

115



R~ROWNEY

Lyndhurst

2002

ALL-IRELAND FINALS

Double sided high white Cartridge Paper
Hochfeines, beidseitig griffiges Zeichenpapier
Papier dessin et lavis, extra-blanc
Dubbelzijdig hoogwit cartridge tekenpapier
Papel para dibujo extra blanco
406x305mm

Made by Daler-Rowney, Bracknell, England

THE CAMOGIE CROWN DUELS

All-Ireland finals are the ultimate test of playing ability, for teams and for individuals. Essentially, the destination of the O'Duffy Cup for the next year will be decided by a number of key clashes. Of all the contests on the field on 15 September, three stand out as vital to the outcome of this tie: the individual battles of the much talked-about Tipperary full-forward line versus the Cork full-back line respectively. Whichever trio gains the advantage in this sector will almost certainly accede to the throne as queens of camogie for 2002.

Over the years camogie has taken giant steps. It is now a modernised game that will do much justice to the wide expanses of Croke Park on September 15. Michael Cleary has brought Tipperary camogie to unimaginable heights with the side's free-running speedy style. The Premier County is chasing four-in-a-row All-Ireland senior titles this month. Cork, meanwhile, are rapidly progressing under Pa Finn, and will welcome their return to headquarters in search of their first title since 1998. These two teams will leave every ounce of energy on the Dublin 3 sod in order to claim the O'Duffy Cup. It all makes for a mouth-watering final, so let's preview some of the duels that will determine the outcome.

1. EMER McDONNELL V. STEPHANIE DUNLEA

EMER McDONNELL

Club: Burgess, Tipperary
Position: right corner-forward
Senior inter-county debut: 1998
County honours: three seniors, one junior and one minor All-Ireland championship medals. Emer is a friend to many of the Cork players, having won an Ashbourne Cup medal playing with UCC's Rachel Moloney, Joanne O'Callaghan, Elaine Burke and Una O'Donoghue earlier in the year. But there is where the affection will stop. As forwards go, Emer is a manager's dream, and her scoring record for Tipperary enhances such an evaluation. In last year's final she chipped in with

a first-half goal and a couple of points. In this season's semi-final against Kilkenny scores were at a premium but her opening point of the second-half showed her unbelievable burst of speed, which is her general hallmark. Emer has the ability to bring other forwards into the game and regularly is found at the end of many surges. She has played against many leading players and this time will be pitted against Stephanie Dunlea.

STEPHANIE DUNLEA

Club: Cloughduv, Cork
Position: left corner-back
Senior inter-county debut: 1995
County honours: three senior All-Ireland championship medals. Stephanie is no stranger to inter-county action, winning her first All-Ireland senior medal playing against Kilkenny in the 1995 final. That day she excelled at midfield - at a time when the game was played at 12-a-side. She was on the panel for the 1997 and 1998 wins. She took a year out to travel in 2000 and was on the team that was beaten by Tipp in the semi-final replay last year. Stephanie has proved herself to be a strong-running back who likes to come forward. She has a great strike of the sliotar and is versatile as regards where she can play. She is a tight marker, has a wide range of skills and above all else, she has great anticipation and reads the play very well. Steffi, as she is affectionately known, was vital to Cork's win over Galway in the semi-final, when the defence restricted the maroon and white to just three points from play.

A lot will hinge on the outcome from this corner.

2. DEIRDRE HUGHES V. EITHNE DUGGAN

DEIRDRE HUGHES

Club: Toomevara, Tipperary
Position: full-forward
Senior inter-county debut: 1998
County honours: three senior, one intermediate and one junior All-Ireland championship medals. Deirdre owns the number 14 shirt for Tipperary and wears it with such distinction. She captained the blue and gold to win an intermediate title in 1997 and then made the natural progression to the senior grade twelve months later. She was named the 'Eireann Player of the Year' in 1999 - the year Tipp took its first ever All-Ireland title. Deirdre is lethal once she gets the ball in hand. Her incisive runs have often been seen to split defences and many a full-back has seen a clean pair of heels as she bears down on goal. On such a mission, she rarely, if ever, fails to shake the net. She possesses great skill and even in a tight situation can be seen to shorten the grip to great effect. She is a joy to watch and in a tight situation can be seen to shorten the grip to great effect. She is a joy to watch and in a tight situation can be seen to shorten the grip to great effect.

EITHNE DUGGAN

Club: Bishopstown, Cork
Position: full-back
Senior inter-county debut: 1995
County honours: three senior All-Ireland championship medals.

Eithne became the first person from her club Bishopstown to bring back the O'Duffy cup to the southside of Cork city in 1998. It was further momentous because it was the new O'Duffy Cup, as the original had taken up its rightful resting place in the GAA Museum in Croke Park. Eithne has excelled in the full-back position since taking it over seven years ago. She is a tight defender and is quick to get the ball out of dangerous situations. Her anticipation is her best asset and her style of play is to attack rather than defend. She instils confidence in the last line of the Cork defence and will not be in awe of Hughes' speed. Both players are well accustomed to each other's style. This should be another intriguing clash between two giants of camogie.

3. CLAIRE GROGAN V. JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN

CLAIRE GROGAN

Club: Cashel, Tipperary
Position: left corner-forward
Senior inter-county debut: 2000
County honours: two senior All-Ireland championship medals. Two years ago Claire Grogan arrived in Croke Park as an unknown for the All-Ireland final. Many questioned the placing of the 14-year-old on such a big stage. Biddy Philips knew she had a gem. And sure enough the critics were silenced with a top-drawer performance. She stamped her authority on the number 13 jersey that day and still holds a firm grip on it.



EMER McDONNELL



DEIRDRE HUGHES



CLAIRE GROGAN



STEPHANIE DUNLEA



EITHNE DUGGAN



JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN

Natural talent oozes out through this teenager. Recently with her club Cashel she was the main destroyer in a Munster championship tie against Limerick's Granagh / Ballingarry. She has slotted in very well to this three-prong attack and few can anticipate her next move. She helped the Tipperary full-forward line with a goal and a few points in the 2001 decider.

Claire was a Tipp minor this year and her marker Joanne O'Callaghan is a prodigy of Cork's minor All-Ireland winning side of 1998 and 1999.

JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN

Club: Cloughduv, Cork
Position: right corner-back
Senior inter-county debut: 2001
County honours: two minor All-Ireland championship medals. Joanne O'Callaghan made the leap from minor to senior in the space of two years. An Ashbourne medal winner in the spring with UCC, she debuted last season with the senior county side and is noteworthy for putting the shackles on many a forward. If a marking job has to be done, Joanne is the one to do it. She is full of heart and already looks a great prospect for the number two slot for many years to come down Leaside. Although small in stature no opponent is too big for this tigerish corner-back. In Cork's semi-final victory over Galway, she proved too strong for her opposite number, Denise Gilligan. With both O'Callaghan and Grogan being amongst the two youngest players on the field, this battle will not be for the faint-hearted. They will hold no fear.

Like everyone else I believe this All-Ireland final has the makings of one of the best. Cork are hungry and Tipperary are champions. One line could decide the outcome. The big question is will it be Steffi / Eithne / Joanne or Emer / Deirdre / Claire? Tune in or go and see for yourself at Croke Park on 15 September.

Left to ladies to keep the Rebel flag flying in All-Ireland

SUN shining and sliotar's flying as the All-Ireland buzz continues to gain momentum - it's the first week in September and Páirc Uí Chaoimh is the place to be; or is it?

Only two or three hardy souls sit in the stand and observe the team going through their paces. After all, it's not the lads out there sweating as Pa Finn and Jim McCarthy roar out instructions. Sure, it's only the camogie team.

Flashback two weeks as Larry Tompkins does the shouting and Colin Corkery's men are applauded from the training ground on the last night before they face Kerry. And rightly so, but why the difference? After all, an All-Ireland title is up for grabs and with the Rebel county starved of success the crowds should be flocking to support the girls. After all, one of Cork's greatest sporting heroes is a woman - Sonia, yet the Cork public virtually ignore the success story that is Cork camogie.

Mary Newman
says Cork's hopes rest with 'invisible' camogie stars

Titles from minor to All Ireland Club have adorned the county yet despite all the success the game still fails to attract large crowds. Lack of crowds mean little revenue and here again it is nothing new to the girls who play the game both at club and county level to dig deep and provide their own boots and hurleys.

In a year when the male trophy cabinets are fairly bare and the vast majority of the county's hurling fraternity seem more focused on off the field activities, and claiming the goodies, camogie players have, almost unnoticed, already brought

one All-Ireland title home with the minor team recording a comprehensive victory over Galway to claim the county's 12th title in the grade and make it two in a row.

The senior side are busy preparing for a final clash with All Ireland champions Tipperary while on the same day the Junior team will face Kilkenny in that final. And the Intermediate side will contest the All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin.

Sponsorship now plays a huge role in the game's survival and here Cork have been very lucky in that they have secured the support of Punch

Industries and Color Catcher to help them along the way. Punch Shoe Care led the way coming on board with a new trophy.

Another step forward this year is the sponsoring of the four teams jerseys by O'Neill's.

But still the struggle goes on. At club level many camogie mentors have to fight tooth and nail to gain their own bit of respect - the poor relations of Gaelic games.

Many suggestions have been forthcoming as to the solution in grabbing public attention. In Tipperary the winning of the last three

All-Ireland senior titles has helped raise the game's profile enormously yet when the time came last year to dish out the goodies the All-Ireland hurling champions went off on their sponsored holiday while the ladies sold pictures to fund their week in the sun.

It's now time for Cork supporters to show their true colours and come out and support both teams. Let the Rebel roar be heard loud and clear on Sunday next as 30 dedicated sportswomen give it their all in the senior and junior camogie finals to keep the red and white flying high.



Girls on top: Cork's camogie captains for the All-Ireland's on September 15, Nora Ahern, left (junior) and Una O'Donoghue (senior). Picture: Maurice O'Mahony

Mellerick's surprise return

Tipp star wants to double up on finals

by Damien Irwin

LINDA MELLERICK has made a sensational return to the Cork camogie team for Sunday's All-Ireland senior final with four-in-a-row-seeking Tipperary.

One of the stars of Cork camogie for over a decade, Mellerick wins her place at right half-forward, with Rachael Moloney from the Courcy Rovers losing out.

Mellerick, an All-Ireland winner at minor, junior and senior is the only woman to captain Cork to All-Ireland senior glory on two occasions. She had been injured in a game in early June and it was only in the last few weeks that she was able to return to full training and is now running freely again after injuring her ankle. Speculation had circulated that she would have been included after playing a couple of recent challenge games. Elsewhere, the team is along predictable lines including 14 of the team which had a relatively easy semi-final victory over Galway.

Meanwhile, Tipperary full-back and captain Una O'Dwyer has urged camogie authorities to consider staging the All-Ireland final on the same day as the ladies' football decider to boost attendances.

In an interview in Arena, published tomorrow, O'Dwyer says: "Even if we get 15,000 in Croke Park it is going to look tiny. I suppose what would be good in the long run is if the ladies' football and the camogie were on the same day at least there would be a



Cork senior camogie player Fiona O'Driscoll takes a break from training at Páirc Uí Rinn, with fan Shauna O'Mahony.

Picture: Des Barry

good show of people there as well. It is important for the players to have a lot in Croke Park because it's an experience in itself and an occasion in itself just to be up there."

She added: "It would be good for camogie if the margins (of victory) were closer and in the semi-finals this

year it was very obvious that it would be Cork and Tipp, there was no-one else pushing that closer which was a bit disappointing. A lot of people were expecting great things from Kilkenny and Galway. What went wrong with them, I just don't know."

O'Dwyer believes that Cork go into

Sunday's final with the more impressive form: "Their forwards are always brilliant. From minor level up every year their forwards are something to admire. I know this year they've put in a super effort, their very disappointed over last year's semi-final defeat. This is the year they'll be definitely hoping for a win

but we'll just concentrate on our game and hopefully that will be enough."

CORK: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, E. Duggan, S. Dunlea, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor, V. Harris, E. Burke, L. Mellerick, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, U. O'Donoghue, C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll. The names of rest of the panel will be released tomorrow.



'B' GIRLS: Limerick won out well in the end, but one feels that if Offaly were to take to the field again they would rid themselves of all those butterflies.

THERESE O'CALLAGHAN

SPARE A THOUGHT FOR

THE RUNNER-UP

It is not easy to be brave when you do not come out on top and all too often we tend to forget about the runners-up. They fade into the oblivion and rarely get a mention. The media reports will lead off with the victors. That is why, today, I have decided to do things the other way round.

One of the unusual niceties of playing sport is that when so many people come together they feel a special kinship for one another. No matter what the outcome, there is always a shake of hands and a "well done" traded after the game. It's great for the champs, as we all race after them, bursting to share in their hour of glory. But why should we instantly dismiss the second-placed (not "losers", please)? After all, they could have been the winners, if only they had the

rub of the green. Having watched the All-Ireland minor finals in Cashel on the August bank holiday weekend, I could not but feel for the second-placed. Fair play to Galway and Offaly, the beaten 'A' and 'B' finalists: there was not a whimper out of them, not a grumble. No doubt they were devastated by the result, but they took it on the chin. With an ache in the pit of their stomachs and the blood still rushing around in their veins, they sat and watched their opposites being heralded and

presented with the medals. But they are true ambassadors and raised their hats to the victors. It cannot have been easy. Yes, indeed, sport can be so cruel. Galway made a bold bid but met a good Cork team. Offaly were appearing in their first-ever Minor 'B' final and were a little daunted by the whole occasion. But well done to both defeated counties, their selectors, coaches, trainers, managers and officials. We look forward to seeing you back again very soon.

MINORITY REPORT

Leahy Park brought us back to Cashel only a few months after the All-Ireland colleges finals were played there back in April. The weather on that first Sunday in August was not a whole lot different from those April showers. The rain cascaded down for the 'B' final and the greasy underfoot conditions made life difficult for the 'A' final. But it did not deter the four teams from getting stuck in (literally speaking, of course). The colourful 'Clár Oifigiúil'

was aptly labelled 'Lá na nÓg'. It told us that this was the seventh meeting at minor level between Cork and Galway, and that it was the first clash between Limerick and Offaly. The Faithful County had never before met Aoife. She resided Shannonside for the past year. She was in Cashel, not too bothered where she went for the next twelve months. She wore the ribbons of both counties and was willing to undress one lot of her colours before the day was out. She also wondered what her new house would be like. Not too different, as it turned out. A new home yes, but she only moved from Granagh / Ballingarry to Ahane. Claire Mulcahy was very happy to accept Corn Aoife. The Limerick captain is granddaughter of John Mackey, grand-niece of the legendary Mick Mackey, and daughter of Vera (Mackey) who herself won an All-Ireland junior medal with Limerick in 1977. And not forgetting dad Jer, who is a selector on his daughter's team. There were also many links with the team that won the inaugural All-Ireland 'B' championship this time last year - Janice White, Claire Mulcahy, Christine Carroll and Player of the Match Sinéad McAuliffe were on the starting fifteen a year ago. Also, from the official subs list, Fiona Morrissey, Marion O'Connell and Fiona Hickey were on the starting selection this time.

There was also a new backroom committee. Along with Jer, T J Moloney and Sheila Treacy were selectors, while former Limerick hurler, Tom Hennessy, was the bainisteoir. Limerick won out well in the end, but one feels that if Offaly were to take to the field again they would rid themselves of all those butterflies. There were gripped with nerves and did not do themselves justice at all. They had huge wins all the way up to the final. Leinster posed no problems and then against Roscommon they conceded no score and registered 8-9. Aoife Kelly who was wearing number eight from the Lusmagh club is daughter of hurler Joachim. I have no doubt her hour will come too, as it will too for the likes of Amy Dolan, Michelle Murray, Sinéad Buckley, Máiréad Bergin and Jacinta Lyons. As for bosses, Majella Bergin and Maggie Lynch, picking from a panel of 31 players, there will be brighter days ahead. Cork made a successful defence of the 'A' title when they beat Galway. Incidentally, only Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Galway have managed to put back-to-back titles together since Down won the first All-Ireland in 1974. Cork and Galway trotted



A grand-niece of the legendary Mick Mackey, Claire Mulcahy, MSc, Corn Aoife for Limerick.



CORCAIGH AGUS AN CORN: Shuaigh Corcaigh Corn Tailteann do Caragh Mionúir 'A'

out on Leahy Park to rapturous applause. The westerners were anxious to have their say and regain the silverware that they collected on the first year of the new millennium. The Rebels were hoping to continue their remarkable run. Sile Burns is one of Cork's brightest stars. 'A' senior panelist, Burns marshalled the red and white defence curbing the influence of Galway 'danger ladies', Susan Keane and Brenda Hanney. Brieg Corkery from the Cloughduv club in Cork was crowned Player of the Match.

For Milford, it was once again a fantastic double - Marie Watson brought Corn Tailteann to Milford twelve months ago. Elaine O'Riordan accompanied it to its north Cork home this year. Watson's sister Emer was a vital cog in the team at full-forward, and mum Ann was selector. The other bosses were manager John Cronin and John Quinn from Courcy Rovers. So, the stars of the future lay in waiting. Just look at Tipperary. Among their present day players who blossomed from minor glories of past are Sinéad Nealon, Iovita Delaney, Suzanne

Kelly, Therese Brophy, Emily Hayden and Ciara Gaynor - which brings me along nicely to the next topic on the agenda...

SENIOR FINAL

...The Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland final between Cork and Tipperary, the holders, will take place on Sunday 15 September at Croke Park. La crème de la crème, or uachtar na n-uachtar! To play in the state-of-the-art new stadium in Dublin 3 in an All-Ireland decider is every girl's dream, though one wonders how long more the finals will be staged there. With a seating capacity of up to 80,000, the followers of camogie will fill only a small space. And with the cost of using the stadium spiralling - a crowd of 30,000 is said to be the threshold for 'breaking even', the finals could eventually get blown out. At the Gaelic Grounds double-bill, two goals in the last four minutes of the first-half by Emer Dillon and Fiona O'Driscoll were enough for Cork to beat Galway. Cork have improved slowly as the championship has progressed. They were poor in the league and for the first time in eight years did not get to the final. Linda Mellerick is still recovering from an ankle injury and it would have been asking too much of her to be ready for the semi-final. The Rebels sorely miss her leadership. In the second part of the double-header, All-Ireland champions Tipperary looked good once again. Sharpshooter Noelle Kennedy was back after missing the quarter-final, and Michael Cleary's side had plenty of firing power in attack, as they showed by the spread of their scoring tally among seven players in the semi-final win over Kilkenny. Kilkenny put a massive effort into their preparation, and although defeat was their lot, at least there was no repeat of last year's All-Ireland final debacle in scoring terms. It's back to the drawing-board for manager Ann Downey for another year.

JUNIOR JOUSTS

Meanwhile, the All-Ireland junior championship was also whittled down to its last four. Kilkenny, who had a huge win away to London, travelled to meet Galway, and Derry welcomed Cork up north on Saturday 24 August. Galway and Cork hold the most titles between them, with six wins each. Derry have three but Kilkenny have none. Kilkenny beat last year's All-Ireland finalists, Offaly, in the Leinster final, and fancied their chances going into the junior semi-final. ■

Championship delights

With September comes the glory of climbing the steps of the Hogan Stand for camogie players and this year the question on people's lips is can Tipperary collect the O'Duffy Cup for a fourth consecutive season or can Pa Finn's girls from Cork accept the silverware for the first time since '98. By Mairé Uí Scolai.

While a lot of attention is given to the senior and junior All-Ireland finals, and rightly so let's not forget the players of tomorrow - the minors who have already accepted the Minor 'A' All-Ireland as well as the Minor B. Two very successful counties at minor level for a number of years, Cork and Galway contested the minor 'A' final recently in Leahy Park Cashel followed by the minor B contest between last year's winners Limerick and first time All-Ireland finalists Offaly. Defending champions Cork had an ace player in half forward Breege Corkery, who won the player of the match award. Her work rate captured the eye of several people among the large crowd and it stretched from the throw in right up to the final whistle. The setting in Cashel could not have been better, a day that saw the light rain seize in time, and while very warm not a breeze to send any scores the wrong direction, not that many of Cork's in particular did. With sponsorship becoming more important to camogie these days, the team photo was taken with the Barrys Tea signage in front of the girls. Is this a first for camogie, I feel it is? When both these sides stepped out on to the Tipperary sod a good many of the players had already met earlier on in the year during colleges matches. Both sides displayed great skill and a lot of recognition must surely go to their mentors who give so freely of their time. Galway were not without their stars either and they had a fine player in Brennda Hanney, operating at centreforward. Goalkeeper Susan Earner certainly earned her goalkeeper's position as she had a fine game and could not be faulted for Cork's first half goal from Denise Twomey. Cork's Denise Twomey, who was the successful goalkeeper of 2001 found herself a different position this season playing in the right corner forward spot. Not only has this star of the future won her second minor All-Ireland minor title this season but she also has found herself a member of the county's junior panel. While Cork had their star in Breege Corkery, who also finds herself on the junior panel, Brennda Hanney gave the Connacht Champions a ray of hope when after five minutes of the restart she fired the sliotar past the Cork keeper, but alas the defending champions always had an extra bit of scoring spree on Galway and eventually won Corn Tailteann 1-11 to 1-05.



Getting the board in order



The Tipp seniors

MINOR 'B' FINAL

Limerick, like Cork were heading for a second Minor 'B' title in a row and were facing first time Leinster champions Offaly. The sheer experience of this Limerick side became evident early on in the final and despite the Faithful County's best efforts were always chasing. Some very well

known GAA families were involved, such as the Limerick captain, Claire Mulcahy who is the granddaughter of Limerick's John Mackey. It became very much a family occasion for the Mulcahys as daughter Claire accepted the Corn Aoiife from Uachtarán Pádraicín Ní Raifeartaigh. She was proudly watched by her Daid Ger who was one of the county selectors, also there was her Mum, Vera who was on the first Limerick team to win the Junior All-Ireland back in 1978 and who is a selector with the Limerick senior team this year. Looking towards the Offaly team was Aoife Kelly, daughter of the Offaly hurler Joachim. Also assisting her was Fiona Bermingham, daughter of another former county hurler Brendan. While Lady luck did not shine on the Leinster champions one feels that they are likely to be heard of again. Centreback Sile Sullivan still U16 has already trodded the sod of Croke Park with Offaly last season in the Junior All-Ireland final.

ANOTHER CAMOGIE FIRST

Since the introduction of the 'back-door system' last season in the Foras na Gaeilge championship people seem very happy to have extra games and this year Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael scored another 'first' when the draws for the All-Ireland semi-finals were made on the Sunday Game after the 1/4 finals. With Uachtarán Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and Maighréad Uí Mhairtín, Cathaoirleach of Foras na Gaeilge there to oversee proceedings they certainly drew interesting pairings. Keeping a watchful eye on the whole programme of course was the Sunday Game's presenter Michael Lester. With such expertise available they certainly drew up interesting semi-final pairings. Three in a row champions Tipperary found themselves up against their opponents of last season Kilkenny, while National League champions Galway found themselves facing the '98 All-Ireland champions Cork. The Gaelic Grounds, Limerick was the chosen venue for these semi-finals. Galway whom many expected to visit Croke Park in September never lived up to their expectations and instead it was Cork who stole the limelight with the ever youthful Fiona O'Driscoll knocking in a total of 2-04. She is truly an inspirational player. Tipperary, who overcame Kilkenny in the second semi-final will know that this teacher will take some guarding in the final. Looking at both sides for the September 15th showdown fans will certainly be looking at some of the best players in the country. Since Tipperary's breakthrough in September of '99 not only have they held on to the same backroom team, but sponsored by Horse and Jockey Hotel they also largely have the same team. Surely a very good omen for a possible fourth title. However, the former hurler and now Tipperary's camogie manager Michael Cleary will have seen Cork in action in the semi-final and will only be too aware of Cork's great desire to hold the O'Duffy Cup once again. Amazingly, Kilkenny have never reached a junior All-Ireland final, but they recently corrected that when they overcame Connacht champions Galway in an almost nail biting semi-final, which saw Kilkenny edge out Galway 2-10 to 2-06. With three minutes remaining, and the scoreboard reading Kilkenny 2-09 to Galway's 2-06, Marie Ryan became the Cat's hero when she popped the ball over the bar to send her side into the All-Ireland final against Cork on September 15th. Cork, who beat Derry in the semi-final have not won a junior title since '99. However, they will need to up their semi-final performance if they are to win the junior title. A fine display in the opening half saw them lead 1-06 to 0-0 at the break, following a goal from corner forward Emer Watson. When the Ulster champions took to the field in the second half, they had a goal in the opening five minutes from Paula Bell. While they added a further three points in the second half, Cork looked rather stunned at times. But, then they regrouped



Jovita Delaney calls the shots



The Rebel's Jennifer O'Leary

and a series of fine points from Emer Watson, Ger Collins, Colette Desmond and Catriona Kelly sent them on their way to the All-Ireland final. Outside Páirc Sheán de Brún, in Bellaghy, an air of excitement began to run through the Cork camp after the victory. Girls could be seen on their mobile ringing friends and all one could hear is 'keep September 15th free, we are into the All-Ireland, it is great!'. Like their minors Cork juniors are also sponsored, this time they had Punch as their sponsors, so they will need plenty of punch to deny the Cat's their bowl of cream on September 15th. With Cork having two teams in the final, every Cork club should have all their members in headquarters in September. With Tipperary having done the double last year, winning the senior and junior the pressure will very much be on Cork as they try and do the same and beat the three in a row champions Tipperary in the process! Let's not forget the Intermediate Championship. Last year's winners Antrim and also Dublin got a bye to the semi-finals going ahead on September 7th. The first round matches which went ahead on August 31st were fought out between Cork v Derry, and Down v Tipperary. The championship year however, will not finish until the ever increasingly popular championship final is played in November. Something for everyone surely!!

Joanne is back - Emily loses out

By Gerry Slevin

Joanne Ryan, who following two indifferent games against Dublin and Wexford, lost her place for the All Ireland semi final against Kilkenny, but came on in the second half and played extremely well, receives the No 12 jersey for Sunday's All Ireland final. The player to lose out is last year's captain Emily Hayden and otherwise the team is along expected lines as follows:

Jovita Delaney (Cashel)		
Paula Bulfin (Cashel)	Una O'Dwyer (C) (Cashel)	Claire Madden (Portroe)
Sinead Nealon Burgess	Ciara Gaynor Kilruane	Therese Brophy Burgess
Suzanne Kelly Toomevara		
Angie McDermott (Knockavilla Kickhams)		
Philly Fogarty (Cashel)	Noelle Kennedy (Toomevara)	Joanne Ryan (Holycross)
Eimear McDonnell (Burgess)	Deirdre Hughes (Toomevara)	Claire Grogan (Cashel)

Subs - Louise Ryan (Holycross), Emily Hayden (Cashel), Louise Young (Toomevara) Sheena Howard (Burgess), Trish O'Halloran (Portroe), Anna Woods (Toomevara), Lena Woods (Toomevara), Lorraine Bourke (Templemore), Niamh Connolly (Templemore), Helen Breen (Cashel), Michelle Shortt (Drom-Inch), Julie Delaney (Drom-Inch).

Milford stun Ballinhassig

Milford 10-7
Ballinhassig 3-1

MILFORD were comprehensive winners over Ballinhassig, winning back the U16A Cork Co. Camogie league title in Mallow. Milford took control in the opening 10 minutes with two goals from Emer Watson and a goal each from corner forwards Justine Lynam and Aisling Thompson.

Gradually Ballinhassig recovered and a free from Deirdre Coomey was caught on the edge of the square by Breeda Tuohy who inspirationally blasted to the net for Ballinhassig's 1st score. Deirdre Coomey and Emer Watson exchanged points in

the 13th and 14th minutes to make it 4-1 to 1-1 in favour of Milford. Milford stretched their lead with two Emer Watson goals before Breeda Tuohy hauled Ballinhassig back into the game with a goal in the 27th minute. It was 6-3 to 2-1 at half time for Milford following a last min point from E. Watson. Ballinhassig started well in the 2nd half and Sinead Casey goalied in the 11th minute. But this proved to be Ballinhassig's last score as Milford added 4-4 without reply.

St. Catherine's 5-6 Glen Rovers 3-2; Douglas 7-2 Ballygarvan 0-1; Inniscarra 5-6 Bishopstown 0-0; Ballincollig 1-0 Cobh 0-1; Valley Rovers 1-0 Mallow 0-0;

Julie Sheehy, Captain of the Milford, receiving the U16 A Camogie League trophy from Pat O'Riordan chairman of Cumán Camógachta na nÓg, Corcaigh last Sunday in Mallow.



by Mary Newman

THE focus is now on Croke Park and next Sunday's All-Ireland camogie finals. Before the senior team endeavours to dethrone champions Tipperary, the junior teams from Cork and Kilkenny will take the field in the junior final.

Cork have six All-Ireland junior titles, but Kilkenny, surprisingly, have yet to win one; in fact, it is their first appearance in a junior decider. Several of the players who lined out in Kilkenny's senior championship semi-final outing against Tipperary are eligible for Sunday's final. They are a very strong side.

Aoife Neary has already established herself as a player for the future while Eimear Lyng is a tough defender.

The experienced gained at senior level by no fewer than six of the starting line-out is a huge advantage to the Kilkenny camp. They include Edel Maher, Mairead Lawlor, Catherine Doherty, and Fran Shores.

Kilkenny have a shrewd backroom team led by manager Sean Warren with selector Ann Downey, former All-Ireland senior captain and coach to the county senior team, as well as Dick Frisby whose daughter, Jackie, captains the side.

Cork are very aware of the huge threat Kilkenny pose. Selector Oliver Hallihane said: "Kilkenny are always tough in an All-Ireland final. We lost to Galway in the national league semi-final and Kilkenny went on to defeat them in the championship... that gives an indication of their strength. Several of the side have had senior experience and we will need to play to our top potential to win."

Potential is something this Cork side is not lacking. Liz Sweetnam, at full back, has been magnificent all season.

Former All-Ireland winning minor

Cork are going all out for the double

Seniors and juniors face a stern test from Tipperary and Kilkenny

captain Niamh Bowles, Catriona Foley and captain Nora Ahern form a solid half-back line while, up front, Catriona Kelly's accuracy has been a major asset. Marie Watson and Emer O'Farrell have been lively in attack.

The senior final is the dream ticket. The sides last met in the decider two years ago, when Tipperary took their second title, and now they are seeking four-in-a-row. Last season the sides met at the semi-final stage with Tipperary grabbing an equalising point with the last puck of the game three minutes into injury time.

In the replay, Tipp ran out easy winners. Since then they have met twice with Cork coming out on top in league and Munster games, but on both occasions one sensed a certain lack of interest

by Tipperary. That will not be the case on Sunday as they strive to join Dublin, Kilkenny and Cork as the only sides who have done four-in-a-row.

The key to many of the Tipperary successes has been their defence where Ciara Gaynor, Sinead Nealon and Suzanne Kelly form a solid half-back line fronting the equally strong full-back line of Paula Bulfin, captain Una O'Dwyer and Clare Madden. Up front, Deirdre Hughes at full forward poses a huge threat, but in last season's replay Corks Eithne Duggan showed that she was more than able for the challenge and Cork will be looking for another big performance from her on Sunday.

Tipperary minor Clare Grogan already has three All-Ireland senior medals and if, as expected, she lines out at right corner forward she will find the going tough against Stephanie Dunlea who is having a magnificent season for Cork.

At centre field Vivienne Harris and Elaine Burke have performed reasonably well, and if Cork can get the vital edge here it could well tilt the balance.

Up front, Fiona O'Driscoll caused all sorts of problems for the Galway defence in the semi-final and this year she has shown great determination to succeed and this has helped the younger members of the side like Gemma O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan and Emer Dillon who will be appearing in the first senior final.

Cork coach Pa Finn is looking forward to the final and says his team are in with a great chance.

"We should have beaten Tipperary last year and we are determined to do the job this time out. Preparations have gone well and we are ready. Tipperary are a tough side, but we are equally as tough. It's all on the day and hopefully we will be coming out on the right side this time out."

Tipperary are coached by former All Star hurler Michael Clery who, in his four years at the helm, has brought about a remarkable change in the fortunes of Tipperary camogie.

SENIOR TEAM PANEL:

Ger Casey, Inniscarra; Joanne O'Callaghan, Cloughduv; Eithne Duggan, Bishopstown; Stephanie Dunlea, Cloughduv; Paula O'Connor, Newtownshandrum; Mary O'Connor, Killeagh; Gemma O'Connor, St. Finbarr's; Vivienne Harris, Bishopstown; Elaine Burke, Valley Rovers; Rachel Moloney, Courcy Rovers; Emer Dillon, Ballygarvan; Jennifer O'Leary, Barryroe; Una O'Donoghue, Cloughduv; Caoimhe Harrington, Newtownshandrum; Fiona O'Driscoll, Fr O'Neill's; Linda Mellerick, Glen Rovers; Cora Keohane, Barryroe; Aoife Murray, Cloughduv; Criona Harte, Inniscarra; Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers; Sarah Hayes, Courcy Rovers; Rosalie Holland, Barryroe; Catherine Corkery, Cloughduv; Colette Desmond, Newtownshandrum; Sile Burns, Rockbawn.

JUNIOR PANEL:

Ellen Clifford, St. Finbarr's; Jennifer Brown, Ballygarvan; Liz Sweetnam, Fr O'Neill's; Niamh Bowles, Newtownshandrum; Catriona Foley, Rockbawn; Nora Ahern, Fr O'Neill's; Mairead Holland, Ballinhassig; Val O'Keefe, Killeagh; Emer O'Farrell, Sarsfields; Colette Desmond, Newtownshandrum; Catriona Kelly, Ballygarvan; Ger Collins, Barryroe; Amanda Murphy, Ballygarvan; Elaine Mc Carthy, Barryroe; Marie Watson, Milford; Denise Twomey, St. Catherine's; Aileen O'Neill, Ballygarvan; Edel Foley, Kilbrittain; Breige Corkery, Cloughduv; Sarah O'Donovan, Ballygarvan; Jean O'Sullivan, Bishopstown; Marion James, Tracton; Noreen Mulcahy, St. Catherine's; Amanda O'Regan, Douglas.



The Cork senior team, who will be looking to dethrone champions Tipperary in next week's All Ireland final.

Cork proud as Punch

WITH two teams busy preparing for junior and senior All Ireland finals the Cork Camogie Board received a huge boost with the announcements that Punch industries have further extended their sponsorship deal to include both the senior and junior teams.

Earlier in the season the company took on the sponsorship of the senior county championship and later extended it by sponsoring the county junior team. For the All Ireland semi-final against Derry the junior team sported the Punch logo on their paying gear. The senior side will sport the Colour Catcher logo as they plot the downfall of Tipperary.

Trisha Olden Marketing Executive for Colour Catcher said: "Our commitment to the Cork Senior Camogie team inextricably links Colour Catcher with one of the most skilful female sports in the country and we are very excited that our sponsorship deal will have a long-term role to play in raising the profile of camogie in Ireland."

County Board chairperson Sile Golden speaking on behalf of the County Board thanked Punch industries for their sponsorship. She assured all present that both the Colour Catcher and Punch sponsorship has removed a huge burden from the county board.

OLD PAL: "I know Una O'Donoghue really well," says O'Dwyer. "We are social mates and have been known to have the odd pint. There are two of us from Tipp (Una and Emer McDonnell) and a good few of the Cork team going to UCC."

Foley's top form gets her selected

CATRIONA FOLEY has got a sensational call up to the Cork junior camogie team for their All-Ireland final clash with Kilkenny in Croke Park on Sunday.

The Rockbawn player, who has shown excellent form of late, has got the nod to fill the right half-back position with Jean O'Sullivan the player to lose out.

The second change to the side that beat Derry in the semi-final sees Ballygarvan player Jennifer Brown regain her slot at right corner-back. Brown was absent the last day through a hand injury but has sufficiently proved her fitness, edging out Aileen O'Neill.

The remaining 13 positions are unchanged.

Cork junior team: E Clifford; J Brown, L Sweetnam, N Bowles; C Foley, N Ahern (capt), M Holland; V O'Keefe, E O'Farrell; C Desmond, C Kelly, G Collins; A Murphy, E McCarthy, M Watson.

Hayden dropped from Tipp team

LAST YEAR'S captain Emily Hayden has lost her place on the Tipperary team for Sunday's All-Ireland final against Cork.

The Cashel player, who was replaced mid way through the second-half of their semi-final win over Kilkenny, misses out to Joanne Ryan.

Otherwise Michael Cleary and his fellow selectors have named an unchanged team.

Tipperary: J Delaney; P Bullin, U O'Dwyer, C Madden; S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy; A McDermott, S Kelly; J Ryan, N Kennedy, P Fogarty; E McDonnell, D Hughes, C Grogan.

BEST FRIENDS: We are very friendly, says O'Donoghue (left) of her relationship with Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer. "We are going on a skiing holiday after Christmas."

FRIENDS, after all, are supposed to be on the same side.

They are meant to be there for each other. On Sunday companionships will be severely tested as rival captains and close buddies, Una O'Donoghue and Una O'Dwyer, will be on opposing teams as Cork and Tipperary meet in the All-Ireland senior camogie final in Croke Park.

O'Donoghue, a fourth year physiology student at UCC, will endeavour to bring the All-Ireland silverware back to Cork for the first time since 1998.

Her close pal O'Dwyer, who is in her fourth year studying Food Technology also at UCC, will hope to continue Cashel's good run in supplying winning captains to Tipperary.

O'Donoghue will be wearing red-hot number 13 - O'Dwyer will be in blue and gold at number three. Close mates indeed!

UNA O'DONOGHUE (CORK CAPTAIN) So far, this year has gone a dream for Una O'Donoghue. She has realised one half of her ambition in captaining Cloughduv to their second county championship. Now the straight talking corner-forward unleashes part two of the act, which she hopes will see her climb the steps of the Hogan stand.

"We are very friendly," says O'Donoghue of her relationship with Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer. "We are going on a skiing holiday after Christmas," she adds, as if further trying to strengthen their bond. "Una (O'Dwyer) shares accommodation with Elaine Burke (another Cork player), so I would be a regular visitor to their house."

"On Sunday though, we will have to leave our friendships on the line for that one hour. It does make it a bit harder when we know each other so well. But there is only one thing on my mind - winning."

"When we go back to college on September 30 I will be staying with Emer McDonnell (Tipp corner-forward on Sunday), Rachel Moloney



Sports Writer

Therese O'Callaghan

and Sara Hayes (two other Cork panellists).

"You can imagine what it is going to be like - whoever loses is going to have a tough time." **UNA O'DWYER (TIPPERARY CAPTAIN)** Una O'Dwyer is winning all round her. She has not been on a losing county team for four championship campaigns. Now, that the Tipp hurlers are gone, the attention is back to camogie.

The Cashel player would love to emulate the feat of her fellow club mates Emily Hayden, Jovita

Delaney and Meadhbh Stokes in bringing O'Duffy home.

"I know Una O'Donoghue really well," she says. "We are social mates and have been known to have the odd pint."

"There are two of us from Tipp (Una and Emer McDonnell) and a good few of the Cork team going to UCC. I live in the same house as Elaine Burke, and Sinead O'Callaghan who played with Cork up to two years ago was also with us for a while."

"We all live around the same area. We would regularly visit each other's houses but of course over the summer we would not see each other as much."

The million-dollar question then: which of the two Unas will be the winner?

"If it is not to be me then I will be glad to see Una lift the cup for Cork," she says.

Pals' act put aside



FIONA O'DRISCOLL



AGE: 30
CLUB: Fr O'Neill's
POSITION: Left
corner-forward
HONOURS: Five
All-Ireland medals, six
National senior leagues
and Ashbourne medal.

EMER DILLON



AGE: 18
CLUB: Ballygarvan
POSITION: Centre-forward
HONOURS: Two
minor and one interme-
diate All-Ireland
medals.

JENNIFER O'LEARY



AGE: 18
CLUB: Barryroe
POSITION: Left
half-forward
HONOURS: Two
minor and one interme-
diate All-Ireland
medals.

PAULA O'CONNOR



AGE: 22
CLUB: Newtown-
shandrum
POSITION: Right
half-back
HONOURS: One
All-Ireland medal four
National leagues.

UNA O'DONOGHUE



AGE: 21
CLUB: Cloughduv
POSITION: Right
corner-forward
HONOURS: Three
National senior league
medals, two county
championships, two
Ashbournes.

VIVienne HARRIS



AGE: 23
CLUB: Bishopstown.
POSITION: Centre-field.
HONOURS: Three
All-Ireland senior
medals, seven National
senior league medals,
four senior county
medals.

Queen

Mellerick bows out at the top

COMEBACK QUEEN:
"After Cork won the
semi-final against
Galway I knew I would
have to make my
comeback soon."

Sports Writer

Therese
O'Callaghan

STRAINED LIGAMENTS,
bruised tendons,
swollen joints and
an All-Ireland
final. Just a fla-
vour of the mixed
bag which Cork
star Linda Mell-
erick has had to
contend with
over an incid-
ent-packed last
couple of
months or so.

She is not one to dwell
on her own misfortune
but when the Cork star
fell in a heap after twist-
ing her ankle three months
ago, Croke Park was the fur-
thest thing from her mind.

"The day it happened I
thought that was it.

"That my career was over be-
cause I had never felt such pain.

"I knew I had done serious
damage. It was not broken but the
extent of the damage to the liga-
ments was very severe."

However, Mellerick is not the type
to sit back and wait for it to happen.

She was confined to plaster for
four weeks but seeing her col-
leagues doing so well in
the championship she re-
quested that her protec-
tive leg gear be removed early as she

was itching to get back into action.

"It was driving me crazy not being
able to train.

"But once I was back on my feet I was
able to go to the gym and swim.

"After Cork won the semi-final
against Galway I knew I would have to
make my comeback soon.

"From being out in the cold, suddenly
my focus changed to getting back on the
team as quickly as possible."

One thing for sure is that her return
is down to incredible hard work over
the past month.

Her first game back was against Lim-
erick on August 21 - four days after the
Rebels had earned their ticket to
Sunday's All-Ireland final.

"All I was interested in doing that
night was running. I was not too con-
cerned about the hurling aspect, I
wanted to see if my leg would hold out.

"I ran for the match and had no reper-
cussions. That was a happy hour for
me. After that I just had to forget about
the injury and get on with the game."

So, much of July and all of August
has been pure boot-camp for the Glen
Rover's player.

The reward — well, it is more torture
against the blue and gold.

"I am so thrilled to be playing that I
am going to go out and give it abso-
lutely everything I have.

"For the length of time that I am on
the field, be it 20, 40 or 60 minutes, I will
not be found wanting.

"Tipperary are a fine team and are
very physically strong.

"They are great tacticians and prob-



Linda



WINNER: Linda celebrates another All-Ireland victory.

ably caught us in that regard in the last year or so.

"But having said that I honestly believe that there is nothing between us. Our problem against Tipp is that we are very slow to start and then we are trying to claw it back.

"Last year in the drawn game we were the better team as regards getting possession. They have lethal forwards and with half the chances, they take more scores than us.

"They ask for no quarters and they give none. At this level that is what you have got to expect. We have got to match it, if not better it. The true words of a definite die-hard. The waiting games prevails for another while.

Over the next few days Mellerick will ponder over, what will be her last run out on Croke Park territory. Her presence alone will put the fear of God in Tipperary.

Don't say you weren't warned.

GER CASEY

AGE: 21
CLUB: Inniscarra
POSITION: Goalkeeper
HONOURS: One All-Ireland junior championship and league medal.



CAOIMHE HARRINGTON

AGE: 22
CLUB: Newtownshandrum
POSITION: Full-forward
HONOURS: One All-Ireland medals, two senior and three junior All-Ireland colleges.



STEPHANIE DUNLEA

AGE: 27
CLUB: Cloughduv
POSITION: Left corner-back
HONOURS: Four All-Ireland medals, six National league medals, five senior county titles, one Ashbourne.



EITHNE DUGGAN

AGE: 29
CLUB: Bishopstown
POSITION: Full-back
HONOURS: Three All-Ireland medals, seven National league medals, four county medals, one Ashbourne.



ELAINE BURKE

AGE: 21
CLUB: Valley Rovers
POSITION: Centre-field
HONOURS: One All-Ireland medal, two Ashbournes.



GEMMA O'CONNOR

NAME: Gemma O'Connor
AGE: 17
CLUB: St Finbarr's
POSITION: Half-back
HONOURS: Two minor All-Irelands, one junior league title.



JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN

AGE: 18
CLUB: Cloughduv
POSITION: Right corner-back
HONOURS: Two minor All-Ireland medals, one All-Ireland intermediate title, one Ashbourne and two county championships.



MARY O'CONNOR

AGE: 25
CLUB: Killeagh
POSITION: Centre-back
HONOURS: Two All-Ireland medals, six National league titles, four county medals.



Una O'Dwyer:
"People are saying
we've lost our
edge after three
years of success,
that we aren't the
same side any-
more. But we're
not considering a
four-in-a-row at all
this year."
Picture: Dennis Minihane

FOURWARNED

UNA O'DWYER would like to put her hands to her ears and shut out the topic. She would like to adjust the volume of a radio when it's being debated and play it down when the inevitable question is posed. Una just doesn't want to know.

The Cup marked with four consecutive 'Tipperarys' will make for nice reading alright, but a four-in-a-row is only a consequence if it's done. Nothing more, nothing less.

For O'Dwyer, it's an All-Ireland final and Cork wait to avenge the 2000 final. "People are saying we've lost our edge after three years of success, that we aren't the same side anymore. But we're not considering a four-in-a-row at all this year. At the start of this year, it was all about the 2002 All-Ireland final, it's nothing to do with the three years gone by. The aim this year was to get to an All-Ireland final, and now that we're there, the aim is to win it."

O'Dwyer arrived on the scene when camogie in the Premier county had finally begun to peep out of the long grass. Winning an intermediate title in 1997 at the age of 16, two years later she was beside Cashel teammate Meadhbh Stokes as she took hold of the O'Duffy Cup for the first time in Tipperary's history. The scene was replicated in 2000 and 2001, two more Cashel players given the honour. Now O'Dwyer has the chance to follow in the same footsteps set out by her fellow clubmates this year. Delighted to be captain,

FOUR-in-a-row? Don't mention it in Tipperary, where camogie captain Una O'Dwyer is preaching caution ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland final against Cork. Edward Newman reports.

the talk of a four-in-a-row wafts incessantly through the county this week. "Let that talk to the media," she says. We'll have to find another topic.

Una has just arrived back from another day of work-placement as part of her Food Technology course in UCC. Catching glimpses of the All-Ireland final in between shifts, the Croke Park amphitheatre has really enchanted her lately. Nearly 80,000 straining at your every move must be magic but equally daunting, even though the attendance will be moderate on Sunday at best.

"I'm honoured. The dream is to lead your team out on All-Ireland final day. It's a really humbling experience but I'll be concentrating on full-back first and I'll take the captaincy as it comes. There's no point having all your speeches prepared because if you don't win you'll never get to use them and will have to put a match to them there and then. But I'll play the game first and whatever happens after that, I'll worry about it then."

The game got a grip of Una from a young

age. She used accompany her father Martin as he hurled with Boherlahan. At ten she was beginning to master the nuances of the game mixing in and standing her own ground with the boys team at national school. It toughened her up and then began seriously with Cashel Camogie at U12 level.

Catherine Maloney and Irene Duane taught the skills, success wasn't paramount back then and Una, the full-back, soon became the talk of camogie folk. She'd have heroes in the game, Brian Lohan and Philip Maher. It's no surprise then that O'Dwyer is regarded as one of those new 'hurling' full-backs. "Sure I'm there the whole time, I'm not a great fan of the position but I'm there and that's the way it is. I'm there now for the last couple of years and if I can play as well as I can I'll be happy enough." And as a hurling full-back? She answers in a Lohanesque way. "I'm there to bat down the hatches and if I can hurl it out I will... but... I'm just there to do my job really."

O'Dwyer and Tipperary arrived on the

scene at just the right time. Camogie was going through a transitional period. The small goalposts were being dismantled permanently and the hugely traditional 12-a-side became the more orthodox 15-a-side on the full size hurling pitch. The game was moving on and with that the more traditional counties went tumbling as Tipperary, new kids with real attitude, took the throne.

BUT WHY has it taken so long for Tipperary to become a force? "I suppose it stemmed from the fact that we were not up to senior and if you're not playing at the highest level, then people aren't inclined to have much interest in it. When we did go up senior, there was a good bunch of girls there and since then the same core has remained."

"Also, when the likes of Michael Cleary and Colm Bonnar got involved in '99, other people took a step back, saw what was happening and then wanted to get involved. Then followed great organisation and the Tipperary Supporters club was founded this year. These things have done an awful lot for the game along the way. And now the profile of the game has shot up in the county."

O'Dwyer likes the changes. They're moving closer in stature to the men's game. Even their training schedules are thoughtfully organised,

Continued on PAGE 13

All the hard work pays off for Paula

by Damien Irwin

FOR Cork senior camogie player Paula O'Connor, Sunday's showdown with Tipperary is a bit more complicated than she thought it would be.

The minute her own game is over next Sunday, Cork's half-back will seek out her mother somewhere in the Cusack stand and, after mother and daughter embrace and come to terms with the huge emotional experience of playing in an All-Ireland final, Paula will fire out a question: "How did the lads do?"

The lads are her brothers Ben, Gerry and John and, in an unfortunate clash of fixtures, they line out in the Cork county senior hurling final on Sunday with Newtownshandrum at the same time as Paula will be doing her tour of

duty with the camogie team.

The minute the lads' game is over they will ask the very same question of their father, who will be attending the match in Páirc Uí Chaoimh: "How did Cork do? How did Paula get on?"

And Paula wishes she could be there to support her brothers: "I'm very disappointed that I can't be there. It's just such a pity that they clashed. Newtown is a hurling mad area and if I weren't playing for Cork on Sunday I would be up there shouting for them. And if the match wasn't on in Cork they'd be up in Dublin supporting me."

So it is that her nine siblings will be in Cork. Three are playing with six supporting (the youngest, Steve, who is seven, may be team mascot), including her father Bernie. Her mother Catherine will make the trip to Dublin. In-

stead of carping on about 10 going to Cork and one going to Dublin, Paula is pleased that her family will at least be represented there.

It is only this year that the 22-year-old has cemented her place firmly on the starting 15 at wing-back where she has been very impressive in Cork's march into the final.

Now all the training sessions seem to be worthwhile. All the early morning starts getting up at 7.30 on a Saturday morning to make training in Cork at 10am.

Clare with Ger Loughnane weren't the only team who have battled out of bed for strenuous pre-breakfast training. And, living with two senior inter-county hurling players, she is in an ideal position to judge the levels of commitment required by their respective

sports. "In terms of commitment there is just as much expected and just as much required for the girls as for the boys' team." Sometimes there's even more.

"We trained usually on a Saturday morning as well as a few sessions during the week this year and sometimes on the Saturday I would get a drive, but other times I would have to get the 10 past eight bus from Charleville which is a couple of miles from where I live and that bus would get in about an hour later."

"Then I would usually ring Ciara (Healy, a fellow panel member) to collect me and bring me to training."

Again, this isn't delivered as a litany or a complaint, more like "this is what I have to do and if that's what it takes, then that's what it takes."

Cleary's winning formula

Tipperary success down to manager

by Edward Newman

MICHAEL CLEARY'S management of the Tipperary senior camogie team has proven to be a wonderful success. But with such success comes the hard questions.

With three All-Irelands in the bag, self-questioning became the order of play at the start of the year. Cleary's work had transformed a county's fortunes, but could the odyssey continue? Was the team improving? What more could he do? Questions the manager wanted answered, and so he returned.

"Over the years, I think they have improved and unless we've improved again this year, we are not going to win the All-Ireland," Cleary said.

"It was main reason I came back. I said to them at the start of the year that I wouldn't be interested if they felt that they had reached their peak. You'd be going back over old ground and the challenge for me was to take them on a bit further. Sunday will answer that question," he said.

Already the signs are positive.

"The hunger is as great, if not greater than any of the previous three. I admire them for it. This team have won junior, intermediate and three All-Ireland senior titles. They've given total dedication to the game of camogie, and to say that they're still hungry, if not hungrier, it's a credit to them as individuals."

As a manager, Cleary has fostered a winning environment, and his influence has proved immeasurable. And despite the Eire Og-Nenagh man's best efforts at self-effacement, he's adamant that there is in no mystery to their



Tipperary manager Michael Cleary making a few pointers during training at Semple Stadium for the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

Picture: Denis Minihane.

winning mentality.

"We get on well together. It's not that there are any secret methods. I obviously click with them as much as they do with me. If that hadn't been the case, I would have been gone after the first year. You can see them out there training that they're a happy bunch of girls. They seem to enjoy the training we do. They seem to enjoy everything about it."

"Their commitment is comparable to any Gaelic player around the country. I won't get into instances, but they're special and whether they win or not, they're still special."

After last year's semi-final which

went to a replay, Cleary knows Cork will aim to avenge that defeat.

"They're a good team all over. I think they have four new changes in personnel from last year. It was a toss of a coin who would come through in the semi-final last year in Mullingar and Limerick. We had the rub of the green and it could be down to that again. I think their half-back line is particularly strong this year: the three O'Connors in Paula, Mary and Gemma. But they look particularly impressive all over. There is no real weakness."

The path to the final has been short, the victories easy. Cleary knows that realistically, there are only four teams

able to fight for honours, and tougher games to prepare for Sunday would have been ideal.

"When the draw comes out, and with all due respect to all the other counties, you're looking at the big four; Cork, Tipperary, Galway, Kilkenny. We hit two good days against Dublin and Wexford. It's not a hindrance that we had two handy matches. But you prepare for every championship match in the same manner."

Cleary speaks of this game as if it may be his last. Next year, he could walk out after the county's senior hurlers in a packed Croke Park.

But this week, he won't be drawn on

the question. There are more engaging commitments.

Cleary arrived on the scene when the game was changing. The suffocating style of the game needed new impetus and Tipperary's game fitted the bill perfectly.

"There's a pace to their game, they like to switch play in an instant and, with their general fitness at an all-time high, the changes allowed them to express themselves in the fullest way."

"We try to keep our game simple. Certainly the changes allowed us to adapt to a game plan I had in mind. And the new Croke Park will certainly test all our abilities."



Paula O'Connor (left), Newtownshandrum, sister of Ben and Jerry O'Connor and Criona Harte, Inniscarra, pictured at Christy Ring Park on Tuesday evening in preparation for Sunday's All Ireland Senior Camogie Final.

Pic: Catherine O'Leary

NEW JERSEY

Thanks to the O'Neill's Sports Company a new jersey has just been designed especially for camogie players and they will be worn for the very first time by the senior and junior Cork teams in this year's All-Ireland finals.

O'Neill's have given these jerseys free of charge for the All-Ireland Finals. It is then hoped that these new jerseys will be worn by all camogie players in the near future.

Big Sunday of hurling ahead for O'Connor clan

By Félim McMahon

ONE family from North Cork is hoping to bring two titles back to their parish, on Sunday, including one All-Ireland crown.

Unfortunately, the clash of dates has divided the family between Cork's Pairc Uí Chaoimh and Croke Park, in Dublin. Paula O'Connor, from Newtownshandrum, is on the Cork senior camogie side that will contest the All Ireland final, against Tipperary.

However, the 22-year-old wishes that she and her family

could be in two places at once. That's because her brothers, twins, Ben and Jerry, will be contesting the County Hurling title against champions Blackrock, on the same day.

"Unfortunately there was no way around it. The lads will be in Cork and I'll be in Dublin at the same time," said Paula.

"They start before we do, so hopefully I can get a text message or something to see how they are getting on against the Rockies. Bringing two titles home to Newtownshandrum would be brilliant," she added.

The famous rebel twins have drawn the support of the majority of the family, who will be cheering them on in Cork. Paula's mum Kathleen, however, will be shouting for her daughter at HQ.

"We're not in this game for the exposure or the 'fame' — we do it because we enjoy it," said Paula.

"But it is great that we've got sponsorship this year from Colour Catcher and Punch Industries, which takes a lot of pressure off everyone."

With a double win on

Sunday, Cork will make it three All-Ireland camogie titles in one year — having already secured the minor title.

And they could go one better, and make GAA history by winning four in a row, if their intermediate team win their remaining championship fixtures.

North Cork will be represented by 10 other Senior players including goalie Ger Casey, from Inniscarra; Mary O'Connor, Killeagh; Stephanie Dunlea, Cloghduv; Sinead

Buckley, Aghabulllogue, Criona Harte, Inniscarra; Joanne O'Callaghan, Cloghduv; Caoimhe Harrington, Newtownshandrum; Aolfe Murray, Cloghduv; Marie Watson, Milford and Collette Desmond, Newcestown.

On the Junior side, who play their final against Kilkenny on the same day, North Cork will be represented by Niamh Bowles, Newtownshandrum; Marie Watson, Milford; Breige Corkery, Cloghduv and Colette Desmond, Newcestown.



TWO LEADERS: Cork's senior and junior camogie captains, Una O'Donoghue (left) Nora Ahern (right), hoping for All-Ireland success at Croke on Sunday

Rebels out to foil Tipp's hat-trick bid

CROKE Park is set for a female invasion next Sunday when Cork and Tipperary fans descend on headquarters for the all-Munster All-Ireland camogie final between Cork and Tipperary.

Over 20,000 are expected in the great amphitheatre for

Cork eye up camogie double at HQ

the collision of the holders from the Premier County and the former champions desperate to halt Tipp's three-in-a-row bid.

Cork are doubly engaged on Sunday with the juniors hoping to set the ball rolling

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN
Camogie latest

against Kilkenny.

Cork supporters expected to be out in force and to facilitate them Iarnród Éireann are putting on a special train.

The sale of seats on the special 07.30 hrs Cork-Dublin service and the 8.20hrs service will be controlled.

Control cards for these trains will be required in addition to rail tickets.

A special rail fare is also

being offered to customers who decide to travel on the special train.

Customers are also advised that because of track improvements between Mallow and Charleville bus transfers will be in operation between Cork, Mallow and Charleville for early morning fans.

MORE page 37

Mellerick makes her final stand

By THERESA O'CALLAGHAN
Cork camogie news

LINDA MELLERICK will play her last camogie game in Croke Park on Sunday.

The Glen Rovers stalwart, who has made a dramatic comeback from an ankle ligament injury, was last night named among the starting 15 for Cork's All-Ireland final against Tipperary.

Ironically, Mellerick has been out of action since playing against the blue and gold in the Munster Championship in early June.

The lion-hearted die-hard has been awarded the number 10 jersey for Sunday's clash and can look forward to an enthralling tussle with one of Tipp's best defenders, Therese Brophy.

For admirers of the player who won her first All-Ireland senior medal in 1992, this will be their last chance to see Mellerick in action, barring a replay.

Last evening she announced that this is to be her final appearance on a playing field.

A proud day for Margaret

By Gerry Slevin

Leading Tipperary camogie at officialdom level this year is a Thurles lady, MARGARET SKEHAN, who at the Board's Convention earlier in the year, took over from Noel Hennessy, Drom-Inch.

Deputy Principal at Cashel Community College, Margaret is delighted and proud that the exploits of the senior team should be continuing into her reign.

"I am especially pleased that on an historic occasion, with Tipperary going for four in a row, I should be chairperson of the County Board. Most of last year's panel are there and while they have done extremely well so far this season, the real test comes against Cork" says Margaret.

The chairperson says there is a great groundswell of support for the team from the Board down, the team and mentors receiving every possible support and encouragement.



Mellerick boost for Rebels

Cliona Foley

TALISMANIC Cork star Linda Mellerick has made a remarkable return from injury to start in Sunday's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie final against reigning three in-a-row champions Tipperary.

Mellerick, who has twice captained Cork's seniors to All-Irelands in the past decade, had her ankle encased in plaster back in mid-June when she badly damaged ligaments, ironically in a Munster Championship win over Tipperary.

But intensive physio and work on her own has earned her a starting place for this weekend, after missing their previous three Championship games to date.

She comes in at right half-forward at the expense of Rachel Moloney in an otherwise unchanged Cork team who are desperately hoping to win the Rebels' first title since their two-in-a-row in 1997-98.

Tipp have also made a change in their half-forward line, with Joanne Ryan of Drom-Inch replacing Emily Hayden.

Noelle Kennedy, who missed the first of their three games with a hamstring injury and only came off the bench in their second against Wexford, is picked at centre-forward.

Tipperary visited Croke Park yesterday where they were allowed have a light 40-minute workout to test out the pitch and it is believed Cork will do the same on Saturday.

Tipperary have totally dominated the All-Ireland scene for the past four years, ever since former All-Star hurler Michael Cleary took over as their manager.

Cleary is now being tipped to take over the county's hurlers should Nicky English step down but for the moment his energies remain completely devoted to the brilliant women's side he has developed.

CORK (SC v Tipperary) — G. Casey; J. O'Callaghan, E. Duggan, S. Dunlea; P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor, V. Harris, E. Burke, L. Mellerick, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, C. O'Donoghue (Capt), C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll. **Subs:** A. Murray, R. Moloney, S. Hayes, D. O'Sullivan, D. Cronin.

TIPPERARY (SC v Cork) — J. Delaney; P. Biffin, U. O'Dwyer (Capt), C. Madden; S. Neslon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, S. Kelly, A. Mc Dermott; P. Fogarty, N. Kennedy, J. Ryan, E. McDonnell, D. Hughes, C. Grogan. **CORK (JC v Kilkenny)** — E. Clifford; J. Brown, L. Sweetman, N. Bowles; C. Foley, N. Ahearn (Capt), M. Holland, V. O'Keefe, E. O'Farrell; C. Desmond, C. Kelly, G. Collins; A. Murphy, E. McCarthy, M. Wilson. **Subs:** D. Twomey, A. O'Neill, E. Foley, B. Conery, S. O'Donovan.

KILKENNY (JC v Cork) — C. Ryan; E. Connery, AM Young, E. Lyng, P. Comerford, M. Lawler, E. Kinsella, E. Maher, E. Aylward; M. Ryan, D. Linnigan, J. Frisby (Capt); C. Doherty, A. Nery, M. O'Connor. **Subs:** A. Fitzpatrick, F. Dowling, U. Walton, B. Brennan.

Mellerick's final hurrah

BARRING a draw, Linda Mellerick will play her last hour of camogie on Sunday in the All-Ireland senior final against Tipperary.

The 34-year-old, who suffered a career-threatening leg injury three months ago, has won her way back to full fitness and will line out in the

Glen star Linda set to retire after All-Ireland

By **THERESE O'CALLAGHAN**
Camogie latest

starting 15 at right half-forward in the Croke Park showdown. But it will be her last time pulling on a red jersey.

The Glen Rovers player last night announced her retirement from club and county activity come the final whistle on Sunday.

Otherwise, the team remains the same as that which comprehensively beat Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. Ger Casey fills the number one berth. Joanne O'Callaghan, Eithne Duggan and Stephanie Dunlea will be fronted by Paula, Mary and Gemma O'Connor (no relation). Vivienne Harris and Elaine Burke are the

midfield pairing, while the half-forward



Linda Mellerick shows off the All-Ireland camogie trophy after their victory over Galway in 1997.

line sees Mellerick take over from Rachel Moloney.

Emer Dillon is on the 40 flanked by Jennifer O'Leary at left half-forward.

Captain Una O'Donoghue is at right corner-forward, Caoimhe Harrington at full-forward and Fiona O'Driscoll in the other corner.

While the selectors have named the strongest possible line-out, it is clear that they have put a lot of thought into trying to arrive at the correct combination.

Manager Pa Finn though, is adamant that their greatest strength lies with-

in the panel of players and not just the 15 that begin.

"It was a desperately difficult decision to name the starting team and what is a greater tragedy is telling people who have given you great service that they have not made it," he said.

"But there is still a chance there for everybody. We will be looking to our sideline as well and I think that those people are a massive addition to our quest for All-Ireland honours."

Meanwhile defending champions Tipperary will not announce their team until tomorrow.

Camogie tackles its forgotten image

by **Damien Irwin**

ALMOST a century after the Suffragettes, women are still fighting equality battles and the press night on Monday for the Cork senior camogie team highlighted the fact.

It was all so different to the Kilkenny senior hurling press night the previous week. The girls were out pucking around just like their Kilkenny counterparts, but the journalists and supporters are thin on the ground. In Kilkenny a whole stand was filled with young and old fans and the media people scrummaged around for someone to talk to.

Says coach Pa Finn: "In many respects camogie is the forgotten game of Irish sports. It would be great for Cork to win on Sunday but it would be great for camogie if it was a great game. We played Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final last year and the draw and replay were two top-class games. Hopefully Sunday can measure up."

However, Pa has seen the profile of the game improve in recent years: "Obviously televising the game live is very important. And I think also, that the lengthening and widening of the pitch was a very good move by the camogie board. Before, it was 12-a-side, small goalposts making it twice as hard to score. Fifteen-a-side has been refreshing."

But it's only one positive move in a series that will have to be made if camogie is to claim more hearts and minds. Take Sunday for instance. The

game is clashing with the Cork county final, causing potentially thousands of supporters not to travel to Croke Park and one family — the O'Connors of Newtownshandrum — to split ranks.

Eimear Dillon, Cork's centre forward, is able to compare camogie to another sport that she specialises in: hockey. Eimear is an international hockey player at U-18 level and is hoping to make the U-21 team. She has a European senior club hockey medal with Harlequins.

"I have kind of divided my time between the two games since I was in secondary school. Camogie was the game I started with but when I went to secondary school I took up hockey seriously too."

"The social scene in hockey is probably better than in camogie. After training we would go out more together than camogie. It's a social scene as well as a game. And that's good."

Juggling the two games can't be easy. "I start hockey training again next week... but there are also advantages accruing from playing camogie."

"As you know the hockey grip is like golf right hand under. But I play camogie with the regular camogie grip which is left hand under. So sometimes in the hockey I switch from the hockey grip to the camogie grip. When I do that they think I'm a bit of a wild one — maybe an advantage — some of them are afraid of me!" she laughs.

Just 18 years of age, Eimear still has time for both games and still enjoys the dual involvement. But for ace forward



Fiona O'Driscoll one game this year at times looked to be too much.

"I lost my appetite last year at the end of the season and I found myself not enjoying training, not looking forward to it. A case of: 'Do I really have to go here tonight?' My form suffered too. And I'm the kind of person who enjoys training as well as the matches so this was a very unwelcome feeling."

"So I decided to take a break for the National League after discussing it with the selectors. At the time I didn't even know if I'd come back into it."

Sound like any Kilkenny hurler you know? The next bit is roughly the same too.

"I went to the National League semi-final defeat to Limerick as a spectator and Cork didn't play well so I said

maybe I can still make a contribution here. So I discussed it with the selectors and I trained for the championship. And I won my place and more importantly my appetite back and I'm back enjoying the game again."

Whether she ends up a la DJ — having a stormer in the final — is in the lap of the gods but at least she's there to find out.

"It would be great for Cork to win on Sunday, but it would be great for camogie if it was a great game"

Pa Finn: "in many respects camogie is the forgotten game of Irish sport."

Una hopes to maintain winning sequence for Cashel captains



Brilliant full-back Una O'Dwyer will captain Tipperary in Sunday's All-Ireland final

Two years ago former Galway hurling boss and television pundit Cyril Farrell described Una O'Dwyer as one of the best hurling full backs in the country - male or female.

It was a ringing endorsement of the Cashel player who has been such a crucial component of Tipperary's amazing championship run over the past four years.

Farrell made his remark after O'Dwyer put in a stunning performance in the All-Ireland final win over Cork. Her standard hasn't slipped since with another medal added to her collection in last year's final win over Kilkenny.

Now O'Dwyer is back to tackle Cork again - but this time with an added responsibility. She has now donned the mantle of captain and hopes to become the fourth player in a row from the City of the Kings to lift the O'Duffy Cup and follow in the footsteps of Meadhbh Stokes, Jovita

Delaney and Emily Hayden.

Cashel's dominance on the club front has been rewarded with the county captaincy for the most glorious period for Tipperary camogie and O'Dwyer hopes she can maintain the winning run on Sunday.

However she is determined not to let the extra duties interfere with her number one job - keeping the Cork full forward in check.

"My first and foremost duty will be my full back role and the captaincy will just come along with it. I won't worry about it on the day but just go out to enjoy myself" says the final year food technology student at University College Cork.

The captain is quick to discount any suggestion that the same hunger doesn't exist for the Tipp team today as it did at the start of their championship run four years ago. "It is definitely there and you will see that on Sunday. In Limerick they were saying that we had lost our edge

but that is more of a motivation for us than anything else. We will answer those questions in the final".

As one of the long time superpowers of camogie, Cork have been stung more than most by Tipperary's dominance of the game in recent years with the defeat in the 2000 final and last year's semi-final defeat after two superb games still rankling.

As a result they will need no more motivation on Sunday than the sight of the blue and gold and will pose a formidable challenge to the champions. Are Tipperary worried?

"No, we respect them. We know they are good and their backline is as good as I have seen but we are not a bit afraid of them" says Una.

But it's the Cork forwards that the captain has to concentrate on most with the threat coming from such key players as Fiona O'Driscoll, Caoimhe Harrington, Una O'Donoghue and Emer Dillon.

"Cork forwards are always fast and well able to

hurl and you can see that from minor level up. They have some brilliant players but our six backs are very good as well.

We have been a unit for a good few years and hopefully we will be able for them" says the third level student who has just finished a six months work experience stint at Dairygold in Mitchelstown.

She is happy with both Tipperary's preparation for the final and her own game at the moment. "We have prepared to the best of our ability and have done everything we planned to do. Hopefully now it will just go alright on the day.

"Personally I have to keep my own performance going and obviously for me this is a big year to do it and to stay steady and stay strong".

What a boost it would be to Cashel if another local girl could return home with camogie's glittering prize.

It would also be a huge source of pride for Una's biggest fans - her mother and father, Martin and Marian, and sisters Maria, Niamh and Fiona.

Biddy savours the good times

Team selector Biddy Phillips is enjoying the present success of the Tipp team but it hasn't always been so for the Thurles woman. She has served a long apprenticeship during the lean years for Tipperary camogie.

"Six or seven years ago who would have thought that Tipp would be contesting their fourth All-Ireland final in-a-row? It's absolutely brilliant and I think it's great that all the players have worked their way up from minor level and didn't just come in at senior level", she remarks.

She recalls the difficult

years without any great affection - "When Tipp were relegated in 1984 it was the leanest time from that up to the early 1990s when we won the junior All-Ireland. We were fulfilling county games for the sake of fulfilling them.

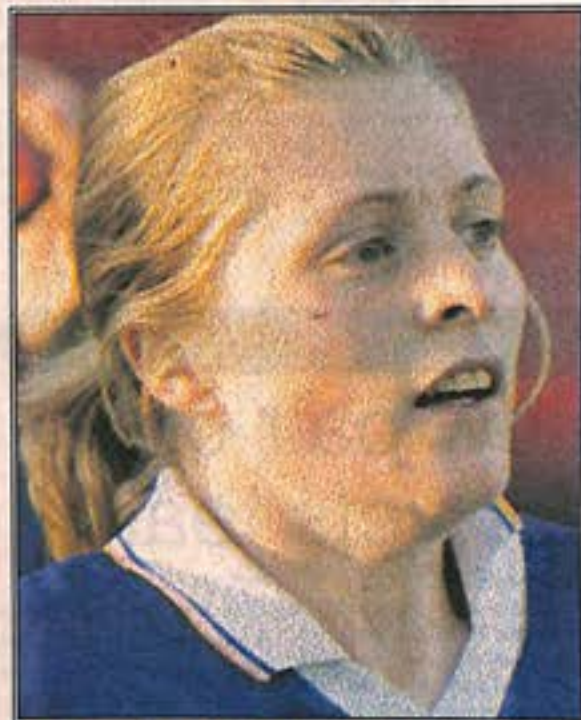
"It was that bad but it's great now to see what has been done from underage up. A lot of work was done at minor level in the early 90s which helped improve things and we won two or three minor titles. All that team have progressed to junior, intermediate and senior.

"Then we had the change to fifteen aside teams and the arrival of Michael Cleary and

things improved further".

Biddy has no doubts about the challenge facing Tipp in the final. "Cork will be strong. They are still probably sore over the 2000 final defeat and it's very hard to keep Cork down. I have always been a great lover of Cork camogie, their speed, skill and workrate is brilliant but I still think we are going to have the upperhand

"It will be a good game, a cracker. Last year's semi-final was a great game but I think the replay was the best camogie match I have ever seen in my life. Hopefully it will be a good match again on Sunday but that we will come out as winners".



Paula Bulfin has developed into one of Tipperary's most consistent defenders



Una O'Dwyer & Suzanne Kelly

THE FINAL JOURNEY TIPPERARY

beat Dublin 2-17 to 0-6
beat Wexford 7-15 to 0-10
beat Kilkenny 1-11 to 0-6

Total scores for -10-43; Against - 0-22

CORK

beat Limerick 4-19 to 1-6
beat Antrim 7-12 to 1-8
beat Galway 4-12 to 0-5

Total scores for - 15-43 Against - 2-19



Sinead Nealon: part of a staunch Tipperary half-back line.
- Photograph: Cyril Byrne

Schoolgirl Claire can teach Cork a lesson

Cashel schoolgirl Claire Grogan has just started the most important year of her secondary education, moving into the Leaving Certificate class at Cashel Community School.

For most girls of her age that would be enough to concentrate the mind. However Claire has a major distraction this week-end — an All-Ireland final when she hopes to pick up her third senior medal at the tender age of sixteen.

A precocious talent at underage, her introduction to the senior team came as a substitute in the 2000 All Ireland semi-final against Galway, retaining her place for the final against Cork and she has since developed into one of the most feared forwards in the game.

The threat to opposing defences from players such as Deirdre Hughes and Noelle Kennedy has long been known but now the name of Claire Grogan can be added to that list. With Hughes and Emer McDonnell she makes up a Tipp full forward line that could have a huge bearing on Sunday's outcome.

She recalls her introduction to the team as reigning All-Ireland champions. "The first year I was brought in I was told it was for the experience but as the year progressed I did well in training. I was lucky enough as I got a run in the semi-final which helped me along and I managed to get my place after that. It was great to be part of such a talented team".

And yet her high profile and the huge occasion that are Croke Park finals doesn't faze the Cashel schoolgirl who is eagerly looking forward to Sunday.

"It will be a mighty challenge but training has gone well and hopefully everyone will be one hundred per cent fit. Cork will present a huge challenge but I think we will be able for it but everyone will have to play well on the day" she said at training in Semple Stadium last week.

Claire doesn't read too much into the semi-final performances of both Tipperary and Cork with both winning easily in the end against disappointing performances from Kilkenny and Galway respectively.

"Maybe the teams they played against on the day weren't up to scratch and it's hard to make a judgement on the final on those two games. Both teams had



Tipperary will be looking to teenage sensation Claire Grogan to unlock the Cork defence.

comprehensive wins but it would be wrong to read too much into those" she believes.

Grogan is well aware that the champions will face a much more severe test against a Cork side itching to regain camogie's top spot. And she accepts that she will be one of the Tipp players that the Cork defenders will be told to keep a close watch on for the hour.

"It will just be like everyday that we go out. As a corner forward I am going to be closely marked anyway so basically I'll go out and try to play my own game and take the game to them rather than wait for them to come to me" she remarks.

Despite her tender years Claire doesn't feel under any extra pressure as one of the Tipp players most is expected from in the final. "You have to feel you are going to score whenever you take the field and I am feeling sharp enough at the moment. It's a nice way to feel and I don't have any injury worries either. I would hope to go out and score the crucial goal".

If she does she will be quick to acknowledge the contribution of her more senior colleagues. "Since I have come into the senior team Deirdre Hughes has always been the player beside me with Emer McDonnell in the other corner.

"It's great that the three of us have been together for so

long. We know each other's game. If Emer has the ball in the far corner I know she'll either go for her own score or swing it across."

Claire Grogan is part of a growing Cashel presence in the team which must prove a help to a young player coming in. She had five club colleagues with her on the field when they beat Kilkenny in the semi-final.

"It keeps us going and people often joke that when we are club training it is like county training. It's great to have girls from the same club together and to be all part of a big family".

The young Cashel girl is impressed with manager Michael Cleary and his training methods that reaped such dividends for the team. She says — "We train hard and he knows the right time to step up the pace. He expects quite a bit from us but so he should."

Now with the training wound down, Sunday cannot come too soon for Claire. "I cannot wait. Being in school will be a distraction for me for this week as the final approaches".

And one moment in last Thursday night's session might prove an omen for Sunday. With a brisk training session winding down, Michael Cleary called for a goal to finish off. And who took up the challenge with a great score — none other than Claire Grogan who might repeat the feat on Sunday if the need arises.

Cork contesting two All-Ireland finals

By Mary Newman

The focus is very much on Croke Park and next Sunday's All Ireland camogie finals.

Cork are the holders of six All-Ireland junior titles, while it is remarkable that, despite the strength of the game in Kilkenny, the county has yet to take a junior title. In fact, it is a first-time appearance in a

junior decider for the Kilkenny girls.

Earlier in the season, a huge emphasis was placed on the senior and junior teams in the county with both preparing together. Several of the players who lined out in Kilkenny's senior championship semi-final outing against Tipperary are eligible for Sunday's final and a look at their team shows a very strong side.

Behind the scenes, Kilkenny are managed by Sean Warren who is joined by selectors former All Ireland senior captain Ann Downey and Dick Frisby. Jackie Frisby will captain the side, which includes Aoife Neary, Edel Maher and Catherine Doherty. Kilkenny defeated Galway in their semi-final outing, having defeated a strong Offaly side to take the Leinster title.

With the focus very much on re-building, Kilkenny are determined to take their first junior title. Cork recorded a good victory over Derry in their semi-final outing. The Cork side showed plenty of fire in a game that was a tough physical one. Liz Sweetnam, at full back, has been magnificent all season, former All-Ireland winning minor captain Niamh Bowles, Catriona Foley and captain Nora Ahern form a solid half back line, while up front Catriona Kelly's contribution both from play and place ball has been a major asset.

Marie Watson and Emer O'Farrell have been lively in attack and if they can stamp their authority over the Kilkenny defence from the start, Cork should be in with a big chance of getting the day off to the perfect start.

The senior final is without doubt the dream final and one which has been awaited since the sides last clashed in a decider in 2000. On that day, Tipperary took their second title and now they are in quest of four-in-a-row. Last season the sides met at semi-final stage with Tipperary grabbing an equalising point with the last puck of the game three minutes into injury time. In the replay, Cork never regained the momentum and Tipp ran out easy winners. Since then, they have met twice with Cork coming

out on top in league and Munster games, but on both occasions one sensed a lack of interest on Tipperary's behalf.

That will not be the case on Sunday as they strive to join Dublin, Kilkenny and Cork as the only sides who have done four-in-a-row.

Minor Clare Grogan is already the holder of three All-Ireland senior medals and if as expected she lines out at right corner forward she will find the going tough against Stephanie Dunlea who is having a magnificent season for Cork. This is another area where Cork will need to be on top.

Up front, Fiona O'Driscoll caused all sort of problems for the Galway defence as Cork advanced in the semi-final and this year O'Driscoll has a new buzz about her play, her determination to succeed is tremendous and it certainly has helped the younger members of the side, amongst whom Gemma O'Connor, Joanne O'Callaghan and Emer Dillon will be appearing in the first senior final. Linda Mellerick makes her return in the half forward line following a leg injury and her return will add valuable experience to the Cork attack.

Cork coach Pa Finn is looking forward to the final and says his team are in with a great chance. "We are very determined to succeed and hopefully on the day it will come right for us. Tipp are the champions but we are very focussed and hope to end their reign as champions."



Silver Jubilee team;

The past number of years has seen the introduction of the Silver Jubilee team and this year it is the turn of Kilkenny, who with Angela Downey as captain took the O'Duffy cup down Monncoin country when they defeated Wexford 3-04 to Wexford's 1-03 back in 1977.

Playing along Angela that day was her twin Ann, and also Mary Fennelly who later went on to become Uachtarán of Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael. This is a day surely that all camogie players should not miss. With family concessions and school concessions available it is all the more reason why people should be in headquarters that day.

KILLMACUD SEVENS

The All-Ireland final is never complete without a visit to the Killmacud Crokes Seven's the previous day. The experienced committee comprising of Sean Flynn, Brenda Keogh, Anne Halpin and Tom Drennan are preparing for another great day with last year's winners Pearses of Galway expected to make a good stab at retaining the Corn de Burca Trophy.

This will be the 29th year of the Camogie Sevens and during that period the Ardkeen club of Waterford have never missed one year. While they may never have won the big honours, they surely have the right spirit of participating.

All-Ireland senior camogie final

Cork to provide toughest test yet as Tipperary go for four in-a-row

Dublin, Cork and Kilkenny may lead the roll of honour for senior camogie championship wins but that's a record for the history books. All three counties are now more intent on trying to recover lost glories and standing in their path is Tipperary.

Only Cork are left with the chance this year to dethrone the champions and their latest opportunity comes on Sunday when they tackle Tipperary in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland final at Croke Park at 4.30 pm.

Tipperary are going for four in a row titles – an incredible achievement for a county that languished in the camogie wilderness for so long. A win on Sunday would not be unique in the game. Sunday's rivals Cork achieved four in a row between 1970 and '73; Kilkenny put seven back to back during a glorious period from 1985 to '91 while no county can surpass the achievement of the Dubs with a phenomenal ten in a row from 1957 to '66.

These are statistics that



Manager Michael Cleary has demanded that little bit extra from his team against Cork

all three counties can be justifiably proud of but all relate to bygone days – it is Tipperary who hold the O'Duffy Cup and have done since 1999.

Both Dublin and Kilkenny had opportunities to redress the imbalance earlier in the season and failed – on Sunday Cork will provide the sternest test of all to restore the camogie hierarchy to what they would consider to be its proper order.

Tipperary not only upset the apple cart with their first ever win in '99 – they have kept it in turmoil with further victories in 2000 and 2001 and are now on the verge of another milestone on Sunday.

And perhaps Cork more than any other county are reluctant to accept Tipp's supremacy. The Rebels amassed nineteen titles while Tipp were trying to win their first but since Tipp have taken over the top spot, Cork have twice failed in their attempt to wrestle back the initiative.

They failed to stop Tipperary retaining their title in the 2000 final and last year went out to the champions at the semi-final stage following two titanic games that brought camogie to a new level.

Tipperary manager Michael Cleary now expects nothing less from them as they bid to make it third time lucky against their Munster rivals. "Cork are a great team,

There is nothing between them and Tipp, not a weak link on either side and whoever gets the breaks will win" he remarks.

On route to their fourth successive final, Tipperary have beaten Dublin (2-17 to 0-4); Wexford (7-15 to 0-10) and Kilkenny in the semi-final (1-11 to 0-6). Cork had equally big wins over Limerick, Antrim and Galway.

"I have been happy with the performances to date", says Cleary. The Dublin win was too comprehensive to give any guideline to Tipp's state of health but the performance against Wexford was more illuminating.

Says the manager – "Last year we beat Wexford by seven points and we had two lucky goals. This year they might not have been as good but we were super and gave a top class performance".

The semi-final against Kilkenny was a more severe test but Tipp came through with flying colours. "It was not a pretty game, very physical and a dour contest and I was very happy to get over it. We had the team ready for any physical challenge they might meet and they were able for it" says the Nenagh man who has helped bring camogie in Tipperary to a new plain.

Now he wants even more from his team. "We will need that little bit extra against Cork. They are an

excellent team and will be highly motivated as they are hurt by being out of the limelight for so long. Cork won't flop on the day".

Because it is Cork, Cleary's adrenalin is pumping more. "Playing Cork in the final in Croke Park is a great challenge. I am really excited about this game and looking forward to it more than in other years".

But he is not talking about four in a row, records or history books. "We are totally focused on the game alone. We want to win it first, beat Cork and the records can be considered later", he states.

And if that's how the manager feels you can be certain that it is also the philosophy of his team.

They have already rewritten the history books and anything from here on is just further embellishment. Not one question can be raised about the team's character – they have answered everything, from the first nerve-wrecking final win against Kilkenny three years ago, achieving another milestone against Cork the following year, coming back from the brink in last year's semi-final to deny Cork again and then annihilating Kilkenny in the final.

In doing so they have produced some of the game's outstanding exponents of the modern era – Jovita Delaney has brought the goalkeeping art to new heights, exemplified by her performance in the 2000 final; Una O'Dwyer has been fashioned from the traditional mould of Tipperary fullbacks, tough, brave and skilful; Ciara Gaynor and Sinead Nealon have added a

new chapter to the story of two of the county's most famous hurling families; Angie McDermott provides the spark in midfield that could ignite any team while flame-haired Deirdre Hughes has long since established her credentials as a goal poacher par excellence.

Anyone could be a match winner as could teenage sensation Claire Grogan; the hugely industrious Philly Fogarty; the always reliable Emer McDonnell or the vastly improved Joanne Ryan who made such an impact when sprung from the bench against Kilkenny.

On Sunday they will all need to be at their best against a Cork side haunted by the prospect of losing to Tipp three years in a row. It is not just Cork's pedigree that must be respected as they chase a twentieth title; it is their performance to date in the championship which alone can rival Tipp's.

But the champions fear no one. They have shown they can win from the front or coming from behind. They can win dour, physical struggles or come out on top in classic hurling encounters. They are as comfortable playing Cork or Kilkenny as they are Antrim or Down.

They are rock solid in the pivotal areas in defence with Una O'Dwyer and Ciara Gaynor favourites to win their personal duels and Paula Bulfin, Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon and Therese Brophy all playing with great conviction.

If this unit can contain the dangerous Cork attack then



Cashel's Philly Fogarty has been a dynamo in the Tipp team for many years

Reports:
Michael Heverin
Pictures:
John Kelly

Tipperary have the players at the other end to cause serious damage. Deirdre Hughes, Noelle Kennedy, Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty and Emer McDonnell have all shone on the big stage before and with Angie McDermott supplying the ammunition from midfield, the fourth in a row is there to be won.

Margaret lauds Tipp's 'awesome' standard

The success of the Tipp team in recent years has seen a surge of interest for camogie in the county, according to County Camogie Board chairwoman Margaret Skehan.

The number of clubs in the county has now grown to twenty nine and more and more girls are taking up the sport at an earlier age which is important for the game's growth.

A physical education teacher at Cashel Community School, Margaret has taught most of the Cashel members of the team.

"It is an added bonus for me to be chairwoman this year but a lot of people have put in a lot of work over many years. We have the fruits of the labour now", she says.

Margaret pays tribute to the present panel for the amount of work they have put in to their success and says how fortunate it is for Tipp that all their talents have blossomed together. Coupled with the input of manager Michael Cleary it has made for a winning combination.

She dismisses any sug-



County Camogie Board chairwoman Margaret Skehan says Tipp's success has been a huge boost to the game in the county

gestion that Tipp's hunger is diminishing. "We certainly don't want to let our success go. Anyone talking to the players, mentors or county board members know that isn't the case. The hunger is still there.

"It would be a huge achievement for us now to win four in a row. The sustained training and sustained level of competition that this panel has kept up for the past four years is incredible. It's awesome to consider that we have maintained this standard for so long" she adds.

Another final fling for Cats

KILKENNY will have their third All-Ireland final in seven days when the county's junior camogie side take on Cork in Croke Park on Sunday.

The girls will be hoping to make it a hat-trick for the county, after the senior and minor hurlers captured national titles on Sunday.

The Cats booked their place in the final with victories over Louth, Laois, Dublin, Offaly, London and Galway.

Top scorer for Kilkenny is James Stephens star Aoife Neary with 8 goals and 32 points. Other scorers are: Catherine Doherty (4-18), Marie Ryan (5-10), Marie O'Connor (4-6), Jacqui Frisby (3-4), Pauline Comerford (1-9), Dolores Lanigan (2-4), Mairead Lawlor (2-1), Elaine Aylward (1-3), Edel Maher (0-5), Aoife Fitzpatrick (1-1), Linda Cottrell (1-0) and Bronagh Neary (0-1).

The panel

Caitriona Ryan (19) This is her third year on the Kilkenny junior team and has represented Kilkenny at minor, junior and senior level. She was Kilkenny's goalkeeper in last year's All-Ireland senior final.

Eimear Connery (24) Eimear has played for Kilkenny at underage level and with the junior team. She won the county senior championship with St Lachtain's from 1998 to 2001. Eimear's mother played senior camogie with both Kilkenny and Cork. Her brother, Ciarán, won minor and U-21 All-Ireland medals.

Anna Marie Young (21) Has seen action with Kilkenny at senior and junior levels and won a county senior title with her club, St Brigid's. She has also won Leinster colleges and Ashbourne Cup medals, as well as county titles at U-14, 16 and 21 level.

Eimear Lyng (20) Has represented Kilkenny at all underage levels and was a member of the Leinster Interprovincial junior team last year. She holds Leinster medals at U-14, 16, 18, and junior levels. Her dad, Michael Lyng, played senior hurling for Kilkenny and won All-Ireland medals at minor and U-21 levels, while her mother, May, played camogie with Wexford.

Pauline Comerford (22) Has represented Kilkenny at senior level and has a Leinster senior medal to her credit. Plays with Graigue Ballycallan, who won the senior county championship this year.

Mairead Lawlor (18) This is her third year representing Kilkenny at junior level. She has already played for her county at minor and senior level. Her father, Mick, won a senior hurling All-Ireland with Kilkenny.

Keira Kinahan (18) Keira is in her third term with Kilkenny junior team and has represented Kilkenny at U-14, U-16, U-18, junior and senior level. She has seen great success on the camogie field.

Edel Maher (17) Has represented Kilkenny at underage level as well as Senior, Junior and Minor. Edel represented Leinster at junior level last year and was awarded the Gael Linn Junior player of the tournament.

Elaine Aylward (17) This is her first year on the junior side but she has already represented Kilkenny at U-16, U-18 and senior level. She won a colleges senior All-Ireland 'B' championship with Mercy Convent, Waterford, earlier this year.

Marie Ryan (15) Sister of goalkeeper Caitriona, she is representing Kilkenny at this level for the first time. The holder of Leinster minor and junior medals as well as U-21 and intermediate club titles, Marie is the youngest player on the team.

Dolores Lanigan (27) Plays with the Tullogher club. Has represented Kilkenny at minor and junior level.

Jacqui Frisby (17) Team captain Jacqui has also won county medals at U-14, 16 and 18 level as well as minor and junior titles, as well as a country cup medal with her primary school's boys' hurling team. Has played camogie with Kilkenny at every level from U-14 to senior. Her father Dick is treasurer of the Camogie Board and is a selector. Her cousin, Tom Frisby, was a member of the Kilkenny minor hurling on Sunday.

Catherine Doherty (20) Has played for her county at senior, junior, U-14, U-16 and U-18. Her family is steeped in hurling tradition. Brothers Niall and Noel played minor and intermediate hurling for Kilkenny, while her late uncle Joe Doherty played senior hurling for the county. Her father Seán is a leading figure with Galway.

Aoife Neary (17) Played in the senior All-Ireland final last year and has also represented Kilkenny at underage level. Her father Paddy played senior hurling for Kilkenny, won All-Ireland Club titles with James Stephens and is a senior intercounty hurling referee.

Marie O'Connor (18) Marie is in her third term on Kilkenny juniors and has already played for Kilkenny at senior, junior, U-18, minor and U-14 level. Her aunt Bridie McGarry won a number of All-Ireland titles with Kilkenny while her brother Ollie is one of Kilkenny's most accurate hurlers.

Aoife Fitzpatrick (17) Has played at senior, minor and junior level for Kilkenny. Has won ten county juvenile medals, three senior county titles, one Leinster senior club title, one junior and two senior colleges titles.



Kilkenny Junior Camogie Team . . . Back row (from left): Sean Warren (Manager), Aoife Neary, Pauline Comerford, Bronagh Neary, Edel Maher, Elaine Aylward, Laura Comerford, Keira Kinahan, Louise Rafter, Caitriona Ryan, Ann Marie Young. Middle row (from left): Marie Therese Doherty, Mairead Lawlor, Fran Shore, Liz Dempsey, Fiona Dowling, Emer Lyng, Catherine Doherty, Bridget Grennan, Nora Sutton, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Louise Hogan. Front row (from left): Andrea Murphy, Aoife Treacy, Marie O'Connor, Jackie Frisby (captain), Eileen Fitzpatrick, Ailish Kenneally, Dolores Lanigan, Marie Ryan. Missing from photo: Ursula Walton and Emer Connery.

kenny. Has won ten county juvenile medals, three senior county titles, one Leinster senior club title, one junior and two senior colleges titles.

Fiona Dowling (18) Has played at U-14, U-18, minor, junior and senior levels. Won two Leinster titles at U-14, U-16 and U-18 levels with Kilkenny.

Ursula Walton (24) Ursula has represented Kilkenny at junior and senior level. Holder of Kilkenny senior medals for 1995 and 2002, she also has won two U-21 titles. Her father won a Leinster minor medal with Kilkenny, while her uncle Mick Crotty won three senior All-Irelands and All Stars with the county.

Bridget Grennan (20) Has seen action with Kilkenny at senior and junior levels. Bridget is the holder of a Leinster junior medal, Ashbourne Cup and county U-12, U-16 and intermediate medals.

Nora Sutton (22) Currently in her fourth year on the Kilkenny junior team, Nora also represented Kilkenny in this

year's senior league. Nora is also physio at Kilkenny City FC.

Eileen Fitzpatrick (15) Sister of Aoife. Has won many camogie titles, including ten county juvenile medals, Leinster medals at U-14 to U-18 level and two colleges senior Leinster medals.

Laura Comerford (19) Laura has represented Kilkenny at U-14, minor and U-18 level. She has two Leinster medals at each of these grades, as well as two Leinster seven-a-side titles.

Marie Therese Doherty (18) This is Marie Therese's first year playing at this level but she has seen camogie action with Kilkenny on minor and U-14 sides. She holds county medals at junior, intermediate and U-13 level and Leinster medals at U-14 and U-16.

Fran Shore (25) This is Fran's first term on the Kilkenny junior side, but she has played with Kilkenny at U-14, minor and senior levels. Fran is the holder of a Leinster U-14 medal, a senior All-Ireland,

three county senior medals, two Leinster club medals and one All-Ireland club medal.

Liz Dempsey (24) She has played at minor, junior and senior level for Kilkenny. Won an intermediate club title in 1999. Her father Paddy won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal with Kilkenny.

Bronagh Neary (19) Played a starring role for Graigue Ballycallan in this year's senior county final, and has represented Kilkenny at minor, junior and senior levels. As well as an All-Ireland colleges medal, Bronagh has two county senior, U-21 and U-18 titles and Leinster under U-14, U-16 and U-18 medals.

Aoife Treacy (19) This is her first year on the Kilkenny junior team, although she has already represented the county at minor, U-18 and U-14 levels. Aoife has won five Leinster medals with Kilkenny, as well as a senior colleges All-Ireland as captain of St Brigid's (Callan).

Louise Rafter (17) Louise has repre-

sented Kilkenny at minor and junior level. Louise has won U-14, U-16 and U-18 county titles, as well junior colleges title.

Louise Hogan (18) This is her first time representing Kilkenny at this level, but Louise figured in last year's senior county final.

Andrea Murphy (22) Has represented Kilkenny in junior and senior league games. Won the senior county championship with her club, and has five underage county titles and a Leinster junior medal. Andrea's great-grandfather Tom Murphy holds the record for the long puck.

Ailish Kenneally (18) Has represented Kilkenny at U-14, U-16, U-18 and junior. She is the holder of a senior Colleges All-Ireland, three Leinster Colleges, five Leinster juvenile titles, one Leinster junior title and an U-12 county title. Her mother Eileen Kenneally was a noted camogie player.

Grit is half the battle — Marion

BEEN THERE. Done that. That could well be the cry from selector Marion McCarthy.

Generally acknowledged as Seanie's sister from Ballinhassig, Marion can well and truly stand on her own two feet.

The holder of a massive eight All-Ireland senior medals, she is more qualified than anybody to call the shots on Sunday.

She exudes warmth and natural openness. Her preferred role will be in the background. But along with fellow selectors Lillian Zinkant and Ollie Hallihane they have found the winning combination.

"The girls have trained very hard all year. When you have the players who are willing to put in the effort, it is half the battle for us.

"We have a great panel. In fact it was very difficult to pick the 15 for the final because all the girls have been playing so well all year.

"We have brought Catriona Foley on to the starting line out. She was very impressive in a few challenge matches and we felt that we had to give her the break.

"The only other alteration involves the return of Jennifer Brown at corner-back. She missed the semi-final through injury."

Does McCarthy see many changes in the game today?

"When I was playing it was nearly always Cork and Kilkenny. The Downys made it very hard for us then.

"But I think the standard has evened out somewhat and today matches are there for the taking.

"It is on the day and therefore it is up to whoever focuses the best and has the greater appetite for victory.

"That will be the case on Sunday. We are well capable of beating Kilkenny, but only if we give it everything and play to our maximum potential."

McCarthy won the first of her All-Ireland medals as a sub in 1970 and in '71, '72 and '73 she played at midfield for the Rebels. When Cork returned to the winner's enclosure in '76, she served as goalkeeper, and continued as custodian in the '80, '82 and '83 finals.



The sun sets as the Cork junior team trains at Páirc Uí Rinn.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

A born leader



Marian Jagoe training at Páirc Uí Rinn for next Sunday's All-Ireland junior final.

IT IS press night in Páirc Uí Rinn and naturally enough most of the attention spirals towards the senior team.

But down in the other half of the pitch the junior team quietly go through their paces as they come to the end of their build-up to Sunday's All-Ireland final against Kilkenny.

Nora Ahern politely finishes

pucking the sliotar and immediately starts talking about the great honour it is to be part of the double-take in GAA headquarters.

Captain Nora is from the Fr O'Neill's club and would love to make her first game in Croke Park a winning one.

"This will be my first time playing there. I was a sub in 1997 but I know everything has changed so much since then.

"In fact we are going to the stadium on Saturday to have a look around and get our bearings.

"It is great to be captain, especially when you get to an All-Ireland final.



Sports Writer

Therese O'Callaghan

It is something I would dream of and to lift the cup would be just unbelievable."

These are times that Ahern has lived for.

Generally regarded as one of the finest centre-backs in the county she says that they will dwell on their own performance and not bother too much about the Cats' tam.

"Kilkenny are strong and fast, but we will stick to our own game plan.

"Let them worry about us. I have great belief in my own team. We are very strong and have worked a lot on our backline and have proved so far in the championship that we are able to hold any forwards that come our way.

"At midfield we have two very hard workers in Emer O'Farrell

and Val O'Keefe who, as well as defending, are also capable of taking their scores."

But Ahern has no hesitation in saying that the winning and losing of this All-Ireland final rests with their forward line.

"The key to winning is in our attack. Hopefully they will have the game of their lives on Sunday. They all have unbelievable individual skill — what we need is for them to do it collectively. We will have to take as much scores as possible."

This number six will push herself to the limit. Directly behind her filling the full-back slot is friend and club mate Liz Sweetnam.

"We have a great understanding. It is such a fillip to have Liz behind me because she is in top form and is having a marvellous season. "When she is coming out from the backs she knows where I am and I know what she is going to do."

Ahern has heart and character in abundance.

On Sunday she will be driven by the huge belief she holds in the Cork cause.

Tipperary look to half backs for victory

All-Ireland Final



Cork v Tipperary

Croke Park, tomorrow, 4.30
On Television: Network 2

By Pat Roche

TIPPERARY will be attempting to join camogie's elite four-in-a-row club when they take on the formidable challenge of Cork in the All-Ireland senior championship decider in Croke Park tomorrow.

The four-in-a-row factor does not put Michael Cleary's team under additional pressure. Cleary, a former Tipperary forward, says: "Our policy has been to take it match by match, not only this year but since our first successful championship campaign back in 1999. We focus on the business in hand and nothing else."

A settled panel of players — Sunday's starting line-up shows only one change from last year's side — and an equally settled backroom team (the same as that in 1999) are vital components in Tipperary's winning formula.

Tipperary may, however, in contrast to other years, have to start as underdogs if league form is to be taken into account, but Cleary rejects the notion that this will be significant.

"We were never a league-loving team. Our primary aim is the championship. It's difficult to always have a full-strength side during the league campaign, what with exams and other considerations."

The Tipperary boss feels successive defeats by Cork this year in the league and Munster semi-final will have no bearing on tomorrow's game. "They beat us by two points in both cases but I would wager that if we were to play 10 times the result would be 5-5. We are that closely matched."

If Cork are to win the O'Duffy Cup for the first time since 1998, they must first find a way around Tipperary's staunch half-back trio of Sinéad Nealon, Ciara Gaynor and Terese Brophy. By the same token, Tipperary will have a major task in coping with the attacking skills of Cork's Fiona O'Driscoll, who has notched 5-17 so far in this year's series.

Emer Dillon, Jenny O'Leary and Caoimhe Harrington are also poised to enhance Cork's scoring rate. But the most onerous of defensive tasks is bound to rest on the shoulders of Cork full back Eithne Duggan, who has the unenviable job of watching the most dangerous Tipperary forward of all in Deirdre Hughes.

Tipperary's half-back trio look capable of laying the foundations for a narrow win.

Early arrivals at headquarters should be well rewarded by what promises to be a close Junior final between Cork and Kilkenny.

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney, P. Balfin, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, S. Kelly, A. McDermott, P. Fogarty, N. Kennedy, J. Ryan, E. McDonnell, D. Hughes, C. Grogan. **Substitutes:** L. Ryan, F. Hayden, L. Young, S. Howard, T. O'Halloran.

CORK: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, E. Duggan, S. Dunlea, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor, V. Harris, E. Burke, L. Mullen, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, U. O'Donoghue, C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll. **Substitutes:** A. Murray, R. Moloney, S. Hayes, O. O'Sullivan, D. Cronin.

JUNIOR FINAL

CORK: E. Clifford, J. Brown, L. Sweetnam, N. Bowles, C. Foley, N. Ahearn, M. Holland, V. O'Keefe, V. O'Farrell, C. Desmond, C. Kelly, G. Collins, A. Murphy, E. McCarthy, M. Watson. **Substitutes:** D. Twomey, A. O'Neill, E. Foley, B. Corkery, S. O'Donovan.

KILKENNY: C. Ryan, E. Conneely, A. Young, E. Lyng, P. Comerford, M. Lawlor, K. Kinsman, E. Maher, E. Aylward, M. Ryan, D. Langan, J. Frisby, C. Doherty, A. Neely, M. O'Connor. **Substitutes:** A. Fitzpatrick, F. Dowling, U. Walton, B. Grennan, N. Sutton.

All Ireland Final Fever Hits Ballygarvan Camogie Club

BALLYGARVAN CAMOGIE NEWS

Ballygarvan Camogie club will be well represented in Croke Park on Sunday next when the Cork Junior Team take on Kilkenny and the senior team are pitted against four in a row hopefuls Tipperary. In fact, for one of the smallest clubs in the county, it will have the largest representation of any club in Croke Park on Sunday. Ollie Hallahan, who trains and is a selector on the Cork Junior team, has made a massive contribution to camogie in Ballygarvan over the past number of years. Representing the club on the junior team will be Catriona Kelly, Jennifer Brown, Aileen O'Neill,

Amanda Murphy and Sarah O'Donovan. Our representative on the senior team will be Emer Dillon. It will be a tremendous occasion for our club to have seven people involved in the national camogie showpiece. Both teams will start as underdogs. Kilkenny, with some of their senior team re-graded, will be formidable opponents but Cork have shown good form all through the year and with a bit of luck should carry the day. Tipperary who are going for four in a row will also be very difficult to beat and Cork will have to be at their very best if they are to replace them as all Ireland champions. What-



Pictured (left to right) Suzanne Lynch, Valerie Brown, Caoimhe Dillon and Devinia O'Mahony who represented Ballygarvan on the Cork U14 Schools team.

ever happens it will be a tremendous day for Ballygarvan Camogie Club and the many members and supporters who are travel-

ling to Croke Park on Sunday next. The Ballygarvan Camogie Club would like to wish Ollie and the girls every

good luck on the day and hope that victory will come to both teams. The bus will leave Ballygarvan at 8am sharp on Sunday morning.



Pictured from (l-r) Ollie Hallahan, Trainer of the Cork Junior Camogie team with players Amanda Murphy, Aileen O'Neill, Catriona Kelly, Sarah O'Donovan and Jennifer Brown who will represent the club on the Cork Junior team in Croke Park.



Emer Dillon, who lines out at Centre Forward on the Cork Senior Camogie team in the All Ireland final in Croke Park.

Leaside double in Croke Park

They may lack the hype and crowd that is associated with the hurling and football finals, but that will in no way lessen the importance of Sunday's Foras na Gaeilge Camogie deciders in which Cork are doubly involved.

Kilkenny provide the opposition in Junior, while four-in-a-row seeking Tipperary stand between Cork and a 21st title.

It's been a frustrating few years at Senior level for Cork, because despite their best efforts and a couple of league titles they failed to win the one that really counts - the O'Duffy Cup. For some of Sunday's team, it may represent the last chance.

Cork have impressed in reaching the final and Limerick, Antrim and Galway were dispatched with the minimum of fuss. While some will argue that the opposition was poor, that has nothing to do with Cork.

Pa Finn and Jim McCarthy have prepared the team well and are confident of victory, provided they can perform to their full potential.

Linda Mellerick (who contrary to reports elsewhere will play with her club Glen Rvs next year), missed the opening round but returns after injury and with experienced players like Fiona O'Driscoll, Mary O'Connor and Stephanie Dunlea also in good form, the back room team's optimism is justified. However this will be a huge test as Tipperary have proved themselves to be a superb team over the last three years, with strength and quality in every line.

They may not have been that impressive in their semi-final win over

Kilkenny, but by the same token they were always in control which is a good sign in any team.

The key to the game will be the battle between the respective half lines. Tipp's main moves start with Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor and Suzanne Kelly, and Cork's trio of Linda Mellerick, Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary will need to apply pressure, thus preventing quality ball reaching their attack.

Equally important is how Cork can contain Tipp's half forwards, especially Noelle Kennedy and Phil Fogarty whose ability to shoot points from any angle is a vital part of their game plan.

To this end the Cork trio of O'Connors, Paula, Mary and Jemma, no relation, are crucial - if they can curb this threat, much of the punch will be removed from Tipp's attack, and while inside Deirdre Hughes and Emer McDonnell are dangerous, Cork's defence all year has been excellent.

Stephanie Dunlea, and Eithne Duggan know what's required at this level, while young Joanne O'Callaghan is an accomplished performer and looks capable of containing the lively Claire Grogan.

Viv Harris, team captain Una O'Donoghue, Jennifer O'Leary, Elaine Burke and the teak-tough Caoimhe Harrington also have important roles to play and it will take a committed 60 minutes from all involved if victory is to be achieved. Anything less and it could be a sombre return journey on Monday night.

Tipp are favourites and it's a sentiment few will disagree with, but favourites have been topped before, and while I think that the champions look better balanced, if Cork can get a good start they will improve as the game goes on. Any inhibitions they may have about playing in the new stadium for the first time will quickly disappear, and the result many have been craving for - a win over Tipp - could well be on the cards.

It's an equally important day for the Juniors, who face Kilkenny in their final, and while most emphasis is on the Senior tie, Cork have gone about their business in an efficient manner all year and stand an excellent chance of maintaining the county's wonderful record in this grade.

Nora Ahern is team captain and she will be joined by Elaine McCarthy, Niamh Bowles, Val O'Keefe, Maire Watson and Catriona Foley in a team that is a nice blend of youth and experience. Like their Senior counterparts, they are confident of victory.

It's Kilkenny's first ever Junior final and with a few lean years behind them they will be hoping that this team can get them back to winning ways.

Former star Ann Downey is among the selectors and they have worked hard with this squad, some of which have senior experience, including Emer Lyng, Aoife Neary, Catherine Doherty and Pauline Comerford.

Kilkenny are a bit of an unknown quantity, but any team wearing black and amber on All-Ireland final day will be hard to beat, and Cork will need to be at their best to win.

On the last occasion that the county was doubly represented on Final day, it was a case of returning empty handed, and with the All-Ireland cupboard very bare right now, a double win would act as a boost to morale within the county. We wish both teams all the best in their endeavours.

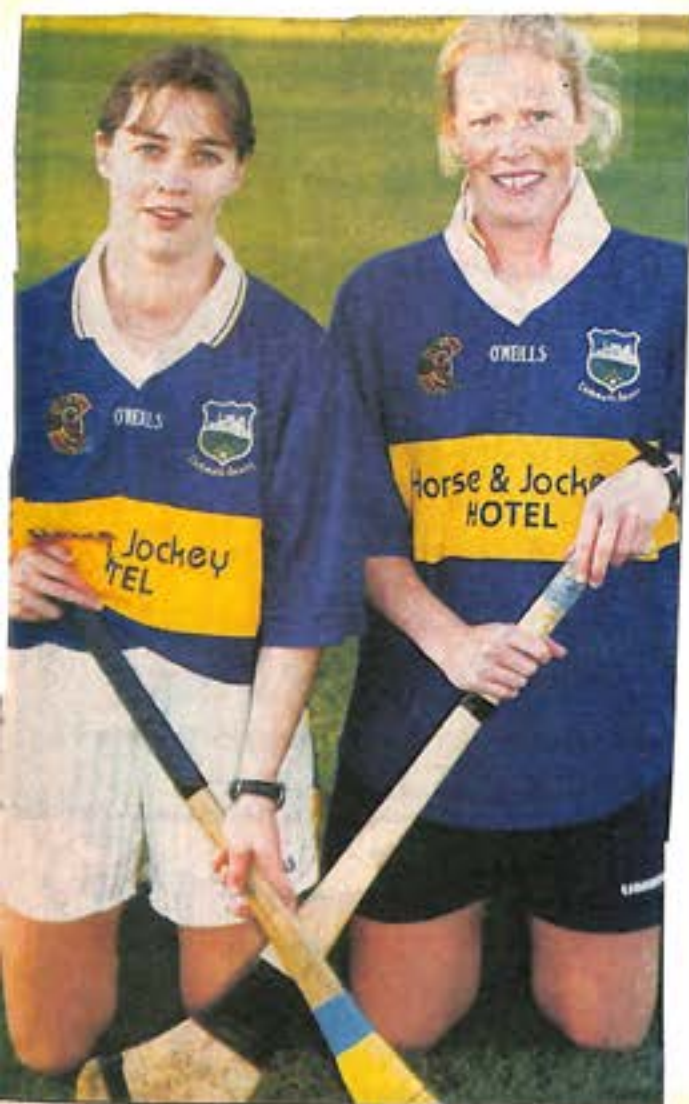
In a slight break with tradition Cork will travel early on Saturday morning as all teams will now get an opportunity to view the stadium in advance of the big games, and that will also help. Good luck!

Third time lucky for Nemo

The remarkable consistency that Nemo Rgs have shown in Intermediate Football is reflected in that Sunday's final with Newmarket will be their third successive appearance in the decider. They will be hoping to erase the memory of the two defeats inflicted on them by Youghal and Newcestown.

Despite losing several players to Senior and possibly more before they actually take the field, they will still have a strong side on duty, one that will mix youth and experience, but will be without Declan Creedon who was sent off in the last match.

Newmarket lost last year's semi-final to a three-goal burst from Newcestown so late in the game that many in the crowd were already heading for the exits, so it is somewhat ironic that a three goal burst of their



Two Tipperary camogie stars, Sinead Nealon, Burgess and Jovita Delaney from Cashel who have the distinction of being the only Tipperary players to have won All-Ireland medals in minor, junior, intermediate and senior grades. Both will be in action in Croke Park on Sunday.



Philly Fogarty in full flight.

Tipp going for 4 in a row



"The Guardian's"
tribute to the
Tipperary
Senior
Camogie
team's
historic bid



The Guardian
September 14th, 2002.

Manager cannot speak too highly of his charges commitment

by GERRY SLEVIN



Last Thursday night was the last strenuous training night for the Tipp camogie team. It was the climax of two tough weeks following the Kilkenny game and as the players trotted in to the dressing room, team manager and coach MICHAEL CLEARY could only shake his head in amazement at the attitude of his charges.

"I can tell you that ever before a ball is struck in the final, the hunger is as great if not greater than for any of the previous three finals. I can't figure out why. I admire them for it and if at the end of 2002, I was able to look back and say their hunger was gone, it would be totally acceptable, given what they have done for the past three years and more. Most of this team have won junior, intermediate and three senior All Ireland medals, so effectively, they have given ten

years of total dedication to the game of camogie and to say they are still as hungry if not hungrier is a credit to them as individuals" says Michael.

Standing out on the famed Semple Stadium sod where Michael as a hurler gave so many fine performances, it is very clear to see how enthusiastic he is about his charges. The pride he has in them oozes from his every word and when it is put to him that, perhaps he himself is a major contributory factor to the happy camogie state, he is inclined to ease back, not so much denying it but seeing it as a two-way scenario, mutual respect helping to bring about the desired results.

"We get on well together. There aren't any secret methods or anything like that. I obviously click with them as much as they do with me. We are both lucky in that regard because if that wasn't so I'd have been gone after the first year. They are a happy bunch of girls, they seem to enjoy the training and everything about it. Their commitment is comparable to any hurler. They are special and there is no doubt about it and whether they win or not on Sunday, they are still special."

He would like to think that year by year, there have been

improvements in the players game, and he qualifies that by adding that unless there is an improvement again this year, Tipp will not win the final.

"I told the girls at the start of the year that I wouldn't be interested in staying on if they had reached their peak. In such circumstances, what would have been the point of me carrying on? It would only be a matter of going back over old ground and the challenge for me was to take them that bit further still. Sunday will answer whether we did or didn't."

Looking to Cork, Michael has no hesitation whatever in describing them as a very good team. They have a number of personnel changes from last year and obviously Cork feel they are improving their team with these changes. Last year, he says, it was a toss of a coin as to who came through in the semi final, both in Mullingar and then in Limerick. It could very well be the same again this year.

He is particularly taken with the Cork half back line, the three O'Connors, Paula, Mary and Gemma but doesn't see weak links in any sector.

Yet, his aim is not so much to analyse the Cork team as to have his own charges totally focused on their own game and

perform to their optimum level.

"If we achieve that, hopefully, we will win. If we achieve it and don't win, we can have no complaints if beaten by a better team. That's my attitude, my challenge every night coming to train" says Michael.

Michael enjoys the big occasions and says that going back to the start of his own playing career he never had any interest in anything less than the big occasion and that goes back as far as his under age days. The bigger the game, the more he looked forward to it and enjoyed it and this has carried right through.

"When we play in the camogie league, quite frankly I wouldn't have much interest in it. Yet, we have to play in it and at least go through the motions. I am interested only in championship, in big games, and they don't come any bigger than Cork and this final on Sunday. But then that's just me!"

Asked if he and the team might have been better off, had they got tougher opposition than that provided by Dublin and Wexford in the opening games, Michael says that with all due respect to the other teams, when the draw is made each year, one is looking at four counties only, Cork, Galway, Kilkenny and Tipp, as being

there with a chance of winning out.

This year, when they saw the draw they remembered that last year they beat Wexford by seven points and with two lucky goals thrown in too.

This year they beat Dublin easily in a preliminary round.

"I knew that if we didn't perform Wexford would do us this year and as it turned out Tipp were absolutely awesome against Wexford. The game was as good as over after ten minutes. But it was probably one of those occasions when we hit a good day and Wexford a bad day. I still think that Wexford team will come, they beat Cork in the league, a defeat that probably kick-started Cork into action. For Kilkenny, we knew again how well prepared they were this year and while the match mightn't have looked well, it was fiercely competitive".

Tipp have done all that was asked of them so far this season but one mighty hurdle stands between them and the retention of the O'Duffy Cup. Michael Cleary knows how difficult a hurdle that will be as do his fellow mentors Biddy and Jim. So too do the players, but their combined forces will unite in one almighty engagement next Sunday, Tipperary's cause to fight, and, hopefully,

to claim the game's biggest honour for the fourth year in succession.

Post match reception

The Tipperary Association in Dublin will host a reception in the Burlington Hotel on Sunday night for the camogie team, from 8 p.m. to 2.30 a.m. There will be dinner, music and a bar extension and tickets (€35) may be had from Pat Ryan (01-8325912) evenings.

This man will always be "Sir" to Tipp's top players

by PETER GLEESON

One man who will be keeping a keen eye on Sunday's big game in Croke Park will be a Nenagh school coach who nurtured the camogie talents of many of the current Tipperary players.

Seven members of the panel got their secondary education at Saint Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh, an institution renowned for producing some of the country's top camogie players.

The man primarily responsible for that success is teacher Ger Dullea, a Corkman who has produced so much talent for Tipperary camogie in his twenty years' living and teaching in Nenagh.

People say that there is no one more loyal and ardent about his home county than a Corkman, but on this occasion Ger will be shouting for Tipp. "I would be a one hundred per cent Tipperary supporter when it comes to camogie," says Ger, though stressing that the hurling team he supports "is a different matter".

But he's a mad Tipp camogie fan, and it will not be his native Cork he will be shouting for on Sunday.

That's because his connections with the present Tipp team run deep. He was a teacher in Saint Mary's when Tipp senior players like Claire Madden, Suzanne Kelly and Noelle Kennedy first came from their rural schools to the big town school as innocent 12-year-olds.

He spotted the early promise of little First Year girls like Ciara Gaynor and Eimear McDonnell who on Sunday will occupy key positions as two grown women as Tipperary attempt to secure their fourth successive title. Tipperary players such as Sheena Howard, Lena Woods and her sister Anna - they have all known Ger Dullea as the man they will probably always remember as "Sir".

Another who has experienced his undoubted coaching and motivational skills as a player with Saint Mary's was former All Ireland player Grainne Shanahan. Many girls from the school went on to play junior camogie with Tipp and were involved in last year's All Ireland victory at that level. Inter-county junior players such as Mary Rose Ryan,

Deirdre McDonnell and Lena Woods were all coached in the school at one time or another by Ger Dullea.

Saint Mary's really hit the big time when they won two All Ireland Colleges junior titles back to back in 1991/92.

In 1994 basically the same bunch of girls, captained by Noelle Kennedy, made up the senior team that captured the

All Ireland Colleges title. Among Noelle's team mates on that memorable day were Suzanne Kelly and Ciara Gaynor.

The school got back to winning ways in 2000 when its senior team, that included Eimear McDonnell, Sheena Howard and Anna Woods, captured another All Ireland.

Ger is delighted that so many

girls from the school went on to get the opportunity to wear the blue and gold jersey of Tipperary. But he often wonders about "brilliant" school players like Ciara Burns (Nenagh), Marie Ryan (Toomevara) and Aine Hogan (Burgess). He says these three had huge potential, but for one reason or another never made it to the very top like the others who are now household names among Tipp camogie fans.

Ger, a native of Clonakilty, dabbled in hurling in his younger days but his interest in camogie only really took off when he was persuaded to coach the students of Saint Mary's shortly after starting his teaching career in the school. That one move was extremely crucial, given all that school teams have achieved in that time.

As for predicting the outcome on Sunday, Ger believes it will be a very close. "Tipp were not tested against Dublin or Wexford and Kilkenny did not give them a great test either. They didn't play that well against Kilkenny but I think they can win if they perform to their ability," he says.



'Sir' Ger Dullea from Nenagh's great nursery.

Tipperary's Camogie history

In course of preparation at present is the history of camogie in Tipperary, the joint work of GAA writer Seamus J. King, Cashel and Martin Bourke Clonmore, Templemore.

"We aim to go right back to the very beginning, 1904, but from our research so far, there doesn't seem to be much information relating to the period between 1904 and 1932 when the first County Board was established", says Martin who expects the book to be published in October/November 2003 and in time for the centenary of the Association in 2004.

Old photographs, minute books, cuttings, scrap books etc would be very welcome, Martin emphasising the care that will be taken of them. There will also be a section dealing with the game in relation to the schools, primary and secondary, and information in this regard would also be very welcome.

Tipperary



CLAIRE MADDEN -- Daughter of team selector Jim. Has junior and intermediate medals to treasure. Entered the ranks of 'engaged to be married' (as did Ciara Gaynor) recently.



UNA O'DWYER -- Team captain and Munster's 'Player of the Year' in 2000. Along with her three senior All Ireland medals to date, Una has minor and intermediate medals to her credit



SUZANNE KELLY -- Another who has come up through the schools and minor ranks and who has 'graduated' from corner back out to mid field. All Irelands in senior. Intermediate and minor as well as colleges adorn her CV.



ANGIE MCDERMOTT -- Played in junior final in '98 and made the senior team in '99 and 2000 but then took a year off in Australia and has returned to reclaim her mid field position.



SINEAD NEALON -- Had the distinction of captaining the very first Tipperary team (minors) to win an All Ireland title in 1990. Daughter of Donie, and with a Cork mother, Kitty!, Sinead, like so many of her colleagues is seeking her 4th senior medal.



JOVITA DELANEY -- From the Cashel club, she captained the team in 2001 and also has All Ireland medals in minor, junior and intermediate grades.



CIARA GAYNOR -- Daughter of Len and an All Ireland senior and junior colleges medal winner with St Mary's, Nenagh, Ciara was Munster's 'Player of the Year' in 2001.



PAULA BULFIN -- Another Cashel player. In her third season with the team and has made the right full back berth her own.



THERESE BROPHY -- All Ireland medal winner in senior, Intermediate and minor grades, she was at centre forward in the 1999 victory but has since moved to the half back line with great success.



EMILY HAYDEN -- The 2001 captain, with All Ireland medals in senior, intermediate and minor grades, joining the minor panel when no older than twelve years!



Anna Woods



Lena Woods



Lorraine Burke



Niamh Connolly

Tipperary



JOANNE RYAN – Arrived on the senior scene with devastating effect in 2001 and is laden with under age medals, and, of course that senior All Ireland medal from last year.



NOELLE KENNEDY – All Ireland titles in all grades and also captained St Mary's Nenagh in their '94 senior colleges success.



DEIRDRE HUGHES – Goal poacher supreme – she notched two in each of the last two finals – and 'Player of the Year' in '99, she has senior, intermediate and junior medals.



EIMEAR MCDONNELL – Received the RTE 'Player of the Match' after last year's final, on the same day her twin sister Deirdre won a junior medal with Tipp.



PHILLY FOGARTY – A sub in '99, Philly is a regular since, playing at mid field in 2001 and at wing forward in 2000.



CLAIRE GROGAN – At 14, the youngest player to win a senior All Ireland medal in 2000, daughter of former Tipp player John.



LOUISE RYAN – Sub keeper, she has three All Ireland senior medals won.



LOUISE YOUNG – Had the distinction of winning TWO All Ireland medals on the same day a year ago, when a member of the junior side and a sub with the seniors.



SHEENA HOWARD – Niece of Liz (who was a member of Tipp's National League winning team of 1977), Sheena has three senior All Ireland medals and medals also in colleges camogie, junior and senior.



PATRICIA O'HALLORAN – Elevated to the senior panel this year, having captained Tipp to the 2001 All Ireland junior success.



Julie Delaney



Helen Breen



Michelle Shortt

Una's pedigree cannot be ignored



Una O'Dwyer

By Gerry Slevin

As a full back she is a model for any aspirant to the position, male or female, in the way in which she protects her keeper and in her general play.

But it wasn't from the ground that Tipp captain UNA O'DWYER received her hurling proficiency.

The hurling blood flowing through her veins goes back a long way, back in fact to the latter years of the 1800s.

Una's great grandfather was Johnny Walsh, of famed Tubberadora, winner of All Ireland medals with Tipp in 1895, '96, '98 '99 and 1900.

The fourth successive Cashel player to lead Tipp into an All Ireland final, Una is adamant the honour doesn't bother her and she sees her primary role as that of full back on the team.

Yes, she appreciates the honour and realises she has a difficult job to live up to following the success of Maedhbh, Jovita and Emily, but she will be judged on her on-field performance as a player and taking care of that aspect has to be first and foremost with her.

Preparations couldn't have been better, Una maintains, the team has prepared to the best of its ability and all that is now left is to await the game and hope everything goes right.

The hunger is still there and Una feels the proof of that will be evident in the final. She smiles at the suggestion that, outside the county, the motivation might not be seen to be as keen as over the past three years and points to a television reference that the edge had left the team.

"We'll see on Sunday, and hopefully, answer those questions", says Una.

And what about Cork?

Una sees them as a fine team, not one to be afraid of but to be respected as all Cork teams must be. The back line is the best she has seen in the Cork colours. Their forwards are fast and are always well able to hurl. From minor grade up, the Cork forwards have been noted for having excellent forwards.

"At the same time I see our defence as being a very strong unit. We have been there, playing together for quite a while as a unit and, hopefully, we will be able for them".

Una's own performance over the years is something she acknowledges as having been steady and she fully realises that the onus is on her to keep that up. Obviously, in this the year of her captaincy, it would be even more important to remain steady and this she hopes to do on Sunday.

A Dad and his daughter



Len and Ciara Gaynor. (Photo: John Long).

Len Gaynor won an All Ireland medal playing with the Tipperary senior team in 1971. He went on to coach the Tipperary and Clare hurling teams, and his native Kilruane to a Senior All Ireland title.

His daughter Ciara, who lines out at centre back in the All Ireland Camogie final on Sunday has won many awards in the game. She played with boys in championship games with Kilruane up to Under 14 level and is a key defender on the Tipperary team now going for its fourth All Ireland title in-a-row.

Len Talks About Ciara:

"I was finished inter-county hurling by the time Ciara was born. I played junior hurling up to 1985 or 1986, with Kilruane but I was finished with the county in 1974.

By the time Ciara was a small child I was managing teams.

From the time she was very young I would say that she was lively - both on and off the field. She had that little bit in her that you would recognise that might translate into something.

Most of my children - I have seven - including Ciara, came to matches and team training sessions with me. They used to bring a hurley

and a ball and they were always hurling on the sidelines. They met the players and I think that helped a bit along the way.

Ciara, who is our second youngest, had good hands from an early age and it developed from there. Myself and the kids used to have nice little matches in the yard at home and I could see the improvement in Ciara year by year as she got stronger. In the end she was nearly able to drive the ball through me - I was declining and she was improving.

She has good hands, she is a good striker and she has a good eye. She is very good to catch the ball as well - she always had that. She has good positional sense as well for the position of centre back, but she could be quicker on her feet.

She now plays in the backs, but she used to play in the forwards for the Tipp minors. I don't go to see all of Tipperary's camogie matches, but I do go to the championship matches. My wife, Eileen is a lot better to follow the team.

I started going to the camogie when Ciara was playing minor with Tipp. I was amazed at the level of skills that the girls had and how good they were. I got a great liking for it then and I am a fan ever since.

She now works as a garda in

Dublin. I think the role of a garda is a very important job, but I do worry about her sometimes. She is stationed in Dublin, which is really in the heart of things there. Recently, she damaged her ankle when she went over on it in the course of her work. When I was managing Clare she was down there with me constantly.

As for Sunday's game, it's going to be hell for leather. Speed is going to be everything in this All Ireland Final. I think it's going to be a very fast skilful game. Cork are a skilful team and it's going to be very difficult for Tipp to come away with a fourth in a row.

Cork are chomping at the bit to get at Tipperary. They think they should have beaten them back through the years. They have never conceded that Tipp are real champions and they are mad to prove it this year.

But Tipp have a very good team - a united team. The sense of togetherness they have is important on the big day. They players hurl for each other."

Ciara Talks About Len

"Hurling was always part of growing up in our house. When we were young we were always playing around the yard and talking about matches

and teams that dad was training.

He would have played with us and he would have taught us a few skills. As a child I remember him playing inter-firms games with Dovea A.I. He retired from there earlier. We used to go with him to the local hurling field when he was training Kilruane in the late 1980s and we went to hurling matches with him. It was great because you would hear him talking to the players and you would pick up a few tips yourself.

I would consider dad a good teacher and coach, but I'm biased. He has an honest passion for the game and I always thought that this showed. I always thought he was a players' man more than anything - he never bothered with the glitzy side of the game.

I started my playing career lining out with Kilruane primary school and taking part in the Parish League. I played with the Kilruane club from Under 12 and I would have played on boys teams up to Under 14.

People do compare me to my father - I think I look like him anyway. People sometimes say things after matches, like, 'You're as tough as your father'. I don't know how tough he was and I don't know how tough I am. I think I have the same run as him and the same style of hurling: slow, but I get there. He was a wing back when he played with Tipp and I'm a centre back.

Dad would go to whatever camogie matches he could, but there would be clashes with hurling games. Any of the games he can be at he's there. He is passionate about hurling, but I do think he really enjoys the camogie, especially since it has improved so much in the county over the last number of years.

I think we have a fifty fifty chance against Cork both teams have prepared well and both teams are skilful. On the day I think the difference could be a bounce of the ball. Both teams are very evenly matched. It's a bit of luck on the day, and you either have it or you don't."

(Talking with Peter Gleeson)



Cork junior camogie players: Noreen Mulcahy, Emer O'Farrell and Mairead Holland.

Picture: Des Barry



The two Unas, O'Donoghue (left) and O'Dwyer, come face to face in Croke Park this afternoon. Photo: Michael MacSweeney

Trouncing of Tipperary was Cork's big mistake

THREE years ago, then All-Ireland camogie champions Cork made a big mistake. In adding the League title to their collection of trophies, they trounced Tipperary to such a degree that the Semple Stadium scoreboard operator thought he was going to run out of numbers to register their scores.

"It was probably the worst thing we ever did," reflected current Cork captain Una O'Donoghue in the Rochestown Park hotel last Wednesday. "It was my first year on the team, and I scored three goals that day, but look what it brought on us."

Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer grimaced at the memory of that '99 humiliation. She was playing in defence that day, as she will be in this afternoon's All-Ireland final, and she recalled: "We got such a hiding that 'Skipper' was persuaded to come



Camogie captains have a lot in common, but points to prove, writes **Seán Ryan**

on board." "Skipper", of course, is former Tipperary star Michael Cleary, who took the Tipp girls under his wing and proceeded to lead them to three successive All-Ireland titles, including a defeat of Cork in the final two years ago.

The two Unas have a lot in common. They have both been hurling for as long as they can remember, the competitive stuff started at Under-12 with Cloughduv in mid-Cork and Cashel, and they were playing senior inter-county in their teens. Today, at 21, they captain their counties in an All-Ireland final.

For the past two seasons they have shared a dressing-room as part of the UCC Ashbourne Cup team, which was victorious this year. They are both pursuing B Sc degrees, but in different disciplines: O'Donoghue in physiology and O'Dwyer in food technology.

Bubbly, brainy and attractive, they have reached the top of the camogie tree, but don't see themselves emulating DJ Carey and contesting All-Irelands into their thirties. "Camogie is becoming more and more a young person's sport," explained the Tipp captain. "There's

Claire Grogan, three All-Ireland medals and she's only 16. She takes it all in her stride, she's cool as a breeze, you would think she was 19."

O'Dwyer plans to take a year off after college to travel, while O'Donoghue intends to do a further year's study. Camogie will still be there, but it may have to take a backseat.

At the moment it's their social life which is being neglected. "During the summer you don't really have one," said O'Dwyer, "so I'm looking forward to going back to college at the end of the month — for the life."

At present they certainly take their camogie seriously. Neither would let a drink pass their lips, they are training three nights a week, and when I asked if the famous sports aphorism 'winning isn't everything, it's the only thing' had found its way into their sport, O'Dwyer put it into perspective for me.

"There's two of us in college with about ten of them and we share houses, but we won't be holding back on Sunday. To be honest, I think the game has got less ladylike in the last couple of years. In general, it's tougher and more physical. It's supposed to be non-contact, but that's a load of rubbish."

When it comes to Croke Park, O'Dwyer has the advantage. "I've only played there twice and been beaten twice," said O'Donoghue, "so third time lucky. It's like Una's back garden."

"I've played there three times and won each time," O'Dwyer responded, "and it was different each time, and it will be different again. With the huge stands all around, you go for a high ball and all you can see is rows and rows of empty seats."

"And we had a run out on the new pitch and found that when the ball is

coming to you on the ground, as soon as it slows up it starts zig-zagging and you don't know which way to go for it. Another thing, with the short grass you expect it to fly along the ground but it doesn't."

They are both agreed about one thing: it would be good for both camogie and ladies' football if both finals were on the same day. "Last year there was talk that both would be kicked out of Croke Park because the size of the crowd didn't warrant opening the ground," said O'Donoghue, "but, with both finals, you could have up to 40,000, and that would make some difference to the atmosphere."

"A couple of years ago there was an opening for the camogie association to join the GAA and they didn't," said O'Dwyer. "They shot themselves in the foot. I feel they should have joined; the ladies' football did and they have come on a ton. It would be better for the game and the profile of the game if we were part of the main association."

At present, camogie exists as a separate entity outside the County Boards, and suffers financially as a result. "I don't remember us ever getting a penny from the County Board," said O'Donoghue. "There's war in the Cork hurling camp because they're not getting boots, etc. We would be lucky to get a pair of socks. And they complain they don't get home after training till 11.0, but that's because they have been fed. We have to go home and make our own tea."

"We're a hundred years off their scale. We don't begrudge them what they get, but it brings home to us what we don't have."

The lack of sponsorship is a big problem within the sport. There are no camogie All-Stars, and there is no sponsorship for the game between the champions and the Rest of Ireland.

"And the whole organisation of the interprovincials is a joke," added O'Donoghue. "It's now become a case of whoever is free, well, go up and take part. That's something that needs to be improved."

When it comes to the sportspersons that they admire, the girls were unanimous: camogie players are best. While O'Donoghue conceded her admiration for Roy Keane and Denis Irwin, she listed Sandy Fitzgibbon, Linda Mellerick, Fiona O'Driscoll and Mary O'Connor (who coached her in the minors), while O'Driscoll also figured in O'Dwyer's list. "A class act and she still is," according to the Tipp captain, who also admires Deirdre Hughes and Limerick's Vera Sheehan.

So finally we got around to today's game. Who is going to win? "Well, Cork have beaten us twice already — in the League and the Munster championship — so I don't think we're favourites," is the Tipp view.

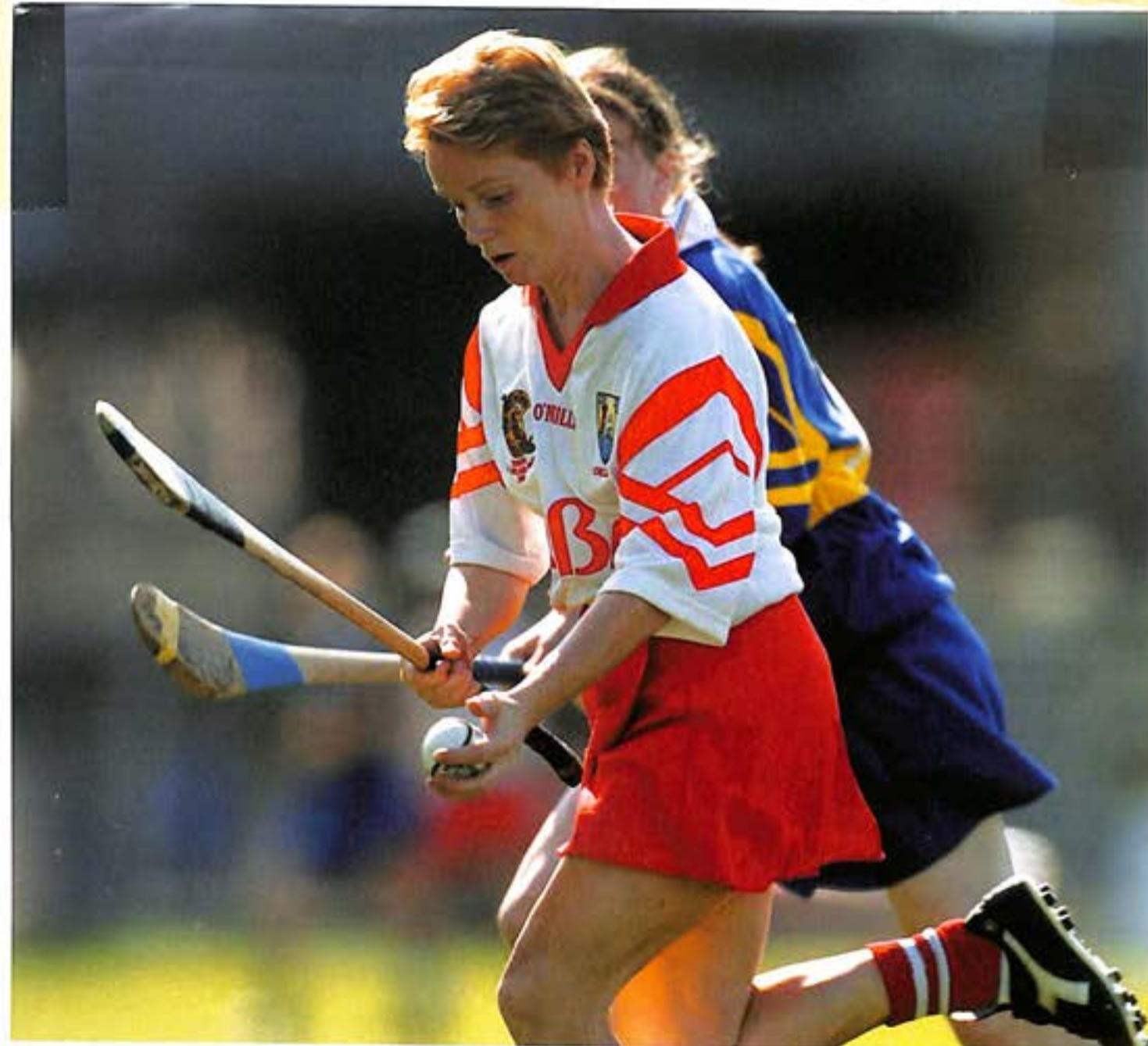
"There won't be much between us in the end of the day — only a point or two. It's a hard one to call," is the Cork view, adding: "This is the match camogie wanted and we wanted. There is no point in having a walk-over live on TV."

Perhaps there is one other pointer to the result. Una O'Dwyer's youngest sister Fiona was on the Tipperary minor team this year and was on the wrong end of a trouncing by Cork. "Hopefully I'll sort that out for her," were the words of Big Sis. It makes you wonder if Cork have made another big mistake.

Camogie point

Sir — Contrary to what Tipperary captain Una O'Dwyer suggests (Sept. 15), at present both Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael and Cumann Peil Gael na mBan are separate associations of the GAA. Regarding the aligning of both female organisations to the GAA there are ongoing talks. Also, it is hoped that a pilot project will shortly get off the ground involving all three organisations to pioneer the integration of all Gaelic Games at club/county board level. This has come about from an implementation committee comprising members of the organisations.

Máire Uí Scolai, Nat. Camogie PRO



Just to be there...

Maire Uí Scolai

All sports men and women have their ambitions and their dreams.... a record time, an international cap, scoring the winning point, each to their own...it's what keeps them going. For Camogie players it has to be the thrill of playing in Croke Park, but it's a thrill that many won't experience and for those that do, it's a moment to savour.

When Tipperary Manager Michael Cleary and his backroom team of Jim Madden and Biddy Phillips gave the centre back position on the Tipperary Senior team to Ciara Gaynor, they knew they were in safe hands. Strong, powerful and stylish Ciara's arrival on the scene in '99 was already marked. By then a winner of All-Ireland medals at Minor

and Intermediate level, Ciara has since added two Senior Gael Linn Inter-Provincial medals with Munster and three senior All-Ireland medals. The hope is to add a fourth Senior medal on 15th September when Tipperary take on Cork in the All-Ireland Final at Croke Park.

Ciara comes from a proud family with a strong hurling tradition. Her father Len played for Tipperary, winning an All-Ireland medal in '71 and 1965 and managed the Clare hurlers at one stage. However, one of the best moments of Tipperary's famous Camogie win in '99 must have been of Ciara hugging her dad after the final whistle. A special moment in time... For Ciara, Tipperary's success has very



much been a rags to riches story. "Considering our dreadful defeat in the National League final of '99 in Semple Stadium, one could say we completed the story in the Autumn of '99 in Croke." smiled Ciara.

The build up to the '99 final is very alive in Ciara's mind, "the hurlers were out that year

many camogie banners waving high was fantastic" Amazingly, amid the thousands of spectators in Croke Park, Ciara picked out her parents in the crowd, a memory etched in her mind forever.

To play once in Croke Park is many a players dream but to win on your first outing is the icing on the cake. Tipperary

A memory that will always stay with me is running out onto the Croke Park pitch and hearing the roar of the crowd

and so there was probably a certain amount of pressure on us, but we had Michael there who, as a hurler, had done it all before and so gave us a great insight into the whole day before hand and thus relieved us of many of the nerves. When Michael came on board he gave us the belief in ourselves."

"I'll never forget running out onto the Croke Park pitch and hearing the roar of the crowd, the noise and the colour with so

were determined however to show people that they were no flash in the pan. A return visit to Croke Park the following year saw them defeat old rivals and neighbours Cork. "We could not let ourselves down and so we had to win that second title and to win a third against Kilkenny last year was just wonderful."

Ciara is one of the many players who nowadays thinks the game of Camogie is much more attractive with the change from

twelve to fifteen a-side. "I feel there is more recognition for the game now as people firmly believe the girls are more than capable of playing the full pitch and also the standard has improved big time." With much talk these days of the Camogie Association aligning with the GAA at some stage, Ciara has her views on this subject. "I feel that we should join in some manner, but not to loose our own identity, I would like to see more camogie matches in front of hurling matches."

Many players talk of disappointing moments in their playing careers, and for Ciara the league final mauling by Cork in '99 was the worst. "We didn't do ourselves justice. It was also the first and only time I was taken off - not a nice feeling". That embarrassing defeat to Cork must seem like a distant memory now. Tipp's reversal in fortunes in the Autumn of '99 coincided with a 'sight' down-hill turn for the once mighty Cork but, a convincing win over National League Champions Galway in the Ireland semi-finals has catapulted Cork back to centre stage...



Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann sa Chamógaíocht, 2002



faoi urraíocht ag **Foras na Gaeilge**

Clár Oifigiúil
€3.00

Síle de Chaité
Arbstiúrthóir

Teachtaireacht ón Uachtarán



Pádraigín Ní Raifeartaigh

Abhar bróid dom é fíor-chaoin fáilte a chur roimh chách chuig Cluichí Ceannais na hÉireann de Chraobhchomórtais na Sinsear agus na Sóisear 2002. Is breá linn é sibh uilig a bheith anseo, idir ár gcuid aoidheanna speisialta, na foirne, na réiteoirí agus na maoir, lucht leanúna na bhfoireann agus lucht leanúna na camógaíochta i gcoitinne.

Tréaslaim leis na foirne uilig, Corcaigh agus Tiobraid Árann i gcluiche na Sinsear agus Cill Chainnigh agus Corcaigh i gcluiche na Sóisear.

This year's Cluiche na Sinsear is the second time only that Corcaigh and Tiobraid Árann have met in the final. Tiobraid Árann is endeavouring to win its fourth title in a row and Corcaigh is seeking its twentieth. Táimid ag tnúth le sár-chluiche inniu. Cill Chainnigh and Corcaigh will compete just as eagerly for Craobhchomórtais na Sóisear and, like Cluiche na Sinsear, an interesting and closely contested game is anticipated.

The 25 year Jubilee Team to be honoured today is the Cill Chainnigh team which won Corn Ua Dubhthaigh in 1977. Is mór agam é fáilte a chur rompu agus déanam comhgháirdeachas ó chroí leo.

Fearaim fáilte roimh mhuintir *Foras na Gaeilge* anseo inniu. Táimid go mór faoi chomaoín ag an bhForas, príomh-urraí an Chumainn. Is cúis bhróid do Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael é bheith ag obair le Foras na Gaeilge chun ár dtéanga agus ár gcultúr a chur chun cinn.

Is mór ar fad againn i tacaíocht Chumann Lúthchleas Gael ó cheann ceann na bliana ag gach leibhéal. Gabhtar buíochas ó chroí leis an Ardstiúrthóir agus le foireann Pháirc an Chrócaigh as ucht a gcuid tacaíochta dúinn i gcónaí, agus leis na maoir agus na hoifigigh uilig atá ag obair ar ár son inniu. It is always a wonderful experience to play our Finals in Páirc an Chrócaigh, but this is an especially proud occasion for Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael as it is the first time that our Finals are being played on the new pitch in the magnificent, rebuilt Páirc an Chrócaigh. Tréaslaítear ó chroí le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Due to the foresight and courage of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Páirc an Chrócaigh has been developed into a world class stadium, and they have given the Irish people something of which they may be truly proud.

Fearaim fáilte roimh R.T.É. agus rompu siúd uilig a bhaineann leis na meáin chumarsáide a chuireann an chamógaíocht os comhair an phobail.

Táimid go mór faoi chomaoín ag muintir na camógaíochta in Áth Cliath chomh maith. The young Áth Cliath players are working as programme sellers, ball girls and water girls, while many more of muintir Átha Cliath are helping in various capacities throughout the stadium today and have assisted during the preparations for today's marvellous spectacle. Míle buíochas leo uilig agus lenár n-Ardstiúrthóir féin, ach go háirithe, agus le foireann na hoifige.

Tá súil agam go mbaineann sibh go léir suil as imeachtaí an lae agus, thar ceann Chumann Camógaíochta na nGael agus a lucht leanúna, guíim gach rath ar na himreoirí agus ar na hoifigigh uilig atá páirteach sa Cluichí Ceannais.

Pádraigín Ní Raifeartaigh, Uachtarán



Na Maoir Chúil

Yvette Nic Colla
Lorraine Nic Dhoinnléibhe
Michelle Ní Scannláin
Lorraine Ní Scannláin
(Naomh Munna, Iarmhíde)

Na Maoir Líne

Aine Derham, Áth Cliath
Aoife Nic Conchoille, Ardmhacha

Maor Breise

Seán Ó Piondaire, Cill Dara

Na Réiteoirí

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear

Eibhlín Uí Leathlobhair, Iarmhíde.

Is í seo an chéad uair d'Aileen a bheith i bhfeighil Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear. Aileen has been refereeing at inter-county level for six years and, this year, was in charge of the Roinn 2 National League Final and the Senior Championship Semi-Final between Cill Chainnigh agus Tiobraid Árann.

Imroinnt Aileen le Club Naomh Munna, Iarmhíde, agus is iar-imreoir de chuid Átha Cliath í. She has won Coláistí Átha Cliath medals and Leinster and All-Ireland Club Championship medals with Crumlin, as well as twelve Iarmhíde County Championship medals with Naomh Munna. She also won a Senior National League medal with Áth Cliath and holds Cúige Laighean medals with both Áth Cliath agus Iarmhíde.

Aileen works as a paediatric nurse in the Midland Regional Hospital, An Muileann gCearr. Beidh a fear chéile agus an ceathrar clainne ag tabhairt tacaíochta di inniu.

Ionadaí: Aine Derham, Áth Cliath.

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear **Una Ní Chearnaigh, Ardmhacha**

Maraon lena comhréiteoir, Aileen, is í seo an chéad uair d'Una a bheith i lár baili i bPáirc an Chrócaigh ag Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear. She has been refereeing at inter-county level for four years and, during 2002, officiated at the Gael Linn Interprovincial Finals and at Cluiche Ceannais na Mionúir B.

Is iar-scoláire de chuid Ollscoil Naomh Mhuire, Béal Feirste, í Una. While a student, Una won a Comórtais Puirseáil medal with St. Mary's University and was selected on the Combined Colleges team.

She is a former member of St. Brigid's Club and is now playing with St. Brenda's, Ballymacnab.

d'Imir Una le Contae Ardmhacha chomh maith.

Ionadaí: Eamonn de Brún, Tiobraid Árann

Na Maoir Chúil

Laura Ní Ghríbin
Arlene Ní Dhonghaile
Bibi Ní Dhoibhlín
Paula Nig Uiginn
(Ardmhacha)

Na Maoir Líne

Eamonn de Brún, Tiobraid Árann.
Rita Mhic Craith, Iarmhíde.

Maor Breise

Seán Ó Briain, Loch Garman.



Gaolta ag imirt

FAMILY MATTERS

Cill Chainnigh

Beidh suim faoi leith ag Bridie McGarry agus Liz Neary, atá ar Fhoireann Iubhaile Chill Chainnigh inniu, i gCluiche Ceannais na Sóisear. Bridie's niece, Marie O'Connor, sister of hurler, Ollie, wears the black and amber as do two other relations, Aoife and Eileen Fitzpatrick. Bronagh Neary, cousin of Liz, also plays with Sóisr Chill Chainnigh.

Eimear Lyng's father, Michael, played Senior Hurling for Cill Chainnigh and won All-Ireland Minor and under-21 medals, while her mother, May, played Camogie for Loch Garman.

Ursula Walton's uncle, Mick Crotty, and Mairéad Lawlor's father, Mick, won Senior All-Ireland medals, while Jacqui Frisby's cousin, Tom, won a Minor medal last Sunday.

It is held that Andrea Murphy's great-grandfather, Tom Murphy, holds the record for the poc fada.

Tiobraid Árann

Two famous hurling Dads, Donie Nealon and Len Gaynor, will proudly watch daughters Sinéad and Ciara, respectively, in Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear.

A proud aunt will be Liz Howard whose niece Sheena dons the blue and gold. d'imir Liz le Tiobraid Árann agus Ath Cliath. Her father Garret won All-Ireland medals with Limerick and Ath Cliath.

Billy Morgan of Corcaigh football fame may have divided loyalties as his niece, Eimear McDonnell, will be wearing the blue and gold.

Corcaigh

Eithne Duggan, on the Senior team, carries on the family tradition from father, Phil, a former Senior County player.

Jean O'Sullivan, on the Junior team, is the daughter of Seamas, Corcaigh Senior Footballer of the 1970s.

On dá thaobh a thaigheann Amanda O'Reagan na scileanna. Amanda's father, Michael, won an All-Ireland under-21 Football medal with Corcaigh, and her mother, Christine Pinfield, won All-Ireland Junior Championship medals with Corcaigh.

Tá baint ag Contae Luimnigh le foireann Chorcaí inniu. Maire Watson of the Junior team is a daughter of Ann Sheehy who won an All-Ireland Junior medal with Limerick in 1977.

Cill Chainnigh



ar chúil, ó chlé: S. O'Muráin (Bainisteoir), A. Ni Nárait, P. Nic Cumascaigh, B. Ni Nárait, E. Ni Mheachoir, E. Aighleat, L. Nic Cumascaigh, K. Ni Choinneacháin, L. Ni Reachtar, C. Ni Rain, Á. M. de Sún, sa lár, ó chlé: M. T. Ni Dhocharaigh, M. Ni Leathlobhair, P. Shore, É. Ni Dhiomasaigh, F. Ni Dhubhlaing, E. Ni Lonn, C. Ni Dhocharaigh, G. Ni Ghrianáin, N. de Sún, A. Nic Giolla Phádraigh, L. Ni Ógáin, chun tosaigh, ó chlé: A. Ni Mhurchú, A. Ni Threasaigh, M. Ni Chonchubhair, S. Nic Fithisigh, Captáen, E. Nic Giolla Phádraigh, Á. Ni Chinnclaigh, D. Ni Fhlannagáin, M. Ni Rain.

Corcaigh



ar chúil, ó chlé: N. Ni Mhaolchathaigh, A. Ni Ragáin, E. Ni Fhoghlú, E. Suatham, S. Ni Shúilleabháin, E. Ni Fhearghale, M. Ni Aoláin, V. Ni Chaoráin, C. Ni Chealláigh, N. Ni Eathain, Captáen, M. Nic Uait, chun tosaigh, ó chlé: S. de Brún, D. Ni Thuama, M. Iagó, A. Ni Néil, A. Ni Mhurchú, C. Ni Dheasúnaigh, G. Ni Choleáin, N. Ni Bhaoil, L. Nic Cárthaigh, L. Ni Chláirín, C. Ni Fhoghlú.

Rogha Imreora i gCluichí Ceannais na Mionúr, 2002

Mionúr A - Breege Ní Chorcra, Corcaigh



Roghnaíodh Breege Ní Chorcra, Corcaigh, agus Sinéad Nic Amhlaoibh, Luimneach, mar "Rogha Imreora an Chluiche" tar éis Cluichí Ceannais na Mionúr le déanaí. Breege and Sinéad have much in common. They both wore the number ten jersey as right half-forwards on their teams and both contributed enormously to the victories of Corcaigh agus Luimneach at Minor A and Minor B level, respectively.

Imríonn Breege le Cloughduv, Corcaigh, agus imríonn Sinéad le Ballyagran, Luimneach.

Gura fada buan iad na daoine óga seo ar pháirc na himeartha.

Mionúr B - Sinéad Nic Amhlaoibh, Luimneach



ó ghlúin go glúin go glúin

Clár Ni Mhaolchathaigh, captaen Luimnigh a bhuaigh Craobhchomórtas na Mionúr B, 2002, in éineacht lena tuismitheoirí bródúla, Ger agus Vera.

Vera, daughter of John Mackey and niece of Mick, played at senior level for Luimneach and Mumha, and both she and Ger are active in the Athane Club.



The 35th All-Ireland Junior Final



Corn New Ireland

Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear 1968 - 2002

Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear, 2002

Lá stairiúil atá ann inniu foisc Cill Chainnigh agus Corcaigh a bheith ag casadh ar a chéile don chéad uair ariamh i gCluiche Ceannais na Sóisear. The reason for this first meeting of Corcaigh and Cill Chainnigh in the Final is that it is the first time that the Noreiders have reached the Junior Final. There has been great rivalry between the counties at Senior level over the last three decades and, no doubt, that rivalry will be just as keen in the Junior Final.

Baineadh Cluiche Ceannais na Sóisear amach ceithre huair déag cheana féin ag Corcaigh. Today, on its fifteenth appearance in the Final, Corcaigh is seeking its seventh title. Its first title came in 1973 and its sixth in 1999. Doire a rug an Chraobh le i 2000, ach bualadh bob uirthi ag Corcaigh sa Cluiche Leathceannais i mbliana.

The Corcaigh girls will have their sights set on the Senior Junior double today while Cill Chainnigh will want to have its name inscribed on the cup for the first time ever.

Na Cluichí Leathceannais 2002

Cill Chainnigh	2 - 10	Corcaigh	1 - 13
An Ghaillimh	2 - 06	Doire	1 - 03

The Top Scorers in Craobhchomórtas na Sóisear - Na Cluichí Leathceannais -

1 Caitríona Ni Cheallaigh Caitríona Kelly Corcaigh 0 - 06	3 Maire Ni Riain Marie Ryan agus Aoife Ni Nárait Aoife Neary Cill Chainnigh 1 - 02 agus 0 - 05	7 Paula Nic Giolla Mhaoil Paula Bell Doire 1 - 00
agus Aine Maire Nic Aodha Ann Marie Hayes An Ghaillimh 2 - 00	Siobhán Ni Chatháin Susan Keane An Ghaillimh 0 - 05	
	Maire Nic Uait Marie Watson Corcaigh 1 - 02	

Sóisir Chorcaí



An Captaen

6. Nóra Ní Eathain
Nóra Ahearn, Fr. O'Neill's.

Is í seo an t-earra bliain do Nóra bheith ag mair le foireann na sóisear. She has already led Corcaigh to Junior National League success in 2001. She was chosen as the Player of the Match on that occasion.

Boinn: Gael Linn, Sóisear, le Cúige Mumhan, Cúige Mumhan Junior and Intermediate. Bhain sí an chéim amach i mbliana sa Shaidkér gnó.

8. Val O'Keefe
Kilbrittain
Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Intermediate level
Boinn: Cúige Mumhan Junior and Intermediate, Com Purséil le I.T. Corcaigh
Bhain sí an chéim amach i mbliana Business Studies

1. Ellen Clifford
St. Finbarr's
Season: 2nd
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Junior level in Gael Linn
Boinn: National League and Gael Linn
Sli bheatha
Permanent TSB Bank Official

3. Liz Sweetnam
Fr. O'Neill's
Season: 2nd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Intermediate level
Boinn: Cúige Mumhan Junior and Intermediate
Imríonn sí peil agus leadóg
Agricultural consultant

5. Caitriona Foley
Rockbawn
Season: 1st
Represented Corcaigh at Minor and Junior level
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor
Imríonn sí peil
Scoláire scoile

9. Emer O'Farrell
Annacarty
Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior level
Boinn: Junior National League, Com Purséil le I.T. Corcaigh 2001
Scoláire: Recreation and Leisure I.T. Corcaigh

2. Jennifer Brown
Ballygarvan
Season: 2nd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Intermediate level
Boinn: Cúige Mumhan Junior and Intermediate
Interprovincial hockey medals
Scoláire Ardteistiméireachta 2002

4. Niamh Bowles
Newtownshandrum
Season: 5th
Represented Corcaigh at Minor and Junior level
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor, Junior National League, All-Ireland Colleges
Imríonn sí peil agus leadóg
Scoláire P.E. Oilcoil Luimnigh

7. Mairéad Holland
Ballinhassig
Season: 1st
Represented Corcaigh at under-18 level
Boinn: Cúige Mumhan faoi 18, Coláiste Chorcaí le Naomh Aloysius
Scoláire
Office information Systems

10. Colette Desmond
Newcestown
Season: 2nd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Minor level
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor, Junior National League, Senior and Junior Colleges
Scoláire scoile
Coláiste na Tobhairte, Bandon

Sóisir Chorcaí

11. Caitriona Kelly
Ballygarvan
Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Minor level
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor, Junior National League
Is scoláire i gColáiste na hOifiscoil Corcaigh

12. Ger Collins
Barryroe
Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Minor level
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor, Junior National League
Scoláire
Recreation and Leisure

13. Amanda Murphy
Ballygarvan
Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior level
Boinn: Junior National League, Com Purséil le I.T. Corcaigh
Scoláire
Recreation and Leisure I.T. Corcaigh

14. Elaine McCarthy
Barryroe
Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Minor level
Boinn: Junior National League, County
Sli bheatha
Múinteoir tarbhúnscoile

15. Marie Watson
Milford
Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Minor level
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor, All-Ireland Senior and Junior Colleges
Scoláire scoile
Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luir.

16. Denise Twomey
Season: 1st
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor
Scoláire scoile: Glansire Community School

17. Aileen O'Neill
Ballygarvan
Season: 3rd
Boinn: Cúige Mumhan, Junior and Intermediate, Junior National League
Scoláire Ardteistiméireachta 2002

18. Edel Foley
Kilbrittain
Season: 2nd
Boinn: Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde, All-Ireland Minor
Scoláire: U.C.U. Food Business

19. Breege Corkery
Cloughduv
Season: 1st
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor
Scoláire scoile

20. Sarah O'Donovan
Ballygarvan
Season: 1st
Boinn: All-Ireland Minor
Scoláire scoile

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Lillian Zinkant

An Bainisteoir

Muireann Nic Cárthaigh
(Marian McCarthy)

Oilibhéar Ó hAilleacháin
(Ollie Hallihan)

Sóisir Chill Chainnigh



An Captaen

12. Jacqui Nic Fírbhisigh
Jacqui Frisby, Carrickshock

Season: 2nd
An mbeir go dtí a Jacqui agus í thar a bheith bródúil as bheith ina captaen ar fhoireann na Sóisear.

She has represented Cill Chainnigh at Minor, under-eighteen and Junior levels, and has won County Championship medals at under-fourteen, sixteen and eighteen grades.

Ba mhór ar fad aici é bheith ar chomhscoir lena colcheathair, Tom, a bhuaigh bonn Uile-Eireann don ionánalocht le Monár Chill Chainnigh saochtán ó shoin.

Jacqui has a great interest in horse riding

Is scoláire scoile i Jacqui.

7. Keira Kinahan
Ballyhale Shamrocks
Season: 3rd
Represented Cill Chainnigh at u-14, u-16 and Junior level
Boinn: Cúige Laghean - Gaelscoileanna
Imríonn sí peil
Scoláire
History Politics and Sociology
Oilcoil Luimnigh

1. Caitriona Ryan
Tullagher
Season: 1st
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Senior, Junior and Minor level
Boinn: Comórtas Purséil le I.T. Ceatharlach
Imríonn sí ospheil agus peil
Scoláire
Management Accounting, Carlow I.T.

3. Ann Marie Young
St. Brigid's
Season: 3rd
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Junior level
Boinn: Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde le I.T., Portlargo
Sum aoi sa sráth
Scoláire: Business Recreation and Leisure Management, Waterford I.T.

5. Pauline Comerford
St. Brigid's
Season: 2nd
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Junior level
Boinn: All-Ireland Colleges with Ballycavan
Imríonn sí ospheil, sum aoi sa sráth
Clerical Officer

8. Edel Maher
St. Anne's
Season: 3rd
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Junior and Minor level, Cúige Laghean Junior
Boinn: Gael Linn Junior
Sum aoi sa chispheil agus Lúthchleasáilocht
Scoláire Scoile

2. Eimear Connery
St. Lachtain's
Season: 1st
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Junior and Minor level
Boinn: An Dúthracht le U.C.D.
Sum sa spórt i gcoláiste aoi
Teagasc
REPS Advisor

4. Eimear Lyng
Rower Institiúe
Season: 2nd
Represented Cill Chainnigh agus Cúige Laghean at Junior level
Boinn: Gael Linn, sóisear
Scoláire
Treolas agus Gaelige
Coláiste Phádraig

6. Mairéad Lawler
St. Lachtain's
Season: 3rd
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Junior and Minor level
Boinn: Cúige Laghean - Club agus Coláiste le Loreto, Cill Chainnigh
Imríonn sí hacai
Scoláire scoile

9. Elaine Aylward
Mullinavat
Season: 1st
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Junior level
Boinn: All-Ireland Colleges
Ar theachtas ag an lúthchleasáilocht
Scoláire
University Arts student

Sóisir Chill Chainnigh

10. Marie Ryan
Tullagher
Season: 1st
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Minor and Junior level
Boinn: Cúige Laghean Junior and Minor
Imríonn sí cispheil agus peil
Scoláire Scoile

11. Dolores Lantigan
Tullagher
Season: 4th
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Minor and Junior level
Boinn: Comórtas i gCill Chainnigh
Sli bheatha
Engineering Technician

13. Catherine Doherty
St. Anne's
Season: 5th
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Junior, u-14, u-16 and u-18 level
Boinn: Cúige Laghean Junior, Gael Linn, All-Ireland Colleges, Com Purséil le I.T., Ceatharlach
Interested in racquetball, coaching
Business Studies, I.T., Carlow

14. Aoife Neary
James Stephens
Season: 2nd
Boinn: Gael Linn, Cúige Laghean Minor
Volleyball - All-Ireland medal holder
Scoláire scoile

15. Marie O'Connor
St. Lachtain's
Season: 3rd
Represented Cill Chainnigh at Minor, Junior, u-14 and u-18 level
Boinn: All-Ireland Colleges
Sum aoi i gceispheil agus sa mharcálacht
Accounting & Computer Technician

16. Aoife Fitzpatrick
St. Lachtain's
Season: 3rd
Boinn: Cúige Laghean - Club and Colleges
Scoláire scoile

17. Fiona Dowling
St. Lachtain's
Season: 3rd
Boinn: Cúige Laghean - Club and Colleges
Scoláire scoile

18. Ursula Walton
St. Brigid's
Season: 2nd
Boinn: Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde, All-Ireland Colleges
Is banaltra í

19. Bridget Grennan
Tullagher
Season: 2nd
Boinn: Cúige Laghean, Junior, Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde
Scoláire: Applied Computing, Waterford I.T.

20. Nora Sutton
Mullinavat
Season: 4th
Boinn: All-Ireland Colleges, Com Purséil
Sports Rehabilitator

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Seán Ó Murnáin
(Seán Warren)

An Bainisteoir

Aine Ni Dhúnaigh
(Ann Downey)

Risteard Mac Fírbhisigh
(Dick Frisby)



Cill Chainnigh

- 1** Caitriona Ní Riain
Caitriona Ryan
Tullogher
- 2** Eimear Ní Chonaire
Eimear Connery
St. Lachtain's
- 3** Áine Máire de Siún
Ann Marie Young
St. Brigid's
- 4** Eimear Ní Loinn
Eimear Lyng
Rower Instiloge
- 5** Póilin Nic Cumascaigh
Pauline Comerford
St. Brigid's
- 6** Máiread Ní Leathlobhair
Mairead Lawler
St. Lachtain's
- 7** Clara Ní Choinneacháin
Keira Kinahan
Ballyhale Shamrocks
- 8** Edel Ní Mheachair
Edel Maher
St. Anne's
- 9** Elaine Aighleart
Elaine Aylward
Mullinavat
- 10** Máire Ní Riain
Marie Ryan
Tullogher
- 11** Dolores Ní Fhlannagáin
Dolores Lanigan
Tullogher
- 12** Jacqui Ní Fírbhisigh
Jacqui Frisby
Carrickshock, Captain
- 13** Caitriona Ní Dhochartaigh
Catherine Doherty
St. Anne's
- 14** Aoife Ní Náraigh
Aoife Neary
James Stephen's
- 15** Máire Ní Chonchubhair
Marie O'Connor
St. Lachtain's
- 16** Aoife Nic Giolla Phádraig
Aoife Fitzpatrick, St. Lachtain's
- 17** Fiona Ní Dhubhlainn
Fiona Dowling, St. Lachtain's
- 18** Ursula de Bháitín
Ursula Walton, St. Brigid's
- 19** Bríd Ní Ghriainín
Bridget Grennan, Tullogher
- 20** Nóra de Sútún
Nora Sutton, Mullinavat
- 21** Eibhlín Nic Giolla Phádraig
Eileen Fitzpatrick, St. Lachtain's
- 22** Laura Nic Cumascaigh
Laura Comerford, Emeralds
- 23** Máire Treasa Ní Dhochartaigh
Marie Therese Doherty, Glenmore
- 24** Brónagh Ní Náraigh
Bronagh Neary, St. Brigid's
- 25** Ellis Ní Dhiomasaigh
Liz Dempsey, Thomastown
- Bainisteoir**
Seán Ó Murnáin
(Seán Warren)



Corcaigh

- 1** Eibhlín Ní Chlúmhain
Eileen Clifford
St. Finbarr's
- 2** Sinéad de Brún
Jennifer Brown
Ballygarvan
- 3** Ellis Suatnam
Liz Sweetnam
Fr. O'Neill's
- 4** Niamh Ní Bhaoill
Niamh Bowles
Newtownshandrum
- 5** Caitriona Ní Fhoghlú
Caitriona Foley
Rockbawn
- 6** Nóra Ní Eathairn
Nora Ahearn
Fr. O'Neill's, Captain
- 7** Máiread Ní Aoláin
Mairead Holland
Ballinhassig
- 8** Val Ní Chaoimh
Val O'Keeffe
Kilbrittain/Timoleague
- 9** Eimhear Ní Fhearghaile
Emer O'Farrell
Sarsfields
- 10** Colette Ní Dheasúnaigh
Colette Desmond
Newcestown
- 11** Caitriona Ní Cheallaigh
Caitriona Kelly
Ballygarvan
- 12** Gearóidín Ní Choileáin
Ger Collins
Baryroe
- 13** Amanda Ní Mhurchú
Amanda Murphy
Ballygarvan
- 14** Léan Nic Carthaigh
Elaine McCarthy
Ballyroe
- 15** Máire Nic Uait
Marie Watson
Milford
- 16** Denise Ní Thuama
Denise Twomey, St. Catherine's
- 17** Eibhlín Ní Néill
Aileen O'Neill, Ballygarvan
- 18** Edel Ní Fhoghlú
Edel Foley, Kilbrittain/Timoleague
- 19** Bríd Ní Chorca
Breege Corkery, Cloughduv
- 20** Sorca Ní Dhoonabháin
Sarah O'Donovan, Ballygarvan
- 21** Sinéad Ní Shuilleabháin
Jean O'Sullivan, Bishopstown
- 22** Muireann Iagó
Marion Jagoe, Tracton
- 23** Nóirín Ní Mhaolchathaigh
Noreen Mulcahy, St. Catherine's
- 24** Amanda Ní Riagáin
Amanda O'Regan, Douglas
- Bainisteoir**
Lilliant Zinkant

Neary the star

**Kilkenny
Cork**

**2-11
2-8**

A MARVELLOUS second-half display by Cork did not realise the same reward as their seniors and the Leesiders went down in this All-Ireland junior camogie final to a star-studded Kilkenny team bidding for its first title at this level.

Aoife Neary emerged as Kilkenny's star, scoring 1-8, but like most of her forward colleagues she was back in defence to hold rampaging Cork in the second half.

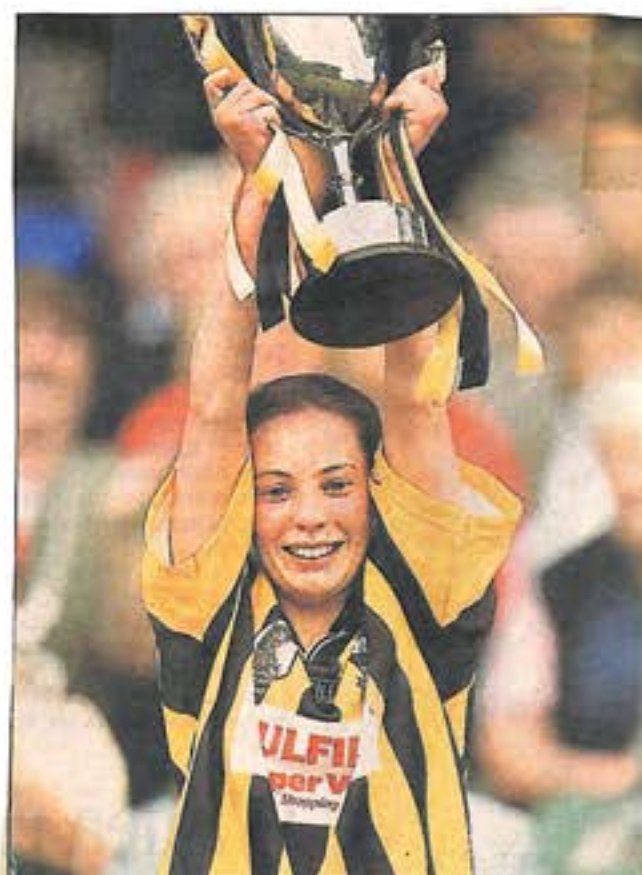
The Cork rallying effort was inspired by midfield substitute, Breege Corkery, Emer O'Farrell

and Liz Sweetnam. The best commentary on Cork's display was the amount of work Neary had to do in a defensive role in the second half.

Kilkenny had to find good individual performances in that second period, with Elaine Aylward particularly notable.

KILKENNY: C. Ryan, A. Fitzpatrick, A.M. Young, E. Lyng, P. Comerford, M. Lawlor, K. Kinahan, E. Maher, E. Aylward, M. Ryan, D. Lanigan, J. Frisby, C. Doherty (1-2), A. Neary (1-8, two 45s, four frees), M. O'Connor (0-1). Sub: U. Walton for Lanigan.

CORK: E. Clifford, J. Brown, L. Sweetnam, L. Bowles, C. Foley, N. Ahearn, M. Holland, V. O'Keeffe, E. O'Farrell, C. Desmond (0-3), C. Kelly (0-5), G. Collins (1-0), A. Murphy, E. McCarthy, M. Watson. Subs: B. Corkery (1-0) for O'Keeffe. Referee: U. Ní Cheamailgh (Armagh).



Kilkenny captain Jacqui Frisby lifts the trophy after victory over Cork in yesterday's All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final. Picture: Ray McManus/Sportsfile

Cats fend off Cork comeback

THE KILKENNY junior team collected their first ever All Ireland title at Croke Park yesterday despite a fine second-half comeback from Cork.

Kilkenny got off to a great start with full forward Aoife Neary hitting 1-4 inside the first quarter.

The goal came in the twelfth minute when Catherine Doherty played an inside ball to the James Stephens club

**KILKENNY.....2-11
CORK.....2-8
JUNIOR CAMOGIE FINAL**

girl, and she duly found the back of the net.

Cork's problems were soon compounded when Cork corner back Caitriona Foley unfairly charged on the shoulder as Aoife Neary came in

pursuit of her second goal. And the referee duly handed the Cats a penalty from the 21 metre line. Cork 'keeper Eileen Clifford saved, but Doherty duly followed up to increase Kilkenny lead to 10 points.

But Cork's fortune took a dramatic turn for the better with a goal each side of the break. And with the Leesiders tigerishly keeping out their opponents, Kilkenny had a

frustrating second half but held on to win by three points.

KILKENNY: C. Ryan, A. Fitzpatrick, A.M. Young, E. Lyng, P. Comerford, M. Lawlor, K. Kinahan, E. Maher, E. Aylward, M. Ryan, D. Lanigan, J. Frisby, C. Doherty (1-2), A. Neary (1-8, two 45s, four frees), M. O'Connor (0-1). Sub: E. Connelly for Fitzpatrick 36 mins, Ursula Walton for Lanigan 46 mins, N. Sutton for Kinahan 54 mins.

CORK: E. Clifford, J. Brown, L. Sweetnam, N. Bowles, C. Foley, N. Ahearn, M. Holland, V. O'Keeffe, E. O'Farrell, C. Desmond (0-3), C. Kelly (0-5 all frees), G. Collins (1-0), A. Murphy, E. McCarthy, M. Watson. Subs: B. Corkery (1-0) for O'Keeffe 11, O'Farrell replaced by O'Donovan 44 mins, D. Twomey for McCarthy 51 mins.

Corcaigh

Foras na Gaeilge

Tiobraid Árann



2
Siobhán Ní Cheallacháin
Joanne O'Callaghan
Cloughduv

5
Paula Ní Chonchubhair
Paula O'Connor
Newtownshandrum

8
Beibhíonn Ní Earchai
Vivienne Harris
Bishopstown

10
Linda Ní Mhaolghéiric
Linda Mellenick
Glen Rovers

13
Una Ní Dhoonchú
Una O'Donoghue
Cloughduv, **Captain**

1
Gearóidín Ní Chathasaigh
Ger Casey
Inniscarra

3
Eithne Ní Dhuagáin
Eithne Duggan
Bishopstown

6
Maire Ní Chonchubhair
Mary O'Connor
Killeagh

9
Léan de Búrca
Elaine Burke
Valley Rovers

11
Eimhear Ní Dhioláin
Emer Dillon
Ballygarvan

14
Caoimhe Ní Arrachtáin
Caoimhe Harrington
Newtownshandrum

Dearg agus Bán

4
Stiofáinín Ní Dhoinnlé
Stephanie Dunlea
Cloughduv

7
Gemma Ní Chonchubhair
Gemma O'Connor
Naomh Fionnbharr

12
Sinéad Ní Laoire
Jennifer O'Leary
Barryroe

15
Fiona Ní Dhrisceoil
Fiona O'Driscoll
Fr. O'Neills

Gorm agus Órga

2
Paula Bhuitfin
Paula Bulfin
Cashel

5
Sinéad Ní Nialláin
Sinéad Nealon
Burgess

8
Siobhán Ní Cheallaigh
Suzanne Kelly
Toomevara

10
Filimín Ní Fhógartaigh
Philly Fogarty
Cashel

13
Eimhear Ní Domhnaill
Emer McDonnell
Burgess

1
Jovita Ní Dhubhshláine
Jovita Delaney,
Cashel

3
Una Ní Dhuibhir
Una O'Dwyer
Cashel, **Captain**

6
Ciara Ní Fhionnbhairr
Ciara Gaynor
Kilruane McDonagh

9
Aingeal Ní Diarmada
Angie McDermott
Annacarty

11
Noelle Ní Chinnéide
Noelle Kennedy
Toomevara

14
Deirdre Ní Aodha
Deirdre Hughes
Toomevara



4
Clár Ní Mhadáin
Claire Madden
Portroe

7
Treasa Ní Bhróithe
Therese Brophy
Burgess

12
Siobhán Ní Riain
Joanne Ryan
Drom-Inch

15
Clár Ní Ghrugáin
Claire Grogan
Cashel

16. Aoife Ní Mhuiri
Aoife Murray, Cloughduv
17. Rachel Ní Mhaolomhaigh
Rachel Moloney, Courcey Rovers
18. Sorcha Ní Aodha
Sarah Hayes, Courcey Rovers
19. Orlaith Ní Shuilleabháin
Orla O'Sullivan, Naomh Fionnbharr
20. Denise Ní Chróinín
Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers

21. Caltriona Ní Chorca
Catherine Corkery, Cloughduv
22. Ciara Ní Éalaithé
Ciara Healy, Bishopstown
23. Rosalíe Ní Aoláin
Rosalie Holland, Barryroe
24. Sinéad Ní Bhuachalla
Sinéad Buckley, Aghabullogue
25. Cór Ní Cheocháin
Cora Keohane, Barryroe

BAINISTEOR

**Pádraig
Ó Finn
(Pa Finn)**

16. Laoighse Ní Riain
Louise Ryan, Holycross Ballycahill
17. Eimil Ní Eideáin
Emily Hayden, Cashel
18. Laoighse de Siún
Louise Young, Toomevara
19. Sheena Ní Iomhair
Sheena Howard, Burgess
20. Pádraigin Ní Ailúráin
Trish O'Halloran, Portroe

21. Léan Ní Bhraolín
Helen Breen, Cashel
22. Niamh Ní Chonghaile
Niamh Connolly, Templemore
23. Léan Ní Conchoille
Lena Woods, Toomevara
24. Áine Ní Conchoille
Anna Woods, Toomevara
25. Lorraine de Búrca
Lorraine Bourke, Templemore

BAINISTEOR

**Micheál Ó
Cléirigh
(Michael Cleary)**

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

Tosaíthe chun tosaigh Senior Top Scorers, 2002

**The Top
Ten
from the
Foras na
Gaeilge
Championship**

1
Fiona Ní Dhrisceoil
Fiona O'Driscoll
Corcaigh
5 - 17

2
Clár Ní Ghrugáin
Claire Grogan
Tiobraid Árann
2 - 16

3
Sharon Ní Fhloinn
Sharon Glynn
An Ghaillimh
2 - 14

4
Eibhlín Ní Bhriain
Eileen O'Brien
Luimneach
1 - 16

5
Deirdre Ní Aodha
Deirdre Hughes
Tiobraid Árann
4 - 03

6
Sinéad Ní Mhaolaidh
Sinéad Millea
Cill Chainnigh
1 - 11

agus
Mairéad Ní Eathairn
Maggie Ahearne
Loch Garman
4 - 02

8
Caoimhe Ní Arrachtáin
Caoimhe Harrington
Corcaigh
4 - 01

agus
Éimhear Ní Domhnaill
Emer McDonnell
Tiobraid Árann
2 - 07

agus
Aoife Ní Náraigh
Aoife Neary
Cill Chainnigh
4 - 01

Breis is 200 de Chluichí Ceannais

Cuirtear fáilte faoi leith roimh ár n-Uachtarán lena Saol. Sighle Ní an Ullaigh, An Dún, chuig na Cluichí Ceannais. In 1933, Sighle attended her first Camogie Final, which was played in Killester, Áth Cliath, and saw Áth Cliath defeat An Ghaillimh to win its second title. She had attended her first Football Final in 1930 and, including ten replays, will attend her eighty third next Sunday. With almost seventy Hurling Finals to her credit, as well as the Camogie Finals, Sighle's tally of Finals is approaching two hundred and twenty.

Chuirfi geall leis nach bhfuil a sárú de Sighle ann.



Sighle Ní an Ullaigh

Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear 1932 - 2002

*The 71st
All-Ireland
Senior Final*

Cluiche Ceannais na Sinsear, 2002
faoi urraicte ag
Foras na Gaeilge

With seventy Finals played to date, Corcaigh and Tiobraid Árann have met only once in the All-Ireland Senior Championship Final, that of 2000. Muintir Thiobraid Árann a bhí chun tosaigh ar an lá sin agus Craobh na hÉireann buaite don tarna huair as a chéile acu.



Corn Ua Dubhthaigh

Tiobraid Árann waited fifty years from its first All-Ireland Final appearance in 1949 to win, on its eighth attempt, Corn Ua Dubhthaigh for the first time. Níl séasta scárait leis an gCorn ó 1999 i leith, afach. Tiobraid Árann come here today as worthy and talented three-in-a-row champions.

Corcaigh, on the other hand, is contesting its 35th Final, having won its first in 1934 and having completed the first ever three-in-a-row between 1934 and 1936.

Naoi n-uair déag a bhuaigh Corcaigh an corn. The Leesiders will match their opponents skill for skill and are committed to the task of capturing their twentieth title.

Go raibh sár-chluiche ann idir na comharsain agus sean-chairde seo.

**Foras na Gaeilge - Craobhchomórtas na Sinsear 2002
All-Ireland Senior Championship - Crannchur Comhoscaillte (Open Draw)**

an chéad bhabhta

Cill Chainnigh Aontroim	3-12 0-07	An Ghaillimh Loch Garman	3-09 1-05	Corcaigh Luimneach	4-19 1-06	Tiobraid Árann Áth Cliath	2-17 0-04
----------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------	--------------	-----------------------	--------------	------------------------------	--------------

an tarna babhta

Luimneach Áth Cliath	1-13 1-08	Loch Garman Áth Cliath	6-11 0-07
-------------------------	--------------	---------------------------	--------------

na cluichí Ceathrúnacha

Cill Chainnigh An Dún	6-15 0-04	An Ghaillimh Luimneach	1-15 1-10	Corcaigh Aontroim	7-12 1-08	Tiobraid Árann Loch Garman	7-15 0-10
--------------------------	--------------	---------------------------	--------------	----------------------	--------------	-------------------------------	--------------

na Cluichí Leath-Ceannais

Corcaigh An Ghaillimh	4-12 0-05	Tiobraid Árann Cill Chainnigh	1-11 0-06
--------------------------	--------------	----------------------------------	--------------

Tiobraid Árann



ar chúil (ó chlé): L. Nic Conchoille, L. Ni Bhraoin, T. Ni Bhroíthe, F. Ni Fhógartaigh, C. Nig Fhionnbhair, S. Ni Cheallaigh, S. Ni Rian, L. de Siún, C. Ni Ghrugáin, C. Ni Mhadáin, S. Ni Dhubhshláine, N. Ni Chinnéide, P. Ni Allúráin, J. Ni Dhubhshláine
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): A. Nic Conchoille, N. Ni Chonghaile, L. Ni Rian, D. Nic Aodha, Ú. Ni Dhuibhir, Captaen, E. Nic Domhnaill, S. Ni Niallán, E. Ni Éideáin, P. Bhulfin, A. Nic Diarmada, M. Nic an Gheair, S. Nic Iomhair, L. de Búrca.

Sinsir Thiobraid Árann



An Captaen

3. Una Ni Dhuibhir
Una O'Dwyer, Cashel

Is í seo an séú bliain d'Una bheith ag mair le foireann na síneair. Ba mór ar fad aici é Com Ua Dubhthaigh a bhuachant don cheathair huair as a chéile, go háirithe agus í ina captaen i mbliana. The three previous winning captains came from the Cashel club.

Una has represented Cluige Mumhan at senior level and, as a student, plays for Coláiste na hOiscoil, Corcaigh.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor

Cuireann sí sum i gceipheil agus i sacar.

Scoláire i gColáiste na hOiscoil, Corcaigh.

8. Suzanne Kelly
Toomevara

Season: 9th
Cluige Mumhan Junior, Gael Linn
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Minor
1 Senior & 2 Junior Colleges
1 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde Third Level Colleges with Múir gan Smáil, Luimneach
Ráil na gCon is ansa le Múinteoir.

1. Jovita Delaney
Cashel

Season: 13th
Represented Cluige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn
"Imreoir na Bliana", 2000
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor
Imríonn sí Ceipheil agus badmantan Múinteoir Chorpóideachais (P.E.)

4. Claire Madden
Portroe

Season: 13th
Represented Cluige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor
Imríonn sí Peil agus Ceipheil
Business Analyst

6. Clara Gaynor
Kilruane McDonagh

Season: 6th
Represented Cluige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn
"Imreoir na Bliana" 2001
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 2 Minor
Cuireann sí sum i marcaiocht
Is Garda í

9. Angie McDermott
Annacarty

Season: 4th
Tiobraid Árann Senior and Junior level
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Junior
2 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde medals
Cuireann sí sum sa seannós, sa veidhlín agus sa pheil
Cuntasóir (accountant)

2. Paula Buífin
Cashel

Season: 2nd
Represented Cluige Mumhan at Junior level in Gael Linn
All-Ireland Championship medals:
2 Senior
1 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde Third Level Colleges
Imríonn sí Peil agus Sacar
Múinteoir Chorpóideachais (P.E.)

5. Sinead Nealon
Burgess

Season: 12th
Represented Cluige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior, 1 Minor
1 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde with W.I.T.
Snámh agus scáil is ansa le Project Manager, Waterford I.T.

7. Therese Brophy
Burgess

Season: 5th
Cluige Mumhan Junior, Gael Linn
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 2 Minor
2 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde Third Level Colleges with U.C.C.
Scáil, pionsóireacht agus Formula 1 a tháinig le Múinteoir

10. Philly Fogarty
Cashel

Season: 6th
Cluige Mumhan Senior and Junior
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior
d'fuir sí ar fhoireann idir-chontae na Monair agus na Síneair
Cuireann sí sum i gCeipheil agus i bPeil
Scoláire, Carlow I.T.

Sinsir Thiobraid Árann

11. Noelle Kennedy
Toomevara

Season: 11th
Represented Cluige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior
1 Senior & 1 Junior Colleges
Cuireann sí sum san amhránaíocht
Ag obair le Proctor & Gamble

12. Joanne Ryan
DromlInch

Season: 3rd
Cluige Mumhan at Junior level
All-Ireland Championship medals:
2 Senior
1 Corn Mhic Giolla Bhríde Third Level Colleges
Marcaiocht agus snámh a tháinig le
Scoláire, Thurles I.T.

13. Eimear McDonnell
Burgess

Season: 5th
Represented Cluige Mumhan at Senior and Junior level in Gael Linn
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Junior, 1 Minor
1 Senior & 1 Junior Colleges
Marcaiocht a tháinig le
Leighas (Medical Student)

14. Deirdre Hughes
Toomevara

Season: 13th
Cluige Mumhan Senior and Junior
"Imreoir na Bliana", 1999
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior
1 Senior & 1 Junior Colleges
Imríonn sí hacai le Cluige Mumhan agus tá sum i sacar aici
Sales Assistant

15. Claire Grogan
Cashel

Season: 3rd
Represented Tiobraid Árann at Minor level
All-Ireland Championship medals:
2 Senior
d'fuir sí lena Club i bhFéile na nGael
Imríonn sí gailf
Scoláire, Cashel Community School

16. Louise Ryan, Holycross Ballycahill

Season: 5th
All-Ireland Championship medals: 2 Senior
Scoláire, Coláiste na hOiscoil, Luimneach

17. Emily Hayden, Cashel

Season: 6th
All-Ireland Championship medals: 3 Senior
Scoláire, Carlow I.T.

18. Louise Young, Toomevara

Season: 2nd
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Senior
Scoláire, P.E., Coláiste na hOiscoil, Luimneach

19. Sheena Howard, Burgess

Season: 5th
All-Ireland Championship medals: 3 Senior
Scoláire, Business Studies

20. Trish O'Halloran, Portroe.

Season: 1st
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Junior
Scoláire, Presentation Convent, Nenagh

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Micheál Ó Cléirigh
(Michael Cleary)

An Bainisteoir

Brid Mhic Philib
(Biddy Phillips)

Séamas Ó Madáin
(Jim Madden)

Corcaigh



ar chúil (ó chlé): E. Ní Dhoillín, A. Ní Mhuiri, S. Ní Aodha, C. Ní Aghairt, L. Ní Mhaoligheric, C. Ní Arrachtáin, G. Ní Chonchubhair, B. Ní Earchai, C. Ní Ealaithe, P. Ní Chonchubhair, L. Ní Chonail, C. Ní Cheocháin, D. Ní Chróinín, F. Ní Dhrisceoil.
chun tosaigh (ó chlé): S. Ní Bhuachalla, R. Ní Mhaolomhnaigh, G. Ní Chathasaigh, S. Ní Cheallacháin, M. Ní Chonchubhair, Ó. Ní Shuilleabháin, Ú. Ní Dhoillín, **Captaen:** S. Ní Bhroin, E. Ní Dhuagáin, S. Ní Laoire, L. de Búrca, R. Ní Aoláin

Sinsir Chorcaí



An Captaen

13. Úna Ní Dhoillín
Úna O'Donoghue, Cloughduv

Is í seo an ceathrú bliain d'Úna bheith ag imirt le foireann na Sinsir. Fonn an-mhór aia uirthi glacadh le Com Ua Dubhthaigh inniu agus lena cead bheith Uile-Eireann.

Úna has played in four All-Ireland Finals - Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Minor - but has yet to win an All-Ireland medal. Bhuaidh sí Sraithchomórtaí na hÉireann, áfach, le Corcaigh.

Úna also contributed greatly to the success of U.C.C. in Comórtaí Mhic Giolla Bhríde and the C.C.I.A. League in 1999.

Is scoláire í Úna go holl i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh.

1. Ger Casey
Inniscarra

Season: 3rd
"Imreoir an Chluiche", All-Ireland Junior Final, 1999.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Junior

1 Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C.
Scoláire i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh

2. Joanne O'Callaghan
Cloughduv

Season: 2nd
Corcaigh Minor, Junior Intermediate
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Intermediate, 2 Minor
1 Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C.
Munster hockey player.

Scoláire i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh

3. Eithne Duggan
Bishopstown

Season: 8th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior level. Captaen ar fhoireann Chorcaí i 1998 nuair a bhíodan an Chraobh.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior

Computer Programmer

4. Stephanie Dunlea
Cloughduv

Season: 8th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior

1 Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C.
Imríonn sí peil agus badminton.

Food Technologist

5. Paula O'Connor
Newtownshandrum

Season: 5th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior
Imríonn sí le I.T., Corcaigh

Student of Sports and Leisure Management, Cork I.T.

6. Mary O'Connor
Killeagh

Season: 5th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior, 1 All-Ireland Club with Granagh Ballingary, Luimneach

Is imreoir peile chomh maith i Gaelic Games Coach

7. Gemma O'Connor
Naomh Fionnbharr

Season: 1st
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Minor level.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor

Scoláire scoile - Leaving Certificate student

8. Vivienne Harris
Bishopstown

Season: 8th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior level in Gael Linn.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
3 Senior, 1 Intermediate, 1 Junior

Represented Ireland at kick-boxing

Ag obair le Boston Scientific, Corcaigh

9. Elaine Burke
Valley Rovers

Season: 3rd
Represented Corcaigh at Junior level.
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Junior

1 Com Mhic Giolla Bhríde le U.C.C.

An Oll - graduated from U.C.C. this year with a law degree.

Sinsir Chorcaí

10. Linda Mellerick
Glen Rovers

Season: 21st
Cúige Mumhan in Senior Gael Linn.
Only player to captain Corcaigh to two Senior titles.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
5 Senior, 1 Junior, 1 Minor, 1 Club.
"Imreoir na Bliana", 1993, 1998.
Working with Pádraic Bandon and studying Accountancy

11. Emer Dillon
Ballygarvan

Season: 1st
Represented Corcaigh at Minor level.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor

Represented Ireland at hockey.

Ard teistiméireacht dhanta i 2002 aici

12. Jennifer O'Leary
Barryroe

Season: 2nd
Represented Cúige Mumhan in Senior Gael Linn and Corcaigh at Minor, Junior and Intermediate levels.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Intermediate, 1 Minor.

Ard teistiméireacht dhanta i 2002 aici

14. Caoimhe Harrington
Newtownshandrum

Season: 5th
Represented Corcaigh at Junior and Minor level.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Senior
Craobhchomórtaí na gColáistí, Sinsir agus Sóisear, le Naomh Mhuire, Rath Luic
Scoláire - Physiotherapy, U.C.D.

15. Fiona O'Driscoll
Fr. O'Neill's

Season: 11th
Represented Cúige Mumhan at Senior level.

All-Ireland Championship medals:
5 Senior.
Comórtaí Mhic Giolla Bhríde agus Comórtaí Pairsbail le hOllscoil Luimnigh.
Bonn peile le Sóisear Chorcaí.
Múinteoir iarbhuiscóla, Ballincollig

16. Aoife Murray, Cloughduv

Season: 1st
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor, 1 Intermediate
Scoláire Ardteistiméireachta, 2002

17. Rachel Moloney, Courcy Rovers

Season: 3rd
All-Ireland Championship medals:
1 Minor, 1 Junior, 1 Intermediate
Scoláire, U.C.C.

18. Sarah Hayes, Courcy Rovers

Season: 4th
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Minor
Scoláire - Biochemistry, U.C.C.

19. Orla O'Sullivan, St. Finbarr's

Season: 1st
All-Ireland Championship medals: 1 Intermediate
Scoláire, Business Studies, Cork I.T.

20. Denise Cronin, Glen Rovers

Season: 11th
All-Ireland Championship medals:
5 Senior, 4 Club
Graphic Designer, Johnson & Johnson, Ringaskiddy

An Fhoireann Bhainistíochta

Pádraig Ó Finn
(Pa Finn)

An Bainisteoir

Róis Ní Dheasúnaigh
(Rose Desmond)

Caitlín Ní Éalaithe
(Kathleen Healy)

Brilliant Rebels fire on all cylinders

Cork
Tipperary

by Diarmuid O'Flynn

FOUR years ago, an exceptionally-talented Cork side won the All-Ireland final, and looked set to dominate the camogie landscape for some years to come.

Nobody figured that Tipperary's tyros, bursting at the seams with hurling skills and with a ferocious appetite, would finally put the Premier county on the camogie map.

For the last three years, Cork's players were like the rest of the camogie world, mere witnesses to greatness, as Tipperary first broke their duck at this level, then went on to triple success. Three years during which the frustration, the hunger, welled up, dammed on the double over the last two years, when first they lost a final to Tipperary, then last year, a replayed semi-final.

Yesterday, at Croke Park, that dam finally burst. The flood that so mercilessly swept away the Tipperary crown started with Cork's eagle-eyed and fleet-footed keeper Ger Casey, continued with a suffocating full-back line of Joanne O'Callaghan, Eithne Duggan and Stephanie Dunlea, had become a raging torrent by the time the brilliant half-back line of Paula, Mary and

4-9
1-9

Gemma O'Connor (not related) came into play, and with the magnificent Vivienne Harris and Rachel Moloney controlling midfield, all that remained was for the Cork forwards to finish the job.

How they responded. Three minutes into that second half, Tipp led by 1-8 to 1-6; fifteen minutes later, it was 4-7 to 1-8. Floodgates open, 3-4 without reply, game over. Four different players, Emer Dillon, Jennifer O'Leary, team captain Una O'Donoghue and Fiona O'Driscoll, involved in the scores, the other two, Linda Mellerick and Caoimhe Harrington, working beaverishly and selflessly, Orla O'Sullivan doing her bit when introduced, this was a team performance par excellence.

Through the first half, it had been nip and tuck, with the champions looking marginally the better side. That scenario was reflected too in the half-time scoreline, Tipp with a slight lead, 1-6 to 1-5.

Most of the Tipp scoring was done in the opening quarter, with Emer McDonnell taking 1-1 in that opening half, while Claire Grogan, looked dangerous every time she came near the ball.

Gradually however, Cork settled down and with their large following, in the incredibly noisy 13,387 crowd urging them on, pegged back the Tipp's



Cork's hat-trick star Fiona O'Driscoll palms the ball to the net during the All-Ireland senior camogie final against Tipperary at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Dan Linehan

lead. The crucial score was O'Driscoll's first goal, Tipperary keeper Jovita Delaney was forced to bat out a dangerous Mellerick shot, the nifty corner-forward pounced on the break. That score came in the 19th minute, left Cork just a point behind, 1-3 to 1-4, but also signalled that on this day, the breaks would be with the Rebels.

Tipperary actually started the second period looking the more likely winners, two fine points from Philly Fogarty and Grogan putting them a goal to the good. Then it happened. At one end, the Cork defence closed up shop, at the other, the scores started to come. Points from Dillon and O'Leary, goal O'Donoghue after a Dillon centre, another goal, O'Driscoll this time storm-

ing forward and hand-passing to the net after some outstanding defensive work at the other end, then O'Driscoll again, and a goal would have graced any stage.

A dropping ball, in the midst of a number of players, Fiona used her great strength to grab the ball and, still under great pressure, managed to fire off the shot. Keeper Delaney almost made the save, but the ball broke behind, trickled over the line.

That was it, Tipperary continued to fight the good fight, but it was Cork, through O'Donoghue and O'Leary, who closed out the scoring.

Good game, despite the lop-sided look at the end which didn't do justice to Tipperary, but the real pity was that

so few were there to witness such a compelling team and individual performance.

Scorers - Cork: F. O'Driscoll 3-2; U. O'Donoghue 1-1; E. Dillon 0-3; J. O'Leary 0-3 (0-2 frees).
Tipperary: E. McDonnell 1-1; C. Grogan 0-4 (0-3 frees); P. Fogarty 0-2; D. Hughes, C. Gaynor, 0-1 each.

CORK: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, E. Duggan, S. Dunlea, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor, V. Harris, E. Burke, L. Mellerick, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, U. O'Donoghue, C. Harrington, F. O'Driscoll.

Subs: R. Moloney (Burke 30); O. O'Sullivan (Harrington 49).

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney, P. Biffin, U. O'Dwyer, C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T. Brophy, S. Kelly, A. McDermott, D. Hughes, E. Hayden, N. Kennedy, E. McDonnell, P. Fogarty, C. Grogan.
Subs: L. Young (Nealon 43); E. Hayden (McDermott 50).

Referee: E. Lawlor (Westmeath) - good job.

Agony and ecstasy: Tipp torment as Rebels celebrate



Cork's Mary O'Connor celebrates with the fans as her opposite number, Tipperary player Ciara Gaynor, gets a hug from her parents after the Leesiders' victory in the senior camogie All-Ireland final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Dan Linehan

Veteran O'Driscoll proves star of the show

by Diarmuid O'Flynn

MOMENTS after yesterday's All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park, hat-trick Cork hero Fiona O'Driscoll is bounding along in front of the Rebel fans in the Hogan Stand, clenched triumphant fist aloft, saluting friends, family, the red-and-white hordes.

"I had been thinking of giving it up earlier this year", she revealed, "but I'm glad I didn't now."

So were those same fans, because on the biggest day of the camogie calendar, the immensely-talented Fr. O'Neill's veteran put on an exhibition, 3-2 to her credit at the finish, every score more crucial than the one before, and more spectacular. Her third goal, Cork's fourth, and the one that really killed off this game, was the most incredible of all a magical catch of a dropping high ball, turn, and a shot off in the most confined space.

"We knew we were capable of putting up a performance like this, but you can't be sure until you've actually done it. Tipp were obviously favourites, but we knew, they just couldn't have the hunger we had, no way. We knew if we could stay with them for the first ten or fifteen minutes of the second half, our desire and fitness would pull us through. I've been lucky over the years, playing it a while now, but to wake up on Monday morning with that brilliant feeling the last time we were here, it wasn't so good. Looking forward now to going back to Cork tomorrow evening". After such a show, they will surely get a huge welcome.

Another veteran collecting her sixth senior All-Ireland was Linda Mellerick but this one, according to the blonde bombshell from the Glen, is the sweetest of all. "We needed this so, so badly. I know this is a cliché, but I just can't believe we've won it, and that we've won it by three clear goals - it won't sink in for a while. But I did say to Una O'Donoghue last Tuesday night when we were wrapping up training, we're three goals, a better team than them if we can click, and in the second half, we really clicked. Every time you win one, it's a fantastic feeling, but this is the sweetest of them all."

Six senior titles each for O'Driscoll and Mellerick, first success in five All-Ireland finals for team captain Una O'Donoghue, having lost one at every grade so far (minor, junior, intermediate, senior). "I'm just flabbergasted, can't even speak, absolutely brilliant", was her rather hoarse reaction to breaking that horrible run. "It makes it all the sweeter too to captain the side. Fantastic performance, especially the second half, we just upped it that bit. Fiona is just pure class, put away the goals that put us on our way. The defence too were brilliant, nothing going through in the second half. They've been like that all year, very sticky, so clean in their play. Balls were going in to them but coming straight out again, up to the forward line".

So true, especially in the second half, when their ultra-dangerous full-forward line of McDonnell/Hughes/Grogan were kept to just one point between them. Much of the credit for that would have to go to the all-O'Connor half-back line, a fact acknowledged by team coach Pa Finn. "This is a proud day, for me and for all those girls. They were absolutely superb in the second half; struggled a bit in the first half, but we spoke in the dressing-room at the break, and they came out in the second half, they were magic, absolutely superb."

ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINAL: Cork win famous battle

REBEL GIRLS TOPPLE TIPPER



REBEL ROUSERS: Cork's goal heroine, Fiona O'Driscoll, lifts the cup with team-mate Eithne Duggan and (right) Una O'Donoghue with Claire Madden

Champs dumped from throne

A GOAL blitz from the Rebels saw three-in-a-row champs Tipperary dethroned as All-Ireland camogie champs yesterday at Croke Park.

And for coach, Pa Finn, it was a dream realised after over 25 years of loyal service to the game.

Finn who coached St Finbarr's to victory in the All-Ireland club final in 1977 was in GAA headquarters for the first time and saw his team respond magnificently in the second half with the half-back line keeping the Tipp forwards scoreless for a staggering 21 minute period after the break.

But at the other end there was no stopping the Cork forwards who hit a ravaged Tipp full-back line with three goals after the break.

For Tipperary coach, Michael Cleary, it was not the fairytale end for the former All-Star who is hot favourite to take over from Nicky English.

Nonetheless Cleary was gracious in defeat afterwards.

"The Cork side seemed to getting to the break of the ball which is a sure

Cork 4-9 Tipperary 1-9

RORY KERR reports

sign of a team which has the better hunger."

Tipperary's one point lead might well have been three had Deirdre Hughes goal stood just on half-time.

From Angie McDermott's long ball in, corner-forward Emer McDonnell took a wonderful catch before offloading to Hughes who stuck the ball past Ger Casey in the Cork goal.

However referee, Eileen Lawlor, had already whistled for a free in which Clare Grogan duly converted to leave it 1-7 to 1-6 in the Premier county's favour at half time.

Changed

But it all changed after that with Una O'Donoghue beginning a remarkable avalanche of Cork scores with a goal ten minutes after the break.

Then came the score of the match on 43 minutes when from a clearance from corner back, Gemma O'Connor, O'Driscoll took up the running just inside the Tipperary half.

And despite the close attention of Joanne O'Callaghan and Stephanie Dunlea, she held off both players to fire the ball home.

And another pacey run down the right hand side saw her get a hat-trick which was to ultimately kill off Tipperary's valiant challenge. Afterwards Finn paid this tribute to the Tipperary team.

"They've had three marvellous years and I can only hope we can match up to their standards. But today the Cork girls were super."

SCORES: Cork: F O'Driscoll 3-2, U O'Donoghue 1-1, E Dillon 0-2, V Harris 0-2, C Harrington 0-1. Tipperary: E McDonnell 1-2, C Grogan 0-3(2 frees), P Fogarty 0-2, C Gaynor 0-1, D Hughes 0-1.

CORK: G Casey, J O'Callaghan, E Duggan, S Dunlea, P O'Connor, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, V Harris, E Burke, L Mellerick, E Dillon, J O'Leary, U O'Donoghue, C Harrington, F O'Driscoll, O O'Sullivan for Harrington 50 mins.

TIPPERARY: J Delaney, P Biffin, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, S Nealon, C Gaynor, T Brophy, S Kelly, A McDermott, P Fogarty, N Kennedy, J Ryan, E McDonnell, D Hughes, G Grogan, E Hayden for McDermott 60 mins.

Referee: E Lawlor(Westmeath)

Joanne O'Callaghan is a great bit of stuff, but the three O'Connors were marvellous. Our midfield picked up, Linda, Rachel Moloney who came on as a sub, every single one of them was absolutely marvellous.

"There's an awful lot of work gone into this, and I'm getting older by the older by the bloody minute, but I'm so proud, so pleased for the girls. Tipperary have been great champions, three-in-a-row is fabulous, but now Cork will be great champions too".

Tipp HAVE been superb champions, great ambassadors for the game, and their coach, Michael Cleary, urged them to keep their heads held high. "They lost a game, but that's all they lost. It was inevitable they were going to get beaten at some stage; we had Cork on the back foot a few times, missed a few crucial scores, and maybe that would have made a difference. But for the last quarter of an hour, Cork were totally dominant. That's it, we've had our days in the sun".

Nevertheless, it's a lonely station, beaten in an All-Ireland final, and team captain Una O'Dwyer was inconsolable.

"We're absolutely gutted, but what can we say, they were better than us on the day. We came close for a while, but on the day, they were better, that's all. I don't know what kind of game it was too look at, but it was fierce tough, I know that. We don't begrudge them at all, they deserve every bit of it".



Brilliant Cork end Tipperary's four in-a-row bid



Cork move up a gear to dazzle Tipperary

CORK found a gear in the second half of the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park that may have even surprised themselves. They battled back after Tipperary's impressive first-half performance to provide the 13,287 crowd with a scintillating display of stick work and co-ordination of effort, garnished with a hunger for victory that left their four-a-row-chasing rivals virtually stuck to the ground in a final of blistering pace.

Cork manager Pa Finn sought to explain why his team were the hares on the day and Tipperary the tortoises on the vast headquarters pitch.

"We have trained hard since the beginning of the year, the size of the pitch did not matter because we were that fit," he said.

And to add to Cork's strengths they clearly produced "the woman of the match" in left-corner forward Fiona O'Driscoll, who finished up with a personal tally of 3-2.

Tipperary were generally in control of the first-half exchanges, with Ciara Gaynor's long deliveries supplying the front runners with plenty of opportunities. The scoreboard, however, said differently - a 1-6 to 1-5 Tipperary advantage concealing their dominance in the vital sectors.

The Tipperary finishing power became suspect, however, and 10 wides did not reflect their outfield form.

O'Driscoll, at the other end, was signposting her ability to turn the match on its head. She had Cork's

Pat Roche
at Croke Park

Cork	4-9
Tipperary	1-9

first point and then popped up to punish a defensive error with a smashing goal after 19 minutes. Later still, in that first half, O'Driscoll brought the best out of Tipperary goalkeeper Jovita Delaney, who was fortunate to turn a blaster over the bar.

Tipperary appeared to have a right to be annoyed for having a goal disallowed just on half-time but the referee's whistle apparently had sounded to award a free instead, despite a brilliant fetch by Emer McDonnell.

Tipperary followers did not take too kindly to the decision but their manager Michael Cleary said afterwards: "I had no problems with it once the referee's whistle sounded for our free that was that."

One might have thought Gaynor should have been given more frees to take. As it was, Claire Grogan was unfortunate with three of the awards.

Tipperary seemed to be moving into the winning groove at last when stretching their lead to three points, thanks to Philly Fogarty and Deirdre Hughes, with less than two minutes of the second half played.

But Cork's potential was seen in its true light with the O'Connor-controlled half-back line repeat-

edly cutting off the supply to the Tipperary full-forward line. The unrelated Paula, Mary and Gemma O'Connor dominated to a remarkable extent and established the much-needed link between backs and forwards, an aspect of play that the winners found difficult to cope with in the opening half.

Una O'Donoghue hit home a 40th-minute goal that visibly drained Tipperary's confidence and the score gave Cork the lead for the first time in the match.

O'Driscoll took on Tipperary defenders Paula Bulfin and Claire Madden and outpaced them with a sizzling run before finally planting the ball in the Tipperary net.

It was game, set and match at this stage, with the Cork women driving home their advantage in

style. O'Driscoll's second goal gave Cork a 3-7 to 1-8 advantage. Her third, when fending off the attentions of Bulfin and Una O'Dwyer, was pure magic.

Subsequently the Cork defence were only asked to repulse an Emer McDonnell shot, while Gaynor's 53rd-minute point was the only addition to Hughes's 32nd minute point.

It was fortunate enough for Cork that match winner O'Driscoll had not followed through with her intention to retire earlier in the year. "I was thinking of giving it up but I can tell you now I am glad I didn't," she said. "We knew we were capable of this kind of performance but we had to go out there and prove it."

"Pa Finn told us to keep playing

the way we did in the first half." Wing forward Linda Mellerick was delighted. "We badly needed this win. I still can't believe we won it so clearly," she said.

Team captain Una O'Donoghue said: "I am just flabbergasted, I can't believe it, it's brilliant."

Tipperary manager Cleary conceded Cork were the better team.

"A few small things didn't go right for us. They (Cork) were first to the ball and seemed to be more hungry than us. When we went three points clear just after the restart it gave me encouragement but Cork's second-half display was a clear winner."

Cork manager Finn offered: "The size of the pitch didn't worry us for we had worked so hard in training that we had reached great

fitness levels. From the time we got our second goal for the lead I knew it was going to be our day."

CORK: G. Casey; J. O'Callaghan; E. Duggan; S. Dunlea; P. O'Connor; M. O'Connor; G. O'Connor; V. Harris (0-2); E. Burke; L. Mellerick; E. Dillon (0-1); J. O'Leary (0-3, two frees); U. O'Donoghue (1-1); C. Harrington; F. O'Driscoll (3-2). Subs: R. Moloney for Burke at half time; O. O'Sullivan for T. Harrington 48 mins.

TIPPERARY: J. Delaney; P. Bulfin; U. O'Dwyer; C. Madden; S. Nealon; C. Gaynor (0-1); T. Brophy; S. Kelly; A. McDermott; P. Fogarty (0-2); N. Kennedy; J. Ryan; E. McDonnell (1-2); D. Hughes (0-1); C. Grogan (0-3 two frees). Subs: L. Young for Nealon (44 mins); E. Hayden for McDermott (58 mins).

Referee: E. Lawlor (Westmeath).





Cork's Linda Mellerick keeps her eye on the ball as she attempts to block Tipperary's Therese Brophy during yesterday's All-Ireland Camogie Final at Croke Park. Pictures: Aoife Rice/Sportsfile

Finn attacks GAA's attitude

by Diarmuid O'Flynn

ALL-IRELAND winning Cork camogie coach Pa Finn has launched a stinging broadside at GAA officials in the county for the dismissive attitude shown towards the team ahead of Sunday's victory over Tipperary.

The coach was particularly critical of the decision to play the Cork SHC final on the same day as the camogie decider, and accused the county board of paying lip service to camogie.

"I think it's a disgrace. We had Cork in two All-Ireland camogie finals, and if it wasn't for the parents and friends of the girls involved, we'd have had no-one at Croke Park.

"If they put off the county final for a week, what would it have mattered to them? Nothing.

"We need support, those girls deserve support for all the work they've put in.

"You had a situation where the O'Connor family were split in two, the boys in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, their sister in Croke Park winning her first All-Ireland senior medal. The family couldn't be together on a day like that, and that is sad.

Though not growing as fast as its Gaelic football counterpart, camogie is still a growth sport, especially in Cork, with more and more girls joining an increasing number of clubs.

"The support camogie gets from the county board is minimal. They give us a collection at the county final, which we missed, because we were up here (it was held during the semi-finals).

"It's the begging bowl syndrome and it's unfair and disrespectful to those trying to run camogie, when you have to go around like that.

"The Cork County Board should be coming and saying 'look, we'll sponsor this'. Especially with the money they have. We were lucky we got Páirc Uí Chaoimh for the last few weeks, to look after the girls. If we hadn't those, we'd have been in big trouble.

"The effort the girls put in is huge; they started in February, went through to September, two nights a week and once at weekends. We're getting slights off the county board, but not enough. You must get support, you have to have your own county board backing you.

"If you could get people along to see these games, to see the quality — Sunday was a superb final, unreal skill levels, even the work-rate. They won an All-Ireland for Cork, but what will they get? The girls are doing everything that's asked of them, but it's a shame, they're getting nothing back. Lip service, that's all."

The ironic thing is that the camogie girls, typified by Sunday's player-of-the-game, Fiona O'Driscoll, are all committed supporters of their male counterparts.

"I'm very disappointed with the Cork County Board," said O'Driscoll. "I'm a fanatical GAA fan, go to every game I can, and I know when the lads (Cork team) aren't playing, they're great supporters of ours.

"But the board could surely have played that game on another weekend — it would be different if Cork had been in an All-Ireland final themselves, and there was a backlog of fixtures, but that wasn't the case. It would have been really appreciated if it had been done."

The clash obviously disappointed Paula O'Connor. "Great result in Dublin, a bad result for the lads at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, but we'll get over that. It's desperate that a county final was fixed on the same day two Cork teams were in the All-Ireland final, it's a disgrace.

O'Driscoll hat-trick heroine for Rebels

CORK	4-9
TIPPERARY	1-9

THREE goals from Cork's own 'Pocket-Rocket' Fiona O'Driscoll shattered Tipperary's dream of becoming the first team in 14 years to complete a four in-a-row in yesterday's superb Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie final.

By day she's a diminutive PE and science teacher in Coláiste Choilm, Ballincollig but once O'Driscoll dons a red jersey, she turns into an unstoppable, earth-shattering, goal-seeking missile.

After scoring 6-10 en route she finished her eighth senior camogie final with another 3-2 to her credit and, as one of the team veterans, revealed this one meant more than her five previous medals.

"I didn't play in the League this year and seriously thought I wouldn't be back but I went to see them in the league semi-final and, well, camogie's always been my first love," said O'Driscoll.

All six Cork backs and the inspirational solos and clearances of swashbuckling goal-keeper Ger Casey were an integral part of ending their four-year senior drought.

To keep such a talented forward line to just three-points in the second-half (and one of those scores was from brilliant Tipp centre-back Clara Gaynor) in



Cliona FOLEY

Croker's expanded space, was particularly significant, after trailing by one point (1-5 to 1-6) at half-time.

Yet the omens were already there. Tipp boss Michael Cleary started Deirdre Hughes at right-half forward in a pre-match switch with Philly Fogarty.

But Gemma O'Connor refused to give any quarter in Cork's marvellous half-back line. Within 12 minutes Hughes was back in at full-forward and she didn't get much leeway either from Eithne Duggan.

Tipp dominated first-half possession and Emer McDonnell goaled after 14 minutes to take the lead.

But when Jovita Delaney batted down a shot from Caoimhe Harrington four minutes later O'Driscoll pounced and indeed forced Tipp's 'keeper to make a fantastic, reflex save minutes later.

Tipp were probably unlucky that advantage wasn't played when Hughes goaled just before half-time but the whistle had already gone for a foul on Noelle Kennedy, allowing a Grogan free give them the minimal lead at the break.

Significantly Cork didn't get one single first-half free (to Tipp's 10) and yet were still very much in it.

The champions, as their manager Cleary noted, restarted well with quick points from Fogarty and Hughes to pull three clear but then Cork shifted up a gear. Rachel Moloney's arrival off the bench to bolster midfield, where Vivienne Harris was excellent, was also a factor.

But huge credit must go to defenders like Stephanie Dunlea, Paula O'Connor and inspirational centre-back Mary O'Connor who kept Noelle Kennedy scoreless.

Brilliant school-girl wing-forward Jennifer O'Leary was also exceptional, as demonstrated by the rare sight of Sinead Nealon being taken off, and centre-forward Una Dillon played a brilliant provider's role.

Tipp full-back Una O'Dwyer made a rare handling error which Una O'Donoghue picked up to score Cork's second goal after 40 minutes.

Two minutes later Dillon put O'Driscoll through and though she was surrounded

by defenders and without her hurl, she kept her head to hand-pass a third goal.

"I remembered being in the exact same position, playing Tipp in a Munster Championship game this summer," O'Driscoll revealed. "I went for a point that day but regretted afterwards not going for goal."

No regrets this time though and five minutes later she completed her personal hat-trick with Cork's fourth goal.

"Goals proved the difference," said Cleary. "In the past four years the goal tally between us in Championship has been 7-2 to Tipp but Cork got them today."

Indeed, not long after Cork's third goal, Deirdre Hughes burst through to try and kick to the net but Duggan got a block in and it was that sort of inspirational tenacity which led Cork to a deserved 20th title in a marvellously skillful and entertaining final in front of a crowd of 13,287.

Player-of-the-Match: F O'Driscoll (Cork)

SCORERS — Cork: F O'Driscoll 3-2, U O'Donoghue 1-1, E Dillon 0-3, J O'Leary 0-3 (21). Tipperary: E McDonnell 1-1, C Grogan 0-4 (31), P Fogarty 0-2, D Hughes 0-1.

CORK — G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, E Duggan, S. Dunlea, P. O'Connor, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, V Harris, E Burke, L Mellerick, E Dillon, J O'Leary, U O'Donoghue, C Harrington, F O'Driscoll. Subs: R Moloney for E Burke (half-time), O O'Sullivan for Harrington (49 mins).

TIPPERARY — J. Delaney, P. Butler, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, T Brophy, S. Kelly, A. McDermott, P. Fogarty, N Kennedy, J. Ryan, E. McDonnell, D. Hughes, C. Grogan. Subs: L. Young for S. Nealon (54 mins), E. Hayden for McDermott (50).

REF — A. Lavelle (Westmeath)

KILKENNY	2-11
CORK	2-8

THEIR senior star may have dimmed lately but the juniors' All-Ireland camogie glory ominously signalled that Kilkenny have a new generation on the rise again.

Full-forward Aoife Neary will certainly be amongst them, the schoolgirl from James Stephens scoring all but two of their first-half scores, when they led by 2-9 to 1-4.

Yet Cork made a remarkable recovery thanks to the arrival of sensational substitute Brege Corkery whose goal and phenomenal second-half workrate in midfield almost singlehandedly overthrew the Kittens' huge lead.

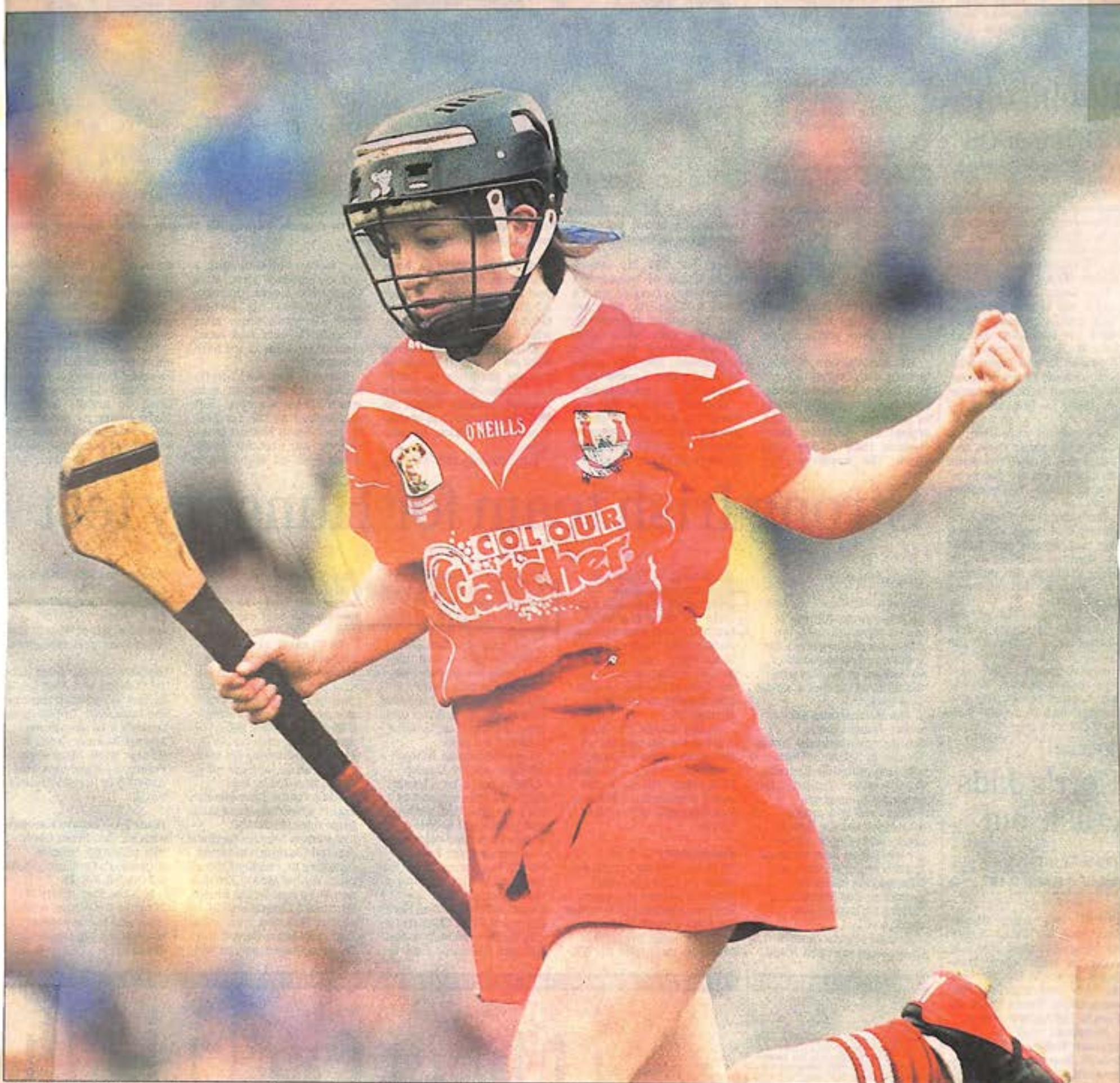
Edel Maher, Colette Desmond and Catriona Kelly also contributed to Cork's incredible comeback but Kilkenny were fortunate to have cool heads in full-back Liz Sweetman and Catherine Doherty, who kept her head to get their only second half-scores, to narrowly hang on.

SCORERS — Kilkenny: A Neary 1-8 (41, 2, 45), C. Doherty 1-2, M. O'Connor 0-1. Cork: C. Kelly 0-5 (55), G. Collins, B. Corkery 1-0 each, C. Desmond 0-3.

KILKENNY — C. Ryan, K. Kinahan, A.M. Young, E. Linn, P. Comerford, M. Lawler, A. Fitzpatrick, E. Maher, A. Aylward, M. Ryan, D. Langan, J. Finlay, C. Doherty, A. Neary, M. O'Connor. Subs: U. Walton for Langan, N. Sutton for Kinahan.

CORK — E. Clifford, J. Brown, L. Sweetman, N. Bowles, C. Foley, N. Ahearn, M. Holland, V. O'Keeffe, E. O'Farrell, C. Desmond, C. Kelly, G. Collins, A. Murphy, E. McCarthy, M. Watson. Subs: B. Corkery for O'Keeffe, S. O'Donovan for E. O'Farrell, D. Twomey for McCarthy.

REF — U. Kearney (Antrim)



Cork's Fiona O'Driscoll celebrates scoring the second of her three goals during yesterday's Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final at Croke Park. Picture: Roy

IT'S A REAL CORKER AT CROKER

THEY were celebrating down by the Lee last night as Cork ended Tipperary's dominance on the camogie pitch with victory at Croke Park.

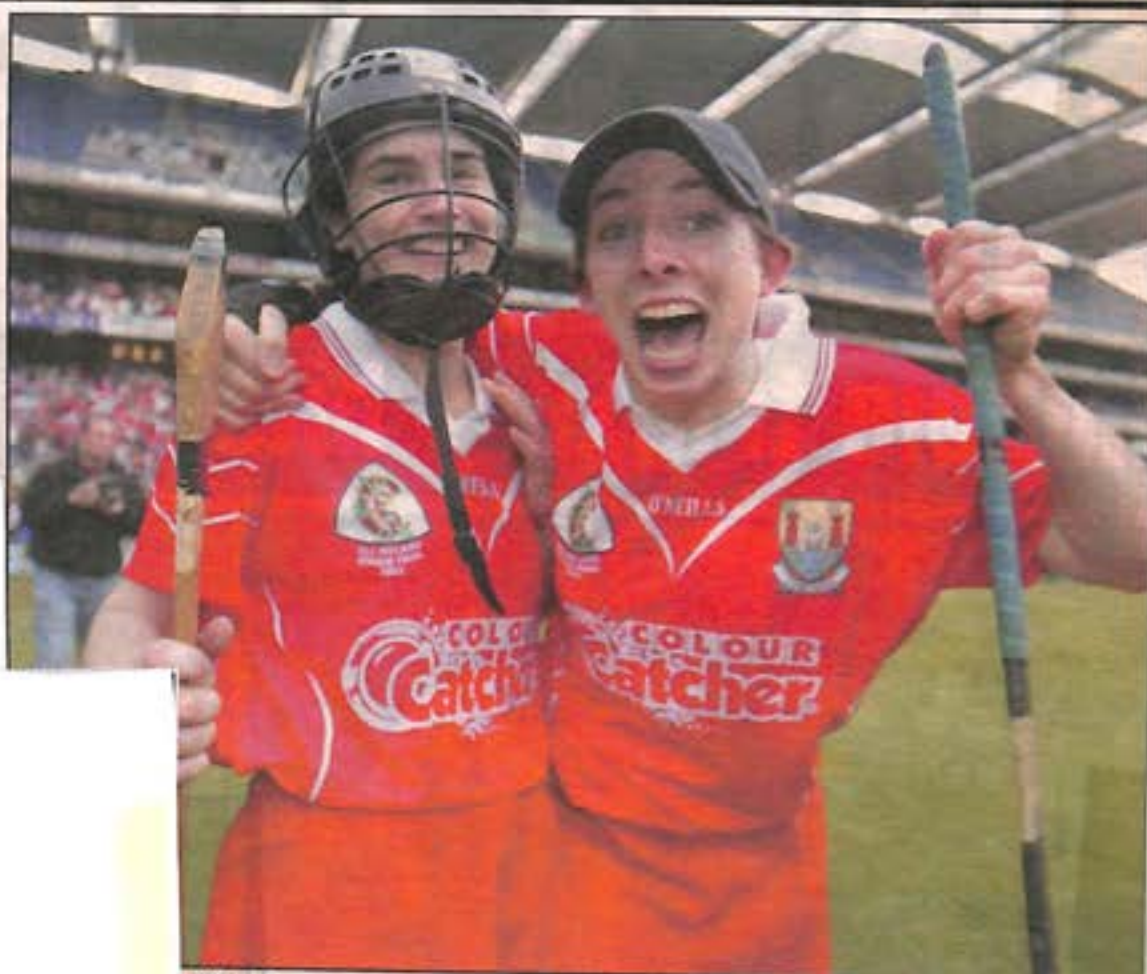
After watching the Premier County take the last three titles in a row, the Rebels finally got the taste of success with a 4-9 to 3-9 win.

Winning coach Pa Finn

■ CIAN MURPHY

said afterwards: "Today the girls were magnificent. We've been training since February and it's been

worth every minute."



ALL SMILES: Cork's Ger Casey and Elthne Duggan celebrate victory over Tipperary.

Super Girls



RECLINING in front of the telly, stuffing my face with sweet cake, lashing back mugs of steaming milky coffee while watching the ladies at play. It's a rough, tough, dirty, dangerous job, guys, but somebody's gotta do it.

And what ladies! And what play! Especially the Cork ladies. And especially the Cork ladies' play.

The setting was Croke Park yesterday evening as Tipperary and Cork faced up to each other under the warm glow of an Indian summer sun in the 71st All-Ireland Senior Camogie Final. Tipp were going for four in-a-row having been crowned Queens of All-Ireland Hurling for the past three years. But the Princesses of Leaside desperately wanted to ascend to the throne and were intent on taking the O'Duffy Cup crown. It was Coronation Day.

Tipperary had beaten Cork in a semi-final replay last year and had beaten Cork in the final of 2000. Cork owed 'em one. But could the Leaside ladies break Tipp's three-year grip on the cup?

It didn't look that promising for Cork in the first-half as a smoothly-running Tipp machine motored merrily along. Confident and in control, Tipp looked to be cruising. And the Premier County could have surged into a tidy lead had it not been for a brilliant defensive block by Cork's Stephanie Dunlea whose brave and timely intervention stopped a certain goal.

Former Cork football goalkeeper and manager Billy Morgan's heart must have sank when his niece Eva McDonnell scored a fine goal in the first-half! Mine certainly did. Eva was playing with Tipperary!

An incredible feature of this first-half was the statistic that Tipperary were awarded TEN frees and Cork were awarded all of NONE! This must surely be the first time that a team in Croke Park in an All-Ireland Final weren't awarded even one free for an entire half.

So, despite having the better of the first-half exchanges, Tipp only had a

slender 1-6 to 1-5 interval lead.

"There are so many whistles here, it's hard to distinguish (the referee's)", complained commentator Marty Morrissey. High time to blow the whistle on this practice, me thinks.

The Tipp manager was magnanimous in his praise of Cork saying that his team had no answer when the Leesiders unleashed their second-half blitz. Refreshing candour. And refreshingly sporting.

Cork emerged energised for the second-half and, having conceded two quick points, the Leesiders took the game by the scruff of the neck and turned it on its head.

A cracking goal by inspirational captain Una O'Donoghue of proud Cloughduv and a brace of goals by the scintillating Fiona O'Driscoll to complete her hat-trick had Tipperary reeling.

The second-half Cork goals were three sledgehammer blows that had the Tipperary players seeing stars - glittering, gleaming, glowing Cork stars. Tipp had no answers to Cork's vim, vitality and vivacity.

Cork struck three goals and four points in the second-half while Tipperary had a miserly return of only three points for the entire half.

The Taoiseach was present to witness the Cork second-half goal rush.



Fiona O'Driscoll, fielding a great ball.

"There's Cork blood in the Ahern family, so I think he'll be happy",

said Marty Morrissey.

In that Rebel rousing second-half Tipp were pounded and pulverised, overpowered and overwhelmed, smashed and mashed, crunched and munched.

"My God!", exclaimed the Cork manager, Pa Finn, the great 'Bari's clubman. "They were not going to be beaten coming out in the second-half. I'm so thrilled. It's unbelievable". Indeed.



CAMOGIE GIRLS' HOMECOMING



Linda Mellerick

The day Fiona raised the rafters for the Rebel nation

UNSTOPPABLE Fiona O'Driscoll has no intention of retiring on a high, news which will be warmly welcomed by sports fans all over the Rebel County.

The star of Cork's camogie victory in Croke Park on Sunday blew the rafters off every roof from Croker's surrounding D1 neighbourhoods of Mountjoy Square and Ballybough and every other neutral home from there down to Ballymacoda in East Cork, where workmen will spend the week re-adjusting slates on Fiona's own overjoyed Fr O'Neill's club.

"I am thrilled," Fiona modestly said of her three goals and two points, almost without precedent in an All-Ireland final. "Some days

Joe Dermody
talks to Cork star
Fiona O'Driscoll
about a day she'll
never forget

things just run for you, and it was definitely very enjoyable. I am going to carry on playing for another while. As long as I am able, I'll keep going. When you are enjoying it, you belt away."

Earlier this year, Fiona had taken

a break from inter-county camogie. Her team-mates were playing in the National League, and some people had presumed that Fiona had hung up her boots.

County camogie PRO Mary Newman was one of those: "I phoned her after some of the papers were saying that she had retired, but she just said 'Mary, don't write me off just yet'. So I didn't. I remember her playing minor (which is under-16 in camogie) for Cork, and she has been one of our best players ever since."

"She is the ultimate sports person. She is also very active off the field, and she had a great attitude in the build-up to the game. She is quiet, she stays in the background. She doesn't seek out the media."

Nonetheless, the media have certainly been seeking her out this week. "I've done a few interviews all right," said Fiona. "But those things are secondary to all our work in trying to win an All-Ireland for Cork. Thankfully, everything went well. Tipp were strong favourites, but we were quietly

confident that if we played to our potential we could do it. Our backs were playing well all year. Tipp only scored three points in the second-half. That was some performance by our backs. They won the title for us, really."

"Well, that and the fans. There was a great Cork following up there. They really got behind the team and it made a great difference. Three-quarters of the people in Croke Park were wearing red and white, and that really helped us. The atmosphere was fantastic, and so were the celebrations."

"Even the Juniors were in great spirits. It can't have been easy for them to put aside their disappointment at losing to Kilkenny and to row in behind us for our celebrations. The Juniors put up a great fight in the second-half of their final. When the seniors win, the juniors can often be forgotten. But they'll be back again next year."

And so too will Fiona, the Camogie Gods willing. A host of tasks await Cork's busiest sports star: her coaching role with her Fr

O'Neill's club; her role as liaison officer with the new Juvenile Camogie committee which was set up this year; and her job as a teacher in Coláiste Choilm in Ballincollig, where camogie has really only just gotten off the ground and won two titles in its first truly competitive year.

Cork Captain Una O'Donoghue, left celebrates with team-mate Elaine Burke after winning the All-Ireland.



Wonderful women are just tops!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Cork senior Camogie team on their marvellous victory last Sunday. Not for the first time a Cork team has spoilt a Tipperary four in-a-row bid.

Cork gave a first class performance and, with Fiona O'Driscoll playing the game of her life, Tipperary just could not overcome Cork's drive for victory.

I would like to say a special word of congratulations to the Coach Pa Finn who has enhanced his reputation as one of the best coaches ever to come out of Cork. Also to my friend, Jim McCarthy, who looked after the physical preparation of the team.

Jim has given a lot of hours to training and coaching over the last ten years with very little success. He deserves this success as much as anyone.

DOUBLE TOPS



Heroes' welcome for Cork and Blackrock

HOME came the heroes and the heroines.

The streets of Cork were paved with gold last night as the victorious Cork camogie team arrived with the O'Duffy Cup.

And in Blackrock the open top bus carrying the victorious county champions inched its way around Cork's greatest hurling home.

It was celebration time and young and old came out to pay homage to the girls and the boys who had lit up their lives 24 hours earlier.

The Rockies were out first, saying thanks for the sup-

port they received in Páirc Uí Chaoimh as they swept to their 32nd county title against Newtownshandrum.

For the camogie girls it was into Kent Station, into Pana and down the Mall where they were introduced to the throng.



CAMOGIE

KILMACUD ALL-IRELAND 7's: Div 1 final: Grannagh/Ballingarry (Limerick) 8-15 (V Sheehan 4-4, A Sheehan 3-1, M Collins 1-2, E O'Brien 0-8) Pearces (Galway) 4-11 (O Kilkinney 3-3, S Glynn 1-4, M Glynn 0-2, A Hillary, M Haverly 0-1 each). Div 1 semi-final: Pearces (Galway) 3-13 Drummarinch (Tipp) 2-3. Grannagh/Ballingarry (Limerick) 11-12 Drumcullen (Offaly) 1-0. Div 2 final: Shinrone (Offaly) 2-7 (M Davis 0-6, J Feighery 1-1, C Cross 1-0) St Laurences (Kildare) 2-1 (A Treacy 1-0, Treacy 1-0, N Brown 0-1 each). Div 2 semi-final: Shinrone (Offaly) 2-5 St Mochuls (Armagh) 0-1. St Laurences (Kildare) 2-1 St Murtas (Westmeath) 1-3.



TOP CATS: Kilkenny's Ursula Walton celebrates their win with Mairead Lawlor

All-Ireland Senior Cam



Sunday, September 15

Cork 4-9

Tipperary 1-9

ogie Champions 2002



**Echo
Sports**

COLOUR Catcher



Put the team's colours
in safe hands.

Colour Catcher is a unique in-wash product that prevents colour runs in mixed colour washes. To make sure your team's colours give a top performance every time, use Colour Catcher.

The proof is on the sheet!

*
**FREE
SAMPLE
VOUCHER**



Send this voucher with your name, address & tel. no. for a FREE SAMPLE to:
Colour Catcher Sample, Marketing Dept.,
Punch Industries Ltd., Little Island, Co. Cork.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Congratulations to Cork
ALL IRELAND
SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS
2002

ONE SAMPLE PER PERSON WHILE STOCKS LAST

If you would prefer not to be contacted for future promotional offers, please tick here ☐



Cork captain
Una
O'Donoghue
holds aloft
the trophy
after the
All-Ireland
Senior
Camogie
final at
Croke Park
yesterday



Cork camogie captain Una O'Donoghue is greeted by fans after returning victorious to Cork City.

Picture: Donna McBride/Provisio



Crowds gather at the reception for the Cork camogie team on the South Mall. Picture: Ger Bonus



Ann and Patricia Hegarty from Killeagh waiting to greet the Cork team. Picture: Ger Bonus

Right rousing Rebel return!

THE STREETS of Cork were decked in red and white last night as thousands of people turned out to welcome home the Cork camogie teams.

The victorious side were led by Una O'Donoghue as they were paraded around the city in an open-top bus.

Linda Mellerick was completely taken aback by the huge reception:

"It is great to come home to this. We stopped in Mallow and as usual that was fantastic. This is what it is all about, makes it all worthwhile," she

said.

The players were given a rousing reception in the South Mall and among the dignitaries that spoke were Minister Micheál Martin, Lord Mayor Cllr. John Kelleher, Bishop John Buckley, Chairman of the County GAA Board Jim Cronin, Chairperson of the Cork County Camogie Board Sheila Golden, and Tomás Ryan.



The crowds get close to their heroes. Picture: Ger Bonus



Having fun on the South Mall as the Cork team arrive. Picture: Ger Bonus



Joanne Casey, from Ber-rings with Una O'Donoghue captain of the victorious Cork team. Picture: Ger Bonus



Una O'Donoghue shows off the cup. Picture: Ger Bonus

Croker cracker

for camogie

Cats

Kilkenny.....2-11
Cork.....2-8

KILKENNY kept up that winning feeling at Croker when the junior camogie team clinched their first All-Ireland title with a good win over Cork on Sunday.

The Cats showed brilliant skill to use the full width of Croker Park in the opening minutes, but spent the last 20 minutes with their backs to the wall as they defended a slender lead from a Cork onslaught.

Kilkenny had a full squad for this final after goalkeeper Caitriona Ryan was passed fit before the throw-in. Máiréad Lawler and Aoife Neary also shook off their injuries, although the selectors must have wondered could they reproduce their usual top class displays after missing training for a couple of weeks.

They need not have worried. Aoife Neary gave a wonderful display of accuracy and enthusiasm, while Máiréad Lawler was the mainstay of Kilkenny's defence all through the game.

Kilkenny began brilliantly and controlled the game from midfield. Early frees from Aoife Neary got

the Cats off the mark, before they struck a hammer blow. Catherine Doherty twisted and turned her way past her marker and raced along the endline.

Doherty waited for the full back to advance, then picked out the unmarked Neary. The James Stephens sharpshooter had time and space to pick her spot, blasting the sliotar past Cork 'keeper Ellen Clifford.

Scoring record

Kilkenny were 1-4 to 0-2 to the good at this stage, and things were to get better. Caitriona Ryan frustrated Cork with some good saves, before Edel Maher was hauled down in the square. Aoife Neary's penalty was blocked, but Catherine Doherty pounced on the loose ball in a flash. She crashed the rebound to the net, continuing the record of a St Anne's player scoring in every game.

With all six Kilkenny forwards showing brilliant form, Kilkenny led by 2-9 to 0-4 as half time approached. Marie Ryan and Jacqui Frisby made some great runs, while Marie O'Connor and Catherine Doherty were never beaten to a ball. Dolores Lanigan kept a steady flow of supply flowing to the full forward line, while Aoife Neary showed skills way beyond her years. The Cats briefly

took their foot off the gas, and were punished by a Cork goal, but they still had a comfortable cushion at the break, leading 2-9 to 1-4.

Cork introduced Breege Corkery at half time and the young minor player had an instant impact. Her speed bewildered the Kilkenny defence and her early goal cut the Cats' lead to five points.

The Rebels began to apply fierce pressure, and at one stage had whittled Kilkenny's lead to two points. However, the Leesiders wasted four good scoring chances, which would have put Kilkenny in arrears had they been converted.

Kilkenny had some great scoring chances themselves, but the forwards found the going difficult after the break, registering just two points in the new half.

However it was the defence which showed inspiration, as Cork found it an impossible task to break down the half back line of Máiréad Lawler, Pauline Comerford and Aoife Fitzpatrick. Full back Ann Marie Young dealt comfortably with the high deliveries from Cork, while Eimear Lyng and Keira Kinahan prevented the Cork forwards from getting a clear shot at goal.

Depth of skill

The strength continued to the subs' bench, as replacements

Eimear Connery, Ursula Walton and Nora Sutton showed the depth of skill of the squad by playing just as well as the people they replaced. Goalkeeper Caitriona Ryan kept the Cats in front with some more vital saves, as Cork searched for a way to snatch the lead.

Kilkenny continued to withstand the pressure until late in the game, when Aoife Neary moved down to the backs to help clean up the Cork threat. Her all round performance, allied to accuracy from frees and play, won her the Foras na Gaeilge Player of the Match award. She was closely followed by Ann Marie Young, Pauline Comerford, Máiréad Lawler, Edel Maher, Elaine Aylward and Catherine Doherty.

Kilkenny - Caitriona Ryan, Keira Kinahan, Ann Marie Young, Eimear Lyng, Pauline Comerford, Máiréad Lawler, Aoife Fitzpatrick, Edel Maher, Elaine Aylward, Marie Ryan, Dolores Lanigan, Jacqui Frisby, Catherine Doherty (1-1), Aoife Neary (1-9), Marie O'Connor (0-1). Subs: Eimear Connery, Ursula Walton, Nora Sutton.

Cork - Ellen Clifford, Jennifer Brown, Liz Sweetman, Niamh Bowles, Caitriona Foley, Nora Ahearn, Máiréad Holland, Val O'Keefe, Emer O'Farrell, Colette Desmond, Caitriona Kelly, Ger Collins, Amanda Murphy, Elaine McCarthy, Marie Watson. Sub: Breege Corkery.



On the attack and ready to strike.....Marie O'Connor (Kilkenny) in the Junior All-Ireland against Cork's captain Nora Aherne.



Champion Cats!... Kilkenny captain Jacqui Frisby lifts the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Cup

Cork's goal splurge destroys Tipp's four-in-a-row goal

Cork 4-9, Tipperary 1-9

The 1-9 scored was the same as when Tipp won their first All Ireland title in 1999 (0-12), but it was not sufficient this time, when Tipp's great camogie heroines were denied the achievement of a four-in-a-row success by resurgent Cork in Croke Park on Sunday.

The tears of disappointment shed as the players left the huge arena were testimony to the emotional turmoil experienced. Not since August 1st 1998 had Tipp last tasted championship defeat. Four magnificent seasons had come to a grinding halt and the irony was that for a team that had failed to concede a goal throughout this season's campaign, a three goal splurge within a seven minute period on Sunday, did the irreparable damage and with it the hand-over of the O'Duffy Cup to a deserving Cork side.

So much was expected from this game between the modern-day camogie's greatest rivals and it lived up to it all in terms of the standard of camogie served up. What was hardly expected was the eventual margin between the sides and, in truth, a nine point gap does scant justice to Tipp's contribution to a great final.

While not for a moment denying Cork's entitlement to the laurels, one cannot help recalling some instances, which might well have tipped the scales in Tipp's favour, had fate not decreed otherwise. There was Deirdre Hughes' disallowed goal just before half time, which was denied because of an earlier whistle-blow for a foul on Noelle Kennedy.

Earlier still Claire Grogan soloed through and pointed when Deirdre was to her left and free. A pass here would surely have resulted in a Tipp goal.

Eimear McDonnell seemed certain to goal when put through by Claire Grogan early in the first half. Stephanie Dunlea's brilliant interception denying her. The correct decision after the ball went over the line here should have been a 45. Instead, there

was a puck out for Cork.

The first half was brimful of tense, exciting play that came to real life towards the end of the first quarter when Eimear McDonnell crashed the ball to the Cork net for the game's first goal. The move began with a long Ciara Gaynor free, well directed, and Deirdre Hughes provided the pass to the Burgess girl for a great goal.

KEEP THE PRESSURE

Though somewhat in trouble at mid field, Tipp still managed to keep the pressure on Cork and probably had the edge in the first quarter. The tenacity of the Cork defence, however, was evident and would become even more evident as the game progressed. Claire Grogan was causing many problems though, and after Tipp's goal she pointed a free, was wide with what seemed an easy free and then scored another from play.

This left Tipp with a 1-4 to -0-3 lead and fans in the 13,287 attendance must have had visions of another great result.

But Cork came back with a bang. Jovita Delaney between the Tipp posts saved brilliantly from Linda Mellerick but couldn't get the ball away far enough and Fiona O'Driscoll pounced to shoot home.

After Eimear McDonnell had pointed at the other end, availing of yet another of Ciara Gaynor's long frees, Jovita was called upon to save brilliantly again, this time from Fiona O'Driscoll, when similar to David Fitzgerald's great save and deflection the previous week, a certain goal was denied and a point resulted.

At half time Tipp led 1-6 to 1-5 and a rather amazing statistic of that first half was that whereas Tipp had received



Eimear McDonnell scores Tipps goal.

eleven frees, they had conceded none.

TOOK OVER

Cork made a change at mid field for the second half, Rachel Moloney coming in for Elaine Burke but it was Tipp that took over immediately, Philly Fogarty who had opened the game's scoring did so again, following a fine Suzanne Kelly solo run. Deirdre Hughes then popped over another, both within two minutes of the resumption and

things were looking good for the defending champions, so much so, that no one in his right mind would have dared to forecast that no further Tipp score would emerge for a full twenty minutes.

Cork's mid field dominance was starting to increase even more and after points from Eimear Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary (free), team captain Una O'Donoghue availed of a rare Tipp defensive slip-up to score Cork's

second goal. The challengers were now two points ahead and the game had turned in a direction that brought a frown to Tipp faces, one that increased considerably within two minutes, when Fiona O'Driscoll though bottled up by the Tipp defence, still managed to palm the ball past a helpless Jovita Delaney.

Suddenly, things were going horribly wrong for Tipp. Louise Young came in to the Tipp attack, allowing Noelle Kennedy to move back to mid field and Suzanne Kelly to take over the demoted Sinead Nealon's right half back berth.

Sinead was probably unlucky to lose out. The pressure was indeed on the Tipp defence and one or two others might have lost out too.

CITADEL FELL

Tipp forced a 45 and Claire Grogan was wide, and seventeen minutes into the half, the citadel finally fell as far as Tipp were concerned. Fiona O'Driscoll's shot at goal was blocked by Jovita, but she failed to get her body behind it and the ball just trickled over the line, an alert umpire immediately signalling the raising of the green flag.

Three goals in a seven minutes spell had indeed done the damage and there was no way back for Tipp. Ciara Gaynor came up to score their first point in twenty minutes but Cork finished with a flourish, Una O'Donoghue and Jennifer O'Leary (free) putting a three goal gap between the teams when the final whistle sounded.

So that four-in-a-row was not to be for Tipp and while disappointment was so acute, no one in the Tipp camp could deny Cork their worthiness to the title. Tipp were indeed hungry but Cork even more so



Tipperary camogie team - All-Ireland finalists - Back row l. to r.: Suzanne Kelly, Therese Brophy, Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Joanne Ryan, Noelle Kennedy, Claire Madden, Jovita Delaney. Seated: Angela McDermott, Deirdre Hughes, Ciara Gaynor (with mascot Maeve Delaney), Paula Bulfin, Sinead Nealon, Una O'Dwyer, Eimear McDonnell.

and it showed in all sectors. An inspirational showing from goal keeper Ger Casey rubbed off on to those in front of her.

The Tipp attack entered the game with an impressive pedigree but to be confined to 1-9 and with Noelle Kennedy and Joanne Ryan held scoreless, speaks volume for Cork's homework and application.

The all-O'Connor half back line - not related - fully lived up to what Michael Cleary was expecting from them but there was nothing he or his charges could do to breach a very solid sector.

Mid field too had things much as Cork would have liked and Tipp's defensive reputation took something of a roasting with players like Fiona O'Driscoll, Linda Mellerick, and Jennifer O'Leary in full spate.

TIPPS BEST

No doubt the most disappointed member of the Tipp team was Una O'Dwyer, fate and Cork denying her the privilege of joining her three Cashel colleagues as All Ireland winning captains.

She played very well though in an inner defence line that was under constant pressure. Ciara Gaynor and Therese Brophy were other defenders who gave it their all. Suzanne Kelly worked ceaselessly at mid field where Angie McDermott seldom scaled the heights of which she is capable.

In attack, Eimear McDonnell and Claire Grogan were the most dangerous. Deirdre Hughes began at right half forward in a switch with Philly Fogarty but it didn't last long. Deirdre's goal poaching reputation preceded

her and she was well watched by the Cork defence.

Scorers for Cork were, F. O'Driscoll 3-2, U. O'Donoghue 1-1, E. Dillon 4 (3 frees), P. Fogarty 0-2, D. Hughes and C. Gaynor 0-1 each.

Tipp's replies came from E. McDonnell 1-1, C. Grogan 0-4 (3 frees), P. Fogarty 0-2, D. Hughes and C. Gaynor 0-1 each.

Tipp had four first half wides to Cork's three. Cork had eight in the second half to Tipp's one which came a minute from time.

Tipp were awarded eleven frees in the first half, Cork none, and two in the second half to Cork's six.

Cork forced two 45s in the first half to Tipp's one in the second half.

CORK - Ger Casey, Joanne O'Callaghan, Eithne Duggan, Stephanie Dunlea,

Paula O'Connor, Mary O'Connor, Gemma O'Connor, Vivienne Harris, Elaine Burke, Linda Mellerick, Eimear Dillon, Jennifer O'Leary, Una O'Donoghue (capt), Caoimhe Harrington, Fiona O'Driscoll.

Subs - Rachel Moloney for Burke, Orla O'Sullivan for Harrington.

TIPPERARY - Jovita Delaney, Paula Bulfin, Una O'Dwyer (capt), Claire Madden, Sinead Nealon, Ciara Gaynor, Therese Brophy, Suzanne Kelly, Angie McDermott, Deirdre Hughes, Noelle Kennedy, Joanne Ryan, Eimear McDonnell, Philly Fogarty, Claire Grogan.

Subs - Louise Young for Nealon, Emily Hayden for McDermott.

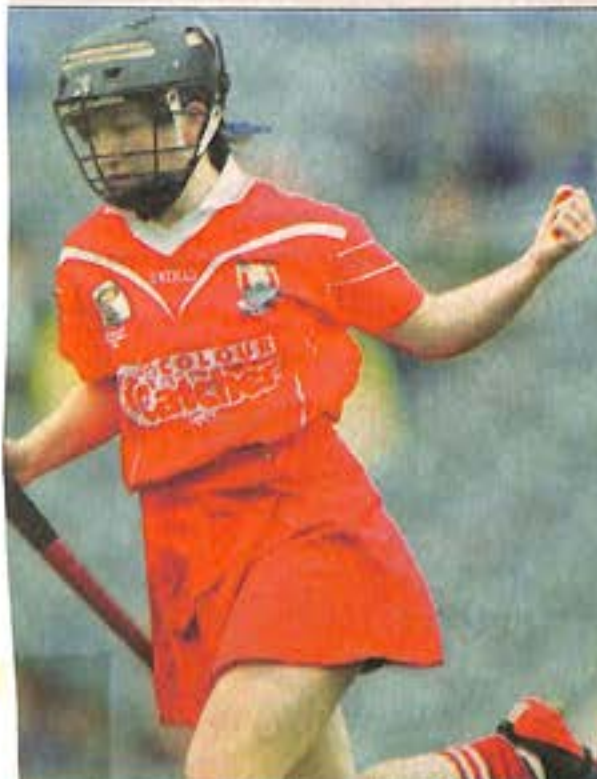
Referee - Aileen Lawlor, Westmeath.

O'Driscoll's hat-trick topples Tipp



Una O'Donoghue, Cork, in action against Therese Brophy, Tipperary, Cork v Tipperary, All-Ireland Camogie Final, Croke Park, Dublin.

Pic: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



... and here the captain celebrates after Fiona O'Driscoll scored Cork's second goal on Sunday.

Pic: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

CORK 4-9
TIPPERARY 1-9

CORK hat-trick hero Fiona O'Driscoll fired the Rebels to a 4-9 to 1-9 win over Tipperary in the All-Ireland camogie final in Croke Park last Sunday.

Tipperary were the favourites to capture their fourth title in a row but it was to prove elusive for Michael Cleary's charges as the Fiona O'Driscoll show arrived at Headquarters.

In total the Cork corner-forward scored 3-2, and tormented the Tipperary rear-guard throughout this absorbing final. The first of her goals came after 18 minutes when a Linda Mellerick long-range effort was palmed down into her path by Tipperary goalkeeper Jovita Delaney. As the ball rolled out O'Driscoll pulled on it and fired home to close the gap to one, 1-4 to 1-3.

Up until that it had been tit-for-tat scoring as both sides remained in touch. Philly Fogarty had opened the scoring for the Premier County after only a minute before O'Driscoll levelled things in the second.

The teams swapped scores until Emer McDonnell scored the first goal of the match after 14 minutes. Deirdre Hughes passed to the unmarked McDonnell and she hit the ball hard and high past the helpless Ger Casey in the Cork goal.

Claire Grogan added two unanswered points for Tipperary, and the 16-year-old had given her side a 1-4 to 0-3 advantage before O'Driscoll netted.

Emer McDonnell added a point for Tipp soon after, then O'Driscoll and Emer Dillon replied for Cork before a last-minute point by Grogan once more, sent Tipperary in 1-6 to 1-5 ahead at the interval.

A double blitz of points by Fogarty and Deirdre Hughes inside the first minute of the second half appeared to swing the game in Tipperary's advantage but astonishingly the Premier County would not score for another 20 minutes.

Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary pointed for Cork to leave the scores 1-8 to 1-7,



Cork captain Una O'Donoghue lifts the O'Duffy cup after their superb win over Tipperary in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie final on Sunday.

Pic: Aoife Rice / SPORTSFILE

before a hat-trick of goals dealt Tipperary a huge body blow.

In the 39th minute Cork captain Macroom's Una O'Donoghue pounced on a loose ball and fired it low and hard past Delaney. Three minutes later O'Driscoll scored her second of the afternoon after a surging run from 30 metres out, saw her find the back of the net.

She left three Tipp backs for dead and accelerated towards goal, but she was brought to her knees just outside the square. Somehow she kept hold of the ball and slapped it home with her hand while still on the ground.

Tipperary were rattled and as they pushed forward in search of a reply O'Driscoll punished some slack defending again in the 46th minute. She made a fantastic catch on the 20-metre line and ran towards goal once more. Her shot was slapped down to the ground by Delaney but

unfortunately for the Tipperary goalkeeper the sliothar spun back under her legs and across the line. The game was over.

Grogan battled hard and added a point for Tipp but O'Donoghue and O'Leary notched up two more for Cork and they ran out comfortable victors.

O'Driscoll may get a lot of the praise for this win, but the entire Cork side were solid all afternoon and deservedly brought the O'Duffy Cup back to Leeside for the first time since 1998.

Cork: G Casey (Inniscarra); J O'Callaghan (Cloughduv); E Duggan (Bishopstown); S Dunlea (Cloughduv); P O'Connor (Newtownshandrum); M O'Connor (Killeagh); G O'Connor (St Finbarrs); V Harris (Bishopstown); E Burke (Valley Rovers); L Mellerick (Glen Rovers); E Dillon (Ballygarvan) (0-3); J O'Leary (Barryroe) (0-3);

0-2 frees); U O'Donoghue (Cloughduv, captain) (1-1); C Harrington (Newtownshandrum); F O'Driscoll (Fr O'Neills) (3-2). **Subs:** R Moloney (Courcey Rovers) for E Burke (30th minute); O O'Sullivan (St Finbarrs) for C Harrington (48th minute).

Tipperary: J Delaney; P Bulfin, U O'Dwyer (capt), C Madden; S Nealon, C Gaynor (0-1), T Brophy; S Kelly, A McDermott; P Fogarty (0-2), N Kennedy, J Ryan; E McDonnell (1-1), D Hughes (0-1), C Grogan (0-4, 3 frees). **Subs:** L Young for S Nealon (43rd minute); E Hayden for A McDermott (57th minute).

Referee: Aileen Lawlor (Westmeath).

• IN the junior final at Croke Park Kilkenny beat Cork by 2-11 to 2-8. In doing so the Cats captured their third All-Ireland title in a week.

A powerful first half performance, which saw them take a 2-9 to 1-4 lead into the interval, laid the foundations for their success. James Stephens' Aoife Neary was outstanding in that opening 30 minutes, accounting for all but two of her side's scores.

Cork staged a tremendous fightback in the second half with Edel Maher, Colette Desmond, Catriona Kelly and substitute Brieghe Corkery all to the fore. But Catherine Doherty's two points enabled the Cats to hold on for victory.

Cork: E Clifford; J Brown, L Sweetman, N Bowles; C Foley, N Ahearn, M Holland; V O'Keeffe, E O'Farrell; C Desmond 0-3, C Kelly 0-5, G Collins 1-0; A Murphy, E McCarthy, M Watson. **Subs:** B Corkery 1-0 for O'Keeffe, S O'Donovan for E O'Farrell, D Twomey for McCarthy.

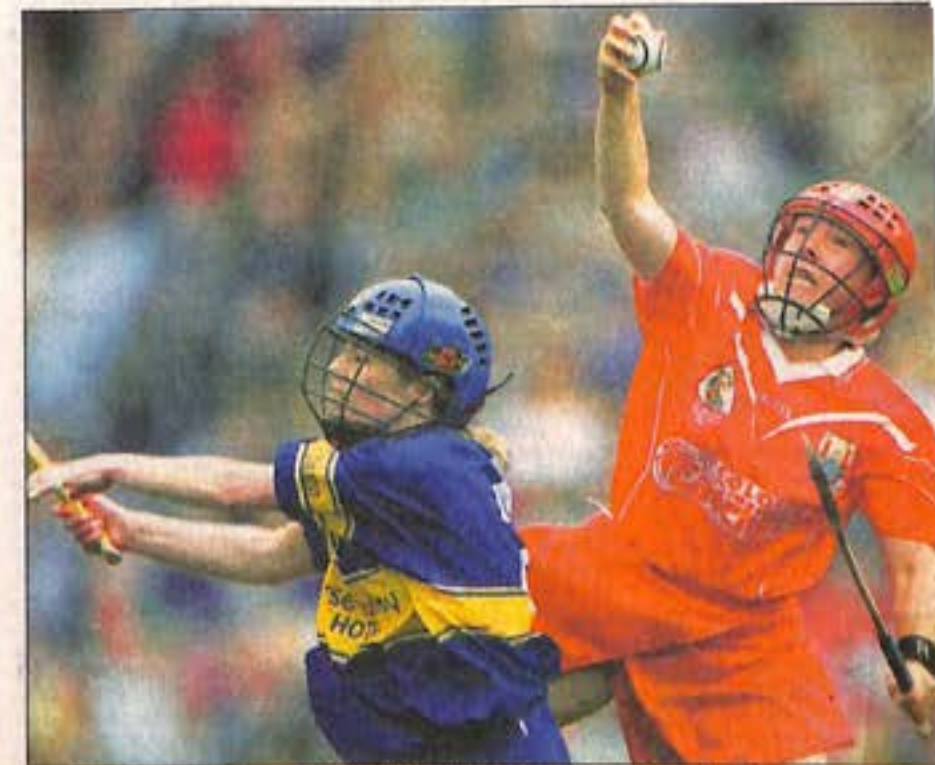
Kilkenny: C Ryan; K Kinahan, AM Young, E Lyng; P Comerford, M Lawler, A Fitzpatrick; E Maher, E Aylward; M Ryan, D Lanigan, J Frisby; C Doherty 1-2, A Neary 1-8, M O'Connor 0-1. **Subs:** U Walton for Lanigan, N Sutton for Kinahan.

Referee: U Kearney (Armagh).



Cork captain Una O'Donoghue, left, celebrates with her team-mate Elaine Burke after their 4-9 to 1-9 win over Tipperary in the Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland senior camogie championship final at Croke Park on Sunday.

Pic: Aoife Rice / SPORTSFILE



Cork's three-goal hero, Fiona O'Driscoll, makes a stunning catch above Tipperary's Paula Buffin just before scoring her third goal on Sunday.

Pic: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE



The victorious Cork panel prior to their All-Ireland camogie final with Tipperary in Croke Park on Sunday. Cork clinched their first title since 1998 and thus deprived Tipp of the three-in-a-row.

Pic: Brian Lawless / SPORTSFILE

Brilliant Cork win All-Ireland

Cork 4-9
Tipperary 1-9

In a year in which our senior hurlers and footballers proved a dismal failure, it was gratifying to see the women come to the rescue and uphold the banner of the Rebel County with a top class performance to gain All-Ireland honours and stop the forward march of Tipperary in their search for four-in-a row.

Cork had put two All-Irelands back to back in 1997 and 1998 and it was a last minute goal by Kilkenny put them out of the semi-final in 1999. In 2000 Tipperary defeated them in a hectic final and last year a draw with Tipp in the final and losing out narrowly in the replay, gives a clear indication that Cork were there or thereabouts all the time. While Tipperary started as hot favourites, a well-trained and focussed Cork team were capable of matching them in every quarter.

THE PLAY

They broke at lightning pace and Philly Fogarty raised the first white flag for Tipp. However, Emer Dillon, Fiona O'Driscoll and Jennifer O'Leary had Cork 3 to 1 up after ten minutes. However, Tipperary's Claire Grogan, had the teams level coming up to the end of the first quarter when disaster struck for Cork as the Tipp forwards split open the defence and Emer McDonnell lashed into the net giving Geraldine Casey no chance.

A point from the same player a few minutes later had Tipperary four points clear and hurling like champions. However, the great break came for Cork eight minutes before half time and it was fortunate that the two veterans had a hand in it.

After the Tipp goalie batted



Gemma O'Connor, Cork, at left, tussles with Philly Fogarty, Tipperary, in the All-Ireland senior camogie final at Croke Park.

(Pic: Brian Lawless, Sportsfile)

out a rasping from Linda Mellerick, Fiona O'Driscoll was on hand to double the rebound to the net. With both teams locked at 1-5 for over five minutes, Claire Grogan's pointed free before half-time just about reflected Tipp's superiority.

On the resumption, Tipp quickly went on the offensive with points from Fogarty and Grogan. The introduction of Rachel Moloney at half-time gave Cork more punch at mid-field and after Dillon and O'Leary had reduced the lead to the minimum, Cork's captain Una O'Donoghue came outfield to take a pass and raced forward and let fly to the net.

A few minutes later Fiona O'Driscoll defied the attention of three players as she raced through to send the ball to the net for Cork's third goal and with the half back line of all the O'Connor's cleaning up every effort by Tipp, it was O'Driscoll

again with a rasping shot which broke off the goalie's hurley and fell down behind the line. After twenty-five minutes without a score, it was left to Tipperary centre back Ciara Gaynor to rally with their last point, to be followed by Una O'Donoghue and it was left to Barryroe's Jennifer O'Leary to close the scoring with a well-pointed free.

Teams - Cork: G. Casey, J. O'Callaghan, E. Duggan, S. Dunlea, P. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, G. O'Connor, V. Harris, E. Burke, L. Mellerick, E. Dillon, J. O'Leary, U. O'Donoghue (capt.), F. O'Driscoll. Subs: R. Moloney, E. O'Sullivan.

Tipperary: J. Delaney, P. Bulfin, U. O'Dwyer (capt.), C. Madden, S. Nealon, C. Gaynor, J. Brophy, S. Kelly, A. McDermott, D. Hughes, E. Hayden, N. Kennedy, E. McDonnell, P. Fogarty, C. Grogan. Subs: L. Young, E. Hayden.



The All-Ireland senior camogie champions Cork seen on their victory parade through Cork City on their return from Croke Park after their defeat of Tipperary. In the picture are captain Una O'Donoghue and Linda Mellerick.

(Pic: John Sheehan Photography)

The referee, Ms. Lawlor of Westmeath kept the game well under control, although I felt that a few of the frees given against Cork in the opening half were a bit harsh while on balance, she could well have called back Fiona O'Driscoll's second goal for a free-in.

WELCOME

Scarcely ever did a hurling or football team get such a rapturous welcome home as did this team when they arrived at Kent Station and Una O'Donoghue alighted with the O'Duffy Cup in triumphant glory.

The team were escorted in an open-top bus through the city led by St. Mary's of the Hill pipe band. So large was the crowd that it took the bus an hour and a half to wind its way through the city to the Imperial Hotel for a reception.

Outside the hotel on the

South Mall a public welcome was accorded by many dignitaries of the sporting and business life of the city and county. Leading the dignitaries was Bishop John Buckley, who was in ecstatic mood - remarking how wonderful it was to see the young women of Cork perform in such an excellent manner in Croke Park and to bring such prestigious honours to the county. Other speakers included the John Kelleher, Lord Mayor, Michael Martin T.D. and Minister for Health, Jim Cronin, chairman G.A.A. County Board, Tomas Ryan, chairman, Cork County Council and Pa Finn, team manager, who paid a glowing tribute to such a dedicated group of players.

In his long association with hurling clubs, this was the 'greatest day' of his sporting life because the performance of the team, especially in the second

Results

Results, teams and scorers

Foras na Gaeilge All-Ireland Camogie Final

At Croke Park

Cork 4-9

Tipperary 1-9

Cork - G Casey, J O'Callaghan, E Duggan, S Dunlea, P O'Connor, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, V Harris, E Burke, L Mellerick, E Dillon 0-3, J O'Leary 0-3, U O'Donoghue 1-1, C Harrington, F O'Driscoll 3-2. Subs: R Moloney for E Burke, O O'Sullivan for Harrington

Tipperary - J Delaney, P Bulfin, U O'Dwyer, C Madden, S Nealon, C Gaynor,

T Brophy, S Kelly, A McDermott, P Fogarty 0-2, N Kennedy, J Ryan, E McDonnell 1-1, D Hughes 0-1, C Grogan 0-4. Subs: L Young for S Nealon, E Hayden for McDermott

Referee - A Lawlor (Westmeath)

half, was 'real magic'.

Punch's (team sponsors) announced two special awards for both the junior and senior teams. Their 'Player of the Match' in the junior final was Breege Corkery and in the senior final, they singled out Geraldine Casey, due to the many powerful saves and clearances she made under pressure.

The function was presided over by Sheila Golden, chairperson, County Camogie Board, who said that words could not express her feelings on this great occasion.

As the autumn dusk descended on the South Mall, it was off out to Cloughduv, the home club of Stephanie Dunlea, Joanne O'Callaghan and Una O'Donoghue, where the celebrations for both teams went on well into the morning.

- John Sexton

Cork Goals Topples Tipp

By
JOHN GUITON

CORK 4-9
TIPPERARY 1-9

Oh, the vicissitudes of sport! After a glorious 2001 Tipperary fortunes have taken a serious slide this season, All-Ireland three in a row Camogie champions the latest Blue and Gold victims after their dream of a historic fourth was crushed by goal-poachers Cork, at Croke Park, on Sunday last.

Records are incredibly difficult to achieve to win four All-Irelands on the trot an absolutely massive task in the modern era. In one of the best Senior All-Ireland's in years for skill, courage, and sheer commitment Tipp looked capable of achieving a marvellous feat when they led by three points after thirty two minutes play. However, a well balanced and expertly prepared Cork side, chasing the County's first All-Ireland since 1998, and determined to exact revenge for defeats in recent years to Tipp, totally transformed the game with three goals in the space of eight minutes. Tipp were on the ropes, and, after three years of long campaigning, simply did not have the appetite to stage a meaningful recovery. Not that they gave up the effort, but for most of the second period Cork had all the fighting qualities associated with Tipp as an emerging force in 1999, and it speaks volumes for their control of the game that they restricted Tipperary to just one score - a point from Ciara Gaynor in thirty minutes play.

Few players epitomised Cork's will to win than star forward Fiona O'Driscoll. The Fr O'Neill's club member ended up with 3-2 to her credit in an outstanding contribution to the win, and her two second half goals really killed the Tipp challenge. Tipp had increased their one point interval lead (1-6 to 1-5) by two points thanks to scores from Philly Fogarty and Deirdre Hughes, but Cork regained their composure and Emer Dillon and Jennifer O'Leary helped to cut

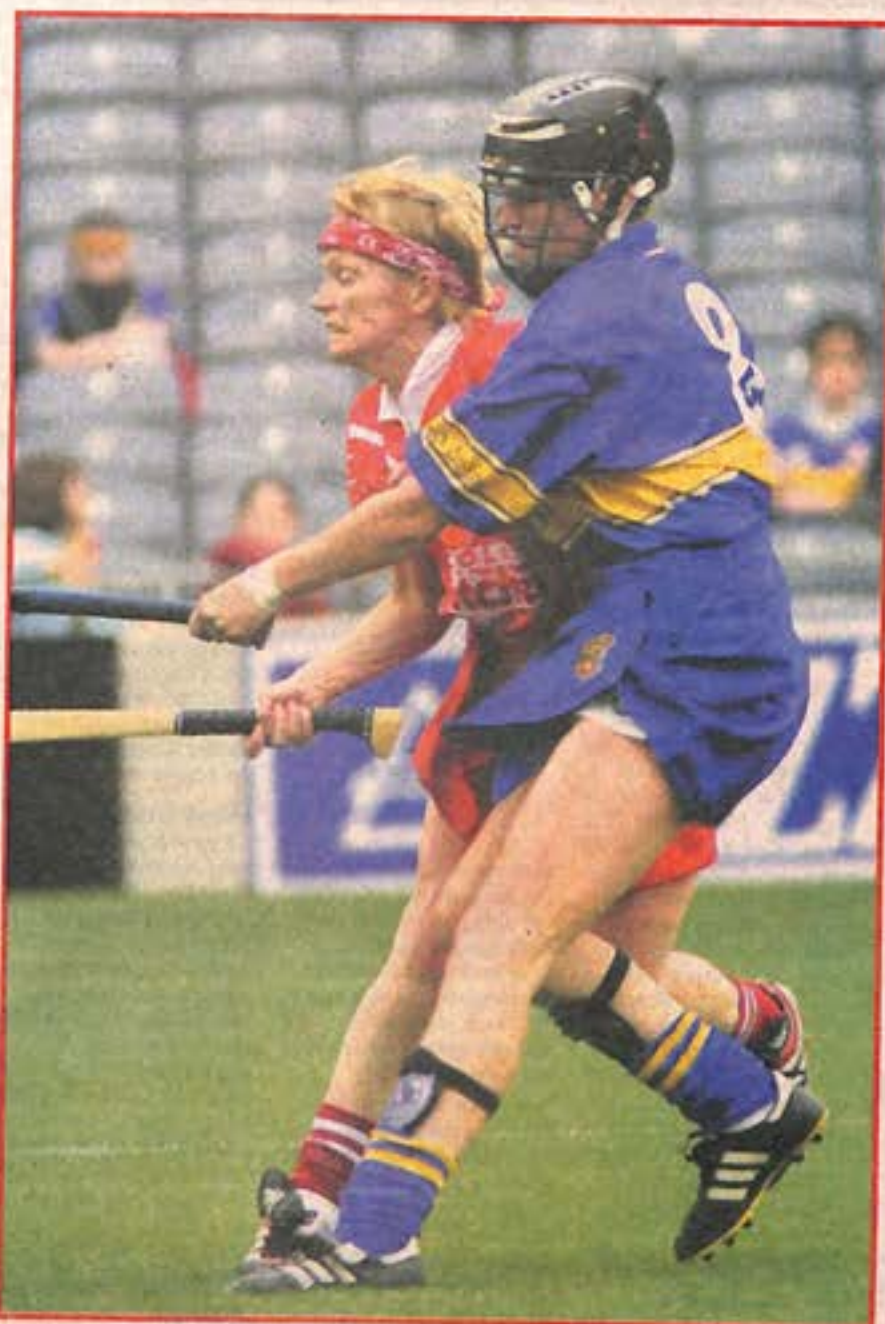


The Tipperary senior camogie team that played Cork in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park on Sunday last. Back row (l. to r.) — Suzanne Kelly, Therese Brophy, Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Joanne Ryan, Noelle Kennedy, Claire Madden, Jovita Delaney. Front row — Angie McDermott, Deirdre Hughes, Ciara Gaynor, Paula Bulfin, Sinead Nealon, Una O'Dwyer, Emer McDonnell.

the deficit again to the minimum. Then came the turning point of the game when impressive captain Una O'Donoghue banged home her sides second goal to give the Leesiders a firm grip. With Tipp struggling badly now they got little time to recover before Fiona O'Driscoll dented their confidence with a 13th minute goal after a piercing run (3-7 to 1-8).

Cork were thriving on their new found confidence now, their defence virtually closing down the Tipp attack with persistent hard tackling, hooking, and covering. Battle as though they did Tipp's scoring famine was a real ominous sign as the game entered the last quarter, and, whatever slim hope remained of a fightback from the champions was shattered when O'Driscoll scored a soft but important goal in 47th minute. Indeed, in the closing stages Cork could have stretched their lead further, but, fortunately for a floundering Tipp, the Rebels were off target from a series of scoreable chances.

When it starts to go wrong for champions theyt normally very hard to arrest the trend. Tipp knew what to



Linda Mellerick (Cork, left) and Suzanne Kelly (Tipperary) dispute possession during Sunday's senior camogie All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

O'Driscoll over the bar minutes later and help Tipp to take a slender grip at the halfway stage 1-6 to 1-5. Claire Grogan edging them in front in 32nd minute after the sides had been level for the second time.

It's a matter of conjecture now, but, had Tipp goaled just before the break perhaps things might have worked out very differently. Deirdre Hughes after a great movement involving Noelle Kennedy and Claire Grogan was put through by Emer McDonnell, and she took a great goal. However, the whistle had gone for a foul on McDonnell before the goal was scored. Believe it or not, Cork only got their first free of the game in the early minutes following the turnover, and, while the expectations were of a classic second half the goal splurge by the ladies in red and white saw the contest all but sealed long before the end.

A disappointing end then to Tipp's remarkable reign, and while they scarcely deserved to be so far behind in the end, they will be the first to concede that the best team won. When it boiled down to hunger and staying power Cork came up trumps and judging by this display they will be a force to be reckoned with for some time to come. Goalie Ger Casey made many fine saves, and the defence 'crowded' the Tipp attack in the second half, their half back line particularly strong. Mary O'Connor, Gemma O'Connor, Vivienne Harris in the first half, Emer Dillon, Jennifer O'Leary, Una O'Donoghue, and Fiona O'Driscoll were the stars of the victory. Congrats to Manager Pat Finn and all associated with the victory.

Most gracious in defeat, Tipperary Ladies and their Management team of Michael Cleary, Biddy Phillips, and Jim Madden were the first to congratulate Cork, and remained on the pitch to salute the newly crowned champions at the presentation ceremony, a fact remarked upon by former Cork Star Therese O'Callaghan in an after match interview. It was bound to end at some

expect from a Cork side boosted by the return of Linda Mellerick and were well prepared by Manager Michael Cleary and selectors Biddy Phillips and Jim Madden for their litmus test. However, they could not have expected, on the strength of their first half performance such a dramatic turn of events thereafter. Philly Fogarty who started at full forward gave them the perfect opening with a sweet point in the first minute, and while they found themselves trailing by two after seven minutes and failed to score again until 12th minute they really displayed the qualities of titleholders when they struck 1-3 in a five minute spell to take a 1-4 to 0-3 lead. Claire Grogan hit three points and Emer McDonnell banged home the goal after good work by Deirdre Hughes who had moved back to full forward. Yet, significantly Tipp were unable to escape the grip of a very determined Cork and just when it seemed they were ready to take control the Rebels responded with Fiona O'Driscoll hitting her first goal of the day - a rebound from a fine save by goalie Jovita Delaney. The Tipp keeper did well to tip a goal attempt by



Victorious Cork camogie team stars Paula O'Connor, Newtownshandrum (left) and Stephanie Dunlea, Cloghduv, celebrating their All-Ireland victory Tipperary in the All-Ireland Camogie Final.
Pic: Patrick Casey

Manager's Praise for Players

By JOHN GUITON

Tipperary has contributed enormously in recent years towards the promotion of Camogie. One recalls a reception in the Grand Hotel Malahide many years ago after Tipp Juniors losing an All-Ireland and the pledges of those involved towards eventually putting the Premier County at the top of the honours pile.

They've succeeded admirably in achieving their aim. Three senior All-Ireland's in a row as well as much success in other grades, provides testimony to the hard work of so many involved in the promotion of the game. A pity at the manner of their defeat last Sunday with a chance of a glorious fourth consecutive title in their hands. Yet, while their disappointment was acute in the aftermath of the game they took more than a modicum of comfort from three magnificent years at the helm.

Team Manager Michael Cleary was lavish in his praise of their dedication and commitment over four long and demanding seasons and felt that in the end Cork's greater hunger made a big difference. The Eire Og man who with Biddy Phillips and Jim Madden again invested a huge effort in preparing the side said - A few small things could have turned the game in our favour. We played well enough in the first half, we went four points clear and had Cork on the back foot. But we gave away soft scores and allowed them back into it. I thought when we moved three points clear at the start of the second half things looked good. But again we lost concentration Cork hit for the goals and they had the greater hunger, they seemed to be getting to the breaks of the ball quicker.

Michael warmly congratulated Cork on their success. "They played very well, fully deserving of their win," he said.

Jubilant scenes as victorious camogie team return home

By Felim McMahon

THERE were jubilant scenes at Mallow Railway Station on Monday night, as Cork's camogie seniors brought an All-Ireland title back to a county hungry for cups.

After a phenomenal second half performance, the Rebel ladies bet Tipperary by a margin of nine points on Sunday to deny the Premier County their fourth successive All-Ireland camogie title.

In the end, their victory owed a lot to the steely determination showed by Ballincollig teacher, Fiona O'Driscoll, whose three memorable second-half goals secured a famous Cork victory.

President Mary McAleese, speaking in Ballincollig on Monday, paid tribute to the Physical Education and Science teacher from Colaiste Choilm.

"If I could live my life again, if I could swap with somebody, the person I'd swap with, believe it or not, is a Ballincollig girl — Fiona O'Driscoll.

"I'd love to be Fiona," the President said, adding "I used to play camogie, but not like her."

"Wasn't she something else folks? Oh I'd say her name is mud in Tipperary," the President joked.

"Thanks to the women you got a cup this year after all. You thought you were going to get nothing, but you got the cup."

Fiona, who comes from East Cork, said there were 'strong words' for the Cork girls at half time, when they trailed by two points.

"We came out fired up and twice as hungry," she said, and admitted to getting a 'bit of a slagging' from the kids at school for her second-half performance, when she appeared to be possessed in front of goal.

Cork goalkeeper Ger Casey from Inniscarra also made a name for herself as she 'hurled cool' all afternoon with a handful of inspired saves.

Other North Cork ladies for Cork included Una O'Donoghue, Joanne O'Callaghan, Stephanie Dunlea, Catherine Corkery, Paula O'Connor, Caoimhe Harrington, Niamh Bowles, Marie Watson, Liz Sweetman, Aoife Murray, Brid Corkery, Sinéad Buckley and Catriona Harte.



Tipperary's Joanne Ryan comes out best in this tussle with Cork's Vivienne Harris in the All Ireland senior camogie final.



The sure hand of Ciara Gaynor claims possession.



Tipp's Angle McDermott stretches to win possession from a Cork opponent in Sunday's final.



Claire Grogan is goal-bound.



Corner forward Emer McDonnell heads for the Cork goal in Sunday's final.



Players, subs and mentors look on as Cork receive the O'Duffy Cup.



Every picture.....Deirdre Hughes after Tipps Defeat.