyer (0-4), Leah Ryan (0-3), Leah Hannigan (0-

2), Cliona Harte and Lauren O'Connor (0-1 each) were on target. Cork's second win in three games has the Rebels sitting in joint-second place alongside Kilkenny and three behind leaders Galway. Next up is a trip to Tipperary on Sunday.

Tipp toppled by Cats' strong second half performance

UNDER-16A ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

KILKENNY 1-10
TIPPERARY 0-6

Kilkenny's under-16A camogie girls got their second win of the All-Ireland championship, but had to battle to see off Tipperary in the Ragg on Sunday.

This win sets Kilkenny up well to qualify for the All-Ireland semi-finals with the top four sides from a six team championship qualifying for the final four.

The opening exchanges were closely fought with both sides adjusting to a cross wind blowing towards the stand side. Tipperary started the better of both sides and had worked up a 0-3 to 0-1 lead after 13 minutes with the Kilkenny score coming from Dearbhla Ryan who was a late callup to the side for the injured Amy O'Shea.

Kilkenny did improve their workrate into the second quarter, particularly in defence, which came to grips with the Tipperary attack although scores were slow to come in attack. They did get points from Niamh Drennan, Holly Ryan and Katie Dunphy to move 0-4 to 0-3 ahead at the half-time break.

TOOK CONTROL

Whatever was said in the Kilkenny dressing room seemed to have the desired effect when play resumed as they proceeded to take control of the match in the third quarter.

Eilish Keating, who replaced the injured Emma

Hogan in the first half, started the scoring for Kilkenny with a point in the 32nd minute and while Grace Cleary replied with a Tipperary free moments later, a smart finish to the net in the 34th minute from the impressive Dearbhla Ryan put daylight between the sides (Kilkenny 1-5, Tipperary 0-4). Kilkenny's workrate was now higher throughout the field and further points followed from Katie Dunphy (2), Dearbhla Ryan, Katie O'Shea and a Muireann Kenny free to move them 1-10 to 0-4 clear by the 53rd minute.

Tipperary did stay going to the finish and added two further points from Grace Cleary and Lucy Rabbite before full-time but they never looked likely to threaten Kilkenny throughout the second half.

HEARTENED

Kilkenny will be heartened by the second half showing which sets them up well for upcoming fixtures against Cork away on Saturday before playing Galway at home on March 23. They will also be hopeful that injuries sustained by Holly Ryan, Emma Hogan and Amy O'Shea clear up quickly although they did have able replacements against Tipperary when needed.

Best for Kilkenny were Erin Morrissey and Mairead Duggan in defence, while Niamh Drennan, Katie Dunphy and Dearbhla Ryan showed best in attack. It was also notable that both Niamh Drennan and Aisleann

Mullally played this match after playing earlier handball matches in Croke Park which made for very busy days for these girls.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Kilkenny - Caoimhe Corcoran (Mullinavat), Moya O'Shea (Carrickshock), Erin Morrissey (Bennettsbridge), Mairead Duggan (St Anne's), Hannah Tennyson (Carrickshock), Maeabh Kenny (Rower-Inistioge), Eva Tynan (Dicksboro), Emma Hogan (Dicksboro), Muireann Kenny (Rower-Inistioge, 0-1 free), Holly Ryan (Bennettsbridge) (0-1), Grace Farrell (Piltown), Katie O'Shea (Carrickshock, 0-1), Katie Dunphy (Tullaroan, captain, 0-3) Niamh Drennan (St Brigid's, 0-1), Dearbhla Ryan (Tullagher, 1-3). Subs: Clodagh Galway (Thomastown), Sian Bolger (St Martin's), Eilish Keating (Young Irelands, 0-1), Ellen Treacy (Thomastown), Aisleann Mullally (Glenmore), Colleen Byrne (Carrickshock), Lucy Lennon (James Stephens), Lilly Ryan Murray (Dicksboro), Onagh Fitzgerald (Clara), Blathnaid Keane (Mooncoin), Ada Bambrick (Barrow Rangers), Aoibhe Burke (Emeralds), Ciara Joyce (Emeralds), Gwen Wade (Blacks & Whites), Lucy O'Gorman (Erin's Own), Rachel Murphy (Tullagher), Amy O'Shea (Carrickshock).

Tipperary - Faye Ahern, Brid Delaney, Rosie O'Brien, Ava Fanning, Evanne Gleeson, Jessie Shanahan, Carley Walsh, Brid Woodlock, Neasa Dwan, Lucy Rabbite, Grace Cleary, Anna Carr, Cailin Kennedy, Sophie Moynihan, Alice Butler. Subs: Eabha Carmody, Ava Corcoran, Amy Cahill, Leah Hickey, Emily Ivers, Clodagh David, Emily McGrath, Amy O'Connor, Emma Corbett, Molly Gantley, Kate Fox, Eibhlín O'Brien, Aoife Quirke, Abbie Horgan.

18 NEXT GENERATION

THE NEXT GENERATION
THE SOUTHERN STAR

CAOIMHE MURPHY

GAA/RUGBY | ROSSMORE | 20

HAVING won two All-Ireland titles in both camogie and rugby in recent months, Caoimhe has added to her already impressive collection of medals. In camogie, the Rossmore native lined out in attack as Mary Immaculate College Limerick captured the Purcell Cup, beating Queens University (Belfast) in the semi-final and then the University of Limerick in the final - Caoimhe scored 1-5 across both games and set up the winning goal in the final. Because Mary I doesn't have a rugby team, she plays with UL's first team, normally as a flanker, and in November they won the All-Ireland league final against UCD, with Caoimhe scoring a crucial try.

The Kilbree Camogie Club star has been the pride of her home club for some time, playing on the Cork 'A' camogie teams at U14, U15 and U16s level, as well as two years at minor; Caoimhe has won two Munster minor medals, as well as an All-Ireland medal in 2022. The talented attacker, who has also played football with Clonakilty LGFA, also won Munster and All-Ireland junior camogie medals with Sacred Heart Secondary School Clonakilty in 2019.

A relative newcomer to rugby, Caoimhe started playing in the Autumn of 2023 and has wasted little time in making an impact with Clonakilty RFC ladies' team - she was named the adult player of the year in 2024. She usually lines out at 6 or 8 for Clon and UL, and both are in contention for more silverware in the months ahead. Success in the county camogie junior B league and championship is also on Caoimhe's radar.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Kilbree won the county junior C camogie title in 2021, Caoimhe scored 1-3 in the final against Blarney!



MILLIE CONDON

CAMOGIE | BALLINASCARTHY | 19

EARLIER this month, in a Division 1A national league win against Kilkenny, Millie started her first game for the Cork senior camogie team, alongside Ashling Thompson in midfield - it was the latest step in the right direction for the Bal teen, who is in her second season with the county's senior side.

Her first season ended with Millie lifting the O'Duffy Cup in the Hogan Stand last August after Cork made it back-to-back All-Ireland senior titles, and now she is keen to push her way into contention for more game-time - that's why this year's league campaign has been encouraging. Quick and skilful, and with a turbo-charged engine, Millie has featured in all three Division 1A games so far this season, whereas in 2024 she didn't get any game-time in the league, though did come on in championship games against Down and Clare. Now, with a full season at senior inter-county level under her belt, the second-year MTU Cork student is determined to rack up more match minutes which will aid her development.

Dual star Millie will have a busy season at club level, too, after her 2024 exploits saw Ballinascorthy win the county premier junior final (Millie was named player of the match) while Clonakilty footballers were crowned county senior B champions, so both teams will look to build on that success in the year ahead.

DID YOU KNOW?

Millie was crowned the inaugural West Cork Sports Star Paudie Palmer Youth Award winner in 2022 after winning All-Ireland minor titles with Cork in camogie and football!



Difficult weekend of results for Kilkenny camogie sides

ELECTRIC IRELAND MINOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

CORK 3-10
KILKENNY 1-13

Aoife Lanigan
sport@kilkennypeople.ie

A late charge saw Cork grab a precious win when they locked horns with Kilkenny in the third round of the Electric Ireland Minor A All-Ireland championship.

Kilkenny got off to the perfect start in Dunmore on Sunday when, after just 35 seconds, Ciara O'Shea got in behind the Cork defence and pulled first time and the sliotar flew into the back of the net.

Rachel Murphy scored Cork's first point in the second minute and Tara Goulding added their second point a minute later to leave a point in it.

Lucy Boyd converted two frees for Kilkenny in the fifth and eighth minutes. Emily Phelan had a shot on goal deflected out for a 45, which Boyd duly converted for Kilkenny.

Molly Conroy scored another point for Kilkenny, after she ran at speed towards the Cork goal. She hit a rasper and the Cork goalkeeper had to deflect it over the bar.

The home sides midfielder Eleanor Doheny then scored two excellent points to put Kilkenny 1-6 to 0-2 ahead after 15 minutes.

When it looked like Kilkenny were going to take control of the match, Cork got in for a goal.

A Kilkenny defender was blocked down as she tried to clear the sliotar, Clara Murphy lashed her shot past Jenny Saunders to get Cork back into the match.

Catherine Murphy added another point for Cork and they were now taking control of the match.

Shona Cronin converted a free for the Rebels before Rachel Murphy slotted over the bar for another point for the visitors to leave the minimum 1-6 to 1-5 in favour of Kilkenny at the interval.

On the resumption of play, Lucy Boyd scored a fine point for Kilkenny from play before Shona Cronin converted a free for Cork.

Kilkenny then slotted over the next two points through Ona Kennedy and Lucy Boyd, before Shona Cronin converted another free for the Rebels.

Ona Kennedy tagged on two points from placed balls for the home side which was replied to when McAuliffe slotted over a point from play for Cork.

In the 51st minute, Kilkenny tried to clear their lines, but Shona Cronin got in ahead of Kilkenny's goalkeeper and tapped into the net.

Molly Conroy duly scored a great point to equalise and then Ona Kennedy slotted over a point to put Kilkenny ahead again by a point.

In the 59th minute, Shona Cronin got in for her second goal for Cork, swinging the match back in the visitors favour.

Cork's captain, Rachel Murphy rounded off the scoring with a point from play to leave the Rebels victorious on a scoreline 3-10 to 1-13.

QUARTER-FINAL

Kilkenny will now play in a quarter-final on March 30 with the opposition to be confirmed.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Kilkenny - Jenny Saunders (Joint Captain), Caoimhe Power, Grace Brennan, Jessica Smith, Rebecca Hayden, Ona Kennedy, Taylor Aylward, Rachel Phelan, Eleanor

Doheny, Lucy Boyd, Ciara O'Shea (Joint Captain), Aisling O'Sullivan, Emily Phelan, Ciara Hickey, Molly Conroy. Subs: Niamh Davis for Rebecca Hayden, Shannon Doheny for Caoimhe Power, Ella Walton for Jenny Saunders (inj), Shona Ruane for Aisling O'Sullivan.

Cork - Anna Kearney, Ally McGrath, Laoise Ahern, Saoirse Cunningham, Avril Cagney, Caoilainn Ryan, Aisling Cussen, Jess Murphy, Catherine Murphy, Rachel Murphy (Capt), Clara Murphy, Ava McAuliffe, Kate O'Sullivan, Shona Cronin, Tara Goulding. Subs: Millie

Lombard for Avril Cagney, Caoimhe Horgan for Kate O'Sullivan, Ally Mulkerrins for Clara Murphy, Ava McSweeney for Tara Goulding.

Eir U16A All Ireland Championship Cork 4-13 Kilkenny 1-8

Kilkenny travelled to the Cork camogie grounds, Castle Road on Saturday for a rescheduled clash with the Rebels.

Cork took the lead early with points from Stephanie Dwyer and Meabh Fitzgerald but Kilkenny replied nine minutes in when Niamh Drennan got a goal before the lead changed hands quickly again with Stephanie Dwyer and Leah Ryan edging Cork back in front with points.

PURPLE PATCH

Kilkenny then hit a purple patch scoring four points without reply through Holly Ryan, Amy O'Shea (2) and Grace Farrell on target as the Cork backs were put under pressure.

With the sides evenly matched play swung from end to end, Stephanie Dwyer and Leah Ryan who were proving a handful for the Kilkenny defence pointed to put one between the sides but with Amy O'Shea on target on the stroke of half-time Kilkenny held a two point lead 1-5 to 0-6.

Cork were a completely different side in the second half and they upped the pace to a level where Kilkenny were unable to respond.

Leah Hannigan and Dearbhla Ryan swapped points inside eight minutes of the restart before Kilkenny scored their next score an Amy O'Shea point in the 44th minute.

Cork replied with four quickfire goals as Lea Meillouin, Meabh Fitzgerald and Leah Halligan effectively put the game beyond Kilkenny's reach.

Leah Halligan one each, saw Cork effectively put the game beyond Kilkenny's reach.

Amy O'Shea did get another point for Kilkenny on the stroke of full time but Cork ran out convincing winners.

Kilkenny - Clodagh Galway, Onagh Fitzgerald, Mairead Duggan, Erin Morrissey, Meabh Kenny, Moya O'Shea, Eva Tynan, Emma Hogan, Holly Ryan, Muireann Kenny, Grace Farrell, Amy O'Shea, Aisla Mullan, Niamh Drennan, Katie Dunphy (captain). Subs: Dearbhla Ryan for Katie Dunphy, Katie O'Shea for Muireann Kenny, Rachel Murphy for Meabh Kenny, Colleen Byrne for Moya O'Shea, Eilish Keating for Grace Farrell, Blathnaid Keane for Emma Hogan, Ellen Treacy for Niamh Drennan.

Cork - Clara Hynes, Madeleine Keane, Rachel Jones, Aisling Coleman, Ciara Hayes, Ciara Roche, Sophie Gunn, Orla Troy, Grace O'Connell, Stephanie Dwyer, Cliona Harte, Lea Meillouin, Meabh Fitzgerald, Leah Ryan, Leah Hannigan (captain).

Cork U16s bag crucial win over Kilkenny to stay second in group

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 4-13
Kilkenny 1-8

A hugely important victory for the Cork U16A team who overcame Kilkenny in the Eir All-Ireland Championship in Castle Road. Kilkenny were chasing their third win in three games, having overcame Limerick and Tipperary in earlier games.

Cork, having lost to Galway in their opening game, beat Dublin in round two, and with Galway on top with three wins from three, every game is vital.

Cork took an early lead with points from Stephanie Dwyer and Meabh Fitzgerald, but Kilkenny responded nine minutes in with a Niamh Drennan goal. The lead quickly changed hands again with Dwyer and Leah Ryan points edging Cork back in front. Kilkenny hit four points without reply with Holly Ryan, Amy O'Shea (2), and Grace Farrell all on target as the Cork defence was put under pressure.

Cork won a lot of possession but found it hard to get past Cats' keeper Clodagh Galway who brought off some excellent saves to deny Cork an opening goal. With the sides evenly matched play swung from end to end, Dwyer and Leah Ryan, who were proving a handful for the Kilkenny



The Cork U16A camogie team that defeated Kilkenny in the Eir All-Ireland Championship at Castle Road.

ny defence, pointed to put one between the sides, but with O'Shea on target on the stroke of half-time Kilkenny held a two-point lead, 1-5 to 0-6. Cork were a transformed side in the second half and upped the pace to a level while Kilkenny were unable to respond. Leah Hannigan and Dearbhla Ryan swapped points inside eight minutes of the restart, but Kilkenny had to wait until the 44th minute for their only other score, an O'Shea point as Cork hit them with four goals. Two from Lea Meillouin and one a piece from Meabh Fitzgerald and Hannigan saw Cork effectively put the game beyond Kilkenny's reach.



Lea Meillouin is presented with the Eir U16 camogie Player of the Match by Eir ambassador Saoirse McCarthy.

kenny's reach. Now in control, Cork piled on the pressure adding to their tally with points from Leah Ryan, Stephanie Dwyer, Hannigan, Meillouin Cliona Harter, and Lauren O'Connor to run out convincing winners. Meillouin was presented with the Eir Player of the Match award after a superb performance. The result puts Cork in second place on six points, the same as Kilkenny, but with Cork holding a better scoring average, they currently are in second place. Galway are on top with three wins out of three games. Tipperary are fourth after a win, a draw, and one loss, with Limerick in fifth with one point from their

draw with Tipperary last weekend.

Cork travel to Tipperary tomorrow for what will be another tough test and a win would put Tipperary above Cork and with Kilkenny playing Dublin they will be expected to get a result here, so it's still very much all to play for with the last game to come for Cork against Limerick on April 6.

Scorers for Cork: L Meillouin 2-1, M Fitzgerald 1-2, S Dwyer 0-4 (0-1 45), L Hannigan 1-1, L Ryan 0-3, C Harte, L O'Connor 0-1 each.

Kilkenny: N Drennan 1-0, A O'Shea 0-4 (0-1), D Ryan, H Ryan 0-1 each. **CORK:** C Hynes (Midleton); M Keane (Blarney), R Jones (Innisearra), A Coleman (Sliabh Rua); C Hayes (St Catherine's), C Roche (Eire Og), S Gunn (Douglas); O Troy (Newtownshandrum), G O'Connell (Aghabullogue); S Dwyer (Douglas), C Harte (Barryroe), L Meillouin (Innisearra); M Fitzgerald (St Catherine's), L Ryan (Newtownshandrum), L Hannigan (Ballincollig) (c).

Subs: S Kelleher (Aghabullogue) for S Gunn (44), L O'Connor (Killeagh) for L Ryan (46), L Manley (Aghabullogue) for M Fitzgerald (51), S O'Rourke (Killeagh) for G O'Connell (56), E Hallahan (Castlelyons) for S Dwyer (56), F Ronan (Ballyhea) for A Coleman (57), E O'Donoghue (Newtownshandrum) for C Hynes, S Galvin (Eire Og) for L Hannigan (57).

KILKENNY: C Galway, O Fitzgerald, M Duggan, E Morrissey, M Kenny, M O'Shea, E Tynan, E Hogan, H Ryan, M Kenny, G Farrell, A O'Shea, A Mullally, N Drennan, K Dunphy (c). **Subs:** D Ryan for K Dunphy (h/t), K O'Shea for M Kenny (h/t), R Murphy for M Kenny (46), C Byrne for M O'Shea (46), E Keating for G Farrell (48), B Keating for E Hogan (58), E Treacy for N Drennan (58).

Referee: Gavin Donegan (Dublin).