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Bragging rights at stake for Caseys

CAMOGIE

BRAGGING rights are what's at stake in the Casey household ahead of next Sunday's All-Ireland senior Camogie final.

Joanne Casey lines out at right half forward in her first senior All-Ireland camogie final, and remembers clearly her sister Ger winning her All-Ireland senior title in Croke Park in 2002 when Joanne was just 10 years old.

"I remember Ger winning her All-Ireland, there was great excitement at home and also in Inniscarra.

"I remember going to Croke Park and I always wanted to follow in Ger's footsteps; this is where you want to be in September. It would mean a lot for me to win this year, Ger won her medal so I can't give her boasting rights", Joanne laughs.

A third year general nursing student in UCC, Joanne is on the Cork panel since 2010. Her call up to the senior squad meant a lot to her.

"I got a call from Denise Cronin and just remember being so honoured to get the call up to the seniors. I had watched them for so many years it was great to finally get the chance to play alongside them."

Despite this being Joanne's first intercounty All-Ireland final she is no stranger to Croke Park.

"I was lucky enough to play in Croke Park with Inniscarra in 2010 so it isn't a whole new experience. 2010 was a great year for our club; we took the year one game at a time and eventually found ourselves in Croke Park on All-Ireland club final day.

"Unfortunately we lost but it was great to represent your club in Croke Park. It means a lot to finally get here with Cork especially after losing the last two semi-finals to Galway and Wexford."

Will Cork do it this year?

"Preparations have been very professional from training right up to when we line out for a championship match. The Munster final loss to Clare was definitely a low point but with each game since then we have upped our performance and are working very well as a team, especially against Galway in the semi.

"I do believe we can win but it will be very tough. Wexford are a great team, they are going for three-in-a-row and are intermediate and senior club all-Ireland champions also. They have also had the same management for two years so we are certainly going into the game as underdogs."

There is certainly a hunger in the Cork camp, not evident over the past two seasons. With Wexford heading for three in a row many will place them as favourites. This suits Cork perfectly. From the outset Paudie Murray had reaching an All-Ireland final as his goal. Cork are there now and this title is there to be won.

Cork must win the midfield battle



LINDA MELLERICK

The Cork v Wexford All-Ireland senior final on Sunday promises much and is a game which can live up to the pre-match hype.

The odds are stacked in Cork's favour for this one. Wexford are bidding for three in a row whereas not too much is expected from Cork outside of the county after what would be considered a relatively poor championship campaign (until the semi-final).

The fact that Cork have failed to reach the final for the past two seasons makes Wexford firm favourites for the 2012 title. This will suit Cork beautifully and I doubt Paudie Murray will have much of a problem rising his charges, their hunger is evident.

The key to winning the game lies in how Cork distribute the ball to their forward line.

If they pump high balls in, then Wexford will control this game from defence. If however, Cork play the ball low and fast and run at Wexford they can split them open.

Katrina Mackey did so in the second half of the league final and Wexford had little by way of response.

Wexford's two corner-backs Claire O'Connor and Karen Atkinson are excellent at attacking the ball.

If they are beaten to it, they can be rounded quite comfortably. Catherine O'Loughlin is a colossal at full back, the only way to gain the upper hand is to place a busy full-forward on her that will pull her out and run her. Briege Corkery is the perfect candidate. If Cork play it tight up front they will play directly into Wexford's hands.

Wexford are holding announcing their team until Saturday. This may be to conceal the fact that Una Leacy will not start.

It is looking extremely doubtful if Una will line out. An MRI declared that her cruciate was not 'gone' after she limped off in the semi-final however, there is damage to the knee and she has participated in little training since then.

Leacy has missed a lot this season having recovered from a previous cruciate injury and in truth it would be a mistake to start her. She didn't look match fit in the semi-final and if she lined out against Gemma O'Connor not 100% fit then O'Connor, in the form she is in, will significantly capitalise. Wexford are very much aware of the influence Gemma can have on the game and won't take that chance. They will place a marker on her, just as Cork did with Therese Maher in the semi-final.

Cork's starting selection was also



Geared up for Croker battle
Check out today's camogie final special.



Anna Geary is pushing for inclusion but Catherine O'Loughlin is a colossal at full-back and the only way to gain the upper hand is to place a busy full-forward on her that will pull her out and run her. Briege Corkery (pictured below) is the perfect candidate.

Picture: David Keane

CAMOGIE

not available at the time of writing and while Cork's defence and midfield are likely to be the same as that of the semi-final it is up front where positions are up for grabs.

Anna Geary is pushing for inclusion as is international soccer star Claire Shine.

While missing much of Cork's campaign due to her international commitments, Claire is in excellent form in training and once she was released from her duties for this weekend, competition stepped up again. It's a hard call for the selectors but a great position to be in.

Cork's defence proved excellent in the semi-final. Wexford aren't playing as cohesively up front as they have in the past and Jenny Duffy may have the task of marking Ursula Jacob.

Jacob, while always dangerous, isn't firing on all cylinders while Duffy is having a good solid season.

Katrina Parrock at full-forward looks to be the in-form forward at the moment but Rena Buckley should stand up to the task.

Josie Dwyer at left half forward is a great worker and Emer Sullivan will need to nullify her contribution. Lenny Holohan, if selected, failed to impress in the semi-final and Joanne O'Callaghan should win out.

Aoife Murray forms the backbone



of this Cork team and her influence from the goal is immeasurable. Wexford will find it hard to get past her.

Midfield is a crucial area and the battle of Jennifer O'Leary and Kate Kelly should prove the tie of the day. Both had Player of the match displays in the semi-final. With Orla Cotter and Michelle O'Leary filling the other two midfield roles, this area is a key battle to be won.

Four of Cork's forward division found the target in the semi-final and Cork will need that spread again and more if they are to win out.

Cork are ready to take on this Wexford challenge. The chances of president Aileen Lawlor handing over the O'Duffy cup to Julia White at 5.20pm on Sunday are strong.

Verdict: Cork



Leading by example: Cork captain Julia White and Wexford captain Karen Atkinson with the O'Duffy Cup at the captains' day at at Croke Park ahead of Sunday's All-Ireland camogie championship final. (Photo: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile)

Gemma: hurt will drive us on to All-Ireland final title

Cork camogie star Gemma O'Connor feels past disappointments will inspire Rebelettes

BY KIERAN MCCARTHY

CORK are approaching Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final as if it was the team's first, according to Gemma O'Connor.

The St Finbarr's star might be one of the most experienced and decorated players in the game, having won four All-Irelands and six All-Stars in a trophy-laden career but ahead of the battle against reigning champions Wexford, O'Connor told *The Southern Star* that

they have adopted a new approach to this game.

A disappointment

'We have talked about this, how much winning this All-Ireland would mean to us. The last few years was such a disappointment for us because we know what we are capable of as a group of players and individuals. We haven't reached our player to our potential,' O'Connor said.

'We have won All-Irelands and there are a lot of All-Ire-

lands in the team. But that doesn't really matter. We are now playing in 2012. What we have achieved before isn't going to win another All-Ireland for us. We have to do that ourselves, by playing to our potential.

'Certainly, we will have the attitude that this is like a first All-Ireland and that we have never won anything before. We are going to give this everything. We have nothing to lose. We haven't been there the past few years so we will cherish the

opportunity.'

Cork and Wexford have clashed twice already this season with the Rebelettes defeating the Leinster county in the division one league final, denying Wexford's four-in-a-row bid.

Now chasing

But the Leinster county got their own back in the early rounds of this championship.

With Wexford now chasing a third All-Ireland title in a row, the scene is set for massive

showdown in Croke Park on Sunday.

'Since '07, Wexford have been the young, up-and-coming team whereas we have been there over the past decade, on good and bad occasions, but certainly over the last few years Wexford have proved themselves to be a very hard team to beat,' O'Connor said.

'At the start of the year, for us it was about establishing the new management and new players, and trying out a few new things. The league was

good for that.

'We got to the league final and we beat Wexford in the league final but then in the championship stages we lost to Wexford in the round-robin system.

'Between ourselves, Galway and Wexford, there probably are just two or three points that separate the three teams. On any given day, any team can beat the other.'

• For the full interview with Gemma O'Connor, read page 44.

SEPT 2012

Troy feels title is vital for Meath

CONALL COLLIER

MEATH camogie player Kristina Troy was one of three nominees for last year's *Meath Chronicle* / Cusack Hotel Group young sportsperson-of-the-year award.

She earned her nomination following some outstanding performances for the Meath minor camogie team, but she was also a solid centre-back on the adult side that won the Div 3 title and the Leinster junior crown.

She has continued to deliver big performances for Meath this year as they adapted to the more demanding pace of Div 2 camogie and she has already sampled success with another Leinster success.

However, an All-Ireland medal would round off her year nicely and she reflected on a visit to Croke Park last week as manager John Davis took the team to headquarters where they will play for the first time next Sunday.

"We had an opportunity to visit Croke Park last week and at this stage I

just can't wait for Sunday," she told the *Meath Chronicle*.

"This is what we have been working for, this is what we have been trying to achieve for the last few years and now that we are there we have

to make sure that we perform on the day.

"Every team going into a final has some sort of pressure on them, there will be big pressure on Down as they were beaten last year in the final, but there's pressure on us also as we have beaten Down twice this year.

"I wouldn't read too much into that, it's all about how we approach the game, from my own perspective I have to focus on my role.

"We know what to expect from Down, I have played at midfield and as a wing-back against them this year so I have a good idea of what they can do and, more importantly, what I have to do," she added.

The fact that the pitch in Croke Park will facilitate good camogie is not lost on Troy either.

"We know that we will have a good pitch, a good surface and that will help both teams, but it will really suit us as we have plenty of pace in the forwards and we will be able to use the space to our advantage also.

"John (Davis) has been preparing us all

year for this game, he was confident that we had the ability to make it to the final, now we have to show him that we have the ability to win the final and move up to the next level.

"That's what camogie in Meath needs now, an All-Ireland title," she concluded.



ON THE BRINK



DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

A DECADE ago a day like this Sunday was just a pipe dream. Youngsters like Kate Kelly, Claire O'Connor and Michelle O'Leary were just making their way in the inter-county camogie world and beating a team like Cork in any game was amongst a Wexford player's greatest ambitions.

Those days were tough, beatings came thick and fast. Though the losses were painful, memories of successful Minor clashes left seeds of optimism in those young brains. The thrashings became defeats, the defeats morphed into narrow losses and then it happened. Wexford started to beat Cork. And Wexford started to beat everyone else too.

The most famous win against the Rebelettes remains the 2007 All-Ireland final. Presided over by manager Stellan Sinnott, Wexford stuck it to the then-double champions, with two Una Leacy goals in the first-half bringing Cork to their knees.

Since then Wexford have won more than they have lost against Cork, the stand-out being the 2011 semi-final in Nowlan Park but, like you'd expect of two sets of champions, none of those matches have been won on a whimper.

Indeed, just this year, the latest stanza in the never-ending poem that is Wexford and Cork has seen both sides leave games with the clammy, sweaty unease of loss trickling down their backs.

For the Slaneysiders, the league probably hasn't been treated with the respect it deserves in that tricky balancing act of giving squad players game-time and choosing the best 15.

So much so that the National League Division 1 final against Cork saw a very unfamiliar Wexford take to the field. That team didn't perform well, certainly not to the level that they are capable of, nor have produced time and again in recent years, and they didn't deserve to win. And they didn't.

Cork were impressive that day, and if the margin flattered anybody it was Wexford (1-8 to 0-9). However, the same could be said of the clash in the championship round-robin game at Bellefield that brought a reversal of fortunes. A five-point win (0-14 to 0-9) and a big confidence boost.

But that counts for little when the first shrill blast of the referee's whistle reverberates around the sparsely-populated stands of Croke Park. Then it's champion on old champion. Both are used to winning. Both will believe it's their day. One will have to give way.

Much of Sunday depends on who Wexford can field. If Una Leacy isn't fit to go it will act as a huge blow to the hopes of the three-peat; mentally and talent-wise.

It's an old idiom that 'nobody is irreplaceable', however there's no such saying to quantify how adequate that replacement is in comparison to the part lost. In that sense over half the Wexford team cannot be adequately replaced. With a game that will be decided by such fine margins, that's crucial.

It's important not to forget that Leacy wasn't fit for the 2011 semi against Cork, yet she played, and she created a goal. If that's an indication of her true value she will start again.

It's been said for years but it's true, the defence still picks itself. Goalkeeper Mags D'Arcy will be well protected by the uber-tight unit of Claire O'Connor, Catherine O'Loughlin and captain Karen Atkinson. The back four boasts nine All Stars between them with only Oulart-The Ballagh's Atkinson yet to pick up a gong.

In front of that Mary Leacy is flanked at either side by Noeleen Lambert and Deirdre Codd. The half-back section is possibly the most under-rated line on the team. Neither Codd, who has played at midfield in recent years, or Lambert, have received individual honours for their quality of play but they provide perfect foil for the graceful Leacy in the middle.

As can be seen further in our 'statistical' piece in this issue, once that back six is intact, it's an extremely difficult shield to impregnate. Midfield has not been a settled position since Caroline Murphy emigrated to Canada. Lisa Bolger's hand injury has sidelined the St. Martin's forager since the Dublin game at the start of July, meaning throwing her in at the deep end would be a huge gamble.

In her absence both Kate Kelly and Josie Dwyer have featured alongside the evergreen Michelle O'Leary and it's likely that one or the other will fill that void again. Kelly has been at her majestic best through the year and will once again be a key component, wherever she lines up.

If it's Dwyer who drops deeper Wexford will lose a little in the battling qualities in the half-forward line but may pick up a long-range scoring threat should Louise Codd get her second start after surprisingly being given the nod in the semi-final.

Una Leacy will likely start but, if the Oulart-The Ballagh



■ MAIN PICTURE: Catherine O'Loughlin makes a trade-mark catch in the National League final with Claire O'Connor and Cork's Regina Curtin close at hand.
ABOVE: Noeleen Lambert pursues Katrina Mackey.



star is not fully fit, Ursula Jacob can drop back to centre-forward and play the role of scorer and provider while her clubmate moves to full. Katrina Parrock has all the talent in the world at corner-forward but the opposite corner is up for grabs, with Lenny Holohan's place under threat from dual player Fiona Rochford who scored three points in ten minutes from the bench against Offaly in Nowlan Park.

Sunday's opposition, Cork, boast plenty of All-Ireland winners. As many as eleven of their possible starting line-up boast winners' medals and it's a side that has few weaknesses.

The back six have oodles of experience and are a tough nut to crack. Getting through that rearguard is almost as tough as breaking down Wexford but, should the Slaneysiders make inroads, in Aoife Murray the Rebelettes possess one of the best, toughest, goalkeepers the game has seen.

Orla Cotter is rangy in midfield but can be quietened with the right opponent, yet the big danger to Wexford hopes may again prove to be the pocket-rocket Brieghe Corkery. The Cloughduv clubwoman has taken up several positions in the side so far this term but come the big day she will certainly be deployed as an attacking dynamo - a direct and pacy runner that is as elusive as she is fast.

If the trophy is to come back to the south-east her influence will have to be nullified. Overall Wexford possess more weapons and as long as they are deployed properly the double-defending champions should win.

Don't expect it to be straightforward. Don't expect it to be easy. It will go all the way to the last whistle but do expect Wexford to be ahead by a couple of points come full-time. And for the three-peat to be complete.

A first adult three-in-a-row in the county, in any code, for almost 100 years. Let the records go down.

MEATH CAMOGIE STATISTICS 2012

ALL-IRELAND PREMIER

Final - Meath v Down, Croke Park, Sunday 16th September, 12.0.

RESULTS

Semi-final - Meath 0-14, Kildare 0-5
Fifth round - Meath 3-10, Kildare 1-7
Fourth round - Meath 1-10, Down 1-9
Third round - Meath 4-27, Roscommon 1-4
Second round - Meath 2-15, Armagh 1-9
First round - Meath 2-9, Laois 0-12

LEAGUE DIVISION 2

First round - Meath 0-17, Cork 1-7
Second round - Meath 0-16, Down 2-8
Third round - Meath 2-12, Kilkenny 2-1
Fourth round - Meath 2-7, Tipperary 0-7
Final - Derry 2-11, Meath 0-6

LEINSTER JUNIOR

Quarter-final - Meath 2-15, Westmeath 1-10
Semi-final - Meath 3-13, Carlow 1-4
Final - Meath 1-16, Kildare 1-6

SEPT 2012

OF HISTORY

Kate kept believing through tough times

DEAN GOODISON

Sports reporter

IT WASN'T always like this. Wexford didn't always stand toe-to-toe with Cork in the camogie world and come out on top. Indeed, as recently as a decade ago the Slaneysiders lost those contests, and lost them well.

Kate Kelly was only a newbie at that stage. The new kid on the block, the talented youngster that drew comfort from the fact that she still had plenty of years ahead of her. At that time she simply didn't have enough talent beside her.

'I remember going down to Páirc Uí Rinn one day and we were beaten by over 20 points, that sticks in your mind. I do vividly remember those years, it wasn't just Cork beating us, there was nearly a line of them!

'One time when we went to training,' continued Kelly, 'we were on a real low and we were after being beaten by so much, only five or six turned up. We didn't end up training. I think that was probably one of the lowest moments.'

During the tough times the St. Ibar's/Shelmaller Lynchpin never gave up hope, never stopped believing that better things were around the corner. 'I always dreamed of it and I always genuinely felt we would get there,' she remembers.

Was there that 'Eureka' moment, that time when hopes and dreams suddenly seemed possible? Kelly pinpoints one particular game.

'We played Tipperary in the league final and then again in the All-Ireland semi-final and it was the crossbar that the ball hit. We were two points behind in the end and I suppose it was only the crossbar that came between us and Croke Park that year. It took us three years after that to get back, but yeah, that's the real turning point I think.'

Had Wexford made that final in 2004, it might have come too early for the burgeoning side. Three years later, when Cork were the opponents, there was no doubt their time had come as Kelly, later to be honoured with the player of the year award, drove them to victory.

That's your first and your first is always special but I have to say each of them have been extraordinary,' explained Kelly. 'You just live for the minute the final whistle blows, that feeling is amazing.'

From the first victory in 2007, to the quest for three-in-a-row. On the outside at least, Kelly, like her teammates, won't embrace the magnitude of such an accomplishment right now. After all, it's currently about winning one match.



Kate Kelly with her mother Peggie (nee Doyle), winner of All-Ireland Senior medals in 1968 and 1969.

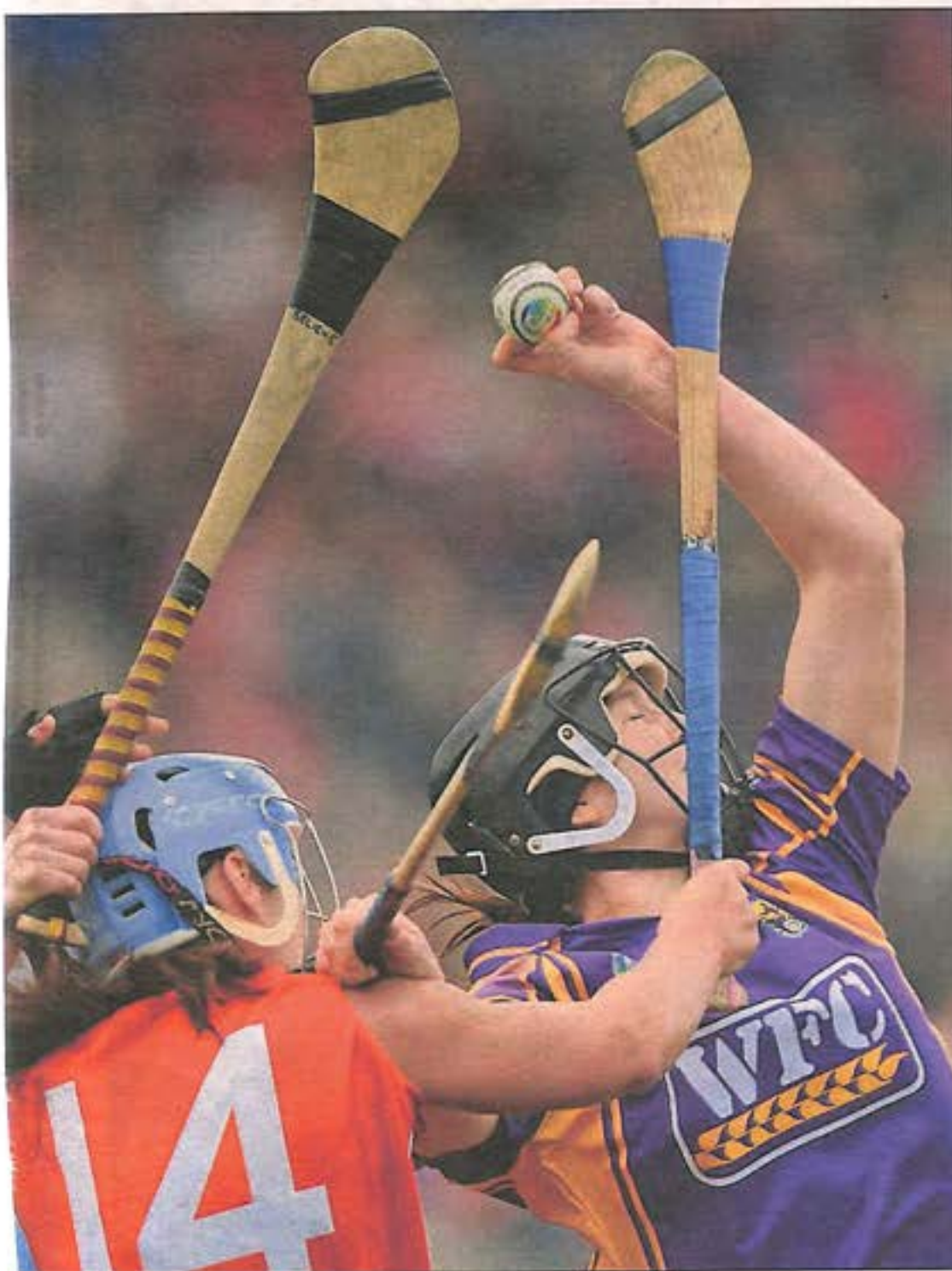
'It's another 60 minutes of playing camogie, it's take one game at a time. I suppose we let everything else look after itself. We are thinking about this year and this year alone. We can only win one and that's our aim. That 60 minutes is what we are looking forward to,' enthused the five-time All Star.

What of the game itself? With the season series tied at one each both sides know they can come out on top. The Rebelettes are laced with talented players but Kelly believes Wexford can only control what they themselves will do.

'I think it's just about ourselves and performing on the day. It's on the 60 minutes, not past games. Obviously you can do your homework and learn bits from other games, and I suppose we leave that to the lads, but on the day it's up to Wexford to go out and play as a team, as a unit, 1 to 31, because everyone is playing their part.'

'From our point of view we go out and focus on our game and hopefully at the end of the 60 minutes, or 70 minutes or whatever it may take, we are jumping up and down.'

If the three-peat comes to fruition, the trophy cabinet that Kelly coyly says she doesn't think 'takes up any space at all' will have grown to unprecedented levels for a Wexford sportsperson. Maybe, just maybe, it will be known as the 'trophy room' from Sunday on.



HOW THEY GOT THERE...

June 23, The Ragg:

Wexford 1-17, Tipperary 1-6

Scorers: Ursula Jacob (0-8, 5 frees, 1 '45), Una Leacy (1-3), Katrina Parrock (0-2), Kate Kelly (0-2 frees), Michelle O'Leary and Lenny Holohan (0-1 each).

June 30, Bellefield:

Wexford 0-14, Cork 0-9

Scorers: Ursula Jacob (0-8, 6 frees), Una Leacy (0-3), Kate Kelly (0-3, 2 frees).

July 8, Wexford Park:

Wexford 2-20, Dublin 1-4

Scorers: Ursula Jacob (1-6, 1-2 '45s), Evelyn Quigley (1-1), Katrina Parrock, Louise Codd and Josie Dwyer (0-3 each), Kate Kelly (0-2 frees), Una Leacy and Fiona Kavanagh (0-1 each).

July 14, Athenry:

Galway 3-14, Wexford 0-10

Scorers: Ursula Jacob (0-7, 4 frees, 2 '45s), Katrina Parrock, Josie Dwyer and Michelle O'Leary (0-1 each).

August 18, Nowlan Park:

Wexford 3-14, Offaly 0-5

Scorers: Katrina Parrock (2-2), Ursula Jacob (1-4), Fiona Rochford (0-3), Kate Kelly (0-3, 1 pen.), Una Leacy and Fiona Kavanagh (0-1 each).

TOTAL SCORERS

Ursula Jacob 2-33 (0-15 frees, 1-5 '45s), Katrina Parrock 2-8, Una Leacy 1-8, Kate Kelly 0-10 (6 frees, 1 pen.), Evelyn Quigley 1-1, Josie Dwyer 0-4, Fiona Rochford and Louise Codd 0-3 each, Michelle O'Leary and Fiona Kavanagh 0-2 each, Lenny Holohan 0-1.

THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Alan Lagrue of Kildare will be taking charge of his first All-Ireland Senior final between Wexford and Cork on Sunday next.

The Eire Óg Chorra Choill clubman previously officiated at the All-Ireland Intermediate final in 2008, the Irish Daily Star National League finals in 2010 and 2012, as well as numerous All-Ireland Minor finals.

His umpires are Martin Lynch, Paddy Nolan, Craig Hughes and Alan Lagrue Jnr., while Karl O'Brien (Dublin) is the stand-by referee and Liz Dempsey (Kilkenny) is stand-by line umpire. Owen Elliott of Antrim and Gerry McGough from Dublin are fourth and fifth officials.

Lagrue's use of the whistle contributed to a stop-start game when the counties met in the league final in Thurles earlier in the year, so hopefully the action will be allowed to flow on Sunday as that's what everyone wants.



Kate Kelly at the media night in Wexford Park with Annie, Isabelle and Deborah Kavanagh.

Eager beaver Josie the ultimate team player

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

YOU KNOW when you're walking through a garden, one that's not been enjoyed in some time, invariably you'll collide face-first with the webbing of some long-since evacuated arachnid. You keep going about your business, trying to brush it off, flicking at it, picking at it. Then you concede defeat, break out of your train of thought and pick it off, piece by sticky piece.

That's what the poor unfortunate Cork player that has Josie Dwyer for company on Sunday afternoon will have to put up with all game long. It'll be a long afternoon for her. The Ferns St. Aidan's clubwoman just sees it as doing her job. 'I'm just someone who does what I'm asked to do, I'll try anyhow and hope that it works out. Some days it won't and other days it will. Every day you go out and just put in 100 per cent effort, as we do all the time, and that's all we can ask of anyone on this team. If everyone goes out there and gives 100 per cent and with a little bit of luck anything can happen for us on the day.'

Team-mates know what to expect of Dwyer, and she knows what they will provide, which is the bonus of a well-settled unit. On the fringes of the squad several young players lie in wait for their chance to shine. 'The girls that are coming in, Lisa Bolger's in, Fiona Rochford, Louise (Codd) is in there, you need the new faces too, to back up the

strength. I think we have a nice blend of the old crew and the newer ones coming in, we're looking good enough in that sense,' stated Dwyer.

Those youngsters may have played in intermediate finals, like Dwyer did when she lined out in the 2007 Intermediate ladies' football final, but the Senior final is a different experience, as the Garda recalls. 'I know I'd played in Croke Park before but to experience going out in a Senior final...and then one of the biggest memories is the 'goal that never was' (referring to a chance which she handpassed wide with the goal gaping).

'At the end of the day it's all about getting a result, it's not about personal things on any given day, it's about team Wexford going out and getting a result. That's all that matters.'

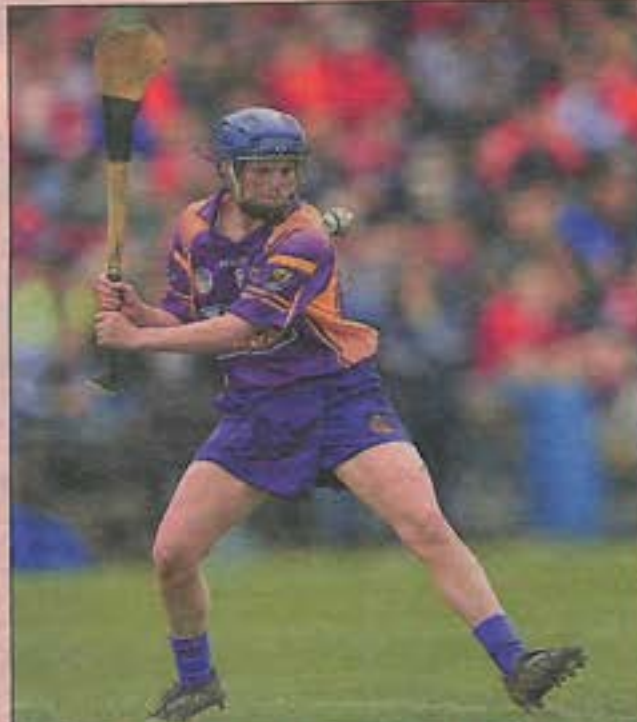
While Dwyer's second final, last September, allowed her to line up in a more natural position, it was still a vastly different contest. 'It was tougher in a sense that we were probably on the back foot and we had to come from behind and get ourselves out of trouble,' she explains.



We experienced both sides, we've been ahead and then we've barely held on. We have also experienced when we've come from behind to snatch the game and to be honest with you, either way, it's all the same, it's all about the final whistle and Wexford winning.'

So what of Sunday, the day Wexford camogie can claim the three-peat - three All-Ireland victories in a row. Dwyer believes it will be 'an awful tight game, there's going to be not an inch given on any ball, it's going to be tough'. However, you don't become winners by not believing in yourself.

Dwyer continues: 'I genuinely believe that on a given day we are capable of beating anyone that we play. We may not be better, we may be, I don't know but I genuinely believe we're going to Croke Park and we know if we perform to the best of our ability we're well capable of beating Cork.'



■ Josie Dwyer takes aim during the National League final against Cork last May. INSET: The Ferns lady at training in Wexford Park last week.

Nothing flash in Claire's corner, but job gets done all the same

DEAN GOODISON
Sports reporter

IT'S FAIR to say that Wexford are currently blessed with plenty of talented camogie players. After all, a team is only as good as the sum of its parts and you won't win this championship with one special player. You need a handful, and you also need players that complement that handful. But just where exactly Rathnure's Claire O'Connor sits in that classification is up for debate.

You see, throughout O'Connor's Senior inter-county career, which is now well into its second decade, her managers have felt at one stage or another that their Wexford team can function to an elite level without her. Yet sooner or later they have realised that they were wrong.

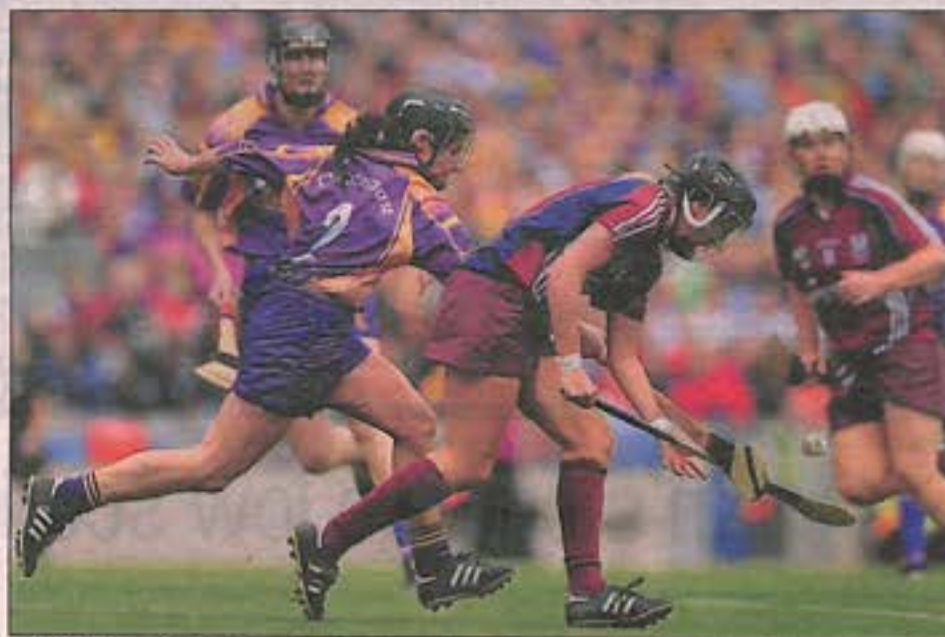
The thing is, her game style is not flash, it's not fancy, it's all about stopping the opponent from scoring. It's efficient. Most importantly for a corner-back, it's mistake-free. 'The Wexford defence, we play very simple, it's a simple game to us,' explains O'Connor. 'We're tight and were a good team. It's not necessarily about individuals, it's about good teamwork.'

That team ethos didn't come overnight. It took time and proper training. The twice-over All Star pinpoints an improvement in training in 2007, 'when it got ultra serious', as key to the success of Wexford camogie in the last few years.

'You can actually see people's fitness levels have built up over the last few years, the fitness level is kind of constantly on the up. As for hunger, everyone's as hungry, and aware that our workrate has to be higher this year than ever.'

It's unlikely that anyone will take to the pitch quite as hungry as O'Connor. She managed less than two minutes on the hallowed Croke Park surface when the sides met in the '07 final and was also only used as a substitute when they clashed in May's league final.

Many considered it an inexplicable move by Wexford manager J.J. Doyle. It backfired dramatically but O'Connor is philosophical. 'You want to start every final, every match that you don't start is a disappointment. Whether it's that they're giving everyone a fair go - and I think that was the aim of the league, be it in the first round of the



■ Claire O'Connor battles for possession with Galway's Veronica Curtin in last year's final.

league, or the league final, I think that's what they were doing at the time, it doesn't mean that I wasn't devastated not to be playing. I was very disappointed.

'I was delighted to even get on that day, because I maybe thought I could have made a difference, but in the end we still lost.' Losing is not something this Wexford side is used to. A four-year winning streak in the league came to an end with the loss to Cork, meaning only them and Galway have tasted victory against Wexford in the last three years.

While O'Connor admits that she was 'thinking that Cork would come through' the semi-final between her side's two main rivals, she also acknowledges that their talented forwards can be nullified. 'Cork would be one of the best sets of forwards going and I've had enough individual battles to know they're good individually as well. They are very fast and they find each other very well but, I mean, there's nothing we can't close

up with good and tight defence.'

Now in her early thirties, the question she faces from everyone is 'when are you hanging up the boots', but O'Connor says that 'I love playing camogie as much now as when I was ten' and that those decisions can wait.

'I just don't know, I just don't think about it,' admits O'Connor. 'It's easy to stay going when you're successful because it's like you're on the crest of a wave and it's brilliant. There's lots of people there that, you know, we've grown up together with and hurtled together with and you nearly want to see what those people are doing. It's a decision that I wouldn't be thinking about until after the All-Ireland final.'

One thing's for sure, when Claire O'Connor decides the time is right to call it a day, whoever is then Wexford manager will soon wish he had her 'thou shalt not score' attitude. Others have realised that those type of players are simply not ten-a-penny.

SEPT. 2012

THE FINAL HEAD TO HEAD

It's been a hell of a year so far for the Cork Camogie team. After failing to capture the treble in 2010 after successive All-Ireland wins in 2008 and 2009, they also fell short in 2011. Until 2010 it had been nine years since Cork had missed out on an All-Ireland final and they could only watch on as Wexford raised the O'Duffy Cup for the past two years with Galway losing out on both of those days. 2012 has been a different year, writes Louise Cashell

The deck has been reshuffled under new manager Paudie Murray and with a Division 1 title already under their belts, the Cork team are back where they want to be-Croke Park and who are they sharing the big stage with? Wexford, of course. The same team that put a stop to Cork's gallop in 2012, the same team that Cork beat in the years League final and the same team that are the only team to have defeated Cork so far this year.

Finding it hard to keep up? In plain English, these two are the best, and next Sunday one will come out on top. Team captain Julia White knows only too well the challenge that lies ahead if she is to get her hands on that cup for Cork once more.

"Wexford are a very tough team. They are clean and they are physical and they have very



fast forwards and that's something you always have to have your eye on in every match. They definitely try and dominate through their centre back and play the game from there on up. Everything goes through her [Mary Leacy] so we'll have to try and confine her as much as possible because I think if we do that then we will have a good shot."

Julia admits that with this match, there is the extra incentive of getting another scalp over this Wexford team, a thorn in Cork's side for some time now.

"Well we beat them in the League final this year so that has given us a huge confidence boost. We were going for the treble in 2010 when they won and now they are going for the treble this year so that's definitely another incentive."

"We try not to think too much about that part though because we're going out to win and that's all that really matters but there's definitely

a bit of a rivalry there so neither side will want to lose this match. The management are talking to us a lot though about keeping our focus. It's an All-Ireland final and a lot of players have experienced that already but we have a few younger players with us this year and the blend is fantastic-everyone is very open with each other and that's something you need."

"We're really positive about our chances in the match. We have six leaders in the team who talk to the other players and then management come to us and if there is a problem it's sorted straight away. That's the way it has been all year, everyone is very honest and open and I think that's definitely helped us to get back to the final again."

No stranger to All-Ireland finals, Julia was a member of the panel who won back-to-back titles in 2008 and 2009 and this will be her first year getting to play on



Julia White in action against Wexford in the League final which Cork won. Photo: Caroline Quinn

the day itself and as captain, a feat which is not lost on her.

"Yea, definitely - being captain means a lot to me but there is a lot of leaders on this team, not just me. There is a lot of 17 and 18 year olds on the panel so you have a blend of youth and experience and we're all helping each other out. I'm really looking forward to it though and hopefully we'll get a good crowd behind us as well, with the younger players Sunday will be a real novelty for their

clubs and family as it's their first time playing and that should add to the day."

"The county has been a bit down with the hurlers' loss and the footballers' loss to Donegal but you have ourselves and the ladies' footballers playing in both finals so it's something for everyone to be positive about."

Cork play Wexford in the All-Ireland Camogie final at 4pm on Sunday in Croke Park. The match will be televised live on RTÉ2.

Camogie squad in relaxed mood ahead of final

There's much at stake for the Cork camogie team ahead of this Sunday's All Ireland senior championship final against Wexford at Croke Park. It's the last opportunity of 2012 for Cork to capture senior All Ireland gaelic games glory, and against a team with whom there are scores to be settled. Paudie Murray told Keith Watterson that the players are relaxed but more than ready for the challenge

This Sunday the referee's whistle in Croke Park will signal the beginning of Cork's final bid to bring senior championship gaelic games silverware back to Leeside for 2012.

The All Ireland senior camogie final between Cork and Wexford promises to be an exciting affair, with many scores to be settled.

Most immediate score to be avenged for Cork is the 0-14 to 0-9 defeat by their opponents back in June. And if successful, Cork will be putting a halt to Wexford's efforts at a third successive All Ireland title. On this count alone, victory will be sweet, for it was Wexford

who derailed Cork's bid at a three-in-a-row achievement in 2007. Of course, added to all this baggage is the symbolic weight of playing at Croke Park.

Despite the high stakes, the mood in the camp is relaxed. In many respects the team has already achieved the goal set out at the start of the year by manager Paudie Murray and his backroom team of Aidan Crowley, Brian Barry and Ellen Clifford—to make the All Ireland final.

However, Murray is confident that there will be nothing relaxed about his players' game this Sunday. "On Tuesday night, I had my last real chat with the team before Sunday, and I told them

we will have to raise the bar again," Murray told *The Cork News* this week.

"However, as I said ahead of the quarter final against Clare, I was looking at the rest of the championship as if we had three possible All Ireland finals to play, and the players delivered on that level," he said.

"The first two of those games have been the highlights of Cork's year. They delivered the goods against Clare, and then in the semi-final against Galway, who brought it back to a point's difference with time almost up; they dug deep and were in the driving seat for the rest of the game, when it really counted," Murray added.

"The thing is now we have to



Paudie Murray

take it to an even higher level. Wexford are the All Ireland champions, and with all their achievements at intermediate and club level, perhaps we're not expected to win, but may-

be that's a strength, because it's performance on the day that counts. I'm a big believer in taking the opportunities and playing at 200%. If that's not good enough, you put your hands up, take it, and move on," he said.

Murray believes the qualities of team spirit and self-belief have been crucial factors in the fulfilment of the goal to reach the final the year: "The team spirit is very strong. I don't think we would be in the final if it wasn't. You can have all the skill and speed in the world, but without team spirit you have absolutely nothing."

So will there be long overdue camogie championship celebrations in Cork this Sunday evening? Murray chuckles,

but insists that it's not out of the question.

"I think in every single game we've played this year, we've learned something. We played Wexford in June and to say the least we were taught a lesson. After that, we knew that we had to up the ante, and we did so. And then during the quarter-final and semi-final, and the way the players rose to the occasion of those high stakes knockout games, you could see the character of the players."

"Maybe we are not expected to win this Sunday, but it is very possible that we will. I certainly believe that it is possible. So now, it's up to the players to deliver on the day," he concluded.



Cork
2013
Geared up for
Croker battle
Don't miss tomorrow's
camogie final special.

All-action Dorgan will do whatever the team needs

IT IS often surprising how different diverse players view their importance to a panel in hurling and football codes.

It has become very apparent in recent years how essential to success a panel is, how a game is rarely won on a given day with just 15 players, how it is often the substitutions that swing a game. Still however there remain players that throw a 'wobbler' every time they are substituted or don't get to start a particular game. They get in a huff and generally upset the entire panel with their negative actions. I've seen it so many times over the years and worse, I have seen managers indulge these players' egos. Then you have players who put the team before themselves, accept that they are an integral part of the set-up and while disappointed at times not to make the starting 15 or be taken off they put their head down and strive to go one better the next day out. Take Cork ace Linda Dorgan. Linda is on the current Cork panel since 2008. For the past couple of seasons, Linda has started in some games, sat on the bench for others, been brought on and taken off yet just gets on with it; puts her head down every night of the week at training, understanding that this is part of the game. And it drives her on. She recalls personal disappointments like in last year's semi-final when Cork were beaten by Wexford and again in this season's



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

league final, which Cork won. "In last year's semi-final Cork didn't have their best performance all over the pitch, yet even not playing at 100% we could have snatched a win. I felt I had more to give but the management didn't on the day and I was taken off. "Yes, I was disappointed but that comes with inter-county and you have to take those decisions, learn from them and never be afraid to ask what did you do wrong and how do I rectify it? "The league final was not a good personal outing for me at midfield. I felt the game passed me by and I was obviously disappointed not to finish the game as training and the lead up to league matches had gone well. "But cork won the title which was the most important thing and it was back to the training field for me to regroup and build again. We are all part of a talented squad and no one takes their starting position for granted, we are all pushing hard to be on the first 15 and I always give 100% at training." Linda's efforts paid off. She was selected at centre-forward for Cork's semi-final victory over Galway to mark danger woman Ther-

ese Maher, a hugely influential player for Galway. Therese the quietest day I can remember. Linda did a superb job. She was again substituted but at that point it was more to do with fresh legs rather than anything Linda had done wrong. It's all systems go in the Cork camp at the minute. Training is professional and focused on the task ahead. They didn't always perform as they could have all year, Cork seem to have hit form as a unit at the right time. "The team have been building throughout the year, building the intensity with the main aim to be in Croke Park in September. "We've had mixed outings this year but learned from every game. Pre-season started early under new management, it was structured initially for the league and intensified for championship. "The management are professional and all bring valuable and constructive experience to the table. We've prepared well." Linda was on the panel that experienced All-Ireland success in '08. "Having been part of the winning Cork 2008 team I want to feel that joy again so I am really hungry to win the O'Duffy Cup." Duty Manager in Catalyst Health & Fitness Centre in Carrigaline, the Ballincollig player's strong physique will be a huge plus against Wexford. Whether Linda starts, is on the bench, brought on or off during this final, you'll find it hard to find anyone that will give it more.

Galway intermediates face in-form Derry in camogie decider

They hate to be beaten and they proved it against Tipperary and Wexford. When things weren't going well, they forged out a result and that's a great sign. Some of them might not be exceptional players, but they have a great work-rate and that has stood to them so far. Aside from the obvious concern of churning out a result, a performance is equally important as to mark out which players are capable of stepping up the senior set-up in 2013. For isn't that the primary reason of fielding an intermediate team. Following the 2009 win, Tara Rutledge, Martina Conroy, Sarah Dervan and Heather Cooney successfully graduated to the senior ranks. On Sunday, the future stars of Galway camogie will stand up to be counted. Whether they do it as All-Ireland champions or not is a tough one to call.

track to become the third Ulster county to inscribe their names on the Jack McGrath Cup. John Mullan's charges were simply unstoppable in the first-half of the semi-final, outscoring the Premier stick-women by 3-9 to 0-4 with Karen Kieft, Katie McCauley and Oonagh Bradley providing the majors. Katrina O'Kane, Maebh McGoldrick and Ellis Ni Chai-side are their key defenders while Grainne McGoldrick is the side's chief tormentor up front and as Ardahan learned earlier in the year, curtailing her influence is easier said than done. Since Cassidy, Katie McCauley and young Karen Kieft are other capable Derry forwards. For all that, the reality is that Galway stand only 60 minutes from glory and as Tony Ward observes, this group of players do not accept defeat lightly.

them. I think with youth nowadays, they are not too easily worried. For Derry's part, this is their first intermediate final appearance since the county's 2007 All-Ireland junior win and it is understandable that the view of camogie pundits point towards a victory for the Northerners. Their increasing profile on the camogie scene is confirmed by Division 2 league success, an Ulster Senior crown and the All-Ireland minor B championship. Added to Eoghan Rua's back-to-back All-Ireland Intermediate club titles and there is no doubting that camogie is reaching higher planes in the Oak Leaf County.

With an average winning margin of 15-points from their four championship games so far, Derry's superb 19-point win over Tipperary (3-16 to 0-6) shows they are right on

Grounds. With 10 of the panel under the age of 20, manager Ward and his selectors, Sharon Glynn, James McGrath and Declan Walsh, clearly had one eye on the future when they gathered last January. Added to the experience that the likes of Sarah Noone, Emma Killelly and Aoife Lynskey bring to the table, and the team's massive potential was self-evident. Though a handful of Galway players would have lined out in Croke Park with the seniors in recent years, for a large proportion of the panel, this will be their first outing at GAA HQ. Ward, however, is adamant that this won't be a telling factor. "Some of our girls never put a foot on Croke Park and that is a worry. Then again, a lot of the Galway hurlers last Sunday had never played in an All-Ireland and it didn't affect

Indeed, given Galway face a Derry side that have not yet been beaten this year, every player must be able to perform to their utmost if the Westerners are to spring an upset. Galway have shown a steady improvement, building up momentum over the summer. The defence, which kept a clean sheet in last month's

league champions colliding with a Galway side laden with experience and emerging talent. With corner forward Molly Dunne ruled out, together with genuine injury doubts about Tara Kenny (finger) and Aoife Lynskey (cracked rib), Galway have several problems to contend with ahead of the final, but team boss Tony Ward is adamant that there will be no excuses. "Molly is having pins put in because of the thumb injury she picked up against Waterford and, of course, she is a loss. Aoife Lynskey has a cracked rib sustained from the Waterford game. She has yet to return to training, but we are very hopeful she will be available for Sunday. Tara suffered a nasty finger injury in a training game and again we are very hopeful that she will be ok for Sunday."

Galway camogie and Croke Park in September has been a constant over the past number of years, but there will be a slightly different air to proceedings on Sunday as the county's intermediates take centre-stage in their bid for All-Ireland honours against a highly fancied Derry outfit (throw-in 2pm). With the majority of sporting interest centred on Galway's stickmen, it is unlikely that a large following will travel to the Capital for a second successive Sunday, not to mind that people will be conscious of the hurling final replay which ensures an expensive month in the pockets of Galway supporters. Nonetheless, this intermediate decider bears all the hallmarks of a tantalising contest. The Ulster and Division two



Galway intermediate camogie manager Tony Ward.

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WORLD

Cork star Anna Geary and her fellow team-mates are hoping to halt Wexford's All-Ireland Senior Camogie three-in-a-row title bid on Sunday. Picture: David Keane

Gearred up for Croker battle

Anna and Cork have Wexford in their sights: P2-7

SEPT 2012

Anna has steely

Rory Noonan

talks to Cork star Anna Geary, who first starred in a Rebel jersey at just 12 years of age, ahead of next Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie final



BRIGHT, bubbly, highly intelligent and always smiling sums up Anna Geary in a nutshell. The Cork star always seems to have a smile on her face and many an opponent have been fooled by this. Because once Anna crosses that white line there isn't a more tenacious and determined player in the game at the moment.

Oh yeah you can add in plenty of skill as well as without it you don't make your debut for Cork at 12 years of age on the U16 side. But that's exactly what Anna did and so began her love affair with the red jersey and it with her. Now, at just 25, she is one of the seasoned players in the squad and if Cork need a lift next Sunday Anna will be one of those they will look to.

And you can be guaranteed she won't let you down as whether it's in the forward line or in defence one thing is certain, Anna will give it her all and should Cork win there won't be anyone with a bigger smile on their face in Croke Park.

Anna has always seemed to have luck on her side as teams she has been involved with win title after title, 10 All-Ireland titles with St Mary's of Charleville, just one example and you can in countless others between club and county.

But many will argue that you make your own luck and it's the hard work and dedication you put in that pays off. On that grounds, on the pitch and in her work, she certainly doesn't come up short. Anna works with Quest Software in Mahon, a job that sees her responsible for a team of more than 30 people.

Through her profile in camogie and work, Anna was appointed the Irish Ambassador for Youth on the Move, a role she was delighted to take on.

Basically this role sees Anna encouraging young people to go abroad for an Erasmus Mundus year.

The Erasmus Mundus programme aims to enhance the quality of higher education and promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through mobility and academic cooperation, allowing students to travel abroad for a year to go to college or on a work placement.

So why was Anna asked to get involved?

"When I was a student at University of

Anna Geary keeps her eyes on the ball.



Limerick we were told about this programme and I jumped at the opportunity to get involved," said Anna.

"For my year I went to Luxembourg and without doubt, it was one of the best years of my life.

"I learned an awful lot about myself and I feel I came back a better and stronger person because of it.

"I had to learn skills from simple things like furnishing an apartment, to negotiating a highly detailed contract, written in French, as this was the main language of the company I was doing my work placement in.

"That certainly was an eye-opener, but like the others I just had to get on with it and that's what we all did.

"I was approached to become the Irish Ambassador for the programme and I was delighted to accept the position.

"It is a wonderful experience and one I would recommend to all students and I now have the pleasure of helping to promote the idea and go to universities etc to tell students about the programme."

"In simple terms it an initiative to unleash the potential of the youth of Europe. It promotes improving mobility of young people across the continent. As

the Ambassador for Ireland I try to create awareness about work placement overseas and Erasmus."

But long before Anna started on her career path, her love of camogie started. Before she could walk Anna had a hurley in her hand and it wasn't long before it was off down to the pitch of her beloved club, Milford, and from that day forward there was only one sport for Anna.

"From the day I picked up a hurley I have always loved playing camogie and that hasn't changed," said Anna.

"It's the best feeling in the world to be running on to the pitch with your team-mates, be it club or county, and preparing to do battle with your opponents. "I was very lucky and had some great coaches when I was very young that helped me get the basics of the game right from the start. People like Ann Watson and Sheila Thompson, amongst others, were a huge influence and without them I wouldn't have been able to get the opportunities I have today."

With her reputation growing it wasn't long before Cork came calling and at just 12 years-of-age Anna got the call she was always hoping for, but didn't expect to get then.

"I got a call up to the Cork U16 squad and it

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determination



Milford's Anna Geary gets away from Douglas' Emma Jordan during last year's Cork County Senior Camogie final.

ANNA GEARY FACTFILE

Position: Centre-forward
Age: 25
Day job: Software renewal specialist at Quest.

HONOURS MILFORD

- Five U16 A county titles '99-'03
- Five U18 A county titles 2000-'04
- 1999 All-Ireland A U16 Pan Celtic
- Senior B County title 2002
- Senior A League 2003
- Senior All-Ireland Pan Celtic A 2005

ST MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHARLEVILLE

- 10 All Ireland A titles in Junior, seven-a-side and senior
- Second Level Colleges All-Star 2004
- Captain of Ireland in Shinty 2004.
- Chosen as ambassador for second level schools during the camogie centenary year 2004

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

- Freshers title 2005
- Ashbourne Cup medal 2005 (Picked on Ashbourne combined team in same year)
- Received a 'Contribution to Sport' award from the President of UL in 2006
- Recipient of two national camogie association bursaries for '05/'06 and '06/'07

MUNSTER

- Two senior Gael Linn titles with Munster
- Player of Tournament in Gael Linn 2006

CORK

- Two U14 Cork Colleges titles
- Three-in-a-row U16 All-Ireland titles '01-'03 (was captain in 2003 and received the player of the match in the All-Ireland final).
- Five U18 A Munster titles (no All-Ireland series back then)
- Two national league titles 2007, 2012
- Six senior Munster titles
- Three All-Ireland senior titles '05, '06, '09
- Received the RTE Player of the Match award in the 2006 senior All-Ireland Camogie final
- Four All-Star awards '05, '06, 2010, 2011

DID YOU KNOW?

Anna received an Irish Examiner Young Sports Star award in 2005. She did live commentary on Radio 1 for senior camogie All-Ireland final in 2010 and 2011 with Micheal O Muirheartaigh and Pauric Lodge respectively. She featured as an analyst on RTE's *The Committee Room* before the camogie All-Ireland final in 2011.

to name just a few.

"When I joined the Cork senior set-up Sarah was the first person to talk to me and welcome me to the panel and since that day we have become great friends. That to me is a key part of the success of the Cork squads over the years.

"As well as playing alongside each other, we are all great friends and many of us would socialise outside of camogie together. I think this helps to forge a strong bond in the squad and when you go out on the pitch you don't want to let them down and you will do all you can to win for them.

"That applies to all games for Cork and in my case, Milford, as I am well aware of the sacrifices they are all making to train and play the game. You look around you and see inspirational figures like Gemma, Orla Cotter, Rena Buckley, among others, and you immediately get a lift.

"They inspire confidence in others and if you're having a bad day then they will encourage you and help you to get through the bad spell."

Looking ahead to Sunday Anna can't wait to get to Croke Park and describes the dressing rooms as like walking into a hotel. But preparation is key to Anna and she will follow the same routine as she does for every game.

"My gear bag has to be packed the night before, with everything I need for the game. If I don't I won't sleep and it's just a habit I have gotten into over the years. I know when I wake up in the morning it will be ready to go and I just have to grab it and head off.

"With the game being at four all players like to do different things throughout the morning, before we have a team meeting and lunch. I tend to walk and chat with some of the others, whilst some just like to be on their own listening to music.

"When we get on the coach I tend to graduate towards the back with the likes of Briege Corkery, Joanne O'Callaghan, Sile Burns and Orla Cotter. When you leave the hotel and you see the garda escort leading you through Dublin then emotions start running high.

"As you get close to the ground I love seeing all the supporters as they wave at you and wish you all the best as we pass. But once the coach pulls in under the stand and you go through the doors and turn left towards the dressing room then you know it's time to get serious.

"We all have our routines before the game and I tend to try and sit in the same spot always and you will find that many of the players are the same. Before you know it you are on the pitch and once that ball is thrown in then nothing else matters until the final whistle blows."

And once it does there won't be a player with a bigger smile on their face in the ground if Cork come stop Wexford from making it three in-a-row.

was a dream come true for me. I started at corner-back in the Munster final against Tipperary and though we lost it was an unbelievable experience to play for my county.

"Even at that age it taught me a valuable lesson which simply put is that you get out what you put in. Nothing comes easy at inter-county level in camogie, from underage teams right up to senior, and if you're not willing to put in the work then you can forget about having any sort of success." However, it wasn't long before Anna started to enjoy success with Cork and went on to win three All-Ireland U16 titles with Cork, captaining the side for one of them in 2003. "To captain Cork to an All-Ireland title was beyond my wildest dreams and it's a day I will never forget as long as I live. It was one of the proudest days of my life and one I will always treasure."

Success followed at U18 level and it wasn't long before Anna came to the attention of the senior selectors.

Her first game as a senior player came when she was brought on in the All-Ireland final in 2004 against Tipperary, a game Cork lost unfortunately.

"Even though I wasn't immediately involved, it still hurt as it was my debut. That day didn't go the best. I was put in full-forward

and full-back Una O'Dwyer got Player of the Match."

But again Anna used that experience to fuel her passion for success with Cork and it wasn't long before it arrived.

Her display in the 2006 All-Ireland final earned her the Player of the Match award, and such was her consistency throughout the season, she was also an All-Star winner, for the second year-in-a-row.

"During that time and now I was lucky enough to play alongside some great players, people like Gemma O'Connor, Emer Dillon, Colette Desmond, Aoife Murray and Sarah O'Donovan,



SEPT. 2012

Jenny's love of the

FACTFILE

Name: Jennifer O'Leary
Age: 28
Family: Three sisters and four brothers!
Club: Barryroe
Position: Forward/Midfield
Sporting idol: Fiona O'Driscoll ("as a person and a camogie player")
Hardest Opponent: "Any opposing player who gets to an All-Ireland final."
Favourite food: "Italian. And love brown bread!"
Favourite music: "Anything. Like a mix. Love artists like Ray Lamontagne, Paulo Nutini."
You'd run 10 laps to avoid doing what? "Ironing for my mother! I have gotten caught many times over the summer, I detest ironing my father's shirts especially!"

HONOURS

- Two minor All-Irelands in 1998 and '99
- One intermediate All-Ireland: 2001
- Three senior All-Irelands: 2002, '05 and '06
- Four league medals: '02, '06, '07 and 2012
- Five All-Star awards in '04, '05, '06, '07 and 2011
- Three Ashbourne medals with UL: '04, '05 (captain) and '06
- Club:** 1997 U14 Féile competition, 1998 senior B county championship, 2007 senior A league.

Cork camogie players Jennifer O'Leary at a team training session in Blackrock recently. Picture: Darragh Kane

I THINK the key to winning is the level of intensity shown. If we hunt in packs, and don't allow Wexford an inch, I think we have a chance on Sunday." That is the opinion of Barryroe's Jenny O'Leary, who is hoping to win her fourth senior All-Ireland camogie medal with Cork on Sunday.

Jenny has played in six All-Ireland finals, winning three, and won an incredible four consecutive All-Stars between 2004 and 2007, and another one for good measure last year. She has been on Cork panels since she was 14, but Cork's player of the match in three championship games this year is eagerly looking forward to the challenge that lies ahead. "We have nothing to lose, it's going to be a battle," Jenny O'Leary said. "Yes, they will be the favourites, but we are going to go out and play our own game."

Jenny's love for camogie began at Barryroe National School when she was just eight years of age under the guidance and training of Mary Kearney.

Mary's mother — May Whelton — was a huge influence on female sport in the club and she started camogie in the Barryroe GAA club.

"My two older sisters played so I always used to pucker around with them in the back garden, and we used to be very competitive against each other."

"We had a habit of losing tennis balls and sliothars, so one day we were forced to use a golf ball. The result was a broken window and an angry mother," laughs Jenny.

"Maura Whelton, Ger Carroll, Eleanor Griffin, Martin Moloney and Tony McCarthy are people who selflessly gave up their time for us. I hope that in time I can repay them by giving back to the club all the joys it gave me."

Coaching is how Jenny plans to spend some of her evenings when she eventually decides to hang up her boots. Though hopefully not for a long time yet.

"I will definitely go into coaching. To what level, I'm not sure. However, I will always maintain a keen interest in the game."

Jenny has already got a taste of this role. She coaches at Gaelcholáiste Choilm, the secondary school in Ballincollig. The English and PE teacher, along with Newcestown's Hilda Kenneally, puts in extra hours of coaching camogie with the very successful school teams, who have won senior and junior All-Ireland titles, as well as many Munster and county titles.

"It's a very busy, progressive school and it's a joy to teach there. The staff, the kids, and the environment are brilliant. Having three camogie teams in the school who compete at the highest grade is an added bonus."

Her passion for the club is undiminished.

"For me there is nothing more special than club camogie. We are a small, but close-knit club and community."

"Everyone in Barryroe is so supportive of one another, and the girls I play with are some of my closest friends, including my younger sister Debra."

"These are the girls I have grown up with, that I have lost and won games with, girls that stick by you when you need them most, both on and off the field."

"Over the past seven or so years we have not been successful as a senior A club. That is the reason why we needed to go down senior B this year. It was probably the hardest decision we could have made having built ourselves up over the years."

"It felt like we were undoing all the hard work others had done before us, but we had to be realistic, and if we were to survive as a senior club, going down a grade was the answer."

"Now girls are enjoying their camogie again. We have been given a boost and more games at this level which is really standing to us."

Having never won a senior club championship medal, she has never captained a Cork side despite being a prominent figure for so many years for them. However, Jenny believes that all 15 players are and should be leaders on the pitch.

"I can see why the current system of choosing a captain for Cork stands."

"Winning a county is a difficult feat. Players who win a county learn what it takes to get there, and can transfer this knowledge to the county scene."

"I do think that there are girls out there who deserve to captain Cork, but may never get the chance as their club struggles in the senior grade."

"I suppose this has been true in my situation, and it would be a dream to captain Cork, but unfortunately, this wasn't to

Jenny on...

The importance of round-robin system of games for her club:

"My club Barryroe is now playing senior B. We are loving the extra games (round robin) and actually able to compete in and enjoy the games."

"For too long we were being heavily beaten and it was really hard to keep picking yourself up year after year."

"We have lost players down through the years because of it, and as we are a small club, every single person is crucial to keep it going."

"We have won our opening two games this year, so fingers and toes crossed for the games ahead."

The importance of a mixture of both youth and experience on the team:

"The young girls who have come on the panel this year are a breath of fresh air. They are really gunning for our positions, which in turn makes us all work harder."

"They are level-headed and are really looking forward to Sunday. The mixture is needed. We learn from each other, and having the fresh youthful legs on the sideline, or on the pitch, is a huge plus."

game has never waned



Cork's Jennifer O'Leary takes possession ahead of Galway's Therese Manton in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final back in 2010

A stint away from the game while she was travelling, re-ignited Jennifer O'Leary's passion for camogie. She explains to **Barbara O'Connell** that she'd savour adding to her All-Ireland medal collection this Sunday



be. However, I feel that although you may not have the title of captain, every player on the panel should be leaders in their own way. If that exists and success comes with it I wouldn't complain."

Jenny, who has committed her life to camogie surprisingly took almost two years out to go travelling after losing the 2007 All-Ireland final to Sunday's opponents Wexford.

"Travel wasn't always a big pull for me. I loved playing camogie, loved living in Cork and had a brilliant network of friends through school, college, sport and home.

"However, after the disappointing loss in the All-Ireland final in 2007 I felt like I needed a change, an eye opener, an opportunity to do something completely different.

"At that stage I had been playing constantly and camogie was all I knew, so after much thought I decided to venture as far away from home as possible, to Australia.

"It was so difficult to tell clubmates and Cork mates of mine that I was going. "I felt like I was letting them down, but they were so understanding and supportive of my decision. It was emotional leaving my family and friends, but I knew the time would fly.

"I left in the summer of 2008 and lived in Brisbane for six months, and Sydney for a year.

"I travelled the East Coast of Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Tasmania, and Fiji in between. I resided in Sydney the longest because I played camogie and football with Central Coast GAA club.

"We won every competition on offer. I got to play with college friends of mine again, which was fantastic.

"It helped to take my mind off camogie back at home and I felt so relaxed and at ease playing because although we had brilliant teams, it was more about enjoying it and cherishing this unique experience.

"I stayed away for a year and a half and came home at Christmas 2009." Refreshed and re-energised O'Leary was keen to get back playing as soon as she could with Barryroe and Cork again.

"The break definitely did me the world of good. It gave me more hunger to come back and try again.

"It made me more confident as a person and it provided me with a mountain of happy memories that I will draw upon for many years to come.



"If I didn't go then, I never would have got the chance and it would have been a huge regret. On my return I was ready and hungry to play with county and club again.

"I was really looking forward to it. It took me a while to get back up to the pace of the county scene, but I relished the challenge. I did bite the bullet when I decided to go travelling. It was a hard decision but I'm glad I did it."

Speaking of getting back up with the pace, for those of you who know Jenny, you could never imagine her lacking any pace.

Her speed and burst of pace on the pitch is incredible to watch.

She's famously known for her calf muscles, or her 'cows' as some people call them.

"I always laugh when people comment on my calf muscles. I have always had big calves," laughs Jenny.

"I used to do a lot of sprinting when I was younger, that's where I think they started to build. I was always running around as a youngster, we were never left stay inside, we were sent up to the pitch, or my siblings and I created obstacle courses outside our house and competed against each other.

"I do a lot of classes in the off season. Skipping, TRX, kettlebells, running.

"Also, I suppose as a PE teacher I am constantly on the move and stretching so that helps as well. I don't think I do anymore than most people though."

Jenny admits that this year, and like most of her life has been taken up with camogie, but says that she wouldn't have changed a thing.

"I am lucky that I have understanding friends and family who support me, otherwise the commitment would be so much harder to give.

"I have missed so many birthdays and parties and family occasions for camogie. I come back to school after a long Summer and many teachers have amazing stories of travel to tell. My answer has always been the same, 'I played camogie'.

"But I wouldn't change a thing. You are only young for a short period of time, there's plenty of time for everything else when I do eventually decide to finish playing."

Cork look to

THE only time you will find these two apart is while they are on the camogie field. And that's still only 50 metres apart. One takes up a position at centre-back, while the other lines out in the half-forward line.

The inseparable Mackey twins from Douglas, who live, train, socialise and study together will be key to Cork's hopes on Sunday as they meet Wexford in the senior All-Ireland camogie final at Croke Park. "I have to say I have a very strong relationship with my sister. We are very close and practically do everything together from playing camogie to doing the same four-year course in college," says Cork stand-in captain Pamela Mackey.

"We really do spend every day together and have the same interests and friends. In college I will help Katrina if needed with assignments, and she will consult me if I have missed out on anything. So I suppose in that regards, she comes in handy," laughs Pamela.

"I'm so used to having Katrina in my daily life that it's just routine that we do everything together. The only time we spend apart is at night when we're sleeping and sometimes while I study."

As you would imagine with these girls being so close to one another sharing the same friends and interests, sister Katrina almost replicates her relationship with sister Pamela.

"I have a very good relationship with my sister. I spend a lot of my time with her and we do a lot of things together," Katrina said. "We get on really well and hardly ever fight, although Pamela is very stubborn," laughs Katrina.

"There is one thing I'll say about Pamela and that is I do not like to sleep, or study in the same room as her as she does intend to breathe very loud, which irritates me."

"It is great having a twin sister though, as with the same interests, it's very handy when I'm looking for someone to have a puck around with."

While both girls spent their years growing up together playing sport, another huge, and different interest they both shared was their love for books and documentaries relating to crime.

The fascination for watching such drama series is one of the things they love doing together while at home.

It's a Monday evening and the Mackey twins sit to watch their favourite series, *CSI*.

Phones are switched to silent, tea is in hand, and the do not disturb sign goes up on the door.

As they watch this award-winning American drama series together, the Mackeys, like their hero characters in their favourite programme, who regularly hunt down and outthink their opponents, will be thinking how they can apply the same theories and principles on Sunday against Wexford. Their fascination of delving into the minds of people will also apply as they try to enter the minds of their Wexford opponents trying to figure out their every move.

The interest they both share in crime extended after leaving secondary school. They both decided to continue their studies in crime and now both are studying chemistry with forensic science, in UCC. "I am currently in my third year at UCC



Cork's Katrina Mackey challenges Kilkenny's Leann Fennelly in the 2009 All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final and main picture Pamela Mackey in action.

Picture: SPORTSFILE

Douglas provide a twin threat for the Cork camogie team in Sunday's All-Ireland final against Wexford. Barbara O'Connell caught up with Pamela and Katrina Mackey before the biggest games so far in their fledging careers



studying chemistry with forensic science. I chose this course because I have always been interested in crime while growing up.

"I've always been fascinated about the minds of a serial killer, and I love to read and watch documentaries on such crime."

"Both me and Pamela always had an interest in crime, and the process involved in catching the perpetrator."

"Being good at science, especially chemistry at school, made it inevitable that I would do a science degree, and this course definitely seemed to be the most interesting one for me," says Katrina.

"Like Katrina I chose this course for similar reasons," Pamela said. "I have a love for science and a passion for crime. I too have a fascination of looking into the mind of a

serial killer.

"After my four years in college, like Katrina, I would like to further my studies, and maybe do a masters or PHD in forensic psychology or fire investigation. Maybe one day we could work for the FBI."

Both girls, who have been on the senior panel since 2009 are hoping to start in their first All-Ireland final on Sunday.

Pamela has been a solid player in the back line, while sister Katrina's burst of pace in the forward line has brought huge excitement to the squad.

Both girls, who are hugely influenced by their mother, are looking forward to Sunday's final and will enter the game with the attitude of not fearing anyone.

"I have grown in confidence with every

twin powers



Twins Pamela and Katrina Mackey who play for Douglas and Cork senior teams.
Picture: Eddie O'Hare

MACKEY FACTFILES

PAMELA MACKEY

Age: 20
Lives: Donnybrook
Family: Mum, Sisters, Katrina, Caroline and Jessica
Club: Douglas
Position: Half Back
Other sporting interests: soccer and gaelic football
Sporting idol: Usain Bolt, Pirlo and Cork hurler Shane O'Neill.
Hardest opponent: any Cork senior player that I marked playing with my club, I don't really think you can get any tougher.
Favourite food: Any

fish dish, or my mum's christmas dinner.
Favourite music: Anything really, although I'm not keen on some of the songs this year they just all seem to sound the same to me.
There isn't much thought or lyrics put into songs lately.
You'd run ten laps to avoid: Marking Katrina.

KATRINA MACKEY

Age: 20
Lives: Donnybrook
Family: mum and three sisters, Caroline, Jessica and twin Pamela.
Club: Douglas
Position: Half-forward

Other Sporting interests: soccer and gaelic football
Sporting idol: Michael Pheips, Jim Stynes, Joe Canning and Andrea Pirlo.
Hardest Opponent: Any of the players on the Cork team are hard to mark, and any senior inter-county player.
Favourite Food: any thing to do with fish and my mum's Christmas dinner.
Favourite Music: Anything really, but I don't like some of the songs out lately as some don't make much sense and aren't very original!
You'd run 10 laps to avoid doing what? Playing tennis during Douglas camogie training sessions.

game and being honest, I don't fear anyone enough to disrupt my own game," says Katrina.

"I am really looking forward to Sunday's final. It will be a tough battle, but then all finals are.

"Wexford are a strong physical side, but Croke Park is big, so hopefully we can utilise the space and do what we love best, and that's 'run at them'." Sister Pamela

believes that winning the league has given the team a major boost.

"Winning the league this year really boosted our confidence as we hadn't really won anything major since 2009.

"There is great team morale this year which is essential for any team, and I also think that every player from one to 31 has the same goal, and that is to win on Sunday. "There's no doubt that Wexford will be a huge test.

"Yes, they are a big physical side, but they also have skilful players who are well capable of scoring however, overall I think we are a more balanced team throughout. "I also believe that our bench is stronger than Wexford's and that could be the difference between winning and losing."

Pamela Mackey on...

POSSIBILITY OF WINNING THE COUNTY WITH DOUGLAS THIS YEAR

"I think the potential is definitely there for us to win a county title this year. There is a good blend of youth and experience.

"Even from last year there are a lot of new players which has freshened the squad up. There's no doubt that there is huge talent in this team.

"We have five senior Cork players, Claire Shine, Amanda O'Regan, Julia White, myself and Katrina.

"We beat Inniscarra in the first round, and next up we have Milford which will be a tough one.

"They will definitely be one of our biggest threats having beat them by a single point in last year's final. There's no doubt they will be out for revenge. I think Courneys will also be a huge threat.

"They have a young team with a lot of exciting players."

Katrina Mackey on...

STANDARD OF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

"I think the standard of camogie has hugely improved. The club championship in Cork is one of the best in the country.

"There are so many teams competing and it's definitely wide open this year.

"Compared to Tipp and Wexford where the club championship is very one-sided, I think the Cork championship is a lot more competitive, which is a great thing for Cork camogie."

Mackey honours

Club: U11A and B titles, U12A county title, U13A and B Seandún titles, two U14A county titles, two All-Ireland Féile na nGael titles, U15 Seandún A titles, two U16A county and league titles, Minor county title, senior B county title, and a league medal in 2007, two senior A county titles, and two senior A league medals in 2008 and 2011, U16A Pan Celtic title.

County: One senior All-Ireland medal, two Munster senior medals, U16 Munster medals, Minor Munster medals.

All-Star nomination: Pamela.

Colleges: Cork Colleges All-Ireland medal with UCC.

School honours with Christ King: One senior B All-Ireland medal, Munster senior A title, Represented Munster at schools level in sixth year, junior and senior county winners.

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THE KIERAN SHANNON INTERVIEW

SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

If Cork star Gemma O'Connor isn't involved in a battle on the field, she's trying to prevent one as an army officer off it. For six consecutive years she has been an All Star in the sport, leading some to say she's one of the all time greats

STILL CALLING THE SHOTS

When trying to describe how good someone is in the women's game the best recourse is to turn to the men's game. Who would be the hurling equivalent of Gemma

O'Connor? Tommy Walsh. For consistency, versatility, fearlessness, aggression and sheer mastery, he's the nearest thing to her and she's the nearest thing to him.

Ten years now Walsh is playing senior inter-county hurling and still he doesn't know what it's like to end a season without an All Star award. O'Connor is similarly accustomed to the red carpet treatment. For six consecutive years she was an All Star, an unprecedented streak in the history of camogie, and that run probably would have extended to eight had the scheme been in operation in her debut season of 2002.

Walsh has only known one September not playing an All-Ireland final. O'Connor had to wait until her ninth season to experience a September without preparing for an All-Ireland final. By the time she was 21 she'd already played in five senior finals.

And they're both do-everything, play-anywhere type of players, certainly anywhere from five to 12.

Walsh has become such a dominant fixture in the Kilkenny half-back line, we can forget that he won his first All Star as a midfielder and his third in 2005 as a wing forward.

O'Connor's most regular residence has been in midfield where she's won four of her All Stars, but she's also picked up gongs at wing back and wing forward while this summer she's been the anchor of the Cork defence, sweeping and dominating all around her from centre back.

Looking at their respective careers, the late Sid Waddell's famous line about Eric Bristow inevitably comes to mind. "When Alexander the Great of Macedonia was 33 he cried salt tears because there were no more worlds to conquer.... O'Connor's only 27!"

The last thing she is though is bored. For there are still worlds or at least All-Irelands to conquer, probably because she entered this season coming off a second consecutive year not having played into September. Last season was a nadir for her and Cork. It wasn't so much that they didn't reach an All-Ireland final, more that they didn't deserve to reach one.

"Through the years when we were continuously winning, there was always an appreciation that our run couldn't last forever.

"Like in 2010 when we finally didn't reach the All-Ireland, I didn't begrudge the situation, there was an acceptance that our luck had to run out some time. It's a lot easier to accept losing if you really and truly gave it 100%. You can't fault anyone that way.

"But last year we couldn't say that. We were way off the mark.

"The whole thing wasn't right from the get go. We didn't have the hurling behind us, we didn't have the right attitude, both players and management. And when people start to crib and moan that has a knock-on effect. People get demotivated and deflated. Without saying too much, there was no cohesiveness there. It just wasn't going to work from day one.

"If we had qualified for the All-Ireland, to be honest I don't think we'd have deserved it. About the only upside was that we only lost to [eventual champions] Wexford in that semi-final by five points. There was a realisation that if we got things sorted out, things could be a lot different."

This year there's a new setup, one that's challenged the players and facilitated high performance. O'Connor's fellow St Finbarr's clubman, Paudie Murray, replaced Joe O'Brien as team coach and brought in a completely new backroom team, including renowned performance coach Caroline Currid who has previously helped the Tyrone and Dublin footballers as well as the Tipperary hurlers to All-Ireland success.

"I think this year we've got it right. We spelt out clearly from the start of the year what was expected of people, be that what management expected of the players and what players expected from management. I think people have a lot more respect for one another now, everything is out in the open, rather than people whispering about the elephant sitting in the corner of the room.

"There's a good dynamic there. I know that there have been some years even when we were winning where you'd have little cliques but this is the first season in years that we feel like a really close-knit group. There's already a lot of All-Ireland medals in our dressing room but no one really dwells on that. What's been driving us is the disappointment of under-achieving the last year or two."

O'Connor more than anyone appreciates the importance of having a sense and togetherness among a group. Ever since she left school she's been a member of the defence forces and has come to know that any hint of discord can have deadly consequences.

So far, mind, her job has been more peacekeeping than life threatening, but she's still seen a lot. She was 19 when she had her first tour of Liberia. The first thing that struck her was the stifling heat but that was before she'd seen the orphanages and the child soldiers, and the communities devastated by HIV and poverty. All the while though she observed a real dignity at work, among the locals and by the Irish soldiers she soldiered with.

"They have absolutely nothing over there. Well, the people don't. The country has plenty of resources such as iron ore and gold and silver and diamonds but because of all the exploitation and corruption, the poverty among the general population is rampant.

"A lot of the kids there if you

ON THE GENES: Her mother Geraldine played for Glen Rovers and her uncle Bill Geaney captained Cork to the 1974 All-Ireland minor title and won another All-Ireland at U21 level.

“ O'Connor on last year..

The whole thing wasn't right from the get go. We didn't have the hurling behind us, we didn't have the right attitude, both players and management. And when people start to crib and moan that has a knock-on effect.

were to ask them one thing they'd like to do they'd all say it's to go to school. The Irish have a very good reputation out there for being kind and humane and our forces there try to help out as much as they can, in terms of food and clothing."

She still keeps an eye out for developments in that country. She followed Charles Hughes' trial in the Hague earlier this

year when the former warlord was sentenced to 50 years imprisonment, and monitors events in Chad, another country where she's served.

At the moment in the army there's been a severe reduction in the number of missions abroad. There's even a cloud hanging over the future of her regiment in Collins Barracks where she serves as a corporal. For all that uncertainty though, she loves the army life: the training, the camaraderie, the constant upskilling and particularly how supportive the authorities have been in facilitating her inter-county career.

For as long as she can remember she's wanted to play for Cork. Her mother Geraldine played for Glen Rovers and her uncle Bill Geaney captained Cork to the 1974 All-Ireland minor title and won another All-Ireland at U21 level.

And from the moment she went up to Croke Park in her pre-teens to see Linda Mellerick, Denise Cronin, Fiona O'Driscoll and Sandy Fitzgibbon win an All-Ireland, her dream and goal was to win one as well.

As it turned out she'd either play with or be coached by all of those figureheads. O'Driscoll has been both a team-mate and a coach to her. As far as she's concerned, O'Connor is one of the greatest players of all time.

"Gemma has the full array of skills. Her striking would be the number one thing that stands out. She's one of the longest strikers of the ball in the

game. Then there's her stickwork and her athleticism. I suppose with her army training her fitness levels are extremely high.

"She'd train at 100 miles per hour all the time. It doesn't matter if it's a sprint or a game of backs and forwards; you'll find Gemma pushing it on at match-like intensity and not being shy to encourage others to do the same.

"And above all she has a great big-game temperament. She rarely has an off-day in a Cork jersey. In her earlier days sometimes her competitive nature could maybe mean she could get slightly side-tracked if someone was trying to rattle her, but nothing gets in her way or distracts her now."

So often when Cork have needed leadership O'Connor has been the one to provide it. The 2005 All-Ireland final was a classic case in point. At half-time Cork trailed by five points to Tipperary and were staring at a third consecutive September defeat to their old rivals.

It was O'Connor though that ignited the rebellion with two consecutive points upon the resumption. She would end up with four, the margin of Cork's victory.

Back then Tipp were their nemesis. Now it's Wexford. The Leinster champions are closing in on a third All-Ireland on the trot and their fourth All-Ireland in six seasons, the kind of dominance O'Connor and Cork would take exception to happening on their beat. Cork did beat them in this year's league final for O'Connor to claim her fourth league medal but it's a sixth Celtic Cross that's she been eyeing all season.

"We knew alright when we played them in 2007 in the All-Ireland final that they were going to be around for some time.

"They had a different kind of dynamic about them, they were a very physical and united group of players. For years we had set the bar but we realised then that there was another standard with Wexford. They've raised it again since. We'll find out now if we've matched it."

Tomorrow the battle will commence. O'Connor wouldn't be anywhere else. It's what and where she's supposed to be at in September.

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AWAITING BATTLE: Gemma O'Connor at the Curragh Barracks in Kildare. The Cork star said: "I think this year we've got it right. We spelt out clearly from the start of the year what was expected of people, be that what management expected of the players and what players expected from management." Picture: Nick Bradshaw

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MAGS FINN
(Former Cork camogie player)

RETIREMENT is imminent for former Cork camogie player Mags Finn, or at least she claims it is. Admittedly, she's tried to give up on a few occasions but her love for the game always draws her back in and now at 44 she reckons she's finally played her last game.

The Fr O'Neill's club player has had a long and distinguished career. She started off playing at home with her brothers and sisters before joining up with her local under 14 team. She played up through the ranks for her club but didn't grab the attention of the Cork selectors until the mid-1980s.

Finn was past playing underage at that stage so she started playing for the Cork juniors. After a two-year stint with them she was then called onto the Cork senior panel in 1987 and stayed with them until 2001, winning five All-Irelands along the way as well as a county championship with her club.

During her career she encountered many changes and developments to camogie, including the transition from a 12- to 15-player game.

"Adapting to the size of the pitch was the biggest challenge," explains Finn. "As a back, it didn't affect me too much but as a forward you welcomed the bigger goalposts. We also had to get fitter because the size of the pitch changed."



Retiring from inter-county camogie was a difficult decision for the dedicated defender. In 2001, when the time came for her to call it a day, she found that her hurling brain was sharper than it ever was but her body wasn't responding as fast as it used to.

"If I could rewind the years of wear and tear on my body, I'd play away irrelevant of my age," she says. "I played soccer and Gaelic football as well so it wasn't just camogie miles on my legs. I'd often go watching the team I played with and think it would be great to play with them again."

Finn works for the ESB in Aghada, and still follows Cork camogie. She'll be watching their All-Ireland final encounter with Wexford today and feels that they will be back on top when the final whistle blows.

"I think Cork have improved as the year has gone on. They are playing a team going for three in a row but if Cork can play to their potential and believe they can win, they'll do it."

Three key battles: Cork v Wexford

Midfield

The head-to-head between Orla Cotter and Jennifer O'Leary, pictured, versus Michelle O'Leary and Kate Kelly is probably the most critical of the battles in Croke Park tomorrow afternoon. Kate and Jennifer were named Players of the Match in their respective semi-finals. Both girls are enjoying a highly successful season and whoever gets on top here will determine the supply up front.

Winning the breaking ball, falling back to help out defence and the ability to score from distance – both from play and placed balls – is a feature of Jennifer and Kate's game. In particular, the Cork partnership will need to win their fair share of ball in this area. Orla and Jennifer will also have to contribute to the score board.



Wexford centre-back

Mary Leacy, pictured, is an exceptionally good number six. She has made the position her own over the past few years and rarely is got the better of. When the Oulart-the-Ballagh star commands the pivotal position, the rest of the Wexford backline follow suit. Lynda Dorgan was handed the centre forward shirt for Cork in the penultimate round, and whoever starts there tomorrow has a major job to do because the outcome will have a huge bearing on the final result. To break even here would be good. As we saw in the last two All-Ireland finals, Mary is particularly hard to break down and her reading of the play is yet another feature of her game.



Una Leacy

Unfortunately, the key battle here is for Una herself. The younger of the Leacy sisters is still recovering from a serious knee injury she sustained in the All-Ireland semi-final. She is battling to be fit and while she is expected to be in the first 15, we won't know for sure until throw-in. She is the leader of the Wexford attack and alongside Ursula Jacob and Katrina Parrock, all three have a great understanding.



If she does line out, it may not be in her more familiar centre forward berth. Una loves to run at defenders, but her mobility may be limited, so it is possible she could be deployed to the edge of the square. In either case, this could have an unsettling effect on the All-Ireland champions.

Leacy: Winning a habit we don't want to break



ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL
CORK v WEXFORD

Sunday: Croke Park, 4pm
Referee: A Lagrue
TV: RTE Two
Bet: Wexford 4/7 Cork 15/8 Draw 15/2

Ronan Fagan

The good times have been rolling for over a decade for quite a few of

Wexford's camogie stock. But rather than all the success satisfying their appetites, star centre-back Mary Leacy says it only serves to sharpen their focus to sustain the run.

"When you get into winning ways it makes you even more competitive," she said. "You know what it feels like to win, so you strive harder for the next year, knowing you have to put in a bit more or else face the threat of other teams catching up on you."

However, Leacy refuses to wallow in past glories, even that club breakthrough earlier this year. Instead, the three-time All Star declared: "That

is history now. We want to win this year's All-Ireland. So we cannot be looking back on last year's championship."

"This year's final is going to be one of the hardest and toughest games yet, and it will take all of us to play to our full potential if we are to come through with the title."

It was Galway in the final for Wexford in the last two years. Cork offer a change of scenery this time round, but one which Mary and her colleagues have sufficient experience of to make them extremely wary.

"Cork are an extremely good team, and they have some

tremendous individual," Leacy added. "So we just have keep our heads down and make sure that we are really ready for this game, because there will be nothing easy on Sunday."

Although young enough to potentially still have many more September Sundays ahead of her in Croke, it is a sign of Leacy's appreciation of opportunities when she sums up how much Wexford covet this particular opportunity.

"This could be the last time we get back to Croke Park... who knows? So we will be putting our absolute all into this game."

Leacy keen to add to medals

WEXFORD NEWS

THE good times have been rolling for over a decade for Wexford's camogie stock. But rather than all the success satisfying their appetites, star centre-back Mary Leacy says it only serves to sharpen their focus.

"When you get into winning ways it makes you even more competitive," she said. "You know what it feels like to win, so you strive harder for the next year, knowing you have to put in a bit more or else face the threat of other teams catching up on you." However, Leacy refuses to dwell in past glories, even that club breakthrough earlier this year. Instead, the three-time All-Star declared: "That is history now. We want to win this year's All-Ireland."

"So we cannot be looking back on last year's championship. This year's final is going to be one of the hardest and toughest games yet, and it will take all of us to play to our full potential if we are to come through with the title."

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"So we will be putting our absolute all into this game."



Senior finalists, Karen Atkinson, Wexford, and Julia White, Cork with the O'Duffy Cup at a press day in Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO/Cathal Noonan

Cork underdogs can spring the surprise

IT'S not too often that a Cork camogie team enters an All Ireland final as underdogs but that is the case at Croke Park tomorrow as they attempt to prevent Wexford from landing their third title on the trot.

Wexford have been the undisputed kingpins of the game for the past few years and Cork face a mammoth task in their bid to regain a title that they last held in 2009.

By virtue of the fact that Wexford are the holders, they are entitled to be carrying the favouritism tag but I believe Cork's time has come again and they are ready to deny the Leinster team the coveted three in a row.

It's going to be close, probably as close as any final in the modern era between two teams who will be sparing nothing in their endeavours to land the biggest prize in the game.

Of course Wexford are well capable of landing another title but I believe Cork can win this All-Ireland by four to five points if they play to the potential that they are capable of and that they settle into the game very early and manage to dictate matters from the outset.

Cork were poor in last year's semi-final against Wexford and yet could still have snatched a win. Cork are a more rounded outfit this year; better prepared both mentally and physically and I don't believe Wexford are firing on all cylinders up front.

In fact, I don't believe Wexford have ever been as good as they were in 2007. While bagging another two

TOMORROW
All-Ireland Senior
Camogie final,
Cork v Wexford, Croke
Park, RTE 2, 4pm.

● WEXFORD are going for three in a row of senior titles. This is Cork's first All-Ireland final appearance since 2009. Despite winning the National League Cork enter the game as

CALL IT...

underdogs in many neutrals' eyes. This provides the perfect setting. Cork are ready.
Key player: Gemma O'Connor.
Verdict: Cork.



LINDA MELLERICK

All-Irelands in between, and credit to them, they aren't even close to the 'greatest team ever', as some relatively recent followers of camogie like to express.

There's arrogance in Wexford. That's okay. They say that most top sporting achievers hold a certain arrogance, but when you lose control of that arrogance it can be dangerous.

When you lose control you fail to respect your opponent. Something inside me tells me Wexford still don't respect Cork enough, despite their league final defeat.

In all of my years as a player and supporter of Cork Camogie I have never witnessed as much attention to detail provided to a Cork team.

Paudie Murray, Brian Barry, Ellen Clifford, George Fitzgibbon and Aidan Crowley have done a magnificent job.

Every minute detail has been covered. If Cork lose tomorrow it will be because they will have been beaten by a better team on the day. There will be absolute heartbreak but no regrets.

A big factor in tomorrow's game will be the performance of the referee Alan Lagrue from Kildare.

He refereed the league final back in May and not everybody was happy with his display that day.

Now he's the man in the middle again tomorrow and let's hope he lets the game flow.

The rumours are circulating regarding Una Leacy. With the Wexford team not announced, some quarters are saying she'll start, others say she's not.

I believe if Una Leacy does start it's an early victory for Cork. She's not match fit and Croke Park is not a

place to be unless you're 100% fit. If Wexford do start Una I expect her to be substituted early on and what a psychological boost that would be for Cork and what a massive blow for Wexford. Rumour has it that JJ Doyle has had enough of the 'Una Leacy' talk, stating that there are far more players on his panel. I agree with him.

To place so much energy and focus on one player in advance of an All-Ireland final is not wise.

It'll be interesting to see if both teams set out to place markers on each other's key players.

Who will Wexford place on Gemma O'Connor? Will they set out to nullify the contribution of Jennifer O'Leary and Katrina Mackey?

Or will they play their own game and not concentrate on what Cork are doing at all? Will Cork place markers on Una Leacy, Ursula Jacob and Katrina Parrock?

I've a feeling that for the first five minutes of tomorrow's game we'll be scrambling to see who's gone where. Forget the programme, that is not how both teams will line out.

It goes without saying that Cork's half back line and midfield need to gain the upper hand but crucially Cork's half forward line has a major role to play against what has in the past been regarded as an exceptional Wexford half back line.

Their wings are vulnerable. Wexford's midfield has strengthened since last year but their forward line has weakened as a result.

I've a good feeling about this one. Good luck girls.

Sept. 2012

TOMORROW
All-Ireland Senior
Camogie final: Cork v
Wexford, RTE 2, 4pm

By MARY NEWMAN

THE Cork senior camogie team head to Croke Park tomorrow determined to win back the O'Duffy Cup when they will renew rivalry with Wexford.

Without doubt this year's final brings together the top two teams in the country yet despite the intense rivalry that exists, it is only the sixth meeting of the counties on camogie's biggest day.

Kilkenny and Tipperary have enjoyed their periods of dominance, but without doubt Cork have been one of the game's most consistent counties in modern times at senior level and they are delighted to be back in the final, their first since 2009.

In 2010 Cork lost out at the semi-final stage and could only look on as Wexford went on to take the title as they overcame Galway's challenge.

Last year Wexford pipped Cork at the semi-final stage in a game that was there for the taking. Wexford went on to retain their title.

Now, history beckons as the Model County bid for a three in a row, something they've never achieved.

Wexford made a big breakthrough in 2007 when they bridged a 38-eight year gap to lift the cup when they denied Cork a three-in-a-row, a game Cork nearly won with the very last puck of the game.

In an ironic twist, Cork are now attempting to deny the champions a third successive crown. Cork find themselves in uncharted water as they enter the game as underdogs.

The last time they faced the champions in a final was in 2004, a day when Cork ended Tipp's reign.

Sunday is a big day in more ways than one as Cork bid for their 25th title and that would put them one behind Dublin.

Wexford have six titles to their credit and it's their second bid for a historic three-in-a-row, in 1970 they lost out at semi-final stage and watched as Cork overcame Kilkenny in the final.

Nineteen seventy-five saw title number three arrive but it was to be 2007 before they climbed the victory rostrum again.

It is not a surprise to see them finally win more senior titles as Féile Na nGael and Colleges All-Irelands have been won with regularity on Slaney-side.

Oulart-The-Ballagh helped themselves to five Féile's in a row, with Coláiste Bhríde from Enniscorthy winning All-Ireland colleges titles at senior and junior level.

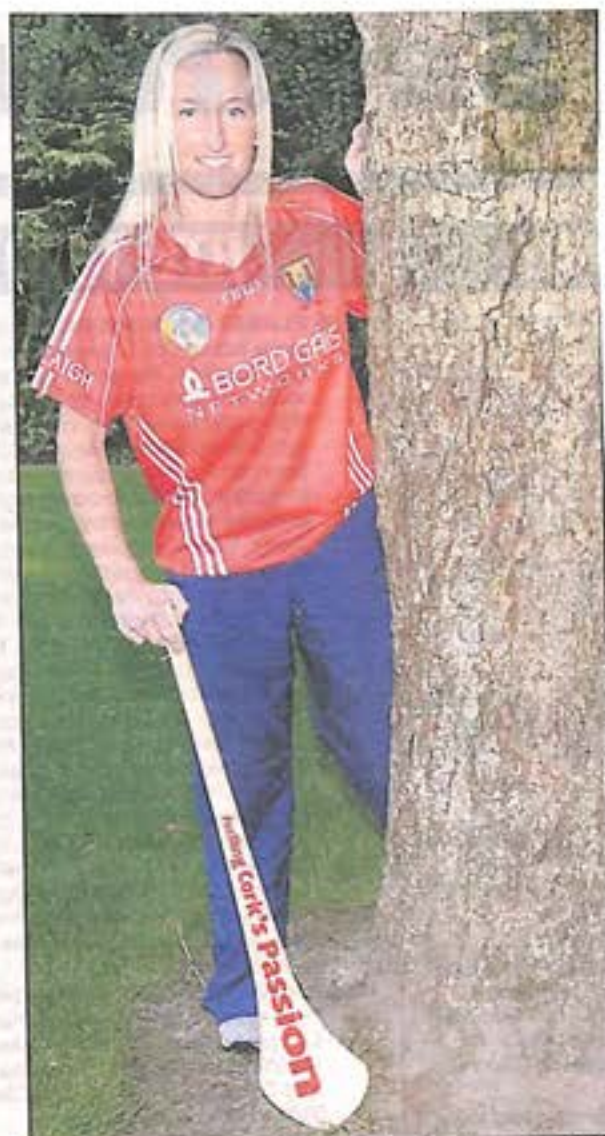
Ursula Jacob, Mary and Una Lacey, Bronagh Furlong and Deirdre Codd all come through the ranks to finally win All-Ireland medals in 2010.

The sides have already met twice this year. Cork came out on top in the league final, but Wexford reversed that result by 0-14 to 0-9 when they clashed in the open draw championship series in Enniscorthy.

Throughout the campaign Cork have showed steady improvement and when the need was greatest and they produced the goods in the semi-final against a Galway side that had no answer to the sheer determination and focus shown by Cork.

Wexford would almost certainly have relished a stronger semi-final challenge. To their credit Offaly gave it their all but the gap in class was evident and in the end Wexford won.

Cork can end an historic treble bid by Wexford



Cork defence Joanne O'Callaghan has been back to her best in recent outings. Picture: David Keane

Bishop visits Cork team

BISHOP BUCKLEY visited the Cork camogie team during their training session last night. The session was the last one for the Cork camogie players at the UCC Grounds ahead of their All-Ireland final.

Bishop Buckley wished the team well and said that they deserved the support of the people

of Cork. Their dedication, he said, had been total and he praised their commitment and that of Paudie Murray and his team.

Like all Cork people, he said, he looked forward to an All-Ireland title coming to Cork on Sunday.

Rena Buckley, who is a member of the camogie and ladies football team, is a cousin the bishop.

Have they had a test? That remains to be seen.

They are a formidable outfit, as are all champions and from manager JJ Doyle down to the last player on the panel there is an air of confidence that has come from winning back-to-back titles.

Equally Paudie Murray's side will have confidence in their own ability. The newcomers have settled and blended

well with the more experienced players, no doubt there will be a few nerves but this is all part of All-Ireland weekend, and this is where those that have been there before have a key role to play, keep them calm and focused.

The opening quarter will be crucial and if Cork can pick off a few early scores and settle into the game, they will force Wexford to chase the game.

If Wexford settle early it will give

them a huge boost of confidence and this is where the Cork defence come into it. All season they have been the driving force of this side.

They have been severely tested on more than one occasion this year and it is vital that they hold the Wexford attack which could be weakened if Una Lacey is ruled out.

This is going to be the key area and could be where the game will be won and lost. If the Cork defence can gain the upper hand from the throw-in the confidence will grow throughout the team.

Cork have the names for the big occasions Gemma O'Connor, Brieghe Corkery and Jennifer O'Leary are among the finest camogie players in the country.

Joanne O'Callaghan is playing as well as ever, Katriona Mackey will test the Wexford defence to its limits at every opportunity, while in Katie Buckley Cork have a potential match winner.

On the sideline Cork will have the plans made in advance. They will have studied Wexford and know what to expect. Paudie and his fellow selectors Ellen, Aidan, Brian and George have everything under control and that will be vital in the white heat of battle.

They have put in a huge effort and have worked hard through the winter months and with the National League title safely tucked away their last task remains tomorrow.

This will be the third time this season the sides will have met. It's honour even to date and Cork must produce the level of performance they displayed in the league final win when they never allowed Wexford get into their stride. That could be crucial.

The success of former years has been forgotten by Cork and it's a whole new ball game with the title very much up for grabs, Wexford are under pressure to deliver the three-in-a row, Cork are hungry and desperate for success.

A prediction... it's a close one to call, but I firmly believe that this Cork side will do it.



Kate and Stephen Scully from the St Colum's club who will be rooting for Cork against Wexford tomorrow.



'It's about winning the All-Ireland, not beating Wexford'



After an interrupted season, Cork's Anna Geary is ready for another big day, as she tells **Marie Crowe**

ANNA GEARY had a hurley in her hand before she could walk but when she was a child there was no club in her local village Milford. She could puck around with her family and play with the school but until she was 12 there was no team for her to join.

However, there were plenty of talented players in the village who were in need of a club. They played on the school camogie team and won the Community Games title on two occasions.

Their success caught the attention of Ann Watson, who decided to set up a club in the parish. So in 1997 the Milford camogie club was born and immediately Geary and co took the Cork camogie scene by storm, and her own journey to prominence began.

Milford won every county title from under 12 to senior B. The only trophy that has so far eluded them is the county senior championship, even though they have contested three county finals, including last year's which they lost by two points.

Geary enrolled in the legendary camogie nursery, St Mary's Charleville, and was playing on the senior team by the time she was in her second year.

"Where you go to school is very important," she explains. "You are playing camogie consistently and

that can only be a good thing. I developed a great relationship with the club girls that I was in school with. We became better friends because we were together training three or four times a week, and that in turn benefited the club.

"We were doing it so regularly we didn't take any notice of all the training that was required. I developed in great strides during my school years because I played so much and that was the platform for me to go into the inter-county ranks."

She was also immediately catapulted onto the Cork under 16 team, playing her first game for them when she was just 12. In August of 2003 she captained the Cork under 16s to an All-Ireland title and on the back of her performances she was called up to the Cork seniors for their All-Ireland final against Tipperary. She didn't feature that year but the following year she was again on the panel and made her debut in the All-Ireland final, again against Tipperary. "I came on full-forward marking Una O'Dwyer. I was more in awe of her than the fact that it was an All-Ireland final," says Geary. "We lost but that was the last year that Tipperary won. They had dominated the championship for years but their reign came to an end after that."

Because of Geary's successful

record at underage, she learned a lot from being part of a team that lost two All-Ireland finals. When she found herself back there again in 2005, she was intent on coming home a winner. Tipperary provided the opposition for Geary for her third consecutive final but this time Cork won and Geary collected her first All Star. They repeated that feat again the following year, Geary was player of the match and once again an All-Star winner.

'It's not a 15-a-side game anymore, you are looking at 17 or 18 players'

In 2007, Cork were going for a three-in-a-row when Wexford came out of nowhere and stopped them in their tracks. Although they had good players and Geary had come up against many of them in school games, losing was a shock. Cork won two more All-Irelands between then and now but Geary missed out on one because of college commitments.

Today they are back in the All-Ireland final after being absent for the past two years. They face their

TODAY'S ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE FINALS



Mary Leacy: defensive linchpin

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL Cork v Wexford (4.0)

WEXFORD are going for three in a row but face a resurgent Cork side, who defeated them in this year's league final. When Cork were aiming for a similar hat-trick in 2007, the Model County put paid to those ambitions.

JJ Doyle's Wexford side enjoyed a relatively easy passage through to the last four, before brushing aside the challenge of a young Offaly team. The spine of his team has remained intact, with Catherine O'Loughlin and Mary Leacy the defensive linchpins, Kate Kelly their midfield powerhouse, and, up front, Ursula Jacob and Una Leacy pulling the strings. Doubts remain

over the fitness of Leacy, last year's captain, who injured her knee in the semi-final and is a crucial part of Wexford's title aspirations.

For Cork, Rena Buckley at full-back and Gemma O'Connor at centre-back respectively give them a solid air, while Jenny O'Leary, Katrina Mackey, Sile Burns and Brieger Corkery have been in excellent form all year. Much will depend on the particular pairings deployed by Doyle and his counterpart Paudie Murray.

Cork will be confident of repeating their league final exploits but Wexford have proved to be consistent performers on the biggest stage. **Cork:** A Murray, J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, J O'Leary, O Cotter, J Casey, A Geary, B Corkery, K Mackey, K Buckley, S Burns.

Sept. 2012



Anna Geary: 'It's important for the growth and development of the game that it gets seen.' Photo: Michael MacSweeney

old adversaries Wexford who, like Cork in 2007, are going for three in a row.

"People outside the camp are talking about us beating Wexford to get revenge but for us it's about winning the All-Ireland not beating the opposition, that's short-sighted."

The two teams have met twice this year and it's one apiece so far. Cork won the league final by two points and Wexford took the spoils in the subsequent championship encounter with a five-point victory.

In August, Cork looked back to their best with their comprehensive defeat of last year's beaten finalists Galway. However, Geary has had a turbulent year personal-

ly.

She's had a few niggly injuries and a bout of bronchitis but the team were well equipped to do the business without her and Geary is happy about that.

"We were lucky, we've a few younger players drafted in and they have adapted quickly to the senior game. The one thing about our panel that's great is that whatever combination goes out the team is not weakened. It's not a 15-a-side game anymore, you are looking at 17 or 18 players."

Geary is recovered now and ready to go for today's game. Although it's the biggest day in the camogie calendar and they are expecting big crowds, the 25-year-old feels that with better commu-

nication and planning the game could attract larger audiences.

"We got to play our league final before the hurling league final and that was great; a lot of people came in early to watch us because they were supporting the Cork hurlers. It's important for the growth and development of the game that it gets seen, so initiatives like that are always positive."

"But in Cork the men's club championship games have been scheduled for the same time as our game. It's unfortunate because Gemma O'Connor's brother is playing at 3.30 for St Finbarr's and Gemma is on at four. That's upsetting for their family and friends because they have to choose between the two."

Geary works and lives in Cork city so travelling to training isn't an issue. However, when she was in school she made the 70-minute trip to the city several times a week all at the expense of herself and her family. On top of that, huris, boots, gear and physiotherapy bills all come out of camogie players' own pockets. They rarely get fed after training and expenses are unheard of.

But Geary doesn't mind — she just has to look at her medal cabinet and think about what she's got back from the game and all the effort becomes instantly worthwhile.

Cork v Wexford
RTE2, 4.0

Wexford: M D'Arcy, C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Abbottson, N Lambert, M Leacy, D Codd, L Bolger, K Kelly, M O'Leary, U Leacy, J Dwyer, F Rochford, K Parrock, U Jacob.

Verdict: Wexford

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE FINAL Derry v Galway (2.0)

DERRY, after a scintillating performance in this year's championship, arrive in Croke Park in buoyant form. Players from All-Ireland club champions Eoghan Rua, including the McGoldrick sisters, Grainne and Meabh, are vital cogs in the Derry team. Karen Kieft at wing-forward has been a strong performer all year.

Galway, managed by Tony Ward, have a strong midfield pairing in Clodagh McGrath and Aoife Lynskey

and a lot will be expected of Emma Kilkelly at centre-forward. Derry's greater forward power may prove the difference though.

Derry: C O'Kane, M Quinn, A Ni Chaiside, A Mullin, A McCutcher, E Ni Chaiside, M McGoldrick, S Cassidy, G McNicholl, K Kieft, T McElroy, S Quinn, K McAnerly, O Bradley, G McGoldrick.
Galway: R Callanane, T Kenny, P Kenny, C Gilt, L Farrell, S Noone, S Keane, C McGrath, A Lynskey, A O'Reilly, E Kilkelly, M Brehony, D Burke, O Curtin, E O'Sullivan.

Verdict: Derry

ALL-IRELAND PREM. JUNIOR FINAL Meath v Down (12.0)

DOWN are desperate to make amends for last year's defeat to Waterford. Meath have made considerable

progress this year under the stewardship of John Davis. They will be looking to Jane Dolan, who skips the side, as well as Edel Guy and Aoife Thompson at centre-back.

Down boast the considerable talents of Fionnuala Carr, listed at corner-forward, as well as sharpshooter Niamh Mallon. A difficult one to call, but Down's experience should see them collect the title.

Meath: E Mangar, H Geraghty, C Coffey, F O'Neill, A Keogh, A Thompson, L Donoghue, AM Fagan, K Troy, E Guy, J Dolan, A Donnelly, A Maguire, S Hackett, K Hackett.
Down: C McCrickard, K Tinnelly, G O'Higgins, C McGovern, C Rocks, L McCrickard, E McCormick, L McPolin, M McNally, C McGourty, L Hughes, P Gribben, N Mallon, S-L Carr, F Carr.

Verdict: Down **Fionnuala Carr: talented forward**





**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógalocta



Croke Park
Sunday, Sept 16th

2012 All Ireland Camogie Championship Finals

in association with **RTÉ SPORT**

All Ireland Senior Championship Final @ 4.00pm **Cork v Wexford**
All Ireland Intermediate Championship Final @ 2.00pm **Derry v Galway**
All Ireland Premier Junior Championship Final @ 12 noon **Down v Meath**

Clár an Lae

*Páirc an Chrócaigh
16ú Meán Fómhair 2012*



| | |
|---------|--|
| 12noon | Premier Junior Championship Final DOWN v MEATH |
| 12.33pm | Camogie Mini Games |
| 2.00pm | Intermediate Championship Final DERRY v GALWAY |
| 2.33pm | All-Ireland Camán & Run Relay U14 & U16 |
| 3.52pm | Senior Teams Parade |
| 3.58pm | Amhrán na bhFiann |
| 4.00pm | Senior Championship Final CORK v WEXFORD |
| 4.33pm | Parade of U14 Development Squad Teams |

*In the event of a draw, the replay date for all games is
Saturday, September 29th, venue TBC*



Focal on Uachtarán



IS CÚIS MHÓR áthais dom fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir go Páirc an Chrócaigh don ócáid speisialta seo. Tá súil agam go mbeidh trí chluiche den scoth againn inniu. Guím gach rath ar na himreoirí agus ar na hoifigigh go léir inniu.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Croke Park for this special occasion. I'm sure we will have some fantastic games.

I extend a very warm welcome to President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabine and to all our dignitaries in attendance and I hope you will all enjoy the games.

Today's finals promise to be exciting encounters with six counties vying for silverware and coveted All-Ireland medals.

All roads lead to Croke Park for the counties of Cork, Wexford, Derry, Down, Meath and Galway. The long wait is over – today is the day for the ultimate prizes in the Camogie year.

In the Senior final the Wexford and Cork clash promises to be an exciting affair.

Wexford are going for their third All-Ireland in a row this afternoon. It is interesting to note that when Cork were going for their three-in-a row in 2010, Wexford were the ones to deny them. Will Cork return the favour and put a stop to Wexford's bid? Wexford will not relinquish their title too easily and will be up for the challenge.

Cork will be hungry. They have had a break from Croke Park on All-Ireland day for the last few years but they have earned the right to be back on centre stage. They will be intent on getting their hands on the O'Duffy Cup and will draw on their experience of winning this year's Irish Daily Star League final at the expense of Wexford in front of a packed attendance at Semple Stadium.

Derry won the 2007 Premier Junior final, beating Clare, and were promoted to the Intermediate grade. No doubt the Oak Leaf County will have promotion on their minds when they take to the field this afternoon against a highly vaunted Galway side.

Galway won the Intermediate in 2009 at the expense of Cork. They will be hoping to capitalise on their visit to Croke Park and put the disappointment of not reaching this year's Senior final behind them.

Down were beaten in last year's All-Ireland Premier Junior final against Waterford and they will be aiming to make amends for their 2011 heartbreak.

This is Meath's first appearance in the All-Ireland Premier Junior final. This is a great achievement for them. They won the Nancy Murray Cup in 2008 and were promoted to Premier Junior. More recently they won the Irish Daily Star League in 2011 and they will be hoping to add to their honours this afternoon.

Congress 2012 saw a few new rule changes. One of these is the awarding of an extra point for a sideline cut going directly over the bar. Coaches and mentors have been enthusiastically coaching the sideline cut. Will we see a bit of history in camogie here today with the first point from a sideline cut in Croke Park to earn a team an extra point for this skill?

I would like to thank all of our female athletes from all counties for giving us some great games in the Championship and Leagues this year. Thanks to the mentors, coaches, and all the volunteers around the country and all of our International boards, for all the development work that is taking place to promote our Gaelic Games at home and abroad. Camogie is growing rapidly and it's thanks to the development work and dedication of our full-time staff in the Camogie Association and the many volunteers.

Thanks to all the officials today and to all the Croke Park team for their part in helping with today's finals. Míle Buíochas. I would also like to thank our sponsors, RTE Sport, who have been enormously supportive of the Camogie Association, and particularly with regards to the partnership for our championship which commenced in 2011.

I would like to congratulate Mary O'Connor, Acting Ard Stiúrthóir of the Camogie Association, who was awarded an Honorary Doctorate on Friday, September 7th by UCC. Mary was amongst a distinguished gathering of sports people: Denis Irwin, Brian Cody, Ronan O'Gara and Aidan O'Brien, who all received doctorates on the day. Mary is a deserving recipient of this award for her tremendous achievements over the years in both Camogie and Ladies football.

Congratulations also to Sinéad O'Connor, Ard-Stiúrthóir of the Camogie Association and her husband Peadar, who recently had their first baby, Oisín.

Best wishes to all of the teams today. I know that there will be contrasting emotions for all involved, varying between joy in victory and despair in defeat, but either way Camogie is the real winner with six superbly prepared teams showcasing their skills to an appreciative audience.

"Ar aghaidh lenár gluichí."

Eibhlín Uí Leathlóbhair

Eibhlín Uí Leathlóbhair
Uachtarán
An Cumann Camógóíochta

Meet the MATCH OFFICIALS

SENIOR – Cork v Wexford

Referee: Alan Lagrue (Kildare)

Club: Éire Óg Chorra Choill

Family: Wife Gabrielle, one son, Alan Jnr

Occupation: Supervisor at RACE (Racing Academy & Centre of Education)

Appointments: All-Ireland Intermediate Final 2008, Division 1 League Final 2012 & 2010, Leinster Senior and Minor Finals

Umpires: Martin Lynch, Paddy Nolan, Craig Hughes, Alan Lagrue Jnr

Standby Referee/Line Umpire: Karl O'Brien, Dublin

Line Umpire: Liz Dempsey, Kilkenny

4th Official: Owen Elliott, Antrim

5th Official: Gerry McGough, Dublin.



INTERMEDIATE – Derry v Galway

Referee: Ger O'Dowd (Limerick)

Club: Pallaskenry

Family: Wife Colette, one son, Gerard

Occupation: Pharmaceutical Manufacturing with Beckman Coulter, O'Callaghans Mills, Clare.

Appointments: U16B Final 2012, Senior Colleges All-Ireland Final 2012, Munster Minor Final 2012, All-Ireland Ireland U16C Final 2011

Umpires: John Griffin, Jerry O'Dowd, Pauric O'Shea, Paul Nunan

Standby Referee/Line Umpire: Donal Ryan, Dublin

Line Umpire: Louise Smith, Cavan

4th Official: Mike O'Kelly, Cork

5th Official: Gerry McGough, Dublin.



All-Ireland Senior Championship in association with RTE SPORT PATHS TO THE FINAL

Senior Championship Round Games

| DATE | VENUE | RESULT |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 23/06/2012 | Newmarket-on-Fergus | Clare2-9 Cork0-16 |
| 23/06/2012 | The Ragg | Tipperary1-6 Wexford1-17 |
| 30/06/2012 | Bellefield, Enniscorthy | Wexford0-14 Cork0-9 |
| 07/07/2012 | Páirc Uí Chaoimh | Cork4-20 Offaly1-5 |
| 08/07/2012 | Wexford Park | Wexford2-20 Dublin1-4 |
| 14/07/2012 | Ballincollig | Cork2-15 Kilkenny1-7 |
| 14/07/2012 | Kenny Park, Athenry | Galway3-14 Wexford0-10 |

Play-off:

Cork1-13 Tipperary0-9

Quarter-Final:

Cork1-10 Clare0-10

Semi-Finals:

Cork3-10 Galway0-12
Wexford3-14 Offaly0-5

Photographed at the Eirliad Skyline at Croke Park in June for the launch of the 2012 Camogie Championship in association with RTE Sport were (from left): Elaine Dermody (Offaly), Susan Vaughan (Clare), Joanne Ryan (Tipperary), Elaine O'Meara (Dublin), Julia White (Cork), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny), Lorraine Ryan (Galway) and Karen Atkinson (Wexford).

Photo: Paul Mohan/Sportfile

CORK ARE BACK TO CHALLENGE WEXFORD DOMINANCE

SENIOR FINAL PREVIEW by DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR

THERE HAS been a real breath of fresh air about the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship, in association with RTÉ Sport, this year.

Mirroring what has occurred throughout all levels of the game, we saw Dublin, Clare and Offaly make very significant breakthroughs.

The Dubs and Clare established themselves amongst the country's top six teams when reaching the All-Ireland quarter-finals, while Offaly went one step further for the first time, just three years after plying their trade in the junior ranks.

Whether this trend will continue with Wexford being knocked off their throne as undisputed queens of the code is the big question.

Cork are making their first appearance in the final since bagging their 14th title in 2009. That was their fourth All-Ireland in five seasons.

Much is made of Wexford's experience but Cork have no shortage of that, with numerous survivors from that golden period.

Aoife Murray, Joanne O'Callaghan, Rena Buckley, Brieghe Corkery, Gemma O'Connor and Jenny O'Leary are just some of the Leesiders with multiple All-Ireland medals in their back pockets. It is fairly certain then, that Cork will not panic in the face of the inevitable Wexford onslaught.

That was evidenced in the Irish Daily Star Division 1 League Final, when J.J. Doyle's crew were chasing a fourth title in a row. They sought to impose themselves early on and at times, Cork appeared to be hanging on.

Hang on they did though. A wonderful second half effort that included a vital Katriona Mackey goal led to what was undoubtedly a shock two-point victory, albeit a deserved one.

There is absolutely no doubt but that defeat hurt Wexford. Yet there is no hiding the fact that the championship is what it's all about. Despite what



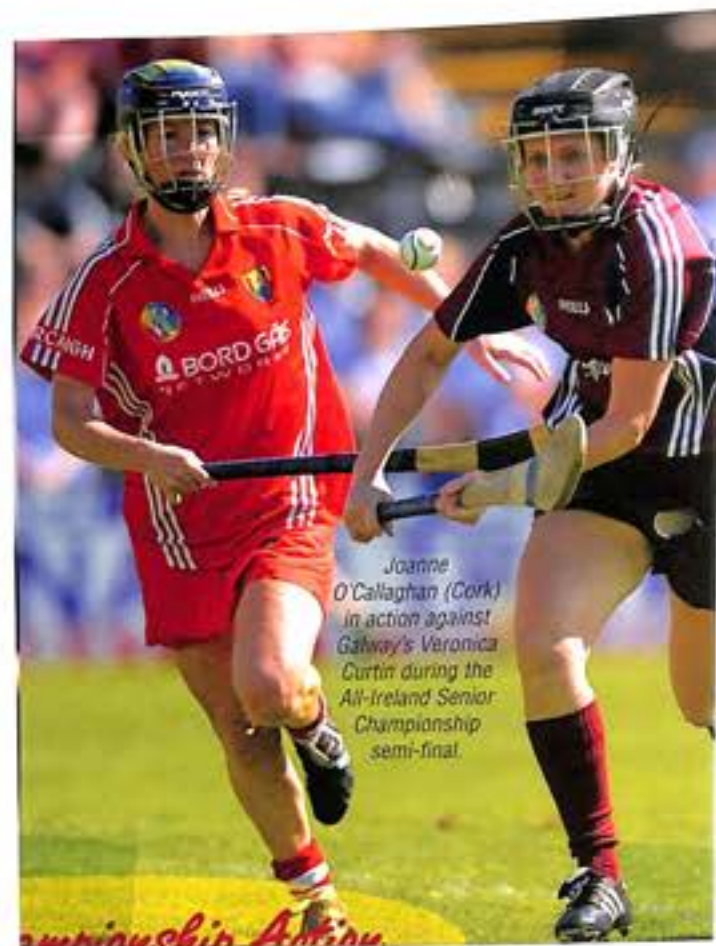
Katriona Mackey (Cork) heads in for a goal despite defence from Wexford's Karen Atkinson (left) and Catherine O'Loughlin during the 2012 Irish Daily Star Camogie National League Division 1 Final at Semple Stadium, Thurles on May 6th. (Photo: Caroline O'Leary)

happened in Thurles, the Yellowbellies will not fear Cork.

The last time they met in an All-Ireland final, it was the Munster side chasing a three-in-row. Wexford, under the tutelage of former star Stella Sinnott, were novices that had come out of nowhere.

Led inspirationally on the pitch by captain, Mary Leacy though, and with her sister Una pouncing for two goals, a famous two-point win was recorded. Much like this year's league decider, it was close, but there was no questioning the merit of the result.

This will be their third clash of the season, with



Joanne O'Callaghan (Cork) in action against Galway's Veronica Curtin during the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship semi-final.

Wexford gaining a very small measure of revenge for the league final by inflicting a five-point defeat on Cork at Bellefield in the round-robin phase last June.

There is a sense that they have been building throughout the championship but that they were keen to lay down a marker on that occasion.

They completed the group phase with a 13-point defeat at the hands of Galway but it would be foolish to read too much, if anything, into that result.

Both teams had already secured their places in the semi-final and neither of

the Leacy sisters – former All-Ireland winning captains – were available to Wexford. Meanwhile, Galway were driven by the memory of losing the last two All-Irelands to their old foes. They tore out of the traps and had two goals scored after two minutes.

With all hands back on deck, this will be much tighter. The Leacys, Ursula Jacob, Claire O'Connor, Catherine O'Loughlin and Kate Kelly – like the aforementioned Cork contingent – are some of the most decorated and talented individuals to have played camogie.

They made little of the five-week break between the conclusion of the group stage and the All-Ireland semi-final, by dominating Offaly to the tune of 18 points. That was a tellingly ruthless display against a team that had gotten to within five points of them in the Leinster final.

Cork made a few tweaks to their attack for their semi-final against Galway. With skipper, Julia White unavailable, it was regular half-back/midfielder, Corkery that lined out at full-forward. She did so to good effect too, snatching a goal as Cork prevailed 3-10 to 0-12.

It is notable too that Cork have been going with O'Connor at centre-back, where she has been producing some of the best form of a stellar career. Indeed the Rebel defence has a very strong look to it.

Wexford have based their success over the last number of seasons on the power of their spine and some of the potential match-ups involving the Leacy siblings. Jacob, Kelly, O'Loughlin, Corkery, O'Connor, O'Leary and Buckley will be worth the price of the admission fee alone.

With both sides so strong in every department, including off the bench, it is impossible to see them being separated by much.



Katriona Parrock (Wexford)



MATCH

SEPT. 2012

SENIOR FINAL - Cork v Wexford

THERESE MAHER (Galway)

ALL I CAN think about is why we are not in action today - Cork put paid to our hopes and dreams in the semi-final. They are hitting form at the right time and any Cork team in a final have a different attitude, confidence and a huge passion for victory. Jenny O'Leary, Sile Burns, Gemma O'Connor, Amanda O'Regan plus the youth of players like the Mackey sisters are real leaders.

Wexford have been in a league of their own for the past few years, they have the blend perfectly balanced. Frankly they were not tested against Offaly but I expect that they are on target. Goals win games as the saying goes and Wexford's ability to get those vital scores has been the key to victory in recent years. They also have strength in depth on the panel. Players such as Una Leacy, Ursula Jacob and Katrina Parrock are top class forwards, Kate Kelly whether at wing forward or midfield is always a threat.

Where will it be won? Both have fantastic goalkeepers, who are vastly experienced, whichever half-back line dominates will have a big bearing on the outcome. If Wexford pierce the Cork half-back line, the inside forwards will capitalise on that. Croke Park is a big pitch and use of space by Cork will also be a factor. No point in the forwards staying close to the Wexford backs!!

How about a draw? I have a feeling that Cork may shade it, but I'm prepared to be wrong! Good luck to both sides.



INTERMEDIATE FINAL - Derry v Galway

CAOIMHE KENNEDY (Tipperary)

GOING ON the semi final performance of Derry against us (Tipperary), it is difficult to see anything but a win for them. They blew us out of the water with a display of powerful camogie, strength and teamwork. Naturally we were disappointed as we had put in a lot of work, but no excuses.

This Derry team is strong in all departments, particularly so up the middle. They track back exceptionally well and the forwards move around effectively, running straight at the opposition. Their passing movements rarely go astray.

Galway are also a strong and very fit side. The fact that they trained with the senior panel has improved their skill level. The forwards use the hand pass to great effect that makes it very difficult for the opposing backs. While we drew with them, I think that they were short key players on the day.

Derry are well used to Croke Park with Eoghan Rua winning Club All-Ireland Championships there. Overall it looks like a Derry win. I wish both teams all the best to day.



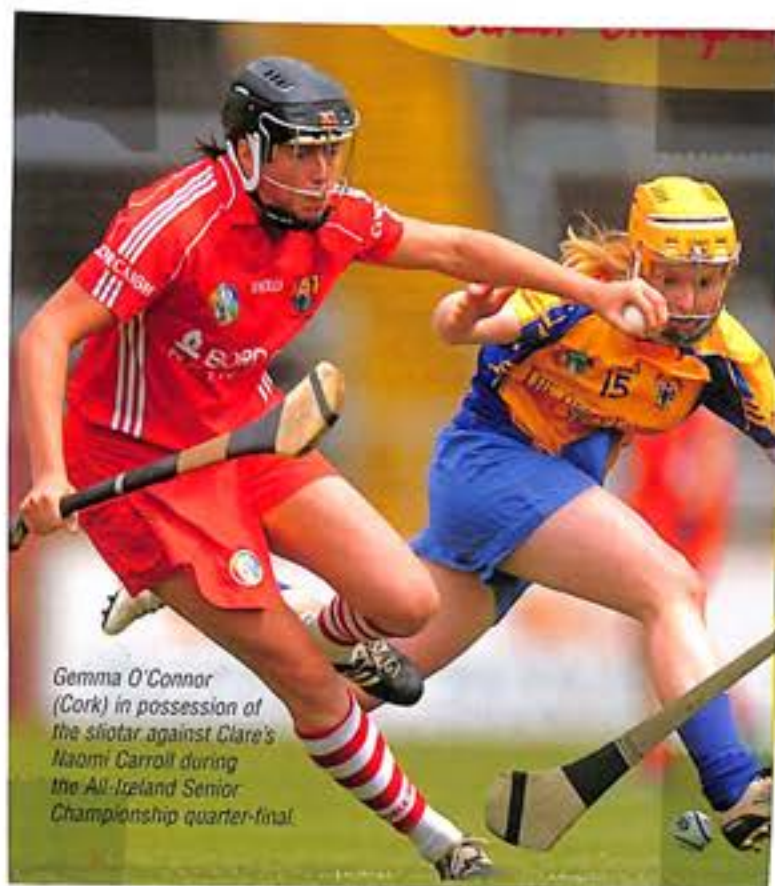
PREMIER JUNIOR FINAL - Down v Meath

NIAMH BREEN (Kildare)

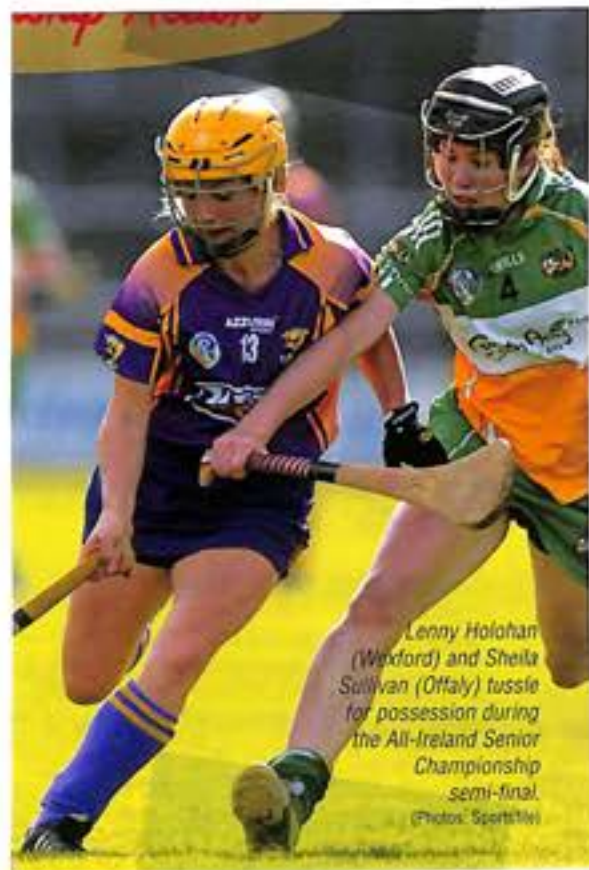
THIS SHOULD BE a very close and entertaining final with both teams very evenly matched. Meath are coming into the final unbeaten in the championship so far and so confidence should be high but Down's experience of competing in last year's final will stand to them. For Meath Jane Dolan and Aileen Donnelly have been excellent all year.

Down have big performers in Catherine McGourty and the Carr sisters. They have been key players and if the correct supply of ball goes into them, they can create a lot of scoring chances. This is a hard game to call, but Down's experience of playing in Croke Park on the big occasion and the determination to go one step further than last year could be the deciding factor in their favour.

Best of luck to both teams. Great to be in Croke Park.



Gemma O'Connor (Cork) in possession of the sliotar against Clare's Naomi Carroll during the All-Ireland Senior Championship quarter-final.



Lenny Holohan (Wexford) and Sheila Sullivan (Offaly) tussle for possession during the All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final. (Photos: Sportswire)

predictions

KAREN BRADY (Offaly)

FIRSTLY I'D LIKE to wish the very best of luck to all six teams competing in today's finals, it promises to be a wonderful showcase of our sport. The senior final is definitely a tough one to call. Croke Park is the place where every camogie team wants to be on the second Sunday in September and neither of these teams will be overawed by the occasion given their previous involvement on All-Ireland final day.

Cork will be boosted by the fact that they defeated Wexford in the National League final earlier in the year and their form seems to be good coming into this game considering their impressive semi-final display against a tough Galway side. Jenny O'Leary has been commanding proceedings from the centre of the field in recent games and they possess a real goal scoring threat up front with players of the calibre of Katrina Mackey and Sile Burns ready to take any opportunity that arises.

Wexford on the other hand are heading for three in a row and will be in no mood to relinquish their crown just yet. In the middle of the pitch Kate Kelly has been in superb form and with the 2011 Manager of the Year J.J. Doyle calling the shots on the sideline. They are sure to have left no stone unturned in their preparations.

Very little will separate the sides and Wexford will take some beating but I think Cork might just edge it with a point or two. Either way it promises to be a very enticing encounter and I'm sure camogie fans will be kept on the edge of their seat right up to the final whistle!



PATRICIA JACKMAN (Waterford and Poc Fada Champion)

DERRY, who are backboned by Eoghan Rua, the All-Ireland club Champions for the last two years, are strong in every line. Galway, who improved with every game were very sharp against us and have a good mix of young and experienced players. Derry are strong physically and very experienced, they are effective with their link up play; they are particularly strong in the air. They attack in waves, so full concentration is needed. Karen Kiel is particularly dangerous in attack. The McGolderick sisters, Grainne and Meabh, are so clever, they are so used to the big occasion. The team is very even.

The Galway half back line will have a major impact on the outcome. Sarah Noone and Sinéad Keane and Clodagh McGrath are solid, strong and sure on the ball, they will have to curtail the Derry attack and set up counter attacks if Galway are to succeed. Aoife Lynskey is an experienced player at centre field and must use that well.

I go for Derry because overall I think they are stronger and more experienced. Good luck to all players.



ELAINE MAHONY (Laois)

IT IS TOUGH to call a winner between Meath and Down. Meath have been knocking on the door in recent years at county level and having made the break through this year, they will be hoping to go all the way. They are a well balanced team with good scoring forwards which Down will need to curtail.

The Carr sisters will be key to keeping the scoreboard ticking for Down but they also have other key, big day performers who can help them make amends for last year. Down have the Croke Park experience also which will stand to them and push them over the edge to victory.

I hope that all the players enjoy the experience and good luck on the big day.



Irish Daily Star 'Player of the Match' Awards

June 23rd - Galway v Offaly



Ard Comhairle member Miriam O'Callaghan presents the Player of the Match award to Galway's Therese Maher.

June 30th - Tipperary v Clare



Tipperary's Mary Ryan is presented with her Irish Daily Star Player of the Match award by Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association.

July 7th - Cork v Offaly



Katrina Mackay (Cork) is presented with her Irish Daily Star Player of the Match award by Marie Kearney, Ard Comhairle Member Camogie Association.

July 14th - Galway v Wexford



Martina Conroy (Galway) is presented with the Player of the Match award by Marie O'Brien, Chairperson of the Connacht Council.

July 21st - Offaly v Kilkenny



Siobhán Flannery (Offaly) receives her Player of the Match award from Leinster Camogie Chairperson Catherine Neary.

July 28th - Dublin v Kilkenny



Eamonn Browne, Vice-President of the Camogie Association, presents the Player of the Match award to Dublin's Arlene Cusheen.

July 28th - Clare v Tipperary



Eamonn Browne, Vice-President of the Camogie Association, presents Fiona Lafferty (Clare) with her Player of the Match award.

August 4th - Cork v Clare



Jennifer O'Leary (Cork) is presented with the Player of the Match award by Marie Kearney, Ard Comhairle member of the Camogie Association.

August 4th - Dublin v Offaly



Offaly's Elaine Dermody is presented with the Player of the Match award by Mary Conroy, Ard Comhairle member of the Camogie Association.

August 18th - Wexford v Offaly



Kate Kelly (Wexford) is presented with the Player of the Match award by Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association.

August 18th - Cork v Galway



Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association, presents the Player of the Match award to Cork's Jennifer O'Leary.

SEPT. 2012

time to chat

Jenny
DUFFY

(St. Finbarr's, Cork)



- Q:** Three people who have had an influence on your career.
A: My mother, for all the lucky spits! My Dad, for believing in me. Irene Hogan, for trying me out in the backline.
Q: Most cherished victory?
A: County Championship 2006, will never forget it.
Q: The toughest opponent outside of your county?
A: I would imagine it would be Superman.
Q: Favourite venue?
A: Moks... Creamy pints of Murphys, just looking at them of course!!
Q: What it means to play in Croke Park?
A: Turning dreams into reality and three days off work!!!
Q: Four words to describe yourself as a player?
A: Old, slow, no Einstein (petite, sticky and smart, editor's choice).
Q: Female sports star you admire and why?
A: Katie Taylor, for raising the spirits of a nation.
Q: Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?

- A:** David Beckham, for obvious reasons; Paul Galvin for some fashion tips!! Andy Murray, to give him a shave and a good wash; Mo Farah, to feed him a few spuds; Michael Schumacher, for the getaway car and Paul O'Connell, to protect me!
Q: Deep and meaningful conversation - Usain Bolt in Michael Phelps?
A: Michael Phelps - So I could play with his ears.
Q: Three people you admire, local, national and international?
A: Valerie Maher, where would you be without your best friend? Brieger Corkery - truly inspirational but nuts! Jessica Ennis - Superstar.
Q: Favourite Song/piece of music?
A: Florence and the Machine, All this and Heaven too.
Q: Three things you are serious about?
A: My Family, my friends, my toe nails.
Q: Do you access camogie social media? If so, your opinion?
A: Yep, www.camogie.ie, facebook and twitter - it's great for all the gossip.
Q: Ambition?
A: To find Lisa.
Q: What do you do to chill out?
A: Bold things!!!
Q: Personal motto?
A: What other people think of you is none of your business.

Katrina
PARROCK

(St. Ibar's/Shelmaliars, Wexford)



- Q:** Three people who have had an influence on your career?
A: Firstly my parents (Liz & Brian) who drove me to matches all over the country at underage level. Jack Cullen, my grandad, for his great words of wisdom and encouragement and his hurling brain. The late Patricia Kinsella for keeping camogie going in adversity in a small rural parish for as long as she was able.
Q: Most cherished victory?
A: Winning my first All-Ireland in 2007, the excitement of the supporters and the homecoming will be etched in my memory forever. Running a very close second was the Ashbourne Cup 'four in a row' victory with my college W.I.T.
Q: The toughest opponent outside of your county?
A: Anne-Marie Hayes or Triona McDonald.
Q: Favourite venue?
A: Croke Park "where dreams are made".
Q: What it means to play in Croke Park?
A: That we are on the final road to achieving the goal we set ourselves at the beginning of the year, to win another All-Ireland.
Q: Four words to describe yourself as a player?
A: Dedicated, physical, team-player, opportunist scorer.
Q: Female sports star you admire?
A: Katie Taylor, for bringing elite sportswomen to the

highest level. At long last getting more media coverage for women in sport.

- Q:** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
A: Van Persie, for his training routine and skill!! Mo Farah, to learn about his determination. Usain Bolt, he seems a bit of a craic!! David Beckham, to annoy Victoria!! Lionel Messi, to find out what he is really like!! Muhammad Ali, a legend.
Q: Deep and meaningful conversation - Usain Bolt in Michael Phelps?
A: Usain Bolt to learn how to dance like the Jamaicans, and of course to have a meaningful conversation about training techniques etc.
Q: Three people you admire, local, national and international?
A: Local/International: Billy Walsh for his achievements with boxing plus he's related along the way. National: Katie Taylor.
Q: Favourite song/piece of music?
A: "Read All About It".
Q: Three things you are serious about?
A: Sport, family and career.
Q: Do you access camogie social media? If so, your opinion?
A: All the time. It's a great way to keep in touch with all the results and what's going on around the country.
Q: Ambition?
A: For 2012: to win the All-Ireland and the Club Championship.
Q: What do you do to chill out?
A: Eat Chinese and watch TV.
Q: Personal motto?
A: A champion is someone who can get up even when she can't.

Loch Garman



Back row (l.-r.): Mary Leacy, Kate Kelly, Catherine O'Loughlin, Tracy Nolan, Eimear O'Connor, Deirdre Codd, Fiona Rochford, Shelley Kehoe. Middle row (l.-r.): Mags D'Arcy, Fiona Kavanagh, Ciara O'Connor, Evelyn Quigley, Noeleen Lambert, Helena Jacob, Karen Atkinson, Ursula Jacob, Colleen Atkinson, Louise O'Leary, Brid Gordon. Front row (l.-r.): Stacey Redmond, Frances Doran, Josie Dwyer, Katrina Parrock, Louise Codd, Úna Leacy, Michelle O'Leary, Claire O'Connor, Shauna Sinnott, Lenny Holohan, Linda Bolger. Mascot: Nikhita Doyle-O'Leary.

| Team | Score | Goal |
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LOCH GARMAN

Dathanna: CORCORA agus ÓR

SENIOR



| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 16 HELENA JACOB A. Iacób Oulart the Ballagh | 19 FIONA KAVANAGH F. Caomhánach Buncloody | 22 BRÍD GORDON B. Ni Mhuimeacháin St. Brigid's Blackwater | 25 SHAUNA SINNOTT S. Sionóid Oulart the Ballagh | 28 COLLEEN ATKINSON C. Nic Aidicin Oulart the Ballagh |
| 17 STACEY REDMOND S. Nic Réamainn Oulart the Ballagh | 20 LOUISE CODD L. Nic Óda Duffry Rovers | 23 EVELYN QUIGLEY E. Ni Choigligh Rathnure | 26 LOUISE O'LEARY L. Ni Laoire Rathnure | 29 FRANCES DORAN P. Ni Dheoráin Buttery Alley |
| 18 LENNY HOLOHAN L. Ni hUallacháin Rathnure | 21 SHELLEY KEHOE S. Nic Eochaidh Oulart the Ballagh | 24 LINDA BOLGER L. Ni Bholguir St. Martin's | 27 CIARA O'CONNOR C. Ni Chonchúir Rathnure | 30 EIMEAR O'CONNOR E. Ni Chonchúir Rathnure |

Manager: J.J. Doyle. Selectors: Tommy Roche, Joe Brennan, Geraldine Murphy. Trainer: Gerry McQuill. First Aid: Bridget Moran. Medic: Pat Webb. Physio: Paul Harrington.



MAGS D'ARCY
St. Martin's Sports Co-ordinator
All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, 2007,
All-Ireland Div. 1 League 2011, Leinster Senior
Championships 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star
2010 and 2007.



NOELEEN LAMBERT
St. Martin's Quality Assurance Supervisor
All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, 2007,
Leinster Senior Championship 2012, 2011, 2010,
2009.



MARY LEACY
Oulart/The Ballyagh Teacher
All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, 2007
(Captain in 2007), Division 1 League 2011, 2010,
2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010,
All Star 2004, 2010, All Star Nominee 2005,
All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.



UNA LEACY
Oulart/The Ballyagh Sports Coach
All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010 and
2007 (Captain in 2010), Division 1 League 2011,
2010, 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011,
2010, All Star 2011, 2010 and 2007, All-Ireland
Club Championship 2011.



CIARA O'CONNOR
Rathnure Pharmaceutical Technician
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010,
Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League
Division 1 2010, National League Division 2 2009,
Intermediate Scoring Star 2011.



JOSIE DWYER
Ferry St. Aidan's Garda
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010,
National League Division 1 2010, 2009, Leinster
Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster
Junior 2004, 2003, Leinster U16 2000.



CLAIRE O'CONNOR
Rathnure Primary Teacher
Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, 2007, National
League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star 2011,
2010, All-Ireland U16 1995, Leinster Championship
2012, 2011, 2010, 2009.



COLLEEN ATKINSON
Oulart/The Ballyagh Branch Manager
Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010 and 2007, Intermediate
All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 1 2011
and 2010, National League 2 2010 and 2009,
Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009,
All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.



KAREN ATKINSON
Oulart/The Ballyagh (Captain) Accountant
Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010 and 2007, National
League Division 1 2011 2010 2009, National League
Division 2 2009, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011
2010 2009, All Star nominee 2010, All-Ireland
Club Championship 2011.



DEIRDRE CODD
Duffry Rovers Quality Control Analyst
Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010 and 2007, National
League Division 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster
Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster U16
2000, Leinster U14 1999, All Star Nominee 2005.



LENNY HOLOHAN
Rathnure Primary Teacher
All-Ireland Senior 2011, 2010, 2007, National League
Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster Championship
2012, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2000, 1999, 1996, 1995,
Leinster U16 1996, Leinster U14 1994.



URSULA JACOB
Oulart/The Ballyagh Accounts Administrator
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011(Captain),
2010, 2007, Division 1 League 2011, 2010, 2009,
Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009,
Leinster U16 2000, Leinster U14 1999, All Star 2011,
2010, All Star Nominee 2008, 2007, 2005, All-
Ireland Club Championship 2011.



FIONA KAVANAGH
Buncloody Fund Accountant
Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, National League
Division 1 2011, 2010, National League Division 2
2009.



HELENA JACOB
Oulart/The Ballyagh Accountant
Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, 2007
All-Ireland 2011, National League Di-
2010, 2009, National League Division
Leinster Senior Championship 2012, 2011,
2009, Leinster U18 1998, Leinster U1
All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.



KATE KELLY
St. Ibar's/Shelmalsers
Business Development Manager
Senior All-Ireland 2011, 2010, 2007, National
League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, Leinster
Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, All-Ireland
U16 1995, All Star 2011, 2010, 2007, 2006, 2004,
All Star nominee 2009, 2008, 2005, National Player of the year 2007,
Leinster Centenary Ambassador 2004.



CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN
Manager/Bealavogue Engineer
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, 2007,
National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009, All Star
2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2005, All Star Nominee
2006, Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010,
2009, 2007 2004, 2001, Leinster U16 2000.



MICHELLE O'LEARY
Rathnure Primary Teacher
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, 2007,
National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009,
All Star nominee 2008, All-Ireland U16 1995,
Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009,
2007, 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, Leinster U18
1998, 1997, Leinster U16 1996, 1995, 1994.



KATRINA PARROCK
St. Ibar's/Shelmalsers Student
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010, 2007,
All Star 2011 and 2010, All Star nominee 2009 and
2006, National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009,
Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2010, 2007,
Leinster U14 2002.



LOUISE O'LEARY
Rathnure Student Nurse
All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2010, All-
Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011, National
League Division 1 2011, 2010, National League
Division 2 2010 and 2009, Leinster Championship
2012, 2011, 2010, Leinster U14 2002.



EVELYN QUIGLEY
Rathnure Primary Teacher
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011, 2010,
National League Division 1 2011, 2010, 2009,
National League Division 2 2009, Leinster Senior
2012, 2011, 2010, 2004, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1999,
Leinster U18 1998, 1997; Leinster Junior 2004, 2003.



BRID GORDON
Blackwater Secondary Teacher
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2011 and 2010,
All-Ireland Intermediate 2011, National League
Division 1 2011 and 2010, National League
Division 2 2009.



LINDA BOLGER
St. Martin's Student
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011,
National League Division 2 2010.



LOUISE CODD
Rathnure Teacher
All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2007,
National League Division 1 2011, 2009, Intermediate
All-Ireland 2011, National League Division 2009,
Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2007, 2005,
2003, Leinster U16 2002, 2000, Leinster U14
2000, 1999.



FIONA ROCHFORD
St. Anne's Student
Senior All-Ireland 2011, Intermediate All-Ireland
2011, National League Division 2 2010.



STACEY REDMOND
Oulart/The Ballyagh Student
All-Ireland Senior Championship 2011, 2007,
Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, National League
Division 1 2009, National League Division 2 2009,
Leinster Championship 2012, 2011, 2007, Leinster
U16 2002, Leinster U14 2002, All-Ireland Club
Championship 2011.



SHAUNA SINNOTT
Oulart/The Ballyagh Student
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011 U16
All-Ireland 2009, Senior Leinster Championship 2012,
All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.



FRANCES DORAN
Burrer's Alley Primary Teacher
Senior All-Ireland 2010, Intermediate All-Ireland
2011, Intermediate Scoring Star Award 2011,
Leinster U16 Championship 2002, 2000, Leinster
Championship U14 2000 and 1999.



EIMEAR O'CONNOR
Rathnure Student
Intermediate All-Ireland 2011, Senior All-Ireland
2010, National League Division 1 2010, National
League Division 2 2009, 2010, Senior Leinster
2012, 2010.



SHELLEY KEHOE
Oulart/The Ballyagh Defence Forces
Intermediate All-Ireland Championship 2011,
Senior All-Ireland Championship 2010, National
League Division 1 2010, National League Division 2
2009 and 2010, Senior Leinster Championship 2012,
2010, 2007, All-Ireland Club Championship 2011.



TRACY NOLAN
Buncloody Sports Co-ordinator
All-Ireland Intermediate Championship 2011.

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Corcaigh



Back row (l.-r.): Claire Shine, Maria Walsh, Katriona Mackey, Anna Geary, Gemma O'Connor, Laura Treacy, Eimear White, Orla Cronin.
Middle row (l.-r.): Pamela Mackey, Linda Dorgan, Julie Mulcahy, Caroline Sugrue, Carolyn Motherway, Lynda O'Connell, Orla Cronin.
Front row (l.-r.): Finola Neville, Rena Buckley, Joanne Casey, Sile Burns, Jenny Duffy, Amanda O'Regan, Orla Cotter, Aoife Murray, Aoife Murray, Regina Curtin.
Mascot: Aisling Heapes.

CORCAIGH

Dathanna: DEARG agus BÁN

SENIOR



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| SENIOR | | |
| 1st | | |
| 2nd | | |
| 3rd | | |



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|---|--|--|---|---|
| 16 EMER WHITE E. de Faoite Barryroe | 19 CLAIRE SHINE C. Ni Sheighin Douglas | 22 LEAH WESTE L. Weste Ballincollig | 25 FINOLA NEVILLE F. Ni Nía St. Catherine's | 28 TESSA CROWLEY T. Ni Chruaich Valley Rovers |
| 17 JULIA WHITE S. de Faoite (Capt.) Douglas | 20 LINDA DORGAN L. Ni Oheargáin Ballincollig | 23 LYNDIA O'CONNELL L. Ni Chonacháin St. Finbarr's | 26 MARIE WALSH M. Bheathnach Ballyhea | 29 CAROLINE SUGRUE S. Ni Shiochrú Ballinascarty |
| 18 AMANDA O'REGAN A. Ni Ríagáin Douglas | 21 REGINA CURTIN R. Nic Cuirtin Milford | 24 CAROLYN MOTHERWAY C. Modartha St. Catherine's | 27 JULIE MULCAHY S. Ni Mhaolchathaigh Courcy Rovers | 30 ORLA CRONIN O. Ni Chroíola Enniskane |

Manager: Paudie Murray. Selectors: Ellen Clifford, Brian Barry, Aidan Crowley, George Fitzgibbon.



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JULIA WHITE (Captain)
Douglas Student
Senior All-Ireland medal, All-Ireland Senior B College's medal with Christ the King, Senior County Championship medals, National Féile na nGael Div. 1 titles.



RENA BUCKLEY
Inniscarra Physiotherapist
All-Ireland Senior Championships, All-Ireland Minor Championships, National Leagues and Provincial titles in both Camogie and Ladies football, Camogie Colleges Centenary All Star team, All Stars in both Camogie and Ladies Football.



AMANDA O'REGAN
Douglas Teacher
Three Ashbourne Cup medals with UL, All-Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor Championships, 2009 Senior All-Ireland Championship captain, Club Senior Championship and League medals. Amanda is also an accomplished basketball player.



AOIFE MURRAY
Cloughduv Chartered Commercial Surveyor, Jones Lang LaSalle
Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Minor All-Ireland titles, Munster Championship honours and three Cork Senior Championship medals with Cloughduv (Captain in 2005), three Camogie All Star awards.



JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN
Cloughduv Retail Rep with GSK
All-Ireland Senior and Minor Championships, National League titles, Provincial Honours, Gael Linn medals with Munster, Senior All-Ireland winning captain 2006, three Cork Senior Championships.



LINDA DORGAN
Ballincollig
Duty Manager, Catalyst Health & Fitness
All-Ireland Senior B and Intermediate Championships, Munster Championships, Gael Linn titles with Munster, Munster Intermediate title 2008 (Captain), Senior County Championship medal with divisional side Muskerry.



CAROLYN MOTHERWAY
St Catherine's Student
Senior, Intermediate and Under Age Munster Championships, Senior County Championship honours.



BRIEGHE CORKERY
Cloughduv Veterinary Receptionist
Senior, Intermediate and Minor All-Ireland medals, National League Medals, Inter-Provincial titles, three Senior Club Championship medals, Senior All-Ireland Football medals, National Female Sports Person of the Year in 2005.



SÍLE BURNS
Barryroe Physiotherapist
All-Ireland Intermediate and Minor Championship medals, Senior County Championship medal with divisional side Muskerry, Senior B and Junior Championship club honours.



ORLA COTTER
St Catherine's Teacher
Cork Minor team captain 2006, Senior team captain 2010, All-Ireland Senior, Senior B, U16 All-Ireland Championship medals, All-Ireland Junior Colleges honours, All Star award 2008.



EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN
Ballinhassig
Financial Analyst with EMC
All-Ireland Senior and Senior B Championships, National League titles, Inter-Provincial medals, Ashbourne shield with C.I.T.



JOANNE CASEY
Inniscarra Student Nurse
All-Ireland Senior and Minor Championships, National League titles, Provincial medals, Senior County Championship medals.



KATIE BUCKLEY
Mallow Student
Intermediate Club Championship, Member of Cork Minor team in 2011, Div. 1 National League 2012.



MARIA WALSH
Milford Student
Senior Munster Championship Under Age Munster Champion Juvenile Club Championship I



JENNY DUFFY
St. Finbarr's
GAA Development Officer, NUI Maynooth
All-Ireland Senior and Junior Championship medals, National League titles, Senior County Championship medals, Ashbourne Shield title with C.I.T 2006 (Captain).



LEAH WESTE
Ballincollig Teacher
All-Ireland Senior B and Intermediate Championships, Div. 1 National League, Senior B County Championship.



EIMEAR WHITE
Barryroe Teacher
All-Ireland Senior Championship, National League and Provincial medals, Munster Junior Championship, Munster and Cork Colleges medals with Sacred Heart Clonakilty, Eimear is also a prominent hockey player.



JENNIFER O'LEARY
Barryroe Teacher
All-Ireland Senior, Intermediate and Minor Championships, Inter-Provincial Gael Linn medals, Ashbourne Cup 2005 with UL (Captain), three All Star awards.



PAMELA MACKEY
Douglas Student
Senior All-Ireland Championships, Senior County Championship honours, All-Ireland Colleges with Christ the King, Turner's Cross, National Féile na nGael Div. 1 titles.



KATRIONA MACKEY
Douglas Student
Senior All-Ireland Championships, Senior County Championship honours, All-Ireland Colleges with Christ the King, Turner's Cross, National Féile na nGael Div. 1 titles.



REGINA CURTIN
Milford Physiotherapist
All-Ireland Senior Championship, Div. 1 National League, Senior B Club Championship.



LYNDA O'CONNELL
St. Finbarr's Accountant
All-Ireland Senior, Senior B and Junior Championships, Div. 1 National League, Munster Championship, Senior County Championship.



GEMMA O'CONNOR
St. Finbarr's
Member of Defence Forces
Senior and Junior National League medals, Provincial honours, All-Ireland Senior Championships (captain in 2007), All-Ireland Minor Championships, Senior County Championship, Seven Camogie All-Stars, Camogie Player of the Year 2005.



ANNA GEARY
Milford
Support Renewal Specialist, Quest Software
All-Ireland Senior and Minor Championships, All-Ireland Colleges medals with St Mary's Charleville, Senior B Club Championship with Milford, Colleges All Star team 2004, four Camogie All Star awards.



CLAIRE SHINE
Douglas Secondary School Student
Div. 1 National League Medal 2012, All-Ireland Féile na nGael titles, Senior County Championship, also an international under age soccer player and holder of numerous international caps.



FINOLA NEVILLE
St Catherine's Student
Senior County titles, Underage Championships.



JULIE MULCAHY
Courcy Rovers Student
Holds Under Age Championship honours with club. Member of Cork Minor team in 2011.



TESSA CROWLEY
Valley Rovers
Secondary School Student
Member of Cork Minor panel 2012.



CAROLINE SUGRUE
Ballinascarty
Secondary School Student
Member of Cork Minor panel 2012.



ORLA CRONIN
Enniskeane
Secondary School Student
Member of Cork Minor panel 2012.



| Item | Item | Item |
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Dathanna: MARÚN agus BÁN

INTERMEDIATE



Roisin Callanan
R. Ni Challanáin
Kinvara



Tara Kenny
T. Ní Chionaoith
Sarsfields



Paula Kenny
P. Ní Chionaoith (Capt.)
Eyrecourt



Colette Gill
C. Nic an Ghail
Kinvara



Lorraine Farrell
L. Ní Fhearrail
Davitts



Sarah Noone
S. Ní Nuáin
Ahascragh



Sinéad Keane
S. Ní Chatháin
Kimvara



Clodagh McGrath
C. Nic Craith
Sarsfields



Aoife Lynskey
A. Ní Loinscigh
Ardrahan



Ailish O'Reilly
A. Ni Raghailigh
Dranmore Maree



Emma Kilkelly
E. Nic Giolla Ceallaigh
Kinkara



Maria Brehony
M. Nic an Bhreithiúnaigh
Davitts



Deirdre Burke
D. de Búrca
St. Thomas



Orla Curtin
O. Ní Chuirín
Kinnvara



Elaine O'Sullivan
E. Ní Shúilleabháin
Mountbellew

16 RACHEL MONAGHAN
R. N. Monaghan
Melkay

19 CATRIONA CORMICAN
C. Nic Cormacáin
Capastigle

22 MOLLY DUNNE
M. Ní Dhoinn
Meelick Eyrecourt

17 REBECCA HENNELLY
R. Ní Ionnaile
Ardrahan

20. AISLING SPELLMAN
A. Ni Spealain
Sarsfields

18. ADIBHINN KENNY
A. NI Chionaoith
Sarsfields

21 TRACEY MURRAY
T. Ni Mhuirí
St. Thomas

Manager: Tony Ward. Coach: Declan Walsh. Trainer/Selector: James McGrath. Selector: Sharon Glynn.



SINÉAD KEANE
Kinvara
Accountant
Senior National League 2005,
Intermediate All-Ireland 2004,
Junior All-Ireland 2003, Junior
League 2003, Minor A All-Ireland
2000, All Star 2011.



COLETTE GILL
Kinvara
Speech and Language Therapist
Intermediate All-Ireland 2009.



TARA KENNY
Sarsfields
Student
Minor All-Ireland Championship,
All-Ireland Féile na nGael.



EMMA KILKELLY
Kinvara
Insurance Officer
All-Ireland Intermediate
Championship, All-Ireland Junior
Championship, All-Ireland Minor
Championship.



ROISÍN CALLANAN
Kinvara
Psychiatric Nurse
2 Purcell Cups.



DEIRDRE BURKE
St Thomas
Medical Secretary
All-Ireland Minor Championship,
3 Ashbourne Cups.



MARIA BREHONY
Davitts
Student
2 All-Ireland Minor Championships,
2 All-Ireland U16 Championships.



AILISH O'REILLY
Oranmore
Student
2 All-Ireland Minor Championships,
2 All-Ireland U16 Championships.



RACHEL MONAGHAN
Mullagh
Student
2 All-Ireland Minor Championships,
2 All-Ireland U16 Championships.



ORLA CURTIN
Kinvara
Banker
1 All-Ireland Intermediate
Championship, 1 All-Ireland Minor
Championship.



REBECCA HENNELLY
Ardrahan
Student
1 Intermediate All-Ireland
Championship, 1 Minor All-Ireland
Championship, 2 U16 All-Ireland
Championships.



AOIBHINN KENNY
Sarsfields
Student
2 All-Ireland Minor Championships,
2 All-Ireland U16 Championships.



LORRAINE FARRELL
Davitts
Student
2 All-Ireland Minor Championships,
2 All-Ireland U16 Championships.



CLODAGH McGRATH
Sarsfields
Student
2 All-Ireland Minor Championships,
2 All-Ireland U16 Championships.

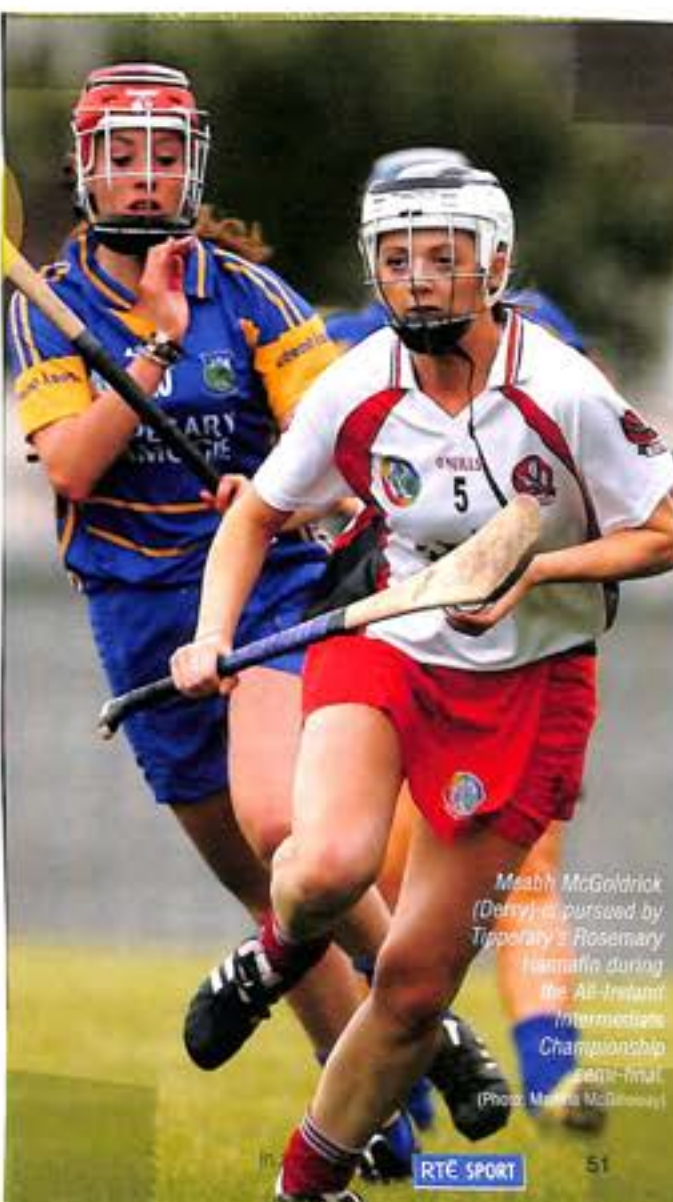


Galway's Aoife
Lynskey in action
against Cathriona
McGill (Waterford)
during the All-Ireland
Intermediate
Championship
semi-final.
(Photo: Damien Eagles)

*Intermediate
Championship
Action*



Aoibhinn Kenny (Galway) avoids the
challenge of Waterford's Sarah Jackman
during the All-Ireland Intermediate
Championship semi-final.
(Photo: Damien Eagles)



Meabh McGoldrick
(Derry) is pursued by
Tipperary's Rosemary
Hamlin during
the All-Ireland
Intermediate
Championship
semi-final.
(Photo: Martin McQuinn)



AOIFE LYNKEY
Ardrahan
Teacher
Senior All-Ireland Championship
1996, Senior All-Ireland League, All-
Ireland Intermediate, Junior & Minor
Championships, Gael Linn, 2
Ashbourne Cups with UL, All-Ireland Féile na nGael.



TRACEY MURRAY
St Thomas
Student
1 All-Ireland Minor Championship,
2 All-Ireland U16 Championships.



CATRIONA CORMICAN
Cappataggle
Student
1 Minor All-Ireland Championship,
2 Ashbourne Shields.



SARAH NOONE
Ahascragh
Psychiatric Nurse
All-Ireland Minor Championship,
All-Ireland Junior Championship.



AISLING SPELLMAN
Sarsfields
Student
All-Ireland Féile na nGael 2007.



LAURA MITCHELL
Killimordaly
Student
All-Ireland Intermediate
Championship 2009, U16 All-Ireland
Championship 2009, Minor and
Intermediate Club titles.



MOLLY DUNNE
Eyrecourt
Teacher
All-Ireland Schools medal, Purcell
Cup with Athlone IT 2007, 1 Senior
Gael Linn 2008.



PAULA KENNY
Eyrecourt
Garda
All-Ireland U16 Championship,
All-Ireland Schools medal, U18 Club
Championship, Junior A title,
1 Senior Gael Linn 2008.

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Doire

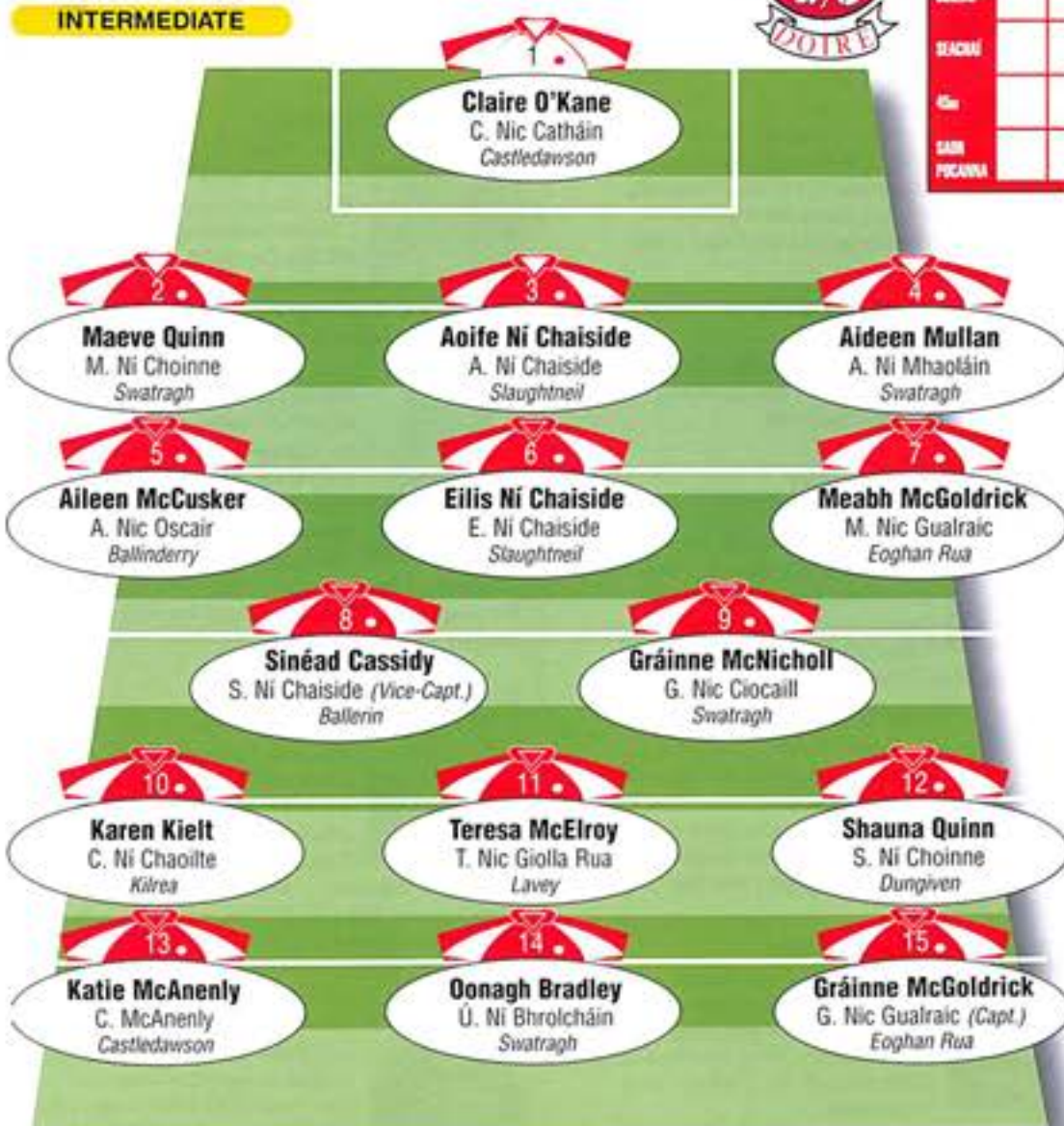


Back row (l.-r.): Maureen Heneghan, Megan Kerr, Attracta McPeake, Grainne McNicholl, Bronagh McGillion, Keelin Bradley, Maria Mooney, Oonagh Bradley, Niamh McQuillan, Aileen McCusker, Karen Kieft, Meabh McGoldrick, Teresa McElroy, Ellis Ní Chaiside, Aileen Mullan. Front row (l.-r.): Danielle McCrystal, Eimear Mullan, Shauna Quinn, Maeve Quinn, Sinéad Devine, Shauneen Donaghy, Sinéad Cassidy (Vice-Capt.), Claire O'Kane, Grainne McGoldrick (Capt.), Katie McAnenly, Aoife Ní Chaiside, Katrina O'Kane, Nuala O'Hagan.

DOIRE

Dathanna: DEARG agus BÁN

INTERMEDIATE



| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 16 NIAMH McQUILLIAN N. Ní Uilín Swatragh | 19 EIMEAR MULLAN E. Ní Mhaoláin Dungiven | 22 MEGAN KERR M. Ní Giolla Cheara Eoghan Rua | 25 SINÉAD DEVINE S. Ní Dhoimhín Ballerin | 28 KATRINA O'KANE C. Ní Catháin Ballerin |
| 17 KEELIN BRADLEY C. Ní Bhrolcháin Greenbough | 20 SHAUNEEN DONAGHY S. Ní Donachaidh Kilrea | 23 DANIELLE McCRYSTAL D. Ní Criostail Glen | 26 MAUREEN HENEGHAN M. Ní Eanácháin Eoghan Rua | |
| 18 ATTRACTA McPEAKE A. Ní Phéice Lavey | 21 NUALA O'HAGAN N. Ágáin Swatragh | 24 BRONAGH MCGILLION B. Ní Giolla Eoin Ballinescreen | 27 MARIA MOONEY M. Ní Mhaonaigh Eoghan Rua | |

Managers: John Angelo Mullan, Gerald McErlane. Selector: Melinda Robinson. Backroom: Maura McCloy. Physio: Julie McVey.



SINÉAD CASSIDY (Vice-Captain)
Sarsfields Ballerin Medical Student
Senior Gael Linn, Junior All-Ireland Championship,
Div. 2 National League 2012, 4 Ulster Senior
Championships, 2 Ulster Junior Championships,
3 U18 Ulster Championships, 3 U16 Ulster
Championships, 4 Purcell Combined All Stars,
2 Purcell Cups, 2 Purcell Shields, 3 Ulster College All Stars, Ulster Colleges
Championship, Derry Intermediate League.



MAUREEN HENEGHAN
Eoghan Rua Student
Div. 2 National League 2012, All-Ireland U16 B
Championship, 3 Ulster Senior Club Championships,
2 Intermediate All-Ireland Club Championships,
2 Ulster Club Championships, Ashbourne Shield,
Intermediate Club Championships, Intermediate
Ulster League, 2 Derry Senior Leagues, Ulster Senior League.



KATRINA O'KANE
Sarsfields Ballerin Beauty Therapist
Div. 2 National League 2012, Junior All-Ireland
Championship, 7 Ulster Senior Championships,
5 Junior Ulster Championships, U18 Ulster
Championship, 2 U16 Ulster Championships,
2 Derry Intermediate Leagues.



NUALA O'HAGAN
Michael Davitts Swatragh Language Tutor
Div. 2 National League 2012, Senior Ulster
Championship, 2 Ulster Club Championships,
5 Derry Senior Championships, 6 Derry Senior
Leagues, 5 Ulster Schools Championship.



GRAINNE McNICHOLL
Michael Davitts Swatragh Student
Div. 2 National League 2012, Derry Senior League,
1 Ulster Senior Championship, U18B All-Ireland
Championship, U16B All-Ireland Championship,
4 U16 Ulster Championships, 8 Ulster Colleges titles,
2 Ulster College All Stars.



MEGAN KERR
Eoghan Rua Student
2 Intermediate Club All-Irelands, 2 Senior B Ulster
Club Championships, 2 Derry Senior Championships,
Derry Senior League, Ulster League, 2 U16
All-Ireland Championships, 1 College All Star.



OONAGH BRADLEY
Michael Davitts Swatragh Teacher
Div. 2 National League 2012, Senior Ulster
Championship, 5 Derry Senior Club Championships,
2 Ulster Club Championships, 6 Derry Senior Leagues,
5 Ulster Colleges.



NIAMH McQUILLAN
Michael Davitts Swatragh Student
Div. 2 National League 2012, Senior Ulster
Championship, Derry Senior League, U18 All-Ireland
Championship, U18 Ulster Championship, U16
All-Ireland Championship, U16 Ulster Championship,
Derry U16 League, 6 Ulster Colleges Titles.



AILEEN McCUSKER
Ballinderry Shamrocks Student
2 Ulster Senior Championships, Div. 2 National League
2012, All-Ireland Senior Colleges, 12 Ulster Colleges,
3 Ulster College All Stars.



BRONAGH MCGILLION
Ballinascreen Student
Div. 2 National League 2012, 2 Derry Championships,
Ulster Championship, All-Ireland Féile Championships,
2 Derry U16 Championships, Derry U18
Championship, Senior Ulster Championship, Senior
Ulster League, 2 Senior Ulster Colleges, Junior Ulster
Colleges, 2 Ulster College All Stars, 1 Ulster U14 Championship, U16 All-Ireland
Championship, U16 Ulster Championship, U18 All-Ireland Championship.



SINÉAD DEVINE
Sarsfields Ballerin Student/Nursing Assistant
Div. 2 National League 2012, U16 All-Ireland
Championship, U16 Ulster Championship, Derry
Intermediate League, Derry Junior League.



MEABH MCGOLDRICK
Eoghan Rua Speech & Language Therapist
All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship,
2 Senior B Ulster Club Championships, 2 Derry Senior
Championships, Junior All-Ireland Championship,
4 Ulster Senior Championships, Div. 2 National
League 2012, 2 Ulster College All Stars, 2 Derry
Intermediate Club Championships, 2 Derry Senior Club Championships,
1 Ulster Senior League.



MAEVE QUINN
Michael Davitts Swatragh Student
Div. 2 National League 2012, Senior Ulster
Championship, 2 Derry Senior Leagues, 2 U16
Championships, U16 Derry Championship,
3 Junior Ulster Colleges, 3 Senior Ulster Colleges,
1 College All Star, All-Ireland Féile Title.



KEELIN BRADLEY
Greenlough Student
Div. 2 National League 2012, 2 Ulster Senior
Championships, 10 Ulster Colleges, 1 Ulster College
All Star, Senior College All Star, Purcell Cup, 2 Purcell
All Stars, 2 U16 B All-Ireland Championships.



TERESA McELROY
Lavey Student
All-Ireland Club Championship, 2 Ulster Club
Championships, Derry Senior Championship,
U16 All-Ireland Championship, U16 Ulster
Championship, 1 College All Star, 6 Ulster College's
Titles, Ashbourne Cup.



SHAUNA QUINN
Dungiven Student
Senior Ulster Championship, Div. 2 National League
2012, 2 U18 All-Ireland Championships, 2 Ulster U18
Championships, U16 All-Ireland Championship,
U16 Ulster Championship, U16 B Derry
Championship, U16 B Derry League, 7 Ulster
College's Titles, Ulster B Féile.



EIMEAR MULLAN
Dungiven Student
U18 All-Ireland Championship, 2 U16 All-Ireland
Championships, U18 Ulster Championship,
U16 Ulster Championship.



EILIS NI CHAISIDE
Slacht Neill Student
Ulster Senior Championship, Div. 2 National
League 2012, 1 Father Maher Cup, 1 Purcell Cup,
U18 All-Ireland Championship, 2 Ulster U18
Championships, 2 U16 Ulster Championships,
1 Ulster Colleges, U18 Derry Championship,
Derry U16 Championship, 1 College All Star.



AOIFE NI CHAISIDE
Slacht Neill Student
Ulster Senior Championship, Div. 2 National League
2012, 2 U18 B All-Ireland Championships,
2 U18 Ulster Championships, U16 B All-Ireland
Championship, 2 U16 Ulster Championships,
3 Senior Ulster Colleges, 1 Junior Ulster Colleges,
1 Ulster College All Star.



ATTRACTA McPEAKE
Lavey Speech & Language Therapist
All-Ireland Junior Club Championship, Div. 2 National
League 2012, All-Ireland Senior Colleges Cup, Senior
Ulster Championship, 5 Derry Senior Championships,
2 Ulster Colleges All Stars, 2 Ashbourne Shields,
6 Ulster Colleges.



SHAUNEEN DONAGHY
Kilrea Student
Div. 2 National League 2012, Ulster Senior
Championship, U18 All-Ireland, U18 Ulster
Championship, Ulster Colleges, U16 Ulster
Championship, 2 Derry Intermediate Championships,
1 Derry Intermediate League.



MARIA MOONEY
Eoghan Rua Student
2 Intermediate Club All-Irelands, 2 Ulster Intermediate
Club Championships, 2 Derry Intermediate Club
Championships, U16 B All-Ireland, 3 College All Stars.



CLAIRE O'KANE
Castledawson Civil Servant
2 All-Ireland Junior Championships, Senior and
Junior Gael Linn, 8 Senior Ulster Championships,
6 Junior Championships, 6 Ulster Colleges, Div. 2
National League 2012, Derry Senior Championship,
2 Derry Senior Leagues, U18 Championship,
1 Derry U18 Championship.



KAREN KIEFT
Kilrea Student
2 Senior Ulster Championships, Div. 2 National League
2012, 2 Derry Intermediate Championships,
1 Derry Intermediate League, U18 B All-Ireland,
U18 Ulster Championship, 2 U16 Ulster
Championships, 8 Ulster Colleges, 3 College All Stars,
1 Ashbourne Shield, Ulster Young Player Of The Year 2008, Irish News
Camogie Player Of The Year 2012.



GRAINNE MCGOLDRICK (Captain)
Eoghan Rua Teacher
Div. 2 National League 2012, Senior Gael Linn,
4 All Star Nominations, 1 All Star Award, G.A.A
Writers Player Of The Year 2009, 2 All-Ireland
Intermediate Club Championships, 2 Ulster Senior B
Club Championships, 2 Derry Senior Club
Championships, 2 Derry Senior Leagues, Ulster Premier League, 7 Senior
Ulster Championships, 5 Ulster Junior Championships, Junior All-Ireland,
Purcell Cup, Combined College All Star.



KATIE McANENLY
Castledawson Teacher
Derry Senior Championship, 2 Derry Senior Leagues,
6 Ulster Colleges, 2 Ulster College All Stars,
1 All-Ireland College All Star, 3 Ulster Underage
Camogie Player Of The Year, 3 U18 Ulster
Championships, 4 U16 Ulster Championships,
7 Ulster Senior Championships, 5 Ulster Junior Championships, 1 Ulster Senior
League, 1 Junior All-Ireland, Div. 2 National League 2012, 1, 1 Purcell Cup,
Senior and Junior Gael Linn, 2 All Star Nominations.



AILEEN MULLAN
Michael Davitts Swatragh Nurse
Div. 2 National League 2012, Senior Ulster Club
Championship, Senior Ulster Championship,
4 Derry Senior C'Ships, 8 Ulster Colleges, 6 Underage
Ulster Championships, 2 Purcell Shields, Ulster
Fox Fado Winner 2008.



DANIELLE McCRYSTAL
Watty Graham's GAC, Maghera Student
Intermediate Derry Championship, U18 Derry 'B'
Shield, U16 Derry C'Ship, U16 'B' Derry league,
U18 All-Ireland 'B' C'Ship, U18 Ulster Championship,
U16 'B' All-Ireland C'Ship, U16 Ulster C'Ship,
Senior Ulster colleges Championship, Senior All-Ireland
College Championship, Purcell Cup Medal, Queens Full Blue Award, Purcell
All-Star Award, U18 Ulster player of the year, Queen's GAA Academy
Scholarship, Ulster Young Player of the Year.



Aileen McCusker (Derry) about to challenge
Tipperary's Brid Quinn during the All-Ireland
Intermediate Championship semi-final.
(Photo: Martina McGilroy)



Lisa Cahill (Tipperary) challenges Derry's Karen
Kieft during the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie
Championship semi-final at Naomh Peregrine
GAA Club, Blakestown, Dublin on August 19th.
(Photo: Martina McGilroy)

Player
Profiles

DERRY

SEPT 2012

FREE-FLOWING DERRY ATTACK TO PREVAIL?

INTERMEDIATE FINAL PREVIEW by CIARAN WOODS, *Gaelic Life*

THE MOST exciting All-Ireland Intermediate final for many years when Derry and Galway go head to head for the All-Ireland crown this afternoon.

Galway looked impressive as they topped group two of the Intermediate Championship series unbeaten, with three wins and a draw from their four games. The only blip on their record was a 2-9 draw with Tipperary when both sides were already through to the last four.

They came past Waterford in the semi-final on a final scoreline of 1-14 to 0-13, with Emma Kilkelly their top scorer with 1-3 to her credit, but it is at the other end of the field where the Tribeswomen will know they really need to perform if they are to put the shackles on a free-flowing Derry attack.

They hit 3-16 past Tipperary in their semi-final clash, Tipp managing just six points in reply to complete what was a very impressive day's work from the Oak Leaf girls.

Karen Kieft was their chief marksman with a personal tally of 1-4 over the hour, but the most striking aspect was that the scoring burden was shared between seven different Derry scorers.

It was just the latest step in what has been a hugely impressive season so far for the Ulster side. They strolled through the Championship group stages, three straight wins and having conceded an incredibly low tally of just 25 points along the way, and averaging almost 23 points a game themselves.

Already this season they have

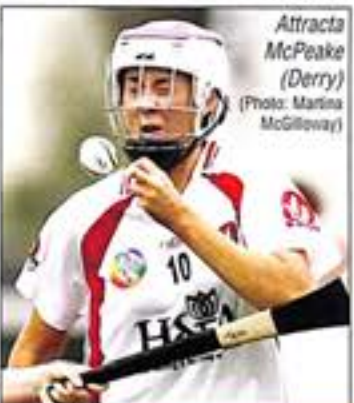


Orla Curtin (Galway)
(Photo: Damien Eagers)

laid claim to the Irish Daily Star League Division Two title, courtesy of a resounding 2-11 to 0-6 victory over Meath in the decider having also gone through their league campaign with straight wins.

Having also beaten Antrim to win back their Ulster Senior Championship title, it means that Derry take a hugely impressive 100 percent record into Sunday's All-Ireland decider. Is 2012 to be their perfect season?

Galway though will have plenty to say about that. Having watched their seniors lose out to Cork in their bid for an All-Ireland final spot, the Intermediate team will hope that they can instead take



Attracta McPeake (Derry)
(Photo: Martina McGilroy)

their inspiration from the exploits of their county hurling counterparts who set the Leinster and All-Ireland championships alight this summer.

Their girls have already shown that they have the hunger and drive for success. When a four point lead turned into a one point deficit in their semi-final against Waterford, it would have been easy for Galway to falter. Instead, they chose to dig deep and showed real fervour to turn the game back in their favour.

Galway managed to side-step a physical battle against a physically stronger Waterford, and with Derry a less imposing presence, the westerners should once again be able to open up and play the sort of game which suits their skill.

They wasted chances against Waterford, in the first half especially, and they will have to be much more clinical against a Derry side who will bring the game to them from the very outset.

In previous campaigns, the challenge from Derry or other Ulster sides would quite justifiably have been written off heading into a game like this, but this Derry outfit are cut from a different cloth. They have battled on the biggest stage and, more importantly, have come out on top.

They possess incredible firepower, but it is their work ethic all over the park, and their ability to stifle the opposition, which could be the key factor in deciding the destination of the title.

So it's Derry to prevail in a scorefest, but not with much to spare.

All-Ireland Intermediate Championship in association with RTÉ SPORT PATHS TO THE FINAL

Intermediate Championship Round Games

| DATE | VENUE | RESULT |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 23/06/2012 | Portlengone | Antrim 1-2 Derry 3-18 |
| 30/06/2012 | Nowlan Park | Kilkenny 1-6 Galway 4-13 |
| 07/07/2012 | Clarecastle | Galway 1-18 Cork 1-8 |
| 07/07/2012 | Donaghmore Ashbourne | Derry 3-11 Limerick 1-6 |
| 14/07/2012 | Kenny Park, Athenry | Galway 1-11 Wexford 0-11 |
| 21/07/2012 | Kenny Park, Athenry | Galway 2-9 Tipperary 2-9 |
| 21/07/2012 | St. Brigid's, Blanchardstown | Waterford 2-5 Derry 3-12 |

Intermediate Championship Semi-Finals

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------|--|
| 19/08/2012 | Naomh Peregrine, Blakestown | Tipperary 0-6 Derry 3-16 |
| 25/08/2012 | The Gaelic Grounds, Limerick | Galway 1-14 Waterford 0-13 |



Colette Gilt (Galway) evades the challenge of Waterford's Ruth Geoghegan during the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship semi-final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick on August 25th.
(Photo: Damien Eagers)

Aileen McCUSKER (Ballinderry, Derry)



- Q:** Three people who have had an influence on your career? Please give full names and reasons why?
- A:** My family, my mummy and sister Donna, who are my number 1 supporters, they come to every game no matter how far away. Ronan McWilliams, club coach, helped my transition from an underage player to a senior player. Melinda Robinson, one of the main reasons we are in Croke Park today. She has instilled a real passion in our team!
- Q:** About cherished victory?
- A:** I have been very fortunate to have had great success with my school, St Mary's and with Derry, but the championship Minor A title I won with my club was extra special!
- Q:** The toughest opponent outside of your county?
- A:** Orla Cotter from Cork whom I played against when Ulster played Munster in the Gael Linn 2012.
- Q:** Favourite venue(s)?
- A:** I can't look beyond my club pitch, Ballinderry, it's just home. Have grown fond of Owenbeg too - suppose I have had to!
- Q:** What it means to play in Croke Park?
- A:** It is where every GAA player want to be playing the game - it's a dream, it is very exciting and will be a great experience. It will be even more special if we come out on the right end of the result today.
- Q:** Four words to describe yourself as a player?
- A:** Team player, committed, hardworking and passionate.

- Q:** Female sports star you admire?
- A:** Caroline Wilson - because she is still going!
- Q:** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
- A:** Benny Tierney for the craic, Joe Broilly and Pat Spillane for the controversy, Jim McGuinness because I would love my husband in the future to look like him, Brian O'Driscoll to look at now and Eoghan because he told me I wasn't allowed to answer this question.....
- Q:** Deep and meaningful conversation - Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps?
- A:** Michael Phelps but don't think the words, deep and meaningful are associated with Usain Bolt.
- Q:** Three people you admire, local, national and international?
- A:** Derry footballer Enda Muldoon, he is completely dedicated to his sport, to county and our club. Katie Taylor for her amazing success at World and Olympics level. Roger Federer has been at the peak of his sport for so many years.
- Q:** Favourite song/piece of music?
- A:** Aslan - Crazy World
- Q:** Three things you are serious about?
- A:** Camogie, I can take shopping pretty seriously and my family and friends
- Q:** Do you access camogie social media?
- A:** Yea, facebook and twitter, it's good to keep updated with results and fixtures.
- Q:** Ambition?
- A:** I hope to achieve one today, by winning an All-Ireland with Derry. Also to win our first senior club county championship. Ooooo... and win the lotto!
- Q:** What do you do to chill out?
- A:** I'm pretty chilled out most of the time!
- Q:** Personal motto?
- A:** Big Gerry (my Daddy) tells me before every game 'Get stuck in and don't be talking to your player'. I carry that into every game!

Elaine O'SULLIVAN (Mountbellew/Moylough, Galway)



- Q:** Three people who have had an influence on your career?
- A:** My Mam, as well as being my mother, she was also my Primary School Teacher in Menlough N.S where she started us off playing camogie at a young age. My Dad, his knowledge of playing GAA and his advice to me has been hugely influential, 'keep the ball low and hard'. Sharon Glynn, I have always admired her talent and skill as a camogie player.
- Q:** Most cherished victory and why?
- A:** There have been too many to choose but it's always a great feeling beating rival club team Eyrecourt.
- Q:** The toughest opponent outside of your county?
- A:** I'm not very good when it comes to names but I never worry about who I'll be marking in a match, I just try and go out and play my own game.
- Q:** Favourite venue(s)?
- A:** Páirc an Chricáin - You can't beat playing a championship match on home ground with home support there to drive you on.
- Q:** What it means to play in Croke Park?
- A:** It's every GAA/camogie sports persons dream to play there. Having played here for ten minutes during a mini sevens game when I was ten, hopefully I'll last a bit longer on the pitch this time round!
- Q:** Four words to describe yourself as a player?
- A:** I'd like to see myself as being quick, hard working, and competitive and I suppose a bit of a shaper!
- Q:** Female sports star you admire and why?
- A:** Ann-Marie Hayes, Galway Senior captain this year. Her determination on the pitch and commitment to the sport is unbelievable.
- Q:** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
- A:** Usain Bolt, to keep everyone entertained. Henry the great, he might give me a few pointers. Michael Meenan, being a close part of our family, he'd be my back-up if things got out of hand. Dan Carter, Tommy Bone and Fernando Torres, don't think I need to say why for these three!
- Q:** Deep and meaningful conversation - Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps.
- A:** Usain Bolt, don't think it'd be deep and meaningful but would be a great laugh.
- Q:** Three people you admire, local, national and international?
- A:** Local: Christina McHugh for her ongoing dedication and commitment to our Camogie Club for the last 25 years. Katie Taylor, for bringing so much pride to the country. International: Beyonce for her voice and dance moves!
- Q:** Favourite song/piece of music?
- A:** Wagon Wheel, gets the sing-song going at any house party.
- Q:** Three things you are serious about.
- A:** Sport, school work and of course my boyfriend Declan.
- Q:** Do you access camogie social media? If so, your opinion?
- A:** I follow it on Facebook and find it brilliant for results and fixtures.
- Q:** Ambition?
- A:** My ambition at the start of this year was to get to Croke Park and win an All-Ireland medal with my county. Please God it'll happen today.

An Dún



Back row (l.-r.): Karen Gribben, Karen Tinnelly, Laura Hughes, Niamh Mallon, Lisa McCrickard, Clara McGovern, Clare McKenna, Grainne O'Higgins, Maria McNally, Kelly O'Higgins, Paula Gribben, Emma McCormick, Karen McMullan, Brid McGourty. Front row (l.-r.): Orla Maginn, Nicola O'Gorman, Catherine Rocks, Fionnuala Carr (Capt.), Catherine McGourty, Catriona McCrickard, Sara Louise Carr, Orla McLogan, Lisa McPolin, Nicola Braniff. Missing from photograph: Eimear Dynes.

AN DÚN

Dathanna: DEARG agus DUBH

PREMIER JUNIOR



Catriona McCrickard
C. Nic Riocaird
Liatroim

2 Karen Tinnelly
C. Tinnelly
Ballyholland

3 Grainne O'Higgins
G. Ni Uiginn
Liatroim

4 Clara McGovern
C. Nig Shamhráin
Liatroim

5 Catherine Rocks
C. Nic Concharraige
Bredagh

6 Lisa McCrickard
L. Nic Riocaird
Liatroim

7 Emma McCormick
E. Nic Cormaic
Liatroim

8 Lisa McPolin
L. McPolin
Clonduff

9 Maria McNally
M. Nic an Fhailí
Portaferry

10 Catherine McGourty
C. McGourty
Ballycran

11 Laura Hughes
L. Ni Aodha
Ballycran

12 Paula Gribben
P. Ni Ghribín
Clonduff

13 Niamh Mallon
N. Ni Mhealláin
Portaferry

14 Sara-Louise Carr
S. L. Ni Cheara
Clonduff

15 Fionnuala Carr
F. Ni Cheara (Capt.)
Clonduff

16 CLARE McKENNA
C. Nic Clonaoith
Portaferry

19 NICOLA BRANIFF
N. Ni Bhramuibh
Ballycran

22 EIMEAR DYNES
E. Ni Dheinn
Ballycran

25 KELLY O'HIGGINS
C. Ni Uiginn
Liatroim

17 BRÍD MCGOURTY
B. McGourty
Ballycran

20 NICOLA O'GORMAN
N. Ni Ghormáin
Ballyholland

23 ORLA McLOGAN
O. Nig Leocháin
Ballyholland

18 KAREN GRIBBEN
C. Ni Ghribín
Clonduff

21 ORLA MAGINN
O. Nig Fhinn
Clonduff

24 KAREN McMULLAN
C. Nic Mhaoláin
Liatroim

Manager: Alastair McGilligan. Selectors: Tom McMahon, Maureen O'Higgins. First Aid: Catriona Rodgers.

SEPT. 2012



FIONNUALA CARR (Captain)
Clonduff
Property Manager
National League Div. 3, Senior Gael Linn, Ulster Senior Championship, 2 Soaring Star Awards, 2 Purcell Cups, 5 University All Stars, 3 Down Senior Championships, Kilmacud 7's Shield.



CATHERINE MCGOURTY
(Vice Captain)
Ballycran
Teacher
National League Div. 3, Ulster Senior Championship, Ulster Junior Championship, 2 Purcell Cups, 2 Down Senior Club Championships, 2 Soaring Stars Awards, Ashbourne All Star.



ORLA MAGINN
Clonduff
Nurse
Div. 3 National League, Purcell Cup, 2 Purcell Shields, 1 Soaring Star, Ulster Senior Championship, Ulster Junior Championship, Down Senior Club Championships.



CATRIONA MCCRICKARD
Liatroim
Self Employed
2 All-Ireland Junior Club Championships, 3 Senior Ulster Club Championships, 2 Junior Ulster Club Championships, 8 Down Senior Championships.



LISA MCCRICKARD
Liatroim
GAA Ulster Coach
2 All-Ireland Junior Club Championships, 3 Senior Ulster Club Championships, 2 Junior Ulster Club Championships, 8 Down Senior Championships.



CIARA MCGOVERN
Liatroim
Teacher
2 All-Ireland Junior Club Championships, 3 Senior Ulster Club Championships, 2 Junior Ulster Club Championships, 8 Down Senior Championships.



CATHERINE ROCKS
Bredagh
Student
All-Ireland Minor C Championship, Ulster Minor Championship, All-Ireland U16 C Championship, Ulster Schools Championship.



KAREN TINNELLY
Ballyholland
Sales & Marketing Executive
National League Div. 3, Soaring Star, All-Ireland Minor B Championship, 4 Ulster Minor Championships, Down Intermediate League and Championship, Ulster College All-Star.



MARIA McNALLY
Portaferry
Dental Nurse
National League Div. 3, Senior Ulster Shield, Down League Division 1.



PAULA GRIBBEN
Clonduff
Student
All-Ireland Minor B, Ulster Colleges All Star, Kilmacud 7's Shield, 3 County Senior Championship and Leagues.



GRAINNE O'HIGGINS
Liatroim
Student
2 Junior Club All-Irelands, All-Ireland Minor B Championship.



EMMA MCCORMICK
Liatroim
Housing Officer
Div. 3 National League, 2 All-Ireland Junior Club Championships, Junior Ulster Club Championships, Kilmacud 7's Shield.



LISA MCPOLIN
Clonduff
Student
All-Ireland Minor B Championship, 3 Down Club Championships.



BRÍD MCGOURTY
Ballycran
Student
All-Ireland Minor C Championship, Ulster Minor Championship, Down Club Championship, Ulster Schools medal.



NIAMH MALLON
Portaferry
Student
All-Ireland Minor C, Ulster Minor Championship, Down Minor Championship, Soaring Star, 2 Ulster College All Stars.



SARA LOUISE CARR
Clonduff
Student
All-Ireland Minor B Championship, Ulster Minor Championship, Ulster Colleges All Star, 3 Down Club Championships and League.



LAURA HUGHES
Ballycran
Student
2 Down Senior Club Championships, Ulster Schools Championship, 3 Ulster College All Stars, All-Ireland Féile title.



NICOLA BRANIFF
Ballycran
Self Employed
2 Down Club Championships.



CLARE McKENNA
Portaferry
Respiratory Physiologist
Ulster Shield and Down League.



EIMEAR DYNES
Ballycran
Student
All-Ireland Minor C Championship, Ulster Minor Championship, Ulster Schools title, Down Senior Championship.



NICOLA O'GORMAN
Ballyholland
Student
own Minor Championship, All-Ireland Minor B and Ulster Minor Championship 2012.



ORLA McLOGAN
Ballyholland
Student
Down Minor Championship, All-Ireland Minor B and Ulster Minor Championship 2012.



KAREN GRIBBEN
Clonduff
Secretary
Senior Gael Linn, Senior Ulster Championship, 2 Purcell Shields, 1 Purcell Cup, 2 Purcell All Stars, 3 Down Championships and Leagues.



KAREN McMULLAN
Liatroim
Teacher
2 Junior All-Ireland Club Championships, 2 Ulster Junior Championships, Kilmacud 7's Shield, College All Star.



KELLY O'HIGGINS
Liatroim
Student
2 Junior All-Ireland Club Championships, 2 Ulster Junior Championships, Kilmacud 7's Shield, College All Star.

Emma

MCCORMICK

(Liatroim Fontenoy, Down)



- Q:** Three people who have had an influence on your career?
A: My parents Sean and Rosaleen and my granny Malone for being my No.1 supporters. All the under-age coaches in my club and of course J.J. McCrickard. Also Alastair who has been great with the county panel this year.
- Q:** Most cherished victory and why?
A: Back where it all began with my club when we did the U-14 treble: championship, league and county Féile na nGael.
- Q:** The toughest opponent outside of your county?
A: Jane Adams, Antrim.
- Q:** Favourite venue?
A: Fontenoy Park, great memories from here.
- Q:** What it means to play in Croke Park?
A: It's a dream come true. I think it's probably every camogie and GAA players dream to play in Croke Park, especially on All-Ireland finals day.
- Q:** Four words to describe yourself as a player?
A: Dedicated, hard working, quick and team player.
- Q:** Female sports star you admire and why?
A: Jessica Ennis, she is a true all round athlete. The

woman is a machine.

- Q:** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
A: Tommy Walsh for the hurling tips, Rory McIlroy says he is from County Down, Usain Bolt to run the show, Tommy Bowe for the muscles, Mario Balotelli for the fireworks and Lewis Hamilton for the taxi driver.
- Q:** Deep and meaningful conversation - Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps?
A: Usain Bolt, as I would have nothing in common with Michael Phelps, I cannot swim!!
- Q:** Three people you admire, local, national and international?
A: Locally I will go with my teammate Ciara McGovern, who does so much organising for our club team, Mickey Harte of Tyrone and Katie Taylor.
- Q:** Favourite song/piece of music?
A: Orla Maginn's version of 'Man in the Mirror' recorded in Dundalk in 2009.
- Q:** Three things you are serious about?
A: Living life to the full, family and friends.
- Q:** Do you access camogie social media? If so, your opinion?
A: Yes, it's a great way to keep up to date.
- Q:** Ambition?
A: To fulfil my potential on the pitch for any team that I play with.
- Q:** What do you do to chill out?
A: Frequent the Marine or the Bot & rain!!
- Q:** Personal motto?
A: What's for you won't go past you!

Aoife

THOMPSON

(Dunboyne, Meath)



- Q:** Three people who have had an influence on your career?
A: My family always encouraged me to do the best, win lose or draw, John Davis because of his dedication and belief in our team. All the managers I have worked with in Dunboyne and people in the club who have got me this far - they know who they are but too many to name.
- Q:** Most cherished victory and why?
A: Hopefully winning here today will answer this one... if not winning first ever final in school.
- Q:** The toughest opponent outside of your county?
A: Jane Adams, Antrim.
- Q:** Favourite venue/why?
A: Nowlan Park was best pitch I played on a few years ago in a semi-final against Offaly... but Croke Park is best venue.
- Q:** What it means to play in Croke Park?
A: It's everyone's dream to play in Croke Park. A lot of sporting heroes have played here and it's everything we have been training for for the last four years - we finally made it here today.
- Q:** Four words to describe yourself as a player?
A: Determined, committed, team player, honest.
- Q:** Female sports star you admire and why?
A: Katie Taylor, she has brought women's sport to a whole new level and just being so talented at any

sport she's taken part in, including camogie.

- Q:** Six sportsmen you would invite to dinner?
A: Joe Canning, unbelievable hurler; Steven Gerrard, because he's gorgeous; Brendan Cummins, brilliant leader and hurler and has seen it all in his career; Shay Given, best goalkeeper Ireland ever had; Tommy Bowe and Rob Kearney, think why?
- Q:** Deep and meaningful conversation - Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps?
A: Usain Bolt, unreal at what he does, very consistent and he might teach me to get better at sprints!
- Q:** Three people you admire, local, national and international?
A: Sean Boslan from my club, I have looked up to him for years, he always helps in whatever way he can. Bridgie Guy who won 10 senior championships with our club, heroine of a woman, if I could win one I'd be happy. Katie Taylor, simply for what she has achieved in bringing women's sport to a whole new level.
- Q:** Favourite song/piece of music?
A: Before matches Saw Doctors Hay Wrap and Far East movement, Turn up the Love.
- Q:** Three things you are serious about?
A: Work, family and friends, sport.
- Q:** Do you access camogie social media?
A: Yes for all results and camogie updates.

An Mhí



Back row (l.-r.): Lisa Foley, Holly Geraghty, Aileen Donnelly, Maggie Randle, Fiona O'Neill, Aoife Maguire, Aoife Thompson, Sinéad Hackett, Cheyenne O'Brien, Kristina Troy, Hazel Coleman, Emily Mangan, Ann Cole, Ashling McLoughlin. Front row (l.-r.): Claire Coffey, Louise Donoghue, Elizabeth Lynch, Jane Dolan (Capt.), Áine Keogh, Laura Maguire, Lizzy Oakes, Shona White, Edel Guy, Adrienne McCann, Katie Hackett, Ann Marie Fagan.

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| GOAL | | | | |
| GOAL | | | | |
| GOAL | | | | |
| GOAL | | | | |
| GOAL | | | | |
| GOAL | | | | |

AN MHÍ

Dathanna: GLAS agus ÓR

PREMIER JUNIOR

16 ANN COLE
A. Nic Corraill
Trim

17 ELIZABETH LYNCH
E. Ní Loingsigh
Donaghmore/Ashbourne

18 CHEYENNE O'BRIEN
C. Ní Bhriain
Kiltale

19 LIZZY OAKES
L. Ní Darach
Navan O'Mahony's

20 MAGGIE RANDLE
M. Ní Randal
Donaghmore/Ashbourne

21 ASHLING McLOUGHLIN
A. Nig Lochlainn
Kilmessan

22 ADRIENNE McCANN
A. Ní Cana
Ratoath

23 LISA FOLEY
L. Ní Fhoghlú
Killyon

24 LAURA MAGUIRE
L. Nig Uidhir
Killyon

25 SHONA WHITE
S. de Faote
Trim

26 HAZEL COLEMAN
H. Ní Cholmáin
Killyon

Manager: John Davis Selectors: Valene Curtis, Sharon Raleigh, Tom Walsh



AILEEN DONNELLY
Kilmessan
Physiotherapist
All Star Nominee, 1 Junior Gael Linn,
Div. 3 & 4 National Leagues, 3 Leinster
Junior Championships, All-Ireland
Nancy Murray Cup, 9 Meath
Senior Championships, 1 Milk Cup, 2 London Senior
Championships.



AINE KEOGH
Kildalkey
Student
All-Ireland Nancy Murray Cup, Div 3 & 4
National Leagues, 3 Leinster Junior
Championships, Soaring Star 2011,
3 Meath U21 Championships, Meath
Intermediate and Junior Championships, College League &
Championship 2012.



LIZZY OAKES
Navan O Mahony's
Primary School Teacher
Meath Intermediate Championship, Div. 3
& 4 National Leagues, 3 Leinster Junior
Championships, All-Ireland Nancy Murray
Championship, 2 Meath Junior
Championships.



EMILY MANGAN
Blackhall Gaels
GAA Development Officer
All-Ireland Nancy Murray Cup, Div 3 & 4
National Leagues, 3 Leinster Junior
Championships, Meath Senior,
Intermediate and Junior Championships.



FIONA O'NEILL
Dunboyne
Student
Div 3 National League, 2 Leinster Junior
Championships, 3 Meath U21
Championships, Meath Intermediate
Championship.



JANE DOLAN
Blackhall Gaels
Property Surveyor
Div 3 & 4 National Leagues, 3 Leinster
Championships, Leinster Minor B
Championship 2004, All-Ireland Nancy
Murray Cup, Soaring Star 2010 & 2011,
All Star Nominee 2009, Purcell Cup League, Purcell Cup
Player of the Tournament, Meath Senior and Intermediate
Championships.



EDEL GUY
Trim
Kitchen Designer
Division 3 & 4 National Leagues,
3 Leinster Championships, 1 All-Ireland
Nancy Murray Cup (Player of the Match),
4 Meath Senior Championships.



AOIFE MAGUIRE
Killyon
Teacher
Div 3 National League, Meath Senior
Championship, 3 Leinster Championships,
1 Purcell Cup Shield.



SINÉAD HACKETT
Dunboyne
Fulfillment Administrator
1 All-Ireland Nancy Murray Cup,
Div 3 & 4 National Leagues, 3 Leinster
Championships, 3 Meath U21
Championships, Meath Intermediate
and Junior Championships.



AOIFE THOMPSON
Dunboyne
Sales Assistant
All-Ireland Nancy Murray Cup,
Div 3 & 4 National Leagues, 3 Leinster
Championships, 3 Meath U21
Championships, Meath Intermediate
and Junior Championships.



ANN MARIE FAGAN
Trim
Nurse
1 All-Ireland Nancy Murray Cup,
Div 4 National League, 3 Senior Club
Championships.



MAGGIE RANDLE
Donaghmore/Ashbourne
Student
Leinster Championship, All-Ireland U16
Finalists 2010, All-Ireland U18 Finalists
2011, 1 Meath Intermediate
Championship.



ADRIENNE MCCANN
Ratoath
Student
Div 3 & 4 National League, 3 Leinster
Championships, All-Ireland Féile Na nGael
2006, 2007, 2008, 4 Meath Schools
League & Championships, 2 Leinster



HOLLY GERAGHTY
Blackhall Gaels
Office Administrator
All-Ireland Nancy Murray Cup, Div 4
National League, 3 Leinster Junior
Championships, Meath Senior and
Intermediate Championships, Leinster
Minor B Championship.



LOUISE DONOGHUE
Kiltale
Legal Secretary
Div 4 National League, 3 Leinster Junior
Championships, Leinster Minor B
Championship, All-Ireland Nancy Murray
Cup, 1 Soaring Star Award, 2 Purcell
Cups with A.I.T., Meath Intermediate Championship, 2 Meath
Junior Leagues.



LAURA MAGUIRE
Killyon
Montessori Teacher
Div 3 National League, 2 Leinster Junior
Championships, Meath Senior
Championship, Meath Senior League.



KRISTINA TROY
Blackhall Gaels
Student
Div 3 & 4 National Leagues, 3 Leinster
Championships, All-Ireland Nancy
Murray Cup, Leinster Gael Linn, Meath
Senior and Intermediate Championships,
1 Leinster Schools, 2 Meath Senior School Championships,
1 Fr. Meagher Cup, 1 Purcell Cup All Star, Féile Skills
Competition.



ANN COLE
Trim
Childcare
3 Meath Senior Championships, Leinster
League Div 2.



ELIZABETH LYNCH
Donaghmore/Ashbourne
Sport & Competition Co-ordinator
1 Gael Linn, Div 4 National League,
2 Leinster Championships, 1 All-Ireland
Nancy Murray Cup, Ashbourne Cup
W.I.T., Ashbourne Cup All Star,
Meath Intermediate and Junior Championships, 1 Meath
Junior League.



HAZEL COLEMAN
Killyon
Student
2 Leinster Championships, Div 3
National League, All-Ireland U18 Finalists
2011.



CHEYENNE O'BRIEN
Kiltale
Student
1 Leinster Championship DCC.



SHONA WHITE
Trim
Student
Meath Junior Championship, All-Ireland
U16 Finalists 2010, All-Ireland U18
Finalists 2011, 2010 Young Player of the
Year Award, Meath Féile Skills 2009,
U15 Club Player of the Year.



LISA FOLEY
Killyon
Student
Leinster Junior Championship, Meath U14
Championship & League, Meath U14
Shield.



ASHLING McLOUGHLIN
Kilmessan
Student
3 Meath Senior Championships, Leinster
Junior Club Championship, 3 Meath
Senior Leagues, 3 Meath U21
Championships, 3 Meath U18
Championships.



CLAIRE COFFEY
Na Fianna
Student
Div 3 National League, 2 Leinster
Championships, Meath Junior
Championship 2009, 1 Meath Intermediate
Championship 2010.



KATIE HACKETT
Trim
Assistant Manager Private Wedding +
Events Venue
Div 3 National League, 2 Leinster
Championships, 1 Green Star.



Paula Gribben (Down) launches another
attack against Laois's Olga Parkinson (left)
and Elaine Mahony during the All Ireland
Premier Junior semi-final.



Jane Dolan (Meath) in action
against Clodagh Flanagan
(Kildare) during the All-Ireland
Premier Junior semi-final.



Niamh Mallon (Down).
(Photos: Caroline Quinn)

SEPT. 2012

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Premier Junior Championship Round Games

| DATE | VENUE | RESULT |
|------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 30/06/2012 | Naas | Kildare.....0-14 Down.....1-11 |
| 30/06/2012 | Páirc Tailteann | Meath.....2-9 Laois.....0-12 |
| 07/07/2012 | Rathdowney | Laois.....3-5 Down.....0-13 |
| 07/07/2012 | Morgan Athletic Grounds | Armagh.....1-9 Meath.....2-15 |
| 21/07/2012 | Kilcoo | Down.....3-12 Armagh.....1-6 |
| 21/07/2012 | Páirc Tailteann | Meath.....4-27 Roscommon.....1-4 |
| 28/07/2012 | Downpatrick | Down.....1-9 Meath.....1-10 |
| 04/08/2012 | Páirc Tailteann | Meath.....3-10 Kildare.....1-8 |

Premier Junior Championship Semi-Finals

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 25/08/2012 | Naomh Peregrine, Blakestown | Meath.....0-14 Kildare.....0-5 |
| 25/08/2012 | Naomh Peregrine, Blakestown | Laois.....2-5 Down.....2-8 |



Cheyenne O'Brien (Meath) in action against Jane O'Donoghue (Kildare) during the All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Championship semi-final at Naomh Peregrine GAA Club, Blakestown, Dublin on 25th August. (Photo: Caroline Quinn)

ARE IMPRESSIVE MEATH ON THE WAY TO ALL-IRELAND GLORY?

PREMIER JUNIOR FINAL PREVIEW by CIARÁN WOODS, *Gaelic Life*

HAVING MISSED out by the narrowest of margins in last year's decider, Down are back and ready to make amends for their 2011 disappointment.

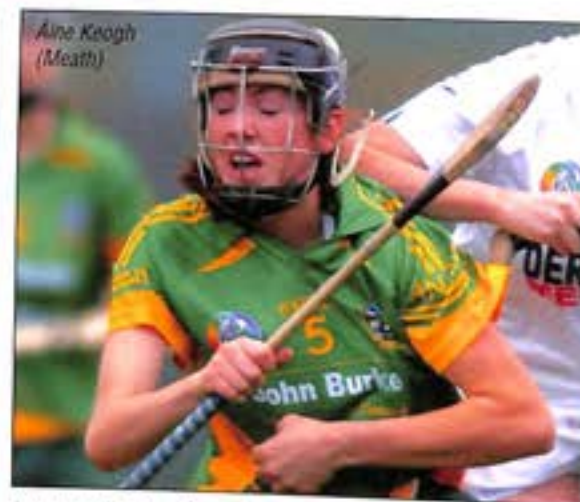
It was Waterford who provided the opposition in last year's Croke Park final, the Mourne girls going down by 2-11 to 1-13 as they lost out in the most heartbreaking of fashions.

Waterford were forced to hold off a remarkable late surge to deny Down, the Ulster side hitting eight unanswered points to reduce the gap from 11 points to three. Unfortunately for Down, substitute Nicola Braniff's injury-time goal came just too late to complete the comeback.

Down's round robin stage this year was pretty unremarkable, making the semi-finals by finishing third in the group behind Meath and Laois. It was Laois who provided the opposition for the semi-final, with the Mourne girls coming through on a 2-8 to 2-5 scoreline.

Niamh Mallon was their scorer-in-chief with 2-1 beside her name, with their inspirational captain Fionnuala Carr chipping in with four points.

There is no doubting that Meath have been the

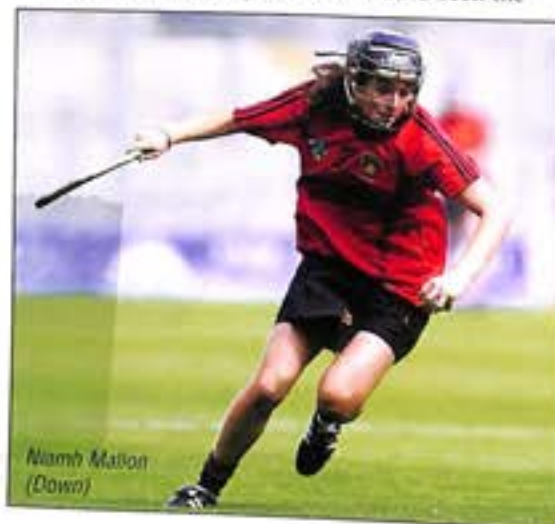


form side in the Premier Junior grade this season. They surpassed expectations by making it through to the Irish Daily Star League Division Two decider where they fell to today's Intermediate finalists' Derry, and carried that rich vein of form into their Championship campaign where they went on to register five straight victories to top the table.

They racked up some impressive scores along the way, hitting 4-27 against Roscommon and 3-10 against Kildare. Their narrowest win of the entire group stages came when they faced Down at Downpatrick back at the end of July, 1-10 to 1-9 the final score in favour of the Leinster side.

Their semi-final victory over Kildare was a comfortable one, the Royals emerging victorious by 0-14 to 0-5 with an impressive seven different players registering scores, meaning that Down will have to be aware of scoring threats from right across the Meath attack.

Waterford had to lose the previous two finals before eventually getting the better of Down in the decider last year, and given how impressive Meath have been over the course of the summer, it looks like the Mourne girls could have to stomach a second successive defeat themselves in this high noon showdown.



Niamh Mallon (Down)



PREMIER JUNIOR - Down v Meath

Referee: Richard McNicholas (Galway)

Club: Tuam Camogie Club, Annaghdown GAA Club

Family: Wife Mary, 4 Children: Elizabeth, Danielle, Jack, Cian

Occupation: Technician

Appointments: All-Ireland Premier Junior Semi Final 2012, All-Ireland Minor C Final 2012, Galway Senior County Final 2010, Galway Senior County Final 2011

Umpires: Thomas McNicholas, Hugh Mannion, Kieran O'Connor, Pádraig Carr

Standby Referee/Line Umpire: John Dolan, Clare

Line Umpire: Seán McGuigan, Derry

4th Official: Aiden O'Brien, Wexford

5th Official: Rosemary Hughes Merry, Monaghan.

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CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL

Jacob takes the biscuit as Wexford come through in the crunch



MALACHY CLERKIN

at Croke Park

| | |
|---------|------|
| Wexford | 3-13 |
| Cork | 3-6 |

FOR LONG spells of this cracking All-Ireland camogie final, the main mystery at hand was just how Cork were managing to hang on in there.

Wexford dominated the opening to each half, they had the upper hand close to both goals and in Ursula Jacob, Deirdre Codd and Katrina Parrock they had the game's three most luminous bulbs.

Yet any time it looked like Wexford were ready to kick for the line in front of 15,900 spectators, Cork managed to claw their way into their slipstream. "They just didn't back down," marvelled Wexford manager JJ Doyle afterwards.

Their refusal to made for a decider that fizzed and banged all the way to the end. In the space of three frenzied minutes midway through the second half, Cork saw and raised an Ursula Jacob goal with one of their own from Katrina Mackey. It came so quickly that half the crowd was still watching the replay of Jacob's goal on the big screen as Mackey sprinted through to finish past Mags D'Arcy to reduce the deficit to just two points again.

But then, it was exactly the sort of rat-a-tat-tat exchange the game

up to then had prepared you for. Wexford's early dominance was total, full-forward Parrock giving Joanne O'Callaghan a ferocious chasing and stitching a personal tally of 1-2 onto the board by the 22nd minute.

The last of those scores put Wexford 1-5 to 0-2 ahead and was typical of the way they were playing - out in front of her marker, she turned and popped a point as if it was nothing less than the natural order of things.

Yet as long as Cork were still attached by a single piece of rope, they weren't going to let themselves fall off the cliff-face. Goal-keeper Aoife Murray came up and slammed home a penalty on 25 minutes to keep them in it and although Jacob replied with a free and a 45 soon after, it was Cork who finished the half the strongest. Sile Burns finished off a piercing Claire Shine run to make it 1-7 to 2-2 before the Cork mid-field of Orla Cotter and Jenny O'Leary knocked over the last two points of the half.

"We should have been ahead at half-time with the way we played in the first 20 minutes," said Doyle. "But Cork played very well in those last 15 minutes coming up to half time - including the six minutes injury-time."

"They were on fire. They clawed it back where lesser teams might not have done that against a team that had won two All-Irelands. They drove on and drove on. We had a belief but we knew we had to go out and do it in the second half. I'm just so happy that's what we did."

While you wouldn't say they did because of just one player, it doesn't take much sleuthing to find the main protagonist in that second half. Of the 2-6 Wexford scored after the break, 2-3 came from the stick of Jacob.

She pointed the first free of the half to put Wexford into a lead they didn't relinquish, as well as the final 45 in injury-time that Doyle declared afterwards as the first point all day at which he could relax.

In between, it was her two goals that finally broke Cork's will.

The second of them would have been an adornment to any of the stadium's greatest days. After Mackey's goal had hauled Cork back into the game at just 3-5 to 2-10 behind, the next Wexford attack found a spilled ball squirting to the right of Cork's large parallelogram, right at the corner furthest from the top left-hand corner of Aoife Murray's net. Jacob sprinted onto it and met it with a strike so pure that Murray barely had time to lift her hurl to



Wexford's Ursula Jacob celebrates after scoring her second and her side's third goal of yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie final against Cork at Croke Park. Left, Wexford's Kate Kelly celebrates with the O'Duffy Cup. Photograph: Ryan Byrne/Inpho

meet it before it was past her.

"I think I'll just have to thank the Croke Park pitch for that," said Jacob, although the truth is that it was she who had paid it the compliment.

After that, Cork's race was run. The always defiant Brieger Corkery brought Cork back to within four but Wexford stretched their legs over the final 10 minutes to close

out a historic three-in-a-row.

"People might think I'm joking or I'm bulling or whatever," said Doyle afterwards, "but I really didn't realise the three-in-a-row was as big until the press conference on Tuesday in Croke. I was looking at Sunday. This year was all that mattered to me. I couldn't care less about the last two years because I guarantee you if we'd

lost today, the last two years would have meant nothing sitting in that dressing room. It's something now that will start to sink in, that these girls have made history. No Wexford team - male or female - has won three in a row in over 100 years. And I don't know whether it will be done again."

If it is, it will hardly be done as well.

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy, C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson, N Lambert, M Leacy, D Codd, L Bolger, K Kelly (0-2); M O'Leary, U Leacy, J Dwyer, F Rochford (0-2); K Parrock (1-2), U Jacob (2-7, 0-4 frees, 0-2 45s). Subs: F Kavanagh for Bolger (47 mins).
CORK: A Murray (1-0, pen), J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, J O'Leary (0-4, 0-2 frees, 0-1 45), O Cotter (0-1); J Casey, A Geary, B Corkery (0-1); K Mackey (1-0), C Shine, S Burns (1-0). Subs: K Buckley for Shine, R Curtin for Casey (both 55 mins).
Referee: A Lagrue (Gldane)



THE GAME AT A GLANCE

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Ursula Jacob (Wexford)
Wexford wing-back Deirdre Codd was a front runner for a long time, but Ursula Jacob's 2-7 and her inspirational leadership at vital stages clinched it.

TURNING POINT

This one see-sawed dramatically at times, but Ursula Jacob's sensational second goal put Wexford five points clear with 12 minutes left and re-energised them at a vital stage.

TALKING POINT

Cork's decision to use Brieghe Corkery in their inside-forward line for so long. The minute she ran at Wexford they were in trouble, but it was only in the dying stages that they pulled her out deeper.

MAGIC MOMENT

Gasps accompanied Jacob's second goal, struck first-time off the sod, which rose and flew like a heat-seeking missile. Astonishing skill.

REF WATCH

Kildare referee Alan Lagrue could certainly not be accused of being whistle-happy. He awarded just 18 frees, and only four in each half to Cork in a frenetic free-flowing game.

WHAT THEY SAID

JJ Doyle (Wexford manager):
"Wexford have only won seven All-Irelands in the history of camogie and this crowd have won four of them. That shows you what we have. We have winners in that dressing-room and we weren't losing today, no way!"

Rena Buckley (Cork defender):
"When we got the goal back straight after theirs there were just two points in it, but they came back and scored another one straight away. That was the gap we just couldn't close, that was the difference in the end."

MATCH STATISTICS

Wides: Wexford 4 (3 in 1st half); Cork 6 (2).
Frees: Wexford 10 (6); Cork 8 (4).
Yellow cards: Wexford 1 (O'Loughlin 1); Cork 2 (O'Callaghan 26, Duffy 59).
Attendance: 15,900.

Jacob class spearheads three-in-row glory march

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| WEXFORD | 3-13 |
| CORK | 3-6 |

Cliona Foley

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL

HOW fitting it was that, in a summer in which female athletes have commanded so many back pages, this brilliant Wexford team joined them by powering to a landmark title success in thrilling fashion.

Not only did the Slaneysiders bag their first All-Ireland three-in-a-row, they did it in one of the best senior camogie finals ever witnessed.

Cork, the game's long-time standard-bearers who were back in their first final since 2009, threw everything they had at them and were level at half-time. But, like true champions, Wexford eventually conquered the Rebels with an imperious display of skill and character that copper-fastened this side's place in history.

In both halves they bounced back from goals and, for a second consecutive final, Ursula Jacob finished the season with a personal coronation.

Last year she provided 1-3 in the dying stages to pull Wexford out of the fire. Yesterday the Oulart-The Ballagh genius was on another level, finishing with an astonishing haul of 2-7.

Her two goals, scored within one pivotal two-minute spell, ultimately turned the screw. Her first, after a Michelle O'Leary shot, saw her get a flick to an Aoife Murray batted clearance after 47 minutes.

Cork responded immediately, with Katriona Mackey slaloming through the defence to goal at the other end and cut the deficit to two points. Within another minute Jacob had

struck the coup de grace, whipping first-time on a loose ball in the goal-mouth which soared high and rocketed past several sticks.

Wexford's brilliant ground hurling was a strong feature throughout, but this was a moment of such sublime skill that, as the net rattled, you could almost hear the hope fizzling out of Cork's brave challenge.

As always Jacob was humble and modest afterwards. She's won three All-Ireland medals (one club) at HQ in the past 12 months yet, she seems unaffected by ego or pressure.

"I'll just thank the Croke Park pitch for that one," she grinned about her second piledriver. "I saw it on the ground, didn't think I had time to pick it up, and just pulled on it."

CREDIT

Manager JJ Doyle, who deserves equal credit for Wexford's current run, tried to stress what great teamwork they exhibited, but he also acknowledged that Jacob is a "special" player.

"We have a few once-in-a-lifetime players there," he said. "The big players stand up on the big days, not on days when you're getting it handy. It's on days like this that characters stand up and that's when real winners come about and our team is full of real winners."

Yet he admitted that what a few of them said in the dressing-room at half-time "couldn't go out before the watershed."

All the pre-match talk was whether Una Leacy (knee) and Kate Kelly (shoulder) were fit to play, but they both started in their regular positions.

It was Cork who made the only pre-match change, replacing Katie Buckley with U-20 soccer international Claire Shine.

She got an unforgettable welcome to her first All-Ireland final, a shud-



Ursula Jacob celebrates after scoring Wexford's third goal.
PAUL MOHAN / SPORTSFILE

dering tackle after 16 seconds that earned Catherine O'Loughlin a yellow card, yet the Douglas teenager survived and provided one of Cork's main attacking threats.

But their full-back line was in trouble almost immediately and the decision to start Joanne O'Callaghan on Katrina Parrock backfired badly as she goaled after 14 minutes and scored another two points to put Wexford six clear.

After being kept scoreless for 13 minutes, Cork finally got into the game with a 25th-minute penalty and the decision to move Brieghe Corkery out of full-forward and into the corner was certainly a factor, as she won it and Aoife Murray dispatched it.

Wexford responded immediately with two quick points to go five clear again, but Cork, led by Corkery and their superior midfield of Orla Cotter and Jenny O'Leary, kept up the pressure.

Joanne Casey and Shine set up a second goal for Silé Burns and two quick-fire points from their midfielders sent them in level at the break (2-4 to 1-7), though they could have been ahead if Mags Darcy had not made a brilliant diving save to stop Shine.

Wexford pushed two points clear again on the restart, but Darcy was quickly forced to make another double-save before that heart-stopping three-goal exchange turned the

THE GAME AT A GLANCE

PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Sinead Hackett (Meath)
Lisa McCrickard and Sara-Louise Carr were outstanding throughout the game for the losers Down, while Claire Coffey and Fiona O'Neill were magnificent in defence for the winners. Hackett's early goal was crucial, however, while her two points were right out of the top drawer.

TURNING POINT

Coffey's block on Sara-Louise Carr - not long after the Down danger-woman had put her side in front with a stunning goal - was crucial to the outcome of the game.



TALKING POINT

The continuing progress of Meath. They are reaping the rewards for tremendous work in recent years. Also, the universal hope that Down will bounce back to make it third-time lucky next year.

Meath captain Jane Dolan lifts the cup

MAGIC MOMENT

Hackett's first point was a brilliant finish, but her second-half score was even better, finding the target from a tight angle.

REF WATCH

Richard McNicholas contributed to a free-flowing game and got most calls right. He also kept up very well with the play.

MATCH STATISTICS

Wides: Meath 7 (4 in 1st half); Down 4 (1).
Frees: Meath 16 (7); Down 16 (8).
Yellow cards: Meath 0; Down 0.
Red cards: Meath 0; Down 0.
Attendance: 15,900.

Hackett the driving force

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| MEATH | 1-11 |
| DOWN | 1-9 |

Daragh O Conchuir

ALL-IRELAND JUNIOR C'SHIP FINAL

DOWN were beaten in the junior final for the second year running as Meath carved out a deserved victory after a thrilling contest at Croke Park.

They key period in the game came in the middle 15 minutes or so of the second half, as Meath turned a one-point deficit into a three-point lead.

Down did very well to keep themselves in contention after conceding a third-minute goal to player of the

match Sinead Hackett, who bundled the sliotar over the line after a Jane Dolan free had dropped short.

Fionnuala Carr had opened the scoring for the Mourne girls with a free, having been fouled after catching Caltriona McCrickard's puck-out.

Her sister, Sara-Louise Carr, responded to the goal with a good score, but Meath put the foot down to open up a four-point gap courtesy of scores from Aileen Donnelly, Hackett's brilliant effort over her right shoulder, and a Dolan free.

Down showed their character when hitting back with three points, kick-started by Sara-Louise Carr. She finished well after a 25-metre dash and Fionnuala Carr landed points from a '45' and a free to reduce the margin to

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game on its head. Jacob's second goal certainly hardened Wexford's resolve and when, three minutes later, she bulldozed past Jenny Duffy to score a fabulous point off the right wing, their tails were up.

Cork's defensive problems were underlined by the Wexford full-forward line scoring all but two of their scores.

Cork, remarkably, lost this encounter despite winning the mid-field battle.

Leacy, by her high standards, had a very quiet game, but Wexford wing-back Deirdre Codd was immense throughout and, in the final quarter, their defence really worked tirelessly as a unit.

Questions will probably be asked as to why Cork boss Paudie Murray chose to leave Corkery, with her great ability to open up defences, in the inside-forward line until the dying stages, but too many of Cork's bigger names did not win their individual battles and, ultimately, they paid the price.

SCORERS - Wexford: U Jacob 2-7 (44, 2'45), K Parrock 1-2, F Rochford, K Kelly 0-2 each. Cork: J O'Leary 0-4 (21, 1'45), K Mackey, S Burns 1-0 each, A Murray 1-0 (pen), O Cotter, B Corkery 0-1 each.

WEXFORD - M Darcy 8; C O'Connor 7; C O'Loughlin 7; K Atkinson 6; N Lambert 7; M Leacy 7; D Codd 9; L Bolger 6; K Kelly 7; M O'Leary 7; U Leacy 6; J Dwyer 7; F Rochford 6; K Parrock 6; U Jacob 8.5. Subs: F Kavanagh 7 for Bolger (46).

CORK - A Murray 6; R Buckley 6; J O'Callaghan 5; J Duffy 6; E O'Sullivan 6; G O'Connor 8; P Mackey 7; J O'Leary 8; O Cotter 8; J Casey 6; A Geary 5; C Shine 8; K Mackey 7; B Corkery 8; S Burns 7. Subs: K Buckley 6 for Shine (55), R Curtin 6 for Casey (55).

REF - A Lague (Kildare).

as Royals find extra gear

the minimum. The '45' came as a result of a deflection on a Catherine McGourty ground shot that seemed destined for the net, but the Royals had a similar opportunity when Donnelly doubled on a breaking ball but sent the sliotar just wide.

It was 1-5 to 0-6 at half-time, but Sara-Louise Carr crashed a powerful shot beyond Emily Mangan five minutes after the resumption. She had another opportunity soon afterwards, after a pass from Karen McMullan, but Claire Coffey blocked superbly.

Another goal then would have put Down in the box seat but instead, Aoife Maguire pointed almost immediately at the other end - in truth, it was a tremendous goal chance - and with Dolan, Donnelly, Lizzy Oakes

and Hackett also raising white flags, Meath were in control. Just as they did last year, though, Down found another gear and, with Karen Tinnelly and Lisa McCrickard propelling them forward, they reduced the margin. Fionnuala Carr had a chance to level but her shot dropped short before Dolan had the final say from a free.

SCORERS - Meath: S Hackett 1-2, A Donnelly, J Dolan 0-3 (21 each, K Troy, A Maguire, L Oakes 0-1 each. Down: F Carr 0-6 (54, 1'45), S-L Carr 1-2, N Braniff 0-1.

MEATH - E Mangan 7; H Geraghty 7; C Coffey 6; F O'Neill 6; L Donoghue 7; A Thompson 7; A Keogh 7; AM Fagan 7; K Troy 8; E Guy 6; J Dolan 6; A Donnelly 7; A Maguire 6; S Hackett 8; K Hackett 6. Subs: L Oakes 7 for Guy (17), E Lynch 6 for Maguire (53).

DOWN - C McCrickard 7; K Tinnelly 8; G O'Higgins 7; C McGovern 7; C Rocks 7; L McCrickard 8; E McCormick 7; P Gribben 7; M McNally 6; L McPolin 6; S-L Carr 8; F Carr 7; N Mullen 6; L Hughes 6; C McCourty 6. Subs: K McMullan 7 for Mullen (20), O Maginn 6 for McNally (30-1), K O'Higgins 6 for Hughes (44), N Braniff 6 for McPolin (57).

REF - R McNicholas (Galway).

Tribes hit back for draw after 'point' blunder

DERRY 3-12
GALWAY 3-12

Daragh O Conchuir

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE FINAL

DERRY and Galway will have to do it all over again after a wonderfully entertaining encounter that ebbed and flowed right to the final whistle.

However, the Tribeswomen could feel somewhat aggrieved that they did not take home the title as a point awarded to Grainne McGoldrick early in the second half was later shown to be clearly wide.

In the end, both teams looked destined for glory in the four minutes of injury-time played, yet each was probably happy to earn a replay on September 29.

Although Derry tore out of the traps and were seven points clear at early on, Galway got themselves back into proceedings, and when the brilliant Clodagh McGrath and Rachel Monaghan pushed them two points clear in injury-time, the Jack McGrath Cup seemed bound for the west.

Derry always had an attacking threat, though, especially from Karen Kiett. It was she who won possession and handpassed to the Galway net, but to her horror found that referee Ger O'Dowd had blown for a penalty after her jersey had been pulled.

That placed monumental pressure on Kate McAnenly's shoulders, but the Castledawson player drove an unstoppable shot to the Galway net to put her side a point ahead.

There was still time for Galway to hit back, though, and Monaghan was awarded a free. The sub picked herself up off the turf to fire over the equaliser and set up a mouth-watering replay.

CRUISING

Derry looked like they were cruising in the first half, as Eilis Ni Chasaide's fortuitous goal helped them open up a seven-point lead, but a Maria Brehony goal boosted Galway. McAnenly and Catriona Cormican exchanged goals, but Derry's lead was down to two at half-time, due largely to the accuracy of Player of the Match Emma Kilkelly.

McGoldrick stretched that to three early in the second half with the controversial point. Although Derry went four clear, Galway gradually took over, with McGrath to the fore.

Deirdre Burke's goal proved a vital inspiration and with Orla Curtin and her Kinvara clubmate Kilkelly among the scorers, they got themselves back into the tie and those late points by Monaghan and McGrath looked to be enough until the late drama unfolded.

SCORERS - Galway: E Kilkelly 0-5 (11'45), R Monaghan 0-3 (26), M Brehony, C Cormican, D Burke 1-0 each, O Curtin 0-2, A O'Reilly, C McGrath 0-1 each. Derry: K McAnenly 2-0 (0-0 pen), K Kiett 0-5 (26), E Ni Chasaide 1-0, T McElroy, D McNicholl 0-2 each, S Quinn, S Cassidy, O McGoldrick (0-1 each).

GALWAY - R Callanan 6; T Kenny 6; P Kenny 8; C Oili 8; L Farrell 7; S Noone 7; S Keane 6; C McGrath 8; A Lynskey 6; A O'Reilly 6; E Kilkelly 8; M Brehony 7; D Burke 7; O Curtin 6; E O'Sullivan 6. Subs: C Cormican 7 for Lynskey (20), R Monaghan 7 for Keane (30), A Kenny 6 for O'Sullivan (40), R Henneidy 6 for Brehony (52).

DERRY - C O'Kane 6; M Quinn 6; A Ni Chasaide 6; A Mullan 7; A McCusker 7; E Ni Chasaide 7; M McGoldrick 7; S Cassidy 7; O McNicholl 6; T McElroy 7; K McAnenly 6; O McGoldrick 6; S Quinn 6; O Bradley 6; K Kiett 8. Subs: M Mooney 6 for Quinn (34), K Bradley 6 for O Bradley (48), A McPeake 6 for Quinn (48).

REF - G O'Dowd (Limerick).

THE GAME AT A GLANCE

PLAYER OF THE MATCH



Emma Kilkelly (Galway)
Clodagh McGrath was hugely influential around the middle for Galway, but Emma Kilkelly just shades her for the accolade. She got on plenty of ball and was a big contributor on the scoreboard.

TURNING POINT

In a game of this nature, there were many possibilities but you'd have to go with Maria Brehony's 24th-minute goal. That infused Galway with belief at a time when Derry held the upper hand.

TALKING POINT

The point that wasn't from Grainne McGoldrick at the start of the second half. It would have been worse though if Galway didn't get that late equaliser.

REF WATCH

Ger O'Dowd had a good game and the controversial point was his umpire's call. Was too hasty in blowing the whistle for the late penalty - as Karen Kiett was fouled just before she found the net - but Kate McAnenly's convincing finish meant there was no damage done.

MAGIC MOMENT

McAnenly's cracking penalty finish. The pressure would have crippled many players with so much at stake but she showed her big-match credentials with an unstoppable shot.

MATCH STATISTICS

Wides: Galway 2(0 in first half), Derry 5(2)

Frees: Galway 15(10), Derry 13(7)

Yellow cards: Galway 0 Derry 0

Attendance: 15,900

Jacob has Wexford jumping



All-Ireland Senior camogie final

WEXFORD 3-13
CORK 3-6

Daragh Ó Conchúir

Croke Park



For the second time in 12 months, Ursula Jacob exploded into the most important camogie game of the year and decided the outcome with a most telling contribution.

Last year's 1-2 in the final 10 minutes was special from the skipper, but yesterday's intervention was even better.

Her two goals were magnificent, the second scintillating and coming at the end of a two-minute spell that also included Katrina Mackey's goal, it was the key exchange of a game watched by 15,900 people.

The Oulart-The Ballagh sharpshooter, whose father Mick was Wexford hurling's first All Star, and brothers Michael and Rory have served the county for many years, was glowing afterwards.

It was the joy of a team success that gave her joy though, as the Model County girls claimed their first ever senior three-in-a-row.

"I think it's getting better every year because you just want it so much and every team is just pushing really hard," Jacob explained. "I think the challenge is there and you're wanting to get better and better. I don't think you take it for granted, getting to All-Ireland. We really want to win them. That's the thing with this group of girls — we want to win so much. I think we showed that today."

Jacob plundered 2-7 yesterday and her goals ultimately blew this game open. They book-ended a crazy two-minute spell.

The first came in the 46th minute, when Michelle O'Leary's dipping shot was batted into the air by Cork goalkeeper, Aoife Murray. Jacob reacted quickest to deftly flick the sliotar to the net.

Within 40 seconds, Mackey had responded in kind at the other end, rocketing a shot beyond Mags D'Arcy after showing fantastic pace.

The score of the game was to follow quickly though, as the ball broke on the 13m line and to the right of the posts.

Sensing that she had no time to pick it up, Jacob pulled off the sod, arrowing a shot back into the far corner that Murray had no chance of stopping, despite diving full-length.

That exchange left five points between the sides and Jacob landed two more points — one a sensational effort from tight on the right sideline — to cement the verdict.

Cork more than contributed to what must surely be considered one of the greatest All-Ireland senior finals of the modern era.

They struggled early on, though,



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: The Wexford players celebrate after defeating Cork in yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park.

Picture: Paul Mohan/Sportsfile

with Katrina Parrock doing most of the damage. The full-forward finished brilliantly for a 14th-minute goal and also flashed over two points as the Yellowbellies stormed six points clear.

Joanne O'Callaghan was yellow-carded in the 26th minute for a foul on Parrock that led to another point from Jacob, and it was at that juncture that Rena Buckley was belatedly switched onto the St Ibar's player.

Briege Corkery had been the chief threat of a misfiring Cork attack with her strong running and Cork were given a lifeline though when Catherine O'Loughlin hauled her down in the square. Murray came forward to clinically dispatch the penalty to the net.

The Rebels finished the half strongly and a Síle Burns goal, allied to points from Orla Cotter and Jenny O'Leary, had the teams level at the interval, 1-7 to 2-4.

"We should have been ahead at half-time with the way we played in the first 20 minutes," Wexford manager, JJ Doyle said. "But Cork played very well in those last 15 minutes coming up to half-time. They were on fire. They clawed it back where lesser teams might not have done that against a team that had won two All-Irelands. They drove on and drove on. We had a belief but we knew we had to go out and do it in the second half. I'm just so happy that's what we did."

Wexford settled after the resumption and though D'Arcy made one excel-

lent save from Corkery, they were two points clear at the end of the third quarter. Then came Jacob's heroics and there was no return for Cork.

Scorers for Wexford: U Jacob 2-7 (0-4fs, 0-2 45s); K Parrock 1-2; F Rochford, K Kelly 0-2 each.

Scorers for Cork: J O'Leary 0-4 (3fs, 1 45); A Murray (pen), S Burns, K Mackey 1-0 each; O Cotter, B Corkery 0-1 each.

Sub for Wexford: F Kavanagh for Bolger (47).

Subs for Cork: K Buckley for Burns (56); R Curtin for Casey (56).

Referee: A Lagrue (Kildare).

GAMEZone

Wexford v Cork



1 M D'Arcy

2 C O'Connor 3 C O'Loughlin 4 K Atkinson
12 B Corkery 15 S Burns 13 K Mackey

5 N Lambert 6 M Leacy 7 D Codd
19 C Shine 11 A Geary 10 J Casey

8 L Bolger 9 K Kelly
9 O Cotter 8 J O'Leary

10 M O'Leary 11 U Leacy 12 J Dwyer
7 P Mackey 6 G O'Connor 5 E O'Sullivan

13 F Rochford 13 K Parrock 15 U Jacob
2 J Duffy 4 J O'Callaghan 3 R Buckley

1 A Murray

■ = Wexford ■ = Cork



THE 60 SECOND REPORT



The key moment

Ursula Jacob's second goal in the 48th minute. She had found the net two minutes earlier, but Cork had hit back within seconds through Katrina Mackey. Conceding again so quickly was a blow from which they could never recover.

Pub talk

Was this the best camogie match ever? The best final? The best senior final? I'd like to have witnessed better.

Haven't seen that before

A goal of the quality of Jacob's second strike in a camogie match. A first-time pull from 13m that flew into the top corner, it was a thing of beauty.

The main woman

Katrina Parrock's first half performance had her an unbackable in-running favourite at half time but a combination of Rena Buckley and a subsequent move to centre-forward nullified her influence after the resumption. Ursula Jacob scored 2-7 and her 2-1 in a couple of minutes were scores that ultimately broke Cork's hearts.

The man in black

Alan Lagrue played his part in a spectacular game. He got all the big calls right and left the play flow as much as possible. An excellent performance.

What's next?

Celebrations in Wexford and a winter of what ifs on Leedside.

Daragh Ó Conchúir

SEPT. 2012

Slaneysiders prove their greatness on day to remember at HQ



Therese O'Callaghan
Analysis

asked searching questions of the champions. On each occasion the Slaneysiders produced the perfect response.

Wexford closed out the game in spectacular fashion. Twelve months ago, Ursula Jacob snatched victory from the jaws of defeat with her late goal against Galway.

This time the Oulart-the-Ballagh player was the star again, thrilling each one of the 15,006 people that came to Croke Park. Her 2-7 was a magnificent return and earned the corner forward a deserving player of

the match accolade.

Her second goal in particular was a stunning effort, a first-time pull from distance which flew John Fenton-like into the top corner. And Katrina Parrock's first half effort wasn't bad either!

We expected a terrific battle and both sides kept up their end of the bargain. But when it really mattered the champions just wanted it that bit more.

They dominated at crucial stages and never panicked when their opponents looked to have taken control.

Cork gave it everything, and can be proud of contributing to a wonderful final. They brought a game plan with Claire Shine a late change, running at the Wexford rearguard from the opening whistle.

After a nervous start, Cork clicked into gear and looked to have their illustrious opponents rattled.

However, Wexford's work rate was unrelenting. Claire O'Connor, Mary Leacy and Deirdre Codd started to rule and when Jacob pounced after Murray stopped the sliotar from going over the bar, Wexford were

re-energised. But, Cork were not fazed; straight from the puck out Katrina Mackey cut through for a green flag. We didn't have time to blink. We had a two-point game with a quarter of an hour left to play.

But, critically, Jacob then proceeded to turn the screw with her sensational screamer into the net and the momentum had swung back to the women from the south-east.

After that Wexford had no difficulty staying on top with their midfield and half-back lines leading by example.

Time and again Cork tried to find a way through, but were repelled at every turn by JJ Doyle's troops.

The champions finished out in style. Fittingly, it was Jacob who had the final say.

Though all the focus today may be on the senior decider, let's not forget that this was an incredible afternoon for the sport at GAA headquarters.

It was thrill a minute from once the Premier Junior final threw in at noon to the last whistle around 6pm.

A day when camogie proved the ultimate winner.

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINAL

Wexford's power of three



MALACHY CLERKIN

at Croke Park

AT THE end, it was like somebody pulled a plug from a sinkhole in the middle of the pitch sucking everyone in a purple and gold jersey towards it. A swirling, jiggling Wexford vortex of three-in-a-row joy, danced on the back of a 3-13 to 3-6 victory over Cork in front of 15,900 paying guests at Croke Park. After winning only three senior All-Irelands in 74 years, this was their fourth in six summers - they earned every spring, step and bounce of that jig.

But even in that one supreme moment of shared delirium, one player stood out. Ursula Jacob was about to go join the fray when out of the corner of her eye, she saw the match ball lying on the ground a few yards away. Instinct had served her well all afternoon, the 2-7 against her name at the end a word-perfect translation of her effect on the game. Her instinct now was to go gather up the sliotar for a keepsake. "I thought I might as well hang on to it if nobody else was going to," she said afterwards. "My sister has it now, she'll keep it safe and sound for me."

So for anyone keeping score, Jacob left Croke Park last night with a fourth All-Ireland medal, a nailed-on third All Star, a second All-Ireland final player-of-the-game award and a smuggled sliotar for posterity. Nobody would begrudge her a bit of it either.

On a day when Wexford had to shake pretty vigorously to loosen Cork's grip on them, Jacob was the one who made the difference. She top-scored for Wexford for the third final in a row, her two goals in three minutes midway through the second half finally ending the resistance of a Cork team that had kept them honest through every single step. After a lot of bending, Jacob's second goal broke them at last and they only managed a single point in the last 15 minutes.

"I think it's getting better every year," said Jacob afterwards, "because you just want it so much and every team is just pushing really hard. I think the challenge is there and you're wanting to get better and better. I don't think you take it for granted getting to All-Irelands, we really want to win them. That's the thing with this group of girls - we want to win so much. I think we showed that today."

"Honestly, coming into this game we weren't really thinking about the

three-in-a-row. You can only win one All-Ireland at a time, you can't really win three. We just were focusing on getting back to Croke Park. After the game you kind of reflect on these things but I still can't believe it's three-in-a-row. It's kind of surreal at the moment."

Surreal but golden all the same. It's like that when you have to work so hard to dig one out. Wexford had sprinted from the blocks and eased into a 1-5 to 0-2 lead inside the opening 20 minutes without an awful lot of fuss. Jacob and full forward Katrina Parrock were hurling the Cork full back line into oblivion and it looked like the day's business might be done and dusted before half-time. But goals from Aoife Murray (a penalty) and Sile Burns hauled Cork back into it and the team went for their tea level.

"We've so many leaders in the dressingroom," said Wexford manager JJ Doyle, "and there was things said in there at half-time that wouldn't be going out before the watershed. But I mean, that's what it is. That's what passion is about and that's what winning All-Irelands is about. It's not done easy. Wexford have only won seven All-Irelands in the history of camogie and this crowd have won four of them. That shows you what we have. We have winners in that dressingroom and we weren't losing that; no way."

Despite scoring the opening two points of the second half, they still couldn't wriggle free of Cork. Even when Jacob batted home her first goal on 46 minutes, the champions from 2008 and 2009 replied with a goal of their own inside 30 seconds. It was only when Jacob planted her second two minutes later - a stunning strike off the ground at an angle that flew into the top corner - that Wexford forged clear.

"The big players stand up on the big days," said Doyle. "Not on days when you're getting it handy. I've seen players in our team over the last three years, in games where we've been expected to win in the middle of March, only doing enough to win when people say we should be hammering teams. But it's on days like this that characters stand up. That's when real winners come about and our team is full of real winners."

None more deserving than the one with the souvenir sliotar in her gearbag.

Gaelic Games: Inside pages 6 and 7

- Reports on yesterday's Senior, Intermediate and Premier Junior finals.
- As the focus in many counties turns to club championships, we have reports from some of weekend's big games.
- In the build-up to the football final next weekend, Seán Moran looks back on Donegal's clash with Mayo 20 years ago.
- Clare defeat Kilkenny in cracking under-21 hurling final at Semple Stadium



Wexford players celebrate at the end of yesterday's All-Ireland senior camogie championship final as a dejected Jennifer O'Leary, Cork, looks on. The Model County took their third successive O'Duffy Cup with the 3-13 to 3-6 victory. Photograph: David Maher/Sportsfile

Late drama as Galway get second chance

All-Ireland Intermediate camogie final
DERRY 3-12
GALWAY 3-12

Daragh Ó Conchúir
 Croke Park

Galway ended up being mightily relieved to have a second bite of the cherry, having seemed certain to claim the honours after scoring two injury-time points.

The final ended in a welter of excitement, when, with her side trailing by two points, Derry's Karen Kiehl handpassed to the net in the second minute of injury-time.

Referee Ger O'Dowd had blown prematurely for a penalty though after Kiehl's jersey had been tugged, placing huge pressure on Kate McAnenly. The Castledawson player proved up to the task though, driving an unstoppable shot to the Galway net to put her side a point ahead.

There was still time for Galway to hit back though and Rachel Monaghan was awarded a free, from which she herself pointed to ensure a replay on September 29.

Derry looked like they were cruising in the first half, as Eilís Ní Chasaide's fortuitous goal helped them open up a seven-point advantage, but a Maria Brehony goal gave Galway hope. McAnenly and Catriona Cormican exchanged goals but Derry's lead was down to two at half-time.

Gráinne McGoldrick stretched that to three early in the second half, although television replays showed her shot was clearly wide.

Although Derry went four clear, Galway gradually took over and Deirdre Burke's goal proved an inspiration. Points by Rachel Monaghan and McGrath looked to have put them on their way until the late drama unfolded.

Scorers for Galway: E Kilkelly 0-5 (1f, 1 45), R Monaghan 0-3 (2fs), M Brehony, C Cormican, D Burke 1-0 each, O Curtin 0-2, A O'Reilly, C McGrath 0-1 each.

Scorers for Derry: K McAnenly 2-0 (1f, 0pen), K Kiehl 0-5 (2fs), E Ní Chasaide 1-0, T McElroy, G McNicholl 0-2 each, S Quinn, S Cassidy, G McGoldrick (f) 0-1 each.

GALWAY: R Callanan, T Kenny, P Kenny, C Gill, L Farrell, S Noone, S Keane, C McGrath, A Lynskey, A O'Reilly, E Kilkelly, M Brehony, D Burke, O Curtin, E O'Sullivan.

Subs: C Cormican for Lynskey (20), R Monaghan for Keane (30), A Kenny for O'Sullivan (41), R Henneley for Brehony (52).

DERRY: C O'Kane, M Quinn, A Ní Chasaide, A Mullin, A McCusker, E Ní Chasaide, M McGoldrick, S Cassidy, G McNicholl, T McElroy, K McAnenly, G McGoldrick, S Quinn, O Bradley, K Kiehl.

Subs: M Mooney for Quinn (34), K Bradley for O Bradley (46), A McPeake for Quinn (49).

Referee: G O'Dowd (Limerick).



Galway's Aoibhinn Kenny attempts to block down a clearance from Derry goalkeeper Clare O'Kane.

Picture: Morgan Treacy/Inpho

Doyle: That was as good as it gets

Reaction

by **Daragh Ó Conchúir**

It may have been one of the best All-Ireland camogie finals seen at Croke Park, but to Wexford manager JJ Doyle, it was "horrendous" viewing, even though his team had produced a performance of the ages.

It wasn't until Ursula Jacob pointed an injury-time 45 to put seven points between the sides that Doyle finally allowed himself to believe his side would prevail.

"What do I remember from it?" he responded to a query. "Just that Cork didn't back down. We got ahead by six points in the first half and they came back at us. There was no sense of panic even though we went in at half time level. We knew we were good enough to do it. I said to a lot of people during the week that we believed coming back up here that these girls hadn't reached their full potential. I think today we can tick that box because that performance out there was probably as good as I've seen any

camogie team play. It's very special but a performance like that just adds to the specialness [sic] of it."

Having seen a six-point lead whittled away before the break there was some hairdryer treatment in the dressing room at the interval but it wasn't the manager dispensing the stern words.

"There were things said in there at half time that wouldn't be going out before the watershed," said Doyle. "But I mean, that's what it is. That's what passion is about and that's what winning All-Irelands is about. It's not done easy."

"Wexford have only won seven All-Irelands in the history of camogie and this crowd have won four of them. We have winners in that dressing room and we weren't losing that, no way."

Cork's Rena Buckley has won many All-Irelands in camogie and football, but that doesn't make defeat any easier. She had no doubts though about the merit of the champions' victory.

"We'd worked our way back into the game and felt if we could just push on from there [we could win]. But unfortunately it was all Wexford in the second half really. We just didn't have the firepower, we just couldn't claw it back. Full credit to the girls, they fought right to the very end but it just wasn't our day."



Wexford manager JJ Doyle celebrates at the final whistle.

INTERMEDIATE FINAL

Late drama sees both sides with another day out

Derry 3-12
Galway 3-12

advantage, but a Maria Brehony goal gave Galway renewed hope. McAnenly and Catriona Cormican exchanged goals, but Derry's lead was down to two at half-time.

Gráinne McGoldrick stretched that to three early in the second half before Galway gradually took over, with Clodagh McGrath thundering into the game around the middle. Deirdre Burke's goal proved a vital inspiration before those points by Rachel Monaghan and McGrath and the late drama. GALWAY: R Callanan, T Kenny, P Kenny, C Gill, L Farrell, S Noone, S Keane, C McGrath (0-1), A Lynskey, A O'Reilly (0-1), E Kikelly (0-5, 11, 14), M Brehony (1-0), D Burke (1-0), O Curtin (0-2), E O'Sullivan. Subs: C Cormican (1-0) for Lynskey (20); R Monaghan (0-3, 21) for Keane (30); A Kenny for O'Sullivan (41); R Hennelly for Brehony (52).

DERRY: C O'Kane, M Quinn, A Ni Chasaide, A Mullane, A McCusker, E Ni Chasaide (1-0), M McGoldrick, S Cassidy (0-1), G McNicholl (0-2), T McElroy (0-2), K McAnenly (2-0, 1 pen), G McGoldrick (0-1, 1), S Quinn (0-1), O Bradley, K Kieft (0-5, 21). Subs: M Mooney for Quinn (34); K Bradley for O Bradley (46); A McPeake for Quinn (49). Referee: G O'Dowd (Limerick).

GALWAY ENDED up being mightily relieved to have a second bit of the cherry, having seemed certain to claim the honours after scoring two injury time points.

This intermediate final ended in a welter of excitement, when with her side trailing by two points, Derry's Karen Kieft hand-passed to the net in the second minute of injury time. But the referee had blown for a penalty, which Kate McAnenly buried to put her side a point ahead.

There was still time for Galway to hit back though and Rachel Monaghan was awarded a free, from which she herself pointed to ensure a replay on September 29th.

Derry looked like they were cruising in the first half, as Eilís Ni Chasaide's fortuitous goal helped them open up a seven-point

Meath inflict more final agony on Down



All-Ireland Premier Junior camogie final
MEATH 1-11
DOWN 1-9

Daragh Ó Conchúir
Croke Park



Down suffered the heartbreak of defeat in the All-Ireland Premier Junior camogie final for the second time in 12 months, as Meath just held the upper hand at Croke Park.

John Davis's charges were deserving winners but had to dig deep to overcome a resolute opposition driven on by the memory of last year's narrow loss to Waterford.

Sinéad Hackett's third-minute goal gave Meath the perfect start and though Sara-Louise Carr responded with a good point, scores from Aileen Donnelly, Hackett and Dolan put four between them.

Down showed their character though when hitting back with their own run of three points, kick-started by Carr.

She finished well after a 25m dash and her sister Fionnuala landed points from a 45 and free to reduce the margin to the minimum.

It was 1-5 to 0-6 at half-time but Sara-Louise Carr ended another strong run from the left by crashing a powerful shot beyond Emily Mangan five minutes after

the resumption to put Down ahead.

Meath took over around the middle though and landed five of the next six points to open up a three-point advantage.

Nicola Braniff and Fionnuala reduced the margin to the minimum with two minutes of injury-time still remaining but it was Dolan who had the last word from a placed ball.

Scorers for Meath: S Hackett 1-2, A Donnelly, J Dolan 0-3 (2fs) each, K Troy, A Maguire, L Oakes 0-1 each.

Scorers for Down: F Carr 0-6 (5fs, 1 45), SL Carr 1-2, N Braniff 0-1.

MEATH: E Mangan; H Geraghty, C Coffey, F O'Neill, L Donoghue, A Thompson, A Keogh; AM Fagan, K Troy; E Guy, J Dolan, A Donnelly; A Maguire, S Hackett, K Hackett.

Subs: L Oakes for Guy (37), E Lynch for Maguire (53).

DOWN: C McCrickard; K Tinnelly, G O'Higgins, C McGovern; C Rocks, L McCrickard, E McCormick; P Gribben, M McNally; L McPolin, SL Carr, F Carr; N Mallon, L Hughes, C McGourty.

Subs: K McMullan for Mallon (21), O Maginn for McNally (30-1), K O'Higgins for Hughes (44), N Braniff for McPolin (57).

Referee: R McNicholas (Galway).



Meath's Aoife Maguire closes in to challenge Down's Emma McCormick at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: Paul Mohan/Sportsfile

PREMIER JUNIOR FINAL

Hackett guides Meath to win

Meath 1-11
Down 1-9

DOWN SUFFERED the heartbreak of defeat in the All-Ireland premier junior camogie final for the second time in 12 months, as Meath just held the upper hand at Croke Park.

Down did very well to stay in contention after conceding a third-minute goal to player of the match Sinéad Hackett, who bundled in the sliotar.

Meath put the foot down to open up a four-point gap courtesy of scores from Aileen Donnelly, Hackett, and a Jane Dolan free.

Down hit back with their own run of three points, kick-started by Sara-Louise Carr.

It was 1-5 to 0-6 at half-time, but Carr ended

another strong run from the left by crashing a powerful shot home five minutes after the resumption to put Down ahead.

Meath took over around the middle though and landed five of the next six points to open up a three-point advantage.

Nicola Braniff and Carr reduced the margin to the minimum with two minutes of injury-time still remaining, but it was Dolan who had the last word from a placed ball.

MEATH: E Mangan; H Geraghty, C Coffey, F O'Neill; L Donoghue, A Thompson, A Keogh; AM Fagan, K Troy (0-1); E Guy, J Dolan (0-3, 21), A Donnelly (0-3); A Maguire (0-1), S Hackett (1-2), K Hackett. Subs: L Oakes (0-1) for Guy (37), E Lynch for Maguire (53).

DOWN: C McCrickard; K Tinnelly, G O'Higgins, C McGovern; C Rocks, L McCrickard, E McCormick; P Gribben, M McNally; L McPolin, SL Carr (1-2), F Carr (0-6, 5f, 1 45); N Mallon, L Hughes, C McGourty.

Subs: K McMullan for Mallon (21), O Maginn for McNally (30), K O'Higgins for Hughes (44), N Braniff (0-1) for McPolin (57). Referee: R McNicholas (Galway).



Meath's Jane Dolan lifts the Premier Junior trophy yesterday.

BORD GÁIS NETWORKS

Proud Sponsor of the
Cork Senior Camogie Team

THANK YOU CORK SENIOR CAMOGIE HEROES

YOU DID US PROUD

SEPT. 2012

Paudie:
We were
beaten by
physicality

REACTION

IT'S NOT easy to do post match interviews when your heart is breaking yet Paudie Murray remained ever the gentleman as he faced the press, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

"I suppose we didn't start well, probably a small bit nervous, but when we got going and went at them we had them in all sorts of trouble so maybe half time came a bit soon for us.

"But they're obviously a very good side, very strong as well. I think really we played second best in the physicality side of things and we've an awful lot of work to do." Cork were still in the game with 12 minutes to go but Ursula Jacob's second goal seemed to signal the end for Cork.

"Yeah that was a killer. I think that just knocked the wind out of us at that stage.

"They won the puck out after we goaled and Ursula got a great goal.

"We were playing second best in many positions at that stage."

Referring to Wexford's physicality, Paudie agrees Cork were no match.

"It was the one thing I looked at when I came in.

"Having watched this Wexford team over the last six or seven years, they are very, very physical. We certainly would be a better team than them hurling wise.

"Galway would be as well. But physically I don't think there's any team out there to match them and they will take certainly a lot of beating yet. "We are fast, skilful but you know if you can't come out with the ball that quick then you're in trouble all the way down.

"It's something that will have to be looked at really."

It's been a good year for Cork; National league champions and All-Ireland finalists. There has been progression and Paudie has done well.

"Well I suppose that's something you'll look at in a week or two's time but at the moment you're just thinking about today and you'd feel sorry for the girls.

"They worked very, very hard this year. We probably made mistakes along the way.

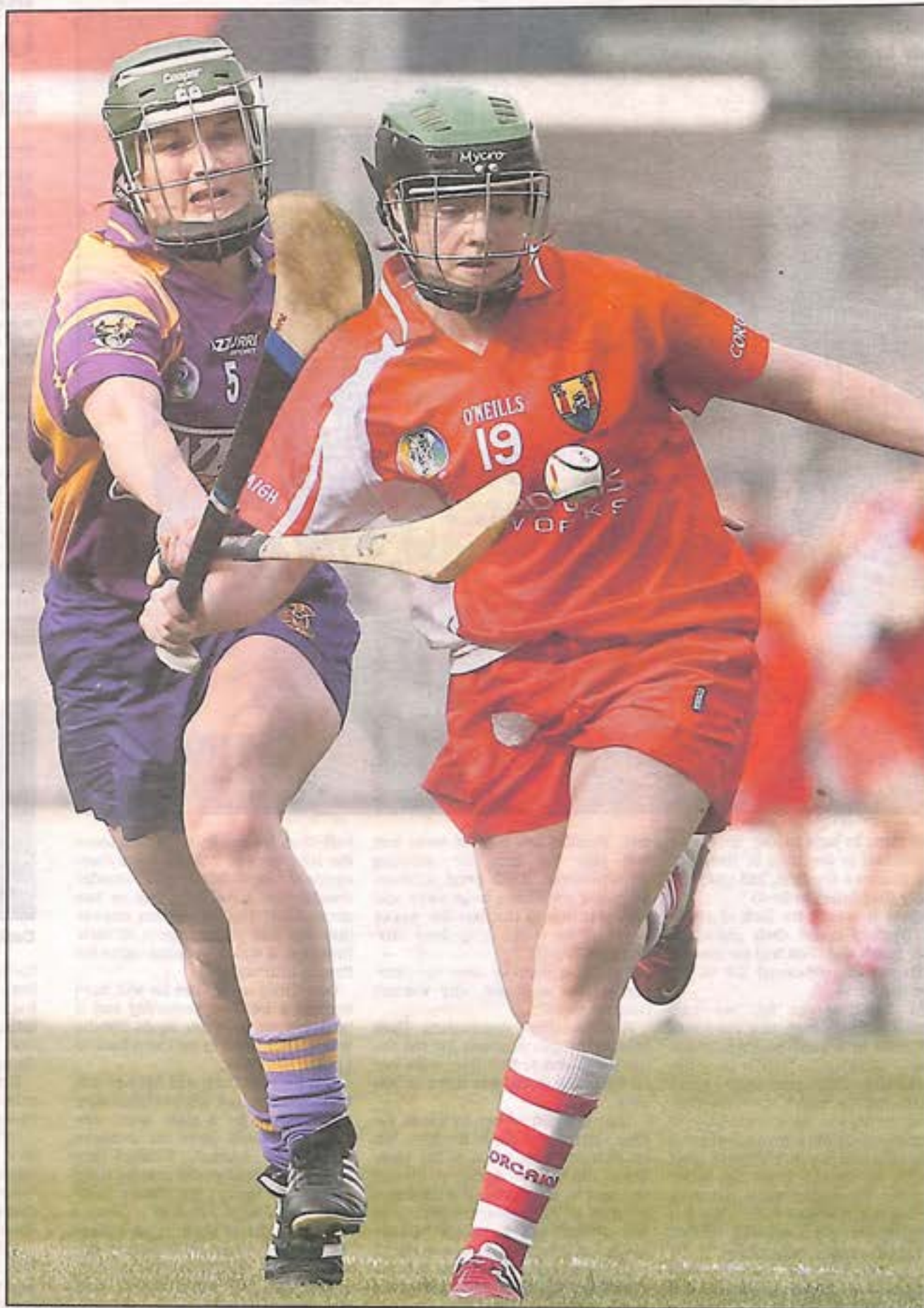
"So it's just a case of re-looking and see where we're going.

"Since the semi-final if I had to re-do things again would I change things?

"Certainly not. We came up here very relaxed, came in here today very relaxed.

"But you know we're a young team, it's a big day out so we've got to learn from it really."

Rebels pay dearly



Cork's Claire Shine tries to get away from Wexford's Noleen Lambert during yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park.



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Cork 3-6
Wexford 3-13

IT WON'T matter to Cork that this was one of the best camogie finals seen in Croke Park in many years.

They lost.

Were mistakes made by Cork yesterday?

Unfortunately yes.

Today isn't a day for finger pointing and Wexford would have emerged as champions yesterday regardless of what Cork tried. But lessons were learned.

Briege Corkery was starved of possession at full-forward for the opening 25 minutes.

She was switched to corner-forward and was a key contributor to Cork going in level at the break.

When the second half resumed it was a surprise to see her head for the full-forward position again.

Cork looked to be trying to play just a two player full-forward line so that Briege could run Catherine O'Loughlin.

But it wasn't happening because Wexford's defence were absolutely outstanding.

Deirdre Codd, Mary Leacy, Claire O'Connor and Karen Atkinson were at their brilliant best and the supply just wasn't going through.

When it wasn't working the fastest player on the pitch should have been brought further out the field.

Cork's full-back line had a day they would rather forget.

Let's be honest, Katrina Parrock, Ursula Jacob and Fiona Rochford scored 3-11 between them (3-5 from play) yet the full-back line remained intact for the hour.

Cork however had a lot more problems than that.

Throughout the field they were in trouble.

Wexford got their tactics spot on. Their full-forward line looked potentially lethal on paper.

The concern was, from a Wexford point of view, getting past Cork's half back line in order to feed this deadly trio.

They pulled Pamela Mackey and Eimear O'Sullivan out and while Gemma O'Connor held her ground the ball driven in time and time again was fed through the wings.

And the deliveries were perfect.

Twenty three minutes in Wexford led 1-5 to 0-2 with Katrina Parrock comfortably scoring 1-2.

Aoife Murray denied Fiona Rochford on 20 minutes after Parrock again set her up.

That save and what happened five minutes later was crucial in keeping Cork in the game as they had been staring a nine-point deficit in the face.

Corkery raced through and took on Catherine O'Loughlin.

Pulled down, Aoife Murray stepped

STORY OF THE GAME

Player of the match

THERE were many contenders on both sides for the accolade but Deirdre Codd was my player of the match. From start to finish she was absolutely outstanding at left half-back.

Score of the match

SOME great scores on both sides but as previously stated Jacob's goal on 48 minutes was the stand out score of the game. Aoife Murray's penalty was up there with the best of them too.

Turning point

URSULA JACOB goaled for Wexford on 45 minutes. Katrina Mackey goaled in return a minute later. But Wexford won the puck-out from Mackey's goal and Jacob added her second inside two minutes.

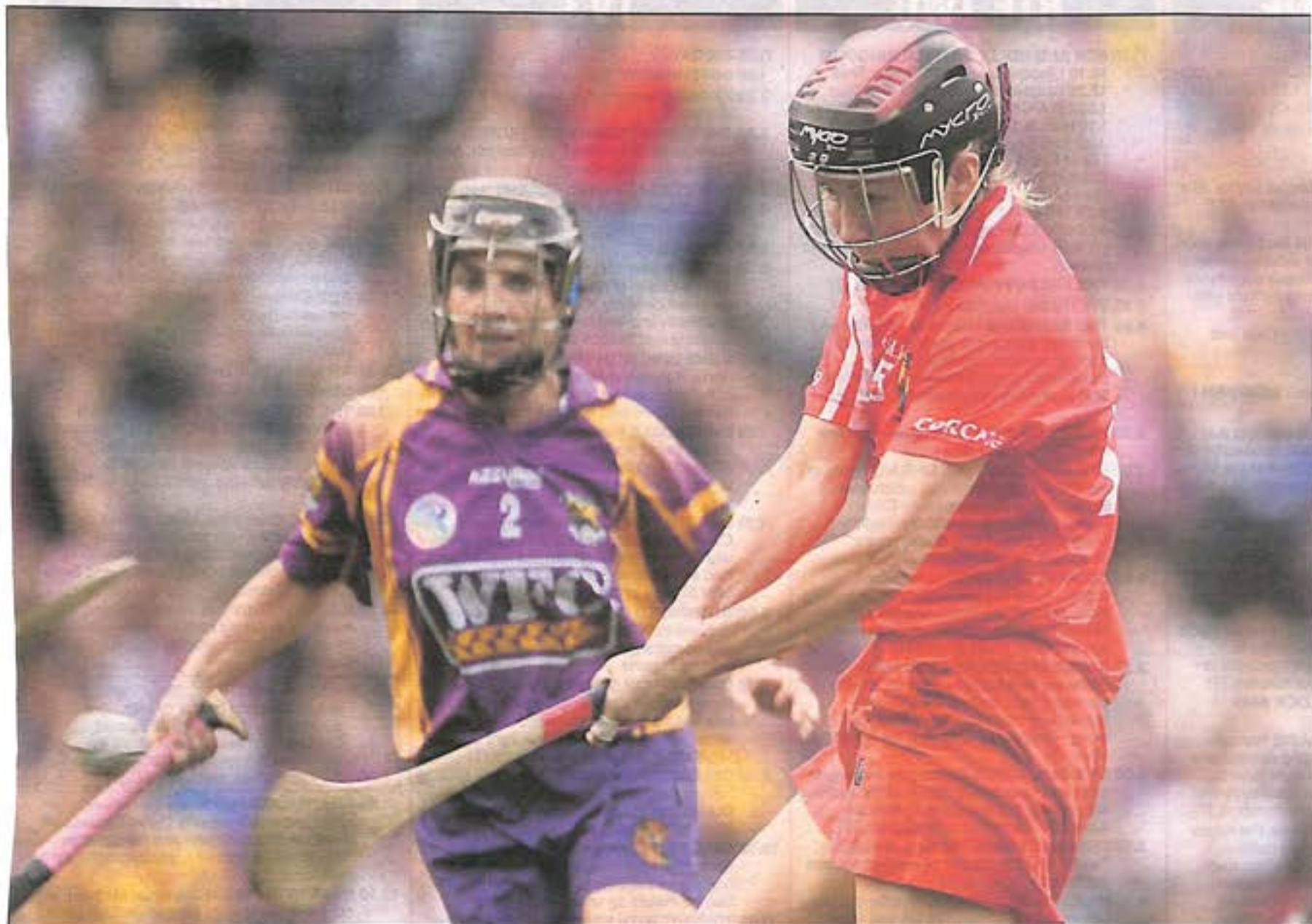
Referee watch

MADE a few dubious decisions on both sides but overall Alan Lagrue's handling of the game I felt was good. He allowed the game to flow and what a game it was as a result

Picture: INPHO

SEPT. 2012

for their mistakes



Cork's Silé Burns scores the side's second goal of the game during yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final against Wexford at Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO

THREE REASONS WHY CORK LOST

1. WEXFORD FULL-FORWARDS

It's hard to recall there ever being a full-forward line as lethal as Wexford's was yesterday. 3-11 came from these three players, 3-5 from play. They ran Cork's full-back line ragged, gave them a torrid afternoon.

2. THE CHAMPION'S DEFENCE

Questions were asked about this defence all year.

It was felt that if Cork ran at them they'd be exposed. No chance.

Each and every one of them were superb.

Out first to every ball they swept all before them and limited scoring chances.

3. PHYSICALITY

Wexford's greater physical strength blew Cork away.

From the outset when Una Leacy upended Gemma O'Connor and Catherine O'Loughlin's clash with Claire Shine saw the latter fall heavily, Wexford's intent was obvious.

Cork's Anna Geary in action against Wexford during yesterday's All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park, Dublin.

Picture: SPORTSFILE

up to take what was a critical penalty.

She executed it magnificently. Cork had hope. Wexford still looked poised for a five-point advantage at the break but six minutes of additional time changed all that.

A perfect pass from Claire Shine to Silé Burns saw the latter clinically hit the net.

It was game on again. Two excellent points from Orla Cotter and Jennifer O'Leary saw Cork amazingly go in at the break on level terms.

The game was there for either side but there is little doubt the impetus was with Cork.

Having played second fiddle for most of the game, they were level; they had started to click and were turning over with wind advantage.

The second half was as pulsating a game as you'll witness in Croke Park, due mainly to three goals, two of which were top class.

But the cracks which appeared in Cork's first-half game and which had

been masked by that six-minute spell before the break, quickly resurfaced.

Wexford's defence just blew Cork away.

They were incredible. Physically Cork had no answer. At the other end of the pitch Ursula Jacob wrote herself into the history books as one of the greatest forwards of all time.

She reacted first to Aoife Murray bringing the ball down into the square to give Wexford a five point advantage 45 minutes in.

Barely had the crowd sat back in their seat when Katrina Mackey scored an absolute gem of an individual goal.

Cork weren't going away. The killer blow however came just two minutes later when Jacob struck from the ground what must surely go down as the goal of the year in any discipline.

Cork responded but there was no stopping Wexford as Jacob and Rochford hit a further three points to give

Wexford a thoroughly deserved hat-trick of All-Ireland titles.

Scorers for Wexford: U Jacob 2-7 (0-4 f, 0-2 45), K Parrock 1-2, K Kelly, F Rochford 0-2 each.
Cork: J O'Leary 0-4 (0-2 f, 0-1 45), A Murray (pen), S Burns, K Mackey 1-0 each, O Cotter, B Corkery 0-1 each.

WEXFORD: M D'Arcy; C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson; N Lambert, M Leacy, D Codd; L Bolger, M Kelly; M O'Leary, U Leacy, J Dwyer; F Rochford, K Parrock, U Jacob.

Sub: F Kavanagh for L Bolger (46).

CORK: A Murray; J Duffy, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan; E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey; J O'Leary, O Cotter; J Casey, A Geary, C Shine; K Mackey, B Corkery, S Burns.

Subs: K Buckley for S Burns, R Curtin for J Casey (55).

Referee: Alan Lagrue (Kildare).



O'Callaghan: Second half set the tone for victory

REACTION

By MARY NEWMAN

VETERAN corner-back Joanne O'Callaghan was emotional yesterday as she struggled to analyse just what went wrong for the Rebels.

"It's a massive disappointment to lose. We put huge work into trying to win this All-Ireland and everybody rowed in behind us.

"The team management were superb, our county board and sponsors did everything they possibly could for us, but to be honest on the day they were the better team."

Joanne said the mood in the camp at half time was a very positive one.

"I actually thought at half time that we had it and we were all very positive. It was level pegging and really we had only played to our capacity for 10 minutes, but they came out a different team in the second half and we just could not match them.

"They just seemed to have an extra player everywhere and they were so fast."

Wexford's physicality was evident from the off.



Cork's Joanne O'Callaghan blocks Katrina Parrock of Wexford. Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy

"The first ball broke to Claire Shine but she was knocked over and fouled again it happened when the same player did the same thing with the second ball.

"They really let us know they were there and they were strong and physical and we simply could not match it, that first foul on Claire was a hard one and maybe more action could have been taken but sure that's how it goes."

Joanne acknowledged that despite losing the final the year was not all doom and gloom for Cork.

"We lost today and we are bitterly disappointed but we did win the national league and to be honest we did it against all the odds.

"Nobody gave us much of a chance of doing anything this year, but we proved them wrong. We had a lot of young new players on the panel and the experience of this campaign will stand to them.

"They blended in well to the inter-county set-up and for them it was very much a learning curve."

Joanne wasn't making any rushed decisions on what the future holds for her now.

"I haven't made any decision yet on next year, I'm getting married in July but I don't want to go out on this note, I would just have loved to have won it and finished on a good note but it wasn't to be."

Cork to learn and

Buckley: We never recovered from start

OVERVIEW

that they were, with the aforementioned three probably the only ones to win their personal duels over the hour in that regard.

But Wexford are far from just a physical side as they possess plenty of players who are highly talented as well. Defensively they are strong with O'Loughlin leading by example and it was only when Cork ran at her did they cause her any sort of problems.

Add in the supreme talent of Ursula Jacob, who scored 2-7, and her fellow full-forward line of Fiona Rochford and Katrina Parrock, all of whom played their part in their win.

Between them they scored 3-11 of Wexford's total of 3-13 and it shows just how awesome they are and there wouldn't have been a full-back line in the county who could have held them yesterday.

It would be very easy to lay the blame at Cork's full-back line for the defeat but all over the pitch they were second to the ball and this saw this threesome come under almost constant pressure and when you possess a full-forward line like Wexford's, they will punish you on the scoreboard.

Cork seemed very nervous at the start.

Settling quickly, Wexford exhorted their authority and for the first 15 minutes or so they were winning their personal battles all over the pitch.

They raced into a 1-5 to 0-2 lead and were it not for some good work by Aoife Murray in the Cork goal it could have been a lot worse.

Like the rest of the side Murray, somewhat surprisingly, seemed nervous at the start but once she settled, showed the class keeper she is and brought off a save in the second-half that was outstanding.

However, you don't get to an All-Ireland final by being a bad side

By RORY NOONAN

"WE got off to a bad start and never really recovered from it," the words of Rena Buckley after Cork's defeat to Wexford in the All-Ireland senior camogie final yesterday.

It couldn't have been summed up better as Cork were outplayed from the start and bar a spell towards the end of the first-half played second fiddle to their opponents all through.

In fairness to Cork, it wasn't for lack of effort, but the hunger and desire of Wexford to create their own bit of history by winning three in-a-row drove them on and in the second-half they were simply awesome and Cork had no answer.

Physically Cork were no match and this was shown as early as the second-minute when Claire Shine was bearing down on goal but Wexford full-back, Catherine O'Loughlin, let her know that scores weren't going to come easy as the Cork forward gingerly picked herself up off the ground.

It's not too often you see a team that contains the likes of Gemma O'Connor, Briege Corkery and Anna Geary out-muscled, but

Came up against a player in form and a real handful. 5

EIMEAR O'SULLIVAN: Cleared some good ball once she settled but like all the backline found herself under almost constant pressure. 5

GEMMA O'CONNOR: By far the best of the defensive line and showed her class throughout. Probably the best centre-back in camogie at the moment. 7

PAMELA MACKEY: Can't be faulted for her effort, but was beaten physically. Has had better days in the Cork jersey. 5

AOIFE MURRAY: Nervous start, but settled and made a superb save in the second-half. Can't be faulted for the goals. 6

JENNY DUFFY: Part of a full-back line that found themselves under almost constant pressure, but never gave up the fight. 5

RENA BUCKLEY: Started on Ursula Jacob and in doing so moved from her regular full-back role which didn't suit her. 5

JOANNE O'CALLAGHAN: Moved to full-back to allow Buckley mark Jacob.



ABOVE: Wexford's Karen Atkinson lifts the O'Duffy Cup.

RIGHT: Aoife Murray shoots to score Cork's first goal.



Fiona Kavanagh, Wexford runs past Pamela Mackey.



Gemma O'Connor was by far the best of the Cork defensive line. Picture: / SPORTSFILE

Player

JENNIFER O'LEARY: Gave it her all at midfield, scoring four of Cork's points.

Was one of their better players on the day. 6

ORLA COTTER: Made a number of good runs at the Wexford defence, but again would be first to admit has had better days for Cork. 5

JOANNE CASEY: Found the going tough at times, but to her credit never gave in and was in-

be back stronger

Cork's Anna Geary collides with Kate Kelly and Michelle O'Leary of Wexford in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park yesterday.

Picture: INPHO/Morgan Treacy



Losing a final hard to take for O'Sullivan

REACTION

By MARY NEWMAN

BEING on the losing side in an All-Ireland final for the first time was an upsetting experience for Eimear O'Sullivan, who had been victorious in her last two trips to Croke Park.

"We came up here with one intention in mind and that was winning. Nobody entertained any thoughts of losing. We were determined that we could do it and had confidence that we would, losing is an awful feeling and the difference between winning and losing is huge.

"The feeling at the full time whistle is awful when you know it's over and you just cannot do anything more about it."

Eimear felt the half time whistle came too soon for Cork.

"We really came into the game just before half time. It had taken us a long time to settle, but once we got to grips with it we really upped the pace and they were just hanging on.

"If we could have got ahead of



Cork's Eimear O'Sullivan.

and all credit to Cork they didn't let the poor start get to them and for the last 10 minutes of the first half showed just how good they can be.

This was acknowledged by Wexford manager, JJ Doyle after the game when he said: "We knew Cork were going to come at us at some stage, any team that possess players like the likes of Briege Corkery and Anna Geary is always going to have a dominant spell.

"I thought their young player, Clare Shine, was also excellent and to get your first start in an All-Ireland final says a lot about her. That said, I was a little disappointed with some of our defending during that time and I felt we gave them a little too much room and we sorted this at half-time."

With the sides level at the break, Cork getting a goal and two points in injury-time to ensure they were, it looked like it was game on again.

From a Cork point of view they

were going to have to play the entire second-half at the level of intensity they finished the first, but unfortunately they failed to do so.

Again it wasn't for lack of effort but Wexford upped their game another notch and Cork had no answer as they were outscored 2-6 to 1-2 after the break.

"At half-time we felt we had worked our way back into the game and were in a good position," said Rena Buckley, "but in the second-half they got some great scores and we didn't have the firepower to answer back. Fair play to the girls for trying but Wexford are a class side and we just weren't good enough on the day to get the better of them. We fought until the very end but it just wasn't to be. They got a goal and we got one back and that brought it back to two points.

"But they scored another goal straight away and that was the difference between the two sides in the

end. Wexford are a great team and fair play to them for winning three-in-a-row. It's a great achievement and we'll have to go away and look at things in the next few weeks to see if we could have done anything differently."

From that point of view the question has to be asked, why weren't changes made?

With Wexford dominating Cork only made two changes for the entire game and at that they were late on when the game was more or less over.

They brought on two forwards, Regina Curtin and Katie Buckley, but no changes were made at the back. They did make some positional changes in the first-half with Shine moving to full-forward, Corkery to the corner and Katriona Mackey moving out to the half-forward line.

These seemed to work and it led to Cork enjoying their best spell of the game, bringing them back level at

half-time, having being behind since the 13th minute. Will the team management look back and wonder should they have tried one or two more subs? Only they can answer that and like all managers in their first year it was a learning curve for Paudie Murray.

One thing is for sure he will have learned a lot from yesterday and if he stays on have no doubt Paudie will do all he can to get them back to Croker next year.

But for now Cork will have to lick their wounds and acknowledge they were beaten by a class team, one that all others have to measure themselves against. Wexford are worthy champions and created their own bit of history for their county winning three in-a-row.

As for fans of Cork, congratulate Wexford on their achievement but also be safe in the knowledge this team will be back, better and stronger.

ratings

involved in setting up some of Cork's scores. 5

ANNA GEARY: Battled and battled from start to finish and managed to keep Mary Leacy quiet over the hour, an achievement in itself. 6

CLARE SHINE: Despite losing can be happy with her full debut. Wasn't afraid to take on the Wexford defence and is a player Cork will look to in the future. 6

KATRIONA MACKEY: Got a great goal in the second half but like others has enjoyed better days in the red jersey. 5

SILE BURNS: Finished the first-half strongly and got a superb goal, but found it hard to make inroads in the second-half. 5

BRIEGE CORKERY: As always gave it her all, but you can expect nothing less from her. Was one of Cork's better players on the day. 7

Subs: Regina Curtin and Katie Buckley, not on long enough.



Briege Corkery wins the ball from Catherine O'Loughlin, Wexford, yesterday in Croke Park.

Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

them it may have been different but they regrouped and got it back together, and they were a different team in the second half and we just couldn't match them."

Eimear felt that with 110 minutes to go the game was still there to be won.

"They got the goal and went five points ahead but straight away Katrina got a goal, and we were still in the hunt, but they drove on and we just could not break them down.

"They stretched their lead to four, five and then six points and at that stage we needed two goals to get level and time was running out and you knew it was slipping away."

Having come through a tough campaign Eimear felt that Cork were ready.

"We had the hard side of the draw and got some great games and we felt that helped us.

"We knew where we were and we were ready, we had a tough semi-final and it was of huge benefit to us.

"We knew we were ready, but unfortunately on the day they were the better team and we cannot complain.

"It's hard to lose but we just have to put it behind us and drive on."

SEPT. 2012

Fryday and Devane give Clonoulty 7s title

By Camogie Press
Posted 16/09/2012



Tipperary was the dominant county at the Daintree Paper All-Ireland 7s hosted by Kilmaud Crokes on Saturday September 15th, but there was success too for Wexford, which they hope will be a good omen for the All-Ireland senior final against Cork.

Clonoulty Rossmore beat fellow Tipperary outfit Shannon Rovers in the Cup final thanks to their goal-scoring power, prevailing on a 5-10 to 0-11 scoreline.

Clonoulty overcame Duffry Rovers of Wexford in their semi-final, and Shannon Rovers edged past Galway

In the final, it was all about Clonoulty's county players, with youth and experience doing the damage. Sarah Fryday terrorised Shannon Rovers by plundering 3-2, while the long-serving Cât Devane hit 1-6.

Cât Hennessy completed the scoring by weighing in with a very valuable goal and two points. The inspirational Cora Hennessy was named player of the tournament.

Aoife McLoughney was Shannon's primary contributor, tagging on seven points, while Lorraine Davis (0-3) and Sabrina Larkin (0-1) were also on the mark.

Another Tipperary club, Éire Óg-Anascarty-Donehill added the Shield honours, having six points to spare over Croggan (Antrim) in the semi-final before beating Kilmessan 4-3 to 1-5. The Meath girls had accounted for yet another Tipp unit, Borrisoleigh by four points in the penultimate round.

Wexford's silverware came courtesy of Kilrush, who had the better of St Anne's (Louth) in the Plate decider, 5-7 to 2-3.

Cup Semi-Finals
Clonoulty Rossmore (Tipperary) 4-9 Duffry Rovers (Wexford) 2-4
Shannon Rovers (Tipperary) 4-6 St Thomas (Galway) 3-4

Cup Final
Clonoulty Rossmore (Tipperary) 5-10 Shannon Rovers (Tipperary) 0-11

Shield Semi-Finals
Éire Óg-Anascarty-Donehill (Tipperary) 2-7 Croggan (Antrim) 1-4
Kilmessan (Meath) 4-5 Borrisoleigh (Tipperary) 4-1

Shield Final
Éire Óg-Anascarty-Donehill (Tipperary) 4-3 Kilmessan (Meath) 1-5

Plate Final
Kilrush 5-7 (Wexford) St Anne's (Louth) 2-3

Player of the Tournament: Cora Hennessy (Clonoulty Rossmore, Tipperary)

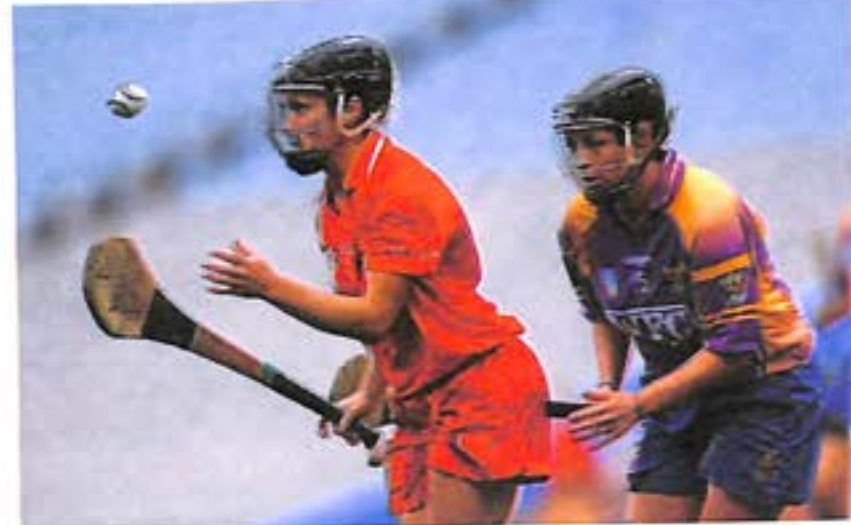
Puc Fada Winner: Sabrina Larkin (Shannon Rovers, Tipperary)

Wall Ball Winner: Brigid McMullan (Castledawson, Derry)

Daintree Paper Camogie Bride of the Year Winner: (Niamh McGeown, Armagh)

Jacob sends Wexford crackers

By Camogie Press
Posted 16/09/2012



Wexford 3-13
Cork 3-6

Wexford made history with a stunning victory over Cork in a brilliant All-Ireland senior camogie final in association with RTE Sport at Croke Park.

It was the first time the Model County had claimed a three-in-row at this level, and indeed, the first time they had done it at any grade since the senior footballers garnered four championships on the trot from 1915-18.

And just as was the case last year, Ursula Jacob made the match-winning contribution.

12 months ago, Galway had the champions on the rack when the Oulart-The Ballagh sharpshooter – whose father Mick was Wexford hurling's first All-Star and brothers Rory and Michael went on to serve the county with distinction – grabbed the sliotar, moved to her left and thundered a shot to the net with seven minutes remaining to bring the sides level.

Showing the leadership you'd expect from the captain, Jacob followed up with two points and Wexford had prevailed. Jacob plundered 2-7 this year and her goals ultimately blew this game open. They book-ended a crazy two-minute spell that also included a major for Cork from Katrina Mackey.

The first came in the 40th minute, when Michelle O'Leary's dipping shot was battled into the air by Cork

Goalkeeper, Aoife Murray. Jacob reacted the quickest to deftly flick the sliotar to the net.

Within 40 seconds, Mackey had responded in kind at the other end, rocketing a shot beyond Mags D'Arcy after showing fantastic pace.

The score of the game was to follow quickly though, as the ball broke on the 13m line and to the right of the posts.

Sensing that she had no time to pick it up, Jacob pulled off the sod, arrowing a shot back into the far corner that Murray had no chance of stopping, despite diving full-length.

That exchange left five points between the sides and Jacob landed two more points – one a sensational effort from tight on the right sideline – to cement the verdict.

Cork more than contributed to what must surely be considered one of the greatest All-Ireland senior finals of the modern era.

They struggled early on mind you, with Katrina Parrock doing most of the damage. The full-forward finished brilliantly for a 14th minute goal and also flashed over two points as the Yellowbellies stormed six points clear.

Cork were given a lifeline though when Catherine O'Loughlin hauled Bríge Corkery down in the square and Murray came forward to clinically dispatch the penalty.

The Rebels finished the half strongly and a Síle Burns goal, allied to points from Orla Cotter and Jenny O'Leary had the sides level at half time, 1-7 to 2-4.

Wexford settled down after the resumption and though D'Arcy made one excellent save from Corkery, they were two points clear at the end of the first quarter.

Then came Jacob's heroics and there was no return for Cork.

[All Ireland Camogie Finals Photo Album](#)

[All Ireland Senior Final First Half Goals](#)

[All Ireland Senior Final Second Half Goals](#)

[All Ireland Senior Final Interviews](#)

Scorers – Wexford: U Jacob 2-7 (0-4fs, 0-2 45s), K Parrock 1-2, F Rochford, K Kelly 0-2 each

Cork: J O'Leary 0-4 (2fs, 1 45), A Murray (pen), S Burns, K Mackey 1-0 each, O Cotter, B Corkery 0-1 each

Wexford: M D'Arcy, C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson, N Lambert, M Leacy, D Codd, L Bolger, K Kelly, M O'Leary, Ú Leacy, J Dwyer, F Rochford, K Parrock, U Jacob. Sub: F Kavanagh for Bolger (47)

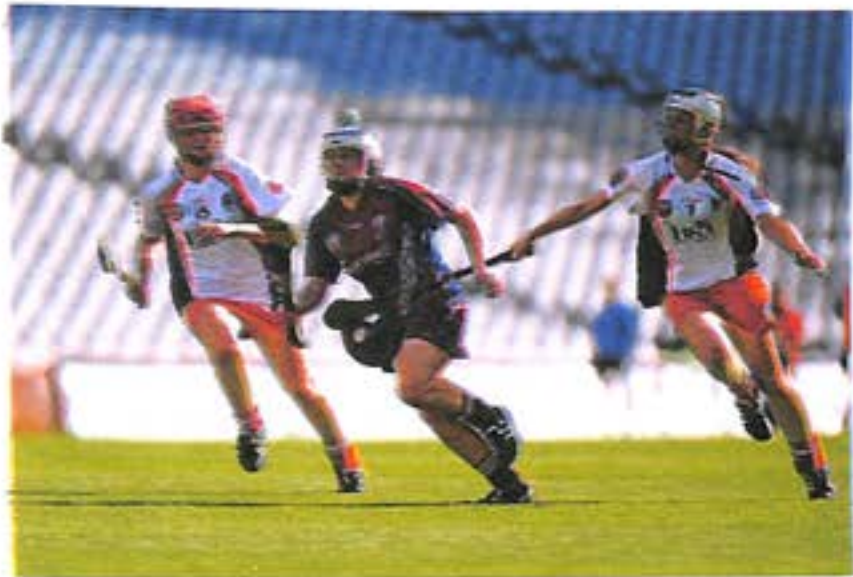
Cork: A Murray, R Buckley, J O'Callaghan, J Duffy, E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey, J O'Leary, O Cotter, J Casey, A Geary, C Shine, K Mackey, S Burns, B Corkery. Subs: K Buckley for Burns (56), R Curtin for Casey (56)

Referee: A Lague (Kildare)

SEPT. 2012

Monaghan gives Galway second bite of the cherry

By Camogie Press
Posted 16/09/2012



Derry 3-12
Galway 3-12

The All-Ireland intermediate camogie final in association with RTE Sport ended in a writer of excitement, and in the end, both sides will probably be relieved to have the chance of a replay.

That will take place on Saturday, September 29 and if it is even half as entertaining as this encounter, it will certainly be worth the price of admission.

Galway must have thought they had snatched the honours when the brilliant Clodagh McGrath and Rachel Monaghan pushed them two points clear in injury time.

Derry came charging back though and Karen Kelt hand-passed to the Galway net, only to learn that referee, Ger O'Dowd had already blown for a penalty.

That placed huge pressure on Kate McAnenly but the Castledawson player proved up to the task, driving an unstoppable shot to the Galway net to put her side a point ahead.

There was still time for Galway to hit back though and Monaghan was awarded a free, from which she herself

managed to draw the sides level for the final time.

Derry looked like they were cruising in the first half, as Eilín Ní Chasaide's fortuitous goal helped them open up a seven-point advantage but a Maria Brehony goal gave Galway renewed hope.

McAnenly and Catriona Cormican exchanged goals but Derry's lead was down to two at half time, due largely to the accuracy from placed balls of player of the match, Emma Kilkelly.

Gráinne McGoldrick stretched that to three early in the second half, although television replays showed that her shot was clearly wide and that was to prove critical at the end.

Although Derry went four clear, Galway gradually took over, with McGrath thundering into the game around the middle. Deirdre Burke's goal proved a vital inspiration, and with Orta Curtin – who won a medal at this level with Limerick – and her Kinvara clubmate Kilkelly amongst the scorers, they got themselves back into the tie.

At that juncture, they seemed to be enjoying the wide expanses of Croke Park more than the Derry players and those points by Monaghan and McGrath looked to have put them on their way until the late drama unfolded.

Irish Daily Star Player of the Match: Emma Kilkelly

Scorers – Galway: E. Kilkelly 0-5(1f, 1 45); R. Monaghan 0-3(2fs); M. Brehony, C. Cormican, D. Burke 1-0 each; O. Curtin 0-2; A. O'Reilly, C. McGrath 0-1 each

Derry: K. McAnenly 2-0(1-Open); K. Kelt 0-5(2fs); E. Ní Chasaide 1-0; T. McElroy, G. McGoldrick 0-2 each; S. Quinn, S. Cassidy, G. McGoldrick(f) 0-1 each

Galway: R. Callan; T. Kenny, P. Kenny, C. Gil, L. Farrell, S. Noone, S. Keane, C. McGrath, A. Lynskey, A. O'Reilly, E. Kilkelly, M. Brehony, D. Burke, O. Curtin, E. O'Sullivan. Subs: C. Cormican for Lynskey (20); R. Monaghan for Keane inj (30); A. Korry for O'Sullivan (41); R. Hennehy for Brehony (52)

Derry: C. O'Kane, M. Quinn, A. Ní Chasaide, A. Muller, A. McCusker, E. Ní Chasaide, M. McGoldrick, S. Cassidy, G. McNicholl, T. McElroy, K. McAnenly, G. McGoldrick, S. Quinn, O. Bradley, K. Kelt. Subs: M. Mooney for Quinn (34); K. Bradley for O. Bradley (46); A. McPoske for Quinn (48)

Referee: G. O'Dowd (Limerick)

Hackett inspires famous Meath victory

By Camogie Press
Posted 16/09/2012



Meath 1-11
Down 1-9

Down suffered the heartbreak of defeat in the All-Ireland premier junior camogie final in association with RTE Sport for the second time in 12 months, as Meath just held the upper hand at Croke Park.

John Davis's charges were deserved winners but had to dig deep to overcome a resolute opposition driven on by the memory of last year's narrow loss to Waterford.

Down did very well to keep themselves in contention after conceding a third minute goal to player of the match Sinead Hackett, who bundled the sliotar over the line after a Jane Dolan free had dropped short.

Fionnuala Carr had opened the scoring for the Mourne girls with a free from 70m, having been fouled after catching Catriona McCrickard's puckout.

Her sister, Sara-Louise Carr responded to the goal with a good score but Meath put the foot down to open up a four-point gap courtesy of scores from Aileen Donnelly, Hackett's brilliant effort over her right shoulder, and a Dolan free.

Down showed their character though when hitting back with their own run of three points, kick-started by Sara-Louise Carr. She finished well after a 25m dash and Fionnuala landed points from a 45 and free to reduce the margin to the minimum. The 45 came as a result of a deflection on a Catherine McGourty ground shot that seemed destined for the Meath net but the Royals had a similar opportunity soon afterwards, when Donnelly doubled on a breaking ball but sent the sliotar just wide.

It was 1-5 to 0-6 at half time but Sara-Louise Carr ended another strong run from the left by crashing a powerful shot beyond Emily Mangan five minutes after the resumption to put Down ahead.

She had another opportunity soon afterwards, after collecting a pass from the strong-running Karen McMurran but Clare Coffey made a splendid block.

Another goal then would have put Down in the box seat but instead, Aoife Maguire pointed almost immediately at the other end – in truth it was a tremendous goal chance – and with Dolan, Donnelly, Lizzy Oakes and Hackett also raising white flags, Meath were in control.

Nicola Braniff and Fionnuala Carr reduced the margin to the minimum with two minutes of injury time still remaining but it was Dolan who had the last word from a placed ball.

Irish Daily Star Player of the Match: Sinead Hackett

Scorers – Meath: S. Hackett 1-2; A. Donnelly, J. Dolan 0-3(2fs) each; K. Troy, A. Maguire, L. Oakes 0-1 each

Down: F. Carr 0-6(5fs, 1 45); S. Carr 1-2; N. Braniff 0-1

Meath: E. Mangan, H. Geraghty, C. Coffey, F. O'Neill, L. Donoghue, A. Thompson, A. Koogh, A. Fagan, K. Troy, E. Guy, J. Dolan, A. Donnelly, A. Maguire, S. Hackett, K. Hackett. Subs: L. Oakes for Guy (37); E. Lynch for Maguire (53)

Down: C. McCrickard, K. Tinnelly, G. O'Higgins, C. McGovern, C. Rocks, L. McCrickard, E. McCormick, P. Gribben, M. McNally, L. McPolin, S. Carr, F. Carr, N. Mallon, L. Hughes, C. McGourty. Subs: K. McMurran for Mallon inj (21); O. Maginn for McNally (30+1); K. O'Higgins for Hughes (44); N. Braniff for McPolin (57)

Referee: R. McNicholm (Galway)



Corks Claire Sexton gets away from the Tipp defence in the under 16A All Ireland Championship

UCC confers Honorary Doctorate on Camogie star Mary

By JIM O'SULLIVAN

FOR ALL that she achieved as an accomplished and decorated camogie and ladies footballer star, Mary O'Connor was caught off guard when initially notified she would be conferred with an honorary doctorate by UCC on September 7th. Receiving a follow-up phone call last month, she says 'the enormity of it really sunk in' upon learning that she would be sharing the honour with top trainer Aidan O'Brien, rugby international Ronan O'Gara, soccer star Denis Irwin and Kilkenny manager Brian Cody.



Mary O'Connor photographed with Kilkenny hurling manager Brian Cody prior to being conferred with Honorary Doctorates of Arts at UCC on Friday, 7th September 2012. (Photo: Jim Coughlan)

"I felt 'wow.' To be honoured in that way and among such icons in their respective games blew me away to be honest. Coming two years after retiring from playing inter-county it was mind-blowing," she commented.

"I regarded it very much as 'a nod' to women's Gaelic games in Ireland and how the profile is rising all the time. I accepted it on behalf of all the players I played with and the people all over the country who have been working hard for female recognition in Gaelic games for a long time."

The Camogie Association takes great pride in the honour bestowed on her. "Mary is a fantastic sportswoman, a real role model for women in sport," said President Aileen Lawlor. "The Association is delighted to have her working for us in promoting the greatest and fastest field sport for women in the world."

Ladies Gaelic Football Association President Pat Quill commended Mary on her 'incredible achievements' in football and camogie, adding: "It is a great personal honour in recognition of one of the most honoured players in the history of Gaelic Games."

Mary's success as a dual player has been phenomenal, not just in terms of the honours gained – an incredible 15 All-Ireland medals – but in the consistency and quality of her play over a

considerable period.

She played in twelve All-Ireland camogie finals with Cork – winning seven medals – and gained five All-Ireland medals in ladies football. In addition to being a dual All-Star, she has the unique distinction – rare in the men's game – of being a dual All-Ireland club medal-holder.

A member of the Granagh Ballingarry club for four years while working as GAA Development Officer in Limerick IT, she won Munster and All-Ireland club camogie medals in 1998 and 1999, notably in the last year of 12-a-side teams and the first 15-a-side! In 2010, Inch Rovers – her home club – was successful in the

All-Ireland football final.

In different circumstances, her medals total would be four less but for overcoming a serious knee injury in 2007 and fighting back to achieve the 'double-double' in the following two years.

The injury occurred just five days after the All-Ireland camogie final, when Wexford foiled the Rebels' bid for three-in-a-row. "It was a fairly bad week," she recalled. "But, while it was devastating to miss out on playing against Mayo, in hindsight that injury probably lengthened my career."

I hadn't that amount of time off since I started playing at 15. It probably renewed a bit of enthusiasm as well. Captaining the ladies football team in 2009 was fantastic – the culmination of all the work since 1994 when I played with Cork first."

In her role as National Director of Camogie Development (currently the Acting CEO) she is also proud of the manner in which the game has been enhanced and expanded. "I have seen Kerry camogie grow enormously since it was started seven years ago. We have new clubs in places like Donegal and under-age structures in football-dominated counties like Mayo. And, in the traditional strong counties, we have seen new clubs starting all the time."

Wexford snatch U14 championship blitz crown

By Camogie Press
Posted 16/09/2012



Wexford pulled off a dramatic victory over a valiant Tipperary to claim the Cooper All-Ireland U14 Division 1 championship blitz honours 2-3 to 1-5 at Ballyboden.

Tipp flew out of the traps with a goal and two points on the board after just four minutes. Wexford came back strongly with a brace of goals in two minutes to lead at the interval 2-2 to 1-2.

Undeterred, Tipperary came back strongly once more with two pointed frees and they restored parity right at the end of normal time.

Deep in injury time though, Wexford won a 45 and it was converted to give them the title. Mary Moran presented the Mary Moran Cup to the victorious captain.

It was very hard luck on Tipperary after a game of high standards that was symptomatic of the quality that ran right through the entire competition.

Derry overcame Waterford by 1-4 to 1-2 in a tightly-contested Division 2 final. Armagh overcame Cork C by 0-5 to 0-0 in the Division 3 decider and Carlow were too strong for Kerry in the Division 4 final, 2-2 to 0-0.

North American Finals

PLANES, TRAINS and automobiles brought thousands of Gaelic Games followers to Philadelphia for the 2012 North American G.A.A. Championship Finals on Labor Day.

The 'City of Brotherly love and Sisterly affection' threw its arms wide open to teams from all over the North American Continent who had come to play Hurling, Football, Camogie and Ladies Football.

Joining in the celebration of our National Games were GAA President Liam O'Neill, Camogie President Aileen Lawlor, Ladies Football President Pat Quill and Munster Council Chairman Sean Walsh.

The scene in the hotel lobby on day one must have come as a shock to non-GAA residents with huris, helmets, gear bags and teams forming up for the roll call, and all this at 6.45am! From here it was outside to the side street where the big yellow school buses were waiting to transport the crowds to Penny Pack Park on the banks of the Delaware River.

On arrival at Penny Pack Park it was obvious a lot of work had been put into the organisation of the weekend with six fully laid out pitches complete with marquees as changing rooms, water stations, toilets and hospitality areas.

At 8.00am the whistles blew and the games were on. The Camogie round robin series included teams from San Francisco, Toronto, Boston, Washington DC, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Seattle, St. Louis, and Denver. Although the games were played in intense heat and humidity the action was relentless.

The game of Camogie has grown rapidly in the United States and it was encouraging to see so many "home grown" exponents of the sport displaying marvellous skill and no shortage of passion.

Those competing at junior level were all born in the US to American parents, while those at senior level were a mixture of Irish and American.

The sportsmanship displayed was impressive with nothing spared on the pitch but afterwards the line-up and hand shake was a nice touch as was the three cheer chant of "One for Us, One for Them and One for the Ref".

The Camogie Association President Aileen Lawlor



The Baltimore team at this year's North American Finals.



Pulling together in Gaelic Games – Liam O'Neill, President of the GAA and Aileen Lawlor, President of the Camogie Association – in Philadelphia at the 2012 North American Finals.

had an extremely busy itinerary, meeting numerous teams and hearing of their lives Stateside, of family and friends in Ireland and hopes for their future in the US. She also conducted a scheduled 30 minute camogie workshop and such was the level of interest, the event lasted for up to two hours!

The Senior and Junior Finals took place later that day, with a strong Baltimore side getting the better of Seattle in a thrilling encounter, while the senior accolade went to Toronto, who triumphed over San Francisco in a pulsating game.

In her presentation speeches, President Aileen Lawlor repeatedly stressed the importance of participation over the bonus of victory and noted the significant improvement in camogie standards which was extremely apparent at this year's North American Finals. She also highlighted her hope that such standards would be maintained, thus facilitating the continued growth of the game Stateside.

The hugely impressive Organising Philadelphia and North American Committee led by Joe Lydon, Paul McCarthy, Mary Ruane, Harry Costello, Mary Prendiville, Gareth Fitzsimons, and many more behind the scenes held a dinner for all those involved, including guests from Ireland, to celebrate the North American Finals weekend.

In attendance were the various organising committees, referees and officials as well as President of the GAA, Liam O'Neill, President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor and President of the Ladies Football Association, Pat Quill and Sean Walsh Munster Council Chairperson.

A special word of thanks to the referees who travelled from all Associations and in particular Peter Downey of Cork, who represented the Camogie Association excellently during the course of the championships.

SEPT. 2012

Eithne Duggan-Fitzpatrick

CORK'S highly-talented full-back, Eithne Duggan, stepped off the inter-county stage in Croke Park in 2002 with the cheers of the Cork fans ringing in her ears. Team-mates on that memorable day were Jennifer O'Leary, Gemma O'Connor and Joanne O'Callaghan, who will give their all in the cause of Cork camogie today.

Eithne has fond memories of All-Ireland final days. With all her family and many friends present to support her, they were very special occasions. She toggled out in the small dressing rooms of the 'old' Croke Park on her first visit to headquarters but enjoyed the ultra-modern facilities for players at subsequent finals.

Eithne's abiding memory of Croke Park is glancing at the scoreboard in the closing moments of the 1995 All-Ireland

and saying to herself 'I am going to win an All-Ireland medal'.

A product of the successful underage division of the Bishopstown club, Eithne blossomed into an outstanding senior player and was a key member of the Cork defence for eight seasons.

Captain of club, county and province, she won 4 All-Ireland Senior Championships, 7 National Senior League, 6 Gael-Linn, Ashbourne Cup and 4 Cork Senior Championship medals. She accepted the O'Duffy Cup on behalf of Cork in 1998.

Due to family commitments, Eithne's connection with the game nowadays is mainly through television. She thinks that there are too many stoppages in the modern game and relatively little flowing play. She would like to see a reduction in the number of frees awarded, particularly those of a technical

nature. Continuous play would provide a more attractive spectacle.

Eithne qualified as a physiotherapist at UCD. Later, she took a career change and studied computer programming at UCC. Nowadays, she spends her time multi-tasking to cope with the needs of her four children, aged one to seven. The two older children play hurling and football, maintaining the family tradition. She resides in the picturesque seaside town of Kinsale.

The demands of family life do not permit her to watch the Cork team in action as often as she would like. She is aware of the ability of the Wexford team and of the huge obstacle that they will present to Cork to-day. But she hopes that the Cork players will raise their game and bring home the cup.

WHERE are they now?

Catherine Murphy-Foley

CATHERINE retains great memories of her playing days with Rathnure and Wexford. The girls that she played alongside were great fun and became life-long friends. When they meet up nowadays, they reminisce what they consider were the best days of their lives.

At the tender age of thirteen, Catherine donned the purple and gold for the first time. In an impressive career which spanned twenty years, she played in three All-Ireland senior finals; collected several Leinster and Gael-Linn medals, represented the Rest of Ireland v Dublin in 1988 and was named Wexford Player of the Year in 1986.

The highlights of her career

were winning the All-Ireland Club title with Rathnure in 1995 and, as Wexford captain, meeting President Mary Robinson in Croke Park in 1992. She harbours one regret; despite coming close, it was disappointing to retire without an All-Ireland senior medal.

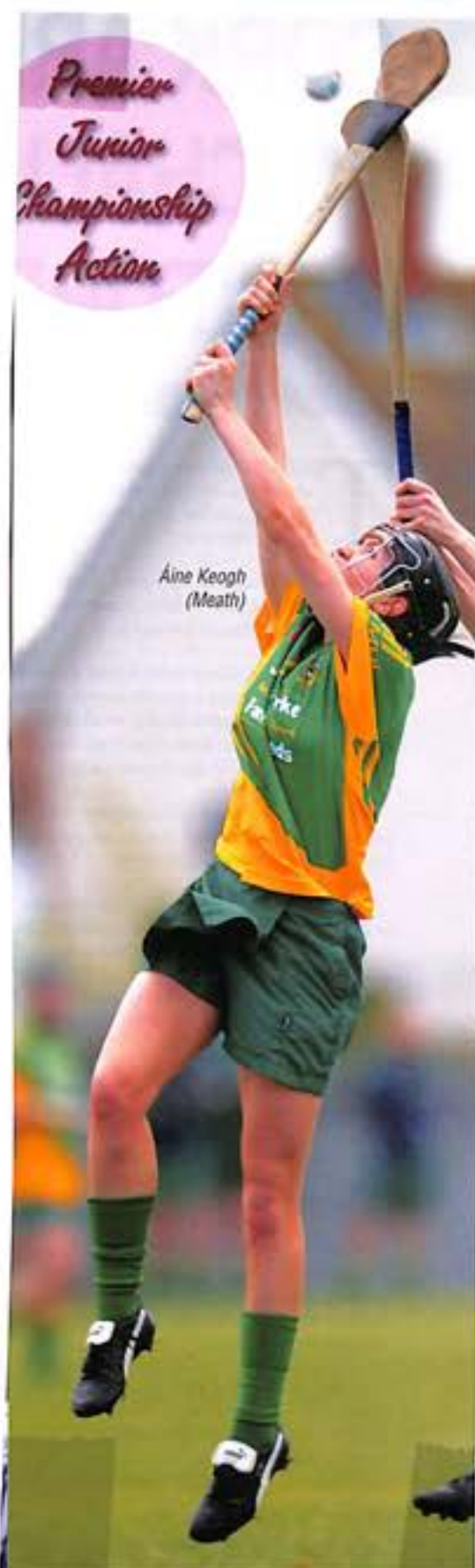
She is a keen advocate of the 15-a-side game. The skills of the game are properly exhibited in the wide, open spaces of the full-size pitch. Catherine sees today's exponents of the game as accomplished athletes who demonstrate amazing levels of skill, fitness, ball control and technique.

She is happy with the recent rule changes apart from the hand-passed goal which she

would like to see dropped from the game.

She has every confidence in the present Wexford team as they challenge for a hat-trick of All-Ireland senior titles. She points to the Leacy sisters, Kate Kelly, Katrina Parrock, Ursula Jacob and Michelle O'Leary whom she considers to be among the best ever to have played the game.

Nowadays, Catherine walks to keep fit. A mother of three children, she is pleased to see the next generation keep up the Gaelic games tradition. Her daughter, Kate, plays camogie and ladies football for Horeswood while her son, Conor, takes after his father, Michael Foley, the former Wexford inter-county hurler.



Aine Keogh (Meath)

Cup runneth over: Wexford conquer Cork in camogie final



Wexford's Michelle O'Leary and captain Karen Atkinson carry the O'Duffy Cup as they celebrate with jubilant team-mates after they defeated Cork in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final at Croke Park yesterday. Photograph: David Maher/Sportsfile

All-Ireland Premier junior camogie final: Meath v Down

Superb Meath girls produce All-Ireland-winning performance

Down and out after Royal experience

CONALL COLLIER

| | |
|-------|------|
| MEATH | 1-11 |
| DOWN | 1-9 |

SUPER Meath stepped up to the plate at Croke Park on Sunday and claimed the All-Ireland Premier Junior Camogie title for the first time with a gritty performance against last year's beaten finalists Down.

This was a heartbreaking defeat for Down who negotiated Meath in the All-Ireland semi-final 12 months ago at Clontibret.

However, the omens were good for Meath who travelled to Downpatrick last July and handled the hosts by 1-10 to 1-9 in a group game.

Meath also came out on top in the Div 2 League encounter at Hilltown by 0-16 to 2-8, but those scorelines suggested that there wouldn't be much between the sides on Sunday - and there wasn't.

The difference between now and that semi-final 12 months ago is that Meath have added one vital ingredient to their armoury - steel, character or determination, call it what you like.

That new-found steel, character or determination stood Meath in good stead on Sunday.

half injury-time when she split the Down posts from a close-range free.

Maybe the decision by Galway referee Richard McNicholas to penalise Down goalkeeper Catriona McCrickard for 'charging' was a little bit harsh, but Down also benefited at the other end when they were awarded frees of the 'soft' variety.

The game wasn't won and lost in the 64th minute, Meath's performance over the previous 63 minutes was what counted, that was what won the silverware.

Sinead Hackett was announced as the 'player-of-the-game' and the Dunboyne woman was a worthy recipient of the accolade. Emily Mangan was one of my contenders and Kristina Troy and Aileen Donnelly (pictured) were others.

Mangan made a number of superb saves, but the one that was most spectacular was when she advanced and caught the sliotar in the third minute of that second-half injury-time, Down were a point adrift and it was vital interception.

From her clearance Meath won that free and Dolan drilled the sliotar between the posts.

Troy is well-named - she is a precious talent. She disguises a huge competitive spirit wonderfully, but if you need someone to go in where



Aoife Thompson, in the pivotal role, flanked by Áine Keogh and Louise Donoghue, three women who would handle many hurling half-forward lines with ease.



Meath's Áine Keogh gets to grips with Down's Fionnuala Carr during Sunday's All-Ireland Premier Junior camogie final at Croke Park. PHOTO: DAVID MAHER / SPORTSFILE

They needed something to keep them going when they tallied eight first-half wides, they made it a dozen in the second-half.

They also missed at least three goal opportunities when the forward with the

turbo-charger, Katie Hackett, opted to pass to a colleague.

She probably won't make the same decisions in next year's All-Ireland intermediate championship.

Then there was Jane Dolan. Normally she can do nothing wrong, but on Sunday nothing went right for her - no matter how hard she tried to shake off three markers.

Crucially, though, she kept trying and it was appropriate that she had the opportunity to close out the game in the fourth minute of second-

the hurleys are flying, she will do it. She did it frequently on Sunday and emerged with the sliotar. She stood up to Down when they needed standing up to.

And what about the half-back line, with the Katie Taylor

look-alike, Aoife Thompson, in the pivotal role,

flanked by Aine Keogh and Louise Donoghue. Three women who would handle many hurling half-forward lines with ease.

With a full-back line that contains Holly Geraghty, Claire Coffey and Fiona O'Neill, it was always going to be

difficult for Down and the Ulster girls had to work hard for scores, only half of their tally was from play.

As starts go, it was as good as Meath could have expected with Sinead Hackett finding the Down net in the third minute.

That gave Meath the lead in response to Fionnuala Carr's opening point for Down in the second minute and the Royals remained in the ascendancy for the remainder of the half.

The points followed with almost as much regularity as the wides as Meath wasted some gilt-edged chances.

Donnelly (two, one free), Sinead Hackett, Dolan (free) and Troy sent over, but the concession of frees proved costly.

Fionnuala Carr converted two frees and a '45' for Down while Sara Louise Carr sent over twice from play.

Meath laboured into a 1-5 to 0-6 interval lead and were left to rue some of those squandered chances.

Katie Hackett was probably the most culpable of the forwards with goal chances wasted, but on the positive side she was, at least, creating problems for Down.

Down got the early second-half goal when Sara Louise Carr out-paced Coffey and fin-

ished to the net while Meath added four more wides and wasted more goal chances.

Aoife Maguire's point drew the sides level (1-6 apiece) at the end of the third-quarter before Dolan and Fionnuala Carr traded points.

Donnelly (free) and substitute Lizzy Oakes sent over with 10 minutes remaining as Down's best efforts were thwarted. Sinead Hackett made it 1-10 to 1-7.

Down had one last rally with points from Nicola Braniff and Fionnuala Carr (free), that left the minimum in it until Mangan launched that late clearance and Dolan finished it.

Meath - Emily Mangan (Blackhall Gaels); Holly Geraghty (Blackhall Gaels); Claire Coffey (Na Fianna); Fiona O'Neill (Dunboyne); Aine Keogh (Kildalkey); Aoife Thompson (Dunboyne); Louise Donoghue (Kittale); Ann Marie Fagan (Trim); Kristina Troy (Blackhall Gaels 0-1); Edel Guy (Trim); Jane Dolan (Blackhall Gaels 0-3 two frees); Aileen Donnelly (Kilmessan 0-3 two frees); Aoife Maguire (Killyon 0-1); Sinead Hackett (Dunboyne 1-2); Katie Hackett (Trim). **Subs** - Lizzy Oakes (Navan O'Mahonys 0-1) for Guy 37 mins; Elizabeth Lynch for Maguire 53m.

Down - C. McCrickard; K. Tinnelly; G. O'Higgins; C. McGovern; C. Rocks; L. McCrickard; E. McCormack; L. McPolin; M. McNally; C. McGourty; L. Hughes; P. Gribben; N. Mallon; S. Carr (1-2); F. Carr (0-6 three frees, one '45'). **Subs** - K. McMullan for Mallon 20 mins; O. Maginn for McNally 29m; K. O'Higgins for Hughes 44m; N. Braniff (0-1) for McPolin 57m.

Referee - Richard McNicholas (Galway).



Jane Dolan attracts the attention of three Down players during Sunday's All-Ireland Premier Junior camogie final at Croke Park where the Royals recorded a fantastic victory. PHOTO: JOHN QUIRKE / WWW.QUIRKE.IE

PLAYER RATINGS

Emily Mangan: Handled well under early pressure and was solid throughout, her late interception broke up a promising Down attack and paved the way for Meath's last point. **Rating (8)**

Holly Geraghty: Had to dig deep on occasions when Down threatened to take control, but she was steadfast throughout and never let her resolve dip. **(7)**

Claire Coffey: Was exposed for Down's goal early in the second-half, but apart from that she gave an almost faultless performance. **(8)**

Fiona O'Neill: Some great tackling from the Dunboyne woman and her blocking that was crucial to Meath's ultimate victory. **(8)**

Aine Keogh: Superb throughout, got forward



on occasions and at one stage chased her own pass before winning a free in from about 20 metres that Aileen Donnelly converted. **(8)**

Aoife Thompson: She boxed clever for the hour, her lack of pace was exposed on one occasion, but she was solid at centre-back. **(7)**

Louise Donoghue: The only Kittale player to start and she delivered a huge performance that saw her make some vital tackles and get forward occasionally. **(7)**

Ann Marie Fagan: Worked hard at midfield, won some important frees and was a vital link between defence and attack, made sure that Down were second best in the middle for most of the hour. **(8)**

Kristina Troy: A tremendous hour, a solid performance and a brave one as well, she claimed one point from play after a period of Meath pressure and she also waded in to win vital possession in the second-half. **(9)**

Edel Guy: Lacked nothing in effort and commitment, found it tough against a tight-marking Down rearguard, was moved into the corner forward position briefly before she was substituted in the second-half. **(7)**

Jane Dolan: So much was expected from the team captain, not too much went her way, but her resolve never dipped despite the tight-marking Down tactics and she managed three points. **(8)**

Aileen Donnelly: A fantastic display from the



Kilmessan woman, carried the sliotar with menace when she put the Down defence under pressure and also contributed three points. **(8)**

Aoife Maguire: Claimed Meath's first score of the second-half, it was a vital score, a brief goal chance, but the point was valuable and helped her team settle. **(7)**

Sinead Hackett: Excellent at full-forward, a great opening goal, missed some good chances also, but overall played a vital role in Meath's victory. **(8)**

Katie Hackett: She could have had three or four goals, but she never lost heart and her ability to run at the Down rearguard caused the Ulster team huge problems. **(7)**

Substitutes: not rated.

MEATH CAMOGIE STATISTICS 2012

ALL-IRELAND PREMIER

Final - Meath 1-11, Down 1-9

Semi-final - Meath 0-14, Kildare 0-5

Fifth round - Meath 3-10, Kildare 1-7

Fourth round - Meath 1-10, Down 1-9

Third round - Meath 4-27, Roscommon 1-4

Second round - Meath 2-15, Armagh 1-9

First round - Meath 2-9, Laois 0-12

LEAGUE DIVISION 2

First round - Meath 0-17, Cork 1-7

Second round - Meath 0-16, Down 2-8

Third round - Meath 2-12, Kilkenny 2-1

Fourth round - Meath 2-7, Tipperary 0-7

Final - Derry 2-11, Meath 0-6

LEINSTER JUNIOR

Quarter-final - Meath 2-15, Westmeath 1-10

Semi-final - Meath 3-13, Carlow 1-4

Final - Meath 1-16, Kildare 1-6

SEPT. 2012

SEPT. 2012

Davis thrilled for the players

All-Ireland success was overdue

FERGAL LYNCH

WHEN John Davis was approached to take over as Meath camogie manager in 2006 he surely could never have envisaged days like last Sunday.

When he reflected on his first couple of training sessions, the prospects of All-Ireland glory would only have been a dream.

So it is no surprise that in the aftermath of last Sunday's outstanding victory over Down to claim Meath's first All-Ireland Premier camogie crown, Davis was pinching himself to make sure he was awake.

After his RTE interview with Joanne Cantwell the Meath manager approached the local reporters shaking his head in disbelief - "is this all a dream?" - the reality had yet to dawn. He is now an All-Ireland winning manager.

"This win today is certainly not about me or about medals. This win is all about the girls because they are a very proud bunch," said Davis as he stood shaking in the depths of the Hogan Stand.

"They have all given great commitment and it is a panel game, we

have great subs there too that we didn't get to use today, but it was a full team effort.

"Sinead Hackett got the player-of-the-match award and it was fully deserved because she is a super player. We had loads of other stars today as well. Aine Keogh was outstanding and she did a great job on Fionnuala Carr.

"Thank God we won, I didn't think it would come, but I'm so relieved now and delighted for the girls because they fully deserve this," he said.

Before victory was achieved Davis and his team had to endure a few nervous moments. After going behind to a goal his side showed their true character to go three ahead in the closing stages, but still Down caused problems.

Nerves were frayed as the Ulster side cut the deficit to a point and while Davis wasn't nervous before the game he certainly gave his heart a good work-out in the closing stages.

"This was probably the first game of the year that I wasn't nervous about. For a fortnight before the semi-final I couldn't work with the nerves, but today was completely different," said Davis.

"Finals to me are a completely different game. Semi-finals are more nerve wrecking because you have to get



Although she was out-numbered Meath's Sinead Hackett managed to score this vital goal against Down. PHOTO: JOHN QUIRKE

to a final, but we showed great heart out there today and that probably came from losing a few semi-finals before.

"The girls fought so hard today. The defending was excellent and on another day Jane Dolan might have grabbed a few more scores, but she had to do other hard work. The defence held out and by God it was tough.

"I was nervous near the end when they piled on the pressure, Fionnuala and Sara

Louise Carr are great players and they brought the game to us and put us under pressure. Our defence stood strong, but I thought it would never end," he said.

As Down narrowed the gap in the closing stages Davis was left wondering would his side rue not taking more scores in a game they totally dominated. However, he needn't have worried because the Meath spirit was strong.

"We didn't take our scores

in the first-half and that was a bit of a concern, but the girls also had some nerves so some of the misses were understandable," he said.

"Taking our points probably would have been the better option, but some of the girls found themselves in goal-scoring positions and they went for them, however they didn't make the strike and the chances disappeared.

"I really don't care about those missed chances now, we

won and that is all that matters to me.

"I want to thank the crowd for their great support today, it was great to see that support here again today and no Meath team dies when everyone is together, I told the girls that today and they responded," concluded Davis before being whisked off for more interviews.

Never in his wildest dreams did he think there would be days like this.

Captain fantastic leads the way to glory

FERGAL LYNCH

IS there a better feeling in sport than climbing the steps of the Hogan Stand to collect an All-Ireland cup on behalf of your county?

According to Meath captain Jane Dolan there certainly is not and it was an occasion she will cherish forever.

Still out of breath from her Herculean efforts in helping Meath overcome Down to claim the junior title, Dolan beamed with pride as she spoke of the best day of her life.

"It is unreal, I just can't believe it, I'm delighted. The time just flew by as well, when I looked up at the clock at one stage I couldn't believe there was only five minutes left, we were three points up at that stage and I

started to believe that we were actually going to do it," Dolan told the *Meath Chronicle*.

"It is an unbelievable feeling, the girls played really well, they really pulled it out of the bag today. It was brilliant."

While emotions were running high with the elation of the victory, Dolan was also very aware that she had been in a tough battle.

She agreed that Meath had dominated, but credited Down for making life tough.

"It was a really tough game and even though it is a big pitch with plenty of space, we felt like we had none because Down made it so difficult," she said. "Maybe we were a bit nervous in the early stages and that seemed to affect us a bit, but we pulled through in the end. Our backs were unbelievable, you can't fault any of them, they were class.

"We knew we missed a good bit in the first-half and when we came into the dressing room at half-time we were still nice and relaxed. Usually John (Davis) would kill us for missing those chances, but today he just kept us calm and relaxed.

"We knew what we had to do for the second-half. We knew we could control the game if we just put our heads down and worked hard. We composed ourselves well for the second-half, we knew what we had to do and we did it," she said.

While Meath weren't at their free flowing best, Dolan reflected that her side had showed another aspect of their effort, a willingness to work hard and never give up.

The hard work and hardship suffered over the last four years served to drive Meath

forward and the Blackhall Gaels player was proud of the teams' efforts and delighted for the manager John Davis.

"This is a reward for a lot of years of hard work. There is a core group of girls that have been at this for six years and have lost a lot of big games," recalled Dolan.

"We knew what it was like to lose, but girls like Aileen Donnelly stood up and reminded us what it was like to lose three semi-finals and we didn't want that feeling again.

"John Davis is an unbelievable man. Everyone has such admiration for him, he has been with us for so long now. We have been through so much with him both personally and on the pitch, so we wanted to do this for him as much as for ourselves," concluded Dolan.

All-Ireland Premier junior camogie final: Meath

ALL-IRELAND PREMIER JUNIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS 2012 - MEATH



Party time for Meath arrived at around 1.30 at Croke Park on Sunday after they received the All-Ireland Premier Junior camogie trophy for the first time. PHOTO: JOHN QUIRKE / WWW.QUIRKE.IE

Brave Rebelettes vow to bounce back

Heartbroken Cork star Rena Buckley confident team will learn from All-Ireland camogie defeat

WEXFORD 3-13
CORK 3-6

DARAGH Ó CONCHÚIR
REPORTS

ASK any of the Cork hurlers of that era what it was like to be involved in the 2004 Munster final and they will tell you that it was one of the worst days of their sporting lives. It is exactly the reaction you would expect from a winner.

So it was no surprise then to have it confirmed that Rena Buckley found no consolation in being part of the most memorable and high quality senior final in recent memory, as Cork lost Sunday's gripping All-Ireland final to three-in-a-row champions Wexford.

'Not from my side of things really,' she grinned ruefully.

'We got off to a poor start. We were very disappointed in it. They definitely got on top of us in the first 15 minutes but we felt we were in a good position at half time. We'd worked our way back into the game and felt if we could just push on from there.'

'But unfortunately it was all Wexford in the second half really. They got some very good scores and we just didn't have the firepower, we didn't manage to claw it back. Full credit to the girls, they fought right to the very end but it just wasn't our day.'



Under pressure: Cork's Briege Corkery in action against Wexford's Catherine O'Loughlin during Sunday's All-Ireland senior camogie championship final at Croke Park.

(Photo: Paul Mohan/Sportsfile)

Buckley recognised the crazy three-goal period between the 46th and 48th minutes as the game's critical juncture. It indicated Cork's tremendous character but in the end, it also showed the measure of Wexford.

'When we got the goal back there was just two points in it but they came back and scored

another one straight away and that was the gap we just couldn't close. That was the difference in the end,' she said.

'We'd hoped to upset the apple-cart today but unfortunately it didn't come off for us but please God we'll be back again.'

Even though Cork produced a performance of grit and determination, allied with some

moments of real class, it still wasn't enough to derail a Wexford side that made history by winning their third All-Ireland senior camogie title in a row - and fourth in six seasons.

Having gone seven points clear with a point from the deadly Katrina Parrock in the 23rd minute, Wexford were cruising.

Cork dug deep though and using the six minutes of injury time awarded after lengthy stoppages for treatment to Cork's young first-time starter Claire Shine and Wexford's legendary corner-back Claire O'Connor, they were level going in at half time, having scored 2-4 in response to the champions' 1-7.

It took three moments of pure genius from Ursula Jacob to ultimately cripple the Rebel resistance.

The first, right at the beginning of the final quarter, kick-started the most spectacular 120 seconds or so of action you are likely to see in any sport.

First, Jacob was in the right place at the right time to flick a fantastic goal for Wexford.

But with Barryroe's Jenny O'Leary, Inniscarra's Rena Buckley, Cloughduv dynamo Briege Corkery, Gemma O'Connor from St Finbarr's, Douglas youngster Claire Shine and Orla Cotter of St Catherine's having been so prominent until then, it was clear that Cork possessed the necessary character to respond. And respond they did.

Within seconds of Jacob finding the net at one end, Katrina Mackey had done so at the other, unleashing a fierce drive off her left side that gave Mags D'Arcy no chance.

It was an exchange that left you thinking that the advantage might now be with Cork,

even if they were trailing by two points.

That notion was quickly eliminated with the score of the game in the 48th minute when after a long diagonal delivery, Jacob reacted quickest, pulled first time off the sod, letting go with an unstoppable shot from the 13m line while running away from goal, that arrowed back into the opposite corner.

It was a sensational goal and though Corkery hit back with a point, Jacob fired over from tight on the right sideline. There were five points between the sides and Wexford were in control from there to the end.

Scorers

Wexford: U Jacob (4f, 2 45) 2-7; K Parrock 1-2; F Rochford, K Kelly 0-2 each.

Cork: J O'Leary (3f, 145) 0-4; A Murray (1 pen), S Burns, K Mackey 1-0 each; O Cotter, B Corkery 0-1 each.

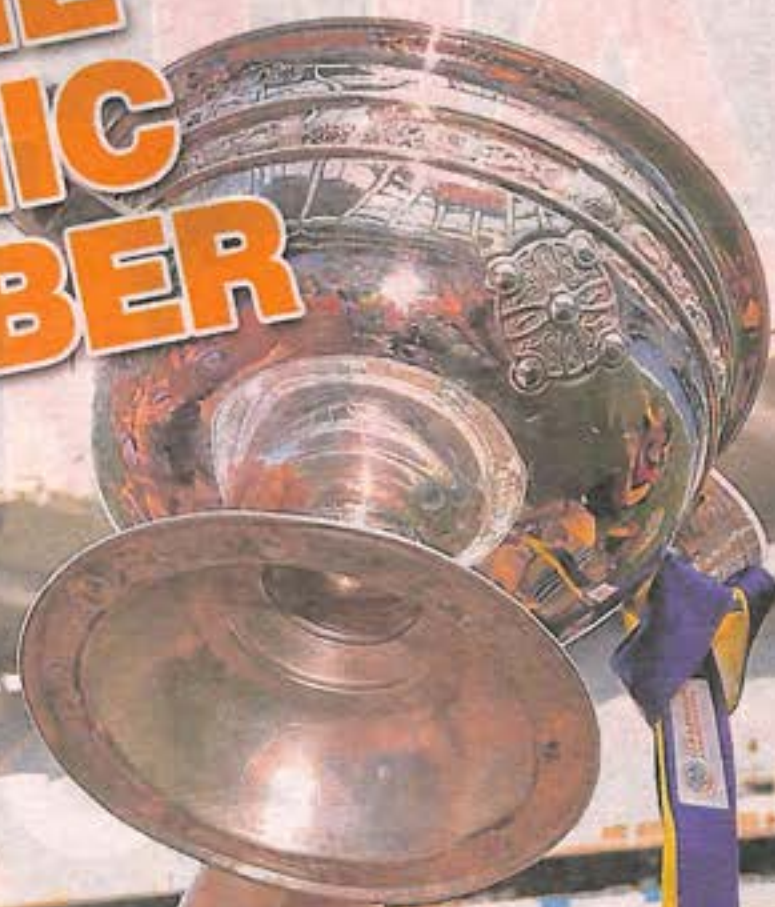
Wexford: M D'Arcy; C O'Connor, C O'Loughlin, K Atkinson; N Lambert, M Leacy, D Codd; L Bolger, K Kelly; M O'Leary, U Leacy, J Dwyer; F Rochford, K Parrock, U Jacob.

Sub used: F Kavanagh for Bolger (47).

Cork: A Murray; R Buckley, J O'Callaghan, J Duffy; E O'Sullivan, G O'Connor, P Mackey; J O'Leary, O Cotter; J Casey, A Geary, C Shine; K Mackey; S Burns, B Corkery.

Subs used: K Buckley for Burns (56); R Curtin for Casey (56). **Referee:** A Lagrue (Kildare).

3 IS THE
MAGIC
NUMBER



CELEBRATING OUR
ALL-IRELAND WINNING
WFC CAMOGIE TEAM

Three is the magic number



DEAN GOODISON

At Croke Park

WEXFORD 3-13
CORK 3-06

WHAT A day. What an achievement. The three-peat, three All-Ireland Senior Championship wins in a row.

A feeling that no living Wexford person has strong memories of. The day that this team became immortal, to be forever discussed, referenced and compared with. Wexford's greatest ever champions. And it all happened at fortress Croke Park.

For those counting that's four of the last six championships. Four visits to headquarters, four scintillating victories.

Each one arguably more impressive than the preceding one, but no one more special than any other. Hold off on the epilogue though because these girls are not finished yet.

There is no secret. This squad of players is meticulously prepared by J.J. Doyle, his selectors Tommy Roche, Joe Brennan, Geraldine Murphy, and his trainer Gerry McQuaid. They are prepared for success. They are prepared like champions, to be champions.

Yet all the preparations in the world will amount to little if the talent isn't there to back it up. All over the pitch Wexford have players putting in their shift, but more than that it's immensely talented players putting every ounce of energy, throwing every limb, into it. There's no situation that's isn't worth fighting for as far as this side goes and Sunday's performance once again proved it.

From one to 15 - of course number 19 too - as well as the subs that pushed the players out to this level of performance; this was a truly team victory. Maybe more so than any of the other three victories in recent years. Maybe this seventh All-Ireland was the best yet, the most complete.

The signs might not have been there in the first few minutes but aren't the opening exchanges always tense.

A flying Claire Shine barrelled in to Catherine O'Loughlin to earn an opening minute free that Jennifer O'Leary converted but Cork's only lead of the day didn't hold up long.

After Jacob missed an earlier free she



Ursula Jacob celebrates after scoring Wexford's third goal.

found her range with her second dead-ball to level before Katrina Parrock put Wexford ahead after Deirdre Codd and Mary Leacy combined to clear the lines in defence.

Another soft free, given for charging on Karen Atkinson, allowed O'Leary to level the scores again in the tenth minute but the lightning feet of Katrina Parrock were soon skipping in at goal at the other end.

St Ibar's star Parrock, again taking up a spot at full-forward, edged onto the wing to receive possession, drove past Joanne O'Callaghan and flashed a shot past the impressive Aoife Murray.

The three-point Wexford lead (1-2 to 0-2) grew rapidly as the game edged towards half time.

Collecting a lay-off from Michelle O'Leary, Kate Kelly flew over a long range point in the 16th minute, a score that was added to two minutes later when Jacob converted a free after she was fouled.

Cantering away Katrina Parrock added her second point after a lovely pass from Fiona Rochford but Wexford's six point lead (1-5 to 0-2) in the 23rd minute had completely evaporated by the interval.

The decimation of the advantage started after Brieghe Corkery drew a penalty



from bewildered referee Alan Lagrue and Aoife Murray lashed her resulting shot into the net off of Mags D'Arcy's hurl.

Two Jacob placed-balls, the first after Parrock was cynically hauled down by the neck on the way to goal, looked to have stemmed the Cork tide but the six minutes of injury-time would be the Leesiders best spell.

Sile Burns began the push with a second Cork goal in the first minute of added-on time while Orla Cotter got too much space when adding a point moments later.

D'Arcy dived low to save from Claire Shine as the pressure continued to come and Jenny O'Leary tied the contest before the whistle (1-7 to 2-4).

Weaker teams, having dominated the opening half but gone in level, might have folded at the predicament Wexford found themselves in but the first half is where the similarities with the league final finished.

The Rebelettes finished better that day but Wexford were clearly the stronger side the longer the game wore on in Croke Park.

After a quick five minutes to open the third quarter the Slaneysiders grabbed a

brace of points in 60 seconds.

A foul on Rochford allowed Jacob to nail her fifth dead-ball of the game before Kate Kelly combined again with O'Leary to point.

D'Arcy saved from the impressive newcomer Claire Shine in the 37th minute and Wexford looked to have dodged a bullet when Joanne Casey's rebound went wide off the outside of the post.

However, after initially giving it correctly, a combination of referee and lineswoman overruled the umpire and gifted Cork their first point of the half from an O'Leary '45.

Rochford's first point, after superb play by Codd, left Wexford two ahead before a breathless three minutes illuminated the All-Ireland Senior Camogie final.

Jacob started the spell by flicking in from close range after Michelle O'Leary's point attempt was batted up in the air and she finished it by pulling a rasping drive into the roof of the Cork net.

In between Jacob's heroics Katrina Mackey raced away from Noeleen Lambert and drilled past D'Arcy for the Rebelettes' third goal of the game but the overall result of the spell was Wexford ahead by five (3-10 to 3-).

Brieghe Corkery's 48th minute point

SEPT. 2012

SEPT. 2012

CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Peaking at right time the key, says McQuaid



DEAN GOODISON
At Croke Park

THE MAN who has Wexford finishing All-Ireland finals in the same condition they start them, Gerry McQuaid, took time out after the Slaneysiders third victory with him in situ to explain that there is no secret to his success.

The Monaghan native, a former middle-distance runner for his country, insists that peaking at the right time is key and that Wexford proved on Sunday that they timed their run to perfection. 'In the Championship we weren't going on all cylinders at all,' said McQuaid.

'You can't be expected to fly in July, even August, and then perform again in the middle of September, it's nearly impossible. So with these girls, everything was planned right through, and it paid off.'

'It's not rocket science. You cannot be doing flat out short sprints earlier on in the season, you just

wait your holding, holding, holding, then you let them go. It's both physical and mental. So when they realise that this is the fast time of the year they're going to get fast so the whole training changes.'

Part of the duties of the trainer include the warming-up of the substitutes. Whatever the routine, it certainly worked with the only Wexford sub on the day, Fiona Kavanagh. McQuaid explained, 'I was told to warn Fiona at half time, just before we came back out. I said (to her) right, you're going to come on, just get your head right. You could see the intensity in her eyes, she knew what she had to do when she came on.'

'First ball, took it, turned straight inward, ran at goal and got scored out of it. Every ball stuck to her hand. You could see the strength of the bench when you take a look at that.'

In times gone by McQuaid has shied away from claiming any in-depth hurling knowledge, insisting that his success is down to his athletic background, but the former Irish athlete now

admits that 'maybe people will take note and think 'God, maybe this man knows something about hurling'.

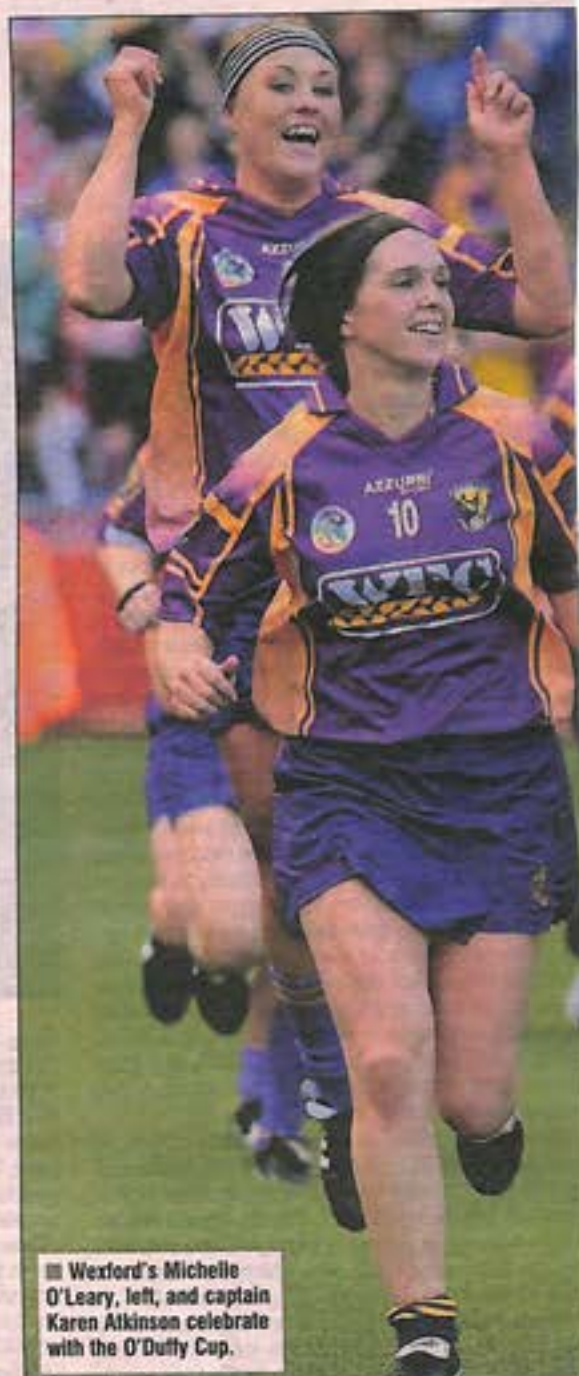
It might come as a huge disappointment to wannabe challengers but McQuaid believes that there is more that he can drag out from this side, he concluded, 'Is there more in them? Yeah there is because if you take a look, what happens is, every year you need to re-invent yourself, when I came back in 2011 after 2010, if I started to do the same thing sure everybody gets bored, so I change it.'

'It's about re-inventing. Drills, fitness assessment, these girls have dexta scans done in Waterford I.T., there's no stone goes unturned, so there's definitely another level in them.'

If Rathnure, also trained by McQuaid, go on to peak and win the county championship, his stock may be so high that it'll be a struggle to retain his services. After all, interest always follows success. And success seems to be following Gerry McQuaid.



Wexford's Catherine O'Loughlin puts pressure on Brieghe Corkery of Cork.



Wexford's Michelle O'Leary, left, and captain Karen Atkinson celebrate with the O'Duffy Cup.

'Dream come true' for Fiona

IT WAS a complete dream come true to play in a Senior All-Ireland final, beamed St Anne's star Fiona Rochford after she helped Wexford claim their third championship title in a row.

Having picked up the title at Intermediate level in 2011 the meteoric rise was complete for the dual star with a two point haul in the Croke Park showpiece.

'I never believed three years ago when I joined the panel that I'd even be with them at this stage, let alone playing a Senior final and winning it. It's amazing.'

Playing in such an atmosphere the young star might have been forgiven for contemplating victory a little early but Rochford admits that she never truly believed it was over until the tie entered the closing rites.

'When I saw 60 minutes up on the board and when there was three minutes more. We were about seven up and I think that was about it! Today has shown, in the first half, that if you let up at all they're going to come back and they can hit you for goals.'

'We got a goal and they went straight down the field and got a goal, so you can't let that come into your mind at all. That's the way it is with Cork.'

Playing in a full-forward line that gave the Leesiders constant problems, Rochford admitted she was 'surprised' to get the nod ahead of more experience squad members.

She believes the victory would have been even more comprehensive had Wexford not switched off for a spell, which allowed Cork to gain a foothold.

However Rochford said that there was plenty of confidence in the dressing room at half-time, she concluded, 'We knew that if we went out and hurled for the second half that we would be there or thereabouts at the end'. And they were, well clear and lifting another All-Ireland crown, there could be plenty more for the Rathangan clubwoman as the year goes by.

Una full of praise for full-forward line

2010 WEXFORD captain Una Leacy pinpointed the full-forward line as key for Wexford in claiming their fourth All-Ireland title in six years.

The Oulart-The Ballagh star, who didn't make it to half-time in the semi-final win against Offaly owing to knee injury, was back helping her side to victory over old rivals Cork.

She said, 'We knew that if we got the ball into the inside forward line that they would do the damage. They were tearing the Cork inside backs apart.'

'You know, we were thinking maybe the inside back line on the Cork team is the weakest on their team and I think the girls proved today; any ball that went in they took them asunder. If they

had of had more ball they there would have been a lot more damage done as well.'

Leacy's build-up to the final has been hampered by a knee injury and she admitted that she has real concerns both before, and during the game.

'Two weeks before at training I just said I'd try it out.'

'It didn't go well for me at all, I couldn't turn or do nothing on it.'

'In fairness I was told to keep working at it myself and keep getting physio on it. A few days later it felt so much better, the resting it, icing it, and minding it, helped it a lot.'

I wasn't really worried about fitness today, I

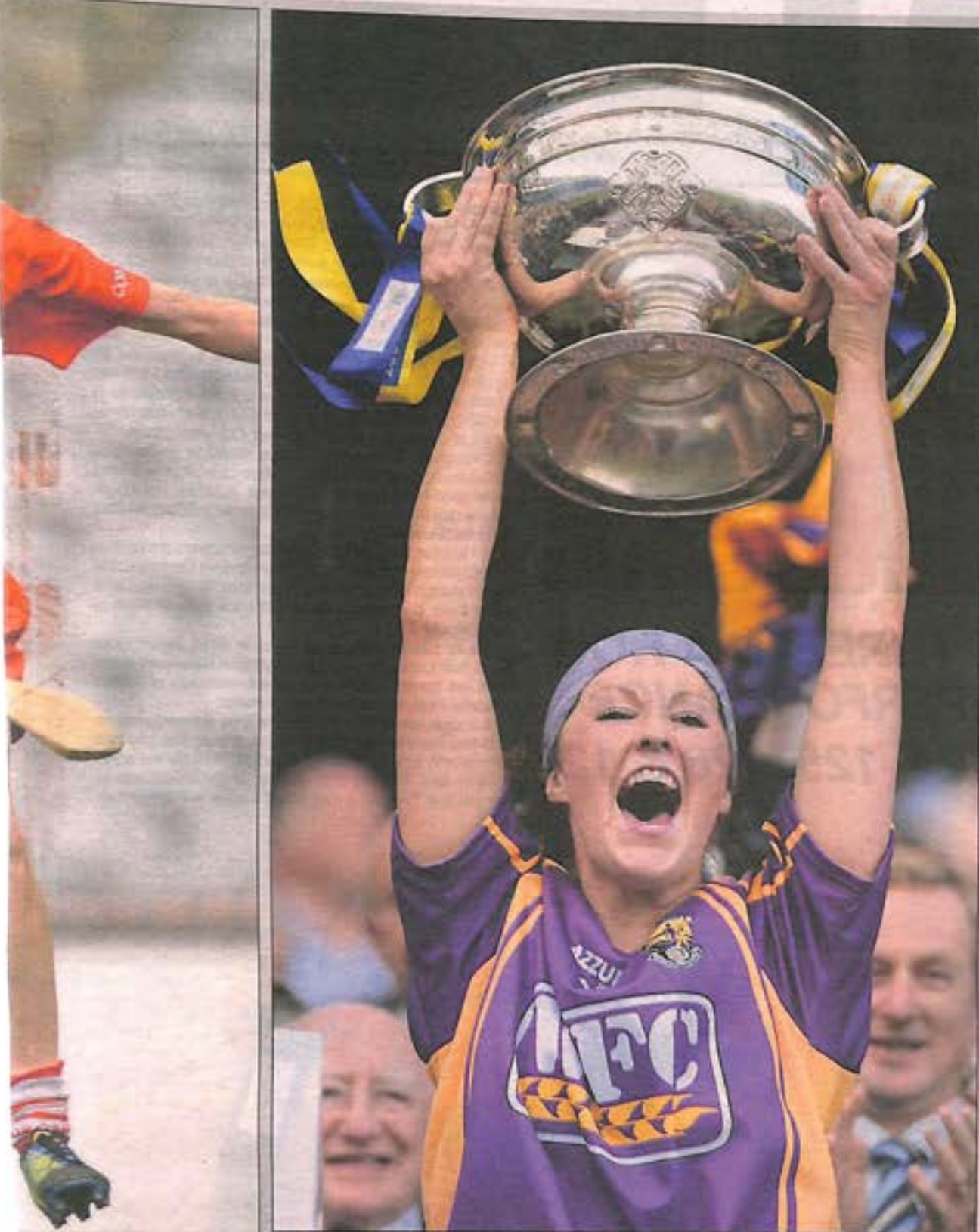
was hoping my knee would hold up, hoping that I'd get through the game.'

Wexford's centre-forward managed to negotiate the 60 minutes without doing herself any further harm to taste success again. The feeling of three-in-a-row is something Leacy found tough to describe.

'I don't know the words to even say. Feels unbelievable, it's even hard to say. Can't believe that we have won three All-Irelands in a row.'

'Coming up to Croke Park...it's like playing at home we are playing here so much.'

The people of Wexford can only hope that headquarters continues to feel like home for the champions.



ABOVE: Wexford captain Karen Atkinson lifts the O'Duffy Cup. LEFT: Wexford's Fiona Kavanagh battles for possession with Pamela Mackey of Cork.

HOW THEY PLAYED

MAGS D'ARCY 7

Two good saves at crucial times from D'Arcy and was very safe under high balls. Distribution was very good. Unenviable task to stand between the post and face bullets coming at you - it's easy to nit-pick but may have stood stronger for second Cork goal.

CLAIRE O'CONNOR 7

Under pressure at times in the corner and was never give a second in possession. However, O'Connor's no-nonsense approach was vital several times in the second half as she cleared Wexford lines and relieved pressure with good ground hurling and quick decision making.

CATHERINE O'LOUGHLIN 7

The five-time All-Star was given a tough time by the nifty Briege Corkery. Was unlucky to give away a penalty for what amounted to a dive from the Cork forward and will be happy that her battle against the opponents danger-woman only yielded a further point.

KAREN ATKINSON 8

The understated, undervalued member of the Wexford full-back line was possibly the most impressive. Deceptive pace saw her handle most things that were thrown at her and despite not needing to do much as captain she led by example.

NOELEN LAMBERT 7

The St Martin's girl will hardly get a more difficult day at the office. Struggled to keep pace with Katrina Mackey when she was moved back to the wing but her game intelligence and craftiness meant that she won far more battles than she lost.

MARY LEACY 8

Maybe the best indication of Leacy's performance was the fact that nobody will remember that Anna Geary, multiple All-Star, even played in this game. Switching the direction of attack at will, her intelligent use of the ball gave the inside-forwards the possession they needed to create havoc.

DEIRDRE CODD 10

Possibly the best performance any of us will see on a camogie field in our life time. Simply phenomenal from start to finish, won every ball, used possession well and won herself an All-Star with this showing. Flawless. (Pictured right).

LISA BOLGER 7

Tough to come back into a game like this, against the calibre of opponent, after a long lay-off and it showed at times. Grew into the task in the second half and showed what she is capable of but was replaced at the right time by fresh legs.

KATE KELLY 8

The star of the semi-final is

always good for a couple of points. Grabbed a brace and was her usual nightmare self to deal with roaming all around the hallowed turf. Showing no sign of slowing up and will be the lynchpin again in the bid for four-in-a-row.

MICHELLE O'LEARY 8

The same thing is always said about O'Leary. Relentless effort that is so important for the team. Put in a shift down the left although might still be better suited to midfield. Her shot for Jacob's first goal arguably changed the course of the game in Wexford's favour.

UNA LEACY 7

Horrible position to have to come into an All-Ireland final and not be at 100 per cent. If that wasn't bad enough Leacy was then tasked with stemming the supply that came from Gemma O'Connor. Made vital contribution for Jacob's second goal.

JOSIE DWYER 8

If ever there was a player to carry a heat monitor to track their movement around the pitch it's Dwyer. Popped up in the Cork half early, held play around the middle well and eventually ended up supporting the defence stationed between the lines. Tireless.

FIONA ROCHFORD 8

Absolutely staggering to think that this was Rochford's first championship start, ever. Her three points in the last ten minutes of the semi-final will go down as the most important in her career as it got her this start and she excelled beyond expectation with two scores and several assists.

KATRINA PARROCK 9

Would anyone expect anything less from the perennial 'young-gun'. Superb performance, her best of the year and all saved up for the big day. Goal was spectacular, as were the points and fouling her was the only remedy Cork could muster to curtail her influence.

URSULA JACOB 9

Two goals right out of the top drawer which equated the vital scoring contribution in the second half. Yet, it could be argued that the most special part of Jacob's performance was the fact that she was out in front winning every ball. Superb performance.



FIONA KAVANAGH (SUB) 8

For the 14 minutes plus added time that Kavanagh was on she displayed all the attributes she possesses but doesn't always show.

Direct running, good ball usage and a vital thorn in the Cork side which helped Wexford close out victory with relative ease.

WEXFORD

SCORERS: Ursula Jacob (2-7, 0-4 frees, 0-2 '45s), Katrina Parrock (1-2), Fiona Rochford (0-2), Kate Kelly (0-2).

1. Mags D'Arcy
2. Claire O'Connor
3. Catherine O'Loughlin
4. Karen Atkinson
5. Noeleen Lambert
6. Mary Leacy
7. Deirdre Codd
8. Lisa Bolger
9. Kate Kelly
10. Michelle O'Leary
11. Una Leacy
12. Josie Dwyer
13. Fiona Rochford
14. Katrina Parrock
15. Ursula Jacob

SUBS: Fiona Kavanagh for Bolger (48), also, Helena Jacob, Stacey Redmond, Lenny Holohan, Louise Codd, Shelly Kehoe, Brid Gordon, Evelyn Quigley, Linda Bolger, Shauna Sinnott, Louise O'Leary, Clara O'Connor, Colleen Atkinson, Frances Doran, Eimear O'Connor, Tracey Nolan.

REFEREE: Alan Lagrue (Kildare).

CORK

SCORERS: Jennifer O'Leary (0-4, 2 frees, 1-45), Aoife Murray (1-0 penalty), Sile Burns (1-0), Katrina Mackey (1-0), Orla Cotter (0-1), Briege Corkery (0-1).

1. Aoife Murray
2. Jenny Duffy
3. Joanne O'Callaghan
4. Rona Buckley
5. Eimear O'Sullivan
6. Gemma O'Connor
7. Pamela Mackey
8. Jennifer O'Leary
9. Orla Cotter
10. Joanne Casey
11. Anna Geary
12. Claire Shine
13. Katrina Mackey
14. Briege Corkery
15. Sile Burns

SUBS: Regina Curtin for Casey (55), Katie Buckley for Shine (55), also, Emer White, Julie White, Amanda O'Regan, Linda Dorgan, Leah Waste, Lynda O'Connell, Carolyn Motherway, Finola Neville, Marie Walsh, Julie Mulcahy, Tessa Crowley, Caroline Sugrue, Orla Cronin.

VENUE: Croke Park.

would be Cork's last as Wexford, with fitness levels never seen before on a camogie field, finished the game in flying form.

Jacob grabbed her first point from play from close to the right touchline while Rochford added her second minor moments after Murray sensationally saved her goal-bound shot.

Fittingly, Wexford's top scorer Jacob rounded off the scoring with a last-gasp '45 and with it her side secured a stunning seven-point victory.

Karen Atkinson followed in the footsteps of her three clubmates, the Leacy sisters and Jacob, by lifting the cup on behalf of her side and with it Wexford moved into fourth in the all-time list with seven titles.

Few would bet against the champions making it four-in-a-row next year, on this evidence you'd be more stupid than brave to do so.

SEPT 2012

Rebels were too slow to make changes



Changes could have been made to stymie the influence of Ursula Jacob, who scored 2-7 of Wexford's total. Maybe Lynda O'Connell or Leah Weste should have been given a chance to mark her.

Picture: Inpho

PRIOR to Cork's loss to Galway in the senior hurling championship Galway selector Tom Helebert said "hurling is no longer a 15-man game".

The same can be said of this year's camogie championship and never was it more evident than on Sunday.

Cork were in trouble, the defence exposed and vulnerable but the management failed to throw in a life buoy.

The fact that Cork's only substitutes weren't on long enough to be rated in the player ratings suggests the management didn't have a plan B. In truth though, Cork were on a hiding to nothing playing their best back as a forward and best forward as a midfielder.

Both Anna Geary and Jenny O'Leary have been recognised with All-Stars because they are both exceptional players, at wing-back and wing-forward respectively.

Yes they are athletes and yes they can adapt, to a certain extent, but it was foolish to have them playing out of position on Sunday.

Level at half-time but evidently in trouble at the back, the Cork management should have moved Geary back to wing-back, the options to replace her at centre-forward included Linda Dorgan and Amanda O'Regan, both individually experienced enough to have done the job of nullifying Wexford centre-back Mary Leacy, provided Cork cutely played the wings.

Gemma O'Connor was straining at the leash to join the Cork attack but with the defence at sixes and sevens O'Connor couldn't move. If O'Connor had been relieved of the responsibility of playing



OPINION

centre-back in the second half and allowed to drive forward, things could have opened up further for Cork.

It would have been a big call to move O'Connor out of centre-back but it could have been the call that made difference.

The defence was so ragged that any change would have been welcomed by the spectators who travelled to Croke.

There was one problem though, a problem that could have been rectified much earlier in the year with better co-operation.

Cork's bench has seen little game time in this championship, relatively untested, they fell between two stools.

Both Lynda O'Connell and Leah Weste were earmarked to come into Cork's defence on Sunday if required, despite being outside the first 15 for the year.

Neither player saw enough action for Cork's intermediate team to sharpen them up.

Cork played four championship games during the month of July.

Two of those games were

part of double-headers alongside the senior games. The players would have been able to dove-tail the two and the current championship format would have allowed it.

Wexford had no qualms in saying the exposure of their fringe players to championship camogie during last year's campaign was crucial to Wexford's senior success. Wexford completing a memorable double in Croke Park.

Wexford continued to operate the same system this year, their senior substitutes lining out in their win over Cork's intermediates at Wexford Park before changing jerseys and joining the senior panel for the second game.

Wexford knew then what they had.

The bench issue aside, Cork managed to get three goals and there were more there for the taking.

Wexford full-back Catherine O'Loughlin was on her first yellow after two minutes of the game for her foul on Rebel debutant Claire Shine, but she managed to survive a further 65 minutes on the field without coming to the attention of the referee.

If the Cork attack had run at O'Loughlin, O'Loughlin would have likely done the same thing again or else let the play through.

Cork weren't ruthless enough to target O'Loughlin and that was the difference.

Wexford showed no mercy at the other end, ball after ball hitting the potent full-forward line.

Both Joanne O'Callaghan and Jenny Duffy will admit that this is one display that they won't want to remember in a hurry, both shown a clean pair of heels too many times.

But if the full-forward line weren't getting the supply, they wouldn't have been able to do damage they did, scoring 3-11 out of 3-13.

Eimear O'Sullivan and Pamela Mackey were too inexperienced on the wings to provide the cover that the full-back line were screaming for.

If you look back on Cork's victories in 2005 and 2006, they were built on a half-back line display that was near faultless, Geary key to both.

By comparison Wexford half-back Deirdre Codd gave an exhibition, Cork's Joanne Casey not getting a sniff, but the Cork management persisted naively.

Briege Corkery was one of Cork's best players, again, but Corkery was a side-show at full-forward.

She should have been playing in midfield.

Regardless of whether Corkery is stationed 50 yards from goal or five yards from goal, she will be in the thick of the action.

She is fit enough to be up with the play at all times, as proved by her two crucial points in last week's win over Monaghan in the All-Ireland football semi-final.

When it boils down to it Cork's management looked a gift-horse in the mouth in Corkery.

Mistakes were made on the field yes, balls dropped, uncharacteristic errors from Cork goalkeeper Aoife Murray, but ultimately the dynamic was wrong and that comes down to management decisions not made on the day.

DEMPSEY



TOM'S HURLING ANALYSIS

Wonderful team achieve immortality

HURLING IMMORTALITY has been achieved by the wonderful Wexford camogie team by virtue of their stunning performance in last Sunday's All-Ireland final when they achieved a magnificent three-in-a-row and put to bed any doubt as to who are the true kings of the modern game. This for me was the outstanding performance of the four recent victories in Headquarters as the girls once again proved that they are one of the truly great teams to have graced the ancient stadium.

I will admit to have been very apprehensive coming into the game as Cork seemed to be hitting a rich vein of form and this allied to our own injury worries seemed to point to an uncomfortable afternoon. To add to my worries I was flanked by Rebels, radio broadcaster Jacqui Hurley and Cork legend Linda Mellerick in the press box (I suppose things could have been worse) and their confident insights into the meticulous preparation and current well being of this Cork team was increasing my sense of trepidation. About a minute before throw in Linda turned to me and said, 'I'm not as confident as I was an hour ago' and as I looked down at J.J. and his army I felt a sense of calm and from that minute on I had no doubt that these legendary Wexford women would carry us home. We were superb in the first half and despite the extra time glitch came out in the second half and gave the exhibition of all exhibitions leaving Cork grasping at straws just to stay in the game.

I could go through every player individually and write a thousand words to try to sum up their contributions but if I was to mention one that summed up the cumulative effect of the passion, skill and bravery of the team it would be Deirdre Codd, because last Sunday she was awesome. I wasn't surprised they kept her back to do a drugs test (only joking) because the energy she showed from the first to the last minute was incredible and a tribute to the dedication and fitness of these girls and Gerry McQuaid's immeasurable contribution. We had heroes all over the field and on the day our backs were superb with a marker set very early by Catherine O'Loughlin's not so subtle introduction to championship hurling for young Claire Shine. (I felt this booking was unfair and the free marginal).

Our real trump cards were in the full-forward line however as Katrina Parrock was having a field day particularly in the first half and when Ursula Jacob hit overdrive she showed that she has no peers when it comes to forward play. Young Fiona Rochford really came of age as well and no matter how hard Cork tried they could never come to terms with our last line of attack. The experiment or tactic of playing Joanne O'Callaghan at full-back completely backfired and I was amazed that the Cork mentors persisted with this situation for so long.

The mood was still upbeat with my two Cork friends at half-time but as the Wexford machine began to grind in the second half I could see the colour drain slowly from their faces as they realised that this Cork team was up against something very special and by the final blow of Alan Laguer's whistle they were very clear that this was not to be Cork's day, and like everyone else could only declare admiration for the performance they had just witnessed.

As well as the intensity shown by our defenders one of the stand-out moments of this final (or indeed any final) has to be Ursula Jacob's ground stroke goal in the second half. This has to be one of the greatest scores seen for a long time and given its timing and impact on the game was a huge turning point in completely killing off Cork's spirit. I also must give huge credit to Aoife Murray for her wonderful save from Fiona Rochford in the second half which superseded James Skehill's great block from Colin Fennelly the week before.

I know that I speak for the whole county when I say a heartfelt thanks to J.J. Doyle and all his team (backroom and players) for the tremendous joy they have provided our hurling mad county with over the past three years and I think it important to note that it just doesn't happen. I was in a G.A.A. field on a cold February night this year wrapped up to within an inch of my life (in case I'd catch a chill) when I met a group of girls led by Noeleen Lambert (of the great Martin's Lamberts) lapping the field at pace in an effort to achieve a particular time set, and they weren't strolling. They were motivated and motivating each other and it brought home to me that days like last Sunday don't just happen. You have to make it happen and our camogie team over the last six years have dedicated themselves to this goal and got their just reward on the steps of the Hogan last weekend.

Great days for Wexford hurling and long may they continue. Finally well done to both Buffers Alley and Glynn-Barntown for providing the club hurling game of the year last Saturday. It was a game played at a rip-roaring pace and with tremendous spirit and sportsmanship with no quarter asked or given and all players should be complimented for their efforts on the day. Glynn march forward and play Senior next year and I am fully confident that the Alley won't take long to regain the status their undoubted talent deserves. Buffers Alley are and will always be great hurling men.

Anna Geary should have been moved to wing-back at half time.

Cork failed to win individual battles



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

ANOTHER camogie inter-county season has come to an end and it's back to the drawing board for Cork.

Today the feeling is one of failure, yet let's take a step back and review the 2012 season just closed.

At the outset Cork manager Paudie Murray said that his goal was to reach an All-Ireland final, to get Cork back to Croke Park was his aim and if he did that he would view it as progression made.

He possibly doesn't feel that way at the moment and it'll be a few weeks before he'll objectively view the past nine months.

It's not easy to come into an inter-county scene; it's different from anything you have ever experienced as a manager. The preparation that was provided to this team in advance of last Sunday was out of the top drawer.

I said before the final that if Cork were beaten, there would be heartbreak, but no regrets.

There can be no regrets by way of preparation, but there are regrets in relation to the game itself, because a number of actions should have been taken on Sunday and weren't.

I don't believe Cork would have won out even if the few changes were made because too many individuals failed to win their battles.

A first round victory over Kilkenny last February set Cork on their National League trail, a second round defeat to Galway where Cork lost heavily, 1-16 to 0-10 and victories over Tipperary and Offaly, saw Cork reach a National League semi-final against Galway again on April 28.

A Cork side, now together three months, were feeling the benefits, winning out 1-12 to 0-12 thus getting back to the National League final for the first time in five years. Wexford were also there, bidding for four in-a-row.



Cork's Briege Corkery and Sile Burns tackle Claire O'Connor of Wexford during their All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final at Croke Park.

Picture: INPHO

Cork regained the National League Division One title in Semple Stadium with a strong second-half performance which saw them outscore Wexford by 1-5 to 0-3 and take the honours by two points.

The significance of the win was far greater than the silverware presented, giving the Cork side the belief that they were gaining ground on the Wexford girls.

Cork commenced their All-Ireland Championship on June 21 against a Clare side that denied them Munster honours.

Cork were pushed to the pin of their collars and fortunate to escape Newmarket On Fergus with a one-point victory. Fringe players pushing for a starting stake didn't enhance their reputations on the day. Cork's defence let in two soft goals, something they weren't renowned for. Against a stronger forward division the lack of intensity and concentration could have cost them dearly.

Round two saw a repeat of the league final where Wexford gained a five-point revenge. The key to Wexford's success was without

doubt the performance of a solid defensive unit that soaked up any pressure Cork threw at them.

Giving Wexford that feelgood factor again, having them regain their confidence over Cork was something I was hoping wouldn't happen.

A 4-20 to 1-5 trouncing of Offaly taught Cork little the following weekend. A comfortable win for Cork in the end in their final group game against Kilkenny yet it was only in the final quarter that they put any great distance between them and their challengers.

Cork never looked like losing this game yet Kilkenny remained four or five points in contention throughout until Cork blitzed them in the final quarter.

Cork had played four games by mid-July, winning three, losing one. Tipperary likewise, so the two entered a play-off to determine who finished second in their group and advance straight to a quarter-final.

Without ever scaling great heights Cork won out. With both sides looking tired, the game failed

to excite and it was only a goal by Katrina Mackey in the 29th minute, an opportunistic goal more than anything Cork created, which kept any distance between the sides into the final quarter.

Cork scraped a goal victory over Clare to advance to the semi-final, but it was a display which lacked passion and leaders. With the semi-finals looming, supporters were concerned.

Yet three weeks later, Cork unleashed a dazzling display of desire, passion and guts to book their place in the All-Ireland senior camogie final.

This was a terrific contest where great defending and great goals gave the spectators a memorable afternoon and much hope for the final ahead.

Cork looked to be hitting form at the right time.

Supporters had every reason to believe Cork had a great chance of stopping Wexford's reign.

But it wasn't to be. Wexford kept their best for when it mattered most. Their scintillating display last Sunday, Cork just couldn't match.

Clann na nGael in Croke Park



Players from the Clann na nGael camogie club enjoyed All-Ireland final day last Sunday when they participated in the mini-games and impressed coaches Graham Geraghty, Fiona Mullen and Matthew Mullen. The players who were involved included Blaithnaid Castles, Lauren Geraghty, Amy Collins Naoimh Mallee, Ciara Ni Dhonnachta, Sally O'Brien, Kathelyn Hamilton, Amy Tuile, Orla McLoughlin and Olivia Finnegan. PHOTO: JOHN QUIRKE / WWW.QUIRKE.IE

Cool Rachel earns Galway girls a second bite of cherry with late free

Tribeswomen claw their way back into contention after early dominance of All-Ireland final by Derry

| | |
|--------|------|
| Galway | 3-12 |
| Derry | 3-12 |

EOGHAN CORMICAN
AT CROKE PARK

ON a day of almost unbearable tension, substitute Rachel Monaghan held her nerve with a late free to send the All-Ireland Intermediate camogie final to a replay and, in the process, earn Galway a second bite of the cherry.

Saturday, September 29, is the date for the replay, ensuring a busy weekend, if nothing else, for Galway supporters but, in the development of this team the importance of Sunday's game, the experience garnered and the confidence gained, cannot be over-emphasised.

Eleven of the starting fifteen had never previously set foot on the turf of Croke Park yet they stood toe-to-toe, went score-for-score against a Derry side who had reached the decider without breaking sweat nor stride. Boy, were they made to work by a courageous Galway bunch

line, firing the sliotar between the posts to send this Intermediate final to a replay.

Though outplayed for much of the opening thirty, it was a minor miracle that Galway found themselves just two in arrears at the interval as goals from Marie Brehony and sub Caitriona Cormican coupled with a string of Emma Kilkelly points left the tie perfectly poised at 2-8 to 2-6.

Galway continued to press on the re-start and after Grainne McGoldrick (a controversial free that television replays clearly showed had gone wide of the upright but was white-flagged by the umpire) and Karen Kieft (2, one free) exchanged early points with Rachel Monaghan (free), they reeled off 1-2 in a blistering four minute spell to edge in front.

The Westerners third goal had its roots in a Kilkelly free which was poorly dealt with by Aoife Ní Chaiside and Deirdre Burke showed a predator's instinct to nab possession and unleash a sweetly struck goal to the Derry goal.



Galway's Paula Kenny in action against Teresa McElroy, Derry, during the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final at Croke Park on Sunday. PHOTO: DAVID MAHER / SPORTSFILE.

who truly never know when they're beaten.

To no great surprise, relief was etched on the face of each and every Galway player as they left the pitch after an injury-time point from Rachel Monaghan earned them a second chance in a game they dominated for large stretches, only to see their revival wiped out by a 61st minute Katie McAnenly penalty.

Derry were none the pleased that referee Ger O'Dowd awarded Galway the decisive free in the 63rd minute after Eilis Ní Chaiside was adjudged to have fouled Rachel Monaghan as she tried to engineer the equaliser in front of goal.

O'Dowd's decision presented Monaghan with a chance to square proceedings and, in a carbon copy of the hurling final, the Galway sharpshooter made no mistake from the 20 yard

the Derry net. Subsequent points came from the stick of Orla Curtin and Emma Kilkelly and, all of a sudden, Galway were ahead.

Sarah Noone, who struggled in the first half, Emma Kilkelly and Caitriona Cormican grew ever more influential while at the other end, Orla Curtin and Rachel Monaghan were superb in exploiting a troubled Derry rearguard.

Leading by 3-9 to 2-11 heading into the final quarter, Galway looked poised to drive-on to victory, but Derry hung on bravely, helped enormously by a terrific save from 'keeper Claire O'Kane who, for the second time in the contest, denied Orla Curtin with sub Rebecca Hennelly somehow steering the rebound left of the Hill 16 goal.

Two minutes out, Galway's scoreboard dominance was no more. Grainne McGoldrick

capitalised on a defensive mix-up in which Deirdre Burke failed to clear the danger before Clodagh McGrath needlessly fouled Grainne McNicholl. The Derry Captain was coolness personified in stroking the resultant free over the bar, Derry's first score in seventeen minutes.

Galway's response was to fire over two points in quick succession. Rachel Monaghan clipped over a neat effort following a poorly struck Rebecca Hennelly free and Galway were further boosted when sub Aoibhinn Kenny raised another white flag. Surely now, the Tribeswomen were out the gap.

Not quite, for when Tara Kenny's burst from defence was halted by Grainne McGoldrick, sister Maebh gathered the loose ball before unleashing a monstrous delivery that was

superbly fielded by Karen Kieft on the edge of the square. The Galway defenders panicked and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty.

One could not even begin to fathom the pressure resting on the shoulders of Katie McAnenly, but the centre-forward delivered a cracking finish and from being in a winning position, the game now looked to be gone from Galway.

Just as Derry had done, it was now Galway's turn to rescue their All-Ireland dreams and Tony Ward's troops certainly didn't disappoint. Rachel Monaghan had no right whatsoever to beat Aileen Mullan in the race for possession underneath the Cusack Stand and similar to her club-mate the week previous, when the contact was made at the crucial moment, she did everything in her power

to garner the free.

In retrospect, Galway really would have been shattered if they lost a game in which they enjoyed such dominance in the second half. It is the first half, however, and in the particular the opening twenty minutes, that will merit much attention from the management when they assess the game this week.

Derry were all over Galway during this period and, while Emma Kilkelly opened their account less than 19 seconds in, the Westerners were out-scored by 1-8 to 0-3 over the next 19 minutes.

Galway were finding it very difficult to cope with Derry's attack with Teresa McElroy and the hugely impressive Karen Kieft doing most of the damage, while their midfield partnership of Sinead Cassidy and Grainne McNicholl were also to the

fore.

That opening onslaught left Galway with a mountain to climb, but one they conquered with unflinching spirit and heart. They're still alive and still with another crack at glory. For now, at least.

Galway: R Callanan, T Kenny, P Kenny, C Gill, L Farrell, S Noone, S Keane, C McGrath, A Lynskey, A O'Reilly (0-1), E Kilkelly (0-5, 0-1 free, 0-45), M Brehony (1-0), D Burke (1-0), O Curtin (0-2), E O'Sullivan. Subs: C Cormican (1-0) for Lynskey (19 mins), R Monaghan (0-3, 0-2 frees) for Keane (30 mins), A Kenny (0-1) for O'Sullivan (41 mins), R Hennelly for Brehony (50 mins).

Derry: C O'Kane, M Quinn, A Ní Chaiside, A Mullan, A McCusker, E Ní Chaiside (1-0), M McGoldrick, S Cassidy (0-1), G McNicholl (0-2), G McGoldrick (0-1, 0-1 free), K McAnenly (2-0), T McElroy (0-2), S Quinn (0-1), O Bradley, K Kieft (0-5, 0-2 free's). Subs: M Mooney for M Quinn (33 mins), K Bradley for O Bradley (45 mins), A McPeake for S Quinn (49 mins).

Referee: G O'Dowd (Limerick).



Galway's Orla Curtin gets her shot in despite the efforts of Derry's Maria Mooney.

Never-say-die young side relieved to get another chance

EOGHAN CORMICAN

THEY could have snatched it, there's no doubting that, but the figure cut by Player of the Match Emma Kilkelly underneath the Hogan Stand said it all. Relief. Pure and utter relief.

Galway had had their chances and plenty of them – full-forward Orla Curtin was twice denied by Derry 'keeper Claire O'Kane; Rachel Monaghan fumbled possession with the goal at her mercy, while Rebecca Hennelly somehow steered the rebound off-target. For all that, however, a 61st minute Katie McAnenly goal moved Derry into a 3-12 to 3-11 lead and Galway's goose looked well and truly cooked.

It is from this viewpoint that Emma Kilkelly – the contributor of five points over the hour – realises we could well have been sifting through another camogie final disappointment. We're not and the centre-forward, along with the rest of the panel, is grateful for it.

"It's hard to know what to make of a draw. It's definitely mixed emotions. We could have lost, but at the same time we could have won, if we seen



So close: Galway's Deirdre Burke shows mixed emotions after the game ended in a draw.

it out until the end. Everyone in that dressing room is absolutely delighted that we are getting a second chance."

Whereas in other years, a Galway camogie team might have wilted when faced with such a perilous situation,

Kilkelly was delighted that the team refused to throw in the towel – even with the clock rapidly ticking down on their

All-Ireland dream.

The Kinvara stickwoman admitted that even though McAnenly's penalty strike

appeared to sound the death knell for Tony Ward's charges, she was confident there was one last kick from the

Tribeswomen. And so it proved.

"Being honest, it looked like it was going from us. The girls in that dressing room though are full of heart and full of resilience. I knew we were going to get another score after it, we wanted it so much," she said.

The theory that this in-form Derry side would prove too strong for such a youthful and inexperienced Galway outfit certainly rang true during the first twenty minutes or so of action, but when Marie Brehony's fortuitous effort on 23 minutes – set-up by sub Caitriona Cormican – crept inside the crossbar of Clare O'Kane's goal, it tapered the fuse on a determined Galway display.

Mind you, Derry wasted little time in answering the score. Karen Kieft, in the ensuing passage of play, offloaded to McAnenly who did exceptionally well to hold possession under the close attention of three maroon shirts before unleashing a cracking effort beyond 'keeper Roisin Callanan.

Kilkelly acknowledged that Brehony's score, along with the goals by Cormican and Burke, were imperative in pro-

viding Galway with a foothold in proceedings. Every time Derry sought to put a modicum of daylight between the sides, the Westerners conjured up a piece of magic to re-ignite their challenge.

"Every score helps, especially when you're chasing the game like we were. They were all crucial, crucial scores."

Casting an eye on the replay, Kilkelly recognises that a thirty minute effort, similar to what Galway produced on Sunday, won't suffice. Galway were fortunate to still be alive in the contest at half-time and if the Westerners are to succeed next time around, it will require an honest endeavour from first whistle to the last.

"In the first half, it definitely took a while to get going. We went at half-time just two points down. It took us a while to get going, but we've shown that all year, in the group matches and again in the semi-final that it's the second half that we really get going and that's something we need to work on ahead of the replay."

"We'll regroup and get back to training. We'll put our heads down now for the next two weeks and hopefully we'll see it out the next day."

SEPT. 2012

Happiness is...winning an All-Ireland



Jubilant Maggie Randle shows her delight as the victorious Meath Junior Camogie champions ascend the Hogan Stand steps in Croke Park on Sunday to receive the All-Ireland trophy. PHOTO: JOHN QUIRKE
Royal girls cover themselves in glory, sports section, pages 1-3



HEARTBREAK FOR CORK A dejected Jenny Duffy, Cork, at the end of the game. Cork lost the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final to Wexford last Sunday in Croke Park on a scoreline of 3-13 to 3-06. Photo: David Maher/SPORTSFILE

U-14 CAMOGIE BLITZ



Action from the Cooper U14 All Ireland U14 Camogie Blitz Division One semi-final in which Tipperary defeated Galway by 2-5 to 1-2 in Dublin last weekend. Clockwise from top left: Galway's Róisín Black tries to block Sinead Meagher, Tipperary; Taragh Maloney (Galway) in a close encounter with Ciardha Maher, Tipperary; Eimear O'Donovan, Galway, on the attack against Kirsty Arbuckle, Tipperary; and Galway's Marie Farrell gets the better of Tipp's Mary Grace.

SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK

Emma Kilkelly:

Centre-forward played vital role in All-Ireland final

SUBSTITUTE Rachel Monaghan was Galway's saviour on Sunday showing nerves of steel to land a pressure free in injury time of the All-Ireland intermediate camogie final against Derry to send the tie to a replay.

That was the decisive score of the day, a la Joe Canning's equaliser in the hurling final a fortnight ago, but it was the contribution of hard working Emma Kilkelly that kept Galway in the game at Croke Park.

The centre-forward contributed five points, four from play, as well as setting up the Tribeswomen's third goal, in a hardworking 60 minutes of play which earns the Kinvara woman the Tribune Sports Star of the Week accolade.

Others in contention were Tuam Stars' Conor Doherty and Tony Costello and Salthill/Knocknacarra's Seamus Crowe and Gearóid Canavan, who all excelled in last weekend's senior club championship semi-finals.



SEPT 2012



**THE
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una Leacy
WEXFORD

Jill Horan
TIPPERARY

Niamh Kilkenny
GALWAY

Jane Adams
ANTRIM

patricia Jackman
WATERFORD

Orla Cotter
CORK

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Féile na nGael 2012

THE ANNUAL Féile na nGael got underway during the month of May where over one hundred National schools were visited in Dublin to launch and promote the Féile na nGael competition. The lucky schools were visited by President of the GAA Liam O'Neill, President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor and Dublin Senior Camogie and Hurling players. The Official launch of Féile na nGael took place in Parnell Park on May 24th.

The main event took place in venues around Dublin on the 5th, 6th and 7th of July. Over the three days Camogie, Hurling and Handball was played in locations around the capital with the finals held in Croke Park and Parnell Park.

Winners of the Camogie Féile na nGael were:

Division 1: Newport/Ballinahinch, Tipperary

Division 2: Inagh/Kilnamona, Clare

Division 3: Naas, Kildare

Division 4: Clane, Kildare

The Féile na nGael Skills winner for camogie: Aoife Corcoran, Castletown-Geoghegan, Westmeath.



Rebecca O'Leary (left) and Davina (right) fight for the ball during the Féile na nGael Div 1 National Camogie Final.



Camogie President Aileen Lawlor has a quiet word with Newport/Ballinahinch's Captain Caroline Mulloney as Bus Éireann CEO Martin Nolan looks on.



**THE
CAMOGIE
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Camogie Scene



Aghbullogue Cork Feile na nGael Division 1 winners



Cork Senior National League Champions 2012



Bord Gais Camogie Coaching Camp in Castle Road

Sars retain their title after thrilling contest

Sarsfields 2-1
Ballinhassig 0-1

By MARY NEWMAN

SARSFIELDS retained the U14A league title as they battled it out with Ballinhassig in superb conditions in Coachford last weekend.

Both sides served up a thriller of a contest in what was a great advertisement for the game of camogie.

From the start, Sarsfields piled on the pressure but a strong Ballinhassig defence stood firm and it was 18 minutes in before they hit the front with a Lucy Kelly goal and the same player pointed a free to stretch their advantage.

Kelsey Flynn kept Ballinhassig in the hunt with a point but an Edel Lonergan goal 22 minutes in gave Sarsfields a 2-1 to 0-1 interval lead.

From the restart both teams battled hard and gave it everything and with the ball moving fast on the superb surface it was end to end excitement. Sarsfields extended their lead when a superb ground shot from Michelle Barry found the Ballinhassig net. Undeterred as they now trailed 3-1 to 0-1, Ballinhassig battled on.

They upped their game and enjoyed a lot of possession. They began to find their range and Kelsey Flynn, who had a superb game, scored a pen-

alty to cut the deficit. The same player added to their points tally while a Geraldine Collins goal ensured they stayed in the hunt.

Sars regrouped and added a point from a Lucy Kelly forty five and an excellent point from Hollie Ferguson ensured they held a four point lead with 10 minutes remaining.

Ballinhassig replied with a Kelsey Flynn point to cut the lead to a goal and they battled for an equaliser in the remaining two minutes.

However, Sarsfields held firm and were not going to be denied as they held on for a deserved win.

Sarsfields captain Jessie Lyons was presented with the Player of the Match award following a superb performance.

Scorers for Sarsfields: L. Kelly 1-2 (ft), M. Barry 1-0, E. Lonergan 1-0, H. Ferguson 0-1.

Ballinhassig: K. Flynn 1-3, (1-2ft), G. Collins 1-0.

SARSFIELDS: C. O'Sullivan, G. Looney, J. Long, S. McCarthy, J. Lyons (c), M. Mullins, E. Guinane, L. Kelly, K. Lyons, C. Crowley, M. Barry, H. Ferguson, E. Lonergan, S. Costello, A. O'Brien.

Subs: N. Power for A. O'Brien, R. McCarthy for C. Crowley, D. Kerrigan for N. Power (inj).

BALLINHASSIG: K. Crowley, E. Reardon, K. Reynolds, E. Reardon, M. Tyers, K. Bohane, L. Cullinane, A. M. Leahy, A. Crowley, C. Coughlan, K. Flynn, G. Collins, S. Mahon, D. Jordan, R. Coleman.

Subs: R. Reardon for R. Coleman, N. Sheehan for S. Mahon.

Referee: Colette O'Mahony (St. Finbarr's)



Good luck

BEST of luck to the Cork senior team and mentors in their quest for an All-Ireland title tomorrow. For those not heading to Croke Park, the game will be live on C103fm and RTÉ 2 with a 4pm throw-in.

Mariah Reidy banged in two goals to give Newton the upper hand early in the opening half despite the best efforts of Blackrock.

Newtown are in devastating form in semis

Newtownshandrum 4-8
Blackrock 0-7

NEWTOWNSHANDRUM and Aghabullogue will contest this year's Evening Echo Intermediate championship final after both came through their respective semi-finals.

Newtownshandrum signalled their intentions as they overcame Blackrock in the first game of the double header at Castle Road.

Newtown led 3-7 to 0-2 at the break goals from Mariah Reidy (2) and Rosin Twohill give them the upper hand early in the opening half despite the best efforts of a Blackrock side who had two opening half points from Doireann Ni Mhuiri and Grace Mulqueen.

Scorers for Newtownshandrum: M. Reidy 3-1, R. Twohill 1-1, M. O'Connor 0-3, P. O'Connor, K. Coughlan 0-1 each.

Blackrock: D. Ni Mhuiri 0-5 (0-3ft), G. Mulqueen 0-2.

Aghabullogue 4-4
Carrigaline 1-4

Carrigaline started this Evening Echo Intermediate championship semi-final in blistering fashion to lead 1-4 to no score 14 minutes into the game. Caroline

O'Keefe with three points and one from Ruan McSweeney settling them into the contest.

It was nine minutes to the interval before Aghabullogue settled and a Michelle Healy goal and a point saw them trail by just four points.

From the start of the second half Aghabullogue were excellent, their defence tightened up and never allowed the Carrigaline attack. Up front Michelle Healy caused huge problems all through.

Healy struck an early point before Caroline Kiely's quick thinking saw her kick to the net for Aghabullogue's second goal.

Five minutes later Michelle Healy grabbed their third and now it was all Aghabullogue, Healy pointed twice while in between Ciara Murphy grabbed a goal and with their defence closing down the Carrigaline attack they held their composure to advance to the final.

Scorers for Aghabullogue: M. Healy 2-4 (0-2ft), C. Murphy, C. Kiely 1-0 each.

Carrigaline: C. O'Keefe 0-3 (ft), A. O'Keefe 1-0, R. McSweeney 0-1.

In an all city Evening Echo Junior A semi-final clash Brian Dillon's beat Na Piar-saigh to book their final place.

Bride Rovers' late brace sees them lift junior crown

Bride Rovers
Charleville

2-11
3-7

AGONY for Charleville and celebrations for Bride Rovers as a late Grace Kearney goal four minutes into injury time turned this Evening Echo Junior C championship final in Castle Road on its head.

Charleville looked to have both hands on the trophy as they played down the clock but Bride somehow resurrected themselves to hit two late goals the first on the stroke of normal time from and the second from Kearney who connected on dropping forty five metre free to send the ball to the back of the Bride Rovers net.

Charleville enjoyed early dominance and led 2-3

to 0-2 at the end of the opening quarter with goals from Katie Keane. Steadily Bride Rovers settled and hit five points without reply.

They had the deficit down to three points at half time where Charleville led 2-3 to 0-6.

Through the second half, Charleville kept their lead despite huge Bride Rovers' pressure and as the sides swapped points twice, the momentum remained with Charleville.

Sixteen minutes in Jane Corrigan finished Kate Keane's long delivery to the net to put them five points clear.

Bride Rovers responded with a point but two Kate Keane pointed frees kept Bride in the lead.

Sinead Walsh pointed to cut the lead to five points but Charleville looked to be in control, never

giving up. Bride worked away and when Catriona Power showed great heart to drive through the Charleville defence to finish to the net, just two points separated the sides.

Now applying all the pressure Bride pressed and winning a 45 up stepped captain Sinead Walsh who cleverly dropped the ball into the goalmouth where Kearney met it with an over head volley to the net to give Bride Rovers the lead for the first time in the contest.

Delight for Bride Rovers but heartbreak for Charleville who will wonder just how they let the title slip.

Jennifer Cahill Bride Rovers was named as player of the match following an excellent display.

Scorers for Bride Rovers: G. Kearney 1-4 (0-1ft), C. Power 1-1, J. Cahill 0-4, J. O'Flynn S. Walsh 0-1 each.

Charleville: K. Keane 2-4 (1-3ft), J. Corrigan 1-0, C. Hudner, N. O'Brien, J. O'Flynn 0-1 each.

BRIDE ROVERS: I. Hogan, L. Finnegan, E. Ahern, C. Noonan, M. Hazelwood, J. Barry, B. Bartley, C. Power, S. Walsh (c), T. O'Sullivan, G. Kearney, J. Cahill, K. O'Connor, S. O'Driscoll, L. Murphy.

Subs: C. Vaughan for T. O'Sullivan (inj/25), T. O'Sullivan for L. Murphy (hvt), C. O'Flynn for S. O'Driscoll (57).

CHARLEVILLE: T. Kearns, A. Dennehy, M. Murphy (c), A. Noonan, A. Buckley, S. Dennehy, T. Cagney, J. Mc Carthy, C. Hudner, G. Crowley, N. O'Brien, J. O'Flynn, L. Sheehan, K. Keane, N. Savage.

Subs: A. O'Mahoney for A. Dennehy (38), J. Corrigan for L. Sheehan (40), K. Butler for G. Crowley (60).

Referee: Michael O'Mahony (Kilbrittain/Timoleague).

Newtown may hold edge in decider

CAMOGIE

TOMORROW
Evening Echo Intermediate
Championship final:
Newtownshandrum v
Aghabullogue,

Castle Road, Blackrock, 2pm
NEWTOWN and Aghabullogue meet in the Evening Echo intermediate final having come through from the same group in the round robin series.

Aghabullogue set the foundation for a good season when they overcame a fancied Tracton side in their first game. They lost out to Newtown in round two by a goal, but showed great resolve as they rallied to overcome Sarsfields and make it to the semi. They received a strong test from Carrigaline but despite going seven points in arrears they battled back to run out winners.

Newtownshandrum are very focused this season. They tragically lost their corner-back and club official Joanne O'Herlihy late last season in an accident, and they are putting everything into this year in honour of her.

Fr O'Neill's player and former Cork star Nora Ahern is coaching Newtown and they are in superb shape. They won all their group games and then defeated Blackrock.

They are backboned by several players who made a return to camogie this year. Paula O'Connor sister to Ben and Jerry, and a star in her own right, Caroline Giltinane and former Kilbrittan and Cork player Valerie O'Keefe are very experienced players.

Newtown have enjoyed huge underage success in recent years, winning titles at minor, U14 and U16, producing the likes of Maria Reidy, Rosin Twohill, Denise Cagney and Aoife Twohill.

Aghabullogue dropped down a grade last season but are working hard at all levels. Their U14 team took the Cork Féile title and while they would not have had as much success in recent times as their opponents they have a nice blend of youth and experience.

Michelle Healy is a key player for them whilst Deirdre Twomey, Ciara Murphy, Mairead Twomey and Maire O'Leary have all featured prominently through the campaign.

It's a tough one to call but Newtown will go in as slight favourites to lift the Nano Nagle Cup.

Aghabullogue will not let this worry them, renowned championship campaigners they will give it their all and it would come as no surprise to see them take the title.

TOMORROW

Evening Echo
Junior B Championship final:
Sliabh Rua v Castlemagner,
Castle Road, Blackrock, 5pm.

League champions Castlemagner go in search of a double when they take on Sliabh Rua.

With the league title already secured they will face a strong challenge from an in-form Sliabh Rua, who have benefited from participating at a higher level this season in the junior A league.

Cathy O'Mahony, Chelsea Campbell and Aisling Whelan have been to the fore for Sliabh Rua; Eleanor Twohill, Susan Falvey, Imelda Vaughan will battle to make it a double for Castlemagner.

Douglas can pip Milford again



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

IT'S back to club camogie this weekend and for the players who lost out in Croke Park last Sunday, while disappointed of course, they will also find that getting back out on the field is the best remedy.

Saturday's fixtures are that bit more difficult to call than the double-header in Cloughduv on Sunday. Inniscarra and Courcey Rovers will be strong favourites to overcome Seandún and St Finbarr's respectively.

The pick of the weekend's games is in Mounseabey where last year's finalists face each other again. Milford were favourites last October but Douglas possibly take over that tag this time round.

Douglas have a very strong, rounded team. They display strength in every line of the pitch.

Their opening round performance against Inniscarra was very impressive, more so considering the fact that they lined out without seven of last year's county final starting 15.

Claire Shine, Julia White and Aine O'Donovan were three star players unavailable on the night.

If even two thirds of this trio are available for Saturday it will add significant additional scoring power up front.

While Milford will surely be out to avenge their county final defeat they again blew hot and cold in their first round against St Catherine's.

Level at the break without scoring from play, they proceeded to finally get going and ended up with a 3-12 to 0-6 victory.

Milford are always a better second-half team, but should they give Douglas too much of a lead they will find it very hard to peg it back against a much disciplined defence.

The general consensus at the commencement of championship was that these two clubs were favourites along with Cloughduv and Courcey Rovers to take the title.

One will be eliminated on Saturday and that is a welcome thought for the remaining title-chasing teams.

St Catherine's and Killeagh should also be a tight affair. The sides met last year in the additional round preceding the quarter-finals with Killeagh more in control of that game than their six point victory declared.

As mentioned above, St Catherine's endured a heavy defeat to Milford in July but the scoreline didn't



Milford's captain Deirdre O'Reilly and Douglas's Katrina Mackey battling for possession during the senior camogie final last year. The two sides meet in the quarter-finals tomorrow.

Picture: Richard Mills

do justice to their efforts on the night.

Twelve months ago St Catherine's struggled to come to terms with the strength and speed of Angela Walsh racing through.

That and the fact that the Twomey sisters are not lining out with the side this season lends the favourites tag to Killeagh, as St Catherine's struggle to score freely up front.

With a number of the Seandún players involved with Glen Rovers on Friday night in their senior B championship meeting with Barryroe it is hard to see them being fresh enough to halt Inniscarra's march.

On paper Seandún are strong but it will take a big team effort to overcome the 2010 champions.

Will the city divisional side have the spirit to produce a

whole-hearted performance?

Inniscarra have had a mixed season to date. A first round defeat to Douglas where they failed to score from play against a 2-16 to 1-6 victory over Ballygarvan in round two, depicts a side getting stronger as the season progresses.

Cloughduv await the winners of the St Catherine's v Killeagh clash in an additional round.

Courcey Rovers should prove too strong for St Finbarr's. Rovers are a strong side having put a huge effort into their underage over the past number of years.

Most exciting to watch are Julia Mulcahy, Aisling Moloney and Linda Collins. Rovers produced an excellent first half display against Milford in the semi-final last year but failed to sustain their effort for the full hour.

A year older, wiser and more ex-

perienced they are on the tip of neutral's tongues as the team to watch.

A 4-15 to 0-5 demolition of senior debutants Ballinhassig in their opening round demonstrates the fire power they have up front.

Four teams will exit the 2012 championship this weekend.

Those tipped to make it through to the final five are Douglas, Killeagh, Inniscarra and Courcey Rovers with Cloughduv waiting in the wings.

FIXTURES

TOMORROW

Cork County Senior Championship quarter-finals: Douglas v Milford, Mounseabey, 1.45pm; St Catherine's v Killeagh, Carrigrohilly, 5pm

SUNDAY

Cork County Senior Championship quarter-finals: Seandún v Inniscarra, Cloughduv, 12pm; St Finbarr's v Courcey Rovers, Cloughduv 2pm.

Players must focus on camogie and physique

EVERYTHING is dissected when you lose an All-Ireland final.

Fingers are pointed, blame is apportioned and the relationship between players and management can become fraught.

It takes a strong, unified set-up to defend and overcome that, and I hope in this case Cork do.

It has been said numerous times since Sunday that the Cork management made mistakes.

They did.

But there was a lot more wrong and it didn't all come down to that one hour last Sunday, the errors were made well in advance, by the players.

I'll be very blunt. We were blown away physically last Sunday.

Did anyone else notice the contrasting physique of Ursula Jacob and Katrina Parrock to Aoife Murray, Jenny Duffy, Rena Buckley and Joanne O'Callaghan?

Do you recall Ursula Jacob's final point from the wing when Jacob barely brushed against Jenny Duffy and she fell to the ground as if she'd been charged at full on?

I'm not singling out these players, they just happen to be in the vicinity of these two lethal forwards. We are extremely thin throughout the entire panel. The responsibility for this is down to the players.

I wonder whether they are more concerned with looking good in a pair of jeans than being a serious inter-county camogie player with muscle.

For the record, Jacob and Parrock are two very good looking, fabulously toned, athletes.

Cork have had the nutritionists, they know what's required. It's simple mathematics.

What is leaving your body has to go back in. I often think it would be a dream to be a player today; there is so much at their disposal, from sports psychologists to nutritionists to ice baths to dedicated fitness coaches, to expert advice, to in depth technological analysis, to rapid injury recovery programmes.

It's all there and to be fair to the camogie board, no cent was unspent as this Cork team were given the best.

Another irresponsible act is what much of the Cork team do in their spare time, as if there could be such a thing when you play inter-county.

They play low-league soccer, they play junior football, they swim, they play club hockey, they run the road and all this on top of their club camogie commitments.

I can't understand that at all. That is



Claire O'Connor, Wexford smashes the ball past Sile Burns and Briege Corkery in the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship final last weekend.

Picture: David Maher / SPORTSFILE



LINDA MELLERICK

something you do when you retire.

It's something you might do off season if you don't have a gym programme with Cork (something I'm sure will be introduced for this team before 2012 is out).

Other than that you walk away from it as soon as the inter-county season starts.

The stories I was hearing all year about players juggling all these sports was inconceivable.

You're either serious about representing Cork and giving 100% of your mind and body to winning an All-Ireland title or you're not.

We are all aware of how vital getting the train/rest balance is.

These are intelligent players, yet the mind boggles as to how they think this is right; how they believe this is making them fitter, better inter-county players.

It's making them lethargic both mentally and physically.

Some players haven't performed to their potential in two years and that's the reason.

In my view any player on the inter-county panel should be banned from these other unnecessary activities, and I'm not referring to our inter-county dual players.

Wexford play camogie and that's it. JJ Doyle said he had two players that play junior club football in his panel, but they don't play it while the inter-county camogie season is on. They are focused on one thing and one thing only.

Cork's game plan went out the window last Sunday and again players need to shoulder some responsibility. For years now the directive has been to play the ball in low and fast to our forwards; that's our strength; running at teams.

Yet players continue to ignore this, because our insistence in pumping high ball after high ball inside didn't just happen last Sunday, it's persistent.

Yet look at what Wexford did. Every single time one of their outfield players got the ball they drove it low and hard out the wings, as close to the sideline as possible.

Not a single ball was directed at Gemma O'Connor. Not a single high ball went in from a single player. Wexford players listened.

The support from Cork last weekend was appalling.

Every GAA game was once again switched in Wexford once the girls reached the final but yet again in Cork, camogie was given utter disregard with the double-header down the Páirc in the SHC.

The ladies mini marathon should never take place in September; this is a GAA month and it has clashed time and again with the camogie and ladies football finals.

Camogie is given lip service in Cork, nothing more.

Board to organise table quiz

WITH the evenings getting shorter, the county board have organised a big table quiz event, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

In aid of their dressing rooms development at Castle Road they are holding a Monster Fund Raising Table Quiz in the Rochestown Park Hotel on Thursday, October 18 starting at 8.30pm. Teams of four are invited to participate at €50 per team.

They are hoping that camogie and GAA clubs will enter teams and clubs from other sporting codes as well; the hope is that businesses may also participate as well as regular table quiz participants.

There will be plenty of prizes on offer and a great night is guaranteed so pencil in October 18 for a great night out.

Camogie joins forces with Make-A-Wish Foundation

THE Camogie Association announced at last weekend's All-Ireland final that they are set to partnership The Make-A-Wish foundation Ireland for the next three years, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

The Camogie Association will help the foundation to promote, support and fundraise for the charity which this year is

celebrating 20 years in Ireland this year.

Susan O'Dwyer of The Make-A-Wish Foundation Ireland expressed their delight at the partnership and said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the Camogie Association Charity Partner for the next three years, we are really looking forward to working with the Camogie

Association and developing exciting fundraising events and activities which will help us to continue to grant wishes for children living with life-threatening conditions."

President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor also welcomed the initiative.

"We in the Camogie Association are delighted to be partners with

Make-A-Wish and we look forward to supporting their fantastic work over the course of our three year arrangement.

This year we are particularly pleased that Wexford the senior All Ireland Camogie Champions have agreed to play a match to raise funds for Make-A-Wish.

Our partnership with Make-A-Wish is a fantastic

opportunity for both organisations and I would appeal to all involved in the Association to support the various fund-raising initiatives."

It is hoped that during the year clubs and counties will hold fundraising events to help the Make-A-Wish Foundation grant wishes to children who deserve every support.

Sarsfields win All Ireland U13 Championship

By Camogie Association
Posted 21/09/2012



At the end of a brilliant day's Camogie Galway's Sarsfields defeated Tipperary's Nenagh in the final of the Naomh Jude All-Ireland Under 13 Sevens played at Tymon Park, Templeogue, Dublin on Saturday, 15 September.

This Championship, which is officially approved by An Cumann Camógachta, gives a first opportunity for young players to win an All-Ireland Championship in pre-Féile year.

Leading clubs from all four provinces were invited to compete in this competition. There were 4 groups of 3 teams with the winners and runners-up going forward to the quarter-finals of the Cup and the third-placed teams progressing to the semi-finals of the Shield.

The action got under way with a colourful parade of teams to the pitches where Uilleann Piper Kevin Roarson played *Anhrán na bhFiann*. Neighbouring club Faughs Celtic and St Martin's of Wexford emerged from Group A to the Cup quarter-finals with Caher, the holders, moving to the semi-finals of the Shield.

From Group B hosts Naomh Jude won the group and Gauleer, the first ever Waterford club to take part, progressed to the Cup, while Naas from Kildare advanced to the Shield.

Sarsfields and Nenagh took top places in Group C and St Ciliars (Offaly) went on to the Shield.

From Group D holders Swatragh (Derry) and Ballinhassig (Cork) made it to the Cup quarter-finals while Newcastlewest of Limerick went forward to the Shield.

Following lunch it was knock out all the way. In the Shield Caher beat Naas to reach the final and St Ciliars defeated Newcastlewest in the other semi-final. St Ciliars went on to win the Shield final.

In the Cup, Gauleer beat St Martin's by one point to set up a semi-final with Sarsfields who beat Ballinhassig in the quarters. Faughs Celtic edged out Naomh Jude in a great local derby to meet Nenagh in the semi, who had overcome Swatragh in the quarters. Nenagh continued on their winning ways by beating Faughs in the first semi-final while Sarsfields also qualified for the final when overcoming Gauleer.

The weather was kind right through the day, and in the final the skilful Sarsfields girls were just brilliant against Nenagh. They continued their good form and repeated their group game win over the Tipperary side and eventually ran out worthy winners 7-4 to 2-3. Sarsfields Siobhán McGrath gave superb performances throughout the competition and it came as no surprise to the crowds who attended the games when she was chosen as Laoch an Lao. Siobhán was nominated by the referees as player of the match in each of the five matches in which she played.

The prize for the winners included an invitation to play in Croke Park on Sunday at half-time in the All-Ireland Junior Camogie Final between Down and Meath and the Sarsfields team were presented with beautiful special gear for the occasion by the Camogie Association.

Naomh Jude ran a very successful Academy Open Day in conjunction with this Sevens competition, which attracted a huge crowd of budding stars. The organising committee, under the chairmanship of John Coman, would like to thank all those who helped in so many ways with the running of competition.

The Competition was again kindly sponsored by Johnston, Mooney and O'Brien and the Johnson, Mooney and O'Brien Cup was presented to Sarsfields who were the first Galway winners of the competition in its fourth year.

Club PRO Fergus McNally presented framed photographs of their teams to each of the panelists from the four finalists. The Louis Fitzgerald Hotel accommodated many of the teams with attractive rates from their Head of Marketing, Jason Sherlock.

For further information contact John Coman on 087 9087105. This coming weekend the Club again hosts the All-Ireland Junior Football Sevens.

Inaugural Cooper Under-14 All-Ireland Championship Blitz

THE Camogie Association is delighted to announce that all 32 counties took part in the Cooper Under-14 All Ireland Championship blitz competition this year.

The Association would like to thank Cooper for its sponsorship of this inaugural competition for Under-14 girls.

Division 5 of the blitz took place in Annaduff Leitrim on Saturday, September 1st with the other four divisions taking to the field yesterday (Saturday 15th) in a number of Dublin venues. Leitrim, Longford, Fermanagh and Sligo played in the Division 5 competition with Sligo winning the title of Division 5 All-Ireland Under-14 champions, beating their neighbours Longford. The remaining four divisions took place yesterday in Dublin with 28 counties participating and 48 teams taking part.

Thanks to all the Dublin venues that were so accommodating with their grounds and facilities. The players who participated in this Inaugural Under-14 competition will parade today at half-time in the Senior All-Ireland Final. Well done to all those counties for participating in the Under-14 competition and a special word of congratulations to the winners of each of the five divisions.



Championship resumes

The disappointment of losing the All-Ireland final to Wexford on Sunday has to be put behind us now as our thoughts swing back towards club fixtures this coming weekend.

The focus of attention is on the Evening Echo Senior championship and Senior and Senior B levels while the Intermediate and Junior B championship final are down for decision also.

Inter-county team-mates become rivals once more, and first into the ring are Douglas and Milford who meet in Mournabbey on Saturday in a repeat of last year's county senior championship final.

It's off to Carrigtwohill for the meeting between St Catherine's and Killeagh on Saturday, while on Sunday, in a double header in Cloughduv, Courcy Rovers take on St Finbarrs after a curtain-raiser between divisional side Seandun and Inniscarra.

The senior championship has Mallow and Eire Óg in action on Saturday evening whilst Glen Rovers take on Barryroe on Friday night.

The big clash in the Intermediate Championship Final has Aghabullogue and

Newtownshandrum coming head-to-head in Castle Road with the Junior B final featuring Sliabh Rua and Castlemagner following. In the Junior A championship semi-final, Enniscarna and Inniscarra meet to decide who goes forward to meet Brian Dillon's in the final.

Fixtures

Friday, Sept 21

Evening Echo Senior B Championship
Glen Rovers v Barryroe 8pm
Venue to be confirmed

Saturday, Sept 22

Evening Echo Senior Championship
Douglas v Milford, Mournabbey 1.45pm
Killeagh v St Catherine's, Carrigtwohill 5pm

Evening Echo Intermediate Championship final

Newtownshandrum v Aghabullogue Castle Road 2pm

Evening Echo Junior A Championship final

Sliabh Rua v Castlemagner, Castle Road 5pm

Evening Echo Junior A Championship semi-final

Douglas v Inniscarra 4pm — venue TBC

Sunday, Sept 23

Evening Echo Senior Championship

Inniscarra v Seandun Cloughduv noon

St Finbarrs v Courcy Rovers Cloughduv 2pm



SEPT 2012

Sliabh Rua are queens of the Castle

JUNIOR B CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Sliabh Rua | 3-9 |
| Castlemagner | 3-8 |

THE second game in Castle Road was every bit as exciting as the first as Sliabh Rua showed great determination fighting back with a late burst to overcome league champions Castlemagner and take the Evening Echo Junior B championship title.

A goal from player of the match Chelsea Campbell 26 minutes into the second half gave Sliabh Rua the lead for the first time in the contest and they held on to be crowned champions despite huge pressure.

Castlemagner made all the early running and led 2-5 to 0-5 at the break. Goals from Susan Falvey and Sinead Casey giving them the upper hand in an opening half where they were aided by the strong wind.

They stretched their lead further with a Shelley Twohig goal 45 seconds into the second half but they failed to score again until the 25th minute as Sliabh Rua came strong and fought their way back into the contest.

Cathy O'Mahony pointed a 45 before Aisling Whittell and Chelsea Campbell grabbed goals in a two minute spell and piling on the pressure Evelyn O'Regan and Campbell pointed again to level matters.

Castlemagner regained their composure when Shelly Twohig restored their lead but a superb Campbell goal from an acute angle swung the game in Sliabh Rua's favour. Cathy O'Mahony pointed a 45 to stretch the lead to three points as they pushed for home.

Castlemagner fought back and applying huge pressure won a penalty two minutes into added time but Susan Falvey opted for a point, from the puck out they attacked again and won another close in free but Cliona Healy's effort was deflected over the bar and on the puck out came to the sound of the full-time whistle.

Delight for Sliabh Rua and despair for Castlemagner who contributed in no small way to making this and excellent contest.

Scorers for Sliabh Rua: C Campbell 2-2 (0-1), C O'Mahony 0-2 (0-1 45), A Whittell 1-0, E O'Regan, C O'Sullivan 0-2 each A Harrington 0-1 (f).

Castlemagner: S Falvey 1-3 (0-1p), S Twohig 1-3 (0-2f 0-1 45), S Casey 1-0, C Healy 0-1 (f), A Cott 0-1.

Sliabh Rua: A Coleman; A Mc Carthy, J Mc Auliffe, N O'Brien; A Rice, C Cremin (cl), N Coleman; J O'Leary, C O'Mahony; C Campbell, S Hallissey, A Whittell; C O'Sullivan, E O'Regan, A Harrington.

Subs: P O'Mahony for A Harrington (h), M C Daly for A Rice (h).

Castlemagner: N Long; Y Coleman, E O'Donovan, E Browne; R Twohig, C Healy, S Gayer; S Twohig, U Twohig; S Casey, A Cott (cl), E Twohig; S Falvey, I Vaughan, G Cashman.

Sub: C Twohig for I Vaughan (51).

Referee: Colette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).

Courceys survive a Barrs comeback

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Courcey Rovers | 2-14 |
| St Finbarr's | 1-14 |

INCREDIBLE drama in Cloughduv yesterday in the senior camogie quarter-final as St Finbarr's, reduced a nine-point deficit to just three and had Courcey Rovers pinned inside their square in search of an equaliser only for time to run out.

Excessive use of the whistle, four bookings and a red card after the final whistle had blown led to an unnecessary tense atmosphere throughout the ground despite both teams participating in a clean, hard fought encounter.

Rovers, playing with the aid of a strong wind, raced into a six-point lead inside 10 minutes.

The Barrs' first score came 14 minutes in, a free from the stick of Gemma O'Connor.

Julie Mulcahy hit two lovely points a minute later and with the game threatening to run away from them the Barrs made a couple of switches which paid dividends, Lynda O'Connell picking up Mulcahy and Gemma O'Connor now operating outfield from full-forward.

The Barrs started to peg back the lead, two points from O'Connor and one from Rachel Myers reducing the gap to four, yet with Karyn Keohane, Sarah Hayes and Rachel Moloney prominent, Rovers held on to a 0-11 to 0-5 half-time lead.

Despite Courceys' lead, the Barrs looked threatening at times and turning over with the aid of the wind, the game was still very much there for either side.

When Linda Collins goalied a minute after the re-start it looked a difficult climb for the Barrs but credit their resolve and in particular Gemma O'Connor who scored 1-11



St Finbarr's Meabh Cahalane races away from Courcey Rovers' Christine O'Neill and Celia O'Driscoll during the Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship at Cloughduv yesterday.

Picture: Eddie O'Hare

out of the Barrs' total during the hour.

Rotating between full- and centre-forward O'Connor dragged the Barrs back into the game.

Just four points separated the sides entering the final quarter but what seemed like the killer blow for the Barrs came when Collins struck her second goal after Rachel Moloney had crossed from the wing.

Still the Barrs refused to wilt, scoring six points between the 54th and 62nd minute.

They piled huge pressure on Rovers, winning many frees, as they searched for the equaliser.

Courceys however held firm and breathed a sigh of relief when the final whistle blew.

Scorers for Courcey Rovers: R Moloney 0-9 (0-5 f, 0-2 45), L Collins 2-0, J Mulcahy 0-3, C O'Driscoll, J Crowley 0-1 each.

St Finbarr's: G O'Connor 1-11 (0-8 f), R Myers, C Kearney, N Cooke 0-1 each.

COURCEY ROVERS: D Duggan; A Keating, C Hayes, K Keohane; E Moloney, S Hayes, C O'Driscoll; R Moloney, J Crowley; C O'Neill, A Moloney, J Mulcahy; C McSweeney, L Collins, E O'Regan.

Subs: P Collins for C O'Driscoll (55).

ST FINBARR'S: C Spellman; C Barrett, L O'Connell, S Punch; R Finn, J Duffy, C Ryan; S Sargeant, M Cahalane; C Kearney, N Varian, N Cooke; R Myers, G O'Connor, O'Sullivan.

Subs: A McCarthy for C Ryan (23), B Maher for N Varian (h-t).

Referee: Peter Downey (Inniscarra).

Inter-county stars swing it for Inniscarra

| | |
|------------|------|
| Inniscarra | 3-12 |
| Seandún | 0-4 |

INNISCARRA always held the upper hand over city divisional representatives Seandún in the opening game in the Evening Echo Senior Championship quarter-final clash in Cloughduv yesterday, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Powered by inter-county players Rena Buckley and Joanne Casey, they continually pressurised Seandún and at the break they held a

comfortable 1-8 to 0-1 lead a goal from Joanne Casey at the end of the opening quarter helping to stretch their advantage after Joanne Casey and Orla Healy had given them a three point lead.

Seandún enjoyed scoreable positions but a lot of hesitance in attack helped Inniscarra hold the upper hand and a Denise Luby pointed free was their sole score of the opening half.

Seandún tightened up considerably in the second half and it was 10 minutes in be-

SENIOR CAMOGIE

fore Inniscarra could break them down with a Rena Buckley point. Niamh Dilworth added a second but Seandún failed to avail of opportunities that were presented.

Inniscarra rallied with a Niamh Dilworth goal that helped steady the ship once again. Allannah Twohig added to their tally with a third goal after a good save from excellent Seandún keeper Amy Lee but despite falling into further arrears

as Inniscarra tagged on the points, Seandún battled on with Nicole Creen adding two points and Denise Luby one to their tally.

Inniscarra finished the half strongly with points from Margaret Cosgrave and Niamh Byrne to ensure their place in the last four.

Scorers for Inniscarra: J Casey 1-3 (0-1f), N Dilworth 1-1, A Twohig 1-0, N Byrne, R Buckley 0-2 each, K O'Mahony, T Mc Carthy, M Cosgrave, O Healy 0-1 each.

Seandún: N Creen 0-2 (0-1 45) D Luby 0-2 (0-1f).

INNISCARRA: S Ní Riain; K Jones, A Sheehan L Hayes (cl); E Kingston, R O'Mahony, A Kavanagh; R Buckley, O Healy; K O'Mahony, N Dilworth, T

McCarthy; N Byrne, J Casey, E Looney.

Subs: L Buckley for E Looney (48), M Cosgrave for N Dilworth (51), A Twohig for T Mc Carthy (51), M Desmond for O Healy (53) D O'Callaghan for A Sheehan (62).

SEANDÚN: A Lee (Na Piarasigh); S Hendrick (St Vincent's), A Dorgan (Brian Dillon's), A Murray (Blackrock); L O'Sullivan (Glen Rovers), T Cunningham (Glen Rovers), N O'Brien (Glen Rovers); L Callanan (Glen Rovers); A O'Keefe (Glen Rovers); S Brosnan (Brian Dillon's), N Creen (St Vincent's), S Fahy (Glen Rovers); S Homan (St Vincent's), D Luby (Glen Rovers) (cl), K Hickey (Blackrock).

Subs: C Rodgers (Brian Dillon's) for A Murray (36), D Ní Mhuirí for K Hickey (54), A O'Connell for S Hendrick (54).

Referee: Mike Sheehan (Liscarrow).

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Aghabullogue 2-8
Newtownshandrum 3-4

FROM the word go Aghabullogue showed fierce determination in this *Evening Echo* Nano Nagle Cup Intermediate Championship final in Castle Road as they tore into their opponents Newtownshandrum from the throw-in.

Mariah Reidy got the game's opening score for Newtown but it was to be the only time in the game they led as Aghabullogue, playing with their hearts on their sleeves, never took their foot off the pedal.

Despite losing to the Avondhu side in the round-robin stages of the competition they turned the tables by blocking, hooking and chasing all day putting Newtown under constant pressure in this battle that was won with a display of sheer hunger.

At midfield they had a superb pairing in Ciara Murphy and player of the match Brid Twomey, who were all over the pitch attacking and defending constantly and always working hard to ensure the ball was moved quickly.

Up front pacy forwards Una Brown, Aileen Twomey and Caroline Kiely contributed enormously to their win whilst Michelle Healy worked hard over the hour.

Aileen Twomey grabbed Aghabullogue's opening score 10 minutes in whipping the ball to the net for the games opening goal and with Ciara Murphy, Healy and Aileen Twomey pointing they settled into the game.

Newtown found the going tough and it was a minute to the break before Paula O'Connor added their second score with a pointed free, Michelle Healy replied to leave Aghabullogue 1-4 to 0-2 ahead at the break.

Turning to defend against the strong wind Aghabullogue had to up the pace a notch but they maintained the pace Healy pointed to stretch their lead but a goal from Denise Cagney and a Katie Coughlan point had Newtown back in contention inside ten minutes of the restart.

Aghabullogue responded superbly in the shape of Ciara Twomey, who outpaced the Newtown defence before setting up Una Brown who finished to the net.

Aghabullogue claim crown in classic final



Aghabullogue captain Deirdre Twomey lifts the Nano Nagle Cup on Saturday after their camogie final victory over Newtown.

And with Aileen Twomey and Clara Murphy hitting points they opened up seven point lead.

Newtown, with the strong wind at their backs, began to play long ball to their inside line and they finally broke down the Aghabullogue defence with Roisin Twohill firing the ball to the roof of the net.

Thirteen minutes followed of non-stop action but no score as Aghabullogue defended as if their lives depended on it.

With four minutes remaining Paula O'Connor broke the deadlock

pointing a free, but Aghabullogue swept up field Ciara Murphy replied.

With two minutes remaining Mariah Reidy had the gap down to a point as she billowed the net for a Newtown goal and now it was game on.

Four minutes of injury time saw Newtown come close but a determined and disciplined Aghabullogue defence stood firm goalkeeper Nicola Moynihan excellent under huge pressure clearing her lines time and again.

Newtown had one last chance and as Paula O'Connor lofted a long range free into the danger zone a Newtown forward batted it back into play across the square, but somehow Aghabullogue scrambled to safely to the sound of the full-time whistle, which was greeted with jubilant scenes.

AGHABULLOGUE: N Moynihan; A Duff, E O'Connor, M Twomey; N Twomey, J Twomey, J Crowley; C Murphy, B Twomey; A Twomey, M Healy, D Twomey (c); C Kiely, U Brown, S Dineen.

Subs: N Doherty, K O'Sullivan, G Kiely.

Watson's goals help see off the champions

SENIOR CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

Milford 3-11
Douglas 0-7

A FAR superior and hungrier Milford team dethroned champions Douglas in the senior championship quarter-final tie in Mourneabbey on Saturday.

It was sweet revenge for their county final defeat last October yet Milford will acknowledge that no silverware was won and there lie bigger days ahead.

From the outset Milford rose to this challenge rather than leaving it late to get into their stride as is customary these past few years. On top throughout the field, the signs were ominous for Douglas at half time.

Katrina Mackey and Emer Watson (2) swapped frees in the early minutes.

Milford got on top throughout the pitch early with Aishling Thompson prominent around the middle of the field.

With their half-back line in control, playing nice attacking hurling, Deirdre O'Reilly created Milford's first goal, hand passing to Regina Curtin who gave a lovely pass inside to Maria Watson and she made no mistake from close range.

Curtin was causing all sorts of problems when in possession, either creating scores or winning frees.

Milford raced into a 2-3 to 0-2 lead just 14 minutes in after great defending by Anna Geary saw O'Reilly hit Milford's second major. Douglas were in trouble yet indiscipline by Milford awarded scoreable frees to them ensuring they closed the gap to four points as the clock ticked into first half injury time, Amanda O'Regan striking two long distance delights.

Douglas hearts were deflated a minute later however when a strike by Maria Watson looked to be going over the bar only for it to dip at the last minute and deceive Jessica Kavanagh.

Milford continued where they let off although it took eight minutes for them to register their first score of the second half, their only failing throughout the game being a tendency at times to over pass the ball.

Anna Geary was excellent at centre-back, Sarah Sexton, Deirdre O'Reilly, Emer Watson and Regina Curtin also standing tall. Denying the county champions any score in the second half, this was a strong all round team performance from a side now hotly tipped for county honours.

Scorers for Milford: E Watson 0-7 (0-5 f), M Watson 2-1, D O'Reilly 1-0, M O'Neill, M Walsh, A Geary 0-1 each.

Douglas: K Mackey 0-3 f, Aine O'Donovan, A O'Regan (f) 0-2 each.

MILFORD: R Finn; K Galvin, E O'Riordan, L Healy; O O'Mahony, A Geary, S Sexton; M Walsh, A Thompson; E Watson, D O'Reilly, A Watson; M O'Neill, R Curtin, M Watson.

Subs: N O'Brien for O O'Mahony (18), L O'Flynn for A Watson (49), A O'Flynn for A Thompson (55).

DOUGLAS: J Kavanagh; E Jordan, M Harkin, T Maher; E Kavanagh, A O'Regan, M Mulrooney; L O'Regan, P Mackey; Aine O'Donovan, K Mackey, S Fahy; Aileen O'Donovan, S Duggan, R O'Sullivan.

Subs: J White for S Fahy (18), A Curtin for T Maher (45), J Leo for Aileen O'Donovan (48), A Cremin for S Duggan (53), E Lynch for M Mulrooney (58).

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwin (Eire Og).

Catherine's on top in a tense quarter-final

St Catherine's 1-13
Killeagh 2-8

SENIOR CAMOGIE

AN EXCITING, hard fought, senior county championship quarter-final in Carrigrohilly on Saturday saw St Catherine's edge out Killeagh in the dying minutes after the sides were level entering normal time, writes LINDA MELLERICK.

In a game where every ball mattered, the outcome was in doubt up to the final whistle.

Both sets of defenders opened strongly. Orna Neville was hugely prominent for the Saints with Noirín Mulcahy and Yvonne O'Neill also to the fore. Ann Marie Walsh and Mary O'Connor were equally up to the task at the opposite end.

St Catherine's started that bit livelier

with Finola Neville looking exciting and dangerous whenever in possession and Marie O'Regan and Joanne O'Keefe causing problems.

The sides were level at two points apiece 16 minutes in before two Orla Cotter frees and a Neville point gave St Catherine's the advantage.

Where play had been tight, Killeagh began to find space. Angela Walsh took off on some of her famous runs and Catherine's found her difficult to handle.

The swirling wind cost Killeagh a couple of points yet they found the target twice to narrow the gap.

Cotter stepped up again before Kate Murphy reacted first to an Andrea Mangin save to net and give Killeagh the

lead for the first time on the stroke of half time.

St Catherine's got the perfect restart when Killeagh failed to clear and Neville finished from close range.

With the balance of play tipping one way then the other, very little was ever going to separate the sides.

Clare Keohane was fouled as she burst through on goal.

Mary O'Connor stepped up to take the resultant penalty. She failed however to fully connect and Catherine's scrambled to clear.

Orla Cotter became hugely influential scoring two magnificent points immediately after the penalty save to truly inspire her team.

Still Killeagh drove forward with piercing runs, some however starting from way too far out the field, giving Catherine's time to close down ranks.

Excitement mounted when a long range Mary O'Connor free dropped into the square and Clare Keohane clinically finished giving Killeagh the lead with six minutes remaining.

Credit the final 10 minutes of St Catherine's play where the superior fitness of Denis Walsh's side saw them through with a further three points.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-7 (0-5 f), F Neville 1-2, M O'Regan, M O'Keefe, J O'Keefe, E Ronayne 0-1.

Killeagh: K Murphy 1-2 (0-1 f), C Keohane 1-0, Angela Walsh, N O'Donovan 0-3 each.

St Catherine's: A Mangin; O Neville, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill; C Motherway, F Cotter, F Noonan; M O'Keefe, O Cotter; R O'Callaghan, E Ronayne, M O'Regan; J O'Keefe, F Neville, M Tobin.

Sub: A Fitzgerald for M Tobin (52).

KILLEAGH: S Beausang; Aoife Walsh, M Smiddy, N O'Keefe; A M Walsh, M O'Connor, L Treacy; B Stack; J O'Shea; Angela Walsh, Annie Walsh, G Cunningham; N O'Donovan, K Murphy, C Keohane.

Sub: R Culligan for G Cunningham (54).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Aghabullogue delight from a classic final win

INSIDE SP
TODAY
Four
pages of
local
soccer

SEPT. 2012



The Aghabullogue team celebrate victory over Newtownshandrum in the Evening Echo Cork Intermediate Camogie County Championship at Castle Road yesterday. See P51 for match report.



LINDA
MELLERICK

THE COUNTY senior camogie championship continues this weekend.

An additional quarter-final takes place between St Catherine's and Cloughdub with Inniscarra awaiting the winners. The first semi-final is down for decision between Milford and Courcy Rovers.

On the basis of both team's performances last weekend Milford are strong favourites in my view to reach the final for the second consecutive year, their third in four.

Courcys, while withstanding significant pressure from the Barrs in the final 10 minutes in last Sunday's quarter-final, looked vulnerable at times and I felt, even as they held a six-point interval lead, that if the Barrs stepped it up a gear then Rovers would be in trouble.

There was something missing from the Courcys performance for me. Outside of Karyn Keohane, Sarah Hayes, Linda Collins, Julie Mulcahy at times and Rachel Moloney I felt they struggled in sectors, with some forwards getting caught for pace. They found it



Marion McCarthy presents the Evening Echo Junior B League trophy to Siabh Rua captain Ciara Cremin.

Milford must deliver goods

difficult coping with Gemma O'Connor.

Elaine O'Riordan will no doubt pick up Linda Collins. Julie Mulcahy started at left half-forward last weekend but moved around in a bid to lose

Lynda O'Connell. Milford may leave that task to Orlaith O'Mahony or move over Sarah Sexton. Anna Geary is another option although Milford might well leave her anchoring the middle.

With Douglas out of the equation and based on Milford's performance last weekend, it has placed them in the favourite's spotlight. I have made Milford favourites for the title so many times in the

past six seasons and each time they failed to deliver!

They will surely acknowledge themselves that they have left a couple of titles behind them.

I told myself that I wouldn't make them favourites again this year but I'm inclined to give in again. Having said that, I don't for one minute discount Cloughdub or Inniscarra's chances.

I expect Cloughdub to overcome St Catherine's today although I was impressed last weekend with the saints.

Considering the loss of goalkeeper Denise Leahy and the Twomey sisters from this year's panel it is a credit to Denis Walsh that he has managed to manoeuvre this team to still be a force, not to be taken for granted.

They actually displayed far more scoring potential than they have in recent years with Finola Neville exciting and Máire O'Regan and Joanne O'Keeffe also threatening.

Cloughdub are a balanced outfit with strength in every line.

With the Corkery's spread throughout the team, Joanne O'Callaghan, Aoife Murray and Catriona Foley, Cloughdub are the side many neutrals backed at the outset as being very capable of taking honours this year.

Camogie board to ask the questions

A REMINDER again to all clubs and quiz players that the County Board have organised a table quiz in aid of their dressing-room development at Castle Road, writes **MARY NEWMAN**.

They are holding a Monster Fund Raising Table Quiz in the Rochestown Park Hotel on Thursday, October 18 starting at 8.30pm. Teams of four are invited to participate at €50 per team.

They are hoping that camogie and GAA clubs will enter teams and clubs from other sporting codes as well; the hope is businesses may also participate as well as regular table quiz participants.

There will be plenty of prizes on offer and a great night is guaranteed so pencil in October 18 for a great night out.

JUST CHAMPION: The Derry players celebrate their 2-10 to 2-9 All-Ireland intermediate camogie championship final replay win over Galway at Donaghmore Ashbourne grounds, County Meath. Karen Kleit scoring 1-5 for the winners. Picture: Matt Browne/Sportsfile



Time to finish the job

John A Mullan believes the Croke Park might have affected his Camogs, but there will be no such excuses this Saturday

ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL REPLAY
DERRY V GALWAY
Saturday, Donaghmore-Ashbourne, 3.00pm

BY CIARAN WOODS

AWAY from the big stage, the bright lights and the glare of the TV cameras, Derry camogie manager John A Mullan is confident that his side can complete their All-Ireland mission at the second time of asking this weekend.

The Oak Leaf side fought back from the jaws of defeat to snatch a draw against Galway two weeks ago at Headquarters, and in the less intimidating surroundings of Ashbourne this Saturday afternoon, the Derry boss is fully confident that his side will lay claim to the All-Ireland crown.

"I am putting it down to the fact that it was a televised game from Croke Park. We didn't play the way we had done all season. Even when we were playing alright in the first half, we still weren't playing the style of camogie which we had planned. We just never got off the ground at all. If I never see Croke Park again, it will be a day too soon!

"Even when we were a point up near the end, I would have been content enough with a draw. Being real-



CLOSE RUN THING...Maeve Quinn in action against Galway's Maria Brehony during the drawn game

Picture: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

c.woods@gaeliclife.com

istic about it, we were extremely lucky to have got out of there with a draw because for long spells we were very much under pressure, unable to even get our hands on the ball. So we were very happy to get ourselves a second shot at it.

"The two weeks have been good because it allowed a week to come down from the circus that was the All-Ireland final, back to the point we should have been at, before spending this week building back up to the final and getting into the mindset we know we need to be at if we are to play the high tempo, skilful camogie we are capable of."

The Derry boss reports a clean bill of health ahead of the replay, and although the opportunity for what would have been the perfect 100 percent season has passed them by, Mullan admits that simply finishing the year unbeaten and with an All-Ireland title secured will be more than enough for him and his troops.

"A one-point victory in the final will be more than enough for us. The opportunity for the perfect season has gone now, it's finished, so now it's simply up to us to finish the job and deliver the title, whatever margin that proves to be by."



Derry's Katie McAnenly scores her side's first goal despite a tackle from Galway's Paula Kenny during the All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship final replay in Ashbourne

CAMOGIE: Karen Kielt was the hero for Derry as they snatched the All-Ireland Intermediate title with a 2-10 to 2-9 victory over Galway in the replayed final at Ashbourne,

Co Meath yesterday.

Just as in the drawn tie, Derry struck for a late goal to edge into a one-point lead but there was no late reprieve for Galway on this occasion and as a result, the Ulster girls will be playing senior camogie next year.

Kielt was clinical from frees but goals from Ailish O'Reilly and Orla Curtin, put Galway in a very strong position at half time, leading by 2-7 to 0-6.

But the losers only managed two points in the second half and that was to prove their undoing.

The game swung on a passage of play after 46 minutes, when substitute Rachel Monaghan set O'Reilly up with a golden opportunity to bag her second goal but she failed to retain possession at the vital juncture.

From there, Derry worked the ball up the field and the brilliant Katie McAnenly hand-passed to the Galway net.

Kielt and Monaghan then exchanged frees before Cassidy found Kielt in the 59th minute and the Kilrea dynamo sent a blistering drive on the run from the 20m line beyond Róisín Callanan.

SEPT. 2012



CHAMPIONS: Derry celebrate yesterday's camogie final win

KIelt STRIKES LATE TO SEAL

THE replayed All-Ireland intermediate camogie final lived up to the billing with another frantically dramatic conclusion.

Just as in the initial tie, Derry struck for a late goal to edge into a one-point lead but there was no even later reprieve for Galway on this occasion.

Karen Kielt was the hero for the champions, registering the key match-winning major on her way to clocking up 1-5.

Kielt opened the scoring from a free after 40 seconds at Donaghmore.

Ailish O'Reilly pounced for the goal in

■ Derry 2-10 Galway 2-9
ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE CAMOGIE FINAL

the second minute before Orla Curtin turned and sent a powerful drive to the roof of the Derry net soon after.

Swung

Points from Elaine O'Sullivan, Marie Brehony, Burke and Clodagh McGrath put Galway in a very strong position at half time, leading by 2-7 to 0-6.

The game swung on a passage of play

Expect two close games in senior camogie

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

TOMORROW
Evening Echo Senior Camogie
Championship semi-final
Milford v Courcey Rovers,
Coachford, 1.30pm.

WITH a place in the *Evening Echo* senior county final up when Courcey Rovers battle tomorrow, Milford, having lost out narrowly in last season's decider, will be focused on making amends while Courceys are aiming to reach their first final. A determined Milford dethroned champions Douglas last weekend with a strong performance and Courceys will be wary of the threat they pose. In all sectors they have strength — Emer Watson, Regina Curtin, Maria Watson, Anna Geary and captain Elaine O' Riordan are experienced campaigners. Courceys set the pace in their clash against St Finbarr's opening up a nine-point lead only to let it slip and just about hung on, as the Barrs threw everything into trying to grab an equaliser. They are a young squad with Julia Mulcahy and 16-year-old Linda Collins their main threats up front. The experienced Rachel Moloney, Sara Hayes, Christine O'Neill and new signing this season Cliona McSweeney have worked hard too. It will take a huge performance to stop Milford making it to their second final in a row.

Evening Echo senior camogie
championship quarter-final
Cloughduv v St Catherine's,
Castle Road, 5.30pm.

This promises to be a close encounter as Cloughduv and St Catherine's battle it out for the right to meet Inniscarra in the semi-final. Both clubs have experienced championships successes. St Catherine's failed to build on their title success of 2009 and they would dearly love to get back on top; Cloughduv have three titles to their credit and it's hard to believe that it has been 2005 since they last won the championship. Still backboned by inter-county players Joanne O'Callaghan, Aoife Murray and Briege Corkery, who were very much part of their three titles successes to date, Cloughduv recorded a first round victory Ballygarvan to advance to the quarter-finals stages. St Catherine's were busier, having lost out in their opening round they had a back door clash with Ballincollig, before meeting Killeagh last weekend, and in both they showed fierce determination. Inter-county senior Orla Cotter is their main player and she has plenty of support from Cork panellist Finola Neville and Carolyn Motherway. Former Cork hurling manager Denis Walsh is at the helm with St Catherine's while John Cronin, who has given so much to club and county, continues with Cloughduv. On form there is little between the sides but Cloughduv look to be the better balanced and will be expected to shade it.

More drama as Kelt sends Derry delirious

By Camogie Press
Posted 29/09/2012



Derry 2-10
Galway 2-9

The replayed All-Ireland intermediate camogie final in association with RTE Sport lived up to billing provided by the drawn encounter with another frantically dramatic conclusion.

Just as in the initial tie, Derry struck for a late goal to edge into a one-point lead but there was no even later reprieve for Galway on this occasion and as a result, the Ulster girls will be playing senior camogie next year.

Player of the match, Karen Kelt was the hero for the champions, registering the key match-winning major on her way to clocking up 1-5.

Her first half frees were critical in keeping Derry in touch while playing into a very strong wind at Donaghmore Ashbourne in the first half.

Much of the platform for her good work was provided by wing-back Aileen McCusker, and midfielder Sinéad Cassidy however.

Kelt opened the scoring from a free after 40 seconds but Derry were held scoreless for 15 minutes, during which Galway had registered a goal and five points.

Ailish O'Reilly pounced for the goal in the second minute and she started a move 19 minutes later that saw Deirdre Burke place Orla Curtin, who turned and sent a powerful drive to the roof of the Derry net.

Kelt was clinical from frees but points from Elaine O'Sullivan, Marie Brehony, Burke and Clodagh McGrath put Galway in a very strong position at half time, leading by 2-7 to 0-6.

They only managed two points in the second half though and that was to prove telling.

The game swung on a passage of play after 46 minutes, when impressive substitute Rachel Monaghan set O'Reilly up with a golden opportunity to bag her second goal. Unfortunately for the Galway attacker, she failed to retain possession at the vital juncture.

From there, Derry worked the ball up the field and the brilliant Katie McAnenly hand-passed to the Galway net. Instead of trailing by nine points, Derry's hopes had been restored with just three between the teams.

Kelt and Monaghan exchanged frees before Cassidy found Kelt in the 50th minute and the Kilrea dynamo sent a blistering drive on the run from the 20m line beyond Róisín Callanan.

That wasn't the end of it though, as Galway had one late chance. Cathiona Cormican was fouled and when the resultant free was taken, made a great catch.

Under pressure from a host of Derry defenders, the midfielder somehow managed to get a hand-pass away but Claire O'Kane was perfectly placed to grab it under the posts and make a telling clearance to bring a pulsating clash to an end.

Scorers - Derry: K Kelt 1-5(0-4fs); K McAnenly 1-3; S Cassidy, G McNicholl 0-1 each
Galway: A O'Reilly 1-1; O Curtin 1-0; E O'Sullivan 0-2; S Noone (f), E Kilkelly (f), M Brehony, D Burke, C McGrath, R Monaghan(f) 0-1 each

Derry: C O'Kane, A Mullan, A Ni Chasaide, M Mooney, A McCusker, E Ni Chasaide, M McGoldrick, S Cassidy, G McNicholl, G McGoldrick, O Bradley, A McPeake, T McElroy, K McAnenly, K Kelt. Subs: B McGillion for Bradley (37); K Bradley for McPeake (42); M Kerr for Mooney (50)

Galway: R Cahalan, C Kenny, P Kenny, C Gill, L Farrell, S Noone, S Keane, C McGrath, C Cormican, A O'Reilly, E Kilkelly, M Brehony, D Burke, O Curtin, E O'Sullivan. Subs: R Monaghan for Brehony (44); A Kenny for O'Sullivan (49); R Hennelly for Curtin (52); A Lynskey for Burke (53)

Referee: D Ryan (Dublin)

CAMOGIE GLORY FOR DERRY

after 46 minutes, when impressive substitute O'Reilly wasted a golden opportunity to bag her second goal. From there, Derry worked the ball up the field and the brilliant Katie McAnenly hand-passed to the net. From a nine-point deficit to three, Derry's Kelt and Monaghan exchanged frees before Cassidy found Kelt in the 59th minute and the Kilrea dynamo sent a blistering drive on the run from the 20m line beyond Róisín Callanan. **DERRY:** C O'Kane, A Mullan, A Ni Chasaide, M Mooney, A McCusker, E Ni Chasaide, M McGoldrick;

S Cassidy, G McNicholl; G McGoldrick, O Bradley, A McPeake; T McElroy, K McAnenly, K Kelt. Subs: B McGillion for Bradley (37); K Bradley for McPeake (42); M Kerr for Mooney (50).
Scorers: K Kelt 1-5(0-4fs); K McAnenly 1-3; S Cassidy, G McNicholl 0-1 each.
GALWAY: R Cahalan, C Kenny, P Kenny, C Gill, L Farrell, S Noone, S Keane, C McGrath, C Cormican; A O'Reilly, E Kilkelly, M Brehony, D Burke, O Curtin, E O'Sullivan. Subs: R Monaghan for Brehony (44); A Kenny for O'Sullivan (49); R Hennelly for Curtin (52); A Lynskey for Burke (53).
Scorers: A O'Reilly 1-1; O Curtin 1-0; E O'Sullivan 0-2; S Noone (f), E Kilkelly (f), M Brehony, D Burke, C McGrath, R Monaghan(f) 0-1 each
Referee: D Ryan (Dublin).



SUCCESS: Derry's Grainne McGoldrick

Watson's goals get Milford into final

Saints secure spot in the semi

Milford 3-11
Courcey Rovers 1-9

MILFORD reached their third senior county final in four years after a serious challenge from Courcey Rovers in Coachford last Saturday.

But for a two-minute spell midway through the second half, which saw the North Cork side score 2-1, this game was on the table for either side. Rovers were winning the midfield battle hands down with Rachel Moloney doing persistent damage but Milford's defence held Rovers scoreless from play during the second half and with the greater scoring spread up front, utilised their own supply to greater efficiency.

Despite the favourites' tag it was obvious from early on that Milford had a battle on their hands as Courceys, significantly improved on their performance of a week ago, took a 1-2 to 0-2 lead 18 minutes in, a wonderfully executed goal by Linda Collins from a difficult angle billowing the net, giving Rebecca Finn no chance.

Collins at this point had 1-1 to her name and Milford needed to react. Elaine O'Riordan's move to full-back to curtail the danger woman and the switch of Sarah Sexton onto Julie Mulcahy proved successful with surprisingly, Rovers failing to score from play for the remainder of the game.

Regina Curtin stuck her first of three points before a cross ball bounced kindly for Maria Watson and she finished expertly past Claire Duggan.

Twenty three minutes in Collins ran through on goal only to be fouled in the danger area. Sarah Hayes stepped up to take the resultant penalty but Duggan saved well.

Entering the final minute of first half time and with the score at 1-3 apiece Milford displayed two minutes of superiority with three fluent points, two from the stick of Marie O'Neill.

With the wind now favouring Milford it added little assistance in the opening minutes of second half play as Courceys, with Sarah Hayes and Moloney leading, battled Milford for every ball.

Just a point separated the sides forty two minutes in but two minutes of brilliance by Maria Watson put an end to Rovers challenge. The first goal came as a result of great Milford defending at the other end which saw Marie O'Neill gather a long clearance and offload to the running Watson who rattled the net.

The latter collected again out the wing minutes later and bypassing a number of defenders, her cross ball was finished by Louise O'Flynn. When Watson pointed again Milford had raced into an eight point



Linda Collins, Courcey Rovers, battles with Katie Galvin, Milford, during the camogie Senior County Championship semi-final at Coachford.

Picture: Jim Coughlan



CAMOGIE

lead in the blink of an eye.

Considering how tight the game was Courceys would not recover despite forcing Duggan into a couple of good saves.

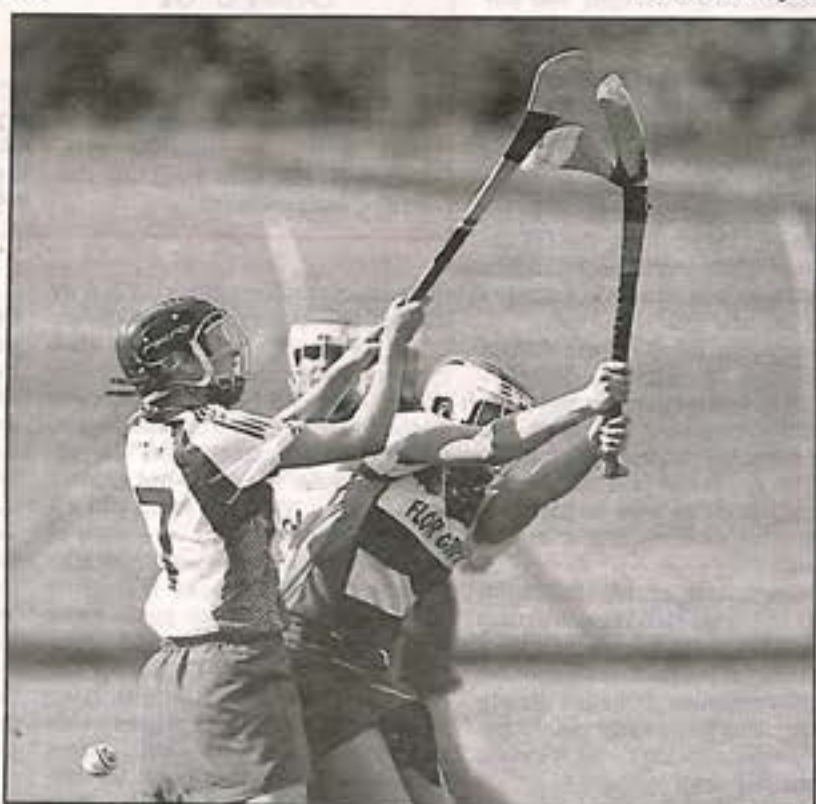
Scorers for Milford: M Watson 2-2, R Curtin 0-3, L O'Flynn 1-0, M Walsh, M O'Neill 0-2 each, E Watson 0-2 (0-1 f, 0-1 45).

Courcey Rovers: R Moloney 0-8 (0-5 f, 0-3 45), L Collins 1-1.

MILFORD: R Finn, D Hayes, N O'Brien, K Galvin, E O'Riordan, A Geary, S Sexton, M Walsh, A Thompson, M O'Neill, E Watson, A Watson, L O'Flynn, R Curtin, M Watson.
Subs: E O'Friel for L O'Flynn (44), O O'Mahony for A Thompson (50), A O'Flynn for R Curtin (inj 59).

COURCEY ROVERS: C Duggan, A Keating, C Hayes, K Keohane, E Moloney, S Hayes, C O'Driscoll, R Moloney, J Crowley, C O'Neill, A Moloney, J Mulcahy, C McSweeney, L Collins, E O'Regan.

Referee: Collette O'Mahony (St Finbarr's).



Christine O'Neill, Courcey Rovers goes up with Sarah Sexton, Milford.

Picture:

Jim Coughlan

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

| | |
|----------------|------|
| St Catherine's | 2-12 |
| Cloughduv | 1-5 |

AN IMPRESSIVE display from St Catherine's ensured a safe passage to the semi final of the Evening Echo senior camogie championship as they overcame a fancied Cloughduv side in Castle Road on Saturday.

Three points separated the sides at the break as St Catherine's held the upper hand thanks in the main to a superb display from Orla Cotter, who covered huge amount of ground dropping back sweeping up in defence and also leading their challenge forward with some excellent long-range efforts as they stamped their authority on the game from the start.

An Aoife Barry-Murphy point gave Cloughduv a 0-3 to 0-2 lead at the end of the opening quarter after Ciara O'Leary and Brieger Corkery had found the range, but two Orla Cotter points and one each from Fiona Cotter and Maire O'Regan ensured St Catherine's were the happier at the break.

Cloughduv restarted well with two points on the trot but when the excellent Finola Neville cleverly handpassed to the net in a crowded square six minutes in Cloughduv had it all to do.

St Catherine's, using possession well as they spread the ball around, put the Cloughduv defence under constant pressure and with Neville and Rachel O'Callaghan impressing they stretched their lead.

In defence, St Catherine's held Cloughduv scoreless from the third to the 32nd minute of half their backline with Carolyn Motherway and Noirin Mulcahy rock solid all through well in control.

Cloughduv did have two goal chances but erratic shooting proved costly and a O'Callaghan goal with four minutes remaining consolidated St Catherine's dominance after two good Evelyn Roynane points, a late Derbhla Ahern goal did little but alter the score as Denis Walsh's side's championship dream remains on course with a semi-final spot against Inniscarra next on the agenda.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-6 (0-4f), R O'Callaghan, F Neville 1-1 each, E Roynane 0-2, M O'Regan F Cotter 0-1 each.

Cloughduv: D Ahern 1-0 f, B Corkery 0-2, A Barry-Murphy, M Corkery, C O'Leary (45) 0-1 each.

ST CATHERINE'S: A Mangan, O Neville, N Mulcahy (c), Y O'Neill, C Motherway, F Cotter, F Noonan, M O'Keefe, O Cotter, R O'Callaghan, E Roynane, M O'Regan, M Tobin J O'Keefe, F Neville.

Subs: A O'Regan for O Neville (41), A Fitzgerald for E Roynane (54), D Mulcahy for M Tobin (59).

CLOUGHDUV: A Murray, O O'Driscoll, E Dunne, G O'Sullivan, E Healy, C Foley, J O'Callaghan, J Lucey, D Ahern, K Corkery (c), C Creedon, M Corkery, C O'Leary, B Corkery, A Barry-Murphy.

Subs: B Hennigan for C Creedon (42), J Down for M Corkery (42), M Lucey for C Foley (inj 45), A Murray for B Corkery (inj 55).

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

Camogie All Star nominees announced

By Camogie Association
Posted 03/10/2012

City West Hotel
Saggart, Co Dublin
Saturday, Nov 3rd

The shortlist for the 2012 All Stars in association with O'Neills has been announced with All Ireland champions Wexford and finalists Cork dominating this year's 45 strong field.

Wexford received 12 nominations followed by Cork on 11: Galway (7), Offaly (6), Tipperary and Clare (3), Kilkenny (2) while Dublin received one.

The winners will be announced at a black-tie event on Saturday November 3rd at the City West hotel, Saggart.

Wexford will hope to see their triple All Ireland winning exploits rewarded with captain Karen Atkinson and defensive colleagues, Catherine O'Loughlin, Claire O'Connor, Deirdre Codd and Noeleen Lambert all vying for spots on the final fifteen. Cork's Gemma O'Connor, goalkeeper Aoife Murray along with midfielders Orla Cotter and Jennifer O'Leary are amongst the All Ireland finalists and league champions nominees.

Offaly who reached this year's All Ireland semi-final have been rewarded with six nominations with top scorer Elaine Dermody amongst the full forward line-up and goalkeeper Eleanor Clendennen receiving her first nomination. Clare and Tipperary share three-a-piece while Muearn O'Gorman is Dublin's sole nominee in this year's list.

Speaking about today's announcement President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lavelle said:

"This year's All Ireland Camogie Championship in association with RTE Sport was a fantastic year for camogie. With a new structure in operation counties played in a different format in opening and qualifying rounds. The All Ireland Finals in Croke Park will be talked about for many years to come. There were three

incredible games involving 90 athletes over 3 hours in what was a most entertaining day for players and spectators and it was undoubtedly a fabulous showcase for camogie.

The All Star Awards pay tribute to the fantastic contribution of our players throughout the year from League to Championship, rewarding them for the entertainment and joy they bring to us throughout a very competitive playing season. These awards measure the outstanding displays of skill, talent, and total commitment by our players, both as individuals and as team players. It is a mark of recognition of the enormous contribution by our players to the game of Camogie.

Our Camogie All Stars are indeed stars and that is why we recognise and honour them at national level. I look forward to the announcement of the All Stars team of 2012 on November 3rd in City West. I would like to thank O'Neills for their outstanding dedication and support to the Camogie Association over the last number of years and we are delighted to have them on board as the official partner for this event."

2012 All Star nominations

Goalkeepers

Eleanor Clendennen (Offaly), Mags D'Arcy (Wexford), Aoife Murray (Cork)

Full-Backs

Karen Atkinson (Wexford), Rena Buckley (Cork), Jenny Duffly (Cork), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny), Mairé McGrath (Clare), Claire O'Connor (Wexford), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Lorraine Ryan (Galway), Sheila Sullivan (Offaly)

Half-Backs

Deirdre Codd (Wexford), Orlaith Duggan (Clare), Lorraine Keena (Offaly), Noeleen Lambert (Wexford), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Theresa Maher (Galway), Niamh O'Dea (Clare), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Mary Ryan (Tipperary)

Midfield

Orla Cotter (Cork), Siobhán Flannery (Offaly), Ann Marie Hayes (Galway), Jill Horan (Tipperary), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork)

Half-Forwards

Brieghe Corkery (Cork), Josie Dwyer (Wexford), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Anna Geary (Cork), Niamh McGrath (Galway), Muearn O'Gorman (Dublin), Michelle O'Leary (Wexford), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Nicole Walsh (Tipperary)

Full-Forwards

Silke Burns (Cork), Martina Connolly (Galway), Veronica Curtin (Galway), Elaine Dermody (Offaly), Ursula Jacob (Wexford), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Katrina Parrock (Wexford), Fiona Rochford (Wexford), Aileen Watkins (Offaly)

Winning ways

"I'd have just one slice of bread a day"

KAREN ATKINSON captained Wexford's 2012 three-in-a-row All-Ireland winning camogie team last month and says the side's performance was one to be remembered. "Everyone was really committed.

"We knew we had the players to put in the performance. Everyone really pushed — the effort was amazing."

Of her own performance, the 25-year-old says: "I started off a bit nervous. Things didn't run my way but things got better coming into the second half.

Karen has a degree in business and accounting and her aim is to be a teacher. She lives with her parents near Enniscorthy. Her boyfriend, Michael Sinnott, also plays GAA — he's an intermediate goalie and sub-goalie for his club Oulart-The Ballagh in Wexford.

What shape are you in?

I'd like to think I'm in good shape. I do three training sessions every week and I try to go to the gym at least once a week.

Do you have any health concerns?

I tore my cruciate ligament 13 minutes into the 2010 All-Ireland final against Galway. I got tangled up with another player and fell heavily on my right knee. I knew the minute I hit the ground something was wrong. I was told I needed an operation but I've done lots of training and exercise to build up the muscle. I was heavily strapped for this year's All-Ireland final but that was more as a precaution than anything else. Thankfully, my knee's good now.

What are your healthiest eating habits?

I like fruit and vegetables and I eat lots of protein — chicken, ham, eggs, cheese. I eat nuts — almonds, cashews. I'd have just one slice of bread a day and one potato.

What's your guiltiest pleasure?

Biscuits and crisps would be my worst habits. When you're in the championship season, you don't eat much bad stuff. I find foods like these give you false energy — after a while you go into a lull and it can really bring you down a bit.

What would keep you awake at night?



Role model: Karen Atkinson, who captained Wexford to its third All-Ireland win, would love to meet Katie Taylor. Picture: SPORTSFILE

I'm probably an anxious person so any little thing niggling away — like a job interview. My sister's getting married soon so I'll probably be awake the night before. And the night before an All-Ireland, I'd be thinking about it, going over it in my head.

How do you relax?

Being on my own, whether in the living room or my bedroom, and taking deep breaths.

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

I'd love to have a conversation with Katie Taylor — she's a great role model for women.

What's your favourite smell?

Fantasy — the perfume by Britney Spears. I love that really sweet smell.

When did you last cry?

I cried a little when the whistle blew on All-Ireland day. I was so shocked that we'd won three times in a row and that I was captain. I couldn't believe it so I had a little cry to myself.

What would you change about your appearance?

I'd like to have nice sleek hair. I've got kind of frizzy hair — when I get out of the shower, it's like a frizz-ball.

What trait do you least like in others?

Falseness, saying things behind someone's back while being nice to their face.

What trait do you least like in yourself?

People probably think I have an abundance of confidence but I can get very nervous doing interviews so I'd like more confidence around that.

Do you pray?

I go to Mass every weekend. If I miss it, I feel guilty. It's not often that I'd miss Mass — it's usually because I've had a match or I've been out late the night before.

What would cheer up your day?

Knowing I've helped somebody else have a happier day. ■

Helen O'Callaghan

OCT. 2012



LINDA MELLERICK

NOW in its ninth year, the shortlist for the 2012 All-Stars has been announced with All-Ireland champions Wexford and National League champions Cork dominating this year's 45 nominations.

Wexford received 12 nominations followed by Cork on 11, Galway have seven, Offaly have six, Tipperary and Clare have three, Kilkenny two while Dublin received one.

The winners will be announced at a black-tie event on Saturday, November 3, at the City West Hotel.

In my view Aoife Murray should get the number one spot.

Yes, she had a topsy turvy All-Ireland final, but remember the converted penalty and the magnificent diving second-half save?

The final was the only game where she displayed any signs of vulnerability in the entire season. Remember Wexford's Mags Darcy also let three goals past her in the final.

In the past too much emphasis was placed on All-Ireland final performances with regards picking a Player of the Year.

There were no All-Star awards so there was no committee in situ, dispersed to every game to determine the players of the season, and with little coverage too much was based on the All-Ireland final performance.

Now, however, a committee, since the All Star introduction, does the circuit throughout the season and picks players on genuine consistent merit.

For that reason Aoife should get an award. I hope the committee doesn't feel obliged to 'spread it about' — ie regardless of whether a county like Offaly or Clare had a relatively good season by their standards, that shouldn't form the basis for awarding them an All-Star.

Gemma O'Connor should also be a certainly. I don't envisage Cork getting any further defensive selections, but you never know.

Kilkenny had a dismal year, two nominations speaking for itself. Clare and Offaly are fast bypassing Kilkenny as a stronger senior outfit and considering Kilkenny's great tradition along with their underage success it is both a surprise and shame that they have



Sarsfields, winners of the U14 A league title.

Plenty of nominations for Rebels

regressed so speedily and heavily.

Jill Horan and Jennifer O'Leary will be the midfield pairings. No Wexford player in this lineout and surprisingly they didn't even get a nomination in this section of the field. Kate Kelly is listed in the half-forwards despite spending most of the season at midfield. I believe that's to accommodate the selection of all three players; Horan, O'Leary and Kelly.

From the full-forward nominees I feel that Katrina Mackey should gain inclusion along with Ursula Jacob and Katrina Parrock. The only person that could deny her this would be Elaine Dermody of Offaly who almost single handedly keeps Offaly in games. But

Mackey has had a great season.

Her All-Ireland final goal was an almost carbon copy of her National League final thriller and she should win out.

Fiona Rochford had a great season as a super sub and won her start in the final. She would surely be a contender had she more game time.

Wexford and Cork will dominate proceedings, but I don't expect Cork to get more than four. But you never know; there could be potential in the half-forward line for another in the form of Breige Corkery.

Outside of Kate Kelly there were few standout performances in that area.

Goalkeepers: Eleanor Clendennen (Offaly), Mags D'Arcy (Wexford), Aoife Murray (Cork). **Full-backs:** Karen Atkinson (Wexford), Rena Buckley (Cork), Jenny Duffy (Cork), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny), Máire McGrath (Clare), Claire O'Connor (Wexford), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Lorraine Ryan (Galway), Sheila Sullivan (Offaly). **Half-backs:** Deirdre Codd (Wexford), Orlaith Duggan (Clare), Lorraine Keena (Offaly), Noeleen Lambert (Wexford), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Theresa Maher (Galway), Niamh O'Dea (Clare), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Mary Ryan (Tipperary). **Midfield:** Orla Cotter (Cork), Siobhán Flannery (Offaly), Ann Marie Hayes (Galway), Jill Horan (Tipperary), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork). **Half-forwards:** Breige Corkery (Cork), Josie Dwyer (Wexford), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Anna Geary (Cork), Niamh McGrath (Galway), Muireann O'Gorman (Dublin), Michelle O'Leary (Wexford), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Nicole Walsh (Tipperary). **Full-forwards:** Sile Burns (Cork), Martina Conroy (Galway), Veronica Curtin (Galway), Elaine Dermody (Offaly), Ursula Jacob (Wexford), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Katrina Parrock (Wexford), Fiona Rochford (Wexford), Arlene Watkins (Offaly).

Barryroe favourites to beat Éire Óg in semi

THE Evening Echo Senior B semi-final is the big game on the agenda this weekend.

Éire Óg and Barryroe meet to battle it out for a place in the final, whilst Glen Rovers and Clonakilty go head-to-head with a semi-final place against

Kilbrittan/Timoleague waiting the winners. Éire Óg, having lost out in their opening game to Kilbrittan/Timoleague, rallied to secure their semi-final spot thanks to fine displays against Fr O'Neill's and Mallow. Last season's semi-finalists Mallow were fancied to make strides this year, but they met a tough challenge from an ever improving Éire Óg side, who have excellent performers in Marie Gleeson, Ciara McKenna, Katie McCarthy and Claire Meaney.

As the season has progressed Éire Óg welcomed back players to their panel and

SENIOR B CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

they have been going from strength to strength.

Barryroe were re-graded this season from senior to senior B and have confidently made it to the semi-final stages with wins over Clonakilty, Newcestown and last year's defeated finalists Glen Rovers. They also reached the league final against Glen Rovers which ended all square, and like Éire Óg have got stronger as the season has progressed, the addition to their squad of inter-county senior Sile Burns has been a huge asset, while Cork star Jennifer O'Leary has performed superbly in all outings to date. They are a strong outfit with excellent performers in Carol Dineen, Geraldine

Collins and Claire Sexton and it will take a huge effort from Éire Óg to secure a final spot.

Clonakilty, who have impressed this season with victories over Newcestown and Valley Rovers, now clash with Glen Rovers, who have also recorded victories over the same opposition, and it will go down to the wire as they both battle for the semi-final spot.

Clon are an ever improving outfit with Sinead O'Neill, Sharon Whelton, Juanita Brennan and Hazel O'Regan in their line out. Glen reached the final last season and lost out to Ballinhassig by a point. They are minus the services of three experienced players this season in Jennifer Hosford, Kelly Newman and Sinead Gallen, but they have excellent performers in captain Lydia Cunningham, Nicole O'Brien, Karen O'Connell and

Leeann O'Sullivan.

Minor championship games at all levels complete the fixture schedule for the weekend with several games down for decision today.

On Wednesday night St Catherine's and Inniscarra will battle it out under lights in Páirc Uí Rinn for a place in the senior final against Millford.

FIXTURES

TODAY

Evening Echo Senior B Championship quarter-final: Clonakilty v Glen Rovers, Ovens, 2pm.

Evening Echo Senior B Championship semi-final:

Éire Óg v Barryroe, Cloughduv, 8pm.

WEDNESDAY

Evening Echo Senior Championship semi-final: Inniscarra v St Catherine's, Páirc Uí Rinn, 8pm.

All Go at U12 Gala finals

FROM 8.30am on Saturday last there was huge activity at five venues all over the county with the U12 Go Games Gala finals taking place, writes MARY NEWMAN.

Over 1,000 young camogie players participated in Go Games cluster blitzes at different venues in their own divisions over the summer months before going on to compete in a Go Games league where scores and results were recorded.

In keeping with the Go Games ethos, no finals were held, but the big gala day was the culmination of the year's work by the mentor and young players and was a celebration of their participation.

Venues in Aghada, Crosshaven, Newtownshandrum, Kilbrittan and Castle Road were alive to the sound of youngsters from early morning as games got underway.

Each participant on the day was presented with a medal to mark their attendance, while they also received a Go Games water bottle and wrist band to mark the occasion.

The following clubs took part in what was a big event to organise: Aghabullogue, Aghada, Ballinascorthy, Ballincollig, Ballinhassig, Ballinora, Ballyhea, Banteer, Barryroe, Bishopstown, Blackrock, Blarney, Brian Dillon's, Bride Rovers, Bultevant, Carrigaline, Carrigwohill, Castletyons, Castle-martyr, Charleville, Cloughduv, Courcy Rovers, Crosshaven, Douglas, Dungourney, Éire Óg, Enniskene, Erin's Own, Fr O'Neill's, Glen Rovers, Grenagh, Inniscarra, Kilbree, Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Killeagh, Mallow, Millford, Millstreet, Na Piar-saigh, Newtownshandrum, Sarsfields, Sliabh Rua, St Catherine's, St Finbarr's, Tracton, Valley Rovers, Watergrasshill, Youghal.

A huge word of praise to the juvenile board and their development officer Mairead O'Donovan who organised the league and the weekend event and to the young participants and their mentors goes a very big well done.

Let's hope all will progress with confidence to the U13 grade.

OCT. 2012

Derry claim All-Ireland crown



SECOND TIME LUCKY...Derry camogs celebrate after replay victory over Galway in the All-Ireland final. Picture: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

BY CIARAN WOODS

DERRY'S dreams came true in the most dramatic of fashions when Karen Kieft's last gasp goal secured victory for the Oak Leaf side and they delivered the All-Ireland Intermediate title at the second attempt.

Kieft was the hero of the day for Derry, hitting a total of 1-5 over the hour. Indeed it was her first-half frees which kept Derry in touch as Galway threatened to pull clear.

Traffling by six points with a quarter of an hour to go, Katie McAnenley hand passed to the Galway net to cut the deficit. The gap was back to two courtesy of a Kieft free, before the Kieft attacker broke through to hit a blistering drive from all of 20 metres to the Galway goal to edge her side in front.

Unlike the last day, there was to be no late reprieve for Galway as Derry held firm to secure the title, and in doing so guarantee themselves sen-

ior championship camogie for 2013.

Proud captain Grainne McGoldrick raised the trophy aloft to send the large Derry contingent into delirium at Ashbourne, and rounded off what has been an incredible year for John A Mullan's side who went through the year unbeaten, claiming National League, Ulster senior and All-Ireland intermediate honours in the process.

c.woods@gaeliclife.com

2012 Camogie All Star nominations

Wexford and Cork dominate this year's 45-strong nominations for the Camogie All Stars. Wexford received 12 nominations, followed by Cork on 11; Galway (seven); Offaly (six); Tipperary and Clare (three); Kilkenny (two) while Dublin received one. The winners will be announced on Saturday, November 3 at the CityWest.

Goalkeepers

Eleanor Clendennen (Offaly), Mags O'Arcy (Wexford), Aoife Murray (Cork).

Full-backs

Karen Atkinson (Wexford), Rena Buckley (Cork), Jenny Duffy (Cork), Catherine Doherty (Kilkenny), Máire McGrath (Clare), Claire O'Connor (Wexford), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Lorraine Ryan (Galway), Sheila Sullivan (Offaly).

Half-backs

Deirdre Codd (Wexford), Orlaith Duggan (Clare), Lorraine Keena (Offaly), Noeleen Lambert (Wexford), Pamela Mackey (Cork), Therese Maher (Galway), Niamh O'Dea (Clare), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Mary Ryan (Tipperary).

Midfield

Orla Cotter (Cork), Siobhán Flannery (Offaly), Ann Marie Hayes (Galway), Jill Horan (Tipperary), Niamh Kilkenny (Galway), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork).

Half-forwards

Briege Corkery (Cork), Josie Dwyer (Wexford), Kate Kelly (Wexford), Anna Geary (Cork), Niamh McGrath (Galway), Muireann O'Gorman (Dublin), Michelle O'Leary (Wexford), Katie Power (Kilkenny), Nicole Walsh (Tipperary).

Full-forwards

Sile Burns (Cork), Martina Conroy (Galway), Veronica Curtin (Galway), Elaine Dermody (Offaly), Ursula Jacob (Wexford), Katrina Mackey (Cork), Katrina Parrock (Wexford), Fiona Rochford (Wexford), Arlene Watkins (Offaly).

Barryroe Eire Og

3-9
0-7

Despite battling to the final whistle, Eire Og had to give way to Barryroe who comfortably advanced to book their place in the Evening Echo Senior B champions final in Cloughduv.

The sides were level 0-1 each after 10 minutes as both defences were on top but a strong 20 minutes from Barryroe — led in the main by the excellent Jennifer O'Leary — ensured Barryroe led 1-4 to 0-1, a gem of a goal 20 minutes in from Jennifer O'Leary helping her side take control.

Eire Og gave it every thing they had but they could not breach a strong Barryroe defence. Margaret O'Herlihy pointed a 45 and Elaine Scally added a point but in between Sile Burns picked off two

Barryroe points. O'Herlihy and O'Leary swapped points before the break as Barryroe led 1-7 to 0-4. On the re-sumption the sides swapped points twice. Substitute Aoife McCarthy pointed to cut the gap to five points but it was to be Eire Og's last score as Barryroe upped their play and began to take control.

Sile Burns grabbed a goal before both keepers were forced into making good saves. Eire Og continued to press but the Barryroe defence was in control up front with Geraldine Collins always a threat. Barryroe won good possession and a goal from Jennifer O'Leary had the gap at 11 points with four minutes remaining. Eire Og threw everything at it but Barryroe held their lines to advance to the final where they will meet Clonakilty or Kilbrittain / Timoleague.

Barryroe: E White; L Dullea Carroll, J O'Leary; C Dineen, N O'Driscoll, K McCarthy (c); J O'Leary, L Gannon; C Sexton, R Dineen, L Gannon; G Collins, S Burns, D O'Sullivan. Subs: E O'Regan for D O'Sullivan (h/t), A O'Donoghue for L Dineen (60), C Griffin for L Gannon (60). Scores: J O'Leary 2-3(0-2), S Burns 1-4, R Dineen, G Collins 0-1 each.

Eire Og: M Gleeson; M Corkery, K McCarthy, A Hennessey; A Barry, S Hutchinson, C McKenna; E Corkery, C Meaney; M O'Herlihy, E Scally, M E Desmond; A Scally, E Corkery, R Murray. Subs: C McCarthy for A Barry (44), A McKenna for R Murray (46), A McKenna for R Murray (58). Scores: M O'Herlihy 0-4 (0-3f 0-145), E Scally 0-2, A McCarthy 0-1.

Ref: John O'Leary (Mallow).

Tomorrow at 8pm in Pairc Ui Rinn, St Catherine's and Inniscarra will battle it out for the right to meet Milford in the Evening Echo Senior Camogie final which is pencilled in for Sunday.

Clonakilty Glen Rovers

2-20
4-9 (AET)

It took extra time to separate Clonakilty and Glen Rovers in highly entertaining Senior B contest in Ovens as the Clon girls gained the upper hand to book their place in the semi final against Kilbrittain / Timoleague.

Twice the sides swapped early points before the Glen opened up a two point lead but a Clon goal from Sinead O'Neill gave them the advantage. Sinead O'Halloran fired the Glen back in front with a goal and a Lauren Callanan point had them three ahead. Sharon Whelton pointed a free before an Aoife Deasy goal put them a point ahead. Denise Luby levelled it with a pointed free before two Sharon Whelton frees gave Clon a

2-5 to 1-6 interval lead.

Three Glen points had them back in the lead before Sharon Whelton showed her accuracy form frees and levelled and with the same player pointing three further frees, Clon went ahead. The Glen hit their third goal from a Luby free but with Aoife Deasy Juanita Brennan and Sinead O'Neill all to the fore, Clon went six points clear.

Battling hard and applying huge pressure, the Glen fought back and winning a penalty Denise Luby found the net. Now just three points separated the sides entering injury time. From the puck-out, the Glen attacked again and winning a 45 they found the range to level the game as a Lauren Callanan effort dropped to the net. In added time, Clon led by two points at the

break and they added a further three as, despite huge pressure, their defence held the line to ensure they went through after an excellent game by two committed sides.

Clonakilty: A O'Hea; A O'Neill, S O'Brien, C Nagle; A McCarthy, H O'Regan, L Kemp; C O'Regan, B Mc Manus; A O'Leary, J Brennan, S Whelton, S O'Neill, A Deasy, S Forristal (c). Subs: M O'Donovan for Aoife Deasy, Clare O'Mahony for Aileen McCarthy, N O'Donovan for A O'Neill, L Collins for L Kemp, A Deasy for A O'Leary, A M Moyley for J Brennan. Scores: S Whelton 0-14, J Brennan 0-3, S O'Neill 1-1 Aoife Deasy 1-1, S Forristal 0-1.

Glen Rovers: K Lee; Z Buckley, A Gilton-Dorney, K O'Connell; M Hegarty, L O'Sullivan, S Busted; L Cunningham (c), L Callanan; N O'Brien, A O'Keefe, S Fahy; S O'Halloran, D Luby, E O'Connell. Subs: A Wallace for A O'Keefe, N Gowen for S Busted, T Cunningham for L Callanan. Scores: D Luby 2-6 (1-0p, 1-0f 0-4f 0-145), L Callanan 1-1 (1-045), S O'Halloran 1-2.

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

CAMOGIE KAREN COYLES CUP

Ballycastle claim inaugural Karen Coyles cup

THE WATTY Grahams Glen Maghera club in Derry last weekend played host to the inaugural Karen Coyles Memorial Cup competition for u-14 camogie players sponsored in memory of the late Karen Coyles.

Karen passed away in September of last year having captained the winning side in the Kilmacud Croke's competition on the weekend before her untimely death.

Although she was from the Ballycastle McQuillan's Camogie club, Karen had strong connections to the Watty Graham club through her sister Deirdre and her nieces, playing members Carleen - who was captain of the Glen team on the day - and Clara Convery.

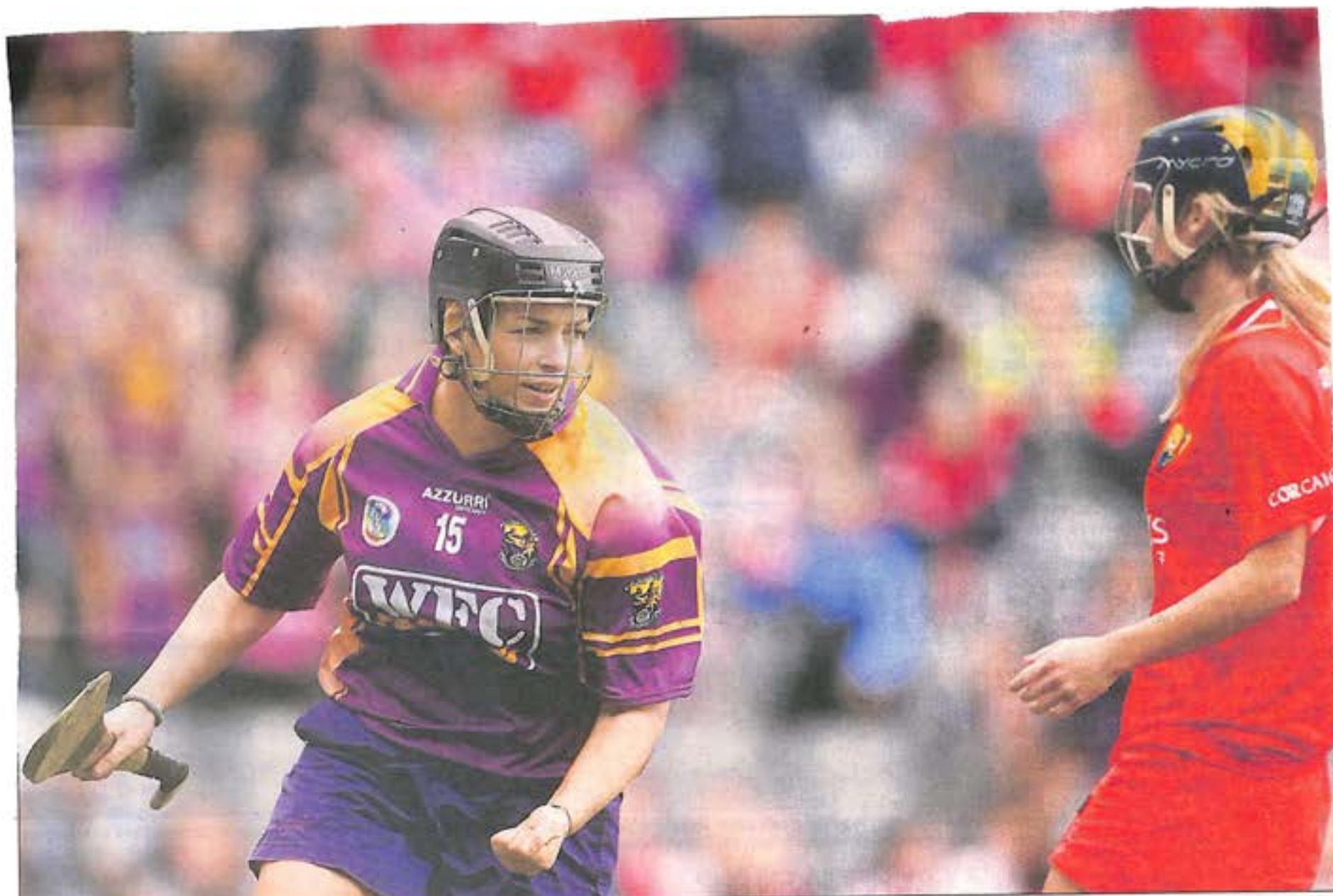


MAIDEN WIN...The victorious Ballycastle camogs

The invitational competition saw Watty Grahams, Glen, McQuillan's, Ballycastle; Erin's Own, Lavey and Geraldine's, Portlengone all compete for the title.

Following the group stages where a fantastic array of camogie skills were on display, it resulted in a competitive final being played between Ballycastle and hosts Glen.

At the end of the game, it was Ballycastle who emerged victorious following a hard-fought display on a final score of Ballycastle 4-3 Glen 0-3, making McQuillan's the inaugural winners of the competition and ensuring the Karen Coyles Memorial Cup will reside in the Ballycastle trophy cabinet over the coming months.



Ursula Jacob celebrates the second of two goals in the All-Ireland camogie final against Cork and what a beauty it turned out to be, with the Wexford star firing an unstoppable shot from the ground that flew into the top corner of the goal. Photograph: Ryan Byrne/Inpho

Unreal display brings Jacob real reward

THE IRISH TIMES
SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

MARY HANNIGAN

WHEN SHE captained Wexford last year to their second All-Ireland in a row, scoring 1-5 of her team's 2-7 total against Galway, Ursula Jacob made the task of picking our September sportswoman of the month an easy one.

That moment, when Wexford trailed by three points with just 10 minutes to go, when she scored a quite magical goal, adding another three points to complete the comeback, as good as clinched it.

Twelve months on and there's a bit of déjà vu to it all. In one of the finest camogie finals in recent

memory, Cork put up a marvellous display against the defending champions, but, again, Jacob's scoring proved the difference.

Plenty of her team-mates had days to remember too, not least Katrina Parrock, but Jacob's tally of 2-7, which included two goals in two minutes, all but sealed Wexford's success. Her second was a thing of beauty, Jacob firing an unstoppable shot from the ground that flew in to the top corner of the goal. As Cyril Farrell put it in the RTE commentary box: "That's unreeeeeeeal!"

When Wexford went in to the

2007 final against Cork the county hadn't won a senior All-Ireland title in 32 years, their 2-7 to 1-8 victory that day ending the drought. They weren't able to retain their title, though, Cork bouncing back to win the next two, but since then Wexford - and Jacob - have been peerless. September's triumph completing the county's first ever three-in-a-row.

She came by her talent honestly, both her parents playing for the county, Mick a hurling All-Star and Breda making it to the 1972 All-Ireland Junior camogie final. Her sister Helena is

also on the Wexford camogie panel and her brothers Michael and Rory are both senior county hurlers. Jacob's work for the year wasn't done when she left Croke Park, last week she was the player of the match for her club Oulart-The Ballagh, the reigning All-Ireland champions, against St Ibar's/Shelmallee when they won their ninth Wexford senior camogie championship title in 10 years.

So then, for the second September running, Jacob is our Sportswoman of the month. No more than her county, she's developed quite a winning habit.

MONTHLY WINNERS SO FAR

(This year's awards cover December 2011 to November 2012):

December: Fionnuala Britton (Athletics). The Wicklow runner emulated Catherina McKiernan's 1994 European Cross Country Championship success by winning gold in Slovenia.

January: Jessica Kurten (Equestrian). After a difficult year, when she lost her most experienced horses following a dispute with their owner, Kurten bounced back with her first major Grand Prix victory in 12

months.

February: Fiona Coghlan (Rugby). Coghlan captained Ireland to their most impressive Six Nations' campaign yet, the team comfortably beating Wales, Italy and Scotland, only losing by a point away to France and holding England level at half-time in their Triple Crown match before the champions pulled away in the second half.

March: Audrey O'Flynn (Hockey). The Cork woman was a member of the Irish team that reached the final of their

Olympic Qualifier in Belgium, where they lost to the hosts, her eight goals in five matches making her the tournament top scorer.

April: Katie Walsh (Horse racing). With some assistance from Seabass, trained by her father Ted, Walsh became the highest-placed female jockey in the history of the English Grand National when she finished third. **May: Katie Taylor** (Boxing). Taylor won her fourth successive World Championship title in China (also taking the 'Best Boxer' award at the event).

Later in the summer, she paid a visit to London. You know yourself.

June: Stephanie Meadow (Golf). The 20-year-old from Jordantown played a major part in the British and Irish team's Curtis Cup triumph and then became the first Irish player to win the British Open Amateur title since 1985. **July: Annalise Murphy** (Sailing). Murphy won the opening four races in the Laser Radial sailing class in London 2012, before suffering the disappointment of finishing fourth in the medal race - but by then she had

given more than a glimpse of her ability.

August: Bethany Firth (Swimming). Despite suffering from a shoulder injury, the 16-year-old from Seaford, Co Down won gold in the S14 100m backstroke at the Paralympics in London.

Each sportswoman can only win one monthly award in the year but her achievements through the 12 months are taken in to account when the winner of the overall award is being decided.

Semi-final promises to be a really close affair

CAMOGIE

TONIGHT
Senior County championship semi-final Inniscarra v St Catherine's, Páirc Uí Rinn, 8pm.

AT THE outset of this year's championship St Catherine's would have been way down the pecking order when second guessing the champions for 2012, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

After a 15-point defeat to Milford in the opening round the Saints regrouped and while their victory over Killeagh may not have prompted a sit-up-and-take-note response, their quarter-final win over a highly fancied Cloughduv side has gained Catherine's a new-found respect.

Surprisingly, they will possibly still be slight underdogs for this semi-final clash with Inniscarra as typically, teams with little expected from them at the outset, continue to carry that same tag throughout a championship.

In 2009 few, throughout the championship, gave St Catherine's a chance of reaching a final, let alone win it but their 1-12 to 0-12 victory to take the title for the first time in the club's history said otherwise.

Their campaign this year bears all the hallmarks of three seasons ago and they'll quite happily let everyone else place the underdog tag on them as they quietly go about their business.

Inniscarra, on the other side, had a memorable 2010 and became Cork's most exciting prospect in many a year by achieving All-Ireland club success.

Due to a plethora of injuries they knew they were up against regaining their title in 2011 yet still managed to reach the semi-final where they were on the receiving end of a 3-13 to 2-5 defeat to eventual champions Douglas.

Inniscarra are again through to the semi-final despite a first round loss to arch rivals Douglas.

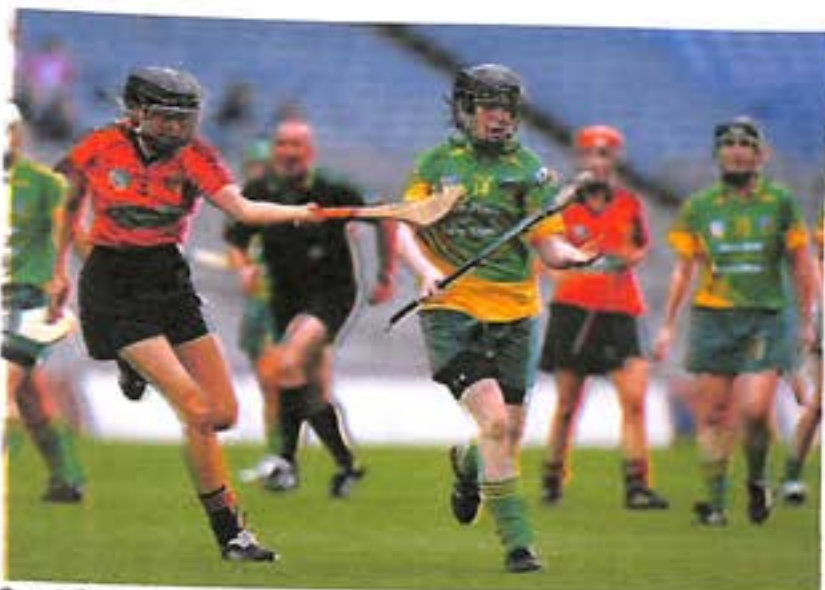
A re-energised side took to the field against Ballygarvan and Seandun scoring 2-16 and 3-12 respectively but on Wednesday Inniscarra will face a far sterner challenge.

Denis Walsh has his players full of belief and confidence with Finola Neville, Rachel O'Callaghan, Marie O'Regan and Joanne O'Keeffe all very capable forwards, although they still place a huge amount of reliance on a strong Orla Cotter.

One wonders if Rena Buckley will have fully recovered from her All-Ireland football victory just three days ago to line out at midfield to match Cotter's roaming game or will Inniscarra have alternative plans. This game will go to the wire.

Camogie Soaring Stars announced

By Camogie Association
Posted 10/10/2012



Camogie Soaring Stars announced

Meath and Down dominate this year's Soaring Stars team with thirteen players receiving awards for their displays throughout the season. The awards will be presented at a black-tie event at City West on Saturday, November 3rd.

Meath who won the All Ireland Premier Junior championship received eight awards with team captain Jane Dolan, player of the match Sinéad Hackett as well as defensive trio Claire Coffey, Fiona O'Neill and Aoife Thompson all amongst the final fifteen.

Down take five positions with Niamh Mallon and Sarah Louise Carr named in the full-forward line with Karen Timmely, Lisa McCrickard and Catherine McGourty also receiving awards. The remaining positions are taken by Kildare's Susie O'Carroll and Sarah Anne Fitzgerald of Laois.

The recipients of this year's Intermediate Soaring Stars have also been announced. Katie McAvenly and Sinéad Cassidy of All Ireland champions Derry and Sarah Noone of finalists Galway collect the accolades.

Speaking about today's announcement President of the Camogie Association Aileen Lawlor said:

"Congratulations to the Soaring Stars of 2012. The Camogie Association are delighted to reward the

outstanding contribution of camogie players in the Junior and Intermediate grades. Soaring Star awards are an acknowledgement of the great skill, talent, commitment and tremendous athleticism shown by our players on the field of play.

The Junior and Intermediate All Ireland finals in Croke Park were fantastic showcases for camogie providing great entertainment to all in attendance and to those watching live on RTE.

I would like to thank O'Neills for their tremendous dedication and support to the Camogie Association over the last number of years and we are delighted to have them on board as the official partner for this event."

2012 Soaring Stars:

Emily Mangan (Meath); Karen Timmely (Down); Claire Coffey (Meath); Fiona O'Neill (Meath); Lisa McCrickard (Down); Sarah Anne Fitzgerald (Laois); Aoife Thompson (Meath); Catherine McGourty (Down); Kristina Troy (Meath); Susie O'Carroll (Kildare); Jane Dolan (Meath); Aileen Donnelly (Meath); Niamh Mallon (Down); Sinéad Hackett (Meath); Sarah Louise Carr (Down).

Intermediate Soaring Stars:

Sinéad Cassidy (Derry); Katie McAvenly (Derry); Sarah Noone (Galway).

Notes to the editor:

o Meath are the 2012 All Ireland Premier Junior champions in association with RTE Sport and Derry are the 2012 All Ireland Intermediate Champions.

Cotter is the hero as Catherine's just shade it

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

| | |
|----------------|------|
| St Catherine's | 2-9 |
| Inniscarra | 1-11 |

A THRILLING senior county championship semi-final in Páirc Uí Rinn last night saw St Catherine's hold out for a single-point victory over Inniscarra. It was a credit to both sides that they produced such a high standard in very poor conditions. With the sides level on four occasions and Inniscarra gaining the upper hand during the third quarter, the Saints regrouped around the middle of the park and two Orla Cotter frees in the 53rd and 55th minutes edged her side in front.

Withstanding incredible Inniscarra pressure, they now advance to their second county final in four seasons, this coming Sunday.

This was a lively contest from the throw in and hard to call throughout. It was evident very early on that Inniscarra were struggling to cope with the pace of Joanne O'Keeffe and Finola Neville up front. The two combined in the 10th minute to goal and give the Saints a two-point advantage but that lead was quickly pegged back by Niamh Byrne and a Niamh Dilworth free.

Neville pounced again for 1-1 between the 18th and 21st minutes but again Inniscarra responded with an Erin Looney goal and two further points to give Inniscarra the lead for the first time with 24 minutes played. The Saints finished the half strongest while Inniscarra will rue a few missed frees which would have seen them go in two points ahead instead of one behind; 2-4 to 1-6.

Despite the Saints adding a further three points to Inniscarra's one within 10 minutes of the restart the next fifteen belonged to Inniscarra. With Liz Hayes and Rena Buckley doing great work the pendulum looked to be swinging towards Inniscarra with St Catherine's seeming to wilt.

Joanne Casey struck four points, three from frees, and Inniscarra now led by one with 52 minutes gone the talk around the ground was of extra time. But when it truly mattered, Orla Cotter lifted the tempo for her side, putting them on attack and striking those two frees right between the posts.

With tensions palpable the final whistle finally blew to the delight of St Catherine's and disappointment for a gallant Inniscarra side.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-5 (0-4 ft), J O'Keeffe, F Neville 1-1 each, E Ronayne, M Tobin 0-1 each.

Inniscarra: J Casey 0-5 (0-4 ft), E Looney 1-0, N Dilworth 0-2 (ft), K O'Mahony, R Buckley, N Byrne 0-1 each.

ST CATHERINE'S: A Mangan; Y O'Neill, N Mulcahy, F Noonan; O Neville, F Cotter, C Motherway; O Cotter, M O'Keeffe; M O'Regan, E Ronayne, R O'Callaghan; M Tobin, F Neville, J O'Keeffe.

Subs: A O'Regan for M Tobin (47), A Fitzgerald for R O'Callaghan (55).

INNISCARRA: S Ni Riain; M Buckley, A Sheehan, L Hayes; A Kavanagh, R O'Mahony, K Jones; R Buckley, E Kingston; N Dilworth, J Casey, T McCarthy; O Healy, K O'Mahony; N Byrne.

Subs: E Looney for M Buckley (18), F O'Connell, M Cosgrove for E Kingston, T McCarthy (47).

Referee: John O'Leary (Mallow).

OCT. 2012

Oak Leaf camogs come raiding for Ulster honours

BY CIARAN WOODS

SLAUGHTNEIL and O'Donovan Rossa will battle it out for the title of Ulster Senior Club Camogie champions when they lock horns at the Athletic Grounds this Saturday afternoon.

Rossa, who claimed the All-Ireland club crown back in 2008, will head into the game as favourites, but with Derry camogie on such a high following their recent All-Ireland Intermediate success, Slaughtneil cannot be ruled out.

One member of that all-conquering Oak Leaf squad was Ellis Ni Chaiside, and she is confident that the hard work put in by her colleagues in recent months will stand to them in Sunday's battle.

"We've already made history by winning the Derry championship for the first time with the club, so anything after that is an added bonus and we can't wait to face Rossa."

"Training has been hard, we have upped the ante and we know we have a big task ahead of us. We are going to give it a bash and hopefully we will come out on the right side."

"We played Rossa in the Ulster League just after they won the All-Ireland Club and that's the only time we have met them. We came away victorious that day, but a lot has changed since then and we look forward to the challenge."

Ni Chaiside has had in great year in the Derry colours as Derry swept all before them to win National League, Ulster and All-Ireland Intermediate Championship titles, and she reveals that she's not willing to give up that winning streak just yet.

"I've had two trophies in the last two games I've played and that's not



UP FOR THE CUP...Pictured ahead of the Ulster senior camogie final are Siodhna Woods of NWP Recycling, Muirinn Quinn of Rossa, Hannah Rice Donaghy of NWP, Rosemary Hughes Merry, Ulster Camogie, Slaughtneil's Ellis Ni Chaiside and Laura Hughes of NWP Recycling

bad going and hopefully we can carry that forward. We have girls like Claire Doherty who has been playing senior camogie for the club for 19 years which is unbelievable, and also a wealth of young talent as well, so we are looking forward to the game and seeing where we're at."

With Derry re-entering the Ulster A Club Championship, the path for the Antrim Champions does not mean straight entry to the All-Ireland semi-final, and this should be a good thing says Rossa captain Muirinn Quinn

"The last time we came through Antrim, there was no Ulster Final, and we knew we had to prepare for this game. It's a new challenge but it is not something we are taken for granted. We don't see Slaughtneil as underdogs. We know it will be a big challenge and Slaughtneil coming into Ulster is great for Derry and Ulster Camogie. We know they will be working hard and we will be prepared for them."

Speaking at the NWP Recycling Ulster Championship Finals launch, Muirinn spoke of how the All-Ireland

Senior Champions of 2008 have found the going tough since their win against Drom and Inch of Tipperary to claim All-Ireland glory.

"Going from winning an All-Ireland and trying to get back to that intensity has been quite tough, but after not getting through our own Antrim Championship last year it hurt and we have been fighting like mad. We know what it takes to get to an All-Ireland and that it what we are aiming for."

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CORK CAMOGIE BOARD Proposed Pitch Development



OCT 2012



CORK CAMOGIE PITCH OPENING 2012: Joan O'Flynn cuts the ribbon accompanied by Marion Mc Carthy



LINDA
MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

SUNDAY

County senior Camogie Final
Milford v St Catherine's
Castle Road, 3pm.

IT'S a fourth county final appearance in eight years for Milford on Sunday.

While that sounds like a magnificent achievement for any club, more so when one considers that Milford only formed in 1997, the fact that they have failed to win any of those three finals to date, when they were favourites for many of them, would be viewed as a failing, by Milford themselves.

Nobody views Milford as failures as they provide such competitive entertaining fare every year, yet from a neutral's perspective they can be extremely disappointing on the big day.

Milford's first county final appearance and defeat eight seasons ago to Carrighoun was as good a final as you'll get and a glittering future was expected from the North Cork side.

Further defeats followed in 2009 and 2011 to St Catherine's and Douglas respectively and many feel that Milford will finally untangle that monkey from their back on Sunday but based on past final performances, that is far from a certainty.

Milford however can't focus on history; it's all about this coming Sunday.

On a given day any team is capable of beating the other. The fact that Milford defeated St Catherine's 3-12 to 0-6 in the opening round of this year's championship will have no bearing on Sunday's encounter.

That game was level at the break and while Milford were certainly the superior team in the second half, the final score didn't do justice to St Catherine's efforts.

They went back to the drawing board and have had a superb few weeks which has seen them defeat Ballincollig, Killeagh, Cloughduv and Inniscarra. The momentum is with them, can anyone really dismiss their chances on Sunday?

Midfield will be a key area. Orla Cotter and Maeve O'Keeffe against Marie Walsh and Aishling Thompson, should they line out as such, will have a big bearing on the outcome.

St Catherine's lost their way around the middle of the park in the third quarter of their semi-final win last Wednesday evening and Inniscarra gained significant momentum.

For a period St Catherine's found it hard to get the ball into their forwards. When Finola Neville and Joanne O'Keeffe received a healthy supply they caused endless problems.

Midfield was an area where Milford struggled in their semi-final win over Courcey Rovers, Rachel Moloney doing huge damage.

One suspects that Elaine O'Riordan will slot into full-back to mark Neville. I expected O'Riordan to pick up Linda Collins in Milford's semi-final but she started at right half-back on Julie Mulcahy and it was only when Collins had scored 1-1 that Milford made the switch. Linda was held scoreless thereafter. Joanne O'Keeffe is having a great season for St Catherine's and Frank Flannery will be very mindful of that. Catherine's have their best scoring potential in a long while but must use it to prosper.

Deirdre O'Reilly should start hav-

Milford must forget previous record in finals

Milford's Sarah Sexton (left) closes down Courcey Rovers' Christine O'Neill during their recent Camogie Senior County Championship semi-final game, at Coachford. Picture: Jim Coughlan



THREE KEY BATTLES

1. Elaine O'Riordan and Finola Neville:

Neville is having a great season, her lightning pace and confidence in taking on defenders has caused endless problems for the opposition. Scoring 1-1 in St Catherine's semi-final win and playing a significant part in their second goal, Milford will be anxious to place the shackles on her. Elaine O'Riordan is by far the stand out

choice. Possibly one of the toughest defenders in the game, as well as being a great hurler, great battle in store.

2. Midfield: Winning midfield is a key area for both sides. Orla Cotter has starred for St Catherine's this season in defence and attack. She has been partnered by Maeve O'Keeffe. Aishling Thompson, while hugely influential when on form, can drop in and out of

games. The upper hand here might change on numerous occasions. Whichever duo works hardest should win out.

3. Milford's forwards v St Catherine's defence: A fast, skilful forward line against a dogged defence. This was the area where most felt three years ago would decide which way the final went i.e. that Milford would win out. It turned out not to be the case.

preceded by the Junior A county final between Brian Dillon's and Enniskeane; throw in there at 12 noon.

Will Milford take their first senior

county title? Will St Catherine's win their second since 2009?

We'll know at 4.15pm on Sunday, pending a draw of course.

Walsh has the Saints firing

DENIS Walsh and Frank Flannery will be on opposite sides of the pitch tomorrow when St Catherine's and Milford clash in a repeat of the 2009 county final, which St Catherine's won 1-12 to 0-12.

Catherine's' achievement three years ago blew wide open the concept of the underdog. Their performance was full of heart and endeavour, similar to how they are performing this year.

Standing in the middle of Páirc Uí Rinn last Wednesday evening, just minutes after St Catherine's reached another county final, against the odds, I spoke with a smiling Denis Walsh. "We didn't play well but we hung in there."

Into a county final, did he think he'd be here at the start of the year?

"No to be honest, it was my first year with camogie, my selector was telling me a few weeks ago that I was the most frustrated man in Ireland, I couldn't get to grips with it at all to be honest with you," he admitted, laughing.

Really, why? "Well I thought they should be playing better, they'd collapse and then they'd play well and I just couldn't get a handle on it and I suppose. Look in fairness the work paid off, they put in savage work and then we got on a roll and we had momentum coming into today because this is our fourth game on the trot in a short space of time which is great."

And St Catherine's did learn from every game after their relatively heavy first round defeat to Milford. Before the game someone asked me to predict a winner and I laughed and chickened out, my response being 'I've bet against St Catherine's too many times to do it again'.

At the start of the season no one would have predicted St Catherine's being in a final after a poor 2011 so how did Denis turn it around?



LINDA MELLERICK

"Teamwork, if I was to put a finger on it. We realised we had lost a few players from last year and we couldn't be relying on individuals, that we had to play as a team."

"And even at half time (against Inniscarra) we were a point up and did not play well in the first half. Let's be honest Inniscarra had got on top, but we got back on top in the middle of the park and I think that kind of swung it."

What Denis has achieved, regardless of tomorrow's result, is amazing. It typically happens, when you lose a few star players others start to step up and assume the mantle of responsibility, none more so than Finola Neville, Joanne O'Keefe (where did she spring from all of a sudden?) and Rachel O'Callaghan.

St Catherine's have a strong, threatening, fast forward line.

"Frank will have it all sussed out I'd say," Denis remarked, laughing again. What about the short break between Wednesday's tough semi-final and tomorrow's final?

"Look we've the momentum, you know people were saying to us last week that this was going to be the biggest week of our lives but I said to the girls Wednesday night was going to be their biggest night, it was the semi-final or nothing."

"All of a sudden now it could be the biggest week."

Picking up the phone to Frank the following night, he was as always, willing to chat. He has a great knowledge of camogie nationwide.

Frank is aware Milford have failed at this stage so many times.

"Genuinely, we have not men-

tioned the word final," said Frank. "We have approached every game the same way this year and we'll do the same on Sunday."

"We will focus on our own game and as we always say, control our controllables. I was very impressed with St Catherine's. We are looking forward to another game against much improved opposition."

I'm very much torn on who is going to win this. If Milford start slow and at half time St Catherine's are in the game and can sense victory

they'll dig in. Milford could then default to what they do worst, forget about taking points and become fixated with goals.

Milford's longing at this stage to win a title after so many disappointments could well stifle their play whereas I get the impression that St Catherine's will enjoy this game more. If Milford relax it'll be a different story.

So my prediction is... I'll tell you at 4.15pm tomorrow and that I was right.



Milford's Maria Watson and St Catherine's Maeve O'Keefe tussle for the ball during their Evening Echo Cork Senior Camogie Championship game at Castle Road back in July.

Teams hoping to B in final shake-up

SENIOR B CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

KILBRITTAN/TIMOLEAGUE and Clonakilty clash in the semi-final at Brinny tomorrow, with Barryroe waiting in the wings to see who they will meet in next Saturday's Evening Echo Senior B final.

Last weekend Clonakilty recorded a 2-20 to 4-9 victory over Glen Rovers in a thrilling contest in Ovens. It took extra-time before the Clonakilty girls had their spot secured and Sharon Whelton, Juanita Brennan and Hazel O'Regan, who have been to the fore for them all season, impressed again. They will now be hoping that last weekend's tough encounter will stand to them.

Kilbrittan/Timoleague secured their spot with victories over Éire Óg and Fr O'Neill's, and while they lost out to Mallow, results went their way and it ensured they advance to the semi-final with Éire Óg from group two.

Kilbrittan/Timoleague have made great progress this year and are building their team around their experienced performers — Miriam Deasy, Eimear O'Sullivan, Mairead Dullea and Siobhán Sexton — whom are players that have given years of service to the club and they will be hoping to make the big breakthrough and advance to the final.

Last weekend Barryroe had too much strength for Éire Óg as they booked their final spot on a 3-9 to 0-7 scoreline.

In the Junior C league final this Saturday afternoon Cobh and Ballinora meet in Castle Road to decide the destination of the title.

FIXTURES

TODAY

Junior C league final: Cobh v Ballinora, Castle Road, 2pm.

TOMORROW

Evening Echo junior A final: Enniskeane v Brian Dillon's, Castle Road, 12pm.

Evening Echo senior final: Milford v St Catherine's, Castle Road, 3pm.

Evening Echo senior B semi-final: Clonakilty v Kilbrittan/Timoleague, Brinny, 4.30pm.

Brian Dillon's can bring their A game to final

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Junior A final: Enniskeane v Brian Dillon's, Castle Road, 12pm.

ENNISKEANE and Brian Dillon's get proceedings underway on Sunday with an early start in Castle Road as they battle it out for the Evening Echo Junior A championship title.

Both have been at this stage before, Brian Dillon's lost out to Douglas in 2009 while in 2010 Enniskeane fell to Blackrock.

They emerged from the same group of the round robin series of games to reach the decider — when they met in the opening game of championship

JUNIOR A CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

Enniskeane recorded a 5-7 to 4-3 victory, but on the day Brian Dillon's had players unavailable and the scoreline was not a reflection on the closeness of the contest between two determined sides.

Enniskeane recorded a victory over Douglas' second team, but were pushed all the way by Watergrasshill and were lucky to grab a draw which was enough to give them the top spot in the group.

Brian Dillon's have looked the form

team all year with big victories over Douglas and Watergrasshill before defeating fellow divisional neighbours Na Piarsaigh in the semi-final.

Enniskeane were much too strong as they overcame Inniscarra's second team in their semi-final.

Both clubs have prepared well for this clash and Brian Dillon's, under the guidance of John Ring, will go in as favourites. They have excellent performers in long-serving captain Anthea O'Brien, Claire Dooley, Susan Brosnan and Emer Keane and they will not be found wanting.

Enniskeane lost out in the final of 2010 to Blackrock, but went on to

reverse that result by taking the league title the same year as they overcame the same opposition later in the season. They are a young side and the club is just 17 years in existence.

They won the Kerry junior camogie blitz earlier in the season and their team is built around their Cork senior inter county panellist Orla Cronin, while captain Katie Buttimer, Sinead Curtin and Louise Duggan are all excellent performers.

Enniskeane will be determined to take their first title, but Brian Dillon's look to be the better balanced side and should have enough.

OCT 2012



Evening Echo

SENIOR CAMOGIE FINAL

Milford



St. Catherine's

3.00 pm.

Referee: Cathal Egan

JUNIOR A CAMOGIE FINAL

Brian Dillon's



Enniskeane

2.00 pm. Referee: Walter Cole



Sunday 14th October 2012 Camogie Pitch, Castle Road

a history of cork senior championship

by Mary Newman



Cuirim fíor fáilte roimh gach einne go leir go dtí Pairc Cumann Camogaíochta Chontae Chorcaí, ar ocaid Cluiche Cheannais Camogaíochta Sinsear agus Soisearach "A" 2012.

Tá suil agam go mbeidh la iontach again agus cluichi den scoth a imirt so staid iontach seo.

Today is a very historic day in the history of Cork Camogie as it is the first occasion the County Senior Final will be staged in the Camogie Board's grounds in Castle Rd and it gives me great pleasure on this special day to extend a Cead Mile Failte to the players of Milford, St Catherine's, Brian Dillons and Enniskeane, Team Managements, Club officials, Match Officials and Supporters to our two eagerly awaited championship finals

The Cork Senior Camogie Final is a very special event in the Camogie Calendar in the County. This year's decider brings together two great clubs Milford and St Catherine's. Milford have yet to raise the Punch Shoe Care Cup while St Catherine's have won it on only one occasion in the past when they defeated Milford in the final of 2009. I wish both teams the very best on what is a great occasion for their clubs and families.

Brian Dillons and Enniskeane will contest the Junior A Final. This game has the potential to be a very exciting encounter. Brian Dillons previously won the Junior A Champ in 2007 and will be hoping for a return to Intermediate ranks while Enniskeane will be striving for promotion to Intermediate ranks for the first time in the history of their Club.

Our Referees for today's games are Cathal Egan Glen Rovers who will take charge of the Senior Final while Walter Cole, Buttevant will referee the Junior "A" Final. I wish both Referees and their Officials well.

On behalf of the County Board, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all clubs, players, mentors and officials who took part in all championships in 2012 and I would like to acknowledge the great voluntary work being done by numerous and committed individuals in all clubs throughout the county.

A special word of thanks to the Evening Echo who have generously sponsored our Championships this year and who are also the sponsors of the Player of the Game in the Senior Final. I would also like to acknowledge Gerald McCarthy, Gifts and Awards who have kindly sponsored the Player of the Game in the Junior Final.

Sincere thanks to our President Kay Dunne, the Senior and Juvenile Camogie Board Officers and GPC members who work tirelessly all year promoting our game.

Finally I wish all involved on this great occasion – players, team mentors, referees, match officials, county board personnel, club officials, the media every success on what I know will be another great sporting day to saviour and remember – Enjoy the game and may Camogie be the real winner.

Maire Ni Charthaigh Cathaoirleach

County final day is special and since the Cork Senior Camogie County championship began in 1932 there have been nineteen names engraved as holders of one of the games most prestigious title.

Fifteen clubs, three divisions, one university and one school have earned themselves the right to be crowned Cork senior county champions.

In 1932 a group of school girls made history taking the Science Cup for the first time when the pupils from St. Aloysius became the first winners. 1933 saw Nora Kelleher carry the trophy in triumph as Muskerry took their first title, the division had to wait again until 2007 before Rockbar's Catriona Foley led the division to the title. Kitty Comer captained Mayfield to the title in 1935 and 1936 saw new champions as U.C.C. led by Lil Kirby defeated Hillside.

Lee Hosiery's first title came in 1937 captained by Mary Valley, new champions again in 1938 as Old Aloysian's Past pupils, captained by Renee Fitzgerald took their first and they would go on and add fourteen more titles to their collection.

1947 heralded success for another divisional side when Imokilly defeated Lee Hosiery, Imokilly in later years added a further five titles taking five in a row from 1972 to 1976.

Mary Delea led Blackrock to glory in 1948 when the Rockers proved to strong for the champions Imokilly as they brought the first of two titles to the famous club.

1950 was Glen River's year as Siobhán O'Brien led her side to victory over Blackrock, Glen went on to add a further twenty one titles and lead the roll of honour with the most titles to their credit.

We had to wait until 1959 before another new name was added and it was again past pupils who were creating their own bit of history when Mary Crowley led the South Pres Past Pupils to title number one and they added two more titles to their name.

1977 was the year when a new name was engraved on the cup as Mid Cork were to the fore with the emergence of Eire OG led by Marion Mc Carthy (Reck)

The Ovens girls have added to their achievements on three further occasions.

East Cork was to the fore as Breda Landers led Killeagh to their first success in 1980 four more titles followed.

A big gap between 1980 and 1997 before new champions emerged when Ethne Duggan led Bishopstown to the first of their four county championship successes.

In less than two year's we again had new champions when Stephanie Dunlea held the trophy aloft for the girls from Cloughduv they retained the title the following year.

In 2003 Fr O Neills finally broke the hoodoo that had followed them

when Fiona O'Driscoll carried the Punch Shoe Care trophy in triumph to Ballymacoda as O Neills defeated Inniscarra. The following year divisional side Carrigrohoun took their first title led by Ballygarvan's Catriona Kelly. Cloughduv were back the following year as Inniscarra again suffered heartbreak.

In 2006 St Finbarr's led by Lynda O'Connell won their first title, divisional side Muskerry bridged a seventy two year gap in 2007, while 2008 saw Douglas take.

their first crown as proud captain Amanda O'Regan became the first Douglas woman to lift the trophy.

A new chapter was again written in 2009 as St Catherine's Faith Noonan became the first player from her club to captain a senior winning championship team as they held off the challenge of Milford at their first attempt. Inniscarra wrote their names into the history books as they took Imokilly to a replay before claiming the crown in 2010.

Last year Douglas made it title number two as Louise O'Regan emulated her sister Amanda and captained their club to a senior title much to the heartbreak of Milford who lost out for the third time in a final.

Memories and stories which all make up part of the Cork Senior County Championship lets hope today's final is another splendid and memorable occasion the first final at the County camogie grounds here in Castle Road a historic occasion for Cork Camogie.

CORK COUNTY SENIOR CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS ROLL OF HONOUR

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| GLEN ROVERS | 22 |
| OLD ALOYSIANS | 15 |
| IMOKILLY | 6 |
| KILLEAGH | 5 |
| EIRE OG | 4 |
| BISHOPSTOWN | 4 |
| SOUTH PRESENTATION P.P. | 3 |
| ST.ALOYSIUS SCHOOL | 2 |
| LEE HOSIERY | 2 |
| BLACKROCK | 2 |
| CLOUGHUV | 3 |
| MUSKERRY | 2 |
| MAYFIELD | 1 |
| U.C.C. | 1 |
| SARSFIELDS | 1 |
| FR O NEILLS | 1 |
| CARRIGROHOUN | 1 |
| ST FINBARRS | 1 |
| DOUGLAS | 2 |
| ST CATHERINES | 1 |
| INNISCARRA | 1 |

Milford Teamsheet



Rebecca Finn



Katie Galvin



Niamh O'Brien



Lisa Healy



Elaine O Riordan
Captain



Anna Geary



Sarah Sexton



Maria Walsh



Ashling Thompson



Emer Watson



Deirdre O'Reilly



Aine Watson



Marie O'Neill



Regina Curtin



Maria Watson

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 16. Sarah O Flaherty | 22. Sinead O'Flynn | 27. Ashling Dillon |
| 17. Deirdre Hayes | 23. Nicole O'Connor | 28. Katie Dillane |
| 18. Orlaith O'Mahony | 24. Mairead Geary | 29. Rebecca Connolly |
| 19. Louise O'Flynn | 25. Geraldine O'Connor | 30. Rebecca Duggan |
| 20. Aileen O'Flynn | 26. Kallie Hodgson | 31. Caroline Watson |
| 21. Eimear O'Friel | | |

Manager: Frankie Flannery. Selectors Leila Long, Sean McAuliffe, James McGrath

Milford - Club History



Back row: Sarah O Flaherty, Ashling Dillon, Emer Watson, Mairead Geary, Aisling Thompson, Orlaith O Mahony, Rebecca Finn, Anna Geary, Katie Dillane, Nicole O Connor, Louise O Flynn, Katie Galvin, Geraldine O Connor, Caroline Watson, Regina Curtin Front Row: Niamh O'Brien, Eimear O Friel, Maria Watson, Aine Watson, Sinead O Flynn, Sarah Sexton, Lisa Healy, Maria Walsh, Marie O'Neill, Deirdre Hayes, Aileen O Flynn, Rebecca Connolly, Rebecca Duggan, Kallie Hodgson Also included are Elaine O Riordan(C) and Deirdre O'Reilly.

MILFORD Camogie Club was formed in 1997. The club has won every County Final from u 12 to Senior B as well as reaching the All - Ireland under 14 Feile Na N-Gael Finals in 1999 and 2007 and reaching the All-Ireland semi final in 2000. Milford won the All - Ireland Kilmacud 7's in 2005 as well as the All - Ireland u16 A and All-Ireland Senior A Pan Celtic Finals in 1999 and 2005. They contested the Senior County finals in 2004 and 2009 and 2011. Over the years a number of the clubs players have been involved with County teams with the majority the panel having worn the red jersey at different levels with Cork in recent years. Some of their most recent county players include Niamh O'Brien who has played with the Cork minors for three years and won a Munster title in 2008 with Cork U16. Ashling Thompson was a Cork minor for three years winning 3 Munster titles. Lisa Healy, Sarah Sexton, Orlaith O'Mahony, Louise and Sinead O'Flynn, Rebecca Finn and Regina Curtin who captained Cork to minor Munster Success in 2001. Other members have also worn the cork jersey at Under 16 and intermediate level include Deirdre Hayes and Eimear O'Friel.

Milfords have had many members on Cork senior panels including Emer Watson, Maria Watson, Regina Curtin, Marie O'Neill with Emer Watson and Marie O'Neill attaining All Ireland success with the Cork seniors in 2006 while Marie O'Neill also captained the Cork Intermediates.

Anna Geary has won All Star awards and is a member of the Cork senior panel this year as was Regina Curtin and Maria Walsh, while Elaine O'Riordan is the holder of All Ireland honours also.

St. Catherine's - Club History



Back row left to right: Sandra Noonan, Andrea Mangan, Faith Noonan, Evelyn Ronayne, Mary Mulcahy, Maeve O'Keeffe, Michelle Tobin, Deirdre Mulcahy, Aisling O'Keeffe, Jill Hurley, Noreen Mulcahy (capt.), Deirdre McCurtin, Cliona McGovern, Orla Cotter Front row left to right: Catherine Fitzgerald, Orna Neville, Aine O'Regan, Annette Fitzgerald, Maire O'Regan, Yvonne O'Neill, Fiona Cotter, Rachel O'Callaghan, Meabh Mulcahy, Joanne O'Keeffe, Finola Neville, Carolyn Motherway.

ST. CATHERINES CAMOGIE CLUB was first affiliated in October 1980 with the Cork County Board. In 1984 the club achieved its first success winning an area league final and also the County Junior B Championship. Former club President Rena O'Leary (R.I.P.) was a member of that team as was current club president Marie Clancy.

After a number of years at Junior A level the club regraded to Junior B and won the County title in 2000. There are a number of connections from that team to this years panel including Ann Galvin (current selector and Club vice- Chairperson) and players Andrea Mangan, Faith Noonan, Yvonne O'Neil and this year's captain Noirin Mulcahy. Around this time the work put in at under-age level began to bear fruit with the club winning a number of under age counties including U 16 B and U -18 B in 2001, U 14 B in 2002, U 12 in 2004 and most significantly U 18 A titles in 2005 and 2006.

At this stage the club had also made significant progress at adult level winning the County Junior Title in 2003 and the Senior B title in 2006. The club progressed in its three years playing at Senior level to achieve ultimate honours in 2009 when in our first County final we defeated Milford on a 1 - 11 to 0 - 11 scoreline. It is also notable that our second team were also county finalists that year at Junior B level. All of the adult county victories were achieved under team manager Marie Clancy and coach Pat Clancy both of whom had a tremendous influence on the club for many years together with current selector and club vice- chairperson Ann Galvin.

Former club President Rena O'Leary was a great player for both club and county in her playing days and her enthusiasm for the game continued after she finished playing. Indeed most players involved in today's final would have been introduced to camogie by Rena at under age level.

As our club made progress over the years a number of our players have been involved with County teams with a lot of today's panel having worn the red jersey at different levels in recent years. Win or lose today the game of camogie is prospering in our club and its future looks very solid with current players helping out with underage teams. St. Catherine's G.A.A club has always been very supportive to our club with their excellent facilities made readily available.

Best of luck to our girls and our management team in today's final.

St. Catherine's Teamsheet



Andrea Mangan



Orna Neville



Noirin Mulcahy
Captain



Yvonne O'Neill



Carolyn Motherway



Fiona Cotter



Faith Noonan



Maeve O'Keeffe



Orla Cotter



Rachel O'Callaghan



Finola Neville



Maire O'Regan



Aine O'Regan



Michelle Tobin



Evelyn Ronayne

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 16. Annette Fitzgerald | 21. Mary Mulcahy | 26. Aileen Hogan |
| 17. Joanne O' Keeffe | 22. Deirdre Mc Curtin | 27. Aisling O'Keeffe |
| 18. Sandra Noonan | 23. Catherine Fitzgerald | 28. Trish Fitzpatrick |
| 19. Deirdre Mulcahy | 24. Jill Hurley | |
| 20. Meabh Mulcahy | 25. Cliona McGovern | |

Manager and Coach: Denis Walsh Selector: Matt Harpur and Ann Galvin
Physio: John O'Meara Team Sponsor: Mellerick Pharmacy, Fermoy.

Brian Dillons Teamsheet



Saoirse Rodgers



Sarah Cotter



Anthea O'Brien
Captain



Shauna Ring



Ruth Brosnan



Amanda Dorgan



Orlaith Ni Shuilleabhain



Susan Kate Brosnan



Deirdre Ring



Claire Dooley



Therese Drummond



Jane Dooley



Rebecca O'Mahony



Eimear Keane



Donna Carroll

16. Caoimhe Rodgers

20. Rebecca Myers

24. Emma Sharpe

17. Pamela Lynch

21. Orla Lawrence

25. Kayleigh Luby

18. Alison Smith

22. Ellis Porter

19. Kate O'Brien

23. Emma Burns

Manager: John Ring Selector: Niamh Garvin

Brian Dillons – Club History



Back Row L to R Claire Dougan, Martina O'Leary, Katie O'Shea, Aisling Everard, Aprille Duggan, Danielle Curtin, Sinead Hennessy, Kate Mac Carthy, Aine O'Leary, Maryann Hayes, Aisling O'Callaghan, Louise Duggan, Megan O'Regan. Front Row L to R Orla Cronin, Sinead Curtin, Amy Buttimer, Claire O'Mahony, Katie Buttimer [Capt] Danielle Jackson, Caroline O'Donovan

BRIAN DILLON'S is based on the north side of Cork City with pitch situated at the Tank Field in Murmont Road.

The club have had numerous players representing them on Cork teams and Cork Colleges teams over their thirty one years in existence. Quite a number of the team contesting the final today have played with various Cork teams in the past and up to including this year. The clubs members range in age from 5 years upward side. The club has close relationships with the local schools and availed of the "Hurl with Me" programme which the parents found very beneficial.

The clubs under age teams are competing at all levels of Seandun and County competitions and all enjoying playing camogie

Enniskeane Teamsheet



Megan O'Regan



Martina O'Leary



Mary Ann Hayes



Katie O'Shea



Danielle Jackson



Kate McCarthy



Aisling O'Callaghan



Sinead Curtin



Orla Cronin



Claire O'Mahony



Caroline O'Donovan



Aine O'Leary



Danielle Curtin



Katie Buttimer
Captain



Louise Duggan

17. Orla Coughlan

20. Aprille Duggan

23. Aisling O'Driscoll

18. Sinead Hennessy

21. Nicole O'Regan

24. Claire Dougan

19. Amy Buttimer

22. Anna O'Driscoll

Team Sponsors O'Callaghan's Castletown

Enniskeane – Club History



Back Row L to R Claire Dougan, Martina O'Leary, Katie O'Shea, Aisling Everard, Aprille Duggan, Danielle Curtin, Sinead Hennessy, Kate Mac Carthy, Aine O'Leary, Maryann Hayes, Aisling O'Callaghan, Louise Duggan, Megan O'Regan. Front Row L to R Orla Cronin, Sinead Curtin, Amy Buttimer, Claire O'Mahony, Katie Buttimer [Capt] Danielle Jackson, Caroline O'Donovan

ENNISKEANE AND DISTRICT CAMOGIE CLUB was founded in 1995 and in it short time in existence has been extremely successful.

Success at county level has been achieved at all levels down through the years and this is reflected with the under 14 team annexing the county 'c' title earlier this year. The juniors have won the junior 13 a side competition in 2005 and the junior b competition in 2007. Since playing in the junior A ranks we have won the league in 2010 and contested the final that year also when we were narrowly beaten by Blackrock and a victory today would be a momentous occasion in the clubs history.

They have tasted success already this year when sharing the spoils in the Kerry junior camogie blitz earlier this year. On reaching the final today they accounted for Inniscarra 2 in the semi final having come out of a round robin group which included today's opponents, Watergrasshill and Douglas.



Meet the Captains

ELAIN O'RIORDAN



Milford captain is a hugely experienced campaigner and is playing in her fourth senior county final. Elaine O'Riordan has won county titles with Milford at every age group from Under 12 to minor and has also to her credit Junior and senior B county championship medals.

A hugely experienced defender and determined team leader, she has three All Ireland senior medals for both camogie and football whilst also amongst her array of honours are Under 16 and Senior Pan-Celtic championship titles and she also holds a Kilmacud 7s All Ireland medal won in 2005. Elaine captained Cork to success in under 16 All Ireland final in 2002. She also has enjoyed success at Munster and All Ireland levels with St Mary's Secondary School, Charleville. Elaine is employed as Sales Manager with Ballyhass Lakes. Having lost out in last year's final and endured the heartbreak of losing in two other county senior final the Milford captain is determined that 2012 will be her club's year and she is hoping to finally get her hands on the coveted senior championship medal.

KATIE BUTTIMER



Katie is an ever present member of the Enniskeane team and this year represents her third year as team captain. Katie began playing with the adult team at the age of 13 and as a result is the proud owner of junior 13 a side, junior B, and junior A league county medals with the club. Today she leads the team from the number 14 position.

She is also a holder of a Munster junior camogie medal won with Cork juniors this year.

NOREEN MULCAHY



DOB: 26/02/86
Club: St. Catherine's
Job: Primary School Teacher in Whitegate N.S.
Achievements:
ST. CATHERINE'S
U16B County Champions,
U18B County Champions,
Junior A County Champions 2000,
Junior B County Champions 2003,
Senior B County Champions 2006
Senior A County Champions 2009.

CORK
U16 Munster and All-Ireland Champions.
SENIOR A VANCEAL
All-Ireland and Munster Junior Champions.
Played with Cork U16, Junior, Intermediate and Senior B camogie teams.

ANTHEA O'BRIEN



Started playing camogie in St. Patrick's National School, Gardiner's Hill competing in the Sciath Na Scoil over twenty years ago.

Holds Munster Championship medal with St. Patrick's Secondary School and reached the semi-final of All-Ireland Schools coached by John Ring who today coaching club team. Holds under 16 and under 18 championship medals with club and was on Cork intermediate team 2002 that won Munster championship.

Won a Junior B league medal in 2007 and Championship in 2008 now based in Dublin working as a Medical Representative at Pfizer Healthcare Ireland covering a large area in Munster the long serving captain lists golf and cycling to replace the inevitable void that will exist after camogie.

JUNIOR A championship a Look Back

by Mary Newman

The Cork Junior A camogie championship has a long and chequered history dating back to 1933 when a club called Cara Clodhna were the first champions, this was to be their only title and a few years later the club were no longer in existence.

A look through the history books indicates that a vast array of champions were not always club team that were to the fore as several of the winning sides were made up of girls from work places who formed teams. In those days this was done to give the girls a sporting and social outlet amongst them were teams from St. Patrick's Woollen Mills and Lee Hosiery two workplaces that adorned the junior championship with style.

St. Patrick's Woollen Mills took the title in 1946 whilst Lee Hosiery were champions in 1935 and 1944 Lee Hosiery were also crowned senior county champions and this indication of the huge interest that was held in work places such as these in the game of camogie. Other names that have adorned the Junior championship included

Old Aloysius past pupils who were crowned junior champions on five occasions and they also have senior titles to their credit, Ashwell with two titles in 1936 and 37, Old Vocationalists 1942 and 45, Bantry 1939, Ballindangan 1950 and 51 Naomh Brigid 1943, South Presentation Past Pupils, Shamrocks, Mayfield, Carrignavar, Donaghmore Fermoy Whitegate, Churchtown Cloyne and Glanworth.

As the years rolled by new names were added with Ballincollig, Fr O Neills, Glen Rovers, Brian Dillon's Watergrasshill, Douglas, St. Finbarr's Killeagh Inniscarra, Buttevant, Castlemagner, Erie og, Brian Dillon's, Na Pairsaigh,

Bishopstown, Cloughduv, Kilbrittan, Newcestown, Barryroe, Courcy Rovers,

Milford, Ballygarvan, St. Catherine's, Rockban and Blackrock added their names to the roll of honour.

Today Enniskeane battle for their first whilst Brian Dillon's seek title number two lets hope they enjoy the occasion.

ROLL OF HONOUR

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Old Aloysius.....5 | Eire Og.....2 | Fermoy.....1 | Na Pairsaigh.....1 |
| Ballinora.....3 | Valley Rovers.....2 | Canovee.....1 | Bishopstown.....1 |
| St. Finbarr's.....3 | Douglas.....2 | Glen Rovers.....1 | Cloughduv.....1 |
| Killeagh.....3 | Cara Clodhna.....1 | Whitegate.....1 | Kilbrittan.....1 |
| Inniscarra.....2 | Naomh Brigid.....1 | Churchtown.....1 | Newcestown.....1 |
| Lee Hosiery.....2 | St. Patrick's Woollen Mills.....1 | Cobh.....1 | Barryroe.....1 |
| Ashwell.....2 | Dungourney.....1 | Blarney.....1 | Courcy Rovers.....1 |
| Old Vocationalists.....2 | Shamrocks.....1 | Cloyne.....1 | Milford.....1 |
| Buttevant.....2 | South Pres P.P.....1 | Glanworth.....1 | Ballygarvan.....1 |
| Ballindangan.....2 | Mayfield.....1 | Sarsfields.....1 | St. Catherine's.....1 |
| Castlemagner.....2 | Mounabbey.....1 | Youghal.....1 | Rockban.....1 |
| Aghbullogue.....2 | St. Vincents.....1 | Fr O Neills.....1 | Ballincollig.....1 |
| Watergrasshill.....2 | Carrignavar.....1 | Brian Dillon's.....1 | Blackrock.....1 |
| Carrigaline.....2 | Donaghmore.....1 | | |

Milford to atone for past defeats

Sarah O'Donovan Camogie

Milford and St Catherine's face tomorrow (3pm) to decide the destination of the Cork 2012 senior county camogie championship title.

Three years ago the sides met at the same stage with St Catherine's taking the honours in an entertaining duel at Páirc Uí Rinn.

This time around the venue is Castle Road and is an historic occasion for Cork camogie as it is the first time a senior final will be played at the venue. Milford have lost three county finals since 2004 but have bolstered their panel considerably in the interim, Cork senior panellist Maria Walsh transferring from Ballyhea and Marie O'Neill transferring from

Watergrasshill. Milford will also be able to rely on the experience of 2011 All-star Anna Geary, Regina Curtin, Cork footballer Deirdre O'Reilly and the Watson sisters, Emer, Aine and Marie.

The side dumped 2011 champions Douglas out of this year's championship before defeating a gutsy Courcy Rovers in the semi-final.

St Catherine's route to the final has been somewhat of a whirlwind with a quarter-final and semi-final played in the space of five days. The latter was a nail-biter which saw St Catherine's advance with just a point to spare over Inniscarra. Cork senior starlet Orla Cotter will be instrumental for the side that is managed by former Cork senior hurling manager Denis Walsh. Verdict: Milford



Anna Geary: Big player for Milford.

Mighty Milford claim first senior title

Cork Camogie final

Milford 5-15
St Catherine's 0-5

by Sarah O'Donovan

Milford produced a five star performance to claim their first Cork senior county title at the expense of 2009 winners St Catherine's.

The win followed three previous county final defeats and there were jubilant scenes at the final whistle at Castle Road yesterday.

The North Cork club were in control from the outset and were three points to the good with nine minutes gone.

Marie Watson goaled for Milford in the next exchange before outstanding midfielder Maria Walsh netted.

Orla Cotter opened St Catherine's



Milford captain Elaine O'Riordan lifts the cup after her side's win over St Catherine's in the Cork senior county final at Castle Road yesterday.

account with a pointed free but an Aine Watson goal cemented Milford's superiority.

The winners led 3-7 to 0-3 at the interval and matters did not improve for St Catherine's in the second-half.

Marie O'Neill (3) and Regina Curtin pointed for Milford to put the game firmly beyond St Catherine's reach (3-12 to 0-4).

Two late goals from Walsh and substitute Louise O'Flynn ensured a 25-point win.

Scorers aside, captain Elaine O'Riordan was superb at full-back for Milford, as was Ashling Thompson at midfield and Sarah Sexton at wing-back.

Scorers for Milford: M Walsh 2-02, E Watson 0-5 (0-4), M O'Neill 0-5, M Watson 1-1, A Watson 1-0, L O'Flynn 1-0, R Curtin 0-2.

Scorers for St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-3f, F Cotter 0-1, J O'Keefe 0-1 each.

MILFORD: R Finn, K Galvin, E O'Riordan, L Healy, N O'Brien, A Geary, S Sexton, M Walsh, A Thompson, M O'Keefe, O Cotter, R O'Callaghan, F Neville, M O'Regan, J O'Keefe, M Tobin, E Ronayne.

Subs: A Fitzgibbon for R Curtin (48), D Hayes for K Galvin (50), O O'Mahony for S Sexton (52), E O'Neil for M Watson (56), N O'Connor for A Watson (57).

ST CATHERINE'S: A Mangan, O Neville, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill, C Motherway, F Cotter, F Noonan, M O'Keefe, O Cotter, R O'Callaghan, F Neville, M O'Regan, J O'Keefe, M Tobin, E Ronayne.

Subs: A Fitzgerald for F Noonan (28), S Noonan for O Neville (41), D Mulcahy for M Tobin (58).

Referee: C Egan (Glen Rovers).

OCT. 2012

Briege over troubled water

Jackie Cahill

Cork's response to the defeat by Tyrone in the 2010 All-Ireland quarter-final has been emphatic



Briege Corkery was in New Zealand when she heard the news. Norma Kelly, former Cork player and cousin of current midfielder Norita, was on the other end of the telephone line. Corkery thought Norma was having a laugh, but the news was true. Cork had lost to Tyrone in the quarter-finals of the TG4 All-Ireland Ladies senior football championship. The dream of six-in-a-row was over.

That was August 2010 and Cork haven't lost a championship game since. The response has been emphatic.

Indeed, the Banagher reverse against Tyrone is Cork's only championship defeat in eight seasons.

"I was thinking that they were definitely going to beat Tyrone," Corkery recalls. "Things seemed to be going really well in the League, they seemed to be flying. It was just a shock when I found out. Norma rang me and told me they'd lost. I thought she was joking. But from what I heard later, the girls just said that training wasn't going according to plan, that they weren't as focused as other years. That's what happened."

For Corkery, the year out was paradise. Travelling with her boyfriend, they spent a week in Thailand, six months in Australia, four months in New Zealand and the final two months in America.

She returned refreshed and hungry for football. And she came back to a group of players hellbent on exorcising those Banagher demons.

"I was delighted with the year off," she nods.

"Not that I wanted to get away, it was just that I always wanted to go travelling. I felt it was a good time to do it. I

was after being let go from my job so I said I might as well head off for a year. I didn't do anything when I was away. I knew that when I came home I'd be playing again. It was good to winter for the year."

When she returned, Corkery learned even more about Banagher, the pebble in team manager Eamonn O'Shea's shoe. As a group, it was resolved to right the wrong of that defeat.

"Try not to let it happen again is the main thing," Corkery says. "It's going to happen - we are going to lose another championship match, no doubt about that. And as the girls said, they knew that it was coming for a long time. They knew training wasn't going right, that they weren't as focused as normal. If you're focused 100% and you lose, you're happy enough but things weren't right, girls weren't their usual selves."

"Maybe it was a slight touch of complacency. It's hard to keep the focus going for so many years in a row."

Since Corkery returned from her travels, she's added two more All-Ireland ladies senior football championship medals to her career haul. That's seven now, lest we forget four All-Ireland senior camogie medals. And she's still just 25.

When she's not busy being a dual star, Corkery works in the Muskerry Veterinary clinic in Macroom. She's a stonemason by trade but work in that field has dried up with the downturn. "Monday-Wednesday I'm out with the vets, testing the cattle," Corkery smiles. "Then I'm in the office on a Thursday. I'd miss the stonemasonry, I really en-



CHAMPION FEELING: Briege Corkery, right, celebrates with team-mate Rena Buckley after Cork's All-Ireland Ladies Football final victory over Kerry at Croke Park.

Picture: Stephen McCarthy/Sportsfile

joyed it. Nothing really attracted me to it. I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I was after trying trainee auctioneering for nine or ten months. That didn't suit me so I left it. A friend of mine introduced me to the stonemasonry and I ended up there for four years.

"It is very time consuming, not the fastest work in the world," Corkery explains. "Sometimes you have to get

up and walk away from it, it can do your head in at times. But it's really enjoyable."

Corkery is the type who will try her hand at anything. When she got that call from Norma Kelly in August 2010, she was near Auckland in New Zealand, milking cows. "Some days we were down to one dollar each," she smiles. "That's travelling for you." But home is where the heart is and Corkery now lives at

home with her parents in Macroom. Training sessions are 35-40 minutes away and success makes the commitment a bit easier.

"When you're winning it's a lot easier to come back every year," Corkery admits. "The last couple of years haven't gone our way in camogie but Paudie Murray came in and gave us a great step up. Our aim at the start of the year is Croke Park and All-Ireland final day. There's another All-Ireland in us if we work hard and be really committed. But that's a great Wexford side, Galway are still there and Kilkenny will be back up there. It's not easy."

During her senior inter-county career, Corkery has won four camogie-ladies football doubles, in 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009. Ditto Rena Buckley, who captained the footballers to All-Ireland glory this year. For the pair, football success brought obvious solace after the disappointment of losing to Wex-

ford in the camogie decider.

"It did soften the blow," Corkery admits. "That is for sure. It's good to get a second chance to play in Croke Park. I don't mean to take it from Wexford, they were just unbelievable, but we could have worked a little bit harder as a unit. It just didn't click for us on the day."

Next year, perhaps, and Corkery is happy to confirm that she'll be back for more. Camogie success would be lovely but as always, the footballers will start the season as favourites for the All-Ireland title. "There's a great bunch of girls there," Corkery says. "I came up with a bunch that are very focused and very committed. We had two girls driving from Dublin twice a week - Geraldine O'Flynn and Mairead Kelly. Twice a week, no expenses. Elaine Harte's been coming from Tipp for the last five years, through the toll bridges with no refunds. They have to be admired."

Roll of honour

All-Ireland Senior Ladies Championship

2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005.

Munster Senior Championship

2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004.

National League Division 1

2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2006, 2005.

National League Division 2

2003, 1992, 1998.

Jim Kennedy Cup

2012

Flawless Milford finally capture the senior championship

Milford 5-15
St Catherine's 0-5

Milford's day has finally arrived and they did it in splendid fashion as they put the heartbreak of losing three previous finals behind them to finally be crowned Cork Senior Camogie champions at the first final to be held at the Cork Camogie Grounds in Castle Road.

It was a flawless team display and all over the field they were superb and from number one to 15 they took on the responsibilities. They lead 2-4 to no score inside 11 minutes of the throw-in with early goals

from Maria Watson and Maria Walsh after Emer Watson and Marie O'Neill had put them three points clear in the early minutes.

By the half-time whistle it was 3-7 to 0-3 after Aine Watson had hit their third goal and now St Catherine's had it all to do in the second-half.

To their credit they never gave up the chase working themselves to a standstill to try and get into the game but through the second-half Milford were again flawless, picking off points from all angles as they extended their lead. Maria Walsh and Louise O'Flynn hit goals while Orla

Cotter had two St Catherine's points on a day that belonged to Milford as they put the heartache of the last years behind them to finally realise their dream.

A word of praise to the Cork Camogie Board who held their senior county final for the first time in Castle Road, the arrangements were first class from start to finish and a huge word of praise must go to both the senior and juvenile boards for their state of their grounds.

Their promotion of the game will be aided by the excellent and professional show they put on with.

Milford: R Finn; K Galvin, N O'Brien, L Healy, E O'Riordan (c), A Geary, S Sexton; M Walsh, A Thompson; E Watson, D O'Reilly, A Watson, M O'Neill, R Curtin, M Watson.

Subs: L O'Flynn for R Curtin (48), D Hayes for K Galvin (49), O O'Mahony for S Sexton (51), E O'Friel for E Watson (55), N O'Connor for A Watson (58). **Scorers:** E Watson 0-5 (0-4), M O'Neill 0-5, M Watson 1-2, M Walsh 1-1, A Watson, L O'Flynn 1-0 each, R Curtin 0-2.

St Catherine's: A Mangan; O Neville, N Mulcahy (c), Y O'Neill; C Motherway, F Cotter, F Noonan; M O'Keefe, O Cotter; R O'Callaghan, F Neville, M O'Regan; J O'Keefe, M Tobin, E Roynane. **Subs:** D Mulcahy for M Tobin (50), A O'Regan for E Roynane (in) (55).

Scorers: O Cotter 0-4 (0-2), 0-1, J O'Keefe 0-1.

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Table quiz in aid of Castle Road ground

The County Board has organised a big table quiz in aid of their dressing rooms development at Castle Road. The quiz is on in the Rochestown Park Hotel on Thursday starting at 8.30pm. Teams of four are invited to participate at €50 per team. The board is hoping that camogie and GAA clubs will enter teams and clubs from other sporting codes as well — the hope is that businesses may also participate as well as regular table quiz participants.

Dillons live to fight another day

Enniskeane 0-11
Brian Dillons 1-8

It may not have been a thriller but that will not worry Enniskeane or Brian Dillons who lived to fight another day as this Evening Echo junior A championship final at Castle Road ended all square.

Five times the sides were level over the hour, Dillons led 0-5 to 0-3 as the first half entered injury time but Enniskeane goal from Sinead

Hennessy saw them hold their lead to the half time whistle 1-3 to 0-5.

Orla Coughlan and Orla Cronin pointed to extend their lead but with Claire Dooley and Therese Drummond to the fore Brian Dillon hit four points in-a-row to take control.

Enniskeane responded and a Sinead Hennessy point had the sides on level before Orla Cronin pointed a free to edge them in front.

Brian Dillons pressed hard and a Claire Dooley long range effort had the sides level but two minutes remaining Louise Duggan edged Enniskeane into the lead and they firm for six minutes under a lot of Brian Dillons pressure.

As Brian Dillons won a free Therese Drummond tied it up for the fifth time in the game with a tap over from close range to ensure the sides must do it all again.

Brian Dillons: S Rodgers; S Cotter, A O'Brien (c), S Ring; R Brosnan, A Dorgan, O Ni Suilleabhain; S K Brosnan, D Ring; C Dooley, T Drummond, J Dooley; E Keane, C Rodgers, D Carroll.

Scorers: T Drummond 0-6 (0-5), 0-3 (f), L Duggan, O Coughlan, J Dooley, D Carroll 0-1 each.

Enniskeane: M O'Regan; M O'Leary, A Hayes, K O'Shea; D Jackson, K Mc Carthy, A O'Callaghan; S Curtin Cronin; O Coughlan O'Donovan, A O'Leary; S Hennessy, K Buttimer (c), L Duggan. **Subs:** C O'Mahony for K O'Shea (h/t), D Curtin for C O'Donovan (55).

Scorers: S Hennessy 1-1, O Cronin 0-3 (f), L Duggan, O Coughlan, A O'Leary, K Buttimer 0-1 each.

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).

Late Cobh rally secures junior title

Cobh 1-7
Ballinora 0-8

Two late points ensured the Junior C league title headed down river to Cobh after an entertaining contest in Castle road on Saturday.

As the game entered injury time it looked as if they would have to do it all again but Cobh rallied with Eilish Walsh and Eadaoin Tallon pointing to ensure victory was secured.

Erica Field hit two first half points while her goal after

just five minutes ensured Cobh led 1-4 to 0-4 at the interval. Eadaoin Tallon was on target with a Cobh point while Fiona Fitton with three and Karen Lane with one ensured Ballinora were well in the contest.

Twice Fiona Fitton pointed to cut the deficit before Erica Field responded with a free to hold the Cobh advantage. Ballinora responded with the excellent Fiona Fitton striking two in row to level matters and with Ballinora holding the upper hand they applied all the pressure they struck three wide's in a row as the Cobh defence stood firm.

As the final minute approached a replay looked on the cards but a strong Cobh

finish ensured the title was secure with Walsh and Tallon's late strikes enough to give them the title and ensure the best present possible for corner-back and bride-to-be Marguerite Tierney who get married on Friday next.

Cobh: N O'Sullivan; M Tierney, D Walley, O Mc Grath; A Mc Kiernan, K Sheehan, A Hart; L Van Wijen, A Richardson, N Sawani, E Tallon; S Looney (c), C Smith, M Moynihan, E Field.

Subs: E Fen for A Richardson (h/t), E Spriggs for N Sawani (46), E Walsh for K Sheehan (56). **Scorers:** E Field 1-4 (0-3), E Tallon 0-2, E Walsh 0-1.

Ref: Andrew Larkin (Douglas).

Flannery: The players stuck to the game plan

REACTION

By MARY NEWMAN

ONE manager was as gracious in victory as the other baineisteoir was in defeat after yesterday's one-sided county final at Castle Road.

For Carrigtwohill native Frank Flannery it was his first time coaching a side to a senior camogie championship title and he was delighted for his charges.

"Firstly I am thrilled for the girls and for the Milford club they worked really hard to win this title and put the heartache of losing three previous finals finally behind them.

"They were superb to work with and were really focused and determined to win it and it's all down to their own hard work." Frank said the draw worked well for them and they were able to plan their programme and path to the final.

"We took it one game at a time and focused on each as they happened, we had a good championship draw and we put the heads down and worked hard.

"We played 25 games in total and we played every club team in Tipperary and Galway and a even a few county teams as well and the girls really wanted to win this one badly."

Having lost three finals Milford were all too aware of the pain of losing and it was something they were not willing to accept again this year.

"Carrigdhoun beat Milford in their first county final in 2004 and it was heartbreaking and in the second one in 2009 they went in as favourites only to lose out to St Catherine's. Last year, when it came down to it, Douglas knew how to win it and pipped Milford at the wire."

Yesterday there was going to be no wire and from the throw-in Flannery's side tore into the game.

"We knew if we got a good start and settled early it we would be vital and from the first ball that was struck we did just that and drove on from there."

Frank took one of their players to task early in the first half for shooting in front of goal. What was the game plan?

"Every player on the team had a job to do and they did it to perfection.

"We know the strengths and weaknesses of our players and we worked with that.

"We knew who would get the scorers and what players were the providers and every one did their job superbly."

Frank had words of praise for St Catherine's.

"It's hard to lost a county final but St Catherine's know what it is like also to win a first county title and to be fair they battled to the final whistle and were the first to congratulate us on our victory.

"I have no doubt that they, like Milford, will be back again chasing the title and I wish them well."

There was huge disappointment for St Catherine's manager Denis Walsh, but he was the first to accept his side just were not in the contest.

"We are bitterly disappointed and look we took a hammering here today and we are just really disappointed in that.

"You can't take it away from Milford they are an excellent and a strong all-round team.

"Today to have any hope of it we needed to get a good start on them but we didn't get, it we conceded three first-half goals and we were chasing the game from the start we really couldn't match them at all.

"We were second to every ball and we simply have no excuses."

No stopping the



Milford midfielder Maria Walsh gets her pass away against St Catherine's in their Evening Echo sponsored Cork County Senior Camogie final at Castle Road yesterday.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Player of the Match winner, Milford's Regina Curtin is presented with her trophy by Evening Echo deputy chief executive Diarmuid O'Donovan. After their victory against St Catherine's.

Picture: Larry Cummins



Milford player Anna Geary and her dad Michael celebrate after their win against St Catherine's in the Evening Echo sponsored Cork County Senior Camogie final yesterday.

Picture: Larry Cummins



LINDA MELLERICK

CAMOGIE

Milford
St Catherine's

5-15
0-5

AFTER years of heartbreak Milford finally popped the champagne bottles with a devastating display in Castle road yesterday to take their first senior county title.

Years of disappointment was finally put behind them, the magnitude of their victory and what it meant to the North Cork club clearly evident long before the final whistle.

This was one they could savour, each of their five substitutions receiving rapturous applause as they made way to give their teammates the opportunity of a run on the pitch as they created history.

In truth this game was over mid-way through the opening half as Milford, shaking that favourites tag and county final monkey from their back, burst out of the traps.

Before Catherine's could even catch their breath Milford had 2-4 scored by the 10th minute and when Aine Watson struck their third goal eight minutes later to lead 3-4 to 0-2 the result was only going one way.

To be fair to St Catherine's, Wednesday's hard-fought semi-final win over Inniscarra didn't help their cause but regardless of that, yesterday was Milford's day and there was no team within the county which would have stood with them.

St Catherine's created just two attacks in the opening 12 minutes as their half-back line and midfield struggled to gain possession.

With Maria Walsh and Emer Watson winning significant ball Milford's attacking was incessant.

Two goals inside two minutes started the Milford train. A high harmless delivery which looked like it would be a comfortable take for Andrea Mangan fell out of her hand and as Maria Watson pounced to gather it was clear the net was going to shake. And it did.

The second came less than two minutes later. Regina Curtin, whose work rate throughout epitomised Milford's excellent ethic, won possession near the side-line. She found Maria Watson outside, the latter's pin point pass put Maria Walsh through and she made no mistake.

St Catherine's did manage to penetrate Milford at times but captain Elaine O'Riordan was a colossal in front of goal ensuring no way through.

Orla Cotter pointed a free and Joanne O'Keeffe struck over but when Aine Watson's cross ball looked to be going over the bar only to dip at the last second for Milford's third goal, it was going to be a tough hour for St Catherine's.

THREE REASON WHY MILFORD WON

1. DESIRE

Milford's desire for this title could have stifled their play yet on this occasion they rose to the challenge, embracing rather than collapsing under the pressure. Their work-rate throughout was highly commendable. This was their fourth attempt in eight years and from the outset it was obvious that they weren't going to go away empty handed.

2. LETHAL FORWARDS

Milford's forward division has received much criticism in the past for not performing on the big stage. Yesterday however, the way they spread the ball, unselfishly found each other and their enormous work rate, epitomised by Regina Curtin, ensured all six forwards scored from play. They gave St Catherine's defence a tough test.

3. INSPIRATIONAL CAPTAIN

Elaine O'Riordan has led her team and played a true captain's role throughout this entire campaign. While not seeing a huge amount of the ball yesterday, what did come her way, was handled with physicality, great fielding and great vision. Nothing passed her as she marked St Catherine's most threatening forward.

OCT. 2012

Milford machine



Milford players lift captain Elaine O'Riordan in celebration after their win against St Catherine's in the Evening Echo sponsored Cork County Senior Camogie final at Castle Road yesterday.

Picture: Larry Cummins

St Catherine's half-forward line began to play deep as they craved possession but in fact it only enhanced Milford's attacking as Niamh O'Brien, lining out at right half-back, won good ball as she operated further out the field.

Milford's determined play and greater physical strength won out throughout the field.

With Marie O'Neill also causing problems, Milford's use of the ball was impressive.

Spreading the play well, by the time the first half closed all of Milford's six forwards had scored from play, their 3-7 to 0-3 interval lead a true reflection of their superiority.

If St Catherine's were to have any hope of getting something out of the game they needed a strong start to the second half.

They made the first couple of attacks which Elaine O'Riordan again coped with and Orla Cotter converted a free seven minutes in but that was to be their last score until Cotter again pointed in injury time.

It was all Milford.

Regina Curtin continued her excellent work, passing to O'Neill who converted, winning a free and striking a great point herself 43 minutes in as the gap widened. The same player was substituted minutes later as Milford began their countdown.

With O'Neill, Walsh and Maria Watson thoroughly enjoying their afternoon further misery came for St Catherine's when a second seemingly harmless delivery dropped into the net, gifting Walsh her second

| STORY OF THE GAME | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Player of the match | Turning point | Score of the game | Referee watch |
| REGINA Curtin's work-rate, particularly in the first half when the game alive, earned her the award on a day when they all did well. | THIS game was only going one way from very early on. Eighteen minutes in, Milford led 3-4 to 0-2 and their was no way back for Catherine's. | REGINA Curtin's outfield ball to Maria Watson, whose perfect pass to Maria Walsh saw the latter rattle the net. | GLEN Rovers' Cathal Egan did a good job, helped by both teams. He only whistled when it was called for. |

goal.

Additional substitutions didn't stop the Milford machine as Louise O'Flynn hit Milford's fifth goal in injury time.

Due to the margin of victory this final won't go down as one of the best but it was certainly the greatest day in Milford's history. Excellent captain Elaine O'Riordan echoed as such in her victory speech. Finally at the fourth attempt Milford have achieved what their efforts deserve.

St Catherine's didn't warrant such an end to an incredible year and can hold their heads high for what they brought to this year's championship.

Yesterday, though, belonged to Milford.

Scorers for Milford: M Walsh 2-2, M O'Neill 0-5, E Watson 0-5 (0-4 f), M Watson 1-1, A Watson, L O'Flynn 1-0 each, R Curtin 0-2.

St Catherine's: O Cotter 0-4 (0-3 f), J O'Keefe 0-1.

MILFORD: R Finn, K Galvin, E O'Riordan, L Healy, N O'Brien, A Geary, S Sexton, D O'Reilly, A Thompson, M Walsh, E Watson, A Watson, M O'Neill, R Curtin, M Watson.

Subs: L O'Flynn for R Curtin (48), D Hayes for K Galvin (50), O O'Mahony for S Sexton (52), E



Milford selector Sean McAuliffe and players race from the dug-out after their victory against St Catherine's in the Evening Echo sponsored Cork County Senior Camogie final at Castle Road yesterday.

Picture: Larry Cummins

O'Friel for M Watson (54), N O'Connor for A Watson (55).

ST CATHERINE'S: A Mangan, O Neville, N Mulcahy, Y O'Neill, C Matherway, F Cotter, F Noonan, M O'Keefe, O Cotter, R O'Callaghan, F Neville, M O'Regan, J O'Keefe, M Tobin, E

Ronayne.

Subs: A Fitzgerald for F Noonan (29), S Noonan for O Neville (h-t), A O'Regan for E Ronayne (45), D Mulcahy for M Tobin (inj 56).

Referee: Cathal Egan (Glen Rovers).

Drummond hits a late equaliser for Dillon's

JUNIOR A

By MARY NEWMAN

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Enniskeane | 0-11 |
| Brian Dillon's | 1-8 |

A POINTED free four minutes into added time gave Brian Dillon's a second bite of the cherry in the Evening Echo junior A camogie championship final at Castle Road yesterday.

In game that never really got going or set the pulses racing except in the closing minutes, little divided the teams all through. It was score for score in the opening half as Enniskeane aided by the cross field wind found it hard to break down a strong Brian Dillon's defence, where captain Anthea O'Brien was solid and reliable.

Dillon's led 0-5 to 0-3 as the first half entered injury time but Enniskeane hit the front with a Sinead Hennessy goal after an excellent run from Orla Coughlan. Hennessy then took on the Brian Dillon's defence and finished well to the net for her side to lead 1-3 to 0-5 at the break.

Coughlan and Orla Cronin pointed to extend the Enniskeane lead, but with Claire Dooley and Therese Drummond working hard Brian Dillon's hit four points without reply.

Enniskeane — with Aisling O'Callaghan and Mary Ann Hayes excellent — dug deep.

A Sinead Hennessy point had the sides level before Orla Cronin pointed a free to edge Enniskeane in front.

With Claire Dooley picking up a lot of ball around the centre Brian Dillon's pressed forward and when she hit a superb long range effort between the posts it was all square again.

With two minutes remaining Louise Duggan looked to have hit the winner for Enniskeane and they held their lines for six minutes under severe Brian Dillon's pressure, but a close-in free saw Therese Drummond tie it up for the fifth time in the game. Dillon's did have a late chance but it wasn't to be. Both teams will be hoping to significantly up their performances after a lacklustre first day.

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: T Drummond 0-6 (0-5 f, 0-1 45), C Dooley 0-2, C Rodgers, J Dooley, D Carroll 0-1 each.

Enniskeane: S Hennessy 1-1; O Cronin 0-3 f, L Duggan, O Coughlan A O'Leary, K Buttner 0-1 each.

BRIAN DILLON'S: S Rodgers; S Cotter, A O'Brien (c), S Ring; R Brosnan, A Dorgan, O Ni Suilleabhain; S K Brosnan, Ring; C Dooley, T Drummond, J Dooley, E Keane, C Rodgers, D Carroll.

ENNISKEANE: M O'Regan; M O'Leary A Hayes, K O'Shea; D Jackson, K McCarthy, A O'Callaghan; S Curtin, O Cronin; O Coughlan C O'Donovan, A O'Leary; S Hennessy, K Buttner (c), L Duggan.

Subs: C O'Mahony for K O'Shea (h-t), D Curtin for C O'Donovan (55).

Referee: Walter Cole (Buttevant).



Photo Gallery:
You can see more photographs at
www.photosales.echo.ie

Milford, winners of the Evening Echo sponsored Cork County Senior Camogie final against St Catherine's at the Camogie Pitch, Castle Road, on Sunday. This was Milford's first Senior County Camogie Championship final victory.

Picture: Larry Cummins

CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

THEY may have taken four shots at glory before getting it right, but Milford's day finally arrived on Sunday.

Their dream of winning the senior camogie championship was realised when they destroyed St Catherine's in a one-sided final. For good measure they did it in splendid fashion, to put the heartbreak of losing three previous finals behind them to finally be crowned *Evening Echo* senior camogie champions.

And on a day when they made history for their club it was also a historic day for the game of camogie in Cork as it was the first final to be held at their splendid grounds in Castle Road.

From the throw-in the signs were that Milford were on a mission, and winning all the early ball they had three shots on goal and three quick fire points as they settled into the game. They dictated in every section of the pitch and in truth they simply blew St Catherine's away with the intensity of their performance.

All over the field they had leaders. Captain Elaine O'Riordan may have been in the last line of defence at full-back, but she led by example holding a firm grip in the rearguard and closing down any attacks St Catherine's strung together.

Time and again she was out in front, clearing ball confidently up field, where it was quickly moved along as Milford players were first to everything.

She was ably assisted by excellent performers like Niamh O'Brien — whose mother Lelia Long was a team selector, and who herself played on two losing Milford teams. Anna Geary was rock solid at centre-back, while Sarah Sexton, Katie Galvin and Lisa Healy never put a foot wrong.

A big plus for Milford this season was the acquisition of Maria Walsh from Ballyhea and her power was obvious from early on, as she hurled with great strength and determination. The Watson sisters Emer and Maria, who have given so much to Milford, played with a spring in their step reminiscent of their under-age days, when they left defenders in their wake.

Younger sister Aine also got in on the act as she confidently rattled the net for Milford's third goal 18 minutes into the game, and even at this stage the ribbons on the Punch Shoe Care Trophy were not going to be decorated in anything but blue and white.

Regina Curtin was strong, fit and de-

Slick Milford were not going to be denied



Joy and relief for Anna Geary of Milford after winning her first senior county club title having lost on three previous occasions.

Picture: Larry Cummins

termined and she caused mayhem.

She put the St Catherine's defence under huge pressure by roaming around winning ball and created a huge amount of chances, as well as scoring 0-2. She was rewarded with Player of the Match.

St Catherine's were in trouble from the throw-in really.

The pace of Milford was very evident from the early stages.

Players such as Orla Cotter, Faith Noonan, Noirin Mulcahy and Yvonne O'Neill know what it is like to have the hunger and desire to win a first county title — after upsetting the odds in beating Milford in '09 — and they will be the first to salute the new champions,

who on the day were just a class act.

From one to 15 they played as a team and it was as if this performance was choreographed to perfection. Every move was thought out and they knew exactly where they wanted to put the ball and they did it.

Behind the scenes they had manager Frank Flannery, Lelia Long, Sean McAuliffe and Galway camogie selector James McGrath involved. And they had their homework done on their opponents, they patrolled up and down the sideline giving instructions to their charges with military precision.

This was a county championship title won out of hunger and desire and I think no matter who the opposition

were on Sunday, Milford were not going to be denied.

They put their hearts and souls into this and put their lives on hold to achieve their dream.

In the past they stood and watched as Carrigdhoun, St Catherine's and Douglas celebrated and they wondered would it ever happen for them.

Now it has and it's a tribute to them that finally they have reached the summit of Cork camogie.

Their efforts in winning this title should give heart to the many clubs and players like them who for years are striving to reach their goal. Don't give up and keep at it and your time will come. Similar to Castletownbere in the IFC on the same day.

Credit to St Catherine's they never stopped trying.

They and their management team under Denis Walsh must be credited with making it to the final in a year when they would have entered the championship stakes as rank outsiders.

It would be remiss of me in reviewing Sunday's historic afternoon not to pay tribute to the hosting of the first final in Castle Road.

A huge amount of work went into the organising of the game and it was a credit to the county board that everything went off without a hitch.

Even the sun was shining, hopefully if the camogie board can now — like Milford did — realise their dream and complete their complex, this will be the first of many senior finals to be held in Castle Road.

The day belonged to Milford as they banished the ghosts of 2004, 2009 and 2011 to finally were crowned senior county camogie champions.

Well done on a huge achievement.

Home are the Milford heroines

THE triumphant Milford Camogie players were welcomed home to their native village by their ecstatic supporters on last Sunday night following their magnificent victory in the Cork County Senior Camogie final when they defeated St. Catherine's on a scoreline of 5-15 to 0-7 to bring the title to Milford for the first time ever.

A bonfire blazed opposite the village's National School as the players arrived on a tractor-driven float with the team captain Elaine O'Riordan holding the coveted County Trophy aloft to the cheering crowd. Among those to meet the history making team were Parish Priest, Father Padraig Keogh and Cork County Councillor Bart Donegan and club chairperson, Ellen Anne Geary.

Ms Geary congratulated the team on their tremendous victory and thanked all the team management and coaches Frank Flannery and James McGrath, selectors Leila Long and Sean McAuliffe for all their hard work in preparing the team for the county series.

Team Captain Elaine O'Riordan thanked everybody who had attended the game in Cork and who had turned out to meet them on the night and her team mates, sponsors, team management and all concerned with the club for the support they had received all through the county campaign.

In a great night of celebration, the club team and supporters set aside the disappointments of 2003, 2009 and 2011 when they were defeated in the county finals of those years and savoured the moment of their history making victory. However the girls cannot rest on their laurels for long as they face the Limerick champions, Killeedy on this Saturday in the Munster Club Championship.



Members of the history making Milford Camogie team that won the club's first ever senior Camogie title pictured at the home coming celebrations in Milford last Sunday night.



Milford Camogie Captain Elaine O'Riordan (left) and Player of the Match Regina Curtin with the Cork County trophy at the homecoming celebrations in Milford last Sunday night.



Con and Patricia Walsh, Ballyhea, Charleville whose daughter Maria Walsh was a member of the successful Milford Camogie team that won the Cork County Senior Championship last Sunday are pictured at the homecoming for the team in Milford.

Kilmaley just hold off Clooney-Quin

Thursday, 18 October 2012 11:05

Kilmaley 1-3 Clooney-Quin 0-9

After a lapse of two years, Kilmaley were crowned Clare senior camogie champions at Clarecastle on Saturday but they had to battle right to the end against underdogs, Clooney-Quin, who produced a tremendous performance.

Indeed, had the game gone to extra time, few would have quibbled, as Clooney-Quin turned in a battling second-half performance that just came up short. Kilmaley's only score of the second period came in the fifth minute of injury time and only then could they relax happy in the knowledge that they had the McMahon Cup secure for a third time.

An outstanding performance from inter-county player Deirdre Murphy, which earned her the player-of-the-game award, wasn't enough to steer her side to a first success in over 60 years. The Munster camogie development officer contributed all but a point of her team's total on the day.

Before a big and enthusiastic attendance, the game produced some great play. Kilmaley took the lead in the second minute through Ashling O'Halloran but it was a short-lived lead, as Murphy opened Clooney-Quin's account a minute later before putting her team ahead in the seventh minute when converting a 20m free.

In the eighth minute, Kilmaley, who begin their Munster club campaign on Saturday with a home date against Cork intermediate champions, Aghabullogue, struck the game's only goal. A Clare McMahon cross was won by Shonagh Enright and she found the net with a fine strike. McMahon followed with a point from a 20m free to put a goal between the sides 10 minutes into the half.

Points were exchanged twice in the next 15 minutes before Kilmaley finished the half strongly to take a five-point advantage when referee Aidan Ryan sounded the short whistle. The score at this stage was 1-7 to 0-5.

Straight from the resumption of play Clooney-Quin let it be known they were not going to go down without a fight. A brace of Deirdre Murphy pointed frees in the opening two minutes cut the deficit to three and clearly showed Clooney-Quin's belief that they could upset the odds.

When Claire Ryan found the target in the fourth minute, the margin was down to two and it was clear Kilmaley had a battle on their hands. Deirdre Murphy struck again in the eighth minute to cut the lead to the minimum but, amazingly, there would be only one other score and this came in the fifth minute of injury time.

Kilmaley did a lot of the attacking but the Clooney-Quin defence was magnificent, with Orlaith Duggan and Aisling Hannon particularly prominent. However, for all of their great work, they were unable to get upfield for the scores they needed and for this credit must go to new champions and particularly Niamh O'Dea, who excelled, Niamh and Katie Cahill, Shonagh Enright and Claire McMahon.

The final whistle sparked off great celebrations amongst Kilmaley followers, officials, substitutes and players.

After the game, Clare camogie chairperson Orla Considine presented the McMahon Trophy to the winning captain, Claire McMahon.

Kilmaley: Edel Griffey; Lisa Kennedy, Denise Lynch, Sinéad O'Halloran; Niamh Cahill, Katie Cahill, Eimear Considine; Aida Griffey, Aisling Darcy; Shonagh Enright, Emma O'Driscoll, Claire McMahon; Niamh O'Dea, Ashling O'Halloran, Ailish Considine.

Subs: Helen McMahon for L Kennedy (43 minutes) and Siobhán White for A O'Halloran (53 minutes).

Scorers: Claire McMahon (0-4), Shonagh Enright (1-1), Denise Lynch, Aisling Darcy, Ashling O'Halloran (0-1 each).

Frees for: 11; **wides:** 8.

Clooney-Quin: Shoshagh Daffy; Imelda Collieran, Aisling Hannon, Nicole O'Riordan; Jessica O'Neill, Orlaith Duggan, Jenny Costelloe; Claire Ryan, Christina Collieran; Marie Halpin, Deirdre Murphy, Siobhán Lee; Kelly MacLean, Louise Henchy, Aisling Corbett.

Sub: Mary Clune for M Halpin (47 minutes).

Scorers: Deirdre Murphy (0-8), Claire Ryan (0-1).

Frees for: 14; **wides:** 2.

Referee: Aidan Ryan.

OCT. 2012

OCT 2012

Regina is back

ON ANOTHER COLLISION COURSE: Donoughmore's Regina Curtin crashes into Inch's Aoife Walsh during the last year's Cork County Senior Ladies football final. The two sides will clash again in Monday's final.

SEPTEMBER turned out to be a month best forgotten for Regina Curtin.

The dual star was part of the Cork camogie team that underperformed in the All-Ireland final loss to Wexford. Regina, who was a late substitute for Cork on that fateful day, is now hoping October will be a month never to forget.

And it has not started to badly for the 28 year-old physiotherapist who has since won her first club senior county camogie title with Milford. On Monday she hopes to complete the double, winning her third senior county football title with Donoughmore.

Losing the All-Ireland in September was heart-breaking for Regina, however, she didn't have much time to dwell on it as training with her club Milford resumed almost immediately in preparation for the senior club camogie championship.

"Losing in Croke Park to Wexford was very disappointing for everyone," Regina Curtin said.

"We felt that on the day we didn't do ourselves justice or perform to our capabilities. There was no doubt Wexford were worthy winners, but when you put in a huge amount of work and effort in training all year, and you gear yourself up for a good outcome in the final, you expect to win.

"So it was hugely difficult accepting defeat. For me, the return to club training immediately was a way of easing the pain a little.

"Club training had been going really well, the girls were all flying so it was a happy distraction from the disappointment with Cork.

"There is nothing better than just getting right back out there, plus there was still plenty to play for." Milford's preparation for this year's championship began last January.

In these conditions, Curtin says it was coach Frank Flannery, who managed to keep the players interest high and training rewarding.

"Frankie managed to grab our attention, got the players on board to his way of thinking and of operating and we just got down to hard work.

"To be fair, the girls were not shy about putting in the effort required, ultimate commitment was expected and given.

"Training was tough, competitive, at times violent, but always enjoyable."

A lot of sports teams would agree that playing practice games are far more beneficial than any training sessions. However, sometimes teams find it difficult to accomplish this.

This was not the case for this serious Milford outfit, who impressively managed to play over 20 challenge games prior to the championship.

Every one of those games took them a step closer to last Sunday's achievement, winning their first senior title, blitzing St Catherine's in the final with Regina scoring two points and playing so well she



Milford players celebrate their Cork County Senior

Regina Curtin won a senior camogie county medal on Sunday. On Monday she hopes to add a football one.

Barbara O'Connell spoke to her about doing the double



won the official *Evening Echo* player of the match award. Great credit is due not only to the girls, but also to their experienced management team for getting everything so right on the day.

For Regina, winning her first senior county title with her club was an emotional day and one of relief more than anything.

"I suppose being completely honest the first emotion was relief.

"We had come so close on three previous occasions.

"Every year the pressure seemed to increase on us with the weight of expectation.

"Expectation we put both on ourselves, but there was also pressure from external sources and external factors.

"We enjoyed, as a club, huge underage success, and progressed from junior to senior status at a steady pace.

"However, I guess we didn't realise

until now that winning a senior title took that little something extra.

"Hearing the final whistle last Sunday was quite literally a dream being realised.

"Winning a senior title with the girls I grew up playing camogie with was hugely gratifying and satisfying, and also pretty awesome.

"Not just for this year's panel and management, but for all the previous players, trainers, supporters, and loyal family members who have been involved and contributed to the club's history since its inauguration 16 years ago.

"People like Ann Watson, who is synonymous with the club.

"She alone has been one major influence on my career, and all the girls playing careers really.

"I think as Elaine our captain said, 'Ann may be able to get a few full nights sleep, with the worry and weight of trying to win that elusive county title now over.'"

It wasn't an easy route to the final for Milford, with this

for More success



Camogie win over St Catherine's and right, Regina Curtin shows off her player of the match award. Curtin is now hoping for a camogie football double.



Regina Curtin, Donoughmore, battles with Beulah McManus, Clonakilty in the semi-final.

championship getting more and more competitive every year. It's no longer a competition between two sides, there are teams pushing through each year, and every game Milford played was a hard fought battle. "We know from previous heartbreak that it's a tough competition to win," says Regina. "I suppose the first round is always a dicey one, your still figuring out your best team, also because there's a back-door system, the result isn't as crucial as it once was. "St Catherine's probably felt the same. "Having said that, we prepared to try win every game. "Getting over Douglas was just another step in the process, but I suppose playing the defending

champions we knew we needed to put in a decent performance in order to get a result. "Courneys again are a team with recent U18 successes, they are an up-and-coming side, and they proved a tough challenge to overcome. "Getting to the final meant one thing, going one step further than what we had in the past, and thank God we did. "This year Frankie (Flannery) added a new dimension to the set up. "It was really professional and organised. We all knew the plan, all working toward the same goal. "Frankie has been integral to this year's success. "Also Lelia Long as selector has been brilliant. A few of the older players would have played with

Name: Regina Curtin
Age: 28
Occupation: Physiotherapist
Lives: Gooseberry Hill, Newmarket
Nickname: Reggie
Family: Brother Jeremy, twin brother Daniel, sisters Maria and Anna
Clubs: Camogie: Milford; football: Donoughmore; soccer: Knockavilla.
Current position in each sport: Camogie: forward/midfield; football: midfield/half-forward; soccer: mid-field
Website I check each day: Face-

book
Mobile phone ringtone: Some boring phone one
Car: Opel Astra called Joyceeee
Sporting idol: Juliet Murphy
Celebrity: Beyonce

HONOURS

Donoughmore: Two senior county titles, two senior Munster titles
Milford: Mosney Community Games All-Ireland, U16 Féile All-Ireland, U12,14,16,18, junior, intermediate and senior county titles.

Factfile

Lelia, she would have been someone we looked up to as youngsters. "She deserves this year's title as much as any of us, for all her years of effort. "Sean McAuliffe has also been excellent. He might not always say much, but when a message needs delivering Sean will get the point across. "Also what James McGrath has contributed to the management and training of the team has been a significant aspect of our success. "He's added another dimension to training sessions, and for sure, kept us on our toes." An added bonus for Regina last Sunday was picking up player of the match for her performance, but she modestly states that any one of the players could have received it. "Winning player of the match was a lovely honour, but I think anyone who was at the game would agree that it could have genuinely gone to any other Milford player. "It was an out-and-out team performance from start to finish, as it has been all year.

"I feel extremely lucky to be a member of this special group of players." Celebrations of winning the county had to be cut short until next week as Regina still has two big games ahead of her. She will play in the club All-Ireland semi-final on Saturday against Limerick champions Killeedy, and on Monday she hopes to win her third senior football county final with Donoughmore against Inch Rovers in Páirc Uí Rinn at 8pm. "I feel very lucky to be lining out again next Monday with the Donoughmore girls. "It's been difficult trying to get to all training sessions, but the girls are hugely supportive, and I hope I can play my part to help the cause in Monday night's game. "I don't think about doing doubles, it's just been a case of game by game, keep trying, keep working hard and see where it takes me. "Inch will be a huge challenge, they have an excellent team, with players like Angela Walsh, Amy O'Shea, Ann Marie Walsh, plenty

of Cork players, so we know it's a huge test for us to try over come. "They are a physically fit and strong team, with massive experience. "They know exactly what it takes to win a final. It will require a huge performance, one we can hopefully deliver, if we are to win." Playing important and competitive games in such quick succession is very tough on players like Regina. Usual pre-match training routines have to be abandoned as time is not on their side. "Having trained so hard all year it's a little disappointing to be put under this kind of pressure. "Every game deserves the same preparation, which is hard when they run so close into each other. "Also, I feel a responsibility to my team mates to be as prepared as they are, for tough championship battles. "Having said that, when you're still in competition at the latter stages of any year it means your still winning games, and that is something not to be complaining about."



Barryroe will seal their senior return

SUNDAY

Evening Echo Senior B final:
Barryroe v Clonakilty, Brinny,
3pm.

BARRYROE and Clonakilty meet in an all Carbery division Evening Echo Senior B championship final on Sunday in Brinny.

Both finalists have emerged to contest the decider from the same group of the round robin series, where Barryroe recorded a victory in what was a first championship outing for both.

Barryroe will go in as hot favourites to take their second senior B crown, which they last won in 1998. They re-graded this year from senior so far this season in league and championship outings they remain undefeated.

They confidently advance to the final with victories over Clonakilty, Newcestown and Glen Rovers before over coming Eire Og in the semi-final.

They also qualified for the league final where they recorded a draw with Glen Rovers, and since that league decider the acquisition of Cork senior Sile Burns to their ranks has strengthened their line out considerably.

Fellow Cork seniors Jennifer O'Leary and Emer White backbone a formidable outfit that also has excellent performers in the experienced Noreen O'Driscoll, Geraldine Collins, Carol Dineen and Rosemary Dineen. Cork U16 Claire Sexton has also impressed in all outings to date.

They are a strong well-balanced outfit and to date in their championship campaign they have notched up an impressive 14-51, while conceding 5-14.

Clonakilty have shown fierce determination this season to make it to their first senior B final and with just one defeat at the hands of Sunday's opponents in the first round of championship they will be quietly confident of causing an upset this time out. They were tipped by many to make it to the final this year and they have proved the predictions right.

They qualified for the league semi-final where they again lost out to Barryroe, but they have build up

Donal Og Cusack and camogie player, Anna Geary,



CAMOGIE

By MARY NEWMAN

their panel with players who were abroad since that first championship game and the side has been strengthened considerably.

Their scoring feats in championship show 9-49 for and 8-17 against, although they did play one game more that Sunday's opponents as Valley Rovers did not field in the last round robin game against Barryroe.

Clonakilty have excellent forwards in Sharon Whelton, Juanita Brennan Susan Forristal and Aoife Deasy whilst in defence Hazel O'Regan and Sinead O'Brien. They have been doing well as the championship has progressed, but the key question is do they have the defence to hold the twin threat of Jennifer O'Leary and Sile Burns who have been Barryroe's top scorers to date?

If Clonakilty can close down the threat the pair will pose they are in with a right chance of the title and promotion to senior for 2013, otherwise it will be a return to the top for Barryroe.

Verdict: Barryroe.

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Junior A Camogie final replay: Enniskeane v Brian Dillon's, Castle Road Camogie Grounds, 4pm.

Last weekend it took a late pointed free from Brian Dillon's sharp-shooter Therese Drummond to force the junior A championship final to a replay and it's back to Castle Road again tomorrow as Brian Dillon's and Enniskeane battle it out once again.

Last weekend's clash will not go down as a thrilling contest, but both sides showed great spirit to fight back as the lead changed hands on numerous occasions.

Brian Dillon's did have a late chance to snatch a win, but it wasn't

to be and on the balance a draw was a fair result for both sides.

The Enniskeane had to move Cork senior Orla Cronin to full-forward having picked up an injury.

This limited their options in attack, and they weren't able to make the most of a forward line with a lot of speed. No doubt Cronin will start tomorrow, but if she is curtailed this weekend it will be a huge blow to Enniskeane.

Brian Dillon's played superbly in the last quarter of the drawn match, and the game tipped in their favour in the closing stages.

They refused to lose with excellent displays from Claire Dooley, who picked up an amount of ball in the last 15 minutes, Therese Drummond and Anthea O'Brien.

If they can re-produce that form again they should have enough in hand to get it right at the second time of asking.

Verdict: Brian Dillon's.

Milford won't be caught by Limerick champs

TOMORROW

Munster senior club semi-final:
Milford v Killeady, Tournafulle,
Killeady, 1pm

CORK County champions Milford and Limerick county champions Killeady meet in the semi-final of this year's Munster club camogie championship in Killeady tomorrow, writes **LINDA MELLERICK**.

It's a local derby so the competitiveness should be at its peak.

The sides met in a challenge game approximately six weeks ago with Milford comfortably winning out.

Speaking with Killeady club chair-

man, John Cunningham, he is hoping that the Milford celebrations have continued long into this week.

"Milford are raging hot favourites really, they hammered us in a challenge game not so long ago. I think they are strong contenders for All-Ireland club honours. Here's hoping they've celebrated well this week," he laughs.

Champions in 2005, '07, '08 and '09 Killeady won their fifth title recently with a 2-5 to 0-7 victory over Granagh

Ballingarry. There are at least 10 of the panel involved in 2005 still playing.

Killeady blended in a number of U18s and 16s this year into the squad and it has served them well. Home venue is also an advantage but Milford should be too experienced at this stage to get caught.

While Milford certainly celebrated their overdue county final success they were back to the training ground on Wednesday evening full of focus and determined to keep the flag flying.

They will however be without play-

er of the match in the county final, Regina Curtin, with a knee injury and a football county final on Monday. Coach Frank Flannery is aware how easy it is to get caught in Munster with Douglas being pipped last year.

Milford aren't just content with winning the Cork championship; almost as soon as the whistle blew last Sunday, Frank mentioned pushing on, an All-Ireland title clearly Milford's objective now.

It's Munster first though and Milford should take this one.

Verdict: Milford.

CAMOGIE
ULSTER JUNIOR FINAL

Mullaghbawn go seeking some silver anniversary silverware

BY NIAL MCCOY

MULLAGHBAWN camogie club are celebrating their silver anniversary in 2012, and, appropriately, they have the chance to win some more silverware with just one more team standing in their way.

The south Armagh girls come up against Castleblayney in Ulster junior final for the Bridie McMenamin Shield this Sunday at 1pm.

"We had a great win in the semi-final," said manager Pauline Quinn. "We've had a tough year. Some of games we just didn't play the best, but we felt that against Na Magha that was one of the games which we did put it all in."

Quinn said that the fact they were doing so well in such a significant year was driving them on.

"It definitely makes a difference," she said. "Me and Pauline [Meagher] were just talking there about club spirit and how important it can be. We've had big crowds and the full backing of the football club, which always helps."

Meagher is the on-field leader and she will lead the team out. Katie O'Brien and Claire McKinley have both represented their county while the Larkin sisters, Marie and Majella, have also played for the Orchard county. Indeed, the latter has done well to be available this year after working hard to recover from knee surgery.

Theresa Short also returns from her honeymoon for the final after getting married to former Crossmaglen forward Cathal Short. Colette Burns has also excelled in goals all year, regularly pulling off saves at crucial stages.

Castleblayney came through a difficult looking semi-final against Antrim side Armoyle having defeated Cavan outfit Laragh in the quarter-final.

They are contesting their first Ulster series in eight years and completed the Monaghan double two weeks ago when they defeated Clontibret by seven points.

Roisin McKenna captains the side this year from goals while the trio of Eileen McElroy, Niamh Brennan and Emma Forde should provide the bulk of their scores.

The Armagh girls looked very impressive in their semi-final and they are a very experienced team. If they can emulate their second-half showing against Na Magha, they should prevail.

VERDICT: Mullaghbawn

CAMOGIE

Munster Club

Saturday: Senior semi-final: Killeady (Limerick) v Milford (Cork), Killeady, 1pm.
Intermediate semi-final: Kilmaley (Clare) v Aghabullogue (Cork), Clarecastle, 2.30pm.

Cork
Saturday: Junior A championship replay: Enniskeane v Brian Dillon's, Camogie Grounds Castle Rd., 4pm.

Sunday: Senior B Championship final: Clonakilty v Barryroe, Valley Rovers GAA Grounds, Brinny, 3pm.

OCT. 2012

Burgess/Duharra celebrate sec

Burgess Duharra dethroned Drom & Inch as they were crowned County Senior Camogie champions for the second time in their history on Saturday afternoon.

It was a case of so near yet so far away for the girls in red and green who provided the only goal in this final, five minutes from the end from Eimear Shanahan as they tried to hold on to their crown. However, clever play from Caoimhe Maher saw Amy Kennedy score the point that saw them crowned county champions.

Chasing the title for the second time in two years, Burgess Duharra were very sharp and were far more capable of picking off their scores than their opponents and ultimately that proved decisive, epitomized by corner forward Amy Kennedy who without panic picked off what can only be described as one of the best points in any game from a tight angle and under immense pressure, expertly reading Caoimhe Maher's terrific free from which she ran into space to fire over the match-winner.

Drom went into this game as the underdogs but they came so close to earning at least a replay and had they had a little more luck on their side, they could have retained their crown. One could only feel sorry for the normally reliable Siobhan McGrath as nothing went right for her from early in the game and with the pressure of seemingly being the only scorer for Drom had.

They were denied several goal chances with an outstanding performance from Duharra captain and centre back, Trish O'Halloran. Drom also shot six wides, four coming from placed balls and this certainly didn't help their cause.

In this low scoring County final, Duharra set the pace and took the game to Drom as early as the opening minute when Caoimhe Maher converted a free and six minutes later Amy Kennedy tagged on a second point after she was fouled when she went up to grab a dropping ball.

Drom's chief scorer Siobhan McGrath opened her sides account from a free after ten minutes. As the game entered the second quarter McGrath brought the sides level for the first time. The game was tight and competitive and when Lorraine Bourke was penalized for over carrying, Caoimhe Maher restored the Duharra lead.

McGrath was unlucky to see her shot from a free go narrowly wide but there was plenty of time remaining as Duharra went into a two-point lead after a great effort from Eimear McDonnell, who broke away from the tight marking of Michelle Stuart to put her side two ahead.

Both teams were enjoying a good level of possession but the game was sluggish at times with no real spark to the play and the tactics brought about floating players too which cramped the space for free-flowing camogie.



Burgess/Duharra captain Trish O'Halloran stretches to catch the dropping ball as Niamh Harkin (Drom/Inch) closes in.



Burgess/Duharra - County Senior Camogie Champions.

OCT. 2012

O'Regan points the way as Ballygarvan take title

Ballygarvan
Carrigaline

1-8
1-2

BALLYGARVAN took the U14 B league title with victory over Carrigaline in an all Carrigdhoun final. Ballygarvan's ability to take their points was crucial and they did it in style as they notched up eight over the hour. The opening half was evenly matched, and it was level pegging at the break 0-5 to 1-2.

Kayleigh O'Connor found the net to grab the game's opening goal for Carrigaline, and she also added a point to their tally in the opening half as did Keira O'Connor.

Ballygarvan stayed in touch with Eimear McAndrew and Isobel O'Regan finding the range with points.

In the second half Ballygarvan upped the pace and took the lead with a goal from Cork Féile na nGael skills winner Michela Buckley, plus some excellent points from Isobel O'Regan — who hit a total of six from play — ensured the title was secured for Ballygarvan, despite a spirited and determined performance from Carrigaline.

Scorers for Ballygarvan: I O'Regan 0-6, M Buckley 1-0, E McAndrew 0-2 (ft).

Carrigaline: K O'Connor 1-1, K O'Leary 0-1.

BALLYGARVAN: S. Ahern, N O'Mahony, S. Ni Cheallacháin, R McAuliffe, A. Anthony, M Buckley, E Bateman, E McAndrew, S Wynne, A Hourihane, I O'Regan, A. Bowen, E O'Regan, Gwen Kelleher, Rebecca Looney.

Subs: R Fitzgerald for R Looney, SJ Brady for A Bowen.

CARRIGALINE: E Nolan, K O'Leary, E Kirk, C Stack, O Hickey, K O'Leary, L Deasy, K O'Connor, R Murray, M Ryan, A Pratt, C Coughlan, G Foully, C Hogan, A Hourihane.



The Ballygarvan U14B squad who claimed the league title after overcoming Carrigaline in the final.

Milford deserve all the accolades

AS MILFORD bask in the joy of last Sunday's senior county victory, let's reflect on the 2012 championship.

While many players have now hung up their boots for a well-deserved break, there is no such rest for Milford who play Killeedy today in the Munster club semi-final.

At the outset of this season's championship holders Douglas, Inniscarra, Cloughduv, Milford and Courcy Rovers were tipped as potential champions with Killeagh, based on their 2011 performance, fancied as the rank outsiders to create a shock.

After Seandún and Carbery played out two nail-biting preliminary rounds we moved on to the first round where Cloughduv, Rovers, Douglas and Milford enhanced their reputations.

Inniscarra and Killeagh however failed to excite, while St Finbarr's had a seven-point victory over Ballincollig.

Round two and matters lived up with no second chance now on offer.

Inniscarra upped their performance with a convincing win over Ballygarvan.

Seandún dug deep to fashion out a one-point victory against debutants Ballinhassig. Trailing by nine points 22 minutes in, they cut the deficit to seven by half time and building on that, advanced.



LINDA MELLERICK

OPINION

St Catherine's, after a nightmarish first round defeat to Milford, ran out seven-point victors over Ballincollig but the game was anything from a spectacle with a plethora of frees dictating the flow of the game.

St Catherine's, at this point, were far from the mind in terms of county finalists.

Moving to the quarter-finals a tense encounter between Courcy Rovers and St Finbarr's ended St Finbarr's run.

In a dramatic second half with Rovers leading by nine points, Gemma O'Connor almost single handedly dragged the Barrs back into the game but despite desperately seeking that equaliser, failed to do so.

Inniscarra easily disposed of Seandún. A mouth-watering encounter was expected between last year's finalists Milford and Douglas.

Yet that didn't prove to be the case with Milford racing into a 2-3 to 0-2 lead after just 14 minutes.

While Douglas did regain some ground, they failed to score in the second half. Milford were

now fancied as champions yet they'd been fancied many times before.

St Catherine's advanced after a hard fought clash with Killeagh. An additional quarter final round was required to bring the remaining teams down to four.

The first time followers started to 'sit up and take notice of St Catherine's was post their additional round victory over hot favourites Cloughduv.

To be fair to Cloughduv, they hadn't been in competitive action since their opening round in July whereas St Catherine's now had three games behind them.

Yet the saints ten point victory was still an eye opener for those sides remaining.

Milford and Courcy Rovers, Inniscarra and St. Catherine's were the semi-final pairings.

But for a two minute spell midway through the second half, which saw Milford score 2-1, this game was on the table for either side. With the greater scoring spread up front Milford advanced to their second final in a row.

Considering St Catherine's progress was under the radar, it was difficult to dismiss their chances against Inniscarra but if truth be told, they again went in to this game as slight underdogs.

In very poor conditions, a thrilling semi-final saw St Catherine's hold out for a single point victory. With the sides level on

four occasions it was two Orla Cotter frees between the 53rd and 55th minutes which saw her side edge in front and hold out.

To the final; one of the favourites at the outset against a rank outsider.

It was always going to be difficult for St Catherine's to play a final just four days after a tough semi-final but at the same time, momentum was with them and Denis Walsh had no complaints.

Despite the gap of 15 points which separated the sides in the opening round, the general consensus was that Milford would win out but it would be a battle.

Not so. Finally Milford gave their best performance on their biggest day and while the final didn't excite too many neutrals, such was the margin of victory, it was a fantastic display and few would begrudge Milford their day in the sun.

Now it is on to Munster for the north Cork girls.

Senior County Championship 2012
Divisional round Seandún v Carbery 5-8 1-18; Seandún v Carbery 2-13 1-14; 1st round Ballygarvan v Cloughduv 0-5 3-15; Courcy Rovers v Ballinhassig 4-15 0-5; Douglas v Inniscarra 2-12 0-7; Killeagh v Seandún 1-5 1-4; Milford v St Catherine's 3-12 0-6; St Finbarr's v Ballincollig 2-10 1-6; Round 2 Inniscarra v Ballygarvan 2-16 1-6; Seandún v Ballinhassig 2-10 3-6; St Catherine's v Ballincollig 0-17 1-7; Qtr finals Courcy Rovers v St Finbarr's 2-14 1-14; Inniscarra v Seandún 3-12 0-4; Milford v Douglas 3-11 0-7; St Catherine's v Killeagh 1-13 2-8; Additional quarter-final round St Catherine's v Cloughduv 2-12 1-5; semi-finals Milford v Courcy Rovers 3-11 1-9; St Catherine's v Inniscarra 2-9 1-11 County final Milford v St Catherine's 5-15 0-5.

Clonakilty go through to final

SENIOR B SEMI-FINAL

Clonakilty 2-13
Kilbrittain/Timoleague 1-5

CLONAKILTY secured their place in the Evening Echo senior B championship final as they overcame the challenge posed by Kilbrittain/Timoleague in Brinny.

Clonakilty showed greater hunger as they opened up a 1-7 to 1-1 interval advantage.

Aoife Deasy, Sharon Whelton and Aine O'Leary were to the fore for Clonakilty while Marion Murphy and Lisa Moloney battled hard for Kilbrittain/Timoleague in the opening half, a goal from Moloney helping them to stay in the hunt.

Clonakilty added a second goal to their tally after the break, and beginning to pull away, they added points through Susan Forristal, Deasy and Whelton all to the fore.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague worked hard with Marion Murphy and Dinah O'Mahony scoring but Clon powered into this weekend's final against Barryroe.

Scorers for Clonakilty: A Deasy 1-4, S Whelton 0-6, A O'Leary 1-0, J Brennan, S O'Neill, S Forristal 0-1 each.

Kilbrittain/Timoleague: Marion Murphy 0-4 Lisa Moloney 1-0, D O'Mahony 0-1.

CLONAKILTY: A O'Hea, A O'Neill, S O'Brien, N O'Donovan, C O'Mahony, H O'Regan, L Kemp, C O'Regan, B McManus, A O'Leary, J Brennan, S Whelton, S O'Neill, A Deasy, S Forristal (c).

Subs: M O'Donovan for C O'Regan, C O'Regan for A O'Neill, A Campbell for A Deasy, AM Moyles for L Kemp, N Deasy for A O'Leary.

KILBRITTAIN/TIMOLEAGUE: A Desmond, C O'Neill, E O'Sullivan, D O'Sullivan, D O'Mahony, M Dulles, S Moloney, M Murphy, S Sexton, M O'Donovan, L O'Callaghan, C Murphy, L Moloney, M Deasy, L Nyhan.

Subs: S O'Sullivan for L Nyhan (45), J Cashman for M O'Donovan (55), M O'Mahony for C O'Neill (55).

FIXTURES

TODAY

Minor D championship final: Cobh v Carrigrohilly, Castle Road, 12pm.

Evening Echo Junior A Championship replay: Enniskeane v Brian Dillon's, Castle Road, 4pm.

Evening Echo Minor A Championship semi-final: Douglas v Glen Rovers, Douglas, 4pm.

TOMORROW

Evening Echo Senior B Championship final: Barryroe v Clonakilty, Brinny, 2pm.

Evening Echo Minor B Championship: Éire Óg v Cloughduv, Cloughduv, 11am.

Evening Echo minor C Championship: St Catherine's v Ballinora, St Finbarr's v Fr O'Neill's.

O'Leary is saviour for gritty Barryroe

By MARY NEWMAN

CAMOGIE

| | |
|------------|------|
| Barryroe | 0-11 |
| Clonakilty | 0-11 |

COMETH the hour, cometh the woman was very much the case in Brinny yesterday as All Star nominee Cork senior player Jennifer O'Leary's point in the second minute of injury time rescued Barryroe from the jaws of defeat.

Maybe more precisely, it denied Clonakilty their first Evening Echo Senior B county championship title.

Clon led from the first to the 61st minute of a thrilling final, watched by a huge crowd and they were quickly out of the traps as they shrugged off the tag of underdogs with a determined opening half.

They opened up a three-point interval lead after playing with the aid of the strong wind.

They hunted in packs and using their physical strength, matched Barryroe in all sectors. Crucially they blotted out the threats posed by inter-county duo O'Leary and Sile Burns with tight marking.

They moved the ball around quickly with first-time hurling as they put the Barryroe defence under huge first half pressure.

Barryroe made the better start with O'Leary pointing two early frees but with Juanita Brennan, Beulah McManus and Aine O'Leary finding the range from play, Clonakilty showed they were not in this final just to look pretty and make up the numbers.

Geraldine Collins and Sinead O'Neill swapped points and a pointed O'Leary free levelled it for the third time inside 18 minutes.

With Aoife Deasy and Aine O'Leary working hard up front, Clonakilty were winning key battles for possession and the closing 10 minutes of the half belonged to them as they were pinning Barryroe in their own half and they won frees which Sharon Whelton duly



Barryroe's Isla Dineen tries to win possession from Clonakilty players in the Evening Echo Cork Senior B Camogie final at Brinny.

Picture: Denis Mithane

pointed to leave them 0-7 to 0-4 ahead at the break.

Barryroe, aided by the strong wind, applied early second-half pressure but they failed to break the strong Clon defence and as a result Clonakilty grew in confidence and three points without reply from Aoife Deasy and Sharon Whelton (2) put six between the sides.

Barryroe began to settle into the game and with Noreen O'Driscoll solid in defence and Rosemary Dineen and Geraldine Collins working hard up front they began to gain a grip and forcing Clon into errors they won frees which Jennifer O'Leary duly pointed to cut the deficit to three points.

Barryroe lost a golden opportunity of a goal when Clon keeper Anna O'Hea cut the angle superbly as Denise O'Sullivan bore down on goal but with five minutes of normal time remaining it was now all Barryroe as Clon were finding it hard to get the ball past halfway and were just about hanging on.

Twice Barryroe won 45s which O'Leary pointed and now it was time to stand up and take control and it was Barryroe that showed the greater resolve and experience as they kept their foot on the pedal.

Geraldine Collins struck a magnificent point to put just one between the sides as the game entered injury time and with just a minute remaining O'Leary won possession and darting forward a goal must have crossed her mind but she opted for safety and took a point to tie the sides up.

The full-time whistle came three seconds after the puck-out.

Relief for Barryroe but disappointment for a Clon side who most defiantly had a hand on the cup. But thanks to O'Leary Barryroe live to fight another day and after a superb and exciting contest we eagerly await more of the same.

Scorers for Clonakilty: S Whelton 0-6 (0-5 ft), S O'Neill, J Brennan, B Mc Manus, A Deasy, A O'Leary 0-1 each.

Barryroe: J O'Leary 0-6 (0-6 f 0-2 45), G

Results

Evening Echo Senior B Final: Clonakilty 0-11 Barryroe 0-11.

Evening Echo Junior A Final replay: Brian Dillon's 1-8 Enniskeane 1-6.

Evening Echo Minor D Championship Final Carrigtwohill 3-3, Cobh 1-4.

Evening Echo Minor A Championship Semi Final Glen Rovers 1-8 Douglas 1-6.

Evening Echo Minor B Championship Eire Og 1-11 Cloughduv 1-9.

Evening Echo Minor C Championship St Finbarr's 2-9 Fr O'Neill's 2-7; St Catherine's 3-10 Ballinora 3-4.

Collins 0-2.

CLONAKILTY: A O'Hea, C Nagle, S O'Brien, N O'Donovan, C O'Mahony, H O'Regan, Kemp, C O'Regan, B Mc Manus, A O'Leary, J Brennan, S Whelton, S O'Neill, A Deasy, S Forristall (c).

Subs: M O'Donovan for C O'Mahony (34), A Mc Carthy for L Kemp (48), A O'Neill for N O'Donovan (51).

BARRYROE: E White, L Dullea, E Carroll, J White, K Mc Carthy (c), N O'Driscoll, C Dineen, I Dineen, J O'Leary, L Gannon, S Burns, G Collins, C Sexton, R Dineen, D O'Sullivan.

Subs: E O'Regan for C Sexton (inj h/t), P Moloney for J White (37), E Mc Carthy for D O'Sullivan (57).

Referee: Diarmuid Kirwin (Eire Og).

Milford cruise into Munster camogie final

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|----------|------|
| Milford | 2-14 |
| Killeedy | 0-3 |

CAMOGIE

By LINDA MELLERICK

A COMPREHENSIVE victory for Milford in the Munster club semi-final in Tournafulla last Saturday against a strong-willed Killeedy outfit sees them advance to a meeting with Tipperary's Burgess/Duharra in two week's time.

Killeedy, knowing they were up against a strong scoring machine, packed their defence from the throw

in making it very difficult for Milford to break them down.

Mid-way through the first half just three points separated the sides.

Playing with a strong wind, Milford pushed more players forward and with Anna Geary leading the charge eventually wore Killeedy down to lead 1-8 to 0-2 at the break.

With Elaine O'Riordan, Deirdre O'Reilly and Louise O'Flynn on top form Milford added on a further 1-5 in the second period. Killeedy, while missing a few free scoring opportunities and putting on a committed display, just didn't have the spread of talent that Milford possessed and victory was only going one way from early on.

Scorers for Milford: L O'Flynn, M O'Neill 1-3 each, E Watson 0-4 (0-3 ft), A Watson, A Thompson, A Geary, S O'Flynn 0-1 each.

Killeedy: M Casey (ft), D O'Brien, N Barry 0-1 each.

MILFORD: R Finn, K Galvin, E O'Riordan, L Healy, N O'Brien, A Geary, S Sexton, D O'Reilly, A Thompson, M Walsh, E Watson, A Watson, M O'Neill, L O'Flynn, M Watson.

Subs: S O'Flynn for M Watson (inj 26), O O'Mahony for M Walsh (inj 32), D Hayes for K Galvin (42), A O'Flynn for E Watson (45), S Flaherty for R Finn (53).

KILLEEDY: M Hunt, B Downes, S Kelly, E Foley, L Scanlon, M O'Connell, K Mullane, D Fitzpatrick, M Casey, N Barry, Edwina Mullane, D Cunningham, D O'Brien, M Keating, D Mulcahy.

Subs: Elena Mullane for B Downes (inj h/t), O Cunningham for D Cunningham (40), J Quaid for Elena Mullane (inj 50).

Drummond is the hero for Dillon's

JUNIOR A CAMOGIE

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Brian Dillon's | 1-8 |
| Enniskeane | 1-6 |

BRIAN DILLON'S showed nerves of steel to claim their first county title since 2008 at Castle Road on Saturday, writes SARAH O'DONOVAN.

The replay was a cracker, point for point for much of the game before player of the match Therese Drummond steered Dillon's to victory.

Enniskeane looked dangerous all through and were desperately unlucky not to win this one but in the final ten minutes Susan-Kate Brosnan was imperious.

The current Miss Cork covered every inch of the field, repeatedly bursting out of the Dillon's defence with the ball.

Enniskeane, playing with the aid of a strong breeze in the first half, opened their account with an Orla Cronin free but Dillon's then settled in to the game.

Donna Carroll, a threat all through, sent a screamer to the roof of the Enniskeane net with 14 minutes on the clock and a point from Jane Dooley cemented the lead.

Carroll ran Enniskeane ragged in the first half but it was grit in the second half that got Dillon's over the line.

Enniskeane didn't do enough with the wind but used the ball cleverly when in possession and corner-forward Sinead Hennessy turned the game on its head when she hit 1-1 in as many minutes for Enniskeane to give them a 1-3 to 1-2 half-time lead.

The second half was a nail-biter, Enniskeane coming closest to getting the crucial goal but somehow Brian Dillon's goalkeeper Saoirse Rodgers kept out Orla Coughlan's effort late in the game.

Coughlan was odds on to hand-pass the ball beyond Rodgers but the Dillons girls bottled her up and Orla Cronin pointed the resulting '45.

Therese Drummond was a class apart in the second half, her monstrous free and point from the middle of the park giving Dillon's the impetus but still Enniskeane stayed in touch.

Sinead Curtin battled hard at midfield, Mary Ann Hayes was a rock at full-back and captain Katie Buttner hit a crucial point.

Dillon's though had excellent performers in full-back Anthea O'Brien, Ruth Brosnan and twins Claire and Jane Dooley, their workrate key to Dillon's success.

Scorers for Brian Dillon's: T Drummond 0-6 (0-5 ft), D Carroll 1-0, J Dooley 0-2.

Enniskeane: S Hennessy 1-1, O Cronin 0-3 (0-1 ft, 0-1'45), K Buttner, C O'Donovan 0-1 each.

BRIAN DILLON'S: S Rodgers, S Cotter, A O'Brien, S Ring, R Brosnan, A Dorgan, O Ni Shuilleabhain, S K Brosnan, D Ring, C Dooley, T Drummond, J Dooley, R O'Mahony, C Rodgers, D Carroll.

Subs: E Keane for R O'Mahony (46).

ENNISKEANE: M O'Regan, M O'Leary, M A Hayes, A O'Callaghan, D Jackson, K McCarthy, C O'Mahony, S Curtin, K Buttner, O Coughlan, C O'Donovan, A O'Leary, S Hennessy, O Cronin, L Duggan.

Referee: C McAllister (Aghada).