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June 2019
to
SEPT. 2019



#YourNaturalProteinPitstop

FÉILE 2019 NA NGAEL

Midleton (Cork)



St Finbarrs (Cork)



Glen Rovers (Cork)



Douglas (Cork)



Clonakilty 1 (Cork)



Kilbrittan/Timoleague (Cork)



Newcestown (Cork)



Courcey Rovers (Cork)



JUNE 2019



CAMOGIE DIVISION 4

Erins Own (Cork)



Ballinora (Cork)



Bishopstown (Cork)



Éire Óg 2 (Cork)



Mallow (Cork)



Killeagh (Cork)



Inniscarra (Cork)



Carrigtwohill (Cork)





FÉILE 2019

NA NGAEL

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Blarney (Cork)



St Colums (Cork)



Brian Dillons (Cork)



Bandon (Cork)



Grenagh (Cork)



Ballyhea/Milford (Cork)



Anna: Friends you make are best part

■ Rory Noonan

MENTION the name Anna Geary to lots of people and shows like *Ireland's Fittest Family* or *Dancing with the Stars* will come to mind.

Others might talk about her other roles on sports shows on TV or her Sunday afternoon show on RedFM.

But long before Anna was well-known for any of these she was one of the top camogie players in the country and captained Cork to All-Ireland success in 2014.

She announced her retirement the following year and since then her career has taken off and Anna is now living in Dublin where she is in much demand, not only for the above but also as a wellness coach.

For any young player she is a role model as she managed to mix a successful career, with her ability to play camogie to the highest level for Cork and her club Milford for many years.

Her list of honours would take too long to mention, but it includes senior All-Ireland's and two All-Ireland senior club championships.

But even with all that success Anna still fondly remembers playing Féile with Milford and even then she was showing signs of her camogie skills as she played in three finals.

Whilst the games were an important part of the finals weekends it was the friends she made, players she came across and would meet again, and other memories were the best part according to Anna.

"The first year I played it was in Wexford, then in Antrim and the third year it was in Cork," said Anna.

"We had some great players in our sides around then, the likes of Elaine O'Riordan, the Watson sisters and others who were great to play alongside. Not alone were they great players, but they were great friends and still are to this day.

"For me the Féile is a great competition as it teaches players an awful lot at what is a young age. You learn about winning, losing and also how to stand up for yourself.

"It takes courage for someone who might be 12 or 13 to go into a strangers house for a few nights and then have to say things like, 'yes I like that thanks, or no sorry I don't eat that'.

"These may seem like small things now, but at that age they are not and it's a big learning curve for them.

"There was always a bit of banter about what the family and house you were staying in was like. I remember one family took us everywhere, great trips around the area and showed us all the sights.

"You would be talking to others and they were fed on lettuce sandwiches for the weekend and one lot were telling us how the towels they were given had so many holes you could put your head through them!

"I remember my first memory of going into one of the houses was watching an older brother of the girl we were staying with and he was



Anna Geary, on left, celebrates with Elaine O'Riordan and Ashling Thompson after Milford won the All-Ireland Senior Club Championship final at Croke Park in 2014, defeating Ardahan in the final.

ironing his socks, something you don't see too often!

"But when you look back these are all great memories and ones that you will remember all the days of your life.

"It was also the first time that I came across players like Ursula Jacob and others that I would come across playing for Cork. Even back then you could see how good they were.

"Whilst I loved going away for the two finals I have to say being at home for the third one was really special. You remember things like the disco on the Saturday night and the craic we had over the weekend."

Anna also had some advice for the young players, coaches and parents that will throng venues all over Cork and Kerry from next Friday night.

"To the players I would say above all else enjoy the weekend. It's a special tournament and the most important part is the memories you will have forever from it. Only one team can win in every division so the majority will be disappointed in that regard, but really it's all about having a bit of fun with your team-mates and your new friends.

"To the coaches I would say encourage your side. I know in the heat of a game we can all get carried away, but if someone is not having a



Anna Geary celebrates with teammates after she captained Cork to All-Ireland glory in 2014 at Croke Park.

particularly good game don't start shouting at them.

"Encourage them and praise them at every opportunity, you know if they get a block in or make a great pass or set up a score, then tell them well done.

"Even at that age they will know if they are not at their best and encouragement is the best way to try and get them back to it.

"For parents I would say some-

thing similar, let your daughter/son and their team-mates enjoy the games. Encourage, encourage and encourage, they don't need you shouting at them if they do something wrong or make a mistake.

"Everyone does during a game and you will only put them off if you do that and with the games being so short compared to normal ones, it could make a huge difference.

"Your job is to be supportive, of

“Whilst the games were an important part of the finals weekends it was the friends she made, players she came across and would meet again, and other memories were the best part said Anna”

them, their team and also the players ye might be hosting. Remember they are away from home, possibly for the first time, and some will be nervous about this.

"But above all just enjoy the weekend, it's a great experience and one that you will remember all your lives," concluded Anna.

Féile back in Cork after 14-year gap

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

AS YOU read this Féile Na n-Gael 2019 is in full swing and at clubs and venues all over Cork city and county and into Kerry boys and girls will have played their two opening games last night.

This morning all the host clubs will take on their visitors before heading off to different venues for the quarter and semi-finals of the cup and plate competitions.

2005 was the last time Cork hosted Féile and in that time there has been a lot of changes and a lot of different aspects of the competition have gone, we no longer have the parade through town which was always a huge highlight.

Never the less excitement has been huge through the clubs in the city and county and indeed in the many counties that have travel south this coming weekend huge work has gone on.

Any time Cork hosted Féile it was a huge success and now the associations most prestigious under age competition has returns.

Ninety six camogie clubs will gather together in Cork where the girls have the honour of playing in the home of the O'Duffy cup as Cork are current All-Ireland senior, Intermediate and minor champions it is a huge occasion for Cork camogie to be the host county.

Host clubs have been busy since the start of the year putting programmes in place to ensure a great Cork welcome awaits their visitors and with many making a long journey from as far away as Antrim the host clubs have pulled out all the stops to ensure an enjoyable weekend is had by all.

This evening many of the host clubs have organised entertainment for their visitors, many are heading to Pairc Ui Chaoimh to see Cork in action against Waterford in the Munster hurling championship whilst several club have installed big screens and are showing the game in their clubs.

In total the number of counties being represented at the National Féile camogie competition this year is twenty six.

It a wonderful event as winning clubs representing their county have travelled and are being hosted by the various clubs in the city and county with the young camogie and hurlers staying in the home of their opponents.

Féile is something that lives in the minds long after the event, friends are made that last a life time while it's a chance for many to think back and remember Féile's past and think back to those happy days.

Visiting teams have by now all arrived in Cork and are well settled into their host houses where no doubt new friends will be made and memories to treasure will remain long after they all return home.

It is amazing to speak to a lot of the players who would have participated in 2005 when Féile was last in Cork and all have fond memories of their own Féile weekend.

Camogie finals are down for decision at various locations tomorrow Sunday with the division 1 camogie final taking place in Castle Road. Clubs were graded according to their strengths and with the emphasis very much on the younger players there is a



Shane Kingston and Julia White with Liadan Sheppard, Sarsfields, and Cian Walsh, Tracton, at the official launch of Féile 2019 in Nemo Rangers last month. Picture: Jim Coughlan



FLASHBACK: The Glen Rovers subs bench watching on at the Féile in 2004.

Picture: Howard Crowdy

section to suit all participants with the weaker counties and club afforded a chance to in their own grade.

There will be ninety-six camogie clubs participating and total of two thousand three hundred and four players under the age of 14 will play over the three days.

With 228 games to be played it is a huge logistical challenge to get all the teams, venues and referees to their allocated venues and get all the games run off to a tight schedule.

In camogie there will be a total of twelve finals played tomorrow in both in both cup and shield competitions, the ninety-six teams will by tomorrow 1 be whittled down to twenty-four who will contest finals in six different divisions.

It augurs well for the growth of ca-

mogie that for the first time in 205 we had four divisions that have now increased to six divisional a testament to the huge work going on in the continued promotion of camogie in all the counties.

The Division 1 final will take place in the Cork Camogie Grounds in Castle Road tomorrow at 3pm; the Division 1 shield final will take place in Castle Road at 2pm.

The Division 2 cup final will be in Na Piarraigh with the shield final at 2pm followed by the cup final at 3pm. Carrigaline will host the Division 3 Shield final at 2pm with the cup final at 3pm.

Carrigtwohill is the venue for the Division 4 finals.

Again the Shield final is at 2pm and the cup final at 3pm.

Cloughduv will be the venue for the

“With 228 games to be played it is a huge logistical challenge to get all the games run off

Division 5 finals at 2pm and 3pm with the Division 6 finals in Mayfield at 2pm and 3pm.

The Camogie Skills competition is another very important part of Féile and this will take place in Abbotstown Dublin on Sat 22nd of June where the Féile skills winners from each county will battle it out for the prestigious Féile skills title.

With plenty of action taking place through the city and county there is no excuse not to go along and lend your support to the next generation of camogie stars.

We extend a huge Cork welcome to all our visiting camogie clubs, their mentors and parents.

Enjoy your stay in the Rebel County and take home wonderful memories that will last you a lifetime.

Season ticket is a real boon for fans

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE Camogie Association have come up trumps with an excellent offer available of a season ticket for all the Littlewoods Ireland adult championship game for the 2019 season.

The Cairde Camogie Season Ticket is now on sale and priced at just €50 it is a great opportunity to make sizeable savings for families and friends who attend games through the busy championship season the promotion is also a bid to boost attendances at games and in addition 20% of each ticket sold goes directly to the County Camogie Board where the tickets are sold. For example, if a ticket is purchased in Cork or Kilkenny address 20% goes to Cork or Kilkenny County Camogie Board and if it is purchased in other counties the same applies. When tickets are purchased online the rebate to each County Camogie Board is assigned as per the contact/address details of each online transaction. For example, if a credit/debit card is registered to a Dublin address, 20% goes to Dublin Camogie Board.

When one takes into account that Cork will field teams at both Senior and Intermediate championship levels in 2019 that will be a total of four senior championship and five Intermediate championship games and with entry charges usually either €10 or €15 per game already that is a massive saving. Factor in also that the Cairde ticket can be used for quarter finals semi-finals and All Ireland finals the savings are huge. If both teams were to make it to the final that would be approximately fourteen games assuming they don't have to come through qualifiers (these would also be covered by the Cairde ticket). At €10 per game plus €15 for a semi final and €30 for All Ireland final that's a grand total cost of €185 to attend all games. And if it were two parents this would be a cost of €370 to support Cork through championship. The Cairde ticket represent huge value and should be a must buy for parents of players as well as followers and supporters of our Cork teams.

Cairde Camogie Tickets are available from Cork Camogie Board or online at Tickets.ie by following the link Cairde Camogie 2019 The Cairde Camogie Tickets can also be purchased from Centra and Supervalu outlets nationwide just go to <http://www.gaa.ie/tickets/where-to-buy/> to check your nearest store where you can purchase, or they are available from Cork Camogie Board or any day there is a game in Castle Road the tickets are available.

It is also good to note that the Cairde Camogie Season tickets are also available to use in the event of GAA/Camogie double-header fixtures.



Féile 2019

Division 1 - Camogie

Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Sarsfields	vs	Newcastle W	Sarsfields
Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Aghada	vs	Cammore	Sallybrook
Fri 7th	A	6.45 pm	Sarsfields	vs	Aghada	Sarsfields
Fri 7th	A	6.45 pm	Cammore	vs	Newcastle W	Sallybrook
Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	Blackrock	vs	Truagh Clontara	Blackrock
Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	Coughdubh	vs	Dicksboro	Blackrock
Fri 7th	B	7.30 pm	Blackrock	vs	Coughdubh	Blackrock
Fri 7th	B	7.30 pm	Dicksboro	vs	Truagh Clontara	Blackrock
Fri 7th	C	5.30 pm	Iniscara	vs	Kilrush	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	C	5.30 pm	Ballygarvan	vs	Eire Og Tipp	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	C	7.00 pm	Iniscara	vs	Ballygarvan	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	C	7.00 pm	Eire Og Tipp	vs	Kilrush	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Aghabullogue	vs	Gaitir	Coachford
Fri 7th	D	6.00 pm	Eire Og	vs	Ballyboden	Coachford
Fri 7th	D	7.00 pm	Aghabullogue	vs	Eire Og	Coachford
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Ballyboden	vs	Gaitir	Coachford
Sat 8th	A	11.00 am	Sarsfields	vs	Cammore	Sarsfields
Sat 8th	A	10.00 am	Aghada	vs	Newcastle W	Rostellan
Sat 8th	B	11.00 am	Blackrock	vs	Dicksboro	Blackrock
Sat 8th	B	10.00 am	Coughdubh	vs	Truagh Clontara	Coughdubh
Sat 8th	C	10.00 am	Iniscara	vs	Eire Og Tipp	Ballyanley
Sat 8th	C	10.00 am	Ballygarvan	vs	Kilrush	Ballyanley
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	Aghabullogue	vs	Ballyboden	Coachford
Sat 8th	D	9.30 am	Eire Og	vs	Gaitir	Ovens

Cup Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	3.00 pm	1st Gr A	vs	2nd Gr B	Cork Camogie 1
Sat 8th	Q/F 2	3.00 pm	1st Gr B	vs	2nd Gr A	Cork Camogie 2
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	3.00 pm	1st Gr C	vs	2nd Gr D	Ballinora
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	3.00 pm	1st Gr D	vs	2nd Gr C	Ballinora
Sun 9th	S/F 1	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Cork Camogie 1
Sun 9th	S/F 2	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Cork Camogie 2
Sun 9th	Final	3.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Cork Camogie 1

Shield Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	2.00 pm	3rd Gr A	vs	4th Gr B	Cork Camogie 1
Sat 8th	Q/F 2	2.00 pm	3rd Gr B	vs	4th Gr A	Cork Camogie 2
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	2.00 pm	3rd Gr C	vs	4th Gr D	Ballinora
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	2.00 pm	3rd Gr D	vs	4th Gr C	Ballinora
Sun 9th	S/F 1	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Cork Camogie 1
Sun 9th	S/F 2	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Cork Camogie 2
Sun 9th	Final	2.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Cork Camogie 1

Division 2 - Camogie

Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Midleton	vs	Loughiel	Midleton
Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Glen Rovers	vs	Naas	Ballinacorney
Fri 7th	A	7.00 pm	Midleton	vs	Glen Rovers	Midleton
Fri 7th	A	7.00 pm	Naas	vs	Loughiel	Ballinacorney
Fri 7th	B	5.30 pm	Douglas	vs	Ballygalget	Cork Camogie 1
Fri 7th	B	5.30 pm	St. Finbarrs	vs	Ballygalget	Cork Camogie 2
Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	Douglas	vs	St. Finbarrs	Cork Camogie 1
Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	Ballygalget	vs	Ballygalget	Cork Camogie 2
Fri 7th	C	5.30 pm	Newcestown	vs	St. Mullins	Newcestown
Fri 7th	C	5.30 pm	Clonakilty 1	vs	Kilc/Kiloughy	Newcestown
Fri 7th	C	6.30 pm	Newcestown	vs	Clonakilty 1	Newcestown
Fri 7th	C	6.30 pm	Kilc/Kiloughy	vs	St. Mullins	Newcestown
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Cooney Rovers	vs	Haps	Ballinspittle
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Kilbr / Tim	vs	Clonk	Ballinspittle
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Cooney Rovers	vs	Kilbr / Tim	Ballinspittle
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Clonk	vs	Haps	Ballinspittle
Sat 8th	A	11.00 am	Midleton	vs	Naas	Midleton
Sat 8th	A	10.00 am	Glen Rovers	vs	Loughiel	Glen Field
Sat 8th	B	10.30 am	Douglas	vs	Ballygalget	Douglas
Sat 8th	B	10.00 am	St. Finbarrs	vs	Ballygalget	Togher
Sat 8th	C	10.00 am	Newcestown	vs	Kilc/Kiloughy	Newcestown
Sat 8th	C	10.00 am	Clonakilty 1	vs	St. Mullins	Clonakilty
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	Cooney Rovers	vs	Clonk	Ballinspittle
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	Kilbr / Tim	vs	Haps	Kilbrittan

Cup Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	3.00 pm	1st Gr A	vs	2nd Gr B	Bishopstown
Sat 8th	Q/F 2	3.00 pm	1st Gr B	vs	2nd Gr A	Bishopstown
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	3.00 pm	1st Gr C	vs	2nd Gr D	Bandon
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	3.00 pm	1st Gr D	vs	2nd Gr C	Bandon
Sun 9th	S/F 1	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Na Piaras
Sun 9th	S/F 2	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Na Piaras
Sun 9th	Final	3.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Na Piaras

Shield Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	2.00 pm	3rd Gr A	vs	4th Gr B	Bishopstown
Sat 8th	Q/F 2	2.00 pm	3rd Gr B	vs	4th Gr A	Bishopstown
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	2.00 pm	3rd Gr C	vs	4th Gr D	Bandon
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	2.00 pm	3rd Gr D	vs	4th Gr C	Bandon
Sun 9th	S/F 1	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Na Piaras
Sun 9th	S/F 2	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Na Piaras
Sun 9th	Final	2.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Na Piaras

Division 3 - Camogie

Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Fr. O'Neills	vs	St. Ibars	Ahane
Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Cobh	vs	Ardrin	Ahane
Fri 7th	A	6.30 pm	Fr. O'Neills	vs	Cobh	Ahane
Fri 7th	A	6.30 pm	Ardrin	vs	St. Ibars	Ahane
Fri 7th	B	5.30 pm	Rockban	vs	Naomh Jude	Whitechurch
Fri 7th	B	5.30 pm	Na Piaras	vs	Crossmaglen	Whitechurch



At Nemo Rangers for the John West Féile hurling and camogie launch were: Laura Sheehan and Ella McCarthy, both Killeagh.

Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	Rockban	vs	Na Piaras	Whitechurch
Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	Crossmaglen	vs	Naomh Jude	Whitechurch
Fri 7th	C	5.30 pm	Enniskeane	vs	Na Fanna	Enniskeane
Fri 7th	C	5.30 pm	Ballinacoly	vs	Adare	Enniskeane
Fri 7th	C	6.30 pm	Enniskeane	vs	Ballinacoly	Enniskeane
Fri 7th	C	6.30 pm	Adare	vs	Na Fanna	Enniskeane
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Valley Rovers	vs	Kilmaley	Binn
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Tracton	vs	Conahy	Binn
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Valley Rovers	vs	Tracton	Binn
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Conahy	vs	Kilmaley	Binn
Sat 8th	A	11.00 am	Fr. O'Neills	vs	Ardrin	Ahane
Sat 8th	A	10.00 am	Cobh	vs	St. Ibars	Cobh
Sat 8th	B	9.45 am	Rockban	vs	Crossmaglen	Whitechurch
Sat 8th	B	10.00 am	Na Piaras	vs	Naomh Jude	Na Piaras
Sat 8th	C	9.45 am	Enniskeane	vs	Adare	Enniskeane
Sat 8th	C	9.30 am	Ballinacoly	vs	Na Fanna	Ballinacoly
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	Valley Rovers	vs	Conahy	Binn
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	Tracton	vs	Kilmaley	Moline Bridge

Cup Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	3.00 pm	1st Gr A	vs	2nd Gr B	Castlemartyr
Sat 8th	Q/F 2	3.00 pm	1st Gr B	vs	2nd Gr A	Castlemartyr
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	3.00 pm	1st Gr C	vs	2nd Gr D	Moline Bridge
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	3.00 pm	1st Gr D	vs	2nd Gr C	Moline Bridge
Sun 9th	S/F 1	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Carrigaline
Sun 9th	S/F 2	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Carrigaline
Sun 9th	Final	3.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Carrigaline

Shield Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	2.00 pm	3rd Gr A	vs	4th Gr B	Castlemartyr
Sat 8th	Q/F 2	2.00 pm	3rd Gr B	vs	4th Gr A	Castlemartyr
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	2.00 pm	3rd Gr C	vs	4th Gr D	Moline Bridge
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	2.00 pm	3rd Gr D	vs	4th Gr C	Moline Bridge
Sun 9th	S/F 1	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Carrigaline
Sun 9th	S/F 2	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Carrigaline
Sun 9th	Final	2.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Carrigaline

Division 4 - Camogie

Fri 7th	A	6.15 pm	Mallow	vs	Moycarkey B.	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	A	6.15 pm	Iniscara 2	vs	Greenlough	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	A	7.45 pm	Mallow	vs	Iniscara 2	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	A	7.45 pm	Greenlough	vs	Moycarkey B.	Ballyanley
Fri 7th	B	6.15 pm	Kilkeigh	vs	Ballycran	Kilkeigh
Fri 7th	B	6.15 pm	Carrigahill	vs	St. Rynagh	Kilkeigh
Fri 7th	B	7.45 pm	Kilkeigh	vs	Carrigahill	Kilkeigh
Fri 7th	B	7.45 pm	St. Rynagh	vs	Ballycran	Kilkeigh
Fri 7th	C	6.15 pm	Erins Own	vs	Kildakey	Bishopstown
Fri 7th	C	6.15 pm	Bishopstown	vs	Ballycastle	Bishopstown
Fri 7th	C	7.45 pm	Erins Own	vs	Bishopstown	Bishopstown
Fri 7th	C	7.45 pm	Ballycastle	vs	Kildakey	Bishopstown
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Ballinora	vs	De la Salle	Ballinora
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Eire Og 2	vs	Carross	Ballinora
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Ballinora	vs	Eire Og 2	Ballinora
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Carross	vs	De la Salle	Ballinora
Sat 8th	A	10.00 am	Mallow	vs	Greenlough	Mallow
Sat 8th	A	11.00 am	Iniscara 2	vs	Moycarkey B.	Ballyanley
Sat 8th	B	10.00 am	Kilkeigh	vs	St. Rynagh	Kilkeigh
Sat 8th	B	10.00 am	Carrigahill	vs	Ballycran	Carrigahill
Sat 8th	C	11.00 am	Erins Own	vs	Ballycastle	Caherlag
Sat 8th	C	10.00 am	Bishopstown	vs	Kildakey	Bishopstown
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	Ballinora	vs	Carross	Ballinora
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	Eire Og	vs	De la Salle	Ovens

Cup Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	3.00 pm	1st Gr A	vs	2nd Gr B	Douglas
Sat 8th	Q/F 2	3.00 pm	1st Gr B	vs	2nd Gr A	Douglas
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	3.00 pm	1st Gr C	vs	2nd Gr D	Ballygarvan
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	3.00 pm	1st Gr D	vs	2nd Gr C	Ballygarvan
Sun 9th	S/F 1	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Carrigahill
Sun 9th	S/F 2	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Carrigahill
Sun 9th	Final	3.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Carrigahill

Shield Competition

Sat 8th	Q/F 1	2.00 pm	3rd Gr A	vs	4th Gr B	Douglas
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Sat 8th	Q/F 2	2.00 pm	3rd Gr B	vs	4th Gr A	Douglas
Sat 8th	Q/F 3	2.00 pm	3rd Gr C	vs	4th Gr D	Ballygarvan
Sat 8th	Q/F 4	2.00 pm	3rd Gr D	vs	4th Gr C	Ballygarvan
Sun 9th	S/F 1	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Carrigahill
Sun 9th	S/F 2	12 Noon	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Carrigahill
Sun 9th	Final	2.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Carrigahill

Division 5 - Camogie

Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Blarney	vs	Oran	Blarney
Fri 7th	A	5.30 pm	Brian Dillon	vs	Bray Emmetts	Blarney
Fri 7th	A	6.30 pm	Blarney	vs	Brian Dillon	Blarney
Fri 7th	A	6.30 pm	Oran	vs	Bray Emmetts	Blarney
Fri 7th	B	5.30 pm	St. Colums	vs	St. Laurences	Kealkil
Fri 7th	B	5.30 pm	Bandon	vs	Mareethag	Kealkil
Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	St. Colums	vs	Bandon	Kealkil
Fri 7th	B	6.30 pm	Mareethag	vs	St. Laurences	Kealkil
Fri 7th	C	6.15 pm	Causeway	vs	Castletown	Causeway
Fri 7th	C	6.15 pm	Cillad	vs	Na Brideog	Kilmoyley
Fri 7th	C	7.45 pm	Causeway	vs	Cillad	Causeway
Fri 7th	C	7.45 pm	Na Brideog	vs	Castletown	Kilmoyley
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	B.hea Midford	vs	Westport	Ballyhea
Fri 7th	D	5.30 pm	Grenagh	vs	Eglis, St. Pats	Ballyhea
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	B.hea Midford	vs	Eire Og	Ballyhea
Fri 7th	D	6.30 pm	Eglis, St. Pats	vs	Westport	Ballyhea
Sat 8th	A	11.00 am	Blarney	vs	Bray Emmetts	Blarney
Sat 8th	A	11.00 am	Brian Dillon	vs	Oran	Brian Dillon
Sat 8th	B	10.00 am	St. Colums	vs	Mareethag	Kealkil
Sat 8th	B	10.00 am	Bandon	vs	St. Laurences	Bandon
Sat 8th	C	11.00 am	Causeway	vs	Na Brideog	Causeway
Sat 8th	C	11.00 am	Cillad	vs	Castletown	Kilmoyley
Sat 8th	D	10.00 am	B.hea Midford	vs	Eglis, St. Pats	Ballyhea
Sat 8th	D	11.00 am	Grenagh	vs	Westport	Grenagh

Cup Competition

Sat. 8th	Q/F 1	3.00 pm	1st Gr A	vs	2nd Gr B	Newcestown
Sat. 8th	Q/F 2	3.00 pm	1st Gr B	vs	2nd Gr A	Newcestown
Sat. 8th	Q/F 3	3.00 pm	1st Gr C	vs	2nd Gr D	Mallow
Sat. 8th	Q/F 4	3.00 pm	1st Gr D	vs	2nd Gr C	Mallow
Sun 9th	S/F 1	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 1	vs	Winner Q/F 3	Coughdubh
Sun 9th	S/F 2	1.00 pm	Winner Q/F 2	vs	Winner Q/F 4	Coughdubh
Sun 9th	Final	3.00 pm	Winner S/F 1	vs	Winner S/F 2	Coughdubh

Éire Óg end Sars' four-in-a-row bid

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Éire Óg	0-5
Sarsfields	0-2

THE John West Féile Division 1 title remains in Cork but there are new queens on the throne as Éire Óg stopped Sarsfields' bid for four in a row in a tight and exciting final in Castle Road.

Éire Óg had to go to extra time in their semi-final to secure a place in the last two, but they showed no tiredness as they worked hard to take a historic first for the Muskerry club, who also represent Cork in the Féile football in two weeks.

Sars, playing with the wind, led at the interval by two points, a Megan Sheehan free and one from Tara Murphy. Thanks to strong defending they had denied Éire Óg a first-half score despite the efforts of Edel Sheehan, Grainne O'Mahony and Abi Mullins.

Inside four minutes of the restart, the Ovens outfit were level though, courtesy of Orlaith Cremin and the impressive Laoise Murphy. Their defence was solid, driven on by captain Shauna Sheehan and they hit the front with Laoise Murphy showing huge confidence to nail two frees.

Despite putting on a lot of pressure Sars couldn't breach the Éire Óg defence and with Murphy pointing they opened up a three-point lead.

As the game entered the final minute the Sars pressure paid off as Rachel Roche won a penalty but showing the determination they had shown all through it was stopped superbly on the line by Edel Sheehan who cleared to safety.

With the game entering injury time, Sars battled to retain their crown but the Éire Óg rearguard held firm. Amid scenes of jubilation, Camogie President Kathleen Woods presented the trophy to Éire Óg captain Sheehan.

Scorers for Éire Óg: L. Murphy 0-4 (0-3 f), O. Cremin 0-1.

Sarsfields: M. Sheehan (f), T. Twomey 0-1 each. **ÉIRE ÓG:** R. Halligan, E. Cremin, A. Larkin, G. O'Brien, C. O'Brien, M. O'Donovan, A. Mullins, S. Sheehan (c), E. Sheehan, L. Murphy, G. O'Mahony, L. Coakley, K. Murphy, E. O'Leary, R. Kearns, E. Bultimer, E. Scanlan, L. Bowen, L. Waugh, L. Murphy, A. Casey, M. McGoldrick, O. Cremin, C. Dillon.

SARS: L. Lynch, K. Hackett, C. Keohane, H. Murray, S. Nolan, L. O'Brien, N. O'Callaghan, E. O'Halloran, I. O'Sullivan, M. Sheehan, L. Sheppard (c), T. Twomey, L. Dunlea, K. Fennessy, A. Fitzgerald, S. Hurley, A. Mullins, A. Nestor, O. Walsh, N. Treacy, N. O'Connell, R. Roche, D. McCarthy, A. Desmond.



The Éire Óg team celebrate after winning the Féile division one title at the weekend.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan



Éire Óg's Grace O'Brien carries the ball out of defence.



Orlaith Cremin celebrates at the final whistle.

Murphy stars as Éire Óg wrest crown from Sarsfields

John West Féile Division 1 Camogie final

Éire Óg (Cork)	0-5
Sarsfields (Cork)	0-2

John O'Shea
Castle Road

The Féile Division 1 Camogie title remains in Cork as Éire Óg ended Sarsfields' bid for

four in a row in an exciting final at Castle Road.

Points from Megan Sheehan (free) and Tara Murphy had Sars ahead at the break while their defence looked assured against the likes of Edel Sheehan, Grainne O'Mahony, and Abi Mullins. But wind-assisted Éire Óg stormed back on the restart, drawing level with points from Orlaith Cremin and Laoise Murphy.

Murphy was scorer in chief for the winners while Edel Sheehan came to their rescue in the closing minutes when clearing a penalty off the line.

Clonakilty won the Division Two title with two goals from Katie O'Driscoll helping them to a 2-5 to 1-3 win over Loughgiel.

Ardrahan, from Galway, took the Division 3 crown,

after a one-point win over Meath side, Na Fianna, 1-3 to 1-2. The Ballyhea/Milford (Cork) combination saw a third title remaining in the host county, as they beat Causeway (Kerry) 1-8 to 0-4 in the Division 5 final, while Four Roads of Roscommon took the Division Six crown with a 3-1 to 1-2 win over Nemo Rangers.

In the Division 1 John West

Shield final a first-half Libby Carroll goal was crucial as Dicksboro (Kilkenny) edged out Newcastlewest (Limerick) in a tight contest that preceded the cup final (1-3 to 0-3).

Scorers for Éire Óg: L. Murphy 0-4 (0-3 f), O. Cremin 0-1.

Scorers for Sarsfields: M. Sheehan (f), T. Twomey 0-1 each.

ÉIRE ÓG panel: R. Halligan, E. Cremin, A.

Larkin, G. O'Brien, C. O'Brien, M. O'Donovan, A. Mullins, S. Sheehan, E. Sheehan, L. Murphy, G. O'Mahony, L. Coakley, K. Murphy, E. O'Leary, R. Kearns, E. Bultimer, E. Scanlan, L. Bowen, L. Waugh, L. Murphy, A. Casey, M. McGoldrick, O. Cremin, C. Dillon.

SARSFIELDS: L. Lynch, K. Hackett, C. Keohane, H. Murray, S. Nolan, L. O'Brien, N. O'Callaghan, E. O'Halloran, I. O'Sullivan, M. Sheehan, L. Sheppard (c), T. Twomey, L. Dunlea, K. Fennessy, A. Fitzgerald, S. Hurley, A. Mullins, A. Nestor, O. Walsh, N. Treacy, N. O'Connell, R. Roche, D. McCarthy, A. Desmond.



Scoil Padre Pio celebrate their win over St Mary's On the Hill in the C Urban final.
Picture Gerard Bonus



Orlaith Walsh, Riverstown in action against Emma O'Sullivan, Owens in their Sciath na Scol final at Páirc Uí Rinn.
Picture: Larry Cummins



Amy Leahy in action for St Catherine's Ballynoe against Castlemartyr NS in the DCS final.
Picture: Larry Cummins



Sarah O'Connell, Berrings, is introduced to the supporters before the start of their match with Ballyheada.
Picture: Jim Coughlan.



Rebecca Dunphy in action for Kilcredan against Scartleigh in the Sciath na Scol DC2 final at Páirc Uí Rinn.
Picture: Larry Cummins



Eliza Lavery, Ballinora, has her eye on the sliothar during the C3 camogie final.
Picture: Jim Coughlan.



Cloghroe's Cara Harty shoots from Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh's Aisling Carroll during the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí C2 final at Páirc Uí Rinn.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Goggins Hill player Aine Lynch celebrates her winning goal against Kilbrittain in the Allianz Sciath na Scol Chorcaí DC4 final at Páirc Uí Rinn.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Cara O'Neill, Togher in action in the C Urban 1 final; against Walterstown.
Picture: Larry Cummins



Leila Berdessa, Leamlara, is introduced to the crowd before the start of her match.
Picture: Jim Coughlan



Cloghroe captain Evie Burke and vice-captain Aine Ryan after defeating Scoil an Spioraí Naoimh in C2 final.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Lucy Lynch scores a point for Riverstown against Ovens in the Sciath na Scol Chorcaí C1 Final at Páirc Uí Rinn.
Picture: Larry Cummins



Picture Diary

UP FOR THE CUP: Eire Og, captained by Shauna Sheehan, celebrate their victory in the John West Féile na nGael Camogie Cup final against Sarsfields at Cork Camogie Grounds in Castle Road on Sunday.



Eire Óg's Orlaith Cremin celebrates at the final whistle of the Camogie Féile Final Division 1 against Sarsfields at Castle Road.
Picture: ©INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan



Eire Óg celebrate their win after the final whistle in the John West Féile na nGael camogie Cup final against Sarsfields at Cork Camogie Grounds, Castle Road, Blackrock.

between cup and shield competitions



Eire Óg, captained by Shauna Sheehan, celebrate their win with some of their mums, in the John West Féile na nGael camogie cup final at Cork Camogie Grounds

Féile makes event a fantastic success

WEST CORK

A host of West Cork clubs helped make 2019 John West Féile na nGael a success.

Ahan Gaels, Bandon, Clonakilty, Ibane Gaels, Kilbrittain, Kilbree and Kilmeen, Newcestown, St Colum's and Valley Rovers did the Carbery division proud with their hosting and smooth running of Féile events.

Clonakilty GAA's Keith Kennedy comments were symptomatic of other West Cork's clubs' efforts in organising Féile families and games.

"We set up an organising committee early on but all the parents and supporters rowed in behind us to make the weekend a success," Kennedy stated.

"People helped out in loads of different ways from hosting girls to getting all the food prepared.

"We were fortunate to be able to field U14 boys and girls (two Camogie teams) in this year's competition.

"An opportunity to meet other GAA people from around the country is what makes Féile special.

"Over the weekend, I spoke to a Wicklow man who last visited Clonakilty in 1964 and was delighted to come back.

"It was super to have two Clonakilty Camogie teams representing the club in this year's Féile," Susan Coffey added.

"Over 40 girls toggled out over the weekend and it was refreshing to see so many girls playing Camogie," said Coffey.

"Luckily, we have had good numbers over the last few years.

"An opportunity to coach a Féile team was a bit nerve wracking but very rewarding at the same time.

"Everyone within our two squads got game time and enjoyed the weekend."

The final word goes to Clonakilty's Colm Murnane who was delighted the club's future hurling and Camogie stars got an opportunity to shine.

"From a club point of view, it is very important we maintain a high level of interest in GAA," Murnane stated.

"Féile has been a huge boost to the



Loughgael Shamrocks, Alana McKendry bursts forward in the John West Féile Division 2 camogie cup final at Na Piarisagh's GAA.

town and the local community. Like all the other West Cork clubs hosting visiting teams, we see the GAA club as a huge part of the community.

"It has been great to see such inter-

est from everyone around the local area in this year's Féile.

"It is equally important that both our hurling and Camogie squads are getting a chance to shine.

"This has been a great chance to promote hurling throughout West Cork and we are delighted to have gotten an opportunity to be one of the hosts of this year's big event."



Clonakilty captain Niamh Kennedy is presented with the trophy after her side defeated Loughaheil Shamrocks by Munster Camogie chairperson Marian Graham, following the John West Féile na nGael Division 2 final.



Clonakilty in the John West Féile Division 2 camogie cup final at Na Piarisagh's GAA pitch, Cork.

Pictures: Gavin Brown

Thompson not part of Cork set-up, says Murray

Eoghan Cormican

Four-time All-Ireland winner Ashling Thompson is no longer part of the Cork camogie panel, manager Paudie Murray has confirmed.

The 2015 All-Ireland winning captain, a first-team regular throughout this year's league, departed the Cork set-up at the beginning of their Munster championship campaign in late April. Murray is unsure if the two-time All-Star will be seen in a red shirt this summer.

Cork begin their three-in-a-row All-Ireland bid — a feat last achieved by the county back in 1973 — away to Clare this Saturday (Sixmilebridge, 5pm).

"Ashling is not with us at the moment. We would hope that she would be back playing, but the likelihood is that she will not be with us this year," Murray told the *Irish Examiner*.

The four-time All-Ireland winning manager has identified league champions Galway as favourites for this year's O'Duffy Cup.

"We're third-choice at the moment, in my eyes, to win the All-Ireland. I'm basing this on the league and all the data that our performance analyst Niall Collins has produced for me. I don't think our work-rate was where it should have been during the league. Our ball retention and ball delivery were not where they should have been. We have ground to make up on Kilkenny and Galway. Obviously, if Ashling Thompson is missing, that is a major advantage to those two teams. Can we

make up the ground on the opposition? We've done it in the past."

At last week's camogie championship launch, Association president Kathleen Woods said "árd comhairle are not afraid of change", in response to growing calls from players to modernise the rulebook. A rules review group has been established and there was the passing of a motion at Congress to allow for the introduction of trial rules, but Murray doesn't believe substantial change will materialise soon.

"The way I see things at the moment, there are people within the association doing their level best to change things. I still think you have people there, however, who are against that, who would be very much blaming the managers for coming up with new ideas, and who, I think, would like to go back to the day when the skirt was below the knee. Am I optimistic things will change in the near future? I'm not, at the moment, because I haven't seen enough to suggest it will change."



Ashling Thompson: Likelihood she will not play this year, said Cork manager Paudie Murray.



Gemma O'Connor of Cork and Laura McMahon of Roscommon.

Cork begin defence of their crown with a trip to Sixmilebridge

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance Senior Championship: Round One: Clare v Cork; Sixmilebridge 5pm.

■ Mary Newman

CORK open the defence of their Liberty Insurance senior champions crown and get the bid for three in a row up and running when they head to Sixmilebridge to meet Clare in the opening game in group two.

It's the first game in a group stage that will see the champions also take on Tipperary, Dublin, Meath and Waterford in the coming weeks.

Preparations have gone well for a Cork side that lost out to Kilkenny in the Littlewoods league semi-final but one got the impression that the defeat to at the hands of their arch-rivals wasn't something of huge concern to the Cork management as the focus was all on championship and now it is time to get that up and running.

Paudie Murray is a shrewd operator and will have his charges prepared well for a campaign that will hopefully lead to them emerging from the group in the top two and securing a semi-final spot.

Cork are a well organised outfit, Paudie and his back room team are professional and well organised, they will take it one game at a time in their round robin series and whilst his side did record a victory when the sides last met he will make sure his charges put that result to one side and focus on the job that needs to now be done.

Through the league he has given game time to new faces in a bid to freshen up his line out with Laura Hayes, Niamh McCarthy, Cliona Healy, Lauren Homan and Niamh O'Callaghan amongst the players coming in for starting places over the league series whilst Saoirse McCarthy is another from last season intermediate side that is amongst the players who are in the squad.

Tomorrow's line out will not be known until throw in but it will be expected to be along the usual lines with captain Gemma O'Connor, Laura Treacy, Leann O'Sullivan, Pamela and Katrina Mackey, Orla Cronin, Chloe Sigerson,

Orla Cotter, Amy O'Connor, Libby Coppinger, Hannah Looney, Linda Collins and Aoife Murray all nailing down starting places.

However, nothing is certain and Paudie may decide to give championship starting spots to some of the players who have played during the league to give them a taste of championship action.

Competition for places is good for a team and there is certainly plenty of that in the squad.

But whoever Paudie chooses to start the game, I'd expect Cork to have too much talent for Clare and win the game.

The sides met on April 24th in the Munster championship where Cork recorded a 4-15 to 1-9 victory as they cruised to a Munster semi-final where they overcame Limerick before defeated Tipperary to retain their title.

During their league campaign Clare blew hot and cold they started well, pinning holders Kilkenny to their collars before losing out on a 1-9 to 0-7 score line.

They struggled to defeat Offaly before getting the upper hand on Limerick and then losing out to Dublin. In the last two years they done seem to have the same momentous and seem to have gone back.

Finishing second from the bottom in the league certainly will not have instilled confidence in a side that three years ago looked to have huge potential.

Chloe Morey remains their stand out player whilst Amy Keating, Orlaith Duggan and O'Keeffe and Amy Keating will be amongst the player who should feature in their line out, it is hard to see them causing an upset but they will go out determined to do just that on their home patch but it would take a mighty effort to overcome the challenge of the champions.

In the remaining first round clashes in group one there is a classic in store in a repeat of the National league final as Kilkenny travel to Galway for what will be an exciting contest as they bid to reverse the final result.

In group two Tipperary are at home for their game against Waterford and Dublin are at home for their meeting with Meath.

Verdict: Cork



HAT'S OFF TO RENA: 18 time All-Ireland winner Rena Buckley who was recently conferred with an honorary doctorate at UCC. PHOTO: DARAGH MC SWEENEY/PROVISION



Loughgael Shamrocks' Alana McKendry about to strike the ball against Clonakilty's Cliona Barrett in the John West Féile Division 2 camogie cup final at Na Piarsaighs GAA pitch,

JUNE 2019

All-Stars Tour set for New York

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THERE was some good news for camogie in the week gone by as championship sponsored Liberty Insurance announced that the second Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Stars Tour will take place in November with New York announced as the destination.

The Tour will see two teams comprising of the winning Senior All-Stars from both the 2018 and the 2019 campaign face each other in an exhibition match to be played in New York.

Liberty Insurance also announced they will further promote their long-standing support of Camogie by live streaming a key match on their Facebook Page during each week of the Group Stages of the Senior Championship.

This increase in coverage will ensure that there will be a match available to supporters to view during each round of the Senior Championship either online or on television via RTE's live match coverage which will begin from the Quarter-Finals in August right through to September's Finals in Croke Park on Sunday September 8th.

The first game to be live streamed this weekend is the meeting of national league champions Galway who take on Kilkenny in what is a mouth-watering opening round game.

Launching this year's Championship, Camogie Association President Kathleen Woods said: "Liberty Insurance have been great partners of the Camogie Association over the past six years and this year they have once more shown their great support by investing in the 2019 All-Stars Tour."

Passion

"The tour is an opportunity to reward these players for their dedication, skill and passion for the game for which they are all true role models, and to continue to spread the game to new audiences in North America."

"I am also very pleased to see the continued growth of the coverage of the All-Ireland Championship with Liberty Insurance's investment in live streaming which will bring our game to audiences not only at home but across the world on a weekly basis this summer."

"I am excited for the Championships to begin as we look forward to another exciting summer that will culminate in Croke Park on Sunday September 8th when we hope that the sports public will go together in large numbers to our All-Ireland Finals which are the pinnacle of a player's career."

Speaking on behalf of Liberty Insurance, Sean Brett said: "We're delighted to be announcing our support for the 2019 Liberty Insurance Camogie All-Stars Tour to New York City later this year."

"Both the All-Stars Awards and the Tour recognise and celebrate those players who are such important ambassadors for the game."

"A trip to the USA will showcase the game to new international audiences which proved to be such a success in 2017. We're really excited to be involved in what will no doubt be a very memorable trip."

"We're delighted also to enable the broadcasting via live streaming of Ca-



Marion Graham, chairperson Munster camogie, presents the John West Feile Division 2 trophy to Clonakilty Captain Nimah Kennedy



A delighted Lisa Murphy of Eire Og celebrates with teammates after their win in the John West Féile na nGael camogie Cup final over Sarsfields

mogie matches in each group stage round of this year's Senior Championship.

"The primary focus since our sponsorship began in 2013 has been to raise the profile and exposure of players and the sport of Camogie, in addition to driving participation and attendances."

"The additional Camogie Championship coverage we're announcing today is further evidence of that commitment."

"Looking ahead to the Championships, we'll shortly be announcing a new campaign to drive attendances and provide support at a grassroots level to further build on the important progress made to date, working in

partnership with the Camogie Association."

Amongst those in attendance at the launch was Cork captain long-standing player Gemma O'Connor who said: "We are looking forward to championship games getting underway at the weekend, we are not thinking about three in a row, and we try not to let that take away from our training and focus."

"Certainly, it is in the back of our minds but we are not dwelling on it."

"It is a huge honour to captain Cork, we have a great group of girls and a fantastic management team and that was a huge factor in continuing on for another year and trying to retain our

"The All-Stars Awards and Tour celebrate those who are such important ambassadors for the game"

title so hopefully now it will get off to a good start for us when we meet Clare in the opening game."

Speaking about the All Star tour Gemma had huge praise for Liberty Insurance.

"It is wonderful to see Liberty Insurance again continuing to promote camogie and this trip will be a great reward to the players, it is nice to meet the player from other counties and get to know players in a different atmosphere and the aim is to promote the game and this tour will certainly help to do that."

With a huge Irish community in New York the games are sure to draw big crowds and generate huge interest.

Cork set for tough Kilkenny challenge

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship, Round 1
Cork v Kilkenny
Today
Cork Camogie Grounds
Castle Road, 5pm

It's a new year and a new team as the Cork Intermediate side get their Liberty Insurance championship campaign up and running today in Castle Road.

In their first game of the new championship they welcome league runners-up Kilkenny in what is sure to be a tough contest.

Having won the title last season Cork are now fielding what in theory is their third choice adult sides as all of last season's side are ineligible for the grade.

There is new management also for Cork with Frances Killeen and her fellow mentors taking over, and they have worked hard through the national league and Munster championship to build their squad. They enjoyed a relatively good league campaign defeating Carlow in their opening game. They drew with a strong Meath side in round two but lost out 1-11 to 1-4 to Tipperary on a horrendous day weather wise. A tremendous display saw them defeat Down by two points but they failed to qualify for the latter stages of the league.

Cork met Tipperary in the Munster final and turned in a tremendous display to overcome the league champions in a contest where they showed huge battling qualities especially in the last quarter as the league champions drew level. Cork responded magnificently as they took on the Tipp defence and drew vital frees which Hayley Ryan duly converted, and with Kate Dooley and Erin Looney adding to the tally from play Cork took the lead but it took a magnificent save from captain Stephanie Beausang to deny Tipp an equaliser.

The victory was a huge boost for Cork as they face into the championship. Among the players who have impressed are Aisling Maloney who enjoyed a tremendous league campaign at the heart of the Cork defence where she has been steady and solid and was immense in all outings. Ciara Daly, Kate Dooley, Grainne Hannon, and Katie O'Mahony are others who have performed well in a side captained by goalkeeper Stephanie Beausang.

Kilkenny were disappointed to lose out in the league final to Tipperary and they will provide strong opposition for Cork today. Katie Nolan, Kelly Hamilton, and Caoimhe Dowling will lead their challenge and joint managers Aine Fahey and John Scott will be hoping their charges can produce more of the form that saw them secure a league final spot.

Camogie rule changes coming



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

RULE changes aimed at making camogie a more flowing and faster game should be in place in time for the 2020 All-Ireland championship.

But don't expect wholesale change — Camogie Association President Kathleen Woods says the body's new playing rules work group will be making a maximum of three recommended rule changes.

Camogie chiefs have reacted to criticism in the wake of last year's All-Ireland final, but Woods is keen not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

"Yes, there is a need for rule change," she said, speaking to RTE Sport at the launch of the Liberty Insurance Championships. "As our girls say, they are much fitter and we are looking at the rules. But we need to move slowly because if you get it wrong the first time you can't go back on it. At the minute we have a very strong subcommittee of very strong people to work on it and I hope to announce the make-up of that committee next week. That will be the 'Playing Rules Working Group'."

"The hope is that they will put forward their recommendations, we're not going to look at any more than three rule changes, and hopefully we'll get it across Ard Comhairle to trial them."

The working group will include two recently retired inter-county players who still line out at club level, a retired referee who is now an assessor, administrators and medical experts.

The plan is for them to make their recommendations in time for October's camogie central council meeting with a view to trialing them in the 2020 national league. If those experiments are successful they will be voted on at congress next April in Clonmel and if they pass there they'll be introduced to the championship next year.

For the second consecutive year the 2018 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship went right to the very last puck of the ball to separate Cork and Kilkenny.

Once more it was Cork who prevailed as Orla Cotter kept her nerve to send over a match winning free in injury time to edge out the Cats as the Rebels claimed a record 28th All-Ireland title.

In 2019 Cork face into another campaign of being the team to beat having won four of the last five All-Ireland titles. They have been drawn in Group 2 for this year's Championship which includes Clare, Dublin, Meath, Tipperary and Waterford and they will travel to Clare today to open their title defence.

In Group 1 Galway and Kilkenny are undoubtedly the teams to beat having recently played out the national league final which Galway won in impressive fashion.

I still think they've a lot of work to do to be serious All Ireland contenders. The sides meet in Athenry today and the Cats will be eager to begin their journey of making amends for agonising back-to-back All-Ireland



Grace Walsh of Kilkenny, Cait Devane of Tipperary, Gemma O'Connor of Cork, Kathleen Woods, President of The Camogie Association, Sean Brett, Head of Strategic Marketing Liberty Insurance, Sarah Dervan of Galway and Aisling Maher of Dublin. Picture: Dan Sheridan



Gemma O'Connor of Cork. Cork are in Group 2 for this year's Championship which includes Clare, Dublin, Meath, Tipperary and Waterford. Picture: INPHO/Dan Sheridan

final defeats. This group also features Limerick, Offaly and Wexford who'll all be hoping to cause an upset and push for a knockout place.

Limerick reached the semi-finals of the national league but have regressed a bit in the last couple of years and rely too much on sharpshooter Niamh Mulcahy.

The Camogie Association and Liberty Insurance announced this week that the second All-Stars Tour will take place this November with New York the destination.

The Tour will see two teams comprising of the winning Senior All-Stars from both the 2018 and the upcoming 2019 campaign face each other in an exhibition match in the Big Apple.

Liberty Insurance also announced that they will further bolster their long-standing support of Camogie by live streaming a key match on their Facebook page during each week of

the group stages of the senior championship.

This increase in coverage will ensure that there will be a match available to supporters to view during each round of the senior championship either online or on television via RTE's live match coverage which will begin from the quarter-finals in August through to September's finals in Croke Park on Sunday September 8th.

Dublin host Meath, Waterford travel to The Ragg to face Tipperary and Limerick at home to Offaly in the Gaelic Grounds are the other three opening fixtures today.

Offaly will fancy themselves going into this game given that the sides met earlier in the league and played out a close contest with Limerick claiming a two-point win, 1-12 to 0-13.

Two years ago, under the guidance of Paddy Kirwan, Offaly defeated Limerick in the Gaelic Grounds by a single

“We're not going to look at any more than three rule changes, and hopefully we'll get it across”

point on a score line of 2-18 to 3-14. The sides are similar in style; however, Limerick rely on the influence and deadly accurate Niamh Mulcahy who can point from almost anywhere from placed balls.

Offaly is working off a small squad at the moment with Roisin Egan leaving the panel due to summer travels. Naomh Brid's Aoife Walsh and Mary Teehan are also likely to miss the championship with injuries meaning Offaly have a panel of approximately 22 players ahead of their four-weeks-in-a-row championship fixtures.

Expect this to be a close encounter again. Dublin should account for Meath with Tipperary taking the points at home.

It's always a hard one to call between Kilkenny and Galway but I think it'll be a serious worry for Kilkenny if they drop points here.

Cork will take Clare.

Feile gave us such a wonderful weekend

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

WHAT a fantastic weekend of Camogie we had as Feile came to town, after months of preparation and excitement the weekend just simple flew by.

One second we were getting ready for the first game in each host venue and suddenly we were in Castle Road as the rain lashed down on the semi-finals of division 1. It was a similar story in the other venues as the sides battled it out in the semi-finals and when the dust had settled it was suddenly 3pm Sunday and Feile was drawing to its conclusion.

It was a great weekend for every club irrespective of how you performed, Feile is a competition that is nice to win but it more importantly brings clubs together who would have never met. They came from the hills of Antrim and travelled hours to be in Cork and every club can be proud of the huge impressions left on each and every visiting club.

Cork clubs brought three titles to the county and it was a huge achievement for Eire Og as they captured the Division 1 title for their first time as they overcame Sarsfields who were bidding for four in a row. Eire Og had many stars but on the day for me their standout player was Laoise Murphy who showed great calm as she slotted over three points from frees and one from play in her sides' 0-5 to 0-2 victory. Also impressive were Edel Sheehan, Grainne O'Mahony Abi Mullins and Orlaith Cremin as Eire Og dug deep to hold their lead.

Clonakilty won the Division Two title with two goals from Katie O'Driscoll helping them to a 2-5 to 1-3 win over Loughgiel Shamrocks from Antrim. Ardahan from Galway took the Division 3 crown, after a one-point win over Meath side, Na Fianna, 1-3 to 1-2. The Ballyhea/Milford (Cork) combination ensured a third title for Cork as they beat Causeway (Kerry) 1-8 to 0-4 in the Division 5 final while Four Roads of Roscommon took the Division Six crown with a 3-1 to 1-2 win over Nemo Rangers.

In the Division 1 John West Shield final a first-half Libby Carroll goal was crucial as Dicksboro (Kilkenny) edged out Newcastle West (Limerick) 1-3 to 0-3 in a tight contest that preceded the cup final in Castle Road.

The Division 2 shield saw Naas defeat St Mullins to take the title, Ardahan defeated Na Fianna to win the division 3 shield, De La Salle got the upper hand on Bishopstown to win the division 4 shield, the division 5 was won by Bray Emmett's as they got the better of Na Bridego with the, division 6 shield won by Aghrim beating Edendork St Malachy's. And so as the curtain is drawn on Feile 2019 all our Cork participating club can take a big bow, well done ye did the county proud.

Is (overdue) change in the air for camogie championship?

Cliona Foley



Losing last year's All-Ireland semi-final to Kilkenny hurt Galway camogie captain Sarah Dervan so much she did something, you imagine, that was totally alien to her usually sunny disposition. "I went back to work the following day but I had to leave...I wasn't able," she groans. "I just needed a few days on my own, I just needed to close my mind from everybody."

It was their third loss to the stripey women in one season yet Galway looked like they had grabbed a foothold after half-time, when three Carrie Dolan frees edged them 0-7 to 0-6 ahead.

Hope had risen and then, bang!

Katie Power goalied, the fight suddenly leached out of them and their final scoreline (1-7 to 1-10) was flattered by a Rebecca Hennelly penalty deep into injury-time.

For a team boosted with some stars from their 2017 All-Ireland winning minors and a new manager, the westerners capitulated too easily and they knew it.

"We were there or thereabouts, Next thing Kilkenny got a goal and before we knew it we were five or six points down and the game was gone from us, just like that," Dervan says, clicking her fingers.

That's why their victory in this year's Littlewoods Division 1 final was so important.

It wasn't just that they stopped Kilkenny's bid for four league titles in a row or that it was their own first silverware since 2015 and happened in Croke Park.

It was the way they exercised their physical and mental muscle.

They flew out of the traps and held an eight-point lead in the second half.

Yes, they let that slip to just

a point by coughing up two bad goals but the difference, as Dervan notes, "was that we responded well."

"Niamh Hanniffy got an unbelievable point (after the first goal). That probably made us think 'lads it's not going to be the same story, it's not going to happen again' and we got another point after that."

For this Galway team, who also drew with Cork in the league, it was a timely and significant scalp and the psychological impact was reflected in wing-back Tara Kenny's illuminating post-match comments.

"I think we're mentally stronger this year," Kenny said. "People have looked at us sometimes nearly like we're spoofers or bluffers, but we've worked hard and we'll keep the head down now." It was a boost for camogie as a whole too.

Right now its top players are agitating for rules and refereeing to change — to reflect their skills and expand their audience.

They're right. The game doesn't need any more whistle-pocked big games nor a third, consecutive free-fest and goal-less All-Ireland senior final.

But, equally, if camogie is to continue to grow its standard and audience, it desperately needs less one-sided games, more serious championship contenders and someone, especially, able to put it up to Cork and Kilkenny who have so dominated the past five years.

Galway, by tradition and skill, have long been the likeliest and not just because they broke that five-final losing streak in 2013.

They reached the 2015 All-Ireland final too, and only lost to Cork by a goal in the 2017 semi-finals but, too often, when push comes to shove, their current side has looked like a team whose considerable individual talents are greater than the sum of their parts. Now they look to have some proper physicality and cohesion.

Beating Kilkenny in a league final laid down a



STAND AND DELIVER: At the launch of the 2019 Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship and All-Star tour announcement are Cait Devane (Tipperary); Grace Walsh (Kilkenny); Gemma O'Connor (Cork); Sarah Dervan (Galway), and Aisling Maher (Dublin).
Picture Dan Sheridan/Inpho

All-Ireland Camogie Championship fixtures

■ Senior Championship:
Group 1: Galway v Kilkenny, Kenny Park, Athenry; Limerick v Offaly, Gaelic Grounds;

■ Group 2: Clare v Cork Sixmilebridge; Dublin v Meath Parnell's GAA, Co-

lock; Tipperary v Waterford, The Ragg.

■ Intermediate Championship:
Group 1: Cork v Kilkenny, Cork Camogie Grounds; Galway v Antrim, Kenny Pk, Athenry; Kildare v

Westmeath, St Conleth's Pk;

■ Group 2: Derry v Laois, Swatragh; Tipperary v Down, The Ragg; Carlow v Wexford, Netwatch Cullen Park.

■ All games throw in 5pm

marker, and the fact that they're meeting them so quickly in today's round-robin championship opener has added an extra frisson.

They come in cold with no provincial campaign to sharpen them but the steel

they've shown so far in 2019 has whetted appetites.

It's surely no coincidence their strength and conditioning coach Robbie Lane had them back training last November, two months earlier than usual.

The players themselves demanded changes last year and got it when Cathal Murray came in as manager mid-season, with a backroom team that also includes Orla Kilkenny, a local legend.

"She has so much experi-

ence and knowledge and knows how to deal with players and bring them on," Dervan says. "When Orla speaks you listen. The confidence and belief the management as a whole is bringing to us, that we don't usually have, is huge. They trust us and believe in us and we respond really well to that."

Murray has them playing a more attacking and systematic game.

Switching forward ace Aoife Donoghue to midfield has proved a brilliant stroke and earned her Division 1 Player of the Year. Now it's the Big Dance though and no one doubts that 'Championship' is always the Rebels' and Kittens' priority.

Kilkenny are stung from being pipped in the last two finals and were noticeably short some big-name players for the league final.

Grace Walsh (ankle injury) was one of them and didn't hide her enthusiasm for this early summer re-match when asked about it at the official 2019 Liberty Championship launch.

"I'm ready to have a crack at them, hopefully, if I get my name on the teamsheet," she grinned. "Playing against Galway in championship is my favourite game of the year."

Punters are equally hoping there'll be fireworks in Athenry today when defending champions Cork open with an away trip to Sixmilebridge in their Munster-heavy group that also includes Tipperary, Waterford, Dublin and Meath. The Rebels won their last two All-Irelands by a point but three times since 2005 have their three in-a-row dreams been thwarted (2007, 2019 and 2016) — surely a key motivator for Paudie Murray and some veteran stars staying on? Right now it's hard not to picture Aoife Murray and Gemma O'Connor in a blood red sci-fi lair somewhere, sharpening their talons and smiling enigmatically...like Bond baddies patiently awaiting that final scene.

Walsh gunning to drive Kilkenny back to summit

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Grace Walsh is counting down the minutes to the start of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship — and a crack at Galway this afternoon.

And she rejects any notion that it might be preferable to play Galway later in the season.

That Group 1 commences

with such a blockbuster tie only serves to accentuate the Championship vibe, she maintains.

"Everyone is very excited," says Walsh with a beaming smile. "Everyone is chirpy in training and everyone is just trying to get on the team for the day."

"The teak tough Tullaroan defender is sporting the scars of a battle from the Leinster final victory over Offaly but welcomes them, having had to

sit out the league final.

"I tore a tendon in my ankle. I was out for six weeks. I was only back running after six weeks."

"I was gone for about 10 altogether so I was buzzing to be back. I was back for the Leinster quarter-final against Dublin. It was really nice to get back, get the match fitness up."

Having lost the last two All-Ireland finals by the minimum margin has been desperately

difficult to take but the Cats, with Ann Downey still at the helm of a reshuffled coaching set-up, will be leading contenders once again.

"It is equally as hard every time. I don't know if it gets harder. Last year, going into the All-Ireland final, on the day in my head I was fully convinced that we were going to win."

"It didn't work out for us and there is no point in looking back on it because we

can't change it.

"It is all about 2019 and we will have our names on the cup for 2019."

"You use it (defeat) to motivate you to a certain extent. But you don't want to be gearing up to go out just to beat a certain team."

"You are going out really to win the game whether it is Cork, Limerick, Offaly, Galway."

Today's game will be streamed live by Liberty In-

surance in a move that Walsh believes will help grow camogie.

"It is very important. It is brilliant that they have brought that on board this year."

"If someone looks, for example, at Kilkenny and Galway's game and it was a really exciting game to watch, they are going to be like, 'I might go to the next game now because it will be good to look at.'"



Libby Coppinger in action against Clare. Picture: Liam Burke/Press 22

Changes likely in Cork line-up but champions expected to win well

TOMORROW: Liberty Insurance Senior Championship: Cork v Tipperary, CIT, 5pm



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

ON the back of a comfortable first-round victory over Clare, Cork have home advantage tomorrow when they take on Tipperary in Round 2 of the Liberty Insurance group senior championship tie.

The game kicks off at 5pm and with the Cork senior footballers playing in Páirc Uí Chaoimh at 7pm, it is a throw-in time that is going to ensure primarily family and friends will make the trip to the College venue.

Trailing by four points with four minutes of normal time remaining against Waterford last weekend, Tipperary's game was abandoned due to what was considered a serious injury to Nicole Walsh.

Waterford will be disappointed with that as it was a big scalp for them, but the welfare at the time of Nicole was all both sides were concerned about and correctly the fixture was postponed to another date. Thankfully Nicole is expected to make a full recovery having suffered from concussion but will not line out tomorrow.

Cork were expected to win comfortably against Clare, the only question is by how much.

It turned out to be 19 points and while that's impressive, Cork weren't fully out of the traps for their opener. Expect them to be sharper tomorrow.

Amy O'Connor is in flying form and Linda Collins is also going very well. Linda was rested last Saturday, but will likely start this time around.

Julia White, Orla Cotter, Niamh McCarthy, Orla Cronin, and Katrina Mackey are the main players looking to fill the final four positions.

Make no mistake, a defeat to Waterford would have been a big setback to Tipperary had the game finished out the way it was headed, and it shows just how far they've regressed.

Niamh O'Callaghan started against Clare. Pam Mackey, Laura Treacy, Hannah Looney, Gemma O'Connor and Chloe Sigerson were the other back five.

I expect Paudie Murray to change things up again this week with Laura Hayes, Ciara Healy, Saoirse McCarthy, and Clara McCarthy available.

Lauren Homan is injured, but there are a number of

players which could be given a championship run.

Ashling Thompson, who removed herself from the panel is a huge loss of course. There's no doubt that she is a powerhouse at midfield or in the half-back line. While Cork won't feel her absence during the group stages, it's later in the year that the Milford player will be sorely missed.

Players retire, and counties move on, but Ashling is far from retirement age. Maybe the door isn't fully closed yet and there's another episode to this saga yet.

Expect Cork to take another three points on Saturday evening.



Eire Óg's Grace and Ciara O'Brien celebrate after they won the John West Camogie Division 1 Cup final.

Walsh on mend after horror injury

Cian Locke

Tipperary camogie player Nicole Walsh was last night recovering at home after her frightening injury caused the abandonment of Saturday evening's All-Ireland Championship meeting of Tipp and Waterford at The Ragg.

The Borris-Ileigh player fell heavily late in the match and received medical treatment on the field. With no ambulance at the ground, there was a 25-minute wait for further medical assistance. And Walsh was eventually transported to hospital via air ambulance.

By then, Cork referee Andrew Larkin had abandoned the match, with Waterford leading 1-15 to 0-14 with four minutes of regulation-time remaining. The game will be replayed at a later date.

Yesterday afternoon, Tipperary camogie confirmed Walsh had suffered a serious concussion but had been released from hospital. "All in Tipperary Camogie wish Nicole Walsh a speedy recovery," the statement added.

As the camogie community awaited news of the injury, there had been an outpouring of well-wishes for the player.

"Wishing Nicole Walsh, Tipperary Camogie a speedy recovery from the Kilkenny Camogie team and Management," wrote Kilkenny boss Ann Downey on Twitter.

While former Camogie Association President Catherine Neary tweeted: "Best wishes to Nicole Walsh following her injury in yesterday's @LibertyIRL All Ireland Senior @OfficialCamogie Championship match @camogiotipp v @deisecamogie. All the #CamogieFamily thoughts are with Nicole."



Representing West Cork on the Cork Primary Go Games team in Cusack Park, Ennis last Sunday were Laura Sheehy (Kilbrittain NS), Maeabh O'Brien (Ballinacarriga NS, Dunmanway) and Fia Johnson (Scoil Eoin, Innishannon). (Photo: George Hatchell)

A royal welcome from Sars camogie squad



The Dutch Royal couple, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima, with members of the Sarsfields camogie team during their visit to Fort Camden, Crosshaven, yesterday. Picture: Dan Linehan

Serious early statements from Rebels and Cats

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

"Brilliant" was the word used by both player-of-the-match Denise Gaule and victorious manager Ann Downey as Kilkenny got their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship off to a perfect start with a 1-13 to 0-14 victory over Galway.

The Tribeswomen were worthy winners when the sides met in the Division 1 League final last March but with Anne Dalton and Gaule establishing midfield supremacy and Miriam Walsh grabbing a fortunate 35th-minute

goal, it was the Cats who claimed revenge.

"Coming from the league, we had this on our minds," admitted Gaule. "We were focusing on this match. It was a tough game and we're just delighted to come out with the right result. It's brilliant — we wanted to show how we can perform. We let ourselves down in Croke Park in the league final but... it's Championship, it's a different kettle of fish. This is a tough place to come and we're buzzing to get the result."

Downey concurred: "Galway are a super team and they're not out of this Championship by a long shot but we

are happy with this display. We were disappointed with our performance in the league final. We went back to the field and we've trained really hard since then, which is nearly 11 weeks ago, and the girls have put in some brilliant effort."

Downey revealed she faced some tough selection choices: "It took us four days to decide the team. We started a row last Saturday night and we didn't end until last Tuesday! But isn't that a great position to be in, to know you have girls that are going to come in and people fighting for places?"

Inspirational captain Sarah Dervan and Carrie Dolan, who scored nine points, were

hugely influential alongside Gaule for the winners.

The sides were level at the break (0-6 apiece) but Walsh's shot for a point deceived Galway goalie Sarah Healy early in the second half and ended up in the net. Galway managed to pull level but once Dalton and Gaule thundered into proceedings, Kilkenny never looked back.

In the other Group 1 affair, Rebecca Delee scored two goals in the last quarter for Limerick to deny Offaly in a thrilling tie at the Gaelic Grounds (2-16 to 2-12).

The visitors led 1-7 to 0-8 at half-time thanks to Christine Cleary's goal and when Arlene

Watkins and Delee traded goals, Mike Wall's Offaly side still held the upper hand.

They didn't score again however, while Limerick poured forward to hit 1-4 down the final stretch, with Niamh Mulcahy and Delee their shooting stars.

In Group 2, All-Ireland champions Cork scored 2-3 in injury-time and were irresistible in the second half as they registered a 3-19 to 0-9 triumph over Clare in Sixmilebridge. The hosts were in touch at the interval, trailing by just 1-6 to 0-5 after Katrina Mackey's 19th-minute goal.

The Rebels kicked on after the restart, Amy O'Connor

and Orla Cotter among 10 scorers, Mackey and Linda Collins adding late goals.

Dublin were pushed all the way before securing a 1-16 to 0-12 win over Meath at Parnells. A Kerrie Finnegan goal gave the Dubs a 1-5 to 0-7 lead at the break and though the excellent Jane Dolan kept the Royals in touch, Sinéad Wyld and Siobhán Kehoe ensured victory for Frank Browne's side.

The game between Waterford and Tipperary at The Ragg was abandoned due to a serious injury to a Tipp player with four minutes of normal time remaining and the Déise girls leading by 1-15 to 0-14.



Libby Coppinger celebrates Cork's Munster football final win in Dungarvan on Sunday evening with family and friends.

(Photo: Tom Russell)

Dual star Libby ends her busy weekend on a high

Two games in two days in two different codes for St Colum's ace Coppinger

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

TWENTY-FOUR hours after Libby Coppinger helped the Cork senior camogie team get their All-Ireland title defence off to a winning start in Sixmilecross on Saturday, she was lining out for the county footballers in the Munster senior final in Dungarvan.

This is the life of a dual inter-county player – two games in two days in two different codes.

Last weekend was made easier for the St Colum's woman as Cork won both games. Coppinger started and played 51 minutes in the camogie team's convincing 3-19 to 0-9 win against Clare on Saturday evening. Fast forward 24 hours and she started for the footballers in the Munster final victory against Waterford at Fraher Field, playing 45 minutes in the 2-14 to 0-9 win.

'The football named their team during the week so I knew I'd be featuring for some part and we didn't find out until Saturday morning that I was starting for the camogie team,' Coppinger told the Star Sport Podcast this week.

The West Cork woman and Hannan Looney are currently Cork's two dual players at senior level – both started in both games on Saturday and Sunday.

'We knew this weekend was coming up but we want to play

'A good night's sleep was crucial, and there was the basic foam rolling, stretching, all that jazz, making sure you have the fuel and that your body is recovered enough to go again on Sunday'

the matches. It's great that there was no clash and that we could get the recovery in,' Coppinger says.

'We knew we would be in a battle going up to Clare but it was great to get the result and get the ball rolling in the camogie championship.'

That camogie win gave Coppinger a pep in her step heading into Sunday's Munster football final. Still, her recovery ahead of the football decider was crucial. She cut her travel time down by getting a lift home to Kealkill with her mother, who met her at the Corbett Court in Fermoy after the camogie match on Saturday evening.

'I came home to Kealkill on Saturday night to get a good sleep in my own bed. That was very important to get a good recovery in,' she explains.

'A good night's sleep was crucial, and there was the basic foam rolling, stretching, all that jazz, making sure you have the fuel and that your body is recovered enough to go again on Sunday.'

'In a way it was annoying that the game was on Sunday

evening for people travelling (to Dungarvan) but Hannah and myself couldn't have asked for any more time. We got nearly 24 hours of recovery before we had to go again so that was good for us.'

Coppinger was back up to the city on Sunday afternoon. The Cork football team met at the Rochestown Park Hotel at 2.45pm for their pre-match meal and then travelled to Dungarvan by bus.

'I was trying not to think about the night before because sometimes if you tell yourself you are tired you'll end up worse off than you are,' the Cork dual star says.

'You're better off putting it in the back of your mind and forgetting that you've played a match the day before.'

'The fact we won on Saturday was a big boost going into Sunday because we were in good form going into the game.'

Open communication lines between football boss Ephie Fitzgerald and camogie manager Paudie Murray have helped Coppinger and Looney this year. Both managers been very

accommodating.

'We don't have to make any decisions, they tell us who we are with and where to be. That's really helpful because you can just focus about putting in a performance at training and not worry about the other stuff,' she says.

Coppinger is the type who wants to play in every game but she's had to accept that she can't. Otherwise, she'll burn out.

'You want to be fit, fresh and ready to go, and free from injury.'

It is tough when you feel you have more to give but you are being saved for another match,' she admits.

'I just want to give my best to both teams so if that means not playing in a certain match, that's fine by me.'

'The one thing is that it's tough with the club because I rarely get to go

down to club training and play any club matches because of the demands of the inter-county scene.'

While the footballers have been handed a week off this week after winning the Munster title and because the All-Ireland series doesn't begin until mid July, Coppinger and Looney are preparing for the senior camogie championship game home to Tipperary on Saturday evening.

Little rest for the dual stars, but with Munster senior camogie and football medals in their back pockets, and with both Cork sides in the reckoning for All-Irelands, they wouldn't want it any other way.

Dual star Libby Coppinger in action for the Cork camogie team in Saturday evening's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 2 win away to Clare.

(Photo: Trevor Patchett)



Cork send out Clare sign they mean business

SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP

Rebels face Tipperary off back of 19-point win

CORK	3-19
CLARE	0-9

THERE are tougher tests to come but Cork got the defence of their All-Ireland senior camogie title off to a solid start at Sixmilebridge on Saturday evening.

Always favourites to get the better of Clare, Cork did just that, but the final scoreline was helped by their injury-time scoring blitz of 2-3. By then, this Group 2 win was already assured.

Chasing the three-in-a-row this year, Cork boss Paudie Murray said in the build-up to this game that he feels his side sit third in the pecking order, behind Galway and Kilkenny, and they know that they have work to do in the weeks ahead – but they're up and running with this result.

Amy O'Connor was a constant threat in the Cork attack and she was well supported by the hard-working half-forward line of Orla Cotter, Orla Cronin and Katrina Mackey, who scored 2-8 between them.

Douglas star Mackey finished with 2-2 and scored her first goal midway through the first half. Julia White set-up the goal, finished by Mackey, and Cork led 1-3 to 0-1 – and they didn't look back after this.

Scores from Enniskeane's Orla Cronin, and Cotter and Mackey widened the gap before Clare finished the half with three points of their own – Mairead Scanlan and captain Laura McMahon to the fore – to trail by 1-6 to 0-5 at half time.

In the second half, with the wind behind them, Cork held all the aces as they stretched their legs.

Cotter (3) and Amy O'Connor (2) kept the scoreboard ticking over as Cork led 1-13 to 0-6 at the three-quarter stage, with the home side struggling to find the scores they needed.

The Rebels, on the other hand, were warming up and the scores flowed in those final stages.

Of the final tally of 3-19, only one point was from a placed ball and the rest from play. In

injury-time sub Linda Collins from Courcey Rovers scored Cork's second goal, set-up by Orla Cronin's direct run. After points from Cronin and O'Connor, Collins then set up Mackey for her second goal as Cork blitzed Clare for 2-3 in injury-time.

It was just the start Paudie Murray would have wanted to their Group 2 campaign and this weekend they meet Tipperary, who Cork beat in the recent Munster final. Tipp's opening game against Waterford at The Ragg had to be abandoned last weekend after Tipp's Nicole Walsh suffered a bad concussion after a heavy fall. At the time, 57 minutes in, Waterford were leading by 1-15 to 0-14, which was a big surprise as the Déise had lost by 2-23 to 1-8 against Tipp in the recent Munster semi-final. The abandoned Group 2 game will be refixed for a later date.

If Cork pick up another win this weekend against Tipp, they'll be well on their way to making sure they qualify out of this group of six for the business end of the championship.



Cork forward Niamh McCarthy (Inniscarra) forces her way through the Clare defence during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 2 opener at Sixmilebridge on Saturday. (Photo: Trevor Patchett)

ness end of the championship.

Scorers

Cork: K Mackey 2-2, A O'Connor 0-6, O Cotter 0-4 (1f), L Collins 1-1, O Cronin 0-2, J White, B Corkery, L Coppinger, C McCarthy 0-1 each. **Clare:** M Scanlan 0-6 (6f), A O'Keefe, L McMahon, F Lafferty 0-1 each.

Cork: Aoife Murray; Pamela Mackey, Laura Treacy, Niamh O'Callaghan; Hannah Looney, Gemma O'Connor, Chloe Sigerson; Libby Coppinger, Brieghe Corkery; Katrina Mackey, Orla Cronin, Orla Cotter; Amy O'Connor, Niamh McCarthy, Julia White.

Subs: Clara McCarthy for N McCarthy (41), Linda Collins for White (41), Katelyn Hickey for

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Amy O'Connor was superb. The St Vincent's star was a danger all through and finished with six points from play.

Star moment: Katrina Mackey's goal in the 18th minute, set up by Julia White, pushed Cork 1-3 to 0-1 ahead – and opened a gap that was never closed.

Talking point: Cork's injury-time scoring flurry of 2-3 was devastating and impressive, as was the fact that 3-18 of Cork's 3-19 tally came from play.

What's next? Cork take on Tipperary in their second Group 2 game this Saturday in Cork IT at 5pm.

Coppinger (51), Leanne O'Sullivan for Looney (56).

Clare: Sarah Loughnane; Clara Grogan, Clare Hehir, Clara Doyle; Laura McMahon, Alannah Ryan, Michelle Caulfield; Amy Barrett, Roisin Begley; Sinead Conlon,

Andrea O'Keefe, Teresa O'Keefe; Fiona Lafferty, Mairead Scanlan, Eimear Kelly.

Subs: Niamh Corry for Barrett (46), Susan Fahy for McMahon (51), Aoife Keating for Conlon (58). **Referee:** Ray Kelly (Kildare).

New-look Rebels undone by Kilkenny penalty

INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

CORK	0-11
KILKENNY	1-10

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

ALL-IRELAND intermediate champions Cork were beaten by Kilkenny in the opening round of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship at Castle Road on Saturday.

Following the success of the All-Ireland title in 2018 and, as per the rules, those players being unavailable this season, Cork have a new-look team for 2019.

This side already captured the Munster intermediate title

last month and, despite the loss to Kilkenny in their opening Group 1 fixture, they showed they have the potential to make an impression this season.

The sides were all square at the interval, 0-5 each, with Kilkenny having accrued all their scores from placed balls courtesy of Kate Nolan. In contrast Cork registered three from frees via Haley Ryan with the remaining two coming from Isobel O'Regan and a Ryan effort from play.

The Cork defence kept a tight rein on the visitor's attack, as Emma Flanagan, Ashling Moloney and Rachel Sheehan all played well for the home side.

Early in the second half, a

quick brace from Kate Dooley and Ryan had Cork two clear inside three minutes. However, Nolan cut the deficit to one before levelling proceedings with the visitor's first point from play.

Cork rallied and once again went two clear when Ryan unerring on placed balls slotted over a free before O'Regan split the posts with a fine effort.

Cork maintained their two-point advantage until the 47th minute when Kilkenny were awarded a penalty. Nolan stepped up to strike low to the net and see her side take the lead by 1-7 to 0-9.

Cork levelled courtesy of Dooley with ten minutes left. Nolan and Ryan placed balls cancelled each other out as the game looked like it

could be heading for a draw. However, two points in injury time – one from sub Christine Lyng, who registered the second of only two points from play for the visitors, and a Nolan free – saw the Cats take the points.

Next up for Cork in the intermediate championship is Kildare away this weekend.

Scorers

Cork: H Ryan 0-7 (5f), I O'Regan, K Dooley 0-2 each. **Kilkenny:** K Nolan 1-8 (1-0 pen, 7f), A Prendergast (1f), C Lyng 0-1 each.

Cork: S Beausang (Killeagh); E Flanagan (Aghabullogue), C Hayes (Courcey Rovers), G Hannon (Courcey Rovers), A Moloney (Courcey Rovers), R Sheehan (Killeagh), E Loneragan (Sarsfields); K O'Mahony (Inniscarra), M Murphy

(Blackrock); E Looney (Inniscarra), I O'Regan (Ballygarvan), A Nic A Bhaird (Ballinora), H Ryan (Blackrock), R Harty (Ballyhea), K Dooley (Ballinora).

Subs: A Hurley (St Catherine's) for E Looney (41), A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for M Murphy (41), K Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for E Flanagan (53, inj), C Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for R Harty (59).

Kilkenny: A Walsh; N Carter, C O'Shea, N Sweeney; N Leahy, A Prendergast, A O'Gorman; A Curtis, C Phelan; K Hamilton, L Murphy, K Nolan; L Fitzpatrick, SA Quinlan, C Dowling.

Subs: C Nolan for N Sweeney (24), C Lyng for C Dowling (50), L Greene for K Hamilton (56).

Referee: Mike Ryan (Tipperary).



Ballinora's Kate Dooley scored two points against Kilkenny.

Cats and Galway still great rivals

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

THE key game for the past few years in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship has been the clash of Galway and Kilkenny.

Consistently being paired in the same group, the winners of this clash typically tops the table with the other coming second. To have that game take place in round 1 and expecting both teams to win all of their other games, Galway will now finish second with the chance that they could face Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Last year this meeting of the Kilkenny and Galway was the last game of the group series so there was a bit of tension around. I've no doubt that was at the back of Ann Downey's and Cathal Murray's minds on Saturday.

Kilkenny turned around their national league final defeat at the hands of Galway by 1-13 to 0-14 at Kenny Park.

A fortunate 35th minute goal by Miriam Walsh proved the difference between the sides and though Galway were left licking their wounds at the final whistle, they are sure to have a big say come semi-final time. They certainly seemed to have gelled together under Murray after a topsy turvy few years with unrest rife.

Team captain Sarah Dervan was inspirational for the Tribeswomen, while Carrie Dolan shot nine points, but Kilkenny got off to a quick start thanks to points from the magnificent Anne Dalton and Miriam Walsh, and still held that advantage at the end of the opening quarter. Galway had the better of proceedings from there to the interval.

Two points from Dolan, and one from Noreen Coen, with Dalton offering the sole reply, left the sides level at 0-6 apiece at the change of ends.

Niamh Kilkenny continued the trend for Galway after the resumption with a point and not even Walsh's goal, which must go down as a goalkeeping error by Sarah Healy, could halt the momentum, points from Dolan and Coen restoring parity despite playing into the wind.

With midfield duo Dalton and Denise Gaule exerting a greater influence however, the visitors edged three points clear, Gaule slotting a brace and the elusive Michelle Quilty also on target. A Dolan pair brought it back to one but Gaule (free) and Dalton were on target in response with time running out.

There was late drama when Galway were awarded a free just outside the 20m line and Healy ventured up to take it. Her powerful rising shot cleared the crossbar by inches and Kilkenny had prevailed. Also, in group 1, Limerick got the better of Offaly in a close game at the Gaelic Grounds by 2-16 to 2-12.

The Shannonsiders had local legend Ciarán Carey, father of star defender Sarah, operating in an advisory role, while Offaly are coached by ex-Kilkenny star Richie Power and it was Power who would have been happier at the break, with the Faithful women leading 1-7 to 0-8 thanks to Christine



Orla Cronin battles Clare's Allannah Ryan.

Picture: Liam Burke/Press 22



Grace Walsh of Kilkenny and Sarah Dervan of Galway.

Picture: INPHO/Dan Sheridan

Cleary's fourth minute goal.

The hosts trailed by a goal approaching the final quarter but that was nullified by a sensational solo goal from Rebecca Delee.

Arlene Watkins responded in kind at the other end, but Mike Wall's side failed to score again, while Limerick hit 1-4, Niamh Mulcahy bringing the teams level with three points to bring her tally to 11, before Delee grabbed her second goal and a point to put the tie to bed.

In Group 2, All-Ireland champions Cork cruised to a 3-19 to 0-9 triumph over Clare in Sixmilebridge. The Bannerwomen were well in the game at half time, trailing by just 1-6 to 0-5 after Katrina Mackey's 19th minute goal.

It was one-way traffic after the resumption though, Ger O'Connell's

charges having no answer to the scoring power of Paudie Murray's team, with Mackey and Linda Collins adding goals and Cork recording 10 individual scorers.

Dublin were pushed all the way to the wire before registering a 1-16 to 0-12 triumph over Meath at Parnells that slightly flattered them.

Ray Gavin will be delighted that his crew were so competitive, recovering from the concession of a second minute Kerrie Finnegan goal to lead approaching half-time thanks to four points from Jane Dolan, only for a brace of Sinéad Wylde scores to make it 1-5 to 0-7 at the break.

Wylde and the returning Siobhán Kehoe gave the Dubs the upper hand but scores from Dolan and Kristina Troy brought Meath back to within a

“Shannonsiders had Ciarán Carey, father of defender Sarah, operating in an advisory role

goal of their rivals. Dublin slotted the last four points however to remove any doubt.

The last game between Waterford and Tipperary at The Ragg was abandoned due to an injury to Tipperary's Nicole Walsh with four minutes of normal time remaining and the Déise girls leading by 1-15 to 0-14. Walsh was released from hospital the following day having suffered concussion.

Beth Carton was in scintillating form for Waterford shooting eight points, while Orla Hickey claimed the goal.

Orla O'Dwyer had five points for Tipperary. Waterford will be disappointed that they'll have to do it all again against the favourites but at the time Nicole's welfare was the only thing that mattered.

O'Shea shows her class in final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Ballinora	1-8
Castlelyons	0-5

BALLINORA had to battle to the finish before they retained their Junior B League title in Castle Road.

Despite the sunshine making a very rare appearance, there was a strong wind blowing and it made it a game of two halves as both sides had to gauge the difficult breeze.

Ballinora were made to rely on scores from placed balls in the first half to stay in the game and it helped them to stay in touch as Castlelyons took a lead to the dressing room at the interval 0-5 to 0-3.

Ballinora with the aid of the wind in the second half worked hard and their defence closed down the strong Castlelyons attack and held them scoreless.

Castlelyons, playing with the wind in the opening half, opened the scoring inside five minutes of the throw in with a Lucy McNulty free and they added to their tally with a point from play. Ballinora registered their first score on 13 minutes with a free from Kate O'Shea.

With the wind in their favour, Castlelyons opened up a 0-4 to 0-1 lead. Ballinora's Kate O'Shea responded with two points before the break from a free and a 45, but it was 0-5 to 0-3 at half-time.

The trojan work of the Castlelyons defence had been crucial but the wind was going to be a major factor for the holders, which returned to action with an O'Shea free.

They continued to pressurise the Castlelyons defence and an O'Shea goal from a close-in free gave Ballinora the lead for the first time.

Castlelyons battled hard but could not break down the solid Ballinora defence and they added further points from Kate O'Shea (2), Kate Dooley and Alannah Lenihan.

Scorers for Ballinora: K O'Shea 1-6, K Dooley, A Lenihan 0-1 each.

Castlelyons: A O'Sullivan 0-2, L McNulty 0-1 f, M McNulty, K O'Riordan 0-1 each.

BALLINORA: O O'Shea; KA Crean, S O'Keefe, J Sorenson; K Nic Abhaird, S O'Regan, B Holmes; A Nic Abhaird, N McCarthy; L Walsh, A Lenihan, J McAuliffe; K O'Shea, J Murphy, C Dooley.
Subs: K Dooley for K Nic Abhaird, J Cronin for J Sorenson, A Murphy for N McCarthy, N Mayer for L Walsh.

CASTLELYONS: A O'Brien; L Crowley, N Barry, M Hartnett; Z Power, M O'Sullivan, C McCarthy; C O'Flynn, A Garrahan; MT Murphy, A O'Sullivan, L McNulty; M McNulty, K O'Riordan, I Fenton.

Subs: B Shanahan for M Murphy, A Hallihan for I Fenton, A Beirne for K Riordan.

Charleville	2-13
Banteer	1-9

CHARLEVILLE and Banteer ended all square two weeks ago in a high-scoring Junior A League final, despite extra time.

This time out Charleville started brightly playing with huge intensity and determination and applying huge pressure on the Banteer defence they led at the interval 1-9 to 1-4 with Fiona Nelligan, Sinead Dennehy, Caitlin O'Brien, Alma Jones and Kathleen O'Reilly all on the scoresheet.

With their defence marshalled superbly by Michelle Jones, Laura



Ballinacraig camogie team, winners of the Junior B league recently.



Eliza Laverty, Ballinora captain celebrates with the Cup and Jane Larkin, vice captain and team mates, after a Sciath na Scol success.

Doyle and Kate Liddy, Charleville were on top. And with Fiona Nelligan was leading the line up front, along with Alma Jones Kathleen O'Reilly, they kept the pressure on.

The second half was closely contested but Charleville were always in control never looked like surrendering their lead.

Goalkeeper Caitlin Reynolds was in top form denying Banteer with some good saves while Lucy Costello, Sinead Jones and Kathleen Dore held a firm grip.

A goal from Sinead Dennehy and points from Fiona Nelligan and Teresa Dore was enough to get Charleville over the line at the second time of asking to take the Junior A league title for the first time.

CHARLEVILLE: C Reynolds; K Dore, L Costello, S Jones; M Jones, L Doyle, K Liddy; C O'Brien, E O'Flynn; T Dore; A O'Keefe, S Dennehy; A Jones, F Nelligan, K O'Reilly.

St Finbarrs	2-10
Éire Óg	2-4

St Finbarr's took the junior second teams league title as they overcame Éire Óg in the final recently.

Two first-half goals helped set the foundations for victory as St Finbarrs led 2-6 to 2-3 at the break.

With their defence closing down the Éire Óg attack in the second half they held their lead as they added four points to their tally to run out winners.

Golden had two early St Finbarr's points before a goal from Ella Wiggington-Barrett on 10 minutes settled her side. Rebecca Sheehan was on target for Éire Óg, before Golden and Marie O'Leary traded green flags.

St Finbarr's had further points from Erin Ryan, Natasha Varian and Golden, though Sheehan found her range twice more for the Ovens

“Charleville started brightly playing with huge intensity and determination

side.

The second half was close as the sides battled for every ball with determination but the Barrs found scores from Wiggington-Barrett and Varian, as well as two from substitute Megan Fitzpatrick. That was enough to keep them in front.

Scorers for St Finbarr's: C Golden 1-4, E Wiggington-Barrett 1-1, N Varian, M Fitzpatrick 0-2 each, E Ryan 0-1.

Éire Óg: R Sheehan 1-4, M O'Leary 1-0.

ST FINBARR'S: C Hurley; K Lee, J Keating, G Fitzgerald; A Egan, G Cahalane, A Herlihy; C Golden, N O'Leary; N McGreevey, E Wiggington-Barrett, E Ryan; A O'Mahony, N Varian, E O'Donovan.

Subs: Lauren McCarthy for A O'Mahony (h-t), M Fitzpatrick for E O'Donovan (h-t), M McTiernan for E Wiggington-Barrett (58), N O'Regan for N Varian (58).

ÉIRE ÓG: S Gleeson; G O'Shea, F Murphy, C Sheehan; C Beechinor, E Buckley, E O'Leary; A McSweeney, C Henchy; S McCarthy, M O'Leary, O Meany; L O'Keefe, M Kelly, R Sheehan.

Subs: G Hutchinson for L O'Keefe, O Lynch for C Beechinor, K Hurley for C Henchy.

Cork will have to shut out Hurley

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TODAY

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship
Cork v Kildare, 5pm

A DIFFICULT task awaits the Cork intermediate side this evening in Newbridge as they meet with Kildare in round two of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship.

Again one has to ask serious questions as to why the Camogie Association continues to play championship games in direct opposition to each other.

The Cork senior team are at home for their round two clash with Tipperary today at the same time.

They wonder why crowds are small and people don't go to watch games. When you also factor in the Munster football final this evening you ask the question why bother with a 20x20 campaign? Why bother trying to get people to go to our games when we make it so difficult.

Back to the task in hand, Cork lost out narrowly last weekend to a strong Kilkenny side that earlier in the season, lost out in the league final to Tipperary.

The result was disappointing one from a Cork point of view given that all but two of the Kilkenny scores came from frees.

Cork were well in this game and in all truth should have won it. Fielding a completely new team this year all credit to their management who have worked hard to bring them together and certainly they are going in the right direction.

Hayley Ryan contributed eight points last weekend, five from frees, while Isobel O'Regan and Kate Dooley pitched in with two each.

Still, Cork need to get a bigger contribution from the rest of their attack and they will be looking for more this time out.

Kildare claimed the Littlewoods Ireland Division 3 title earlier in the season when they had four points to spare over Limerick. Last weekend they were hugely disappointed to lose out in their opening game of the championship at home to Westmeath on a 2-14 to 3-8 scoreline.

All through their league campaign, their scorer in chief was Siobhan Hurley.

She was central to their national league victory over Limerick.

Cork will need to police her well and close her down as she is the main threat and leader of the Kildare attack. Captain Tanya Johnson backbones their defence and has been hugely influential this season, as have Caoilfhionn Hallissy and Lea Sutton.

Both sides need to win this one.

With four hard games to go and just two semi-final places, every game is crucial.

Wexford's Foxe only looking to road ahead

Daragh Ó Conchúir

It was a tough time for everyone involved in Wexford camogie in the spring, as the Seniors began the National League without a manager and unable to field a team.

This was a shocking turn of events for a county that had begun the decade by winning a second Liberty Insurance All-Ireland title in four seasons and the first of a famous three-in-a-row.

It was no surprise they ended up being relegated to Division 2 and in the circumstances, getting their summer campaign underway against the might of neighbours and deadly rivals Kilkenny at Bellefield this evening (5pm) does not seem ideal.

There is a sense of pragmatism about the camp though. For a start, they have had a few months with new manager Barry Kennedy and his coaching staff. A number of players have returned to the fold too, and the contingent from All-Ireland Club finalists St Martin's are sure to strengthen the panel.

Prominent among those is Chloe Foxe, who has quickly established herself as a key player at county level.

Someone who has always set the bar high, be that in sport (she also plays ladies football for Wexford) or in academia, it goes against the grain not to view ultimate honours as a legitimate target.

While not interested at all in discussing the League travails, because she sees no virtue in it, the 22-year-old acknowledges that Wexford are at the bottom of the ladder, and that the current phase is about rebuilding.

"I tend not to spend a lot of time looking backwards" Foxe declares. "It is what it is. We have come around to the fact that we are going towards the future now."

"People in Wexford Camogie, and everyone everywhere, we are looking towards the All-Irelands of the past for way too long. It is finally coming into recognition that we are looking into this transition phase or whatever they like to call it. We are firmly looking towards the future anyway."

"I came in at a time, and a few of the girls came in at the same time, where we were still holding onto the possibility of winning All-Irelands. There was a great buzz around it. To come down off such a high like



Wexford's Chloe Foxe: 'I tend not to spend a lot of time looking backwards.'

Picture: Dan Sheridan

that, and now come to realise it is not going to be the same in that regard is hard.

"The players coming in don't have this understanding of what it means to play Wexford camogie at county level. The young girls in particular, they don't see it as how we saw it, as this great thing. It is difficult to actually show them what it means until you get to the stage of an All-Ireland Championship."

There are many positives to this new era and Kennedy and his fellow mentors have cast the net far and wide in search of players hungry to wear the purple and gold.

"It's a really fresh squad. It used to be a way in Wexford that you would have only had a couple of clubs that made up the first 15. But we are in a situation now where nearly every club is represented. That is really good for the underage and the young players coming through. They see players from their club and feel that playing for Wexford is an attainable goal." St. Martin's loss to Slaughtneil in the All-Ireland club decider

last March was devastating.

"I say to people, and it might sound drastic, but I say it is the closest thing to grief that I ever came through. A lot of the girls would have agreed with me in that respect as well. It was difficult because everyone broke away after the All-Ireland. I always think it is important to stay with teammates because those are the people who can really understand everything. Going straight back into college it was definitely very difficult that week. Other girls were doing different things. It was hard but it creates a fresh new hunger for this year."

The computer science student is working with Liberty Insurance on work experience in a data analytics role and she hails the company for their support of camogie.

"What Liberty are doing in particular is really making the game so much more enjoyable from a player's point of view. And from a supporter's point of view it is making it so much easier. It is bringing it so much closer to the men's game in that regard."

"My brother is in Vancouver and he is going to be able to watch the games thanks to the livestreaming. I saw it the other way. He played in San Diego last week. They played the camogie and the hurling in the same venue. All of the games are live-streamed. If we could try and do something like that in Ireland as well, bring the games together, that would be great. It makes it at the same standard, which is good. But there is great progress. It is coming on in leaps and bounds."

"It is very exciting too that the All-Stars are going to New York. To be first of all, nominated for an All-Star is an absolute dream. But to then get to go on the tour it would be absolutely unreal. It is great to get on your county team and then to win things. That is always the most important thing."

"The All-Stars are an individual recognition but that is important as well. But it all depends on how you get on as a team. That will always be first and foremost."

O'Reilly and Finnerty strikes set tone to get Galway up and running

CAMOGIE

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

LEAGUE champions Galway registered their first victory of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, beating Offaly by 3-15 to 0-6.

Cathal Murray's troops had to cede to Kilkenny last week but remain among the leading contenders for ultimate honours, and, though they took to the field in Luskagh minus the services of Niamh Kilkenny and Ann Marie Starr, they still had far too much firepower for the home team.

The Maroons led by 0-7 to 0-1 at the interval. The brilliant Ailish O'Reilly opened the scoring and though Michelle Teehan equalised, it was a rare attacking contribution by Offaly, with O'Reilly, in particular, enjoying herself at the other end, while Niamh Hanniffy, Clara Murphy and Aoife Donohue also contributed.

Any hopes Mike Wall would have had that his charges could turn it around in the second half were blown away by two goals straight after the restart from Catherine Finnerty and O'Reilly. There was no way back from there and Finnerty grabbed her second major before Offaly's woes were compounded right at the death with the dismissal of Aisling Brennan.

In the other Group 1 tie, Kilkenny enjoyed themselves against Wexford, maintaining their 100 per cent record on a 7-28 to 0-6 scoreline at Bellefield.

Katie Power helped herself to a hat-trick of goals, while Miriam Walsh nabbed a brace. Anne Dalton and substitute Michelle Quilty also shook the rigging, while Aoife Doyle caught the eye with five points from play and Denise Gaule contributed eight.

Chloe Foxe provided one of the few bright points for Wexford manager Barry Kennedy, the St Martin's sharpshooter providing all her team's scores.



BREAKING FREE: Offaly's Sarah Walsh

In Group 2, Waterford's Niamh Rockett supplied a captain's performance in a 1-11 to 1-5 triumph over Dublin at Walsh Park. Rockett's aerial prowess was a feature of this game, allied with a goal and two points from play, while Beth Carton shot eight points and Trish Jackman was imperious.

Elsewhere in that group, All-Ireland champions Cork came good in the second half to see off Tipperary 2-20 to 1-8 in CIT.

In the night's late throw-in, Clare secured their first victory of the campaign by the minimum margin, 0-12 to 0-11 at Páirc Tailteann.

Eimear Kelly, Sinéad Conlon and a long-distance score from Claire Hehir on her 21st birthday pushed the Banner women five clear but scores from long-serving Jane Dolan and a wondrous mid-air double by Grace Coleman reduced that and had it at 0-7 to 0-4 in favour of Ger O'Connell's squad at half-time.

Though Megan Thynne halved the deficit, they fell just short of what would have been a historic draw for the Royals in only their second season at the highest level.



Loughgael Shamrocks and Clonakilty players in action in the John West Féile Division 2 camogie cup final at Na Piarisighs GAA pitch, Cork.

Camogie

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
GROUP 1: (Luskagh) Galway 3-15 Offaly 0-6, (Bellefield, Ennisclorthy) Kilkenny 7-28 Wexford 0-6.
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
GROUP 2: (CIT) Cork 2-20 Tipperary 1-8, (Páirc Tailteann) Clare 0-12 Meath 0-11, (Walsh Park) Waterford 1-11 Dublin 1-5.
ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
GROUP 1: (Páirc Tailteann) Kilkenny 2-17 Dublin 2-4, (Newbridge) Cork 1-22 Kildare 1-4, (Carrigrohane/Kinnegad GAA) Galway 3-9 Wexford 1-14.
ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP
GROUP 2: (Netwatch Training Centre, Fenagh) Derry 4-18 Carlow 0-8, (Ballyholland Harps GAA) Down 0-16 Louth 1-8, (Bellefield, Ennisclorthy) Tipperary 2-15 Wickford 1-0.

JUNE 2019

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 1-22
Kildare 1-6

A SUPERB display by Cork ensured they took the points on offer in this Liberty Insurance Intermediate championship Round two clash with Kildare in Newbridge on Saturday.

'Newbridge or Nowhere' was the battle cry of their male counterparts last season but on this occasion you would imagine that the Kildare ladies wanted to be nowhere fast as Cork piled on the pressure.

They played with huge determination to secure their first victory in the championship. Last weekend they were unlucky to lose to Kilkenny but this time out they were not going to be denied.

By the interval, Cork led 1-14 to 0-2 and they were full value for their lead with Hayley Ryan, Caroline Murphy, Isobel O'Regan and Aisling Maloney all prominent as Cork kept the pressure on the home backs.

Kildare found it hard to make any headway against a strong Cork defence that allowed them little leeway and they had to rely on the free taking of Siobhan Hurley in the opening half as she converted two.

With Cork leading 0-14 to 0-2, a goal from Aoife Hurley with two minutes to the break extended Cork's lead and even at this early stage it was going to take a huge Kildare effort to peg the Rebels back.

Aoife Trant had a Kildare point to get the second half underway but despite Fiona Trant striking for an early Kildare goal inside a minute of the restart Cork continued to maintain their dominance. And they had stretched their lead to 16 points before Siobhan Hurley had two late pointed frees for the home side before Cork finished in style with two late scores.

Elsewhere Galway and Kilkenny maintained their place as joint group leaders with victories, Galway edged past Westmeath by a point 3-9 to 1-14 whilst Kilkenny defeated Dublin 2-17 to 2-4.

Cork meet Galway away next weekend and this will be a game Cork need to get a result to continue their hunt for a top two spot.

Scorers for Cork: H Ryan 0-11 (0-6 f, 0-1 45), A Maloney 0-3 f, 1 O'Regan 0-3, A Hurley 1-0, C Murphy, K O Mahony 0-2 each, M Murphy 0-1.

Kildare: S Hurley 0-5 f, F Trant 1-0, A Trant 0-1. **CORK:** S Beausang, A Crowley, C Looney, G Hannan, C Hayes, R Sheehan, M Lynch, A Maloney, K O Mahony, I O'Regan, C Murphy, A Nic A Eard, E Flanagan for M Lynch.

Subs: K O'Keefe for A Hurley, M Murphy for C Murphy, S O'Regan for A Nic A Eard, E Flanagan for M Lynch.

KILDARE: T Johnson, A O'Neill, N Malcolmson, E Morgan, K Perkins, A Trant, M Doyle, C Flanagan, E Kelly, S Mulligan, S Hurley, G Carragher, L Sutton, C Shields, D Byrne.

Sub: C Hallissy for S Mulligan.
Referee: Justin Hoffmann (Wexford).

Classy Cork drive on in second half



CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

Cork 2-20
Tipperary 1-8

A BLISTERING final quarter from Cork saw them take their second three points of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland championship group series.

It was a scoring margin that didn't do justice to Tipperary's spirited performance. But Tipp's work-rate was hard to maintain for the 60 minutes and when it waned, the gaps opened, and Cork's speed and running game split them as they struck 2-7 in the final 18 minutes to secure a comfortable win, on the scoreboard at least.

Aided with a strong wind in the first half Tipperary didn't shy away from the challenge of playing the All-Ireland champions and with seven scorers on the board they were level with Cork at the break.

The important score for Tipp was a Megan Ryan goal on twenty-four minutes, which came it must be said, from a Cork defensive error where overpassing, and wayward passing at times, afforded Tipp the opportunity to dispossess.

This Ryan did, and Tipp could have had a second minutes later only for the alert Aoife Murray, who conceded a penalty in preventing a certain goal, Cait Devane blasting over the bar from the placed ball.

With Megan Ryan doing well at mid-field Tipperary struck some lovely distance points yet despite their strong hurling they couldn't get a lead on Cork who kept tipping away and the sides level at the break was a good result for Cork.

Unfortunately for Tipp they managed only one point in the second half which was less than their efforts deserved. Cork took off. Eight different scorers hit the mark during that second thirty as they threw the ball around and split Tipp. Amy O'Connor and Katrina Mackey made some great runs and when Cork struck their first goal on 16 minutes Tipperary were never going to make it back.

A great Orla Cronin run, offload to



Orla Cotter fires over a point from play against Tipperary in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Senior Championship at CIT.
Picture: Larry Cummins

Amy O'Connor who did likewise to Mackey and Cork led 1-16 to 1-8.

Chloe Sigerson was particularly prominent during the final quarter striking 1-1, the goal coming from a penalty, with Mackey (2) and substitute Ciara McCarthy finishing the scoring. While not the polished performance Cork again did enough to win comfortably against a good Tipperary side on the night.

Scorers for Cork: K Mackey 0-6, O Cotter 0-5 (0-4 f), C Sigerson 1-3 (1-1 pen, 0-1 f), J White 1-1, L Collins 0-2, O Cronin, A O'Connor, C McCarthy 0-1 each.

Tipperary: C Devane 0-3 (0-2 f, 0-1 pen), M Ryan 1-1, O Dwyer, G O'Brien, E Fryday, M Campion 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, L Treacy, N O'Callaghan, H Looney, P Mackey, C Sigerson, L Copping, B Corkery, J White, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, K Mackey, L Collins.

Subs: C McCarthy for J White (48), K Hickey for L Treacy (54), S McCarthy for B Corkery (60).

TIPPERARY: C Bourke, J Burke, M Ryan, E Loughman, C Quirke, K Kennedy, A McGrath, M Ryan, E McDonnell, O Dwyer, C Devane, E Fryday, G O'Brien, N Treacy, M Campion.

Subs: G Grace for K Kennedy (57), C Mullane for N Treacy (60).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Orla Cronin in action against Aoife McGrath, Tipperary on Saturday.
Picture: Larry Cummins

'Our tempo, passing was bit off, we have to improve'

REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

"Other than that, I think most things we did in the first half were quite good.

"You'd have liked to have seen them do it a little bit quicker, our tempo was poor, our passing was possibly a bit off today as well, so you know there's a good bit of work there yet."

Cork overplayed it a bit defensively and got caught a few times?

"Well we got caught for the goal but that wasn't down to overpassing, it was down to poor passing and two or three of those passes coming out were poorly executed so yeah look our passing today wasn't at the level we would like it to be, to be honest."

Tipp closed Cork down well.

"Yeah they did but you know they're a team that were in an All-Ireland semi-final last year so they're bound to try very hard but look I always felt that if we ran at them inside, we had them in trouble.

"In the first half when we gave the ball in, but probably around the middle third we were beaten there for parts in that half but when we opened them some of the scores we took were quite good.

"I'd just like to have seen us come into the game with a little more tempo than what we did, and I think that's the biggest thing tonight that you'd look back at.

"Ok, you know being away to Clare last weekend and the turnaround, to try to bring the tempo back up again in seven days, it's not easy.

"Look it's the same for Tipp as us as well so I think the two issues really today are the tempo and our passing. They'll have to improve the next day, no doubt about that."

Cronin: We have areas we need to work on

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE

CORK 2-20
TIPPERARY 1-8

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

ORLA Cronin feels Cork have plenty to work on ahead of their next All-Ireland senior camogie championship game.

While the defending champions had 15 points to spare over Tipperary in this Group 2 tie at Cork IT on Saturday evening, Cork forward Cronin admits that they'll need to up their game for the upcoming clash with Dublin on July 6th.

So far, Cork have a 100 per cent record in this round-robin stage but they struggled in the first half against Tipperary and the teams were level at the break.

'At half time we were fairly disappointed with our first-half performance. We have standards with work-rate and hunger - and I don't think we were hitting those,' Cronin said.

'At half time we knew that there was much more in us. We probably needed half time to regroup and to give a better performance in the second half - and I think we did that.'

'We definitely have things to work on and improve on from this game but we got a good win in the end.'

'Hopefully we'll get a better performance against Dublin when we're out next.'

The final scoreline against Tipperary looks convincing and, to be fair, it was a much better performance in the second half. When the two counties met in the Munster senior final recently, Cork found a higher gear midway through the second half to rack up a ten-point victory. Fast forward one month and Cork, again, repeated their second-half annihilation, as they restricted the visitors to just one point whilst notching up an impressive 2-10 of their own.

This game was also noteworthy for its three penalties. Chloe Sigerson stepped up to blast Cork's first penalty just over the crossbar after 17 min-

utes. The influential Cait Devane for Tipperary had similar luck when her penalty effort skimmed the bar on the way over after 28 minutes to level proceedings, 1-6 to 0-9. However, Sigerson made no mistake with her second penalty after 63 minutes to push Cork 14 clear.

The first half was lively. Tipperary opened up a two-point lead inside as many minutes through Orla Dwyer and Mary Ryan. Sigerson got Cork off the mark before Grace O'Brien restored the Tipp lead.

Katrina Mackey and Devane swapped scores as Tipp stayed two clear.

Orla Cotter, unerring on free-taking duty, pointed her first of four placed balls before Grace O'Brien and Mackey exchanged efforts, as Cork trailed 0-4 to 0-5. A Cotter brace had Cork ahead by the slimmest after 15 minutes.

Then Cork were awarded their first penalty. Amy O'Connor was pulled down. But Sigerson blasted over the bar. Cork now led 0-7 to 0-5.

Julia White put three between the sides before Megan Ryan levelled proceedings after 24 minutes when, after a strong run through the heart of the Cork defence, she unleashed a shot to the bottom corner, giving Aoife Murray no chance in the Cork goal.

Cork responded immediately courtesy of Linda Collins, who was proving a handful in attack. But Tipperary were awarded a penalty two minutes from half time. Devane's shot over the bar levelled the sides for the third time. Before the break Cotter and Campion traded points. It was all square at half time, 0-10 to 1-7.

Three unanswered points in four minutes from Collins, Orla Cronin and Mackey early in the second half hinted that Cork were about to take over. They did. Devane did cut the deficit to two on 39 minutes when she pointed a 30-metre free but it was to be the solitary score of Tipperary's second half.

The closing 20 minutes of the game saw Cork notch up 2-7



Cork's Libby Coppinger challenges Tipperary's Eirena Friday during their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Group 2 win against Tipperary at Cork IT on Saturday.

Rebels' second-half surge makes it two Group 2 wins from two



Linda Collins from Courcy Rovers scores a point for Cork in their big win over Tipperary.



Enniskeane's Orla Cronin makes no mistake with this point against Tipperary. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

without reply.

Three points from Cotter, Mackey and Amy O'Connor had Cork five clear before Julia White fired to the net to give the home side an eight-point cushion heading into the closing quarter.

Two Mackey points either side of a Sigerson long-range free had double scores on the board with Cork leading 1-19 to Tipperary's 1-8.

Sigerson then scored that injury time penalty and Cork added to their tally before sub-

stitute Ciara McCarthy had the final say deep in injury time when she fired over to see Cork take the points with room to spare. Two games in Group 2. Wins against Clare and Tipp. Onto Dublin next, with more to come insists Orla Cronin.

Scorers

Cork: C Sigerson 1-3 (1-1 pen, 1f), K Mackey 0-6, O Cotter 0-5 (4f), J White 1-1, L Collins 0-2, O Cronin, A O'Connor, C McCarthy 0-1 each.
Tipperary: Megan Ryan 1-0, C Devane 0-3 (2f, 0-1 pen), G O'Brien

0-2, M Campion, M Ryan, O Dwyer 0-1 each.

Cork: A Murray, L O'Sullivan, P Mackey, N O'Callaghan, H Looney, L Treacy, C Sigerson, L Coppinger, B Corkery, A O'Connor (c), O Cronin, O Cotter, K Mackey, L Collins, J White.
Subs: C McCarthy for J White (49), K Hickey for L Treacy (53), S McCarthy for B Corkery (59).

Tipperary: C Burke, J Burke, M Ryan, E Loughman, C Quirke (c), K Kennedy, A McGrath, Megan Ryan, E McDonnell, O Dwyer, C Devane, E Fryday, G O'Brien, N Treacy, M Campion.

Subs: C Mullaney for A McGrath (48), L Loughnane for G O'Brien (51), G Grace for K Kennedy (57), J Kelly for N Treacy (59).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Katrina Mackey finished with six points from play - impressive shooting from the Cork forward.

Star moment: Given Cork's dominance in the second half, hard to pick one moment for the home side - but there was a lot to admire about Megan Ryan's first-half goal for Tipperary. It was a strong run and a super finish to the bottom corner.

Talking point: The second-half Cork performance that saw them score 2-10 and keep Tipp to one point in the entire half.

What's next? Cork are away to Dublin on July 6th and know a win here will bring them closer to the knock-out stages.

SENIOR C'SHIP GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Cork	2	2	0	0	54	22	32	6
Waterford	1	1	0	0	14	8	6	3
Dublin	2	1	0	1	27	26	1	3
Clare	2	1	0	1	21	39	-18	3
Meath	2	0	0	2	23	31	-8	0
Tipperary	1	0	0	1	13	26	-13	0

Camogie star Thompson pays to avoid conviction

Liam Heylin

GAA All Star camogie player Ashling Thompson avoided criminal convictions for assaulting two young women at a nightclub in Cork after undertaking to pay €6,000 to family refuge charities and to cover witness expenses.

Judge Con O'Leary said he could not understand the media fascination with the case.

Judge O'Leary said: "If paid, it will disappear. No convictions. It disappears into a fog. There is no Probation Act, no strike-out. It can only be re-entered if the money is not paid [by September 30]."

Ashling Thompson entered pleas of guilty through her solicitor, Eddie Burke, to charges of assaulting Aoife O'Flaherty and Jennifer Coakley on February 25, 2018, at The Secret Garden, Rearden's, Washington St, Cork.

A sum of €1,000 is to be paid to Cuan Lee, €2,500 to Edel House and expenses of €2,000 to Ms Coakley and €500 to Ms O'Flaherty.

Judge O'Leary said: "It is finished today as far as the court is concerned. It can only be re-entered if €6,000 is not paid."

"It may appear that what I am doing is relatively lenient. I cannot understand the level of attention from the media in relation to this. Maybe I am out of touch. I cannot understand what the fascination is that brings so many of the media to court."

The judge said he was taking account of Mr Burke's submission that Ms Thompson had suffered deep humiliation and had suffered the loss of sports sponsorships as a result of the case. The judge also took account

of some "quite unpleasant" social media commentary.

"Enough is enough as far as I am concerned. If paid, it will disappear," Judge O'Leary said.

Mr Burke said that money would be paid by September 30 and Ms Thompson gave that sworn undertaking. Failure to pay the €6,000 by that date would put her at risk of imprisonment for contempt of court, the judge warned.

Speaking outside the court afterwards with Ms Thompson, Mr Burke said: "This is a regrettable incident. She is a very young lady who has brought honour to her county. She has done a lot of good work pro bono."

Asked if she would be back playing in a Cork jersey soon, Mr Burke said: "I am hoping she will."

The incidents in February 2018 occurred after a day when the 29-year-old left her home in Charleville, Co Cork, at 8am, played a match in Offaly, returned to Cork and drank alcohol that night without having had food during the day.

Inspector Seán McCarthy said Aoife O'Flaherty was punched in the back of the head by Ms Thompson and did not seek medical attention.

Judge O'Leary noted that between the Garda summary, the injured party's statement and the separate victim impact statement, there were differences in terms of the build-up to the incident. In one version it appeared that she was punched without warning, and in another there was an initial altercation followed by the punch.

In the other assault, 90 minutes earlier, Ms Coakley previously testified that Ashling Thompson injured

her by elbowing her into the jaw. She said she had come home to Cork from Abu Dhabi, where she rides horses for the royal family. Ms Coakley said she had a suspected hairline fracture to her jaw, but did not follow up with medical attention, as she had travelled to Abu Dhabi.

Inspector James Hallahan summarised what happened at 2.44am in the nightclub.

"The defendant was speaking with a male. Jennifer Coakley was standing nearby and she began speaking to the male. She [Thompson] struck out with her right elbow and contacted her face doing damage to same — it was superficial," he said.

Judge O'Leary said to the injured party: "The evidence is that you were not minding your own business and that you started talking to the man."

Ms Coakley replied that she knew the man and that they were all in one group, but that she did not know Ms Thompson before this.

Solicitor Mr Burke said there were a number of complications in the background precluding the possibility of Ms Thompson being given an adult caution at a garda station rather than being prosecuted for assault. He said one complication was the initial charge for assault causing harm, which was withdrawn by the State.

Mr Burke said on behalf of Ms Thompson: "I have no doubt her family have suffered more than anyone. Regardless of what she has achieved, she may only be remembered for this."

He said she had also lost sponsorships as a result of the case and that media coverage of the case began long before she was even charged with anything.



Camogie star Ashling Thompson at Cork District Court. Judge Con O'Leary said that if she paid €6,000 to charities and to cover witness expenses, the case would 'disappear'. Picture: Cork Courts Limited

'We come into the Championship

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Limerick have been among the great underachievers of camogie in recent years and no-one has been more frustrated than the players themselves.

For five seasons in a row, they have reached the last four of the National League, but have failed to make the knockout stages of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship (that being a last six, remember).

It is a staggering record



Muireann Creamer says the Limerick senior camogie team have had a 'change the mindset'. Picture: Inpho/Dan Sheridan

really, given the talent at their disposal. The players and

various management teams have attempted to get to the root of the problem over time, but Muireann Creamer believes that they may have unearthed the reason at last.

Ironically, she maintains, positive results and the calibre of personnel fuelled confidence, to the extent where they tended to look beyond the immediate challenge.

And so, season after the season, the group stages ended their involvement in summer fare.

This term however, they have opened with victory over Offaly and at 5pm this even-

ing, host struggling Wexford at Croagh GAA.

It is the type of game that, in the past, they might have chalked down as a win in their subconscious before throw-in, but not anymore.

"In the last few years our league campaigns went really well," says Creamer.

"Then we come into the Munster Championship — two years ago we won the Munster Championship for the first time. Then we come into the All-Ireland Championship, and it seems to fall asunder."

"This year we are not focus-

and it seems to fall asunder'

ing on making any quarter-final or anything. We are just focusing on one match at a time.

"It's positive thoughts. Sometimes we can be a bit negative inside there, picking out what is wrong. It is time to change the mindset, focus on what we can do well and perform on the day really."

"Definitely in the last few years we were saying: 'If we win two out of the four matches, or if we win our first three matches, we will qualify for the quarter-final', rather than focusing on winning each individual match as they

came along. We took our eye off the ball. This year we will try and really focus on that."

Creamer also hopes that Declan Nash's crew can tap into the feelgood factor surrounding hurling in the county at the moment, with the All-Ireland and league champions hoping to add to their haul of silverware in tomorrow's men's Munster final against Tipperary.

"There is a great atmosphere around the county. You see all the younger lads out with their hurleys and the girls out pucking against the walls and up at the pitches."

"In comparison to the last few years, everyone has got on board with it, which is great. There is a nice buzz around. It is great to have the Liam MacCarthy in Limerick."

They would love the O'Duffy too but again, that is too far down the road to be talking about now.

That environment is similar though — positive. What is notable about the hurlers is that they seem to enjoy themselves and get on with one another. The same applies with the camogie side.

"I'm six years now with the senior team. We won the inter-

mediate (in 2014) and went up to senior. Before that, I played the whole way up along from U14."

"It's nice, you are used to all the girls you are meeting. It is the same group of girls there the whole time. You form a great bond with them. They are your best friends. You see them days in, nights out, it's great."

"That is hugely important, that you get friendly with those. If you create that kind of a bond with them, it will show on the pitch. You will have each other's backs the whole time. It is great."

JUNE 2019

O'Rourke hails Rockett and Carton efforts

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Beth Carton has been Waterford's key attacker since bursting onto the scene as a 17-year-old in the Déise's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship-winning season in 2015 but the evidence of the last 12 months indicates that the De La Salle destroyer of defences is getting the kind of support that can take the senior championship quarter-finalists to another level.

Niamh Rockett earned an All-Star nomination along with Carton, who claimed her county's first award, and this year, Rockett has found another level befitting her status as captain.

She excelled in the home side's 1-11 to 1-5 championship defeat of Dublin at Walsh Park, scoring a goal and two points, including the definitive 52nd minute major. Her trademark industry and aerial ability was to the fore as well and with Carton slotting eight points, Waterford were able to pull away late on.

Manager Donal O'Rourke had high praise for the duo:

"That's what we expect of them," said O'Rourke. "They're leaders of the team, we demand that out of them every day but in fairness to them, they're like two good postgirls, they always deliver."

Rockett, whose brilliant half-volleyed goal on the run came with the teams level, after Kerrie Finnegan had struck the net for Dublin in the first half, revealed the difficulty in processing last week's events, when Waterford were leading by four points late on before the abandonment of their game with Tipperary due to an injury to Premier star Nicole Walsh.

"It was tough and go there until the goal in the last 10 minutes," Rockett declared. "We always knew we were

going to come into a good fight with Dublin, so it was great to win, especially with the way last weekend went."

"I was talking to Nicole during the week and she said she was okay, she had a concussion and hopes to be back soon. It's very hard for both teams, you're so psyched up and you prepare for all eventualities, draw, lose, win and to come away with nothing is hard."

Elsewhere in Group 2, All-Ireland champions Cork cut loose in the second half after going in at the break level with Tipperary on 0-10 to 1-7 at CIT, Megan Ryan goaling for the visitors.

Tipp only managed a point in the second half however, as Cork plundered 2-10, the goals coming from the all-action Julia White and a late penalty by the brilliant Chloe Sigeron, leaving it 2-20 to 1-8.

Clare got off the mark after Meath illustrated their competitiveness for a second week in succession before once again falling just short, by 0-12 to 0-11 at Páirc Táilteann.

Jane Dolan hit seven points for Meath as they drew level entering injury time, but Mairéad Scanlon's fifth point and another by Chloe Morey enabled the Banner girls to hang on, Megan Thynne's response not enough to grab what would have been an historic draw for the Royals in their second season at this level.

In Group 1, League champions Galway translated a six-point interval lead into a 3-15 to 0-6 triumph over Offaly in Lismagh. Catherine Finnerty bagged two goals while the outstanding Ailish O'Reilly also found the net.

Kilkenny annihilated Wexford by 7-28 to 0-6 at Bellefield. Katie Power helped herself to a hat-trick of goals, while Miriam Walsh nabbed a brace. Anne Dalton and substitute Michelle Quilty also raised green flags.



Sticky corner back

stíki korna back

A player with an adhesive approach to defending.



Irish Examiner

WE DEFINE THE GAMES THAT DEFINE YOUR SUMMER

Tipp respond in style for interim manager Lillis

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Interim Tipperary manager Niamh Lillis has hailed the influence of her predecessor Bill Mullaney and the reaction of the players to what has been a difficult few weeks.

The Premier had their Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Group 2 tie with Waterford abandoned a fortnight ago after a serious injury to Nicole Walsh and then it was announced after their loss to Cork last week that Mullaney was standing down due to health reasons.

The rest of the management team have stepped up, with Lillis inheriting as interim manager, while Walsh was on the line cheering on her teammates in the refixed game at Nowlan Park on Saturday, Tipp prevailing by 4-11 to 2-14.

They led by a point at the interval, Waterford responding well with goals from a penalty

by Beth Carton and another by Annie Fitzgerald after Eirena Fryday and Megan Ryan had struck the net at the other end early on.

Fryday and Grace O'Toole raised two more green flags early in the second half and though Carton landed six points in the second half, Cáit Devane registered a pair of vital scores to cement the win for Tipp.

"I have to give credit to the girls," said Lillis. "They were absolutely fantastic. Waterford came back at us, like all good teams do, and we dug deep and found absolute character. Absolutely thrilled for the girls. Tough couple of weeks with Nicole and Bill as well. They deserve this."

"Bill has built a lot of character into these girls and they've been fantastic today and I can't credit them enough. Pity there wasn't more Tipperary people here to see them today, because they absolutely played out of their



Wexford's Emma Walsh battles with Limerick's Deborah Murphy in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship clash at Croagh GAA in Limerick.

Picture: Oisín Keniry/Inpho

skin and we couldn't ask for anymore."

Meanwhile, Kilkenny maintained their flawless record from three outings with a 2-17 to 2-7 victory over a valiant Offaly side, but Anne Dalton, who has been relishing play-

ing further up the pitch after years wearing the number six jersey, was not happy with the performance at the headquarters of Nore side GAA.

"Whether it was the hot weather or maybe coming off the back of a big win last week

(against Wexford), maybe a bit of complacency, I don't know," said the 2018 Player of the Year. "Offaly are a good team as well. They have nothing to lose coming down to Kilkenny and they threw everything at us."

"(Our) first touch was off. Overplaying the ball. We've a lot of things to work on for the next few weeks. Hard training now for the Limerick game. That sort of performance will not get us over the line against Limerick and I think the girls know that themselves. They are as disappointed as we are, but they have to learn from it."

Dalton struck for two first-half goals in response to Gráinne Egan's early major for Offaly, and with Denise Gaule imperious from play and placed balls, there was never any doubt about the result, even though the Faithfuls' top scorer Mairéad Teehan did breach the Kilkenny defence late on.

Meanwhile in Croagh, Limerick are two from two, but Barry Kennedy must have been heartened by the performance of his Wexford players. While they lost by 1-18 to 1-10, their improved competitiveness, one week after losing by 43 points to Kilkenny, augurs well.

An early Linda Bolger goal set the tone for Wexford and they went in level at the break. Niamh Mulcahy registered a 14-point tally however as Limerick gradually edged clear before Caoimhe Costelloe's late goal removed all doubt.

Galway will offer stiff opposition

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

TODAY

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship: Cork v Galway, Gort, 5pm.

THIS is an important game for the Cork Intermediates this evening as they hit the road for the second weekend in a row, to take on Galway in Gort.

It's three games in three weeks for both sides. Galway are currently top of the group and Kilkenny have recorded wins over Antrim and Westmeath, while Cork are on their heels. Having lost out in their opening game to Kilkenny they bounced back with a good win over Kildare.

This is a new Cork side as all of last year's winning Intermediate team are now ineligible. Credit to Frances Killen and her backroom team who have been putting in huge work. All through the national league campaign they dug deep and were competitive in all games only losing out narrowly on a qualifying spot.

In their opening game against Kilkenny Cork were the better team but failed to avail of several chances to put the game out of Kilkenny's reach. Last weekend Cork turned in a great display to get a result over Kildare and today they need to repeat that performance.

Galway are fielding a strong second string with several former senior players. Having won four U16 All-Ireland titles in a row and one minor they have plenty of talent coming through.

Among the players who have featured in Cathal Mannion's side are Tara Rutledge, Molly Mannion, Rachel Hanniffy, Marie Dillon Lorraine Coen and Captain Laura Ward. They had to battle to the finish last weekend to overcome Westmeath by a point 3-9 to 1-14.

Westmeath edged in front but Galway showed huge work-rate and intensity to fashion out a win. In their opening game against Antrim they were comfortable winners on a 4-12 to 1-9 scoreline.

A return of 1-22 against Kildare is impressive from a Cork perspective. Hayley Ryan was unerring from frees and play notching up 11 in total. Cork had good contributions from Aisling Maloney, Isobel O'Regan, Aoife Hurley, Katie O'Mahony, Caroline Murphy and Michelle Murphy.

Galway will provide much stiffer opposition and Cork will have to be at their very best today. Galway teams are always strong and physical and Cork will have to be ready for that challenge.

This is a game that could, in the finish, have a huge bearing on who grabs the top two spots. A win today would set Cork up nicely with ties to come against Dublin, Antrim and Westmeath.

Blackrock 0-15 Na Piarsaigh 1-4
A strong second-half performance saw Blackrock take the points on offer in the opening game of the SE Systems Intermediate Championship at Castle Road.

Fittingly summer sunshine greeted the first game of what will be a busy few weeks of the championship in all grades as championship 2019 finally gets up and running.



U12 teams from St Finbarr's and Douglas played during the half-time interval at the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie match at CIT. Picture: Larry Cummins



The Kilbree minor team who won the county camogie league. See next Tuesday's Echo for a feature on the club.

The sides were evenly matched in the opening half but with Kaitlin Hickey, Hayley Ryan and Roisin De Faoite all prominent in the opening 30 minutes Blackrock opened up a 0-7 to 1-1.

Hickey, Ryan, Grace Mulqueen and Aideen Nagle were all on the score sheet. Na Piarsaigh stayed in touch with an Allie O'Sullivan goal on 12 minutes and they added a point from Lucy Cambridge but with the Blackrock defence marking tight Na Piarsaigh could find no way through.

On the resumption, Blackrock kept the pressure on and with Leah Geurin, Kate O'Brien solid in defence they closed down the Na Piarsaigh attack.

Hickey added three points in opening 10 minutes of the second half and it gave Blackrock a cushion for the remainder of the game and Michelle Murphy, Anne Golden and Sophie Crowley adding to their tally they were in control.

This was despite Emily Buckley

pointing three second-half Na Piarsaigh frees.

Scorers for Blackrock: K Hickey 0-6, H Ryan 0-4, M Murphy, G Mulqueen, A Nagle, A Golden, S Crowley 0-1 each.

Na Piarsaigh: E Buckley 0-3 f, A O'Sullivan 1-0 L, Cambridge 0-1.

BLACKROCK: C Coughlan, A McCurtain, C Ryan, C O'Keefe, L Guerin, R de Faoite, K O'Brien, K Hickey, E McCarthy, M Murphy, G Mulqueen, H Ryan, S McCarthy, A Nagle, A Grimley.

Subs: E O'Donoghue for C Coughlan (48), A Golden for M Murphy (40), M Cashman for C O'Keefe (48), S Crowley for H Ryan (40), M Moynihan for A Grimley (52).

NA PIARSAIGH: A Lee, S O'Donovan, N O'Connell, C Tobin, L Twohig, E Buckley, H Fitton, O Bourke, N O'Connor, S Roche, C Coleman, E Sheehan, L Cambridge, T Coleman, A O'Sullivan.

Subs: R Rourke for C Tobin, E O'Connor for N O'Connor.

Meanwhile, there was a huge blow for Tipperary earlier this week as their senior and intermediate manager Bill Mullaney has stepped down mid-championship due to health reasons.

After their 2-20 to 1-8 loss to Cork on Saturday, news of Bill's departure

“Galway will provide much stiffer opposition and Cork will have to be at their very best today.”

emerged.

Mullaney took the job at the start of the 2018 season and oversaw a successful All-Ireland senior camogie championship last year where his side reached the semi-final.

This year they've lost to the Cork in Group 1 while their opening fixture against Waterford was abandoned following an injury player Nicole Walsh.

The re-fixed clash with Waterford is pencilled in for a 3pm throw-in today in Nowlan Park, Kilkenny and following that, they travel to Clare on 6 July, host Dublin on 13 July and finish up the round-robin phase with a trip to Meath.

The intermediate side having won the Division 2 National league in superb style recorded a 2-15 to 1-10 win over Wexford in their championship opener.

Everybody in camogie wishes Bill a speedy return to good health and hopefully we will see him back patrolling the sidelines in the near future.

Division sides open the senior campaign

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

DATES for the diary for the SE Systems Senior championship will see divisional sides Carbery and Muskerry meeting tomorrow evening in Castle Road at 4.30pm in the only preliminary round game of the championship.

Round one gets underway on July 23 when Millford and Courcy Rovers and Douglas and Sarsfields meet. The following evening, St Catherine's take on Killeagh, on Friday Ballincollig meet Glen Rovers and Eire Og take on county champions Inniscarra.

There are two games down for July 26 with the winners of the Carbery-Muskerry game meeting Cloughduv and St Finbarr's take on Ballygarvan. Certainly there are plenty of interesting clashes to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

The SE Systems intermediate championship is played on a round robin series of games and it got underway on Monday last with Blackrock and Na Piarsaigh meeting in the opening game in section one.

Blackrock recorded a victory. Round two in section one is on July 8 where Blackrock face Clonakilty and Na Piarsaigh take on Watergrasshill.

Valley Rovers and Fr O'Neill's meet tomorrow at Castle Rd at 7.30pm in section two and in section three Ballinhassig and Brian Dillon's are down to clash on July 7 with Enniskene and Kilbrittain-Timoleague meeting the following night.

The SE Systems Junior A section one sees two games tomorrow. Ballyhea and Charleville meet in Buttevant at 7.30pm and Tracton and Banter are in action in Castle Road at 2pm.

In section two, Newtownshandrum got their campaign up and running with a 1-16 to 2-6 win over Barryroe and the second game in this section Sliabh Rua versus St Vincent's is on July 8.

SE Systems Junior B Championship is scheduled to begin on July 12 with Buttevant meeting Inniscarra and Millstreet hosting Cobh in section one and in section two, Youghal will welcome league champions Ballinora and Castlelyons meet Bride Rovers both games on July 15.

The SE Systems Junior C Championship section one gets underway tomorrow when Kilworth host Aghada and St Fanahan's are at home against Castlelyons both games at 7.45pm. Section two on July 7 will see Blarney meeting Na Piarsaigh and Kinsale hosting St Colum's.

In the junior second teams' championship, Ballincollig meet Cloughduv on tomorrow at home at 7.30pm. It's St Finbarr's versus Barryroe on Monday at 7.30pm and Glen Rovers against Kilbrittain-Timoleague at 7.45pm.

In the 13-a-side Junior Championship on July 3, Duncannon host Rockban and Castlemartyr are at home to Kilbree.

Cork still a bit off All-Ireland pace

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

ALL-IRELAND champions Cork came good in the second half to see off Tipperary 2-20 to 1-8 last weekend.

Cork are still a bit off the pace that saw them take back-to-back All-Ireland titles last September. I felt our choices and distribution was poor at times and that we overplayed it when passing from the back. It was level at the break, with Cork against a strong wind.

Tipp's goal on 24 minutes from Megan Ryan was a direct result of Cork giving away possession.

I have to say that I was impressed with Tipp for the first 40 minutes. They played with a confidence, a desire, and took some lovely long-distance points. They were possibly never going to maintain that urgency for the hour and Cork's fitness was superior in that first quarter where they pulled away.

If Tipp can raise the bar in that regard and build on what they have they could be a strong force again and as I've said many times, the game needs them to be.

Aghabullogue's Ciara McCarthy was introduced in the 48th minute. She struck a point and was unlucky not to finish off a goal, a bit more experience and she would have.

I'd like to see her get a full championship game, maybe against Dublin next weekend. She needs it to develop.

Lauren Homan is hopefully back from injury and needs a full game as does Laura Hayes.

Cork's forward options have increased this year with nine or 10 vying for six positions. Great to have it. The additions need championship game time and there are certain games in the group stages where this can be done.

Now that Ashling Thompson's court case is over, she may reconsider her Cork camogie career. She's only 29. In her many talks to students on Mental Health and in interviews over the years she has re-iterated how camogie saved her when going through a tough time a number of years ago.

She's a great player. She may regret ending her inter-county career so quickly in years to come.

In the other group games, league champions Galway registered their first victory, beating Offaly by 3-15 to 0-6.

Cathal Murray's troops had to cede to Kilkenny last week but remain among the leading contenders for ultimate honours and though they took to the field in Luskagh minus the services of Niamh Kilkenny and Ann Marie Starr, they still had far too much firepower for the home team.

The Maroons led by 0-7 to 0-1 at the interval. Ailish O'Reilly opened the scoring and though Michelle Teehan equalised, it was a rare attacking contribution by Offaly, with O'Reilly in particular enjoying herself, while Niamh Hanniffy, Ciara Murphy and Aoife Donohue also contributed.

Any hopes Mike Wall would have had that his charges could turn it around in the second half were blown



Hannah Looney, Cork, turns away from a challenge from Orla Dwyer, Tipperary at CIT last weekend.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Ashling Thompson would be a huge addition if she'd return to the Cork panel.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

away by two goals straight after the restart from Catherine Finnerty and O'Reilly.

There was no way back from there and Finnerty hit the net again before Offaly's woes were compounded right at the death with the dismissal of Aisling Brennan.

In the other Group 1 tie, Kilkenny enjoyed themselves against Wexford, maintaining their 100 percent record on a 7-28 to 0-6 score line at Bellefield. Katie Power helped herself to a hat-trick of goals, while Miriam Walsh nabbed a brace. Anne Dalton and substitute Michelle Quilty also netted, while Aoife Doyle caught the eye with five points from play and Denise Gaule contributed eight.

Chloe Foxe provided one of the few bright points for Wexford manager Barry Kennedy, the St Martin's sharpshooter providing all her team's scores.

In Group 2, Waterford had a 1-11 to 1-5 triumph over Dublin at Walsh Park. Captain Niamh Rockett's aerial prowess was a feature of this game, allied with a goal and two points from play, while Beth Carton shot eight points and Trish Jackman was commanding.

The hosts had a three-point lead in under two and a half minutes. The scoring rate slowed considerably as Dublin got to grips with the Déise attack. Aisling Maher got them off the mark from a ninth-minute free and when Kerrie Finnegan goalied in the 24th minute, Frank Browne's crew held a 1-2 to 0-4 half-time advantage.

Waterford did have the benefit of a breeze in the second half but though Carton split the posts four times, Dublin remained in contention and a converted free by Maher restored parity, which is how it remained until Rockett made the definitive strike in the 52nd minute.

Ashling Thompson... She's a great player. She may regret ending her inter-county career so quickly in years to come

In the night's late throw-in, Clare secured their first victory of the campaign by the minimum margin, 0-12 to 0-11 at Páirc Táihteann.

Eimear Kelly, Sinéad Conlon and a long-distance score from Claire Hehir pushed the Banner women five clear but scores from long-serving Jane Dolan and a mid-air double by Grace Coleman reduced that to 0-7 to 0-4 in favour of Ger O'Connell's squad at half-time.

The gap was still three points when Meath lost Kristina Troy, sent off on a second yellow card in the 50th minute but Dolan brought them level on the hour with three points, only for Mairead Scanlon and Chloe Morey to push Clare two clear again.

Though Megan Thynne halved the deficit, they fell just short of what would have been a historic draw for the Royals in just their second season at the highest level.

Muskerry, Carbery gear up for showdown

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY SE Systems Camogie Championship: Carbery v Muskerry, Castleroad, 4.30pm.

THE SE Systems Cork Senior Championship kicks off this Sunday with two divisional sides playing the customary preliminary round.

Muskerry and Carbery take to Castleroad with both sides likely to have their Cork players available. Cork seniors Orla Cronin and Libby Coppinger line out for Carbery, Cliona Healy and Ciara McCarthy with Muskerry.

Muskerry produced a sparkling performance to cause a major upset last year when they defeated the recently-crowned league champions St Finbarr's, 3-14 to 2-9, Margaret O'Herlihy finishing with 2-7. After that much was expected of them against Courcy Rovers in round 3.

Unfortunately, their championship ended with a heavy defeat to the eventual finalists. They'll find the going more difficult this season having lost the services of the Éire Óg squad who won the Intermediate Championship last year and make the step back up to senior grade.

On paper Carbery has a number of strong clubs to select from. Backboned by Barryroe, Newcestown, Kilbrittain/Timoleague, Enniskeane and Clonakilly, if all resources are available to the divisional side then Carbery are a match for any senior club.

Carbery's Caroline Sugrue scored 10 of Carbery's 13 points when they defeated Ballygarvan in their opening round 12 months ago. Eimear White was brilliant between the posts and denied Ballygarvan two second-half goals.

A thrilling round three encounter with Douglas saw them denied a place in the quarter-finals by an Eimear McAndrew point in injury time. Intercounty players Orla Cronin, Caroline Sugrue, Moira Barrett and Kate Wall formed part of the forward division and the Douglas defence had their hands full.

Barrett and Sugrue worked their socks off on the night but they agonisingly missed out. Carbery are a strong rounded side. If they can get the commitment from players, they could go a long way.

Hopefully all the divisional side's intercounty players will be available to them but it's a heavy toll for the Intermediate players in particular.

The Cork seniors travel to Dublin next Saturday while the Intermediates are playing Galway tomorrow and are at home to Dublin next Saturday. Can you believe that?

The first round of the championship begins the weekend of July 23. With 13 clubs and two divisions competing and Inniscarra heading for four in a row it promises to be another cracking club season.

Camogie

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1: (Nowlan Park) Kilkenny 2:11 Offaly 2:12 (Crough GAA) Limerick 1:18 Wexford 1:10.
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2: (Nowlan Park) Tipperary 4:11 Waterford 2:14.
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1: (Parnells GAA, Coolock) Dublin 2:14 Kildare 0:11, (Cort GAA) Galway 1:11 Cork 1:18, (Coralstown/Kinnegad GAA) Westmeath v Antrim. Game abandoned after an injury to an Antrim player.
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2: (Crough GAA) Kerry 0:11 Limerick 1:5, (St Brendan's Park, Birr) Offaly 2:10 Waterford 1:1.

Carbery on top in divisional battle

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Carbery	1-24
Muskerry	0-17

IT TOOK a while for this SE Systems Cork senior championship preliminary round between divisional sides Carbery and Muskerry to come to life in Castle Road yesterday afternoon.

A scrappy first half opened up and as the divisions became familiar with each other, teamwork improved, and we were treated to some lovely scores in the second half, particularly from Carbery.

Against the wind in the opening period, Muskerry took the game to Carbery and led by 0-5 to 0-21 minutes in. Fiona Bourke was prominent and could have had a couple of additional points but ran into trouble. Carbery's Marian Murphy got to grips with her and scores settled somewhat.

Showing better teamwork Muskerry were full value for their lead but over time they seemed to have to work harder for their scores. By the 25th minute they led by a point, but it was Carbery that entered the dressing room at the break with a one-point advantage 1-9 to 0-10 thanks to a magnificent strike to the net by Caroline Murphy.

In the second half, it was almost all one-way traffic as Carbery picked off some lovely scores. In an 11-minute spell Carbery struck seven points, five from the stick of Orla Cronin who was lauding it.

With Libby Coppinger totally dominant at midfield and Carbery winning a lot of ball in their half-forward line they took control of this game. Tara Sheehan, Ciara O'Sullivan were others to impress as the points came fast and furious.

Muskerry had their chances to narrow the gap but Emer White was as dependable as ever in goal.

Aghabullogue's Cliona Healy was the star for Muskerry as the Cork players from both sides shone. Aghabullogue's Ciara McCarthy also worked extremely hard to try and get something from the game but Carbery had the better spread of scorers with twenty-four points being a nice return. Scorers for Carbery: C Murphy 1-3, T Sheehan 0-5, L Coppinger 0-4, O Cronin 0-8, C O'Sullivan 0-3, S Bourke 0-1.



Tara Sheehan of Carbery about to clear the sliothar away from Muskerry's Jennifer Cotter during the Cork County Senior Camogie championship match at Castle Road. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Muskerry: C Healy 0-10 (0-3, 0-2, 45), O Cronin 0-2, F Bourke, J Tarrant, M Lynch, C McCarthy, L Dineen 0-1 each.

CARBERY: E White (Barryroe); D O'Brien (Enniskeane); D Carroll (Enniskeane); M Sexton (Barryroe); M Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); C Kingston (Ballinascahy); M Coppinger (St Colum's); C Crowley (Ballinascahy); L Coppinger (St Colum's); M Crowley (Kilbree); O Cronin (Enniskeane); O Fahey (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); C Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); C O'Sullivan (Newcestown); T Sheehan (Enniskeane).

Subs: C Sexton (Barryroe) for O Fahey (h-t); S Burke (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for M Crowley (h-t); E Ryan (Barryroe) for C Murphy (59).

Muskerry: K Ward (Aghabullogue); E O'Connell (do); M Cotter (do); A Cotter (Blarney); J McAuliffe (Ballinora); J Murphy (Blarney); C Dooley (Ballinora); S O'Regan (do); E Foley (Aghabullogue); F Bourke (Grenagh); C McCarthy (Aghabullogue); C Healy (do); O Cronin (Blarney); E Tarrant (Aghabullogue); J Tarrant (do).

Subs: J Cotter (Aghabullogue) for J McAuliffe (h-t); M Murphy (Blarney) for E Tarrant (h-t); S Bannion (Blarney) for K Ward (h-t); B Cotter (Aghabullogue) for F Bourke (in 37); L Dineen (Aghabullogue) for A Cotter (42); A Lenihan (Ballinora) for C Dooley (in 45).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



Sarah Burke of Carbery fires a shot as Muskerry's Eimear White closes in. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Brand new Cork side put it up with Galway in Gort

Galway	1-11
Cork	1-8

CORK will be disappointed not to have got something from their trip to Gort on Saturday.

The Tribe's win sets them up nicely on full points with three games played in the Littlewoods Intermediate championship.

A first-half goal from Mairead Dillon was crucial as it helped the home side enjoy a two-point interval lead 1-5 to 0-6 and they continued to hold their lead through the second half despite a lot of Cork pressure.

Indeed Cork dominated the closing stages but could not get the vital scores needed against a physically strong Galway side.

With Hayley Ryan on target from frees and play and good work from Katie O'Mahony, Cork matched Galway who had Niamh Horan, Karen Kennedy, and

Rachel Monahan all finding the range before Dillon's crucial goal.

Cork lost Kate Dooley with an injury before the break and by the three-quarter stage Galway with Niamh Horan, Mairead Dillon and Tara Rutledge doing huge work they had stretched their advantage to four. Cork continued to dig deep and a Caroline Murphy goal 25 minutes in cut the deficit to two.

Cork continued to pile on the pressure but despite a lot of stoppages for Galway injuries, there was only three minutes of additional time. Galway added to their tally with a late point to seal victory and help maintain their place at the top.

Galway manager Cathal Murray we delighted with the win but also had a lot of praise for Cork.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

"We had to fight hard for the win and to be honest I was very impressed with Cork when you consider this is totally new side as they won the title last year. They have a good ethic."

Cork must now take on Dublin, Antrim and Westmeath and hope that along the way one of the top three slip up.

Scorers for Galway: N Horan 0-5 (0-4 f), M Dillon 1-1, K Kennedy 0-2, R Monahan 0-2 f, T Rutledge 0-1.

Cork: H Ryan 0-7 (0-5 f), C Murphy 1-0, K O'Mahony 0-1.

GALWAY: L Glynn; C Donoghue, L Ward, L Brennan; M Mannion, I Coen, N Murphy; L Casserley, E Broderick; K Kennedy, R Monaghan, N Horan; R Hanniffy, M Dillon, T Rutledge.

Subs: C Broderick for N Horan, K Screene for L Casserley.

CORK: S Beausang; A Crowley, K Looney, G Hannon; C Hayes, R Sheehan, M Lynch; A Maloney, K O'Mahony; I O'Regan, C Murphy, A Nic A Bhaire; A Hurley, H Ryan, K Dooley.

Subs: E Looney for A Nic A Bhaire, R Harty for A Hurley, C Daly for C Hayes, E Flanagan for M Lynch, K O'Keefe for K Dooley (inj).

Referee: Mike Ryan (Tipperary)

Kilbree minors create history in first season

CAMOGIE

John Bohane

THE Kilbree minor camogie team made history recently when they captured a county title. This represented a huge feat, considering it was the first time they fielded a minor camogie team.

The Rossmore based team defeated Castlemartyr in the county minor league final, which promoted huge celebrations and great delight within the club hierarchy given the relative youth of their camogie club.

Club PRO Maria Dorgan was thrilled with their recent triumph. "2019 is the first year for Kilbree to enter a minor team. Last year was Kilbree's first time entering a junior team, they have also qualified for the county league final. These are exciting times for a young, developing club," declared the diligent club official.

Kilbree defeated Castlemartyr by five points following an entertaining county final clash. They emerged victorious on a final scoreline of 5-8 to 2-12. Kilbree had to overcome a lot of strong teams to win the county title revealed Marie.

"The Kilbree minors defeated Clonakilty, Nemo Rangers, St Colum's and Dungourney to qualify for the county final. Castlemartyr were by far the strongest team that they played.

"Kilbree played with a strong wind in the first half and led by nine points at half-time.

"However they had to fight very hard to keep Castlemartyr at bay in the second half. Castlemartyr scored an early goal in the second half and they were a fine team."

There were many Kilbree heroes on the field of play. They displayed great skill and determination which ensured they captured a great win.

The speed with which the Kilbree camogie team have taken to competing in the minor grade for the first time in their history has delighted their club personnel.

"Given that this was the first time that the club ever fielded a minor team, we were hoping that we would be able to compete with the other teams. We probably didn't expect to win a county title in 2019.

"This team has certainly surpassed expectations. The club are very proud of these players. They are great ambassadors and role models. Many of them have won county titles at U12 and U14 level previously.

"They are delighted to add a minor county medal to the collection." The Kilbree minor camogie team were guided to county final glory by a dedicated bunch of coaches this year who have relished developing their vast potential. Marie is full of praise for the role their coaches have played in their success.

"The coaches have been involved with this team over a number of years and they have been very successful in this time. Tony O'Neill, Anna O'Neill, Deirdre O'Leary and Aidan O'Shea have worked very hard with this group. They have played a huge role in harnessing their potential.

"They deserve all of the recent success." What makes their recent county final success all the more impressive was the fact it was achieved with



Five Kilbree players currently feature on the Cork U15 camogie development squad: Maeve O'Neill, Emily O'Donovan, Caoimhe Murphy, Mary Murphy and Kate O'Donovan.



The Kilbree minor camogie team.

such a young panel of players. Marie is hopeful they will build on this success going forward.

They are determined to make a strong bid for championship success this summer.

"This minor team is a very young one. Only two girls on the panel are U18. Nine of the girls are U15 and will still be eligible to play at minor level in 2022.

"The future of the club certainly looks bright with such a young talented group of players available. Given the very successful start to the 2019 campaign, we are very hopeful that the girls will have a successful run in the championship.

"We may even complete the

double, which would be a fantastic achievement." Kilbree camogie club presently fields team at U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, minor and junior level. The club is thriving at present.

Playing numbers are very impressive, while they possess a considerable amount of coaches and a dedicated committee. Marie is pleased with the progress the club is making.

"Kilbree camogie club is thriving at present. A successful school nursery programme is run every year at Kilmee National School. This gently introduces young children to camogie and has provided a great boost to numbers of girls joining the club.

"The club is run by an excellent

committee and they are very fortunate to have wonderful coaches, so giving of their time to coach at all levels. There is an excellent voluntary work ethic within our club." Five members of their minor panel are also members of the current Cork U15 camogie panel. Marie is very proud of their achievements.

"Currently we have five Kilbree girls on the U15 camogie development squad. Maeve O'Neill, Emily O'Donovan, Caoimhe Murphy, Mary Murphy and Kate O'Donovan. Niamh McCarthy is also part of the Cork U14 development panel.

"This is an incredible achievement for a small rural club. These girls have been playing at the highest

grade in the county over the past couple of years. Their hard work and dedication is clearly paying dividends.

"Seven Kilbree girls were also recently part of the Sacred Heart Secondary School junior camogie team that recently won the All-Ireland and Munster junior camogie titles defeating Middleton in both finals." Marie is very confident the club has a bright future.

"Kilbree Camogie Club is currently thriving at all levels. We have increased numbers of girls playing and excellent committee and coaches involved within the club. This all points to a very bright future for the club."

"This team has certainly surpassed expectations. The club are very proud of these players."



BRIDIN'S KINDLY WAYS WERE ADMIRERD BY ALL

SAD news with the passing of Bridin Uí Mhaolagáin. She never lost her fondness for the Ashbourne Cup. She won five Ashbourne medals with her beloved UCD.

And for all the years that followed, Bridin considered the Ashbourne weekend as the highlight of the season.

As she did while on the pitch,

Bridin gave her all in the committee rooms of the game. Camogie's great historian, Mary Moran, penned a fine piece on her in 'A Game of our Own - Camogie's Story.' Bridin went to school at Scoil Mhuire, Dublin and St Louis, Monaghan.

Her father, Séamus, hurled for Antrim. And he was President of Ulster Council. Her mother, Brid,

came from Dunloy. Bridin's sporting ability wasn't just confined to the camogie field. She played handball and racquetball for Ireland. She was President of the Ladies' Handball Association. Bridin (inset) delighted in the coverage the great Mick



Dunne gave to handball. She had a big interest in drama. She starred in TG4's Rós na Rún. She adored the Irish language. One of her most famous days arrived when she was elected as the President of the Camogie Association. She always had the

encouraging word for young players. She was a teacher. In and out of the class-room. She had a top co-pilot in husband, Aidan. Giving was at the core of her life. She made the day brighter. Full of debate and colour. And good humour. She always made time. Especially for others.



The Carbery senior camogie team that defeated Muskerry by 1-24 to 0-17 in the preliminary round of the county senior A camogie championship at Castle Road on Sunday. Back from left, Aine Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Maeve Lynch (Newcestown), Claire Kingston (Ballinascahy), Danielle Carroll (Enniskeane), Eimear White (Barryroe), Marion Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Caroline Murphy (do), Orla Cronin (Enniskeane), Clara O'Sullivan (Newcestown), Orla Fahy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Maggie Coppinger (St Colum's) and Orla Dineen (Newcestown). Front from left, Mairéad Crowley (Kilbree), Daire O'Brien (Enniskeane), Sarah Burke (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), Tara Sheehan (Enniskeane), Elaine Ryan (Barryroe), Claire Sexton (Barryroe), Clara Crowley (Ballinascahy), Meadh Sexton (Barryroe) and Libby Coppinger (St Colum's).

UÍ MHAOLAGÁIN (née Ní Dhuibne), Bridin (Glasnevin, Dublin 9 and former president of The Camogie Association and the Ladies' Handball Council) - June 30, 2019 (peacefully), in the loving care of her family and the staff of St. Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown, beloved wife of Aidan and beloved sister of Bláthnaid and the late Máire. Sr. Vivian and Aisbheán; sadly missed by her husband, sister, extended family, neighbours and friends. Méala mór a bás dá fear céile Aidan, dá deirfiúr Bláthnaid agus dá céile Seán, dá cairde agus dá comharsana. Reposing at St. Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown from 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock today (Tuesday). Removal this (Tuesday) evening, departing from the Hospice at 4.15 o'clock to arrive at Corpus Christi Church, Homefarm Road at 5 o'clock. Funeral Mass tomorrow (Wednesday) at 12 noon, followed by burial in Glasnevin Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to St. Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 or at www.sth.ie. House private. "May she rest in peace."



The Kilbree camogie team that beat Cloughduv in the county league in Rossmore.

JUNE 2019



Carbery chairman Tom Lyons presents the April monthly award to the West Cork players on the All-Ireland winning Cork minor camogie team; from left, Tara Sheehan (Enniskeane), Claire Kingston (Ballinascahy), Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) and Clara O'Sullivan (Newcestown). Absent was Sinead Hurley (Enniskeane).



CAMOGIE MATTERS

By Jennifer O'Leary

SETBACK | Cork lost 1-11 to 1-8 against Galway in Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship

Three-in-a-row is on but Cork have to start faster

Cork captain Gemma O'Connor will attempt to lead the Rebels to the three-in-a-row in this year's Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship. (Photo: Dan Sheridan/INPHO)

Rebels can't keep relying on second-half surges to win

IT'S something that I noticed when I was a player but have also seen in recent seasons from outside the line – Cork are slow starters in games.

It often takes a full 30 minutes before the team appears fully concentrated and warmed up. We've seen that already in a few of their recent games, the Munster final against Tipperary, their senior championship game against the Premier County and against Clare.

In all games Cork found an extra gear in the second half to pull away. Let's look at the most recent evidence, the 2-20 to 1-8 win against Tipp. The game was tied at half time, 0-10 to 1-7. Then the Rebels kept Tipp to a single point in the second half and scored 1-10 themselves.

Even in Cork's first championship game, the 3-19 to 0-9 win against Clare, the Rebels were sluggish out of the blocks. Cork led by just 1-6 to 0-5 at half time but went on to annihilate the Banner in the second half, scoring an extra 2-13 to Clare's four points. Four points up at the break, they won by 19.

These wins against Clare and Tipp leave Cork in a good position in Group 2 of the championship. They have a 100 per cent record ahead of the trip to take on Dublin this Saturday. The reigning champions, hungry as ever to retain the O'Duffy Cup, look in a good place, but Cork can't keep waiting until the second half to grow into the game.

That will cause problems when you travel further into the championship. Once you get to the knock-out stages

The reigning champions look in a good place, but Cork can't keep waiting until the second half to grow into the game. That will cause problems when you travel further into the championship.

you are up against teams that won't allow you even one minute to find your bearings or even breathe. Teams like Kilkenny, Galway and Limerick will pounce, hit a purple patch and be gone out the gate, if Cork continue to start games slow.

But they know it's an issue they must address. Cork forward Orla Cronin said as much after the last win against Tipp. 'At half time we were fairly disappointed with our first-half performance. We have standards with work-rate and hunger – and I don't think we were hitting those,' the Enniskeane club woman said.

'At half time we knew that there was much more in us. We probably needed half time to regroup and to give a better performance in the second half – and I think we did that.'

But, on a more positive note, it does show the character and motivation, as well as leadership, within this Cork team that they can successfully turn the game around and up it 100 per cent going into the second half.

Hitting the opposition with as much force and scoring power as possible, with a relentless attitude, is what Cork are all about. It's an aspect of Cork's game that many teams have grown to fear. Even if the opposition

feels that they are in the driving seat at half time, in the back of their minds they'll know what's coming – a whole different Cork team will face them in the second half.

Many would say too that Cork also have the easier group in this year's Liberty Insurance senior camogie championship. Having already defeated Clare and Tipp, they are now left with Dublin, Meath and Waterford on three weekends in a row. I can't envisage any of these teams beating Cork or even coming close to them, if Paudie Murray plays to full strength.

With Meath and Waterford at the building stages, Paudie might use these games as a chance to try out subs and to see how strong his panel really is ahead of the business end of the season.

Cork have already defeated Tipp with a number of changes from last year's winning team. There was no Gemma O'Connor at centre back and no Ashling Thompson lording midfield. Instead they were replaced by Niamh O'Callaghan from Sarsfields holding the centre back slot and Briege Corkery commanding midfield.

Paudie certainly has strong options to choose from. Cork will also have an extra game with five teams to play

in their group compared to four on the other side, so that gives a chance to use the panel and have players ready to call on when we hit the latter stages.

However, Group 1 is stacked with talent. It has the ever-dangerous Kilkenny, the impressive league champions Galway, the confident Limerick, and Offaly and Wexford. The games these teams are facing will prepare and test them in preparation for a straight run to the semis, or a place in the quarter-finals.

It will be crucial that this Cork camogie team, like the men's Cork footballers, organise plenty of challenge games to ensure they remain competitive and up to the pace to face who their opponents will be when they get out of Group 2.

Having weighed up all the areas that could be problematic this season for Cork, I have to remind myself that it is Cork we are talking about. These are seasoned professionals, masters of pacing themselves and being championship ready and primed when they need to be. They're also back-to-back champions.

Cork know how to win and how to prepare to win. They have experienced it many times.

But, again, Cork are faced with the prospect of the three-in-a-row this

year. Looking back through the roll of honour, Cork haven't been successful in achieving this since the 1970s when they went a step further and won four-in-a-row. There have been chances this century, most notably in 2016 when Kilkenny stood in the way of Cork and denied the Rebels the three-in-a-row. Quite easily, this current side could have been chasing five-in-a-row this season.

The three-in-a-row could stand as an extra motivation for Cork this year, that extra bit to keep things fresh and exciting, especially for the players who have been so influential in the past decade and who have served Cork so admirably.

Or what will most likely happen is the 'three-in-a-row' prospect won't be talked about by the players and management, and 2019 will be approached like any other year, with the ultimate goal and only motivation needed being to lift the cup in Croke Park on September 8th.

To do that, Cork need a consistent performance over 60 minutes to make sure they're ready for the battles with the heavyweights that will be coming down the tracks over the next few months.

I have every faith that Cork can and will reach All-Ireland victory heights once again this year.

SENIOR C'SHIP GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pts
Cork	2	2	0	0	54	20	34	6
Waterford	2	1	0	1	34	31	3	3
Dublin	2	1	0	1	27	26	1	3
Tipperary	2	1	0	1	34	46	-12	3
Clare	2	1	0	1	21	39	-18	3
Meath	2	0	0	2	23	31	-8	0

'Carbery has the talent' – White



Carbery's Libby Coppinger wrong foots the Muskerry defence during their county championship clash at Castle Road on Sunday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

SENIOR CLUB C'SHIP

Cork star Cronin dazzles as Carbery off to a flying start

CARBERY 1-24
MUSKERRY 0-17

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

CARBERY camogie captain Eimear White was encouraged by what she saw on Sunday – but she insists the divisional team needs to get together more if they want to make an impact in the county championship.

Quarter-finalists the past two seasons, Carbery are keen to make an impact this year and they got off to a winning start with this preliminary round win against Muskerry at Castleroad.

It means Carbery advance to a round one game against Cloughduv whilst Muskerry must go the backdoor route.

The winners led by two points at the break, 1-9 to 0-10, before stretching their legs in the second half.

'Being a divisional team it just took us a little bit longer to find our shape and to get to know each other,' goalkeeper Eimear White said.

'It was point for point in the first half and there was never more than a puck of a ball between us. In the second half we got our confidence up and to score 1-24 is phenomenal scoring. You can see there is good talent there and it's more practice together that we need.'

Barryroe club woman White added: 'We have all the pick in West Cork but it's about co-ordinating everyone and coming together. It's bringing it all together, that's what we need

more. The talent is there, the core is there, it's just to get used to each other.'

Amassing an impressive 1-23 from play against Muskerry, with the only placed ball coming from the outstanding Orla Cronin, Carbery didn't have it all their own way last Sunday.

In fact, they only held the lead twice in the opening 30 minutes. Their early lead came after Muskerry opened proceedings via Fiona Bourke inside the first minute before a Carbery brace from Caroline Murphy and the energetic Tara Sheehan pushed them one clear.

Muskerry enjoyed a spell of dominance when they hit four unanswered points in a six-minute spell. Orla Cremin, a Healy brace from play and a free and a Ciara McCarthy effort saw Muskerry open up a three-point lead after 11 minutes. Carbery points from Cronin and Ciara O'Sullivan cut the lead to the slimmest.

Healy and Cronin swapped scores, with dual star Libby Coppinger, commanding at midfield, firing over the first of her four points to keep Carbery in close pursuit.

Five minutes from the break Caroline Murphy put Carbery in the lead for just the second time when she crashed to the net after an O'Sullivan pass put her through on goal. Coppinger put three between the sides when she fired over after a surging run through the heart of the Muskerry defence.

Healy cut the deficit to one

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Carbery's Orla Cronin has moved up a level in the past 18 months and she showed her class with eight points, seven from play.

Star moment: Cronin scored four unanswered points in a row in four second-half minutes to move Carbery six points ahead. They never looked back.

Talking point: This Carbery team has potential. It has experience, youth and skill. They should improve with the more games they play.

What's next? Carbery meet Cloughduv in Round 1 on July 26th. Muskerry await their Round 2 opponents.

with two placed balls, the second after Carbery goalkeeper Eimear White pulled off a save to deflect out for the 45. Sheehan had the final say of the half when she fired over her third from play to see Carbery lead by two 1-9 to 0-10.

While Cork seniors Cronin and Coppinger were outstanding and scored 12 points between them, All-Ireland winning minors like Tara Sheehan (0-5), Claire Kingston and Ciara O'Sullivan (0-3) all stood out.

'A lot of teams have players that they need to rely on, and absolutely Libby and Orla are stalwarts for us and they really stood up and led by example, but what is more encouraging is the other players that came in – like Claire Kingston at centre back, Ciara O'Sullivan, Caroline Murphy, they all came into their own and there are no passengers on the team,' Eimear White said.

Two Muskerry points from Cremin and Healy sandwiched an O'Sullivan score for Carbery, as Muskerry moved to within one point inside three minutes

of the restart.

After Coppinger put two between the sides, the superb Orla Cronin moved the West Cork outfit six clear after she struck four in a row in as many minutes without reply.

Sheehan opened up the Carbery lead to seven when she pointed before Cronin in sublime form split the posts to see Carbery lead 1-16 to 0-12 on the three-quarter mark.

Three unanswered Muskerry points from a Healy brace and a McCarthy effort cut the gap to five heading into the closing ten minutes.

However, a Carbery brace from Coppinger and O'Sullivan pushed the lead back to seven. The winners were never in trouble from here on but goalkeeper White had to save well to deny Muskerry a goal.

Scorers

Carbery: O Cronin 0-8 (1f), T Sheehan 0-5, C Murphy 1-2, L Coppinger 0-4, C



Carbery's Claire Sexton (Barryroe) shoots for a point.

O'Sullivan 0-3, S Burke 0-2.
Muskerry: C Healy 0-10 (3f, 2 45), C McCarthy, O Cremin 0-2 each, F Bourke, L Dineen, J Tarrant 0-1 each.

Carbery: E White (Barryroe); D O'Brien (Enniskeane), D Carroll (Enniskeane), M Sexton (Barryroe); M Murphy

(Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Kingston (Ballinascarthy), M Coppinger (St Colum's), L Coppinger (St Colum's), C Crowley (Ballinascarthy), M Crowley (Kilbree), O Cronin (Enniskeane), O Fahey (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C O'Sullivan (Newcestown), T Sheehan (Enniskeane).

Subs: C Sexton (Barryroe) for O Fahey (ht), S Burke (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for M Crowley (ht), E Ryan (Barryroe) for C Murphy (59).

Muskerry: K Ward (Aghabullogue), E O'Connell (Aghabullogue), M Cotter (Aghabullogue), A Cotter (Blarney), J McAuliffe (Ballinora), J Barry (Blarney), C Dooley (Ballinora), S O'Regan (captain) (Ballinora), E Foley (Aghabullogue), F Bourke (Grenagh), C McCarthy (Aghabullogue), C Healy (Aghabullogue), O Cremin (Blarney), E Tarrant (Aghabullogue), J Tarrant (Aghabullogue).

Subs: S Bannon (Blarney) for K Ward (ht), B Cotter (Aghabullogue) for A Cotter (42), M Murphy (Blarney) for E Tarrant (45), L Dineen (Aghabullogue) for F Bourke (48), A Lenihan (Ballinora) for C Dooley (50).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).



Muskerry's Clara McCarthy (Aghabullogue) gets her shot away.

CAMOGIE ICON IS SUPER TROOPER

NIAL SCULLY



A TRUE icon of the sport is coming to town on Saturday. Gemma O'Connor, St Finbarr's to the core.

There will be no need to get out the Sat Nav. Cork know the city better than their own lovely Lee.

Gemma studied at UCD. Her qualifications there led to a change of jobs in the army.

She now works in the Central Medical Unit. She's based at Collins Barracks in Cork.

It's a more structured position than before. More 9.0 to 5.0. Less time on the road, and in the air.

Travel is such a part of army life. Gemma was no different. She had one of the most unusual All Star presentations of all.

She was with the army in Liberia. And around the corner came President Mary McAleese to present her with the award.

She has 11 of them now. She stands alone at the top of the roll of honour. And she's seeking her tenth All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship title.

The change in her routine has been a help. "Apart from being up and down to the Curragh and stuff like that, I'm based in the Barracks the whole time," she reveals.

2020 AIG

"I have a bit more flexibility now. And that's a big help for the camogie. My role is not as physically demanding as it used to be. I used to train recruits. And that involved pretty robust training and working outside of the normal office hours."

Sport has helped her career. She can relate to the camogie tag line - 'camogie made me.'

"Camogie has really helped to influence my life. Working in the Defence Forces can be pretty demanding. It takes a certain amount of mental toughness."

"And there are values you can bring from sport to work, and the other way around. Qualities like leadership and resilience. The determination to keep going through the tough days. Values that can be applied to work, sport and life itself."

She encourages everybody to get involved in sport. She appreciates every second on the pitch. She's been playing camogie since she was nine.

Gemma welcomes the changing of the guard regarding the proposed rule revisions, and camogie's ever-



STATUE OF LIBERTY: Gemma commends the input of Liberty Insurance: 'It's great to see the All Star trip going to America,' she says

Gemma says camogie has influenced her whole life

er-increasing profile. She was talking at the Liberty Insurance HQ in Blanchardstown. Surrounded by a cluster of journalists, recording her words.

"We are all in this together - players, referees and the Camogie Association. We have a great product, and we want to show-case it in the best way possible."

"Look at hurling. It's fantastic. The games are so fast and physical. That's what attracts viewers. And we want to move

forward as well.

"We'd love to see the game flow more. We don't want to be involved in matches where its stop-start. Players are training harder in the gym. They have their pre-season conditioning. So the game has to reflect what the players are doing off the pitch as well."

"Things are starting to move. It's going in the right direction. And it's the future we have to think of."

Gemma commends the input of Liberty Insurance. "It's great to see the All Star trip going to America. And the live streaming of games is another boost."

After Saturday, Cork will

be hoping to be back in the capital in September. So far, so good. But she'd love to see the likes of Dublin closing the gap on the leaderboard.

"It's all about consistency. And being able to keep the same group of players. That's a big benefit for the younger players who make their way onto the panel."

"We are lucky in Cork in that regard. We hope to keep on the winning path. But there are no guarantees. We have a long few weeks ahead of us."

"Each team sets out to do better each year. We are all trying to bring something fresh to it. Every team is evolving."

Tipp must bottle the winning feeling

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

As Tipperary's players huddled together after last week's vital Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship Group 2 re-match with Waterford at Nowlan Park, interim manager Niamh Lillis delivered a simple message: "Remember this feeling."

It has been a difficult campaign for Lillis' troops. Star midfielder Nicole Walsh was airlifted from the field at The Ragg three weeks ago, forcing the abandonment of the clash with Waterford.

Then manager Bill Mullaney had to stand down for health reasons. But the rest of the management team has galvanised the troops and with Walsh cheering from the sidelines, Cailt Devane inspirational, and Eireana Fryday providing two of her side's four goals, Tipp shrugged off the loss of Orla O'Dwyer to a hamstring injury before half-time to record a three-point win.

"When you lose, management often say, 'You bottle this and you hold it for the next day and remember the hurt' but sometimes we forget to remember the good days too," said Devane afterwards. "This is why we play. There was a great buzz there and that winning feeling, you can't buy it but we've a quick turnaround."

They face Clare in Sixmilebridge today (5pm), with both sides deadlocked along with Waterford and Dublin on three points.

"We have been progressing but we still haven't got to the All-Ireland or won the All-Ireland in the last couple of years," notes Devane.

"At the start of the year that would be your end goal though you take it match on match. Last year we took a big step in the right direction, making the semi-final but we still didn't win."

"That is a disappointing end to the year no matter what way you look at it. The moral victories, you get sick of them."

"We are just really looking forward to seeing what this summer can hold."

"Trying really to get over that final hurdle, of getting to a final and then when you get there the rest can look after itself. It is a bit frustrating from our point of view as well, that we haven't progressed."

"The environment is competitive. We need to progress every year and make sure we are not plateauing and just being happy to be competitive or make the semi-final."

"Ultimately we want to get the big titles, the national titles"



DELIGHT: Gemma O'Connor (right) celebrates with her teammates after last September's All-Ireland final win over Kilkenny



The Cork intermediate camogie panel before a recent game.

Cork U16s to kick off against Antrim

Camogie

■ Mary Newman

TOMORROW: All-Ireland U16 A Championship: Cork v Antrim, Hawkfield-Newbridge, 2pm.

With exams over and a provincial title secured, it's time for the All-Ireland U16 A championship.

With the provincial championship played separately to the All-Ireland series, and with two teams entered, the Cork mentors had time to get their squad together for championship.

They are grouped with Antrim, Kilkenny, and Tipperary and will play three weeks in a row, with two games away and one at home.

Antrim provide the opposition this weekend in neutral Newbridge; next weekend, Cork are at home for their meeting with Kilkenny; and travel to Tipperary for their last game.

On their way to retaining the Munster title, Cork recorded an impressive victory over Tipperary, before beating Limerick but having to fight to the end to do so, 1-12 to 2-7.

While Cork were dominant in their clash with Tipperary, they were tested by Limerick, but worked hard and closed the game out with two points to secure victory.

Since the provincial championship finished, the squad has been working hard under the guidance of strength-and-conditioning coach, Stephen O'Mahony.

Cork played the Dublin U16 squad and the Cork U17s last weekend and performed exceptionally well in both games.

Before this, Cork have been busy with games against the Offaly and Limerick minors and Waterford U16s. Several of the squad were involved last year in the Cork U16 A and B panels that contested both All-Ireland finals.

They include captain, Olivia McAllen, Rose Murphy, Aimee Morgan, Lucy McNulty, Shauna Hayes, Ciara Hurley, Ciara Golden, Jane Foley, Saoirse Desmond and Jenny Doyle.

Meadhbh Ring, who recently won the Munster U16 long-puck competition, will be a key player for Cork, as will Miriam Healy and Meabh Murphy, Kate McCarthy, Cliona Lynch, Tara Crowley, Lilly Hayes Nally, Katlyn Sheehan and Orlaith Cahalane.

Little is known about Antrim. They lost to Derry in the Ulster semi-final, but last year won the U16 B All-Ireland title and, as a result, they are graded A this year.

With the Ulster colleges enjoying a lot of success, they will no doubt build on this and head into the A grade with a lot of confidence.

It will be interesting to see how they will compete against the established counties, Cork, Tipperary, and Kilkenny, who are in their group.

Aghabullogue and Carrig share spoils

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT was a busy week of championship action in all grades as the SE Systems camogie competitions got up and running.

Over the next few weeks we will keep an eye to all the games and bring results as the round robin series progress from intermediate down to junior.

Carrigaline 2-6
Aghabullogue 0-12

IN the SE Systems Intermediate Championship meeting between Aghabullogue and Carrigaline it ended all square after an exciting contest.

It was nip and tuck all through with the sides level at the interval, 1-2 to 0-5. Molly Barrett, with the Carrigaline goal, ensured that they kept in touch with an Aghabullogue side that had Cliona Healy on form as she hit four first-half points, with Edel Tarrant striking one, as Emma Cooney and Tara O'Connor kept the pressure on the Aghabullogue defence.

Through the second half the sides swapped scores.

Emma Flanagan, Cliona Healy, and Ciara McCarthy were all on the score sheet for Aghabullogue as they battled to pull away, but Carrigaline with Emma Cooney on target and a second Molly Barrett goal ensured that they took a point from this opening game one the round robin series.

Scorers for Aghabullogue: C Healy 0-8 (0-3 45, 0-1 1), C McCarthy 0-2, E Tarrant, E Flanagan 0-1 each.

Carrigaline: M Barrett 2-0, E Cooney 0-5, T O'Connor 0-1.

AGHABULLOGUE: K Ward, B Cotter, E O'Connell, J Crowley, S Dineen, M Cotter, E Flanagan, C McCarthy, E Foley, J Tarrant, E Tarrant, T Desmond, L Dineen, N Moynihan, C Healy.

Subs: L Cooney for T Desmond (45), J Cotter for E Flanagan (47).

CARRIGALINE: E Herlihy, K O'Connell, M Maguire, R Long, E Twomey, S Cotter, Duane, B O'Shea, K O'Connor, R O'Shea (c), K Hughes, E Cooney, M Barrett, R O'Regan, T O'Connor.

Sub: A Kearney for T O'Connor (50).



Sarah Burke of Carbery about to hit the sliotar upfield as Muskerry's Brid Cotter looks on. Picture: Howard Crowdy

Fr O'Neill's 1-13
Valley Rovers 1-11

JUST two points separated the sides at full-time in this SE Systems Intermediate Championship in Castle Road as Fr O'Neill's just about edged it.

The same margin divided the sides at the interval, with O'Neill's holding a 0-7 to 0-5 advantage, and they held on despite huge Valley Rovers pressure to get their campaign off to the best possible start in group two.

Valley Rovers had Katie Lynch on target with three points and Susan O'Leary and Liz Bugler with one each in the opening half.

Clodagh Finn, Ciara O'Doherty, Ciara McGrath, and Ciara O'Neill were all on target for Fr O'Neill's.

As the sides swapped scores it was close and when Clodagh Finn grabbed a Fr O'Neill's goal, Orla O'Sullivan did likewise for Valley Rovers.

Points from Connie Hawkes (2), Clodagh Deasy, Katie Lynch, and Susan O'Leary for Valleys were matched by Fr O'Neill's with Clodagh

Finn, Mary Cowhig, Ciara McGrath, and Ciara O'Doherty which decided the game in their favour.

Scorers for Fr O'Neill's: C Finn 1-7 (0-2 1), C O'Doherty, C McGrath 0-2 each, C O'Neill, M Cowhig 0-1 each.

Valley Rovers: K Lynch 0-4 1, O O'Sullivan 1-0, C Hawkes 0-3, S O'Leary 0-2 1, C Deasy, L Bugler 0-1 each.

FR O'NEILL'S: N Nagle, M Steele, S Murphy, L Lawton, O'Keefe, Y Murphy, R Steele, K Cullinane, C O'Neill, C O'Doherty, C McGrath, N Cowhig, C O'Brien, C Finn, N Cowhig.

Sub: A Dalton for C O'Doherty (50).

VALLEY ROVERS: G Harrington, A Lynch, E Coughlan, R Loran, E Fehily, S O'Leary, J Hawkes, C Reardon, R O'Sullivan, K Lynch, C Hawkes, E O'Mahony, L Bugler, C Deasy, O O'Sullivan.

Subs: S Lynch for R O'Sullivan (40), M Forde for E Fehily (50).

JUNIOR

In the Junior Second teams Championship Ballincollig led Cloughduv 1-5 to 0-4 at the interval with Chloe Hennigan, Orla McCarthy, Anna Cremin Butler and Caoimhe Creedon all working hard as they made the early running.

Cloughduv settled into the game in

the second half and with Olga Barry Murphy, Laura Buttimer, Katherine Corkery, Eva Dunne, and Aoife Twomey all on target, they battled back to record a draw.

It ended Ballincollig 1-6 Cloughduv 0-9.

In the same competition, a late goal from Cliona Martin edged a thrilling game in Glen Rovers' favour.

Twice Kilbrittain/Timoleague opened up a five-point lead, but the Glen girls pegged them back with Amy Mills and Edel O'Connell grabbing goals to go with points from Donna O'Neill, Sharon Hayes, and O'Connell.

Amy O'Sullivan was on target for Kilbrittain/Timoleague with Miriam Deasy, Ciara O'Neill, and Eiblish O'Sullivan giving it their all in search of victory.

At the finish, it was Martin's goal that put the result beyond doubt.

Sarsfields, with Holly Herlihy, Aine Mullins, Orlaith Keane, Rionna O'Mahony, Julie Allen Chloe Aberne, and Mairead Farrell all contributing to their scoring tally ran out winners over St Catherine's, while St Finbarr's defeated Barryroe 1-18 to 3-1.

Looking ahead tomorrow, in the SE Systems Intermediate Championship Ballinhassig meet Brian Dillon's in Castle Road at 12pm.

On Monday Blackrock face Clonakilty in Brinny, Na Piarsaigh take on Watergrasshill in Carrig na Bhfeair and it's Enniskeane v Kilbrittain/Timoleague in Ballinascorthy.

In Junior A Championship, Sliabh Rua and St Vincent's meet on Monday in Castle Road.

On Wednesday, in Junior C Championship, it's Castlelyons versus Kilworth, while in junior 13-a-side, Erin's Own take on St Vincent's in Erin's Own.

Junior B Championship on Friday sees Millstreet versus Cobh and Buttevant against Inniscarra and in junior C, it's St Fanahan's taking on Grenagh.

On Friday, in 13-a-side junior championship, Rockban host Erin's Own and Dungourney welcome Castlemartyr.

All games are at 7.45pm.

Underdogs can make life difficult

Cork need win against Dublin today

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

WHILE Cork had a weekend off, three group championship matches went ahead last weekend.

Kilkenny and Offaly have three games played to date, Kilkenny winning all three with Offaly at the opposite end of the spectrum, losing all.

There were no upsets in the championship, underdogs Waterford, Offaly and Wexford made life difficult for the winners across the three games that were contested.

Tipperary and Waterford replayed the game that was called off with four minutes of normal time remaining a fortnight previously and while it looked as if Waterford would cause an upset that day, it was Tipp that came good this time around.

The sun beamed down on Nowlan Park for the double-header and the game between Tipperary and Waterford was hotly contested. A brace of goals at the start of each half did the business for the Premier county. They prevailed by 4-11 to 2-14 in the group two fixture.

Tipperary were under the guidance of interim manager Niamh Lillis for this one, following the decision of Bill Mullaney to step down due to health reasons. They shot into an early lead thanks to two quick goals. Eirena Fryday batted in the first before Megan Ryan added a second.

For Waterford, Annie Fitzgerald took the initiative and played a key role in bringing the Déise ladies back into it after influential Tipp dual star Orla Dwyer went off injured. The Waterford centre-forward was fouled for a penalty after a superb run, with Beth Carton stepping up to finish off the opportunity.

Fitzgerald herself goaled on the half time whistle to give Waterford a 2-6 to 2-5 lead. The second half began in similar fashion with Fryday finding the net directly from the throw-in and then Grace O'Toole quickly following with a fourth green flag.

Cait Devane showed both bravery and skill to assist O'Toole for what turned out to be a critical score.

Carton led the fightback for Waterford, landing six second-half points but unlike the first period where they were reeled in, Tipp held out. Cait Devane had the final say with two of the final three scores to see them over the line for their first victory.

In Croagh, Limerick were pushed by Wexford, who dusted themselves down after a crushing 43-point loss to Kilkenny the week before.

The Model county were right in contention the whole way through before falling away in the final quarter. An early Linda Bolger goal set the tone for Wexford and it was clear that there was going to be no repeat of last week's landslide when the two sides went in at the break tied, 1-6 to 0-9.

As always, Niamh Mulcahy was relentless all afternoon for Declan Nash's side and ended the game with 14 points. One just has to admire her consistency.

In the final 10 minutes, Caoimhe



Limerick's Niamh Mulcahy with Leah Walsh of Wexford in last weekend's match.

Picture: INPHO/Oisín Keniry



Linda Collins, Courcey Rovers and Cork, in action against Julieanne Burke, Tipperary, at CIT.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Costelloe removed all doubt with an emphatic goal to give Limerick their second win, 1-18 to 1-10, setting themselves up with a great chance of reaching the knockout stages. Meanwhile in the other Group 1 encounter in Nowlan Park Kilkenny made full use of home advantage to notch their third win over a struggling Offaly side.

A stop-start phase of play early in the game enabled the underdogs to edge their noses in front in the early stages however it was soon clear Kilkenny were only doing what was needed without ever reaching great heights, as they ran out 2-17 to 2-7

winners. Two Anne Dalton goals and five Denise Gaule frees allowed the Cats to halt Offaly's good early momentum.

The Faithful county, with Kilkenny hurling legend Richie Power on their sideline as coach, kicked off with a Gráinne Egan goal, aided by the two Brennan sisters, Aisling and Ciara, dominating the middle sector for Offaly. Upon the restart, Mairéad Teehan did her best to keep the scoreboard ticking for Offaly but with Gaule in flying form, both from placed balls and open play, there was no stage when Kilkenny seemed to be under any real

pressure.

A wonderful Teehan goal caught players napping as she found the net from a 14-yard free. The Offaly attacker went low as the Kilkenny defence went high to trim the gap on the scoreboard.

The game petered out in the heat however with Miriam Walsh adding to her tally, while Offaly suffered further disappointment at the end of a spirited performance as Ciara Brennan and Gráinne Egan were dismissed after picking up two yellow cards each.

Ten teams are in action this weekend with Kilkenny rested.

“The Model county were right in contention the whole way through before falling away in the final quarter”

TODAY Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship: Cork v Dublin, Castle Road, 5pm.

ROUND four of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate camogie championship sees Cork at home today, at 5pm in Castle Road. They host Dublin.

The Cork seniors head to Dublin for their top tier game at the same time that the intermediates play Dublin in Cork. This would have been a great double-header, but the powers that be just don't seem to think outside the box.

Last weekend, Dave Dunning's side got their first win, over Kildare, 2-14 to 1-11, as Cork fell to Galway by two points.

Having lost to Kilkenny in the first round, Dublin were delighted to beat Kildare.

Best for Dublin were the Couch sisters, Jody, at mid-field, and Gaby, who notched up 2-2. Corner-forward, Alix Buckley, was also on-form, as were Clodhna Nicollelli, Sínead Murphy, Emma Johnson, and Mary Cronin.

Having lost two games, Cork need to win every game, with Dublin, Antrim, and Westmeath to play, but they must also hope that Galway and Kilkenny, who currently head the group undefeated, lose along the way, with only two teams to qualify.

Both games that Cork lost were by the narrowest of margins: to Kilkenny by two points and Galway by three. Both were games that Cork could have won.

It is disappointing to have lost narrowly. Granted, it is a new side since Cork won the All-Ireland last season.

It is no easy task to put together a new side and be hugely competitive against strong opponents, who are established in the grade, but to have been so close is very disappointing.

Having overcome Kildare in tremendous fashion, it was disappointing to lose to Galway, but they are a very good side and must be credited for digging out a result.

When Cork asked the hard questions, Galway responded well.

Westmeath cannot be ruled out. They lost out narrowly to Galway, defeated Kildare, and with games to come against Cork, Dublin, Antrim and Kilkenny, they will fancy their chances of being there at the shake-up.

Cork need to be getting more from their attack. Again, last weekend, Hayley Ryan was in great form, notching up seven points and showing huge accuracy, with five of those coming from frees.

They need to be getting more from play, as an over-reliance on frees is not enough, as has been the case in the outings against Kilkenny and Galway.

Hopefully, they will get it right today and get a result.

Crowley thrilled to land All-Ireland title

CAMOGIE

John Bohane

BALLINASCARTHY camogie player Clara Crowley recently helped the UL camogie team capture the All-Ireland and Intermediate championship title following a great win in the final against UCC.

The talented camogie player was delighted to play her part in their All-Ireland final triumph.

"I was delighted with the All-Ireland title win with UL, as it was my first year in college. It was hard enough to get on the team, but to finish the season with an All-Ireland title was great," declared the ace camogie player.

There were three Cork players in total on the successful UL camogie team. Clara, their goalkeeper Mairead Shinnick from Buttevant and Katie Sexton, who plays her club camogie with Kilbrittain/Timoleague.

She has played camogie with Katie for a long number of years, both at school and college level. She was thrilled to achieve All-Ireland success with the talented defender recently.

"I have played with Katie for many years both with the division and with the secondary school team. I played with Katie a lot during our secondary school days. We both played right through the six years playing with the Sacred Heart team.

"She is a very solid full-back, I would trust her with my life under a high ball. She played a big role in our recent All-Ireland success. It was great to win the All-Ireland title with her."

The 19-year-old camogie player recently completed her first year studying Food Science and Health in UL. She was proud to contribute to their All-Ireland victory from her wing forward berth.

"I managed to slip my way into the wing-forward position and thankfully managed to hold that spot throughout the league and championship. I was happy to add the odd score or give a decent pass, as it wasn't always easy due to the strong opponents we encountered.

"It was a great experience for me and it will stand to me going forward."

Clara developed immensely during her camogie days representing the Sacred Heart Secondary School team in Clonakilty. She loved her time playing for her school team.

"I owe Sacred Heart School so much, not only on the academic side but also the sporting side. We had great success with the senior camogie team as we won two Munster championship titles.

It was a great experience to play midfield on such a talented team, but unfortunately we lost the All-Ireland final.

"To this day I regret not giving it more on the day or working harder. I was absolutely delighted for the junior team to win the Munster and All-Ireland title this year, because I now what it is like to lose one.

"I was actually at both matches as there were seven Ballinascorthy players playing for the school team.



Ella Foley of Muskerry pulls away from Carbery's Clara Crowley during the Cork County Senior Camogie championship match at Castle Road. Crowley helped bring the team to victory. Picture: Howard Crowe

"I was absolutely delighted for the junior team to win the Munster and All-Ireland

team going forward."

The West Cork camogie player plays her club camogie with Ballinascorthy. Clara has played a key role in helping Ballinascorthy achieve a lot of success in recent seasons. She is looking forward to competing in the Junior A grade this season.

"For me, club is everything. Although we are a small club, we have produced many Cork players in recent years. This was a huge factor when we finally won the Junior B county title last year. After being in Junior B grade for seven years, it was a sweet victory.

"This will be our first year competing in the Junior A grade, so the expectations will not be high. We will be testing the water a bit. None the less, there is nothing better than a good underdog."

Clara's consistently good displays for Ballinascorthy have ensured she is a regular starter on the Carbery senior camogie team. She has also represented various underage Cork teams in recent years. She is always proud to play for both her divisional and inter-county teams.

"I have played with the Carbery division both at underage and senior

level. I have managed to hold a mid-field position on the senior team. It has been great to play senior A with Carbery.

"It is great to compete against players in the top grade. We have been knocking on the door the past few years, so hopefully we can throw a spanner in the works this year and go all the way.

"I played for Cork from U14 to minor level. It was great to captain the U14 team to All-Ireland victory in 2013. It was difficult at times to juggle training/matches and school, but overall I enjoyed every minute I wore the red jersey."

The Cork senior camogie team are well served by two West Cork ladies present in the form of Orla Cronin and Libby Coppinger. The ace duo have played key roles in recent years for the Rebelettes.

Clara is delighted with the impact the role-models are making for camogie in West Cork.

"It is great to see two girls from West Cork make a difference on the Cork senior team. It is very pleasing to see so many girls from West Cork breaking on to the various Cork teams at all levels.



Ballinascorthy camogie player Clara Crowley who recently won an All-Ireland title with UL and Timoleague/Kilbrittain/Mallow.

Cork pace too much for Dublin



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork 2-20
Dublin 0-9

NO DOUBT about the outcome in Parnell's on Saturday.

Cork took their ninth point of the Liberty Insurance camogie round robin series as they blew Dublin away with speed and excellent combination play.

Playing an off the shoulder running game and playing it through the lines, some of Cork's scores were immense. Dublin came out with a strong intent. They went at Cork from the throw in and initially my thoughts were that maybe this game wouldn't be as comfortable as I expected.

Dublin had little to show for their efforts. They struggled to get any worked attack on goal and registered their first point on seventeen minutes, a converted free by Aisling Maher. Long and lobbed balls in were coped with comfortably by Pam Mackey and Aoife Murray, where Cork had greater numbers as Dublin played a sweeper.

Cork were just awesome during that initial quarter. Gemma O'Connor was brilliant at centre back, sweeping everything, with Chloe Sigerson another leader as Cork wore down Dublin's enthusiasm.

Their vision, speed and finish were from the top drawer as Cork seemed to have additional numbers in every line of the pitch. The spread of scorers again impressed with nine getting on the scoreboard.

St Catherine's Laura Hayes got a start at right corner-back and looked assured for the most part.

A couple of jittery moments but overall a solid performance and is moving towards giving Cork greater defensive options.

Linda Collins had Cork's first goal on eight minutes. Another great move involving Niamh O'Callaghan, Gemma O'Connor and Sigerson was delivered into the Courneys hotshot and with a brilliant turn, she hit the net. Ten minutes later Amy O'Connor had their second, again after great



Dublin's Sinead Wylde and Ali Twomey try to stop Katehyn Hickey getting her pass away.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

teamwork.

Leading 2-11 to 0-3 at the break Cork's tempo dropped considerably in the second half. Dublin raised the bar again, albeit not significantly on the scoreboard, and Cork's game plan of playing it through the lines fell a bit, opting instead to strike it longer.

You could forgive Cork for taking the foot off the pedal somewhat but it's not a habit they should fall into.

Scorers for Cork: O'Connor 0-6 (0-4 f), L Collins 1-3, A O'Connor 1-1, K Mackey 0-3, C Sigerson, H Looney 0-2 each, B Corkery, J White, C Healy 0-1 each. **Dublin:** A Maher, O Beagan 0-2 f each, S Wylde, O Grey, A Twomey, A Griffin, A Dillon 0-1 each.

CORK: A Murray, L Hayes, P Mackey, N O'Callaghan, L Coppinger, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, B Corkery, H Looney, K Mackey, C McCarthy, O Cotter, J White, L Collins, A O'Connor.

Subs: N McCarthy for K Mackey (38), K Hickey for B Corkery (43), C Healy for C McCarthy (48).

DUBLIN: C Tierney, O Grey, E O'Brien, D Johnstone, R Baker, A Carolan, E O'Byrne, G Quinn, O Beagan, M O'Donoghue, L Twomey, A Twomey, S Wylde, A Maher, K Finnegan.

Subs: A Griffin for M O'Donoghue (28), S Kehoe for A Maher (37), E Flanagan for E O'Byrne (43), A Dillon for S Wylde (47).

Referee: John Dermody (Westmeath).



Dublin's Eve O'Brien and Ciara McCarthy in pursuit in last Saturday's game.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

Murray not pleased that side took foot off the pedal

MOST spectators wouldn't think much of Cork taking their foot off the pedal on Saturday against Dublin, considering they enjoyed a 14-point lead at the break.

Manager Paudie Murray wasn't having any of it. He left us in no doubt that he wasn't happy at all with Cork's second half display and believes they must live up to their own expectations every time.

"Our very half was very good, but our second half was really poor to be honest with you."

Is that not being a bit harsh considering Cork's winning margin of 17 points, having still won both halves?

"No, it's not, because we don't play the opposition, we play on targets, our own targets, and I'm hugely disappointed with the second half."

"We switched off and a lot of us played as individuals not as a team. We went away from our game plan and we still have problems that we need to sort for

REACTION

■ Linda Mellerick

going forward.

"It's quite simple. Our tempo went out of it because we went away from our game plan, we started striking long ball and got turned over. I said it to them afterwards."

"I haven't seen the figures yet but I have a high-level view and we owned possession but only got 10 points in the second half. Now we were unlucky with a couple of efforts, but we should have been much better."

"We'd changed things around to see if we could get the intensity up."

With a home game to senior debutants Meath next weekend the All-Ireland champions are expected to notch up another large score and going away from their game plan is a habit Paudie is hoping won't re-

peat itself.

"Look we'll change it around a bit again the next day. Keeping high intensity for the full hour, a strong work ethic, is what we strive to get regardless of the opposition. We have bigger days ahead, we have to be focused and stick to our game plan. We've a lot of work still to do to ensure we are contenders later in the year."

Tipperary defeated Clare in Sixmilecross by 2-12 to 1-7 to go second of the table on six points with Waterford hot on their tails and having a game in hand at the time of writing against Meath.

In Group 1 the Galway and Limerick game was postponed after players fell ill after drinking contaminated water, and following an outbreak of gastroenteritis, after last weekend's fixture at Crough Kilfinny GAA grounds.

The decision was made in order to give affected players an opportunity to fully recover before the next round of the All-Ireland championship.

Rebels dominate right from the off

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 3-14
Dublin 0-6

CORK returned to winning ways overpowering Dublin in Castle Road on Saturday in round four of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship.

From the throw-in, Cork held the upper hand and they continued to do so over the hour with a polished display and their teamwork and ability to find their players with some excellent passages of play was very impressive.

Isobel O'Regan found the net for the opening score inside five minutes and with Hayley Ryan converting a free Cork were four clear before Emma Johnson opened the Dublin account with a pointed free.

Piling on the pressure Cork enjoyed the majority of possession Ryan converted a free and added one for play and with Caroline Murphy, Katie O'Mahony adding to the tally Cork were seven points clear.

A superb move involving Ryan and Kate O'Keefe saw Murphy finish to the net for Cork's second goal eight minutes from the interval and with Gaby Couch and Erin Looney swapping points before the break, Cork led 2-6 to 0-2.

From the restart, it was all Cork. O'Keefe and Clonadh Nicoletti swapped early points but Cork kept the pressure on an overworked Dublin defence with points from Looney, Ryan, Michelle Murphy and O'Regan before Nadine Murphy pulled one back for Dublin.

Twice the sides exchanged points before Ryan finished to the net for Cork's third goal on a day when the performance of referee John McDonagh must be praised.

His handling of the game was superb as he allowed play to develop and the free tally of just 12 frees over the hour is an indication of his superb application of the rules.

It was a refreshing change from two previous games in the same competition where the constant stoppages in play resulted in a free count of almost thirty frees and certainly the performance of McDonagh on Saturday is one which we will hopefully see a lot more.

Scorers for Cork: H Ryan 1-6 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), E Looney 0-3, C Murphy, I O'Regan 1-1 each, M Murphy 0-2, K O'Mahony 0-1.

Dublin: N Murphy 0-2, C Nicoletti (f), E Johnson (f), G Couch, J Couch 0-1 each.

CORK: S Beausang, C Hayes, A Crowley, G Hannon, A Maloney, R Sheehan, M Lynch; K O'Mahony, M Murphy; E Looney, C Murphy, I O'Regan; H Ryan, R Harty, K O'Keefe.

Subs: E Buckley for C Hayes (40), S O'Regan for C Murphy (47), E Flanagan for M Lynch (50), N O'Riordan for E Looney (52).

DUBLIN: S Carty, C Bunchannan, E Browne, L Robinson, C Mhaolagáin, S Murphy, S McBride; M Kelleher (c), G Power, E Johnson, J Couch, C Nicoletti; G Couch, M Cronin, A Buckley.

Subs: Z Couch for C Mhaolagáin (29), S Kelly for E Johnson (29), C O'Connor for M Cronin (40).

Referee: John Mc Donagh (Galway).

Ryan regal as Tipp recovery continues

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Fourteen years after making her debut for Tipperary, Mary Ryan is still one of the Premier's prime performers, as illustrated by another tour de force that earned the pocket rocket player-of-the-match honours in her side's 2-12 to 1-7 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship triumph over Clare in Sixmilecross on Saturday.

Eibhlís McDonnell excelled with 2-2 from play for the victors, while Cait Devane shot six points, but having started strongly in opening up a five-point gap, Tipp were on the back foot approaching the break.

They lost the influential Karen Kennedy to injury and a Chloe Morey goal from a penalty meant Clare trailed by just 1-5 to 1-4 at the change of ends.

Tipp appreciated the opportunity to recalibrate however and there was little doubt that they would make it a second win in a week once McDonnell netted for the second time.

Ryan, who just missed out on Tipp's last All-Ireland success in 2004 and was part of the panel that endured defeat in the following season's decider, hurried up a storm as Tipp ended the weekend in the third qualifying position, with games against Dublin and Meath still to come.

"For us, half-time probably came at a good time," Ryan admitted. "With Karen going off, we were probably a little bit unorganised. We were aware of that ourselves when we went in and it was a case of kind of resetting and figuring out what was out."

"There's a great buzz there again today. That winning feeling we had last week, great again today to keep that winning feeling going."

Waterford kept their hopes of qualification very much alive when accounting for Meath in Páirc Táilteann by 5-9 to 0-11, a result that puts them level with Tipperary but holding the coveted second place due to a far superior score difference.

Beth Carton hit 2-3 and Niamh Rockett 1-3, while Annie Fitzgerald weighed in with a brace of goals and the returning Fiona Morrissey also impressed with a couple of nice points.

The damage was done in the first half, when Donal O'Rourke's side recorded four of their goals, shared between Carton and Fitzgerald, and though Jane Dolan struck four points, and Aoife Minogue and Grace Coleman also found the target for Meath, the Royals found themselves 4-6 to 0-6 behind at the break.

The hosts were much more defensively solid after the re-

sumption as they maintained their very evidently improved run of performances during the Championship but Rockett was still able to find the net for the second week in a row.

All-Ireland champions Cork set their tendency for sluggish starts this summer aside with two goals in 17 minutes from Linda Collins and Amy O'Connor to record a 2-20 to 0-9 victory over Dublin in Coolock.

Collins, Orla Cotter, Katrina Mackey, Julia White, Cliona Healy and the excellent Chloe Sigerson also raised white flags though to their credit, Dublin never quit and Ali Twomey, Orla Beagan, Alex Griffin and Aoibhe Dillon all shot points in the second half.

The win leaves Cork sitting on top of the table with three wins from three outings, while Dublin are still very much in contention for a knockout place in fourth, just ahead of Clare on score difference.

CAMOGIE

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Championships.

Senior Group 2: Tipperary 2-12 Clare 1-7, Cork 2-20 Dublin 0-9.

Intermediate Group 1: Cork 3-14 Dublin 0-6, Antrim 3-17 Kildare 2-5, Westmeath 2-15 Kilkenny 1-11; **Group 2:** Down 4-27 Carlow 0-5, Laois 1-11 Tipperary 0-16, Derry 2-13 Wexford 0-8.

Premier Junior Camogie Championship Group 1: Roscommon 2-8 Clare 0-13, Armagh 4-18 Tyrone 0-8.



Shauna Sheehan and Orlaith Cremin from the Éire Óg Camogie All-Ireland winning Féile team.



Three West Cork camogie players - Millie Condon (Ballinascorthy), Anna Collins (Valley Rovers) and Fiona Twohig (Valley Rovers) - were involved on the Cork U14 Camogie Development Stripes Team that beat Dublin in the A final of the Dublin Blitz in Portmarnock on Saturday. Cork beat Limerick, Antrim, Wexford, Kilkenny and Dublin.

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2 Tipperary 2-12 Clare 1-7; Cork 2-20 Dublin 0-9
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1 Cork 3-14 Dublin 0-6; Antrim 3-17 Kildare 2-5; Westmeath 2-15 Kilkenny 1-11; **Group 2:** Down 4-27 Carlow 0-5; Laois 1-11 Tipperary 0-16; Derry 2-13 Wexford 0-8
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1 Roscommon 2-8 Clare 0-13; Armagh 4-18 Tyrone 0-8

ON TARGET Ten of the best



Cliona Healy (Aghabullogue) points a free for Muskerry in their recent county senior camogie championship preliminary round game against Carbery. Healy scored ten points.

Rebels on a roll but Murray is not happy



Cork's Libby Coppinger and Dublin's Laura Twomey compete for possession.

DUBLIN 0-9
CORK 2-20

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY
AND DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

CORK are on course to top Group 2 of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship and power straight into the last four – but manager Paudie Murray isn't entirely happy.

The reigning All-Ireland champions made it three wins from three with a comfortable 17-point victory away to Dublin last weekend and they're now assured of, at worst, a quarter-final spot.

The odds are that Cork will beat both Meath, this Saturday at Páirc Uí Rinn (5pm), and Waterford the following weekend and ease into the last four on the back of a perfect record.

But Murray is demanding an improvement on their second-half performance against Dublin. They had led 2-11 to 0-3 at the break.

'I wouldn't be overly happy with the performance,' he told *The Southern Star*.

'The first half was good – movement, attitude, intensity, all of that was good. But I was very disappointed with our second half. We dropped

SENIOR C'SHIP GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	Pts
Cork	3	3	0	0	80	29	51	9
Waterford	3	2	0	1	58	42	16	6
Tipperary	3	2	0	1	52	56	-4	6
Dublin	3	1	0	2	36	52	-16	3
Clare	3	1	0	2	31	57	-26	3
Meath	3	0	0	3	34	55	-21	0

off in everything. We played as individuals rather than a team and when that happens you go away from your game-plan. Do that and everything falls apart.'

The foundation for the victory was laid with two goals in the first 17 minutes. Hannah Looney and Orla Cotter already had points on the board when Courcy Rovers' Linda Collins goaled in the eighth minute.

Collins, Cotter and Katrina Mackey added points and the Rebels had 1-6 on the scoreboard by the time Aisling Maher registered Dublin's first point at the beginning of the second quarter.

Cork were ruthless however, and Amy O'Connor's goal from the next passage of play rendered the reminder of the tie of statistical interest only. Chloe Sigerson added three points as the visitors led by 2-11 to 0-3 at half time.

'We are expected to beat Meath – but it's not Meath that worries me, it's ourselves that will worry us on Saturday'

—Paudie Murray, Cork manager

Dublin certainly didn't throw in the towel and Ali Twomey, Orla Beagan, Alex Griffin and Aoibhe Dillon all shot points but Cork kept the scoreboard ticking over as Cotter brought her tally to six points, and Looney, Collins, Julia White and Cliona Healy were also on target to confirm a comfortable success.

Still, the second-half performance rankled Murray. It's not the standard he demands. He wants to see an improvement when bottom team Meath visit Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.



Cork's Orla Cotter passes the ball before Dublin's Grainne Quinn can challenge during this Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Round 4 tie at Parnells GAA in Dublin on Saturday. (Photos: Lorraine O'Sullivan/INPHO)

'We would be expected to win all our games in the group stages so we have our own targets set out in every game,' he says.

'From the management's point of view, it is important that we hit those targets. We have to hit our targets against Meath. If we don't, things are not good.'

'We are expected to beat Meath – but it's not Meath that worries me, it's ourselves that will worry us on Saturday.'

There were positives to take from the win against Dublin.

Pamela Mackey was a strong presence at full back, Courcy Rovers' Linda Collins kept her good form going while Murray was happy with how a number of last year's minors fared, including Laura Hayes in her first senior championship game, Cliona Healy and Ciara McCarthy.

'The young players played well and they all showed they are at this level which is good,' the Cork boss said, with his attention now on Meath on Saturday where he wants targets to be hit.

Cork can expect a cricket score

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

TOMORROW
Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship
Cork v Meath,
Páirc Uí Rinn, 5pm

CORK'S fourth round game with Meath tomorrow isn't a game they're going to learn too much from.

But it is a game where you can expect them to amass a cricket score. Despite a 17-point win over Dublin last Saturday Paudie Murray wasn't bit happy with his side's second-half display.

He'll use that second half performance as ammunition to drive his players. Cork scored just nine points in the second half to Dublin's six, finishing the game 2-20 to 0-9 as the Rebels took both feet off the pedals.

When it was put to Murray that his players could be forgiven for that, having led by 14 points at the break, he wasn't having any of it.

'We don't play the opposition, we play on targets, our own targets, and I'm hugely disappointed with the second half. We switched off and a lot of us played as individuals, not as a team. We went away from our game plan and we still have problems that we need to sort for going forward.'

So, expect a few changes for tomorrow's game and a Cork team about to respond to their manager.

Meath won't relish what's ahead of them in Cork, but they will be thrilled to be in the position of playing the All-Ireland champions. Meath defeated Cork in the 2017 replayed All-Ireland final, making the giant step up to senior. John Davis brought this team from Junior B to Senior level and from Division 4 to Division 1 of the National League.

Cork's vision, speed and finish were from the top drawer as Cork last weekend. As they played through the lines they seemed to have additional numbers in every line of the pitch. The spread of scorers again impressed with nine getting on the scoreboard.

With Laura Hayes, Niamh O'Callaghan and Ciara McCarthy starting against Dublin Cork may give them another run out as they settle into championship action. But I expect a few changes around the pitch. Lauren Homan, just back from injury came down with tonsillitis last weekend. She's unfortunately not getting a break this season and is missing opportunities to stake a claim in the team.

Meath lie bottom of group 2 with three defeats from three. In only their second season in the top tier they are finding it tough and could find themselves relegated this season.

It's hard to survive unless you have underage teams coming through. They'll feel the backlash of Cork's second half performance last week so it's not going to be a comfortable hour for them.

Cork could get a cricket score

Fixtures clash a joke for camogie

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TOMORROW

U16 A Championship

Cork v Kilkenny, 2.30pm

THE Cork U16 team made the long journey to Newbridge on Sunday last for a first round meeting with an Antrim side who were participating in the A grade following the success last season in winning the U16 B All-Ireland.

The game turned out to be a totally one-sided affair as Cork simply blew away the challenge. You have to question the method of grading at this level when in all probability most of the side who won the B title last year are now overage. What benefit is it to a county to be out of their depth to such a degree?

The win was pleasing for Donie Daly and his fellow mentors, but they are wise enough to know that this was not a test. This weekend and next are the games they must focus on winning.

On Sunday last notching up 11-25 to 0-5 tells the story of the game. You cannot fault Cork for turning in an excellent display and with two semi-final spots for grabs you never know how it will work out.

Last season we had teams losing out on scoring differences to qualify. Cork are in a battle with Kilkenny and Tipperary for a qualifying spot, which could be decided on scoring differences.

The meeting between Kilkenny and Tipperary was a much closer affair with Kilkenny shading it with three points to spare on a 1-14 to 1-11 scoreline.

I won't even start about this game clashing with the All-Ireland hurling quarter-final in Croke Park between the same two counties, once again the failure of the Camogie Association at top level to monitor these clashes defies logic.

Once again we play a match in at the same time as one of the biggest hurling game of the year and we do nothing to switch it 24 hours and bring it to Saturday... so much for 20x20.

We wonder why we can't get crowds to our games.

Kilkenny will come to Cork tomorrow in confident form. Managers Mark Brett and Seamus Dunne are joined on their backroom team by Colin Ahearne, Brian Barcoe, Danny Ryan and Catherine Peters. Their captain Kate McCluskey is joined by fine players such as Leah Brett, Marie Claire O'Dwyer, Roisin Ahearne, Kate Lyng, Bri O'Donoghue and Cria Langton.

Earlier in the season, Kilkenny took the Leinster A and B titles with Niamh Phelan picking up the Player of the Match award playing after a superb hour at the heart of their defence.

Against Tipperary on Sunday last they had to dig deep but again with their defence strong they pushed on and were full value for their win.

Camogie

Linda Mellerick



Dublin's Orla Grey and Niamh McCarthy of Cork battle for possession last weekend.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan



Cork manager Paudie Murray. Cork and Meath play today in Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

THE race for second and third place in the senior group championship heats up as only two games remain for those in group two, namely Cork, Waterford, Tipperary, Dublin, Clare and Meath.

It's no surprise that Cork top the group. Waterford are currently second on scoring difference over Tipperary, who lie in third.

First placed will go straight to the semi-final with second and third in both groups entering the quarter-finals.

Apart from the moral boost, to finish second means you play third placed in your opposing group and gives you a better chance of reaching the semis. Meath are out of the equation at this stage.

A win for Tipperary over Dublin will see them home to at least a quarter final place.

Should Waterford lose to Cork and Clare, Dublin could still find a way through if they beat Clare.

However, they would have to beat Clare on July 20 by 13 points and counting, so if Tipp beat Dublin you could more or less bet your house on the fact that Dublin will lose out.

So defeating Tipp is a must for Dublin today.

Cork and Meath play today in Páirc Uí Rinn. Who knows what the scoring margin will be here.

Last weekend Waterford defeated Meath 5-9 to 11 points.

It is Meath's second year at senior level, so we have to be fair to them, but they have conceded 6-36 from three games and scored 34 points.

Cork will notch up a cricket score today.

In group 1, with five teams listed, they have a game less than those in group 2. Kilkenny top the table with one game remaining against Limerick. Limerick lie in second place over third-placed Galway, who have a game in hand.

You'd expect Kilkenny to account for Limerick so really the key fixture here is the one between Galway and Limerick on July 14th.

Whoever wins that will end up second in the group, the other coming third as Offaly and Wexford won't make it at this stage.

Mary Ryan earned the player-of-the-match award in her side's 2-12 to 1-7 win over Clare in Sixmilebridge last weekend. Clare have regressed so much its hard to fathom and disappointing.

Their only victory this season has been over Meath, and that by a single point.

Contrast that to the impressive emergence of Waterford and it's something Clare camogie is going to have to seriously address sooner rather than later.

Eibhlís McDonnell struck 2-2 from play for the victors, while Cáit Devane shot six points.

Having started strongly in opening up a five-point gap, Tipp were on the back foot approaching the break.

They lost the influential Karen Ken-

nedy to injury and a Chloe Morey goal from a penalty meant Clare trailed by just 1-5 to 1-4 at the change of ends.

Tipp appreciated the opportunity to take stock and there was little doubt that they would make it a second win in a week once McDonnell netted for the second time.

Ryan hurled up a storm as Tipp ended the weekend in the third qualifying position, with games against Dublin and Meath still to come.

"We had a massive start, we tore ahead in the first 10 minutes but then we fell away and sat back and let Clare back into it" Ryan noted.

"They were always a threat up front, so we had a good chat at half-time about pushing on. We knew we were putting pressure on when we took them on."

"At the start of the second half we took that on again and were lucky to

get the other goal and I think that's what helped us see it out in the end."

"For us, half-time probably came at a good time. With Karen going off, we were probably a little bit unorganised."

"We were aware of that ourselves when we went in and it was a case of kind of resetting ourselves."

"There's a great buzz there again today. That winning feeling we had last week, great again today to keep that winning feeling going."

"We lost Orla (O'Dwyer) last week and Karen today and we're still pushing home, so we have to take a lot of positives from that and push on for the next game as well."

"It is heavy going week after week, but we just have to rest up during the week and push on again."

Waterford kept their hopes of qualification very much alive when ac-

“There’s a great buzz there again. It was great again today to keep that winning feeling going”

counting for Meath in Páirc Tailteann by 5-9 to 0-11, a result that puts them level with Tipperary but holding the coveted second place due to a far superior score difference. Beth Carton hit 2-3 and Niamh Rockett 1-3, while Annie Fitzgerald weighed in with a brace of goals and the returning Fiona Morrissey also impressed with a couple of nice points.

The damage was done in the first half, when Donal O'Rourke's side recorded four of their goals, shared between Carton and Fitzgerald, and though Jane Dolan struck four points, and Aoife Minogue and Grace Coleman also found the target for Meath, the Royals found themselves 4-6 to 0-6 behind at the break.

The hosts were much more defensively solid after the resumption but Rockett was still able to find the net for the second week in a row for Waterford's fifth goal.



The combined Tipperary and Cork U14 camogie players who attended the Munster coaching workshop in the Duneske Centre, Cahir. Rena Buckley, Brendan Cummins, and Derek McGrath tutored over 80 coaches.

Blackrock have too much for Clonakilty

Blackrock 1-15
Clonakilty 1-4

BLACKROCK recorded their second victory in the SE Systems Intermediate Championship when they defeated Clonakilty 1-15 to 1-4 in section one.

Blackrock led 0-9 to 1-2 at the interval after early first-half points from Hayley Ryan and Katelyn Hickey settled them into the game. Clon registered 1-2 in the space of five minutes, but five without reply saw Blackrock in command at the break.

An Aileen Nagle second-half goal ensured Blackrock remained in control until the full-time whistle.

Elsewhere, Watergrasshill had a point to spare over Na Piarasigh, 1-8 to 1-7.

In a tight contest, in which they led 0-5 to 1-1 at the break with points from Marie O'Neill, Cliona Cronin, and three from Karen Comerford, Watergrasshill got the second half off to a great start with an O'Neill goal. The same player pointed a free before Na Piarasigh hit back with three points in a row.

O'Neill and Ciara Cashman stretched the lead before Na Piarasigh added two more points, but Watergrasshill held out for a narrow victory.

In round three, Watergrasshill will face Blackrock, while Newcestown meet Na Piarasigh, and Clonakilty and Newcestown will play their first-round game next Tuesday (switched from June 24).



Camogie star Emma Murphy, the Cork City and County Youth Award winner with Lord Mayor John Sheehan and sponsors, Ria Greaves, Metropole Hotel, and John Buckley Sports.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

In section three, Enniskeane proved too strong for Kilbrittain/Timoleague in Ballinascorthy, while Ballinhassig beat Brian Dillon's.

Having led 1-10 to 2-2 at the interval Ballinhassig built on their lead in the second half to run out winners on 3-15 to 2-5 scoreline.

Hassig will meet Kilbrittain/Timoleague in round two while Brian Dillon's take on Enniskeane.

In section two Fr O'Neill's and Carrigaline will meet next Wednesday.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

A late point from Cliona Healy edged this SE Systems Junior A Championship round robin tie in Banteer's favour after a lively contest in which the sides were evenly matched all through.

Healy's strike may have swung the game Banteer's way, but two first-half goals from Kate Foley, one at the start and one at the end of the opening half, were crucial to her side's cause.

Banteer led at the break by two points, 2-5 to 2-3, after Foley's early goal settled them, while three points from Healy and one apiece from

Susan Falvey and Elizabeth Philpott put them in a strong position before Foley grabbed her second goal before the interval.

Tracton kept in touch with goals from Mary McGuinness and Aoife Kiely, while Jennifer Lynch and Laura Murphy kept the scoreboard ticking over with points.

The second half was a close affair and with both defences in superb form, every score had to be earned. Tracton added three to their tally with Lynch pointing two frees and Murphy striking one from play.

However, two points were enough for Banteer with Falvey striking one and Healy's late strike ensuring Banteer took the points from this first-round game in section one.

Next up for Banteer is a meeting with Ballyhea who had a first-round win over Charleville while Tracton will take on a Bishopstown side that had a bye in round one.

St Finbarr's 1-18
Barryroe 3-1

In the junior championship for second club teams, St Finbarr's started well against Barryroe with points from Ciara Golden, Ella Barrett, Niamh McGreevy, and Lauren McCarthy. Barryroe responded with a point halfway through the half, followed by a goal.

With six points between the sides, a goal from Ella Wigginton-Barrett saw St Finbarr's stretch their lead to nine, 1-10 to 1-1, at the interval.

Barryroe were back in the game

after two second-half goals, but the Barrs hit back with points from Natasha Varian, Nicole Olden, Lauren McCarthy, and Niamh O'Reagan to run out winners and get their campaign off to a good start.

In the same competition, Eire Og beat Douglas on Wednesday last when both got their championships campaigns up and running.

St Vincent's 2-9
Sliabh Rua 1-11

This was a close contest in which Sliabh Rua led by a point at the break, 1-8 to 2-4, but St Vincent's battled back to record a one-point win to get their SE Systems Junior A campaign off to a great start in section two.

They will now meet Newtownshandrum in their next game. The north Cork outfit had a 1-16 to 2-6 victory over Barryroe in their opening game.

In the SE Systems Junior C Championship, Blarney beat Na Piarasigh, Aghada defeated Kilworth and St Fannan's overcame Castletyons.

The Junior B Championship gets underway on Monday when Youghal host Ballinora, while Castletyons are at home to Bride Rovers.

In the second teams championship Kilbrittain host St Finbarr's.

On Wednesday in the junior 13-a-side, Kilbree meet St Vincent's in Kilbree and on Friday in the second teams junior championship Sarsfields are at home against Cloughduv, Douglas host Ballincollig and St Catherine's travel to Eire Og.

Cork camogie ace Murphy heralded for efforts

THE Cork City & County Youth Awards Youth Sports Award sponsored by The Metropole Hotel in association with John Buckley Sports was presented recently to Emma Murphy.

Emma was instrumental in Cork retaining the All-Ireland camogie title.

They got their bid underway with Emma playing a huge role as they defeated Kilkenny in the semi-final where she notched up five points as Cork advanced to the final and a meeting with Clare.

AWARDS

■ Mary Newman

In that game two first-half goals from her proved vital and helped lay the foundations for victory.

She had the honour of leading the sides through the championship campaign as captain Hannah O'Leary was unable to play due to illness.

To cap a great year the Cork junior squad who participate in the provin-

cial championship called up Emma for their opening game against Limerick where she notched up 1-1 before having to retire with a head injury, which kept her out of action for two weeks.

On her return for the Munster final she got on the score sheet with a point as Cork captured the Munster title defeating Kerry to give Emma her first adult championship medal.

She began her camogie career with Glen Rovers as a six-year-old. She was soon a member of her school's

camogie team where she captained the school team in Scialth na Scoil.

She played on the Cork Primary Games team for two years before going on to play with the Cork U14 side where she captained the team that took All-Ireland honours.

Going on to make the Cork U16 squad, Emma won two Munster championship medals before making it onto the county minor side in 2018.

She has also won honours with her club Glen Rovers and her school Colaiste an Chroí Naofa, Carraig na bhFear.

In 2017 at just 16 she was named at full forward on the Rearden's All-Star, after her side had lost out to Inniscarra in the senior county final. At schools level she won All-Ireland and provincial honours.

Emma was joined at the award ceremony by her parents Terry and Joyce her sister Sarah, her grandparents Frances and Sean, family members and club officers from Glen Rovers Camogie Club and guests that included Lord Mayor Cllr John Sheehan and deputy county Mayor Cllr Anthony Barry.

Cork tyros catch eye as champions crush Meath

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Galway have one foot in the knockout stages of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championship after yesterday's 2-12 to 1-10 triumph over Limerick at Kenny Park.

The league champions had to withstand a stern examination in the first-half especially but the brilliance of Ailish O'Reilly, who finished with two goals and four points, proved crucial.

On Saturday, Cork, Waterford and Tipperary all secured their progression to the

knockout stages with wins over Meath, Clare and Dublin respectively.

All-Ireland champions Cork maintained their perfect record when they defeated Meath in Páirc Uí Rinn.

The hosts were 0-8 to 0-3 clear before two goals in four minutes, the first from Ciara McCarthy and the second from Katelynn Hickey, left Meath with a mountain to climb.

Laura Hayes and Cliona Healy were on target with frees to push the gap out to 2-11 to 0-3 at half-time, and while Grace Coleman goalied for Meath, their attacking forays were few and far between as

Cork asserted their dominance.

Manager Paudie Murray went deep into his panel for this game, and the hunger to impress the manager was clear as a young team kept piling on the scores.

A third goal from Linda Collins in the 53rd minute sealed what their 3-22 to 1-5 victory.

Tipperary will face Cork next week in good form after they sealed their place in the knockout stages, edging out Dublin by five points in a hard-fought encounter at The Ragg.

Niamh Treacy put Tipp in front after 30 seconds but then Dublin pushed 0-2 to 0-1 ahead

after 10 minutes. Caoimhe Burke pulled down Sinéad Wylde for a penalty, but the Dublin attacker — who was in superb form from frees — pulled her effort wide.

Tipperary edged in front and two scores from Mary Ryan from midfield helped them lead 0-7 to 0-4 at half-time.

They struck another point before the crucial score after 40 minutes set them on a winning path. Grace O'Brien turned over a short Dublin puckout and the ball was worked to Eilish McDonald for the game's only goal.

Late points from Laura Twomey and Gráinne Quinn

kept Dublin in but Cáit Devane finished with five points and McDonald with 1-2 for Tipp, while Caoimhe Burke made a superb late save to deny Wylde and ensure a 1-11 to 0-9 win for the Premier women.

Waterford maintained their recent momentum with a four-point victory against a determined Clare side at Walsh Park.

Beth Carton's free-taking helped the Déise open up a 0-5 to 0-3 advantage after 20 minutes. The sides shared the next four points before a goal by Carton put Waterford 1-7 to 0-5 ahead with the All-Star capitalising on some good build-up play by Sarah Lacey and Orla

Hickey. A Chloe Morey free helped the Banner close the gap to four points at the break.

Orlaith Duggan reduced the deficit after half-time but a Lacey goal after an assist by Carton helped Waterford extend their lead.

Clare hit a purple patch and fired over five points in a row including a sensational long-range effort from Inagh-Kilnamona's Clare Hehir. This left just a goal separating the sides entering additional-time. A Fiona Morrissey score settled the home supporters' nerves and made sure of knockout hurling for the Déise women later this summer (Waterford 2-10 Clare 0-12).

Meath can't cope with Cork's class

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork 3-22
Meath 1-5

DEFENDING champions Cork maintained their unbeaten run in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championship as they recorded a comprehensive victory over a gallant Meath side at Páirc Uí Rinn.

While the Rebels were expected to win by a substantial margin for the second successive weekend, Meath produced the game's opening score courtesy of a free from Kristina Troy. Maggie Randle to her credit pulled off some spectacular saves in the Royal County goal at the expense of 45's.

The home side had Meath on the back foot following the game's opening point as they slotted over four unanswered points, including two from placed-balls by top scorer Cliona Healy, before Jane Troy pointed a free for the visitors.

Cork continued to have Meath pinned back as they tagged on a further four points without reply before Troy converted her second free.

The Rebelettes began to put the game beyond Meath's reach approaching the break as Ciara McCarthy drilled home the game's opening goal from the corner of the square in the 25th minute. Wayward puck-outs were proving to be costly for Meath in this period as Katelynn Hickey capitalized on a defensive error to pounce for Cork's second goal, three minutes later.

Cork slotted over further five points without reply as they led by 2-11 to 0-3 at the break.

The second half was one-way traffic in Cork's favour as Healy pointed a free within a minute of the resumption before Grace Coleman scored a goal for Meath, which was their first score from play.

Cork outscored the visitors by three points to two in the third quarter, with Meath being held scoreless in the closing 15 minutes.

Orla Cotter and Amy O'Connor scored points for the Rebelettes before Linda Collins scored their third goal from the edge of the square with seven minutes remaining. Cork added a further five points in the closing stages



Katelynn Hickey blasts in a goal for Cork on Saturday

Picture: Larry Cummins

as Meath were reduced to 14 players with time almost up.

Next weekend, Cork are away to second-placed Waterford, who recorded a narrow 2-10 to 0-12 home win over Clare. The Rebelettes can expect tougher tests ahead as they go in search of a third successive All Ireland crown.

Scorers for Cork: C Healy 0-9 (0-5f, 0-3 45); K Hickey, C McCarthy, L Collins 1-1 each; L Hayes 0-3 (0-1f); N McCarthy 0-2; G O'Connor, S McCarthy, O Cotter, O Cronin, H Looney 0-1 each.

Meath: G Coleman 1-0; J Dolan 0-3 (0-2f); K Troy 0-2f.

CORK: A Lee; L O'Sullivan, P Mackey, N O'Callaghan; S Hutchinson, L Coppinger, L Hayes; G O'Connor, B Corkery; K Hickey, C McCarthy, S McCarthy; L Homan, N McCarthy, C Healy.

Subs: H Looney for Coppinger (h/t); A O'Connor for S McCarthy (43); O Cotter for K Hickey; L Treacy for O'Callaghan (both 47); L Collins for C McCarthy (51).

MEATH: M Randle; A Slattery, C Coffey, E Burke; A Keogh, C O'Brien, L Donoghue; A Minogue, M Thynne; F O'Brien, L Foley, L McDermott; G Coleman, J Dolan, K Troy.

Subs: A Cooke for Burke (24); S Payne for Keogh (30); A McNerney for Thynne (53).

Referee: R Kelly (Kildare).



Lauren Homan in action for Cork against Meath.

Picture: Larry Cummins

CAMOGIE

Liberty Insurance Championship.
All-Ireland Senior Championship: Group 1: Galway 2-12 Limerick 1-10. Group 2: Cork 3-22 Meath 1-5, Tipperary 1-11 Dublin 0-9, Waterford 2-10 Clare 0-12.

All-Ireland Intermediate Championship Group 1: Kilkenny 0-11 Antrim 0-9, Galway 2-17 Kildare 0-7, Westmeath 2-16 Dublin 1-9.

All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship Group 2: Waterford 2-12 Limerick 1-15, Offaly 5-11 Wicklow 0-4.

Improving Déise offer Rebels a real test

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

SUNDAY

Liberty Insurance Camogie Championship: Cork v Waterford, Walsh Park, 5.30pm.

THE most impressive performance in the 2019 championship series from both groups has to be that of Waterford.

They made history last year, reaching the quarter-finals for the first time and their Minor team winning the Munster A title. In a Munster minor championship largely dominated by Cork, Tipperary and Clare this win wasn't to be dismissed. It was huge.

Under senior manager Donal O'Rourke, Waterford are extremely structured and are playing a nice style of hurling. They currently lie second in the group, level on points with Tipperary but with a significantly superior scoring difference (19 points).

Waterford are unlucky not to be level on 12 points with Cork. Their only defeat to date has been a replay with Tipperary. They led by four points with four minutes remaining in the Ragg mid-June, but the game had to be abandoned due to an injury to Orla O'Dwyer. The sides met again on June 29th with Tipp edging the game by three points, 4-11 to 2-14.

But that hasn't shook the Waterford management or players. They've driven on, scoring 10-44 from their four games to date and conceding 5-39 (four of those goals conceded against Tipp).

Over the past number of weeks, Paudie Murray has held back a number of his typical starting 15 in an effort to bring more of his squad up to championship intensity.

It is expected though that come the semi-final, and Cork are guaranteed to be there regardless of Sunday's result, Murray will still start his regulars of the past couple of years and maybe the time is now to go with his expected semi-final team and give them a united run-out.

Maybe he doesn't yet know his starting 15, but he does know 90% of it and the final 10% is an 'either/or' scenario.

Beth Carton is Waterford's star performer. The 21-year-old is a huge talent. She won her first All-Star in 2018, their first recipient.

From play and placed balls, she is the driving force behind Waterford's competitive rise, and she'll relish playing Cork in her own home stadium.

Cork will finish the campaign on maximum points. What's significant for Waterford on Sunday is to play with passion and keep their work-rate up to the end.

Ensuring the margin between the sides is kept to a minimum and they raise the flags as much as possible is necessary if they want to remain second in the table on the final day.

Tipperary play Meath and will notch up a good score. Finishing second means playing Limerick in the quarter-final. Finishing third means playing Galway, whom both teams will want to avoid.

Déise boss left 'sick' over switch

Camogie

Tomás McCarthy

Waterford camogie players will be left out of pocket by Sunday's rescheduled All-Ireland Championship match with Cork at Walsh Park, according to manager Donal O'Rourke.

The association granted a request from Cork to move the game from Saturday to Sunday, as dual players Hannah Looney and Libby Coppinger are part of the ladies football side that will face Cavan on Saturday.

Déise midfielder Patricia Jackman, a lecturer at the University of Lincoln, will miss the game however, as she has already booked a flight back to the UK on Sunday morning. She took five days off work to prepare for this game.

"A lot of these girls work on Sundays, they're only 17 or 18 a lot of them, they have to try and save for college," said an angry O'Rourke.

"Trish Jackman is the main one here, she's working over in England. She has given up five days of her leave to stay at home and play this game on Saturday. Her flight is going out of Dublin on Sunday. She's going to miss the game now. It's totally and utterly unacceptable that players have to be out of pocket over this."

"In Trish Jackman's case, five days leave. She's putting in an unbelievable effort to get herself up to the level to play inter-county. She stayed around a week to test herself against the best team in the country. It makes me sick."

As per Rule 33.2, five days' email notice was provided to Waterford and Cork for this fixture, but O'Rourke feels

that's way too short: "This isn't good enough; this is inter-county level. If this happened at club level, we'd be giving out stink over it."

"The Waterford County Board have put everything in place for us. They've been fantastic. They had planned a triple header on Saturday to showcase where Waterford camogie is at."

"We've taken a lot of things on the chin this year, but we just feel now it's time to say no. Enough is enough. What has been happening this year in the Camogie Association, to be perfectly honest with you, if it happened on Killinaskully on a Sunday evening, we'd all be laughing at the telly."

O'Rourke says he has no issue with the Rebels for their request: "This is no quarrel with the Cork management, they're correct in what they're doing for player welfare. It's

totally and utterly with the Camogie Association that we feel so let down."

"These are girls that are going to have to reschedule everything. They have done so much for this county to promote camogie. They've given up J1s, going overseas, and given up opportunities left, right, and centre around the country. To be treated like this, it's absolutely staggering."

Earlier this year, O'Rourke called for more medical assistance at All-Ireland Championship games after Waterford's first-round clash with Tipperary was abandoned. He also has issues with the standard of officiating.

"Last year, we played a Munster semi-final against Cork, and the referee turned up with no linesmen and no umpires. Totally and utterly unacceptable," he said.



Mary O'Connor, chief executive, Federation of Irish Sport; left: the St James's Gate brewery in Dublin 8; below inset: CGI of what a redeveloped Guinness brewery might look like

Cork U16s purr to take the Cats

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE Cork U16s kept their bid for a place in the last four on track when they turned in an excellent display on Sunday last to defeat a strong Kilkenny side in Castle Road.

Kilkenny started strongly and grabbed an early goal however it failed to upset Cork.

Points from Rose Murphy and Aimee Morgan settled Cork into the game and ensure they were quickly back in touch. All through the opening 30 minutes, it was score for score as they sides battled to gain control and all thought there was nothing between them.

As the half time whistle approached Kilkenny held a slender lead but a Ciara Golden goal just on the stroke of half time put Cork 1-7 to 1-5 ahead at the half time whistle and it was a huge boost.

The second half was close and it was end to end action as both sides worked hard in the scorching heat.

The Cork defence had to absorb a lot of pressure from a Kilkenny forward line who showed a lot of pace.

Cork introduced Lilly Hayes Nally and Ella Wiggington Barrett and both grabbed second-half goals and with Aimee Morgan also adding to the tally with a goal Cork weathered the Kilkenny challenge.

Kilkenny added seven points to their tally in the second half five from frees but Cork with good displays from Rose Murphy, Ciara Golden, Lucy McNulty and Aimee Morgan ensured they were not going to be denied.

Scorers for Cork: C Golden 1-3, A Morgan 1-2, R Murphy 0-4, L Hayes Nally, E Wiggington Barrett 1-0 each, L McNulty, M Kelleher 0-1, C Lynch 0-1, O Cahalane 0-1 each.

A trip to Tipperary tomorrow for the last game in the group series as Cork take on a Tipperary side who lost out to Kilkenny by three points 1-14 to 1-11 in their opening-round game.

They went on to record a big win over Antrim last weekend and a win in their last game is a must for them if they hope to secure a semi-final spot.

Currently Cork top the group with two wins from two but with Kilkenny expected to overcome Antrim this weekend were Tipperary to defeat Cork it could come down to scoring differences.

Cork are just one score ahead of Tipperary on scoring difference. Kilkenny are on minus one but with a big score expected against Antrim this will also change.

The sides clashed earlier in the year in the Munster semi-final where Cork recorded a 3-18 to 4-3 victory.

This was very early in the season and one would expect that Tipperary just like Cork have put in a lot of work in the interim.

In that clash, Cork were totally dominant as they opened up and early lead and they went eight points clear inside the opening quarter and they push on from here.

In their clash with Kilkenny, Tipperary were a different side as they showed huge determination and they have fine players in Rebecca Farrell, Laura Leenane, Emma O'Meara, Grace Maloney and Ellen Cunneen.

Eve O'Dwyer was the player who stood out in their clash with Cork in



The Cork camogie team who played Kilkenny in the 2019 All-Ireland camogie championship at Castle Road.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Miriam Healy looking to defend against the breaking Áine Doyle, Kilkenny in the 2019 All-Ireland camogie championship match at Castle Road.

Picture: Dan Linehan

the Munster semi-final as she notched up all four goals and she is a player Cork will need to keep an eye to on Sunday.

It's very much in their own hand win and a semi-final place is secured anything else may not be enough.

JUNIOR ROUND-UP

The Junior B championship got underway last week and Cobh got their game in section one of the group series off to a great start when they travelled to Millstreet and recorded a victory, they will meet Inniscarra in round two.

In section two Ballinora had a good start also as they overcame Youghal whilst Castlelyons and Bride Rovers played out a high scoring thriller which ended level on a scoreline of Castlelyons 2-14 Bride Rovers 4-8.

Round two of the SE Systems Junior C Championship and in round two Kil-

worth edge it with a goal to spare over Castlelyons 1-8 to 0-8, St Fanahans made it two win from two games as they overcame Grenagh. In section two, St Colum's had a 2-10 to 1-8 win over Kinsale.

The Junior 13-a-side championship also got underway with Erin's Own defeating St Vincent's 3-5 to 4-0.

Rockbawn defeated Dungourney and Kilbree had a win over Castlemartyr.

In the junior second teams' championship, St Finbarr's, with Ciara Golden, Emma O'Donovan, Ella Wiggington-Barrett, Nicole Olden, Natasha Varian, Megan Fitzpatrick Claire Spellman all on the score sheet, had their second victory as they defeated Kilbrittain-Timoleague.

Busy

Meanwhile, action continues in all championships in what will be one of the busiest weeks to-date with the

“The Cork defence had to absorb a lot of pressure from a Kilkenny forward line who showed a lot of pace.”

long-awaited SE Systems Senior Championship taking pride of place as the intermediate and junior championships continue to gather momentum.

Already we have had one preliminary round game with Carbery defeating Muskerry but now the action turns to the first rounds with no fewer than seven games down for decision.

It starts on Tuesday when Milford and Courcey Rovers meet in Coachford, while on the same night Douglas take on Sarsfields in Castle Road at 7.30pm.

On Wednesday, St Catherine's and Killeagh clash at Castle Road, 7.30pm.

This Thursday it's Glen Rovers and Ballincollig in Castle Road and it's Eire Og versus Inniscarra in Cloughduv 7.45pm.

On Friday, Carbery face Cloughduv at Brinny and St Finbarrs take on Ballygarvan in Castle Road both at 7.30pm.

Fr O'Neill's maintain unbeaten run

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Fr O'Neill's	1-11
Carrigaline	0-9

FR O'Neill's maintained their unbeaten run in the SE Systems Intermediate championship with a five-point victory over Carrigaline.

Fr O'Neill's led at the break 0-6 to 0-2 with Clodagh Finn and Keelagh Cullinane their scorers as Lisa Kiely and Emma Cooney had a point each for Carrigaline.

Lisa Kiely showed her accuracy with two Carrigaline pointed frees while Molly Barrett added two from play with Rachel O'Shea converting a free.

They had points from Kaylin Hughes and Kay O'Sullivan to keep them in contention.

Claire O'Brien grabbed a vital goal for Fr O'Neill's and with Clodagh Finn and Keelagh Cullinane continuing to pick off points from play and frees it ensured got over the line.

Fr O'Neill's have done enough to mean they go into their last game with Aghabullogue on full points.

Carrigaline will be hoping to get a result in their last game against Valley Rovers as every game is vital in the hunt for the semi- and quarter-final places.

Scorers for Fr O'Neill's: C Finn 0-8 (0-5 f), K Cullinane 0-3 (0-1 f), C O'Brien 1-0.

Carrigaline: L Kiely 0-3 f, M Barrett 0-2, E Cooney, R O'Shea (f), K Hughes, K O'Sullivan 0-1 each.

Fr O'Neill's: N Nagle, D Corcoran, S Murphy, L Lawton, O'Keefe, Y Murphy, Steele, K Cullinane, A Higgins, N Cowhig, C McGrath, C O'Neill, C O'Brien, C Finn, C O'Doherty.

Subs: K Harrington for C O'Neill, K O'Riordan for N Cowhig, A Dalton for C McGrath.

CARRIGALINE: E Herlihy, D O'Leary, M Maguire, R Long, M Ryan, S Cotter, B O'Shea, M Barrett, R O'Shea (c), L Kiely, K Hughes, E Cooney, K O'Sullivan, G Condon, Z O'Herlihy.

Subs: L Andrews for R Long (20), A O'Regan for Z O'Herlihy (50), C Kearney for L Kiely (50).

Newcestown	7-5
Clonakilty	0-5

NEWCESTOWN got their SE Systems Intermediate Championship campaign off to a winning start as they overcame Clonakilty.

Leading at the interval 2-4 to 0-2, Newcestown keep the pressure on through the second half and with impressive displays from Suzanne Deasy at full-forward.

She grabbed 2-3 of their tally and they also had Aoife O'Sullivan and Marie Kennedy on target.

They had a solid display from Aisling O'Donovan too and ultimately they were far too good for their west Cork neighbours on this occasion.

They've had the best possible start to a campaign that will see them take on Na Piar-saigh in their second game of the group series whilst Clonakilty's next outing will be against Watergrasshill.

Cork young guns firing to impress



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

CORK, Tipperary and Waterford have all secured their progression to the knockout stages of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

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In a game where every score was hard-earned in The Ragg, Niamh Treacy put Tipp in front after 30 seconds but then Dublin pushed 0-2 to 0-1 ahead after ten minutes of action.

It could have been much more, after Caoimhe Burke pulled down Sinéad Wylde for a penalty, but the Dublin attacker - who was in superb form from frees throughout most of the game - pulled her effort wide of the post.

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Grace O'Brien turned over a short Dublin puck-out and the ball was worked to Eilish McDonald for the only goal of the game.

Late points from Laura Twomey and Gráinne Quinn kept Dublin in it but Cáit Devane finished with 0-5 and McDonald with 1-2 for Tipp, while Caoimhe Burke made a superb late save to deny Wylde and preserve a 1-11 to 0-9 win for the Premier county.

Waterford are the highlight of the season. They've been outstanding and could have been tied with Cork on 12 points at the top of the table only for the unfortunate postponement of their original game against Tipperary where they led by four points with four minutes remaining.

They lost the re-fixture but they've maintained good momentum with a four-point victory against a determined Clare side at Walsh Park. Beth Carton's free-taking helped the Déise open up a 0-5 to 0-3 advantage after 20 minutes. The sides shared the next four points before a goal by Carton put Waterford 1-7 to 0-5 ahead.

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Linda Collins (Courcey Rovers) fires in the third goal for Cork against Meath last weekend.

Picture: Larry Cummins



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The opportunity to catch the eye of the manager was clear as a young team kept piling on the scores and they ensured an emphatic 3-22 to 1-5 victory.

Galway have one foot in the knockout stages as a result of their 2-12 to 1-10 triumph over Limerick at Kenny Park. The League champions had to

withstand a stern examination in the first half especially, but the brilliance of Ailish O'Reilly, who finished with two goals and four points, was telling.

A brace of points each from the excellent Karen O'Leary and Niamh Mulcahy gave Limerick an early two-point lead.

At that juncture, Declan Nash's crew were dealing well with the Galway attack, but the dangerous O'Reilly struck with a stunning solo goal in the 18th minute, coming away from a throw-in with possession, side-stepping a defender and finishing to the net.

From the next passage of play, the Oranmore-Maree sharpshooter sent over a tremendous point off her left-hand side from wide on the left and having trailed by two, Galway led by two.

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the break, Aoife Donohue and Niamh Kilkenny finding the target for Galway, with Mulcahy converting a free and it was 1-5 to 0-5.

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It was a great strike, fielding a delivery from Dolan and blasting to the roof of the net from outside the 13-metre line. It was comfortable from there to the end.

Mulcahy did get a goal in the fifth minute of injury time from a free to finish with 1-7 but it is Galway who know lie in second behind Kilkenny due to a fourteen-point superior difference.

Rebels must beat Antrim to stay in it

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TODAY

Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship
Cork v Antrim,
Castle Road, 3pm.

THE Cork Intermediates will come Antrim to Castle Road on Saturday for a vital Liberty Insurance championship clash.

It couldn't be tighter in group one with Galway, Cork, Tipperary and Westmeath all in the hunt for the semi-final spots. Galway are top of the group with four wins from four with Dublin and Kilkenny to play Westmeath. Kilkenny are three points behind them. Westmeath have Antrim and Cork to play while Kilkenny must play Kildare and Galway. They must defeat Antrim and Westmeath to be in with a shout as currently, they are three points behind Kilkenny and Westmeath.

Kilkenny and Antrim last weekend went down to the wire. Antrim led 0-8 to 0-4 at the interval and it took two late points to secure victory for Kilkenny.

Antrim will pose a stiff challenge for Cork, it's their first choice side and they have strong players in captain Katie McAleese who has led the way up front in all their outings hitting an impressive 1-7 against Kildare, Roisín McCormack, Niamh Donnelly, Sinead Cosgrave and Sara Ann Quinlan have all featured strongly in their line-out to date.

They lost out to Galway in round one but defeated Kildare before pinning Kilkenny to their collars last weekend and they will come to Cork confident of causing an upset and denting Cork's hopes. Their league saw them win just one game over Dublin but this is championship and with a victory under their belts over Kildare they will want to build on it.

Cork lost out to Kilkenny and Galway by the narrowest of margins losing to Kilkenny by two points and Galway by three, both of these games could have been won.

It is disappointing from that perspective to have lost out narrowly. This is a new Cork side having won the All-Ireland last season it is no easy task to put together a new team and to be hugely competitive against strong opponents who are established in the grade but to have been so close is very disappointing.

The win over Dublin in round four has got them back on track.

From the throw-in against Dublin they held the upper hand and they continued to do so over the hour with a polished display their teamwork and ability to find their players with some excellent passages of play was very impressive and hopefully they will again do enough this afternoon to keep their hopes alive.

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Cork young guns firing to impress



Camogie

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Déise give Cork test they needed



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Cork 2-10
Waterford 0-7

IF Cork go on to win this year's All-Ireland final they could well look back on this battle with Waterford as a key moment in their season.

They needed a test and in Walsh Park yesterday evening they got it against an excellent Waterford side.

I mentioned in my preview that Cork wouldn't have it all their own way against a side that have captured the imagination this season. In front of a sizeable home crowd Waterford more than held their own against the champions. They led them by two points at the break in a low scoring opening half. With Waterford's strong work rate, they closed down Cork's short passing game.

Driving rain made conditions very difficult. Player's slipped, passes went astray. When it was Cork making the errors, Waterford pounced. Cork didn't get a spare second on the ball. Waterford's lightning fast defence made life very difficult for Cork's speedy forwards. Both Aoife Murray and Waterford keeper Brianna O'Regan pulled off confident saves as nothing separated the sides in general play.

Cork looked somewhat lethargic. They were qualified for the semi-final regardless of yesterday's result and maybe that was the reason for their lack of spark. The speed of their play wasn't where it has been all season, but this was their toughest game to date. This was the game which showed the areas for improvement and that is something Cork will be thankful for.

With the first half scores dominated by frees, five from the stick of Beth Carton and two from Orla Cotter, the free count wasn't excessive considering the conditions. Scores were just hard to come by.

Cork were level within two minutes of the restart with two Orla Cronin points. Cork's work-rate improved.

The driving rain continued. You could see the effect it had on long distance striking and frees as hurleys visibly slipped, the reliable Beth Carton



The experience and free-taking of Orla Cotter, seen here battling the Dubs, was important down in Walsh Park.

Picture: INPHO/Lorraine O'Sullivan

missing two from placed balls.

Cork broke Waterford's challenge on 44 minutes when Orla Cronin tore down the middle and struck a rasping shot to the back of the net. Waterford had chances after that, but wayward shooting cost them. Further points from Orla Cotter (f) and Libby Coppinger and Cork were six ahead before Niamh McCarthy hit the net on 61 minutes to make the game look easier than it was.

Scorers for Cork: O Cronin 1-3, O Cotter 0-3 f, L Coppinger 0-2, A O'Connor 0-1, H Looney 0-1.

Waterford: B Carton 0-5 f, A Lyng 0-2.

CORK: A Murray, L Hayes, P Mackey, L Treacy, H Looney, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, J White, B Corkery, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, L Collins, J White, L Homan.

Subs: N McCarthy for J White (h-t), C McCarthy for O Cronin (49), K Hickey for L Coppinger (53), C Healy for L Collins (56), L O'Sullivan for H Looney (59).

WATERFORD: B O'Shea, K Lynch, I Heffernan, S Harney, C McGrath, S Curran, L Bray, E Hannon, O Hickey, A Lyng, N Rockett, B Carton, F Morrissey, A Power, S Lacey.

Subs: C Griffin for E Hannon (h-t), M Power for S Harney (47), A Landers for A Power (49), C Whyte for C McGrath (54), A Power for S Lacey (57).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).



Ciara McCarthy (Aghabullogue) featured against Meath last weekend and again in the win over Waterford.

Picture: Larry Cummins

Cork annihilate Antrim to keep their hopes alive

Cork 3-18
Antrim 0-10

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

IT was one-way traffic in Castle Road on Saturday as an efficient display from the intermediates ensured they controlled matters from the start of this Liberty insurance championship clash with Antrim.

All over the field, Cork held the upper hand and their interval lead of 2-11 to 0-5 was justifiable as they were simply too strong for their visitors for whom Roisin Mc Cormick and Kate McAleese tried hard.

Antrim were first on the scoreboard as Katie McAleese pointed a free but inside seven minutes Cork were in control points from Erin Looney and Hayley Ryan were quickly followed by a Kate O'Keeffe goal.

Antrim replied with two in a row from Lucia Mc Naughton and Roisin McCormack and the sides swapped points again before Cork grabbed the game

by the neck firing over seven points in a row. That was before McCormack had one back for Antrim but a Michelle Murphy goal just on the stroke of half time gave Antrim a huge mountain to climb.

Through the second half Cork were faster to every ball and picked off scores with Kate Dooley, Nora O'Riordan, Michelle Murphy and Isobel O'Regan all finding the range as Antrim relied on free-taker Kate McAleese for their second tally of five points. Isobel O'Regan grabbed a Cork goal to keep pressure on.

With Kilkenny defeating Kildare and Galway overpowering Dublin in the other games in the group Cork are still chasing the leading two, Galway are top with 15 points with Kilkenny three behind on 12 and Cork are on nine all with just one game to go.

Westmeath also have nine with two games to play. Westmeath play Antrim next weekend. The next weekend Kilkenny play Galway and Cork play Westmeath. If results go Cork's way and Kilkenny lose to Galway and Cork beat Westmeath scoring differences may decide who goes through in second place.

Scorers for Cork: H Ryan 0-7 (0-2, 45, 0-21, 0-1 pen), I O'Regan 1-3, M Murphy 1-2, K O'Keeffe 1-1, E Looney, N O'Riordan 0-2 each, K Dooley 0-1.

Antrim: K McAleese 0-6 f, R McCormick 0-3, L McNaughton 0-1.

CORK: S Beausang (c), A Crowley, C Daly, G Hannon, A Maloney, R Sheehan, M Lynch, K O'Mahony, M Murphy, I O'Regan, R Hart, E Looney, K O'Keeffe, C Murphy, H Ryan.

Subs: N O'Riordan for E Looney (h-t), K Dooley for C Murphy (h-t), E Buckley for K O'Mahony (44), A Nic A Bhaird for K O'Keeffe (50), K Wall for H Ryan (58).

ANTRIM: C Duffin, N A Donnelly, C Mc Shane, M Connolly, M Lynn, N Donnelly, C Donnelly, A Boyle, M Kelly, R McCormick, A Donnelly, K McAleese, L McNaughton, S Cosgrave, L McCormille.

Referee: Conor Quinlan (Galway).

Rebels power on after difficult week for Déise

All Ireland Senior Camogie Championship

Cork 2-10
Waterford 0-7

Tomás McCarthy

Walsh Park

After a difficult week off the field, Waterford threw down the gauntlet to All-Ireland champions Cork in the driving wind and rain at Walsh Park last night.

Player of the match Orla Cronin scored 1-3 and a late Niamh McCarthy goal saw Paudie Murray's team make it five wins out of five. But the sides were level six times before Cronin found the top corner on 45 minutes.

On Friday, the Déise squad expressed their frustration to the Camogie Association that this game was switched to Sunday at five days' notice and felt that it disrespected the efforts of players who trained since October.

The association have subsequently agreed to sit down with the Waterford camp and discuss the matter. "We're going to meet up with them, the date has to be confirmed," revealed captain Niamh Rockett. "They're working with us and the WPGA are completely backing us as well. We just want to make it better for player welfare."

The hosts started without Patricia Jackman. She took five days leave from her work at the University of Lincoln but missed the game as she had already booked a flight back to the UK on Sunday morning.

The teams were tied four times in a scrappy first half. Seven of the 10 scores came from frees.

A third-minute shot from Beth Carton brought a brilliant save out of Aoife Murray. Two frees from the All-Star twice edged Waterford ahead but the visitors overtook them with



two Orla Cotter frees and Cronin from play. Aine Lyng levelled for a third time at the end of the first quarter. Libby Coppinger restored Cork's slender lead on 17 minutes but they wouldn't score for the rest of the half.

Waterford applied pressure on the Cork puckout and Carton caused carnage close to goal. Three frees in a row, two won by the De La Salle dangerwoman, sent the home side 6-4 ahead at the break.

Cronin made it all square again within two minutes of the restart before Hannah Looney hit the lead score. Lyng levelled for the sixth and last time as conditions worsened.

With 15 minutes left, Looney located Cronin and she gave Brianna O'Regan no chance. Laura Hayes made a spectacular diving save in the last minute to deny Clara Griffin. McCarthy struck a second goal on 61 minutes.

This was Cork's 18th consecutive victory in the All Ireland series.

Waterford will now meet Galway in the quarter-finals on August 3 at Semple Stadium while the Rebels are safely through to the last four.

On Saturday, irresistible Kilkenny booked a semi-final place with a 4-23 to 1-13 triumph over Limerick at the John Lockes grounds in Calan.

Katie Power, Denise Gaule and Michelle Quilty hit four points each for Kilkenny as they lead by 0-16 to 0-6 at the interval.

Anne Dalton added a Kilkenny goal soon after the break and Power, Quilty and Dalton pounced for further goals before Rebecca Delee grabbed a consolation three-pointer for Limerick.

There was some consolation for Limerick as their quarter-finals place was rubber-stamped by Galway's defeat of Wexford.

It was all too easy for Galway as they returned from Enniscorthy with a 3-25 to 0-4 success.

In Group 2, Tipperary made

RAIN SUPREME: Cork's Laura Hayes in control against Waterford's Fiona Morrissey and Sarah Lacey at Walsh Park.

Picture: Noel Browne

seven changes but Meath put them under so much pressure that Niamh Lillis had to introduce some of their experienced stars to eke out a 0-15 to 0-11 win in Ashbourne.

The home team led by 0-11 to 0-10 until the closing stages, thanks to the contributions of Jane Dolan, Kristina Troy and Megan Thynne.

But Tipp scored the last five points however, Nicole Walsh marking an eye-catching return from injury to give them the lead before Miriam Campion, Cáit Devane and Grace O'Brien put a flattering look on the scoreline. Tipp move on to the quarter-finals with Meath facing Wexford or Offaly in a relegation play-off.

Clare and Dublin produced a thrilling draw at Parnell Park, with the Banner's Orlaith Duggan hitting a dramatic injury-time point to grab a deserved 4-5 to 2-11 share of the spoils.

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton (0-5 frees); A Lyng (0-2).

Scorers for Cork: O Cronin (1-3); N McCarthy (1-0); O Cotter (0-3 frees); L Coppinger (0-2); A O'Connor, H Looney (0-1 each).

WATERFORD: B O'Regan; K Lynch, I Helleman, S Harney, C McGrath, S Curran, L Bray, E Hannon, O Hickey, A Lyng, F Morrissey, N Rockett, Aisling Power, B Carton, S Lacey.

Subs: C Griffin for Hannon (HT), M Power for Harney (47), A Landers for Aisling Power (49), C Whyte for McGrath (55), Aine Power for Lacey (57).

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Subs: N McCarthy for White (HT), C McCarthy for Cronin (49), K Hickey for Coppinger (53), C Healy for Collins (56), L O'Sullivan for Looney (60).

Referee: R Kelly



The Enniskene camogie team that defeated Buttevant in the U14 championship.

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

CORK are on course to top Group 2 of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Senior Championship after they made light work of Meath at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday.

The All-Ireland champions were expected to have far too much for bottom-of-the-table Meath, and despite starting a number of regulars on the bench, Cork were convincing winners here. Hannah Looney, Amy O'Connor, Orla Cotter, Laura Treacy and Linda Collins were all introduced during the second half.

This result leaves Cork with a 100 per cent record and four wins from four matches ahead of their final group game away to second-place Waterford this weekend.

The sun drenched Páirc Uí Rinn for this championship encounter and it was the Rebels that were red-hot as they cruised to a half-time lead of 2-11 to 0-3. It was game over then.

Cork boss Paudie Murray had called on his players to produce a more consistent performance after he was unhappy with aspects of their second-half display against Dublin in the last round, and they delivered a convincing win, adding 1-11 in the second half.

Meath opened the scoring when Kristina Troy fired over a long-range free but Cork had four points on the board before Meath registered their next score, when Jane Dolan pointed a 30-metre placed ball. Laura Hayes and Katelyn Hickey fired over two fine efforts for Cork before a Healy brace of placed balls had the home side ahead by two.

Two Healy placed balls either side of a Niamh McCarthy point meant Cork were four clear after 15 minutes.

With Cork making nine changes in starting personnel and only a handful of players who would normally be considered frontline starters on the first 15, those who were handed their chance were keen to take it. It meant Meath were fast finding themselves on the receiving end of a clinical dismantling.

After Ciara McCarthy and Troy swapped points, Cork led by five with five minutes to the break. The Rebels upped the gears and struck for two goals in quick succession to take total control. Ciara McCarthy and Healy combined to see McCarthy unleash a superb tight-angled shot to the roof of the Meath net before McCarthy put Hickey through to deliver a shot past Maggie Randle that saw Cork hold an 11-point advantage, 2-8 to 0-3.

Cork closed out the half with three unanswered points courtesy of Niamh McCarthy, a long-range Hayes free and a 20-metre placed ball from Healy. They held a 14-point half-time lead, 2-11 to 0-3.

Healy, deadly accurate on free-taking duty, fired over another free within a minute of the restart to push Cork 15 clear. However, two minutes later Meath's Lisa Foley pulled a goal back for the Royals.

Gemma O'Connor and Dolan exchanged scores before a Cork brace from Saoirse McCarthy and Hayes saw Cork lead 2-14 to 1-4 at the three-quarter stage.

Cork brought some of their big guns off the bench and subs Orla Cotter and Amy O'Connor both scored within minutes of being introduced. Courcy Rovers' Linda Collins came on ten minutes from the end and she made no delay in making an impression when she scored Cork's third goal.

Five unanswered Cork points – three from Healy, Collins and Hannah Looney – put the seal on a 23-point win as Cork march into the knockout stage.

Rebels rout Royals



Cork's Saoirse McCarthy (Courcy Rovers) gets her shot away against Meath during the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship tie at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

Cork juggernaut rolls on as Murray hands subs chance to shine

es and a spot in an All-Ireland semi-final. Mathematically, Waterford can top the group but they need to beat Cork by 54 points this weekend for that to happen.

Scorers

Cork: C Healy 0-9 (5f, 3 45s), K Hickey, L Collins, C McCarthy 1-1 each, L Hayes 0-3 (1f), N McCarthy 0-2, S McCarthy, H Looney, O

Cotter, G O'Connor, A O'Connor 0-1 each.

Meath: L Foley 1-0, J Dolan 0-3 (2f), K Troy 0-2 (2f).

Cork: Amy Lee; Leanne O'Sullivan, Pamela Mackey, Niamh O'Callaghan; Siobhan Hutchinson, Libby Coppinger, Laura Hayes; Gemma O'Connor, Brieghe Corkery; Katelyn Hickey, Ciara McCarthy, Saoirse McCarthy; Lauren Homan, Niamh McCarthy, Cliona Healy.

Subs: Hannah Looney for L Coppinger (ht), Amy O'Connor for S McCarthy (43), Orla Cotter for K Hickey (46), Laura Treacy for N O'Callaghan (46), Linda Collins for C McCarthy (50).

Meath: M Randle; A Slattery, C Coffey, E Burke; A Keogh, C O'Brien,

L Donoghue; A Minogue, M Thynne; F O'Brien, L Foley, L McDermott; G Coleman, J Dolan, K Troy.

Subs: A Cooke for E Burke (24), S Payne for A Keogh (29), S Hackett for L Foley (44), A McNerney for M Thynne (52).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

★ THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Cliona Healy was deadly accurate from placed balls and the Aghabullogue club star finished with nine points.

Star moments: Two moments, in fact, as Ciara McCarthy and Katelyn Hickey scored quick-fire goals before the break that finished the game.

Talking point: Cork made nine changes to their starting team and still won by 23 points. Plenty of options for manager Paudie Murray.

What's next? Cork are away to Waterford in their final group game on Sunday (moved to avoid a clash with Cork footballers on Saturday) but they are already assured of top spot and a semi-final place.

SENIOR C'SHIP GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	Diff	Pts
Cork	4	0	0	1	11	37	74	12
Waterford	4	3	0	1	74	54	20	9
Tipperary	4	3	0	1	66	65	1	9
Dublin	4	1	0	3	45	66	-21	3
Clare	4	1	0	3	43	73	-30	3
Meath	4	0	0	4	42	86	-44	0

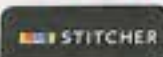
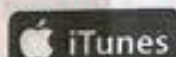
STAR SPORT PODCAST

This week on our podcast ...

Four of Carbery's All-Ireland minor winning Cork stars – Tara Sheehan (Enniskeane), Claire Kingston (Ballinascorthy), Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) and Ciara O'Sullivan (Newcestown) – popped into the studio to chat about their victorious All-Ireland campaign, their camogie ambitions and lots more



You can subscribe and listen to our podcast on



Cork's Cliona Healy (Aghabullogue) tries to burst past Meath's Aine Kenegh and Chevenne O'Brien

All system go as club c'ship gets underway

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

TONIGHT: SE Systems Senior Camogie: Milford v Courcey Rovers, Coachford, 8pm; Douglas V Sarsfields, Castleroad, 7.30pm.

THE SE Systems senior club championship kicks off this week. With Cork having qualified to the All-Ireland semi-final on August 17 it affords the opportunity to play all first-round club games.

Tuesday sees the clash of Milford and Courcey Rovers and Douglas V Sarsfields. Both of these are exciting ties. Milford, All-Ireland club champions in 2012, '13 and '15, has experienced a number of retirements. Key players like Ashling Thompson, Elaine O'Riordan and the Watson sisters all remain.

However, Maria and Emer are abroad at present and their loss for this opener is immeasurable. Laura Stack is a huge threat up front but without the Watsons this could be too much of an ask.

Milford's physicality and work ethic often sets them apart and it's those traits which saw them defeat Glen Rovers in a tough battle in last year's opener. That win brought them straight to a quarter-final where they accounted for Douglas, but they lost out in the semi-final to the team they now encounter again, Courcey Rovers.

Courceys had a tremendous season in 2018. They didn't do themselves justice in the county final against a really good Inniscarra outfit, with the loss of Saoirse McCarthy due to illness also a big loss.

With Linda Collins, Fiona Keating, Saoirse McCarthy and Ashling Moloney, Rovers should take Milford again.

Douglas and Sarsfields promises to be another mouth-watering tie. If Sars can hold the lethal Katrina Mackey, they have a great chance. Mackey almost single-handed pulled Douglas into the quarter-finals last season with Julia White also causing havoc and Pam Mackey controlling the defence supported by Emma Kavanagh and Niamh Ni Chuanachain.

With the massive underage success that Sars have everyone is waiting for the senior breakthrough. Physically it's a big step up along with cuteness and composure and that's something that'll only come with time.

They lost out to champions Inniscarra in round 3 and there's no shame in that.

This will be another big challenge for them with three strong senior inter-county players, Jessica Kavanagh and the hard-working Eimear McAndrew in the Douglas side. But Sars have talent in every line.

Emer Fennell is driving the side and her expertise is bringing on the younger generation.

Rebels get great test off Déise in group tie

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

CORK had their toughest game to date in the All-Ireland championship group series in Walsh Park on Sunday.

Winning 2-10 to 0-7, the result didn't reflect Waterford's great performance and just how hard they pushed Cork. It was a day when Cork found out a few things about themselves and after coasting through the group, it could be a blessing in disguise.

Manager Paudie Murray agreed. "I just said inside in the dressing room that it's probably as good a work out as we could get. A dirty day, very windy against a dogged team so I suppose it's better than a lot of the games we've got in the group, so you'd have to be happy with that. I thought our first half was very, very poor. We just went through the motions. Our second half was much, much better."

Waterford took the game to Cork and certainly they looked hungrier. Very fast, they closed Cork down a lot. Cork's game was slow compared to what we're used to seeing?

"Yeah I think it was third gear. That's what we said to them (players) at half time, that they were just going through the motions and just maybe there was a feeling of just getting the game out of the way."

"You could say that the game didn't mean anything (as Cork had already qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final) but it meant a lot to management anyway coming down here because we wanted to use it as a good workout. Come semi-final we've a lot of work to do. I think we're going to be under massive pressure going into that."

But isn't it better to get those lessons on Sunday, rather than going to Walsh Park and winning by a cricket score? Waterford putting it up to Cork, that's not a bad thing?

"Yeah but you know we have a couple of problems; Katrina Mackey's hand is broken and there's a high probability she could miss the semi-final. A couple of girls carrying injuries there as well, so things aren't as rosy in the garden as what people are making them out to be."

Orla Cronin, Julia White and Amy O'Connor all had heavy strapping on their thighs?

"Yeah, they were carrying injuries and we strapped them for precaution. We took Orla Cronin off. We really only wanted to give her a half an hour but the way the game was going we needed her for a little bit more."

Orla left the pitch on the 49th minute.

"We've got to get those injuries right, but the problem is that we're heading into club championships this week, so we'll know how we stand this day next week."

Barrs to progress in intriguing encounter

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

TONIGHT SE Systems Senior Camogie: St Finbarr's v Ballygarvan, Castleroad, 7.30pm; Carbery v Cloughduv, Brinny, 7.30pm.

AT the end of a hectic week of opening round senior championship games, the final four teams take to the field in Castleroad and Brinny.

City sides St Finbarr's and Ballygarvan meet in Castleroad while Carbery and Cloughduv face off in Brinny.

St Finbarr's are making a strong effort to get back to the glory days. They lost their opening round in 2018 to a strong Muskerry side on the night. A drawn round two encounter saw them lose out in an excellent replay by two points.

It was a gripping encounter and if the Barrs bring that appetite to their game against Ballygarvan they should advance. Led, of course, by Gemma O'Connor, the Barrs have developed a more balanced outfit of late. Meabh Cahalane, Lynda O'Connell, Aoife O'Neill, Keeva McCarthy and Eimear Ryan, who was injured for last year's replay, should drive St Finbarr's to a championship win.

They won't have it too easy, however, if Ballygarvan have built on their strong display's of 2018. They only lost by two points to Carbery in last year's opening round and showed fluency in their defeat of Glen Rovers. Ellen O'Regan, Isobelle O'Regan, Rebecca Murphy, Michaela Buckley and Cliona O'Leary provide a nice balance.

Carbery are the only side to have a championship game behind them in 2019. A preliminary round saw them inflict a 1-24 to 0-17 defeat on Muskerry. It took a while for the game and Carbery to come to life. They led 1-9 to 0-10 at half-time. It was all one-way traffic in the second as Carbery picked off lovely points.

That game is worth its weight in gold as they face into Cloughduv. Emer White was excellent with Libby Coppinger totally dominant at mid-field and the classy Orla Cronin playing a stonemason.

Cloughduv suffered a three-point defeat to Inniscarra last year but bounced back with a one-point victory over St Catherine's in round two, a Suzanne Bateman free two minutes into injury time getting them over the line. They unfortunately met the County Champions again in the quarter-final and this time lost by 10 points.

Cloughduv wear their heart on their sleeves when they take to the pitch. Aoife Murray lies between the posts which makes goals harder to come by. Briege Corkery will run herself into the ground as will Mairéad. Suzanne Bateman will be to the fore. Expectations are that this game will be a real battle.



8. Eleanor Clinton with players Hannah Looney and Linda Collins.

Standing tall



Amy O'Connor and Kerrie Horgan fly the flag as the Camogie Association urged fans to come out in force to break the help break the All-Ireland Camogie Championships Final attendance record of 25,000. The match takes place on September 8 and early bird tickets are available at a discount from tickets.ie and participating Supervalu and Centra shops. Picture: ©INPHO/Dan Sheridan



Three Kilbree girls - Kate O'Donovan, Caoimhe Murphy and Mary Murphy - were part of the Cork U15A camogie team that won the All-Ireland championship at the weekend. Cork beat Dublin 3-4 to 2-3 in the final, having also beaten Dublin (in an earlier round), Tipperary and Wexford.

Camogie

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1: (Dian GAA) Roscommon 2-18 Arough 0-11; (Edendork St Malachy's GAA) Clare 4-19 Tyone 3-8.

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2: (Walsh Park) Kerry 1-16 Waterford 0-1; (St Patrick's GAA, Wicklow Town) Limerick 14-23 Wicklow 5-3.

Renault games showcase GAA's global appeal

Stephen Barry



with one of their star players and chairman called Francisco Lynch.

A mix of cultures in a name and a microcosm of the World Games, which begin tomorrow with an opening parade through Waterford before the Games throw-in at Waterford IT the next day. The finals, on Friday, will be hosted at Croke Park.

Of those returning to home soil, 2017 Kerry ladies football captain and All Star Caroline Kelly will likely be the highest-profile of them all as she lines out for Australia's Irish-born team. John Heneghan will also represent Australia. A former Waterford minor and U21 hurler from Lismore, who's known for co-founding the *G'Day GAA* podcast, he will stay here another three weeks to get married to his fiancée Gill. Another podcast co-founder, Sean O'Leary from Watergrasshill, will be playing in the Games too.

Katrina Wagstaff, a member of the first native Russian team to compete, also organised her wedding around the games, moving her big day so she wouldn't have to miss the competition.

"Their passion and the joy they hold for the games is unparalleled. It's equal to what many Irish people have here," said games communications officer Eoghan Tuohey.

"It's something that's unnoticed among the Irish population here. People just aren't aware this exists and it's such a wide ecosystem that exists throughout the world, and is growing at an unprecedented rate. There are over 420 clubs outside of Ireland currently and growing all the time."

Eighty-four teams will compete across the week, up 30 from the 2016 games, with eight trophies up for grabs

across hurling, camogie, and men's and ladies' football in the Irish and native-born sections.

The native-born teams will also be bussed across Waterford on Tuesday for a twinning evening with local clubs.

As well as being a social and cultural event, each team from abroad will learn how the Waterford clubs operate, and vice versa, providing a network of contacts and ideas for future development.

Two children from each Waterford club will also march in the opening parade with their twinned team.

"No matter where you come from, they've found solace in the GAA community and in what it represents and what it can create for them.

The shared values they have seem to translate regardless of where they come from. It's amazing to see, really," says Tuohey.

"It can be recognised worldwide and it appeals to so many people. They've been given the opportunity of the more traditional sports they have in their region and they've said: 'I buy more into the ethos and the culture of this'."

"Obviously, the games themselves are an attraction but it's more the community spirit and the atmosphere they find when they're participating in Gaelic games."

The LGFA announced on Thursday that their trophies will be named after Rachel Kenneally, the former Tipperary ladies footballer, and Rebecca Dowling, a Kildare-native who was a member of the Thai GAA club in Bangkok. Both passed away in the previous 18 months after battles with cancer.

After the finals on Friday, a hurling-lacrosse exhibition game will take place. Intended to help spread hurling to new audiences and described as the next generation in hybrid Gaelic games, it will feature the German hurling team taking on the Irish lacrosse team.

The goalkeepers will switch teams, so the hurling keeper is facing shots from his fellow hurlers, and the lacrosse goalie defends shots thrown by lacrosse sticks. Goals and points can be scored from the front of the posts and points only from behind the posts.



ALL SET: The Renault GAA World Games 2019 O'Neills official jersey release in Waterford as the tournament begins in WIT next week, with the finals taking place in Croke Park on Friday.
Picture: Piaras Ó Midheach

Carbery haven't trained together since opening win

SENIOR CAMOGIE

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

THE life of divisional teams isn't an easy one. The Carbery senior camogie team is a prime example.

On Friday they take on Cloughduv in round one of the county camogie senior championship. On Sunday, June 30th, Carbery beat Muskerry by 1-24 to 0-17 in a preliminary-round tie. In the four weeks between that game and their meeting with Cloughduv they haven't trained together once. There was one challenge game against Ballinacollig but no training sessions.

Again, that's the life of a divisional team. There's a large percentage of players involved with

Cork senior, intermediate and minor teams and there are also club championship games too.

"We found last year and the year before that there were six or seven turning up for training. That was frustrating for those players and for the management," explains Jerry Ryan, who is part of the Carbery management team along with Mary Sexton, Paul Crowley and Finbarr O'Callaghan.

"We made the decision this year that we won't train unless we have the numbers to train. We have never yet had our full complement of players out and we probably won't on Friday night."

Carbery have a strong pick of players. There are the two Cork

THE MATCH

FRIDAY, 26TH
Cork Camogie
Senior
Championship
Round 1
Carbery v
Cloughduv
Brinny, 7.30pm

seniors, Libby Coppinger and Orla Cronin. Intermediate players like Caroline Murphy. Cork minors like Ciara O'Sullivan, Tara Sheehan and Claire Kingston. It's a talented crop. But getting them together isn't as easy as it sounds.

After the win against Muskerry, captain and goalkeeper

Eimear White, from Barryroe, said: "We have all the pick in West Cork but it's about co-ordinating everyone and coming together. It's bringing it all together, that's what we need more. The talent is there, the core is there, it's just to get used to each other."

Therein lies the problem, getting this group together more, especially in the summer with the inter-county and club scenes well ahead of a divisional team in the pecking order.

"It's going to be tough for us against Cloughduv because they are a club side whereas we are a divisional team," Ryan explains.

"The only times we have got together this year is for games and we have never come anywhere near having a full panel at any stage. Even for the last championship game we were short players. That's part and parcel of

being involved with a divisional team.

"With clubs, you have the players together, they are used to playing with each other all the way up, they are a unit."

In the past two seasons Carbery have bowed out at the quarter-final stage and while they are keen to go deeper into this championship, they aren't looking past Cloughduv. Win here, and they advance. Lose, and there is the back-door route.

"There is talent in Carbery, there is no doubt about that. The challenge is to get them all on the field playing together," Ryan says. "Carbery aren't that far away but we need to get together more."

A win on Friday will be against all the odds, and again they won't have a full team to pick from. With the Cork footballers playing

Armagh on Sunday in an All-Ireland tie Libby Coppinger won't feature while Orla Cronin, player of the match for the Cork seniors against Waterford last weekend, is coming off the back of a hamstring injury. Plus Carbery clubs have been busy in championship action too.

It's far from ideal for Carbery but if they can win, show their potential and build some momentum, it might just light a spark that gets this up and running.

TOP OF PAGE: Carbery's Libby Coppinger in action in the senior championship preliminary round win against Muskerry.



Cork drive into All-Ireland semis

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Cork 2-15
Tipperary 0-10

A SUPERB performance by the Cork U16s saw them get the upper hand on Tipperary and secure an All-Ireland semi-final spot.

Cork played with the wind in the opening half, but it was Tipp who opened the scoring.

Cliona Lynch replied with two points, before Tipp responded with a point — but two quick-fire goals from Ella Wiggington Barrett and Rose Murphy, followed by a Molly Kelleher point, gave Cork the upper hand.

It was nip-and-tuck to the interval as the sides exchanged points. With the Cork defence marking tightly, the Tipperary forwards could make little headway, and it was Cork who led 2-07 to 0-6 at the half-time whistle.

Cork substitute Lilly Hayes Nally added a point on the restart and this was followed by two Orlaith Cahalane points as the Cork attack kept the pressure on the Tipperary defence.

Aimee Morgan, who kept the Tipperary defence busy with her darting runs, added three points, while the strong Cork defence held Tipperary to just one point from play in the second half.

Cork now meet Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final on August 11.

Scorers for Cork: A Morgan 0-3, Orlaith Cahalane 0-3 (0-1 ft), C Lynch 0-3 (0-2 ft, 0-1 45), E Wiggington-Barrett, R Murphy 1-0 each, O McAllen L Hayes-Nally 0-2 each, C Golden, M Kelleher 0-1 each.

INTERMEDIATE

Blackrock made it three wins out of three in the SE Systems Intermediate Championship as they overpowered Watergrasshill.

From the throw-in, Blackrock set down a marker with Hayley Ryan, Michelle Murphy, Grace Mulqueen, and Kaitlin Hickey all on the scoresheet as they raced into a commanding lead.

An early Michelle Murphy goal gave them a 1-2 to 0-1 lead, after Louise O'Reilly had opened the Watergrasshill account. It was all Blackrock from there until the interval, by which point they led 1-14 to 0-1.

Ellen Fitzgerald grabbed a Watergrasshill goal early in the second half, but Blackrock, continuing to hold the upper hand, added to their tally to run out convincing winners, 1-24 to 1-1.

Aghabullogue recorded their first win in these Round Two games as they defeated Valley Rovers.

The win ensures they are still on track for a place in the concluding stages after their draw in their opening game against Carrigaline. They will meet Fr O'Neills in their last game on August 19.

Enniskeane continued their impressive run when they had too much to spare over Brian Dillon's when the sides met in Ballinora. With just one game to go against Ballinhassig, Enniskeane are looking good for a place in the concluding stages.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague bounced back from losing in Round One to beat a Ballinhassig side who had enjoyed a good win over Brian Dillon's.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague set the pace from the throw-in and held the upper hand right to the full-time whistle.



Olivia McAllen, Cork jumping for this midfield ball with Kilkenny players Anna Doheny and Sontae Jackson in the All-Ireland Camogie Championship match at Castle Road, Cork on July 14.

Picture: Dan Linehan



Saoirse Desmond, Cork going back to defend against Aine Doyle, Kilkenny in their 2019 All-Ireland Camogie Championship match on July 14.

Picture: Dan Linehan

JUNIOR

It went right down to the wire as Ballyhea and Banteer played out a close contest in Grenagh in the SE Systems Junior A Championship.

Ballyhea led at the break by the narrowest of margins, 1-5 to 0-7, with both sides evenly matched all through the half. Cliona Healy with four pointed frees and Gemma Cashman with three from play impressed for Banteer, whilst Elaine Crowley opened the Ballyhea account with a point.

Ciarra Harty converted a free before Rachel Harty struck the all-important goal eight minutes into the half. Points from Roisin Killeen and two Ciarra Harty pointed frees gave Ballyhea a one-point interval lead.

Roisin Killeen struck free frees between the post between the seventh and 19th minutes of the second half. Ciarra Harty added a point in the 21st

minute, before Eimear Murphy grabbed a Banteer goal and with Clionadh Healy adding a point, the game stayed a close contest.

A Ciarra Harty free with a minute of time remaining helped put daylight between the sides as Ballyhea hung on to earn a two-point victory. Their next game is against Bishopstown on August 21. They will meet Tracton in their last game on August 28.

Tracton, having lost out by the narrowest of margins to Banteer in Round One, went into their clash with Bishopstown in determined fashion.

They held all the aces from the throw-in and were too strong for a Bishopstown side who battled to the final whistle, but could never get to grips with the stronger Tracton side who will meet Charleville in their next championship outing on August 2.

In the SE Systems junior C Championship, Kilworth had a goal to spare

over Castlelyons, and St Fanahans proved too strong for Grenagh in their round-three clash with Aghada.

St Fanahans had to give way to the home side as Aghada ran out winners with three points to spare, 0-14 to 2-5.

St Colum's had a 2-10 to 1-8 victory over Kinsale in their Round One clash in Kinsale.

In the SE Systems Junior Second Teams Championship, Sarsfields made it two out of two with a victory over Cloughduv.

Ballincollig recorded a victory over Douglas while Eire Og and St Catherine's played out a lively contest, with the Ovens outfit running out winners.

Round two in the SE Systems Junior 13-a-side Championship saw Kilbree defeat St Vincent's.

Rockban also made it two-out-of-two with their win over Erin's Own, and Castlemartyr got a win under their belts by defeating Dungourney.

Inniscarra march on to third round

CAMOGIE

■ John O'Shea

Inniscarra 1-15
Eire Og 0-6

THIS Muskerry derby clash with Eire Og, in the Cork Senior Camogie Championship, highlighted Inniscarra's strength.

Inniscarra won the Cork and Munster club camogie titles last year, while Eire Og are newly-promoted to the senior ranks, after their intermediate success last year.

Eire Og were spirited, but Inniscarra dominated this game in Cloughduv.

Inniscarra took an early lead, with two points from Niamh Dilworth frees.

These were followed by scores from Ellen Murphy and again from Dilworth. Inniscarra led 0-4 to 0-0 after 10 minutes.

Eire Og's first point came after 15 minutes, when Margaret Herlihy slotted over from a free.

Herlihy would add to her tally moments before Inniscarra were awarded a penalty. Cork camogie and ladies' football legend, Rena Buckley, fired over for a point, from the spot.

In what was a competitive opening half, Inniscarra slotted over three further points and Eire Og two, as the former led 0-8 to Eire Og's 0-4 at half-time.

As the weather conditions worsened, Inniscarra ground down their opponents and began to seize control.

Aileen Sheehan showed great composure to slot over a pair of scores, while Dilworth again demonstrated her shooting range from placed efforts.

Midway through the second-half, Inniscarra got a goal that put the game beyond Eire Og's reach.

Ellen Murphy caught the ball well and planted it into the net with a clinical finish.

Herlihy scored again for Eire Og, from another free. That brought her tally to six points. But it would prove to be a mere consolation, as Inniscarra got late scores through Niamh McCarthy and Sheehan to overcome the first round hurdle without and major obstacles.

Inniscarra now march on towards the third round, which will take place in September.

Eire Og now go into the backdoor route and round two of the competition.

Scorers for Inniscarra: N Dilworth (0-5 ft), E Murphy 1-2, A Sheehan 0-3, N McCarthy 0-2, R Buckley 0-1 pen.

Eire Og: M Herlihy 0-6 ft.

INNISCARRA: S Walsh: A O'Regan, R Buckley, D O'Callaghan: C Looney, A Sheehan, A Dineen: C Keane, K O'Mahony: J Burke, N Dilworth, E Looney: T McCarthy, N McCarthy, E Murphy.

EIRE OG: R Murray: Aileen Hennessey, Aoife Hennessey, C Sheehan: E Quigley, S Hutchinson, A Buckley: A McSweeney, E Crowley: K Nagle, M Herlihy, R Murphy: F Murphy: G Murphy: G Collins.

Subs: S Gleeson for G Murphy (38), O Meaney for R Murphy (43).

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

“With the Cork defence marking tightly, the Tipperary forwards could make little headway...”

Classy Cronin reigns

Enniskeane star scores 1-3 for Cork on comeback from injury

SENIOR CAMOGIE

CORK 2-10
WATERFORD 0-7

BY DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

ORLA Cronin showed no ill effects from her recent hamstring injury as she inspired Cork to a fifth straight win in this year's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

The Enniskeane star scored 1-3 as Cork rounded off their Group 1 campaign with another win after they accounted for Waterford at Walsh Park on Sunday evening.

Again, and not for the first time this season, Cork were sluggish in the opening half, but credit home side Waterford for making life difficult for the Rebels

while the wet and windy conditions were another challenge for both sides.

The finishing margin was flattering to the champions but they showed all their experience and squad depth to pull clear in the final quarter.

Beth Carton made light of the elements that were far from conducive to clean striking, by converting five frees to put Donal O'Rourke's Waterford team 0-6 to 0-4 ahead at the break.

The teams were level four times in the first 20 minutes as Carton exchanged scores with Orla Cotter, and then with Orla Cronin. Cronin pushed Cork ahead for the first time but Áine Lyng responded with Waterford's first score from play.

It was the home side that had the better of the second quarter once Gemma O'Connor edged the Rebels in front once more. It was the Carton show for the remainder of the half, as she split the posts three times from placed balls to give Waterford that two-point interval advantage.

Cronin had a brace of points to restore parity within two minutes and the teams were still inseparable at the three-quarter mark when the Enniskeane sharpshooter sent a shot to the top corner of the

THE HIGHLIGHTS

Our Star: Orla Cronin was immense on her comeback from injury. She scored 1-3 from play, with her second-half goal crucial.

Star moment: Cronin's goal that arrowed into the top corner after 45 minutes gave Cork some breathing space and they pushed on.

Talking point: The build-up to the match was dominated by the late change of the match date — with Waterford particularly unhappy with the Camogie Association's decision.

What's next? Cork are straight into the All-Ireland semi-final on August 17th.

SENIOR GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pts
Cork	5	5	0	0	127	44	83	15
Tipperary	5	4	0	1	81	76	5	12
Waterford	5	3	0	2	81	70	11	9
Dublin	5	1	1	3	62	83	-21	4
Clare	5	1	1	3	60	90	-30	4
Meath	5	0	0	5	53	101	-48	0

net that gave Brianna O'Regan no chance between the posts.

Niamh McCarthy's injury-time goal was harsh on Waterford, as Cork go straight into an All-Ireland semi-final on August 17th, as do Group 1 winners Kilkenny. In the quarter-finals, Waterford meet Galway on August 3rd, with Tipperary and Limerick also doing battle.

Scorers

Cork: O Cronin 1-3, N McCarthy 1-0, O Cotter 0-3f, L Coppinger 0-2, A O'Connor, H Looney 0-1 each.
Waterford: B Carton 0-5f, A Lyng 0-2.
Cork: A Murray, L Hayes, P Mackey.

L Treacy, H Looney, G O'Connor, C Sigerson, J White, B Corkery, A O'Connor, O Cronin, O Cotter, L Collins, J White, L Homan.

Subs: N McCarthy for J White (ht), C McCarthy for O Cronin (49), K Hickey for L Coppinger (53), C Healy for L Collins (56), L O'Sullivan for H Looney (60).

Waterford: B O'Shea, K Lynch, I Heffernan, S Harney, C McGrath, S Curran, L Bray, E Hannon, O Hickey, A Lyng, N Rockett, B Carton, F Morrissey, A Power, S Lacey.
Subs: C Griffin for E Hannon (ht), M Power for S Harney (47), A Landers for A Power (49), C Whyte for C McGrath (55), A Power for S Lacey (57).

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare).

Orla Cronin (Enniskeane) shoots for a point as Cork beat Waterford in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship on Sunday evening.
(Photo: Trevor Patchett)

Cork take fight for semi-final spot to final round

CORK 3-18
ANTRIM 0-10

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

CORK will need a favour from Galway if they want to advance to the last four in the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Camogie Championship.

Last Saturday's demolition of Antrim at Castle Road means that Cork go into the final round of fixtures on August 3rd sitting in third place and still in with a chance of finishing in the top two in Group 1.

Reigning champions Cork must beat Westmeath in that final group game and also hope that table-toppers Galway beat second-placed Kilkenny. If this happens, Cork will make it through to the All-Ireland semi-finals.

Against Antrim Cork led by 2-11 to 0-5 at the break and they stretched that lead in the second

INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

INTERMEDIATE GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	PD	Pts
Galway	5	5	0	0	101	58	43	15
Kilkenny	5	4	0	1	87	57	30	12
Cork	5	3	0	2	97	52	45	9
Westmeath	4	3	0	1	80	61	19	9
Antrim	4	1	0	3	57	74	-17	3
Dublin	5	1	0	4	59	102	-43	3
Kildare	6	0	0	6	62	139	-77	0

half, with seven different scorers on the score-sheet.

After Katie McAleese opened the scoring for Antrim, Cork replied with points from Erin Looney and Hayley Ryan before Kate O'Keeffe goaled to move them four clear.

Antrim cut the lead to two points, and after the sides swapped scores, Cork hit seven points in a row to take control with Ryan (5), Looney and O'Keeffe on target. Michelle Murphy scored a late goal be-

fore the break as Cork led 2-11 to 0-5 at half time.

The second half was academic as Cork were in total control. Izzy O'Regan scored Cork's third goal that moved them 3-15 to 0-7 ahead after 40 minutes.

Everything now depends on that final round of games on August 3rd.

Scorers

Cork: H Ryan 0-7 (3f, 3 45s), I O'Regan 1-3, M Murphy 1-2, K



Cork's Izzy O'Regan (Ballygarvan) keeps control of the ball as she closes in on goal against Antrim.
(Photo: Trevor Patchett)

O'Keeffe 1-1, N O'Riordan, E Looney 0-2 each, K Dooley 0-1.
Antrim: K McAleese 0-6 (6f), R McCormick 0-3, L McNaughton 0-1.
Cork: S Beausang (Killeagh), A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Daly (Killeagh), G Hannon (Courcey Rovers), A Moloney (Courcey Rovers), R Sheehan (Killeagh), M Lynch (Newcestown), K O'Mahony

(Inniscarra), M Murphy (Blackrock), I O'Regan (Ballygarvan), R Harty (Ballyhea), E Looney (Inniscarra), K O'Keeffe (Millstreet), C Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), H Ryan (Blackrock).

Subs: K Dooley (Ballinora) for C Murphy (ht), N O'Riordan (Glen Rovers) for E Looney (ht), E Buckley (Na Piaras) for K O'Mahony

(43), A Nic A Bhaire (Ballinora) for K O'Keeffe (49), K Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) for H Ryan (58).

Antrim: C Duffin, NA Donnelly, C McShane, M Connolly, M Lynn, N Donnelly, C Donnelly, M Kelly, A Boyce, R McCormick, A Donnelly, K McAleese (c), L McNaughton, S Cosgrove, L McConville.

Referee: Conor Quinlan (Galway).

Cork and Cats' business as usual

Glen pip Collig with injury time goal

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Glen Rovers	3-18
Ballincollig	3-15

A DRAMATIC first-round tie saw Glen Rovers advance with a Nora O'Riordan goal three minutes into injury time in Castle Road.

It was a game that looked to have gone from them on more than one occasion and credit must go to their never say die attitude.

The Glen can thank the magnificent free taking of Denise Luby who finished the game 1-12.

Linda Dorgan was outstanding for Ballincollig and ran the show. The game could have gone either way.

In the opening half the Glen defence were playing from behind and making life very difficult for themselves.

Ballincollig were playing with more assertion as the Glen's reaction at times was too slow. Ciara Healy was doing well for Collig in defence. Ashling Wallace was lively when in possession but the Glen needed greater speed in their striking up front to gain headway.

Four points in a row from Denise Luby (frees) and Aisling Wallace gave the Glen the lead for the first time on 24 minutes. With the sides level heading to half time, a goalmouth scramble saw Wallace kick to the net, and it looked as if they'd take that lead to the dressing room.

But Patricia Buttimer caught the Glen defence by surprise when her free went to the net and followed by a Linda Dorgan point it was Ballincollig that led by one.

Kelly Falvey was excellent in defence for the Glen during the second half. Hannah O'Leary goal for Collig on 51 to give them the lead by three.

Super-sub Nora O'Riordan and Luby levelled the game for the sixth time. When Orla McCarthy goal with a minute of normal time remaining to put Ballincollig four points up it looked bad for the Glen.

But again, they came back. Luby finished a goalmouth melee to the net and she levelled the game with another flawless free. We were headed for extra time until O'Riordan's high delivery defied Anna Hartnett and it was game over.

Scorers for Glen Rovers: D Luby 1-12 (0-12 f), A Wallace 1-2, N O'Riordan 1-2, T McCarthy 0-1, N Walsh 0-1 each.

Ballincollig: P Buttimer 1-6 (1-1 f, 0-1 f), H O'Leary 1-2, O McCarthy 1-2, L Dorgan 0-3, A Lovett 0-2.

GLEN ROVERS: L O'Riordan, S Fahy, K Falvey, K O'Connell, L O'Sullivan, M Brown, A O'Rourke, T McCarthy, L Cunningham, N O'Brien, K Walsh, E Murphy, S Hayes, D Luby, A Wallace.

Subs: H O'Riordan for S Hayes (34), K Buckley for N O'Brien (51), C Martin for A O'Rourke (59).

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttervant).

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

THE final group tables finished as expected in this year's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship series.

Cork and Kilkenny both topped their groups, with Galway coming second in Group 1 behind Kilkenny on nine points and a 23-point scoring difference.

Cork finished theirs with a 78-point scoring margin ahead of second-placed Tipperary. Group 2, where Cork sat, had an extra game than the teams in Group 1.

This means that Limerick take on Tipperary, while Galway are set to face Waterford in the August 3 quarter-finals, which take place in Semple Stadium.

This is Limerick's first time reaching the knockout stages of the senior championship.

That sounds better than what it is. They lost their last two matches to Galway and Kilkenny respectively, and finish ahead of Offaly and Wexford, Wexford having endured a horrendous season.

On Wednesday evening last, Offaly and Wexford fought a relegation play-off where Offaly won by four points. Wexford now play Meath in a relegation decider to determine who goes down.

Galway face a Waterford side who have now reached the quarter-finals in successive seasons and I've been impressed with them this year.

Both matches are scheduled to be broadcast live on RTE 2, and should either end in a draw then extra-time will be played.

The winners will go into the semi-final draw which will take place immediately after the quarter-finals, where Cork and Kilkenny lie in wait to face them on Saturday, August 17.

Kilkenny were in top form with a 4-23 to 1-13 triumph over Limerick in Callan last weekend which cemented their first-place group spot. Limerick were never in contention as Katie Power, Denise Gaule, and Michelle Quilty hit four points each for Kilkenny to lead by 0-16 to 0-6 at the interval.

Limerick had no answer to the precision shooting by Ann Downey's troops, relying on four points from Niamh Mulcahy to retain some semblance of hope. That was removed within a minute of the restart when Anne Dalton struck for a goal, and it was plain sailing from there.

Power, Quilty and Dalton pouncing for further goals before Rebecca Delee grabbed a consolation three-pointer for Limerick. It was all too easy for Galway too as they returned from Enniscorthy with a 3-25 to 0-4 win over Wexford.

Noreen Coen scored a goal in the first minute on the way to registering a personal tally of 1-5. Ailish O'Reilly added a second before the break and finished with 1-6.

Catherine Finnerty came off the bench to score 1-2 in the final quarter, while Chloe Foxe provided three of Wexford's four points.

In Group 2 Tipperary made seven changes from their regular side, but



Glen Rovers' Denise Luby shoots from Ballincollig's Sarah Keating during the Cork Senior Camogie Championship Round 1 at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare



Ballincollig's Denise Cronin bursting past Glen Rovers' Aoife O'Rourke and Karen O'Connell. A late goal gave Rovers the victory. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Meath put them under so much pressure that Niamh Lillis had to introduce some of their experienced players to edge out a 0-15 to 0-11 win at Donaghmore, Ashbourne.

The home team excelled in the first half and that laid the foundations as they led by 0-11 to 0-10 in the closing stages, thanks to the contributions of Jane Dolan, Kristina Troy, and Megan Thynne.

Tipp scored the last five points however, Nicole Walsh giving them the lead in the 58th minute, and scores from Miriam Campion, Cáit Devane, and Grace O'Brien in injury time gave the scoreline a flattering look.

Clare and Dublin produced a thrilling draw at Parnell Park even though qualification was not a possibility at that stage for either team. Clare's Orlaith Duggan hit an injury-time point to grab a deserved 4-5 to 2-11 share of the spoils.

Clare had been dominant in the first half, which helped them to a 1-8 to 1-2 lead at the break. That was despite a blistering start from Dublin, who led by five points early on thanks to Aisling Maher's goal — but Clare hit the next nine scores in response.

Mairéad Scanlon shot a goal and six points as the Banner women looked to make a definitive move, but it was Dublin who struck 3-1 without reply. They led by two points late on, but Chloe Morey halved the deficit before Duggan pointed to salvage the draw.

Cork had a tough outing against Waterford. It's no harm but, there is a concern around Katrina Mackey, who is waiting on results of a scan on a hand injury.

It's an injury she picked up against Dublin that has since flared up.

If her hand is broken and she misses the semi-final, she would be a huge loss for the Leesiders.

“There is a concern around Katrina Mackey, waiting on results on a hand injury.”

Meanwhile, two Cork students were presented with the Dublin City University Sports Scholarships in recognition for their contribution in camogie both with the university and their clubs.

Claire Sexton has finished her fourth year in Sports Science & Health.

Rachel Harty has finished her third-year student in Physical Education & Maths Sport.

Scholarships were introduced in DCU in 1996 in the form of GAA sport scholarships.

The programme in DCU offers a wide range of support services for talented athletes as part of a balanced approach to training, performance and academic excellence.

The programme is athlete led and grades support depending on the athlete's achievement, potential and need, with the objective of remaining flexible to support diverse needs.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Mark Gallagher

NIAMH ROCKETT will captain the Waterford camogie side in next Saturday's All-Ireland quarter-final against Galway. But she will lead the team out in Semple Stadium in defiance of medical advice. Over the past nine years, more than one doctor has told her she had to give up the sport.

No matter what happens during the match, Rockett knows what comes after...

She knows pain in her knee will be so intense she will struggle to sleep for a few nights. It's always the same. But she goes through it all for the love of her county.

'I get a slagging from the girls about always heading into the physio when the going gets tough at training,' Rockett says with a chuckle.

'It is about maintenance for me. I can't take any time off from the gym. If I do, my knee gets worse. So, I just have to keep doing gym sessions all through the year. It is about recovery and minding it.'

'I don't think my career is going to be as long as I want it to be, but whenever that day comes, I will be happy that I gave it my best and did all I could to play for Waterford.'

She has had three operations on her knee to correct a problem that first became apparent when she was 16.

Rockett had just completed her first season in an inter-county career when one of her coaches noticed she was limping in a club game.

'I was referred on to Whitfield clinic. The scan revealed arthritis and that my knees weren't aligned properly. The consultant told me he wanted to break my knees and realign them and that if I continued to play sport I would be in a wheelchair by the time I was 30.'

'That's a lot to take when you are 16. I was playing camogie, football, soccer and hockey at the time, so my world was just shattered.'

'I was really upset. I remember sitting outside the hospital, it was raining, and I was crying, waiting for my dad to collect me. I was so upset, he just said "we will go for another opinion".'

Rockett's father is Eddie, a former Waterford hurler. The medical opinion remained the same. If she kept playing sport, she may not be able to walk by the time she was 30.

'My father is as stubborn as me though, and he said to play on for a few years and see what happens,' she recalls with a smile. For a couple of years, Rockett's life was mapped out in trips to physios, chiropractors, osteopaths. She overcame her phobia of needles as she tried acupuncture — anything to help the arthritis in her knee. She still must take a ton of supplements every day to try to ease the pain.

With a heavily bandaged knee, she was part of the Waterford team that won the county's first junior All-Ireland title in 2011.

A couple of years later, during a championship match against Meath, Rockett got a bad bang and her kneecap came out of place.

'I had to get a full patellar reconstruction. I didn't play for 15 months. I had to get keyhole surgery as well and this surgeon also told me to give up sports.'

'He said there was no cartilage behind my kneecap. So, that was the second time I was told to give up sport. I went for another opinion and was told the same thing.'

'I don't know if it is foolishness or stubbornness, but I want to represent my county for as long as I can. Those 15 months out of the game were really tough on me because I wasn't given a choice. And to be told that you will never play again, that's so hard to hear.'

'It's not just about playing camogie again. It is about quality of life. I am a PE and Maths teacher in Blackwater Community School, so I need to be physically active every

day and need to be physically fit. Whenever the day comes to retire, I won't be taking it lightly.'

Rockett's determination to keep playing has caused rows at home.

If her mother, Colleen, notices her limping, she will ask again if she would give up the camogie.

She knows that it falls on deaf ears so, in a typically Irish mother way, she finds other ways to help her daughter.

'Ma comes out with all these home remedies for arthritis. She read an article in the newspaper which said that broccoli cures arthritis and I remember coming home and there were six sticks of broccoli on my plate. She has doused my knee in holy water, has been lighting candles, all of that.'

Rockett has been told she has the knees of a 60-year-old. Not easy for a fit and active 25-year-old PE

BATTLER:
Rockett fights
for possession

teacher to hear. But she is able to keep a sense of perspective about her problems.

She thinks of a pupil in her school, Caoimhe O'Brien, who passed away last year from cancer.

'Caoimhe was mad into football and was running one day and felt a soreness at the back of her knee. It transpired she had cancer in her knee.'

'She had to get her leg amputated but she refused to go into a wheelchair. She came into school every day on crutches with her friends carrying her schoolbag for her.'

'She was just after finishing her Junior Cert when she was given the diagnosis and sadly, she passed away last year because the cancer had spread.'

'But I think she was completely inspirational. Any time that people say to me that I am mad and crazy to still be playing, I just say at least I am given the chance to play.'

'She was such an inspiration and any time I am feeling down or feeling in pain with my knee, I just think of her. She was a credit to her family. She refused to lie down, never felt sorry for herself and just got on with it and did the best she could.'

'If you can't draw inspiration from her, you can't draw inspiration from anything. And you just have to think that things could be a lot worse, seeing what she had to battle through,' Rockett explains.

'I am in an All-Ireland quarter-final next week. I didn't think I would ever play again a few years ago and, even though I might not be to sleep for a couple of nights after the match, I am still able to go out and captain my county.'

Next weekend's double-bill in Thurles will be broadcast live on RTE television.

It is part of a concerted effort by the Camogie Association to lift the profile of the game, with the aim to get more than 25,000 supporters in Croke Park for the All-Ireland final in September.

Rockett's ambition is to lead Waterford out in their first senior All-Ireland final, although there are a few bridges to cross before they get that far. And there are still a few issues for the sport to sort out.

Last year's dour, tactical arm-wrestle of an All-Ireland final showed that camogie needs to do something about its playing rules. The sport has set up a rules review group, which includes current and ex county players as well as officials and club players.

'Referees get a lot of stick but, in fairness to them, they are letting the games go a bit more this year and the games have been brilliant because of that,' she says.

'There has been a bit more leeway

in the rules. And the Camogie Association deserve a lot of credit for setting up this review group, as they show that they know that we do need to change things.'

'We just want to make the game more freeflowing. But when you change rules, whether it be camogie, hurling or football, there has to be a lot of thought put into it and how it will improve the game. As long as everyone works together, and we all just want to improve the game, I think we will see some changes to improve the game.'

Waterford themselves may be responsible for another rule change ahead of next year's Championship. For their final group game against All-Ireland champions Cork, they were only given five days' notice (as per the rulebook) about the switch from Saturday to Sunday.

The group released a strongly-worded statement about how the late change showed disrespect to the players. Rockett says that they

Helped by her mother's special remedy of holy water and broccoli, Niamh Rockett continues to confound medical opinion

'I was told at 16 that if I kept playing sport, I would be in a wheelchair by 30'





PAIN GAME: Rockett was told she has knees of a 60-year-old but loves to play; (below left) Rockett with the All-Ireland Intermediate title in 2015



Clonakilty camogie star Alannah O'Brien was part of the victorious Cork U15A team that became All-Ireland champions last weekend. This is a second All-Ireland camogie medal for Alannah this season.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Camogie

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
QUARTER-FINALS: (Semple Stadium) Tipperary 1-10 Limerick 1-5, (Semple Stadium) Galway 2-16 Waterford 2-8
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 1: (Aghahill) Dublin 2-10 Antrim 1-2, (John Locke's, Callan) Kilkenny 1-10 Galway 1-10, (Corahstown/Kinagad) Westmeath 0-14 Cork 0-10
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2: (Pairc Esler) Down 7-28 Wexford 1-2, (Netwatch Training Centre, Fenagh) Carlow 2-11 Laois 0-9, (Dunbeg) Kerry 3-5 Tipperary 1-10
LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP 2: (St Brendan's Park, Birt) Limerick 3-13 Offaly 1-12

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-finals

Saturday, August 3, Semple Stadium



Limerick v Tipperary, 5.30pm



Galway v Waterford, 7.15pm

Both games will be broadcast live on RTE 2 as well as the RTE player. The winners will progress to the semi-finals on August 17 to face either Cork or Kilkenny.

are meeting with the Camogie Association at the end of the championship to discuss the issue further.

'The girls were a bit upset,' she explains. 'They were playing six weeks in a row and then had five-day notice of the game. Sixty per cent of our girls work part-time because we are a very young team, most are in college and Trish Jackman is commuting from England. Her flight went away on Sunday morning, so she couldn't play the game.'

'On the Tuesday, we sent a letter to the Camogie Association and they got back to us within a couple of hours, saying they would meet us whenever the Championship comes to an end.'

'They are completely backing us, as are the WPGA. We are looking for the same thing. We just want to improve camogie and improve player welfare. And we can all work in cohesion to achieve that.'

The controversy didn't seem to affect them in the early stages of the final group game against Cork, as they came flying out of the traps against the All-Ireland champions.

However, the Leesiders soon gained control of the match and took their two goal opportunities while Waterford spurned their four goal-scoring chances.

'We will learn from that game. Cork are just an awesome team and they showed that you have to be clinical at this level. But we can be, it was a great learning curve for us, that match.'

Waterford have both a senior and junior team competing this year, the first time that the county has ever produced two camogie sides.

All in all, there are more than 60 players between the two panels. The county has three teams at Under-14 level and they are hoping to keep the conveyor belt turning.

Whenever the day comes when Niamh Rockett does accept that her knee will no longer allow her to play the sport, at least she knows that the future of Waterford camogie looks built on solid ground.

But for now, she will keep going for as long as she can. After all, she has the chance to represent her county when so many couldn't.

Sigerson clinches it for Killeagh

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

Killeagh 1-14

St Catherine's 1-13

IT took extra-time to separate St Catherine's and Killeagh in a scrappy first-round senior championship tie at Castle Road.

In the opening half, neither team gained control. Killeagh, with the aid of the swirling wind, rued their eight first-half wides. Both sides were guilty of wayward passing, Killeagh in particular.

Hannah Looney was an immediate threat. Her two points and a Chloe Sigerson free gave Killeagh a three-point advantage early on, but apart from another Sigerson free, Killeagh didn't score from play again until the 29th minute.

Aoife Hurley gave the Killeagh defence the runaround at times, but with Laura Treacy manning the full-back position, finding a way through was difficult.

In the 21st minute, St Catherine's led for the first time. A great Lucy Wallace run found Finola Neville and Mairead Rohan scored the goal. Jessica O'Shea was excellent for Killeagh around the middle of the park and her strike bounced in front of Catherine's keeper, Denise Twomey, and hit the upper net. That gave Killeagh a 1-5 to 1-4 half-time advantage.

The game became a battle in the second-half, score for score, with space at a minimum. A sublime Chloe Sigerson side-line cut gave Killeagh a two-point advantage.

Catherine's equalised for the fourth time on the stroke of normal time. Chloe Walsh seemed to have snatched victory for Killeagh, before Finola Neville scored a point two minutes into injury time to force extra-time, at 1-12 apiece.

Three wides by the Saints in the first three minutes of extra-time were matched by three from Killeagh. With darkness creeping in, neither side had hit the target ten minutes.

Only the minimum was going to separate these sides and so it turned out. Hannah Looney and Aoife Hurley swapped points, before a wonderful free by Chloe Sigerson, with three minutes remaining, finished what turned out to be an exciting affair.

Scorers for Killeagh: C Sigerson 0-9 (0-4 f, 0-2 sf), J O'Shea 1-0, H Looney 0-4, C Walsh 0-1.



Cork camogie star Chloe Sigerson was on form for Killeagh on Wednesday night.

Picture: INPHO/Oisín Kenneally

St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-6 f, M Rohan 1-0, F Neville 0-3, A Hurley 0-2, J O'Keefe, L O'Donnell 0-1 each.

KILLEAGH: S Beausang; E Treacy, L Treacy, A Walsh; C Daly, L McEvoy, J O'Gorman; J O'Shea, N

O'Keefe; C Sigerson, L O'Gorman, C Harney; C Walsh, K Ahern, H Looney.

Subs: A O'Driscoll for K Ahern (h-f).

ST CATHERINE'S: D Twomey, O Neville, C Motherway, A M Rohan; R O'Callaghan, O Cotter, E Ron-

ayne; L Hayes, M O'Keefe; A Hurley, F Neville, I Wallace; N O'Regan, M Rohan, J O'Keefe.

Subs: L O'Donnell for M Rohan (48), M Walsh for F O'Regan.

Referee: Simon Stokes (Tullylease).

Sars advance to round 3

SARFIELDS advanced through to round three of the SE Systems senior county championship as they demolished Douglas 4-14 to 1-9 in Castleroad last week.

Excellent scoring displays from Emer Fennell and Lucy Allen in the full-forward line helped Sars to record an impressive 14-point victory.

Sars are coming as a senior force thanks to their outstanding underage production line.

Scorers for Sarfields: E Fennell 1-8 (0-4 f), L Allen 2-2, M McCarthy 1-0, L Kelly 0-2, R O'Mahony, C Casey 0-1 each.

SARS: M Lynch; K Walsh, B Morgan, N O'Callaghan; E Casey, M Mullins, E Murphy; L Kelly, C Casey, C Holland, H Herlihy; R O'Mahony; E Fennell, L Allen, R McCarthy.

Subs: M McCarthy for A Mullins (h-f), C Mullins for C Holland (49).



Sarfields' Hollie Herlihy turns inside the tackle of Douglas' Aishling Walsh. See story on the left for details on Sars' in impressive first round camogie victory.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Barrs hold on despite late rally

CAMOGIE

■ John Leonard

St Finbarr's	2-12
Ballygarvan	3-9

ST FINBARR'S are through to the third round of the SE Systems Cork County Senior Club Camogie Championship as they defeated Ballygarvan by the narrowest of margins in their opener at Castle Road.

Ballygarvan will meet Milford, who were heavily beaten by Courcey Rovers earlier in the week.

In a dramatic closing five minutes with the scoreline reading 2-11 to 2-8 in favour of the Togher side, Ballygarvan's Aine Moynihan reduced the deficit to two points. Keeva McCarthy and Eimear Ryan tagged on unanswered points for St Finbarr's before Michaela Buckley drilled home a goal from a long-range free in stoppage time.

Solid defensive work by Ballygarvan in the opening quarter prevented St Finbarr's from winning by a bigger margin, while the Carrigdhoun side were held scoreless for most of the second quarter.

Sarah Jane Brady opened the scoring with a goal for Ballygarvan from the edge of the square, following a free.

McCarthy and Eimear Ryan tagged on points from play for St Finbarr's before Michaela Buckley replied with a point from play.

McCarthy pointed a free for the Togher side and Molly Kelleher replied with a point for Ballygarvan, before St Finbarr's took the lead for the first time in the contest with a goal from the corner of the square by Lynda O'Connell.

St Finbarr's had the Carrigdhoun side pinned back for most of the second quarter as they restricted them to two points in this period. Eimear Ryan scored the Togher side's second goal from a solo run through the Ballygarvan defence in the 21st minute. St Finbarr's led by 2-7 to 1-4 at the break.

The South Cork side upped the ante after the interval as they rallied to rescue the game. Both sides scored four points each.

St Finbarr's led by 2-11 to 1-8, when Buckley scored Ballygarvan's second goal, with eight minutes remaining to leave three points between the sides



St Finbarr's Grainne Cahalane in action against Ballygarvan's Sinead Lyons and Ann Keohane in the Senior Camogie Championship at Castle Road.

Picture: Gavin Brown

and set the scene for a dramatic finale. Scorers: St Finbarr's: E Ryan 1-3; K McCarthy 0-6 (-3f); L O'Connell 1-0; N Olden 0-2; G Cahalane, R Finn 0-1 each.

Ballygarvan: M Buckley 2-4 (1-2f); SJ Brady 1-0; I O'Regan 0-2; A Moynihan, R Murphy, M Kelleher 0-1 each.

St FINBARR'S: E Hurley, S Punch, A Egan, A O'Neill, C Ryan, G O'Connor, N Olden, L O'Connell, R Finn, C Golden, K McCarthy, A Shannon, E Olden, E Ryan, G Cahalane.

Subs: E Browne-Ryan for E Olden (46); C Keating for Cahalane (56).

BALLYGARVAN: S Aherne, A Keohane, L Browne, E Ryan, C O'Sullivan, S Wynne, K Dorney, E O'Regan, A Moynihan, I O'Regan, R Murphy, M Buckley, S Lyons, M Kelleher, SJ Brady.

Sub: M O'Donovan for O'Sullivan (49).

Referee: C McAllister (Aghada).



Ballygarvan's Michaela Buckley gets past St Finbarr's Carole Ryan in the Senior Camogie Championship.

Picture: Gavin Brown

Burke goals proves to be crucial in Carbery triumph

Carbery	1-10
Cloughduv	1-8

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

A SARAH BURKE goal, after good work from Tara Sheehan, gave Carbery the lead and was to be the important score that in the finish helped separate the sides in the SE Systems Senior championship clash in Brinny.

The divisional side had four changes to their listed line-out with inter-county seniors Libby Coppinger and Orla Cronin marked absent but they played with huge confidence as they took the game to Cloughduv. Leading 1-1 to 0-2 inside the opening 10 minutes, they fired over three points without reply to open up a five-point advantage.

Finishing the half well, Cloughduv added two to their tally to trail by just a goal but they would end up rueing two missed goal opportunities.

On the restart, Suzanne Bateman cut the deficit with an early Cloughduv point but three in a row

from Tara Sheehan, Hannah Sexton and Ciara O'Sullivan stretched Carbery's lead.

Cloughduv worked hard and forced an excellent save from Eimear White 13 minutes into the half and as the sides swapped points Carbery still held their lead.

The introduction of Olga Barry-Murphy and Ciara O'Leary brought Cloughduv more into the game and upping their work-rate significantly they were now winning a lot of possession. O'Leary fired over an excellent long-range effort but again Carbery replied with the game ticking into injury time.

Battling hard Cloughduv grabbed a goal after White made into a brilliant save from Aoife Twomey. Olga Barry-Murphy reacted fast sending the ball to the net.

It came too late though and while Cloughduv will

be disappointed they can look ahead to another day out. Carbery march safely through.

Scorers for Carbery: H Sexton 0-5 f, S Burke 1-0, T Sheehan, O'Sullivan 0-2 each, K Wall 0-1.

Cloughduv: S Bateman 0-5 (0-4 f), O Barry-Murphy, J Downes, R Hurley, C O'Leary 0-1 each.

CARBERY: E White (Barryroe, c); A O'Donovan (Newcestown), D Carroll (Enniskeane), M Sexton (Barryroe), M Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Kingston (Ballinascorthy), A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), H Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), M Lynch (Newcestown), Barrett (Ballinascorthy), K Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Crowley (Ballinascorthy), T Sheehan (Enniskeane), C O'Sullivan (Newcestown), S Burke (Ballinascorthy).

Subs: S Hurley (Enniskeane) for C Crowley, L Burke (Clonakilty) for Wall (38), M Coppinger (St Colum's) for C Kingston (65).

Cloughduv: A Murray, A Buckley, E Dunne, M Twomey, A Corkery, N O'Leary, L Buttimer, C Hughes, M Corkery, R Hurley, A Barry-Murphy (c), B Corkery, S Bateman, J Downes, C O'Mahony.

Subs: A Twomey for J Downes (41), C O'Leary for M Twomey (43), Barry-Murphy for C O'Mahony (51).

Referee: Frank O'Dwyer (St Finbarr's).



CAMOGIE MATTERS

By Jennifer O'Leary

MUST-WIN | Cork have to beat Westmeath in intermediate championship tie on Saturday to keep semi-final hopes alive

The World Games highlight importance of GAA abroad

WE'RE heading towards the business end of all inter-county championships. We know it's Tipperary v Kilkenny in the hurling final, the football picture will become a lot clearer after this weekend, as will the ladies' football championship with the quarter-finals down for decision, and the camogie championship quarter-finals are this Saturday, too.

With all that going on, a very important GAA event is flying under the radar this week – the Renault GAA World Games 2019. This is a competition, now in its third year, that recognises the global expansion of the GAA.

Did you know that in the last ten years there has been almost a 100 per cent growth in the number of GAA clubs operating outside of Ireland? There are now more than 400 GAA clubs in existence outside of Ireland. Incredible. The GAA is growing.

The tournament kicked off in Waterford on Monday and runs all week until Friday when the finals are held in Croke Park.

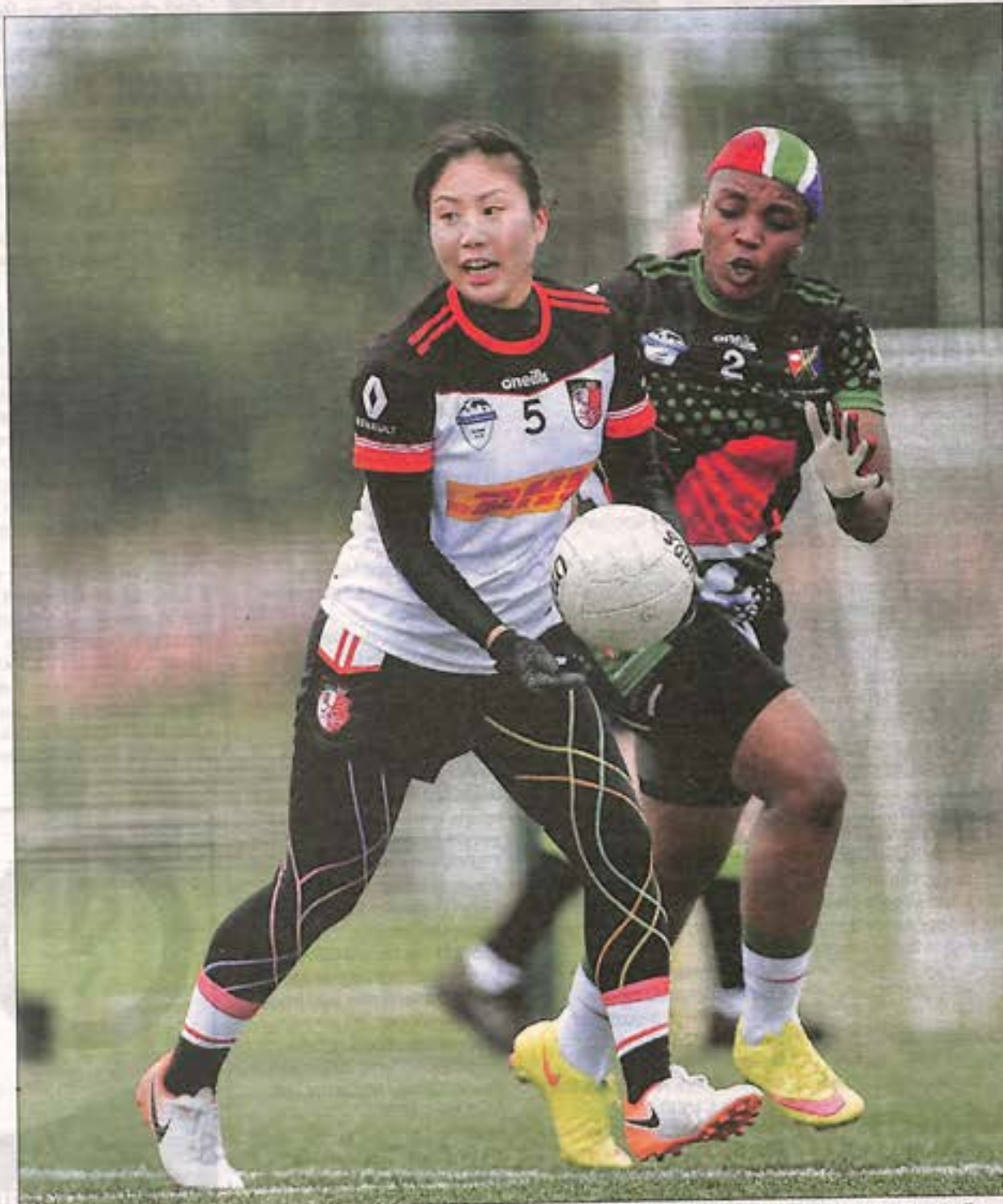
There are 1,300 players, and 84 teams, from ten regions across the globe taking part. Teams from Britain, North America, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Australia are all competing, with Irish abroad and non-native Irish people, who have taken an interest in the GAA, all coming together.

I lived in Brisbane and Sydney for 18 months from June 2008 to December 2009. This year marks almost ten years since I made the return home to Irish soil. Without the support and comfort of the GAA family during that time abroad, my travels wouldn't have been as fulfilling, enriching and enjoyable.

Leaving my club Barryroe and the Cork camogie team was a big decision to make, but knowing that I could still play while abroad, and also make friends like a family, was very reassuring.

I had great times playing with Sydney Central Coast GAA for a year, and now my sister-in-law, Orlagh Curry, and her friends have been selected for the Australasian camogie team to play at this week's GAA World Games. That's a major achievement considering the steady growth of people both native and Irish-born playing camogie and other Gaelic Games in Australia. Consider, too, that the panel is made up of only 13 players across the whole of Australasia.

The GAA World Games showcase games across the four codes, hurling, camogie, football and ladies football.



Soyeon Lee of Asia Cranes in action against Suzan Lebohang Maekela of South Africa in their Ladies Football Native Born tournament game during the Renault GAA World Games 2019 at WIT Arena on Monday.

(Photo: Piaras Ó Midheach/Sportsfile)

This week they estimate 84 teams will take part, including teams from South Africa, America, Europe and South America. The game itself is nine-a-side with a reduced time per half.

For many the cool weather here in Ireland will be a welcomed treat to play in. Players have travelled from Dubai and Abu Dhabi where they would have endured training three times a week in 40 degree heat. Surprisingly, those travelling home

from Australia might find warmth in the Irish sun as they are now in their winter where temperatures have dipped to below 13 degrees!

The preparation, commitment and training that goes into being ready for such an event is bigger than I expected.

Having spoken to some girls who have travelled home from London, Australia and Abu Dhabi, it appears that having a collective training session with all 13 players present is

very difficult considering distances that must be travelled to reach a neutral training ground.

The Emirates team has to factor in flying to reach their training sessions, while train journeys and endless car trips would have been the norm for many other players in different parts of the world. Considering the size of Australasia itself, the distances travelled are very significant. It is also a costly event for these players, as not all their travel costs could have

Did you know that in the last ten years there has been almost a 100 per cent growth in the number of GAA clubs operating outside of Ireland? There are no more than 400 GAA clubs in existence outside of Ireland. Incredible. The GAA is growing.

been covered, if any. Getting home to Ireland would have also placed a strain on their potential holiday breaks as this would more than likely be their biggest holiday of the year.

So what is the appeal of the GAA World Games for these players? Not only does the GAA bring a sense of community to your life when abroad, it also promotes an even greater form of sportsmanship as you encounter players from all around the world during a special week at home. I would have loved to have had an opportunity to be involved in an event like this when I was in Australia.

Another obvious reason to take part is for the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends at home and have them cheer you on as they get the rare opportunity to see you play the sport in an unfamiliar jersey. Who would also miss the chance to possibly play in Croke Park if you reach the finals and go on to maybe win a GAA World Games medal?

There are other motivations. Perhaps it can become an extended holiday abroad for the 60 per cent of players at the event who were not born in Ireland. How amazing is it for them to experience Irish culture at its very core?

I love the inclusivity of these games and how players from all over the globe can meet and share in the experience. Players from all over the world wearing their GAA club colours and playing the games we are so proud of here in Ireland.

We should all be proud of the sporting opportunity we have available to us at our back door. With more and more clubs growing all across Ireland every year, the possibility to be part of the GAA community has never been easier. It is also very comforting to know that if we do make that journey across the waters and beyond, the chance to connect with others through our games is growing stronger every year also.

SENIOR CLUB CAMOGIE

CARBERY 1-10
CLOUGHDUV 1-8

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

EVEN without their inter-county stars Carbery overcame a gutsy Cloughduv in the first round of the SE Systems Cork Camogie Senior Championship at sun-drenched Brinny on Friday evening.

Cork seniors Orla Cronin and Libby Coppinger sat out this game, as did Caroline Murphy, but Carbery showed they have plenty of talent in reserve.

Cloughduv scored an injury-time goal from sub Olga Barry-Murphy but it was too late to really worry Carbery who led all the way through.

'It was nail-biting towards the end and Cloughduv fought hard. We really had to work hard for this win,' Carbery captain and goalkeeper Eimear White said.

'When you look at the last game (against Muskerry) Orla Cronin was dominant in the forwards, Libby Coppinger chipped in with a few points and Caroline Murphy scored a goal – but it shows the calibre of talent in Carbery that we were able to replace them tonight. Of course we missed them but we held our own out there.'

It was Carbery who struck the opener when Hannah Sexton pointed a close-range free before Joanne Downs split the posts for Cloughduv. When Sarah Burke goalied for Carbery after six minutes she put the West Cork side ahead by three points, 1-1 to 0-1, and they maintained a lead until the end.

Tara Sheehan, Sexton and the



Carbery jump latest hurdle

Sarah Burke's first-half goal key in Round 1 win

lively Ciara O'Sullivan scored three further first-half points for Carbery while Suzanne Bateman (2) and Rachel Hurley cut the gap to three by the break, 1-4 to 0-4.

Cloughduv narrowed the deficit to two early in the second half before divisional side Carbery hit three unanswered points in a five-minute spell through their Cork minors – Sheehan, Sexton (free) and O'Sullivan – to open up a 1-7 to 0-5 lead heading into the final 20 minutes.

That five-point lead was held until injury time as Sexton (2) and Kate Wall kept Carbery ticking over while Bateman (2) and Ciara O'Leary kept Cloughduv in the hunt.

Sub Barry-Murphy struck for an injury-time goal for Cloughduv but Carbery got the win they deserved.

Scorers

Carbery: H Sexton 0-5 (5f); S Burke 1-0; C O'Sullivan, T Sheehan 0-2 each; K Wall 0-1.

Cloughduv: S Bateman 0-5 (4f); O Barry-Murphy 1-0; J Downs, C O'Leary, R Hurley 0-1 each.

Carbery: E White (Barryroe); A O'Donovan (Newcestown), D Carroll (Enniskeane), M Sexton (Barryroe); A Crowley (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C Kingston (Ballinascorthy), M Murphy (Kilbrittain/Timoleague); M Lynch (Newcestown), H Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague);

C Crowley (Ballinascorthy), K Wall (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), M Barrett (Ballinascorthy); S Burke (Kilbrittain/Timoleague), C O'Sullivan (Newcestown), T Sheehan (Enniskeane).

Subs: S Hurley (Enniskeane) for C Crowley (38), L Mannix (Enniskeane) for K Wall (48), M Coppinger (St Colum's) for C Kingston (64).

Cloughduv: A Murray, A Buckley, E Dunne, M Twomey; A Corkery, N O'Leary, L Buttmer; C Hughes, M Corkery, R Hurley, A Barry-Murphy, B Corkery; S Bateman, J Downs, C O'Mahony.

Subs: A Twomey for J Downs (42), C O'Leary for M Twomey (42), O Barry-Murphy for C O'Mahony (51).

Referee: Frank O'Dwyer (St Finbarr's).



ABOVE: Carbery free-taker Hannah Sexton (Kilbrittain/Timoleague) nails this placed ball for one of her five points. TOP OF PAGE: Carbery's Ciara O'Sullivan (Newcestown) earns a free after this foul by Cloughduv's Laura Buttmer during their county championship Round 1 game at Brinny on Friday. (Photos: Trevor Patchett)

Keating and Collins torment Milford in rout

SENIOR CAMOGIE

BY SHIRLEY MOLONEY

LINDA Collins and Fiona Keating led the Courcey Rovers attack as they hit 6-23 against an understrength Milford side in the opening Round 1 game of the SE Systems Cork Camogie Senior Championship.

Cork senior Collins hit 2-11 and county dual minor Keating scored 4-4 as the deadly duo combined for an incredible 6-15. This was a rematch of last year's semi-final but the result was far more clear-cut this time as Courceys, who qualified for their first senior final in 2018, were never troubled against a Milford team that still had Ashling Thompson, Elaine O'Riordan and Aine Watson in

their ranks.

Milford must now take the backdoor route where they will meet Ballygarvan, who suffered a defeat, 2-13 to 3-9, to St Finbarr's at Castle Road on Friday evening. Despite trailing by six at half time, 1-4 to 2-7, Ballygarvan rallied to provide a thrilling closing 20 minutes when they scored a goal to narrow the gap to three. Izzy O'Regan and Michaela Buckley up front and Sarah Aberne between the posts were Ballygarvan's best players.

Killeagh needed extra time to beat St Catherine's in Round 1 after they were deadlocked 1-12 apiece at the end of normal time. Scores from Hannah Looney and Chloe Sigerson, the

latter's point coming in the 79th minute, helped Killeagh win 1-14 to 1-13. St Catherine's now meet Cloughduv in Round 2.

Defending champions Inniscarra, despite enjoying a 1-14 to 0-6 win over newcomers Éire Óg, didn't have it all their own way when they met at a wet and windy Cloughduv on Thursday evening in their Round 1 tie.

Inniscarra led by 0-8 to 0-4 at half time and all four Éire Óg points came from Margaret Herlihy frees. Éire Óg were dealt a hammer blow when Ellen Murphy goalied on the three-quarter mark, as Inniscarra moved 1-12 to 0-5 ahead. With Niamh Dilworth, Aileen Sheehan and Niamh McCarthy all getting on the score-sheet, Inniscarra proved too strong for Éire Óg. However, they produced a performance worthy of the senior grade and

in Round 2 will now meet Douglas, who were without the injured Katrina Mackey as they were defeated 4-14 to 1-9 by Sarsfields at Castle Road.

Glen Rovers and Ballincollig threw up another thrilling encounter when they met at Castle Road, with the former winning 3-18 to 3-15 after Ballincollig led at half time by 1-10 to 1-9. Ballincollig will now play Muskerry in Round 2.

The Round 2/backdoor draw is as follows: Douglas v Éire Óg, Ballincollig v Muskerry, Milford v Ballygarvan, St Catherine's v Cloughduv.

Round 3 will be played in mid-September and that will see the seven winners from Round 1 and the four winners from Round 2 in the draw. Five teams will get byes to the quarter-finals and the remaining six teams play in Round 3.



Courcey Rovers' Saoirse McCarthy watches her shot sail over the bar in their big win against Milford in round one of the Cork senior camogie championship. (Photo: Trevor Patchett)

Keating is determined to complete All-Ireland double

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

FIONA Keating has suffered more than her fair share of All-Ireland football final pain.

At U14, U16 and minor levels with Cork, she's finished on the losing side on the big days. In 2015 Cavan struck twice in injury-time to beat Cork 0-17 to 4-4 in the All-Ireland U14 final. Two years later, Galway defeated Keating and Co by 3-15 to 2-11 in the All-Ireland U16 decider. Then last year the Rebels were nudged into the runners-up spot again, losing 5-7 to 2-15 against Galway in the All-Ireland minor final.

It's little wonder that the Ballinspittle teenager (18) is so determined to finish off her minor inter-county football days on a high next Monday when Cork play Monaghan in this year's All-Ireland minor A football final.

'It would mean so much to win this one. When you lose three All-Ireland finals, two of them by one point, and you have been through the upset, you appreciate the wins even more,' Keating explained after she was presented with a Celtic Ross West Cork Youth Sports Star quarterly award to recognise her exploits with the All-Ireland minor A winning Cork camogie team.

'After winning the camogie I'd love to do a double and win the football in my last year as minor. It would mean the world to me.'

Dual star Keating was at her brilliant best when the Cork footballers beat Galway in the recent All-Ireland semi-final. This was a rematch of last year's final that the Tribeswomen won.

But Cork had to go up to the challenge. They won 3-13 to 1-11 in the final.

'It's gone from asking how many runs have we left to asking can we do more! We want an All-Ireland medal and we know we have to work hard to get that' – Fiona Keating, Cork minor dual star

superb solo goal in the second half gave Cork belief. They kicked on from there.

'The goal was all a bit of a blur,' Keating admits.

'I just kept going and going, and the ball slipped from my hands at the end but I got a foot to it, and thank God it went in. It gave us the boost we needed.'

There's a real belief and hunger in John Cleary's minor football team this season, the Courceys Rovers dual player says.

'This year we have that extra bit of bite,' Keating points out.

'Some of us have lost three All-Ireland finals and that's not easy. For some of us too it's our last year as minors so we want to finish with an All-Ireland. We came so close last year.'

'I look at some of those girls as my best friends. I see them nearly more than my school friends. We've been training three times a week for the past five years and it would mean the world if we can come out the right side of the final and, finally, win a football

final. I would be out five, six nights a week,' admits Keating who balances sport with school (she's heading into sixth year at Kinsale Community School) and work during the summer at Centra in Ballinspittle.

All-Ireland.'

Monaghan stand in their way on Monday, but Keating is confident that Cork will reap the benefits of their hard work.

'The runs we were doing in Cloughduv and Delaney's in those winter months, you wouldn't put cats and dogs out in it, but we had the All-Ireland final day in mind and we all put our heads down and worked hard. It's gone from asking how many runs have we left to asking can we do more! We want an All-Ireland medal and we know we have to work hard to get that,' she says.

'We have so much fitness work done and against Galway in the semi-final we always felt that if it came down to the last ten minutes that we could take them, and that's what happened.'

Working hard is something this dual player knows all about. She's non-stop. The night after Keating accepted her West Cork Sports Star Youth award she scored 4-4 for Courceys Rovers in their senior camogie championship thrashing of Milford.

'An incredible talent,' is how Cork minor selector Anne O'Grady describes Keating, 'and refreshingly modest.'

And as well as Courceys, Keating is also on the West Cork senior football team – and she played in senior county finals with both last season too. That's on top of all her minor activity.

'I would be out five, six nights a week,' admits Keating who balances sport with school (she's heading into sixth year at Kinsale Community School) and work during the summer at Centra in Ballinspittle.

But she wouldn't want it any other way, even though she'll

admit that breaking her thumb just before her summer exams wasn't ideal.

'I learned my lesson there and won't play too much before my Leaving Cert next year,' she laughs.

'You have to find a balance between school and sport, and sport is important because it gives you that break from the books and study. I have my last year of minor before I head into sixth year so I'll have a quieter year.'

The hope now is that she can follow up her camogie heroics with an All-Ireland title to match. Keating was player of the match in the All-Ireland minor A camogie final against Clare in April when she scored five points. In the semi-final win over Kilkenny she hit 1-5.

'Last year when we won the All-Ireland camogie title it was the first time in history Cork won this competition so to go on and win it again this year was fantastic,' she says.

'Again, like the football, I have grown up with a lot of those girls, playing camogie all the way up. We treasure those All-Ireland medals because we realise that it doesn't happen too often.'

Not only is Keating one of three dual minor players chasing success – along with Cliona Dooley (Ballinora) and Isabelle

CELTIC ROSS HOTEL WEST CORK SPORTS STAR AWARDS



Celtic Ross West Cork Youth Sports Star quarterly award winner Fiona Keating pictured at the award presentation with her family. From left, Aoife, Daniel, Patricia, Fiona, Donal, Sinead and Timothy Keating. (Photos: George Maguire)

Courceys dual star targets All-Ireland minor football final glory

THE FINAL

MONDAY, 5TH
All-Ireland Minor A
Football Final
Cork v Monaghan
Tullamore, 3pm
(ET if necessary)

MINORS' CONSISTENCY

John Cleary's Cork will play in a sixth successive All-Ireland minor A ladies' football final when they meet Monaghan on Monday. Cork, who won three-in-a-row from 2015-2017, were defeated in the 2014 and 2018 finals by Galway, who they beat in the recent semi-final by 3-13 to 1-13. In the finals Cork won, they have defeated Galway twice (2015 and '17) and Dublin (2016). It's an incredible consistency to play in six successive finals and highlights again how the conveyor belt of talent is so strong.



Fiona Keating with her well-deserved West Cork Youth Sports Star Award. LEFT: Fiona Keating scored 1-4 in the All-Ireland football semi-final win against Galway.

Sheehan (Eire Óg) – but she is also a twin. Actually there are two sets of twins in her family. There's Fiona and Daniel (18) and Sinead and Timothy (22), as well as the oldest of the five, Aoife (23), who plays football with Kinsale.

The youngest of the five, by only five minutes she points out, is targeting lots more medals and success this season but first up is Monday and the All-Ireland minor A football final. That's her priority now. And she's primed to deliver.

One step at a time on Limerick's return to top

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

All athletes hide guilty pleasures but Marian Quaid has no qualms about digging into a pack of Starbursts.

"I repeated the Leaving Cert and they got me through it twice. I am addicted," she concedes with a broad grin.

Quaid cuts a relaxed figure ahead of tomorrow's All-Ireland senior camogie Championship quarter-final against Tipperary (Semple Stadium, 5.30pm) but the Bruff defender is no shrinking violet on the pitch. It's a single-mindedness which has served her well off the field also.

The 21-year-old starts the second year of a physiotherapy degree at University of Limerick next month satisfied the decision to repeat her Leaving — such a difficult one for a teenager, with peers moving on to the next phase of their lives — was the correct one.

"I knew what I was offered I wasn't happy with. It was

either do four years of something I knew I wasn't going to spend my life doing, or just one year and go back and try and get something I knew I would be happy with. It was a tough decision but I don't regret it. I always wanted something in healthcare. Even the first year I did (the Leaving) I wasn't sure. The second year clarified that."

Not being a goalkeeper probably gives it away, but she is no relation to the Quaid who have dominated Limerick hurling netminding for close to half a century. "It all started with my dad (Mike) out in the front lawn pucking. He would have been saying, 'both sides now'. I started when I was five with Bruff and have been playing ever since then."

She always stood out and when the time came, county involvement was inevitable. Quaid was only 16 when a non-playing sub on the history-making All-Ireland minor-winning squad in 2014. Such was her potential that she was called into the senior set-up the following season.

"A lot of those players that were on that panel are now starting on the senior team. Even the year that we won (the minor), Limerick won the intermediate as well. It was a great year but we just haven't done much since. We are trying to build on that."

Which is why reaching the knockout stages of the senior championship was such an important hurdle to clear for the Shannonsiders.

"Over the past few years confidence has been a bit of an issue for us. We could have a good league and get to the semi-final for five years in a row and then not perform. We just need to back ourselves a bit more. This year we just took one match at a time. There was no going into Championship (thinking) you have to win two matches. From the start of May it was Offaly, Offaly, Offaly, and once Offaly was over it was Wexford, Wexford, Wexford. It is just one step at a time now."

They are satisfied with their performances, particularly in defeat to Galway, when Declan Nash opted to give his



Marian Quaid: 'I know after Kilkenny we were obviously disappointed but we just left it in Kilkenny.'

Picture: Dan Sheridan/Inpho

three dual players a rest, with qualification almost assured. One blip on the road was a heavy loss to Kilkenny but Quaid insists that disappointment was quickly parked.

"Kilkenny wasn't great. It wasn't our best performance but Kilkenny are an unbelievable side, you have to give credit where it is due."

"But we can't dwell on that now, instead we have to learn from it and focus on Tipperary. We usually meet them in the Munster semi-final but we haven't played them in (the All-Ireland) Championship in I don't know how long. I know after Kilkenny we were obviously disappointed but we just left it in Kilkenny. Your back is against the wall now and that's exciting, to be playing knockout camogie. Tipperary are all we're thinking about."

Call for changes in camogie rules

Former GAA President Liam O'Neill will chair a new group tasked with reviewing the rules of camogie.

Players and officials have loudly called for changes to be made to the sport given the huge developments in the game and the increased conditioning levels of players in

recent years.

The move follows a well attended 'Feedback Forum' last April and the approval of the Association's Annual Congress to review certain rules.

O'Neill will oversee a Rules Revision Working Group tasked with proposing such changes and recommending

how they are trialled.

Camogie members nationwide are asked to mail their thoughts and contributions to info@camogie.ie

The Camogie Association are also creating a Player Engagement Working Group which will be chaired by Cork PRO, Shirley Moloney.

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie championship quarter-finals.

Tipperary v Limerick, Semple Stadium 5.30pm (R. Kelly, Kildare).

Niamh Mulcahy remains the talisman for the Shannonsiders, the Ahane star racking up more remarkable tallies from frees and play but her teammates need to share the load if the girls in green are to prevail. Since Niamh Lillis replaced Bill Mullane, who stepped down due to health reasons, Tipp have

displayed tremendous grit. Clodagh Quirk has excelled as captain but Mary Ryan has been the outstanding performer, in her 15th season of championship. Extra-time may be required to separate them.

Verdict: Tipperary.

Galway v Waterford, Semple Stadium 7.15pm (O. Elliott, Antrim). Waterford made the quarter-final last year for the first time and should be stronger for that experience. They are stronger too for the return to the fold of Trish Jackman, who has been commuting from England. Galway definitely go into this affair as favourites but if the

Déise defence can neutralise their opponents' all-star attack, with the scoring power at their disposal, they could spring a shock. A nod to the Tribe, nevertheless.

Verdict: Galway.

TOMORROW

All-Ireland SFC Super 8. Group 2, Round 3. Tyrone v Dublin, Healy Park 4pm (J. McQuillan, Cavan) Live RTE. Beating Dublin twice to win an All-Ireland looks like what faces Tyrone again but does Mickey Harte look for an improvement on the three-point loss here 12 months ago as an indication his team are



DRIVE: Limerick's Sarah Carey on the run

Devane points Tipp to tight derby win

TIPPERARY'S experience of knockout camogie showed as they ground out victory in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Quarter-Final at Semple Stadium.

Cait Devane shot seven points from placed balls, five in the second half, and Niamh Lillis's side had built up enough of a lead to see out the game despite the sending off of Eirena Fryday on a second yellow.

It all looked so good for the Shannonsiders early on, with Niamh Mulcahy a constant threat from play until Grace O'Toole dropped deep to help chaperone the Limerick centre-forward, a move that also allowed Karen Kennedy to thunder into the fray.

Tipp had been forced into a late switch with an injury to full-back Gemma Grace.

That saw Mary Ryan switched back from the midfield berth she has been thriving in this year, and though not a position she would be unfamiliar with, Tipp certainly missed the Moneygall star's dynamism further outfield.

Devane gave Tipp the lead with a second-minute point from a free but Mulcahy dispossessed O'Toole before making ground through the middle and clipping over a leveller.

Caoimhe Costelloe landed the first of two exceptional points

Tipperary	1-10
Limerick	1-5

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

following a clever switch of direction by the eye-catching Niamh Ryan.

Limerick were not getting scores to reflect their dominance, however, and they had already conceded an equalising free by Devane when giving up a calamitous goal in the 18th minute.

Eirena Fryday slotted a point immediately afterwards but Mulcahy's hit back with a brilliantly taken goal.

Devane and Laura Stack exchanged points to leave Tipp leading by 1-4 to 1-3 at half-time.

Mulcahy quickly drew Limerick level but with Devane accurate from frees Tipp struck the next five points to put the tie to bed.

TIPPERARY: C. Bourke, J. Bourke, Mary Ryan, E. Fryday, O. O'Dwyer, M. Campion 0-1 each.

LIMERICK: L. O'Neill, M. Ryan, M. Creamer, M. Quaid (L. McCarthy 44), N. Ryan (N. Curtin 54), S. Carey, J. Mulcahy, K. O'Leary (K. Hennessy 69), R. Antbrock, D. Murphy, N. Mulcahy, C. Costelloe, L. Stack (S. Leon and 41), R. Daley, D. Egan (C. Lyons 34).

Scorers: N. Mulcahy 1-2; C. Costelloe 0-2; L. Stack 0-1.

REFEREE: Párlach Kelly (Kilkenny)

Dolan's perfect 10 the highlight of Galway win

GALWAY qualified for the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Semi-Final, having survived the severest of stress tests from a vibrant Waterford at Semple Stadium.

The Déise have been pinpointed as a coming force but are clearly impatient and not willing to wait, as they went toe-to-toe with the League champions before wilting late on.

They led by 2-7 to 1-6 at the break, and forced Sarah Healy into two tremendous saves within four minutes.

The Waterford defence, that had been so good for 40 minutes or so, began to creak under increasing pressure and Carrie Dolan capitalised on the many opportunities presented to her, finishing off with 10 points from frees.

Niamh Kilkenny had been anonymous in the opening period but showed all her class and leadership when Galway

Galway	2-16
Waterford	2-8

needed it, bringing the teams level and then with 10 minutes left, giving them the lead for the first time since Carton replied to Aoife Donohue's opening goal.

In the end, it wasn't to be for Waterford, however, as Galway had too much in the tank.

GALWAY: Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, S. Devane, H. Cooney, T. Kenney, E. Helebert, L. Ryan, A. Donohue (R. Hennessy 60), A. M. Starr (C. Murphy 40), C. Dolan, S. Spellman (C. Finnerty 59), N. Kilkenny, N. Coen, M. Cooney (C. Cormican HT), A. O'Reilly. SCORERS: C. Dolan 5-10 (5); A. Donohue, A. O'Reilly 1-0 each; N. Kilkenny, N. Coen 0-2 each; C. Murphy, R. Hennessy 0-1 each. WATERFORD: B. O'Regan, S. Henney (M. Power 49), I. Heffernan, K. Lynch, C. McGrath (S. Roche 60), B. Curran, L. Bray, O. Hickey (C. Whynes 49), B. Carton, F. Morrissey (K. Corbett Barry 41), N. Rockell, T. Jackman, A. Lyng, A. Fitzgerald, S. Lacey. SCORERS: B. Carton 1-4 (0-2S, 0-1 AS, 1-0 pen); S. Curran 1-0 (S); A. Lyng 0-2; F. Morrissey, N. Rockell 0-1 each. REFEREE: Owen Elliott (Antrim)

- DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

Exciting end in store guaranteed

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newnan

IT'S ALL to play for in the last round of the Liberty Insurance Intermediate Championship as the final rounds are played out this afternoon.

And we're in for a grand finale and a tight and heartstopping finish.

As we head into today's games Galway are on top of Group 1 having won five games out of five. They are comfortable on 15 points and at this stage are safely through to the semi-final.

It's the second semi-final spot that could be up for grabs and it is here that we are hoping for all the drama and excitement. Kilkenny are three points off the top, on 12 points, as are Westmeath.

Cork are on nine points and here it gets interesting. Kilkenny take on Galway in Kilkenny today whilst Cork travel to Coralsown/Kinnegad GAA grounds today at 5pm to take on Westmeath. This is a game Cork have to win and they also need Galway to defeat Kilkenny.

That would then leave Kilkenny, Cork and Westmeath level on 12 points and it will then come down to scoring differences to decide who goes through to the semi-final. Currently, Cork are on a plus 45, Kilkenny have a plus 30 tally and Westmeath are on plus 19.

Westmeath were to play Antrim last weekend but Antrim conceded the game and this is something that Westmeath will not be happy about as Cork racked up a big score against Antrim but Kilkenny were only two points better than them when the sides met.

Cork, as defending champions, would dearly love to go a step further, especially when you consider just how far this team has come. Having won the All-Ireland title last season all of the winning team plus any subs who played were ineligible for the grade.

It is no easy feat to put a new team out on the playing fields against strong opposition but Cork have blended together a fine side. And despite not making it to the latter stages of the league they did exceptionally well in all games.

Their championship displays have been excellent and it is a pity that possibly the two hardest challenges came at the start of the group series. Cork lost out to Kilkenny and Galway by the narrowest of margins. Both of these games could have been won and it was disappointing from that perspective.

In the first game against Kilkenny, to say some of the decisions that went against Cork were crazy is an understatement. On the day there were 29 frees awarded against Cork, only two points from the Kilkenny tally of 1-11 came from play. Cork were furious at some of the calls that went against them.

In a tough battle in Gort, three points separated the sides as three late points swung the game in Galway's favour. To their credit, Cork rallied magnificently after losing to Kilkenny as they defeated Kildare and the win over Dublin in round four got them firmly back on track.

They went on to rack up a huge score against Antrim in round five. They have a huge work-rate and have been very impressive, but Westmeath will provide the strongest challenge to date.

They beat Kildare before losing out by a point to Galway. They went on to



Ina Dorgan from Top Oil Ballyvolane presenting Glen Rovers' senior captain Lydia Cunningham and vice-captain Denise Luby with jerseys for their SE Systems Senior Championship Campaign.



The Cork Intermediate Camogie team showed their support for Lace up in Pink for Breast Cancer awareness weekend. They sported pink wristbands after their game with Antrim in Castle Road with young supporters, as they encouraged everybody to text CURE to 50300.

record a seven-point victory over Kilkenny and were 10 points to the good over Dublin. Last season they were one of the sides that troubled Cork and having reached the leagues semi-final this year they will be determined to go all the way in championship.

They lost out to Tipperary in an excellent league semi-final where the experience of the Tipp sides on the day narrowly carried the day for them: 3-9 to 1-12. Manager Johnny Grenville is no stranger to tight contests and he will be looking to their experienced campaigners such as Michelle Murtagh, Pamela Grenville, Megan Dowdall, Sandra McGrath, Mairead McCormick and Aoife O'Malley to help fashion out a result.

Cork will battle to the finish and manager Frances Killeen is looking forward the challenge facing her charges.

"We are under no illusions as to the

task ahead, Westmeath are a very good sides. Last year they defeated Cork in the last game of the group series in the national league and made it through to the final where Cork edged it with a point to spare.

"We know they will provide us with a huge challenge. They are always a tough, physical side but we will need to be at our best to get a result and then if we do we will be hoping the result of the other games goes the way we will be hoping for." Frances reports a clean bill of health with her charges all injury free and raring to go and with players of the calibre of Hayley Ryan, Erin Looney, Kate O'Keeffe, captain Stefanie Beausang and Isobel O'Regan Cork are going to Kinnegad full of confidence. Let's just hope Galway can then overcome Kilkenny.

It will be edge of the seats stuff until this afternoon as we keep one eye on Kinnegad and another to what is hap-

pening in Kilkenny.

Whatever the outcome the management are to be congratulated on the excellent work they have done in such a short space of time in blending together a team that has performed so well in their first season together. As we saw over the last few years it is so hard to field a second adult team and to be competitive but this is certainly a team that will get their rewards if they can manage to keep them together and don't bet on it now happening shortly.

Before we sign off, and I know it's a rant and we have said it before, but where in God's name is the Camogie Association going playing championship game at venues so far apart at 5pm on a Saturday evening, especially a Bank Holiday weekend. Do they have any thoughts for players and mentors who might just like to get home to their families at a reasonable hour? Rant over... for now!

Clubs gear up for another busy week

GAA

■ Mary Newman

ANOTHER busy week of championship action at all levels as the round-robin series of games in intermediate and junior continues at pace.

Meanwhile, at senior level, eight teams, Courcey Rovers, Killeagh, Sarsfields, Glen Rovers, Inniscarra, Carbery and St Finbarr's, recorded wins in the first round of the SE Systems Senior championship.

The losers rounds will see Milford against Ballygarvan, Douglas face Eire Og, St Catherine's meet Cloughduv and Ballincollig meet Muskerry. Round two will see Sarsfields against the winners of Milford-Ballygarvan, Carbery will play Ballincollig or Muskerry and Inniscarra will meet Douglas or Eire Og.

Glen Rovers, St Finbarr's, Courcey Rovers, Killeagh, and either St Catherine's or Cloughduv progress to the quarter-finals to be joined by the winners of the round two games.

INTERMEDIATE

Na Piarsaigh recorded their first victory as they accounted for Newcestown. Two first half goals from Emma O'Connor helped them lead 2-3 to 1-3 at the interval as Suzanne Deasy dispatched a penalty to the net to keep Newcestown in the hunt. Through the second half, the sides swapped points but it was Na Piarsaigh who hung on.

JUNIOR

In the SE Systems Junior A tier, in section one Charleville had a round three win over Tracton as Banteer proved too strong for Bishopstown. In section two Ballinascorthy made it back-to-back wins with a victory over Barryroe whilst St Vincent's also recorded their second win with a point to spare over Newtownshandrum.

In the SE Systems Junior B Championship, Cobh had victories over Millstreet and Buttevant while Inniscarra had a win over Millstreet. In section two Ballinora continue to be the front-runners with a win over Castletyons while Bride Rovers defeated Youghal.

In section two of the SE Systems Junior C Championship, Blarney made it two wins from two as they overcame St Colum's, while Kinsale beat Na Piarsaigh.

In the 13-a-side championship, Rockbawn made it three wins with another impressive display as they defeated Castlemartyr.

UNDERAGE LEAGUE

The second round phase of the U12, U14 and U16 leagues are all now well underway.

The underage championship draw will also take place on Tuesday night next at a special board meeting at 7.30pm in Castle Road we will bring you all of these here on next week's camogie pages.

When Cork blitzed Tipperary in the second half of a 15-point defeat at CTP on June 22, it was the third serious setback in a horror week that had begun with Nicole Walsh being airlifted from The Ragg unconscious and was followed by the resignation of manager Bill Mullaney for health reasons.

With the Waterford clash having been postponed due to Walsh's frightening plight, the rescheduled fixture meant they would be playing six weekends in a row. It was a back-breaking load, given the circumstances.

Yet they thrived. Niamh Lillis and the rest of the management group galvanising their squad with quiet assurance. Despite suffering further injuries to key players, Tipp bagged four consecutive triumphs to secure a Liberty Insurance All-Ireland quarter-final against Limerick at Semple Stadium tonight (5.30pm).

Orla O'Dwyer (Player): "Talk to anyone about camogie and it is always Kilkenny, Cork, Galway in the top three. We've been there trying to get that fourth spot but seeing as we got to the semi-final last year, we want to push on. We were looking forward to the championship and driving on."

Niamh Lillis (Selector/Manager): "I was lucky I was in the era where my first year at senior we won an All-Ireland final. We won three in a row after that as well. Year on year we were getting there every year too. It's where Tipp should be."

"What we have this year is a really good minor team. We have pulled a few off that team for both senior and intermediate. Then you have the likes of Mary Ryan. She has been a long servant of Tipperary camogie. She would remind you of Patrick Horgan, nobody deserves a medal more than Mary Ryan."

Tipp were four points down to Waterford at The Ragg when Walsh hit the ground. And didn't move.

Nicole Walsh (Player): "I did actually get a knock in the first half. I didn't go out cold. People are saying it was from the initial knock. The second knock I looked back over it on video. I just remember going for ball. I don't remember colliding with the girl. I was spark out."

"I just remember waking up in the helicopter in mid-air and your man telling me 'You are okay, you are safe.' I ended up in the surgery room and I ended up being okay. I bounced back after two weeks. I wasn't allowed to play any sport or do any kind of running or cardio."

"Waking up in a chopper was some fright. I have never got concussed in my life before. I didn't know what was going on. My head was spinning. A lot of drama but I came out on the other side of it."

Bridget Bourke (County Chairperson): "It was horrendous for Nicole. Our own doctor Paul Scully was very concerned. He sat on the ground holding her neck for three-quarters of an hour because he was worried. Guys like that don't panic either. 'The match goes out the window. She is somebody's



Nicole Walsh: 'I ended up in the surgery room and I ended up being okay. I bounced back after two weeks. I wasn't allowed to play any sport or do any kind of running or cardio.'



daughter and sister. She is a colleague. Thank God she was taken to Dublin that day by helicopter and they did the scans and everything. They let her home the following evening. They said bad concussion. I saw her on the Monday night and she was shook enough. I met her on the Friday night and the recovery in the couple of days was fantastic."

O'Dwyer: "To see Nicole go down and stay down. To see the helicopter. That was scary and we were all scared but at least she was okay."

During the week, Mullaney told them that he would have to step away from the coalface. He had helped them end a lengthy drought from the knockout stages last year and brought the Intermediates Division 2 League success in the spring. It was a bolt from the blue.

Bourke: "He contacted me on the Sunday night before the Cork game and he just said he had to step down for health reasons. I was devastated to lose him. I will make no bones on that. I am still devastated. He has been around that team a long time. Some of them girls he had them at minor and he has been involved with them

at U16. My daughter Caoimhe, Caroline, his own daughter, Karen Kennedy, Orla O'Dwyer."

O'Dwyer: "I had Bill from U16 all the way up along. And playing both the camogie and football, he was very good to communicate with (football manager) Shane (Ronayne). That made my job a lot easier."

Walsh: "I was only coming back around and I heard about Bill. I regained my confidence thanks to Bill. In the last few years... I was unlucky. I broke my wrist twice in the space of three months. I took a year out two summers ago. When I came back in this year Bill was just constantly giving me confidence and telling me I could do this and that. They were things I thought I was never able to do but I was because Bill had full faith in me. I was devastated to see that he was gone. We hope to God he does come back in the future but his health is the important thing at the end of the day."

Bourke: We had a meeting with the management team. They agreed to stay put. I have to say I don't think there was ever a question they were going to step back. Niamh is

an excellent manager. I know her, she is from my own club in Drom & Inch and she has managed our senior team for a few years. She still trains with the club. She knows it backwards and she has a couple of All-Irelands under her belt herself. She understands girls which is important. They respect her and she respects them."

Mary Ryan: "You would have this fear, what is going on? But after everything that happened, after the Cork game, we came in on the Wednesday night after that tough time and we had a brief chat. We had to park it. We were playing a match in three days' time. In one sense you are saying we have had six very tough weeks with all the games. If we didn't have games so close, we mightn't have got over it. We had no choice in the matter. And we were together all the time."

"I played with Niamh when I first came in (in 2005). It is gas really. Dinny (Ferncombe) and Eddie (Costello) take most of our sessions and that hasn't changed. It all just happened and we rolled with it. The backroom team remained and that was it. I got a remark there after the Clare game. 'You need a manager' and I was thinking, 'We have a manager.' We had to buy into what was going on."

They had to go to Walsh Park for the rematch with Waterford. It was a pulsating affair and despite losing O'Dwyer to a hamstring injury in the first half, Tipp

prevailed by 4-11 to 2-14. They were off and running.

O'Dwyer: "I'd say that was one of our best matches in the championship. Going down after such a defeat from Cork and knowing it was our second time going in to play Waterford after getting such a fright from them the first day. That was excellent and the girls all pulled up their socks. The younger girls like Grace O'Toole had a really phenomenal game. The senior players pushed it on. Nicole was still missing so it was a special match and we were delighted to win it."

Ryan: "That was such a tough game. Early on we had rattled Waterford with Orla inside on her own. Then to lose Orla we were thinking, 'Is this going to flip things over?' But we came out with the win. Then a week later we had Karen (Kennedy) going off injured and won. Then to come through the Dublin game as well when we knew we were down players."

Lillis: "The thing about the girls is they are a resilient bunch. They come back here year-in, year-out in the interest of Tipperary. There is huge tradition in Tipperary and you can't forget that. It is very important. Any knock they get they are ready to face it and they take off again. They did pull it together very quick against Waterford. We were deserving winners on the day and our championship has taken off since that."

That sparked a run of four consecutive wins, as the

scalps of Clare, Dublin and Meath were also claimed. Next up are Limerick and after a very successful Meet & Greet at The Ragg, are hoping that the home support are out in force in Thurles.

Ryan: "We are laughing about signing the autographs. But at the same time isn't it great that you have young girls coming up saying 'Will you sign my jersey?' You see it day-in, day-out with the lads and everyone knows who they are. That is the fact of it. You do have to work harder. It is not as high profile. There is definitely a buzz with the camogie now though, a good feeling."

Walsh: "Slowly but surely I am back into training. Management are brilliant, they took me for sessions themselves. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't be where I am today, ready to play and after getting on against Dublin and playing the full game against Meath. I did find it hard in the first half to get my breathing right and I felt my second wind was never going to come. I am delighted management are trusting me and putting their full faith in me."

Lillis: "The girls deserve the credit. They are a great bunch. They have put down a tough campaign. There is nowhere better to play other than Semple Stadium. When that Tipp chant goes out it would lift the hair on the back of your neck. It is hugely important and hopefully we will get a huge crowd inside in Semple Stadium for the girls."



Cait Devane is presented with the Liberty Insurance Player of the Match award by David Coffey after Tipperary's win yesterday over Limerick in the All-Ireland quarter-final

Fascinating opening rounds



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

MEATH and Wexford played a senior championship relegation play-off last Wednesday night.

I think the holding of a game of such importance midweek left a lot to be desired and unfair on both counties. This isn't a professional sport.

With the game in Kildare, all players and management would have had to take at least a half day from work and that in itself isn't ideal preparation for a game. Added to that is the lack of travelling support for a midweek game.

It certainly was a game that was wanted out of the way as soon as possible. Wexford retained their senior status for 2020 with a 4-13 to 4-9 win. Meath will compete in the intermediate championship, a championship they won in 2017 which gave them their two-year stint at senior level.

With a three-week break to the All-Ireland semi-final, seven senior club games took place over a four-day period last week. From the games I attended, most were exciting due to their battles, but the standard wasn't great.

Maybe it's the first-round syndrome but all teams would need to raise matters significantly. I saw too much hand-passing, poor distribution and striking.

I didn't see the Courcy Rovers versus Milford game and considering the margin of victory for Rovers, maybe my comments aren't relevant there. There was high scoring in a few games, the aforementioned wiping the pitch with Milford, 6-23 to 0-5.

I know Milford were missing a few key players such as Laura Stack and Maria and Eimear Watson, but they still had a number of prominent players and while Rovers were expected to advance, no one anticipated that result. Have Rovers come on significantly since last October's county final appearance or were Milford awful on the night? Probably a bit of both.

Courcys have a great team on paper. Linda Collins is just flying it, getting better with every season and Fiona Keating excites me no end. Ashling Moloney is also a great leader in defence.

I can't understand why Milford continue to remove themselves from playing in the league. I could absolutely understand it when they were playing in All-Ireland finals where their season finished in March. But for the past three years their season was over by October the latest.

They were always a slow-starting team, getting stronger as the season progressed, but considering the position they now find themselves in surely the league would oil the wheels and develop new players.

For the second season in a row St Catherine's were pipped by a point in their opening round. The game went to extra time and it became extremely dark. Over the course of the 90 minutes Killeagh deserved to advance. What I noticed, in particular in this game, and maybe it's because there were four Cork senior players involved, is that



St Finbarr's Aoife O'Neill in action against Ballygarvan's Molly Kelleher in the Senior Camogie Championship at Camogie Grounds, Castle Road. Picture: Gavin Browne



Ballincollig's Hanan O'Leary is tackled by Glen Rovers' Lydia Cunningham during the Cork senior camogie championship round 1 at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

the system that Cork are now adopting of playing it through the lines is carried through to club games by the players.

That's fine except that their club teammates aren't tuned in to the same thought process and a number of passes go astray.

I mentioned in my preview that if Éire Óg brought a spirited challenge to champions Inniscarra they could walk off the pitch with their heads high. And so it turned out. While Inniscarra were always in control, a 1-15 to 0-6 defeat was an encouraging start for the newly promoted side.

The narrowest of margins for St Finbarr's over Ballygarvan, 2-13 to 3-9. Ballygarvan have made strong progress over the past couple of seasons and now meet Milford in round two.

St Finbarr's are putting in great work and that win will boost them significantly.

The Glen scoring 2-1 in the space of four minutes was daylight robbery in Castleroad against Ballincollig to win by a goal. It shows once again that the game isn't over until it's over and anything can happen.

Huge credit to the Glen for their 'Never Say Die Attitude'. It was a scrappy game with far too many needless frees.

It's infuriating for players and management not to mention spectators, but we've gone down this route so many times I won't get into it again.

Linda Dorgan was just tremendous for Ballincollig. She was the oldest on the pitch, but her level of fitness left others in the shade.

Psychologically it was a big win for Sarsfields over Douglas. Strangely, for the amount of underage success the majority of these players have had the confidence isn't yet displaying itself on the senior stage. But it'll come.

“All teams would need to raise matters significantly. I saw too much hand-passing, poor distribution and striking”

And no better person to instil it into them than Emer Fennell. What a servant she has been to Sarsfields.

It was her leadership which slowly brought her teammates around to finish up scoring 4-14. Defensively Sars are developing strongly.

Without Katrina Mackey Douglas struggled. They rely so much on their inter-county players, as most clubs do. But it's more evident with Douglas than others.

I just love watching Joy Leo. She has the heart of a lion. She'd be a starter for me in any side. Emer McAndrew is another who leaves everything on the pitch.

Carbery, without Orla Cronin and Libby Coppinger, pipped Cloughduv by two points. Disappointing for Cloughduv but they're far from finished yet.

Focus now turns back to the All-Ireland semi-final for Cork on August 17.

Push is on to get the crowds out for final

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE push is on and the Camogie Association have set an attendance target of 25,000 for the 2019 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championships finals at Croke Park.

President Kathleen Woods is urging supporters to turn out in force and 'Go Together' as the championships enter the knockout stages this weekend and it's now down to the quarter-finals in the senior grade.

Speaking at the launch Kathleen Woods said camogie must tap into the groundswell of interest in women's sport in general.

"There has been a huge groundswell of support for women's sport in the last twelve months and we want camogie supporters, and indeed supporters of all Gaelic Games, to get involved and be part of this wider movement.

"It is not just support for the sake of it this is the most exciting time of the year as our All-Ireland Championships really heat up with all of the remaining teams targeting a place in Croke Park on Sunday, September 8 in the hope of climbing the steps of the Hogan Stand.

"These teams are the elite of our sport and we are aiming to see huge crowds come out to support these fantastic players in all of the remaining matches and in particular in Croke Park on what is always a great occasion.

"Our aim is to have over 25,000 supporters there on the day and I'm delighted to launch a number of initiatives to help supporters all over the country make the journey to Croke Park and to 'Go Together' with their friends, family and club mates in what will be a wonderful celebration of our game.

"It's an ambitious target but we're determined to do all we can to get there."

The senior quarter-finals take place as a double-header in Semple Stadium today and the first game sees an all Munster affair as Limerick take on Tipperary before Galway and Waterford meet in the second game as all four sides battle it out for a semi-final place.

Both games will be broadcast live on RTE 2 today as well as live on the RTE Player worldwide and the winners will contest the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-finals on Saturday, August 17 where they will face either Cork or Kilkenny.

The old rivals advanced directly to the semi-finals having topped their respective groups.

Cork and Kilkenny have been to the fore in recent years and while Galway are always a threat, they remain the likely finalists come the start of September.

Composed Tipp defy brilliant Mulcahy

All-Ireland SCC quarter-final

Tipperary 1-10
Limerick 1-5

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Niamh Lillis has cut a composed figure since stepping into the shoes vacated by Bill Mullaney, who stood down as Tipperary manager in the middle of June for health reasons.

Lillis had been a key member of Mullaney's back-room team and her transition to the hotseat has been seamless, aided by the invaluable support of Dinny Ferncombe, Eddie Costello, Carmel Bradshaw and Cian Treacy.

As usual after this win she deflected attention to the players, who really stood up in the second half, having been

placed firmly on the back foot by a Niamh Mulcahy-inspired Limerick in the first half.

Mulcahy has long been a doyenne of camogie, and while it will be no consolation for the legendary Ahane woman, it is only right that a significantly-increased attendance for the quarter-final of more than 2,000 at Semple Stadium, as well as those watching live on RTE, got to see her stupendous first-half goal, having been producing such heroics unknown to most for more than a decade.

That Limerick trailed by a point at the interval, 1-4 to 1-3, told of their inability to translate superiority in general play to scores, even allowing for the error by goalkeeper Laura O'Neill that gifted a goal to Niamh Treacy.

Mulcahy was uncharacteristically off-key from placed balls, while she also had a pen-



Limerick defender Sarah Carey bursts past Tipperary's Niamh Treacy in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship quarter-final at Semple Stadium. Picture: Oisín Keniry

alty brilliantly saved by Caoimhe Bourke in the fourth minute.

Orla O'Dwyer was a lone threat for Tipp in that period

and the dual star, who heads for Australia in October having signed a contract to play Aussie rules for Brisbane in the AFLW, was magnificent

too in the second half.

Karen Kennedy, Cáit Devane and Mary Ryan also took up the cudgel and with Devane unerring from placed

balls, Tipp edged away to confirm a date with neighbours Kilkenny in the semi-final at LIT Gaelic Grounds on August 17th, despite playing into a strong wind and losing Eirena Fryday to a second yellow card in the 52nd minute.

Limerick managed just two points in the second half and though they had many excellent defensive performers, including Muireann Creamer and Niamh Ryan, only Caoimhe Costelloe really offered support to Mulcahy in an attacking sense.

"We didn't start great, we didn't play a great first half but we upped it in the second half, we held them to two points and they had a very, very strong breeze" said Lillis.

"I thought our backs were outstanding in the second half (with) their tackling; they came out with more ball there. I'm delighted for the girls, they deserve to be in an All-Ireland semi-final."

Scorers for Tipperary: C Devane (0-7, 6 frees, 1-45); N Treacy (1-0); E Fryday, O O'Dwyer, M Campion (0-1 each)

Scorers for Limerick: N Mulcahy (1-2); C Costelloe (0-2); L Stack (0-1)

TIPPERARY: C Bourke, J Bourke, Mary Ryan, E Loughman, C Quirke, K Kennedy, A McGrath, G O'Toole, N Treacy, O O'Dwyer, Megan Ryan, E Fryday, E McDonald, C Devane, K Blair

Subs for Tipperary: M Campion for Blair (45), N Walsh for O'Toole (49), L Loughman for Treacy (56), G O'Brien for McDonald (60+1)

LIMERICK: L O'Neill, M Ryan, M Creamer, M Quaid, N Ryan, S Carey, J Mulcahy, K O'Leary, R Ambrose, D Murphy, N Mulcahy, C Costelloe, L Stack, R Delee, D Egan

Subs for Limerick: C Lyons for Egan (34), L Leonard for Stack (41), L McCarthy for Quaid (44), N Curtin for N Ryan (54), K Hennessy for O'Leary (60)

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare)

Murray hails character as Galway rally reels in Waterford

All-Ireland SCC quarter-final

Galway 2-16
Waterford 2-8

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cathal Murray acknowledged his charges' shortcomings in the face of a Waterford whirlwind that left league champions Galway trailing by four points at half-time and in danger of being on the wrong side of one of the biggest shocks in the recent history of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship.

The proud manager was anxious to emphasise the

character and quality of his crew in the latter period, however, when Carrie Dolan brought her tally to 10 points from frees as the Waterford defence began to creak under increasing pressure.

Niamh Kilkenny and Noreen Coen snaffled some smart scores and when Ailish O'Reilly goalied in the 54th minute, Waterford were finally seen off as Galway set up a mouth-watering semi-final against three-in-a-row chasing All-Ireland champions Cork at LIT Gaelic Grounds on August 17.

Waterford contributed fully to a pulsating affair with their best performance at this level. Donal O'Rourke's side conceded a goal after just 16 sec-

onds to Aoife Donohue but dominated every facet of the game for the remainder of the half.

Beth Carton flourished in a hard-working, deep-lying role and was fouled by Heather Cooney for a third-minute penalty. The De La Salle star drilled a low shot to the net.

Aine Lyng, Fiona Morrissey, and Carton added points and, though Shona Curran's goal from a free delivered in midfield was fortuitous, no-one would have said that 2-7 to 1-6 flattered Waterford at the interval.

"We had to weather a serious storm but we knew that coming in, they're a fierce physical team and in the first half they won all the

battles to be honest with you," said Murray.

Crucially, Sarah Healy made two excellent saves from Niamh Rockett and Annie Fitzgerald within three minutes of the resumption. A goal then would have been significant but instead, Galway got their running game going and as Waterford tired, the final margin was undoubtedly unreflective of their efforts.

"That was one tough game," said a clearly exhausted O'Reilly, who was named Liberty Insurance Player of the Match.

"Credit to Waterford, they had our hearts in our (mouths) at half-time and it was no fluke. They outworked us, they were on to every

breaking ball, but thankfully a bit of experience got us over the line in the second half and do you know what? It's a bit of relief to be honest."

"Myself and Noreen said it to each other at half-time, we didn't get too much ball in the first half but when you're in that full-forward line you've just to be patient. I think when the ball got into us in the second half, we showed what damage we could do."

"It's not going to be good enough to bother a Cork or a Kilkenny but the prize today was always to be in the semi-final after the game. The performance mightn't have been what we wanted but the second half was super and we're delighted to win it"

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan (0-10 frees); A Donohue, A O'Reilly (1-0 each); N Kilkenny, N Coen (0-2 each); C Murphy, R Hennessy (0-1 each)

Scorers for Waterford: B Carton (1-4, 0-2 frees, 0-1-45, 1-0 pen); S Curran (1-0 f); A Lyng (0-2); F Morrissey, N Rockett (0-1 each)

GALWAY: Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, S Dervan, H Cooney, T Kenney, E Healy, L Ryan, A Donohue, A M Starr, C Dolan, S Spellman, N Kilkenny, N Coen, M Cooney, A O'Reilly Subs for Galway: C McCormican for M Cooney (41), C Murphy for Starr (40), C Finnerty for Spellman (59), R Hennessy for Donohue (60)

WATERFORD: B O'Regan, S Harney, I Heffernan, K Lynch, C McGrath, S Curran, L Bray, O Hickey, B Carton, F Morrissey, N Rockett, T Jackman, A Lyng, A Fitzgerald, S Lacey

Subs for Waterford: K Corbett Barry for Morrissey (41), C Whyte for Hickey (49), M Power for Harney (59), E Roche for McGrath (60+4)

Referee: Owen Elliott (Antrim)



Ballinora's Kate Dooley hammers home the Cork goal in the first half of the Munster intermediate championship final win over Tipperary. See page 7 for the match report.

CAMOGIE

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship semi-finals: Kerry 1-13 Clare 0-6, Limerick 1-12 Roscommon 0-8

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship relegation play-off: Kildare 2-10 Wexford 1-7

All-Ireland U16A semi-finals: Cork 2-10 Wexford 2-5, Galway 7-9 Kilkenny 2-7; **U16B semi-finals:** Carlow 1-5 Waterford 3-17, Laois 1-9 Limerick 2-7; **U16C semi-finals:** Cavan 2-4 Roscommon 2-6, Kerry 3-8 Mayo 2-9



Medals of honour



Eleanor Clinton with her All-Ireland senior camogie medals from 1970 and 1971 and her Hall of Fame award, with Cork senior camogie team players Hannah Looney and Linda Collins and the O'Duffy Cup, at the Togher social group meeting at the Togher community and social services centre. Picture: David Keane

Togher Wednesday Social Group's party to remember

Members of an extremely active local community group had a fantastic time in the area recently, wrapping up another memorable season.

The Togher Wednesday Social Group met recently for its final event of the summer — and organisers made it a party to remember.

Held in the Togher Community Centre, next to the Deanrock Bar, participants were treated to homemade cookies, scones, tarts, and cakes, as well as afternoon tea and music performed by the Down Memory Lane Group.

Camogie stars past and present were also in attendance, as was Togher Community Garda Kate McCarthy; the chairman of the Togher Community Association, Pat Smith; and the

manager of Togher Community Centre, Norma Kerins.

All paid tribute to the hugely successful Togher Wednesday Social Group, which has been active in the area for the last 17 years.

In turn, members paid tributes to the current successful Senior Cork Camogie Team, and to members who played the sport in the 1970s.

Current team members Hannah Looney and Lynda Collins took part in the event, and even brought the Seán O'Duffy Cup with them for the occasion. But it wasn't the only piece of sporting silverware in the room. "One of our members Eleanor Clinton, formerly Mel Cummins, brought along her two All-Ireland Senior Camogie Medals which she won when she was the goalkeeper on the victorious Cork teams in 1970 and 1971 as well as her Cork Camogie Hall

of Fame Medal," explained Chrissie O'Callaghan from the Togher Wednesday Social Group.

"Togher Community Garda Kate McCarthy also arranged a screening of a video clip of the 1970 Senior Camogie Final between Cork and Kilkenny, which Cork won. The captain was Ann Comerford and the goalkeeper was Mel Cummins (now Eleanor Clinton)." Ms O'Callaghan said it was a "very emotional" viewing as the clip brought the room back in time to almost half a century ago.

After a fantastic send off to the season, the group is now taking a short break. It will be back on September 11 to kick-start a brand new season — it's 18th year of meet-ups and events.

While membership is currently full, interested parties can call 087 974 8042 to join the waiting list.

Battling Cork falter at final hurdle

INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Westmeath	0-14
Cork	0-10

A BRIDGE too far for Cork intermediates as their season ended at the hands of Westmeath in the last game in the round-robin series of the Liberty Insurance championship in Kinnegad on Saturday.

It was always going to be tough to reach the last four given that Cork had to field a new line out this season and indeed it's a credit to the work they put in that they were in contention up to the last game of the group stages.

Westmeath, with Pamela Grenville hitting three points and one a pierce from Sheila McGrath, Caoimhe McCrossan, Megan Dowdall and Mairead McCormick, led by two points 0-7 to 0-5 at the interval.

Cork, with two Hayley Ryan frees and two from play from Isobel O'Regan and one from Erin Looney, ensured they stayed in touch.

On the turnover, Ryan converted a 45 to narrow the gap to a point but Grenville replied from a free to maintain the home side's lead.

A battling Cork had Hayley Ryan and substitute Nora O'Riordan on target and it was now 0-8 each.

Westmeath hit a purple patch with five points in a row without reply as McCrossan with three and Michelle Murtagh and Pamela Grenville with one each had them 0-13 to 0-8 clear with five minutes remaining.

Cork battled hard to get back into the game with O'Riordan cutting the deficit with two points but a late Grenville free put four between the sides.

That was enough to give Westmeath a place in the last four where they join Galway who topped the group and Down and Tipperary who finished as winners and runners-up respectively in the other group.

So whilst the season ends on disappointing note huge positives can be taken from it.

If the same squad can be kept together and with a few of the minors coming through from this season's successful All-Ireland winning side there are plenty of reasons for optimism.

Scorers for Westmeath: P Grenville 0-6 t, C McCrossan 0-4, M Murtagh, M McCormick, S McGrath, M Dowdall 0-1 each.

Cork: H Ryan 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-2 45), N O'Riordan 0-3, I O'Regan 0-2, E Looney 0-1.

Westmeath: F Keating, A O'Malley, M Scally, L Doherty, A Cully, F Leavey, S McGrath, M Scally, N Horan, M McCormick (c), M Dowdall, M Murtagh, S McGrath, P Grenville, C McCrossan. Sub: A Balle for M McCormick (53).

CORK: S Beausang (c); C Daly, A Crowley, G Hannon, A Maloney, R Sheehan, M Lynch, R Harty, K O'Mahony, I O'Regan, M Murphy, E Looney, K O'Keefe, C Murphy, H Ryan.

Subs: C Hayes for C Murphy (41), K Dooley for M Murphy (45), N O'Riordan for K O'Keefe (45).

Referee: John McDonagh (Galway).

CAMOGIE

WINNER: July
AINE LYNG

Waterford



Lyng has been a key driving force behind a Waterford team on the rise all year. In the All-Ireland group stage, they followed up victories over Meath and Clare with a close fought battle with Cork, putting in a huge defensive effort before the Rebels pulled away at the finish. In a thrilling quarter final clash with Galway Lyng was instrumental again in neutralising the Galway attack for long periods of the game, as well as contributing two inspirational long-range points. Although they lost out to the Tribeswomen, the Deise can take massive credit for the progress made this year, with leaders like Lyng continuing to drive their development.

Other Nominees:

• Sarah Healy - Galway
• Mary Ryan - Tipperary



wgpa

PLAYER OF THE MONTH AWARD

Sunday Independent

INTERSPORT
Elverys

Cork U15s blitz Dubs to claim All-Ireland

THE hard work being put in with the Cork U15 development squads came to its conclusion recently with the last blitz for the A grade being held over a weekend in Abbottstown.

For the Cork under 15 A sides it was a wonderful finish as they captured the All-Ireland title with impressive displays overcoming Dublin, Tipperary and Wexford. In their first game against Dublin they ran out winners on a 3-14 to 0-3 score line with good displays from Aoife Barrett, Caoimhe O'Connell, Ciara Walsh, Faye Cullinane and Alannah O'Brien.

The second game saw Cork pitted against Munster rivals Tipperary and with some superb displays Cork ran out winners on 6-4 to 0-2 and in this game Leah Hallihan, Caoimhe Murphy and Emma Fitzpatrick impressed in the forward line, Aimee Corcoran and Kate O'Donovan were solid in defence whilst Kate Redmond did huge work around the midfield. Cork face Wexford in the semi-final and it was a very tough physical game and here cork had to stand up and be counted as Wexford applied huge pressure.

Eadaoin Goggin was excellent in goal denying Wexford with some great saves and she had plenty of support from her defence that included Yvonne Abernethy at wing back.

Also working hard were Tara

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Elliott at midfield and Niamh McSweeney full forward. Whilst the introduction of Mary Murphy at midfield brought fresh legs to the side when needed as cork ran out 0-9 to 1-2 winners but not before a hard tough test from a determined Wexford side.

Dublin provided strong opposition in the final and it was certainly a different game to the opening one. Again the same opponents but Cork dug deep and rallied to the challenge, led by superb captain for the final game Aoife Healy, who was absolutely outstanding for all games through the day. Isabelle Kelly at full back Orlaith Mullins at centre forward and Ellis Hegarty and Evie Twomey up front kept the pressure on the Dublin defence as Cork ran out winners on a 3-4 to 2-3 scoreline to take the title and bring a wonderful few weeks of excellent work to a great conclusion. Well done to all involved who worked hard with the squad in preparation for all the blitz days, with the A squad participating in Kilkenny, Limerick, Clare Mallow and Dublin.

The B squad also enjoyed some excellent games at the same venues over the course of a busy two months.



Cork U15 players celebrate winning the All-Ireland blitz, after they defeated Dublin 3-4 to 2-3.

All systems go for championship heat

UNDERAGE championship draws took centre stage at the recent juvenile board meeting and as clubs prepare to get their underage teams back on the field after the summer break it will be all systems go.

This year a newly formed juvenile fixture committee was set up to organise underage competitions and they introduced new formats to league competitions which saw clubs play their games in groups stages with the teams then graded across the board according to where they finished in the group. They were then graded into two groups which were divided into four teams in each for three further games with the top two emerging to contest the league finals.

The format also helped to grade teams for championship and a new format was adopted and put in place for the forthcoming championships.

UNDER 16 PREMIER

In the premier championship there are 16 teams but the group were divided into two groups eights and draws against each other. The winners will go forward to continue in the championship with the losers contesting the Premier shield, thus ensuring all teams will have at the very least two championship games.

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

Clonakilty will be at home for their meeting with Sarsfields 1, Inniscarra have home venue for their clash with Sarsfields 2, Eire Og will make the trip to Ballygarvan, Youghal will host Aghabullogue, Ballinora travel to Castlemartyr, Kilbree meet Middleton in Kilbree, Na Piarasigh play Enniskeane in Na Piarasigh and Millford/Ballyhea head to St Finbarr's.

UNDER 16 A

In the U16 A and B championship there are 16 teams, and again the same format is in place with the winners progressing to the quarter finals and the losers participating in the shield.

Charleville will meet Cobh in Charleville, Bishopstown are at home for their meeting with neighbours Ballincollig, Castlelyons travel to Douglas, Fr O'Neills meet Blackrock in Blackrock, Carrigaline host Killeagh, Mallow will be heading to Aghada, Glen Rovers meet Newcestown in Newcestown and Cloughduv will travel to Rockban.

UNDER 16 B

St Catherine's will meet Bride Rovers in St Catherine's, Laochra Og head to Valley Rovers, Buttevant are at home when they meet Inniscarra 2, Banteer welcome Courcey Rovers, Ballinhassig are at home for their meeting with Carrigtwohill, Tracton will meet Kilbrittain/Timoleague in Tracton, Blarney travel to meet Millstreet and Kilworth are at home for their clash with Dungourney.

UNDER 16 C

A slightly different format for the Under 16 C championship, as there are only nine clubs participating. It was decided to play this in two groups on a round robin basis.

Group one is Watergrasshill, Erin's Own, Barryroe, Ballinascorthy, Grenagh. Group Two is St Colm's, St Fanahan's, Sliabh Rua, and Brian Dillon's.

UNDER 14

There are three graded in the under 14 A, B and C and again the same format applies to the A and B with the winners from round one progressing and the losers will go forward to play for the championship plate.

UNDER 14 A

Sixteen teams will battle it out for the Under 14 A title and Eire Og who are the national All-Ireland Féile Na Gael holders will head out the short journey to meet their near neighbours Cloughduv, Blackrock will be at home for their meeting with Inniscarra, St Finbarrs meet Sarsfields, Fr O'Neills will be at home for their meeting with Middleton, Sliabh Rua head over to meet Valley Rovers, Erin's Own travel out to play Ballinora, Youghal make the trip to Clonakilty and Laochra Og head to Cobh.

UNDER 14 B

A grand total of 32 teams are battling to take the Under 14 B crown and again the format will be the same with a plate competition for the first round losers.

Ballinascorthy take on Bishopstown at home, Millford will be at home for their meeting with Aghada, Aghabullogue head over to Ballygarvan, and Watergrasshill make the trip to Millstreet. Rockban will travel to Carrigtwohill, Douglas 2 are at home for their clash with Killeagh, Newcestown head to Carrigaline, Enniskeane travel to Buttevant and Castlemartyr will welcome Blarney.

Tracton head to Mitchelstown to meet St Fanahan's, Courcey Rovers will travel to meet Na Piarasigh, Kilbrittain will host Bride Rovers, Sarsfields 2 are at home to Ballincollig, Glen Rovers welcome Ballyhea, Douglas 1 head to Ballinhassig and Mallow meet Barryroe.

UNDER 14 C

There are 18 teams in the U14 C which will be played on a round robin basis of four groups with the top team from each group going forward to contest the semi-finals. There are two groups of five and two groups of four and they are as follows: Group one St Vincent's, Fermoy, Nemo Rangers, Bandon and Kilworth. Group Two: Castlelyons, Brian Dillon's, Kinsale, Kilbree. Group Three: Cobh 2, Grenagh, Passage, Clonakilty and Banteer; Group Four: Newtownshandrum, Inniscarra 2, St Colm's and Dungourney.

A busy few weeks lies ahead but with the great work being done by the juvenile committee, with all the league competitions running off smoothly, there is no doubt but the same will apply to championship competitions. Dates will be sent to club in the coming day and then it will be all systems go.

Cork facing tough test from Galway

CAMOGIE

Linda Mellerick

IT'S the All-Ireland semi-final Cork possibly didn't want when they face Galway in the Gaelic Grounds next Saturday but on the strength of heading for three-in-a-row of senior titles they'll go into the game as firm favourites. Paudie Murray won't see it that way and with the loss of Ashling Thompson, a doubt over Katrina Mackey and Brieger Corkery to injury, it's certainly a challenge for the Cork side.

I wasn't surprised that Waterford gave Galway such a test last weekend. They impressed me when they played Cork in the last round of the group series. It was a battle in Walsh Park with Cork finally emerging victorious 2-10 to 0-7.

Waterford more than hold their own for three quarters of games and as last week showed again it's the final quarter where lack of experience at this level shows. Waterford have been fantastic this year. I hope that this isn't the best we see of them. They need to drive on but unless they have a consistent flow of underage it won't happen. We've seen it so many times over the years. You get a wonder team, they set the world alight, they move on and their county falls into an abyss. Wexford are a prime example of that.

Waterford led by 2-7 to 1-6 at the conclusion of an exhilarating first half and forced Sarah Healy into two tremendous saves within four minutes of the restart.

Healy was equal to Niamh Rockett's shot and then made a great save from Annie Fitzgerald's hand pass. Beth Carton, who was terrific in a midfield role, pointed from the resultant 45. Waterford would rue those missed opportunities and remarkably, they failed to score again.

The Waterford defence, that had been so good for 40 minutes or so, began to creak under increasing pressure and Carrie Dolan capitalised on the many opportunities presented to her, finishing off with 10 points from frees. Niamh Kilkenny had been quiet in the opening period but showed leadership when Galway needed it, bringing the teams level, and with ten minutes left giving them the lead for the first time. Waterford were tiring as Galway got their running game into overdrive, and when Ailish O'Reilly netted with six minutes of regulation time remaining, it was over.

Cathal Murray acknowledged his charges' shortcomings in the face of the Waterford whirlwind and in danger of being on the wrong side of one of the biggest shocks in many a year. But he emphasised the character and quality of his crew in the latter period.

"That was one tough game" said a clearly exhausted Ailish O'Reilly, who was named Liberty Insurance Player of the Match.

"Credit to Waterford, they had our hearts in our (mouths) at half-time and it was no fluke. They outworked us, they were on to every breaking ball but thankfully a bit of experience got us over the line in the second half and do you know what? It's a bit of relief to be honest".

Cait Devane shot seven points from



The Dungourney junior camogie team who got the better of St Vincent's in the championship recently, by 3-8 to 1-1.



Cork manager Paudie Murray got the semi-final he probably didn't want as they face Galway next Saturday at the Gaelic Grounds.

placed balls, five in the second half, and Niamh Lillis's side had built up enough of a lead to see out the game despite the sending off of an unlucky Eirena Fryday in the 52nd minute. Fryday was shown a second yellow card by Ray Kelly when attempting to double on a sliotar in the air. She was completely unaware as Karen O'Leary nipped in on her blindside to intercept and received a glancing blow.

No hint

There was no hint that Limerick would reel in the deficit as they ran out of ideas though Declan Nash's troops never stopped battling on their first appearance in the knockout stages for fourteen years. It all looked so good for the Shannonsiders early on, with Niamh Mulcahy on fire. She was a con-

stant threat from play until Grace O'Toole dropped deep to help chaperon the Limerick centre-forward, a move that also allowed Karen Kennedy to thunder into the game.

In the first half though, Mulcahy was majestic. Her goal was from the top drawer. Her consistency over the past decade is remarkable. She's a player you would love to see win an All-Ireland medal, but sadly I don't think it's ever going to happen.

Tipp had been forced into a late switch with an injury to full-back Gemma Grace.

That saw Mary Ryan switched back from the midfield berth she has been thriving in this year and not a position she would be unfamiliar with. Tipp certainly missed the Moneygall star's dynamism further afield.

“On the strength of heading for three-in-a-row of senior titles Cork will go into the game as firm favourites”

That Limerick trailed by a point at the change of ends, 1-4 to 1-3, told of their inability to translate superiority in general play to scores.

Devane gave Tipp the lead with a second-minute point from a free but Mulcahy dispossessed O'Toole before making ground through the middle and clipping over a leveller.

Orla O'Dwyer was a lone threat for Tipp in that period and the dual star, who heads for Australia in October having signed a contract to play Aussie rules for Brisbane in the AFLW, was magnificent in the second half. Tipp edged away. Limerick managed just two points in the second half and though they had many excellent defensive performers, only Caoimhe Costelloe really offered support to Mulcahy in an attacking sense.

Wexford stand in Cork's path to the final

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

TOMORROW

All Ireland U16 semi-final:
Cork v Wexford: WIT, 2pm
CORK U16 head to WIT tomorrow to take on Wexford in a bid for a place in the All-Ireland final, the second semi-final sees five in row chasing Galway taking on Kilkenny in Nenagh.

Cork topped their group with impressive displays as they recorded wins over Antrim, Kilkenny, and Tipperary. Wexford have made huge strides to reach the last two they overcame Clare and Dublin but lost out heavily to Galway.

Cork lost out in last year's final to Galway and have not won an U16A All-Ireland title since 2003 and when you look at this statistic it's a huge tribute to the county that so much has been achieved at minor and adult levels with little success happenings at U16 level.

The Cork management have put in huge work with this sides and the efforts that are being put in are huge, in all their outings to date the sides have performed exceptionally well against Tipperary in their last outing they dug deep and recorded a deserved win to top the group.

Earlier in the season Cork retained the Munster title. On their way recording impressive victories over Tipperary and Limerick.

While they were totally dominant in their clash with Tipperary the game against Limerick saw Cork tested but to their credit they worked hard and closed the game out with two points to secure victory.

Manager Donie Daly and his back room team have ensured the squad have been working hard under the guidance of Strength and Condition coach Stephen O'Mahony and they are ready for the battle that lies ahead. Several of the squad were involved last year in the Cork U16 A and B panels that contested both All-Ireland finals including captain Olivia McAllen, Rose Murphy, Aimee Morgan, Lucy McNulty, Shauna Hayes, Ciara Hurley, Ciara Golden, Jane Foley, Saoirse Desmond and Jenny Doyle.

Meadhbh Ring, who won the Munster U16 Long puck competition earlier this year Miriam Healy Meabh Murphy Kate McCarthy, Cliona Lynch, Tara Crowley, Lilly Hayes Nally and Orlaith Cahalane are all experienced campaigners and will know what is required to make it to the final.

In recent times, Wexford have not featured prominently at inter county underage levels, but a lot of work has gone in with development squads as we saw recently the U15 All-Ireland blitz and to reach the last four is a positive step in the right direction or them.

They failed to make it to the Leinster final but were comfortable winners of the Shield with a good win over Offaly. They will push hard to make it to the All-Ireland final with players of the calibre of Ciara O'Connor, Katie Codd Nadine Fortune and Katie Murphy leading the way.

Room to improve says Sars coach

CAMOGIE

■ Andrew Horgan

THE result from their Cork Camogie Senior championship first-round clash with Douglas makes for impressive reading as Sarsfields emerged victorious 4-14 to 1-9.

But their standards are so high and their ambitions are of such significance that those inside the club believe they need to do better.

"It wouldn't be a performance good enough to be winning a county, but it was the first one under the belt, as they say, and it is now onwards and upwards hopefully," said manager Emmett Fennell.

"To be honest we started the game slow enough, but we got going and yeah we were comfortable in the end so we were very happy with that and we are off the mark now like.

"Douglas were quite good, they were missing one of their key players, Catherine Mackey, but our girls stood up to the test and they came out well in control in the second half.

"I think we were only two points up at half-time so we made a couple of changes and they responded and we also got the luck of the draw.

"We are a very balanced team so we know if we play to our potential we have a great chance you know.

"We normally have between 24 and 34 players training every night. We can only bring on five subs but we know those five girls will be as strong as the girls that we bring off.

"We are very lucky in that regard. We have a very good mix of youth and experience which is good for us so we have a bright future ahead of us as well."

Sars now have a third-round clash to look forward in a few weeks time against the winners of the back door game between Milford and Ballygarvan.

"I haven't seen either of them yet, to be honest, but look, we know in this championship that any team can beat any team on the night so we are in with a shout," added Fennell.

"It is going to take a good team to



Sarsfields' Ella Woods is tackled by Douglas' Denise Harrington during the Cork senior camogie championship round 1 at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

beat us because we are a very balanced side. We are expecting a tough game, this is the business end of it so we know it is going to be very tough and it is going to be a very hard championship to win because there are still a lot of very, very good teams out there.

Luck

"We will need a bit of luck to win it, but at the moment we will just keep our heads down and keep ploughing away.

"We have got a good bounce off them this year so far, they have responded well to what we have asked of them. I am new to the gig and I have brought in five other lads with

me and the girls have responded well to it."

Fennell may be new to the job, but he is adamant it will be his only season in charge and that is why he is so determined to crown it with a championship success.

"The ultimate aim is to win the county obviously, you have aim high for it," he enthused.

"Us coaches, we are only going to be here for one year, it is not a two or three-year gig for us so we are going to go all out to win it.

"Ideally we will progress a bit further and get close to it and with a small bit of luck, you never know where we might end up.

"I think we have an obligation to

deliver. We have had great success underage so far and we have done for a few years, but it just hasn't materialised into the senior set up yet.

"I think the girls realise that and there is a bit of pressure to deliver so I think it is now or never. If we play to our potential yeah we will be in with a shout.

"We got to the league final this year for the first time, we lost by two points and we were missing a couple of girls as well.

"We learned a lot from that and we have progressed so now we are looking to prove it every week. I am confident enough that we can get close to our goal, absolutely, without being too cocky like."

Seven-week break is good, says Sars manager

Camogie

■ Andrew Horgan

good, actually, because it gives us time to develop," said Emmett Fennell.

"That game against Douglas, I wasn't overly happy with the performance of the team, to be honest.

"This gives us a few weeks to get back to the

training ground, readdress some issues, and, hopefully, fix those, so we can have it right, then, before our next game.

"We weren't really at peak fitness then, either, so I think the actual seven weeks off is good for us to prepare for the next game.

"We had a couple of summer cup games and we played a couple of good challenge matches.

"We also had some very good competitive training sessions with the numbers that we have, as well.

"We will mix it up a bit to keep the girls fresh, but it's not an easy task, but it is quite good and the girls are very good with that.

"The panel is fantastic, their effort in training there is brilliant, and the girls all get along very well with each other.

"They do everything we say and we have no complaints there. They are a really good bunch to train.

"We got to the league final this year for the first time; we lost by two points and we learned a lot from that.

"We have progressed, so now we are looking to prove it every week. I am confident enough that we can get closer to our goal."



Eddie O'Hare

'I am very, very proud to be from Knocknaheeny'

Dara Ó Conchúir



Camogie

If she has heard it once, she has heard it a thousand times and it really grinds her gears.

You should transfer to a senior club.

Your game will improve no end.

It will prepare you better for elite-level camogie.

Even talking about it makes Amy O'Connor's face screw up in contempt.

For starters, she is doing just fine, having made the transition from underage soccer international who played in a European U19 Championship semi-final alongside the likes of Katie McCabe and Megan Connolly, to winning four Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie championships with Cork.

But it isn't even that. Gaelic Games have always been about belonging, a representation of your roots.

Cork is the highest level of that, but the deepest ties will always be around the streets you grew up in.

For O'Connor, that's Knocknaheeny — Knocka to denizens of Cork city.

And that's St Vincent's.

She is, of course, aware of the anti-social perceptions — how could she not be? But this is her place. She is a product of it, albeit an unusual product. But her achievements point to proof of possibility, a rebuttal to the scourge of accepting inevitability.

Apart from her sporting prowess, O'Connor is brilliant academically too. She was encouraged by her parents to dream big and not view geography as a hurdle. She got a scholarship to UCC to become the first member of her family to go to university, and in every aspect of her life she has illustrated as much. In three weeks, she sits her final exam and all going well, will depart the Royal College of Surgeons with a Pharmacy Masters, having qualified with her Bachelors' degree from UCC last year.



FLYING THE FLAG: Cork's Amy O'Connor, with her cousin Kerrie Morgan. Camogie bosses are hoping the attendance will break the 25,000 barrier.
Picture: Inpho/Dan Sheridan

"I just want to show people that you don't have to go down the (expected) route," says O'Connor passionately.

"Unfortunately, in our area there are terrible problems — drugs, alcohol, lack of education, lack of people going to university, lack of people going on to do things with themselves. They just follow the cycle. It is really difficult to watch.

"I see children that are five or six or whatever, and you can nearly tell exactly how their life is going to go. It is very frustrating to watch. I just hope by (looking at) players like me, people getting involved in Vincent's, that they can see there are other things to life than following

the same cycle over and over again.

"I am very, very proud to be from Knocknaheeny. I love the place, I will probably live there for the rest of my life. There would have been talk that you would never make a Cork senior team if you are playing for a junior club. 'How could you play senior if you are playing junior?'"

"There was talk of me going to this club or that club. But I think at the end of the day if I won a county with a senior team, it would never mean as much to me as winning a junior county with my own club.

"I love the club. They couldn't be better to me. They are so good to me. They are sending busloads to every

match. In a way they are trying to promote what I am doing to the kids so that the kids can see, 'Amy played in Croke Park, maybe I could play in Croke Park', rather than going down the wrong road."

It is the lack of broader support that is soul-destroying, the sense of a fate accepted, as if the place and its people aren't worth the effort. When O'Connor was doing her Leaving Cert, chemistry was not taught at her school (also St Vincent's). She got it added to the curriculum, having already had her career plan mapped out. The school backed her and teachers provided individual tuition as she missed a lot of classes due to

her international soccer commitments. They wanted to give her bull-headed ambition a chance, but it tells all you need to know about O'Connor's mental strength, not to mind obvious ability, that she has juggled so many balls without suffering consequences.

Now 23, she yearns for more to be done to help others and believes that schools could offer greater encouragement to children with less — or no drive.

"The club can only do so much. I see girls there, and I keep thinking of one girl in particular, she is 16 now. She has so much talent and she is just after walking away. 'She

doesn't like it anymore' (she says).

"It is not that she doesn't like it. She is just after getting in with the wrong crowd. She is going down the wrong road. You know exactly where it is going and it is so frustrating. There is definitely not enough being done.

"Even in the school there is not enough being done. 'You are from Knocknaheeny, you are not expected to go to college, so just forget about it.'

"In other schools you are nearly pushed to do higher level and pushed to your capabilities."

But teachers, like good coaches, should want to improve even the least talented member of their classes.

"You should always try and make them that bit better. It is killing it. It is terrible. I read a stat there last week. I didn't go to the school, but it would be my local school. Last year, only 11 sat their Leaving Cert, or something like that. And none of them went on to third level. It is mindboggling.

"There are opportunities like the HEAR programme in UCC. I was on the HEAR programme. They do brilliant things. It is a Higher Education Access Route so people that go to a disadvantaged school or from a disadvantaged area may get reduced points for a course. I don't know do people know about that. How can you apply for it if you can't go home to your parents (for help) because they don't know how to apply for it because they haven't? "It's a cycle and it's very frustrating."

Frustrating, terrible, cycle. She repeats the words often, feeling helpless and sad and angry.

Perhaps the roots to the locality is why soccer eventually gave way to camogie. It was always her favourite and even as she relished the coverage of the Women's World Cup, there is no part of her that hankers for a return.

"I love camogie. I genuinely love the game."

So there is nowhere Amy O'Connor would rather be tonight than the LIT Gaelic Grounds (7.15pm), taking on Galway in a mouth-watering Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final.

And after that, win or lose, home to Knocknaheeny.

Kilkenny and Cork in pole position for final rematch

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior championship semi-finals, Kilkenny v Tipperary, LIT Gaelic Grounds, Limerick, 5.30pm, J. Dermody (Westmeath) (RTÉ Two)

Kilkenny advanced directly to this evening's semi-final, following wins over Galway, Limerick, Offaly, and Wexford in the group stages.

They have yet to play Tipperary in competitive action this year, but manager, Ann Downey, was in Thurles when the hosts defeated Limerick last time out. The Cats are bidding to return to Croke Park for a second time this year, having featured in the Division 1 League final, against Galway, in March. Tipperary finished second in

Group 2 and impressed when winning against their Limerick neighbours in the quarter-final. The return of Orla O'Dwyer from injury is a massive boost, but it may not be enough against last year's defeated All-Ireland finalists.

Verdict: Kilkenny.
Cork v Galway, LIT Gaelic Grounds, Limerick, 7.15pm, L.

Dempsey (Kilkenny) (RTÉ Two)

This looks to be the game of the weekend. Champions Cork breezed through the group stages, recording five wins and scoring 12 goals, but they face their stiffest challenge of the season tonight. Galway showed their potential, when defeating Kilkenny in the league decider, and now

their sights are set on championship silverware. There is no lack of talent in their ranks, but they struggled, at stages, before overcoming Waterford.

Such sluggishness will be punished by a Cork side bidding to advance to a sixth consecutive All-Ireland final.

Verdict: Cork

Cork should have Galway's measure

Burden carried on Kilkenny's shoulders

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

"WE were delighted with the win, but the performance wasn't up to scratch and if we turn up against Cork in the first-half the way we did against Waterford, then we're certainly not going to get over the line."

Those were the words spoken by Galway senior camogie manager Cathal Murray when I spoke with him during the week.

He's right. Galway were very poor against Waterford and but for the lack of more clinical finishing up front by Waterford, Galway's season would be over.

They seemed to have no system to their play, their distribution looked more hit and hope, with long deliveries often going to a Waterford player and Galway certainly losing the half forward line battle under the high dropping ball.

Galway were lucky to be in the game entering the final quarter, the brilliant accuracy of free-taker Carrie Dolan a highlight of the game and keeping her side in it.

To be fair, much of the frees were warranted with Waterford doing too much jersey pulling.

It was an unusual start with two goals inside the opening two minutes. With Waterford still warming up, Aoife Donohue goalied after a run through the middle from the throw-in.

Aoife was the only Galway player I saw playing with any intensity from the outset.

She worked her socks off in the middle of the park, assisting teammates up front and in defence.

Waterford's goal came as a result of a penalty.

Yes, the ball bounced and skidding a bit in front of keeper Sarah Healy, but I thought her positioning between the posts was incorrect.

Waterford's second goal from a long distance free on 27 minutes also went straight to the net.

I didn't see Sarah take any control of the square or her defenders in front of her and it was a very soft goal.

She is only 18 years of age and she looked nervous and slightly uncomfortable to me.

She was possibly overawed by the occasion and with far more at stake on Saturday Galway will need her to be more self-assured.

Amazingly, she doesn't play in goal for her club and for such a specialised position I find it strange that she holds it for her county.

It also looked as if Galway hadn't done much work around their puck-outs.

There was no run of a pattern and a few went astray.

When one looks at the leadership Aoife Murray provides from the number one spot, it's a key area for Galway that needs some work.

To Sarah's credit, she made two good saves just after half time which would truly have put Waterford in the driving seat.

Sarah is young and needs guidance and development.



Galway's Niamh Kilkenny with Lorainne Bray of Waterford in the All-Ireland camogie quarter-final.

Picture: Oisín Keniry/INPHO



Waterford's Annie Fitzgerald takes a shot on goal without her hurley.

Picture: Oisín Keniry/INPHO

If Cork get through on goal they could capitalise here.

Considering the unrest that existed in Galway during the period 2015/2018 it is a big boost for them to be in the last four.

Murray took over in April 2018 as Galway's fifth manager in four seasons after Tony O'Donovan was replaced at the end of the 2018 National League.

Building pride in the Galway jersey again must have been a big task.

Cathal acknowledges the bigger task that presents itself tomorrow.

"It's nice to be in a semi-final again

but we're up against it.

"Cork going for three-in-a-row and five All-Irelands in six years speaks for itself, but we'll be hoping to put in a performance.

"It's a massive challenge but we're looking forward to it. We've nothing to lose."

Galway have injury concerns to Catriona Cornican and Niamh Hanniffy. Niamh, who missed the quarter-final, is still a big doubt for Galway and she is a significant loss.

Her loss is mirrored on the Cork side if Katrina Mackey fails to make it.

Medical advice is that Katrina is out

and will be out for a number of months due to ligament but more critically, nerve damage to her wrist.

She sustained the injury against Dublin on July 6 and hasn't figured for Cork since.

The fracture also sustained has healed.

Whether she starts and tries to play through the pain is the question at the time of writing but realistically how effective could she be for Cork in that position.

You could say that Galway had a touch of complacency about them for the quarter-final, but one must give credit to Waterford too.

They play with conviction and are in your face from the word go.

They gave Cork a stern test on July 21 and just like last Saturday it was only in the final quarter that Cork pulled away.

Cork also showed complacency that day.

When Galway increased their intensity and stood up to Waterford for the final quarter, they turned the tide.

They won't bring any complacency to the Gaelic Grounds tomorrow.

Teams will always raise their game when playing the champions.

Cork have more experience, are more battle-hardened and if they bring the right approach to tomorrow's game, they'll be in another All-Ireland final come 8.30pm.

Kilkenny and Tipperary play in the preceding game and there will be extra-time in both games if required.

ALL the focus from a Cork perspective is on the semi-final meeting with Galway tomorrow, but there is another semi-final to keep an eye on as well with Kilkenny and Tipperary at 5.30pm in LIT Gaelic Grounds.

It's a huge achievement for Tipp to be in the semi-final and they will give it one hell of a bash to secure their place in their first final since 2006.

There have been a lot of bumps along the road for Tipp but in true fashion they have stood up and being counted not least after the loss of their manager Bill Mullaney, who stepped down for health reasons. Niamh Lillis has been an able deputy as she took over the reins and has done a superb job.

She was a key member of Bill's backroom staff so she was well versed in what is needed and she has guided her charges well. A multiple All-Ireland winner herself she continues to push for more from her team and with experienced campaigners Cait Devane, Mary Ryan and Clodagh Quirke leading by example they had a hard earned victory over Limerick.

Last year they lost out to Cork at the semi-final stage.

"We're as far as we were last year at an All-Ireland semi-final stage and the plan is to progress that one step further, you always hoping to progress from the year before.

"It's going to take a lot of effort and it's going to take a lot of work, but we're looking forward to it."

Kilkenny are favourites to progress to another final and Ann Downey will accept nothing else from a side that lost in the league final to Galway.

They topped their group to advance to a semi-final and like Cork have been standing by waiting as Tipperary, Galway Limerick and Waterford battled it out in the quarter-finals. They will go in as favourites and with Ann Dalton, Michelle Quilty, Katie Power and Denise Gaule continuing to play a starring role for them they will be a handful for Tipp.

In all probability Ann Downey will have been very happy to have avoided Cork and Galway at the semi-final stage. When you look at the way they demolished Limerick in their last group stage game a side that Tipperary struggled against for long spells in the quarter-final it is hard to look past them making it to the final.

However, the burden is all on Kilkenny's shoulders to make it through, they feel they have unfinished business since losing back to back finals in 2017 and 2018. Tipperary will go in determined and wouldn't it be great to see them make the breakthrough and reach the final if for nothing else but to give a boost to Bill Mullaney who worked so hard with this side?

Kilkenny looking for plan of attack

Cork U16s back in All Ireland final once again

FCAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Camogie

Linda Mellerick

IT'S a nice coincidence that as the All-Ireland hurling final between Kilkenny and Tipperary plays out tomorrow, today sees their female counterparts take centre stage in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds.

Kilkenny, of course, are pursuing a fourth consecutive final appearance and a sixth in seven seasons.

Kilkenny have taken off the shackles this year, having deployed Anne Dalton as a sweeper in recent seasons and withdrawn numbers to clog up the middle third in preparation largely for the Cork challenge.

The 2016 champions only lost the last two deciders to Cork by a single point on each occasion, and it appears that Ann Downey has decided to go for the jugular this time around.

She has to, as I'm sure there was some criticism over their defensive strategy, particularly last season, when Kilkenny possess some of the best forwards in the game.

Kilkenny have scored 123 points from four games (14-81). They certainly seemed to have ramped it up, with five individuals recording 3-10 or more in just four games: Dalton, Denise Gaule, Katie Power, Michelle Quilty, and Miriam Walsh. I'm sure they won't get too carried away with that though, as they scored 7-28 of that against a very poor Wexford side.

The repositioning of Dalton has clearly been the most notable aspect of this shift in emphasis. It should be remembered that the St Lachtain's player earned three All Stars at centre-back and is the reigning Player of the Year — but she was Player of the Year a decade ago as a midfielder, from where she earned her other three All Stars.

Most of this season has seen her operating across the half-forward line, with the odd midfield appearance. She is her side's leading scorer after accumulating 5-10 from play — at an average of just over 1-3 a game.

Kilkenny, having been defeated by Galway in the league final had two points to spare over the Tribeswomen in the opening tie of the Championship. Comfortable victories were registered subsequently against Wexford, Offaly, and Limerick.

On the other hand, Tipperary haven't been in a final since 2006 when Mary Ryan, who has had a stellar season so far, was part of the panel. They haven't won the O'Duffy Cup since 2004.

Tipperary will enter the contest as underdogs. They lost their opening game during the group stage to Cork (1-8 to 2-20), but bounced back to register four successive victories against Waterford (4-11 to 2-14), Clare (2-12 to 1-7), Dublin (1-11 to 0-9), and Meath (0-15 to 0-11), and duly progressed to the quarter-finals. They battled their way into the semi-finals at Semple Stadium.

Despite facing into the final 14 minutes with just 14 players, the Premier County beat Limerick 1-10 to 1-5.

The side, managed by Niamh Lillis, will be absolutely delighted to reach



IN THIS TOGETHER: Young Cork camogie fans joined the senior team in a huddle after training at Páirc Uí Rinn.



Former Cork camogie player Ashling Thompson with Dublin hurler Chris Crummy before the eighth Hurling for Cancer Research celebrity hurling match. Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile

the semi-finals, but there is simply no doubting the fact that the Tipperary will need to improve immeasurably before facing the Cats.

Captain Clodagh Quirke is well-placed to gauge the progress the county has made in recent years as it strives to bridge the gap between them and the big three — Cork, Kilkenny, and Galway.

Tipperary have been knocking on the door in recent years, but Cork have consistently barred their way. Clodagh believes that avoiding Cork in the semi-final, who again defeated Tipperary in the opening round of this year's campaign, is helpful — for now at least.

"To be back in the semi-final again this year after losing last year is massive for us," she said.

"I am really looking forward to it. After losing last year, this was our aim at the start of this year, to get back to

the same level, and it is great to be in the semi-final again.

She is also happy to sidestep Cork for the time being.

"It is a big help to us not to be playing Cork. Kilkenny are new to us, and having lost games to Cork in recent times, our heads will be in a better place facing Kilkenny."

The game of the evening will be the Cork-Galway tie at 7.15pm. The Tribeswomen will be hoping to go one step further than in their last three championship campaigns, but in truth, they always come up short when facing Cork or Kilkenny.

Galway's last championship victory over Cork happened during the group stage of the 2015 championship, on the opening day of the competition. Cork had the final say that summer, however, claiming a seven-point victory when the sides met again in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

“Kilkenny have taken off the shackles this year, having deployed Anne Dalton as sweeper in recent seasons.”

The sides last met in a league encounter in Gort in February, when a late '45 by Orla Cotter rescued a 0-13 to 2-7 draw for the Rebels.

Cork comfortably won their group, courtesy of victories against Clare, Tipperary, Dublin, Meath, and Waterford.

Their average winning margin of 17 points in those games underlines the immense scoring power of the All-Ireland champions.

They are looking sharp, and with Katrina Mackey expected to start, despite her wrist not being 100%, it's a boost for the side.

Galway will need to raise their game significantly from their quarter-final performance and they know that nothing short of a massive hour from them will dethrone the champions.

They could well bring it to the Gaelic Grounds, and we could be in for a real thriller.

Cork 2-10

Wexford 2-5

A SUPERB display from Cork ensured for the second year in a row Cork will contest the All-Ireland U16A final.

Their opponents will be Galway who are chasing a remarkable five in a row of titles.

Cork went out determined to win a place in the last four and they indicated their intent from the throw-in as they took an early lead with a Rose Murphy point inside two minutes.

Katie Murphy showed that Wexford were not going to be easy opponents as she replied immediately. Murphy responded again with her second point a minute later to edge Cork back in front. Again Wexford weren't rattled as Aoife O'Connor pointed.

Aimee Morgan grabbed the game's first goal to give Cork a three-point lead after seven minutes and they were to maintain it to the full-time whistle.

Twice the sides swapped points, Olivia McAllen adding two to the Cork tally, either side of scores from Wexford's Katie Bates and Katie Murphy.

Cork upped the pace and dominated the closing ten minutes of the half and points from Aimee Morgan, Cliona Lynch, Lucy McNulty and Orlaith Cahalane stretched the advantage. An injury to defended Grace Ryan with five minutes to the break saw her having to be replaced by Shauna Hayes as Cork lead 1-8 to 0-4 at half time.

Wexford came out determined in the second half and they cut the Cork lead to four points inside five minutes of the restart with O'Connor blasting a free all the way to the net. Cork's reply was swift with points from Orlaith Cahalane and Lily Hayes Nally cancelling the Wexford goal.

Wexford were now putting the Cork defence under huge pressure but they stood up to the challenge and worked hard as Wexford went searching for a second goal. Miriam Healy at full-back was outstanding while Saoirse Desmond at was solid all through.

Cork extended their lead when substitute Tara Crowley made an immediate impact sending a low ball to the back of the Wexford with five minutes remaining and despite huge Wexford pressure Cork maintained their lead. The final is on August 25.

Scorers for Cork: A Morgan 1-1, T Crowley 1-0, R Murphy, O Cahalane (1), O McAllen 0-2 each, L Hayes-Nally, Lucy McNulty, C Lynch (1) 0-1 each.

Wexford: A O'Connor 2-2 (2-0 f), K Bates, K Murphy 0-1 each.

CORK: C Hurley, S Desmond, M Healy, G Ryan, C Golden, M Ring, M Murphy, C Lynch, O McAllen (c), R Murphy, L McNulty, A Morgan, E Wiggington-Barnett, M Kelleher, O Cahalane.

Subs: S Hayes for G Ryan (26 in), T Crowley for L Hayes-Nally (56), V Gleeson for C Golden (58), J McCarthy for R Murphy (60), E O'Driscoll for L McNulty (63).

WEXFORD: A Dagg, C O'Connor, M O Dowd, H White, E O'Rourke, E Hunt, L Delaney, A O'Connor, G Roche, E Tomkins, K Murphy, K Doyle-Kinsella, K Bates, F Codd, N Fortune.

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).

Quarter final ties take centre stage

Rovers are planning for big club days

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

IT'S that time of year when clubs will hold fun events, as the holiday season draws to a close.

Valley Rovers and Glen Rovers are among the clubs with big days planned.

Valley Rovers hold their annual run/walk on Friday next the event is open to all and it is either a 5k run or a 7k walk, there will be prizes for the first, second and third male and female and also there will be a prize for the first male and female U16.

Registration for the event will be taken from 6pm at Brinny GAA grounds with the event starting at 7pm sharp. Entry fees are €10 per adult, €5 per child or there is a family entry fee of €25 per family. Valley Rovers club PRO John McSweeney is looking forward to a great turn out on the night.

"We are really looking forward to a great event it is now and annual one on our club calendar and the support if always great so again we are inviting entries from everywhere. So come along on the night and enjoy the run or walk which every you choose to do and hopefully the weather will hold for us."



Cork camogie fans from various clubs with senior goalkeeper Aoife Murray at training in Páirc Uí Rinn.

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

THE draws for the quarter-finals of the SE Systems Senior County Championship have thrown up some potentially thrilling clashes.

Last season's defeated finalists Courcy Rovers will take on St Finbarr's while Killeagh will meet Glen Rovers.

The winners of the losers round clash between St Catherine's and Cloughduv will take on holders Inniscarra, Douglas or Éire Óg. That pair are meeting in the losers round with the winners facing Inniscarra.

Milford and Ballygarvan meet in the losers round with the winners playing Sarsfields in round two and whoever emerges will then take on Carbery, Ballincollig or Muskerry. Muskerry and Ballincollig are down to meet in the backdoor with Carbery awaiting the victors.

There are dates down for the losers rounds, August 23-29 while round two games are scheduled for September 14-15 and the quarter-finals are on September 21-22.

INTERMEDIATE

The intermediate championship is down to the last round of games in the three sections and it is tight in section one with Blackrock on six points safely through but the last game between Newcestown and Watergrasshill will decide who will take the second qualifying place.

In section two Fr O'Neill's are on four with a game to play against Aghabullogue who are on three Carrigaline are on three also. Were Aghabullogue to lose to Fr O'Neill's it would see a play-off.

However a win or a draw for Aghabullogue would put Carrigaline out and it would also see Fr O'Neill's through on four. In section three En-



Glen Rovers' Denise Luby is tackled by Ballincollig's Sarah Keating. The Glen were drawn against Killeagh in the next phase. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

niskeane are on four with Ballinhassig who are on two to play, Kilbrittain/Timoleague are on two with Brian Dillon's to play.

A win for Ballinhassig and Kilbrittain/Timoleague could force a three-way play-off in this group. The quarter-finals will see the runners-up in section one play the winners in section two and the runners-up in section three play the winners in section two with the winners of section one and two going through to the semi-finals.

All still very much to play for in all three sections with games down for decision in the next week.

JUNIOR

Junior championship at all levels are progressing nicely with two rounds to go in the Junior A, one round to be played in the Junior B, C, 13-a-side and second teams championships MINOR:

The draws for the SE Systems Minor championships took place on Monday last and with four grades A, B, C and D

there are plenty of games to look forward to.

Clubs have until Sept 7 to have their first round games all played and as the U16 competitions have been somewhat paired back until after August 25 due to the All-Ireland final there is an opportunity for clubs to get their first rounds played.

In the four championships there is a back door opportunity for clubs who lose their opening round game, therefore, affording every team two championship games.

MINOR A

There are 10 clubs graded minor A and the opening rounds will see league champions Sarsfields at home for their clash with Charleville, Ballinora who were runners-up to Sarsfields in the league final will travel a short distance to meet their near neighbours Ballincollig. Ballygarvan are at home for their clash against Aghabullogue, Éire Óg will travel to meet Newcestown and Inniscarra are at home when they meet Courcy Rovers.

MINOR B

The Minor B championship has sixteen teams battling for the title and league winners Aghada will travel to meet Bride rovers, league runners up Glen rovers are at home for their game against St Catherine's, Killeagh will host Carrigaline who have dropped down from the A grade of league for the B championship.

Na Piarsaigh head the short distance out to meet Blarney, the combination of two clubs Ballyhea and Milford will be at home for their meeting with Kilbrittain/Timoleague, it's an all-city meeting between Blackrock who are at home when they play St Finbarr's. Enniskeane will play Fr O'Neill's in Enniskeane and Cloughduv will host Douglas.

MINOR C

A total of 15 teams will contest the minor C championship and this necessitated one preliminary round game with the losers of this going on to the main draw and the winners progressing to round three, with Youghal at home for their meeting with Grenagh in the preliminary round game.

Sliabh Rua travel to Tracton, the combination of two clubs Brian Dillon's and St Vincent's meet Ballinascurry, Mallow will travel to meet Barryroe. Valley rovers will host Castle Lyons. Ballinhassig make the trip in to meet Bishopstown, Rockban host Middleton and Buttevant will meet the losers of the preliminary round game between Youghal and Grenagh.

MINOR D

There are 12 teams in this grade and here league winners Kilbree will be at home when they meet Erin's Own, Castlemartyr are at home for their meeting with St Fanahan's, Nemo Rangers will welcome Watergrasshill, Banteer will be at home against Cobh, Kilworth play Dungourney in Kilworth and St Colum's host Clonakilty.

GLENFEST

Sunday, September 1 is a big day for Glen Rovers/St Nicks when they hold their second GLENFEST in their clubs on Ballincollie Road.

A lot of excitement is building in the club for what is hoped will be another big event in the community as the club opens its doors to the people of Blackpool/Ballyvolane/the Glen and surrounding areas for a day of enjoyment.

Players from every team in the club will participate as hurling and football is played from 10am to late in the evening, each age group has been allocated an hour and there will be hurling, camogie and football for boys and girls played accompanied by their mentors.

As each group finished they will move on to activities which will include four to five stations which will be set out on the pitches. The players will move on to each station with their mentors and here they will participate in a wide range of events including a Crossbar Challenge, Hang Tuff, Hole in One challenge, and rumour has it that a certain section of the club intends to hold a Throw the Sponge at their mentors competition, all in good sport no doubt.

Parents, grandparents and families are invited to join in the fun. There is an outdoor fitness class and this is sure to interest the wider community who are invited to come along and join in. A Farmers Market will be set up from 10am to 4pm with a huge variety of local businesses joining forces with the club.

Galway halt Cork's

Flat Cork couldn't shake that intensity as West's awake



Cork's Pamala Mackey and Nimah Hanniffy of Galway in action. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Match analysis

Linda Mellerick

minutes, Cork never created another opportunity albeit Sarah Healy did make a very alert save off the line on 40 minutes from a long Chloe Sigerson free. It was similar to the one which got past her in the quarter-final.

Niamh Kilkenny was outstanding. Driving forward all day, she hit three great points in the opening half and got on a huge amount of ball. Aoife Donoghue was equally effective, her consistency over Galway's past two games very influential. A change around the middle was required by Cork.

Cork have been very happy at half time. They'd have thought that having not played particularly well and coming back out with a really strong wind at their backs, they only trailed by a point. What they possibly didn't expect was Galway maintaining their intensity and they themselves failing to truly get out of the traps.

Orla Cronin pointed on 36 minutes and it took Cork until the 48th to score again, an Orla Cotter free. In fact, Cork scored just four points in the second half compared with the 10 Galway scored with the wind in the first.

Trailing by two entering the final quarter two wides on the trot from Cork added to their frustration and put a pep in the step of Galway.

Galway didn't go on the defensive as many teams tend to do against Cork. They continued to take the game to them and had them on the backfoot. Niamh Hanniffy who missed the quarter-final through injury made a couple of strong runs and gave Galway a crucial two-point advantage on sixty minutes.

I still thought with five minutes remaining on Saturday that we'd win the game. You expect that when you're from Cork and going for three All Ireland's in a row. It's happened this year where Cork failed to ignite but always pulled away.

It didn't happen on Saturday because Galway didn't let them and it's the first time all year that Cork were really challenged. The Waterford game stood massively to Galway.

Cork looked very sharp at training last week. It just didn't happen for them on the day. They'll feel it more than anyone. They have given us some tremendous moments over the past few years. This game doesn't change the great team they are.

Unfortunately, it was the one where they lost their crown.



Cork's Orla Cronin dejected after the game. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Cork's Libby Coppinger and Brieger Corkery show their disappointment. Picture: INPHO



Tara Kenny of Galway celebrates a second-half score. Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

Quilty stars as Cats tame Tipp

KILKENNY came good in the second half to return to the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final for the sixth time in the last seven seasons.

Michelle Quilty was the star of the show with a goal and nine points but the No-residers took some time to deal with the Tipperary

challenge, eventually winning 2-21 to 3-12, and it was only in the last quarter that they put significant distance between themselves and their opponents.

Even at that, they conceded two late goals and exhibited enough sloppiness to displease them.

It was a fantastic effort by Tipperary for a long way

though and they got the perfect start, showing courage in not adopting a sweeper against the free-scoring Cats. They caused quite a bit of discomfort in the Kilkenny defence right throughout the opening period and registered the opening two points as they went toe-to-toe with the heavily-fancied Cats.

GALWAY thoroughly deserved their victory on Saturday, of that there can be no doubt.

They were a different team to the side which took to Semple Stadium for the quarter-final. I mentioned in my preview that they would bring a different approach to playing the All-Ireland champions so Cork would also need the right approach on the day.

Galway had it. Cork didn't.

It was a day when Cork were flat. Too many players just didn't perform. They couldn't shake Galway's intensity. It happens and when it does it's the hardest of defeats to take.

Cork's short-passing game is great when it works but when it breaks down, you're left screaming for more direct play. I had my doubts about it a couple of times during the year. When Waterford worked hard against Cork, they put them under huge pressure, often turning them over or forcing passes to go astray.

It happened again here. Trying to create open space up front but slowing the play out of defence was a contradiction. You might get one chance to gain a yard on your defender but they're then on your shoulder.

On the day it works it looks impressive. It didn't work on Saturday. Galway had their homework done and they continued the intensity that they had in the last 15 minutes of the quarter-final.

We knew that Galway would bring their 'A' game from the outset. The question was would they maintain it. When Cork went three ahead in the first half it was a different Galway side this time around.

Instead of dropping their heads they picked off some lovely long-distance points, something Cork failed to do with the wind behind them in the second half. This Galway side had a different mindset. They were level again within four minutes and led by two minutes later. They were winning almost every ball around the middle third. Aoife Donoghue and Catriona Cornican had three points between them by the 23rd minute.

Galway attacked from the outset, had three in a row of wides after 11 minutes. It didn't deter them. They were winning a lot of Cork's puck-outs. One such Cork puck-out won around the middle of the park, where Cork struggled, led to a Galway penalty on 12 minutes.

Surprisingly it was given to 18-year-old Sarah Healy. With their typical penalty-taker, the injured Rebecca Hennelly on the bench, Sarah stepped up. It was struck well but blocked on the line by Gemma O'Connor and Cork won a free out.

Galway won almost every ruck and every breaking ball. They attacked and attacked and attacked. Apart from Julia's Whites' goal on 18

three-in-row bid



Amy O'Connor, the Rebels' main attacking threat, takes on Emma Helebert of Galway on Saturday night.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

Galway	0-14
Cork	1-10

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

FOR the first time since 2013 Cork won't contest the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland camogie final as a stunning display from a determined Galway saw them knock out the three-in-a-row chasing champions and set up a meeting with Kilkenny.

The league champions showed little respect for the tag of underdogs as they proceeded to end Cork's reign and their dream of three-in-a-row. They did the same in 2013.

Carrie Dolan's pointed free on 24 minutes saw Galway hit the front and they held the lead to the final whistle as Cork simply could not get back on level terms. Galway showed huge work-rate all through and with Niamh Kilkenny turning in a player of the match performance they kept the pressure on.

They dominated around the middle with Catriona Cormican and Aoife Donoghue doing huge work and they found a lot of space and used it well.

Galway played with the aid of the strong wind in the first half and an Allish O'Reilly point gave them a brief lead but Cork responded with three on

the bounce as Orla Cotter pointed a free and Linda Collins and Katrina Mackey found the range. Mackey's point coming after Galway keeper Sarah Healy had a 12th-minute penalty saved by Gemma O'Connor.

Galway responded well, Niamh Kilkenny from play and Carrie Dolan with a pointed free had them back level, before the game's only goal arrived on eighteen minutes when Amy O'Connor's pass to Julia White was finished to the net to restore Cork's three-point advantage.

Galway didn't panic and they were back on level four minutes later as they showed huge determination with Niamh Kilkenny leading the way followed by two-in-a-row from Catriona Cormican.

Amy O'Connor restored Cork's lead with a well-struck point but Galway continued to win a lot of fifty/fifty challenges and they continued to find huge space.

They took the game to Cork with

three points in-a-row Aoife Donoghue with one and Carrie Dolan with two put two between the sides. Cork kept on their heels with Orla Cotter converting a free and Amy O'Connor firing over one from play but the last word of the opening half was with Niamh Kilkenny, who confidently slotted over from play and it was advantage Galway, 0-10 to 1-6, at the interval.

It was hard and tough through the second half and to her credit referee Liz Dempsey, who in the past we would have been critical of, did a good job.

Galway brought Niamh Hanniffy from the full forward line and with Niamh Kilkenny and Carrie Dolan continuing to keep the pressure on Galway's confidence grew and grew.

Twice the sides swapped points as Galway held a one point lead and still we waited for Cork to explode, two bad wide's saw them struggle to get level and they seemed to lack the drive and determination needed to put the game out of Galway's reach.

As Galway were just about hanging in there Niamh Hanniffy hit an inspirational point on 60 minutes and with three minutes of injury time announced there was still a chance to salvage something for Cork.

O'Connor made it a one-point game again with two minutes of injury time remaining and despite pressure Cork could not find a levelling point as Galway held firm and defended strongly to book a final date with Kilkenny.

Galway's Niamh Kilkenny was named as Player of the Match and it was a worthy choice given her superb display which saw her play with huge heart and determination all through.

And so the dream is ended and almost certainly it possibly signals the end of a few glorious careers but that's for another day, Saturday belonged to Galway.

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan 0-5 (0-3 f), N Kilkenny 0-3, A Donoghue, C Cormican 0-2 each, N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly 0-1 each.

Cork: A O'Connor 0-4, O Cotter 0-3 f, J White 1-0, O Cronin, K Mackey, L Collins 0-1 each.

GALWAY: Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, S Doran, T Kenny, L Ryan, E Helebert, H Cooney, A Donoghue, N Kilkenny, A O'Reilly, S Spellman, C Dolan, N Hanniffy, N Coen.

Subs: C Finnerty for Coen (48), R Hennelly for S Spellman (63).

CORK: A Murray, L Treacy, P Mackey, L Hayes, H Looney, G O'Connor (c), C Sigerson, L Coppinger, B Corkery, K Mackey, O Cronin, O Cotter, J White, L Collins, A O'Connor.

Subs: N McCarthy for J White (53), K Hickey for B Corkery (54), L Homan for K Mackey (56).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny).



Cork manager Paudie Murray.

Murray: Galway wanted it more

REACTION

■ Mary Newman

THERE were contrasting reactions from the Murrays at either end of the corridor at the LIT Gaelic Grounds on Saturday.

Galway manager Cathal Murray celebrated while Cork's Paudie Murray reflected on his side's failed bid to reach another final.

"They wanted it more, they were sharper," was Paudie's response.

"We have no complaints, they were more physical than us and they were sharper on the day. They showed huge desire to win and I suppose they wanted it that bit more. We have to just dust ourselves down and get on with it."

Cork fought to the end and this was nothing more than he expected.

"We have four All-Irelands in five years so you would expect nothing less than a fight to stay in it and we did that and maybe if we had another minute we might have grabbed the equaliser but it was not to be."

Gracious as always in defeat Paudie praised Galway.

"They are a good side and it will take a good team to beat them."

Galway manager Cathal Murray was thrilled with his charges.

"We're delighted to reach the All-Ireland final, the confidence has been building since we won the National League title and our victory over Waterford in the quarter-final. It was a super performance from the girls for the last two weeks; we have talked about bringing the momentum we showed out there into this match."

Murray says while they were pleased to be a point up at half time they knew it would be tough in the second half facing into the strong breeze.

"Cork battled to the end and could have snatched an equaliser, they really showed why they are back-to-back champions, we were glad to hear the full time whistle."

Galway will bid for a first All-Ireland title since 2013 and they will meet Kilkenny and Murray knows that will be another tough battle.

"They are the form team of the championship so far, they beat us in the 2016 semi-final, they beat us in the 2017 in the group stages and twice last year."

Three reasons the Tribe are through to the All-Ireland final

1. DETERMINATION:

From the off Galway battled for every ball as if it was their last. Playing with the wind in the opening half they hit 10 points and managed to keep their noses in front to the final whistle.

Having had a tough battle two weeks ago in the quarter-final with Waterford the Tribe were sharp.

They hunted for every ball and when Cork battled to get level in the closing minutes they showed huge character to stand firm.

2. FAILURE TO CAPITALISE ON THE WIND:

Cork had the aid of a strong wind for the second half yet they only managed to score four points and this was matched by Galway.

We didn't see some of the long-range efforts we have seen so often in the past from Cork and they seemed to just lack the drive to get over the line on this occasion.

3. HUGE UNDERAGE SUCCESS:

The huge success at underage level that has seen

Galway win four All-Ireland U16 titles, 2015 to 2018, and a minor in 2017 has helped lay the foundations for their progression.

This season they were crowned National League champions and now book their place in their first senior decider since 2013. They now find themselves in the intermediate final too, guided by Murray, and add in also their meeting with Cork next weekend in the U16 final it shows their strength-in-depth.

'Galway deserved it more than us'



Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final

CORK 1-10
GALWAY 0-14

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Gaelic Grounds



— not to mention tactical nous — to end Cork's run at a third title in a row.

The Tribeswomen fell two points behind early on, but a flurry of scores in response to Julia White's 18th-minute goal gave them an advantage they would never cede, although they were never more than two points clear of the champions.

Niamh Kilkenny, Sarah Dervan, Niamh Hanniffy, and Sarah Healy were just some of Galway's key contributors.

Pamela Mackey excelled in defence for Cork, Hannah Looney made some lightning bursts including in the build-up to White's goal, but only Amy O'Connor, with four points from play, was a threat up front throughout.

It was only a one-point game in the end, but most observers — including Cork manager Paudie Murray — had little doubt that Galway's triumph was merited.

Certainly, his Maroon counterpart made no attempt to downplay his players' endeavours.

"It's a super performance," said Murray. "To be honest, after beating Waterford, we didn't think we got enough credit for that performance."

"We were outstanding in the second half. We talked the last two weeks about bringing that momentum into this match."



Galway's Tara Kenny celebrates at the final whistle after victory over Cork in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at LIT Gaelic Grounds. Picture: Ryan Byrne

The girls were super. We were in a good position at half time. The breeze was strong, but we were happy to go in a point up. The second half was all about work-rate, huge intensity, huge physicality in the tackle and we were just brilliant," the Galway boss added.

"I think Galway wanted it more than us, were probably more physical than us, sharper than us," was the gracious summation of Paudie Murray in defeat.

"They are a very good team. I've been saying that all along. I've great time for Galway GAA in general: hurling, football, ladies football, camogie. They've always had good teams and every now and then they come with a very good one. Ultimately, they showed more desire than us."

He had no truck with any suggestions that being serial winners or having a lot of

mileage on the clock would be an explanation for that.

"I don't go in for that stuff, just because we've been on the road. You can argue that the game against Waterford did Galway a world of good, and possibly it did. A quarter-final would have been no good to us as we had a load of injuries and we were just getting people back, Katrina Mackey being one in particular, but we don't have any complaints."

"I think they deserved it more than us. We can't have any argument going back, we just have to dust ourselves down and get on with it."

Galway led by 0-10 to 1-6 at half time, but Cork had a strong wind in the second half. It was a battle to the death after the resumption and if one instance summed up the new Galway, it was four forwards converging on Orla Cronin and forcing a free in

the final quarter, from which Carrie Dolan pointed to put two between them again. O'Connor replied and did so again after a fantastic score from Hanniffy, but an equalising chance never came, and Galway were on their way to next month's decider.

Speculation about the future of some legendary Cork players, as well as their manager — who has revolutionised camogie in terms of physical preparation, the appliance of science and tactical modernity — is inevitable.

While understandably making no big statements so soon after such a gut-wrenching reverse, Murray emphasised the bright future ahead for Cork.

"This is my eighth year. I've been involved with some great guys in the management set-up, some very professional people," he said.

"I've been involved with

some great, great players and been very close to them. My heart goes out to them."

"We'll make up our mind where we're going after this, but there's good teams coming in Cork, so it's onwards and upwards."

Scorers for Galway: C Dolan (0-5, 3fs); N Kilkenny (0-3); A Donohue, C Cormican (0-2 each); N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly (0-1 each).

Scorers for Cork: A O'Connor (0-4); O Cotter (0-3, fs); J White (1-0); O Cronin, K Mackey, L Collins (0-1 each).

GALWAY: Sarah Healy, Shauna Healy, S Dervan, T Kenny, L Ryan, E Helebert, H Cooney, A Donohue, N Kilkenny, A O'Reilly, S Spellman, C Cormican, C Dolan, N Hanniffy, N Coen.

Subs for Galway: C Finnerty for Coen (48); R Hennelly for Spellman (60+3).

CORK: A Murray, L Treacy, P Mackey, L Hayes, H Looney, G O'Connor, C Sigeron, L Coppinger, B Corkery, K Mackey, O Cronin, O Cotter, J White, L Collins, A O'Connor.

Subs for Cork: N McCarthy for White (53); K Hickey for Corkery (54); L Homan for K Mackey (56).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)

Quilty provides the Q mark as Kilkenny see off Tipp



Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final

KILKENNY 2-21
TIPPERARY 3-12

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Gaelic Grounds



would have relished the challenge of overturning the last two one-point final defeats by the Rebels.

Galway got the upper hand when they met Kilkenny in the National League final at Croke Park last March however, and while the Cats had their noses in front at the final whistle in the subsequent Championship group outing, the Tribeswomen will be feeling fearless, having just edged out Cork in a thriller.

The Kilkenny boss will recognise the extent of the examination that's coming down the tracks, but for now, it was a case of 'job done' for the Noreiders.

"Semi-finals are for winning," said Downey. "We always knew Tipperary were going to put it up to us and they got off to a great start, but in fairness to the girls, they stuck to the task, threw the ball over the bar any opportunity they got."

Michelle Quilty was player of the match after scoring 1-9, Denise Gaule profited from the increasing space with five points from play in the second half, while a more advanced Anne Dalton brought her personal tally for the campaign to 6-11 from play with a peach of a goal.

Tipp settled immediately, with Orla O'Dwyer and Megan Ryan prominent in attack, and while there was an element of fortune to Aoife McGrath's free from outside the 65 going all the way into the Kilkenny net, their lead was deserved.

Even after Quilty's goal, Tipp hit the front once more thanks to points from the impressive Eibhlís McDonald, Cáit Devane, and Niamh Treacy, but when Dalton finished superbly after Caoimhe Bourke had saved brilliantly from Quilty to make it 2-9 to 1-8 at the break, it proved to be a killer blow.

Kilkenny had the wind in



Kilkenny's Catherine Foley challenges Tipperary's Niamh Treacy in yesterday's game. Picture: Ryan Byrne

their favour in the second half and Quilty, Power, Gaule, and Kellyanne Doyle hit the target as the Cats moved 12 points clear, though Niamh Lillis' charges showed admirable grit to plunder two late goals from O'Dwyer and Karen Kennedy.

The Tipp manager was understandably proud of her crew's efforts.

"You can't take it from Kil-

kenny," said Downey. "They're a superb outfit and they showed their class. We didn't die. We could have given up, but we didn't. We brought that back and maybe another five or 10 minutes we might

have brought it back another bit. Our plan was not just to take part, it was to tear into it and we did, and I can't compliment the girls enough."

Now that the dust has settled, Kilkenny are preparing for a sixth All-Ireland final in seven seasons, having only won one of the previous five.

"(We're) looking forward to getting back to Croke Park again," said Downey.

"It's where every player wants to be. For this group of players, they've put in so much effort, they've had so much heartache, it's just great to be back there now."

"When you're in it you have a chance of winning it. If you're not in it, you can't."

Scorers for Kilkenny: M Quilty (1-9, 5fs); D Gaule (0-6, 1f); A Dalton (1-1); K Power (0-2); E Keane, A Farrell, K Doyle (0-1 each).

Scorers for Tipperary: C Devane (0-6, 5fs); E McDonald (0-3); A McGrath (1-0, free); O O'Dwyer, K Kennedy (1-0 each); Megan Ryan, N Treacy, E Fryday (0-1 each).

KILKENNY: E Kavanagh, C Dorrer, C Foley, G Walsh, D Tobin, C Phelan, E Keane, K Doyle, M Farrell, K Power, A Dalton, A Farrell, M Quilty, M Walsh, D Gaule.

Subs for Kilkenny: D Morrissey for Quilty (56).

TIPPERARY: C Bourke, C Quirke, J Bourke, E Loughman, A McGrath, K Kennedy, M Ryan, N Treacy, N Walsh, O O'Dwyer, Megan Ryan, E Fryday, C Devane, M Campion, E McDonald.

Subs for Tipperary: C Purdie for Treacy (43); K Blair for Campion (56).

Referee: John Dermody (Westmeath)

Moments after Kilkenny had accounted for a gallant but tiring Tipperary with a late rush of scores, Ann Downey was enjoying the luxury of looking forward to watching the second Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final between Cork and Galway.

The competitor that Downey has always been

Galway geared up for a major crack at the title holders

EANNA O'REILLY

ALL roads lead to the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick on Saturday evening, with the Galway senior camogie team facing defending champions Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final, throw in at 7:15 pm.

The Tribeswomen will be hoping to go one step further than in their last three championship campaigns by claiming victory over the Rebels to qualify for the All-Ireland final on Sunday, September 8.

Galway's last championship victory over Cork occurred during the group stage of the 2015 championship, on the opening day of the competition. Cork had the last laugh that summer, however, claiming a seven-point victory when the sides met again in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

The sides last met in a league encounter in Gort in February, when a controversial late 45 scored by Cork's Orla Cotter rescued a 0-13 to 2-7 draw for the Rebels. This year's Cork team has shown the sort of form which emphasises their credentials as potential three-in-a-row winners.

They comfortably won their group with victories over Clare, Tipperary, Dublin, Meath and Waterford. Their average winning margin of 17 points in those games underlines the immense scoring power of the All-Ireland champions.

The likes of Orla Cotter, Amy O'Connor, Orla Cronin and Linda Collins have been in top scoring form this season. The Rebels also have experienced leaders and multiple All-Ireland winners such as Aoife Murray in goal, Pamela Mackey, Gemma O'Connor and Chloe Sigerson in defence (all current All-Stars) and an impressive midfield pairing of Julia White and seven-time All-Ireland winner Brieghe Corkery, one of the most decorated GAA players in the country.

The Tribeswomen will need to be at their very best to turn over the All-Ireland champions on Saturday evening, but Galway fans certainly have reasons to be optimistic. Cork have not faced a defence as strong as Galway's back six, which has been a huge asset to Cathal Murray's team.

Captain Sarah Dervan, along with Shauna Healy, Heather Cooney, Tara Kenny, Emma Helebert and Lorraine Ryan will no doubt make things difficult for the title holders. With

READY FOR THE REBELS

Galway's Niamh Kilkenny is challenged by Lorainne Bray of Waterford during the All-Ireland senior camogie quarter-final. The Tribeswomen take on title holders Cork on Saturday.

players like Aoife Donohue, Caitriona Cormican, Anne Marie Starr and Ciara Murphy, Galway have a strong selection of players who can compete in the middle third with Cork, which ever combination is selected on Saturday.



THE HUNGER OF A GALWAY TEAM CHASING A FIRST ALL-IRELAND FINAL APPEARANCE IN FOUR YEARS MAY GIVE THEM THE EDGE

The Galway forwards have been very sharp in most games this year and produced an impressive second half performance against Waterford a fortnight ago. The recent return of Rebecca Hennelly is a major boost and gives the management more options in attack.

On form, the Galway forwards are undoubtedly capable of putting up a big score, but the performance levels of the

second half against the Déise must be produced from the start of the match on Saturday. Indeed, it will be essential that the highest level of performance is maintained in each sector of the field for the entire 60 minutes against a Cork side who are used to winning big games.

The battle in the midfield area will be vital and if Galway can break even here, they will be in with a great chance. All going well, the hunger of a Galway team chasing a first All-Ireland final appearance in four years may give them the edge in what has all the hallmarks of being a close encounter. A vocal Galway support in the Gaelic Grounds would give the team a great boost during the game, so hopefully as many Galway fans as possible can head down the M18 to Limerick on Saturday evening.

The Galway intermediates are also in action on Saturday in the penultimate stage of this year's championship, facing off against Tipperary in Cratloe (2pm).

Galway will be hoping their unbeaten run continues with the major prize of an All-Ireland final place on offer. This



Cork's Amy O'Connor and Galway's Caitriona Cormican with the O'Duffy Cup.

would be Galway's first final appearance in the intermediate grade since the year of the famous All-Ireland double in 2013.

Tipperary finished second in their group behind Down and

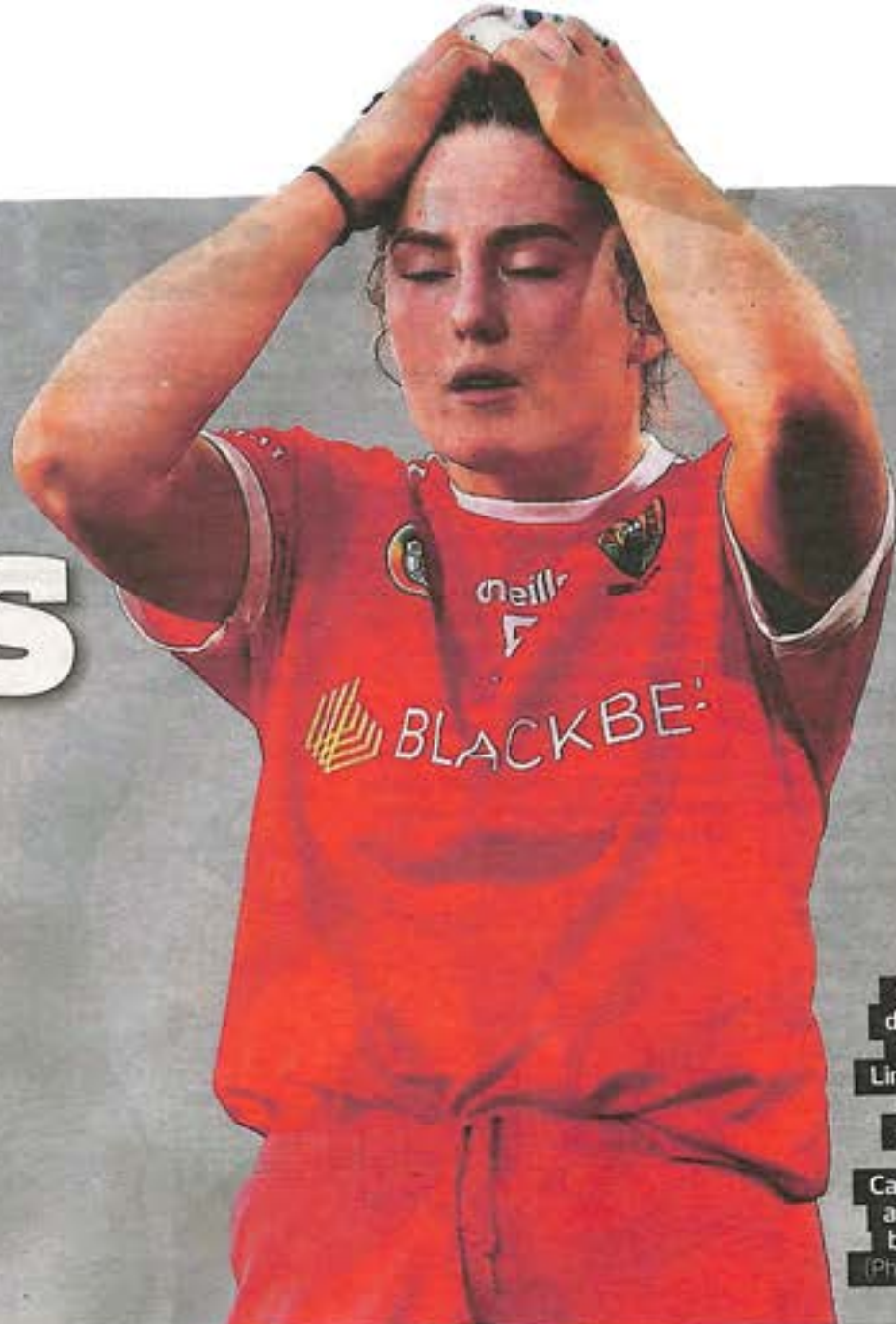
suffered one defeat in their final outing against Derry, finished ahead of the Northerners on points difference.

Galway won arguably a tougher group with a score difference of 7-22 after six games.

With the likes of Rachel Monaghan, Mairead Dillon, Elisha Broderick and Tara Rutledge in fine scoring form, one would expect the Tribeswomen to have too much for their Tipperary opponents.

Libby laments loss

Galway dethrone camogie champs



Cork's Libby Coppinger shows her disappointment at the LIT Gaelic Grounds in Limerick after her team was knocked out of the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship at the semi-final stage by Galway. See page 4 (Photo: Ryan Byrne, INPHO)

Aug 2019



STEPPING UP: Edwina Keane overcame her fears and demons to get back to her best with Kilkenny after two serious injury setbacks. Keane will be lining out for the Cats against Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final at Limerick's Gaelic Grounds tomorrow. Picture: Dan Sheridan

Keane feared for future after second knee op

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Kilkenny veteran Edwina Keane has revealed the crippling self-doubt which almost derailed her comeback from a second cruciate knee operation two seasons ago.

Keane (29), an integral member of the Kilkenny squad which faces Tipperary in tomorrow's Liberty All-Ireland senior semi-final (LIT Gaelic Grounds, 5.30pm) admitted fearing for her county career despite a successful rehabilitation from surgery.

And she thanked the support of her family for erasing such negativity and returning her to the game she loved.

"When I was younger, playing for Kilkenny never really fazed me," Keane explained.

"When you are older, you think about everything and your head just gets in the way more than anything.

"After your injury, you think you are not fast enough, you are not fit enough.

"Everything comes into your mind. It was just all in my head that I wasn't good enough. I had myself talked down.

"That is when my family kicked in. My other half (John Purcell) kicked in. They just kept talking to me and reassuring me.

"Then just before a challenge match, John was saying: 'Just go out and play this challenge match. It doesn't matter. Just go out and do it.' I just went out with that attitude, blanking everything that had happened.

"From then on things started to change. I started to just get back into my old self again.

"Without the support base of my family it might have

been tough going. It was brilliant to finally get back to just playing with freedom. Just go out with the confidence that I know why I am here. I am good enough to be here."

There was some heavy strapping on the right knee for the last game against Limerick four weeks ago but it is nothing to worry about.

"Lucky enough the two knees are back working grand. It is like an old injury from years ago. Put a bit of strapping on it. It could be just all in my head now but I don't mind as long as it works."

Cork girls bid to halt Galway's drive for five

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Camogie

The All-Ireland U16 camogie championship finals take place tomorrow, with Cork and Galway the headline act in the A decider at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh (4pm).

Galway have been the dominant county at this grade for a number of years and are pursuing an incredible fifth consecutive title and 16th in all.

The westerners did suffer a defeat to Clare in the group stages but were already guaranteed progression as top seeds by that stage and overcame Kilkenny with ease in the semi-final.

Cork will be seeking to secure their first title at this grade since 2003 having beaten Wexford in the semi-final.

They have a perfect record in the group stages as they aim for a 14th title at this level.

The B decider kicks off proceedings at MacDonagh Park (2pm), with Limerick taking on Waterford. Limerick are looking to win this title for the first time since 2011, having beaten Laois in the semi-final. Four wins and one draw saw them top their group.

Waterford's attack have been in stunning form and dominated the group stage with an unblemished record.

In the C final at Sixmilebridge (3pm), Kerry are bidding for their first title against a Roscommon side that beat them in the round-robin phase.

Cork's three-in-a-row dreams dashed by Galway

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE SEMI-FINAL

GALWAY 0-14
CORK 1-10

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR REPORTS

CORK'S quest for a third straight Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior camogie title came to an end as they lost out to Galway in Saturday evening's semi-final at the LIT Gaelic Grounds.

The Tribeswomen produced a performance of real steel to match their talent to return to the decider for the first time in four years. They already have national Llague honours under their belt and will be looking for a first championship success

since 2013.

Galway led from the time Carrie Dolan slotted a 24th minute free and never gave up that lead, despite the savage efforts of their valiant opponents.

Picking a significant moment in such a close affair can be difficult but in the period after Julia White hand-passed to the net for Cork in the 18th minute after a blistering run by Hannah Looney, Galway outscored Cork by six points to one. In the context of how the scoreboard read at the final whistle, that was significant.

The workrate on show was phenomenal in a very physical affair and it is certainly an area of improvement among the Tribeswomen in recent

years. So too was the tactical approach and, in particular, the pressure they placed on Aoife Murray's puckouts, so often the launching pad for Cork attacks.

Galway would have been delighted too with the amount of space they were able to get Niamh Kilkenny into, and she responded with a player-of-the-match performance.

Cork looked sharp early on despite not having played for four weeks, in comparison to Galway's two, replying to the concession of an early Ailish O'Reilly point to lead by two, Orla Cotter (free), Linda Collins and Katrina Mackey hitting the target.

Mackey's point came straight after Sarah Healy had her 12th-minute penalty saved by Gemma O'Connor, after Laura Hayes had fouled Carrie Dolan,

following a mistake by Aoife Murray.

Healy proved unbothered by the failure to convert and would go on to make a couple of key interventions, gathering well under heavy pressure just before the break and then making a good save from a deflection 10 minutes into the second half.

Galway didn't fret either, not even when White put Cork a goal ahead. They were level four minutes later, Kilkenny splitting the posts and Caitriona Cormican hitting a pair inside 60 seconds.

Cork's most dangerous attacker Amy O'Connor restored the Rebels' lead but Aoife Donohue and two Dolan scores put some daylight between the sides. There would never be much between them but Galway would always keep their

noses in front and it was 0-10 to 1-6 at the change of ends.

The intensity lifted further in the second half, although the scoring rate dropped, and if there were plenty of mistakes, that was assuredly down to the do-or-die nature of the exchanges.

Murray drew Niamh Hanniffy out from the full-forward line to good effect, Aoife Donohue and Kilkenny were flourishing, but at the other end, Cork were heavily reliant on O'Connor to make ground.

Hanniffy hit an inspirational point on the hour despite shipping a heavy tackle by Laura Treacy and though O'Connor made it a one-point game again with two minutes of injury time still remaining, Galway held firm for a September 8th date with Kilkenny.

Scorers

Galway: C Dolan 0-5 (3f), N Kilkenny 0-3, A Donohue, C Cormican 0-2 each, N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly 0-1 each. **Cork:** A O'Connor 0-4, O Cotter 0-3f, J White 1-0; O Cronin, K Mackey, L Collins 0-1 each.

Galway: Sarah Healy; Shauna Healy, S Dervan, T Kenny; L Ryan, E Helebert, H Cooney; A Donohue, N Kilkenny; A O'Reilly, S Spellman, C Cormican; C Dolan, N Hanniffy, N Coen. Subs: C Finnerty for Coen (48), R Hennelly for Spellman (60). **Cork:** A Murray; L Treacy, P Mackey, L Hayes, H Looney, G O'Connor, C Sligerson; L Coppinger, B Corkery; Mackey, O Cronin, O Cotter; J White, L Collins, A O'Connor. Subs: N McCarthy for White (53), K Hickey for Corkery (54), L Homan for K Mackey (56).

Referee: Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny)



Cork's Amy O'Connor takes on the challenge of Galway's Shauna Healy during Saturday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final at LIT Gaelic Grounds, Limerick. (Photo: Ryan Byrne, INPHO)

Murray – defeat need not signal the end

BY DENIS HURLEY

CORK camogie manager Paudie Murray says that no decision has been made regarding next year, but he maintains that whoever is in charge will have a lot of raw materials to work with.

The Rebels' hopes of winning a third straight All-Ireland title ended as Galway beat them in Saturday's semi-final in Limerick, but Murray doesn't believe that the defeat can be ascribed to the team being past its peak.

"Things were positive at half-time, even though we had missed a few chances," he said.

"In the second half, our decision-making wasn't good and Galway were hungrier, but you can't say that

Cork have too many miles on the clock, that's nonsense. 'If you take out our elder stateswomen, our team is quite young and you look at the girls coming through, there are some great prospects.

"I think playing the quarter-final stood to Galway and we had a month off and I think the way the game was refereed was different to how we had prepared for that referee. She normally gives 32-35 frees in a game, but it was a case of everything going. 'You don't want to be making excuses but three of our girls hadn't trained properly so our run-in wasn't as good as you'd have liked, but there are no complaints.'

Having won four of the past five All-Irelands, there is nothing to suggest that Cork are finished.

Murray sees a lot of potential but says that standards must be lifted again. 'Laura Hayes, Ciara McCarthy, Saoirse McCarthy and Cliona Healy are all really good players and they'll have a big impact for Cork in 2020,' he says.

"What has to happen is that if Cork players really want it, there'll have to be a shake-up. When we came in as a management team, we really pushed things on but the others have caught up.

"The challenge is to shove on again and, if Cork do that, then they'll have a good chance. Last year, Galway were back on November 30th, whereas we didn't go back until just before Christmas. And will it be the same management team helping the team to make their way back to the

summit? 'That's a good question,' Murray says. 'I intend to take some time to make up my mind, it's what I've done every year.

"It's hard to walk away but, after eight years, you have to be certain that you have the energy, it takes up your entire life from January to August. 'What I will say though is that, if we were to walk away, it's an exceptional job for anybody, I can't see why it wouldn't attract a really high-calibre person.'

Cork senior camogie team manager Paudie Murray ponders what might have been after his side was beaten by Galway in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final in Limerick, on Saturday evening last. (Photo: Ryan Byrne, INPHO)



Three is the tragic number for Cork



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

WHAT is it about Cork and our failure to win three in a row?

The last team to achieve this in 1972 contained great players, the likes of Deirdre Sutton, Marie Costine, Pat Moloney, Liz Garvan and Marion Sweetney. In fact, they won four in a row.

We won back to back titles in '82/83, '92/93, '97/98, '05/06, '08/09, '14/15, and '17/18. Seven times and we just can't get the third title.

The majority of the time the reason is lack of hunger. And oh, the regrets afterwards!

This will be Kilkenny's seventh final on the trot with just one win, 2016. They should be chomping at the bit for this year's final.

Will the fact that they aren't playing Cork lean towards a bit of disappointment on their part? I'm sure it won't.

Why should it? A title is a title. They need to be careful not to allow a slight touch of complacency in now that it's Galway they face.

We may well see a much better final now that Cork aren't involved. Such is the tension between the Rebels and the Cats that the games rarely excite, apart from the closeness of the tie.

Kilkenny are playing a much more attractive style of hurling this year. They have so many exciting players that it's good to see the shackles off.

Michelle Quilty had a very poor season in 2018. Taken off in both the semi and final last year she's having a great season 12 months on. She struck 1-9 last week, 1-2 from play.

Denise Gaule's long-distance striking was excellent in the second half, striking five wonderful points from play. She was given a crazy amount of room by Tipperary and she availed of every opportunity.

The fact that Tipperary got in for two goals in the last couple of the minutes of the game is a blessing in disguise for Kilkenny. They had the game completely sewed up at that stage.

The two goals put a better reflection on the result for Tipp and what it did for Kilkenny was bring them back down to earth and keep their feet firmly on the ground. The vulnerability they showed is something to work on in training in the coming weeks.

Galway aren't afraid of Kilkenny and their semi-final win will boost them enormously.

Tipperary under Niamh Lillis have done extremely well this year. They have brought passion and skill to the table and if they can build on that maybe the future doesn't look so bleak anymore.

Huge credit to Galway. I had my concerns that Cork would go all the way this year, but I thought they would beat Galway last Saturday. How Galway upped their performance is testimony to the spirit that's now within the camp under Cathal Murray.

Cork were under pressure from the outset. I thought our full-back line were excellent, Pamela Mackey and Laura Treacy in particular with Laura Hayes not doing bad at all for her first



Libby Coppinger dejected after the loss to Galway.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne



Kilkenny's Kellyanne Doyle with Orla O'Dwyer and Niamh Treacy of Tipperary in last weekend's semi-final.

Picture: INPHO/Ryan Byrne

All-Ireland senior semi-final.

Amy O'Connor also did everything she could. She had a great game.

Four great points and laid on the goal for Julia White. I have to say that I really admire Amy.

To see her a picture of her on Twitter out training with St. Vincent's junior team last Sunday morning says a lot about the girl she is.

Niamh Kilkenny had a game I didn't see her play for a long time. She was excellent.

The midfield of Catriona Cormican and Aoife Donohue excelled while Niamh Hanniffy's physic played a key role in the closing stages. Galway's defence will also be thrilled with their display. Cork scored just 1-7 from play. Amy had a part in 1-4.

Paudie Murray and his wonderful

backroom team, it's important to name them — Kevin Murray (coach), Teddy O'Donovan (goalkeeping coach), Martin O'Brien (Strength and conditioning), Niall Collins (performance analyst), Liam O'Reilly (Physio) and Damien Murray (Logistics), deserve huge credit for the success and professional approach they have brought to Cork camogie.

They owe us nothing. Cork were the first county to really raise the bar in the way of analysis of players and how they prepare.

Others such as Galway have followed because Cork forced them to. We've had some great times over the past five years, winning four titles. How other counties would love to have them. To win the last two by a single point — heart stopping stuff.

“We've had some great times over the past five years, winning four titles. How other counties would love to have them.”

They'll be down for a while but will pick themselves back up again. I don't know if any of the players are going to retire or not.

I'm not going to put ideas into their heads. That's their decision alone.

The talent is in Cork to add to this panel. Remember in 2015 after we had lost four of the starting victorious 2014 All-Ireland final team and three more from the subs bench?

Who would have thought that Cork would win the 2015 title? Surely, they were rebuilding?

Well they rebuilt overnight as back to back titles were won. So, let's not be all doom and gloom.

We've two All-Ireland minor titles just won and the U16s are in the A final tomorrow in Nenagh. Good luck to all involved.

Academy looks to recruit new referees

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THE Camogie Association is organising an inter-county camogie referees academy and they are recruiting current referees to join what they hope will be a tribute to the late Peter Downey.

Peter was one of the game top officials who passed away in 2015 following a tragic accident at his workplace. The late Peter Downey was a highly regarded camogie and GAA referee and a very proud Inniscarra and Cork man.

He was the chairperson of the Camogie Association's National Referee Committee for several years. He was an avid GAA supporter and was a well-known referee throughout the 32 counties.

He was very well respected in camogie circles and was one of the top referees in the country and at the time of his passing was the Association referee assessor.

Peter was always busy and active and was instrumental in setting up the first National Camogie Referee Academy and as he did in everything he got involved in he drove the Referee Academy on helping and guiding many referees along the way. He cast a great listening ear to those who needed advice on and off the field of play.

He had a great integrity and passion for the game which was evident to those who had the pleasure to meet and get to know him.

Peter helped develop the Camogie Association's Referee Pathway which was launched in 2015. Peter worked tirelessly to promote refereeing and his knowledge of Camogie and GAA was unequalled. He has left an indelible mark on the game of Camogie and in the hearts of those who knew him.

As everybody is aware referees are a key component to ensure that games are played in a safe and enjoyable environment. The ultimate goal of the Academy is to provide a pool of dedicated and proficient referees to administer fair play so that all can gain enjoyment from the game at inter-county level.

Referees are vital to games to ensure that camogie games are played in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The Association are seeking the following qualities required to become a National Camogie Referee:

A good knowledge of the playing rules and be physically and mentally fit you must have the ability to remain calm, have the moral courage to take decisions which are correct experience at officiating games at all levels within your county or province is needed.

The Syllabus and time frame for the Academy are as follows Introduction Module November 2019, Module 2 January 2020, Module 3 March 2020, Module 4 May 2020, Module 5 November 2020 Module 6 January 2021 Module 7 March 2021 Module 8 May 2021 Completion October 2021.

Referees interested in joining the Academy can contact the Camogie Association for more information.

Cork stand in way of Galway glory

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

THERE is another 'Drive for Five' on this weekend as five in a row chasing Galway stand in the way of the Cork U16 A side in Nenagh tomorrow.

They were hugely impressive in the group stages as the recorded victories over Wexford and Dublin but they lost out in their last game to Clare by a point.

You get the impression as they were already qualified that result did not matter and they used the game to give game time to some of their squad players all but three of their side that played in the opening two games against Wexford and Dublin lined out against Clare and it gives indication of the strength of their panel.

Having racked up 6-15 against Wexford and 7-10 against Dublin it was hard to see how they only managed 2-7 against a Clare side that lost out heavily to the same opponents. They were happy to rest their stronger players and lined out with just three regulars: Amy Hawkins, Jacqueline Glynn and Lucy Gately.

Kilkenny provided their semi-final opposition but they once again played with huge confidence as the scoring machine continued as they notched up 7-9 to Kilkenny's 2-7.

Galway have enjoyed huge success at U16 and minor levels in the last few years and to be chasing five in a row is a phenomenal achievement.

The only county to have done something similar previously is Kilkenny, who annexed four in a row 2005 to 2008. In fact this will be their eighth final in a row.

They lost to Dublin and Tipperary in 2012, 2013 and 2014 before bouncing back.

A new management team this season of Maureen Donnellan, Natalie Tuffy, David Keane and Mike Butler has kept the ban wagon rolling and players of the caliber of Sabina Rabbitt, Keisha Coleman Niamh McInerney, Ruth Hanbury and Katie Gilchrist have continued to perform with huge confidence.

In contrast, Cork have not won an U16 A All-Ireland title since 2003 and statistically it's a huge tribute to the county that so much has been achieved at adult levels of senior and intermediate, and indeed at junior provincial level, when significant success has not been happening at U16 level.

Last year, Cork and Galway met at final stage where hopes were high of a breakthrough but a power packed display from champions Galway saw them run out winners Cork have four of last year's panel that lost out in the final and they are bidding to get the upper hand on the sides that denied in last season's final.

Aimee Morgan, Rose Murphy, Olivia McAllen and Jenny Doyle all featured with the U16 A side last season whilst Ciara Hurley, Saoirse Desmond, Ciara Golden, Shauna Hayes, Lucy McNulty and Jane Foley were on the U16 B squad that also lost in the All-Ireland B final.

For a county such as Cork to be without success at this level for 16 years is hard to believe, there have been a lot of nearly close calls and hard-luck stories but the bottom line is still trying to breach that gap.



St Vincent's club members, Blake Murphy, Cork U20s, Lauren Homan, Amy O'Connor, Cork senior camogie, Lorna Coffey and Nicole Crean, Cork junior camogie, lent their support at the club's Kellogg's Cúl Camp. Picture: Mike English



Ava O'Callaghan, Glen Rovers, enjoying the ProCampsCork hurling & camogie camp this week. Picture: Denis Minihane

Last season Donie Daly took over as manager and his selectors are John Maloney, Mossie O'Sullivan and Rachel Crean and they have put in huge work in their quest for the title.

Earlier in the year Cork retained the Munster U16 A championship title as they overcame a strong Limerick side and they enjoyed a tremendous run in the group stages.

They topped group two with victories over Antrim, Kilkenny, Dublin and Tipperary. Then in the semi-final Cork met a Wexford side that were runners up in group one, having lost out to Galway in a game where the holders showed no mercy as they hit Wexford with a massive 6-15 to 1-12.

With a strong championship cam-

paign behind them Cork will be hopeful finally getting the upper hand and lifting the title.

In their semi-final outing Cork had a 2-10 to 2-5 win over Wexford in what was a tough contest.

It was score for score in the early stages but an Aimee Morgan goal gave Cork a three-point lead after seven minutes and they were to maintain it to the full-time whistle.

Twice the sides swapped as they battled to gain a grip but Cork upped the pace and dominated the closing 10 minutes of the half lead 1-8 to 0-4 at the half time whistle.

Wexford came out determined in the second half and they cut the Cork lead to four points inside five minutes but

“For a county such as Cork to be without success at this level for 16 years is hard to believe, there have been a lot of nearly close calls and hard-luck stories but the bottom line is we are still trying to breach that gap.”

Cork's reply was swift with points from Orlaith Cahalane and Lilly Hayes Nally cancelling the Wexford goal but a strong finish saw Cork safely over the line and into the final. Cork are a balanced side with Miriam Healy, Saoirse Desmond, Lilly Hayes-Nally, Clara Hurley, captain Olivia McAllen, Rose Murphy and Meadhbh Ring all featuring prominently.

The curtain-raiser in Nenagh will be the U16 B final between Limerick and Waterford which gets underway at 2pm, followed by the A final at 4pm.

It promises to be an exciting day as Galway bid to create history and Cork battle to finally make the breakthrough and take a long-awaited U16 crown.

Local ties set to take centre stage

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

LOCAL competitions will now take centre stage.

In the SE Systems Senior Championship, the tie between Milford and Ballygarvan is pencilled in for August 29 while Ballincollig and Muskerri met last evening and the report from that game will be in Monday's edition.

In the SE Systems Intermediate Championship in Section 1, Blackrock are top with either Newcestown and Watergrasshill who met on Thursday evening.

The winners of this clash will go forward with Blackrock.

In Section 2, Fr O'Neill's are top after their victory over Aghabullogue and Carrigaline and Aghabullogue are both on level points and they will have to battle it out in a play-off for runners-up spot.

In Section 3, Enniskeane are ahead of the rest with Kilbrittain/Timoleague runners-up after their victory over Brian Dillon's on Wednesday.

In the SE Systems Junior A Championship, Section 1, Banteer have two wins having defeated Charleville and Banteer.

Charleville are on their heels with two wins also over Tracton and Banteer. Tracton defeated Bishopstown, Ballyhea have two games to play against Bishopstown and Tracton. Charleville have one to play against Bishopstown.

In Section 2, Ballinascorthy lead the way with three wins from three games and with games to play against Sliabh Rua and St Vincent's. Vincent's have two from two and with games to play against Mallow, Barryroe and Ballinascorthy. Newtownshandrum have two games to go with one win under their belts they will find it hard to make the qualification stages unless other results go their way.

In the SE Systems Junior B Championship, Cobh are through with three wins from three, it will be either Inniscarra or Buttevant who join them for the second qualifying spot here.

In Section 2, Ballinora had a two-point win over Bride Rovers and they are through to the semi-final with three wins. There will be a play-off for the second spot in their group as Castlelyons and Bride Rovers finished on level points.

In the SE Systems Junior C Championship, it is down to the semi-final stages and it will be blarney who will meet St Fanahan's on August 29 with the date for the second semi-final between St Colum's and Aghada to be confirmed.

In the SE Systems Junior 13-a-side championship, there was a win for Kilbree over Rockban last week as the final round of games was played.

U14, U16 and minor championship all get underway this weekend and we will bring a roundup of results next week.

Cork hold off Galway rally to land U16 title

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Cork 1-14
Galway 2-10

CORK bridged a 16-year gap to win the All-Ireland U16 A title, stopping Galway's bid for five in a row.

With Aimee Morgan in scintillating form up front, the Galway defence had their hands full. However, both defences were solid and the inside lines had to battle for everything.

The opening quarter was nip and tuck as the sides went score for score and it was 0-3 each at the end of the opening quarter. Katie Gilchrist, with two pointed frees and one from play, kept Galway in touch with a Cork side who had Cliona Lynch on target with two 45s and an effort from Lucy McNulty.

Cork went three clear with a Morgan goal 18 minutes in and the same player put four between the sides with a point.

Galway won two frees and, opting for goal, they found resilience in the Cork defence. After 28 minutes, Ciara Hurley denied Sabina Rabbittie with an excellent save.

Gilchrist pointed a 45 to which Orlaith Cahalane replied with a free to ensure Cork held a four-point interval lead 1-5 to 0-4.

Cork took the game to Galway from the restart and, led by the excellent Morgan, they stretched their lead, 1-9 to 0-6. Gilchrist battled to keep Galway in the game with two pointed frees and as the contest entered the final quarter Cork held their lead.

Pushing to get over the line Cork kept the pressure on. Cliona Lynch and substitute Tara Crowley pointed to stretch the lead to eight. Caoimhe Starr cut the deficit with a point and three in a row from Cork helped keep their lead, but the latter stages belonged to Galway who battled back with a storming finish.

With four minutes injury-time indicated Gilchrist pointed twice and as the clock ticked into four minutes Alana Reynolds pointed. Still the game continued and goals from Chloe Farragher and Gilchrist put just a point between the sides, but it was enough as the final whistle sounded to end the wait for Cork.

Scorers for Cork: A Morgan 1-5, C Lynch 0-3 (0-2 45, 0-1 f), T Crowley 0-3, O Cahalane 0-2, L McNulty 0-1.

Galway: K Gilchrist 1-9 (1-8 f, 0-1 45), C Farragher 1-0, A Reynolds 0-1.

GALWAY: A Hawkins; E Noland, A Donnellan, J Donlon; K A Porter, C Starr, J Glynn; R Hanbury, C Hickley; N McInerney, L Kelly, C Farragher; E Madden, S Rabbittie, K Gilchrist.

Subs: L Galley for E Madden (inj 15); A Reynolds for L Galley (h-t).

CORK: C Hurley; S Desmond, M Healy, G Ryan; C Golden, M Ring, M Murphy; C Lynch, O McAllen (c); R Murphy, L McNulty, A Morgan; E Wigginton-Barrett, M Kelleher, O Cahalane.

Subs: T Crowley for L McNulty (47); S Hayes for G Ryan (47); E O'Brien for M Kelleher (51).

Ref: John Dermody (Westmeath).



RED LETTER DAY: Cork's Saoirse Desmond celebrates with team-mates after yesterday's All-Ireland Camogie U16A Championship final win over Galway at McDonagh Park, Nenagh. See page 9. Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane

All-Ireland glory for Cork U16s

Camogie

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cork withstood a fierce late rally from five-in-a-row chasing Galway to secure the county's first triumph in an All-Ireland U16A Camogie Championship final in 16 years, winning 1-14 to 2-10 at MacDonagh Park in Nenagh.

The Rebels led by 10 points in the 54th minute and still had seven in hand entering injury time but Galway hit them for two late goals to fray the nerves.

It was a brave attempt by Michael Butler's outfit and especially Katie Gilchrist, who finished with 1-9, but Cork were deserving winners.

Donie Daly's charges led by 1-5 to 0-4 at half-time, leading scorer Aimee Morgan grabbing the goal, to which she added five points by the end.

Cliona Lynch, Rose Murphy, Morgan and Tara Crowley were magnificent in the second half, with Murphy and Crowley hitting three points each and Orlaith Cahal-



Camogie Association president Kathleen Woods presents Cork's Olivia McAllen with the All-Ireland U16 Cup. Picture: Bryan Keane

ane two as the Leesiders pulled well clear.

Gilchrist and Chloe Farragher grabbed the goals in the dying throes of the game but Cork had done enough to end a lengthy famine at this grade and ensure an influx of fresh blood

to the red jersey in the future.

Waterford defeated 4-11 to 1-3 Limerick in the U16 B final while in the C Final at Six-milebridge, Roscommon had to stage a strong second-half comeback to get the better of Kerry and claim their first crown, by 2-10 to 1-8.

Ballincollig eventually wear down resilient Muskerry

Ballincollig 3-14
Muskerry 0-8

IT took Ballincollig 51 minutes to wear down their own division, Muskerry, in this SE Systems senior championship camogie tie in Ovens.

Muskerry raced into a three-point lead inside the opening nine minutes, with Julie Tarrant and Cliona Healy (2) scoring.

Hannah O'Leary scored for Ballincollig soon after, but with Cliona Healy, Emma Murphy, and Aoife Nic A Bhaird impressing, Muskerry held their nerve. Siobhan O'Regan scored a long-range free and they were again three clear.

Orla McCarthy and O'Leary scored three successive points for Ballincollig to level the match, and their goalkeeper Anna Hartnett brought off a tremendous save to deny Muskerry a goal before Healy and Chloe Hennigan exchanged scores.

Camogie

Mary Newman

The last say of the first half was Siobhan O'Regan's point, which gave Muskerry the lead. Healy and McCarthy swapped points, before Healy tapped a 37th minute penalty over the bar. It was a let-off for the favourites, who were matched in every quarter by a lively Muskerry outfit, backboned by Aghabullogue players.

With Samantha Coomey and Linda Dorgan working hard, Ballincollig began to get a grip and two Denise Cronin scores had the side's level for the fourth time, entering the final quarter. But Muskerry were dealt a killer blow when they lost centre-back Emma Flanagan, who had been a powerhouse at the heart of their defence. Ballincollig quickly exploited it with a goal. A diagonal ball reached Denise Cronin, who off-

loaded to Hannah O'Leary and she made no mistake. This was followed by O'Leary's second goal, a long-range effort. Now pushing for home, Cronin and Dorgan added points, before a Lovett goal ensured they advance to meet another divisional side Carbery.

Scorers for Ballincollig: H O'Leary 2-3 (0-1 f), O McCarthy, D Cronin 0-4 each, A Lovett 1-1, C Hennigan, L Dorgan 0-1 each.

Muskerry: C Healy 0-5 (0-3 f, 0-1 pen), S O'Regan 0-2 (0-1 f), J Tarrant 0-1.

BALLINCOLLIG: A Hartnett; M O'Leary, S Keating, C Healy; S Buckley, S Coomey, A Cotter; L Dorgan, S Buckley; O McCarthy, D Cronin, P Buttner, O Keating, C Hennigan, A Lovett.

MUSKERRY: N Moynihan (Aghabullogue); J Murphy (Blarney); E Tarrant (Aghabullogue); A Cotter (Blarney); E Foley (Aghabullogue); E Flanagan (Aghabullogue); S O'Keefe (Ballinora); A Nic A Bhaird (Ballinora); S O'Regan (Ballinora); O Cremen (Blarney); E Murphy (Blarney); J Murphy (Ballinora); J Tarrant (Aghabullogue); A Lenihan (Ballinora); C Healy (Aghabullogue).

Subs: L Dineen (Aghabullogue) for E Murphy (36); E Murphy for E Flanagan (inj 47).

Referee: Cathal McAllister (Aghada).

Galway and Kilkenny to go head-to-head



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

GALWAY and Kilkenny contest the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior championship final on Sunday, September 8.

The sides are familiar with one another, having met twice this year. Galway set their stall out for the season when they beat the Cats in Croke Park in the National League Division 1 final in March.

That established the Tribeswomen's All Ireland credentials. Kilkenny gained revenge on the opening weekend of this year's championship in Athenry. That win put them top of the group and booked their semi-final spot.

They finished the group stage unbeaten. The Cats were then given an early fright by Tipperary in the semi-final, having trailed for much of the first-half.

Their superior skill and experience eventually showed, coupled with some impressive individual displays.

They won by six points, after Tipperary had grabbed two late goals, to book their place in a third consecutive final.

Galway won their remaining three group stage matches, after their opening defeat to the Cats, and finished second. In the quarter-final, they again came back, against Waterford, in a stern test of their title ambitions.

The Tribeswomen then sensationally beat the back-to-back All-Ireland champions, Cork, in the semi-final. They led for most of the match and again proved their mettle by seeing the match out, despite Cork closing the gap to just a single point.

These two teams are deserving of their final places, given their form in 2019, as evidenced by their league final meeting. Both sides have a blend of proven All-Ireland winners and a new crop of younger players, who have stepped up to the plate this year.

Kilkenny are aiming for a fourteenth senior All-Ireland title and their first since 2016. Furthermore, they will want to put behind them the agony of back-to-back, one-point final defeats to Cork in the last two years. Galway are seeking just their third All-Ireland title and their first since 2013. Much of this panel lost in the final in 2015.

In what will be a huge day for Galway, the Tribeswomen also go in pursuit of All-Ireland intermediate honours, having won both titles in Croke Park as recently as 2013, when they were led by Tony Ward, the manager who won the seniors their first title, in 1996. Cathal Murray takes both teams to Croke Park this year.

Six of that 2013 intermediate side will line out tomorrow week in the senior final. That's a big senior return from an intermediate panel.

We're so spoiled in Cork. I'm already missing the build-up. We've been in the last five finals and have



The Cork players celebrates after the U16 victory over Galway last weekend.

Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane



The Cork players and management with the U16 cup.

Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane

won. We take it for granted that Cork will be in Croke Park the second Sunday in September. We've been in fifteen of the last twenty finals and have won nine.

It's almost an annual reunion, where you meet former players and friends you haven't seen since the year before. We could all miss that, but we don't have to, as we should all still travel and support the 20/20 movement, regardless of the fact that Cork aren't involved.

I'm disappointed that Gemma O'Connor didn't captain Cork to All-

Ireland glory. I'd have loved to see that this year. But she may stay around for another year and who knows what 2020 will bring.

Galway are unbeaten in this year's intermediate championship, with just a draw in the group stage the only blemish on their record. They were impressive winners over Tipperary to seal their Croke Park date.

Westmeath are playing in their first final at intermediate level, with the added incentive of promotion to senior camogie at stake, should they claim All-Ireland glory. Westmeath's

only dropped points of this year's campaign came at the hands of Galway, when the sides met in the group stage.

A hard-fought semi-final victory over last year's defeated finalists, Down, booked their place in the final. Much of their side will be comfortable in the surroundings of Croke Park, having been part of the Premier Junior side that won there in 2017.

Kerry and Limerick line out in the Premier junior final, with the Kingdom hoping to banish their painful

“Kilkenny are aiming for a fourteenth senior All-Ireland title... Galway are seeking their third”

final defeat to Dublin 12 months ago. Kerry have a 100% record in this year's championship and beat Limerick by three points on the opening weekend of the championship, en route to topping the group.

They then accounted for Clare to make it a quick return to Jones' Road. Limerick are playing in their first Premier junior final since they won the title in 1995, and having claimed two group stage victories, they then produced an impressive display to beat Roscommon in the semi-final.



Ballygarvan's Molly Kelleher in action for Cork in the All-Ireland Camogie U16A championship final win against Galway in Nenagh on Sunday. (Photo: Bryan Keane/INPHO)

Cork end 16-year wait to win All-Ireland title

Carbery stars play their part as Rebels dethrone Galway in final

ALL-IRELAND U16A FINAL

CORK	1-14
GALWAY	2-10

SHIRLEY MOLONEY REPORTS

THE 16-year wait is over after Cork won the All-Ireland U16A camogie championship final in Nenagh on Sunday afternoon – but they had to withstand a fierce late rally from five-in-a-row chasing Galway to take the spoils.

The Rebels led by ten points in the 54th minute and still had seven in hand entering injury time but Galway hit them for two late goals to fray the nerves. It was a brave attempt by Michael Butler's outfit and especially Katie Gilchrist, who finished with 1-9, but Cork were deserving winners, having dominated most of the proceedings.

There was Carbery interest here as corner back Grace Ryan is from Newcestown, Enniskeane's Eimear O'Brien came on as a sub while Emma O'Dri-

scoll (Enniskeane) and Jessica McCarthy (Barryroe) are also on the panel. After 15 minutes it was all square, 0-3 apiece, as Cork registered scores courtesy of two Cliona Lynch 45-metre frees and a fine effort from Lucy McNulty. Katie Gilchrist scored Galway's first three points, two from frees.

In the 18th minute the Rebels hit the front again when the impressive Aimee Morgan rattled the Galway net and she followed it up shortly after with a point to put four between the sides. The Cork defence stood strong when tested late in the half as Sabina Rabbittie forced goalkeeper Ciara Hurley to pull off a fine save. Gilchrist pointed a 45-metre placed ball before Lynch had the final say of the half when she fired over a free to see Cork lead 1-5 to 0-4 at the break.

Upon the resumption Cork showed their intent and surged seven clear with Morgan leading the charge with four points. However, the defending cham-

pions remained resolute and Gilchrist cut the deficit to six with two placed balls as the game entered the final quarter with Cork ahead, 1-9 to 0-6.

Cork stretched their lead to eight with a brace via Lynch and substitute Tara Crowley, however Galway responded through Caoimhe Starr with a pointed effort before three unanswered Cork points from Crowley and Cahalane saw Cork hold a 10-point advantage with six minutes left.

They say champions die hard and Galway proved this as they dug deep and cut into the Cork lead when Gilchrist pointing twice followed by an Alanna Reynolds effort to see the Rebels hold a seven-point lead entering injury time.

With four minutes of injury time to be played Galway ensured the crowd were kept on the edge of their seats as they hit two late goals via the outstanding Gilchrist and Chloe Farragher to cut the Cork lead to the slimmest.

However, Cork held strong to take the spoils with Lynch, Morgan and impressive substitute Crowley excelling to see

the U16A All-Ireland title head Lee-side.

Scorers

Cork: A Morgan 1-5; C Lynch 0-3 (2 45s, 1f); T Crowley 0-3; O Cahalane 0-2; L McNulty 0-1.
Galway: K Gilchrist 1-9 (1-6f, 145s); C Farragher 1-0; A Reynolds 0-1.

Cork: C Hurley (St Finbarr's); S Desmond (Sarsfields); M Healy (Ballinacolly); G Ryan (Newcestown); C Golden (St Finbarr's); M Ring (Aghabullogue); M Murphy (Ballinora); C Lynch (Sarsfields); O McAllen (Sarsfields, captain); R Murphy (Ballinora); L McNulty (Castletyons); A Morgan (Castlemartyr); E Wigginton-Barrett (St Finbarr's); M Kelleher (Ballygarvan); O Cahalane (St Finbarr's).

Subs: T Crowley (Ballygarvan) for L McNulty (46); S Hayes (Bride Rovers) for G Ryan (46); E O'Brien (Enniskeane) for M Kelleher (50).

Galway: A Hawkins; E Niland; A Donnellan; J Donlon; KA Porter; C Starr; J Glynn; R Hanbury; C Hickey; N McInerney; L Kelly; C Farragher; E Madden; S Rabbittie; K Gilchrist.

Subs: L Gately for E Madden (15); A Reynolds for L Gately (HT).

Referee: J Darmody (Westmeath).

Wounded Milford bid to get back on track

CAMOGIE

■ Linda Mellerick

THE backdoor of the SE Systems Senior Camogie Championship continues with two games down for decision this week.

Milford and Ballygarvan meet tonight in Castleroad with Douglas and Eire Og meeting at the same venue this coming Sunday. Next round ties will take place the weekend of September 14.

Milford find themselves in the unusual position of being in the knockout stages after just one game having lost heavily to a rampant Courcey Rovers a few weeks ago. The result of that game was a shock.

Not that Courcey Rovers won it as they would have gone in with more than half a chance, but their absolute demolition of Milford was a surprise. The 6-23 to 0-5 victory was hard to fathom. Milford were missing a few key players such as Laura Stack and sharpshooters Maria and Eimear Watson, but Milford had a lot more problems than that.

They have a chance to redeem themselves against a young Ballygarvan side who are getting better with each outing. Losing out narrowly to St Finbarr's in round one after an impressive win over Glen Rovers last year, Ballygarvan are more than holding their own at senior level.

They'll need to ensure they are physically up for the strong battle they'll receive from Milford. If Ballygarvan can match that they'll be in with a chance. If, however, the real Milford show up then they would still be fancied to advance.

On Sunday, Douglas and Eire Og square off. Seasoned campaigners Douglas will, of course, go into the game as favourites against debutants Eire Og, but it shouldn't be an easy game for them.

The Ovens side gave Inniscarra a healthy game in round one. While Inniscarra were never in doubt of losing the game, Eire Og gave a spirited performance and much of the same against Douglas could see them again do justice to themselves.

Douglas need to win this one, having suffered defeat at the hands of an impressive second-half display from Sarsfields, the game finishing 4-14 to 1-9. Katrina Mackey didn't line out due to a wrist injury.

She played in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway against medical advice so time will tell if she survived that game intact and line out with her club. Douglas should advance either way but if Mackey lines out the 60 minutes will be a lot easier for them.

Pamela Mackey and Julia White will, of course, stand out along with Joy Leo and Emer McAndrew. They'll need their other players to contribute more though.

Watson leads the way for Milford

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

Milford 3-1
Ballygarvan 1-9

MILFORD bounced back from a first-round drubbing at the hands of Courcy Rovers to record a superb victory over Ballygarvan in the S E Systems Senior championship in Castle Road.

Ballygarvan lost out narrowly in their opening game to St Finbarr's and with Milford missing five of last season's starting 15, it looked as if they would have a mountain to climb. Backed by experienced campaigners, the Watson sisters Aine, Marie and Eimear, Ashling Thompson, Deirdre Hayes, Katie Galvin and Sarah Sexton they played with huge determination to secure their place in round two against Sarsfields.

With Thompson lining out at midfield, but playing deep, Milford stopped Ballygarvan's attack from their running game and at the other end they used the width of Castle Road to huge effect.

Inside seven minutes they led by four points with Eimear Watson (3) and Laura Stack on song. Molly Kelleher had one back for Ballygarvan and battling hard with Cliona O'Leary converting three frees while Rebecca Murphy hit one from play: 0-5 apiece.

Milford lost Aine Watson with a leg injury but rolled up the sleeves and got on with it. Stack edged them in front before O'Leary took on the Milford defence and crashed the ball to the net to give Ballygarvan the lead.

It was short-lived as Eimear Watson pointed twice and it was all square at the break 1-4 to 0-8.

The sides swapped early points and Ballygarvan had a let-off when Milford missed a golden goal opportunity in five minutes but seconds later Stack won a great ball and powered an unstoppable shot to the net.

Three points without reply saw Milford open up a six-point lead.

Ballygarvan responded but two Eimear O'Gorman goals had Milford coasting home before Eimear Watson palmed the ball over the bar for the final say.

Scorers for Milford: E Watson 0-10 (0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1), E O'Gorman 2-0, L Stack 1-3, S Sheehan 0-1.

Ballygarvan: C O'Leary 1-3 (0-3, 0-3), O'Regan 0-2, S Wynne, R Murphy, Buckley, M Kelleher 0-1 each.

Milford: C Buckley, D Hayes, K Galvin, A Galvin, S Sexton, A Watson, Lenihan, O'Mahony, A Thompson, E O'Gorman, E Watson, M Fitzgibbon, Watson, L Stack, S Sheehan.

Subs: N O'Connor for A Watson (inj 17), A Hayes for L Stack (56).

BALLYGARVAN: S Aherne, S Lyons, Ryan, S Wynne, L Browne, L Kennel, A Keohane (c); E O'Regan, A Moynihan, C O'Leary, I O'Regan, M Buckley, M Kelleher, R Murphy, S J Brady.

Subs: K Dorney for E Ryan (h-t), E Batten for S Lyons (46), S Eliffe for S Brady (57), R Crowley for M Kelleher (58).

Referee: Willie Wallace (Aghada).



Sarsfields' Chloe Casey wins the ball from Douglas' Julia White and Katelyn Holland during the Cork Senior Camogie championship at Castle Road.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Douglas to meet rivals Éire Óg

CHAMPIONSHIP games are speeding along and in all grades, we are almost up to quarter- or semi-finals.

The U16 and U14 championships are also underway so it is all systems go to get as many games played before the evenings get shorter.

SENIOR:

In the S E Systems Senior Championship tomorrow, in Castle Road at 6.30pm, Douglas and Éire Óg will be in opposition. The last of the losers' round games is on September 8 when St Catherine's and Cloughduv clash at Castle Road, 12pm.

We are then down to round two and they have been scheduled as follows on September 15: Sarsfields face the winners Milford, divisional side Carbery will meet Ballincollig and Inniscarra take on Douglas or Éire Óg game.

The quarter-finals, set for September 22 and it's Glen Rovers-Killeagh, the winners of the St Catherine's-Cloughduv game against Inniscarra, Douglas or Éire Óg, Courcy Rovers versus St Finbarr's and the winners of the Sarsfields and Milford against Carbery or Ballincollig.

INTERMEDIATE:

In the SE Systems Intermediate Championship, Aghabullogue and Carrigaline finished level and they will have to play-off to decide who goes through.

There are two quarter-finals next weekend, Blackrock against Fr O'Neill's, followed by Kilbrittain/Timoleague taking on Aghabullogue or

CAMOGIE

Mary Newman

JUNIOR:

In the Junior A Championship, there are still games to be played in both sections though Banteer and Charleville are set to qualify in section one while in section two St Vincent's and Ballinascorthy are the front runners.

In the SE Systems Junior B Championship, Ballinora and Buttevant will meet in Castle Road today at 2pm. The second semi-final will see Cobh against Bride Rovers or Castletyons.

In the SE Systems Junior C Championship, Blarney took on St Fannah's earlier this week and the second semi-final between Aghada and St Colum's goes ahead on September 4.

In the SE Systems Second Team Championships, Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's emerged from group two to contest the semi-finals and they will be joined by Sarsfields who topped group one and either Ballincollig or Éire Óg.

The S E Systems 13-a-side Championship starts today, Rockbán take on Kilbree at 11.30am in Castle Road.

MINOR:

In the SE Systems Minor B Championship, Glen Rovers had a victory over St Catherine's, while Enniskeane will host Fr O'Neill's today at 11am.

On Tuesday, it's an all-city clash as Blackrock face southside rivals St Finbarr's at 7pm in Church Road. The fol-

lowing evening, Na Piarasigh head out to meet Blarney at 6.45pm. Douglas travel to Cloughduv on Friday next.

In the SE Systems Minor C championship tomorrow, Youghal host Grenagh at 11am and on Monday, Tracton welcome Sliabh Rua, Castlelyons travel to Brinney, Bishopstown are at home for their clash with Ballinhassig and Middleton head to Whitechurch to meet Rockbán.

In the SE Systems Minor D championship, Nemo host Watergrasshill tomorrow and Banteer and Cobh will meet in Banteer next week.

U16:

In the premier championship, Éire Óg head to play Ballygarvan, Na Piarasigh host Enniskeane and Milford/Ballyhea head to St Finbarr's while Youghal host Aghabullogue. Ballinora must go to Castlemartyr, Middleton make the trip to Kilbree and Sars are away to Clonakilty.

In the A grade, Cobh overcame Charleville by two points, Blackrock had four points to spare over Fr O'Neill's, Aghada defeated Mallow and Cloughduv were too strong for Rockbán. Last evening, Douglas hosted Castlelyons, and today, Carrigaline head to Killeagh while Glen Rovers are away to Newtown.

In U16 B, Valley Rovers had a win over Laochra Óg, Courcy Rovers beat Banteer, Carrigtwohill overcame Ballinhassig and Millstreet defeated Blarney. Today, it's Bride Rovers versus St Catherine's and next week Kilbrittain/Timoleague against Tracton and Inniscarra 2 at Buttevant.

Dominant Éire Óg blitz Douglas



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

Éire Óg Douglas 2-13 0-5

AN assured display by senior debutants Éire Óg blitzed Douglas to book their place in Round 3 of the SE Systems senior championship in Castle Road on Sunday evening.

From the throw-in, Éire Óg dominated despite Douglas having the aid of a stiff breeze. They took the game to the seasoned campaigners who really need to do a root and branch after a display that left a lot to be desired.

Outside of Julia White who ran herself into the ground, Pamela Mackey, Joy Leo, Katelyn Holland and Amy Curtin, Douglas were well below the standard required.

Workrate

The night belonged to Éire Óg. They have good hurlers in every line of the pitch and when you add in a savage workrate you are capable of taking anyone on.

Éire Óg's defence of Aileen Hennessy, Aoife Hennessy, who did a great job on Joy Leo, Aileen Buckley, Emma Quigley, Siobhan Hutchinson and Aoife O'Callaghan were superb.

They closed Douglas down in the early stages and set down a marker. On nineteen minutes a Douglas attack was stopped in its tracks and cleared well by Aoife Hennessy. Emma Crowley gathered and found Marie Gleeson who finished confidently to make it 1-5 to 0-3.

With the better hurlers all over the pitch Éire Óg's support play was a contributing factor to their superiority and with Margaret Herlihy unerring from placed balls they were full value for their eight-point half time lead.

Éire Óg didn't let up and also won the second half. Joy Leo, getting very little supply inside, had to come searching but that further diminished any inside threat Douglas had.

Margaret Herlihy's penalty was saved but Marie Gleeson pounced to tap home her second of the night to give her side a 2-11 to 0-4 lead on 50 minutes at which point they began to



Éire Óg's Siobhan Hutchinson clears the ball despite the spirited blockdown from Douglas' Meabh Twohig, at Castle Road.

Pictures: Ger Bonus

introduce a number of subs.

Scorers for Éire Óg: M O'Herlihy 0-8 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), M Gleeson 2-0, R Murphy 0-2, M E Desmond, E Crowley, A McSweeney 0-1 each.

Douglas: J White 0-4 (0-2 f), J Leo 0-1.

ÉIRE ÓG: R Murray, Aileen Hennessy, A Hennessy, A Buckley, E Quigley, S Hutchinson, A O'Callaghan, A McSweeney, I Sheehan, R Murphy, M Herlihy, E Crowley, O Meaney, M E Desmond, M Gleeson.

Subs: G Murphy for R Murphy (50), F Murphy for O Meaney (50), C Sheehan for A McSweeney (52), R Sheehan for M Gleeson (23).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh, C Merrit, N Ni Chuanacháin, S Mulrooney, R Sheehan, P Mackey, A Curtin, C Nason, J White, A Walsh, K Holland, M Towhig, E McAndrew, J Leo, M Mulrooney.

Subs: D Harrington for M Towhig (25), E Kavanagh for C Merrit (h-t), C Noonan for A Walsh (49), R Swanton for D Harrington (56).

Referee: Cathal McAllister (Aghada).



Douglas' Julia White shows her frustration on a night that belonged to Éire Óg.



The Cork U16 camogie players celebrate after a memorable victory over Galway in the All-Ireland final yesterday. See left and on P45 for more on their triumph.

Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane



The Aghbullogue camogie squad, the Muskerry U15 championship winners.

Action is coming thick and fast

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

GAMES are coming fast and furious all this week and we have had plenty of results at all levels from the last seven days.

In the SE Systems Senior Championship, there were wins for Milford over Ballygarvan and newly-promoted Éire Óg overcame the challenge of Douglas.

It's now down to round three and here Sarsfield's will meet Milford, Carbery take on Ballincollig, and Inniscarra meet Éire Óg.

One game from the back-door round will also be played when St Catherine's meet Cloughdub and all of these games were ratified for Sunday week.

In the intermediate championship there are two quarter-final games on the calendar this weekend. Tomorrow, Blackrock meet Fr O'Neill's at 12pm in Castle Road and this will be followed by Kilbrittain/Timoleague versus Carrigaline at 2.30pm. The semi-finals are set for the weekend of September 28-29.

In the SE Systems Junior B Championship semi-final Ballinora had a win over Buttevant while Castletyons and Cobh served up a cracker of a game where Castletyons advanced.

In the SE systems Junior C Championship semi-finals, Blarney overcame St Fanahan's and Aghada defeated St Colum's.

In the junior 13-a-side final, played last weekend, Kilbree overcame Rockban to take the title.

The SE Systems Junior Second Teams Championship semi-finals. Ballincollig will meet Glen Rovers and St Finbarr's face Sarsfields.

MINOR

A few minor championship results also this week. In the SE Systems Minor B, St Finbarr's overcame Blackrock and Na Piarraigh had a win over Blarney.

Four points separated Carrigaline and Killeagh in a high-scoring contest where Carrigaline ran out 4-11 to 4-7 winners.

In the Minor C Championship, Grenagh got the upper hand on Youghal. Valley Rovers defeated Castletyons and Ballinhassig were too strong for Bishopstown.

Games this week will see Tracton



The Glen Rovers camogie girls wait to do the crossbar challenge during Glenfest last weekend.

meeting Sliabh Rua, Barryroe playing Mallow, and the Brian Dillon's/ St Vincent's combination meeting Ballinacorney.

U16

Games in the U16 championship were very much to the fore in the last week as the push to get first rounds played were on.

In the Premier Championship, Enniskeane had a win over Na Piarraigh, Kilbree were at home for their meeting with Midleton and they recorded a victory.

St Finbarr's hosted Milford/Ballyhea and recorded a win. Aghabullogue made the trip to the seaside to meet Youghal where they recorded a win, and Éire Óg overcame Ballygarvan.

Castlemartyr got the upper hand in their meeting with Ballinora. In the U16A Championship, Bishopstown had a win over Ballincollig, Glen Rovers travelled to Newcestown and came away with a victory, Aghada overcame Mallow, and Cloughdub defeated Rockban.

U14

In U14A Championship action, Inniscarra had a win over Blackrock, Éire Óg accounted for neighbours Cloughdub, Valley Rovers defeated Sliabh Rua, and Erin's Own travelled

to Ballinora where they won. Cobh hosted Laochra Óg and advanced to the next round.

In the U14B Championship, Ballincollig defeated Sarsfield's 2-4-3 to 2-3 Ballinhassig overcame Douglas, Mallow were too strong for Barryroe.

All of the first-round winners progress to round two of the championship while the losers will contest the championship shield.

All sections of the U12, U14, and U16 leagues are making steady progress with clubs fitting in as many games as possible as the evenings begin to get shorter.

DIVISIONAL COMPETITIONS

Divisions are also busy getting their competitions to concluding stages and in Seandún they are up to the semi-finals of their U15 and U13 championship as clubs are making huge efforts to get competitions completed.

In the U15 championship, at U15A Bishopstown topped their group and they will meet Glen Rovers who were runners up in their group and that will go ahead in Bishopstown.

Blackrock, who finished on top, will meet St Finbarr's who were group runners-up and that will be in Blackrock. In the U15B championship, Na Piarraigh will meet Douglas in Na

Piarraigh in the semi-final and the winner will play Nemo Rangers in the final.

In the Seandún U13 A Championship, Douglas will meet St Finbarr's in Douglas and Glen Rovers are at home for their meeting with Bishopstown.

In the Seandún U13 B Championship St Vincent's meet Na Piarraigh in St Vincent's and Blackrock will play Nemo Rangers in Blackrock, the losing teams in the B semi-finals will play in the B Shield final.

Dates for all the Seandún semi-finals are to be announced.

Muskerry recently held their U15 championship final and in a close contest, Aghabullogue took the title with a 1-8 to 0-9 win over Inniscarra.

Aghabullogue led 1-5 to 0-3 at the interval and, despite a lot of Inniscarra second-half pressure, they held on to retain their title, with Aoife Twomey from Aghabullogue named as Player of the Match.

A full week of U14 and U16 championship and shield competition are down for the week ahead so it will be very much a case of getting the homework done in between the championship as the night games still continue with most down for early starts at 6.15pm.

Injury prevention given full attention

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman

INJURIES are very much part of sport and camogie is no exception.

However, recently, the Camogie Association announced a nationwide rollout of a new injury prevention programme.

In association with the School of Health and Human Performance in DCU, they have organised a comprehensive schedule where they will be running workshops on how to use this programme for your individual team needs.

These workshops will be free to attend and will help show players and mentors how you can reduce injuries to your players and yourself.

It will also advise coaches of camogie teams an injury prevention programme to help them and their players. While this is a coach-orientated event, players are also very welcome to attend.

The workshop will be mostly practical where they work through each of the exercises in the programme.

This will include cues for instructing, key techniques to be aware of and tips for instructing, depending on age groups.

Each exercise in the programme will be demonstrated in detail and cues to help coach the exercises. The workshops are being held at different locations and will be run from 7pm to 9pm.

There will be venues all over the country and the Cork venue is at St Vincent's GAA club on Wednesday next at 7pm and finishing at 9pm. There is still room on the workshop and coaches are encouraged to go register to attend.

This project is being funded by the Camogie Association so it is important that it gets a good response in each of the areas that they have organised workshops in as events such as these are valuable to coaches of all levels.

To register for the workshops all that is need is coaches to email with their name and the age group they coach/mentor. Contact: peter.lacey2@mail.dcu.ie

Another event that may be of interest to coaches is a Munster skills workshop that goes ahead in Mallow GAA Club on Monday, September 30 from 7.30pm to 8.45pm.

Dan Shanahan, former Waterford senior hurler and selector, will be the guest tutor for the latest in the Munster Council's series of coaching Skills Workshops. The cost of the workshop is €10 and it will cover skills and how to create scores.

It is open to all qualified camogie and hurling coaches working with players aged 11 to adults anybody interested can sign up online at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/munster-camogie-coaching-skills-workshop-tickets-69870118405>.

Cats give Galway ammo to drive on

Strange not to have Cork in the final

CAMOGIE

■ Mary Newman



Camogie

Linda Mellerick

IT'LL be strange watching the All-Ireland final tomorrow without Cork involved, but in another way, I'm looking forward to it as there'll be no emotion and I can just sit back and enjoy it.

A friend sent me a link on Wednesday from *The Kilkenny People* revealing the homecoming arrangements for Kilkenny on Monday night.

At the Kilkenny Courthouse there will be a replay of the match on a big screen and live entertainment at 5.30pm. The team are expected at 7pm. Now isn't that a motivating gift horse for Galway.

I'm sure Ann Downey will be fuming such details became public. To be fair she probably had nothing to do with it.

Whatever about planning a homecoming, as that happens win or lose, to publicly state that the match will be shown again on a big screen indicates one outcome only, without a ball having been thrown in.

Could Ms Complacency play a big part tomorrow?

All it takes is for Kilkenny to play slightly below par and Galway to raise the bar for the Westerners to reign supreme.

Yes, Kilkenny are favourites. They head into their sixth final in seven seasons, having won only one of the previous five, with Cork taking four.

If they bring their A game to Croke Park they will win. But they may not do so, and they've had some very tight battles with Galway over the past couple of years.

They've met twice already this year with a win apiece, Galway taking the league final by two points and Kilkenny taking the championship's opening tie by just two points, 1-13 to 0-14.

The Cats were slow to start against Tipperary in their semi-final win, but heading into the second quarter, they settled and the outcome was never in doubt.

Their work-rate was very good, getting a number of blocks and hooks in. They emerged with the ball from most rucks.

Katie Power was hugely influential, along with Ann Dalton, Michelle Quilty and Denise Gaule. Add in Anna Farrell and Miriam Walsh and Kilkenny have a dynamic forward line and now that they are playing a more attacking style of camogie, they should prove difficult to curtail.

They are using short pucks-out and then a long delivery into open space and they have speed. Galway will have to close down the space. Gaule had oceans of it in the semi-final.

Quilty is back to her best and she's sure to continue that form. The versatile Dalton relishes All-Ireland finals.

Cathal Murray has rejuvenated Galway. It should be no surprise they are in the final, such is the incredible underage success they've had, but they're all too often shot themselves in the foot with internal unrest.

Galway should be there or thereabouts almost every year, not going for only their third senior All-Ireland championship.



Kilkenny's Denise Gaule celebrates at the end of the Cats' win over Galway in last year's semi-final. Tomorrow they clash in Croke Park after the Tribe knocked out Cork. Picture: INPHO/Bryan Keane



Milford's Ashling Thompson breaks from Ballygarvan's Molly Kelleher in last week's clash at Castle Road. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

In 2013 they won both senior and intermediate titles. They compete in both again tomorrow. Six of the 2013 intermediate side will line out tomorrow in the senior final. That's a great return.

Galway's work-rate against Cork in their semi-final victory was impressive. They'll need the same again and more of it. The difference I saw in Galway was that this time they carried their belief right through to the final whistle. They didn't let the game behind them.

They had their homework done and when you know you've the work done it carries you a long way. Galway placed huge pressure on Cork's short pucks-outs, often dispossessing defenders. They had a penalty saved and it didn't seem to faze them. Carrie Dolan is an excellent free-taker.

The key for Galway tomorrow is winning the midfield battle and they

certainly have the capability of doing that with the brilliant Aoife Donohue and Catriona Cormican.

Meighan Farrell and Davina Tobin could again be eight and nine for Kilkenny. Niamh Kilkenny was outstanding at wing forward. Grace Walsh, sister of Tommy and Pádraig, is one of the best defenders in the country and could be given the task of curtailing her.

On paper Kilkenny are a dazzling side. They have scored 16 goals and 102 points in five games and conceded 6-52. But when they play Galway there's never much between them.

Galway have scored 8-80 and conceded 3-43 against the same opposition as both teams were in the same group, showing that Kilkenny have the more lethal forwards, but Galway are far tighter at the back. It makes for a great game.

Kildare's Ray Kelly is officiating.

“On paper Kilkenny are a dazzling side. They have scored 16 goals and 103 points in five games and conceded 6-22. But when they play Galway there's never much between them”

Hopefully we won't have a repeat of the talking point post last year's decider with many calling for rule changes.

The association first called on supporters to 'Go Together' in July as they aim to break an attendance of 25,000.

In 2016 — when the Cats were last crowned champions — a bumper crowd of 20,037 descended on GAA HQ, with the attendance up almost 25% on the year previous.

There were 16,610 there in 2015, while that 20,037 number was the fifth highest attendance for an All-Ireland camogie final since 1932, and the highest attendance since 2009's all-time high of 25,924 for a standalone final.

In 2017, it was marginally up to 20,438, while 21,467 was the official attendance last year.

With Galway playing in both finals that could hit attendance figures. But thousands will watch in on TV and here's hoping it's a classic.

HARD to imagine it's All-Ireland final weekend and for the first time in many years Cork will not be involved.

It seems strange but it augurs well for the game to see that there will be new names on each of the All-Ireland trophies come tomorrow evening in what has been an interesting season in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championships. At all levels, new teams have emerged across all grades and this is good for the game.

While it's disappointing that Cork are not involved, we cannot overlook the huge underage achievements. The Rebels landed a second All-Ireland junior title, with back-to-back wins and also secured the U16 title after a long gap.

This augurs well for the game in Cork. The Intermediate team also acquitted themselves well in what was their first season in the grade as they only lost out narrowly on qualifying for the semi-finals.

In what is a quickly growing rivalry Galway and Kilkenny meet for the third time this year Galway took the National League Division 1 title when the sides met in Croke Park in March. Kilkenny won when the sides met on the opening weekend of this year's championship and having lost the last two finals to Cork they will be determined to win back the Duffy Cup and take their fourteenth title.

Galway are looking for their first senior title since 2013 and their third in total.

Galway will also contest the Intermediate Final something cork also did last year and they will be hoping to achieve the same and make it an intermediate-senior double something they also achieved in 2013. They take on a Westmeath side aiming for their first Intermediate crown and were they to win promotion to the senior ranks in 2019 would be their reward. Many of this Westmeath side were part of the Premier Junior side which took the All-Ireland title in 2017 and it is a huge step forward for them.

The Premier Junior final is an all Munster affair with Kerry looking to improve on their 2018 final defeat by Dublin as they continue to search for their first Premier Junior title. Their opponents Limerick are hoping to claim the title since 1995.

It's a big day for camogie and whilst Cork are not there we will be hoping to see some top class games as the counties bid to end their season on a high. Prediction are hard but Galway are very determined to take the senior crown. Westmeath look to be on course for the Intermediate title whilst Kerry should have enough to get them over the line so we will get with Galway, Westmeath and Kerry to be celebrating come Sunday evening.



Daragh Ó Conchúir

Any week in Kerry is a football week, but when the Sam Maguire Cup is up for grabs, that applies to every second of every day.

Hurling is confined to a few pockets, primarily in the north of the county, while the reach of camogie is smaller again.

Laura Collins's late blooming is reflective of that dynamic, but also to the positive trend of growth in camogie's development in the Kingdom.

And now, as Collins prepares for another appearance at Croke Park — in Sunday's Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship final (noon) with the Kay Mills Cup up for grabs — she is representative of bright hope for a healthier future.

Incredibly, there is only one senior club in Kerry. There has been a benefit of sorts in that, with a band of sisters annexing League Division 4 and 3 titles, and reaching All-Ireland Junior A and Premier Junior finals at inter-county level, while also appearing in an All-Ireland junior club decider with Clanmaurice. But the lack of competition and depth is a hindrance to progress. So the county board has been very proactive in building on recent achievements, and the profile of stars like Patrice Diggin, Collins and company.

"I think there are six underage clubs now," says Collins. "We have got two new underage clubs this year alone. Sliabh Luachra and Abbeykilly are set up. They now have U8 and U10, as far as U14. They are starting to build, and hopefully they will keep building."

"I know there has been talk of Clanmaurice splitting and getting a second club. But the numbers at the moment aren't there."

"We have 24 on our panel for a county team. You are not going to have it [a second club] for a few years. But hopefully with the underage structure coming stronger, that can happen."

Having role models youngsters will see in person at Croke Park and on RTE as the final is televised live for the first time, is a major part of the development project. But the players haven't stopped there.

"To be fair to our senior team, they are so good for

From small acorns, mighty oaks will grow



Laura Collins is looking forward to lining out with Kerry to face Limerick in Sunday's All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship final. Her own playing career reflects the extraordinary rise of camogie in Kerry — and she and her team-mates are working hard to ensure the next generation get a chance to play. Picture: Inpho/Ryan Byrne

helping out the underage clubs. I know Niamh Leen has gone over to Sliabh Luachra quite a bit. Some of the other girls like Jackie [Horgan], Aoife [Fitzgerald], Julianne [O'Keeffe], Olivia [Dineen]; they have all gone over to Abbeykilly. Jessica Fitzell has helped out quite a bit, and Eilish [Harrington].

"It is great and the kids love it. They love getting us there and seeing us playing, coaching and stuff. As far as I know most of the clubs are sending up busloads of kids. It is brilliant."

Now 23, Collins still feels like she is playing catch-up in terms of the skills, having missed out on almost her entire teenage years.

"I played underage with the boys up to U12 because there was no camogie club and then there was nothing until I was

19 or 20. There was a long patch there where I had no camogie at all. I had a little bit in college in UL while I was there because I wanted to play."

"We just started the club then in Kerry and I have been playing ever since. Every week, you can't wait to get out there. There are a few girls there that didn't take up camogie until they were 16 or 17. There were a couple more girls who came through the underage structure in the county."

"I still can't take a free or a sideline. But we will avoid those! You miss out a lot of that when you don't play at that age. As a kid, that is what you are going to mess around trying things. That is how you get better at it."

Collins's day jobs have provided her with natural advantages that have proven vital to

Kerry and Clanmaurice.

"I have a horse riding centre. It is all outdoors. I milk for a farmer as well. As the girls say here, 'What time are your cows milked so we can go training?' I get awful abuse for it. It is all hard, physical work. Sometimes it is hard after a full day of teaching camp with kids, or trucking around with horses, to turn around and go training. But the girls make it easy. [New manager] Ian Brick makes the training sessions intense and fun as well."

"Between lifting bales and buckets and moving this and that, it stands to you. The youngest girl on our team, Brid Horan, works for me in the summer as well and she now has that natural strength, just from being around the yard the whole time."

A once-a-week physio treat-

ment is a non-negotiable element of her weekly regime to iron out the inevitable kinks from the pulling and dragging when working with horses, not to mind the odd fall. That ensures she is in top condition when taking the field — a resolute force under and over the sliotar.

On Sunday, she will be attempting to play her part as Kerry pursue a historic All-Ireland at headquarters. Playing in Division 2 of the league this year was tremendous preparation, as is the experience of playing in last year's final, although Dublin left them bereft.

"That absolute disappointment will help us to drive on. We really want it this year. Just that experience of last year, coming out under that tunnel and hearing that roar. That alone got the nerves

going for a lot of us. Just having that experience alone will help us on game day."

"The management had us prepared. They had brought us through the walkthrough. We had seen it all but there is nothing that compares that going through that tunnel on game day. I do think it got to us a little bit."

"Division 2 is a huge difference. We could see last year with Dublin, they played Division 2 and then came to Premier Junior. It was a different ball game. The speed of them, the touch, everything. It was amazing. I am hoping it will stand to us as well."

Certainly, there is a sense that Collins and Kerry are ready.

"I am so excited. As Ian would say, one to five, we are number five on the buzzing scale!"

Building on momentum and boosting participation



SEÁN BRETT

TODAY represents one of the most highly-anticipated occasions in the Irish sporting calendar and an absolute pinnacle for camogie as a sport. The players will travel to Croke Park full of expectation and with the hopes of their county on their shoulders.

It has taken hard work, commitment and some heroic moments of brilliance to earn the right to take to the pitch today. It is these qualities which make it such an exhilarating and gripping

fixture each year. The persistence and strength displayed by all teams in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Camogie Championships games are what makes this competition so enthralling.

Last year, 21,453 spectators descended upon Croke Park for finals day. This represented a significant year-on-year increase on previous finals and reflects the growing appetite for women's sport. Talented camogie players are becoming increasingly prominent in the public eye, both on and off the pitch, as exceptional athletes and leaders.

At Liberty Insurance, we take pride in our contribution to the promotion of women in sport and the emerging generations of female athletes proving

themselves at club and inter-county level.

We will continue to work with the Camogie Association to further raise the profile of the sport and drive participation rates across the country.

We encourage women around Ireland to take part in sport, either in an athletic or leadership capacity.

In the camogie community, these athletes, managers, and coaches inspire girls and young women to take up the sport and play it at club and inter-county levels.

Earlier this year, we launched the Liberty Insurance 'Women in Sport: A Coaching Effect' symposium. Our research showed that 68 per cent of Irish

adults believe that more female sports coaches would encourage more young women to participate in sport; 74 per cent say female coaches are a positive role model for young women.

As part of our 'Camogie Made Us' campaign, we began our search to find the most dedicated, inspirational and committed camogie coaches in Ireland.

Players, as well as members of the public, were asked to explain why their coach should receive special recognition, and why their club should win €7,000, among other prizes.

Today, we are happy to announce and congratulate the winners: Anne Costello from Bredagh Camogie Club in Down and Charlotte Brenner from De La Salle

New approach but Downey's devotion resolute



Liberty Insurance All-Ireland senior final

Galway v Kilkenny

Tomorrow: Croke Park, 4.15pm

Referee: Ray Kelly (Kildare)

TV: RTE Two

Daragh O Conchúir

It is part of lore now how a deputation of Wexford hurlers took a bus trip down to Clare around this time last year to exhort Davy Fitzgerald to remain at the helm as manager and a long-awaited Leinster title resulted.

Women do things a little differently, so instead of one group knocking on Ann Downey's door to prevail upon her to remain as boss of the Kilkenny camogie panel, the players opted for a longer campaign of regular contact, rather than the all-or-nothing attack.

Downey had a reputation for being an uncompromising player in a career that yielded 12 All-Irelands with the county, seven at club level.

A story she recounts in a conversation about how refereeing had changed in recent years, reveals her pragmatic, no-nonsense approach.

It was an All-Ireland final.

Kilkenny were leading old rivals Cork by two points with time running out. They had to do whatever it took to deny the Rebels a goal.

"We were winning by two points and Linda Mellerick passed me, and I hit her such a belt... and there was no free!" says Downey, the memory of it as evident as if it had happened the day before.

"If there had to be a free she would never have got the goal. I deliberately fouled her to give away the free and it wasn't blown... it was a lot more physical then!"

Off the pitch, she has never adopted a political approach, preferring honesty to falseness. This is an ultimate competitor after all, who after her retirement from the playing field, won national titles in squash and also played golf at representative level.

People who don't know better tend to presume that she must be a tyrant as a manager, but that is not the case.

Does she demand the highest standards? Yes. Will she go through players for a short cut if they don't follow instructions, or she feels that they are not pulling their weight? Definitely. Can she get over-excited on the sideline during a game? She is the first to say it.

It is no surprise that newcomers to the squad tread very softly when introduced to the fray initially but it is notable how many players she has managed, be it with Waterford IT or Kilkenny, de-

scribe her as a mother figure, with a strong caring side. She will always go the extra yard for her girls.

Although victorious in 2016, ending a long famine since Downey herself had lifted the O'Duffy Cup in 1994, Kilkenny have lost the last two All-Irelands, by a point to Cork, and some of the local criticism about their defensive style of play cut deep. Coaches Richie Mullally and Conor Phelan were moving on. Downey was inclined to think that she should too.

But the players weren't having it. She had stood by them so often and now it was their turn.

Rather than send one representative delegation, they adopted, either by design or instinctively, to ensure a longer-lasting impression of what they wanted. So one called in,

then another and then another. It told a tale.

"I don't know did they have it concocted between them but that would make your mind up. You'd appreciate that and it affected me."

"My older sister Olga is in Ballybunion. She said, 'You're not going back for more hardship!' You can be sure there was criticism... some of it wasn't pretty but you do your best for the girls and when I thought about it I was thinking 'What is the best for Kilkenny camogie?'"

"Once the girls spoke to me and I knew they wanted me I was happy to reconsider. I knew too that if I was going back I wouldn't go back without the right person."

Brian Dowling was her first choice. Like Mullally and Phelan, he was a former All-Ireland winner under Brian



Kilkenny manager Ann Downey says 'it's just about the girls performing as well as they can on the day.'

Cody, who scored the winner in a league final against Cork.

"I was out in Dunmore in 2017 and saw Brian's team, O'Loughlin's, playing Graigue-Ballycallan in a minor semi-final and I loved the movements their forwards were doing, and the delivery of the ball. I came into the Park to see them the same year, think they might have been



Familiar foes will do battle for title glory

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Senior Championship final: Galway v Kilkenny, Croke Park, 4.15pm, Ray Kelly (Kildare).

This is a repeat of the 2013 final, the last time Galway won the O'Duffy Cup with a five-point victory under the captaincy of Lorraine Ryan.

It is also a rerun of this year's League decider which went the way of the Connacht

ladies by a narrow margin.

The familiarity doesn't stop there, they met in the group stages of the championship as well earlier this season, Kilkenny securing the win by two points.

This marks a fourth successive final for the Cats, they bridged a 22-year gap in 2016 when claiming their 13th title. Losing the last two All-Ireland finals to Cork by a point will surely serve as a huge incentive.

They have serious talents in former Players of the Year, Anne Dalton and Denise Gaule, and manager Ann Downey will need big performances from these girls alongside joint captains and sisters Meighan and Anna Farrell.

However, Galway, a county

bidding for a third All-Ireland title, hurled with magnificent self-belief in their semi-final triumph over Cork, and they will take massive confidence from that win.

Under new man-

Niamh Kilkenny: One of the main dangers for Galway.



ager Cathal Murray they have been building steadily towards this day.

While they have been away from the limelight, operators like captain Sarah Dervan, Niamh Kilkenny, Aoife Donohue and Ailish O'Reilly will bring valuable knowledge to the biggest stage of all. Former footballer Caitriona Cormican too is a welcome addition to the squad.

Verdict: Galway



KILKENNY SENIOR TEAM

CE: Chasminagh - Duff & O'Connell



Emma Kavanagh
E. Cavanagh
Rearwing



Collette Dorner
C. N. Doherty
Rearwing



Edwina Keane
E. N. Keane
R. M. Keane



Catherine Foley
C. N. Foley
Wing



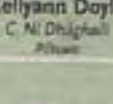
Kellyann Doyle
C. N. Doyle
Pitcher



Claire Phelan
C. N. Phelan
Pitcher



Grace Walsh
G. Walsh
Pitcher



Meighan Farrell (Jt-C)
M. N. Farrell
Tossman



Davina Tobin
D. Tobin
Tossman



Anna Farrell (Jt-C)
A. N. Farrell
Tossman



Katie Power
K. Power
Pitcher



Anne Dalton
A. Dalton
Pitcher



Michelle Quilty
M. N. Quilty
Pitcher



Miriam Walsh
M. N. Walsh
Pitcher



Denise Gaule
D. N. Gaule
Pitcher

beaten by James Stephens in the county final... again their movement. I just knew in my heart and soul."

Dowling actually turned her down when she contacted him first but after a conversation with Phelan, he changed his mind. He called Downey back, they met and were clearly on the same page. In a self-deprecating acknowledgement of her animation, she says that "Brian brings the calmness I maybe haven't had for a long time" before expanding.

"His mantra is 'Don't think you're going to go out here and not make a mistake.' The best hurler, footballer or camogie player is going to make mistakes but you recover from it. That's what has been important...they're allowed to hurl with that freedom."

The change in style has

been notable this year, after three seasons that saw Anne Dalton relocated to a sweeping role and a structure that became more defensive. They won their All-Ireland with Dalton at six and only lost the last two by those minimum margins, but Downey had always struggled with the thought that they were not utilising the talents of the St Lachtain's star, nor their ace forwards, to the optimum effect.

Now, Dalton has scored 6-11 from play, mostly from centre-forward, and the attacking unit is exhibiting the type of movement that had smitten Downey when watching that minor hurling match two years ago.

"When I eventually coaxed Brian into doing the job after a few meetings, we spoke about what had happened. I gave

him the video of the last two All-Irelands, so he saw what we were doing and I said 'Look, we haven't got over the line doing this, maybe we can try (something new) for the league. Just try and express ourselves.' And Anne Dalton had me badgered too!"

"We had to trust the rest of the girls around her too and Claire Phelan is a fabulous centre-back. She has some hand on her, she's from the same club as myself (Lisdowney) and unfortunately was injured for the 2017 All-Ireland, which was some loss. So we just said we'd put Claire centre-back in the league and she just grew into it."

"The pressure was on Dalton then to come into her own and she hasn't let us down but the whole unit (attack), including midfield, they really don't care who gets the score.

If they're not in the best position they're going to throw the ball to someone else, they're not being selfish about it."

The final is being billed as a new one, which it is after the three clashes with Cork, but Kilkenny know Galway well, having met regularly in the championship in recent years and though the Cats have been on top in the summer, Galway prevailed with silverware on offer in the league final in March.

"Every year we've said they're a great team and they're going to take beating and it's no different this year. They gave us a lesson in the league final. We really had to be up for the championship opener up there."

"To go up that day and get the win was great. Cathal Egan refereed it and really did a great job on it. Miriam (Walsh) got a great goal in the second half and that was really the difference."

"They're a big strong side this year, very good in the ruck and on the breaking ball and they've great camogie players all around the pitch. You couldn't say there's a weak link in any position."

It is easy to forget now that Kilkenny went into this season without two of their starting forwards from last year, after Shelly Farrell and Julie Ann Malone departed for Australia. So to be back in a sixth decider in seven seasons is no mean feat.

She may be 62 but she doesn't look anything like it and you fancy she could still do a job out on the pitch if required. This is what she always wanted to do, from the time she could remember being, as daughter of the great Shem Downey.

She soldiered with her sister Angela for years and has her twin by her side now too, along with another former teammate Breda Holmes in a backroom set-up that numbers 11. That sort of experience and know-how is invaluable and though the pair jokingly call themselves gofers, they are so much more than that. When they speak, players listen, particularly if approached on an individual level.

But they listen first and foremost to Ann Downey. And now, she cannot wait for tomorrow.

"I know the girls have worked hard and I always say, regardless of the result, it's not going out to win. It's just about the girls performing as well as they can on the day and hopefully we can do that and be good enough on the day."

as Galway look for double success

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Intermediate Championship final: Galway v Westmeath, Croke Park, 2pm, Andrew Larkin (Cork).

Galway will have great memories of 2013 when they achieved the double - senior and intermediate All-Ireland titles in Croke Park.

Could this be an omen? They topped Group 1 of this year's championship, but Westmeath were hot on their

heels just a point behind. Neither side are short on know-how.

Pamela Greville, captain Mairead McCormack and Laura Doherty will backline Westmeath in what is expected to be a tough challenge from the westerners.

Former soccer star Lisa Casserley is a vital member of the Galway set-up, and they will also be able to call on the likes of Molly Mannion and Ava Lynskey.

Verdict: Westmeath

Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Premier Junior Championship final: Kerry v Limerick, Croke Park, 12pm, Gavin Donegan (Dublin)

The progress of Kerry camogie has been well documented.

They are back in the final, and credit to them, after suffering defeat in the 2018 decider against Dublin.

That experience should

stand to them. Patrice Diggins is well established, and as ever, her input will be central to the outcome. Limerick too have been impressive in reaching the final.

Rebecca Noonan could be their match-winner in what is expected to be a close battle.

Verdict: Kerry

WORDS:
Therese O'Callaghan

Fitness focus paying off, says Galway boss

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Cathal Murray doesn't take his role as Galway camogie manager lightly.

Anything but.

"It is a huge honour to manage your own county," he said of his posting. "I would have known the camogie scene before taking the job and these girls have been there or thereabouts in the last few years. There is huge talent there."

Murray's assessment has been proven time and again since taking charge midway through last season. This spring the Galway seniors claimed a first national title since 2015 by surviving a determined Kilkenny comeback in the Littlewoods Ireland Camogie League Division 1 final.

Fast forward to this weekend and the pair meet again in tomorrow's All-Ireland Championship final in Croke Park (throw-in 4.15pm).

But Murray's midas touch goes further than that - he has also guided the county's intermediate side to a Championship decider - they play Westmeath at GAA HQ at 2pm.

Things couldn't be going much better.

"They can go a lot better if we win the two of them," smiles Murray. "The goal at the start of the year was to get two teams to the All-Ireland finals. The intermediates were beaten by Cork last year in the semi-final and (the seniors) were beaten by Kilkenny. We always wanted to go a step further."

That mission has been accomplished but Murray, who was previously manager of Sarsfields' hurlers, admitted his start in the role was challenging.

"The five months we were in last year was tough because we only came in halfway through the year. But from this year's perspective, it was brilliant to get those five months because we learned an awful lot about one another."

"You weren't starting from scratch and we knew where we needed to change things."

"It was brilliant to go back in November and December and start a proper pre-season as we had that in-depth knowledge already."

Galway's spring surge wasn't by accident but Murray highlights a draw with Cork as being pivotal in developing their self-belief.

He explained: "We treated the league seriously. We wanted to win every game. It was a great confidence booster to draw against Cork. We were under real pressure that day. We led at the start

and Cork got back level. They had a big breeze behind them in the second half."

"It was very important we didn't lose. We got a draw and we just built a bit of momentum and won the league."

So what has changed out west?

Murray reveals that a different approach to physical training proved pivotal.

"Our job is to make sure we have the most professional set-up. We want to give the girls a platform that they need to perform. We try and do everything that we can do within reason, within budget. The strength and conditioning is one area where we have really concentrated on."

"We didn't feel we were as fit as we needed to be. We certainly weren't physically as strong and we put an awful lot of effort into November and December. Robbie Lane is full-time strength and conditioning now in Galway, looking after a number of teams. He has put in a massive effort and because of that, we are physically stronger and fitter."

That power and pace was hugely evident against All-Ireland champions, Cork, in last month's semi-final. "It was a huge performance against Cork. I think the best part of it was we conceded a goal early in the first half. Our response to that was brilliant. We always talk about that you will have setbacks but you need to respond in the best way to them. It is great that our response was so good. Normally a team goes into their shell and concedes a couple more points after that. Instead, our reaction was very good. In all the matches this year, they have reacted positively. The second half (of the quarter-final) against Waterford. In the league final against Kilkenny, when Kilkenny came back to a couple of points we pushed on again. In the Cork game earlier on in the league, it was a big thing not to let the heads drop. We have confidence. Winning breeds confidence as well."

Murray will be a busy man tomorrow when overseeing two teams at Croke Park. But he wouldn't change from the system that has brought him - and Galway - this far. "It is the same thing we have done all the time. When you are with the intermediates you are concentrating on the intermediates. When you are with the seniors you are concentrating on the seniors. You keep the two separate. It will bring its own problems but it is a nice problem."

Cathal Murray:
Galway are much stronger and fitter this season.



MARIE
CROWE



THOMASTOWN is decked out in black and amber flags and bunting. It's only a few days since Kilkenny lost the All-Ireland hurling final to Tipperary, but there's still a buzz around the town as the Kilkenny camogie team have an All-Ireland final of their own to play. The flags will stay up for another while yet.

Kilkenny co-captain Meighan Farrell strolls through the town and looks admiringly at the colours she will wear in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.

Farrell has been on the county team since she was a teenager, joining her sisters Shelly and Anna. Their brother Jonjo also featured for the Kilkenny hurlers.

With both parents lining out for their club in the past it's no surprise that all their children hurl, including younger sister Eimear. They all grew up with hurleys in their hands.

Farrell beams with pride at hailing from such a GAA stronghold, representing her parish and her county means everything to her. So much so that she regularly puts her life on hold for the love of the game and the honour of wearing the Kilkenny jersey. She's still only 24 and, at times, might wish she lived a little more but with All-Ireland finals to contest there hasn't been time for J1 trips to America with her friends.

"I wanted to go to America every year when I was in college," she admits. "And every year I said I would, but then I'd go back training and change my mind. It always meant more to me to stay around and play."

This year though, Farrell finally decided she needed a break, a chance to travel and do something that didn't revolve around camogie. It wasn't an easy decision to make, but it was an important one.

"I went to Ann (Downey) and told

'If I could travel for longer, I'd play camogie wherever I was'

her how I was feeling and she was so understanding and told me I could head off for six weeks. I went to Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia and I only missed the league final and that was because the date was moved. While it was great to go, it was hard not to worry about missing training. So when I was away I did a training plan.

"When I was over there I couldn't wait to get back into it, between club and county I'd rarely taken any time off, I didn't think I'd miss it so much. I think I needed to do it because I wanted it so much. I was back then the second week in May and it was hard to get back into it. I was doing extra training sessions before training started. So I'd be out running and doing tackling drills when the others would arrive. But I wanted to do it, I could see how fit everyone (else) was."

"The management were a great help, giving me extra time and putting in extra days. It's such a competitive set-up I had to work so hard to get back in the team."

Although she missed playing and found getting back to prime fitness difficult, the travelling was worth it. Indeed, she has a yearning to take another trip in the near future and hasn't ruled out a longer stint away from home.

"If I was to travel for

A stint travelling made Meighan Farrell realise how much she missed lining out with Kilkenny

Passion Reborn



Meighan Farrell shares the Kilkenny captaincy with her sister Anna, while their brother Jonjo has also played senior for the county. Photo: Dylan Vaughan



longer I'd play wherever I was. I couldn't imagine being somewhere and not playing camogie. I've played the game almost my whole life. I can give out about it at times, when we are doing a tough session, but I know I'd be lost without it.

Her sister Shelly, one of Kilkenny's most experienced players, decided to take a break at the

end of last season, moving to Australia, leaving her and Anna to fly the Farrell flag in Croke Park today. The plan is to make her proud.

"The hardest part for Shelly is looking at us winning matches and being in the All-Ireland because she would love to be there as well. You'd miss her so much around the house, and at training. Even on the pitch I miss her. She was always in the forwards and I was so used to hitting the ball into her."

"It's a big occasion but it's only 60 minutes. People keep saying to me, 'oh ye don't have Cork now'. We don't care who we play, we are just happy to be back in an All-Ireland final now. Of course after losing to them for two years you'd love to play them again but we are focused on Galway now."

"They beat us in the league and we beat them in the championship. When we meet it's a real hurling match, it's both teams going for it and I feel it could be one of the toughest matches we have ever played. We have to perform because we know they have the players to perform."

Farrell (left) hopes the game will be allowed to flow but understands that it must be played within the rules of the game. The Camogie Association are currently examining potential rule changes and Farrell welcomes this development.

"I'd like to see the use of the shoulder come in. In training we do strength and conditioning for two or three months but what's the point if you aren't allowed use your strength. The game is changing and so should the rules. If they want people

to support us they will have to change things because people won't want to watch a match with loads of frees."

Losing the last two finals so narrowly – a point each time – was difficult but Farrell is determined to put it right for her team, county and dedicated manager Downey.

"Ann looks after everyone, she wants the best for everyone. She would push you on and she's so tough you wouldn't want to be disappointing her. She has to be tough, she knows what it takes to win. She is portrayed as tough but she has a softer side too, she's like a mammy."

Croke Park today will be a familiar place for Farrell, although she plays for a genuine love of the game, adding another All-Ireland medal to her collection would be the icing on the cake.

Veteran Lee relishing her shot at glory

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

GRACE LEE will not be able to launch herself headlong into the inevitable bacchanalia that will follow should she climb the steps of the Hogan Stand to be presented with the Kay Mills Cup today. Lee is captain of the Limerick squad that face neighbours Kerry in the Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship final, but another lifetime event takes place this week that requires the 25-year-old to be compos mentis.

No matter what unfolds, Lee begins a six-month stint at the Law Society in Blackhall Place as she continues the rigorous process towards becoming a solicitor.

It is a process that began in UCC six years ago and since then she has acquired her law degree. A year of eight exams for the Law Society followed and then a traineeship with Holmes O'Malley Sexton in their Cork office.

After her stint at Blackhall, she will return to HOMS's Limerick office for a further year, do another six weeks in Blackhall and then, all having run smoothly, be admitted to the Roll of Solicitors by the end of 2021.

It must seem a different world for many of her younger team-mates, many of whom are Leaving Cert students who have to go to school tomorrow.

Camogie has been a welcome diversion, all the more so for the fact that she had to put it to one side for a number of years to focus on her studies after being part of the All-Ireland-winning Junior A outfit of 2014.

Much has changed in the intervening years and she reckons she is the oldest in a squad that has been boosted by the introduction of a number of minors who played in the All-Ireland 'B' final earlier this year.

With the Under 16s also in a national decider at B level, the seniors reaching the knockout stages for the first time and the juniors a step away from the second tier, it's looking good for Limerick right now.

"It has been a great year for Limerick camogie and the hurlers as well winning the All-Ireland last year," says Lee. "Our underage have been fantastic, really successful this year. I know a couple of them lost at the final hurdle but even getting



Limerick's Grace Lee is training to be a solicitor

there was brilliant. And the seniors.

"Even for us, just to get to Croke Park was a fantastic achievement. If we can go the whole way and get our second team up to intermediate that would be great. That is where we want to be.

"We have been really lucky with the minors this year. Our manager Kevin (Connolly) was their manager too. He is really familiar with the girls. They are a great bunch. They have come in, taken it in their stride, fitted in perfectly.

"Shauna D'Arcy got that goal in the semi-final that was all over social media, it was incredible. There are a few more of the girls who are on the starting 15. It is like as if they have been playing with us for the last four or five years. They are really mature for their age. We would be lost without them. They are really chilled. They don't really do nerves."

Further down the line, the Newcastle West attacker is keen to make up for lost time and progress to the senior ranks.

"I would love it. All the girls on the panel would love to get the call-up full-time. None of us are happy to tip away. We want to be on the top team."

ALL-IRELAND FINALS: GALWAY v WESTMEATH; KERRY v LIMERICK

O'Neill on frontline of rule-change issue as game seeks to move with times

Association so see how much of those they accept, but there is an opportunity here to speed up the game, to make it more attractive and to make the rules suit the modern player and the modern spectator."

Eighteen of the 27 scores in last year's All-Ireland senior final came from dead balls and there hasn't been a goal in the last two deciders.

A separate Women's Gaelic Players Association survey in April found that 70 per cent of the 243 inter-county respondents agreed that rules on physical contact 'very much' needed to change.

"They're going to have to change [the rules]," Cork captain Aoife Murray commented after her side's victory in last year's final. "It's not going to be an easy job but it has gotten more physical and faster and maybe the rules need to be tweaked and amended to reflect the standard."

and Siobhán O'Connor, a lecturer in DCU. While the survey is complete, O'Neill says that the group is still open to fresh suggestions. Proposals can be emailed to the group at feedback@camogie.ie.

"I suppose a bit like any previous changes, we are mindful that we want to protect the skillful player and showcase the skills in camogie," O'Neill remarks. "We will see what we can do to make the game more attractive for players. And a game I suppose that is fit for the modern player."

The group also includes Paul O'Donovan, a player welfare officer with the Camogie Association, Kevin McGeeney, a referees' assessor, Anne Marie Hayes, a former Galway player, the former Wexford player Mary Leacy, the current Down player Fionnuala Carr

tapping of the opponent's hurley is also permitted and for penalties three players are allowed in goal while there is no rule prohibiting the ball from being struck inside the 20-metre line. "There is a need to make allowances for more physicality and that needed to be looked at but there is a counter-balance to that, in that the female body is not built to sustain frontal charges," says O'Neill. "Or over-physicality; their bodies are different. So safety needs to be taken into account."

"Our brief was to look at the game, to get people's views, to see what changes were necessary," says O'Neill. "To see if the game could be more attractive. Like many sports they have a big drop off after 16 (years of age)."

"There seems to have been a bit of negativity around some of the fees that were being awarded. You hear the generic terms 'let the game flow' and 'use common sense'. At the same time the same people would say 'cut out foul play'. Generally speaking, it often favours those who push it to the limit and maybe over the limit."

But there is a growing desire for change. A recent survey by the group showed almost unanimous support for the removal of the hand-passed score. It also showed a strong desire to remove the rule allowing players to drop their huris and pass the ball. These reforms would bring the game more in line with hurling. In camogie minimal

Last year's All-Ireland senior final had a troubling streak of controversy as Cork retained their title at Kilkenny's expense, winning by a point which came from a disputed free. The previous Cork score was also contentious at a time of growing concern that the game is not keeping up with advances in players' strength and fitness levels.

DERMOT CROWE

DELIBERATE shouldering is not permitted in a rule book that many have accepted is outdated and in need of revision. Instead players are meant to shadow opponents in possession and avoid deliberate physical contact.

O'Neill conducted a seminar earlier in the year where people were invited to give their views on camogie and its current pitfalls. Arising from that, it was decided to set up a rules revision committee with him as chair to look into rule changes for experimentation in 2020.

O'Neill (right) is chairing a rules revision group, at the behest of the Camogie Association, which will report to a meeting of its Central Council next month with proposals. The new rules may be trialled in next year's league with a view towards possible implementation for the championship in 2020.

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STRONG: Kilkenny's Miriam Walsh

'We have the best forwards so it's time to start attacking'

STRONG rivalry, even with an element of hatred, is what makes a winner in many a mindset.

But not for Kilkenny star Miriam Walsh, whose memory of the Cork v Kilkenny game in the inaugural Liberty Insurance All-Stars Tour to Madrid, two years ago, says much.

"I actually found Paudie [Murray, the Cork manager] so nice over in Madrid," says Walsh. "People couldn't believe it when I was singing his praises."

But that relaxed attitude does not come with her onto the pitch, where she utilises every bit of her power and always has an eye for a goal, and an even better one for feeding those around her.

They breathe hurling and camogie around her club, Tullaroan. Her cousin Grace is one of the jokers in the Kilkenny dressing room but takes no prisoners as a defender, and Grace's brother Tommy is the darling of GAA analysis since ending his decorated Kilkenny career. Another brother, Pádraig is a mainstay of Brian Cody's current crop.

"Tommy lives a field away but Grace is right beside me. Our fathers have a farm together. So we would have grown up together. We would have always brought our huris with us, tipping away. We would be always playing matches - it would end in tears and all," she says.

"We had no girls' team so I played with the boys. That's probably how I got so strong. I played at the boys' féile. My two brothers gave up and my sister gave up too. It's just me on my side. I'm the same age as Shane, Grace's brother, who played Under 21 for Kilkenny and is a very good hurler with the club."

They are supportive, but competitive too. Of Grace, two years her senior, she says: "They could never put us on each other because we used to kill each other. It was just absolute competitiveness. We'd be laughing afterwards."

The 24-year-old is one that can fly under the radar in an attacking unit that includes Anne Dalton, Denise Gaule, Michelle Quilty and Katie Power.

"That suits me better. I don't mind that at all," she insists.

"I worked at my role with Brian [Dowling] an awful lot at training. It's coming into play now, popping it off to others. I wouldn't normally be greedy. But it hasn't been easy. 'I was always kind of the main player

CAMOGIE

By Daragh Ó Conchúir

underage - Under 14, Under 16, Minor - and went backwards then. I hope I'm back to what I was," she says.

"I was always strong but I suppose I lacked confidence. I'm really only getting my confidence back this year. Being dropped last year took an awful lot out of me. But this year I've been flying it with my club. Everybody is saying to me that they've never seen me going as well."

She says the League final reverse at the hands of Galway, today's opponents in the All-Ireland final, was 'disappointing' but adds that the emphasis had been on the physical side of things, with Liam Egan, until that point, Dowling, a former teammate of Tommy's and All-Ireland winner with Kilkenny, has been given the green light by manager Ann Downey to implement a complete change of style.

"We're allowed hurl with freedom this year. We're attacking, whereas last year we were playing really defensive. We have the best forwards in the country so it's about time we started attacking. Anne Dalton is a great help in the forwards too."

"Brian is so good. He's so positive and encouraging. We kind of needed something like that. This year the atmosphere is very good in the camp."

Walsh goes back a long way with Downey, who was fooled by the manner in which the youngster was able to impose herself physically on far older players nine years ago.

"I got called into the Seniors when I was 15 but Ann didn't realise how young I was and I had to go home because you had to be 16. So I went back in then the following year and I've been there since."

A Montessori teacher, Walsh has been enjoying the All-Ireland talk with the children and their parents. The growing support around the county is very evident and appreciated too.

Kilkenny held an open night after the semi-final and the players were blown away by the response of the public.

She maintains that the involvement of Downey, her twin Angela and their former teammate Breda Holmes is part of the success formula

Camogie chief Sinéad McNulty is determined to help her sport take its place at the GAA table

JOHN GREENE



SINÉAD McNULTY has been around sport all her life. So, when she starts talking about her time playing football with her club, the easy assumption is that she began playing at a young age. Not so.

Her football career, she admits, was "quite unusual" as far as the usual path of women in sport is concerned. The typical problem in society is that the fall-off rate from sport as girls get older is alarmingly high. McNulty, though, only took up Gaelic football when she was 24.

She had played a little camogie ("to absolutely no level of talent") and also played — among others — soccer, basketball and softball, ran a lot and did gymnastics. And then, at 24, came football.

"I was playing softball," she says, "and we'd train and play matches. I was also doing Irish classes part time down in Áras Chrónáin cultural centre down in Clondalkin, I'd always an interest in the Irish language and didn't excel in it in school... you just don't get the fluency. So I went back to work on spoken Irish and there was a chap in the class and we used to have a *ciorcal comhrá* — conversation circle talking Irish — and one of the chaps in the class was involved in the club [Round Towers]. He was the camogie manager, and he kept at me, 'Come on, come on, come out and play camogie' and I was like, I haven't played in a while, but he kept on at me week after week and he said, 'Right if I can't get you to play camogie straight away will you come and play football. We'll get you into the club'. He probably had the intention of transferring me over after a while!

"So that's how it started. He persuaded me to go down, gave me a contact number and I went into the dressing room and met a girl who I'd coached at gymnastics and she'd also done Irish classes previously and I'd kind of known her so I met someone I knew and I just kept going."

In fact, she kept going for 15 years. "I wasn't by any means the most talented but I loved the crack with the girls," she says. "We had a really good team, really good group of people from very mixed backgrounds. We had some people who came up from the countryside and were working in Dublin, and some people who'd grown up in Clondalkin and played football since they were 10 and played for Dublin... so we'd a real mix of people and a real mix of age groups as well. We had people maybe when I started who would have been 10, 12 years older than me, right down to the minors playing up."

Sport is a lot more than a hobby for McNulty, who has been CEO of the Camogie Association since June. Having studied leisure management, she has always

moved into the local authority system, first with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, and then with Dublin City Council, as sport and active living co-ordinator.

This brought her in direct contact with sports clubs, but working more with community groups targeting children, youth at risk of getting involved with drugs, older adults, minority groups, young girls... "all of the key target groups that have since been acknowledged within the national sports policy."

Prior to joining the Camogie Association, McNulty was head of sport at TU Dublin, formerly DIT.

"That," she says, "was anything and everything to do with sport, so participation for individuals, supporting the sports clubs, managing the facilities and grant applications for new facilities, high performance athletes and strategic planning for sport... and anything else that didn't fit anywhere else."

All of which, she feels, brought her nicely to this point in her life and prepared her for a new direction. "It's bringing together everything I've ever done but allowing me to focus in on one

for the Dubliner once she got her feet under the desk. She believes strongly in the idea of the 'Gaelic games family' and says that although the benefits of ongoing co-operation might not yet have been felt by members, it is only a matter of time before they are.

"We're also learning from each other," she says of the interaction with the GAA. "They are a bigger organisation so there are things they support us with. The one that's going to be visible for club members over the coming months is going to be the IT membership system, that's something tangible. If you're a club member going in to play or going in to training you don't care if someone's sitting on a committee with the GAA or a GAA person is sitting on a camogie committee."

"But when they see it starting to impact, and when they see the service that they are getting improve, or they see the synergies actually benefit them as individuals or in clubs that's where we're going to really show it."

Having three separate organisations running the 'Gaelic games family' is in ways the last great anomaly in Irish

as well. There's no point in rushing for the sake of rushing to sign off on a piece of paper to say, 'Yes we're integrated'. It's got to be respectful of tradition and history, and respectful of everyone's aims and ambitions."

Another priority for McNulty is in the whole area of volunteerism — the backbone of every sporting and community organisation in the country. But as camogie, and most sports, are finding out, these are challenging times in terms of connecting with people and getting more help. There's a sense that there are almost too many obstacles for new people to get involved; too many reasons to say no, rather than yes.

"I suppose the nature of things at the minute is that everything's fast," she says. "We couldn't run without volunteers. We need to really thank them and tell them how valued they are because we couldn't operate."

"People think, 'If I get involved I'll be doing everything', and it doesn't have to be that way. You can get involved and do one thing every four weeks, but if you do that somebody else only has to do it every

different industry that mightn't be your first skill so people might need support to do it. Yeah, putting support in place for our volunteers is the next biggie."

Typically, as a woman who has always been immersed in sport she is passionate

'It's not just that women's sport over there in the corner, we're front and centre'

and outspoken about continuing to find ways to make it more accessible for all, regardless of gender, or socio-economic background.

"I love sport. I love being outdoors, I love all that, and I genuinely believe

weather-dependent. But if you weren't particularly good at hockey then there wasn't that much for you. A maths teacher took us for soccer in fifth and sixth year and that would have been the start of the team sport for me. There hadn't been as much of a tradition and certainly in our school at that time there wouldn't have been Gaelic games and now there is, so that's progress."

"Women's sport is now a common topic of conversation. I used to talk about Title IX in college and I'd be educating students about Title IX in college, telling them what happened when every sport had to be offered equally to men and women and the transformation that that brought."

"If you go back through the history books, and the numbers of women who have participated, having just not been allowed initially, so the movement of women's sport right now is really strong and sometimes as a women-only sport because people might have spent a long time fighting systems and processes."

"I think a lot of those barriers are down or are coming down so there's

'A lot of the barriers are down now'

Sinéad McNulty, CEO of the Camogie Association. Photo: Arthur Carron



worked in and around sport, in various capacities. While working as a consultant with Holohan Leisure her range of experience in the world of sport was broadened considerably because the group have so many different arms. It was, she says, "a great grounding". From there, McNulty

particular sport and really see change, growth, development," she says of her new role with the Camogie Association.

Aside from meeting the team at the association's HQ on Jones's Road, a short step from Croke Park, working with the GAA and Sport Ireland was a big priority

sport — the last sports divided on gender grounds since men's and women's golf united under one umbrella.

"We're all moving," says McNulty. And indeed it is only a matter of time before it is resolved, but she sounds a timely note of caution too: "It's about doing it right

four weeks as well and all of a sudden the whole place is stronger. That's a big priority.

"When you work in the sports industry you get used to filling in application forms, you get used to filling in budget applications. But if you're coming from a

there's something for everyone from a sporting perspective, and if you're saying you're not good at sport then you just haven't found something that suits you yet.

"When I was in school we had hockey, or social basketball or social volleyball, just out in the car park, so it was

opportunities for us to grow it and for camogie just to be another sport within the Gaelic games family, it's not just that women's sport over there in the corner, we're front and centre."

And Sinéad McNulty is determined to keep it that way.

Back-to-back final defeats will drive Kilkenny on

URSULA
JACOB



FOR the fourth year running, Ann Downey and her Kilkenny team make the trip to Croke Park in search of All-Ireland glory. After the joys of the 2016 success, the last two years have been a bitter pill for Downey and Co to swallow. They won't want to feel that pain again today.

For the last three years, Kilkenny and Cork have dominated this competition and, if truth be told, most camogie followers were expecting this year's final to be the latest instalment in the saga between the two rivals, and to see Kilkenny and Cork battling it out for the game's most coveted prize.

Galway had other ideas though. They were full value for their win over Cork in the semi-final as they have been building consistently throughout the season.

Beating Kilkenny to win the league back in March was very significant for Cathal Murray's side and they went on from there with a steady run in the championship, the loss to Kilkenny early

on in the campaign was their only one.

So today we have a novel pairing — their only previous meeting was in 2013 — that brings its own excitement and intrigue and I feel it will bring a different style of game to the one we have seen in the last few finals.

It will be a bit more of a free-flowing game than it would have been if it was another Kilkenny-Cork clash. There are going to be lots of tactical battles and the two managers will have been working hard all week to ensure they get the key match-ups right.

Kilkenny are playing in a more attacking style than usual, that's been aided by the presence of Anne Dalton in the forwards as her positioning has given more prominence to the other Kilkenny attackers. Dalton has the ability to bring those around her into play, she has great vision and awareness and in the wide open spaces of Croke Park that can be lethal.

The likes of Michelle Quilty is prob-

ably having one of her best years in the Kilkenny jersey and Miriam Walsh, who has been in and out of the team in the last number of years, is consistently starting and performing really well.

The westerners are an exciting team to watch, they are all well able to hurl and they aren't afraid to shoot from distance. Some of the score-taking in the semi-final was brilliant from both finalists and that will lead to a really absorbing final.

Galway have a balanced team, in defence you have some of the most experienced players like Lorraine Ryan, Heather Cooney and Sarah Dervan. Aoife Donohue's presence around the middle third, in particular, has been so influential and she leads a lot of the Galway attacks. In the semi-final, Niamh Kilkenny had one of her most effective performances in a Galway jersey.

Kilkenny are in their sixth final in seven years, so they can draw on a vast amount of experience. Galway were last in a final in 2015 when they lost to Cork and so are very much the more inexperienced outfit. But the Croke Park factor isn't as big as it was in the past, as both teams got to play in front of a large crowd in the league final and I think this will benefit both panels. Galway won't be fazed, they will have a big following as their intermediates are aiming for glory too. Indeed, when Galway last

won in 2013, their intermediates were also victorious.

It's going to be a really intriguing battle, Kilkenny pose a more potent attacking threat — they have got 16 goals in five games, albeit seven of them were against Wexford. However, with some of the goals they have scored this year you can see an encouraging spread of scorers and there certainly isn't an over-reliance on any one forward right across the board.

From Galway's point of view, they

Galway are a balanced side with experience in their defence

don't have as many players capable of scoring from play. Ailish O'Reilly is a vital attacker for Galway while Niamh Kilkenny will be covering the middle third. We know how tight Kilkenny's defence is, in the league final they were missing some key defenders in Grace Walsh and Edwina Keane as well as Meighan Farrell around midfield; she

is like a shield for her side's defence, the ground she covers is phenomenal. The duel between her and Aoife Donohue will be fascinating. They will probably pick up each other, they both like to move up and down the field, setting up scores, as well as getting on the score-sheet themselves.

In this year's league final, Donohue was given acres of space and it'll be up to Farrell to curb that threat.

It will be a close game. I feel there is a difference in Kilkenny this year, and that their conditioning and fitness levels have risen.

The small tweaks manager Ann Downey has made will make a huge difference. A major motivating factor is the hurt from the last two years. Losing the league final this year was probably a blessing in disguise as it showed them that there were a few things they needed to work on. They haven't looked back since.

Cork hadn't been beaten since the 2016 All-Ireland final until Galway dethroned them. And Galway also have that win over Kilkenny, too. That will surely give them a big psychological boost. They will be quietly confident but in my opinion, Kilkenny's spread of scorers, their goal-scoring threat and the hurt of the last two years are huge motivating factors. Kilkenny will be too hard to stop — they should edge it.

Kilkenny, Senior



Back Row Left to Right:

Niamh Deely, Steffi Fitzgerald, Mary O'Connell, Aine Phelan, Aoife Doyle, Michaela Kenneally, Grace O'Donnell, Edwina Keane, Miriam Walsh, Edel Coonan, Danielle Morrissey, Anne Dalton, Kellyann Doyle, Aoife Norris, Miriam Bambrick, Eva Hynes, Catherine Foley

Front Row Left to Right:

Denise Gaule, Katie Brennan, Davina Tobin, Grace Walsh, Michelle Quilty, Emma Kavanagh, Collette Dormer, Anna Farrell (Joint-Captain), Katie Power, Claire Phelan, Michelle Teehan, Meighan Farrell (Joint-Captain)

Player Profiles - Kilkenny



Emma Kavanagh
Goalkeeper
The Rower-Inistioge
PE & Biology Teacher



Collette Dormer
Defender
Barrow Rangers
Architect Technologist



Catherine Foley
Defender
Windgap
Quality Controller



Edwina Keane
Defender
St. Martin's
Farmer/Teacher



Kellyann Doyle
Forward
Piltown
Student



Claire Phelan
Defender
Lisdowney
Primary School Teacher



Grace Walsh
Defender
Tullaroan
Nurse



Meighan Farrell
Midfield/Forward
Thomastown
Early Childhood Practitioner



Davina Tobin
Defender/Midfield
Emeralds
Barber



Anna Farrell
Midfield/Forward
Thomastown
Bank Official



Katie Power
Forward
Piltown
Receptionist/PA



Anne Dalton
Midfield/Forward
St. Lachtain's
Bank Official



Michelle Quilty
Forward
Mullinavat
Operations Manager



Miriam Walsh
Forward
Tullaroan
Montessori Teacher



Denise Gaule
Forward
Windgap
Engineering Student



Aoife Norris
Goalkeeper
Piltown
Student



Danielle Morrissey
Forward
Conahy Shamrocks
Student



Michelle Teehan
Defender
James Stephens
PE & Maths Student



Aoife Doyle
Midfield/Forward
Piltown
Student



Niamh Deely
Midfield/Forward
James Stephens
Student



Grace O'Donnell
Forward
Young Irelands
Student



Edel Coonan
Forward
St. Martin's
Student



Steffi Fitzgerald
Forward
Young Irelands
Student



Mary O'Connell
Forward
Clara
Student



Miriam Bambrick
Defender
Barrow Rangers
Student



Aine Phelan
Midfield/Forward
Kilmacow
Student



Eva Hynes
Midfield/Forward
Thomastown
Student



Michaela Kenneally
Forward
Windgap
Human Resource & Rec



Katie Brennan
Defender
Conahy Shamrocks
Student

Galway, Senior



Back Row Left to Right:

Karen Kennedy, Niamh Horan, Leanne Freaney, Rebecca Hennelly, Sarah Healy, Emma Helebert, Niamh Hanniffy, Sarah Dervan (Captain), Heather Cooney, Catriona Cormican, Lorraine Ryan, Niamh Kilkenny, Dervla Higgins, Catherine Finnerty, Ciara Murphy, Maura Cooney, Mairéad Dillon, Lisa Casserly, Laura Ward

Front Row Left to Right:

Ciara Donohue, Ava Lynskey, Molly Mannion, Anne Marie Starr, Siobhán Coen, Sarah Spellman, Tara Kenny, Shauna Healy, Aoife Donohue, Ailish O'Reilly, Noreen Coen, Carrie Dolan, Laura Glynn, Elisha Broderick

Player Profiles - Galway

Senior



Elisha Broderick
Forward
Castlegar
Student



Sarah Dervan
Defender
Mullagh
Industrial Engineer



Lisa Casserly
Midfield
Ballinderreen
Recruitment Consultant



Carrie Dolan
Forward
Clarinbridge
Student



Noreen Coen
Forward
Athenry
Secondary School Teacher



Aoife Donohue
Midfield
Mullagh
Secondary School Teacher



Siobhán Coen
Defender
Ballinderreen
Occupational Therapist



Ciara Donohue
Defender
Mullagh
Behavioural Therapist



Heather Cooney
Defender
St. Thomas
Primary School Teacher



Catherine Finnerty
Forward
Mountbellew/Moylough
Student



Maria Cooney
Forward
Sarsfields
Student Teacher



Leanne Freaney
Forward
Craughwell
Student



Catriona Cormican
Midfield
Cappataggle
Doctor



Laura Glynn
Goalkeeper
Sarsfields
Personal Trainer
& Athletic Therapist



Niamh Hanniffy
Forward
Oranmore/Maree
Secondary School Teacher



Ava Lynskey
Forward
Ardrahan
Student



Sarah Healy
Goalkeeper
St. Thomas
Student



Molly Mannion
Midfield
Mountbellew/Moylough
Student



Shauna Healy
Defender
Ardrahan
Podiatrist



Ciara Murphy
Midfield
Clarinbridge
Secondary School Teacher



Emma Helebert
Defender
Ballinderreen
Student Midwife



Ailish O'Reilly
Forward
Oranmore/Maree
Primary School Teacher



Rebecca Hennelly
Defender
Ardrahan
Gym Owner/Personal Trainer



Lorraine Ryan
Defender
Kiltullagh/Killimordaly
Secondary School Teacher



Dervla Higgins
Defender
Athenry
Athletic Therapist



Sarah Spellman
Forward
Sarsfields
Student



Tara Kenny
Defender
Sarsfields
Quality Technician



Anne Marie Starr
Midfield
Killimor
Supply Chain Planner



Niamh Kilkenny
Forward
Peases
Secondary School Teacher



Laura Ward
Defender
Sarsfields
Student



GALWAY SENIOR TEAM

Gaillimh - Marín & Bán



KILKENNY SENIOR TEAM

Cill Chainnigh - Dubh & Omra



ONADAI

16. Laura Cline
L. Ní Gíolla Channagh
Sarsfields

17. Anne Marie Starr
A. M. Starr
Kilmor

18. Catherine Finney
C. Ní Fhionnacha
Mounthelaw/Moylough

19. Clare Murphy
C. Ní Mhurchú
Clonsilla

20. Rebecca Kennedy
R. Ní Donnale
Ardrahan

21. Maria Cooney
M. Ní Chasana
Sarsfields

22. Siobhán Coen
S. Ní Chadhain
Ballindereen

23. Leanne Finney
L. de Freine
Craughwell

24. Dervla Higgins
D. Ní Uiginn
Athenry

25. Laura Ward
L. Ní an Bhaird
Sarsfields

26. Ava Lynskey
A. Ní Loinnigh
Ardrahan

27. Molly Mannion
M. Ní Mhongan
Mounthelaw/Moylough

28. Lisa Casserly
L. Ní Casartaigh
Ballindereen

29. Clara Donohue
C. Ní Dhomhnaigh
Mullagh

30. Elisha Broderick
E. Ní Bhruada
Castlegar

TEAM OFFICIALS

Manager: Cathal Morris
Selector: Orla Kilkenny
Selector: Conor Dolan
Coach: John Connor
Strength & Conditioning: Robbie Lane
Stats: John Martin
Stats: Rob Nolan
Stats: Derek Fennell
Physio: Clodhna Costello
Physio: Sharon Morris
Kit Man: Micky Greally
Kit Man: Frank Duane

IONADAI

16. Aoife Norris
A. Ní Néir
Piltown

17. Danielle Morrissey
D. Ní Mhuineasa
Conaly

18. Michelle Teehan
M. Ní Theacháin
James Stephens

19. Aoife Doyle
A. Ní Dhúghall
Piltown

20. Niamh Deely
N. Ní Dhughaila
James Stephens

21. Grace O'Donnell
G. Ní Dónaill
Young Irelanders

22. Edel Coonan
E. Ní Chasana
St. Martin's

23. Siobhán Fitzgerald
S. Ní Gearailt
Young Irelanders

24. Mary O'Connell
M. Ní Chonail
Clonsilla

25. Miriam Sambrick
M. Baimbric
Barrrow Rangers

26. Aine Phelan
A. Ní Fhoighilí
Kilmacow

27. Eva Hynes
E. Ní Eilín
Thomastown

28. Michaela Kinnearly
M. Ní Chionnailaigh
Windgap

29. Katie Brennan
C. Ní Bhrosnach
Conaly

30. Mairead Power
M. de Paor
Carrickshock

TEAM OFFICIALS

Manager: Ann Downey
Trainer: Brian Dowling
Selector: Liam Egan
Selector: Ray Chaloner
Stats: Mickey McCullough
Medical: Dr. Martin O'Brien
Physio: Nicola Aylward



Up for the cup It's Galway's turn to celebrate after high-scoring Camogie final

Galway players celebrate their victory over Kilkenny in the camogie final at Croke Park yesterday. Report and analysis, Sports Monday. PHOTOGRAPH: NICK BRADSHAW

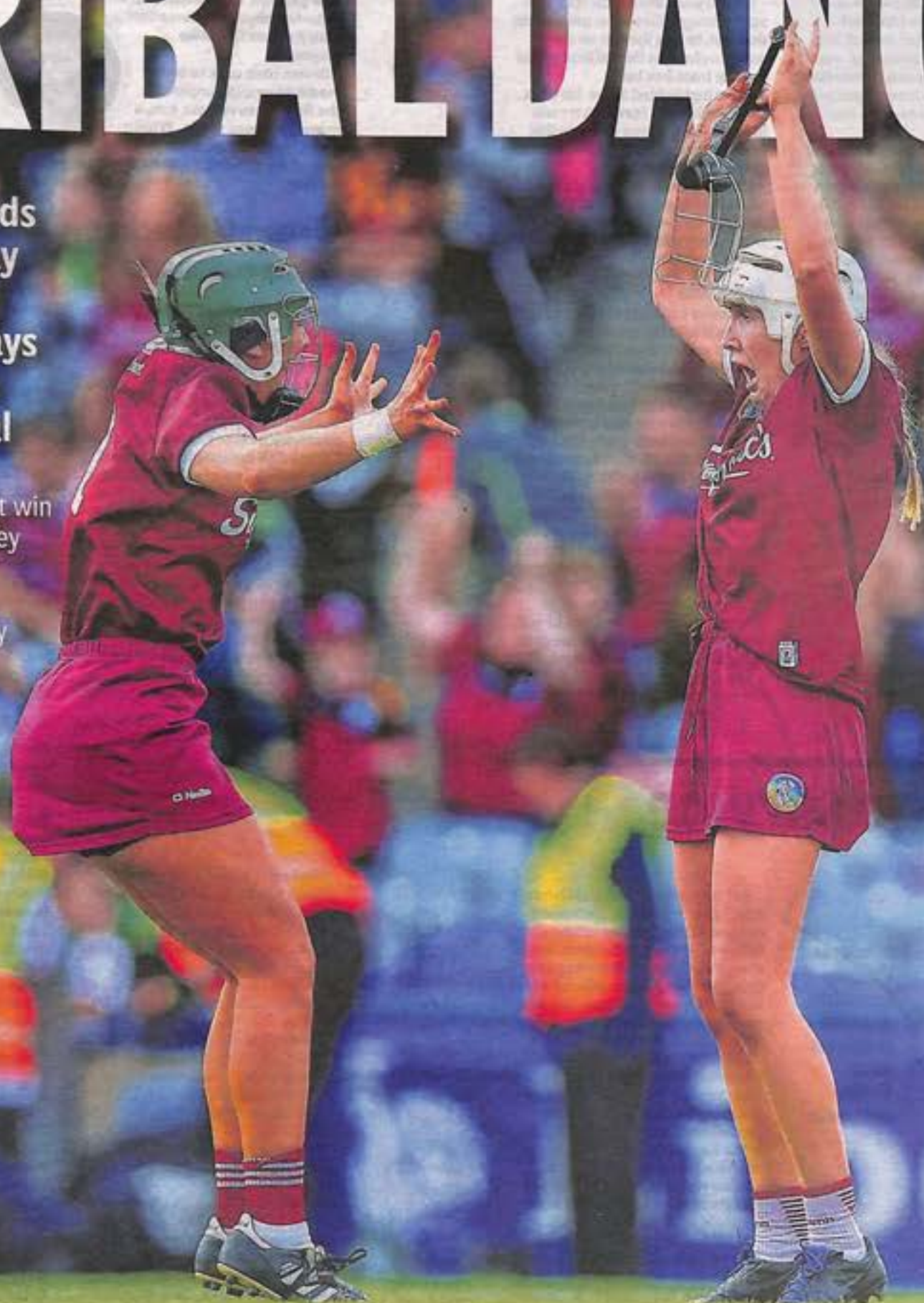
TRIBAL DANCE

Kilkenny leads
brave Galway
as attacking
approach pays
dividends in
thrilling final

'Galway didn't just win
the All-Ireland, they
did their game
a huge service'
-Eamonn Sweeney

PLUS
DERMOT CROWE
AISLING MAHER
AND CLIONA FOLEY
PAGES 68-71

Galway's Emma Helebert
and Shauna Healy
celebrate at the final
whistle of yesterday's
All-Ireland camogie final
INPHOTOGRAPHY



Big match:
Clockwise
from main:
Rebecca
Hennelly of
Galway with
her father
Gerry and
niece Anna
O'Reilly in
the O'Duffy
Cup; Galway
fans Dervla
Burke, Claire
Kilroy, Helen
Glynn and
Sharon Fay;
Kilkenny fans
Stephanie
Hodgers,
Niamh
Cantwell,
Bernie Butler
and Jenna
Butler; and
Denise Gaule
of Kilkenny
dejected
after the final
loss. PHOTOS:
SPORTSFILE AND
MARK CONDREN

Kilkenny inspirational for Tribeswomen as goal burst tames Cats

Galway hold nerve to claim third crown but heartbreak continues for Downey's side after second-half fightback comes up short

DERMOT CROWE



GALWAY 3-14

KILKENNY 0-17

LIBERTY INSURANCE ALL IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

ANOTHER heartbreaking All-Ireland final defeat for Kilkenny, this time visited upon them by a Galway side showing ravenous hunger, winning their first title since 2013 and only their third ever.

They laid the foundations with three first-half goals, including two in a three-minute spell approaching half-time.

A spirited second-half performance from Anne Downey's side reduced a seven-point deficit to just two, but Galway found a timely second wind in the latter exchanges.

Impossible

It marked a third successive All-Ireland final defeat for Downey's Kilkenny and it is impossible not to feel sympathy.

They were applauded for a more attack-minded game-plan this season, ditching the sweeper strategy which had contributed to low-scoring finals in the last two years. The previous two finals produced no goals; in the first half alone yesterday Kilkenny

conceded three.

No team will be in the pillory for bravery and they did not lack that, recovering with a much improved second-half performance which will have been of some consolation.

As well as being their third successive All-Ireland final loss, this was Kilkenny's fifth defeat in recent years, having been in six of the last seven finals.

Galway owe a great deal of gratitude to Niamh Kilkenny, who gave a mid-field exhibition. They lost momentum after the interval but the interventions of the richly gifted Kilkenny helped steady the team's nerve and provide vital composure, eventually inspiring a late decisive rally.

Galway led 3-7 to 0-10 at half-time and could have had at least two more goals, with late addition to the team, Catherine Finnerty, misfiring when put through by Noreen Coen in the 18th minute.

Just before half-time Kellyann Doyle saved on the goal line from Sarah Spellman. Finnerty had a fine match, replacing the unfortunate Tara Kenny. Galway's wing-back, who suffered a cruciate injury in training only days before.

Having already defeated Kilkenny in the league final, and eliminated reigning All-Ireland champions Cork, Galway got off to a dream start.

Ailish O'Reilly, picked out by Kilkenny, drove a merciless shot past Emma Kavanagh in the second minute.

Kilkenny settled with sublime scores from Denise Gaule and Davina Tobin,

before two from Michelle Quilty had the teams level with 12 minutes played. By the 20th minute they were two points up, 0-9 to 1-4.

When Quilty landed a 46-metre free in the 22nd minute, they led 0-10 to 1-5, but then failed to score again until five minutes into the second half.

Before the break Galway hit 2-2 without reply, their second goal arriving in the 26th minute, a strike on the ground by Niamh Hanniffy after good approach play by Spellman and O'Reilly.

Two minutes later, Kilkenny were reeling when they conceded a third. Galway's star player, Kilkenny, broke through and fed O'Reilly who hammered home her second. A '45 from Carrie Dolan, who finished with 0-6, had them leading by six points at the interval.

Dolan extended the lead three minutes after the restart to seven points and from that unpromising position Kilkenny started their climb.

Quiet

Anne Dalton, after a quiet first half, began to impact and at the back they eliminated the Galway goal threat.

They hit four points without reply by the 43rd minute. One of those, from Miriam Walsh, had its origins in a great fetch by the impressive Claire Phelan, who along with Grace Walsh, showed tremendous resistance and leadership after half-time. Anna Farrell's score, the last of the sequence, left only a goal between the sides.

Which was precisely when Niamh Kilkenny took a sweet delivery from goalkeeper Sarah Healy entering the final quarter and hit a huge score after receiving the ball in the middle of the field.

It was a relief to Galway but two inspiring scores from Dalton had Kilkenny rising to the challenge, and another from Gaule left them within two points with 51 minutes played.

The pressure on Galway showed in a missed free by Dolan but Kilkenny would fail to score for the remainder as Galway hit the last four points. Two of those were from Niamh Kilkenny, crowning a brilliant display.

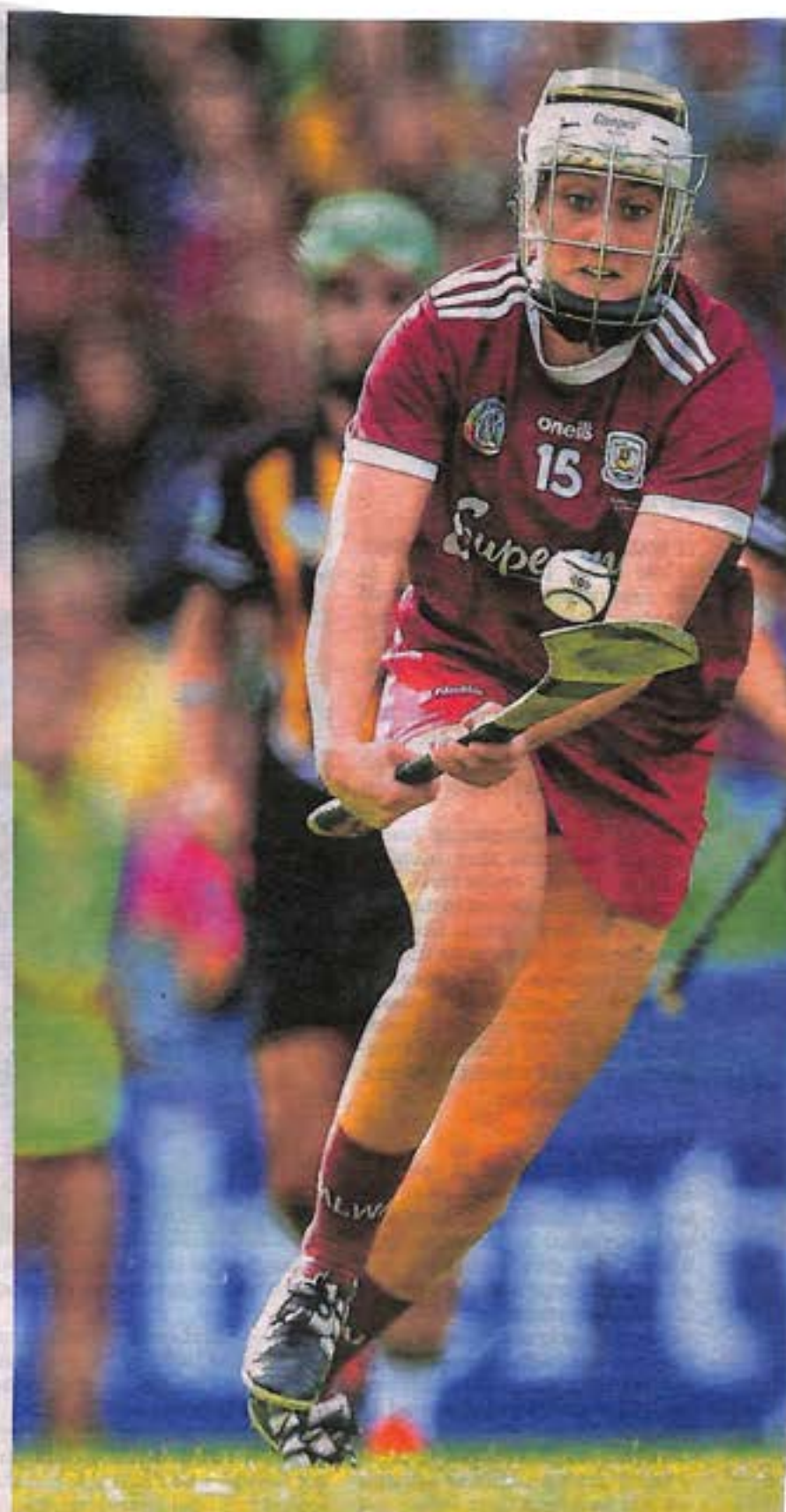
The attendance of 24,730 was up from 21,467 on last year, and declared a record for a stand-alone All-Ireland final fixture.

SCORES - Galway: C Dolan 0-6 (4); 2 '45s; A O'Reilly 2-0; N Kilkenny 0-4; N Hanniffy 1-0; C Finnerty, S Spellman, N Coen, Sarah Healy (1) 0-1. Kilkenny: 0-8 (7); D Gaule 0-3 (1); A Dalton 0-2 (0); D Tobin, A Farrell, M Walsh, A Doyle 0-1.

GALWAY - Sarah Healy; Shauna Healy, S Derran, H Cooney, L Ryan, E Helebert, C Cormican, A Donohue, N Kilkenny; C Dolan, S Spellman, N Coen; C Finnerty, N Hanniffy, A O'Reilly. Sub: A Starr for Coen (43 mins); R Hennessy for Spellman (50).

KILKENNY - E Kavanagh; C Dormer, C Foley, E Keane; K Doyle, C Phelan, G Walsh, M Farrell, D Tobin; A Farrell, K Power, A Dalton; M Quilty, M Walsh, D Gaule. Sub: A Doyle for Keane (28); D Morrissey for Doyle (56).

REF - R Kelly (Kildare) / **TV** - CHANNEL 4, SPORTS IRELAND



Galway's cool heads and

EXPERT VIEW

AILISH MAHER



FIRST UP, that was the best camogie final we've had in years. Everyone wanted a high-scoring game and we had three goals by half-time and the record crowd then saw a second half that was score-for-score.

Losing three finals in a row is a killer but I don't think Kilkenny can have any complaints. Galway outperformed them in every sector of the pitch and Niamh Kilkenny was just phenomenal in the middle of the park.

You couldn't argue, given

Kilkenny's recent history, that Galway wanted it more, but they translated that want into better work-rate and desire and hunger and, tactically, you'd have to say Cathal Murray got it spot on.

From the very start Galway dropped every puck-out straight down on the Kilkenny centre-back position and all their forwards bunched in there.

That sucked in all the Kilkenny backs and then someone would peel out of it and find space in behind.

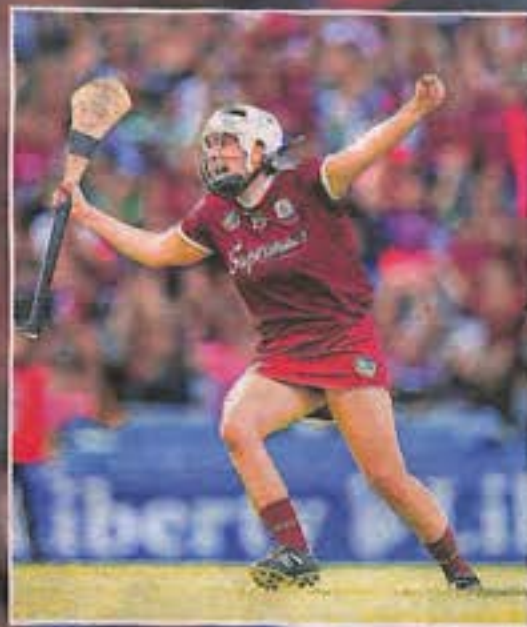
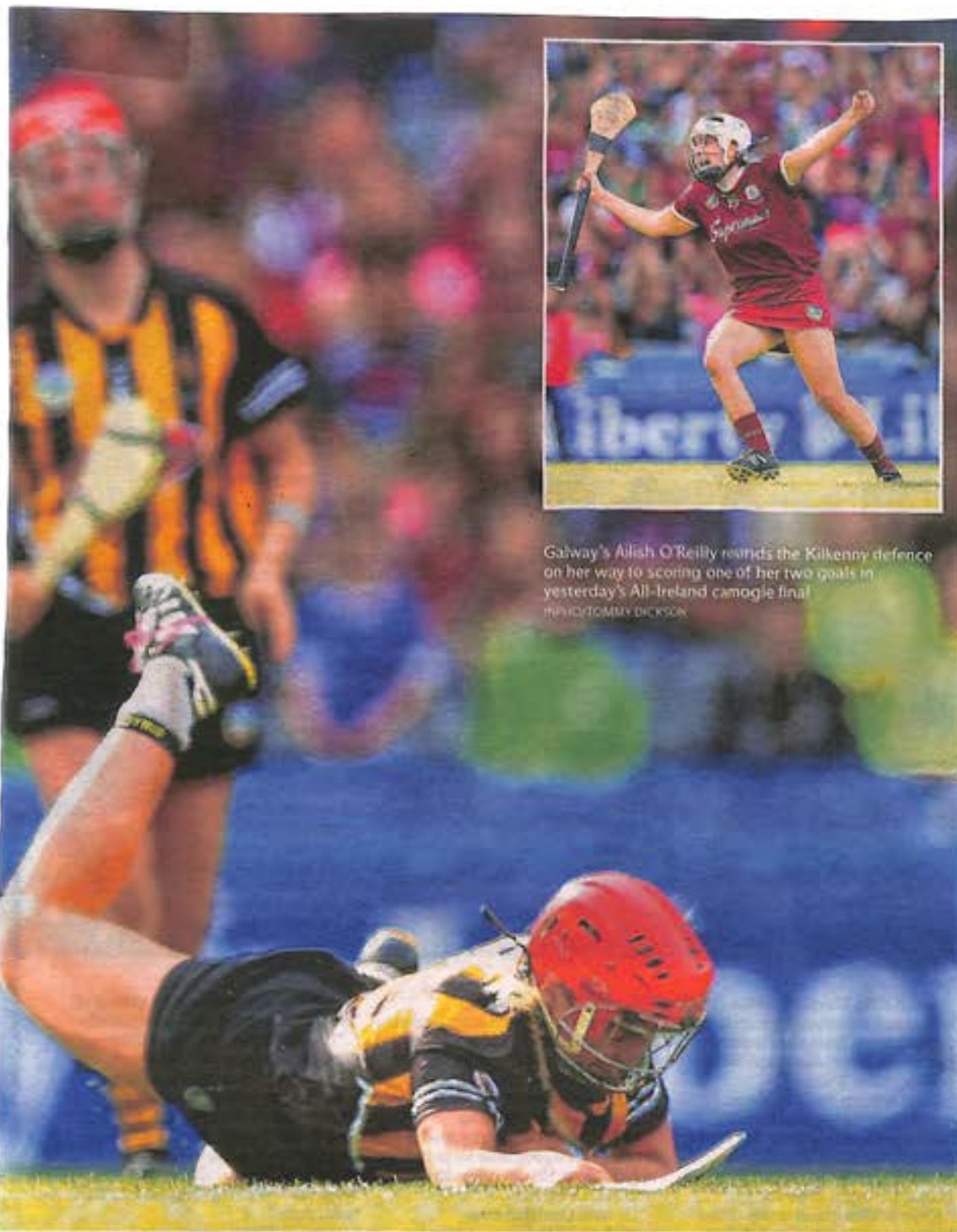
It was very well rehearsed. Even Catherine Finnerty, the sub who started for Tara Kenny, almost got a goal from it.

Ailish O'Reilly had a massive impact in the first half with her two goals. I noticed Colette Dormer had heavy strapping on and they brought her off so that probably didn't help.

O'Reilly actually could have had a third and even though she was quieter in the second half she was



Ailish O'Reilly, 15, and Niamh Hanniffy run towards the Galway supporters with the O'Duffy Cup at Croke Park yesterday



Galway's Ailish O'Reilly rounds the Kilkenny defence on her way to scoring one of her two goals in yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final
PHOTO: TOMMY DICKSON

AT A GLANCE

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Niamh Kilkenny (Galway)

Magnificent. Scored four points from play and showed inspirational leadership when needed, with two late scores to see Galway home. She also helped set up two of the three first-half goals. A brilliant player in full flight.



TALKING POINT

Kilkenny's first-half goal leakage. Having been commended and admired for abandoning a sweeper system this season, they were badly exposed when conceding three first-half goals. Shored up at the back for the second half but the damage had already been inflicted.

MAGIC MOMENT

With two minutes of normal time left in the first half, Niamh Kilkenny set up Ailish O'Reilly who scored her second goal and Galway's third. It left Kilkenny with a huge uphill battle.

REF WATCH

Ray Kelly was busy with his notebook, doling out seven yellows and seemed on the brink of sending off Galway captain Sarah Dervan in the first half before hesitating and consulting an official, then taking no more action. Dervan was already on yellow. A few odd calls but overall a competent performance.

MATCH STATISTICS

Wides - Galway 5 (3 in first half), Kilkenny 6 (4)
Yellow Cards - Galway 5 (S Dervan 14, A Donohue 22, H Cooney 34, S Spellman 48, N Kilkenny 54), Kilkenny 2 (C Foley 9, C Phelan 55).

ATTENDANCE

24,730

WHAT'S NEXT?

Celebrations for Galway and another winter of discontent for Kilkenny despite their brave effort.

Murray delight after charges overcome late Kenny injury to seal big double

Cliona Foley

NOT EVEN the disaster of losing wing-back star Tara Kenny to a cruciate injury in the run-in put a stop to Galway's sensational gallop to their third All-Ireland title.

Kenny got injured in training two weeks ago but the seriousness of it was only confirmed last Thursday night.

Yet the switch of 'Teeny' Cormican back to mark Anne Dalton proved vital and manager Cathal Murray said: "I don't think our backs get the credit they deserve."

Having to manage two teams on All-Ireland final day and losing the earlier Intermediate decider after a second-half collapse also added to his difficulties but he said he actually learned from the first game.

"It was mentioned in the senior dressing-room, that we couldn't let the same thing happen. We had to start well in the second half and we did, in fairness, and the two goals before half-time were a real tonic."

Ailish O'Reilly, who scored two of them, was so delighted afterwards that she actually forgot that her team had completed a league/



Ann Downey:

"They just swarmed us and were hungrier than us. I've no idea why."

superior tactics swing thrilling decider their way

still taking up a lot of Kilkenny attention. What really surprised me was that Kilkenny went more defensive. All year they've put their best players forward and just outscored everyone.

They were six points down and needed a goal so I couldn't understand that, especially dropping Anne Dalton back deeper when they needed someone like her to push on. I know they needed to react to Galway's goals but you'd wonder was that the right decision?

You'd have expected Tara Kenny to be a huge loss to Galway, especially if it was as late as Thursday night's training, which is what we've heard.

But Caitriona Cormican did brilliantly. She moved back to mark Dalton who, like a lot of Kilkenny forwards, was really unremarkable for a lot of this game.

Miriam Walsh actually started well on Sarah Dervan, she nearly had her sent off. She got her a yellow card and a tick early on but

then Kilkenny switched Walsh out of half-forward which didn't make sense to me.

Michelle Quilty didn't really feature in the second-half, Denise Gaule was in and out of it and Katie Power was very quiet. Anna Farrell made a lot of good runs and was probably the most noticeable of Kilkenny's forwards.

I was surprised that Kilkenny didn't bring Danielle Morrissey in earlier because you'd think she could have made a difference. They also put on Aoife Doyle for Edwina Keane and then took her off 20 minutes later. That's unusual.

Kilkenny looked like they were playing that 'corridor system' that Cork used to play, where you play a line down the centre, send the ball down the wings and it's a foot-race to the side.

The problem was that they weren't winning the foot races. We all expected Kilkenny to be hungrier but Galway were the hungrier.

I'd say what happened in the intermediate final, where they were seven points up at half-time and lost, actually helped Galway not to be complacent at the break.

They showed that same calmness and composure that they'd shown all year, like when Kilkenny scored

Kilkenny's problem was that they weren't winning the foot races. Galway always looked hungrier

two goals against them in the league final and Cork came back at them in the semi-final.

When Kilkenny were trying to mount a comeback and got it back to two points, they showed such maturity to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

At that stage Niamh Kilkenny

worked so hard and got a couple of unbelievable scores, including that great one off her left towards the end. Herself and Aoife Donohue really won the match-up in midfield which was key.

Shauna Healy at corner-back was also brilliant. Near the end, when Katie Power and another Kilkenny player were on the ball over on the sideline, she dispossessed the two of them three or four times and forced the ball out over the line.

It was a brilliant toe-to-toe game and the referee contributed to that. He let it go and some of the hits were huge but no one was complaining. That's what players want.

I don't see a chunk of the Kilkenny players going. I really believe there's another few years in their older ones but I wouldn't be surprised if Ann Downey goes. She's been there a long time, they might need a fresh voice now and she may consider it time to call it a day.

championship double.

"It hasn't sunk in yet. 2013 (their last win) feels like a lifetime ago and I didn't appreciate that win enough. I flew off on Erasmus (studies) a few days later so I'm going to enjoy this one," she laughed.

"We'd beaten them in the league final and all the talk was how they beat us in the first round of the championship but what was the point of giving away everything then? We were definitely going to have to play them and Cork again," she noted.

Midfield dynamo Niamh Kilkenny, who chipped in with four brilliant points from play, was typically modest, saying: "It's the work-rate from the girls in the inside line. They have all the hard work done by the time it gets to me."

"Deja vu," murmured crestfallen Kilkenny boss Ann Downey as she faced the media after a devastating third All-Ireland loss in a row.

"We made some positional changes at half-time, moved Claire Phelan back to full-back and moved Meighan (Farrell) back which helped the situation."

"We got within two points of them but never closer. They were never going to leave us in for a goal," she mused. "They just swarmed us and were hungrier than us. I've no idea why."