

131

12

25

135
g/m²

ACID
FREE

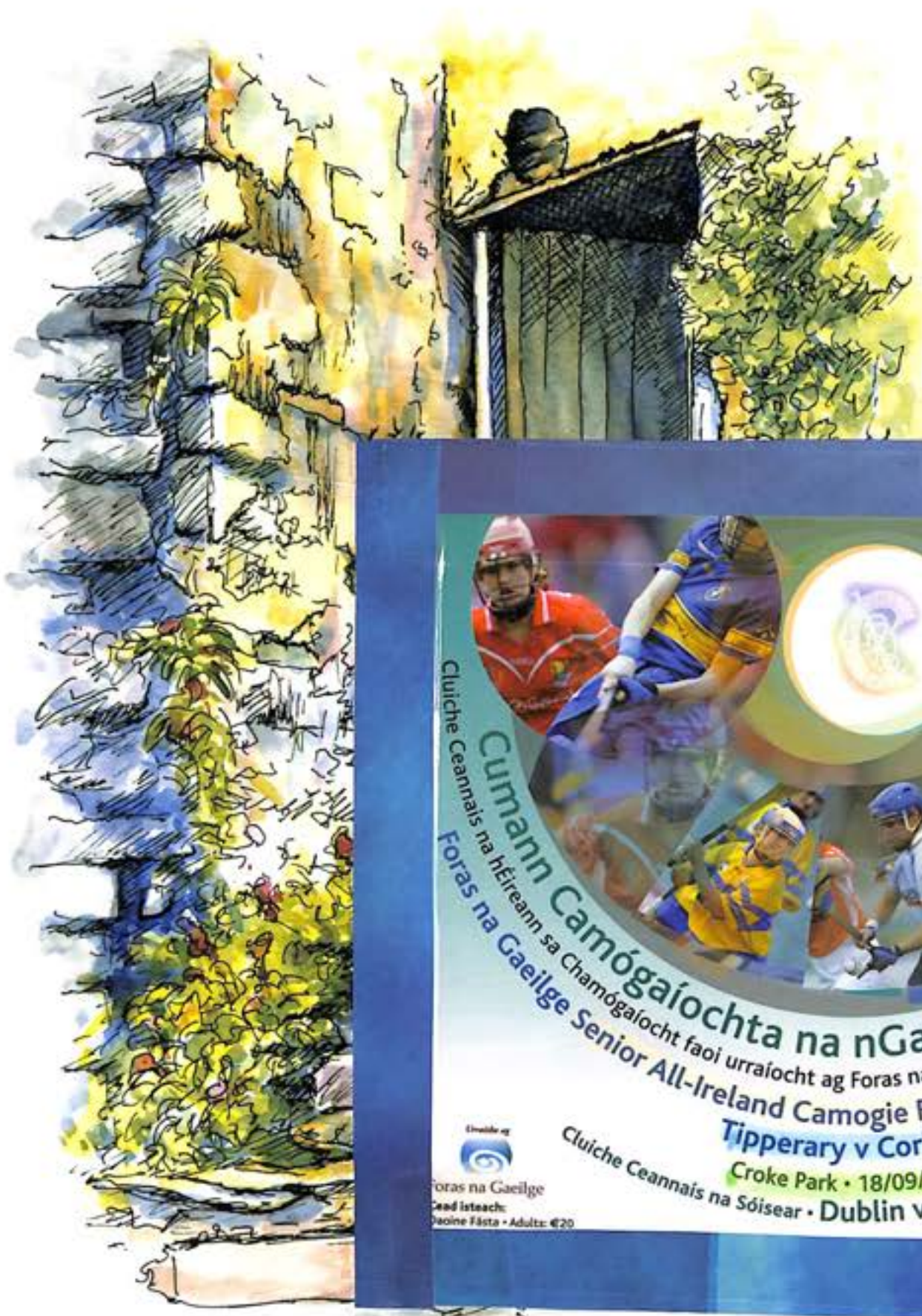


5 011385 937220 >

Ref no: 405431612

ER~ROWNEY

t suitable for line and wash



406 x 305mm

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

Double sided high white smooth Cartridge Paper
Papier dessin et lavis, extra-blanc
Papel para dibujo extra blanco
Dubbelzijdig hoogwit cartridge tekenpapier
Hochfeines, beidseitig griffiges Zeichenpapier

Cluiche Ceannais na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht faoi urraíocht ag Foras na Gaeilge

Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael

Foras na Gaeilge Senior All-Ireland Camogie Final

Tipperary v Cork

Croke Park • 18/09/2005

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear • Dublin v Clare

Urraithe ag



Foras na Gaeilge

Cead isteach:

Daoine Fásta • Adults: €20

Mic Léinn/Pinsinéirí Seanaoise • Students/OAPs: €10

Faoi 14 bliain • Under-14: €4

CAMOGIE *world* with Olhausen

by Maire Ui Scolai



MAJOR CHANGES AHEAD FOR CAMOGIE

September 18th will be a dazzling day out in Croke Park this year when the four top counties contest the junior and senior All-Ireland finals. Dublin will take on the Banner girls at 1pm while the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland final will be an all Munster affair at 3.15pm between Cork and reigning All-Ireland champions Tipperary.

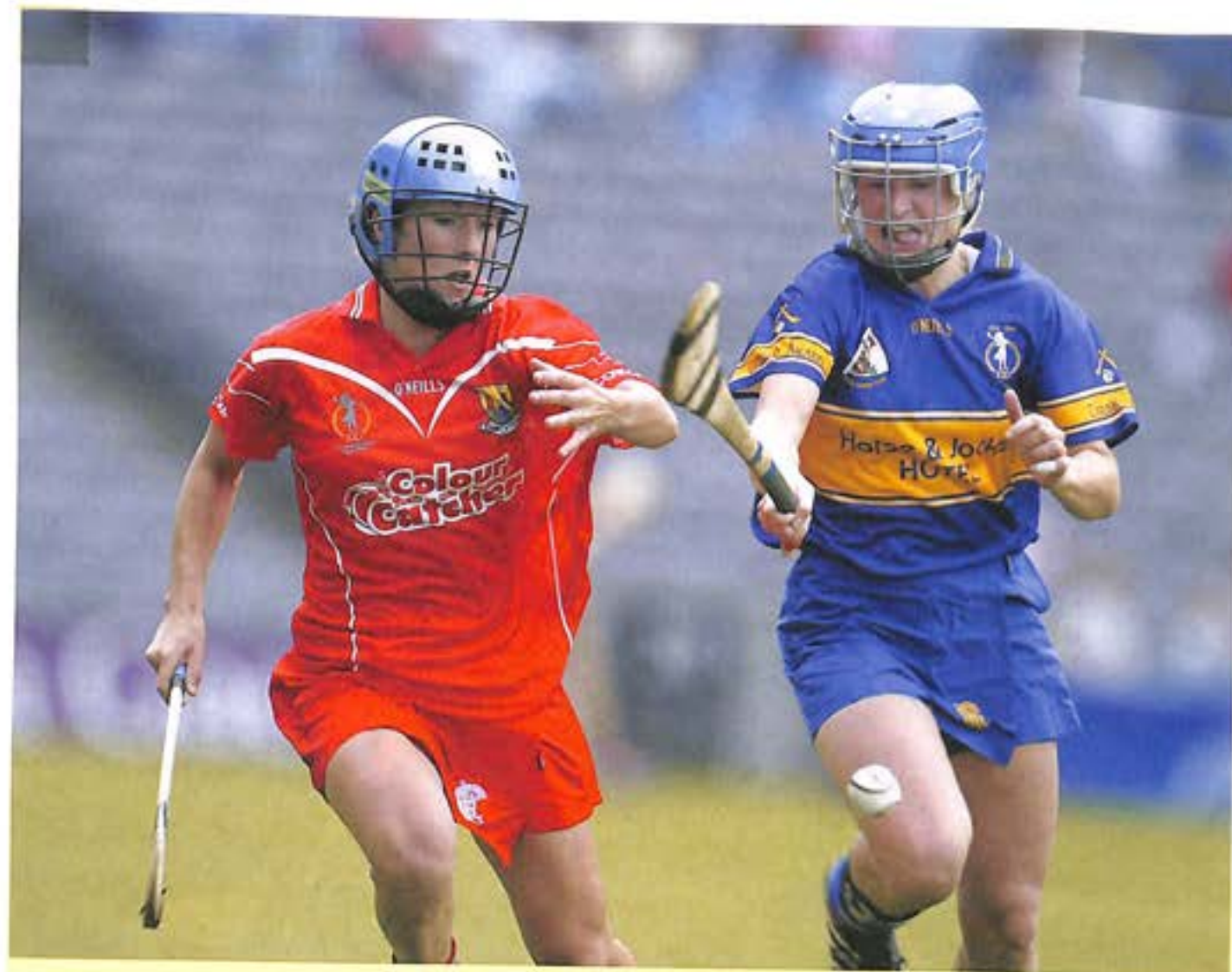
Last year the camogie finals attracted the largest attendance for a female sporting event in this country and Cumann Camógaiochta na nGael aim to create that figure of 25,000 again. To achieve this much work has gone on in

the participating counties, but it is also up to all the other counties to play their part too. Very attractive posters have gone round to the counties since the semi-finals and with the schools well back by now they too have all acquired same.

While the PR aspect of the finals is of huge importance, the four counties taking part have one thing on their mind and that is to leave Croke Park on Sunday September 18th with an All-Ireland medal. The losers dressing room is the loneliest place in Croke Park on All-Ireland day, sadly two

teams will have to visit that arena.

As ever the clash of the titans, Tipperary and Cork is expected to serve up the very best. Cork will be very anxious to seek revenge for last year's defeat, and given that they are celebrating one hundred years of camogie in Cork this year as well as celebrating the City of culture they would love to see the O'Duffy Cup nestle by the Banks of the Lee. However, the Premier County who have contested each All-Ireland since 1999 will be equally anxious to make it three in a row, something they



Angie McDermott and Jennifer O'Leary in action during last year's All-Ireland final

achieved in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

The Rebels will be hoping to take the key of the door, number 21. Many will argue were they tested this year, their stiffest opposition in the championship came from Galway, who then fell rather surprisingly to Wexford in the final group game. Likewise, people will say that Tipperary also only had one stiff game from Wexford so that leaves the result more open again.

The junior final is a repeat of the 1974 final when Clare won their first final defeating Dublin. However, the following year, 1975 the Dubs bounced back to take the New Ireland Assurance Cup. Since then Dublin have only reached one final in 1983 when they lost to Cork. Clare won the title in 1986 and with them then was the great Catherine O'Loughlin who will add considerable experience to the team. Clare did contest the 2003 All-Ireland, but lost to Galway in a replay.

The dazzling Dubs have created a new hype in the game in the capital and it is expected a large crowd will be in attendance in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day. This year's junior All-Ireland final will be a historic occasion as it will see the last one as from next year the competitions will be played on a very different basis.

It is a very exciting time to be involved in camogie as the competitions are all going through a complete re shuffle and three new full time employees have just been taken on board. Lynn Kelly of Limerick is the new National Camogie Development Co-Ordinator while the two regional people are Galway's Caroline Murray who will be based in Portlaoise with responsibility for part of Munster and Leinster. Cork senior All-Ireland finalist Mary O'Connor will take up the second position in Limerick with responsibility for

Connacht, and part Munster. There may be further changes here in the divisions of the counties.

When the All-Ireland finals are over attention will turn to the first Camogie/Shinty Tournament Irish team who will travel to Scotland in early October to take on the Scotch. This year the Irish team will comprise of players from the junior counties who did not reach their provincial finals or who did not reach the Division two League finals. This should prove to be a big hit with the weaker counties and will go to show that there is something at National level for all players, strong or weak.

With all these changes taking place so fast one can see a great future for camogie and the oldest Gaelic female organisation has the potential to be come great and expand both here and abroad.



Two of camogie's star players Caroline Murray, Galway, left and Mary O'Connor, Cork, right, who were chosen as Regional Development Co-ordinators with Lynn Kelly, Limerick, centre, who was appointed as National Camogie Development co-ordinator



ELAINE BURKE (Captain)
(Valley Rovers)

Solicitor
Elaine is the holder of senior and junior All-Ireland medals, senior National League with Cork and Ashbourne Cup and league medals with UCC as well as senior and junior county championship honours with Carrigdhoun and her own beloved club Valley Rovers. Elaine is also a keen golfer, outside the game.



AOIFE MURRAY
(Cloughduv)

Property Valuation Student
Aoife is the holder of All-Ireland minor, junior, intermediate and senior medals as well as provincial and inter-provincial honours. Played in three senior county championship finals and holds three senior championship medals with Cloughduv. Aoife recently captained the club to their third senior title when they defeated Inniscarra. Coming from a well-known GAA family, she is sister of former Cork inter-county senior hurler Kevin Murray while brothers Paudie and Damien are also well-known, playing hurling with St Finbarr's and football with the Dohenys club.



JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN,
(Cloughduv)

Student
UCC Joanne is a student in UCC and is in her fifth season on the senior team. Came to light as a minor in 1999 and has lined out consistently in Cork teams since, has minor, intermediate and senior All-Ireland medals to her credit as well as Ashbourne Cup and Gael Linn honours. Three senior county championship medals with are also amongst her collection of honours. Joanne is also an accomplished hockey player who has represented Munster; her mother Bina is treasurer of the Cork juvenile camogie board while sister Ora is also a member of the Cloughduv senior team.

Tomorrow: Camogie writer Linda Mellerick talks to **Murray is**



PROFILE

Aoife Murray
Favourite Food: Steak.
Car: Ford Fiesta.
Favourite actor: Brad Pitt.
Marital status: Single.
Occupation: Property Management and Valuation Student LIT.

5
days to
go

AOIFE MURRAY is no stranger standing in a crowd.

By **MARY NEWMAN**

Preview

The youngest of 11, Murray is well used to standing her ground and holding her own, something she has proved more than capable of doing be it in the colours of her beloved Cloughduv or the red and white of Cork.

With five sisters and five brothers there was never any shortage of team-mates on the Murray farm in Dunmanway where John and Joan instilled a tradition of Gaelic games in their offsprings as Aoife reminisced about her early memories and more importantly her first introduction to live action.

"We had a mini pitch of our own and we all played, there were some great games with Dad sometimes standing in the other goal to make up the even number, we would have had six-a-side games and there was no holding back.

Being the youngest, Aoife was automatically put in goal and who was she to complain with 15 years between the eldest of the clan, Mary and herself.

Having gone to national school in Dunmanway where there was no camogie, those home encoun-

ters were important as Aoife's love for the hurley and sliotar began to grow.

"My brothers were playing in school and I they just dragged me along and got the hurley into my hand. Paudie went to Farranferris and it was there that he met up with some lads and he joined Cloughduv. The others followed and I would go along to watch them training and play matches."

It was during one of these sessions that Aoife took the initiative and began playing camogie.

"I was around nine and I signed up to play camogie, I suppose having had a taste of some of the action on the pitch at home I decided if these brothers of mine were playing so could I."

Current Cork senior manager and Cloughduv selector John Cronin showed his prowess when he placed young Murray in goal and despite only being nine years old she proved more than capable of holding her own at U14.

Early indications were that this young lady with the five hurling brothers had the makings of something good and with father John doing extra training behind the scenes, taking shots on the future Cork keeper, she made the position hers on all Cloughduv under-age camogie teams.

"I was in school in Dunmanway and it was a small school of 30 so we did not have camogie but the girls in Cloughduv were so welcoming. Most of these girls were playing together so I was at a slight disadvantage, they would have been playing in schools competitions and getting regular

Secondary school in Maria Immaculate, Dunmanway opened a whole new world of sport, but remarkably despite the school having a camogie team, it was volleyball that was her first love.

An All-Ireland junior championship medal and a senior runners-up stand proudly amongst the many honours in an overflowing trophy cabinet and having had trials for the Irish side, camogie is lucky to have hung on to somebody who readily admits that volleyball was her first love.

"Camogie and football were played in the school but not seriously which I thought was great, it was a big volleyball school so to be honest the craic at the camogie was great."

By now Aoife had had a go at hurling, lining out with Cloughduv at U12 along with Joanne O'Callaghan, who's still a teammate with both club county.

It was inevitable that the Cloughduv keeper would don the colours Muskerry and under the guiding eye of Rob Lotty she continued to show steady progress.

At this stage the word was out that Cloughduv had a handy keeper and it came as no surprise that the Cork minor selectors began to cast their eyes in her direction.

Tickets

Tickets for Sunday's Foras na Gaelige All-Ireland Camogie final will be on sale tonight from 7.30pm onwards at the county board meeting which will be held at St Finbarr's club, Togher.

matches."

I mentioned Sciath Na Scoil to her and the famous Aoife grin spread widely across her face.

"I had never heard of Sciath Na Scoil until Joanne (O'Callaghan) mentioned it at training one night and I asked one of the girls 'what's she on about' and yes, when I heard all about it I was certainly envious, but then sure what the hell, I had the games in the back garden to keep me going."

Elaine Burke about Sunday's clash with Tipperary

focused



Cloughduv players Joanne O'Callaghan, Stephanie Dunlea-Murphy and Aoife Murray who play on the Cork camogie team in the All-Ireland final against Tipperary next weekend.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

In 1998 13-year old Aoife was donning the red and white and making the position her own between the posts as Cork took the title for the first time since 1985.

Amongst her team-mates were Emer Dillon, Rosarie Holland, Amanda O'Regan, and Niamh Bowles and again one name stands out John Cronin.

"John was a selector and he probably knew me well but having done so well with Muskerry and the fact that the year previous Rob Lott had been involved with Cork minors would have done me no harm, without doubt John has been a huge influence.

"John took me to my very first camogie game and he has been there all through, he has inspired and helped me enormously."

The minor title was retained in 1999. In the last 12-a-side All-Ireland minor final, a tough encounter with Galway saw Cork ultimately rely on a last minute save from an alert Aoife to keep the title on Leaside.

A place on the junior side followed and then progression to the intermediate team the following year in 2000 when Cork won a never-to-be-forgotten first title in that grade.

Aoife was the baby on a side that contained such player as Sheena Morley, Helen Walsh and Jill Hanlon, as were minor team

mates Rosarie Holland and Joanne O'Callaghan who were also keeping pace and continuing to progress along with Aoife.

The year before, 1999, Kevin Murray came off the bench to help Cork win the Liam McCarthy Cup, but sister Aoife had to wait until 2002 for her senior medal as a substitute to Ger Casey as Cork stopped Tipperary's bid to make it four in a row.

Now 2003 and 2004 are best forgotten as Tipp bounced back to retain the title.

By 2004 Aoife had made the number one spot her own but the desire to win the medal on the field is as great as ever.

January 2005 brought a change to the Cork backroom team with Fiona O'Driscoll coming on board as trainer and John Cronin stepping up to the manager's role joined as selector by last year's victorious junior coach Lillian Zinkant and Ollie Hallihan from county champions Carrigdhoun.

The county board also made an important move, giving the go ahead to the setting up of a supporters club and this has helped enormously ease the financial burden on the board and helped the girls receive some well deserved perks.

Something not lost on the Cork net minder and her grateful team mates.

"The supporters club has eased the burden enormously and it great they are able to help out and take the burden off the players and mentors a little bit.

"To be fair we do not ask for much but certainly we would not be human if we were not a little envious of the hurlers and footballers. We train just as hard and put in exactly the same effort and hours but I suppose that's life."

Aoife has seen a huge improvement in the game's profile and feels it's important to keep that going.

"If young girls see the players treated well and being looked after they will be inclined to make the move to get involved and get a piece of the action for themselves.

"This year we had a huge crowd at the senior county final and the atmosphere was tremendous, so it is obvious that the crowds will continue to come if we continue to make the game attractive, this year the venue was excellent and it added to the sense of occasion having two teams from the same division contest the final."

A final where Aoife picked up her third county senior championship medal under the watchful eye of selector/coach brother Paudie, who now lines out with the St Finbarr's senior hurlers.

Yet another big grin greets the

question about how critical big brother is as he puts the Cloughduv girls through their paces.

"Oh yeah, I always get the extra bit of giving out to but sure it's probably for the best."

It certainly seems to be as the club looks forward to their Munster club championship semi-final with Limerick side Kilmeedy.

Before that a small matter of a return to Croke Park on September 18 and a chance to bury a few ghosts.

Confidence is something not lacking in the property student who has just completed 15 months' work placement with Bord Gals where former Cork goalkeeper Ger Cunningham was a work colleague.

"The company were excellent to me and I received huge encouragement from everybody, Ger would have been a player I would have been hugely influenced by and he has been a great help to me."

Having faced the Murray clan in the back garden, Aoife is more than ready for Sunday's big test.

Emer McDonnell, Jill Horan et al, beware.

If you intend bearing down on this lady's goal, she is focused and ready, a senior medal on the field of play is the ambition of Cloughduv and Cork's finest.



ROSARIE HOLLAND
(Barryroe)

Computer Science Graduate
A graduate in computer science, Rosarie is the holder of All-Ireland senior, minor, junior and intermediate medals as well as inter-provincial honours and Ashbourne Cup with UCC. Holds senior B underage and junior championship honours with Barryroe.



MARY O'CONNOR
(Killeagh)

Camogie Regional
Development Coordinator,
Munster

Mary was underage coach with the East Cork Board until recently when she was appointed by the camogie association as regional organiser in Munster. A well known footballer, she played a big part in helping Cork take provincial and National League honours this season. Holds senior All-Ireland medals and National League as well as county provincial and All-Ireland club medals with Grenagh-Ballingarry where she played during her years studying in Limerick.



AMANDA O'REGAN
(Douglas)

Student

Played in last year's junior final. A student at UL with whom she won an Ashbourne Cup medal this year she is the holder of All-Ireland minor medal won in 1998 as well as junior last year, also has to her credit provincial honours at junior and U18 level. Is also an accomplished basketball player.

Mother Christine (nee Pinfield) is the holder of junior All-Ireland medals.

ANNA GEARY



MILFORD

Is the holder of three All-Ireland minor championship medals. Has amongst her collection 10 All-Ireland colleges medals with St Mary's Charleville.

Has won underage and senior B championship with Milford, Anna was the Centenary Camogie Ambassador for Cork Secondary Schools and was named as on the Colleges All Star team of 2004.

Came on as a sub last year.

VIVIANNE HARRIS



ST FINBARRS

Vivienne is one of the most experienced players on the Cork team and is in her 11th season on the senior panel.

Is the holder of All-Ireland senior medals and Munster and national league medals. Was All-Ireland skills champion in 1991 and has won senior county championship medals with her former club Bishopstown. Captained Cork to win two back to back national league titles in 1999 and 2000.

BREIGE CORKERY



CLOUGHDUV

Breige is the holder of three cork county senior championship medals as well as minor and Intermediate all Ireland and Munster honours. She is also a prominent footballer and has numerous under age honours in both camogie and football.

Breige missed out playing in last year final due to a hand injury, recently named as Player of the Match following a superb performance for Cloughduv in the Mercury Restaurant Senior county championship final and went on, the following day, to play a starring role for the Cork senior ladies football team in the All-Ireland quarter final.

All-Ireland camogie final, Cork v Captain



4
Days
to go

Burke all
set for the
main event



Linda
Mellerick

VALLEY ROVERS in Innishannon will be the proudest parish in the country on Sunday if their very own Elaine Burke collect the O'Duffy cup.

For a small club like Rovers it is beyond their wildest dreams that they would produce a senior captain of Cork. Should Elaine go one further and captain Cork to victory then Innishannon is the place to be this coming Sunday and Monday night.

Elaine tries not to dwell on her captaincy role too much.

"You try not to think about it too much because you could get a bit carried away that you're captain and it might end up affecting your game. There's no point in that."

"You're like every other player in that respect. If you're not performing you're no good to the team."

"But it is special and a once in a lifetime chance. I always dreamt of it I suppose. I never thought it would actually happen."

Elaine arrived on the senior inter-county scene in 2000 and played at corner forward in the All-Ireland final which Cork lost to Tipp.

So what has happened to Cork over the last five years? "If you look at the Cork teams over the last four or five years there's been a lot of change. Tipp have had almost the same team for the last six years. I think Tipp play with such consistency because they know each other

ELAINE BURKE: "We need to put pressure on Tipperary. We have to be careful of their full forward line."

Tipperary's O'Dwyer will have

TEAMS always have key players.

While a team may be well balanced there are always four or five 'special' players. Those who have, over the years, pulled a game out of the fire or so consistently performed that the mere thought of losing them would be a nightmare.

Una O'Dwyer, Tipperary's sterling full back is one such player. At the tender age of 24 she is going in search of her sixth All-Ireland medal on Sunday.

Her magnificent performance in last year's final won her the 'Player of the Match' award and firmly stamped her claim as the 'Camogie Player of the Year'.

When questioned as to whether the appetite is still with her and her team-mates Una is quick to point out that everyone seems fine and up for the challenge but its only on All-Ireland final day that you will really know.

"The atmosphere is good in the squad but you never know how

By LINDA MELLERICK

Profiles Una O'Dwyer

much an individual wants it until the pressures on. If you ask any of the players if they want to win this All-Ireland more than anything else of course they'll all say yes but it's when push comes to shove in the final that you won't be long finding out. It's the hunger will determine if you go that extra yard or not on the day."

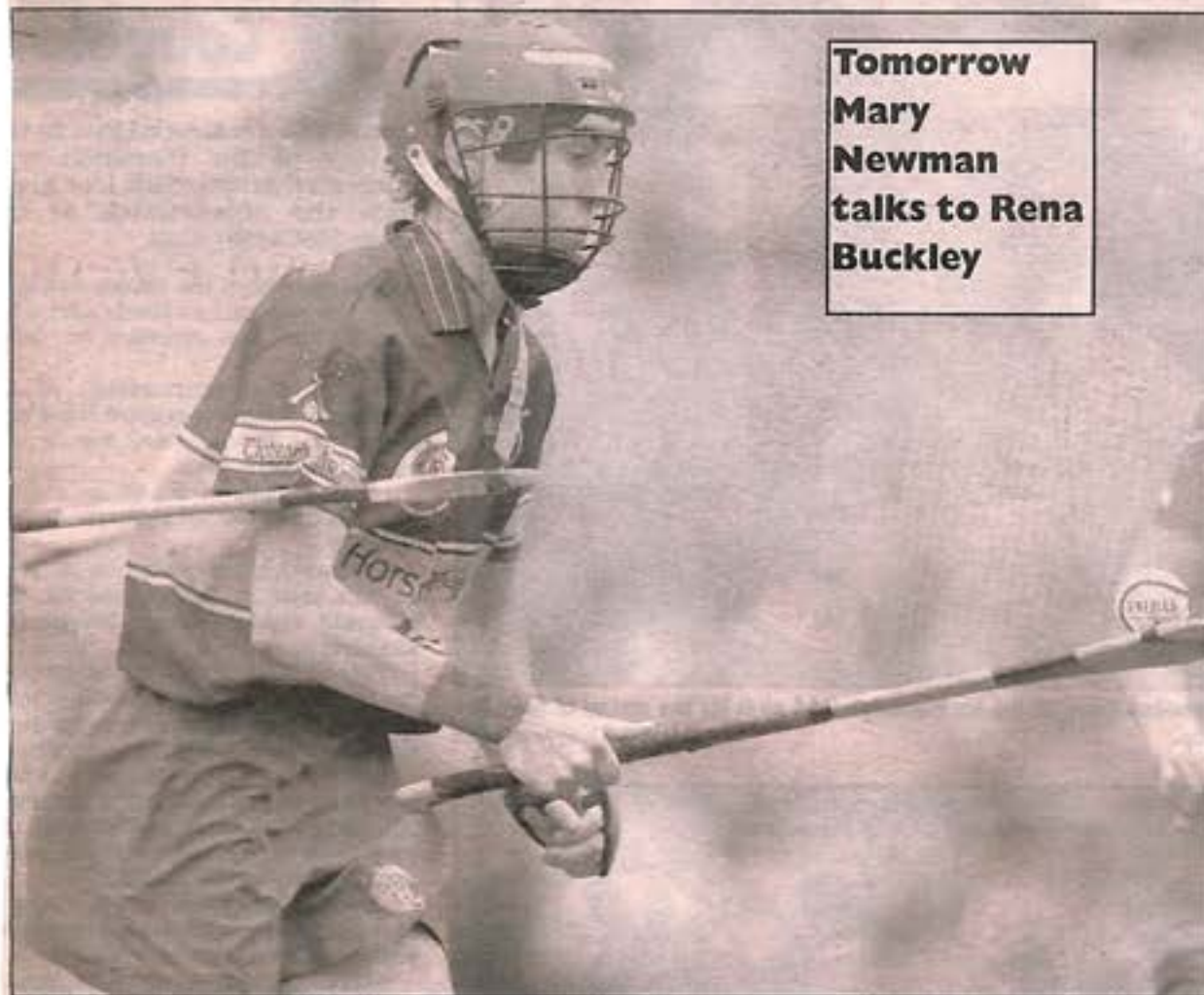
Una is quick to brush aside last

year's long list of accolades. Awards too numerous too mention came her way and it must have been nice?

"Yeah it was but it's all over now. That was last year. This year hasn't been so hectic for me as I was out for so long." She is referring to a cruciate ligament injury.

"I damaged my knee my second night back training with Tipp in February. I never actually had it reconstructed as the specialist

Tipperary, Croke Park, Sunday fantastic



One of Elaine's closest friends throughout her college years is Tipperary full back Una O'Dwyer above.

so well.

Ironically one of Elaine's closest friends throughout her college years is Tipperary full back Una O'Dwyer. Flatmates, Ashbourne team-mates, best buddies, has that friendship ever been tested with the arch rivalry that surrounds the Cork and Tipp battles over the last number of years?

"Una came to UCC in her second college year and I was in second year. She was a well known camogie player even then and she started to play with the college. We all became friends. There's a special bond playing in the Ashbourne between players because you're training in

winter in the muck and darkness together and it creates a special something.

"Our working lives have taken us on different paths but we're still friends. We never spoke too much about it when we were living together. Maybe we avoided it. It never really came into the friendship. I make a point of congratulating Una after a match and she makes a point of congratulating me no matter how hard it is at the time."

Referring to Sunday's final, Elaine expresses the following views: "I think we need to come out with the same aggression we came out with in the second half of the 2002 final.

**Tomorrow
Mary
Newman
talks to Rena
Buckley**

O'Connor: Victory is everything

CORK must win the All-Ireland camogie final this year.

That is the opinion of Cork's midfield general Gemma O'Connor who has no intention of losing a third successive All-Ireland camogie final to Tipperary writes PJ O'Connor.

"This has to be the year we are going to have to win it especially for underage levels.

"If we get beaten this year it will be the third year in a row and it will be very hard to pick it back up especially being beaten three years by the same team."

She continued, "It doesn't look great for the sport of camogie especially when you compare it to hurling and ladies football, which are beginning to look up again. Cork really do need this win to promote ourselves and for camogie in general."

Like most of the team, she has been left wondering what could have been as she looked on from the field below as successive Tipperary captains lofted the trophy high above their heads but this year she is going to do everything in her power to prevent a repeat. We are after losing two years in a row and I definitely don't want to lose a third year in a row and that goes for everyone on the team. I can't predict the outcome but I can nearly promise a tight game any way."

With Tipperary dominating camogie in recent times and Cork forced to be bridesmaids since last winning the All-Ireland in 2002, O'Connor feels the competitive gap in camogie that prevented teams like Cork from mounting a serious challenge and raising the profile of the game is beginning to narrow.

GEMMA O'CONNOR



ST FINBARRS

Member of the Defence Forces Returned in May following a six month stint with the armed force in Liberia, was named on the Allstar Camogie team in 2004. Gemma's uncle Bill Geaney captained Cork to All Ireland minor hurling championship title in 1974 Gemma represented Cork in Feile Na Gael skills in 1998. Younger brother Glenn was a member of the Cork U16 hurling side this year.

RENA BUCKLEY



INNISCARRA

Occupation: Student.
Rena, who completed her leaving certificate in St Aloysius this year, is also a member of the Cork senior ladies football team that won national league and provincial medals.

Holder of All-Ireland minor medals as well as intermediate and junior Munster championship.

She recently played in the senior county championship final with Inniscarra.

Selected on the Colleges' centenary Allstar team last year.

RACHEL MOLONEY



COURCEY ROVERS

A student at UCC, Rachel holds Ashbourne cup medals with UCC as well as minor and senior all Ireland championship honours with Cork and has won inter provincial honours with Munster.

Is also the holder of All-Ireland honours at senior, intermediate junior and minor levels as well as provincial honours and coaches her club's U12 camogie team.

watched carefully on Sunday

told me that it was only partially torn. We decided rather than have an operation we would try and build it up and that's what I've been doing all year."

The ligament could go at any time and surely with such a huge threat hanging over her it must be difficult to give 100% in a game?

"Well, every day you come out of a game you're happy that it has held out. But you can't dwell on that. Mentally I don't focus on it.

You can't dwell on what might happen or you'll get nowhere," she stated.

Reflecting on Tipperary's sudden rise to superstardom Una talks about her first introduction to the senior team in 1998. "I was a minor in 1997 and got called up to the intermediate squad. We won the All-Ireland Intermediate title and stepped up to senior in '98. We were narrowly beaten by Galway that year in the All-Ireland semi-final but we

were happy that in our first year up we were able to meet the challenge. The following year we got that hammering in the league final by Cork. Michael Cleary took over the reins after that defeat and just upped things a level. We won the All-Ireland in September and it was special."

Winners in '99, '00, '01, '03 and '04, I asked Una which title was the sweetest.

"While you're playing you don't really stop and reflect on things

like that. You just drive on. You might remember special moments more so than a particular year," she declared.

"Yes as defending champions we are there to be knocked but from our point of view we can only go out and hurl the way we can hurl and want to hurl. We don't really think about going for our fifth title in six years. It's not as if you can accept losing this year because you'll be back next year."

Jennifer O'Leary Barryroe

Physical Education
Student.

A physical education student in UL whom she led to Ashbourne Cup glory earlier in the season.

Jennifer was chosen on the Allstar team of 2004 and is the holder of All-Ireland medals at senior, minor and intermediate level.

She has represented Munster at senior level and is the holder of Gael Linn honours, also has amongst her collection senior B championship, Ashbourne Cup and All-Ireland colleges medals.

Following a superb Ashbourne Cup display, Jennifer was named as the 96/103FM/Rochestown Park Hotel Player of the Month for February.



Emer Dillon Ballygarvan

Pharmacy Student UCC.

Emer is also a prominent hockey player with the Harlequins club in Cork and has represented Munster and Ireland in hockey.

She won a senior county championship medal last year with Carrigdhoun and also holds junior and under age championship medals with Ballygarvan. She is a winner of All-Ireland senior, intermediate and minor medals as well as inter-provincial honours.



Paula O'Connor Newtownshandrum

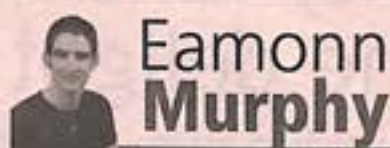
Sports instruction
(Mardyke Arena)

Sister of Cork senior hurling twins Ben and Jerry. Paula is the holder of Purcell Cup and league honours with Cork Institute of Technology also has all Ireland senior and inter provincial honours as well as senior and underage championships with Newtownshandrum.

Seán Óg Ó hAilpín she names as her favourite sports person.



All-Ireland senior camogie final: Cork v



Eamonn Murphy

DUNLEA is one of the most famous camogie surnames in Cork.

Kate Dunlea captained the Rebels to their first senior title in 1934 and over the last 20 years her grand-nieces, first Lynn and then Stephanie have excelled in Red jersey.

Stephanie is proud of her heritage, and is talented enough that she has never suffered by comparison to her illustrious family members. She's also the most senior member of the panel, and with that has come a name change.

"I got married just over two years ago (to Martin Murphy), so I'm actually a Murphy now. I never said anything and I was killed last year because there was no mention of Murphy," she jokes.

Murphy or Dunlea, her pedigree isn't in doubt. She's a senior panellist since 1993, though college and work commitments meant she was on and off until she returned from Australia in 2001.

Since then, be it at full-back or full-forward, Stephanie's been one of the Rebels' most consistent players. And she's well acquainted with the might that they face on Sunday.

"You have to admire Tipp, they are going for their second three-in-a-row in the last seven years and I think they've become stronger over the years.

"They're going into their seventh final. Cork dominated them for a long time, and I think in the back of their minds, like any Tipp team, they hate Cork beating them. They reorganised in 99 and have been so strong since."

Since her return in 2001, it seems like a Cork-Tipperary September's camogie showpiece is set in stone. In 2001, there was the agony of a replay loss to the Tipp. In 2002 there was the ecstasy as Cork halted their drive for four-in-a-row.

The last two years gave her the ultimate honour — captaining her county, and while the league was annexed, it was agony in Croke once again at the hands of the merciless Premier.

It must be playing on her mind, the nagging sense that the Rebels will be powerless to stop another three in a row, have they learnt lessons from the last two seasons?

"I hope so. We've to stop the ball coming in to their full-forwards as their goal scoring ability is their greatest strength. We played them in the Munster final and we went up there thinking that we could beat them. But on the day they were a lot harder and more physically tough than us, I think we were too soft on the ball. In 2002 we played with more aggression and we're going to have to play like that on Sunday.

"Last year Tipp were definitely the better team. Back in 2003 we just couldn't make our dominance count and we missed a few goal chances. It can be demoralising when you're playing well and they get one chance and it's a goal, we've got to be sharp and make sure that doesn't happen.

"Overall we're trying not to focus too much on the last two years, it's in

Been there Dun that

Steph's family
has seen it all
in camogie



Stephanie Dunlea, above, and left, with sister and former Cork player Lynn Dunlea.

the back of your mind and you remember it, but we can't get too caught up in that. We've just got to ready to give our best performance of the year in the final."

One definite concern for Sunday is the facile nature of Cork's dismantling of Limerick in the semi-final.

That is sharply contrasted with Tipp having to grit their teeth and claw out a win in the other semi.

"They had a really tough challenge against Wexford and our victory over Limerick wasn't much good to us, but hopefully it won't count against us.

It didn't help us as a unit for the game to be so easy, we were able to take shots from all angles, and we didn't need to hit top gear at all."

Stephanie has no problem with criticising the short nature of the senior championship, with only two games before the biggest day of the year.

"One of the biggest faults I'd have with camogie at intercounty level is the lack of games. We're really dependant on training, as we've one shot at a really good team without having any challenging games beforehand. That means it genuinely is all on the day like.

"There are only six teams, so I think we should play each other home and away in a league style format.

"The way it stands we've only got three games, and you can end up with a game like our one against Limerick.

"We're not getting great support outside of the finals, but after the Limerick match it's hard to blame people, even their supporters were going home 20 minutes into it. If the games are not competitive or attractive we're not going to get people interested."

"The final is different as it should be a fantastic match, but we need to

make the season more competitive before a final.

"Ladies football has got more support, but they've made their championship more competitive and professional. Also it's an easier game to take up and the interest has spread across the country because of that."

This year, more than any before, lack of tough games or not, they are ready for the challenge.

She credits this to a change of management, most importantly the addition of former Cork senior star Fiona O'Driscoll to the coaching system.

"Fiona really understands the game. The problem can be that people are used to training hurling and there are different demands for camogie naturally.

"Fiona has struck a good balance between fitness and skills training. Last year, I don't think we were as prepared as we should have been I suppose, without taking away from anyone. We're definitely better prepared this year."

The preparation is complete; the goals have been set; the lessons have been learned; they are determined there will only be one outcome.

3
Days
to go

Tipperary, Croke Park, Sunday, 3.30pm

Mary Newman talks to
Cork coach John Cronin
ahead of Sunday's
All-Ireland final

John out to Tipp balance Cork's way

FIVE All-Ireland minor titles, three senior Cork county championships and a host of minor provincial honours are listed on the Curriculum Vitae of a gentleman who is without doubt one of the most successful under-age coaches Cork camogie has produced.

John Cronin first arrived on the inter-county camogie scene after his club Cloughduv won the county minor championship in 1997.

That Cloughduv side included Una O'Donoghue, Aoife Murray and Joanne O'Callaghan, all of whom went on to win honours in the red and white of Cork.

A staunch GAA man, John is the holder of county championship honours at minor, junior and intermediate grades with Cloughduv.

The club nominated John to the post of selector for the 1998 season and, while reluctant at first, he soon got into the swing of things as he joined the late Tadie Roche from Aghabullogue and fellow club person Kathleen Healy in a bid to bring Cork's its first minor All-Ireland crown since 1985.

"I went in thinking I was only going to be lending a hand and I ended up coaching the team," recalls John.

Under the guiding influence of Cronin, the selectors assembled a panel that retained the Munster title in a blistering final showdown with Tipperary.

All-Ireland champions Galway stood between Cork and a place in the final but the Rebels weren't to be denied and, inspired by excellent performances from Rosalie Holland, Gemma O'Connor and Emer Dillon, they defeated the champions by two points.

Derry beat Kilkenny in the other semi-final but proved no match for the Cork girls in the final.

Displaying skill and craft, Cork recorded a comprehensive victory to bridge a 13-year gap.

Cork completed back-to-back titles 12 months later, defeating Galway in a final where just one point separated the sides. Niamh Bowles stepped up to receive the Tailteann Trophy.

Cork set out to make it three in-a-row in Millennium year, but got a rude awakening, losing to Tipperary in the Munster final, a defeat that certainly upset the team coach.

"We should never have lost to Tipperary but we allowed them to get ahead of us and were chasing the game.

"We almost clawed it back but it stills hurts to this day to have lost out on the chance of a three in-a-row."

While many would have walked away, John Cronin was unanimously re-elected to the position of selector at convention and set about his task of restoring pride in the Cork minor side with fellow selectors John Quinn and Ann Watson.

Once again the Cronin magic was evident and, with plenty of new talent coming through, the journey contin-



Elaine Burke, captain with Lillian Zinkant, selector and John Cronin, selector/manager of the Cork camogie team who play in the All-Ireland final against Tipperary on Sunday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

ued and this time there followed a remarkable three in-a-row of All-Ireland minor titles.

Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley, Anna Geary and Catriona Foley were amongst the players who played starring roles.

There was disappointment last season for the minors as they crashed out to Clare in the opening round and later in the season John Cronin signalled his intentions to retire.

Away from the county scene, John continued to be involved with Cloughduv and it came as no surprise to see him elected selector at convention last November.

The role of manager is one he comfortably slotted into, something he thinks comes from knowing the players well.

"Most of the team would have come up the ranks as minors and I would know them well. They are a great bunch of girls and they make our job

and easy one.

"They are loyal and committed and hopefully they will be rewarded on Sunday.

"We work well as a group but I must single out Fiona O'Driscoll. She is superb and has a great understanding with all the players, my job is easy with someone like that involved.

Cronin, who in the words of one of his club colleagues, "is the life and soul of his club and without him we would have no club. He is trainer, selector and mentor to every team from under age to adult that goes out to represent our club. He has continued to help out even with his commitments to the inter-county teams."

Without doubt much of the work undertaken by the busy camogie manager would not be possible without the backing of a very loyal and understanding family.

Cork camogie trainer Fiona O'Driscoll.

John's wife, Norma, hails from a family steeped in tradition with the Macroom club.

Daughter Clara is the holder of three county senior championship medals, while Aoife holds one and both are actively involved in the club.

Cork set out on Sunday to topple Tipp and end their three in-a-row ambitions and Cronin is confident his charges can do the business.

"Tipperary are champions and I know will be totally motivated in their bid to register three in-a-row.

"It's a huge task but we are ready, the hunger is there and we know what needs to be done."

One thing certain is that John, who has never lost an All-Ireland final, will leave no stone unturned in his bid to ensure a cork victory.

One senses the defeat by Tipp in 2000 still hurts and this is an ideal chance for John and his troops to settle the score.

Cork camogie is fortunate that this genial man from Cloughduv is at the helm. Roll on Sunday.

Stephanie Dunlea
Cloughduv

Food Scientist.

Captained the side in 2003 and 2004 led Cork to national league honours in 2003. Has won Ashbourne Cup honours with UCC.

Captained Cloughduv to county championship honours in 2002. Her grandaunt



Kate Dunlea captained Cork to their first All-Ireland senior title back in 1934.

Sister of former player Lynn; her brother Pat also lined out with the Cork junior footballers; while mother Nuala (nee Humphreys) and father John also wore the Cork colours.

Stephanie holds All-Ireland senior and Gael Linn honours.

Stephanie is the only member of the panel who is married.

Una O'Donoghue
Cloughduv

Lab Technician.

Captained Cork to All-Ireland glory in 2002 and also led her club to their first senior county championship title in 2001. Is the holder of



Ashbourne Cup and league honours with UCC as well as All-Ireland senior and National League medals with Cork, has also won three senior county championship medals with as well as underage honours with Cloughduv.

Angela Walsh
Killeagh

Student.

The Killeagh PE student is in her first season on the senior panel also first season playing inter-county camogie. She is the holder of county



junior championship honours with Killeagh and was a prominent member of the Cork ladies' football team that took the national league title and provincial honours this year.

This weekend, Cork play Tipperary in the All-Ireland camogie final. Here, former Cork star and current RTE Sunday Game analyst Lynn Dunlea tells ALISON DONNELLY about life at the top of one of Ireland's fastest growing women's sports — and what the future holds

Move over boys: it's the girls' turn!



TWO FACES OF LYNN: Lynn Dunlea on her wedding day with husband Aidan O'Callaghan and (above) in action in the 1996 All Ireland camogie final against Galway

LYNN DUNLEA FACTBOX

OCCUPATION: Teacher at Coachford National School.
ACHIEVEMENTS: Four All-Ireland senior titles and seven National League titles with Cork. Five County medals with Glen Rovers and Cloughduv, three Munster Club Championships, one All-Ireland Club Championship, five Gael Linn titles. Also has senior County and Munster football medals.

AGE: 32
LIVES: In Ballincellig with her husband Aidan O'Callaghan. Lynn is a former Cork camogie, football and badminton representative who



MISS IS A HIT! Lynn Dunlea with her class at Coachford National School
Picture: Ger Bensus

IN 2001, ace Cork camogie forward Lynn Dunlea announced that she was retiring from a game she had graced for almost two decades. Her decision followed medical advice on a shoulder and neck injury and shocked Cork camogie circles.

After a four-year lay off, Lynn this year made her comeback for one last season with Cloughduv, her home team, and it's a decision she hasn't regretted. "I was sort of forced into submission four years ago and I still had something in me, and coming back and being part of a winning county season has been fantastic.

"I know myself I'm retiring this year and I'm just getting this out of me. I really didn't want to stop playing when I did because it was such a huge part of my life and I'm just glad I can do it on my own terms this time."

Rewind to the beginning of a long sporting career, and Lynn, one of six children, was always destined to compete at the highest level. Her parents were both county players and all of her four sisters have been involved with Cork between camogie and football on some level over the years.

Lynn started off with Cloughduv in 1981 and has tasted success at almost every level at the club. The call to represent Cork came when she was just thirteen, playing at U16 level for her county.

As she moved up the representative ladder she was juggling camogie, her first love, with football, a sport in which she also received Cork honours. Representative badminton was also thrown in for good measure!

She explains: "My parents were fantastic when we were younger. There would have been five of us active in sport at the same time. At the weekend there'd be athletics in Blarney, Cork training in town or a football game out in west Kerry and there was only one car for us all so my poor parents spent their life driving in laps around the place for us."

Lynn made her debut for the Cork senior side in 1990, followed by her younger sister Stephanie two years later, and those were heady days for her, with the Cork side littered with star names: "I was very lucky to get to play with a lot of talented players then. We came into a very mature Cork team at the time. There was the likes of Sandie Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick and Therese O'Callaghan and we won the All Ireland in 92, 93, 95, 97 and 98, although I wasn't involved in 92 because I was in college and didn't play that year."

Although Lynn and her sister Stephanie were Cloughduv players through and through they spent four years playing with The Glen as there was no adult team at their home club. Needless to say success came fast — they were part of a winning All Ireland club campaign within a year.

But there was never any question that the sisters wouldn't return to the club where they had

circuit. Lynn was by now an established Cork senior player and in 1999 she was asked to travel to Dublin to commentate on that year's final, with her side having already been eliminated.

She explains: "We were beaten by Tipperary in a replay that year and I'd previously done a piece with RTE where I was at work so I was happy to go up to the studio. It was very daunting at first but they are really good at putting you at ease up there."

Her TV career has since steadily risen and she even featured on the Eamonn Dunphy-hosted celebrity version of *The Weakest Link*. She's now a regular on the *Sunday Game* panel for live camogie matches, alongside Kilkenny's Angera Downey, one of the icons of camogie with 12 All

Irelands to her name.

Lynn is perfectly situated to comment on the development of the sport she has played such an integral part in, and she says that the promotion of camogie has dramatically increased since she started off all those years ago. "I don't fully agree with people saying we don't get enough coverage or recognition because that situation has really improved," she says.

"Everything takes time and we are on the right road. Moving to 15-a-side a few years ago was a tremendous step for the sport and that gave us a better platform to promote the game."

"There are male referees now as well and the centenary celebrations last year were fantastic to promote the sport."

"It's a superb sport but promotion has to start right down at a club level. I'll be interested to see how many Cork clubs are going to be bringing up young Cork fans to the final this weekend."

Due to Cork's continued success at senior level she feels that more of these up and coming young camogie players should know who their adult counterparts are.

"Cork are very successful but young players would be hard pushed to name the county players. Of course things have changed over the years and seeing the games being televised now is a big move for us."

Talks of marketing and promotion brings us onto the subject of one of camogie's most famed campaigns — the one that got everybody talking where the slogan 'Chicks with Sticks' was used with pictures of players.

There were five of us active in sport. My poor parents

Sept 14, 2005 No. 121

16 page supplement

Wow!

Women on Wednesday!

Lynn's a class act

Cork teacher who is a camogie star — Pages 8/9





CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS: Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes and Cork's Elaine Burke, with the O'Duffy Cup, ahead of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final clash at Croke Park on Sunday.

Picture: Pat Murphy

Cork girls waiting for their big opportunity

By LINDA MELLERICK

Camogie

THERE'S something about training in September.

The nights are darkening, that All-Ireland feeling is in the air. You wind down the training, take a shower, emerge from the dressing room, it's pitch dark — you know you're in an All-Ireland final.

That's the way the girls are feeling as they head towards the week of the All-Ireland Camogie final.

They held their press night in Páirc Uí Chaoimh last evening and it was very clear to all how focused they are.

Most of the girls will head to the hurling final tomorrow. From the moment they enter Croke Park they will think of Sunday week. They'll look down on the pitch and at the player holding the position they themselves will hold in seven days time. They'll stand for Amhrán Na bhFiann with a knot in their stomach and all the while, while cheering on the lads, will be thinking of seven days'.

How can you not get caught up in an All-Ireland final? I sometimes think that those who aren't involved or touched in some way by it aren't really living.

I believed when I was playing that I was one of the lucky people. I remember a friend, who had absolutely no interest in sport whatsoever, saying to me once: "Don't think because people don't play sport that their lives are emptier or not as fulfilling as yours." And of course he was right.

I suppose the week of an All-Ireland final should be and is enjoyable to a certain extent depending on the player. Some players remain calm and never get too nervous; others feel sick. Your desire to win can be so great it can take over. You need to get the balance right.

With so much media hype and attention there can be huge pressure on a GAA player and you have to be able to step aside from it. I admit the pressure is not so great on the Camogie front. The only pressure is the pressure you place upon yourself.

Cork can win this All-Ireland Camogie final, of that I'm sure. I watched last year's final the other night and Cork dominated the first 20 minutes of the game but lacked scores. Against the run of play Tipp went in five points up. Cork fell apart in the second half. They didn't seem to have the belief deep down that they could win the game.

Cork have to play for the full hour and have the belief in themselves if the going gets tough.

They say that this Tipp team is the greatest team ever, but I don't think so. Kilkenny broke our hearts year after year. We lost three All-Ireland finals in a row between 1987-1989. We were beaten by a better team and there is no disputing that.

Tipp have won the last five All-Irelands out of six and you're probably wondering what they have to do to prove they're worthy champions.

Of course they're worthy champions and any team that can achieve that has to be admired.

Whether it was under estimating them at the beginning and losing belief in ourselves these past couple of years, I don't know.

But Cork need to set the record straight.

We need to win this All-Ireland.

I firmly believe that hunger wins games. At this level, little separates sides in an All-Ireland final.

One wrong call, one moment's lapse in concentration, one mistake and the game can turn, it's true.

But it's the team that is willing to go that extra yard in training, the player who is willing to throw themselves in front of the hurley if needs be, the player who can hardly breathe at the final whistle, the team that won't even contemplate defeat, that will prevail.

The best of luck to the hurlers tomorrow.

Veteran looks to exit in a blaze of glory

Tipp captain

by Brendan O'Brien

IT'S been a long but relentless climb up the camogie tree for Tipperary and captain Deirdre Hughes has been there every step of the way from the days of junior obscurity to almost perennial senior kingpins.

For 16 years Hughes has been donning the blue and gold. Half her life. Even in a sport where players are routinely promoted to their senior county teams whilst still in their mid-teens, it is a singular achievement.

The finishing line is in sight now, she insists. Sunday's All-Ireland final against old sparring partners Cork may be the stage on which she bows out of the game she has graced for so long.

"Let's just say I'm near the end. There's a lot of mileage there now and if I can see this one out I'll be pretty happy."

Indeed she should be. When Hugh-

es first hooked up with the Tipp squad the summit of their ambitions was to break the straightjacket of the junior ranks for the bright lights of the intermediate grade.

They came close that first season in 1990, losing the final before correcting the result a year later by claiming the title. It took another five years to navigate their way through to the senior ranks where, within two years, they had won the county's first All-Ireland title at the sport's most rarefied level.

Since then, the garlands have hardly stopped coming. Tipp enters the contest with six of the last seven All-Ireland titles tucked under their belts, defeat to Cork in the 2002 final the only championship hiccup in all that time.

The Rebel county has always been their barometer. The sides have met in the last four deciders and it was Cork who were undisputed ladies of the manor before Tipp broke their hegemony under Michael Cleary's guidance at the turn of the millennium.

When Tipp first dipped their toes

'We had to beat them twice to prove it wasn't a one-off'

into the senior grade Cork inflicted some crippling defeats, so they have been the focus of both Hughes' best and worst memories down the years. Ask her to name a particular favourite and the reply is instantaneous.

"The semi-final against them in 2001 when it went to a replay in Limerick. We were gone basically. They got a goal late on and it looked like

curtains for Tipp but we got a goal and a couple of points to win it.

"We'd won our first All-Ireland in 1999 but we hadn't had to beat Cork that year. In 2000 we beat them in the final, but even then we still had the feeling that Cork were the big team. We felt we had to beat them twice to prove it wasn't a one-off so beating them the second time was important."

After a shaky league campaign, Tipp don't carry the burden of being overwhelming favourites into this decider as they have in previous years.

What is the same, even after all the years, is the pre-match tension, the almost unbearable wait for the ball to be thrown in on Sunday afternoon.

"The week before you'll always have those doubts. Are you fit enough? Is your touch okay? It's been a longer run into it this year with four weeks between the last two games so that adds to it too. You just can't wait for the Sunday to come around, really. Same as every year."

Tipperary ring the changes for final

Máire Uí Scolai

REIGNING All-Ireland Foras na Gaeilge champions Tipperary have made a number of changes for next Sunday's All-Ireland final against Cork.

Philly Fogarty comes in at midfield, where she will partner Angie McDermott, with Emily Hayden losing out.

The Tipperary backroom team have also moved Joanne Ryan to left half-forward, with Noelle Kennedy in at centre and Claire Grogan on the opposite wing.

The only change in the full-forward line sees Jill Horan come in with Geraldine Kinnane moving to the substitutes' bench.

Meanwhile, Cork have made just one change, with Úna O'Donoghue starting at left half-forward instead of Angela Walsh.

Dublin, who are contesting their first junior final since 1983, have also announced their team.

Aoife Cullen is selected at right full-back instead of Gemma Flynn while Emer Lucey will start for the first time in this year's championship in the for-

wards with Eve Talbot the player who loses out.

Their opponents Clare are bidding to end a long wait, having not won a junior final since 1986.

They are in the happy position of being able to call on Catherine O'Loughlin for the full-forward position.

O'Loughlin has recovered fully from a leg injury and Erica Minogue is also back from injury to take her place in the right half-back position.

TIPPERARY — J. Delaney, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, J. Kinnane, S. Nealon, C. Grogan, T. Brophy, P. Fogarty, A. McDermott, J. Ryan, N.

Kennedy, C. Grogan, E. Mc Donnell, D. Hughes, J. Horan.

CORK — A. Murray, R. Buckley, R. Holland, A. O'Regan, B. Corliss, M. O'Connor, A. Geary, V. Harris, R. Moloney, U. O'Donoghue, G. O'Connor, J. O'Leary, E. Dillon, S. Dunlea, E. Burke. Subs: D. Twomey, J. O'Callaghan, A. Walsh, S. O'Donovan, C. Desmond, P. O'Connor, L. O'Connell, J. Browne, C. Healy, N. Bowles.

DUBLIN — E. Butler, S. Hanks, A. Mc Cluskey, A. Cullen, A. Fitzpatrick, S. Cunnane, C. Power, C. Lucey, A. Fanning, E. Butler, G. Mc Cluskey, C. Durkin, J. Donnelly, L. O'Hara, E. Lucey. Subs: E. Mc Guinness, J. Murphy, G. Flynn, J. Draper, N. Taylor, E. Ryan, S. Martin, M. O'Sullivan, E. Talbot, S. Cuman.

CLARE — R. Lynch, J. Scanlan, D. Corcoran, C. Mc Mahon, E. Keating, C. Hickey, E. Minogue, M. Mc Mahon, D. Murphy, L. Linnane, A. O'Brien, F. Lafferty, Clare Mc Mahon, C. O'Loughlin, C. Conname. Subs: D. Lynch, S. Lafferty, M. O'Halloran, M. O'Looney, E. Gallery, M. Whelan, J. O'Leary, S. White, C. Naughton, C. Arthur.

■ CAMOGIE Croke Park showpiece won't clash with U21 final

Last minute deal averts potential GAA own goal

AN embarrassing clash of fixtures which completely contradicts the GAA's stated commitment to 'integrating' with their women's games, was finally averted yesterday to the delight of the camogie association.

Camogie's marquee events — the Foras Na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior and junior finals — take place in Croke Park on Sunday and their association believed that at a meeting earlier this year, they had received an assurance that the All-Ireland U21 hurling final, also on the same day, would not directly clash with it.

So they were furious when it emerged late last week that the All-Ireland U21 hurling final had been fixed for 3.0 in Limerick on Sunday, a direct clash with their senior game which was fixed for 3.15.

With both games having live television coverage — RTE are covering the women's final between Tipperary and Cork and TG4 are doing the Galway/Kilkenny U21 match — the camogie organisation was particularly



Cliona FOLEY

worried at the effect on their television audience, which sporting organisations always use as a barometer and bargaining tool for future sponsorship and TV deals.

Frantic behind-the-scenes negotiations took place and initially it looked like the women's only option would be to move back both of their finals (junior and senior) by 15 minutes each while the U21 match was moved to 4.30.

This was a far from ideal solution for camogie considering all their arrangements

were in place, including the printing of match tickets.

However, there was a breakthrough yesterday when the GAA moved the men's game to a 2.0 throw-in, which at least means there will be no television clash.

Leinster GAA Chairman Liam O'Neill liaised on behalf of the camogie association with the counties involved in the U21 final and was a central figure in finding the compromise.

But considering the camogie and women's football associations have been so involved in a much publicised 'integration' process with the GAA in recent years, this was a highly embarrassing oversight which will leave the men's association open to accusations of merely paying lip-service to their women's games.

The camogie association say they have always found current President Seán Kelly to be very accommodating and, indeed, secured the 'All-Ireland day' all to themselves on the national calendar last year, in order to honour their centenary final.



Dublin junior camogie captain Eimear Brannigan at a press conference in Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile

But there is no doubt they are disappointed by this late development, feel that the date clash with the hurling will still affect their gate and will be looking again for some assurances on this thorny fixture issue in the

near future. "Unfortunately it shouldn't have arisen and it will be very high on the agenda in terms of ensuring that it doesn't happen again," said Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael President Miriam O'Callaghan yesterday.

"Hurling supporters are

camogie supporters and vice versa," she added. "The fact that there's a big game in Limerick will obviously keep some people away who would otherwise have come to our game."

"It divides media attention also. Thankfully, there is not too much of a television overlap now."

"However, in an ideal world, the games should not be played on the same day and we will sit down with the GAA and talk about it."

Many counties will deliberately avoid fixing big with their women's All-Ireland involvement.

The Cork GAA Board came in for heavy criticism a few years ago for fixing their senior men's club final on the same day as the camogie final.

This not only diluted the women's support but directly divided the O'Connor family as daughter Paula, as she is doing this weekend, was lining out in Croke Park, while her twin brothers and inter-county stars, Ben and Jerry, were lining out back at home for Newtownshandrum in the county final.

Tipperary's senior women are chasing a three-in-a-row and their sixth title in seven years on Sunday, but 20-time champions Cork, who beat them in 2002, are taking inspiration from the men's success and are hoping to overturn them.

Dublin, who dropped down to the junior grade last year, are back in their first final since 1983 against a Clare side who lost the 2003 final to Galway after a replay.

Camogie anger at big games clash

by Jim O'Sullivan

THE Camogie Association is unhappy that their All-Ireland finals in Croke Park on Sunday will clash with the U21 hurling decider in the Gaelic Grounds between Kilkenny and Galway.

The association had hoped for a 'free day' for their finals, in which Tipperary bid for a three-in-a-row against Cork in the senior while Dublin clash with Clare in the junior decider.

"We don't see why we cannot have one day to ourselves," said PRO Maire Uí Scoilá.

Association president Miriam O'Callaghan said it was "regrettable" that the hurling final was going ahead.

"We will have maximum television coverage, but it would have been preferable if there wasn't a clash — even though there is no direct clash of counties involved. It's something we will address through the integration process going forward to 2006," she added.

"It's a battle yet to be fought."

A similar clash was avoided last year, when the same two teams met in the senior camogie final and Tipperary were also involved in the U21 HC decider against Kilkenny.

An arrangement was reached whereby the hurling game was played on Saturday, thereby enabling Tipperary and other supporters to see both games.

However, on the Sunday, the minor

hurling replay between Kilkenny and Galway was played.

A GAA spokesman pointed out that the arrangement last year had been reached because the Camogie Association was celebrating its 100th anniversary. What had happened with the minor replay going ahead on the same day could not have been avoided, he pointed out.

An agreement had been reached between both associations at the time that this year the finals would be played at different times.

The senior camogie final is timed for 3.15pm and, following agreement with the counties, the U21 final will start at 2pm.

In between the senior and junior finals, the Camogie Association will introduce their version of 'GO' games, which are being launched this week.

Miriam O'Callaghan explained that they were based around "participation rather than competitiveness, about hitting the ball and having a bit of fun." Players from Donegal and Kerry will be taking part.

And, in terms of developing camogie, the president expressed confidence that their decision to appoint a national games co-ordinator (Lynn Kelly from Limerick) and two regional officers would reap a rich dividend.

Mary O'Connor, a member of both the Cork camogie and ladies football panels, is one of the new regional officers and the other is Caroline Murray, originally from Galway, but based in Dublin. They will join Michael



At Croke Park yesterday ahead of the Foras Na Gaeilge All-Ireland camogie finals, were, clockwise from top left: Cork's Elaine Burke; Deirdre Hughes of Tipperary, Dublin's Eimear Brannigan and Clare's Deirdre Murphy. Picture: Inpho

Clements from the Ulster Council, who is already established.

"They will be assisting counties, clubs and schools to develop the game and also to establish a structure to train and grade referees," she added.

All-Ireland Foras na Gaeilge senior camogie champions Tipperary have made a number of changes for Sunday's All-Ireland final against Cork.

Philly Fogarty comes in at midfield and will partner Angie Mc Dermott with Emily Hayden dropping down to the bench.

The Tipperary backroom team have

also moved Joanne Ryan to the left half forward position, with Noelle Kennedy in at centre and Claire Grogan on the opposite wing.

Jill Horan replaces Geraldine Kinnane in the forward line. Cork make one change with Una O'Donoghue replacing Angela Walsh.

Senior TIPPERARY: J. Delaney; S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, J. Kinahan; S. Neeson, C. Grogan, T. Brophy; P. Fogarty, A. Mc Dermott; J. Ryan, N. Kennedy, C. Grogan; E. Mc Dermott, D. Hughes, J. Horan.
CORK: A. Murray; R. Buckley, R. Holland, A. O'Regan; B. Corkery, M. O'Connor, A. Geary; V. Harris, R. Moloney; U. O'Donoghue, G. O'Connor, J. O'Leary; E. Dillon, S. Dunlea, E. Burke.

Subs: D. Twomey, J. O'Callaghan, A. Walsh, S. O'Donovan, C. Desmond, P. O'Connor, L. O'Connell, J. Browne, C. Healy, N. Bowles.

Junior

DUBLIN: E. Butler; S. Hanks, A. Mc Cluskey, A. Cullen; A. Fitzpatrick, S. Connors, C. Power; C. Lucey; A. Fanning; E. Butler, G. Mc Cluskey, C. Durkan; J. Donnelly, L. O'Hara, E. Lucey.

Subs: E. Mc Guinness, J. Murphy, G. Flynn, J. Draper, N. Taylor, E. Ryan, S. Martin, M. O'Sullivan, E. Talbot, S. Curran.

CLARE: R. Lynch; J. Scanlan, D. Cárceorán, C. Mc Mahon; E. Keating, C. Halley, E. Minogue; M. Mc Mahon, D. Murphy; L. Linnane, A. O'Brien, F. Lafferty; Claire Mc Mahon, C. O'Loughlin, C. Connors.

Subs: D. Lynch, S. Lafferty, M. O'Halloran, M. O'Looney, E. Gallery, M. Whelan, J. O'Leary, S. White, C. Naughton, C. Arthur.

Six out of seven – Tipp's goal on Sunday

By Gerry Slevin

Six out of seven, or the second three-in-a-row achievement in seven years, whatever way you look it such is the goal which Tipperary's senior camogie side has set itself and next Sunday in Croke Park will provide many answers as to where Tipp's immediate future as a camogie force lies.

Apart from the first year (1999), Tipp have faced Cork in each of the past five seasons, once (and a replay) in a semi final in 2001, the remainder in finals. All bar the '02 final have seen Tipp come out on top and in fact next Sunday's eagerly awaited finale to the season will be the fourth successive final between these great rivals.

But how relevant is all this reference to statistics etc to Sunday's game? Does it really matter how often one has had the edge on the other? Or is there any significance in the fact that Tipp have had the upper hand so often?

It probably matters to Cork that they have had to bow to their great rivals so often. That in itself and the hopeful avoidance of three defeats on the trot is surely a spur to them. In Tipp's case, it is mainly a matter of seeking to hold on to what they have, irrespective of the opposition, and to extend what has been a glorious era, even farther.

Both teams were in different groups and Tipp probably came out best in way in which the teams were slotted into each group. Initially they were to be in the company of Antrim, Kilkenny and Limerick, a group that

leaned heavily towards Tipp's emergence (probably with Kilkenny) to the All Ireland semi final. Antrim pulled out on the eve of their scheduled game against Tipp, thus strengthening the odds favouring Tipp's group triumph.

Kilkenny found themselves in real trouble when Limerick put one over on them (3-5 to 1-7). This meant that outright victory over Tipp would be required if they were to reach the semi finals because it was generally accepted that Tipp, helped by home advantage (Semple Stadium), would continue to have the Indian sign on the Treaty side.

Tipp travelled to Nowlan Park for their clash with a Kilkenny side that was very determined but that lacked the wherewithal to unduly trouble a Tipp side that hadn't need to fire on all cylinders. The score line of 0-13 to 1-6 hardly reflected Tipp's dominance but when Limerick came to Semple Stadium the score line of 5-17 to 0-8 told its own story. By now both Tipp and Limerick were assured of advancing and being charitable we were inclined to feel that, perhaps, Limerick were holding back. As it later turned out, they weren't.

Meanwhile, Cork had nine points to spare over Wexford in their opening game (2-16 to 2-7). They followed that up with the narrowest of wins (2-8 to 0-13) over Galway, a victory that avenged Galway's surprise league final win over Cork.

Having home advantage (Ballinasloe), Galway were confidently expected to send Wexford on the long

journey home, their tail between their legs. They weren't prepared for what Wexford produced in the second half and a 3-6 to 0-7 score line was a very sore blow to the Tribeswomen.

All Ireland semi final day in Nowlan Park and what we all feared might be the case in the opening game – Cork v Limerick – materialised. No contest. Cork completely on top as a 5-17 to 0-5 score line quite emphatically states.

Memories of a great contest a year ago when Tipp and Wexford went into action were again evoked as these great latter-day rivals lined out again. The opening minutes suggested otherwise as Eimear McDonnell blazed through in the opening minute for a Tipp goal. Tipp's early dominance was soon dampened, however, as Wexford came in to the game but it was all Tipp throughout the second quarter as quite a respectable interval lead of ten points was built up.

Fortunately, it was a rather healthy gap because Wexford kept nibbling away at it in the second half, point by point, and placing Tipp's outer defence line in particular stress.

Even though Tipp came back for the game's two final points, they needed Jovita Delaney to be on top of her game in order to prevent Wexford from notching two goals at least.

So, another Tipp-Cork final, a scenario that might not be all that healthy in the context of the game's promotion. Nonetheless it is without doubt the clash of the game's two super powers and one that has all the ingredients of a close, tense

affair.

Tipp lined out against Wexford as they did in the 2004 All Ireland final and while at this stage most positions are fairly clear cut, the centre forward berth has been causing problems. Noelle Kennedy was preferred to Emily Hayden against Wexford but hadn't the happiest of games there. As an opponent for Cork's brilliant centre back, Mary O'Connor, the Tipp mentors will probably have some deep thinking to do. Emily Hayden and Sheena Howard, as well as Noelle are in the frame.

Jill Horan has been seeing soccer scholarship action in Detroit of late and isn't due home until mid week. However, she has been keeping herself fit and active and her pace will count for much on Sunday. Claire Grogan, Eimear McDonnell and Joanne Ryan are most dependable in attack while team captain Deirdre Hughes invariably relishes the Croke Park scene.

Farther back, it is unlikely that what has become the most consistent line in the team, the half back line, will be as innocuous as against Wexford. Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy are steadiness personified and it will be a big upset if they do not return to imposing ways on Sunday.

Angie McDermott and Philly Fogarty have great individual flair and have begun to make the mid field area their own.

Cork lined out against Limerick with only eight of the team that started against Tipp a year ago, although they may well have been keeping much of their powder dry. The most interesting aspect of their make-up to date has been the placing of the 2004 team captain Stephanie Dunlea at full forward. It's a big move from the number 3 jersey to the number 14 and one of the expected highlights of the hour will surely be the clash of her with Una O'Dwyer, Tipp's highly efficient full back. Suzanne Kelly and Julie Kirwan have been manning the inner corners with great effectiveness and behind them all Jovita Delaney continues to respond with assuredness and steadiness.

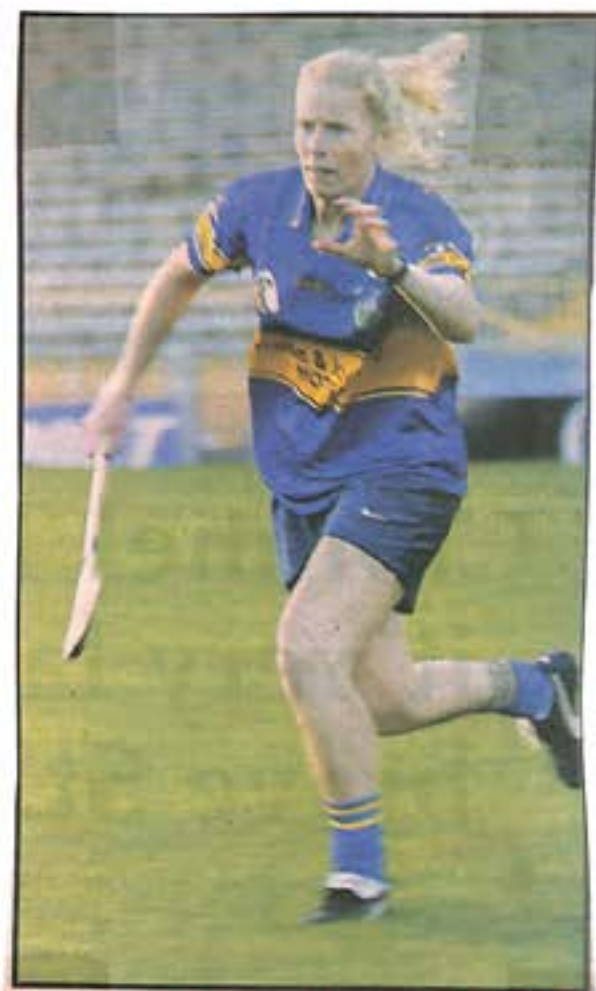
Though not having go impress against Limerick, Cork, nevertheless, emitted signals of intent that Tipp would do well to take heed of. On the other hand, such has been the rivalry between these teams and their knowledge of each other's play, that we can expect a real cat and mouse game.

As champions, the pressure will indeed be on Tipp but that is unlikely to faze them. They know they will be up against it, but they have prepared so well and every eventuality had been parsed and analysed.

A more direct flow of the ball to the full forward line ought to be a priority for Tipp on Sunday. If such emerges, then it is difficult to see them being dethroned. Tipp are experienced enough to be able to withstand all that Cork will throw at them and while a point will do at the end, the odds certainly favour them to take their 6th All Ireland title in seven years.



Wing back Sinead Nealon is a key member of the Tipp team in Sunday's All Ireland senior camogie final.



The ever-reliable last line of defence on the Tipp senior camogie team, goalkeeper Jovita Delaney.



Jovita Delaney clears the ball in the 2004 All-Ireland final against Cork at Croke Park. Pic: Bridget Delaney.



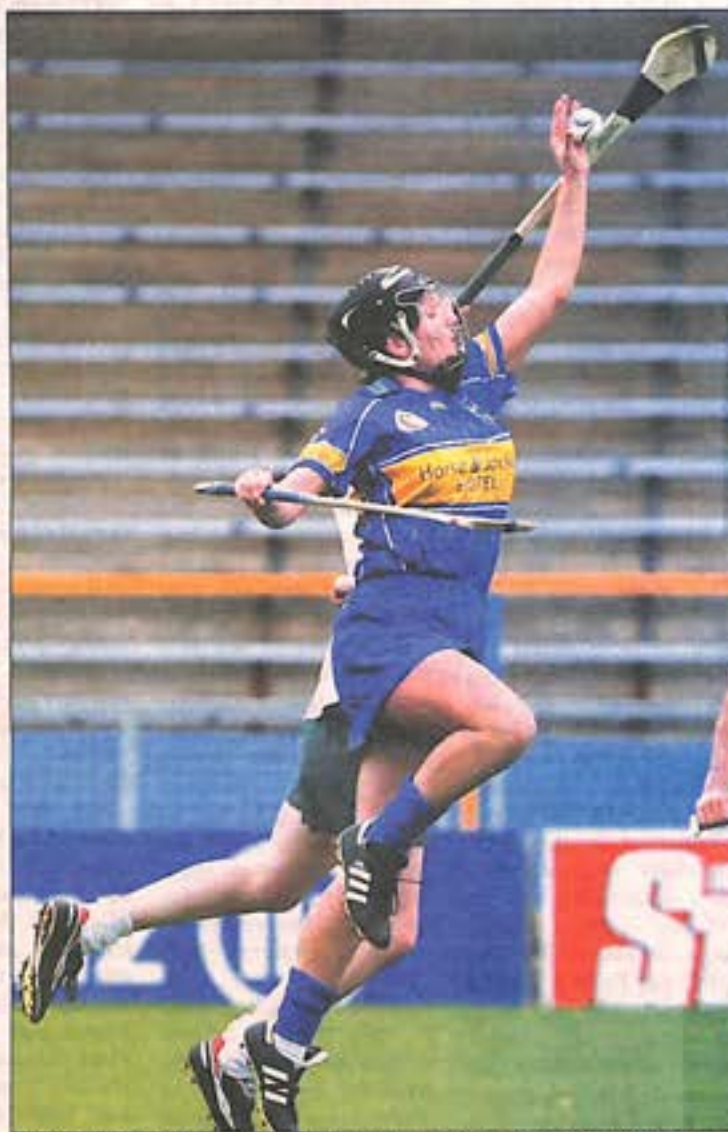
Killanena will represent Clare in the First Touch/Go Games Exhibition during the All-Ireland camogie final day on Sunday. Back, left to right: Rachael Leonard, Josie O'Donnell, Aoife Hayes, Laurie Jamie. Front, left to right: Róisín McNamara, Regan Conway, Deirdre Brady.



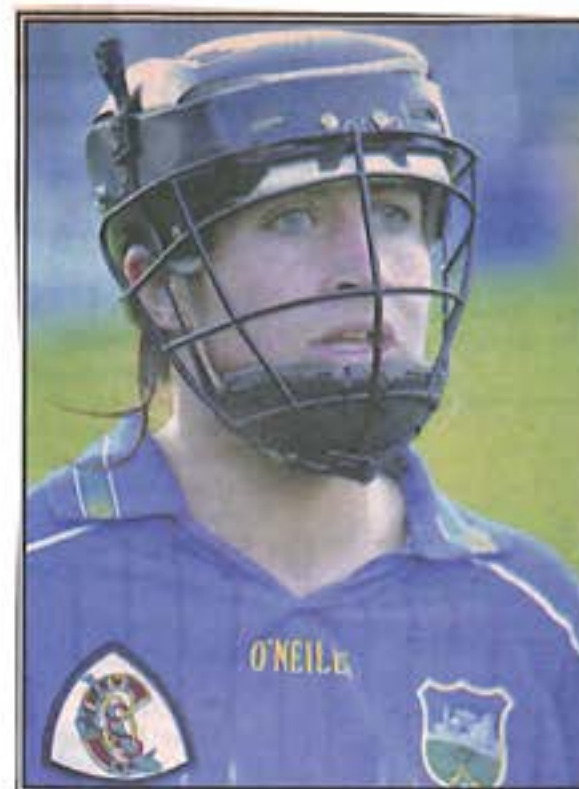
Tipperary senior camogie panel that defeated Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final at Nowlan Park Kilkenny. Back row (l to r) - Deirdre McDonnell, Louise Young, Maria Tynan, Michelle Shortt, Niamh Harkin, Lorraine Davis, Trish O'Halloran, Geraldine Kinane, Paula Bulfin, Lorraine Burke, Meadhb Corcoran, Mary Ryan, Noelle Kennedy, Suzanne Kelly, Julie Kirwan, Claire Grogan, Therese Brophy, Jovita Delaney, Clara Gaynor, Joanne Ryan, Sheena Nolan, Emily Hayden, Deirdre Hughes (captain), Philly Fogarty, Sinead Nealon, Una O'Dwyer, Eimear McDonnell, Jill Horan, Angie McDermott. Pic: Bridget Delaney.



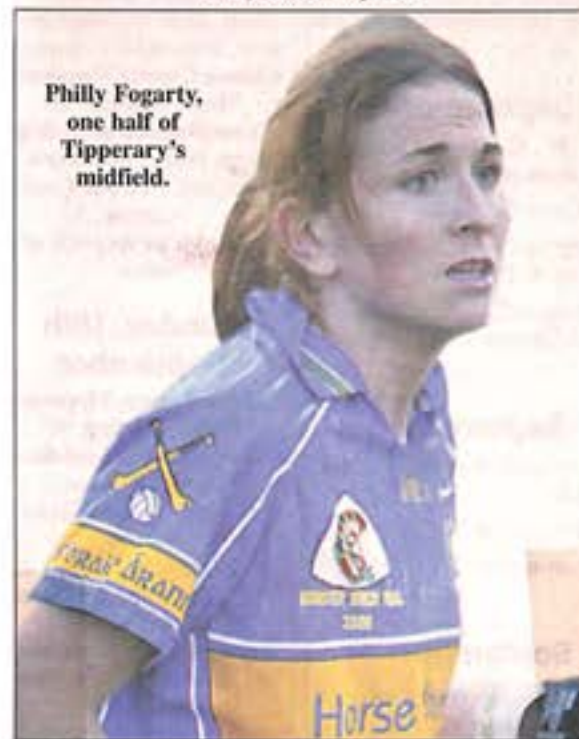
Jill Horan who is also an international soccer player. Pic: Bridget Delaney.



Tipperary's Sheena Howard goes highest to catch the ball at Semple Stadium. Pic: Bridget Delaney.



Veteran of so much success with Tipperary's camogie team, Ciara Gaynor.



Philly Fogarty, one half of Tipperary's midfield.

Tipperary must improve further, says Joanne

The honour of bringing home the O'Duffy Cup last year fell to Joanne Ryan, the Drom-Inch star who became the fifth Tipp player in six years to lead home her players in celebration.

This year Joanne is back as an 'ordinary' member of the team, but remains a key element of the Tipp attack which will be hoping to outscore their Cork counterparts on Sunday.

"It was a great year last year", she told **The Nationalist**, "and everything went well but this year there's no better person to be captain than Deirdre Hughes. It would be brilliant to bring the cup up to Toomevara, especially for Deirdre."

Joanne described the Tipperary panel as "a fantastic bunch of players" who give 110 percent, every time. That's why they keep winning.

But she warned: "We'll have to give an extra 10 percent this time. Cork will be well fired up for us. Like us, they've been there and lost an All-Ireland and know what it feels like when you've got that far only to lose."

This year, Tipp have their third management set-up of the current era, with Paddy McCormack following in the footsteps of Michael Cleary and Raymie Ryan. One thing unites all three, however, according to Joanne Ryan. "They're the same, because they've got one thing in mind and that's to win. They've got us to the final now so it's up to us to win it."

"Once you're winning the hunger will always be there"

— Tipperary camogie manager, Paddy McCormack



Una O'Dwyer in action in last year's All-Ireland final.

Tipp and Cork set to write latest chapter in rivalry

by Brendan O'Brien

ANOTHER chapter in Gaelic games' most enduring modern rivalry will be written on Sunday when the Cork and Tipperary camogie teams meet yet again in the All-Ireland decider at Croke Park.

The two Munster counties have divided up the last eight senior titles between them at senior level and this will be the fourth straight year they meet on the big day.

Though Cork are the traditional heavyweights, their neighbours hold the whip hand. Having won their first ever crown under Michael Cleary in 1999, Tipp approach the weekend looking for their sixth title in seven years.

The one blip in all that time came against Sunday's opponents three years ago and Cork captain Elaine Burke is looking for a repeat.

"We just have to focus on our own game and if we can do that we have a good chance of reversing the results of the last few years. The hurlers and Sean Og are inspirational to everyone in Cork and we just hope that we can go on and emulate them."

Many fancy their chances. Tipperary stuttered through their league campaign and have only been marginally more impressive since the championship started.

Yet, the champions still provide a daunting task. The team is still back-boned by a clutch of players who featured in their breakthrough success of '99, one of many reasons they have enjoyed such dominance recently according to captain Deirdre Hughes.

"Michael Cleary was the main man. When he came on board with a few other lads they really brought camogie to a new level in Tipperary. We were lucky enough to have a good bunch of players together at the one time."

"A lot of the girls had won minor titles before we started winning them at senior level and we've been fortunate to keep those same players together as a group all this time."

Also in action at HQ on Sunday will



The hurlers and Sean Og are inspirational to everyone in Cork and we just hope that we can go on and emulate them

— Cork captain Elaine Burke

GAA defends clash of hurling, camogie

by Jim O'Sullivan

THE GAA are unhappy with criticism from the Camogie Association over the 'clash' between their senior and junior finals in Croke Park on Sunday and the Galway-Kilkenny All-Ireland U21 hurling final in Limerick.

GAC sources say last year's decision to play the U21 decider the day before the camogie finals was a 'once-off' arrangement because of the 100th celebrations of the Camogie Association.

At a November meeting this was made clear and a proposal for the camogie and U21 finals to be played together at the same venue was turned down.

Up to recently, the understanding was that the senior camogie final would be at 4.30pm, leaving the U21 final to go ahead at 3pm.

Then the Camogie Association fixed the senior game for 3.15. To avoid controversy, the GAC got the hurling counties to agree to a 2pm start in the Gaelic Grounds.

be Dublin and Clare who will contest what is expected to be an equally tight encounter in the junior final.

This is Dublin's first time in the decider since making the decision to drop down from the senior grade in 2003. Last year was nothing short of disastrous for the capital side with Wexford evicting them from the championship in the very first round.

Atonement for that began with success in the Leinster championship but claiming the New Ireland Cup would be the best means of fast-tracking the game's redevelopment in the county, according to captain Eimear Brannigan.

"This is a hugely important game

for Dublin because we've been trying to win a title for a long time. It was a big decision to come down to junior last year. That didn't work out too well for us, but we could have thrown in the towel and didn't. We've focused on our objective of getting Dublin camogie back on the map."

Facing them will be Michael Maher's Clare side who can call on the services of players like Moira McMahon and Catherine O'Loughlin.

Though they won the last of their junior titles back in 1983, Clare only lost out to Galway after a replay in the decider two years ago and they have already accounted for last year's champions Cork this term.

We must find that bit extra: Burke

Cork captain

by Jim O'Sullivan

THE difference between winning and losing can often be indefinable, but on other occasions it can be quite clear, as in the case of last weekend's Guinness decider when Galway simply couldn't match holders Cork for experience.

In terms of how Tipperary have been dominating the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie championship in recent years and Cork have been playing catch-up, it seems to be simply a matter of the Tipp girls having the more powerful combination.

Whatever the reason, new Cork captain Elaine Burke accepts that Tipp have had the edge in the last two finals and that Cork must close the gap if they are to regain the O'Duffy Cup in Croke Park on Sunday.

Cork are back in the final with a squad which includes dual players Briege Corkery, Angela Walsh, Mary O'Connor and Rena Buckley, who are members of the Ladies Football side which contests the county's first All-Ireland two weeks later.

Elaine Burke, a trainee solicitor and a member of the Valley Rovers club, agrees that they would have wished for a better build-up to the final than a runaway win over Limerick in Nowlan Park.

"Tipp got a bit of a fright from Wexford; it wasn't the ideal preparation for us," she commented.

Interestingly, Tipperary won their semi-final by five points, whereas Cork had defeated the same opposition by three times that margin earlier on in the campaign. However, Elaine cautions against "reading too much" into the two results.

"The day we went down to Wexford, what was at the back of our

minds was that if we won we would qualify for the semi-final. If we lost we would have to wait for the other permutations. We were going to do our level best to win and that's what they did. Definitely, Wexford did much better against Tipp. I suppose it has something to do with the rivalry between the counties, the sight of the jersey!"

"Last year we did not perform in the final. We would have hoped to play much better. Any team needs a bit of luck to be successful, but you have to be putting the effort in as well if you're to make your own luck."

"I think the team is a bit more focused, this year. Hopefully it is."

She recalled the 2002 final, in which Cork beat Tipperary (to prevent them from winning four in-a-row). The team was captained by Una O'Donoghue, a good friend from their university days, and Fiona O'Driscoll got three goals.

"We have a new set-up this year, a new manager and three new selectors — and Fiona is the trainer. The panel have great respect for her. Her methods are tried and tested. She has the medals to show for what she has achieved and when she speaks, we listen!"

Elaine accepts that the dual involvement of the four players has been hard on them individually at times — recalling that early in the summer there were occasions when Angela Walsh played two games a day. On the other hand, the co-operation between the respective managements has eased the burden of training on the girls.

Another of the footballers, Briege Corkery, was one of the stars against Mayo last Saturday.

"Briege is a superb athlete. She didn't start the game against Galway but came on for the last five minutes and made the difference. She played at centre-back with Cloughduv in the club championship and it was her first time in the position. She played at right half back against Limerick the last day and did well."

Cork have a lot of ground to make up if they are to triumph this time. They may have defeated Tipperary in the League, but the result was reversed in the Munster final. Another reminder of the challenge they face.

"I think we are near. We lacked something last year. I just hope we have it this time!"

'Any team needs a bit of luck to be successful'



Junior captains Deirdre Murphy (Clare) and Eimear Brannigan (Dublin) and senior captains Elaine Burke (Cork) and Deirdre Hughes (Tipperary) at yesterday's Captain's Day in Croke Park ahead of this weekend's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland camogie finals. Picture: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile



Players in the background: Ursula Jacob (WRC) and Clara Beggs.

Cork aim to break Tipperary grip

ANOTHER trip to Croke Park this weekend as the Camogie players go in search of a second title for Cork in seven days. Once again its Cork and Tipperary who have reached the final hurdle and it's a renewal of old rivalry as they come face to face in what is sure a thriller. In the junior game it's also a unique pairing as Dublin and Clare came face to face.

Cork head the roll of honour with twenty senior titles but certainly Tipperary have without doubt been the top team of recent time taking five titles since 1999 when they arrived on the scene with a flourish after defeating Kilkenny to take title number one. Two years ago they had revenge on Cork stripping the Leesiders of their crown after Cork had stopped their quest for four in a row in the 2002 decider, but last year they bounced back in no uncertain fashion to turn the table. Now its time for another meeting and again it's shaping up to be a close call.

Cork are captained by Elaine Burke from the Valley Rovers club who is the representative from last year county champions Carrighoun and she will be hoping to celebrate the counties twenty first title in style Elaine is

No stranger to Croke Park and is the holder of All Ireland senior and

junior medals.

The Cork team is managed by John Cronin from the Cloughduv club, John is well known in gaelic games circles and is very involved with his local club as well as being one of the key mentors with Cloughduv camogie club. In over ten years involved with inter county camogie teams this is his first year as manager or selector with the senior side. He

Coached the Cork minor camogie team to All Ireland Success IN 1998, 99 2001, 2002 2003 while he was also coach to the Cloughduv side who that County Senior Championship titles in 2001 AND 2002 he is presently a selector with the club side who took senior championship honours recently. John is joined as selectors by last years All Ireland winning junior coach Lillian Zincent who is the holder of two All Ireland junior medals with Cork and Ollie Hallihan who is the representative from count champions of 2004 Carrighoun. another change in the back room set up this year has seen former inter county star Fiona O Driscoll come on board as trainer to the side. With a distinguished playing career behind her Fiona is now showing the same enthusiasm of the field as she tried to steer the county to its first title since 2002.

The holder of six All Ireland sen-

ior medals Fiona has brought a wealth of expertise to the job this year and hopefully her enthusiasm and dedication to the team will be rewarded on Sunday next.

Tipperary have focused entirely on retaining their crown and making it three in a row, they showed little interest in the league and indeed had a rather shaky start to their championship campaign before upping the ante to progress to a semi final meeting with Wexford. Much was expected of Wexford after coming so close last year. Tipperary made all the running in the opening half and looked unbeatable but once Wexford settled cracks began to show and it was Tipp who hung on to advance to the final. If Cork can hold the Tipp inside line which will probably be Deirdre Hughes, Emer MC Donnell and Jill Horan they are in with a great chance, this has been the trio that have been doing the damage add in Clare Grogan and they will need careful watching. At the back Sinead Nealon, Una o Dwyer and Ciara Gaynor form the back bone of the Tipperary defence and if Cork succeed in breaking this stronghold the scores will come.

The Cork team have prepared well and no stone has been left unturned off the playing field by either the county board or the newly former supporters club who have shown great support for the team.

Camogiechat

With Mary Newman



Cork camogie team who will contest the Foras na Gaeilge All Ireland Camogie finals in Croke Park on Sunday next Sept 18.

County board chairperson Marian McCarthy has as always led the way and the mood in the camp is upbeat as preparations are well under way for Sundays show down. As is always the case a lot of off the field preparations are vital to the success of the weekend and here Marion and her team of officers are busy ensuring the team hotel, travelling arrangements, playing gear and off the field gear and any special requests the management may have are all taken care of. While all the focus of attention has been firmly fixed on their male counterparts the Cork girls have been busy putting in their preparations for what is the

biggest day in camogie calendar. The board are hugely grateful to Punch Industries and Colour Catcher who are sponsors of their county teams. The team have also received huge support from Club Energiser who have been ensuring the players had plenty of water and club energiser at all their training sessions and games, all is now ready with the count down firmly under way.

So come on and get behind the team by travelling on Sunday to Croke Park another victory will ensure the Leaside Party continues.

Each year brings its own excitement - says Ciara

By Gerry Slevin

Success breeds success and in the view of CIARA GAYNOR, Tipp have thrived on what recent years have brought them, so much so that each new year has its own excitement, its own flavours.

The Kilmane native, now a valued asset to the Duharra combination of Burgess and Portroe (where she lives) has been on board since the start of Tipp's great era and sees each year as one that brings new players, new ideas and in general a deeper appreciation of how fate has dealt with them since 1999.

Ciara at centre back is one around whom so much revolves throughout the hour and while having absolute trust and confidence in her colleagues, at the same time she is fully aware of the huge threat they can expect from the Cork attack.

She stresses the need to be at their best because of the way in which the defence - especially her own outer line - allowed itself to be placed under such severe pressure by Wexford in the semi final.

"That performance (against Wexford) worried



Ciara Gaynor

us. We didn't perform to our potential but, on the other hand, Wexford are tough and they know how to play us. And yet, having said that, we played badly and still won by five points. We were disappointed with our own performance 'though we must give credit to Wexford. We were damned glad to win it and they did their best not to let us play the type of game we like to

play," says Ciara.

But that is all in the past and Ciara is hopeful that the lessons learned then will benefit them on Sunday because she expects Cork to be all out to dethrone them. She sees Cork as having very fast forwards who will run at them and they will have to be ready for them.

One thing Ciara Gaynor feels is totally absent from this team is a sense of bore-

dom. Once the season begins and training starts the mood changes to one of determination to do well as long as they have the legs to do it. Her colleagues are a great bunch to be involved with and when you add in the support and the dedication of the back room team, everything just slots into place.

Each manager, as Ciara sees it, has had a desire to concentrate on hurling all the time and that suits the players because they want to hurl as much as possible. Fighting for places also keeps them eager and determined and each new management brings, not alone new ideas, but can view players potential differently. They have had instances of players being tried out in different positions and being successful there and this all adds to the variety of the whole thing.

It is difficult to envisage Ciara Gaynor anywhere but at centre back, so efficient and accomplished has she been in that pivotal position. Hopefully, on Sunday, she will continue to perform with all the assuredness and expertise that have hallmarked her illustrious career in the blue and gold.

Deirdre — A vastly experienced captain

by Shane Brophy

FOR over sixteen years, Toomevara's Deirdre Hughes has led the Tipperary attack and has been a central figure in their five All-Ireland successes so far. Toomevara's victory in last years county championship has given Deirdre the proud responsibility of leading the premier girls out onto Croke Park on Sunday.

Captaincy is not new to Deirdre as she captain Tip-

perary to the All-Ireland intermediate hurling title way back in 1997 which brought Tipperary back into the senior camogie championship and they have not looked back since.

"There is no pressure on me as captain," she said. "I am enjoying it. It's no big deal. I have been around so long at this stage. It's my seventh final and my sixteenth season with the county team.

Tipperary have come a similar path this year as to the final like last year when Wexford gave Tipperary an almighty scare in Nowlan Park and they almost repeated the same trick this year but Tipperary won out by a five point margin which in no way reflected Wexford's display on the day. Deirdre hopes it was the team's bad performance out of the way.

DIDN'T PERFORM

"We are hopefully coming good at the right time but we won't know until the day. We were so bad against Wexford. We probably had better preparation this year. Last year the club scene was blamed for it but this year we were grand. We had a good break so we had no excuse. We still didn't really perform so we are hoping that the extra two or three weeks training will bring us on.

Once again it is old rivals Cork in their fourth decider in six years and

hunger in taking on the Rebels is still there.

"We are after beating them now for two years. Once you see the red jersey that's all you need or to see Croke Park in general. It's a huge thing to be there. Seven years on it's still a thrill.

Tipperary's semi-final team included ten of the team which started in their very first All-Ireland final win against Kilkenny back in 1999 and Deirdre believes it is getting harder to keep it going every year.

"For the older players it is. The whole thing getting back, trying to get the body right, trying to get fit. That's it really and the weather being so bad. It's only this year that's getting to me a bit because I am getting a little bit older.

Paddy McCormack has stepped into the very large shoes left by his two very successful predecessors Michael Cleary and Raymie Ryan.

"It has been different again," she said. "Training and drills have been different every night. You would think after having Michael Cleary and Raymie Ryan, that they know all the drills. But in fairness, Paddy has some amount of drills in his pocket. I don't know where he gets them to be honest. We are getting on well. The enthusiasm is there. Once you get to Croke Park, if that doesn't motivate you, nothing will."

New challenges for Ciara

by Shane Brophy

FOR Ciara Gaynor, this year has brought a new set of challenges on the camogie field.

She is a part of the new Duharra club (Portroe and Burgess) which have qualified for the county final and once again see mans the pivotal centre back back sport as Tipperary go for their sixth title in seven years.

"I wouldn't compare any of them," she said. "You don't compare the championships. You treat everyone differently. You just take every final or every game as it comes. Everyone is treated differently. There are different positional changes on teams and there are new girls in and different girls on the panel. It's a totally different set-up."

"There is special motivation for the game. You are not motivated by what happened last year. You are motivated on this year. You are training for this and you want to win this. Different girls bring different things."

So did Tipperary's semi-final performance worry her? "Yes, it did. We didn't

perform to our potential but that's Wexford. They are tough. They know how to play us. Having said that, we played badly and we still won by five points. We were all disappointed coming off the field. We were disappointed in our own performance. We were damn glad to win it. But still having played badly against Wexford and we are not saying that they are a bad team. They are a great team but they didn't let us play to our potential."

"We like to go out and do our best and play well and see a bit of flair in the game. They didn't let us do that and we still came through with a win. We have forgotten about that now and are getting set for the final."

Ciara is still greatly motivated to play for Tipperary and is still very enthusiastic as she faces into her seventh consecutive final.

"Once you get in training with the girls, the whole thing takes over and that's it. You are caught up in it."

"Every day you go out makes it worthwhile. They are a great team and a great bunch of girls to play with and we have great craic and there is great com-

aderie there. The change in management this year has brought a freshness to the set-up with plenty of competition for places and she believes that is has been good for her own game as well.

"It has been a good change for us. All the girls seem to have responded well with the new manage-

ment. There is fighting for positions which is good and your not as complacent that you have been picked before by a manager and you think he is going to pick you again but this time we al started off with a clean slate and you feel like you have earned your place."

"New management sees

different things in different girls and will try out people in different positions and just rejig the whole things and bring new girls onto the panel that maybe had been overlooked before and who maybe are coming of age now. It's a good change," she said, before belatedly joining the rest of the panel for training.

John Pender, Cill Dara

A native of Enfield John moved to live in Kildare fifteen years ago and has contributed richly to Gaelic Games in his adopted county ever since. Apart from refereeing at all levels he served both as County Secretary and County Chairman of the Camogie Board.

John has refereed hundreds of games at all levels, among them the Junior Gael Linn Cup in 1977, Senior League final and Junior all Ireland final 2000. This year he took charge of the All Ireland Junior A Colleges final, the Junior National League final between Cork and Galway and the All Ireland Junior semi-final between Clare and Galway.

The genial Round Towers clubman is looking forward to stepping out in Croke Park today to referee the senior final "It is a great honour to take charge of an All Ireland final. I want to make sure that the players have every opportunity to show their skill within the rules and to have a good game myself as well".



Deirdre Hughes is aiming to be the sixth Tipperary captain to take home the O'Duffy Cup since 1999.

Lifting O'Duffy Cup would be just reward for Deirdre

SHE HAS terrorised defences throughout the country for years, plundering goals and points with little mercy, and is a shining example of all that's good about this Tipperary camogie team. So it's appropriate that Deirdre Hughes should be captain as Tipp make an attempt on a sixth All-Ireland title in seven years.

While it's her first time leading the side into a senior final, the flame-haired full-forward has been here before - as captain when Tipperary won the All-Ireland intermediate championship back in 1997, the win which paved the way for promotion to senior ranks and all the success of the subsequent years.

Panelists may have come and gone but the core of the team has remained in place during the intervening period, players such as Deirdre Hughes who are always on hand to dispense the wisdom of their considerable experience.

She's done it all on the field at this stage, and her talents and performances have brought her the unique honour of being the only current player named on the camogie *Team of the Century* last year, but Deirdre remains as keen as ever to win.

"You have to just keep plugging away, working and working and working", she says. "Once you get to Croke Park, if that doesn't motivate you nothing will."

When it comes to a team such as Tipperary, which has won so much silverware over the last few years, the question that is uppermost in the minds of outsiders is how they keep coming back for more, how the thirst for glory hasn't been quenched by now.

The answer from the players, including their captain, is that each year is different, each season brings a new challenge. Meanwhile, with the talent coming through to the senior panel, none of the experienced players can afford to sit back, take it easy and go through the motions.

"Competition for places is big", the Toomevara attacker points out. "There's a couple there pushing the whole time. It's a hard team to break into, but it always has to happen sooner or later. We'd two new players last year and there's one or two more again this year ready to come in. It's up to himself [the manager] and the selectors what to do. It's great though, because training is very competitive."

As they did last year, Wexford gave Tipperary a testing challenge at the semi-final stage after Tipp had come through the easier of the round-robin groups. Tipp led comfortably at half-time, 1-10 to 1-1, but only scored three more points and were dragged into a battle by a determined and young team from the banks of the Slaney.

However, a tough game may have been just what the team needed in advance of the final. "It would have to stand to us. There's areas there you'd have to be worried about but we're just hoping it will come right."



Up for the Cup: Deirdre Hughes, Tipperary, left, and Elaine Burke, Cork, with the O'Duffy Cup, at a captains' day in advance of the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final between Tipperary and Cork to be played on Sunday at Croke Park, Dublin.

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear faoi urraíocht ag Foras na Gaeilge

3.15 i.n. Tiobraid Árann v Corcaigh

An Réiteoir:

Seán Ó Piondair,

Cill Dara

John Pender,

Kildare



Left to right: Deirdre Hughes, Ciara Gaynor, Una O'Dwyer and Jovita Delaney.



Claire Grogan in action against Limerick at Semple Stadium. Pic: Bridget Delaney.



Newcomers to the panel are Mary Ryan (Moneygall) and L...

Limerick boss backs the Rebels

By PJ AHERN

Limerick viewpoint

CORK will win the Foras na Gaelige All-Ireland Camogie final on Sunday.

That is the opinion of Limerick senior camogie manager, Ger Hegarty whose side was hammered by Cork, 5-17 to 0-5 in the Foras na Gaelige All-Ireland semi-final.

Hegarty said, "Cork are on a mission this year.

"They will be very difficult to beat.

"They have a few quick inside forward line. Fiona O'Driscoll has done a fabulous job training the side."

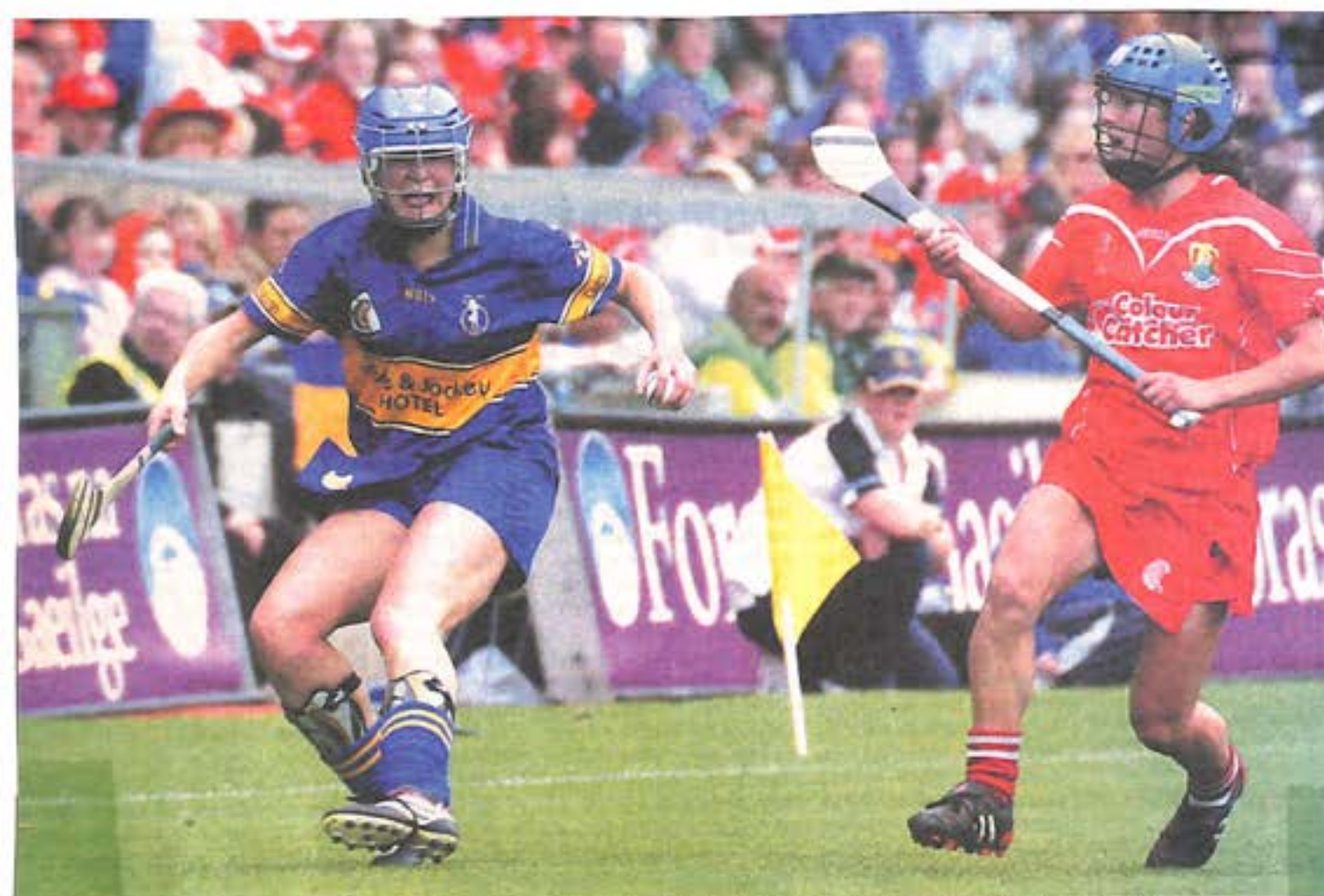
He does, however, feel the ease in which Cork defeated Limerick could be detrimental to the Rebel County in the final.

"The semi-final between Cork and Limerick was a non-event. They will have learned nothing. While on the other hand, Tipperary are coming into the final on the back of a very tough game against Wexford."

Ger Hegarty is in no doubt about where the game will be decided.

"If Cork are to win they must neutralise the Tipperary half-back line.

"The half-back line is the launching pad for Tipp's attacks and if Cork can silence them then they will be on their way."



Angie McDermott in action in last year's All-Ireland final against the same opposition. Pic: Bridget Delaney.

Tipp legend Hughes hints at retirement after final

Cliona Foley

BRILLIANT Tipperary camogie star Deirdre Hughes has hinted that Sunday's All-Ireland final may well be her last.

"If I can see this one out and come away with another victory I'd be delighted. I reckon this could be the last one for me," said the 31-year-old

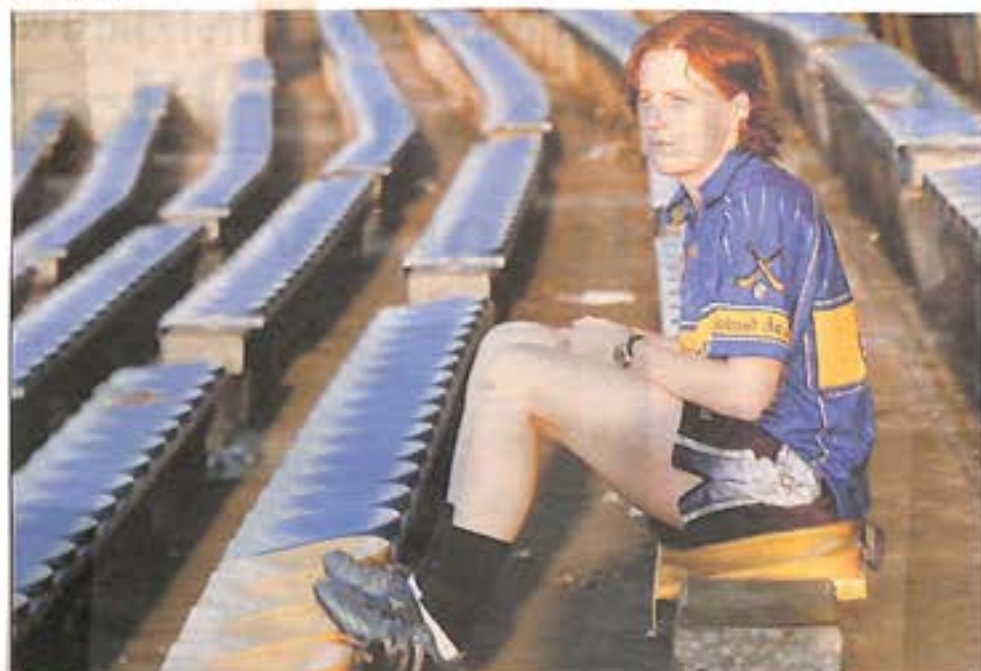
sports shop sales assistant who already has won five All-Ireland senior medals during a glittering inter-county career that has spanned 16 years.

"I've have a bad back problem for the last few years. I also get a lot of problems with the hamstrings, so it is getting tough at this stage," said the Toomevara ace who is

the only player still playing to be selected on camogie's 'Team of the Millennium'.

Remarkably, the lethal full-forward has yet to score in this summer's championship.

"I haven't been going great all summer," she admitted. It's probably because I'm another year older and there's a lot of mileage on the clock."



Deirdre Hughes believes Sunday's All-Ireland final may well be her last. Picture: Matt Brown

ANOTHER THREE-IN-A-ROW THE HUGE PRIZE FOR TIPPERARY



Goalscorer in the All-Ireland semi-final against Wexford, Eimear McDonnell.



Star Tipperary forward, Claire Grogan.

IT'S A ROAD they've travelled many times in recent years, but there's no shortage of anticipation nonetheless this weekend for Tipperary's camogie stars as they head to Croke Park once more for another All-Ireland senior final against Cork.

From 1999 to 2001 Tipperary ruled the roost on the camogie scene with three All-Ireland titles in a row and then they had their run interrupted by great rivals Cork in 2002. However, they bounced back with two more titles in 2003 and 2004 and are now attempting their second hat-trick in seven years, a monumental feat in anyone's language.

The previous successes have come under the management of Michael Cleary, and then Raymie Ryan, but this year there's a new boss in charge, Paddy McCormack of Thurles Sarsfields who had some great days out with the Tipp minor hurlers in former times.

While the management may have changed, there's a great sense of continuity about the team with many faces still present from the team which made the senior breakthrough in 1999. Such as team captain Deirdre Hughes and other stalwarts like Jovita Delaney, Una O'Dwyer, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Eimear

McDonnell, Therese Brophy, and Angie McDermott, to name but a few.

It's their seventh final in succession, with Cork once again the opposition, and Tipp earned their place thanks to a hard-fought win over Wexford at the semi-final stage. This was after they came through a round-robin group containing Limerick, who were themselves slaughtered by Cork last time round in the semis, and Kilkenny who have faded somewhat since the years when they dominated camogie.

Two wins in the group set up that meeting with Wexford which they seemed to be on their way to winning comfortably, with a nine-point lead at the break, before Wexford inched their way back into contention. In the end, Tipp came through with a 1-13 to 1-8 win as Eimear McDonnell notched up 1-2, Claire Grogan scored 0-8 and Joanne Ryan, Jill Horan and Sheena Howard added a point each.

In the long run, that second half near-collapse was probably just the tonic Tipp needed as it reminded them that they need to stay focussed for the entire 60 minutes, and will have to against Cork. Last year it was a similar story, when Wexford went within a score of knocking Tipperary out

of the All-Ireland.

"Wexford were very well prepared", says Paddy McCormack of this year's semi-final. "We started better and got the lead but they owned the second half. We managed to end up winners and last year it was the same. It was a tough game. If they stick together, Wexford will make it. Camogie needs teams like Wexford coming through, but we hope not at the expense of Tipp at the moment!"

Paddy believes that Cork will have benefitted from tougher matches in the qualifying group, against Wexford and Galway - and that they'll have been doing much hard work in the last few weeks to prepare for this crunch match on Sunday.

"Tipp and Cork would know each other well over the years", he says, "and the players probably know each other better than anyone. They played in the last three Munster finals and the last four All-Irelands, Cork would have seen us a lot and we would have seen them a lot. It will come down to what happens on the day, both teams will have prepared well."

Over the last few years there's been precious little between the counties on All-Ireland final day and while Tipp have held the upper hand in their last two

September meetings, Cork will remember the final of 2002 when they interrupted a long period of Tipp domination, and will not be afraid of their opponents when throw-in time looms on Sunday.

Indeed, they will be out to set the record straight, as they see it, and will not be keen to lose three finals in a row.

Meanwhile, Tipperary have shown in the last couple of years that they have no problem getting into the right frame of mind, despite all of the success they've had by now, and will be as keen as ever for victory and to give Deirdre Hughes the chance to parade the O'Duffy Cup around Toomevara.

"Once you're winning, the hunger will always be there", as Paddy McCormack puts it. "It will be a great occasion for everyone, for the players and for their clubs."

This superb Tipperary team has little left to prove to anyone after all of their achievements over the last few years, but that won't stop them performing to their utmost yet again in Croke Park. If they do that, another three-in-a-row should be on the cards.

Preview: Conor Kane

Pictures: John D. Kelly

Goal machine Eimear can unlock Cork defence

WHEN IT COMES to the big matches, Tipperary can usually rely on corner-forward Eimear McDonnell to weigh in with some vital scores.

She did it two years ago in the All-Ireland final with a classic goal, and another example of her ability to find the net came just four weeks ago in the semi-final against Wexford when she made little of the defence and blasted home in the first minute to give her team the perfect start.

Her contribution remains huge, her passion remains undimmed. So is the will to win still there in the Tipp ranks as much as it was back in 1999? "Without a doubt", she replies firmly. "It's a different game every year, there are always different incidents and the team is different. None of the matches are any less special than the rest."

And she points out that all involved want to make the most of their time at the top of the game. "We're not around forever and we want to win as much as we can."

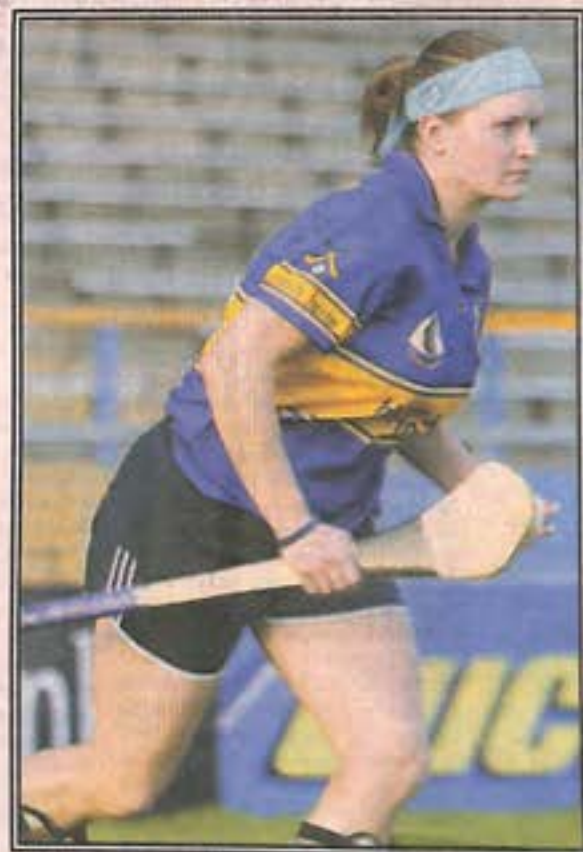
Meanwhile, the sight of the red jersey of Cork will always be enough to bring out the best in any Tipp team, so there is no shortage of motivational factors for Eimear and her colleagues as they count

down the time until the throw-in at Croke Park. "Cork are always different too", she adds. "You can never predict what they're going to do."

Training has been as hard and as intense as ever under Paddy McCormack and his team of selectors, according to Eimear, but she admits that, no matter how well-prepared they are, "you always need that bit of luck when you play in Croke Park, especially against a team as good as Cork".

Wexford, who produced a second half fightback in the All-Ireland semi-final to really put it up to Tipp, are "an up and coming team", says Eimear McDonnell, but the extra experience which the champions have gained in recent years helped to pull them through.

Sunday will be the corner-forward's seventh All-Ireland senior final in a row, with victory coming in all but one of the deciders so far. It's a tribute to the determination and dedication of players such as Eimear that they can stay at the top for so long. "It's certainly kept us busy!", she says with a laugh. "I won't know what to do with my time when it's over. Being a part of a team is brilliant and especially this team, because it's something special."



Tipperary panellist Emily Hayden in training last week.

Cork face Tipp again



TIPPERARY and Cork meet in the All-Ireland senior camogie final on September 18, a repeat of last year's decider, after they posted semi-final wins over Wexford and Limerick. Tipperary had the tougher ordeal, with opponents Wexford proving resolute before eventually losing 1-8 to 1-13. Tipp had a goal from Emer McDonnell after just 33 seconds and by half time looked in control, leading by nine points, but their lead was down to a goal with seven minutes left. It could have been worse had Jovita Delaney not made a crucial save to deny Ursula Jacob an equalizing goal. The win kept Tipp on course for a sixth senior ladies' title and saw them qualify for their seventh final in a row. Cork had a much more comfortable passage, crushing Limerick 5-17 to 0-5. Emer Dillon scored Cork's first goal after six minutes and by the interval they were 1-10 to 0-1 clear. Another goal from Dillon on the restart opened the floodgates. In last year's All-Ireland final Tipp beat Cork by eight points. Tipp's Jill Horan is seen here being challenged by Wexford's Claire O'Connor, while Cork's Elaine Burke goes on the attack against Limerick.



Na Réiteoir

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear

1.00 i.n. Áth Cliath v An Clár

An Réiteoir:

Úna Ní Chearnaigh,
Ardmhacha
Úna Kearney,
Armagh



Úna Kearney, Ardmhacha

Úna Kearney of Ballymacnab St.Brendas is back for the second year in a row having refereed the senior final in 2004. Úna has been refereeing for seven years now. Refereeing came rather by accident to Úna. Her good friend Paula asked her one evening to referee a match and so she got the taste for the job. Since then she has taken charge of many inter-county games but can recall with pride and vivid memory her first inter-county game. It was an Ulster U14 Championship final between Derry and Down which the Oak Leaf County won.

Paths to the Finals - Foras na Gaeilge Senior All Ireland Camogie Final

TIPPERARY

Tipperary	vs	Kilkenny
0-13		1-06
Tipperary	vs	Limerick
5-17		0-08
Tipperary	vs	Wexford
1-13		1-08

CORK

Cork	vs	Galway
2-08		0-13
Cork	vs	Wexford
2-16		2-07
Cork	vs	Limerick
5-17		0-05

County	Titles	Years
Cork	20	1934, 1935, 1936, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2002
Tipperary	5	1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004

CRAOBHCHOMÓRTAS FORAS NA GAEILGE PRÍOMH SCÓRAÍ 2005

This years top scorers...

Ainm	Contae	Scór	Iomlán
K Kelly	Wexford	3 - 12	21
J O'Leary	Cork	0 - 19	19
C Grogan	Tipperary	0 - 17	17
L Kavanagh	Galway	0 - 14	14
E McDonnell	Tipperary	2 - 08	14
E Dillon	Cork	2 - 06	12
I Kennedy	Kilkenny	0 - 08	8
E Hayden	Tipperary	2 - 02	8
U Jacob	Wexford	1 - 05	8
S Donovan	Cork	2 - 01	7

Dublin breakthrough

DUBLIN ended a 22-year Croke Park lock-out by qualifying for the All-Ireland junior camogie final with a comprehensive win over Armagh last month. "I am just over the moon" said Dublin manager Peter Lucey. "The girls did everything that was asked of them and I told them at half time that Armagh would not lie down whatsoever and in that manner these players have now turned a new leaf for Dublin camogie".

The Dubs led 1-6 to 0-3 at the break but the margin could have been far greater as they missed two goal opportunities. Armagh were seeking their first All-Ireland appearance since 1993 and started the second half brightly but Dubs' keeper Eimear Butler denied Colette Mc Keever a goal half way through the second period and that seemed to take the wind out of the Ulster team's sails.

Off the Dublin bench came Emer Lucey for her championship debut and she had her first point four minutes later. That started a mini scoring blitz, with Niamh Taylor and Gillian McCloskey firing over three points between them. From there on Dublin could not be stopped.

In the final they face Clare. The Banner ladies overcame Galway 4-12 to 2-8 in the other semi-final at Cusack Park. Clare, who last reached the All-Ireland in 2003, were ahead 1-6 to 0-5 at the break, with their goal coming from top scorer Claire Commame three minutes into injury time.

Catherine O'Loughlin (pictured) was introduced during the match and scored 2-1 before retiring with an old leg injury. But for Galway, the damage had been done. Despite two Molly Dunne goals in the 17th and 27th minute they had left themselves with too much to do.



15 September, 1974
Clare 3-2 Dublin 3-0

A FEAST of fast camogie was served up in Croke Park as the Clare ladies carved a niche for themselves in the annals of camogie in the county. It was a famous first for Clare – a first ever All-Ireland camogie title was brought to the Banner.

Shannon player Mary Dolan had Clare on the All-Ireland road as early as the second minute when she finished a rebound off Dublin keeper Phyllis Breslin to the

net from close range.

A tonic start but it all went wrong after that – Dublin got an equalising goal in the 12th minute through Maura Sutton and early in the second half they found themselves five points adrift.

Cue the great fightback. Mary Mahon soloed 30 yards before passing to Maureen Davoren who finished to the net. Davoren then added a point from a 30 to reduce the gap to a point. Then came the clinching goal in the 20th minute when Mary Griffin booted to the net from close range.

"At the beginning of the year we did not really believe in ourselves, but with every win, more confidence was instilled into the team," said captain Margaret O'Toole afterwards.

Clare: Maureen Kelly, Anne Marie O'Loughlin, Rose Kelleher, Margaret O'Toole, Claire Harrington, Teresa McDonagh, Kitty McNicholas, Maureen Davoren 1-2, Mary Dolan 1-0, Mary Mahon, Pauline Ryan, Eleece Fitzgibbon. Subs – Mary Griffin 1-0 for Ryan, M Saunders for E Fitzgibbon.



15 September, 1986
Clare 1-13 Kildare 3-4

HISTORY was made in this All-Ireland when Sister Kathleen Elliott became the first nun to line out in an All-Ireland final. And, she marked the historic occasion by scoring the first point of this final in Croke Park.

That's where the happy history ended for Kildare though.

Thereafter, the happy history belonged to Clare as another proud chapter was written in the county's camogie annals.

The double act – Clare camogie's very own 'Terrible Twins' took this All-Ireland by the scruff of the neck and ran riot in GAA headquarters. They were Maura McNicholas and Catherine O'Loughlin.

Maura was the captain and scorer-in-chief with 1-7 over the hour, while O'Loughlin was

the young starlet from Kilnamona who burst on the national stage by scoring six great points from play.

Clare had only one survivor from the 1981 All-Ireland victory in Carmel Wall, but inexperience was no obstacle to them on final day. They led by 0-8 to 1-3 at half-time.

The sides were level midway through the second half, but then McNicholas struck for the decisive goal. When McNicholas crowned a great day by scoring four more points and Clare's third All-Ireland title was secured in decisive fashion.

Clare – Pauline O'Brien, Helen Cusack, Patricia Ryan, Noeleen Quinn, Siobhán Reidy, Patricia Rynne, Sheila O'Halloran, Carmel Wall, Catherine O'Loughlin 0-6, Maura McNicholas 1-7 Capt., Catherine Molloy, Noelle Comyns. Subs – Claire Bracken for Comyns.

13 September, 1981
Clare 3-2 Antrim 0-7

A REAL classic of the camogie kind in Croke Park as Clare maintained their 100 per cent record at All-Ireland final level when they edged out a brave Antrim side by four points.

It was the goal-den touch of the Clare girls in front of the sticks that won the day and this touch was evident from as early as the 10th second when the net at the Canal End rippled for the first time.

From the throw in Veronica Casey won possession and shot goalwards to Lourda Fox who crashed home a great goal from six yards. Fox found the net for the second time in the 10th minute while the hat-trick of first half goals was secured when Martina Beegan found the net.

Clare led by six and were on the road to victory, albeit that it proved to be rocky road in the second half. Antrim started chipping away at Clare's lead and with 15 minutes remaining the gap was down to two.

It was as close as Antrim fought back but Clare rallied with points by Lourda Fox from a 30 and Rosemary Fahy from play edged Clare home by four points. "This All-Ireland is what we trained for," said Clare captain Claire Jones afterwards. She later won senior All-Ireland with Kilkenny.

Clare – Mary Carey, Caroline O'Meara, Josie Connellan, Mary Howard, Carmel Moroney, Veronica Casey, Carmel Wall, Claire Jones, Lourda Fox 2-1, Collette Keating, Martina Beegan 1-0, Rosemary Fahy 0-1.

All-Ireland Camogie Fi



Claire McMahon
Kilmaley



Edel Keating
Corofin



Siobhan White
Kilmaley



Elaine Gallery
Wolfe Tones



Caitriona Naughton
Feakle



Aimee McInerney
Newmarket-on-Fergus



Caitriona McMahon
Newmarket-on-Fergus



Marie O'Looney
Newmarket-on-Fergus



Denise Lynch
Kilmaley



Claire Commans
Corofin



Deirdre Corcoran
Celbridge



Deirdre Murphy
Davitts



Siobhan Lafferty
Kilnamona



Marie Whelan
Clarecastle



Louise Hayes
Bodys



Brid McNamara
Secretary



Francie Mahon
Trainer



Seamus O'Sullivan
PRO

and Junior nal Special



Cathy Hally
Wolfe Tones



Moria McMahon
Newmarket-on-Fergus



Catherine O'Loughlin
Kilnamona



Laura Linsane
Wolfe Tones



Claire Arthur
Newmarket-on-Fergus



Jane O'Leary
Newmarket-on-Fergus



Aine O'Brien
Scariff



Erica Minogue
Whitegate



Jane Scanlan
Clarecastle



Rachel Lynch
Clooney



Marie O'Halloran
Kilnamona



Fiona Lafferty
Kilnamona



Michael O'Halloran
Treasurer



Orla Hayes
Chairperson



Maura Sheedy
Vice-chairperson



Helen Murphy
Trainer



Mary Hogan
Registrar



Michael Maher
Trainer



Queen of Camogie

Kitty McNicholas has been at the core of Clare's All-Ireland junior successes – she never knew defeat in her three trips to Croke Park writes Joe Ó Muircheartaigh.

MASS is over and adults and children have left in peace – soon afterwards the crowd gathers in a field in Killchreest. Boys and girls of various ages are hurling away to their hearts content.

This was Kitty McNicholas' staple diet as a child, camogie was her game and she couldn't get enough of it in Killchreest and at school in Kinvara. Then she left camogie behind as she went nursing.

But, the game meant too much to let it go altogether.

A move to Ennis in 1973 returned her to a melting pot of camogie. It was all she ever wanted and soon she couldn't get enough of the game.

It was a melting pot because of the thriving Éire Óg club which was formed by Michael Brennan in 1968 – it represented a new beginning for Clare camogie and put the county on the All-Ireland road.

"I came to Clare in '73 and at that stage they had won nothing at all at county level. There was nothing else in those days only camogie – that was the only sporting outlet that we had. It was also a social thing," recalls Kitty.

A social game, but always a serious game for Kitty and her fellow band of sisters.

They were out to enjoy themselves on the field, but they were also out to win – something that a Clare camogie team had never

done. A hard road, but an enjoyable road.

"We were training three nights a week in the Fairgreen – we began to win matches and gained confidence.

"Anytime we went out, we went out to win. We gelled into a very good team – physically we were very strong and were a very determined bunch.

"We got into Cusack Park one evening to train to give us some idea of what it might be like in Croke Park. It was a daunting experience going out onto the field in the final. I remember coming out on field for the second half and my legs nearly buckled under me, but I just got on with it."

There was a huge Clare crowd in Croke Park that day – a special train carried supporters from Ennis. The crowd was bigger when they landed back there with the All-Ireland trophy.

"We went to Shannon first," recalls Kitty. "We all got into a big truck and were brought into the town which was packed. We crawled through Newmarket, the crowd was so big while when we came up Parnell Street in Ennis the crowd in the Square was huge."

Clare camogie had its day in the sun, winning a first All-Ireland of any description for the county since the 1929 minor football title and coming 60 years after the county's maiden success in the senior hurling cham-

pionship.

And, Kitty was determined to ensure that the wait for All-Ireland glory would never be as long again. "In '74 I went on to all the primary schools to get teams going, but by 1981 things had fallen away a lot. There was a big meeting called and I was asked to take over the board.

"I could never see defeat in anything – that's my personality. I remember the last training session we had in '81 and what I said: 'I don't anyone of you to win; I just want you to beat your direct opponent. Then we will win'.

"I'd take them to the Gaiety the night before and give them the pep talk on the coach on the way back to the hotel. You have to have everything right in the head before you get to Croke Park."

Clare got it right in '81 and again in '86 when Kitty was again at the helm – this time the mascot from 1974 was the team's star turn. Kitty's daughter Maura was captain and top scorer.

"It was fantastic – Maura was a special player. Once she had a ball there was only going to be one result. I heard men say that she could do things with a sliotar that men couldn't do. She scored 8-74 in six matches."

It was the McNicholas' greatest day, to go with the great days that had gone before.

Lucy Hawkes Valley Rovers

Student

A member of the Cork junior team that took All-Ireland honours last year, she is also the holder of an All Ireland minors medal.



She has won Munster Colleges honours at senior and junior level as well as Munster intermediate, junior U18 and minor and won a senior county championship medal with divisional side Carrigdhoun and a junior county championship medal with her club, Valley Rovers in 2004.

Linda O'Connell St Finbarrs

Accountant

Linda holds Ashbourne Cup medals with UCC as well as senior, junior and intermediate All-Ireland medals, in her fourth season on the senior panel.



Holds Senior B county championship honours as well as Munster senior and intermediate championship with Cork.

Roy Keane is her favourite sportsperson.

Ciara Healy Bishopstown

Student UCC

Holds minor, junior, and intermediate honours with Cork. Ciara is also the holder of national league and Inter provincial honours as well as Ashbourne cup.



Represented Cork in all Ireland Feile Na Gael skills competition in 1995 and is the holder of four senior county championship medals with the club.

Came to the fore as a young player in Sciath na Scoil competitions.

All-Ireland Senior Camogie final: Cork v



Linda Mellerick

ITS' Cork and Tipperary for the fourth year in a row in this year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie final.

Other counties are just too far behind these two when push comes to shove and both teams deserve their place in the sun on Sunday.

Cork need to win this title. To lose three years in a row would be a major blow and we need to stop Tipp in their bid for three in a row.

Cork have swapped and changed much of the team during their league and championship campaigns trying to find the winning formula. One or two positions were always up for grabs and the starting 15 for this year's final are the correct choice.

Joanne O'Callaghan, a regular right corner back for the past number of years, has lost out due mainly to a recurring knee injury which prevented her from reaching peak fitness throughout the season.

Last year's left half-back, Rena Buckley moves back into the corner and will have her hands full with the Emer McDonnell.

Buckley is a tough defender and quick off the mark. She will need to attack the ball and prevent McDonnell from gathering possession.

Rosarie Holland switches to full back from the left corner back position she held last year and she is best suited to this role. A tight, no frills player who quietly does the business, her battle with Deirdre Hughes is vital.

Hughes does little running. She holds the full forward position better than most. Showing incredible patience she may do little or nothing for the majority of a game but one chance is all she needs and goal is the only thing on her mind.

Final debutant Amanda O'Regan is a strong hurler. Her long clearances are a joy and much needed.

O'Regan will clear it 50 or 60 yards and this is what Cork need on Sunday, to take the pressure off and put us on immediate attack.

Amanda faces one of the fastest players in the game in Jill Horan, Tipp's left corner forward. Not one to score a huge amount, she splits the defence and creates openings for her team mates.

Like McDonnell, she loves to round her opponent and head for goal. The supply coming in to Horan will be low and fast.

O'Regan won't have the turn of pace to catch Horan once rounded and so needs to be one step ahead in reading the game.

Breige Corkery has thrived this year. Her insistence on soloing the length of the field has been replaced by a player who looks up, finds a team-mate and strikes the ball.

Her greatest assets are her speed



Cork captain Elaine Burke is hoping to lead her side to victory on Sunday.

Cork girls aiming to be best of the best Leesiders go into decider

and stamina. She will run all day long and thoroughly deserves to start this year's final. Clare Grogan is her direct opponent.

A tall, accurate player she scored eight points in last year's final with seven coming from frees. The refereeing in recent years in the final has been appalling. Stop/starting the game for niggling incidents is killing what could be a fast open lively encounter.

Last year's refereeing kept Tipp in the game at a time when Cork were dominating. Cork will need to be aware of this and the likelihood of it happening again.

Mary O'Connor is Cork's lynchpin at centre back and will need to show leadership for the entire game. She can inspire her team with brilliant catches and clearances and needs to grab this

game by the collar.

Flanking her on her left is another final debutant Anna Geary. A versatile player Geary seems to be comfortable facing the ball.

Not yet strongly tested in this year's campaign, expect her to have better hurling than Noelle Kennedy, a player who has struggled with Tipp for a number of years and surviving.

Geary will need to make intelligent use of her possession.

Vivienne Harris and Rachel Moloney hold their now regular centre field positions although Moloney started last year's final at right half forward.

Cork had the upper hand in midfield in the first 20 minutes 12 months ago but ran out of steam. Philly Fogarty loves to run into the open space and is capable of picking off points.

Cork's centre-field

Gemma O'Connor is a key player for Cork.

players do not score regularly and should. Harris in particular should be picking off the odd point and when it happens it breaks the opposition's heart.

Angie McDermott, Tipp's second centre fielder is not a huge force in the Tipp team and Cork need to capitalise here. Both Harris and Moloney need to work hard for the entire hour.

Una O'Donoghue starts at right half forward. She will have it tough against Tipp's most unsung hero Therese Brophy. A high ball in will suit Brophy and crucify O'Donoghue. Intelligent ball has to be sent in. O'Donoghue can lack confidence if things start slowly for her.

With oceans of ability a point or two on the board early on should settle her. Corner forward is an option for a player who can find the net.

Clara Gaynor is without doubt Tipperary's driving force. Her pivotal centre back position has been the launch pad for so many attacks. Gaynor doesn't do a huge pile of running but can be seen to reach her



Tipperary, Croke Park, Sunday 3.30pm



Rena Buckley will have her hands full with Tipperary's Emer McDonnell.

with Tipperary in confident mood

wings and cut off players coming through. Cork's Gemma O'Connor is tasked with minimising Gaynor's influence. O'Connor is a match winner too and shouldn't become too obsessed with Gaynor.

Should she concentrate on her own game, it is Gaynor who will have the battle. Again, high balls sent into the central position will be a gift to Gaynor and must not happen.

Jennifer O'Leary at left half forward can be Cork's star player on the day. Sinead Nealon won the war last year and O'Leary is eager for revenge.

Possessing great speed, O'Leary needs to play a little more direct hurling. She can score from 50 yards and needs to seize the opportunities when they come her way. Nealon is a hard defender and won't hold back.

Cork's full forward line looks strong. Emer Dillon, Stephanie Dunlea and captain, Elaine Burke fill the right corner, full and left corner positions respectively.

Dillon looks to be enjoying her hurling at the moment. Eager and sharp

she really has the ability to win this game. Suzanne Kelly is a tidy corner back but Dillon should come out on top.

Dillon can get frustrated and annoyed when things go wrong. She needs to work extremely hard for the full 60 minutes, put mistakes behind her and capitalise on her strength and vision.

Stephanie Dunlea has been Cork's surprise addition to a forward line not known for its ability to get goals. After last year's final it was obvious to all that Cork had little physical strength up front. In a brave, bold move the Cork mentors switched Dunlea from her customary full back position to full forward and so far the move has proved masterful.

Dunlea will get goals and her body strength is most certainly needed against last year's player of the year Una O'Dwyer.

Provided Dunlea gets the supply, she will do damage. This could prove the battle of the day.

Burke takes up the last position on the field. Not one to score regularly, you'll hardly meet a player who works harder.

Julie Kirwan won't clear easily and this is vitally important from a Cork point of view. Elaine is capable of getting the upper hand here and must think of scoring with every chance. Second option will be to find a player in a better position.

Cork's forward line did not do the business 12 months ago. They dominated the first 20 minutes of

the game with little return.

Against a defence that grew stronger as the game went on Cork's confidence dropped when the scores weren't coming.

Against the run of play Tipp went in 1-6 to four points up at half-time and despite the fact that Tipp were on top in the second half, it was the first 30 minutes which signalled Cork's downfall.

After 47 minutes Cork had taken seven chances out of 16. Tipp had taken 10 out of 16. The statistic shows that the teams were evenly matched. But Tipperary were better at scoring and scoring goals at that.

Cork are scoring more freely this year. Confidence and self belief will be a huge factor on the day. Unlike last year Cork cannot drop their heads if Tipp take a lead.

Cork need leaders on the day and players must take on the responsibility of this.

Confidence seems to be high in the Cork camp. Cork need to and can win this All-Ireland.



Elaine Burke can get the better of her marker.

Jennifer Browne Ballygarvan

Pharmacy Student
UCC

Jennifer played corner back on the All Ireland winning Junior team last year.

She is also the holder of provincial honours at intermediate, junior and U18 grades, as well as junior national league.

Browne won a senior county championship with the Carrigdhoun divisional side in 2004 and had fresher and seven-a-side honours with UCC with whom she played in this year's Ashbourne Cup.



Sarah O'Donovan Ballygarvan

Student UCC

Lined out at centre forward last season on the winning Cork Junior side, she holds All

Ireland minor and junior honours as well as provincial medals in minor, junior and intermediate.

Won a senior county championship medal in 2004 with Carrigdhoun and has also played international ladies soccer at U19 level.



Colette Desmond Newcestown

Student UCC

The holder of all Ireland Senior Intermediate and minor honours.

The winner of an U16 county championship medal, Munster honours at minor, junior and intermediate are also amongst her collection of honours.



All-Ireland Senior Camogie

Viv still

Harris on the brink of fifth All-Ireland win

TIMES have changed for Vivienne Harris.

While before she was the baby of the team, going to training in her school uniform, a mere slip of a 16-year-old girl, now she is one of the oldest and most experienced campaigners on the Cork camogie team.

Eleven years of senior inter-county service will do that to a player but it is still with a small touch of incredulity that Vivienne has come to the realisation that she now fills the role of 'senior' player.

Times have changed in Cork camogie and at the ridiculously young age of 26 years, (apparently very nearly 27!) Vivienne is the third oldest on the Cork team.

This is somewhat bizarre for the St Finbarr's player. After all, when she entered the world of senior inter-county camogie she was surrounded by a glittering array of stars. Back then the players really were experienced campaigners and all had All-Ireland medals spilling out of their pockets.

When Vivienne started she only had to turn and she bumped into a star of the camogie world. Sandy Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick, Therese O'Callaghan - all household names to anyone with an interest in camogie.

At 26 you would expect that Vivienne would be one of the younger generation, not one of the more experienced and oldest.

"When you say I'm still a baby I don't feel that way. I feel like an old fogey at this stage because I'm actually the third oldest on the team."

"When I first joined the senior panel I was the youngest. Now I'm third in line and there's a big gap between me and the next player," said Vivienne somewhat wistfully.

When first meeting Vivienne it's hard to actually understand how she survives in the world of senior camogie.

The sport is officially a non-contact one but that's the same as calling basketball non-contact. It's all relative.

Camogie is tough and at senior inter county level is not for the faint hearted.

At no more than a little over five feet and very slim in build it's hard to see how she survives and has survived for so long.

"I'm tough out."

"I suppose it's the fact that camogie is supposed to be a non-contact sport, so speed and skill will get you through the tough games but at the same time while they say it's non contact I come out after every game and I'm battered and bruised so I'd love to see that rule changed."

"I think that if they allowed the shoulder and stuff that it'd be more competitive."



Rosarie Holland is focussed on the task ahead.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare



NOBODY deserves an All-Ireland camogie medal as much as Rosarie Holland.

For the past 12 months, she has been practically living on a train as she commuted between Dublin and Cork for training and matches.

"Up until two weeks ago, I was working in the Royal Bank of Scotland in Dublin and that means I was up and down to training. It is very hard commuting between Cork and Dublin."

"I had to come down every weekend and sometimes down midweek as well for matches and training."

She says she found it very tough to keep motivated, particularly after losing the All-Ireland final last year and the Munster final and the league final this year.

"It's hard especially after doing a lot of travelling and I was practically living and sleeping on a train. But putting in so much will help me appreciate it that much more if we do win."

The sacrifices that a camogie player has to make are often dismissed by some and Holland says friends in particular found it hard to understand why she has to be so committed.

"We have training at least three times a week and maybe have a match as well. We don't have much of a social life, we have to watch ourselves during the season and take it easy at social outings. There is a lot of

Holland has right train of thought



Rosarie Holland, left, in action for Barryroe during a senior championship match with Milford's Regina Curtin.

things you can't do because of commitments."

She continues, "At the start my friends didn't get why I couldn't somewhere and things but now they understand how much camogie and Sunday means to me."

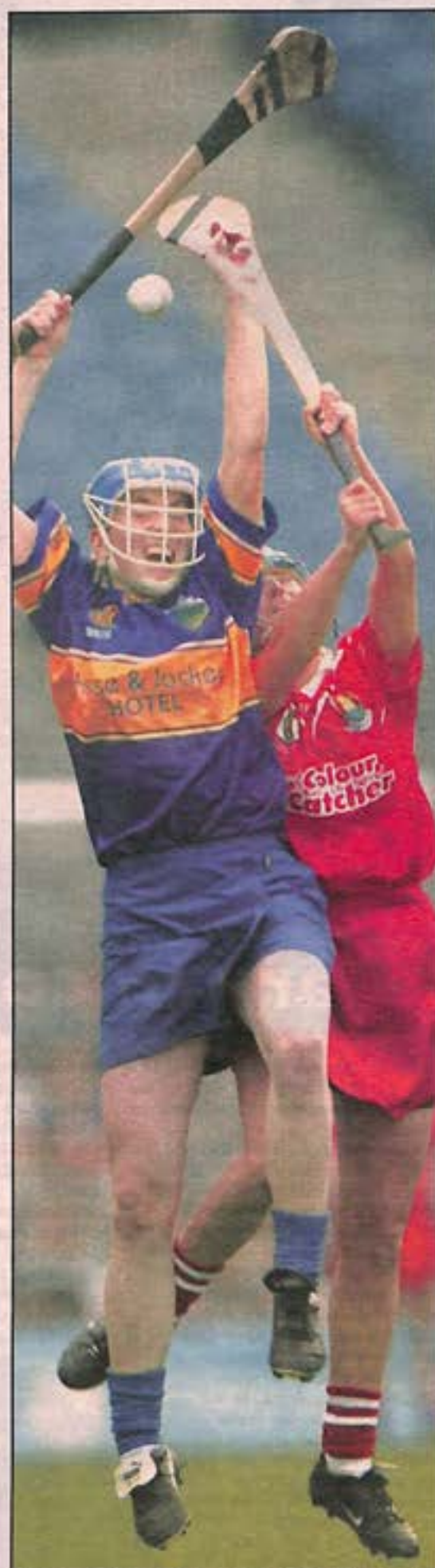
After the final, Holland is planning to take a short break away from camogie as she is heading to Australia for some well earned rest and relaxation.

Looking ahead to the clash with Tipperary, she feels that Cork are a much stronger side than

last year and have plenty of motivation to perform on Sunday.

"It's a huge honour for me to play in the final. The team and I don't need anymore motivation than an All-Ireland final itself. The fact we lost last year and that it is Tipperary again will egg us on even more."

Rosarie Holland has been an influential figure for her club, Barryroe and she aided them to victory in the Senior A championship over Aghabullogue before they disappointingly bowed to Milford.



Vivienne Harris of Cork and Tipp's Philly Fogarty in action during the 2003 All-Ireland final which the Premier County won.

Picture: Inpho

final: Cork v Tipperary, Sun 3.30pm

has hunger



Cork star Vivienne Harris, now considered a veteran of the team, is bidding for her fifth All-Ireland senior camogie medal.



Conor George

The competitive streak in Vivienne shines through like a bright neon sign. Not for her this belief that competing is all that counts. She's more driven than that.

She wants to be the best, wants to succeed and, more desperately than anything else, wants to add to her haul of four All-Ireland medals. It's not that she doesn't appreciate how lucky she is to have four, it's just that the players on the Tipperary team Cork face on Sunday have more.

That doesn't sit right with Vivienne.

"I had three All-Ireland medals (1995, 97, 98) and Tipp had nothing. Now they have five and I have four."

"I remember Tipp from when I first started playing senior and we were always on top. They had the same team for a number of years and year after year you could see them getting better."

"We were winning but the margin was getting less and less every year and they've now won five out of the last six All-Irelands (Cork beat them in 2002)."

"That's fantastic and they are a great team but they've stayed together, all those players, which makes them formid-

able opposition."

There is very little doubt but that Tipperary will be the favourites for Sunday's encounter but be that as it may, Cork are not just traveling to Dublin to make up the numbers.

"It will be tough but we're not there just to make up the numbers. We will go in as underdogs but we feel that things are coming right for us."

"We didn't play well in the last two finals. Last year we had 20 minutes in the first half and had all the possession but we just couldn't get the scores and went in at half time losing by two points."

"That won't happen to us this year, I'm sure. After a disastrous start to the year things are going very well."

"We beat Galway by a point and went on to play Wexford and it was really in that game that, as team, we began to gel."

"Then we went out against Limerick and while they weren't the best opponents ever it helped build our confidence up."

"We took scores whereas before players would have been passing the ball and giving someone else the responsibility but in this game players began to take up that responsibility themselves and take their scores."

"There is a buzz there now. You could see that after beating Limerick. The confidence is high."

It is clearly obvious that this game means an awful lot to Vivienne. She has four, wants a fifth and woe befall anyone who stands in her way.

"Absolutely I want a fifth medal. You need only look to the likes of Linda (Mellierick) and Sandy (Fitzgibbon), former team-mates of mine and they have All-Ireland medals spilling out of their pockets."

"I was 16 when I won my first All-Ireland and while I was happy I really didn't appreciate what it was."

"It was only the following year in 1996 when we lost and I was devastated, that I realised who precious a final win was. I couldn't believe it. I will never forget it. I remember my dad at one stage having to tell me to cop on and snap out of it — that there was always next year."

"We were 10 points up at half-time and still lost. That haunts me still."

"Then when we won in 1997 it was unbelievable. That final and the one in 2002 are the two finals that stand out for me."

"Two thousand and two was special because we had such a long wait between titles and 1997 after losing in 96."

Vivienne wants another medal on Sunday, obviously, but a Cork victory might be bittersweet for camogie followers as it could herald the end of a glittering career for the 26-year-old.

After 11 years of inter-county service to Cork she is considering calling a halt to her exploits. Nothing, she is keen to stress, is set in stone but she is learning that there is life out side camogie.

Either way a win and a fifth All-Ireland medal might just do the trick of persuading her that the extra effort to go for a sixth next year might just be worth it.

Business first, though.



Rachel Moloney is determined to stop a Tipperary three-in-a-row. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Rachel in no mood for final failure

By PJ AHERN

Cork camp latest

BALLINSPIITLLE is renowned worldwide for its apparitions and local girl, Rachel Moloney is aiming to haunt the Tipperary back-line in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland camogie final on Sunday. Time and again, she has produced magnificent individual performances for both her club, Courcsey Rovers and Cork and Moloney is ready to intervene and leave the Premier County's three-in-a-row aspirations in tatters.

Speaking to the *Evening Echo* in Pairc Uí Chaoimh, Moloney feels Cork are ready and prepared for whatever is thrown at them during the course of the hour in Croke Park.

She said, "Earlier this year, when we lost to Tipperary in the Munster final, people at the match said we were headless and we didn't know what we were doing. "But since we'd known we would be playing Tipp in the final, we have adopted a gameplan, which is specific to counteracting theirs."

The Cork star continued, "Fiona O'Driscoll, our selector, have put in an awful lot of effort looking at videos seeing where we can take a part their weaknesses, which is what you need to do in the game today."

Tipperary have been the dominant force of camogie in recent times and Rachel thinks that they might be slightly complacent ahead of the decider.

She also warns that if Tipp do show complacency, they will be in for a rude awakening.

"They have won the six out of seven All-Ireland and Tipp are a fantastic team and no one

can ever deny that but it is very hard to keep up that level of intensity."

"A lot of them have been playing on the team since '99 and there are very few newcomers coming up."

"There could be a little complacency but if there is we can exploit that and catch them on the hop."

The last time Cork brought the O'Duffy Cup home was in 2002 and before that in 1998 and Moloney insists that victory is a must for the county on Sunday.

"The sport is crying out for fresh blood and Cork camogie needs this win."

"If we win on Sunday it would do a lot for camogie in Cork and to bring up the profile of camogie across the board."

Since losing to Tipp in last year's final, Moloney and the rest of the Cork squad have stepped up their training to end their opponents' stranglehold.

She feels the fear of losing and the prospect of playing in a last final will spur her and Cork on.

"Every year winning the All-Ireland final means a whole lot."

"We have put in such a huge effort this year and I suppose the more you lose, the more important finals become to you because it might be your last chance at winning one."

"As you are getting older you realise that things are harder to come by."

"Playing on Sunday in the All-Ireland camogie final means that I have achieved what I spent my my whole year aspiring to."



**Eamonn
Murphy**

COMPARING the Cork and Tipperary teams coming into this weekend's crunch All-Ireland final, there is one striking comparison.

The sheer experience and medal haul of the Tipp powerhouse. Since Tipperary bounced back from a defeat to Galway in '98 to win their first title in '99, they've annexed four more titles, only halted by the Rebels in '02. From that historic first win, the bulk of their side remains — a staggering 13 of the '99 team are still in place.

The Rebel women have a younger age profile but are still bristling with experience and medals, chiefly through success at minor and junior grades. Both Jennifer O'Leary and Amanda O'Regan have success at All-Ireland level in these grades, and they hope that Cork's freshness might give them an advantage on Sunday. Amanda explains.

"Well their team hasn't changed much over the last few years so maybe we'll be a bit fresher. I played with plenty of the girls at junior and minor so I knew everyone when I came in, and all of us want to be winning at senior."

"Our underage and junior teams have been better than Tipperary's over the last few years. Kilkenny and Galway have some good underage teams too, so they should come through over the next few years."

Despite Kilkenny and Galway waiting in the wings, and Wexford possessing a fierce and strong senior side, once again it is left to the Leesiders to challenge the hegemony of the Premier on the biggest day of the year.

Jennifer O'Leary, on the victorious Cork side of 2002, explains how they under performed in both the league final and Munster final this year, but are ready for the most important game of the season.

"When we played Tipp in the Munster final the conditions were really poor, they had a big home crowd behind them and I think both of those factors made a difference."

"They shouldn't be factors this Sunday, because I'm sure we'll have a great crowd behind us."

"Coming into the Galway game in the league final we were probably over confident without realising it, because we had beaten them a few times before. We'll be far more focused now for this, and championship is most important so hopefully we'll be saving our best performance for the final."

Both Amanda and Jennifer play their college camogie with the University of Limerick. This year was particularly fruitful, in February they won the prestigious Ashbourne cup, and they both cite this as a confidence booster before

Youthful Rebels feel their time has arrived

Jennifer O'Leary is focussed on the job ahead on Sunday.



2
Days
to go



Amanda O'Regan, fifth from right, at the launch of the Foras na Gaeilge Senior Camogie Championship in Croke Park.

once, it's where you pick up the basics and it's the most important time for learning skills.

"Also I've four brothers and four sisters, so I was never short of company when I wanted to go for a puck around."

The O'Regan household provided plenty of inspiration for Amanda from the youngest age, with both her parents' holders of All-Ireland medals with Cork (Michael at U21 football, Christine at Junior camogie). Amanda's club Douglas is a prime example of how the less traditional camogie clubs are expanding. Similar to thriving satellite towns such as Carrigaline and Ballincollig, Douglas has enjoyed rapid growth in its numbers, particularly from underage due to improved recruitment work and coaching from schools onwards.

"Both my parents are very heavily involved, so from as long as could walk I had a camogie stick in my hand. We had a really small club to start, I used to play U14 when I was eight, but now we'd have a 100 girls playing at that age. It started when I was in fourth class in primary school, and that probably made the biggest difference to the numbers done the line."

An All-Ireland win would continue to inspire young camogie players. Former All-Star Jennifer is hopeful it will their day.

"I've a good feeling about it. I think we've a lot more balance as a team, and we've great management. I really think we're ready to do it."

the intercounty season, but All-Ireland glory is the peak they having been looking toward all year.

While Jennifer has been on the senior for over five years, this is Amanda's first season at the top level, having successfully made the step up from the All-Ireland winning Cork junior team of last September. Amanda explains how delighted she is to be looking forward to a senior final.

"It's definitely a big step up to senior, but on our junior team we had a few of the senior panel last year, and everyone works together in the Cork camogie scene, so you'd

know most of the players."

It's great having Fiona O'Driscoll as coach as well, as she would have always been a player I looked up to.

"I thought the fact we beat Limerick in the semi-final so well, especially after we had heard how well they were going in training, helps our confidence."

"We'll have to play even better than that in the final, but both ourselves and Tipp will be really up to it, so I can't wait. Hopefully everyone will come out and support us."

For both Jennifer and Amanda, the path to senior success started at the youngest age. Barryroe has been

a hotbed of camogie for the last number of years and it is from this background that Jennifer emerged, though not without the added advantage of having eight siblings in the O'Leary household to provide competition when she was younger.

Jennifer explains where her love for the sliothar developed.

"My teacher, Mary Kearney, started it up in primary school, and camogie is always really big in Barryroe, but having such a good start and a good teacher really got my interest going. Mary always made it fun and something you'd look forward to, and when you're only young that makes a big differ-

All-Ireland senior camogie final: Cork v Tipperary, Croke Park, Sun, 3.30pm

Mary Newman looks ahead to Sunday's All-Ireland camogie final

MENTION the All-Ireland camogie final and it brings immediate thoughts of Tipperary and Cork.

For those of use who were reared on a diet of Cork camogie successes, the last few years have been hard as we have watched from the wings and hoped and prayed for a miracle, but, come this Sunday, I think we have the beatings of this Tipperary side who are seeking their second three in a row in seven years.

There was an element of chance in the way they burst onto the scene; a late goal from Kilkenny in 1999 four minutes into injury time sent Cork crashing out at the semi-final stage of a championship they practically had their names written all over and it opened the door for Tipp to slot in and take their first title.

Since then they have proceeded to dominate, annexing five titles in six years.

The reactions to this team have been varied many ask the question do they ever get fed up?

While others simply shrug and say 'Ah sure they have to be beaten some time', the latter as if to imply that Cork should just hang about and wait to take up the crumbs.

The answer to the first question is simply no, be you a player /selector/ trainer/ manager you never get fed up winning. I should know having been there with my club Glen Rovers through the great years we never got tired of winning, sitting down plotting the downfall of our opponents and picking the right team to take the honours.

Many pundits fancied Wexford to make the big breakthrough this year following on last year's campaign but in their semi-final meeting with Tipperary they failed to reach the expected heights and in the end paid the ultimate price.

A good start proved invaluable to the champions as it gave them a cushion when Wexford finally decided to wake up 10 minutes into the second half.

If Cork adopt the Wexford attitude on Sunday, pack the bag and get out of Croke Park fast because these Tipp women are hardened campaigners and will snuff us out but only if we allow them to.

Nealon, Gaynor and Brophy will be tough to get past but behind them I think 'keeper Jovita Delaney has had a share of good fortune over the years and has been caught out on numerous occasions so maybe this time the luck will be with Cork.

The switching of Stephanie Dunlea to the full-forward position has, at last, brought that much needed bite to a lingering Cork attack.

Last year we groaned in despair as Tipperary defenders brushed

Cork need and deserve a victory



Niamh Bowles, Cork player and PE teacher with her first-year students at Scoil Mhuire Gan Small. Picture: Cillian Kelly

past Cork forwards who were almost apologising for being there but this time out there will be no 'sorry' or 'excuse me' as, led by Stephanie, I expect the Cork attack to take them on from the word go. Cork need to be tough, dogged and ruthless to win this one, from the throw-in every one of the starting 15 must really believe in themselves and their team-mates, it's about time we stood up and were counted.

On the line we must also be focussed, no waiting around for something to happen.

If it is not working make the changes quickly; think of John Allen against Clare not afraid to make the big calls.

For Sunday the plans must be made in advance; we know Tipperary well by now and should know where to expect trouble and be prepared for any eventuality.

I know Fiona, John and their fellow selectors, Lillian and Ollie have everything under control, they have put in a huge effort and are looking ahead with confidence in their

charges.

Since the league final defeat by Galway, the team has settled well and certainly they are a very happy bunch, all the pressure is on Tipp to deliver and this suits Cork.

They are a relatively young team but with some vital experience mixed in and it's this experience that will be needed when the going gets tough.

Up front Tipp's top trio, Emer McDonnell, captain Deirdre Hughes and Jill Horan will provide a huge threat and if they get an inch they will crucify any mistakes the Cork defence make.

We need to sit tight and not give them the freedom of Croke Park, which could and surely would prove disastrous.

Rena Buckley, Rosalie Holland and Amanda O'Regan are three young lively defenders and should stand the test well.

Memories of Amanda's huge clearances in last year's junior final still stand out and on Sunday I look forward to more of these land-

ing down to the Cork forwards.

Last year was a disaster that even now 12 months on still cannot be explained. Tipp came at us and we crumbled but this year I really believe the Cork side will not allow this to happen, they are hurting still and pride has to be restored.

For every young girl playing the camogie in the county and every club mentor who slogs away seven nights a week, washing and dragging jerseys and looking after a legion of anxious kids, we need this one badly.

The O'Duffy Cup being held on the steps of the Hogan Stand by another Cork team inside seven days would bring the curtain down on a fantastic September for the Rebels.

Get in your car, onto the train or hire a bus but make the effort to be in Croke Park on Sunday to roar the side home; remember, just like last weekend, the women of Cork are on a mission and it's not impossible by any means.



Tipperary's Deirdre Hughes is a huge threat.

Raising their game

LYNN KELLY, the newly-appointed national development co-ordinator for camogie, is bullish about her favourite game.

"The largest female sporting event of last year in Ireland, in terms of attendance, was the All-Ireland camogie final, with 25,000 people at it. Okay, it was the centenary and there was a bit of a push for it, but it was still the biggest day of the year," she said.

Although coaching and games development is part of the job description, Kelly's brief also includes administration.

"Up to the time we were appointed, only three people were working full-time in camogie and a lot of people were working as volunteers without major training," said Kelly.

"The GAA has launched a major club initiative and the idea is that we, in conjunction with ladies football, would run a similar programme.

"That's a huge issue, because good administrators make good teams — a good county board always leads to a good team."

Mary O'Connor is one of three regional development co-ordinators, along with Caroline Murray in Connaught/Leinster and Michael McClements in Ulster.

O'Connor, a Cork ladies footballer and camogie star, took a break from her preparations for tomorrow's All-Ireland final with Tipperary to outline her role.

"At a national level while there's ladies football in every county, that isn't the case in camogie. That's the same with hurling — you don't have a strong hurling presence in every county either, you've only five or six counties challenging for the All-Ireland every year.

"Camogie is there, it's a matter of bringing up the profile and increasing participation among girls, particularly at primary level — that's where you'll get them.

"The challenge is getting them from the school down to the local GAA pitch then. If you increase participation you'll increase the number of coaches and administrators as well. You have to make sure that clubs have the structures in place to deal with the influx of girls.

"In the last few years in Cork, with

Tomorrow is the biggest day in the camogie calendar, but what's the state of the game at present? **Michael Moynihan** met the keepers of the flame

the hurlers being so successful, there's a lot of interest among girls in hurling and camogie, so it's a matter of harnessing that.

"Clubs have a lot of girls turning up to play but they need to be able to give them proper coaching."

O'Connor's club, Killeagh, can boast over 40 U10s playing camogie every Saturday, but retention is a challenge for them and for other clubs.

"The big drop-off comes when the girls get into their teens and other

distractions come into play.

"Secondary school, and early secondary school in particular, is where we lose players. Girls get into first or second year and they get inhibited about playing, so we're working on getting more competitions going for those years in particular.

"If you have competitions for those age groups, competitions in which girls have a realistic chance of participating, there's a chance of holding onto those players because they'll

have a hurley in their hands all year round, not just during the summer.

"All things considered though, camogie is as popular as it ever was," she concluded.

Máire Uí Scolai, PRO of the Camogie Association, is equally confident. "We're looking at a camogie membership of 90,000 which is very encouraging," she said.

"Last year, the centenary, was massive for us, and we're building on that to develop the game, expanding it in-

to 32 counties here while also organising shinty compromise games."

There are other changes. A recent games review committee came up with some radical ideas to change the senior camogie competitions.

Next season a county like Cork will have a senior team and a senior B team, for example, while the junior competition will be confined to the counties outside the 'big six'.

A conscious effort is also being made to spread the gospel in counties which don't have designated county boards, and girls from four such counties — Kerry, Mayo, Sligo and Donegal — will play in the half-time game on Sunday in Croke Park.

Other changes involve changing the minor age level to U18, up from U16, although an U16 competition will be left in place.

"We have a strategic plan in place to cover 2004 to 2008, and the appointment of officers and game restructuring is part of that," said Uí Scolai.

"The PR and communications committee is also working hard, conducting regional seminars for the last couple of years to get an active PRO in every county."

O'Connor adds: "Obviously coverage plays a huge role in getting kids interested. Having highlights from the quarter-finals, or even semi-finals, shown on TG4 is a huge boost for ladies football, but for camogie there's only one game broadcast and that's the final.

"If that game isn't great then the public perception of camogie for the year is based solely on that game. That's why camogie people always hope the final is a good game, to give people a good impression of the game.

"We're gradually getting close to the GAA and that should help our profile. If you had a situation where intercounty camogie games were played before National League or even championship games in the big stadiums, that'd be a huge boost."

Uí Scolai is optimistic about the game's prospects.

"Camogie has never been in such a healthy position, between competitions here and abroad. The second century of camogie looks very good."

Familiar faces meet as Cork try to topple Tipp

by **Therese O'Callaghan**

CAN they do it? Can Cork topple long-standing All-Ireland champions Tipperary? Can Tipperary maintain their status as the greatest camogie team since Kilkenny's famous seven-in-a-row ('85-'91)?

Tomorrow the sides meet in their fourth successive final of the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland championship final at Croke Park, (3.15pm).

Tipperary might very well be going for six-in-a-row but for the fact that Cork beat them in the 2002 decider.

This is the first year a Toomevara captain has guided the Blue and Gold to Croke Park. All their leaders so far were from Cashel and last year Joanne Ryan brought the O'Duffy Cup to Drom/Inch.

While neutrals like to see the underdog

prevail, there isn't a follower in the country who wouldn't like to see Deirdre Hughes lift the trophy.

She endured their lengthy barren spell and then was the major driving force behind their eventual breakthrough.

Paddy McCormack has not altered his lineup from their semi-final triumph over Wexford. This also means 10 of the '99 team are once again starting and four are among the subs.

They are a phenomenal team, and not alone in pivotal positions but throughout the field. Fascinating duels are expected too. The battles between Stephanie Dunlea/Una Dwyer, Rena Buckley/Eimear McDonnell, Gemma O'Connor/Ciara Gaynor, and Jennifer O'Leary/Sinead Nealon may prove crucial.

Another defeat for Cork would be hard to stomach as the county has gone without senior success since 2002.

Three out of their six defenders are playing in a first All-Ireland senior final (Amanda O'Regan,

Briege Corkery and Anna Geary). How they cope with the big day will be a major deciding factor.

Going in as underdogs should help his team, Cork boss John Cronin believes. "It gives us every chance to have a cut. Elaine Burke is a very good captain and so was Stephanie Dunlea last year. Stephanie is now playing at full-forward. We 'did a Brian Corcoran' with her — and she has done well. She's a good leader and won't give up easily. With Cloughduv (his own club), she lifts us when we are in trouble. She's one of those players who won't let you down."

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney; S. Kelly; U. O'Dwyer; J. Kirwan; S. Nealon; C. Gaynor; T. Brophy; P. Fogarty; A. McDermott; J. Ryan; N. Kennedy; C. Grogan; E. McDonnell; D. Hughes (captain); J. Horan.

CORK: A. Murray; R. Buckley; R. Holland; A. O'Regan; B. Corkery; M. O'Connor; A. Geary; V. Harris; R. Moloney; U. O'Donoghue; G. O'Connor; J. O'Leary; E. Dillon; S. Dunlea; E. Burke.
Referee: John Pender, Kildare



Una Dwyer: duel with Dunlea.



Stephanie Dunlea: a leader.



Moment of truth for Cork



Linda Mellerick

ONE day to go.

By now the girls are on the train heading for their fourth All-Ireland appearance in a row.

The ritual is the same every year and familiarity is a good thing for the players who've been there before.

The 2.25pm train will arrive in Heuston station late this afternoon where the team coach will transport the players to the Red Cow Morans Hotel. Once settled the girls will gather for an evening meal.

A special mass may be held in one of the function rooms or a local church would already have been sourced and some will head there early Sunday morning.

After that players do what they feel most relaxed at. Some go for a walk, others to the dog track, maybe watch TV. Typically by 10.30/11pm all will be tucked up in bed.

The team seem to be in good, confident spirit. After the tremendous high of last Sunday I'm quite sure it has hit home that there is a vast line between winning and losing.

Winning a senior All-Ireland title for your county is the greatest moment of any player's career.

The way you feel when you open your eyes the Monday morning after the game is a feeling I can't describe. Your heart soars. Equally to lose and open your eyes is one of the most gutting experiences a player can have.

As a former player I try to force upon present ones the importance of 'grabbing the moment'. You can never get back the All-Ireland you've lost. Even now I think more about the titles that got away than the ones I won. Greedy I suppose but you can never win enough All-Irelands.

When this present bunch of players retire and look back they'll rue Tipperary winning the last couple of All-Irelands. They do at the moment but while they're still playing they can do something about it. They can put a stop to this tomorrow.

I have a good feeling about it. The players have been hurt enough particularly the ones who have been there this past four or five years with only one title to show for it.

The team didn't perform last year and they know it. For this year the knowledge of that must be an incentive. Cork were right in this game for 45 minutes with everything going

against them. Tipp finished with 2-11 in last year's final with seven of those points coming from frees. The Cork defence did their job with one or two slip ups. Deirdre Hughes' goal was a Cork mistake.

The problem was that we weren't scoring. We'll score this year! The refereeing last year was appalling, as it has been for the last number of years and with all the good progressive work the association are doing they ruin the whole lot in one hour.

We present our biggest day to the country on RTE, the easiest way to grab the attention of the public and what do we do? We insist on refereeing the game strictly to old fashioned rules.

How in God's name can camogie be a non-contact sport? The rule is there at the moment, fair enough, but common sense would tell you not to enforce it for the most minor of incidents.

Cork and Tipp are capable of serving up an hour of fast, open, skilful hurling tomorrow and the public need to see it. I'll go mad if we see 20 or 30 frees and a stop/start game.

Speaking of publicity, why, in the past week has almost every neutral commentator/reporter asked about the 'threat' of ladies football to camogie? I don't understand the obsession with it.

Why aren't people asking about the threat of Gaelic football to hurling?

The crowds at league and championship football games leave hurling crowds behind. But there is room for us all. Camogie needs more competitiveness.

There are too few counties reaching the top level and the association recognise this, hence the development of three development officers.

But for now it's all about tomorrow! If I can say one word to them it's — BELIEVE!

1 Day to go

Catriona Foley Rockban

Has returned to full playing activities following a knee operation which sidelined her for most of last season

The holder of two All Ireland minor medals as well as provincial honours at minor, junior and intermediate. Holds Junior B county championship with her club.



Denise Twomey St Catherine's

Student

Has All Ireland Minor and intermediate medals as well as provincial honours, also holds All Ireland and provincial college's honours with Loreto Convent Fermoy. Holds U16 and U18 county championship honours with her club and will line out in the Senior B championship final against Ballygarvan after the All Ireland final.



Cork captain Elaine Burke is hoping to lift the O'Duffy Cup at Croke Park tomorrow. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Nora Ahern Fr O'Neills

Sports Instructor Captained the Cork juniors in 2002 when they lost to Kilkenny in the final. Led Cork to their second National Junior League title in 2001. Captained C I T to take their first Purcell Cup title, has also had the honour of captaining the Combined Colleges side. Has inter-provincial junior honours as well as Munster intermediate and junior medals.



Emer O'Farrell Sarsfields

Sales Rep Emer is the holder of All Ireland junior medal won last year as well as National junior league and provincial honours was a member of the Cork Institute of Technology team that won the Purcell Cup in 2001. She holds Munster junior and intermediate championship medals.



Niamh Bowles Newtownshandrum

Teacher Captained Cork minors to All Ireland title in 1999 in the last twelve a side All Ireland minor final. Recently qualified as a teacher, she is the holder of provincial honours at junior and minor and was a member of the Cork junior side that captured the national league title recently. Brother Liam played on the Newtownshandrum side that took All Ireland club honours.



Gemma O'Connor keeps her eyes on the ball during training ahead of tomorrow's All-Ireland



- 16 DENISE TWOMEY
Denise Ní Thuama
St. Catherine's
- 17 JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN
Siobhán Ní Cheallacháin
Cloughduv
- 18 ANGELA WALSH
Aingeal Bhreatnach
Killeagh
- 19 SARAH DONOVAN
Sorcha Ní Dhonnabháin
Ballygarvan
- 20 COLETTE DESMOND
Collette Ní Dheasúnaigh
Newcestwon
- 21 PAULA O'CONNOR
Paula Ní Chonchúir
Newtownshandrum
- 22 LYNDIA O'CONNELL
Linda Ní Chonaill
St. Finbarrs
- 23 JENNIFER BROWNE
Sinéad de Brún
Ballygarvan
- 24 CIARA HEALY
Ciara Ní Éalaithe
Bishopstown
- 25 NIAMH BOWLES
Niamh Ní Bhaoill
Newtownshandrum

Fora eilge

- 1 AOIFE MURRAY
Aoife Ní Mhuirí
Cloughduv
- 2 RENA BUCKLEY
Riona Ní Bhuachalla
Inniscarra
- 3 ROSARIE HOLLAND
Róis Ní Uallacháin
Barryroe
- 4 AMANDA O'REGAN
Amanda Ní Riagáin
Douglas
- 5 BRIEGE CORKERY
Brid Ní Chorca
Cloughduv
- 6 MARY O'CONNOR
Máire Ní Chonchúir
Killeagh
- 7 ANNA GEARY
Áine Ní Ghadhra
Milford
- 8 VIVIENNE HARRIS
Béibhionn Ní Earchaí
St. Finbarrs
- 9 RACHEL MOLONEY
Rachel Ní Mhaolomhnaigh
Coursey Rovers
- 10 UNA O'DONOGHUE
Úna Ní Dhonnchú
Cloughduv
- 11 GEMMA O'CONNOR
Gemma Ní Chonchúir
St. Finbarrs
- 12 JENNIFER O'LEARY
Sinéad Ní Laoire
Barryroe
- 13 EMER DILLON
Eimear Dhiollún
Ballygarvan
- 14 STEPHANIE DUNLEA
Stiofáinín Ní Dhoinnlé
Cloughduv
- 15 ELAINE BURKE (Captaen)
Léan de Burca
Valley Rovers

- 1 JOVITA DELANEY
Jovita Ní Dhubhshláine
Cashel
- 2 SUZANNE KELLY
Siobhán Ní Cheallaigh
Toomevara
- 3 UNA O'DWYER
Úna Ní Dhuibhir
Cashel
- 4 JULIE KIRWAN
Sile Ní Chiarubháin
Moneygall
- 5 SINEAD NEALON
Sinéad Ní Nialláin
Burgess
- 6 CIARA GAYNOR
Ciara Nic Fhionnbhair
Burgess
- 7 THERESE BROPHY
Treasa Ní Bhróithe
Burgess
- 8 PHILLY FOGARTY
Filimíne Ní Fhógartaigh
Annacarty
- 9 ANGIE MCDERMOTT
Aingeal Nic Diarmada
Drom-Inch
- 10 JOANNE RYAN
Siobhán Ní Riain
Cashel
- 11 NOELLE KENNEDY
Noelle Ní Chinnéide
Cashel
- 12 CLAIRE GROGAN
Clár Ní Ghruagáin
Toomevara
- 13 EIMEAR McDONNELL
Eimear Nic Domhnaill
Burgess
- 14 DEIRDRE HUGHES (Captaen)
Deirdre Nic Aodha
Toomevara
- 15 JILL HORAN
Sile Ní Óráin
Drom-Inch

- 16 JOANNE NOLAN
Siobhán Ní Nualláin
Silvermines
- 17 MAEDBH CORCORAN
Meabh Ní Chorcairín
Drom-Inch
- 18 NIAMH HARKIN
Niamh Ní Earcáin
Moycarkey-Borris
- 19 MICHELLE SHORTT
Michelle Nic an Gheairr
Drom-Inch
- 20 TRICIA O'HALLORAN
Pádraigin Ní Allúráin
Portroe
- 21 PAULA BULFIN
Paula Bhuilfin
Cashel
- 22 SHEENA HOWARD
Sheena Nic Íomhair
Cashel
- 23 EMILY HAYDEN
Eimile Ní Éideáin
Burgess
- 24 GERALDINE KINNANE
Geróidín Ní Choinneáin
Cashel
- 25 DEIRDRE McDONNELL
Deirdre Nic Domhnaill
Toomevara

Corcaigh	Cúil	Cúilíní	Ar Foraíol	45m	Pocanna Saora
1adh					
2adh					
lomlan					

Tiobraid Árann	Cúil	Cúilíní	Ar Foraíol	45m	Pocanna Saora
1adh					
2adh					
lomlan					

CORCAIGH



Ar chúl (ó chlé): D. Ní Thuama, S. Ní Dhorraibhán, A. Ní Ghaithir, A. Bhreathnach, P. Ní Chioncháir, S. de Brun, L. Hawkes, G. Ní Chioncháir. Lár (ó chlé): A. Ní Mhuiri, R. Ní Bhuachalla, S. Ní Lapire, A. Ní Riagáin, B. Ní Earchaí, U. Ní Dhomhú, L. Ní Chonail, N. Ní Bhuail, C. Ní Ealaithé, C. Ní Dheasúnaigh, E. Ní Fhearail. Chun tosaigh: N. Ní Eathairn, E. Ní Dhiolláin, M. Ní Chioncháir, E. de Burca (Capt.), R. Ní Mhaolomhaigh, B. Ní Chorca, S. Ní Dhoimlé, R. Ní Uallacháin, S. Ní Gheallacháin, C. Ní Fhoghú.

TIOBRAID ÁRANN



Ar chúl (ó chlé): D. Nic Domhnaill, L. de Siún, M. Ní Theimhneáin, M. Nic an Gheairr, N. Ní Earcáin, L. Dáibhis, P. Ní Allúráin, G. Ní Choinneáin, P. Bhuilfin. Lár (ó chlé): L. de Búrca, M. Ní Chorcóráin, M. Ní Riain, N. Ní Chinnéide, S. Ní Cheallaigh, S. Ní Chiarubháin, C. Ní Ghruagáin, T. Ní Bhróithe, J. Ní Dhubhshláine, C. Nic Fhionnbhair, S. Ní Riain, S. Nic Íomhair. Chun tosaigh (ó chlé): E. Ní Riain, S. Ní Nualláin, E. Ní Éideáin, D. Nic Aodha, F. Ní Fhógartaigh, S. Ní Nialláin, Ú. Ní Dhuibhir, E. Nic Domhnaill, S. Ní Oráin, A. Nic Diarmada.

Sinsir Chorcaí -nn - Player Profiles

CAPTAIN



**No. 15
ELAINE BURKE**
Age: 24 Club: Valley Rovers
Occupation: Solicitor
Achievements:
All Ireland -
1 Junior championship;
1 senior championship;
Provincial -
1 junior championship;
Colleges -
2 Ashbourne/UCC



**No. 1
AOIFE MURRAY**
Age: 21 Club: Cloughduv
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
2 Senior Championships,
1 Intermediate Championship,
1 Junior Championship, 2 Minor
Championships; All Star 2004;
Provincial - 1 Senior Championship
1 Intermediate Championship,
1 Junior Championship,
2 Minor Championships



**No. 2
RENA BUCKLEY**
Age: 18 Club: Inniscarra
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
2 Minor Championships;
Provincial -
1 Intermediate Championship,
2 Minor Championships;
Club -
2 Senior County Championships



**No. 3
ROSARIE HOLLAND**
Age: 22 Club: Barryroe
Occupation:
Graduate in Comp. Science
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship,
2 Minor Championships;
Provincial -
2 Minor Championships;
Colleges -
2 Ashbourne Cup and League



**No. 4
JULIE KIRWAN**
Age: 18 Club: Moneygall
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship;
Provincial - 2 Senior
Championships;
Club - 1 Junior and 1 Minor
Championships;
Colleges - 3 Munster, 2 County
Championships



**No. 5
SINÉAD NEALON**
Age: 31 Club: Burgess
Occupation: Project
HR Manager
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior, 1 Intermediate,
1 Minor 1 Junior Championship;
Provincial - 2 Munster Minor,
1 Munster Junior, 3 Munster
Senior Championships
Colleges - 1 Ashbourne Cup WIT



**No. 6
CIARA GAYNOR**
Age: 26 Club: Portroe
Occupation: Garda
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior, 1 Intermediate,
2 Minor Championships;
Provincial - 3 Senior
Championships;
County - 1 Junior
Championships;
All Star 2004



**No. 7
THERESE BROPHY**
Age: 28 Club: Burgess
Occupation: Teacher
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior, 1 Intermediate,
1 Minor Championship;
Provincial - 3 Munster Senior,
1 Munster Minor Championship
County - 1 Senior Club League,
1 Intermediate Club
Championship, All Star 2004



**No. 8
VIVIENNE HARRIS**
Age: 26 Club: Bishopstown
Occupation:
Quality Assurance Officer
Achievements:
All-Ireland -
4 Senior Championships;
Provincial -
5 Senior Championships



**No. 9
RACHEL MOLONEY**
Age: 23 Club: Courcy Rovers
Occupation: UCC Student of
Nutritional Science
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship,
1 Intermediate Championship,
1 Minor Championship,
Provincial - 1 Senior Championship,
1 Intermediate Championship,
2 Minor Championships



**No. 10
UNA O'DONOGHUE**
Age: 23 Club: Cloughduv
Occupation: Lab technician
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 All Ireland Senior;
Provincial -
1 Munster Intermediate,
1 Munster Minor;
Colleges -
Ashbourne Cup and League



**No. 11
GEMMA O'CONNOR**
Age: 20
Club: Naomh Fhionnbharr
Occupation: Defence Forces
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship,
2 Minor Championships,
All Star 2004;
Provincial - 1 Senior Championship
1 Intermediate Championship
2 Minor Championships
Colleges - 1 Munster Colleges



**No. 12
CLARE GROGAN**
Age: 19 Club: Cashel
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
4 Senior Championships
Provincial - 3 Senior,
1 Minor Championship,
2 Senior Club Championships;
County -
2 Senior
Championships



**No. 13
EIMEAR McDONNELL**
Age: 24 Club: Burgess
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior Championships
Provincial - 3 Senior
Championships; Club - Two
Intermediate Championships,
County Senior League; Colleges -
1 All-Ireland Senior Championship,
Texaco Award Winner 2003



**No. 15
JILL HORAN**
Age: 20 Club: Clonoulty/Rossmore
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship
Provincial - 2 Senior, 1 Minor
Championship; County -
1 Intermediate Club C'ship; Other
Sports - Played soccer for Ireland;
In Detroit University on
soccer scholarship



**No. 16
DENISE TWOMEY**
Age: 18
Club: St. Catherine's
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All Ireland -
1 minor championship
1 intermediate;
Provincial - 1 minor
championship, 1 intermediate
championship

**No. 17
JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN**
Age: 22 Club: Cloughduv
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
2 Senior Championships,
1 Intermediate Championship,
2 Minor Championships;
Provincial - 1 Senior,
1 Junior, 2 Minor Champ;
Colleges - 2 Ashbourne Cup

**No. 18
ANGELA WALSH**
Age: 20 Club: Killeagh
Occupation: Student
Achievements:
Club -
1 Junior championship;
Football -
National League,
Munster Championship

**No. 19
SARAH O'DONOVAN**
Age: 19 Club: Ballygarvan
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All Ireland -
1 Junior championship,
1 intermediate
championship;
Provincial - 1 minor
Club - 1 senior championship

**No. 20
COLETTE DESMOND**
Age: 22 Club: Newcestown
Occupation: UCC Student/
Biochemistry
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship,
1 Intermediate, 1 Junior,
1 Minor Championship,
Provincial - 1 Junior, 1 minor,
1 Intermediate championship

**No. 21
PAULA BULFIN**
Age: 30 Club: Cashel
Occupation: PE Teacher
Achievements: All-Ireland -
4 Senior Championship
Provincial - 3 Senior,
1 Minor, 2 Club
Championships;
Club -
6 Senior Championship

**No. 22
SHEENA HOWARD**
Age: 23 Club: Burgess
Occupation: Student Garda
Achievements: All-Ireland -
4 senior C'ships; Provincial -
3 Senior, 1 Junior, 3 Minor
C'ship; Club - 1 Co. Senior
League, 2 Intermediate
C'ships; Colleges - 1 Senior
Colleges All-Ireland,
1 Purcell Cup All Star 2005

**No. 23
EMILY HAYDEN**
Age: 25 Club: Cashel
Occupation:
Sports Rehabilitation
Achievements: All-Ireland -
4 Senior, 1 Intermediate,
1 Minor Championship;
Provincial - 3 Senior, 4 minor,
2 Club Championships;
Club - 6 Senior
Championships

**No. 24
GERALDINE KINANE**
Age: 20 Club: Drom/Inch
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior, 1 Junior
Championship; Provincial -
2 Senior, 1 Minor, 1 Junior
Championship;
Club - 1 County Senior
championship

**No. 25
DEIRDRE McDONNELL**
Age: 23 Club: Burgess
Occupation: Civil Engineer
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior, 1 Junior
Championship;
Provincial -
2 Senior Munster;
Club - Under-16;
Colleges - 1 Munster Senior

Sinsir Thiobraid Ára Player Profiles

CAPTAIN



**No. 14
DEIRDRE HUGHES**

Age: 31 Club: Toomevara
Occupation: Sales assistant
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior
Championship; Provincial -
3 Senior, 3 Junior, 1 Munster Club
Championship; County -
9 Senior Club Championships;
All Star 2004, Team of the
Century (Full Forward)



**No. 1
JOVITA DELANEY**

Age: 31 Club: Cashel
Occupation: Teacher
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior, 1 Intermediate,
1 Minor and 1 Junior
Championship;
Provincial -
2 Club Championships;
County -
9 Senior Championships



**No. 2
SUZANNE KELLY**

Age: 28 Club: Toomevara
Occupation: Teacher
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior, 1 Intermediate and
1 Junior Championship;
Provincial - 1 Minor, 3 Senior and
2 Senior Club Championships;
Colleges - 1 Purcell Cup,
1 Ashbourne Shield,
All Star 2004



**No. 3
UNA O'DWYER**

Age: 23 Club: Cashel
Occupation: Food technologist
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior and 1 Intermediate
Championships
Provincial - 3 Senior, 2 Club
Championships; Colleges - 2
Ashbourne Cup; County - 5
Senior Championships, All Star
2004; Texaco Award Winner '04



**No. 4
AMANDA O'REGAN**

Age: 23 Club: Douglas
Occupation: Student/UL
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Minor championship;
Provincial -
1 Minor championship, 1 junior
Colleges -
2 Ashbourne Cup/UL



**No. 5
BRIEGHE CORKERY**

Age: 18 Club: Coughdub
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
2 minor championships;
Provincial -
2 minor championships



**No. 6
MARY O'CONNOR**

Age: 28 Club: Killeagh
Occupation: Camogie Regional
Development Co-Ordinator
Achievements: All-Ireland -
3 Senior Championships;
Provincial - 7 senior championships,
1 junior championship, 1 Minor
Championship; Club - 2 All-Ireland
Clubs championships with Granagh,
Ballinarry; Ladies Football -
2 senior Munster championships



**No. 7
ANNA GEARY**

Age: 18 Club: Millford
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland
10 All-Ireland Colleges
(junior/senior).
1 minor championship;
Provincial -
1 minor championship



**No. 8
PHILLY FOGARTY**

Age: 22 Club: Cashel
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior Championships;
Provincial -
3 Senior Championships,
1 Junior Championship;
County -
6 Senior Championships



**No. 9
ANGIE McDERMOTT**

Age: 28
Club: Annacarty-Donohill
Occupation: Accountant
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior Championships;
Provincial - 3 Senior
Championships; County -
1 Junior Club Championship,
Plays Ladies Football
for Tipperary



**No. 10
JOANNE RYAN**

Age: 22 Club: Drom/Inch
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
4 Senior Championships;
Provincial - 3 Munster
Championships;
County - 1 Senior
Championship



**No. 11
NOELLE KENNEDY**

Age: 30 Club: Toomevara
Occupation: I.T. Technician
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior, 1 Intermediate,
1 Junior Championship;
Provincial - 3 Munster Senior,
1 Munster Club Championship;
County - 8 Senior
Championship



**No. 12
JENNIFER O'LEARY**

Age: 21 Club: Barryroe
Occupation: P.E. Student, U.L.
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship,
1 Intermediate Championship,
2 Minor Championships,
All Star 2004; Provincial - 2 Senior
Championships, 1 Junior
Championship; Colleges -
2 Ashbourne, 1 All-Ireland Colleges,



**No. 13
EMER DILLON**

Age: 21 Club: Ballygarvan
Occupation:
UCC Student of Pharmacy
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship,
1 Intermediate Championship,
2 Minor Championships;
Provincial -
2 Minor championships



**No. 14
STEPHANIE DUNLEA**

Age: 30 Club: Cloughdub
Occupation:
Production Supervisor
Achievements: All-Ireland -
5 Senior Championships;
Provincial -
4 Senior Championships;
Colleges -
1 Ashbourne Cup,
1 Purcell Cup



**No. 16
JOANNE NOLAN**
Age: 19 Club: Silvermines
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship;
Provincial -
2 Senior Championships;
Club -
1 Junior Championship

**No. 17
MEABH CORCORAN**
Age: 26
Club: Moycarkey-Borris
Occupation: Accountant
Achievements: All-Ireland -
2 Senior Championship;
Provincial - 2 Senior
Championship

**No. 18
NIAMH HARKIN**
Age: 24 Club: Drom/Inch
Occupation: Nurse
Achievements: All-Ireland -
2 Senior Championships;
Provincial - 1 junior C'ship;
Club - 1 senior championship
Colleges - 1 Munster senior
championship

**No. 19
MICHELLE SHORTT**
Age: 20 Club: Drom/Inch
Occupation: Student
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship;
Provincial -
2 senior championships;
Club -
1 senior championship

**No. 20
PATRICIA O'HALLORAN**
Age: 21 Club: Portroe
Occupation: Student/Junior
Achievements: All-Ireland -
2 Senior, 1 Junior
Championship;
Provincial -
1 minor, 1 Junior
Championship;
Club -
1 Junior championship

**No. 21
PAULA O'CONNOR**
Age: 24
Club: Newtownshandrum
Occupation: Student, CIT
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 Senior Championship;
Provincial -
Gael Linn

**No. 22
LYNDA O'CONNELL**
Age: 24 Club: St.Finbarrs
Occupation: Accountant
Achievements: All Ireland -
1 junior championship,
1 Intermediate championship
Provincial -
1 junior championship,
1 Intermediate championship
Colleges - 2 Ashbourne/UCC

**No. 23
JENNIFER BROWNE**
Age: 21 Club: Ballygarvan
Occupation:
Pharmacy student
Achievements: Provincial
1 junior championship,
1 intermediate championship
Club -
1 senior championship

**No. 24
CIARA HEALY**
Age: 23 Club: Bishopstown
Occupation: ??
Achievements: All-Ireland
1 minor championship
1 Intermediate championship
Provincial -
1 minor championship,
1 intermediate

**No. 25
NIAMH BOWLES**
Age: 22
Club: Newtownshandrum
Occupation: Teacher
Achievements: All-Ireland -
1 minor championship
Provincial -
1 minor championship
Colleges - Ashbourne
10 All-Ireland Colleges



Cork Hunger: Enough to Overcome Old Rivals??

By Linda Mellerick

When young teams are defeated experts say that 'experience caught them on the day'. When young teams win they say 'They had nothing to lose and gave it their all'. Both statements are correct to a certain extent. But I firmly believe and always have done, that hunger wins games. At this level very little separates sides in an All-Ireland final. Both teams obviously have the skill, both teams have trained themselves to a stand still; both sets of players have led disciplined lives throughout the championship. Something has to separate them. One wrong call, one moment's lapse in concentration, one mistake and the game can turn, it's true. But it's the team who is willing to go that extra yard in training, the player who is willing to throw themselves in front of the hurley if needs be, the player who can hardly breathe at the final whistle, the team that won't even contemplate defeat, that will prevail. I have a good feeling about today!



There's something about training in September. The nights are darkening, that All-Ireland feeling is in the air. You wind down the training, take a shower, emerge from the dressing room, its pitch dark - You know you're in an All-Ireland final!

By 5 o'clock this evening the All Ireland Senior Camogie Champions for 2005 will be known.

In a championship largely devoid of shocks, its Cork and Tipperary for the 4th year in a row!

Are neutrals fed up with it? Maybe so! But if you want a great game of Camogie, tight and packed full of action and tension then you wouldn't look beyond these two.

Last year's final didn't quite live up to previous encounters between the country's top two counties but the tension was evident.

Who knows what to expect from today's game! The mere sight of each others jersey will have player's temperatures up ever before the ball is thrown in.

The key to today's game is how much space each team will be afforded.

From a Cork point of view they can not afford to give Tipp's lethal full forward line oceans of space. From a Tipp point of view they will need to put the shackles on the speedy Jennifer O'Leary and dangerous Emer Dillon.

Cork have to play for the full hour and have the belief in themselves if the going gets tough. Should Tipp take the lead Cork can not hang their heads. For the first 20 minutes of last year's final Cork dominated. Against the run of play Tipp went in at the break 5 points up. Cork fell apart in the second half. They didn't seem to have the belief deep down that they could win the game.

This year things are different. The players have bonded well. Under former Cork Star Fiona O'Driscoll, who took over as coach this year, they are more focused than twelve months ago and everything from day one was geared towards the final.

Cork's forward division has been a major concern over the past couple of years. The Cork mentors had to take action and in a bold move have switched Stephanie Dunlea from full back to full forward to add some much needed strength. She has slotted into the position with ease and will give last year's 'Player of the match', Una O'Dwyer, a much sterner test. Gemma O'Connor has also spent most of the campaign at centre forward. Her battle with Ciara Gaynor will be vital.

Cork, up to the championship quarter final had not been impressive. They lost the Munster Championship final to Tipp, they lost the league final to Galway and only God knows how they managed to defeat Galway in the first round of the championship by a single point. Their supporters were worried. On the 16th of July, however, things started to come right. They gave a magnificent performance against Wexford and emerged as group winners on a score line of 2-16 to 1-7. Cork also gave a polished display in the semi-final against Limerick to reach today's final. It's the right time of the year to come good.

Tipperary have the backbone of the team that first burst on to the scene 6 years ago. They ooze experience.

Cork, however, have some very young players. Anna Geary, Rena Buckley and Breige Corkery are 17 and 18 years of age.



Bainisteoir: Paddy McCormack (Pádraig Mac Cormaic)

Club: Thurles Sarsfields

Occupation: GAA development officer with Tipperary Institute

Management experience: This is Paddy's first year in managing the Tipperary senior camogie team. In June he led this team to a Munster title. Before taking over from Raymie Ryan he managed Tipperary's minor hurling team for a number of years leading them to three consecutive Munster minor titles. Paddy is also involved with his club, Thurles Sarsfields.



Bainisteoir: John Cronin (Seán Ó Cróinín)

Club: Cloughduv

Occupation: Farmer

Camogie Achievements:

Managed the Cork minor team to All Ireland championship success in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2003. Managed the Cloughduv camogie team to senior championship success in 2001 and 2002.

This is John's first year with the Cork senior camogie team.

Teachtairacht an Uachtaráin

Fáilte go léir go Cluichi Ceannais na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht. Cuireann sé glionar croí ar lucht leanúnach camógaíochta bheith ar ais arís i bPáirc an Chrócaigh inniu. Is onóir mhór é atá tuilte d'imreoirí bheith páirteach sna cluichi ceannais ar son a chondae agus is ócaid speisialta é cluiche a imirt sa staid iontach seo - Páirc an Chrócaigh. Fáilte speisialta chuig Maighread Uí Mhairtín, Cathaoirleach, Foras na Gaeilge. Taimid fíor buíoch do bhord Foras na Gaeilge as ucht an urraíocht a thugtar do Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael i gcomhair Craobh Sinsearach Camógaíochta na hÉireann. Cuirim fáilte freisin do Parthalán Ó hEachtairín, Taoiseach. I welcome also Minister Mary Hanafin T.D.

One year into our second century and what a year it has been. A year marked with development and changes, a year which has already produced quality finals with Galway emerging to take the Division 1 National league title in a closely fought game and Cork taking the Division 2 in an equally keenly contested final. And then the Minor finals last month saw the return of Kilkenny to the winners podium when they emerged victorious in the Minor A championship over a very young Tipperary side and new comers on the block Offaly taking the "B" title in a thrilling and skilful game against Ulster champions Armagh - a side of whom we will see more in the future. Today's finals have a blend of the old and new. The Foras na Gaeilge Craobh Sinsearach na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht sees Cork and Tipperary tussle once again for the O'Duffy cup. This pairing for the Senior final can be compared to a good wine which improves with the years - with each year of their contests the quality and excitement of their games has raised camogie to new heights and has given supporters great pleasure in seeing the game of camogie played at its best. The 2005 final will, I'm sure, serve up an exciting and skilful match with each player having their personal goal in taking the ultimate honours. The pairing of Clare and Dublin for the Junior final is bound to heighten interest in this match with both counties endeavouring to re-build and perhaps re-enter the senior ranks. Going into this final with three Junior championship titles each, both sides will be keen to edge out in front with the first Junior championship of the Association's second century.

I commend all the players who have taken part in both championships this year. For most players the season starts early in the new year followed by campaigns in the National League. Many players also commit themselves to 2nd or 3rd level Colleges competitions and of course their individual clubs. This commitment is commendable, however, as an association there is an onus to ensure that the playing season reflects the preparation time given by players and mentors and to this end the new structures recently agreed for inter-county competitions, will I believe, serve our players and our game well. The recommendations brought forward by a hard working committee, headed by Bernie McNally of Armagh, deserve great credit for their professional approach and personal time given to the process. Credit also to the members of Ard Comhairle who had the foresight to herald in the change. It is my earnest wish that our much-loved game will be greatly enriched with these developments.

On the subject of development I would like to take this opportunity to welcome on board our recently appointed National Development Co-ordinator - Lynn Kelly and Regional Development Co-ordinators - Mary O'Connor and Caroline Murray. The team, joining the existing Ulster Co-ordinator Michael

McClements, will be the cornerstone in the implementation of camogie's strategic plan for the development of the game. These appointments have been made possible through funding received from the Irish Sports Council earlier this year when €1.5million was set aside in the budget by the Minister for Arts Sports and Tourism, John O'Donoghue, T.D. to develop the games of camogie and hurling. Our thanks to the Minister, the Council and also the GAA Provincial Councils for their assistance.

Returning to today's events in Croke Park, during the interval in the Junior match we will have an opportunity to see the "Go Games" being played by a combination of Primary School players from developing counties - Donegal, Kerry, Sligo and Mayo, - as well as players from the counties participating in the Junior and Senior finals. These games, developed for Gaelic games by the GAA Coaching and Games Development committee under the expert guidance of Pat Daly GAA Head of Games. They epitomise the concept of sport, with the objective of maximising participation by creating games that are structured to cater for the needs and abilities of those who participate. The games will see some young referees of the future also in action. We hope that the young players will enjoy the experience of playing in Croke Park and we wish to extend our appreciation to all those who assisted in preparing them for today including the GAA County Boards.

Last year we had the memorable on pitch pageantry when Primary School children from all over Ireland formed the colourful "C100" to mark our centenary. It was a truly wonderful sight and we welcome the children back this year.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Tallaght Youth Band who were a tremendous success last year and the ever-popular Brush Shiels will ensure that the stadium will come alive with singing. Brush will be joined by Niamh Chadwick of Tipperary who will lead out the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann.

In 1980 Cork took their 12th All-Ireland Senior title when following a replay they overcame the might of Limerick. This team led by their captain of 1980, Mary Geaney, will be introduced at half time in the Foras na Gaeilge Senior championship game.

I wish our referees John Pender and Una Kearney and their match officials the best of luck.

Our primary focus today is on the teams from Cork, Tipperary, Clare and Dublin. However, the staging of today's events would not be possible without the involvement of many other teams behind the scenes. To all those concerned I wish to extend my grateful appreciation - programme sellers, GAA stewards, ticket sellers, on pitch helpers family and friends. My personal thanks to Síle De Bhailis, Sinéad O'Connor, Phil Clark, Phyllis Breslin, Margaret Barrett

Teachtairacht an Uachtaráin

Fearaim fáilte romhaibh go léir go Páirc fhíor-ghlas an Chrócaigh ar ócáid chluichi Ceannais Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael do 2005. Fearaim fáilte faoi leith do na hImreoirí, na bainisteoirí is an lucht leanúna go léir as Corcaigh, Tiobraid Árann, An Clár agus Áth Cliath.

It is a great pleasure to extend a welcome to you all on the occasion of the 2005 Foras na Gaeilge All Ireland Camogie championship finals. The game continues to go from strength to strength at club and county level and no doubt the many thousands who are in attendance today at Croke Park along with countless others who will tune into live TV coverage will be impressed by the fitness, finesse and general skill levels of the four teams involved. My best wishes to the players, management teams, county officials and the followers of today's finalists. I hope you see all that is best in this wonderful game.

Last year of course was the Centenary of the Camogie Association. The countrywide celebrations and the spectacular and colourful demonstration at last year's finals served to increase the profile of Camogie among the sporting public. Indeed my own daughter Juliette was honoured to be a part of the celebrations at this stage last year and I know it was a great thrill for her to be involved.



I was delighted to note recently the Association's appointment of their first National Camogie Development Co-ordinator in Lynn Kelly of Limerick. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Lynn the very best in her appointment and I have no doubt that the foresight of the Association in filling such an important role with a full time officer will bear fruit in the future. The appointment of Cork's Mary O'Connor and Galway's Caroline Murray as Regional Development co-ordinators will no doubt prove just as rewarding.

As many of you will know, the Integration Task Force Report was

issued last April as a blueprint for the future integration of the GAA, Camogie and Ladies Football. As part of this process it was agreed that, while the Associations should remain autonomous, they should be united and integrated at Club level with closer working relationships at county, provincial and national levels. We also found that many clubs are already integrated at Club level and that an overall fixtures schedule, including all of the codes, should be drawn up at county board level. Finally it was agreed that particular attention needed to be paid to issues such as finance, club membership, facilities, fixtures, the GAA's Parish Rule and player insurance.

I am glad to say that progress on the overall process has been most positive. I think this is due in no small part to the excellent leadership shown by your current President Miriam O'Callaghan and all of the officers I have encountered who are involved with the Camogie Association. Your co-operation and assistance over the years is greatly appreciated.

But today is all about the onfield action. Le cúnamh Dé beidh cluichi breátha spórtúla againn inniu.

Ráth Dé oraibh go léir,

Seán Ó Ceallaigh

Uachtarán

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

Rebel girls surge to a sweet success

INTERVAL switches proved crucial, as did the lucky break of an 'own-goal' 10 minutes from the end, but ultimately it was true grit and an absolute determination to avoid a third consecutive defeat which won Cork the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie championship title in Croke Park yesterday.

The re-arrangement which brought star performer Gemma O'Connor and outstanding dual star Briege Corkery together at midfield helped inspire Cork.


The opening stage of the game was noteworthy for the fact that the sides were very evenly balanced, with scores level twice up to the ninth minute.


However, Tipperary were to gain a gradual advantage around midfield which was reflected in an increasing threat from their forwards, and Cork struggled to make real headway in attack.

After 16 minutes, Tipperary were 0-6 to 0-2 clear and looking good.

Converted Cork full-forward Stephanie Dunlea was seeing little of the ball and it was much the same at the other end for Tipperary captain Deirdre Hughes.

On balance, however, Tipperary's backs were stronger, with Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy impress-

 **Cork 1-17**

 **Tipperary 1-13**

Jim O'Sullivan, Croke Park

ing, while Claire Grogan made an important contribution on the left flank.

Cork, four points in arrears in the 19th minute, recovered to be only one behind seven minutes later.

Briege Corkery was prominent at left half-back, and again on the other side when she switched with the consistent Anna Geary, while Gemma O'Connor (who was to emerge as their star performer in the second half) did a lot of good work at centre-forward.

Emer Dillon improved her first touch to do some very good work on both flanks and winning 2002 captain Una O'Donoghue was seen to good effect on the wing outside her.

Out of the blue, Tipperary produced a goal when goalkeeper Aoife Murray allowed a dipping shot to go through her legs and they racked up three quick scores just afterwards.

Yet Cork hung on for two late points which were to prove invaluable

in assisting their recovery later, with the scores 1-10 to 0-8 at half-time.

Tipperary never managed to get back to the same heights on the resumption, and it took them 21 minutes to get their next score.

Cork produced a new midfield pairing of Corkery and Jennifer O'Connor — a masterstroke — they brought in a substitute at right corner-back, moved Rena Buckley to right half and Rachel Moloney to centre-forward. The net effect was that eight minutes in, the margin was two points.

However, Cork then ran into a stone wall in terms of being able to further their recovery and translate their superiority into scores.

They wasted chances, twice hitting shots into goalkeeper Jovita Delaney's

hands, while they were unlucky to see a pass across the goal-mouth from Dunlea being intercepted by the alert Sinead Nealon.

Finally, 12 minutes in, Cork scored through Jennifer O'Leary, and after a foul on Deirdre Hughes led to Claire Grogan getting Tipp's first score, the game exploded into life when Cork goaled.

It came from a powerfully-hit free in the 52nd minute from Amanda O'Regan (one of six first-time medal winners on the day) and full-back O'Dwyer unfortunately dropped it over the line. That put Cork a point ahead, but in another three minutes Hughes levelled (with her only score of the game) and Grogan put Tipp back in front in the 58th minute.

Their character tested again, Cork responded magnificently, grabbing the initiative with two quick scores from the influential Emer Dillon.

Showing extra reserves of fitness — a tribute to the preparation of trainer Fiona O'Driscoll, three-goal hero of their 2002 victory — they drove home their advantage with three more scores.

Two of those came from late substitute Angela Walsh and Briege Corkery — both members of the Cork ladies football team who contest their first All-Ireland final in two weeks' time.

Free-taker Jennifer O'Leary's pointed free brought the curtain down on a gutsy second-half showing which was justly rewarded.

Referee Sean Pender was very strict

in the first half but was more willing to allow the game to flow in the second half.

Scorers for Cork: E Dillon 0-4; J O'Leary 0-4 (0-2 frees); A O'Regan 1-0; G O'Connor 0-3; S Dunlea, R Moloney, E Burke, U O'Donoghue, A Walsh and B Corkery 0-1 each.

Scorers for Tipperary: C Grogan 1-5 (0-3 frees, 0-1 '45); J Horan 0-2; E McDonnell 0-2; J Ryan, P Fogarty, N Kennedy and D Hughes 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray; R Buckley, R Holland, A O'Regan; A Geary, M O'Connor, B Corkery; V Harris, R Moloney; U O'Donoghue, G O'Connor, J O'Leary; E Dillon, S Dunlea, E Burke (capt).

Subs: J O'Callaghan for Harris (second half); S Donovan for Burke (51st); A Walsh for O'Donoghue (55th).

TIPPERARY: J Delaney; S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, J Kirwan; S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy; P Fogarty, A McDermott; J Ryan, N Kennedy, C Grogan; J Horan, D Hughes (capt.), E McDonnell.

Subs: E Hayden for Kennedy (37th minute); M Shortt for Gaynor (54th).

Referee: S Pender (Kildare).
Attendance: 14,350.



Tipperary keeper Jovita Delaney can only watch as the ball hops over the line watched by Cork's Stephanie Dunlea and Tipp's Una O'Dwyer.

Picture: Dan Linehan

■ CAMOGIE Joy for Cork in senior final but Clare and Dublin must try again

Rebelettes bag another title for Cork to leave Tipp vanquished

CORK 1-17
TIPPERARY 1-13

Cliona Foley
All-Ireland Senior Camogie final

AS SHE stepped up to take the O'Duffy Cup and complete a fantastic Cork hurling double within one week, ecstatic captain Elaine Burke summed up the buoyant feeling in 'de real capital' these days by proudly announcing: "Rebels abu aris!"

Just eight days after their men's success, Cork's heroic senior women demolished Tipperary's second three-in-a-row bid with a fantastic second-half performance in yesterday's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park.

Whether it spells the end for many of Tipp's older stalwarts only time will tell.

Their manager Paddy McCormack paid them the ultimate tribute, saying: "They were great players coming in here today and are great players going out. The whole of Tipperary is proud of them and they'll be back."

This fourth final meeting in-a-row between great rivals was a truly epic battle, embellished with some fascinating duels and skill.

Like their male counterparts this summer, the Cork mentors made a couple of vital switches that turned this thriller their way.

Toppling Tipp to win their second title in four years was always going to need some tactical master-plan and Cork manager John Cronin produced it by bringing prodigious teenager Brieghe Corkery (18) and Gemma O'Connor to midfield in the second half to wrestle back the dominance that Philly Fogarty's first-half brilliance had established.

The players also credited

Fiona O'Driscoll, the hat-trick hero of their 2002 victory and this year's trainer, for giving them the peak fitness needed in the crucial final quarter when players like Emer Dillon, O'Connor and dual stars Corkery and Mary O'Connor dug so deep and sparkled.

Drastic action was needed after Tipp's lucky goal three minutes before half-time.

Claire Grogan's speculative lob bounced in front of All Star goalkeeper Aoife Murray who took her eye off it momentarily to allow it through her legs, a huge setback after Cork had battled back from a four-point deficit to trail by just a point.

After a tense opening 25 minutes in which Joanne Ryan hand-passed a great goal-chance into the side-netting, this quickly created a gap through which Tipp raced ominously.

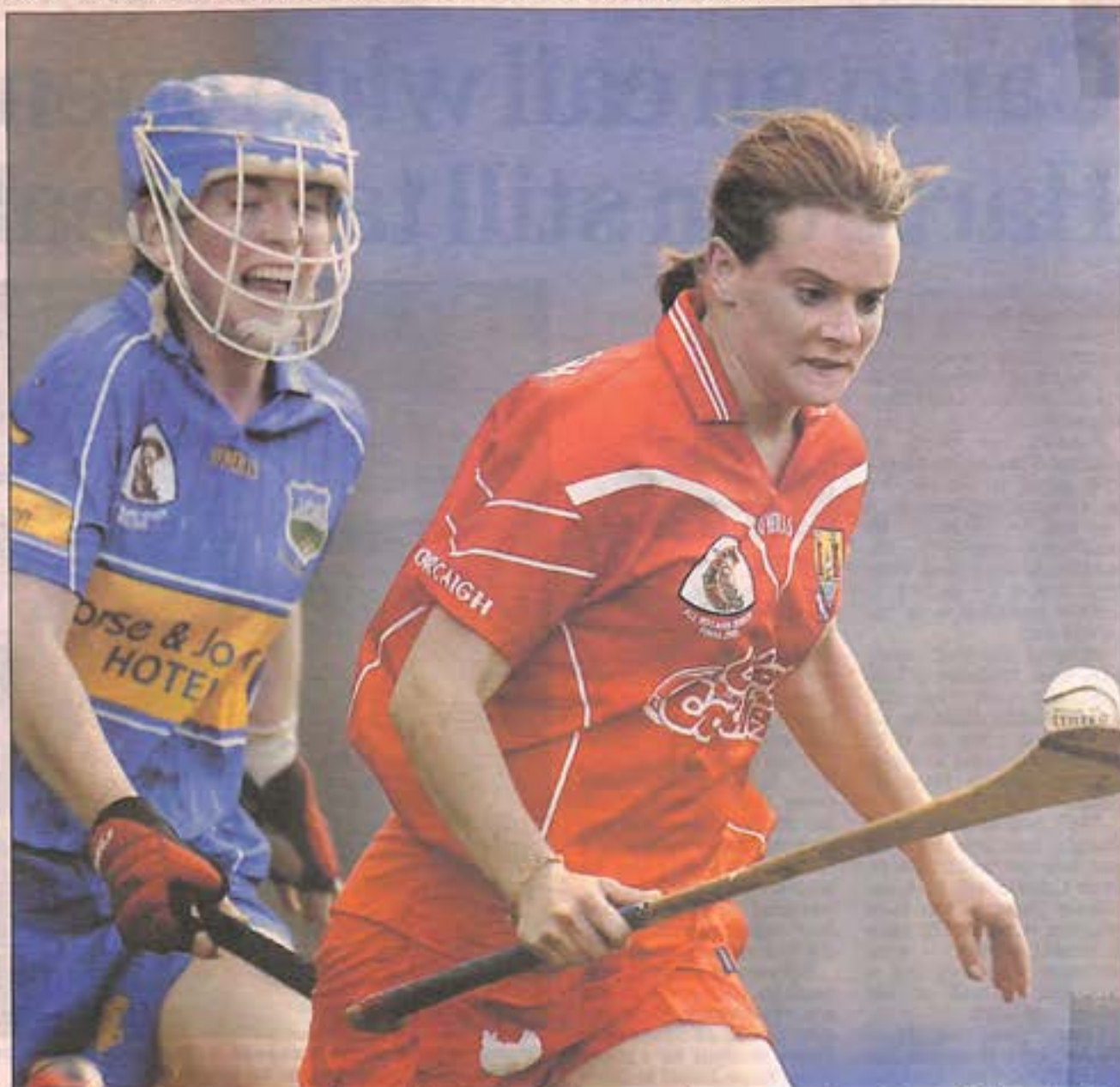
Jill Horan tagged on a quick point, as did Noelle Kennedy and Eimear O'Donnell and they went in five points up (1-10 to 0-8).

But Cork took heart from the fact that the margin flattered Tipp and that Deirdre Hughes still hadn't a championship score this summer thanks to Rosalie Holland.

Gemma O'Connor was immense in the second half, scoring two of her three points and 'cutting' numerous line-balls while also pulling all the attacking strings as the game turned into a tactical dogfight which the Rebels gradually won.

Within 20 minutes Cork had the margin back to a single point again and crucially their defence, led by Mary O'Connor and Anna Geary, did not yield a single second-half score until a 51st-minute free by Claire Grogan.

And then, crucially, Cork got a goal from an equally big defensive blooper when



Cork's Brieghe Corkery gets away from Philly Fogarty of Tipperary on her way to scoring a late point in yesterday's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie final at Croke Park. Picture: Brendan Moran/Sportsfile

Amanda O'Regan dropped a long free into the goalmouth and Tipp full-back Una O'Dwyer fumbled the catch past her own keeper Jovita Delaney.

Points from Hughes and Grogan actually put Tipp back into the lead with five minutes remaining but Cork's confidence soared and they raced to a memorable victory by reeling off an unanswered point per minute, including a barnstorming, inspirational score from Corkery.

SCORERS — Cork: E. Dillon 0-4, J. O'Leary 0-4 (21), A. O'Regan 1-0 (18), G. O'Connor 0-3, B. Corkery, U. O'Donoghue, R. Moloney, S. Dunlevy, E. Burke and A. Walsh 0-1 each. **Tipperary**: C. Grogan 1-5 (31), T. Kelly, J. Horan and E. McDonnell 0-2 each, P. Fogarty, J. Ryan, N. Kennedy and D. Hughes 0-1 each.

CORK — A. Murray, R. Buckley, R. Holland, A. O'Regan, B. Corkery, M. O'Connor, A. Geary, V. Harris, R. Moloney, U. O'Donoghue, G. O'Connor, J. O'Leary, E. Dillon, S. Dunlevy, E. Burke (Capt), Subst: J. O'Callaghan for Harris (half-time), S. Donovan for Burke (51), A. Walsh for O'Donoghue (55).

TIPPERARY — J. Grogan, S. Kelly, U. O'Dwyer, J. Ryan, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, P. Fogarty, A. McDonnell, J. Ryan, N. Kennedy, C. Grogan, E. McDonnell, D. Hughes (Capt), J. Horan, Subst: E. Hayden for Kennedy (37), M. Shortt for Gaynor (51), 55).

REF — J. Pender (Gidanes)

What a difference a year makes for proud Stephanie

by Jim O'Sullivan

WHEN Stephanie Dunlea eventually freed herself from the crowd and made her way to the dressingroom, she was almost walking on air. What a contrast to last year. Then, she was the losing captain and before she had time to get into a corner and cry her eyes out, she was one of the unfortunate players whisked away for the mandatory drugs test.

When she emerged about half an hour later, nearly all of her team-mates had left the dressingroom. She was distraught. The memory stayed with me, so I sought her out yesterday. You just couldn't describe the feelings of jubilation she was experiencing. You had to see it in her face.

"It's such a difference between winning and losing. It's all or nothing," she said. "Last year we had nothing, this year everything. It's brilliant. All the losses are forgotten. It's who the winners are that counts."

She attributed Cork's win to the fact that they never panicked, that they

always believed they could up it when it was demanded of them.

"We had the pace and we knew we'd last stronger. In fairness, our goal was a mistake between the full-back and the goalie. After that, we got the really crucial scores and the crowd got behind us. There was no answer from Tipp."

Brieghe Corkery and Angela Walsh each got a point near the end. They're playing in the ladies football final on Sunday week and they're super fit. I'd say that fitness definitely told in the end. Great credit is due to Fiona O'Driscoll for the work she did."

There were aspects of the game which disappointed her, primarily the issue of referees now allowing the play flow, of being tolerant of physicality even though it's supposed to be a non-contact sport.

"There seemed to be a lot of breaks in the play which make things sloppy to watch. And a lot of frees. They should definitely look at that. In hurling they let it go. It should be the same with camogie."



Sinead Nealon in control during a tense second-half at Croke Park. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.



Jill Horan launches another Tipperary attack.

PLAYER RATINGS

Aoife Murray – Apart from the first half mistake where she took her eye off the ball for a split second which led to Tipp's goal, Murray did well. Narrowed the angle well on 14 minutes to force Joanne Ryan to handpass wide. **Rating: 7/10.**

Rena Buckley – Had a very tough first half on Emer McDonnell who was on fire. Couldn't quite match McDonnell's speed. Played a lot more effectively and steady in the second half when moved to right half back. **Rating: 7/10.**

Rosarie Holland – Didn't see a huge amount of the ball but what did come her way she coped with well. Kept Deirdre Hughes to a single point and clearly won the battle. **Rating: 8/10.**

Amanda O'Regan – After a shaky first half in which Jill Horan scored two points, O'Regan turned in a magnificent performance in the second half. Her long clearances, in particular the one which led to Cork's goal, lifted Cork and she can be proud of her final debut. **Rating: 8/10.**

Breige Corkery – Tremendous. One first half blunder which led to Tipp's goal should not take from her overall performance. Played her best hurling when switched to centre field. **Rating: 9/10.**

Mary O'Connor – A dependable, solid game throughout. Led by example at centre back. The game passed her by a little in the second half but she won't complain. Her opponent Noelle Kennedy was substituted in the second half. **Rating: 8/10.**

Anna Geary – An excellent game which belied her tender years. Her inexperience caught her once or twice in the first half but she grew as the game went on. Worked hard. Magnificent debut. **Rating: 8/10.**

Vivienne Harris – Covered a lot of ground in the first half but couldn't quite get into the game at centrefield. Was a little unlucky to be the one chosen to go at half time and can be proud of her contribution to the team. **Rating: 7/10.**

Rachel Moloney – One of her best performances in the Cork jersey. Worked her socks off. Scored a great point in the first half in response to Tipp's point and her magnificent pass led to Dillon equalising with three minutes to go. **Rating: 9/10.**

Una O'Donoghue – Scored a good point in the first half when Cork needed to stay in the game. Marked one of Tipp's great players in Therese Brophy. Didn't get things easy. Substituted in the second half but contributed when on. **Rating: 7/10.**

Gemma O'Connor – My player of the match. Was effective in the first half and scored Cork's opening point. But it was at centre field that she really shone. Displaying character, drive, great fitness and scoring two points out of the top drawer she was one of the main reasons Cork won this game. **Rating: 9/10.**

Jennifer O'Leary – Worked extremely hard throughout the game. Blocked endlessly and kept the ball up front. Four points, two from play. A good afternoon's work. **Rating: 8/10.**

Emer Dillon – RTE Player of the match and along with O'Connor and deservedly so. Could have done better with one or two balls in the first half but blossomed in the second. Each point was sweeter than the next and at a crucial time in the game. Pointed Cork's equaliser and then put them a point ahead with three minutes to go. **Rating: 9/10.**

Stephanie Dunlea – May have only scored one point but her influence on the game should not go unnoticed. Minimised Una O'Dwyer's renowned dominance, forcing her into uncustomary errors. Won a vital free in the first half. **Rating: 8/10.**

Elaine Burke – Once again worked like a Trojan. Scored a point. Lost a bit of pace in the second half and was substituted, but still drove her team on from the sideline. A great captain. **Rating: 7/10.**

Joanne O'Callaghan – A good, solid game when introduced at half time. Dealt effectively with the few balls that came her way. Snuffed out Emer McDonnell's great first half performance. A great player to bring in. **Rating: 8/10.**

Sarah O'Donovan – Introduced midway through the second half. Worked hard. Brought new life into the full forward line. **Rating: 7/10.**

Angela Walsh – Another player to be introduced with 10 minutes or so left in the game. Scored a great point with two minutes to go to put Cork two ahead. Not an easy thing to do when introduced into such a pressurised game. For that alone she deserves a high rating. **Rating: 8/10.**

CORK TEAM – For their character, belief and never-say-die attitude – **Rating: 10/10.**

Compiled by Linda Mellerick

Just a per



Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray celebrates at the final whistle after their All-Ireland Camogie final victory over Tipperary. Picture: INPHO



Cork	1-17
Tipperary	1-13

NO-ONE gave them a chance.

Nobody believed they could do it.

But magnificent Cork believed and they were rewarded with their first Foras na Gaelige All-Ireland camogie crown since 2002 and in doing so dashed Tipperary's hopes of third successive crown in Croke Park yesterday.

The script before the game read that Cork would put up a fight before exiting the pitch defeated.

It looked that way at half-time as the Tipperary forwards ran the show and left the rebels in search of a miracle.

But a miracle was found as the Cork side made Lazarus look like a cheap magic trick as they were transformed from pale shadows in the first half to shining stars and eventual champions in the second half.

As expected Tipperary came straight out of the blocks and made all the early running. They quickly began to dominate key areas at half-back, midfield and more importantly in the forwards.

They opened the scoring after three minutes with a point from Jill Horan.

Cork replied and were in front courtesy of points from Gemma O'Connor and Stephanie Dunlea.

Using possession wisely and accuracy when shooting was crucial if Cork were to be victorious but they struggled in the early stages from nerves and hit four successive wides.

Tipperary were in control and developed attacks down the right and left wings and they were winning possession in the forward line far too easily as they lost their markers. In the first half, Tipperary were better all round, more creative and showed more cohesion as they picked apart the Cork defence.

The reason they struggled was because the Tipp half-forward line of Grogan, Noelle Kennedy and Joanne Ryan were continuously rotating positions and this left the penultimate line of Cork's defence confused.

But despite a lack of supply to the forwards and despite falling 0-7 to 0-3 behind after the opening quarter, Cork were well in the game and had Tipp on the ropes for periods scoring points through Emer Dillon, Elaine Burke and Rachel Moloney as they worked on narrowing the gap and the drew to within a point before they were hit by a sucker punch.

With three minutes in the first half remaining, a comedy of errors in the Cork back-line led to Clare Grogan shooting from distance and it ended in the net as Cork keeper, Aoife Murray lost the ball in the September sun.

It sent Cork tumbling back to square one and they struggled to recover as they drifted five points behind at the break (1-10 to 0-8).

The writing appeared to be on the wall for Cork at the break but nobody could

THREE REASONS WHY CORK WON

Quelling the Tipp attack: It's no secret that the Tipperary attack were well on top. They are amongst the most potent and damaging forwards in the country.

They scored 1-10 in the first half but in the second half, they were made redundant by superb defending.

Cork's back-line, led by Rosarie Holland and Anna Geary, pressured Tipp into errors.

Tactical switches: Cork were clearly in trouble in the first half losing the battle to contain Tipp in midfield and in the forward line. The Cork challenge was sinking at half-time but the manage-

ment made tough calls at the break and revamped the side. While it may have been drastic to make so many positional and personal changes it did have the desired effect.

Desire: Losing the last two All-Ireland finals to Tipperary and being completely written off in the run up to this year's decider fired up Cork.

All through the match, Cork's hunger never allowed them to fold, even when they conceded the goal and were on the wrong end of some questionable referee decisions. Their never-say-die attitude contributed to their victory.

fect day

WHAT THEY SAID

GEMMA O'CONNOR

As a member of the Irish defence forces, Gemma O'Connor is used to performing under pressure but she is unlikely to be involved in such a fierce battle as she was against Tipperary.

After the final whistle, she struggled to find the words to sum up her feelings.

"I don't think words can describe, how I feel now. After losing two years in a row, I have finally got back the feeling that I had in 2002. It is unreal but the girls thoroughly deserve it."

After being outplayed in the first half, Cork found their way back into the game and O'Connor attributes this to the wisdom of the management.

"It was a brilliant performance in the second half. When Tipp got the goal in the first half, it was a tough blow but we knuckled down in the second half."

O'Connor feels one of the attributing factors to Cork success was belief despite being completely written off in the run up the game.

"Every paper, every journalist and nearly every supporter tipped Tipperary to win but we believed we could do it."

MARY O'CONNOR

"This doesn't happen very often. We pulled it back from absolutely nothing. And to be honest at half-time we were talking about the Cork hurlers and how they came from behind against Clare. We didn't play well in the first half but we knew we had it in ourselves to come back into it."

"We had a game plan, stuck to it and luckily it paid off in the end."

The experienced campaigner was looking forward to the journey home, when the celebrations begin in earnest.

"We were fantastic today. It was very hard to play Tipperary today but there was no way we were going to come to Croke Park and lose three times in a row to them. I've been on the road ten years and it is absolutely fantastic for the girls and for me. We had Fiona who is a fantastic trainer and we needed to take responsibility on ourselves. This isn't only for 2005, it is for 2003 and 2004 as well."

RACHEL MOLONEY

Another heroine in the Cork victory was Courcey Rovers star, Rachel Moloney, who scored vital points at crucial stages.

She spoke of her delight for her team-mates.

"It is absolutely brilliant and the best way that you can ever end a year of hard work and dedication for every single person from numbers one to 29 and everyone involved including the trainers. I am delighted for me but I am also delighted for all the other players on the panel."

She pinpoints Cork's composure and their goal in the second half as the reasons for victory.

"The goal, we got was important, but also the fact we didn't panic throughout any of the match. Losing our composure has been our major downfall against Tipperary in the past. When they went ahead in the past we thought we couldn't beat them. We showed today we didn't panic. We took the right options for example we took the point instead of having a shot at goal."



Jill Horan of Tipperary and Brieghe Corkery of Cork during their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: INPHO

Player of the Match

GEMMA O'CONNOR was fantastic throughout the hour, but the accolade goes to Emer Dillon whose persistence in the forwards broke Tipp hearts.

Referee Watch

JOHN PENDER seemingly conspired to grab the limelight with some bizarre decisions, which threatened to ruin the final. **Rating:** 6/10.

Turning Point

UNA O'DWYER'S own goal, 12 minutes into the second-half, which put Cork in front for only the second time, gave the Cork side real belief.

Value for Money

THE tremendous work ethic of Cork and excellent hurling by both sides made this an enjoyable contest to watch. **Rating:** 8.

have foretold what was to come in the second half.

Drastic action was needed and it was taken by the Cork management, who made changes all round and restructured the side.

Rena Buckley was switched from corner-back to the wing with Moloney going to half-forward.

While Brieghe Corkery and Gemma O'Connor were switched to midfield and Joanne O'Callaghan replaced Vivienne Harris.

The move by the management was inspired as the supply to the forwards was improved due to the pace of Corkery and the battling skills of O'Connor.

Dillon and Stephanie Dunlea came to the fore for Cork after a quiet first half. Dunlea was well on top and winning

her battle against Una O'Dwyer as she dragged her out of position.

Within ten minutes, Cork had once again reduced the gap to a point.

Dillon, Jennifer O'Leary and two points from O'Connor bringing Cork to within touching distance of Tipp.

In the twelfth minute, Cork went in front for only the second time of the game courtesy of a bizarre own goal.

Amanda O'Regan delivered a high ball into the area, which appeared to be heading wide but Tipperary full-back, Una O'Dwyer attempted to catch the ball but she fumbled it past her own 'keeper.

In the second half, Cork were clearly the better side.

The struggling rearguard of the first period was replaced with consistent and reliable cover.

The Tipperary forward line weren't in the game as the backs chased and worked hard, which forced them to lose the swagger they played with in the first half.

In fact it only allowed Tipperary to score one point from play and the other two came from frees awarded because of daft refereeing decisions.

The referee, John Pender persisted in awarding daft frees against both sides and he threatened to ruin this game as a spectacle but luckily both sides rose above it.

Tipperary panicked and attempted to regroup but it was Cork who had the strongest kick for the line as points from Angela Walsh, Brieghe Corkery and Jennifer O'Leary propelled them to victory.

This is a win that goes some way to resurrecting the profile of camogie, while those involved in this county will be hoping it ushers in a new era of Cork dominance.

Scorers for Cork: J O'Leary 0-4 (0-1 free), E Dillon 0-4, G O'Connor 0-3, U O'Dwyer 1-0 (1-0 og), B Corkery, R Moloney, U O'Donoghue, S Dunlea, A Walsh and E Burke 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C Grogan 1-6 (0-3 free, 0-1 '45), E McDonnell and J Horan 0-2 each, A McDermott, J Ryan and N Kennedy 0-1 each.

Cork: A Murray, R Buckley, R Holland, A O'Regan, B Corkery, M O'Connor, A Geary, V Harris, R Moloney, U O'Donoghue, G O'Connor, J O'Leary, E Dillon, S Dunlea, E Burke.

Subs: J O'Callaghan for V Harris, A Walsh for U O'Donoghue, S O'Donovan for E Burke.

Referee: J Pender (Kildare).

Cork's pain converted into paeon



Gavin Cummiskey
at Croke Park

Cork 1-17
Tipperary 1-13

Boy, do Cork teams know how to close out games. In the last five minutes of yesterday's camogie final the 14,350 people present witnessed the definition of digging deep. It was a lesson in how to let the pain of defeat, in the last two deciders, all hang out - and avenge it.

Before those gripping final exchanges, the Cork obituary was being penned, with a goalkeeping error top of the list of possible causes. But that is now merely a footnote as they denied their greatest rivals the three-in-a-row, while collecting their 21st title.

The three years since their previous title represented a drought in camogie circles Leaside, and it showed with the outpouring of emotion at the full-time whistle.

Let us start at the end. Corner back Amanda O'Regan threw her team a lifeline eight minutes from time when her speculative 45 found its way into the Tipperary goal. Of all people, Una O'Dwyer was to blame as the shot bounced off her palm past a helpless Jovita Delaney in goal. It was a freak episode but not the first to occur down the Hill 16 end.

Tipperary had been living off a 27th-minute goal from Claire Grogan after a similar free from distance went through the legs of goalkeeper Aoife Murray, after confusion with full back Rosalie Holland.

Essentially, those farcical goals cancelled each other out.

The Cork goal did, however, edge them clear by a point at a vital time. Tipperary captain Deirdre Hughes levelled matters soon after before Grogan thumped over her fourth free of the day.

Cork's reply was in direct contrast to the previous two years. They came back downfield aggressively with Emer Dillon firing two long range points, followed by another from Angela Walsh in the space of 90 seconds. The Tipperary half-back line, minus Clara Gaynor, who had been replaced moments earlier, capitulated.

Briege Corkery, who along with Mary O'Connor, Rena Buckley and Angela Walsh is now seeking the double against Galway in the football final, had been flying up the wing all afternoon, and added a breathtaking score.

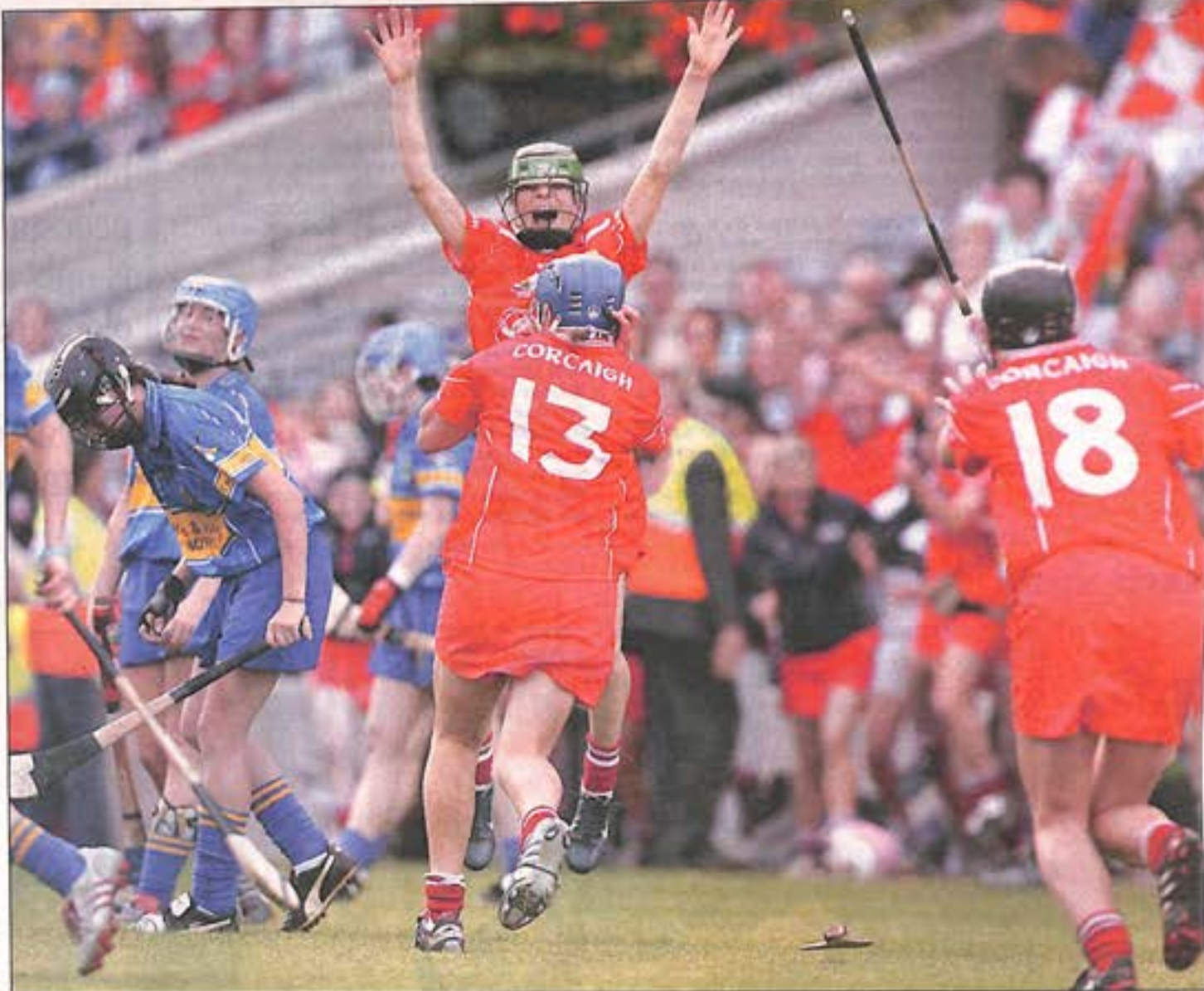
Tipperary looked out on their feet even before Jennifer O'Leary confirmed the result with a free in injury time.

It was in contrast to the manner in which Tipperary had begun their quest for a sixth title in seven years. Jill Horan opened their account and despite a Cork rally, Philly Fogarty's marvellous point, in a game of marvellous points, extended the lead to 0-5 to 0-2.

Grogan took over thereafter with 1-2 but Cork held in there with sporadic scores from Dillon, O'Leary and Elaine Burke. Still, Horan and Noelle Kennedy drove the Tipp dominance to the break, where they sat on a 1-10 to 0-8 lead.

Whatever Cork manager John Cronin or trainer Fiona O'Driscoll said in the caves under the Hogan Stand proved highly effective as they exploded out for the last 30 minutes of the season. Dillon pointed before Gemma O'Connor found her range with a brace.

The intensity stalled for a while as the scoreboard remained untroubled for 12 minutes, until



Cork's Rachael Moloney, Emer Dillon and Angela Walsh (right) celebrate All-Ireland victory. - (Photographer: Dara Mac Dónaill)

O'Leary ended a run of four Cork wides.

Cronin then made the brave decision of calling captain Elaine Burke ashore for Walsh. It turned out to be an inspirational move as the 20-year-old was heavily involved in the late blitz.

The Cork goal followed and

although it levelled matters in the karma stakes it was harsh on a Tipperary full-back line that had been handling intense bombardment in an assured manner.

Most of this Tipperary team have been on the road even before the breakthrough in 1999 so as another age of Cork cam-

ogie begins maybe yesterday we witnessed the end of an era.

CORK: A Murray; R Buckley, R Holland, A O'Regan (1-0, free); B Corkery (0-1), M O'Connor, A Geary; V Harris, R Moloney (0-1); U O'Donoghue (0-1), G O'Connor (0-3, one free), J O'Leary (0-4, two frees); E Dillon (0-4), S Dunlea (0-1), E Burke (capt, 0-1). Subs: J O'Callaghan for V Harris (half-time); S Donovan for E Burke (50 mins); A

Walsh (0-1) for U O'Donoghue (54 mins).

TIPPERARY: J Delaney; S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, J Kinan; S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy; P Fogarty (0-1), A McDermott; J Ryan (0-1), N Kennedy (0-1), C Grogan (1-5, 0-4 frees); E McDonnell (0-2), D Hughes (0-1), J Horan (0-2). Subs: E Hayden for N Kennedy (36 mins); M Shortt for C Gaynor (54 mins). Referee: J Pender (Kildare).

Younger Rebel legs walk the walk this time

GAVIN CUMMISKEY
AT CROKE PARK

"Rebels abú arís," cried Cork captain Elaine Burke from the steps of the Hogan Stand. How nice it must feel to steal a line from Seán Óg Ó hAilpín and for it to carry equal resonance in your own sport.

It was strange to be asking Tipperary manager Paddy McCormack, in his first year in charge, about the end of an era but many of his players have been at this since the early 1990s. We needed to know had time caught up on a great team.

"That would be taking away from Cork, I think," he said. "On the day we had no excuses. Cork were the better team in the end."

"Now, we were in the position especially at half-time, (when we led) by five points, but we knew Cork were going to come at us. We knew this Cork team weren't going to take three defeats in a row easy."

"We knew that and we went into the second half trying to take the game to them. They got the break off the goal but maybe vice versa, we got the break in the first half with a goal as well."

"But once they got that goal they

seemed to dominate certain sections of the field. Important sections. They were the team going forward."

"It's great for John Cronin coming in, in his first year, and winning an All-Ireland, but having said that our girls are absolutely brilliant, we are very proud of them. They have been here seven years in a row. They are great sports people and they will continue at the highest level and I know come next February they will be back looking for more again."

Granted, Tipperary camogie is here to stay but will they all return?

"Look, if anybody ever walks away

from this Tipperary team we can't say anything to them. They've achieved so much. Some of them have been hurling since 1992, so they had lean days as well. Okay, they have made hay while they could over the last number of years but I wouldn't write any of them off yet."

Still, in the end, fitness was the brutal difference between the teams. That and the fact Cork were simply not prepared to lose to Tipperary this time even after a disastrous opening half hour.

"I suppose there was pressure on us to deliver after the two defeats but they really came out fighting in the second half," said Cronin. "I think our younger

legs won it for us."

On collecting the O'Duffy Cup, Burke paid tribute to trainer Fiona O'Driscoll, who played an essential role in the 2002 victory by scoring a hat-trick in the final and again from the sidelines this year.

"Fiona is phenomenal," said Burke. "She was a phenomenal player, I mean the last time we beat Tipperary was down to her. 4-9 to 1-9; she got the three goals."

"What she brings to the team words can't describe. The thought that goes into every training session. The method and the tactics she uses, it was something we hadn't been used to."



Philly Fogarty scores a point despite the best efforts of Cork's Jennifer O'Leary. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.



Amanda O'Regan, Joanne O'Callaghan, and Gemma O'Connor, at the reception for the All-Ireland winning Cork Camogie team, at the Evening Echo offices.

Picture: Cillian Kelly / News Digital

Leesiders rally for late win TAKES TITLE



ELATION: Cork manager John Cronin celebrates at full-time and (right) Aoife

Briege Corkery and Jennifer O'Leary's free stunning Tipp. Such a scenario had looked unlikely during the early stages of the game when Tipp dominated proceedings.

The defending champions started brightly with Jill Horan putting them ahead with a fourth minute point.

Gemma O'Connor replied for Cork less than 60 seconds later before a great score by Stephanie Dunlea gave them the lead for the first time.

Tipperary started to gain the initiative though and four minutes later a Claire Grogan free brought the sides back level.

It was the first of five successive Tipp points as they stormed into a 0-6 to 0-2 lead by the 16th minute.

Cork had gone 12 minutes without a score before midfielder Rachel Moloney finally ended the drought.

However, her point was cancelled out almost immediately after Grogan registered another free for the Premier County.

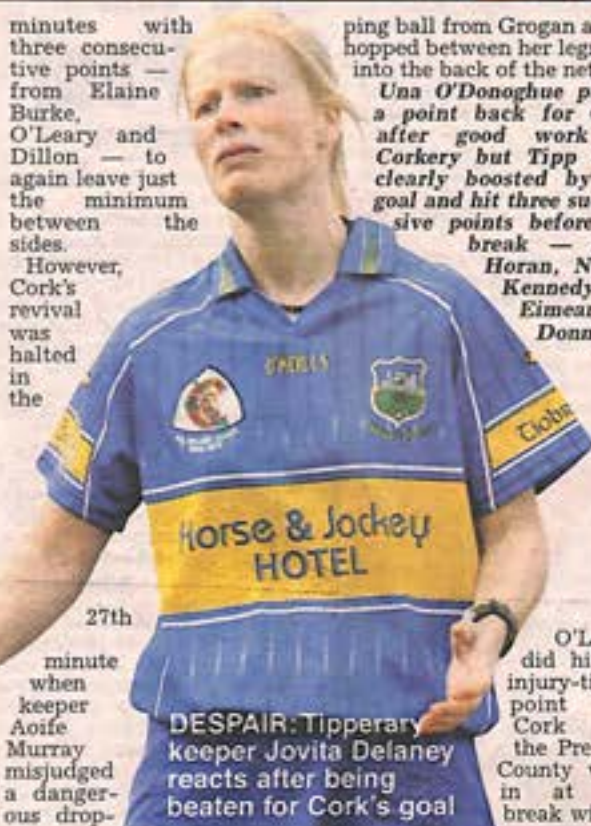
But Cork enjoyed their best spell of the half over the next six

minutes with three consecutive points — from Elaine Burke, O'Leary and Dillon — to again leave just the minimum between the sides.

However, Cork's revival was halted in the

ping ball from Grogan and it hopped between her legs and into the back of the net.

Una O'Donoghue pulled a point back for Cork after good work by Corkery but Tipp were clearly boosted by the goal and hit three successive points before the break — from Horan, Noelle Kennedy and Eimear McDonnell.



DESPAIR: Tipperary keeper Jovita Delaney reacts after being beaten for Cork's goal

five point lead, 1-10 to 0-8.

But the Rebels refused to throw in the towel and burst out of the blocks on the resumption with three points in seven minutes from Dillon and Gemma O'Connor (two).

Cork were dominating the game now and the gap was reduced to one in the 49th minute when O'Leary fooled two defenders before tapping over.

Tipperary's first score of the second half arrived from a Grogan free soon after before O'Regan's goal put Cork ahead.

The Premier County had edged back to lead by one with just three minutes left but Cork had one last decisive push.

CORK: A Murray; R Buckley, R Holland, A O'Regan (1-0, 10); B Corkery (0-1), M O'Connor, A Geary; V Harris, R Moloney (0-1); U O'Donoghue (0-1), G O'Connor (0-3), J O'Leary (0-4, 25); E Dillon (0-4), S Dunlea (0-1), E Burke (0-1). **SUBS:** J O'Callaghan for Harris (20); S Donovan for Burke (50 mins); A Walsh (0-1) for O'Donoghue (54 mins).

TIPPERARY: J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, J Kirwan, S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy, P Fogarty (0-1), A McDermott; J Ryan (0-1), N Kennedy (0-1), C Grogan (1-5, 4th); E McDonnell (0-2), D Hughes (0-1), J Horan (0-2). **SUBS:** E Hayden for Kennedy (26 mins); M Short for Gaynor (54 mins).

REFEREE: J Pender (Kildare).

FINALE IS FITTING FOR CORK

■ GORDON MANNING reports

CORK captain Elaine Burke summed it up on the steps of the Hogan Stand: 'An Rebels abu aris.'

Cork senior hurling captain Sean Óg O hAilpin had uttered 'Rebels abu' just seven days earlier when he lifted the Liam MacCarthy, but yesterday it was the turn of the county's camogie team.

"The hurlers' win was fantastic last week and I suppose it helped a little bit with my speech," joked Elaine.

"We are absolutely delighted. We gave it everything in the second half. Gemma O'Connor played the game of her life in the second half while Briege Corkery came of age as senior camogie player.

"They got a goal in the first half but we weren't thinking 'oh no here we go again'.

"In times gone by they were getting goals in the second half so in ways it was better coming at the start of the game."

Cork boss John Cronin, in his first year at the helm, admitted that his players' determination not to lose three successive All-Ireland finals to Tipperary played a huge part in the win.

Pressure

"We were very disappointed with our first half performance. There was huge pressure on us to deliver after the two previous defeats.

"But we came out fighting in the second half and I think we had the extra legs at the finish. Our strength in depth was also very important.

"We were really up for it because we said all year that we weren't going to be beaten by Tipperary again this year.

"I think we brought on a few subs and they made a big difference. We stopped the supply going into their forwards and we had fantastic performances all over the field.

"We were on top in the second half. It is nice to stop Tipperary's dominance, especially being a Cork person. But Tipperary are a terrific team and no doubt they will be back."

Tipp boss Paddy McCormack admitted his side were looking good when leading by five points at half-time, but says the better team won on the day.

"We were probably in a good position at half-time. We were five points up but we knew Cork were going to come at us. They weren't going to take three defeats in a row easily.

"I won't take anything away from Cork they deserved to win. But I am very proud of this team and they will be back again next year."



Left, Tipperary players Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy line up before the start of Sunday's All Ireland senior camogie final. Above, Tipp fullback Una O'Dwyer in action in the

CORK Camogie sits proudly on the throne this evening as the county celebrates its coming of age in Croke Park yesterday afternoon.

This victory was born out of sheer passion and determination but mostly out of a desire to restore pride.

A passion and desire borne from having to agonisingly watch from the wings as Tipperary annexed five titles in the last six years. When the need was greatest Cork answered the call against a Tipp side who, when the going got tough, had no answers.

On three occasions in the first half Tipperary opened up a three-point advantage and with seconds to the half time whistle that had increased to six but a vital point before the break from Jennifer O'Leary raised the spirits of her side at a vitally important time.

Cork had battled through the first half to keep pace but a dreadful mistake four minutes from the break saw Clare Grogan gifted a goal with a long range effort just at a time when Cork had whittled the lead down to a single point.

By the half time whistle Tipp led by five points yet the Cork heads never dropped but it was obvious there were problems and they needed to be addressed.

The concession of a silly goal would have rattled many a team but it was no time to panic, just get to the dressing room and regroup.

Cork were revitalised from the start of the second half and credit must go to their backroom team who never panicked through the sixty minutes, their calmness a major factor in this victory.

Through the first half Rena Buckley had struggled to contain the lively Emer McDonnell and looked confined in the corner-back position; Buckley is used to the more open spaces of the half back line and revels in driving long ball forward the introduction of Joanne O'Callaghan to the corner back position allowed Buckley to move to the half back line where she upped her game considerably and was totally dominant.

More importantly the move allowed Brieghe Corkery go centre field where through the first half Vivienne Harris and Rachel Maloney were unable to gain the upper hand on their opposite numbers Philly fog arty and Angie McDermott, as a result the Cork inside line were starved of possession.

To their credit when they did gain possession they grabbed the scores a testament to this is all of their first half scores came from play.

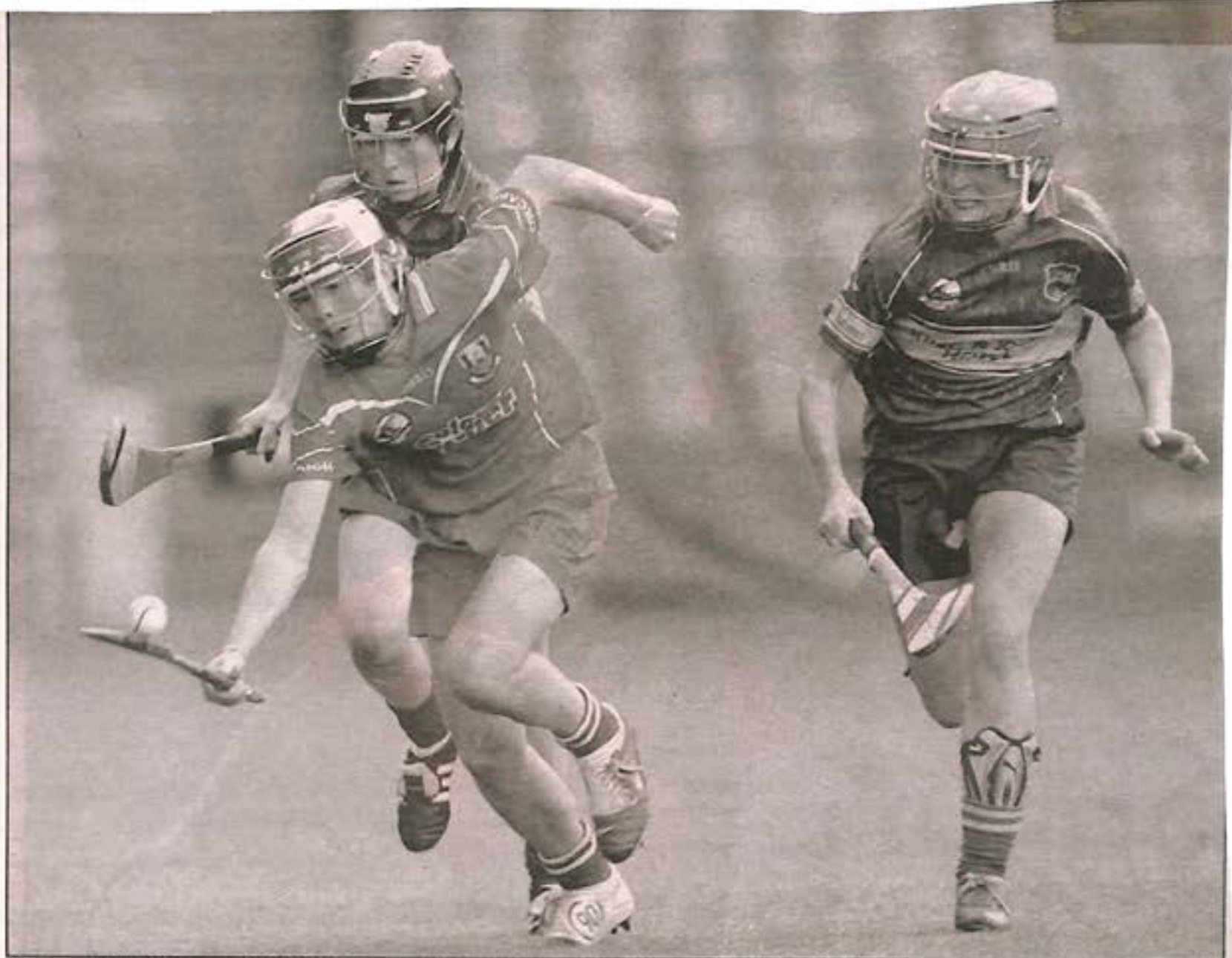
Gemma O'Connor played a vital role when moved to partner Corkery at midfield and three points from play between the 35th and 49th minute helped cut the Tipp lead to just one point.

Gemma is a player who likes space and revels in the midfield role yesterday of second half partnership of O'Connor and Corkery paid huge dividends for the new champions at a time when they needed a lift.

Moloney gave Clara Gaynor a torrid time when going to half forward so much so that Tipp's most renowned defender was withdrawn with minutes remaining.

Dillon made a huge contribution none more so than in the fifty eight minutes with a sweet equalising point and, a minute later, slotting over to give Cork a lead they held to the finish.

She worked tirelessly throughout and was named Player of the Game



Tipperary's Claire Grogan and Angie McDermott tackle Rena Buckley of Cork during their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final in Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: INPHO

A proud day for Rebel camogie



Gemma O'Connor celebrates at the final whistle.

From Mary Newman in Croke Park



by the Sunday Game panel.

Stephanie Dunlea celebrated her birthday in style as she picked up her sixth senior medal yesterday.

Having suffered the disappointment of captaining losing sides in consecutive finals, few would have argued if she had chosen to walk away, but she has played a huge role for this team since early in the cam-

paign switching from the defence to the full forward she brought huge experience and strength to a position that had caused problems for Cork.

Yesterday she succeeded in blotting out last season's player of the year, Una O'Dwyer.

The Cork back room team had some hard calls to make yesterday but they made them none more so that the replacing of their captain Elaine Burke. Elaine had struck a superb point in the first half at a time when Cork were struggling but recognising their captain having given her all and had to be replaced, they made the right call.

The introduction of Angela Walsh

and Sarah O'Donovan brought pace to the Cork attack but more importantly, fresh legs at a vital time when a tiring Tipperary defence were beginning to leave more and more space for Cork.

In last week's preview I felt Cork would have to be tough to win this All Ireland, that they needed to take the knocks and get up and dust themselves down and they also needed to stand up and be count and boy did they do that yesterday.

Every one of them wore their hearts on their sleeves and played as if their lives depended on it as they hooked, blocked and chased to the end.

During the national anthem I watched both camps, Cork standing arms linked on and off the field, players and hurley carriers together on the edge of the pitch, and, unusually, selectors, manager, trainer and medical staff in a similar pose, whereas while the Tipp team stood together but I sensed more determination in the Cork.

At Tuesday's captain's day in Croke Park, Elaine Burke and Joanne O'Callaghan were very focused but relaxed while Tipperary captain Deirdre Hughes seemed edgy and restless and I sensed a fear in her of what this Cork side were going to produce.

Big plaudits to Fiona O'Driscoll, John Cronin, Ollie Hallihan and Lillian Zinkant, who had every angle covered and it was their tactical moves which won the day for Cork.

This team believed in themselves at time when the rest of the country wrote them off, since February they set out their target and worked at it, losing the national league was a disappointment but they continued to work hard.

Tipperary surprised many with the intensity of the Munster final victory but Fiona O'Driscoll had other targets and they were reached yesterday. Having done it only a short few years ago as a player in the game, she graced with such distinction, she becomes the first modern day player to guide her county to All-Ireland success.

It's time now for Fiona and her troops to bask in the glory after a victory well deserved.

Well done, Cork, you did the county proud.



Linda Mellerick

MIGHTY mighty Cork.

There have been many games over the years which Cork badly needed to win.

Times when the pressure was so great and the future of the County depended on it.

But never was an All-Ireland victory needed more than yesterday. Had Cork lost this final it would have been a major blow.

We needed to stop Tipp in their bid for three in a row. We needed to put Cork back up there as one of the kingpins of Camogie and we needed to restore our pride.

We got all three yesterday afternoon in one of the most magnificent second half performances seen in Camogie for many a long time.

We were finished at half time. Give me one Cork person who thought otherwise.

Tipp were heading for their sixth title in seven years, their second three in a row in seven years. None of the neutrals gave Cork a chance and after thirty minutes it looked as if they were right.

But credit the management team and their half time decisions which brought about a magnificent transformation.

Cork were struggling. In an almost replica of last year's final, they began the game on top. Leading by two points to one after five minutes but hitting three wides Tipp gained momentum. Tipp finished the first half so strongly it was hard to see how Cork could respond.

Emer McDonnell and Jill Horan were having a field day on Rena Buckley and Amanda O'Regan respectively. As expected we just couldn't cope with their speed and McDonnell in particular was so in command she seemed to be teasing. Cork were under ferocious pressure. We were losing the battle at centrefield and the supply going in was crippling.

Critical though we might have been, that Buckley was left for so long on McDonnell we all expected Joanne O'Callaghan to be a direct replacement at half time.

Not so. And the selectors cannot be praised enough for the personnel and positional switches they made. It was obvious that a lot of thought went into this final.

There existed a contingency plan. Vivienne Harris was the player to lose out. She was unlucky to go. She ran herself into the ground but the play went past her and that can happen.

Joanne O'Callaghan came on at right corner back. Rena Buckley moved out to right half back. Breige Corkery pushed out to centre field and Gemma O'Connor and Rachel Moloney in a direct switch moved to centre field and centre forward respectively.

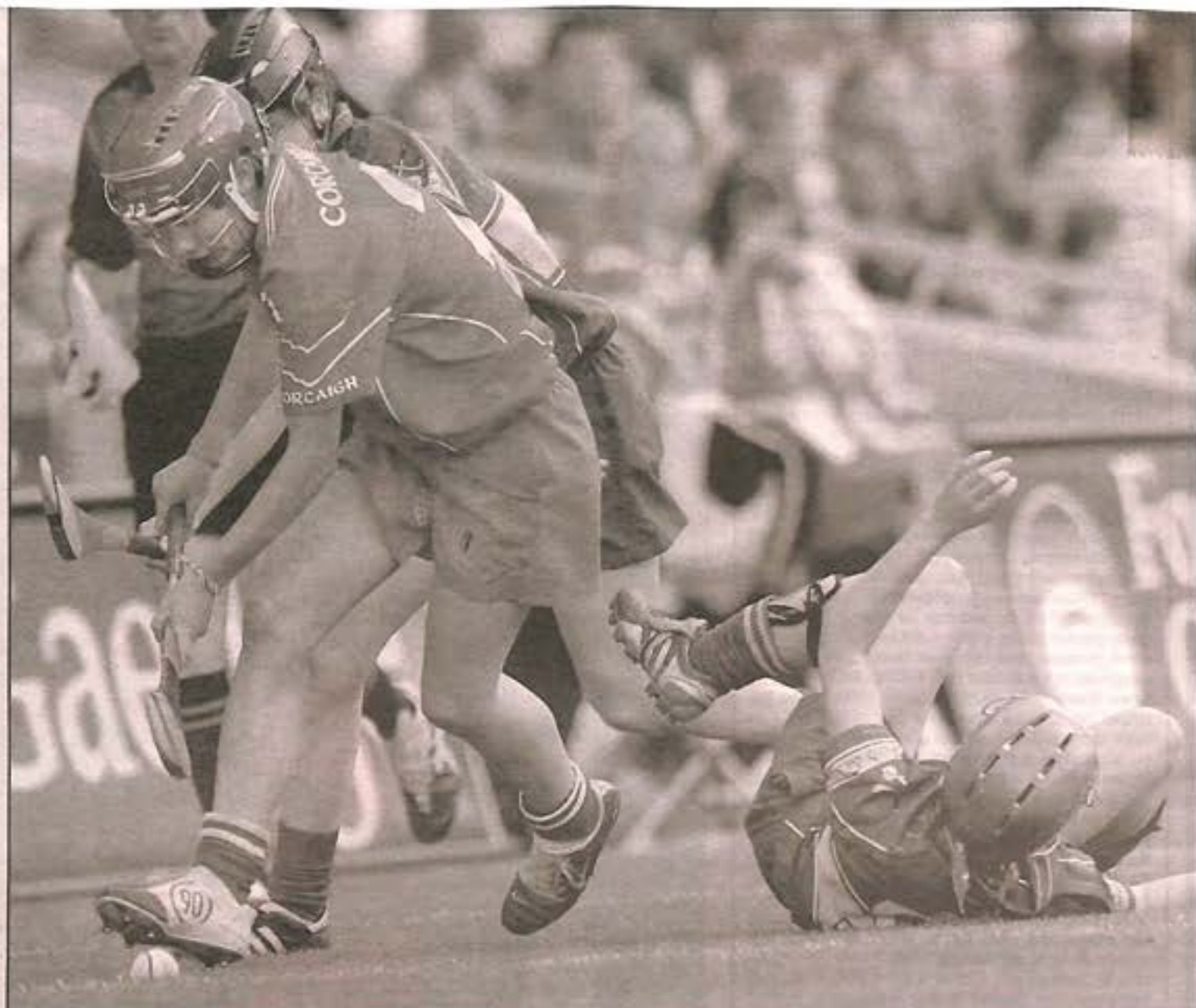
O'Connor was a revelation. If her performance yesterday doesn't prove to all and sundry that she is the best midfielder in the country then I don't know what will.

She covered miles in the second half and two magnificent points in the 38th and 39th minute brought Cork within two points of Tipp having been five down at the break.

Self belief won this title. Twelve months ago when Tipp went in five up at the break Cork were defeated. Not this year. Once again, a stroke of luck gifted Tipp their goal with three minutes to half time. With five minutes to go only a point separated the sides and Cork looked to be finishing strongly. Breige Corkery, all alone, left the ball run past her. McDonnell was on hand to collect and while her first attempt was blocked she managed the handpass to Noelle Kennedy whose long drive defied keeper Aoife Murray for the softest of goals. Three further points and Cork were backpeddling.

Hard to believe that it took Tipp 20 minutes of the second half to score again.

A total of three points and only one from play summed up Cork's second half dominance.



Cork's Rena Buckley bursts past Philly Fogarty of Tipperary during their All-Ireland Senior camogie final at Croke Park.

Picture: Dan Linehan

Magnificent Cork deliver in style

They thundered into the game.

Corkery, Gemma O'Connor and Rachel Moloney won a huge amount of ball and used it intelligently.

Joanne O'Callaghan slotted back into corner back as if she was never away and credit her performance. Twice the ball came in low to McDonnell (the type of ball she loves) and twice O'Callaghan was there to block or tap it away.

Rosaire Holland, the quiet, unassuming, no frills player grew in stature and made the full back position hers. Deirdre Hughes, one point in 64 minutes - enough said. Jill Horan, along with McDonnell is one of the fastest, most skilful forwards in the country. Amanda O'Regan was up against it and had a tough first half.

We were being beaten in the corners and had to do something about it. The selectors stuck with O'Regan and she paid them in kind. She came into her own in the second half and while certainly the supply coming through wasn't as plentiful as in the first half she drove anything that did come her way back up the field again

If Tipp got a lucky break in the first half with Kennedy's goal then it was Cork's turn. O'Regan's long range free went all the way to the net after Una O'Dwyer's failed attempt to catch hit off her elbow and over the line. It was the tonic Cork needed and it put them in front for the first time in the game with 11 minutes remaining.

But it was in the last ten minutes that Cork were well and truly a joy to watch.

Showing incredible fitness and sensing victory, nothing could hold them back.

Elaine Burke made way for Angela Walsh as Cork introduced even fresher legs and she too made an immediate impact scoring a crucial point.

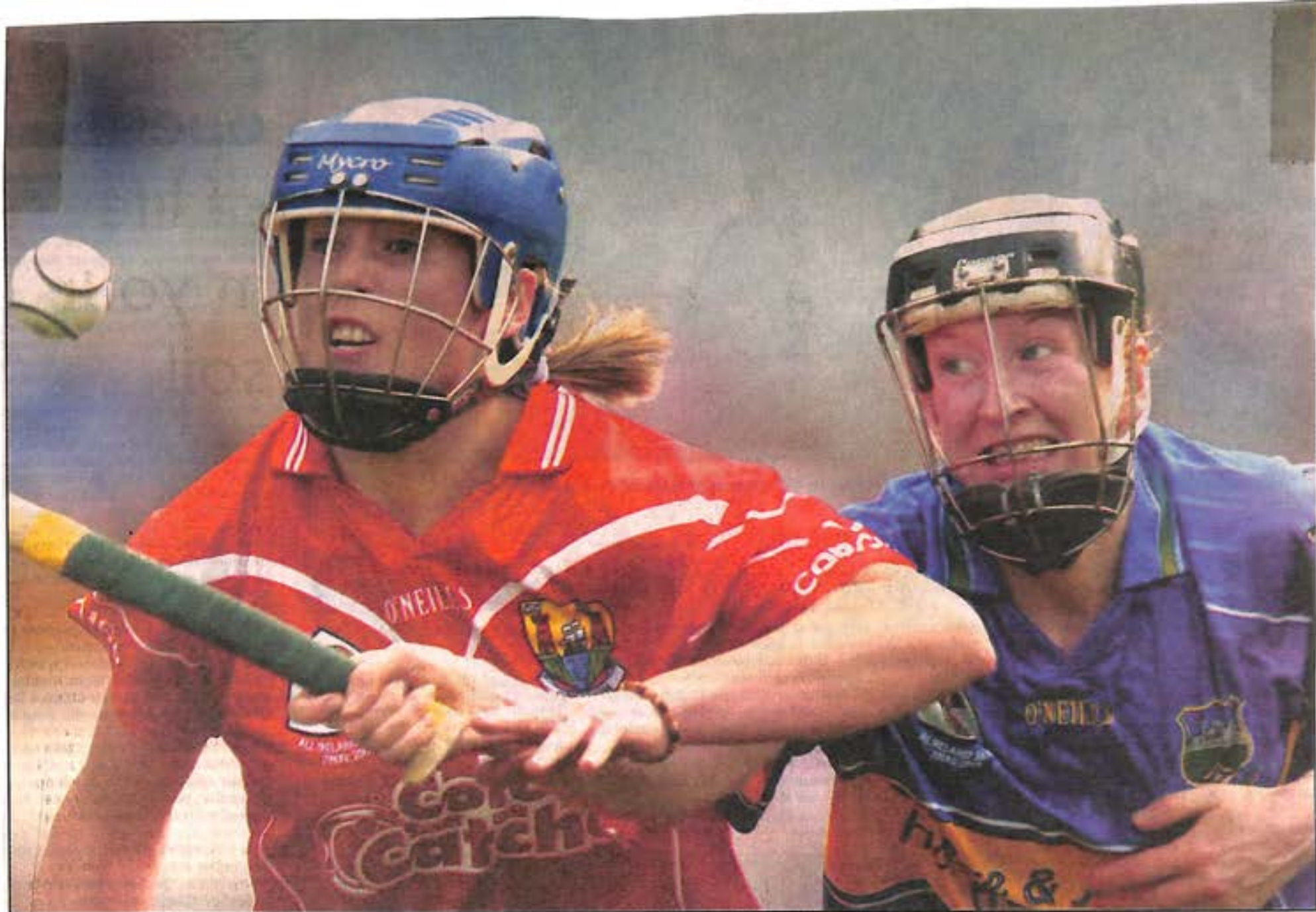
Cork scored 1-9 in the second half with only one point coming from a placed ball. They out-classed Tipp in every section of the field. Cork's half back line of Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor and Anna Geary and Corkery and O'Connor at centrefield worked so hard it took the pressure off the full back line. Up front Emer Dillon came into her own and scored

three top-class points. The point scoring by both teams was of a quality rarely seen at headquarters. Moloney was magnificent at centre forward and her intelligent use of the ball led created numerous chances for her team mates. Tipps driving force Clara Gaynor was replaced with 10 minutes to go and that announcement must surely have lifted Cork.

Jennifer O'Leary ran at the defence and once again played a vital role. Stephanie Dunlea's role was hugely significant in stamping out the threat of Una O'Dwyer.

Captain Elaine Burke played her heart out even when things were going against her.

Overall this was a magnificent team performance. A magnificent second half performance, filled with desire, passion, character and pride. The girls can be proud of their achievement, the management and backroom team can be proud of their achievement, the County board can be proud of their achievement but most of all the people of Cork can be proud of their achievement. We won our 21st All-Ireland senior title in style and we did it with pride.



Cork's Emer Dillon breaking past Tipperary's Una O'Dwyer during yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

Match report: Page 24

Picture: Dan Linehan

Croker's Red September

TIPPERARY learned one of the oldest lessons in the book yesterday in Croke Park: Rebels die hard.

Cork's camogie players stirred the soul with a rousing fight-back in yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final, reeling in their opponents with a gutsy final quarter. It's been a good September for the red jersey.

Yesterday in the bowels of Croke Park words alone from the Cork manager could not describe the commitment, loyalty, dedication and enthusiasm of the Red and White. John Cronin readily admitted it was difficult to do justice so such an elite and professional bunch of girls.

"What can I say about them that ye haven't seen yourselves out on the field? The spirit of the team is unbelievable," he said.

"Tipperary had the upper hand in the first half but we managed to cut off the supply. Our strength in depth was vital. We brought on two very fast subs (Sarah O'Donovan and Angela Walsh). Gemma O'Connor moved to midfield and Brieger Corkery swept up a lot of loose

ball. We hit four points on the trot after the break.

"We had a lot of work done for this game and were not going to be beaten by Tipp again.

"We watched the hurlers lift the cup last week and spoke about that before we went out. A rising tide lifts all boats.

"It was a terrific game and it is great to bring the cup back to Cork."

History takes care of itself. More significant was the manner in which Cork ended a miserable run against their great Munster rivals. Not that goalkeeper Aoife Murray was worrying herself with such detail.

"Frankly we didn't give a damn who we were playing. We got back on our feet today after defeats in 2003 and 2004 and we did it with style. We answered a lot of questions," she said.

Captain Elaine Burke looks set for a busy evening in Innishannon after her open invitation to the Valley Rovers club this evening where she will proudly showcase the silverware that has been absent from Leeside since 2002.

"We are a small club and this



Therese O'Callaghan
Croke Park

means so much to me. It was also for my family and the people of Cork. This victory means so much to so many people. We represent a whole county and were not merely playing for ourselves. Cork is a very proud GAA county," she said.

"When things were not going our way we never panicked. We needed to get the ball faster into the full forward line. Gemma O'Connor played the game of her life when moved to midfield. Brieger Corkery came of age as a senior player and Anna Geary had a phenomenal game. You can't underestimate how important their contributions were."

She also hailed trainer Fiona O'Driscoll as one of the driving forces behind this victory.

"We could have panicked when

Tipp goaled. But we recovered. We concentrated in counter-acting their game. At half-time our aim was simply to win every ball.

"Our fitness was key to victory. We can thank Fiona O'Driscoll for that. She had so much heart and passion as a player and still has it.

"She spoke to every one of us individually, even the subs. She knows every aspect of everybody's game."

Ballygarvan will be en fête too. It would not be the first time that Emer Dillon turned in a five-star display. Returning four massive points, the corner forward played a central role in the success.

"My confidence grew as the game went on. We hurt badly over the last few years. We had to fight back today, but remained patient and that stood to us," she said. "We scored two points at the start of the second half while Tipp weren't generating any chances."

The final was an intense affair, with neither side ducking the blows. When the need was greatest, Corkery moved up-field to deliver a wonderful point.

"It is just a great honour for me to be on the team," she confessed. "We knew we had to dig so deep and burn every bit of petrol in the engine. Training all year was tough but enjoyable. I enjoyed playing in Croke Park."

If she did, she has another opportunity to shine in two weeks in the ladies football final. Will the dual star have any problem re-energising herself for this next important date?

"We will have a good shot at winning that one too," she promised. "It is a great year so far. I am so excited now to have the chance of another medal in two weeks' time."

Milford's Anna Geary was thrilled to win her first senior All-Ireland medal.

"Nobody gave us a chance," she said. "We needed to bring an All-Ireland back to Cork. People said we were the top two teams but we were second and that was no good to us."

Recently appointed camogie development officer Mary O'Connor added: "We won this for the losses of 2003 and 2004. We were up for it today."



Cork players Rachel Maloney, Jennifer Browne, Aoife Murray and Ciara Healy, at a reception for the Cork camogie team at the Evening Echo offices last night.

Picture: Gillian Kelly



Members of the Cork camogie team Emer Dillon, Colette Desmond, and Sarah O'Donovan at a reception for the Cork team in the Evening Echo offices last night.

Picture: Gillian Kelly

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALS

REBEL SURGE



SILVER LINING: Elaine Burke lifts the trophy



Gordon MANNING
CHAMPIONSHIP 2005
sport@thestar.ie

■ Cork 1-17 Tipperary 1-13

THE next time Croke Park needs a dash of paint they could do worse than colour it red and white because it's starting to feel like home for Cork teams these days.

The Cork camogie side staged a whirlwind finish at GAA Headquarters yesterday by scoring five points in the final two minutes to beat defending champions Tipperary in an exhilarating All-Ireland final.

The victory comes only a week after the Cork senior hurling team collected the Liam MacCarthy Cup.

The county's ladies footballers will hope to make it a treble success for the Rebels when they contest their All-Ireland final in a fortnight.

Tipperary appeared to be heading for a third successive All-Ireland senior camogie title for large parts of yesterday's game.

But the Rebels never gave up and put in a storming final two minutes to win the O'Duffy Cup for the first time since 2002.

Hunger

It was the fourth successive final between the sides but Cork's extra hunger in the second half — when they outscored Tipp 1-9 to 0-3 — pushed them over the line yesterday.

Tipp led by five points at half-time but failed to score for the first 21 minutes of the second period, by which time Cork had reduced the gap to the minimum.

The Rebels then took the lead when a long range free by Amanda O'Regan was fumbled by Tipp full-back Una O'Dwyer under her own crossbar and the ball spilled out of her hand and past keeper Jovita Delaney.

Tipp responded with a brace of points, by captain Deirdre Hughes and Claire Grogan, to lead again by a point in the 57th minute.

However, just 60 seconds later Cork corner-forward Emer Dillon leveled the game once more with a fantastic score.

It was the catalyst for a tumultuous Cork finish with quick-fire points by Dillon, Angela Walsh,



PLAYER OF THE MATCH BRIEGE CORKERY

THE Cloughdun girl put in a storming display at wing-back yesterday, playing a key role in Cork's victory.

Her probing runs forward led to many Cork scores, while she even tapped over a point herself in the closing stages.

Corkery was pushed closely for the accolade by Gemma O'Connor and Barryroe's Jennifer O'Leary.

All-Ireland champions 2005: Camogie



Cork's Una O'Donoghue evades the tackle of Tipperary's Therese Brophy during the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.



Cork stars Colette Desmond, Rachel Moloney and Linda O'Connell celebrate at the final whistle, after they came from five points down at half-time to beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Dan Linehan

Tipp in total shock after 'failing to perform'

by Jim O'Sullivan

IT MAY be the end of the road for Tipperary captain Deirdre Hughes who as good as announced her retirement from inter-county activity after yesterday's All-Ireland final.

However she is adamant that the future for camogie in Tipperary remains bright. "It was a disappointing day for us all, we came up with high hopes," she commented after the game. "We got that winning feeling over the last few years. We're all in total shock. We know we didn't perform."

With reports in advance indicating that this would be her last year, Deirdre admitted that she "couldn't see herself" coming back next year. "But, there's a big squad — 31 on the panel — and there are a lot of young players there."

"I'd say I'm gone definitely. The legs are gone at this stage," said the 31-year-old, who had the distinction of being the only current player to be chosen on the 'Team of the Century'.

She was not just disappointed for the team, but for her own club, Toomevara. "They deserved a victory

Tipp captain

parade tomorrow night, but it wasn't meant to be. That's sport. Personally I have had a great run, I can't complain. No regrets," she said.

In relation to the way the final was won and lost, she felt that Cork's goal marked the turning point. "They seemed to bombard us after that. They were coming at us in waves."

Experienced defender Sinead Neylon felt that "too many" of the team died, that they lost ground in "too many areas."

"We just couldn't get ball into our inside forward line — where our key players are. That was basically it. We had chances and they probably got a soft goal. That's what wins games, we got a soft goal in the first half. I think they were the better team on the day."

"Cork just seemed to get a good run at the start of the second half and near the end we couldn't keep it pucked out to them. Fair play to them, they threw everything at us. They were worthy winners."

Team manager Paddy McCormack



Tipp's Joanne Ryan going flying through the air after this clash with Cork's Jennifer O'Leary.

Picture: Dan Linehan

agreed his team lost ground steadily in the second half and that they suffered from "the scores drying up."

"I suppose their goal was a big score, but both goals were similar. We came back and Deirdre got a great point to level, but Cork fought back well. This is a great group of girls and they'll bounce back. They lost in 2002 and they came back to win two more."

"If anybody walks away from this team, we can't say anything to them. We're very proud of them, they have achieved so much. A lot of them are hurling from 1992 and '94. They had

lean days as well, okay, but they made hay while they could."

"Cork — it's their year, in hurling and camogie, a great double. Maybe they might add the Ladies Football in a few weeks."

Last year's team captain Joanne Ryan was philosophical, feeling that there was "nothing really in it at half time", and that at the end of the day Cork were hungrier.

"We can hold our heads up high. We won last year, we have five out of the last seven. Hopefully next year we'll come back."



Come out and see us

Murray's plea to the Cork fans



"TREAT US like the Cork hurlers and give us the big homecoming we deserve."

That's the message from Cork goalkeeper, Aoife Murray to the people of the Cork, after she helped her side to defeat Tipperary and win the All-Ireland camogie final for the first time since 2002.

The train carrying the team will arrive in Kent Station at 7.45pm after the traditional stop in Mallow.

"We saw the reaction the Cork hurlers got last Monday night," said Murray.

"It means just as much to us it

By PJ AHERN

Camogie news

as it did to them to win an All-Ireland.

"We know we won't get what they got but it would mean so much to us if people came just for five minutes and said well done."

She also paid tribute to the supporters who made the journey to GAA headquarters.

"It's amazing when you see family and friends out there.

"It does bring a tear to your eye, when people you don't know come up and celebrate with you. We thanked them for coming."

After trailing by five points at the break and being completely domin-

ated by Tipperary, Cork pulled out their best performance of the year to overcome their arch enemies to erase two successive defeats and win 1-17 to 1-13.

Cork manager John Cronin was the proudest and most relieved man in Croke Park yesterday.

"The hunger to win was insatiable. The only way it could be satisfied was by winning," said Cronin.

"But our fitness proved superior and also our ability to call on players from the bench to step up and be counted.

"We have a lot of strength in depth to this side."

After being defeated by Tipp in the past two finals and being written off going into this final, John

was adamant it only spurred his side on to success.

"It was one of the motivating factors to be written off.

"There is no doubt that these girls were determined to come here and win.

"They weren't coming to make up the numbers."

With Cork trailing at the break, changes were needed to freshen up the side and John says the mountain wasn't as steep as it appeared.

"We were only five points down at half-time. Every one of those girls had the hunger for victory and to motivate them at half-time wasn't much work."

●See Monday's Sports Special for more.

Cork captain Elaine Burke lifts the trophy.



Joanne O'Callaghan of Cork celebrates after their shock victory over reigning champions Tipperary in yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park. Picture: Brian Lawless (Sportsfile)



Cork captain Elaine Burke and team-mates Jennifer Browne, Mary O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan, Ciara Healy and Eimir Dillon celebrate their O'Duffy Cup victory in Croke Park yesterday. Picture: Dan Linehan

O'Driscoll factor key to stirring Rebel victory

by Therese O'Callaghan

AS Elaine Burke brought the O'Duffy Cup back to Leaside last night, Fiona O'Driscoll, although now retired, was reflecting on a season that surpassed her wildest dreams.

The former player, who retired after Cork's defeat in 2003, was drafted onto the management squad this year.

Adding professional touches to their training methods, the Fr O'Neills' stalwart was influential in plotting Tipperary's downfall at headquarters.

Judging from their displays earlier in the year, it would have been a courageous move to put your last few euro on Cork at the weekend.

But with O'Driscoll — a camogie tutor for the Camogie Association, and a qualified tutor from the National Coaching and Training Centre in Limerick — cracking the whip, it was a transformed Rebel outfit that took to the Croke Park pitch.

"It is great to see players show their true potential," she said of Cork's second half performance. "Certain girls were playing in new positions and they excelled. It was a feeling of satisfaction and contentment for me on Sunday night. The girls knew they had let themselves down in the last two years and we worked on getting that right."

On a career break from her job as a PE teacher, she accepted the training post after a call from manager John Cronin last January. While she had no immediate desire to get involved at managerial level, she had witnessed first-hand the disappointment of last September's loss at the team hotel.

"The girls worked very hard. They were at all times very disciplined in their attitude towards training and their application was excellent. Their approach was no different to the back-room staff and they must be complimented for the brave calls they made."

"They picked new players and placed others in positions they had not filled before. They gave people the opportunity to impress. Look at Gemma O'Connor. She has played half-back, midfield and now half-forward. Eimir Dillon moved from centre-forward to corner-forward and these switches worked very well. Some of the point scoring was phenomenal and only two of our 17 points were from frees."

"But it was vital we won this final. Losing an All-Ireland is very hard, two would affect your confidence but it would be very difficult to come back from a third defeat. The hurling is going so well in Cork, it is important for camogie players to have someone to aspire to."



DOUBLE DELIGHT: Cork captain Elaine Burke shows off the O'Duffy Cup to fans on the team's arrival at Kent Station, Cork.



FAMILY PRIDE: Elaine's parents Teresa and Billy, show their delight

Premier triple scuppered as 'Rebels' revel

**Cork.....1-17
Tipperary.....1-13**

TIPPERARY'S hopes of winning a second treble of All-Ireland senior camogie titles in seven years came a cropper at Croke Park on Sunday afternoon last when a very determined and hungry Cork outfit took the crown from the defending champions in a very free flowing and skill laden decider.

Yes there was wonderful entertainment for the 14,350 in attendance as one of the finest finals was witnessed. It was end to end stuff with great scores and some wonderful passages

of play punctuating a clash of two of the heavy weights of the game of camogie and two of the closest rivals the game has to offer. And, while there was huge disappointment in the The Premier County camp when the final whistle sounded, the Tipperary girls and mentors were the first to offer the hand of congratulations to their Cork counterparts who had broken their stranglehold on the competition.

That Tipperary were going for their sixth title in seven years had as much to do with Cork's victory as anything else. There is a lot of mileage in the legs of this Tipperary outfit and

the Cork girls displayed greater hunger and appetite for the victory when it was needed in the second half. Indeed Cork were not flattered by their four point win - they could easily have made it a lot more having dominated the second half - Tipperary only managed one score from play in the half.

One of the features of this game was the tremendous scores managed by both sides. The forwards are to be credited for their accuracy and creativity as they found the posts with some beautiful efforts. And despite the Tipperary backs defending resolutely right through, they were

unable to prevent the fast running Cork forwards from inflicting fatal damage. The Cork attack was particularly potent while their defence and midfield fashioned a bountiful supply of ball right through.

Tipperary enjoyed the first half. From the moment Jill Horan pointed in the 4th minute they seemed to be well in the hunt. Gemma O'Connor and Stephanie Dunlea replied for Cork but Tipp enjoyed a golden period when they struck five without reply to open a sizeable gap - Claire Grogan (2), Joanne Ryan, Eimear McDonnell and Philly Fogarty obliging. Joanne Ryan had a glorious chance to rattle the Cork net when she raced onto a crossfield ball from Eimear McDonnell and attempted to handpass to the net - her effort went the wrong side of the post much to her dis-

appointment.

Cork had four points in quick succession from Rachel Moloney, Elaine Burke, Jennifer O'Leary and Eimear Dillon to cut the gap but Tipperary's luck was in, in the 27th minute when a Claire Grogan effort from distance went all the way to the net past Cork keeper Aoife Murray with Jill Horan in close attendance. It was the score that was to be the difference between them for some time - Una O'Donoghue and Jennifer O'Leary trading scores with Jill Horan, Noelle Kennedy and Eimear McDonnell before the interval to leave Tipperary 1-10 to 0-8 in front at the break.

It had been a real seesaw battle in the first half with Tipperary and Cork players matching each other stride for stride. The only difference really was the Claire Grogan goal although the Tipp lead stood at five points. Cork probably counted themselves unlucky to be five behind at the break but they were still well within striking range if they were to launch a second half attack on the Tipp girls.

The attack came hard and fast. Tipperary's forward division was starved of possession in the half and it took some 22 minutes for the first score to come from a Claire Grogan free. By that time Cork had banged over four points from Rachel Moloney, Gemma O'Connor (2) and Jennifer O'Leary and there was worse to come for Tipp. An Amanda O'Regan long range free seemed to be going wide in the 22nd minute when Tipp full back Una O'Dwyer attempted to catch it, only to see the ball end up in the Tipp net. It was a big blow to Tipp and it sent Cork into the lead for the first time since the 6th minute.

Deirdre Hughes, the Tipp captain, used all her wily and experience to bring parity to the sides four minutes before the end of

normal time and when Claire Grogan shot Tipp in front again in the 28th minute, the chance of the treble was still on. However, Cork's hunger and appetite came to the fore in the final moments. Eimear Dillon shot two points in a minute to send Cork in front and with the finishing line in sight they pushed hard to claim the win. Angela Walsh, Breige Corkery and Jennifer O'Leary secured the Cork win with lovely scores - fitting of the occasion and honour of bringing the O'Duffy Cup back Leaside.

Congratulations to Cork on a fine victory which was richly deserved. They played with great heart and determination and were worthy champions. Their second half display laid the foundation to the win and they will certainly point to their forwards who picked off lovely scores as being their heroines. To the forefront were Jennifer O'Leary and Eimear Dillon while Gemma O'Connor, Rachel Moloney, Mary O'Connor, Rosalie Holland and Amanda O'Regan also played with confidence and assurance.

This Cork side showed that they were not going to be outdone by Tipperary. Even when things went against them during the first half, they maintained their composure and fashioned the win. Such traits are the characteristics of champions and they showed them in abundance.

WHITHER NOW?

Whither Tipperary now? This bunch of players have given sterling service to the game of camogie and will continue to do so again. There really was only a puck of the ball between them and Tipperary can take some consolation from the fact that they played their part in a real showcase final. They certainly didn't begrudge Cork the title, but there is also a determination to return to the pinnacle in 2006 and reclaim the title.



Eimear McDonnell heads goalwards for Tipperary at Croke Park.

Pictures: Bridget Delaney

On the day Tipperary had good performances from Sinead Nealon, Claire Grogan, Angie McDermott, Philly Fogarty and Joanne Ryan, while Eimear McDonnell and Jill Horan were dangerous when in possession. Una Dwyer was solid right the way through alongside Suzanne Kelly and Julie Kirwin while Theresa Brophy and Ciara Gaynor also had their moments - Gaynor's departure through injury in the closing moments was also crucial. Deirdre Hughes chipped in with a very important score while Noelle Kennedy worked hard as well. Keeper Jovita Delaney handled with care

and kept the backs on their toes.

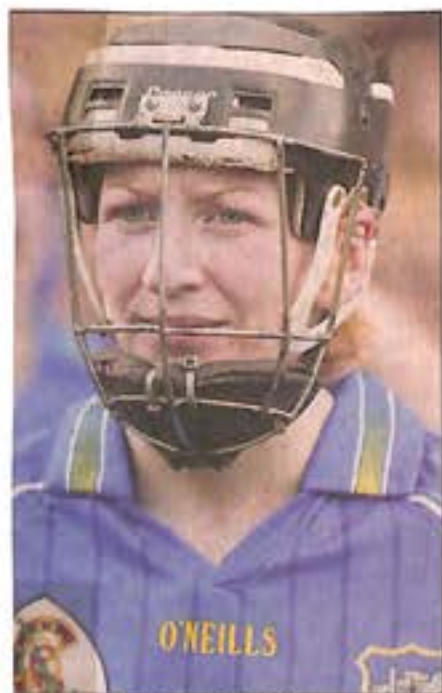
While the Tipperary backs were to the wall in the second half, the forwards were unable to get onto possession and this ultimately led to their downfall. The half forward line and midfield were forced into defensive mode and played much of the second half in deep territory. The result was that the dangerous, pacy, inside attackers were starved and unable to make headway, although a few crucial chances went abegging.

Cork — A Murray, R Buckley, R Holland, A O'Regan 1-0, B corkery 0-

1, M O'Connor, A Geary, V Harris, R Moloney 0-2, U O'Donoghue 0-1, G O'Connor 0-3, J O'Leary 0-4, E Dillon 0-3, S Dunlea 0-1, E Burke 0-1. Subs: J O'Callaghan for V Harris; S O'Donovan for E Burke; A Walsh 0-1 for U O'Donoghue.

Tipperary — J Delaney, S Kelly, U O'Dwyer, J Kirwin, S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy, P Fogarty 0-1, A McDermott, J Ryan 0-1, N Kennedy 0-1, C Grogan 1-5, E McDonnell 0-2, D for Hughes 0-1, J Horan 0-2. Subs: E Hayden for N Kennedy; M Shortt for C Gaynor.

Referee — J Pender (Kildare).



Theresa Brophy who had an outstanding game in the Tipperary defence.



Still able to smile after the heartbreaking defeat - Tipp's Claire Grogan.

Tipp's bubble bursts

Foras na Gaeilge
Senior All-Ireland
Camogie Final

Cork 1-17
Tipperary 1-13

By Gerry Slevin at
Croke Park.
Photos by Bridget Delaney

The hopes of yet another All Ireland senior camogie title that a half time lead of five points (1-10 to 0-8) brought to Tipp supporters in Croke Park on Sunday, was not, alas, realised. Instead, old rivals Cork, with a re-jigged line up for the second half, thundered into the game and in cutting off ball supply to Tipp's inner attacking line, managed to finish with a flourish and thus deprive the favourites of their 6th title.

A tense, exciting final it was too, and to use that well worn cliché, a game of two halves, with Tipp controlling matters for much of the first half and then having to give way to their opponents greater hunger and fitness, both elements rising to the top in the closing minutes.

Bitter disappointment then for Tipp and their faithful followers in the disappointing official attendance of just under 15,000. A first half that demonstrated so much of the exquisite style and skill that has been created and forged over the past seven seasons, saw Tipp worthy interval leaders and looking as though they would go on and achieve their second three-in-a-row in that seven years.

Indeed, all they had to do was continue as they were. But things are never that simple and the Cork backroom team, in the light of how that first half had gone, made the switches that would stem the flow of ball to the Tipp forwards. A new mid field pairing was shown to be the catalyst in this regard and the dominance that Philly Fogarty and Angie McDermott had exerted in that area was soon to be ruthlessly interrupted by the determined and forthright play of Gemma O'Connor and Briege Corkery.

It took Tipp all of twenty-one minutes before a score was added to their interval tally as Cork exerted immense pressure on Tipp's defence. Yet, in that 21 minutes Cork had tacked on only four points. Jill Horan had two fine opportunities to send over Tipp points in the 14th and 17th minutes but was wide on each occasion and one sensed that the Cork flair was stronger and more aggressive.

If Tipp had something of a fortuitous goal in the first half when Claire Grogan collected a pass from Noelle Kennedy and her long shot deceived the Cork keeper, the same held true for Cork's goal. Claire Grogan had just pointed Tipp's first score of the half from a free when an Amanda O'Regan long range free for Cork dropped into the Tipp square, glancing off Una O'Dwyer and trickling over the line past Jovita Delaney.

Cork were now ahead (1-12 to 1-11) for the first time since the 6th minute and much would now be asked of Tipp's character. Three minutes later the sides were level, Deirdre Hughes in her first scoring opportunity of the day, making sure with a sweetly struck point. Was this to be the score that would rejuvenate Tipp? Claire Grogan burst through and was fouled, her own accuracy from frees against proving fruitful. Tipp had now regained the lead with three minutes remaining but it was from here on that Cork's resilience showed. Two Emer Dillon points on the run sent Cork ahead again. Substitute Angela Walsh popped up to put two between them and as added time moved into its second minute, Briege Corkery and Jenny O'Leary (free) saw Cork safely through with a point apiece.

Elation for Cork and heartbreak for Tipp as the O'Duffy Cup prepared for its journey back to Cork for the 21st time. But in Tipp's understandable disappointment there was no room whatever for any

feeling of having let down their faithful supporters. They didn't. In the first half some exquisite points emerged from the sticks of Eimear McDonnell, Claire Grogan, Noelle Kennedy and Jill Horan while Philly Fogarty never worked harder or with greater achievement. Farther back Tipp had the edge on the Cork attack and Jovita Delaney was seldom troubled between the posts. Julie Kirwan, Suzanne Kelly and Therese Brophy were prominent in sweeping-up exercises and the duel between Una O'Dwyer and Stephanie Dunlea was hard fought and even. Sinead Nealon and Ciara Gaynor also had moments to remember in that first half.

Joanne Ryan was so unlucky only ten minutes into the game when having soloed through she elected to palm the ball as she was confronted by three Cork defenders. It went just outside the right hand post.

The second half was Cork's. The pressure emanating from the new mid field pairing saw the Tipp half back line in trouble and the kind of ball that would set such as Eimear McDonnell and Jill Horan into motion was not arriving. Cork had their homework done. The introduction of Joanne O'Callaghan was also a good move as was the placing of Rachel Moloney at centre forward where the luckless Ciara Gaynor found difficulty in curbing her.

When Deirdre Hughes broke her championship duck with a point five minutes from time, Tipp supporters would be forgiven for thinking that the inspirational Toome captain had the O'Duffy Cup well in her sights, especially as Claire Grogan followed it with a lead point. It wasn't to be and Cork then recovered and the longer the half went on, the more dominant they became. It was a dominance born of an insatiable hunger as well as a freshness of attitude and a yearning

not to bend the knee to Tipp for the 3rd successive year.

Nor indeed did Tipp begrudge it to them, there being ready concession all round that the challengers were well worthy of their victory.

At the same time, one had to feel for Deirdre who in probably her last All Ireland final, had been denied the honour of lifting the O'Duffy Cup. But as she herself said, that's sport and so it is.

Scorers - Cork: J. O'Leary (2 frees) and E. Dillon 0-4 each, A. O'Regan 1-0 free, G. O'Connor 0-3, R. Moloney, S. Dunlea, U. O'Donoghue, A. Walsh, B. Corkery, E. Burke 0-1 each. **Tipperary:** C. Grogan 1-5 (3 frees, 1 45), J. Horan and E. McDonnell 0-2 each, P. Fogarty, N. Kennedy, J. Ryan, D. Hughes 0-1 each.

• Tipp had 6 wides (2 in the second half) to Cork's 8 and were awarded 14 frees, five more than they conceded. Tipp also forced the game's only 45.

Cork: Aoife Murray, Rena Buckley, Rosalie Holland, Amanda O'Regan, Briege Corkery, Mary O'Connor, Anna Geary, Vivienne Harris, Rachel Moloney, Una O'Donoghue, Gemma O'Connor, Jenny O'Leary, Emer Dillon, Stephanie Dunlea, Elaine Burke (captain). Subs: Joanne O'Callaghan for Harris, Sarah Donovan for Burke, Angela Walsh for O'Donoghue.

Tipperary: Jovita Delaney, Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Philly Fogarty, Angie McDermott, Joanne Ryan, Noelle Kennedy, Claire Grogan, Eimear McDonnell, Deirdre Hughes (captain), Jill Horan. Subs: Emily Hayden for Kennedy, Michelle Shortt for Gaynor.

Referee: John Pender, Kildare.



Tipp corner forward Jill Horan who predicts that Tipp will be back in Croke Park to win more titles.



Midfielder Philly Fogarty had a wonderful first half for Tipperary in the All Ireland senior camogie final.



Tipperary captain Deirdre Hughes is consoled by Cork centre-back Mary O'Connor after the final whistle. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

All-Ireland camogie triumph for Cork

By JOHN SEXTON

Cork 1-17
Tipperary 1-13

SCENES of jubilation engulfed Croke Park on last Sunday evening as thousands swarmed on to the "sacred sod" of Gaeldom to celebrate the team which had brought the 21st senior All-Ireland camogie championship back to Leaside.

Yes, Cork camogie has come of age and coming from a five points deficit at half time their victory is all the more meritorious since they scored 1-9 to Tipp's 0-3 in a pulsating second half.

The game was played at an intense pace and while teams matched each other stroke for stroke during the first ten minutes when Cork led by two points to one.

However, once Clare Grogan equalised, Tipp took over for the next ten minutes and although Cork had clawed back the lead to a point as we approached the interval, a bad slip-up in the Cork half back line let Tipp through for a fortuitous goal and an exchange of points gave them a five point cushion at the back and at that stage many felt that within half an hour we would hear the strains of "Sliabh na mBan" all over Croke Park.

CHANGES

However, like the hurling selectors, the Cork mentors had studied their form and made the necessary moves which turned the game around.

Joanne O'Callaghan came on as corner back as Rene Buckley moved out to the half line releasing Brieghe Corkery to her favourite position at centrefield and the master move of all was bringing Gemma O'Connor back from the forty to centre field where she was to play a stormer and give Cork almost complete dominance during the second half. The manner in



Brieghe Corkery of Cork and Cloughduv, holds off the challenge of Phil Foley, Tipperary, in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

(Pic-Brendan Moran, Sportfile).

which the army captain fielded ball after ball and fed the forwards was a delight to see as everybody we spoke to afterwards acclaimed her as worthy of "player of the game."

After nine minutes, Jill Horan opened with a point for Tipp but Gemma O'Connor responded immediately and a minute later Stephanie Dunlea put Cork two points clear. However, Tipp took over with points from Clare Grogan, Joanne Ryan and Noelle Kennedy before Cork captain, Elaine Burke gave Cork their third point in the twelfth minute. Phil Fogarty and Clare Goggin,

with points, put Tipp further ahead before Rachel Moloney pointed.

After Grogan pointed for Tipp, Jennifer O'Leary and Emer Dillon narrowed the gap before Grogan capitalised on a Cork defensive error to find the net. An exchange of points before the break left Tipp leading by 1-10 to 0-8.

REDUCED

A reshuffled defence and centrefield, where Gemma O'Connor towered above all others, saw the Cork attack showing its true mettle. Emer Dillon,



Elaine Burke, Valley Rovers, captain of the Cork senior camogie team, holds the General O'Duffy Cup aloft after her team's triumph over Tipperary in the final at Croke Park.

(Pic-Brendan Moran, Sportfile).

Gemma O'Connor (2) and Jennifer O'Leary had the margin cut to a single point after twenty minutes before Grogan opened Tipp's tally with a pointed free, but minutes later came the real turning point.

Taking a free from her own 45, corner back Amanda O'Regan (of last year's junior champions) gave it plenty of air and it curled like a fishing rod to the far post where it was brought down by a Tipp back but slid into the net and Cork fans were all alight.

While Grogan and team captain Deirdre Hughes restored Tipp's lead with points, the last

five minutes were all Cork with points in quick succession from Emer Dillon (2), Angela Walsh and Jennifer O'Leary (2). In fact, Jennifer O'Leary's last minute insurance point from a free was a carbon copy of her last minute pointed free against Tipp in the 2002 final.

JUBILATION

Amid scenes of jubilation, the O'Duffy Cup was presented by Miriam O Ceallachain, President of the Camogie Association, to an ecstatic Cork captain, Elaine Burke, and the Upton solicitor, having compli-

mented her team mates and all concerned with the team and their supporters, called for the customary three cheers for Tipperary.

There was no more happy group down in front of her than her parents and family and all the Burke and Lynch clan who would remind one that the Upton woods are no longer lonely.

Referee John Pender of Kildare, seemed to over use the whistle in the first half but left the play run more freely in the second half.

Cork: Aoife Murray, Cloughduv; Rena Buckley, Inniscarra; Rosalie Holland, Barryroe; Amanda O'Regan, Douglas, 1-0; Brieghe Corkery, Cloughduv, 0-1; May O'Connor, Killeagh; Anna Geary, Milford; Vivienne Harris, St. Finbarr's; Rachel Moloney, Courcy Rovers, 0-1; Una O'Donoghue, Cloughduv, 0-1; Gemma O'Connor, St. Finbarr's, 0-3; Jennifer O'Leary, Barryroe 0-4; Emer Dillon, Ballygarvan, 0-4; Stephanie Dunlea, Cloughduv, 0-1; Elaine Burke, Valley Rovers, capt., 0-1. Subs.: Joanne O'Callaghan, Cloughduv; Sarah O'Donovan, Ballygarvan; Angela Walsh, Killeagh, 0-1.

Tipperary: Jovita Delaney, Suzanne Kelly, Una O'Dwyer, Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Philly Fogarty 0-1, Angie McDermott, Joanne Ryan, 0-1; Noelle Kennedy 0-1; Claire Grogan 1-5; Emer McDonnell, 0-2; Deirdre Hughes, capt., 0-1; Jill Horan, 0-2. Subs.: E. Hayden, Michelle Shortt.

A feature of the game was the manner in which Cork full back Rosalie Holland mastered Tipp's most dangerous forward and captain Deirdre Hughes, who was contained to a single point, scored when she moved off Holland.

During half time, Micheal O Muireartaigh introduced the Cork team which won the twelfth All-Ireland in 1980. Included in that team were Mary O'Leary, a sister of Seanie O'Leary of Cork hurling fame and Marion Higgins, who is now the wife of Judge Con Murphy of Bandon.



Cork camogie captain Elaine Burke with teammates and pupils at Knockavilla NS, Upton yesterday.
Picture: Larry Cummins



The Cork squad who beat Tipperary in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park at the weekend

Photo by Brendan Moran / Sportsfile

Cork: All-Ireland Senior Camogie winners



Gemma O'Connor of Cork is tackled by Clara Gaynor, Tipperary in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park

Photo by Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE



Cork captain Elaine Burke lifts the O'Duffy Cup after winning the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final

Photo by Brian Lawless / Sportsfile



Briege Corkery, Cork, holds off the challenge of Philly Fogarty, Tipperary in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final

Photo by Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE



Gemma O'Connor is tackled by Clara Gaynor of Tipperary in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final, Croke Park

Photo by Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE



An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD, is met by Cork captain Elaine Burke, in the company of Míriam O'Callaghan, President, Cumann Camogaiachta na nGael before the final

Photo by Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE



Cork fans cheer on their side in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park

Photo by Brendan Moran / SPORTSFILE